

Kitchen Table Conversation Kit

Background

The Pindimar and Bundabah community are currently being invited to come together to develop a plan for the future. It's an opportunity to share what you love about where you live and your ideas to make it even better, which will be documented in a Local Community Plan.

The plan will be developed by and owned by the community, with support from Council. We are there to assist in the process and provide advice to ensure your plan is reflective of the whole community and is effective as possible.

One of the ways we are asking people to get involved is by hosting or being part of a "kitchen table conversation".

What is a Kitchen Table Conversation?

Hosting a conversation is really easy and is designed to be just as relaxed as having a catch up with friends. This kit is a guide for you to host your own conversation with some friends, family, your community group or any other group you might like to bring together. This is a great way to gather the collective wisdom of your community and build upon your big ideas

Role of the host

The host is responsible for initiating the conversation. You don't have to have an official role within a group, you just need to be motivated to bring people together for a conversation. The people you invite could be part of an organised group you participate in (like garden club, bowls, or a regular morning coffee get-together), or it could be a casual group of friends or neighbours.

Steps to hosting your own kitchen table conversation

- Set a meeting date and send out your invitations – a handful of people works well
- Gather up the equipment you need, including, blank paper, pens etc. You can be as creative as you like in recording your ideas.
- Grab a cuppa and some biscuits - conversations are much better had over food!
- Have copies of the questions available and nominate someone to be the scribe
- Once finished upload a summary of your conversation

Important note: Please make sure gatherings are conducted in line with the NSW Government's social distancing requirements. Visit health.nsw.gov.au for the latest information.

Tips to making it a success

- **Record who is there**

Name, contact details and the group you represent is helpful. If you can provide email addresses, we will use this information to keep people updated on the Local Community Plan process in Pindimar and Bundabah

- **Focus on the conversation starters**

These questions are designed to focus the conversation around the information we need to gather from the community to produce a Local Community Plan that is reflective of the community's needs.

- **Write everything down**

The intent of a kitchen table conversation is not to reach agreement. Differences in opinion make great conversations and help us to build upon our ideas to make them even better. All ideas are valid and there will be a time, once all the ideas are collated, we will ask the community to prioritise what they see as most important.

As host, you may want to ask someone else to take down the notes so you can focus on keeping the conversation flowing. The note-taker should make sure all ideas are captured, and may need to slow things down or ask the speaker to repeat a thought or idea so nothing is missed.

- **Upload your summary to the Council website**

Go to midcoast.nsw.gov.au/LCP and click on the survey link. Using the survey form, type up your answers into the relevant boxes and select that this information is included as a part of a kitchen table conversation. Alternatively, you can drop any hard copies into the Tea Gardens district office.

- **We want responses from groups and individuals**

Encourage those involved to also upload their own individual responses to the questions. These have been distributed to each resident and land owner on a postcard and can also be completed online

The feedback period closes 4pm Friday 13 November, so get the conversation going! See over for conversation starters.

Conversation starters

1) What do you love about where you live?

2) What improvements or projects would you like to see happen?

3) How would you like to see your community in 20 years?

More information

Go to midcoast.nsw.gov.au/LCP

Or get in touch with Koran North, Engagement Officer

community@midcoast.nsw.gov.au or 02 7955 7777