



Holroyd City Council Local Community Climate Summit Snapshot

Abstract

In November 2008, 17 local residents (aged over 18 years & representative of the demographic of the Holroyd local government area) attended a 2 day forum hosted by Holroyd City Council and funded by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW through an Environmental Trust grant.

Through a structured deliberative democracy process, the panel of residents developed a series of recommendations for local, state and federal government in response to the question “How can we work together to respond to climate change?”



Recruitment Methods for a Representative Sample

Council began recruiting workshop participants by posting project invitations to 2,000 randomly selected Holroyd residents. The invitation provided a brief explanation of the project and offered recipients a chance to attend the workshops.

In order to increase uptake, Council offered each participant \$100 as compensation for their involvement due to the extended time commitment required.

Eighty responses were received expressing interest in attending as a result of the invitations.

These eighty interested respondents were then condensed to a group of twenty environmentally non-aligned residents that were demographically representative of the Holroyd community. These residents were advised that they had been selected to participate in the workshops and were sent a ‘Participant Briefing Pack’.

By the start of the first workshop however, the mix of participants had changed as various community members were no longer able to attend, were replaced by another family member or friend, or dropped out completely.

Despite these changes however, the final 17 participants involved in the two day deliberations had retained an approximate representation of the Holroyd demographic (as shown in Table 1), with only a slight under-representation in the ‘25-54 years’ age bracket.

project invitations to 2,000 randomly selected

Characteristic	Residents %	Preferred 17	Profile 17
Gender	Total		
Male	49.5%	8	9
Female	50.5%	9	8
Total	100%	17	17
Region of Birth	Total		
Oceania	56.4%	13	12
Asia	10%	2	1
Africa/Middle East	6%	1	2
Europe	3.8%	1	2
Total	76.2%	17	17
Age	>15		
15-24 years	17.3%	3	5
25-54 years	54.7%	9	4
55-64 years	12.7%	2	4
65 + years	15.3%	3	4
Total	100%	17	17

Table 1: Holroyd Participant Representation based on 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing





The Deliberative Process: Workshop Design & Facilitation

Council decided to hold the workshops on consecutive Saturdays as opposed to one whole weekend as asking people to forego an entire weekend for the project was onerous and would deter applicants.

Although the workshop run sheets were developed and agreed upon prior to the workshops they were not rigidly adhered to. This was a conscious decision to ensure that the participants did not feel constrained and the workshops were conducive to free flowing ideas.

The agenda for the two day sessions is as follows:

Time	Saturday 15th November
8.15am	Arrival
8.30am	Welcome, housekeeping, introduction to workshop
8.45am	Icebreaker and introductions from participants
9.00am	Climate Change Issues Brainstorm: What are we doing individually? What are our concerns?
9.15am	Video - "Telling the Truth"
10.15am	Reflection from video and explanation of City map to mark daily travel, food travel, holidays
10.30am	MORNING TEA
11.00am	Speaker - Charles Morris (UWS) - Ecosystems & climate change
11.30am	Deliberation of First Speaker
11.45am	Questions for First Speaker
12.00pm	Speaker - Tom Halbert (Parracan) Actions for residents
12.30pm	Deliberation of Second Speaker
12.45pm	Questions for Second Speaker
1.00pm	LUNCH
2.00pm	Reflections from this morning session
2.15pm	Speaker - Bernadette (HCC) Government action plans
2.45pm	Deliberation of Third Speaker
3.00pm	Questions for Third Speaker
3.15pm	Action Plan activity - 2 people > 4 people > 10 people
3.30pm	Feedback on problems/actions for day 2 activity
3.45pm	Feedback and what's happening the next day
4.00pm	Close

Time	Saturday 22nd November
8.15am	Arrival
8.30am	Feedback from previous day
8.45am	Fourth Speaker - Clarissa (Sust St) - food production
9.15am	Deliberation of Third Speaker
9.30am	Questions for Third Speaker
9.45am	World Café - 4 tables/5 ppl. Focus on day 1 issues using 'Dotmocracy'
9.50am	World Café continued - 20 minute rotations
10.10am	World Café continued - 20 minute rotations
10.30am	MORNING TEA
11.00am	World Café continued - 20 minute rotations
11.20am	World Café continued - 20 minute rotations
11.40am	Voting on Dotmocracy outcome
12.00am	Sort Dotmocracy into headings
1.00pm	LUNCH
2.00pm	Discuss future vision for Holroyd/NSW
2.10pm	Discuss what people are willing to exchange for that vision
2.15pm	Action Plan activity - 2 ppl > 4 ppl > 10 ppl
3.00pm	Voting on Dotmocracy outcome
3.30pm	Sort Dotmocracy into headings
3.45pm	What happens next?
4.00pm	Close

The Local Forum also produced a series of statements reflecting the participants vision for the future. Aspects identified as being of high importance to inform policy formulation and future decision making included increased biodiversity, quality of life, sustainable building commitments and a greater sense of community.

Participants also developed a list of what the community was willing to exchange for their vision of the future to be realised. These included private land, volunteer time, convenience & holiday plans.

Communicating Outcomes

The Local Forum deliberations resulted in a series of final recommendations for Council, broken up into the categories of individual actions, Holroyd Council actions, NSW State Government actions and Federal Government actions.

These recommendations were presented to Council as part of a Climate Change Briefing Paper which formed part of a seminar for Councillors on Climate Change as a whole. Council is currently working towards implementing these recommendations.

Evaluation results showed participants felt they were provided with ample information to make informed recommendations, issues were discussed thoroughly and the recommendations put forward were representative of the workshop consensus.

The level of knowledge ratings also returned a positive result with all but two participants increasing their understanding of climate change and its related issues.

***“I found it an
amazing learning
opportunity, and
enjoyed meeting
so many
different people
with the same
central passion
and concern
for our climate.”***

– Holroyd Local

Forum participant





Follow up and Continued Engagement

Since their involvement in the Local Forum, several participants have emailed additional recommendations that were not mentioned or captured in the Local Forum.

Council has committed to keeping participants informed of the progress of the recommendations, and publicising the projects that stem from their deliberative efforts.

Additionally, some members of the Local Forum have joined Council's Local Agenda 21 Steering Committee in order to have ongoing input into Council processes.

Challenges and Opportunities

The creation of a 20 strong, environmentally no-aligned, demographically representative workshop participant group proved to be one of the more difficult aspects of this project. Had it not been for the offer of a \$100 payment to participants it would have been considerably more difficult. Despite these difficulties however, the participants engaged proved to be a productive and enthusiastic group.

Council gained a number of opportunities through their participation in this project however. The training workshops provided to Council staff by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW provided a good base knowledge for conducting the Local Forums with confidence. Furthermore, the nature of the deliberative democracy process is such that it allows for significant flexibility and dynamism within the workshops as required. This allowed participants to truly engage with the process and develop recommendations that were both locally relevant & representative of the group consensus.

Find Out More

For more information on this project or to learn more about the NSW Community Climate Summit held in February 2009, please visit www.nccnsw.org.au/nswclimatesummit or contact the Nature Conservation Council of NSW on +612 9279 2466.

Council Reflections

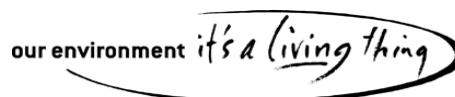
Holroyd City Council was pleased with the outcomes from the Local Forum.

The recommendations will assist with local, state and federal policy development by detailing the community's expectation for government's lead climate change initiatives.

"There was a clear involvement of all participants, many topics were discussed and we heard points of view from many different walks of life."

- Holroyd Local Forum participant

This project is an initiative of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and is assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust



Local Council partners: Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Armidale, Uralla, Guyra, Lake Macquarie, Wyong, Gosford, Pittwater, Warringah, Blacktown, Holroyd, Penrith and Tumut