OurRiver

cooks river sustainability initiative

Community Water Survey 2009

Hurstville City Council

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

MARRICKVILLE council

City of Canterbury
City of Cultural Diversity

NSW Environmental TRUST

BANKSTOWN
City of Progress

Ashfield Council

ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
On Historic Botany Bay

CITY OF SYDNEY

COOKS RIVER FORESHORES
Working Group

Introduction

The Cooks River Sustainability Initiative (CRSI) is a partnership between eight councils within the Cooks River Catchment - Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils. The Initiative is funded from 2007 to 2010 through the NSW Environmental Trust's Urban Sustainability Program.

The goals of the Initiative are to:

- Improve the quality of water that flows to the Cooks River
- Create new relationships within and between councils and the community that will provide ongoing long term benefits for the Cooks River
- Develop a vision and action plan for six local areas (known as subcatchments)

The CRSI is currently working on six subcatchments, named Ashbury, Eastern Channel East, Munni Street, Rookwood Road, Strathfield South and Upper Wolli Creek.

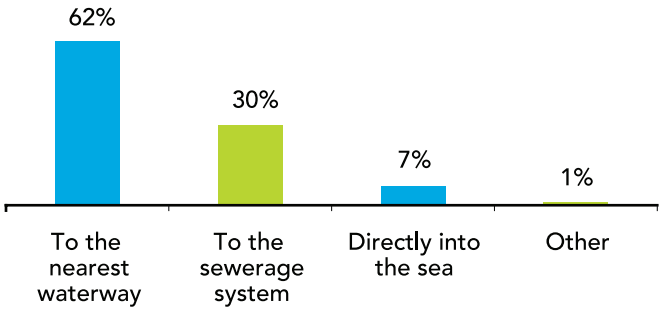
The project is undertaking detailed social, physical and organisational profiling to ensure that the solutions and strategies developed are right for each subcatchment and its community. A community water survey was undertaken in each subcatchment in 2008 as part of the social profiling process.

This report is based on the combined data from community surveys undertaken in six subcatchments of the Cooks River Catchment. The combined area of the six subcatchments is 11,682 hectares - 15% of the total Cooks River Catchment. Surveys were sent to 16,787 households. The response rate was 15% with 2,465 completed surveys returned. The survey contained questions under four themes – Knowledge, Attitudes, Current Water Use and Receptivity to Water Reuse.

Knowledge

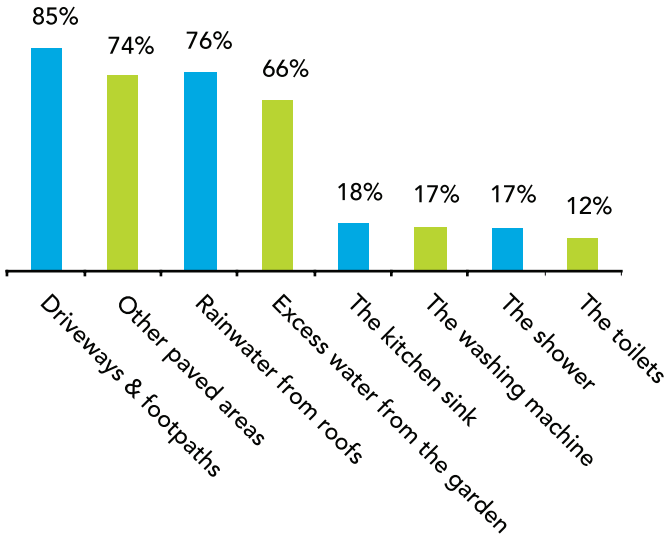
Respondents were asked the following multiple choice questions about urban water systems. The charts below show the answers that were selected.

Where does rainwater in the street drains usually go?



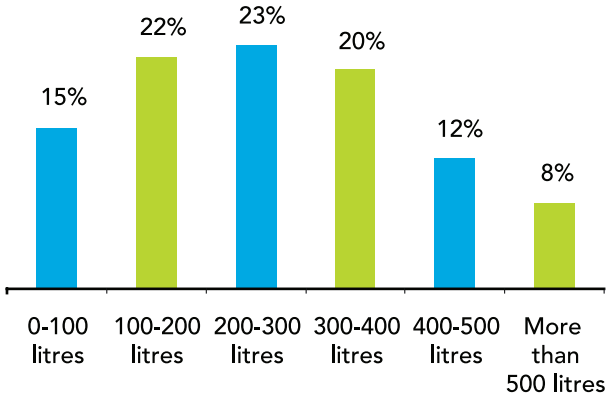
Rainwater in the street drains usually goes to the nearest waterway.

Which water would normally end up in street drains?



The water that normally ends up in the street drains is from: driveways & footpaths; other paved areas; rainwater from roofs and excess water from the garden.

How many litres of water per day does the average household in your area use?



The average daily household water use (in 2007/2008) across the CRSI partner council areas was 454 litres.

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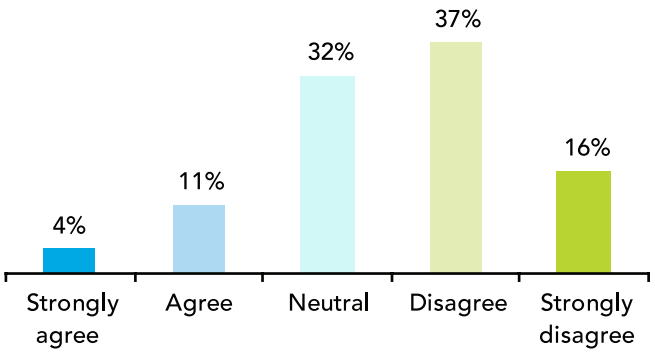
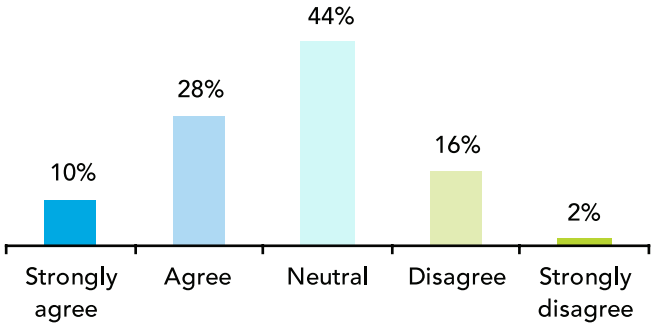
Attitudes

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, the extent to which they agreed with eight statements relating to water and the environment.

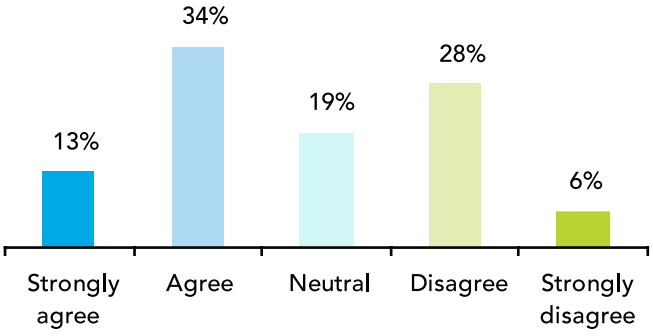
Jobs are more important than the environment



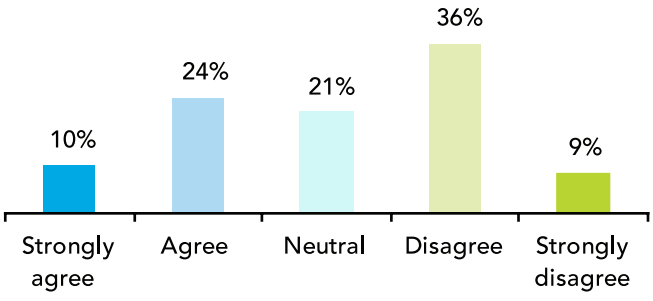
Access to a healthy natural environment is more important than access to community facilities



My daily activities have little negative impact on the waterway environment



Government agencies should be mainly responsible for the waterway environment rather than the individual



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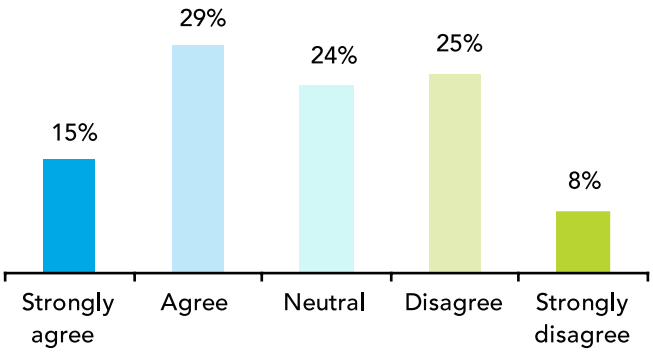
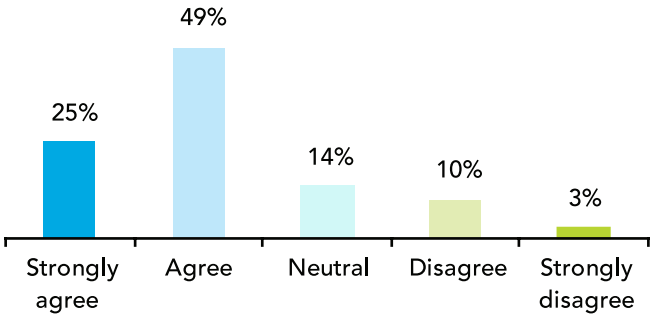
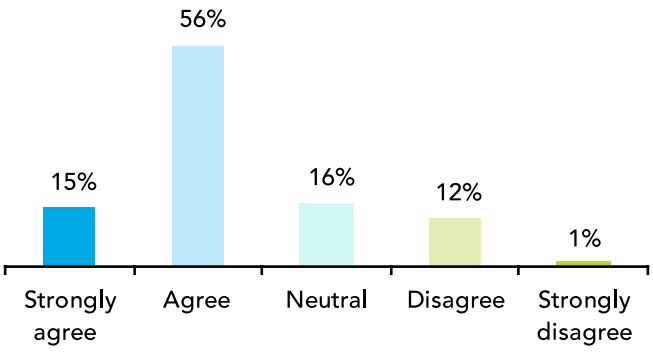
We should aim for the same waterway conditions as before Europeans arrived more than 200 years ago



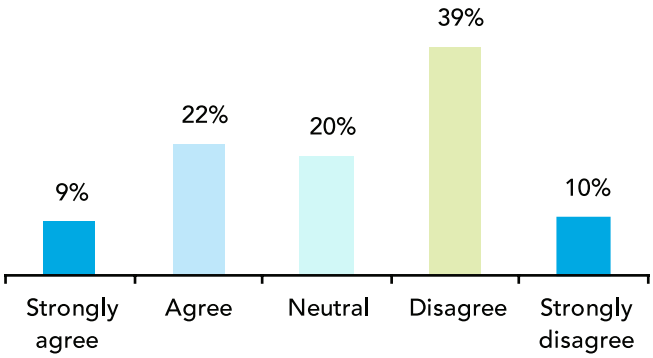
I would reduce my shower time by half to save limited water resources



Most people want to help improve the health of the waterway environment



Laws are more effective than education for protecting the waterway environment



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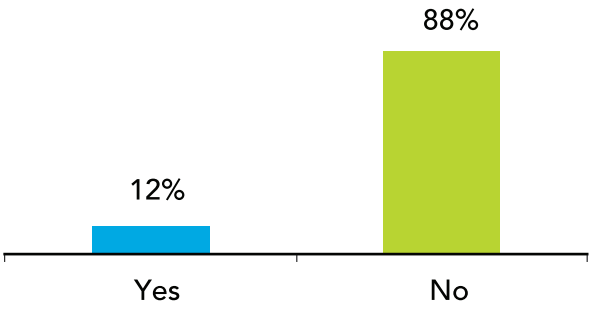
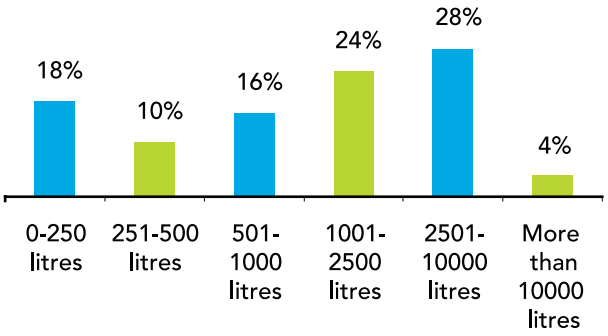
Current Water Use: Rainwater

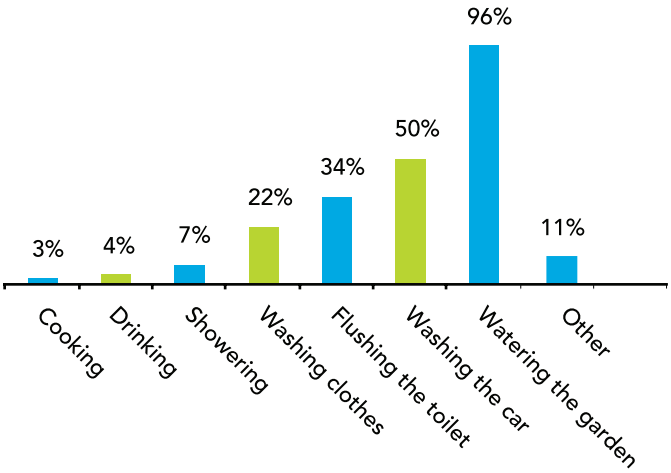
Do you have a rainwater tank?



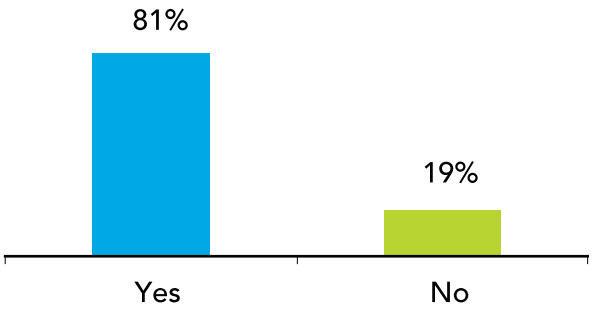
Rainwater tank size



How do you currently use water from your rainwater tank?



Do you have any water saving devices e.g. tap aerators, showerheads etc.?



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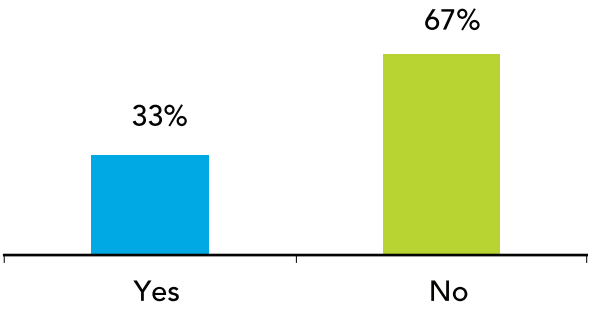
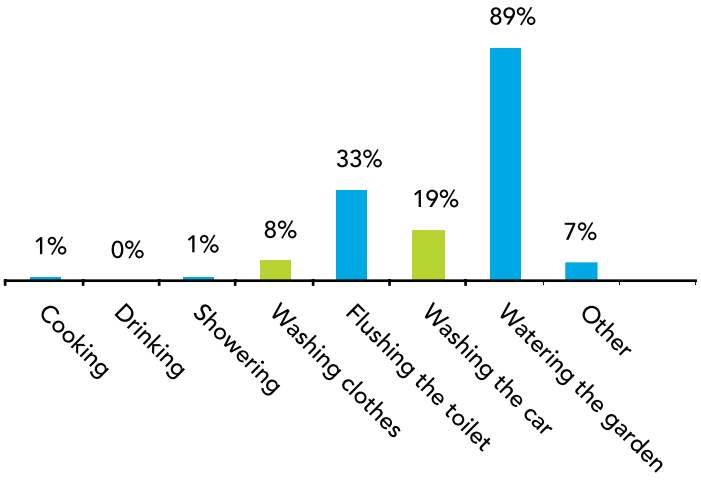
Current Water Use: Greywater

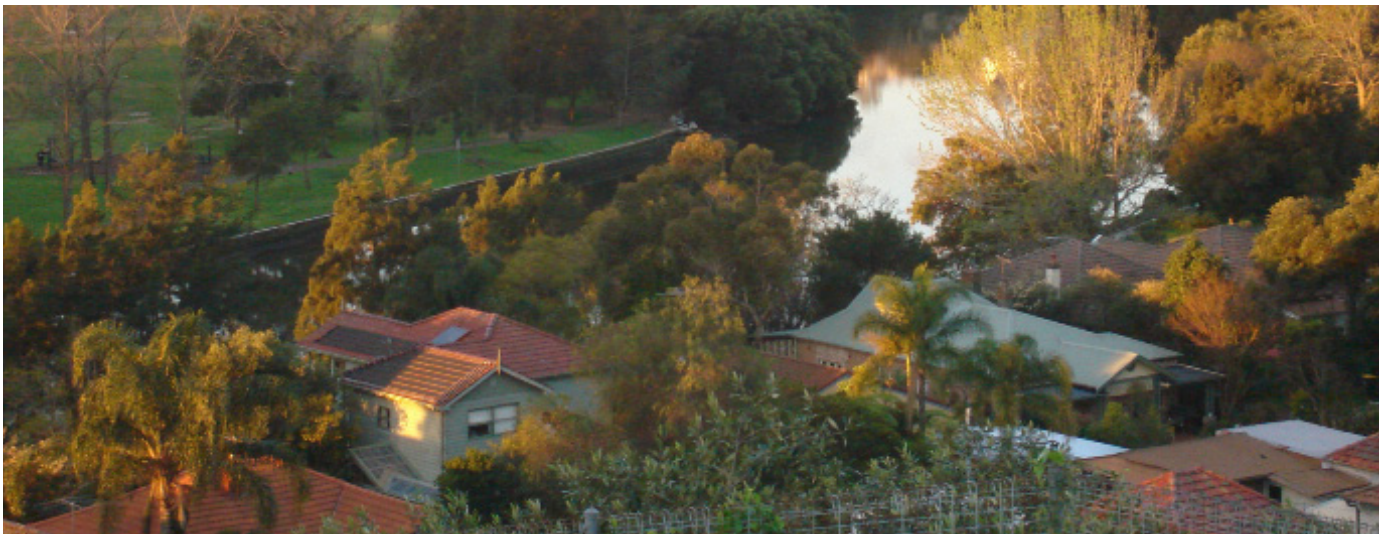
Greywater was defined as water from the shower, bath or hand basins.

Do you currently reuse greywater?



Current use of greywater





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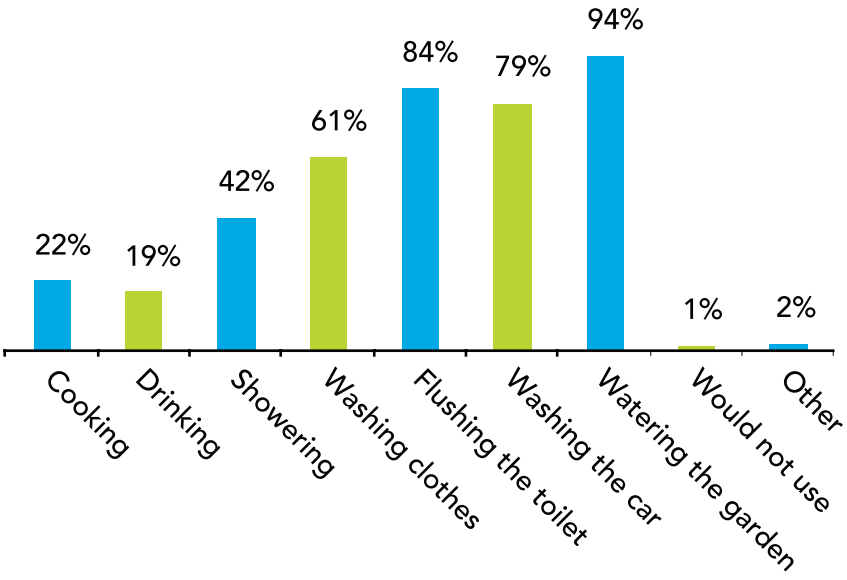
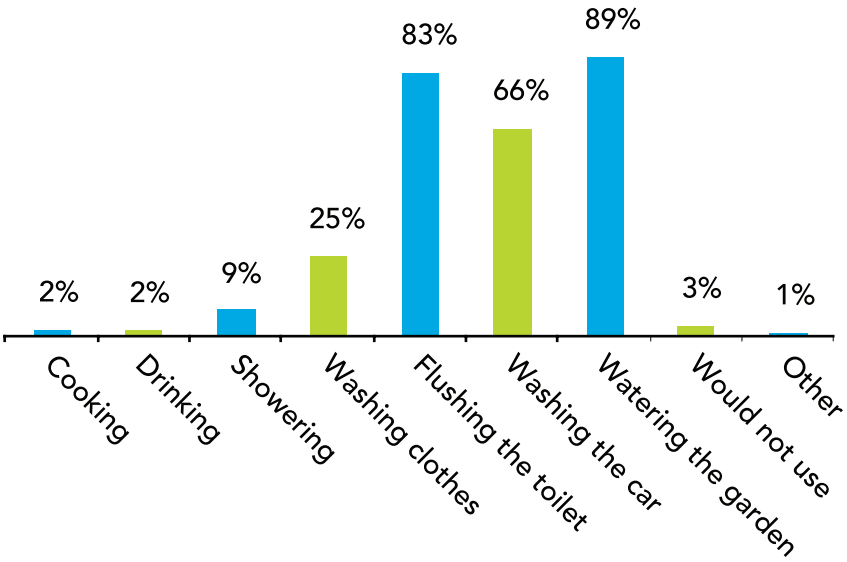
Receptivity To Water Reuse

In this section respondents were asked how they would consider using rainwater and greywater.

How respondents would consider using rainwater...



How respondents would consider using greywater....



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Major Improvements to the Environment

Respondents were asked what improvements to the environment they want to see in the next 20 years. Answers have been assigned to nine categories.

What major improvements to the environment do you want to see in the next 20 years?

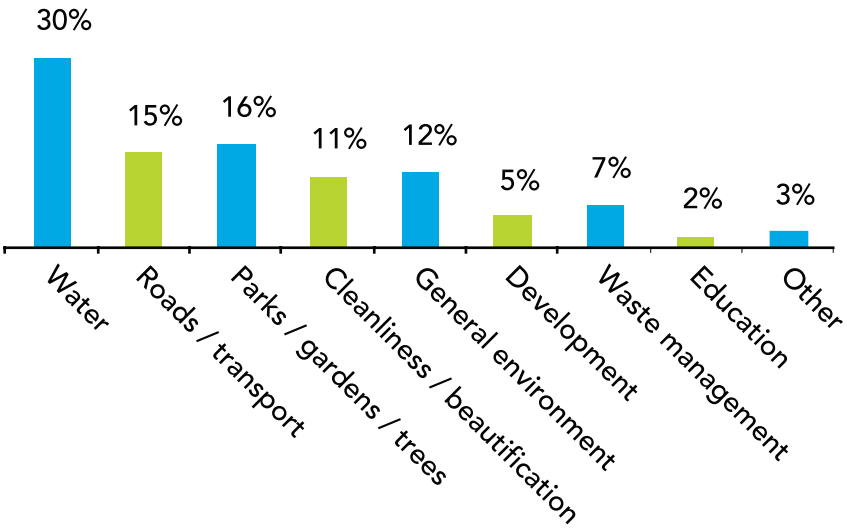

Photo by Tanja Pokrajac

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