

Strathbogie Shire Council

Coordinated by the Department of Government Services on behalf of Victorian councils



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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-fourth 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 24 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 24 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



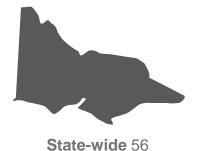
Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Strathbogie 53





Council performance compared to group average



Summary of core measures



Index scores





money



Consultation



Community

Decisions



Sealed Local Roads



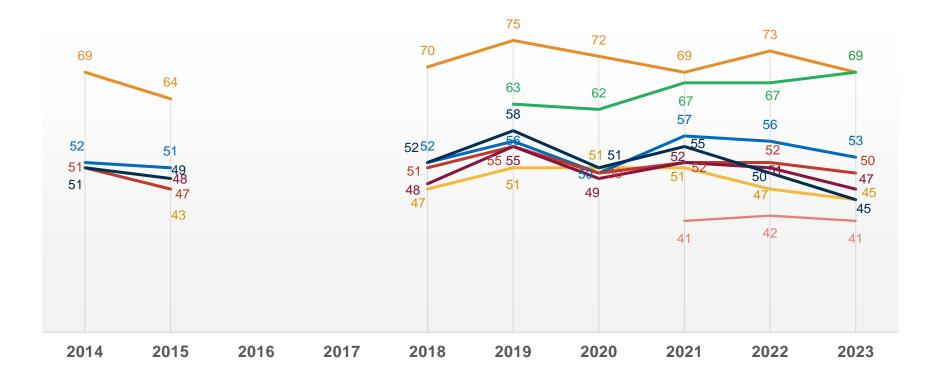
Waste management



Customer Service



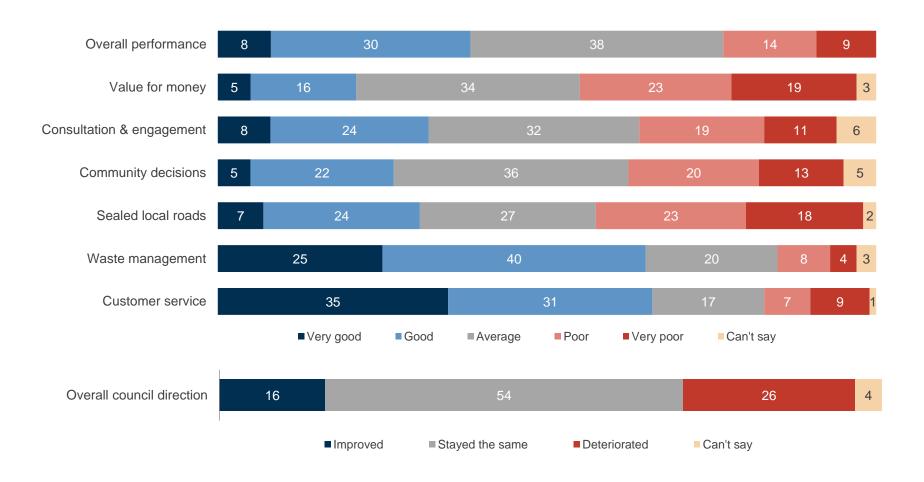
Overall Council Direction



Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Strathbogie Shire Council performance



Services		Strathbogie 2023	Strathbogie 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
C %	Overall performance	53	56	55	56	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
S	Value for money	41	42	49	49	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
+	Overall council direction	45	50	47	46	Mount Wombat residents	Aged 35-49 years
Ė	Customer service	69	73	65	67	Aged 18-34 years	Mount Wombat residents, Aged 35-49 years
<u>.</u> #	Appearance of public areas	74	73	71	67	Seven Creeks residents	Honeysuckle Creek residents
	Art centres & libraries	71	67	73	73	Mount Wombat residents	Aged 35-49 years
	Waste management	69	67	66	66	Mount Wombat residents	Lake Nagambie residents
Ż	Recreational facilities	67	68	67	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years, Lake Nagambie residents
Yū	Tourism development	61	62	61	61	Lake Nagambie residents	Hughes Creek residents
	Bus/community dev./tourism	60	60	61	59	Lake Nagambie residents	Hughes Creek residents, Aged 35-49 years

Summary of Strathbogie Shire Council performance



Services		Strathbogie 2023	Strathbogie 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
	Enforcement of local laws	59	57	61	61	Hughes Creek residents	Honeysuckle Creek residents
23	Environmental sustainability	57	59	59	60	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Informing the community	53	55	58	57	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
<u></u>	Lobbying	52	54	52	51	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
	Consultation & engagement	50	52	53	52	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
fulu.	Local streets & footpaths	47	47	52	52	Mount Wombat residents	Hughes Creek residents
	Planning & building permits	47	44	45	47	Lake Nagambie residents, Hughes Creek residents	Honeysuckle Creek residents
***	Community decisions	47	51	52	51	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
A	Sealed local roads	45	47	44	48	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
	Unsealed roads	36	40	38	37	Mount Wombat residents	Aged 18-34 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of overall performance in Strathbogie Shire Council have declined over the last 12 months, though not to a statistically significant degree. Similarly, in almost all other service areas, Council performs in line with last year's results, having not significantly changed. The exceptions are arts centres and libraries, where Council's performance rating increased significantly over the last 12 months, and decisions made in the interest of the community, where in contrast, perceptions significantly declined.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Community decisions is the area that has the greatest influence on Council's overall performance rating. It is also among Council's lowest rated areas and is the only to have experienced a significant decline in perceptions this year. This area should be Council's first priority to address. Planning and building permits has a moderate influence on overall performance and is also performing poorly, meaning it also warrants attention. Positively, waste management has a moderate influence and is one of Council's top performing areas.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Council performs in line with both the Small Rural group and the State-wide average for councils half of the individual service areas evaluated. On the appearance of public areas and waste management, Council performs significantly higher than the Small Rural group and the State-wide average. In contrast, Council's performance is rated significantly lower than both group averages on informing the community, the condition of local streets and footpaths and community decisions.

Opportunity to engage

There is a need to engage with residents aged 35 to 49 years, who are the most critical of Council's performance across core measures and many of the service areas evaluated. People in this age group also have a significantly higher rate of contact compared to the Council average, and rate Council's customer service the lowest of all the demographic and geographic cohorts evaluated. Separately, value for money is rated relatively poorly and below the Small Rural group and State-wide averages, so merits attention.

DETAILED FINDINGS





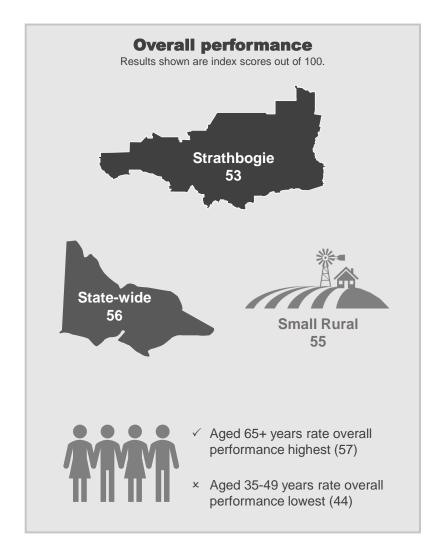


The overall performance index score of 53 for Strathbogie Shire Council is three index points lower than last year. Though this is not a statistically significant change, it is well below the peak index score of 57 in 2021.

Strathbogie Shire Council's overall performance is rated in line with the Small Rural group average (index score of 55) and statistically significantly lower (at the 95% confidence interval) than the State-wide average for councils (index score of 56).

- Residents aged 65 years and over rate overall performance the highest (index score of 57, although this is not significantly lower than the Council average).
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years rate over performance the lowest (index score of 44) – significantly lower than the Council average.
- Perceptions of overall performance among women declined significantly in the last 12 months (index score of 51, down seven points from 2022).

Just over one in five residents (21%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. Twice as many rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (42%) on the same metric. A further 34% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.



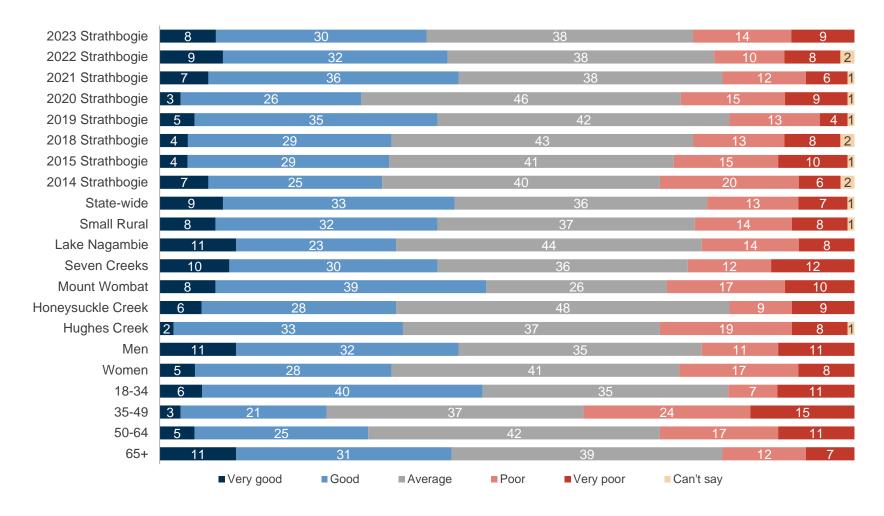


2023 overall performance (index scores)





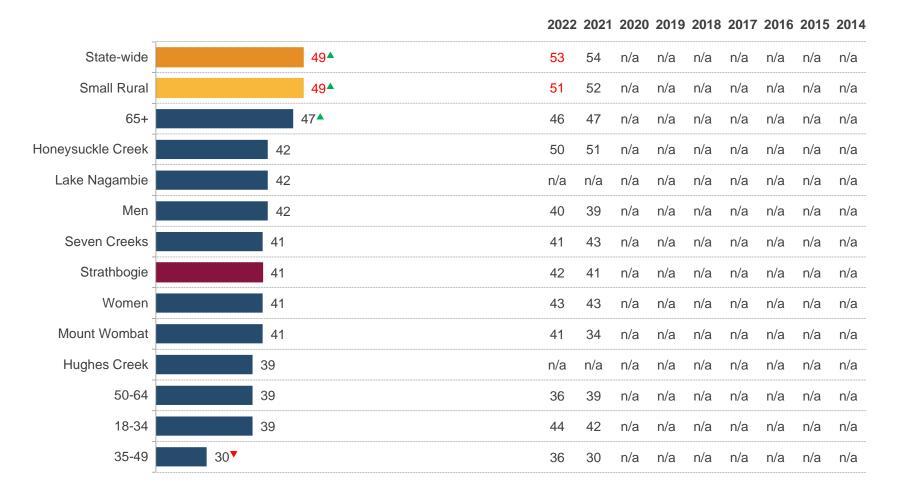
2023 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



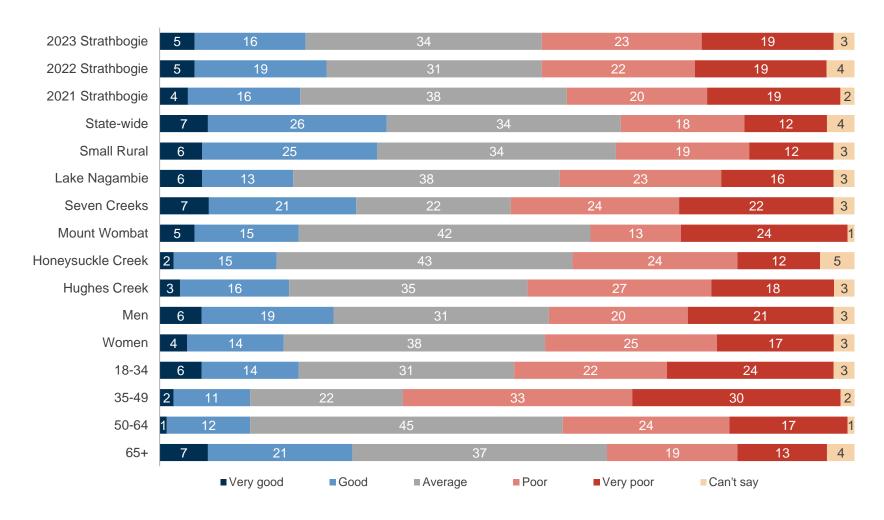
2023 value for money (index scores)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2023 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

The appearance of public areas (index score of 74) is Council's best performing service area. Performance here has been stable since first being evaluated in 2021.

 This year, Council performs significantly higher than the Small Rural and the State-wide averages in this service area (index scores of 71 and 67 respectively).

Arts centres and libraries (index score of 71) is Council's next best performing service area. Council's rating in this area significantly increased from 2022 (up four points).

- Council performs in line with the Small Rural group and the State-wide averages in this service area.
- Residents in the Mount Wombat region (77) rate Council significantly higher compared to average, and significantly higher than they did last year.

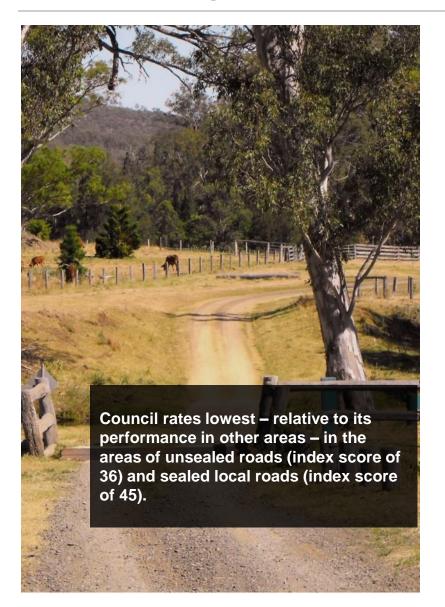
Waste management (index score of 69) is another of Council's top performing service areas, having been able to maintain and build on a significant increase in performance ratings in this area back in 2021.

- Here, Council performs significantly higher than the Small Rural group and the State-wide average.
- Women returned a significantly higher performance score for Council on waste management (up six points to an index score of 71).



Low performing service areas





Council rates lowest in the maintenance of unsealed roads (index score of 36) and sealed local roads (45).

On unsealed roads, Council performs in line with the Small Rural group and the State-wide average (index scores of 38 and 37 respectively). Council's rating in this service area is down a not-significant four points this year, however this is part of a longer-term trend of decline, from a peak of 43 in 2019.

- Unsealed road ratings are significantly higher than the Council average among residents in the Mount Wombat region and those aged 65 years and over.
- Residents aged 18 to 34 years rate Council's unsealed roads performance significantly lower than average, and significantly lower compared to last year (index score of 28, down 12 points).
- Perceptions have also declined a significant 15 points among Honeysuckle creek residents.

On sealed local roads, Council performs in line with the Small Rural group and significantly lower than the Statewide average (index scores of 44 and 48 respectively).

- Residents aged 65 years and over rate performance on sealed local roads significantly higher than average.
- In contrast, ratings are significantly lower than average among residents aged 18 to 34 and 35 to 49 years.

Individual service area performance



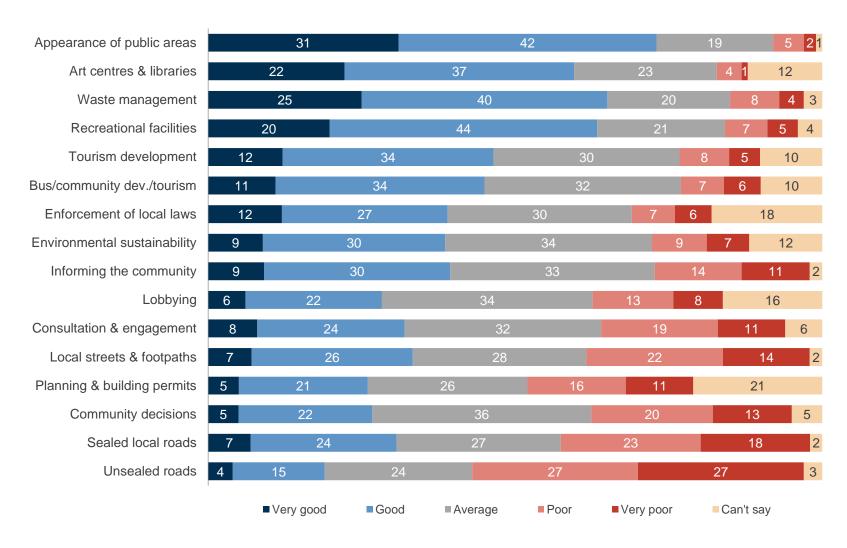
2023 individual service area performance (index scores)



Individual service area performance



2023 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



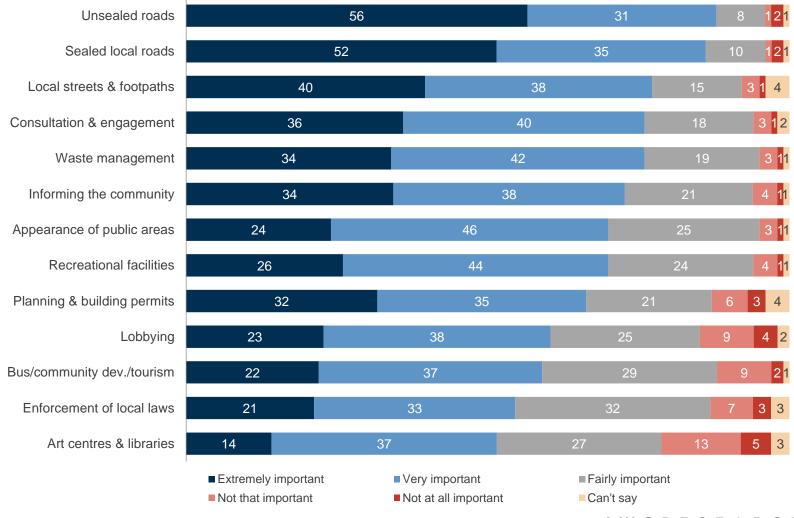
2023 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



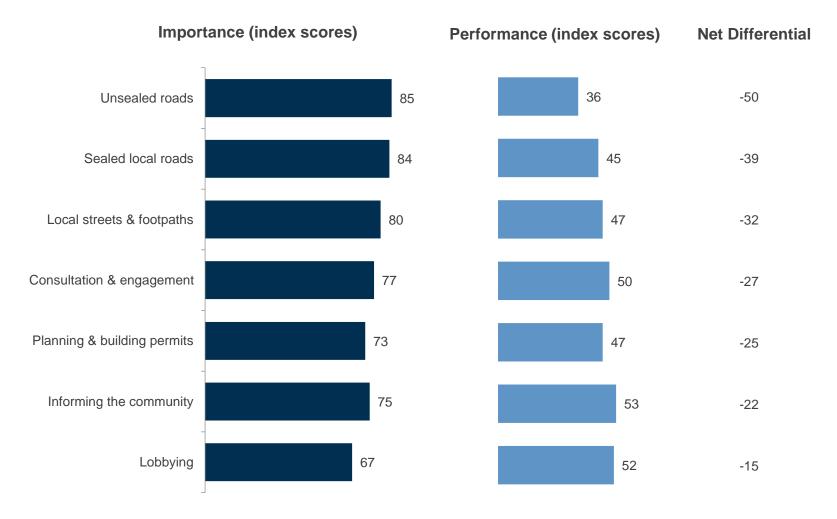
2023 individual service area importance (%)



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

W

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

· Decisions made in the interest of the community.

Good communication and transparency with residents about decisions Council has made in the community's interest provides the greatest opportunity to drive up overall opinion of Council's performance. Currently, this is among Council's poorer performing areas (index score of 47).

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

- · Waste management
- Planning and building permits
- Lobbying on behalf of the community
- Business, community development and tourism
- The enforcement of local laws.

Looking at these key service areas only, waste management has a high performance index (69) and Council also performs well on business, community development and tourism (60) and the enforcement of local laws (59) – all more moderate influences on the overall performance rating.

Maintaining these positive results should remain a focus – but there is greater work to be done elsewhere.

Council performs relatively less well on lobbying on behalf of the community (index of 52).

Ensuring Council demonstrates efforts to advocate on residents' behalf and defend community interests can also help to shore up positive overall opinion of Council.

However, in addition to Council decision making, most in need of attention is its performance on planning and building permits, which is rated as poor (index of 47) and a moderate influence on overall community perceptions.

It will be important to address resident concerns about Council's approach to planning and building permits 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 weak 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



2023 regression analysis (all service areas)

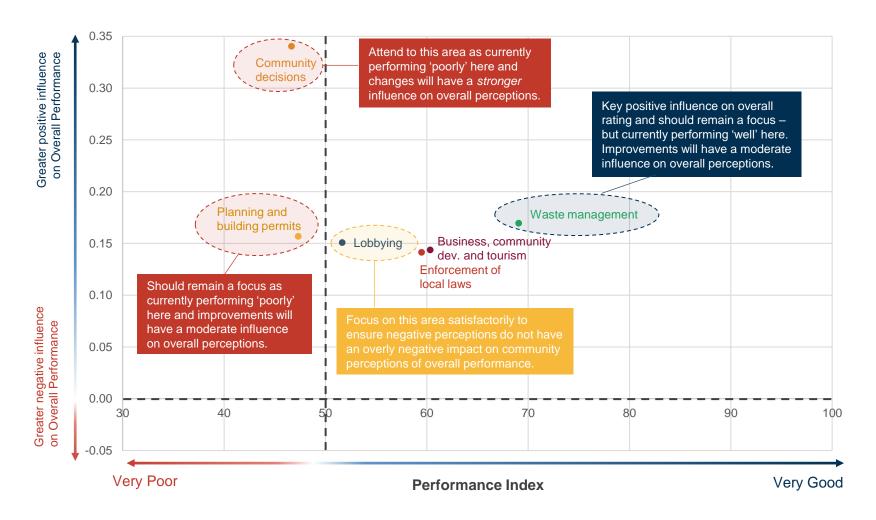


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.624 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.609, which means that 61% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 39.78. 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



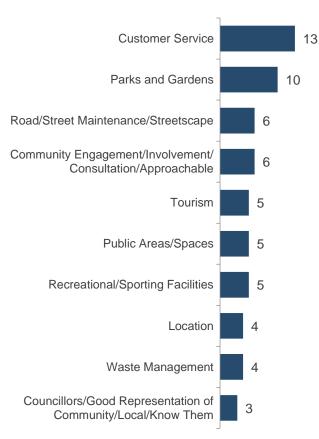
2023 regression analysis (key service areas)



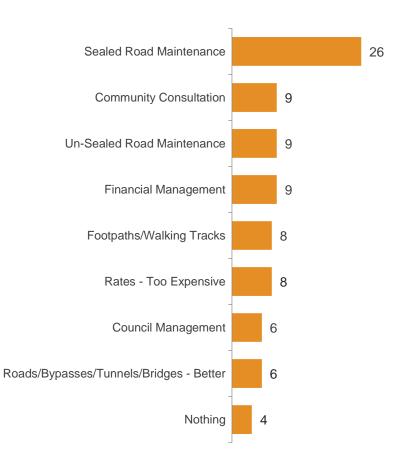
Best things about Council and areas for improvement







2023 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?



Customer service

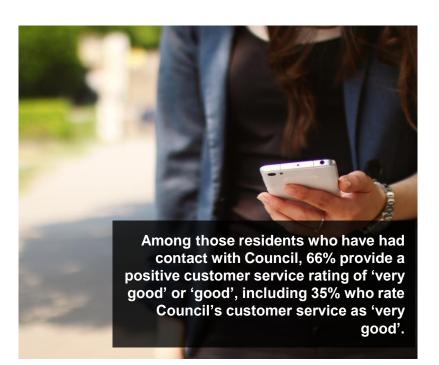
Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Over two thirds of residents (67%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact has been relatively stable over time.

- Residents aged 35 to 49 years (79%) have a significantly higher rate of contact compared to the Council average.
- The main method of contact with Council remains telephone (42%) first and foremost, followed by in person (35%) and by email (25%).



Customer service

Council's customer service index score of 69 is four index points lower than last year (not a statistically significant change). Council's customer service rating is significantly higher than the Small Rural group average and is in line with the State-wide average for councils (index scores of 65 and 67 respectively).

- Residents aged 18 to 34 years rate customer service the highest (index score of 73) and residents in the Mount Wombat region and residents aged 35 to 49 years rate customer service the lowest (index scores of 64 each), although none of these results are significantly different from the Council average.
- Those aged 35 to 49 years rate customer service significantly lower than last year (down 14 points).

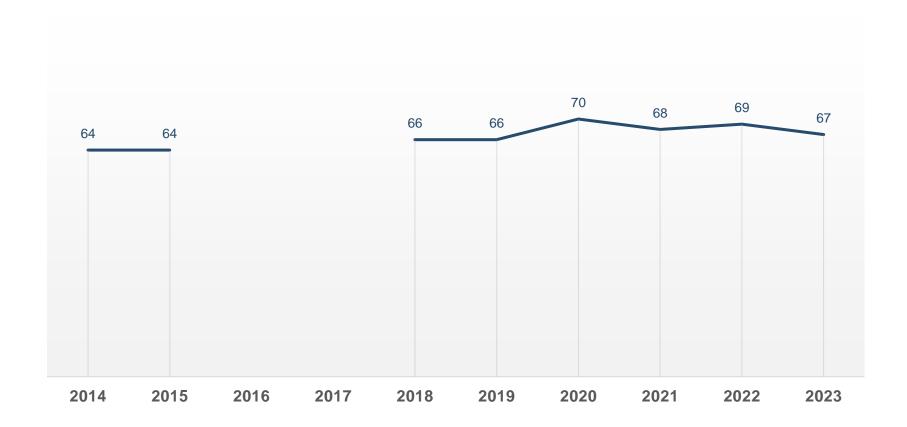
Two thirds of residents (66%) provide a customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good', compared to just 16% of residents who provide a customer service rating of 'very poor' or 'poor'.

 Customer service ratings are most positive among those who communicated with Council via telephone (index score of 73), followed by in-person (71) and email (62).

Contact with council



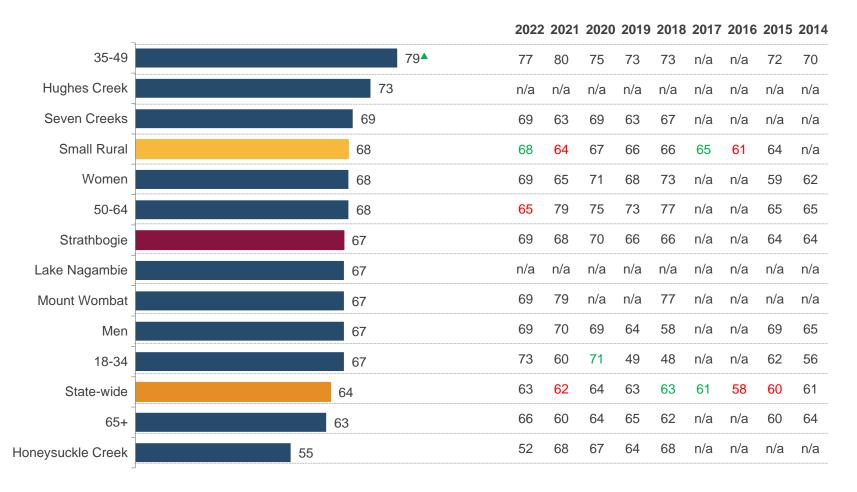
2023 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



2023 contact with council (%)



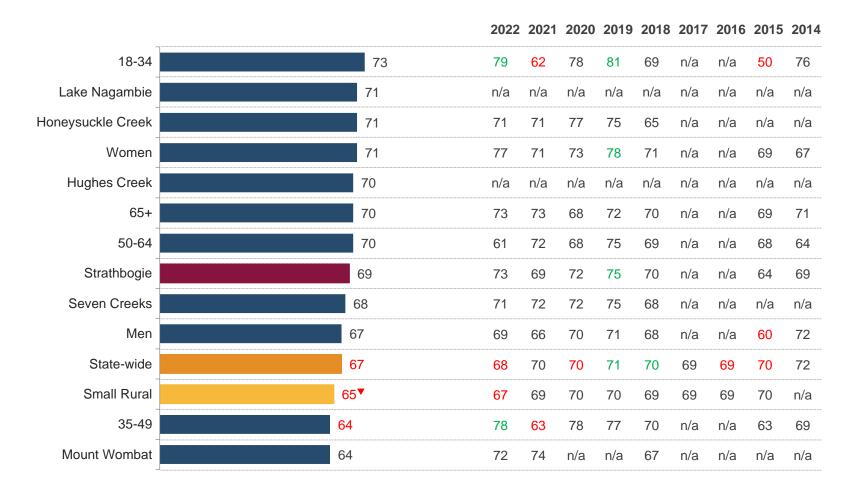
Q5a. Have you or any member of your household had any recent contact with Strathbogie Shire Council in any of the following wavs?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 3

Customer service rating



2023 customer service rating (index scores)

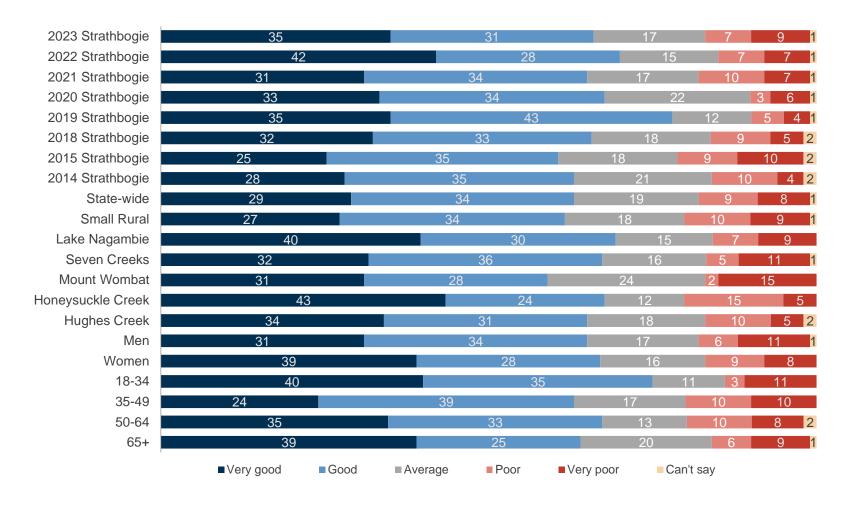


Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Strathbogie Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Customer service rating



2023 customer service rating (%)



Method of contact with council



2023 method of contact (%)















In Person

In Writing

By Telephone

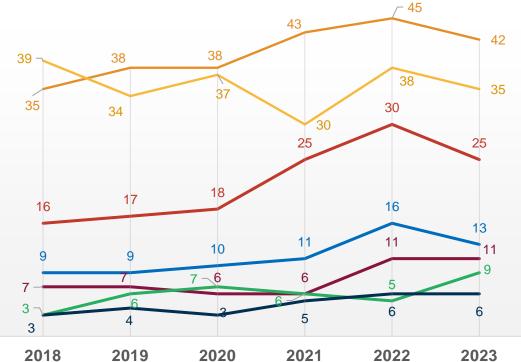
By Text Message

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?

2017

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 3

2015

2014

2016

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2023 customer service rating (index score by method of last contact)



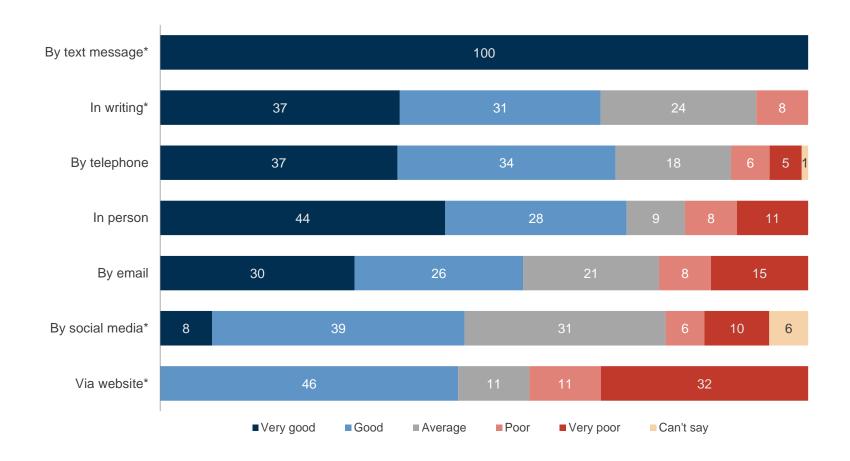
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Strathbogie Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 3

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2023 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: 25 Councils asked group: 3



Communication

For the first time, residents' preferred form of communication from Council about news and information and upcoming events is a council newsletter sent via email (28%), followed by a council newsletter sent via mail (26%). In years past, the order of preference was reversed, with newsletter via mail being until now the top preference since tracking commenced in 2018.

- Order of preference has also changed among residents <u>under 50 years</u>. This year, council newsletter via email is the first preferred form of communication (32%, up from 18% in 2022), followed by social media (23%, down from 29% in 2022) and council newsletter via mail (20%, down from 32% in 2022). Communication preferences often fluctuate rather dramatically from year-to-year among this group.
- Preferences are more stable when it comes to residents over 50 years of age. A council newsletter via mail remains the first preferred form of communication (29%), followed by a council newsletter via email (26%).



Best form of communication



2023 best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



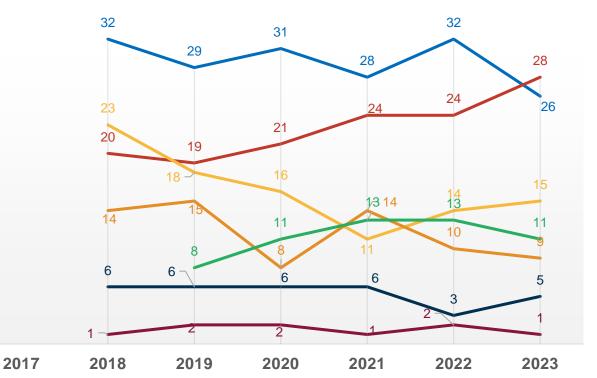
Council Website



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?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 11 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

2016

2015

2014

Best form of communication: under 50s



2023 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper

2015

2014



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



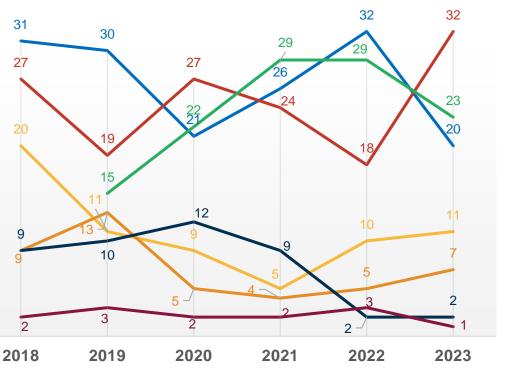
Council Website



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?

2017

Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 11 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

2016

Best form of communication: over 50s



2023 over 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper

2014



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



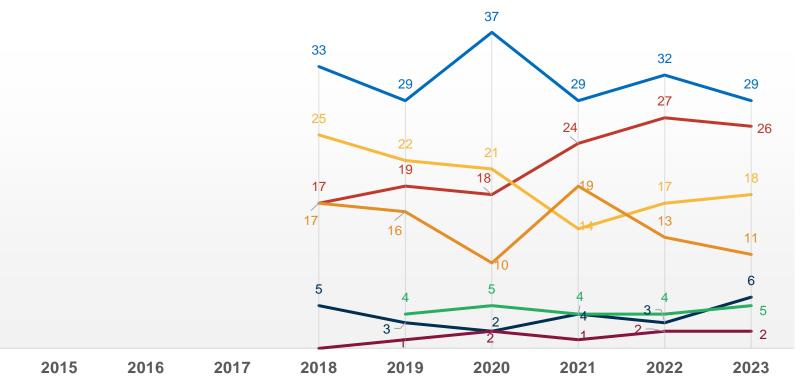
Council Website



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?

Base: All respondents aged over 50. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 11 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



Council direction

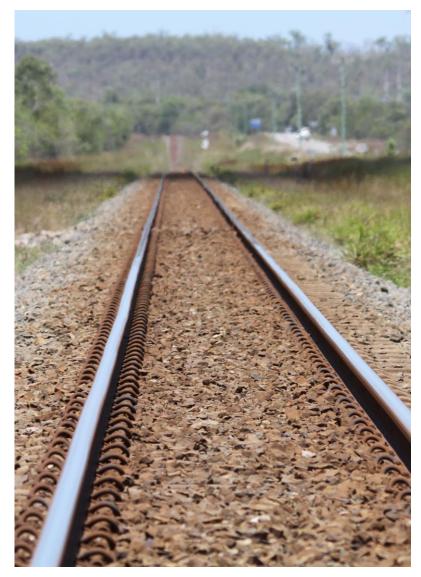
Council's overall direction index score of 45 has declined significantly for the second consecutive year. Overall council direction is now at its lowest level recorded.

- Council's overall direction index score is rated in line with the Small Rural group and the State-wide average (index scores of 47 and 46 respectively).
- Residents in the Mount Wombat region are the most satisfied with overall council direction (index score of 54) – significantly higher than the Council average.
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years are the least satisfied with overall council direction (index score of 38).

Just over half of residents (54%) describe Council's overall direction as having 'stayed the same' over the last 12 months (up from 50% in 2022).

- 16% believe overall council direction has improved (down from 22% in 2022).
- 26% believe overall council direction has deteriorated (up from 23% in 2022).

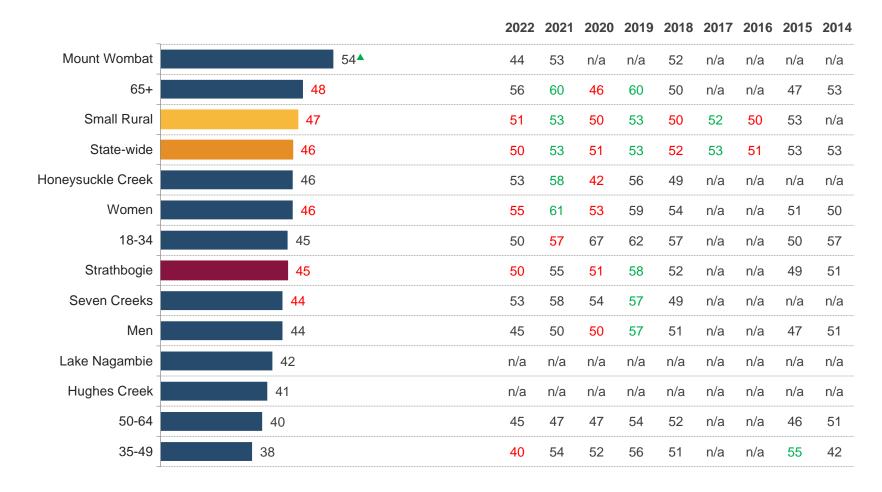
When it comes to the trade off between rates and services, most residents would prefer service cuts in order to keep council rates at the same level as they are now (56%). This compares to just 17% who would opt for a rate rise to improve services.



Overall council direction last 12 months



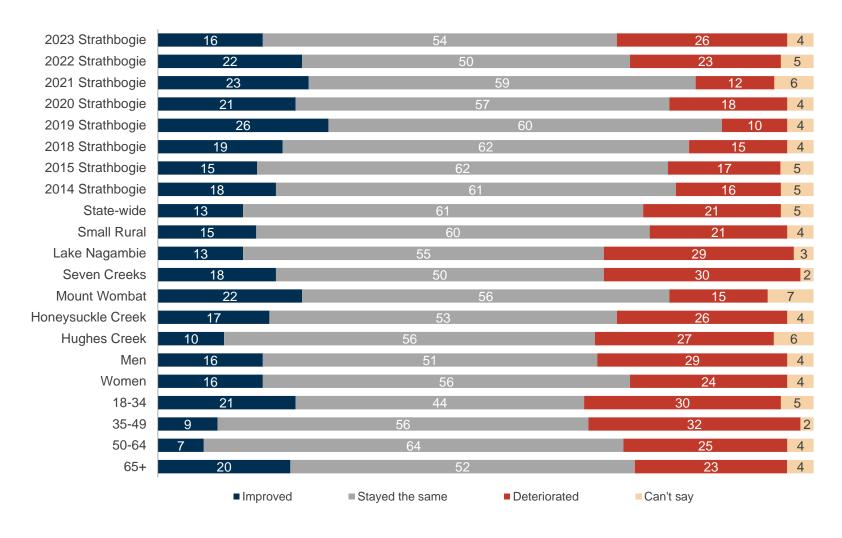
2023 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



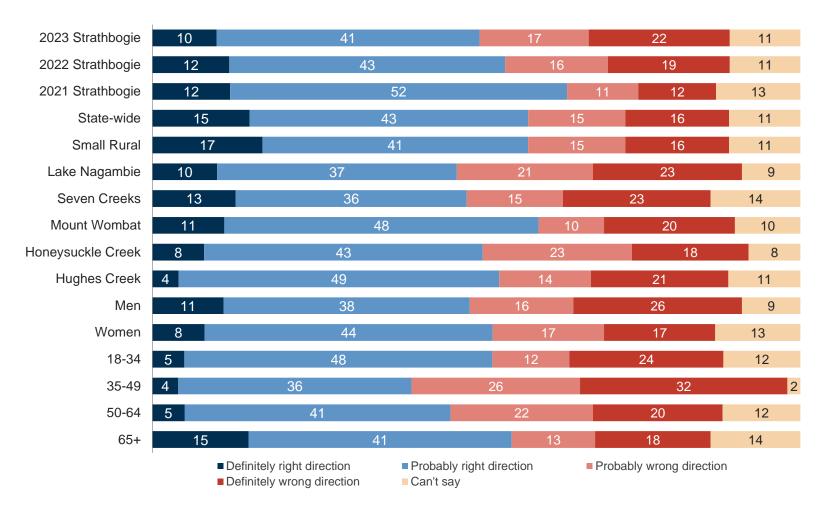
2023 overall council direction (%)



Right / wrong direction



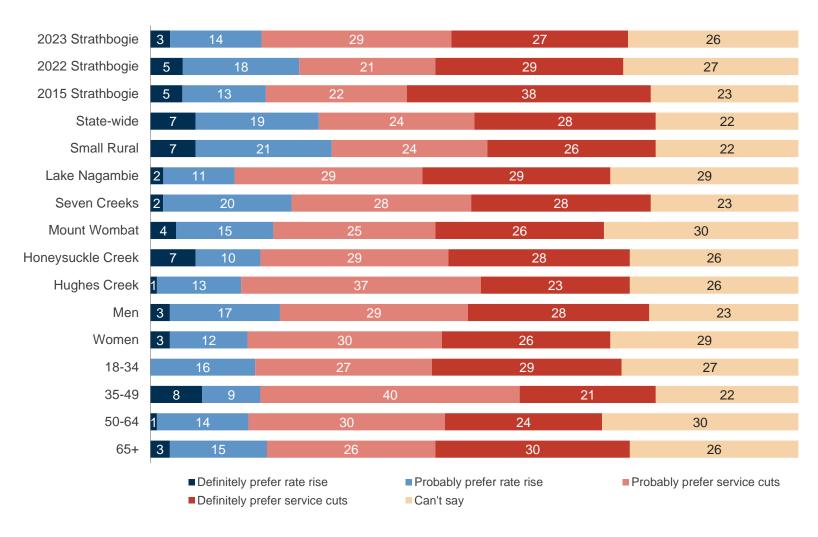
2023 right / wrong direction (%)



Rates / services trade-off



2023 rates / services trade-off (%)





2018 2017

2020 2019

Community consultation and engagement importance



2016 2015 2014



2023 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

2022 2021

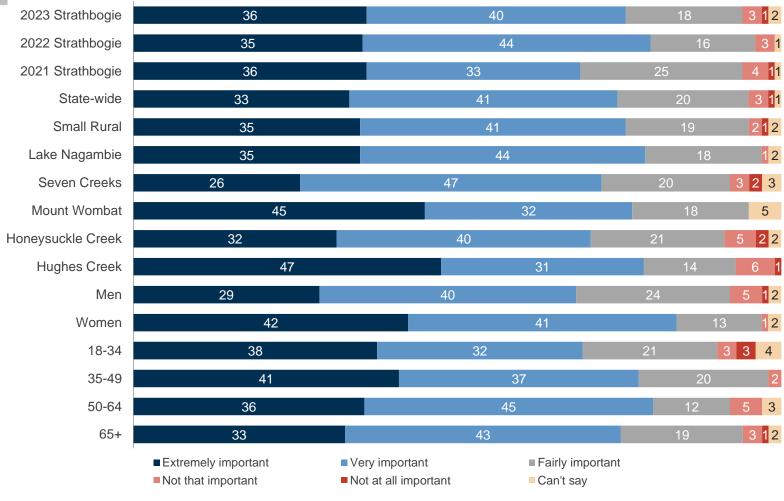


Community consultation and engagement importance





2023 consultation and engagement importance (%)



Community consultation and engagement performance





2023 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

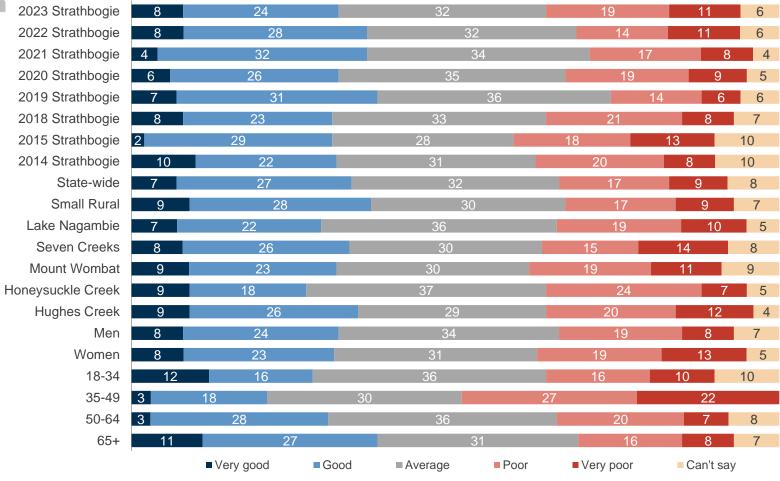


Community consultation and engagement performance





2023 consultation and engagement performance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community importance



2023 lobbying importance (index scores)

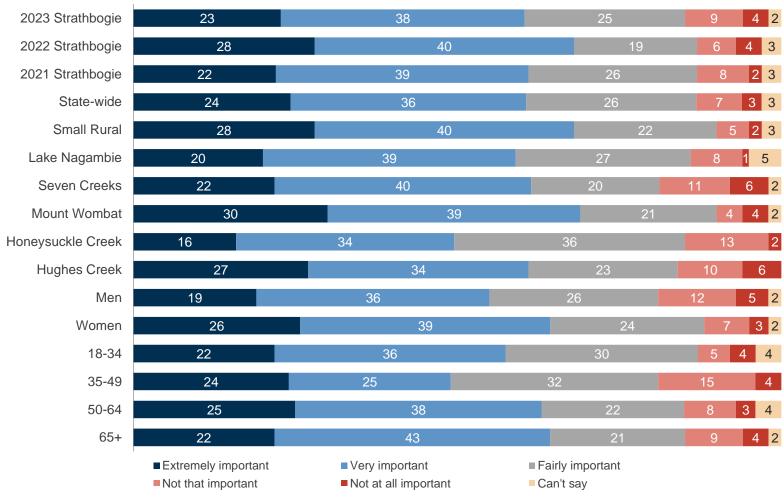


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2023 lobbying importance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2023 lobbying performance (index scores)

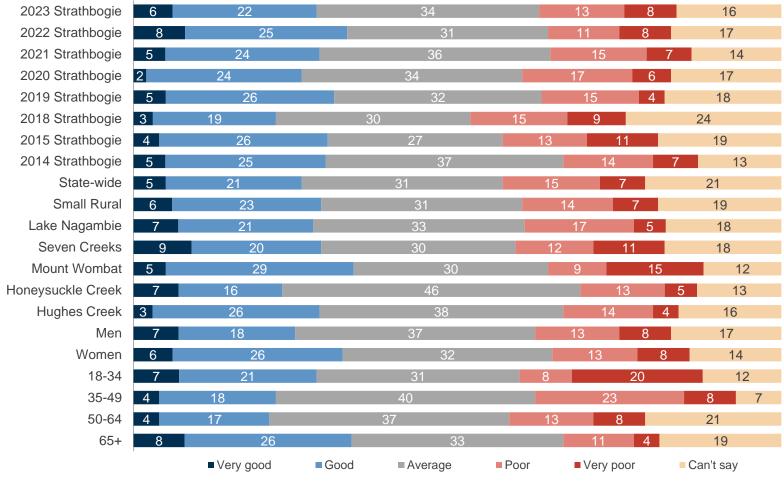


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2023 lobbying performance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2023 community decisions made performance (index scores)

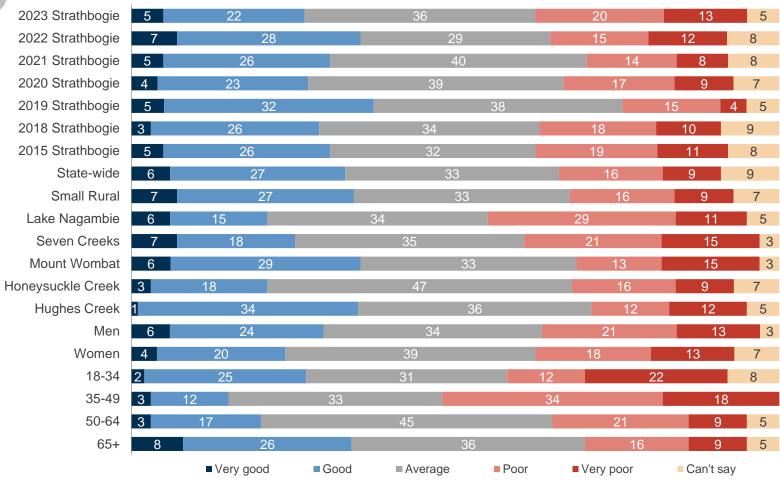


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2023 community decisions made performance (%)

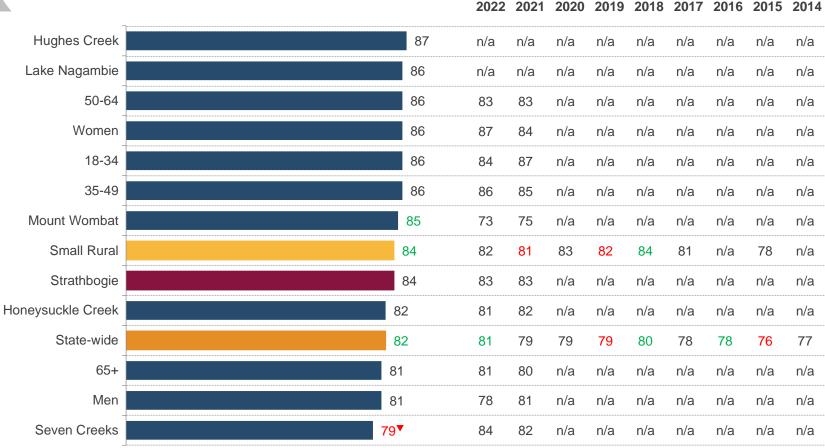


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2023 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

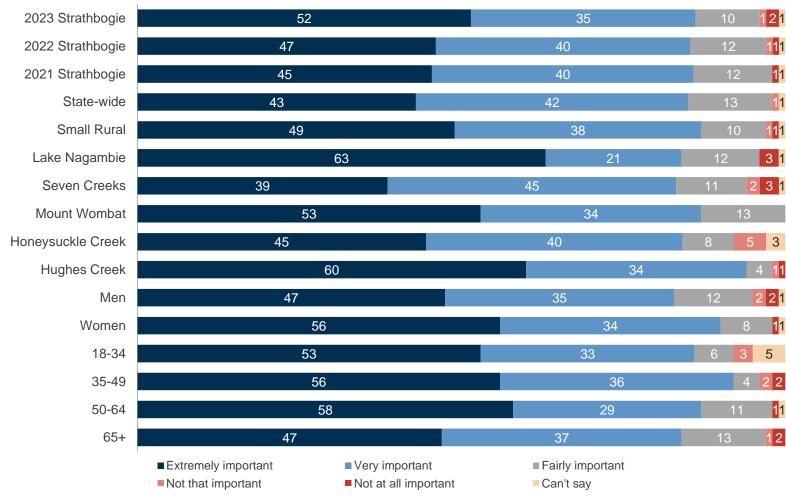


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2023 sealed local roads importance (%)

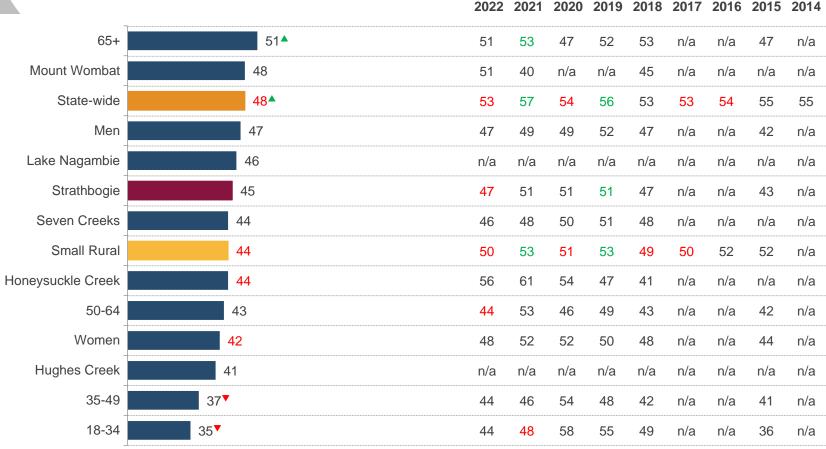


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2023 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

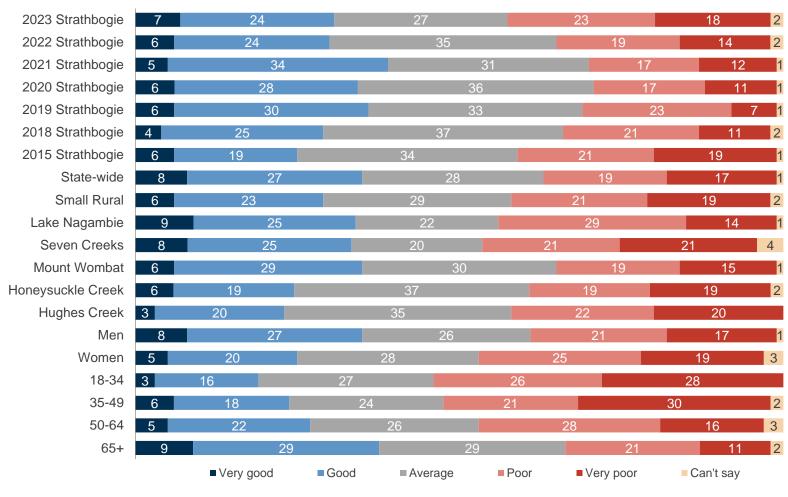


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2023 sealed local roads performance (%)



Informing the community importance





2023 informing community importance (index scores)

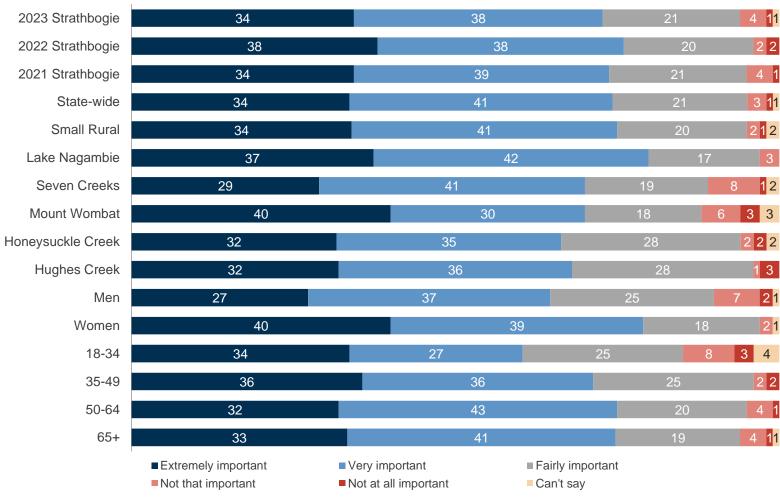


Informing the community importance





2023 informing community importance (%)

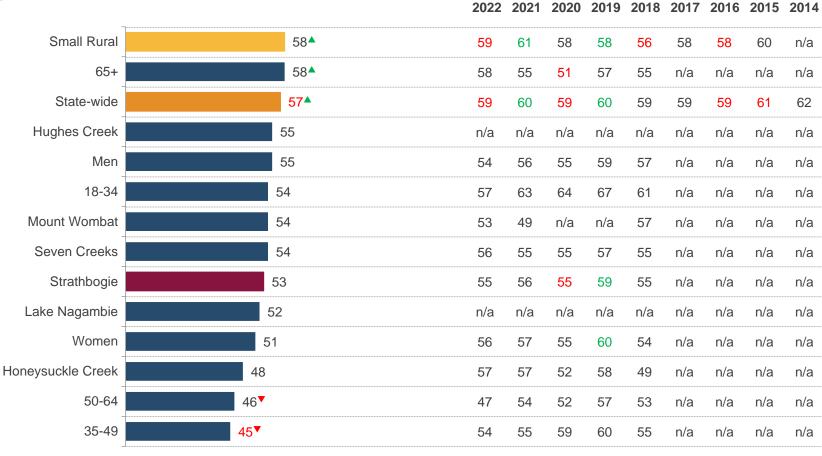


Informing the community performance





2023 informing community performance (index scores)

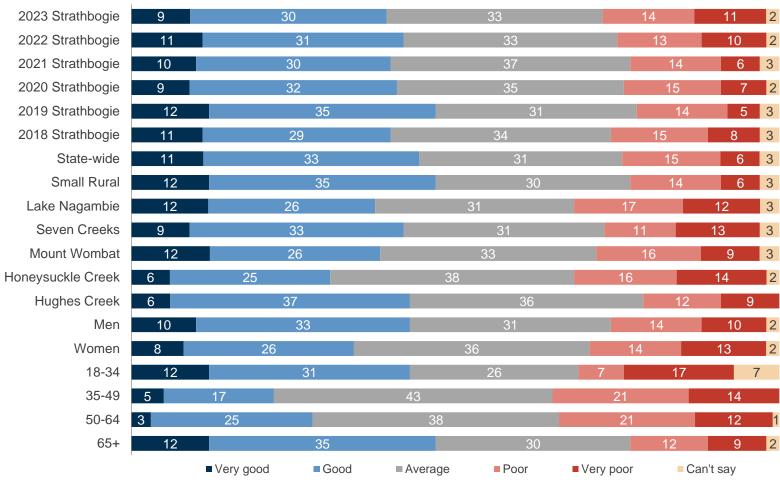


Informing the community performance





2023 informing community performance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2023 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

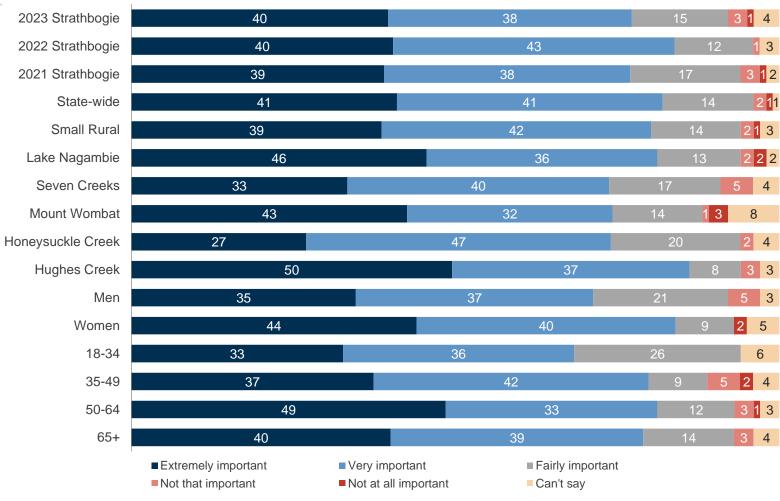


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2023 streets and footpaths importance (%)

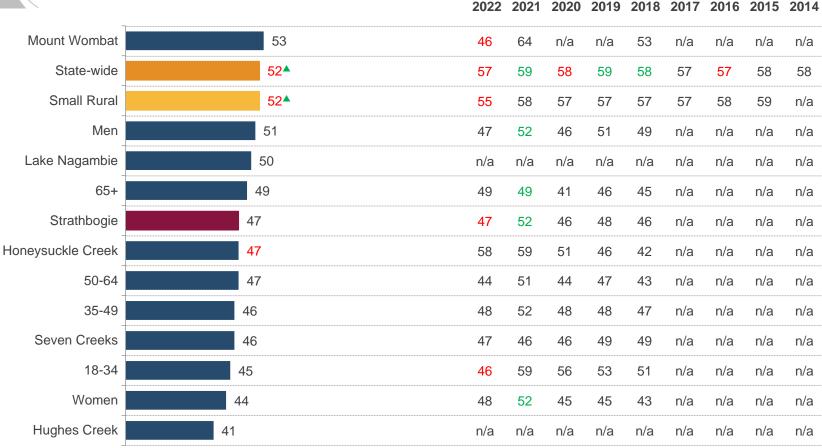


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2023 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

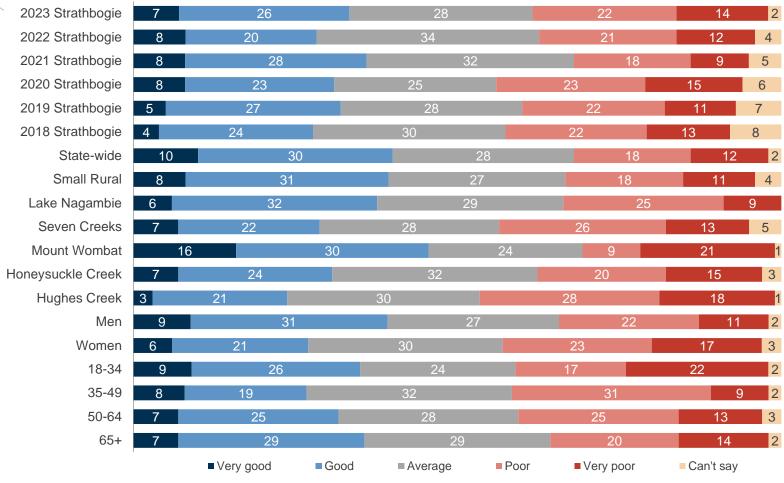


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2023 streets and footpaths performance (%)



Enforcement of local laws importance





2023 law enforcement importance (index scores)

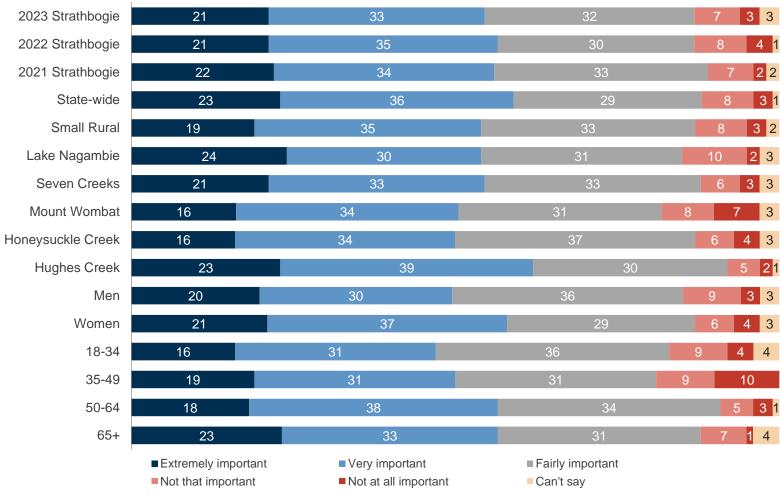


Enforcement of local laws importance





2023 law enforcement importance (%)



Enforcement of local laws performance





2023 law enforcement performance (index scores)

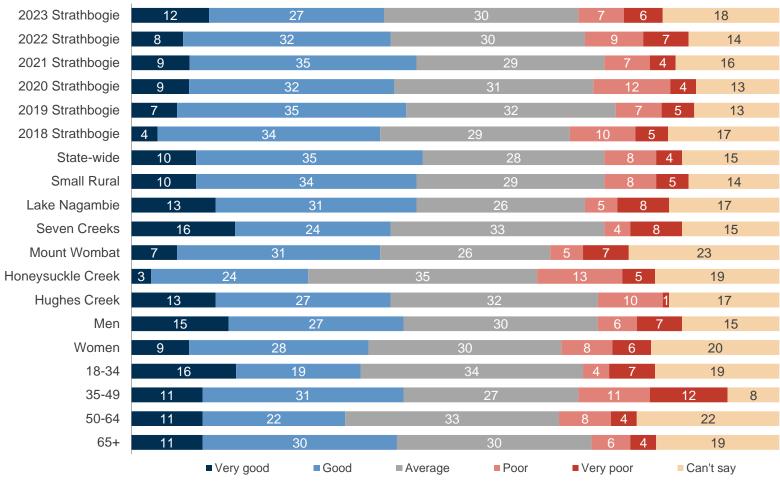


Enforcement of local laws performance





2023 law enforcement performance (%)



Recreational facilities importance





2023 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

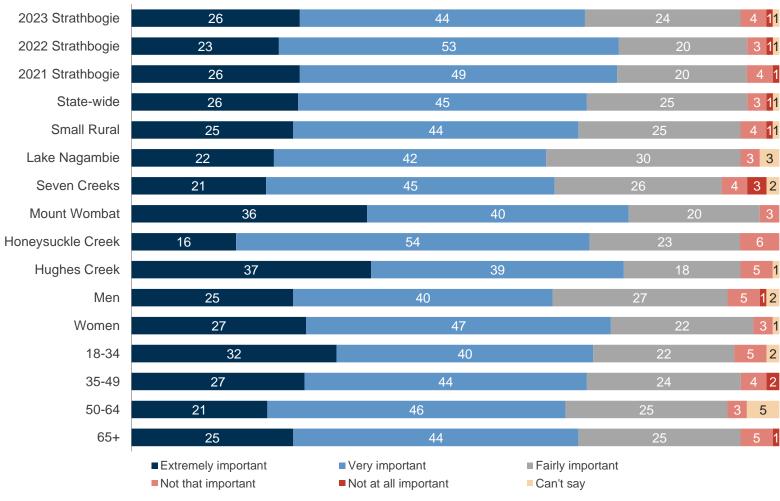


Recreational facilities importance





2023 recreational facilities importance (%)



Recreational facilities performance





2023 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

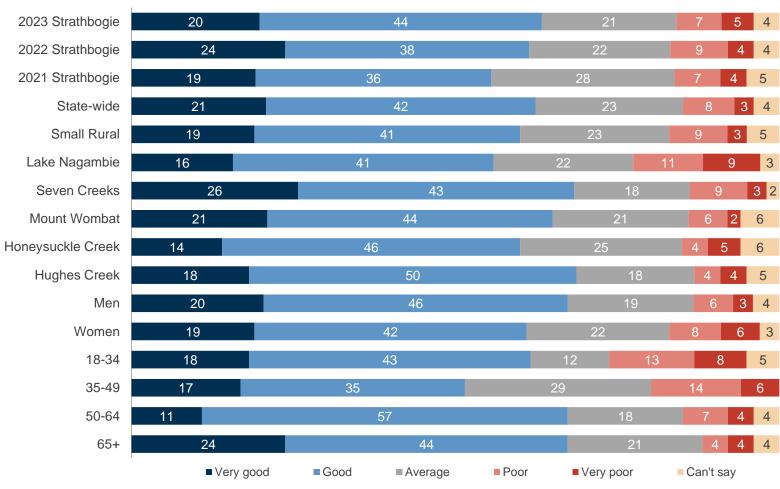


Recreational facilities performance





2023 recreational facilities performance (%)



The appearance of public areas importance





2023 public areas importance (index scores)

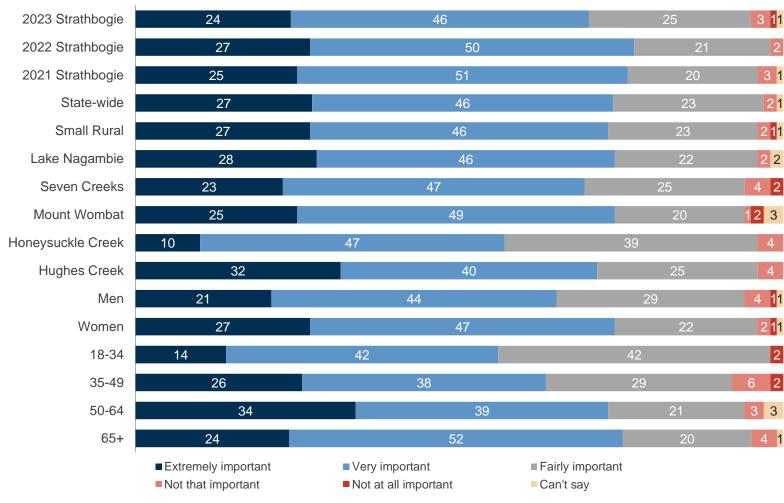


The appearance of public areas importance





2023 public areas importance (%)



The appearance of public areas performance





2023 public areas performance (index scores)

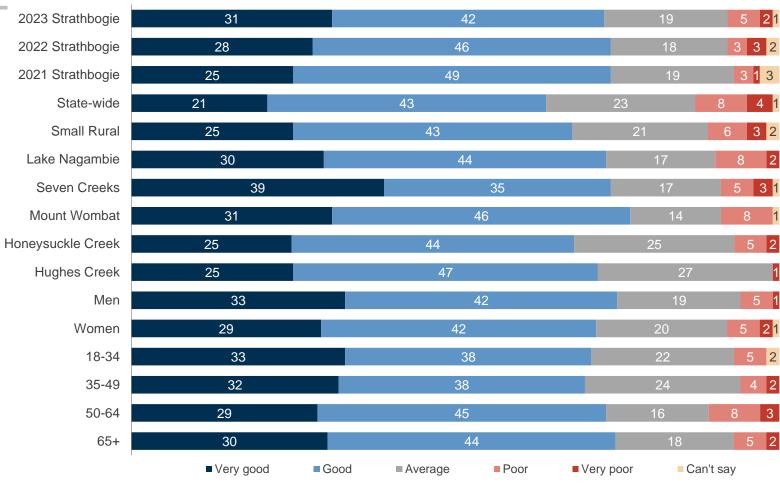


The appearance of public areas performance





2023 public areas performance (%)



Art centres and libraries importance





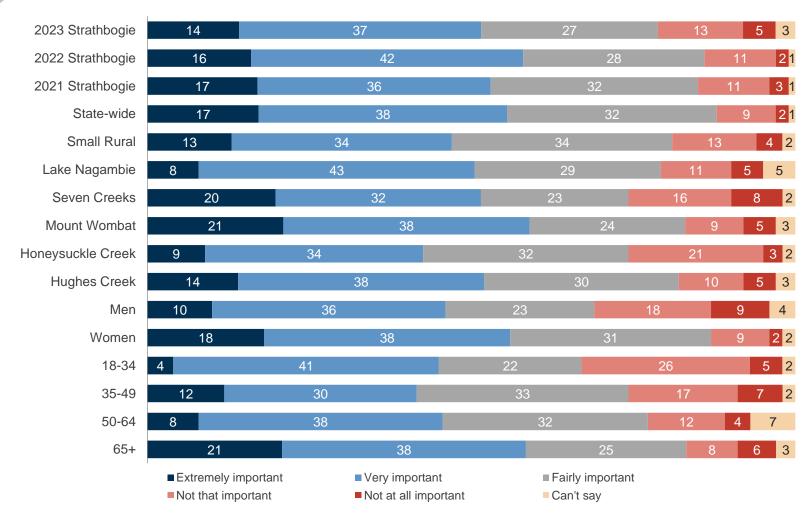
2023 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)



Art centres and libraries importance







2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014

Art centres and libraries performance





2023 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)

2022

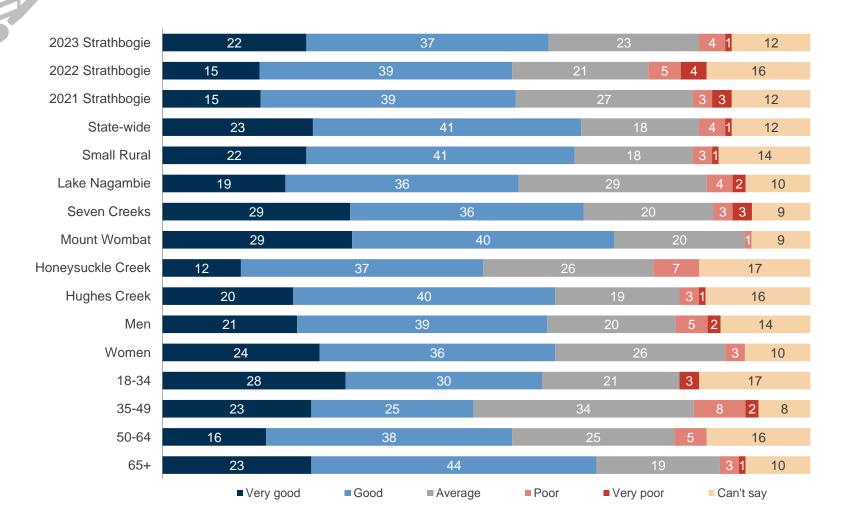
2021



Art centres and libraries performance



2023 art centres and libraries performance (%)



Waste management importance





2023 waste management importance (index scores)

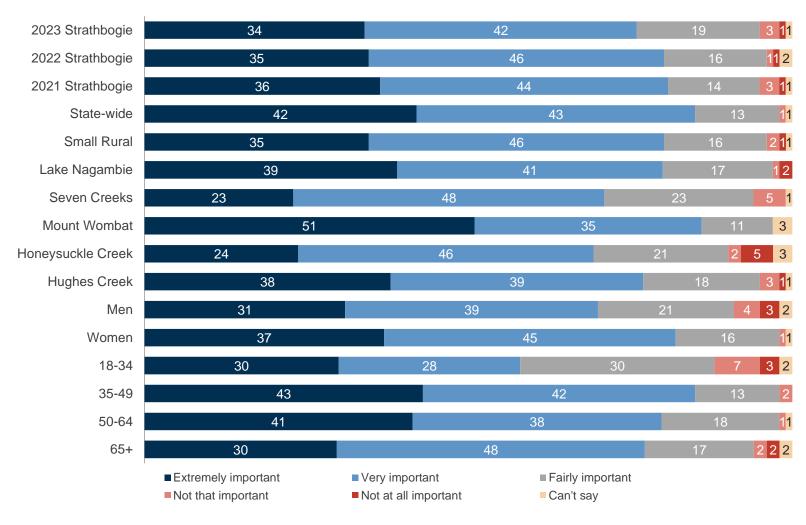


Waste management importance





2023 waste management importance (%)



Waste management performance





2023 waste management performance (index scores)

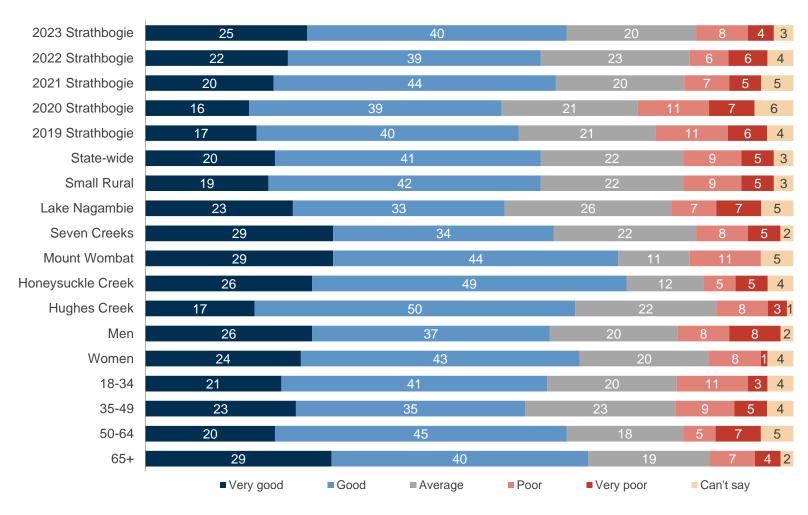


Waste management performance





2023 waste management performance (%)

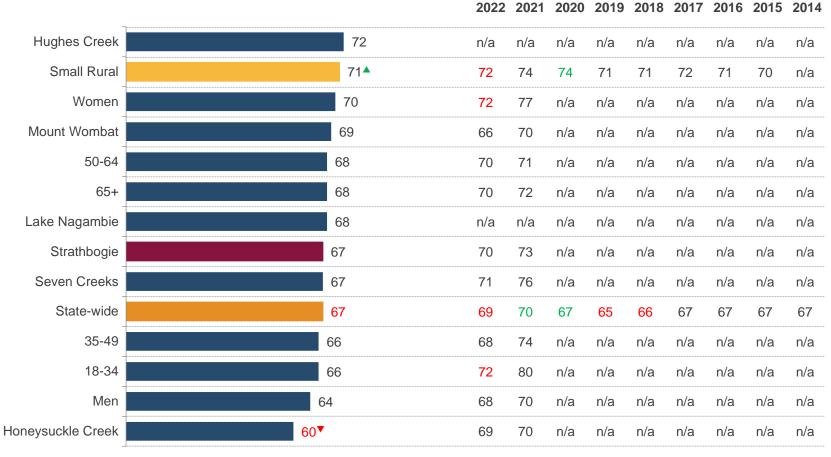


Business and community development and tourism importance





2023 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

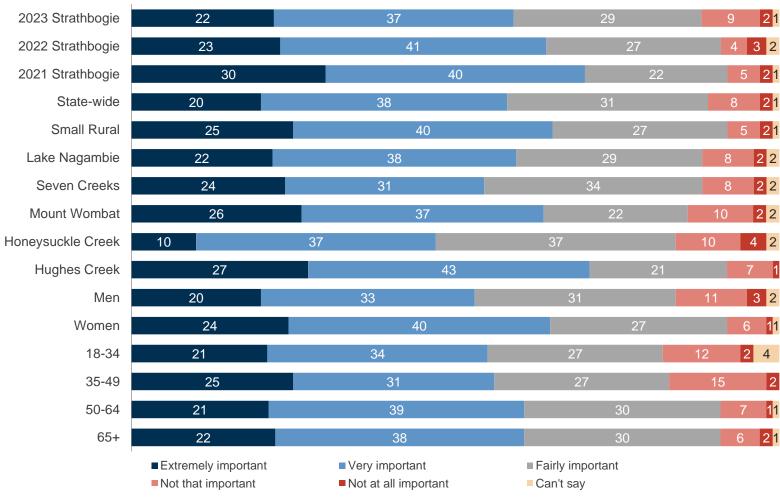


Business and community development and tourism importance





2023 business/development/tourism importance (%)

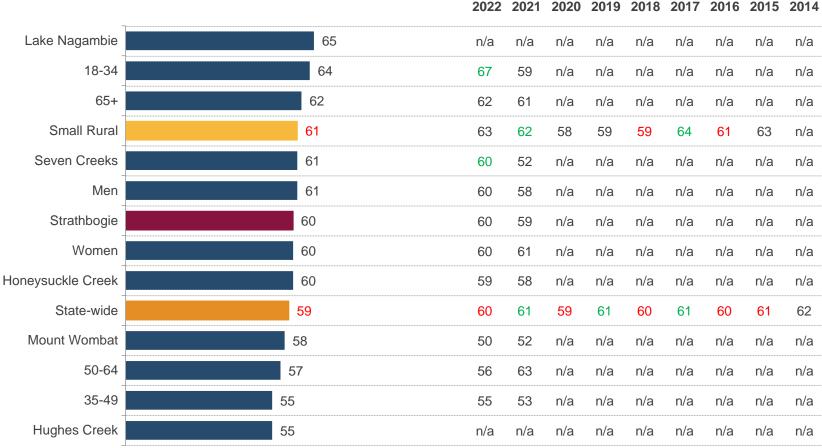


Business and community development and tourism performance





2023 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

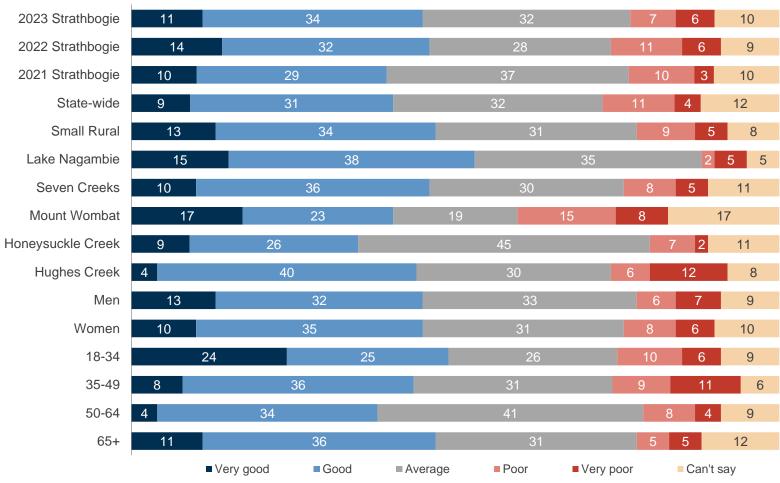


Business and community development and tourism performance





2023 business/development/tourism performance (%)

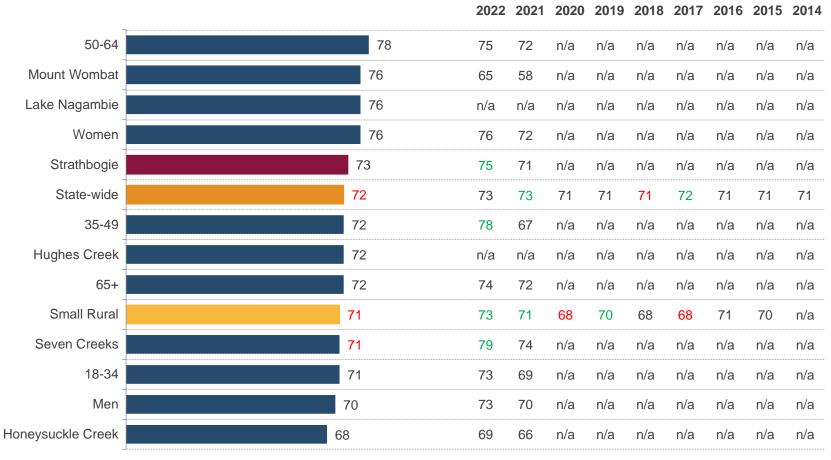


Planning and building permits importance





2023 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

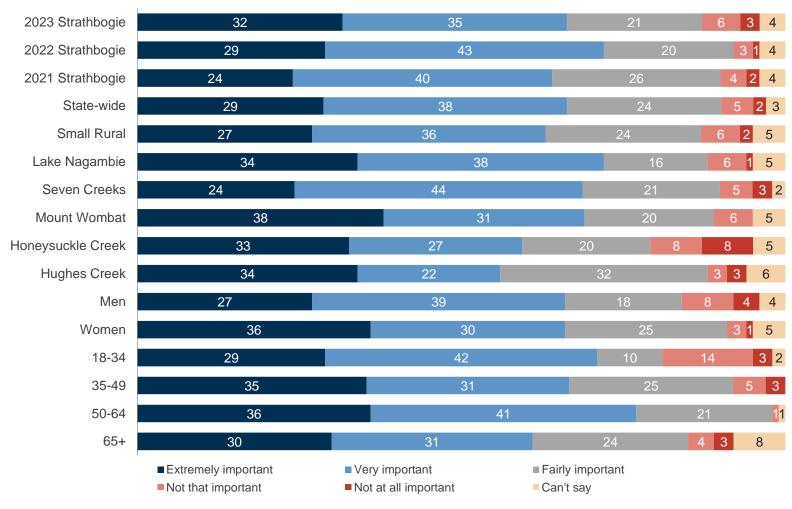


Planning and building permits importance





2023 planning and building permits importance (%)



Planning and building permits performance





2023 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

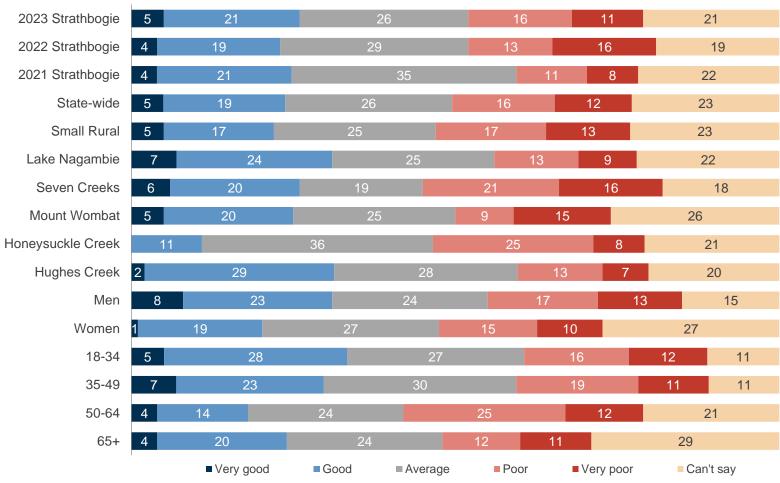


Planning and building permits performance





2023 planning and building permits performance (%)



Environmental sustainability performance





2023 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

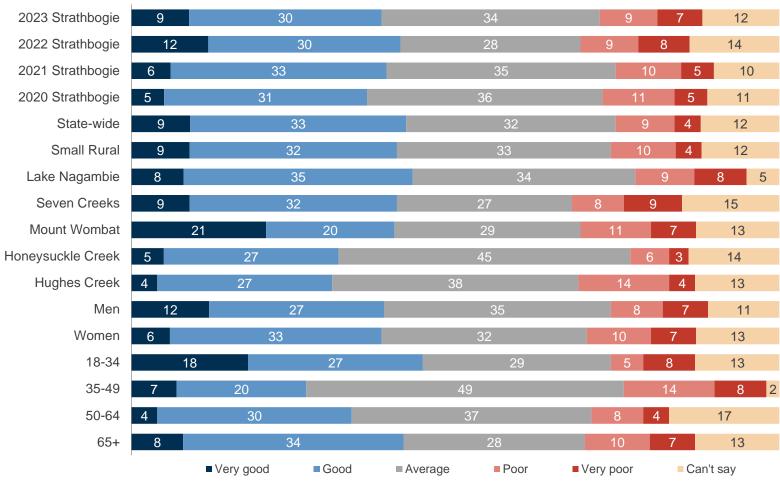


Environmental sustainability performance





2023 environmental sustainability performance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2023 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

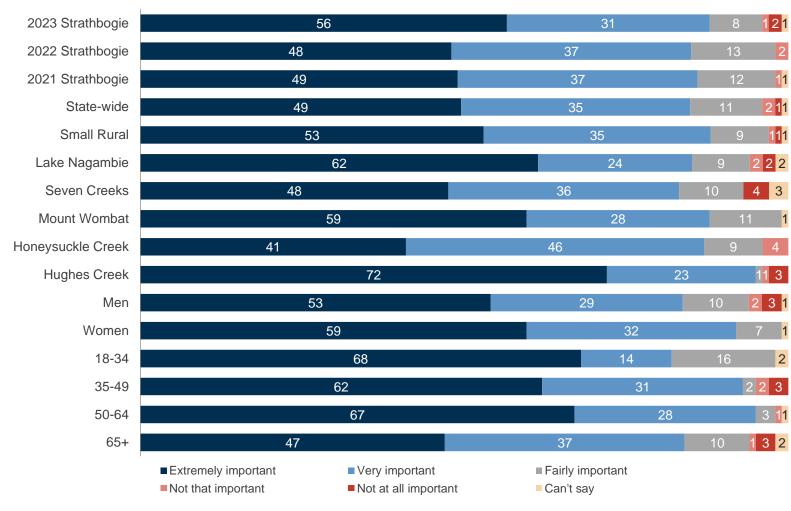


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2023 unsealed roads importance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2023 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

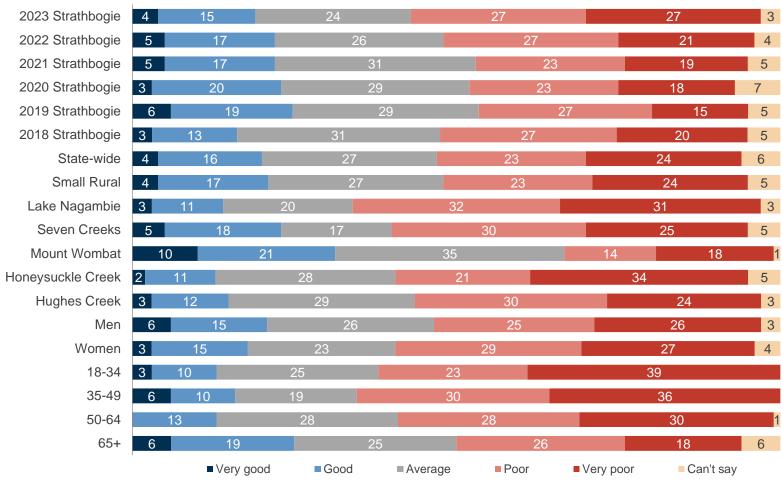


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2023 unsealed roads performance (%)

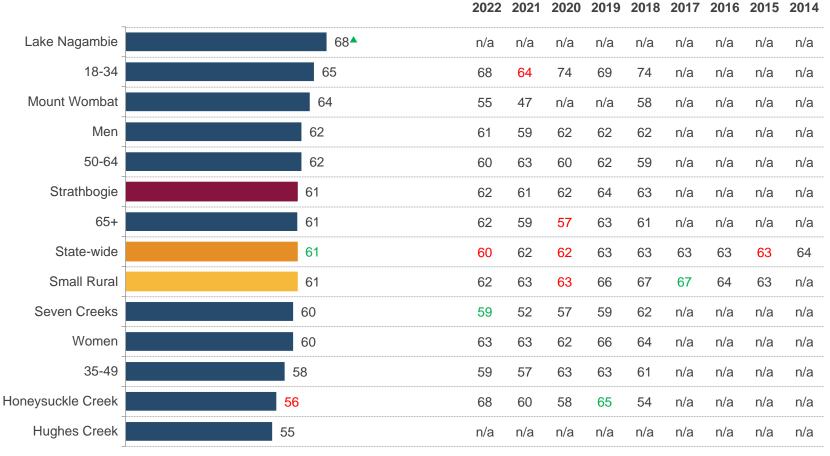


Tourism development performance





2023 tourism development performance (index scores)

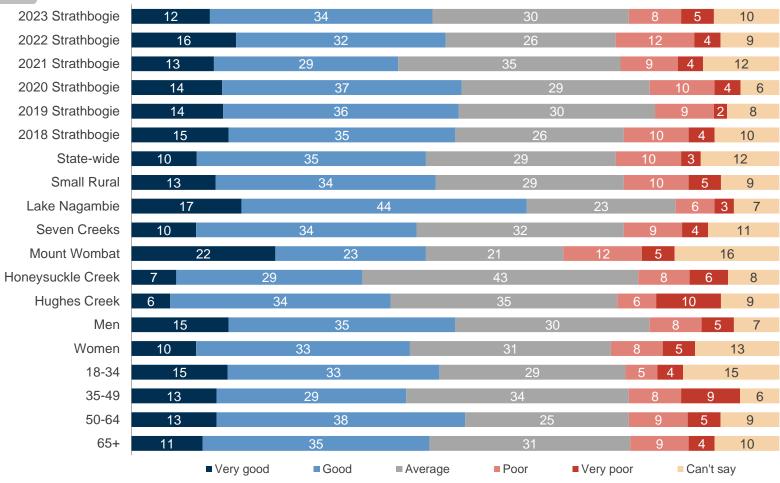


Tourism development performance





2023 tourism development performance (%)

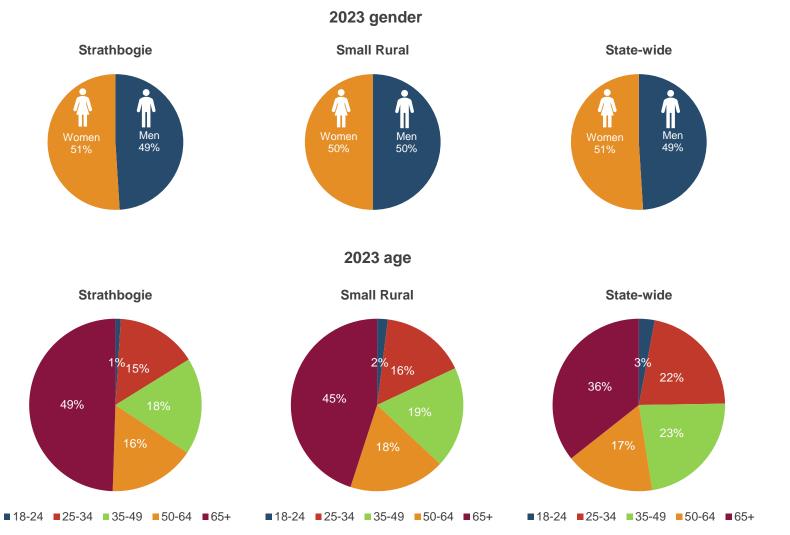




Detailed demographics

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



The sample size for the 2023 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 9,400 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	197	198	+/-6.9
Women	203	202	+/-6.8
Lake Nagambie	104	101	+/-9.6
Seven Creeks	112	113	+/-9.2
Mount Wombat	59	61	+/-12.8
Honeysuckle Creek	56	57	+/-13.2
Hughes Creek	69	68	+/-11.8
18-34 years	45	65	+/-14.7
35-49 years	52	73	+/-13.7
50-64 years	76	66	+/-11.3
65+ years	227	196	+/-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 ().

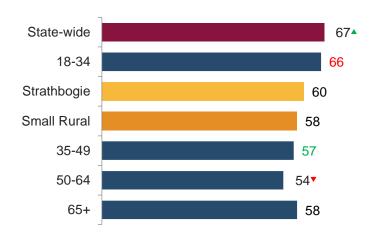
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

- 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 2022. 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 2022.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2022.

2023 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 2023 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 2023 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2022, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March.
- 2021, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 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.

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 across four quarters from 16th June 2022 – 19th March 2023.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2023, 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 2012-2023 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 2023 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 2012-2023 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 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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: 2023 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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