



# YOUTH STRATEGY

Engagement summary


1 May 2024 - 9 September 2024

## WE ASKED

We reached out through a two-step process:

### 1. Face-to-face workshops

We held nine face-to-face workshops with 163 young people (aged 10-24 years) at six local high schools, the Lake Macquarie Youth Council, TAFE and two youth support programs.

 163 young people participated in workshops.

### Workshop methodology

-  Inform
-  Think
-  Collaborate
-  Share
-  Prioritise
-  **28 ACTIONS**

### 2. Online community survey

The 28 actions identified through our workshops then informed a wider community online survey, which asked respondents to prioritise these actions across seven focus areas.


## WE REACHED

 **130** responses to our online survey

 **85,746** reached through our social media platforms

 **11,950** reached via Council's e-newsletters

## WHAT YOU TOLD US





 We received **41 responses to the online survey from young people and 97 from the wider community. The following top priority actions were identified:**




-  Increase the number of recreational facilities that young people can easily access
-  Increase entry to workforce programs for young people
-  Reduce fuel loads through cultural burns and sustainable urban planning
-  Enhance safety for women in public places and spaces during night-time
-  Sustainable high-density development and repurposing and utilisation of empty public buildings
-  A cultural centre to celebrate Lake Mac's heritage with activities that engage young people
-  Build an indoor venue big enough for significant events in Lake Mac

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Your feedback will help inform our updated Youth Strategy, which is expected to be presented to Council for public exhibition in the first half of 2025.

## ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FOCUS AREA	HIGHEST RANKED PRIORITY ACTION	YOUNG PEOPLE COMMENTS	WIDER COMMUNITY COMMENTS
 <p><b>AS A COMMUNITY, WE ARE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY</b></p>	<p>Most survey respondents ranked 'increase the number of recreational facilities' as the highest priority action.</p>	<p>"More indoor sporting stadiums; one or two courts every few suburbs like footy does."            "Indoor stadium is missing in Lake Mac. We want one. Why no basketball stadium in Lake Mac that is not in a school?"            "Transportation seems to be a limiting factor among people I know."</p>	<p>"Free open and safe sporting spaces for tweens/teens – BMX bike jumps, skate/scooter park."            "More places for kids to get fit, try sport and hang out when it's winter or raining."            "Make it safer to cycle home from sport."</p>
 <p><b>PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE AND WORK IN LAKE MACQUARIE</b></p>	<p>Most survey respondents ranked 'increase entry to workforce programs for young people' as the highest priority action.</p>	<p>"More two-week learning skills work placements. Stickers on businesses that say, 'we offer work experience.'            "Increase work experience options outside of school."            "Young people can help build bike tracks in and around bushland areas."</p>	<p>"Build a network of businesses in Lake Mac that are able and willing to participate in work experience programs as industry engagement for students at school."            "More choice for young people with disabilities."</p>
 <p><b>OUR CITY IS RESILIENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES</b></p>	<p>Young people ranked 'reducing fuel loads through cultural burns' and 'sustainable urban planning' as their first and second highest priority actions. Wider community respondents ranked 'sustainable urban planning' as their top priority.</p>	<p>"Approve more higher density developments."            "Do more cultural burn offs to manage bushland using youth."</p>	<p>"Emergency preparedness should ideally be a one-day-a-year course compulsory at all schools".</p>
 <p><b>AS A COMMUNITY, WE FEEL CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER AND OUR CITY</b></p>	<p>Most survey respondents ranked 'enhance safety for women in public places and spaces during night-time' as their top priority action.</p>	<p>"Safer walking trails through Glenrock; more bike paths, more solar lighting and emergency call buttons."            "Increased lighting along paths and parks at night."            "Better public transport makes the whole city more independent."</p>	<p>"Greater feelings of personal safety through active protection can increase the use of spaces and improve an individual's connection to the community. Public transportation is also very disjointed in our city and could increase the independence and flexibility of individuals to move around the community."</p>

FOCUS AREA	HIGHEST RANKED PRIORITY ACTION	YOUNG PEOPLE COMMENTS	WIDER COMMUNITY COMMENTS
 <p><b>WE BALANCE OUR CITY'S GROWTH AND WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p>	<p>'Sustainable high-density development' ranked as the highest priority action among young people, while 'enhance the repurposing and utilisation of empty public buildings' was the highest priority among wider community respondents.</p>	<p>"Empty buildings could be basketball stadiums! Lake Mac needs seven but one stadium would do."  "More focus on the recycling of soft plastics."  "High density development benefits everyone as it means closer to services."</p>	<p>"Empty businesses or buildings to have order to remediate for use. They need [to] rent or sell these, not just leave empty. This creates danger spots."</p>
 <p><b>AS A COMMUNITY WE VALUE AND CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY, CULTURES AND PEOPLE</b></p>	<p>Most survey respondents ranked 'A cultural centre to celebrate Lake Mac's heritage with activities that engage young people' as the highest priority action.</p>	<p>"Promote friendly history. Promote animals and plants in area. Promote walls of history."</p>	<p>"Council should get the basics right first – public transport, footpaths, net the lake pools. No point building cultural centres if young people can't get there."</p>
 <p><b>COUNCIL OPERATIONS MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS</b></p>	<p>Survey respondents ranked 'build an indoor venue big enough for significant events in Lake Mac' as the highest priority action, closely followed by 'repair and upgrade older public toilets'.</p>	<p>"Yes indoor venue! Double use as a basketball stadium please!"</p>	<p>"Clean toilets and public spaces contribute positively to the overall culture of an area."  "Yes! Indoor venue! Multiple sports plus entertainment!"</p>