



ST MARYS TOWN CENTRE DRAFT STRUCTURE PLAN

Stage 1 Community Engagement Report

August 2022

PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

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Statement of Recognition of Penrith City's Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage

Council values the unique status of Aboriginal people as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waters, including the land and waters of Penrith City.

Council values the unique status of Torres Strait Islander people as the original owners and custodians of the Torres Strait Islands and surrounding waters.

We work together for a united Australia and City that respects this land of ours, that values the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and provides justice and equity for all.

About this report

This report describes the outcomes from stage 1 community engagement conducted between 22 February to 3 April 2022 to inform the development of a draft St Marys Town Centre Structure Plan. The report outlines the engagement activities undertaken and communication channels used to promote the engagement undertaken and describes the community response and feedback received. The stage 1 engagement sought open comments from the community and their views about St Marys Town Centre and surrounds to help inform the development of the Structure Plan.

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For more information contact:

City Strategy
citystrategy@penrith.city
Penrith City Council
601 High Street Penrith NSW
(02) 4732 7777

Executive Summary

This report outlines the feedback received in response to Council's stage 1 community engagement for developing the St Marys Town Centre Structure Plan. Penrith City Council is developing the St Marys Town Centre Structure Plan to manage growth and change in St Marys as it develops over the next 20 years.

The stage 1 engagement process was guided by Council's Community Engagement Strategy and sought community views about what they love and want to see improved in St Marys and ideas for a vision for St Marys. The stage 1 engagement activities were held between 22 February to 3 April 2022.

The stage 1 engagement activities attracted over 300 responses across various channels including:

- 148 online surveys completed
- 21 social map contributions
- 33 quick poll contributions
- One email submission

The majority of responses (61%) were received from local residents, with broad representation of the community in terms of age and gender, and included people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

When asked what people love about St Marys, the most frequently reported attributes related to:

- The overall ease of getting around due to its central/convenient location
- Access to existing shops and services
- Communal village atmosphere and sense of belonging and connection
- The look and feel of the main street, 'small-town'/village feel and low scale of development
- Convenience of parking

When asked what needs to be improved, the most frequently reported attributes were:

- Have a greater variety of shops and services, and dining experiences
- Improved appearance of buildings (including shopfronts) and public spaces
- Improved access to and quality of open spaces and nature
- Upgraded parks to provide better amenity, visual appeal and diversity for families
- Have a greater sense of safety, particularly near the train station
- Offer ease of parking, reduced congestion, improvements to walking and cycling and better transport connections

When asked to describe a vision for St Marys in 20 years' time, the most frequently attributes reported were an expanded range of dining, entertainment and shopping options; a sense of safety; access to open spaces and nature; retention of the village feel and access to housing.

- Around 35% of the respondents expressed an aspiration for a variety of dining options
- Around 32% spoke about access to a greater diversity of local shops and services
- Around 27% expressed the importance of a sense of safety in the Town Centre by day and night
- Around 17% spoke about access to open spaces, greenery and nature; and 14% spoke about the need for a greater diversity of activities and facilities in public spaces
- Respondents spoke about the look and feel of the town centre, with 17% expressing an aspiration for high-quality built environment, and 11% for high-quality public spaces
- Around 16% of respondents expressed the need for good public transport connectivity and connections to other places
- Around 11% of the respondents spoke about access to and diversity of housing

When asked what people most want to be preserved in St Marys into the future, respondents most commonly reported that the features that people want to see preserved were:

- The history and heritage of St Marys, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, as well as the heritage buildings and streetscape
- Access to the natural environment including South Creek and the existing parks and open spaces
- The 'small-town'/village feel and low scale built form
- Connection to the community and place
- Unique mix and diversity of people

These sentiments were largely reiterated in the responses to the social mapping and social media options.

This report further articulates each of the above four sections and includes quotes from the survey respondents. It should be noted that the quotations, while valuable to understand community sentiment, are perception based and representative of individual experiences.

Ideas for a new Town Centre park

The community was also asked to respond to a quick poll on whether they would like to see a new Town Centre park of square in St Marys. There were 33 responses of which, around more than three quarters (26) people answered 'Yes'.

The most commonly reported features that people suggested for a new town park were:

- Lawns, trees and greenery
- Street furniture, including seating/ benches, tables, water bubblers, etc
- Public and/or community art

- Play spaces/ equipment for kids
- Lighting
- Waterplay

The most commonly reported functions suggested for the town park were for:

- Gathering and socialising
- Sitting and relaxation
- Outdoor dining/ picnicking
- Markets, exhibitions and events

What was clear from the community feedback to the stage 1 engagement for the Structure Plan was the sense of St Marys as a unique place and its potential to become a diverse and thriving town centre.

The stage 1 engagement has provided input to shaping the draft St Marys Town Centre Structure Plan to be considered by Council in mid-2022. In addition to stage 1 community engagement, Council engaged with key stakeholder groups. The outcomes of stage 1 stakeholder engagement are reported separately.

1. Introduction

St Marys Town Centre is changing with significant NSW Government investment in the new Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport rail station, which is under construction and due for completion in 2026. Penrith City Council is preparing for these changes by developing the St Marys Town Centre Structure Plan (the Structure Plan) to manage growth and change in St Marys as it develops over the next 20 years. The Structure Plan will provide an environmental, social, and economic understanding of the existing conditions of the Town Centre, and develop a vision statement, place outcomes, strategic and spatial planning directions and spatial framework plans. Council engaged with residents and stakeholders while developing the St Marys Structure Plan to explore and understand community ideas, values and issues of concern to help shape the vision and directions for St Marys. This report outlines the feedback received.

2. Stage 1 community engagement

The stage 1 engagement process was guided by Council's Community Engagement Strategy and sought to inform and consult the community through a combination of online and in person activities. The stage 1 engagement activities were held between 22 February to 3 April 2022. The six-week engagement period provided the community with an opportunity to provide their ideas, give feedback and play an essential role in shaping the vision for the future of St Marys as a strategic centre. The timing of the stage 1 engagement coincided with the resurgent COVID outbreak and severe weather events, which limited most of the engagement to online feedback.

Engagement activities

The engagement was open to the public including residents, community organisations, business owners, workers, visitors, students, property owners and other interested stakeholders. Both qualitative and quantitative information was collected about people's experiences and attitudes towards St Marys and their vision for its future development. Our stage 1 engagement focused on gaining diverse participation and people were invited to provide feedback through any of the following ways:

- Completing an online survey on Council's Your Say webpage
- Contributing to a social map on Council's Your Say webpage
- Responding to a quick poll about a new Town Park on Council's Your Say webpage
- Email, phone or mail submissions
- Responding to Council's social media posts

Key questions

The key questions asked in the stage 1 engagement were:

- What do you most love about St Marys and why?
- What is the most important thing that needs to be improved in St Marys?
- Tell us your vision for St Marys as a place to live, work and visit 20 years from now?
- What is the most important thing about St Marys that should be preserved into the future?

Communication channels

An explanation of the development of the Structure Plan and the stage 1 engagement opportunities were promoted through the following communication channels:

Information about planning for St Marys on Council's Your Say webpage

- Council's social media post (Facebook)
- 100 post cards distributed in the local area
- Information provided directly to community organisations through Penrith Community Interagency

3. Community response

The stage 1 engagement activities attracted over 300 responses across the various channels. Promotion through social media posts was vital to achieving this substantial response. In total, the St Marys Structure Plan Your Say page attracted 1,458 page views and 973 visitors to the page, resulting in:

- 148 online surveys completed
- 21 social map contributions
- 33 quick poll contributions

The vast majority of respondents (69%) were referred to the Your Say page from social media, 19% went direct to the Your Say page, 6.3% were referrals from the Council website, 4.3% used a search engine and 1.4% responded to media campaigns.

Online Survey

The online survey was completed by 148 respondents. The online survey included the four key questions and a number of non-identifying demographic questions to gather information about the profile of respondents.

The online survey was the only engagement activity that asked for this demographic information, however, it revealed that a reasonably representative profile of the community had been engaged. More information about the survey respondents is provided in Section 4 'Who we heard from'.

Social Mapping

An interactive social mapping tool (Figure 1) enabled respondents to contribute ideas and images on a map of the area. This new engagement tool attracted 19 contributions including, three pins suggesting what people love and want to preserve in St Marys, seven suggesting new ideas and nine suggesting improvements.

What are your thoughts and ideas for the future of St Marys?

Tell us what you love about St Marys and want to preserve, what could be improved, and your ideas for the future. Help us make St Marys a great place to live, work and visit. Please add your ideas and images to the map below.

19 contributions

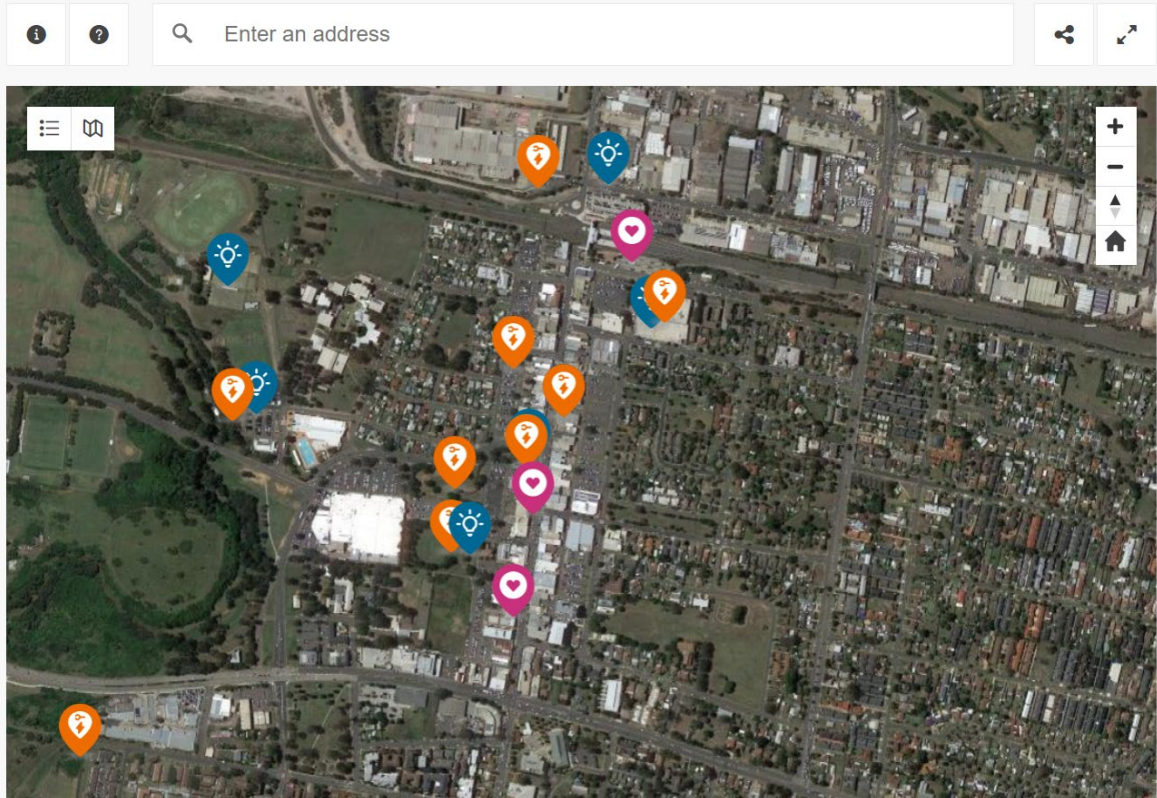


Figure 1 St Marys Structure Plan Your Say webpage Social Mapping tool

Quick Poll

The Your Say webpage included a Quick Poll tool to gather direct feedback on whether the community favoured a new town centre park or square and if so, what features the community would like in a new public space.

The Quick Poll question attracted 33 responses, of which 26 respondents (79%) said “Yes” and 7 said “No”.

Those respondents who answered “Yes” were directed to a subsequent open question:

- What would you like to see in a new town park or square?

Respondents were able to provide their ideas in free text. These responses are discussed later in this report, but some examples included:

Quick Poll

Do you think St Marys needs a new town park or square?

- No
 Yes

Figure 2 Quick Poll question on the Your Say webpage

“Kids play areas, water feature or fountains, lights or light features, maybe a statue or monument with St Marys history.”

“Weekly markets, trees, seating, play spaces, toilets, Indigenous art, stories about the area, accessibility.”

“The equivalent of the new city park in Penrith would be great.”

Submissions

There was one email submission from a community member seeking to make comment. Their comments were considered along with the survey responses.

Social Media

During the engagement period Council published 5 social media posts about St Marys Structure Plan stage 1 engagement on their Facebook page and a similar set of posts on Instagram. The Facebook posts had a reach of 81,851, generating 167 likes and a total of 159 comments, 196 reactions and 101 shares.

- 23 Feb 2022: 33 comments, 20 shares, 58 reactions
- 27 Feb 2022: 32 comments, 47 shares, 57 reactions
- 15 Mar 2022: 89 comments, 26 shares, 51 reactions
- 22 Mar 2022: 01 comments, 05 shares, 24 reactions
- 31 Mar 2022: 04 Comments, 03 shares, 06 reactions

DESIGN - FACEBOOK

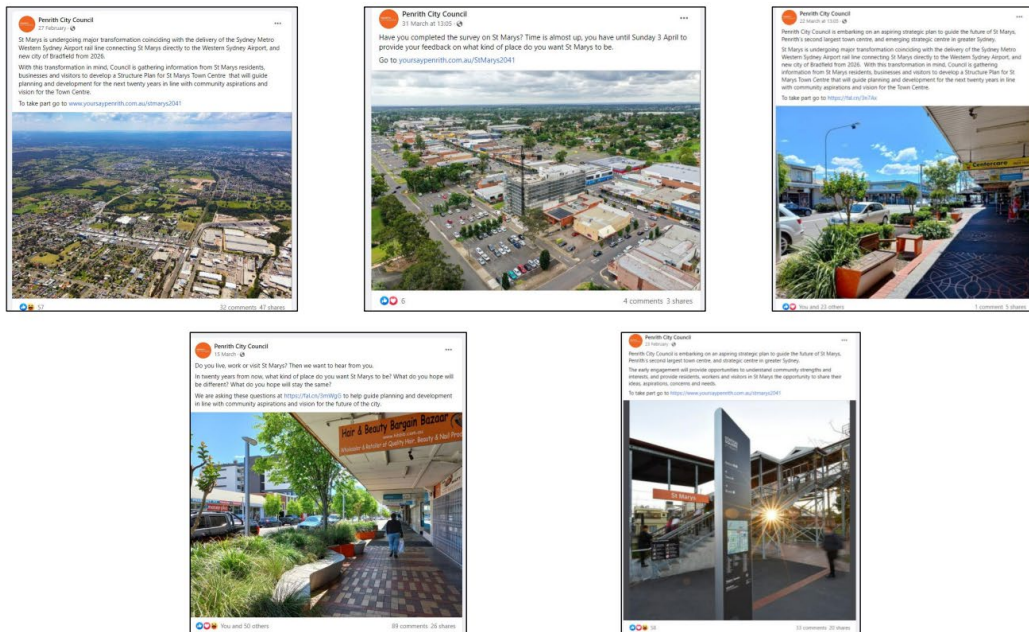


Figure 3 Designs for Facebook posts

Council’s Facebook posts had a far greater reach than the Instagram posts but Instagram had a similar positive response. Instagram had a 7,198 reach, generating 149 likes and 8 comments.

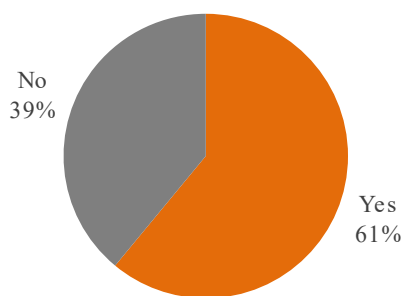
4. Who we heard from: Survey respondent profile

The online survey included a few non-identifying demographic questions to gather information about the profile of respondents. Based on this self-reported demographic information, of the 148 survey respondents:

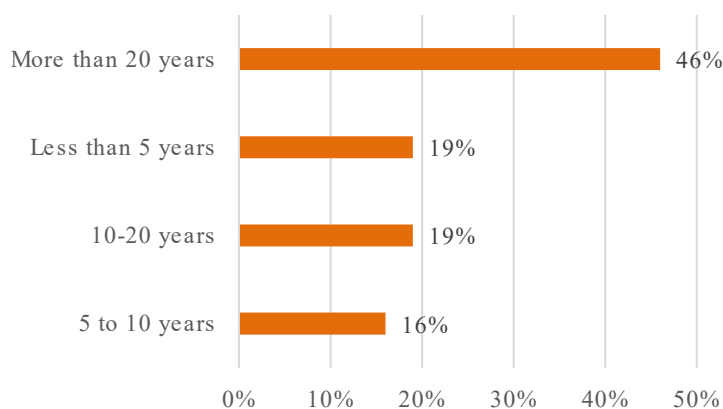
- 66% were women
- 5% were People with Disability
- 5% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
- 9% spoke a language other than English at home

Most of the survey respondents (61%) were local residents and almost half of these residents had lived in the area for more than 20 years. The remaining resident respondents were equally divided into those who had lived in the area less than 5 years, 5 to 10 years and between 10 and 20 years.

Are you a resident of St Marys?

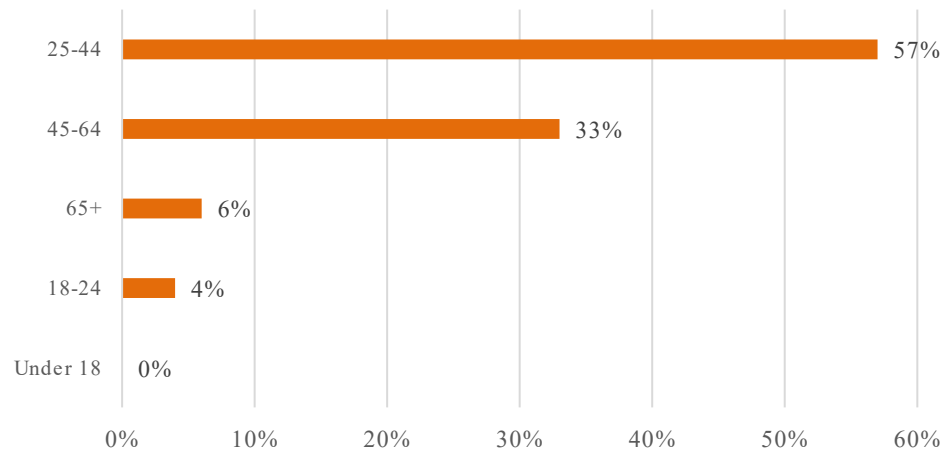


How long have you lived in the area?



Participation by Age

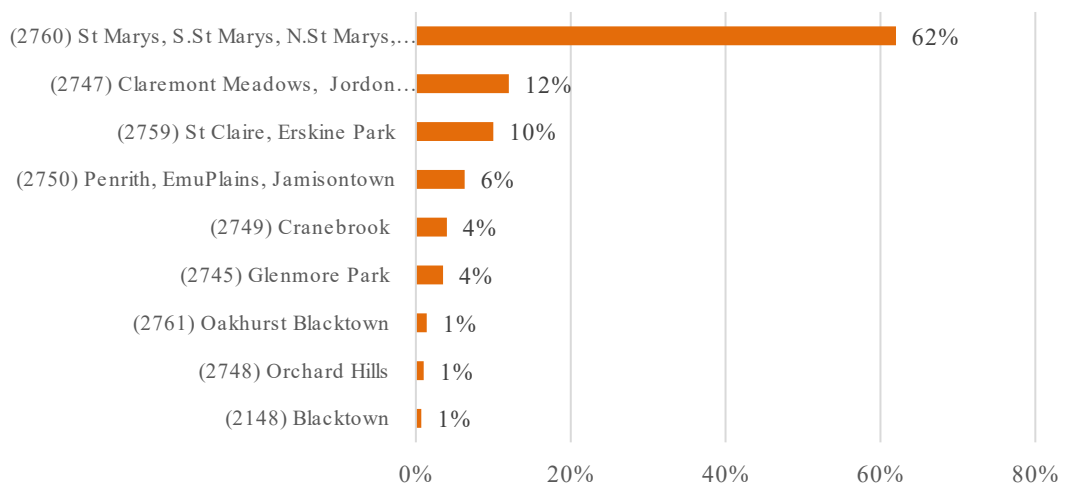
More than half of all survey respondents (57%) were aged between 25 and 44 years of age. The next most common age group was 45 to 64 years. There was a small proportion of older people (over 65 years) and of young people (aged 18 to 25 years) who responded to the online survey.



Participation by Location

Almost two thirds of survey respondents (62%) lived within the St Marys suburb and adjacent suburbs to the north and south. A very small number of respondents lived outside of the Penrith Local Government Area in neighbouring Blacktown.

Figure 4 Survey respondents by residential postcode or suburb



5. Community feedback from the Online Survey

The online community survey included a first question to understand the most common role and function that St Marys Town Centre plays for the community. The feedback showed that St Marys Town Centre is most frequently visited as place for shopping (78% of respondents). Accessing medical or health care, banking or personal business or connecting to transport were the next most frequently reported reasons for visiting St Marys town centre, by more than 40% of respondents in each case. Between one quarter and one third of respondents visited St Marys for dining or other entertainment or recreational activities. Around one in five respondents worked in St Marys or visited the library and/or other community facilities. Around one in five respondents worked in St Marys or visited the library and/or other community facilities.

Question: What is the main reason that you visit St Marys?



Analysis of responses to key questions

Each of the four key questions in the online survey were open-ended. This meant that respondents were able to provide their own views without the constraint of a pre-determined set of responses. This provided rich qualitative feedback, to each of the key questions, which was grouped into ten broad topics that corresponded to the topics being investigated for the Structure Plan, namely:

- Connectivity and Movement
- Economy and Employment
- People and Culture
- Built form
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Natural Environment
- Sustainability and Resilience
- Planning and Governance
- History and Heritage

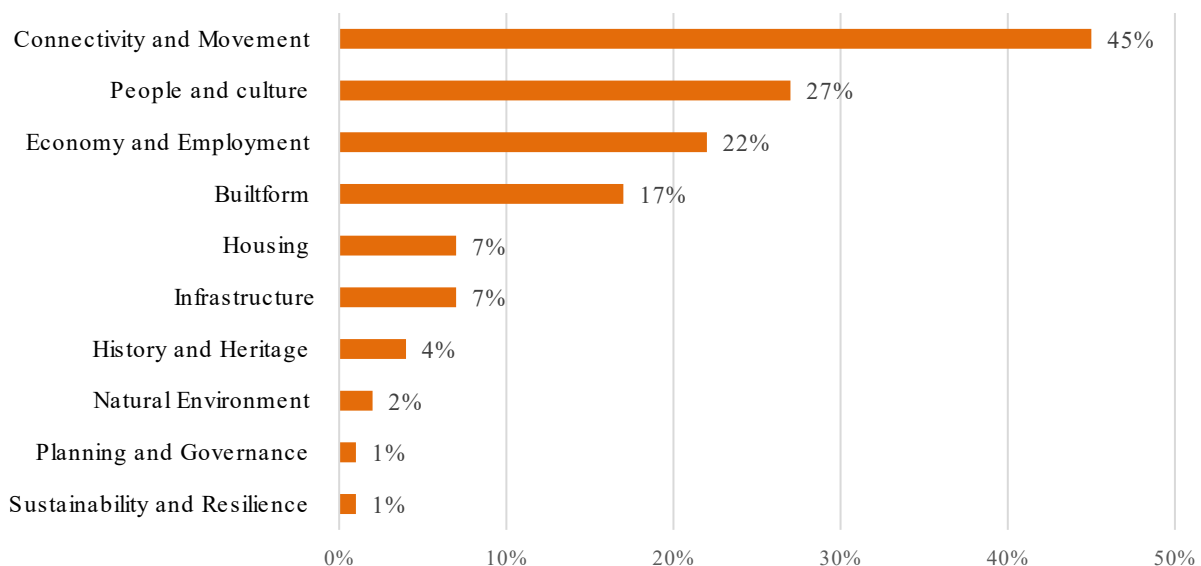
Feedback was then further classified by a range of attributes to provide more nuanced information about community views, ideas and concerns. Tables showing the number of responses against the various attributes and their related topics for each question are provided in Appendix 1. A summary of the most frequently reported responses for each question are explained in the following sections.

6. What people love most about St Marys

Key Question: What do you most love about St Marys and why?

The first key question asked what people loved most about St Marys. A total of 136 responses were collected for this question. Respondents described a wide range of attributes and features about the St Marys Town Centre that they love the most. Overall, the most frequent comments related to the topics of connectivity and movement, people and culture and economy and employment and built form (Figure 5).

Figure 5 What people love about St Marys: Survey responses by topic



The most commonly reported attributes that people love about St Marys related to:

- The overall ease of getting around due to its central/convenient location
- Access to existing shops and services
- Communal village atmosphere and sense of belonging and connection
- The look and feel of the main street, ‘small-town’/village feel and low scale of development
- Convenience of parking

There were more than double the number of women than men who responded to this question but, for both groups, the ease of getting around was most frequently described as the attribute they loved most.

These attributes underscore a strong sense that St Marys Town Centre serves its local community well.

Connectivity and Movement – Overall ease of getting around due to central/ convenient location

The most commonly reported feature that people love about the St Marys Town Centre is its overall ease of access and convenience as a location, as described by one in three respondents.

- **Convenient access to shops and services**

Many respondents described that they felt that they have easy access to a range of shops and services.

“It has shops that I can easily access if I don’t want to or need to go to a bigger shopping complex. My hairdresser’s business is on Queen St also.”

“Close to home close to banks shops I need library for my kids I love when there is entertainment for my kids, I love the village centre, just enough shops”

“Convenient, has most of the things we need.”

- **Location, proximity and connection to other destinations and centres.**

St Marys was described as very convenient. Respondents said St Marys provides good connectivity to other locations and centres.

“I love the actual location position in Western Sydney. It is a connection hub to go to Penrith and beyond to the Blue Mountains and still quite east to get into the Sydney CBD.”

- **Easy to get to places by different modes**

Respondents said St Marys is well connected by roads and public transport.

“we have close access to both public transport and major roads”

“my children’s dancing and medical facilities all being close by, so if my husband or I are unable to get children to dancing they can catch public transport”.

Around one in 10 survey respondents also described the availability and convenience of free car parking as an attribute that they love most about St Marys.

Economy and Employment – Access to existing shops and services

Nearly one quarter of all respondents said that they love that there are local shops and services available in St Marys, especially along the main street, Queen Street.

- **A variety of small businesses, particularly along the main street**

Female respondents, in particular, commented that they love the diversity of shops, locally owned businesses, and representation of community.

“Variety of shops to choose from and they are all just around the corner - regardless of the direction we face where we live.”

“I like that there are wide range of multicultural shops.”

“Lots of local small businesses on the streets”.

The value that respondents expressed about the diversity of the local shops is repeated in some of the comments the respondents made about how they loved the diversity of the local community.

People and Culture – Communal village atmosphere and sense of belonging and connection

Around one in five respondents said they loved the communal village atmosphere and sense of belonging and connection they experienced in St Marys.

- **Communal village atmosphere**

The sense of connection to community and place was a sentiment shared by both male and female respondents but was more frequently mentioned by female respondents. The communal village atmosphere was commonly referred to as a small town or country town feel.

“The small town feel. We wanted to raise our family in a good community and the local events like Halloween and Easter events have been a real hit for us. Nice seeing new small businesses open up in the area to help change it.”

“St Marys has a real community feel which has changed over the years however the real community spirit is alive and well. It’s like a country town that’s transformed into a city suburb. I’m excited to see St Marys grow into its future self and I certainly love its past. There is nowhere better to live in the world if you ask me.”

“I love that it’s pretty much the only real small town centre left in the area. Everywhere else has become overrun with huge shopping centres, multiple high rise apartment blocks, and zero greenery and zero parking.”

- **Sense of belonging and connection**

The strong sense of connection to St Marys was evident in comments from a number of respondents who referred to it as their hometown.

“I taught at a local school for 35 years. It’s where my family are. It’s home.”

“It’s my hometown and you can’t just separate yourself from it”

“St Marys will forever be known as my hometown 

This strong sense of connection to St Marys is a strength that supports community cohesion.

Built environment – Look and feel of the main street, small-town/ village feel and low scale of development

The fourth attribute most frequently mentioned by respondents related to the built form of St Marys, especially the small or country town feel and the look and feel of the main street.

- **Quiet suburban/country town feel**

A number of respondents liked the quiet, less crowded nature of St Marys, in contrast to the high-rise development in other centres

“It’s a relatively quiet neighbourhood, which is nice.”

“It is well designed in terms of wide streets and plenty of parking, this makes it pretty easy to work in the area and own a property there.”

It’s suburban feel. Not overly busy like Parramatta, Blacktown or Penrith.

- **Upgrades to main street welcomed**

Recent upgrades to the main street were noted as making a positive change to St Marys.

“[Since] the improvements in the streetscape works have been made, I am now not ashamed to call St Marys home. I now see great potential for growth and further improvements in St Marys”

The nature of the built form also adds to the community’s sense of safety.

“The wide streets, lighting at night, easy to find parking all contributes to feeling safe.”

Connectivity and Movement – Convenience of parking

A number of respondents said that St Marys Town Centre to offer sufficient and convenient car parking.

“Convenient shopping free parking.”

“Convenience and plenty of space/parking.”

“...I also love the fact that we have the best parking of any local town centre, plenty of street parking for short stays yet adequate off street parking for longer visits.”

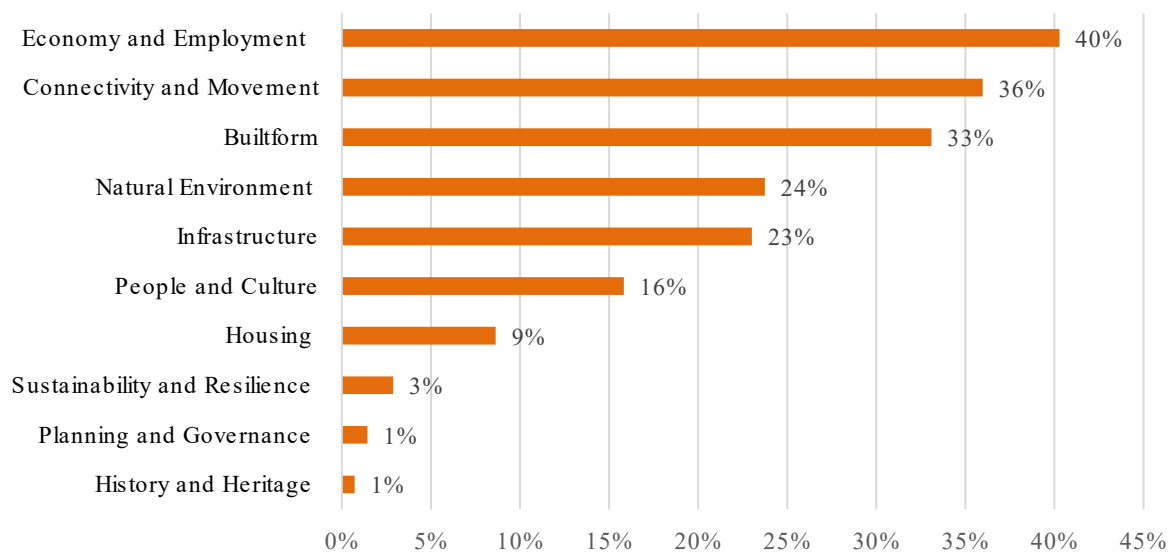
7. What people would like to see improved in St Marys

The survey asked people to comment about what they would like to see improved in St Marys. This question allowed respondents to describe their concerns, issues and ideas about what needs to change in St Marys Town Centre

Key Question: What is the most important thing that needs to be improved in St Marys?

A total of 143 responses were collected for this question. The most commonly reported issues to be improved related to the topics of economy and employment, connectivity and movement, built form and the natural environment (Figure 6).

Figure 6 What people want to see improved by topic



When considering the attributes that need improving, the most frequently reported attributes were:

- Have a greater variety of shops and services, and dining experiences
- Improved appearance of buildings (including shopfronts) and public spaces
- Improved access to and quality of open spaces and nature
- Upgraded parks to provide better amenity, visual appeal and diversity for families
- Have a greater sense of safety, particularly near the train station
- Offer ease of parking, reduced congestion, improvements to walking and cycling and better transport connections

Economy and Employment – Greater variety of shops and services, and dining experiences

Although about one third of people (42) loved the existing variety of shops in St Marys, there were more respondents (55) who stated that they believed there should be a greater variety of shops and an improved shopping and dining experience for people in St Marys.

The closure of the Coles Supermarket, acquired by Sydney Metro for the development of the new Western Sydney Airport rail line, was explicitly raised by 10 respondents.

- **Need for another supermarket, more shops and a better shopping experience**

“The Coles that has been taken away. That needs to be fixed.”

“A bigger shopping complex or to expand the already existing village complex with more retail and food /dining outlets.”

“I believe we need larger more diverse shopping centres to attract people from nearby suburbs and to enhance the experience and work opportunities for locals”

“Shopping facilities and community participation opportunities such as entertainment, recreation spring festival, perhaps a dining precinct with outdoor seating, Queen St is ideal for this.”

- **Expand the night-time economy**

Other issues related to the economy and employment topic included the need to improve the night time economy, dining and entertainment offerings.

“More dine in restaurants nice ones! that attract people from all over, family parks with good entertainment for kids.”

“Since it’s going to become the new gateway to the new Western Sydney airport, St Marys desperately needs to have a world class entertainment, tourism, and hospitality (i.e.: - Bars, Restaurants, Cinemas, Nightclubs etc....)”

“Nightlife/night-time economy along Queen St, replicate the energy and offerings of high St Penrith”

Built environment – Improved appearance of buildings (including shopfronts) and public spaces

About one third of the respondents want to see an improvement to the overall appearance of shopfronts and the quality of public spaces in St Marys Town Centre. Although many people love the look and feel of St Marys (13%), there were many more people (around a combined total of 51%) who expressed a desire to see the Town Centre improved, including upgrades to the buildings, public spaces or general cleanliness. These improvements ranged from one extreme position of rebuilding all the buildings to simply keeping the place cleaner and adding more flowers.

- **Revitalise the quality and condition of buildings and shop fronts**

“Queen Street shops needs revitalising. Shop fronts look like they are close to falling down”

“A lot of buildings on Queen Street near the Station would benefit from a tear down and rebuild to be more appealing commercial spaces.”

“Queen street. The whole shopping strip needs to be remodelled - I would suggest knocking everything down and rebuilding so that the city becomes a major hub. If you’re linking the airport you want this to be the gateway to Penrith and the mountains so you will need to display it. Make the city a cultural centre. Have young artist and indigenous groups decorate murals and promote Australian history and culture while showing visitors of what Penrith and the blue mountains have to offer”

- **Improve the overall visual appeal of public spaces**

The concerns about the condition of the buildings were echoed by a similar number of respondents who wanted the public spaces improved.

“Should be cleaner and made more appealing. It looks like a concrete jungle, and not very green.”

“Overall look and feel, needs to be a clean and inviting family environment.”

“Clean up the parks and upgrade the play equipment. There are no nice parks to take my toddler to, so have to go to Penrith or St Clair.”

“Queen Street St Marys needs upgrading - the shops and buildings are very run down and old. More flowers / plants would be nice.”

The condition of the built environment was the most frequently raised concern of residents who had lived in St Marys for less than five years.

Natural environment – Improved access to and quality of open spaces and nature and upgraded parks to provide better amenity, visual appeal and diversity for families

The concerns expressed about the quality of the built environment and the need to upgrade buildings and public spaces extended to the need to improve and upgrade parks and outdoor facilities. People want to have improved access and links to natural reserves, revitalised parklands, as well as upgraded parks with age-appropriate play equipment for children, quality spaces for passive and active recreation and more street trees in their neighbourhoods.

- **Upgrades to parks and outdoor facilities, especially for families**

“Upgrades to the parks, some nicer equipment for kids to play on and more trees / gardens planted at the parks to provide habitat for local fauna.”

“A updated splash water park/ water spouts would be nice, updated parks and gardens.. our parks for our kids are disgraceful and neglected there is no money going into them and it shows.”

“Parks for the kids”

- **Providing for more greenery and shade**

We also need nicer parks and more trees.

“More parks, walking tracks, pedestrian bridge over Glossop Street.”

“more open greenspace to reduce the heat in the coming years.”

Infrastructure, People and Culture - Greater sense of safety, particularly near the train station

The condition of the built environment has a direct effect on the community’s sense of safety. Council’s Community Safety Plan 2017-2022 noted three main factors that contributed to the local community feeling safe in public places, including good lighting, police

presence/response, and clean streets and facilities. In the St Marys survey, concerns were raised by around 23% of respondents about improving the sense of safety, referring to the visibility of the uses of drug and alcohol in public spaces and anti-social behaviour. Safety concerns were particularly noted near the train station.

“Safer streets around the railway station”

“Safety especially for women who need to commute”

“Queen Street and surrounds is dirty and feels unsafe. Constantly seeing drug activities and the guys wandering around near the brothels make commuters feel uncomfortable. Such a shame because there's a handful of nice cafes but I don't want to walk through the streets with my young daughter to get there.”

“People loitering, drinking alcohol where they're not meant to especially at Coachman's Park and along Queen St and surrounding areas. Not a good look if you're trying to improve the area.”

The comments around safety reflected the need to improve walking and cycling infrastructure to improve access to public services and facilities. A comment in an email submission summarises the desire to see improvements in the natural environment in St Marys:

“Finally, parks and playgrounds do need an overhaul. Many are very old and do not provide what is necessary for a suburb that will soon be characterized by apartment living and no backyards. Trees, appealing nature strips, playgrounds, and even cycleways connecting St Marys to other areas should be considered.” [Email submission]

Connectivity and Movement – Ease of parking, reduced congestion, improvements to walking and cycling and better transport connections

Issues related to traffic, congestion and parking were reported as needing to be improved by around 29% of respondents. Around 10% (15) people specifically mentioned the word ‘parking’ when asked about key improvements needed in St Marys. There were comments about providing more parking, including undercover parking spaces, free parking spaces, commuter parking near train station and on-street parking for residents. This concern appears to be related to the anticipation of growth in the local population and in response to people wishing to park at the new Metro station when constructed.

- **Ensuring adequate parking as St Marys grows**

“Train station, and more parking if it's going to bring more people.”

“More parking to coincide with new transport options.”

“As development occurs we desperately need more parking. More parking for train commuters, but more parking for the community who access the business in the area. I have to be in St Marys by 9am if I want a decent carpark for a hairdresser or you have to drive round for 15 minutes to find one. Then you end up walking 10 mins on top of that. If you want people to

visit the area and use it instead of Penrith/Mt Druitt Westfields then give us the ability to drive there and park conveniently.

- **Reduce traffic congestion and improve road conditions**

There is a need to resolve traffic congestion during peak hours to ease movement and connectivity from North St Marys to South St Marys and improve the conditions of road infrastructure. The community wants improved accessibility to the public transport network with greater reliability and transport options including walking and cycling.

“Traffic going in and out of the Queen Street needs revised considerations to accommodate local traffic, public transport, and visitors.”

“More commuter parking near the station and better bus services to connect residents to the train/metro hub. Improving the roads to and from the freight hub.”

The apparent contradiction of some people stating that St Marys has good parking and others saying it needs to be improved is best explained in the following quote from an email submission:

“St Marys is also one of the few areas where getting parking to shop is never an issue, so retaining some of the car parks or building high rise car parks is also a necessary focus.”

- **Improve accessibility, active transport infrastructure and public transport connections.**

Respondents also mentioned a range of other issues for improvement related to connectivity and movement. An accessible Town Centre, proximity and connectivity to diverse public transport options, was a high priority for improvement mentioned for almost three quarters of the 13 respondents who identified as a person with disability.

“Accessibility for people with all abilities and also encouraging active transport from surrounding neighbourhoods to reduce car reliance.”

“Cycle ways/ updates walkways to actually be able to go for a decent run/walk.”

“More public transport like buses on suburban streets, not just major roads”

8. How people described the vision for St Marys

Stage 1 engagement provided the opportunity to seek community input into a vision for the future of St Marys. A key question asked for ideas about what sort of place people envisioned St Marys to be in 20 years from now. Respondents provided a wide range of ideas as they described their vision and aspirations for St Marys in 2041.

The responses to this question highlight the opportunities for well managed growth in St Marys while retaining its unique character and strengths. The attributes described in the responses largely echo the issues that people reported as needing to be improved, suggesting that people are hopeful that the issues will be addressed.

Key Question: Tell us about your vision for St Marys as a place to live, work and visit 20 years from now?

A total of 132 responses were collected through the online survey. The most frequently reported attributes included an expanded range of dining, entertainment and shopping options, a sense of safety, access to open spaces and nature, retention of the village feel and access to housing. The most frequently mentioned attributes were as follows:

Around 35% of the respondents spoke about a variety of dining options

“A thriving hub of local restaurants, cafes and businesses.”

“An environment which invites eating out. More pleasant shopping atmosphere. Passive recreation areas.”

“I would love to see a large renovation at the St Marys Hotel or a creation of a venue/pub/hotel/bar of similar size, as it has huge potential to reinvigorate the culture that is beginning to flourish in the area by having a safe and fun place to organize trivia nights, live bands, local musician jam nights and many more activities. I would love to have a venue I am able to visit that has live full bands until late at night (1-2am on weekends) within a 5-minute drive of home”.

Around 32% of the respondents spoke about access to diverse local shops and services

“I’d like to see it expand and grow with a bigger shopping complex and more retail and dining outlets, not only does it create more jobs and opportunities for the growing family community it would make it look and feel more attractive to people visiting or passing through especially with the new Metro line coming from St Marys to the new Badgerys Creek Airport.”

“I’d like to see lots more cafes, clothing shops, beauty and hair, small goods stores like gourmet delis. This will lift the overall profile of the area like what it’s done for High Street Penrith.”

“A destination where you know you can access all of the services you need in one place and enjoy with your friends and family at any time of the day”

Around 27% of people spoke about the sense of safety

“A vibrant safe feeling hub of diverse dining and shopping precincts. A place people want to and choose to live in due to the entertainment and shopping amenities.”

“My vision is a smaller version of Church Street, Parramatta. Restaurants, things to do at night time. Feeling safe to walk around at night with lots of people around.”

“Overall a safe place to spend time”

“A safe, family friendly neighbourhood.”

Around 17% of the respondents spoke about access to open spaces and nature and 14% spoke about the diversity of activities and features in public spaces

“A place that has a good balance of open, green spaces and buildings, to keep the heat down.”

“A place with quality green space that draws people to the St Marys.”

“plentiful greenspace, combination of residential housing, houses with land, townhouse and flats. Bigger park than Coachmans Park for events and gatherings, walking trails along South Creek.”

“Place to catch up with friends, a place for mothers to be able to have mum and bub time whilst reconnecting. Office hot spots and lots of gardens”

“A funky, vibrant and diverse shopping & dining area - Not just a place people come to get the metro. Parks with shade, water play & toilets.”

“More greenery, public amenities, less crime, exercise park”

“Make it a family friendly park with playgrounds and a walking/bike path.”

“A St Marys market/ farmers market on Sunday’s something for the community to enjoy and look forward to.”

Around 17% of the respondents spoke about the look, feel and the quality of the built environment, and 11% spoke about the look and feel of public spaces

“An inviting, modern city. Convenient and full of easily accessible amenities catering to the whole family.”

“I wish it would remain more of a village style, quaint place to visit and more nature.”

“We loved the semi-rural aspect when we first bought our house, that is rapidly being removed by overdevelopment... Keep our city/country heritage, we should be ‘The gateway to the river lands’.”

“Visually appealing gardens. Family friendly eateries. Spacious outdoor recreational areas. Iconic and unique architecture”

“I would hope that no matter how many more people the airport transport route brings to the area, that it would still be intentionally not over built with high rises, be it apartments or offices, and that the friendly, welcoming, small town feeling and atmosphere is not lost forever.”

“...Beautiful garden boxes with flowers and artwork will help make it a beautiful place with a friendly country vibe. St Marys could easily have a relaxed country town atmosphere which will attract locals from all over Penrith area and surrounds.”

Around 16% of the respondents spoke about public transport connectivity and connections to other places

“Being a new hub to transfer for the new airport, I see St Marys as a bustling new centre for entertainment and work... Public transport will be brilliant to accommodate for the influx of people transferring and travelling to the airport/city.”

“It’s a transport hub, a place that connects the people in the west to the city and the airport”

“A major rail/transport hub linking the older part of the west with the newer part of the west”

Around 11% of the respondents spoke about access to and diversity of housing

“Plentiful greenspace, combination of residential housing, houses with land, townhouse and flats.”

“It would have a bustling tree lined Queen St lined with multi-storey shop top housing (6 to 12 stories). More of an urban village feel to Queen St with outdoor restaurants and cafes”

“New shop building which include at least 2-3 storey large apartments above them so that it brings people back to the Main Street and shopping and then restaurants etc”

“Metro line connecting to the airport and CBD, medium density housing near station, and adequate parking”

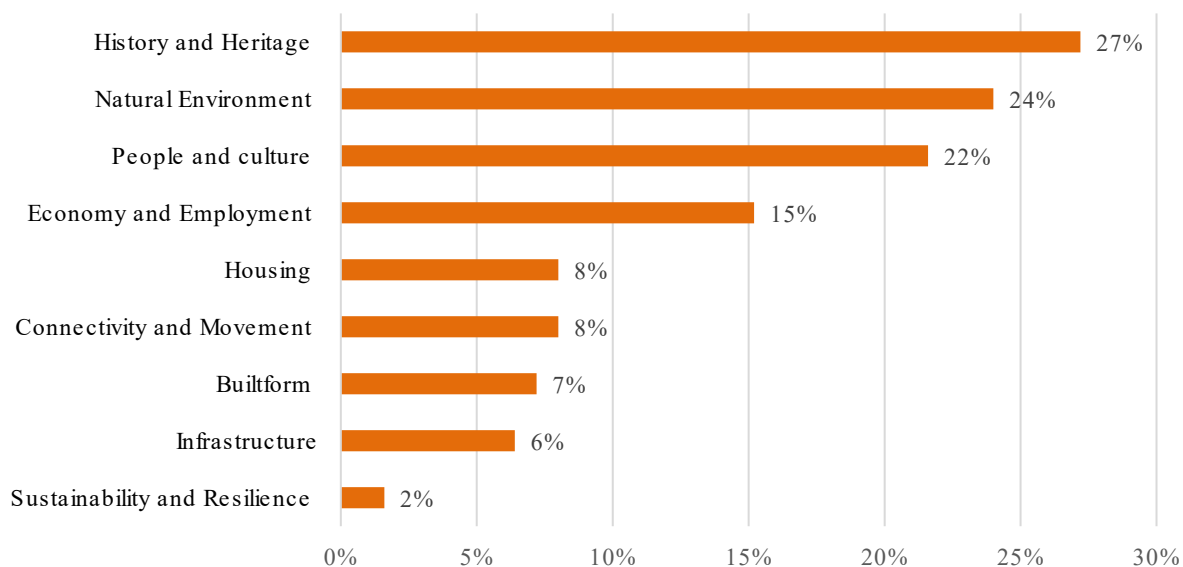
“affordable housing” for workers, safe, working class/middle class, diverse cultural food, gyms and yoga/ other fitness, safe place for ppl to raise a family and be connected with public transport”

9. What people most want preserved in St Marys

The survey asked a supplementary question to people’s vision for St Marys to ascertain what they most want to see preserved in St Marys.

Key Question: What is the most important thing about St Marys that should be preserved into the future?

A total of 128 responses were collected and brought to the fore a strong desire to preserve the history and heritage of St Marys unique character and charm, its parks and green spaces, along with its strong sense of community and connection to place.



History and Heritage – The history and heritage of St Marys, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, as well as the heritage buildings and streetscape

Around one third of respondents commented that they wanted to see the history and heritage of the area more obviously preserved and honoured. This included raising the profile and acknowledgement of First Nations people in the area. There was equal concern about preserving the historical streetscape, buildings and artefacts of colonial and nineteenth and twentieth century development in the area.

“The history of the area should be preserved and maintained. As the area changes with the airport, it will be important to protect the things about this area that made it worth investing in, in the first place.”

“St Marys has a rich and wonderful history prior to joining Penrith city and that history should always be remembered and celebrated.”

Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and shared cultural heritage

“History - Indigenous and colonial settlers. Would be great display Durag Nation integrated into the CBD and local parks. Hand-in-hand with our colonial settlers (South Creek, Marsden, St. Mary Magdalene, Bennett Wagons). Nostalgia is also great. Queen Street has changed so much within the 30 years for me.”

“History. Show more history in the area we have the Bennett wagon and Mamre house but then what else do we have to show and be proud of.”

“The history of Queen Street is what makes this town unique, modernisation should not override a history that has served its community well over the years.”

Protect heritage buildings and streetscapes

“The history, small village atmosphere, and historic homes and street scapes.”

“Showcase of what it looked like before all the improvements and infrastructure”

“The history of Queen Street is what makes this town unique, modernisation should not override a history that has served its community well over the years”

Natural Environment – Access to the natural environment including South Creek and the existing parks and open spaces

Around one in five respondents emphasised their desire to preserve and enhance the green spaces and nature reserves. These comments included access to South Creek and its natural bush environment as well as the Town Centre parks and gardens.

Protect and enhance the natural environment and bush ecosystems

“The environment. South creek could be great for bush development for walking and mountain bike riding. Not to mention, with a lack of green space, this part needs to be preserved and embraced.”

Protect and enhance green open spaces for passive and active recreation

“Parks and open recreation spaces and to enhance these areas for families”

“The green spaces are very important and need to be preserved but could do with an update with lighting and fresh plants.”

“It's green space and urban character.”

“The current green space”

Built Environment – The small-town/village feel and low scale built form

A third priority for respondents was for St Marys not to be “overdeveloped” and to retain the look and feel of the buildings and shopfronts in the area.

Preserve the small-town/ village feel and low scale built form

People want to preserve the suburban, low scale development to retain the historic buildings and streetscape. They want to continue having affordable options for housing and private properties for business purposes.

“The style the buildings and the view to the mountains”

“It's absence of lots of high-rise apartment buildings. Too many of these will only make it a hotter and less desirable place to live in the future.”

“Not over developing, as there is not enough parking for all the units being built.”

“Not too crowded No apartments and keep up only house and townhouse or villas”

The community acknowledged the layout of streets such as wide footpaths for walking. There was an expressed desire to keep the streets and public spaces easily accessible so that people can move around freely without traffic congestion.

Footpaths for walking

“Road access to train station for private vehicles to drop off and pickup on both sides of station.”

“Good traffic management; with the north south rail line coming in, can't let it become a 20minute trip for a 1km drive”.

People and Culture – Connection to the community and place; and Unique mix and diversity of people

The third most frequently described attribute to be preserved related to the people and culture of St Marys. Around one in five respondents expressed the need to protect and preserve the sense of community connection, its inclusivity, social connection, and diversity of people.

Connection to the community and place

There was a desire that the strong sense of connection to community should be preserved.

“The community spirit... Yes, St Marys people feel they are part of Penrith City, however there is a real St Marys feel, which creates the true St Marys identity and only people who have lived in St Marys for a period of time would actually understand what I mean. That's the most important thing that should be preserved.

The sense of connection was also applied to the desire to preserve the shopping experience and celebrate local businesses along the Queen Street, such as local café, restaurants, and boutique shopping.

“The shops and small family-owned businesses is what makes St Marys a gem. Too much town houses and landlord houses with granny flats being built in - this is unavoidable, but it does put an influence in the community. A lot of homes are owned by long term residents and are very friendly and happy to talk to you.”

Unique mix and diversity of people

An important part of the community identity that respondents want to preserve in St Marys is its social and cultural diversity.

“The diversity of the local community”

“The community mix ... Your festivals are good and sports facilities”

There were some comments that suggested these multiple attributes together, giving a good overall picture of what other people expressed separately in the survey:

“Exactly as I said above... the friendly, welcoming, small town atmosphere....and plentiful parking...and a COLES SUPERMARKET”

“Our "still rural" community feel, stop people building on heritage listed land and schedule more regular community events in the town centre or parkland. Let the main street and Dunheved have the business and industry and keep the greenspace for the community.”

“The care taken for the people, the environment and the love of the west; but better.”

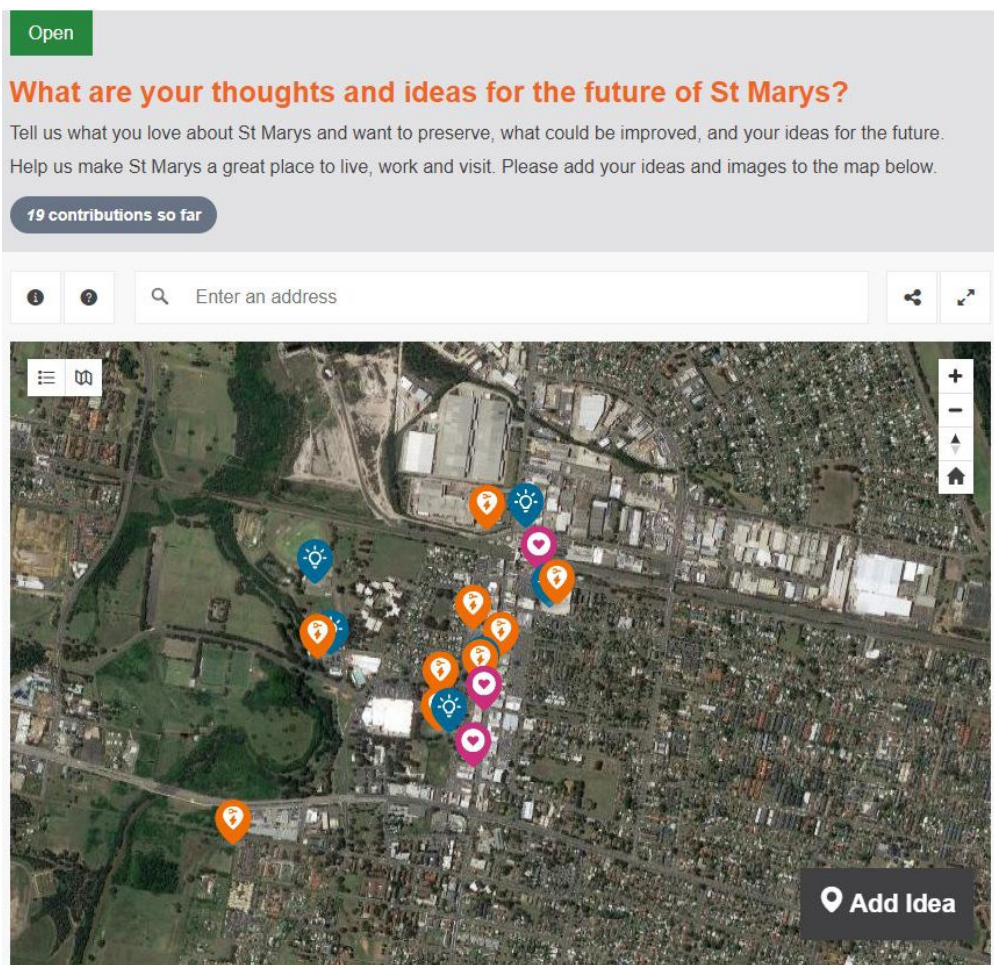
An email submission succinctly summed up the comments on what should be preserved:

“Retain the unique historical connections and boutique vibe of St Marys”

10. Social Map Snapshot

A total of 19 responses were collected from the social map exhibited on Council’s Your Say website. Three pins suggested love and preserve category, seven suggested new ideas and nine suggested improvements. The comments on the social map were more site specific than the responses generally offered in the online survey and social media posts. Although limited in number, the quality of the comments suggests the social map tool is very useful for engagement at a precinct level.

Figure 7 Social Map Your Say website



The feedback from the community and stakeholders highlighted consistent themes which included:

“We should have a major recycling facility in St Marys that also services soft plastics etc. We have the space, and we should be using the space to do good by the environment.”

“More public art please and illuminated so that it adds to a sense of safety at night-time.”

“Diversity in free recreational facilities is necessary as St Marys primarily has crickets’ pitches, football fields & rugby fields.”

What community loves and wants to preserve in St Marys	Priority Ideas from the respondents	Current challenges and need for improvement in St Marys from respondents
<p>1. Public transport: use of innovative technology to cut carbon emission such as zero emission buses.</p> <p>2. Local community services: library</p> <p>3. Public art installation and murals</p>	<p>1. Local Activities: maker’s space, markets, festivals, outdoor spaces, community gardens</p> <p>2. Entertainment: public art, exhibition, performances</p> <p>3. Local community services: library, health, recreation</p> <p>4. Sports and recreational facilities: water park, kids’ play area, skate park</p> <p>5. Shopping, dining, and entertainment precinct</p> <p>6. Green planter boxes, street trees, garden, and urban farming</p> <p>7. Address climate change and sustainability through innovative solutions: low carbon electric vehicle</p> <p>8. Public transport</p>	<p>1. Green spaces: urban farming and plant more trees and gardens</p> <p>2. Enhance the connections that stitch South creek back into the town centre</p> <p>3. Environmental sustainability and management: flood mitigation</p> <p>4. Recycling facilities and waste management services</p> <p>5. Spending time in cultural activities, entertainment, and open spaces</p> <p>6. Shopping: Local businesses that support daily needs and services</p> <p>7. Sports and recreational facilities: water park, kids’ play area, skate park</p> <p>8. Entertainment: public art, exhibition and performances</p>

11. Social Media Responses

A total of 60 comments were retrieved from social media where people described their priority ideas, challenges and need for improvement in St Marys. The feedback from the community and stakeholders highlighted consistent themes which included:

“Make it a family friendly park with playgrounds and a walking/bike path.”

“A St Marys market/ farmers market on Sundays something for the community to enjoy and look forward to.”

“Queen Street needs better shops and decent restaurants to give it more appeal.”

“Cycle ways/ updates walkways to actually be able to go for a decent run/walk.”

Priority Ideas from the respondents	Current challenges and need for improvement in St Marys from respondents
1. Enhance experience: shopping, dining and entertainment precinct	1. Increase the number of commuter parking spaces near train station
2. Night time economy: night life culture	2. Inadequate on-street parking for residents, need more parking space, free parking
3. Quality green spaces: enhance tree coverage for natural cooling, open space for active and passive recreation	3. Inadequate undercover parking spaces.
4. Sports and recreational facilities: water park, kids’ play area, skate park	4. Parking spaces to be provided with new infrastructure
5. Greening: Planters, street trees, native garden, and farming	5. Sense of personal safety by day and night
6. Inclusive play spaces for all children	6. Enhance neighbourhood safety: neglected businesses, rundown buildings and vacant lots
7. Access to job opportunities for all people and abilities in Town Centre	7. General condition of walking paths, accessibility, and connectivity
8. Local community events: social gatherings, farmers markets, public artwork, farmers markets	8. Invest in public domain: Improve the quality, condition and appeal of buildings, shopfronts and public open spaces
9. Mixed use development: shop top housing	9. Active transport: improve access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport
10. Preserve small town vibe	10. Public transport options: improve the quality and connectivity to public transport that includes walking and cycling
11. Safe and inviting streets	11. Fix potholes between Queen St and Glossop St
	12. Traffic management: traffic congestion

12. Ideas for a new Town Centre Park

Council received a total of 33 responses from a quick poll on whether St Marys needs a new town park or square. Of these survey respondents 26 answered ‘Yes’ and seven answered ‘No’. The survey respondents who answered yes were directed to a subsequent question for their ideas on the park. There were 19 people who described key features and attributes they would like to see in new town park and square.

Council received nine submissions from the social map, suggesting improvements and new ideas for a town park and square in St Marys.

Council also received numerous comments about open spaces via the online survey form. A total of 33 responses were collected where respondents explicitly stated the need and aspirations for open spaces in St Marys.

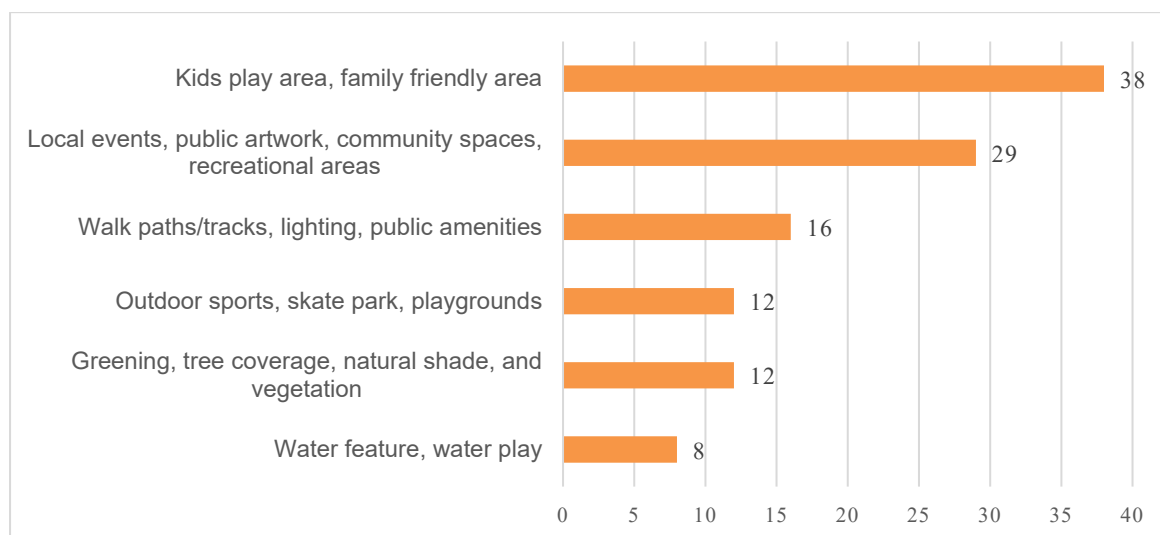
“Kids play areas, water feature or fountains, lights or light features, maybe a statue or monument with St Marys history.”

“Weekly markets, trees, seating, play spaces, toilets, indigenous art, stories about the area, accessibility.”

“The equivalent of the new city park in Penrith would be great.”

In general, feedback in the online survey about open spaces in St Marys highlighted a desire for the following features:

Figure 8: Town Park features



Comments about the features, specifically about a town park captured through the online poll, social map and social media included:

- Lawns, trees and greenery (8)
- Street furniture, including seating/ benches, tables, water bubblers, etc. (8)
- Public and/or community art (8)

- Play spaces/ equipment for kids (7)
- Lighting (6)
- Water park/ fountain (5)
- Shelter structure (4)
- Facilities for active recreation – basketball court/ tennis court/ bike jumps/ skate park etc. (3)
- Cafes and retail (2)
- Walking/ bike paths (2)
- Community garden (2)
- Plaza-type space (1)
- Play equipment for adults, for example, outdoor ping pong tables (1)
- Community noticeboard/ town clock (1)
- Toilets (1)
- Exercise equipment (1)

Comments about the functions of a town park captured through the online poll, social map and social media included:

- Gathering and socialising
- Sitting and relaxation
- Outdoor dining/ picnicking
- Markets, exhibitions and events
- Film screenings
- Programmed community activities (for example, a weaving garden)
- Multi age play – play for kids, youth and adults
- Water play
- Community gardening
- Exercise
- Dog walking

13. Conclusion

The level of response and feedback to the stage 1 engagement for St Marys suggests a strong community attachment to St Marys as a place and genuine concern about how St Marys will develop and change over the next 20 years.

St Marys is well-loved by its residents and there is an optimistic expectation that dedicated investment in upgrading the public domain and enhancing open and green spaces, while preserving the village look and feel of the Town Centre, will ensure that St Marys remains a thriving, unique and welcoming place for future generations.

14. Next Steps

The stage 1 engagement has provided input to shaping a draft St Marys Structure Plan to be considered by Council in mid-2022.

If approved by Council, the draft St Marys Structure Plan will be published for public exhibition and further community feedback before being finalised towards the end of 2022.

Appendix 1 Analysis of survey responses by attributes

Table 1. What do you love the most about St Marys and why?

[136 Respondents, 12 skipped]

Note: Responses from the community were classified under a set of attributes developed by Council. The dot points underneath the attributes in the table below represents some of the ideas the respondents spoke about.

Structure Plan Topics	Attribute	No. of times this attribute appears	Total responses %
Connectivity & Movement	Overall ease of access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convenient location and to a variety of shops and services - Proximity to other destinations - Easy to get to by different modes 	42	31%
Economy & Employment	Access to diverse local shops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Variety of small shops, particularly along the main street 	31	23%
People & Culture	Connection to community and place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communal village atmosphere - Sense of personal belonging and connection 	29	21%
Built Form	Look and feel of public spaces (main street) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiet, suburban/ country town feel - Upgraded main street 	18	13%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of car parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability and convenience of parking in the town centre 	14	10%
People & Culture	Diversity of the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A multicultural and diverse community 	13	10%
Infrastructure	Access to community facilities and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence of sporting, educational and healthcare facilities and services such as the library 	11	8%

Connectivity & Movement	Public transport connectivity - Train connections to other centres	10	7%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of driving - Wide roads and highways in and around the centre	7	5%
Housing	Access to housing - Affordable rents and house prices compared to other places	7	5%
Natural Environment	Diversity of public space activities (community activities) - Sporting activities as well as temporary community events during Easter and Halloween	6	4%
Built Form	Look and feel of buildings and shopfronts - Low scale development	5	4%
History & Heritage	Protection of history and heritage - Connections to history	4	3%
Natural Environment	Access to open spaces and nature	3	2%
People & Culture	Sense of welcome of the neighbourhood	3	2%
Economy & Employment	Access to jobs	2	1%
Economy & Employment	Presence of dining options (inc. outdoor dining)	2	1%
Planning and Governance	Cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces	1	0.7%
Natural Environment	Presence of greenery and shade	1	0.7%
People & Culture	Sense of safety of the neighbourhood	1	0.7%
Connectivity & Movement	Safety and comfort of walking and cycling	1	0.7%
Infrastructure	Access to arts and cultural facilities	0	-
Economy & Employment	Things to do in the evenings inc. entertainment options	0	-
Sustainability and Resilience	Sustainable building and public space design	0	-

Table 2. What needs to be improved in St Marys?

[143 Respondents, 5 skipped]

Note: Responses from the community were classified under a set of attributes developed by Council. The dot points underneath the attributes in the table below represents some of the ideas the respondents spoke about.

Structure Plan Topics	Attribute	No. of times this attribute appears	Total responses (%)
Economy & Employment	<p>Access to diverse local shops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coles supermarket has closed – need a new supermarket - Need more variety and diverse shops - Need a better shopping experience and a bigger shopping precinct 	55	38%
Built Form	<p>Look and feel of buildings and shopfronts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some of the shopfronts along Queen Street appear run down - Some old buildings lack a high-quality visual appeal 	33	23%
People & Culture	<p>Sense of safety of the neighbourhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor perception of safety were reported in terms of the visibility of anti-social behaviour - Presence of sex services premises deters families from visiting the area 	33	23%
Connectivity & Movement	<p>Ease of car parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% (15) people mentioned the word ‘parking’ when asked about key improvements needed in St Marys <p>Some of the ideas respondents spoke about include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to ensure adequate parking is provided for shoppers and commuters as St Marys grows 	29	20%

	- Parking needs to be undercover/ sheltered		
Natural Environment	Access to open spaces and nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks need upgrades and amenities - Need more family friendly green spaces with facilities for people of different ages 	23	16%
Economy & Employment	Presence of dining options (inc. outdoor dining) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The town centre needs a diverse dining offering including cafes, restaurants and bars with outdoor dining 	20	14%
Natural Environment	Look and feel of public spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some public spaces in the town, particularly along Queen Street and near the train station need to be rejuvenated 	18	13%
Natural Environment	Diversity of public space activities (community activities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of things to do for toddlers, kids, youth and families in public spaces 	17	12%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of driving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to mitigate traffic congestion and improve the quality of road infrastructure (for example, fixing of potholes 	16	11%
Connectivity & Movement	Safety and comfort of walking and cycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to improve the quality of footpaths and add bicycle infrastructure in the town centre 	15	10%
Natural Environment	Presence of greenery and shade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to increase greenery and tree planting to provide shade and mitigate urban heat 	13	9%
Planning & Governance	Cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to clean up and better maintain public spaces 	12	8%

Connectivity & Movement	Public transport connectivity - Need of improvements to public transport, particularly bus services and the train station	9	6%
People & Culture	Sense of welcome of the neighbourhood - The town centre needs to offer a more welcoming social atmosphere	7	5%
Housing	Access to housing - No overdevelopment	6	4%
Economy & Employment	Things to do in the evenings inc. entertainment options	6	4%
Infrastructure	Access to community facilities and services	6	4%
Sustainability and Resilience	Sustainable building and public space design	3	2%
Infrastructure	Access to arts and cultural facilities	2	1%
Economy & Employment	Access to jobs	1	0.7%
People & Culture	Diversity of the community	1	0.7%
People & Culture	Connection to community and place	1	0.7%
History & Heritage	Protection of history and heritage	1	0.7%

Table 3. What is your vision for St Marys as a place to live, work and visit in 20 years

[132 Respondents, 16 skipped]

Note: Responses from the community were classified under a set of attributes developed by Council. The dot points underneath the attributes in the table below represents some of the ideas the respondents spoke about.

Structure Plan Topics	Attribute	No. of times this attribute appears	Total responses %
Economy & Employment	Presence of dining options (inc. outdoor dining) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Eat street'/ dining precinct with a range of eateries and restaurants to dine in - A diverse cultural food offering 	46	35%
Economy & Employment	Access to diverse local shops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A vibrant shopping experience offered by range of shops including local and boutique main street businesses and major retailers in shopping centres - Shops located close to residences and places of work 	42	32%
People & Culture	Sense of safety of the neighbourhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe neighbourhood for families and children to live - Better surveillance and policing - Safe place to be outdoors at night 	35	27%
Natural Environment	Access to open spaces and nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family friendly green outdoor spaces including parks, gardens and play spaces 	23	17%
Built Form	Look and feel of buildings and shopfronts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retention of village feel along the main street - Inviting, high quality buildings and shopfronts with a refreshed and modern character 	22	17%

Connectivity & Movement	Public transport connectivity - A key transport hub with good public transport connections to the airport and other places	21	16%
Natural Environment	Diversity of public space activities (community activities) - Various offerings for people of different ages and incomes - Places to gather, socialise, play, host events and markets, exercise and relax	19	14%
Natural Environment	Look and feel of public spaces - Visually appealing, attractive and high-quality public spaces with landscaping	16	12%
Housing	Access to housing - Diversity of housing types and sizes in the town centre - Affordable dwellings close to shops	15	11%
Planning and Governance	Cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces - Clean and well-maintained public spaces	15	11%
Infrastructure	Access to community facilities and services - A hub of community services including education, healthcare, disability access etc.	14	11%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of car parking - Adequate parking provisions for the future, matching pace of development	12	9%
Economy & Employment	Things to do in the evenings inc. entertainment options - Venues for entertainment and dining	11	8%
Natural Environment	Presence of greenery and shade - More trees and greenery, particularly along streets, to provide shade and mitigate heat - Protection of existing trees	11	8%

Economy & Employment	Access to jobs - Local work opportunities close to places to live	9	7%
Connectivity & Movement	Safety and comfort of walking and cycling -	9	7%
People & Culture	Sense of welcome of the neighbourhood - A welcoming place for all	8	6%
People & Culture	Connection to community and place	7	5%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of driving	7	5%
Infrastructure	Access to arts and cultural facilities	5	4%
Sustainability and Resilience	Sustainable building and public space design	4	3%
History & Heritage	Protection of history and heritage	3	2%
People & Culture	Diversity of the community	2	2%
People & Culture	Sense of welcome and community connection	1	1%

Table 4. What should be preserved in the future and why?

[128 Respondents, 20 skipped]

Note: Responses from the community were classified under a set of attributes developed by Council. The dot points underneath the attributes in the table below represents some of the ideas the respondents spoke about.

Structure Plan Topics	Attribute	No. of times this attribute appears	Total responses %
History & Heritage	Protection of history and heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Nations and colonial history - Heritage buildings and infrastructure 	40	31%
Natural Environment	Access to open spaces and nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing parks and green spaces and places such as South Creek 	26	20%
Built Form	Look and feel of buildings and shopfronts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suburban low scale development and historic buildings and streetscapes 	19	15%
Economy & Employment	Access to diverse local shops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing small family-owned businesses along the main street 	17	13%
People & Culture	Connection to community and place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communal village atmosphere - Sense of personal belonging and connection 	15	12%
People & Culture	Diversity of the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The rich diversity of the community in terms of ages and ethnic backgrounds 	10	8%
Infrastructure	Access to community facilities and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities such as Ripples, the library and educational and sporting facilities 	9	7%

Housing	Access to housing - Affordability and living options for different people	8	6%
Natural Environment	Diversity of public space activities (community activities) - Places to socialise and celebrate festivals	6	5%
Natural Environment	Presence of greenery and shade - Street lined trees along Queen St - Tree coverage	6	5%
Natural Environment	Look and feel of public spaces (main street) - Upgraded main street - Quiet, suburban/ country town feel	5	4%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of driving - Ease of vehicle access to destinations	4	3%
Connectivity & Movement	Public transport connectivity	3	2%
People & Culture	Sense of welcome of the neighbourhood	3	2%
Connectivity & Movement	Safety and comfort of walking and cycling	3	2%
Infrastructure	Access to arts and cultural facilities	3	2%
Connectivity & Movement	Ease of car parking	2	2%
Economy & Employment	Access to jobs	1	0.8%
Economy & Employment	Presence of dining options (inc. outdoor dining)	1	0.8%
People & Culture	Sense of safety of the neighbourhood	1	0.8%
Sustainability and Resilience	Sustainable building and public space design	1	0.8%