

# Trial solid waste management and pest control projects in southern NSW

Prepared by **Lisa Motbey, James Allwood & Tim Short**  
Eurobodalla Shire Council & NSW Health

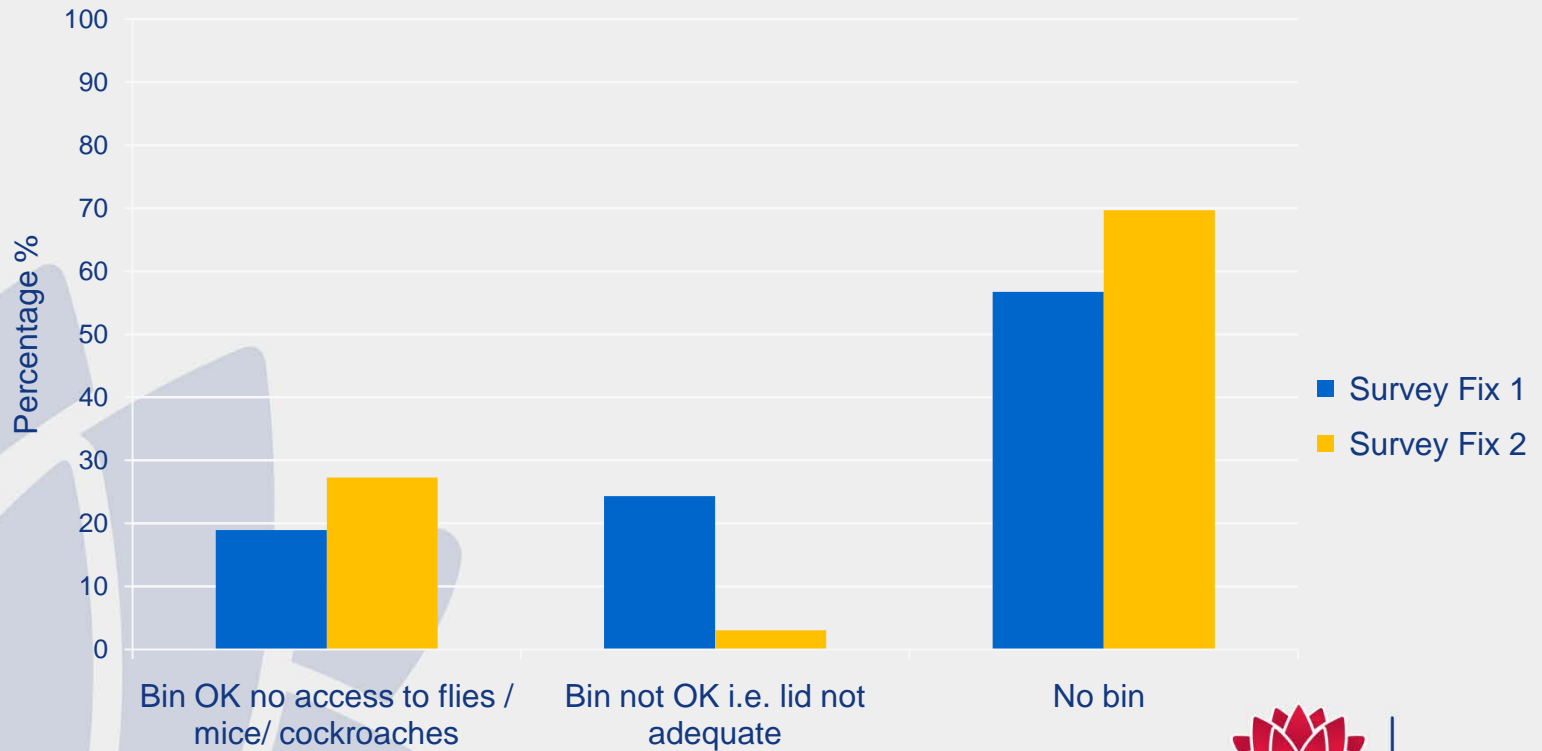
**September 2017**

# Background

- NSW Health funds Housing for Health (H4H) projects in communities in NSW
- Pests identified as ongoing problems for two (2) communities in southern NSW, potentially linked to ongoing issues with solid waste management
- Pest & waste value adding projects built on identified needs arising from H4H data and through consultation with the LALCs and communities

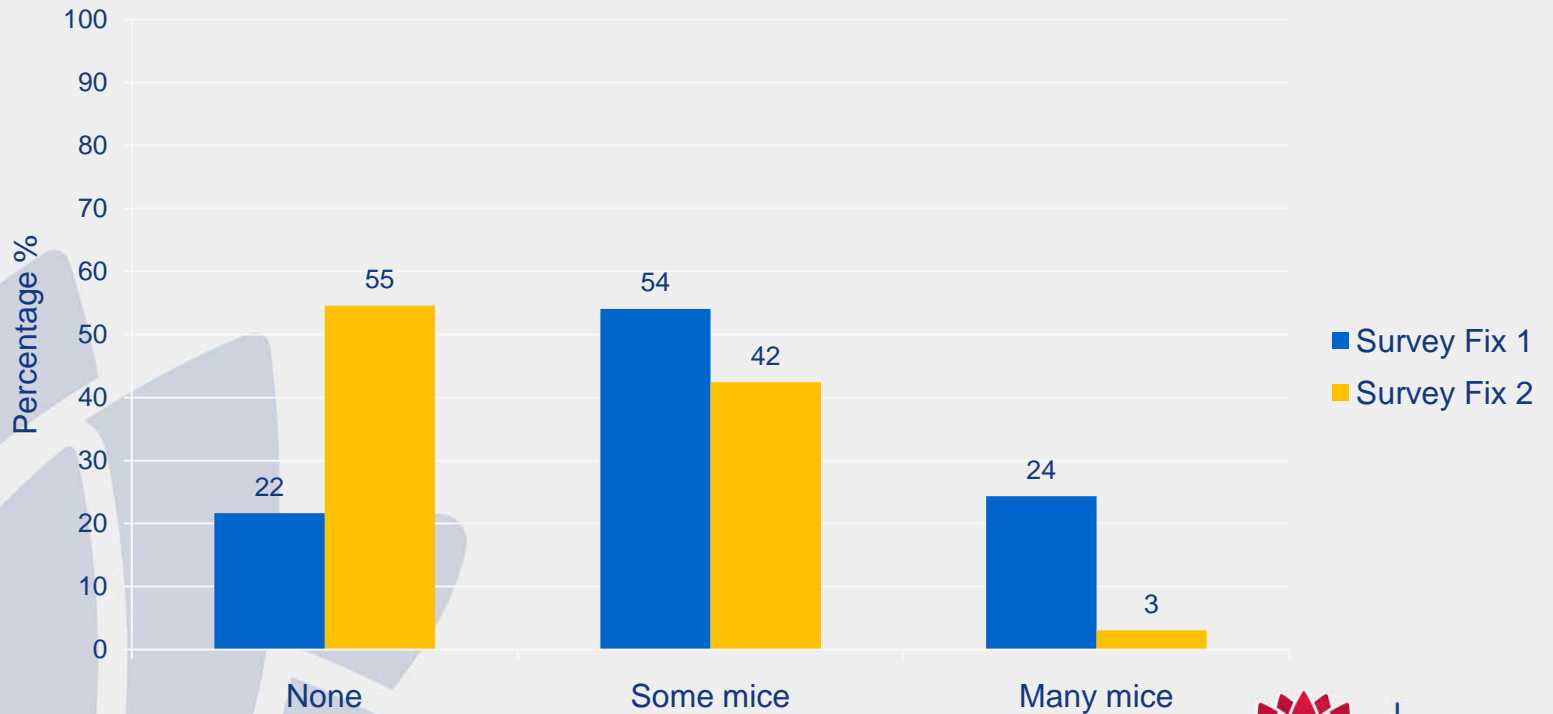
# Housing for Health data

Community A: Household Bin Survey (Graph 1)



# Housing for Health data

Community A: Rats and mice in household (Graph 2)







# Project Aims

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- To reduce the number of pests in the communities
- Remove pest harbourage/breeding sites and food sources
- Improve solid waste management in and around the communities

# Projected public and environmental health outcomes

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- Reduction in the number of pests in the communities (rodents, cockroaches, ants, mosquitoes, spiders, fleas, wasps and bird lice)
- Reduction in the potential for illness and disease associated with exposure to pests (rodents and cockroaches)
- Reduction in the potential for house fires caused through rodent activity



# Project partners

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- Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) – contribution to community employment, employment administration
- Ministry of Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit (AEHU) – funding, project design and management
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) – project design, support and ongoing liaison
- Eurobodalla Shire Council – project support
- Murray River Council – contribution to community clean-up costs, landfill design support and ongoing management



# Project evaluation

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- Qualitative assessment of pest and solid waste management pre and post community clean-up and pest control/treatment – via survey of residents
- Quantitative assessment of waste i.e. volume waste removed from community from clean-up
- Quantitative assessment of type and number of pests in households via glue boards (130mm x 70mm) pre and post community clean-up/pest control

# Key stages of project

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- Consultation with LALC, community and Councils (A&B)
- Community involvement in all stages from project design, clean-up and evaluation (A&B)
- Resident pest and waste survey and quantitative pest assessment (A&B)
- Community clean-up including houses, yards, footpath verges and local landfill. Provision of household clean-up kits to residents (A&B)
- Slashing and mowing lawns and footpath verges (A&B)

# Key stages of project

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- Elimination of access and harbourage sites for pests into and around the home (A&B)
- Pest control including an education component providing information on ongoing treatment, potential for fire, and spread of disease risks associated with pests (A&B)
- Joint funding submission from project partners for sustainable ongoing management of the community landfill in one of the communities (A)

















## KICK PESTS OUT OF YOUR HOME FOR GOOD!!

You get up at night to get a midnight snack and turn on the light and there they are scurrying around! **COCKROACHES!!!!** They love the nightlife and hate the day time so if you see a cockroach during the day it means you have hundreds hiding in your house and that cockroach has been pushed out of the nest because there is no room.



Where do they come from?



They live in old rubbish piles, unused cars, gardens and anywhere they can be hidden from humans.

There are 3 main ones:



German



American



Smokey Brown











# Project results

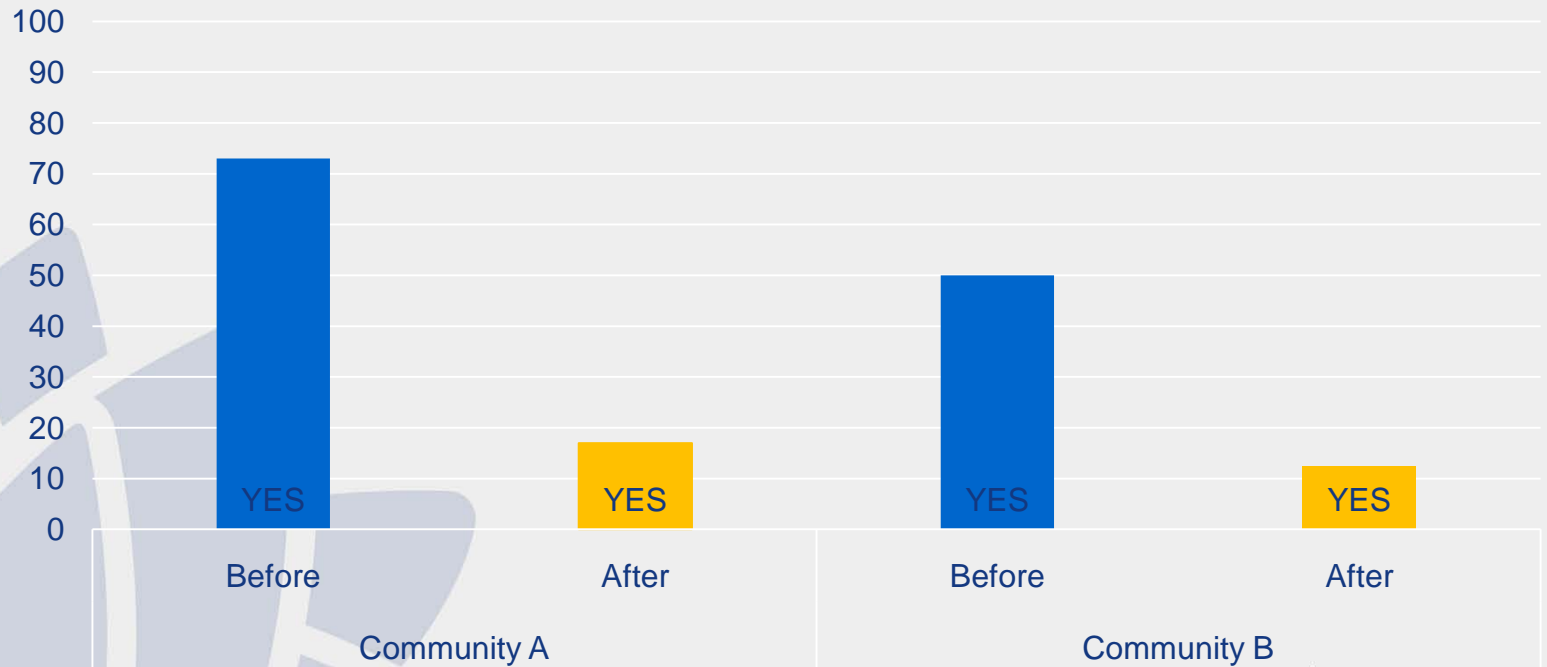
Table 1 - Community Survey Results (pre clean-up/pest control)

	<b>Community A</b>	<b>Community B</b>
Use kitchen waste bin with lid	59%	88%
Council waste bin collected weekly	89%	100%
Use the community tip often	35%	N/A



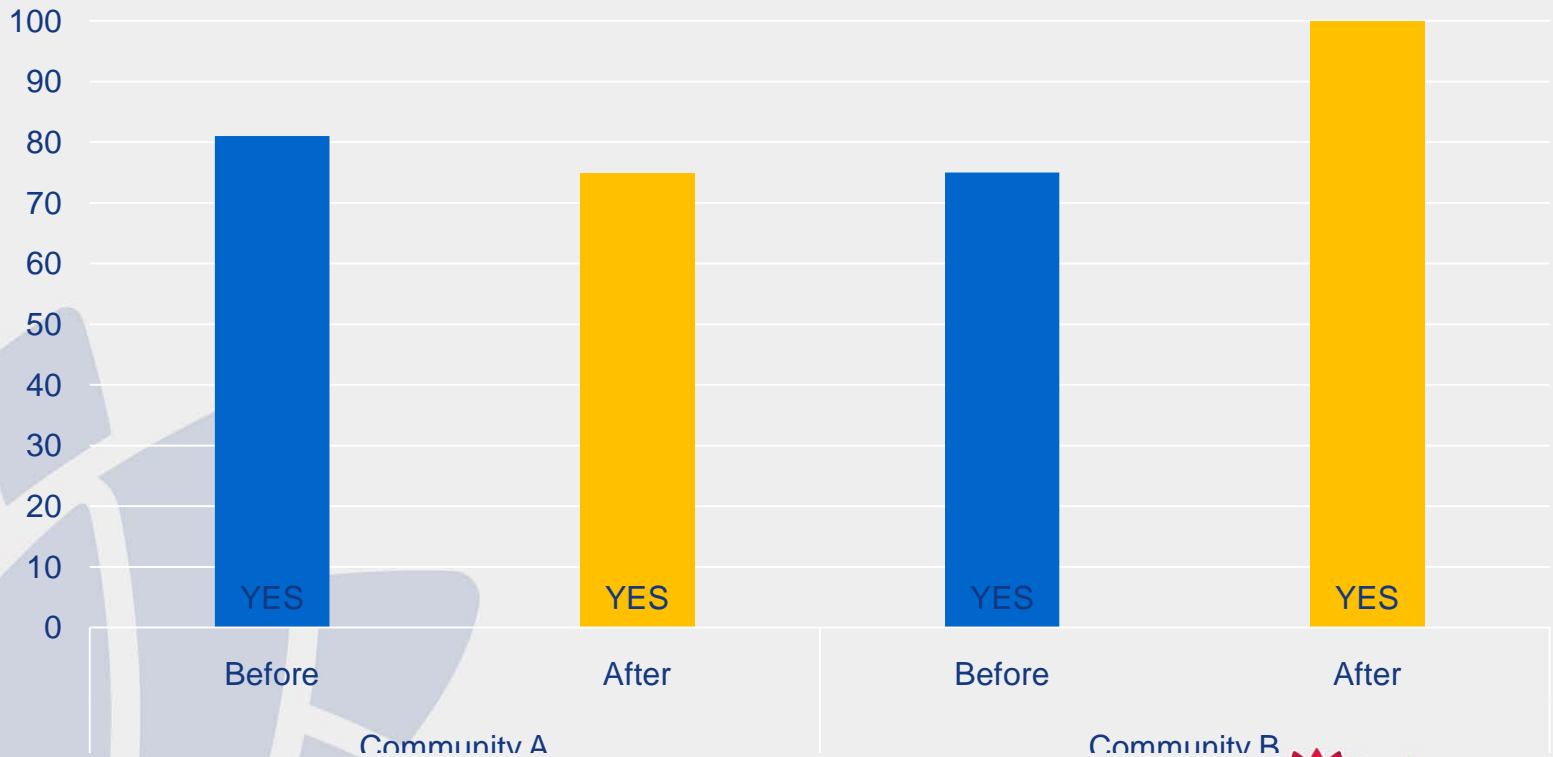
# Community Survey Results

Q. Are cockroaches a problem for you or your family?  
(Graph 3)



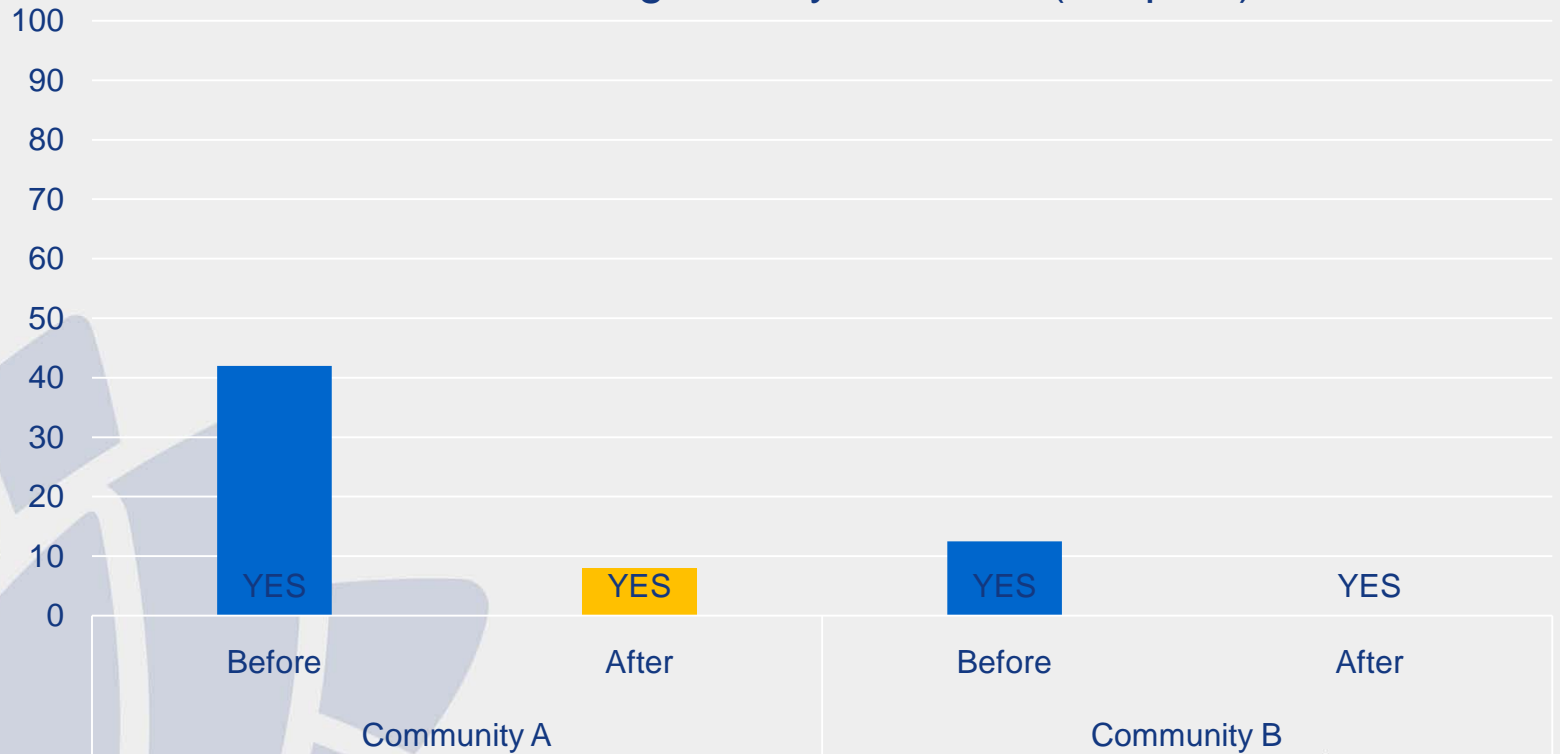
# Community Survey Results

Q. Are you aware cockroaches spread germs? (Graph 4)



# Community Survey Results

Q. Do cockroaches get into your food? (Graph 5)



# Project results

Table 2 - Community Clean Up

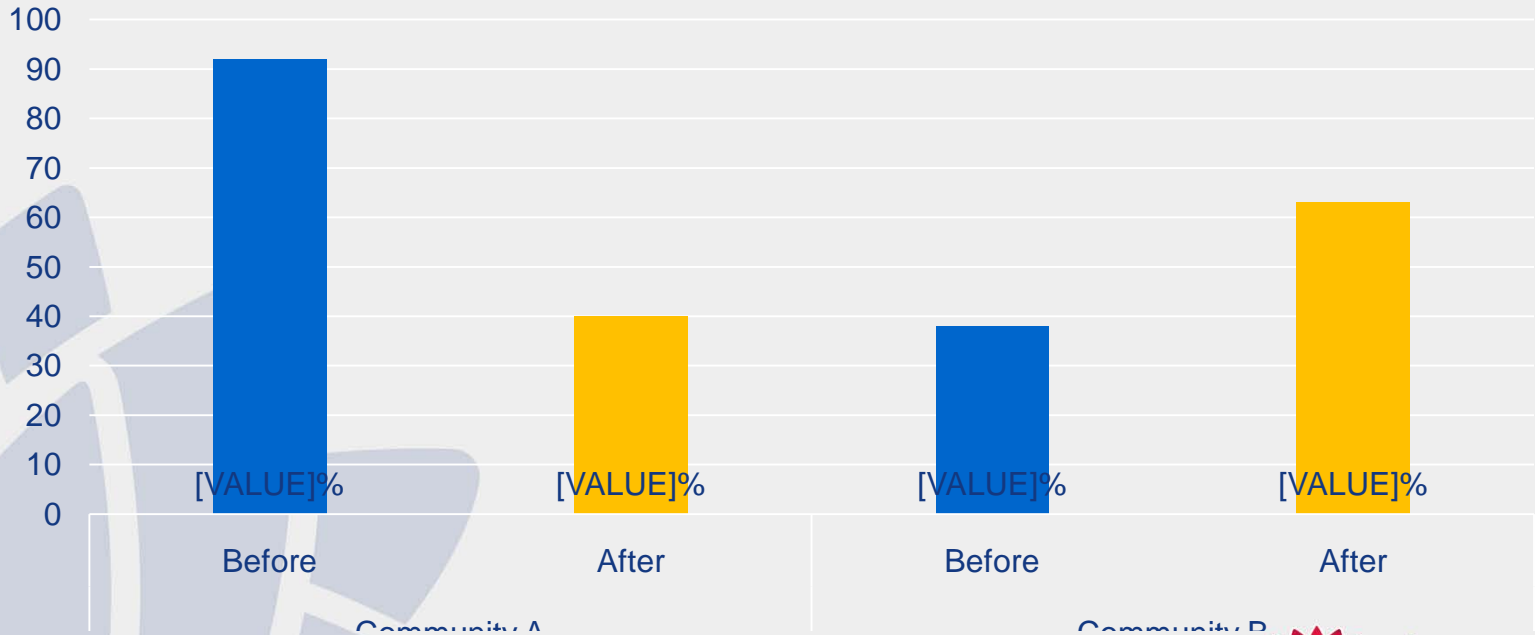
	<b>Community A</b>	<b>Community B</b>
Houses	32	8
Community workers	17	8
Bulk waste skips filled	12	3
Bulk waste weight	28.38 tonnes	4.11 tonnes

# Project results

	<b>Community A</b>	<b>Community B</b>
Slashing & mowing lawns	27 properties	8 properties
Elimination of pest access and harbourage sites	26 houses	8 houses
Pest control completed	25 houses	8 houses

# Project results

Houses with cockroaches  
before/after community cleanup & pest control (Graph 6)





# Project results

Houses with >100 cockroaches  
before/after community cleanup & pest control (Graph 7)









# What might we do differently?

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- Have the pest controller read the glue traps when carrying out treatment as accessing houses became an issue in Community A
- Have some form of sign up system while doing the whole community clean up to clearly identify support for the sustainable Pest Control process
- Go with less houses when using the small project model

# Observations/Comments

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- The role of the community Project Working Group in dealing with factions
- The sustained ongoing education of PWG members in the process and outcomes leaves a legacy in the communities

# Project sustainability

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1. Buy in from the householder.
2. Removal of clutter from the house and yard
3. Slashing and mowing of lawns
4. Sealing of access and harbourage points
5. Ensuring there is a kitchen bin with a lid and a household bin
6. Treatment for pests as required
7. Ongoing education of residents of what to do when the pests come back





Any questions?