## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL

2018 RESEARCH REPORT

COORDINATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING ON BEHALF OF VICTORIAN COUNCILS

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#### MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL PERFORMANCE — AT A GLANCE





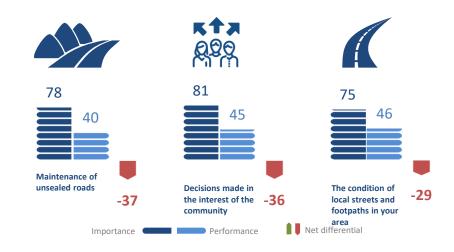
#### **OVERALL COUNCIL PERFORMANCE**

Results shown are index scores out of 100.

#### **TOP 3 PERFORMING AREAS**



#### **TOP 3 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**



#### **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**



Welcome to the report of results and recommendations for the 2018 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Each year Local Government Victoria (LGV) coordinates and auspices this State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey throughout Victorian local government areas. This coordinated approach allows for far more cost effective surveying than would be possible if councils commissioned surveys individually.

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. The main objectives of the survey are to assess the performance of Mount Alexander Shire Council across a range of measures and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery. The survey also provides councils with a means to fulfil some of their statutory reporting requirements as well as acting as a feedback mechanism to LGV.

#### SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING



This survey was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Mount Alexander 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 40% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Mount Alexander Shire Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Mount Alexander Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

The 2018 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 30<sup>th</sup> June.

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

#### SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING



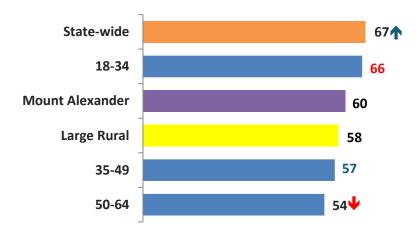
Within tables and index score charts throughout this report, statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level are represented by upward directing blue and downward directing red arrows. Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in 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 <u>higher</u> 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 blue and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2017. 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 2017.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2017.

#### Overall Performance – Index Scores (example extract only)



#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**



Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in <a href="Appendix B">Appendix B</a>, including:

- Background and objectives
- Margins of error
- Analysis and reporting
- Glossary of terms

#### **Contacts**

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2018 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on (03) 8685 8555.

# KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



#### **OVERALL PERFORMANCE**



The overall performance index score of 49 for Mount Alexander Shire Council represents a *significant* ninepoint decline from the 2017 result. Ratings gains achieved between 2016 and 2017 (index score of 52 in 2016 to 58 in 2017) have been entirely eroded in the past year, though the 2018 rating is slightly higher than the lowest point in 2012 (index score of 46).

- Mount Alexander Shire Council's overall performance is rated statistically significantly lower (at the 95% confidence interval) than the average rating for councils State-wide and in the Large Rural group (index scores of 59 and 56 respectively).
- Castlemaine residents (index score of 54) rate Council's overall performance significantly higher than average.

Overall performance ratings declined **across all demographic and demographic sub-groups** in the past year, though declines were more modest among Castlemaine residents compared to other groups.

Residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 51, 14 points lower than 2017), men (48, 10 points lower), residents aged 50 to 64 years (46, 11 points lower), and residents outside

Castlemaine (45, 14 points lower) declined by double digits in their impressions of Council.

Equal numbers rate Mount Alexander Shire Council's overall performance as 'very good' or 'good' (29%) as those who rate Council's performance as 'poor' or 'very poor' (28%). A further 42% of residents sit mid-scale providing an 'average' rating.



#### **OVERALL COUNCIL PERFORMANCE**

Results shown are index scores out of 100.

#### **OVERVIEW OF CORE PERFORMANCE MEASURES**



Review of the core performance measures (as shown on page 21) shows that Mount Alexander Shire Council's **performance** *declined significantly* on **most measures** compared to Council's own results in 2017.

In addition to overall performance, Council ratings declined significantly on the core measures of community decisions (index score of 45, seven points lower than 2017), sealed local roads (49, four points lower), and overall council direction (37, 17 points lower).

Gains achieved on the measures of community decisions (index score of 44 in 2016, 52 in 2017) and council direction (44 in 2016, 54 in 2017) between 2016 and 2017 have been maintained, but performance on overall council direction fell considerably, close to its 2012 low point of 35.

**Consultation and engagement** (index score of 52, one point lower than 2017) and **customer service** (index score of 68, two points lower than 2017) ratings are largely in line with 2017 results, only declining by one or two index points since 2017, and not *significantly.* 

Of note, Mount Alexander Shire Council's performance in the area of **advocacy** increased slightly, by two index points, in the past year to a performance index score of 52.

Council's ratings are *significantly lower* than average ratings for the Large Rural group on the core measures of **overall performance** (discussed previously), **community decisions**, and **council direction**, but are *significantly higher* than the group average in the area of **sealed local roads** (despite a decrease in performance in 2018).

All other core measures rate in line with Large Rural group averages.

Council's ratings are also significantly lower than average ratings for councils State-wide on core measures, with the exception of advocacy and customer service, which are just slightly lower than State-wide averages.

### OVERVIEW OF CORE PERFORMANCE MEASURES (CONT'D)



Perceptions of core measures differ markedly **across geographic cohorts** within Mount Alexander Shire Council.

- Residents outside of 'Other' (non Castlemaine) are significantly less favourable in their impressions of Council performance on most core measures compared to 2017 results.
- Castlemaine residents, however, rate Council performance on core measures largely in line (varying by only a few index points) with their previous year's ratings, with just two exceptions.
- Castlemaine residents grew significantly more favourable in their impressions of council lobbying (index score of 57, nine points higher than 2017) and like every other group, significantly less favourable in their impressions of council direction (40, 14 points lower).

**Customer service** is a top-performing area for Mount Alexander Shire Council. It is the highest-rated core performance measure and the second-highest rated service area overall.

In the area of customer service (index score of 68), Mount Alexander Shire Council performs in line with State-wide and Large Rural group averages for councils (index score of 70 and 67 respectively).

#### **CUSTOMER CONTACT AND SERVICE**



Two-thirds (65%) of Mount Alexander Shire Council residents have had recent contact with Council. Rates of contact have been fairly constant the past six years.

The main methods of contacting Council are inperson and by telephone (46% and 35% respectively). The proportion of residents contacting Council in-person increased nine percentage points between 2017 and 2018, returning to previously higher levels (44% in 2016).

Customer service, with an index score of 68, is a **positive result** for Council. Though performance declined two index points in the past year, Council has largely maintained ratings gains achieved between 2012 and 2017 in this area.

- One-third (33%) rate Council's customer service as 'very good', with a further 35% rating customer service as 'good'.
- Perceptions of Council's customer service declined significantly in the last year among residents aged 50 to 64 years (index score of 63, 10 index points lower than 2017).

Newsletters, sent via mail (31%) and email (26%), are the preferred way for Council to inform residents about news, information and upcoming events. Demand for mailed newsletters is trending down (declining eight percentage points since 2016), while preferences for emailed newsletters are increasing (seven percentage points in the past year alone).

Residents under and over 50 years of age prefer newsletters sent via mail to email by roughly the same (small) margin.

- Adults aged under 50 years are behind decreases in demand for mailed communications. They are 10 points more likely to want to receive a newsletter via email (39%) than mail (29%, up from 43% in 2016).
- Adults aged over 50 years divide evenly (38% newsletter sent via mail and 36% newsletter via email), with the gap between the two closing over time.
- The popularity of text message updates has more than doubled in the past year (from 5% in 2017 to 11% in 2018) among residents under fifty years of age.

#### AREAS WHERE COUNCIL IS PERFORMING WELL



Community and cultural activities is the area where Mount Shire Alexander Council performs most strongly (index score of 70). Performance in this area is down slightly, by three index points, since 2017.

- ➤ Two-thirds of residents (64%) rate Council's performance in this service area as 'very good' or 'good'.
- Council significantly exceeds the average rating for the Large Rural group in this area (index score of 67).
- Castlemaine (index score of 74) residents are significantly more favourable than the average in their impressions of council performance in the area of community and cultural activities.
- Council's lower score in 2018 is driven by significantly lower impressions of its performance among residents outside Castlemaine ('Other') (index score of 67, six points lower than 2017) and residents aged 50 to 64 years (67, eight points lower).
- Community and cultural activities is the secondlowest rated service area in terms of importance (importance index score of 62) relative to other areas evaluated.

Another area where Mount Alexander Shire Council is well regarded is the appearance of public areas. With a performance index score of 68, this service area is rated second highest, alongside customer service, among residents. Performance in this area is also down slightly, by two index points, since 2017.

- Two-thirds of residents (64%) rate Council's performance in this service area as 'very good' or 'good'.
- Council's slightly lower score in 2018 is largely driven by *significantly lower* impressions of its performance among residents outside Castlemaine ('Other') (index score of 65, six points lower than 2017) and residents **aged 18 to 34 years** (68, 10 points lower).
- While not the highest-rated service in terms of importance, the maintenance and appearance of public areas is still considered an important council responsibility (importance index score of 73).

### AREAS WHERE COUNCIL IS PERFORMING WELL (CONT'D)



**Emergency and disaster management** (performance index score of 65) is also an area where Council is rated more highly compared to other service areas.

- Notwithstanding positive performance in this area, Council performs significantly lower than both the Large Rural group and the average for councils State-wide on this measure (index score of 71 for both).
- Perceptions of this service area are relatively consistent across demographic and geographic sub-groups.
- ➤ It is considered one of the most important council responsibilities (importance index score of 80).

Council did not experience any *significant increases* in performance in 2018.

#### **AREAS IN NEED OF ATTENTION**



Council ratings *declined significantly* in 2018 on five measures: **community decisions** (index score of 45, seven points lower than 2017), **unsealed roads** (40, six points lower), **population growth** (47, five points lower), **sealed local roads** (49, four points lower), and **tourism development** (63, four points lower). Concerns can be loosely grouped into two areas: road- and growth-related.

The most significant decline in 2018 was a sevenpoint drop on the measure of **community decisions** (index score of 45). This is also the second-lowest performing area, performing just ahead of the condition of unsealed roads.

- Performance on this measure had increased significantly in 2017, but the gains achieved at that time have not been maintained in 2018.
- Much of this decline can be attributed to much more critical ratings on this issue from **residents aged 18 to 34 years** (index score of 40, 18 points lower than 2017) and among residents outside Castlemaine ('Other') (42, 10 points lower). Impressions also *declined significantly* in the past year among both men and women and residents aged 50 to 64 years.

In addition to community decisions, the maintenance of unsealed roads stands out as being in need of attention. With a performance index score of 40, Council is seen to be performing poorly in this service area. This is significantly lower than the Statewide average, but in line with the Large Rural group average (performance index scores of 43 and 41 respectively).

- Just under half of residents (46%) rate Council performance in this service area as 'poor' or 'very poor' combined.
- Castlemaine residents (index score of 46) have significantly more favourable impressions of performance in this area than the average. Conversely, residents outside Castlemaine ('Other') rate Council lowest (index score of 36).
- Men (index score of 41, seven index points lower than 2017), residents aged 18 to 34 years (37, 11 points lower) and 50 to 64 years (36, eight points lower), and residents outside Castlemaine ('Other') (36, 11 points lower) decreased significantly in their impressions of Council performance on unsealed roads since 2017.
- The importance of this service area is evidenced by a high importance index score of 78.

#### **FOCUS AREAS FOR COMING 12 MONTHS**



For the coming 12 months, Mount Alexander Shire Council should pay particular attention to the service areas where stated importance exceeds rated performance by more than 10 points (14 areas). Focus areas should start with the seven areas where the performance gap exceeds 20 points:

- Unsealed roads (margin of 37 points)
- Community decisions (margin of 36 points)
- Condition of local streets and footpaths (margin of 29 points)
- Sealed local roads (margin of 28 points)
- Planning for population growth (margin of 27 points)
- Waste management (margin of 24 points)
- Consultation and engagement (margin of 23 points).

Consideration should also be given to residents outside of Castlemaine ('Other') and residents aged 50 to 64 years, who appear to be most driving negative opinion in 2018.

On the positive side, Council should maintain its relatively strong performance in the areas of customer service, the appearance of public areas, and emergency and disaster management.

It is also important not to ignore, and to learn from, what is working amongst other groups, especially Castlemaine residents and residents aged 35 to 49 years, and use these lessons to build performance experience and perceptions in other areas.

The **regression analysis on pages 32-36** shows the individual service areas that have the strongest influence on the overall performance rating are:

- Decisions made in the interest of the community
- The condition of local streets and footpaths
- Community consultation and engagement

Decisions that the Council makes in the interest of the community has the strongest influence on overall performance perceptions and the same is true for the condition of local streets and footpaths.

In summary, promoting the decisions that have been made in the interest of the community, improvements in the condition of local streets and footpaths, as well as better community consultation, engagement and communication could help drive up overall opinion of the Mount Alexander Council's performance.

#### FURTHER AREAS OF EXPLORATION



An approach we recommend is to further mine the survey data to better understand the profile of these over and under-performing demographic groups. This can be achieved via additional consultation and data interrogation, self-mining the SPSS data provided, or via the dashboard portal available to the council.

Please note that the category descriptions for the coded open ended responses are generic summaries only. We recommend further analysis of the detailed cross tabulations and the actual verbatim responses, with a view to understanding the responses of the key gender and age groups, especially any target groups identified as requiring attention.

A personal briefing by senior JWS Research representatives is also available to assist in providing both explanation and interpretation of the results. Please contact JWS Research on 03 8685 8555.

#### **SNAPSHOT OF KEY FINDINGS**



**Higher results in 2018** 

(Significantly <u>higher</u> result than 2017)

• No significant change

Lower results in 2018

(Significantly lower result than 2017)

Community decisions

Unsealed roads

Population growth

Sealed local roads

Tourism development

Most favourably disposed towards Council

Castlemaine

Aged 35-49 years

Least favourably disposed towards Council

Aged 50-64 years

'Other' areas

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



#### **2018 SUMMARY OF CORE MEASURES**

#### **INDEX SCORE RESULTS**

















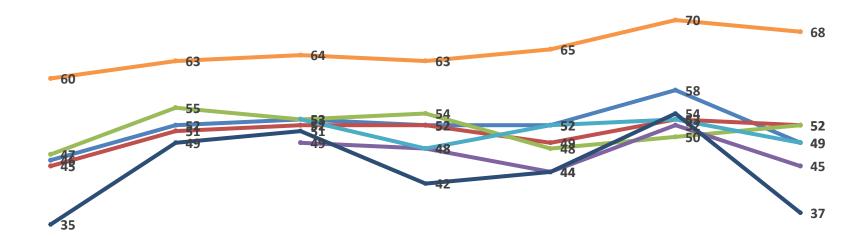
**Community Consultation** 

Advocacy Making Community Decisions

Sealed Local Roads

Customer Service

Overall Council Direction





#### **2018 SUMMARY OF CORE MEASURES**

#### **DETAILED ANALYSIS**



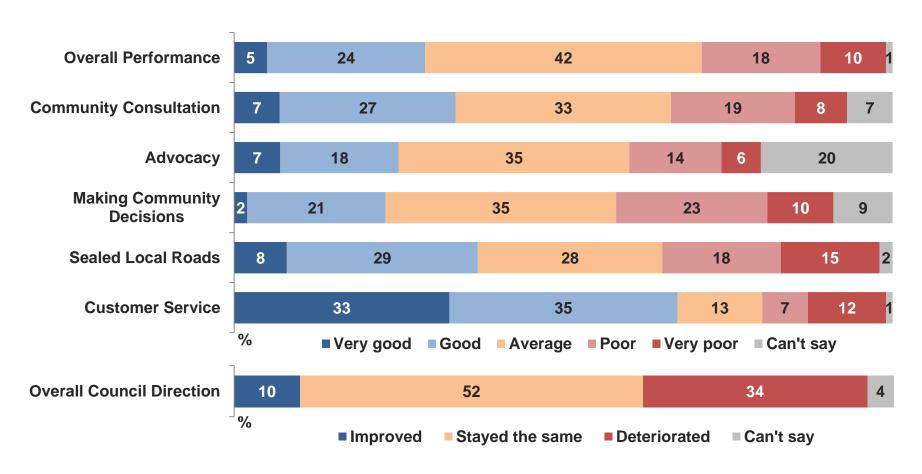
Performance Measures	Mount Alexander 2018	Mount Alexander 2017	Large Rural 2018	State-wide 2018	Highest score	Lowest score
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	49	58	56	59	Castlemaine	Other
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (Community consultation and engagement)	52	53	54	55	Men, Castlemaine, Aged 35-49 years	Women, Aged 50-64 years
ADVOCACY (Lobbying on behalf of the community)	52	50	52	54	Castlemaine	Other
MAKING COMMUNITY DECISIONS (Decisions made in the interest of the community)	45	52	52	54	Castlemaine, Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
<b>SEALED LOCAL ROADS</b> (Condition of sealed local roads)	49	53	45	53	Aged 35-49 years	Aged 18-34 years
CUSTOMER SERVICE	68	70	67	70	Castlemaine	Aged 50-64 years, Other
OVERALL COUNCIL DIRECTION	37	54	52	52	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years

#### 2018 SUMMARY OF KEY COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

#### PERCENTAGE RESULTS



#### Key Measures Summary Results

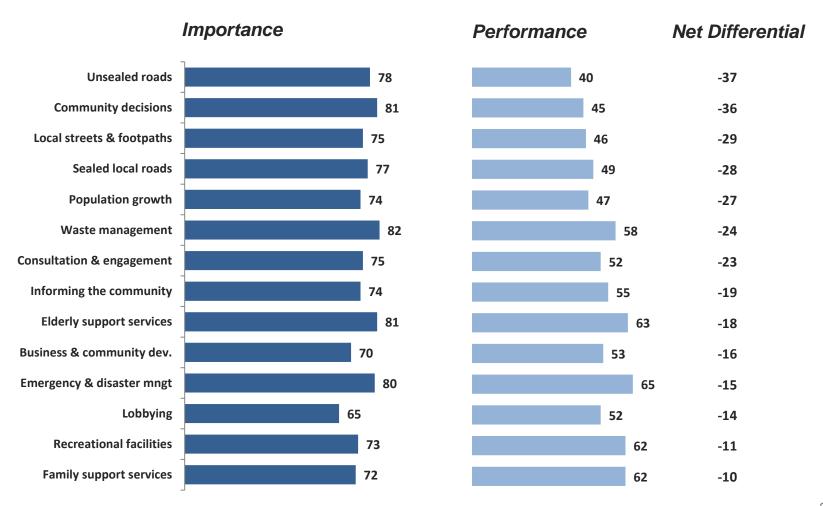


#### INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AREAS INDEX SCORE SUMMARY

#### **IMPORTANCE VS PERFORMANCE**



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

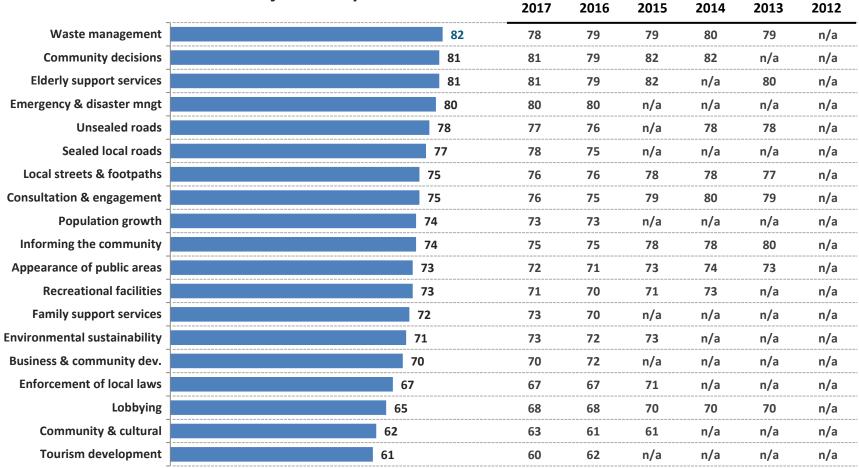


#### **2018 IMPORTANCE SUMMARY**

#### **INDEX SCORES OVER TIME**



#### 2018 Priority Area Importance

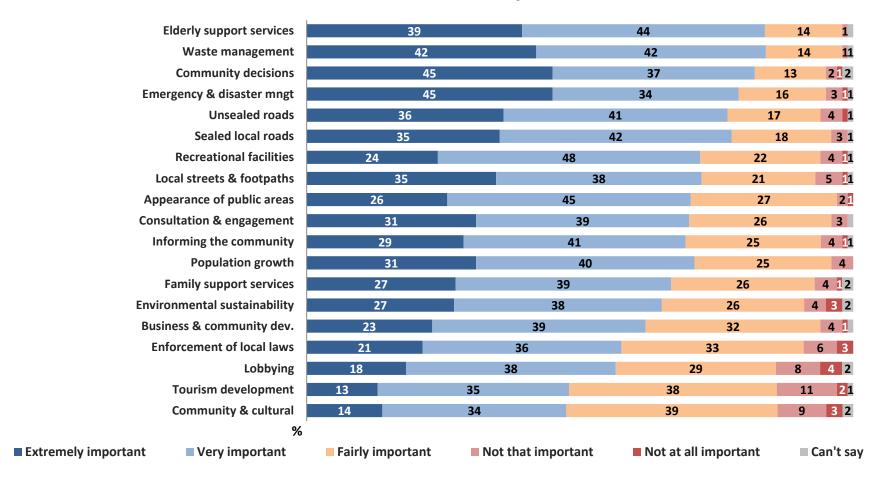


#### **2018 IMPORTANCE SUMMARY**

#### **DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



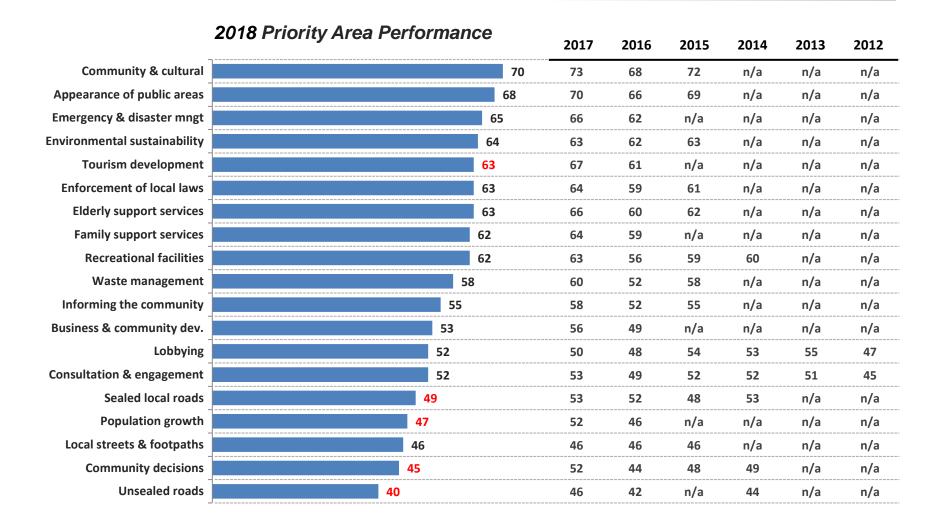
#### Individual Service Areas Importance



#### **2018 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

#### **INDEX SCORES OVER TIME**



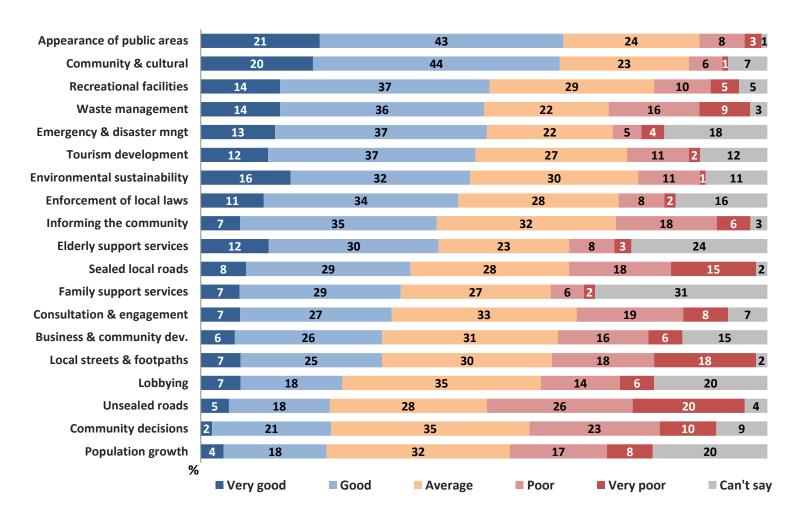


#### **2018 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

#### **DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



#### Individual Service Areas Performance



#### INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AREAS SUMMARY

#### COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE VS STATE-WIDE AVERAGE





#### Significantly <u>Higher</u> than State-wide Average

None Applicable

#### Significantly <u>Lower</u> than State-wide Average

- Consultation & engagement
- · Informing the community
- Local streets & footpaths
- Family support services
- Elderly support services
- · Recreational facilities
- Appearance of public areas
- Waste management
- Emergency & disaster mngt
- · Population growth
- Unsealed roads
- Making community decisions
- · Sealed local roads
- · Business & community dev.



#### **INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AREAS SUMMARY**

#### **COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE VS GROUP AVERAGE**





#### Significantly <u>Higher</u> than **Group Average**

- Community & cultural
- Environmental sustainability
- Sealed local roads

#### Significantly <u>Lower</u> than Group Average

- · Informing the community
- · Local streets & footpaths
- · Family support services
- · Elderly support services
- · Recreational facilities
- Waste management
- Emergency & disaster mngt
- Making community decisions
- Business & community dev.



#### **2018 IMPORTANCE SUMMARY**

#### **BY COUNCIL GROUP**



#### **Top Three Most Important Service Areas**

(Highest to lowest, i.e. 1. = most important)

Mount Alexander Shire Council	Metropolitan	Interface	Regional Centres	Large Rural	Small Rural
<ol> <li>Waste management</li> <li>Community decisions</li> <li>Elderly support services</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Waste management</li> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> <li>Community decisions</li> </ol>	Traffic management     Emergency & disaster mngt     Waste management	<ol> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> <li>Sealed roads</li> <li>Community decisions</li> </ol>	Sealed roads     Unsealed roads     Emergency &     disaster mngt	<ol> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> <li>Waste management</li> <li>Community decisions</li> </ol>

#### **Bottom Three Least Important Service Areas**

(Lowest to highest, i.e. 1. = least important)

Mount Alexander Shire Council	Metropolitan	Interface	Regional Centres	Large Rural	Small Rural
<ol> <li>Tourism         development</li> <li>Community &amp;         cultural</li> <li>Lobbying</li> </ol>	1. Bus/community dev./tourism 2. Community & cultural 3. Slashing & weed control	<ol> <li>Tourism         development</li> <li>Community &amp;         cultural</li> <li>Bus/community         dev./tourism</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Community &amp; cultural</li> <li>Art centres &amp; libraries</li> <li>Lobbying</li> </ol>	Community & cultural     Art centres & libraries     Traffic management	<ol> <li>Community &amp; cultural</li> <li>Art centres &amp; libraries</li> <li>Tourism development</li> </ol>

#### **2018 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

#### **BY COUNCIL GROUP**



#### **Top Three Performing Service Areas**

(Highest to lowest, i.e. 1. = highest performance)

Mount Alexander Shire Council	Metropolitan	Interface	Regional Centres	Large Rural	Small Rural
<ol> <li>Community &amp; cultural</li> <li>Appearance of public areas</li> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> </ol>	Art centres &     libraries     Waste     management     Recreational     facilities	<ol> <li>Art centres &amp; libraries</li> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> <li>Recreational facilities</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Art centres &amp; libraries</li> <li>Appearance of public areas</li> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Art centres &amp; libraries</li> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> <li>Appearance of public areas</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Art centres &amp; libraries</li> <li>Emergency &amp; disaster mngt</li> <li>Appearance of public areas</li> </ol>

#### **Bottom Three Performing Service Areas**

(Lowest to highest, i.e. 1. = lowest performance)

Mount Alexander Shire Council	Metropolitan	Interface	Regional Centres	Large Rural	Small Rural
<ol> <li>Unsealed roads</li> <li>Community decisions</li> <li>Local streets &amp; footpaths</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Population growth</li> <li>Planning permits</li> <li>Town planning policy</li> </ol>	Unsealed roads     Population growth     Traffic     management	<ol> <li>Parking facilities</li> <li>Community         decisions</li> <li>Unsealed roads</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Unsealed roads</li> <li>Sealed roads</li> <li>Planning permits</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Unsealed roads</li> <li>Sealed roads</li> <li>Population growth</li> </ol>

#### **REGRESSION ANALYSIS**



To predict a respondent's score on a question related to overall performance, based on knowledge of their performance scores for individual areas, we use regression analysis. For example, suppose we are interested in predicting which areas of local government responsibility could influence a person's opinion on overall council performance. The independent variables would be areas of responsibility tested (e.g. community consultation, traffic management, etc.) and the dependent variable would be overall performance.

The stronger the correlation between the dependent variable (overall opinion) and individual areas of responsibility, the closer the scores will fall to the regression line and the more accurate the prediction. Multiple regression can predict one variable on the basis of several other variables. Therefore, we can test perceptions of council's overall performance to investigate which set of areas are influencing respondents' opinions.

In the chart of the regression results, the horizontal axis represents the council performance index for each area of responsibility. Areas plotted on the right-side 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 variable (i.e. each area) to the model, with a larger Beta value indicating a greater effect on overall performance.

Therefore areas of responsibility located near the top of the following chart are more likely to have an impact on respondent's overall rating, than the areas closest to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following three charts. The first chart shows a regression analysis of *all* the service areas chosen by the Council. However, this model should be interpreted with caution because some of the data are not normally distributed and not all items have linear correlations.

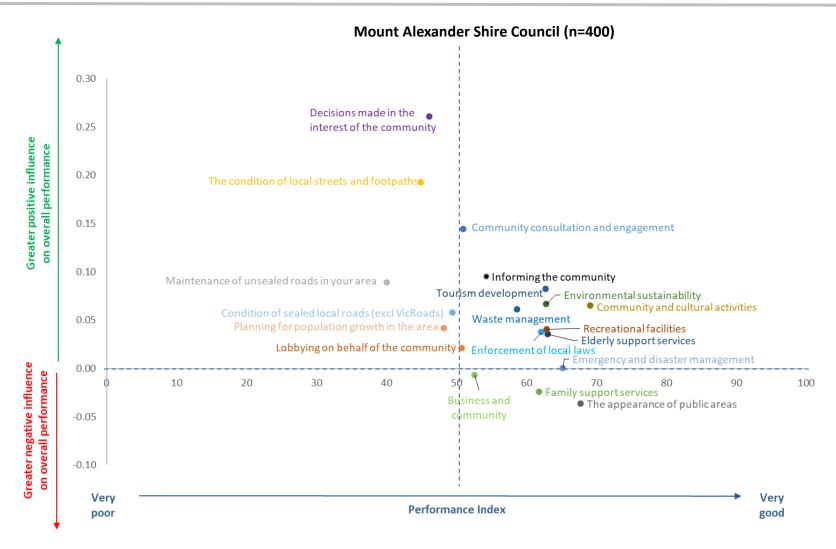
Therefore, in the charts that follow, a significant regression model of fewer items with a Standardised Beta score close to or higher than ±0.1 was run to determine the key predictors that have a moderate to strong influence on overall performance perceptions. The third chart is an enlarged version of the second chart, with key findings highlighted.

The results are then discussed according to the findings of these key service areas. Some findings from the full regression list may be included in the discussion if they are of interest.

#### PERFORMANCE ON SERVICES AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE

#### **ALL SERVICE AREAS**



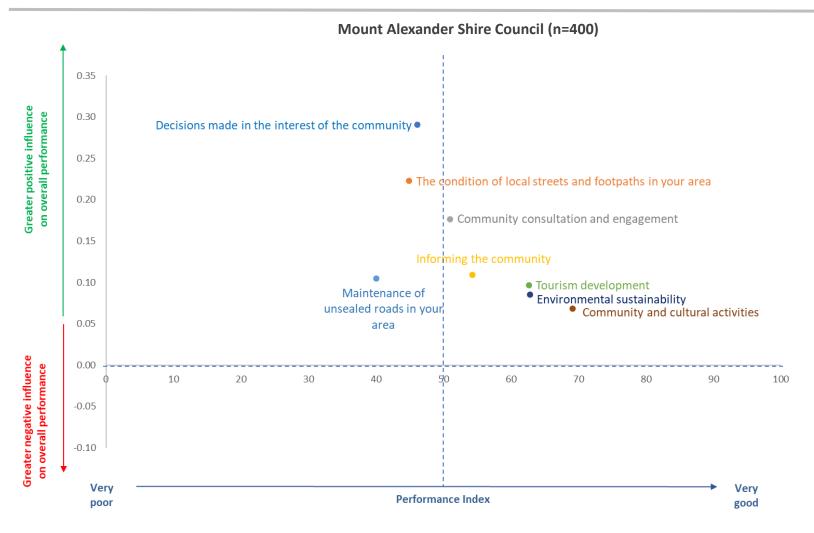


The multiple regression analysis model of all question items above has an R-squared value of 0.576 and adjusted R-square value of 0.555, which means that 58% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 27.22. However, this model should be interpreted with caution because not all service areas had linear correlations. We recommend you use the regression model of reduced factors as follows.

#### PERFORMANCE ON SERVICES AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE

#### **KEY SERVICE AREAS**



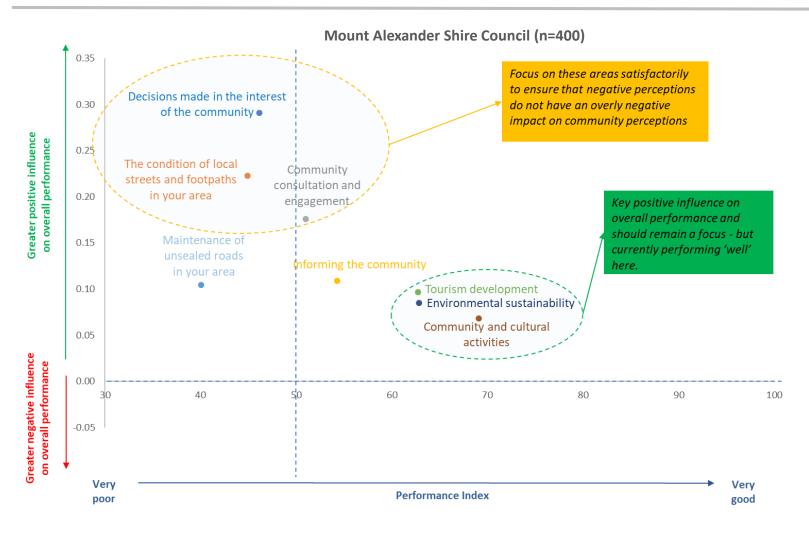


The performance questions were analysed using Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine the key factors or 'themes' to emerge from the questions. Questions with reasonable linearity and low correlations were selected from each theme and a multiple regression model was performed on these seven items against the overall performance ratings of 400 responses. The multiple regression analysis model above has an R-squared value of 0.565 and adjusted R-square value of 0.556, which means that 56% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 63.47.

#### PERFORMANCE ON SERVICES AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE

#### **KEY SERVICE AREAS - ENLARGED RIGHT QUADRANT**





The performance questions were analysed using Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine the key factors or 'themes' to emerge from the questions. Questions with reasonable linearity and low correlations were selected from each theme and a multiple regression model was performed on these seven items against the overall performance ratings of 400 responses. The multiple regression analysis model above has an R-squared value of 0.565 and adjusted R-square value of 0.556, which means that 56% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 63.47.

#### REGRESSION ANALYSIS — KEY RESULTS CONSIDERATIONS



The individual service areas that have the strongest influence on the overall performance rating are:

- Decisions made in the interest of the community
- The condition of local streets and footpaths
- Community consultation and engagement

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

- Tourism development
- Environmental sustainability
- Community and cultural activities

Looking specifically at the key services areas, community and cultural activities has the highest positive performance index but this has a moderate influence on the overall performance rating. Currently, Mount Alexander Shire Council is performing *well* in this area (performance index of 70) and, while it should remain a focus, there is greater work to be done elsewhere.

Tourism and environmental sustainability have slightly lower performance indices, but have a slightly higher influence on overall performance perceptions than community and cultural activities. These could be lower priority areas for consideration.

Community consultation and engagement has a low (but still positive) performance index (52). In addition, how well the Council informs the community has a slightly higher performance index (55). However, both of these areas have a stronger positive influence on performance perceptions. Continuing efforts in these areas have the capacity to lift Mount Alexander Shire Council's overall performance rating.

Decisions that the Council makes in the interest of the community has the strongest influence on overall performance perceptions and has one of the lowest performance ratings (45). The same is true for the condition of local streets and footpaths (with a performance index of 46).

In summary, promoting the decisions that have been made in the interest of the community, improvements in the condition of local streets and footpaths, as well as better community consultation, engagement and communication could help drive up overall opinion of the Mount Alexander Shire Council's performance.

# DETAILED FINDINGS



# KEY CORE MEASURE OVERALL PERFORMANCE

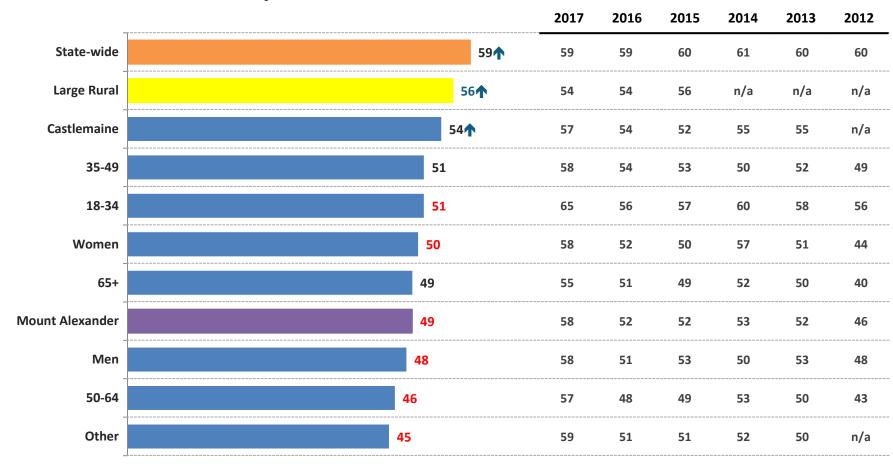


# **OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

# **INDEX SCORES**



### 2018 Overall Performance



Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Mount Alexander Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor? Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 64 Councils asked group: 18

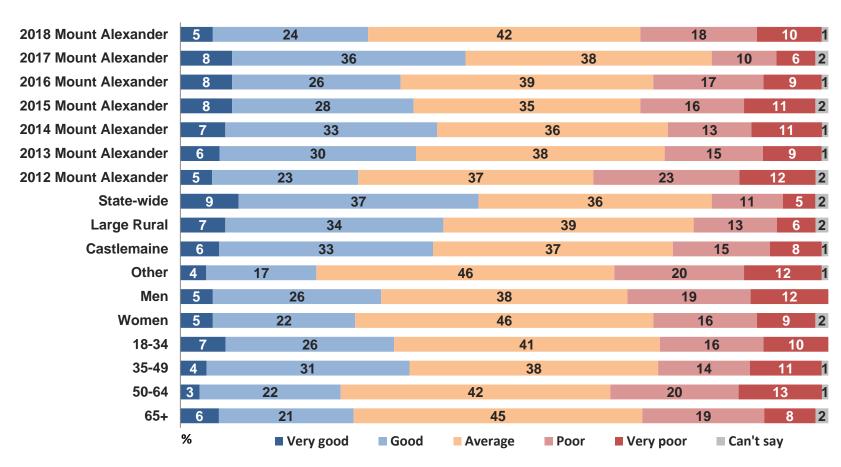
Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

# **OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

## **DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



### 2018 Overall Performance



Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Mount Alexander Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor? Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 64 Councils asked group: 18

# KEY CORE MEASURE CUSTOMER SERVICE



# **CONTACT LAST 12 MONTHS**

# **SUMMARY**

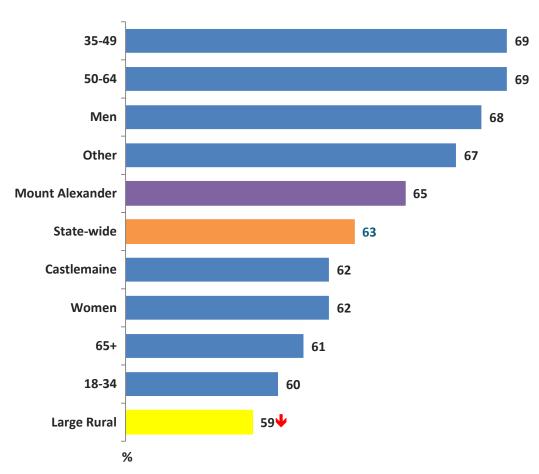


Overall contact with Mount Alexander Shire Council	• 65%, up 1 point on 2017
Most contact with Mount Alexander Shire Council	<ul><li>Aged 35-64 years</li><li>Aged 50-64 years</li></ul>
Least contact with Mount Alexander Shire Council	Aged 18-34 years
Customer service rating	<ul> <li>Index score of 68, down 2 points on 2017</li> </ul>
Most satisfied with customer service	Castlemaine
Least satisfied with customer service	<ul><li>Aged 50-64 years</li><li>'Other' areas</li></ul>

# **2018 CONTACT WITH COUNCIL**



### 2018 Contact with Council



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

 $\textit{Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 21 \ \textit{Councils asked group: 5}}$ 

Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

# **2018 CONTACT WITH COUNCIL**



### 2018 Contact with Council

Have had contact





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

# 2018 METHOD OF CONTACT WITH COUNCIL



### 2018 Method of Contact







In Writing



By Telephone



By Text Message

2015



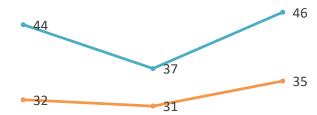
By Email

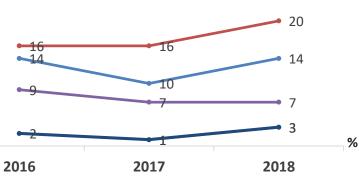


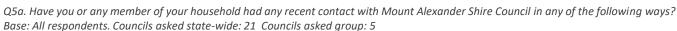
Via Website



By Social Media







2014

Note: Respondents could name multiple contacts methods so responses may add to more than 100%

2013

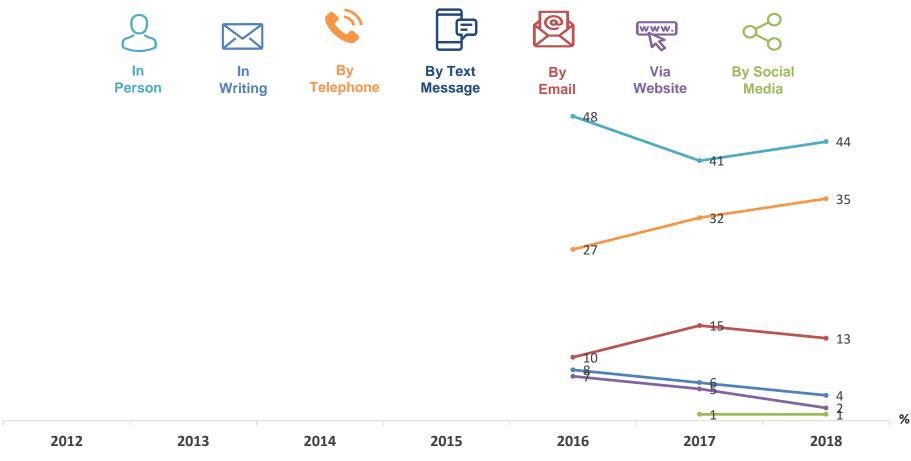
Note: 'Social Media' is also 3% in 2018.

2012

# 2018 MOST RECENT METHOD OF CONTACT WITH COUNCIL



### 2018 Most Recent Contact



Q5b. What was the method of contact for the most recent contact you had with Mount Alexander Shire Council? Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

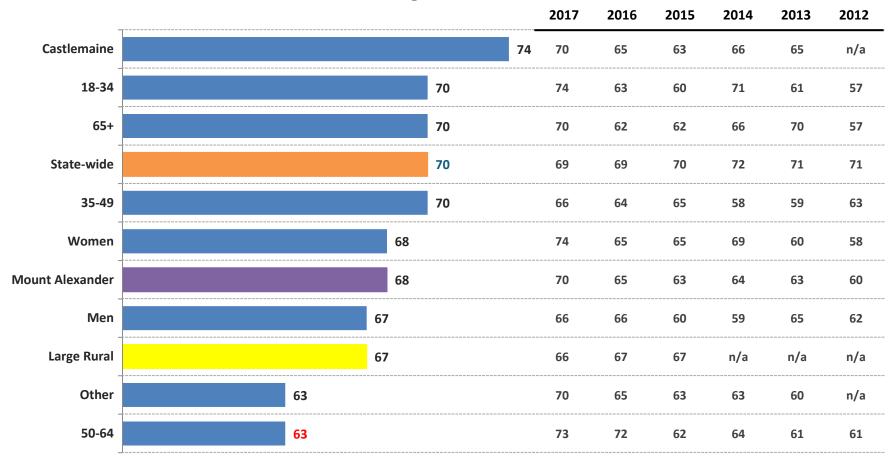
Councils asked state-wide: 21 Councils asked group: 5

Note: Respondents could name multiple contacts methods so responses may add to more than 100%

# **INDEX SCORES**



### 2018 Customer Service Rating



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Mount Alexander 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.

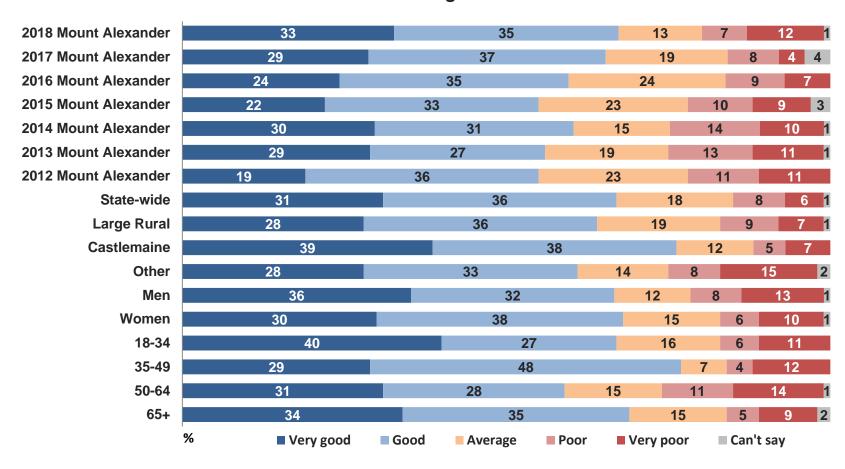
Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

Councils asked state-wide: 64 Councils asked group: 18

# **DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



### 2018 Customer Service Rating



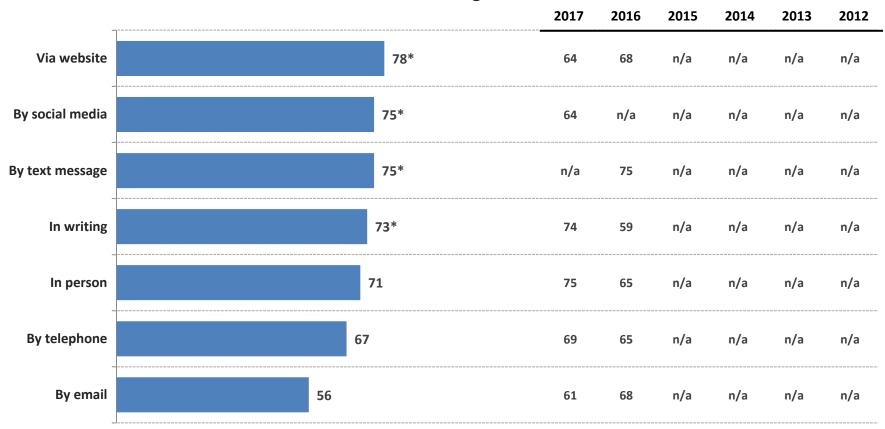
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Mount Alexander Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.

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

# INDEX SCORES BY METHOD OF LAST CONTACT



### 2018 Customer Service Rating



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Mount Alexander 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: 21 Councils asked group: 5

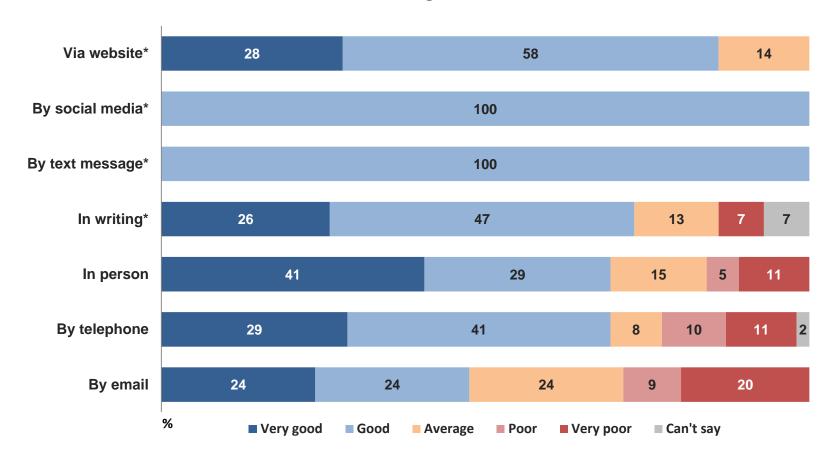
Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

\*Caution: small sample size < n=30

# DETAILED PERCENTAGES BY METHOD OF LAST CONTACT



### 2018 Customer Service Rating



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Mount Alexander 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: 21 Councils asked group: 5

<sup>\*</sup>Caution: small sample size < n=30

# KEY CORE MEASURE COUNCIL DIRECTION INDICATORS



# **COUNCIL DIRECTION**

# **SUMMARY**



**Council direction** 

- 52% stayed about the same, down 7 points on 2017
- 10% improved, down 12 points on 2017
- 34% deteriorated, up 20 points on 2017

Most satisfied with council direction

Aged 18-34 years

Least satisfied with council direction

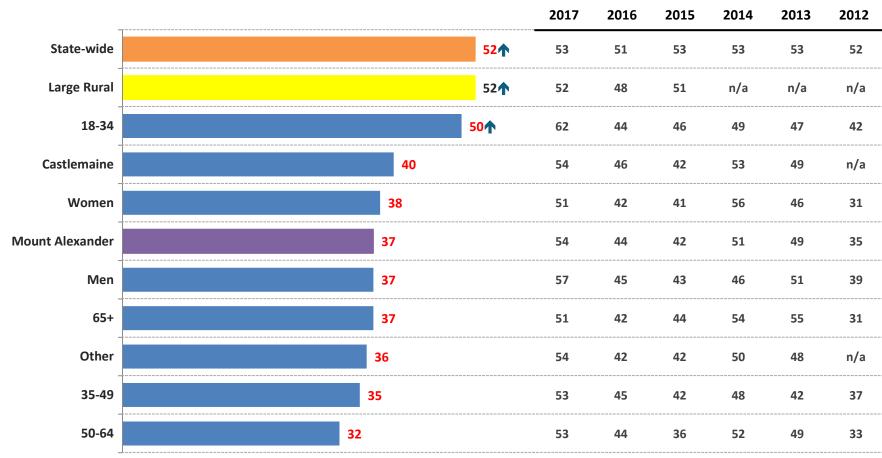
Aged 50-64 years

# 2018 OVERALL COUNCIL DIRECTION LAST 12 MONTHS

# **INDEX SCORES**



### 2018 Overall Direction



Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Mount Alexander Shire Council's overall performance? Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 64 Councils asked group: 18

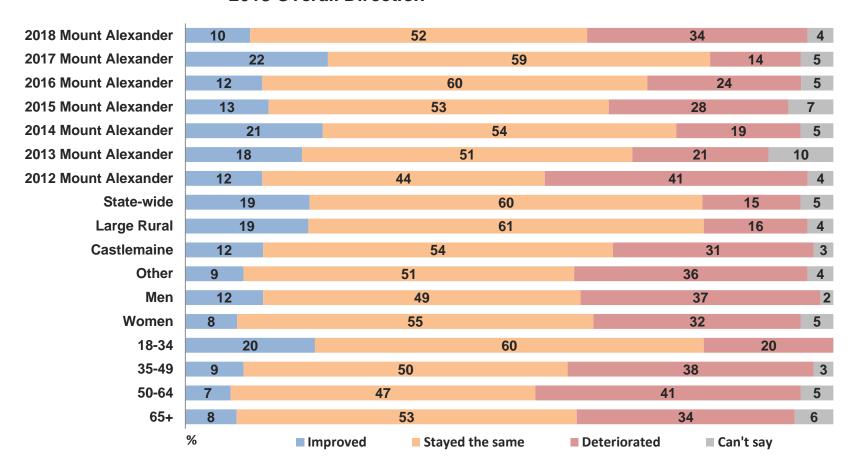
Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

# 2018 OVERALL COUNCIL DIRECTION LAST 12 MONTHS

# **DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



### 2018 Overall Direction



# COMMUNICATIONS



# **COMMUNICATIONS**

# **SUMMARY**



Overall preferred forms of communication

• Newsletter sent via mail (31%)

Preferred forms of communication among over 50s

• Newsletter sent via mail (32%)

Preferred forms of communication among under 50s

• Newsletter sent via mail (28%)

**Greatest change since 2017** 

Newsletter sent via email (+7)

Note: Website and text message formats again did not rate as highly as other modes of communication, although further analysis is recommended to understand the demographic preference profiles of the various different forms of communication.

# 2018 BEST FORMS OF COMMUNICATION



### 2018 Best Form



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council
Newsletter as
Local Paper
Insert



Council Website



Text Message



Other

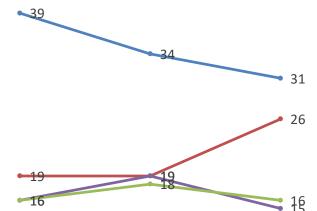


Can't Say





• 17

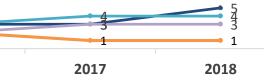


• 3 • 1

2012 2013 2014







Q13. If Mount Alexander 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: 26 Councils asked group: 6

%

# 2018 BEST FORMS OF COMMUNICATION: UNDER 50S



### 2018 Under 50s Best Form



**Advertising** in a Local **Newspaper** 



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council **Newsletter** via Email



Council **Newsletter as Local Paper** Insert



Council **Website** 



**Text** Message



Other

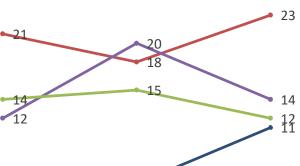


Can't

Say







• 34

• 22

• 17

• 15

• 7

• 3

2015

2017

2018

2012

2013

2014

2016

• 2

%

58

# 2018 BEST FORMS OF COMMUNICATION: OVER 50S



### 2018 Over 50s Best Form



Advertising in a Local Newspaper

2012



Council Newsletter via Mail

2013



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



Council Website



Text Message



Other

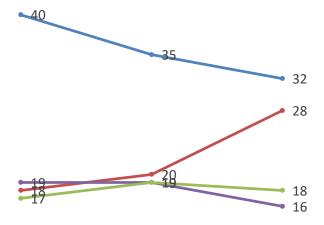


Can't Say





- 21
- 18
- 16







Q13. If Mount Alexander 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: 26 Councils asked group: 6

Note: 'Text Message' is also 3% in 2018.

%

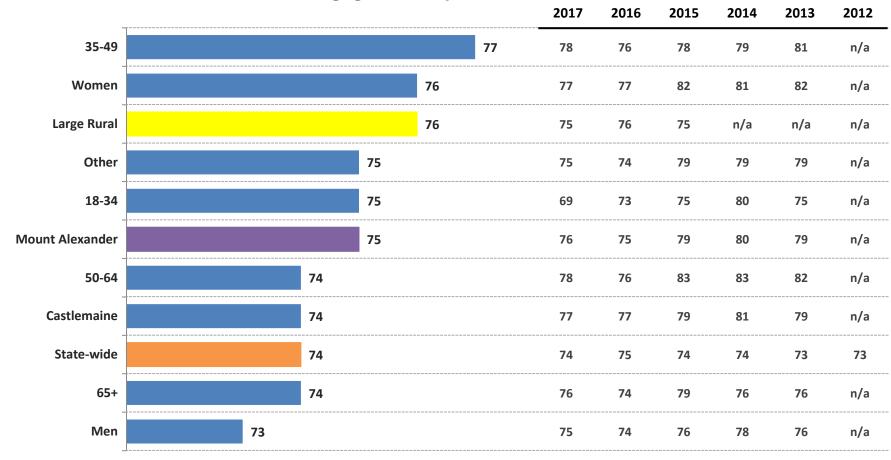
# INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AREAS



# **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



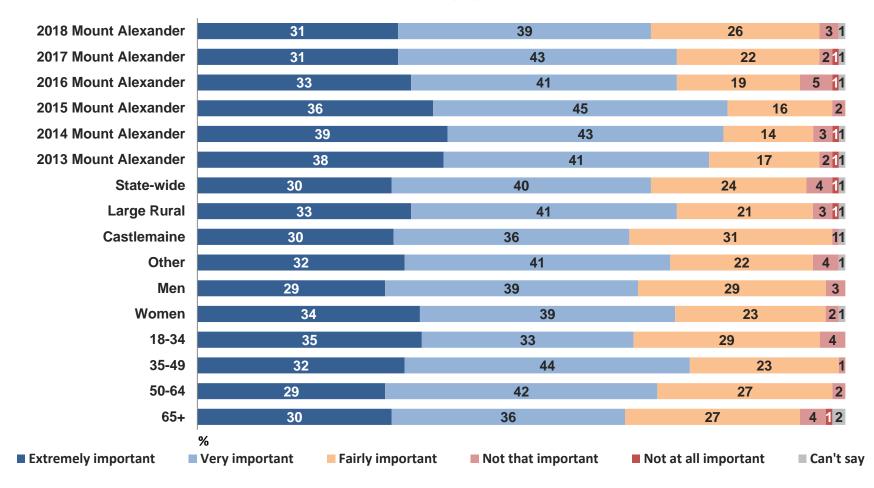
### 2018 Consultation and Engagement Importance



## **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



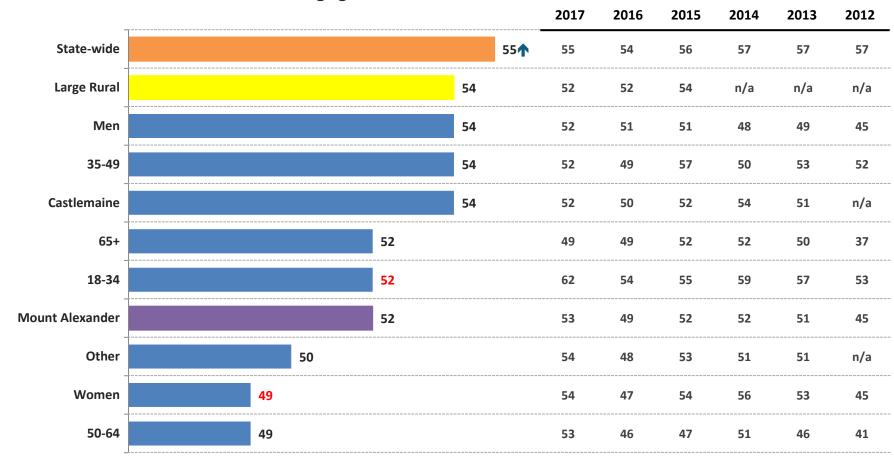
### 2018 Consultation and Engagement Importance



# PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



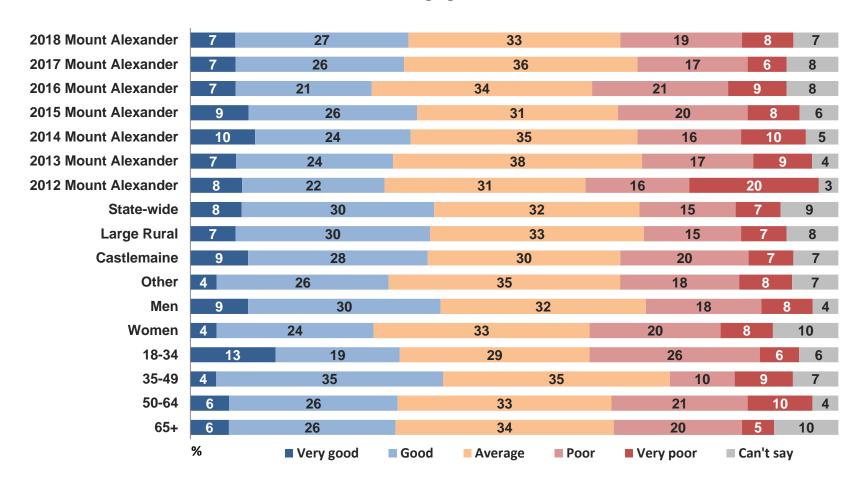
### 2018 Consultation and Engagement Performance



## PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



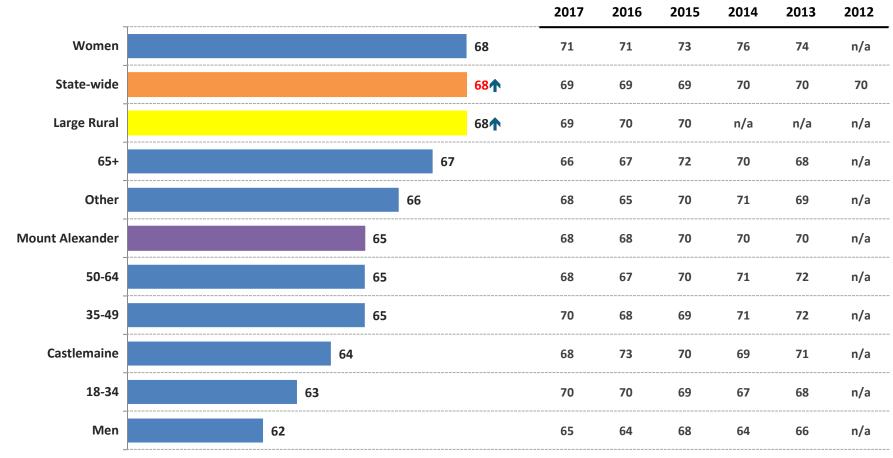
### 2018 Consultation and Engagement Performance



# **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



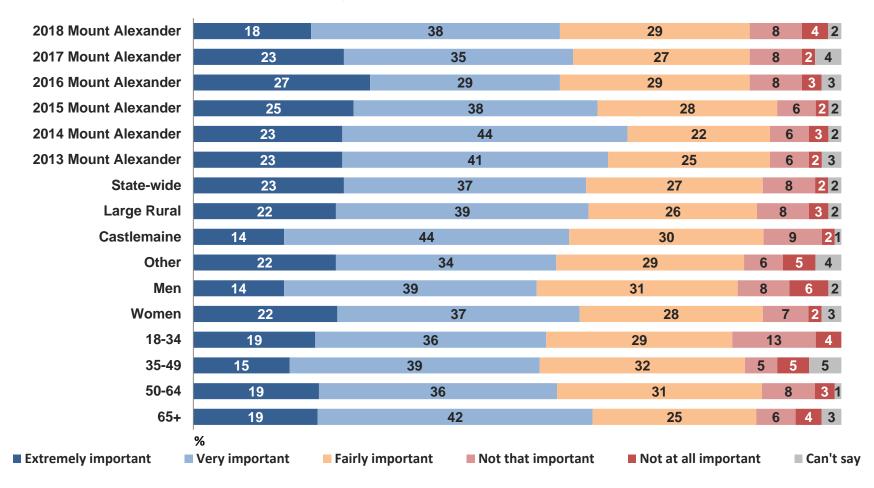
### 2018 Lobbying Importance



## **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



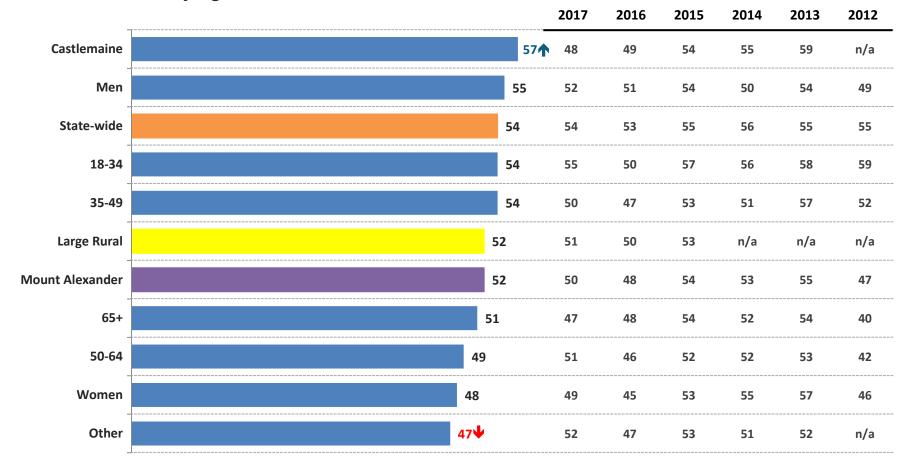
### 2018 Lobbying Importance



# PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



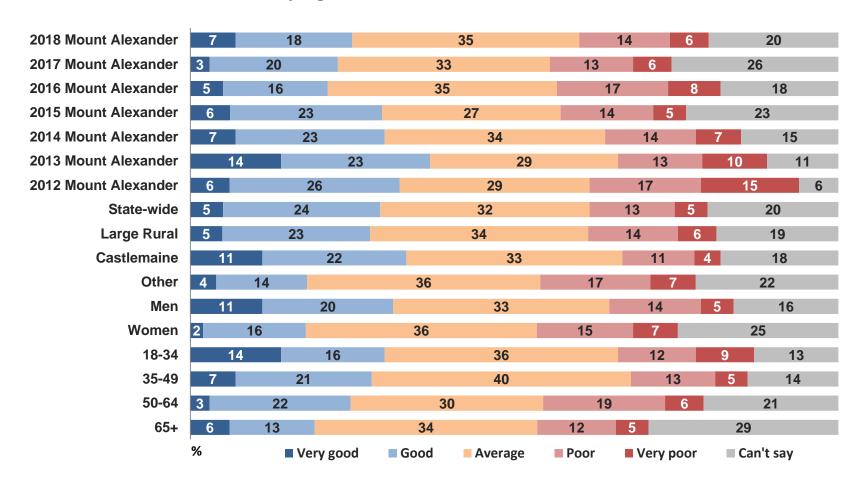
### 2018 Lobbying Performance



## PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



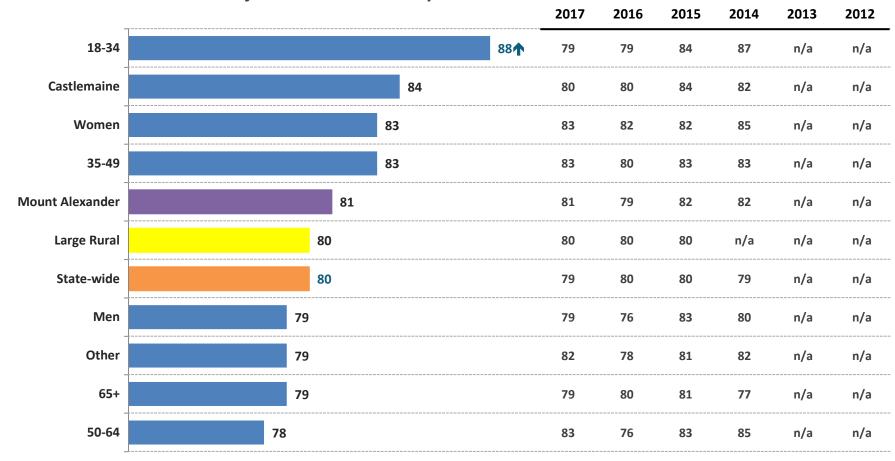
### 2018 Lobbying Performance



# **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



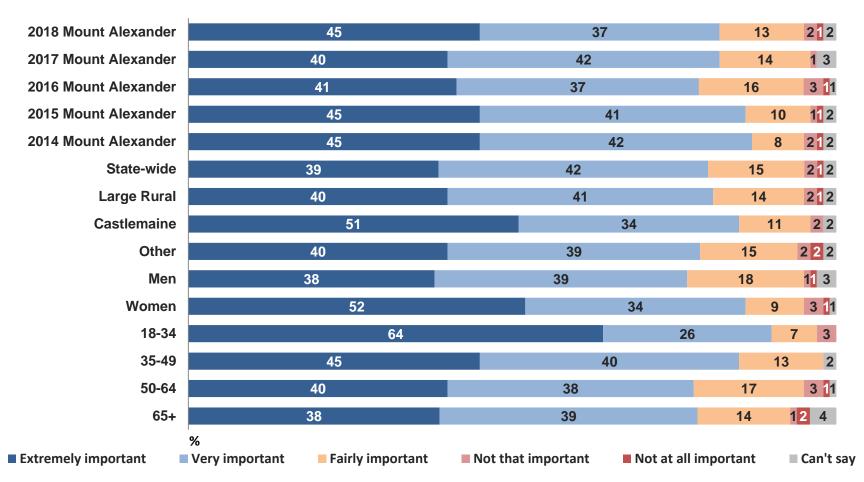
### 2018 Community Decisions Made Importance



## **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



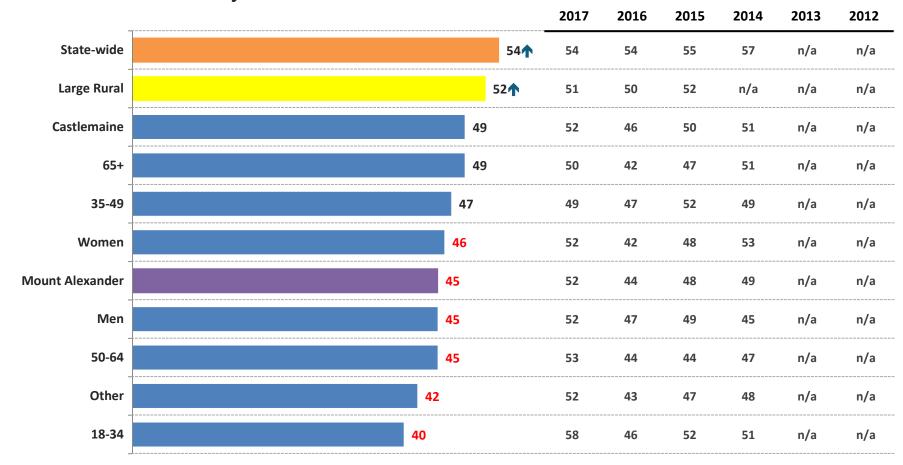
### 2018 Community Decisions Made Importance



# PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



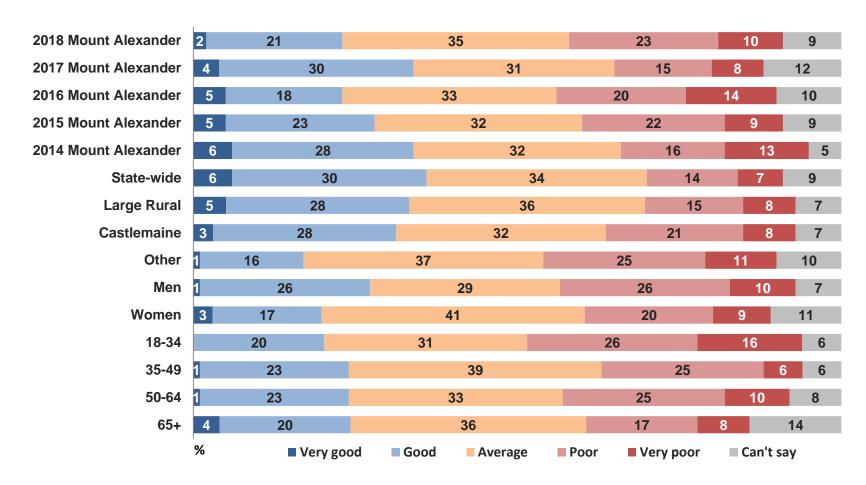
### 2018 Community Decisions Made Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



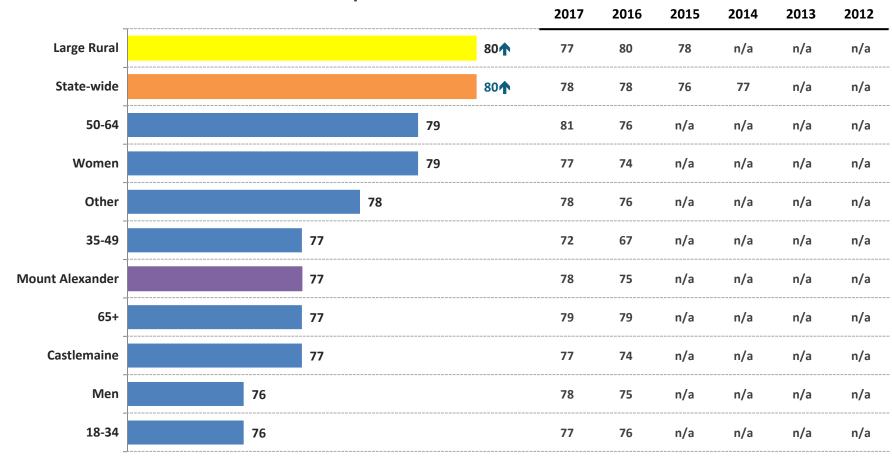
### 2018 Community Decisions Made Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



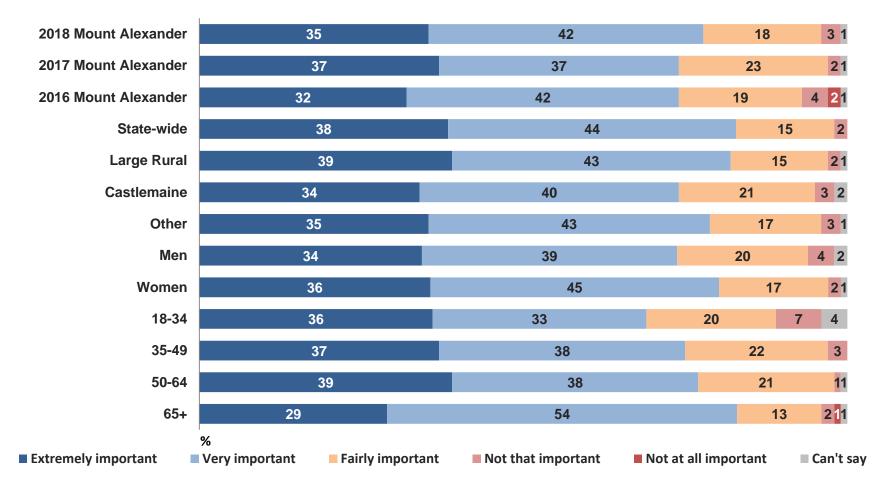
#### 2018 Sealed Local Roads Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



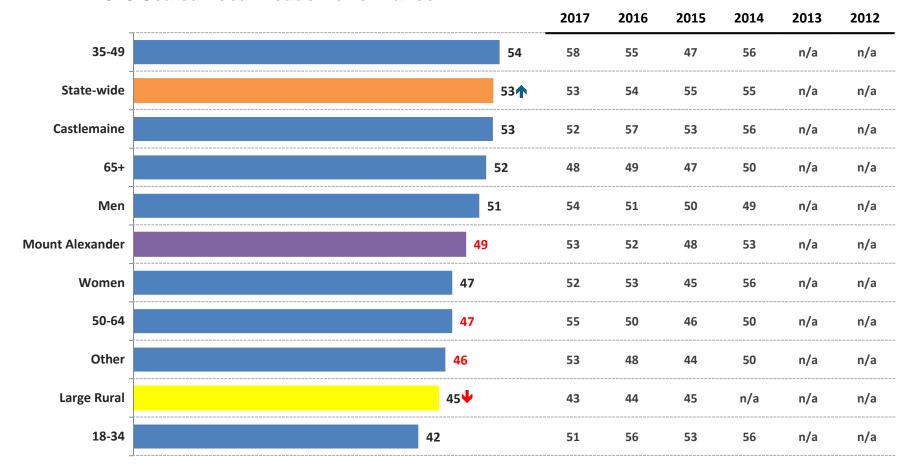
#### 2018 Sealed Local Roads Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



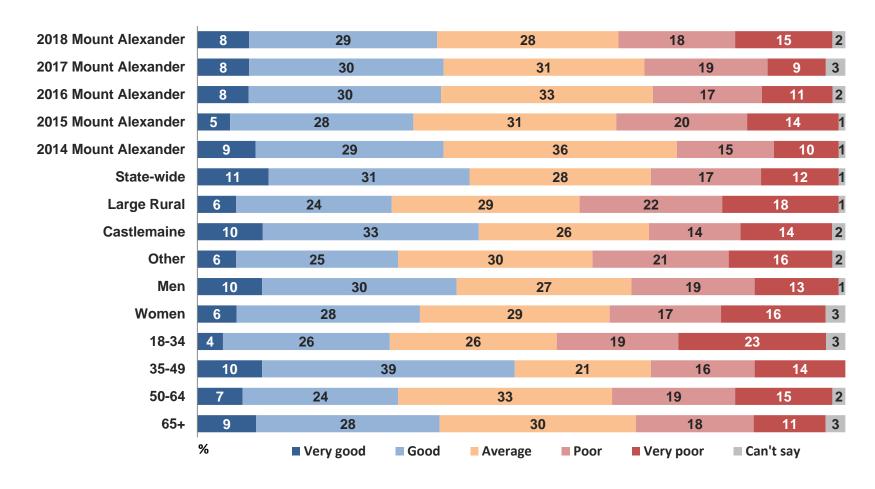
#### 2018 Sealed Local Roads Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



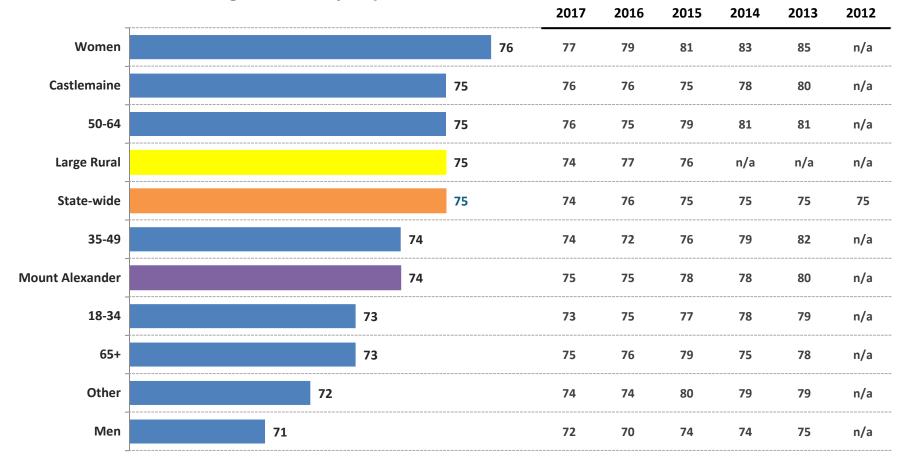
#### 2018 Sealed Local Roads Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



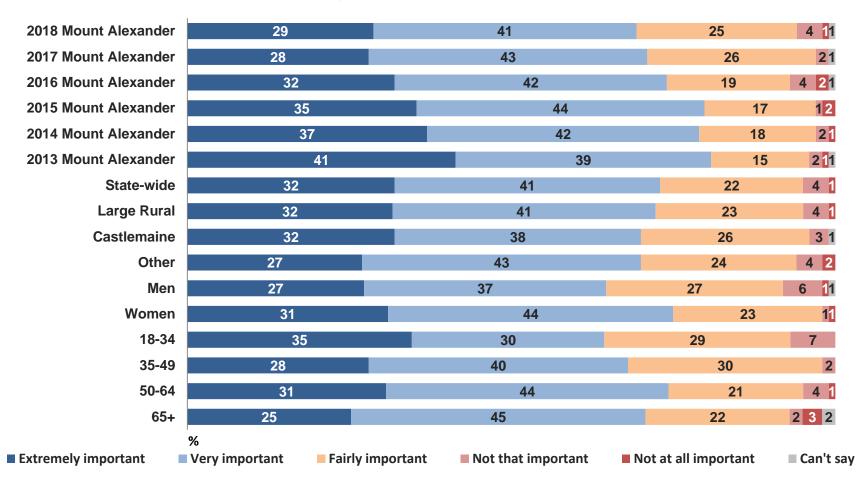
### 2018 Informing Community Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



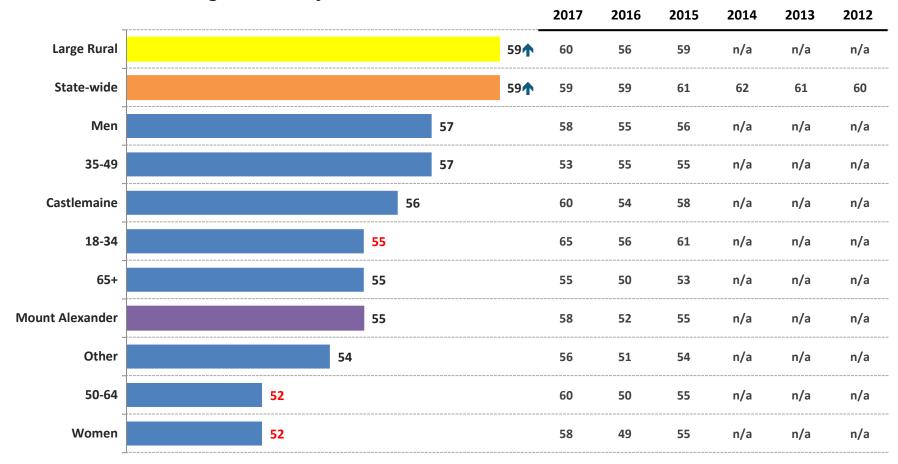
### 2018 Informing Community Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



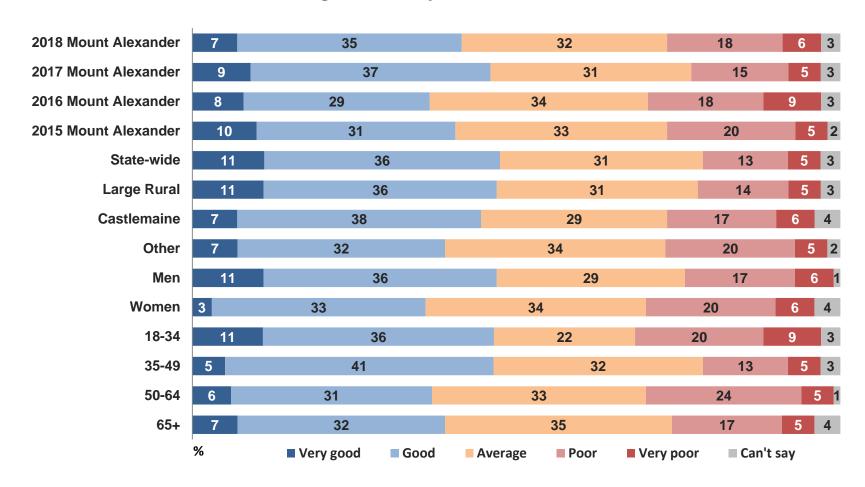
#### 2018 Informing Community Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



#### 2018 Informing Community Performance

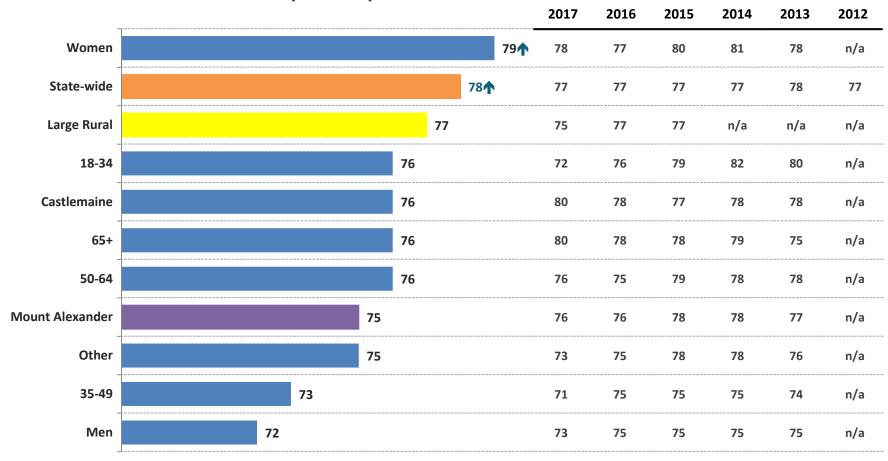


80

# YOUR AREA IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES



#### 2018 Streets and Footpaths Importance



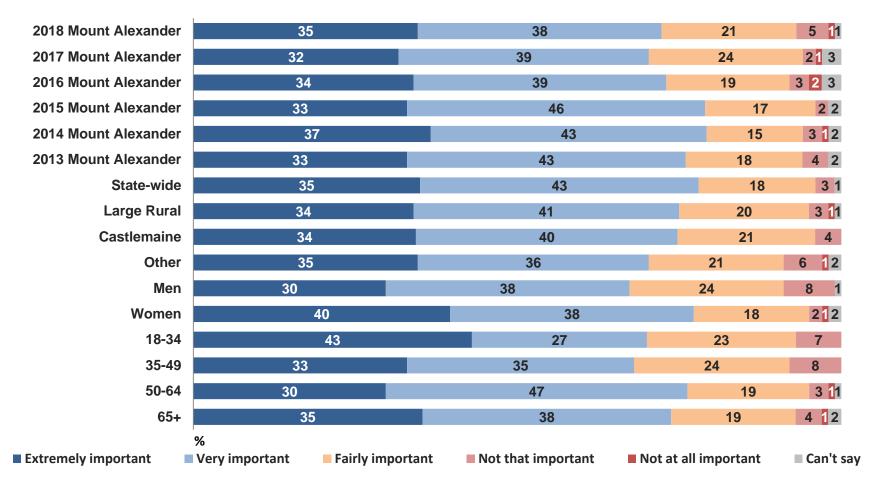
Q1. Firstly, how important should 'the condition of local streets and footpaths in your area' be as a responsibility for Council? Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 21 Councils asked group: 5

Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

### YOUR AREA IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



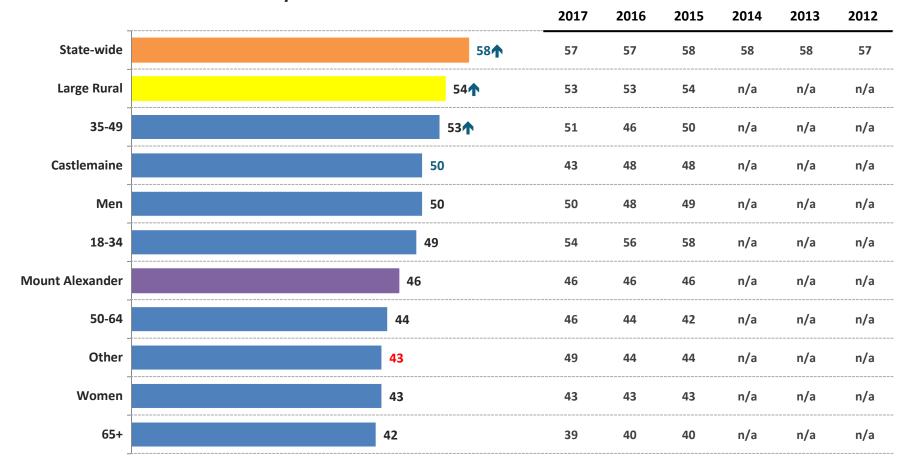
#### 2018 Streets and Footpaths Importance



## YOUR AREA PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



#### 2018 Streets and Footpaths Performance



Q2. How has Council performed on 'the condition of local streets and footpaths in your area' over the last 12 months?

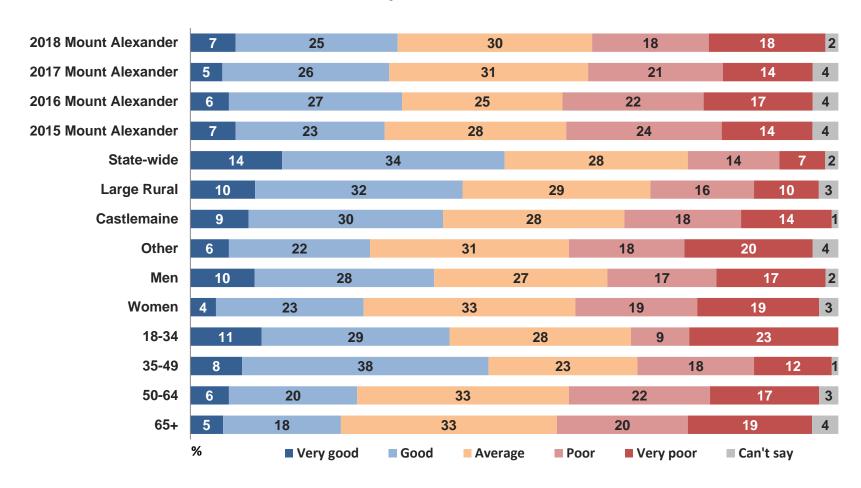
Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 30 Councils asked group: 8

Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

## YOUR AREA PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



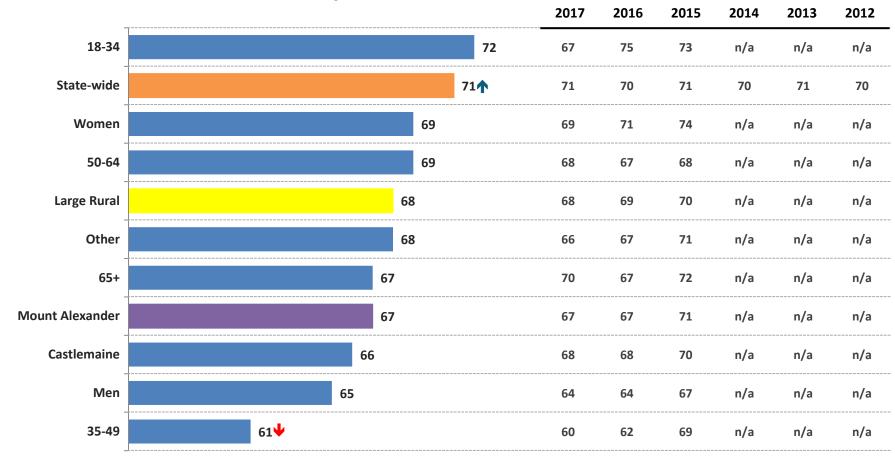
### 2018 Streets and Footpaths Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



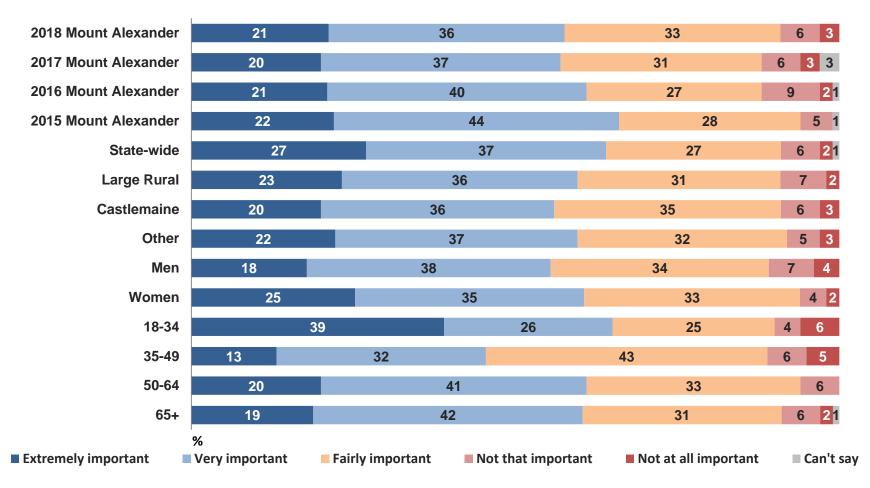
#### 2018 Law Enforcement Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



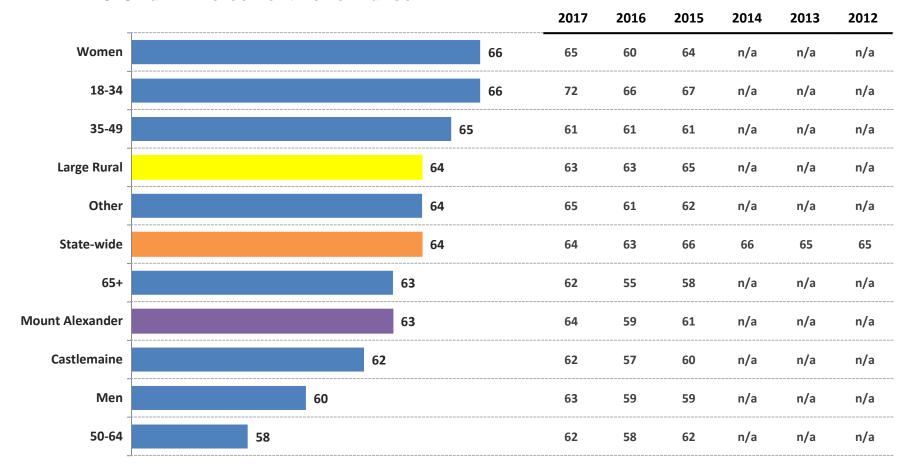
### 2018 Law Enforcement Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



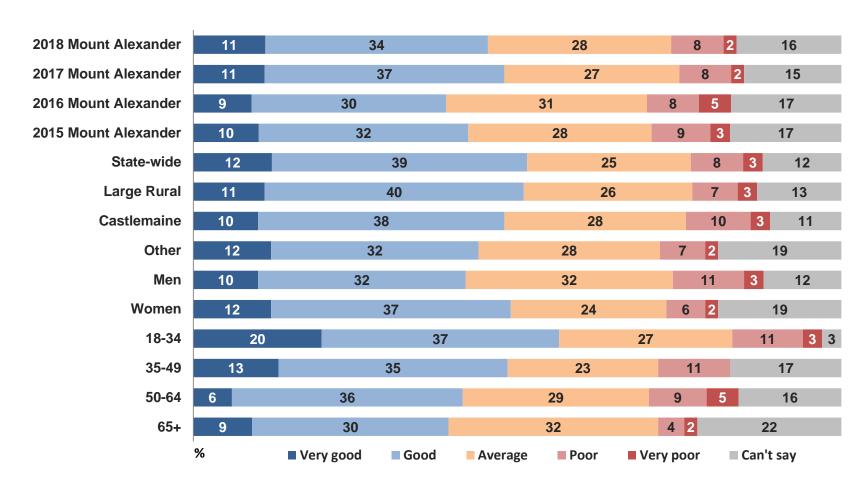
#### 2018 Law Enforcement Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



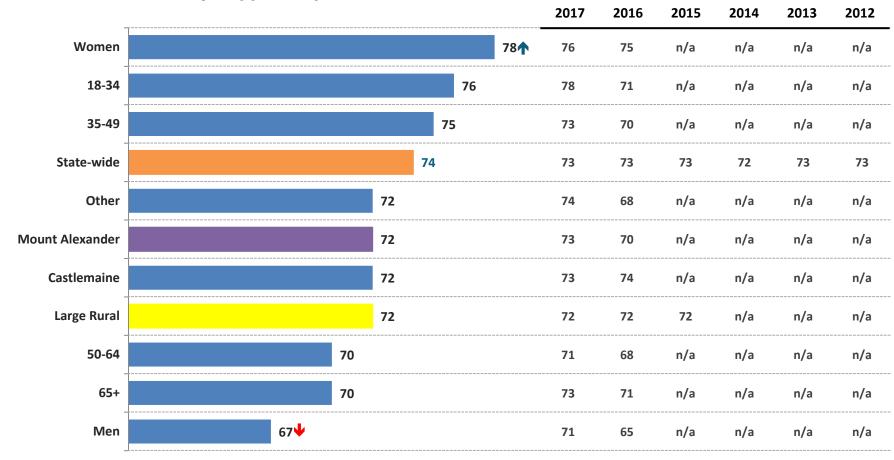
#### 2018 Law Enforcement Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



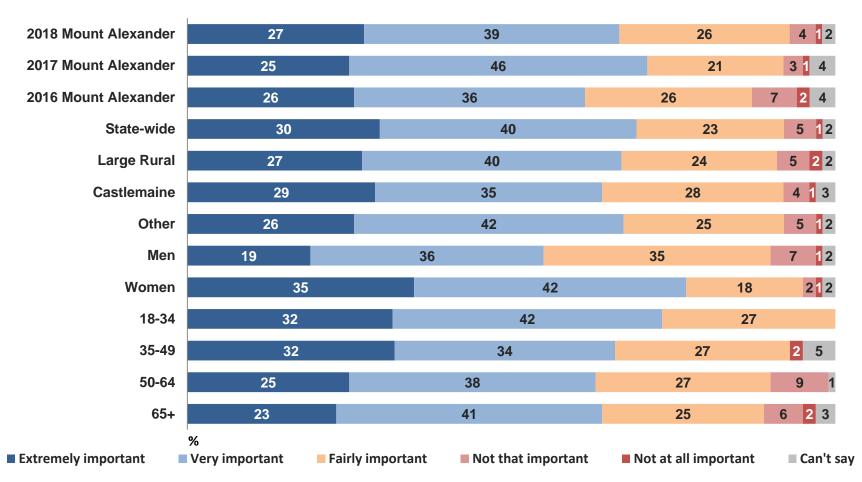
#### 2018 Family Support Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



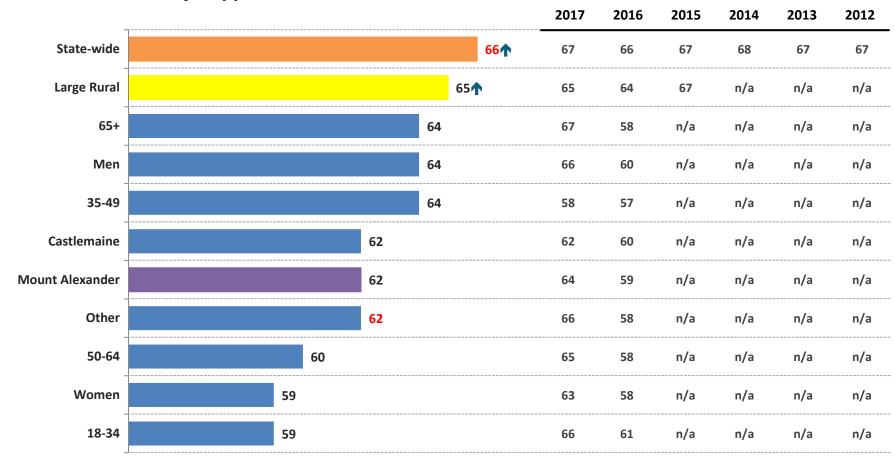
### 2018 Family Support Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



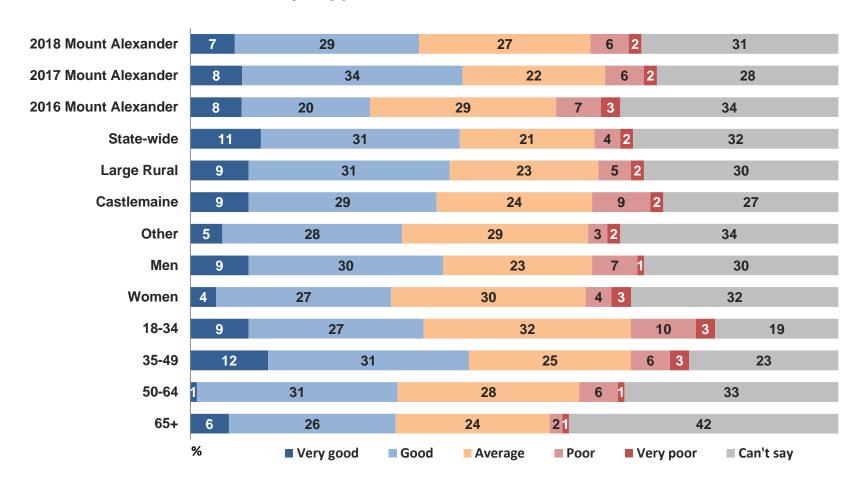
#### 2018 Family Support Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



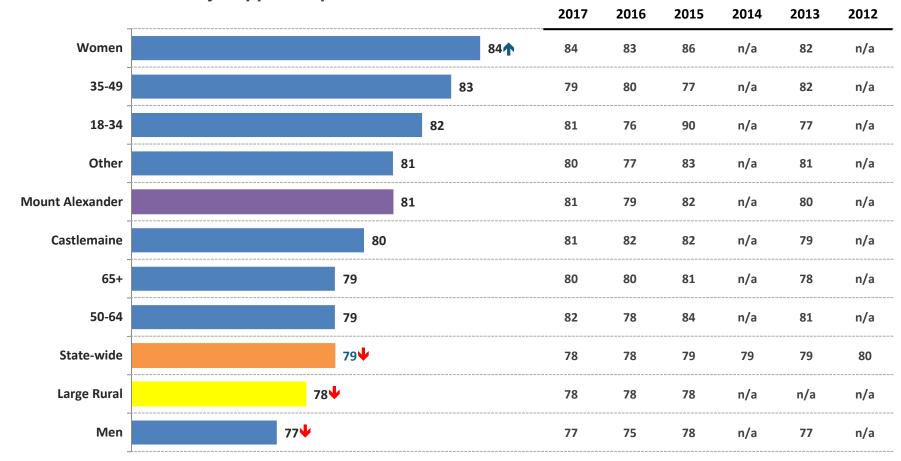
#### 2018 Family Support Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



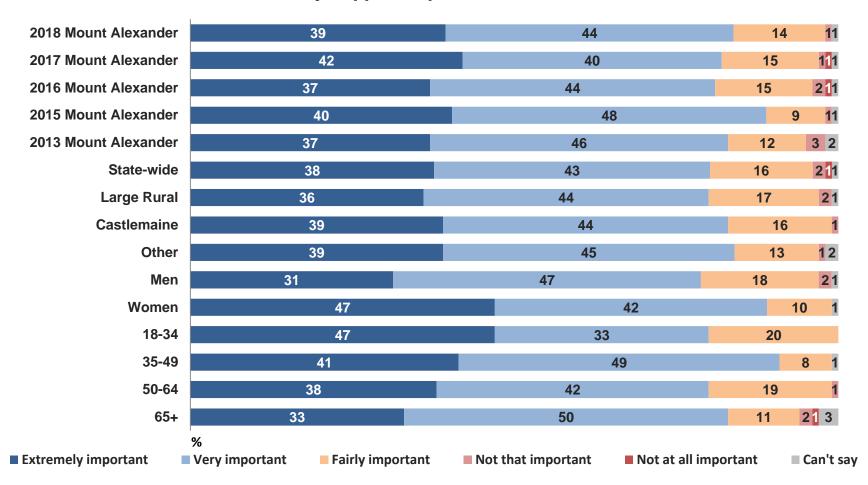
#### 2018 Elderly Support Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



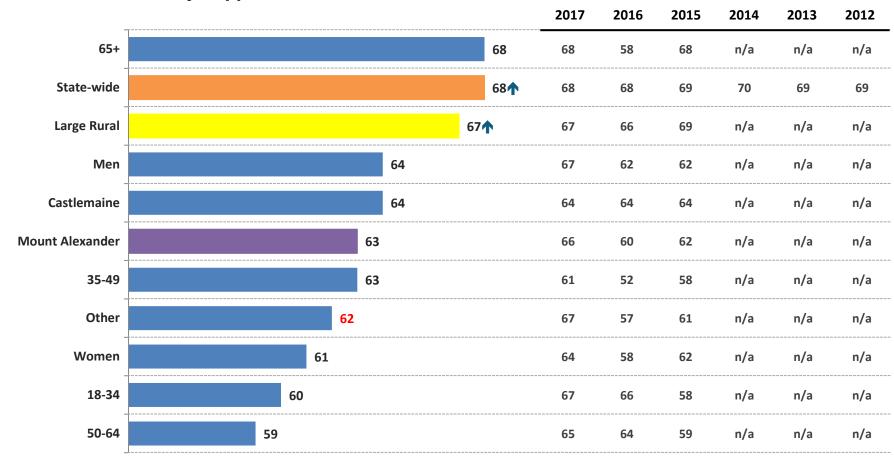
#### 2018 Elderly Support Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



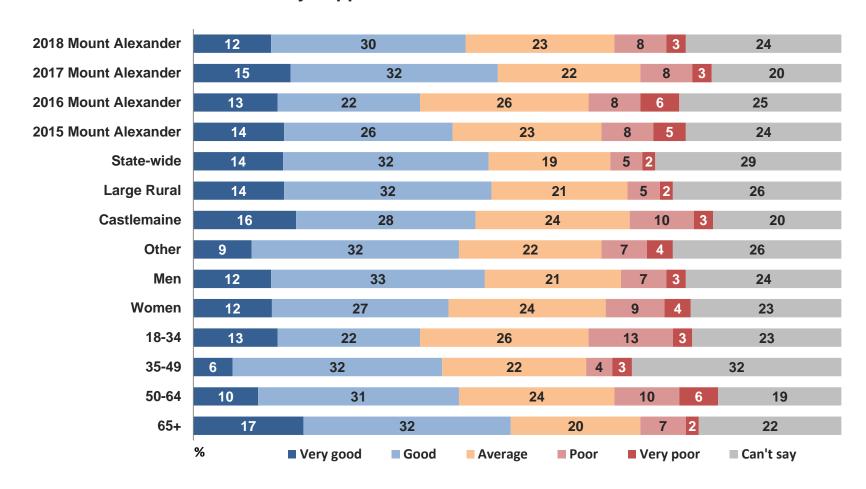
#### 2018 Elderly Support Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



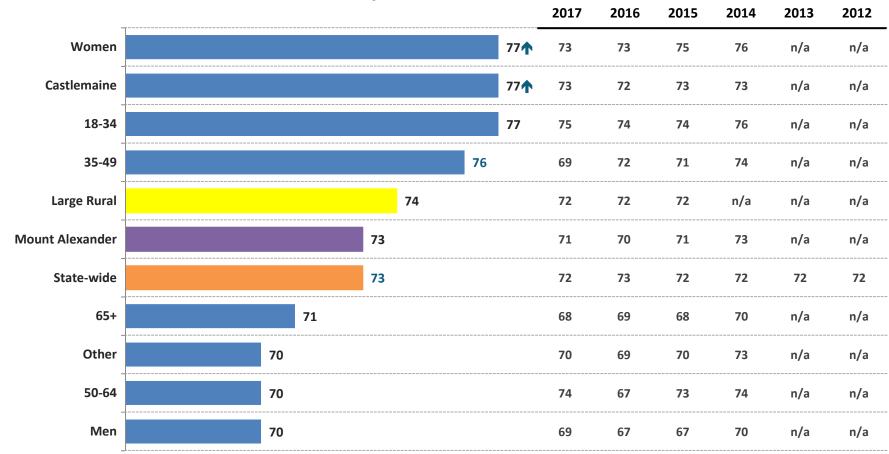
#### 2018 Elderly Support Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



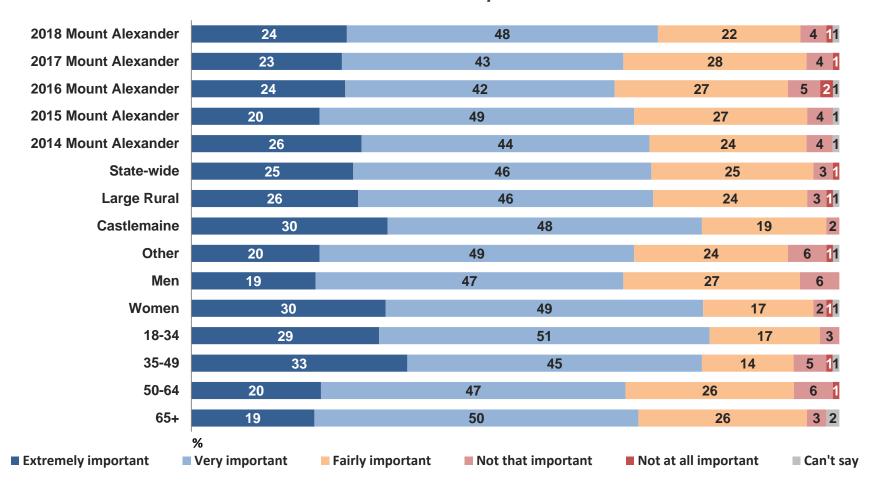
#### 2018 Recreational Facilities Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



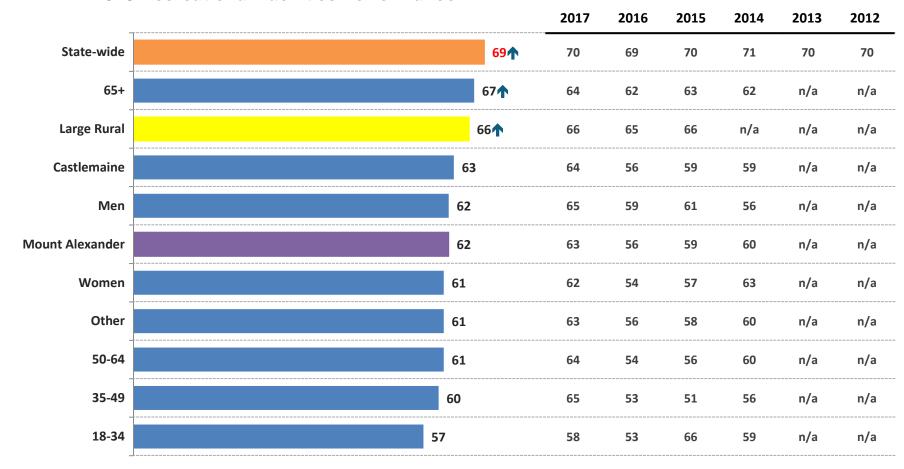
#### 2018 Recreational Facilities Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



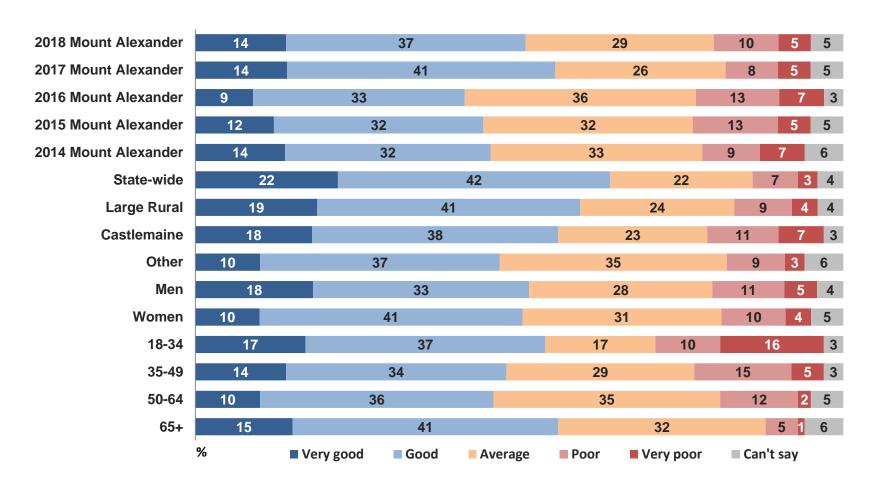
#### 2018 Recreational Facilities Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



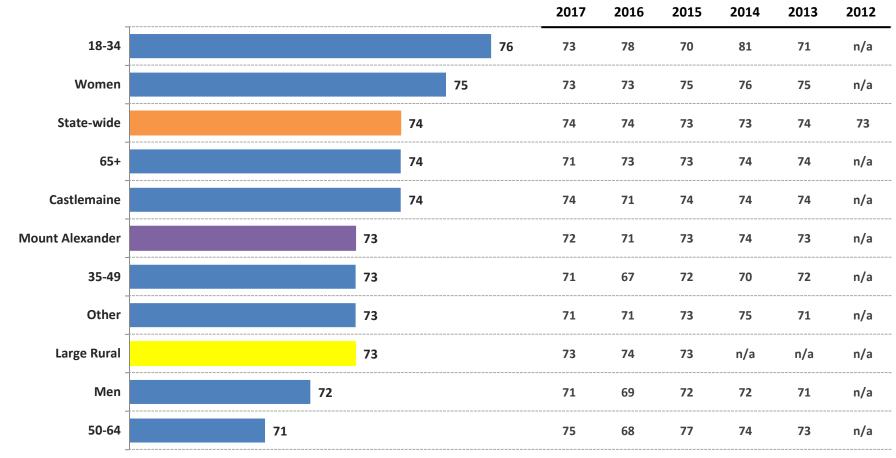
#### 2018 Recreational Facilities Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



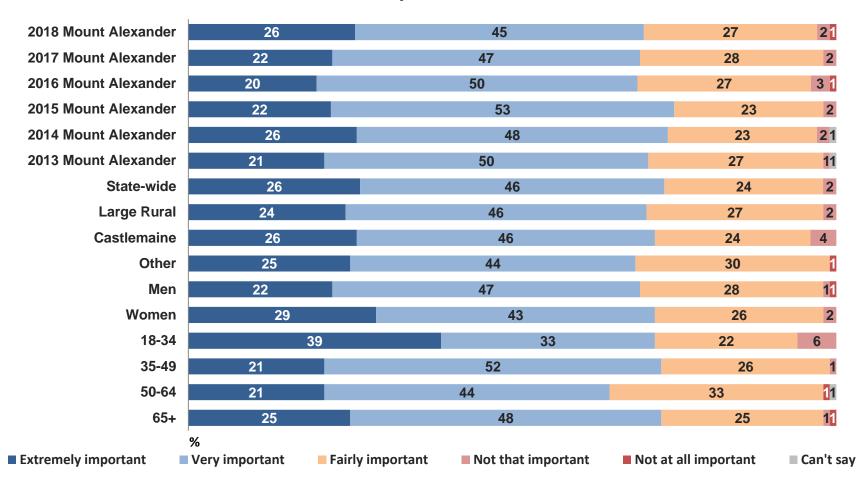
### 2018 Public Areas Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



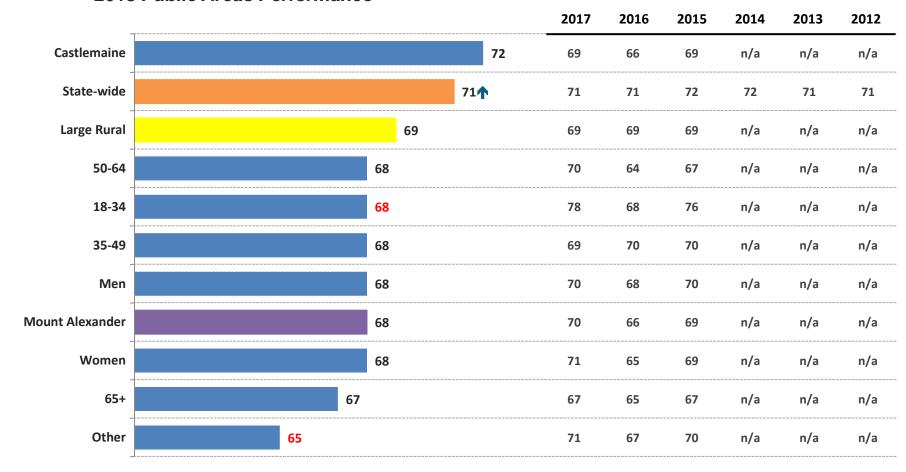
#### 2018 Public Areas Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



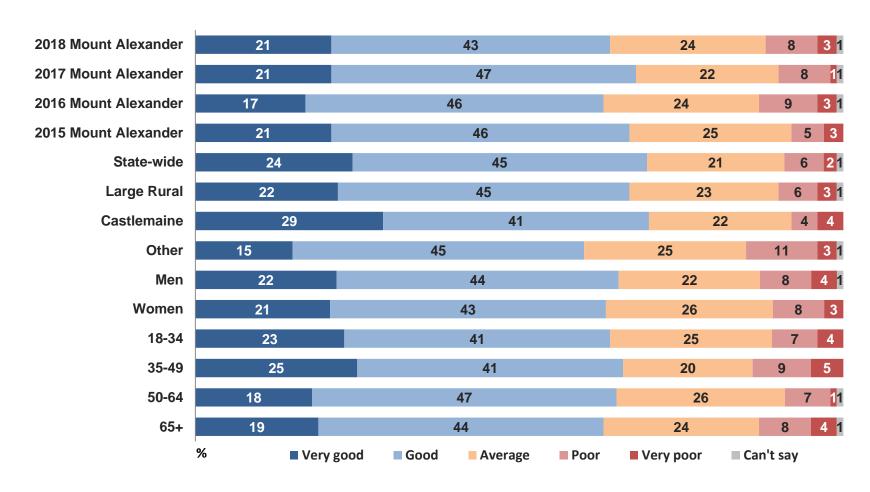
#### 2018 Public Areas Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



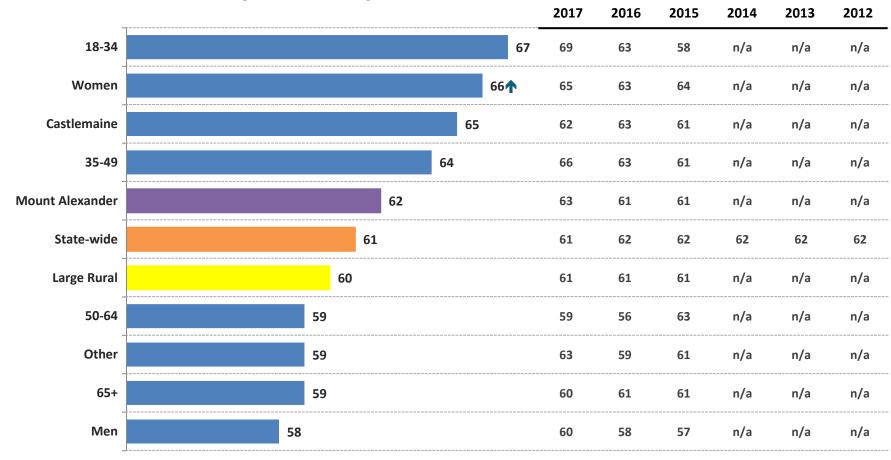
#### 2018 Public Areas Performance



### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



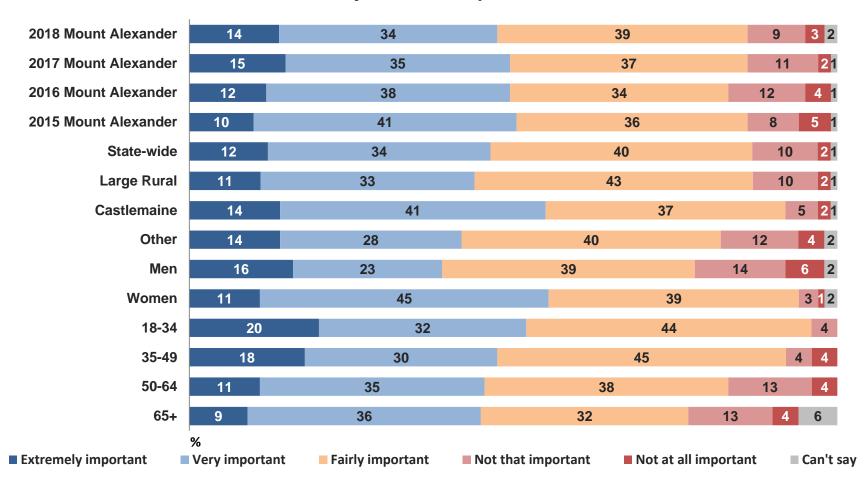
#### 2018 Community Activities Importance



### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



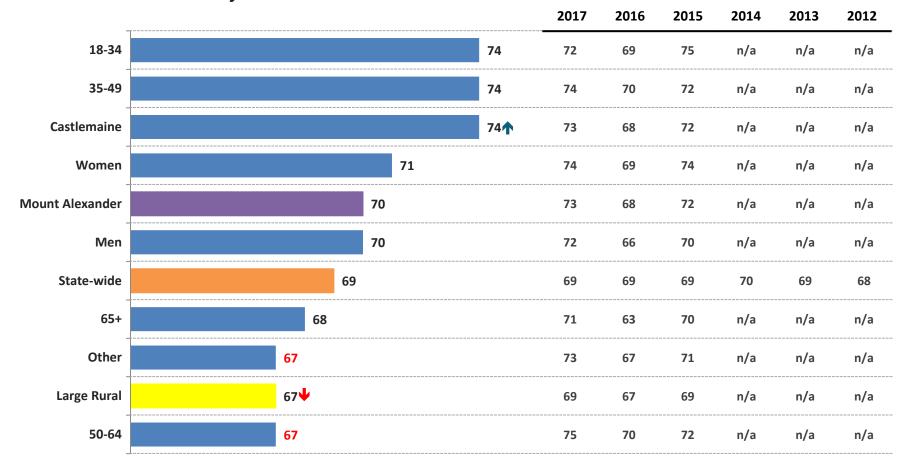
#### 2018 Community Activities Importance



### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



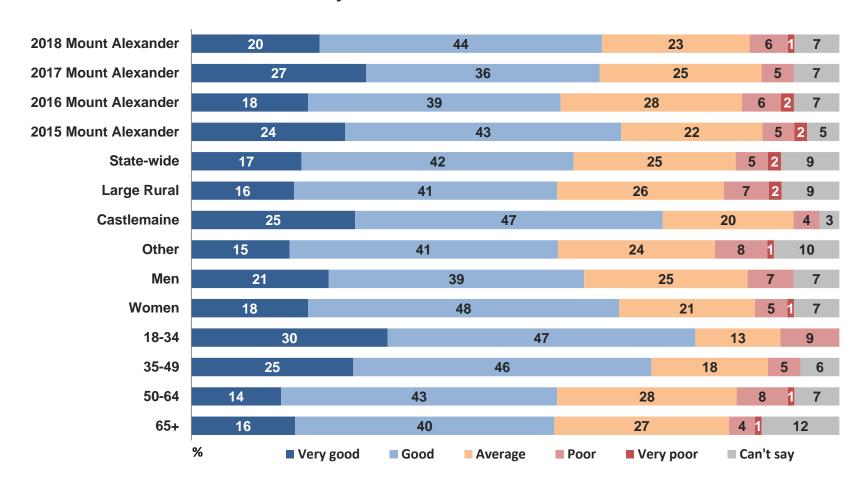
#### 2018 Community Activities Performance



### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



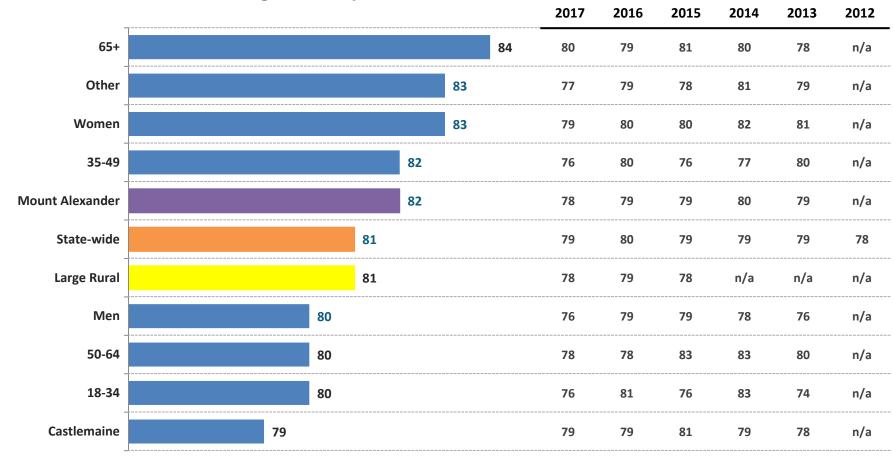
#### 2018 Community Activities Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



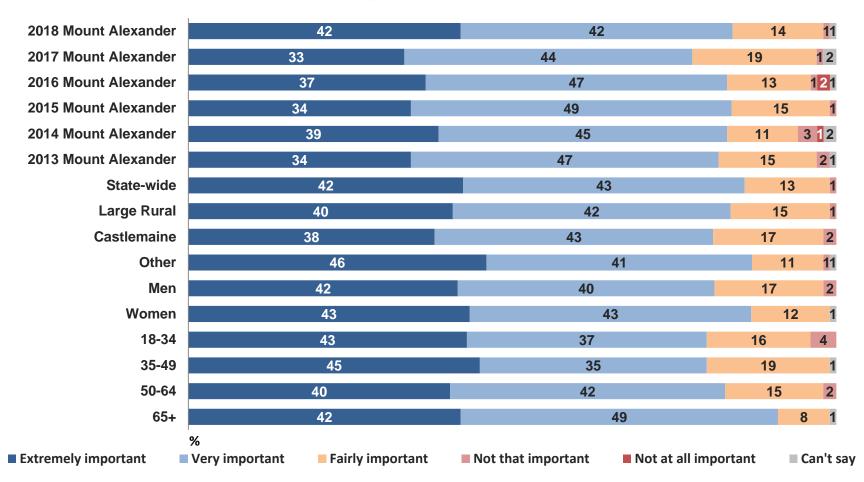
#### 2018 Waste Management Importance



#### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



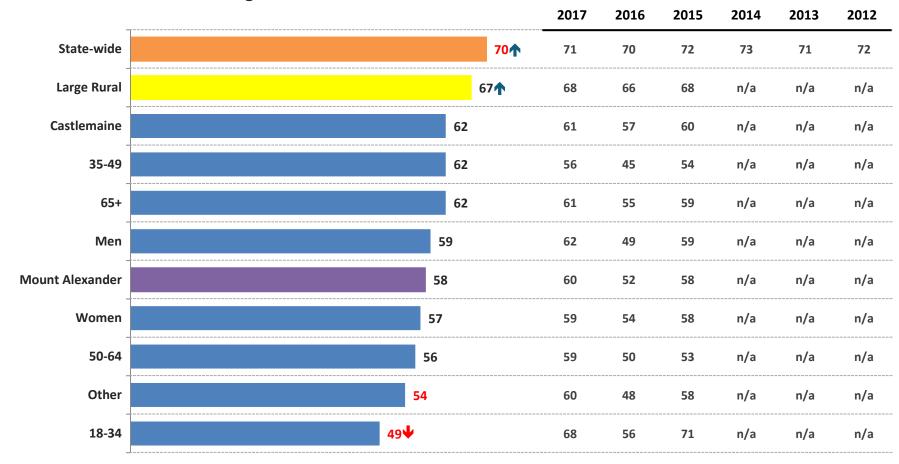
#### 2018 Waste Management Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



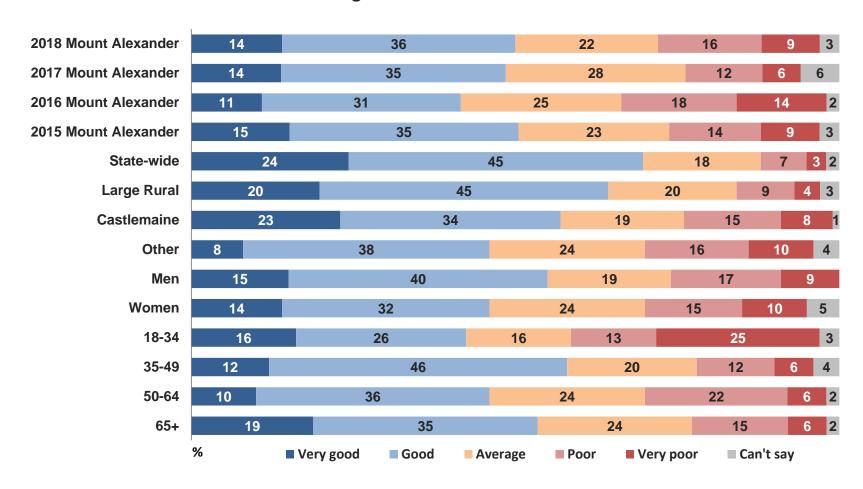
#### 2018 Waste Management Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



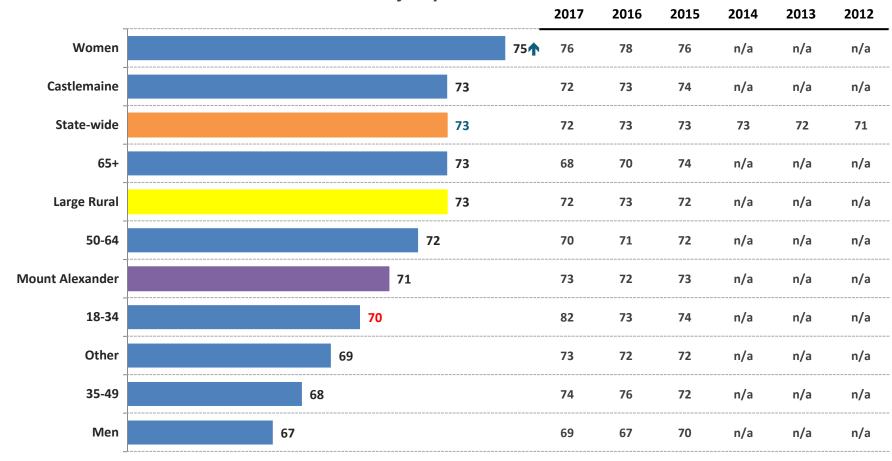
#### 2018 Waste Management Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



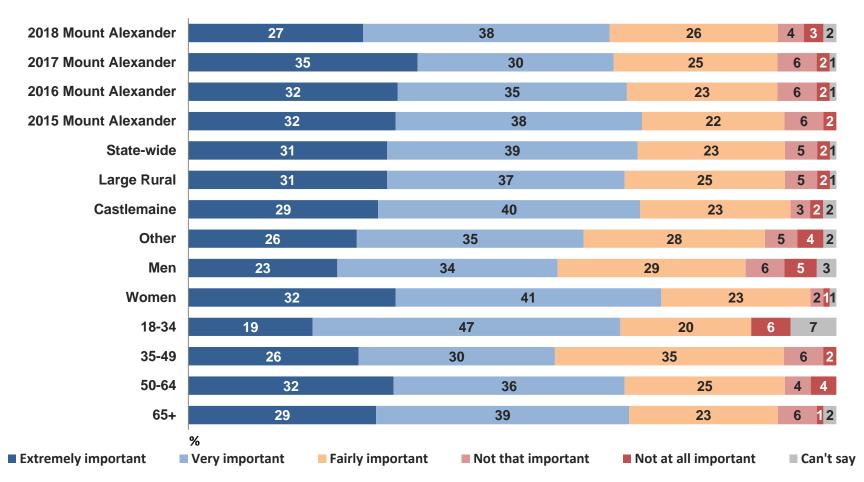
#### 2018 Environmental Sustainability Importance



#### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



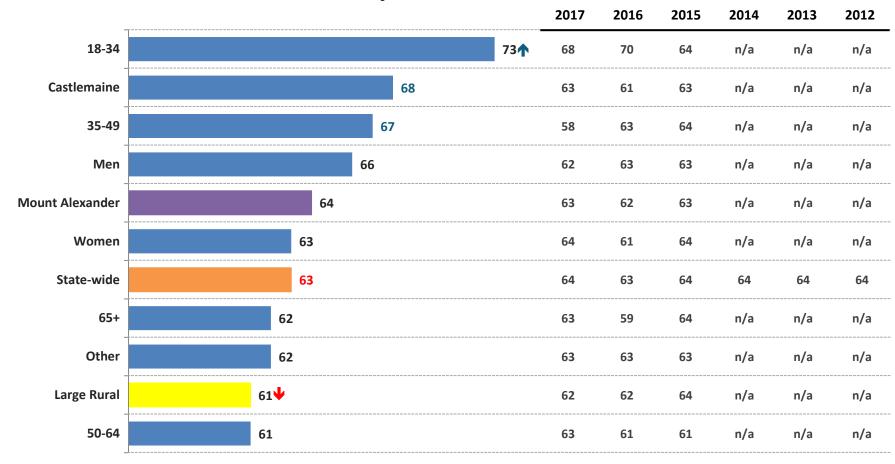
#### 2018 Environmental Sustainability Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



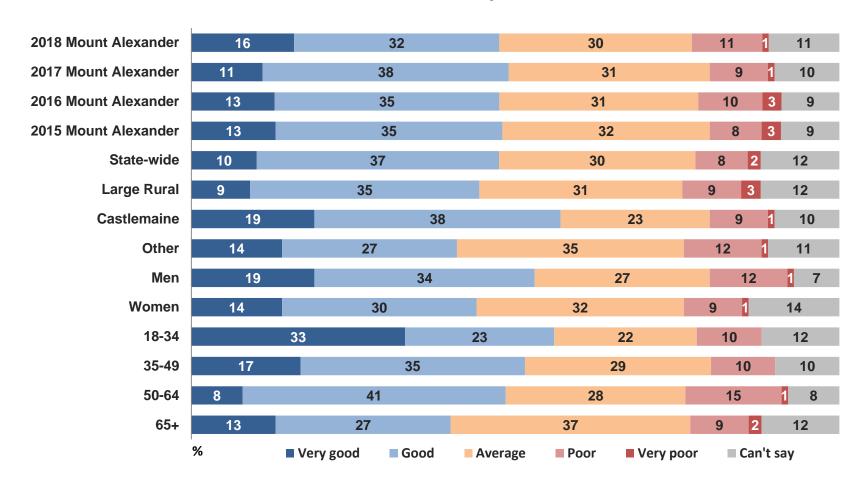
#### 2018 Environmental Sustainability Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



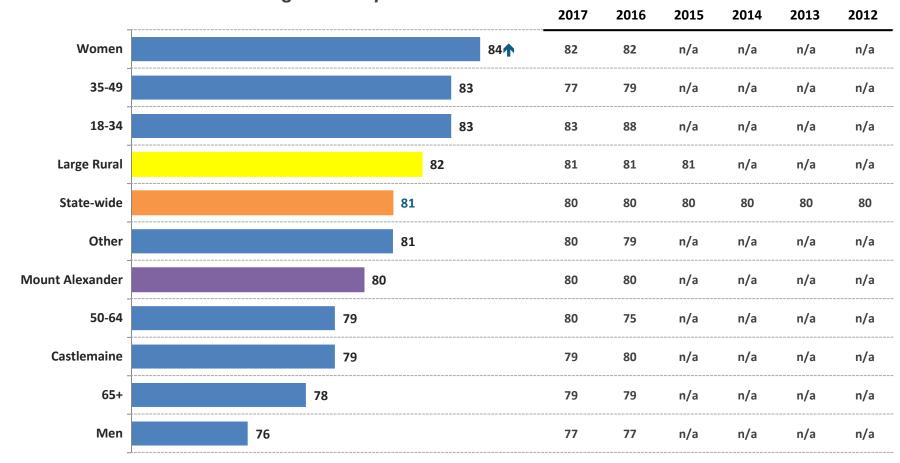
#### 2018 Environmental Sustainability Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



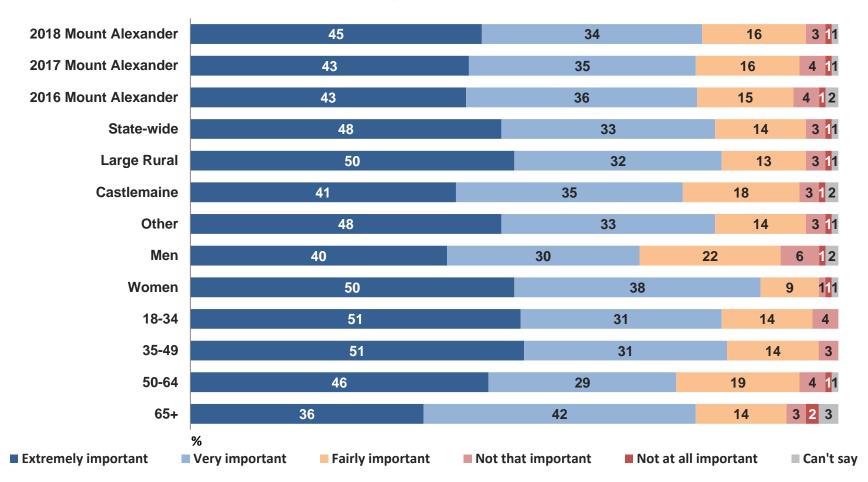
#### 2018 Disaster Management Importance



#### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



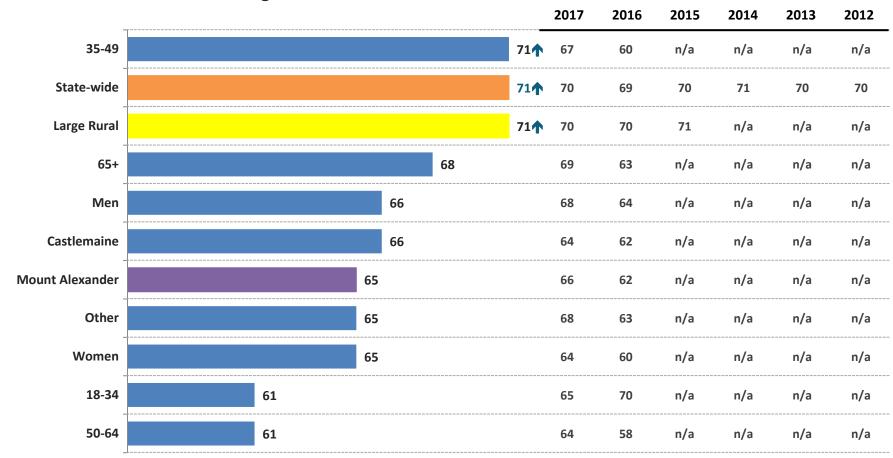
#### 2018 Disaster Management Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



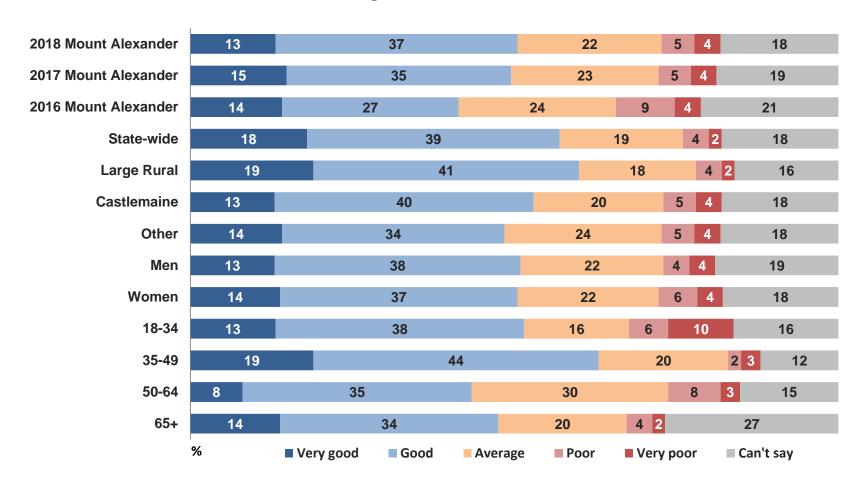
#### 2018 Disaster Management Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



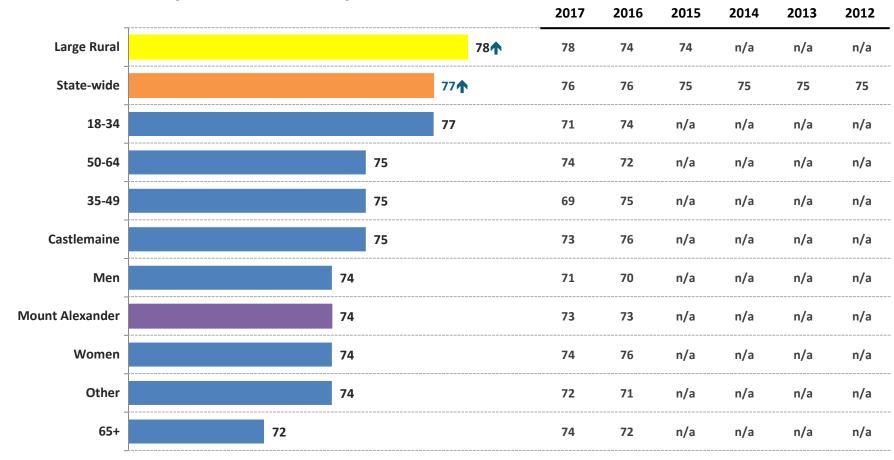
#### 2018 Disaster Management Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



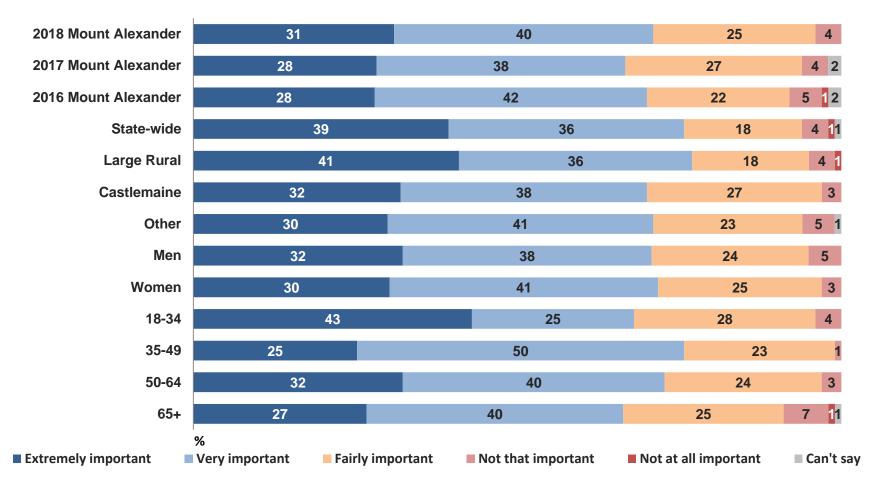
#### 2018 Population Growth Importance



#### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



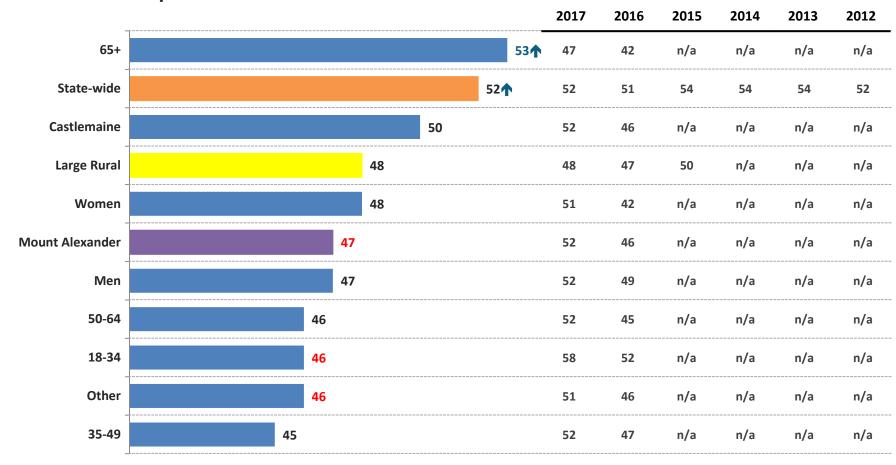
#### 2018 Population Growth Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



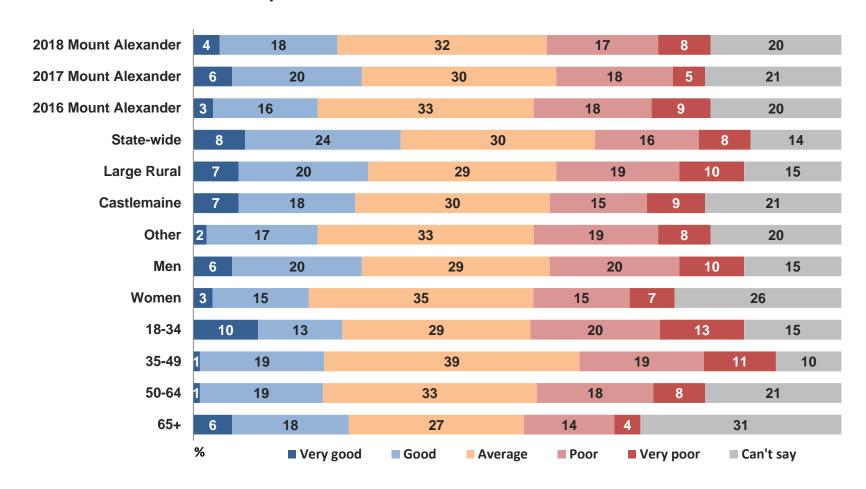
#### 2018 Population Growth Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



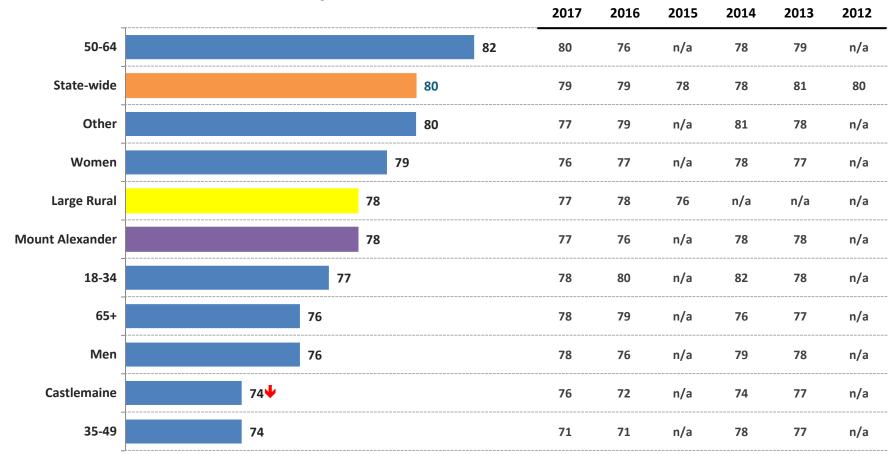
#### 2018 Population Growth Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



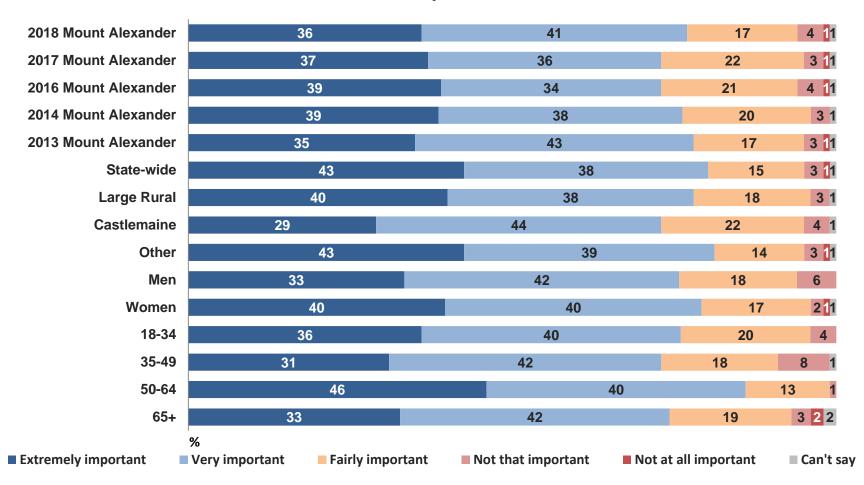
#### 2018 Unsealed Roads Importance



#### IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



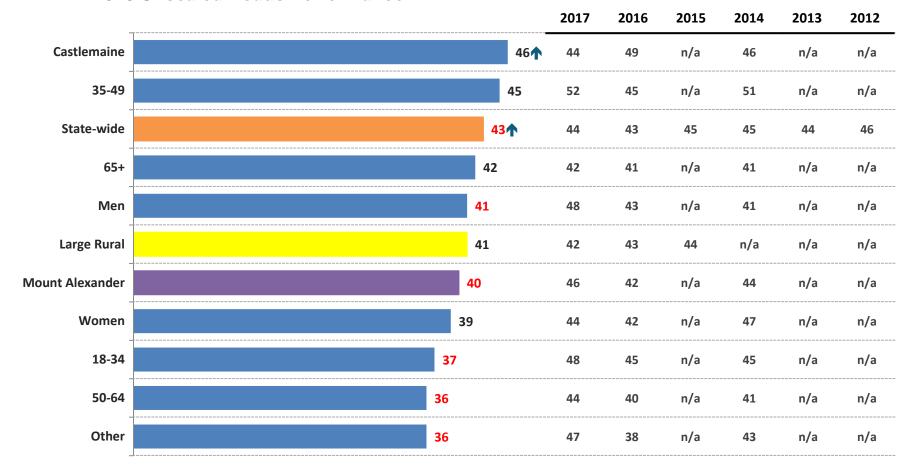
#### 2018 Unsealed Roads Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



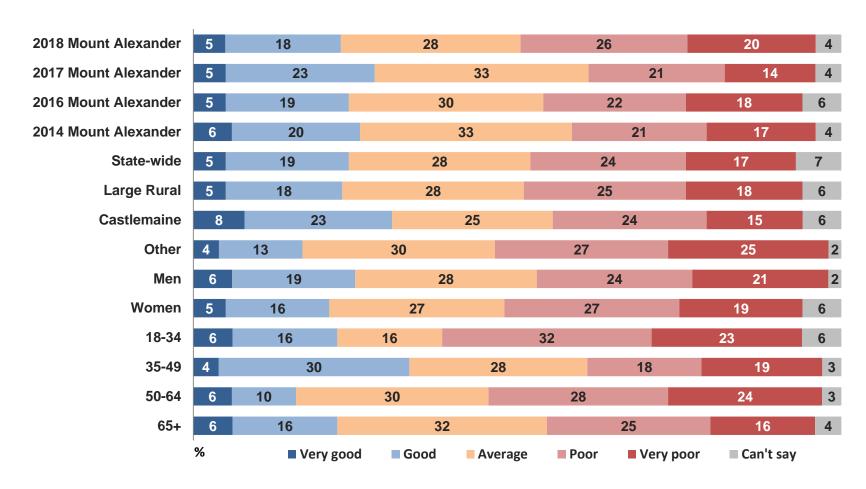
#### 2018 Unsealed Roads Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



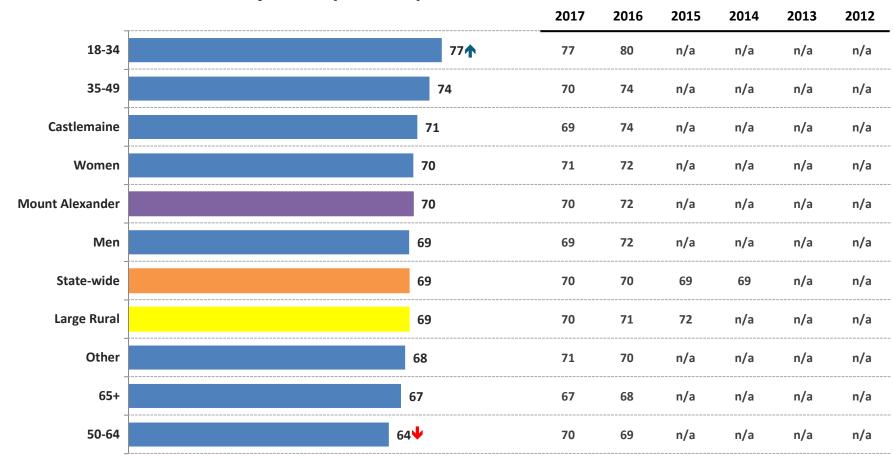
#### 2018 Unsealed Roads Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



#### 2018 Business/Community Development Importance



Q1. Firstly, how important should 'business and community development' be as a responsibility for Council?

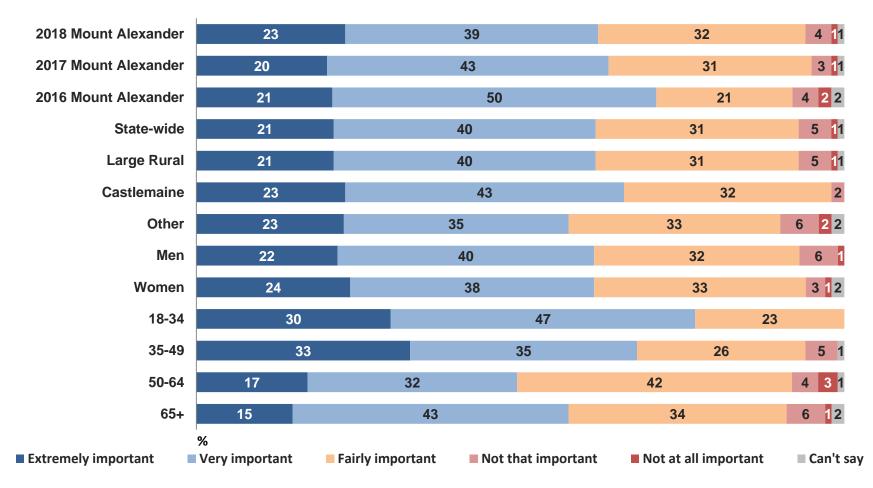
Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 7 Councils asked group: 4

Note: Please see page 6 for explanation about significant differences.

#### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



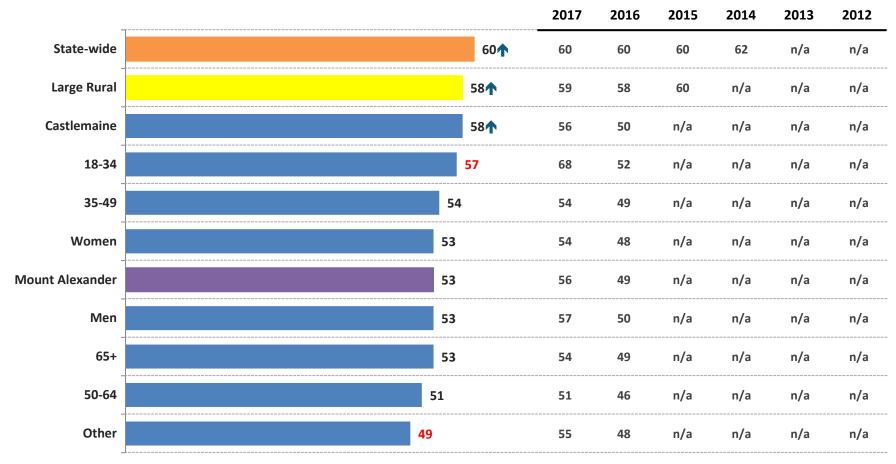
#### 2018 Business/Community Development Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



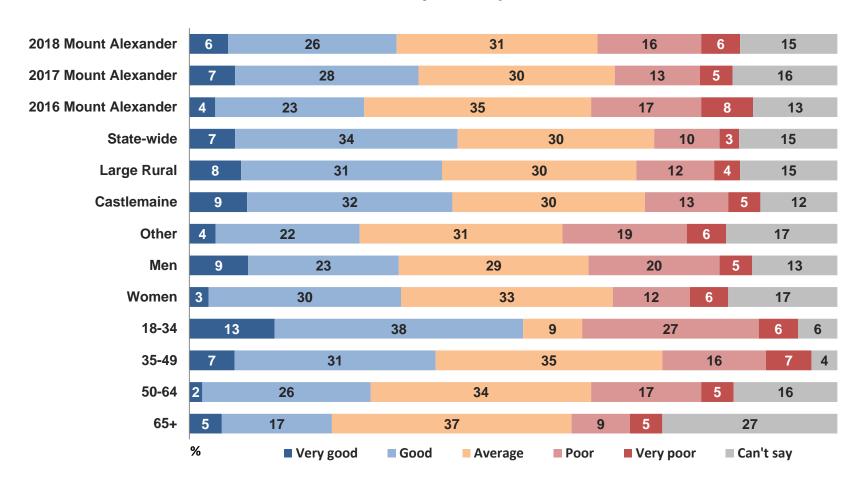
#### 2018 Business/Community Development Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



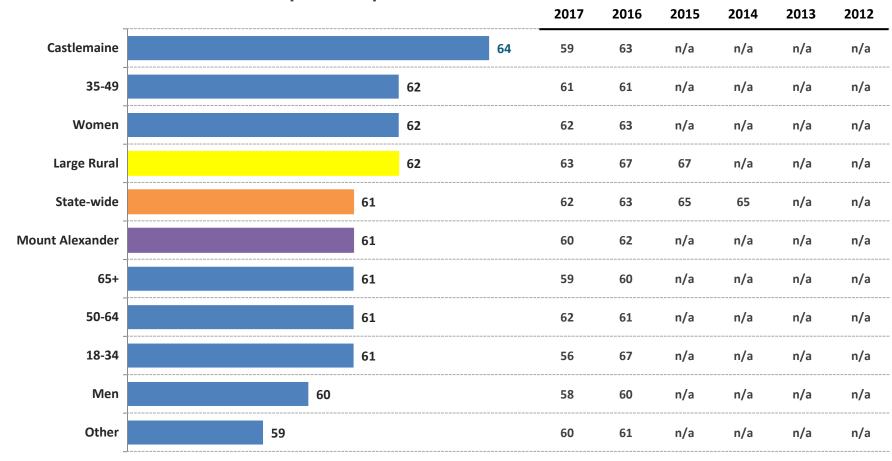
#### 2018 Business/Community Development Performance



#### **IMPORTANCE INDEX SCORES**



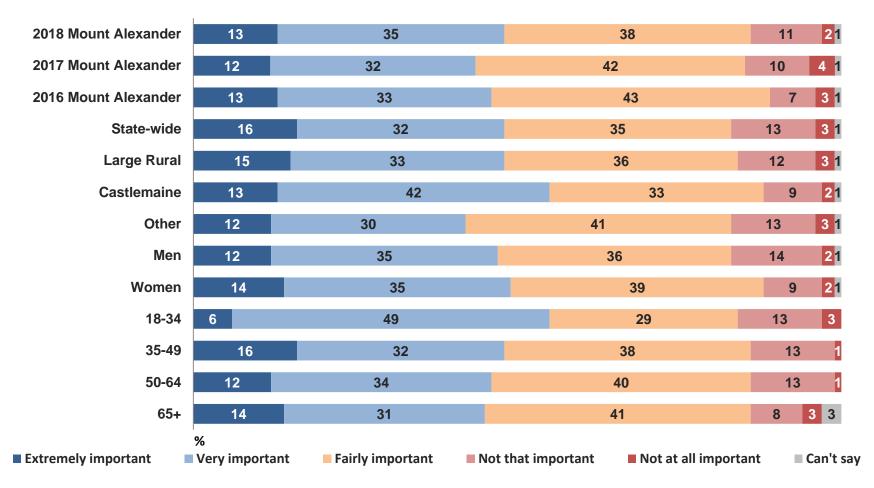
#### 2018 Tourism Development Importance



#### **IMPORTANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES**



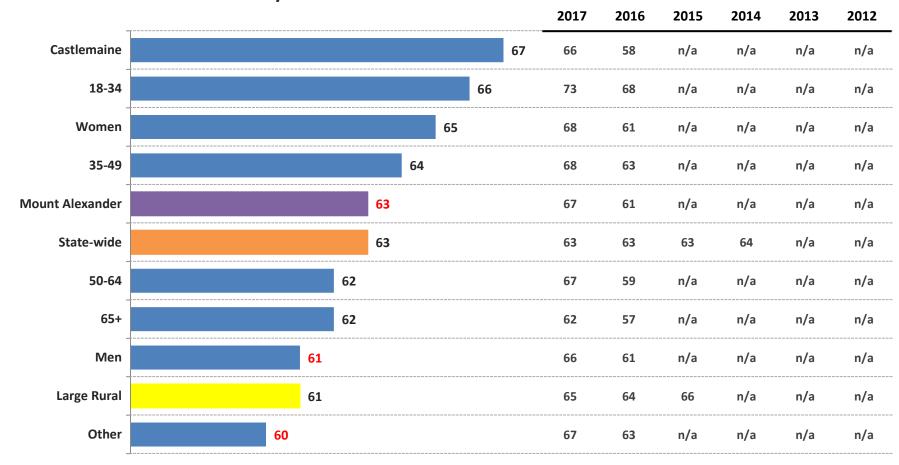
#### 2018 Tourism Development Importance



#### PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORES



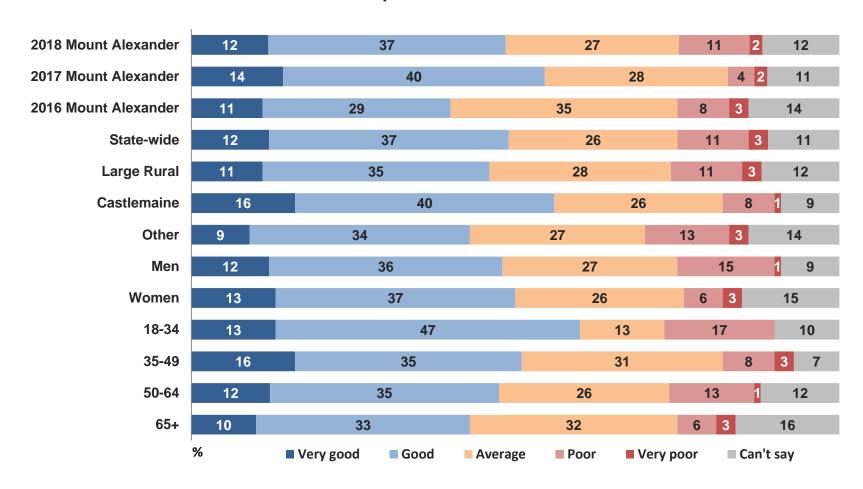
#### 2018 Tourism Development Performance



#### PERFORMANCE DETAILED PERCENTAGES



#### 2018 Tourism Development Performance

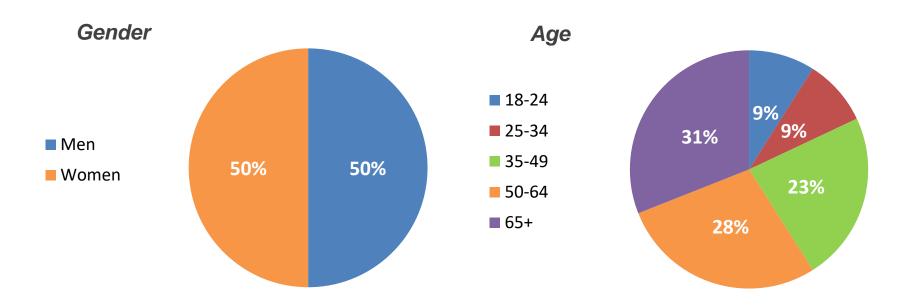


# DETAILED DEMOGRAPHICS



# 2018 GENDER AND AGE PROFILE



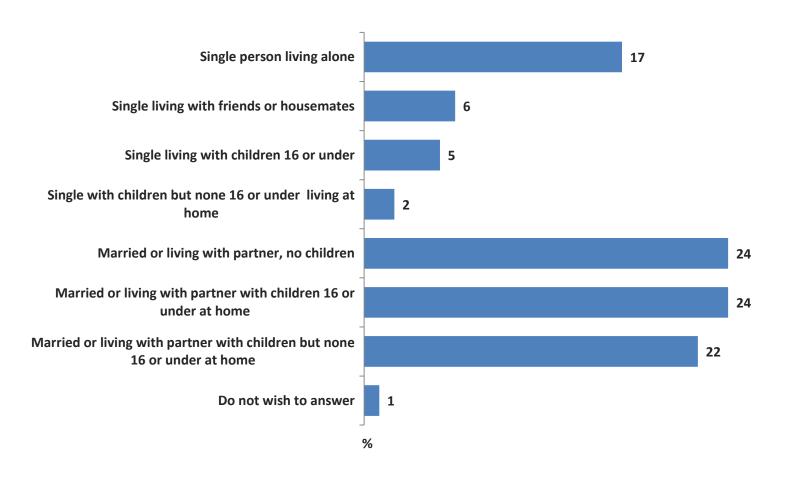


Please note that for the reason of simplifying reporting, interlocking age and gender reporting has not been included in this report. Interlocking age and gender analysis is still available in the dashboard and data tables provided alongside this report.

# 2018 HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE



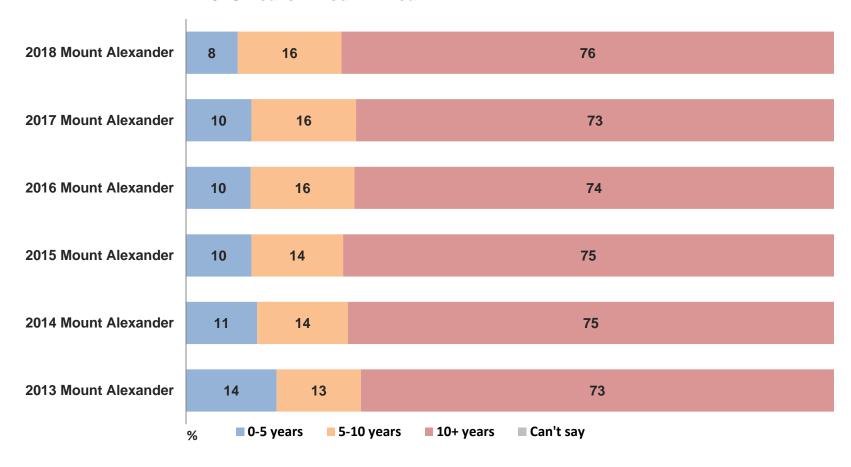
#### 2018 Household Structure



# **2018 YEARS LIVED IN AREA**



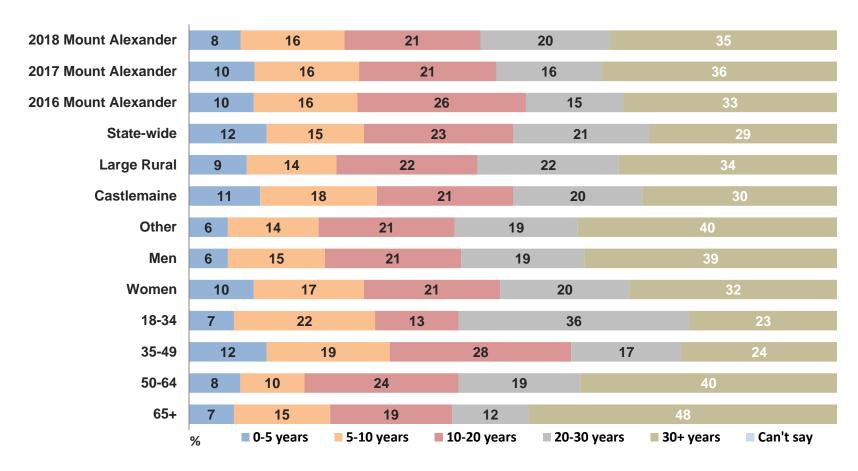
#### 2018 Years Lived in Area



# **2018 YEARS LIVED IN AREA**



#### 2018 Years Lived in Area



# APPENDIX A: DETAILED SURVEY TABULATIONS AVAILABLE IN SUPPLIED EXCEL FILE



# APPENDIX B: FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION



# APPENDIX B: BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES



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 Mount Alexander 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 2012-2018 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

# APPENDIX B: MARGINS OF ERROR



The sample size for the 2018 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Mount Alexander Shire Council was 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 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 15,000 people aged 18 years or over for Mount Alexander Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Mount Alexander Shire Council	400	400	+/-4.8
Men	189	200	+/-7.1
Women	211	200	+/-6.7
Castlemaine	162	178	+/-7.7
Other	238	222	+/-6.3
18-34 years	31	73	+/-17.9
35-49 years	64	93	+/-12.3
50-64 years	144	110	+/-8.2
65+ years	161	124	+/-7.7



All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2018, 64 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 2012-2018 vary slightly.

**Council Groups** 

Mount Alexander Shire Council is classified as a Large Rural council according to the following classification list:

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

Councils participating in the Large Rural group are: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Campaspe, Colac Otway, Corangamite, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Moira, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Moyne, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Swan Hill and Wellington. Wherever appropriate, results for Mount Alexander Shire Council for this 2018 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Large 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.



#### **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.

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



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

# APPENDIX B: INDEX SCORE IMPLICATIONS



Index scores are indicative of an overall rating on a particular service area. In this context, index scores indicate:

- how well council is seen to be performing in a particular service area; or
- b) the level of importance placed on a particular service area.

For ease of interpretation, index score ratings can be categorised as follows:

INDEX SCORE	Performance implication	Importance implication	
75 – 100	Council is performing very well in this service area	This service area is seen to be extremely important	
60 – 75	Council is performing well in this service area, but there is room for improvement	This service area is seen to be very important	
50 – 60	Council is performing satisfactorily in this service area but needs to improve	This service area is seen to be fairly important	
40 – 50	Council is performing <b>poorly</b> in this service area	This service area is seen to be somewhat important	
0 – 40	Council is performing very poorly in this service area	This service area is seen to be not that important	

# APPENDIX B: INDEX SCORE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE CALCULATION



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

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

#### Where:

>\$1 = Index Score 1

 $\gg$ \$2 = Index Score 2

>\$3 = unweighted sample count 1

>\$4 = unweighted sample count 1

≥\$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.



#### **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 2018 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)
- Lobbying on behalf of community (Advocacy)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)

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 2018 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.



#### Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2018 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the state government is supplied with a state-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed.

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.

The overall State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Report is available at <a href="http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-councils/council-community-satisfaction-survey">http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-councils/council-community-satisfaction-survey</a>.

# APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS



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

**CSS**: 2018 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.

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

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

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

THERE ARE OVER
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IN VICTORIA...

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WHAT THEY'RE
THINKING.

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John Scales
Managing Director

Mark Zuker Managing Director

