

Measuring what matters

Attachment A: Measuring What Matters: Consultation Feedback form

Consult hub

Response received at:

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1 Meeting Host Name

Angus Cormick

2 Organisation (if individual please enter N/A)

Surfrider Foundation Limited

3 Email

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4 Phone

Not answered

5 Meeting host

Non-government organisation

6 Other

Not answered

7 Meeting date

22 May 2023

8 Meeting location

Virtual

- 9 Location/City/Town
Not answered
- 10 State
Not answered
- 11 Participants attending
Member of a community organisation
- 12 Other
Not answered
- 13 Number of participants
10
- 14 1. Did the five emerging policy themes Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable, Cohesive and Healthy resonate with meeting participants?
Yes
- 15 If not, why not (200 words)
Not answered
- 16 2. Which of the following themes are most important to you? (Select 3)
Sustainable: A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations
Inclusive: A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate
Cohesive: A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation
- 17 3. Which themes or descriptions were most frequently discussed? (Select 3)
Sustainable: A natural environment that is valued and sustainably managed in the face of a changing climate for current and future generations
Inclusive: A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate

Cohesive: A safe and cohesive society that celebrates culture and encourages participation

18 4. What do you see as the most important issues for future wellbeing? Are these captured by the emerging policy themes?

Respondents consistently noted that a healthy environment is integral to future well-being.

Common sub-themes included:

Environmental degradation and climate change threaten the viability of various economic activities that depend on a healthy environment (e.g. fisheries, tourism, agriculture, etc.).

Economic policies need to place greater emphasis on sustainability - specifically the need to 'green' the economy as a whole. Participants noted that the government/ budget should invest in enhancing access to 'green' products (e.g. renewable energy sources and sustainable packaging).

The protection of places of recreation (e.g. beaches, oceans and green spaces) is integral to mental, physical and community well-being.

Respondents also noted the need for greater accountability on behalf of governments, institutions and other stakeholders (e.g. corporations). They felt that community consultation is sometimes inadequate or tokenistic on a range of issues (e.g. oil and gas extraction and urbanisation).

There is a range of issues not necessarily captured by the emerging policy themes:

'Prosperous: A growing, productive and resilient economy' - indicates a "traditional" focus on economic growth and commerce as a proxy for economic well-being. This appears to contradict the stated intention of the Government to measure economic progress more broadly (e.g. through social and environmental indicators).

Sustainable - although this theme encompasses a broad ambition to value the natural environment, it lacks specific reference to actively protecting the environment.

Cohesive - lacks reference to accountability and mechanisms to enforce accountability. Participants noted this was integral to their trust in the government.

Cohesive - participants felt that valuing First Nation's culture does not adequately reflect the need to actively incorporate First Nation's lore and interests into policy.

19 5. How might the descriptions be amended to best reflect our priorities?

Prosperous

Additional point. An economy that recognises economic growth sits alongside social and environmental considerations as indicators of a growing, productive and resilient economy.

Sustainability

Point 4. A society that values the social, cultural and economic significance of our natural environment and actively protects these environments.

Additional point. The natural environment is valued and protected by strong and independent institutions (governments, regulators, enforcement agencies and scientific bodies).

Cohesive

Point 2. A society that is Closing the Gap and values First Nations culture, lore and knowledge.

Point 5. A government that is trusted by and accountable to the public.

Healthy

Additional point. A society that recognises access to a healthy natural environment as a key pillar of physical and mental well-being.

20 6. Are there any indicators and existing data sources that will be critical to inform the emerging policy themes?

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/MF>

<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/natural-environment/oceans>

<https://www.tangaroablue.org/funding-empowers-citizen-science-monitoring-marine-debris-across-queensland/>

21 7. Is there any additional information you would like to see in the Measuring What Matters Statement? If so, please outline.

You can't manage what you can't measure - therefore measuring the value of our reliance on Australia's oceans, waves and beaches is critical. We are an island nation dependent upon the oceans and seas that border our continent. Most of our population lives near, or on waterways and coastlines, therefore the role that water plays is significant to the health and well-being of not only our population but also our flora and fauna.