

## Outrim Park Blaxland

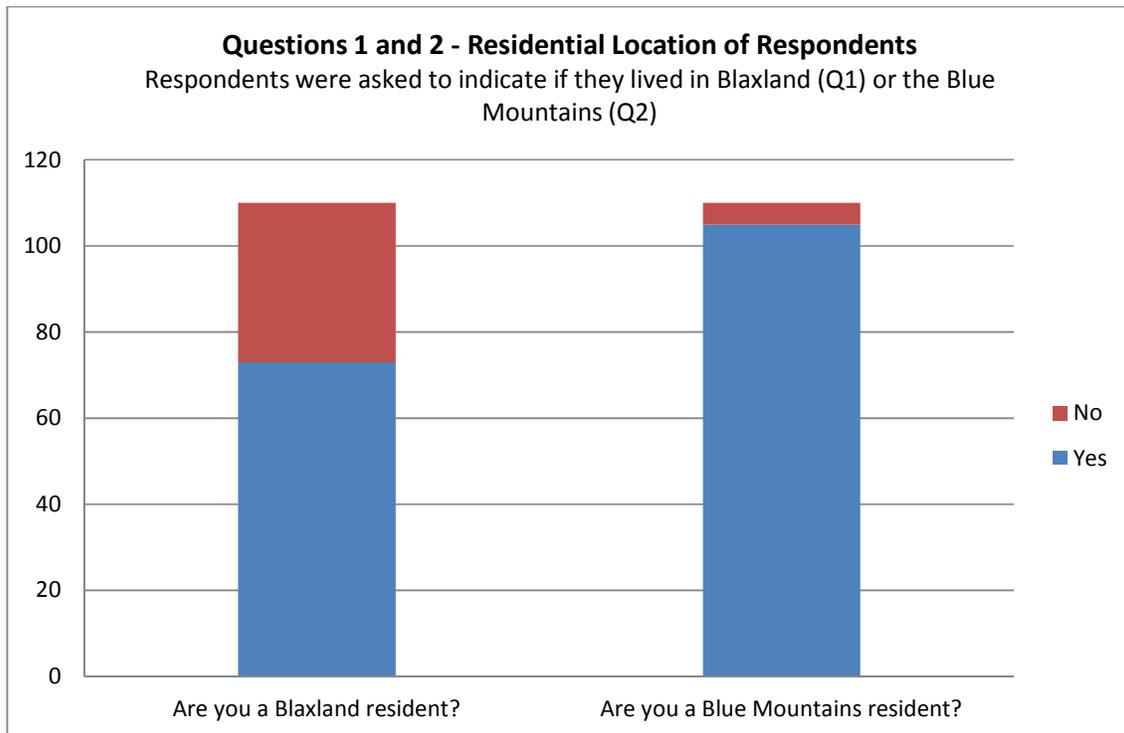
### Survey Responses Summary

Blue Mountains City Council undertook a community survey to guide the upgrade of Outrim Park during the 2011/12 financial year. Surveys were distributed through local businesses, the Blaxland Chamber of Commerce, Blaxland Library and the Lower Mountains Community Centre. The survey could also be completed on line through the Blue Mountains Have Your Say Website.

During the survey period (31<sup>st</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011), 111 responses were received. 45 hard copy surveys were received and 66 surveys were completed on line. Respondents were asked to complete 8 questions, with a further two optional questions to be filled in by child respondents (children under 12) relating to specific activities children like to undertake in the park.

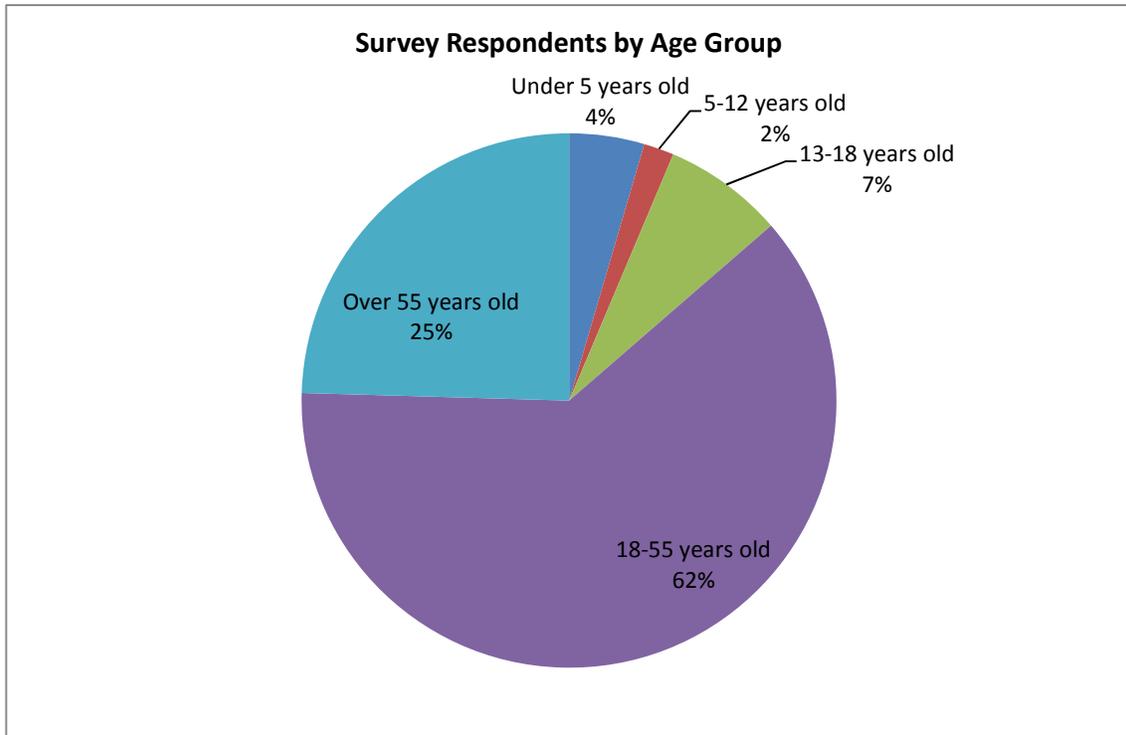
#### Respondents Age and Residential Location

Questions 1 and 2 surveyed respondents as to the location of their residence. Results of these questions appear in the graph below.



The majority of respondents (66%) identified that they lived in Blaxland. A greater majority of respondents (95%) indicated that they lived in the Blue Mountains.

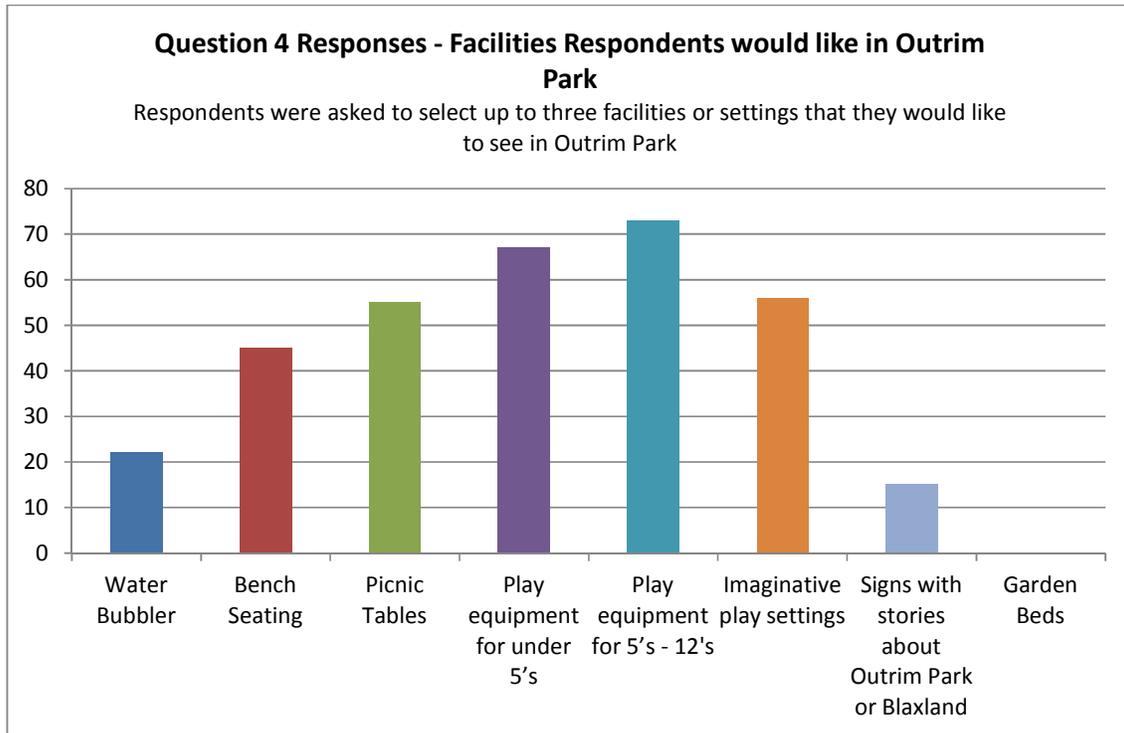
Question 3 asked respondents to indicate their age group. Ages were broken into five categories broadly indicating different usage patterns in the park. The following graph shows the age break down of respondents:



Responses to this question show that the majority of respondents are 18-55 years old, making them most likely to be parents of children. Children as a group were the smallest number of respondents, however some surveys were completed by adults who asked children for their opinion for questions 9 and 10 which related to what children liked to do in the park.

**Facilities preferred in the park**

Question 4 asked respondents to select from a range of options facilities and settings that they would like to see in the park. Eight options were provided to respondents, with the option to also provide other suggestions for inclusion. The following graph summarises the responses to question 4:



The most frequent selection was for play equipment for both age groups. Picnic tables and seating were the second most frequent selections. The provision of a water bubbler or interpretive signage was considered by respondents as a lower priority. Respondents tended to select two play options and a seating option, all three play options or a combination of play, seating and bubbler.

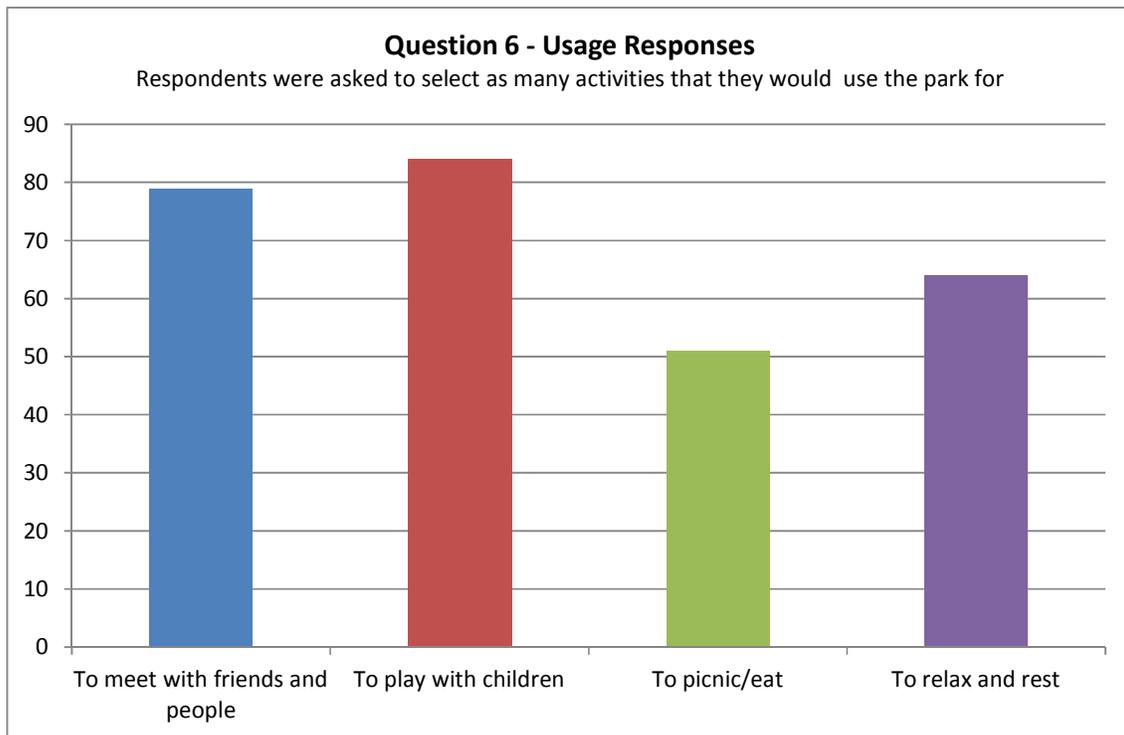
A summary of the additional facility suggestions appears below:

Comment Category	Frequency of Response
Lighting of park area	8
Fencing/barriers to car park (includes screen plantings)	6
Pathway (includes responses relating to paths for bikes/scooters)	4
Specific play equipment items	4
Bins	3
Shade	3
BBQ	2
Skate facilities	2
Public art/kid friendly sculpture	1
Community vegetable garden	1
Adult exercise equipment	1
Birdbath or other interesting feature	1
Toilets	1

Seats with backrest	1
Amphitheatre	1
Comments relating to cleanliness and maintenance	5

**Use of Outrim Park**

Question 6 related to the way that respondents would use the park. Respondents were provided with four broad options including play, eating, rest and meeting people. Respondents could also provide more specific examples. The following graph shows the ways in which respondents indicated that they would use the park:

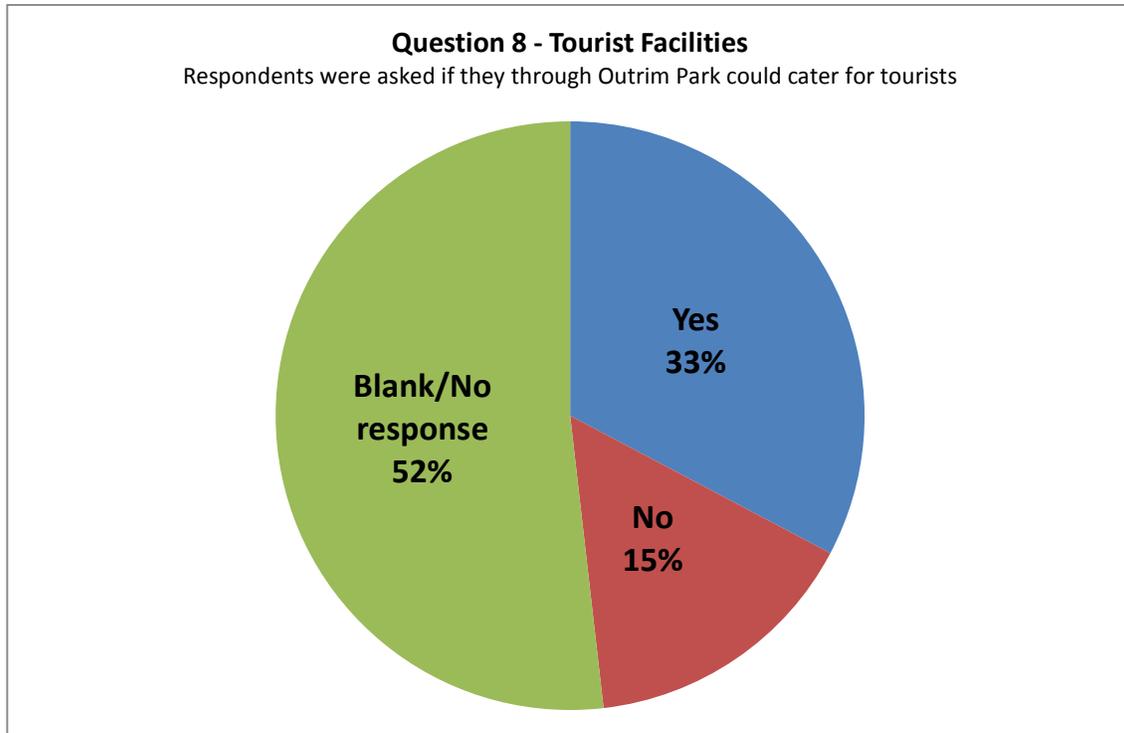


The responses for this question indicate that people identified with three or four of the available options. These responses are consistent with the responses to question 4. Further suggestions about how people use the park are summarised below:

Comment Category	Frequency of Response
Specific Examples – Eating	8
Specific Examples – Play	5
Specific Examples – Rest and Relax	3
Specific Examples – Meet people	3
Wait / Children play while others are shopping	3
Used when babysitting	2
Walkthrough from other areas (eg Station Street)	1
Observations on the use of the park	1
Children’s Birthday Parties	1

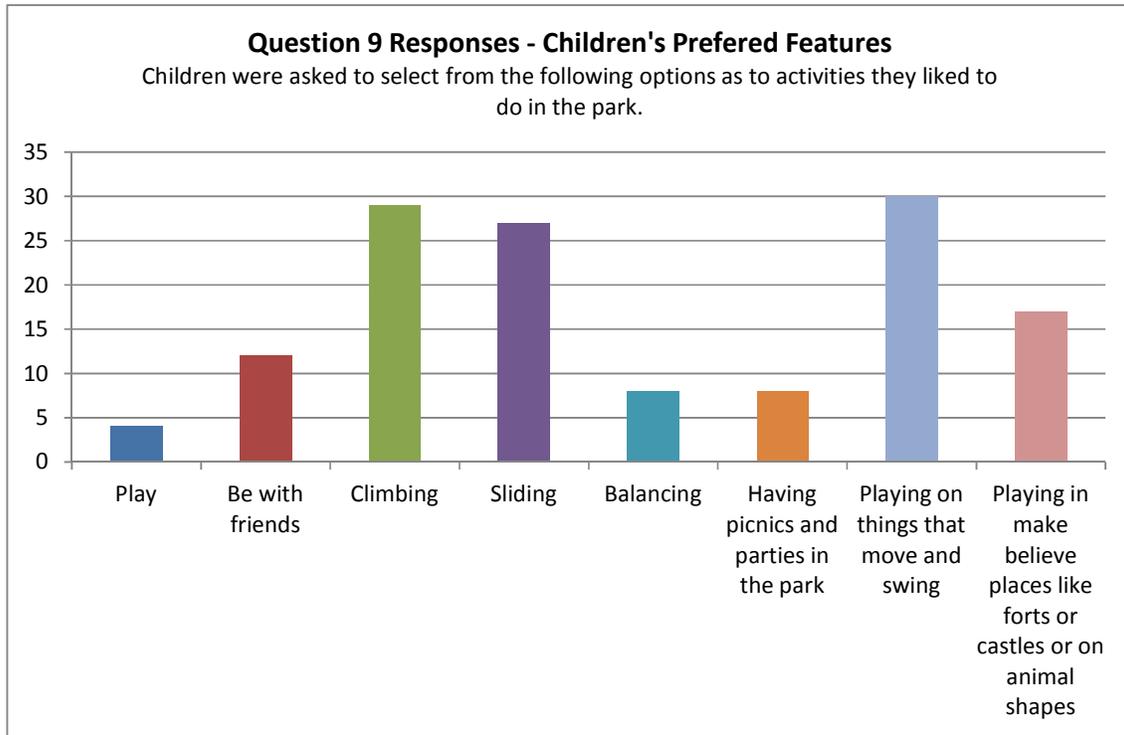
### Suitability for Tourism

Question 8 related to respondents perceptions about the suitability for the park for tourists. This question was optional. 48% of respondents completed this question.



Respondents who answered yes to this question tended to indicate that the facilities provided to residents would be suitable for tourists. Some specific responses to this question suggested maps of nearby trails and signs including the history of Blaxland could be provided. Positive synergies with the proximity of the park to businesses were also highlighted with positive benefits to the local economy. Respondents who answered no to this question did not believe that Blaxland was a strong tourist destination.

The last question that was presented was an optional question to be answered by children. While 7 children completed surveys, many adults who had completed the survey asked children about what they liked to do in the park. A summary of the responses is presented in the graph below:



The responses for these questions indicate that children like to use play equipment that facilitates climbing, sliding and moving. Other play, such as imaginative play, was also desired by children who responded. Comments from children also showed that they would like areas to ride a scooter or bicycle, or made requests for specific items of play equipment such as climbing frames and ropes, flying foxes and swings.

**Conclusion**

The information provided by the community through this survey will be used to inform the Outrim Park Steering Committee and be incorporated into the draft design for Outrim Park. The facilities that respondents would like to see included in the design are play equipment for children of all ages that promotes imaginative play, seating opportunities and potentially a bubbler. People will use this park for play, rest, eating and meeting people. The desired features to be included will support these uses for residents and visitors to Blaxland.