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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-fifth 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 25 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this Statewide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 25 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.

Contextual considerations



In 2024, like 2023, many councils that participated in the Victorian Local Government annual Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) received lower overall performance index scores. The State-wide overall performance index score for all Victorian councils fell a statistically significant two points, from an index score of 56 in 2023 to 54 in 2024, continuing a downward trend from the 2022 CSS results. The Metropolitan group and Interface group councils halted this trend in 2024, but it is still largely evident in Regional Centres and Large and Small Rural group councils.

Reports for individual councils show demographic or geographic cohorts who are particularly dissatisfied with aspects of their council's overall performance and performance on individual service areas. Where dissatisfaction on individual service areas is also a strong driver of overall satisfaction, a decline in the overall performance score can result.

CSS findings are consistent with long-term independent research conducted by JWS Research showing a consistent downward trend reported by Australians and Victorians since mid-2020, when asked to rate the current performance of local government (see <u>JWS Research True Issues May 2024</u>, slide 19).

External factors can also contribute to negative sentiment for individual councils or for the local sector government more broadly. These may include (but are not limited to) substantial rate increases (or other fees and charges), investigations and/or criminal charges against councillors or council staff, the appointment of a municipal monitor, commission of inquiry or dissolution of a council, major changes in delivery to council services, negatively viewed decisions and actions on infrastructure and development or perceived poor value for money for council services in the context of high and worsening cost of living pressures.

How to read index score charts in this report





Question asked and base size(s)

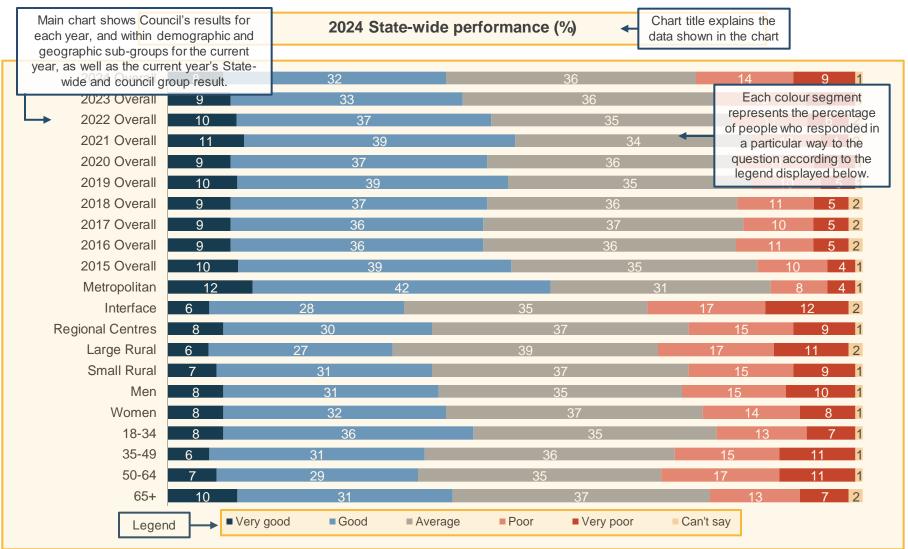
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group:

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

Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of State-wide, not just on one or two issues, BUT State-wide across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?

How to read stacked bar charts in this report





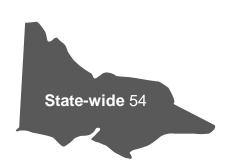


State-wide performance – at a glance



State-wide council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.





Metropolitan 63



Interface 50



Regional Centres 54



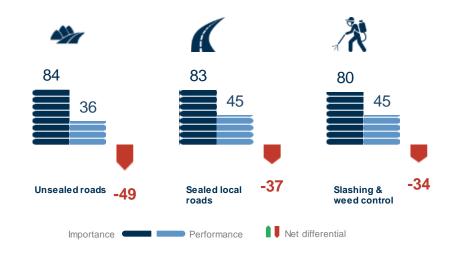
Large Rural 50



Top 3 performing areas



Top 3 areas for improvement



Summary of core measures



Index scores



Performance



money



Community Consultation



Making Community Decisions



Sealed Local Roads



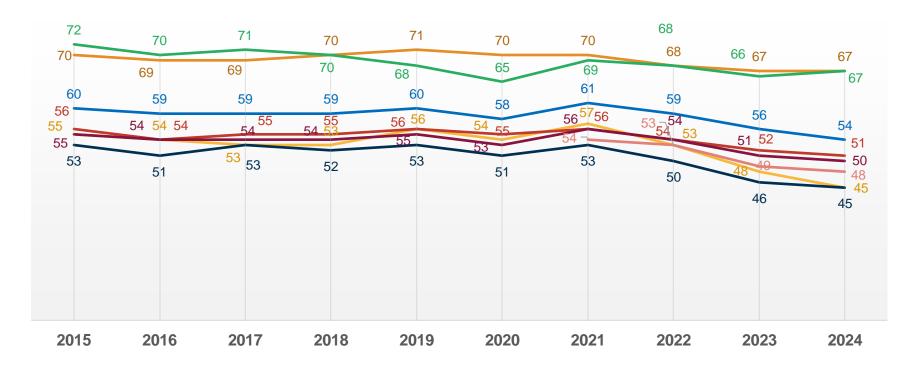




Customer Service



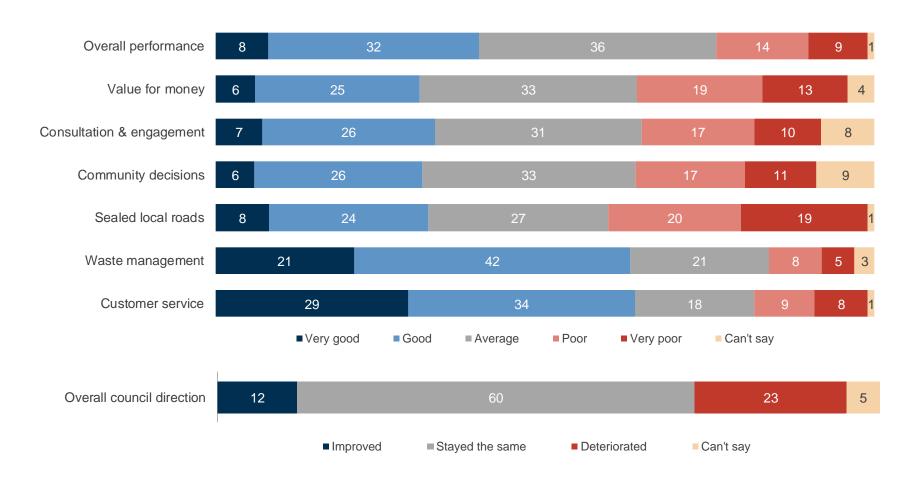
Overall Council Direction



Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of State-wide performance



Services		State-wide 2024	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
C X	Overall performance	54	56	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires, Interface
\$	Value for money	48	49	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires
+	Overall council direction	45	46	Metropolitan	50-64 years
	Customer service	67	67	Metropolitan	Men
	Art centres & libraries	73	73	Metropolitan	Interface
ず	Recreational facilities	68	68	Metropolitan	Interface
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	68	67	Small Rural Shires	Interface
	Waste management	67	66	Metropolitan, 65+ years	35-64 years
	Community & cultural	66	66	Small Rural Shires, Metropolitan	Interface
泣	Emergency & disaster mngt	65	65	65+ years	Interface

Summary of State-wide performance



Services		State-wide 2024	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
***	COVID-19 response	65	67	Women	Regional Centres, Men
	Elderly support services	63	63	65+ years	Interface
***	Family support services	63	63	Metropolitan, 65+ years	Interface, 50-64 years
	Enforcement of local laws	61	61	18-34 years	Interface
2	Environmental sustainability	60	60	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires, Interface
Ya	Tourism development	59	61	Large Rural Shires, 65+ years, Small Rural Shires, Women	Interface
	Disadvantaged support serv.	58	59	Metropolitan	Interface
	Bus/community dev./tourism	57	59	Small Rural Shires, Regional Centres	Large Rural Shires, 35-64 years
	Business & community dev.	57	57	Metropolitan, Large Rural Shires	50-64 years
	Informing the community	56	57	Metropolitan	Interface

Summary of State-wide performance



Services		State-wide 2024	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
	Parking facilities	54	55	Small Rural Shires	Large Rural Shires
3	Traffic management	53	55	Small Rural Shires	Large Rural Shires
Min.	Local streets & footpaths	52	52	Metropolitan	Interface, Large Rural Shires
	Consultation & engagement	51	52	Metropolitan	50-64 years, Large Rural Shires
	Town planning policy	50	50	Metropolitan	Interface
**	Community decisions	50	51	Metropolitan	50-64 years, Large Rural Shires
<u> </u>	Lobbying	50	51	Metropolitan	50-64 years
	Population growth	47	48	Regional Centres	Interface, Small Rural Shires
A	Sealed local roads	45	48	Metropolitan	Large Rural Shires
****	Slashing & weed control	45	46	Metropolitan	50-64 years, Large Rural Shires
	Planning & building permits	45	47	Regional Centres	Large Rural Shires
4	Unsealed roads	36	37	Regional Centres	50-64 years, 35-49 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of overall performance for councils' State-wide have declined for the third year in a row and are now at a decade-long low. However, there is some evidence of an end to this downward trend. Overall performance ratings for councils in the Metropolitan group have improved significantly this year, counter to the State-wide trend, while overall performance ratings for councils in the Interface group have stablised (and are not significantly different to last year).

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, the condition of sealed local roads (excluding those managed by VicRoads) and town planning. These are again among the lower performing areas for councils State-wide, with performance on sealed local roads also being most mentioned as in need of improvement.

Area grouping comparisons

On all of the eight core measures, the Metropolitan group of councils performs significantly higher than the State-wide average. In many instances, perceptions have improved this year for the Metropolitan group. Regional Centres councils mostly perform on par with the State-wide averages. Among the Interface group of councils, results are mixed with the group either performing on par with, or significantly below the State-wide averages. Large and Small Rural council groups tend to rate below the State-wide average.

Rebuilding connections with the community

Many core measures continue a downward trend since recent peaks in 2021. A focus on shoring up perceptions of community consultation and engagement is warranted. Ensuring the community believes that decisions are indeed made on behalf of the community is also crucial. Together, these efforts will help to foster a sense of connectedness and turn around perceptions that councils are heading in the right direction, rather than the wrong direction.

DETAILED FINDINGS







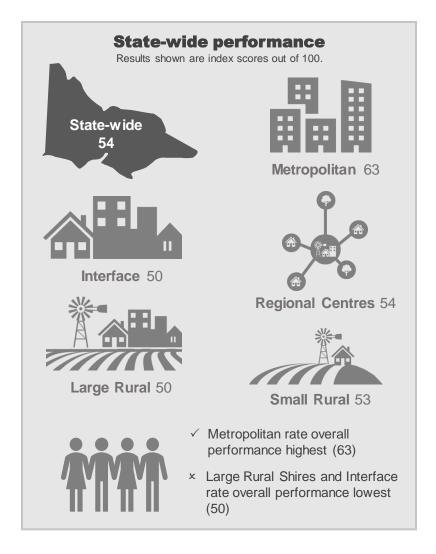
The overall performance index score of 54 for councils State-wide continues a multi-year trend of decline from a peak performance rating of 61 in 2021. The current result is the lowest result in a decade.

This decline in overall performance is the result of significant declines in perceptions, at the 95% confidence interval, across most demographic and council groups.

Of note, and in contrast to the pattern across the State, perceptions of overall performance significantly improved this year in the Metropolitan council group. This group continues to rate significantly higher than the State-wide average.

Furthermore, perceptions among the Interface council group have stabilised and are in line with the 2023 result, demonstrating a change in direction and the potential for an uplift to follow in other areas across the State. That said, the significant downward trend continues this year in perceptions of performance for the Regional Centre and Large and Small Rural council groups.

State-wide, residents are divided on the value for money received from their council in infrastructure and services. Trends in value for money index scores follow the pattern of overall performance.



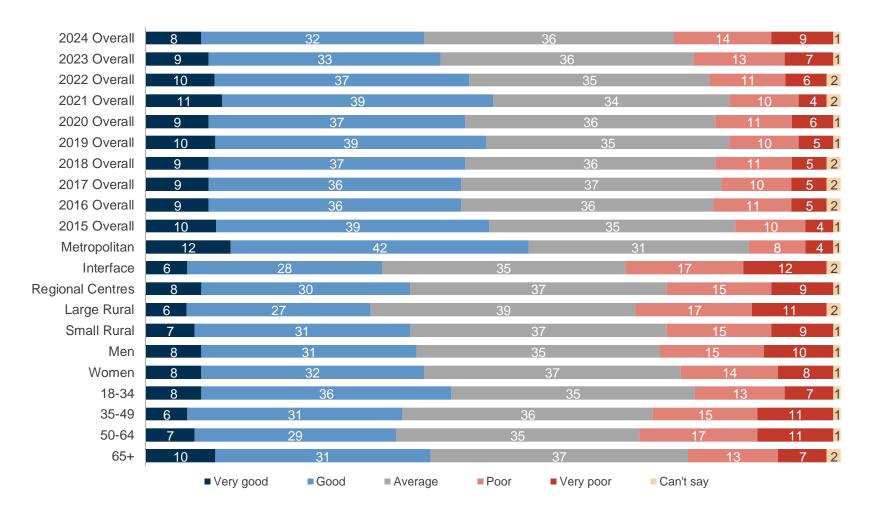


2024 overall performance (index scores)





2024 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



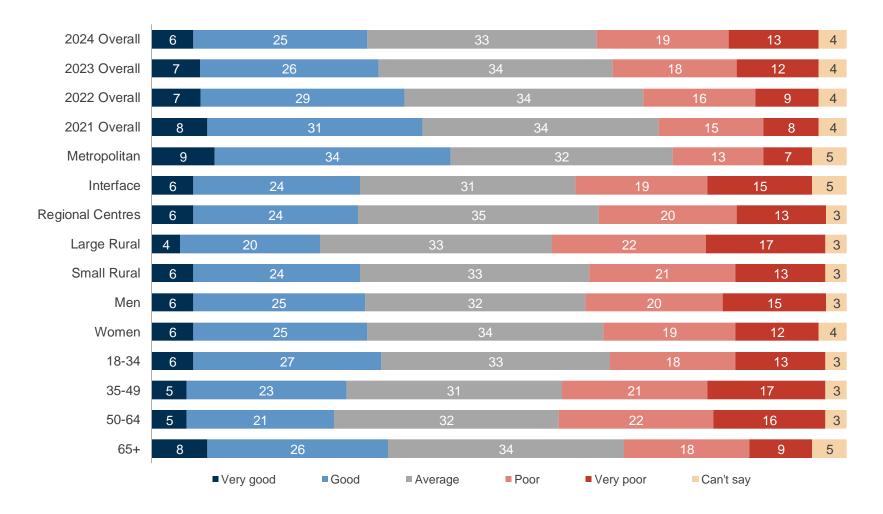
2024 value for money (index scores)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2024 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

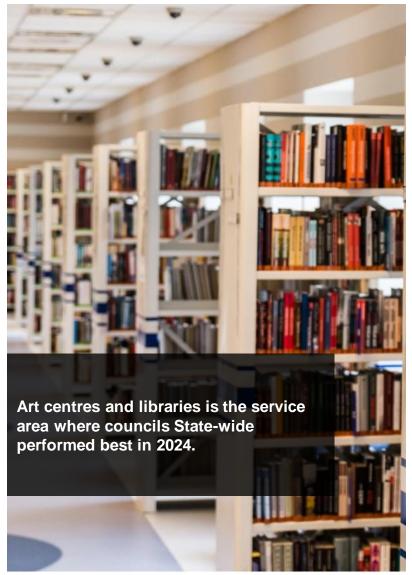
This year sees a mixed result in performance on individual service areas, but the downward trend in perceptions has abated in many instances. In 2023, performance ratings in most service areas declined. This year, we see a turnaround, with perceptions of almost half of the services areas remaining stable and two service areas showing improvement.

Art centres and libraries (index score of 73) remains the top-rated service area of councils State-wide. Performance ratings for this service area have not changed in four years.

Recreational facilities and the appearance of public areas are the next highest rated service areas (each with an index score of 68). While perceptions of recreational facilities are unchanged compared to last year, there has been an improvement in perceptions of the appearance of public areas (up one index point).

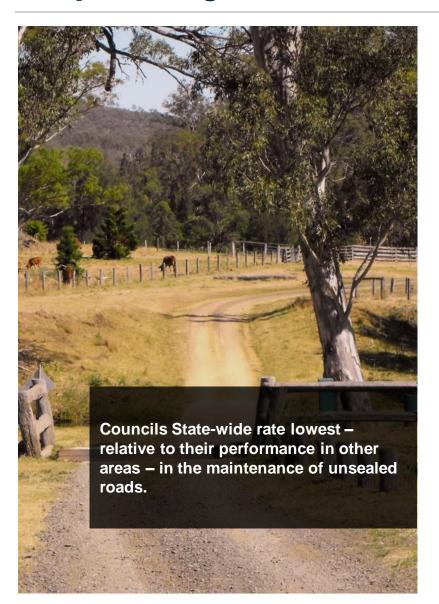
In these top three rated service areas, perceptions improved significantly among residents of the Metropolitan council group (and the Large Rural council group for art centres and libraries).

Further supporting these results, 10% of residents volunteer parks and gardens and/or customer service as the best aspects of their local council, and 7% mention recreational and sporting facilities and/or waste management.



Low performing service areas





In 2024, councils continue to rate lowest on the performance of unsealed road maintenance*. The performance rating for this service area has declined for the third successive year and sits at a decade-low index score of 36 points.

The rating for unsealed roads declined significantly for the Small Rural council group (down three points to an index score of 35) and also for Regional Centres (down five points to 40), although the latter area still rates significantly higher than the State-wide average.

Planning and building permits, slashing and weed control, and sealed local roads rate equally as the next most poorly performing areas, each at an index score of 45, with sealed local roads and planning and building permits declining significantly on 2023 and continuing multi-year downward trends.

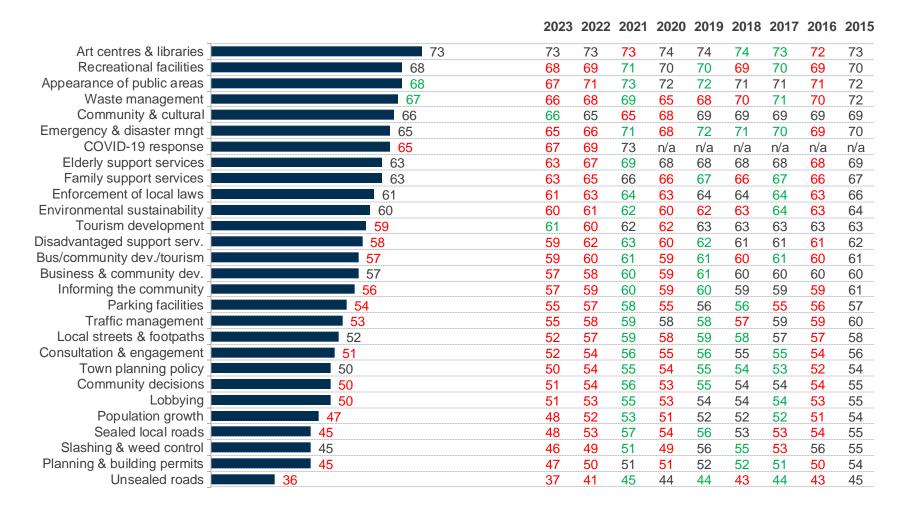
Unsealed roads, sealed local roads, and slashing and weed control all have the largest net negative differentials between rated performance and importance. Sealed road maintenance also has the highest mention (at 20%) as the most important thing Councils need to do to improve their performance.

^{*} Service area not rated by Metropolitan group council residents.

Individual service area performance



2024 individual service area performance (index scores)

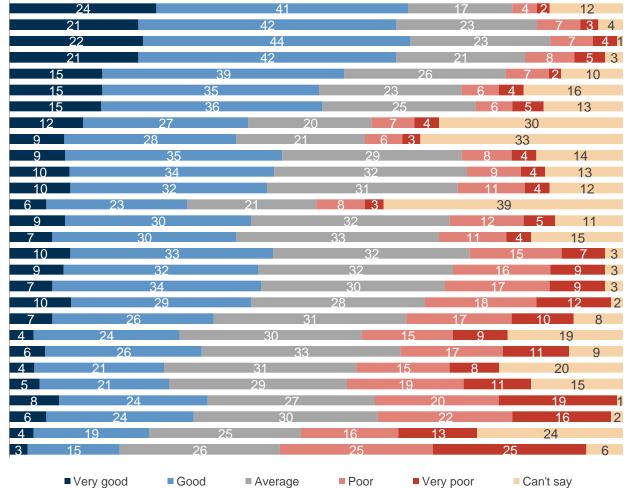


Individual service area performance



2024 individual service area performance (%)

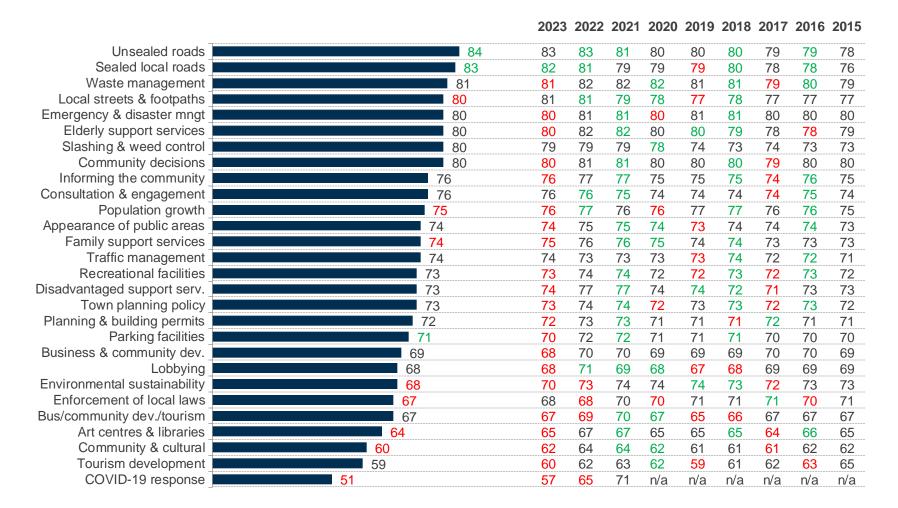
Art centres & libraries Recreational facilities Appearance of public areas Waste management Community & cultural Emergency & disaster mngt COVID-19 response Elderly support services Family support services Enforcement of local laws Environmental sustainability Tourism development Disadvantaged support serv. Bus/community dev./tourism Business & community dev. Informing the community Parking facilities Traffic management Local streets & footpaths Consultation & engagement Town planning policy Community decisions Lobbying Population growth Sealed local roads Slashing & weed control Planning & building permits Unsealed roads



Individual service area importance



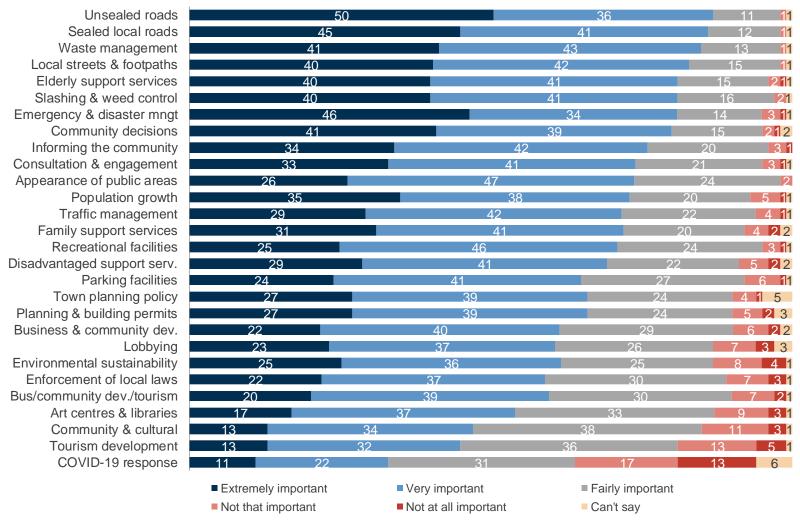
2024 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



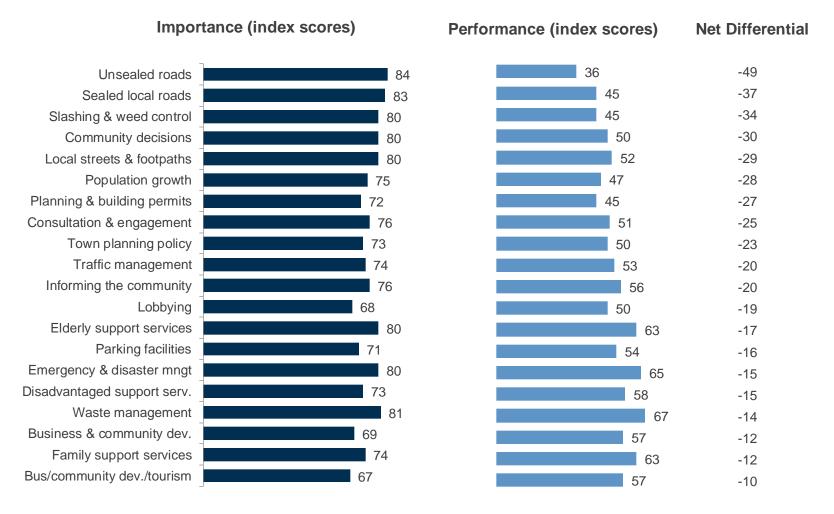
2024 individual service area importance (%)



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. Currently, councils Statewide perform only 'average' in this service area (index score of 50).

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

- the condition of sealed local roads (excluding VicRoads)
- town planning
- the appearance of public areas
- business, community development and tourism
- · family support services.

Looking at these key service areas, councils State-wide currently perform well on the appearance of public areas (index score of 68), which has a moderate influence on overall performance ratings. Councils should continue to attend to these amenities to maintain this positive result.

Family support services also has a relatively high performance rating (index score of 63) and some influence on perceptions of overall performance. Councils should also seek to maintain standards here to help shore up positive perceptions of this service area and council performance overall.

However, there is greater work to be done in service areas that have a stronger influence on overall perceptions but where councils perform less well. This includes the condition of sealed local roads, where councils State-wide continue to perform poorly (index score of 45), and town planning, where they are rated just 'average' (index score of 50).

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 57).

Working to improve perceptions of Council processes and decisions around planning and other community development issues, and attending to resident concerns about sealed local roads, will also be important to improving overall performance ratings for councils State-wide.

Regression analysis explained



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 full set of 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 full set of service area items were analysed using Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine the key factors or 'themes' to emerge. Six key factors or themes emerged around:

- informing, consulting, deciding and lobbying for the community
- local roads and streets
- planning, including general administration and managing growth
- maintenance and management of public areas, including waste and emergency response
- business, community development and activities, and tourism
- · community facilities and support services.

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

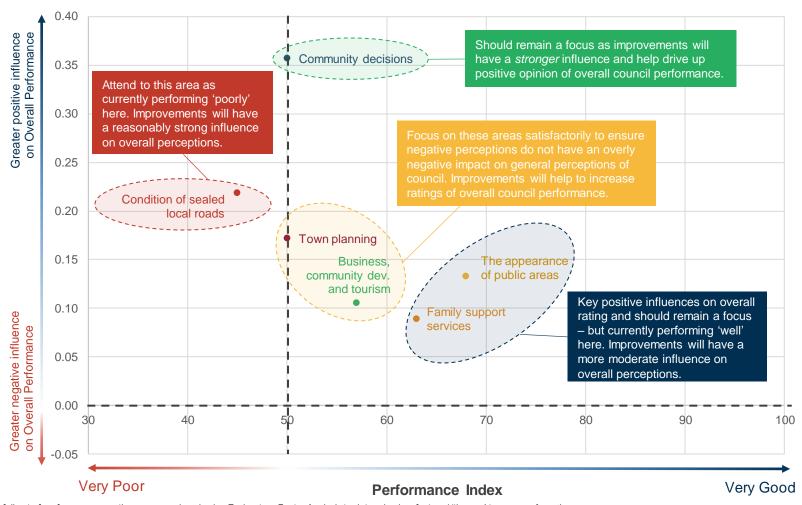
In the following chart, the horizontal axis represents the council performance index for each key service area – community decisions, sealed roads, town planning, public areas, business, community development and tourism, and family support services. Service areas appearing on the right-side of the chart 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



2024 regression analysis (key service areas)



The full set of performance questions were analysed using Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine key 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 the above items against overall performance ratings. The multiple regression analysis model above has an R-squared value of 0.615 and adjusted R-square value of 0.615, which means that 62% 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 = 744.98.

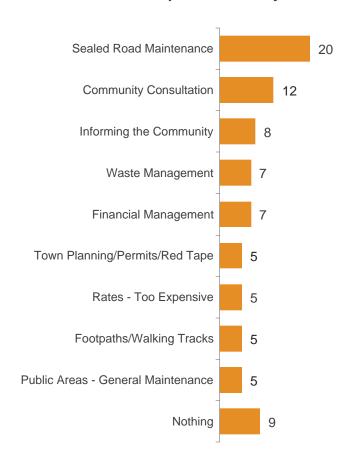
Best things about Council and areas for improvement



2024 best things about Council (%) - Top mentions only -



2024 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -



Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 49



Customer service

Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Across the State, the rate of contact with councils has remained relatively stable over time. More than six in ten households (63%) have had contact with their council in the last 12 months. The rate of contact is highest among residents aged 50 to 64 years (70%), with 18 to 34 year olds (59%) least likely to do so.

The most common means of contacting council remains telephone (37%), with in-person contact (25%, up two points) now slightly ahead of email (24%).



Customer service

The customer service index of councils State-wide remains steady at a decade-low 67 points, halting a trend of year-on-year declines since 2021.

Customer service index scores across individual demographic and group cohorts, in the main, have not changed significantly from last year.

 The exception is the 35 to 49 year old cohort, where perceptions declined significantly (65, down a significant two-points), putting them now significantly below the State-wide average.

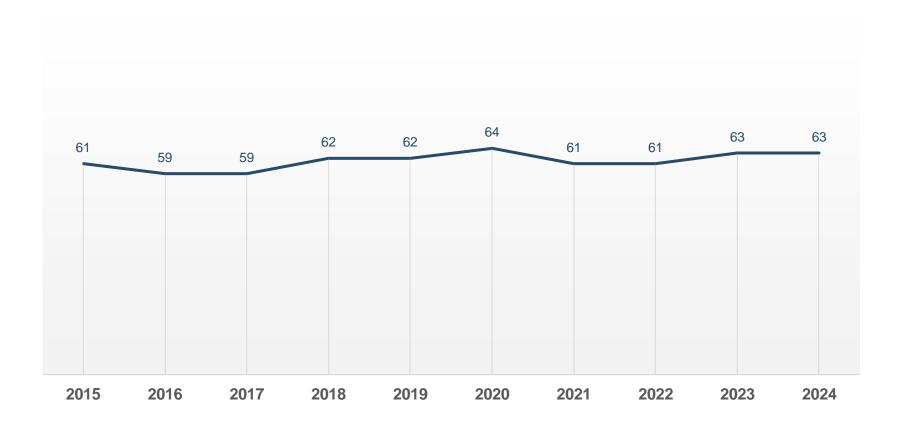
Perceptions of customer service are significantly higher than the State-wide average in the Metropolitan council group (index score of 71). Residents in the Large Rural (65) and Small Rural (66) council groups are performing significantly lower than the average. The Interface and the Regional Centres groups perform in line with the State-wide average (at 66 and 68 respectively).

Customer service ratings are highest among residents who communicated with council in-person (index score of 72). Perceptions of customer service transactions by telephone and email are rated lower (69 and 61 respectively). Consideration should be given to attending to email interactions as it is one of the more frequently used channels, but less well regarded.

Contact with council



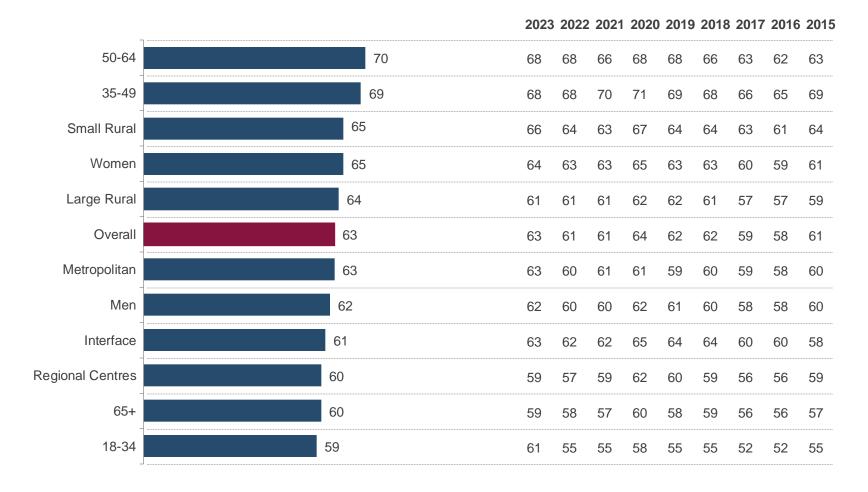
2024 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



2024 contact with council (%)



Customer service rating



2024 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.

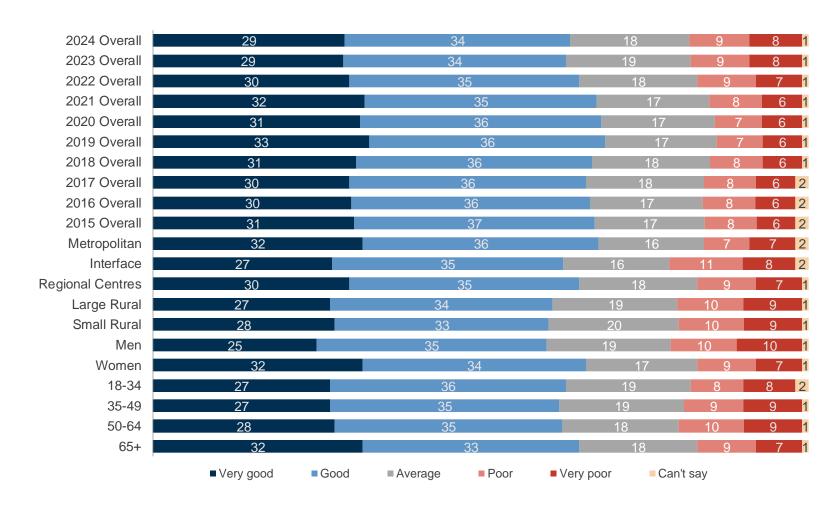
Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

Councils asked State-wide: 62

Customer service rating



2024 customer service rating (%)



Method of contact with council



2024 method of contact (%)















By Telephone

In Person

By Email

Via Website

ite

In Writing

By Social Media

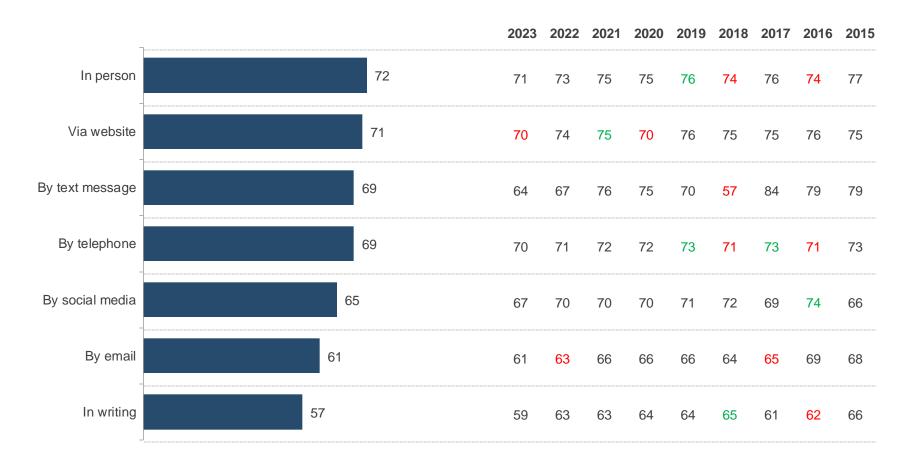
By Text Message

13 12 10 10 9 10 3 -

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2024 customer service rating (index score by method of last contact)

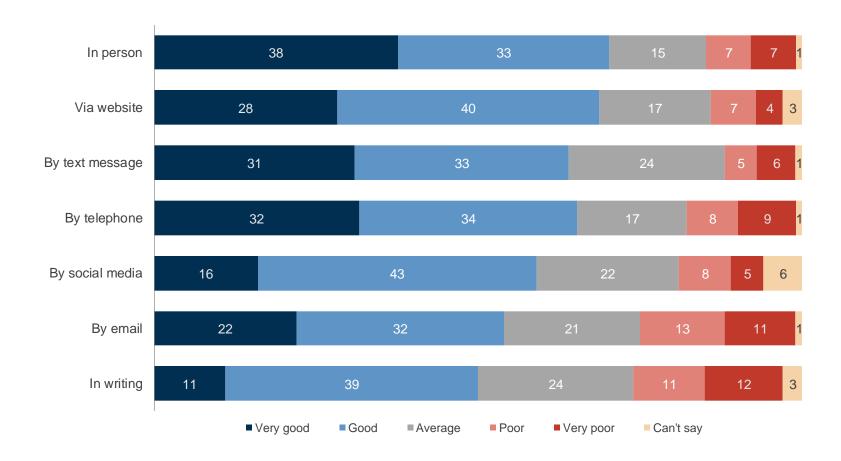


Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 26

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2024 customer service rating (% by method of last contact)





Communication

W

State-wide, the preferred form of communication from councils remains newsletters sent via mail (29%) or email (28%), both unchanged from the 2023 result. Preference for emailed newsletters has strengthened since 2021, while interest in mailed newsletters has remained steady since 2019, affirming the continued importance of both hard copy and digital formats.

Social media (15%) remains the next preferred method, underpinned by higher and growing preference among younger residents.

Communication preferences by age group remain largely unchanged from last year.

- People aged <u>under 50 years</u> express preferences for several communications channels. Newsletters sent via email (29%) continue to be most preferred, followed by mailed newsletters (24%) and social media (also 24%, but up two points on 2023).
- The preferred communication channel among those aged 50 years and over remains newsletters sent via mail (33%), but interest in emailed newsletters continues to slowly grow (27%). Some interest in local newspaper advertising (13%) and as inserts (8%) remains, but both show trend declines since 2019.

Council websites continue to be the least preferred form of communication, ahead of texts and social media.



Best form of communication



2024 best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



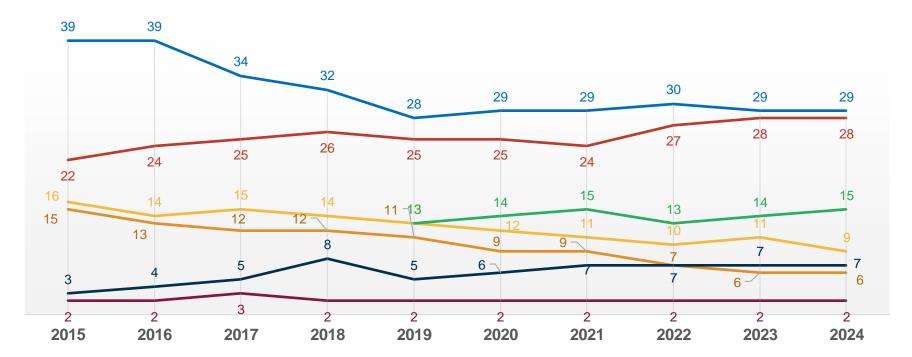
Council Website



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: 38 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

Best form of communication: under 50s



2024 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**



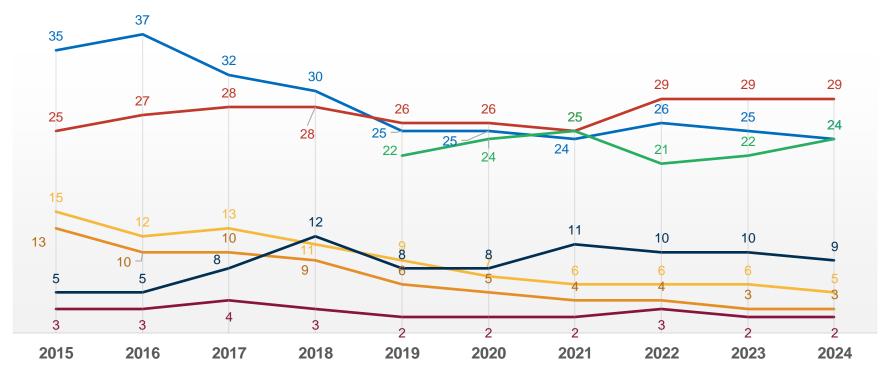
Council Website



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: 38

Best form of communication: 50+ years



2024 50+ years best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



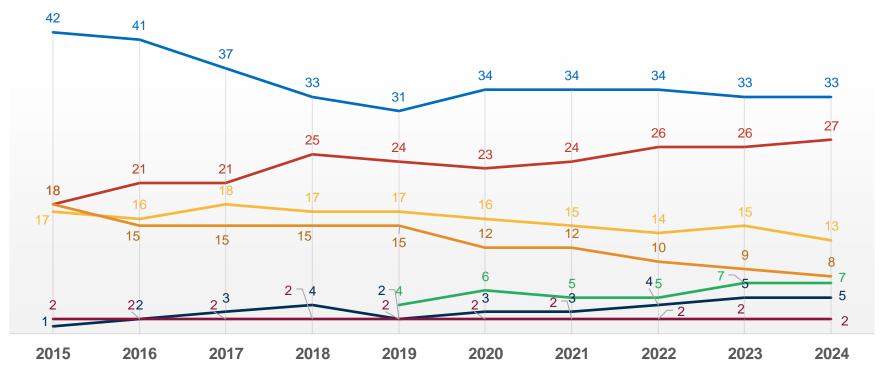
Council Website



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 50+ years. Councils asked State-wide: 38

Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



Council direction

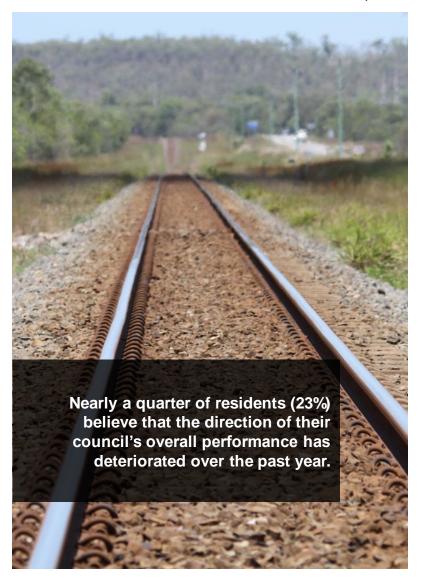
W

In 2024, 60% State-wide believe the direction of their council's overall performance has stayed the same and only 12% believe the direction has improved. Both measures are one point lower than 2023 and combined this is a new low point over the last decade.

- 23% believe council direction has deteriorated (up from 21% in 2023 and a 10-point increase since 2021).
- The <u>most</u> satisfied with their council's overall direction are residents in the Metropolitan group, those aged 18 to 34 years and women (index scores of 49, 47 and 46), all significantly higher than the State-wide result.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with their council's overall direction include residents aged 50 to 64 years and those in the Large Rural group (41 and 42 respectively), both significantly lower than the State-wide result.

The State-wide index score (45) is now at its lowest level in 10 years, continuing a downward trend from 2021. However, this pattern of decline has now been arrested for councils in the Metropolitan and Interface groups, suggesting stabilised or even improved perceptions of overall council direction in these locations.

On the trade off between council rates and services, there is a clear (and growing) preference for cuts in services to keep rates the same (52% preference) over rate rises to improve local services (24%).



Overall council direction last 12 months



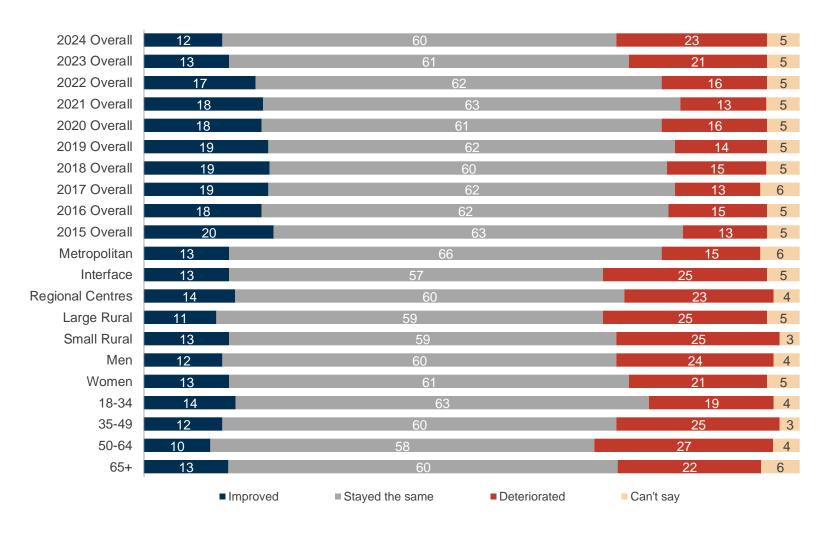
2024 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



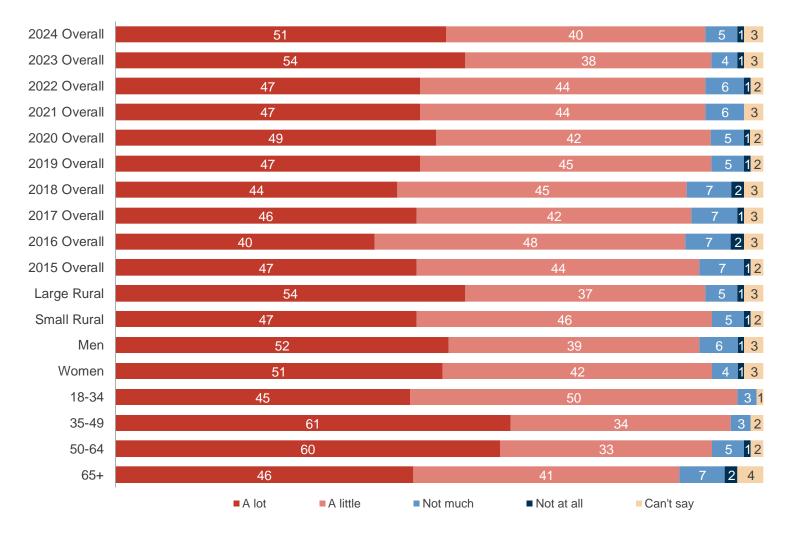
2024 overall council direction (%)



Room for improvement in services



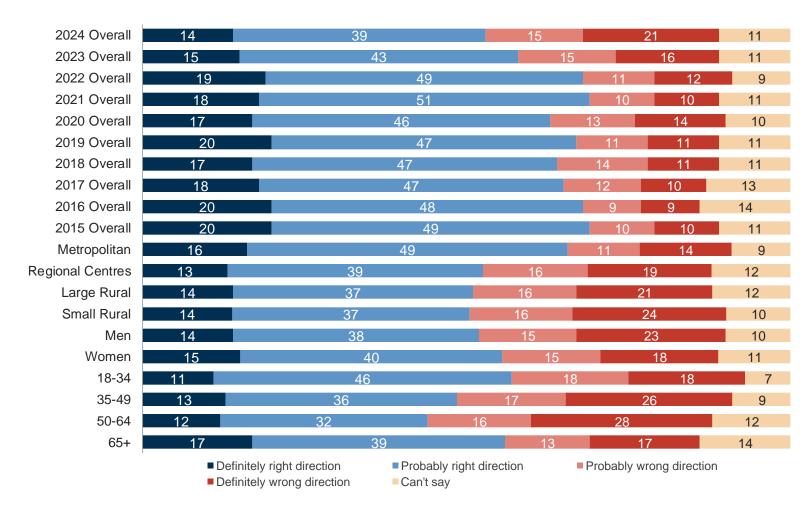
2024 room for improvement in services (%)



Right / wrong direction



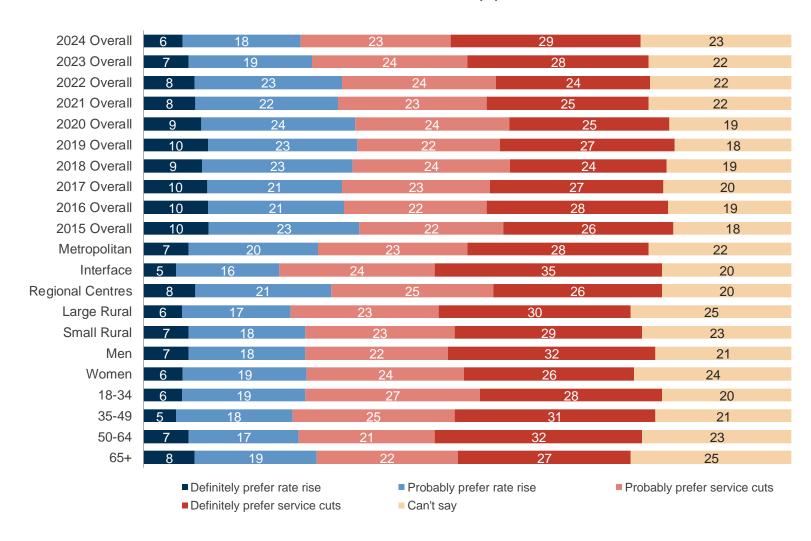
2024 right / wrong direction (%)



Rates / services trade-off



2024 rates / services trade-off (%)





Community consultation and engagement importance





2024 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

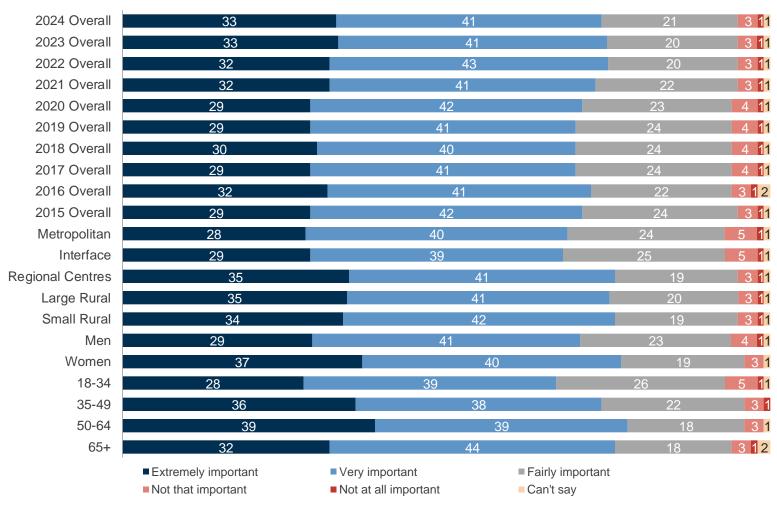


Community consultation and engagement importance





2024 consultation and engagement importance (%)



Community consultation and engagement performance





2024 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

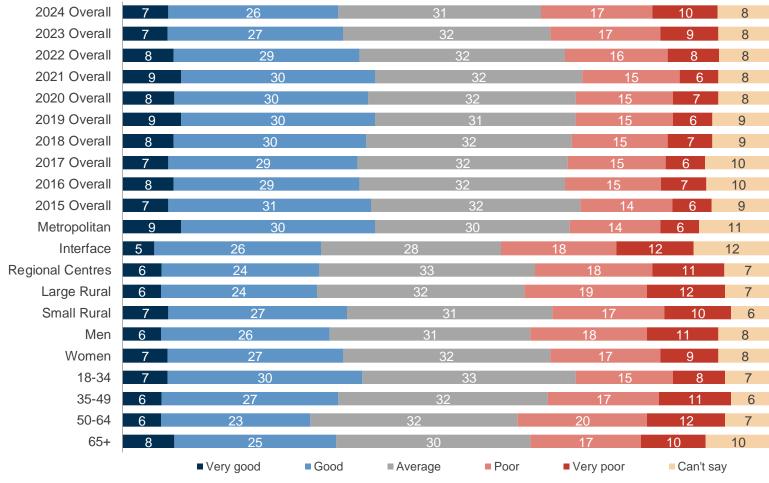


Community consultation and engagement performance





2024 consultation and engagement performance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community importance



2024 lobbying importance (index scores)

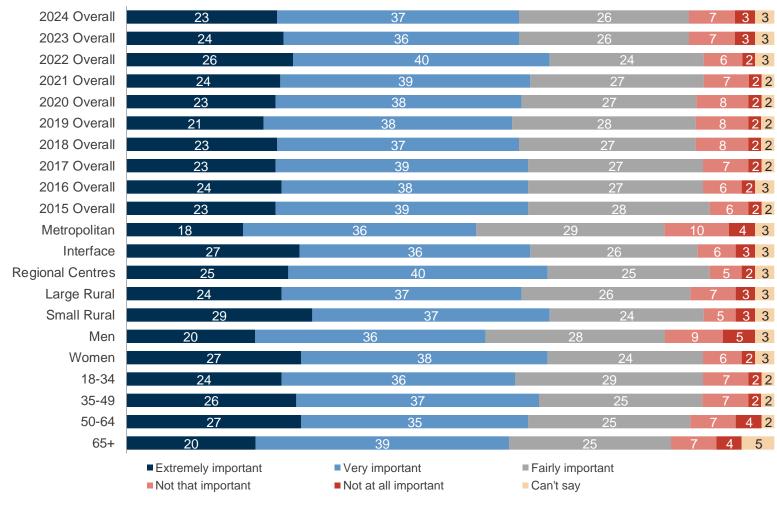


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2024 lobbying importance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2024 lobbying performance (index scores)

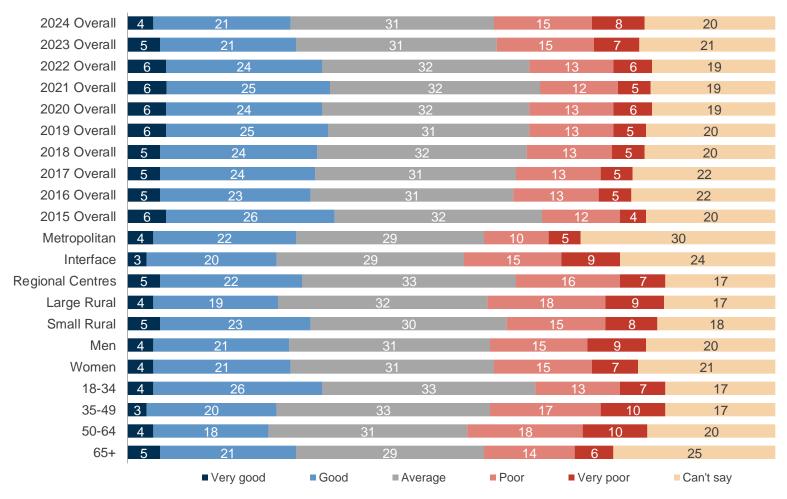


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2024 lobbying performance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2024 community decisions made importance (index scores)

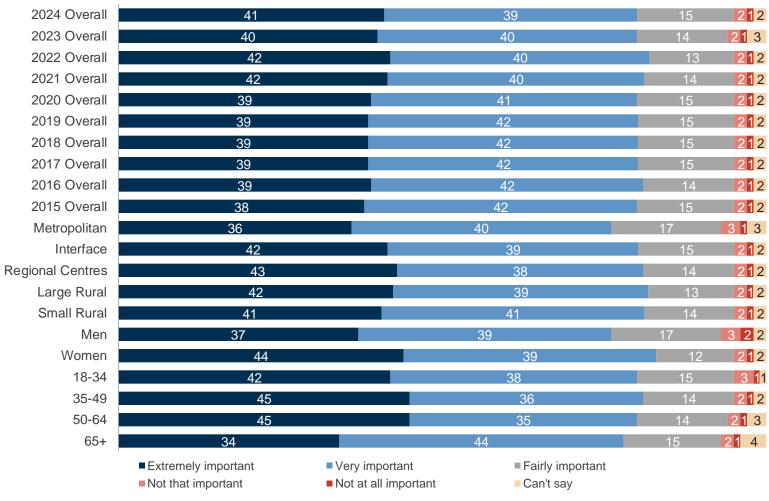


Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2024 community decisions made importance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2024 community decisions made performance (index scores)

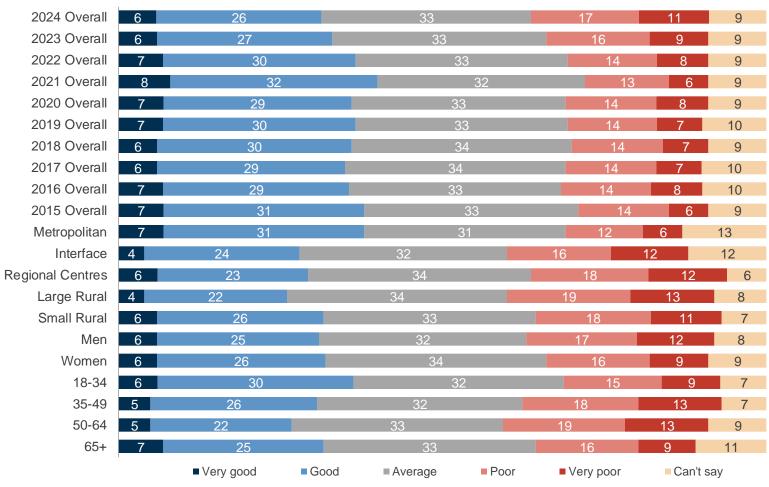


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2024 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2024 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

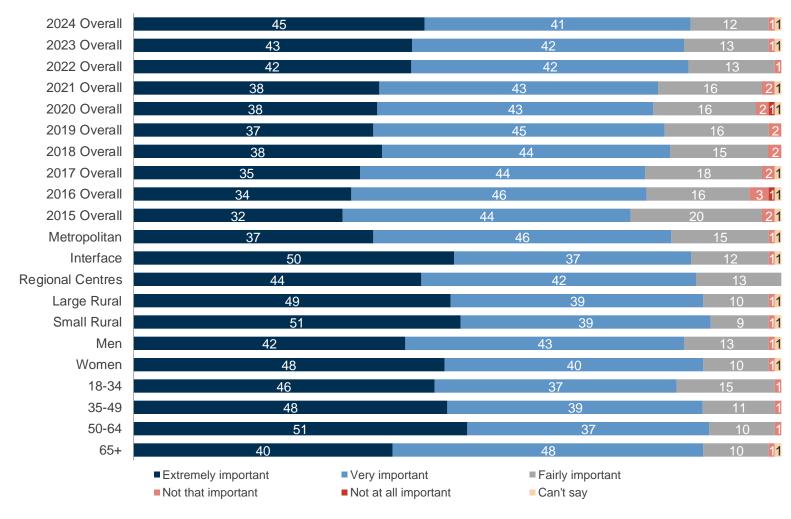


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2024 sealed local roads importance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2024 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

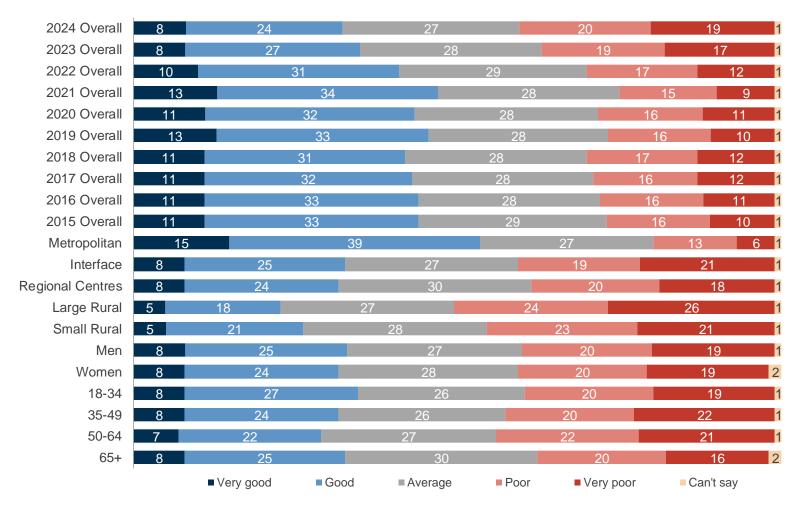


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2024 sealed local roads performance (%)

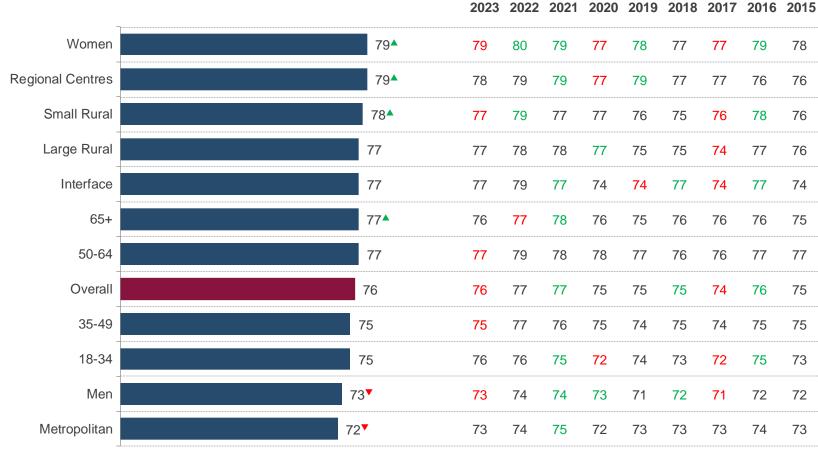


Informing the community importance





2024 informing community importance (index scores)

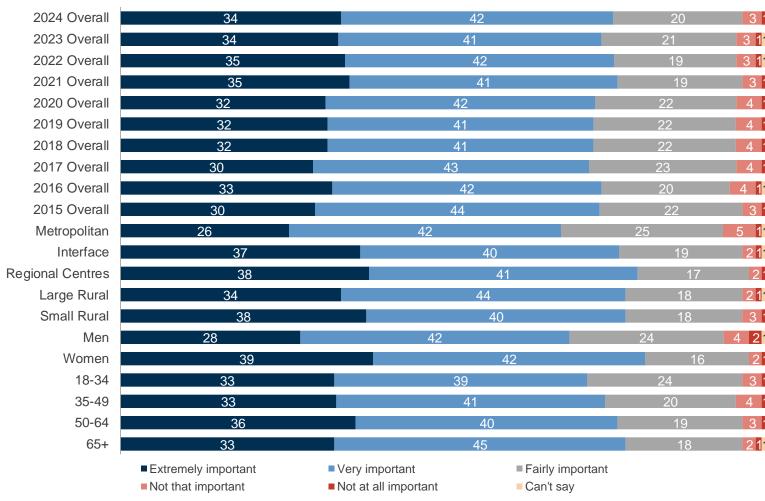


Informing the community importance





2024 informing community importance (%)



Informing the community performance





2024 informing community performance (index scores)

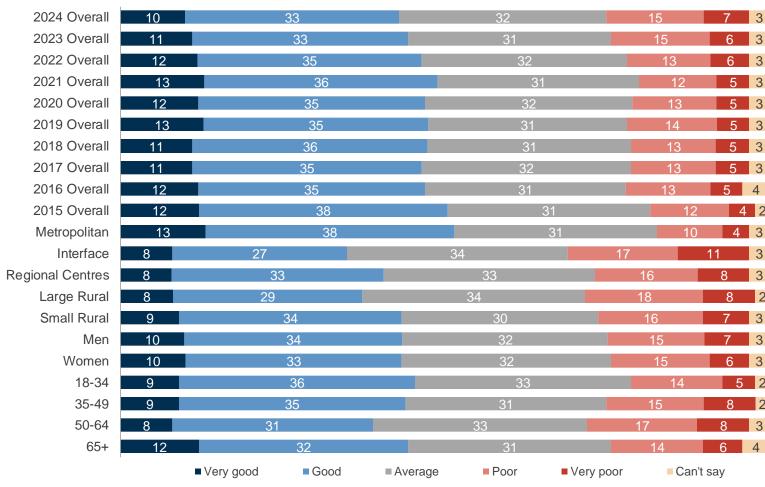


Informing the community performance





2024 informing community performance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2024 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

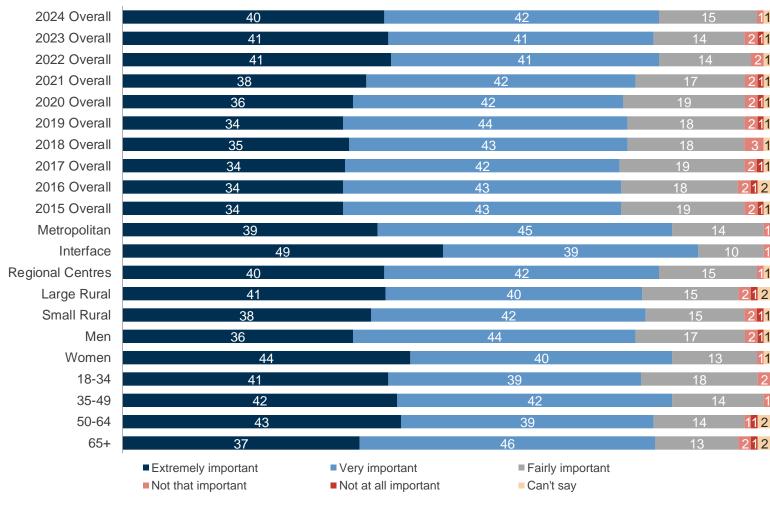


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2024 streets and footpaths importance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2024 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

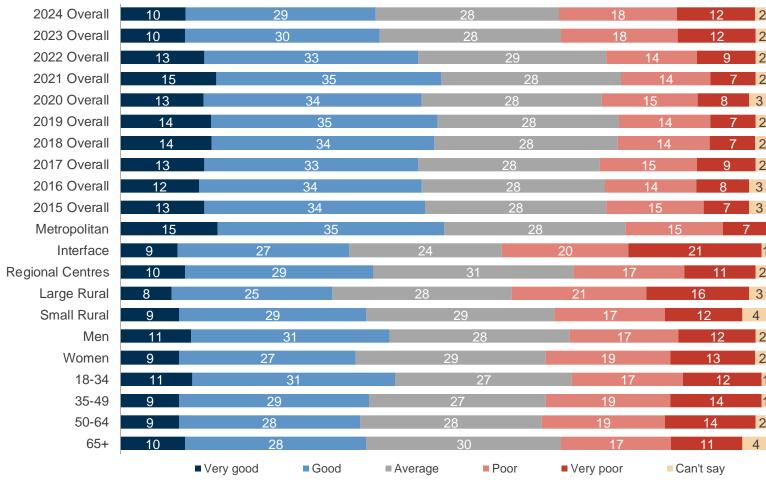


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2024 streets and footpaths performance (%)



Traffic management importance





2024 traffic management importance (index scores)

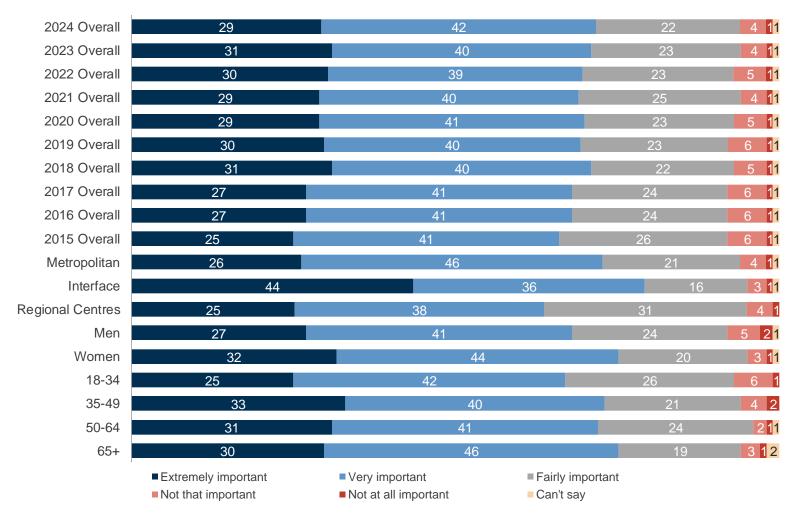


Traffic management importance





2024 traffic management importance (%)



Traffic management performance





2024 traffic management performance (index scores)

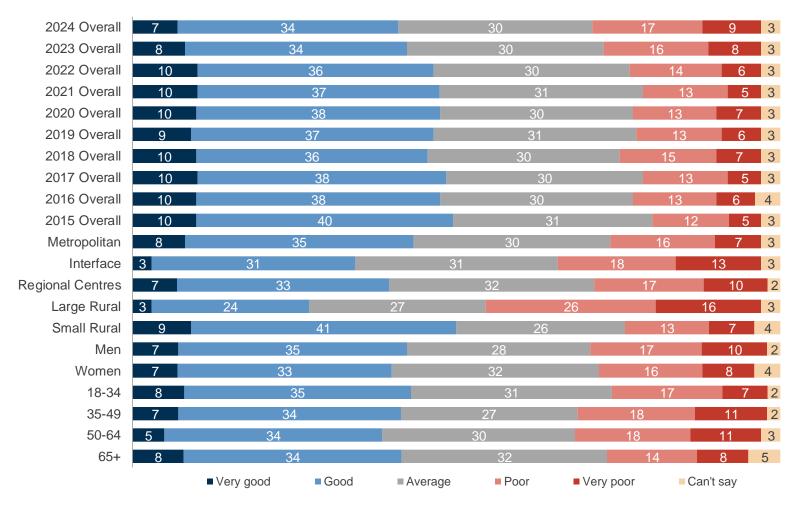


Traffic management performance





2024 traffic management performance (%)

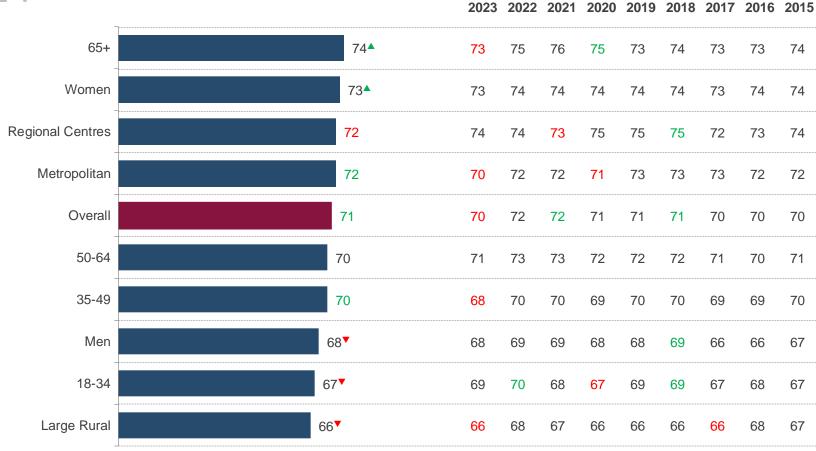


Parking facilities importance





2024 parking importance (index scores)

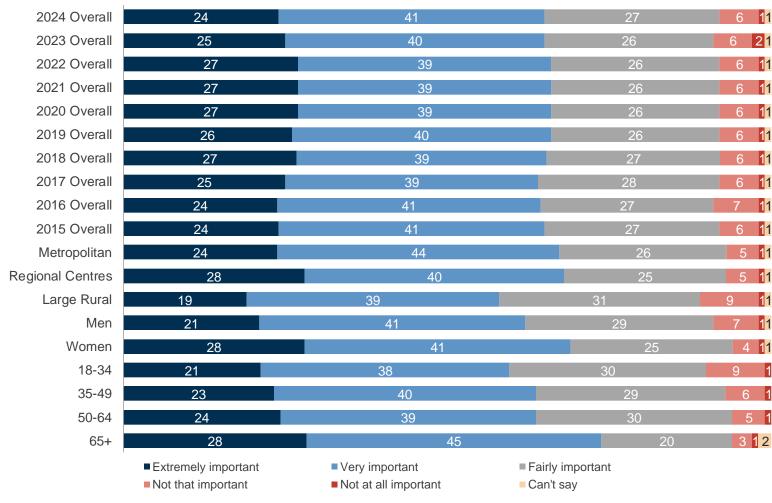


Parking facilities importance





2024 parking importance (%)



Parking facilities performance





2024 parking performance (index scores)

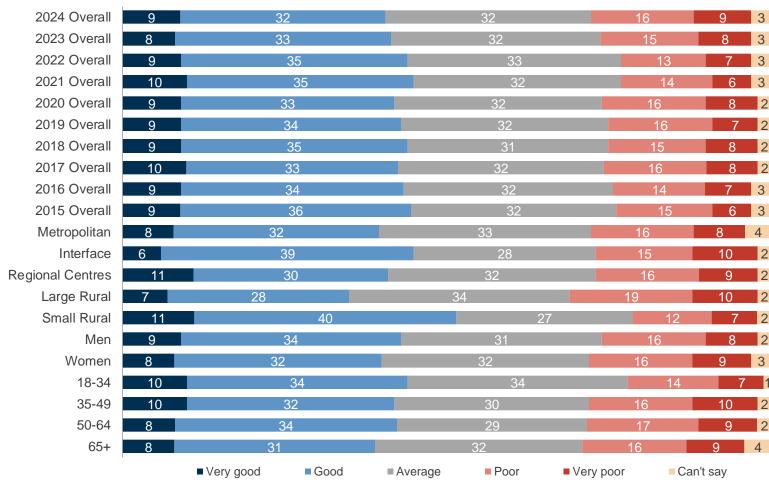


Parking facilities performance





2024 parking performance (%)



Enforcement of local laws importance





2024 law enforcement importance (index scores)

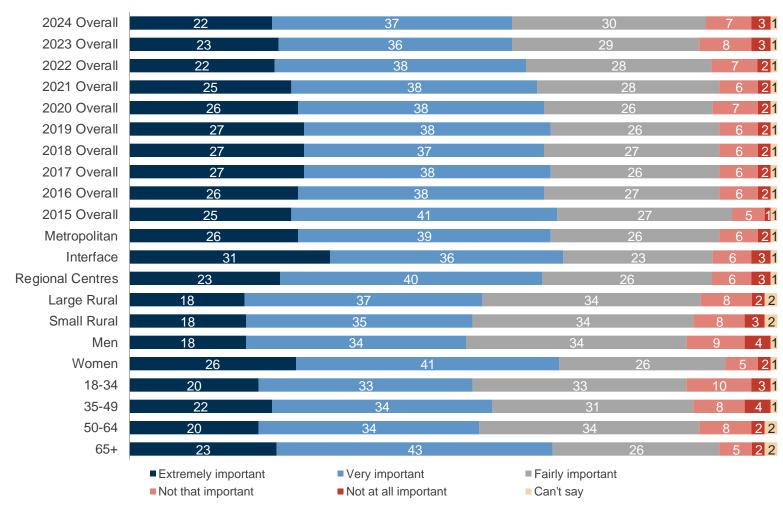


Enforcement of local laws importance





2024 law enforcement importance (%)



Enforcement of local laws performance





2024 law enforcement performance (index scores)

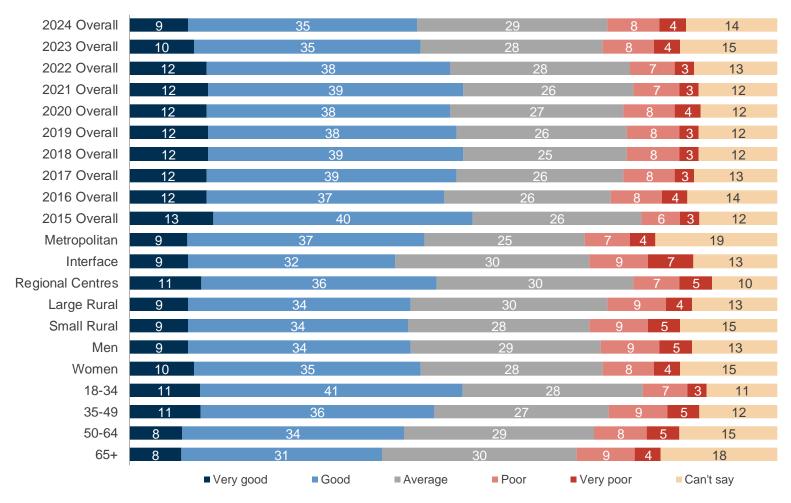


Enforcement of local laws performance





2024 law enforcement performance (%)



Family support services importance





2024 family support importance (index scores)

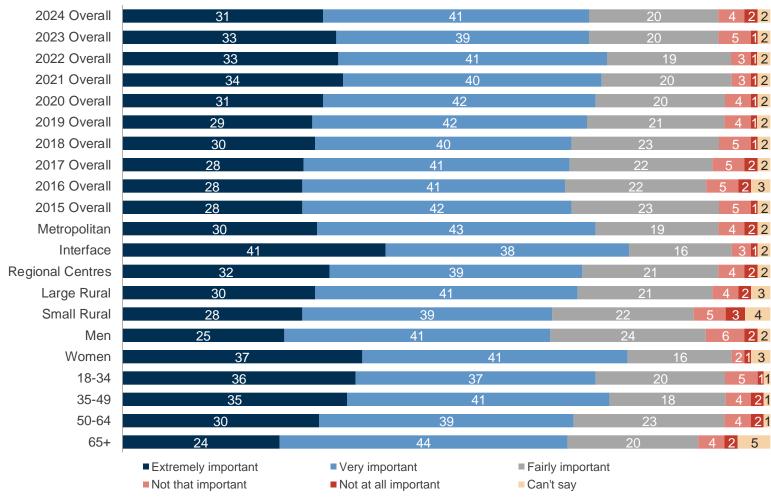


Family support services importance





2024 family support importance (%)



Family support services performance





2024 family support performance (index scores)

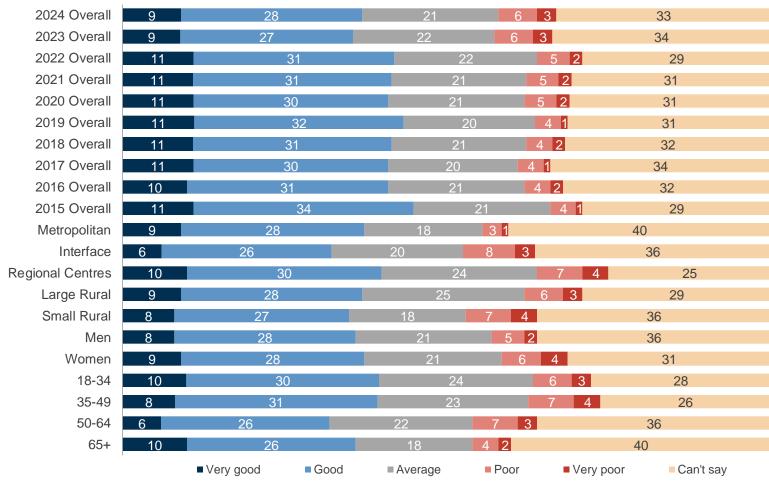


Family support services performance





2024 family support performance (%)



Elderly support services importance





2024 elderly support importance (index scores)

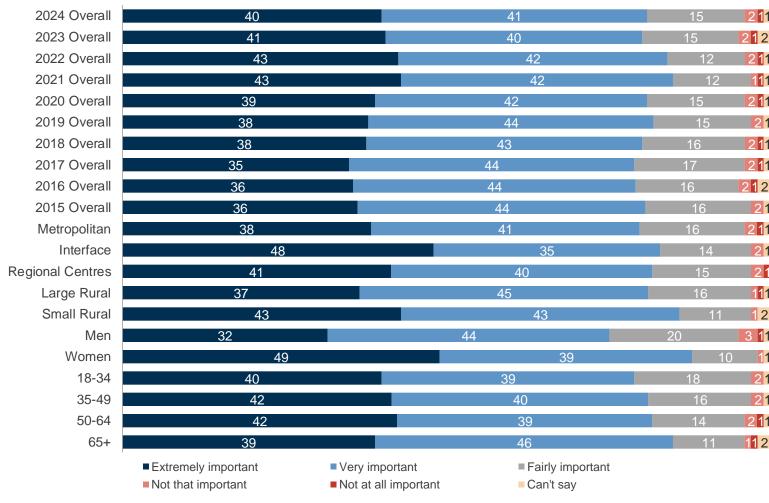


Elderly support services importance





2024 elderly support importance (%)



Elderly support services performance





2024 elderly support performance (index scores)

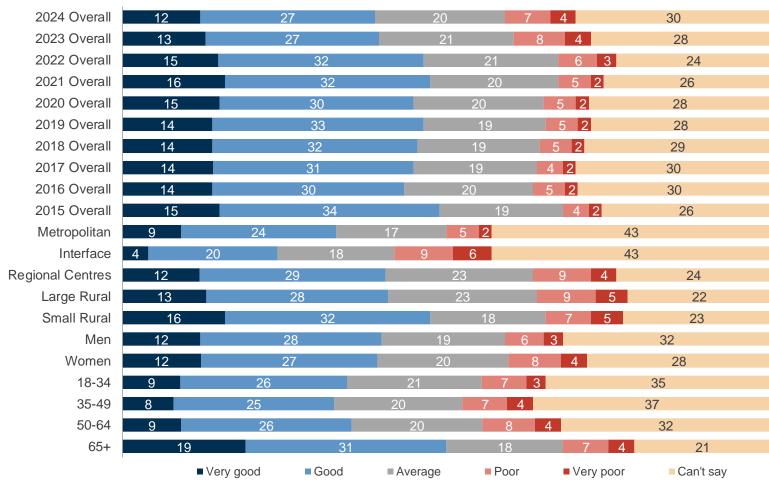


Elderly support services performance





2024 elderly support performance (%)



Disadvantaged support services importance





2024 disadvantaged support importance (index scores)

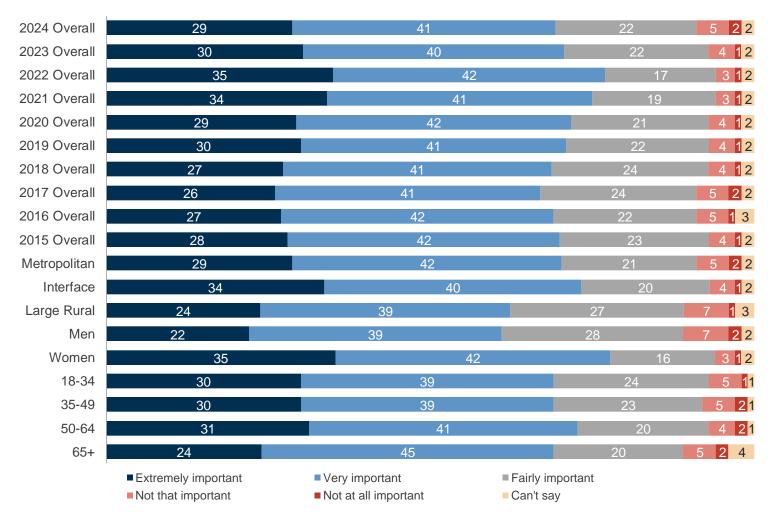


Disadvantaged support services importance





2024 disadvantaged support importance (%)



Disadvantaged support services performance





2024 disadvantaged support performance (index scores)

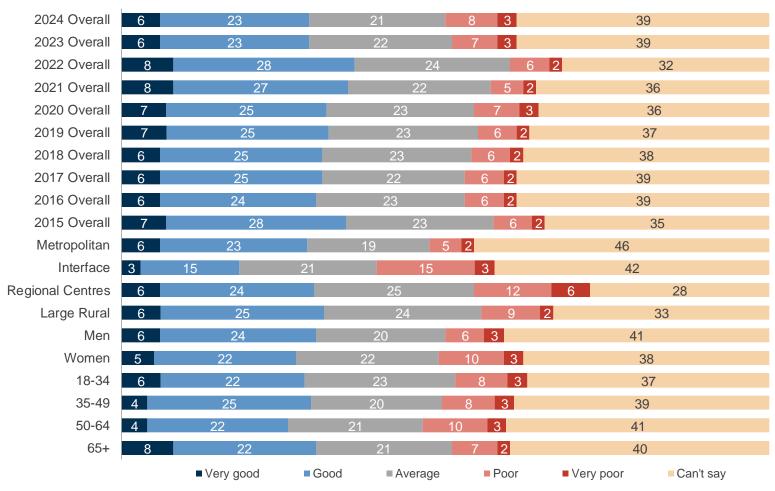


Disadvantaged support services performance





2024 disadvantaged support performance (%)



Recreational facilities importance





2024 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

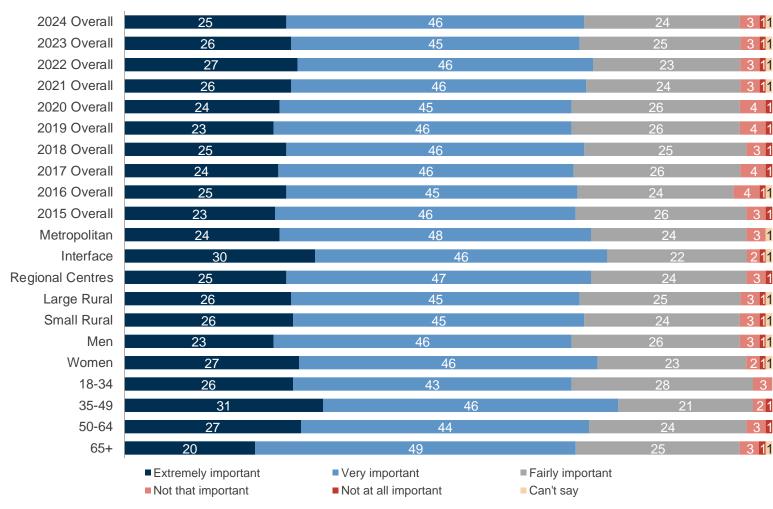


Recreational facilities importance





2024 recreational facilities importance (%)



Recreational facilities performance





2024 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

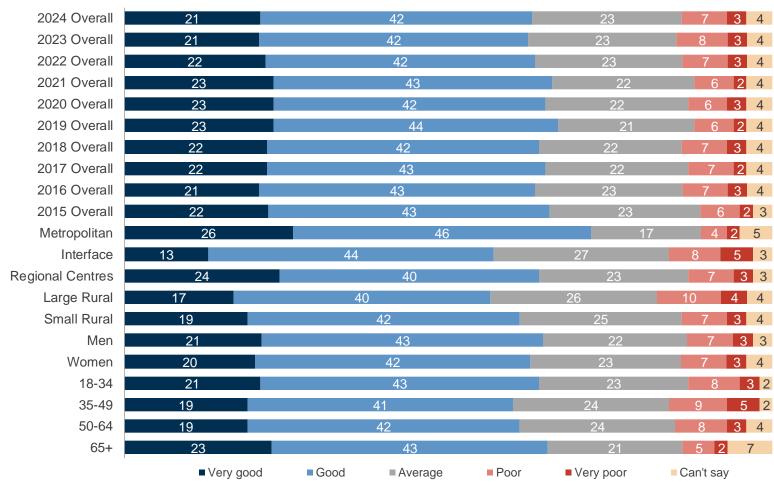


Recreational facilities performance





2024 recreational facilities performance (%)



The appearance of public areas importance





2024 public areas importance (index scores)

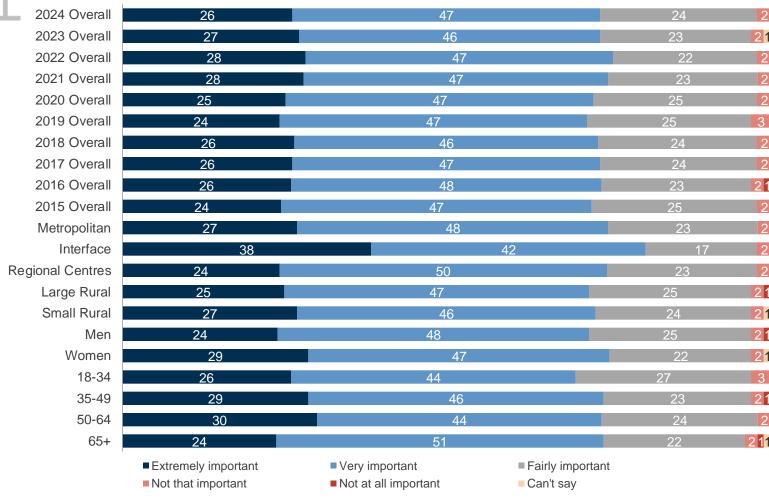


The appearance of public areas importance





2024 public areas importance (%)

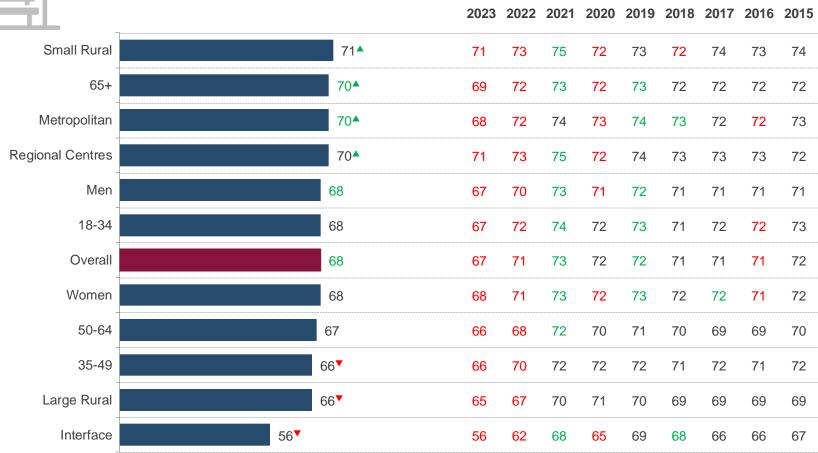


The appearance of public areas performance





2024 public areas performance (index scores)

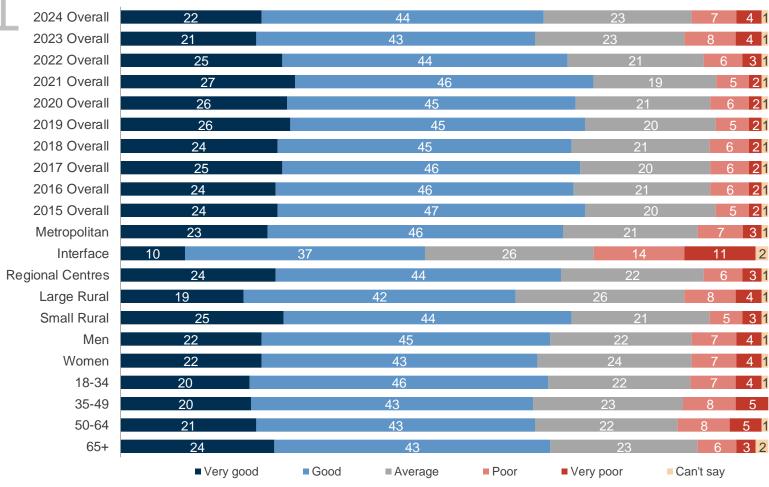


The appearance of public areas performance





2024 public areas performance (%)



Art centres and libraries importance





2024 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)

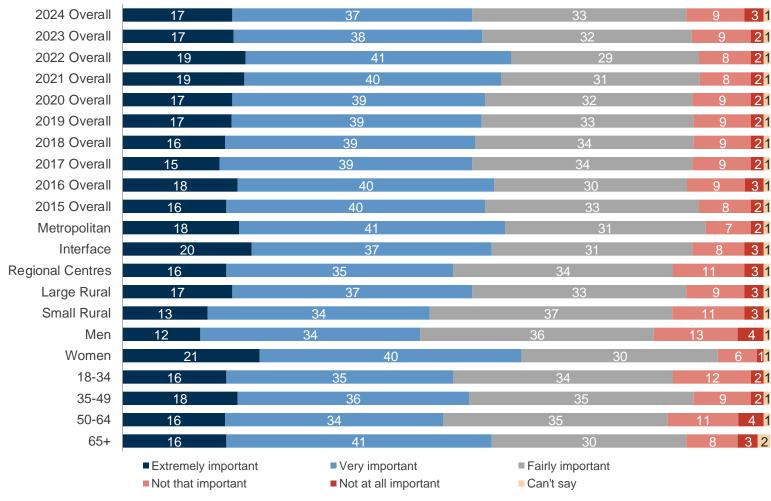


Art centres and libraries importance





2024 art centres and libraries importance (%)



Art centres and libraries performance





2024 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)

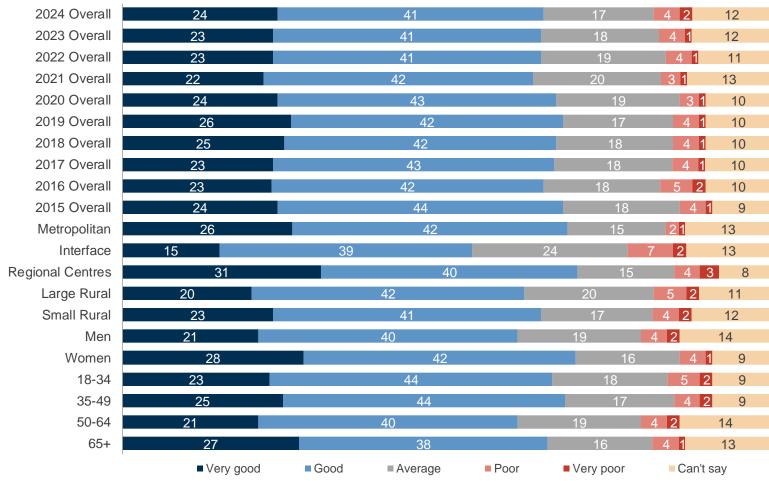


Art centres and libraries performance





2024 art centres and libraries performance (%)



Community and cultural activities importance





2024 community and cultural activities importance (index scores)

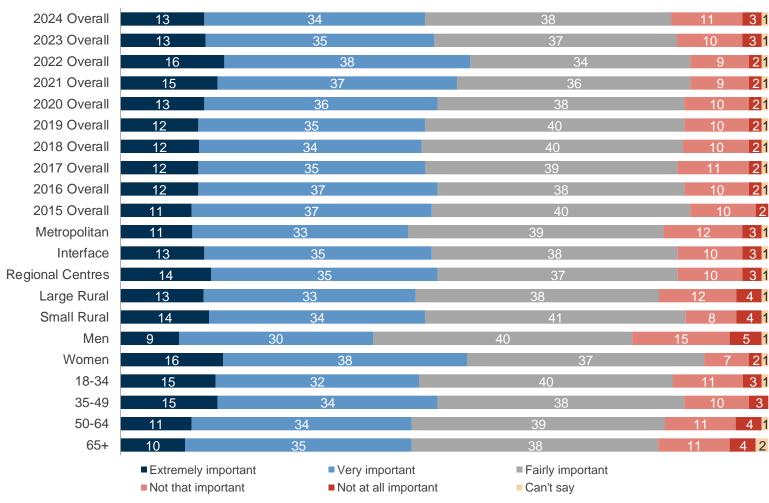


Community and cultural activities importance





2024 community and cultural activities importance (%)



Community and cultural activities performance





2024 community and cultural activities performance (index scores)

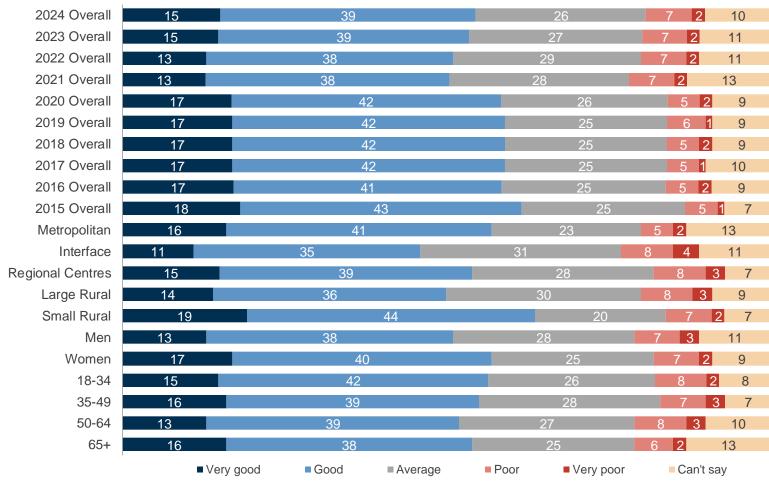


Community and cultural activities performance





2024 community and cultural activities performance (%)



Waste management importance





2024 waste management importance (index scores)

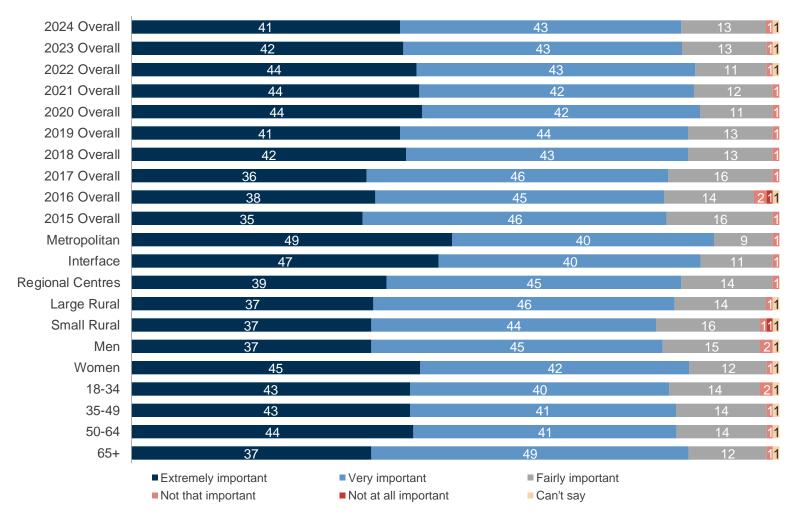


Waste management importance





2024 waste management importance (%)



Waste management performance





2024 waste management performance (index scores)

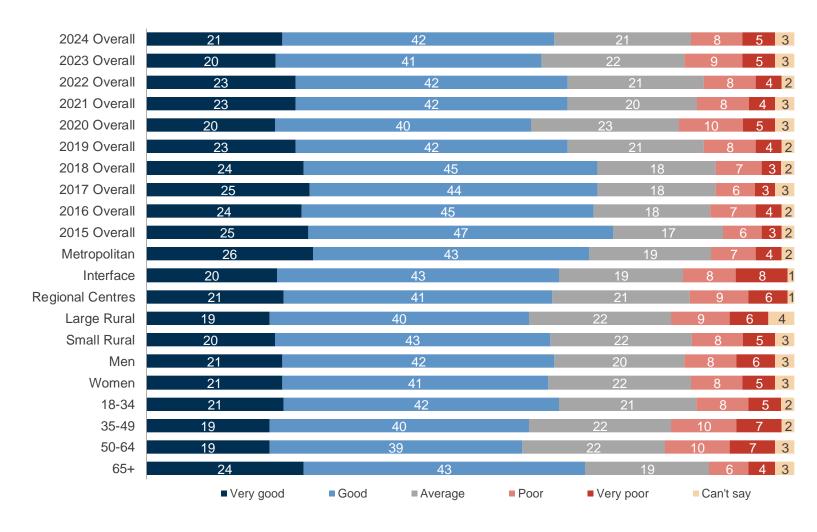


Waste management performance





2024 waste management performance (%)



Business and community development and tourism importance





2024 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

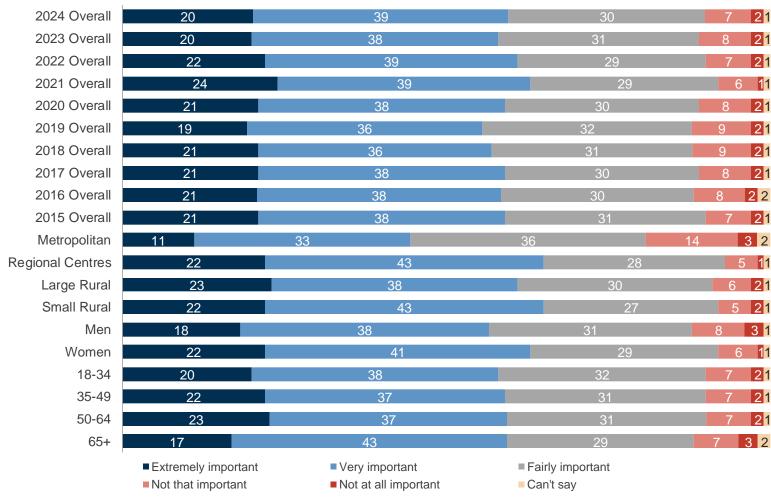


Business and community development and tourism importance





2024 business/development/tourism importance (%)



Business and community development and tourism performance





2024 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

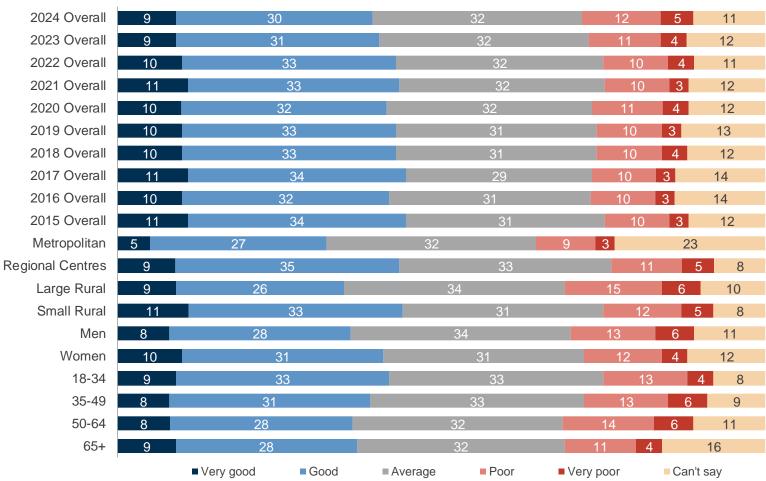


Business and community development and tourism performance





2024 business/development/tourism performance (%)



Council's general town planning policy importance





2024 town planning importance (index scores)

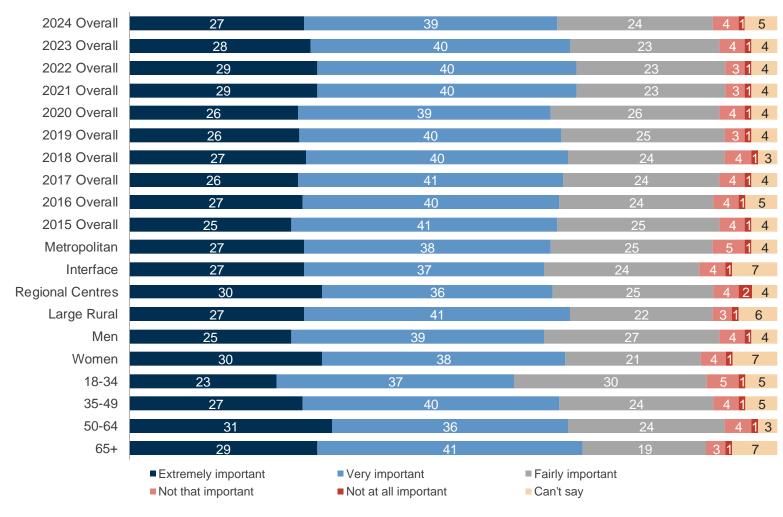


Council's general town planning policy importance





2024 town planning importance (%)



Council's general town planning policy performance





2024 town planning performance (index scores)

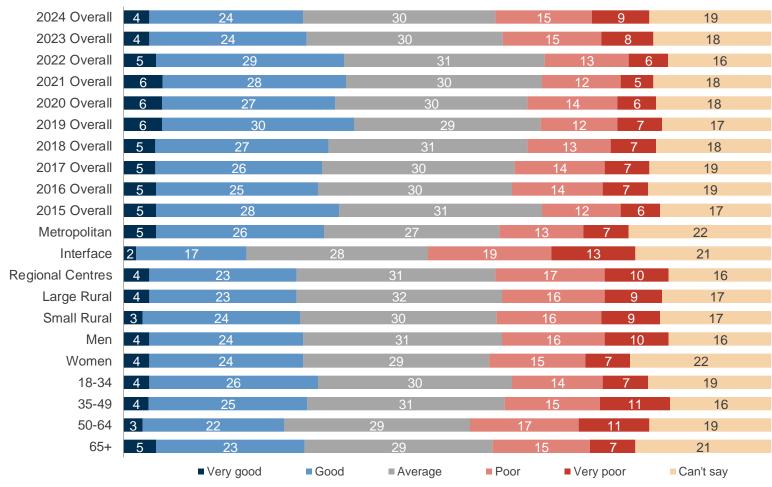


Council's general town planning policy performance





2024 town planning performance (%)

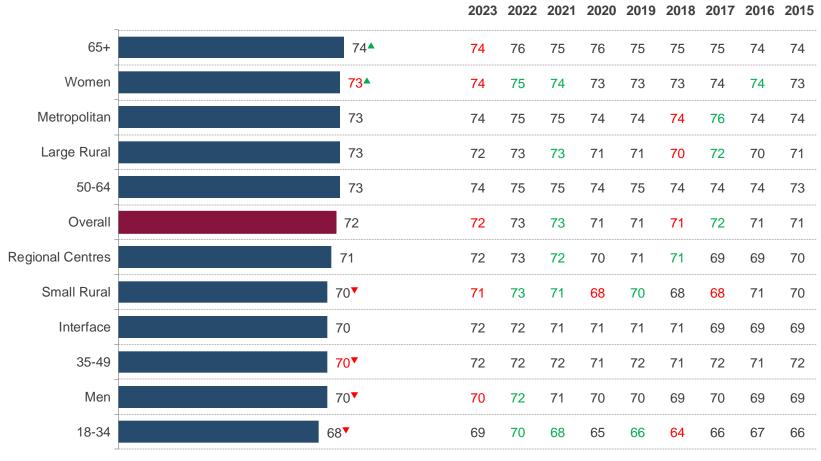


Planning and building permits importance





2024 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

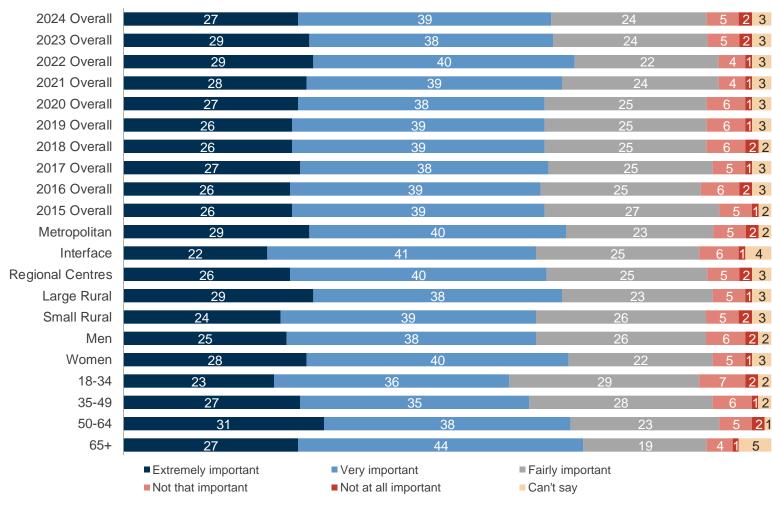


Planning and building permits importance





2024 planning and building permits importance (%)

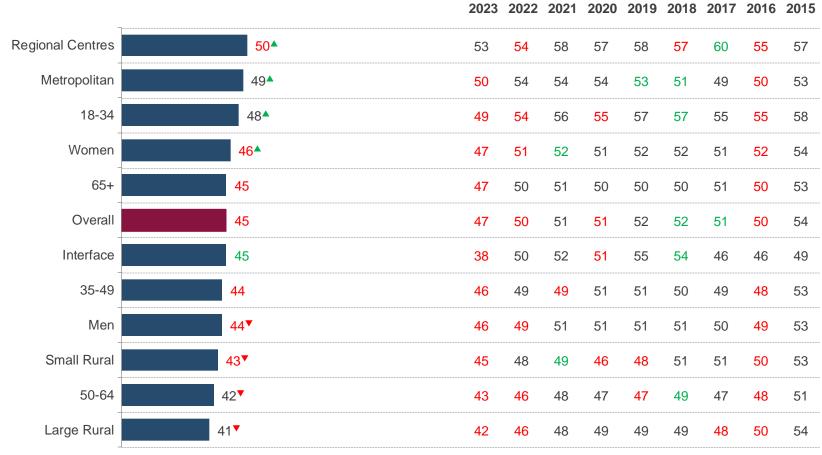


Planning and building permits performance





2024 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

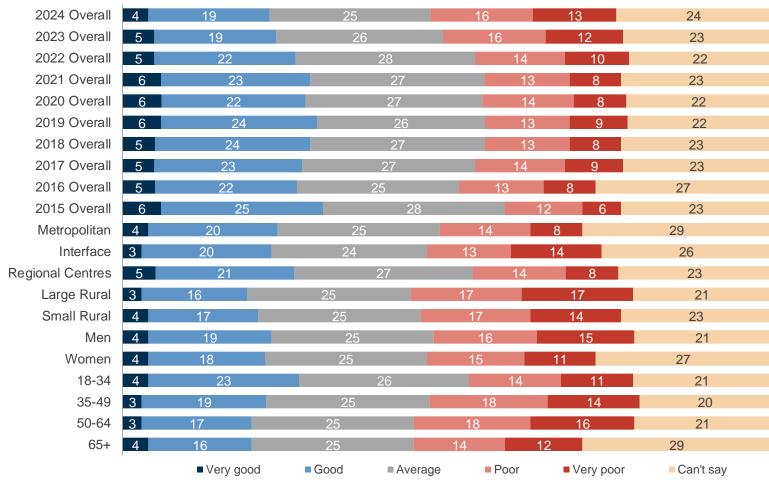


Planning and building permits performance





2024 planning and building permits performance (%)



Environmental sustainability importance





2024 environmental sustainability importance (index scores)

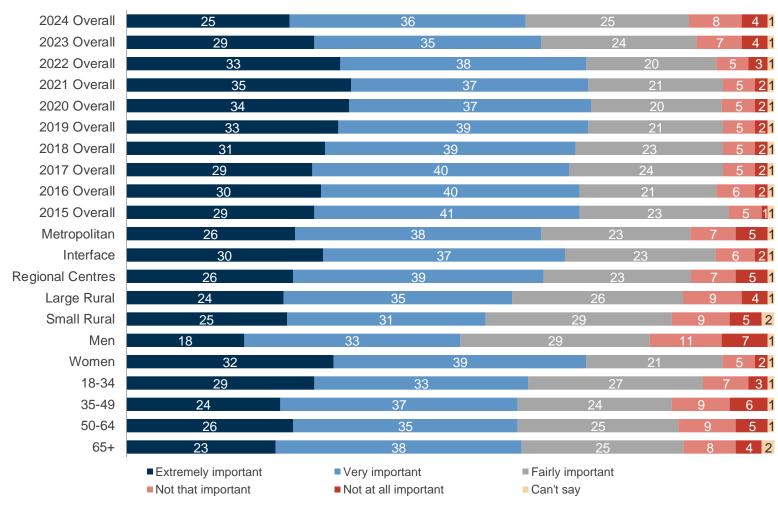


Environmental sustainability importance





2024 environmental sustainability importance (%)



Environmental sustainability performance





2024 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

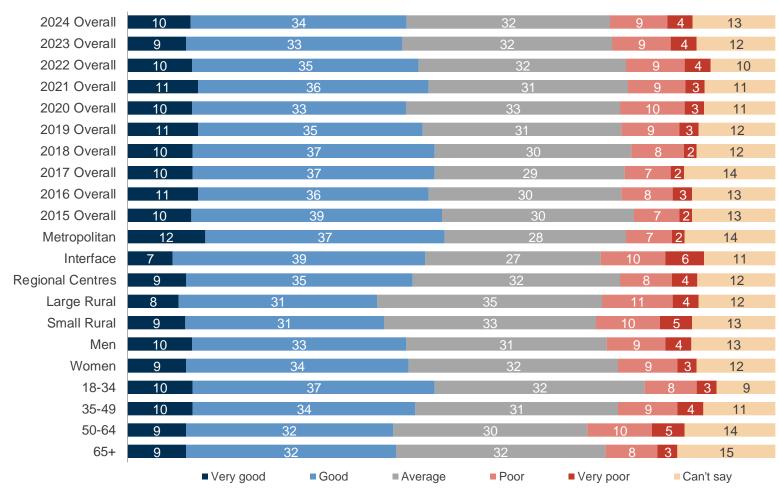


Environmental sustainability performance





2024 environmental sustainability performance (%)



Emergency and disaster management importance





2024 emergency and disaster management importance (index scores)

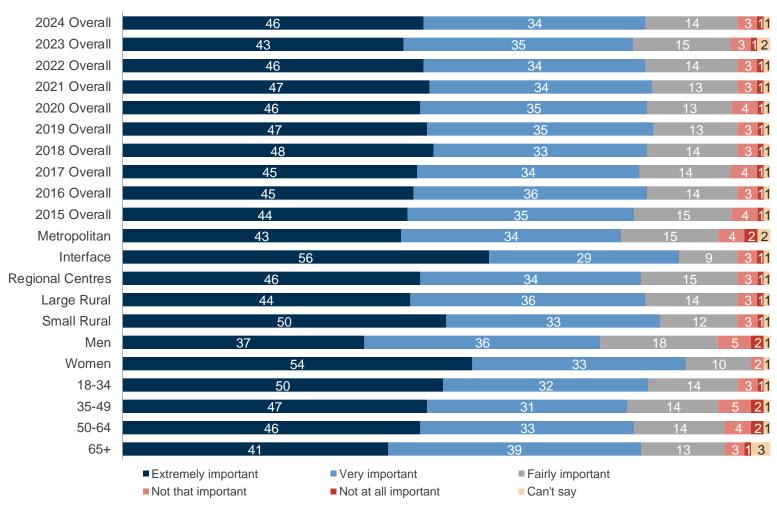


Emergency and disaster management importance





2024 emergency and disaster management importance (%)



Emergency and disaster management performance





2024 emergency and disaster management performance (index scores)

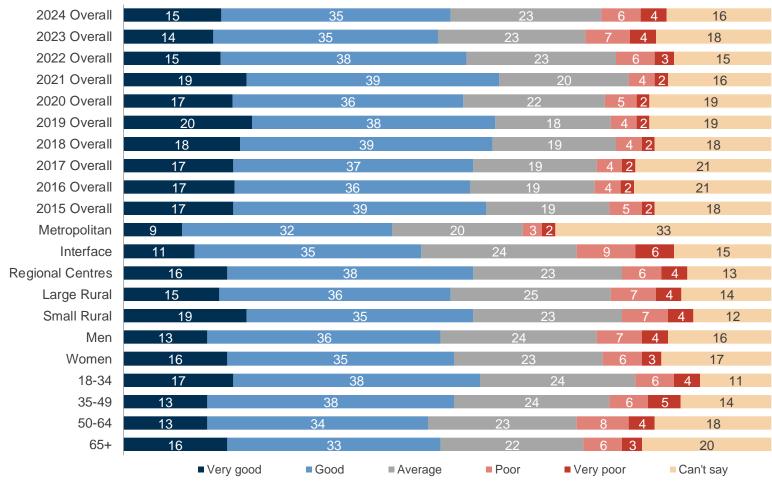


Emergency and disaster management performance





2024 emergency and disaster management performance (%)



Planning for population growth in the area importance





2024 population growth importance (index scores)

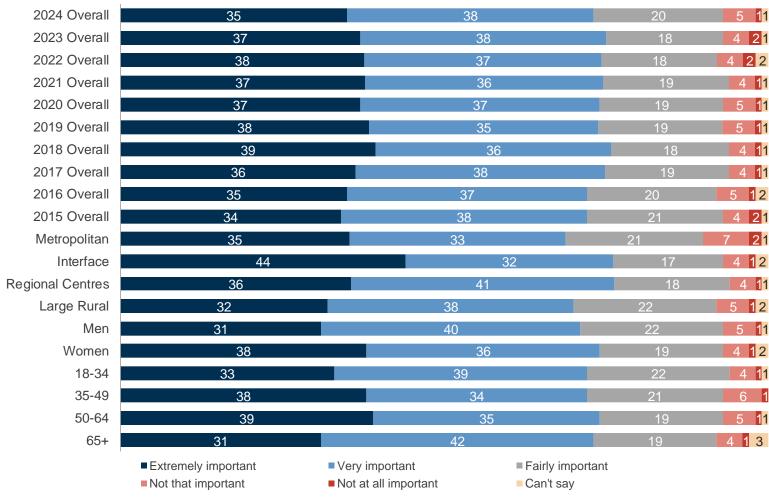


Planning for population growth in the area importance





2024 population growth importance (%)



Planning for population growth in the area performance





2024 population growth performance (index scores)

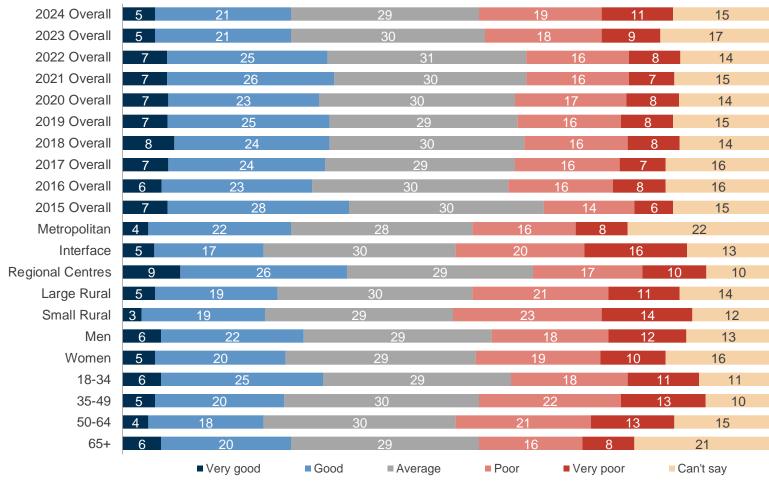


Planning for population growth in the area performance





2024 population growth performance (%)



Roadside slashing and weed control importance





2024 roadside slashing and weed control importance (index scores)

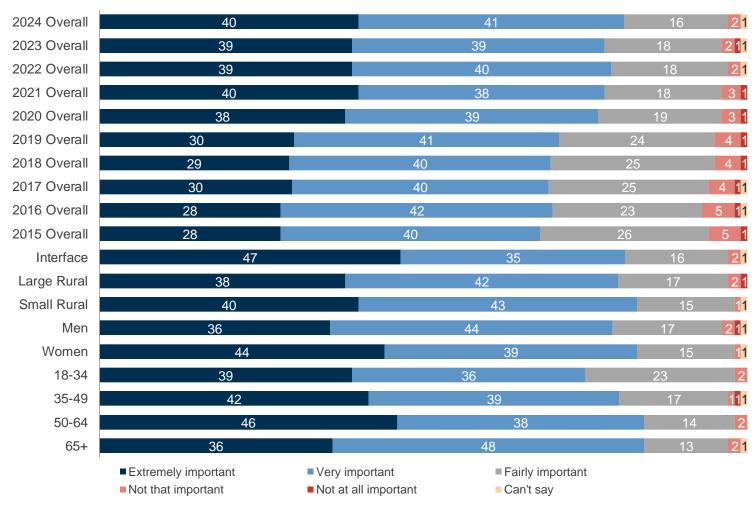


Roadside slashing and weed control importance





2024 roadside slashing and weed control importance (%)



2023 2022 2021 2020 2010 2018 2017 2016 2015

Roadside slashing and weed control performance





2024 roadside slashing and weed control performance (index scores)

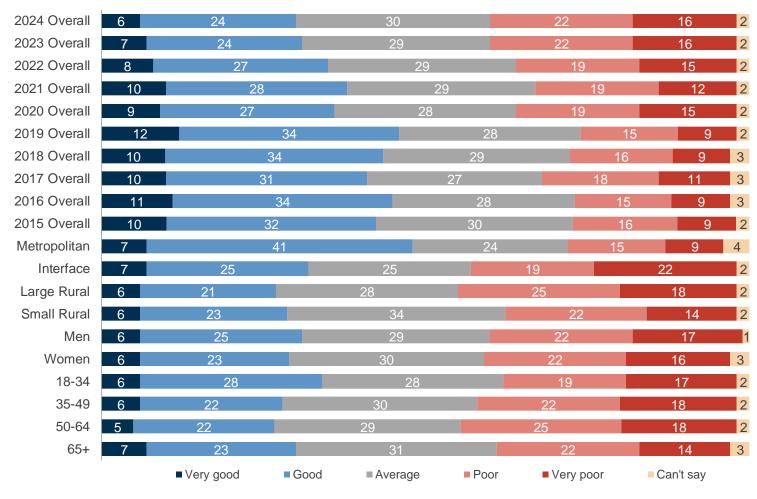
		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Metropolitan	56▲	57	63	n/a	n/a	69	67	68	68	69
18-34	47▲	48	53	57	55	62	61	58	61	62
65+	47▲	46	48	50	48	54	53	51	54	52
Small Rural	46	47	50	49	48	55	54	51	51	52
Men	46	45	49	52	49	56	54	52	55	54
Overall	45	46	49	51	49	56	55	53	56	55
Women	45	46	48	51	49	56	56	54	57	55
35-49	44	45	47	51	49	57	55	54	57	55
Interface	44	45	51	57	54	61	60	54	56	52
Large Rural	43▼	43	44	51	48	52	51	50	54	53
50-64	43▼	44	46	48	46	53	51	50	52	51

Roadside slashing and weed control performance





2024 roadside slashing and weed control performance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2024 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

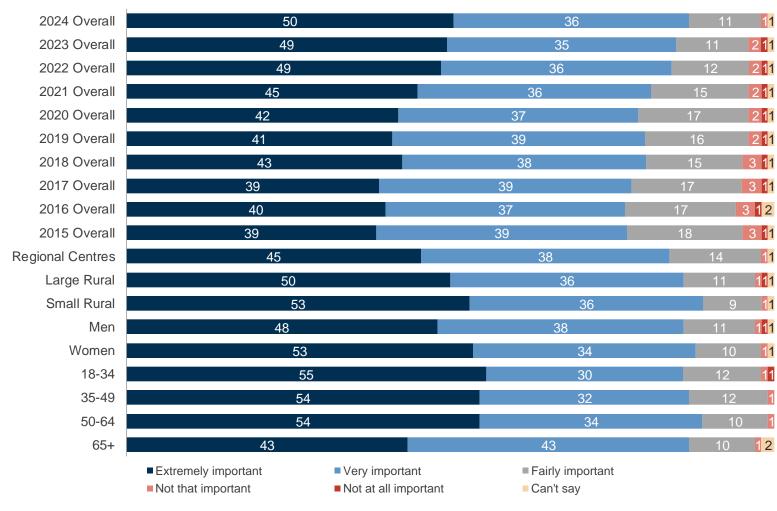


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2024 unsealed roads importance (%)

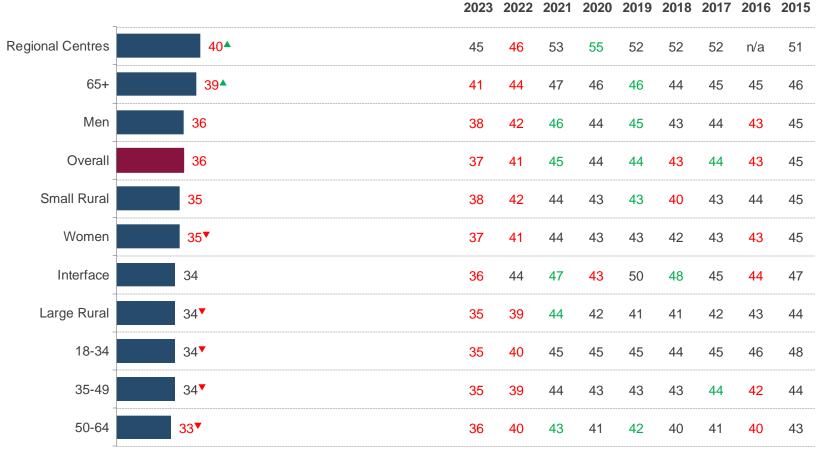


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2024 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

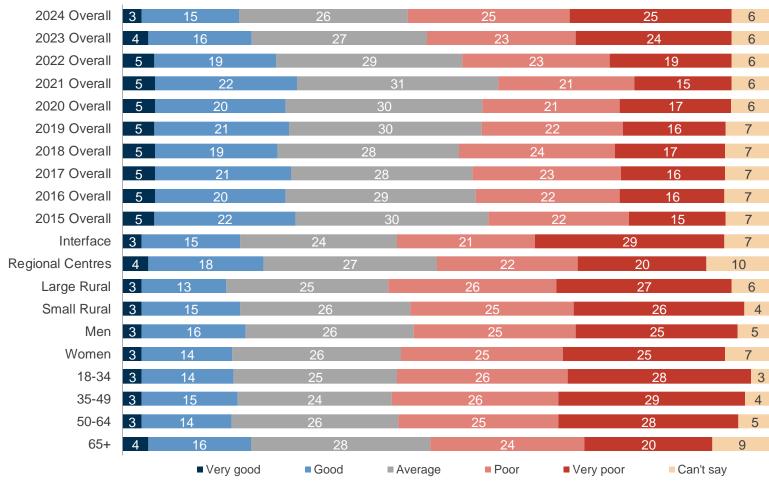


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2024 unsealed roads performance (%)



Business and community development importance





2024 business/community development importance (index scores)

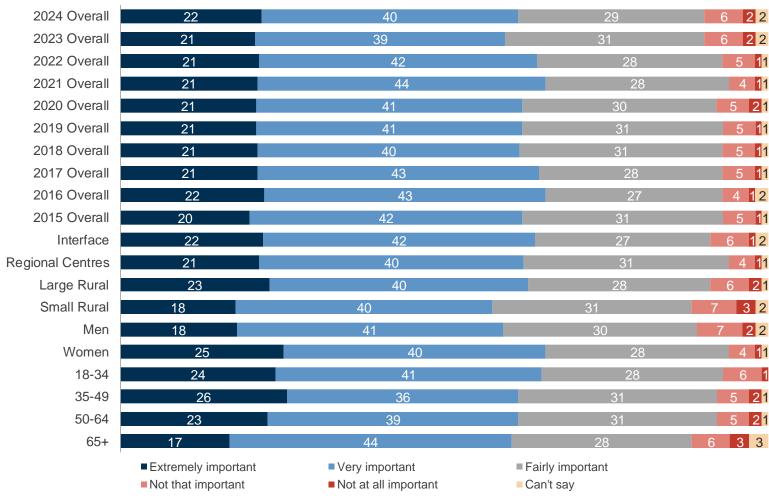


Business and community development importance





2024 business/community development importance (%)



Business and community development performance





2024 business/community development performance (index scores)

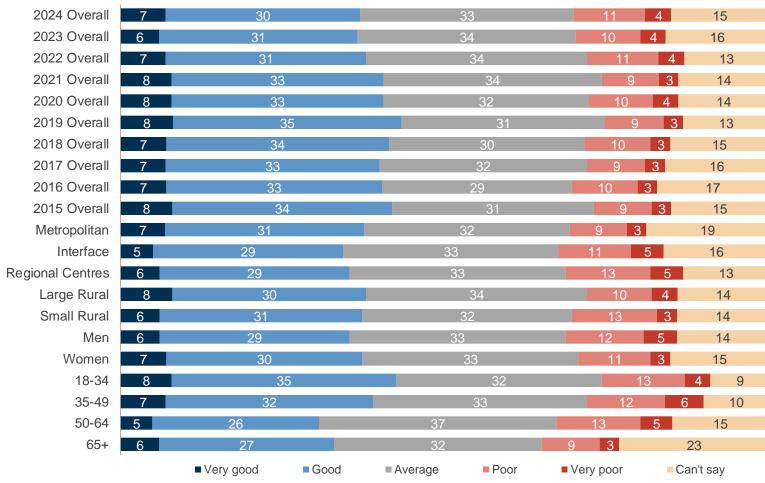


Business and community development performance





2024 business/community development performance (%)



Tourism development importance





2024 tourism development importance (index scores)

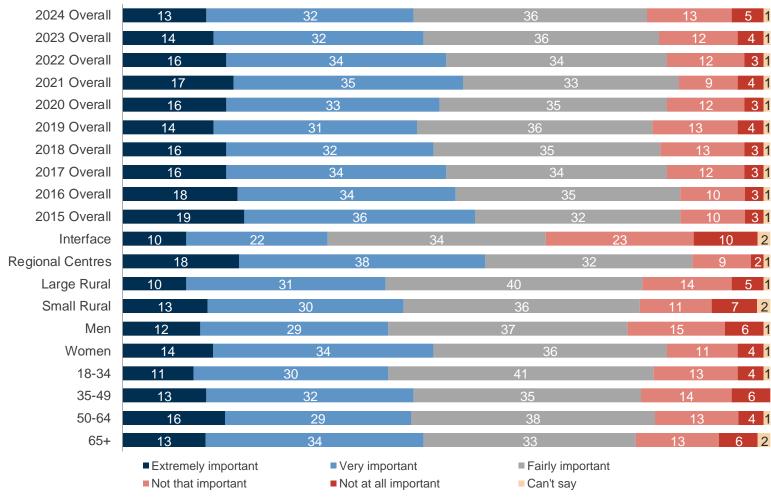


Tourism development importance





2024 tourism development importance (%)



Tourism development performance





2024 tourism development performance (index scores)

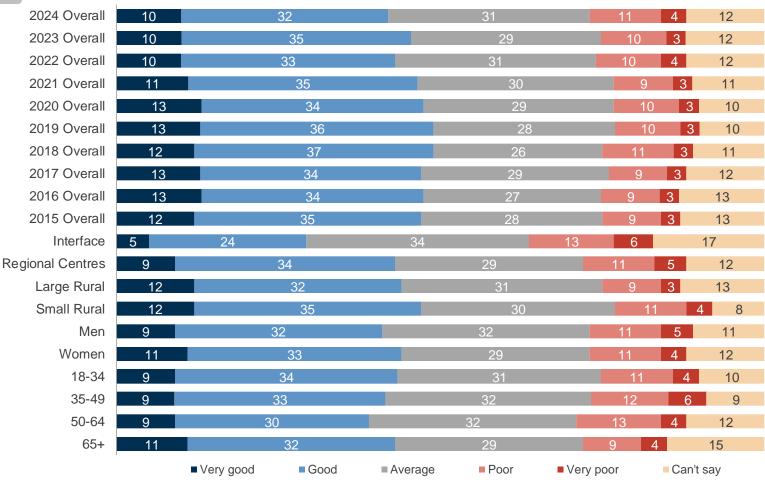


Tourism development performance





2024 tourism development performance (%)

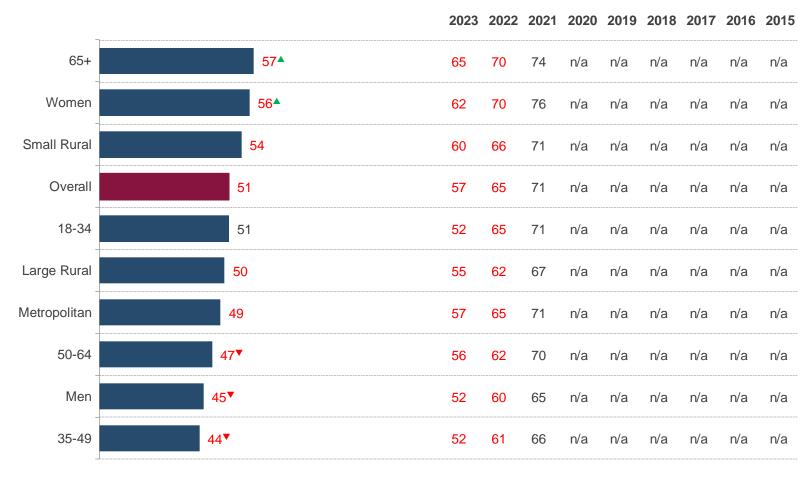


COVID-19 response importance





2024 COVID-19 response importance (index scores)

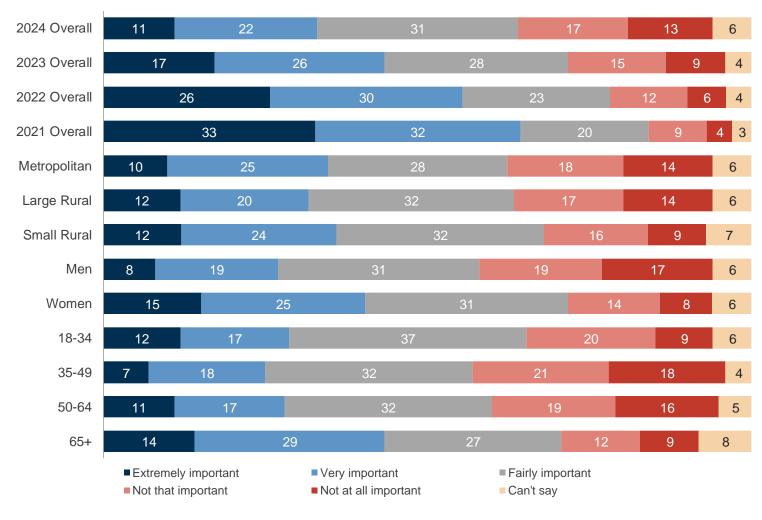


COVID-19 response importance





2024 COVID-19 response importance (%)



COVID-19 response performance





2024 COVID-19 response performance (index scores)

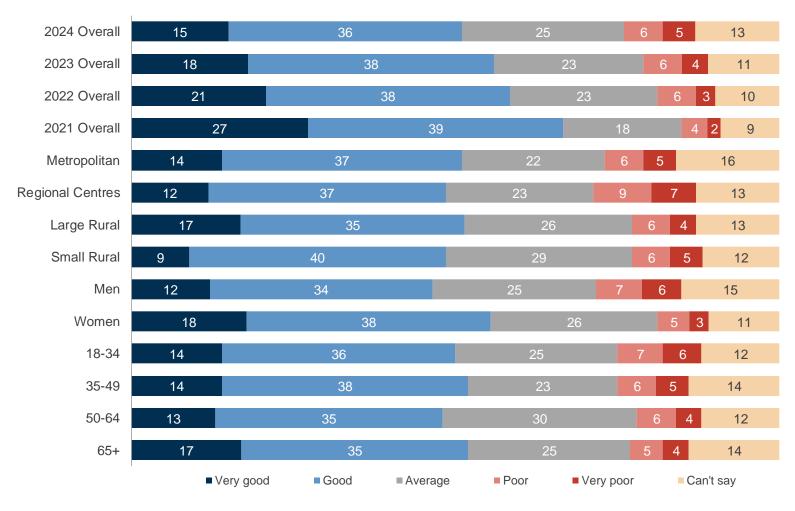


COVID-19 response performance





2024 COVID-19 response performance (%)



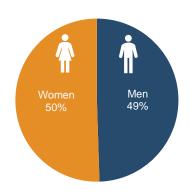


Detailed demographics

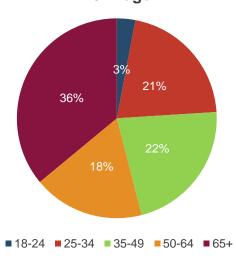
Gender and age profile







2024 age



S3. [Record gender] (Quarterly Councils) S3. How would you describe your gender? (Annual Councils)

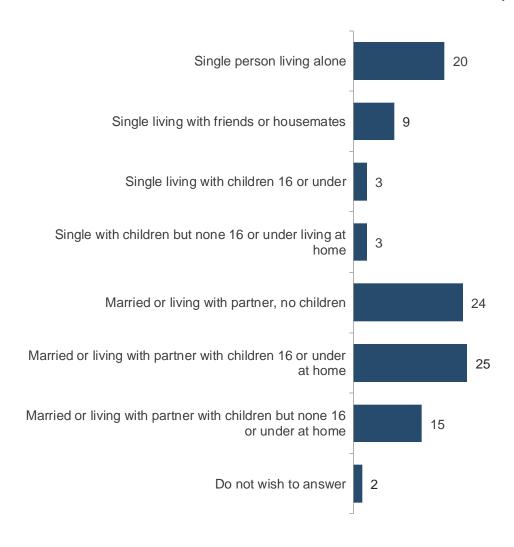
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62

S4. To which of the following age groups do you belong?

Household structure



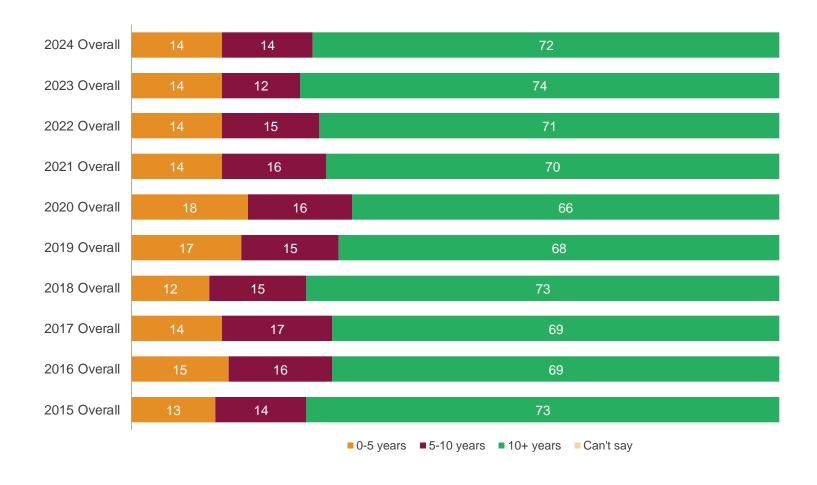
2024 household structure (%)



Years lived in area



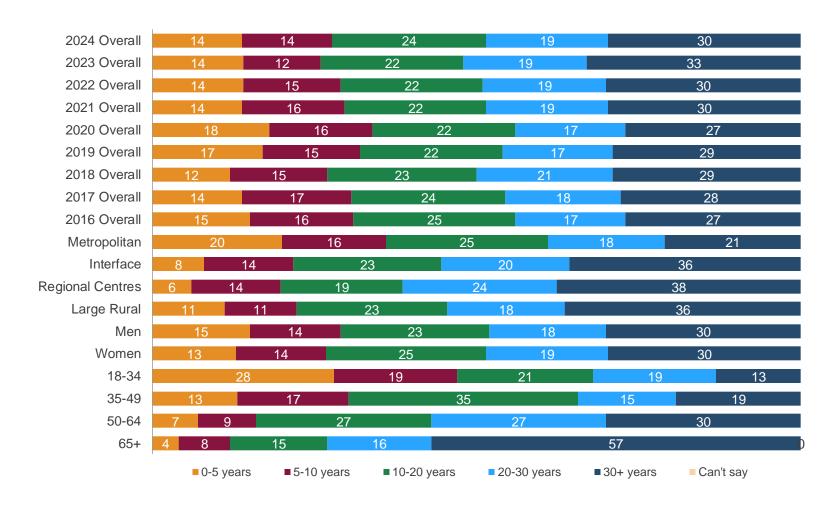
2024 years lived in area (%)



Years lived in area



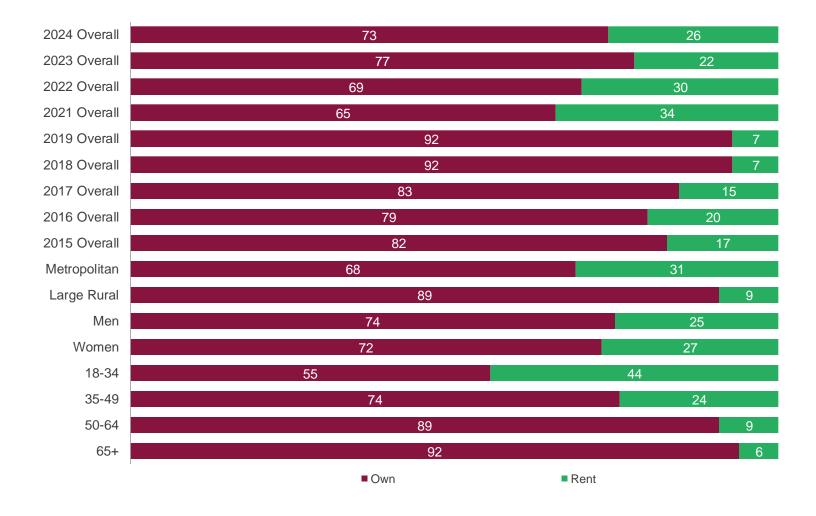
2024 years lived in area (%)



Home ownership



2024 home ownership (%)

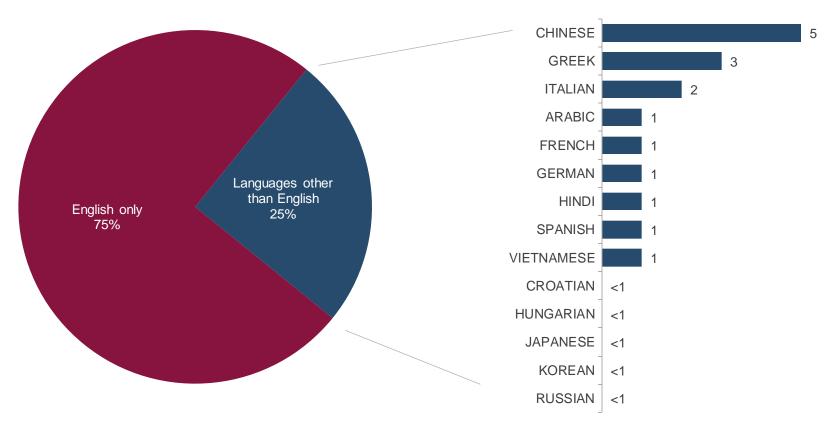


Languages spoken at home



2024 languages spoken at home (%)

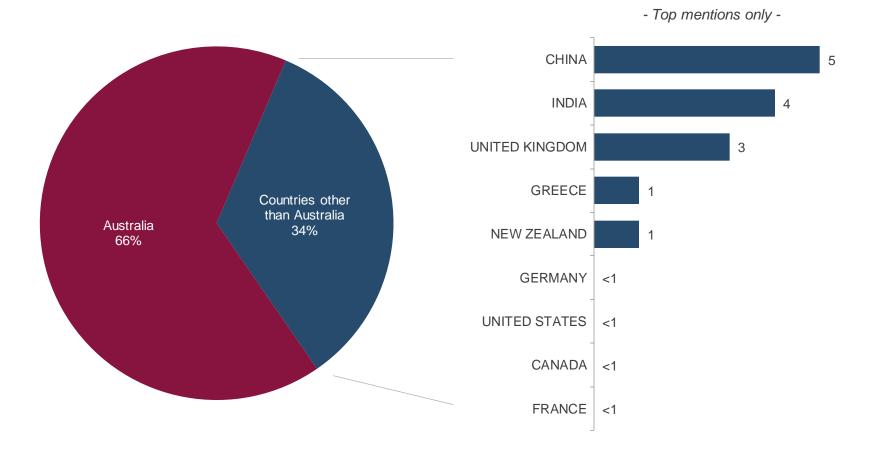




Country of birth



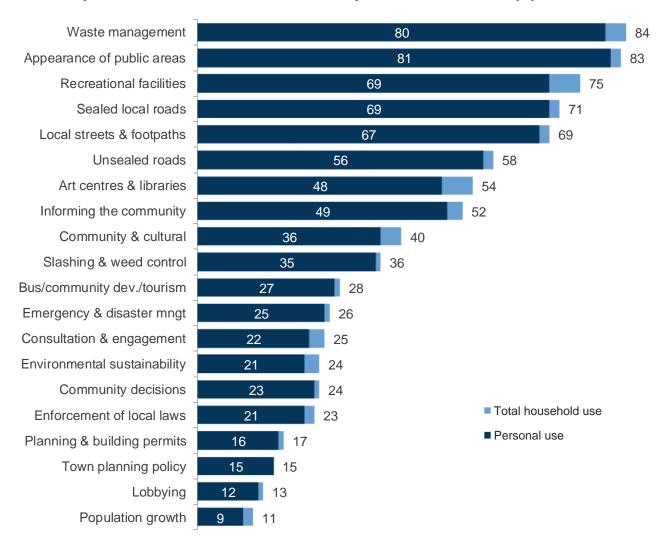
2024 country of birth (%)

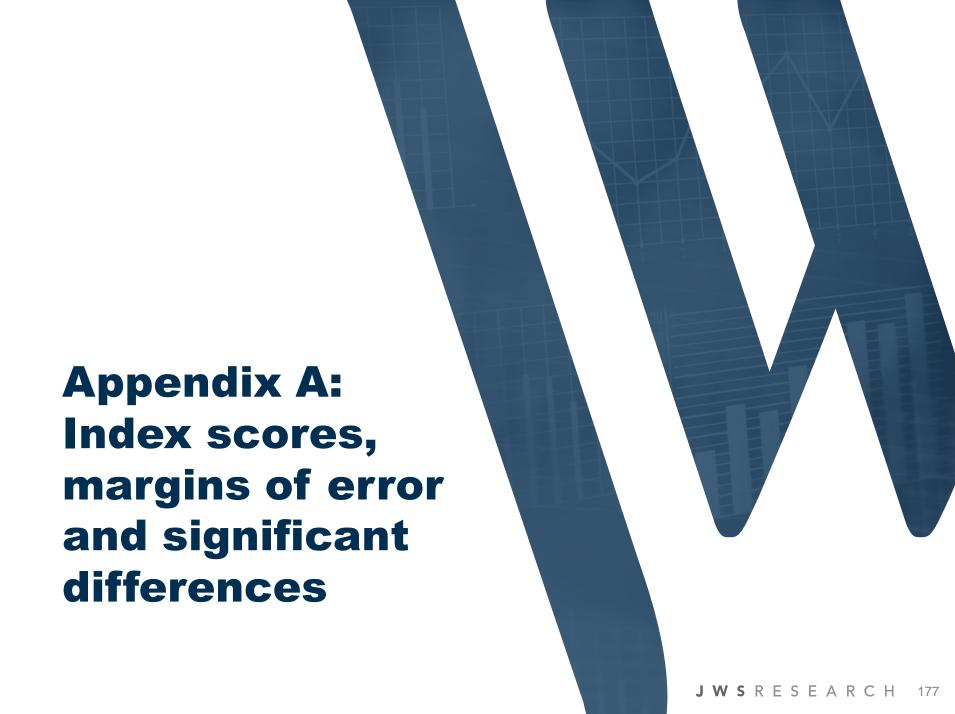


Personal and household use and experience of council services



2024 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	verage 37%		19		
Poor	9%	25	2		
Very poor	or 4%		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		

Please note that the horizontal (x) axis of the index score bar charts in this report is displayed on a scale from 20 to 100.

Appendix A: Margins of error



The sample size for the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was n=27,820. 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=27,820 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 are listed in the table below, based on a population of 3,378,600 people aged 18 years or over, 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
State-wide	27,820	24,800	+/-0.6
Men	13,366	12,161	+/-0.8
Women	14,325	12,516	+/-0.8
Metropolitan	6,106	5,200	+/-1.3
Interface	1,704	1200	+/-2.4
Regional Centres	4,602	3,600	+/-1.4
Large Rural	7,803	7,200	+/-1.1
Small Rural	7,605	7,600	+/-1.1
18-34 years	3,148	5,914	+/-1.7
35-49 years	4,825	5,548	+/-1.4
50-64 years	6,723	4,444	+/-1.2
65+ years	13,124	8,894	+/-0.9

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.



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 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

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

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



A total of n=27,820 completed interviews were achieved across the State. In the main, survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 29th January – 18th March, 2024. Some councils nominated for survey fieldwork to be conducted across four quarters from 1st June 2023 – 18th March 2024.

The 2024 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2023, n=30,805 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 19th March.
- 2022, n=29,316 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March.
- 2021, n=28,011 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=26,923 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd 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 1st February – 30th 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 1st February 30th March.
- 2015, n=28,316 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.

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 participating 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. Some councils also nominated to include a sample of rate paying non-residents.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of each participating council 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 2024, 62 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. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings.

Please note that councils participating across 2012-2024 vary slightly. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time cannot be made within the reported charts.

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

Non-participating councils: Bayside, Brimbank, Campaspe, Cardinia, Darebin, Frankston, Greater Shepparton, Hume, Knox, Maribyrnong, Melton, Monash, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Wyndham, and Yarra.

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 2024 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 (State-wide 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 2024 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 2024 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: 2024 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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