

Previous feedback received

This is edited feedback received during the 2001 3rd Village Investigations. Much of the questionnaires related to discussion around the possibility and location of a 3rd village on the Plateau.

The Alstonville2036 project is firmly focussed on the future of Alstonville in its own right. However, feedback that shows what the Alstonville community valued about the town has been extracted just to provide some background information.

What did people say?

139 residents from the Alstonville Plateau either filled in a survey, or took the time to write about their ideas regarding the 3rd village. One of the most common responses was the high value placed on the agricultural land surrounding the existing villages and this has since been recognised by the NSW Government identifying the Alstonville Plateau as State Significant Farmland with surrounding lands being Regionally Significant. The value of the agricultural land was a theme which came through very strongly in both the survey and the written submissions. The community highly values both the scenic amenity of agriculture in the countryside and the very productive capability of the land.

Another common response was the discussion around traffic moving through the towns, a topic which was highly relevant particularly with the Bruxner Highway being located right in the main street of Alstonville. The construction of the Alstonville Bypass has alleviated a lot of this issue.

People mentioned the climate as being ideal, with good soils and good access to various location such as the coast, Lismore and the Pacific Highway.

As noted above, the visual amenity of the village within the farmland was also mentioned frequently as a something that residents valued highly. Alstonville was seen as a quiet rural village and it was important to the community to retain this quality.

69% of respondents to the survey thought that any future development should occur within the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

People felt that industrial activities should be confined to the Russelton Industrial Estate. Open space was important.

Public transport was mentioned in a couple of submissions with regard to frequency and convenience of running times.

There was discussion about an optimal size to support a community in a social sense, where people know each other and there is a sense of belonging without a lack of privacy.

Value of Agriculture Locally

Industry	1996 - \$m	2016
Cattle	160	
Nursery	120	
Dairy	110	
Sugar	100	
Bananas	65	
Pork	25	
Macadamias	20	
Vegetables	20	
Avocadoes	10	
Stonefruit	10	
Tea-tree	8	
Blueberries	7.5	
Honey	3	
Passionfruit	3	
Hydroponics	3	
Herbs	0.5	
Lychees	0.5	
Kiwifruit	0.5	
Grapes	0.5	
Other	1	