



Ku-ring-gai Council

Appendices

8

8.1 Closing address to the intergenerational forum

Giles Tabuteau

Mr Giles Tabuteau: Thank you Mr Mayor. Fellow Ku-ring-gai residents. I am just an ordinary resident like you – I'm no different to anybody else here today. In my two and a half, I think it is, minutes –

Sustainability is a word that we have been hearing a lot about. It is now permeating government public policy pronouncements and documents, and it presents, I suggest, an opportunity to re-examine what previous generations in Ku-ring-gai have left to us, the present generation – and that is, of course, an extraordinary legacy.

A legacy firstly of a magnificent natural environment – the trees, the tree canopies, the gardens, soils, flora, and fauna; and, secondly, the built environment that we see wherever we go, the heritage, the history items, the streetscapes, and neighbourhood character.

The real question is what is now happening *in* Ku-ring-gai, and what is happening *to* Ku-ring-gai. And is what the next generation looks like inheriting, at the present rate, *sustainable* in terms of all the development we're seeing up and down the highway, and spreading laterally into our streets?

Is the daily loss of the tree canopy for development sustainable? Will the deep evacuation of subsoils that we see on each of these sites, with a boundary

30 feet deep sometimes cutting right underneath drip-lines of neighbouring trees, be sustainable? Is the cutting off of the wildlife corridor that runs east to west, from the Lane Cove river valley to the middle harbour valley and the Cowra catchment, sustainable? Is the present rate of the loss of our heritage, our built environment, sustainable?

The young people of today, and the next generations, which they will be a part of, will call this generation to account, on whether or not what we are doing as a community, and as a Council, is sustainable.

So, responsibility lies very firmly on us as a community, including our Council, past, present and future Councils, to not squander and not give up the legacy of these previous generations, but to work tirelessly and relentlessly for fundamental reform to these current policies, which I suggest, in terms of development, are simply unsustainable.

Sustainability requires that we, as present day custodians, in the same way as we've heard earlier today the Aboriginal people were the first custodians, we in effect, together with the descendants of the Aboriginal people, are still present day custodians. We are trustees, and the onus is on us, the responsibility is on us, for the sake of the next generation, to reform these policies, these unsustainable policies, before it's too late.

8.2 Detailed Generational Methodology

Preliminary pilot study

A preliminary pilot study was carried out as part of a pilot study research project in partnership with Ku-ring-gai Council. The pilot study assisted the design of the generational methodology and communication methods through four focus groups. Designed as discussion sessions the study involved 37 Ku-ring-gai residents from a variety of cultural backgrounds. They assessed the importance of environmental sustainability, ethnicity and belonging on a personal level.

Ku-ring-gai to global sustainability research

The initial interview and focus group phases separated participants into their age groups to assist in capturing a deeper understanding of generational perspectives. At the first interview stage 72 local residents participated. Information sheets were provided and interviewers were instructed to verbally brief residents on the research prior to the commencement of each interview. Participants were also asked to complete authority forms and provide personal data prior to the commencement

of each interview. They were guaranteed anonymity which assisted freedom to express their views. Each interview was digitally recorded with an audio recorder and transcriptions were made. Interviews were mostly conducted within resident's homes, business premises or schools. Formal parental and school consent was sought prior to interviewing young people under the age of 18 years. All participants were asked the same set of questions, regardless of their age with the aim of producing comparative data. These questions were open ended and designed to be easily comprehended and to encourage interviewees to speak freely about each topic. The questions asked participants to focus their responses on their local suburb as the future intent is to design sustainability strategies for each of Ku-ring-gai's 8 suburbs. The questions included a quadruple bottom line (QBL) approach which asked respondents to consider the social, environmental, economic and governance aspects of sustainability. This was an important part of the design framework as Ku-ring-gai Council has adopted QBL as the reporting structure for the Management plan, Annual Report and Council Reports. It is proposed that sustainability priorities will be merged into the Council Management Plan.

An even number of private and public schools, primary and secondary were selected from across the Local Government Area and only young people who are Ku-ring-gai residents were interviewed or included in the focus groups. The following local schools participated in the interview, focus group and forum sessions: Sydney Grammar School at St Ives, Wahroonga Public School, Gordon West Public School, Pymble Ladies College (PLC), Roseville College, Killara High School, Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School and Knox Grammar School. Primary schools were asked to nominate two students between 9 and 12 years of age and secondary schools were asked to nominate two students between 15 and 17 years. As part of the process of engaging with schools Council staff visited classrooms and held group discussions with students many of which were video taped. All primary and secondary schools within the Local Government Area were invited to the intergenerational forums. The schools involved

in the previous phases all sent representatives together with Abbotsleigh an Anglican school for girls at Wahroonga.

Focus groups were held in Council meeting rooms with transport organised for school children and the elderly. A total of 51 people took part in 7 focus groups each session being 2 hours in duration. Each group was formed using an age based grouping system. Participants were provided with a summary of the interview data findings to assist their discussions with the aim of building upon and further developing key themes. All discussions were digitally recorded and transcriptions were made. The transcriptions were de-personalised to ensure that residents could not be identified.

The visioning process culminated in two intergenerational forums one in the daytime to suit young people and the elderly and one in the evening to attract business people and parents of young children. Written and digital invitations were sent to all schools, organisations and previous project participants. Each Councillor was invited and provided with additional invitations so they could personally encourage people to attend. Advertisements were placed in the local paper, several newspaper articles were published and an invitation was placed on the front page of Councils web site.

In June 2007, 104 participants, spanning all age groups came together to discuss their collective visions at the forums. A summary report of the literature together with interview and focus group findings was provided to participants as preliminary reading material a week prior to the forums. A DVD was produced that depicted snapshots of Ku-ring-gai and its community and was shown at the forums to assist the discussion process. Written consent was obtained from all forum and film participants in agreement to be photographed and to participate in discussions that were digitally recorded as part of the documentation process. Given the scope of issues and time constraints a café style approach was adopted. Participants chose tables that were organised in one of the 7 main themes (community, culture, natural environment, built environment,

economy and business, transport access and traffic, technology). An age mix was encouraged at each table which was assisted by one council staff member at each table as facilitator. The facilitators had been briefed prior to the forums to assist the smooth running of the events. Following group discussions using a set of broad questions surrounding their theme, each table presented their views at the end of the forum. Each table provided written notes which were collected and used in developing this report and the vision. The forums were digitally recorded and transcriptions made.

Data Analysis

1. Independent interviews

This stage involved collating and analysing the data collected from face to face in-depth interviews where identical questions were applied and contrasted across each age group for determining generational commonalities and variations. All ten questions were analysed through the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) sustainability framework, i.e. social, environmental, economic and governance. Content analysis was undertaken to measure the relative importance of responses. Responses to each question were separated into the 4 QBL areas. This allowed for cross-generational comparisons to glean similarities and differences between age categories for each question and the relative weight of knowledge, awareness and concerns for sustainability in Ku-ring-gai. An assessment of local environmental and social attachments and belonging were incorporated into the investigation. A secondary phase of analysis was adopted as the data was refined. This involved grouping the findings in 2 streams by theme and by age.

2. Focus groups

Analysis of the interview data revealed the most common themes generally and in the particular age groups. These were further investigated through subsequent focus groups held with each age category. Questions were separated into the most common themes from interviews - community, culture, natural and built environment, economy and business, technology, and transport, access, and traffic. Some questions were broadly applied and others were specific to individual age

categories. This approach allowed for the testing of the validity of findings from the interviews overall and by age group, and possible explanations for any variations in responses within and between groups. The focus group data was summarised for each age group. This data was compared with and added to the interview data and presented in the interim summary report which was designed to inform the forum participants of the key issues brought up in the interviews and focus groups and act as a guide to the forum procedures.

3. Forums

Forum participants were provided with the overall findings for all generations of the earlier research, based on the themes outlined above. The forums aimed to develop sustainability principles to form the basis of the Ku-ring-gai Sustainability Vision at a higher level that will guide all future policy and decision-making. The group discussion atmosphere brought up some additional opinions and thoughts. This data was summarised along with the interview and focus group data. Much of the information from the forums was action oriented. These ideas were recorded and are represented in the report in support of the vision residents see for Ku-ring-gai. Further action analysis is to be included in discussions in the action planning stage of the program.

4. Written submissions

Written submissions from the Ku-ring-gai community were sought and included in the vision report and in forming the sustainability principles and creating the vision. These valuable contributions were made from people who had an extensive issue to discuss or could not attend the focus groups or forums. All submissions were included in the discussion under the relevant themes.

5. Centenary competition

The winning entries of the essay competition were included in the vision report as written submissions. Each entry was referred to in the text in terms of personal values and the future of governance in Ku-ring-gai. The inclusion of the essay competition entries lent a younger perspective to the submissions and an overall more equitable approach.



CONNECT Ku-ring-gai linking our people with their local environments

Interview Participant Information Sheet

1. What is the interview about?

The purpose of the interview is to learn how residents in Ku-ring-gai:

- relate to their physical environment (natural and built)
- support their feeling of wellbeing within their neighbourhood and in Ku-ring-gai generally
- form attachments to their suburb and/or Ku-ring-gai, and the strength of their attachments
- view sustainable practices in Ku-ring-gai, now and into the future

The interview will also ask participants about:

- changes in their neighbourhoods and in Ku-ring-gai residents' over their lifetimes
- their ideas on how best to move towards sustainable practices in their suburbs.

2. Who is carrying out the interviews?

The interviews are being conducted by Kirsten Davies, the Sustainability Program Leader.

3. What does the interview involve?

The interviews can be held at Ku-ring-gai Council or at another mutually agreed place. Participants will be asked to sign a consent form indicating agreement to the interview and the procedures. The interviews will be digitally recorded with participant approval, and hand-written notes may be taken during the interview. Participants will not be identifiable in any reports.

4. How much time will the interview take?

The interview will take no more than 60 minutes.

5. Can I withdraw from the interview?

Participation in this interview is completely voluntary and participants are welcome to withdraw from it at any time.

6. Will anyone else know the results?

Transcripts of the interview will be used for analysis, and the findings will contribute to a report of the research results after focus groups are held.

7. Further information?

If you have any questions please contact Kirsten Davies, Sustainability Program Leader,
Tel: 9424 0818 Email: kdavies@kmc.nsw.gov.au

Contact another member of the sustainability team at: Tel: 9424 0888
Email: sustainability@kmc.nsw.gov.au

Participation authority forms

Focus Group Participation Consent Form



Project title: *Ku-ring-gai to global* – Community Sustainability

Researcher leader: Kirsten Davies, Sustainability Program Leader, Ku-ring-gai Council

NOTE: This consent form will remain with Ku-ring-gai Council for its records

Thankyou for agreeing to be a participant in this project, your contributions will be valuable for the future directions of Ku-ring-gai.

Please read the following carefully:

1. I understand that participation in this focus group is voluntary; that I may refuse to answer any questions at any time; and that I will remain anonymous in this project.
2. I consent to the focus group being digitally recorded and transcribed.
3. I understand that I can withdraw from this focus group at any time, for any reason, without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.
4. I understand that my involvement is strictly confidential, and that any data that the researcher takes from the focus group for use in reports or published findings will not, under any circumstances, contain names or identifying characteristics.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email & Phone: _____

Postal address: _____

Use and Disclosure of Information

The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* provides for the protection of personal information and for the protection of privacy of individuals generally. In compliance with the Act, and *Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government 2000*, your personal information will only be used for the development of the Sustainability Network, including the development of an email network. It will not be added to a mailing list or provided to a third party. We will not disclose your personal information without your consent.

Interview Participation Consent Form



Project title: *Ku-ring-gai to global* – Community Sustainability Survey

Research leader: Kirsten Davies, Sustainability Program Leader, Ku-ring-gai Council

Research interviewers: Colin Johnston, Jean Brennan, Josh Donohoe, Jenna Bloom, Damian Collins, Peter Clarke, and David Wilks.

NOTE: This consent form will remain with Ku-ring-gai Council for its records

Thank you for agreeing to be a participant in this project, your contributions will be valuable for the future directions of Ku-ring-gai.

Please read the following carefully:

1. I consent to be interviewed by the researcher(s) for this sustainability research project.
2. I have received and read a copy of the Participation Information Sheet and have been given the opportunity to discuss the information and my involvement in the survey with the researchers.
3. I understand that this interview is voluntary; that I may refuse to answer any questions at any time; that I will remain anonymous in this project; and that the interview may be audio taped and transcribed with my permission.
4. I understand that I can stop this interview at any time, for any reason, without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.
5. I understand that my involvement is strictly confidential, and that any data that the researcher takes from the interview for use in reports or published findings will not, under any circumstances, contain names or identifying characteristics.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Your continuing involvement

As this project progresses we will be involving people in future stages.

1. Do you agree to be contacted for further stages? Yes No

If you would like to receive a copy of the draft report of this project please provide your preferred contact details.

Email: _____

Postal address: _____

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Personal Information

CONNECT Ku-ring-gai Intergenerational research

** Please tick the box that best suits you*

I am:

1. Male **Female**

2. Age group

a. 5-11 years

b. 12-17 years

c. 18-24 years

d. 25-39 years

e. 40-59 years

f. 60-79 years

g. 80+ years

3. Place of birth

a. Australia

b. Other

i. Country of birth.

ii. I have lived in Australia for years

4. Parents' places of birth

a. Australia

b. Other

iii. Countries of birth.

5. Time in Ku-ring-gai

a. I have lived in Ku-ring-gai foryears

6. Main type of work

I mainly work / worked as a:

Thankyou

Formal parental and school consent form

CONNECT Ku-ring-gai **Permission for filming and photographing student participation in** **class discussion**

I, (parent / guardian) of

..... (student's full name), give my

permission for him/ her to participate in the class discussion for the project called *CONNECT Ku-ring-gai*. I have read the information provided and understand the requirements and objectives of this part of the project being undertaken by Ku-ring-gai Council.

I give my permission for (student's name) to be photographed and his/ her voice recorded as part of the documentation of the project, and for Ku-ring-gai Council to have ongoing use of this footage. I understand that that this documentation may be displayed in the public arena at a later date (for example, as part of the Community forum presentations in June 2007).

Signed..... (parent/ guardian)

Signed..... (student)

Date.....

Please return this form to the teacher who distributed it.

Students will not be permitted to participate until this slip has been returned.