

DODGY STATS AND CLICHES: Council's new plan

Sutherland Shire's new Strategic Plan includes no admission of how its over-development went wrong since its last plan. With clichés and dodgy statistics, it ignores loud criticisms of its past six years of high-rise -- that the concrete tsunami was not acceptable. By Don Pagé

On display for public comment until 20 April, there is no clear analysis of Council's history of open-slat development recently, nor any plans to mend its ways in future. By inference, the Shire is in for more of the same, despite a massive voter backlash at last September's Council election.

Statistical analysis has been skewed in the document, by removing the large undecided block of responses, making the published results appear more positive for Council. There was no detail of whether respondents were hand-picked, or chosen by random-sampling. On questions of Council's performance, the missing undecided vote was large, shown here in brackets:

Council plans well...?: [41% excluded], 17% negative, 42 % positive.

Clear and accessible information about Council decisions?: [38% excluded], 22% negative, 40 % positive.

Community views adequately considered ...?: [45% excluded], 19% negative, 36% positive.

Public response was invited, but the only clue about where to respond was buried in the fine print of Council's copyright column. No email link was provided for replies, nor was the deadline given, in the document itself. Comment can be sent to ssc@ssc.nsw.gov.au with the subject line, Comment: Strategic Plan 2017.

The original document is linked at

http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/website/document-library/corporate-management/strategic-planning/170321-sutherland-csp_web-spreads.pdf

Clichés in brief from the Plan:

"Working together to achieve our vision for the future... something special about the area nestled between the bays, rivers... It's a place anchored in nature with a strong sense of community and an active lifestyle that is alive and evolving...."

"Sutherland Shire is a place for life – its vibrancy brings people to life and makes it a place they want to stay forever.... A connected and safe community that respects people and nature."

"The connected and caring nature of our community... you, our community, who can provide us with inspiration as we plan for and deliver the outcomes ... together we have the skills and knowledge to create new opportunities that will continue to enrich our lives."

Community feedback ignored in 2011 (from published responses):

"I don't think the Council takes on residents' views, only the views of big business who can afford to pay to get their developments views approved."

"The mistrust amongst Sutherland Shire rate payers and Council development & planning decision makers is quite obvious."

"Maintaining quality of life; not over-development."