

# Defining appropriate options for post-closure land-use of the Tamala Park landfill:

A community participation process




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# Agenda

- ▶ Background
  - ▶ Research questions
  - ▶ Tamala Park
  - ▶ Methods
  - ▶ Results
  - ▶ Conclusions
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- ▶ *“The operation of a landfill, no matter how well managed, will result in land being contaminated with a range of pollutants which have the potential to cause off-site impacts in the form of surface and groundwater contamination” (DEP, 2005).*


# Reusing closed landfill sites

- ▶ Provide services to the community
  - ▶ Environmental benefits
  - ▶ Newly available developable land/Increased economic development and property value
  - ▶ But need to consider environmental and socio-economic issues, community needs and concerns
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# Examples of reuse options


- ▶ Wildlife habitats
  - ▶ Sports grounds including golf courses
  - ▶ Public open space
  - ▶ Commercial and industrial development
  - ▶ Residential development
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# Research questions

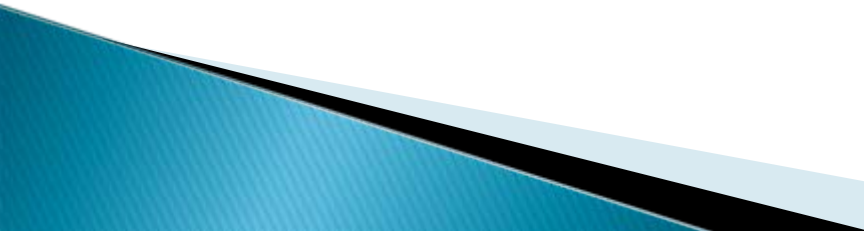
- ▶ What options for post closure landfill re-use do the residents living adjacent to Tamala Park prefer and why?
  - ▶ Do these residents want to be involved in making decisions concerning reuse options and how?
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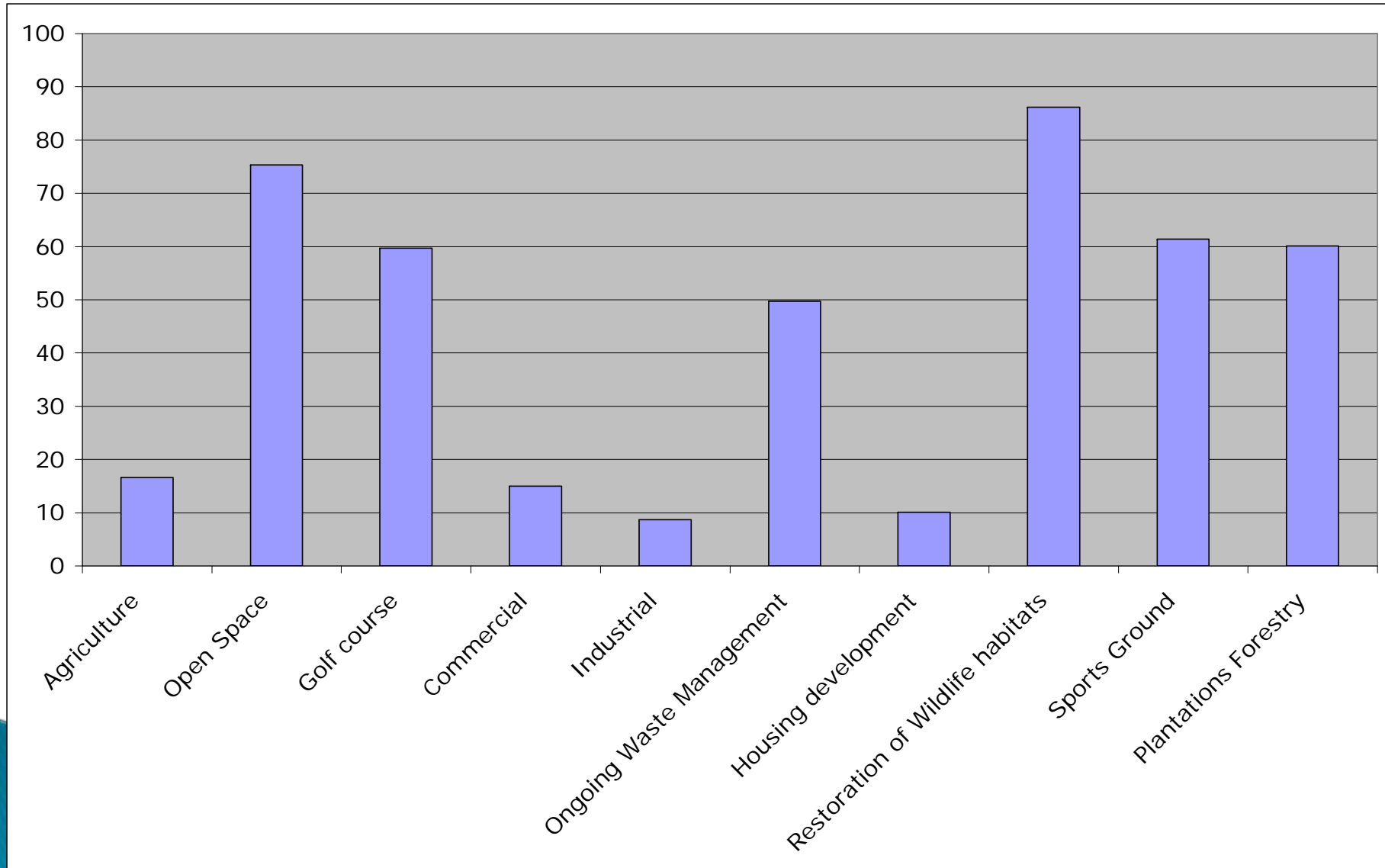
# Methods

- ▶ Mixed methods used
  - ▶ 868 questionnaire letter box dropped  
(165 questionnaires received for analysis)
  - ▶ 3 focus groups with 12 participants
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# Results – Respondents' profile

- ▶ 60% female
  - ▶ 57 % had lived in the area more than 5 yrs
  - ▶ 86% owned their home
  - ▶ 90% lived within 5 km distance to the landfill
  - ▶ 73% had good network of family and friends
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# Results – reuse options



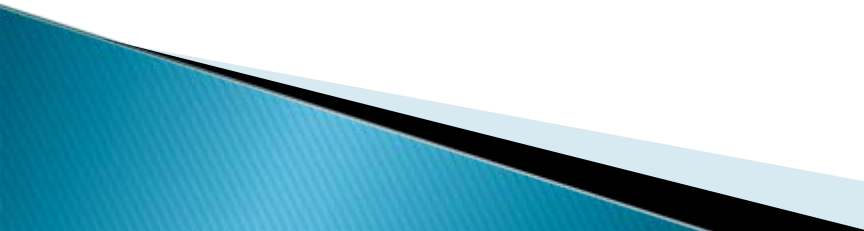
# Results – reuse options (ctd)

- ▶ Multiple uses including open space, wildlife park and production of renewable energy.
  - ▶ Golf course and sports field raised concern about access, the need for buildings and the use of water
  - ▶ Strong rejection for housing project because of risks to human life
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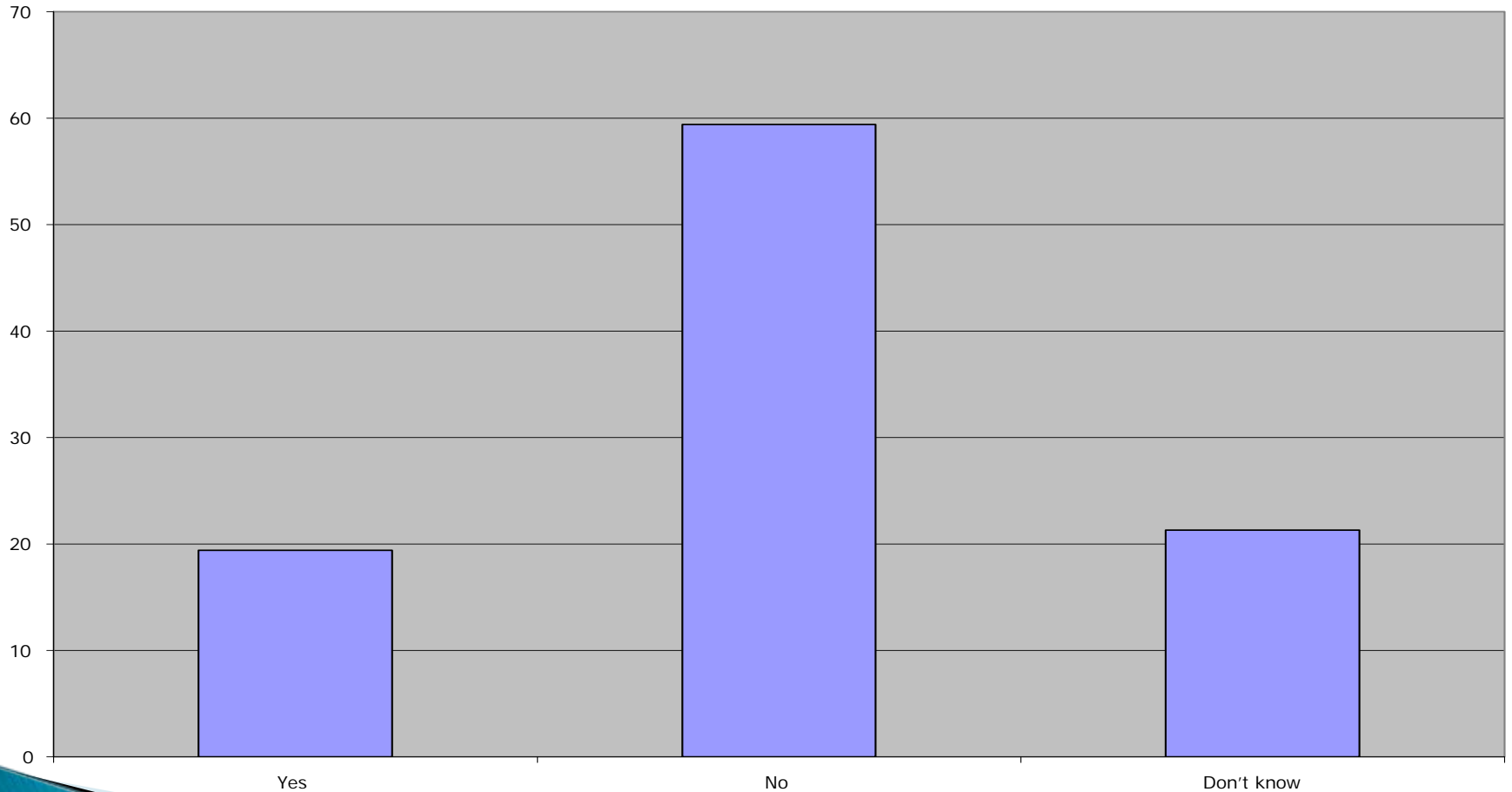
# Results – reuse options

- ▶ Improve quality of life, enhance aesthetic values of the area and provide community needs
  - ▶ Concerns about funding of the publicly accessible green space.
  - ▶ Lack of sufficient information about possible environmental problems related to methane or any toxic materials from the landfill.
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# Results – Environmental and other issues

- ▶ Most important issues: bad smell, groundwater contamination, litter, aesthetic and health problems
  - ▶ Landfill generally clean and well managed
  - ▶ Above problems regarded as short term or issues of the past
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# Results – Willingness to participate (%)



# Summary

- ▶ General preference for passive and semi passive development but need funding from other development. (De Sousa, 2004)
  - ▶ Small percentage of respondents will participate. Profile suggests strong vested interests.
  - ▶ Also, unwillingness to participate may be due to low level of concern. (Solitaire, 2005)
  - ▶ Qualitative allowed further explanations of some results from the quantitative in the participants' words.
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# Conclusions/recommendations

- ▶ General preferences towards open types of development (still some conflict of ideas).
  - ▶ Results suggested preferences based on needs and views about environmental and health issues.
  - ▶ Some barriers to participation identified including insufficient information.
  - ▶ Need for more information about types of waste disposed and results of environmental monitoring.
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# Thank you

## Questions?



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