

Central Coast Water Security Plan phases 1, 2 and 3

Engagement Summary

Central
Coast
Council

Summary

Between December 2020 and April 2021 Central Coast Council sought community feedback on the Water Security Plan – our plan to secure the Coast’s water supply for future generations.

A representative sample of the Central Coast community was taken on a journey to learn about their water values and educate them on the different water supply and demand options being considered. Five portfolios – or groups of options – were presented to the community and we set out to learn what a representative sample of the Coast community’s preferences were.

Three phases of community consultation consisting of deliberative forums and in-depth phone interviews were conducted in December 2020, and February and April 2021.

During the second and third phases of community consultation, we also ran two online opt-in surveys (available to anyone to fill in), from 8 February to 21 March 2021, and from 19 April to 2 May 2021.

Engagement Results

Phase 1 forum and phone interview results

During this first phase of consultation we looked to find out what participants valued around water, and what aspects did Council need to take into consideration when planning water for the future.

The key values to emerge included:

- Affordability
- Reliability or long-term yield
- Environmental impact
- Water quality
- Empowerment
- Efficiency
- Education
- Social impact and equity

How you connected



2,238 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast website



The factsheets on the water supply and demand options were downloaded 442 times



Over 11,000 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through e-news



230 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through project update newsletters



More than 7,500 social media users reached generating 35 likes, comments and shares.



127 advertisements were run across two radio stations



308 surveys completed



116 people participated in a series of three live video forums over a five month period



269k people were reached, with 339 clicks through to the project page



230 views of our educational video on water supply and demand options

Phase 2 forum and phone interview results

Using the water values identified in forum one, we asked participants to rank the values from most important to least important. The top three ranked values included:

1. Reliability
2. Environmental impact
3. Cost to operate

We also showed participants three demand-side options and six supply side options. After group discussions on the positive and negative aspects of each, we then asked everyone to let us know which options they were open to Council considering.

The top three most supported options were:

1. water conservation – 92% support
2. recycled water (non-drinking) – 92% support
3. water sharing – 89% support

Supply and demand water options survey results

This survey asked participants to review the factsheets or watch the seven-minute video on the three demand-side options and six supply side options before completing the opt-in survey.

The top three most supported options were:

1. stormwater harvesting – 90% support
2. recycled water (non-drinking) – 76% support
3. water sharing – 75% support

Phase 3 forum and phone interview results

Participants were provided with information (including cost to build and operate the required infrastructure) on five different portfolios of water supply and demand options and invited to discuss the options.

Following the discussion, we asked participants what their level of support for each option was. The portfolios were ranked from most supported to least supported (the percentage is those who selected "totally support" or "support"):

1. Portfolio 2 (66%)
2. Portfolio 1 (56%)
3. Portfolio 5 (44%)
4. Portfolio 3 (26%)
5. Portfolio 4 (21%)

Water portfolio survey results

This survey asked participants to review the information packages prepared for each of the five portfolios before completing the opt-in survey. The portfolios were ranked from most supported to least supported (the percentage is those who selected "totally support" or "support"):

1. Portfolio 3 (61%)
2. Portfolio 4 (56%)
3. Portfolio 1 (42%)
4. Portfolio 2 (40%)
5. Portfolio 5 (33%)

What's next?

All the feedback received as well as other ongoing investigations, modelling and analysis will be used to inform the development of the draft Central Coast Water Security Plan.

The draft plan will be placed on exhibition in late 2021 for final community feedback.

We will inform the community of the public exhibition period in the coming months.

Find out more and stay up to date at yourvoiceourcoast.com

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