# Aha! Consulting

### When will you have your next Aha! moment?

**REPORT**

| | |
|---|---|
| PROJECT | STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW 2021 |
| CLIENT | SHIRE OF WONGAN-BALLIDU |
| DATE | 11/03/2021 |
| VERSION | DRAFT ONLY V2 |

# Contents

# Executive Summary

The Shire of Wongan-Balidu is undertaking a major review of its Strategic Community Plan (SCP). The engagement process 'Pathways 2031' was developed to provide the community with a diverse range of engagement options. This report represents the midpoint of this process and the transition from broad to more detailed engagement to support the Shire to refine their understanding of community aspirations and priorities and to build a Strategic Community Plan that delivers an alignment between these aspirations and the Shire's capacity.

This report is the synthesis of 61 survey responses (online/print), one community workshop in Wongan Hills with 38 people, one community workshop in Balidu with nine people, a workshop for elected members and a workshop for 24 shire staff. In addition to these engagement opportunities a conversation cafe kit was provided to elected members and staff who were then encouraged to connect with a few people they knew well and have a meaningful conversation. The kit was provided and a short training meeting with three key staff was provided to support them to lead others to participate. Two formal responses from this process have also been included in this report.

## Key Themes

The Shire of Wongan-Balidu is a connected community with a strong sense of pride for the strengths of their Town. The most common themes emerging from the data collected was that the Town has a strong sense of a small community, people enjoy the relaxed rural and peaceful lifestyle, the low cost of living and a high level of safety.

There was a greater proportion of female survey participants with 37 to only 14 surveys from males with ten who did not provide a gender identification. The majority of respondents were between 44 and 60 years of age. The community workshops however had a greater age range of participants with two young people accompanying parents, some in their early 20s and a range of people between 30 and 70 years.

The survey showed 62% support for the current vision being "A caring and supportive community driving sustainability of agriculture, services and the environment". The survey identified some minor changes to include some key words such as 'vibrant, thriving and progressive'. The workshop vision feedback followed a similar trend, again supporting the same words, 'vibrant, thriving and progressive'.

What follows is a summary of the key themes that emerged from the feedback forms across stakeholder perspectives:

## Community

Overall, the community agreed that the Shire is a healthy, supportive and safe community with most themes reporting over 60-70% satisfaction rate. There was a high level of agreement for most the Shire's community objectives; however, there were mixed opinions on whether providing aged care and disability services contributed to a sense of community.

Interestingly, the community reported a desire for more social recreation; however, this was rated low with only 30% agreeing that it contributed to a sense of community. This could be explored further in the Summit to understand why in particular and where effort from the Shire could be directed.

## Environment

Overall, the community agreed that the Shire's natural assets are enhanced and protected, and that the Shire's objectives surrounding the environment are relevant to conservation with 70% of survey participants agreeing with most questions.

## Economy

Overall, the community had mixed views about whether the Shire has a strong and sustainable local economy; this supports a need to explore the economy in greater detail with the community. There was a strong general consensus that the Shire's economic objectives are important and it is evident this is a focus for the future.

The majority of respondents (74%) agreed to some extent that a major agricultural hub is important for the Shire's economy; this supports the current vision statement. There was a clear consensus that focussing, encouraging and creating opportunities to create local business or supporting existing business to offer competitive services/prices and opportunities that give locals greater employment opportunities needs to be a key strategic focus for the future.

## Infrastructure

There was a consensus that the Shire's infrastructure objectives are important, though there was some disagreement surrounding the objective of whether current assets and infrastructure are meeting current and future needs.

When asked whether the Shire infrastructure and built environment supported the growth of the community and economy only 52% of people agreed to some extent with the statement, an area for exploration in further detail.

### Advocacy and leadership

Overall, there was a general consensus for the three objectives surrounding Governance in the Shire. However, there were mixed opinions about whether the Shire exemplifies good governance, leadership and advocacy with only 47% of the community in agreeance.

Common areas for improvement from participants were communication from the Shire council (i.e., updating website information, transparency about current issues, responding to emails/calls from community members), representation (local council members and the friendliness of council staff and wages that reflected the salary of council staff.

The survey results overall support a new Strategic Community Plan that continues to focus on the current key themes with work to achieve in the deliverables under the objectives.

# Methodology

The 'Pathways 2031' engagement process for the Shire of Wongan-Balidu encompassed a range of different methods to consult and involve the community. These included:

A detailed survey

- Online/print survey – 61 responses
- Community workshop (Wongan Hills 10th February) – 38 participants
- Community workshop (Balidu 11th February) – 9 participants
- Elected members workshop (7th February) – 6 participants
- Staff workshop (24th February) – 24 participants
- Conversation cafe kits – 2 responses

The community workshops were promoted from the 1st to the 10th of February through the following channels:

- Shire Facebook page
- Shire website
- Balidu community Facebook page
- Wongan community Facebook page
- Emailed to community group networks
- Featured in one additions of the 'Boomer' local newsletter

The online survey was promoted from the 1st to the 28th of February through the following channels:
- Shire Facebook page
- Shire website
- Balidu community Facebook page
- Wongan community Facebook page
- Emailed to community group networks
- Featured in two additions of the 'Boomer' local newsletter

Hard copies were also disseminated to the schools and local businesses with Shire staff entering online.

The online and hard copy surveys were promoted at both community workshops and Shire staff were also encouraged to complete the survey as fellow members of the community.

# Survey Results

## Demographics

Overall, 61 people completed the survey which included 37 females, 14 males, and ten who did not provide a gender identification. The age distribution is shown below and reveals that the majority of respondents were between 44 and 60 years of age.

**Age Distribution**
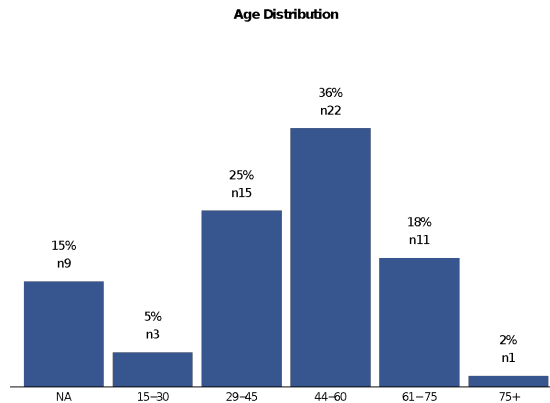


In terms of cultural diversity, the majority of respondents were born in Australia (n41, 67%), one participant identified as having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island background and 12 (20%) people did not provide a response. The remaining eight (13%) respondents were born in the UK, Ireland, New Zealand or Malta.

Note: For the following four statements, 19 participants could only select one checkbox which applied to them. This means that they were unable to apply all checkboxes that applied to them.

1. 48 people live in the Shire
2. 27 people work in the Shire
3. 12 people have children that attend school in the Shire
4. 10 people have children that do not attend school in the Shire

When asked if they were interested in participating in a community planning workshop:

- 16 (26%) said Yes
- 11 (18%) said No
- 23 (38%) said maybe
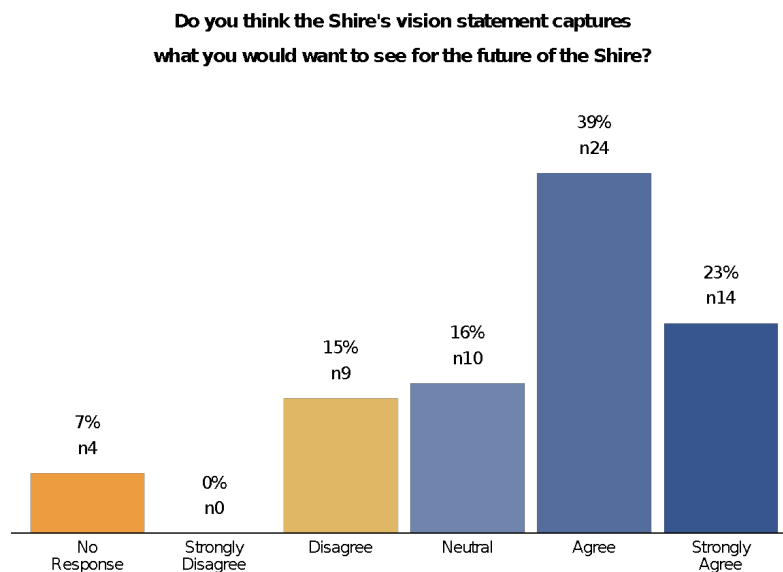- 11 (18%) did not provide a response

When asked if they would like to be kept informed about the community consultation and the updated Strategic Community Plan:

– 31 (50%) said Yes

– 18 (30%) said No

– 12 (20%) did not provide a response

## The Shire's Vision

The Shire's current vision is "A caring and supportive community driving sustainability of agriculture, services and the environment".

The community was asked to consider the Shire's current vision and whether they think that it captures what they would want to see for the future of the Shire. Most people (62%) agreed that the vision captures the future of the Sire, whereas 16% were neutral and 15% disagreed.

**Do you think the Shire's vision statement captures what you would want to see for the future of the Shire?**

| No Response | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7% n4 | 0% n0 | 15% n9 | 16% n10 | 39% n24 | 23% n14 |

People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what changes they would make to the Shire's current vision statement. Responses were tagged with key themes and could be tagged with multiple themes. The frequency of themes is shown below.

The most common theme was that no changes should be made to the vision statement.

Other common themes were emphasising the supportive nature of the Shire, the caringness of the community and its willingness for growth.

There were some themes about the general tone of the statement, i.e., ambiguous and generic.
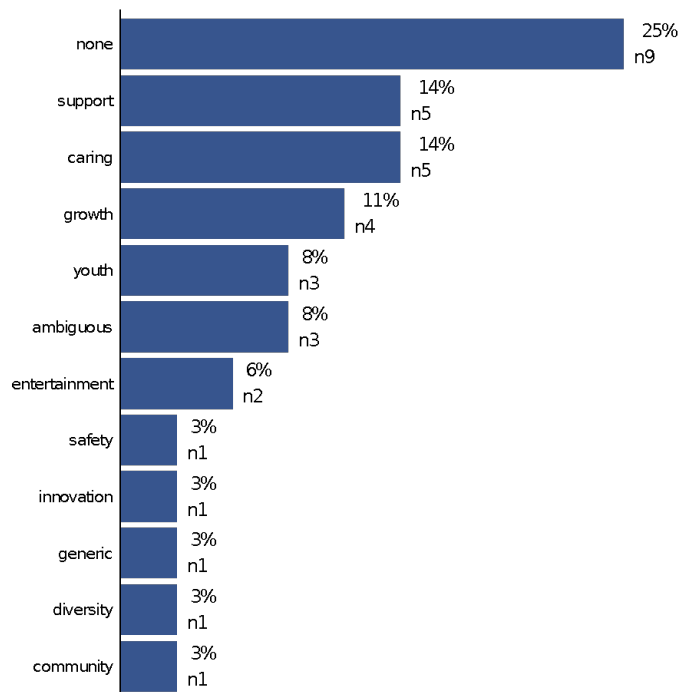
## Living and Working in the Shire

Respondents were asked to provide three words that they would *currently* use to describe living and working in the Shire. The word list was tabulated, and the words with three or more occurrences are shown in the wordcloud below. The size of text in the word cloud reflects the frequency of the words.

The most common words were community, safe, friendly and quiet. The majority of words had a positive sentiment and included topics surrounding community and lifestyle.

One negatively valenced word was 'boring', though this only appeared three times.

clean
living peaceful
working lifestyle
good safe boring
community
friendly
quiet home

Respondents were asked to provide three words that they would *like* to use to describe living and working in the Shire. The wordcloud is presented below.

The most common words were consistent with the words used to describe what it is *currently* like to live and work in the Shire. All words had a positive sentiment and included topics surrounding community and lifestyle and also extended to topics such as entertainment (fun, good, exciting).



Overall, the two wordclouds suggest that satisfaction about living and working in the Shire is high, though people would also like to see greater satisfaction around local entertainment.

People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what they most value about living or working in the Shire. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

The most common themes have a strong sense of a small community, the relaxed rural and peaceful lifestyle in the Shire as well as the high level of safety.

Other themes included the proximity to Perth, other comments (minor COVID impact and medical facilities) and the acceptable cost of living.
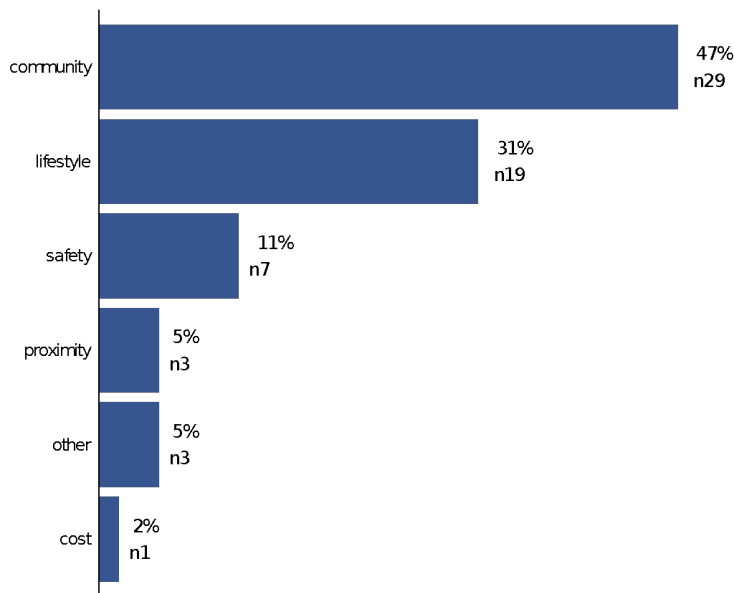
## The 'Community' Domain

People were asked several questions surrounding their sense of Community in the Shire.

When asked whether the shire is a healthy, supportive and safe community, 72% of people agreed to some extent with the statement and 13% disagreed.

**The Shire is a healthy, supportive and safe community.**
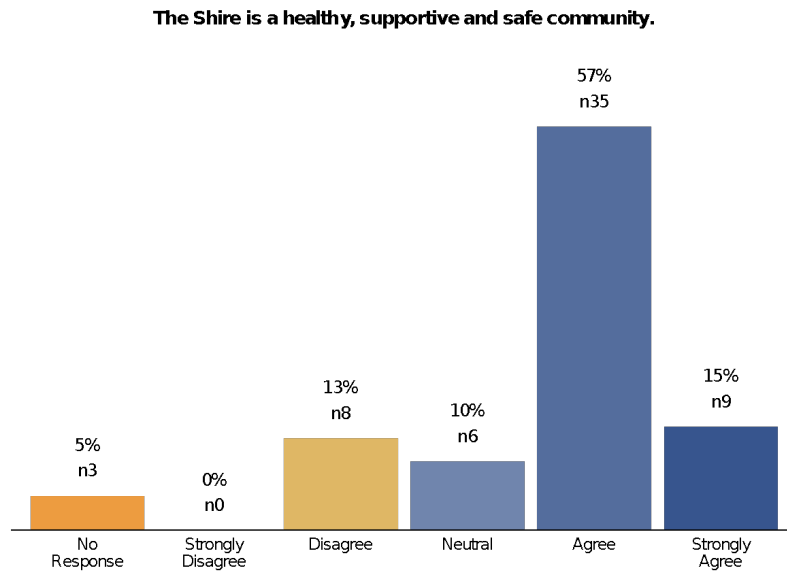


When comparing the responses by age group, there were consistent levels of agreement across ages, with the exception being the higher levels of disagreement for those aged 44 to 60.

Overall, other comparisons suggest consistent levels of agreement on opinions surrounding the Community of the Shire, with the only exception being the high levels of disagreement for those aged between 44 and 60.

People were asked whether the following community objectives are still relevant in order to create a healthy, supportive and safe community:

1. The majority of respondents (75%) agreed to some extent that sport, recreation and leisure are an important objective to satisfy a sense of community.

**Sport, recreation and leisure opportunities that encourage community participation.**
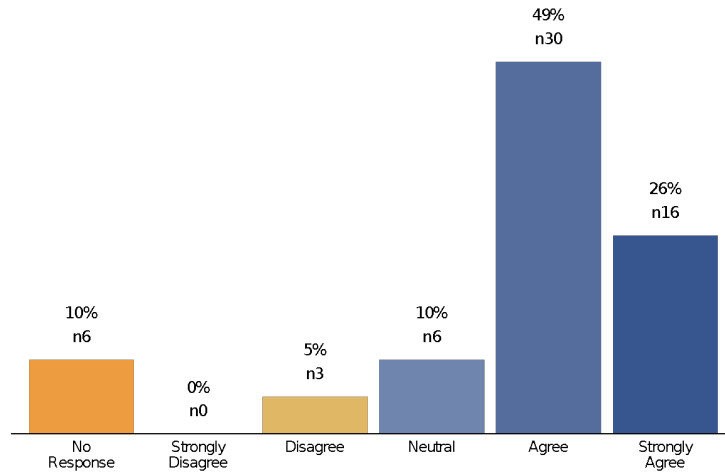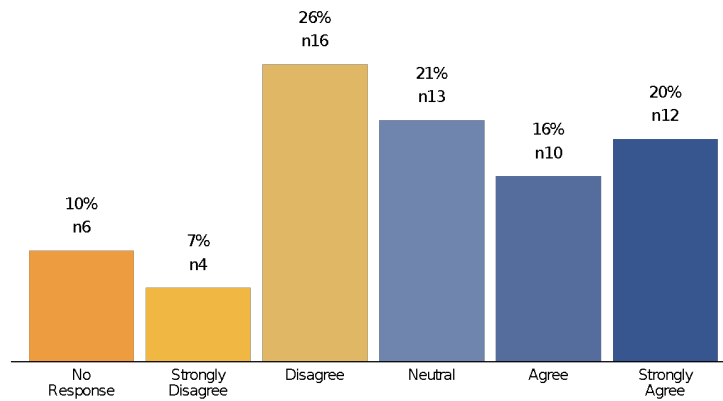


2. The majority of respondents (64%) agreed to some extent that health, education and family support services are an important objective to satisfy a sense of community.

**Health, education and family support services that sustain community well–being.**
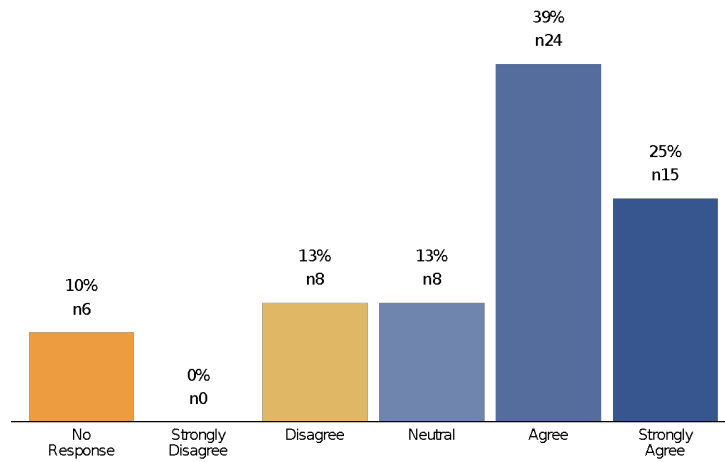
3. There were mixed opinions about whether services and facilities for the aged and people with a disability are important for a sense of community. 36% agreed to some extent and 33% disagreed to some extent.

**Access to services and facilities for the aged and people with a disability.**



4. The majority of respondents (69%) agreed to some extent that safety and emergency preparedness are important for a sense of community.

**Community safety and emergency preparedness.**
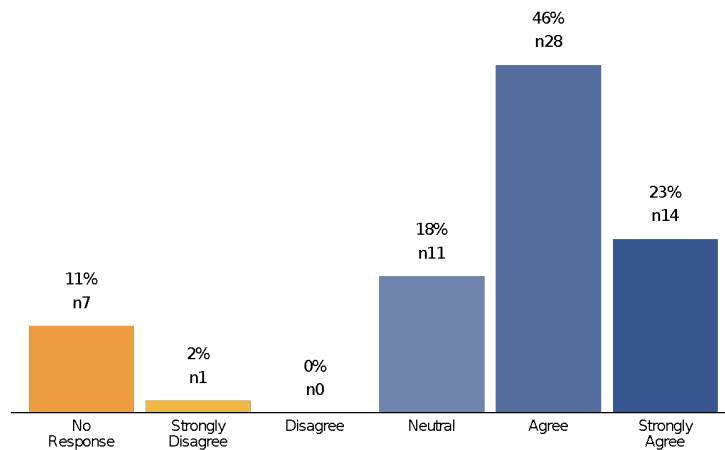
5.  About half of respondents (53%) agreed to some extent that public and environmental health are important for a sense of community, though 28% were neutral and 9% disagreed to some extent.

**Services that support public and environmental health.**
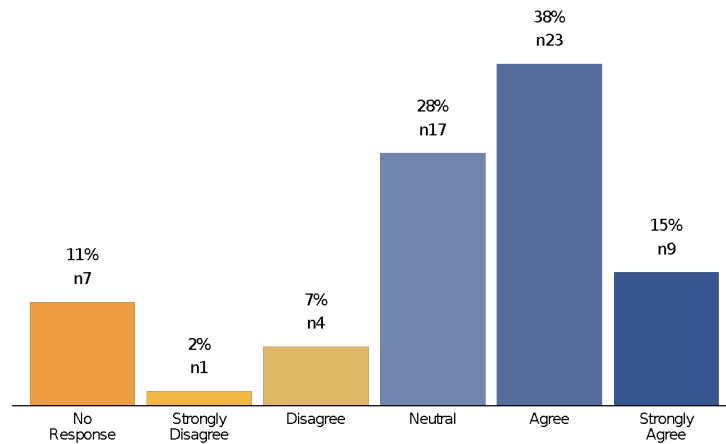


6.  There were mixed opinions about whether providing opportunities to participate in cultural and social activities is important for a sense of community. 45% agreed to some extent, 22% disagreed to some extent and 25% were neutral.
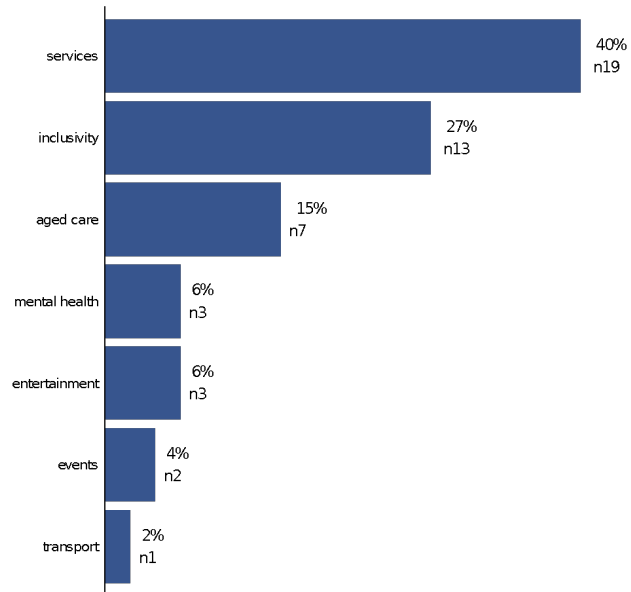
**Opportunities for all people in the community to participate in cultural and social activities**
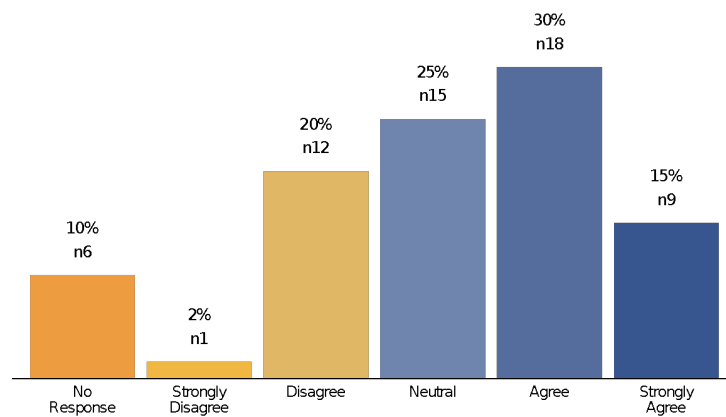
People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what they think are the top priorities in creating a healthy, supportive and safe community. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

The most common themes were the availability of additional services (medical, allied health, policing and education), inclusivity of all subgroups in the community (aged population and youth) and better access to aged care.

Overall, the community agreed that the Shire is a healthy, supportive and safe community. There was a high level of agreement for most the Shire's community objectives, with the exceptions being a relatively high disagreement for two objectives: 1) Access to services for the aged and people with a disability and 2) Opportunities for people to participate in social and cultural activities.

| Theme | Percentage | Count |
|---|---|---|
| services | 40% | n19 |
| inclusivity | 27% | n13 |
| aged care | 15% | n7 |
| mental health | 6% | n3 |
| entertainment | 6% | n3 |
| events | 4% | n2 |
| transport | 2% | n1 |

## The 'Environment' Domain

People were asked several questions surrounding the Environment in the Shire.

When asked whether the Shire's natural assets are enhanced and protected, 71% of people agreed to some extent with the statement, 7% disagreed and 18% were neutral.
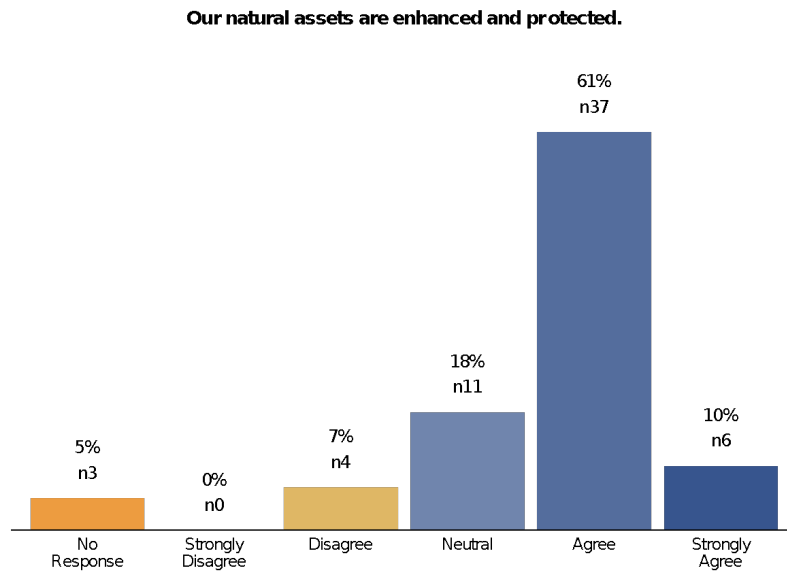
**Our natural assets are enhanced and protected.**



Comparing the responses by age, gender and between those who do and don't live in the Shire showed consistent levels of agreement for opinions surrounding the Environment of the Shire.

People were asked whether the following environmental objectives are still relevant in order to enhance and protect the Shire's natural assets:

1. The majority of respondents (77%) agreed to some extent that the protection of natural resources is an important objective for the Shire's environment and natural assets.

**Protection of natural resources.**
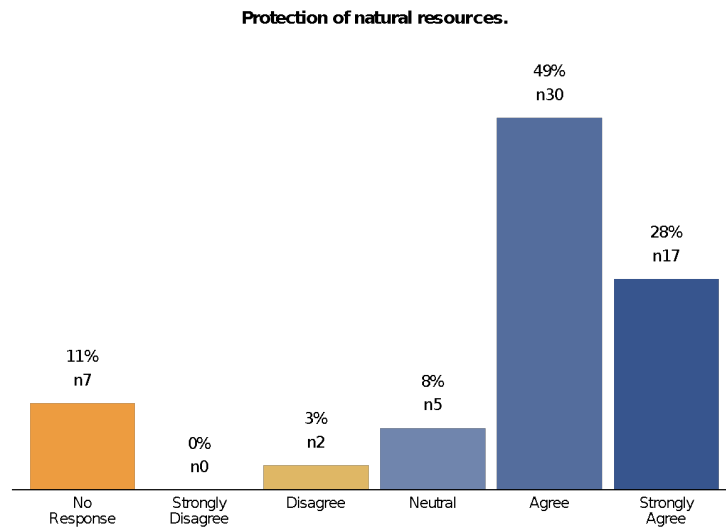


2. The majority of respondents (61%) agreed to some extent that adapting to the impacts of climate change is an important objective for the Shire's environment and natural assets, though 20% were neutral.

**Adapting to the impacts of climate change.**
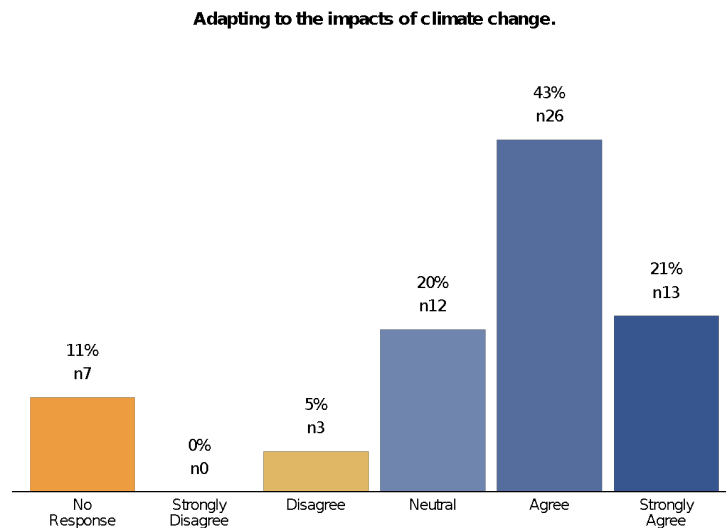
3. The majority of respondents (74%) agreed to some extent that environmentally sustainable waste management is an important objective for the Shire's environment and natural assets.
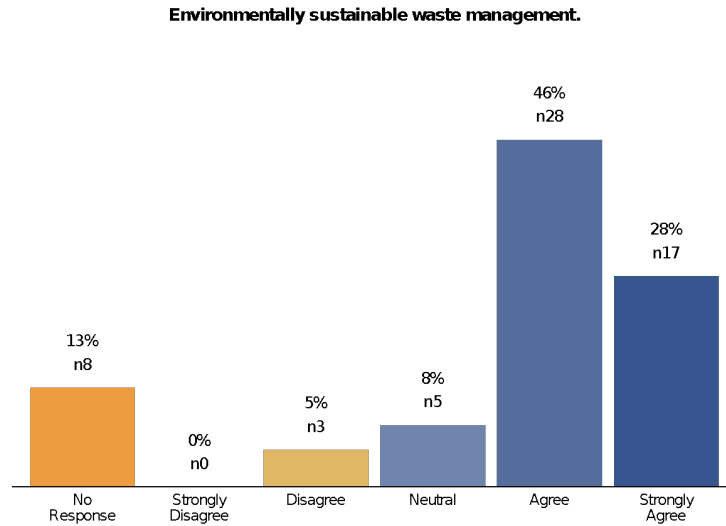
**Environmentally sustainable waste management.**



People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what they think are the top priorities in order to enhance and protect the Shire's natural assets. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

The most common themes were awareness of environmental issues, greater enforcement of policy and laws around protection, better waste management facilities and practices, promoting sustainable behaviour and accessibility to eco-friendly services (water and walking tracks).
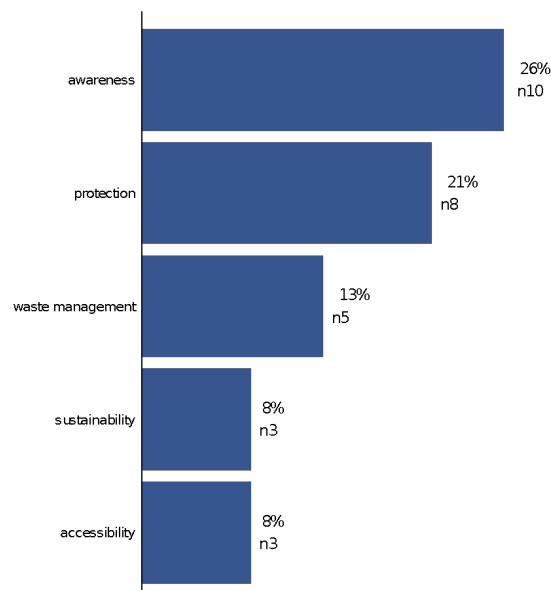


Overall, the community agreed that the Shire's natural assets are enhanced and protected and that the Shire's objectives surrounding the environment are relevant to conservation.

## The 'Economic' Domain

People were asked several questions surrounding the Economy in the Shire.

When asked whether the Shire has a strong and sustainable local economy, 33% of people agreed to some extent with the statement, 38% disagreed and 25% were neutral.

**The Shire has a strong and sustainable local economy.**
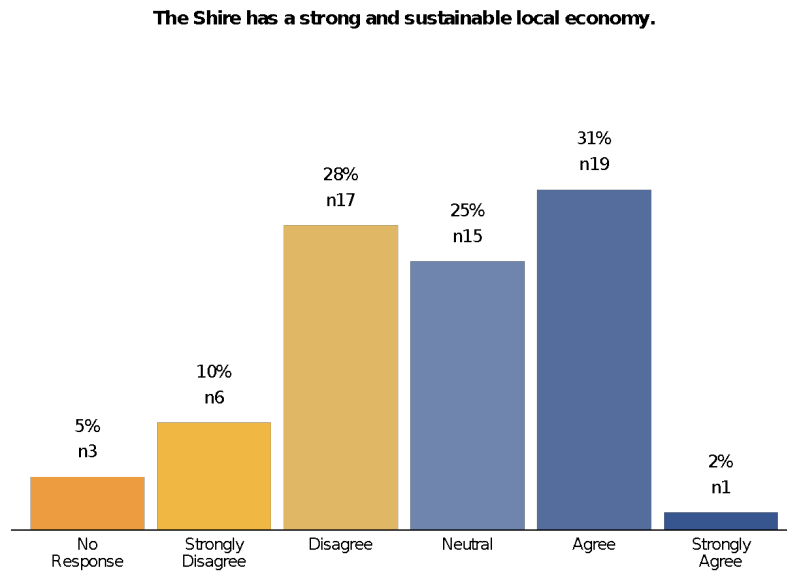


When comparing the responses by age, it became clear that people 60 years and younger tended to disagree more along with people who do not live in the Shire.

Other comparisons such as gender and between those who do and don't live in the Shire showed consistent levels of agreement for opinions surrounding the Economy of the Shire.

People were asked whether the following economic objectives are still relevant in order to create a strong and sustainable local economy.

1.  The majority of respondents (74%) agreed to some extent that a major agricultural hub is important for the Shire's economy.

**A major agricultural hub.**
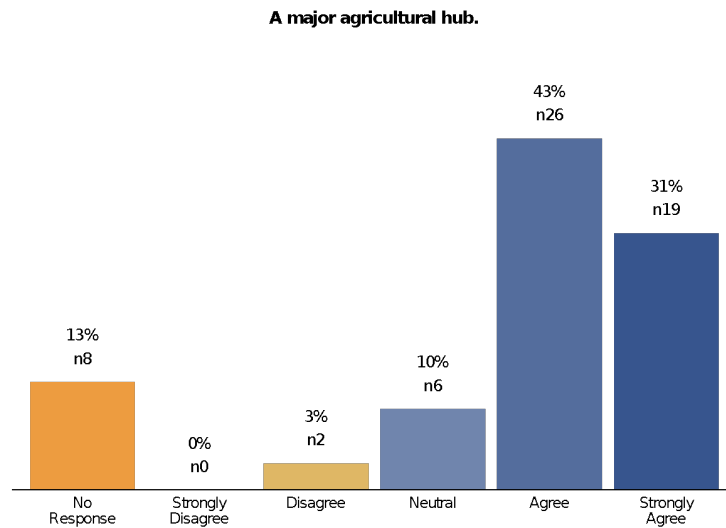


2.  The majority of respondents (74%) agreed to some extent that a strong tourism industry is important for the Shire's economy.

**A strong tourism industry.**
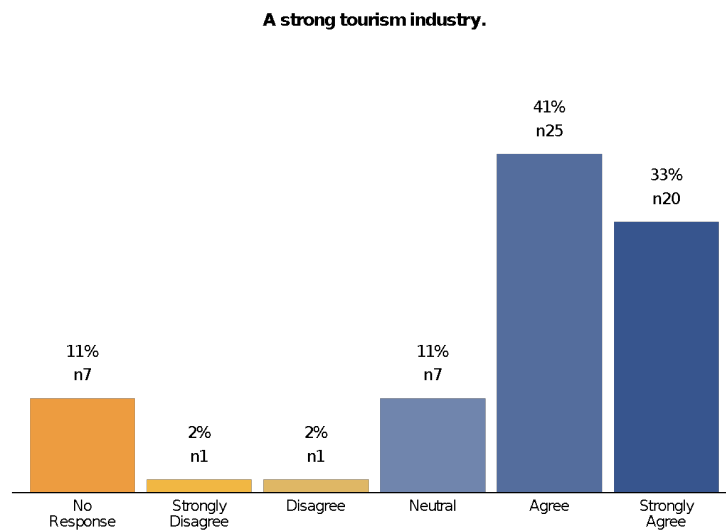
3. Most respondents (61%) agreed to some extent that a viable business sector is an important objective for the Shire's environment and natural assets, though 8% were neutral and 20% disagreed to some extent.

**A viable business sector.**
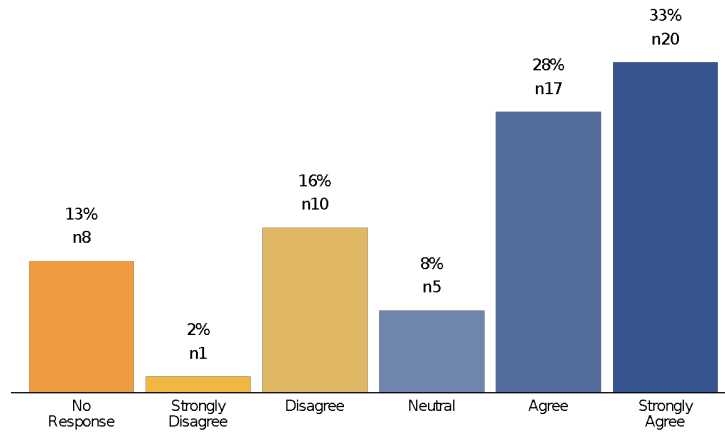


4. Most respondents (64%) agreed to some extent that a skilled and diversified workforce is an important objective for the Shire's environment and natural assets, though 15% were neutral and 10% disagreed to some extent.

**A skilled and diversified workforce.**
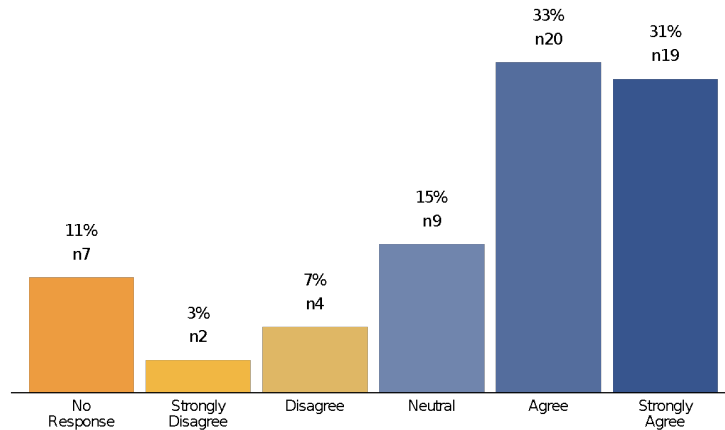
People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what they think are the top priorities in order to create a strong and sustainable local economy. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

There was a clear consensus for the need to focus on, encourage and provide opportunities to create local business or support existing business to offer competitive services/prices. 'Opportunities' reflects statements about giving locals greater employment opportunities.
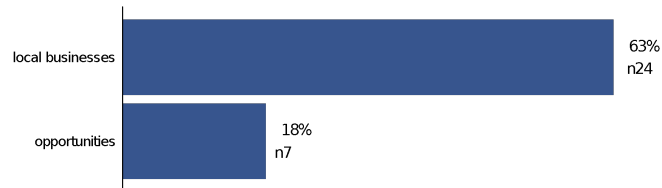


Overall, the community had mixed views about whether the Shire has a strong and sustainable local economy; however, there was a general consensus that the Shire's economic objectives are important.

## The 'Infrastructure' Domain

People were asked several questions surrounding the Infrastructure in the Shire.

When asked whether the Shire infrastructure and built environment supported the growth of the community and economy, 52% of people agreed to some extent with the statement, 16% disagreed and 25% were neutral.

**The Shire infrastructure and built environment supports the growth of the community and economy.**
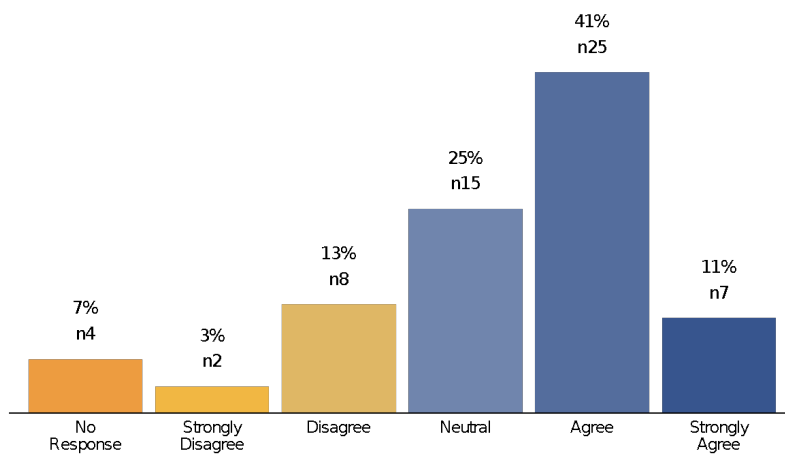


Comparing the responses by age, gender and between those who do and don't live in Shire showed consistent levels of agreement. Those who live in the Shire had more neutral responses and those who do not work in the Shire were slightly more negative when it comes to the infrastructure within the Shire.

People were asked whether the following objectives are still relevant to ensuring the Shire's infrastructure and built environment are delivering what is needed for the community.

1.  Most respondents (59%) agreed to some extent that the Shire's assets and infrastructure meet current and future needs, though 13% were neutral and 16% disagreed.

**Shire assets and infrastructure meet current and future needs.**
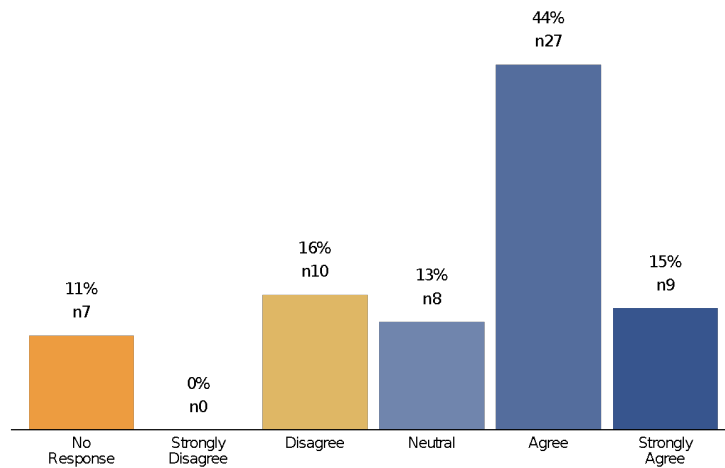


2.  The majority of respondents (65%) agreed to some extent that access to affordable land is important to the infrastructure that supports the community and economy, though 18% were neutral.

**Access to affordable land for residential housing and industrial development.**
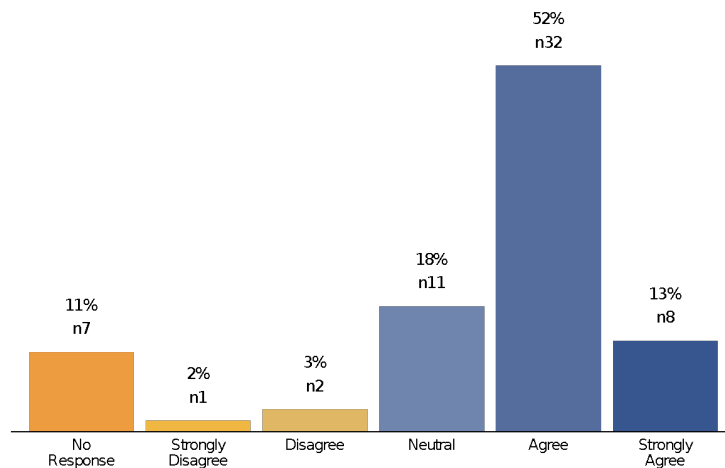
3. The majority of respondents (77%) agreed to some extent that secure and reliable water are important to the infrastructure that supports the community and economy, though 18% were neutral.

**Secure and reliable water supply.**
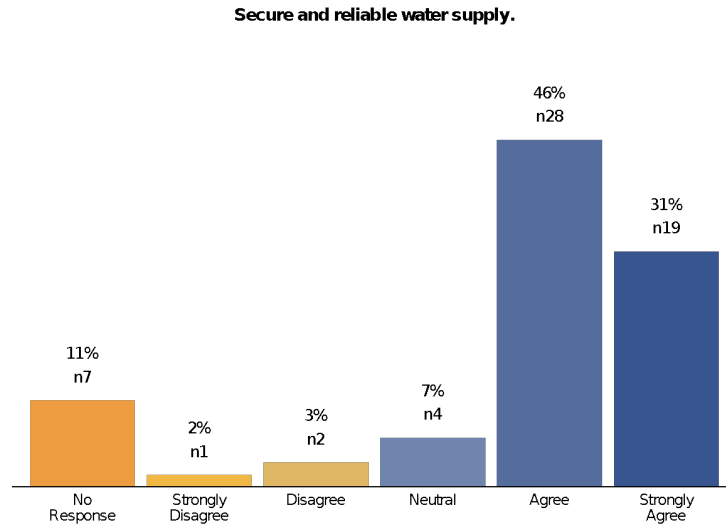


4. Most respondents (64%) agreed to some extent that roads and rail networks are important to the infrastructure that supports the community and economy, whereas 15% were neutral and 9% disagreed to some extent.

**An efficient and safe road and rail network.**
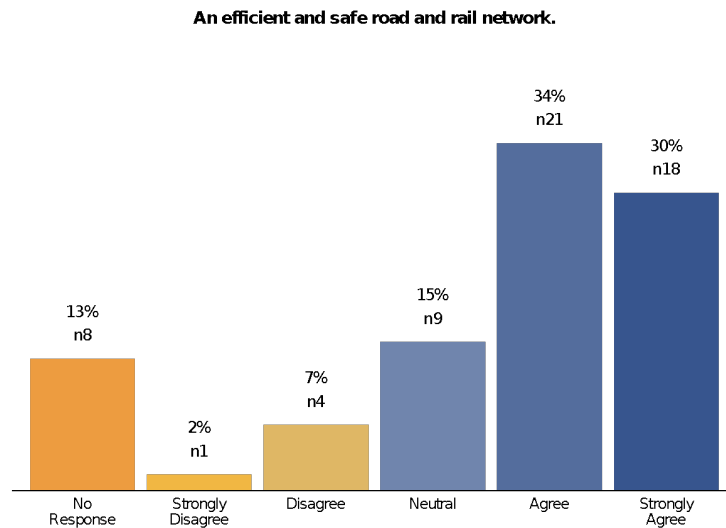
5.  The majority of respondents (74%) agreed to some extent that Shire buildings and facilities meet community needs.

**Shire buildings and facilities meet community needs.**
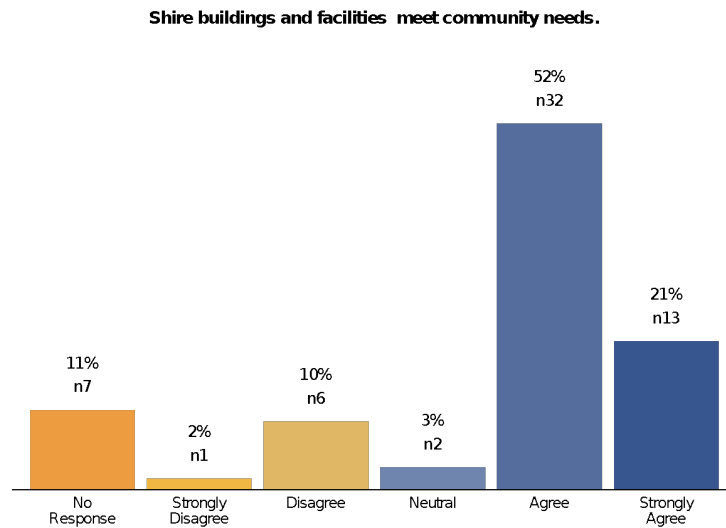


6.  Most respondents (69%) agreed to some extent that development protects the character of towns and local heritage, though 13% were neutral and 7% disagreed to some extent.

**Development protects the character of towns and local heritage.**
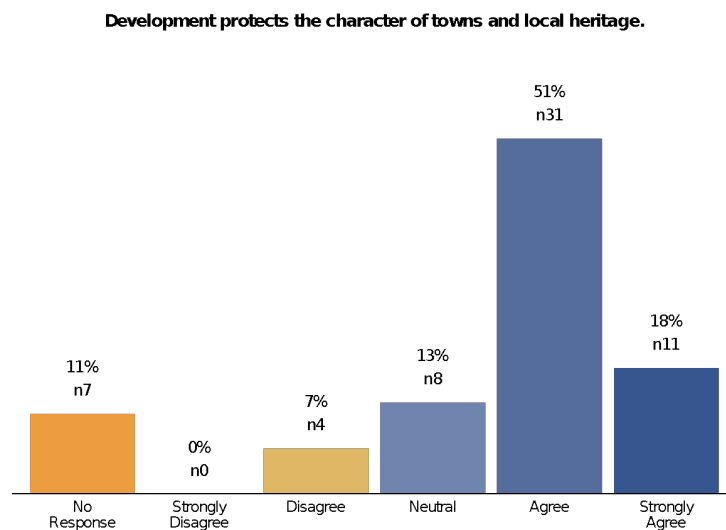
7. The majority of respondents (79%) agreed to some extent that attractive streetscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens are important to the infrastructure that supports the community and economy.

**Attractive streetscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens.**
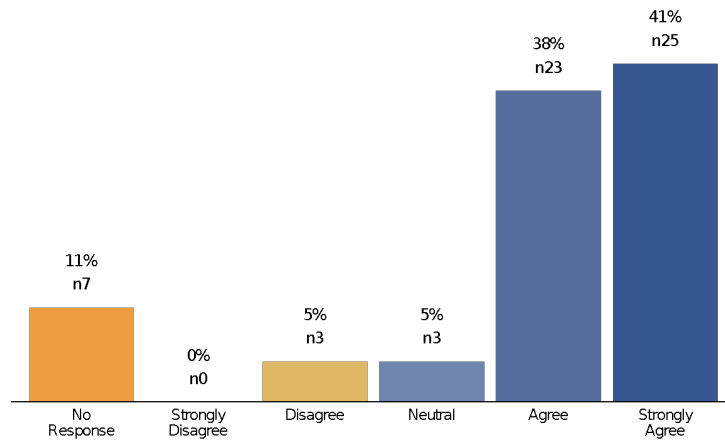


People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what they think are the top priorities for the Shire's infrastructure and built environment. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

Common themes were improving on the cleanliness of the Shire, improvement of local roads, more sporting facilities and events, protection of existing buildings and adding more infrastructure for the aged population.
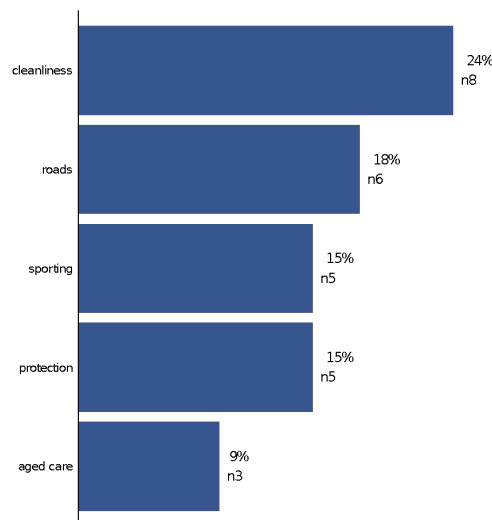


Overall, the community has generally positive views about whether current infrastructure and built environment support the growth of the community and economy. There was a consensus that the Shire's infrastructure objectives are important, though there was some disagreement surrounding the objective of whether current assets and infrastructure meet current and future needs.

## The 'Advocacy and Leadership' Domain

People were asked several questions surrounding Advocacy and Leadership in the Shire.

When asked whether the Shire local government exemplifies good governance, leadership and advocacy, 47% of respondents agreed to some extent, 23% were neutral and 25% disagreed to some extent.
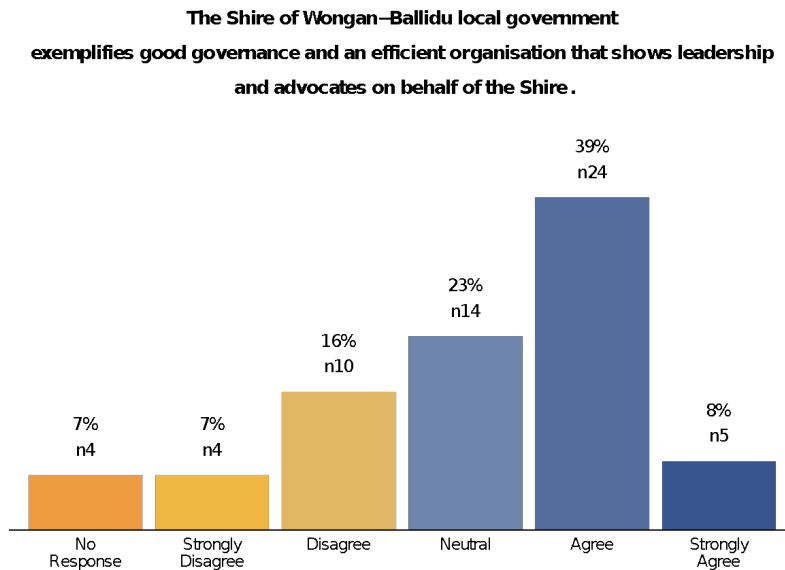
**The Shire of Wongan–Ballidu local government exemplifies good governance and an efficient organisation that shows leadership and advocates on behalf of the Shire.**

| No Response | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7% n4 | 7% n4 | 16% n10 | 23% n14 | 39% n24 | 8% n5 |

Comparing the responses by age, gender and between those who do and don't live in the Shire showed females and those who live or work in the Shire tend to be more negative about the Shire's Advocacy and Leadership.

People were asked whether the following Governance objectives are still relevant to ensuring good governance, leadership and advocacy.

1.  Most respondents (72%) agreed to some extent that good governance and leadership are important to meet objectives.

**Good governance and leadership.**
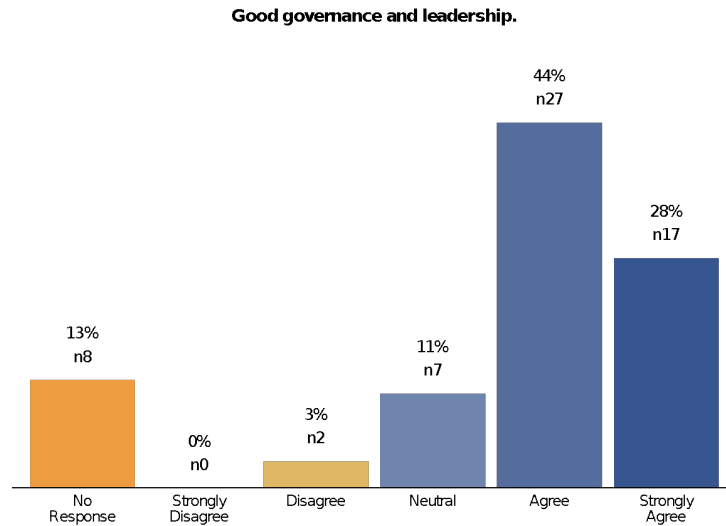


2.  The majority of respondents (69%) agreed to some extent that the Shire being an employer of choice is important, though 16% were neutral.

**An employer of choice.**
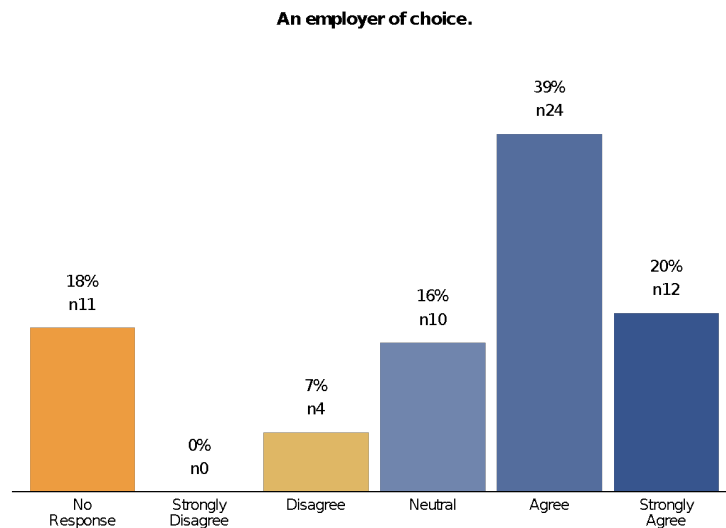
3. The majority of respondents (67%) agreed to some extent that efficient and effective services are important to meet objects in governance.

**Efficient and effective corporate and administrative services.**
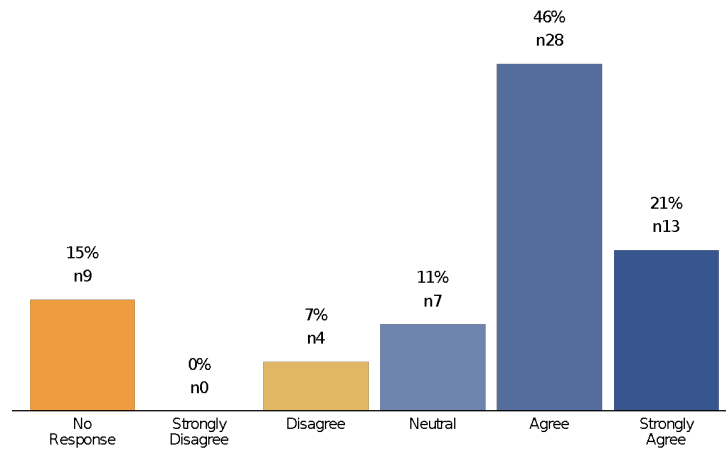


People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what they think are the top priorities for the Shire to demonstrate good governance, leadership and advocacy. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

Common themes were communication from the Shire council (i.e., updating website information, transparency about current issues, responding to emails/calls from community members), representation (local council members, the friendliness of council staff and wages reflected the salary of council staff.
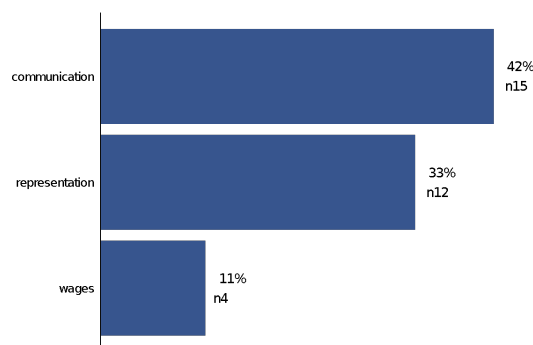


Overall, there was a general consensus for the three objectives surrounding Governance in the Shire. However, there were mixed opinions about whether the Shire exemplifies good governance, leadership and advocacy.

## Other Survey Questions

People were given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response about what their one big idea for the Shire is. The frequency of key themes is shown below.

Common themes were more frequent local events for community members to attend (e.g., art events, skating parks, sporting events), improving infrastructure (solar energy, becoming a self-sustainable community), supporting and creating new local business, improving aged care services and better council representation.
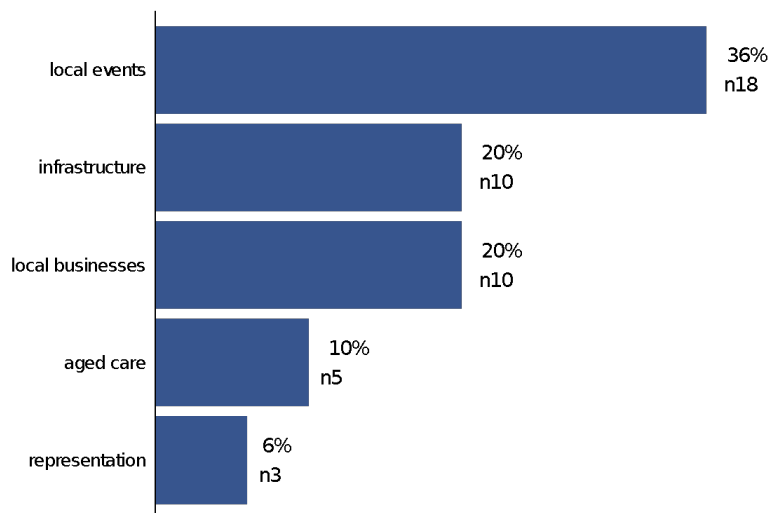


People were given an opportunity to list what they could contribute to seeing the development of the 'big idea' that they have for the Shire (i.e., time, skills, knowledge, networks etc.). The frequency of key themes is shown below.

The most common resource was offering their personal time and skills knowledge and four people offered all of the listed resources.

**time** 48% n19

**skills** 18% n7

**knowledge** 15% n6

**all** 10% n4
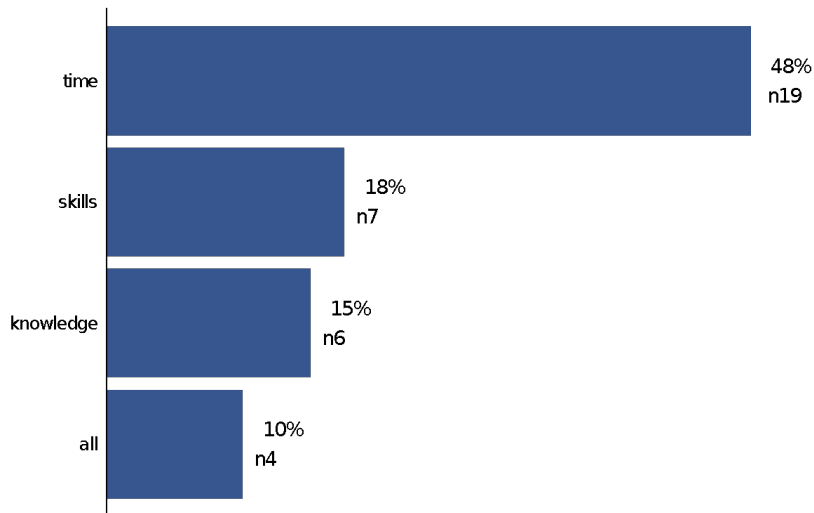
When asked about their current professional or personal responsibility, the majority of people had professional roles (e.g., nurse, advisor, teacher, manager etc.). Other common roles included administration and agriculture.

**professional** 42% n17

**admin** 22% n9

**agriculture** 15% n6

**retired** 10% n4

**unemployed** 5% n2

**volunteer** 2% n1

**trainee** 2% n1
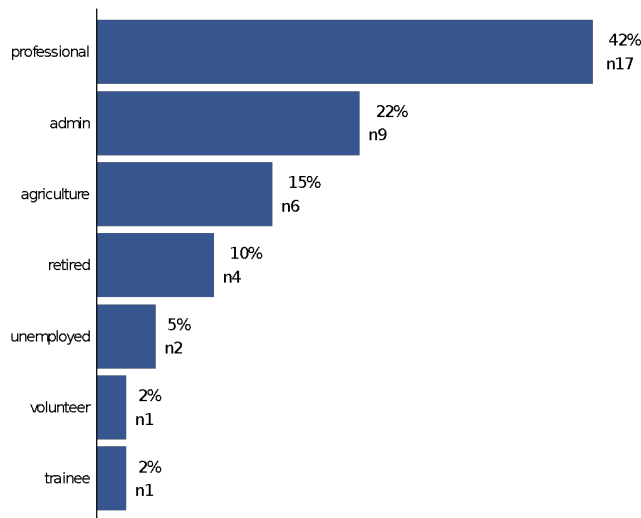
# Consultation Workshop Themes

A summary of the Strategic Community plan themes and collected workshop data are detailed below.

### Community

Overall, the workshops demonstrated the variety of strengths evident in the community. There was a sense of pride when discussing the diverse number of community groups and opportunities for connection in the community; however, consensus was about the need for succession planning for the ageing groups and volunteers and a coordinated approach for all groups to collaborate.

The community feel connected and love Wongan-Balidu but fear for the community surrounding the viability of local pubs as places for non-sport social connection along with a need for more social activities that are not sport or recreation related.

The community feel safe but have a fear about the dwindling population and the term 'ghost town' came up on numerous occasions. Youth is a target group that most people engaged felt was not being supported and needs some new targeted initiatives for the future.

### Environment

Overall, the community agreed that the Shire's natural assets need to continue being enhanced and protected. This was a strength for the Towns and could be part of a larger tourism project and enhanced economy. Promoting the wildflowers and nature walks were a common theme of the environment with a large number of community passionate about the potential it could bring the Towns from tourism and visitors. This was coupled by the fear for lack of economy and not being able to support this strength. There were some minor suggestions around alternative energy and solar, but broader were concerns for farming amalgamations of the surrounding agriculture land.

### Economy

There is a strong general consensus that the Shire's economic objectives are important and it is evident this is a focus for the future. This was the greatest area for concern and need for future action. Support for local business and new businesses need to be attracted to the Towns, with the addition of more accommodation and housing. Youth is again a large concern for this theme with the need to consider their training and employment for supporting a strong future economy.

### Infrastructure

The community feel that a major strength is the infrastructure and assets they had as a community. There were suggestions for a pool, hydrotherapy pool, youth drop in zone and a general non-sport community catch up place. The mixed opinions were felt more around housing infrastructure and the condition of the main street.

### Advocacy and Leadership

This theme does not appear to be a high priority for the community through the conversations at the workshops. There is a minor feeling that the council should do more and rely less on the community; it was felt not enough was being done to support the economy. Communication is a key concern raised and that it needs to be more collaborative with the broader community.

# Appendix 1 – Survey Questions

1. What three words would you CURRENTLY use to describe living or working in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu?
2. What three words would you LIKE to use to describe living or working in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu?
3. What do you most value about living or working in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu?
4. The current vision for the Shire is "A caring and supportive community driving sustainability of agriculture, services and the environment." In thinking about this vision statement, do you think the vision captures what you would want to see for the future of the Shire?
5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
   - COMMUNITY: The Shire is a healthy, supportive and safe community.
   - ENVIRONMENT: Our natural assets are enhanced and protected.
   - ECONOMY: The Shire has a strong and sustainable local economy.
   - INFRASTRUCTURE: The Shire infrastructure and built environment supports the growth of the community and economy.
   - ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP. The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu local government exemplifies good governance and an efficient organisation that shows leadership and advocates on behalf of the Shire.
6. These COMMUNITY objectives are still relevant in order to create a healthy, supportive and safe community
   - Sport, recreation and leisure opportunities that encourage community participation.
   - Health, education and family support services that sustain community well-being.
   - Access to services and facilities for the aged and people with a disability.
   - Community safety and emergency preparedness.
   - Services that support public and environmental health.
   - Opportunities for all people in the community to participate in cultural and social activities.
7. What are the top priorities for creating a healthy, supportive and safe community?
8. These ENVIRONMENT objectives are still relevant in order to enhance and protect our natural assets
   - Protection of natural resources.
   - Adapting to the impacts of climate change.
   - Environmentally sustainable waste management.
9. What are the top priorities to enhance and protect our natural assets?
10. These ECONOMY objectives are still relevant in order to create a strong and sustainable local economy
    - A major agricultural hub.
    - A strong tourism industry.
    - A viable business sector.
    - A skilled and diversified workforce.
11. What are the top priorities to create a strong and sustainable local economy?
12. These INFRASTRUCTURE objectives are still relevant to ensuring the Shire's infrastructure and built environment are delivering what is needed for the community
    - Shire assets and infrastructure meet current and future needs.
    - Access to affordable land for residential housing and industrial development.
    - Secure and reliable water supply.
    - An efficient and safe road and rail network.
    - Shire buildings and facilities meet community needs.
    - Development protects the character of towns and local heritage.
    - Attractive streetscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens.
13. What are the top priorities for the Shire's infrastructure and a built environment?
14. These GOVERNANCE objectives are still relevant in order to demonstrate good governance, show leadership and advocate on behalf of the Shire
    - Good governance and leadership.
    - An employer of choice.
    - Efficient and effective corporate and administrative services.

15. What are the top priorities in order for the Shire to demonstrate good governance, show leadership and advocate on behalf of the Shire?
16. What is your one big idea for the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu?
17. What could you contribute* to help see this idea develop?
    > *time, skills, financial support, networks, knowledge etc.
18. Are you interested in participating in this ¾ day community planning workshop?
19. Would you like to be kept informed about this community consultation and the updated Strategic Community Plan?
20. If you have answered yes to either of these questions, can you please provide the following? Please note: This information is separated from the survey results provided by the independent consultants.
21. Which age range do you fit into?
22. Which gender do you identify with?
23. Are you from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background?
24. What is your country of birth?
25. Tick any of the following statements that are true for you
    - I live in the Shire
    - I work in the Shire
    - I have children that attend school in the Shire
    - I have children that do not attend school in the Shire
26. What is your profession/employment/daily responsibility?

# Appendix 2 - Community Forum Notes

Introduction

Two workshops were hosted as part of the Strategic Community Plan engagement process:

- 10th February Wongan Hills – 38 attendees
- 11th February Balidu – 9 attendees

There is a deeper sense of fear and concern for the future within the Balidu community, but conversation was constructive and positive. It is clear that all participants from both workshops enjoy and value their home and towns.

## People of the Shire

Below are the five community personas that were prepared for the workshops. After group discussion it was suggested that in addition the workshop explore retirees and youth aged 13-17 years.

The aim was to understand the fears, hopes and needs for the varying community perspectives in the Shire of Wongan and that this information support ensuring the whole community is considered in planning for the future Strategic Community Plan. A summary of information collected follows.

| Family with young children living in Town | |
|---|---|
| **Fears** | **Hopes** |
| Friends leave for high school<br>No childcare facilities<br>No youth development that supports jobs/apprenticeships<br>Losing the green image of the Town | Youth club<br>Safe community<br>Places to have coffee<br>Industry development for younger families<br>Extend tourism network to local towns in greater details, i.e. bike tracks/astronomy |
| **Needs** | |
| Activities for young children on the weekends<br>Drive in movies<br>Community events<br>Keep kids here as they get older into their teenage years<br>Keep improving the school for educational development<br>Public facilities at walk tracks (toilets/picnic area etc.)<br>Water park in main street for young children | |

## Young adult – 18 years

### Fears

Lack of higher education/TAFE
Employment uncertainty
Being judged for how they left for high
school instead of how they return as an
adult
Being able to afford to move out of home
Gossip and rumours
Drug and alcohol use

### Hopes

Access to higher education closer
Access to internet cafe
Youth group/hobby groups
Bush mountain bike track
More like-minded people
Arts
Music/festival activities

### Needs

Youth group/clubs
Events that their high school friends from the city would come visit to attend
Fast broadband internet
Events regularly (fortnightly/monthly)
Cadets/scout groups

## Older adult

### Fears

Loss of medical and hospital facilities
Home care support services not being
accessible
Farms being bought out
Fear of change and the unknown
Decreasing population
Decrease in job choice and availability
Events and activities held during the day
Lack of acknowledgment for community
volunteers

### Hopes

Senior citizens centre
Retirement village
More health care visiting specialities
Hydrotherapy pool
Library open on Saturdays and some
evenings
Access to some medical specialists
Support to attract workers to farms
Train to Perth
Volunteer driver program to assist with
appointment transport

### Needs

Senior centre
A place for Aborignal culture
Hydrotherapy pool
Respite for carers
Home and care workers
Support for new direction/life purpose/finding new interests
Train service
Facilities for those with a disability

## Drive in/drive out worker

### Fears

Connections and relationships and how to sustain them
Feelings of isolation
Fitting in
Acceptance
Availability of affordable housing to buy or rent
Declining population
Lack of businesses and more closing
Lack of purpose when not working

### Hopes

Social events other than the pub
Promote events
Individual sports/teams that consider the time away from the Town
Find other like-minded people to connect with
Places to eat
Jobs to attract more people from the city and females in particular

### Needs

Women
Mental and emotional support
Visiting mental health services to the town
Train to town
Fast broadband internet

## Teacher from the local primary school

### Fears

Being professionally left behind
Limited professional potential
Student numbers decreasing to the point jobs are redundant
Local businesses closing
Local volunteers are not working in the same direction as the school
None of Perth friends wants to visit

### Hopes

Local Government to work alongside school
Working for an 'employer of choice'
Tight social network
Population growth
Physical security and safety
Sporting opportunities
Endearing, varied and vibrant social fabric

### Needs

Increase grocery choice
Retail open on the weekend
Coffee shop open on a Saturday morning
A place to eat out
Increase gym opening hours/24 hour
Faster internet
Teaching assistant

## Youth 13 - 17 years

| Fears | Hopes |
|---|---|
| Friend group diminishes as kids get older<br>Peer pressure into alcohol abuse<br>Education in Wongan is less than what they receive in Wongan | The school develops with youth<br>A youth strategy that is linked with local business and the Shire |

### Needs

Youth group
VET opportunities
Career identification from school that are beneficial for local business
Physical, emotional and social security

## Retirees

| Fears | Hopes |
|---|---|
| Loneliness<br>Same old/same old<br>Not a lot for older people<br>Losing what facilities we already have<br>Being on your own and nobody cares<br>Not knowing who to ask for help | Medical needs to be met without travelling great distances<br>Places to gather and be social<br>Visuals, murals and art around town – Aboriginal painting and nature<br>Places to eat/pub |

### Needs

Hydrotherapy pool based in the hospital precinct
Better access to walking trails for older adults/disability
Community groups working together for the greater community
Upgrade facilities for special needs, disability and seniors

## Life in the Shire SWOT

In Wongan Hill seven groups worked on exploring the strengths, concerns, possibilities and risks for the community. The responses collated from the groups are summarised in the table below:

| Strengths | Concerns |
|---|---|
| **What's working, what are we good at, what do we have that helps the community thrive?** | **What is not working, where do we struggle and what is making it harder for the community to thrive?** |
| The current community<br>The active community<br>Affordable<br>Fantastic sporting opportunities<br>Agriculture and economic security<br>Proximity to Perth/not too far<br>Co-location – recreation centre and facilities<br>Property values and no mortgage<br>Cheap housing<br>Low crime rate<br>Medical and ancillary services<br>Clean and green image<br>Wide streets and open spaces<br>Community groups<br>Community resource centre<br>Tourism walks/wildflowers and one of four hot spots in the world<br>Current community events such as centenary<br>IGA<br>Friendly community<br>Strong volunteer base<br>Strong church<br>Visitor centre<br>First ever RV friendly town in Australia | Declining community spirit<br>Not enough events and functions that bring local people and visitors into the town<br>Hospital losing funding and equipment<br>Corporate farming<br>Lack of rentals<br>Lack of accommodation for tourist season<br>Keeping community groups<br>Getting new members into community groups<br>Lack of arts/music<br>Current groups don't work together and collaborate<br>Concern that the older leader residents don't like change and no opportunity for younger leaders<br>Connection and status in community have more influence<br>High school issues/lack of<br>Businesses struggling and closing<br>Lack of shops open on the weekend<br>Lack of entertainment venues<br>Banking<br>Lack of public transport<br>Large gap in activities for youth 13 - 16 years<br>Lack of framework and pathways for students and youth<br>Farms are getting bigger<br>Families leaving town<br>Mining that works locals but does not contribute to local business<br>Bureaucratic red tape<br>Not on the map for tourism |

| Possibilities | Risks |
|---|---|
| **What could be done to make the most of the strengths and or address the concerns?** | **What are the risks if the concerns aren't dealt with and the strengths untapped?** |
| Diversified industry/agriculture<br>Local water recycling for parks and gardens<br>Work from home opportunities for young professionals<br>Promote walking trails and tourism<br>Public toilets/clean/renovate 5 star<br>train service to Northam<br>Increase in businesses and opening hours<br>Welcome/meet and greet for newcomers<br>Cadet groups for ambulance, police and DFES<br>Mens shed mentoring and skills training program for youth<br>More events to encourage people to stay and join groups<br>Indian Ocean to Lake Ninan<br>Rodeo at old bowling club<br>Pistol club<br>Entrance signs so people know what is available in the town<br>Promote local shops<br>More lower cost activities such as bingo/book club<br>More large community events<br>More trees<br>Meals at the recreation club<br>Mental health workers to satellite from the town<br>Adult education courses<br>More children's activities/martial arts<br>Support local services and products<br>Internet cafe<br>Entice people to town for business<br><br>Large industrial park/research station | Business will not be economically viable<br>Further diminishing of education opportunities<br>Abandoned main street<br>Elderly will not be cared for<br>Farming amalgamations<br>Losing the diversity of industry<br>Farm sales to corporates or neighbours<br>Lack of employment opportunity<br>Lack of volunteers<br>Not adapting to change<br>Shire to self-centred and always looking for others to join them<br>Lose community groups<br>Lose services and amenities such as doctor<br>Lose students to other communities<br>Strengths dissolving and community not being supported |

In Balidu nine people worked together to explore the strengths, concerns, possibilities and risks for the community. The group had a great list of strengths and possibilities; however, the fears around the pub and its role in bringing the community together was consistent with all nine participants. The responses are collated from the groups and summarised in the table below.

| Strengths | Concerns |
|---|---|
| **What's working, what are we good at, what do we have that helps the community thrive?** | **What is not working, where do we struggle and what is making it harder for the community to thrive?** |
| Wildflower festival<br>Nature walks<br>Pub<br>Heritage centre<br>Art gallery<br>Bike to Balidu annual event<br>Dog trials<br>Golf<br>Bowls<br>Wongan visitor centre<br>Christmas lights competition | Declining local support for activities that do happen in Balidu<br>Pub may close<br>Communication and lack of<br>Town is too busy and not resourced to do/help Balidu<br>Worried about the drab look of Balidu<br>Men's golf numbers declining |
| **Possibilities** | **Risks** |
| **What could be done to make the most of the strengths and or address the concerns?** | **What are the risks if the concerns aren't dealt with and the strengths untapped?** |
| Promote and build the wildflower season and host a festival<br>Pop up shops during the festival<br>Promote the arts<br>Promote the nature walks<br>Look into the prisoner programs to support cleaning up/repairing the community | No pub and farms may struggle to get staff for seeding and harvest<br>No pub and people will stop socialising<br>Risk of drink driving to Wongan for young adults and staff<br>With new signage for Balidu (not just cleaning). Sourcing the town will let it down<br>No purpose to life |

## Vision

Both workshop groups explored key words that summarise how they would like Wongan-Balidu to feel and look in the future. A summary of these words follows.

### Wongan Hills feels like:

24 participants from the group contributed key words that would describe what Wongan Hills feels like in ten years' time. Words were summarised into the below key themes:

- Home/belong
- Alive and thriving
- One community supportive and caring for all
- Welcoming and inviting

There were a few minority words that did not theme and these included:

- Personal financial security
- Empty

### Wongan Hills looks like:

22 participants from the group contributed key words that would describe what Wongan Hills looks like in 10 years' time. Words were summarised into the below key themes:

- Progressive
- Cohesive and working together
- Fun strong community
- United leadership
- Busy
- Industry and jobs

Three of the comments themed but articulated fear for the future:

- Same but larger cemetery
- Town dead/skeleton town
- Beautiful but empty

The minority statement that did not theme was:

- A town to visit often/tourism

### Balidu feels like:

Nine participants from the group contributed key words that would describe what Balidu feels like in 10 years' time. Words were summarised into the below key themes:

- Home
- Pretty awesome/proud
- Serene, safe and supportive

There were two minority words that did not theme and they were:

- Same
- Wildflower/art and nature

### Balidu looks like:

Nine participants from the group contributed key words that would describe what Balidu looks like in 10 years' time. Words were summarised into the below key themes:

- Clean, colourful and tidy
- Exciting/great
- Busy
- Community stability
- Historically quaint/cute buildings/arts

Two of the comments themed but articulated fear for the future:

- Clean but dilapidated
- Independent from Wongan

# Appendix 3 - Staff Forum

Introduction

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is undertaking a major review of its Strategic Community Plan. As part of the consultation sessions, a workshop was held with staff on 24th February 2021.

The following notes capture the output of that session.

In reviewing the 'People of the Shire', staff added the following to the existing notes from the community workshop about each persona.

### George
- Needs
  - More auxiliary services, so less travel to Perth
  - Fear for agriculture and farms
  - Basic shopping such as clothes

### Dirk
- Needs
  - Consistent strong mobile service
  - Internet for Netflix and online recreation
  - More to do mid-week

### Jess and Will
- Needs
  - Sense that education is prioritised and staying, fears and worried it will be reduced in service
  - Housing, more options for rentals

### Anna
- Needs
  - Higher pay rate to keep her in the town
  - Better basic businesses/coffee shop/groceries local
  - Entertainment/things to do

### Marcia
- Needs
  - Join a community group/more groups that interest younger people

The below table summarises the SWOT.

| Strengths | Concerns |
|---|---|
| What's working, what are we good at, what do we have that helps the community thrive? | What is not working, where do we struggle and what is making it harder for the community to thrive? |
| <ul><li>Good facilities in Wongan – co-location</li><li>Good sporting facilities</li><li>Hospital</li><li>Clean</li><li>Safe</li><li>Low crime and traffic</li><li>Good main street</li><li>Farming community and jobs they bring</li><li>Good agriculture</li><li>District high school</li><li>Good volunteer-based groups</li><li>Natural attractions</li><li>Good licensing centre and community garden</li><li>Wildflowers</li><li>Pool and parks</li><li>Exceptional biodiversity</li></ul> | <ul><li>People are not participating within the community</li><li>Not much to do in Town if not the sporting type</li><li>Lack of short-stay accommodation</li><li>Reduced school bus services</li><li>Community groups all working alone and not together</li><li>Run out of water with global warming and temperature increases</li><li>No farming</li><li>Losing hospital and doctors</li><li>Retail shopping</li><li>Employment</li><li>Losing the youth</li><li>No job skills for the youth</li><li>Lack of economic diversity</li><li>Community development officer</li><li>Individual food places and cafes</li></ul> |
| Possibilities | Risks |
| What could be done to make the most of the strengths and or address the concerns? | What are the risks if the concerns aren't dealt with and the strengths untapped? |
| <ul><li>Town sundowner and introduction to new residents</li><li>Really big signature community event</li><li>Proactive in promoting a community hub</li><li>Transport for seniors</li><li>Gender balance, more women</li><li>Tourism satellite town, place to work from home with country living and corporate positions/pay packets</li><li>Open more land to develop housing</li><li>Build office suites, work from home, base business from there</li><li>Solar power</li><li>Cheaper to live in the country and work from home</li><li>More events like the street party</li><li>Community to support local business</li></ul> | <ul><li>Ageing population</li><li>People overcommit to community</li><li>Groups get burnout</li><li>Lack of locals and too many drive in and out</li><li>Backpackers and not available with COVID</li><li>Care for the elderly</li><li>Town will become gone/dying</li><li>Losing youth</li><li>Losing businesses</li></ul> |

| | |
|---|---|
| ● Create a botanic garden to attract visitors<br>● Taxi service<br>● Small business opportunities/incentives<br>● Apprenticeships and training<br>● Traineeships through the school<br>● Place for youth to meet up that isn't sporting<br>● Live concerts and music | |

What follows are words that were captured in regard to the vison.

### Word for how it feels
- A place to raise a family
- Happy x 3
- Vibey
- Great
- Welcoming x 3
- Busy
- Safe
- Positive
- Inviting

### Three words for how it looks
- Clean and tidy
- Thriving x 4
- Still populated
- Ghost town
- Not the same
- Green
- Active community
- Community based
- Expanded
- Looks great
- Good

# Appendix 4 - Elected Members Forum

Introduction

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is undertaking a major review of its Strategic Community Plan. As part of the consultation session a workshop was held with elected members on the 17th February.

The following notes capture the output of that session.

In reviewing the 'People of the Shire', elected members added the following to the existing notes about each of the personas developed for the workshops.

George
- Needs
    - Seniors centre
    - Respite for carers and trained staff
    - Respite accommodation
    - Health care travel arrangements for seniors

Dirk
- Needs
    - Mid-week activity organiser (e.g. rugby)
    - Suggesting that he commit to Perth or Wongan
    - Join a sports club

Jess and Will
- Needs
    - Cubby house is in town
    - Children's activities – go bush on the weekend
    - Music for kids
    - Youth development is online these days

Anna
- Promote sporting groups and volunteer organisations on social media so people know what is available in town
- Needs
    - Take up some sports in town
    - Internet café?
    - Education online these days
    - Don't listen to gossip and rumours

Marcia
- Needs
    - Join a sporting club to feel more connected to the locals
    - Talk to supermarket about ingredients

- o New coffee shop coming soon
- o 24/7 gym
- Shire needs to direct more people to the visitors centre for a local guide

### Three words for now
- Quiet, peaceful
- Small, small
- Safe, safe
- Freedom
- Isolated
- Diminishing prospects
- Disjointed, fragmented
- Stagnant x 2
- Unique
- Strong
- Resources
- Lucky
- Enviable
- Healthy
- Local
- Community building
- Neat and tidy

### Three words for the future
- Progressive x 4
- Welcoming x 2, friendly
- Flourishing, alive, vibrant community and businesses
- Resourced, wealthy
- Innovative, building
- Quiet, small
- A place where people want to visit and live
- Enviable
- Safe

### Desired outcome from workshop

- Community ownership of solutions
- Getting specific on the how and the what
- Tapping into the skills of people in town
- Holding on to what we have in the next ten years
- Our role – facilitators of community action
  - o Listening to the needs of the community
  - o Councillors sitting in on local action groups to help delivery on actions
- Being progressive and sustainable
  - o Co-location of sporting groups

# Conclusion

The engagement process has provided a solid foundation for developing a new Strategic Community Plan that is reflective of the community. The results support the continuation of the five theme areas with community support for their importance for the future.

The next stage of the process is a community summit to explore the key theme areas raised for change and collaborate to drive the needed changes. The summit will aim to act as an opportunity for inspiration and sharing the success from three other smaller Towns that were going through similar economic and community struggles. Demonstrating the possibility for the future may help to activate an already passionate community into action.

The summit will aim to identify the community gifts and assets of the Town and elicit action in the participants. This part of the process will help to create a sense of ownership over the new plan and its success. The contact list of participants can be used to invite them to comment on the draft strategy, along with a broader communications plan.

The next stage includes two half-day planning workshops, one for elected members and one for staff to review the overall findings and develop broad directions. These will be facilitated mid-April and will guide the new draft plan. The draft Strategic Community Plan will be put together and ready for further community consultation late April/early May, with the aim that a plan be adopted in June 2021 by Council.

– END –