

REGIONWIDE

# Citizen jury in action

Alison Balding

## NEW COMMUNITY PANEL WILL HAVE ITS SAY IN AREA'S FUTURE

REJUVENATING Queen St, generating employment and the second Sydney airport are on the agenda for Penrith Council's new community panel.

The citizen jury, which met for the first time recently, has been established to help form the area's future and trial a new approach to community consul-

tation. Instead of complaining, St Clair resident Aaron (surnames have been omitted to protect privacy) decided to be a part of the process.

"We all like to have a go at people, particularly the council, so I just thought instead of complaining, I'd get involved," he said.

After living in the area for 15 years and with a background in construction, the carpenter said he had a lot to say as one of the 34 panel members who have been invited to take part in the council project.

"St Marys on a whole needs to be cleaned up to make it more presentable to

people and businesses wanting to move in," Aaron said.

Meanwhile, St Clair university student Deena hopes her experience as a panel member will complement her studies in urban design.

"I'd like to see more jobs created in the area, and I'd like to see the area near the Nepean River come alive

with more festivals and events," Deena said.

St Marys resident Ajewal moved from Fiji to Australia 20 years ago and has called St Marys home ever since.

He said he hoped to help contribute to the areas overall "livability".

He pointed to St Marys becoming a ghost town in

the afternoons and the lack of parking on the whole for the Penrith area.

Recommendations made by the panel will be presented to councillors who will then vote on whether to accept, modify or reject the proposals.



What needs  
improving?  
[Facebook.com/  
mtdruittstandard](https://www.facebook.com/mtdruittstandard)