**Community consultation methodology notes**

Mirroring the report, the community consultation focuses on the future of Parramatta and the Central River City. The community consultation aims to identify the region’s most pressing challenges while also co-developing solutions with the communities interested in the future of region.

We seek to engage people (18+) who are interested in sharing what they value in the Greater Parramatta region, what can be improved, and their concerns and priorities for its future.

Participation is open to businesses, institutions, residents, students, visitors, and workers.

Participation in the study is online via the Engagement Hub platform. There are three main ways people can participate:

* a survey (capturing insight into (i) existing patterns of use and engagement in the Parramatta and Central River City Region, (ii) community perceptions of key global city metrics in relation to the region (i.e. connectivity and accessibility, economic opportunities, quality of life) and (iii) key features of that community members both value, or seek to improve);
* an interactive map activity (where participants can plot favourite spots and recommendations) and
* an ideas wall (where participants can answer questions and submit their big ideas for the region).

Recruitment of participants for the consultation occurred via online and social media channels, in addition to physical distribution of flyers with a QR code directing people to the engagement hub website. Recruitment has been carried out by CfWS staff, with the support of partner organisations (including local councils) who have helped to disseminate within their networks.

Aiming to recruit a diversity of participation and perspectives, we have handed out flyers across key suburbs within the GPOP region including Merrylands, Guildford, Granville, Auburn, Lidcome, Parramatta and WSU South Parramatta campus. We have distributed flyers in these suburbs at a variety of locations including town centres, shopping centres, train stations, businesses, markets and parks.

Today we will present preliminary findings, drawing on the responses of the first 57 people who participated in the consultation.

* Roughly same levels of participation from males/females
* So far it has been a younger demographic that has responded, with half of the respondents aged between 18-34, and a further 20% aged between 34-44.
* 75% born in Australia, 25% born overseas (compare this to census data of Western Sydney/GPOP more broadly)
* 60% owned their properties (outright or with a mortgage), 40% were renting
* Diverse range of household types – roughly ~25% couple no children, ~25% couple with children aged under 15 and ~25% couple with children aged 15+
* Highly educated cohort – Nearly 70% held a Bachelor, Postgraduate or Doctorate level qualification (34%, 25%, 7% respectively)
* 54% were in fulltime employment, with only 7% unemployed and looking for work
* 89% indicated working in a professional (60%) or manager position (29%)

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