



**BLUE MOUNTAINS
OUR FUTURE**

Blue Mountains City Council

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

**A REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE
“Blue Mountains – Our Future”
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
Conducted by IRIS Research November 2001**

PREPARED BY IRIS RESEARCH LTD

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A REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE
"Blue Mountains - Our Future"
Stakeholder Workshops

PREPARED FOR
BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

CONDUCTED BY
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IRIS Research Limited ABN 16 002 278 793
Porter Street Annex, The University of Wollongong, 22 Porter Street, Nth Wollongong
Postal address: Northfields Ave, Wollongong NSW 2522
Telephone: (02) 4229 4777 Fax: (02)4227 2987 International: 61 2 4229 4777
Net: <http://www.iris.org.au> Email: research@iris.org.au



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SUMMARY

On the 27th, 28th and 29th of November, six workshops were held with representatives of key organisations from throughout the Mountains. A total of 137 people attended. Participants were challenged to think about, and contribute their hopes and dreams to, a shared vision for the Blue Mountains in 2025. The main objective of the workshops was to encourage understanding of different views amongst participants and to facilitate cooperation amongst participants to develop ideas for the future of the City that everybody can get behind.

It has been perfectly clear from the community consultation process to date that, regardless of philosophical and ideological differences, the people of the Blue Mountains want a future where *the natural environment is well protected and remains the number one priority within the community*. The stakeholder workshops simply served to strengthen the certainty of this finding.

The critical importance of preserving the environment and living in an environmentally sustainable way remained at the forefront of most workshop discussion. Four in every five (80%) participant vision statements read out in the first session made specific mention of the natural environment and its importance to the community of the future. The dominance of the theme was again evident in the second session, with 22 of the 28 (79%) 'core ideas for the future' generated by small group exercise relating directly to the natural environment.

Another important idea for the future was that *the unique identity of the City must be retained*. It has been clear not only in this stakeholder phase, but throughout the consultative process, that the people of the Blue Mountains want to preserve the village character, the green setting and the sense of peace and tranquillity that are at the heart of life in this City.

In seeking to preserve both the natural and built environments, certain ideas appeared to gain consensus during the workshops. It was generally agreed that the Mountains should aim for moderate population growth, enforce strict urban development and design



controls, and encourage sustainable lifestyles (particularly in relation to transport, industry, energy use and waste management).

The theme of *a community that cares for its people* also came through strongly. Over half of all vision statements (54%) mentioned some idea linked to this theme. Furthermore, 70% of the ‘core ideas’ generated by the small group exercise also related in some way to looking after the people of the Mountains.

The three themes mentioned above stood out as *the* most important ideas for the future. However, as the summary table of participant vision themes demonstrates, there were also several other common themes to emerge from the stakeholder workshops.

Summary of Individual Participant Vision Themes

| Theme | Proportion of vision statements mentioning this theme |
|---|--|
| Unique & valued natural environment | 80% |
| Maintained our own identity as a place (village character) | 54% |
| A community that cares for its people | 54% |
| Local employment opportunities | 43% |
| An effective transport system (safe/upgraded GWH) | 33% |
| A convenient, reliable & affordable public transport system | 28% |
| Quality educational opportunities | 26% |
| Abundant recreation opportunities | 21% |
| A safe community | 17% |
| A diverse community | 17% |
| The Blue Mountains is a centre for ecotourism | 15% |
| Quality health & welfare services | 12% |
| Celebrated as a centre for arts & culture | 11% |
| Council consults and communicates | 11% |
| An affordable lifestyle | 11% |
| A balanced population | 10% |
| More shopping & retail outlets | 8% |



The end product of the stakeholder workshops was a set of 14 draft principles (listed below), generally agreed on by workshop participants, providing a clear direction for the future of the City.

1. That the quality of the natural environment be maintained/restored.
2. Urban development and change only within environmental capacity.
3. Distinctive character of towns and villages be protected or enhanced.
4. A wider range of accessible education, employment and recreational opportunities, consistent with ESD principles.
5. National reputation as a caring, clever, creative and inclusive community.
6. A safe, secure and healthy community.
7. Sustainable people and goods 'movement' with low impact.
8. Ecologically sensitive design and redesign.
9. Inspirational leadership and governance.
10. A tolerant and accessible society.
11. Protection and restoration of indigenous culture and environment.
12. A community that values its elderly.
13. A community that values its children.
14. Green areas between villages.

With the contents of this report and the information gathered from other community workshops and focus groups, Council now has the guidance it needs to make decisions that will lead the City to the future its residents want.

Much thought, discussion and energy has gone into this phase of the City Strategy project. Community leaders from a great diversity of backgrounds and interests have come together and provided their considered views on the future of the City. If the enthusiasm, cooperative spirit and optimistic outcomes produced by these groups are anything to go by, the future of the City appears to be in good hands.



I INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings from a series of stakeholder workshops conducted by IRIS Research on behalf of Blue Mountains City Council. The workshops were conducted with representatives from a wide range of organisations from throughout the Blue Mountains (see Appendix A for a full list of participants for each workshop).

The specific objectives of the workshops were:

- To actively involve representatives from key organisations within the community in sharing their hopes and dreams for the future of the City;
- To facilitate understanding between the various interest groups about where they agree and differ on what is important for the future of the City;
- To generate a set of generally agreed upon principles (or core ideas) that underpin the kind of City we want in the future.

Six workshops were conducted between the 27th and 29th of November. A total of 137 people attended, with a relatively even distribution across the various interest areas within the community. Table 1.1 shows the final attendance numbers achieved for the workshops. It confirms the success of the program, with a very strong and diverse turn out at all meetings.

Table 1.1 Workshop Attendance

| Details | Attendees |
|---|------------|
| Workshop 1 - Katoomba Council Chambers, 27 th Nov, 9am-12pm | 24 |
| Workshop 2 - Katoomba Council Chambers, 27 th Nov, 1.30-4.30pm | 19 |
| Workshop 3 - Blaxland Community Hall, 28 th Nov, 9am-12pm | 20 |
| Workshop 4 - Springwood Bowling Club, 28 th Nov, 6.30-9.30pm | 22 |
| Workshop 5 - Katoomba Council Chambers, 29 th Nov, 9am-12pm | 27 |
| Workshop 6 - Katoomba Council Chambers, 29 th Nov, 6.30-9.30pm | 25 |
| Total Attendance | 137 |



The duration of each workshop was set at three hours. All workshops followed a similar agenda, although there was some ‘fine tuning’ of the format during the process. Table 1.2 outlines the basic format of each workshop.

Table 1.2 Workshop format

WELCOME & BACKGROUND

- General introduction & outline of the workshop proceedings
- Overview of the City Strategy process & where today fits in

SESSION 1 - SHARING OUR PERSONAL VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- “Please share your vision for the future with the rest of the group”
 - based on “My vision for our future” pre-workshop exercise

SESSION 2 - BRAINSTORMING EXERCISE – GENERATING CORE IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

- Individuals asked to write down their one key idea for the future
- Main group divided into 3-4 small work groups to:
 - discuss ideas of individuals within the group
 - discuss which ideas they generally agreed on as a group and which ideas represented points of difference within the group
 - generate a ‘group theme’ (based on areas of agreement) that encapsulates the most important idea(s) for the future

SESSION 3 - CONFIRMING CONSENSUS IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

- Discussion of core ideas to arise from previous two sessions
 - Identify & debate the potential trade-offs or conflicts arising from these ideas
- Add to an evolving list of ‘key principles’ that represent a consensus of the group’s (and prior groups) core ideas

CONCLUDING REMARKS



2 DETAILED FINDINGS

Section 2.1 provides an overview of the personal visions reported by workshop participants. It quantitatively summarises the broad themes to come out of the vision statements and then provides some of the more salient quotes to emerge in relation to key ideas under each broad theme.

Section 2.2 then provides a summary of the outcomes of the small group session, designed to identify core ideas for the future.

Section 2.3 provides a record of the output from the open forum discussions in the third session of the workshops, where participants shared their views on key ideas identified in the first two sessions.

Finally, Section 2.4 lists a set of guiding principles developed throughout the process with the input and agreement of each of the six workshops.

Apart from providing an overview the key findings from the workshops, this report also acts as a detailed reference document. All inputs from the workshops have been fully documented either in the body or the appendices of the report.



2.1 Visions for the City of Blue Mountains in 2025

As a pre-focus group exercise, participants were sent a visioning exercise called “*My vision for Our Future*” (see Appendix C). The challenge was to describe their personal or organisational vision of the kind of City the people of 2025 will be grateful they live in. Those participants who attempted the exercise were asked to share their vision with the group in the first session of the workshop. At the end of the session all personal vision sheets were handed in to the facilitator.

This section presents the results of a content analysis of the vision sheets and briefly summarizes the common themes to emerge. It also briefly compares the results of the stakeholder vision analysis with those of residents from the focus group program conducted in early November.

Table 2.1 (over the page) summarises the main themes to emerge from a content analysis (or ideas count) of the personal vision forms of focus group participants. (The full verbatim responses provided by each workshop participant are presented in Appendix A). Table 2.2 then compares the results of the stakeholder vision statements with those of the resident vision statements.



Table 2.1 Stakeholder Vision Themes by Workshop Group

| | Wkshop 1 | Wkshop 2 | Wkshop 3 | Wkshop 4 | Wkshop 5 | Wkshop 6 | TOTAL |
|---|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| <i>Number of vision statements handed in</i> | 23 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 23 | 23 | 123 |
| Vision theme | Proportion of participants mentioning theme | | | | | | |
| Unique & valued natural environment | 83% | 78% | 83% | 78% | 74% | 83% | 80% |
| A community that cares for its people | 35% | 44% | 56% | 56% | 35% | 39% | 54% |
| Maintained our own identity as a place (village character) | 39% | 50% | 61% | 67% | 48% | 43% | 54% |
| Local employment opportunities | 22% | 56% | 44% | 56% | 39% | 48% | 43% |
| An effective transport system (safe/upgraded GWH) | 35% | 33% | 28% | 44% | 22% | 35% | 33% |
| A convenient, reliable & affordable public transport system | 22% | 22% | 39% | 33% | 26% | 30% | 28% |
| Quality educational opportunities | 13% | 28% | 22% | 22% | 22% | 48% | 26% |
| Abundant recreation opportunities | 13% | 28% | 33% | 22% | 13% | 22% | 21% |
| A safe community | 26% | 33% | 11% | 17% | 13% | 4% | 17% |
| A diverse community | 17% | 39% | 11% | 17% | 9% | 13% | 17% |
| The Blue Mountains is a centre for ecotourism | 26% | 11% | 22% | 11% | 9% | 13% | 15% |
| Quality health & welfare services | 9% | 17% | 22% | 11% | 13% | 4% | 12% |
| Celebrated as a centre for arts & culture | 13% | 11% | 11% | 22% | 4% | 9% | 11% |
| Council consults and communicates | 9% | 6% | 28% | 11% | 4% | 9% | 11% |
| An affordable lifestyle | 13% | 11% | 6% | 17% | 9% | 9% | 11% |
| A balanced population | 4% | 17% | 17% | 11% | 9% | 4% | 10% |
| More shopping & retail outlets | 22% | 6% | 0% | 6% | 4% | 9% | 8% |



Table 2.2 Comparison of Stakeholder & Resident Vision Themes

| Vision theme | Proportion of vision statements mentioning theme | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| | Residents (N=171) | Stakeholders (N=123) |
| A unique & valued natural environment | 76% | 80% |
| Maintain our own identity as a place to live & visit | 56% | 54% |
| A convenient, reliable & affordable public transport system | 46% | 28% |
| A community that cares for its people | 44% | 54% |
| Local employment opportunities | 31% | 43% |
| Abundant recreation opportunities | 28% | 21% |
| An effective transport system (safe/upgraded GWH) | 21% | 33% |
| Quality educational opportunities | 20% | 26% |
| A safe community | 13% | 17% |
| Council consults and communicates | 12% | 11% |
| Quality health & welfare services | 12% | 12% |
| A balanced population | 12% | 10% |
| Celebrated as a centre for arts & culture | 11% | 11% |
| An affordable lifestyle | 10% | 11% |
| Increased access & services for less mobile people * | 7% | na |
| The Blue Mountains as a thriving ecotourism destination | 6% | 15% |

Note – although there were 137 attendees, not all participants handed in a vision statement.

*Re-coded into “A community that cares for its people” in the stakeholder analysis.

In comparing the visions of stakeholder and residents, there were many similarities and few differences of opinion. As would be expected, the stakeholder participants were generally more passionate on their key issues and their vision statements tended to be more detailed. However, the many of the same themes were prominent for both groups.

The protection of the natural environment was an even higher priority for the stakeholder group than for the residents, with 80% of vision statements mentioning this theme.



Maintaining the unique identity of the City was equally important for both stakeholders and residents.

Stakeholder participant visions were more likely than resident visions to mention themes such as a caring community, local employment (particularly environmentally sensitive tourism), educational opportunities and an effective transport system. Yet, stakeholder participants were less likely to focus on public transport and recreational issues than residents.



2.2 Blue Mountains 2025 – “Core Ideas”

One of the main goals of the workshop program was to actively involve participants in developing a list of ‘core ideas’ for the future of the City, that everyone (regardless of vested interests) could agree upon. This was seen as a critical first step in developing a set of more concrete guiding principles, that could be used by Council in drafting the City Strategy for the next 25 years.

Workshop participants were organised into small groups to undertake a brainstorming exercise designed to extract their core ideas. Given the breadth of interests represented at the workshops, groups were carefully organised so that no one interest group could dominate discussion.



Table Summary of Group Ideas for the Future

| Group themes | Key priority areas | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|------------------|
| | Environment | People | Work | Moving around | Living & playing |
| "Individuals Living Sustainably" | * | | | | * |
| "People Caring For People And Place" | * | * | | | |
| "Plan To Care (For People And Place)" | * | * | | | |
| "Eco-City" | * | | | | |
| "Village Islands In The Park" | * | | | | * |
| "Blue Mountains - Living With The Bush" | * | | | | |
| "Wilderness, Lifestyle, Villages, Visitors" | * | * | * | | * |
| "Blue Mountains - Lifestyle Choices" | * | * | * | * | * |
| "Ecologically Sustainable, Renewable, Spiritual, Safe, Culturally Diverse" | * | * | | | * |
| "Villages Sharing World Heritage" | * | | | | * |
| "Breaking Down Isolation - Through Effective Communication And Transportation" | | * | | * | |
| "Sustainable Lifestyles In The Blue Mountains" | * | * | * | * | * |
| "Diverse Community" | | * | | | |
| "A Healthy Natural Environment" | * | | | | |
| "Healthy Society" | | * | | | |
| "Open Governance" | | | | | * |
| "Sustainable Commerce" | | | * | | |
| "Community In Harmony With Bushland" | * | * | | | |
| "Caring, Creative Culture" | | * | | | |
| "A Unique Environment With A Culturally Diverse Community" | * | * | | | |
| "Develop & Conserve The Living Showcase" | * | | | | |
| "Connected Cottage Communities in a World Heritage Environment" | * | * | | | |
| "Community & Nature In Harmony" | * | * | | | |
| "Committing To Environmental Sustainability Through Local Partnerships" | * | * | | | |
| "A World Heritage Community" | * | * | | | |
| "Centre to Inform, Celebrate, Inspire & Demonstrate Sustainable Technologies, Environmental Education & Advanced Cultural Thinking" | * | * | * | | * |
| "Sustainable, Assessable, Equitable Development" | | * | | | * |
| "Healthy Community & Environment" | * | * | | | |
| "Inspiring Sustainable Living" | * | * | | | |
| Total | 22 | 20 | 5 | 3 | 10 |



2.2.1 Workshop I

GROUP 1

Individual Ideas:

- Create an environmentally friendly atmosphere by reducing CO2 emissions utilising environmentally friendly appliances and vehicles.
- City of the Arts - a place where arts practitioners across disciplines are able to work and have their work made accessible to the local community and visitors
- A pleasant place to live in an environmentally friendly atmosphere with sufficient public transport to reduce traffic from our roads and thus pollution.
- A place of congregation and celebration of diversity and unity.
- The Blue Mountains as a learning centre (i.e. University, eco-education facilities, ecotourism training)

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on most points above

Points of Difference:

The role of the Great Western Highway *Vision 1* - A dual carriageway means: faster, safer car and truck travel; better movement between villages; more people living in the Mountains and commuting; development on both sides of the Highway. *Vision 2* - Development of rail instead: takes goods and people transport off roads; encourages less car dependency (better for the environment)

Group Theme:

"INDIVIDUALS LIVING SUSTAINABLY"
(economically, environmentally, socially & culturally) within their community.
Taking responsibility. Enabled by their community.



GROUP 2

Individual Ideas:

- A place where you can live, learn & love
- Friendly & sustainable environment
- Development of industries, resources & services focused on the significant Mountains features
- Embrace love & awareness in a palpable collective responsibility
- A community that actively cares (accepts/includes/protects/provides) for its people
- Cultural spirit of the community is vibrant & diverse and is demonstrated by an ownership of this natural environment
- Where families can grow within a nurturing community and a sustainable environment

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on all points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

"PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE"



GROUP 3

Individual Ideas:

- A safer place to live
- A caring community
- Linked villages (outside the main corridor)
- Maintain the beauty of the Mountains
- Sustainable City / happy place

Points of Agreement:

- Safer - match environmental ideas with development. Create a balance between the environment and asset protection. Safety awareness.
- Care for the environment (including people, animals, bushland etc) then the environment will look after us.
- Caring for transport issues in a way that does not further burden the main corridor.
- Beauty includes the natural and built environments - the challenge is to maintain a balance.
- Compensating biodiversity - achieving sustainability.

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

"PLAN TO CARE" (for people and place)



GROUP 4

Individual Ideas:

- Sustainable communities: affordable & accessible housing; housing diversity; services & facilities
- Housing: Adaptable housing - modification to suit purpose of use; access to transport; low environmental impact.
- Sustainable city: Lifestyles; community education & involvement; modify opinion & behaviours.
- Eco-City: job creation, business development; sustaining community; Triple Bottom Line (environmental, societal & financial accountability).

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on most points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

"ECO-CITY" - where the community nurtures people, place & prosperity.



2.2.2 Workshop 2

GROUP 1

Individual Ideas:

- Integrated, well designed, accessible built environment
- The ultimate adventure sports destination outside Sydney/Country NSW
- Improvement of village main streets, rail transport, tourist focus
- Remove 'City' focus - community of villages in close proximity to a major global city (Sydney)
- Uniqueness of community surrounded by a World Heritage area, balance between nature and people. A role model for excellence in living harmoniously.
- Safe environment for people and the environment.

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on most points above

Points of Difference:

None recorded

Group Themes:

"VILLAGE ISLANDS IN THE PARK"
"BLUE MOUNTAINS - LIVING WITH THE BUSH"
"WILDERNESS, LIFESTYLE, VILLAGES, VISITORS"



GROUP 2

Individual Ideas:

- Community
- World heritage
- Friendly - nature & people
- Lifestyle
- Progressive
- Youth - participating & involved
- Strict development control

Points of Agreement:

- Community
- World heritage
- Lifestyle - all ages

Points of Difference:

- Friendly
- Progressive
- Strict development control

Group Theme:

"BLUE MOUNTAINS - LIFESTYLE CHOICES"



GROUP 3

Individual Ideas:

- An environment of natural and cultural diversity
- Embraces the ecological spirituality of the environment
- Safety - an absence of insecurity
- We acknowledge and honour our Aboriginal heritage and spirituality
- Off-beat nature
- Ecologically sustainable - diversity and integrity in all things
- Sense of community

Points of Agreement:

Most points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Themes:

"ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE, RENEWABLE, SPIRITUAL, SAFE,
CULTURALLY DIVERSE"



2.2.3 Workshop 3

GROUP 1

Individual Ideas:

- Environment
- Villages
- Caring and sharing - youth, seniors, less mobile.
- Cohesive community - infrastructure
- Adventurous and creative community - in managing the environment, arts, support for individuals
- Village communities
- Economic opportunities
- Ecotourism

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on most points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Themes:

"VILLAGES SHARING WORLD HERITAGE"



GROUP 2

Individual Ideas:

- All people (young and old) combined in caring for the Mountains
- Improved public transport services - particularly buses
- Lively City - doing, active, achieving, addressing issues for the future
- Community harmony within the City of the National Park - building communities, inclusive, breaking down isolation, working together toward one aim, communication (eg Community directory), neighbourhood interconnection

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on all points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

**"BREAKING DOWN ISOLATION - THROUGH EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION"**



GROUP 3

Individual Ideas:

- Sense of community that nurtures and cares for its rich environment
- A city in harmony with nature and each other
- A city which enhances and maintains its scenic beauty
- Mountain "lifestyles" and special places
- Sustainable lifestyles - environmentally, economically and socially
- Frontiers, adventure

Points of Agreement:

All points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Themes:

"SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS"
"DIVERSE COMMUNITY"



GROUP 4

Individual Ideas:

- Good governance - inclusive of community, which leads to better strategic planning outcomes
- Healthy natural environment - is dependent on links to a healthy business community, a healthy social community and an open local government.
- Total development of Katoomba as a commercial and tourism centre as a basis for achieving our transport and other infrastructure needs
- Education for all, transport infrastructure, viable business and commerce
- Council rhetoric to match actions - openness

Points of Agreement:

- Good governance
- Viable commerce
- A healthy social structure
- A healthy natural environment

Points of Difference:

None

Group Themes:

"A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT" which relies on:
"HEALTHY SOCIETY" (Sustainable living)
"OPEN GOVERNANCE" (Openness)
"SUSTAINABLE COMMERCE" (Non-polluting industries eg IT)



2.2.4 Workshop 4

GROUP 1

Individual Ideas:

- Caveat on environmentally sensitive areas
- Truly become "The City within a World Heritage National Park"
- Retain & develop a uniqueness of the local community but with hi-tech infrastructure & modern conveniences
- Protection of the natural habitat - plants & animals
- More education on how to appreciate our natural environment
- We accept the Blue Mountains for what it is
- Encourage community building - unique blend of community in the Mountains
- A community living under the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on all points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

"COMMUNITY IN HARMONY WITH BUSHLAND"



GROUP 2

Individual Ideas:

- Renowned as a caring City within a pristine and nurtured World Heritage wilderness area
- A civil society
- Safe, low crime environment
- Promote strengths of education in the area
- Inclusive relationships, both environmental and social across ages and cultures

Points of Agreement:

Agreed on all points above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

"CARING, CREATIVE CULTURE"



GROUP 3

Individual Ideas:

- Engaged, tolerant, diverse
- Living sustainably with nature
- Community, environment, creativity
- Nature-based recreation & tourism
- An oasis away from Sydney
- Culturally diverse
- Young people have things to do

Points of Agreement:

- Care for the environment
- Culturally diverse
- Improved public transport

Points of Difference:

- Urban design - types of housing development
- Tourism development
- Employment - balance the need for more against the quality (casual/part-time vs. full-time)
- Better roads are good for traffic flows BUT encourage more trucks etc

Group Themes:

**"A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT WITH A CULTURALLY DIVERSE
COMMUNITY"**



GROUP 4

Individual Ideas:

- A cultural & wilderness showcase
- A series of self-sustaining, safe, caring, supportive village communities
- Aesthetically pleasing image
- Managed and promoted natural & built heritage
- Wise use of space

Points of Agreement:

- A "showcase" of wilderness and culture
- Conserving the natural and built environment

Points of Difference:

- Growth: accepted as part of a vibrant community vs. leave as is

Group Theme:

"DEVELOP & CONSERVE THE LIVING SHOWCASE"



2.2.5 Workshop 5

GROUP 1

Individual Ideas:

- World Heritage sustainable community
- Inclusive community
- Organic
- Cottage City
- Preservation

Points of Agreement:

All above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Themes:

"CONNECTED COTTAGE COMMUNITIES IN A WORLD HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT"



GROUP 2

Individual Ideas:

- Cleaner, greener transport system
- Community development within a region of natural beauty
- Fresh air
- Environmentally friendly and sustainable caring community
- Vibrant community, caring for people and the environment
- Safer, livable community
- A City that values and respects its people and environment

Points of Agreement:

- Environment
- People and community
- Fresh air

Points of Difference:

- 'Region' vs. 'City'

Group Theme:

"COMMUNITY & NATURE IN HARMONY"



GROUP 3

Individual Ideas:

- An environment kids can enjoy
- City within a National Park
- World Heritage National Park
- Region of distinctly defined communities
- Leader in environmental planning
- Sustainable communities
- Ecological planning of sustainable solutions
- Shared responsibility for sustainability
- Lose "tourists", welcome "visitors"
- Access and participation in sustainable lifestyles

Points of Agreement:

All above

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

**"COMMITTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS"**



GROUP 4

Individual Ideas:

- Culturally vibrant, cohesive, sustainable within a World Heritage environment
- World leader in environmentally sustainable living
- World Heritage City - caring & friendly
- Living community & socially just
- A City with Villages at its heart
- A City of communities

Points of Agreement:

- Retain community/village identity
- Communities within a World Heritage National Park
- Environmentally sustainable living within social justice principles

Points of Difference:

- Is it a "City Strategy" or a "Blue Mountains Community Development Strategy"
- Emphasis on community & village life

Group Theme:

"A WORLD HERITAGE COMMUNITY"



2.2.6 Workshop 6

GROUP 1

Individual Ideas:

- Integrated transport plan
- Sustainable city
- Clean air city
- Environmentally sustainable development
- Centre of excellence & inspiration - fusion of arts, environment & science

Points of Agreement:

- Integrated transport plan that covers the whole of the Mountains - smaller carriages, shuttle buses. BMCC & relevant state govt. authorities need to cooperate.

Points of Difference:

- Population size: need for diversity of people vs. naturally imposed limits to growth

Group Themes:

**"CENTRE TO INFORM, CELEBRATE, INSPIRE & DEMONSTRATE
SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION &
ADVANCED CULTURAL THINKING"**



GROUP 2

Individual Ideas:

- Sustainable development
- All-encompassing transport service
- Natural, clean, healthy City
- Development of arts, environment, heritage - a better place to live and visit
- Caring and accepting of children
- Education & innovation as a pathway to employment

Points of Agreement:

- Access
- Equity
- Transport
- Sustainability

Points of Difference:

None

Group Theme:

"SUSTAINABLE, ASSESSIBLE, EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT"



GROUP 3

Individual Ideas:

- Nurtures the development of all it people to encourage and build the whole community
- To respect the stage of early childhood
- Healthy and world recognised natural environment
- Educate for sustainability
- Social, economic and environmental sustainability
- 'E'nvironment'C'ulture'O'ppportunity-CITY (eco[logical]nomic development)

Points of Agreement:

Most points above

Points of Difference:

- How do we set out to achieve everything that we as a community want? What are the priorities? (different people have different priorities)

Group Theme:

"HEALTHY COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT"



GROUP 4

Individual Ideas:

- World model for sustainable living
- Inspiration!
- The living room - cultural landscapes
- At one with our environment
- Sustainable population
- Highway management

Points of Agreement:

- Model for sustainable living
- Make the highway work, but not at the expense of villages & environment
- Living room - rich community life/economy
- At one with nature

Points of Difference:

- Sustainable population
 - Means different things for upper and lower mountains
 - What kind of limits can we impose on population?
 - What about affordability?

Group Theme:

"INSPIRING SUSTAINABLE LIVING"



2.3 Discussion of important ideas

The final session of the workshop ran mainly as a relatively informal discussion of the core ideas generated during the first two sessions. The aim was to explore areas of general agreement or difference in relation to these core ideas and, ultimately, generate a consensus list of underlying principles, which Council could use to help guide the development of the City Strategy.

This section reports the main points of discussions during the session for each workshop, as recorded on butchers paper by one of the facilitators. Section 2.4 then presents a list of draft principles, which generally agreed on by the participants from each workshop.

Workshop 1 – main discussion points

- Educational and employment opportunities need to have an environmental focus.
- "Eco-centre" of excellence.
- 'Sustainability should be at the heart of everything we do.
- Through traffic needs to be kept away from the villages.
- More use of rail transport for goods and people transport.
- Existing urban design should guide future development. Given land limitations, we should adapt and restore existing urban areas.
- Need quality design.
- What we want has to come from us!
- A continuous process of review. Asking the question: "Are our principles and policies still relevant?"

Workshop 2 – main discussion points

- Protection and enhancement of the diverse natural environment is the key that underpins everything else we want as a community.
- A community that lives in harmony with its environment.



- Our city is not a city, it's a community.
- Question: "Where will the money come from to pay for all the things we want for our community?"
- We need to continue to populate, but do so sustainably.
- We need to maintain our uniqueness as a very different place from Sydney.
- We have a University campus to retain our talent.
- Courses that focus on our strengths - show the way in environmental education.
- We should redevelop existing urban areas.
- We are not a city - we are a collection of villages.
- Is there another description to replace the word "City".
- We are separated in terms of the different villages we live in, but our unique natural environment connects us.
- There is an Upper-Lower Mountains divide that must be acknowledged.
- We need to be a tolerant & accessible community.
- We need inspirational leadership/governance to give us direction.

Workshop 3 – main discussion points

- A sense of community - point of debate: are we a 'City' or 'a collection of villages'?
- Our heritage and unique natural environment give us a connection. (linked communities)
- There is no real geographic centre for the Blue Mountains.
- The geography defines us.
- There is a definite 'Upper' & 'Lower' Mountains divide/rivalry.
- There is a sense of pride about living in the Blue Mountains.
- The Great Western Highway is changing the Mountains. There is a need for greater connectivity between communities across the highway.
 - ⇒ Council and the RTA need to work together.
 - ⇒ Decision needs to be made whether the highway goes through or around the villages.
 - ⇒ Putting more freight on the rail line is one possible solution.
 - ⇒ Building a by-pass is another solution, but may have serious environmental consequences.
- Economic development and work have a major impact on our quality of life.



- ⇒ We need more local jobs.
- ⇒ We need to attract business to the City.
 - ⇒ BUT there are trade-offs:
 - ⇒ More activity means more impacts on our environment
 - ⇒ Only solution is development of "sustainable business"
- People do most of their shopping in Penrith because there are no large retailers in the Mountains.
- Old heritage buildings have been left to private developers or disrepair.
- We need to value our diversity.

Workshop 4 – main discussion points

- The environment has to drive all other decisions.
- Community needs to be educated about our natural environment.
- Our responsibilities for looking after the Blue Mountains go beyond just our community, it is a 'World' Heritage area.
- The process of planning for the future needs to be transparent.
 - ⇒ There should be a "feedback loop" from outcomes and actions back to higher principles.
 - ⇒ The test should be: "Are we heading down the right path?" (according to our community principles).
- Retain our Mountains character and 'differentness'
 - ⇒ Future development must conform to the "spirit" of the Mountains.
 - ⇒ We must move forward with development BUT it must reflect the individual character of each village.
 - ⇒ There must be a strong focus on quality urban design.
 - ⇒ Community involvement in development decisions BEFORE action has been taken.
- Protect bushland between villages.
- We need an integrated transport system.
 - ⇒ Too many trucks on the highway.
 - ⇒ The State Government should be encouraged to subsidize rail freight.
 - ⇒ "I don't think public transport is viable"
 - ⇒ No one uses our public transport system as it is, yet we want a better one!



- ⇒ What about using the bicycle or other more sustainable forms of transport?
- ⇒ "We can't solve public transport problems by getting rid of it!"
 - ⇒ Public transport should be encouraged, as it is more environmentally friendly than cars.
 - ⇒ We need to support people in the future who will rely on public transport.
 - ⇒ In 2025 we will have a public transport system that is widely used.
- ⇒ The Great Western Highway will be upgraded to a very high standard by 2025.
- If we want to be a caring and sharing community, what costs are we prepared to live with now to make things better for future generations?
- If we really want to be a sustainable, self-sufficient community, we should aim high: "In 2025, the Blue Mountains is off the electricity grid!"

Workshop 5 – main discussion points

- Restoring and maintaining the environment is definitely the number one priority.
 - ⇒ Live by principles of ecologically sustainable development/growth
 - ⇒ Not just "growth" as in getting bigger and bigger BUT "growth" as in understanding about our impact on our environment, in human interaction and in prosperity.
 - ⇒ We need to accept and embrace change.
 - ⇒ 'Manage' change so that we maintain a sustainable place to live.
 - ⇒ 'Green' lifestyles are encouraged
 - ⇒ 'Sustainable lifestyles', as opposed to just 'sustainability' of the environment (all encompassing, rather than just nature).
 - ⇒ We also need to think beyond our own community, to our broader responsibilities as inhabitants of a World Heritage protected national park.
- We are a collection of "communities" NOT a "City"
 - ⇒ Maintain individual character of each village - 27 different village communities.
- We are a caring and inclusive community.
 - ⇒ Foster a sense of community & individual responsibility.
 - ⇒ Anything that people are involved in creating, they will 'own'.
 - ⇒ A community that actively participates (involvement from the ground up)
 - ⇒ Justice, equity, access & diversity are all part of life in the mountains.
- Accessible and affordable public transport for all.



- People walk more for shorter distances.
- A bus interchange to encourage more overnight visitation.

Workshop 6 – main discussion points

- A community that values its elderly
- A community that values its children
- Green areas between villages
- A fun, vibrant place to live
- Residents can enjoy the natural environment
- Redefine the type of tourism - true ecotourism
- Expansion still viable in the Lower Mountains, but not in the Upper Mountains
- Less dependency on cars
- Increased medium density development close to town centres
- Public places where people will meet and socialize
- Strong focus on environmental education
 - ⇒ Becomes a major local industry
 - ⇒ A central influence on residents and visitors behaviour
 - ⇒ An inspiration for the development of allied eco-industries



2.4 Guiding Principles

Following is a consensus list of draft principles (or core/high level ideas) that a majority of the workshop participants felt should underpin the kind of City the people of the Mountains want in 2025. Of course, this is *not* a final list of ‘guiding principles’ to be strictly adhered to in developing policies, action plans and outcomes for the City Strategy. Rather, it is a list of suggested principles, which may need to be increased, reduced or slightly modified as part of the ongoing consultative process.

- 1. That the quality of the natural environment be maintained/restored.**
- 2. Urban development and change only within environmental capacity.**
- 3. Distinctive character of towns and villages be protected or enhanced.**
- 4. A wider range of accessible education, employment and recreational opportunities, consistent with ESD principles.**
- 5. National reputation as a caring, clever, creative and inclusive community.**
- 6. A safe, secure and healthy community.**
- 7. Sustainable people and goods ‘movement’ with low impact.**
- 8. Ecologically sensitive design and redesign.**
- 9. Inspirational leadership and governance.**
- 10. A tolerant and accessible society.**
- 11. Protection and restoration of indigenous culture and environment.**
- 12. A community that values its elderly.**
- 13. A community that values its children.**
- 14. Green areas between villages.**



Appendix A:

Attendance lists & small group allocations



Workshop 1

Tuesday 27th November 2001, 9.00am to 12.00pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

| | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Richard Florczak | Mission Employment |
| 2 | Rob Smith | Mt. Tomah Botanical Gardens |
| 3 | Bronwen Johnston | Kubba Roonga |
| 4 | Alan Brewey | Warrimoo Citizens Association |
| 5 | Mick Barrett | MOCS |
| 6 | Jenny Bawden | BMDAMH Occupational Therapy |
| 7 | Helen Walker | Mountains Community Transport |
| 8 | Tony Murray | AGL |
| 9 | Prof. Barrie Reynolds | Blue Mountains Historical Society |
| 10 | Anthony Turnbull | Century 21 Katoomba |
| 11 | Nigel Bell | Eco Designs |
| 12 | Annie Byron | Blue Mountains Artists Network |
| 13 | Geoff White | Michael White Gallery |
| 14 | Vera Costello | EnviroTru |
| 15 | Jack Tolhurst | BMCC Emergency Services |
| 16 | Erst Carmichael | Coalition of Residents for Environ |
| 17, 18 | John Moffatt/John Ross | Integral Energy |
| 19 | Karen van Woudenberg | BMCC Children's Officer |
| 20 | Julie Banffy | BMCC Area Manager |
| 21 | Lee Morgan | BMCC Manager Environmental Management |
| 22 | Ruth Ley | Blue Mountains Home Mod. |
| 23 | Marlene Jones | BMCC Admin Specialist H&D |
| 24 | Robert Greenwood | BMCC |



Workshop 1: Small Groups for Brainstorming Exercise

GROUP 1

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Richard Florczak | Mission Employment |
| Alan Brewey | Warrimoo Citizens Association |
| Tony Murray | AGL |
| Annie Byron | Blue Mountains Artists Network |
| Lee Morgan | BMCC Manager Environmental Management |
| Karen van Woudenberg | BMCC Children's Services Officer |

GROUP 2

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rob Smith | Mt. Tomah Botanical Gardens |
| Mick Barrett | MOCS |
| Jenny Bawden | BMDAMH - Occupational Therapy |
| Barrie Jones | Blue Mountains Historical Society |
| Geoff White | Michael White Gallery |
| Vera Costello | EnviroTru |
| John Ross | Integral Energy |
| John Moffatt | Integral Energy |

GROUP 3

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bronwen Johnston | Kubba Roonga |
| Helen Walker | Mountains Community Transport |
| Anthony Turnbull | Century 21 Katoomba |
| Jack Tolhurst | BMCC Emergency Services |
| Marlene Jones | BMCC H&D Admin Specialist |

GROUP 4

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nigel Bell | Eco Designs |
| Julie Banffy | BMCC Area Manager |
| Erst Carmichael | CORE |
| Robert Greenwood | BMCC Group Manager Strategy |
| Ruth Ley | Blue Mountains Home Modification |



Workshop 2

Tuesday 27th November 2001, 1.30pm to 4.30pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

| | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|----|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Leonie Cameron | BANC |
| 2 | George Sprague | Araluen |
| 3 | Therese Bidgood | Centrelink |
| 4 | Rosalind Gibson | The Loft |
| 5 | Robin Mosman | Conservation Society |
| 6 | Noel Hiffernan | MCRN Disability Project |
| 7 | Jenny Hill | Leura Park Bush Care Group |
| 8 | Liam O'Sullivan | MYRO |
| 9 | Tracey Keevers-Keller | Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre |
| 10 | Harry Berwick | Katoomba North Public |
| 11 | Kerrin O'Grady | Winter Magic |
| 12 | Richard Quartermaine | Biznet |
| 13 | Samantha Paish | Katoomba Little Athletics |
| 14 | Councillor Angelique Henson | BMCC |
| 15 | Rachel Sutcliffe | BMCC Transport Project Engineer |
| 16 | Robert Misfud | BMCC Katoomba Project Manager |
| 17 | Simon Fox | BMCC Area 2 Manager |
| 18 | Paul Heath | BMCC Economic & Corporate Devel. |
| 19 | Paul Koen | BMCC Principle Development Engineer |



Workshop 2: Small Groups for Brainstorming Exercise

GROUP 1

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Leonie Cameron | BANC |
| Robin Mosman | Conservation Society |
| Noel Hiffernan | MCRN Disability Project |
| Richard Quartermaine | BIZNET |
| Samantha Paish | Katoomba Little Athletics |
| Rachel Sutcliffe | BMCC Transport Project Engineer |

GROUP 2

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Rosalind Gibson | The Loft |
| George Sprague | Araluen |
| Jenny Hill | Leura Park Bushcare Group |
| Paul Heath | BMCC Economic Corporate Development Officer |
| Rob Mifsud | BMCC Katoomba Project Officer |
| Theresa Bidgood | Centrelink |

GROUP 3

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tracey Keevers-Keller | Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre |
| Paul Koen | BMCC Principle Development Engineer |
| Harry Berwick | Katoomba North Primary School |
| Kerrin O'Grady | Winter Magic Festival |
| Simon Fox | BMCC Area Manager |
| Liam O'Sullivan | MYRO |



Workshop 3

Wednesday 28th November 2001, 9.00am to 12.00pm, Blaxland Community Centre

| | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Narelle Wheatland | GROW |
| 2 | Edna Sampson | SWAG |
| 3 | Lyn Trindall | Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre |
| 4 | Michael Metcalf | City Rail |
| 5 | Paul Trevaskis | Integrated Transport Forum |
| 6 | Roger Grealy | RAID |
| 7 | Maureen Goetze | Blue Mountains Netball Association |
| 8 | Peter Wiggin | Sydney Water |
| 9 | Pamela | Blue Mountains Netball |
| 10 | Roy Davies | Buckland Retirement Village |
| 11 | Pamela Smith | Braemar Gallery |
| 12 | Roger Young | Excellent Earth Care |
| 13 | Laurie Goodman | Springwood Historical Society |
| 14 | Gail Cluss | Blaxland High School |
| 15 | Rosie Smith | MCRN |
| 16 | Councillor Colleen Kime | BMCC |
| 17 | Paul Richardson | BMCC Stormwater Officer |
| 18 | David Johnson | BMCC Manager Specialist Development |
| 19 | Joe Ibbitson | BMCC Strategic Community Development Planner |
| 20 | Laurie Lawless | Winmalee High |



Workshop 3: Small Groups for Brainstorming Exercise

GROUP 1

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Edna Sampson | SWAG |
| Michael Metcalf | City Rail |
| Roger Young | Excellent Earth Care |
| Laurie Goodman | Springwood Historical Society |
| Gail Cluss | Blaxland High School |

GROUP 2

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Lyn Trindall | Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre |
| Paul Trevaskis | Integrated Transport Forum |
| Maureen Goetze | Blue Mountains Netball Association |
| Rosie Smith | MCRN |
| Joe Ibbitson | BMCC Strategic Development Planner |

GROUP 3

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Narelle Wheatland | GROW |
| Peter Wiggin | Sydney Water |
| David Johnson | BMCC Manager Specialist Development |
| Pamela | Blue Mountains Netball Association |

GROUP 4

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Roger Grealy | RAID |
| Pamela Smith | Braemar |
| Roy Davies | Buckland Retirement Village |
| Laurie Lawless | Winmalee High School |
| Paul Richardson | BMCC Stormwater Officer |



Workshop 4

Wednesday 28th November 2001, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, Springwood Bowling Club

| | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Kim Sewell | Valley Heights Progress Group |
| 2 | Judith Collard | Uniting Care Springwood |
| 3 | Michael Parker | Datasol |
| 4 | Mike Purtell | BM Bushcare Network - Lower Mts. Deanei Committee |
| 5 | Amanda Trevillion | Norman Lindsay Gallery |
| 6 | Bronwyn Couch | DoCS |
| 7 | Rex Fardon | Braeside B&B |
| 8 | Guy Bentley | TAFE |
| 9 | Rein Van de Ruit | Drumming with the Earth |
| 10 | Rob O'Brien | Springwood High |
| 11 | John Alexander | Lawson Chamber of Commerce |
| 12 | Steve McLaren | FLAG |
| 13 | Margaret Bourne | Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre |
| 14 | Ken Schaeffer | Knapsack Creek Bushcare |
| 15 | Sonia | WIRES |
| 16 | Kerryn Hogan | Lapstone Gullies Bushcare |
| 17 | Councillor Chris Van der Klay | BMCC |
| 18 | Councillor Daniel Myles | BMCC |
| 19 | Anthony Ogle | BMCC Manager Technical Services |
| 20 | Elton Menday | BMCC Senior Strategic Planner |
| 21 | Jim Fishlock | BMCC Senior Environmental Ranger |
| 22 | Martin Ryman | BMCC Community Facilities Co-Ord. |



Workshop 4: Small Groups for Brainstorming Exercise

GROUP 1

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Kim Sewell | Valley Heights Progress Group |
| Mike Purtell | Blue Mountains Bushcare - Deanei Committee |
| Bronwyn Couch | DoCS |
| Sonia | WIRES |
| Anthony Ogle | BMCC Manager Technical Services |

GROUP 2

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Judy Collard | Uniting Care Springwood (BM Community Options) |
| Rex Fardon | Braeside BandB |
| Rein van de Ruit | Drumming with the Earth |
| Kerryn Hogan | Lapstone Gullies Bushcare |
| Jim Fishlock | BMCC Senior Environmental Ranger |

GROUP 3

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Amanda Trevillion | Norman Lindsay Gallery |
| Guy Bentley | TAFE |
| Rob O'Brien | Springwood High School |
| Steve McLaren | FLAG |
| Martin Ryman | BMCC Community Facilities Co-Ordinator |

GROUP 4

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Michael Parker | Datasol |
| Elton Menday | BMCC Senior Strategic Planner |
| John Alexander | Lawson Chamber of Commerce |
| Margaret Bourne | Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre |
| Ken Schaeffer | Knapsack Creek Bushcare |



Workshop 5

Thursday 29th November 2001, 9.00 am to 12.00 pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

| | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Mrs. Una King | Bullaburra Progress Assoc. |
| 2 | David Parsons | SES |
| 3 | John Hewson | Rolnor Park Residents Group |
| 4 | Peter Jones | Hotel Man. School |
| 5 | Jenny Hartnett | TAFE |
| 6 | Lowan Sist | Tourism |
| 7 | Tim Tranter | Tread Lightly |
| 8 | Steve Hackett | Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre & MCRN |
| 9 | Tim Jones | Blackheath Artists |
| 10 | Peter Bishop | Varuna Im |
| 11 | Al Ward | Blue Mountains Folk Festival |
| 12 | Grant Cooper | Pearce Omnibus |
| 13, 14 | Rod Fox and Fiona McCullough | EPA |
| 15 | Madeleine Boyd | Eco Vision |
| 16 | John Hill | Blue Mountains Bushcare |
| 17 | Ivy Loveric | Katoomba/Leura Senior Citizens na |
| 18 | Roger Cooper | Deerubbin Land Council |
| 19 | Graham Collins | BMCC Group Manager ACS |
| 20 | Paul Bawden | BMCC Group Manager H&D |
| 21 | Alan Cattermole | BMCC Acting Manager S&CP |
| 22 | Bill Langevad | BMCC Principle Strategic Planner |
| 23 | Wayne Lund | BMCC Manager Waste and Support |
| 24 | Maurice Brady | BMCC Aged and Disability Services Officer |
| 25 | Ryn Vlachou | BMCC Youth Services Development Officer |
| 26 | Paul Grimson | BMCC Manager City Planning. |
| 27 | Councillor Herman Kozelj | BMCC |



Workshop 5: Small Groups for Brainstorming Exercise

GROUP 1

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Una King | Bullaburra Progress Association |
| Peter Jones | Hotel Management School |
| Tim Jones | Blackheath Artists |
| Ivy Loveric | Katoomba/Leura Senior Citizens |
| Bill Langevad | BMCC Principle Strategic Planner |
| Paul Grimson | BMCC Manager City Planning |

GROUP 2

| | |
|----------------|---|
| David Parsons | SES |
| Jenny Hartnett | TAFE |
| Grant Cooper | Pearce Omnibus |
| Roger Cooper | Deerubbin Land Council |
| Graham Collins | BMCC Group Manager A&CS |
| Wayne Lund | BMCC Manager Waste and Support Services |

GROUP 3

| | |
|------------------|---|
| John Hewson | Rolner Park Residents Group |
| Lowan Sist | Tourism |
| Peter Bishop | Varuna |
| Rod Fox | EPA |
| Fiona McCullough | EPA |
| Paul Bawden | BMCC Group Manager H&D |
| Maurice Brady | BMCC Aged and Disability Services Officer |
| Madeleine Boyd | Eco Vision |

GROUP 4

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Tim Tranter | Tread Lightly Eco Tours |
| Steve Hackett | Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre and MCRN |
| Al Ward | Blue Mountains Folk Festival |
| John Hill | Blue Mountains Bush Care |
| Alan Cattermole | BMCC Acting Manager Social and Cultural Planning |
| Ryn Vlachou | BMCC Youth Services Development Officer |



Workshop 6

Thursday 29th November 2001, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

| | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Helen Mann | Children's Cottage |
| 2 | Judy McLean | Wildplant Rescue |
| 3 | Meredith Hayward | Cox's River Escapes |
| 4 | Don McGregor | Earth Construction |
| 5 | Yvonne Hellmers | Friends of Cultural Centre |
| 6 | Warren Ross | Katoomba Our Town Association |
| 7 | Bronwyn Gower | Lifelihood Creative Group |
| 8 | Gary Werskey | CAST |
| 9 | Natalie Newton | Songs of the Wind |
| 10 | Paul Beaumont | Hazelbrook Chamber of Commerce |
| 11 | Paul Payten | Sustainable Business Group |
| 12 | Hilary Werskey | Kanimbla View |
| 13 | Leilani Musgrave | Hazelbrook Bushcare |
| 14 | Jan Thornley | Planet Ark |
| 15 | Peter Shenstone | Planet Ark |
| 16 | John Hollingdale | Megalong Valley Landholders Assoc. |
| 17 | Carmel Blackburn | Blue Mountains Food Service |
| 18 | Graham Paterson | Wentworth Falls Soccer Club |
| 19 | Megan Benson | Blue Mountains Children's Theatre |
| 20 | Clr. Terri Hamilton | BMCC |
| 21 | Lin Mountstephen | BMCC Cultural Development Co-Ord |
| 22 | Mary Cunningham | Ageing, Disabilities and Home Care |
| 23 | Frank Garafalow | BMCC Prog Man Terrestrial Ecosystems |
| 24 | Jack Thompson | Mt. Victoria Community Association |
| 25 | Anne Parker and Nancy Etccl | Mt. Victoria Community Association |



Workshop 6: Small Groups for Brainstorming Exercise

GROUP 1

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Judy McLean | Wildplant Rescue Service |
| Warren Ross | Katoomba Our Town Association |
| Hilary Werskey | Kanimbla View |
| John Hollingdale | Megalong Valley Landholders Association |
| Bronwen Gower | Arts and Environment |

GROUP 2

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Helen Mann | Children's Cottage |
| Don McGregor | Earth Construction |
| Yvonne Hellmers | Friends of the Cultural Centre |
| Leilani Musgrave | Glenbrook Bushcare |
| Carmel Blackburn | Blue Mountains Food Services |
| Jack Thompson | Mt. Victoria Community Association |
| Anne Parker | Mt. Victoria Community Association |

GROUP 3

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Paul Payten | Sustainable Business Group |
| Frank Garafalow | BMCC Program Manager Terrestrial EcoSystems |
| Jan Thornley | Planet Ark |
| Graeme Patterson | Wentworth Falls Soccer Club |
| Megan Benson | Blue Mountains Children's Theatre |
| Meredith Hayward | Cox's River Escapes |
| Mary Cunningham | Ageing Disabilities and Home Care |

GROUP 4

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Gary Werskey | CAST |
| Paul Beaumont | Hazelbrook Chamber of Commerce |
| Peter Shenstone | Planet Ark |
| Natalie Newton | Songs of the Wind |
| Lin Mountstephen | BMCC Cultural Development Co-Ordinator |
| Nancy Etccl | Mt. Victoria Community Association |



Appendix B: Personal Visions

Following is a detailed listing of the personal vision statements handed in by most participants at the end the focus group. The visions are presented here as the participant wrote them and have been listed under the actual focus group they attended. See Appendix C for a copy of the stimulus material.

Workshop 1

Tuesday 27th November 2001, 9.00am to 12.00pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

J. Bawden, Blue Mountains Hospital

“ I hope the Blue Mountains will be - a beautiful place to live - natural and built environments. Have a healthy population - it will be an older population (a given) hopefully where most live independently. Health services will be of good quality and meet the community's needs but most people won't need them very often because they are healthy anyway. “City to have equity of access - accessible, affordable housing - so that people can live in and participate in the community regardless of age and disability (accessible, affordable housing is a vitally important precursor of the health of a population). There is religious and ideological freedom. Social/welfare services meet the needs of the population.”

Mick Barrett, Mountains Outreach Community Service

“A community in which families have a sense of belonging to. Families feel secure and pride in their community and the environment of the Blue Mountains. There is recognition and celebration of diversity among the people .”

Rob Smith, Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens

“Maintain environmental values so the vegetation, fauna, water quality are conserved and the quality of the environment is returned to pre-European levels. Tourism is seen as enhancing values. People are part of conservation of this unique environment. Wild plant rescue a Council policy. Improve fire management - not damaging the bush.”

Annis Byron, Freelance Professional Actor (helping to establish Blue Mts Artists' Network

“In the year 2025 the vision encapsulated in the name of our city, Blue Mountains City of the Arts will be a manifest reality..... opportunities for local professional artists across disciplines to work in the mountains, providing a real contribution to the cultural richness of the area for the benefit of locals and visitors. Underpinning everything - strong concerns for care of natural environment.

Karen Van Woudenberg, Blue Mountains City Council

“That Children's Services buildings will be community friendly and grow with a community need i.e. multi-purpose. That play space be a safe and challenging environment accessible to all the community. ”

John Moffat, Integral Energy

“In having a vision you must first set some goals. I see the major goal as being able to 'live and work in harmony with the environment'. In order to achieve this goal we need to encompass the five principals that have been identified in public opinion polls and community workshops. They are: Looking after our natural environment. Looking after the people of the Blue Mountains. Working in the Blue Mountains. Living and playing in the Blue Mountains. Moving around the Blue Mountains. By



building a plan in consultation with the community that harmonizes these five principals, you will build a City that will remain sustainable long past 2025."

Nigel Bell, ECO Design Architects/Consultants

“Compact villages (with a few urban villages - Katoomba, Springwood, Blaxland, Blackheath?) of rich social diversity and compact built form of design and sustainable merit. Home-based employment, studios over shops/apartments, around urban transport modes. University campus in upper Mountains. 'Green fingers' of trees and vegetation (endemic, nature, limited exotics) entering towns/villages, with always views out to nature. Compact form enhances fire defences. Sustainable business/industries the norm - with Mountains leading the way for Sydneysiders - as people visit to be inspired by our ongoing 'Sense of place' and how we've learnt to retain that of quality - whilst looking forward sustainably. A creative Blue Mountains, where the soul is touched by nature and inspired to create endeavor. Sustainable peace, prosperity, in harmony with 'planet'.”

Erst Carmichael, CORE

“A city within a World Heritage National Park must make its first priority projection of the natural environment, which is the reason for the World heritage listing. It is also very important to retain and restore the historic buildings and archaeological sites of the region. The Coalition of Residents for the Environment is particularly concerned with the issue of sustainable transport. This means that the community, Council and State Government should be working together to attain a situation where public transport is inexpensive, safe, frequent and accessible. The emphasis needs to be taken away from the roads and motor vehicle transport and moved toward public transport, cycleways and walkways. NB Also removal of large trucks from the road - freight onto the rail. My vision for Lawson in the future sees the restoration and enhancement of the historic nature of the village and the preservation of the natural environment surrounding it. This vision retains the sense of community and the special town character of Lawson, something which will attract people to visit and stay a while. At a recent workshop I attended at the Mid Mountain Centre, in Lawson, we were asked to imagine ourselves in 30 years time in the same place. What would it be like? The main difference in my vision was that there was no, or little, traffic noise! What a change that would make. How much more peaceful would this place be without the constant roar of trucks and traffic? the rest of the vision included what we have today, with an even stronger sense of community (community gardens etc) and the restoration of historic buildings, monuments and bushwalking tracks. The historic and environmental features of the village, and its surrounding bushland, within a World Heritage National Park, ensures that visitors will be attracted to the area in the future. With efficient, safe and cheaper rail travel (the original Blue Mountain was an attractive railway town) the necessity for a 4 lane highway is removed. Given the political, environmental and economic difficulties associated with the future of oil products, governments should be funding sustainable alternative to roads for moving people and freight around, and thus avoiding destroying a historic village like Lawson. The main problem with the pretty drawings on display in the hotel and newsagent is that they do not capture the essence of Lawson. It is not enough to build 'heritage' style buildings to replace what we have now-historic buildings and a precinct in the centre of town which is the focal connection between the station, the road and the community. By demolishing any of the historic buildings the RTA is contributing to a loss of history, loss of village identity and the suburbanisation of mountains towns and villages. With restoration of the historic buildings of Lawson and upkeep of walking tracks, the village could be returned to its former state of an attractive place to visit and stay. This may require funding from government bodies, to ensure that the whole village centre is restored. On the other hand, demolition of the buildings along the highway and the intrusion of a 4 lane highway through the centre of the village, could destroy Lawson forever and create in its place the clone of a Sydney suburb which would attract few visitors. Is this really looking to the future? We have the choice of ending up with another Blaxland or Hazelbrook style suburb with nothing to distinguish it as a truly historic mountains town, or ending up with something which beautifies what we already have, more like the restoration of the village atmosphere of Leura or Glenbrook. If we accept the service land option that has been put forward by the Council, and 'slightly' modified by the RTA, we are accepting that the history of Lawson means nothing, except for that which is off the highway. Yet the highway and its shops are a link with the historic past of Lawson, as an early railway village. A vision of Lawson must include all of its history. The doubts surrounding what would be built as a 'new' shopping centre create massive uncertainty for the shopkeepers and residents of this community. The plans that are on display were not the ones resulting from the Town Study, which involved lots of consultation and were agreed to by the people. These plans were rushed through before the last council election in a most undemocratic way and were the result of the Retail Assessment, which followed the Town Study. This was put on 'display', meaning the public input make written comments, and then the 'Service Lane' option was recommended by a council staff report with no public input, apart from 6 people giving a 3 minute speech at the Council meeting. The Council made a decision on this 'preferred option' without even a public meeting, let alone a charette. The only councilors to raise the issue of further public input were Carol Gaul and Angelique Henson. No extension of time was even granted for the exhibition period for such an important issue - and there are still people in Lawson who are unaware that a decision to demolish the shops has been made and what this means. Furthermore, the decision made by Council to demolish the Lawson shops and allow a 4 lane highway to be pushed through the village centre, taking school playground and complicating the area for children walking to school, ignores the 200 or so signatures on a petition. These people requested an option which retained shops, school playground and heritage. The shopkeepers and residents of Lawson deserve better than this. If we work together to preserve the historic nature of this village, with a vision that includes the



enhancement of what we have with appropriate funding to carry out, we could have an impact on the government bodies which are making the decisions. It is not too late"

Geoff White, Mountain Artery P/L

“A vision is for a united community which prides itself on environmental leadership. A balanced approach to managing tourism and a sustainable local economy . A safe place to live. An artistic, creative and unique culture the whole community is proud of.”

Helen Walker/Jan Carnes/Paul/Genevieve Carey, Mountains Community Transport

“Truck free highway. Easier access on and off highway to streets and houses. Reduction to traffic noise. Better rest stops facilities e.g. add gazebos to the popular rest areas, more seating (covered). Peaceful environment. Improved access to all facilities. Affordable coffee shops and eateries. Railway stations - safety/access. More trains off peak. Community living. Mountains identity. Recognition of uniqueness of mountains - rural/urban. Preserving flora and fauna. No litter or graffiti. Elderly - friendly shops/ shopping centres. Phase out all exotic plantings! BMCC should never use exotic plants on roadsides - and should try to use endemic species - and how about policing the planting or having of NOXIOUS exotic and nature species. Building codes to reflect the 'timber mountain cottage'. Open top bus tours from Glenbrook - Mt Victoria. I wish that the Blue Mountains would become a cleaner place to live in and also that we always have the opportunity to preserve our bush and the wilderness so that I can go as often as I want bushwalking with my friends and have a breath of fresh air!!”

Vera Costelo, Enviro-Tru

“The City of the Blue mountains has developed its role as a Sustainable City with various living models that demonstrate how people can not only live in harmony with nature but further enrich it. The vision to 'live sustainably within a national park' has spawned all kinds of cottage and home-based industries that mean far fewer people have to leave the mountains in search of income, e.g. co-operatives that turn 'waste' into products, live-in educational programs that train residents as well as visitors in the ways of sustainability. Residents boast that they only require their garbage to be collected twice annually and this is converted into either charcoal or energy. Landfill is a thing of the past.. There is less traffic on the once-hazardous highway - residents make use of the excellent light rail and mini bus systems as well as the intra-village cycle ways. And most of the remaining vehicles now run on hydrogen.. To sample the creative and innovative productivity of its residents and to sense the serenity of a community that has learned to live happily within limits.”

Robert Greenwood, Blue Mountains City Council

“A model where urban settlement, economy and the environment can be in harmony and the village character and sense of community is retained. Build on the World Heritage listing - change in lifestyle, change in development, change in economy. ”

Anthony Turnbull, Century 21 Combined Katoomba

“The ideal environment for the year 2025 would be one in which the natural assets of the region remain untouched, preserving the beauty of the region for the local residents and maximising tourism. Streetscapes in the area maintained to preserve the implicit character of Katoomba *but not kept "in amber"*. Sensitive development of the CBD and residential areas which has recognised time does not stand still and new structures and designs or even redevelopment is not inherently bad. Flexibility in development approvals encouraging business, helping keep local employment high, and not discouraging initiative. Medium density housing that gives opportunity for growth and attracting productive new residents to bolster the community and the business base. Infrastructure that meets the demands and expectations of residents living in a new era of technological advantage not stalled through over-regulation and red tape. Economic planning that provides amenities demanded by residents and stemmed the loss of local buying power to centres such as Penrith.. Katoomba will have become a real business and shopping centre with competitive business attracting residents of townships up, rather than down the mountain, no longer just a tourist destination. ***The aim should be to see the city as a place for people and understand that in giving people an attractive place to live and work, and the facilities to achieve those things, the city will prosper and the residents will benefit.***”

Lee Morgan, BMCC

“People of the Blue Mountains are very connected to their place. New housing is nearly self sufficient in water, and energy and older housing is being fitted with more efficient energy and water saving to reduce the ecological footprint of the blue Mountains from the 2001 level. Our urban area has been contained within the limits set at the turn of the century, and the most damaging and ill-suited development has been replaced by bushland, the creeks run clean and wildlife is evident through the green corridors of our City. The villages are vibrant, lively, diverse. Work opportunities in the Mountains have reduced the need to travel daily from the area. The Mountains is a centre for higher education sustainability, turning theory into practice in urban design and cultural richness. The people of metropolitan Sydney value their World Heritage area, they know and delight in the natural and cultural values of the Blue Mountains. People of the world are welcomed here to enjoy these values. ”



Richard Anthony, Florczak

“Cycle-way linking towns of the Mountains. Consolidate any future development. Complete dual carriageway to Katoomba. Develop the Mountains as a learning centre i.e. University Campus. Allow multiple hiring for taxis. Government incentives for car pooling i.e. tax rebates. Business incubator for new start-ups.”

Allan Bewley, Warrimoo Citizens Association

“Energy efficient house designs to reduce pollution. Improving natural vegetation. Parkway corridor of trees from hospital to Blackheath. Reducing road transport - increasing public transport. Increasing youth facilities. Recycle water from all sewerage plants.”

J. H. (Jack) Tollhurst, Rural Fire Service - Blue Mountains District

“The objectives of a better place to live must be a safer place. What are the hazards? Bushfires and drugs perhaps. Bushfires pose an eminent natural disaster - right here on our doorsteps. We must and can mitigate bushfire threat and maintain threat to acceptable levels. This is all about controlling fuel levels in and around our homes. In doing this we might have to push the bush back a bit and create asset protection zones. From the outer edge of the APZ we should preserve the natural environment - our beautiful world heritage listed national park. Remember, the owner of the fuel is the owner of the fire!! Drugs are threatening our youth . Good place to start would be to clean up Katoomba!”. Transport - Narrow focus on trucks. GWH is a major highway serving Central West. Surely a super highway in isolation from mountain villages must be the answer. When will we wake up? When will we?”

Ruth Levy, Blue Mountains Home Modification

“All humans living sustainably with the natural environment. Adequate housing that is livable by all and that these dwellings are accessible. All the people in the city are thinking at least 25 years ahead. Housing is at very least adaptable. Safe and affordable transport.”

Barrie Reynolds, Blue Mountains Historical Society

“A city that provides for a relaxed lifestyle in friendly communities, with a safe environment free from crime, particularly burglary, violence and vandalism; With reliable rapid response from fire, ambulance and police services. (The above are critical requirements). With access to a good range of retail and service facilities; With access to a good range of cultural, heritage and social activities; Together with easy access by simple fast public transport between villages and to (and from) major centres (Penrith & Sydney) to augment the above and also provide for easy links with relatives and friends in the cities. (The above are important desirables); With villages that are not disrupted and isolated by streams of fast dangerous traffic and ear battering heavy vehicles. (This is vital to the future of the region as a desirable residential area and even a tourist area. If the road problem is not solved the Blue Mountains can expect to decline in importance for there are many other regions of Australia that offer comparable attractions and are also quiet havens - e.g. Tasmania and North Queensland. I would hope that Council will press more vigorously for the solution of the present growing problem. With Western Sydney now accounting for 10% of the population of Australia the dimensions of the fast growing problem can be appreciated).”

Anonymous

“Employment. Transport -bus, rail, car. Environment reduction in carbon dioxide emission. greater emphasis on the use of natural gas - in home, buses, cars. retail shopping outlets. Maintain a village atmosphere. Friendly locals. No drugs.”

Anonymous

“A sustainable community that embraces and values the past while it carefully manages the future. Future generations - ensure a range of affordable housing. Young families of the future can still afford to move and enjoy a range of accessible services & facilities.”

Anonymous

“Access to retail services, child facilities. Sophisticated diverse community with great emphasis on the cultural aspects and beauty. Beautiful place that attracts tourists. Balance between attracting tourists and maintaining natural beauty.”

Anonymous

“The Blue Mountains has a history at inviting the world to walk amongst and live in nature. I would like to see the continuation of this 'harmony with the natural world' with gardens full of native flora and birds - becoming an extension of the bush. A place



where all children are brought up with a sense of sharing the Blue Mountains with native animals. A place where we learn to live with nature and compensate for the impact on bio-diversity through sound sustainable development and living practices.”



Workshop 2

Tuesday 27th November 2001, 1.30pm to 4.30pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

Harry Berwick, Katoomba North Public School

“Katoomba shall be a place where the youth can see a future, which is both rewarding and challenging. Students will be encouraged to participate in civic actions as a pre-requisite to their studies and their overall social development. There will be opportunities for the elderly to be active participants within the community. Future employment for all; support structures for those less fortunate; youth.”

Liam O'Sullivan, Mountains Youth Resource Organisation

“A city where people want to spend their life time. Spiritual/ecological/individual/cultural diversity. What do we take pride in as a city - city of innovation. What do we want to be known as? Our most important idea - that people are proud to say “I am from the Blue Mountains”. A city that people want to come back to. A city that values and appreciates cultural/individual diversity without judgment. A city that embraces the spirituality of the natural environment. A city of which people are proud to say they live in or visit.”

Louise Cameron, BANC

“A community that values all ages, races, genders and cultural values. A community or communities that support people who go through periods of crisis or unemployment. Has recognised the changing work patterns and life-cycle problems of individuals by providing quality life-style options in balance with the environment. Not a 'City' but a Consortium of Villages.”

Rosalind Gibson, "The Loft" Guesthouse

“I envisage: a city which is unpolluted, environmentally protected by appropriate policies, which is also supportive of businesses in the area and residents. A city which can provide wholesome sporting and creative outlets for our children and the children of visitors. A city which retains its charm of "yesteryear" and in which people can flourish and be valued. A city which values the culture and religious and political diversities of its residents and which strives to retain its country feeling of community. A city in which people from the whole spectrum of the socio-economic strata can fit in and feel at home. A city with fun and stimulating activities which will attract tourists. A city with the full range of accommodation options. A city with caring and intelligent leaders. A city with strong and dynamic churches. A city which consults with its residents. Thank you for the opportunity.”

Paul Heath, Blue Mountains City Council

“I would like to see the Blue Mountains continue to protect its natural environment, allow responsible development the enhances and contributes to its natural heritage whilst allowing the opportunity for people to work locally. To foster and encourage industry that complements our World Heritage listing that is imaginative and has vision for what can be achieved rather than what can't. I believe we have the opportunity to demonstrate on a regional and probably a national level how to get the balance right between the needs of a diverse community and the protection of our natural environment. Effective leadership and broad community ownership of the future direction of the Blue Mountains is critical otherwise apathy and negativity will take us where no one wants to go.”

Richard Quartermaine, BIZNET

“My vision for the Blue Mountains City is one of maintaining the region as an area of outstanding natural beauty complemented by careful management of quality development. As a part of the world that will remain distinctly attractive to visitors who will, through their spending, sustain a thriving business community that will in turn provide employment and enjoyment to a broad range of age groups. As an environment that people are proud to protect in co-operation with law enforcement that encourages, through physical presence, lawful behaviour but is most intolerant of vandalism and unsociable intimidation. As a clean, attractive, law abiding city that has over the past 24 years to 2025 encouraged its landlords to return some of their profits into their properties, the residents to support their local businesses, legitimate associations and amenities and the authorities to co-operate in every respect to achieve this aim”.

N. Hiffernan, MCRN Disability

“Sustainable. Accessible. Well designed. Full employment. Safe...??? Integrated well designed accessible built environment”.



Samantha Paish, Katoomba Little Athletics Club

“Ideally, we would like an all-weather facility for athletics where we could offer training, coaching and activities for both able-bodied and disabled children. We would also like to offer these facilities to older high school, young adults and seniors as well, but we do not have the facilities and funding to do this. We would like these facilities linked to a public transport system. We would like to offer fitness programmes for children (5-20) in conjunction with adventure sports i.e. rock climbing, bushwalking etc”.

Robin Mosman, Blue Mountains Conservation Society

“The bushland, including urban remnants in people's gardens, within Council reserves and the National Park, valued and well conserved. A level of population which enables the community to maintain its sense of community, and which makes possible the control of human impacts on the environment. A smorgasbord of leisure activities that involve people with the environment and increase their knowledge and understanding of it. In this way, its meaning and value in their lives can become more significant, enriching and sustaining to them.. A TAFE college and a branch of the University of Western Sydney which offer a range of educational opportunities based on a focus of achievable and workable environmental excellence (e.g. in planning, building, eco-tourism, environmentally-aware horticulture etc) and hospitality, tourism and small business development (also based on integration of environmental principles).”.

Kerrin O'Grady, Winter Magic Festival Inc

“Environment integral to the vision and maintenance and conservation of environment informs all development and planning decisions. Cultural diversity is maintained and enhanced. Aspects of gender, cultural background, age, political differences and aspirations, economic status, family identities. Maintenance of village identity and uniqueness. recognition of historical aspects including Aboriginal, white settlement. improved public transport to lessen the dependence on road transport. Strengthening educational opportunities. The Blue Mountains City - an environment of natural and cultural diversity. Nature and culture. Ecological. Safety, freedom. Off-beatness. Sense of community. Co-existence of black and white. Ecological. Knowledge of diversity.”

Jenny Hill, Leura Park Bushcare

“Blue Mountains - 2025”. In 2025 we have been through a process of investigating existing models of living well - justly, morally, cooperatively and simply and in ways that no longer destroy the environment or create scarcity for some or cause social breakdown or deplete resources. We have created this way for the Blue Mountains' community. We do not see ourselves as an isolated and closed entity but rather a community that is part of the planet. Economic opportunity - In 2025 economic goals focus on local and regional jobs, local services, local production using local resources, local waste management and recycling. We have small-scale, highly self-sufficient economies with less dependence on long distance transport or on resource-hungry and environmentally damaging enterprises. Fewer people commute to work and there is less need for transport. There is less reliance on importing goods and services. For example we have a number of established centres of excellence - sustainable housing (which also maximises fire protection within the building design) and sustainable landscaping. These have also become enterprises in terms of information and knowledge production. We are also continually looking at new initiatives to create employment opportunities within the Blue Mountains. Tourism provides quality experiences within a guiding framework based on Ecologically Sustainable Development principles. These standards for tourism are regulated and enforced, making the Blue Mountains a centre for excellence in eco tourism. An enterprise partnership between council and community runs interpretive guiding courses and workshops on 'sustainable tourism practices within a World Heritage site'. People flock from overseas to learn about these practices. Community - In 2025 there are cooperative systems, genuine participatory decision making, real community-council partnerships, more transparency in processes and more opening up of opportunities for community to impact on decision making and real engagement in the process. A Community Development Collective was established in 2005. Its initial goal was to identify and organise local productive resources of skill energy and expertise to create enterprises and new sectors of economic activity for previously poor people and people who were unable to work. The Collective has established mutually productive links with old firms. Unemployment and poverty are eliminated. Voices which were once excluded are now part of decision making and participate fully in the present system. justice and ecology take precedence over limitless economic growth, consumption and profit. Community gardens and workshops are well established. Community working bees and market days are regular occurrences. The establishment and use of commons where people come together formally and informally for a range of activities - local, cheap entertainment, concerts, dances, picnics, crafts, festivals, choirs, comedy clubs, rituals, celebrations - are a wonderful reminder of how far we have come in developing our sense of community. Environment - In 2025 Ecologically Sustainable Development principles are the umbrella framework that guide all decision making in the Blue Mountains. The principles adopted are well understood in a very practical way by members of the community. These principles are The Precautionary Principle; Inter-generational equity; improved valuation, pricing & incentive mechanisms; conservation of Biodiversity & Ecological Integrity; limits on natural resources use; global perspective, qualitative development; constant natural capital and sustainable income; efficiency and resilience; community participation. In 2025 we have well established educational and legal frameworks that apply to all land owners in the blue Mountains in regard to managing and protecting the environment



on their block and adjoining bush blocks. This applies to all new developments and existing dwellings. People plant local provenance plants in their yards and happily look after remnant bush in adjoining bush blocks. We have a strong and enforced Vegetation Management Order. Council also employs people as educators in relation to helping newcomers manage and protect the environment on their block and adjoining bush blocks. Bushcare groups number in the 100s and are well supported by the community. Bush care forms a major economic enterprise. Growth and development - A comprehensive assessment of the infrastructures that were needed in 2002 was made and this was used as a basis for making decisions about the current infill, development and infrastructure needs. There are now clear and agreed limits to urban development and infill in the Blue Mountains. Renewable energy sources and alternative technologies which minimise use of resources and control the impacts of humans on the environment have been adopted. More resources for research into these technologies have been allocated this year. We have, at the same time, developed ways of living well using only a fraction of the energy consumption levels per capita that we had in 2001. Transport and access - In 2025 public transport is subsidised and we have moved to pedestrian, cycle and public operated transport, such as the development of a community bus service which is open to everyone."

Tracy Keevers-Kelle, KNC

“Protect and honouring of Aboriginal sites. Clean air. Open space. Safe highway. Happy, healthy, safe people. Protected natural environment. Affordable housing.”

Rob Mijssud, Blue Mountains City Council

“Good access, roads, paths. Balance between development and environment. Maintain the uniqueness of mountain villages. Community. World Heritage.”

Paul Koen, BMCC

“I would like to see a city that has constructively capitalised from the strengths - natural environments; tourism; quality of life; proximity of Sydney to create a positive and progressive city.”

Simon Fox, BMCC

“A clean city with clean air and clean waterways (that kids can swim in). A 'diverse' city successfully integrating and valuing different age and ethnic groups. An 'accessible' city that provides pathways of travel by foot or by wheels that are safe and easy to use and with a range of transport options including cycling. A 'fun' city with lots of things to do in harmony with the environment. A safe city. An 'affordable' city that provides a range of housing choice. A city with a 'soul' derived through strong community.”

Anonymous

“A city which is a vibrant diverse community that provides local employment opportunities and socially inclusive activities and opportunities for what are current socially disadvantaged and isolated individuals”.

Anonymous

“Maintain local village environments, individual townships and supporting communities, accommodates visitors and through 'traffic'. Focus on local ownership of infrastructure and facilities. Safe, accessible, efficient transport corridor including balance between motor vehicle and public transport.. Co-ordinate approach to development, utility works to ensure efficient use of resources, management of environmental impacts etc. Community - Safety - safe environment : personal, community, hazards (environment) access/transport modes. Flexibility and growth to accommodate 'whole of life' (birth → death). Amenity and beauty of natural and built environment.”

Anonymous

“A safer and friendly linkage of communities with a diversity of accessible education, employment and cultural experiences for residents and visitors. Sense of identity. History and natural environment. Living well. Caring. friendly. Diverse experiences close to nature”.



Workshop 3

Wednesday 28th November 2001, 9.00am to 12.00pm, Blaxland Community Hall

Paul Trevaskis, Blue Mountains City Council & TUA

“Reduction of travel by motor vehicle - 60% in 10 years; 20% in 25 years. Increase transport services - bus and rail. Increase support for Commuter and Transport Users Association. Increase services - bus to Penrith and across the Mountains. More freight on rail freight. Increase employment - commercial, industrial, educational. 90% school teachers and pupils go by public transport.”

Roger Young, Excellent Earthcare

“The City within the World Heritage Park of the Blue Mountains is under seige. Practices to reduce degradation of the Park should be instated through development of an infrastructure which will enhance its meaning to both community and visitors alike. Each village association should be encouraged to develop regular maintenance teams of volunteers to care for the park within their vicinity. This will help to unite and educate the community. The Council should pursue a policy which will bring larger businesses to the City so that our people do not need to commute long distances to work. This in turn will create more time for education, recreation and volunteer work within the park. The City should also undertake to educate its citizens in the history and uniqueness of the park and to encourage the community to pull as a team in the management of the city. Further growth of the city should be limited to existing corridors and village centres. transport infrastructure should be improved to allow people to move freely throughout the park.”

D. Johnson, BMCC

“Economically prosperous rate - low unemployment. Community support network - formal and informal networks. Residents enjoying living here - with other people - with environment. Residents acting sustainably. Residents enjoying living here with other people within environment.”

Narelle Wheatland, GROW Employment Council

“My vision is for a clean safe and inclusive community, where all people are valued and listened to. A strong economic mixed base for local people to work and develop their potential and encourage those of our children. Educational opportunities for all across mountain linking with a variety of sources ie Unis etc. changed attitude to one of promise and pride in quality and sense of strong community built on communication. Facilities for youth given strength and importance. Availability of recreational activities such as concerts/dances as schools do currently. Retain the village atmosphere. Increase sporting involvement. Encourage mixing of age groups. Encourage youth to be involved in volunteer organisations. Access to less advantaged to all facets of community ie disabled, mentally ill, etc.”

Roger Grealy, RAID

“Like the 94% - preserve national environment - air, water, bush, birds. I would like to see cycle ways, increased use of public transport, community debate on population, legal protection for Blue Mountains water courses, an informed and active resident community, council leadership on protecting our unique World Heritage environment, more funding for weeds management, an expansion of community involvement in programs like 'adopt a creek'; recognition by council that the vast majority of residents want to preserve our quality of life and only a few (real estate agents, developers, some allied professionals) want to turn the mountains into just another suburban zone - for their economic benefit”.

Gail Cluff, BHS

“Environmental sustainability. Small community environment. Demographics are changing also, cultural, social. A community where the population is knowledgeable and respectful of environmental, cultural and social issues. Youth focus on future employment, recreational activities.”

Rosie Smith, MCRN

“Reduced is isolation. More safe recreational activities for young people. Preservation of bush and natural, peaceful environment and village atmosphere. Greater work opportunities within the mountains to enable build community cohesion. Improved highway access or alternative routes for residents. Enhanced artistic/creative community with visible opportunity. cultural diversity.”



Estelle Godkin/Maureen Goetze, Blue Mountains Netball

“Recreational facilities for children and youth. More community group involvement not just individuals. Encouragement of young to become involved in community activities, fire brigade. Sense of community working together.”

Paul Richardson, BMCC, Amateur Beekeepers Assn.

“Greater level of public involvement in the operation of the city - decision making, openness, accountability, volunteers working with council. Water that is safe to swim in all of the time. Further develop the link between the environment and business and residents. Recognition that a healthy environment relates to healthy business relates to healthy community. Greater emphasis on learning and integrating this with council..”

Lyn Trindall, Winnalee N/C

“I would like the future of the blue Mountains to be more accessible to residents and visitors. I feel that they many walks and lookouts need to be upgraded and signposted, with these signs giving the time needed for each walk. Local bus service needs to be upgraded to address isolated areas, not just along the ridges. this renewed local transport needs to be an on-call service similar to Blue Ribbon Coaches at Newcastle. Local community services could take bookings for the local area (eg Neighborhood Centres) with phone contact to the transport available in their area. Nipper buses would be more cost and fuel effective. Young people need bowling alleys close to transport, timezone recreation facilities. Better communication between young people and older residents needs to happen, with secure concerts for dancing and socialising - this would save young people having to drive to Penrith for their entertainment. Housing for over 55 years (60 years needs to carry stipulation and control that re-sale of these homes must be to older residents. Currently this does not take place with SEPP 5 policy. More drug and alcohol counsellors need to be employed in the mountains with a Drug Rehab Centre in the Lower Mountains. We must be strong enough to stop development when this is needed.”

Pamela Smith, Braemar Gallery, Springwood

“Blue Mountains has own unique regional planning scheme not tied to state planning policies. Sustainability has been achieved. Cultural, social heritage and environmental issues are now addressed holistically in council LEP. Tourism is spread across entire city - not only upper mountains. residents are now better educated re environmental issues and understand how they impact on their own quality of life. Catchments, bush land native F and F. Heritage is addressed and ambiance of towns retained by renovation of buildings etc and reuse. Council has realised that development in towns by high rise, multi unit and SEPP5 impacts heavily on environment as on ridge lines. Own University, regional gallery, own environmental education centre. Lead world in sustainability. Cap on population because of bush fire, environment etc. Retain local government.”

Michael Metcalfe, City Rail,

“World class reliable transport systems that meet the needs of all people living in the mountains. Environment we now enjoy away from the city environment - preserve natural environment - village atmosphere.”

D R Davies, the Buckland Retirement village

“My principal vision for the city of blue Mountains would focus on the preservation of: the unique village character, and the natural environment. Whilst preserving the general character of the mountains I would also strongly endorse appropriate development of Katoomba as a key tourist and commercial centre between Penrith and Lithgow. The appropriate development of this region, given the application of adequate environmental constraints, would greatly enhance the prospects of work in tourism or commerce for all sectors of the local community. It would also encourage the introduction and development of cost effective public transport systems and services for a greater percentage of the elderly residents of the mountains many of whom experience considerable difficulty with access to a myriad of services.”

L Lawless, Winnalee High School

“Preserved bushland settings with dwellings filling into the natural environment showing empathy with surroundings. Rich in sporting facilities and community facilities that bring people together as a community. the trend towards smaller subdivided blocks found in parts of Sydney should be resisted. The development of employment opportunities for young people in high technology areas is important.”

Edna Sampson, SWAG Rep

“Reliable accessible transport linking upper/lower mountains and outer areas eg Yellow Rock, Hawkesbury Heights, Mt Willow, Mt Irvine. GWH and rail stations and all 26 villages. Should be reliable, accessible. low cost, regular suitable for older and young people. Protection and maintenance and promotion as tourist sites the historical assets eg School of Arts site Springwood



and School of Arts buildings still in situ Glenbrook/Wentworth Falls. Provision of affordable homes and accommodation for lower income people, particularly the elderly and those with decreased mobility. Cultural diversity. Provision of environmental centre. Clean air and water. Preservation of bush land, closely monitored drainage etc. to protect streams etc. Provision of better local transport reducing need for more parking areas. Responsible local government open to the public for ideas. Less development in unsuitable areas.”

P Wright, Springfield Cres, Springwood

“All the fine plans and wish lists in the world will come to naught unless our society comes to grips with the way it is going. The drug scene is frightening and doing huge damage to our youth. Aggressive behaviour lack of discipline and parental control is out of control. This is not overall, there is a majority of our youth who are fine caring young people, also there is it seems too many whose sole enjoyment is in anti social behaviour, that at great cost to the community, smash assets and consider it fun. Before we plan for the future we must institute in our schools a method of instructing our young the basic decencies of society. It should be a set course as important as English and Maths that teaches why respect is a basis tenant of society, the rules by which we live and why it is important. Without something along these lines all the good things we might otherwise achieve will be spoiled by our living in a fortress society. Different areas will have different priorities. Here is Springwood traffic congestion is escalating all the time, sub-divisions off the Hawkesbury Road will create insufferable delays by 2005 let alone 2025. Accessing the Great Western Highway and railway station and associated domestic movements will be near to unmanageable. Year after year for decades we hear promises of more police on the streets but it never happens, apart from a few perfunctory occasions. Nothing but nothing substitutes for physical presence not even all the gee wizz technology that is now available unless it is married to the beat policeman. Though not a council issue it is an essential component of community well being. Council and police must interface. The one thing in this area that will be seen as a benefit by our citizens in 2025 and beyond will be the School of Arts Community Space (town Square). Truncated though it will be, the rescue of this community land will be the one obvious benefit that will be passed on to them, though they would not believe the struggle it took. Council had best not think that the power brokers in the Springwood Chamber of Commerce have given up on their designs for it either - the bees are still circling the honey pot. Sorry if you thought you could ask for a 100 word reply to such a complex question but it is too much to expect in my opinion. PS In a nutshell what I want for the future and think people in 2025 will appreciate is clean air and water, no congestion of roads, or buildings in harmonious and amiable surroundings and people comfortable on their streets, everything else flows from that.”

Anonymous

“Looking after the environment. Containing growth in the Mountains. Work, transport, youth, education.”

Anonymous

“I like living in a community with: 26 individual villages; responsible local government that I can influence; a thriving local economy based on tourism and services; natural bushland character; a caring/sharing community (aged, young people, disadvantaged); diversity.”



Workshop 4

Wednesday 28th November 2001, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, Springwood Bowling Club

Sonia Smavic, WIRES

“Control of pollution; burning wood, fires, petrol, bushfires etc. Conserving biodiversity. Protection of habitat in environment areas. Educate residents on control of domestic areas and protection of local fauna in bushland. Better public transport”.

Kim Sewell, Valley Heights Progress Association

“I want to help now to protect our wonderful Blue Mountains for my children and then their children, by being involved in bushland activities in my local area, preserving and protecting our natural and being a part of the regeneration of the natural vegetation. Fresh air, clean water and trees!! Promote local employment. User/Environmentally friendly transport system”.

Bronwyn Couch, Department of Aging Disability and Homecare

“Participation, inclusion, networking. Alternative routes, cycle tracks, commuter van rail links, all accessible, happen to be as a matter of course. Best use of technology – home industry. Transparent to be able to see the ‘view’. A web – networks, links. The highway becomes secondary. The ribbon development becomes secondary”.

Judyai Cowaro, Uniting Care Organisation

“A ‘civil society’ where community is strong and we all care for our neighbours. A diverse active haven from city life. Choice available at all stages of life, to everyone and including housing, lifestyle, employment, recreation and retirement. Sharing of resources – totally solar powered (use roads to produce heat). Frequent smaller trains (with freight trains having replaced trucks). Fewer cars – all carry 4 people or not allowed on road (or pay high tax to compensate)”.

Rex Fardon, Baeside Bed & Breakfast

“By the year 2025 I would like to see the following achieved in our City. A standard of environmental integrity in keeping with its World Heritage status. A completion of improvements to physical appearance and approaches to the township of Katoomba. A place where the residential and aged care needs of older, single residents are met by suitable medium to high density housing following appropriate studies of their needs. A place that has appropriate recreational facilities for young people which have minimal impact on the environment and which are the result of input from the young and youth workers. A higher standard of hands on service in the small business area of the hospitality industry. Most of the heavy goods traffic moved by rail. More tourist attractions in the Mountains apart from those traditional events eg. bushwalking tours over 2/3 days; gallery guides; slow-food festivals”.

Eltron Menday, Blue Mountains City Council Officer

“A unified commitment to maintaining a city of diversity in culture, urban form and distribution of population. Ensure that the natural form dominates; and that the environment and people are not overwhelmed nor threatened by the built surrounds. One city within the setting of the World Heritage listed wilderness. Maintenance of villages. Separation of consolidated urban areas, retaining village character and promoting natural and built attributes/sometimes a negative. No upper/mid/lower Mountain, one community as a whole. Do not isolate one sector from another”.

Michael Parrer, Datasol

“All power poles removed and power cables underground access to high speed data. No traffic lights on the highway. Restricted development, residential block to be kept large 1,000m sq. minimum”.

John Alexander, Lawson Chamber of Commerce

“A city dominated by nature and plant life with rapid unimpeded through access for trucks and those traveling further, and good access to individual town/village centres and facilities, more commuter parking – with individual village character maintained or enhanced – promote uniqueness of each village – traffic free precincts, each village to have natural features and business features highlighted Playground, mothers area, elderly respite, promotion of healthy outdoor nature pursuits eg. walking. High priority on rebuilding Lawson village and Great Western Highway widening. Wider range and more sporting facilities. Sporting/social clubs for young people. More housing in form of higher density apartments for couples and older people, close to train and transport. Promotion of overall Blue Mountains energy and enterprise, as well as individual villages showcasing whole of Blue Mountains. Much greater emphasis on arts and creative enterprises and easier access to studios and galleries Promotion of



industrial areas for smaller businesses and enhancement of attractiveness of industrial areas to attract artistic enterprises. Education and research centre?”.

Gary Bentley, TAFE

“Underground power/telephones. Environmentally friendly/business friendly/tourist visitor friendly. Safe and secure community. Sustainable environment. Cultural acceptance. Well educated populous. Opportunities to live and work within the region. More leisure and recreational facilities. Clean industry”.

Amanda Trevillien, Norman Lindsay Gallery

“A city that continues to attract and encourage artists and crafts people. A city that manages to avoid the ‘sameness’ that is creeping around Australia – due to service stations, fastfood outlets and estate developments. A city that tourists will never forget – spectacular views, clean air, natural bushland and native animals, friendly locals and a profusion of recreational activities and cultural events, with unique shopping and restaurants. Proud, slightly eccentric and stunningly beautiful!”.

Stephen McLaren, FLAG

“Energy efficient, ‘green energy’ capital of Australia. A capital for the Arts. Affordable housing for artistic practitioners. Centre of building, planning and architectural excellence. An environmental and social and cultural oasis of calm on the fringe of a city that is now being recognised as a ‘different world’ from the rest of Australia. Sustainable local industry supported by cultural and environmental tourism, low-key and benefiting a city within a World Heritage Wilderness. Australia’s Capital for the Arts with a thriving ‘grassroots’ artistic and cultural community attracting like-minded practitioners from all over the world. Rent-protected affordable housing for artists, writers, musicians, actors, craftspersons and other people who have much to offer our society but get little income back in return, and who have little or no job security. (Rent protection is what has allowed ‘interesting’ people to be able to afford to stay in Manhattan, for example.) An exciting and exacting architectural code for all new developments and renovations. A centre for great new architectural developments attracting world renown. ‘Slow tourism’ centre together with slow food capital of the world. Cohesive social planning open to a variety of pluralist and ‘edgy’ inputs. Tightest development controls in the country. Ecological purity and preservation of our greatest asset; the wilderness and its flora and fauna. Find new ways to communicate and promote the worth of this asset both to locals and to visitors. More local employment in smart jobs and/or low impact industry and enterprise. City of the Arts and of alternatives co-existing with the mainstream. A few culturally and environmentally appropriate sinecures to generate local employment, more widespread cultural, environmental and general tourism business, and to express the aspirations of the unique character of the Blue Mountains. Special attention must be paid to the re-development of Lawson which, owing to the ‘highway blight’ of gazetted road widening since the late 1950s, has been neglected and allowed to stagnate and go to ruin. Such a project will benefit a much wider Mid-Mountains Community which also, arguably, has been neglected somewhat. Highway - While safety and access are important issues, the RTA tend to put the needs of engineers and the vocal truck lobby above those of any other stakeholders. Support further upgrading of public transport, and strictly limiting further growth of highway lanes. Also support further development of rail freight. A fixed declaration should be secured from the State (or possibly federal) Government and enshrined in legislation, to the effect that there will be NO further highway widening on the Great Western Highway beyond the 4 lanes already planned. The Bells Line of road should be considered for any further road infrastructure and/or use short tunnels wherever highway goes past villages. Sustainable Development - Quality tourism that brings money into various towns; identity, consolidate, develop and communicate the identities of less well-known character villages; Glenbrook, Lawson, Katoomba, Mt Victoria, others? A world tourist area like the Cotswolds in the UK, is famous as a whole not for one particular ‘sight’ or one particular town. It’s famous for things like the distinctive honey-coloured stone architecture and so on. So should the Blue Mountains identity as a whole be broadened beyond Katoomba and Leura, and the tourist ‘burden’ and opportunities should be spread more equally. Blue Mountains by default will continue to show up be in greater and greater contrast to the urban sprawl and continuing density of Sydney. What is rare and unique becomes very valuable. Affordable accommodation for artists, writers, other ‘alternative’ occupations which make a valuable contribution to society but offer little money and no security. End the ‘highway blight’ and restore and enhance Lawson, so far as possible retaining and promoting its history, heritage, and village character. (So far as a 4-lane highway can allow!). Land use and development - Need to put the new EMP to bed ASAP as superannuated old instruments retain legal force. Need to reform the Land and Environment Court or at least arm the Council against it with stronger laws to support Council in these hearing. Much tougher penalties for infringements of various codes. Built Environment - Make this a second focus for this city as a complement to the issue of Environment. Create incentives for owners and developers to use architects for both small and major projects. Employment - Encourage small-scale, ‘niche’ green industries eg organic market gardening, herbs, etc. Edible native gardening permaculture centre like the former Earth Garden at Hazelbrook. Flexible consideration for business development proposals that demonstrate genuine commitment to: architectural and planning excellence. sympathetic usage of heritage and/or ‘adaptive reuse’. Low-impact on natural environment and eg noise. Better use of existing industrial areas, taking ALL noisy developments away from residential areas, particularly the shocking Recycling depot and adjoining Joyce factory in Whitton Street, Katoomba. Contain all noisy industry in existing industrial areas at Lawson, Katoomba and elsewhere. Would the laying of optic fibre cable produce more incentive for business to come up here in ‘smart’ local applications? Eg the idea of dedicated ‘commuter centres’ where people go to work



locally, using networked computers with lightning fast Internet connections, videoconferencing and all the latest communications technology. In My Dreams - Major arts complex to attract visitors from far and away as well as providing local employment eg independent film studio or local TV. Major gallery, major central public library for entire Blue Mountains; a 'head branch' similar to Gosford City, which has a major library and various dispersed branches. Lawson would be a central location, in a new building of course. One fabulous, beautifully designed central library. A renewed 'slow tourism' focus in the slow food capital of Australia. Clever ways to attract a slice of the tourism dollar across a number of towns. Lawson to emerge as a renewed community focus for the Mid Mountains. Architectural excellence in all new buildings. Restoration of all older buildings to bring back their heritage identity coherent town plan. Blue Mountains as a whole seen as a string of diverse and exciting locales, with clear identities based on their history and the attitudes and interests of current communities. Have a university campus in the Mountains, possibly collocated with a TAFE along the model of Nirimba at Blacktown, Ourimbah on the Central Coast, or Werrington (a FAR more attractive location eg for the growing number of international students, than say Penrith or Bathurst). Many academics and students already live up here. What about a Very Fast Train to Sydney, later extendable elsewhere? Village character - research, review and reinforce the history and character of each village, find ways to promote awareness and interest in these individual characters. Lawson - to be the subject of a separate submission from FLAG and other interested locals. Lawson is severely in deficit so far as Council support is concerned, and it is high time for this Mid-Mountains focus to get some attention."

Robert O'Brien, Acting D.P. Springwood High School

“Springwood High School would like to see a Blue Mountains community that is a nurturing, safe and broad-based learning environment, where the principles of equity, respect and justice for all members of the community and the environment are practised. Our vision includes the promotion and nurturing of diversity, individuality and creativity found within the students and staff and to enhance tolerance and caring in an increasingly multicultural Blue Mountains community.”

Ken Schaefer, Knapsak Creek Catchment Management Group

“Blue Mountains City in 2025 will have retained the ‘City in a Bushland’ character. Provision would be made for alternative housing in the form of medium density apartments concentrated around terminals of public transport. Much more use will be made of ‘geo-space’-space underground-for shopping, parking, commercial and light industry complexes. Rail will be the most important means of transport. Not only will the modern comfortable, reliable service take workers to an from the city but the freight service (subsidized by the State Government) will be so attractive it will greatly reduce the need for road transportation. Office space offering up-to-date electronic communication facilities will be available for hire thus reducing the need for daily travel to the city for some workers. Modern sporting facilities will be versatile, flexible, maintenance reduced. All this will be set in a functional landscape-that is, one that captures and uses the various resources, such as water, silt, seeds and nutrients as they pass through the natural landscape.”

Anonymous

“A city where there is space for people of various ages and cultures to be able to mix, have social contact and share their common humanity to celebrate. This will need to be supported and allowed to happen by the creation of ‘common space’ physical and otherwise so our “architecture” of our built environment needs to have less commercial orientation and more social/human orientation - at the moment young people are totally excluded.”

Anonymous

“Our vision for 2025. Council approves larger building blocks in villages to retain non-urbanisation. Public housing and aged care hostels or staged supported accommodation to be better integrated and available within each village. Reliable and adequate bus and rail services for commuters, particularly weekends. This affects tourists as well as residents. Greater use of rail freight, reduction of truck freight along highway. An alternate road access/exit through the Blue Mountains. More small business opportunities and employment. Greater police presence in each village to ensure safety, especially weekends. Reduced alienation between young people and their communities. Youth/community services funded to develop strategies to make positive links, networks and mentoring schemes in communities. World Heritage listing protected, clean streams, reduced pollution. Lower Mountains neighbourhood centre”

Anonymous

“An engaged, articulate and diverse community that is tolerant and lively. One with a range of secure employment opportunities, with greater urban concentration and reduced suburban sprawl. A city where our children can afford to live and can find employment”.

Anonymous



“I would like to see the town of the area maintained and further enhanced, however not restrained by the World Heritage area around us. A safe environment for our children and a clean city that would encourage them to stay in the area. A more unified community”.

Anonymous

“What sort of city do we want to leave to those who come after us? What is my dream. It is the year 2025 and the Blue Mountains City within the World Heritage National Park has become a truly sustainable city within the natural environment. It had won awards for its remarkable and sustainable achievements in all areas of city design. Tourists flock from all over the world to come and see the exciting vibrant city with the population fully engaged in the Ecological sustainable endeavors of the city. All this remarkable achievement has emerged because the local Blue Mountains Council way back in 2001 (25 years ago) embarked on a series of meetings to delve into the possibility of the City becoming a sustainable city. The momentum started from these fascinating encounters unleashed an unstoppable energy which swept the whole city into a search for a new way to live on the Blue Mountains - a life that would involve being involved in community, caring for others, and searching for new ways to be sustainable. As a result of this encounter a set of ecologically sustainable principles was put in place to mould and shape the city for the next twenty five years. The result has been breath taking - the ESD principles in which the city adopted (originating from the Rio summit back in the early nineties were:- Precautionary principle; inter-generational equity improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms; conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity; limits on natural resources use; global perspective; qualitative development; constant natural capital and sustainable income; efficiency and resilience; community participation. At first these were very strange terms that didn't mean much at all (some even scoffed at these 'greeny' terms) but the conveners persisted knowing the importance of such principles and how they really embraced the whole community perspective and eventually much good direction came from them. Our remarkable activity that occurred was the gathering together from the top to the bottom of the mountains on the highway and the whole community literally removed the plant coreopsis while in flower (now an annual event) so that now it has largely disappeared from the mountains-curse the lady who threw it from the train as it went up the mountain one sunny Sunday. On another occasion huge numbers of people gathered to form a human chain leading up from what were famous natural water holes in our creeks but now were silted up with tonnes of sand. Bucket by bucket hand by hand these tonnes were removed to restore the habitat that once flourished in these important water holes. These are just some of the fantastic stories that have emerged. City council practices have improved so much – much care now is taken in the transfer around the city of fill. It was discovered that RTA and other developments transferred gorse and broom around the city because fill was collected from gorse/broom infested quarries this has now been bought under control. Gorse and broom have now largely disappeared from the mountains due to successful but persistent biological control. Many great developments have emerged since those times but developments that are sensitive small in scale and retaining of the village myth that so many dwellers on the mountains wish to retain. The natural environment in this remarkable city is now celebrated and not seen to be a hindrance. The local ecology is literally re-establishing itself within the very heart of the City. Native indigenous forests abound with the local population having a high understanding of the surrounding ecology which they now fiercely protect and enhance. Field studies are numerous within the native forests and creeklines that abound within the City. 58 significant native plant species and 47 native animals. (In year 2000 there were only 19 significant plants species). Bushfire the curse for so many years has been largely conquered. Scientific endeavor has designed ways to limit regular burns to managed micro burns in keeping with the ecological structure of the bushland and systems are now in place whereby the possibility of wildfire is now much minimised however many regular burns occur in keeping with the needs of the ecology. The entire city is now ringed by a water main which runs along the back fences at the perimeter of town and any section can be opened to effectively douse the bushland if fire approaches with a fine but spreading spray. Most city areas are now rich statements of native vegetation with refurbished and most interesting urban forms which have been worked up and implemented by pro active planning mechanisms which is also carefully monitored for bureaucratic disease. Architects and Building Designers the likes of Chris Reardon & Phillip Cox now rejoice in doing an esd development in the mountains because of the encouragement and willingness from planning to work with the designers in developments on the mountains. Alternative energies abound. The University of Technology has literally transferred its Institute for sustainable Development centre up into the Mountains. ESD students come from all over the world to learn how to implement ESD into the urban and natural environment. One of the greatest achievements has been the serious treatment of stormwater running off the urban areas into the World Heritage National Park. Stormwater is now treated in each catchment to remove serious pollutants via new a cheap technology so that we can now swim in all creeks and even drink the water. All houses have a water tank at which the water is treated for drinking and other domestic usage. These numerous tanks also serve to slow the water flow back into the natural environment. All site stormwater is also treated before it leaves any properties or roads. The sewer tunnel is now largely abandoned and has been converted to a thrilling speedway tunnel, as each village now treats its own sewerage to such a high level that it can now flow into creeks. Stormwater has also now been treated at these treatment works before it flows into the World Heritage Park. People can now ride in bushland corridors from one township to the next without being choked by fumes. Townships are separated by bushland to retain their unique character. Each township has developed mythologies (bush stories) about their own unique areas and these are acted out each year in fantastic dramas that attract people from all over the world. The dramas start from the top of the mountains and are acted out in each township in superb colour and vibrance and interconnectedness often with superb fire dances and amazing giant figurines over a two week festival and all stories are intertwined and connected so the story is a long nature based story stretching all the way down the mountain like a



giant snake. A city in which we can carry out our living without dependence on the car. Everybody rides a bike, uses public transport. Small business has broken away from dependence on the car for transport. Solar/battery operated sustainable cycles are the most common and affordable form of transport around the city with the option of physical exercise or solar/electric cycles (most people have both depending on use). The noisy and disgusting railway and highway corridors have been placed underground (or simply covered over) and the townships have now reclaimed these areas as bushland and cycle corridors. Noise from these tow giant polluting snakes is no longer a problem. Housing is accessible, affordable, energy efficient, exciting in form, beautiful housing forms dominate the city. An exciting project started in year 2000 to search for ways to live a lifestyle which made access to housing more affordable has grown in strength so that now many residents live in low cost but most interesting and energy efficient housing. Most housing is five star rated, also commercial endeavors have a minimum operating rating of 5 stars. competitions are held annually to see who can achieve the highest energy star rating for energy efficiency in buildings. A local government scheme has seen the emergence of a scheme whereby most houses now have refurbished roofs which are now roofed by Photovoltaic tiles connected back to the local grid, thus contributing large amounts of the power requirements within the city. The entire city has been taken off the coal powered grid and is now powered by Green Power. Energy raters abound for both commercial and domestic ratings and make a good income. All houses and commercial and industrial premises must show a performance minimum of 5 stars. Many designers now skite about 7 and 8 star rated housing and commercial and industrial promises that do not need heating or cooling the year round. Materials are used that reflect where we live - a mountain myth of how we live in the Mountains is deliberately developed by planning. Stone and timber and steel statements. All timber used is native plantation timber. Double glazed windows are the norm, we no longer burn wood to keep us warm but have a wood fire occasionally to be romantic. The city has taken the exciting step of bringing the whole city off line from the power grid - wind generators (council sponsored) have been constructed in high wind areas of the city to provide power to the city for the majority of the year. The Aust Green house office is over the moon. Most of the population now works on the mountain in ESD related industry. All commercial premises use a system of natural lighting for work tasks to be automatically substituted by grid lighting (wind generators) when it turns cloudy. New developments are encouraged to be sustainable-solar/thermal energy systems provide for hot water and power needs for new developments so they do not draw at all on the wind power supplied to the city. Any new development must now provide for this. All people are included in the life of the city and everyone has a valued future. Graffiti does not occur because everyone is included and there is ample opportunity to display civic murals. Poverty is diminished most people have sustainable incomes. The selfish ambitious and destructive element is kicked off the mountains. Population is capped and definite boundary limits are in place. The population has imposed its own ban on further bushland clearance for development. The population now realise what a valuable asset bushland is. We live amongst the natural surrounds and cease pushing nature to the edge of the city. We all know and understand the ecological structures that we live within because we are educated to understand them. We now have a concept for educating people about life that is not based on an 18th century school model and take 18 years to crawl through but is new, exciting and not tried before. Children are no longer trapped in class rooms to be taught by one person all year. People no longer commute to the city but work locally. We learn to live with the concept of bushfire threat but look seriously at minimising this threat through measures that do not entail removal of vast amounts of bushland removal but develop techniques so the bush does not burn when we do not want it to. We recapture the mountain gems. (what is precious about living on the Mountains) We have truly achieve a remarkable string of village townships that are entwined with their natural surrounds but are vibrant, productive and successful and not afraid of development but development that respects and enhances the qualities of the natural habitat we dwell within. The vision of a sustainable future in the Blue Mountains city within the world Heritage National Park has at last been largely achieved. What next - we've only just begun."



Workshop 5

Thursday 29th November 2001, 9.00am to 12.00pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

Rod Fox/Fiona McCullough, NSW EPA-Sydney Local Government

“For the growth and stability of the Blue Mountains region the community should incorporate ecological sustainable development principles into its framework, to allow the environment (both natural and built), residential and industrial to co-exist in harmony. This can be achieved through excellent strategic planning, research and management. By achieving the above we will live in, and continue to enjoy our natural environment.”

Lowan Sist, BMTL

“A region that is totally native in its environmental management both commercial and domestically. Displaying best practice in all facets of sustainable industry and development. Considered a world leader and this an attractive destination for all levels of tourism. Demographically representative of the truly multi-cultural Australia, all levels of industry are committed and ‘in-house’ educational programs are dedicated to maintaining an environment where existing and new residents can achieve and develop within the region. Health and welfare infrastructure is totally capable of supporting itself and residents ‘in region’. A safe and exciting place to live and visit”.

Alan W. Ward, Blue Mountains Festival of Folk

“Less commuting, more people working from home via internet and multi-media links. Blue Mountains Arts co-op thriving. Arts tourism on level of ‘woodstock’. Public schools better resourced and linked with community. Campus of UWS at Katoomba – visual arts/performing arts/ecology. BMFF attended by thousands of overseas and interstate tourists. In our area at least ‘human resources’ will be people again. Youth groups formed that are not ‘daggy’ taking advantage of young peoples ‘tribal’ culture.”

Madeleine Boyd, E-Co Vision

“A council taking the initiative to implement sustainability frameworks (eg. LAZI). Community support, learning and action networks fostered as part of community development and participating democracy. Co-operative housing initiatives to address affordable housing. Stringent building codes re. Environmental Designs. Vibrant community centres which facilitate local trade, activities and city development. Local sustainable businesses serving local needs and linking to regional exchanges. Public transport meeting needs, restrictions or can use. Overall, local initiatives mindful of international drives of changes towards ecological and social sustainability. Local initiatives adapted to biophysical and cultural context to prevent environment harm and foster healthy communities.”

U. King, Bullaburra & District Progress Association

“In a city within a National Park I feel a lot of attention needs to be paid to highlighting the best features of the National Park.. People living here are often ignorant of the most suitable places to take visitors to show them what a wonderful area it is. House construction should be limited and block size maintained (no two to a block) no high rise building. Several areas are becoming far too congested with people cramming houses too big for block size up against one another open space is vital.”

John Hill, Blue Mountains Bush Care

“A place where people of all ages and backgrounds interact in a mutually respectful, nurturing and accepting way. Where the consequences of what we eat, buy and do is more transparent, and where people exercise informed choices in their actions. Where sections of the community are not labeled as young, old, Caucasian, social worker, environmentalist, town planner etc., but where they are accepted and listened to for their own particular specialist knowledge. Where all Councils decisions are made in accordance with a defined set of E.S.D. (ecologically sustainable development). Contributing to a healthy community within healthy environment.”

J. Lovric, K.L. Seniors

“Our environment is the most important concern, water, sewerage is the backbone of any town more so in a Mountain area these must be a high priority. How to understand our young people? Something has to come from ground roots, employment, sports, pride in their town. We need other than just tourist attractions for employment but not huge shopping centres, this is a hard question. Employment. Housing, try to assure our village character is kept by assuring no high rise buildings are allowed to happen and any sporting areas built with easy access to the public. Transport (public).”



John Hish

“The environment/plays a major part at development decision. Residents lifestyle is maintained via positive strategies. Transport/roads are a reflection of resident. Needs and not financial constraints. Health services reflects the needs of population. Tourism strategies to consider footprint philosophy.”

Wayne Lund, BM City Services

“Attitude. Blue Mountains is a community working together to achieve common goals whilst recognising and encouraging diversity of individuals. Town village issues do not drive conflict – a city based culture exists. Character. Development focuses on consolidation rather than expansion. ‘Land between towns’ is preserved and enhanced. Planning encourages urban redevelopment with higher population densities offset by increased recreation space. Transport. Transport within the Blue Mountains is accessible to all residents small business operate on all urban runs (extended to all feeder roads) and large buses run on railway tracks within the city providing an internal shuttle services that meets the needs of all residents, personal vehicle use is minimal. Better utilisation of existing transport corridor. Waste. The per-capita waste generation rate is less than 299kg/year (currently over 800kg/year) and the community practices resource (not waste) management”.

Graham Collins, Blue Mountains City Council

“Vibrant community for all who choose to live here, all ages, all homes, streams. Sustainable and affordable city, ecology, social/community/cultural, economically. Good links within and outside, transport, IT/communication.”

Steve Hackett, MMNC

“I see a conscious community of people who appreciate the need to balance all elements of our home in the Blue Mountains. The commitment of the majority of the community to environmentally friendly sustainable growth and development that aims to benefit all sections of our community, not just the wealthy. I see a city that is proud of its local Council and shares a common vision with its people, a Council that is reflecting the wishes of its residents in all decisions made. I am proud to take my place as a conscious member of the Mountains community and join with others to pass on to our young ones a home that is better in 2025 than in 2000.”

Peter Jones, Blue Mountains High School

“Natural environment maintained. Vibrant economy based on sustainable developments. High quality infrastructure that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors. Quality services and a social structure that develops a sense of place and community.”

Bill Langevad, Blue Mountains City Council

“The Blue Mountains of the future continues to inspire not one vision, but many. Each person who experiences this city finds not one place, but a multitude of places and experiences that inspire them and generate a deep sense of connection. For just as the majestic environment that surround this place create harmony through diversity, so to the city continues to value its heritage, its building, its landscapes, its streets and its people while continuing to respond ever more carefully to the challenges to come ‘sustaining communities within a World Heritage Environment.’”

Tim Tranter, Tread Lightly Eco Tour

“World Heritage City. A place people, visitors, residents enjoy being in easy to navigate, visually beautiful, calming to coincide with World Heritage. Operators. From city req high qualifications and accreditation to access the region. Bus Coach. Interchange dedicated to control. Blue Mountains University, learn, leading, inspiration. World Heritage (priority in city planning). Pride. Community. Cultural centre. Bike tracks to navigate the Mountains (fresh air photo’s).”

Paul Grimson, Blue Mountains City Council

“Be able to drink directly from Mountains streams again. Have only 20% of people traveling out of the city daily to their place of work. One household in three will have at least one person deriving their main income from home and we have centres of training and support for people wanting to establish businesses from home. Have a major tertiary education presence in the Mountains with combined University and TAFE campuses for both tele-learning and permanent learning centres. With vastly improved employment and education prospects, we will have seen a 40% increase in the retention of people in the 20-35 year age cohorts providing a greater balance within the social structure of the Mountains. The range of recreational opportunities, particularly for young people, has expanded and has become more relevant to needs. The village centres have all been revitalised and Blaxland, Wentworth Falls, Lawson, Springwood and Glenbrook now all rival Leura as showcase centres in their own unique ways. Katoomba is now recognised as a major tourist destination and is a central hub of cultural activity and the



gateway to the WHA. Tourism support industries are a major new and expanding niche sector with the reconfiguration of Lawson and Katoomba industrial areas. These industries support both local and non-local tourism markets. Have local communities that work together with the Council to protect and enhance our 'places'. Our younger people are more protective of our towns than any other social grouping."

Anonymous

“The Blue Mountains will always be a tourism centre, with therefore, a ‘fresh air economy’. Essential is to develop the facilities of the Mountains so that there is an actual presence of things that create a community, not to allow the community to be created by the fact of tourism. The support of centres of excellence is essential.”

Anonymous

“Consolidate and develop the communities and communities of interest of people living in the Blue Mountains to add to the quality of life of residents and visitors. To respect the natural environment and to ensure development is sustainable. Sustainability to develop the networks and support structure and groups of interest that help sustain and enrich the quality of life of people living in the Mountains, recognising the trends and changes that are taking place in the Blue Mountains.”

Anonymous

“Sustainable/affordable. Social capital – city based pride, common goals, villages belonging, city community united, participative/involved, community organisations, caring. Liveable – transport, health, shops, environment, links, communication. Safe – transport. Risk management – crime, natural hazards, health care. Environment - sustainable , internationally recognised, heritage. Employment – increased access to locally based employment eg. telecommuting.”

Anonymous

“The Blue Mountains will mirror our community values – sustainability, environmentally friendly, business friendly, tourist/visitor friendly. Improved educational – workplace education. Employment opportunities. Increased leisure and recreation facilities. Improved public transport.”

Anonymous

“Blue Mountains have a clear sense of identity, where residents feel proud, understand and support this identity. Significant resources have been committed to providing safer pedestrian/cycle infrastructure which links key ‘spurs’ to central villages and Councils east and west communities. The expression of being from the Blue Mountains City will mean that you embrace the principles of and accept the clearly defined constraints and opportunities this provides which influences our behaviour, health, transport, community.”

Anonymous

“The Blue Mountains will be a place filled with exciting ‘clean’ work opportunities, particularly in cultural industries, so people will be able to spend money locally. It will be a culturally pulsating place, with genuinely diverse communities giving a unique flavour. Young people will be attracted to the Mountains for lifestyle and economic reasons as will people from diverse cultures. People won’t have to commute. There will be a University and exciting recreation/entertainment options.”

Anonymous

“The city will retain an identifiable character both for residents and in the wider content. It will be a place where a distinctive built form will exist but overall the natural environment will dominate. The driving principle will be sustainability in the lifestyle of the community and will be identified in social relations, economic roles and environmental choices”.

Anonymous



“To create an inclusive Community rather than City. I see the Blue Mountains consisting of a number of different towns all within our identity. Rather than seeing the area as a ‘city’ we should aim at developing a sense of a regional community. Bring together the various groups, age, industries, towns etc by developing and using all the benefit of the community and age”.



Workshop 6

Thursday 29th November 2001, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, Katoomba Council Chambers

John Hollydale, Megalong Landholders Association

“To be able to do what you have to do to make an adequate living without unfair restriction. To be able to improve ones living standards in an environmentally sustainable way.”

Bronwyn Gower, Livelihood Creative Group

“Katoomba to have a superior and architecturally innovative and dynamic art gallery and interpretative cultural centre. An established arts and environmental festival proudly owned by the mountains community. An established environmental centre that is collectively run and offers valuable information and education about truly sustainable and harmonious way of living in the mountains. To have control over the rampant brick veneer, so-called cheap housing that is presently being approved by council. An improved and regular public transport system. To be more Blue Mountains, Australia-centric, rather than poor imitation of Eurocentric!”

Meredith Heywood, Cox's River Escapes

“**Tourism** Accepted by local community as main factor in local economy. Provides jobs for locals - directly and indirectly through flow-on effect. Promotes local pride in what we offer. Opportunity for cultural/social exchanges from interstate/international visitation. Provides additional upgraded facilities for locals to enjoy. **Environment** A model of sustainable living: Weed suppression through bush regeneration - starting at home. Protection of animal habitats. Clean waterways. Recycling programs and efforts to minimise use of non-recyclable items in homes and businesses. Diverse lifestyles of residents seen as a positive influence - not detracting from our 'image'. Sell these differences - it sets us apart from a country town or Sydney suburb.”

Paul Beaumont, Hazelbrook Chamber of Commerce

“Realistic population - set limit/plan within limit. Acknowledge ribbon development nature of development ie: site some community assets in different villages and have community contact ie: ease of transport between centres, perhaps free train transport within mountains. Commercial development to be appropriate to population levels acknowledging the importance of the car to local shopping and visitors - increase car parking facilities. As a resident I enjoy township nature of mountains. I would like village to keep an identity with green space between them. Limit on visitors such as Norfolk Island i.e.: mix relationship between tourists and residents. Limit visitor beds to population perhaps a percentage. Make the mountains a great place to live, keep culture, tourism, commerce community asset kept in balance. My main high ideal say no, set limit on population. Minor green divisions between villages”.

Leilani Musgrave, Hazelbrook Bushcare Group

“My vision to see our World Heritage area protected and degraded areas regenerated. Eco-friendly development eg: composting toilets, energy efficient development, sustainable energy efficient (villages still separated by bush areas) and that a source of education and employment. Boundaries to growth should be set so as to preserve our environment. A population limit. Thriving arts community . Sustainable development, eco-friendly development in housing, employment, tourism. Education in these things. Limits to houses to be built and visitors numbers.”

Paul Payten, GEENI (Tradenet Sustainable Business Network)

“Local government, business and community are consciously working, trading and living based on a triple bottom line. This includes sport, cultural and recreational activities. Only non-polluting transport is in use. The villages have their own character with public spaces well provided. Sustainability is paramount. Building/development codes that include alternative power to the main source, water conservation (tanks, grey water systems), low impact materials and composting loos, as standard. Members of the community, of all ages, beliefs, races or genders support the Blue Mountains region, while interacting with other regions as well. A comprehensive and inclusive guide to ways of running sustainable business, industry and commerce.”

Lin Mountstephen, BMCC



“A vibrant city where people, particularly young people have opportunities to be educated locally, to work in soft creative industries such as culture and the environment. A city which is renowned as a cultural destination, which is widely acknowledged for the excellence of its cultural assets and experiences and its sensitive custodianship of the environment..”

Judy McLean, B M Wildplant Rescue Service

“My personal vision for BMC is that over the next 25 years, we adhere to the international principles of environmentally sustainable development for an assured future for the citizens of and visitors to this city within a World Heritage Listed National Park .”

Gary Werskey, CAST

“In 2025 the City of Blue Mountains will offer people from all over the world - residents and visitors - a unique window into how a community, based on environmental education, learning, wisdom and respect, can continuously renew itself and its people.”

Hilary Hughes, Kanimbla View Environmental Retreat

“In practice as well as in words, inspired by Council initiatives 'Traditional' business and tourist accommodation places being more mindful of their energy consumption, waste management, recycling and composting of garbage; using environmental cleaning products (ie devoid of sulphates and petrochemicals) and 'green' office products; etc. Promotion to visitors eg examples of more sustainable living ideas showing how well this fits into a World Heritage area (ie less pollutants destroying our natural environment). A large area for display of 'sustainable living' ideas and where green businesses could display their wares. (Aimed at visitors as well as residents where they can feel relaxed about it being a normal way of future shopping). Environmental Education - esp for our World Heritage status. Good display centre for WH natural environment. Good access to interpretive eco-tour guides who can easily give visitors and residents an informed first-hand experience of our natural environment. Plus open up residents eyes to great diversity, and fragility of bush to human impacts. SRA conference carriage available for groups to get an intro to this WH/sustainable city area as they approach the mountains ie school children, corporate conference groups, social clubs etc. Both of the above areas juxtapose so well for a city in a WH area!”

Graeme Poterson, W/Falls Soccer Club

“High ideal - encourage and build the whole community. I feel that there is a strong sense of community in the mountains, that has been lost in other areas including country towns. This needs to be fostered and reinforced. Foster each village as separate entities - not to become a big urban area. The youth need to be encouraged and developed as they are our future community - sporting facilities upgrade - youth facilities and activities. Fostering development in high schools - education focus. Youth this is paramount, factor in the future of the city. The environment is also paramount - needs to be protected - careful development, quality development, considered development. Employment - foster sensitive local industry/tourism for local employment - sympathetic to city, its unique location. Maintain a community that my grand children can grow up in with the good qualities of life that my children have now. Look at upgrading infrastructure in a way to ensure - upgrade public transport - very small buses - rail services. Pursue sewer of all areas, underground power or bundle cabling, shopping centres.”

Warren Ross, Katoomba Action Group

“The Blue Mountains in 2025 will be a world renowned centre of innovation, imagination, planned inspired magnificence. Where locally devised education programmes nurture people who are confident in their ability to think, create and act. In turn, these capacities will feed back into programmes of planned excellence. This is proposed as an alternative to present programmes that deliver cheap and underskilled labour for an uninspired tourism industry (London bus and Yulefest). It will be a place where relations between work, education, recreation, transport, health, natural and built environments are carefully considered. Where our legs are used for their original purpose of walking rather than depressing a car's accelerator. It will be a place where daily contact with inspired and inspiring objects and objectives is reflected in a community characterised by its genius, prosperity and compassion.”

Nancy Etccl, Delegate, Mt. Victoria Community Assoc. Inc

“That BMCC implements a policy regulating all future (current?) developments in the mountains by requiring that all above ground electrical wiring (telegraphic and power cabling) be installed underground. And further, that the council embarks on an ongoing annual village by village rectifying program to eliminate all existing above ground electrical cabling by 2025. Such a commitment would result in all above ground cabling being removed permanently from the mountain environment. Telegraph poles are not only a visual pollution they poses other dangers in an environment which is prone to extreme weather conditions, bush fires and traffic accidents.”



Frank Garafalow, BMCC

“Healthy and world recognised natural environment. Leader in innovation for Australia. Fun and vibrant place to live and raise a family.”

Natalie Newton, Songlines Festival

“Innovative cultural centre - tourism centre - low impact environmentally sensitive - one day bus tours what to do? - school for theatre and drama. Education - University, Tourism and Hospitality faculty, environmental design and architecture - bush regeneration. Sports youth - sports centre whose facilities can meet State Championships requirements (BMX, learn to ski, ice skating, skate park). Smart community, Centre of Excellence, model for sustainable living - duty of care - more efficient practices - fire protection measures - special attention to historically vulnerable areas. Development - bicycle track up GWN - 2 trains an hour to city. BMCC - Solar passive, energy efficient - smaller garbage bins, conservation begins in the home. Water tanks, enviro cycles for sewerage, less run off no waste.”

Jack Thompson, Mt Victoria Community Association

“Public transport must be enhanced - 1 hourly train service to all mountain villages - smaller buses with more frequent service. Legislation required to force freight (particularly long distances) on to Rail. Youth facilities require vast improvement mountain wide - improved transport could help in this field. Council should lead by example - Councilors be more co-operative and less parochial - encourage local businesses environmentally friendly to the mountains. Council should employ permanent staff rather than use the expensive contractor system. This would help local businesses by turning money over in area rather than contractors taking money out and off the mountains. Bushfires will always be a threat, but the issue should be addressed with common sense - regular disposal of natural fodder and combustible fuel from private and public areas - World Heritage listing will require expert planning and management to ensure many houses are not lost in bushfires if the current restrictions remain. Common sense must prevail rather than extreme green issues, otherwise houses will be lost and who'll be surprised then. Radiator pines should be removed entirely as they are already taking over many areas - are rapidly restricting eucalyptus in bush areas - in 100-150 years eucalyptus will be the minority. Deviate highway. Upgrade walking tracks - previously deserted, provide bicycle tracks.”

Don McGregor, Formblock Australia Pty Ltd

“I would like to see the city being a hub for educational services, both vocational and recreational - particularly focusing on the arts and the environment. To that end I would like to see an annex of U.W.S. and perhaps, Charles Sturt in the upper mountains. To further develop research and innovation the establishment of "incubator" type industrial parks (similar to those developed for I.T and biotechnology industries) dedicated to turning environmental research into commercial products. Further the development of low energy medium density serviced housing in cluster type development financed on long lease buy back type arrangements.”

Helen Mann, Katoomba children's Cottage Inc

“Environmental - where the natural environment is seen as an asset and treated appropriately. Where children are seen as important and as part of the community, not as only a family responsibility. Our children now will be the parents of 2025 - as parents of that time we would hope that the systems and community would be family friendly, safe and accepting. Where resources are allocated cooperatively and collaboratively not as an either / or. Transport facilities for children and young people affordable housing well funded schools, access to education, access to jobs. Community networks - where positive networks developed by community services are nourished and enhanced.”

Anonymous

“Clean - natural - celebrating the unique history. No trucks. Maintaining the strong bond between national parks, reserves, etc. and the city villages (the strip along the ridge with views to either side) ... includes the bush playground. Continue to nurture the history of alternate creativity the mountains have fostered. Wheelchair access including a taxi!!! Disability access in general. Something to do after 9pm. Maintain the natural heritage along with accessibility for all .”

Anonymous

“Make natural areas between villages. Affordable housing for our residents. No more development eg red bus stops, Lurline Street. More respect/understanding of residents who have special needs. Better maintenance/upkeep/signage in National Park areas. More educative signage. Better community facilities. Develop village uniqueness.”



Anonymous

“Big picture - Create and educate a market for sustainable tourism and environmental education to underpin our future. The wilderness is the preservation of the world! In 2002 BM "got it". Blue Mountains realised it was the biggest and best wilderness campus so close to a major city/international market in the world. And became a world recognised model of a sustainable city and education centre with sustainable low impact nature based recreation and employment opportunities embedded in protected wilderness and using the interface as the learning impetus. Over 25 years every primary school child in NSW has had an eco-adventure to BM by train. Promoting public transport and imprinting the BM in young minds. Learnt of the history, geology, ecology, culture and inspiration of the mountains. Introduced to World Heritage in concept and practice. Learnt about living sustainably on the planet. Been touched by wilderness. Many returning with friends and family.”

Anonymous

“A place to reside where all ages of population can live, travel and achieve personal and professional goals securely. Opportunities - transport (increased, improved) - health, education - Enhanced shopping facilities in upper mountains.”

Anonymous

“a place where valued members of the community are acknowledged through the physical provision of meeting places. ie women and children need a place in the middle of town. Adolescents require an appropriate recreational space to be around their adult elders. reduce trucks. More playgrounds. More natural systems of using energy eg homes, cars, shopping. the underlying unrest.”



Appendix C: Pre-Focus Group Stimulus Materials

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Our Future

In 2001
Our Challenge is
"To think about what kind of City the people of 2025 will be grateful we have passed on to them"

About This Document

This document is designed to give you an outline of the issues we will address at the upcoming focus group. The information over the next few pages will help set the context for the focus group and is designed to give you an understanding of the challenges and issues facing the Blue Mountains in planning for a sustainable future.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the blue form at the back of the pack. This form, entitled "My Vision for Our Future", is a short pre-focus group exercise we would like participants to complete and bring on the day. It aims to get participants thinking about their own personal vision of the City's future. We are looking for really creative, imaginative and optimistic ideas - so go for it!

I cannot stress enough the importance of reading through the information provided on the following pages. You and the other focus group participants are representing yours peers within the community in a very important stage of the strategic planning process. By giving the issues some serious thought before attending the focus group, you will be better able to contribute to discussion and you will no doubt get more out of being involved.

Thank you again for accepting our invitation and we look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Brad Braithwaite
Focus group Coordinator



Why is council conducting these focus groups?

Blue Mountains City Council is currently developing a strategy for the City up to the year 2025. The strategy will form the framework for policy, planning and action for the next 25 years. The strategy is being developed in an extensive three-stage process which seeks to answer the questions: "where are we now?", "what kind of City do we want in 25 years?" and "how will we make it happen?". In a sense the project is part of a long journey the past, present and future people of the Blue Mountains are taking that has shaped and will shape the future of their City.

Council has already completed the first stage of the project, and much of this document is given to communicating what they found. Apart from identifying the key trends impacting on the City, Council undertook a broad ranging survey of over one thousand residents, which identified current community concerns, values and priorities.

The coming series of focus groups, of which you will be a part, play a vital part in answering the question "what kind of city do we want in 25 years from now?". The 'challenge' for you as a focus group participant, and the Blue Mountains community as a whole, is to consider a vision for the future that takes into account the many issues that face the Blue Mountains today (and which are outlined in the document). Council will use the information from these focus groups to develop a community vision, a set of long term goals for the City and an action plan for achieving these goals.

Where have we come from?

The best way to illustrate the importance of being involved in planning for the future of your City is to examine the outcomes of the last long term Strategic Plan produced by Council. In 1975 Council prepared the Blue Mountains Strategy Plan, designed to cope with the expected population pressures leading up to 2000. As we are doing in 2001, the people of 1975 made important choices about the kind of City they wanted to leave as a legacy for the future Blue Mountains communities. Decisions made then set a clear direction for protecting the Blue Mountains environment and maintaining the village atmosphere enjoyed by all today.

It is clear from the results of the 2001 Community Survey that City residents especially value the legacy of their unique environment, their village way of life and a the real sense of community they feel exists within the Mountains. Some of the specific achievements from the 1975 Strategy Plan include:

- ❖ Controlled development between major urban centres to minimise uncontrolled 'ribbon' development along the Great Western Highway
- ❖ The successful transfer of management of environmentally sensitive areas to the National parks & Wildlife Service, so Council could focus resources on municipal needs
- ❖ Significant upgrade of rail services between Sydney and the Blue Mountains, with a 100% increase in service provision from 1975 to 2001.
- ❖ The widening of the Glenbrook rail tunnel to accommodate double deck commuter train carriages
- ❖ Identified the untapped potential for tourism, resulting in a focus on providing adequate infrastructure, including two Tourist Information Centres in the Upper & Lower Mountains
- ❖ Restoration and enhancement of Leura village to become a Mall for arts, crafts & collectibles believe

Where are we now?

To have a clear understanding of the issues to be discussed in the focus group, it is important to look at where the Blue Mountains stands now.



There are five main areas identified in the earlier stages of the project as very important to the future well-being of Blue Mountains residents. These five areas will be at the centre of our discussions in the focus group, and they include:

1. Looking after our natural environment
2. Looking after the people of the Blue Mountains
3. Working in the Blue Mountains
4. Living and playing in the Blue Mountains
5. Moving around the Blue Mountains

Having done this we will then consider how these areas can work together to create a legacy for the people of 2025.

Over the next few pages we take a closer look at the five key areas.

1. Looking after our natural environment

The facts

- ❖ The Blue Mountains is a City within a World Heritage protected environment
- ❖ The natural environment contributes immeasurably to the cultural setting and economy of the region
- ❖ The immense biodiversity of the area is under increasing threat from the pressures associated with population growth & human settlement
- ❖ The costs of mitigating cumulative impacts on the fragile environment are extremely high, particularly in managing urban runoff, weeds, sewerage and water quality
- ❖ The Blue Mountains natural environment is one of the most bushfire prone areas in Australia

Current issues

- ❖ 94% of residents feel that preserving the natural environment is a high priority
- ❖ There was a strong feeling amongst residents across the Mountains that the environment suffers from overdevelopment
- ❖ The City must be bushfire ready at all times

Questions for the future

- ? How can we manage land use and control development to minimise impacts on our World Heritage National Park environment?
- ? How can we improve co-ordination between agencies responsible for the management of the Blue Mountains environment?
- ? How can we co-ordinate resources to restore and protect the environment?
- ? How can we mitigate and manage the significant bushfire threat in the Blue Mountains?

2. Looking after the people of the Blue Mountains

The facts

- ❖ The Blue Mountains population has been increasing steadily at a rate of 1% each year between 1991 and 1996
- ❖ One in ten of the community comes from a non-English speaking background
- ❖ One in five household in the Blue Mountains now comprise lone persons
- ❖ Existing public housing is inadequate with waiting lists of up to 7 years
- ❖ In 1996 one in five of residents were aged 55 years or older. By 2011 it is projected that one in four residents will be in this age group



Current issues

- ❖ The community has expressed significant concern and debate about the size of the population that the city can sustain. 82% felt that the number of people living in the area was 'about right'
- ❖ The community strongly identified "youth issues" as being a major concern. A survey of 600 teenagers (2001) identified drugs/ alcohol and the lack of recreational activities as key concerns

Questions for the future

- ? How can we meet the need of the predominantly young but highly diverse and aging population?
- ? How can we maintain equity in life opportunities between the Lower and Upper Mountains?
- ? How can we retain and develop necessary services?
- ? How can we retain and strengthen our "sense of community", quality of life and diverse village character?
- ? How can we understand our young people and better support their transition to adulthood?

3. Working in the Blue Mountains

The facts

- ❖ Health and Community Services and Education are the largest employment industries in the Blue Mountains
- ❖ 57% of the Mountains workforce commute to employment outside the area
- ❖ Small businesses employing generally less than 10 people dominate the economy, one in four of these businesses are also home based
- ❖ Blue Mountains has an increasing unemployment rate which is currently at 6.8% compared higher than the state average which is at 5%, a static growth forecast (less than 2% forecasted to 2001) and an increasing reliance on part time and seasonal work
- ❖ Currently the City attracts up to 3 million visitors a year, making it one of the top three tourist destinations in Australia
- ❖ Over 90% of businesses in the Mountains have at least one piece of IT equipment, higher than the national average

Current issues

- ❖ 86% of Residents rated 'promoting local employment' as high in importance for priorities that should be considered in the long term
- ❖ Lower Mountains residents have higher incomes, but do much of their spending outside the LGA. There is a significant leakage of retail spending to Penrith

Questions for the future

- ? How can we create local ecologically sustainable employment opportunities?
- ? How can we harness and target our economic efforts in a World Heritage environment?
- ? How can we provide learning opportunities for all ages to increase the skills and capability of our community?
- ? How can we develop home based businesses in our City?

4. Living and playing in the Blue Mountains

The facts

- ❖ Current approaches to zonings show that land supply will be exhausted in about 10 to 12 years based on current rates of development
- ❖ The Blue Mountains is one of the most bush fire prone residential areas in the world
- ❖ Much of the drainage, water and sewerage infrastructure in our city is aging and does not have the capacity to service an increasing population



- ❖ The number of people participating in nature based recreation (such as bush walking and abseiling) is growing

Current issues

- ❖ 58% of Residents felt that the number of recreation facilities was 'too low'
- ❖ Residents have placed strong value on preserving village character, containing urban development and maintaining natural bushland between towns

Questions for the future

- ? How can we maintain affordability of housing despite pressure on land availability?
- ? How can we provide required infrastructure and services?
- ? How can we maintain and protect the character of each village?
- ? How can we manage community expectations for increased provision of sporting and recreation opportunities given limited land availability?

5. Moving around the Blue Mountains

The facts

- ❖ The Blue Mountains is well endowed with rail transport, however local bus services are more limited with frequency. Public transport services are under utilised during off peak, evening and weekend periods
- ❖ As widening continues on the Great Western Highway the number of heavy trucks carrying freight has increased significantly
- ❖ In 1996 at least one in ten households in the Mountains had no car. In some parts of the Upper Mountains the figure is one in five households

Current issues

- ❖ 81% of Residents rated 'improving public transport' as high in importance for priorities that should be considered in the long term
- ❖ Research has shown that the City's youth feel 'stranded' by the distance they have to travel to use youth facilities and an inadequate public transport system

Questions for the future

- ? How can we maximise a limited and underused public transport system?
- ? How can we address the inherent conflicts between the Great Western Highway as a major east-west road transport link and as the only route for local traffic between many villages?
- ? How can we minimise the environmental, social and economic impacts of the increasing reliance on car use?
- ? How can we improve mobility for people who do not have easy access to private cars or public transport?

Where do we want to be in 2025?

Now that you've had a chance to digest the background information, take a few moments to really think about what you want to be left as the lasting legacy for the people of 2025.

Please take the time to complete the enclosed blue form. Thank you.

"My vision for our future"

"My vision for our future"

If you wish to create a better place to live, you first have to envisage that place. That's the purpose of the "Blue Mountains - Our Future" community focus groups. We want people to think creatively and optimistically about the future they want to see for their City. In about 100 words, describe your personal vision of the kind of City the people of 2025 will be grateful they live in.

