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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-second 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 22 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 22 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.



Strathbogie Shire Council – at a glance



Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Strathbogie 57



State-wide 61



Small Rural 60

Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages

The three areas where Council **Areas where Council** performance is significantly performance is significantly lower by the widest margin higher Local streets & None footpaths Sealed local roads Art centres & libraries Local streets & None footpaths Community decisions Informing the community

Summary of core measures



Index scores





engagement

Community

decisions

2016

2017



local

roads

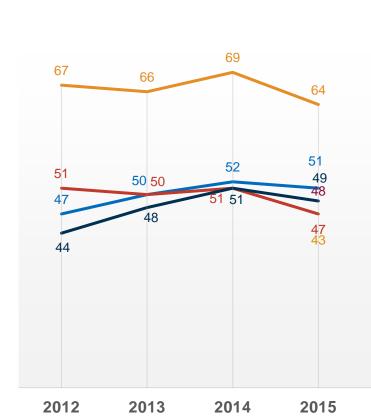
Waste management

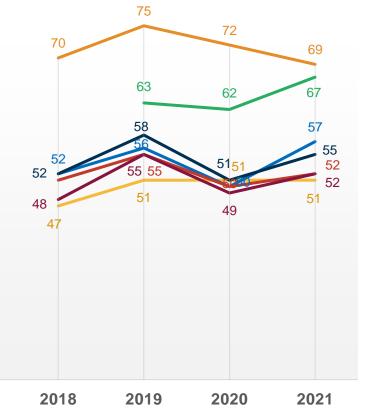


Customer Customer customer



Overall council direction

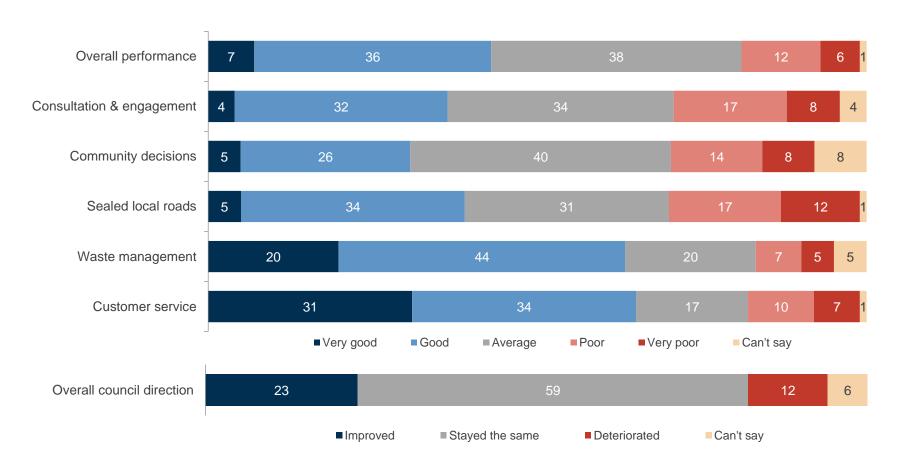




Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Strathbogie Shire Council performance



Servic	ces	Strathbogie 2021	Strathbogie 2020	Small Rural 2021	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
<i>(%</i>	Overall performance	57	50	60	61	Aged 65+ years, Honeysuckle Creek residents, Women	Mount Wombat residents
(5)	Value for money	41	-	52	54	Honeysuckle Creek residents	Aged 35-49 years
7	Overall council direction	55	51	53	53	Women	Aged 50-64 years
Ė	Customer service	69	72	69	70	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	74	-	75	73	Aged 50-64 years	Aged 65+ years, Men, Aged 18-34 years
	Waste management	67	62	68	69	Honeysuckle Creek residents	Aged 35-49 years
	Art centres & libraries	67	-	72	73	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
ず	Recreational facilities	65	-	69	71	Aged 65+ years	Mount Wombat residents
	Enforcement of local laws	61	59	63	64	Aged 18-34 years	Seven Creeks residents, Aged 65+ years

Summary of Strathbogie Shire Council performance



Servi	ces	Strathbogie 2021	Strathbogie 2020	Small Rural 2021	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
Ya	Tourism development	61	62	63	62	Lake Nagambie, Hughes Creek residents	Mount Wombat residents
	Bus/community dev./tourism	59	-	62	61	Lake Nagambie, Hughes Creek residents	Mount Wombat residents, Seven Creeks residents
2	Environmental sustainability	57	56	61	62	Aged 18-34 years	Mount Wombat residents
	Informing the community	56	55	61	60	Aged 18-34 years	Mount Wombat residents
50	Consultation & engagement	52	50	56	56	Aged 18-34 years, Honeysuckle Creek residents	Seven Creeks residents, Aged 50-64 years
app.	Local streets & footpaths	52	46	58	59	Mount Wombat residents	Seven Creeks residents
***	Community decisions	52	49	56	56	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years

Summary of Strathbogie Shire Council performance



Servic	es	Strathbogie 2021	Strathbogie 2020	Small Rural 2021	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
<u></u>	Lobbying	51	50	55	55	Lake Nagambie, Hughes Creek residents	Mount Wombat residents
	Building & planning permits	51	-	49	51	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years, Seven Creeks residents, Aged 35-49 years
A	Sealed local roads	51	51	53	57	Honeysuckle Creek residents	Mount Wombat residents
4	Unsealed roads	42	41	44	45	Honeysuckle Creek residents	Aged 18-34 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of Strathbogie Shire Council's overall performance increased significantly on 2020 and is now at its highest level to date. On most individual service areas, performance ratings have remained the same. The exceptions are waste management, and local streets and footpaths where ratings have significantly improved in the past year. Overall, this is a positive result for Council.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Council should focus on maintaining and improving performance in the individual service areas that most influence perception of overall performance but where Council currently performs relatively less well: lobbying, informing the community and the condition of sealed local roads are key here. Council should look to further improve and consolidate the gains made on these areas in recent years. Focus is particularly needed on informing the community where Council has not yet recovered the significant losses seen in 2020.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Council performs in line with the Small Rural group council averages on seven out of 16 individual service areas and in line with the State-wide averages for councils on five out of 16 areas. Council performs significantly below the Small Rural and State-wide average on all remaining measures.

Maintain gains achieved to date

Council should look to maintain and build upon its significantly improved performance on waste management, and local streets and footpaths over the next 12 months. Although there were no significant declines in performance ratings in 2020, there is an opportunity to consolidate and build upon perceptions in the year ahead. Council should also seek to consolidate the small gains made in perceptions of community decisions, as this service area is also influential in driving perceptions of Council's overall performance.

DETAILED FINDINGS







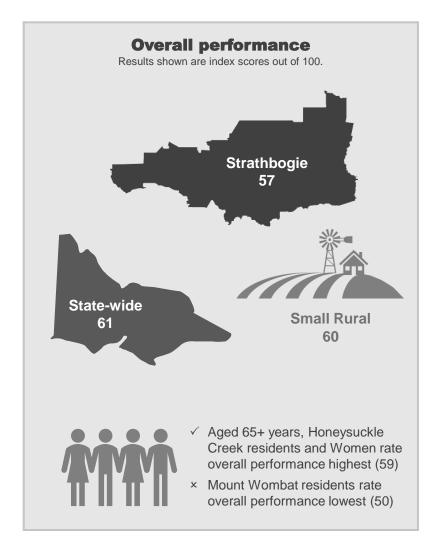
The overall performance index score of 57 for Strathbogie Shire Council represents a statistically significant (at the 95% confidence interval) seven-point improvement on the 2020 result. This is Council's highest rating on overall performance in 10 years.

Strathbogie Shire Council's overall performance is rated significantly lower than the Small Rural group and the State-wide average (index scores of 60 and 61 respectively).

 Almost all demographic and geographic cohorts improved in their perceptions of overall performance in the past year. For residents aged 65 years and over and people living in Lake Nagambie, Hughes Creek, the increases are significant.

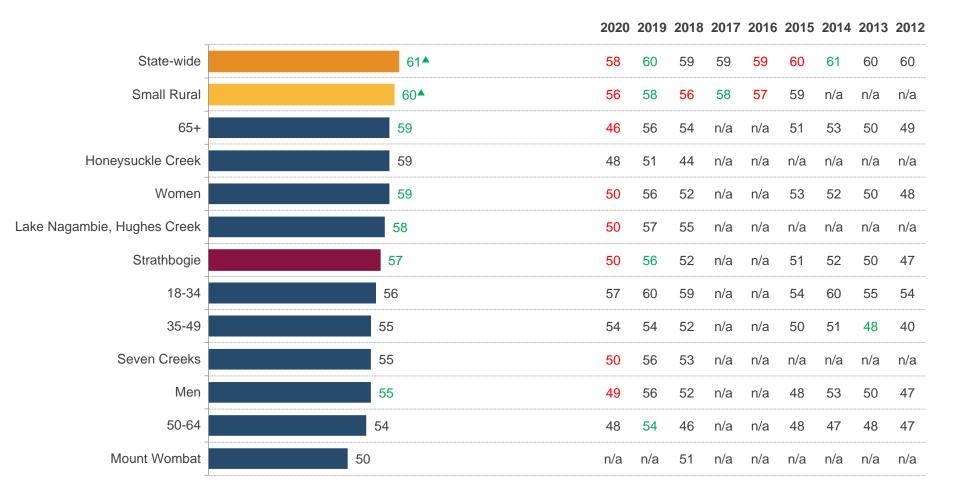
One in five residents (20%) rate the value for money they receive from Council for services and infrastructure provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. This is around half the proportion who rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (39%). A further 38% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.

 Perceptions of value for money in services and infrastructure (index score of 41) are significantly lower than the Small Rural group average (index score of 52) and the State-wide average (index score of 54).



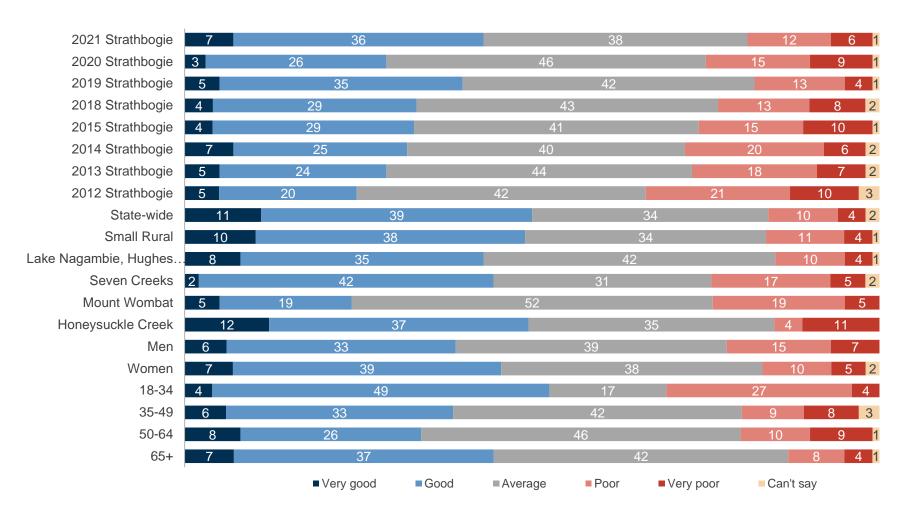


2021 overall performance (index scores)





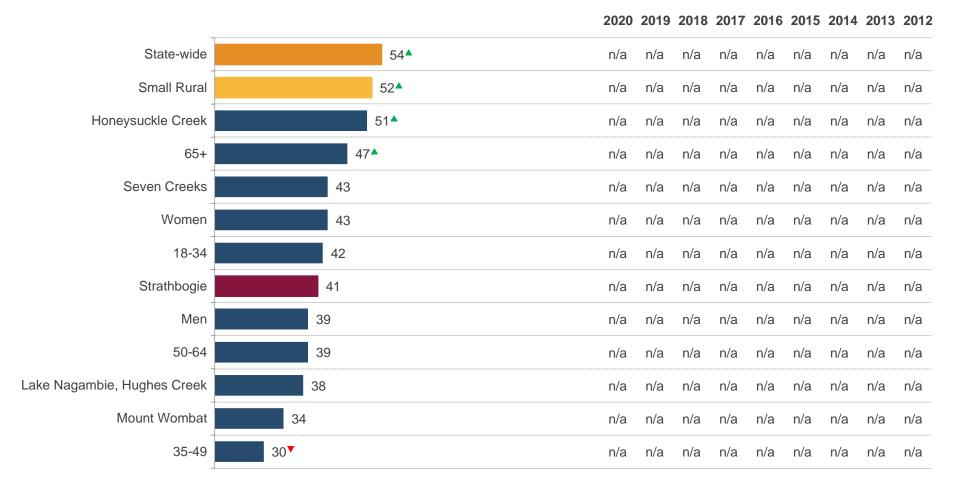
2021 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



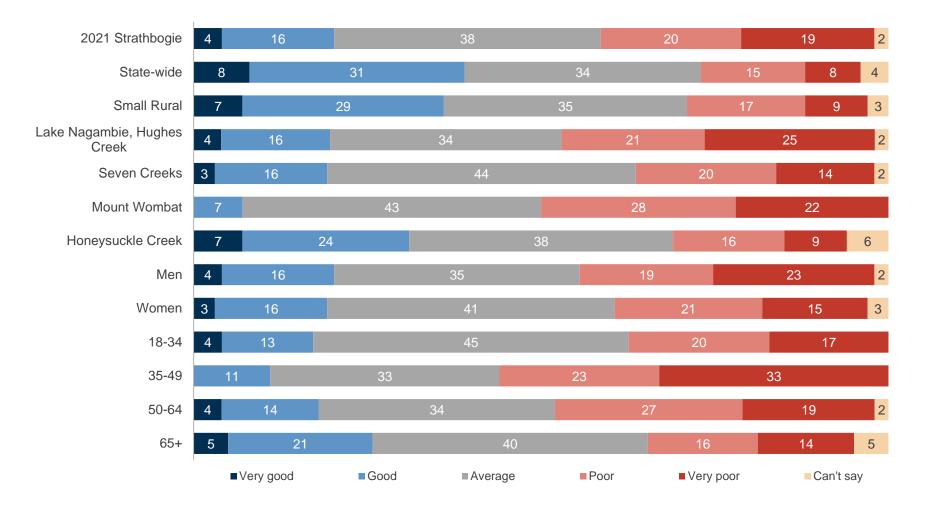
2021 value for money (index scores)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2021 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

Appearance of public areas (index score of 74) is the area where Council performed best in 2021.

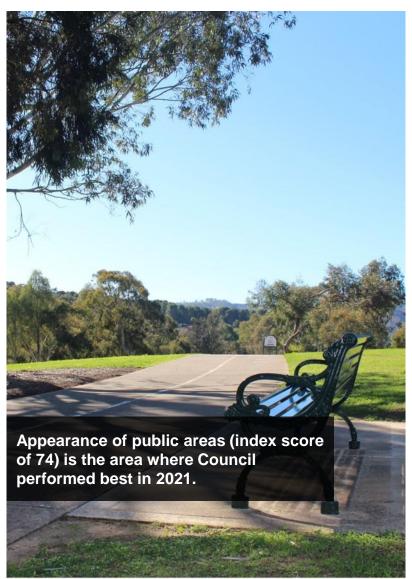
- Council performs in line with the Small Rural and State-wide averages in this service area.
- Among residents aged 50 to 64 years, perceptions of Council's performance are significantly higher than the Council average.
- Additionally, one in ten residents (11%) nominate parks and gardens as the best thing about Council.

Waste management is Council's next highest rated service area (index score of 67, up a significant five points – following the State-wide trend).

- Council performs in line with the Small Rural and State-wide average on waste management.
- Perceptions among residents aged 35 to 49 years are significantly lower than the Council average.

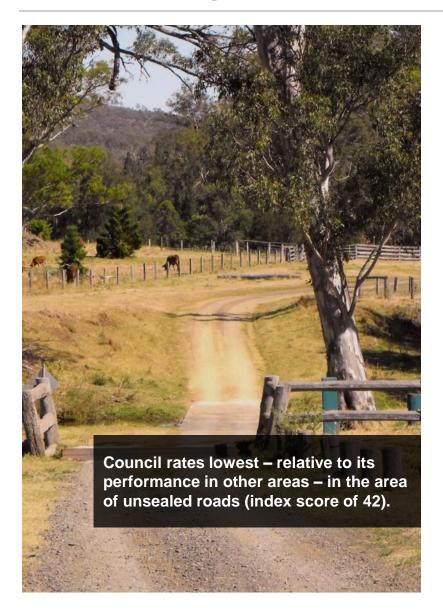
Council also performs relatively well in the area of art centres and libraries (index score of 67).

- However, council is rated significantly lower than the Small Rural and State-wide average on this measure.
- Perceptions among residents aged 65 years and over are significantly higher than the Council average, while among those aged 18 to 34 years, perceptions are significantly lower.



Low performing service areas





Council did not experience any significant declines in performance ratings in 2021.

Council rates lowest in the area of maintenance of unsealed roads (index score of 42, up one point).

Council's next lowest rated areas are sealed local roads, building and planning permits and lobbying, each with an index score of 51.

- Council rates in line with the Small Rural group average on unsealed and sealed local roads, and building and planning permits, but significantly lower than the Small Rural group average on lobbying.
- Perceptions of Council's performance on sealed local roads, unsealed local roads and lobbying are significantly lower than the State-wide average.
- Ratings of Council's performance on sealed and unsealed roads are highest among residents of Honeysuckle Creek and relatively lower in Mount Wombat. This suggests attention should first be directed to the Mount Wombat area.
- Lobbying, the condition of sealed local roads, and planning and building permits each have a strong influence on perceptions of overall performance.
 Focusing efforts on these areas will help drive up Council's overall performance rating.

Individual service area performance



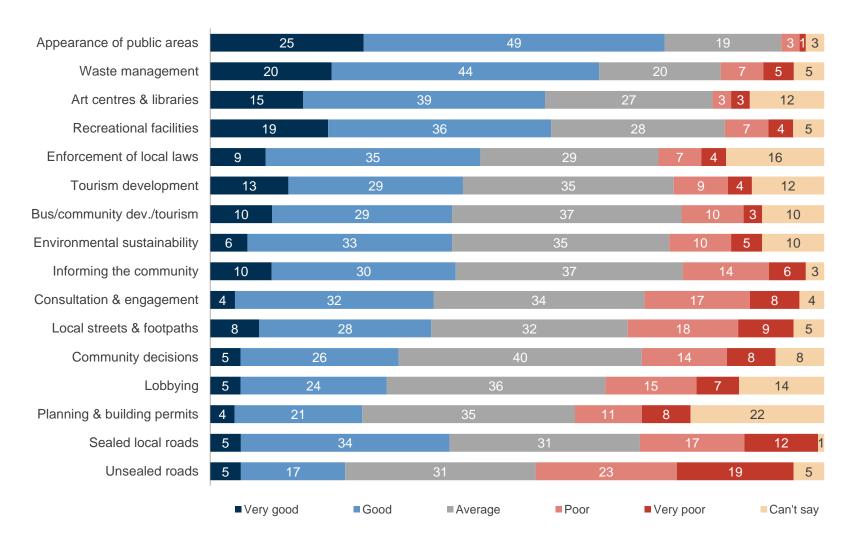
2021 individual service area performance (index scores)



Individual service area performance



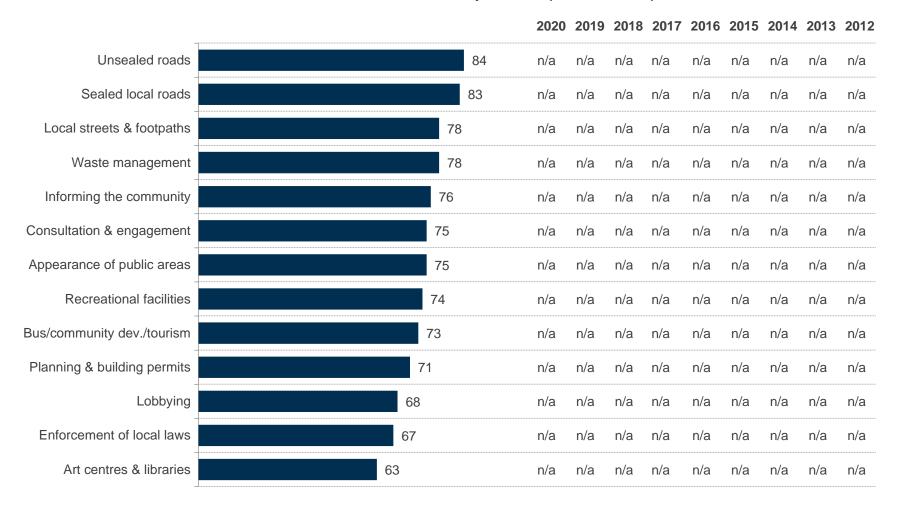
2021 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



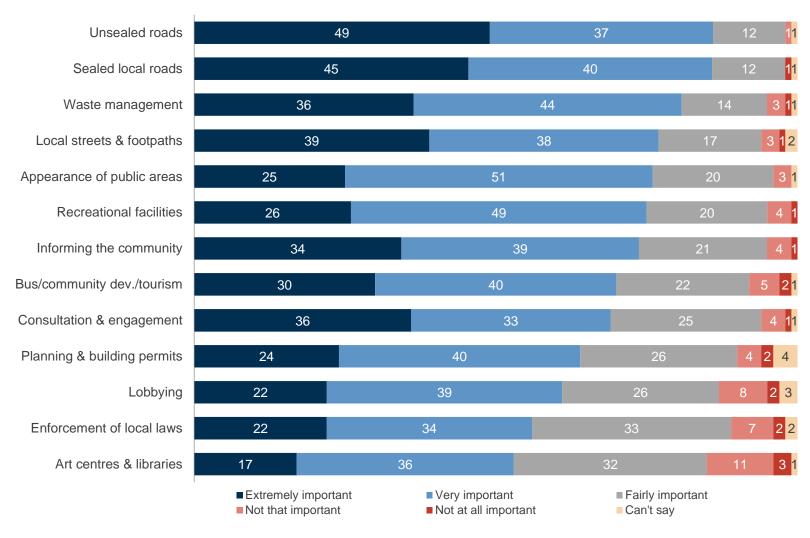
2021 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



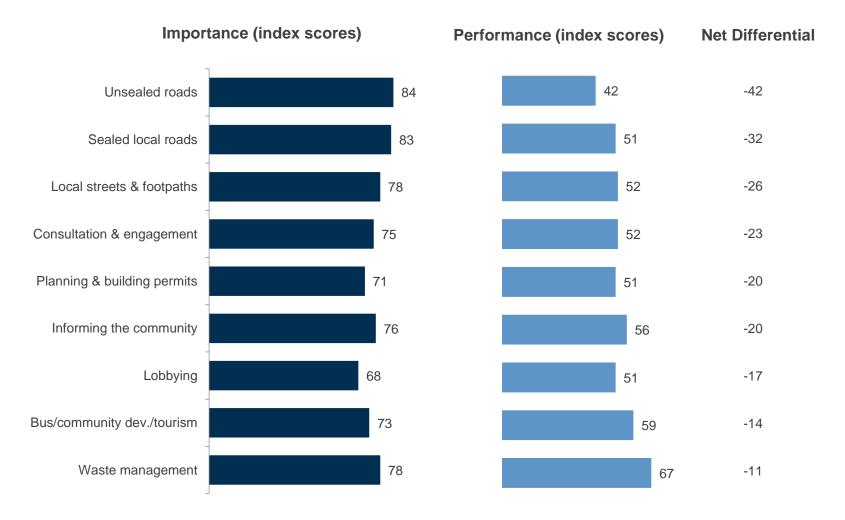
2021 individual service area importance (%)



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 areas that have the strongest influence on the overall performance rating (based on regression analysis) are:

- · Lobbying on behalf of the community
- · Informing the community
- The condition of sealed local roads.

Council performance is currently rated only slightly above 'average' on lobbying and sealed roads (index score of 51 for each) but higher on informing the community (index score of 56).

Good communication with residents and demonstrating efforts to advocate on their behalf, as well as attending to the maintenance of sealed roads, provide the greatest opportunities to drive up Council's overall performance rating.

Following on from that, other individual service areas with a more moderate influence on the overall performance rating are:

- Decisions made in the interest of the community
- Planning and building permits.

Council performance is also rated just above 'average' in these areas – index scores of 52 and 51 respectively.

A greater focus on transparency in Council decision making, and on its approach to planning and building permits, will also be important to help improve overall performance ratings.

Regression analysis explained



We use regression analysis to investigate which individual service areas, such as community consultation, condition of sealed local roads, etc. (the independent variables) are influencing respondent perceptions of overall council performance (the dependent variable).

In the charts that follow:

- The horizontal axis represents the council performance index for each individual service.
 Service areas appearing on the right-side of the chart have a higher performance index than those on the left.
- 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.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

- The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of all individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas with a weaker influence on overall performance (i.e. a low Standardised Beta Coefficient) have been excluded from the analysis.

Key insights from this analysis are derived from the second chart.

Influence on overall performance: all service areas



2021 regression analysis (all service areas)

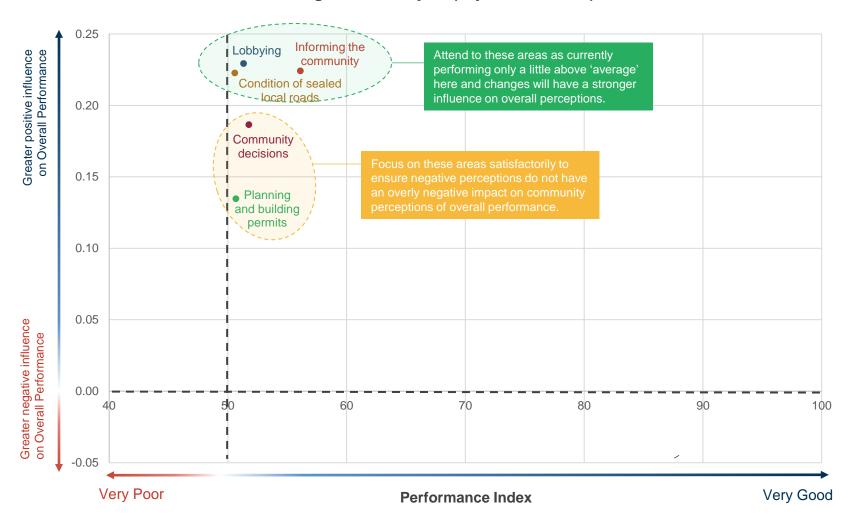


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.497 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.475, which means that 50% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 23.61. This model should be interpreted with some caution as some data is not normally distributed and not all service areas have linear correlations.

Influence on overall performance: key service areas



2021 regression analysis (key service areas)

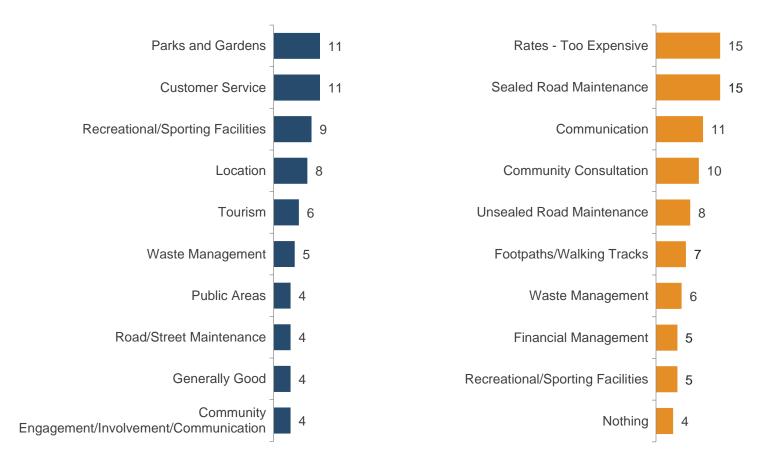


Best things about Council and areas for improvement





2021 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -



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

Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 28 Councils asked group: 9



Customer service

Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

More than two thirds of Council residents (68%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact is two percentage points lower than last year. Residents aged 35 to 49 years (80%) and 50 to 64 years (79%) had the most contact with Council, both significantly higher than average.

The main methods of contacting Council are by telephone (43%, up five percentage points) and in person (30%, down seven percentage points).



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 69 is down three points on 2020 (not a significant decline). Customer service is rated in line with the Small Rural and Statewide average (index scores of 69 and 70 respectively).

Among those who have had contact with Council, almost two thirds (65%) of residents provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'.

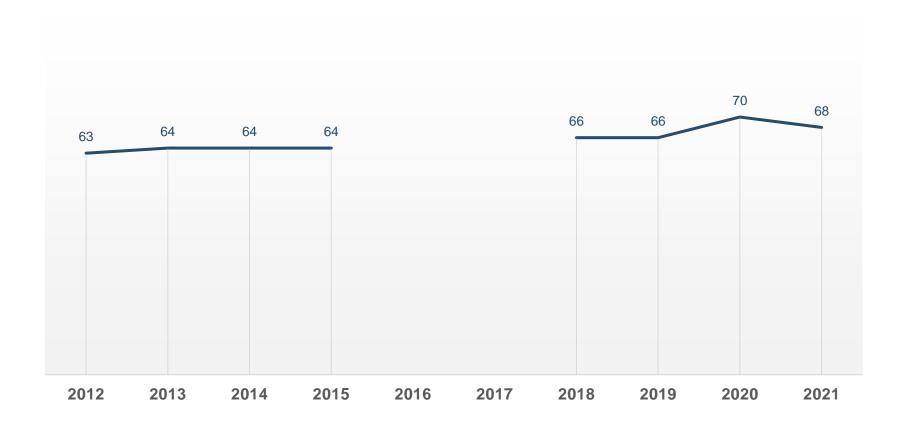
- Ratings among residents aged 18 to 49 years have declined significantly on 2020. Residents aged 35 to 49 years had the most contact with Council in the past year and so extra attention may be warranted here.
- Differences in customer service ratings across demographic and geographic cohorts are not significantly different from the Council average.

Customer service ratings are highest among residents who communicated with Council via the website (index score of 79) and lowest among those who communicated via text message (index score of 41). (Note the small sample size for both.)

Contact with council



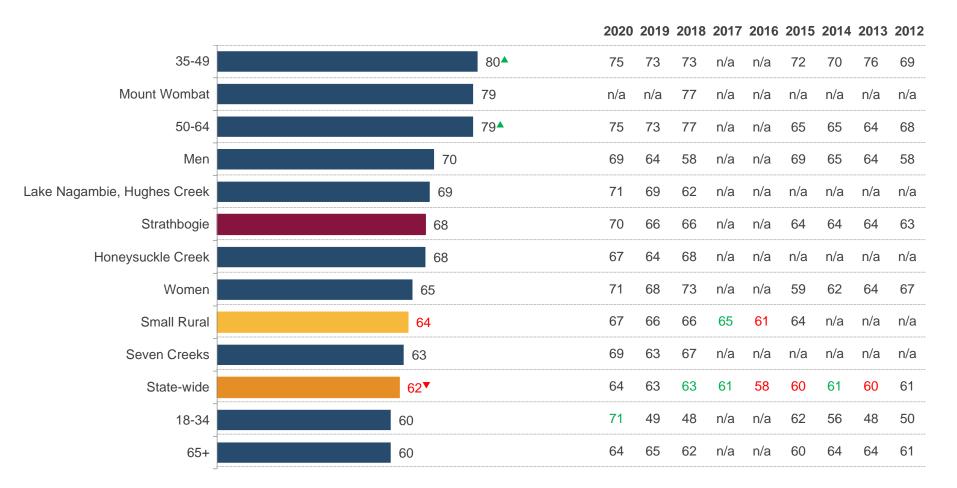
2021 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



2021 contact with council (%)



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

Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 4 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Customer service rating



2021 customer service rating (index scores)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Strathbogie Shire 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: 66 Councils asked group: 19

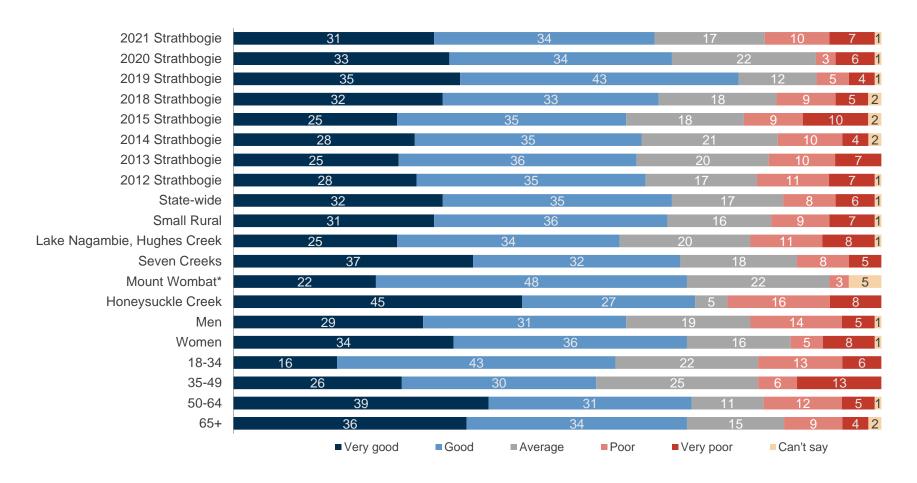
Councils asked state-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Customer service rating



2021 customer service rating (%)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Strathbogie Shire 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.

Method of contact with council



2021 method of contact (%)















In Person

In Writing

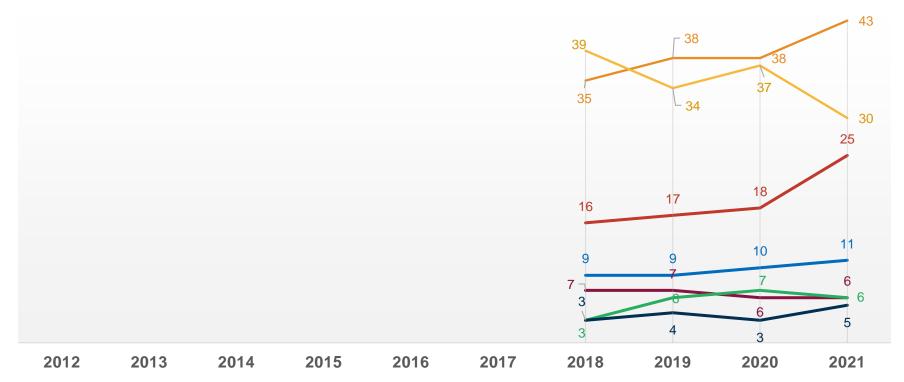
By Telephone

By Text Message

By Email

Via Website

By Social Media



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

Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 4

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2021 customer service rating (index score by method of last contact)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Strathbogie Shire 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: 27 Councils asked group: 4

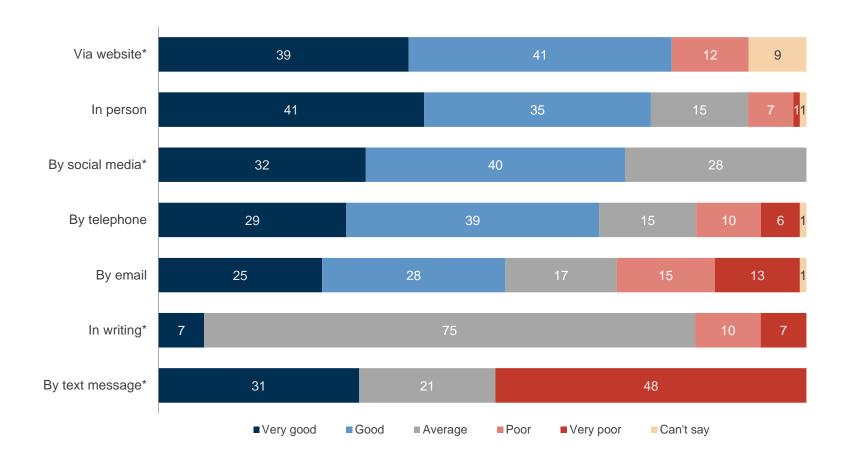
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2021 customer service rating (% by method of last contact)



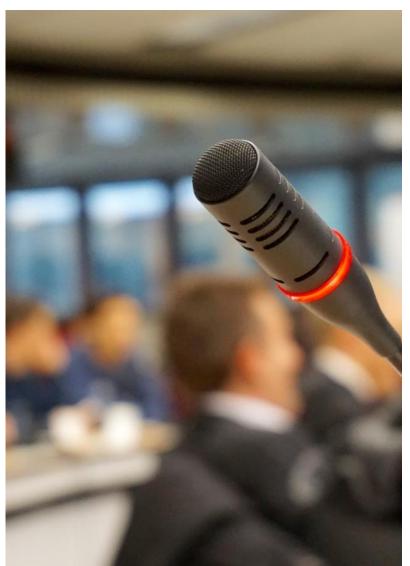
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Strathbogie Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked state-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 4



Communication

The preferred form of communication from Council is newsletters sent via mail (28%) followed by newsletters via email (24%). The greatest change since 2020 is the six point increase in preference for newsletter as an insert in a local newspaper, although preference for this form of communication remains relatively low (14%).

- The preferred form of communication among <u>under</u> 50s is social media (29%) followed by newsletters via mail (26%) and email (24%).
- The preferred form of communication among <u>over</u> 50s is newsletters sent via mail (29%) followed by newsletters via email (24%).



Best form of communication



2021 best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



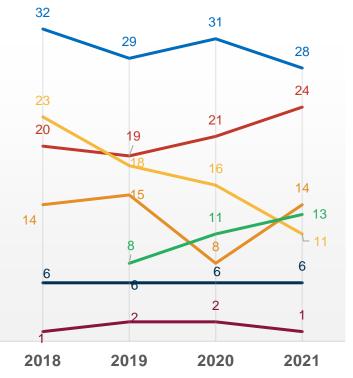
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If Strathbogie Shire 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?

2015

2016

2017

Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 35 Councils asked group: 10 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

2014

2013

2012

Best form of communication: under 50s



2021 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper

2013

2012



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



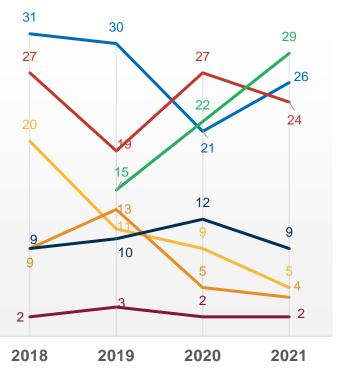
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If Strathbogie Shire 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?

2015

2016

2017

Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked state-wide: 35 Councils asked group: 10 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

2014

Best form of communication: over 50s



2021 over 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper

2013

2012



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



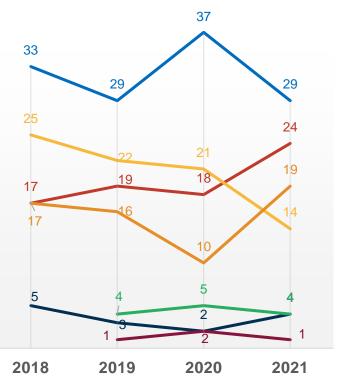
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If Strathbogie Shire 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?

2015

2016

2017

Base: All respondents aged over 50. Councils asked state-wide: 35 Councils asked group: 10 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

2014



Council direction

W

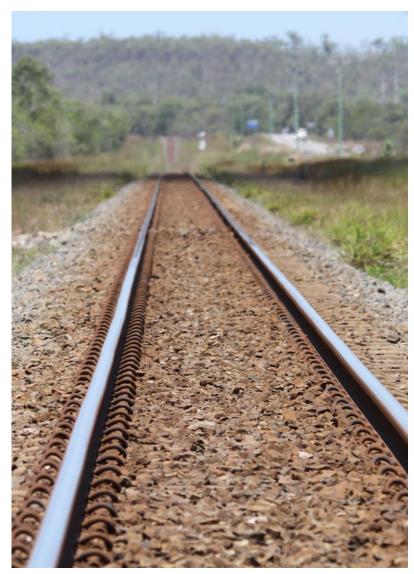
Perceptions of Council's overall direction have increased by four points (index score of 55).

 Perceptions of Council's overall direction are in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide average for councils.

Over the last 12 months, 59% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same, up two points on 2020.

- 23% believe the direction has improved in the last
 12 months, up two points.
- 12% believe it has deteriorated, down six points.
- The <u>most</u> satisfied with Council direction are women, significantly moreso than average.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with Council direction are those aged 50 to 64 years, who rate Council's direction significantly lower than the average.

Most residents (64%) believe Council is generally heading in the 'right' direction compared to only 23% who think Council is heading in the 'wrong' direction.



Overall council direction last 12 months



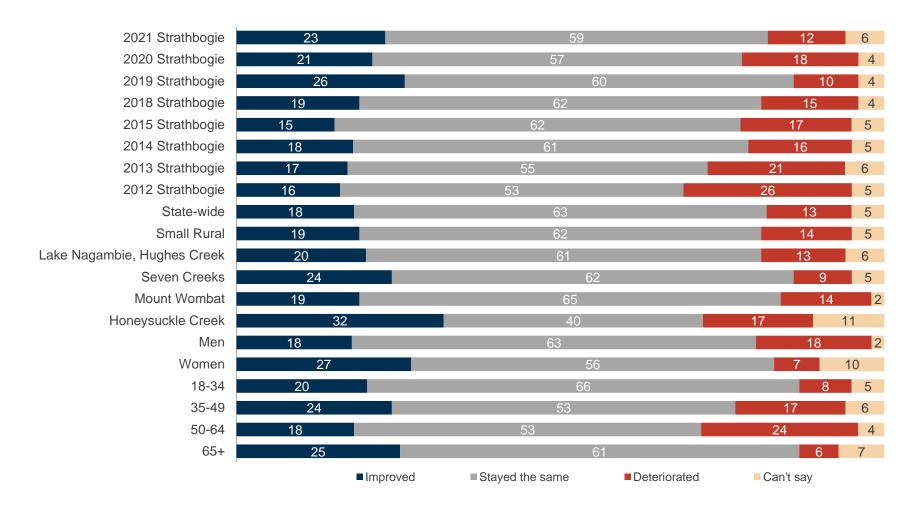
2021 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



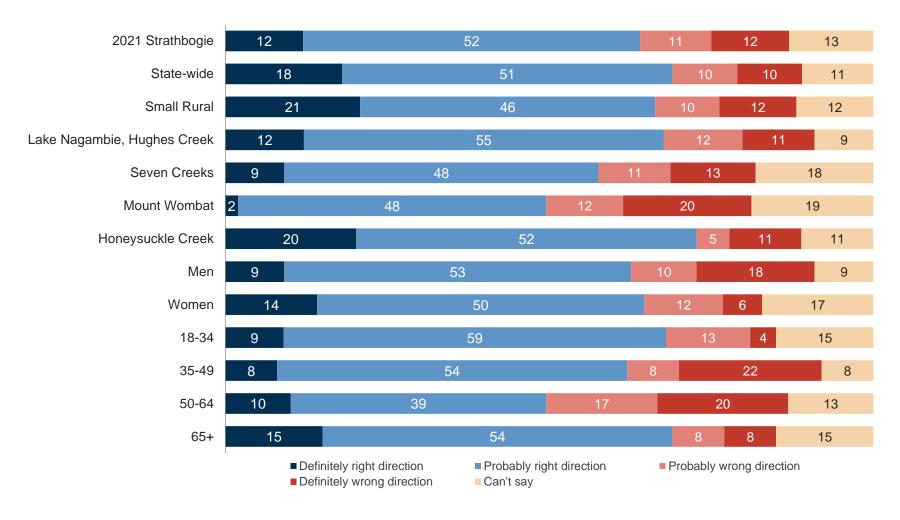
2021 overall council direction (%)



Right / wrong direction



2021 right / wrong direction (%)



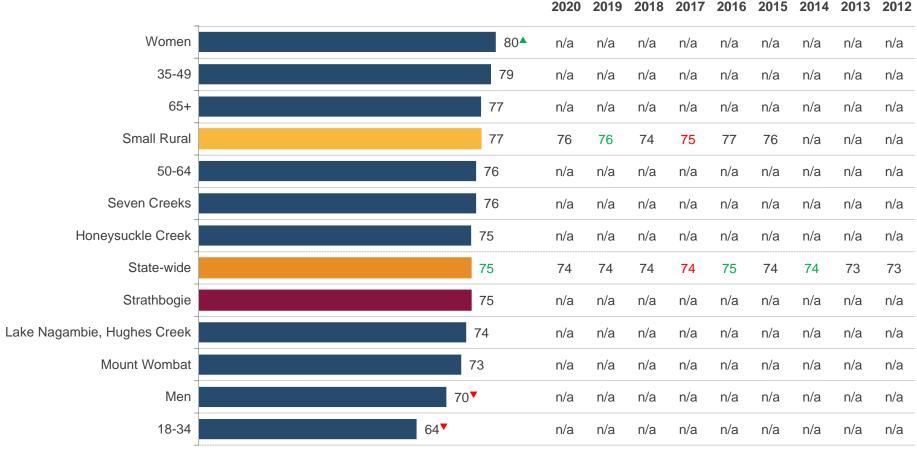


Community consultation and engagement importance





2021 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

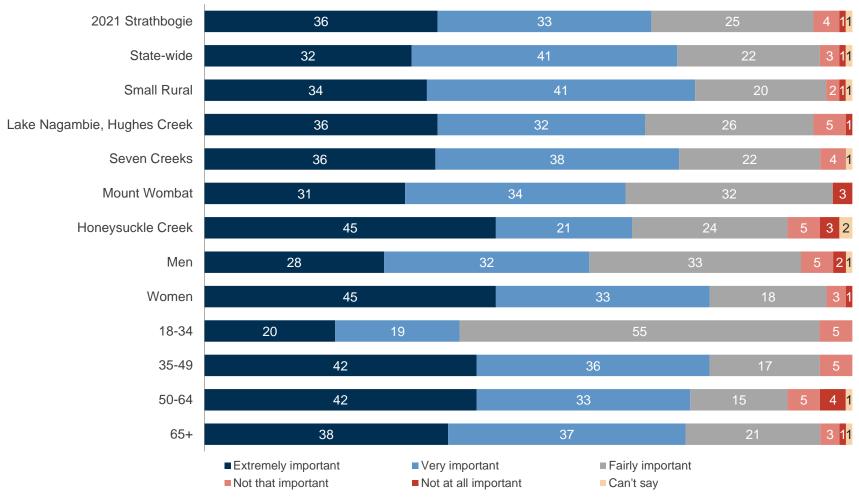


Community consultation and engagement importance





2021 consultation and engagement importance (%)

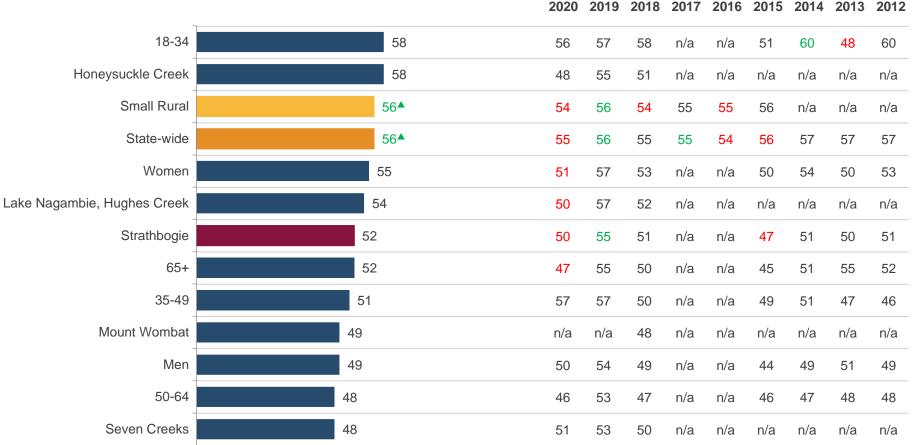


Community consultation and engagement performance





2021 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

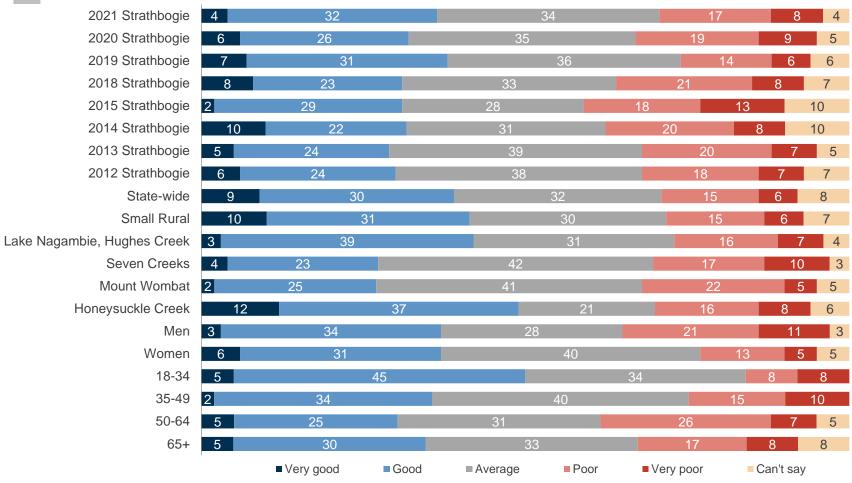


Community consultation and engagement performance





2021 consultation and engagement performance (%)

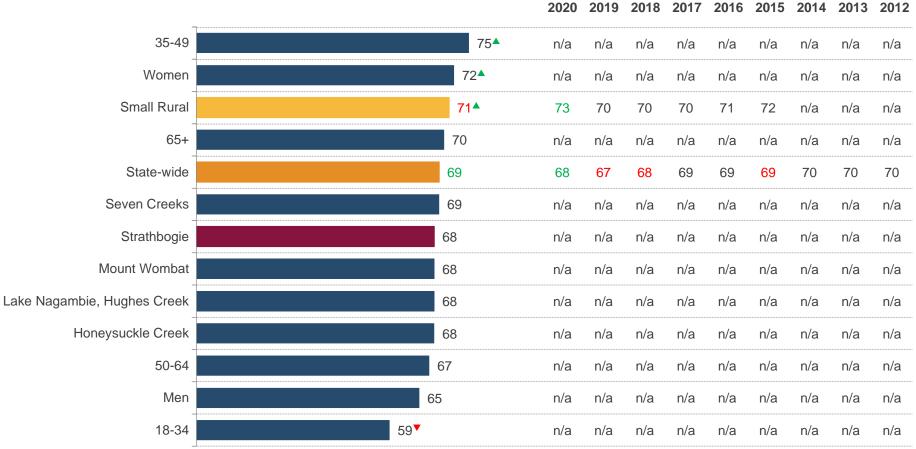


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2021 lobbying importance (index scores)

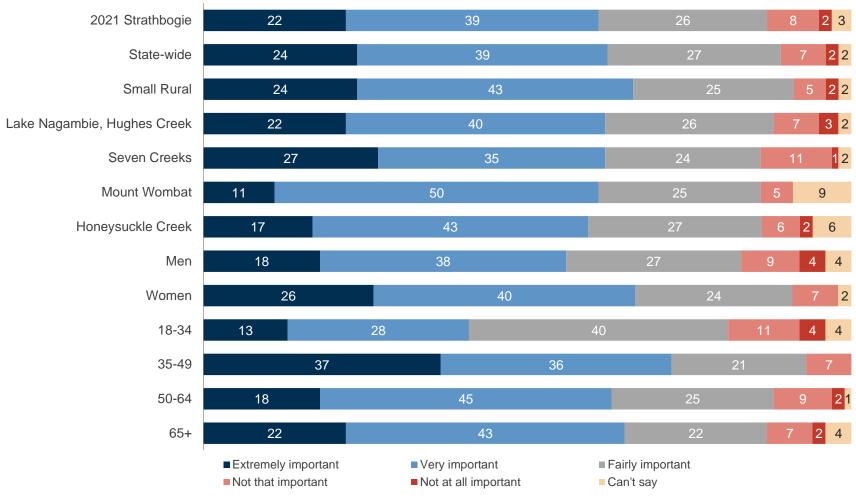


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2021 lobbying importance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2021 lobbying performance (index scores)

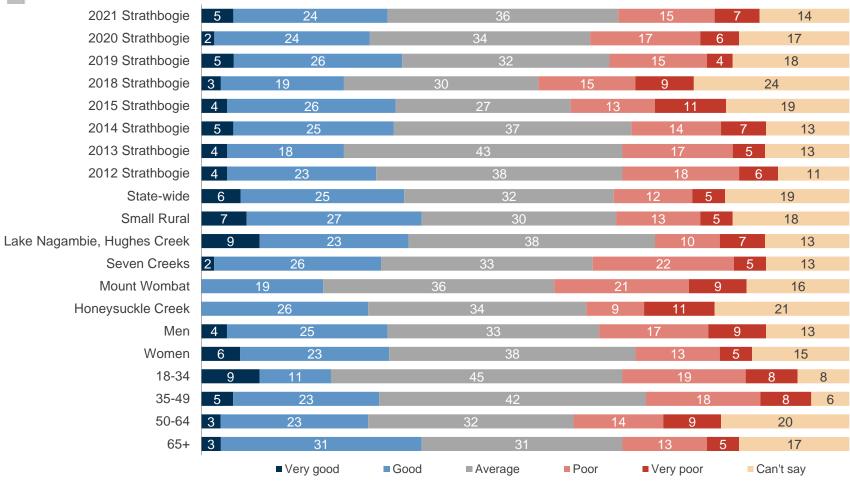


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2021 lobbying performance (%)

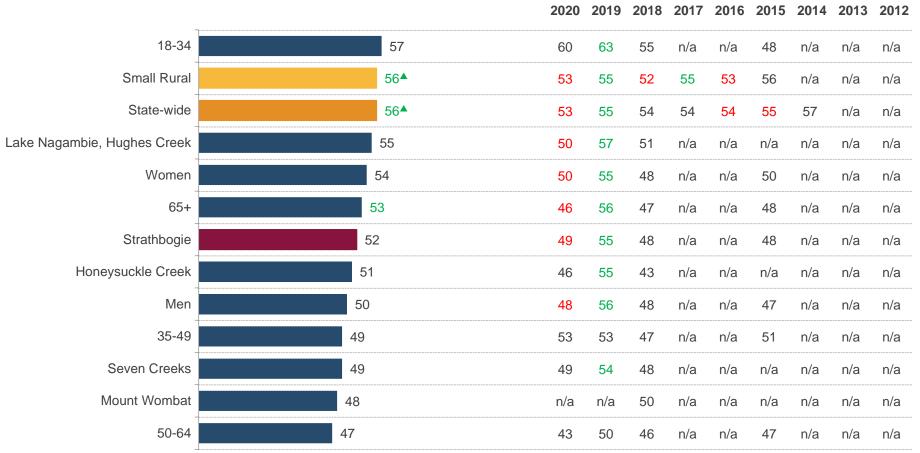


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2021 community decisions made performance (index scores)

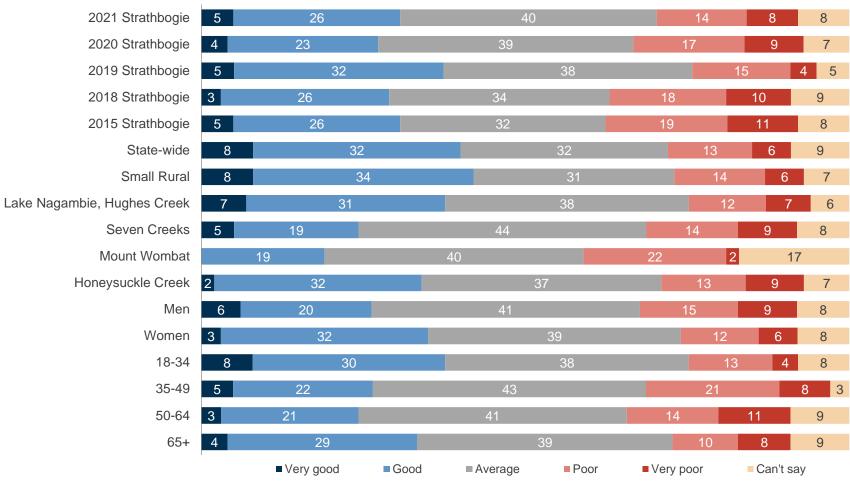


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2021 community decisions made performance (%)

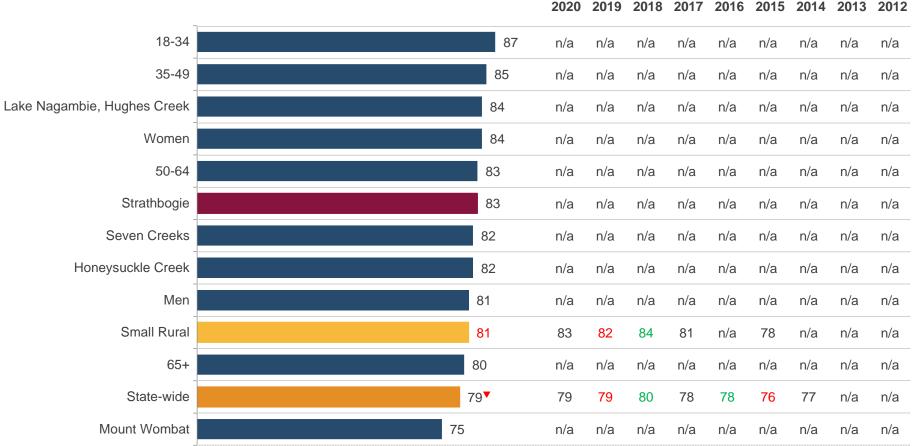


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2021 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

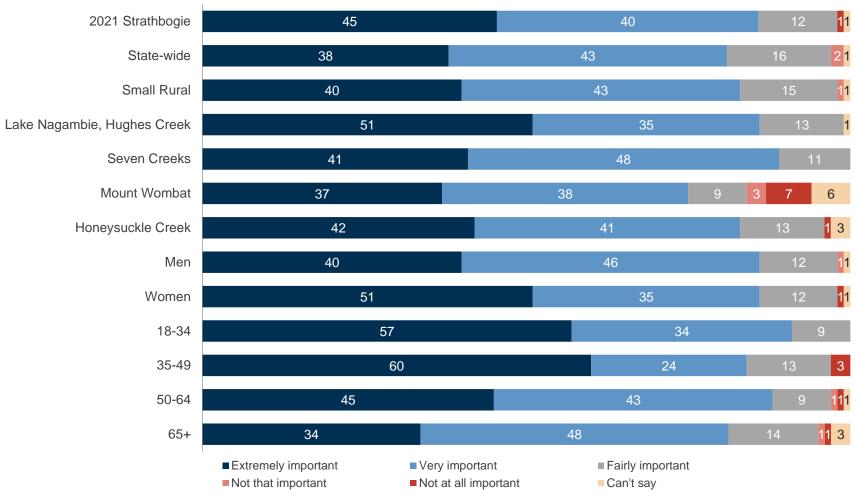


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2021 sealed local roads importance (%)

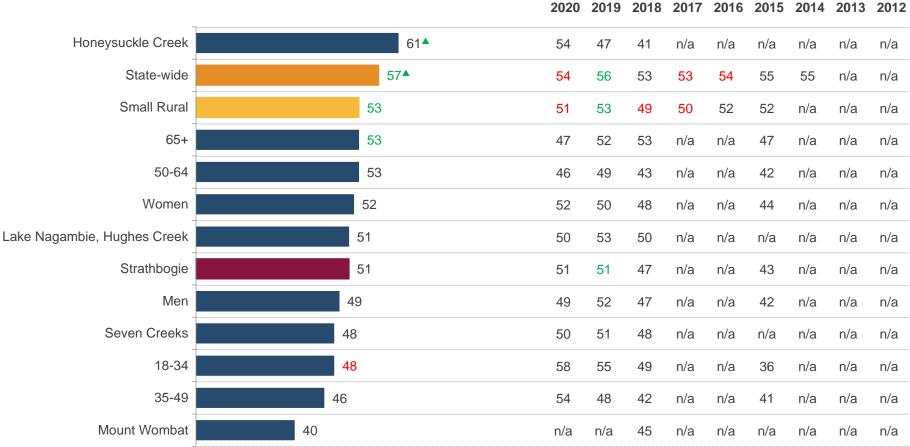


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2021 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

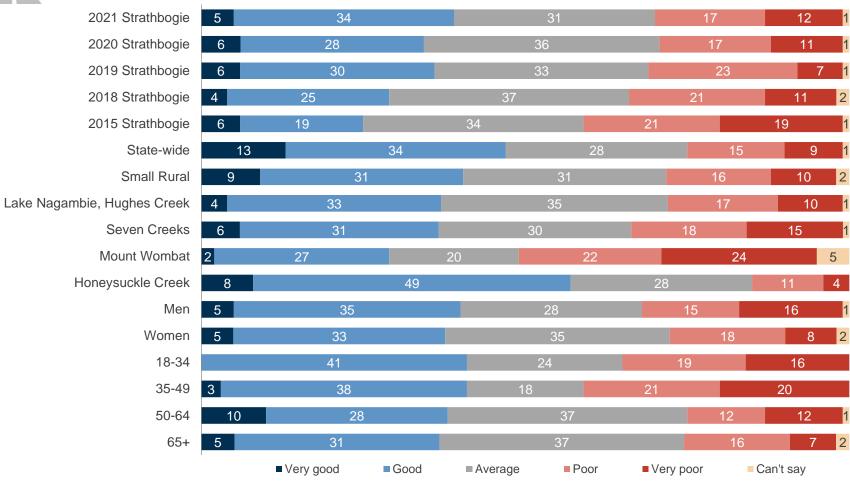


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2021 sealed local roads performance (%)

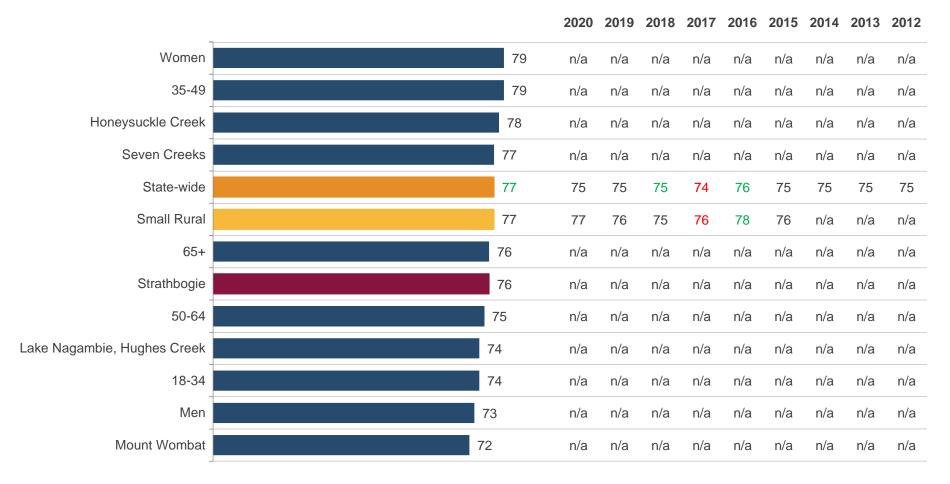


Informing the community importance





2021 informing community importance (index scores)

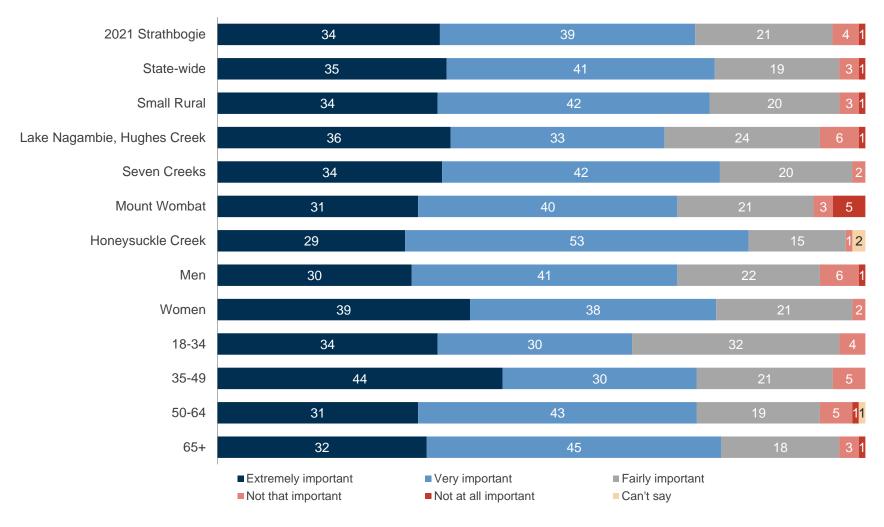


Informing the community importance





2021 informing community importance (%)

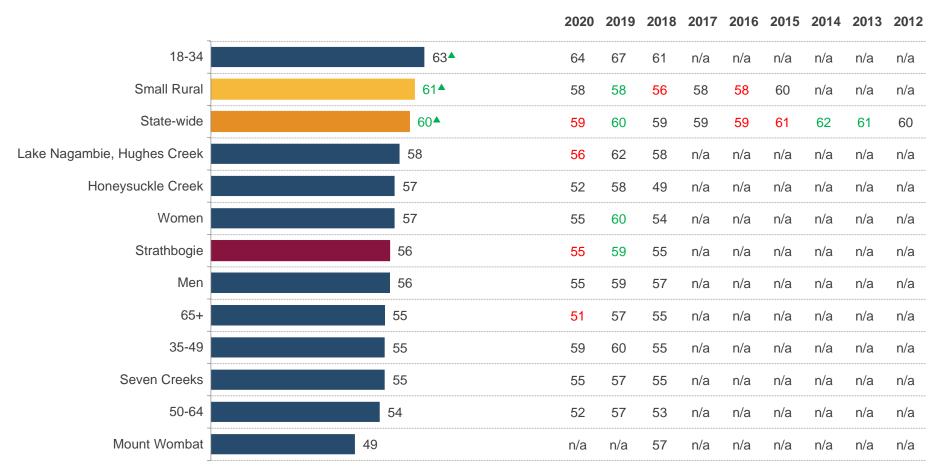


Informing the community performance





2021 informing community performance (index scores)

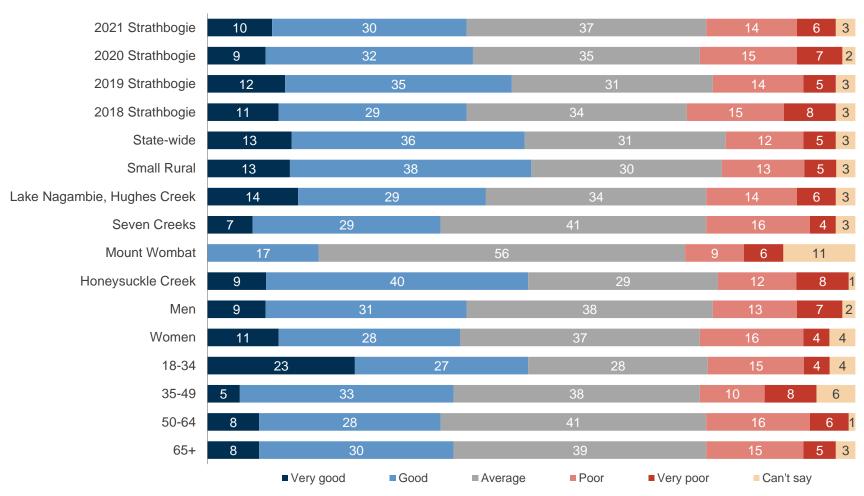


Informing the community performance





2021 informing community performance (%)

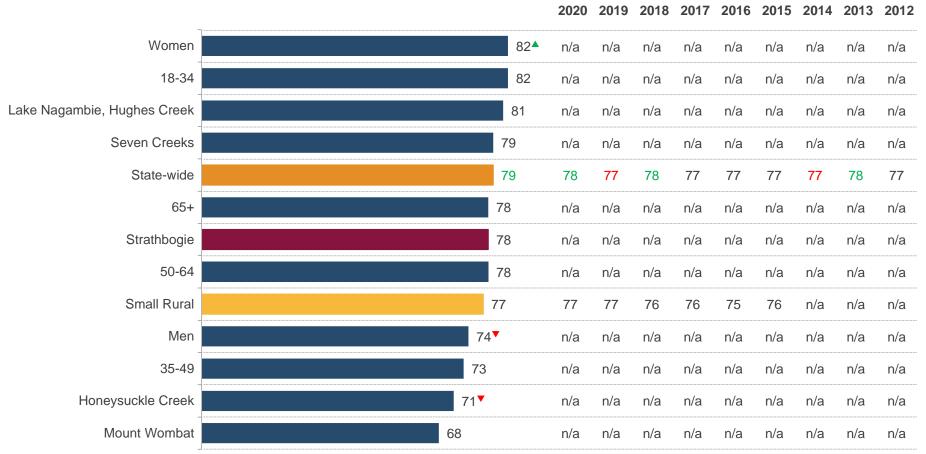


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2021 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

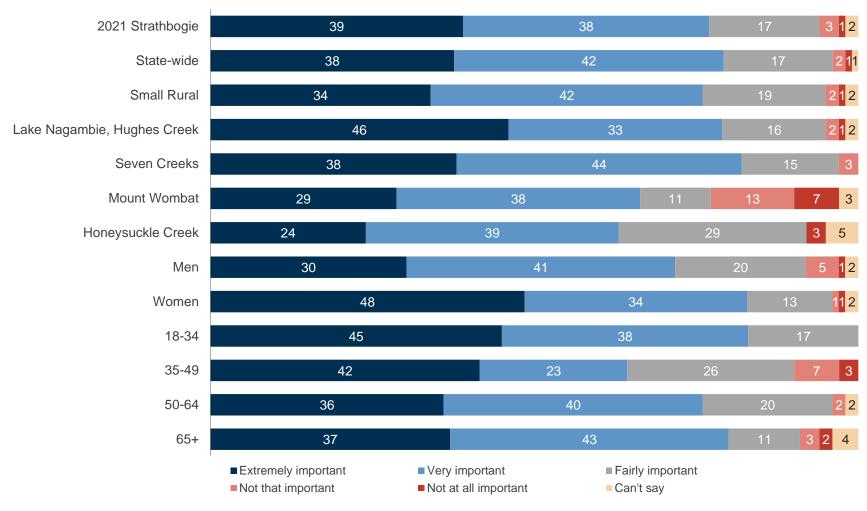


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2021 streets and footpaths importance (%)

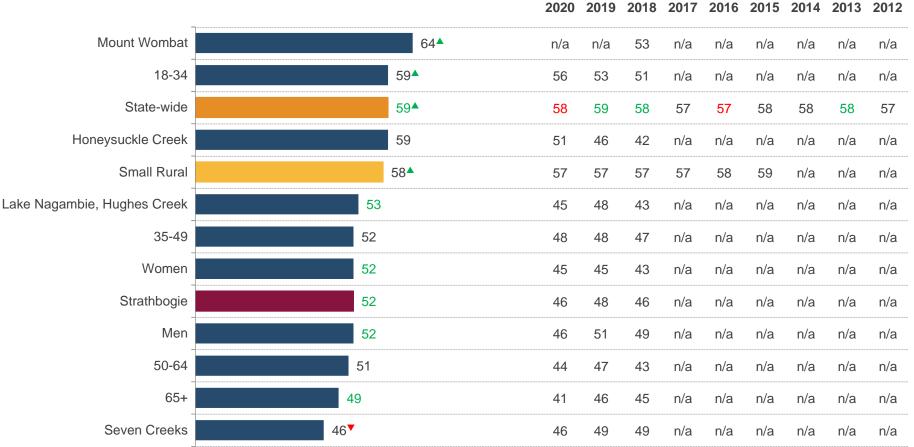


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2021 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

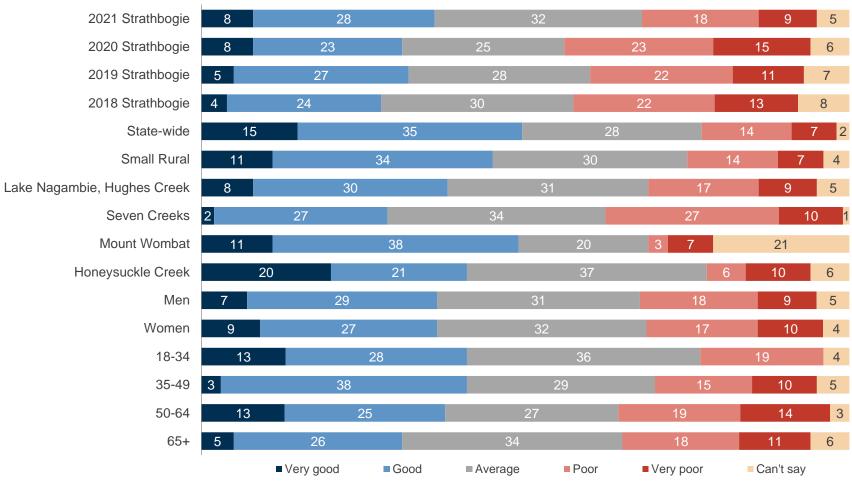


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2021 streets and footpaths performance (%)

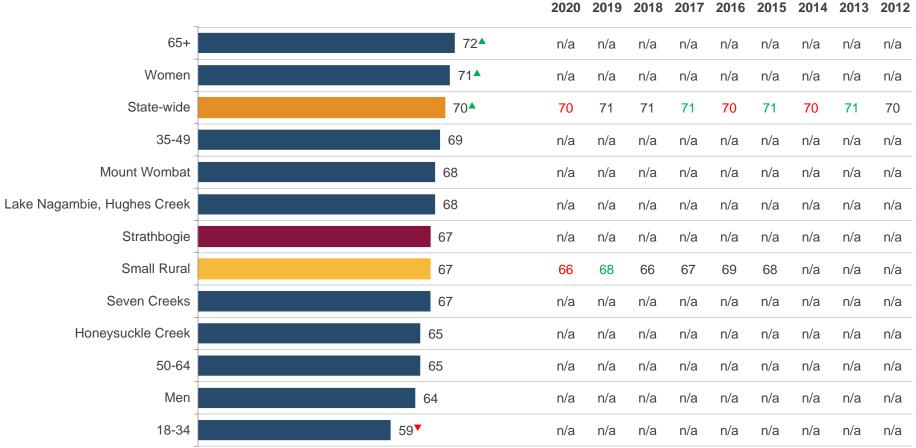


Enforcement of local laws importance





2021 law enforcement importance (index scores)

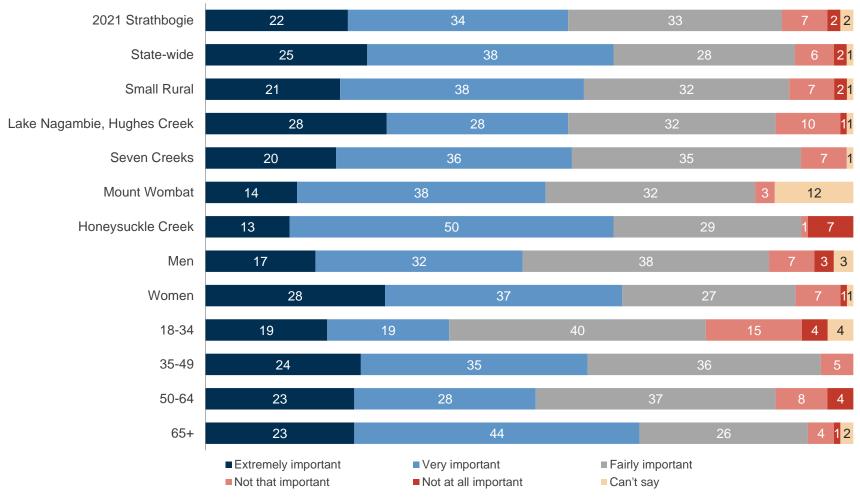


Enforcement of local laws importance





2021 law enforcement importance (%)

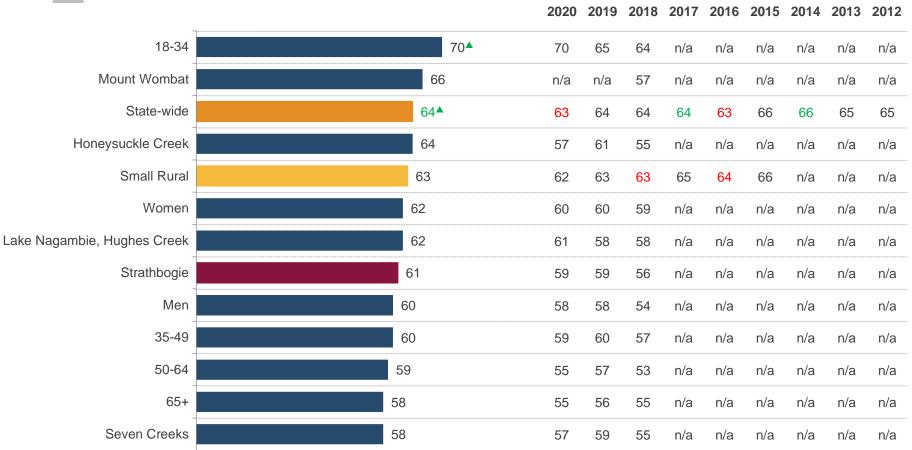


Enforcement of local laws performance





2021 law enforcement performance (index scores)

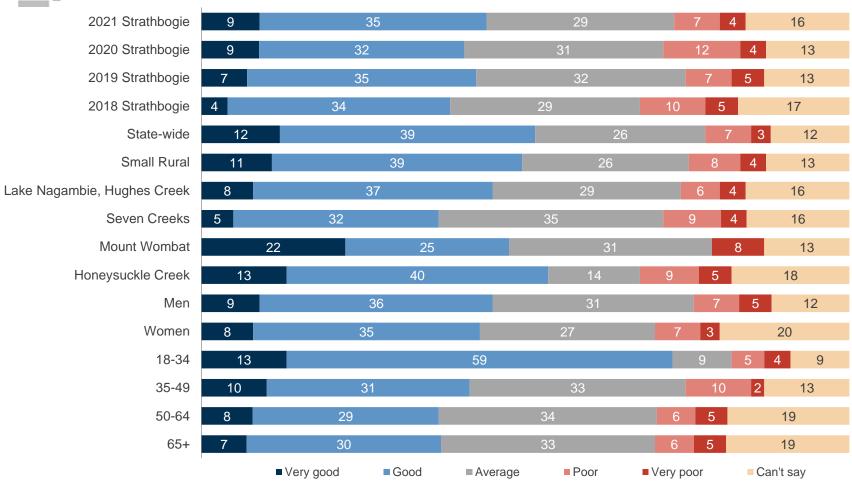


Enforcement of local laws performance





2021 law enforcement performance (%)

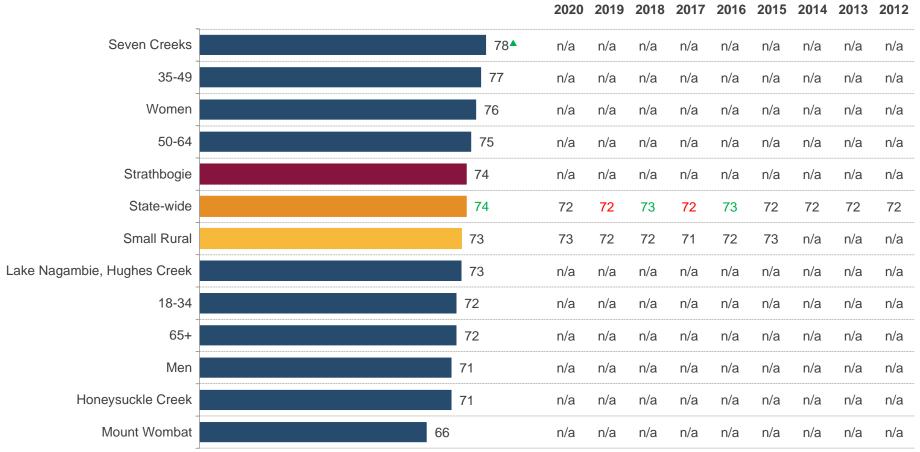


Recreational facilities importance





2021 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

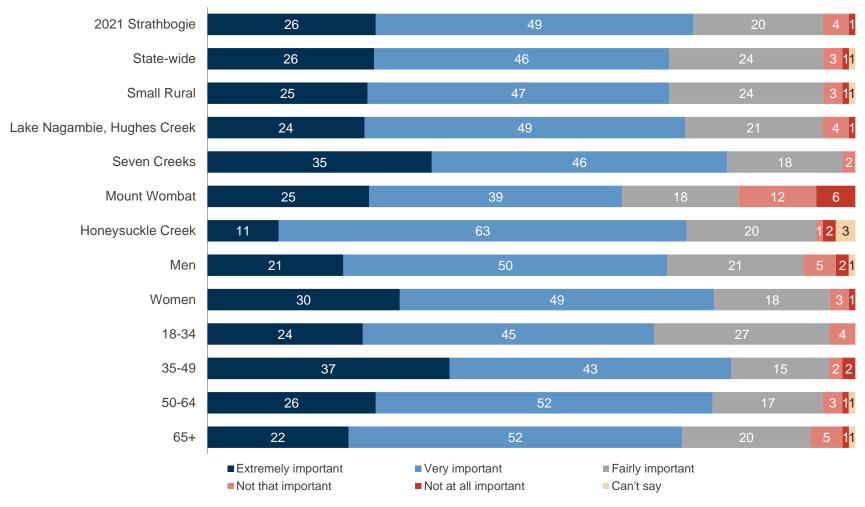


Recreational facilities importance





2021 recreational facilities importance (%)

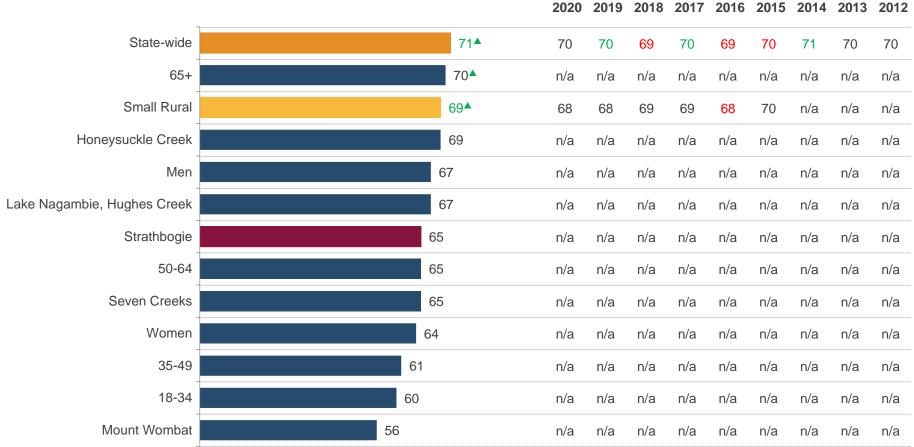


Recreational facilities performance





2021 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

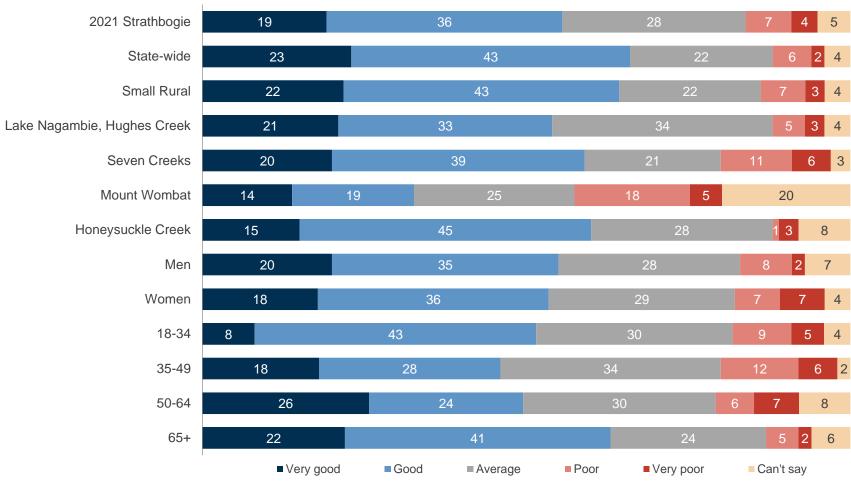


Recreational facilities performance





2021 recreational facilities performance (%)



The appearance of public areas importance





2021 public areas importance (index scores)

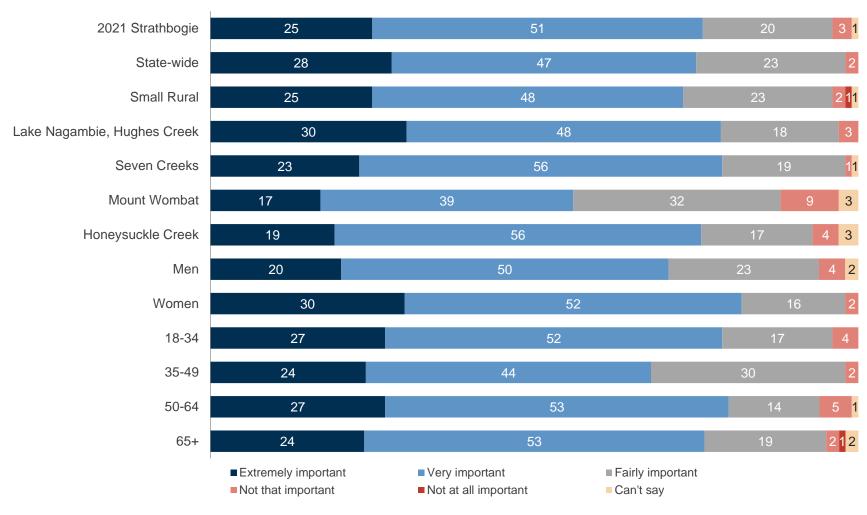


The appearance of public areas importance





2021 public areas importance (%)

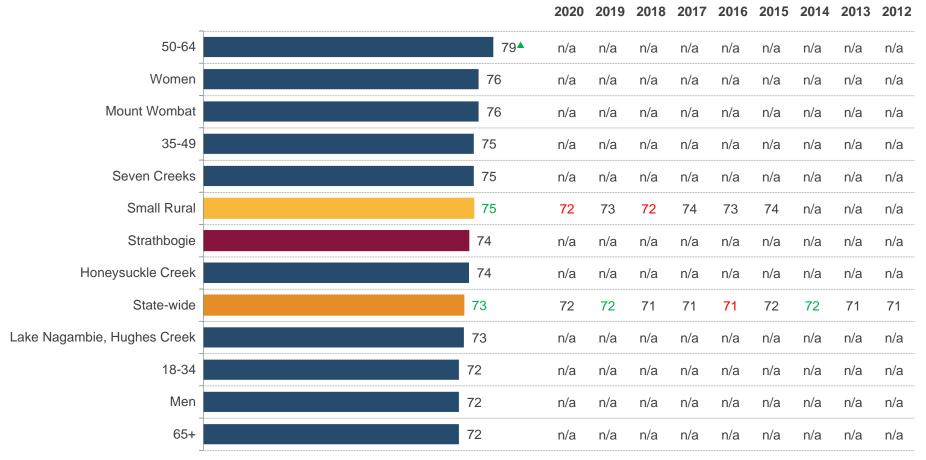


The appearance of public areas performance





2021 public areas performance (index scores)

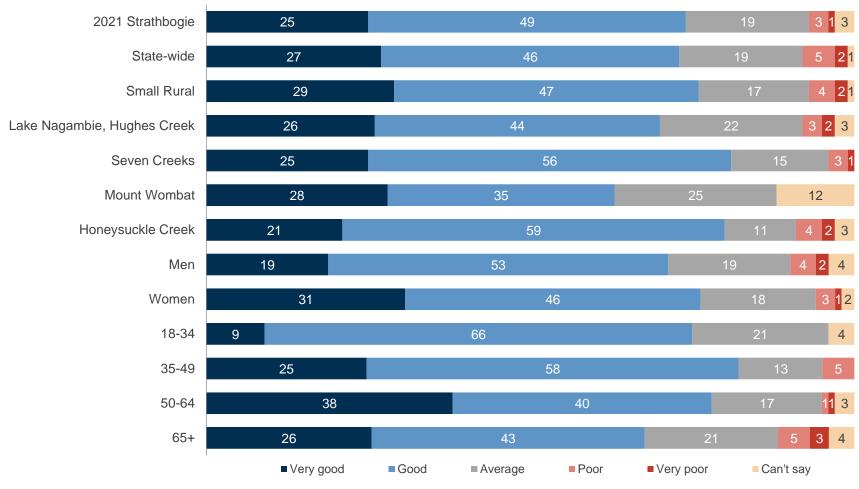


The appearance of public areas performance





2021 public areas performance (%)

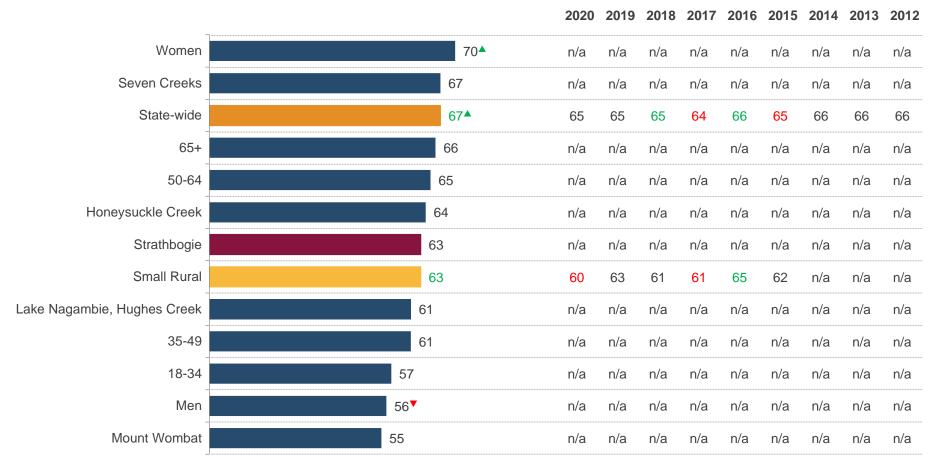


Art centres and libraries importance





2021 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)

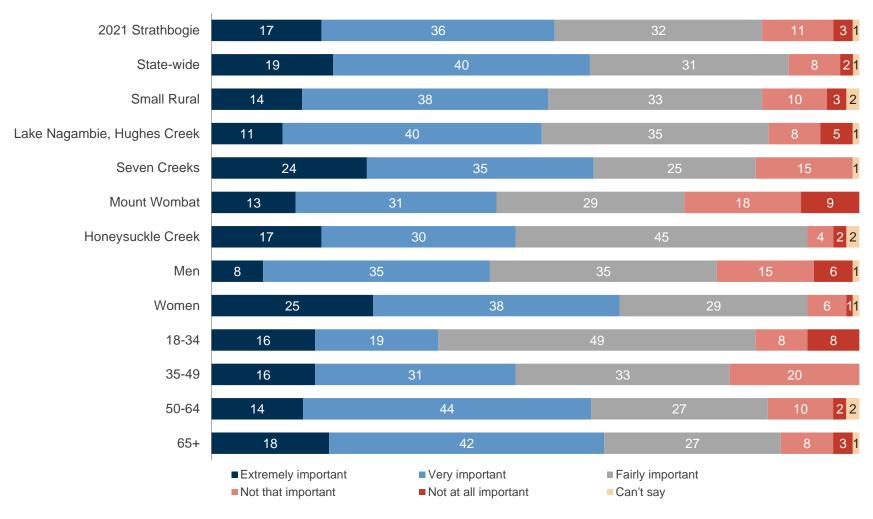


Art centres and libraries importance





2021 art centres and libraries importance (%)

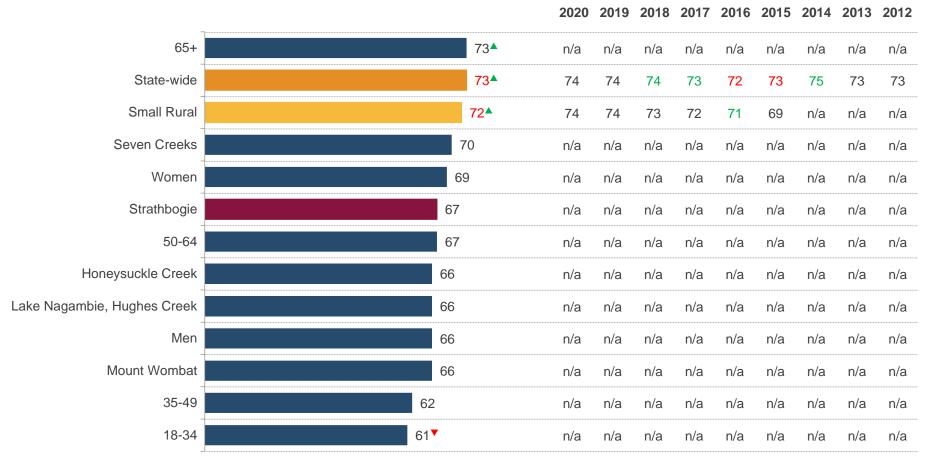


Art centres and libraries performance





2021 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)

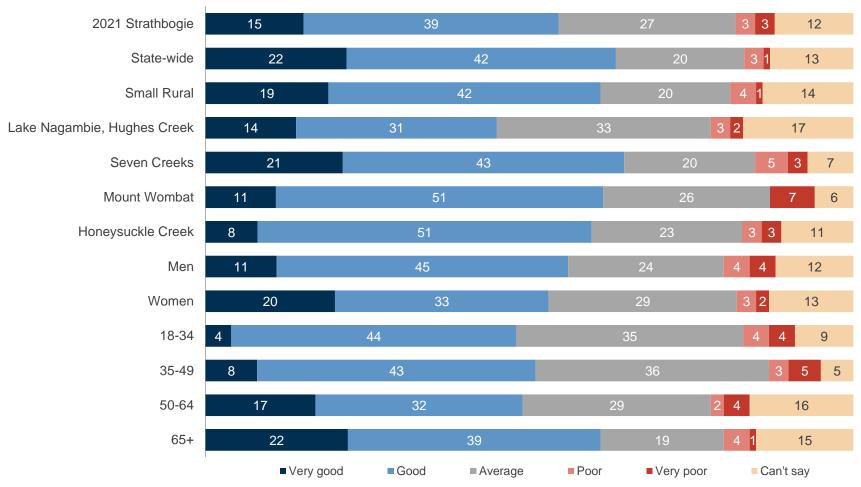


Art centres and libraries performance





2021 art centres and libraries performance (%)

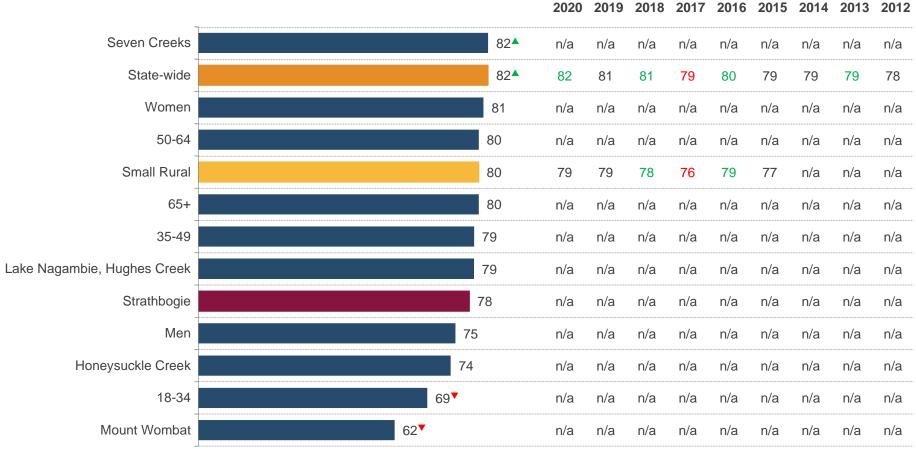


Waste management importance





2021 waste management importance (index scores)

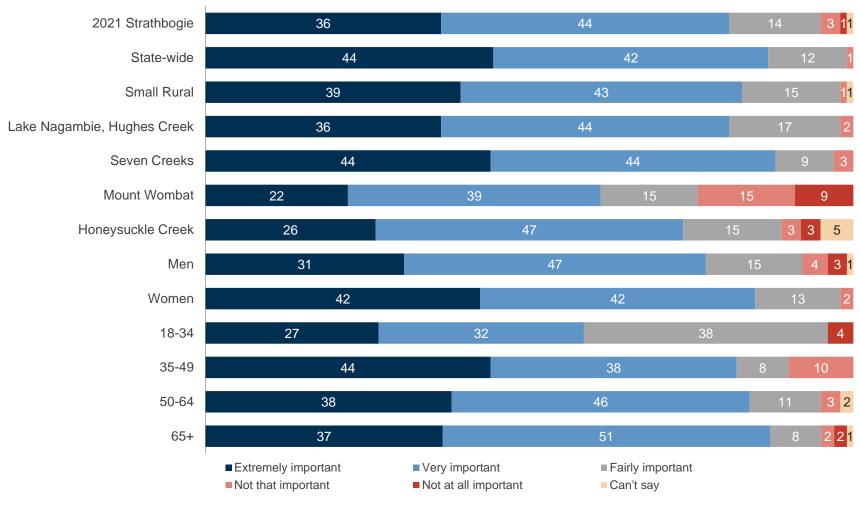


Waste management importance





2021 waste management importance (%)

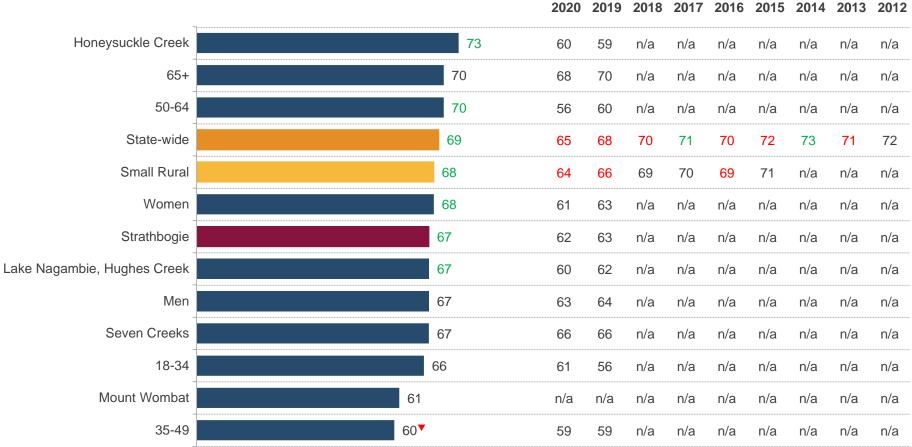


Waste management performance





2021 waste management performance (index scores)

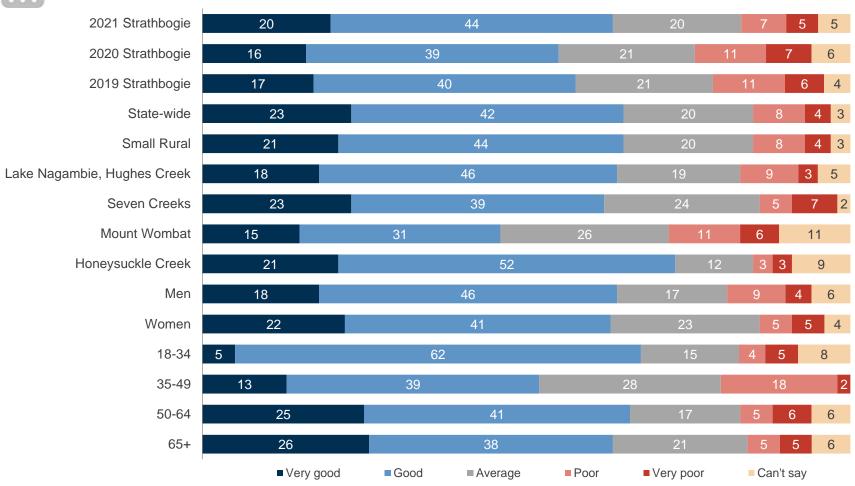


Waste management performance





2021 waste management performance (%)

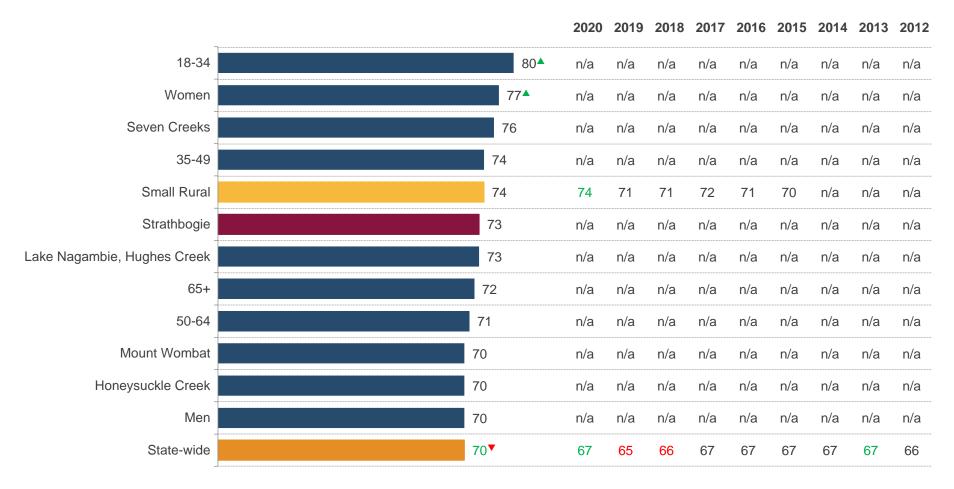


Business and community development and tourism importance





2021 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

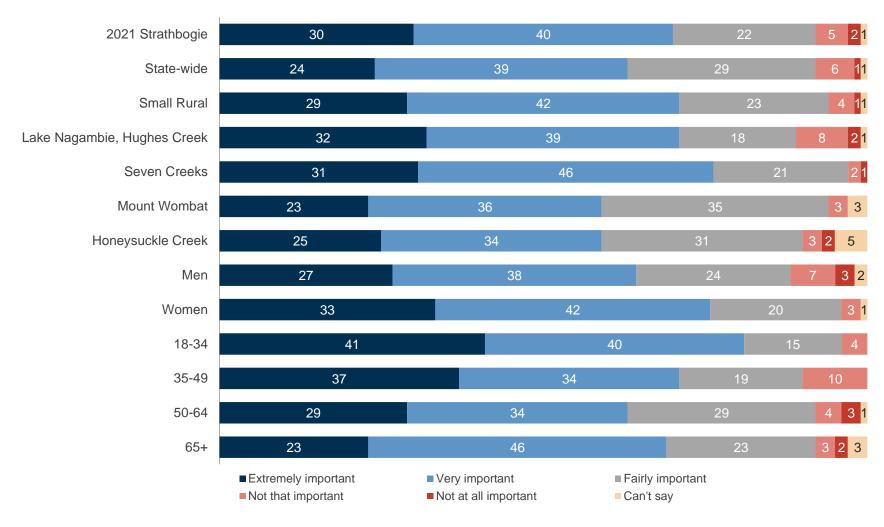


Business and community development and tourism importance





2021 business/development/tourism importance (%)

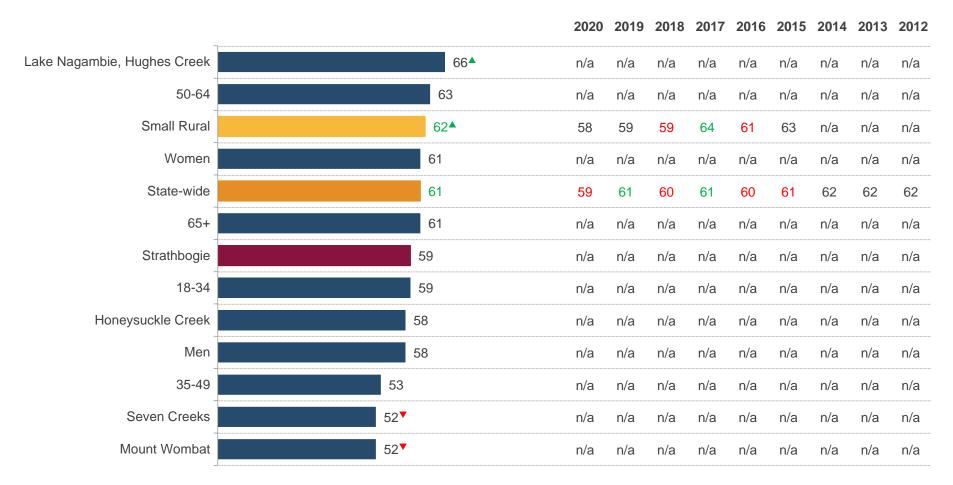


Business and community development and tourism performance





2021 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

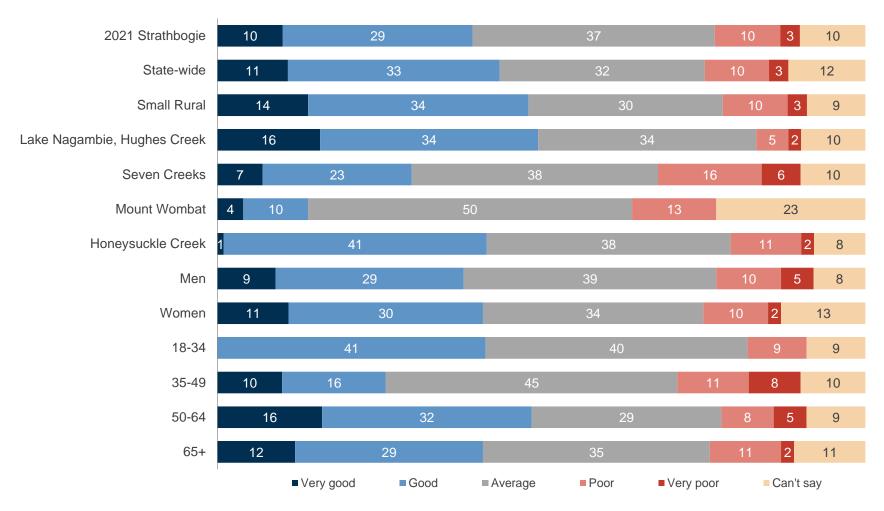


Business and community development and tourism performance





2021 business/development/tourism performance (%)

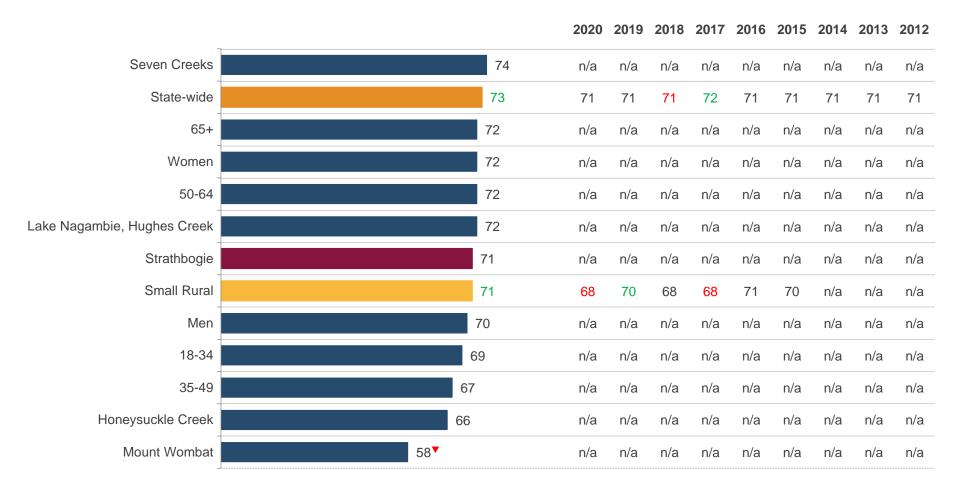


Planning and building permits importance





2021 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

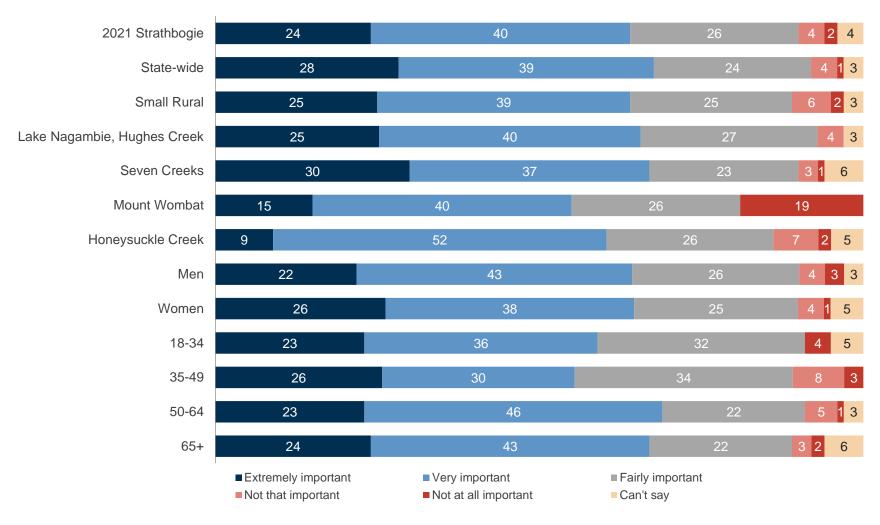


Planning and building permits importance





2021 planning and building permits importance (%)

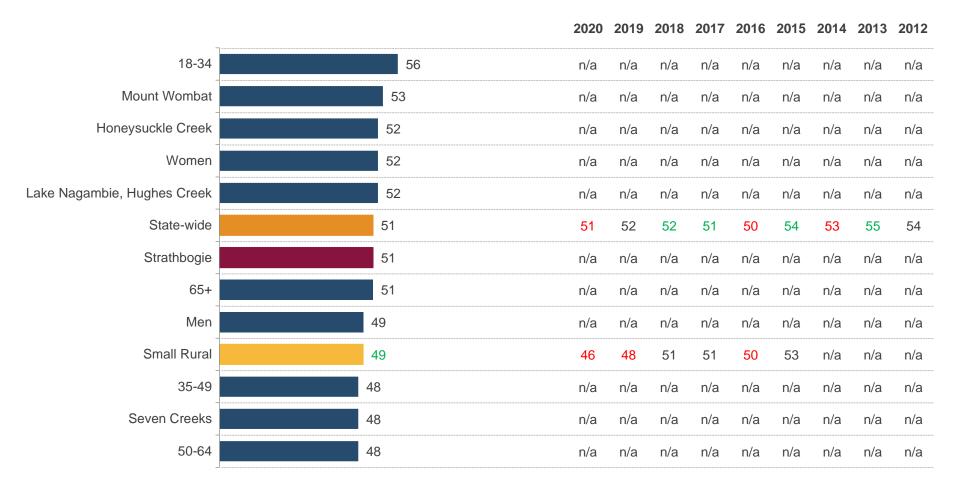


Planning and building permits performance





2021 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

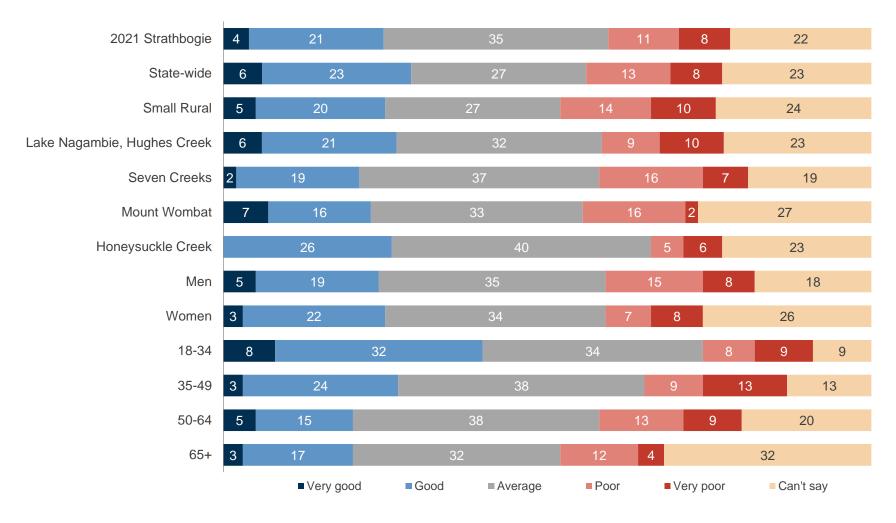


Planning and building permits performance





2021 planning and building permits performance (%)

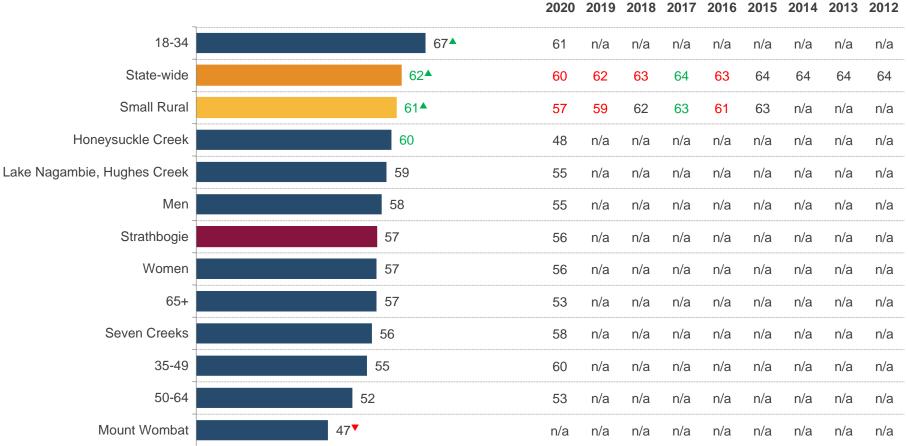


Environmental sustainability performance





2021 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

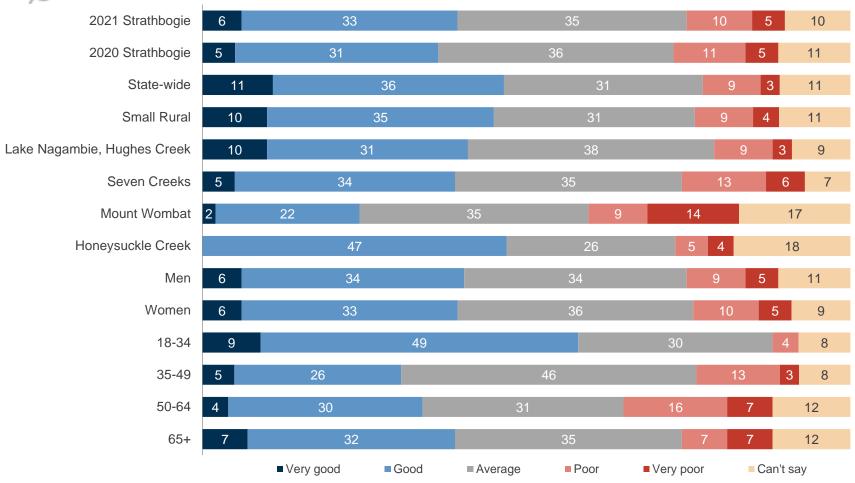


Environmental sustainability performance





2021 environmental sustainability performance (%)

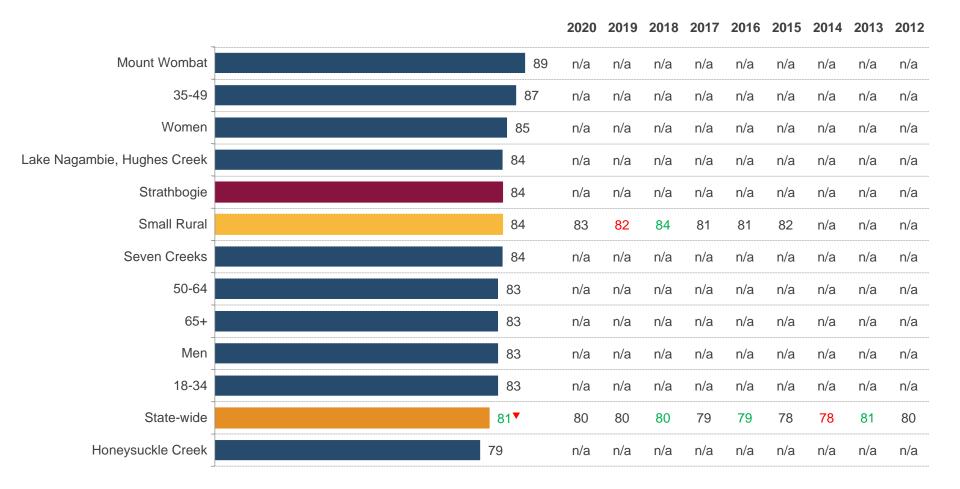


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2021 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

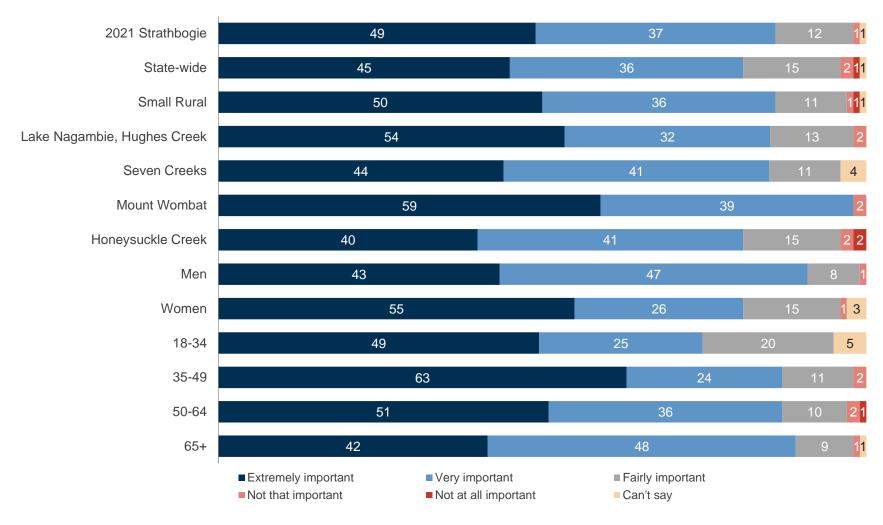


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2021 unsealed roads importance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2021 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

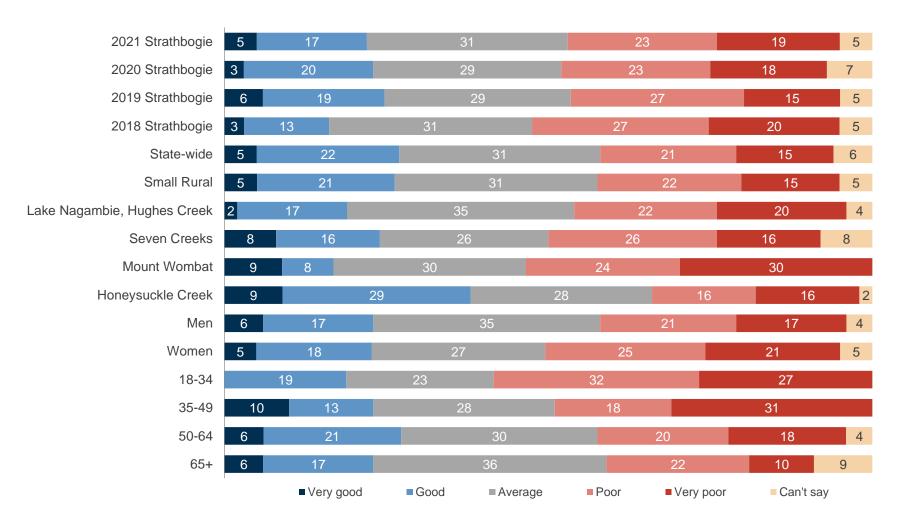


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2021 unsealed roads performance (%)

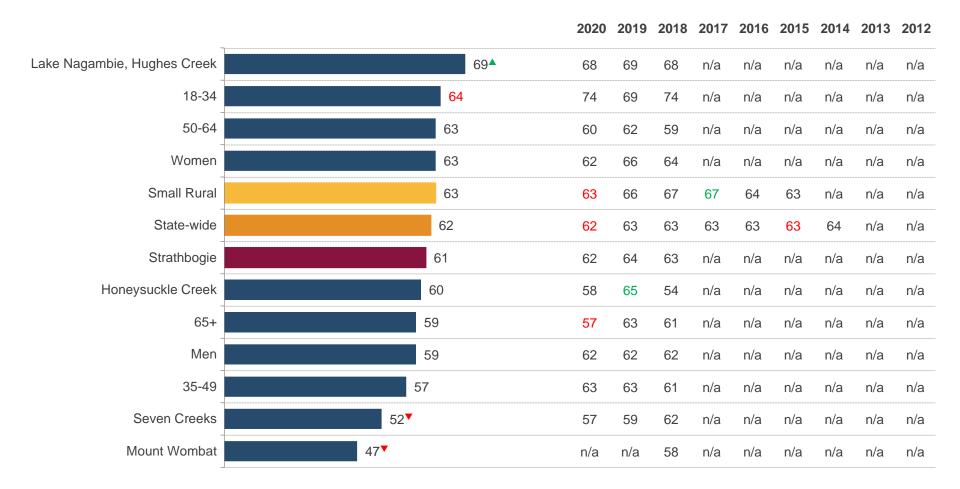


Tourism development performance





2021 tourism development performance (index scores)

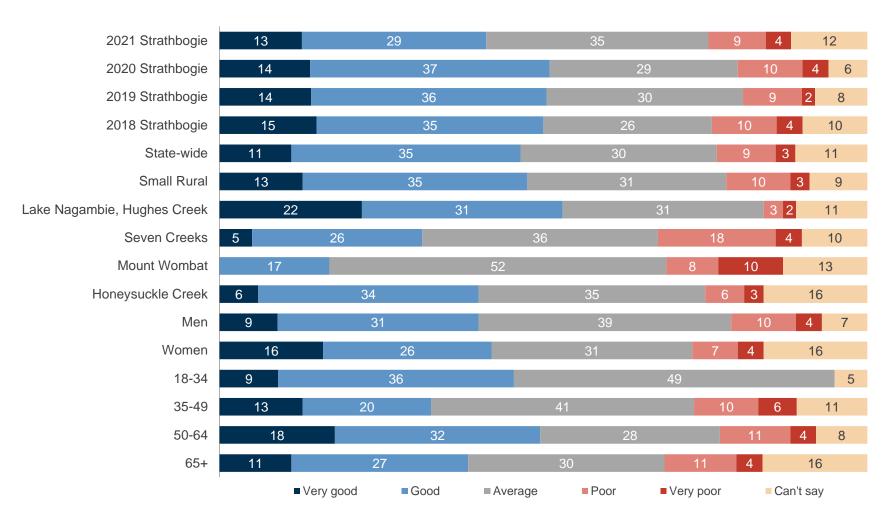


Tourism development performance





2021 tourism development performance (%)

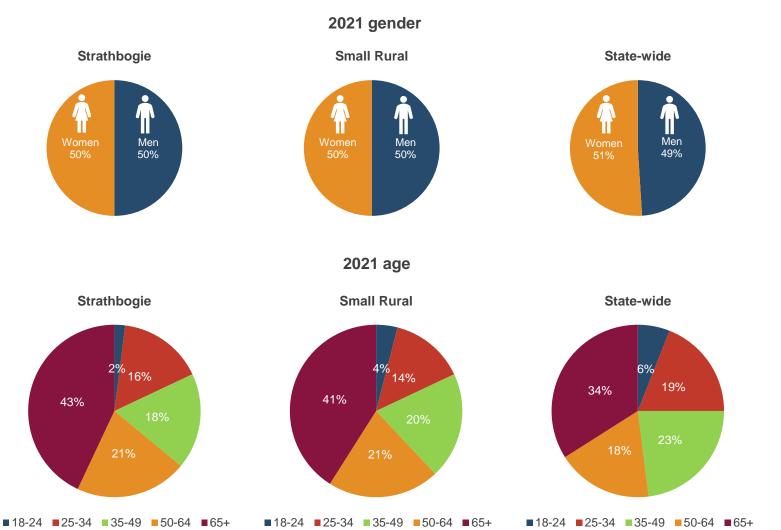




Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile







Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix A: Margins of error

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The sample size for the 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Strathbogie Shire Council was n=400. 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=400 interviews is +/-4.8% 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 45.2% - 54.8%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 8,900 people aged 18 years or over for Strathbogie Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Strathbogie Shire Council	400	400	+/-4.8
Men	175	199	+/-7.4
Women	225	201	+/-6.5
Lake Nagambie, Hughes Creek	179	186	+/-7.3
Seven Creeks	139	132	+/-8.3
Mount Wombat	29	30	+/-18.5
Honeysuckle Creek	53	52	+/-13.5
18-34 years	22	73	+/-21.4
35-49 years	39	73	+/-15.9
50-64 years	112	84	+/-9.2
65+ years	227	170	+/-6.4

Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



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

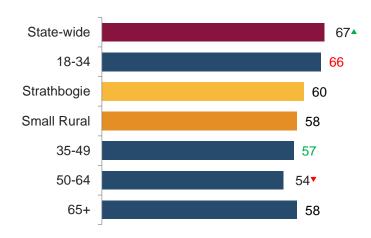
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

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

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2020. Therefore in the example below:

- The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is significantly higher than the result achieved among this group in 2020.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2020.

2021 overall performance (index scores) (example extract only)



Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



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

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

Where:

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

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

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

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Appendix B: Further project information

Appendix B: Further information



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

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

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

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

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



The 2021 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January – 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18th May – 30th June.

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

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

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Strathbogie Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 8th February – 18nd March, 2021.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2021, 66 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 2012-2021 vary slightly.

Council Groups

Strathbogie Shire Council is classified as a Small Rural council according to the following classification list:

 Metropolitan, Interface, Regional Centres, Large Rural & Small Rural.

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

 Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Wherever appropriate, results for Strathbogie Shire Council for this 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: 2012 survey revision



The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

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

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2021 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

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

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2021 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

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: Glossary of terms

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

CSS: 2021 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 guestions: Individual guestions 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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