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### **Background and objectives**



The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community.

Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

Now in its twenty-third year, this survey provides insight into the community's views on:

- councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- · value for money in services and infrastructure
- community consultation and engagement
- decisions made in the interest of the community
- customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
- · overall council direction.

When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable historical source of the community's views since 1998. A selection of results from the last ten years shows that councils in Victoria continue to provide services that meet the public's expectations.

### **Serving Victoria for 23 years**

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 23 years of results, the CSS offers councils a long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional. Participating councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial and other considerations.



# State-wide performance – at a glance



### **Overall council performance**

Results shown are index scores out of 100.





**Metropolitan** 65



**Interface** 56



**Regional Centres** 59

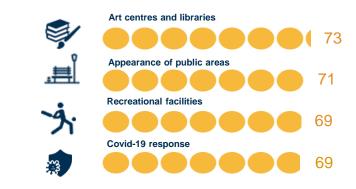




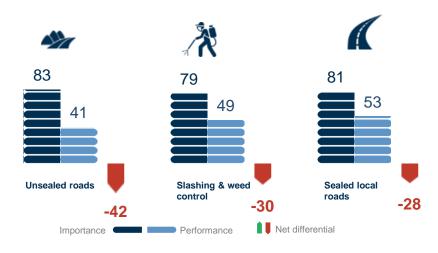
**Small Rural** 58

Large Rural 55

### Top 4 performing areas



### Top 3 areas for improvement



# **Summary of core measures**



### **Index scores**





engagement

Community



Sealed local roads



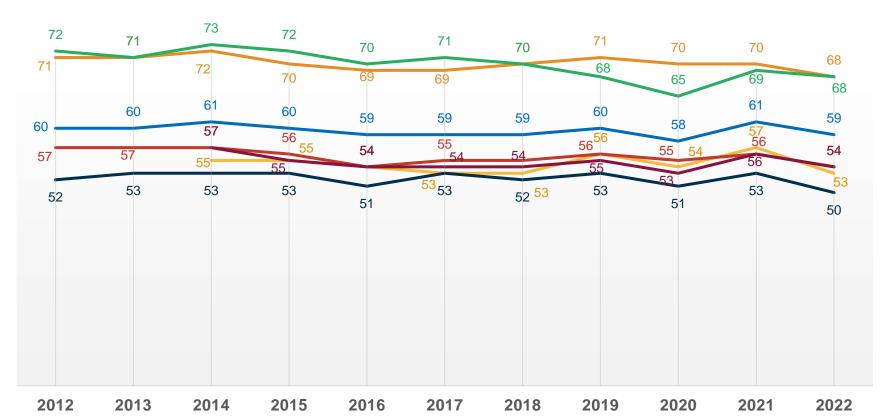
Waste management



Customer service



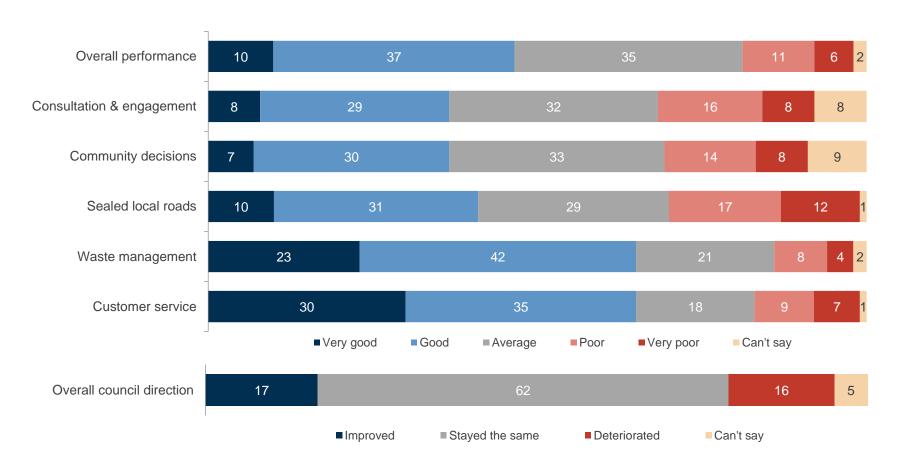
Overall council direction



# **Summary of core measures**



### Core measures summary results (%)





Services		State-wide 2022	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
<b>M</b>	Overall performance	59	61	Metropolitan	Aged 50-64 years
\$	Value for money	53	54	Metropolitan	Aged 50-64 years, Large Rural Shires
+	Overall council direction	50	53	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Customer service	68	70	Metropolitan	Men
<b>\$</b>	Art centres & libraries	73	73	Regional Centres	Interface
<u></u>	Appearance of public areas	71	73	Regional Centres, Small Rural Shires	Interface
外	Recreational facilities	69	71	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires
	COVID-19 response	69	73	Large Rural Shires, Aged 65+ years	Interface, Aged 35-64 years
	Waste management	68	69	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-64 years, Large Rural Shires
	Elderly support services	67	69	Small Rural Shires	Interface, Aged 50-64 years



Services		State-wide 2022	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
立	Emergency & disaster mngt	66	71	Small Rural Shires, Aged 65+ years	Interface, Aged 50-64 years
	Family support services	65	66	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
	Community & cultural	65	65	Small Rural Shires	Interface
	Enforcement of local laws	63	64	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years, Interface
***	Disadvantaged support serv.	62	63	Men, Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
23	Environmental sustainability	61	62	Metropolitan	Aged 50-64 years, Large and Small Rural Shires
	Bus/community dev./tourism	60	61	Small Rural Shires	Aged 50-64 years
Ya	Tourism development	60	62	Small Rural Shires, Aged 65+ years	Interface
	Informing the community	59	60	Metropolitan	Interface, Large Rural Shires, Aged 50-64 years
	Business & community dev.	58	60	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years



Services		State-wide 2022	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
	Traffic management	58	59	Small Rural Shires	Interface
	Parking facilities	57	58	Small Rural Shires	Large Rural Shires
	Local streets & footpaths	57	59	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires
	Town planning policy	54	55	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
•	Community decisions	54	56	Metropolitan	Aged 50-64 years
	Consultation & engagement	54	56	Metropolitan	Aged 50-64 years
<u>.</u>	Lobbying	53	55	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
A	Sealed local roads	53	57	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires
	Population growth	52	53	Regional Centres	Interface
	Planning & building permits	50	51	Regional Centres, Metropolitan, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years, Large Rural Shires



Services	3	State-wide 2022	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
***	Slashing & weed control	49	51	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires
	Unsealed roads	41	45	Regional Centres	Aged 35-49 years, Large Rural Shires

### Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Arts centres and libraries and the appearance of public areas remain the best performing areas for Victorian councils. Performance gains made in 2021 have been largely lost in 2022, with declines in overall council performance and across 26 of 28 individual service areas – most markedly on emergency and disaster management, councils' COVID-19 response and sealed and unsealed roads.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Victorian Councils should focus on maintaining and improving performance in the individual service areas that most influence perceptions of overall performance. Statewide, these remain: council decisions made in the interest of the community, town planning, and the condition of sealed local roads (excluding those managed by VicRoads). These are currently among councils' lower performing areas State-wide.

Area grouping comparisons

Metropolitan and Regional Centre councils perform more strongly than Rural and Interface council groups. Across the individual service areas – Metropolitan councils most often rate above the State-wide average, Regional Centre councils rate above or in line with the State-wide average, Interface and Large Rural councils most often rate below the State-wide average, and rated performance of Small Rural councils is variable.

Progress on core measures

Perceptions of councils' performance have declined on core measures, after improving in 2021, and are now at or near the lowest ratings recorded in this tracking series for each core area. Councils can help increase positive community perceptions over the next 12 months by maintaining and repairing local roads, delivering good customer and waste management services, and offering greater consultation and transparency in their decision making.

# **DETAILED FINDINGS**





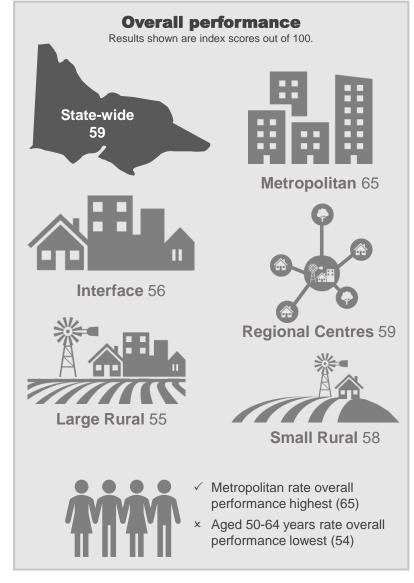


The overall performance index score of 59 for councils State-wide represents a significant two-point decrease from 2021 but remains higher than in 2020 (index score of 58). Perceptions have declined significantly, at the 95% confidence level, across all demographic and council groups, except in Regional Centres.

Performance of the Metropolitan council group continues to rate significantly higher than the Statewide average, while Regional Centres are on par with State-wide. Interface and Small and Large Rural council groups continue to rate significantly lower than the State-wide average.

Demographically, Victoria's youngest (18 to 34 years) and oldest (65+ years) residents remain most positive about their council's performance (index scores of 61 and 60 respectively – both significantly higher than the State-wide average). This contrasts with 35 to 49 and 50 to 64 year olds, who continue to rate their council's performance significantly lower than the State-wide average (index scores of 57 and 54 respectively).

State-wide, more than one in three residents (37%) rate the value for money received from their council in infrastructure and services provided as either 'very good' or 'good' – more than the one in four (25%) who rate it as 'very poor' or 'poor'. A further 34% continue to sit mid-scale, rating value for money as 'average'.





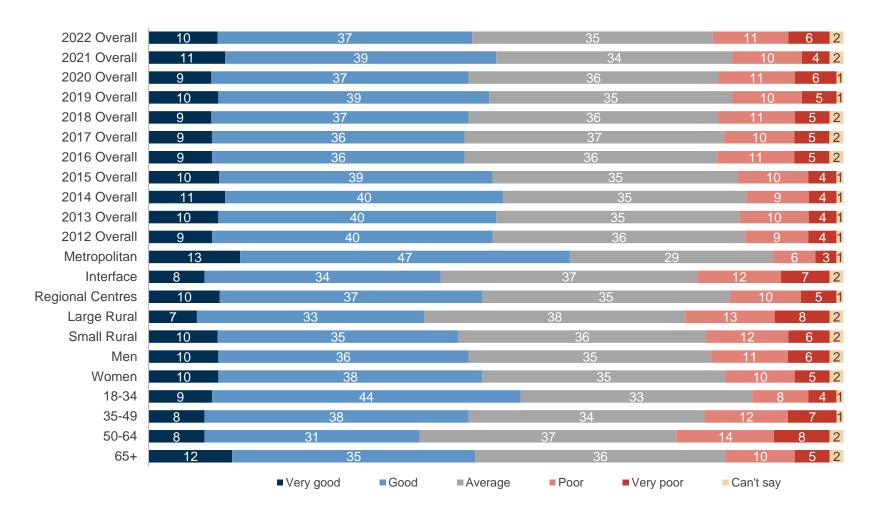
### 2022 overall performance (index scores)

### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012





### 2022 overall performance (%)



# Value for money in services and infrastructure



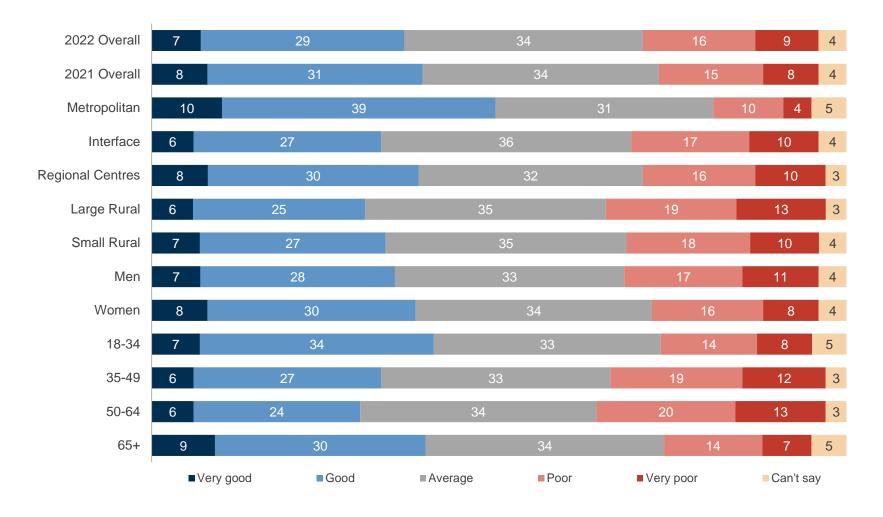
### 2022 value for money (index scores)

### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Metropolitan 61 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 55^ 65 +n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 18-34 55^ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 54 Women 55 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Regional Centres 53 55 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 53 Overall n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 51▼ Men n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 51▼ Interface n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Small Rural 51▼ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 35-49 49▼ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 48▼ Large Rural 50 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 50-64 48▼ 50 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a

# Value for money in services and infrastructure



### 2022 value for money (%)



# Top performing service areas

A decline in performance across most service areas in 2022 has eroded the gains made last year. However, councils State-wide are still rated as performing well, achieving index scores of between 52 and 73 for 25 out of 28 individual service areas measured.

Performance on the top-rated service area of art centres and libraries (index score of 73) and the related area of community and cultural activities (index score of 65) is unchanged from last year. (However, these two areas also went against trend in 2021, recording a performance decline, so remain below their 2020 ratings.)

Other high performing service areas in 2022, both Statewide and for each council group, continue to be the appearance of public areas (index score of 71, down two points), councils' COVID-19 response and recreational facilities (index score of 69 for each, down four and two points respectively) and waste management (index score of 68, down one point).

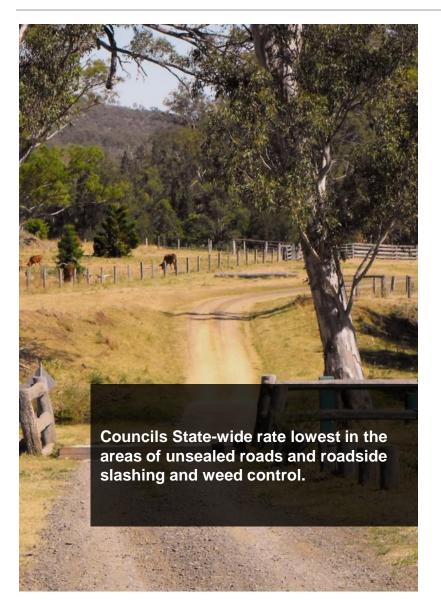
Further to these results, 11% of residents volunteer parks and gardens as the best aspect of their local council, slightly ahead of customer service at 10%, recreational and sporting facilities at 8% and 6% mentions for waste management.





# Low performing service areas





Statewide, unsealed road maintenance is rated the most important Council responsibility overall (index score of 83, up two points) but continues to rate lowest on performance (index score of 41, down four points). Councils are rated poorly across all non-Metropolitan groups\*.

Performance on the related area of roadside slashing and weed control has also declined over the past 12 months, back to an index score of below 50 (49, down two points). This has been largely driven by significant declines in performance among the Large Rural and Interface council groups.

Similar to unsealed roads, the condition of sealed local roads has recorded one of the largest performance declines from 2021 (index score of 53, down four points) and remains the service area most frequently mentioned as needing improvement (15%). Performance in this area has declined for all council groups and Small and Large Rural councils continue to rate below the State-wide average.

Planning and building permits and population growth also continue to be weaker performing service areas (index score of 50 and 52 respectively, each down one point), particularly among the Interface, and Small and Large Rural council groups.

<sup>\*</sup> Service area not rated by Metropolitan council residents.

### Individual service area performance



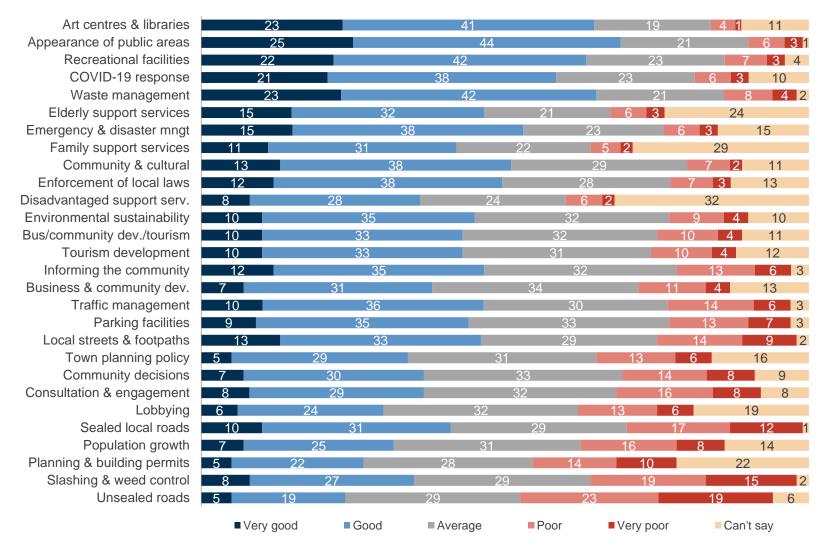
### 2022 individual service area performance (index scores)



### Individual service area performance



### 2022 individual service area performance (%)



### Individual service area importance



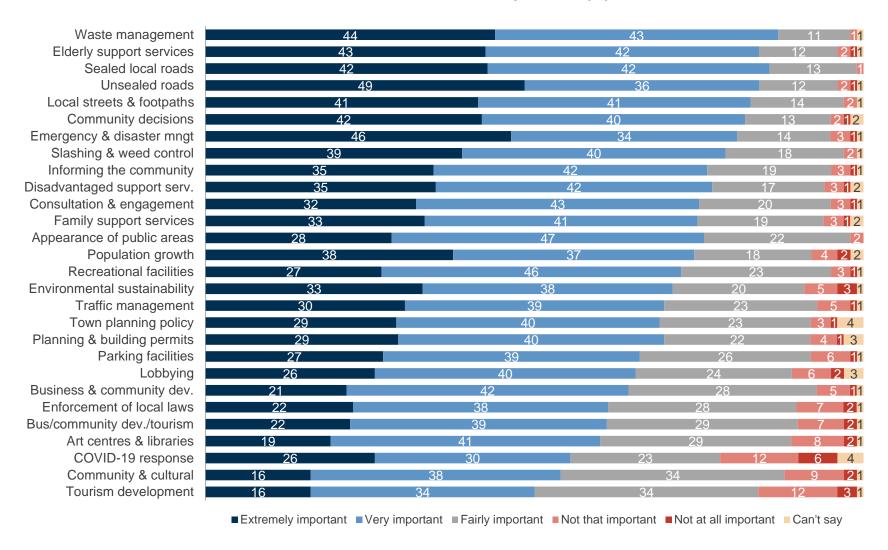
### 2022 individual service area importance (index scores)



# Individual service area importance



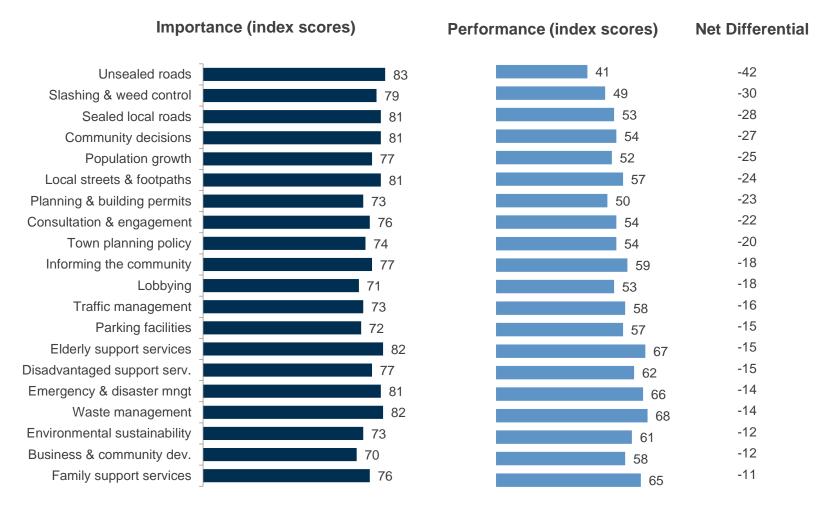
### 2022 individual service area importance (%)



# Individual service areas importance vs performance



Service areas where importance exceeds performance by 10 points or more, suggesting further investigation is necessary.



# Influences on perceptions of overall performance



The individual service area that has the strongest influence on the overall performance rating for Councils State-wide (based on regression analysis) is:

Decisions made in the interest of the community.

Good communication and transparency with residents about decisions made in their community's interest provides the greatest opportunity to drive up overall opinion of Council performance.

Other key service areas with a positive influence on overall performance include:

- Town planning
- The condition of sealed local roads, excluding VicRoads
- The appearance of public areas
- · Business, community development and tourism
- Family support services
- · Emergency and disaster management.

Looking at these key service areas, the appearance of public areas has a high performance index and a moderate influence on overall performance ratings. Councils State-wide currently perform very well in this area (index score of 71) and should continue to attend to their public areas to maintain this positive result.

Emergency management and family support services also have relatively high performance ratings (index scores of 66 and 65 respectively) and some influence on overall performance. Councils should also seek to maintain standards here to help shore up positive perceptions of these service areas and Council performance overall.

However, there is greater work to be done in service areas that have a stronger influence on overall perceptions but perform less well, such as town planning and the condition of sealed local roads (index scores of 54 and 53 respectively).

In addition, while currently a lesser influence on the overall performance rating, business, community development and tourism sits only mid-range on performance, relative to other service areas (index score of 60).

Working to improve perceptions of Council processes and decisions around town planning and other community development issues, and attending to resident concerns about sealed local roads, can also help to improve overall performance ratings for Councils State-wide.

# Regression analysis explained

W

We use regression analysis to investigate the influence of individual service areas, such as decisions made in the community interest, the condition of sealed local roads, etc. (the independent variables), on respondent perceptions of overall Council performance (the dependent variable).

Prior to running this analysis, the 28 individual service areas evaluated in this survey were tested for normality, linearity and multicollinearity. Because some of the data possessed some or more of these features, the 28 service area items were analysed using Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine the key factors or 'themes' to emerge. Seven key factors / themes emerged around:

- Informing, consulting, deciding, lobbying for the community
- Planning general administration, managing growth
- · Local roads and streets
- Maintenance, overall management of public areas
- Business, community development, tourism
- Community support services and facilities
- Essential services and emergency response, including to COVID-19.

Regression analysis was then performed using the most representative individual service area from each of these seven factors / themes as our independent variables.

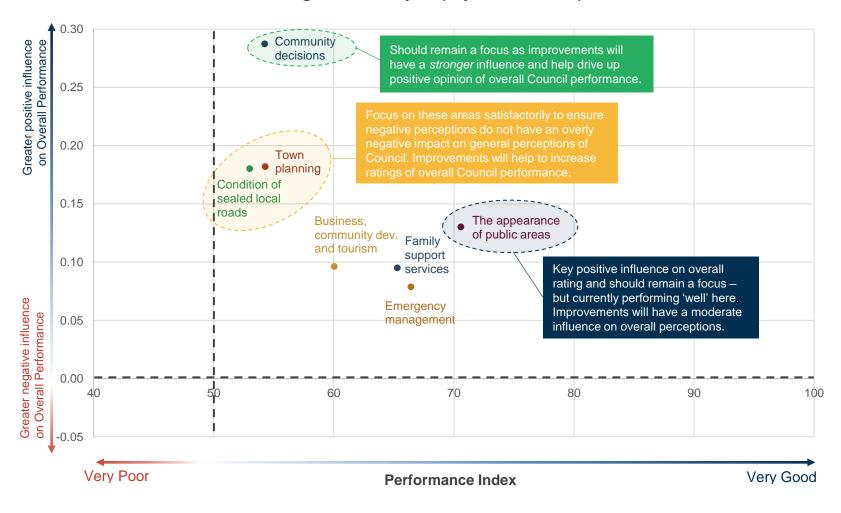
In the following chart, the horizontal axis represents the Council performance index for each key service area – community decisions, town planning, sealed roads, public areas, business, community development and tourism, family support services and emergency management. Service areas appearing on the right-side of the chart have a higher performance index than those on the left (i.e. council performance is rated more highly by residents).

The vertical axis represents the Standardised Beta Coefficient from the multiple regression performed. This measures the contribution of each service area to the model. Service areas near the top of the chart have a greater positive effect on overall performance ratings than service areas located closer to the axis.

### Influence on overall performance: key service areas



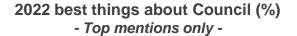
### 2022 regression analysis (key service areas)



The 28 performance questions were analysed using Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine factors / 'themes' to emerge from the questions. Questions with reasonable linearity and low correlations were selected from each theme and a multiple regression model was performed on these seven items against overall performance ratings. The multiple regression analysis model above has an R-squared value of 0.562 and adjusted R-square value of 0.561, which means that 56% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 585.33

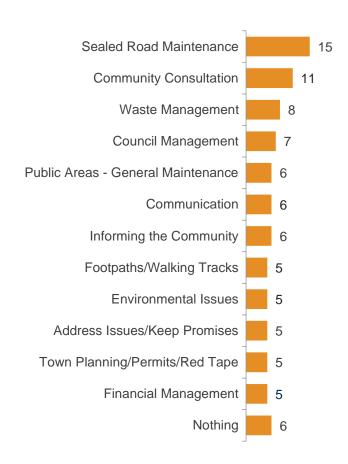
# **Best things about Council and areas for improvement**







# 2022 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -



Q16. Please tell me what is the ONE BEST thing about Council? It could be about any of the issues or services we have covered in this survey or it could be about something else altogether?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 30

Q17. What does Council MOST need to do to improve its performance?



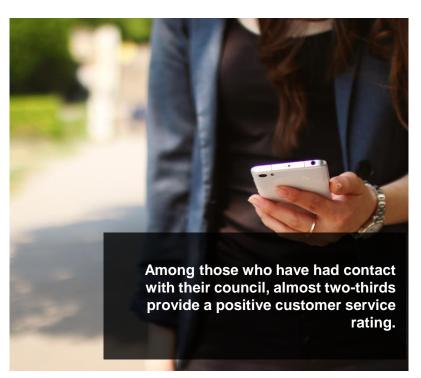
# **Customer service**

### **Contact with council and customer service**



### **Contact with council**

Six in ten (61%) households State-wide had contact with their council in the last 12 months, unchanged from 2021 but lower than 2020's peak rate of contact (64%). Residents aged 35 to 49 years (68%) and 50 to 64 years (68%) continue to have more contact with Council than those aged 65+ years (58%) and 18 to 34 years (55%). Telephone (36%) remains the main mode of contact, followed by email (23%), then in person contact (20%) – due in part to recent COVID-19 restrictions.



### **Customer service**

The customer service index of councils State-wide is 68 in 2022, two points lower than in 2021.

Index scores for Metropolitan, Regional Centres and Small Rural council groups have declined over the past year. However, the Metropolitan council group continues to perform better on customer service than the State-wide average. Large and Small Rural council groups continue to perform lower than average, while Regional Centres and Interface groups are rated in line with the State-wide result.

State-wide, customer service ratings remain high for key methods of contact, via telephone and in person (index scores of 71 and 73 respectively) but have declined for email (index score of 63, down from 66).

Although used by a smaller number of residents, customer service delivered via council websites also continues to rate highly, with an index score of 74.

State-wide, almost two thirds of residents (65%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good', including 30% of residents who rate councils' customer service as 'very good'. This is slightly lower than in 2021 (67% and 32% respectively).

### **Contact with council**



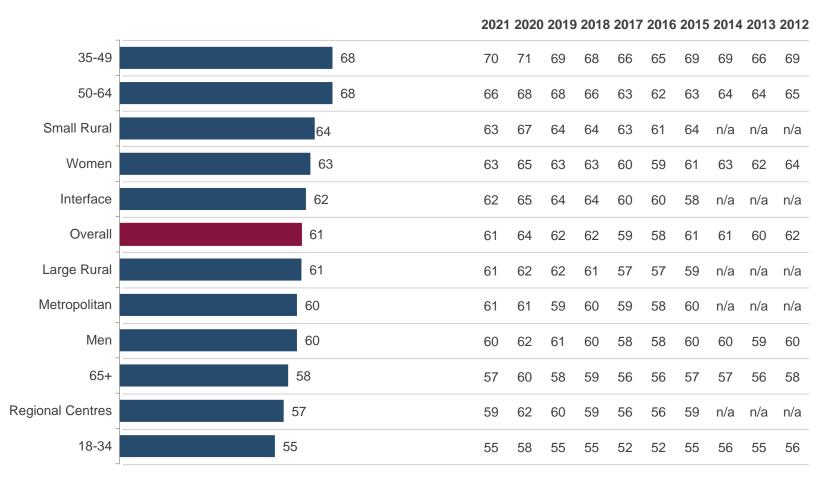
# 2022 contact with council (%) Have had contact



### **Contact with council**



### 2022 contact with council (%)



Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with your council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Q5a. Have you or any member of your household had any recent contact with Council in any of the following ways?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Note: Significant differences have not been applied to this chart.

# **Customer service rating**



### 2022 customer service rating (index scores)

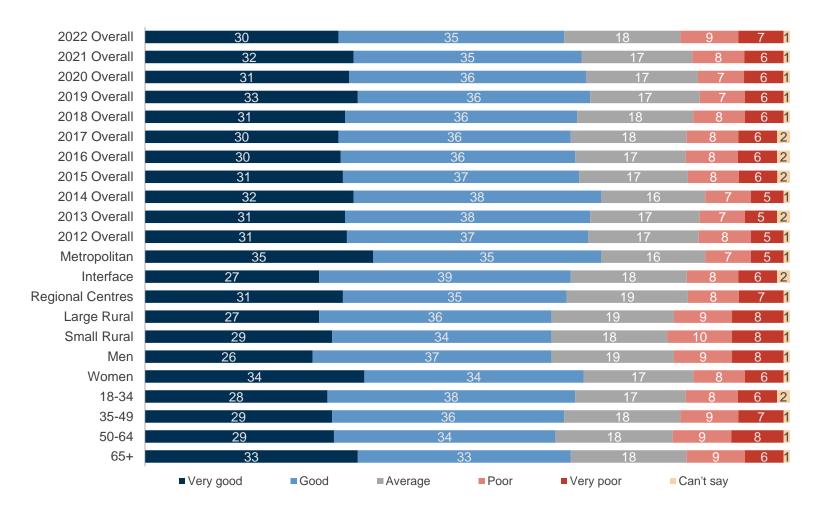


Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

## **Customer service rating**



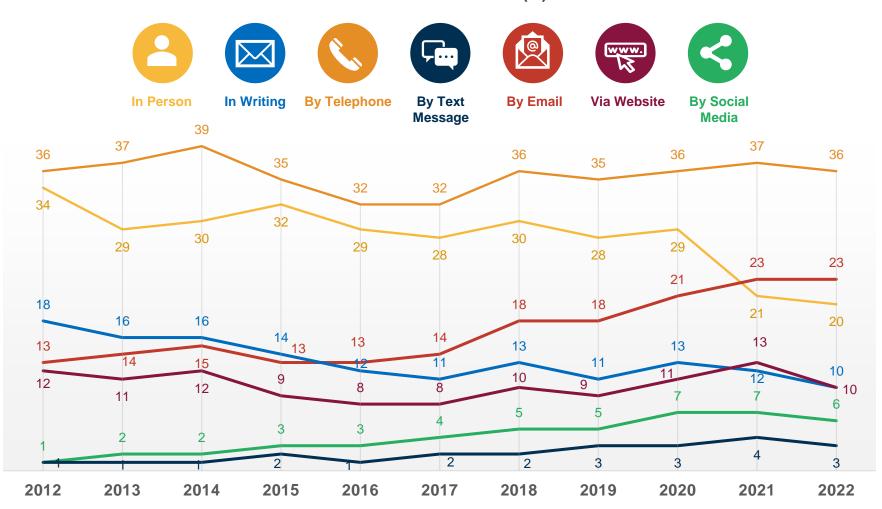
#### 2022 customer service rating (%)



## **Method of contact with council**



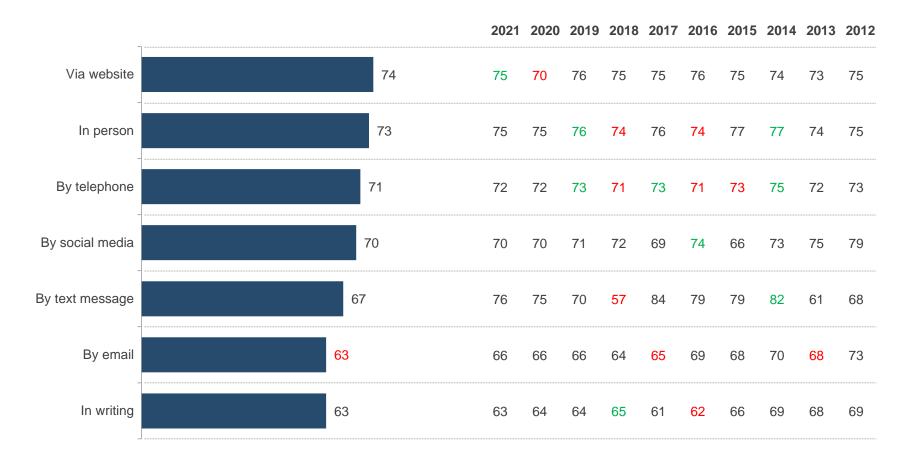
#### 2022 method of contact (%)



# **Customer service rating by method of last contact**



2022 customer service rating (index score by method of last contact)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.

Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

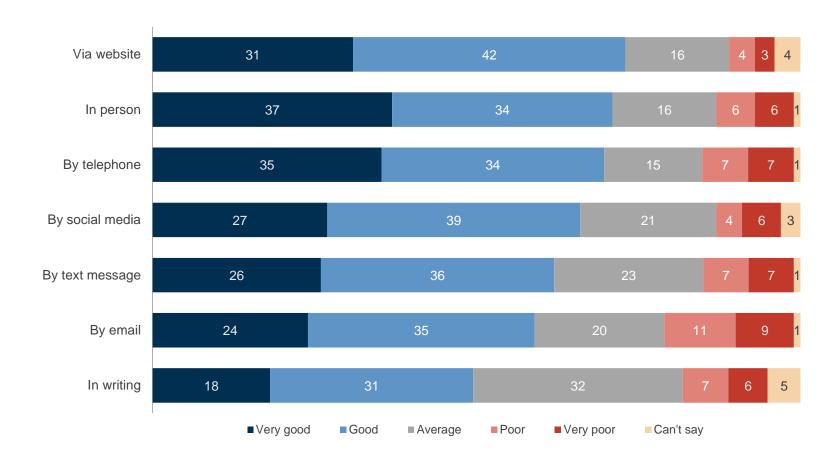
Councils asked State-wide: 25

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

# **Customer service rating by method of last contact**



2022 customer service rating (% by method of last contact)





### **Communication**

W

State-wide, the preferred form of communication from Councils remains newsletters sent via mail (30%) or email (27%, up from 24%). Interest in mailed newsletters has remained reasonably steady since 2019, after a decline, indicating an ongoing role for both hard copy and digital formats.

Newsletters are followed by a preference for social media (13%, down from 15%), primarily among younger residents.

- Preferred forms of communication among <u>under 50s</u> remain mixed and include increased interest in newsletters sent via email (29%, up from 25%) or mail (26%, up from 24%) but decreased interest in contact via social media (21%, down from 25%). Receiving text messages (10%) remains of limited appeal.
- The preferred form of communication among <u>over 50s</u> remains newsletters sent via mail (34%), however more than one in four now prefer newsletters via email (26%, up from 24%). There remains some interest in advertising (14%) or newsletter inserts (10%) in local newspapers but this has been on the decline over recent years.

Simply putting information on a council website remains the least preferred form of communication, overall (2%) and among both under 50s (3%) and over 50s (2%).



## **Best form of communication**



### 2022 best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



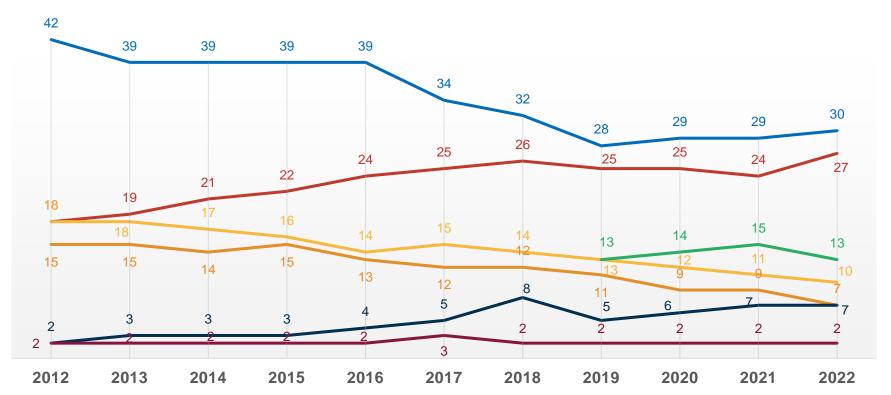
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

## **Best form of communication: under 50s**



#### 2022 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



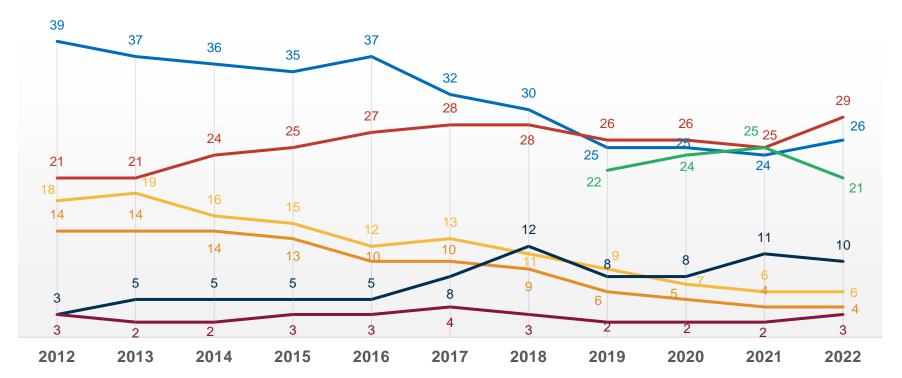
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?.

Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 39

## **Best form of communication: over 50s**



#### 2022 over 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



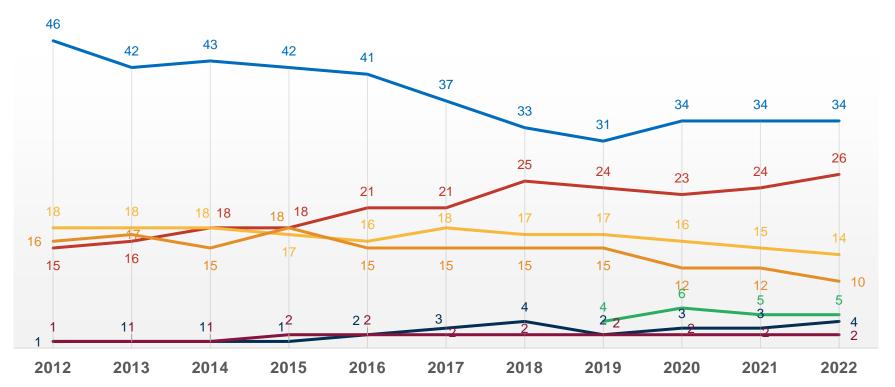
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents aged over 50. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



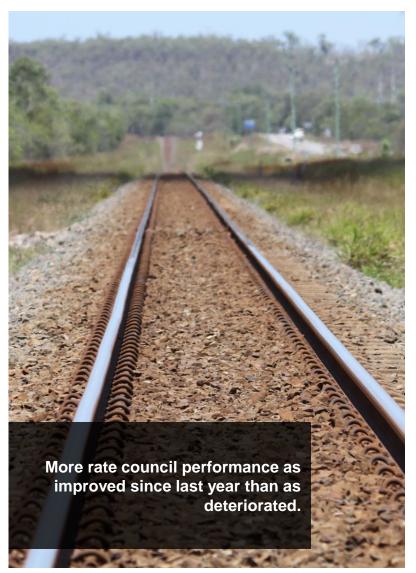
### **Council direction**

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Over the last 12 months, 62% of residents State-wide believe the direction of their council's overall performance has stayed the same, down one point from 2021.

- 17% believe the direction has improved in the last 12 months (down from 18% in 2021).
- 16% believe it has deteriorated, up three points from 2021 (and equal to 2020).
- The most satisfied with their council's direction are residents aged 18 to 34 years and those in the Metropolitan council group.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with their council's direction are those aged 50 to 64 years and residents in the Large Rural council group.

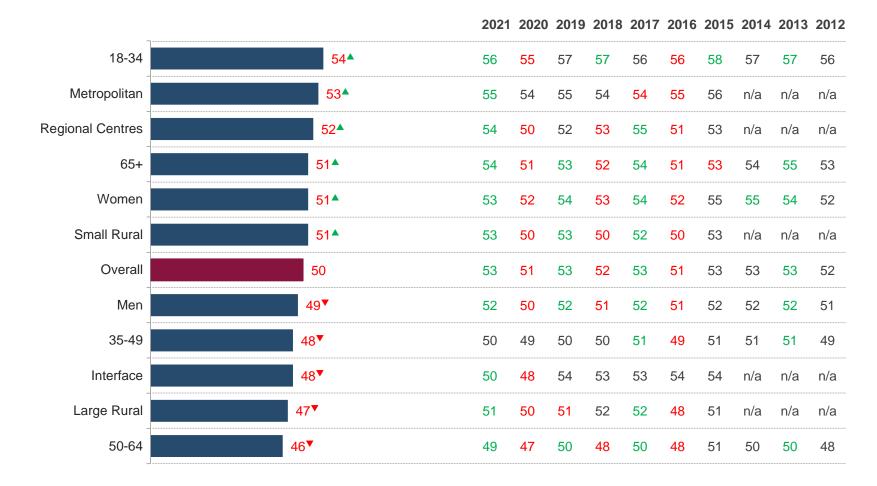
All demographic and council groups decreased their index score on this measure in 2022, after an increase in 2021.



## **Overall council direction last 12 months**



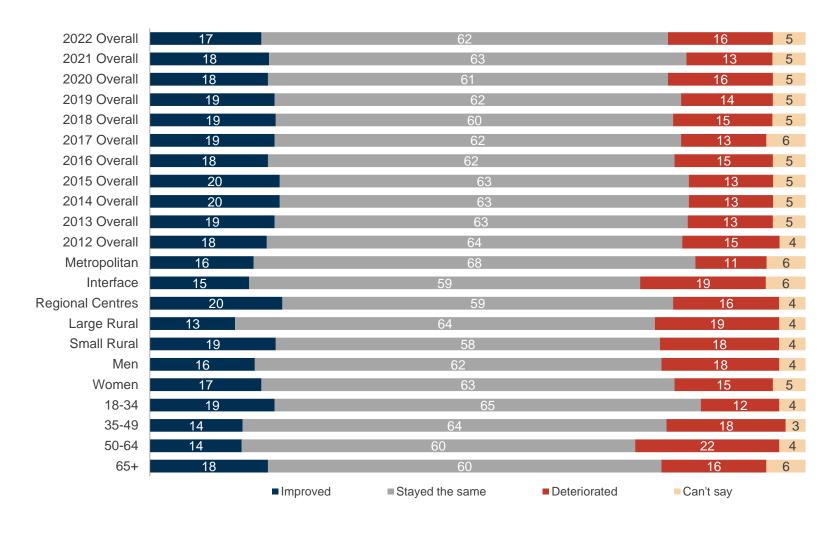
#### 2022 overall council direction (index scores)



### **Overall council direction last 12 months**



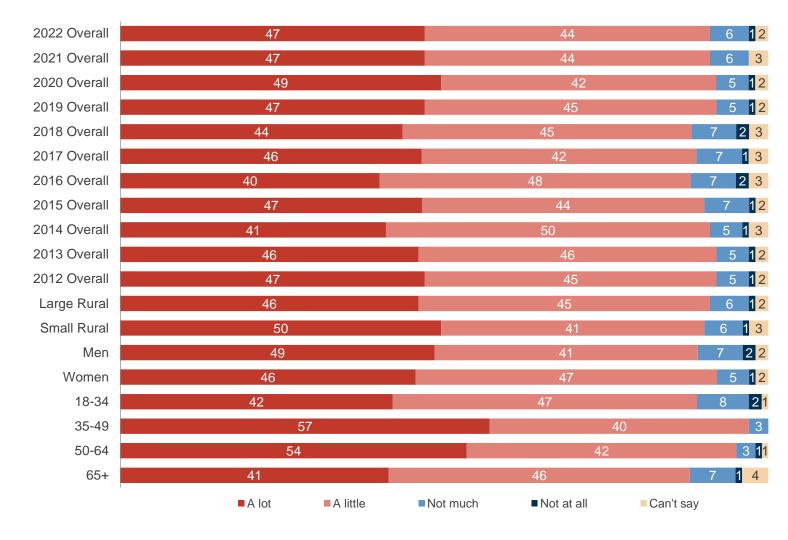
#### 2022 overall council direction (%)



# **Room for improvement in services**



#### 2022 room for improvement in services (%)

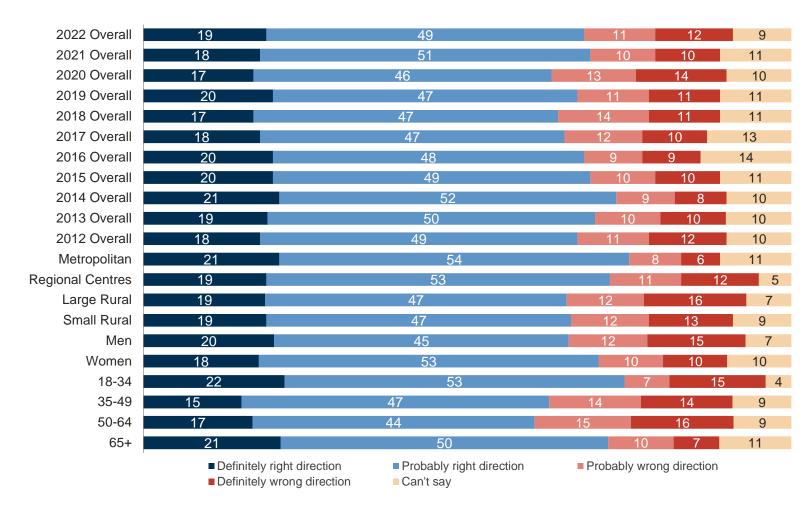


50

## Right / wrong direction



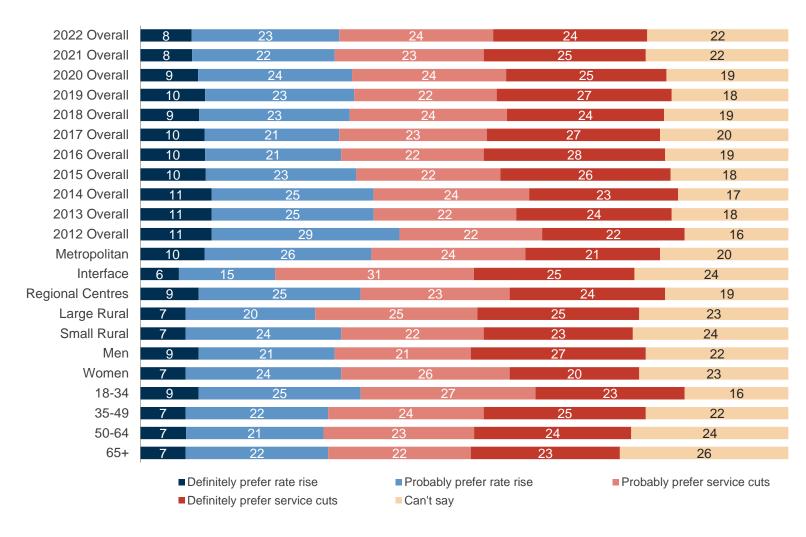
### 2022 right / wrong direction (%)



### Rates / services trade-off



#### 2022 rates / services trade-off (%)





# **Community consultation and engagement importance**





2022 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

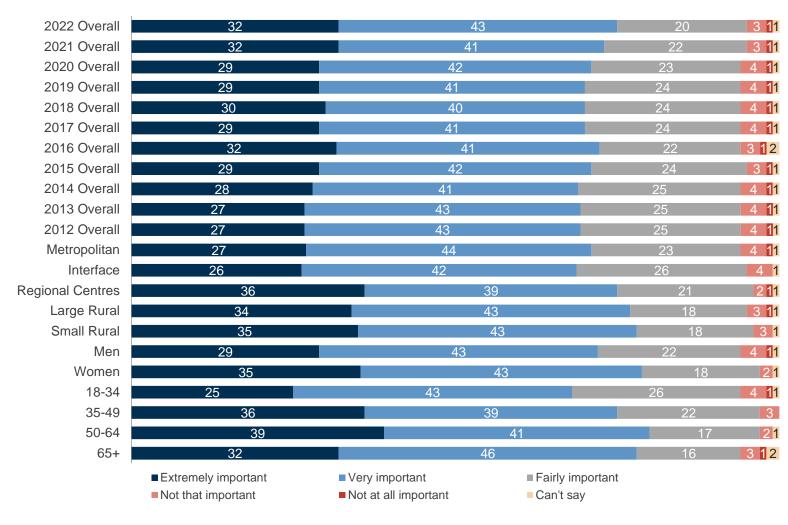


## **Community consultation and engagement importance**





#### 2022 consultation and engagement importance (%)



# Community consultation and engagement performance





#### 2022 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

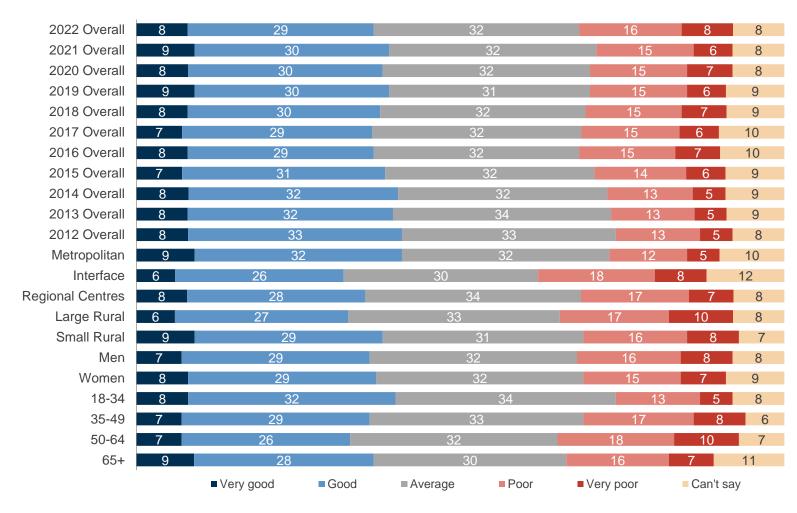


## Community consultation and engagement performance





#### 2022 consultation and engagement performance (%)



## Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





#### 2022 lobbying importance (index scores)

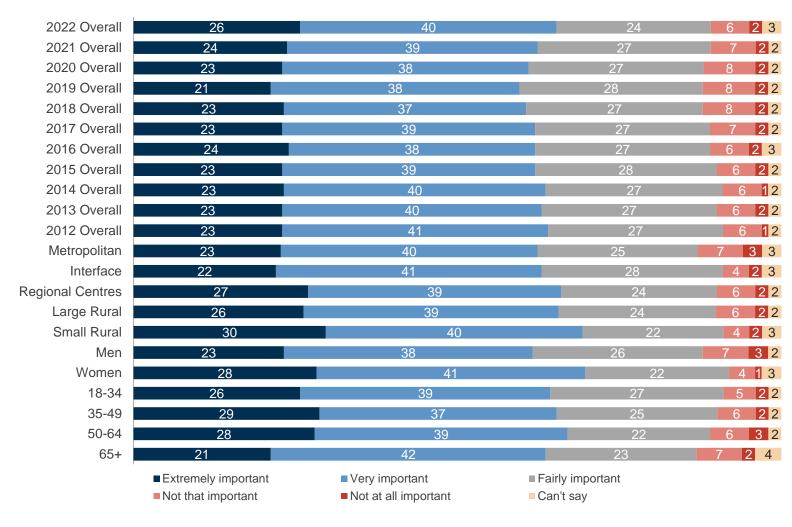


## Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





#### 2022 lobbying importance (%)



## Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





#### 2022 lobbying performance (index scores)

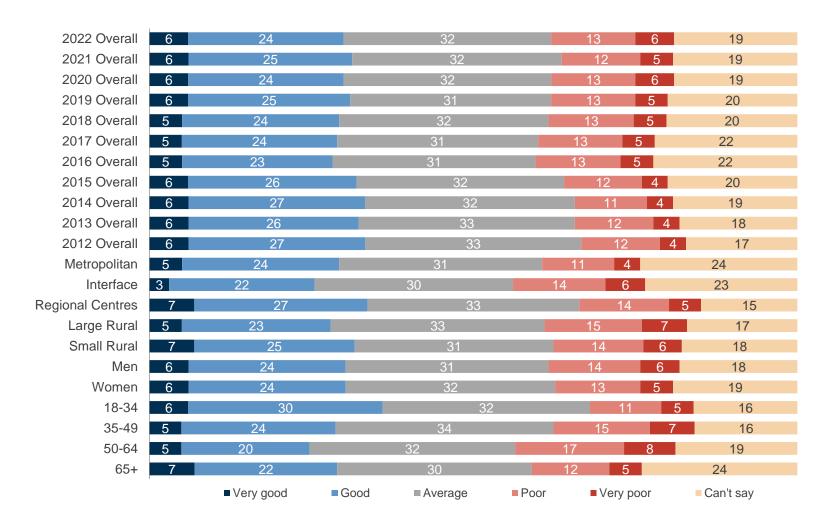


## Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





### 2022 lobbying performance (%)



# **Decisions made in the interest of the community importance**





#### 2022 community decisions made importance (index scores)

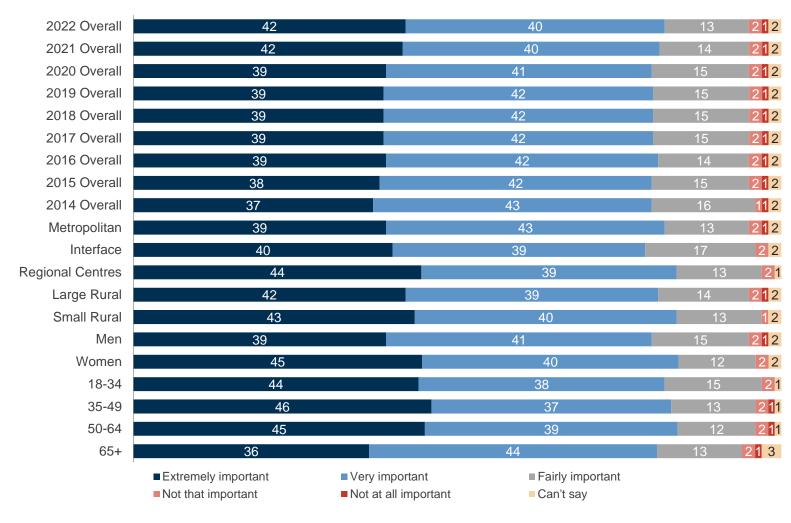


# **Decisions made in the interest of the community importance**





#### 2022 community decisions made importance (%)



# Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





#### 2022 community decisions made performance (index scores)

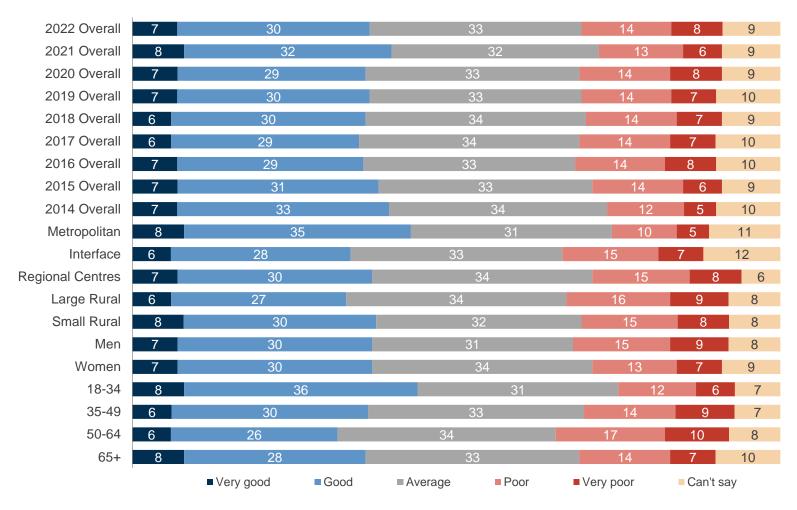
#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Metropolitan n/a n/a n/a 18-34 n/a n/a 65+ 55^ n/a n/a Women 55^ n/a n/a Overall n/a n/a Small Rural n/a n/a n/a Regional Centres n/a n/a n/a n/a Men n/a Interface n/a n/a n/a 53▼ 35-49 n/a n/a Large Rural 51▼ n/a n/a n/a 50▼ 50-64 n/a n/a

# **Decisions made in the interest of the community performance**





#### 2022 community decisions made performance (%)



# The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





#### 2022 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

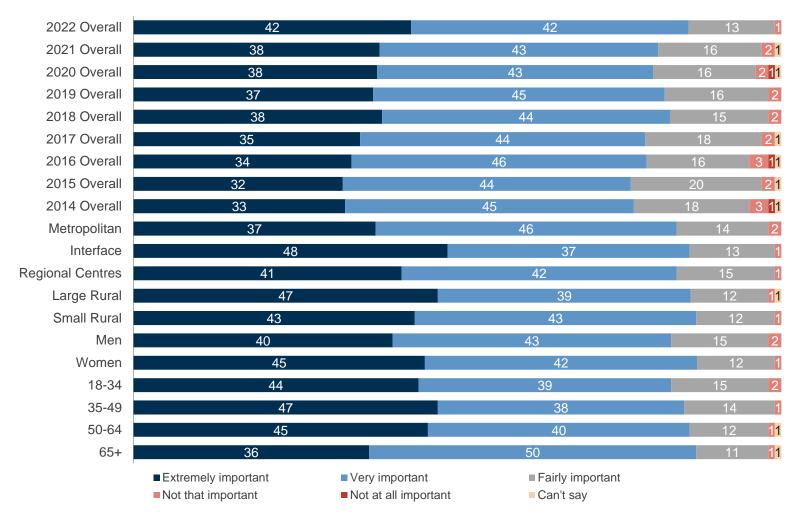


# The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





#### 2022 sealed local roads importance (%)



# The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





#### 2022 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

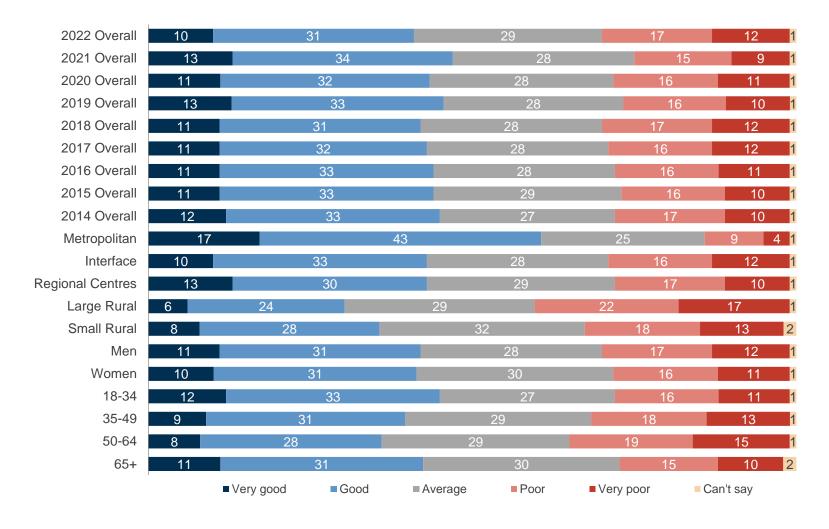


# The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





#### 2022 sealed local roads performance (%)



## Informing the community importance





#### 2022 informing community importance (index scores)

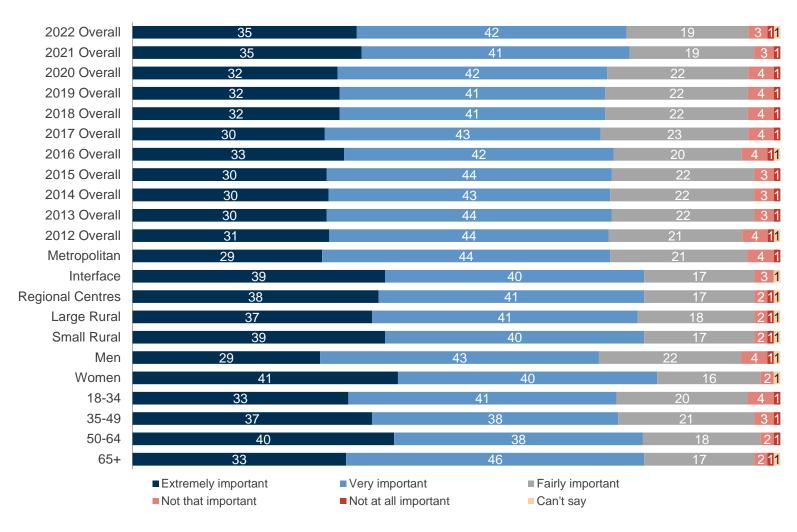


## Informing the community importance





#### 2022 informing community importance (%)



## Informing the community performance





### 2022 informing community performance (index scores)

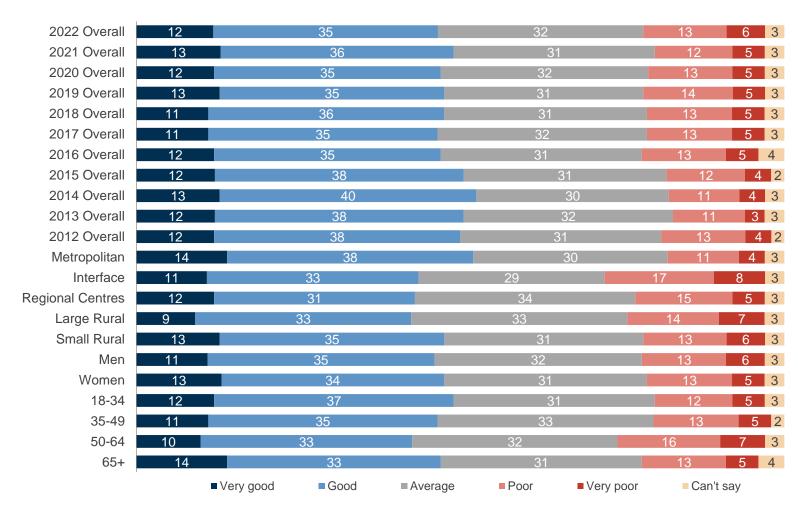


## Informing the community performance





#### 2022 informing community performance (%)



# The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





#### 2022 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

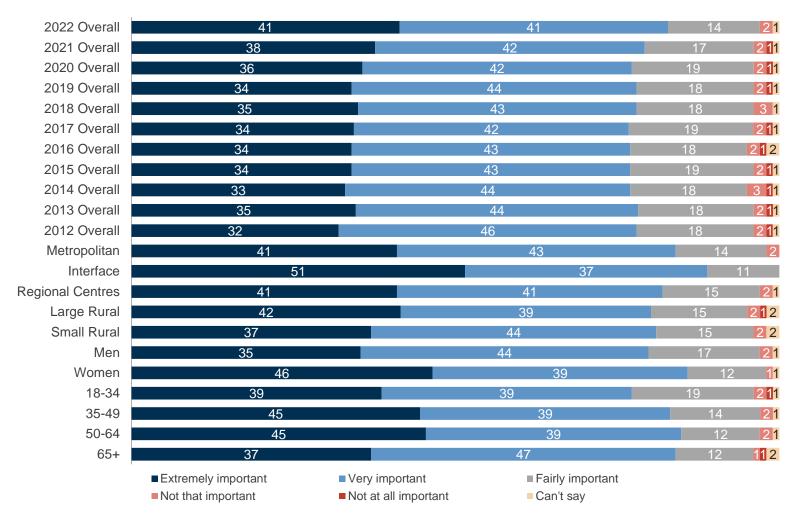


# The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





#### 2022 streets and footpaths importance (%)



# The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





#### 2022 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

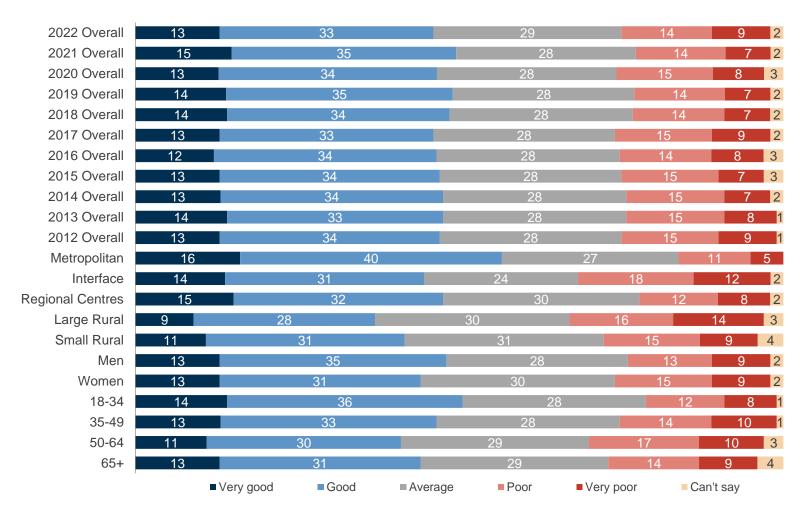


# The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





### 2022 streets and footpaths performance (%)



## **Traffic management importance**





#### 2022 traffic management importance (index scores)

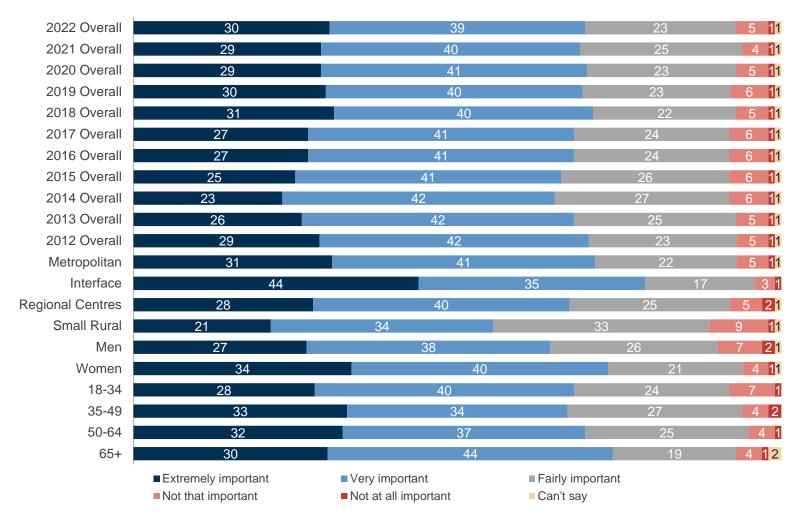


## **Traffic management importance**





#### 2022 traffic management importance (%)



## Traffic management performance





#### 2022 traffic management performance (index scores)

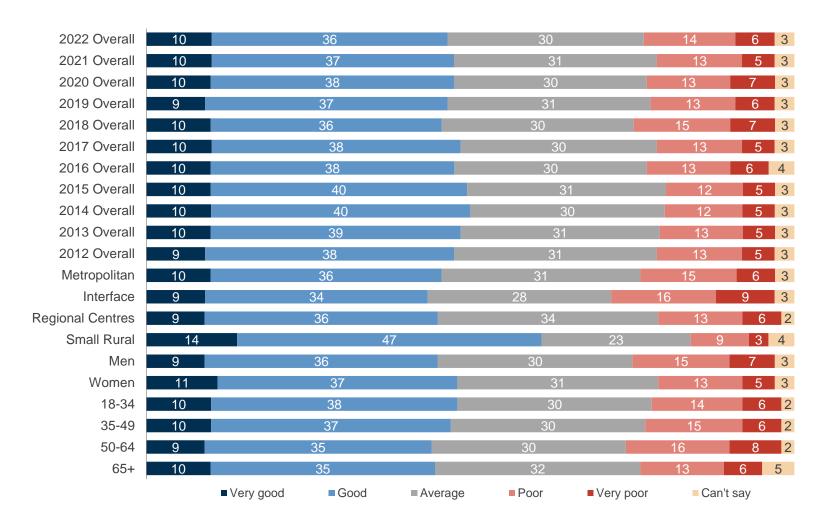


## **Traffic management performance**





#### 2022 traffic management performance (%)



## Parking facilities importance





#### 2022 parking importance (index scores)

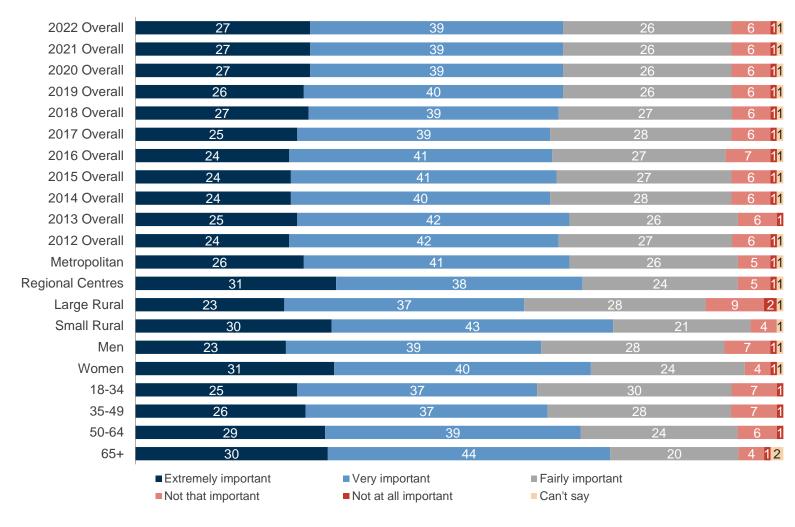


## **Parking facilities importance**





#### 2022 parking importance (%)



## **Parking facilities performance**





### 2022 parking performance (index scores)

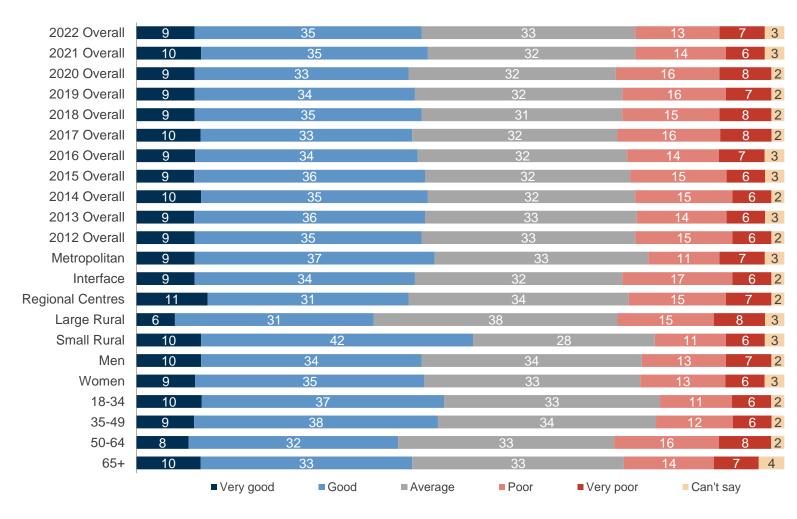


## **Parking facilities performance**





#### 2022 parking performance (%)



## **Enforcement of local laws importance**





#### 2022 law enforcement importance (index scores)

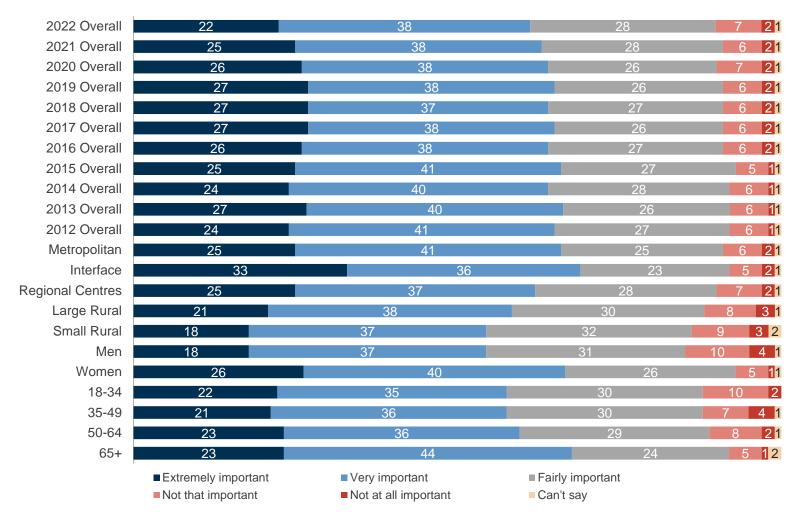


## **Enforcement of local laws importance**





#### 2022 law enforcement importance (%)



## **Enforcement of local laws performance**





#### 2022 law enforcement performance (index scores)

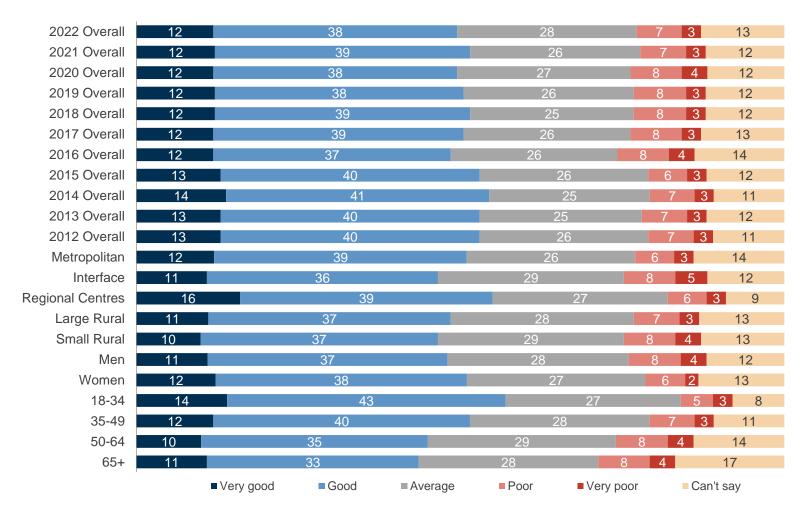


## **Enforcement of local laws performance**





#### 2022 law enforcement performance (%)



## Family support services importance





#### 2022 family support importance (index scores)

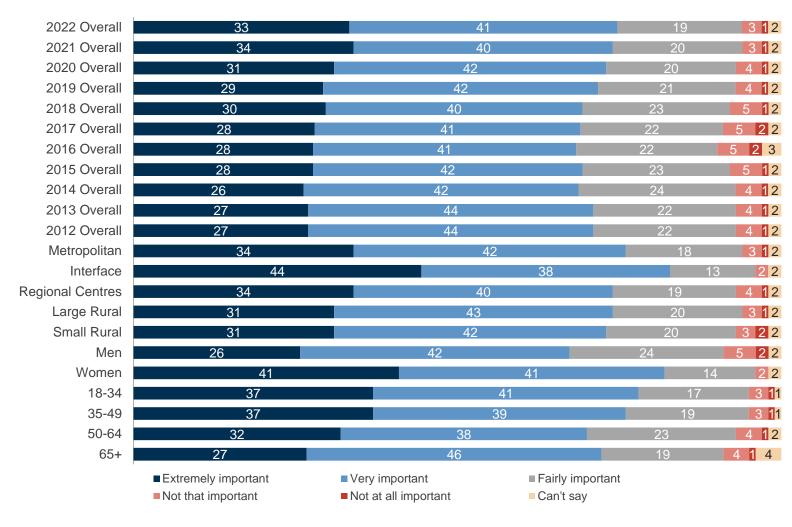


## Family support services importance





#### 2022 family support importance (%)



## Family support services performance





#### 2022 family support performance (index scores)

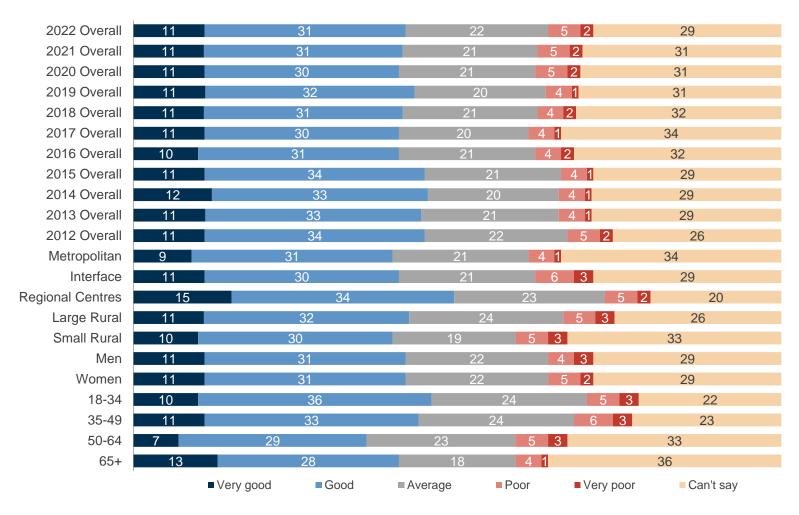


## Family support services performance





#### 2022 family support performance (%)



## **Elderly support services importance**





#### 2022 elderly support importance (index scores)

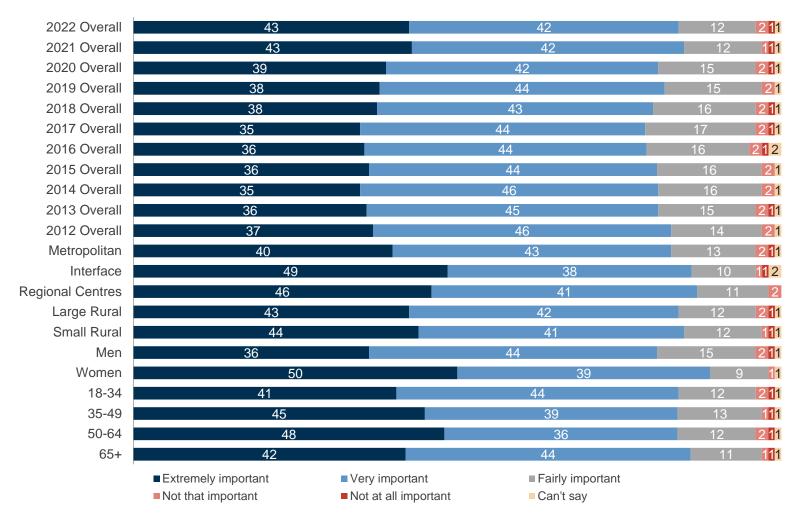


## **Elderly support services importance**





#### 2022 elderly support importance (%)



## **Elderly support services performance**





### 2022 elderly support performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Small Rural 70^ n/a n/a n/a 65+ Men Overall 66₹ Women 18-34 66<sup>▼</sup> Regional Centres 65<sup>▼</sup> n/a n/a n/a 65<sup>▼</sup> 35-49 Large Rural 65▼ n/a n/a n/a Metropolitan 65<sup>▼</sup> n/a n/a n/a 64▼ 50-64

64▼

Interface

n/a

n/a

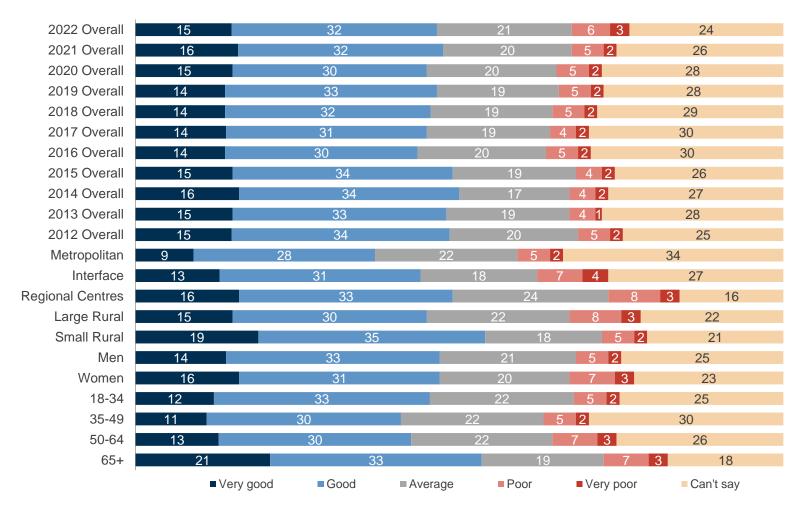
n/a

## **Elderly support services performance**





#### 2022 elderly support performance (%)



## Disadvantaged support services importance





#### 2022 disadvantaged support importance (index scores)



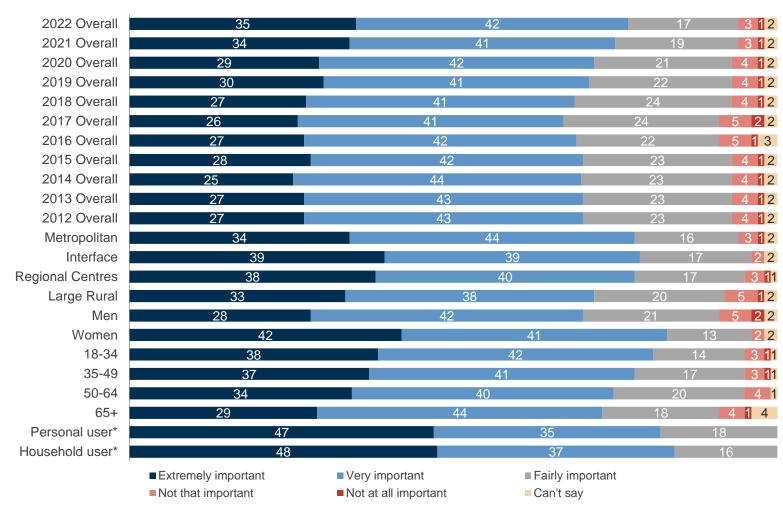
\*Caution: small sample size < n=30

### Disadvantaged support services importance





#### 2022 disadvantaged support importance (%)



## Disadvantaged support services performance





#### 2022 disadvantaged support performance (index scores)

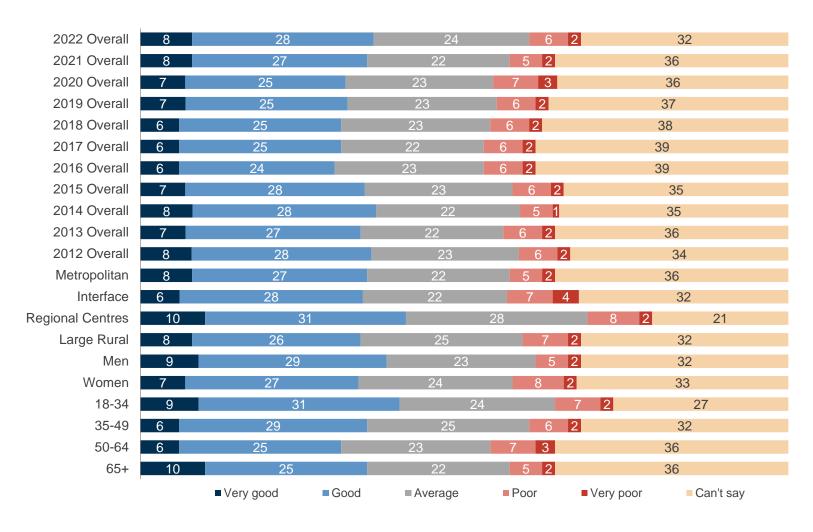


## Disadvantaged support services performance





#### 2022 disadvantaged support performance (%)



## Recreational facilities importance





#### 2022 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

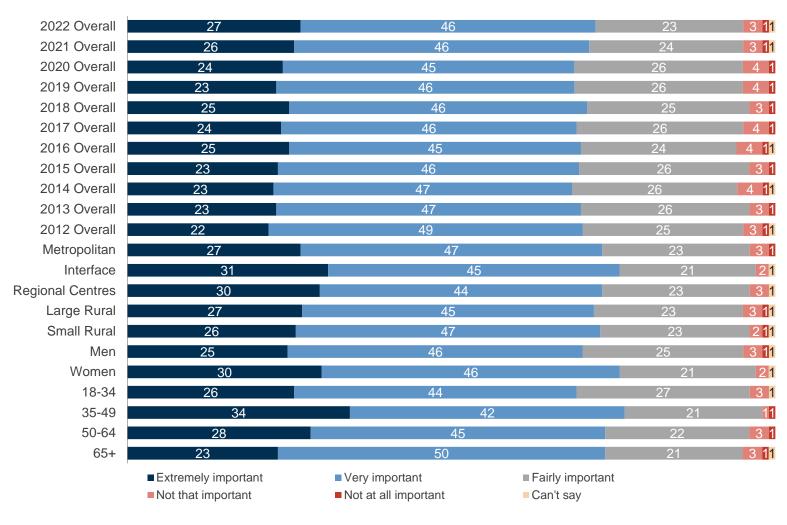


## Recreational facilities importance





#### 2022 recreational facilities importance (%)



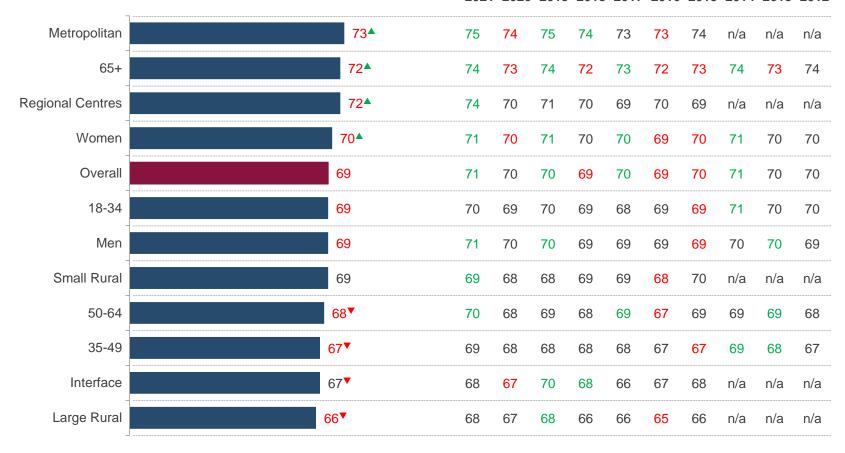
## Recreational facilities performance





#### 2022 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

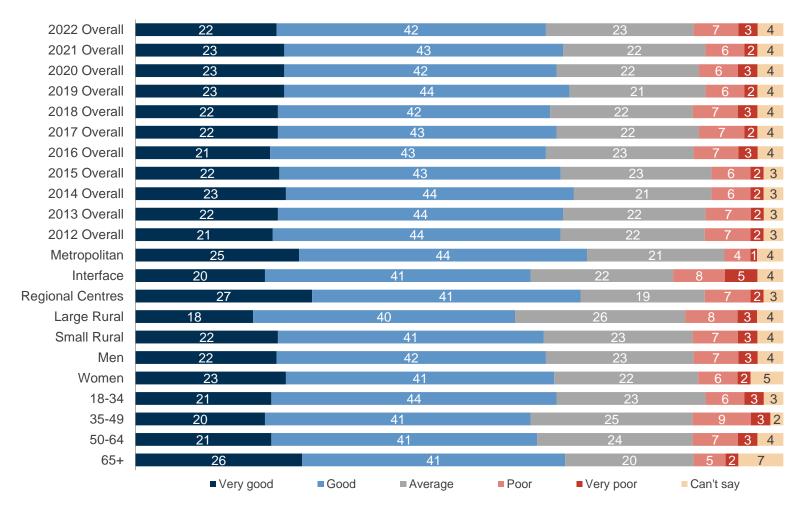


## Recreational facilities performance





#### 2022 recreational facilities performance (%)



## The appearance of public areas importance





#### 2022 public areas importance (index scores)

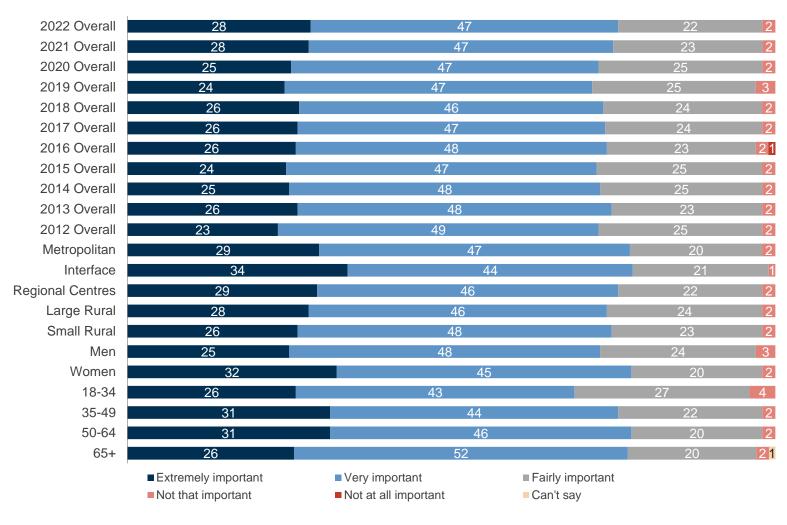


## The appearance of public areas importance





#### 2022 public areas importance (%)



## The appearance of public areas performance





#### 2022 public areas performance (index scores)

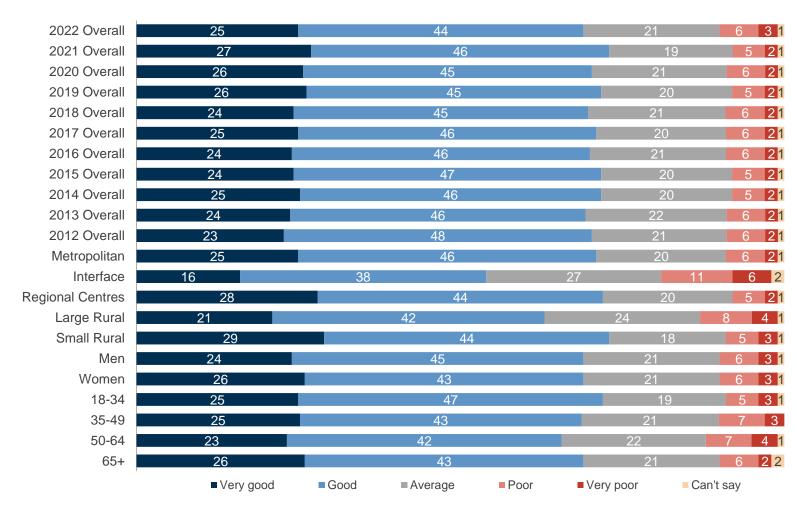
#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Regional Centres n/a n/a n/a Small Rural n/a n/a n/a Metropolitan n/a n/a n/a 18-34 65+ Women Overall 70▼ Men 35-49 70▼ 68▼ 50-64 Large Rural 67▼ n/a n/a n/a Interface 62▼ n/a n/a n/a

## The appearance of public areas performance





### 2022 public areas performance (%)



## **Art centres and libraries importance**





#### 2022 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)

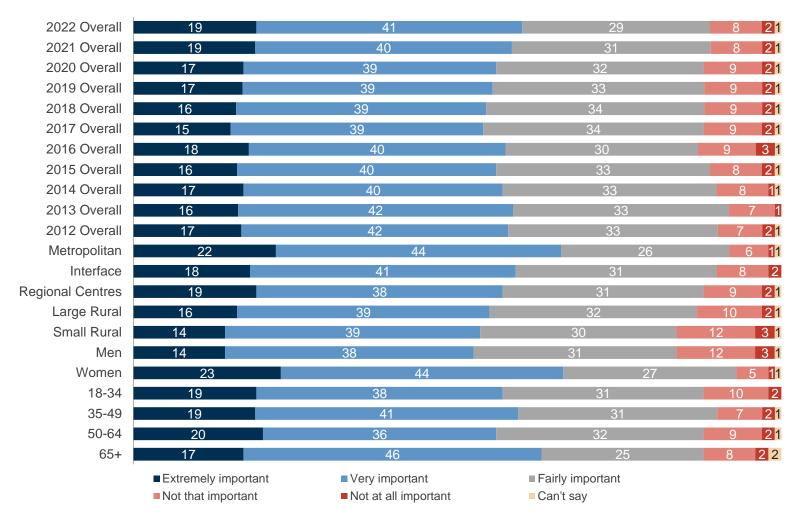


## **Art centres and libraries importance**





#### 2022 art centres and libraries importance (%)



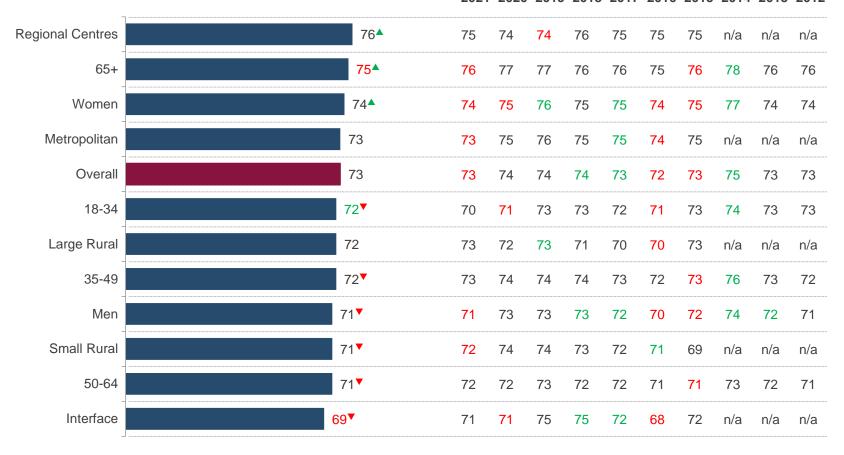
### Art centres and libraries performance





#### 2022 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

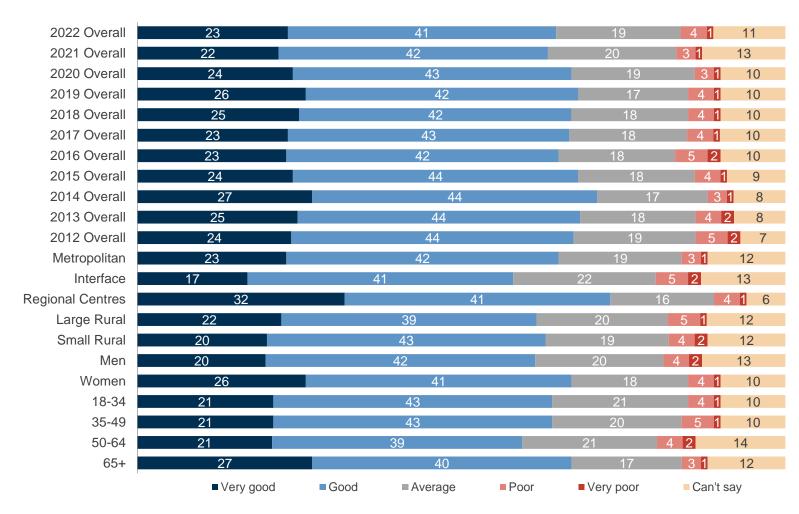


## **Art centres and libraries performance**





#### 2022 art centres and libraries performance (%)



## Community and cultural activities importance





#### 2022 community and cultural activities importance (index scores)

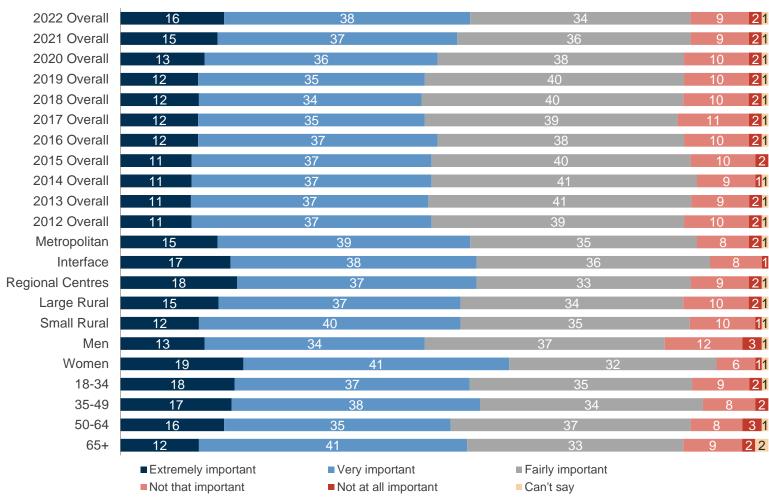


## **Community and cultural activities importance**





#### 2022 community and cultural activities importance (%)



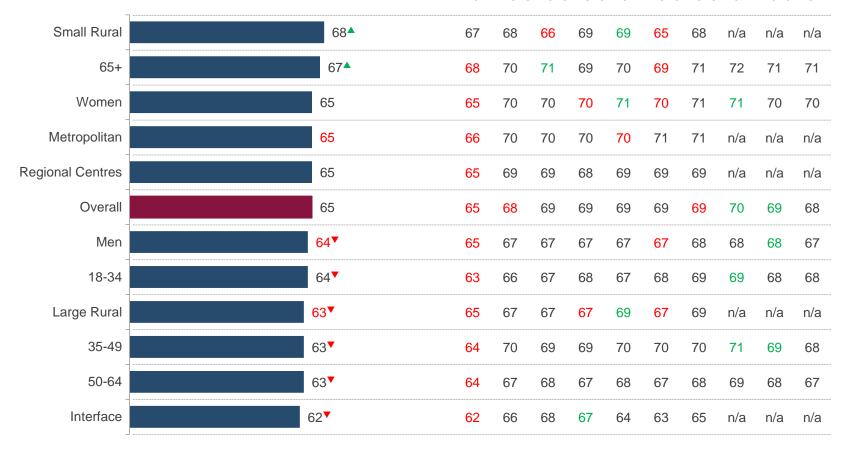
## Community and cultural activities performance





### 2022 community and cultural activities performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

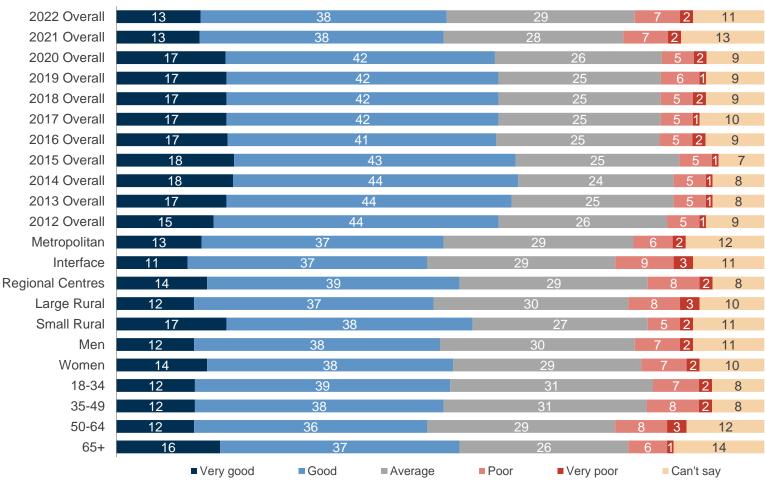


## Community and cultural activities performance





#### 2022 community and cultural activities performance (%)



## **Waste management importance**





#### 2022 waste management importance (index scores)

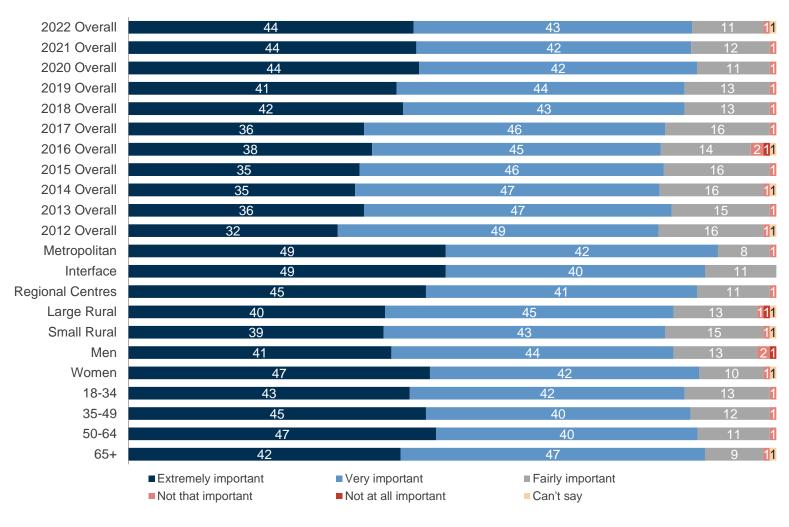


## **Waste management importance**





#### 2022 waste management importance (%)



## **Waste management performance**





#### 2022 waste management performance (index scores)

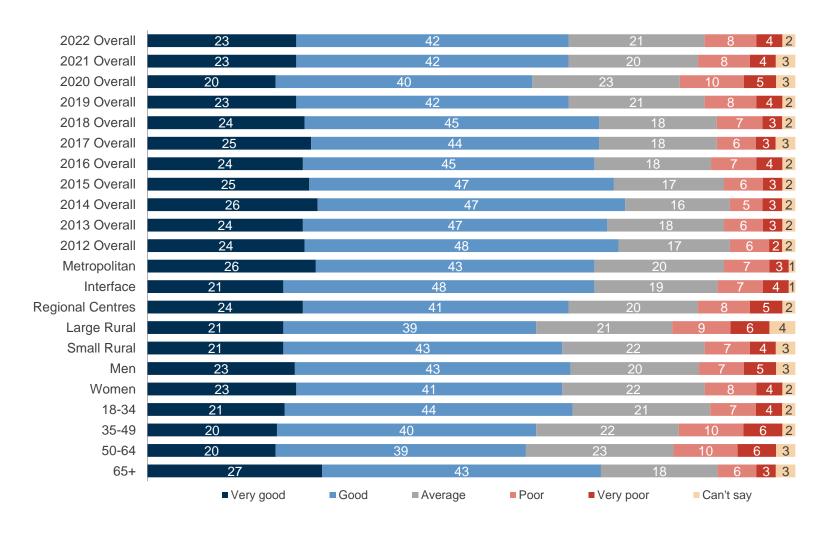


## **Waste management performance**





#### 2022 waste management performance (%)



# **Business and community development and tourism importance**





#### 2022 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

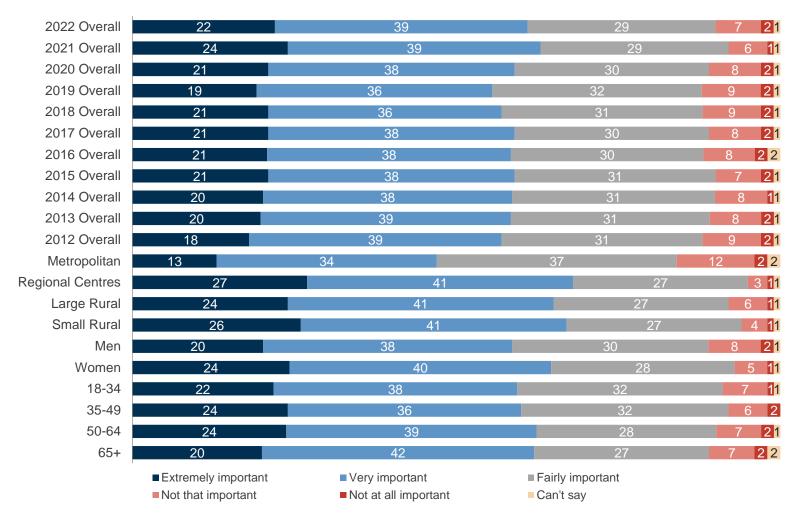


# **Business and community development and tourism importance**





#### 2022 business/development/tourism importance (%)



# **Business and community development and tourism performance**





#### 2022 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

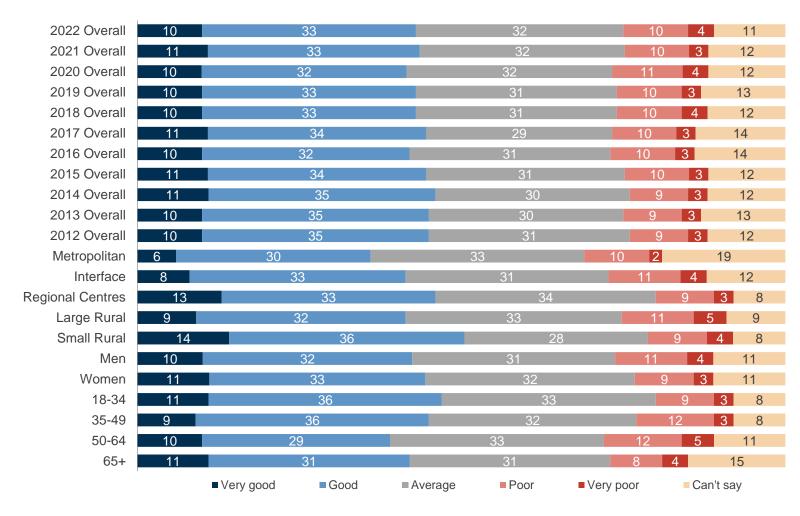
#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Small Rural n/a n/a n/a Regional Centres n/a n/a n/a 18-34 Women 65 +61^ Overall 35-49 59▼ Men Metropolitan 59₹ n/a n/a n/a Interface n/a n/a n/a n/a Large Rural 58<sup>▼</sup> n/a n/a n/a 57▼ 50-64

## **Business and community development and tourism performance**





#### 2022 business/development/tourism performance (%)



## Council's general town planning policy importance





#### 2022 town planning importance (index scores)

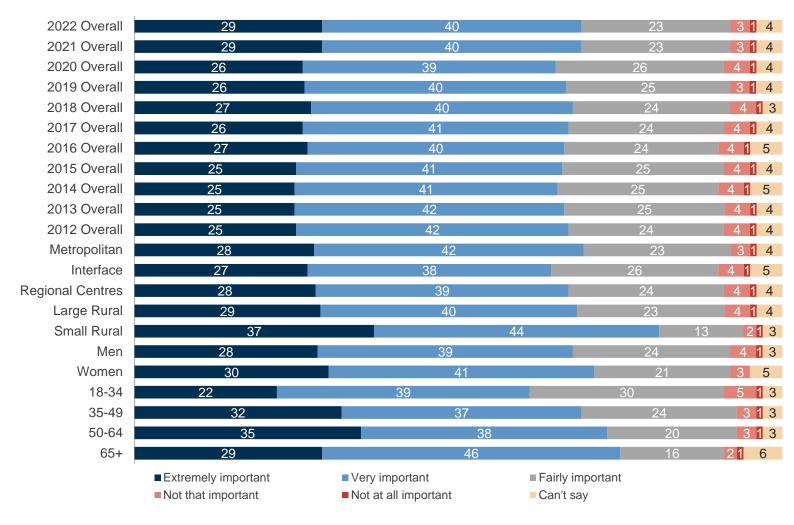


## Council's general town planning policy importance





#### 2022 town planning importance (%)



## Council's general town planning policy performance





#### 2022 town planning performance (index scores)

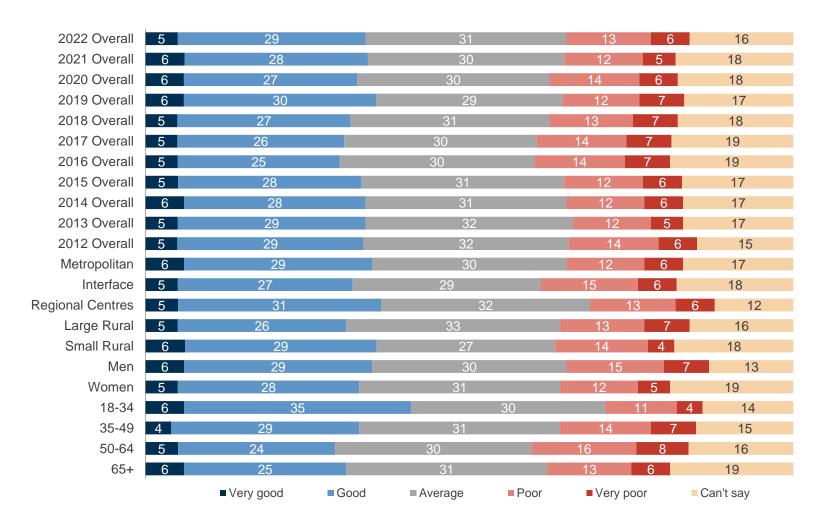


## Council's general town planning policy performance





#### 2022 town planning performance (%)



## Planning and building permits importance





#### 2022 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

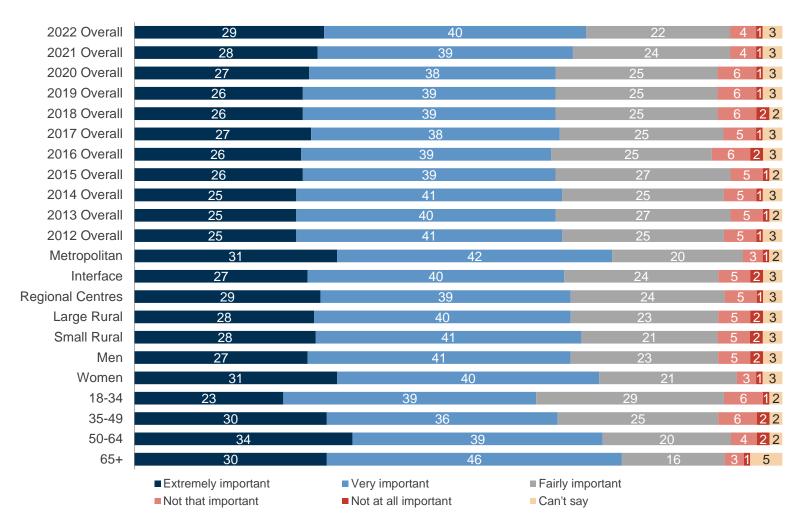


## Planning and building permits importance





#### 2022 planning and building permits importance (%)



## Planning and building permits performance





#### 2022 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

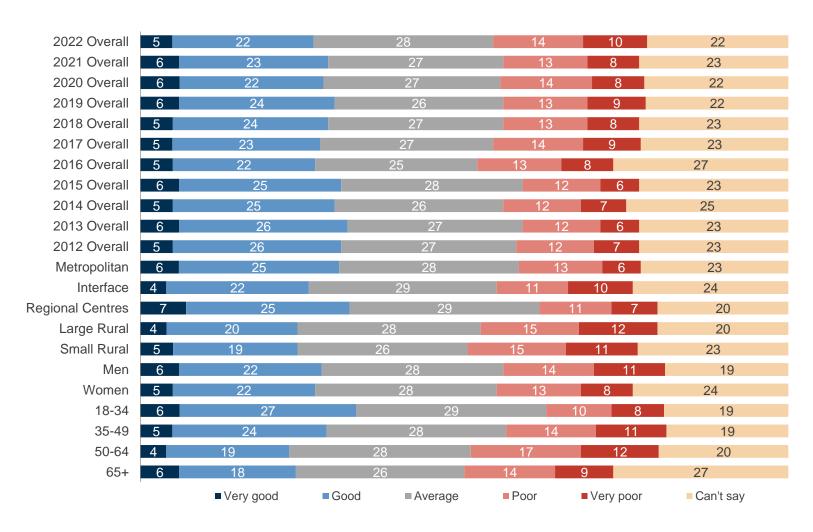


## Planning and building permits performance





#### 2022 planning and building permits performance (%)



## **Environmental sustainability importance**





#### 2022 environmental sustainability importance (index scores)

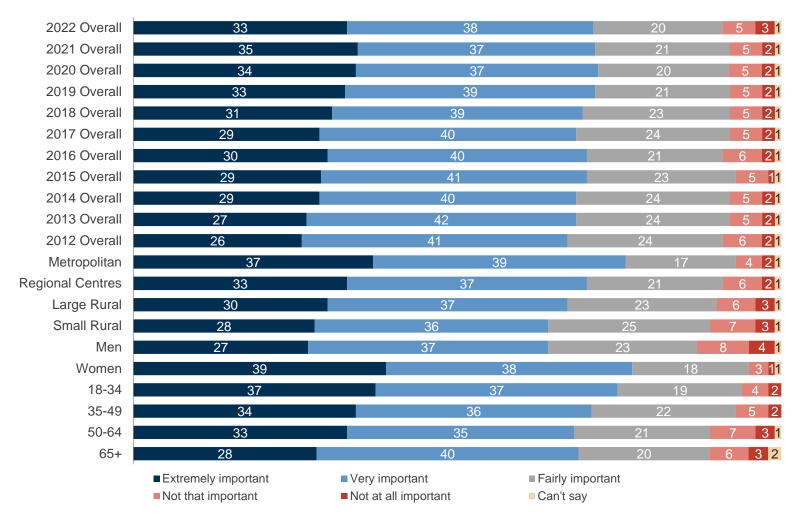


## **Environmental sustainability importance**





#### 2022 environmental sustainability importance (%)



## **Environmental sustainability performance**





#### 2022 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

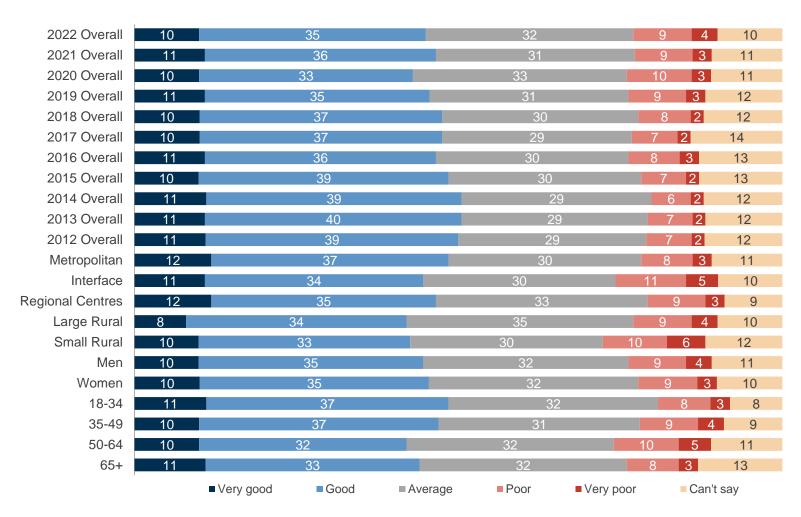
#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Metropolitan 63^ n/a n/a n/a Regional Centres n/a n/a n/a 18-34 65+ Women Overall Men 35-49 Interface n/a n/a n/a Large Rural 59▼ n/a n/a n/a Small Rural 59▼ n/a n/a n/a 59▼ 50-64

## **Environmental sustainability performance**





#### 2022 environmental sustainability performance (%)



## **Emergency and disaster management importance**





2022 emergency and disaster management importance (index scores)

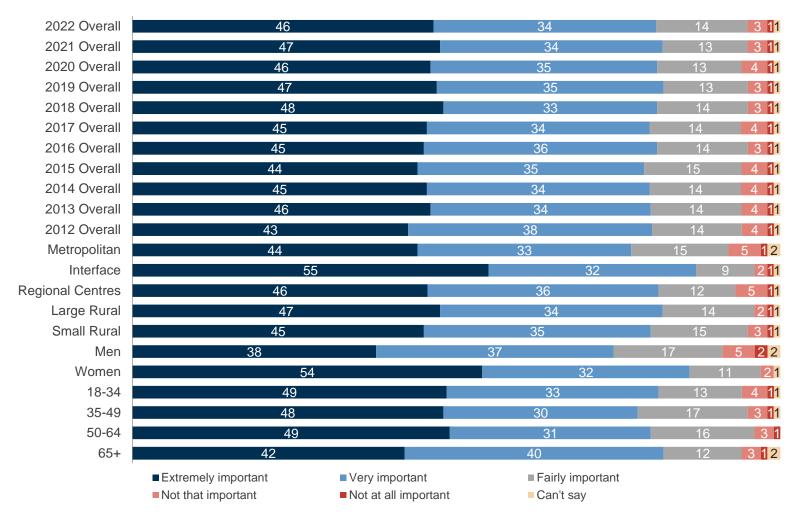


## **Emergency and disaster management importance**





#### 2022 emergency and disaster management importance (%)



## **Emergency and disaster management performance**





2022 emergency and disaster management performance (index scores)

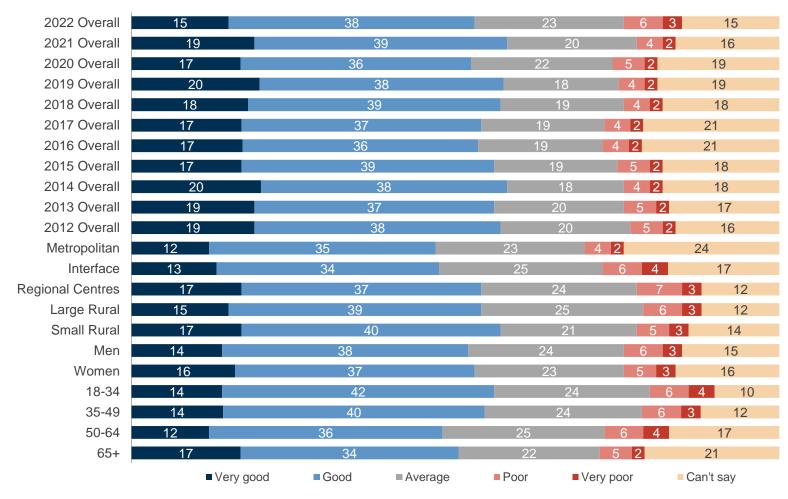


## **Emergency and disaster management performance**





#### 2022 emergency and disaster management performance (%)



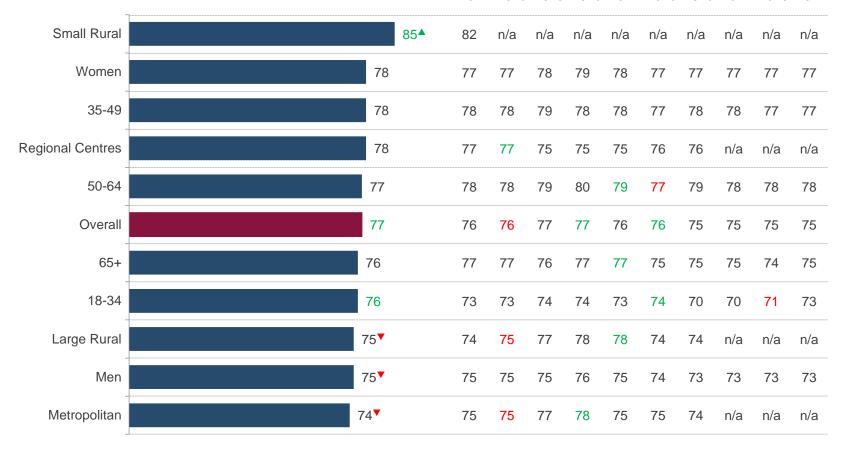
## Planning for population growth in the area importance





#### 2022 population growth importance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

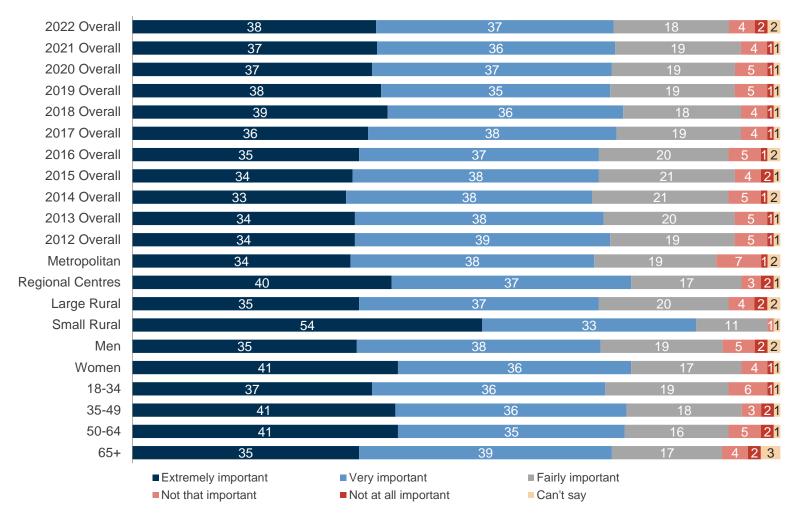


## Planning for population growth in the area importance





#### 2022 population growth importance (%)



## Planning for population growth in the area performance





#### 2022 population growth performance (index scores)

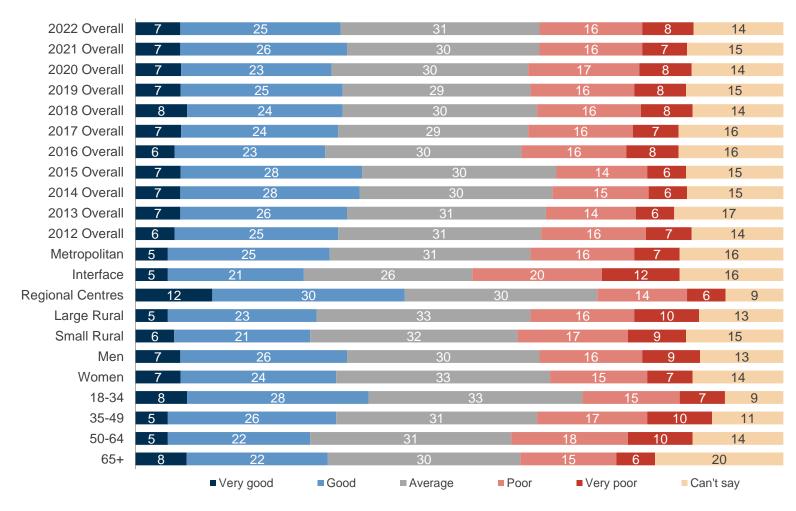
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Regional Centres n/a n/a n/a 18-34 65 +Women Metropolitan n/a n/a n/a Overall Men 50<sup>▼</sup> 35-49 Small Rural 49▼ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Large Rural 49▼ n/a n/a n/a 50-64 48▼ Interface 47<sup>V</sup> n/a n/a n/a

#### Planning for population growth in the area performance





#### 2022 population growth performance (%)

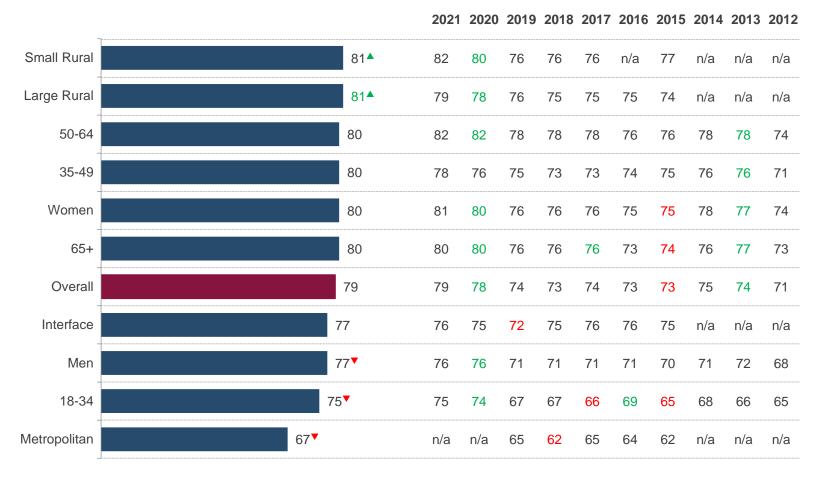


#### Roadside slashing and weed control importance





2022 roadside slashing and weed control importance (index scores)

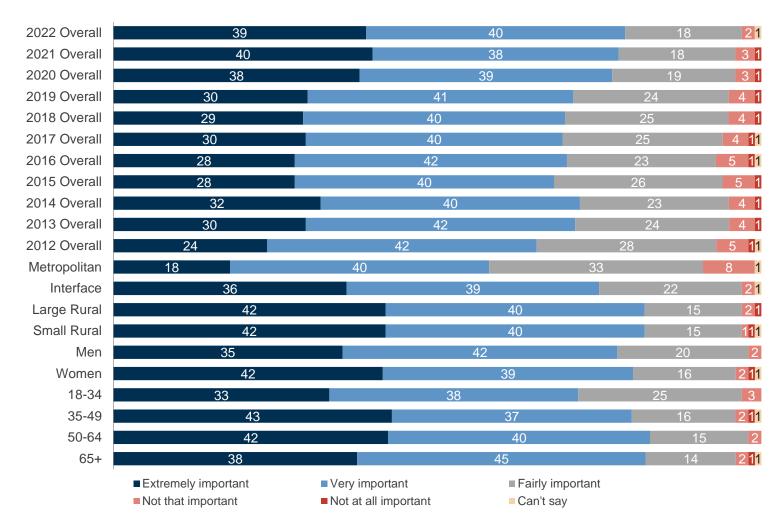


#### Roadside slashing and weed control importance





#### 2022 roadside slashing and weed control importance (%)



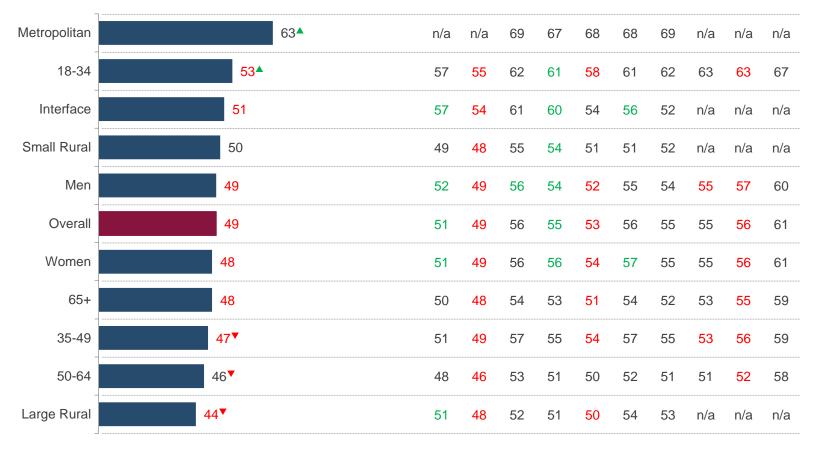
#### Roadside slashing and weed control performance





2022 roadside slashing and weed control performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

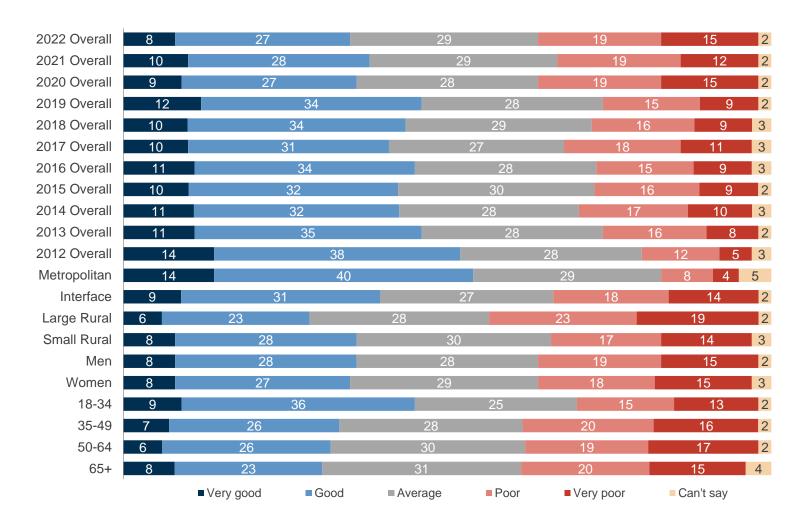


#### Roadside slashing and weed control performance





#### 2022 roadside slashing and weed control performance (%)



#### Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2022 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

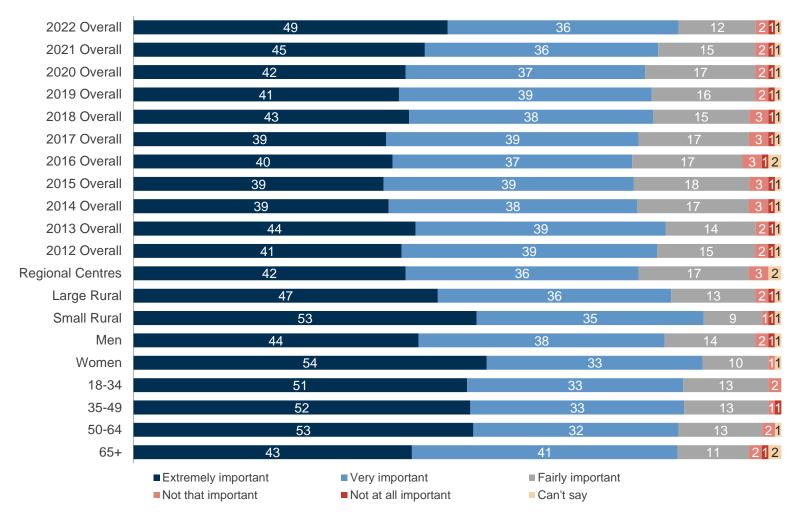


#### Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





#### 2022 unsealed roads importance (%)



#### Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





#### 2022 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

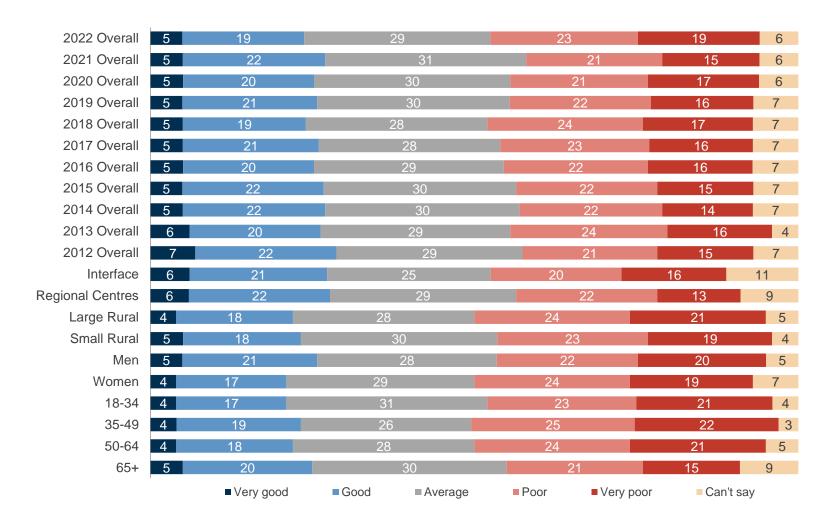


#### Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





#### 2022 unsealed roads performance (%)



#### **Business and community development importance**





#### 2022 business/community development importance (index scores)

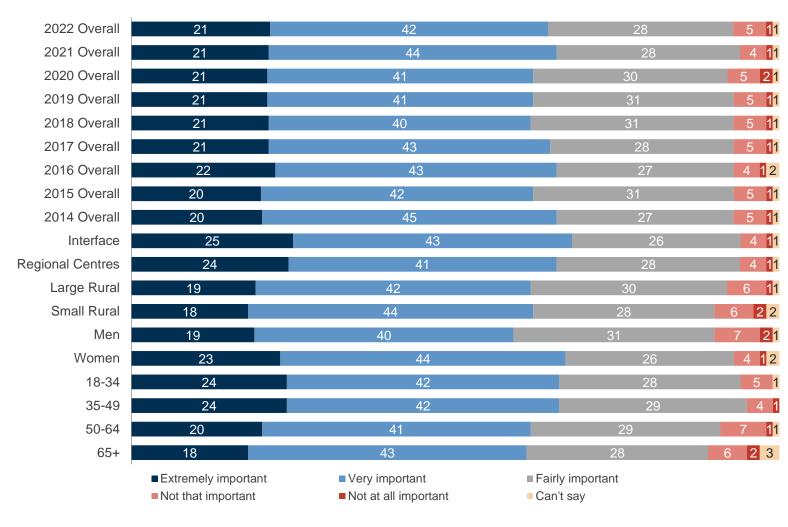


#### **Business and community development importance**





#### 2022 business/community development importance (%)

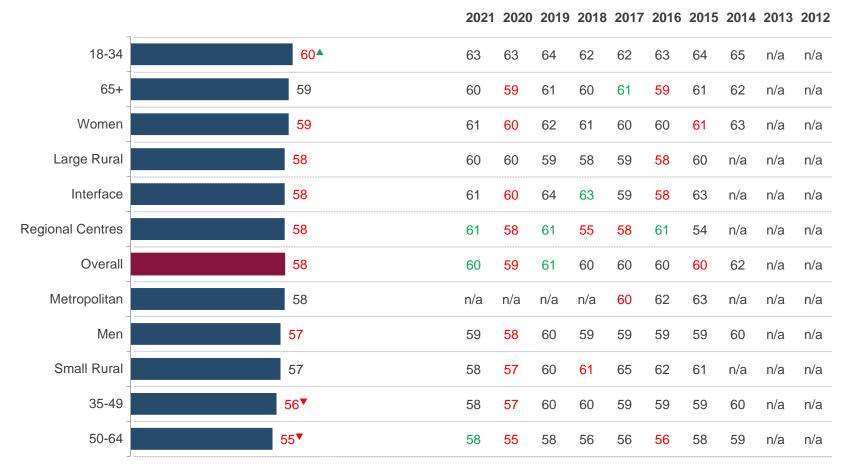


#### **Business and community development performance**





#### 2022 business/community development performance (index scores)

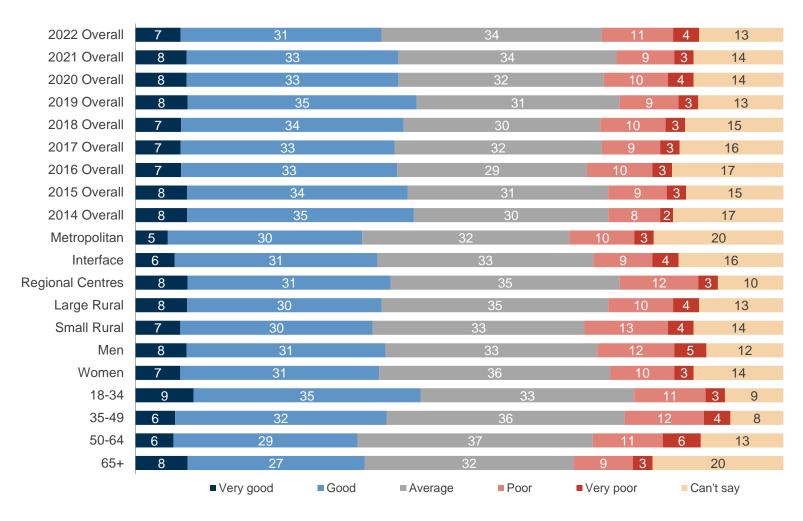


#### **Business and community development performance**





#### 2022 business/community development performance (%)



#### **Tourism development importance**





#### 2022 tourism development importance (index scores)

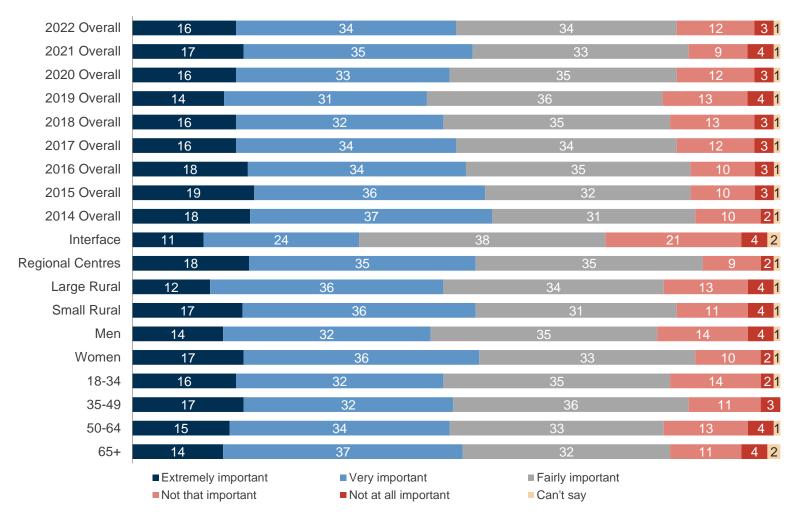


#### **Tourism development importance**





#### 2022 tourism development importance (%)



#### **Tourism development performance**





#### 2022 tourism development performance (index scores)

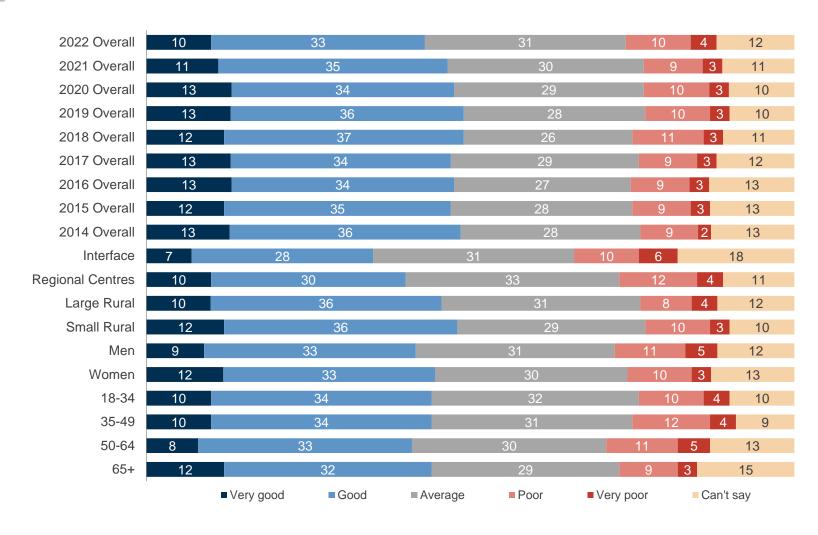


#### **Tourism development performance**





#### 2022 tourism development performance (%)



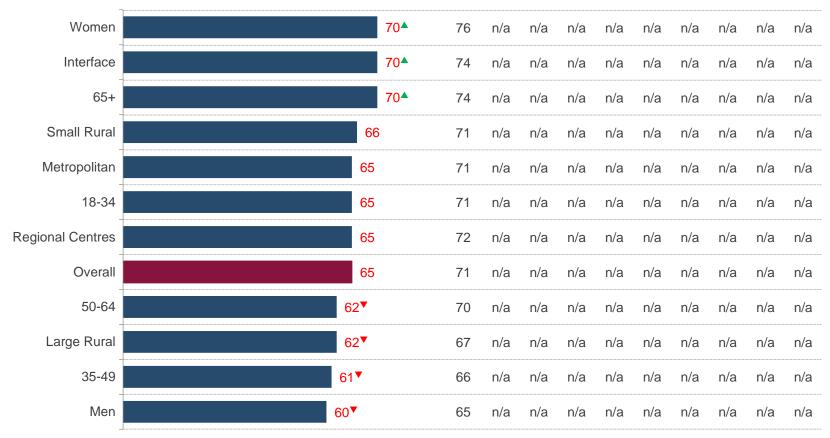
#### **COVID-19 response importance**





#### 2022 COVID-19 response importance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

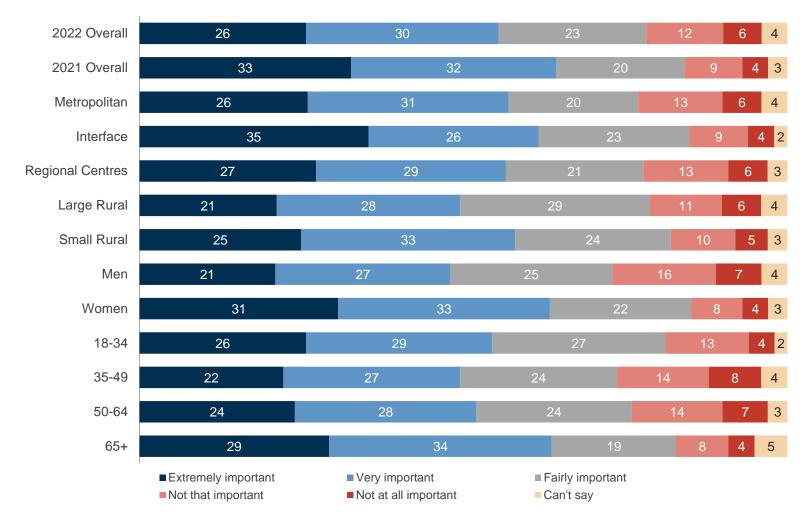


#### **COVID-19 response importance**





#### 2022 COVID-19 response importance (%)



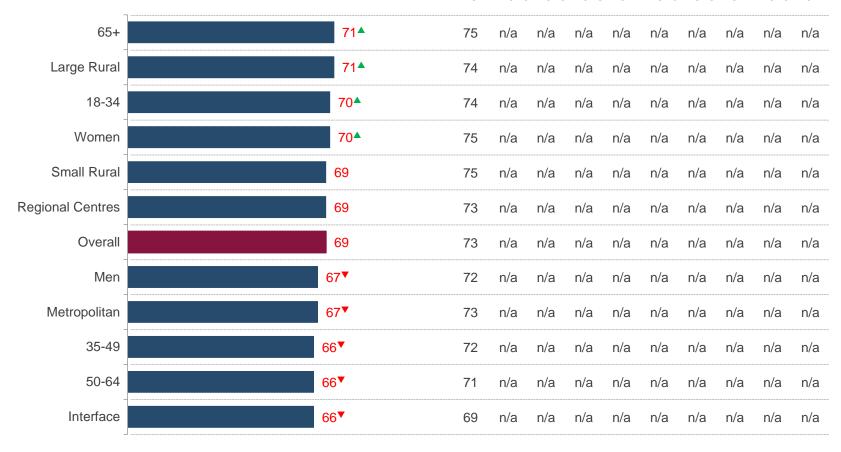
#### **COVID-19 response performance**





#### 2022 COVID-19 response performance (index scores)

#### 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

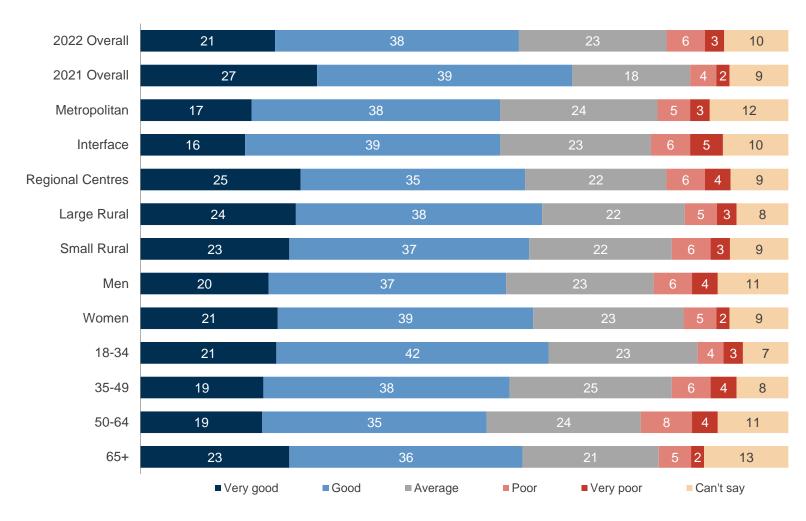


#### **COVID-19 response performance**





#### 2022 COVID-19 response performance (%)



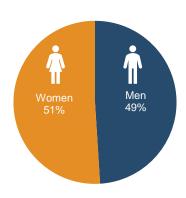


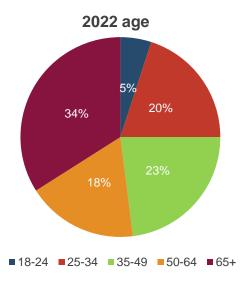
**Detailed demographics** 

#### **Gender and age profile**



#### 2022 gender

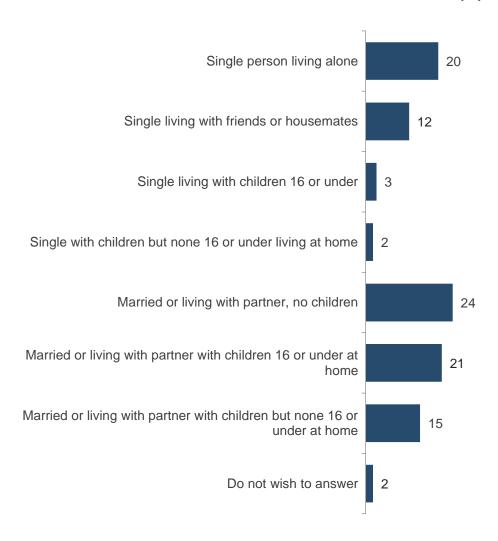




#### **Household structure**



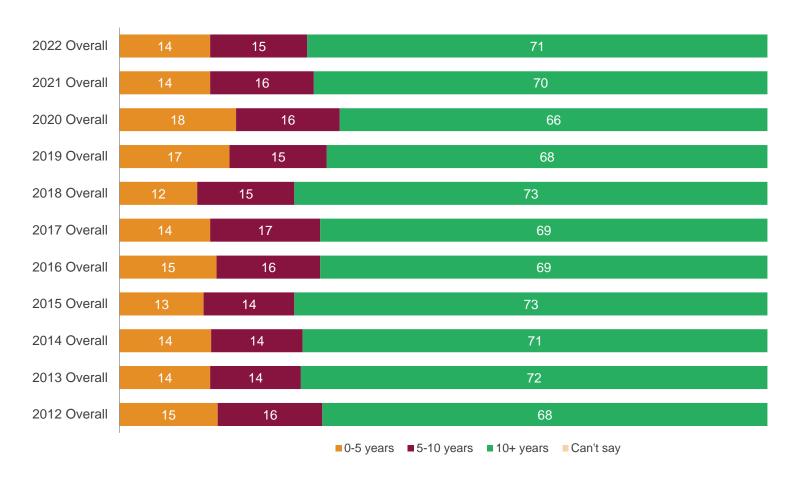
#### 2022 household structure (%)



#### **Years lived in area**



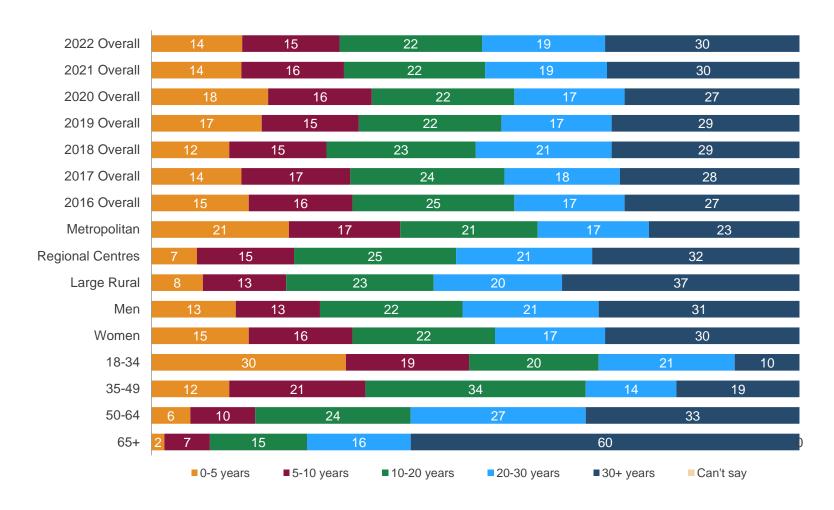
#### 2022 years lived in area (%)



#### Years lived in area



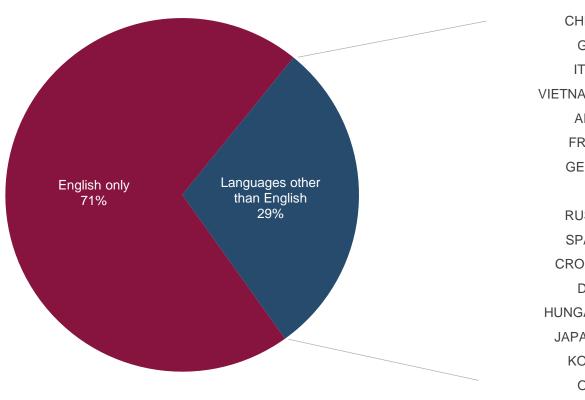
#### 2022 years lived in area (%)

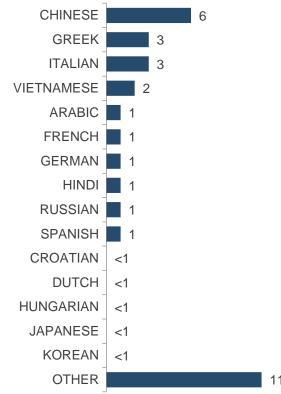


#### Languages spoken at home



#### 2022 languages spoken at home (%)

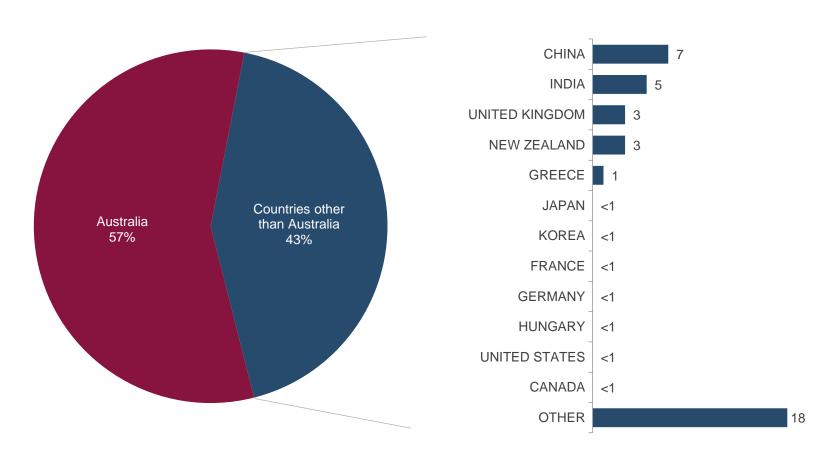




#### **Country of birth**



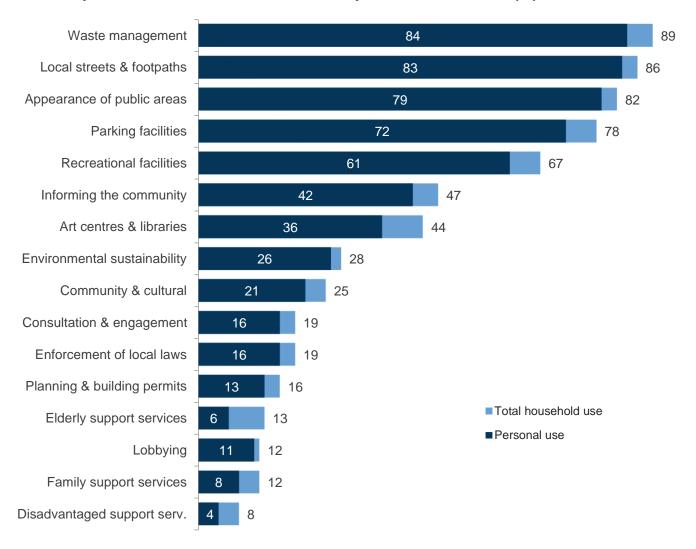
#### 2022 country of birth (%)

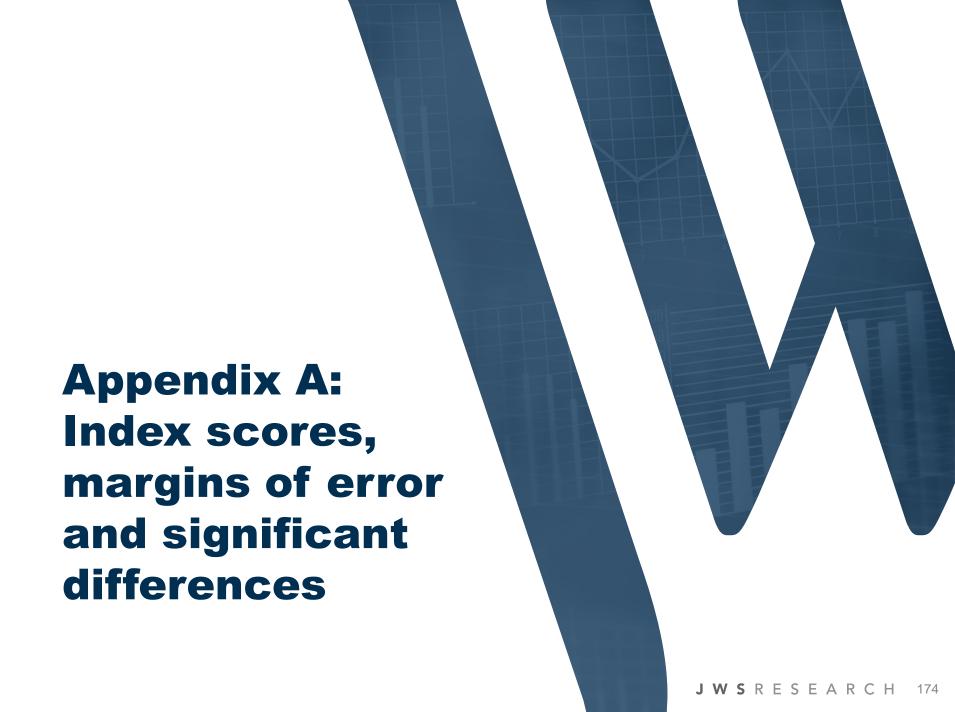


## Personal and household use and experience of council services



#### 2022 personal and household use and experience of services (%)





## Appendix A: Index Scores



#### **Index Scores**

Many questions ask respondents to rate council performance on a five-point scale, for example, from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response category. To facilitate ease of reporting and comparison of results over time, starting from the 2012 survey and measured against the statewide result and the council group, an 'Index Score' has been calculated for such measures.

The Index Score is calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale), with 'can't say' responses excluded from the analysis. The '% RESULT' for each scale category is multiplied by the 'INDEX FACTOR'. This produces an 'INDEX VALUE' for each category, which are then summed to produce the 'INDEX SCORE', equating to '60' in the following example.

Similarly, an Index Score has been calculated for the Core question 'Performance direction in the last 12 months', based on the following scale for each performance measure category, with 'Can't say' responses excluded from the calculation.

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Very good	9%	100	9
Good	40%	75	30
Average	37%	50	19
Poor	9%	25	2
Very poor	4%	0	0
Can't say	1%		INDEX SCORE 60

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Improved	36%	100	36
Stayed the same	40%	50	20
Deteriorated	23%	0	0
Can't say	1%		INDEX SCORE 56

## Appendix A: Margins of error

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The sample size for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was n=29,316. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=29,316 interviews is +/-0.6% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 49.4% - 50.6%.

Maximum margins of error for demographic sub samples are listed are listed in the table below, based on a population of 3,872,100 people aged 18 years or over across the State, according to ABS estimates.

Each LGA is weighted to an equal population of 400 for analysis purposes, so that each LGA contributes equally to the State-wide result.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Overall	29,316	26,800	+/-0.6
Men	13,474	13,243	+/-0.8
Women	15,842	13,557	+/-0.8
Metropolitan	7,106	6,400	+/-1.2
Interface	2,500	1,600	+/-2.0
Regional Centres	3,803	3,600	+/-1.6
Large Rural	8,304	7,600	+/-1.1
Small Rural	7,603	7,600	+/-1.1
18-34 years	3,041	6,841	+/-1.8
35-49 years	5,119	6,119	+/-1.4
50-64 years	7,308	4,723	+/-1.1
65+ years	13,848	9,116	+/-0.8

## Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



Within tables and index score charts throughout this report, statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level are represented by upward directing green ( ) and downward directing red arrows ( ).

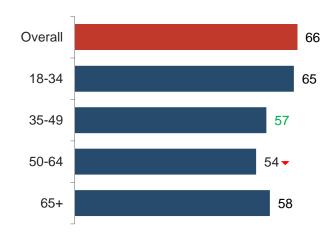
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Overall' result for State for that survey question for that year. In the example below:

 The result among 50-64 year olds is significantly lower than for the overall result.

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2021. In the example below:

 The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is significantly higher than the result achieved among this group in 2021.

### 2022 overall performance (index scores) (example extract only)



#### **Appendix A:** Index score significant difference calculation



The test applied to the Indexes was an Independent Mean Test, as follows:

Z Score = 
$$(\$1 - \$2) / Sqrt ((\$5^2 / \$3) + (\$6^2 / \$4))$$
  
Where:

- \$1 = Index Score 1
- \$2 = Index Score 2
- \$3 = unweighted sample count 1
- \$4 = unweighted sample count 2
- \$5 = standard deviation 1
- \$6 = standard deviation 2

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

The test was applied at the 95% confidence interval, so if the Z Score was greater than +/- 1.954 the scores are significantly different.

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Appendix B: Further project information

## Appendix B: Further information



Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in this section including:

- · Background and objectives
- · Analysis and reporting
- · Glossary of terms

#### **Detailed survey tabulations**

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

#### **Contacts**

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

(03) 8685 8555 or via email: admin@jwsresearch.com

## Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



A total of n=29,316 completed interviews were achieved across the State. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 27<sup>th</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2021, n=28,011 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28<sup>th</sup> January – 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2020, n=26,923 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30<sup>th</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 2019, n=26,739 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n= 26,814 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2017, n= 27,907 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2016, n= 28,108 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2015, n= 28,316 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2014, n= 27,906 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January 11th March.
- 2013, n= 29,501 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2012, n=29,384 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during the fieldwork phase. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the age and gender profile of each council area.

Any variation of +/-1% between individual results and net scores in this report or the detailed survey tabulations is due to rounding. In reporting, '—' denotes not mentioned and '0%' denotes mentioned by less than 1% of respondents. 'Net' scores refer to two or more response categories being combined into one category for simplicity of reporting.

This survey was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in each participating council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of each council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 60% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents, particularly younger people.

## Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



In 2022, 67 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings, as classified below. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings.

Please note that councils participating in 2012-2022 vary slightly. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Metropolitan	Interface	Regional Centres	Large Rural	Small Rural
Banyule	Casey	Ballarat	Bass Coast	Alpine
Boroondara	Mornington Peninsula	Greater Bendigo	Baw Baw	Ararat
Brimbank	Whittlesea	Greater Geelong	Campaspe	Benalla
Glen Eira	Yarra Ranges	Horsham	Colac Otway	Buloke
Greater Dandenong		Latrobe	Corangamite	Central Goldfields
Hobsons Bay		Mildura	East Gippsland	Gannawarra
Kingston		Wangaratta	Glenelg	Hepburn
Knox		Warrnambool	Golden Plains	Hindmarsh
Manningham		Wodonga	Macedon Ranges	Indigo
Maroondah			Mitchell	Loddon
Melbourne			Moira	Mansfield
Moonee Valley			Moorabool	Murrindindi
Moreland			Mount Alexander	Northern Grampians
Port Phillip			Moyne	Pyrenees
Stonnington			South Gippsland	Queenscliffe
Whitehorse			Southern Grampians	Strathbogie
			Surf Coast	Towong
			Swan Hill	West Wimmera
			Wellington	Yarriambiack

Non-participating councils: Bayside, Darebin, Frankston, Greater Shepparton, Hume, Maribyrnong, Melton, Monash, Nillumbik, Wyndham, and Yarra.

## Appendix B: 2012 survey revision

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The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

- The survey is now conducted as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18 years or over in local councils, whereas previously it was conducted as a 'head of household' survey.
- As part of the change to a representative resident survey, results are now weighted post survey to the known population distribution according to the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates, whereas the results were previously not weighted.
- The service responsibility area performance measures have changed significantly and the rating scale used to assess performance has also changed.

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2022 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

#### Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



#### Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

- Overall performance last 12 months (Overall performance)
- Value for money in services and infrastructure (Value for money)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Waste management

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils State-wide.

Alternatively, some questions in the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Comparison of optional questions is made against other participating councils in the council group and against all councils State-wide that also asked the same optional question.

Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council. Tailored questions commissioned by individual councils are reported only to the commissioning council and not otherwise shared unless by express written approval of the commissioning council.

## Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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#### Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/council-community-satisfaction-survey

## Appendix B: Glossary of terms



**Core questions**: Compulsory inclusion questions for all councils participating in the CSS.

**CSS**: 2022 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

**Council group**: One of five classified groups, comprising: metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural.

**Council group average**: The average result for all participating councils in the council group.

**Highest / lowest**: The result described is the highest or lowest result across a particular demographic subgroup e.g. men, for the specific question being reported. Reference to the result for a demographic sub-group being the highest or lowest does not imply that it is significantly higher or lower, unless this is specifically mentioned.

**Index score**: A score calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale). This score is sometimes reported as a figure in brackets next to the category being described, e.g. men 50+ (60).

**Optional questions**: Questions which councils had an option to include or not.

**Percentages**: Also referred to as 'detailed results', meaning the proportion of responses, expressed as a percentage.

**Sample**: The number of completed interviews, e.g. for a council or within a demographic sub-group.

**Significantly higher / lower**: The result described is significantly higher or lower than the comparison result based on a statistical significance test at the 95% confidence limit. If the result referenced is statistically higher or lower then this will be specifically mentioned, however not all significantly higher or lower results are referenced in summary reporting.

**State-wide average**: The average result for all participating councils in the State.

**Tailored questions**: Individual questions tailored by and only reported to the commissioning council.

**Weighting**: Weighting factors are applied to the sample for each council based on available age and gender proportions from ABS census information to ensure reported results are proportionate to the actual population of the council, rather than the achieved survey sample.

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