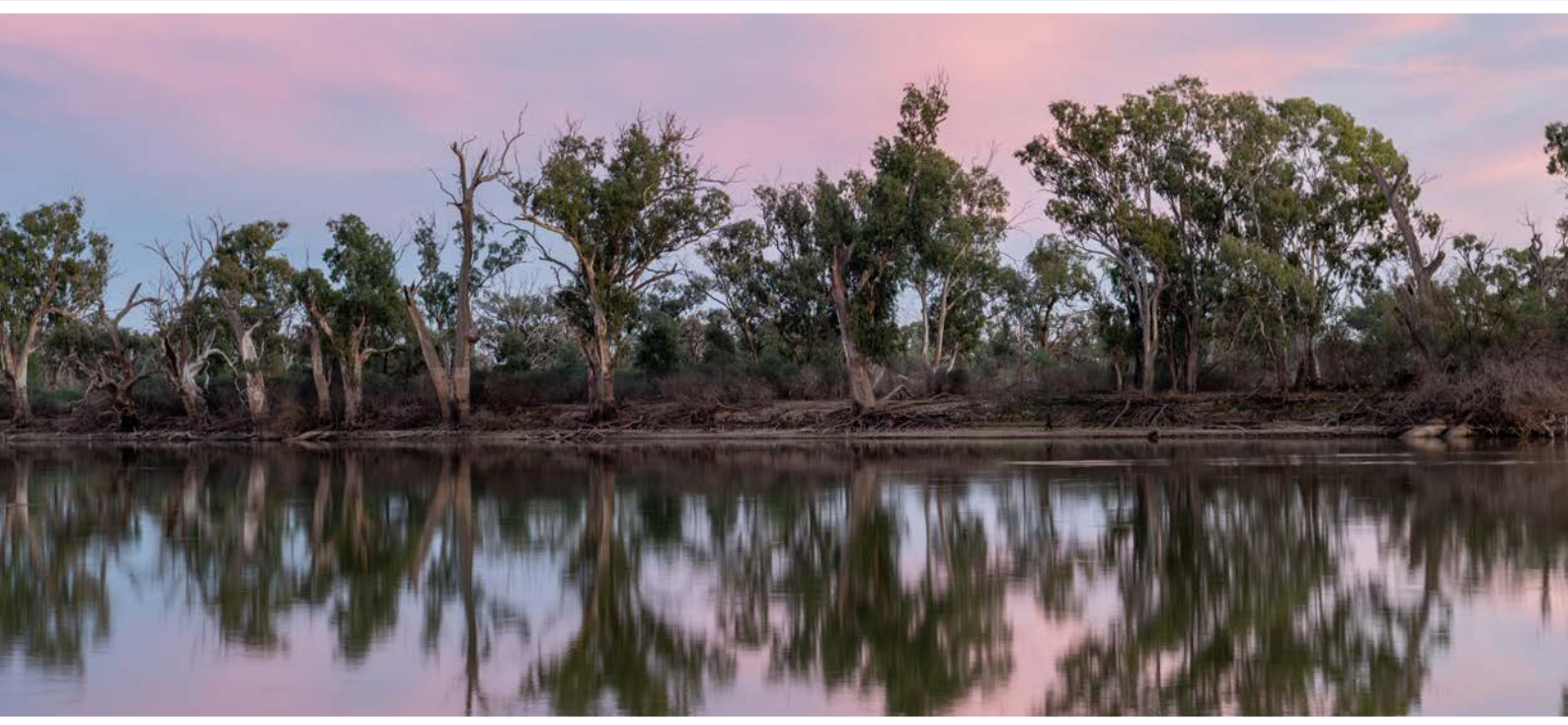




DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE
ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2024-25



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District Council of Loxton Waikerie Annual Business Plan 2024-25

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TUESDAY
19 FEBRUARY 2024

A community engagement campaign was launched, enabling community feedback from four separate activities (Community Survey, Investment Preferences, Project Budgeting & Pitch Your Project). The campaign received over 1,000 contributions.

WEDNESDAY
20 MARCH 2024

Results from the community engagement campaign (attached to this plan) were presented to Elected Members at the Council meeting held 20 March 2024 and referred to during budget preparation and workshops.

WEDNESDAY
15 MAY 2024

The 2024-25 Draft Annual Business Plan will be released for public consultation, inviting written submissions from the community online, in person, via email or by post.

THURSDAY
23 MAY 2024

A formal public meeting to hear community representations on the 2024-25 Draft Annual Business Plan will be held at the Loxton Precinct and via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY
5 JUNE 2024

Public consultation will conclude, with all community submissions on the 2024-25 Draft Annual Business Plan due by 5pm.

WEDNESDAY
19 JUNE 2024

A report containing all submissions on the 2024-25 Draft Annual Business Plan was presented to the June Council meeting.



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the District Council of Loxton Waikerie's Annual Business Plan for the 2024-25 financial year, outlining our goals, strategies, and priorities for the upcoming 12 months.

Our main responsibility in local government is to service our community, providing essential services that enhance the quality of life for our residents. By developing an Annual Business Plan, we're able to set out the initiatives and investments needed to achieve our objectives, meet the community's needs, and advance our overall

strategic direction for our district, while remaining financially responsible.

The Annual Business Plan has considered the valuable feedback provided by our community and stakeholders during several engagement efforts, alongside the insights of our elected members and Council staff. The plan outlines vision for the future as a vibrant, productive, connected community, the actions we will take to reach our goals, and the performance metrics that will help us measure our progress.

We will discuss the influences, priorities and opportunities of interest that have helped to shape the plan and how the

Annual Business Plan is funded. The capital and strategic projects we're proposing for the 2024-25 financial year are also provided, accompanying information about our rates revenue, Council's financial statements, and the results from our recent community engagement campaign.

We recognise that effective governance requires transparency, accountability, and engagement with our community. Therefore, we encourage our residents, businesses, and stakeholders to provide feedback on our plan and engage with us via council@lwdc.sa.gov.au throughout the year as we work towards achieving our goals.

FROM THE CEO

As we approach the 2024-25 financial year, our commitment to fostering a resilient and thriving district remains steadfast. The year ahead presents its unique set of challenges, notably influenced by the external economic pressures that touch each one of us personally and professionally. It is imperative now, more than ever, that we navigate these times with a focused commitment to financial stewardship and responsible management.

The persisting cost of living pressures continue to impact our community members and local businesses, requiring an approach from Council that is both empathetic and pragmatic. Our region's economic fabric, intertwined with the fortunes of the wine industry, faces

further trials due to a significant downturn in wine grape pricing. This challenge is compounded by overarching industry uncertainties which call for a cautious approach in our financial planning and operational executions.

Our strategy is underscored by a thorough financial framework that aims to optimise our resources and maintain cost efficiency across all Council operations. This framework supports our unwavering commitment to not imposing undue financial burdens on our residents, particularly at a time where fiscal prudence is crucial. With strong financial controls, comprehensive budget monitoring, and enhanced reporting mechanisms in place, transparency and accountability in how we utilise Council resources is ensured.

The projects and initiatives outlined within this plan are designed to address both immediate community needs and strategic long-term goals. Our focus will remain on delivering

high-quality services and projects that enhance community wellbeing, drive economic growth, and improve the quality of life for all residents in the Loxton Waikerie district.

We enter this financial year with optimism and determination to handle whatever challenges may arise with the same diligence and resilience that have long defined our Council. Thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and forge a path of sustainable growth and prosperity for our district.



David Beaton
Chief Executive Officer

FROM THE MAYOR

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and optimism that I present the District Council of Loxton Waikerie's Annual Business Plan for the 2024-25 financial year. Over the past year, we have engaged with you, our community, to understand and incorporate your views and aspirations into this plan. The feedback received has been both insightful and encouraging, shaping our strategies and focus for the upcoming year.

The level of community engagement this past year has been truly heartening. Your active participation and honest feedback have been crucial in steering the Council's priorities. This collaboration is a testament to the vibrant community spirit that characterises our district. It is your input that has deepened this planning process, ensuring that our initiatives are well-aligned with the community's needs and expectations.

The formulation of this business plan has been a collaborative effort, and I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all councillors for their diligent contributions. Each councillor has brought forward the concerns and ideas of the constituents they represent, demonstrating commitment and foresight in their decision making.

We are acutely aware of the current economic climate and its impact on our residents, particularly the pressures from the cost-of-living increases. Many of our community members, especially those involved with or dependent upon the wine industry, are feeling the pinch due to the significant downturn in wine grape pricing. These are not just economic statistics; they are realities affecting the lives and livelihoods of people in our community. In response, this plan includes targeted measures designed to alleviate some of these pressures and to support economic stability.

Looking ahead, we are focused on not only addressing immediate challenges but also on seizing opportunities that promise long-term benefits for

our district. Our plan places a strong emphasis on sustainable development, community well-being, and enhanced public services, all aimed at improving the quality of life for our residents. We are committed to implementing this plan with transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness, fostering a prosperous, inclusive, and vibrant community.

As we move forward, let us embrace the spirit of cooperation and community pride. Together, we can achieve the positive outcomes envisioned in this plan and continue to make the Loxton Waikerie district a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.



Trevor Norton
Mayor

YOUR COUNCIL



ELECTED MEMBERS

Our Elected Members are responsible for policy making and decisions that impact on our district, community, businesses, and environment.

The roles of our Elected Members are to:

- Participate in the deliberations and civic activities of our Council.
- Keep the Council's objectives and policies under review to ensure appropriateness and effectiveness.
- Keep the Council's resource allocation, expenditure and activities and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery under review.
- Represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, provide community leadership and guidance, and facilitate communication between the community and the Council.



*Trevor Norton
Mayor*



*Cr Clive Matthews
Deputy Mayor*



Cr Sonya Altschwager



Cr Kent Andrew



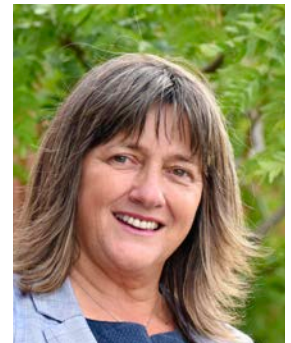
Cr Craig Ferber



Cr Jody Flavel



Cr Sonia Fowler



Cr Michelle Hill



Cr Ian Light



Cr Gary Pfeiler



Cr Michael Vowles

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie is located on the Murray River in the Riverland of South Australia, spanning from the Blanchetown bridge in the west to the Victorian border in the east.

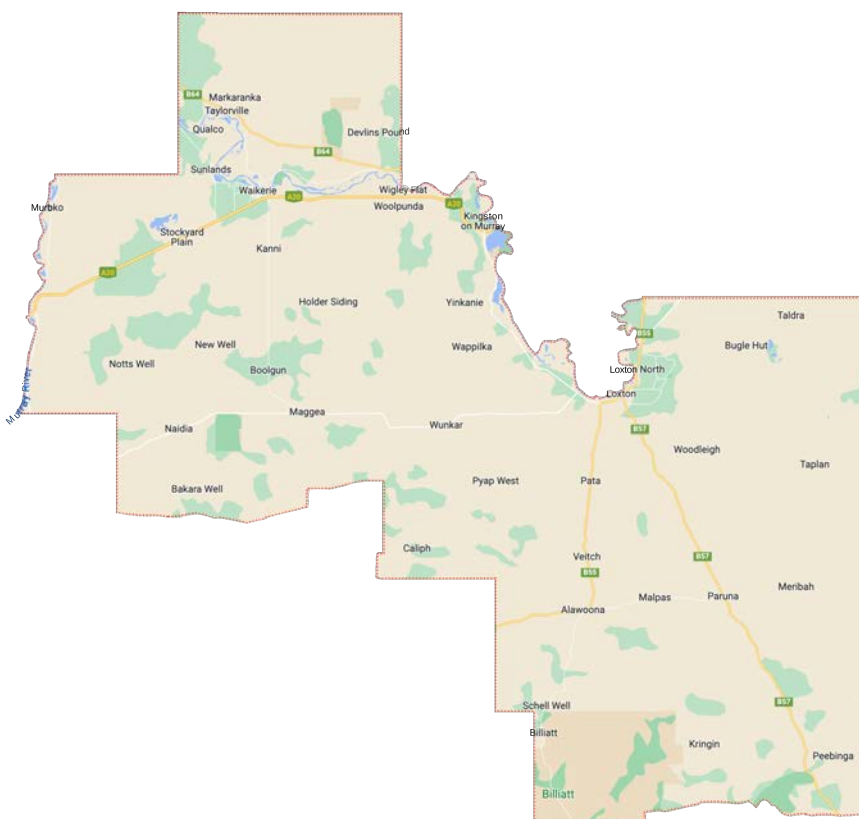
The townships of Loxton and Waikerie are our main service centres and our district also

contains many smaller towns and communities.

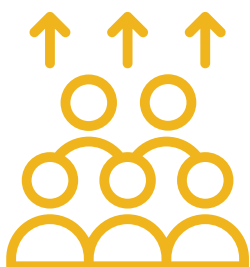
Our main industries include agriculture and horticulture, with the district contributing significantly to the national output of food and beverage. Important value-adding activities also occur locally, with food and beverages

being processed; packaged; stored; and distributed within and from the local area.

Tourism also plays an important part in the mix of our local economy, with an increasing and coordinated effort evident in this sector in recent years.



FAST FACTS



Population - 11,674
2021 Census

Main Towns -
Loxton (3,947)
Waikerie (1,670)



Area - 7,767km²



Road Network -
Sealed (426km)
Unsealed (1,880km)



Rateable Properties -
8,209

VISION AND VALUES

Our Vision

Our vision statement is our inspiration and provides us with purpose, strategic direction, motivation, and purpose.

In 2035, with a population of 15,000, we are a vibrant, productive, connected community with outstanding facilities, lifestyle, and environment.

Our Mission

Our mission aligns with our strategic objectives and indicates how we will achieve our vision. It provides an indication of how we are going to get to where we want to be.

We are committed to:

- Actively enhancing the quality of life of our communities by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety.
- Encouraging and supporting a strong diverse economy that will provide prosperity, growth and employment opportunities for our community.
- Responsibly managing our built and natural environment.
- Providing genuine and accountable leadership that inspires confidence within our community and ensures the responsible management of our resources.
- Being an organisation that has a constructive culture and the capacity to be innovative.
- Effective and efficient delivery of quality services to the community.

Our Core Values

Our core values are the principles, attributes and qualities we hold as important that we will display in the way we go about our business.

We are **GENUINE**

Adhering to moral and ethical principles, being honest, accountable, trustworthy and authentic.

We are **UNITED**

Working as a team in an inclusive, co-ordinated and collaborative manner to achieve our common goals.

We will aim for **EXCELLENCE**

Consistently delivering quality service outcomes and endeavouring to be a high performance organisation.

We will **LISTEN**

Communicating as well as engaging the community in an open, honest and constructive manner at all times.

We will be **INNOVATIVE**

Seeking out and making use of new ideas and opportunities, showing initiative and being progressive, proactive and creative.

We are **CARING**

Showing respect, compassion and empathy and being supportive of each other and our community.

COUNCIL SERVICES

Like all Councils, the District Council of Loxton Waikerie has mandatory responsibilities under the Local Government Act, the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, the Public Health Act, the Landscape South Australia Act and other relevant legislation.



Regulatory Activities

- Maintaining the voters' roll
- Property ownership data
- Supporting Elected Members



Finance and Governance

- Setting rates
- Preparing an annual budget
- Determining longer term strategic management plans for our district



Infrastructure Management

- Community buildings, roads and footpaths
- Parks and public open spaces
- Stormwater drainage



Maintenance

- Street cleaning
- Refuse collection
- Recycling



Development

- Development planning and policy
- Building control
- Building fire safety assessment



Environment

- Health standards inspections
- Waste control application assessment
- Dog and cat management
- Bushfire management

Council also delivers a raft of discretionary services which further enhance the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community.



Community

- Recreation centres and sporting facilities
- Community swimming pools
- Public libraries
- Community funding programs
- Arts and culture



Tourism

- Visitor Information Centres
- Event support
- Online tourism presence



Other

- Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS)
- On street parking management to maximise use of kerbside spaces

Council operates several facilities on behalf of the community. These facilities provide important community benefits and include the stand-alone business units of the Loxton Riverfront Holiday Park and the Loxton Retirement Village. It is noted these two business units require no support from rates.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

Council has a number of strategic plans that shape the structure and content of each Annual Business Plan. These are reviewed in development of the ABP, guiding the projects included and ensuring they are prioritised accordingly.

More information on each of Council's strategic documents has been outlined:

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

Council's Annual Business Plans set out our key directions and projects for the coming year, what these projects are aiming to achieve, their cost, and how they will advance the overall strategic direction for our district.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council must prepare and adopt an annual report relating to the operations of the council for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan has been developed to provide our community with a clear picture of what Council's strategic direction will be for the next fifteen years. This is a robust plan that provides direction for achieving the aspirations and goals of the community for the future of the district.

CORPORATE PLAN

The Corporate Plan is a short-term plan that outlines the priorities and actions of Council within its current term, to achieve the Community Strategic Plan's strategies and provide operational direction.

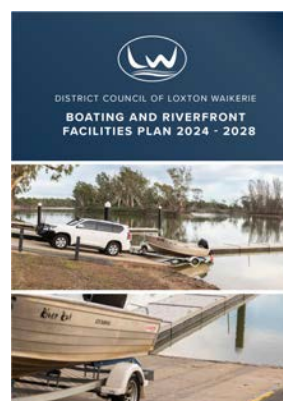
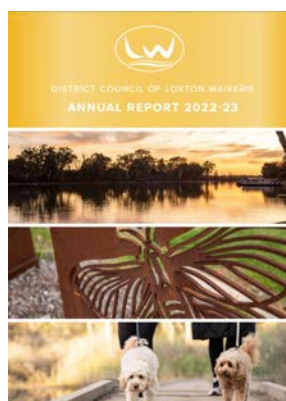
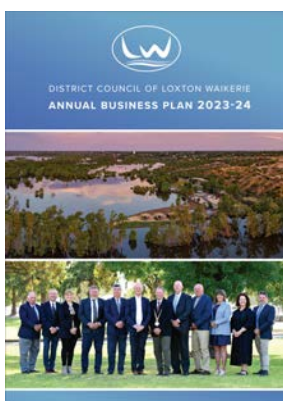
LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The purpose of a Long Term Financial Plan is to express, in financial terms, the activities Council intends to undertake over the next 10 years to achieve its objectives. It guides the future planning of Council's financial operations in regard to key components such as rate increases, service levels to our community, infrastructure asset replacement/renewal.

OTHER

- Asset Management Plan *
- Growth Strategy
- Community Land Management Plan *
- Boating and Riverfront Facilities Plan *
- Houseboat Management Plan
- Arts and Culture Strategic Plan

*Currently under review.



INFLUENCES

Several significant factors have influenced the preparation of Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024-25.

COST OF LIVING PRESSURES

Council has continued to keep rates increase well below the cost of inflation. The current cost of living pressures has a broad impact on a range of community groups including residents and businesses.

FINANCIAL PRESSURES

Financial factors have influenced the preparation of the Annual Business Plan including:

- Increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 4.3% for the year ending March 2024 (Adelaide all groups).
- Increases in public liability and property insurance and electricity supply expenses.
- A provision for an increase in salaries and wages in accordance with the relevant Enterprise Bargaining Agreements.

PROJECT DELIVERY IMPACTS

In developing this plan, Council acknowledges that ongoing shortage of trades, increased pricing and shortages of materials may impact the projected costs and delivery schedules of projects.

SUSTAINABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT

The requirement to maintain and improve ageing infrastructure assets to acceptable standards, including roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage, street trees, open space and Council properties is a key priority and responsibility. One of the greatest challenges for Council is maintaining its large asset base, prioritising capital works programs, and determining what it can afford.

LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Council needs to meet its current obligations without leaving a significant financial impost for future generations. Council is committed to being more efficient in its operations to ensure it is

delivering the most important services to the community. Where possible council will identify cost savings and efficiencies to reduce increases in its operational expenditure.

STATUTORY REPORTING AND REQUIREMENTS

There are several statutory matters that absorb significant amounts of staff time. In 2024-25 Council will be part of the Local Government Advice scheme for Tranche 3. This review will be completed by the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA). The revised legislation has benefits in terms of public transparency and accountability, but it does also add financial costs to Councils.

There have also been additional increases in regulatory standards for council's Audit and Risk Committee, Risk Management and workplace health and safety compliance.

PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

In 2024-25, Council will continue to work through projects already underway and projects that are prioritised from our strategic management plans and allocations from State or Federal Governments. In addition to this, Council also considers the following priorities and opportunities of interest:

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Responding to our objectives of promoting economic activity and growing our population, the Annual Business Plan allocates funds to the following strategic activities:

Economic Development Contribution	\$57,000
Loxton Chamber of Commerce	\$16,000
Riverland West Chamber of Commerce	\$16,000
Destination Riverland	\$45,000

In addition to the above Council will develop a district wide Ageing Well Strategy. Council has received funding to develop a Stormwater Management Plan for Loxton and Waikerie, this will help address current issues but also look at future growth and development.



TOURISM SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Tourism will again be a focus for Council during 2024-25. Council works closely with Destination Riverland and the South Australian Tourism commission to promote the region, and will also be hosting the 2024 Master and Junior Road National Championship. This event will see more than 700 of Australia's best masters and junior cyclists as they battle for the coveted national championship title in the time trial, road race and criterium across four days of racing.

In an effort to support growth within the arts and culture sector, Council will continue to resource the arts and cultural facilitator role, partner with organisations and neighbouring Councils, look to attract funding, and implement the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan. This investment will strengthen the community on a social and economic level, fostering creativity for individuals, groups, and the community as a whole.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

Council will continue its investment to support community organisations during 2024-25 at a figure of \$250,000. Included within this amount are the funding of various events and projects. An approved list will be available on Council's website, following the endorsement of the Annual Business Plan.

Council together with the Riverland Council's and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing will develop and deliver the Connected and Active Communities Program over the next 3 years. The Program is a place-based approach that leverages local strengths to increase physical activity participation and grow communities.

FUNDING THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN



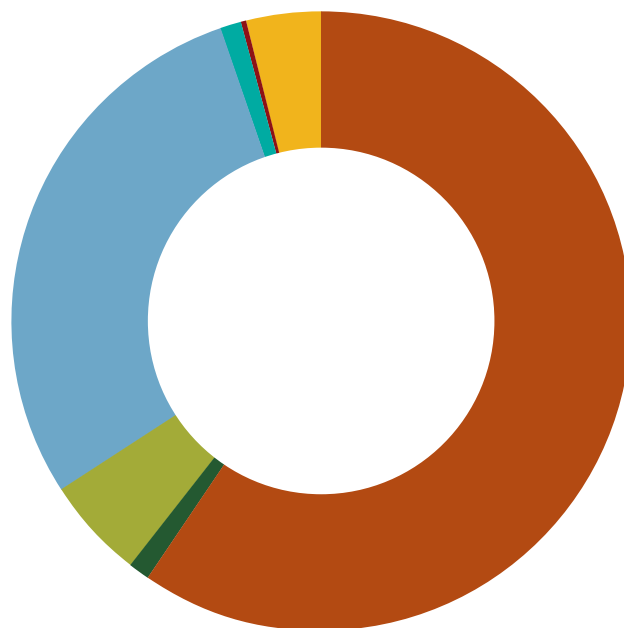
FUNDING THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

The 2024-25 budget forecasts an underlying operating surplus of \$143,000. The operating surplus measures the difference between operating revenue and expenses for the financial year. Our long-term financial sustainability is dependent on ensuring that, on average over time, our expenses are less than our revenue and a target of better than breakeven is strived for.

Operating Income

OPERATING INCOME	\$'000
Rates Revenue	\$15,728
Statutory Charges	\$285
User Charges	\$1,420
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	\$7,339
Investment Income	\$268
Reimbursements	\$85
Other Income	\$996
Total Operating Income	\$26,121

- Rates Revenue 60.21%
- Statutory Charges 1.09%
- User Charges 5.44%
- Grant's Subsidies and Contributions 28.10%
- Investment Income 1.03%
- Reimbursements 0.33%
- Other Income 3.81%



RATES

Our rate revenue includes general rates and separate service charges for Community Waste Management System (CWMS), Kerbside Waste Collection and the Regional Landscape Levy.

USER CHARGES

These comprise charges for our fee-based facilities such as: Loxton Retirement Village, cemeteries, waste transfer stations, sundry sales and hall hire.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Each year Council receives significant contributions from Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants which are administered and distributed by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission. In addition, Council seek to attract as much external grant funding as possible from other levels of government, and major projects of wider state benefit are usually jointly funded in partnership with the State Government and other relevant parties.

STATUTORY CHARGES

These are fees and charges for services set by regulation and collected by us for functions including: Planning Development and Infrastructure Act applications, rate searches, animal registration and fines, parking fines and expiation fees, health fines, environment control fines, litter control fines, waste control system fees and other licence fee/fines.

Operating Expenditure

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	\$'000
Employee Costs	\$7,935
Materials, Contracts and Other	\$9,620
Finance Costs	\$46
Depreciation	\$8,518
Total Operating Expenditure	\$26,2619

- Employee Costs 30.38%
- Materials, Contracts and Other 36.83%
- Finance Costs 0.18%
- Depreciation 32.61%



EMPLOYEE COSTS

Employees are responsible for the provision of Council's services including ongoing maintenance of open spaces. Employee costs are proposed to increase by \$504,000 in the upcoming financial year as a result of increases from existing Enterprise Agreements provisions, increases to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution and two new grant funded positions.

MATERIALS, CONTRACTS AND OTHER

Council's 'Materials, Contractors and Other' budget includes physical goods, purchases for consumables, utility payments, building costs, repairs and maintenance. Services are provided by external providers and Council uses contractors to assist in the provision of major services such as waste collection.

FINANCE COSTS

Finance costs include costs, interest and other charges associated with Council's borrowings and provisions.

Council has minimal borrowings, with all current loans taken on behalf of community groups. Council's 2024-25 Annual Business Plan will be funded from grant funding and existing financial capacity without the need for borrowing.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation forms a significant portion of Council's operating expenditure. Depreciation is an accounting treatment used to allocate the costs of an asset over its useful life. It represents how much of an asset's value has been used.

Capital Revenue

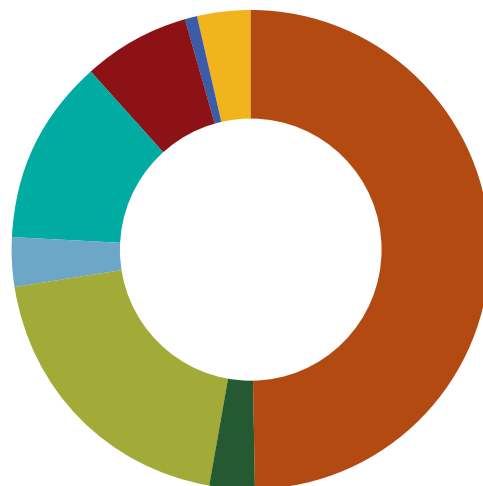
CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Council has incorporated \$1.348m in capital grants and contributions towards new capital works planned in 2024-25.

Capital Expenditure

Council is responsible for a large portfolio of assets with a current value of approximately \$245m. In determining its capital works program Council has been mindful of the need to maintain and renew current assets. The proposed capital renewal program is \$9.377m, whilst the proposed new and upgraded assets capital projects total \$3.422m.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	\$'000	%
■ Roads	\$6,380	49.8%
■ Footpaths and Kerbing	\$398	3.1%
■ Plant	\$2,522	19.7%
■ Essential Council Services*	\$416	3.3%
■ Buildings	\$1,623	12.7%
■ Open Space (Recreation, Riverfront, Parks & Gardens)	\$902	7.1%
■ Other	\$118	0.9%
■ Organisational	\$440	3.4%
Total Capital Expenditure	\$12,799	



* Council's essential services include waste, community waste management systems and cemeteries.

Impacts on Council's Financial Position

To assist Council in meeting its objective of financial sustainability, a series of financial indicators endorsed by the Local Government Association are utilised. The below table outlines the adopted key financial indicators and adopted targets.

Key financial ratios are forecast to be within their targeted ranges for the 2024-25 year.

The Operating Surplus Ratio is the operating surplus/(deficit)

expressed as a percentage of general and other rates, net of rate rebates and revenues from the Regional Landscape Levy.

Net financial liabilities are a key indicator of the Council's financial position. It measures total liabilities less financial assets (i.e., what the Council owes to others, less money the Council has or is owed).

The asset renewal Funding Ratio is defined as net capital

expenditures on the renewal and replacement of existing assets and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets. This ratio indicates whether the Council is renewing or replacing existing assets at the rate of consumption. Council's long-term target of 100% ensures that Council aims to invest adequately in maintaining its asset base.

KEY FINANCIAL INDICATOR	ADOPTED TARGETS	2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET
Operating Surplus Ratio	0%	0.01%	0.27
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	0-100%	47%	40%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	90-110%	127%	150%

CAPITAL PROJECTS



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project Name	Budget (\$)	New/ Renewal	Comment	Estimated Completion
Roads - Re-sheeting	3,400,000	R	Re-sheeting as per Council approved work program, including reinstatement of rubble pits.	Qtr 4
Plant	2,521,500	R	Replacement of various plant and fleet items.	Qtr 4
Billiat Road - Stage 3	1,500,000	R/U	Final 16kms for Billiat Road. Project includes road shoulder reconstruction, widening and resealing to accommodate GML Road Train and oversized traffic (pending grant funding).	Qtr 3
Roads - Reseals	970,880	R	Resealing road network as per Council approved work program.	Qtr 3
Loxton Retirement Village Unit Refurbishment	676,706	R	General refurbishment and changeover refurbishment of units within the Loxton Retirement Village.	Qtr 4
Paisley Boat Ramp	378,400	R	Paisley Boat Ramp upgrade, including pontoon and carpark improvements (pending grant funding).	Qtr4
Loxton Volunteer Group Sheds	250,000	N	Combined storage and sheds for Loxton service and community groups	Qtr 1
Capital Items to Reduce Operating Expenditure	250,000	N	Implementing solar panels, batteries, and automated irrigation to cut electricity costs and enhance efficiency, alongside leveraging grant funding for flood mitigation to achieve multiple goals.	Qtr 4
Waikerie CWMS #6 Chamber Upgrade	231,000	R	Upgrade Waikerie Football Changeroom CWMS Chamber #6.	Qtr 2
Waikerie Civic Centre Upgrades	200,000	R/U	Re-development costs for improvements to the Waikerie Civic Centre, Office and Library.	Qtr 4
Waikerie Institute - Stage 1	200,000	R	Enhancing functionality of the Waikerie Institute by improving effluent disposal, water supply, kitchen facilities, and upgrades to the staging area.	Qtr 4
Loxton Viewing Structure Ground works	190,000	N	Grounds works to allow for the erection of a viewing structure at the Loxton Oval by the Loxton Football and Sporting Club.	Qtr 4
Waikerie Football Club & Riverfront Carpark	150,000	R	Reinstatement of the carpark for Waikerie Football Club and Riverfront.	Qtr 2
Loxton North Multi-Purpose Storage & Workshop	148,500	N	Construction of a new shed at Loxton North, including the replacement of the toilet block behind clubrooms.	Qtr 3

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project Name	Budget (\$)	New/ Renewal	Comment	Estimated Completion
Stanley Street Footpath Upgrade	131,000	U	Footpath upgrade on Stanley Street, inclusive of pram ramps with paving and hot mix.	Qtr 3
McIntosh Street footpath upgrade	127,430	U	Footpath and kerbing upgrade on McIntosh Street surrounding Loxton Bowling Club.	Qtr 2
Transfer Station Waste Bin Covers/Shelters	120,000	N	Upgrade transfer station shelters and bin covers at both Loxton and Waikerie sites per EPA requirements.	Qtr 2
Replacement Kerbs and Footpaths	100,000	R	Replacement program for 2024-25 will be based on outcomes from the Road/Footpath Condition Audit.	Qtr 4
Court Replacement Wunkar & Brown's Well	100,000	R	Providing a safe facility for the Brownswell and Wunkar Netball Clubs by replacing deteriorating court surfaces.	Qtr 3
Business Process Improvement	99,952	N	Improve efficiency for payroll process, plant usage tracking, and work & safety.	Qtr 2
IT Upgrades	60,000	R	Upgrade servers, hardware, improve cyber security and update IT assets.	Qtr 4
Crush Terrace Upgrade (Waikerie)	59,882	N/U	Upgrade of medium strip along Crush Terrace, in line with White Street & Peake Terrace.	Qtr 3
EV Chargers - Loxton	56,242	N	Installation of EV fast chargers in the Loxton CBD area.	Qtr 4
Heritage Park Upgrade	50,880	R	Irrigation, revegetation, beautification of the Loxton Community Conservation and Heritage Park.	Qtr 2
CBD Banner Upgrades	50,050	R/U	Upgrades to Loxton and CBD banners, including new bracket system and updated Council branding.	Qtr 1
Waikerie Cemetery Plinths & Irrigation	44,624	N	New plinths for lawn section 8 at the Waikerie Cemetery, and new and upgraded irrigation.	Qtr 2
Loxton Lutheran School Crossing	40,000	N	Safe school crossing at Loxton Lutheran School.	Qtr 3
Authority Upgrades	30,000	N	Continued development of Council's corporate software.	Qtr 4
Moorook Depot Storage Shed	29,526	R	Replacement of existing shed with new shed/storage container for Moorook Depot.	Qtr 2

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project Name	Budget (\$)	New/ Renewal	Comment	Estimated Completion
Waikerie Institute Chrome Sled Chairs	27,000	N	200 chrome sled base black chairs for the Waikerie Institute and trolleys.	Qtr 1
Pram Ramps	20,000	R	Continued budget for pram ramp installation across the district.	Qtr 4
Loxton Lions Park	19,568	R	Replacement of BBQ's, old concrete seating, stainless steel top and splashback at Loxton Lions Park.	Qtr 2
White Street Carpark Seat Shading	18,788	N	Shade to be installed over seating at White street Carpark, with structure not disrupting wings mural.	Qtr 2
Paisley BBQ Shelter	15,690	N	Installation of a 4.8 x 4.1 BBQ shelter and table and chairs in Paisley, as well as rehabilitation to the lawn area.	Qtr 2
Paisley Large Riverfront Shelter	14,236	R	Replacement of large riverfront shelter in Paisley (4.5m x 8m).	Qtr 2
Entry to District Signage	12,000	R	Design and replacement of deteriorating entry to district signage (Karoonda Highway, Brown's Well Highway & Sturt Highway, Stanitzki Road).	Qtr 1
Defibrillator Rollout - Stage 1	10,000	N	Provision of defibrillators at every community building, in accordance to new Government legislation.	Qtr 2
Christmas Wonderland Tables & Chairs	9,944	N	Installation of tables and chairs at Loxton North Christmas Wonderland.	Qtr 1

STRATEGIC PROJECTS



STRATEGIC PROJECTS

In 2024-25, Council will invest \$707,723 into strategic projects. These projects are considered 'one-off' and are funded through operating expenditure of Council.

Project Name	Budget (\$)	New or Renewal	Comment	Estimated Completion
Stormwater Management Plan	145,000	N	Develop a Stormwater Management Plan for Loxton and Waikerie to address flooding issues and future growth.	Qtr 4
Arts and Cultural Facilitator and Programming	140,000	N	Continue partnership with Country Arts SA for an Arts and Cultural Facilitator and programming.	Qtr 4
Connected and Active Communities Officer	135,000	N	Connected & Active Communities Project Officer and project support.	Qtr 4
Default Area Speed Limits Investigation	50,000	N	Engage a consultant to undertake an investigation into rural speed limit zoning across the district.	Qtr 2
Rally for Riverland	50,000	N	Resourcing for the implementation of Rally for Riverland advocacy document, combined with equal funding from neighbouring Riverland Councils.	Qtr 4
Ageing Well Strategy	45,000	N	Engage a consultant to complete a district-wide Ageing Well Strategy for implementation.	Qtr 4
2024 Masters and Junior Road National Championship	40,000	N	Hosting fee for the Masters and Junior Road National Championship to be held at Loxton in September 2024.	Qtr 1
Waikerie Recreation Centre Redevelopment Assessment	40,000	R	Independent assessment for the redevelopment of the Waikerie Sports Centre	Qtr 3
Roadside Revegetation - Loxton High School	24,495	R	Roadside revegetation at the Loxton High School (Tanko Street to Stasinowsky Court).	Qtr 4
Playground Audit	20,000	N	Conduct a playground Audit as per WHS legalisation.	Qtr 2
Loxton North LED upgrade	15,000	N/U	Upgrade Loxton North Sporting Complex lighting to LED.	Qtr 4
Waikerie Christmas Decorations	15,000	N	Solar lighting, Christmas selfie frame, and multi colour solar fairy lights for Waikerie CBD Christmas displays.	Qtr 1
Waste Management Education Officer	12,000	N	Support for a Waste Management Education Officer across MRLGA region.	Qtr 4
White Street Carpark Shade Investigation	10,000	N	Undertake design and costings for White Street carpark shade, inclusive of solar panels.	Qtr 3
Tree Planting at Loxton North Oval	6,228	N	Provision of new trees for planting around the perimeter of the Loxton North Sporting Precinct.	Qtr 2

RATES REVENUE



RATES IN 2024-2025

In setting the rates for the 2024-25 financial year Council considered the need to keep rate increases as low as possible whilst also considering the implementation of the following plans and issues:

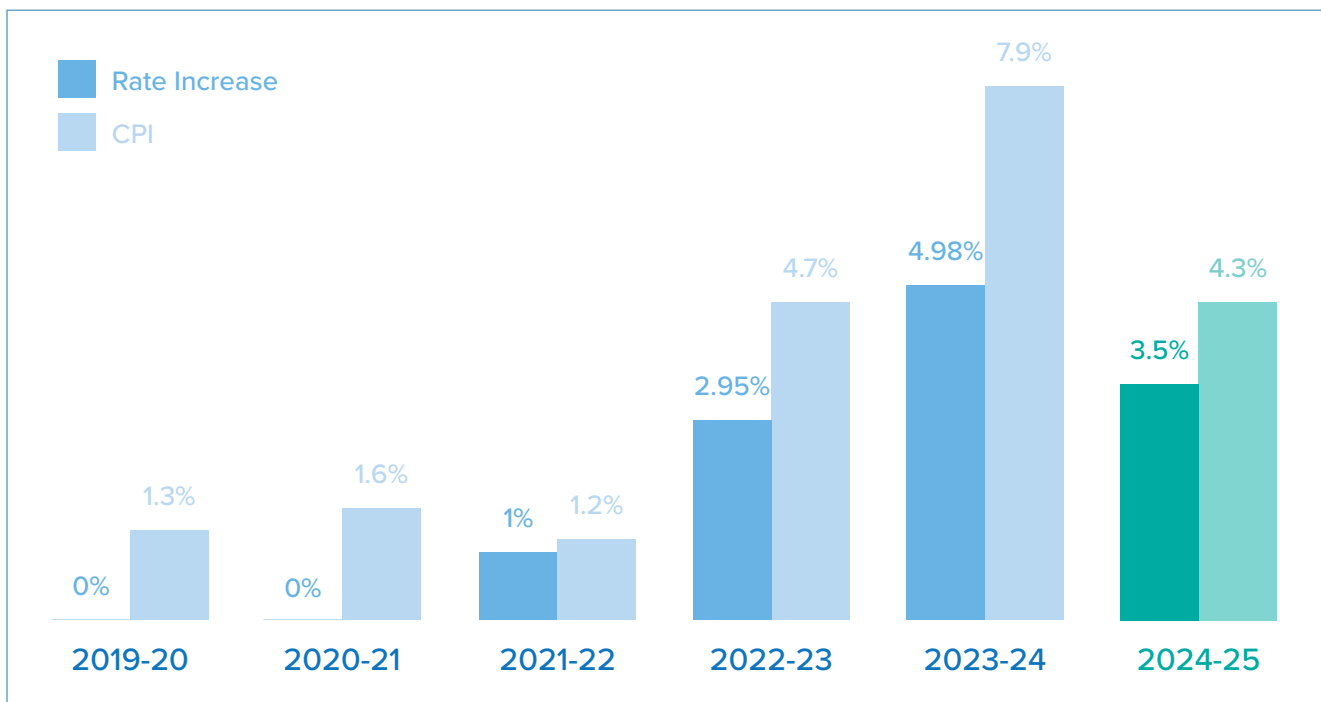
- Community Strategic Plan
- Corporate Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Resources required to deliver Council services
- Changes in valuation
- Increased use of 'User Pays' cost recovery system

Council has adopted a 3.5% general and fixed charge increase for the 2024-25 year. It is to be noted that the actual increase payable by any individual ratepayer may be more or less than this, depending on the movement in the capital value of their property (relative to the average).

General rates raised in 2024-25 will be \$11.8m. This equates to 45.33% of Council's operating revenue.

As part of setting the rates, a review of council's service charges was carried out. This has resulted in an increase of 3.5% for Council's Waste Management Service charge and the Community Waste Management will increase by 4.3%.

Council is aware of the impact rate increase have on the community. We are continually looking for opportunities that allow this cost to be minimised, support our community during uncertain times, and maintain the fiscal responsibility of Council.



Method used to Value Land

Council continues to use capital value as the basis for valuing land within the council area. Council considers that this method of valuing land provides the fairest

method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers. Property value is a relatively good indicator of wealth and capital value, which closely

approximates the market value of a property and provides the best indicator of overall property value.

Capital Valuation Movements

Proposed capital values across the whole district for 2024-25 have increased by \$349.24 million (11.45%) from last year.

Split by land use category values have changed as follows:

LAND USE CATEGORY	VALUATION 2023-24 (\$)	VALUATION 2024-25 (\$)	VALUATION MOVEMENT (\$)	VALUATION MOVEMENT (%)
Residential	1,410,533,500	1,662,724,600	252,191,100	17.88
Commercial	100,887,840	116,402,180	15,514,340	15.38
Industrial	41,307,640	45,736,360	4,428,720	10.72
Primary Production	1,377,010,300	1,439,885,400	62,875,100	4.57
Vacant Land	58,700,040	65,419,680	6,719,640	11.45
Others	62,995,520	72,063,580	9,068,060	14.39
TOTAL	3,051,434,840	3,402,231,800	350,796,960	11.50

The following table depicts average valuations for properties across the district and their respective increases in rates compared against the prior year.

These figures are exclusive of Waste Management and CWMS service charges:

WITHIN TOWNSHIPS

LAND USE	YEAR	AVERAGE VALUATION (\$)	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	AVERAGE RATES (\$)	AVERAGE INCREASE (\$)	AVERAGE INCREASE (%)
Residential	2023-24	267,910	2,554	1,209	42	3.5
	2024-25	314,675	2,562	1,251		
Commercial	2023-24	245,543	280	1,574	55	3.5
	2024-25	278,053	284	1,629		
Industrial	2023-24	324,079	50	1,612	56	3.5
	2024-25	402,430	50	1,668		
Primary Production	2023-24	150,333	3	1,148	40	3.5
	2024-25	145,333	3	1,188		
Vacant Land	2023-24	128,954	87	755	27	3.5
	2024-25	147,088	79	782		
Other	2023-24	192,562	65	1,301	46	3.5
	2024-25	223,945	64	1,347		

OUTSIDE TOWNSHIPS

LAND USE	YEAR	AVERAGE VALUATION (\$)	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	AVERAGE RATES (\$)	AVERAGE INCREASE (\$)	AVERAGE INCREASE (%)
Residential	2023-24	329,659	2,137	1,344	47	3.5
	2024-25	381,613	2,168	1,391		
Commercial	2023-24	268,661	90	1,663	58	3.5
	2024-25	290,667	89	1,721		
Industrial	2023-24	357,949	49	1,868	66	3.5
	2024-25	382,245	49	1,934		
Primary Production	2023-24	630,748	2,168	2,024	71	3.5
	2024-25	662,023	2,159	2,095		
Vacant Land	2023-24	106,033	504	682	24	3.5
	2024-25	117,229	524	706		
Other	2023-24	39,190	180	503	18	3.5
	2024-25	49,602	178	521		

*Figures utilised were the valuations of the Valuer-General available to Council as at 21 April 2024. Average valuation has been calculated by dividing the total capital value for land use by the number of properties.

Rating Methodology

Council is proposing to utilise differential rating according to the land use and locality of the property, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 s156(1)(c) together with a fixed charge component on properties within the council area.

DIFFERENTIAL RATES

In applying differential general rates Council has considered and is satisfied that the rating system addresses the issue of consistency and comparability across all areas, particularly as it relates to the various sectors of the business and wider community. This satisfies the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 s153(2).

Differential general rates will apply to all rateable land within the area based upon the capital value of the land varied by reference to the locality and use of the land. Differential general rates imposed by Council are separate and distinct from service charges imposed for the CWMS and Waste Management. Details of service charges are provided

further in this document. For the 2024-25 year, Council is proposing to raise differential general rate revenue of \$9.146m. The following tables show the proportion of differential general rates raised by category of land use and location.

PROPORTION OF GENERAL RATES RAISED (DIFFERENTIAL/FIXED CHARGE)

	2023-24	% OF TOTAL GENERAL RATE	2024-25	% OF TOTAL GENERAL RATE
Differential	8,812	77.3	9,152	77.3
Fixed Charge	2,579	22.7	2,692	22.7
Total	11,391	100	11,844	100

FIXED CHARGE

Council proposes a fixed charge of \$380. Expected revenue to be raised by the fixed charge component is \$2.692 million. The proposed fixed charge, revenue generated, and percentages of total general rates are shown compared against the 2023-24 year as above.

The fixed charge is levied against the whole of an allotment (including land under a separate lease or licence) only one fixed charge is levied against two or more pieces of adjoining land (whether intercepted by a road or not) if they are owned by the same owner and occupied by the

same occupier. The reasons for imposing a fixed charge is the Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties contribute to the cost of creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property.

SERVICE CHARGES

A total of \$4.052m is proposed to be raised from service charges (The Regional Landscape Levy, CWMS, Kerbside Waste Collection).

COMMUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SERVICE CHARGE

A total of \$1.908m will be raised as a CWMS service charge to cover the operation, maintenance, and renewal of Council's respective community wastewater management systems across the district.

CWMS service charges will be \$557 for occupied connections within the Loxton and Waikerie townships and \$536 for vacant land connections.

Similarly, CWMS service charges will be \$490 for occupied connections within the Moorook and Kingston on Murray townships (\$469 for vacant land connections).

WASTE SERVICE CHARGE

A total amount of \$1.5913m will be raised as a waste service charge to cover the cost of providing this service.

To cover collection and disposal Kerbside Waste Management service charges will be as follows:

- 3 bin collection - \$329 per collection
- 2 bin collection - \$259 per collection
- Retirement village's collection - \$219 per collection

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE LEVY

The Landscape South Australia Act 2019 requires Council to collect a levy on all rateable properties within its area on behalf of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Region. The Act further provides a range of options as the basis for calculating the regional

levy. Based on the principles established by the Board, the value of rateable land was used to determine the regional levy.

On behalf of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Region, the Council is also required to collect an amount of \$550,798.

Council will to recover this amount as a separate rate based on the capital value of all rateable land within the Council area along with a cap of \$100 for such rateable land.

RATE REBATE

Council has determined that rebates of rates will be granted when the applicant satisfies the requirements for mandatory rebates under the Local Government Act ss159 to 165. Applications for discretionary rebates lodged under s166 of the Act will be considered under Council's Rate Rebate Policy and assessed against guidelines prepared by the Local Government Financial Management Group.

The Act acknowledges that there are particular land uses that are economically disadvantaged and provide local community benefit and therefore must be offered rate relief in order to be sustainable. Some rebates under the Act are applied as a mandatory requirement however further discretionary provisions allow for Council to determine whether other desirable land uses may be offered rate relief.

Each year we develop a Rate Rebate Policy which provides the full details regarding rate rebates permissible under the Act. This policy document supports our Strategic Rating Policy. The purpose of granting discretionary rebates is to assist organisations to maintain their facilities which are predominantly on Council land.

RATE RELIEF

Under Section 182 of the Local Government Act, Council is able to completely or partially remit or postpone rates on the basis of hardship.

To be considered, ratepayers who are experiencing hardship must submit an application form, allowing Council to assess eligibility criteria.

Due to the current economic conditions in the wine grape industry, Council is also accepting applications for the waiving of fines and interest on primary production property with a 'Vines' land use code.

Ratepayers are also encouraged to contact Council's Rates Officer to discuss instances of

hardship in paying rates, with the confidence that such matters are dealt with confidentially.

BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Year ending 30 June 2025)

	2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET \$'000	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET \$'000	2022-23 AUDITED ACTUAL \$'000	NOTE
INCOME				
Rates	15,728	14,994	14,423	1
Statutory charges	285	249	369	
User charges	1,420	1,369	1,288	2
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	7,339	5,528	10,448	3
Investment income	268	196	357	
Reimbursements	85	80	247	4
Other income	996	972	904	
Total Income	26,121	23,388	28,036	
EXPENSES				
Employee costs	7,935	7,431	6,290	5
Material, contracts, and other expenses	9,620	8,894	13,903	6
Finance costs	46	21	54	
Depreciation, amortisation, and impairment	8,518	7,002	7,572	7
Total Expenses	26,119	23,348	27,819	
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2	40	217	8
Asset disposal and fair value adjustment	0	0	(2,136)	
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	1,348	5,842	4,623	9
NET SURPLUS	1,350	5,882	2,704	

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME NOTES

1.
 - a. A 3.5% increase in general rates is proposed for 2024-25.
 - b. Council is legally obligated to levy ratepayers on behalf of the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources and then remit that amount back to the Department. Council has budgeted to collect on behalf of the Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Board an amount of \$550,798 in 2024-25.
 - c. CWMS is proposed to increase by 4.3% and Kerbside waste service charge is proposed to increase by 3.5% in 2024-25.
2. User charges are proposed to increase by \$51,000 from the 2023-24 financial year.
3. Grant income is projected to increase by \$1.811m from 2023-24. The contributing factor is the additional roads to recovery funding and Council's allocation of Federal Grant Assistance.
4. Reimbursement are proposed to increase by \$5,000 from the 2023-24 financial year.
5. Employee costs are proposed to increase by \$504,000 (6.35%) over 2023-24. Salaries and wages will increase wages in accordance with the relevant Enterprise Bargaining Agreements. The Super guarantee will also increase from 11.0% to 11.5%. Council's overall FTE will be 84.80.
6. Materials, contractors, and other expenses are proposed to increase by \$726,000 (8.16%).
7. Depreciation expense is proposed at an amount of \$8.518m.
8. An operating surplus of \$2,000 is forecast for 2024-25.
9. This amount is representative of grant funding proposed for new capital projects and capital contributions.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(Year ending 30 June 2025)

	2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET \$'000	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET \$'000	2022-23 AUDITED ACTUAL \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4,048	3,781	15,182
Trade and other receivables	1,726	1,612	1,692
Inventories	70	60	88
Total Current Assets	5,844	5,453	16,962
Non-Current Assets			
Financial assets	1,584	1,474	487
Investment property	19,388	18,500	15,205
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	253,445	234,357	230,035
Other non-current assets	15,000	14,500	16,670
Total Non-Current Assets	289,417	269,231	262,397
TOTAL ASSETS	295,261	274,284	279,359
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	17,088	14,110	16,306
Provisions	2,017	1,770	1,925
Borrowings	16	15	16
Total Current Liabilities	19,121	15,895	18,247
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	207	224	224
Provisions	115	125	110
Total Non-Current Liabilities	322	349	334
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,443	16,244	18,581
NET ASSETS	275,818	258,040	260,778
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	111,184	108,020	95,663
Asset revaluation reserve	163,498	149,200	163,498
Other reserves	1,136	820	1,617
TOTAL EQUITY	275,818	258,040	260,778

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(Year ending 30 June 2025)

	2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET \$'000	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET \$'000	2022-23 AUDITED ACTUAL \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates - general and other	15,217	14,660	14,436
Fees and other charges	285	249	369
User charges	1,359	1,297	1,288
Investment receipts	268	196	357
Grants utilised for operating purposes	7,339	5,528	10,182
Reimbursements	80	80	247
Other revenues	990	968	2,778
Payments			
Employee costs	(7,720)	(7,267)	(6,385)
Materials, contracts and other expenses	(9,217)	(8,579)	(14,002)
Finance payments	(6)	(6)	(5)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	8,595	7,126	9,265
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	1,348	4,842	4,623
Sale of replaced assets	475	424	213
Sale of surplus assets			150
Repayment of loans by community groups	59	11	11
Payments			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets	(9,189)	(7,424)	(5,297)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets	(3,353)	(8,452)	(5,908)
Purchase of investment property			(1,462)
Loans made by community groups			
Net cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	(10,660)	(10,599)	(7,670)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Proceeds from bonds and deposits			
Proceeds from borrowings			
Proceeds from aged care facility deposits	1,581	300	2,042
Payments			
Repayment of borrowings	(16)	(16)	(15)
Repayment of bonds and deposits		-	(15)
Repayment of aged care facility deposits	(1,151)	(280)	(947)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Financial Activities	414	4	1,065
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(1,651)	(3,469)	2,660
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	5,699	7,250	12,522
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	4,048	3,781	15,182

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

(Year ending 30 June 2025)

	2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET \$'000	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET \$'000	2022-23 AUDITED ACTUAL \$'000
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	109,603	101,889	92,864
Net surplus for year	1,350	5,881	2,704
Transfers between reserves	231	250	95
Balance at end of period	111,184	108,020	95,663
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	163,498	149,200	149,200
Additional revaluations			14,298
Balance at end of period	163,498	149,200	163,498
OTHER RESERVES			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	1,367	1,070	1,712
Transfers between reserves	(231)	(250)	(95)
Balance at end of period	1,136	820	1,617
Total reserve balances	164,634	150,020	165,115
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	275,818	258,040	260,778

PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

(Year ending 30 June 2025)

	2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET \$'000	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET \$'000	2022-23 AUDITED ACTUAL \$'000	NOTE
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating Income	26,121	23,388	28,036	1
<i>less</i> Operating expenses	26,119	23,348	27,819	2
Operating Surplus/deficit	2	40	217	3
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES				
Capital exp. on renewal and replacement of existing assets	9,377	7,934	(5,297)	4
<i>less</i> Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	8,518	7,002	7,572	
<i>less</i> Proceeds from sale of replaced assets	476	424	213	
Net Outlays on Existing Assets	383	508	2,488	5
NET OUTLAYS ON NEW AND EXISTING ASSETS				
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets	3,422	8,702	(7,370)	6
<i>less</i> Amounts received for new and upgraded assets	1,348	5,842	4,623	
<i>less</i> Proceeds from sale of surplus assets			150	
	2,074	2,860	(2,597)	7
Net Lending/(Borrowing) for Financial Year	(2,455)	(3,328)	108	8

PRESENTATION OF FINANCE NOTES

1. Income available for delivery of services includes all grants except those received specifically for new or upgraded assets.
2. Cost of services, including depreciation expense.
3. Extent to which income is sufficient or insufficient to fund the cost of services. Operating surplus / (deficit) is the key measure of a Council's financial performance.
4. Expenditure which returns the service potential of existing assets to original condition.
5. Consistent negative outlays on existing assets indicates that, overall, existing assets may be deteriorating at a greater rate than expenditure on their renewal or replacement.
6. Expenditure to acquire new assets or upgrade existing assets to provide expanded, or a higher level of service.
7. Net cost of acquiring or upgrading assets.
8. Net lending reduces a Council's accumulated level of net financial liabilities. Net borrowing adds to the level of net financial liabilities. Net financial liabilities are the key measure of a Council's financial position and are calculated by deducting financial assets from its total liabilities.

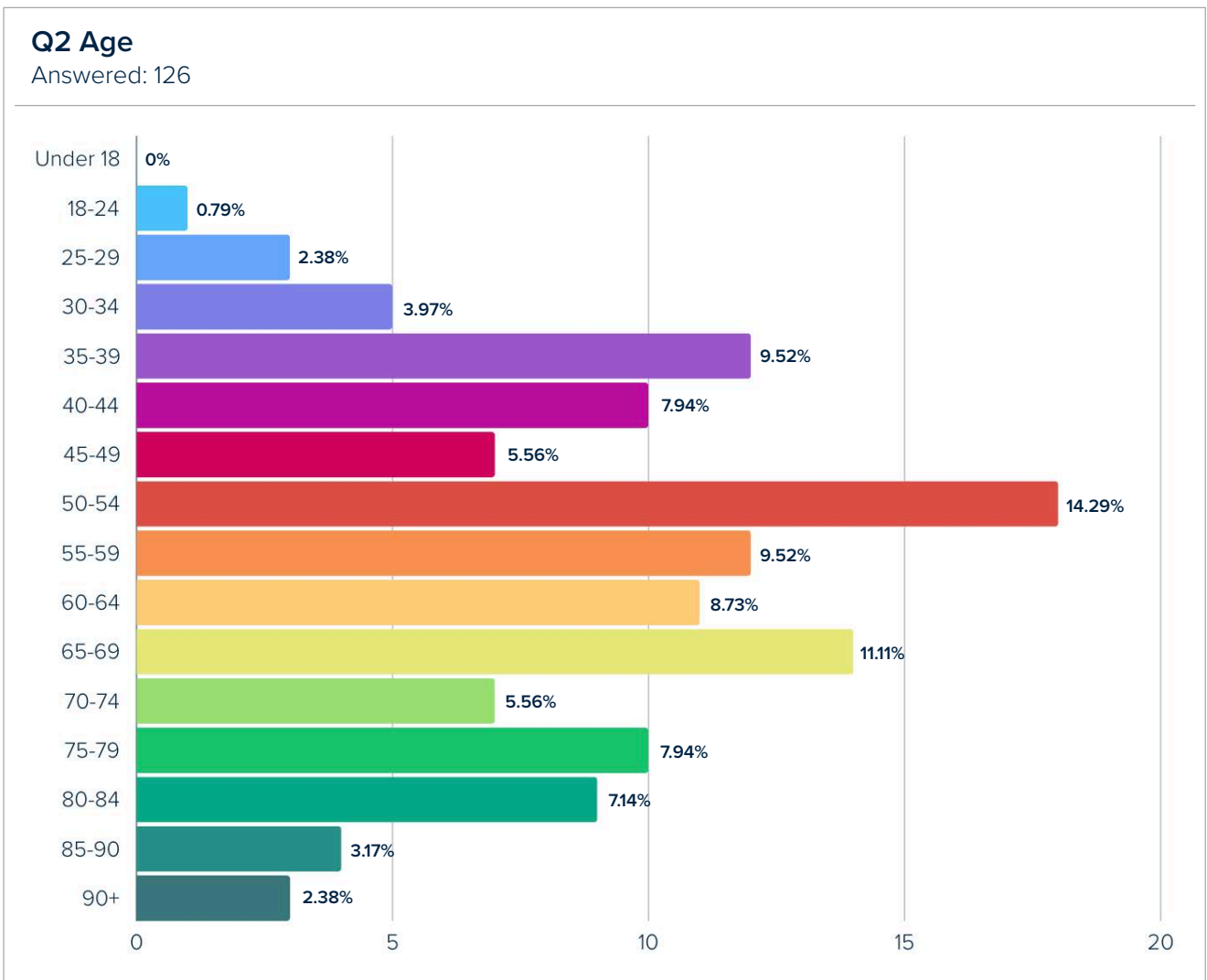
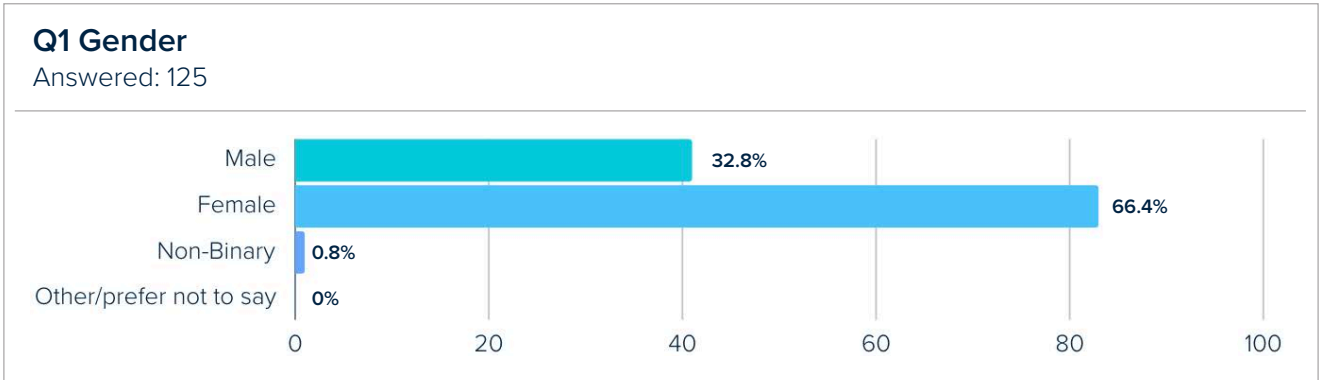
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS



COMMUNITY SURVEY

127

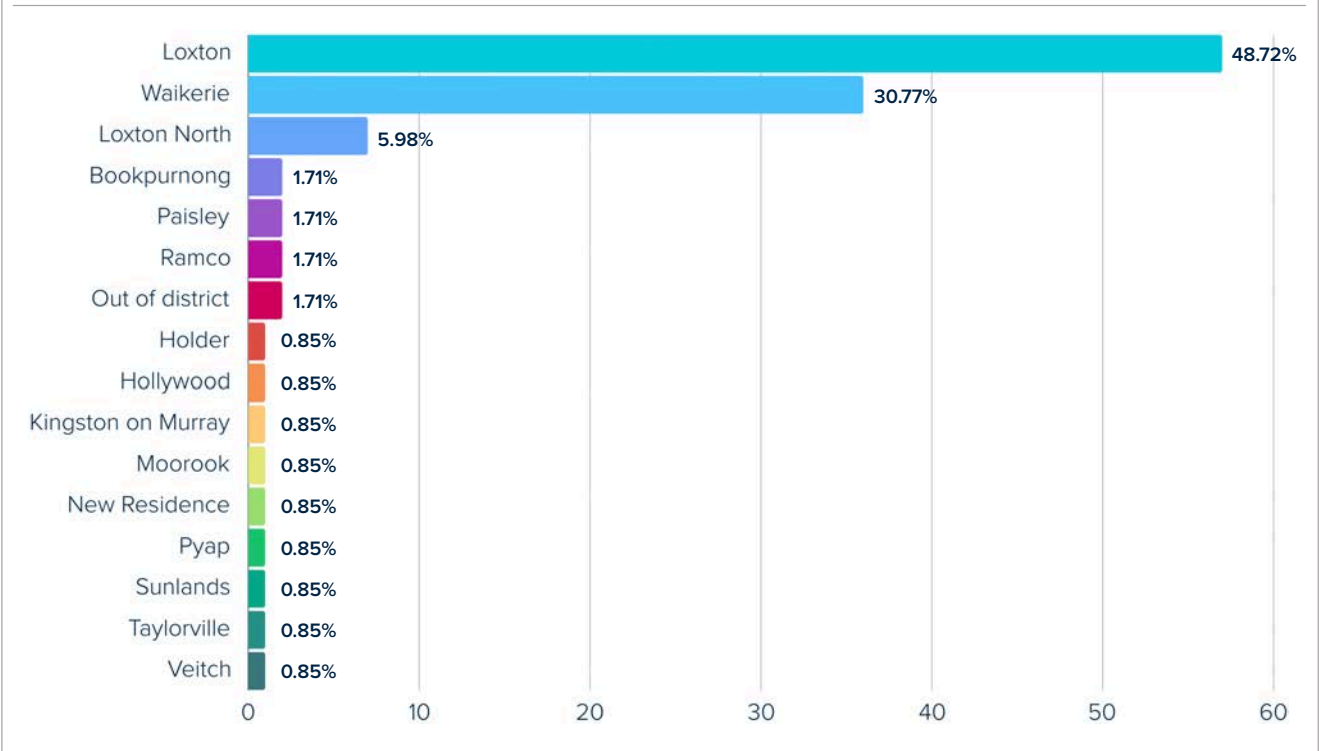
contributions



COMMUNITY SURVEY

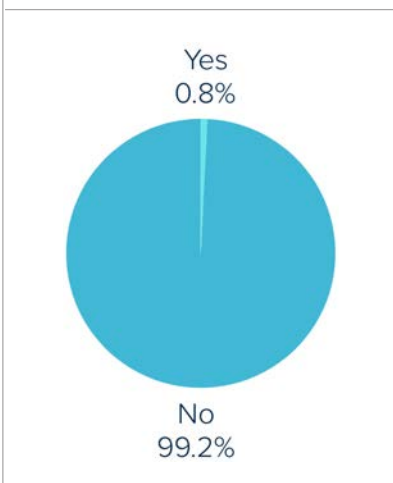
Q3 Where do you live?

Answered: 118



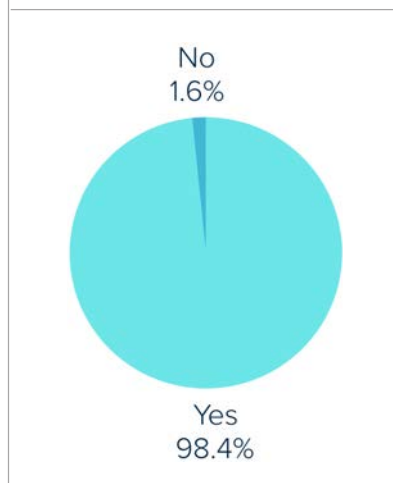
Q4 Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?

Answered: 125



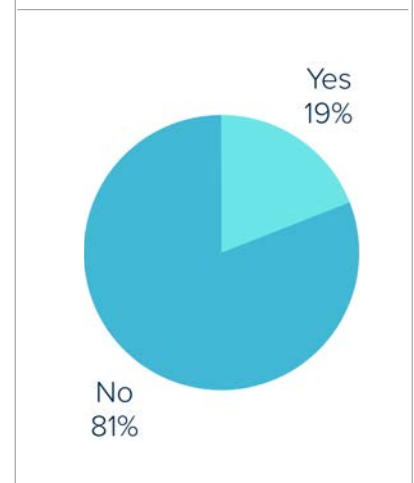
Q5 Is English the main language spoken in your household?

Answered: 124



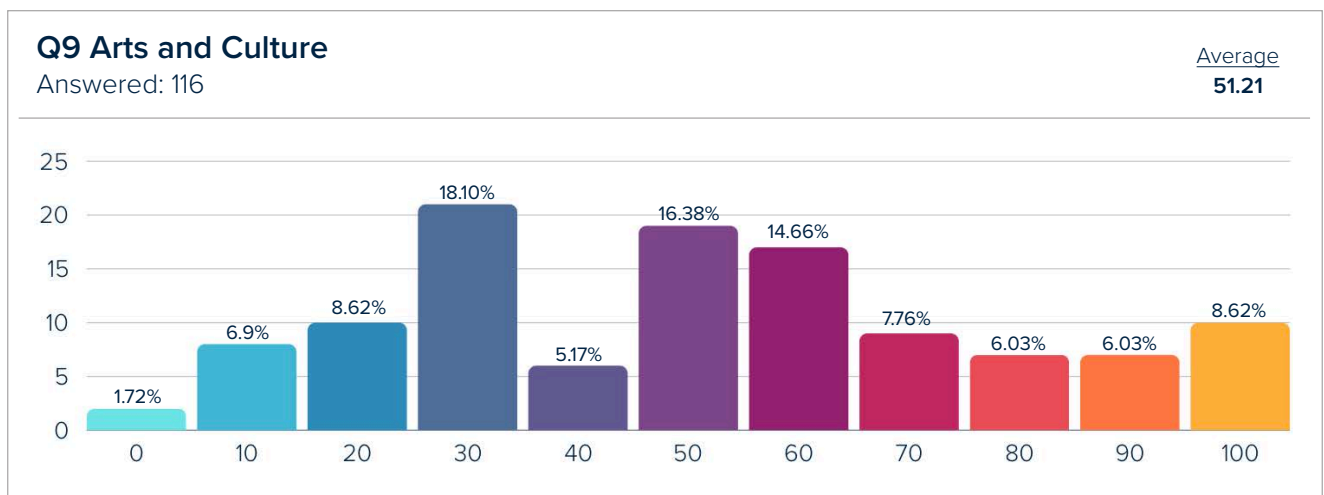
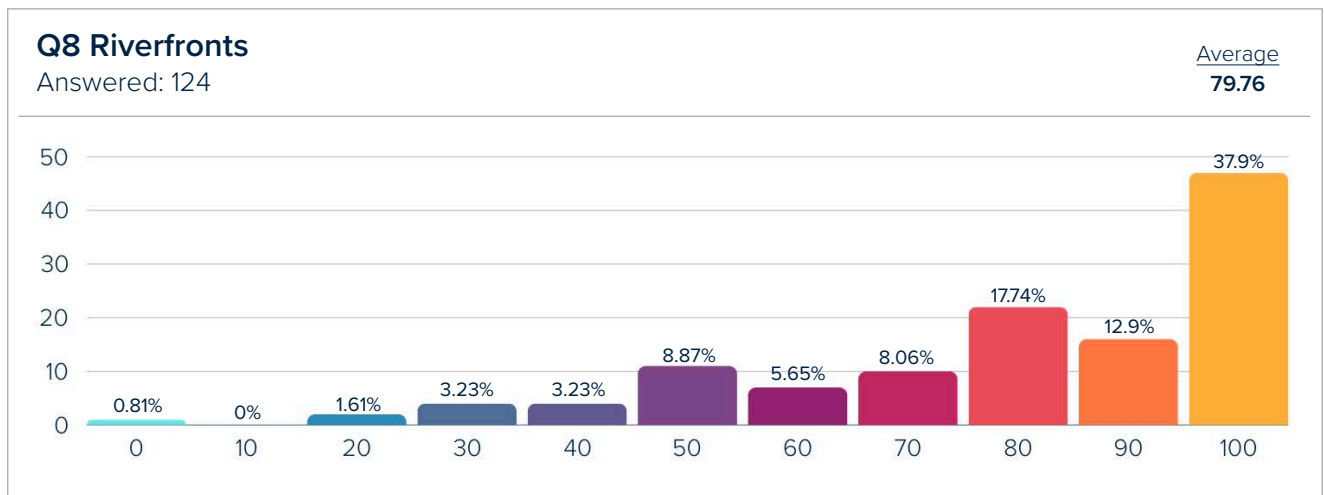
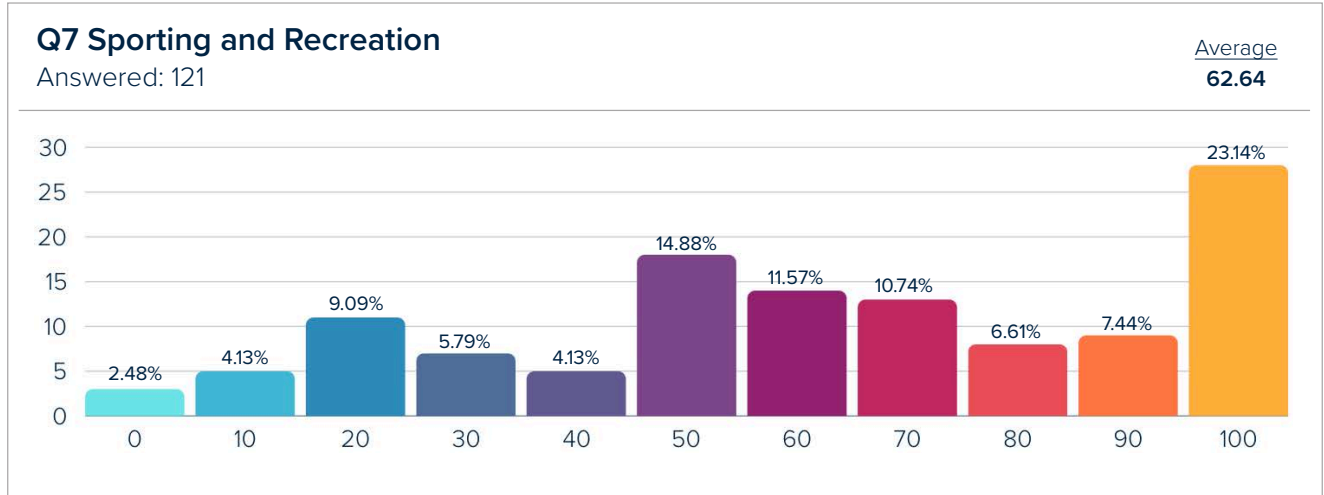
Q6 Are you, or do you live with, a person living with a disability?

Answered: 126



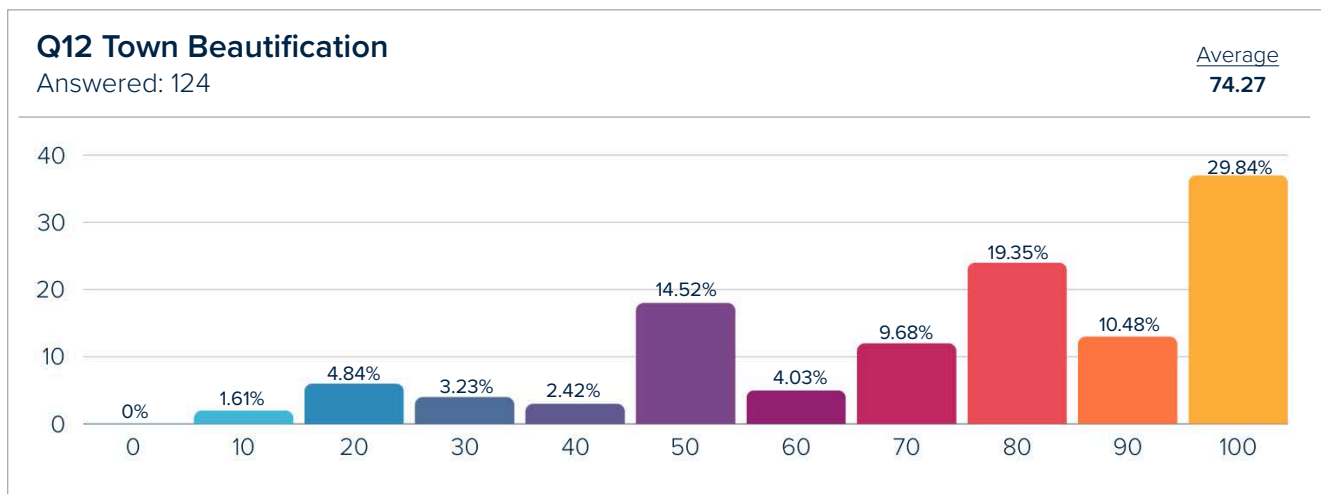
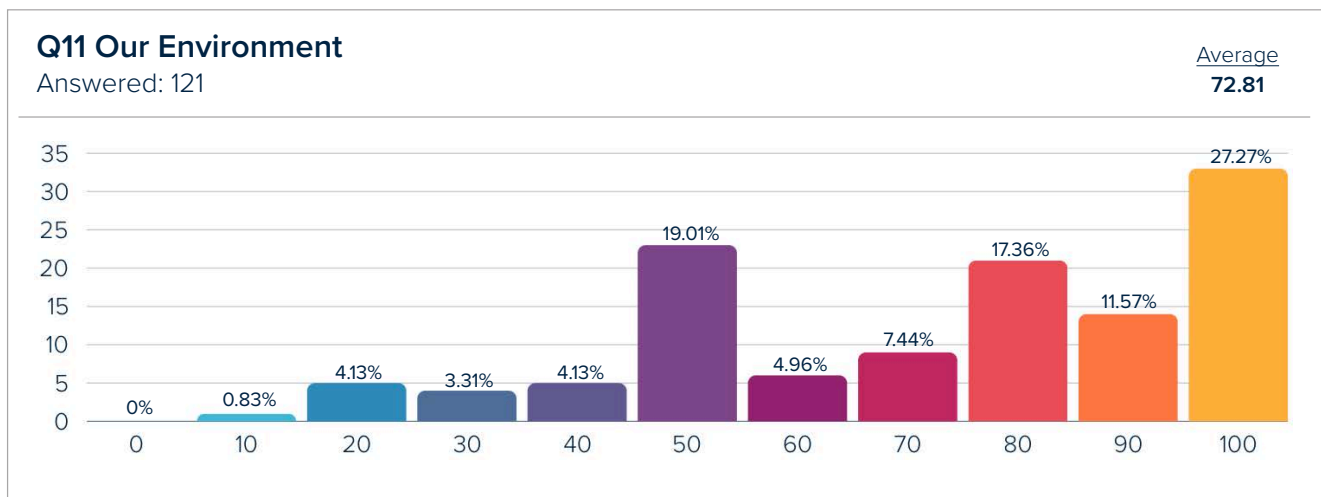
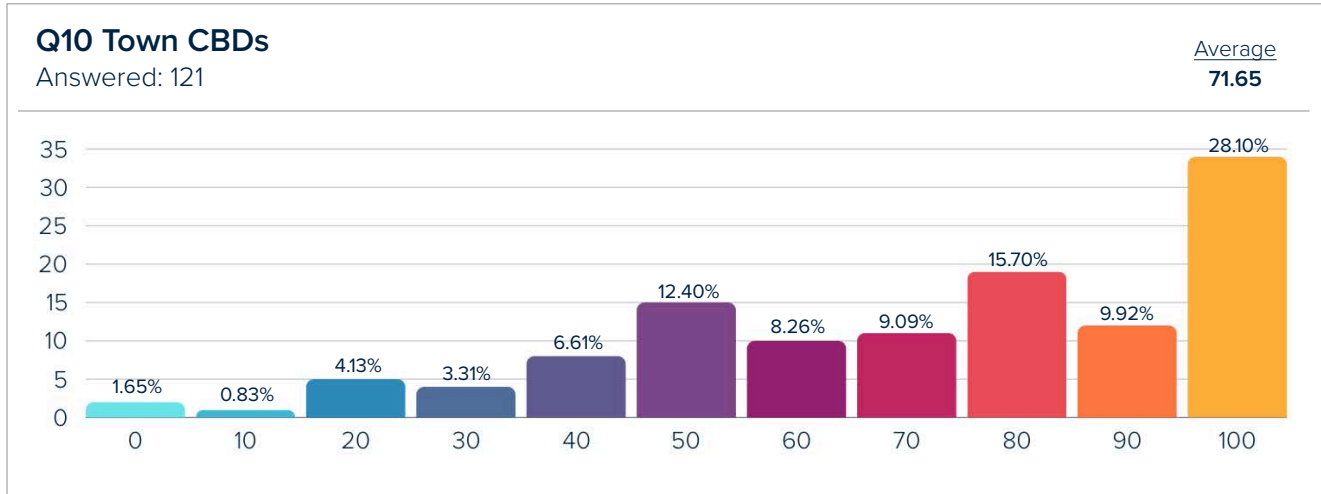
COMMUNITY SURVEY

Key Interests (level of interest)



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Key Interests (level of interest)



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Key Interests (level of interest)

Q13 Please provide other areas of interest

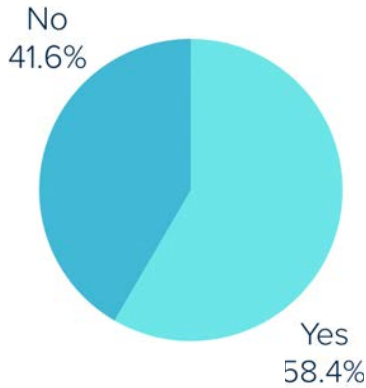
Answered: 74

- Tourism; economic development; new business support (8)
- Waikerie Institute maintenance and restoration (5)
- Family friendly areas; playgrounds; shaded play areas (4)
- Roads; traffic; rural townships & roads (4)
- Upgrades required at caravan park / prompt sale to allow developers to improve the site (4)
- Footpaths and walking, bike trails; accessible pathways (4)
- Long vehicle parking; near town centre; before town (3)
- Shared public spaces; parks and gardens (2)
- Aged care facilities (2)
- Increased support for local sporting clubs; volunteers at Waikerie Football Club (2)
- Library; Loxton Library Development (negative) (2)
- Local history preservation; archiving & digitisation; access for public (2)
- Maintenance and upgrades for public buildings; historical buildings (2)
- Public transport; inter-town transport (2)
- Support for homeless population; needy (2)
- Town centres; Public Amenities (2)
- “Town entrances (2)
(Waikerie town entrance Blanchetown Road/Sturt Highway)
(Waikerie western entrance Sturt Highway/Vasey Road)”
- Aviation (1)
- Community organisations (1)
- Construction of a bridge to replace ferry (1)
- Council services provision (1)
- Churches (1)
- Decrease vandalism (1)
- Health and wellbeing (1)
- Hospital (1)
- Improved control and maintenance of camping areas; camping (general) (2)
- Increasing riverfront tourism (café/tourist centre at the end of East Terrace) (1)
- Interesting activities and opportunities for teenagers (1)
- Kokoda Terrace upgrade (1)
- Listening to the community’s ideas (1)
- Local wildlife (1)
- Mens Shed; Probus (1)
- More signage; McCoy Street (1)
- Music (1)
- Paisley riverfront refurbishment (1)
- Projects impacting the elderly (1)
- Schools (1)
- Services for areas outside of town centres (1)
- Support for population living with dementia (1)
- Thiele’s Sandbar & surrounds (1)
- Waikerie CBD enhancement; Improved footpaths & seating in McCoy Street; Shaded parking in CBD; New car park area in CBD (1)

COMMUNITY SURVEY

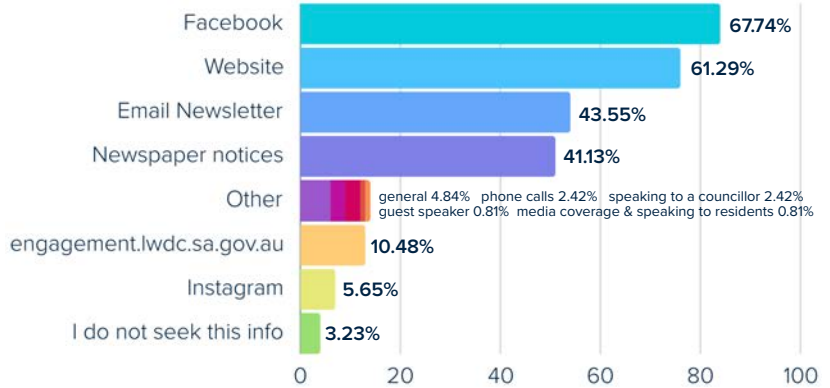
Q14 Have you engaged with Council in the past 12 months?

Answered: 125



Q15 How do you seek updates from Council and information about projects/strategies open for community input?

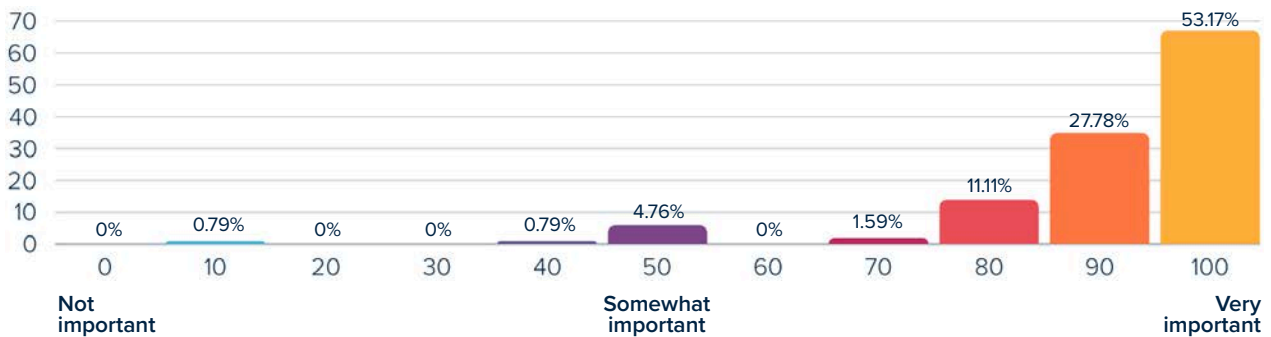
Answered: 124



Q16 How important do you think community engagement is for improved Council outcomes?

Answered: 126

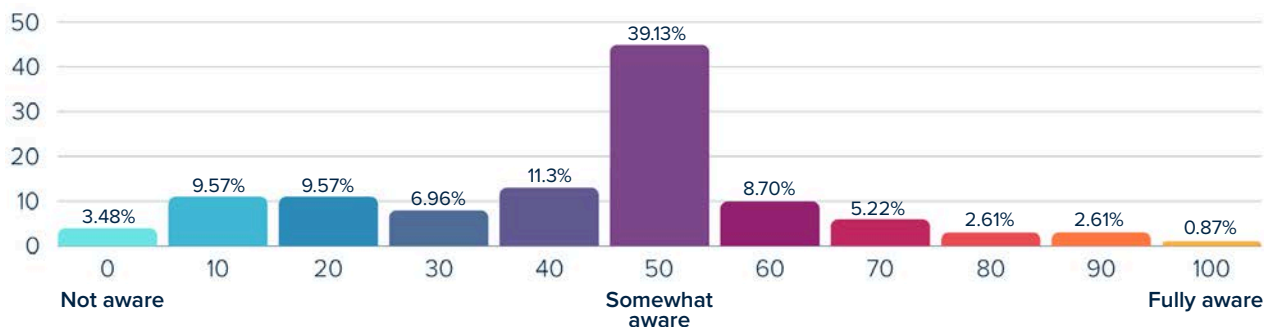
Average
90.95



Q17 To what extent do you believe the wider community is aware of the Shaping Loxton Waikerie engagement platform?

Answered: 115

Average
43.22



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Q18 How do you prefer to provide your feedback to Council?

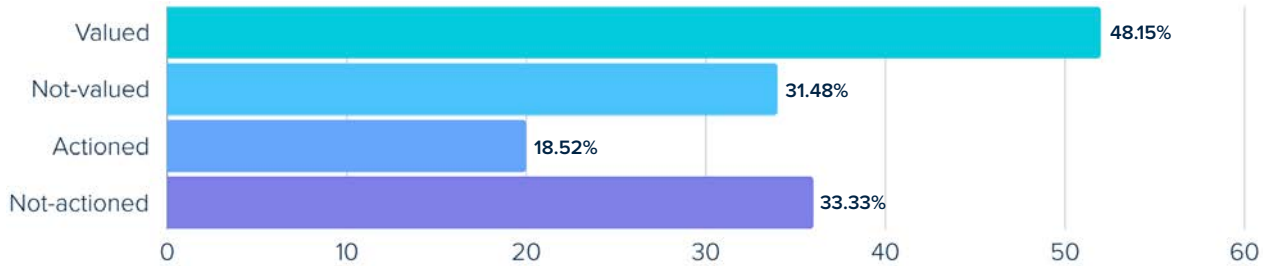
Answered: 113



Q19 Which of the following statements align with your view of how Council receives your feedback?

Answered: 108

"I feel that my contributions are _____ by Council".



Q20 First Name

Answered: 100

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q21 Last Name

Answered: 99

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q22 Email Address

Answered: 92

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

97

Where would you like to see increased investment by Council?

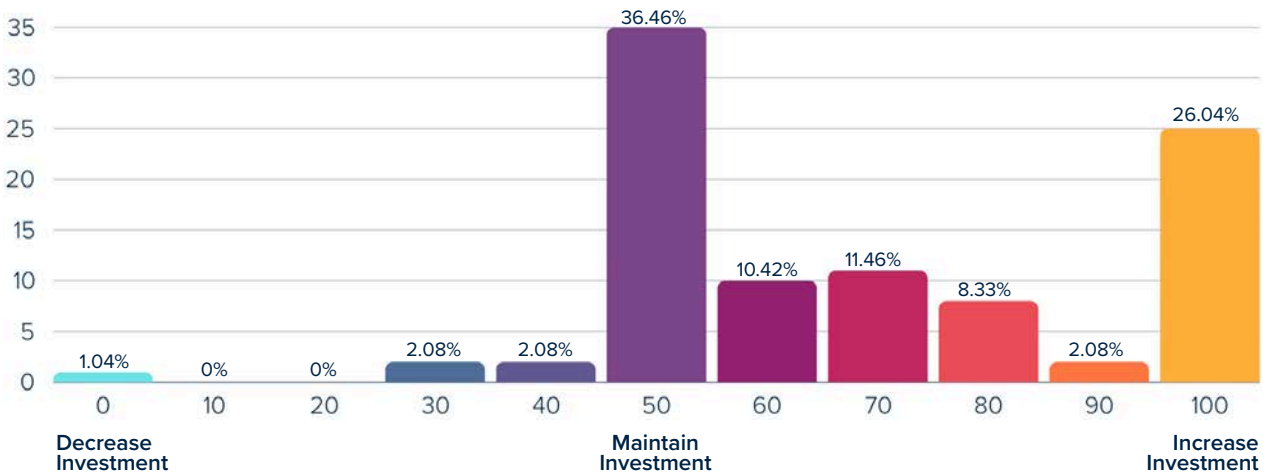
contributions

Q1 Riverfronts

Revitalising and preserving the natural landscape on our riverfronts, creating vibrant public spaces for recreation and community use.

Average
68.54

Answered: 96

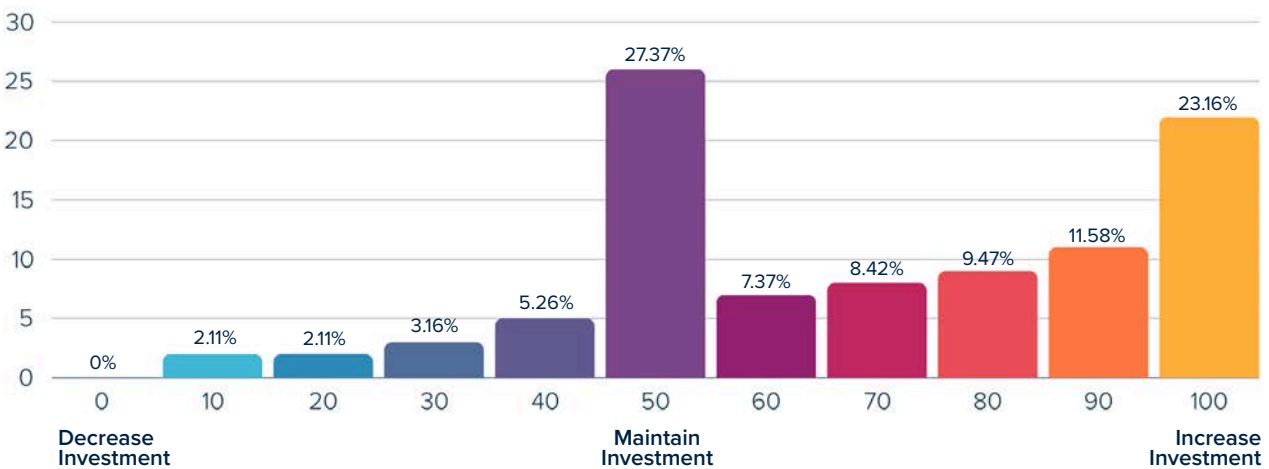


Q2 Tourism

Boosting the local economy by attracting visitors through promotional activities, infrastructure development, and the creation of unique experiences.

Average
68.84

Answered: 95

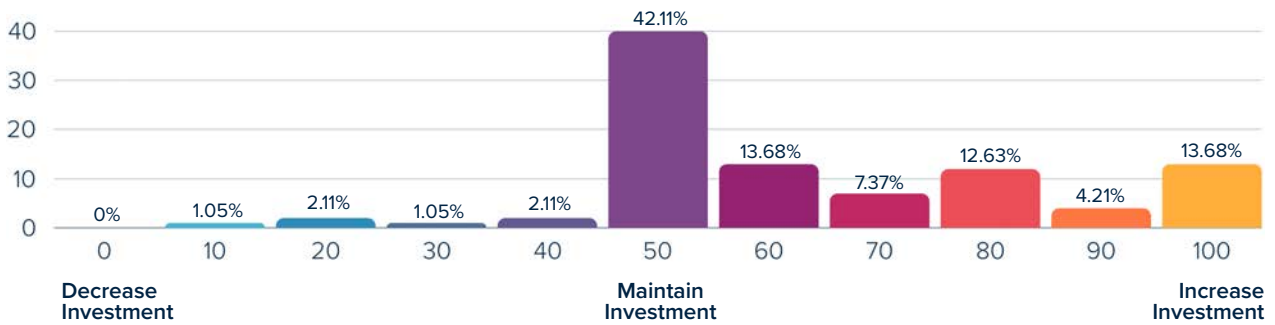


INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Q3 Parks & Gardens

Maintaining and improving shared outdoor nature spaces, fostering outdoor activities, and promoting community wellbeing through accessible green spaces.
 Answered: 95

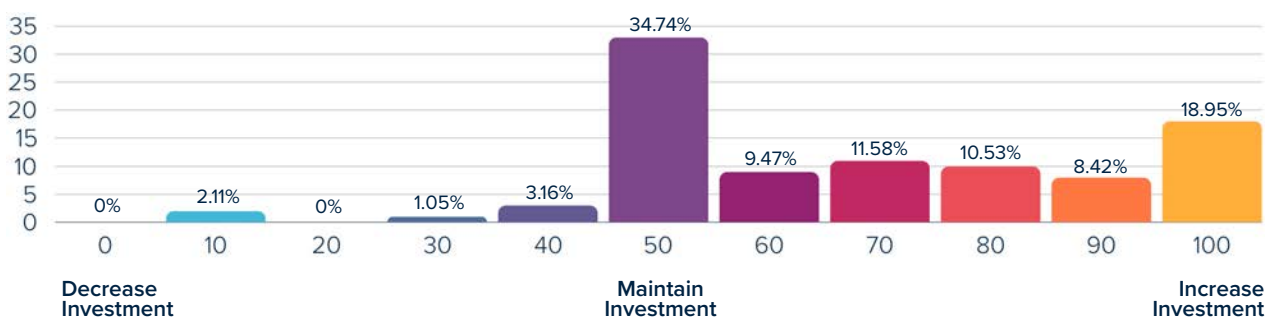
Average
63.68



Q4 Footpaths

Constructing and maintaining safe and accessible pathways for pedestrians, enhancing connectivity within the community.
 Answered: 95

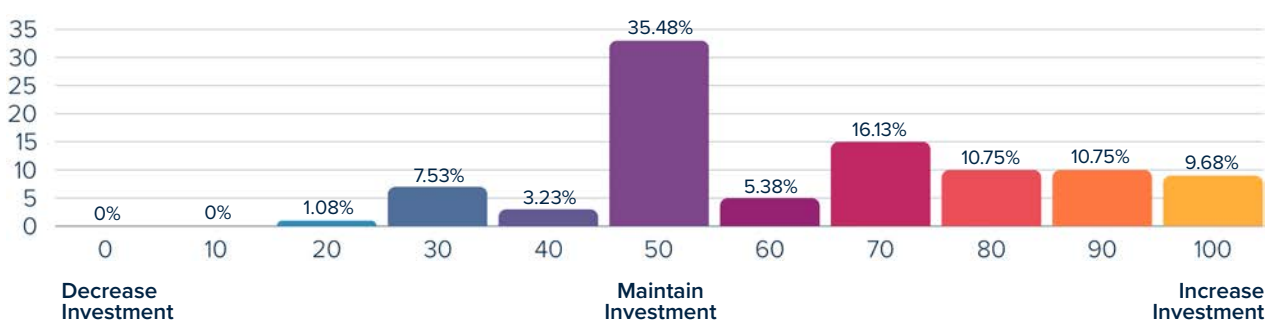
Average
67.89



Q5 Walking Trails

Development and maintenance of designated paths in natural areas to provide opportunities for exercise, recreation, and connection with nature while preserving environmental integrity.
 Answered: 93

Average
63.98



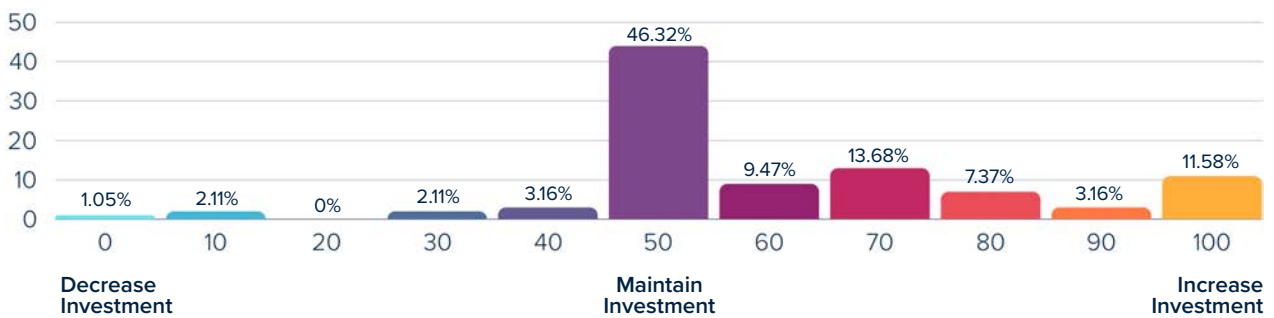
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Q6 Playgrounds

Supporting growth and development of children by providing safe and stimulating spaces for play, fostering physical activity, and promoting social interaction.

Average
60.84

Answered: 95

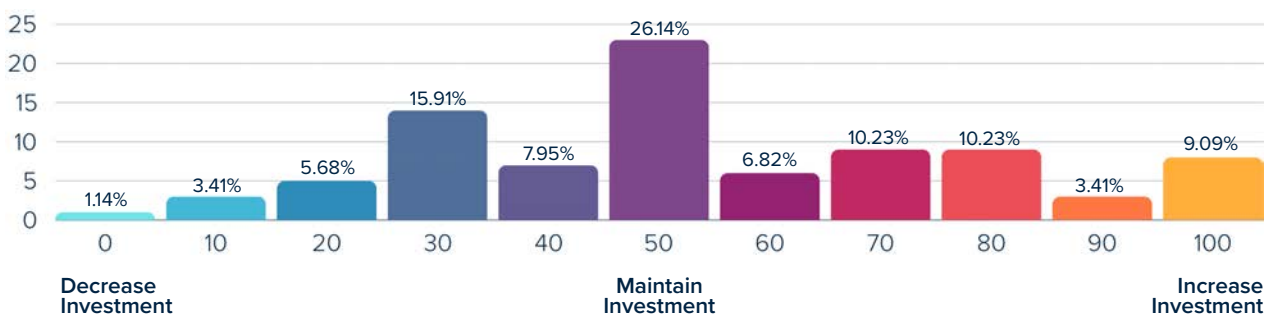


Q7 Arts & Culture

Fostering creativity, community expression, and cultural identity through initiatives like public art, events, and cultural programs.

Average
54.09

Answered: 88

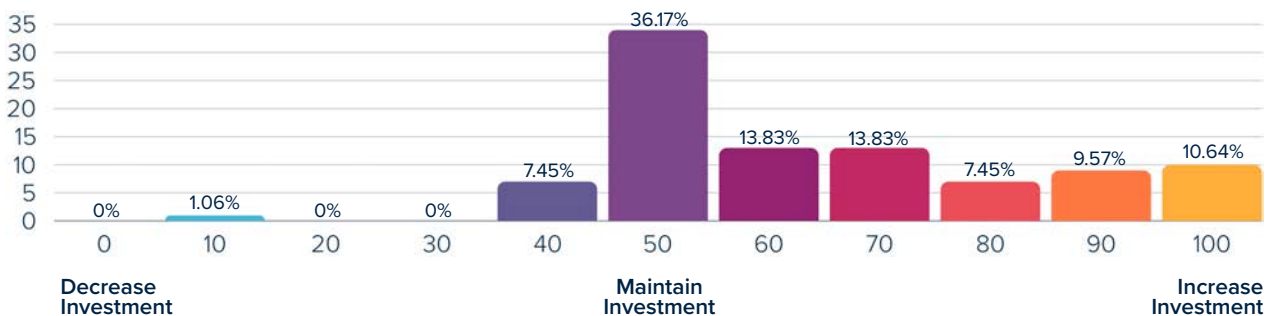


Q8 Town CBDs

Creating vibrant, accessible town centres that improve resident and visitor experience, stimulate local economy, and boost a sense of local identity.

Average
64.36

Answered: 94



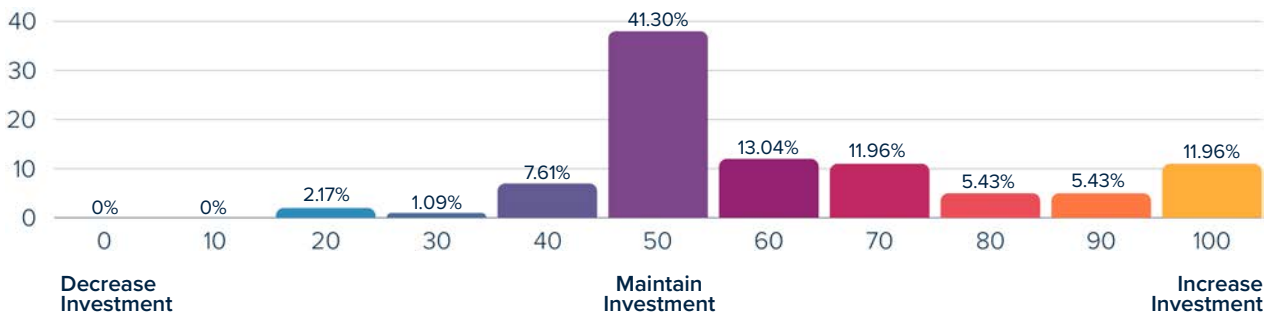
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Q9 Environment

Implementing sustainable practices, including improved wastewater and stormwater management, to enhance overall environmental health and resilience.

Average
61.85

Answered: 92

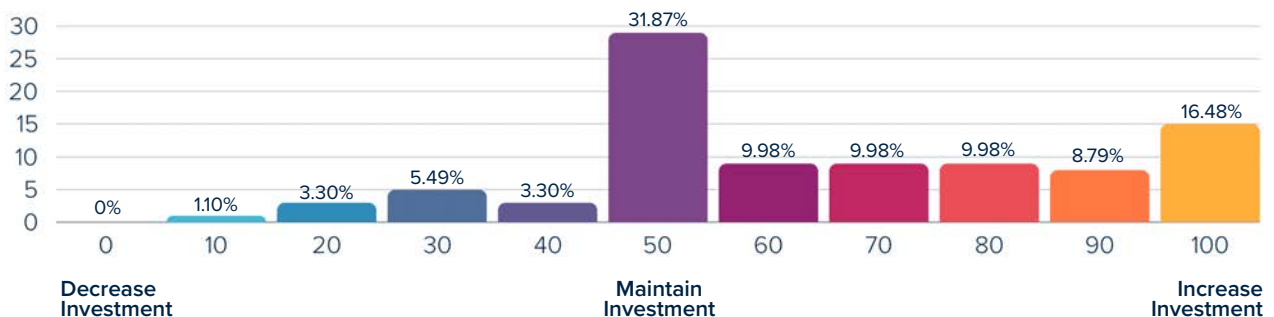


Q10 Sport & Recreation

Promoting physical activity, community bonding, and healthy lifestyles through the development and maintenance of sporting and recreational infrastructure, events and programs.

Average
64.84

Answered: 91

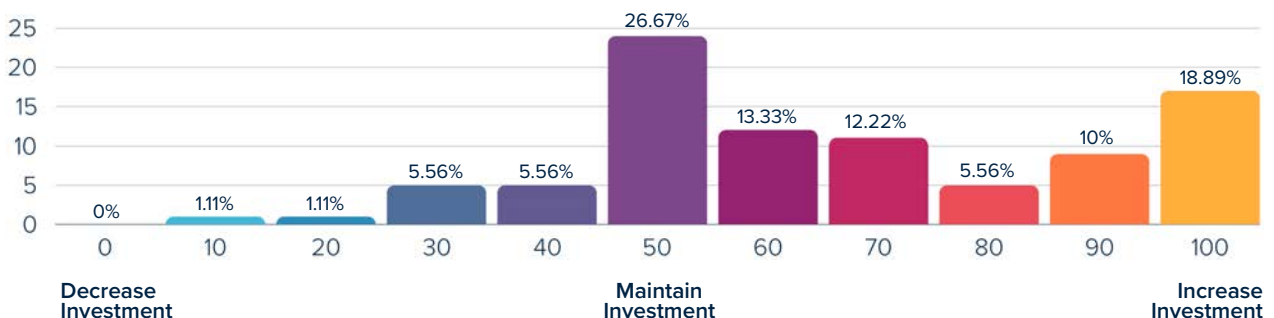


Q11 Events

Enriching the community and stimulating regional tourism by providing opportunities for cultural celebration and entertainment.

Average
66.44

Answered: 90



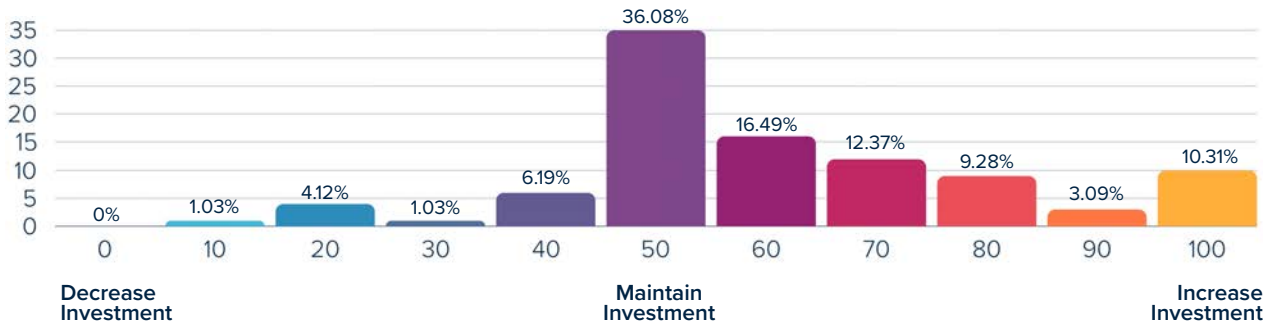
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Q12 Town Beautification

Improving the visual appeal of public spaces, streetscapes, and infrastructure to create a welcoming and attractive environment for residents and visitors.

Average
60.82

Answered: 97



Q13 Please share any of your additional thoughts or reasoning behind your selections with us.

Answered: 46

Council needs to enforce the restoration of the fire-damaged building at top end of McCoy Street. This is a disgrace for the entrance to our town, it's now 5 years since the fire.

As a senior citizen I find the footpaths very poor for walking and people on mobility scooters.

We must keep up and create a better Waikerie. I think the Council is doing a great job in doing this so far - keep up the great work.

Would like to see the upgrade and a completion of the Waikerie institute it is imperative that this building is fixed so our community can use it to the full extent, dances, bands, community events. We could be doing so much in this building but cant till its fixed.

Fix what is there (Waikerie Institute!!!!) Stop useless stuff (using carparks/roadway to widen footpath "because it's needed" then place rusty high maintenance planter boxes in the way.. usable footpath same width, wide road now skinny and blocks easily... same time removed u turn space in centre island top of Peake tce, now car u turn at Rowe St intersection causing clogged intersection with ferry traffic! Also when queue for ferry reaches back onto Peake tce, new car Island adjacent Matthew St means noone can pass, nor can they turn away so are stuck 10-20 mins awaiting ferry traffic movements minimum!! Whoever looked at your traffic appeared to not take this into account.. there are other points about town where improvements made it worse (eg why take left turn away from white-> McCoy?? No accidents reported there in 15 years, now have to wait for roundabout traffic which often is not hoing into mccoey....

We are so fortunate to have a unique rover environment. We need to capitalise on this and use it to promote and entice people to our region.

Encourage street art. Has great visual appeal.
Make funding applications for local groups simpler to apply for - when minor sums of money are involved. E.g. photocopying costs are a big factor for small groups but only small in overall Council budget.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Bringing people from outside of our community is important, tourism, play and walking trails as well as sport bring money from outside in to our community helping businesses prosper and the flow on affect is great facilities for those who live in the community.

Set up a five year plan and make it happen to repair and maintain Waikerie Institute - an important icon in our town. Stop putting this off as it will cost more each year to fix!

Work with businesses to improve opening hours on Mondays as this is good for tourism, and see if you can encourage new business to our town.

Make sure there are street crossings included in plans to improve McCoy St and as much parking as possible as elder people can't walk far uphill, and we have a lot of elder people in town.

Ian Oliver entrance is a disgrace. It needs urgent upgrade. Strangman Road entrance also.

I would like to see more done for aged care (e.g. therapeutic swim pool)

A comprehensive survey! We need to attract more reliable food providers to cater for tourists especially. Too much red tape and regulations, make it too daunting for new, and existing business opportunities!

A dedicated gardener/arborist; Corella control person; Suitable riverfront required dedicated parking/camping areas, with charges to apply & overseen by a ranger.

Enough money has been spent at Riverfront, town needs an uplift - the Institute, bench area by Institute is a very dark, dirty looking area, needs an uplift, shops need painting, a real freshen up. NO planter boxes, more disability parking.

Upgrading of Waikerie Institute kitchen is a priority. The burnt-out shop at the top of McCoy Street needs to be fixed up ASAP, not a good introduction to our town.

Dog park - tunnels etc & chairs or seats at front end.

Attention need to be made to the burnt out building at the top of McCoy Street. Not a good look for visitors entering the town. Taking too long to be dealt with.

I am not an administrator so do not have skills to request improvements or criticism.

Speaking about Waikerie CBD needs a lot of money spent on it. Needs to come into the 21st century. The Main Street has to have work done on gutters, footpaths and speed restrictions (50km/hr)

Waikerie's is green enough. Where is Loxton new bins? New posts along the riverfront?

Enough culture and arts, any more is an over kill.

Tourism is where the money is. Focus on bringing people into the area, so much more potential

We need to do more to bring tourists to our towns. We need more available on our riverfront as visitors want to enjoy the river via cruises, hiring canoes, paddle boards, etc. We need food vans providing light meals, coffee, etc on the riverfront so visitors can make use of the seating and grassed areas.

We need more tourist attractions to bring people to the area and therefore bring in money spent on accommodation, meals and shopping to support our small retail businesses

It is vital that whatever investment is made that there are always enough funds available to maintain these areas/buildings/paths etc so they do not fall into disrepair, like what has happened to the Waikerie Institute.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Continue developing the Waikerie river front further to the west.

Thinking of aged community, active residents, a variety of services with consideration to tourists, local children & family activities. The council area looks fabulous. Something for everyone and our current council areas are a visitor drawcard. Thank you.

Would be fantastic to improve the road to Ramco boat ramp and upgrade the facilities there.

Loxton is a beautiful town but let's face it, after 12pm on a Saturday what the appeal of being in Loxton over the weekends? Nothing open and nothing to do unless you own a speedboat.

It's time for Waikerie to have their basketball stadium and Institute revamped. The Band-Aid approach which council employs is just wrong, not to mention corrupt on so many levels. I don't live in Waikerie anymore but don't get me started on the Physio pool (private) in Loxton that Council helps to maintain! Meanwhile, Waikerie keep getting shunned for their heated pool project and second basketball court. **[ending removed due to inappropriate language].**

I would love to see a bike pathway between Loxton and Berri or Loxton and Moorook, somewhere safe to ride, that's not on the road but is a long distance. Similar to the Barossa. I'd also like to see a mountain bike path for kids, the one near heaven is not safe or approachable.

It's uncertain whether fostering tourism really brings real, usable capital into the town. Sporting facilities need some investment, but clubs need to understand that fair doesn't mean equal, and that just because one area gets something spent on them, doesn't mean the same needs to be spent everywhere, as some facilities have far less public use than others.

Riverfront is our best asset but it is under used compared to all other towns. The council should have purchased to club property as part of building the precinct to enable the club to be moved down the end of East Tce in the side of the hill. Community engagement is needed to get more people to help with the town like when we used to win tidy towns regularly. The parks garden and ovals are always well maintained which is good and keeps town beautiful but we have little to bring tourists here and to stay. Although I'm now an older resident I feel the town is seen as the "greying" town of the Riverland. Not much has been invested to keep our youth entertained, engaged and here. The skate park is rarely used no one uses any of the fitness equipment along the river the walkway along the river is very un inviting as it is on the wrong side of the road with no grass between the ski club and the lions toilets (now not there) and the caravan riverfront has no grass when it would have its own river water license.

Needs to increase spend on tourism attractions to stimulate increase community revenue so the local economy doesnot need to rely on viticulture as this will be a continuous poor sector for the next 25 years. Increase spending on recreation and sports to increase the use of our local already owned facilities. In Loxton we have a wonderful facility but with how much it cost is well under used and prob doesn't go close to covering costs let alone earring a commercial ROE. Waikerie will soon have similar. Where Moorook has the best actual sports oval but now it's not used for anything. What has happens with the Loxton footy ball club rooms was stupid. Where else in the Riv other than the Greek churches could a 300 plus person event be held. Our town has high community spirt general but not to the level of 25 years ago when multiple tidy towns were won. Our Xmas lights now are not worth visitors coming anymore. An easy way to promote better lights and community engagement would be to award a simple \$500 prize to the best display in the town but not from existing houses so this engages new homes only to compete for the prize. Maybe have \$250 prize for best overall lights but more for a new address. We might then get the busses back we had 20 years ago.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Waikerie and surrounding areas need to see an increased investment. Things have picked up during this election cycle but our town has been treated like second class citizens for a very long time previous to this.

I believe that our main street building facades should not be allowed to change. The top chemists shop does not fit in with the general look of the street (I know this can not be changed).

Too many empty shops in waikerie. Need other attraction to attract tourists.

Increasing river and tourism focussed funding will benefit locals as well as bringing in tourists with their financial contributions

We have some of the best weather for outdoor activities, events, and sport in Australia. With a current problem of obesity in today's society as well as electronic devices that kids seem addicted to we need to encourage through great facilities and events the lifestyle of being active and healthy.

Implement the Greening Loxton Plan

Keep up the good work with River Fringe and the cooperation with Country Arts SA.

Would love to see some investment in the Paisley riverfront post flood. It certainly needs some love, it's a very popular place for people to go on the weekends.

Riverfringe and other Country Arts collaborations particularly with Karen's efforts are great. Keep them going. The upgrading of power in the Loxton's East Tce. Extremely important for unique Main Street Community Events that will help Tourism development and maintain viability of township "space". Think laser light show on old Institute facade. Events. The vibrant feel of a unique space. Support all sporting development, not only the Council asset base. The golf course and club are a huge asset. Unfortunately cycling is poorly served and huge opportunities are wasted. Even the cycling stands are pathetic. Please do something about the Loxton Caravan park and riverfront (Packards Bend) Even just clean it up properly.

One of the biggest detractors is the big trucks moving through out town at speed.

Support housing new developments

Perhaps thought given to employing a CEO for the whole of the Riverland ie initially a Ceo secrteriat that covers all the three councils , reducing two wages, dozens of PA's etc.

I would like to see the entrances to Waikerie completed. I would also like to see the entrance crossing from The Avenue to the Waikerie Hart Lagoon with ramps either way and not the current rubbly unsafe mess it is. There is a number of people who enter the trail from this point and it is very slippery especially when you hit one of the marbly rocks! I have sent pictures and been waiting 2-3 years. I dislike that there is no ticket number or response indicating the request submitted by email has been viewed, acted upon or sitting in the que.

There are 2 spots in Waikerie where the floodlights create blind spots for drivers at night, creating a safety issue, the floodlights on the silo art (submitted by Darren Schmitke) and over the sign both ways at the lifestyle village. I would like to see NO Parking along Peake Tce next to the current Football clubrooms. This is very unsafe when both sides of the road have cars parked.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Footpaths especially in Hayward terrace are unusable, people Always walking on road and the elderly using mobility scooters on the road accident potential. Kokoda terrace median strip very untidy and unusable.

Support for an Arts and Cultural Facilitator

The town needs activities for families and visitors that is not dependant on the river or visiting wineries. Examples - ninja warrior style playground for older kids/ active adults
Indoor playspaces for bad weather days - school hols weekends eg inflatable world

Q15 First Name

Answered: 82

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q16 Last Name

Answered: 80

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q17 Email Address

Answered: 71

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

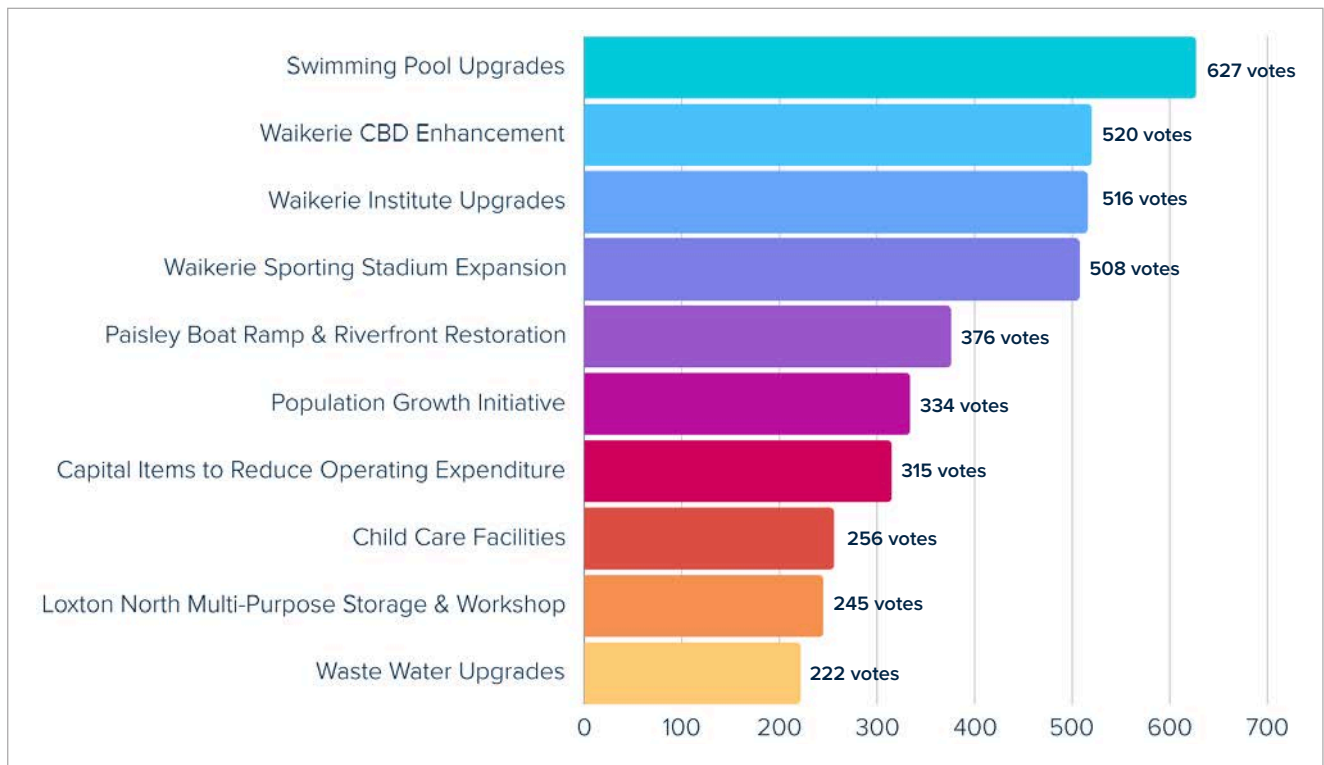
PROJECT BUDGETING

711
contributions

What projects should we fund?

While a points system was used to indicate the approximate scope and budget required to complete each project, Results have been recorded on number of votes received.

24 contributions were identified as duplicates (data match against IP address and personal information) and were removed from the results.



PITCH YOUR PROJECT

48

contributions

During data collation, the following submissions (37) were identified with potential for Council to consider in an upcoming financial year:

Waikerie silo internal enhancement project to be utilised for tourism.
A highly visible structure in town displaying the number of deaths of women in Australia at the hands of intimate partners during a year.
The supply and erection of a combined storage/sheds facility for Loxton service and community groups.
Waikerie needs more lighting on the roadside of Ramco Road near the extended part of the Lifestyle Village.
Fix x2 concrete cricket pitches/matting @ Waikerie Sports Centre. Watering = Black mould = Unsafe playing surface. Top dress oval needed.
Encourage youth to be part of our town's development (> sporting fixtures, new and existing business development, retain youth in region).
Loxton Riverfront Caravan Park requires accountability, transparency & vision plus resources to make it a financial success. Do not sell it.
Continue the beautification of the riverfront and houseboat area and new boat ramp at Waikerie.
How to bring your community group or not for profit up to date so it is able to apply for grants and therefore help the community grow .
Implement National standards for Volunteering into all volunteer organisations .
Clean up median strip along kokoda Terrace, lawn and tables or walking tracks, just needs to be care for .
Safety and welfare of riverbank at paisley ski reserve. River drive.
Council purchase 10 hand-held UHF radios (walkie-talkie) for loan to community events to improve event operation, coordination and safety
As a person with a disability I thank you for up & down ramps but the condition of footpaths in Waikerie are very sub standard.
Zebra crossing in Loxton Main Street by Library so that elderly and parents with kids can cross safely.
Bike lane / better footpaths both sides of the Loxton Lutheran School. So kids can safely walk or ride to school.

PITCH YOUR PROJECT

A footpath is required on Ramco Road from the Ramco Lagoon to the Ramco Primary School as School Students are walking on the road
Select suitable Ramco to Holder Riverfront campsites - creating hard surfaces in these designated areas. Booking of sites & charges to apply
Assist LDCC with their current idea to get NRM building childcare off the ground
Develop a splash park similar to that found in towns like Cowell - including a jumping pillow etc.
Shaded car park to be created between Loxton CWA Hall and 13 Kokoda Terrace. To ease the congestion on Loxtons 2nd busiest street, Anzac cres
Use the existing power supplied to toilets & lights at the War Memorial Gardens in WAIKERIE & illuminate the war memorial & cannon with LED?
Develop a community garden in the Waikerie area. We have many ideal spots for this; such as the area near the lifestyle village & parks.
Utilising the riverfront more in loxton above 1956 level, at the end of the main street a water play area similar to Mildura.
Beautification of Paisley beach, replacing tired structures/barrier, xtra bins and signage and ensuring the bank is safe for entering river
Paisley Ski Beach: New barrier along road to replace existing, + bins, extra 'no camping' signage, update/fix shelters, fix sandbags @ bank
The council needs to invest in paying for a plan or revising the exiting drawn plan for the riverfront at the end of East Tce.
Refurbish an old court into a pickle ball court and encourage physical activity
To fix the space by the tennis courts to make a mountain bike track. There is an old one there already, it needs work. It's full of prickles
opening the swimming pool earlier than the current time of 1pm. enabling access before the maximum heat sets in for the day.
shade sails needed to cover the local swimming pool to create a safer environment for the local children to keep cool in summer.
Installation of a multi purpose water fountain at LNSC so players and the community can drink, fill up a water bottle and water for dogs.
Treat the wood on council projects & property with oil asap as its already very badly dried out. This includes BBQ Shelters, park signs etc
The Waikerie Institute: an upgrade with a functional kitchen, improved lighting, running water, and chairs. The bar area needs upgrading too

PITCH YOUR PROJECT

I'd like to see new modern tables and chairs scattered around the lawn of the rotunda area in loxton with permanent umbrellas attached.

East Tce Loxton Light Shows on Institute facade of Library/ VIC. utilising the Rotunda as a base. History Events Christmas Arts and Culture.

More infrastructure for population growth.

The following submissions (11) were identified as either being not, or not-entirely, a function of Council. Dependent on the individual idea, Council may be able to support the project in an alternate way (such as advocating, supporting, or linking stakeholders).

Supporting young people to start their small businesses within the Council region. Provide seed funding and support to help get them started

Purpose-built/modified residence/s to shelter women and children who need to seek security from violence, harassment or coercive control

Attracting a paddle boat to Waikerie would be a great achievement - say, something like the Proud Mary or Murray Princess.

Mural Art Festival - A purpose built mural art competition where a number of local and metropolitan mural artists are selected to paint amural

Continue Developing the Waikerie Riverfront the West of the 2nd Boat ramp
Redevelop the Western Entrance to Waikerie at the Vasey Rd end

Farmers markets on the Loxton Riverfront every month and a coffee van / food van to utilise the space more.

Somehow the LLOYD Griffiths motorcar collection should be relocated to Loxton. I'm sure it would be a major tourist attraction.

Miniature train at the historical village, Similar to the train in Clare, Train can travel throughout the village, support from Men shed.

Tree climb similar to adelaide and Kupto at Loxton riverfront near caravan park, within the gum trees

A purpose-built facility for the needy.

LWDC. Survey Farmers / Horti /Carriers re Heavy / RAV. Access. Ask for ideas about less trips, lower cost + labour, and improved safety