REPORT

SOUTHERN RIVERS CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

SOUTHERN RIVERS CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY: URBAN RESIDENTS SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides social benchmark information in relation to a sample of urban residents in the Southern Rivers CMA region. The project provides the basis for benchmarking the attitudes and beliefs of urban residents and represents a reference point for monitoring and evaluation over time.

A telephone questionnaire was designed in order to provide baseline information in relation to several core areas of interest which included:

1. Beliefs about the local area and past and future expectations of change;
2. Beliefs about the broader region and past and future expectations of change;
3. Importance of key community issues;
4. Awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA; and
5. Engagement in NRM.

A telephone survey of 500 urban residents from 19 urban centres in the Southern Rivers CMA region was undertaken in March 2012. The analysis was based on a comparison of urban residents from small, medium and large towns and urban residents from towns in specific subregions of the CMA.

The mean age of residents was found to be 62 years and they had lived in their local area for an average of 32 years.

Health of land, vegetation and water

The majority of urban residents regarded their local area and broader region to be healthy. Urban residents in the Upper Shoalhaven subregion judged their local area and broader region as relatively less healthy than urban residents in other subregions, particularly those residents from the Eurobodalla and Snowy-Monaro subregions.

Valued attributes of the local area and region

Amongst all urban residents, the most valued attributes of the local area were identified as the ecological and environmental values. However, while the majority of residents in larger towns valued the ecological and environmental characteristics of the local area, many residents of small towns also valued the 'social and community' and 'therapeutic' characteristic of the local area in which they lived.

The most valued attributes of the broader region in which people lived included (i) the beaches, coast and ocean; (ii) the aesthetic qualities of the region; and (iii) the ecological and environmental characteristics of the region. Although ecological and environmental characteristics were commonly valued by residents in most subregions, the majority of residents of the Illawarra subregion valued the 'beaches, coast and ocean'.

Concerns about changes to the local area and region

Within the local area the changes that had occurred over the past 10 years that residents were most concerned about included (i) urban development; (ii) environmental issues and (iii) poor service provision, with residents in the Illawarra subregion also concerned about an increase in traffic and population growth.

In the context of the broader region, the three most common concerns amongst urban residents were (i) unemployment; (ii) migration into the region; and (iii) environmental degradation. Residents of small towns were also concerned about an increase in development and the lack of services and facilities, while residents of large towns were relatively more concerned about the increase in development and migration into the region.

Expectations about future change to the local area and region

The two most commonly reported changes that residents expected to occur in the local area and broader region were an increase in development and population growth.

In relation to the local area many residents in the Shoalhaven also expected roads to be improved and maintained and residents in the Eurobodalla subregion also expected improved service provision. In a regional context, residents in the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Far South Coast subregions also expected that there would be an improvement in the provision of services in these regions.

Capacity to respond to changes in the local area and region

Approximately half of all urban residents believed people in their local area and broader region had 'moderate' capacity to respond to future change. Residents of smaller towns also believed people in their local area had a relatively higher capacity to respond to change than residents from larger towns. Capacity to respond to change in the local area and region was relatively low amongst residents in the Illawarra subregion and relatively higher in the Upper Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla subregions.

Importance of key issues

Fifty-two percent of urban residents had thought about climate change and how it might affect their property and the management of their property. In addition, residents of small and medium towns were generally more aware of the effects of climate change that residents of larger towns.

All residents were presented with a list of key issues and asked how often they had spoken to others about each issue in the last 12 months. Amongst all urban residents the four most commonly discussed issues were (i) droughts, floods or bushfires; (ii) the condition of local waterways; (iii) the condition of the local environment; and (iv) the condition of local beaches.

Capacity for natural resource management

The capacity to address NRM issues was addressed using eight belief statements. Using these statements it was found that the majority of urban residents would work with neighbours to address common problems and were aware of what the environmental issues were in their area. In addition, residents in small and medium towns were relatively more likely than residents from larger towns to participate in activities to improve the health of the environment and know about the activities of the local Landcare group.

Involvement in natural resource management

Only 2% of all urban residents were currently involved in a Landcare, natural resource management or environmental group. However, within small towns 13% of residents were currently involved in such groups, with the highest involvement being in the Upper Shoalhaven and Snowy-Monaro subregions and the lowest involvement occurring amongst residents of the Illawarra subregion.

The three most common reasons given for not participating in a Landcare, natural resource management or environmental group were that they were too old (31%); did not have enough time (21%); or were too busy (17%).

Awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA

Awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA was assessed using unadjusted and adjusted percentages. The unadjusted percentage was based on all responses from residents when they were asked if they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA. Using the unadjusted percentage, 20% of all urban residents indicated they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA.

The adjusted percentage was based on changes to responses based on what residents believed the main activity of the CMA to be. For example, if they initially indicated they had heard of the CMA and (i) if they could not describe the main activity of the CMA; or (ii) referred to the main activity of the CMA as only being water or water management; or (iii) referred only to catchment management (as implied in the use of the term CMA), their responses were changed from 'having heard of the CMA' to having 'not heard of the CMA'.

Using the adjusted percentage 2% of all urban residents were found to have heard of the CMA and at the same time knew the main activity of the CMA. The highest awareness occurred amongst residents of small towns (8%) and the lowest awareness was amongst residents of large towns (0.3%).

When awareness of the CMA was examined across subregions the highest awareness (adjusted response) occurred in the Upper Shoalhaven (15%) and Far South Coast (14%) subregions, with the lowest awareness being amongst residents in the Illawarra (1%), Shoalhaven (0.4%) and Eurobodalla (0.7%) subregions.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA) is one of 13 regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies in NSW. The CMAs were established in 2004 and each CMA has developed a Catchment Action Plan (CAP) and Investment Strategies to support the management of natural resources and achievement of NRM targets within each region.

In achieving the NRM targets as identified in the CAP, capacity building and engagement are integral activities which need to be undertaken to enable the achievement of core NRM targets and objectives. These enabling activities, which lead to intermediate outcomes within the program logic of NRM, include for example increasing community awareness and knowledge of NRM issues and increased participation and involvement in NRM activities. By increasing the capacity and involvement of landholders and urban residents more broadly in NRM, the greater the likelihood that the resource condition targets, as identified in the CAP are able to be achieved.

2 OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the project was to obtain social survey data in relation to the attitudes and beliefs of urban residents in relation to NRM, their community and local area. The survey of urban residents is the first survey of its kind to be undertaken in the Sothern Rivers CMA region and as such provides a benchmark against which future surveys can be compared.

3 METHODOLOGY

There were three core components to the project methodology which included (i) the design of the questionnaire, (ii) the sampling and selection of potential telephone survey respondents and (iii) the implementation of the telephone surveys.

3.1 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was based on the questionnaire used in the survey of landholders in the Southern Rivers CMA region[1]. This questionnaire was reviewed by CMA staff and modified to reflect the specific requirements of undertaking a survey of urban residents. The questionnaire used in the survey of urban residents is presented in Appendix A.

The questionnaire focused on several core areas of interest which included:

1. Beliefs about the local area and past and future expectations of change;
2. Beliefs about the broader region and past and future expectations of change;
3. Importance of key community issues;
4. Awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA;
5. Engagement in NRM; and
6. The characteristics of urban residents.

[1] *Fenton, D.M. (2012). Landholder beliefs about natural resource management in the Southern Rivers CMA region: Benchmarking survey (2012). Southern Rivers CMA, Wollongong, NSW.*

3.2 Survey sampling

The sample size was based on 500 urban residents with a random sample drawn of 19 towns within the Southern Rivers CMA region. The 19 towns were selected in consultation with CMA staff and included towns distributed across each of the six subregions and towns which varied in population size.

Table 1 identifies the major towns from which the sample was drawn and the number of occupied dwellings in each town (ABS, 2006)[2]. Clearly not all towns in the Southern Rivers CMA region have been included in the sample. However, if it is assumed that the 19 towns are generally representative of all towns in the region, then the sample from the 19 towns can be used as a basis for understanding the responses of urban residents in the region.

In identifying urban residents within each town, the 2011 digital white pages, was used to identify a random selected telephone numbers. As a first step, all telephone numbers were listed within each of the 19 towns. The street addresses of all telephone numbers within each town were then reviewed and only those telephone numbers retained where the street address was likely to be within the urban area of the town.

When the analysis is based on all urban residents a sample weight is applied, as shown in Table 1, so as to ensure that the sample is in proportion to the total number of households across the 19 towns. In the following analyses this sample is referred to as "Urban residents".

When the analysis is based on urban residents *within* each of the six subregions a sample weight is again applied, as shown in Table 1, so as to ensure that the sample is in proportion to the total number of households across each of the towns *within* each of the six subregions. In the following analyses this sample is referred to as "Urban residents in subregions".

Table 2 also shows each of the 19 towns categorised as small, medium or large depending on their population size. When this analysis is undertaken each of the towns have been weighted equally within each of the three size categories.

3.3 Implementation of telephone surveys

Telephone interview were undertaken in March 2012. All selected telephone numbers for each of the 19 towns were placed in random order and each telephone number was then called until the quota of interviews (sample size) had been achieved (Table 1).

[2] *Wollongong includes Wollongong and surrounding areas.*

Table 1. Towns included in the urban residents sample

Towns	Sample size	Occupied private dwellings (2006)	'Urban Residents' weights	'Urban residents in subregions' weights
Illawarra				
Kiama	20	4,712	0.9243	0.3441
Wollongong (and surrounds)	80	89,570	4.3923	1.6353
Gerringong	20	1,254	0.2460	0.0916
Jamberoo	20	316	0.0620	0.0231
Total residents	140	95,852		
Shoalhaven				
Nowra	40	10,773	1.0566	1.5452
Ulladulla	20	4,365	0.8562	1.2522
Kangaroo Valley	10	140	0.0549	0.0803
Huskisson	20	1,526	0.2993	0.4378
Berry	10	626	0.2456	0.3592
Total residents	100	17,430		
Upper Shoalhaven				
Braidwood	40	472	0.0463	1.0000
Total residents	40	472		
Eurobodalla				
Batemans Bay	20	4,568	0.8960	2.6014
Narooma	30	1,447	0.1892	0.5494
Moruya	30	1,009	0.1319	0.3831
Total residents	80	7,024		
South Coast				
Bega	30	1,834	0.2398	1.0197
Eden	20	1,195	0.2344	0.9967
Merimbula	30	1,767	0.2311	0.9825
Total residents	80	4,796		
Snowy-Monaro				
Jindabyne	20	1,252	0.2456	2.0000
Delegate	20	127	0.0249	0.2029
Bombala	20	499	0.0979	0.7971
Total residents	60	1,878		
Total residents	500	127,452		

Note: *The sample from Wollongong was based on a random sample of urban residents from Wollongong, Fairy Meadow, Bulli, Corrimal, Bellambi, and Mangerton*
Number of occupied private dwellings is based on the 2006 census.

Source: *EBC (2012).*

Table 2. Small, medium and large sample towns

Towns	Sample size	Occupied private dwellings (2006)	Sample weights
Large			
Wollongong (and surrounds)	80	89,570	0.4500
Nowra	40	10,773	0.9000
Kiama	20	4,712	1.8000
Batemans Bay	20	4,568	1.8000
Ulladulla	20	4,365	1.8000
Total residents	180	113,988	
Medium			
Bega	30	1,834	0.8333
Merimbula	30	1,767	0.8333
Huskisson	20	1,526	1.2500
Narooma	30	1,447	0.8333
Gerringong	20	1,254	1.2500
Jindabyne	20	1,252	1.2500
Eden	20	1,195	1.2500
Moruya	30	1,009	0.8333
Total residents	200	11,284	
Small			
Berry	10	626	2.0004
Bombala	20	499	1.0002
Braidwood	40	472	0.5001
Jamberoo	20	316	1.0002
Kangaroo Valley	10	140	2.0004
Delegate	20	127	1.0002
Total residents	120	2,180	

Note: *The sample from Wollongong was based on a random sample of urban residents from Wollongong, Fairy Meadow, Bulli, Corrimal, Bellambi, and Mangerton.*
Number of occupied private dwellings is based on the 2006 census.

Source: *EBC (2012).*

4 URBAN RESIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter provides a description and analysis of the characteristics of urban residents.

4.1 Sex of residents

Within the sample 40% of urban residents were male and 60% female (Table 3). However, an examination of 2006 census data indicated that within the urban centres included in the sample, 49% were males was 51% were females. The finding indicates some over sampling of females in comparison to males within the sample.

Table 3. Sex of residents by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	68	42.5	64	36.6	70	39.1	200	40.1
Female	92	57.5	110	63.4	108	60.9	298	59.9
Total residents	160	100.0	174	100.0	178	100.0	498	100.0

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Table 4. Sex of residents by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	57	41.0	35	35.7	16	40.0	31	40.8	29	36.3	24	39.3
Female	83	59.0	63	64.3	24	60.0	46	59.2	51	63.7	36	60.7
Total residents	140	100.0	98	100.0	40	100.0	77	100.0	80	100.0	60	100.0

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

4.2 Age of residents

The age range of urban residents was between 18 and 91 years (Tables 5 and 6), with the mean age being 62 years. Urban residents in the Eurobodalla subregion had the highest mean age (68 years), while urban residents in the Snowy-Monaro subregion had the lowest mean age (59 years).

Table 5. Age of residents by town size

Statistic	Small towns	Medium towns	Large towns	Urban residents
Mean (years)	64.0	61.4	65.4	62.1
Median (years)	66.0	62.0	66.0	64.0
Range (years)	18-89	21-89	18-91	18-91
Total residents	159	172	176	492

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Table 6. Age of residents by subregion

Statistic	Illawarra	Shoalhaven	Upper Shoalhaven	Eurobodalla	Far South Coast	Snowy Monaro
Mean (years)	61.2	65.6	61.2	68.2	61.4	59.3
Median (years)	62.8	65.0	66.5	69.0	59.0	58.0
Range (years)	18-90	20-89	33-81	34-91	33-89	18-85
Total residents	138	98	40	74	79	59

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

4.3 Years lived in local area

Tables 7 and 8 show that urban residents had lived in their local area for an average of 32 years. Residents from the Illawarra subregion had lived in the area for an average of 33 years. In contrast residents from the Upper Shoalhaven subregion had lived in the area for an average of 24 years (Table 8).

Table 7. Years in local area by town size

Statistic	Small towns	Medium towns	Large towns	Urban residents
Mean (years)	26.1	25.6	27.4	31.5
Median (years)	20.0	20.0	20.0	30.0
Range (years)	3-80	2-83	3-89	2-89
Total residents	157	173	177	489

Note: The question was "How many years have you lived in this area?"
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Table 8. Years in local area by subregion

Statistic	Illawarra	Shoalhaven	Upper Shoalhaven	Eurobodalla	Far South Coast	Snowy Monaro
Mean (years)	33.1	26.0	23.6	27.1	28.0	29.6
Median (years)	33.0	19.0	15.5	16.0	27.2	22.6
Range (years)	3-80	3-77	3-78	2-89	2-83	4-80
Total residents	137	98	40	77	79	59

Note: The question was "How many years have you lived in this area?"
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

5 BELIEFS ABOUT THE HEALTH OF LAND, VEGETATION AND WATER

All residents were asked to judge to health of the local area and broader region, using a ten point scale with end points one (1) being very unhealthy and ten (10) being very healthy.

5.1 Health of land, vegetation and water in the local area

The majority of urban residents regarded their local area to be healthy, with an average score of 7.8 on a ten point scale (Table 9).

Table 10 shows urban residents in the Upper Shoalhaven subregion judged their local area as relatively less healthy than urban residents in other subregions, particularly those residents from the Eurobodalla and Snowy-Monaro subregions.

Table 9. Health of land, vegetation and water in the local area by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 (unhealthy)	1	0.6	2	1.2	1	0.5	2	0.3
2	1	0.6	3	2.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
3	2	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
4	3	1.6	4	2.2	1	0.8	7	1.3
5	12	7.5	11	6.4	12	6.6	11	2.3
6	10	6.0	7	4.2	8	4.6	25	5.0
7	17	10.3	31	18.3	36	20.7	136	27.5
8	74	46.1	60	35.2	74	41.8	182	36.7
9	29	18.2	29	16.9	25	14.3	81	16.3
10 (healthy)	13	7.8	23	13.7	19	10.7	51	10.4
Total residents	160	100.0	174	100.0	178	100.0	498	100.0
Mean		7.7		7.7		7.8		7.8

Note: The question was "If you were to judge the health of the land, vegetation and water in your local area, on a scale from one to ten, with one being very unhealthy and ten being very healthy, what score would you give it?"
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Table 10. Health of land, vegetation and water in the local area by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 (unhealthy)	0	0.1	2	1.6	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.3
2	0	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	2	3.8
3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
4	2	1.2	2	2.0	1	2.6	1	0.7	2	2.7	2	3.4
5	0	0.2	9	9.7	6	15.4	5	6.5	7	9.1	2	3.1
6	7	4.9	7	6.8	5	12.8	1	1.5	2	2.6	6	10.0
7	43	30.6	21	21.8	7	17.9	7	9.1	17	22.1	2	3.4
8	50	35.8	35	36.5	11	28.2	36	47.4	33	42.7	19	32.1
9	24	17.3	9	9.1	6	15.4	19	24.2	11	14.4	4	7.6
10 (healthy)	14	9.8	12	12.6	3	7.7	8	9.9	4	5.2	20	34.5
Total residents	140	100.0	98	100.0	40	100.0	80	100.0	80	100.0	60	100.0
Mean		7.9		7.5		7.3		8.0		7.5		8.0

Note: The question was "If you were to judge the health of the land, vegetation and water in your local area, on a scale from one to ten, with one being very unhealthy and ten being very healthy, what score would you give it?"
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

5.2 Health of land vegetation and water in the broader region

As was the case for the local area, the majority of urban residents also judged the broader region to be healthy, with an average score of 7.8 on a ten point scale (Table 11).

Table 11 also shows that residents from smaller towns judged the broader region as relatively less healthy than residents from larger towns. In addition residents from the Upper Shoalhaven subregion also judged their broader area to be relatively less healthy when compared to the judgements of residents from other subregions (Table 12).

Table 11. Health of land, vegetation and water in the broader region by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 (unhealthy)	1	0.6	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.1
2	1	0.6	3	1.5	2	1.0	1	0.3
3	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
4	1	0.3	5	3.3	1	0.5	2	0.5
5	13	8.3	10	5.8	12	7.0	32	6.6
6	26	16.6	10	6.1	12	6.7	19	4.0
7	25	16.0	35	21.5	38	21.6	101	20.9
8	70	44.4	54	32.8	74	42.3	206	42.6
9	13	8.3	26	15.9	18	10.6	65	13.3
10 (healthy)	7	4.2	20	12.4	18	10.3	57	11.8
Total residents	157	100.0	165	100.0	175	100.0	485	100.0
Mean		7.3		7.6		7.7		7.8

Note: The question was "If you were to judge the health of the land, vegetation and water in the broader region, on a scale from one to ten, with one being very unhealthy and ten being very healthy, what score would you give it?" Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

Table 12. Health of land, vegetation and water in the broader region by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	0	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.4
2	0	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.9
3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4
4	0	0.0	2	1.6	1	2.6	1	1.4	2	2.8	2	3.5
5	9	6.3	10	10.4	2	5.1	1	1.9	7	9.8	1	1.8
6	4	3.0	6	5.8	6	15.4	6	8.0	5	6.9	8	14.5
7	29	21.4	21	22.7	10	25.6	10	12.9	15	20.8	6	10.3
8	59	42.8	38	40.1	13	33.3	41	51.2	30	41.5	13	23.4
9	19	13.7	9	10.1	6	15.4	12	15.7	12	16.8	4	7.1
10	17	12.5	9	9.3	1	2.6	7	8.9	1	1.4	19	33.7
Total residents	137	100.0	94	100.0	39	100.0	79	100.0	72	100.0	56	100.0
Mean		7.9		7.6		7.4		7.9		7.5		7.8

Note: The question was "If you were to judge the health of the land, vegetation and water in the broader region, on a scale from one to ten, with one being very unhealthy and ten being very healthy, what score would you give it?" Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

6 BELEIFS ABOUT THE VALUED ATTRIBUTES OF THE LOCAL AREA

All residents were asked several open-ended questions about their local area. This included:

(i) identifying the characteristics of the local area they most valued;
(ii) changes to the local area that had occurred over the past 10 years that they were most concerned about;
(iii) expectations about changes to the local area over the next 10 years; and
(iv) beliefs about the capacity of people in the local area to respond to these changes.

6.1 Local area values

Residents were asked to "Think about your local area. What are the two things that you value most about your local area?"

The following coding scheme was used to categorise the responses of residents. The coding scheme was similar to that used in the landholder survey to categories the responses of landholders when they were asked a similar question about the values of their property.

1. *Aesthetic:* Including the views, beauty, cleanliness, visual quality or character of the local area;
2. *Climate*: This includes the weather patterns, rainfall and temperature.
3. *Ecological and environmental*: The natural environment, including beaches, oceans, forests, air, rivers, flora and fauna;
4. *Economic and production:* The production value of the local area including industries and employment;
5. *Heritage:* Includes the historical connection or relationship to the local area;
6. *Infrastructure and services:* Includes the services and physical infrastructure assets of the local area including health, education, commercial and transport services;
7. *Lifestyle:* Includes quality of life and the way of life including a rural lifestyle;
8. *Location*: Includes the valued geographic location or position of the area including closeness to shops, services and other towns and cities;
9. *Recreational:* The recreational activities available in the local area;
10. *Social and community*: The interaction amongst people and relationship with people, including family and neighbours;
11. *Therapeutic:* Includes the peace, quiet, solitude, isolation and cleanliness of the local area which has a physical and/or psychological benefit to the individual;
12. *Water access*: Includes the availability or access to water;
13. *Other:* Includes all other attributes or statements which could not be coded using the above schema.

Across all residents, Table 13 shows the most valued attributes of the local area to be the 'ecological and environmental' values (81%). While the majority of residents in larger towns valued the 'ecological and environmental' characteristics of the local area, many residents of small towns were also found to value the 'social and community' (25%) and 'therapeutic' (23%) characteristic of the local area (Table 13).

Table 13. Local area values by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	2	0.9	3	1.7	4	2.2	17	3.4
Nothing			1	0.5			0	0.0
Ecological and environmental	***84***	***52.8***	***122***	***69.8***	***154***	***85.7***	***401***	***80.5***
Aesthetic	32	19.9	***52***	***30.0***	34	19.0	153	30.6
Location	6	3.8	13	7.4	15	8.5	129	25.8
Social and community	***39***	***24.7***	30	16.9	28	15.5	60	12.1
Therapeutic	***37***	***23.1***	17	10.0	23	12.5	60	12.1
Infrastructure and services	8	5.1	7	4.0	22	12.3	37	7.5
Lifestyle	28	17.4	19	10.7	19	10.5	35	6.9
Climate	10	6.3	19	11.0	5	3.0	8	1.6
Economic and production	9	5.7	5	2.9	3	1.7	8	1.6
Water access	5	3.2	7	3.8	8	4.5	8	1.6
Recreation	0	0.0	6	3.6	4	2.0	4	0.9
Heritage	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other values	7	4.4	5	2.6	11	6.2	14	2.8
Total residents	158	100.0	175	100.0	180	100.0	499	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

While residents of all subregions valued the 'ecological and environmental' characteristics of the local area, many residents in the Upper Shoalhaven also valued the 'social and community' characteristics of the local area (Table 14).

Table 14. Local area values region by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	5	3.5	5	4.7	1	2.5	0	0.0	2	2.5	2	3.3
Nothing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ecological and environmental	***113***	***80.5***	***90***	***91.4***	***17***	***42.5***	***52***	***64.9***	***52***	***64.9***	***52***	***86.6***
Aesthetic	48	34.3	15	15.1	5	12.5	17	21.1	27	33.7	8	13.7
Location	46	33.1	2	1.9	4	10.0	1	1.9	9	11.3	1	1.3
Social and community	14	10.1	17	16.9	***20***	***50.0***	21	26.4	8	10.0	9	15.7
Therapeutic	18	13.0	6	6.5	7	17.5	12	15.6	6	7.5	7	12.0
Infrastructure and services	9	6.2	11	11.1	2	5.0	18	22.9	0	0.0	3	4.7
Lifestyle	8	5.9	8	8.0	7	17.5	10	12.6	11	13.9	4	7.3
Climate	0	0.0	3	3.3	8	20.0	6	7.6	13	16.3	4	6.0
Economic and production	2	1.2	2	2.3	0	0.0	4	4.7	0	0.0	5	8.7
Water access	0	0.1	8	8.0	0	0.0	3	3.7	4	5.1	2	3.7
Recreation	0	0.2	3	3.2	0	0.0	1	1.9	2	2.5	2	3.3
Heritage	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other values	2	1.7	9	9.2	4	10.0	1	0.7	3	3.7	0	0.7
Total residents	140	100.0	98	100.0	40	100.0	80	100.0	80	100.0	60	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

6.2 Concern about changes in the local area

Residents were asked to "Think about your local area over the last ten years. What has changed in your local area that you are most concerned about?"

Table 15 shows the three most common concerns amongst urban residents were urban development, environmental issues and poor service provision.

Table 15. Concern about changes in the local area by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	10	6.0	14	8.2	29	16.5	133	26.7
Not relevant	27	17.1	48	27.6	28	15.7	54	11.0
Nothing	27	17.1	7	4.3	9	4.8	14	2.9
Urban development	**29**	**18.4**	**29**	**16.8**	**33**	**18.8**	**88**	**17.7**
Environmental issues	***16***	***10.1***	***24***	***13.9***	***18***	***10.4***	***75***	***15.1***
Poor services	***28***	***17.7***	***21***	***12.0***	***34***	***19.3***	***72***	***14.5***
Increase in traffic	11	7.0	3	1.9	10	5.8	***63***	***12.7***
Population increase	7	4.4	8	4.8	***21***	***11.9***	***60***	***12.1***
Rubbish	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.0	27	5.5
Unemployment	1	0.6	12	7.2	5	2.8	26	5.3
Cost of living	4	2.5	1	0.7	3	1.8	15	3.0
Council policy or actions	4	2.2	13	7.7	5	3.0	15	2.9
Crime increase	4	2.2	1	0.5	8	4.6	6	1.3
Ageing population	1	0.6	1	0.5	2	1.3	6	1.1
Water access and use	2	0.9	0	0.0	5	3.0	5	1.1
Loss of businesses	2	1.3	6	3.4	4	2.0	3	0.6
Climate change	2	0.9	6	3.6	2	1.0	2	0.5
Loss of farmers and farmland	5	3.2	2	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Loss of population	2	1.3	3	1.9	0	0.0	1	0.1
Pine plantations	9	5.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Too many tourists	2	1.3	2	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Other concerns	3	1.6	10	5.5	9	4.8	11	2.2
Total residents	158	100.0	174	100.0	177	100.0	497	100.0

Note: As additional examples - Development includes housing developments and subdivisions; environmental issues includes logging, land clearing, weeds, loss of native vegetation, erosion, salinity, condition and health of rivers; cost of living includes housing costs and rates increases.
This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns.
Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

While urban development, environmental issues and poor service provision were common concerns amongst urban residents across many of the subregions, urban residents in the Illawarra subregion were also concerned about the increase in traffic and population (Table 16).

Table 16. Concern about changes in the local area by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	45	31.9	9	9.9	3	7.5	13	16.7	1	1.3	10	17.0
Not relevant	13	9.6	9	9.6	2	5.0	10	12.2	34	42.6	6	10.3
Nothing	2	1.2	8	8.3	6	15.0	11	14.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Urban development	***25***	***18.0***	***22***	***22.7***	4	10.0	6	8.1	***8***	***10.0***	***8***	***13.3***
Environmental issues	***22***	***15.5***	***16***	***16.7***	4	10.0	5	6.3	***9***	***11.3***	***16***	***26.3***
Poor services	***17***	***12.4***	***22***	***23.5***	***6***	***15.0***	***18***	***22.7***	***8***	***9.9***	***15***	***25.0***
Increase in traffic	***22***	***15.4***	5	5.7	2	5.0	3	3.3	1	1.2	1	1.3
Population increase	***19***	***13.5***	7	7.6	***6***	***15.0***	***8***	***10.2***	6	7.6	0	0.0
Rubbish	10	7.0	2	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unemployment	9	6.1	2	1.6	0	0.0	1	1.4	***9***	***11.2***	0	0.3
Cost of living	5	3.8	0	0.0	***6***	***15.0***	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	4.7
Council policy or actions	3	2.3	3	2.9	***7***	***17.5***	6	8.0	5	6.2	2	3.3
Crime increase	1	0.8	5	5.2	1	2.5	0	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ageing population	2	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.3
Water access and use	0	0.0	7	7.8	1	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3
Loss of businesses	0	0.2	1	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	6.2	0	0.0
Climate change	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	7.5	4	4.4	1	1.3	6	10.0
Loss of farmers and farmland	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	5	8.0
Loss of population	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	2.5	0	0.7
Pine plantations	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	7.0
Too many tourists	0	0.0	0	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.5	0	0.0	2	3.3
Other (2 or less)	2	1.2	2	1.6	1	2.5	13	16.1	2	2.5	4	7.0
Total residents	140	100.0	95	100.0	40	100.0	80	100.0	80	100.0	60	100.0

Note: As additional examples - Development includes housing developments and subdivisions; environmental issues includes logging, land clearing, weeds, loss of native vegetation, erosion, salinity, condition and health of rivers; cost of living includes housing costs and rates increases.
This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns.
Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

6.3 Expectations about future changes to the local area

Residents were asked to "Think about your local area over the next ten years. What are the most significant changes you expect to occur in your local area?"

The two most commonly reported changes that residents expected to occur in the local area were the increase in development and the increase in population (Table 17).

Table 17. Expectations about future changes in the local area by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	27	16.8	40	23.4	51	29.2	215	43.7
Nothing	6	3.5	6	3.4	7	4.1	8	1.5
Increase in development	***46***	***28.8***	***54***	***31.3***	***47***	***26.9***	***109***	***22.2***
Population increase	***38***	***24.1***	***32***	***18.3***	***36***	***20.7***	***96***	***19.5***
Increase in traffic	5	2.8	4	2.2	5	2.8	42	8.5
Roads improved/maintained	18	11.4	10	5.5	13	7.2	24	4.9
Improved/more services	16	9.8	17	9.9	21	12.0	21	4.4
Environmental degradation	4	2.5	5	3.1	10	5.9	21	4.2
Lack of housing and land	3	1.6	0	0.0	2	1.0	18	3.6
Ageing population	0	0.0	1	0.5	4	2.3	15	3.1
Increase in mining	5	2.8	1	0.7	3	1.5	10	2.1
Cost of living	2	0.9	1	0.5	1	0.5	9	1.9
More unemployment	2	1.3	2	1.4	4	2.3	7	1.4
More employment	2	1.3	1	0.7	4	2.3	7	1.3
Environmental improvement	5	3.2	10	5.8	4	2.0	6	1.1
Climate change	4	2.2	6	3.4	5	2.6	4	0.9
Less farmers/farming	3	1.6	5	2.9	4	2.0	3	0.6
Increase in tourism	4	2.5	2	1.0	3	1.5	3	0.5
New timber mills	10	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Population loss	1	0.3	3	1.4	0	0.0	1	0.1
Other	11	6.6	10	5.8	8	4.6	18	3.7
Total residents	158	100.0	173	100.0	176	100.0	492	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

While the increase in development and population were the two changes urban residents commonly expected to occur in the local area, many residents in the Shoalhaven also expected roads to be improved and maintained and many residents in the Eurobodalla subregion also expected improved or more services to be provided (Table 18).

Table 18. Expectations about future changes in the local area by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	72	52.0	15	15.9	3	7.5	14	17.8	20	25.6	15	25.2
Nothing	0	0.1	7	6.8	1	2.5	6	7.9	1	1.3	4	6.7
Increase in development	***27***	***19.5***	***33***	***33.9***	9	22.5	***24***	***30.1***	***17***	***21.9***	***16***	***27.2***
Population increase	***26***	***18.7***	***20***	***21.1***	***16***	***40.0***	***19***	***23.3***	***20***	***25.5***	***8***	***13.4***
Increase in traffic	***15***	***10.7***	2	2.0	3	7.5	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.3
Roads improved/maintained	3	2.5	***17***	***18.0***	4	10.0	4	4.7	7	9.1	0	0.7
Improved/more services	3	2.1	6	6.8	3	7.5	***20***	***24.4***	9	11.6	2	3.4
Environmental degradation	5	3.6	5	4.9	2	5.0	9	11.1	3	3.9	0	0.3
Lack of housing and land	7	4.7	0	0.0	3	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ageing population	5	3.5	3	2.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0
Increase in mining	4	2.7	0	0.4	5	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cost of living	3	2.4	0	0.0	1	2.5	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	1.3
More unemployment	2	1.4	1	1.3	2	5.0	1	1.0	1	1.3	0	0.3
More employment	2	1.2	1	1.3	0	0.0	3	3.3	1	1.3	1	1.7
Environmental improvement	0	0.1	4	4.5	2	5.0	1	1.4	4	5.1	6	9.7
Climate change	0	0.0	4	4.6	1	2.5	2	2.1	0	0.0	5	8.0
Less farmers/farming	1	0.6	0	0.1	1	2.5	0	0.0	3	3.9	0	0.0
Increase in tourism	0	0.0	2	2.0	0	0.0	3	3.7	1	1.3	0	0.3
New timber mills	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	10.4
Population loss	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.5	0	0.0	2	2.6	0	0.0
Other	4	2.6	7	7.6	5	12.5	4	4.9	5	6.4	5	8.4
Total residents	138	100.0	96	100.0	40	100.0	80	100.0	78	100.0	60	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

6.4 Capacity to respond to changes in the local area

All residents having identified their expectations for change into the future (Tables 17 and 18) were then asked to "rate the capacity of people in your local area to respond to these changes".

Table 19 shows that amongst all urban residents 50% believed people in their local area had 'moderate' capacity to respond to these changes. As also shown in Table 19, residents of smaller towns believed people in their local area had a relatively higher capacity to respond to change than residents from larger towns.

Table 19. Capacity to respond to changes in the local area by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very low (1)	6	3.7	5	3.4	8	5.2	39	12.1
Low	28	18.3	43	29.7	41	26.8	96	29.5
Moderate	73	48.3	72	49.7	79	51.3	159	49.1
High	35	23.0	23	16.0	26	16.6	29	9.0
Very High (5)	10	6.7	2	1.1	0	0.0	1	0.4
Total residents	150	100.0	146	100.0	154	100.0	325	100.0
Mean score		3.1		2.8		2.8		2.6

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Capacity to respond to change was relatively low in the Illawarra subregion and relatively higher in the Upper Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla subregions (Table 20).

Table 20. Capacity to respond to changes in the local area by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very low (1)	13	17.0	3	3.0	3	7.9	2	2.6	2	3.2	1	2.2
Low	26	32.6	26	27.8	9	23.7	10	13.5	11	17.8	18	32.1
Moderate	36	45.7	50	52.5	9	23.7	44	62.8	39	62.8	27	50.0
High	4	4.6	16	16.6	11	28.9	14	20.3	9	14.5	7	12.8
Very High (5)	0	0.1	0	0.1	6	15.8	1	0.8	1	1.6	2	2.9
Total residents	79	100.0	95	100.0	38	100.0	71	100.0	62	100.0	55	100.0
Mean score		2.4		2.8		3.2		3.3		2.9		2.8

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

7 BELEIFS ABOUT THE VALUED ATTRIBUTES OF THE REGION

All residents were asked several open-ended questions about the broader region in which they lived. This included:

(i) identifying the characteristics of the region they most valued;
(ii) changes to the region that had occurred over the past 10 years that they were most concerned about;
(iii) expectations about changes to the region over the next 10 years; and
(iv) beliefs about the capacity of people in the region to respond to these changes.

7.1 Values of the region

Residents were asked to "Think about the broader region. What are the two most important things you value about the region?"

Table 21 shows that across all urban residents the three most commonly reported characteristics they valued about the broader region included (i) the beaches, coast and ocean; (ii) the aesthetic qualities of the region; and (iii) the ecological and environmental characteristics of the region.

Table 21. Values of the region by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	11	6.9	20	11.7	23	12.7	53	10.7
Beaches, coast and ocean	***35***	***21.7***	25	14.3	50	28.2	***242***	***48.7***
Aesthetic	20	12.3	25	14.8	*29*	*16.2*	***156***	***31.5***
Ecological and environmental	***75***	***47.2***	***62***	***36.4***	***85***	***47.7***	***119***	***24.0***
Proximity to main towns/cities	8	5.0	7	4.1	10	5.8	62	12.6
Infrastructure and services	10	6.3	24	13.8	26	14.5	42	8.5
Economic and production	4	2.2	7	4.1	5	3.0	30	6.0
Location/position	10	6.0	15	8.5	7	3.8	29	5.9
Lifestyle (inc. ruralness)	21	12.9	15	8.5	13	7.4	26	5.2
Climate	12	7.2	17	9.7	8	4.3	22	4.5
Therapeutic	19	11.9	11	6.6	8	4.3	21	4.1
Lack of development	7	4.4	8	4.9	4	2.3	18	3.6
Social and community	20	12.6	10	6.1	7	3.8	14	2.9
Clean air	4	2.2	7	3.9	5	2.5	5	1.0
Recreation	2	0.9	5	2.7	3	1.5	3	0.6
Other values	4	2.5	7	3.9	6	3.3	18	3.6
Total residents	159	100.0	172	100.0	177	100.0	496	173.4

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Table 22 shows that while 'ecological and environmental' characteristics were commonly valued by residents in most subregions, the majority of residents of the Illawarra subregion valued the 'beaches, coast and ocean'.

Table 22. Values of the region by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	14	10.1	14	14.0	2	5.0	5	6.1	15	19.0	7	12.2
Beaches, coast and ocean	***81***	***58.0***	24	24.5	3	7.5	15	19.4	9	11.4	2	2.7
Aesthetic	54	38.6	7	7.0	3	7.5	8	10.4	11	13.9	8	13.5
Ecological and environmental	19	13.6	***56***	***57.6***	***22***	***55.0***	***58***	***76.0***	**23**	**29.1**	***27***	***46.3***
Proximity to main towns/cities	22	15.8	2	1.7	6	15.0	0	0.0	7	8.9	0	0.0
Infrastructure and services	9	6.4	16	16.8	0	0.0	18	23.4	1	1.3	4	7.4
Economic and production	10	7.0	3	3.3	1	2.5	2	2.2	1	1.3	4	6.8
Location/position	9	6.2	4	3.6	1	2.5	0	0.0	13	16.4	4	6.7
Lifestyle (inc. ruralness)	6	4.5	7	7.0	5	12.5	7	9.3	5	6.4	2	3.4
Climate	6	4.0	2	2.0	13	32.5	6	7.3	13	16.5	1	1.3
Therapeutic	6	4.5	2	1.7	4	10.0	4	4.6	3	3.7	4	7.1
Lack of development	5	3.8	2	2.3	2	5.0	1	1.4	7	8.8	0	0.7
Social and community	2	1.4	9	9.2	6	15.0	2	3.0	5	6.4	6	9.5
Clean air	0	0.2	2	1.6	1	2.5	3	3.4	5	6.4	6	9.8
Recreation	0	0.0	3	2.9	1	2.5	1	2.0	1	1.2	3	4.7
Other values	6	4.0	2	1.7	2	5.0	1	1.5	3	3.7	3	4.7
Total residents	140	100.0	97	100.0	40	100.0	76	100.0	79	100.0	59	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

7.2 Concern about changes in the broader region

Residents were asked to "Think about the broader region over the last ten years. What has changed in the region that you are most concerned about?"

Table 23 shows the three most common concerns amongst urban residents were unemployment, migration into the region and environmental degradation. Residents of small towns were concerned about the increase in development and the lack of services and facilities, while residents of large towns were relatively more concerned about the increase in development and migration into the region.

Table 23. Concerns about changes in the broader region by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	19	11.7	34	19.4	42	23.5	155	31.1
Not relevant	34	21.4	49	28.0	26	14.6	37	7.5
Nothing	33	20.5	9	5.3	19	10.6	19	3.8
Unemployment	3	1.6	9	5.0	10	5.6	***57***	***11.5***
Migration in	10	6.3	***16***	***9.3***	***13***	***7.3***	***48***	***9.6***
Environmental degradation	10	6.3	***12***	***6.9***	9	4.8	***47***	***9.5***
Increase in development	***18***	***11.4***	***15***	***8.9***	***17***	***9.6***	43	8.6
Increase in traffic	5	3.2	3	1.4	9	4.8	36	7.2
Mining	5	2.8	1	0.7	5	2.8	32	6.5
Lack of services/facilities	***12***	***7.6***	9	5.0	9	5.3	30	5.9
Increase in rubbish	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.5	26	5.3
Economic downturn	1	0.6	2	1.2	2	1.3	22	4.5
Infrastructure degraded (roads)	3	1.9	5	3.1	9	4.8	19	3.9
Local Government policies	3	1.9	6	3.6	4	2.0	13	2.5
Crime increased	2	1.3	5	2.9	5	2.8	11	2.2
Increase in employment	1	0.6	3	1.7	2	1.3	6	1.2
Logging	1	0.6	4	2.4	4	2.0	4	0.8
Water availability/issue	1	0.3	1	0.7	3	1.5	2	0.5
Impact of tourism	2	1.3	1	0.7	4	2.0	2	0.5
Less farmers	3	1.9	3	1.7	2	1.0	2	0.4
Climate change	2	0.9	4	2.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Migration out	6	3.8	0	0.0	2	1.0	1	0.2
Impact of pine plantations	5	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other concerns	6	3.5	8	4.8	15	8.3	42	8.4
Total residents	159	100.0	174	100.0	178	100.0	498	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

Table 24 shows that within many of the subregions there was significant variation in the issues that were of concern to residents over the last 10 years. In the Illawarra subregion many residents were concerned about unemployment, migration into the region and environmental degradation. In the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla subregions many residents were concerned about the increase in development, while in the Snowy Monaro environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change were of concern to many residents.

Table 24. Concerns about changes in the broader region by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	48	34.1	24	24.3	11	28.2	10	13.1	19	23.9	15	24.7
Not relevant	7	4.9	9	9.3	2	5.1	9	12.0	34	42.4	12	20.0
Nothing	0	0.0	15	15.7	7	17.9	22	29.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unemployment	***20***	***14.5***	2	1.6	1	2.6	0	0.0	***7***	***8.7***	1	1.3
Migration in	***16***	***11.2***	6	5.6	2	5.1	2	2.2	5	6.2	2	3.3
Environmental degradation	***15***	***10.7***	7	7.1	***6***	***15.4***	1	1.0	2	2.5	***10***	***16.7***
Increase in development	11	7.6	***14***	***13.7***	4	10.3	***10***	***13.3***	3	3.7	4	6.7
Increase in traffic	12	8.6	3	3.5	2	5.1	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mining	12	8.3	0	0.1	3	7.7	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lack of services/facilities	9	6.2	6	6.4	4	10.3	2	2.9	4	4.9	2	4.0
Increase in rubbish	10	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Economic downturn	8	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.5	0	0.0
Infrastructure degraded (roads)	5	3.8	3	3.1	2	5.1	8	9.9	0	0.0	1	1.7
Local Government policies	4	2.6	2	1.9	0	0.0	1	1.7	3	3.7	3	4.7
Crime increased	2	1.3	8	8.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.5	0	0.0
Increase in employment	2	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.5	2	2.5	0	0.0
Logging	0	0.0	3	3.1	0	0.0	5	6.2	1	1.2	0	0.3
Water availability/issue	0	0.1	2	1.6	1	2.6	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Impact of tourism	0	0.0	0	0.4	0	0.0	5	6.8	0	0.0	2	3.3
Less farmers	0	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.5	3	5.3
Climate change	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	***7***	***11.3***
Migration out	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
Impact of pine plantations	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
Other concerns	12	8.4	9	9.1	1	2.6	8	10.4	1	1.3	6	10.0
Total residents	140	100.0	98	100.0	39	100.0	77	100.0	80	100.0	60	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

7.3 Expectations about future changes to the broader region

Residents were asked to "Think about the broader region over the next ten years. What are the most significant changes you expect to occur in the region?"

The two most commonly reported changes that residents expected to occur in the region were the increase in development and the increase in population (Table 25). In small towns many residents also expected to see an improvement in services.

Table 25. Expectations about future changes to the broader region by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	53	33.6	84	49.0	78	44.4	244	50.0
Nothing	9	5.7	4	2.4	7	4.1	7	1.4
Increase in development	***29***	***18.4***	***32***	***18.9***	***39***	***22.2***	***106***	***21.8***
Population increase	***27***	***17.2***	***21***	***12.1***	***28***	***15.8***	***85***	***17.4***
Environmental degradation	3	1.6	3	1.5	5	2.6	29	6.0
Better services	***33***	***21.0***	***19***	***10.9***	***18***	***10.2***	29	6.0
Increase in traffic	5	2.9	1	0.5	10	5.6	23	4.7
Increase in mining	7	4.4	1	0.7	4	2.0	19	4.0
Employment	4	2.5	1	0.5	6	3.3	18	3.6
Unemployment	1	0.6	0	0.0	5	2.8	16	3.3
Less farmers/farms	3	1.6	5	2.9	2	1.0	11	2.3
Climate change	2	1.3	3	1.9	0	0.3	5	1.1
Loss/lack of services	1	0.6	5	3.2	4	2.0	3	0.6
Improved NRM	1	0.3	5	3.2	3	1.5	3	0.6
Impact of tourism	13	8.3	1	0.5	2	1.0	2	0.5
Local Government policies	4	2.2	1	0.5	2	1.0	1	0.3
Other changes	6	3.8	12	7.0	9	5.1	25	5.1
Total residents	158	100.0	172	100.0	176	100.0	487	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

Although many residents within each of the subregions expected to see an increase in development in the next 10 years, residents in the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Far South Coast subregions also expected that there would be an improvement in the provision of services in these regions (Table 26).

Table 26. Expectations about future changes to the broader region by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	72	52.9	37	38.5	14	35.9	25	32.6	50	63.3	26	43.0
Nothing	0	0.0	5	4.7	2	5.1	9	11.1	0	0.0	4	6.7
Increase in development	***31***	***22.6***	***20***	***20.9***	***10***	***25.6***	***16***	***20.9***	***9***	***11.5***	***10***	***16.3***
Population increase	***24***	***17.4***	***18***	***18.8***	4	10.3	***12***	***15.5***	***13***	***16.3***	***7***	***11.3***
Environmental degradation	10	7.3	3	3.2	5	12.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Better services	3	2.5	***17***	***17.6***	4	10.3	***17***	***22.1***	***10***	***12.7***	2	3.0
Increase in traffic	7	5.1	2	1.6	3	7.7	8	10.6	0	0.0	1	1.3
Increase in mining	7	4.9	1	0.8	2	5.1	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Employment	5	3.8	5	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.5	0	0.0	1	2.3
Unemployment	5	3.9	3	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Less farmers/farms	3	2.5	2	2.0	1	2.6	0	0.0	3	3.9	0	0.0
Climate change	2	1.2	0	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.5	0	0.0	4	6.7
Loss/lack of services	0	0.1	1	1.3	2	5.1	3	4.4	1	1.3	0	0.0
Improved NRM	0	0.0	3	2.9	1	2.6	1	1.0	1	1.3	4	6.7
Impact of tourism	0	0.0	2	1.9	0	0.0	3	3.9	0	0.0	0	0.7
Local Government policies	0	0.3	0	0.4	1	2.6	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other changes	7	4.9	4	4.5	4	10.3	8	10.2	2	2.6	6	10.7
Total residents	137	100.0	97	100.0	39	100.0	77	100.0	79	100.0	60	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table which means that for each row an individual may be counted in multiple columns. Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

7.4 Capacity to respond to changes in the broader region

All residents having identified their expectations for change into the future (Tables 25 and 26) were then asked to "rate the capacity of people in the broader region to respond to these changes".

Table 27 shows that amongst all urban resident approximately half (50%) believed people in the broader region had 'moderate' capacity to respond to these changes. As also shown in Table 27, residents of small towns believed people in their region had a relatively higher capacity to respond to change that residents from medium and larger towns.

Table 27. Capacity to respond to changes in the broader region by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very low (1)	7	4.6	5	4.8	5	3.7	50	16.6
Low	26	18.3	42	37.0	28	21.1	75	25.0
Moderate	76	53.5	56	49.1	84	63.6	145	48.2
High	25	17.6	10	9.2	14	10.2	29	9.7
Very High (5)	9	6.0	0	0.0	2	1.4	2	0.5
Total residents	142	100.0	114	100.0	132	100.0	300	100.0
Mean score		3.0		2.6		2.8		2.5

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

The highest capacity to respond to changes occurring in the region was found amongst residents of the Upper Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla subregions, and the lowest capacity amongst residents of the Illawarra subregion (Table 28)

Table 28. Capacity to respond to changes in the broader region by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very low (1)	18	23.3	0	0.1	1	3.6	1	0.8	2	5.0	5	10.6
Low	18	23.8	29	37.1	6	21.4	4	5.7	10	25.2	16	33.2
Moderate	33	42.4	43	55.2	8	28.6	53	81.8	26	64.8	17	37.0
High	8	10.0	6	7.5	8	28.6	8	11.7	2	5.0	7	15.8
Very High (5)	0	0.6	0	0.0	5	17.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.4
Total	78	100.0	78	100.0	28	100.0	65	100.0	40	100.0	47	100.0
Mean score		2.4		2.7		3.4		3.0		2.7		2.7

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

8 IMPORTANCE OF KEY ISSUES

Table 29 shows that 52% of urban residents had thought about climate change and how it might affect their property and the management of their property. In addition, residents of small and medium towns were generally more aware of the effects of climate change that residents of larger towns.

Table 29. Awareness of the effects of climate change on property by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	59	37.0	62	35.9	90	50.8	232	47.6
Yes	101	63.0	111	64.1	87	49.2	256	52.4
Total residents	160	100.0	173	100.0	177	100.0	489	100.0

Note: The question was "Have you thought about climate change and how it might affect your property and the way you might manage it?"
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Approximately three-quarters of urban residents (73%) in the Far South Coast subregion were aware of the effects of climate change, which was significantly higher than residents in all other subregions (Table 30).

Table 30. Awareness of the effects of climate change on property by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	66	48.3	47	47.8	16	41.0	39	50.8	21	26.6	32	53.6
Yes	71	51.7	51	52.2	23	59.0	38	49.2	58	73.4	28	46.4
Total	137	100.0	98	100.0	39	100.0	77	100.0	79	100.0	60	100.0

Note: The question was "Have you thought about climate change and how it might affect your property and the way you might manage it?"
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

All residents were presented with a list of key issues (Appendix A) and asked how often they had spoken to others about the issue in the last 12 months.

Table 31 shows how often each of the key issues was discussed with others in the last 12 months. The mean score provides an indication of frequency with which issues were discussed and enables comparisons to be made between issues.

Amongst all urban residents the four most commonly discussed issues were

(i) Droughts, floods or bushfires;
(ii) Condition of local waterways;
(iii) Condition of the local environment; and
(iv) Condition of local beaches.

An examination of the mean scores in Table 31 also shows the most frequently discussed key issues by town size to be:

Small towns

(i) Droughts, floods and bushfires;
(ii) Climate change;

(iii) Condition of local waterways; and
(iv) Development of land

Medium towns

(i) Droughts, floods and bushfires;
(ii) Climate change;
(iii) Condition of local waterways;
(iv) Condition of local environment;
(v) Local economic prosperity; and
(vi) Local capacity to produce own food

Large towns

(i) Droughts, floods and bushfires;
(ii) Condition of local waterways;
(iii) Condition of local environment;
(iv) Condition of local beaches;
(v) Local economic prosperity; and
(vi) Climate change

Although there is some minor variation across subregions in the frequency with which key issues are discussed, residents in all sub regions indicate that the most common issues discussed with others is droughts, floods and bushfires.

Table 31. Key issues by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Droughts, floods or bushfires								
Weekly (1)	65	40.6	62	35.9	51	28.9	177	36.2
Monthly	60	37.2	65	37.6	65	36.8	149	30.5
Once/twice in past 12 months	32	19.7	40	23.0	44	24.6	134	27.5
Never (4)	4	2.5	6	3.6	17	9.6	28	5.8
Mean score		***1.8***		***1.9***		***2.1***		***2.0***
Condition of local waterways								
Weekly (1)	37	23.1	32	18.3	32	18.3	70	14.3
Monthly	60	37.2	67	38.9	63	35.5	154	31.5
Once/twice in past 12 months	55	34.1	52	30.3	58	32.5	177	36.2
Never (4)	9	5.6	22	12.5	24	13.7	88	18.0
Mean score		***2.2***		***2.2***		***2.4***		***2.6***
Condition of local environment								
Weekly (1)	45	27.8	33	19.1	32	18.0	83	17.0
Monthly	56	34.7	76	43.8	71	39.8	148	30.2
Once/twice in past 12 months	47	29.4	55	31.8	51	28.9	148	30.2
Never (4)	13	8.1	9	5.3	23	13.2	110	22.6
Mean score		*2.2*		***2.2***		***2.4***		***2.6***
Condition of local beaches								
Weekly (1)	3	2.9	23	13.4	32	18.3	73	15.0
Monthly	40	38.1	54	31.1	67	37.6	137	28.2
Once/twice in past 12 months	30	28.1	76	43.5	53	29.9	202	41.4
Never (4)	33	30.9	21	12.0	25	14.2	75	15.4
Mean score		*2.9*		*2.5*		***2.4***		***2.6***
Local economic prosperity								
Weekly (1)	32	19.7	45	25.8	41	23.1	65	13.3
Monthly	62	38.4	65	37.1	66	37.3	125	25.5
Once/twice in past 12 months	36	22.2	41	23.7	34	19.3	119	24.3
Never (4)	32	19.7	23	13.4	36	20.3	181	36.9
Mean score		*2.4*		***2.2***		***2.4***		*2.8*
Climate change								
Weekly (1)	53	33.2	42	24.4	36	20.2	67	13.9
Monthly	58	36.4	92	53.1	64	36.5	120	25.0
Once/twice in past 12 months	26	16.5	32	18.2	45	25.3	122	25.4
Never (4)	22	13.9	7	4.3	32	18.1	171	35.6
Mean score		***2.1***		***2.0***		***2.4***		*2.8*
Development of land								
Weekly (1)	37	23.1	22	12.9	33	18.8	71	14.5
Monthly	63	39.4	62	35.4	46	25.9	92	18.8
Once/twice in past 12 months	45	27.8	62	35.4	63	35.3	158	32.4
Never (4)	16	9.7	28	16.3	36	20.1	168	34.4
Mean score		***2.2***		*2.6*		*2.6*		*2.9*
Protecting prime agricultural land								
Weekly (1)	31	19.4	25	14.2	23	13.2	56	11.6
Monthly	48	29.7	48	27.9	58	32.6	118	24.3
Once/twice in past 12 months	41	25.6	78	45.0	59	33.6	148	30.5
Never (4)	41	25.3	22	13.0	36	20.6	163	33.6
Mean score		*2.6*		*2.6*		*2.6*		*2.9*
Recreational fishing								
Weekly (1)	26	16.3	32	18.4	28	16.0	48	9.8
Monthly	24	14.7	51	29.4	42	23.9	64	13.1
Once/twice in past 12 months	40	24.8	63	36.4	42	23.9	160	32.7
Never (4)	71	44.2	27	15.8	64	36.3	217	44.5
Mean score		3.0		2.5		2.8		3.1
Local capacity to produce own food								
Weekly (1)	32	19.7	44	25.4	30	16.8	46	9.5
Monthly	50	30.9	65	37.3	61	34.4	97	20.0
Once/twice in past 12 months	34	21.2	42	24.4	35	19.6	78	16.1
Never (4)	45	28.1	22	12.9	52	29.3	264	54.4
Mean score		*2.6*		*2.2*		*2.6*		*3.2*
Aboriginal cultural heritage								
Weekly (1)	11	6.9	15	8.4	19	10.9	32	6.6
Monthly	29	18.1	36	20.8	40	22.3	67	13.7
Once/twice in past 12 months	64	39.7	81	46.7	59	33.0	129	26.3
Never (4)	57	35.3	42	24.2	60	33.8	261	53.4
Mean score		*3.0*		*2.9*		*2.9*		*3.3*

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Table 32. Key issues by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Droughts, floods or bushfires												
Weekly (1)	52	37.9	32	32.1	26	65.0	17	22.0	23	28.7	32	54.0
Monthly	37	26.7	36	37.0	5	12.5	38	49.1	44	55.1	20	32.7
Once/twice	41	29.9	23	23.7	7	17.5	13	17.1	12	14.9	7	11.3
Never (4)	7	5.4	7	7.3	2	5.0	9	11.8	1	1.2	1	2.0
Mean score		***2.0***		***2.1***		***1.6***		***2.2***		***1.9***		***1.6***
Condition of local waterways												
Weekly (1)	18	13.5	15	15.7	22	55.0	14	18.1	7	8.8	21	35.0
Monthly	39	28.3	40	40.9	13	32.5	29	38.0	35	43.8	30	50.3
Once/twice	52	38.2	31	31.6	3	7.5	18	23.9	34	42.5	8	13.7
Never (4)	27	20.1	12	11.7	2	5.0	15	19.9	4	5.0	1	1.0
Mean score		*2.6*		*2.4*		***1.6***		*2.5*		*2.4*		*1.8*
Condition of local environment												
Weekly (1)	23	17.0	17	17.3	19	47.5	11	14.2	9	11.3	18	30.0
Monthly	36	26.2	43	43.4	15	37.5	29	37.2	37	46.2	27	45.0
Once/twice	41	30.2	26	26.8	4	10.0	26	34.3	32	40.0	14	22.7
Never (4)	36	26.6	12	12.4	2	5.0	11	14.3	2	2.5	1	2.3
Mean score		*2.7*		*2.3*		*1.7*		*2.5*		*2.3*		*2.0*
Condition of local beaches												
Weekly (1)	22	15.9	12	12.1	4	10.0	10	12.5	12	14.9	0	0.0
Monthly	32	23.6	48	49.3	4	10.0	26	34.2	26	32.2	18	44.1
Once/twice	62	45.2	23	23.7	9	22.5	24	31.3	36	45.3	20	49.0
Never (4)	21	15.3	15	14.8	23	57.5	17	22.1	6	7.5	3	6.9
Mean score		*2.6*		*2.4*		*3.3*		*2.6*		*2.5*		*2.6*
Local economic prosperity												
Weekly (1)	15	11.1	17	17.0	15	37.5	17	22.3	19	23.8	17	28.7
Monthly	27	19.6	44	45.0	17	42.5	29	38.1	36	45.0	24	40.7
Once/twice	34	25.1	21	21.0	3	7.5	18	23.2	20	24.9	13	22.0
Never (4)	61	44.3	17	17.1	5	12.5	13	16.5	5	6.3	5	8.7
Mean score		*3.0*		*2.4*		*1.9*		*2.3*		*2.1*		*2.1*
Climate change												
Weekly (1)	15	11.2	21	21.7	21	52.5	16	20.3	14	17.5	19	32.0
Monthly	25	18.4	41	41.8	9	22.5	34	44.7	46	57.5	26	43.0
Once/twice	37	27.4	19	19.6	4	10.0	14	18.6	18	22.4	12	20.3
Never (4)	57	43.1	17	16.9	6	15.0	13	16.4	2	2.5	3	4.7
Mean score		*3.0*		*2.3*		*1.9*		*2.3*		*2.1*		*2.0*
Development of land												
Weekly (1)	18	13.3	20	20.1	12	30.0	13	16.3	10	12.6	11	18.3
Monthly	19	14.1	35	35.6	16	40.0	22	28.2	25	31.2	15	24.3
Once/twice	44	32.3	25	25.3	7	17.5	32	41.8	33	41.2	29	49.0
Never (4)	55	40.3	19	19.0	5	12.5	11	13.7	12	15.0	5	8.4
Mean score		*3.0*		*2.4*		*2.1*		*2.5*		*2.6*		*2.5*
Protecting prime agricultural land												
Weekly (1)	15	11.3	11	11.1	12	30.0	11	14.1	9	11.3	11	18.3
Monthly	29	21.1	39	39.6	7	17.5	18	23.1	26	32.6	17	28.7
Once/twice	39	29.2	26	26.7	12	30.0	33	43.2	36	44.9	26	43.0
Never (4)	52	38.4	22	22.6	9	22.5	15	19.6	9	11.2	6	10.0
Mean score		*2.9*		*2.6*		*2.5*		*2.7*		*2.6*		*2.4*
Recreational fishing												
Weekly (1)	10	7.1	19	19.3	4	10.3	12	15.7	16	19.8	7	11.0
Monthly	12	8.9	21	20.9	3	7.7	30	39.4	22	27.5	10	17.3
Once/twice	49	35.5	19	19.2	5	12.8	14	18.4	29	36.5	36	60.7
Never (4)	66	48.5	40	40.6	27	69.2	20	26.6	13	16.3	7	11.0
Mean score		*3.3*		*2.8*		*3.4*		*2.6*		*2.5*		*2.7*
Local capacity to produce own food												
Weekly (1)	9	6.4	16	16.5	11	27.5	12	15.9	17	21.4	24	39.7
Monthly	18	13.1	44	44.4	7	17.5	27	35.1	32	40.0	20	33.3
Once/twice	20	14.9	14	14.3	12	30.0	20	26.6	23	28.6	11	18.6
Never (4)	89	65.6	24	24.9	10	25.0	17	22.5	8	10.0	5	8.3
Mean score		*3.4*		*2.5*		*2.5*		*2.6*		*2.3*		*2.0*
Aboriginal cultural heritage												
Weekly (1)	5	3.7	20	20.2	6	15.0	9	12.3	6	7.5	1	1.0
Monthly	15	11.2	15	15.2	6	15.0	30	39.5	15	18.7	10	17.0
Once/twice	30	21.9	38	39.0	13	32.5	20	26.2	49	61.3	25	41.3
Never (4)	86	63.2	25	25.6	15	37.5	17	22.0	10	12.4	24	40.7
Mean score		*3.4*		*2.7*		*2.9*		*2.6*		*2.8*		*3.2*

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

9 CAPACITY FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The capacity to address NRM issues was addressed using eight belief statements (Appendix A). Each belief statement was constructed so that it not only provided an indication of capacity in relation to NRM, but it could also be placed along a continuum of capacity and engagement from simple awareness of NRM issues through to empowerment and the capacity to influence NRM decision making.

The majority of urban residents would work with neighbours to address common problems and were aware of what the environmental issues were in their area (Table 33). As also shown in Table 33, people in small and medium towns were relatively more likely than residents from larger towns to also participate in activities to improve the health of the environment and know about the activities of the local Landcare group.

Table 33. Capacity for natural resource management by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Work with neighbours	140	89.2	155	91.6	141	80.9	346	69.3
Aware of environmental issues	138	87.6	152	89.7	131	75.0	263	52.7
Participate in activities	100	63.4	103	60.7	85	49.1	200	40.0
Interest in environmental issues	93	58.9	88	52.1	80	46.0	146	29.3
Know about Landcare in area	89	56.7	114	67.1	71	40.9	84	16.8
Have experience and knowledge	59	37.6	40	23.8	48	27.4	64	12.8
Able to influence decisions	56	35.4	31	18.4	37	21.5	46	9.2
Have skills and training	40	25.5	28	16.5	24	14.0	26	5.2
Total residents	157	100.0	170	100.0	174	100.0	499	100.0

Note: The wording of the question has been abbreviated in the table. The questionnaire in Appendix A shows the full wording of the question.
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

While the majority of residents within each of the subregions were willing to work with neighbours to address common problems and were aware of what the environmental issues are in their area there was also differences across subregions in the capacity for natural resource management (Table 34). For example residents of the Upper Shoalhaven and Snowy-Monaro were significantly more likely than residents of other subregions to know of the activities of the local Landcare group.

Table 34. Capacity for natural resource management by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Work with neighbours	92	88.2	76	79.9	34	89.5	63	90.0	73	93.5	57	94.3
Aware of environmental issues	60	58.1	82	86.3	33	86.8	59	84.1	66	84.5	58	96.7
Participate in activities	51	49.1	45	47.6	25	65.8	37	53.1	51	65.2	46	76.4
Interest in environmental issues	31	29.8	53	55.1	19	50.0	36	51.8	37	47.4	38	63.0
Know about Landcare in area	8	8.2	43	45.5	26	68.4	39	55.5	49	62.9	43	72.0
Have experience and knowledge	9	8.6	32	33.1	18	47.4	30	43.1	15	19.3	28	47.3
Able to influence decisions	3	3.2	35	36.9	13	34.2	21	30.2	14	17.9	13	22.0
Have skills and training	2	1.9	14	14.3	14	36.8	16	22.4	14	18.0	15	24.3
Total residents	104	100.0	95	100.0	38	100.0	70	100.0	78	100.0	60	100.0

Note: The wording of the question has been abbreviated in the table. The questionnaire in Appendix A shows the full wording of the question.
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

10 INVOLVEMENT IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Table 35 shows that only 2% of all urban residents were currently involved in a Landcare, natural resource management or environmental group. However within small towns 13% of residents were currently involved in such groups.

Table 35. Involvement in a Landcare, NRM or environmental group by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	21	13.2	12	7.2	8	4.6	10	2.1
No	138	86.8	162	92.8	169	95.4	475	97.9
Total	159	100.0	174	100.0	177	100.0	485	100.0

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Current involvement in Landcare, NRM or environmental groups was highest amongst residents of the Upper Shoalhaven and Snowy-Monaro subregions, with the lowest involvement occurring amongst residents of the Illawarra subregion.

Table 36. Involvement in a Landcare, NRM or environmental group by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	1	0.7	7	7.2	6	15.0	2	2.4	4	5.0	7	11.7
No	134	99.3	91	92.8	34	85.0	75	97.6	76	95.0	53	88.3
Total	135	100.0	98	100.0	40	100.0	77	100.0	80	100.0	60	100.0

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

Amongst those urban residents who did participate in a Landcare, NRM or environmental group, Table 37 shows the name of the group through which they participated in these activities.

Table 37. "What was the name of the group/s?"

Response	Count	Percent
Landcare (general)	3	9.1
ABC Landcare	1	3.0
Bega Landcare	1	3.0
Braidwood Landcare	1	3.0
Braidwood urban environment group	1	3.0
Brogers Creek Landcare	1	3.0
Bushcare	1	3.0
Creek care group	1	3.0
Foreshore committee	1	3.0
Friends of Mongarlowe River	1	3.0
Geroha Landcare	1	3.0
Jayroo Forum	1	3.0
Kangaroo Valley Environment Group	1	3.0
Kyama Landcare	1	3.0
Little Plains Landcare Group	1	3.0
Marine Resource Group	1	3.0
Mila Landcare	1	3.0
Monaro Landcare	1	3.0
Narooma Rotary Walking Track	1	3.0
National Trust	1	3.0
Neighbourhood Tidy-Up	1	3.0
Platypus Pals	1	3.0
Sage	1	3.0
School based programs	1	3.0
Snowy River Alliance Group	1	3.0
Snowy River Interstate Landcare Group	1	3.0
Social Justice Group	1	3.0
The LEp209 group	1	3.0
Urban Landcare group	1	3.0
Volunteers cycleway project	1	3.0
Wilderness Society	1	3.0
Total residents	33	100.0

Note: Based on the unweighted sample.
Source: *EBC (2012).*

Table 38 shows the main reasons residents gave for not participating in a Landcare, NRM or environmental group. The three most common reasons for not participating included being too old (31%); not having enough time (21%); or being too busy (17%).

Table 38. Reasons for not participating in a Landcare, NRM or environmental group

Response	Count	Percent
Too old	130	31.3
No time	87	21.0
Too busy	70	16.9
Not interested	46	11.1
No need	19	4.6
Poor health	12	2.9
No group in area	9	2.2
Already in a group or organisation	7	1.7
Disabled	4	1.0
Don't live in area	4	1.0
Look after own land	4	1.0
Past member	4	1.0
Don't agree with practices	3	0.7
Other reasons (frequency of 2 or less)	16	3.9
Total residents	415	100.0

Note: Based on the unweighted sample.
Source: *EBC (2012).*

11 AWARENESS OF THE SOUTHERN RIVERS CMA

Table 39 indicates the level of awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA amongst urban residents. This table includes both unadjusted and adjusted percentages. The unadjusted percentage is based on all responses from residents when they were asked if they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA. As shown in Table 39, 20% of all urban residents indicated they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA.

The adjusted percentage is based on changes to responses based on what they believed the main activity of the CMA to be. For instance, (i) if they could not describe the main activity of the CMA; (ii) referred to the main activity of the CMA as only being water or water management; or (iii) referred only to catchment management (as implied in the use of the term CMA), their responses were changed from 'having heard of the CMA' to having 'not heard of the CMA'.

It is the adjusted percentages which best represents the level of awareness of the CMA, although this percentage may itself be somewhat conservative. As shown in Table 39, 2% of all urban residents were found to have heard of the CMA and at the same time knew the main activity of the CMA. The highest awareness occurred amongst residents of small towns (8%) and the lowest awareness was amongst residents of large towns (0.3%).

Table 39. Awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Unadjusted responses								
Yes	64	40.2	62	35.9	59	33.2	97	19.7
Unsure	49	30.7	36	20.6	27	14.9	101	20.5
No	46	29.1	76	43.5	92	51.9	295	59.8
Total residents	158	100.0	174	100.0	178	100.0	493	100.0
Adjusted responses								
Yes	12	7.6	12	6.9	0	0.3	8	1.7
Unsure	49	30.7	36	20.6	27	14.9	101	20.5
No	98	61.7	126	72.5	151	84.8	384	77.8
Total residents	158	100.0	174	100.0	178	100.0	493	100.0

Note: Unadjusted responses includes all responses obtained from residents in the survey. The adjusted responses are based on changes to resident's responses based on what they believed the main activity of CMA to be. For instance if they could not describe the main activity of CMA or referred to the main activity of CMA as being water management or only addressing water related issues their responses were changed from 'having heard of the CMA' to having 'not heard of the CMA'.

Based on the weighted sample.

Source: EBC (2012).

When awareness of the CMA is examined across subregions the highest awareness (adjusted response) occurs in the Upper Shoalhaven (15%) and Far South Coast (14%) subregions, with the lowest awareness being amongst residents in the Illawarra (1%), Shoalhaven (0.4%) and Eurobodalla (0.7%) subregions (Table 40).

Table 40. Awareness of the Southern Rivers CMA by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Unadjusted responses												
Yes	18	13.0	45	45.3	33	82.5	16	21.1	32	40.2	29	49.5
Unsure	28	20.5	20	20.0	1	2.5	17	22.5	18	22.5	12	20.0
No	92	66.5	34	34.7	6	15.0	43	56.5	30	37.3	18	30.5
Total	138	100.0	98	100.0	40	100.0	77	100.0	80	100.0	59	100.0
Adjusted responses												
Yes	2	1.2	0	0.4	6	15.0	1	0.7	11	13.9	4	7.5
Unsure	28	20.5	20	20.0	1	2.5	17	22.5	18	22.5	12	20.0
No	108	78.3	78	79.6	33	82.5	59	76.8	51	63.7	43	72.5
Total	138	100.0	98	100.0	40	100.0	77	100.0	80	100.0	59	100.0

Note: Unadjusted responses includes all responses obtained from residents in the survey. The adjusted responses are based on changes to resident's responses based on what they believed the main activity of CMA to be. For instance if they could not describe the main activity of CMA or referred to the main activity of CMA as being water management or only addressing water related issues their responses were changed from 'having heard of the CMA' to having 'not heard of the CMA'.
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

If residents indicated they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA, they were then asked what they believed the main activity of CMA to be.

Table 41 shows that 76% of these residents indicated the main activity of the CMA centred on some aspect of water management, with only 11% indicating the main activity of CMA to be natural resource management (Table 41). The belief that the main activity of the CMA was natural resource management was highest in the small towns (23%) and (lowest in the large towns (1%)

Table 41. Beliefs about the main activity of the CMA by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Water management	37	70.9	30	57.0	40	88.1	58	76.2
NRM	12	23.3	12	22.7	0	1.0	8	11.0
Catchment	2	2.9	7	14.1	3	6.9	8	10.6
Other beliefs	2	2.9	3	6.3	2	4.0	2	2.3
Total residents	52	100.0	53	100.0	45	100.0	76	100.0

Note: Percentages based on those residents who indicated they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA.
'Water management' includes for example - about the Murray River, better use of water, control flow of water in area, improve rivers, keep Snowy flowing, manage waterways, protecting the river, regulate water and dams, manage freshwater in the area, water for Sydney and water quality management.
'Natural resource management' includes looking after the environment; protecting the environment; environmental concerns; managing natural resources, weed management
'Catchment management' includes management of catchments, look after catchment, condition of catchments.
Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

The understanding that the main activity of the CMA was natural resource management was highest amongst urban residents in the Upper Shoalhaven (26%) and Far South Coast (38%) subregions (Table 42).

Table 42. Beliefs about the main activity of the CMA by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Water management	10	74.7	30	90.4	13	56.5	12	77.1	13	44.8	16	65.6
NRM	2	12.0	0	1.1	6	26.1	1	3.6	11	38.1	4	18.1
Catchment	2	13.3	2	4.7	1	4.3	3	19.3	3	10.2	2	8.2
Other	0	0.0	1	3.8	3	13.0	0	0.0	2	6.9	2	8.2
Total residents	14	100.0	33	100.0	23	100.0	15	100.0	29	100.0	24	100.0

Note: *Percentages based on those residents who indicated they had heard of the Southern Rivers CMA.*
'Water management' includes for example - about the Murray River, better use of water, control flow of water in area, improve rivers, keep Snowy flowing, manage waterways, protecting the river, regulate water and dams, manage freshwater in the area, water for Sydney and water quality management.
'Natural resource management' includes looking after the environment; protecting the environment; environmental concerns; managing natural resources, weed management
'Catchment management' includes management of catchments, look after catchment, condition of catchments.
Based on the weighted sample.

Source: *EBC (2012).*

Amongst those urban residents who indicated they were aware of the CMA, 68% indicated that they heard about the CMA through newspapers (Table 43). In terms of the sources of awareness about the CMA, Table 43 also indicates greater diversity in the sources of awareness amongst small town residents relative to those residents in larger towns.

Table 43. Sources of awareness about the CMA by town size

	Small towns		Medium towns		Large towns		Urban residents	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Newspaper	20	36.1	31	54.0	36	67.8	59	68.1
Radio	15	27.8	22	38.8	22	40.7	32	36.8
Through work	13	24.1	10	16.5	3	5.9	10	11.2
Through Landcare	4	6.5	3	5.0	7	12.7	9	10.1
TV	16	28.7	3	5.8	11	20.3	8	9.7
Through friends	17	30.5	13	23.0	2	3.4	5	6.0
Total residents	54	100.0	58	100.0	53	100.0	87	100.0

Note: *Based on the weighted sample.*
Source: *EBC (2012).*

Table 44 indicates while newspapers are one of the main sources of awareness about the CMA amongst residents across all subregions, in the Snowy-Monaro and Shoalhaven subregions awareness of the CMA also commonly occurred through listening to the radio.

Table 44. Sources of awareness about the CMA by subregion

	Illawarra		Shoalhaven		Upper Shoalhaven		Eurobodalla		Far South Coast		Snowy Monaro	
Response	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Newspaper	11	70.7	28	68.4	13	46.4	12	84.7	18	58.1	9	35.7
Radio	4	28.4	23	55.8	6	21.4	1	8.9	9	29.2	12	46.8
Through work	2	10.4	4	9.5	6	21.4	1	6.3	6	19.5	5	19.8
Through Landcare	2	13.2	4	9.7	1	3.6	1	5.2	0	0.0	1	4.8
TV	2	10.0	5	11.7	5	17.9	0	0.0	2	6.4	2	7.1
Through friends	0	0.6	2	3.9	19	67.9	0	2.6	9	29.0	6	24.6
Total residents	16	100.0	42	100.0	28	100.0	15	100.0	31	100.0	25	100.0

Note: Based on the weighted sample.
Source: EBC (2012).

APPENDIX A

Urban Residents Questionnaire

Interview Number: _____ Interviewer Name: _____

Hello, my name is..... I am from Environment and Behaviour Consultants and we have been contracted by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority or CMA to undertake a survey of residents in the region. The survey is being undertaken so the CMA can better support people in addressing environmental issues. The survey will take about 15 minutes and all the information you provide will be confidential. Would you be willing to complete the survey?

1. If you were to judge the health of the land, vegetation and water in your local area, on a scale from one (1) to ten (10), with one (1) being very unhealthy and ten (10) being very healthy, what score would you give it?

   Score ____ ☐ Don't know

2. Think about your local area. What are the two things that you value most about your local area?

   ☐ Don't know

   1. _____

   2. _____

3. Think about your local area over the last ten years. What has changed in your local area that you are most concerned about?

   ☐ Don't know ☐ Not relevant

   1. _____

   2. _____

4. Think about your local area over the next ten years. What are the most significant changes you expect to occur in your local area?

   ☐ Don't know

   1. _____

   2. _____

5. How would you rate the capacity of people in your local area to respond to these changes?

   ☐ Very low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Very high

6. If you were to judge the health of the land, vegetation and water **in the broader region**, on a scale from one (1) to ten (10), with one (1) being very unhealthy and ten (10) being very healthy, what score would you give it?

   Score ____ ☐ Don't know

7. Think about the broader region. What are the two most important things you value about the region?

   ☐ Don't know

   1. _____

   2. _____

8. Think about the broader region over the last ten years. What has changed in the region that you are most concerned about?

☐ Don't know ☐ Not relevant

1. _____

2. _____

9. Think about the broader region over the next ten years. What are the most significant changes you expect to occur in the region?

☐ Don't know

1. _____

2. _____

10. How would you rate the capacity of people in the broader region to respond to these changes?

☐ Very low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Very high

---

11. In the last 12 months how often would you have spoken to others about the following issues? *(Interviewer: Read issue and then say would you have spoken about this issue weekly, monthly, once or twice in the last 12 months or never)*

	Weekly	Monthly	Once/twice in past 12 months	Never
a. Development of land	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Droughts, floods or bushfires	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Local economic prosperity	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Protecting prime agricultural land	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Local capacity to produce our own food	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Aboriginal cultural heritage	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Condition of local waterways	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Condition of the local environment	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Climate change	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Condition of local beaches	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Recreational fishing	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. Have you thought about climate change and how it might affect your property and the way you might manage it?

☐ No

☐ Yes

---

13. Have you heard of the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority or CMA?

☐ Yes ☐ Unsure (go to Question 16) ☐ No (go to Question 16)

14. What do you think is the main activity undertaken by the CMA?

_____

15. How did you hear about CMA? *(Interviewer: Free recall and multiple response)*

☐ Newspaper ☐ Through friends

☐ Radio ☐ Through work

☐ Through a Landcare or other similar group

Other _____

16. Are you currently involved in a Landcare, natural resource management or environmental group?

☐ Yes, what is the name of the group?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

☐ No, why not?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

17. Tell me if you agree with any of these statements…

☐ I am aware of what the environmental issues are in this area

☐ I am interested in finding out more about environmental issues in this area

☐ I would work with my neighbours to address common problems that we might have

☐ If asked I would participate in activities to improve the health of the environment in this area

☐ I know about the things the local Landcare group does in this area

☐ I have the skills and training to help address environmental issues in this area

☐ I have the experience and knowledge to help address environmental issues in this area

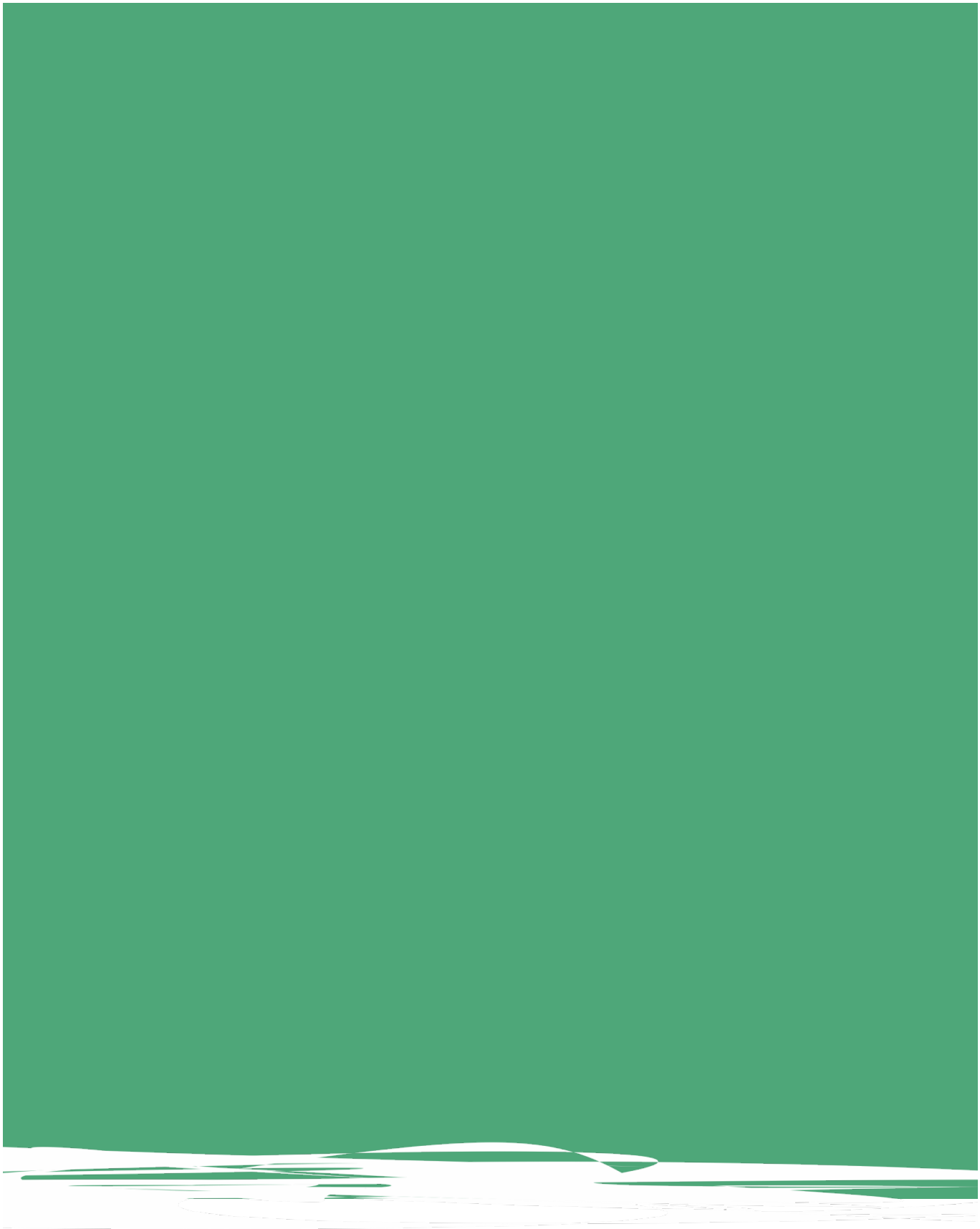
☐ I feel I would be able to influence decisions about improving the health of the environment in this area

18. In what town do you live? _____

19. How many years have you lived in this area? _____ years

20. In what year were you born? 19_____

21. Interviewer: *Record Male or Female* ☐ Male ☐ Female



Catchment Management Authority
Southern Rivers

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