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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-third 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 23 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 23 years of results, the CSS offers councils a consistent, 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.



Mount Alexander Shire Council – at a glance

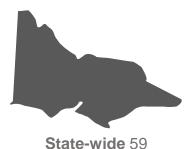


Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Mount Alexander 55





Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages

The three areas where Council performance is significantly higher by the widest margin



Community & cultural

The three areas where Council performance is significantly lower by the widest margin



Local streets & footpaths



Waste management



Planning & building permits



Sealed local roads



Waste management



Business & community dev.



Town planning policy





Community & cultural



Unsealed roads

Summary of core measures



Index scores





Consultation & engagement



Community decisions



Sealed local roads



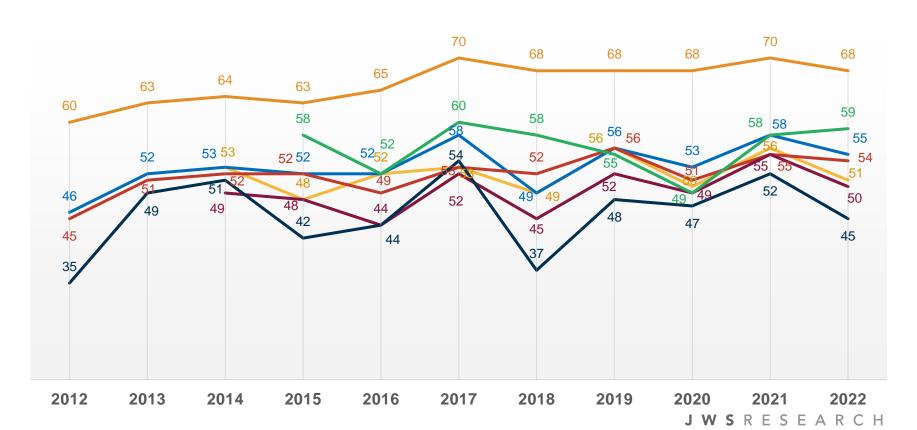
Waste management



Customer service



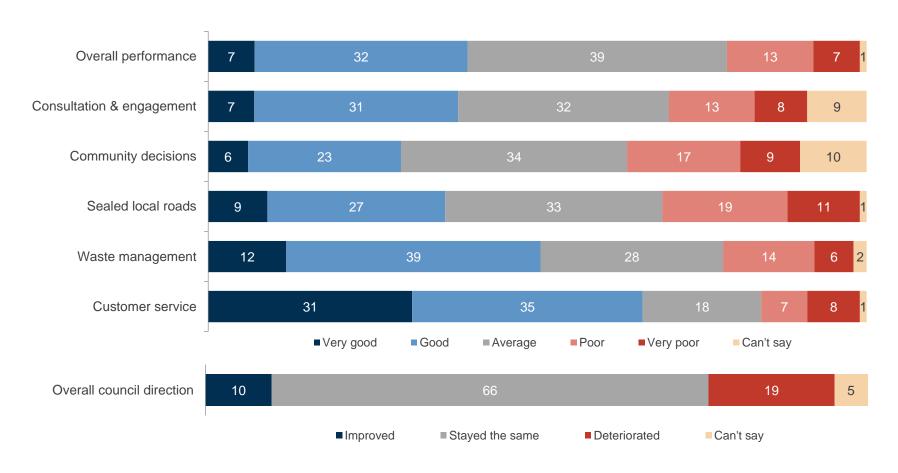
Overall council direction



Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Mount Alexander Shire Council performance



Services		Mount Alexander 2022	Mount Alexander 2021	Large Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
C X	Overall performance	55	58	55	59	Women	Aged 50-64 years
S	Value for money	47	49	48	53	Women	Aged 50+ years
+	Overall council direction	45	52	47	50	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
١	Customer service	68	70	67	68	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
***	COVID-19 response	69	74	71	69	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	69	73	67	71	Aged 50-64 years	Aged 18-34 years, Men
5	Community & cultural	68	68	63	65	Aged 18-34 years	Other residents, Aged 35-49 years, Aged 65+ years
****	Family support services	65	65	64	65	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
<u> </u>	Elderly support services	65	65	65	67	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
今	Recreational facilities	64	64	66	69	Women, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years

Summary of Mount Alexander Shire Council performance



Services		Mount Alexander 2022	Mount Alexander 2021	Large Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
山	Emergency & disaster mngt	64	68	66	66	Women, Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
Yā	Tourism development	61	62	61	60	Women	Men
	Enforcement of local laws	60	66	64	63	Aged 35-49 years	Aged 50-64 years, Men
	Waste management	59	58	65	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
23	Environmental sustainability	59	65	59	61	Aged 35-49 years	Aged 50+ years
	Informing the community	56	61	56	59	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Consultation & engagement	54	55	51	54	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50+ years
	Business & community dev.	53	56	58	58	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Parking facilities	52	53	53	57	Aged 18-34 years	Castlemaine residents, Aged 65+ years
<u>.</u>	Lobbying	52	55	51	53	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-64 years

Summary of Mount Alexander Shire Council performance



Services		Mount Alexander 2022	Mount Alexander 2021	Large Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
A	Sealed local roads	51	56	45	53	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
***	Community decisions	50	55	51	54	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Town planning policy	48	53	53	54	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Local streets & footpaths	47	51	51	57	Aged 50-64 years	Aged 18-49 years
***	Population growth	45	51	49	52	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Planning & Building permits	44	46	46	50	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Unsealed roads	43	46	39	41	Aged 18-34 years, Aged 50-64 years, Castlemaine residents	Aged 35-49 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of Council performance have declined for most individual service areas over the past year, with Council unable to maintain significant gains made in 2021 – particularly in some of its poorer performing areas. However, while Council's overall performance rating is down three index points, this is not a statistically significant decline and the 2022 rating is Council's third highest of the series.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Mount Alexander Shire Council should focus on maintaining and improving performance in the individual service areas that most influence perception of overall performance. Particular attention should be paid to community decisions and town planning, which have a strong influence on Council's overall performance rating but are among Council's poorer performing areas.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Importantly, Council performs as well as or significantly higher than the Large Rural council average on most service areas. However, Council's performance is typically in line with or rated significantly lower than the State-wide average. Areas most in need of attention include town planning policy, local streets and footpaths, and population growth, which rate poorly (index scores below 50) and significantly lower than the Large Rural council and Statewide averages.

Aim for consistency

In recent years, even prior to the pandemic, Council ratings have fluctuated significantly year to year. In the next 12 months, Council should aim for greater consistency in performance, to begin to build more steady long-term trends of improvement. Council should also continue efforts to firm up more recent improvements maintained since 2021, such as on family support services, waste management and consultation and engagement.

DETAILED FINDINGS



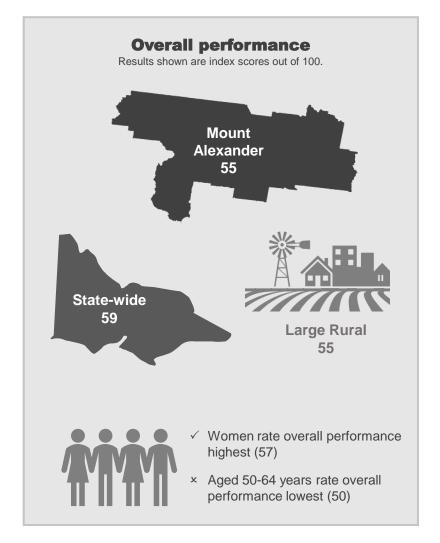




The overall performance index score of 55 for Mount Alexander Shire Council represents a slight three-point decline on the 2021 result but remains higher than in 2020.

- Contributing to the overall decline are statistically significant five-point decreases (at the 95% confidence interval) among men and residents aged 65 years and over.
- Council has maintained some of the performance gains made between 2020 and 2021, and the 2022 result is one of Council's better overall performance ratings across the series (since 2012).
- Council's overall performance is rated in line with the Large Rural Council average (index score of 55) but is significantly lower than the average rating for councils State-wide (index score of 59).

The proportion of residents who rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good' (28%) is slightly outweighed by those who say it is 'very poor' or 'poor' (32%). A further 37% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.



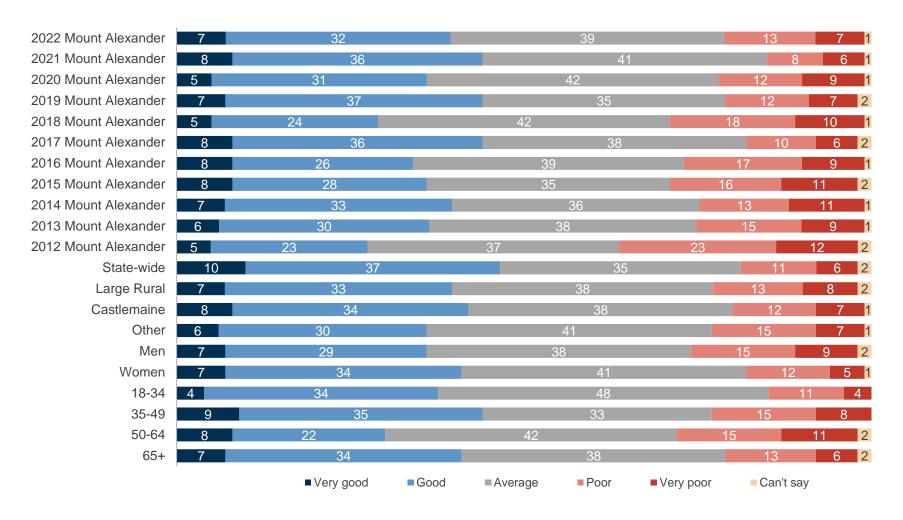


2022 overall performance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 State-wide 59^ Women Castlemaine n/a 65+ 18-34 35-49 Mount Alexander Large Rural n/a n/a n/a Other n/a Men 50-64



2022 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



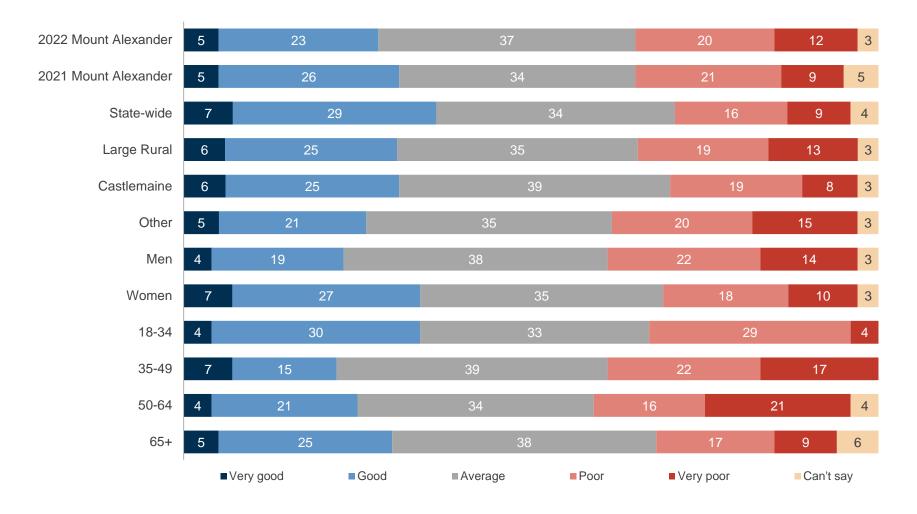
2022 value for money (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 State-wide 53^ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 51 Women n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 50 Castlemaine n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 65+ 50 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 18-34 50 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Large Rural 48 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Mount Alexander 47 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Other 45 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 44 Men n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 35-49 43 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 50-64 43 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a

Value for money in services and infrastructure



2022 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

Council's best performing service areas remain:

- Its COVID-19 response (index score of 69, down five points on 2021).
- The appearance of public areas (index score of 69, down four points).
- Community and cultural activities (index score of 68, unchanged from 2021).

Council's performance on community and cultural activities is rated significantly higher than both the Large Rural group and State-wide averages.

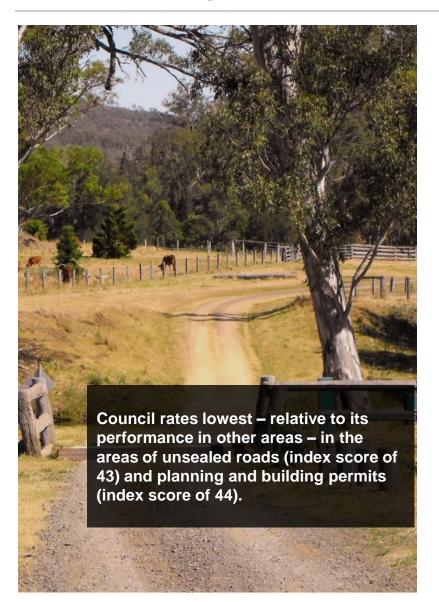
While residents rate Council's COVID-19 response as less important than in 2021 (importance index score of 65, down 6 points), it remains a moderate to strong influence on the overall performance rating, alongside public areas and cultural activities. Maintaining high service levels in these areas should be a focus for the next year, particularly given the significant declines on Council's COVID-19 response and maintenance of public areas this year, and the lower ratings achieved on cultural activities in recent years compared to pre-2020.

Positively, Council performance is holding firm on other leading services areas, family and elderly support services (index score of 65 for each) and recreational facilities (index score of 64).



Low performing service areas





Council rates lowest on its maintenance of unsealed roads (index score of 43). Local streets and footpaths and sealed local roads (index scores of 47 and 51 respectively) are also among Council's lower rated service areas, with ratings significantly down on last year.

Planning and building permits, population growth and general town planning policy (index scores of 44, 45 and 48 respectively) are other poorer performing service areas.

Perceptions of town planning have a strong influence on Council's overall performance rating, so it will be particularly important to address residents' concerns around planning issues in the year ahead.

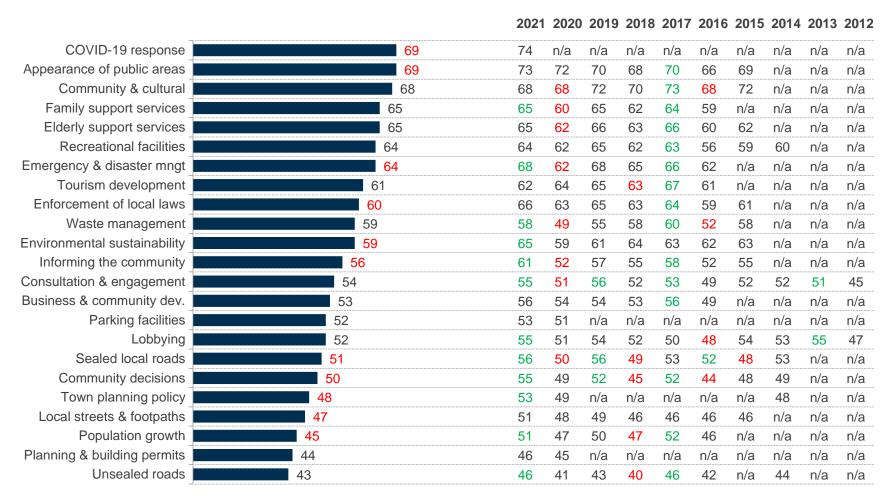
Overall, roads and planning are where there is the greatest disparity between importance to the community and rated performance of Council, with performance in these service areas at least 24 index points below its importance rating.

Further, around one in ten residents volunteer sealed road maintenance (11%), town planning / permits / red tape (11%) and unsealed road maintenance (9%) as the area Council most needs to improve.

Individual service area performance



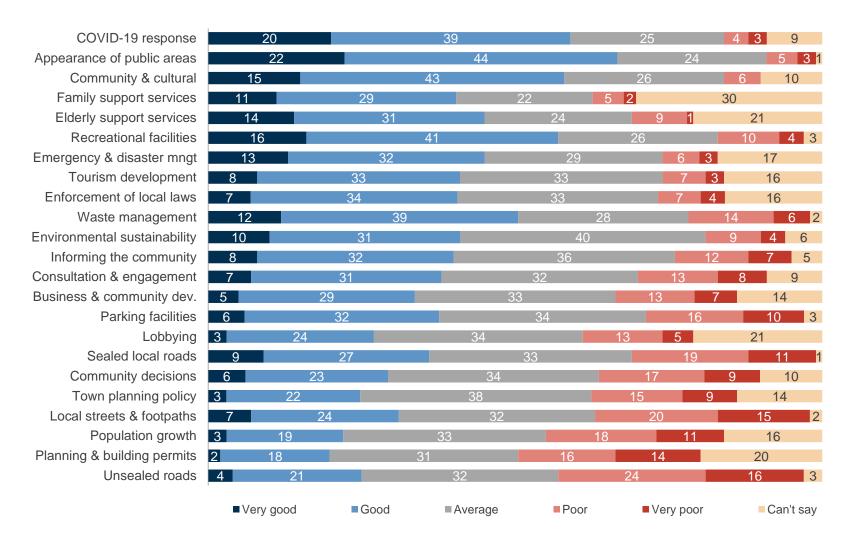
2022 individual service area performance (index scores)



Individual service area performance



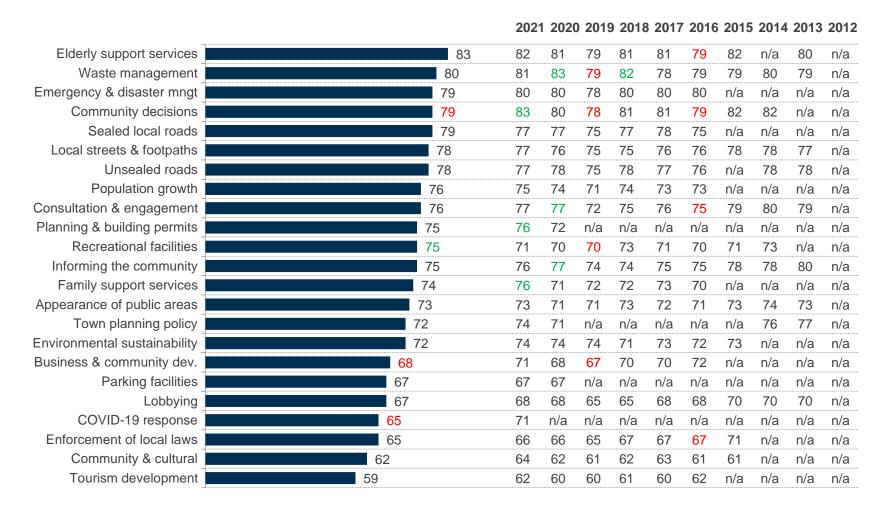
2022 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



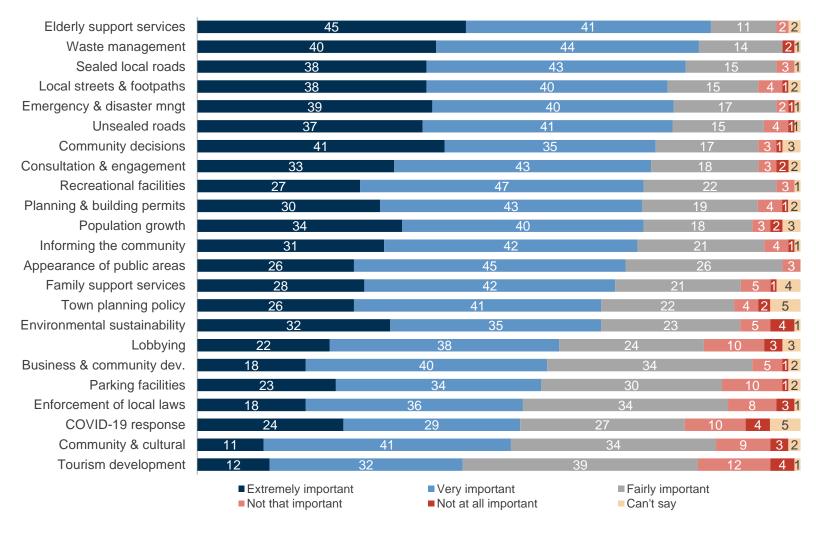
2022 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



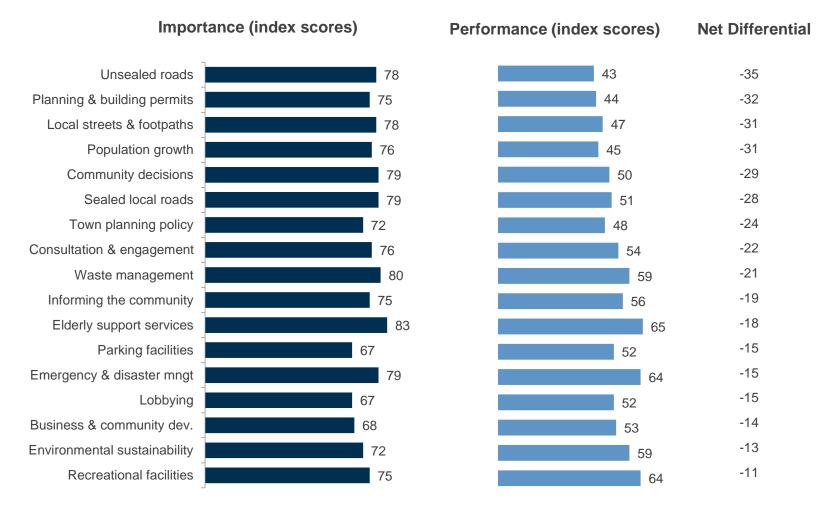
2022 individual service area importance (%)



Individual service areas importance vs performance



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



Influences on perceptions of overall performance



The individual service area that has the strongest influence on the overall performance rating (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.

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

- Town planning
- The appearance of public areas
- Council's COVID-19 response
- Community and cultural activities.

Looking at these key service areas only, Council performs well on its COVID-19 response, the appearance of public areas and community and cultural activities (index of 69, 69 and 68 respectively), which have a moderate to strong influence on the overall performance rating.

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

Council's town planning is a strong influence on overall perceptions but is currently among its poorer performing service areas (index score of 48).

It will be important to attend to resident concerns about Council's town planning approach and decisions to help improve overall ratings of Council performance.

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.

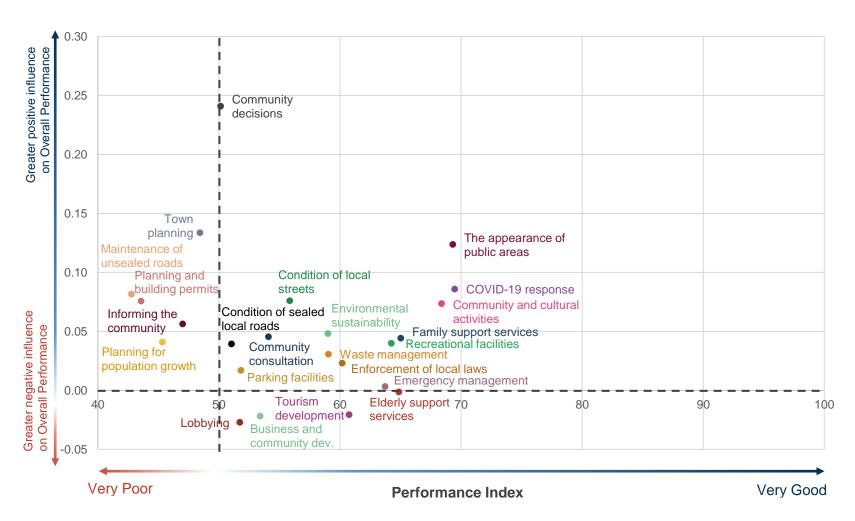
- 1. The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of *all* individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas 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



2022 regression analysis (all service areas)

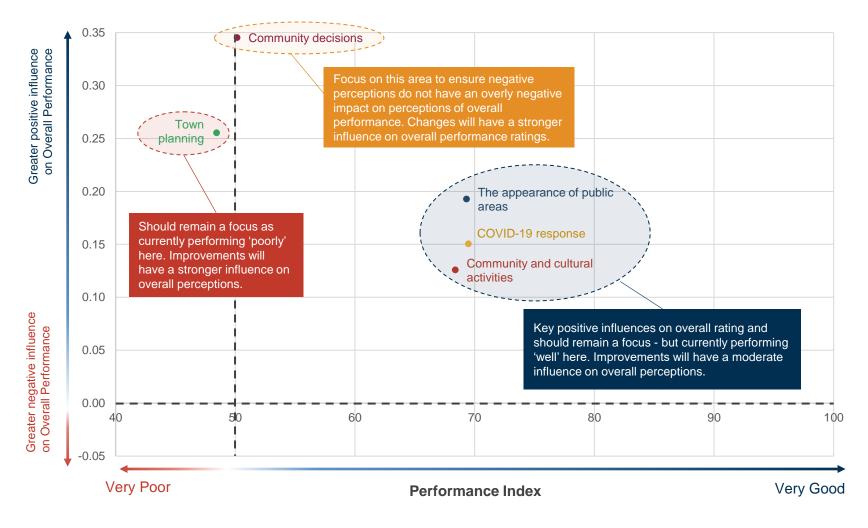


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.647 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.625, which means that 65% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 29.93. 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



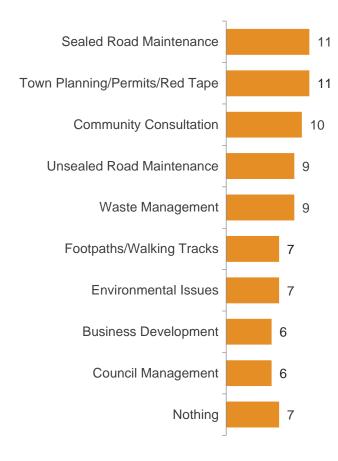
2022 regression analysis (key service areas)



Areas for improvement



2022 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -





Customer service

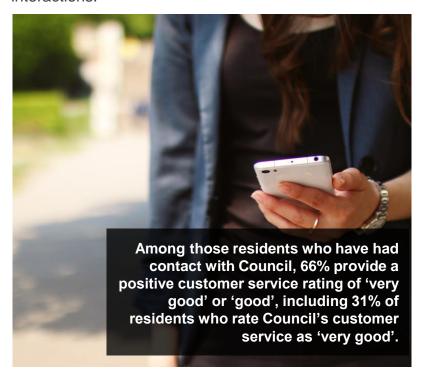
Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Six in ten Council residents (63%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact is slightly down on 2021 (65%), marking the second annual decline after peaking at 70% in 2020.

Telephone (33%), in person (29%) and email (23%) remain the main methods of contacting Council. Satisfaction with customer service delivered in person continues to be higher than for email and telephone interactions.



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 68 represents a slight decrease from 2021 (down two points).

- Council's rating in this area has now returned to the same level seen from 2018 to 2020 and is higher than ratings between 2012 and 2016.
- Customer service is rated in line with both the Large Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 67 and 68 respectively).

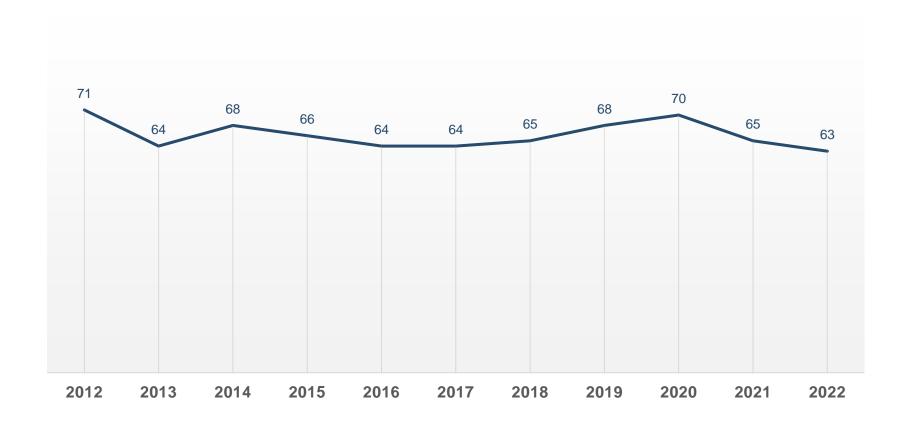
Two thirds (66%) of those who contacted Council provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'.

- Younger residents aged 18 to 34 years remain the most complimentary of Council's customer service (index score of 74).
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years had significantly less contact with Council this year compared to 2021 but are the most critical of its customer service performance (index score of 63).

Contact with council



2022 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



2022 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?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 8 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Customer service rating



2022 customer service rating (index scores)



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.

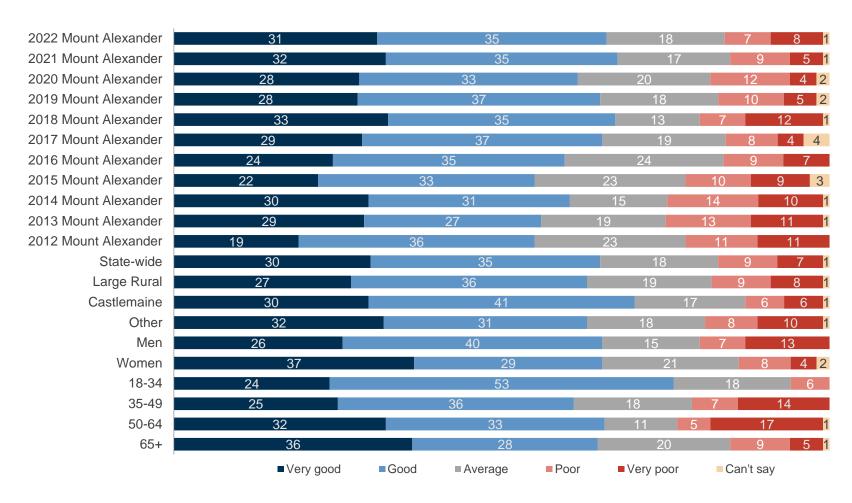
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19

Customer service rating



2022 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.

Method of contact with council



2022 method of contact (%)















In Person

In Writing

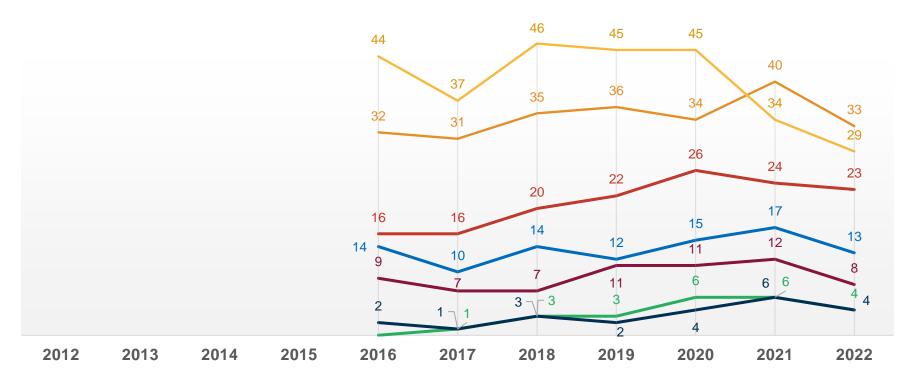
By Telephone

By Text Message

By Email

mail Via Website

ite By Social Media



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

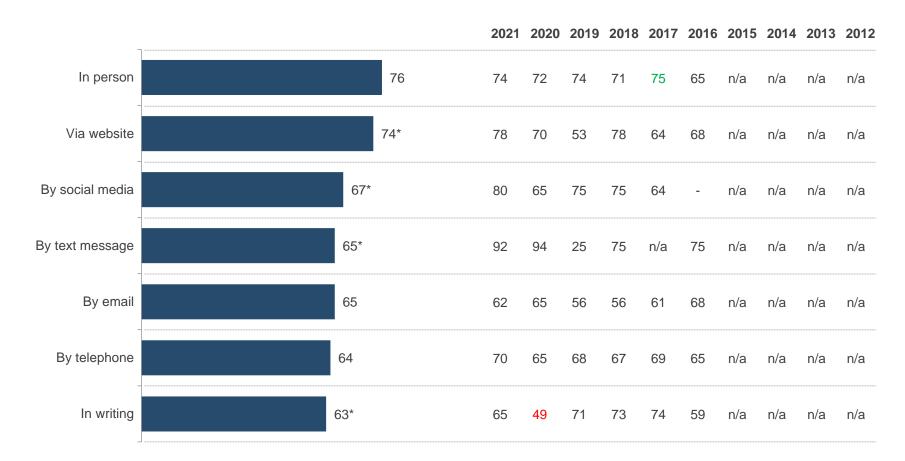
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 8

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

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2022 customer service rating (index score by method of last contact)



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: 25 Councils asked group: 8

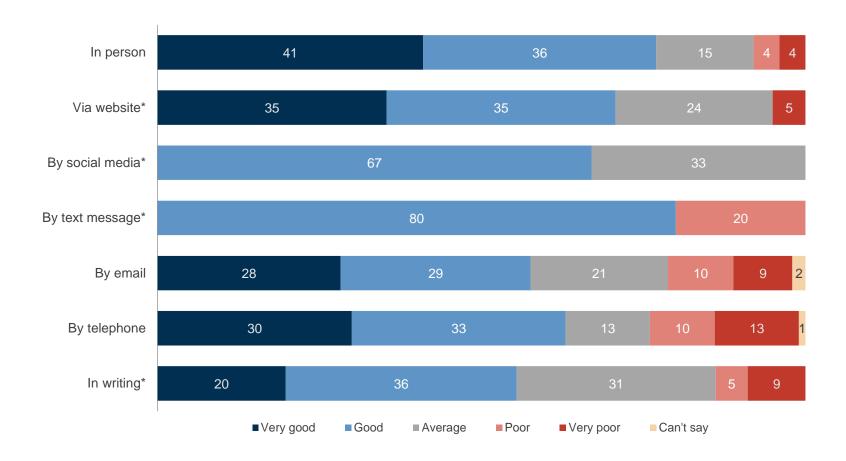
 ${\it Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.}$

*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Customer service rating by method of last contact



2022 customer service rating (% by method of last contact)



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: 25 Councils asked group: 8

*Caution: small sample size < n=30

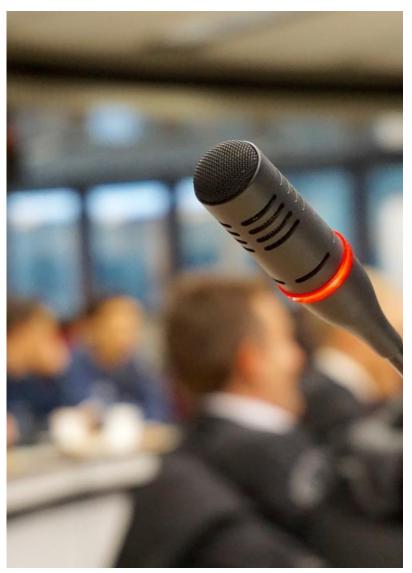


Communication

W

The preferred form of communication from Council about news, information and upcoming events remains newsletters sent via mail (28%), closely followed by newsletters via email (24%). These preferences are unchanged from 2021.

- Mailed newsletters, closely followed by emailed newsletters, are the most preferred communications among both older (over 50 years) and younger (under 50 years) residents.
- For residents under 50 years, social media remains the next most preferred form of communication and there is increased interest this year in advertising in local newspapers.
- Residents over 50 years continue to prefer community newspapers as their next leading channel, for Council advertising or Council newsletter inserts.



Best form of communication



2022 best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



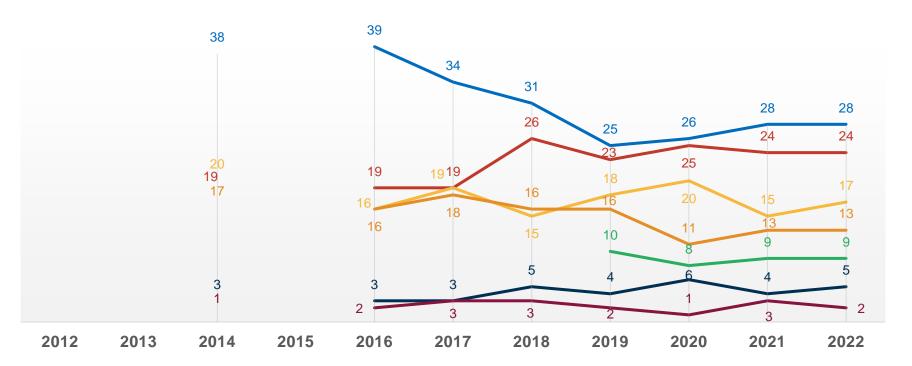
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If 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: 39 Councils asked group: 10

Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

Best form of communication: under 50s



2022 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local **Newspaper**



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council **Newsletter** as **Local Paper Insert**



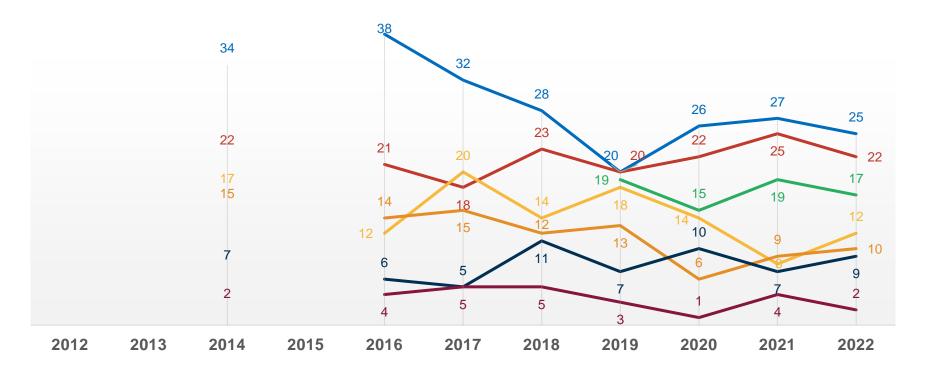
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If 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 under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Councils asked group: 10

Best form of communication: over 50s



2022 over 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



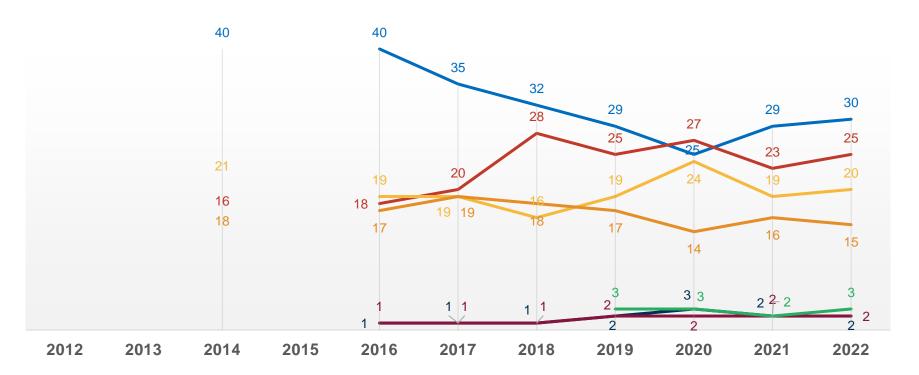
Council Website



Text Message



Social Media



Q13. If 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: 39 Councils asked group: 10



Council direction

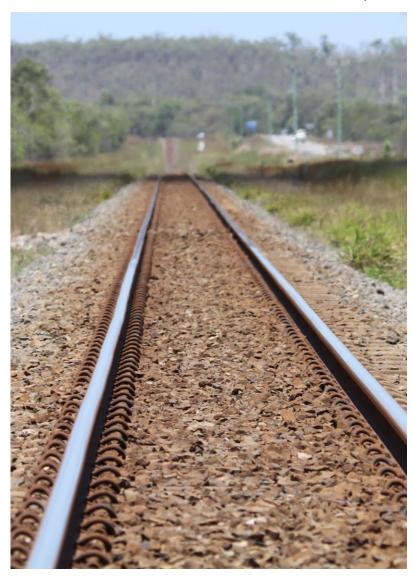
W

Council's overall direction index score has declined significantly in the last 12 months (down 7 points, to 45).

- Views among all demographic cohorts were lower this year compared to 2021. Decreases among most groups were statistically significant.
- Perceptions of Council's overall direction are in line with the Large Rural group average and significantly lower than the State-wide average (index score of 47 and 50 respectively).

Two thirds (66%) of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same over the last 12 months, unchanged from 2021.

- One in ten (10%) believe the direction has improved in the last 12 months (down six points on 2021).
- Almost twice that number believe it has deteriorated (19%, up eight points on 2021).
- The <u>most</u> satisfied with council direction continue to be younger residents aged 18 to 34 years. They rate Council's overall direction significantly higher than average.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with council direction are residents aged 50-64 years.



Overall council direction last 12 months



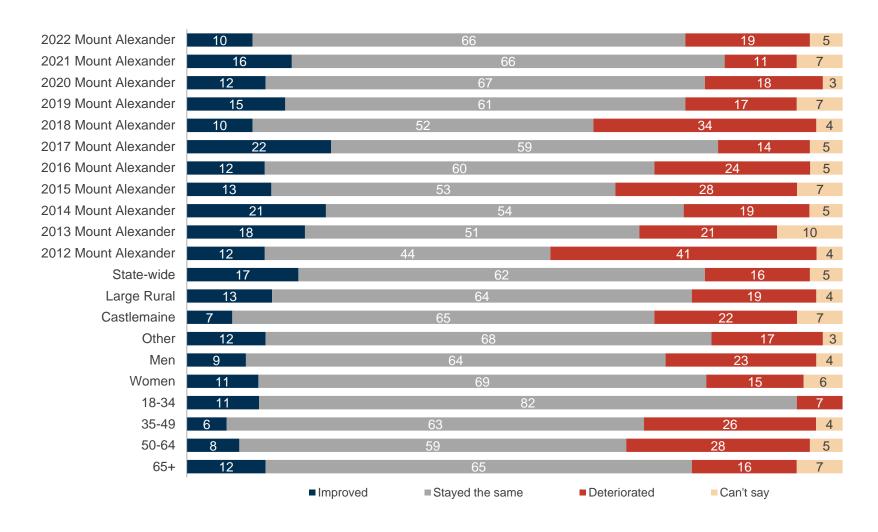
2022 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



2022 overall council direction (%)





Community consultation and engagement importance





2022 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

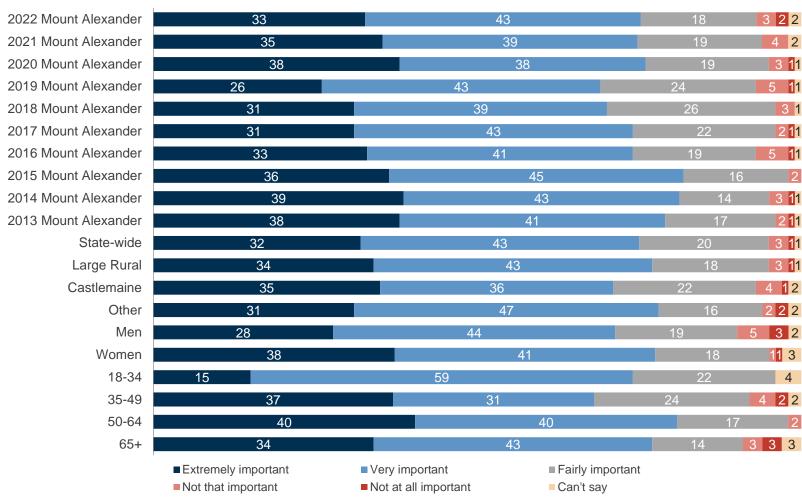


Community consultation and engagement importance





2022 consultation and engagement importance (%)



Community consultation and engagement performance





2022 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

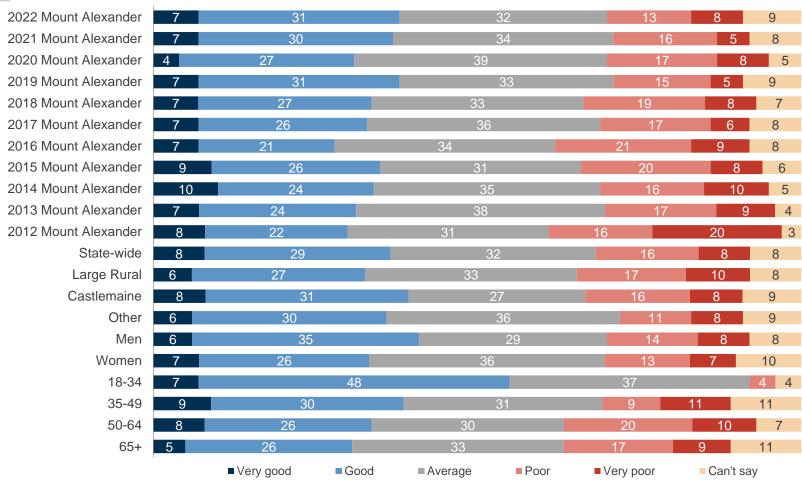


Community consultation and engagement performance





2022 consultation and engagement performance (%)

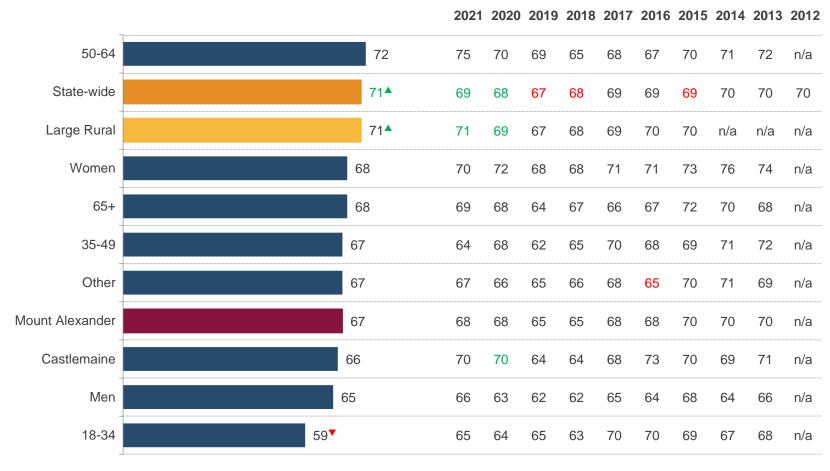


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2022 lobbying importance (index scores)

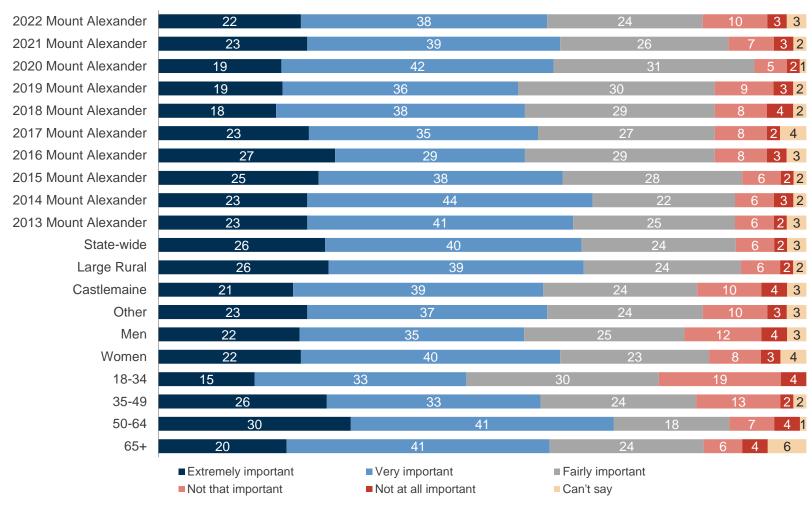


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2022 lobbying importance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2022 lobbying performance (index scores)

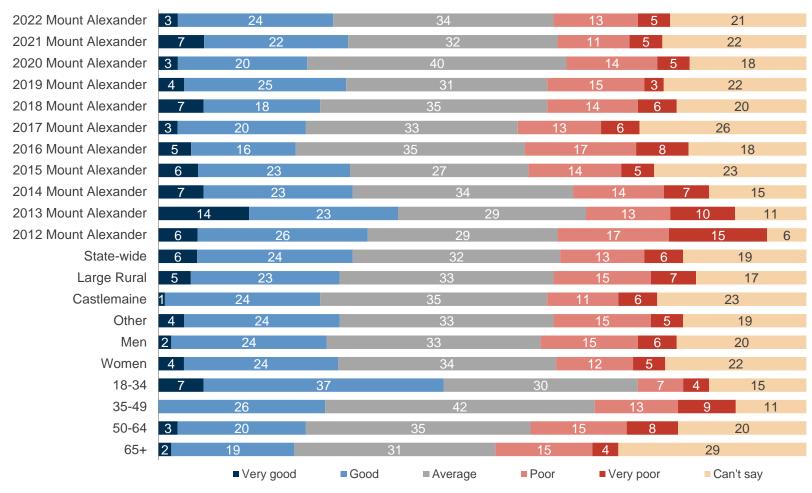


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2022 lobbying performance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2022 community decisions made importance (index scores)

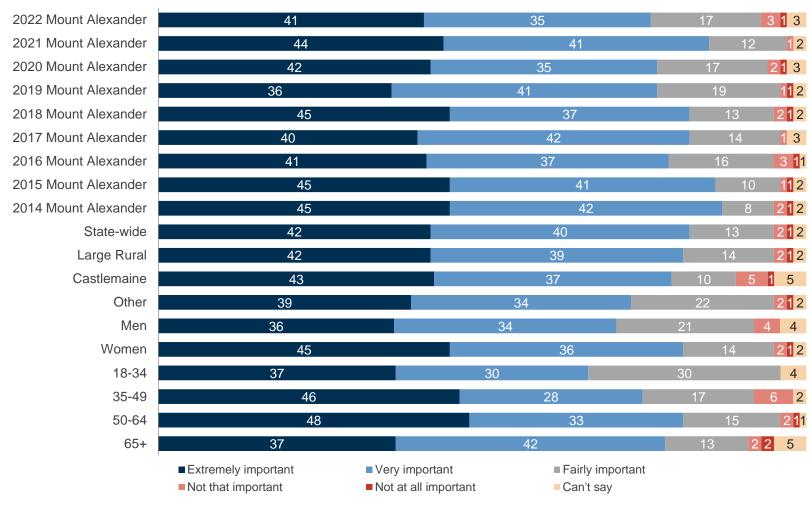


Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2022 community decisions made importance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2022 community decisions made performance (index scores)

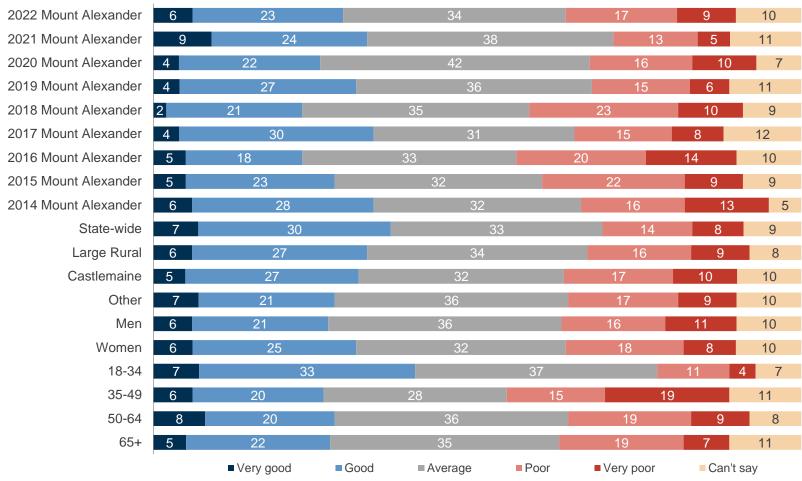


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2022 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2022 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

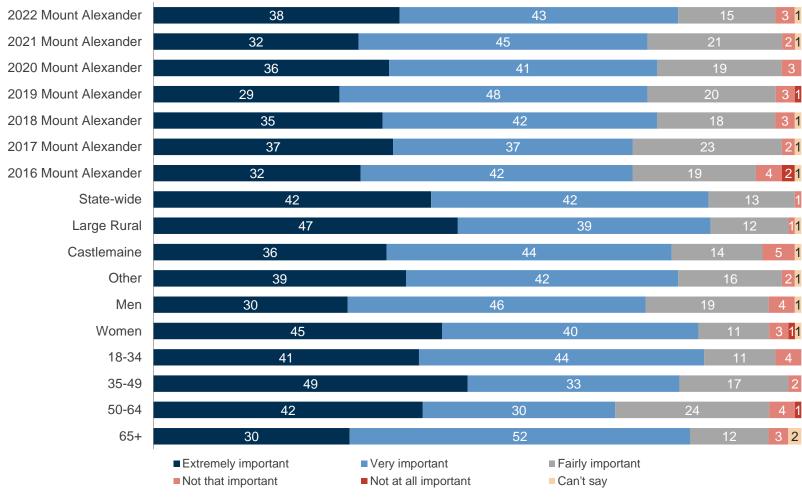


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2022 sealed local roads importance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2022 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

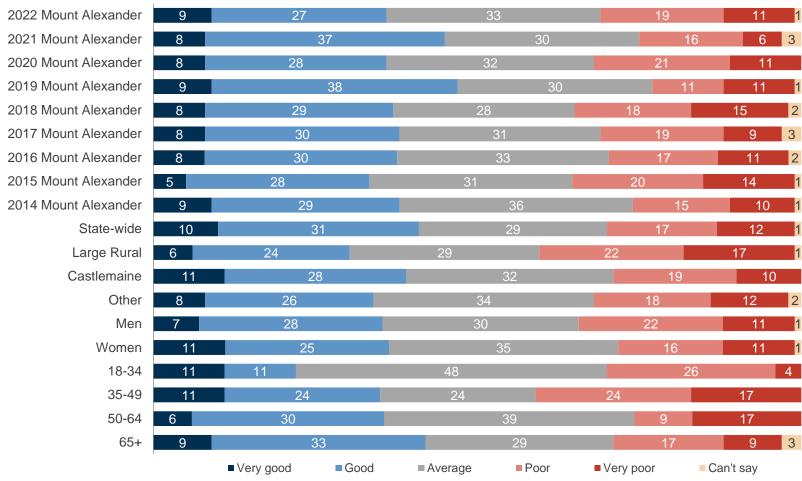


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2022 sealed local roads performance (%)

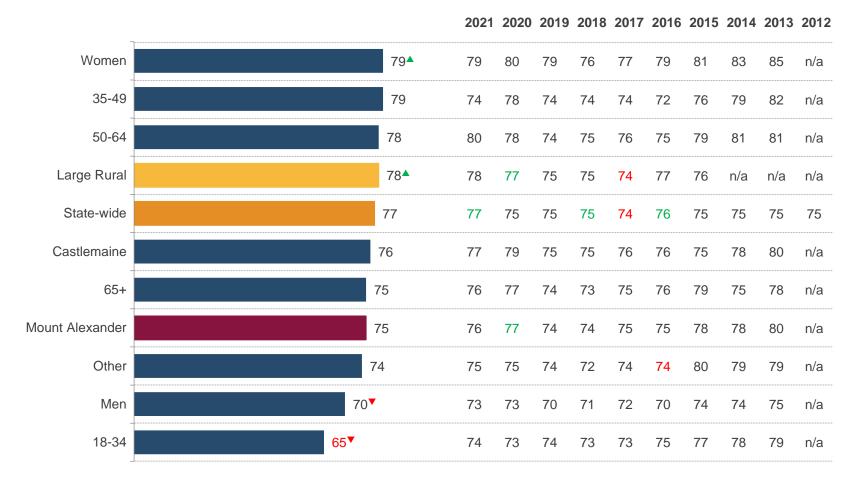


Informing the community importance





2022 informing community importance (index scores)

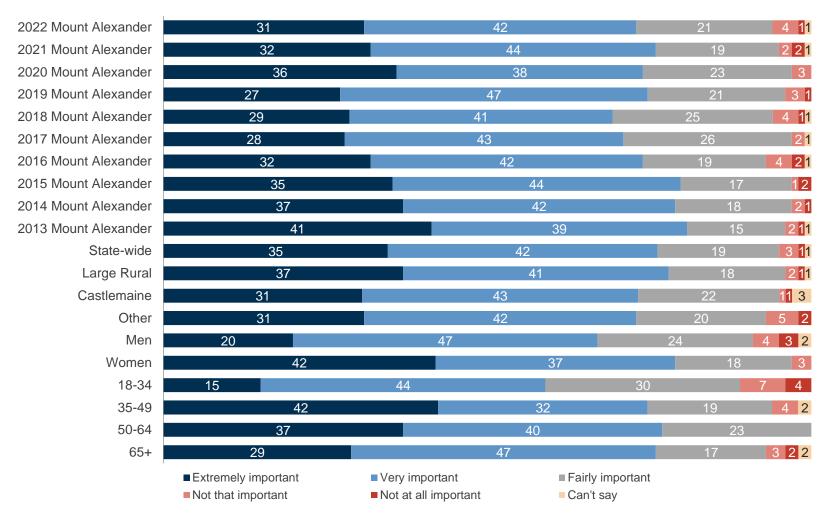


Informing the community importance





2022 informing community importance (%)



Informing the community performance





2022 informing community performance (index scores)

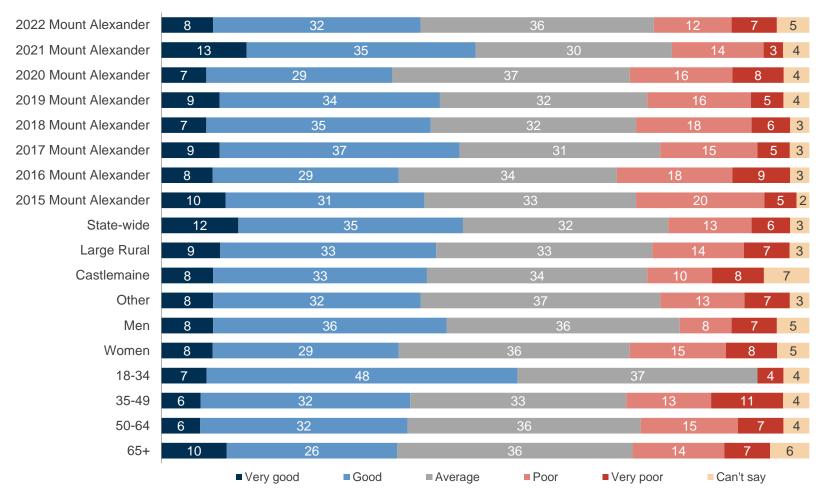


Informing the community performance





2022 informing community performance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2022 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

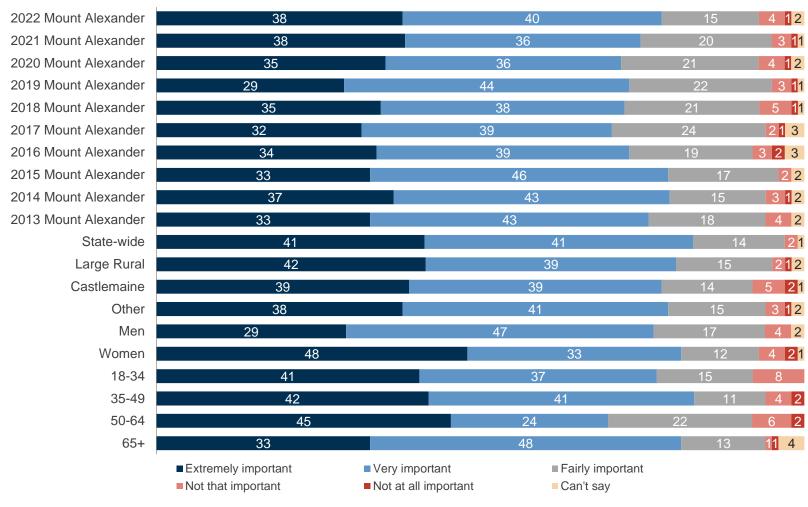


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2022 streets and footpaths importance (%)



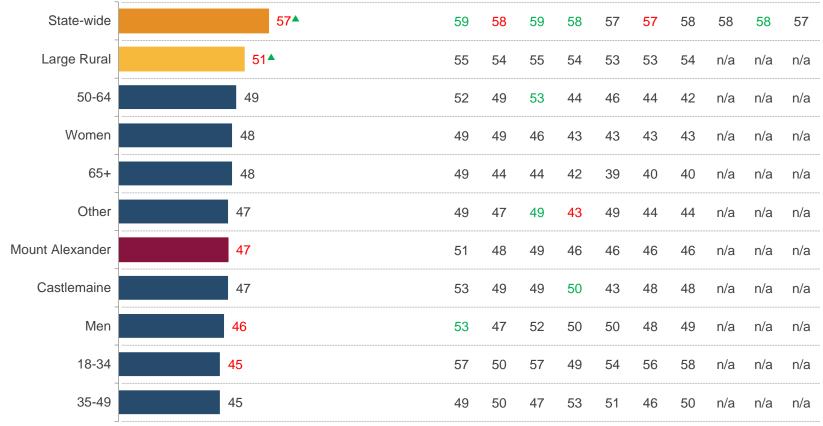
The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2022 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

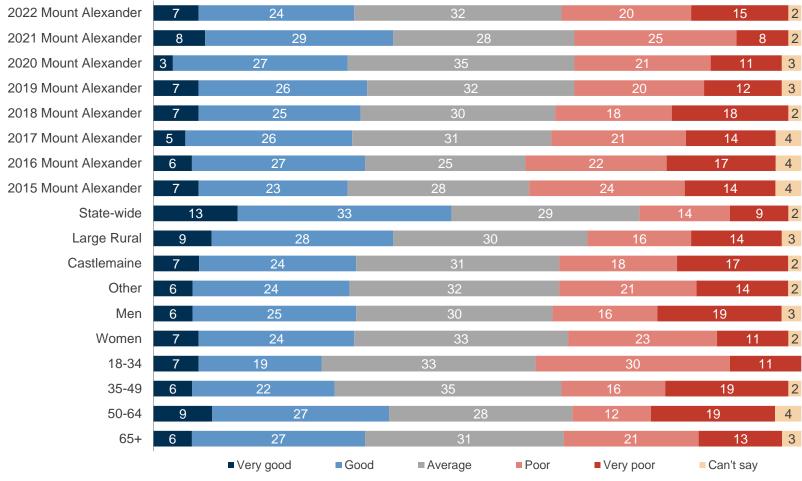


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2022 streets and footpaths performance (%)

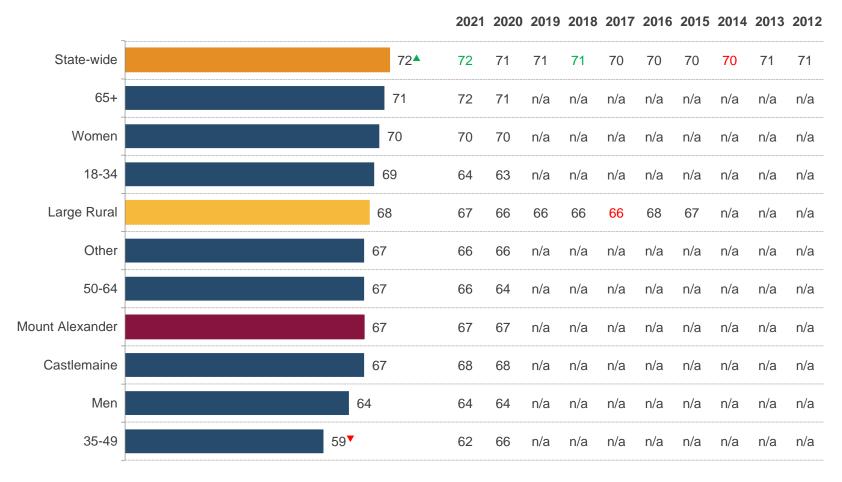


Parking facilities importance





2022 parking importance (index scores)

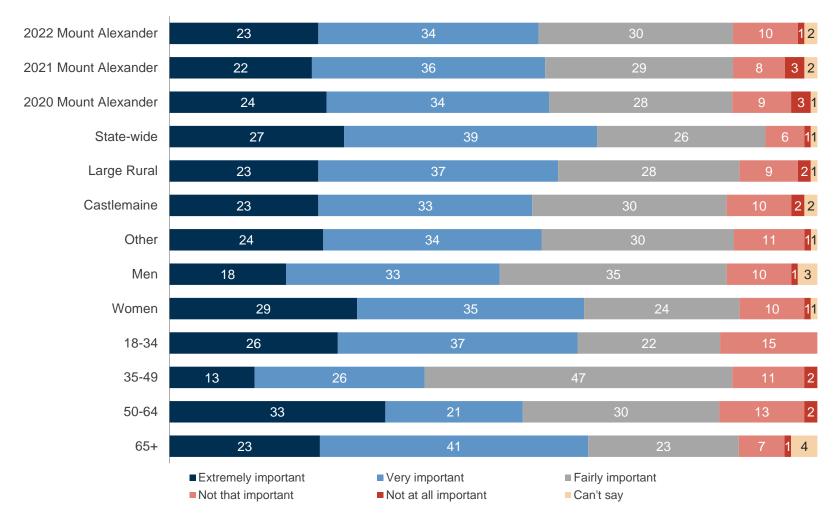


Parking facilities importance





2022 parking importance (%)



Parking facilities performance





2022 parking performance (index scores)

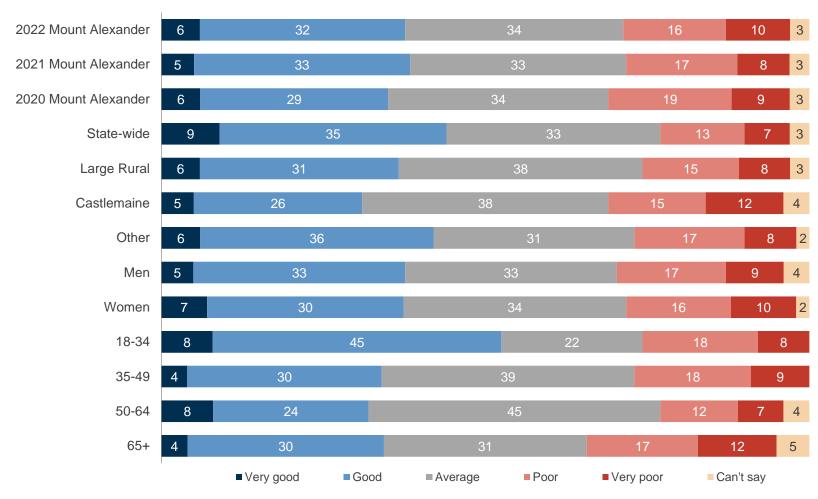


Parking facilities performance





2022 parking performance (%)



Enforcement of local laws importance





2022 law enforcement importance (index scores)

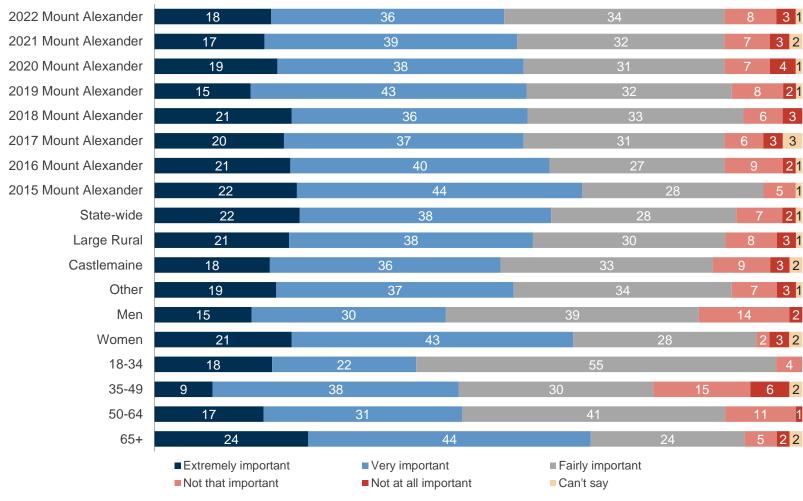


Enforcement of local laws importance





2022 law enforcement importance (%)



Enforcement of local laws performance





2022 law enforcement performance (index scores)

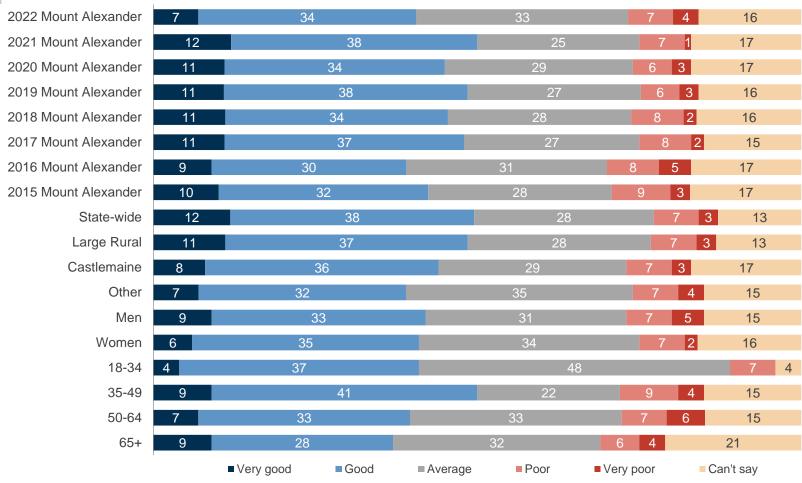


Enforcement of local laws performance





2022 law enforcement performance (%)

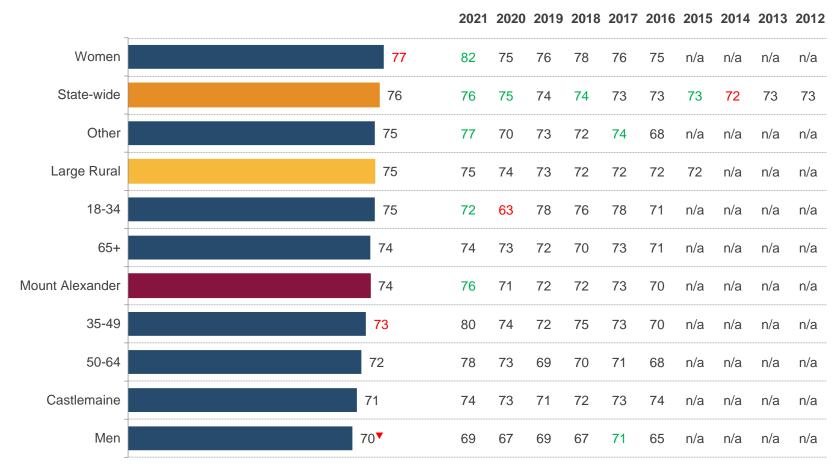


Family support services importance





2022 family support importance (index scores)

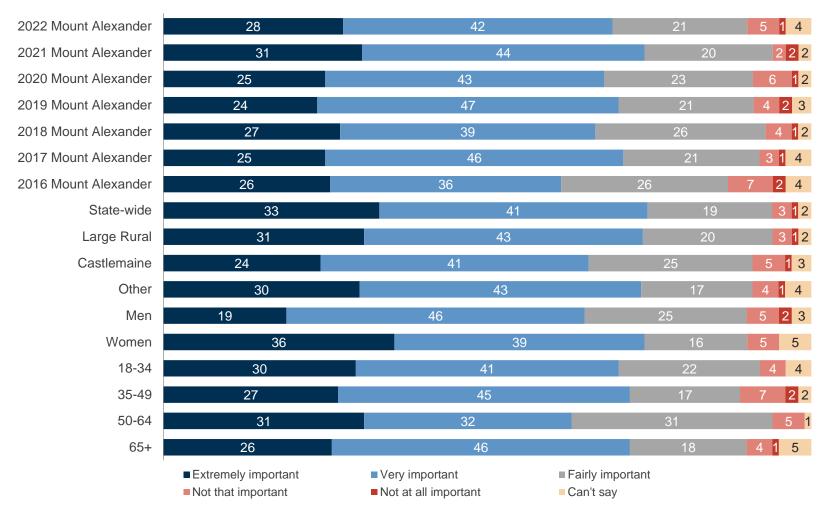


Family support services importance





2022 family support importance (%)



Family support services performance





2022 family support performance (index scores)

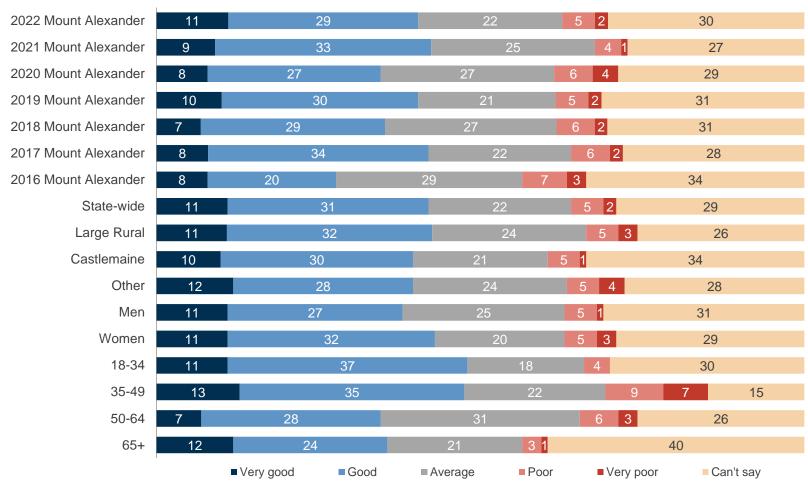


Family support services performance





2022 family support performance (%)



Elderly support services importance





2022 elderly support importance (index scores)

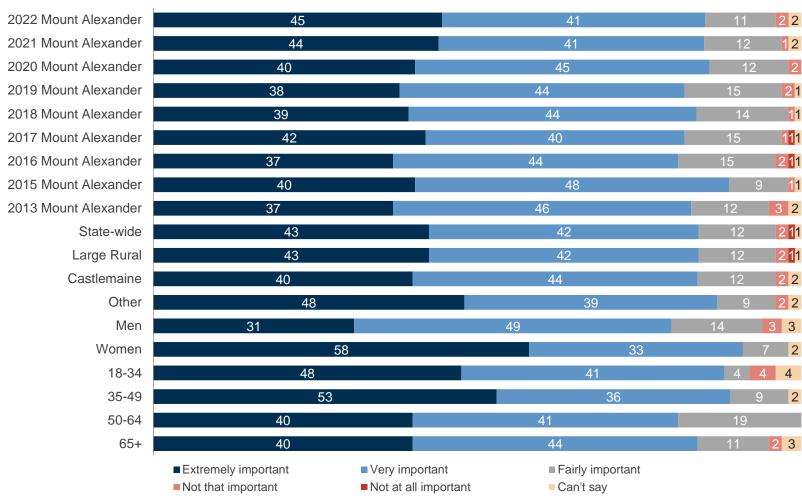


Elderly support services importance





2022 elderly support importance (%)



Elderly support services performance





2022 elderly support performance (index scores)

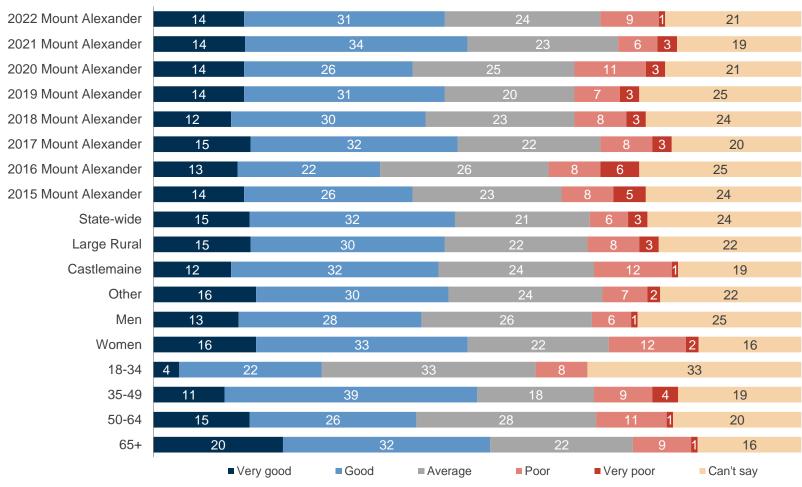


Elderly support services performance





2022 elderly support performance (%)



Recreational facilities importance





2022 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

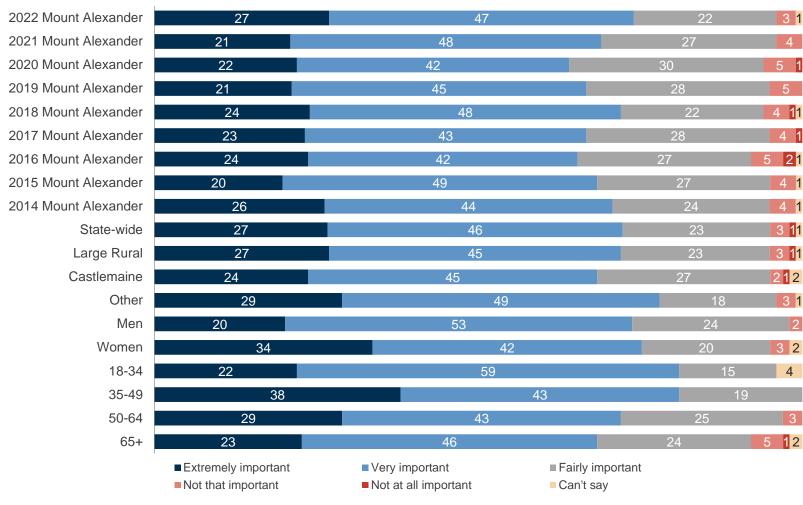


Recreational facilities importance





2022 recreational facilities importance (%)



Recreational facilities performance





2022 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

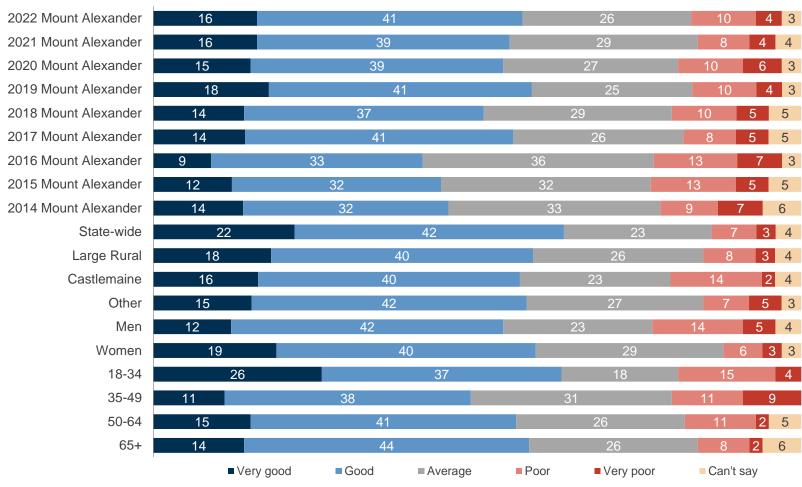


Recreational facilities performance





2022 recreational facilities performance (%)



The appearance of public areas importance





2022 public areas importance (index scores)

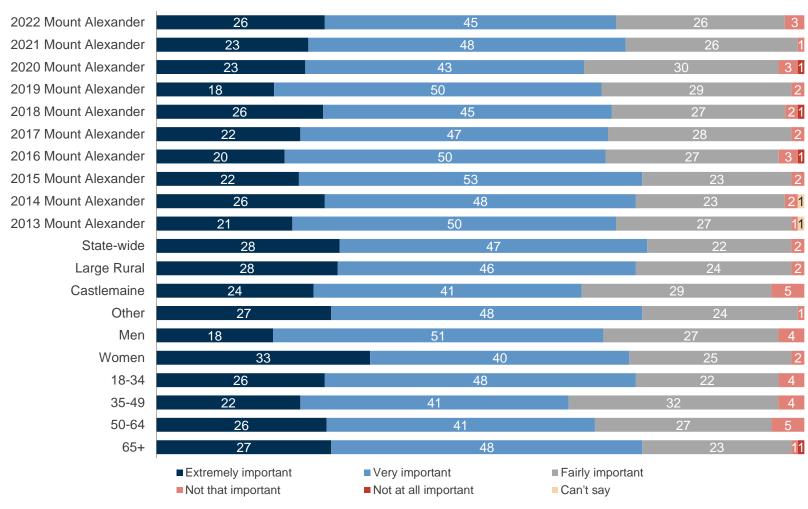


The appearance of public areas importance





2022 public areas importance (%)



The appearance of public areas performance





2022 public areas performance (index scores)

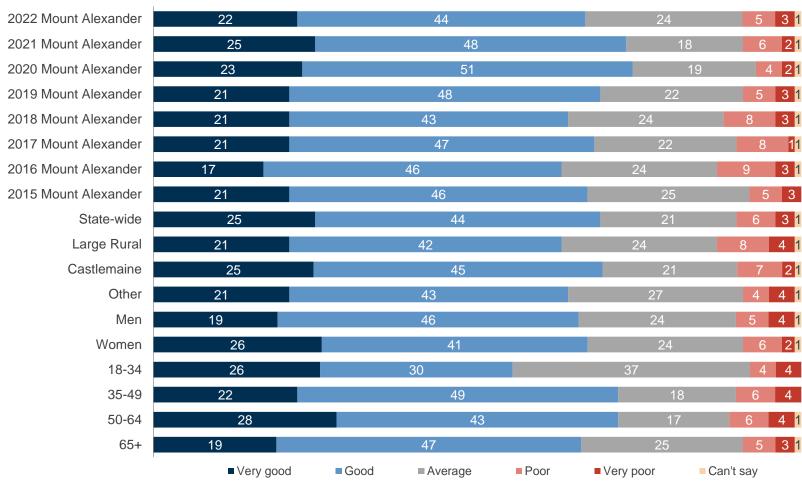


The appearance of public areas performance





2022 public areas performance (%)



Community and cultural activities importance





2022 community and cultural activities importance (index scores)

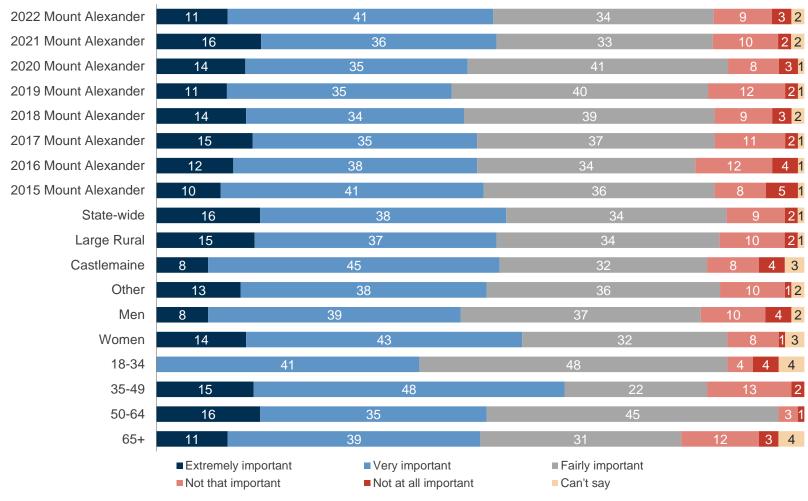


Community and cultural activities importance





2022 community and cultural activities importance (%)



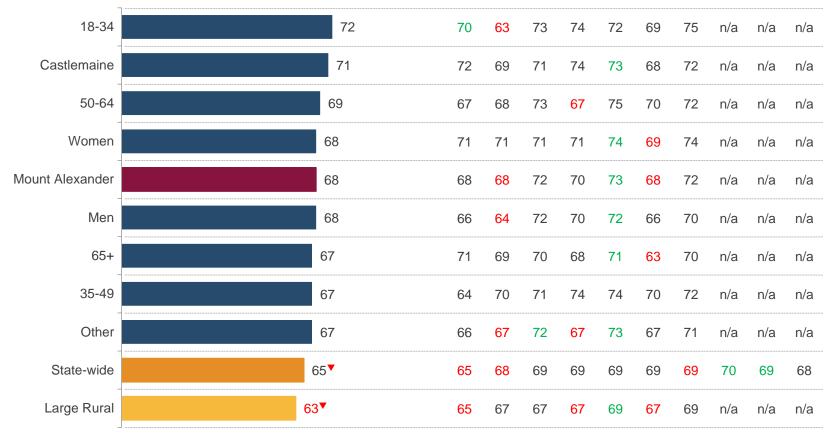
Community and cultural activities performance





2022 community and cultural activities performance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

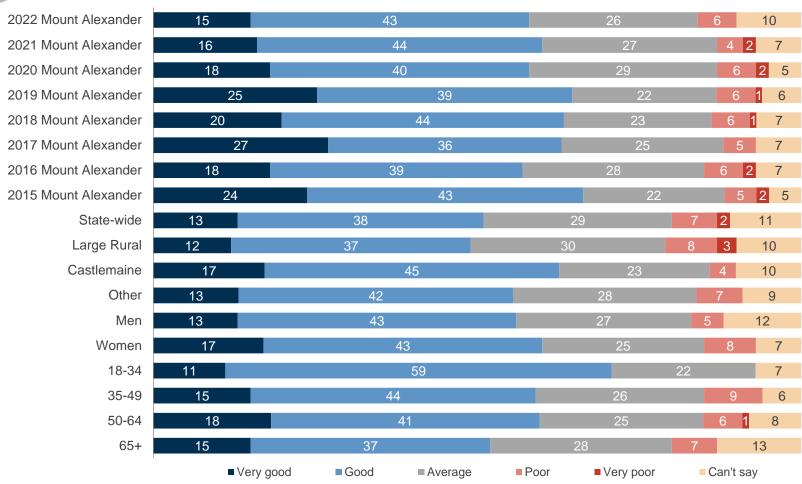


Community and cultural activities performance





2022 community and cultural activities performance (%)



Waste management importance





2022 waste management importance (index scores)

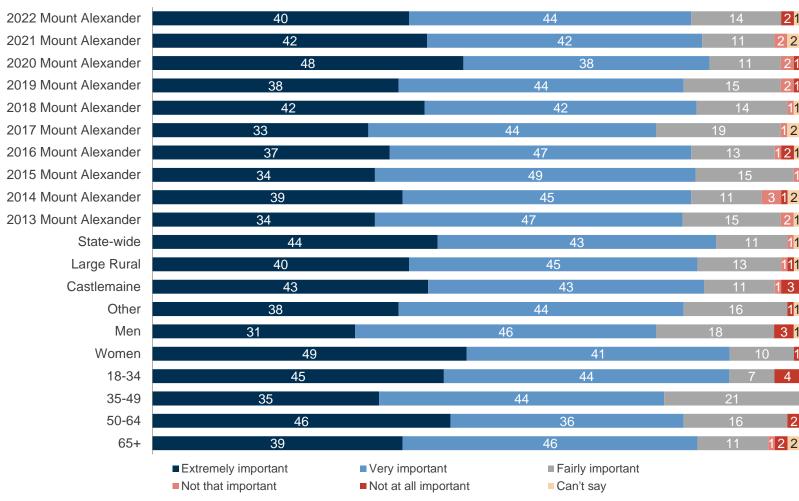


Waste management importance





2022 waste management importance (%)



2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

Waste management performance





2022 waste management performance (index scores)

State-wide 65^ Large Rural n/a n/a n/a 65+ n/a n/a n/a Castlemaine n/a n/a n/a Men n/a n/a n/a



18-34

Other

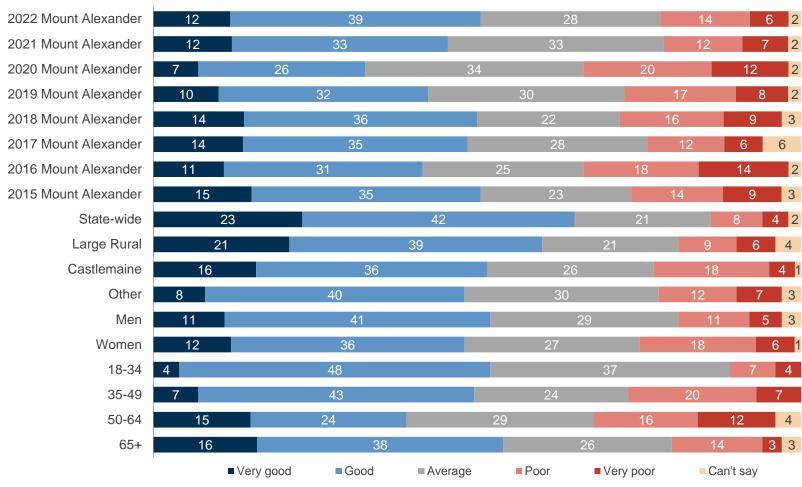
Mount Alexander

Waste management performance





2022 waste management performance (%)



Council's general town planning policy importance





2022 town planning importance (index scores)

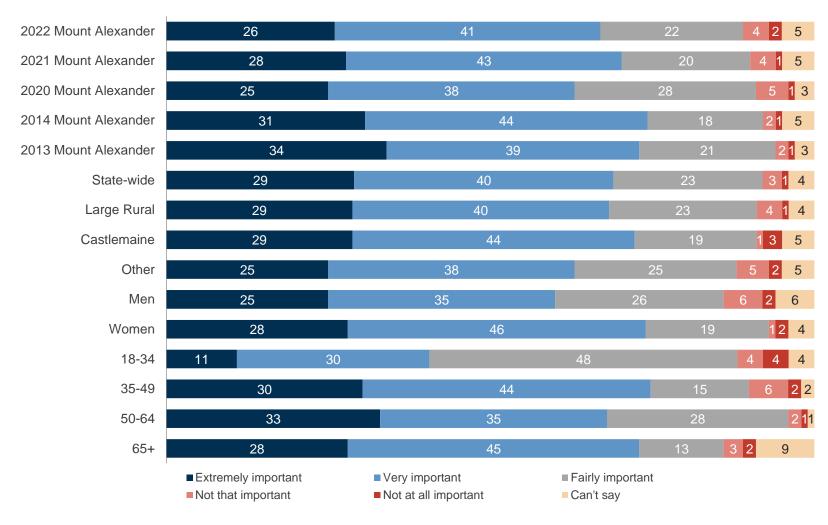


Council's general town planning policy importance





2022 town planning importance (%)

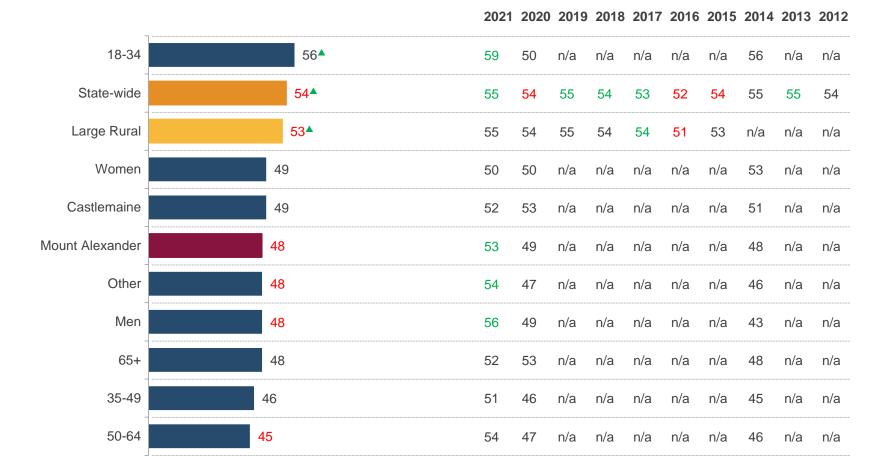


Council's general town planning policy performance





2022 town planning performance (index scores)

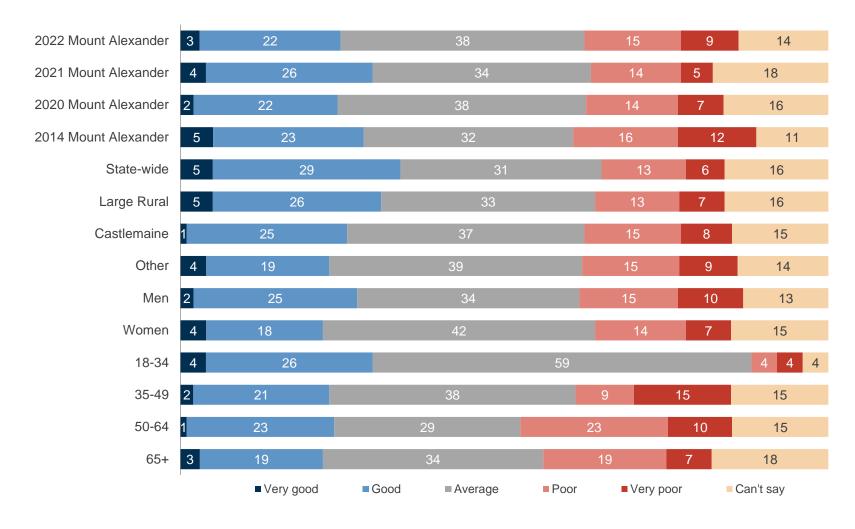


Council's general town planning policy performance





2022 town planning performance (%)



Planning and building permits importance





2022 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

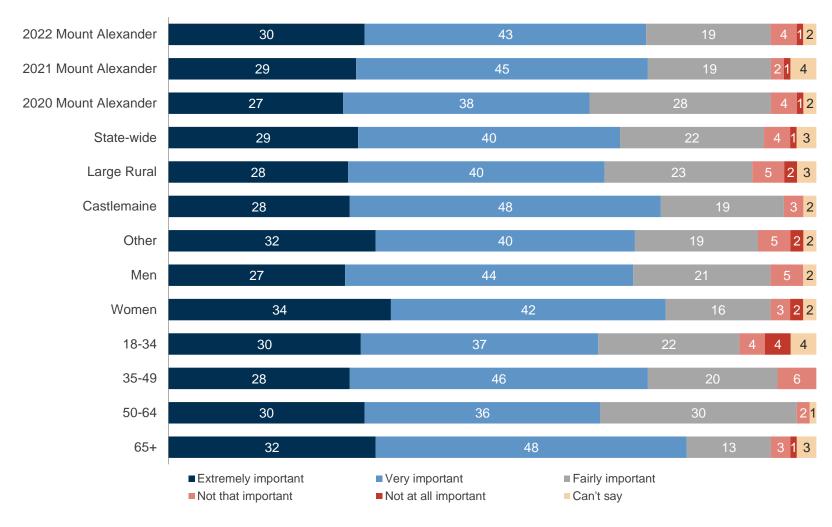


Planning and building permits importance





2022 planning and building permits importance (%)



Planning and building permits performance





2022 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

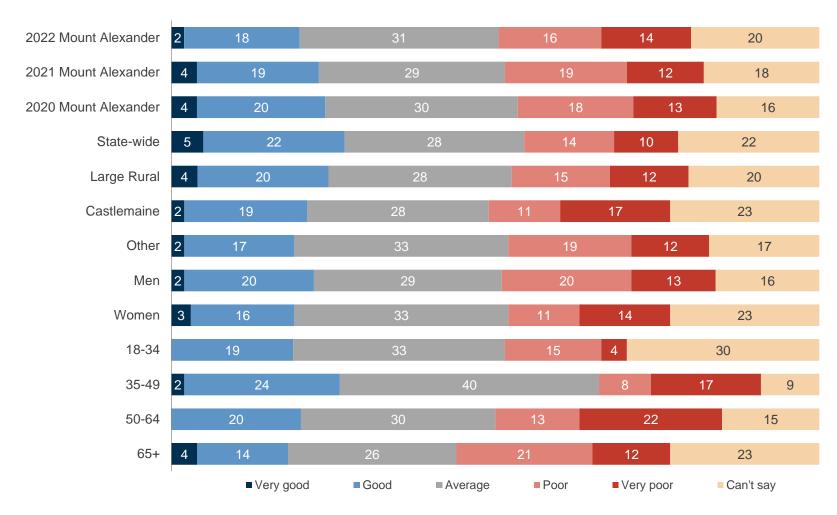


Planning and building permits performance





2022 planning and building permits performance (%)



Environmental sustainability importance





2022 environmental sustainability importance (index scores)

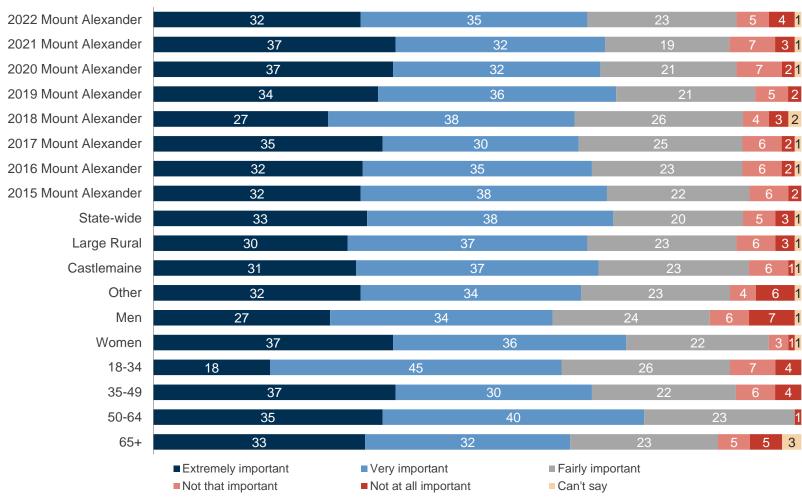


Environmental sustainability importance





2022 environmental sustainability importance (%)



Environmental sustainability performance





2022 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

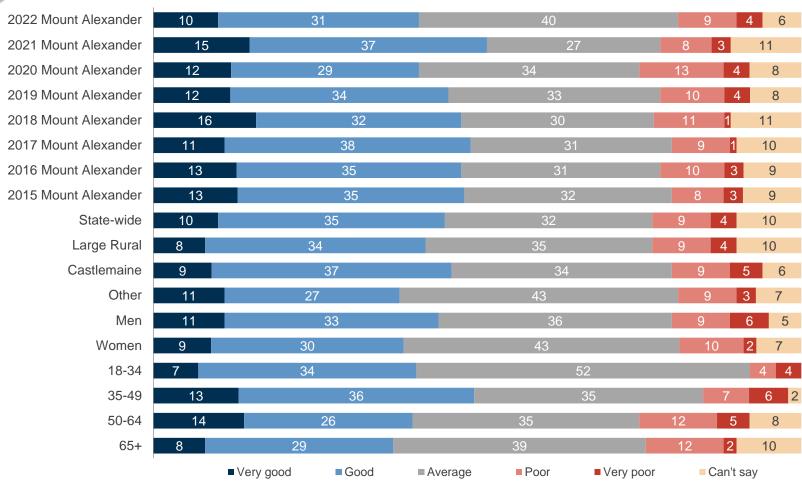


Environmental sustainability performance





2022 environmental sustainability performance (%)

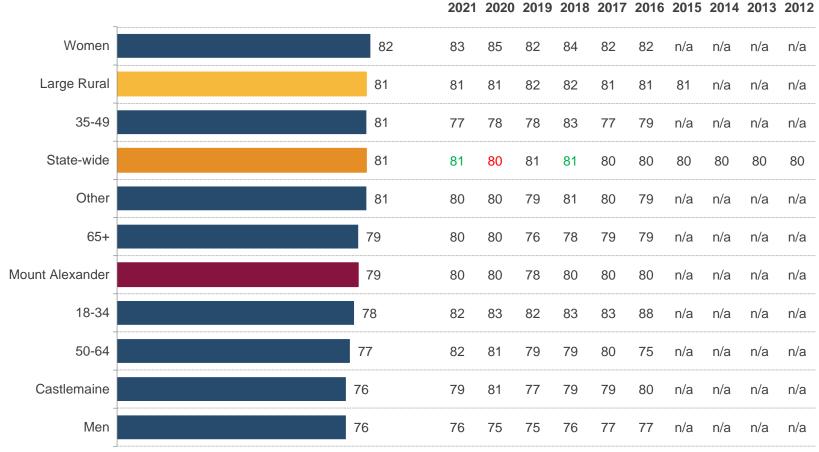


Emergency and disaster management importance





2022 emergency and disaster management importance (index scores)

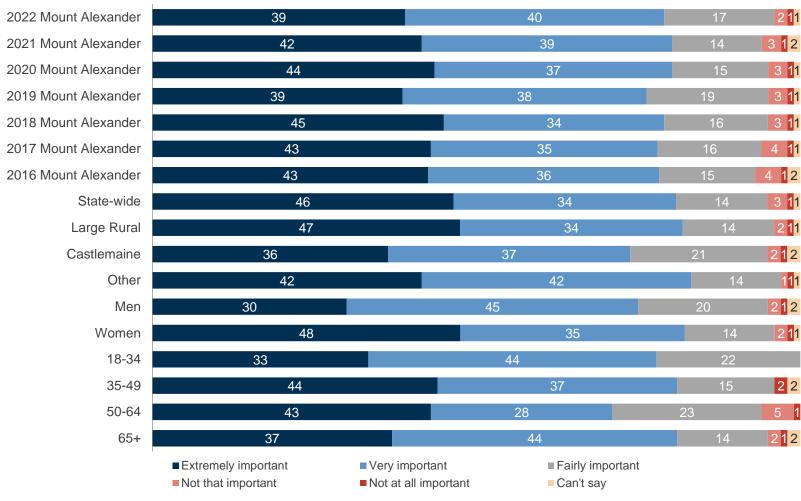


Emergency and disaster management importance





2022 emergency and disaster management importance (%)



Emergency and disaster management performance





2022 emergency and disaster management performance (index scores)

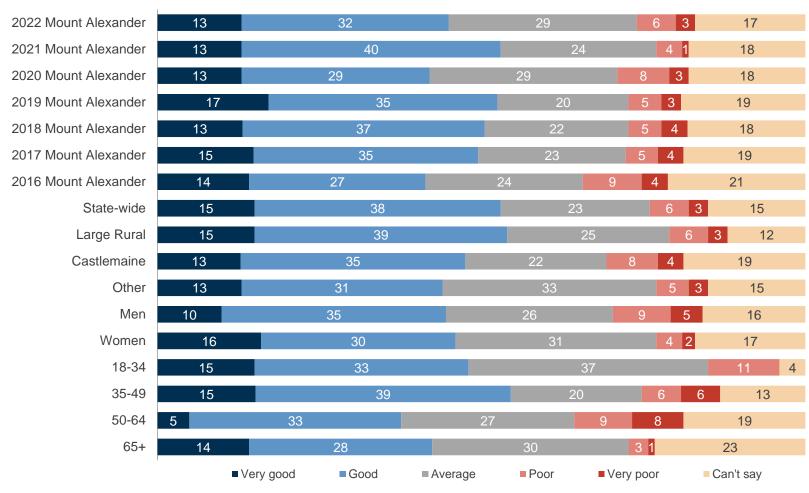
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Women 67 68 63 69 65 64 60 n/a n/a n/a n/a 65+ 67 68 69 63 64 66 68 n/a n/a n/a n/a State-wide 70 66 71 68 72 71 69 70 71 70 70 Large Rural 66 71 69 72 71 70 70 71 n/a n/a n/a 35-49 65 69 67 60 n/a n/a n/a 64 64 71 n/a Castlemaine 64 69 66 64 62 66 66 n/a n/a n/a n/a Mount Alexander 64 62 62 n/a n/a n/a 68 68 65 66 n/a 18-34 n/a n/a 63 73 60 77 61 65 70 n/a n/a Other 63 68 60 70 65 68 63 n/a n/a n/a n/a Men 61 62 66 68 64 69 67 n/a n/a n/a n/a 50-64 56▼ 61 64 58 65 60 67 n/a n/a n/a n/a

Emergency and disaster management performance





2022 emergency and disaster management performance (%)



Planning for population growth in the area importance





2022 population growth importance (index scores)

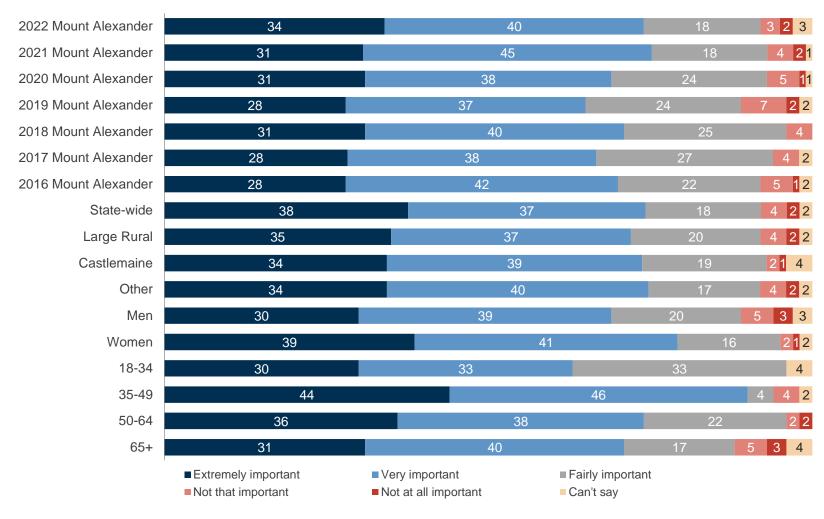


Planning for population growth in the area importance





2022 population growth importance (%)



Planning for population growth in the area performance





2022 population growth performance (index scores)

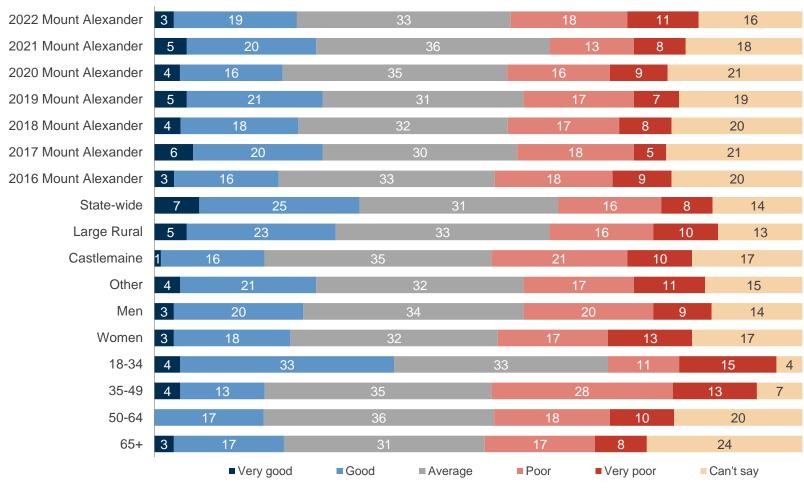
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 52 State-wide 53 51 52 52 52 51 54 54 54 52 18-34 50 54 52 46 61 46 58 n/a n/a n/a n/a Large Rural 49 51 47 49 48 48 47 50 n/a n/a n/a Other 47 51 44 49 46 51 46 n/a n/a n/a n/a 65+ 46 52 50 48 53 42 n/a 47 n/a n/a n/a Men 46 52 49 46 52 50 47 n/a n/a n/a n/a Mount Alexander 45 n/a 51 47 50 47 52 46 n/a n/a n/a Women 42 44 49 48 50 48 51 n/a n/a n/a n/a 50-64 43 49 47 50 46 52 45 n/a n/a n/a n/a Castlemaine 43 50 51 51 50 52 46 n/a n/a n/a n/a 35-49 41 42 43 45 52 47 47 n/a n/a n/a n/a

Planning for population growth in the area performance





2022 population growth performance (%)

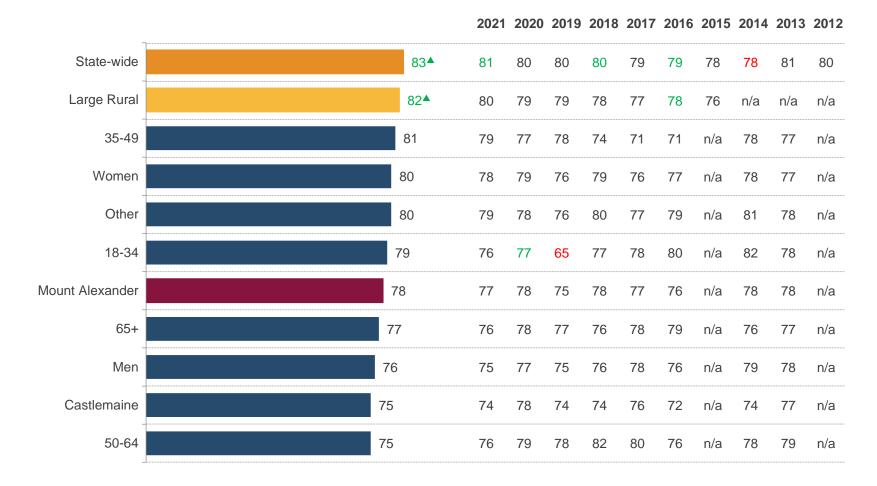


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2022 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

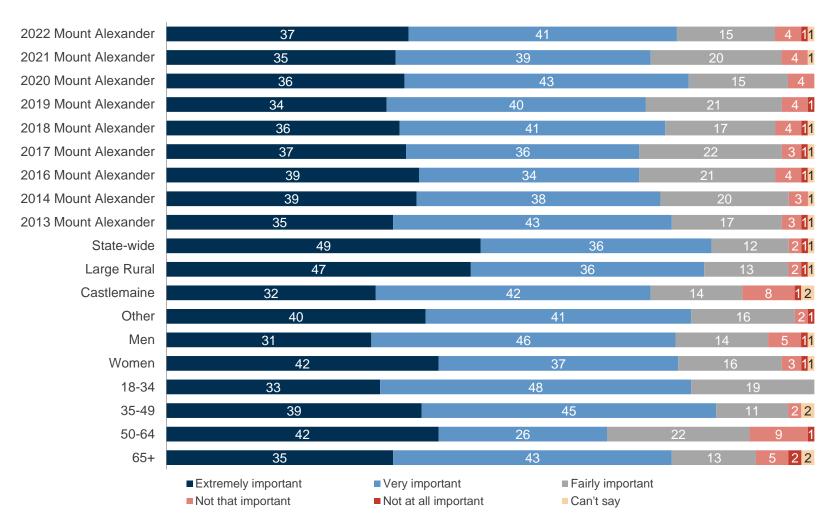


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2022 unsealed roads importance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2022 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

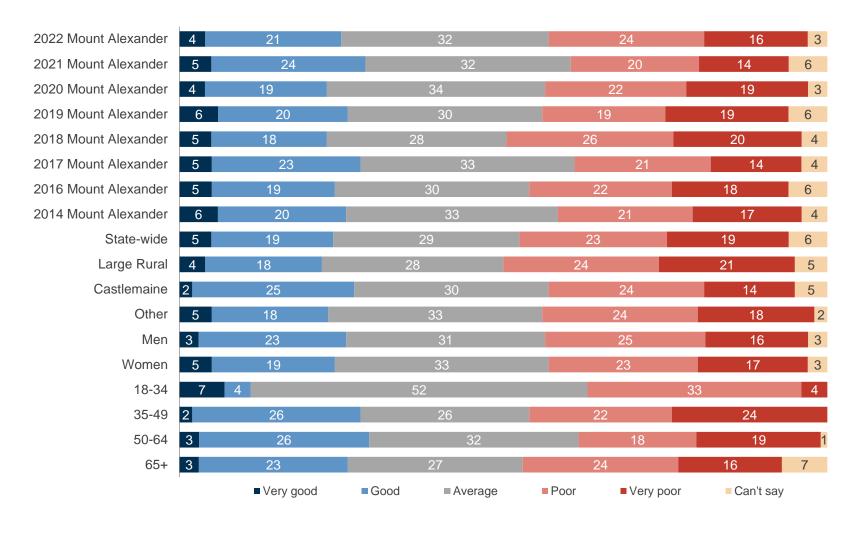


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2022 unsealed roads performance (%)

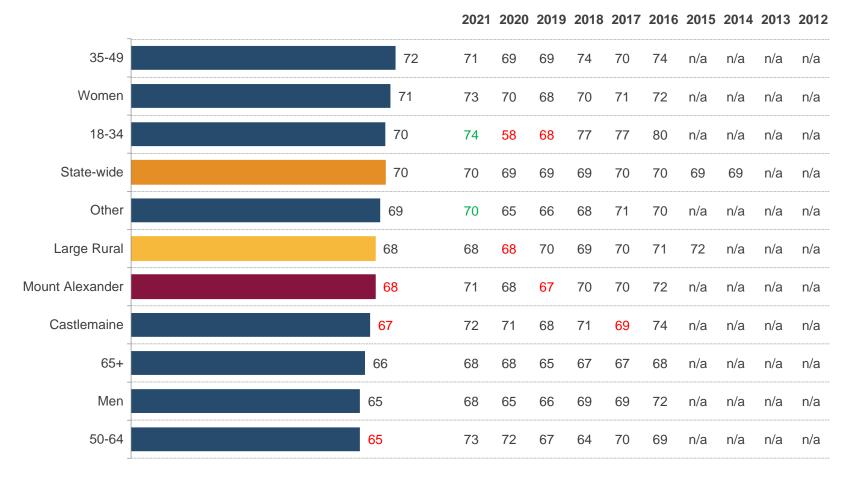


Business and community development importance





2022 business/community development importance (index scores)

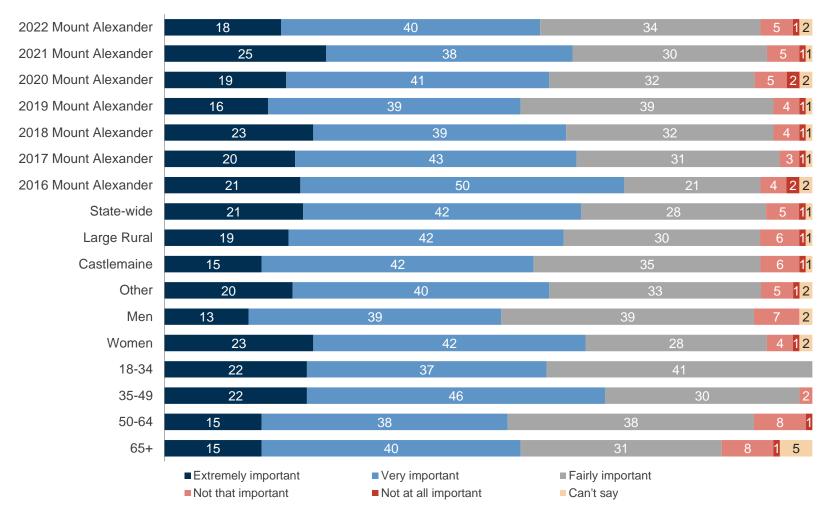


Business and community development importance





2022 business/community development importance (%)



Business and community development performance





2022 business/community development performance (index scores)

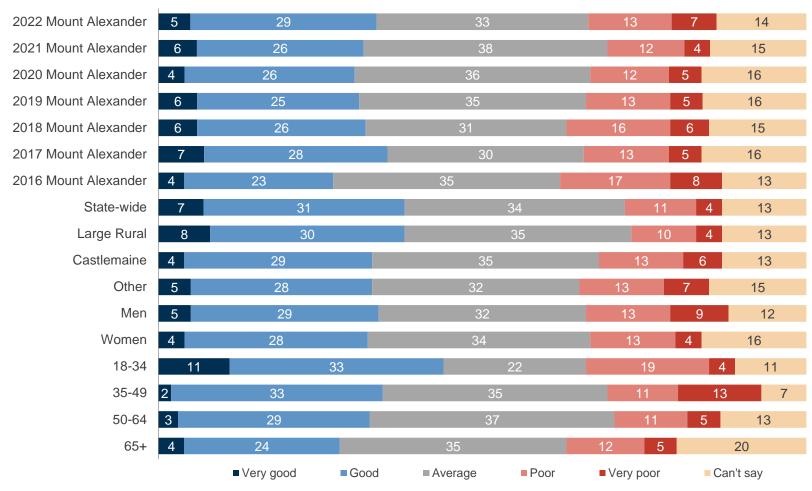


Business and community development performance





2022 business/community development performance (%)



Tourism development importance





2022 tourism development importance (index scores)

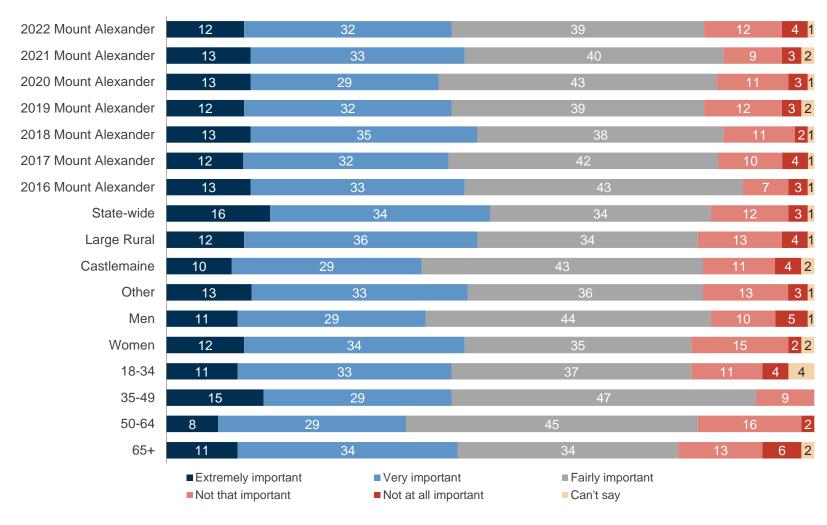


Tourism development importance





2022 tourism development importance (%)



Tourism development performance





2022 tourism development performance (index scores)

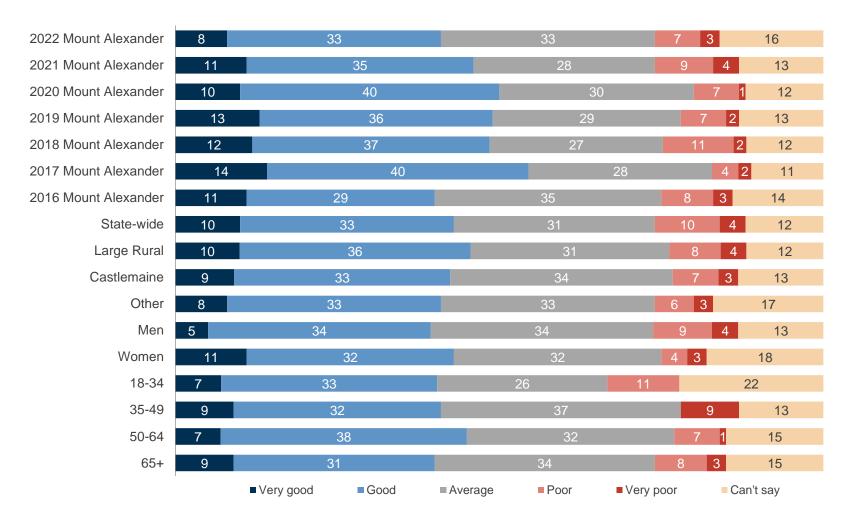


Tourism development performance





2022 tourism development performance (%)



COVID-19 response importance





2022 COVID-19 response importance (index scores)

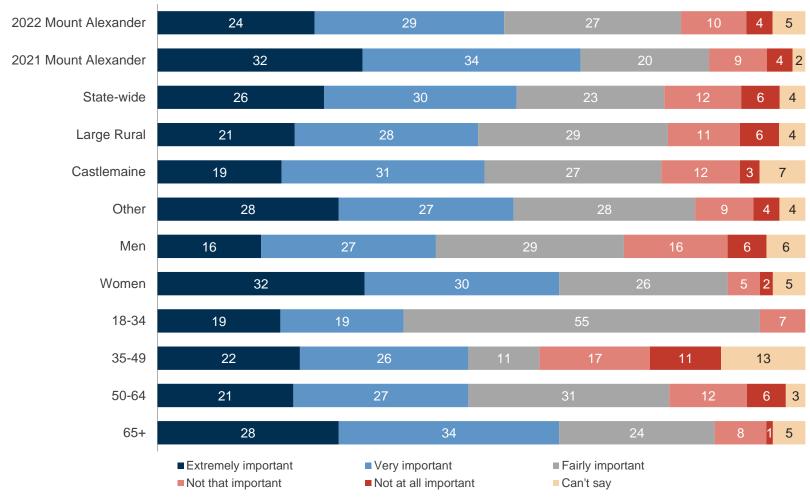


COVID-19 response importance





2022 COVID-19 response importance (%)



COVID-19 response performance





2022 COVID-19 response performance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

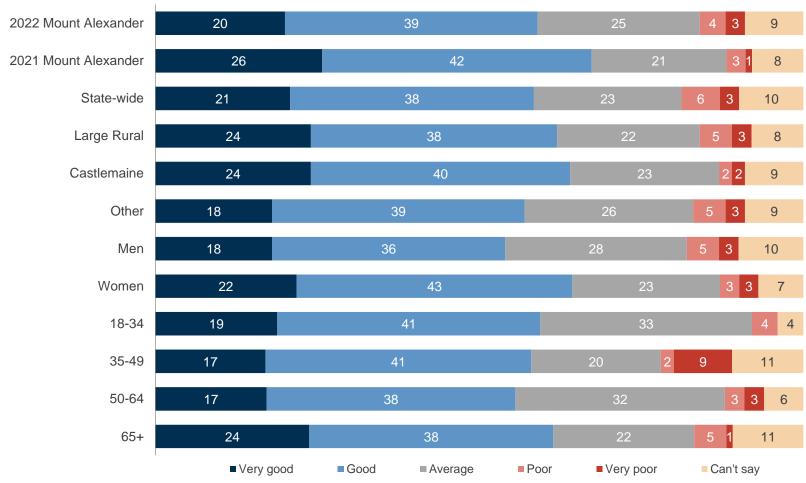


COVID-19 response performance





2022 COVID-19 response performance (%)

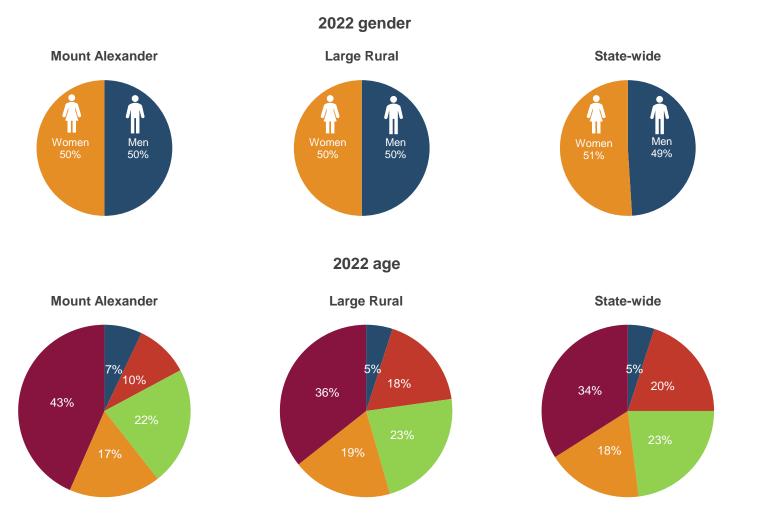




Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile





■18-24 **■**25-34 **■**35-49 **■**50-64 **■**65+

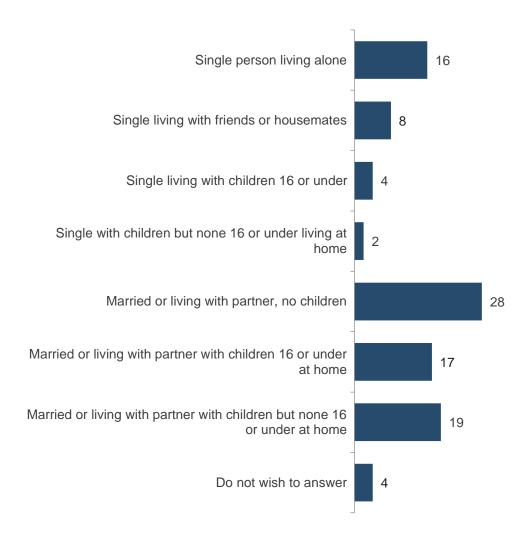
■18-24 **■**25-34 **■**35-49 **■**50-64 **■**65+

■18-24 **■**25-34 **■**35-49 **■**50-64 **■**65+

Household structure



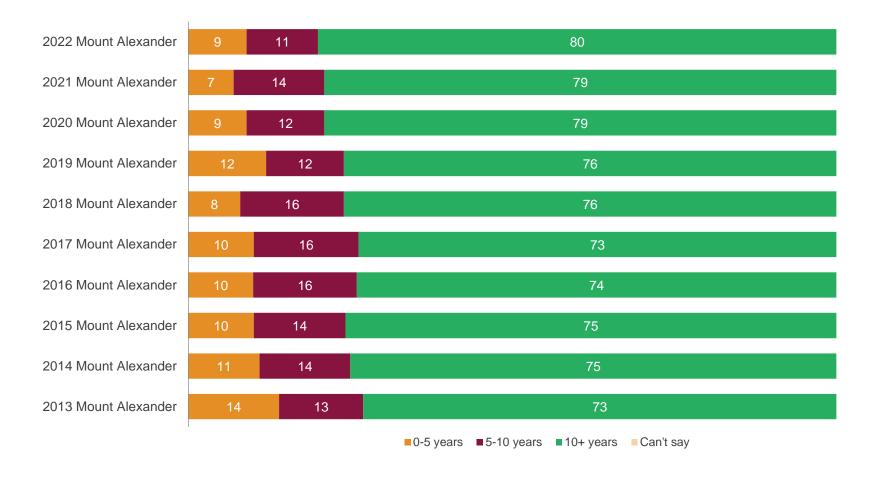
2022 household structure (%)



Years lived in area



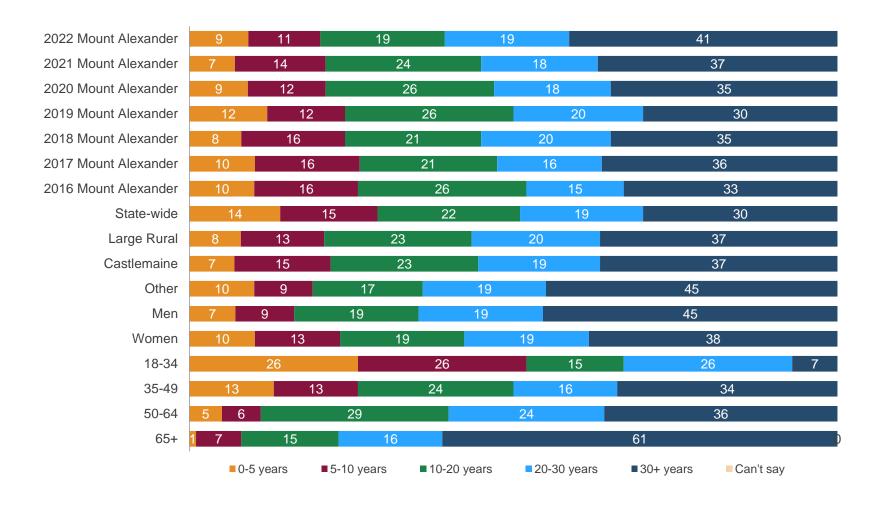
2022 years lived in area (%)



Years lived in area



2022 years lived in area (%)





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 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Mount Alexander 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 16,300 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	169	199	+/-7.5
Women	231	201	+/-6.4
Castlemaine	165	163	+/-7.6
Other	235	237	+/-6.4
18-34 years	27	69	+/-19.2
35-49 years	46	89	+/-14.6
50-64 years	94	69	+/-10.1
65+ years	233	172	+/-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 ().

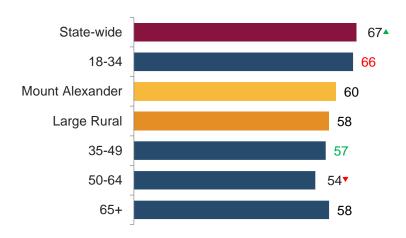
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

- 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 2021. 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 2021.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2021.

2022 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 2022 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 2022 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 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=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January – 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18th May – 30th June.

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

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 60% 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 27th January – 24th March, 2022.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2022, 67 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 2012-2022 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, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Moira, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Moyne, South Gippsland, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Swan Hill and Wellington. Wherever appropriate, results for Mount Alexander Shire Council for this 2022 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.

Appendix B: 2012 survey revision

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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 2012-2022 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 2022 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 2022 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

Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2022 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

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

CSS: 2022 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Council group: One of five classified groups, comprising: metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural.

Council group average: The average result for all participating councils in the council group.

Highest / lowest: The result described is the highest or lowest result across a particular demographic subgroup e.g. men, for the specific question being reported. Reference to the result for a demographic sub-group being the highest or lowest does not imply that it is significantly higher or lower, unless this is specifically mentioned.

Index score: A score calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale). This score is sometimes reported as a figure in brackets next to the category being described, e.g. men 50+ (60).

Optional questions: Questions which councils had an option to include or not.

Percentages: Also referred to as 'detailed results', meaning the proportion of responses, expressed as a percentage.

Sample: The number of completed interviews, e.g. for a council or within a demographic sub-group.

Significantly higher / lower: The result described is significantly higher or lower than the comparison result based on a statistical significance test at the 95% confidence limit. If the result referenced is statistically higher or lower then this will be specifically mentioned, however not all significantly higher or lower results are referenced in summary reporting.

State-wide average: The average result for all participating councils in the State.

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

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

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Founder jscales@jwsresearch.com

Katrina Cox

Director of Client Services kcox@jwsresearch.com

Mark Zuker

Managing Director mzuker@jwsresearch.com

