

Community-Government Collaborative Framework Project

Notes from discussions by Associate Professor Sandy Booth with community members at the Lawson Festival

18th and 19th November 2006

The following notes are derived from informal discussions with approximately 20 community members over the two days of the Lawson Festival. The notes cover the areas of interest and concern relating to the Community-Government Collaborative Framework Project and are presented as summary of conversations of the views given by community members on the day.

- *There is a difference between what Council says and does*
- *Need to placate the uncertainty*
- *There is a discontinuity between discussions and formal action*
- *Council need to go much further than merely just reporting back*
- *There is room to improve process, we need to rationally find the best way*
- *The community is quite cynical at present.*
- *Example given of consultants doing a “great job but work disbanded by Council as they were not “getting the answers that they wanted”.*
- *Quote by Council officer “This is what you are getting you might as well take it”*
- *Council has lied in the past*
- *There are better ways to do things. Need to go well beyond the ways of the past*
- *Recently there has been a new perspective coming through from Council ie “what would the community like council to do?”*
- *Council could fix up the Honour Garden*
- *Council could do well to consider a gesture eg “give the community the mechanics institute”*
- *There is a need for something iconic – healing*
- *Not much has been made available through reports*
- *Latest gossip –Coles put big new shop over the top of the community centre*
- *Problems in the Mid Mountains relate to – history and present eg Hazelbrook versus Lawson – which will be the hub and the ownership of shops and the previous land swaps – the land swaps were not made transparent*
- *Greater transparency – would be less concern among the community*
- *DA’s being considered over Christmas – a real concern*
- *I understand the community loss but not the loss of buildings*
- *Need to sustain sufficient open space around the school and community centre for the ANZAC festival and other events.*

Participants Vision Statements for the Mid Mountains

Gumleaf responses Workshop 1

Mid Mountains Vision - Looking After the Environment

What will the Mid Mountains environment be like in 2025 when the MAP for Action is successfully implemented in terms of the natural environment; existing and new development; and living sustainably.

- Streams and creeks hydrology improved not made any worse – drinkable water
- Recycling and reuse – fresh local produce – reduced global produce and marketing – people employed in environmental maintenance and food growing different transport and low impact fuels and energy sources, changed lifestyle expectations
- Stable soils – reduced sedimentation – deep pools and clean streams – clean break between urban areas and high quality natural areas – wide knowledge and government – clear commitment to reduced footprint.
- Still the envy of Sydney
- Water in creeks to be drinkable; saltation addressed so there are pools to paddle in again
- Trees, clean water, clean air
- Quality of life within a quality environment
- May fly nymphs in Lawson Creek
- Bushfire prone areas – reduced settlement there; consolidate towns rather than increase bushfire protection areas
- Council and community aware of ecological footprint and reducing energy use
- RTA remove all silt from creeks
- Bush regenerated; weeds removed
- Good stormwater controls; WSUD; infiltration; SQUIDS; GPTs, energy dissipated; healthy creek systems, pools restored; riffles; biodiversity; groundwater dependent ecosystem healthy including hanging swamps
- Hanging swamps restored
- Keeping what we've got
- Local governments working politically with one another to represent community issues/ sustainability issues against State Govt
- Local Government recognised as a genuine tier of government
- Imaginative 'green' community shopping centre with places for people to gather
- High speed rail
- A train every 30 minutes and through the night
- Public transport for a clean environment
- Massive decrease in motor vehicles and their emissions and negative impact on environment
- More shared transport – quieter less busy highway – more use of railway
- Absolute minimal impact of urban living on bushland

- A park over the rail and highway in the centre of Lawson
- Population limitations with controlled use or resources
- No impact from roadwork's or road development on bushland or creeks
- Give consideration for info to public access
- Improve and develop around an historic town not through it
- Towns that still have history
- Council limiting development from now so that the impacts on environment decrease
- Clean; employment; intelligent industries
- Harmony with the land – limit the developments and scouring of the lands
- Our indigenous history and culture will be known, respected and valued
- Home to diverse population – across age, culture, lifestyle, income
- Village centres promoting slow foods, public art, water features, WSUD, rainwater harvesting and reuse, green businesses promoted.

Gumleaf responses Workshop 2

Mid Mountains Vision - Looking after People

What will the Mid Mountains be like in 2025 when the MAP for Action is successfully implemented in terms of health and well being of people; services and facilities; and communities.

- Mid Mountains own identity
- Total involvement – look to the heritage and traditions
- The Mid Mountains enjoys a bit more ethnic and cultural diversity
- Independence from 'main centres'
- Independent
- Self sufficient
- Increased capacity for social, economic and environmental integration and conservation
- People are proud and happy to live, work and visit here
- Everyone has lots of friends of all ages
- Less cars, more bikes, clean air
- Friends and strangers are greeted warmly and with smiles and laughter
- Kindness and green trees
- Safe, caring and diverse
- Bike paths everywhere with simple electric carts and bikes etc
- Accessible, prosperous, inclusive Health, wellbeing, and environment care
- Treat the ratepayer as though they know what they need; understanding of community interests
- Doctor in Lawson
- A doctors surgery in every village
- An active community, recreational facilities for all ages, well spread out

- The moment the bank closed in Lawson was a death knell to lots of things, people who always shopped here then had to go to Springwood or Katoomba and so most of their shopping was done there..... so a bank is needed
- Housing for older people – much more needed, must be close to public transport, shops etc
- Good place to grow old – in health, safety, accessibility
- Full range of medical services, learning, work and entertainment
- The Mid Mountains has a good level of local health and community services

Gumleaf responses Workshop 3

Mid Mountains Vision - Using Land for Living

What will the Mid Mountains be like in 2025 when the MAP for Action is successfully implemented in terms of local identity and place, infrastructure and towns and villages.

- A strong sense of local identity and place is created supporting sustainable growth in industry, tourism etc; Well managed infrastructure supporting sustainable living; The liveability and vibrancy of our towns and villages are strengthened!
- Develop Aboriginal heritage sites with the local Aboriginal people
- History of the Mid Mountains becoming more available and sought after
- Aboriginal custodians of the land feed good enough about the place to come back and work together
- A more multi cultural mountains
- Help heritage listed properties retain the past; Preserve sights of interest; Better tourism signs etc/
- Older population? Water? Library /technology /environment centre – info about bushland
- Develop mountains as a cutting edge place for engaged governance processes
- Reduce our costs and utilise our existing capital works for greater benefit
- Attractive public domain and shopping environment / opportunities
- Maggie markets become world recognised. The Mid Mountains Magpie Markets and Folk Festival begins bringing 10s of thousands of people coming to Lawson to enjoy culture and arts
- Develop revenue; early infrastructure to help the natural environment
- Infrastructure using innovation and best practice approaches for sustainable use
- Develop the mountains as a cutting edge place for engaged overnance processes
- Public transport accessible and useable to all in the community

- Quiet place to live; shop school, parks, & playing fields; services – RFS police, doctors or medical centre; safe roads
- Develop better local transport within the mountains eg local 2 carriage train for mountains
- Friendly community; historically interesting; green and bushy; convenient and liveable; secure and stable; busy – people spend time outdoors, walking, riding bikes
- Plan for the likely population – there will be more dual occupancy and less new development
- Treading lightly on the planed; encouraging ways of achieving this
- Stop the spread of Sydney up the Mountains
- Living in harmony with the environment
- Raising of living in a world heritage national park
- The fire problem is managed in a more environmentally sustainable way
- Build tourism and ecotourism based on the mountains unique built and natural heritage
- Keep Mid Mountains as a unique village area; limit the growth

Gumleaf responses Workshop 4

Mid Mountains Vision -

What will the Mid Mountains be like in 2025 when the MAP for Action is successfully implemented in terms of transport, lifestyles, transport corridor, connectivity and access to services.

- Accessibility to services by all types of persons, young and old
- Sustainable mobility – better street signage
- Community register
- Lobby Staterail and Freight operators to reinstate quiet pollution free – electric locomotives on freight trains to generate electricity when going downhill
- Erect another platform at Katoomba Station so that special tourist trains can be terminated there. Lengthen the refuge siding at Katoomba so that modern freight trains can fit in it.
- Trains for passengers – 20 mins
- Freight on rail – will need truck bay at Lawson for industrial centre – rail link
- Quadruplicate the railway line between Lawson and Wentworth Falls to separate freight and Countrylink services from local trains
- Get guarantee from Cityrail that the line will remain electrified to Lithgow and services will not be cut back to Mt Victoria

- How much will a litre of petrol cost in 2025? Increase the capacity of the railway line by expanding the 2 track bottleneck between St Marys and Penrith to 4 tracks – permitting more mountains trains.
- More green areas inviting walking in town centres – less cars
- Pram friendly villages – footpaths wide and safe
- Homes have viable home gardens – young people help and learn from older people re gardening skills
- Bring back the horse and cart (gives some organic compost too)
- Most people living and working locally – more cycling and walking
- Personal flexible but non polluting and renewable in some form
- Developed and more sustainable community
- More trees
- Due to severely reduced/ non existent fossil fuels – more importance will be placed on rail infrastructure
- Consultation is not dead so please listen to the small fish who are here tonight and on future consultations
- Off highway cycling tracks linking all villages in Mid Mountains
- All stations to have wheelchair access
- Keep train to Lithgow – enhance Lithgow as regional centre – I prefer to do big shops in Lithgow
- All roads to have line marking to remind drivers re cycles
- 2010 – 2 car mini train for the Mountains
- Truck drivers to be able to stop safely at Lawson and Hazelbrook for food and rest
- 60kmh speed limit (40kmh at all schools 9-3.30 4pm) to discourage trucks and speeding cars
- Walk to school people trains
- Cars that are used, fuelled by environmentally friendly fuel
- 2010 fully connected bus service all the way through the mountains
- Effective car pooling
- Support for car pooling
- Fund/ help a BM equivalent of the Car Share Program (Newtown)
- More \$\$ for community transport
- More steam trains (steam heated) for tourism
- 2025 80% public transport 20% private transport (bicycles)
- Improved and more regular public transport – more community interaction
- Bus/taxis – less expensive than taking more flexible than bus – serving all
- More walking and cycling paths between towns – increase communication
- A better rail system
- Nipper buses connecting services; railway X 4 lanes; access to public or community transport; re-develop tramways? Dedicated less cars; freight rail – less trucks
- An integrated transport system must recognise pedestrians, cyclists, wheel chairs and other

- non-vehicular activities; we have to sustain the rail we have and the amenity and natural environments
- No more trucks moving through the mountains – all large freight moved by rail
- Separate freight line through mountains
- People should be made to car pool when travelling to same destinations for work

Gumleaf responses Workshop 5

Mid Mountains Vision -

What will the Mid Mountains be like in 2025 when the MAP for Action is successfully implemented in terms of the local economy, business and industry and lifelong learning.

- Local sustainable jobs
- Self sustaining tourism supporting locals instead of being cost
- Participatory – encouraging meaningful public participation in life of Mid Mountains
- Bikes; a big concrete playground; more friends
- Dynamic, entrepreneurial, celebrating environmental and cultural heritage
- Creative industries – artist studios; environmental business; parks - high value; internet access – electronic communications
- Learning available – world wide literature centres (web based)
- Sharing our learnings with visitors
- Create Dynamic Sustainable Centre of excellence
- Environmental Education Centre of Learning
- Working locally – learning locally
- Primary, secondary, tertiary local
- Young people studying here and working here rather than needing to leave. Cross generational working and learning together
- Small businesses growing food and generating energy. School for seniors/ U3A type structure open to younger people
- Independent schools; local business plus destination business; business clusters for social and marketing purposes

Participants Vision Statements for Lawson

Gum Leaf Responses – Lawson workshop

What will Lawson be like in 2025 when the MAP for Action is successfully implemented throughout the township and its environs?

- Like a flower it blossomed and grew.
- Local sustainable industry generates high local employment.
- 'Endurance – no end to its trust' A place of opportunities.
- There will be a friendly atmosphere, good communication between council and residents with village meetings for an information and discussion time.
- I would like Lawson to retain all of its wonderful facilities eg pool, tennis courts, bushwalks. Lawson should provide the younger residents with work opportunities in all areas. For the residents and tourists can Lawson get some decent toilet facilities soon.
- Environment needs protecting from new infrastructure. Wildlife and hanging swamps etc. School children to be involved in process since they live here too.
- Lots more tourists coming to see the many beauty spots of Mid Mountains.
- Lawson will be a cohesive community – a showplace state of the art, eco-solar friendly technology of the 21st century while still acknowledging its colourful history. A place that is people friendly, vibrant and welcoming to youth. A place which values its natural environment, climate and healthy promoting qualities.
- A village where the residents are glad they live there and other wish they did.
- A showcase to the world.
- Lawson is kept as a historic village not another Sydney suburb.
- In 2025 driving will be very expensive and only tourist destination with good rail access will be truly viable.
- Historic Lawson will be a popular tourist destination in 2025 for bushwalkers, garden enthusiasts etc, due to proximity of attractions to the railway station.
- Lawson will be more like Leura village is now – just as popular. Its heritage will be preserved (shops and Mechanics Institute) and it will be a popular destination for Sydney tourists.
- Scrap the 'preferred' option of the developers
- Lawson will be kept as a beautiful historic village – if the Map of Action is implemented but not the preferred option.
- In 2025 I hope Lawson will have a set of attractive shops, in character with its village ambience providing services similar to today.
- In 2025 Lawson ought to have more regular train services for tourism traffic and to take transport pressure off locals.
- A community that sets an example to the rest of the state of what can be done sustainably.
- A village town where kids can roam safely, with not cars, with space and

where the natural environment dominates.

- Friendly, safe, clean green for all ages.
 - I would like to see Lawson present a holistic town environment of residents and business, transport working together with needs consulted and outcomes endorsed and supported by all.
 - In 2025 I would like Lawson to have no high-rise flats or other buildings.
- A jewel in the crown of the Blue Mountains.
 - Lawson has an active and vibrant community in Mid Mountains decision making.
 - The preferred option of council is scrapped.
 - The Lawson community is a sustainability centre of the Mountains.