

Dangar Island Survey 2020



4 year old picture of the love on the island from the Dangar Island Childrens' Drawing show at the cafe 2020

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Background

In 2019 the Dangar Island League decided to run a community survey to help identify values, concerns and ideas within the community. The questions were kept open and non-specific so residents could choose their own topics and level of detail to share.

We knew collating the wide variety of results we received would require much time and teamwork to interpret and distil. Unfortunately, current conditions scuppered the meeting where we had planned to present our data in a chatty and interactive way. The Q & As would have helped clarify and evolve ideas and issues, many of which could or do influence each other. We are now forced to send this information forth for you to interpret in this non-communal way. However, when things settle and we are able to gather as a community again, we are hoping to have that interactive meeting.

The survey was distributed to the door and face to face wherever possible to encourage community participation.

Survey Response & Analysis

In a community of 198 residential dwellings, 117 unique surveys were returned.

Each survey was completed by any number of people in a household and some surveys contained multiple responses to one or more questions.

While analysing the surveys, similar concepts emerged which became the identifying categories, themes and comments used to consolidate responses, where appropriate.

Analysing the surveys was a complex task which at times required much discussion. All survey responses were analysed multiple times ensuring that comments had been addressed consistently and that all responses had been included in the results.

Throughout the process, importance was placed on consistency and equity: consistency in how one comment was handled in relation to others; and equity, fairness and impartiality across all comments on all surveys.

Given that not all households completed a survey, the results cannot be viewed as a representation of the whole community. Similarly, as each survey was completed by differing numbers of people, one comment does not necessarily represent a single person's view, or one whole household's view.

One of the most interesting elements of the survey findings lies in the relationships between the three categories of "community", "environment" and "access & services" across the 5 questions. Please refer to the tables and charts below and the larger spreadsheet for further insight into the survey findings and the correlations between categories, themes and comments.

The Next Steps

No doubt, some of you may wish to add more comments to your personal survey once other comments have been viewed (we all did). There will be further opportunities for engagement in discussions and decision-making as we progress through some of the topics raised.

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As we feel you will understand, this survey was just that: a survey that felt the pulse of the island in both a quantitative and qualitative way. As such, it took a small team of people some hundreds of hours to process and collate in a very thoughtful and careful way.

We are not wanting to progress any of the new topics which came out of the survey just yet, because that would be premature. As stated above, we feel there is a need for a face to face meeting where, everyone who wants to, can have further input as well as comment on the process and the findings so far. However, the DIL committee continues to do the work of DIL with a clear sense of the things that need to be progressed and that are left over from the hard work of previous committees, or which come up in the normal course of life.

That having been said, there still remain, though, matters and concerns that you will see in the attached documents. Some matters are beyond the scope of the committee of DIL, some matters are complex, sometimes with views divided amongst islanders. It is these issues that we are trying to consider as well as to come up with a way or ways to achieve both consensus and solutions.

So far we have not come up with anything revolutionary, just tried and true methods that are being used by governments and bodies around the world. In lots of ways they look like the sub-committees that are the mainstay of any association as it tries to gather together people who have expertise and interest in particular things and whose work the main committee uses to help it make decisions.

In trying to make a choice about how to proceed we were very cognizant of the need for a number of things: that the smaller body be chosen from those who are willing but who also represent as many views and parts of the demographic present on the island as is possible; that the discussions that they have be ones that adhere to a good process and are fair; that there be expert and stakeholder opinions incorporated into those deliberations; and that the outcomes / solutions they propose be taken seriously and respected as the representative views of the whole island.

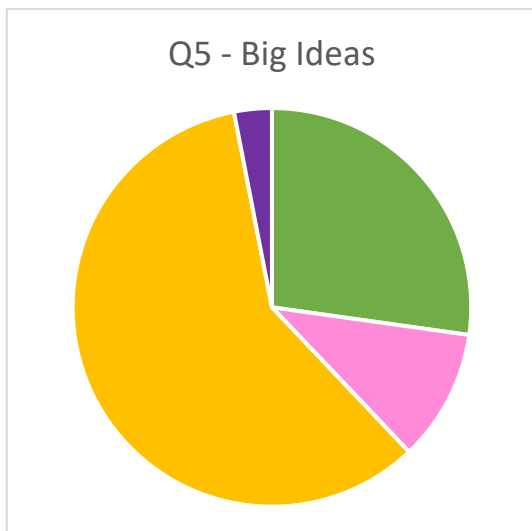
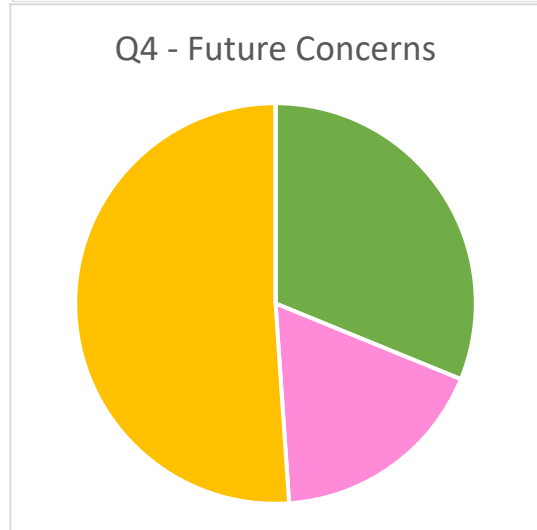
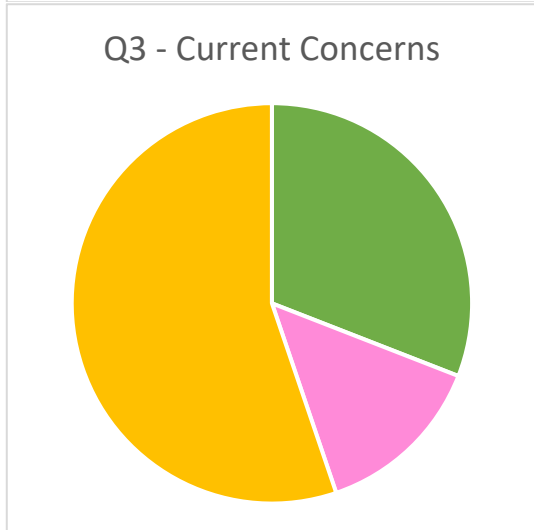
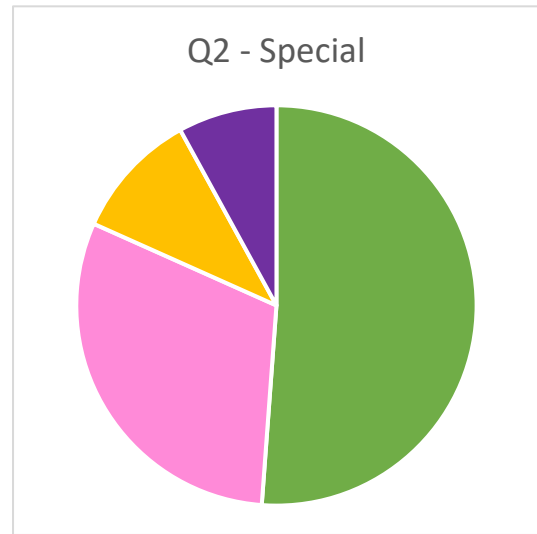
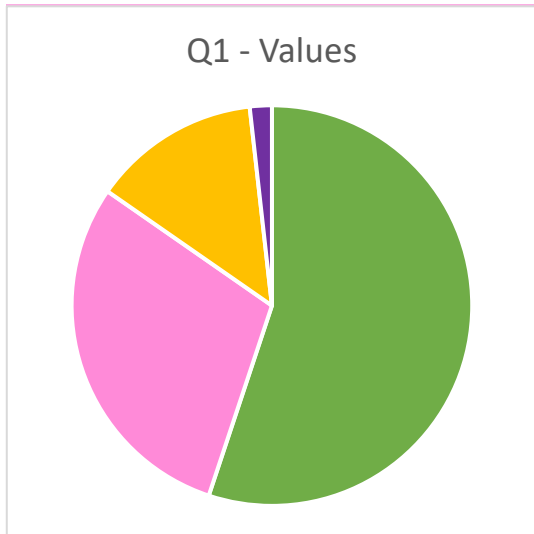
So far, we have found the model provided by Citizen Assemblies to be the one most suited to the needs of Dangar Island. It incorporates all the considerations above and it has been used around the world by nation states, states and smaller groupings of people to make decision making more democratic and representative. We will talk about all of these possibilities at greater length when we meet and imagine that whatever methodology is used it will be flexible enough to deal with our small population but make sure that as many people are involved in making the complicated decisions as is possible.

All of this being said it is worth saying that although this work came solely out of work done on the island, The process of citizens assemblies and parallel thinking has since been discussed between Hornsby Shire Council employees, Brooklyn Community Association and the Dangar Island League as a way to forward engagement between river communities and council. Hornsby Council are watching with great interest and are themselves interested in finding better ways to find out what people think and make better decisions.

Thank you again for your participation in the 2020 Dangar Island Survey to date. This is really just the beginning of what we hope will be an inclusive and productive progression toward the future of our island home.

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Representation of comments across all responses per question.



Environment	Environment
Access & Services	Access & Services
Community	Community
Culture & History	Culture & History

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Top 13 responses in order: Q1 – Q6

Q1: What do you or your household value most on the island?

Category	Theme	Comments (abbr)
Community	People	Community: friends, friendly, unique, caring, supportive, welcoming
Environment	Nature	Natural Environment: Beauty / Close & easy access to nature/ Surrounded by Nat Parks
Environment	Lifestyle	Quiet/ Tranquil/ Peaceful/ Ambience
Environment	Vehicles	No Vehicles (cars or private buggies)
Environment	River	River: Surrounded by Water (boat life)/ Swimming/ Fishing
Community	People	Community: Security/ Trust/ Safety/ Belonging/ Relatability / Community Spirit
Community	Volunteer	Volunteer Orgs on Island (CFRS, DIRFS, DIL, DIG, buggy, DIHS)
Environment	Nature	Birds/ Endemic wildlife
Environment	Nature	Trees & Shrubs (indigenous) / Bush/ Blackbutt Forest/ Mangrove Forests/ Reserve
Access & Service	Café/Shop	Café/ Shop
Community	Diversity	Community: Diversity/ Individuality/ Tolerance of difference/ Eccentrics
Environment	Lifestyle	Low density/ Non-(sub)urban/ Minimal commercialism (not a resort)
Access & Services	Island Assets	Bowling Club

Q2: What makes this island special for you or your household?

Category	Theme	Comments (abbr)
Environment	Nature	Natural Environment/ Contact & beauty/ Nat Parks/ Bush/ Sandstone
Community	People	Community: People / Friends/ Support/ Helpful/ Magnificent
Environment	River	River: Water Access/ Boat at end of jetty/Crossing/ Swimming/ Fishing
Environment	Lifestyle	Peace / Quiet / Serenity/ Tranquility/ Ambience/ Pace
Community	People	Community: Welcoming/ Relaxed atmosphere/ Village feel/ Acceptance
Environment	Vehicles	No Vehicles (cars or private buggies)
Environment	Lifestyle	Privacy/ Removed from city/ Isolated
Environment	Lifestyle	Low density/ Views/ No visual barriers/ Park-like landscape
Access & Services	Location	Access to Transport/ City/ Shops/ Hospitals
Environment	Nature	Wildlife/ Birdlife/ Snakes and lizards
Community	Diversity	Community: Creative/ Variety of People/ Tolerance
Community	Volunteers	Generosity & Service to community orgs (RFS, CFRs, DIG, DIHS)
Community	Lifestyle	Walking/ Pedestrian culture

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Q3: What current island concerns do you or your household have?

Category	Theme	Comments (abbr)
Environment	Pets	Pets- Negative impact on native flora and fauna/ Loss of wildlife/ Interference of waterbirds/ Dogs: off leash / Dangerous breeds/ Barking / Aggressive owners/ Bother children & chickens/ Poo/ Cats: killing possums, birds, native fauna
Access & Services	Power, Water & Comms	Internet & Mobile: Poor quality/reception / Concern for emergency services/ Lag behind on tech/ NBN
Environment	Diversity	Overdevelopment / Creeping Yuppification / Affordable Housing/ failure to protect environment/loss of wildlife/ neighbours privacy/ concerned about mobile tower
Access & Services	Ferry	Ferry cost prohibitive/ Lack of Opal card/ Unfair for school escort to pay fare/ \$ Freight restrictions
Access & Services	Roads	Maintenance/condition of roads & drains / roadside gutters/ condition of unsealed roads
Access & Services	Waste	Green waste - more HSC collections req'd/ Green bin not adequate/ Sustainable fire/ Fuel management (private & public land)/ Downed vegetation not cleared
Access & Services	Waste	Bins unsightly/ too big
Community	Tourism	Holiday Rentals - Noise/ Lack of respect/ Impact on: affordable housing/ Diversity/ Demographic of islanders/ Local school
Access & Services	Island Assets	Hall - Underuse due to council regulations/ Cost/ Difficult to access as a volunteer org
Environment	Nature	Degradation of native environs - Increased clearing/ Fragmentation/ Invasive species/ Weeds/ Health of blackbutts/ Losing gum trees- esp on streetscape
Access & Services	Aged & In need	Aged & In need- care service/ Transport of groceries & goods/ Medical support/ Disability access/ Increasingly difficult to stay
Access & Services	Brooklyn	Parking at Brooklyn (not enough)/ Forced to park distance from BMC & Ferry/ Increase of cars/ Peat Is dev
Community	Tourism	Too many tourists / Day-trippers/ Not using toilet facilities/ Commercialisation of island culture/ HSC encourages tourism with insufficient infrastructure/ Trespassing onto private property

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Q4: What concerns for the future of Dangar Island do you or your household have?

Category	Theme	Comments (abbr)
Environment	Extreme Weather Events	Climate change effecting extreme weather/ Fire risk/ Rising sea levels/ Bio-diveristy
Environment	Development	Overdevelopment/ Insensitive architecture/ Development on reserve (+ telstra tower)/ Leading to declining environmental quality of island
Community	Development	Increase in investments/ Holiday rentals: impact on community/ Affordable housing/ Noise & disturbance
Access & Services	Ferry	Ferry: High cost disproportionately affects young families/ Ferry cost too high/ Ever increasing
Environment	Nature	Preservation of flora & fauna/ Reserve/ Native vegetation/ Increased clearing/ Effect on greater environmental values
Access & Services	Brooklyn	Parking at Brooklyn - is limited/ Security
Community	Tourism	Over-tourism/ Over-commercialisation/ More HSC support req'd/ Overcrowding on ferry
Access & Services	Aged & In need	Care & Support (access)/ Meals on Wheels/ Cleaning/ Access to island services for all
Access & Services	Boats	Moorings (Brooklyn) - currently limited
Access & Services	Boats	Moorings (Dangar) - need more/ Improved/Particularly needed for inland residents
Access & Services	Power, Water & Comms	Internet and Mobile reception is poor/ does not support people working remotely/ Unsure of NBN
Community	Diversity	Maintaining diverse residents/ Tolerance of differences
Environment	Development	Overpopulation/ Stresses on infrastructure/ Affordable housing

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Q5: Thinking BIG... What ideas would you or your household like for the future of D Is.?

Category	Theme	Comments (abbr)
Access & Services	Power, Water & Comms	Renewable energy for island: different ideas- Water (resevoir & tanks)/ Micro grid/ Off grid/ Tidal/ Wind turbine & Solar/ Govt. subsidies
Access & Services	Boats	Moorings Dangar: - increase on the island: different ideas- /community mooring facility/at end of public access pathways/ Small-scale Island berthing - mix of boardwalk/running line/ joint Helipad/mooring off south beach to promote removal of running lines
Environment	Pets	Domestic Pets - Banning of dogs & cats/ Create pet policy/ Limit numbers/ Pet sharing/ Educate/ Designated off-leash areas/ Keep cats inside
Access & Services	Aged & In need	Support: including meals on wheels, grocery deliveries, transport off island for appointments/ Monthly bulk grocery (non-perishable delivery)
Access & Services	Roads	Roads Management: Seal Gutter/foilage management for absentee landlord properties/ Seal (NO!) the roads/ Seal (YES!) the roads/ (or ban the garbage truck), kerb & guttering
Access & Services	Waste	Green waste - Community access to mulcher for green waste/ Recycling green waste on island - no more green bins - community compost/ HSC engagement
Community	Community	Nothing extreme (no extreme changes)/ Preserve the unique atmosphere and Community
Environment	Nature	Preservation of Environmental Values: Preserve what is left (inc river & foreshore)/ Make the island a nature reserve/ Tree Register/ Educate residents re: healthy indigenous & endemic vegetation
Access & Services	Hall	Hall - Putting it back into the hands of community / affordable / no cameras/ better system of insurance
Access & Services	Sharing	Equitable: Boat/ Jetty access/ Car-share (share ride/ Go Get)
Access & Services	Ferry	Opal Cap for ferry or rebate for residents/school ferry parent shouldn't have to pay
Access & Services	Brooklyn	Parking: different ideas- create a 'think tank'/Residents Permits at Brooklyn/separate visitor parking / underwater parking/ shuttle bus between Mooney Mooney and Station for when large housing development happens
Environment	Community	Sustainable Ecological Practices: Food production/ Ecological alternatives to herbicides/ Education/ Specialists & forums

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Q6: Do you or your household have suggestions on how future decision making could be run on the island?

Theme	Comments (abbr)
Community Involvement	Increased & as is community engagement; ensuring Diversity/ Public Meetings/ As a community (non-specific)
League	As Is (maintain/ensure diversity in League committee)
Democracy	Democratically: Voting (all residents - diversity & anonymity) following communications on issues
Surveys	Surveys/ Suggestion Box
Forums & Groups	Advisory groups to DIL/ Forums/ Sub-committees/ Inclusive of Brooklyn
League	League is not decision-making body/ Should not overstate it's role
HSC	HSC to accept voice of the League as rep of community/ Islander as HSC councillor/ Island Advocacy group with legal power to hold HSC accountable
Engagement	Work with stakeholder groups: traditional owners, govt agencies and island groups
League	Agreed & fair format for discourse/ set of principles to guide decision making/ Keep it simple/ Rank priorities
Forums & Groups	Wary of forums/ Advisory groups
HSC	Individuals & Council to communicate directly
Community Involvement	Balanced Responsibilities across island areas - The Ring Effect

Please refer to the excel spreadsheet of combined responses for further details. This is available on the website only: www.dangarislandleague.com/survey-2020