

Appendix 4

Community Engagement

This section includes a summary of the two rounds of online engagement and the in-person engagement that is being held to inform the spatial framework. Refer appendices for detail findings of the engagement sessions.



Engagement 1 Key Outcomes

- The first round of community engagement went live on the Canterbury-Bankstown Council website on the 23/10/2020
- Majority of respondents valued the environment, biodiversity and the natural ecosystems
- Safe pedestrian and cyclist connections was a key priority for upgrade
- Increasing urbanism was a key concern with the growing population
- Integrated Water Quality Improvements
- A collaborative approach between Council and Community was strongly favoured



Aboriginal Reference Groups

- Scheduled for February 2021



Engagement 2 Key Outcomes

- Scheduled for March 2021



Background and Purpose

Community Engagement #1

ASPECT Studios has been engaged by the City of Canterbury Bankstown and Georges River Council to undertake Salt Pan Creek Corridor Strategic Framework. Working with Council, ASPECT Studios has sought input from the community regarding the themes and values that should inform the corridor interventions.

No interventions had been undertaken at this stage as the themes and values, presented as a range of options from which community members could select was most important to them, are intended to inform the potential interventions.

Employing this process ensured that the views and voice of the community is heard.

Further consultation is proposed for subsequent phases of the project to ensure that this initial successful dialogue with the community is maintained.

Aboriginal Reference Groups Engagement

Scheduled for February 2021

Community Engagement #2

Scheduled for March 2021

Methodology

Community Engagement #1

The City of Canterbury Bankstown Council managed the online survey, with both Councils undertaking media release and site signage. Due to the current COVID conditions no face-to-face engagement methods were undertaken.

Method	Overview	Date	Responses
Media Release	The City of Canterbury Bankstown Council released information about the project and advised the public about the consultation period. This release was via The City of Canterbury Bankstown Council's website and social media accounts. This included a link to complete an online survey.	Friday 23rd October – Friday 20th November 2020	88

Data Overview

- 10 multiple choice questions were provided on the online survey
- A total of 88 responses were received where all questions were answered
- Up to 10% of respondents provided additional comments when given the opportunity
- Many of respondents (62%) were from local and adjacent suburbs to Salt Pan Creek including Lugarno, Padstow Heights, Reversby North and Mortdale.

Aboriginal Reference Groups Engagement

Scheduled for February 2021

Community Engagement #2

Scheduled for March 2021

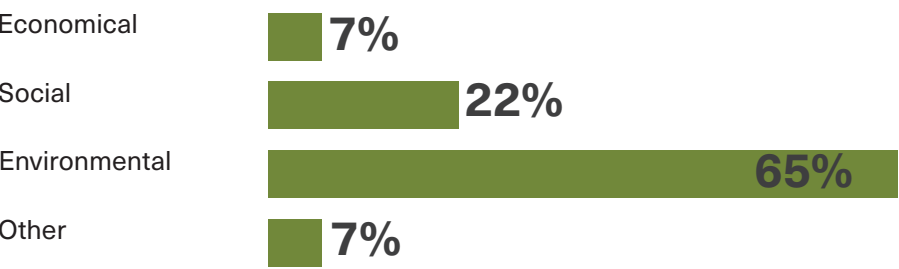
Community Engagement #1 Findings

Question 1

Which of the following themes are most important to you?

- ☐ Economical
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Other – Please List

Results Summary



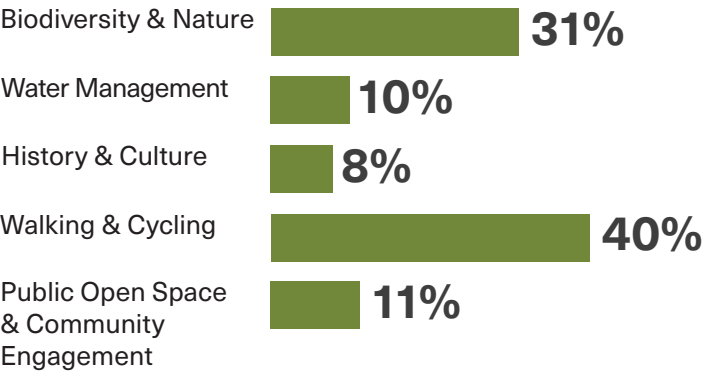
- More than half of the respondents (65%) thought ‘Environmental’ was most important
- 22% of respondents thought ‘Social’ was important
- The themes of ‘Economical’ (7%) received significantly less support
- 6 respondents provided a written response on the collaborative approach as follows:
 - Reflective of our rich and wonderful Aboriginal heritage, culture, foods and local history
 - Environmental linked to Aboriginal heritage and culture
 - Social and environmental
 - Health fitness
 - These themes.... as driving activities, projects and outcomes should be considered equally important, as they all interact and impact each other. All need to be a priority in planning and development.
 - Transport

Question 2

Which of the following themes surrounding the future upgrades of Salt Pan Creek Corridor would you like to see the most improvement to?

- ☐ Biodiversity and Nature
- ☐ Water Management
- ☐ History and Culture
- ☐ Walking and Cycling
- ☐ Public Open Space and Community Engagement

Results Summary



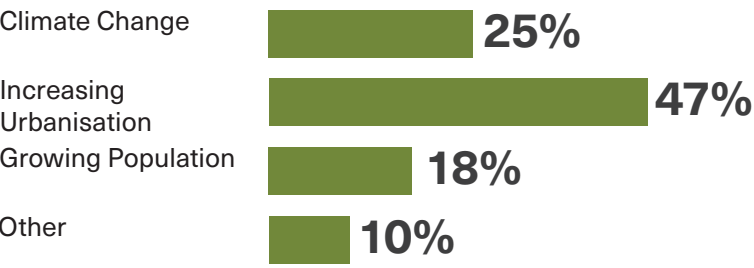
- The majority of people (40%) responded with ‘Walking and Cycling’
- Less than a third of people (31%) responded with ‘Biodiversity and Nature’
- The themes of ‘Public Open Space and Community Engagement’ (11%), ‘Water Management’ (10%) and ‘History and Culture’ (8%) received significantly less support

Question 3

The following themes pose significant impact on the future of Salt Pan Creek Corridor and surrounding areas. Which is of greatest concern to you?

- ☐ Climate change
- ☐ Increasing Urbanisation
- ☐ Growing Population
- ☐ Other – please list

Results Summary



- Almost half of the respondents (47%) thought that ‘Increasing Urbanisation’ poses a significant impact
- A quarter of respondents (25%) thought that ‘Climate Change’ poses a significant impact
- 18% of respondents thought the ‘Growing Population’ poses a significant impact
- 9 respondents provided a written response on the collaborative approach as follows:

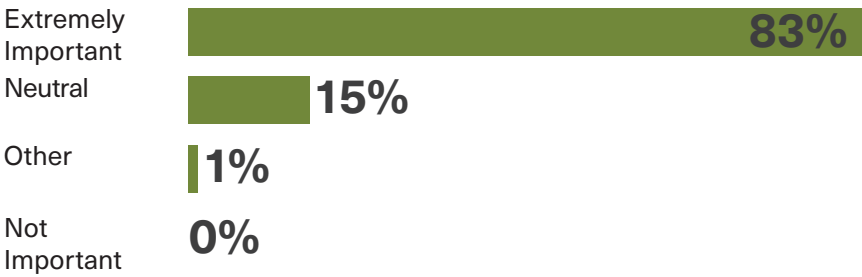
- Ensuring your planning where appropriate include Aboriginal people.
- Reliable and effective infrastructure
- Pollution from storm water runoff and lack of rubbish bins (for fishing rubbish) near Henry Lawson drive boardwalk
- Weed infestation in bushland and rubbish deposits in mangroves along Salt Pan Creek at Peakhurst between Henry Lawson Drive and Riverwood.
- Keeping the area clean of rubbish, this is a major issue along existing boardwalks
- These three themes are all connected and interact together. Of greatest concern to me is the response from Council and stakeholders in addressing these pressures on the Salt Pan Creek corridor and its environment.
- None really
- Funding for maintaining existing walkway and pollution and rubbish in the creek.
- Informal access

Question 4

What are your thoughts on a collaborative approach between councils and the community when making decisions about Salt Pan Creek Corridor?

- ☐ Not important – The community does not need to be involved and decision making/ongoing management should be left to those in charge.
- ☐ Neutral – The community should have some level of involvement within decision making and management of Salt Pan Creek Corridor. However, major decision making, and management tasks should remain within council.
- ☐ Extremely important – Community involvement in ongoing decision making and management is crucial to the revival of Salt Pan Creek Corridor. With greater inclusion comes greater ownership and sense of responsibility.
- ☐ Other:

Results Summary



- A majority of respondents (83%) thought that the collaborative approach should be ‘Extremely Important – community involvement in ongoing decision making and management is crucial to the revival of Salt Pan Creek Corridor. With greater inclusion comes greater ownership and sense of responsibility.’
- Less than 15% of the respondents thought that the collaborative approach should be ‘Neutral – The community should have some level of involvement within decision making and management of Salt Pan Creek Corridor. However, major decision making, and management tasks should remain within Council.’
- No respondents (0%) thought that collaborative approach was ‘Not Important – The community does not need to be involved and decision making/ongoing management should be left to those in charge.’
- 1 respondent provided a written response on the collaborative approach as follows:

— *Community involvement is extremely important, but Council must also make decisions based on up-to-date science & global best-practice to ensure the sustainability, biodiversity & health of the Salt Pan Creek Corridor. Healthy environments are crucial for healthy communities.*

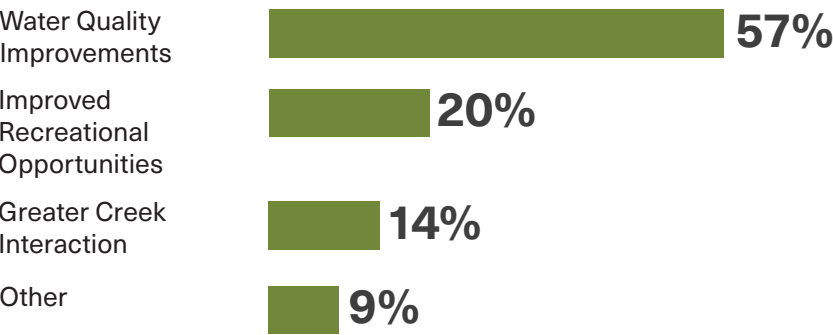
Question 5

The upgrades to Salt Pan Creek Corridor presents the opportunity to celebrate the role water plays in the identity, liveability and resilience of the evolving community.

Which of the following do you believe are most important in achieving this?

- ☐ Water quality improvements
- ☐ Improved recreation opportunities
- ☐ Greater interaction with the creek e.g. future swimming/boating opportunities
- ☐ Other – Please list

Results Summary



- More than half of all respondents (57%) thought ‘Water quality improvements’ were most important, followed by 20% ‘Improved recreational opportunities’ and 14% ‘Greater creek interaction e.g. future swimming/boating opportunities’
- 8 people provided a written response on quality open space as follows:
 - Water quality and improved recreation but also preservation of any Aboriginal sites and indigenous plant and trees and then a cultural centre celebrating Aboriginal culture and diversity and songs and dance and shared stories. Also a place where all people can go and enjoy the space
 - Better cycling facilities.
 - Education of importance of natural environment
 - Please don’t allow jet skis
 - All of the above
 - again - selecting a single option for achieving the best possible outcomes is limiting the opportunity for harnessing the full potential of the Salt Pan Creek - its a large area and different areas will require different responses.
 - plant variety of trees, not just gum trees. Gum trees is good, but can easily trigger fire and it's a little bit boring. Especially need to have flower trees for different season, like Weeping Cherry for Spring, Jacaranda for Autumn, Magnolia for Winter etc, you’ve got the idea. Trees normally need few years to grow, so it’s very important to decide which tree to plant at beginning. Thanks
 - Improved and formalised access for recreation and transport

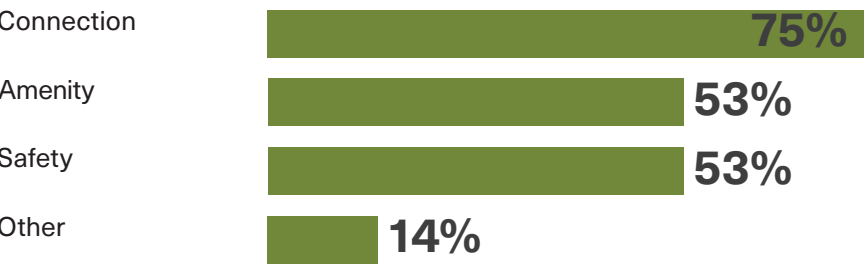
Question 6

Population growth and urban densification will require a higher need for quality open space.

Please tick the statements below that you agree with.

- ☐ Open spaces must be connected – A diverse network of open spaces must be achieved along the Salt Pan Creek Corridor and the broader green grid context.
- ☐ Open spaces must have amenity – quality infrastructure and facilities must be provided to ensure these spaces are readily accessible and functional for multiple purposes.
- ☐ Open spaces must be safe – consideration of Safety and view lines such as lighting, planting heights etc. must be considered to ensure these spaces are safe for all users
- ☐ Other comments:

Results Summary



- A majority of respondents (75%) agreed that ‘Open spaces must be connected – A diverse network of open spaces must be achieved along the Salt Pan Creek Corridor and the broader green grid context.’
- More than half of the respondents (53%) equally agreed with
- ‘Open spaces must have amenity – quality infrastructure and facilities must be provided to ensure these spaces are readily accessible and functional for multiple purposes.’
- ‘Open spaces must be safe – consideration of Safety and view lines such as lighting, planting heights etc. must be considered to ensure these spaces are safe for all users.’
- 12 people provided a written response on quality open space as follows:

- Facilitate more access and recreation on the water
- Open space not needed. Just need to keep it clean and maintain what is there.
- They must be connected. There is a connection between Riverwood Park and the M5 east that is not connected

- Natural environment not all developed with bbqs etc
- Open spaces must be considered environmentally friendly. And buildings built must not block views.
- Shared bike path and walkway must be improved and fully interconnected with the rest of Sydney’s tracks
- Must be free from toxic pollution and rubbish or nobody will want to enter the space
- All these points are of equal importance
- Open space should involve multiple opportunities for interaction with the creek, as well as celebrate its historical significance
- I’m not sure if I’m understanding this question correctly, I believe the nature first man second if that makes sense, any infrastructure down there must be considerate and not interfere with the nature, flora and fauna that exist there
- I’d like to see better rubbish collection points along the pathways connecting the open spaces; with all the upgrades near Henry Lawson Drive, there’s not a single bin until the park near KU preschool; this creates further frequency of littering, which goes straight into the bushland and waterways, further impacting water quality and the amenity of the space.
- Open spaces must be actively designed to be safe & accessible for girls and women. Lighting, layout & view lines aren’t enough, especially if there’s no one around to help in case of trouble. Open spaces designed for community use need to be co-located with cafes, libraries or community facilities to encourage prosocial activation. Amenities like restrooms must be safe, accessible & conveniently located - not tucked far away in an isolated spot. (Salt Pan Creek Reserve has a single toilet cubicle servicing the entire park. Not a toilet block - one cubicle. This isn’t nearly adequate, especially on weekends.) There needs to be plenty of comfortable seating & tables, to encourage social, passive recreation. Paths & connections must be suitable for women with strollers. Parking must be accessible. Many open spaces feel quite secluded outside of peak times, discouraging girls & women from using these spaces. I used to go for walks along Salt Pan Creek until a 15-year-old girl was sexually assaulted there in broad daylight many years ago. Now I hardly ever visit there, which saddens me deeply. Having cafes, libraries & family-friendly facilities nearby would make open spaces feel much safer & more welcoming for girls & women. I want to use open spaces more often, but they need to feel safer for women walking alone.

Question 7

The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor poses the opportunity of establishing an active transport corridor connecting pedestrians and cyclists to local communities and facilities on either side of the Creek, as well as the broader Greater Sydney context. Which of the following is of greatest importance when considering new pedestrian and cycle trails.

Please tick the statements below that you agree with.

- ☐ Pedestrian and Cyclist routes must be safe, accessible and efficient.
- ☐ Pedestrian and Cyclist routes must be connected. Routes must be continuous – connecting to alternate routes within the site area and to the broader context.
- ☐ Consideration of quality infrastructure such as separated cycle ways and shared pathways must be given.
- ☐ Additional comments:

Results Summary

- Pedestrian and Cycle routes were the most important connections as follows:
 - 64% of all respondents agreed that ‘Pedestrian and Cyclist routes must be safe, accessible and efficient’
 - 64% of all respondents agreed that ‘Pedestrian and Cyclist routes must be connected. Routes must be continuous – connecting to alternate routes within the site area and to the broader context’.
- More than half of the respondents (56%) thought quality infrastructure was important ‘Consideration of quality infrastructure such as separated cycle ways and shared pathways must be given.’
- 13 people provided a written response on quality infrastructure as follows:
 - Needs to be water fill up stations, bins and ways to stop cyclists going too quickly when children and elderly also use the paths
 - Creating a safe place for relaxation and peace
 - It’s nice that have a natural bushwalking area. No cycling needed
 - I think it’s really important that there are viable connections and loops along the path. I’d be really sad to see a lot of the bush walkways concreted - I like the mix of bush path, walkway and paths.
 - The nature should be respected and some connection left between it and the people using it. The lovely sections of trail should not be over engineered. ie no big wide concrete paths in place of nice twisting walking trails.
 - From a cycleway perspective parts of Salt Pan creek paths are not suitable for safe bike riding. This especially the case in Padstow, Riverwood and Peakhurst
- Once again, all of these points are of equal importance and must be integrated in the planning and design
- Pedestrian and cycle routes should be separate and not shared. These do not work and with increasing population. Cycle routes should be available for commuting and recreational adults and children. Walking running separate. –
- Cycleways should present opportunities for stopping and enjoyment
- Pedestrian and Cycling routes must be correctly labelled with signage to locations, and better shared/separated path markings.
- We urgently need separate cycleways so cyclists, especially kids, can ride safely. We also need safe, separate pedestrian routes to

make our city truly walkable. Cycleways need to be supported by appropriate amenities eg. bike racks, bike sheds, change rooms. Pedestrian routes also need to be supported by amenities eg. shaded canopy, rest stops with seating, tables & restrooms so women with young children can park the stroller, feed the kids, & change a nappy while out and about. We really need to make our cities actively more welcoming to women, kids & pedestrians if we want to rebuild community cohesion & cultivate prosocial street life. There are opportunities for pedestrian routes & boardwalks to have pop-up art, little free libraries, semi-permanent food trucks, & micro performance spaces. I'd love for Canterbury-Bankstown to have its own Sculpture-By-The-Sea style art walk.

- Remove restrictions on cycling by upgrading boardwalks to modern, low-maintenance structures.

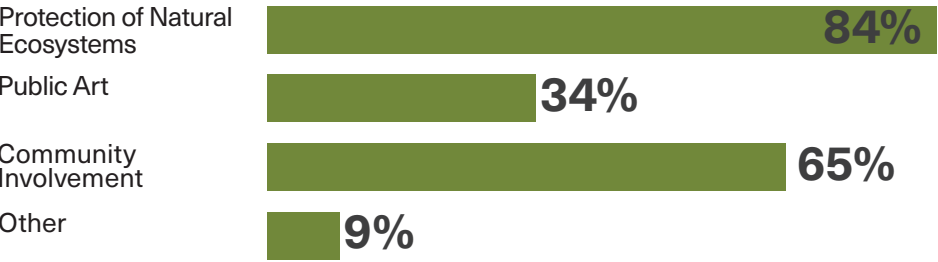
Question 8

Proposed developments of the surrounding areas will place further pressure on the natural environment. The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor must prioritise protecting the natural environment to ensure threats to biodiversity are lessened.

Please tick the statements below that you agree with.

- ☐ Protection of natural ecosystems – developing a hierarchy of interaction along the corridor to allow selected areas to be free from human disruption. E.g. nature reserves
- ☐ Public Art – establishing a community driven artist program in which artworks which speak to local fauna and flora are on show. e.g. an artist trail throughout the corridor.
- ☐ Community involvement – Established a series of zones along the creek corridor dedicated to revegetation e.g. Bushcare
- ☐ Other – Please list

Results Summary



The most popular prioritisation (84%) was ‘Protection of natural ecosystems – developing a hierarchy of interaction along the corridor to allow selected areas to be free from human disruption. E.g. Natural Reserves’.

Almost two-thirds of respondents (65%) prioritised ‘Community involvement – Established a series of zones along the creek corridor dedicated to revegetation e.g. Bushcare’

More than a third of respondents (34%) prioritised ‘Public Art – establishing a community driven artist program in which artworks which speak to local fauna and flora are on show. e.g. an artist trail throughout the corridor.’

8 people provided a written response on other priorities as follows:

- *Be careful in the choosing of local art work to ensure it reflects the work of many artists and not guided by nepotism from a few within the team.*
- *Creating dedicated wide paths for people minimises their need to go off-path*
- *All above have part to play - emphasis on education of importance of environment with naming flora and fauna in Aboriginal language and how/why is was used*
- *Provide more rubbish bins and better management of storm water pollution and rubbish*
- *Have you considered the impacts on the cave systems that adjoin Salt Pan Creek. These are home to bird, bat and snake colonies. In addition, there are a number of culturally significant colonial and Aboriginal heritage sites too.*
- *Ensure whole of community awareness of the impact of their actions on the natural environment i.e. runoff from private properties, use of chemicals and insecticides, ensure new development plans comply in actuality and not just on paper*
- *I think it’s also vital to educate the community about the importance of nature reserves that aren’t used for recreation. Many people don’t realise that natural, biodiverse ecosystems are essential green infrastructure. They reduce the urban heat island effect, manage stormwater, remove air pollution, prevent soil erosion, reduce flooding, improve water quality, & combat climate change. I think it’s worth having simple, easy-to-understand, permanent signage illustrating these essential functions performed by our city’s natural infrastructure.*
- *Restrict informal access and formalise suitable places to access bushland and waterways.*

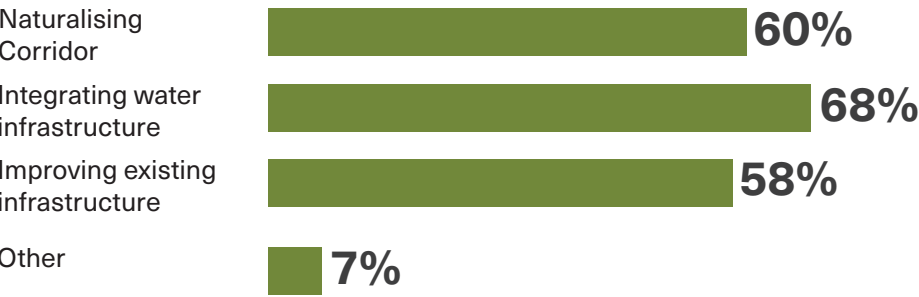
Question 9

The effects of climate change and increased development pose threats to the management of waterways. Issues such as flooding, stormwater runoff and pollution all require innovative solutions to help alleviate such pressures and ensure the safety of residents and the environment remains.

Please tick the statements below that you agree with.

- ☐ The naturalisation of Salt Pan Creek Corridor – to see sections of Salt Pan Creek Corridor currently channelized return to a natural state.
- ☐ Integrating water infrastructure into an urban parkland – the introduction of natural water management systems such as wetlands and biofiltration.
- ☐ Improvement of existing stormwater infrastructure such as channels, pits and pipes.
- ☐ Other – Please List

Results Summary



- The most popular statements were:
 - ‘Integrating water infrastructure into an urban parkland – the introduction of natural water management systems such as wetlands and biofiltration.’ (68%)
 - ‘The naturalisation of Salt Pan Creek Corridor – to see sections of Salt Pan Creek Corridor currently channelized return to a natural state.’ (60%)
- More than half of respondents (58%) agreed with the ‘Improvement of existing stormwater infrastructure such as channels, pits and pipes.’
- Many respondents to this statement provided further comments:
 - All important to return and maintain healthy environment
 - Review building regulations to reduce run off of stormwater
 - I’m no expert but nature takes pretty good care of itself only man’s interference can damage or help heal that, whatever improves the natural environment I’m all for, most people would not know what is best but can recognise what damages the environment pollution being one of the biggest interruptions to nature
 - The recent wastewater overflow into Salt Pan Creek was concerning, with Sydney Water placing warning signs for a couple of days!
 - I’d really like to see Council undertaking ambitious water recycling and stormwater harvesting projects. The scientific consensus is that comprehensive water recycling will be essential for future water security. Council needs to implement a plan that will enable our city to cope with increasingly intense droughts & floods. I’d also like to see more local raingardens throughout the city & suburbs. Also, a big yes to more wetlands - these provide so many vital environmental services.
 - Install more gross pollutant traps/filters, and provide more bins on pathways and near recreation spaces.

Question 10

Which of the following statements do your values align most to?

Please tick the statements below that you agree with.

- ☐ The upgrades to Salt Pan Creek Corridor should provide opportunity for the community to walk/cycle/recreate along cool and shaded paths in the creek corridor
- ☐ The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should help reduce the severity and frequency of climatic events as a result of a changing climate.
- ☐ The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should be a catalyst for change; serving as a benchmark for future sustainable development and water management.
- ☐ The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should celebrate and connect to its Aboriginal heritage and local history, and provide new spaces for creativity and public art.
- ☐ The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should transform the creek into a thriving corridor which supports the liveability and resilience of the surrounding community.

Results Summary

- The most popular statement was 'The upgrades to Salt Pan Creek Corridor should provide opportunity for the community to walk/cycle/recreate along cool and shaded paths in the creek corridor' (71%)
- More than half of the respondents agreed to:
 - 'The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should be a catalyst for change; serving as a benchmark for future sustainable development and water management.' (59%)
 - 'The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should celebrate and connect to its Aboriginal heritage and local history, and provide new spaces for creativity and public art.' (53%)
 - 'The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should transform the creek into a thriving corridor which supports the liveability and resilience of the surrounding community.' (55%)
- One third of the respondents agreed to 'The upgrade of Salt Pan Creek Corridor should help reduce the severity and frequency of climatic events as a result of a changing climate.' (37%)

Result Summary

Community Engagement #1

The community engagement proved to be successful where feedback was received from 88 respondents through the online survey. In addition to the questions, respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments where up to 10% of people undertook this opportunity.

Additional respondents had consistent environmental/aboriginal themes.

The percentage ranking of participants who responded to each of the questions was high with all questions being answered.

Participants responded positively to the opportunity to have input and that their views may have an influence on the proposed interventions for Salt Pan Creek Corridor.

Aboriginal Reference Groups Engagement

Scheduled for February 2021

Community Engagement #2

Scheduled for March 2021

