

**Urban Sustainability Support Alliance
Sustainability Intensive Training
CENTROC Councillors
Evaluation Report**

Workshop Details

Name of Workshop: *Understanding Sustainability for Councillors*

Date of Workshop: Sixteenth of July 2010

Duration of Workshop: Seven Hours

Number Attending: Thirteen

Participant information: Twelve councillors and one staff member. Participants from Yass, Cowra, Orange and Upper Lachlan Councils

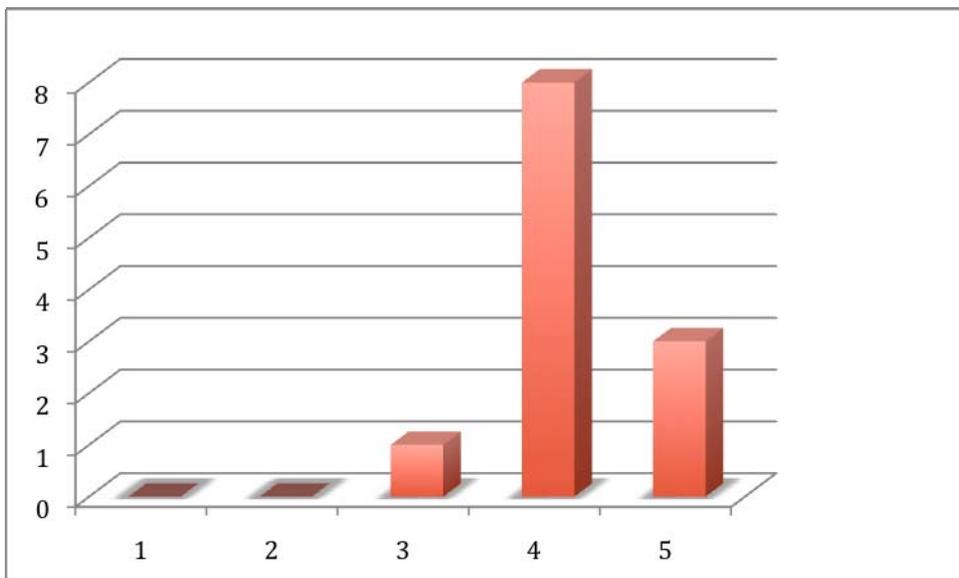
Part of what Series? LGSA Learning Solutions *Understanding Sustainability for Councillors* series

Workshop Facilitator: Grahame Collier. T Issues Consultancy

Note: 12 participants completed the evaluation form.

Workshop Rating

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 equals poor and 5 equals excellent, the average rating by participants was 4. See below for graphical breakdown.



From a selection of words and phrases about the workshop, the participants selected:

One hundred and two (102) words and phrases were selected in all. All but two of these were positive. The somewhat negative words selected were: *overdue* (selected by 2 participants) and *patronising* (circled with a? by one participant). Of the other 99 words and phrases those selected most often were:

- *Thought provoking* [10 participants 83%]
- *Appropriate, Valuable* and *enjoyable* [8 participants each]
- *Interesting* and *offered important perspectives* [7 participants each].

Workshop Objectives and Needs

Participants reported that the workshop objectives were:

All participants indicated that their needs were well met [75%] or 'very well met' [25%]

With regard to their Needs Participants reported that the workshop was:

Not all participants answered this question. Six said it was 'relevant to needs' and three said it was 'highly relevant to needs'.

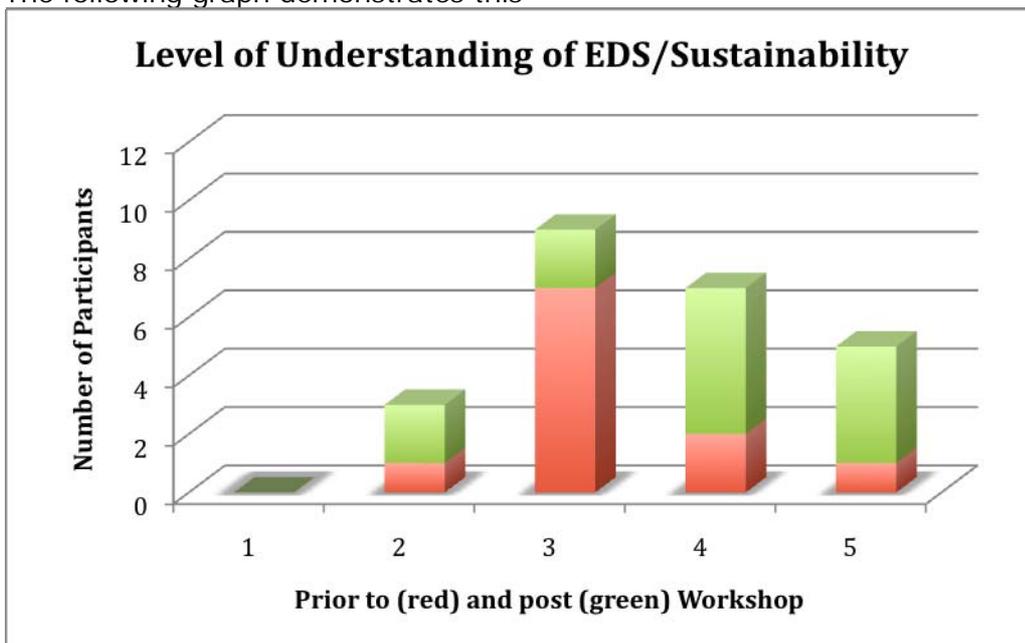
Impact of the Workshop on Participant's Understanding of Sustainability

Level of interest in sustainability:

One participant said they were 'interested in sustainability and the remaining 11 (92%) were very interested' in sustainability

Understanding of sustainability:

There was an increase in the level of understanding of sustainability because of the workshop. The following graph demonstrates this



Appreciation of council best practice in sustainability:

Participants reported an increasing understanding as a result of the workshop

- 8% reported a little increase in understanding
- 42% reported 'some' increased understanding
- 42% reported a 'high level' of increased understanding

Most Useful/Least Useful Aspects of the Workshop. The participants identified the following most and least useful aspects of this workshop;

Most Useful Aspects	Least Useful Aspects
Discussion, shared experience Plans, directions Understanding the link between environmental, economic and social sustainability First part, brainstorming and understanding the our legs of sustainability Interaction with others Theoretical and actual examples Handouts Interaction with other councils to gauge similar issues.	Some "off the topic" personal experiences Need one page summary Tended more towards environment at the expense of other areas.

Actions as a Result of the Training

<p>The participants Identified that they would undertake the following actions as a result of the training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with other councillors, Mayor and council staff to implement projects • Share with Councillors/MANEX • Set up a Council sub-committee • Discuss options with fellow councillors and Mannex Team • Work harder • Speak with fellow Councillors to initiate some useful changes' • Encourage others to "take up the fight" • Present the information to Council, suggesting a "Sustainability Committee" • Set up a "Sustainability Committee" • Improve communication.
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Overall Comments

A successful workshop - positively received by all participants. Highly interactive with all Councillors very involved in the process and discussion.

Facilitator Comments about Logistic Issues

I was at the workshop venue at 0810 to set up for a 0900 workshop.

- No one knew the course was on. It took fifteen minutes before a staff member was able to verify the booking.
- I could not get access to the room to set up. A meeting was being held in the room that had been booked
- Once participants started to arrive, I finally demanded access at 0845 and was taken to another room- the foyer of council chambers- it contained a long boardroom type table. I had requested café style. It was too late to change the room set up. I had 10 minutes to set up the data projector, laptop, manuals, name tags, display material, attendance and registration procedures.

The room was not really appropriate to purpose. It was:

- Outside the Mayor's office and council chambers, no noise was an issue.
- A thoroughfare of people walked through all the time
- Difficult to run small group work.

No officer, knew or cared about the training

- I had to ask the Orange Councillors who were participating about evacuation procedures, toilet facilities etc.

Given these circumstances the results of the workshop were very positive.



Grahame Collier
T Issues Consultancy

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