

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

# Water Quality Survey - Waverley LGA

**December 1999**

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

Dear Householder

This survey is being conducted by the School of Social Science and Policy at University of New South Wales. The aim of this work is ultimately to involve the community in strategies to improve the quality of water at beaches and ponds in the Waverley Local Government area.

All the information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be sold or disclosed to any third parties. This background research will provide information which will help improve water quality. This is an independent non-profit project and is not connected with any political parties or businesses. No individual household will be identifiable in any report or data collection. Any identification numbers on the survey are solely for the purpose of checking the returned surveys against the list of delivered ones.

If you have any comments or questions about the survey or need help in answering any questions please do not hesitate to contact us by one of the following methods:

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We ask you to please complete the survey as soon as possible. We will collect the survey within two days after leaving it with you. If you received this survey in your letterbox could you please respond by completing the form provided and send it back in the prepaid envelope.

The survey group appreciates the time you are giving to our project by filling out this survey. Yours is an important contribution to this survey and will assist with future policy and projects in your local area.

With thanks

Roberta Ryan  
School of Social Science and Policy  
University of New South Wales

**About the questions...**

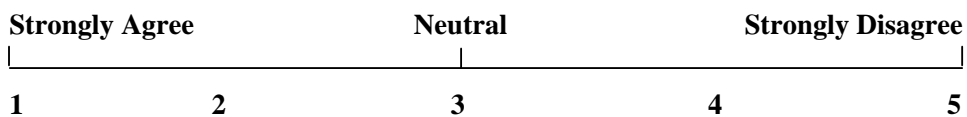
Instructions as to how to complete the questions are at the beginning of each set of questions within the survey.

To answer the questions, you don't have to be an 'expert'. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers. **What matters most is your opinion.**

The survey is to be completed by an individual over the age of 18 years. If there is more than one individual who fits this description in the household the person with the birthday closest to today's date should complete the questionnaire.

Most questions can be answered by **circling a number between 1 and 5**. The number you circle indicates how much you agree or disagree with the particular statement or how important you think the issue is.

**Q1. We would like to know your opinion on a range of environmental issues. Please indicate on a scale of 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) whether you agree with the following statements.**



*Please circle the number that best represents your view.*

Protecting people's lifestyle is more important than protecting the environment.	1	2	3	4	5
Industry creates the most pollution.	1	2	3	4	5
The government will ensure the environment is preserved for our children.	1	2	3	4	5
There are experts who can manage pollution problems.	1	2	3	4	5
Individuals should be responsible for the environment.	1	2	3	4	5
A clean environment contributes to the quality of my life and well-being.	1	2	3	4	5
People are more important than trees.	1	2	3	4	5
I am prepared to change the way I do things if it improves the environment.	1	2	3	4	5
We cannot expect to have the same water quality in our water ways as our grandparents.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe that technology will solve any environment problems.	1	2	3	4	5
My lifestyle has very little impact on the environment.	1	2	3	4	5
The environment is not a political issue.	1	2	3	4	5

**Q 2. To what extent are these environmental issues important to you? Choose the three issues you think are most important by ranking them from 1 to 3, where 1 is the most important to you.**

*Only use each number once. If you use Other category – use a scale from 1 to 4.*

- Noise pollution
- Air pollution
- Pollution of beaches and other water ways
- Litter and dumped rubbish
- Protection and regeneration of native bush
- Other (*please nominate*) .....

**Q 3. Still thinking about the last question, would you be prepared to participate in some activities to assist with the improvement of the issue you nominated as number 1? (*Please tick one of the following*)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 4. What are the main causes of ocean and other waterways pollution? List as many as you wish, in order of importance.**

.....

.....

**Q 5. What are the specific environmental issues that concern you in your local area? Please list your concerns in order of importance.**

.....

.....

**Q 6. Who do you think is the most responsible for causing water pollution? Choose the three you think are most responsible by ranking them from 1 to 3, where 1 is the category most responsible for causing water pollution. Only use each number once. If you use Other category – use a scale from 1 to 4.**

- Industry
- The community
- Individuals
- Builders
- Council workers
- Other (*please specify*)\_\_\_\_\_

**Q 7. Who do you think should take the most responsibility for improving the quality of beach/water? Choose the three you think should take the most responsibility by ranking them from 1 to 3, where 1 is the category that should take most responsibility for improving the quality of water. Only use each number once. If you use Other category – use a scale from 1 to 4.**

- Industry
- The community
- The individual
- Local Government
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Other

[The next set of questions are about urban waterways].

**Q 8. In what ways do you think stormwater affects the water quality of the oceans, ponds and rivers?** *(Please tick any number of the following).*

- Rubbish/litter washing down drains
- Oil etc. from roads
- Nutrients/ fertilisers
- Silt / soil / sand etc
- Leaves etc (organic matter)
- People putting wastes down gratings / drains
- Animal (dog) faeces
- Industry putting wastes down gratings / drains
- People washing cars on the roads
- Don't know
- Other (please specify).....

**Q 9. Which of the following could end up in the stormwater drains?** *(Please tick any number of the following).*

- water from kitchen and bathroom plumbing
- rain running off the roof
- rain in street gutters
- water draining from the washing machine
- excess water from the garden
- excess water used for washing the car

[The next section asks questions about the daily activities of your household and neighbourhood].

## Motor vehicles

If you own or use a car, please answer the following questions. If not, please go to Question 16.

**Q 10. Does anyone in your household wash cars at your residence?** [Domestic car washing not commercial car washing].

- Yes
- No

**Q 11. On average how often do your cars get washed?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- once a week
- once a month
- once every three months
- less often

**Q 12. If washed at home, where are household cars normally washed?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- on the street
- on a grassed area
- in the driveway
- other *(please specify)* .....

**Q 13. Which cleaning products do you use to wash your car?** Please include brand names.

.....

**Q 14. Where do you dispose of the water used for car washing?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- Down sink in the house
- On the grass
- Down the drain in the gutter
- Other *(please specify)* .....

**Q 15. Do you regularly check your car for oil leaks?**

- Yes
- No

## Garden

**Q 16. What type of surface do you have in your yard?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- I don't have a yard
- mostly grass
- mostly cement (concrete)
- pavers
- a mixture of cement and grass
- Other *(please specify)* .....

**Q 17. Do you have a garden?**

- Yes
- No

**Q 18. If you live in a flat or unit, does anyone in your building take responsibility for the garden?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 19. Do you [or anyone in your building] regularly pick up leaf litter and/or grass clippings?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 20. If Yes, who picks up leaves?**

- a resident
- professional gardener
- other *(please specify)* .....

**Q 21. Are leaves and other debris routinely cleared from street gutters in front of your property?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



**Q 22. Does your household compost waste? If Yes please answer the following questions, if No please go to Question 24.**

- Yes
- No

**Q 23. If Yes, what goes into the compost? (Please tick one or both of the following).**

- Garden waste (Leaf litter + grass clippings etc )
- Household waste (Kitchen scraps + paper etc)

**Q 24. Does anyone in your household use pesticides and/or fertilisers for gardening? (Please circle yes or no).**

Pesticides      Yes/No

Fertilisers      Yes/No

If you answered Yes to using pesticides or fertilisers, please answer the next questions. If not, please go to Question 27.

**Q 25. How often are fertilisers used on the garden? (Please tick appropriate response).**

- once a week
- once a month
- once every three months
- once every six months
- less often than every six months
- don't know

**Q 26. How often are pesticides used on the garden? (Please tick appropriate response).**

- once a week
- once a month
- once every three months
- once every six months
- less often than every six months
- don't know

**Q 27. Have steps been taken to prevent soil from washing away in your garden?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 28. Do you [or anyone in your building] regularly hose down cement areas?** *(Please tick appropriate response).*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 29. Has your property had any construction work done on it in the last 2-3 years?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 30. To the best of your knowledge, were measures taken to prevent the spread of materials (sand, cement etc) from the site?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 31. Is there an obvious litter problem in your street? If Yes, please answer the following questions, if No please go to Question 33.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 32. Are any of the following obvious litter problems in your street?** *(Please tick any number of the following).*

- packaging
- junk mail
- local papers
- plastic bottles
- building materials (including sand)
- other *(please specify)* .....

**Q 33. If you smoke, where do you usually dispose of cigarette butts when outdoors? (Please tick appropriate response). If you do not smoke please go to Question 34.**

- in a ashtray or bin
- on the ground
- in a portable container
- other (please specify) .....

[The next section asks questions about receiving information on stormwater].

**Q 34. Would you be interested in receiving information on what you can do to improve the quality of stormwater? If Yes, please answer the following questions, if No please go to Question 36.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q 35. If you answered Yes, what do you think is the most effective way of communicating the information to you?**

**Choose three of the following you think are most effective by ranking them from 1 to 3, where 1 is the most important to you. Only use each number once. If you use Other category – use a scale from 1 to 4.**

- Letter box pamphlets
- Local paper
- Other newspapers
- Newsletters
- Addressed mail
- Internet
- Magazines
- Bulletin boards
- Television
- Library displays
- Radio
- Other (please specify) .....

**Q 36. Do you recall any of the following campaigns on stormwater?** *(Please tick any number of the following).*

- Television items
- Notices in the local newspapers
- Drain stencilling
- Radio programs
- Letter box drops
- Posters
- Other (please specify) .....

**Q 37. Could you please describe the campaigns you have seen or heard?**

.....

.....

**Q 38. We would like to know your opinion on a range of activities. Please indicate on a scale of 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) whether you agree with the following statements.**

Strongly Agree	Neutral			Strongly Disagree	
1	2	3	4	5	
I need more information before making a decision about paying more money for cleaner stormwater.	1	2	3	4	5
Changing my activities will not improve stormwater quality.	1	2	3	4	5
Those responsible for causing stormwater pollution should also be the ones to pay for cleaning it up.	1	2	3	4	5
My local Council would listen to any contribution I make on an environment issue.	1	2	3	4	5
If I noticed someone doing something to cause pollution, I would report it to the appropriate authorities.	1	2	3	4	5
I would be prepared to pay for cleaner water in the ocean, rivers and ponds.	1	2	3	4	5
I am prepared to change my lifestyle for cleaner waterways.	1	2	3	4	5

## About you and your household

1. Are you male or female? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which age group do you fall into?

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-25    | <input type="checkbox"/> 56-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35    | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45    |                                |

3. Is your present address the same as it was (please circle)

- 6 months ago?      Yes / No
- 1 year ago?      Yes / No
- 5 years ago?      Yes / No

4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- High School to Year 10
- High School to Year 12
- Trade or TAFE Diploma
- University
- Other (*please specify*) .....

5. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- If yes, which language? .....

**6. Please indicate your annual income before tax for the last financial year (1998-99). (Please tick one of the following):**

- Negative or nil income
- Under \$10 000
- \$11 000 to \$20 000
- \$21 000 to \$40 000
- \$41 000 to \$70 000
- \$71 000 to \$90 000
- \$90 000 +

**7. What best describes your current employment situation? Please tick one of the following:**

- Working full-time in the paid labour force
- Working part-time/casual in the paid labour force
- Not working
- Student
- Retired
- Self employed
- Other (please specify) .....

**8. Which of the following best describes your household? Please tick one of the following:**

- Couple with children
- Couple without children
- One parent with children
- Single person living alone
- Share accommodation with non-family
- Adult living with parent(s)
- Extended family household
- Other (please specify) .....

**9. Which of the following best describes the dwelling in which you live?** Please tick one of the following:

- Owner occupied
- Being rented
- Being occupied rent free
- Other (*please specify*) .....

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**Please make any comments you might have about the survey in the space below.**

## **Thank you...**

... for taking the time to finish this part of the survey.

Your survey will either be collected from you or if you have a return envelope please send it back to us by mail.

## **Confidentiality**

All the information you provide will be treated as **strictly confidential** and will not be sold or disclosed to any third parties. This is an independent non-profit project and is not connected with any political parties or businesses. **No individual household will be identifiable in any report or data collection.**

## **Contacting us**

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**Again, thank you...**