

**We are
better together**



AGENDA

JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND BELONGING & PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUPS

Notice is hereby given that a joint Extraordinary meeting of the Community and Belonging and Partnership and Participation Strategic Reference Groups will be held on

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Beginning at 6:15pm for the purpose of considering matters included in this agenda.

Committee Members – Community and Belonging

Cr Kylie Ferguson	Councillor
Cr Candy Bingham	Councillor
Cr Penny Philpott	Councillor
Cr Sarah Grattan	Councillor
Tamzin Lee	Community Representative, Arts, Culture & Youth
Simon Moriarty	Community Representative, Curl Curl Ward
Michelle Povah	Northern Beaches Child & Family Interagency
Julie Williams	Community Representative - Narrabeen Ward
Samuel Wilkins	Community Representative - Forest Ward, Youth, Arts & Culture
Maria-Elena Chidzey	Community Northern Beaches Inc. (CNB), Multi-Cultural
Cathy Hockey	Community Representative, Disability
Dan Giles	Easylink
Margaret Shonk	Community representative - Manly Ward, Mental Health
Justene Gordon	Burdekin Association

Committee Members – Partnership and Participation

Cr Sue Heins	
Mayor Michael Regan	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Cr Penny Philpott	
Tony Hilliger	Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc
Ina Vukic	Northside Enterprise
Antony Biasi	
John Buggy	Belrose Open Space Corridor Association
Denice Smith	
Craig Susans	
Caroline Glass-Pattison	First Nations
Myriam Conrie	
Chris Fulton	
Hannah Jamieson	
David Hope	North Sydney District Council of P&C Associations
Jane Mecelli	

Council Officer Contacts

Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture
Melanie Gurney	Executive Manager Library Services
Russell Peake	Manager, Social Planning & Services
Briana Davis	Social Planning & Strategy Coordinator
Jasmine Evans	Governance Officer

Quorum

A majority of members including the Chair or one of the elected Councillors.

**Agenda for Extraordinary Strategic Reference Group Meeting
to be held on Wednesday 10 February 2021
Commencing at 6:15pm**

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1.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 1.1	NORTHERN BEACHES RESILIENCE STRATEGY
REPORTING OFFICER	RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
TRIM FILE REF	2021/044149
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

To provide information to the Strategic Reference Group as to the development of the Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy.

BACKGROUND

Northern Beaches Council is developing a Resilience Strategy that will continue to build the resilience of our community from the impact of short term disruptions such as natural disasters (bush fire, flood, storm etc.), to longer term stressors that affect the foundations of our community including economic downturn, climate change, housing affordability, ageing infrastructure and the like.

The drivers for action are becoming more apparent given the increase: in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards; of exposure of our community, assets and infrastructure; costs of response and recovery.

The Strategy will respond to these challenges and opportunities, whilst highlight the importance of collective resilience, meaning that all aspects of our community have a shared responsibility including government, business, groups and individuals.

It is envisaged that the Strategy will comprise two main parts:

1. Overarching framework - reflects the strengths of our community, identifies opportunities to overcome our vulnerabilities, and the approach to strengthen resilience within the Northern Beaches;
2. Action/Implementation Plan – identifies a range of specific actions and activities that align with the resilience objectives.

DISCUSSION

Resilience is the capacity of the whole community including individuals, communities, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

In essence, means that our community has the ability to respond positively and is able to transform itself so that is stronger into the future.

Resilience is a continuous learning and adaptive process, therefore requires a dynamic approach to account for change over time.

Why is Resilience Important

The Northern Beaches has a significant number of residents and businesses exposed to a number of risks including bush fire, storm, flood, heatwave and coastal erosion. As we have seen in the recent pandemic across the globe and more locally, no community is immune to the wide ranging challenges this event has presented, in all aspects of our lives.

Disasters and disruptions can be expensive and impactful - whether they are caused by short term shocks or chronic stresses affecting our community. People can lose their lives, livelihoods and mental health can be affected. Governments, businesses and the community are required to fund losses and recover costs when infrastructure fails, markets change or the environment is damaged.

Taking action to proactively manage these challenges and interdependencies offers multiple benefits to our community:

- *People understand the risks that may affect them and others in their community*
- *People act to prepare for acute shock events and are adaptive and flexible to respond appropriately during personal and community emergencies*
- *People anticipate acute shock and chronic stress events - they have taken steps to protect themselves, their assets and their livelihoods*
- *People work together with local leaders using their knowledge and resources to prepare for and deal with acute shock events*
- *People work in partnerships with emergency services, their local authorities and other relevant organisations before, during and after emergencies*
- *The emergency management volunteer sector is strong*
- *Emergency management plans are resilience-based, to build broad resilience within communities over time*
- *Communities, governments and other organisations take resilience outcomes into account when considering and developing core services, products and policies*
- *Land use planning systems and building control arrangements reduce community exposure to risks from known hazards, and suitable arrangements are implemented to protect life and property*
- *Following a crisis event, a satisfactory range of functioning is restored quickly*
- *People understand the mechanisms and processes through which recovery assistance may be available*
- *People understand that initial support will be offered to the most vulnerable community members (COAG, 2011)*

The Resilient Strategy will focus on both a Community and Organisation Resilience. Figure 1 below identifies key focus areas, however during the engagement process additional focus areas may be identified and/or further refined.



Figure 1 – Community & Organisational Resilience Focus Areas

Drivers for Action

The [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2018), notes that is necessary for our community and organisation to invest in resilience outcomes on the basis that:

- “natural hazards are more frequent and intense as a result of climate change;
- essential services and systems that our community rely upon are interconnected and interdependent;
- people and assets are more exposed and vulnerable;
- the impacts from disasters can be long term and complex;
- the costs of disasters are increasing;
- momentum to address financial impacts of changing climate is building”.

Community Engagement

The proposed engagement strategy will encompass a range of community engagement activities to better understand our resilience strengths and challenges. These include:

- Online survey via a Yoursay webpage
- Telephone survey of approx. 400 northern beaches residents
- Face to Face survey
- Facilitated workshop bringing together members of the all SRG’s
- Focus groups
- Public exhibition of Draft Strategy.

Proposed Project Timeframes

The following table provides an approximate project timeline noting these may be subject to change as the project is further refined.

Phase	Action	Description	Approx. Timeframe
Phase 1	Project Planning & Background Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing information Develop project plan Develop engagement strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete
Phase 2	Community and Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted community and stakeholder engagement SRG engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March - April
Phase 3	Public Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation Review of submissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July - August
Phase 4	Adoption and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy adoption by Council Commence actioning implementation plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption - September/October Implementation – ongoing

RECOMMENDATION OF RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

That Members of the Strategic Reference Group:

1. Note the commencement of the project
 2. SRG members to participate in further engagement activities to assist in the development of the Resilience Strategy
-

ITEM 1.2	BETTER TOGETHER STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP WORKSHOP
REPORTING OFFICER	SOCIAL PLANNING & STRATEGY COORDINATOR
TRIM FILE REF	2021/005792
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Workshop Powerpoint 2 PDF Final data summary 3 Better Together Draft Strategic Framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide information on the upcoming Better Together Strategic Reference Group Workshop.

Report

Phase 2 of the stakeholder engagement program to develop *Better Together 2041, Social Sustainability Strategy* commenced in December. Four activities were available through Northern Beaches Council Your Say, offering a variety of creative ways for the community to share their ideas:

- Creative Challenge
- Online Survey
- Workshop-in-a-box
- Discussion Paper.

The different activities were designed to provide options for participation. The objective was to engage as many people as possible with easy and quick to complete activities such as the survey and creative challenge, complimented with supporting activities targeted at those stakeholders interested in participating in a more substantial way through the workshop-in-a-box and providing comments on the Discussion Paper.

As part of our Phase 3 engagement a facilitated workshop bringing together members of the 6 Strategic Reference Groups will be facilitated by RPS Consulting. The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Provide an update on how Council is developing the *Better Together* and key results from the engagement activities to date
- Test the top priorities received from survey responses under each of the three strategic directions (Safe, Inclusive, Connected)
- Confirm and expand outcomes under each of the three Strategic Directions
- Review the vision for each strategic direction
- Explore key opportunities for partnerships.

An [introductory video](#) from RPS Consulting introducing the facilitators Lucy Cole Edelstein and Laura Fayers-Pooley is available [here](#) to introduce the workshop.

As this workshop will be facilitated virtually, the online whiteboard platform 'mural' will be used to help facilitate the discussion. To ensure everyone can participate on the night please review the following to familiarise yourselves with the tool before the meeting.

We will be using Mural, an 'digital whiteboard' tool, during the online SRG session. Mural is simple to use – we recommend avoiding Internet Explorer as your browser. Our facilitator has asked that you please spend two minutes to check you can access the virtual meeting whiteboard before the session.

1. Visit Mural
here: <https://app.mural.co/t/rps0603/m/rps0603/1611526709203/cf007c90b10f915b5745df93a495a83db163b313>
2. Double click to add a sticky note to share what you love about the Northern Beaches.
3. Close Mural.

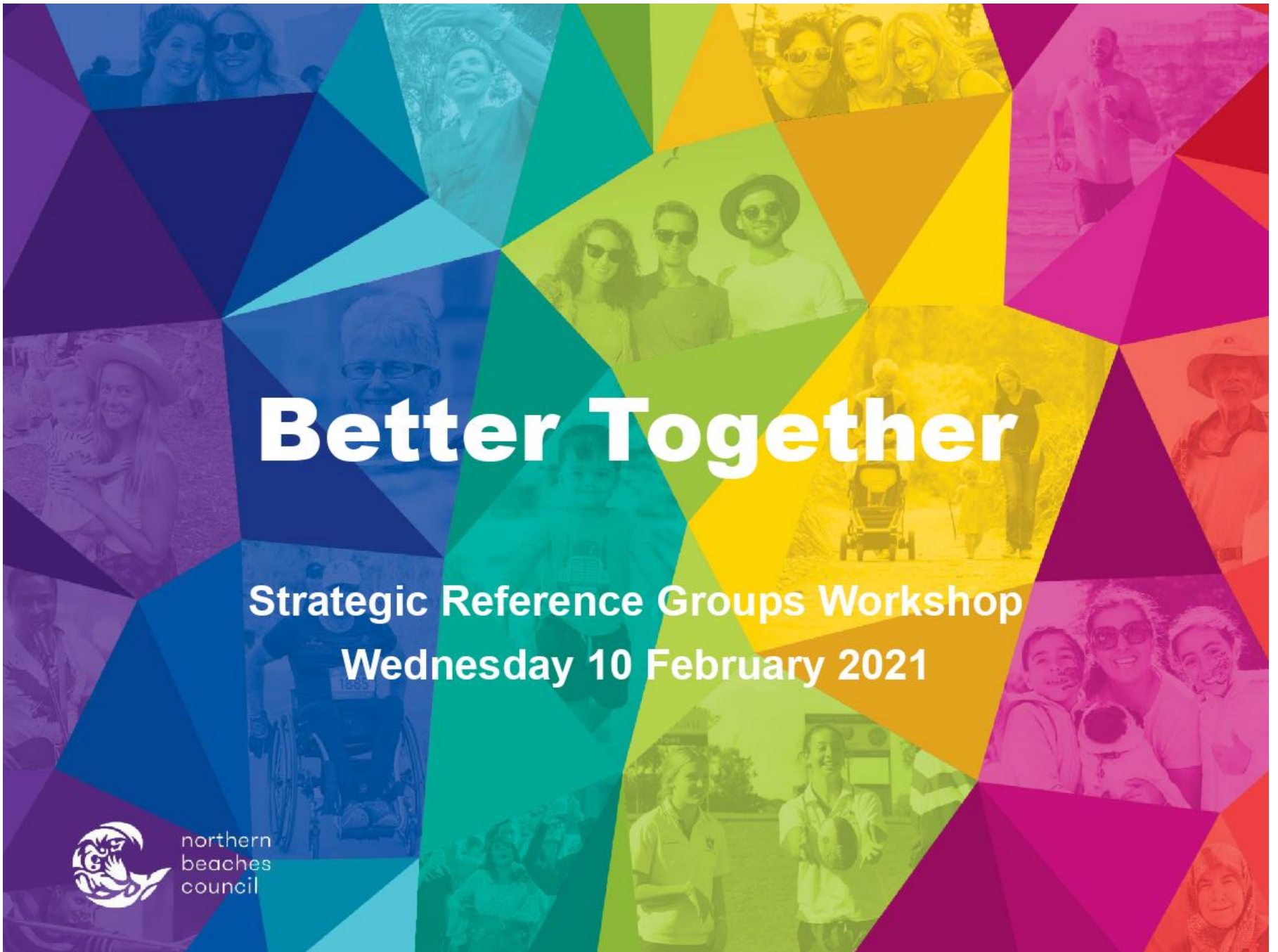
If you need help please contact Briana Davis before the session – 1300 434 434
or Briana.davis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

A summary report of the results of the relevant stakeholder engagement activities conducted to date is attached to this report to inform participants prior to the workshop.

RECOMMENDATION OF SOCIAL PLANNING & STRATEGY COORDINATOR


That members of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group, Partnerships and Participation Strategic Reference Group and other interested Strategic Reference Group Members:

1. Participate in the workshop to:
 - a. provide feedback on the results of the stakeholder engagement received to date.
 - b. contribute to the development of the priorities and strategic directions for *Better Together*.
 - c. Finalise vision for each pillar.
 2. Identify stakeholders to form partnerships that can achieve the strategic directions of *Better Together*.
-



Better Together

Strategic Reference Groups Workshop
Wednesday 10 February 2021



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Agenda

- Introductions
- Workshop Purpose
- Project and engagement update
- Activity 1 (*Breakout*)– Testing objectives + priority areas
- Break (*10 Mins*)
- Activity 2 (*Breakout*) – Vision for *Safe, Inclusive and Connected*
- Activity 3 (*Plenary*)- Key opportunities for partnerships
- Final Questions + Close



Workshop purpose

Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2041

Ensuring everyone living on the Northern Beaches can participate fully in community life and enjoy the same opportunities

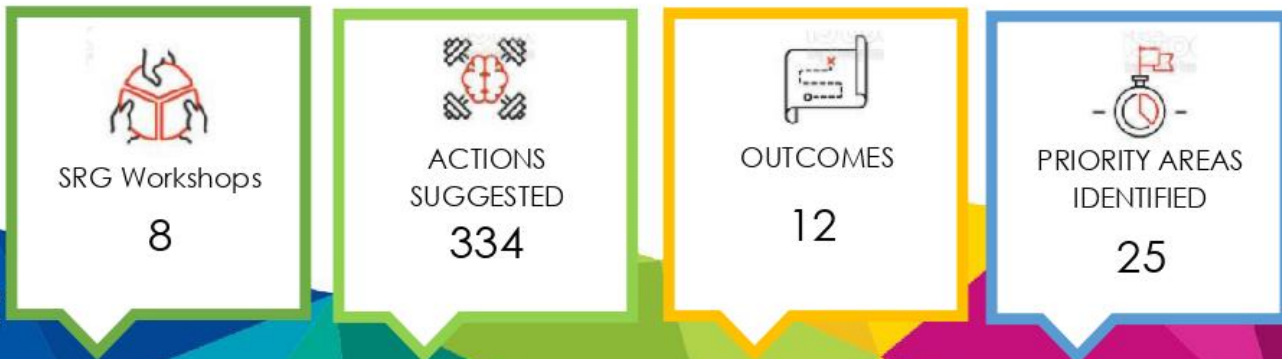
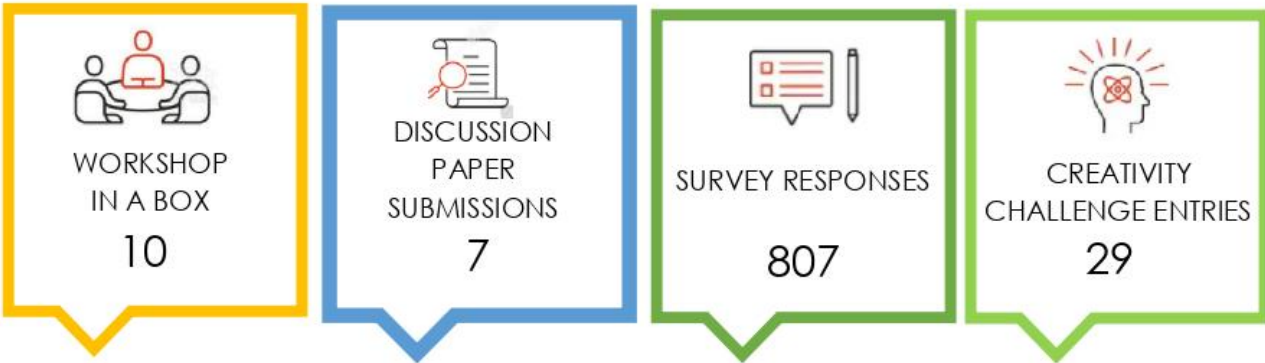


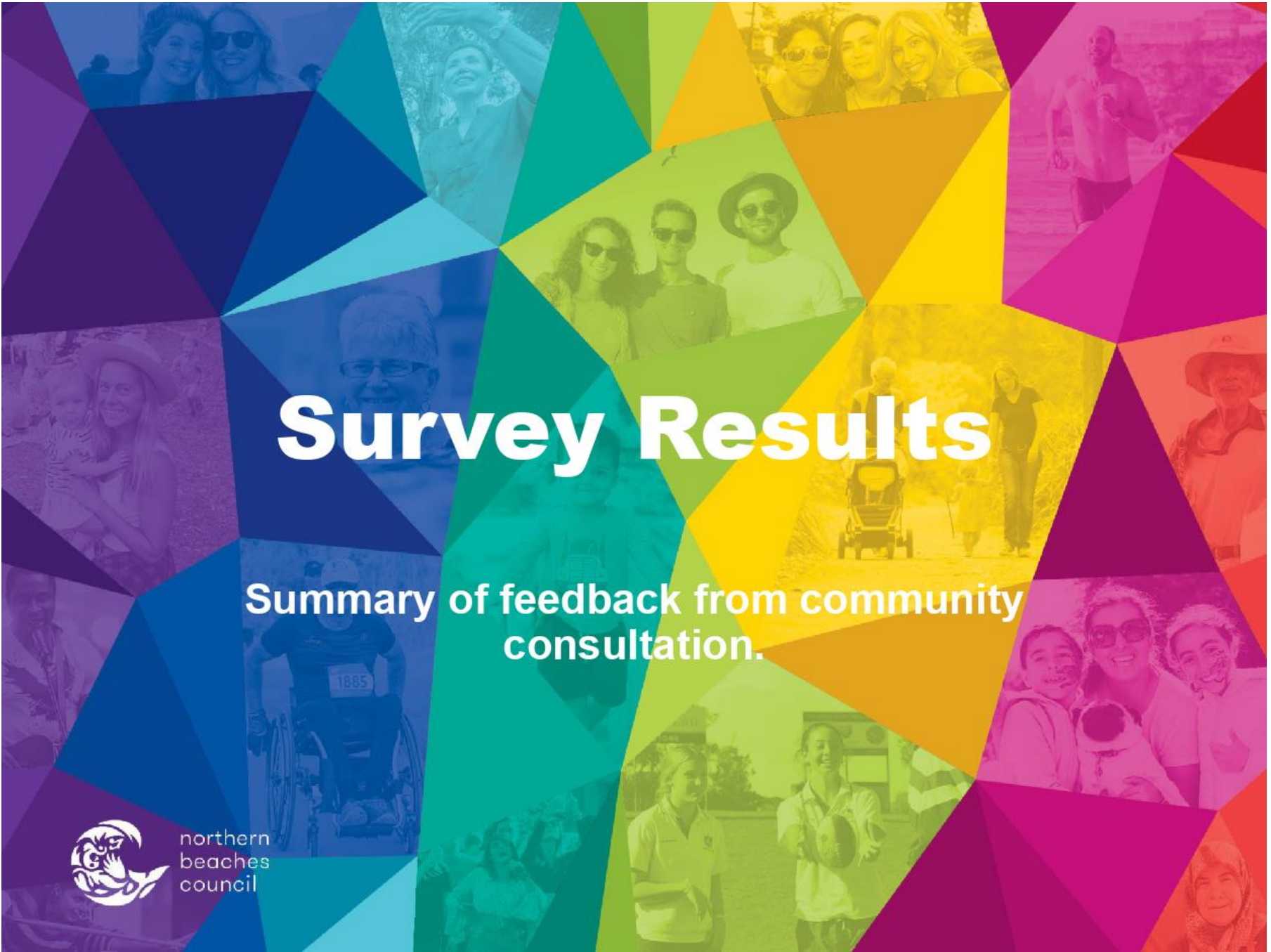
Engagement Snapshot

Hearing from our community



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Survey Results

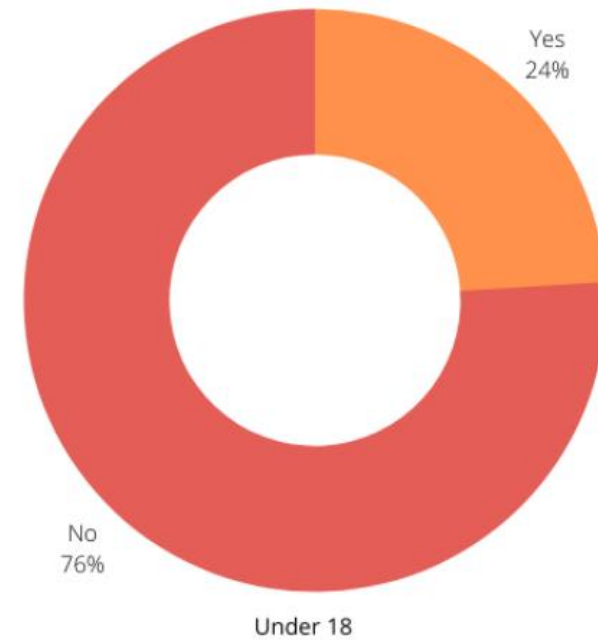
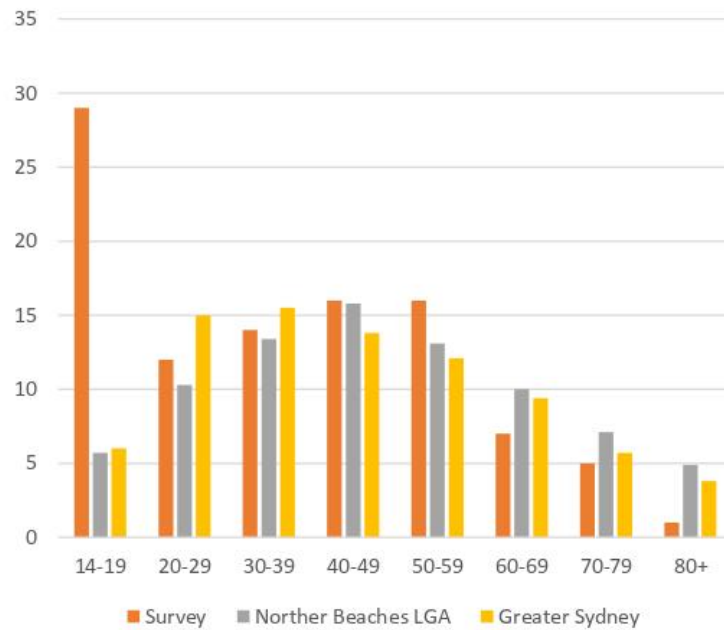
Summary of feedback from community consultation.



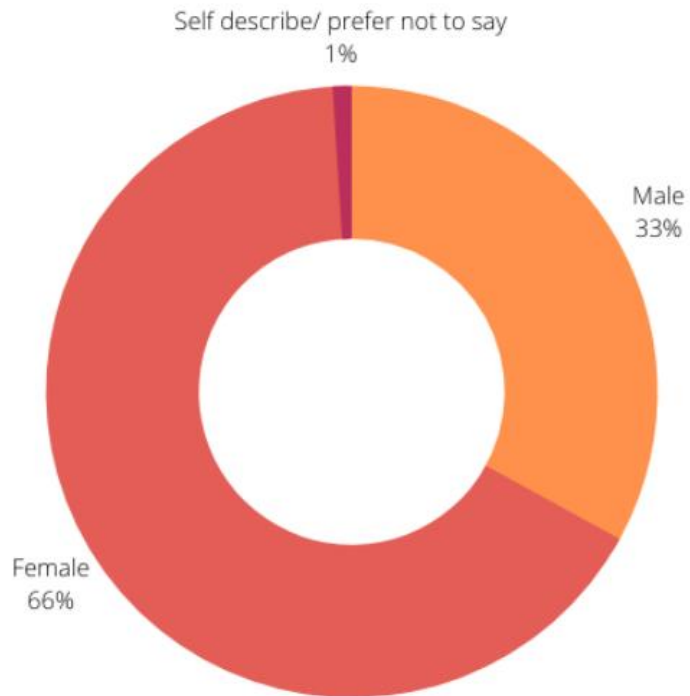
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Who we spoke to

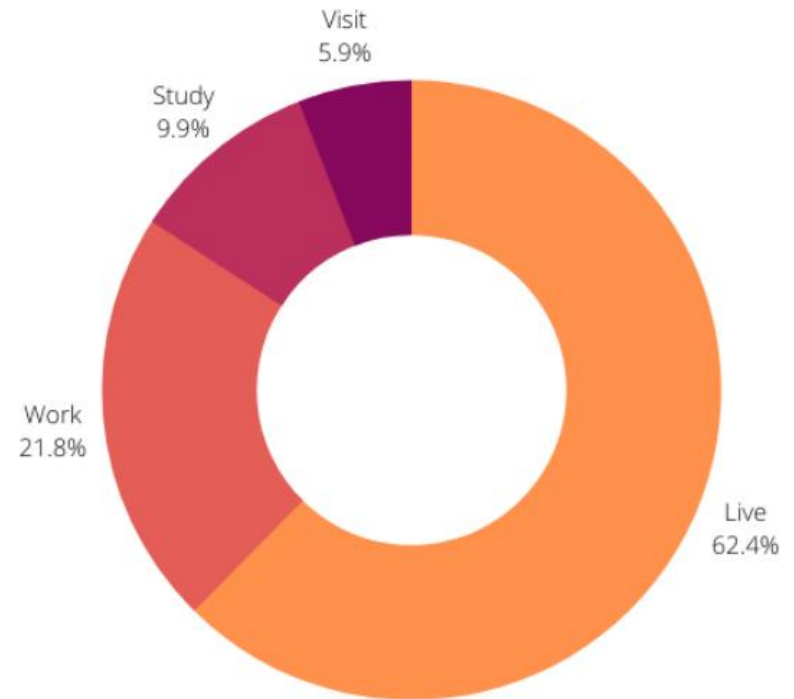
Age comparison



Who we spoke to



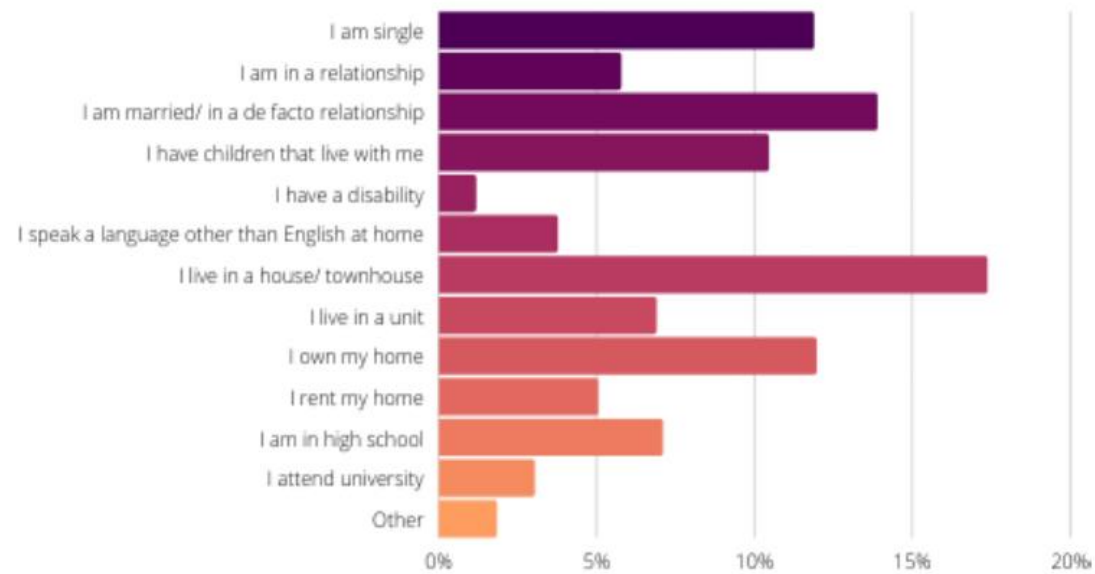
Gender of respondents



Do you live, work, study or visit the Northern Beaches?



How do they live?

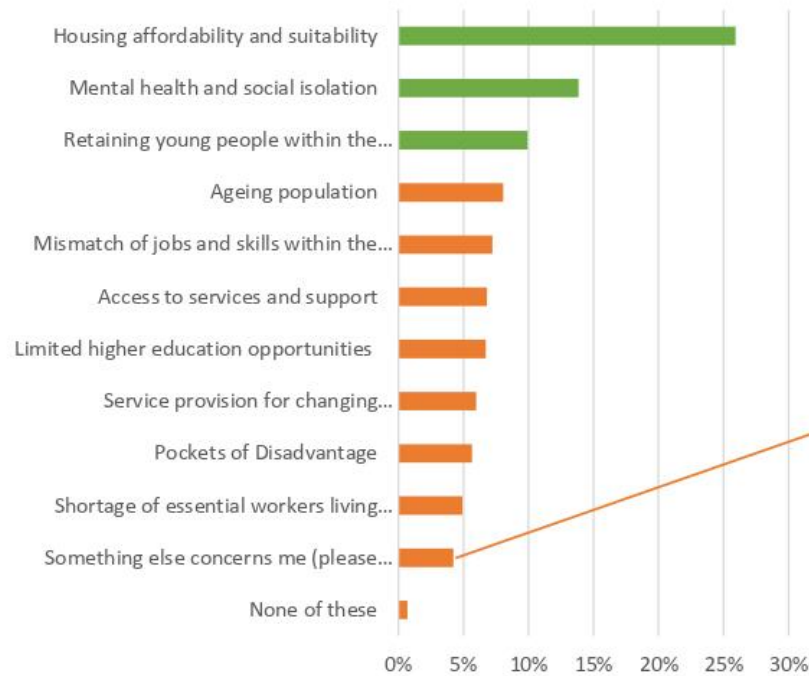


Demographics respondents represent

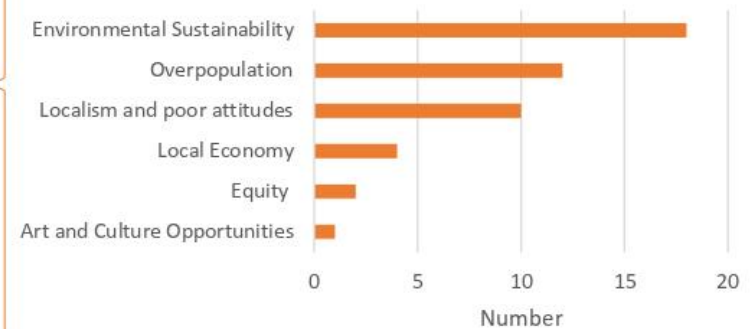


Top 3 social challenges

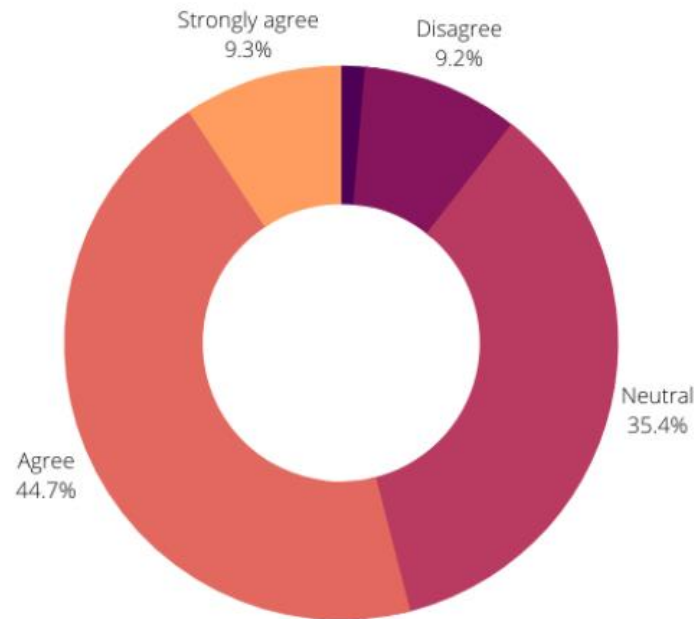
Top 3 Social Challenges



Breakdown of something else concerns me



Baselining Resilience



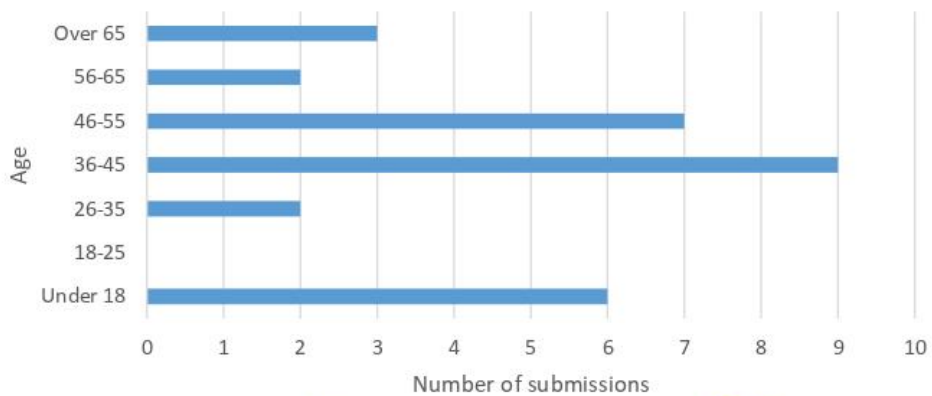
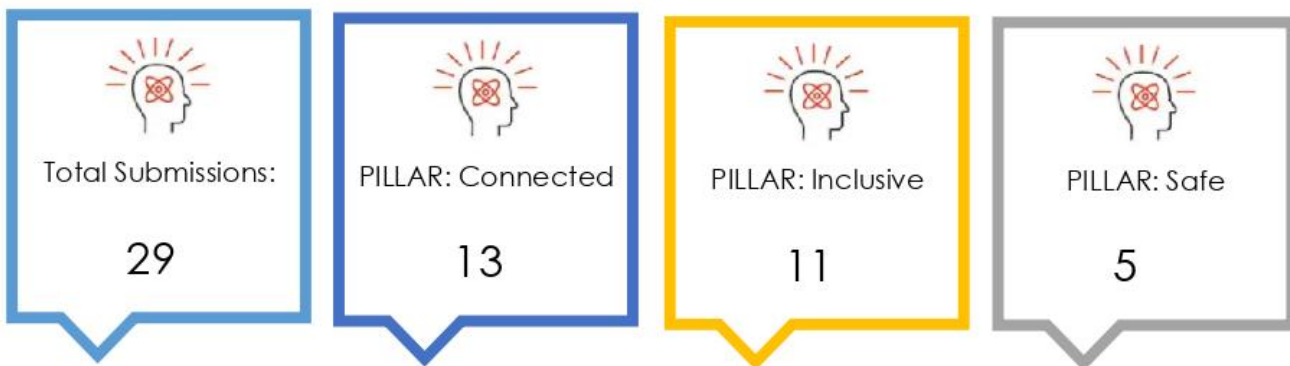
Do you agree that the community is resourceful and resilient in order to meet the needs of those who are impacted by unexpected change?

Creativity Challenge

Summary



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Activity 1

Testing objectives + priority areas





Break

See you back here at 7.35pm

Activity 2:

Community vision for *Safe, Inclusive and Connected*



Using community narrative to create vision

Enabling human collaboration in large groups through understanding

Repeated narratives often tell us about behavioural patterns in social groups

Narrative is central to sensemaking

Narrative research better captures attitudes, perceptions and connections



Activity 3:

Exploring key opportunities for partnerships



Questions

Please consider completing our short survey to tell us what you thought of the workshop.



Thank you!



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Strategic Reference Group Super Workshop Data Analysis Report
Better Together Engagement



BETTER TOGETHER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DRAFT REPORT –SRG WORKSHOP

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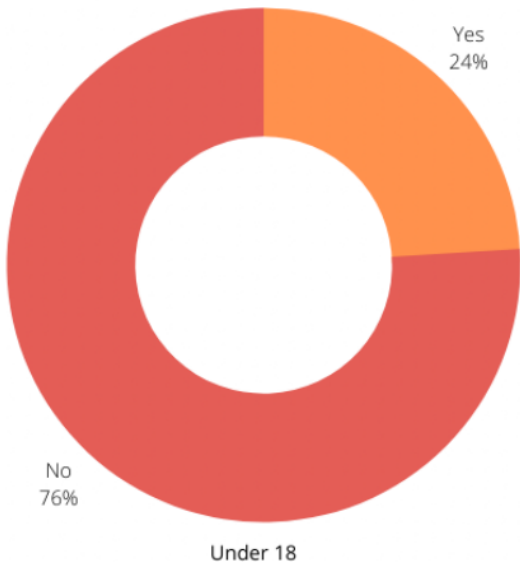
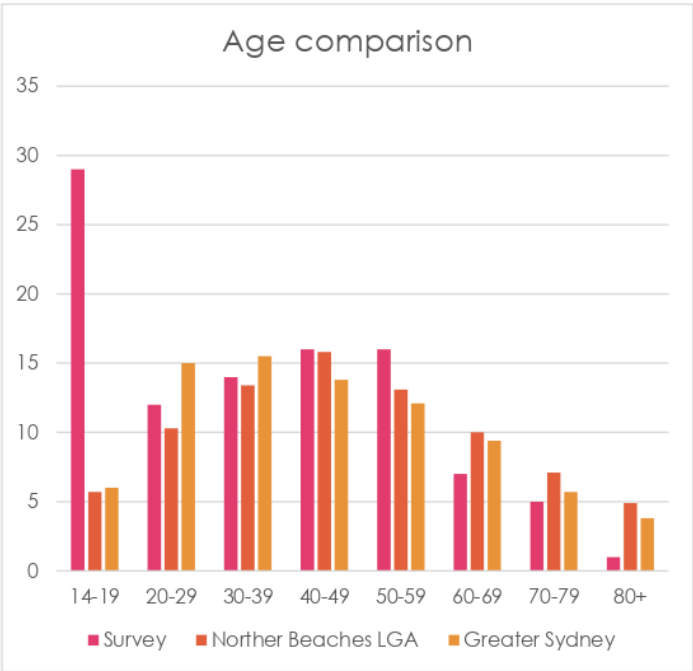
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Strategic Reference Group Super Workshop Data Analysis Report
Better Together Engagement

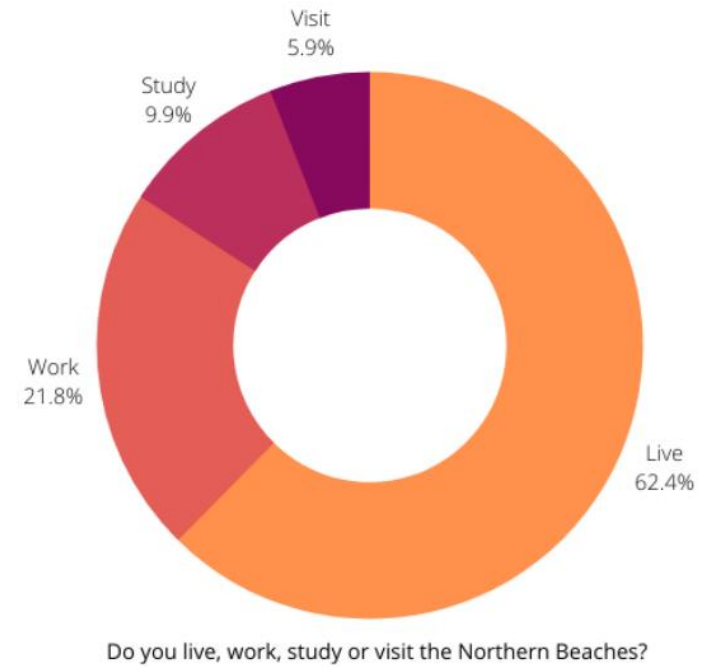
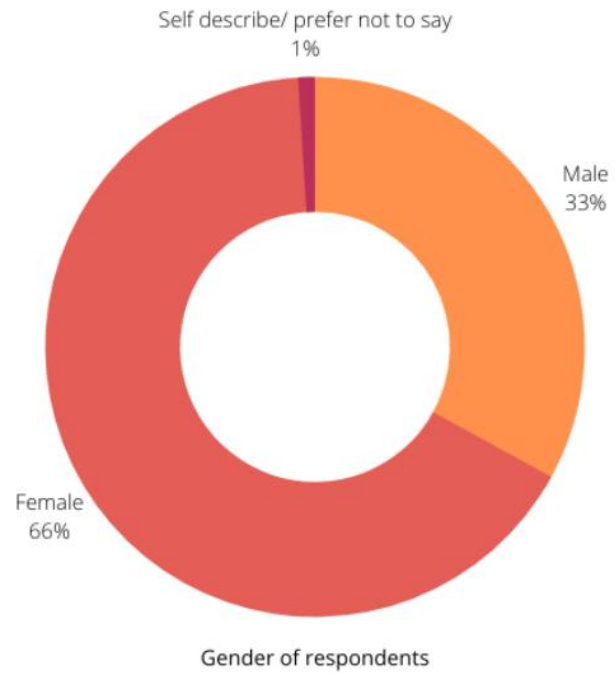
SNAPSHOT OF BETTER TOGETHER ENGAGEMENT



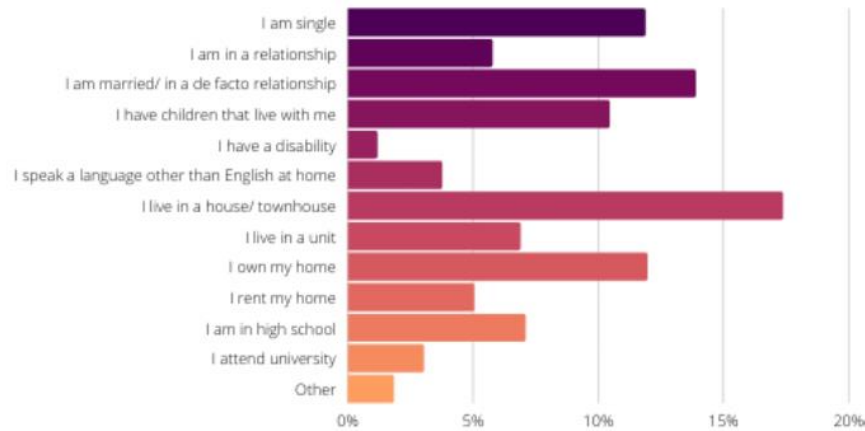
BETTER TOGETHER COMMUNITY SURVEY - WHO WE HEARD FROM



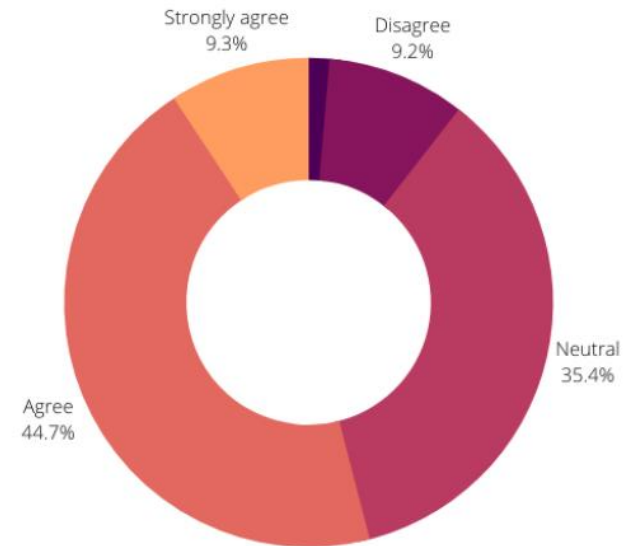
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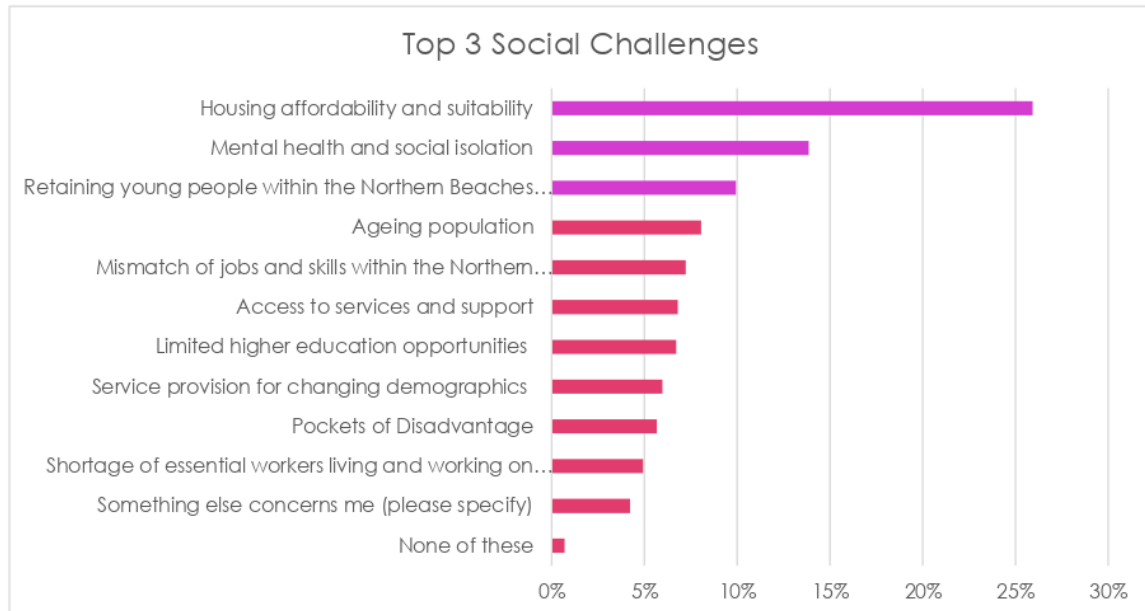
Demographics respondents represent



Do you agree that the community is resourceful and resilient in order to meet the needs of those who are impacted by unexpected change?

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SOCIAL CHALLENGES



Additional social challenges

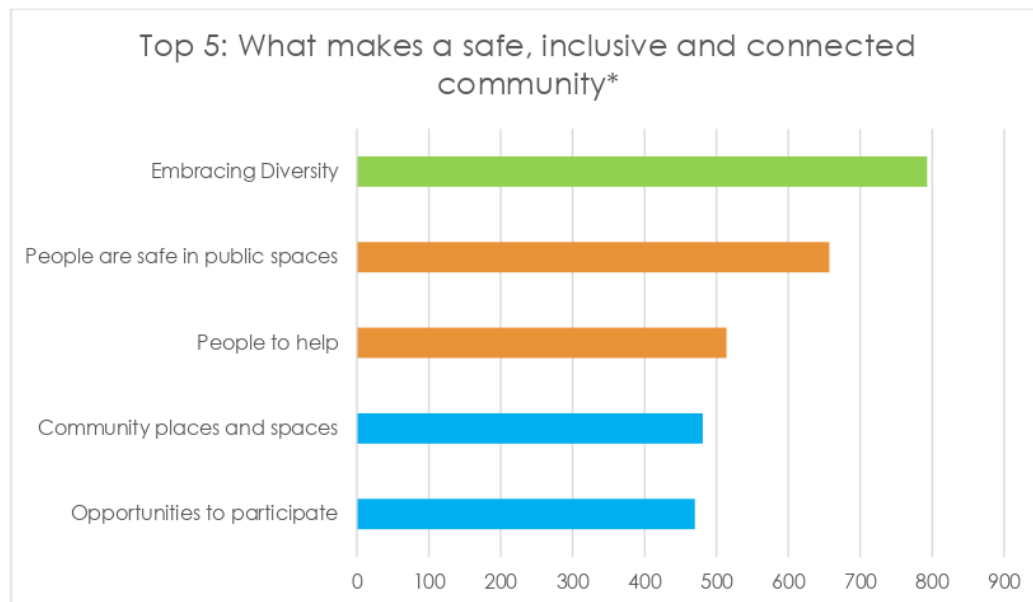
112 free text responses were recorded as "other". Of those 47 comments could not be coded within existing challenge themes which identified a further 6 local challenges for consideration in the context of social sustainability.



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OUTCOMES + PRIORITY AREA UPDATE

We analysed responses to understand what the community priorities were within each strategic direction. We identified **25 priority areas** across 12 outcomes. The survey results indicated the following top 5 priority areas were most frequently reported as essential to feeling safe, included and connected to the community.



*Combined answers from the *Better Together Community* survey only

These priority areas mean that when we reviewed the 15 draft outcomes that were presented in the November Strategic Reference Group workshops, we were able to streamline the outcomes with a total of 12 suggested outcomes across the strategic directions.

The framework now has **4 outcomes** for each strategic direction. These outcomes reflect what our community told us a safe, inclusive and connected Northern Beaches looks like.

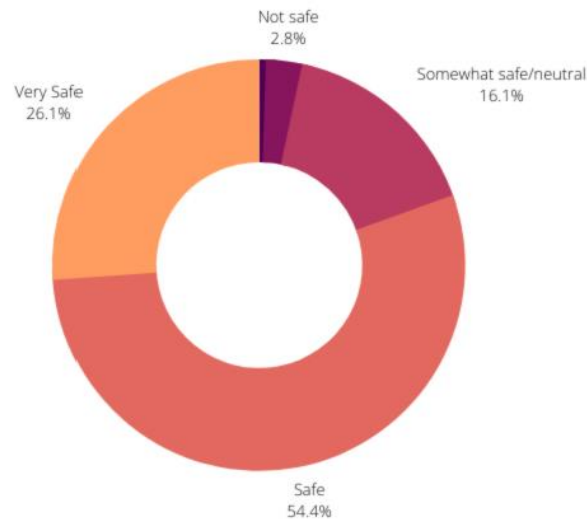
It also allowed us to incorporate **2 new outcomes** that were identified through our survey and workshop consultation - **a healthy and active community** and a **strong and healthy volunteering culture**.

Please see page 6 of the Draft Strategic Framework to view the draft outcome areas in full.

The following three sections provide a summary of the survey responses for each of the three strategic directions Safe, Inclusive and Connected, and a word cloud generated from the Workshop in a Box responses for each strategic direction.

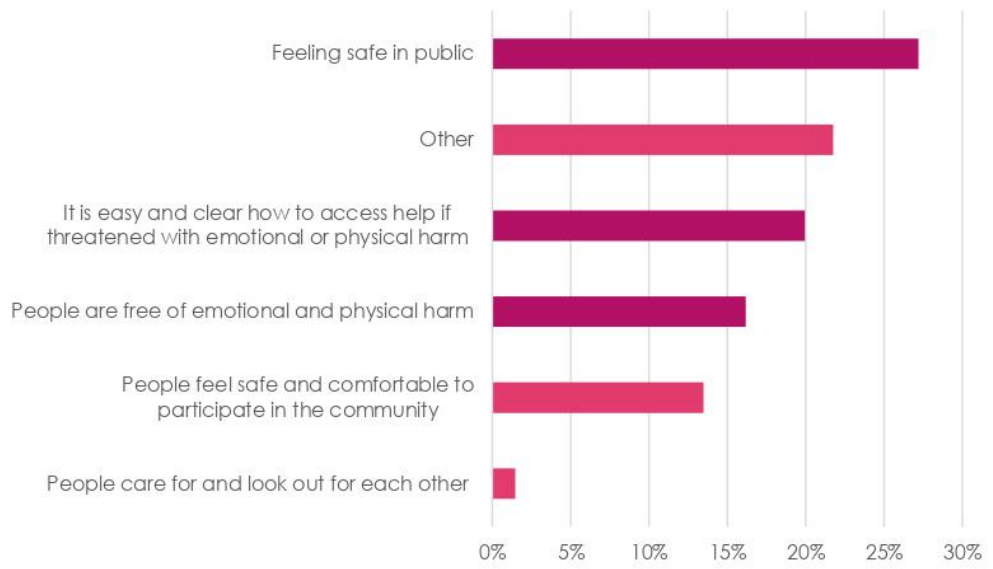
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SAFE



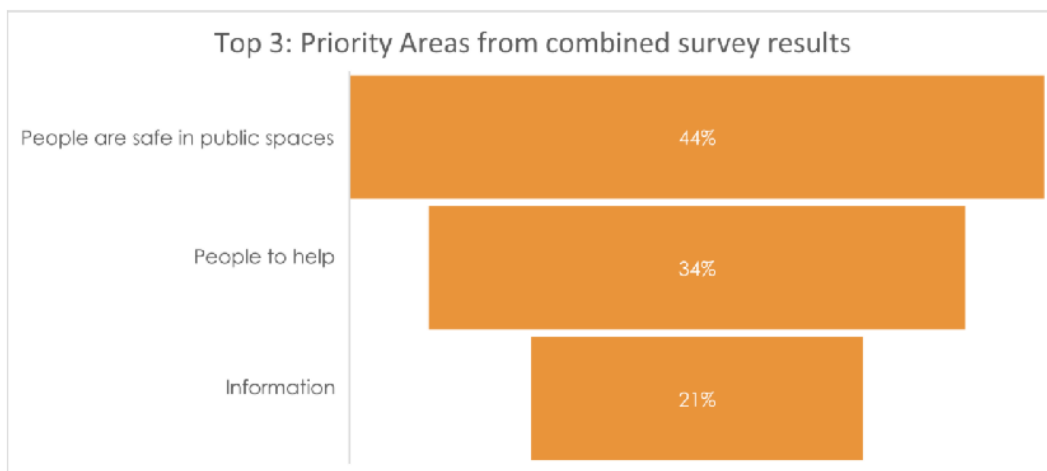
How safe do you feel the Northern Beaches is?

Top 3: What do you think makes a place safe to live, work or visit?



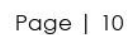
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Priority Area's - Safe



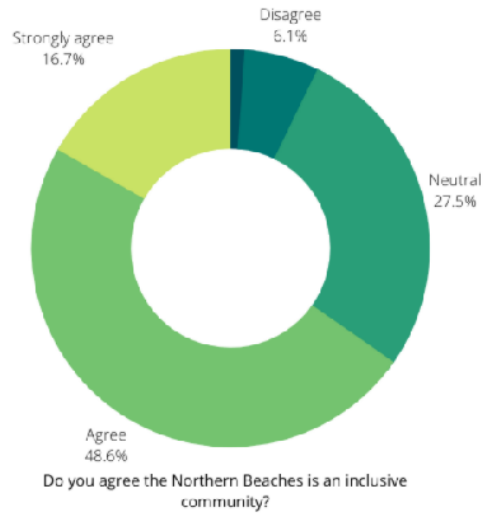
Priority area description	
People are safe in public spaces	Our community are safe when they are in public spaces
People are safe at home	Everyone in our community is free from emotional and physical harm when they are at home.
People are safe online	Our community is safe from bullying and scams when they participate online.
Mental Health	The community has access to tools and support for mental illness and social isolation.
People to help	Everyone has people within the community they can ask for support and feel connected with when they feel or are unsafe.
Information	People who participate in life on the Northern Beaches can access the information they need to get help when they feel unsafe.
High Quality Spaces	Our community has access to high quality sporting and recreation spaces that are appealing, accessible, inclusive and reflect local interests
Wellbeing	Our community has equal access to wellbeing resources and programs

Figure 1 - Safe Word cloud generated through the Workshop in a Box sessions.

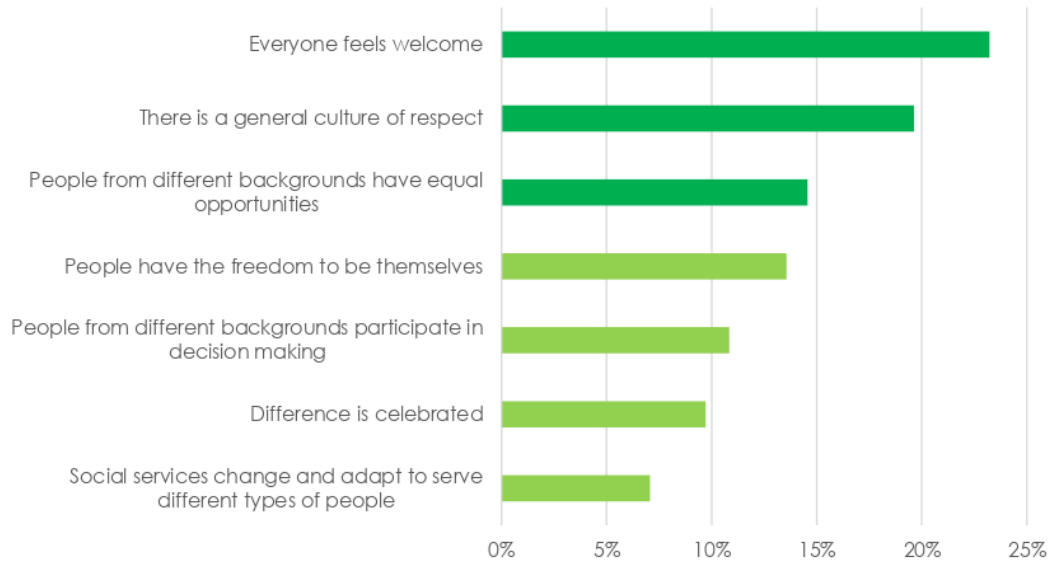


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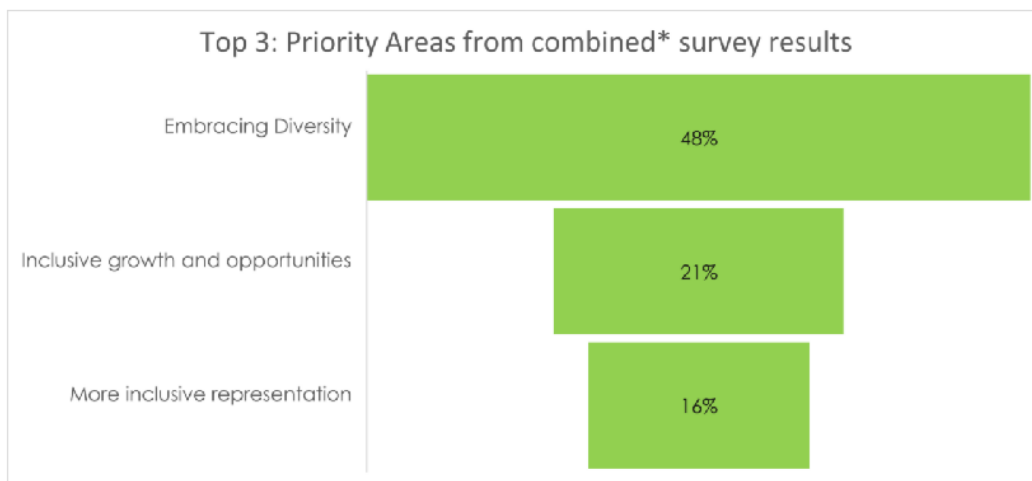
INCLUSIVE



Top 3: What do you think makes a community inclusive?



Strategic Reference Group Super Workshop Data Analysis Report
Better Together Engagement



*Combined with coded free text responses.

Priority area description
Embracing Diversity Our community embraces and celebrates diversity of all kinds
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Our Indigenous heritage is celebrated
Programs that level the playing field Priority populations have programs and opportunities that level the playing field
Inclusive growth and opportunities Economic growth is distributed fairly across all the community and creates opportunities for all.
Housing Affordability Our community has access to housing that matches their needs
Service Demand Our social services respond and are adaptive to changing need in our community and are accessible.
Community Resilience Community resilience is increased through sector collaboration and capacity building
Evidence based service planning Evidenced need drives planning and delivery of community services, and there is access to adequate data.
More inclusive representation There is evidence of inclusive representation of all groups within the community when decisions are made

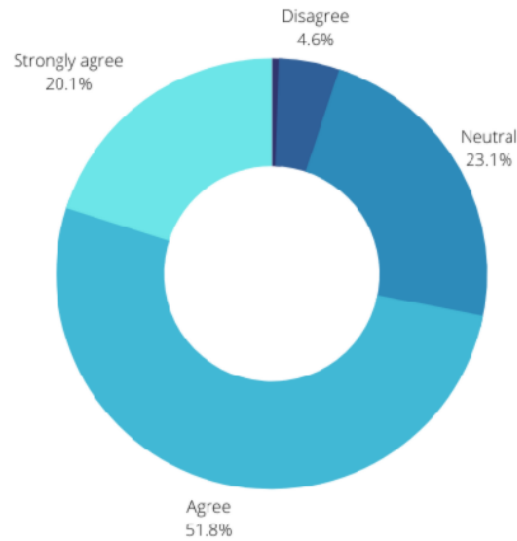
Figure 2 - Inclusive Word cloud generated through the Workshop in a Box sessions.

Figure 2 - Inclusive Word cloud generated through the Workshop in a Box sessions.



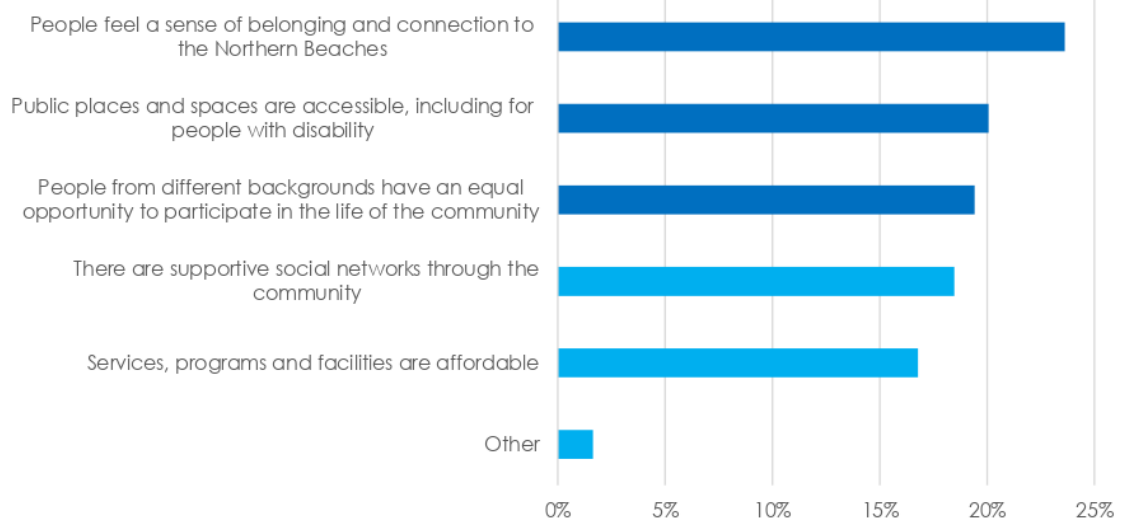
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CONNECTED

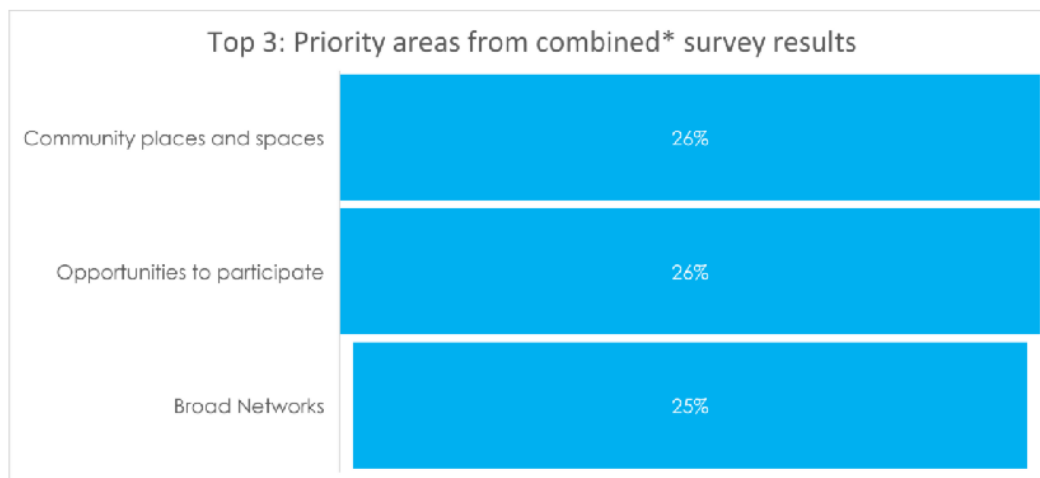


Do you agree the Northern Beaches is a connected community?

Top 3: What do you think makes a community connected?



Strategic Reference Group Super Workshop Data Analysis Report
Better Together Engagement



*Combined with coded free text responses

Priority Area's

Priority area description
<p>Values</p> <p>Our community has a unique identity that represents our shared values</p>
<p>Community places and spaces</p> <p>Community places and spaces are welcoming, inclusive, adaptable, well-used and activated to enable connection.</p>
<p>Accessible information</p> <p>Our community has access to the information they want and need to have to fully participate in community life and decision making.</p>
<p>Broad Networks</p> <p>All members of our community have access to supportive community and social networks that welcome newcomers.</p>
<p>Opportunities to participate</p> <p>The variety of opportunities available to facilitate connection reflect the diversity of our people</p>
<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Strengthen the substantial ongoing participation of, and contribution by, volunteers to community life</p>
<p>Mobility</p> <p>Our community can move around the LGA to connect and participate.</p>

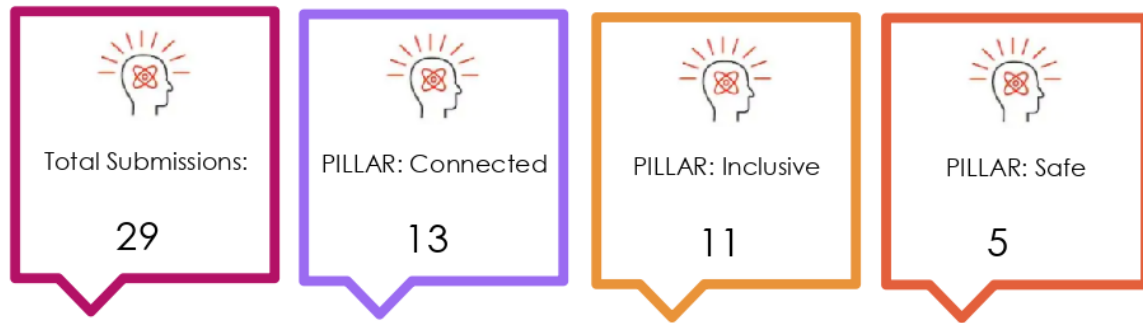
Figure 3 – Connected Word cloud generated through the Workshop in a Box sessions.



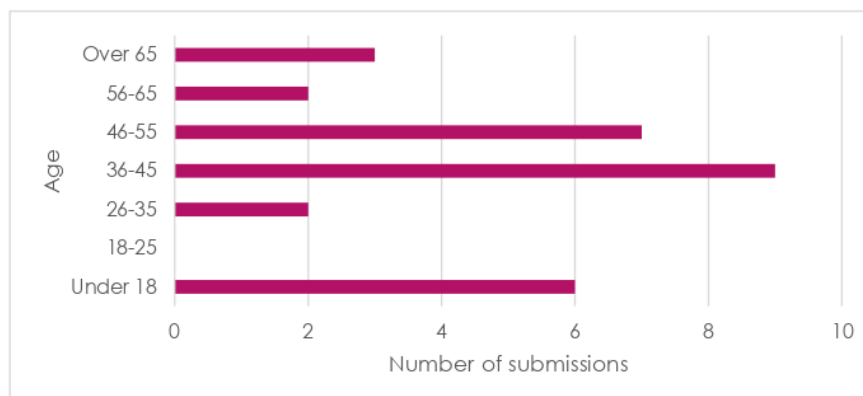
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CREATIVITY CHALLENGE: A WINDOW INTO WHAT SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED
MEANS TO OUR COMMUNITY

Aligning the submissions to the strategic directions:




Who engaged with the Creativity Challenge:



Strategic Reference Group Super Workshop Data Analysis Report
Better Together Engagement

What did the submissions tell us about each of the strategic directions?

Connection – Key themes	
	
Mentions of nature	<p>People spoke frequently about their connection with nature being central to their sense of belonging on the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>Almost all the creativity submissions featured nature.</p> <p>One submission explained <i>“I believe I do live in the most beautiful place on Earth and I feel so grateful every day when I plunge into the ocean, or walk along the shore, or enjoy the evening light filtered through the gums”</i></p>
Activities that make me feel connected to the Northern Beaches	<p>A wide range of activities were mentioned as key to feeling connected with the area.</p> <p>People talked about both virtual and physical activities that made them feel connected with others. What was consistent between these types of activities is the recurrent mention of sharing stories, experiences and activities with others that live on the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>Examples included connecting through social platforms, shared interest groups and through physical activity.</p> <p>One submission that summarises the feelings of being part of activities on the Northern Beaches as - <i>“I treasure the community and connection we share, nestled in nature yet brimming with culture, art and music.”</i></p>

Strategic Reference Group Super Workshop Data Analysis Report
Better Together Engagement

Caring for others	<p>We know our community cares for each other through our high volunteering rates. This is similarly reflected in the way people talked about experiences of connection through caring.</p> <p>The response to COVID features heavily with many referencing how coming together made them feel connected - <i>"As a community we are in this together to fight the invisible enemy"</i>.</p>
Being together with family and friends	<p>Our ability to be with our family and friends is central to how people expressed connection.</p> <p>Spending time with their children and witnessing them grow their own connection within our community was a common joy expressed.</p> <p>It features prominently in what people told us what they love – <i>"I love seeing the kids out on the street riding their bikes together"</i></p>
Multigenerational	<p>Multigenerational living was regularly referenced within submissions. Indicating that people value being around different generations.</p> <p>An element of nostalgia was present speaking of a connection not only with the place, but with ourselves <i>"dance and splashing of the children playing bring me back to my younger self"</i>.</p>
Places	<p>Reference to places complimented the references to nature.</p> <p>Connection facilitated by access to local places was frequently spoken about.</p> <p>One submission encouraged us to consider creative places for people <i>"(we need) live music, theatre, children's entertainment, cinema, a recording studio and opportunities for young creative people to explore their talent"</i>.</p> <p>Demonstrating and reminding of us of the broad interests of people living on the Northern Beaches. Also highlighting the need for us to consider places as a central factor for bringing people together with others, so increase connection and feeling of belonging.</p>

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Inclusion – Key Themes



Diversity	<p>People identified age, gender and culture as an important part of inclusion for them. This points to ensuring we talk of diversity in its most broad sense.</p> <p><i>“No matter of sexuality and/or gender, everyone should be loved and respected for who they are, even if they don't seem like they should identify as that gender or to love who they love”</i></p>
Values	<p>Many submissions made value statements such as <i>“If one person falls, we all fall”</i>. While they reference different values the commonality between them is that value sharing with others makes people feel included.</p>
Coming together	<p>Joining with others to participate in a variety of activities featured as a key component of what inclusiveness feels like.</p> <p><i>“There is no day that goes by where you don't experience something amazing, might be the forever stunning beaches, the lake, a rainbow, incredible storms, the wildlife that is living with us but most importantly for me are the people.”</i></p>

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Inclusive opportunities	<p>Opportunities that welcome participation of diverse groups was important to these submissions.</p> <p>People talked about inclusive opportunities as both physical access – <i>“Skateparks are so much fun, children and adults share these spaces”</i> as well as a participative inclusion <i>“That they (children) will be able to live life, raise a family and access opportunities to thrive, not having to forfeit participation in activities due to a high cost of living just so they are able to remain connected to their home and history.”</i></p>
Groups/Interest areas	<p>A few submissions referenced the diverse range of interest areas on the Northern Beaches, highlighting that while sport and physical activities are often referenced as where people come together there are also other groups and interest areas such as culture and volunteering that people share. <i>“Northern Beaches Clean Up Crew meets once a month to clean up a beach or lagoon.”</i></p>
Social Infrastructure	<p>Social infrastructure present on the Northern Beaches was talked about as being supportive to inclusion <i>“counting on a supportive urban structure and likewise community feeling, brings me the best sense of belonging to our beloved Northern Beaches.”</i></p>

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Safety – Key Themes



Healthy + Active

A unique aspect of what people told us safe means to them is that it incorporated references to being healthy and active. This was especially true when people talked about the importance of children and young people being safe when participating in activities
“Watching my son grow up being able to safely bike ride with his friends”.

Many of the images included being active and feeling safe to do so.
“Safety is knowing the environment is being cared for as it effects our health, wellbeing, economy and the quality of our future existence”.

Safety supporting lifestyle

Related to being healthy and active, people talked about safety being an enabling factor of supporting the lifestyle they value. ***“Limited local and slow traffic to make crossing roads safe mean children get their daily fun-vitamins”.***

“I love that all the kids on our street can play together and grow up knowing that their immediate world is a good one”.

Better Together - Social Sustainability Strategy 2041

Draft Social Sustainability Strategic Framework

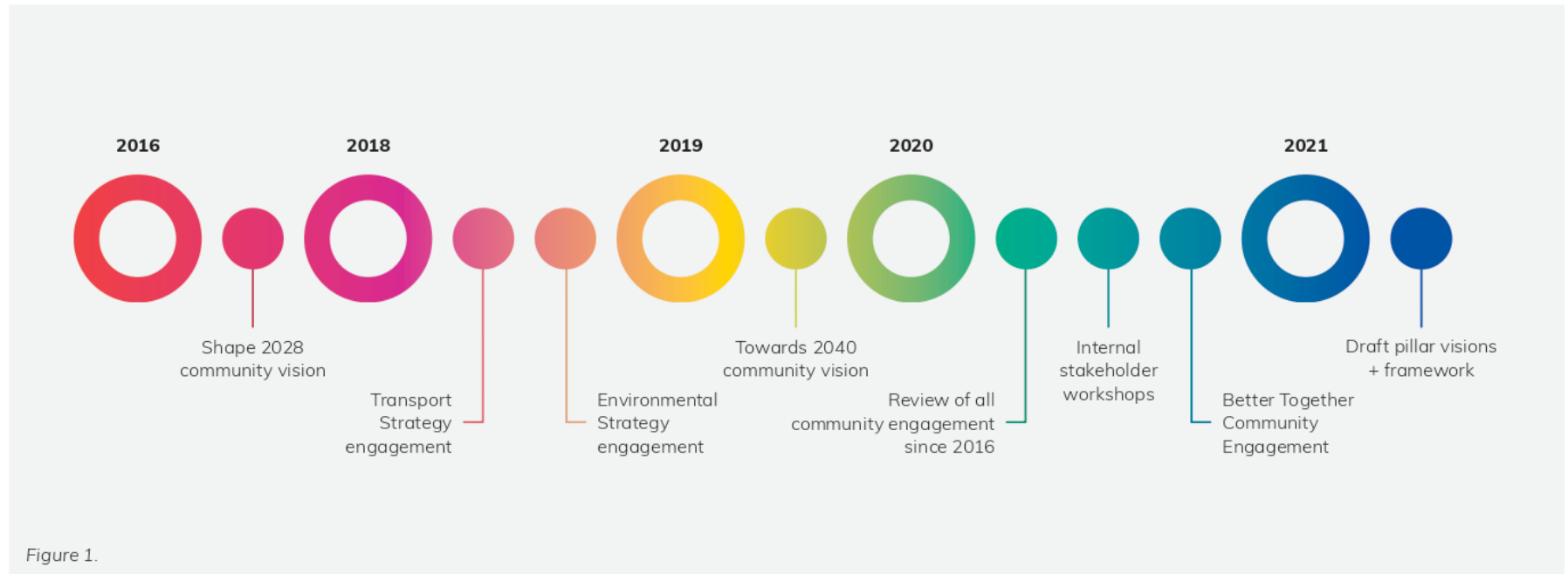
We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and elders past and present. We recognise Aboriginal people as the original custodians of the Northern Beaches. Aboriginal culture is integral to our understanding of belonging, community and care of the land.



Where did the strategic framework come from?

The purpose of the Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2041 is to deliver on the community's vision for a safe, inclusive and connected community for all, as articulated in Shape 2028 (our Community Strategic Plan).

The draft framework has been developed and informed by feedback from the community in the last four years, consultation with key internal stakeholders and the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group, shown below in Figure 1.





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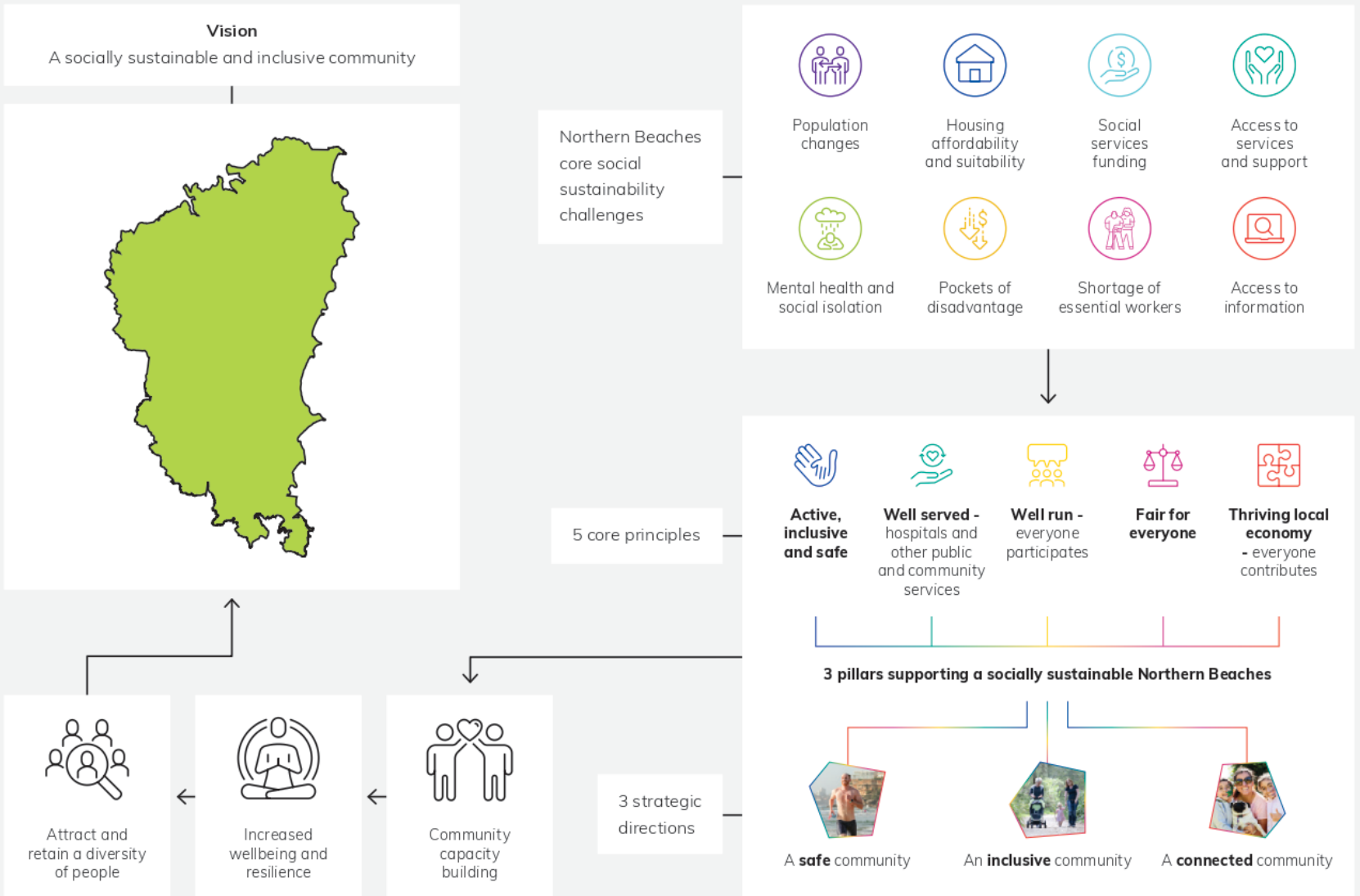
Draft Framework

The core elements in the community's vision from Shape 2028 for a **safe, inclusive** and **connected** community have been used to form the three key pillars for the strategy.

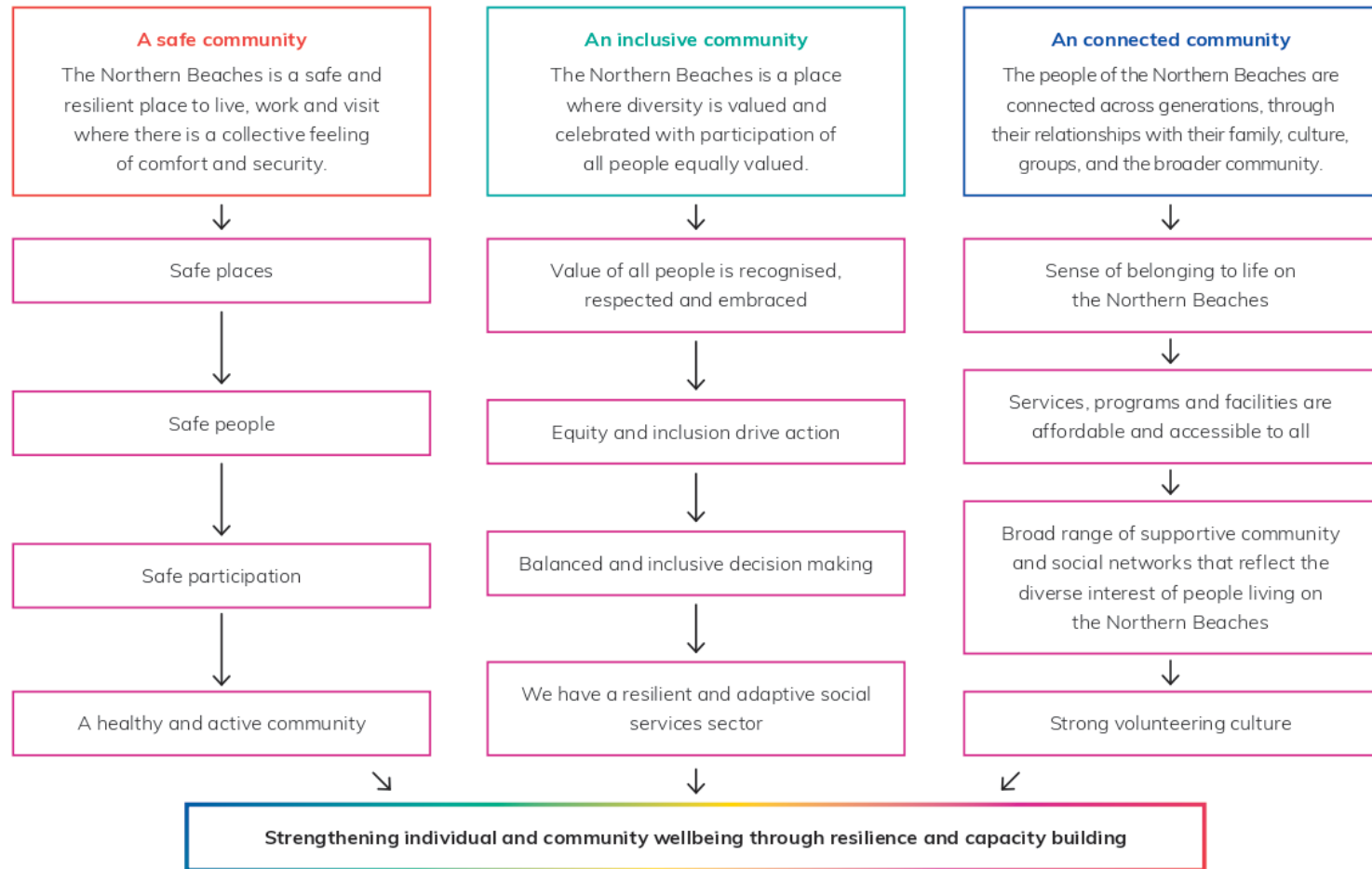
The draft Strategic Framework below contains visions and outcomes for the Northern Beaches community to aspire to. These outcomes would enable a socially sustainable community which has been explored further in the Better Together Discussion Paper.

A holistic approach

Better Together uses a whole of community approach which establishes a cycle of social sustainability and inclusiveness. The Northern Beaches key challenges are addressed in an integrated approach that helps to ensure we are a stronger, more resilient, equitable and socially sustainable community over the next two decades.



12 outcomes towards a more inclusive, safer and connected community in 2041







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Better Together 2041

Safety

For the purpose of this strategy, safety is defined as being safe from harm and danger, both emotionally and physically.

Vision for a Safe Northern Beaches

The Northern Beaches is a safe and resilient place to live, work and visit where there is a collective feeling of comfort and security.

People on the Northern Beaches live in a safe environment, where their right to be free from harm and danger is respected by others. Through successful crime prevention, instances of harm are greatly minimised. Everyone can access information and safe agencies for those who experience physical or emotional harm. The community identifies keeping children safe as a priority and has a strong commitment to best practice child safeguarding.

Public spaces are designed to allow everyone to feel safe so they can participate in community life. There is cohesion and a culture of mutual caring, safe and free from bullying in the community, at home, and online.

The community works together to address difficult and complex personal safety issues including suicide and domestic and family violence. Everyone feels empowered to contribute and shares knowledge and information about available supports and systems.





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Better Together 2041



Inclusion

For the purpose of this strategy, inclusion is defined as everybody has equal opportunity to enjoy the same experiences, and be part of groups that are meaningful to them.

Vision for an Inclusive Northern Beaches

The Northern Beaches is a place where diversity is valued and celebrated. The community harnesses the power of diverse thoughts, actions and experiences to make sure everyone feels welcomed.

Everyone deserves to be visible, heard and celebrated regardless of age, gender, sexuality, cultural background, socioeconomic status, religion or beliefs, ability, or life circumstance.

Everyone is respected for what they contribute and are actively encouraged to participate in the shared experience of living on the Northern Beaches. Decision-making reflects the diverse voices of the community and balances the needs of all.

All people experience a sense of wellbeing and acceptance, respecting different points of views and approaches to living. Those who live on the Northern Beaches represent a multigenerational community where the participation of all generations is equally valued.

Access to support and information is equitable and available to empower everyone to participate.







Connection

For the purpose of this strategy, connection is defined as the relationships in which people are linked with other people or places from which they build meaningful networks and grow personal strength and resilience.

Vision for a Connected Northern Beaches

The people of the Northern Beaches are connected across generations, through their relationships with their family, culture, groups, and the broader community.

Individuals are linked to a variety of networks where they are part of the community and feel a sense of belonging. Barriers for those seeking to strengthen their networks are recognised and overcome.

Everyone is informed and has equal access and opportunities to education, housing, health, information, support services, and employment.

Vibrant and diverse opportunities are available that enhance individual and community wellbeing. These opportunities bring people together and foster and contribute to people feeling that they have a place in the community.

Everyone has access to safe communal spaces that encourage shared connection to the natural and built environment.



Draft Social Sustainability Strategic Framework

