A Summary of the Common Themes, Focus Areas, Regional
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges
as identified by 7 stakeholder groups

Importance of
Education, Agri-business & Global Research
IT Knowledge enterprises; a new regional identity
Wine / Food / Ecotourism & diverse
land-use; policies / infrastructure for regional development

Importance of intelligent, culturally
rich, diverse & internationally connected
& networked region; existing international
partnerships and Student - alumni
& business links

Importance of
a new culture of innovation, experimentation
leading sustainability practices, holistic designs
around water energy, waste, sanctuaries, biodiversity
international links, research, training, linking with communities
in collaborative projects - enabling downstream effects

Strengths
engaged, thinking, welcoming
multi-cultural thriving
communities with rich cultural
life - art, music
Strong education, research, international links
Peoples' commitment to region & NESAC alliance

Weaknesses
Lack of a regional identity - Green vision;
fragmented networks, silos & competing groups
Complacency, Leadership, insular UNE
State govt support, policies, infrastructure
for sustainable regional development eg
Transport and expensive low speed broadband
Reliance on UNE & community
volunteer governance
Fractures between cultural groups

Opportunities
renewable solar-wind energy & spin-off
enterprises
NESAC and UNE as international models,
knowledge - research hubs of Sustainability
Leadership, developing new practices, technologies
regional carbon sequestration & bio-diversity banks
sister city-region partnerships re education,
trade, research, carbon trading schemes,
ecotourism links

Challenges
developing export regional
global outlook
community engagement in planning
decisions & green designs
local food, energy
regional transport / access
to Sydney, Brisbane
affordable sustainable
housing

Economic
Themes

Youth
Themes

Environmental
Themes

Armidale
Dumaresq
Council
Themes

UNE
Students

Social
Themes

Importance of urgency around
resource depletion, engaging youth; awareness,
learning & knowledge of sustainability practices;
community workshops, school programs &
social events around sustainability

Importance of social capital,
awareness commitment & capability
of community & landcare network
in remedial work;
cool climate, water,
new diversified woodland models
of integrated land-use & carbon
sinks, diversified ecosystems, diversity
of species, national parks
sunlight, wind, water

Importance of stewardship -
Protecting & enhancing our unique
environment, community assets &
cultural life; involving community in
transparent decision
=making commitment to LT vision

Developing an Eco-Uni
Peer to Peer mentoring around sustainability
sustainability Tours for educating
regional stakeholders
Region as centre of excellence
for a new economy
A Summary of Common Themes across the SWOC stakeholder groups cont.

What will a Sustainable New England look like?

Visionary Leadership

- A new sustainable Regional Identity - Vision
- A new culture of success - innovation...an exporting region
- New England as a regional sustainable model, leader of national sustainable, education, research
- Best sustainable waste - recycling, landfill, water & energy practices / designs / technologies

affordable sustainable housing

sustainable regional transport - buses, rail, bike & walkways

thriving cultural - arts, music scene

active healthy community engaged, making transparent decisions

open dialogues allowing better understanding

commitment to a 'whole of community' sustainability charter

attracting 'tree-changers' - relocations to region with good links to Sydney, Brisbane

Partnering Regional Bodies

international sister city-region research, business tourism, links & partnerships

several high growth businesses

linked business - UNE networks

infrastructure & resources forentreprises & sustainable regional development

renewable solar, wind energy generation

innovative, diverse & integrated land-use agri-businesses / models

no species in decline, good soil health awareness of diversity of species

regional carbon bio-diversity trading schemes

beautiful city-region landscapes and nature spaces

what will a Sustainable New England look like?

This conversation system map summarizes the SWOC group appraisals & maps the key ideas, themes and design principles for a sustainable New England but it is only a starting point........Micheal O'Loughlin Evolveris

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