

Coffs Harbour City Council Community Wellbeing Survey 2014



Baseline results from an Online Survey Panel, conducted
by Jetty Research on behalf of **Coffs Harbour City Council**
to assist Coffs Harbour 2030 Plan Reporting

Final Report dated October 24th 2014

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Front cover photo: Sand-building competition, Jetty Beach, as part of the 2011 Festival of Sail.
Picture credit: M. Nesar, Moonee Beach



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Executive summary

Below is the list of benchmark scores from the inaugural Coffs Harbour City Council Community Wellbeing Survey:

Category	Indicator	% yes or agree	Mean (out of 5)
Community inclusiveness	To what extent do you feel part of the community?	51%	3.54
	How safe do you feel - at home alone during the day?	92%	4.54
	How safe do you feel - walking alone in your local area during the day?	88%	4.41
	How safe do you feel - at home alone at night?	77%	4.08
	How safe do you feel - walking alone in your local area at night?	40%	3.05
City Centre	Do you ever visit the City Centre?	97%	
	How lively do you think the city centre is during the day?	52%	3.52
	How lively do you think the city centre is at night?	5%	2.04
Connected Communities	Do you ever do voluntary work in the community?	59%	
Civic leadership	Do you feel you have the opportunity to have your say on important issues that affect your community?	34%	3.05
Arts and cultural activities	Do you regularly attend arts and cultural activities?	37%	
	How satisfied are you with the opportunities to attend arts and cultural activities in the local area?	39%	3.27
Recreational and sporting activity	Do you regularly participate in recreational activities with others?	64%	
	Do you regularly participate in organised sporting activities with others?	36%	
Environmental programs	Have you participated in any events, activities or groups to help look after the environment in the last two years?	27%	
Environmental access and learning	Do you ever use the walking or cycling tracks through our coastal and hinterland parks and reserves?	80%	
	How satisfied are you with the network of walking and cycling tracks through our coastal and hinterland parks and reserves?	59%	3.61
	How satisfied are you with opportunities to learn about Coffs Harbour's natural areas?	47%	3.44
Public transport usage	Have you used public transport in Coffs Harbour over the past 12 months?	12%	
	How satisfied are you with public transport options available in Coffs Harbour?	44%	3.28
Sydney and interstate connections	How satisfied are you with regular passenger services from Coffs Harbour to Sydney?	53%	3.53
	How satisfied are you with regular passenger services from Coffs Harbour to interstate destinations?	23%	2.72
Community spaces	Do you have problems with accessing community facilities or spaces in Coffs Harbour?	5%	

Introduction

Background

The Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC) Community Wellbeing Survey forms part of a wider measurement tool designed to identify, on an ongoing basis, progress within the Coffs Harbour 2030 Community Strategic Plan and Council's Delivery Program.

The online survey, completed by members of Council's randomly appointed online survey panel (OSP), provides longitudinal (i.e. time-based) measurement of a range of lifestyle factors unobtainable through other statistical measures.

Methodology

The survey questionnaire was constructed in July/August by CHCC, in collaboration with Jetty Research. It was entered into the SurveyMonkey platform for distribution to OSP members.

At time of survey, The OSP comprised 624 Coffs Harbour LGA residents randomly recruited by telephone. (Note that in order to maintain randomness, membership is by invitation only.)

The survey went live on Monday September 1st, via an email from general manager Steve McGrath with embedded hotlink. Two reminder emails were sent on 8 September and 12 September.

By the time the survey closed on Tuesday, September 16th, 376 valid responses had been received – a completion rate of 60 per cent.

Cleaned data was entered into statistical database SPSS for analysis. Where differences in this report are classed as significant, this implies they are statistically significant based on independent sample t-scores, Chi-square or other analysis of variation (ANOVA) calculations. In statistical terms, significant differences are unlikely to have been caused by chance alone. Unless indicated otherwise, significant differences are typically highlighted in blue (above mean) and pink (below mean).

Sample characteristics

Table i (next page) shows the age and gender breakdown of survey respondents:

Table i: Respondent breakdown, by age range and gender.

		Gender		Total	
		Male	Female		
Would your age be between?	18-39	Count	7	20	27
		% of Total	1.9%	5.4%	7.2%
	40-59	Count	62	114	176
		% of Total	16.6%	30.6%	47.2%
	60+	Count	101	69	170
		% of Total	27.1%	18.5%	45.6%
Total		Count	170	203	373
		% of Total	45.6%	54.4%	100.0%

(N.B. Three respondents chose not to provide age and/or gender)

This indicates that the survey sample skews older than the overall population. Results need to be interpreted in this light.

Other demographic characteristics of the survey sample are provided in Part 1 of this report.

Sampling error

The Coffs Harbour City Council LGA contains approximately 26,074 occupied households.¹ Random sampling error for a randomly selected sample of 376 households is +/-5.0 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level.

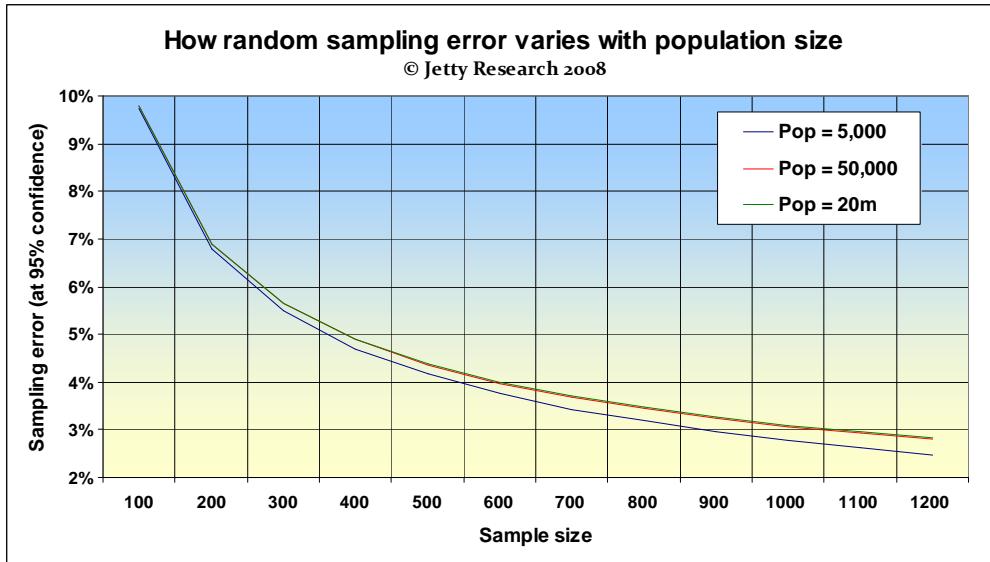
(This means in effect that if we conducted a similar poll 20 times, results should reflect the views and behaviour of the overall survey population to within a +/- 5.0 per cent margin in 19 of those 20 surveys.)

As Graph i shows, margin for error falls as sample size rises. Hence cross-tabulations or sub-groups within the overall sample will create higher margins for error than the overall sample.

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¹ As at time of 2011 ABS Census

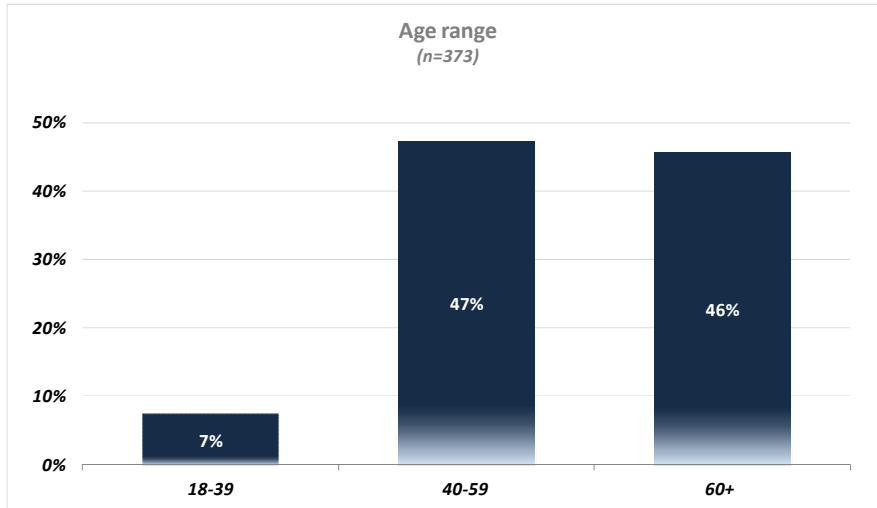
Graph i: How sampling error varies with sample and population size



In addition to the random sampling error, above, some forms of non-random sampling error may have affected results. These include any inherent bias in random telephone recruitment methodology (in particular respondents without fixed line phones), the proportion of non-respondents from the OSP, and/or imperfections in the survey database.

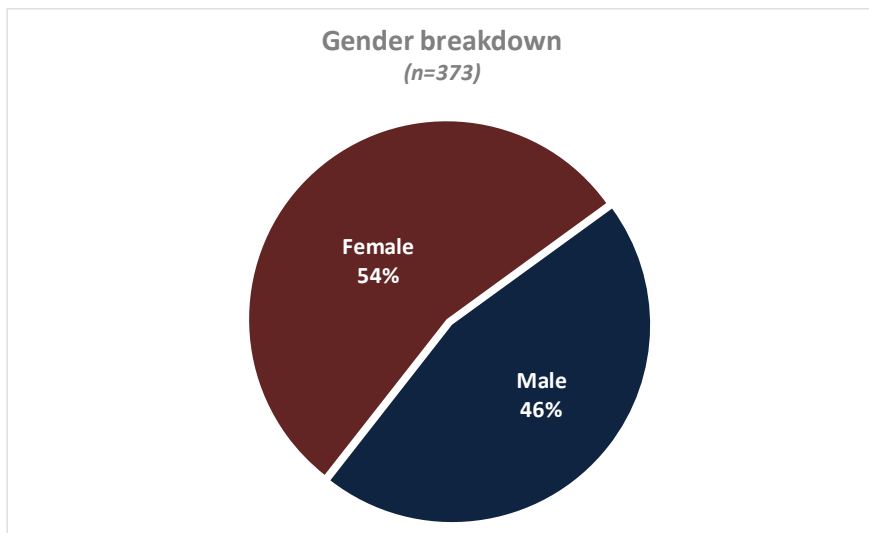
Part 1: Demographics

Graph 1.1: Age



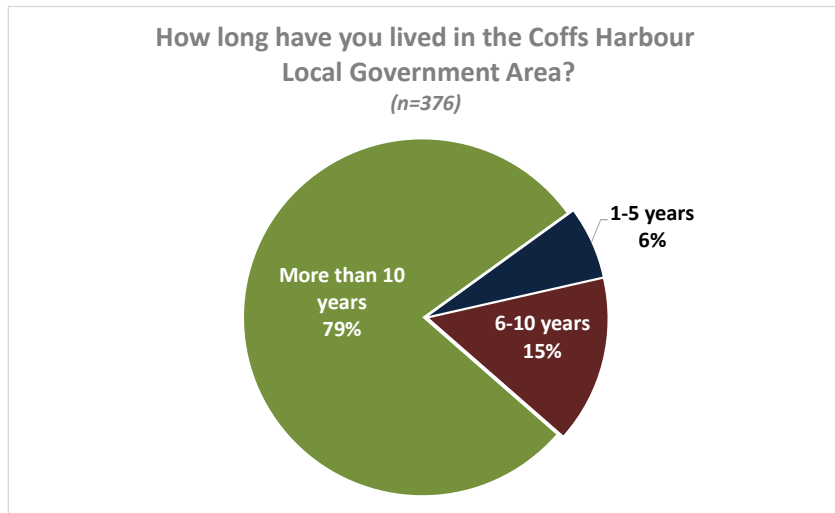
At the time of the 2011 ABS Census (Usual Resident Profile), those aged 18-39 made up 30 per cent of all adults (18+) living in the Coffs Harbour LGA. With only 7 per cent of respondents being aged 18-39, this group is significantly under-represented within the overall survey sample. Conversely the sample over-represents those aged 40-59 (being 37 per cent of all adults in the 2011 Census) and 60-plus (33 per cent).

Graph 1.2: Gender



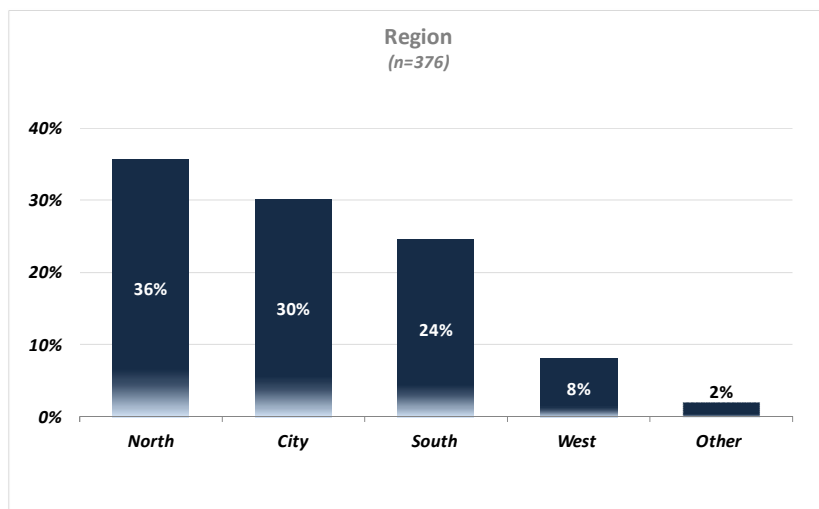
As per the overall LGA population, the sample is relatively evenly split between males and females.

Graph 1.3: Time lived in Coffs Harbour LGA



Almost four in five respondents had lived in the LGA for more than a decade. While this is undoubtedly higher than the overall population, it does suggest that those taking part have a good knowledge of, and emotional investment in the region.

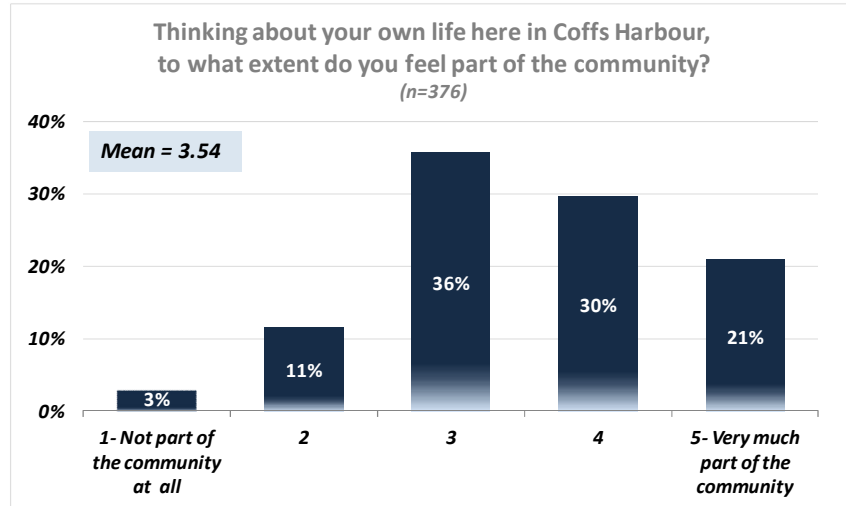
Graph 1.4: Residential region



The sample represents a good mix of regions. However it is likely that those living in the LGA's northern beaches are slightly over-represented.

Part 2: Community inclusiveness

Graph 2.1: Thinking about your own life here in Coffs Harbour, to what extent do you feel part of the community?

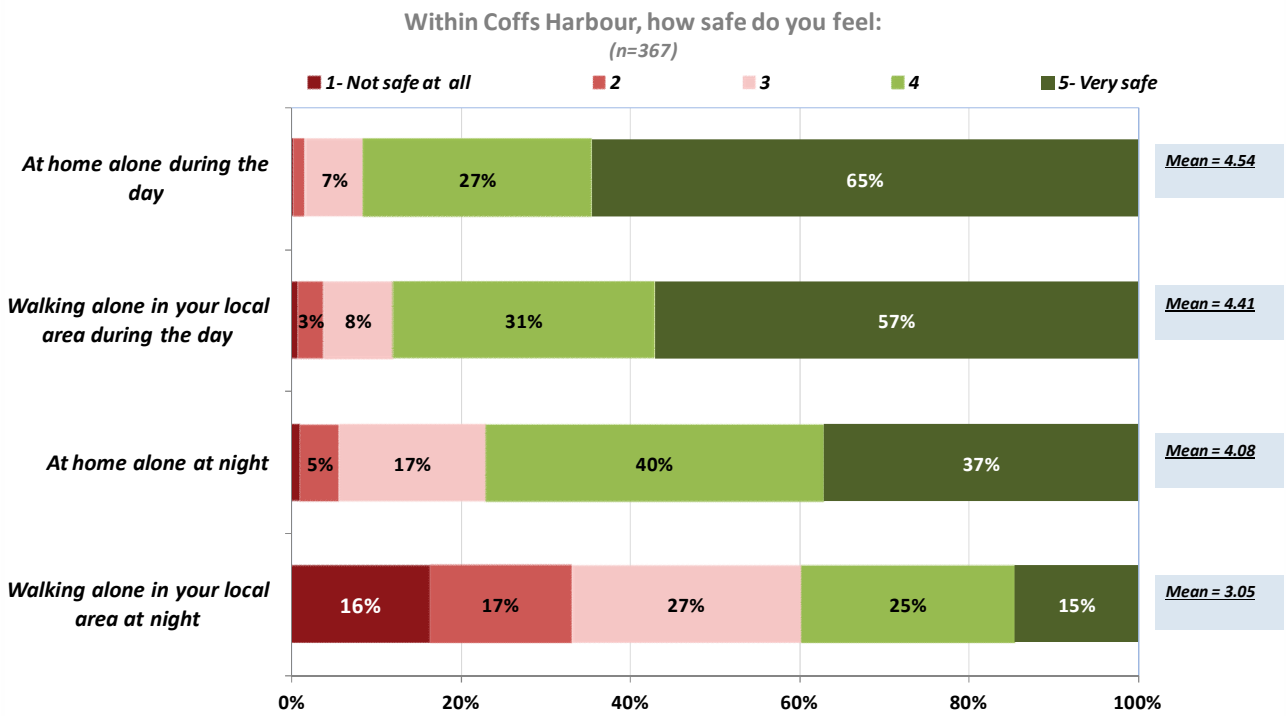


In terms of social connectedness, only half the sample (51 per cent) provided scores of 4 or 5 (out of a possible 5) to the question “To what extent do you feel part of the community?”. A further 36 per cent provided a mid-score of 3, while 14 per cent indicated low levels of connectedness.

Those aged 60-plus were most likely to feel part of their community. However there were no significant differences between males and females.

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Graph 2.2: .How safe do you feel?

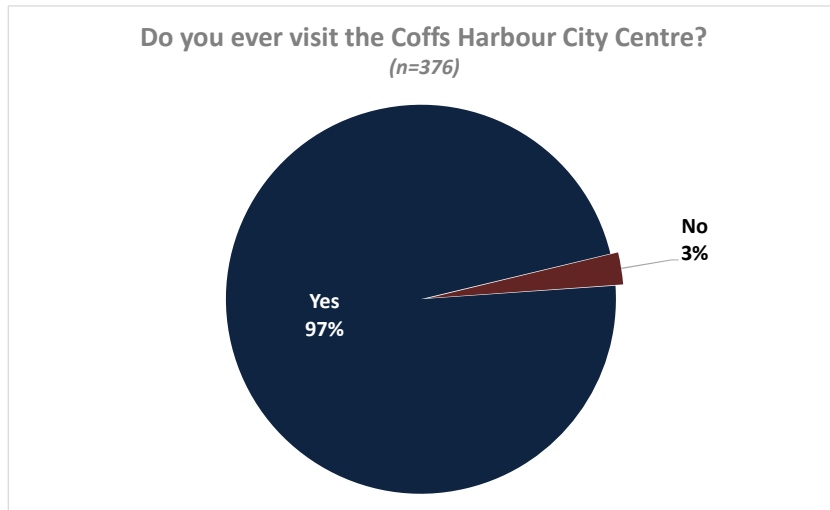


Respondents felt very safe in all respects *except* walking alone in their local area at night.

Women were significantly more likely than men to say they felt unsafe walking alone in their local area at night (with means of 2.74 and 3.40 respectively). Those living in the west of the LGA felt safer at night than those in the south. However there were no differences by age.

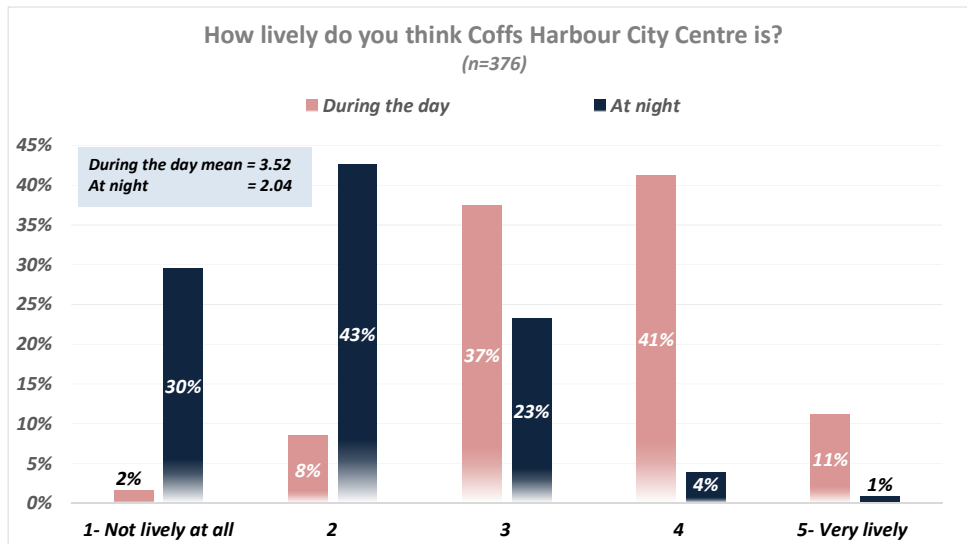
Part 3: City centre

Graph 3.1: Do you ever visit the Coffs Harbour City Centre?



All but 10 respondents said they visited the Coffs Harbour City Centre.

Graph 3.1: How lively do you think the Coffs Harbour City Centre is?

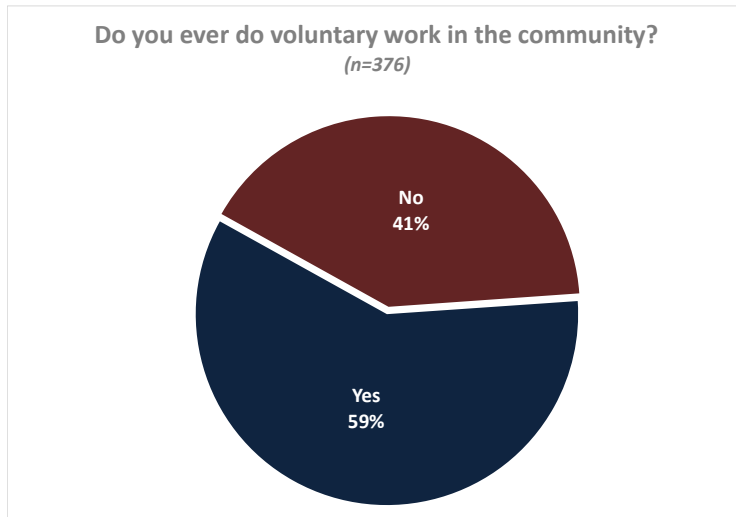


There was a positive response to the liveliness of the city centre during the day, with 52 per cent describing it as lively or very lively (against just 10 per cent saying it was not lively), and a mean score of 3.52. However the score for liveliness at night was far lower, with only 5 per cent believing it to be lively or very lively, and a mean of just 2.04.

There were no significant differences to this result by age or gender.

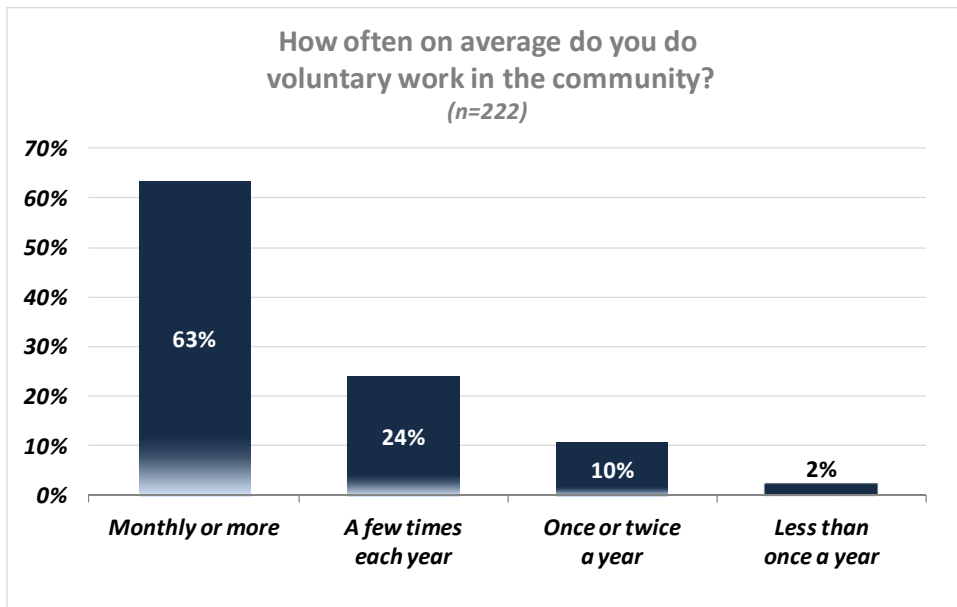
Part4: Connected communities

Graph 4.1: Do you ever do voluntary work in the community?



Three in five respondents claimed to do voluntary work. Results were consistent by age and gender.

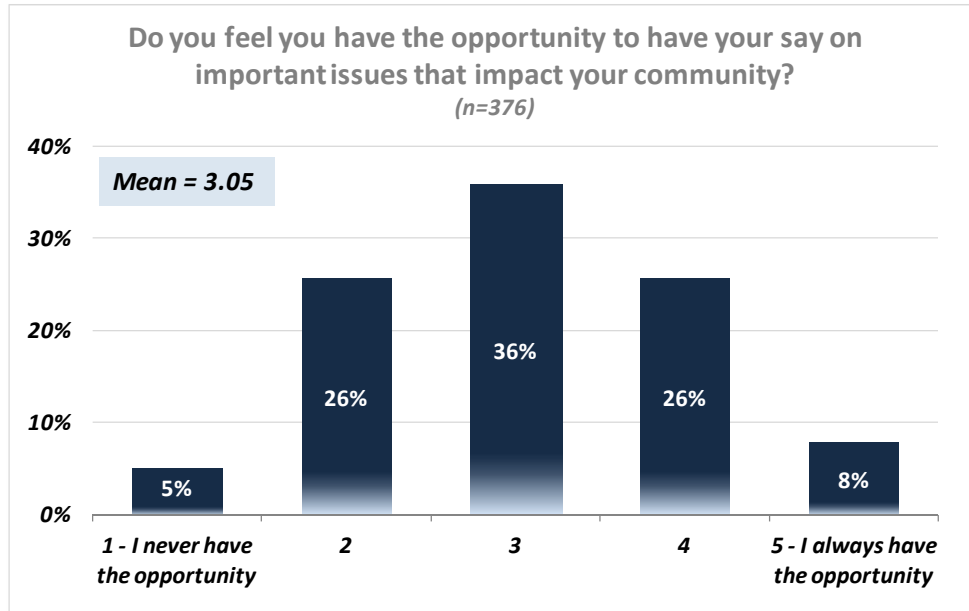
Graph 4.2: How often on average do you do voluntary work in the community?



Of those doing voluntary work, almost two-thirds (63 per cent) claimed to do so monthly or more.

Part 5: Civic leadership

Graph 5.1: Do you feel you have the opportunity to have your say on important issues that impact your community?

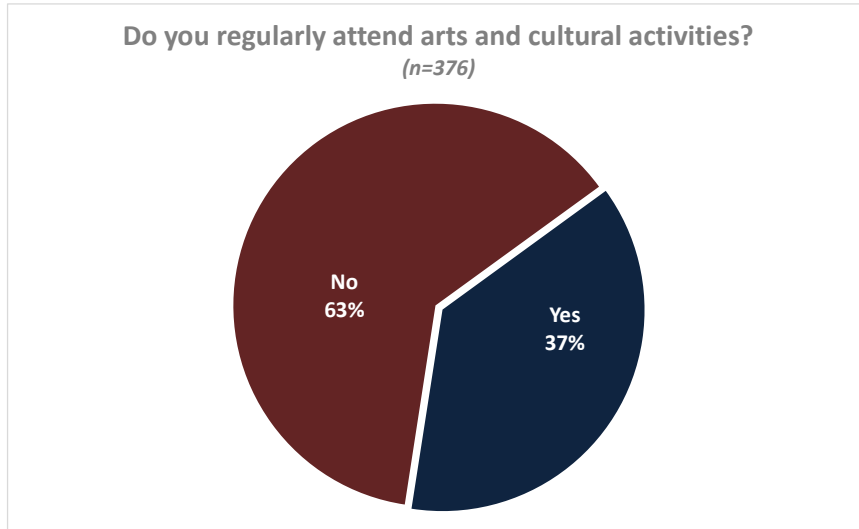


Opinion was sharply divided on the question of whether residents have an opportunity to have their say on important local issues. One-third (34 per cent) said they usually or always had the opportunity. A further 31 per cent said they never or rarely had the opportunity, while the balance adopted a mid-point position.

There were no significant differences in opinion between different age groups or genders.

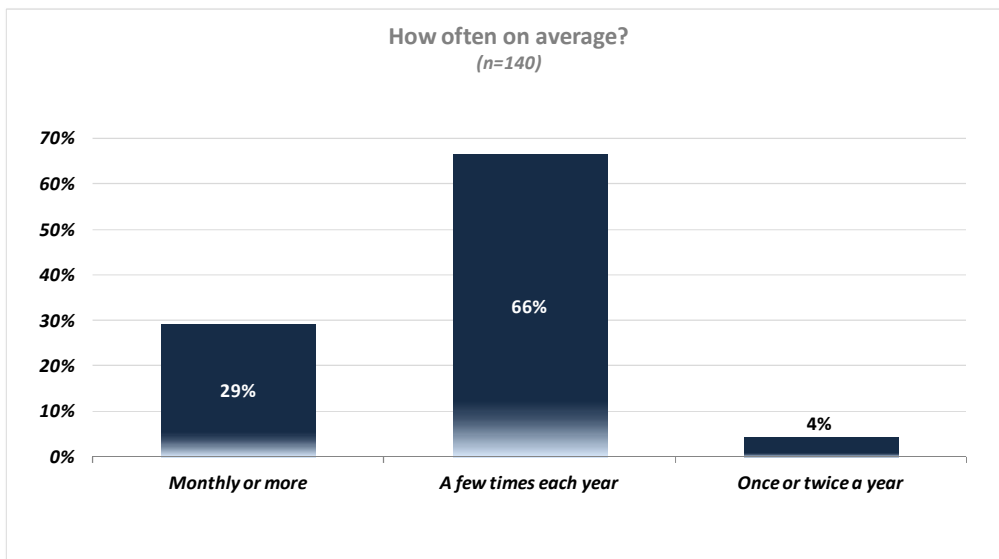
Part 6: Arts and cultural activities

Graph 6.1: Do you regularly attend arts and cultural activities?



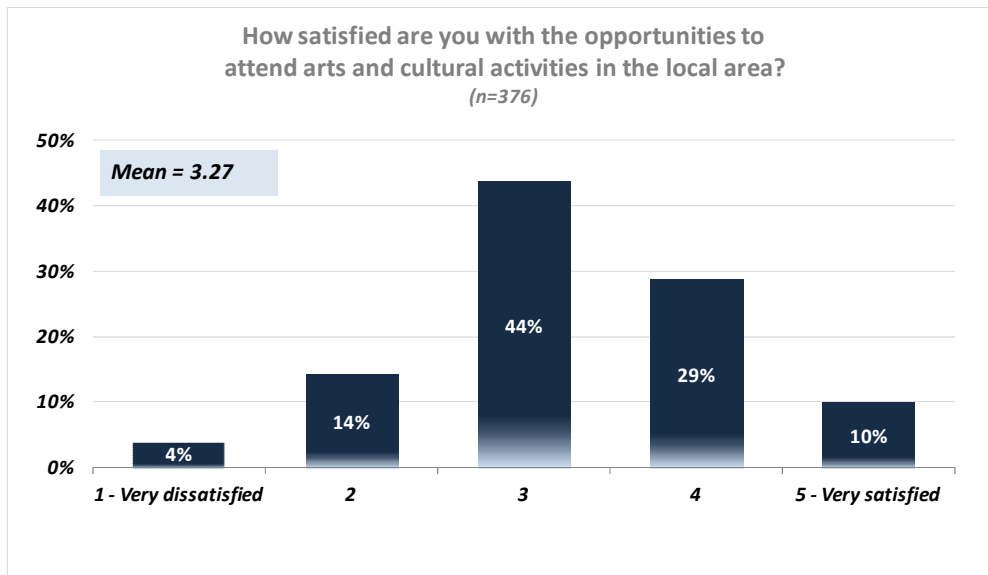
Just over one-third of respondents (37 per cent) regularly attended arts and cultural activities. Women were more likely than men to claim regular arts and cultural attendance, at 44 and 30 per cent respectively.

Graph 6.2: How often on average?



Of those saying they did attend cultural activities, two-thirds said they did so “a few times a year”. Slightly less than 30 per cent claimed to attend such events monthly or more.

Graph 6.3: How satisfied are you with the opportunities to attend arts and cultural activities in the local area?



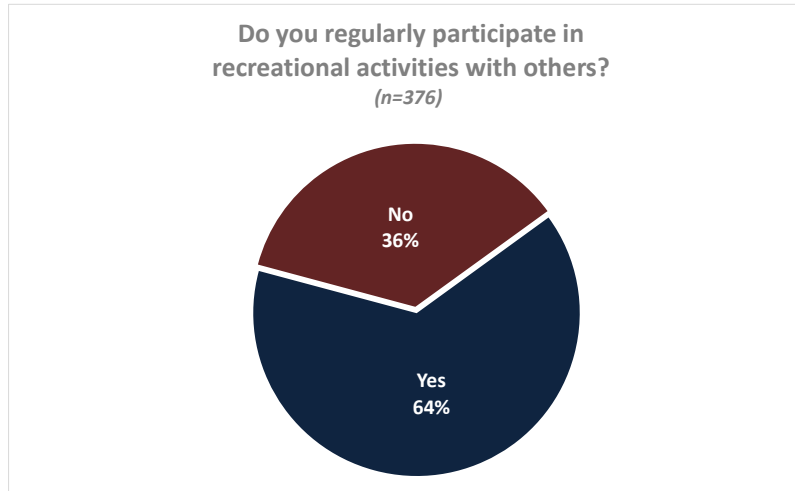
Two in five of all respondents felt very or quite satisfied with the opportunities to attend arts and cultural activities locally. A further 44 per cent were unsure or equivocal, while 18 per cent were dissatisfied.

There were no differences by age, gender or region.

Part 7: Recreational and sporting activity

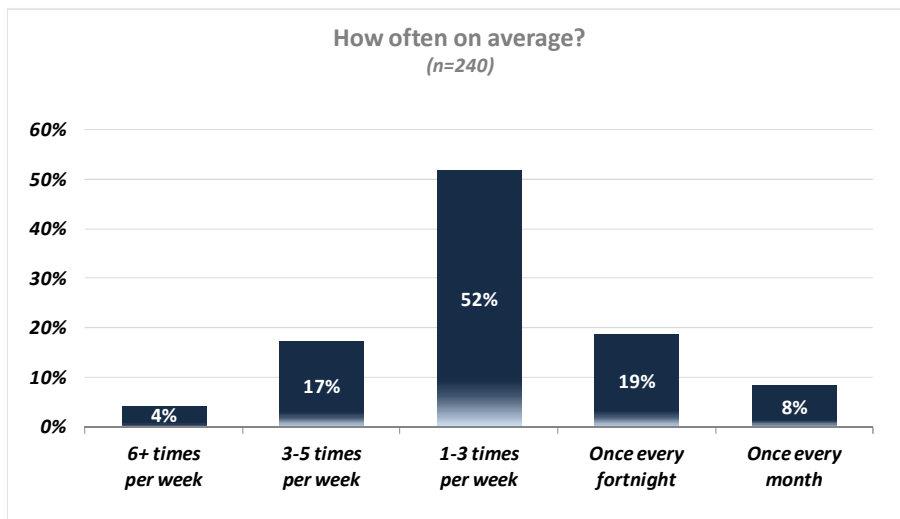
The following definition was included with this section: “Recreational activities are pursued for enjoyment, amusement or pleasure. Sports are structured activities that involve competing against others - as an individual or in a team. 'Regularly' is defined as at least once a month.”

Graph 7.1: Do you regularly participate in recreational activities with others?



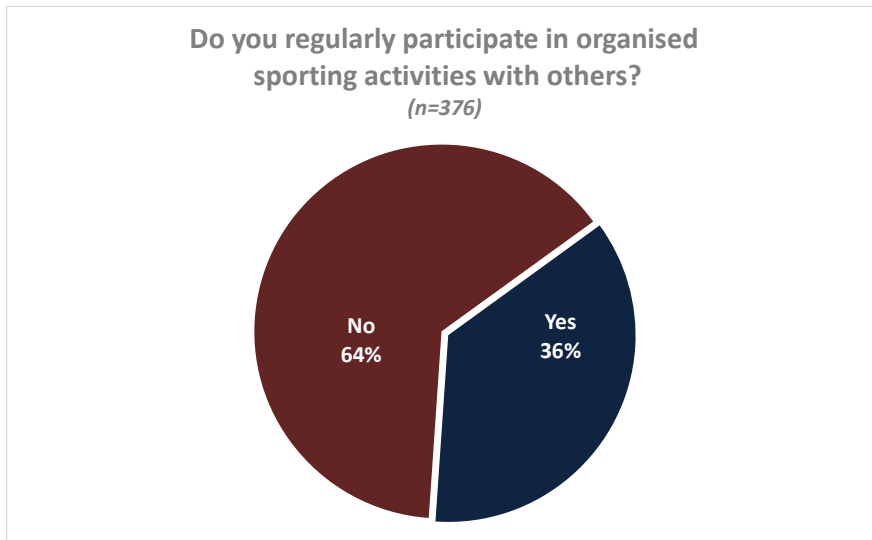
Just under two-thirds of respondents claimed to regularly participate in recreational activities with others. This included 89 per cent of those aged 18-39, and 74 per cent of those living in the city centre.

Graph 7.2: How often on average?



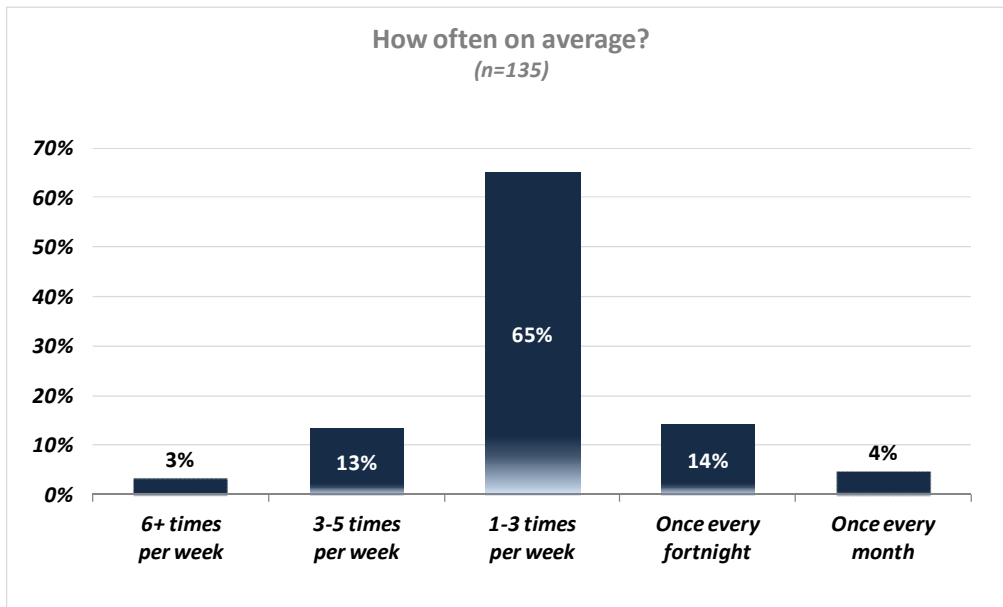
Of those participating in recreational activities, over half claimed to do so between one and three times per week.

Graph 7.3: Do you regularly participate in organised sporting activities with others?



Just over one-third of those surveyed said they participated in organised sporting events. This included 45 per cent of those living in Coffs Harbour.

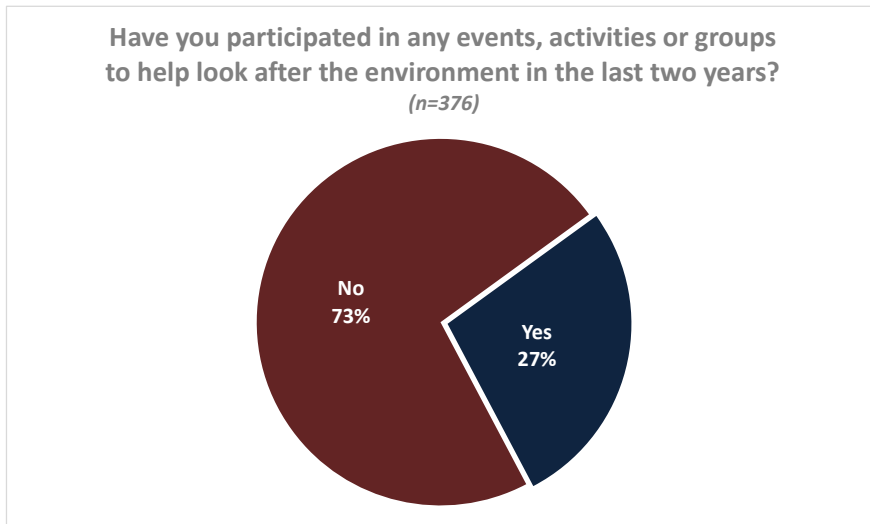
Graph 7.4: How often?



Of those participating in organised sport, almost two-thirds did so between one and three times per week.

Part 8: Environmental programs

Graph 8.1: Have you participated in any events, activities or groups to help look after the environment in the last two years?



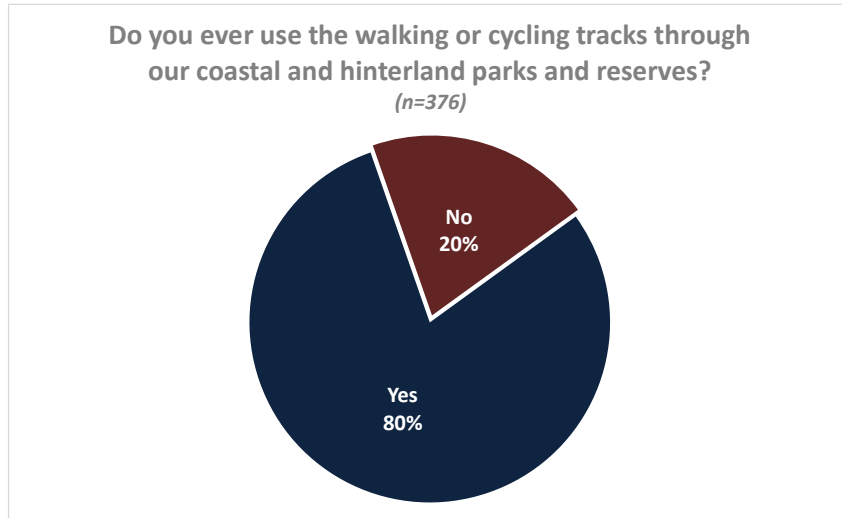
Twenty seven per cent of those surveyed said they had participated in some form of environmental event, activity or group at some point over the past two years. This was consistent by age, gender and area.

Those answering “yes” to this question were then asked (in an open-ended question) what this entailed. Most popular responses included:

- Landcare and/or bush regeneration (nominated by 24 per cent of those answering “yes”);
- Clean-up Australia Day (22 per cent);
- Attending a rally or workshop (15 per cent);
- Dunecare, picking up rubbish or assisting at Botanic Gardens (11 per cent each).

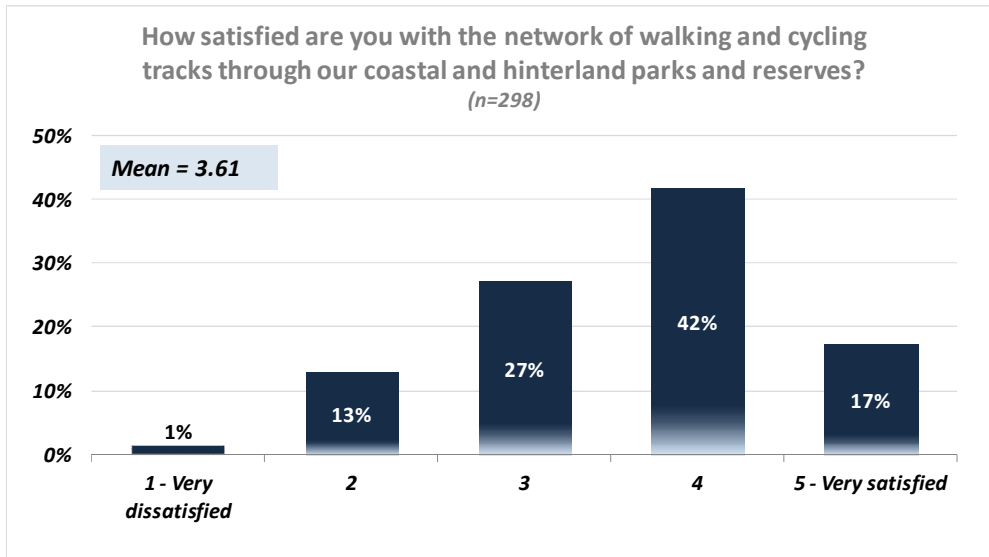
Part 9: Environmental access and learning

Graph 9.1: Do you ever use the walking or cycling tracks through our coastal and hinterland parks and reserves?



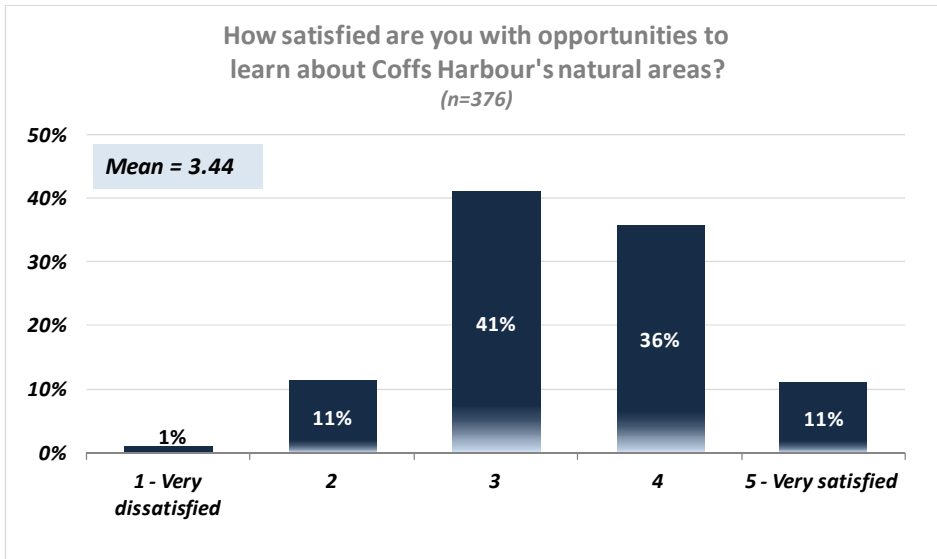
Four in five respondents said they used walking or cycling tracks within the LGA.

Graph 9.2: How satisfied are you with the network of walking and cycling tracks through our coastal and hinterland parks and reserves?



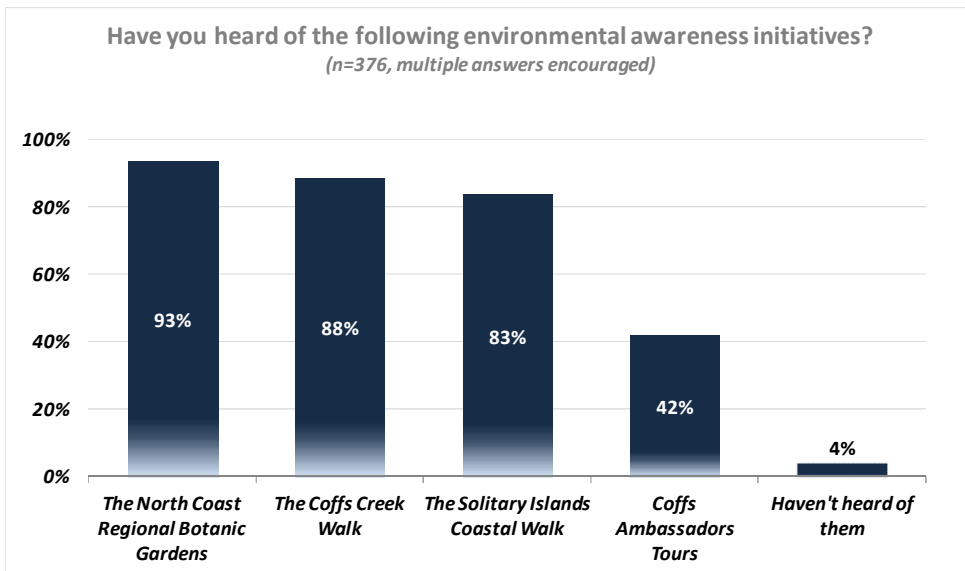
Of those using walking or cycling tracks, there was a high level of satisfaction. Three in five (59 per cent) provided a score of 4 or 5 (out of 5), against just 14 per cent expressing dissatisfaction. Those living in Coffs Harbour were the most satisfied.

Graph 9.3: How satisfied are you with opportunities to learn about Coffs Harbour’s natural areas?



Some 41 per cent of respondents provided a mid-score of 3, suggesting they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with opportunities to learn about the region’s natural areas. Of those who were more definite in their views, 47 per cent were satisfied against just 12 per cent dissatisfied.

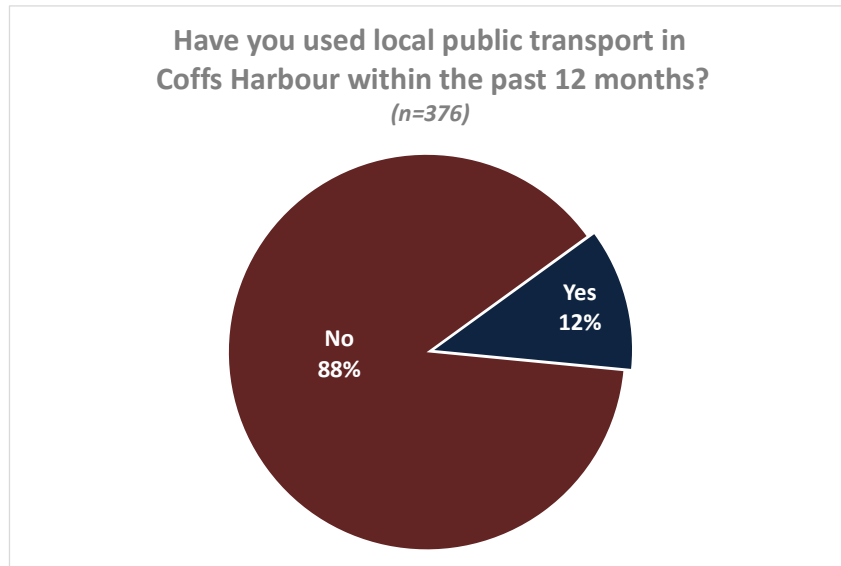
Graph 9.4: Have you heard of the following environmental awareness initiatives?



In terms of specific environmental initiatives, awareness was extremely high for the Botanic Gardens (nominated by 93 per cent of respondents), the Coffs Creek Walk (88 per cent) and the Solitary Islands Coastal Walk (83 per cent). Meanwhile four in ten claimed familiarity with the Ambassador Tours.

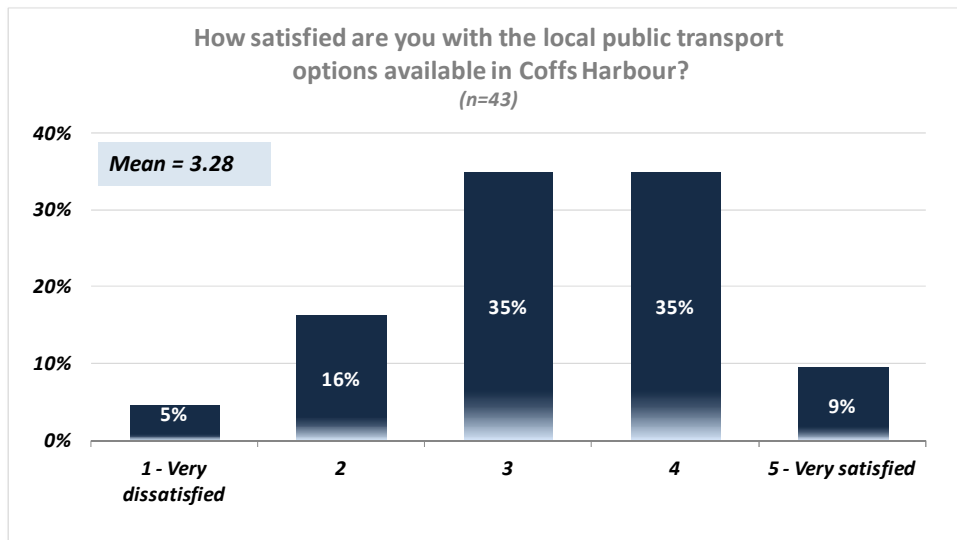
Part 10: Public transport use

Graph 10.1: Have you used local public transport in Coffs Harbour within the past 12 months?



Only one in eight respondents said they had used local public transport within the last year. Usage was highest among those living in the LGA's south (at 17 per cent).

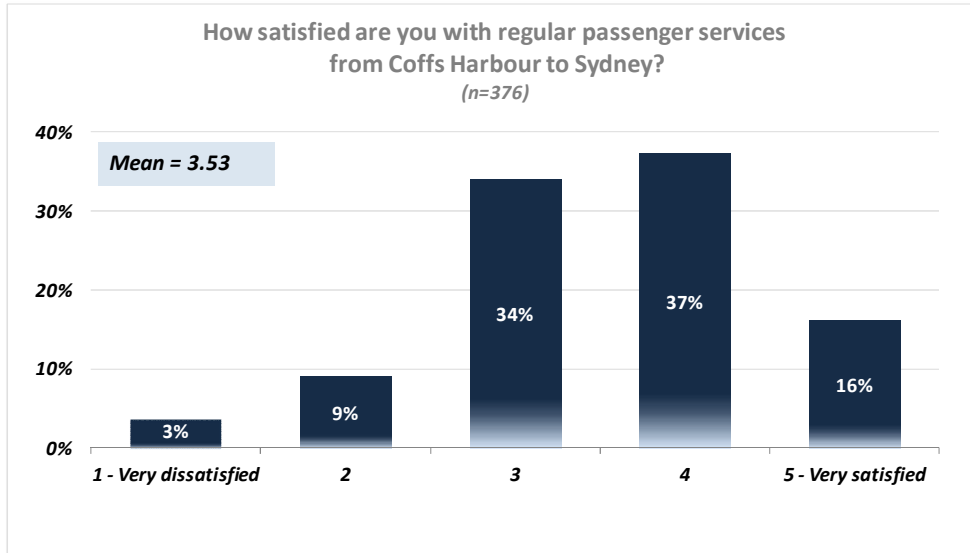
Graph 10.2: How satisfied are you with the local public transport options available in Coffs Harbour?



Although 44 per cent of all respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with local public transport, this result should be treated with caution given the extremely low usage patterns shown above.

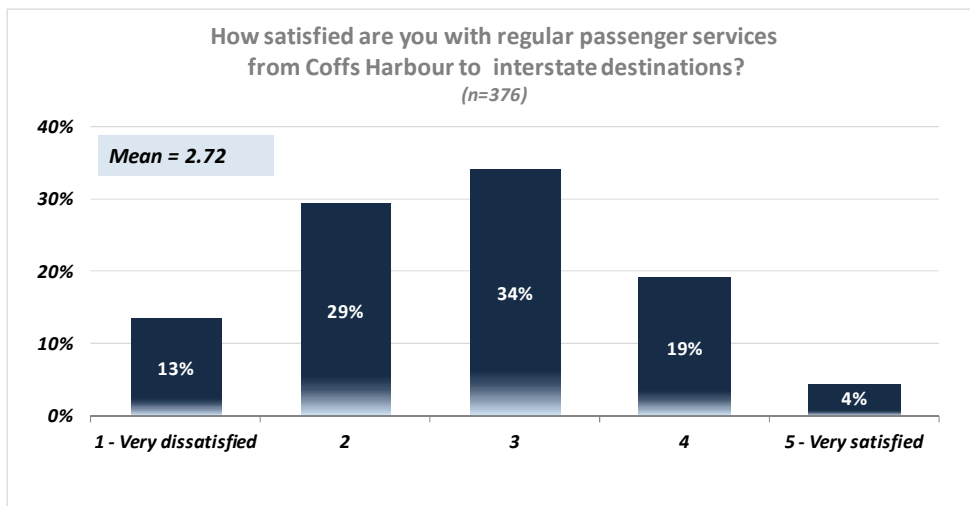
Part 11: Sydney and interstate transport connections

Graph 11.1: How satisfied are you with regular passenger services (including air, rail and coach) from Coffs Harbour to Sydney?



There was a reasonably high level of satisfaction with passenger services to Sydney, with 53 per cent satisfied against 12 per cent dissatisfied. Men were more satisfied than women, while results were consistent by age and location.

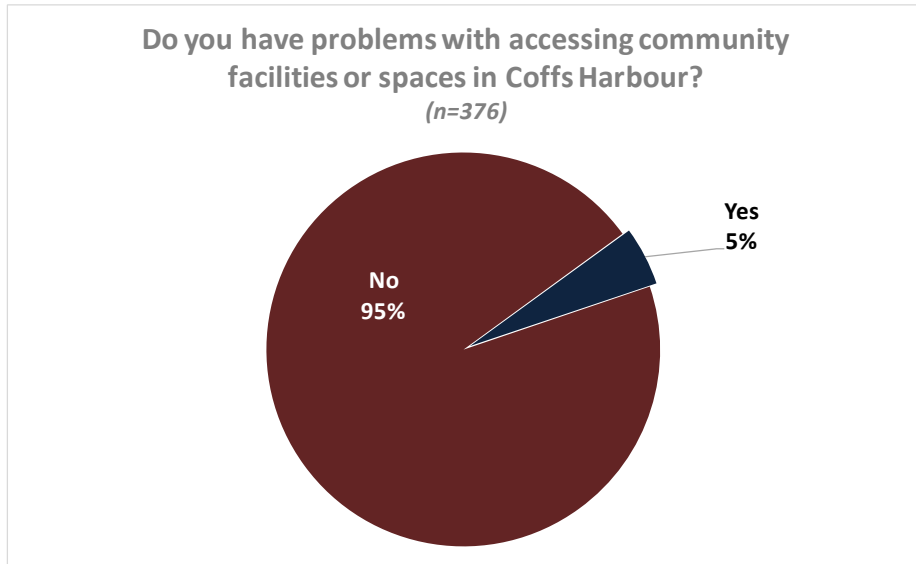
Graph 11.2: How satisfied are you with regular passenger services (including air, rail and coach) from Coffs Harbour to interstate destinations?



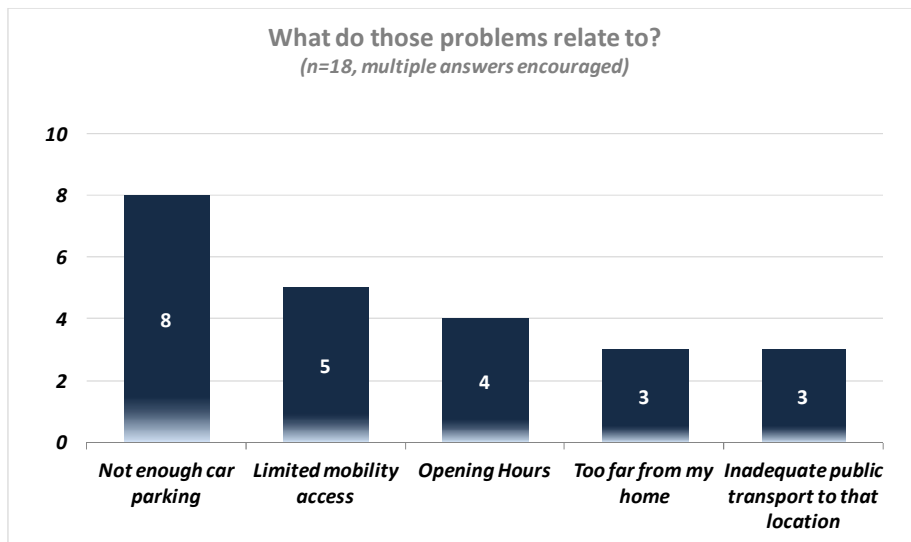
Satisfaction was far lower in relation to services to interstate destinations. In this instance just 23 per cent were satisfied, against 42 per cent dissatisfied.

Part 12: Community spaces

Graph 12.1: Do you have problems with accessing community facilities or spaces in Coffs Harbour?



Graph 12.2: If yes, what does the problem relate to?



Only 5 per cent of respondents claimed to have access issues for community facilities or spaces. Of these, lack of car parking was the main issue raised. (However these results are statistically unreliable due to the extremely small sample size).

Table 12.1: Are there any particular community facilities or spaces to which this problem (or these problems) apply?

<i>Are there any particular community facilities or spaces to which this problem (or these problems) apply?</i>
Woolgoolga Swimming Pool is far too small. I have lived there for 30 years and the pool size has remained the same. A disgrace !!!
Skate park, Brelsford Park playgrounds, other playgrounds and parks
Skate park
Sawtell library Lyons Rd.....no cemented paths
RTA, NRMA, Council and getting from Nana Glen to Coffs Harbour
Public toilets in this area
Oval and motor bike circuited, lack of accessible parking, footpaths and facilities.
Nothing specfic, just a generalisation. Parking problems mainly occur pre school and after school hours
no
Library, pool
Lack of footpaths and uneven footpaths
Hospital

Those with access issues were also invited to address any specific facilities or spaces that caused them access issues. Twelve chose to do so, and their verbatim responses are shown in Table 12.1, above.

Part 13: Final suggestions and ideas

The survey concluded with respondents being invited to offer final ideas or suggestions to improve community wellbeing. Over 200 took advantage of the opportunity, and their (largely verbatim) responses are shown in their entirety in Appendix 2.

A summary of the most noted comments, together with the number of times they were mentioned, is shown in Table 13.1, below:

Table 13.1: Summary of most noted final suggestions and ideas

Do you have any final suggestions or ideas about how community well-being can be improved in Coffs Harbour?	Count
We need/want a cultural and/or events centre	40
More and/or better upkeep of Coffs cycleways and footpaths	38
Better connections between different Coffs Harbour areas	20
Improved Public Transport	17
Stronger policing/safer community through security	15
A Coffs-Harbour bypass	10
Direct flights to Brisbane	5

However these brief descriptions can't do justice to the rich variety or context of comments. We would hence recommend those interested to read Appendix 2 in order to gain a better perspective on what panellists see as important.

Appendix 1: Satisfaction Mean scores, by age, gender and location

Statement	Age			Gender		Location			
	18-39	40-59	60+	Male	Female	North	West	City	South
Thinking about your own life here in Coffs Harbour, to what extent do you feel part of the community?	3.44	3.45	3.66	3.63	3.48	3.56	3.30	3.49	3.68
How safe do you feel: At home alone during the day	4.56	4.67	4.41	4.57	4.52	4.57	4.70	4.54	4.46
How safe do you feel: At home alone at night	3.63	4.17	4.05	4.22	3.96	4.16	4.50	4.01	3.93
Walking alone in your local area during the day	4.22	4.54	4.29	4.40	4.41	4.53	4.33	4.32	4.38
Walking alone in your local area at night	2.81	3.12	3.00	3.40	2.74	3.32	3.53	2.72	2.91
How lively is Coffs Harbour: During the day	3.54	3.56	3.48	3.45	3.58	3.51	3.43	3.56	3.50
How lively is Coffs Harbour: At night	2.00	1.99	2.10	2.07	2.02	2.16	1.93	2.03	1.95
Do you feel you have the opportunity to have your say on important issues that impact your community?	2.93	2.96	3.16	2.97	3.12	3.01	3.20	2.89	3.29
How satisfied are you with the opportunities to attend arts and cultural activities in the local area?	3.30	3.22	3.32	3.34	3.21	3.23	3.00	3.30	3.36
How satisfied are you with the network of walking and cycling tracks through our coastal and hinterland parks and reserves?	3.50	3.53	3.72	3.62	3.60	3.31	3.50	3.86	3.74
How satisfied are you with opportunities to learn about Coffs Harbour's natural areas?	3.41	3.40	3.49	3.50	3.39	3.35	3.30	3.47	3.57
How satisfied are you with the local public transport options available in Coffs Harbour?	3.00	3.10	3.50	3.27	3.29	2.50	2.50	3.59	3.40
How satisfied are you with regular passenger services from Coffs Harbour to Sydney?	3.63	3.42	3.64	3.69	3.40	3.36	3.50	3.56	3.74
How satisfied are you with regular passenger services from Coffs Harbour to interstate destinations?	2.78	2.59	2.84	2.81	2.64	2.62	2.67	2.67	2.97

Appendix 2: Final suggestions or ideas

<p><i>Do you have any final suggestions or ideas about how community well-being can be improved in Coffs Harbour? Please tell us here.</i></p>
<p>A community /civic centre is very much needed to encourage big out of town productions .</p>
<p>A cycle track for middle Boambee linking with other cycle tracks and allowing students to safely ride their bikes to school. Boambee Primary. Build an entertainment centre for Coffs. Improve the parklands near the fishing club adjacent to the jetty.</p>
<p>A decent entertainment Centre is a must have. An I would also like to see a midweek direct flight between Coffs harbour and Melbourne</p>
<p>A Face book community events and neighbourhood watch site</p>
<p>A large entertainment centre like the wonderful Glasshouse at Port Macquarie</p>
<p>A larger entertainment venue for concerts etc., more cultural events and a bypass for Coffs Harbour.</p>
<p>A light rail service should be planned for the future between Coffs Harbour CBD, Jetty and Park Beach through to PBP. Get daily air services direct to Melbourne and Brisbane</p>
<p>A lot of community (charity-type) activities and library activities only occur mid-week which means that those of us who work outside the Coffs City Centre cannot attend.</p>
<p>A new multipurpose art gallery, convention/meeting and cultural centre to optimise opportunities and those we currently miss out on. Completion of a safe cycleway along Lyons Rd to the interchange with the Pacific Hwy especially as it has become part of the annual Cycle Challenge.</p>
<p>A regular air service between Coffs and Brisbane. Cycle lanes from Coffs to Coramba/ Nana Glen. More musical events for young people.</p>
<p>A serious venue for large-scale cultural events, not just sports, and rock in the rain and car races. "if you build it, they will come."</p>
<p>A small fleet of shuttle buses used to connect the outer arrears to Coffs each day, would be good. Public transport remains the biggest issue for me, so many older people don't drive anymore and don't like the big buses. Getting them to Coffs would be good. It should be costed to be fair anyone to use.</p>
<p>Allow more high rise development to attract more tourists. Tourists want to be able to stay in accommodation that offers spectacular ocean views and accommodation that is within walking distance to restaurants. The Jetty restaurant area is a complete dump compared with other tourist destinations.</p>
<p>Allow us to see the coast at more places. It is largely a hidden treasure.</p>
<p>Although I don't realistically expect anything to be done about it, I believe there is a need for better access to public mental health services. I have recently started studying at university as my pathway to becoming a psychologist, as a direct result of my experience with the horrific "drug 'em up and push 'em out the door" policy of the local hospital mental health services. I don't blame Coffs for this nationally endemic public health disaster, but I can still hope for better.</p>
<p>An aged care centre is long overdue.</p>
<p>An increase of activities within the arts sector. A new art gallery would be great to begin with. A civic centre that would allow and attract artists to perform outside the stop gap of the RSL type clubs that have poor and outdated facilities. Slow up on the SPORTS mentality we have great grounds already.</p>
<p>An international entertainment venue ,not the silly currency venues that we have. Too small . We are in the middle of Brisbane and Sydney. Ideal situation.</p>

Another skate park for younger children
Anything that can keep us safe from Jihadists would be welcome.
Being a restricted Vision member of the Community, I would like to be able to SEE more of the raised sections (stairs/paths Shop front d/ways) White strip painted
Better bike tracks and information signs on the Northern Beaches
Better development of cultural activities in the city
Better facilities for pedestrian traffic on streets and roads so that we do not have to drive and thus not have opportunity to meet with people. Better library and museum facilities especially for children. Improved access to and better playgrounds for children.
Better rail services to Sydney and Brisbane.
Better regular airline access to other capital cities.
Better security, e.g. lighting at public car parks at beach, jetty etc. More garbage bins.
Better upkeep of cycle paths please - always littered with debris and not wide enough if used as shared walkways. Fitness areas in parks and open up the foreshore with boardwalks like the Broadwater at Labrador Gold Coast.
Better upkeep of existing cycle paths and extension of cycle paths. Not shared paths, actual cycle paths so you can go for a decent ride safely and not have to dodge pedestrians constantly. Make it easier to ride to work to help beat the obesity problem, put Coffs on the map as a healthy city. Exercise parks and paths like on Gold Coast and more open community parks to encourage people to get out and enjoy our beautiful coastal areas.
Bike path around sandy beach
Build an entertainment centre on city hill
Build the Cultural centre so that Coffs people don't need to travel to Port Macquarie and we can have large scale professional performances here. We have not had a ballet company or orchestra visit here since the Civic Centre was pulled down. The result? Cultural illiteracy for our young people whose cultural experience centres on tasteless shows of mediocre talent with mediocre judges like The X Factor and Australia's got talent. We need some class here.
By greater creation of job opportunities for all ages especially our youth.
car parking i.e. hospitals doctors etc.
Cheaper advertising for community events in The Advocate.
City planning to enhance and encourage the environmental highlights of the region. Cycle ways, walkways, improved arts in the area move the highway, world class aquatic centre more community infrastructure that bring community together.
Coffs harbour has the community spirit but we must sell it better to locals and more so to visitors. You can travel around Australia and see other towns have a lot facilities in Coffs we have ample but we must sell it better. Coffs could be a vibrant town again like the 70's n 80's.
Coffs Harbour is more than the centre. The Northern Beaches invariably struggle to achieve the same standard of amenity. A cycleway linking the northern beaches of Emerald and Sandy to Woolgoolga is essential infrastructure, hopefully in the near future.
Coffs Harbour lacks a uniformity in commercial areas and social areas. Closed shops and cafes & restaurants are not a positive aspect of Coffs
Coffs Harbour need to have a much more lively City Centre. Culture is lacking. Public transport is bad, particularly on Sundays. Preservation of our natural beauty is a must.
Coffs Harbour needs a purpose build and professionally run Performing Arts Centre.

Coffs neighbourhood watch on Face book like Nambucca has so the community is aware of the crime going on in their area
Community/Town Hall - not needing to use the RSL
Complete safe cycle ways linking towns and villages. Less paperwork for event organisers.
Consult with general public and not just minority single purpose groups
Continuous Cycle way from Red rock to Sawtell. Scented garden, fountain and parkland in brelford park. Cultural centre, cafes, park on the southern side of Coffs Harbour in old quarry area... Think Butchart Gardens, Canada Kerb and guttering in the northern suburbs. Sandy, emerald and sapphire. Pedestrian friendly city centre and jetty strip. Beautiful parkland around jetty Beach with views to the water.
Council needs to focus on its core activities and not duplicate the activities covered by the State.
Council rates are paid to ensure that roads, rubbish, water, sewerage, and local small parks, roundabouts, hubs and medium strips etc are maintained. Council should be about this rather than continued new spending that result in cash blow-outs and that have put my rates up every year since moving here 12 years ago. It is now cheaper to buy and maintain a home in Campbelltown NSW (incl rates etc) than to live here, there is no difference in crime stats & demographics, unemployment is actually higher here in Coffs. I want my kids to be able to buy a home here one day and to be able to make a living here but if council keeps spending beyond the budget the way it does, this wont be possible. Money and debt (incl council rates) are the big affectors of family wellbeing. But you guys probably only want to here from comments that you want to here from, comments that dont challenge what you have done over the years in terms of local government spending.
Crack down on alcohol consumption and violence in the CBD. It spills out into the suburbs at 2:00am! Crack down on graffiti.
Create more car parking space at the Coffs Harbour base hospital.
Cycle/ foot path from James Small drive to Diggers Beach Rd.
Definitely a better stocked library is a MUST. A larger, purpose-built art gallery is on the must list too, along with a proper theatre ,even though the Jetty Theatre is cute!
Desperately need to find way of viably financing a performing arts theatre, 600-700 seats, tiered; full fly tower, stage and backstage, acoustically isolated. Coffs' cultural, economic and population growth will continue to be stunted without it, with consequent deleterious impacts on quality of life and opportunities, particularly for our youth. We MUST find a way of getting Govt support for the bulk of the cost.
Develop the food and tourist trail in the Orara Valley
Direct flights to major capital cities.
Don't make it clouded in red tape. No licenses or fees for using bike paths, skate parks etc. Encourage people to use and enjoy the wonderful facilities that we all have access too. Also building on the jetty foreshores for specific groups (commercial or leisure) and not allowing normal regular constituents to enjoy these areas freely.
Effective public transport particularly servicing villages west of red hill. meals on wheels west of Coffs
Encourage the teaching of care for the environment and one another in schools and kindergartens.
Ensure the library continues to get the full support of the council
Entertainment centre
Entertainment centre and co located art gallery in Coffs Harbour
Entertainment Centre in heart of city More cleaning of toilets at Jetty Foreshores, often filthy.

<p>Every 6 months the council can clean our creeks and waterways, such things as shopping trolleys in our beautiful creeks, a 4 man team supplied with the necessary safety equipment to enter these creeks and clean out the trash that has sat their for years, it would not be that hard and these beautiful waterways will bring tourist which will improve our tourist destination holiday makers with the beauty of our coast and surrounding areas.</p>
<p>Facilities for the aged and disable need to keep being addressed and added to regularly as the population here is aging more.</p>
<p>Facilities should be spread out to the other areas in the LGA not just in Coffs itself</p>
<p>Fast track a highway traffic bypass .</p>
<p>Fix the drug problem.</p>
<p>Fix up the roads and make driving around Coffs Harbour less of a trauma, especially during holidays and school hrs. Link areas and give people a choice instead of being all funnelled into a few bottlenecks, this would have a very calming effect on a majority of locals and visitors.</p>
<p>Flights. Need a service to Brisbane. Urgently.</p>
<p>For genuine community wellness, Council needs to take the initiative to reduce liquor trading hours. Trial a period of trading from 12pm-10pm. Be a leader, not a follower. So many problems in the community happen after midnight, and they are usually alcohol related. Coffs is small enough, by that I mean we don't have a huge amount of night clubs. Close the venues at 10pm and see what difference it makes to the community. I bet it makes a huge difference to crime in the town. Thanks.</p>
<p>Foreshore amenities, hospital parking, CBD by-pass.</p>
<p>Free sporting facilities like a beachside outdoor basketball court at the Jetty</p>
<p>Have more parades like in old days</p>
<p>Have more parades like in the old days</p>
<p>Having community days, e.g. in a particular area, as in say, around a few local streets, could have market stall day, like in Sawtell, other activities.</p>
<p>Highway bypass of Coffs</p>
<p>Holding open community forums on a regular basis (say 2-3 times per year) not necessarily immediate issue-based</p>
<p>I believe the focus should be on basic, simple, natural activities and facilities. Not noisy activities and events like speed boat racing and car rallies. In my experience, most people and families are looking for a quiet, normal and natural existence. People and families come to the area for a better and more healthy life. My feeling is DON'T BEAT IT UP INTO SOMETHING NOISY AND UNNATURAL . Keep everything quiet and peaceful.</p>
<p>I can't think at the moment will think on this and answer next time</p>
<p>I feel that Coffs Harbour is doing a great job and is the best country town in NSW but it could do more for all the aged people in the area.</p>
<p>I feel there could be increased initiatives that have the aim of promoting local businesses. We do have advertising opportunities such as in the 'Focus Magazine,' but I feel there could be improvements made, such as a few free advertising opportunities.</p>
<p>I feel there is a lack of music in the city area - buskers, cafe musos. This would be particularly appealing of an evening. Performances would, of course, have to be of a standard. This relates to the question about Arts and Culture - there is quite a lot available but at a cost and many can't afford it. On another matter, the system of cycle ways and paths is quite extensive but the paths are too narrow for shared use and there are very few locations where the elderly can walk safely.</p>

<p>I live in Middle Boambee, we have no footpaths and no public bus service but a population age that is probably above the Coffs average. We would use a bus to Toormina or the Coffs centre if available and eventually we will need to move from our home due to a lack of public transport. We have lovely areas to walk near our home for recreation and health but most of us cannot because of dangerous dogs, sometimes in packs that are allowed to roam. If we can all see them why can't the Ranger? We do not feel safe walking near our home. Similarly our peace and quiet and sleep is frequently disturbed by barking dogs, nothing long term is ever done about these complaints so people eventually don't bother to report these incidents. Council is not fulfilling its responsibilities in this regard...</p>
<p>I manage to get to Jetty Theatre Productions and other events at various clubs & because I am fortunate enough to have a married daughter with hubby and children living in Coffs I do get to lots of Sporting, Music & School Events. I did attend an Aged Care Expo recently at Coffs Ex which was excellent. I feel very sad for those in the community with no family and few or no friends. Some activity to get them involved would be great. Perhaps a combined aged/youth activity or interaction event could be worthwhile. Maybe a seminar on mutual respect between aged and youth and cultures could be worthwhile. I have lived a very fortunate life in terms of family, friends and career. I've not had what I may have wanted BUT I've been blessed with all I've needed.</p>
<p>I often see large buses transporting only a few passengers. Perhaps smaller mini buses could be considered. More cost effective for bus companies with the possibility of more frequent services. (I advise that I drive to all my destinations).</p>
<p>I think Coffs is very community minded. I work full time in community services so prefer quiet relaxing in my down time. I attend church Sunday mornings but find some of the coast walks etc are always on that morning. Would love some sat or Sunday Afternoon</p>
<p>I think community wellbeing would be greatly enhanced by a dedicated Regional Art Gallery/Performing Arts Centre similar to the Glasshouse in Port Macquarie. We spend a small fortune every year, on flight, car and accommodation costs, travelling to Sydney and interstate capital cities and also to long established Regional galleries such as Armidale and Port Macquarie to see exhibitions and concerts. Coffs feels like a place to sleep, a beach and a highway, not a centre for the arts. Dr. Summers' expertise and enthusiasm has brought amazing exhibitions and small musical events to our town, but she is restricted to a tiny floor space in Rigby house. Coffs could offer so much more and involve the whole community.</p>
<p>I think it would be good to have walking/cycle paths connecting the villages on the northern beaches and going into Coffs Harbour. This would encourage people to exercise in a safe manner and visitors might also find this an attractive way to see our area.</p>
<p>I think there are a large amount of crazy drivers on the roads around Coffs City and on the Highway in and out of the city - They are rude and always speeding and I regularly see people on the phone. I think more road police should be made available to make our area safer on the road</p>
<p>I think there needs to be more development of cafes and restaurants along the beach front.</p>
<p>I think we should have a "Civic Centre"/ Town hall/Performing Arts centre.</p>
<p>I want a proper pathway that goes down to the beach at Mullaway. It is very dangerous during school holidays and throughout the weekend. There is nowhere to walk with a stroller and young family. The cycle way stops at Darkum road. The fact that there is a somewhat blind corner as you travel by car back from the headland makes it very dangerous for children and families walking to the beach or to other coastal walkways. A pathway that continues along Mullaway Drive would be a very positive step in the right direction for the local community.</p>
<p>I would like to see a return of Coffs Brisbane air services</p>

I would like to see the cultural centre built. There isn't a credible theatre here and we aren't getting touring theatre any more
I would love to have access to a cultured centre access is very fragmented as it is now. and as always some footpaths would make our life easier.
I would love to see Coffs with a wonderful venue for concerts and shows, we have great sporting facilities but the culture vultures do miss out. And of course the traffic is getting pretty hectic, especially along Hogbin Drive in the mornings. We do badly need a bypass.
I would love to see the new southern break wall lit so we can enjoy it at night safely as well as better lighting along the jetty foreshores.
I would use a shuttle bus to the hospital . Getting a park out there is a nightmare. Maybe there already is one that I don't know about.
important that services work with each other and not against. the main hospital is badly run. Staff demeanour is low and the people in charge could certainly do something to improve working conditions for staff. This region does not make the most of the good people in it . Youth unemployment is also a big problem which leads to lack of community well being.
Improve boat ramp and toilets at the boat ramp
Improve conditions of footpaths, road surfaces etc - or quite often just provide some!
Improve recycling education to reduce littering and rubbish.
Improve the car parking situation at the hospital without putting a cost onto the person parking. Improve the parking situation in front of the IGA at Woolgoolga, it should be at an angle like the rest of the town, it is a huge problem and near misses happen all day every day. Seal the road to the Woolgoolga Nature reserve, it gets washed out regularly and that becomes a deterrent to go and visit. Look into other forms of blueberry netting, something that does not keep turning our beautiful coastline and hills into a sculpture by Christo. Improve the parking situation out the front of the coffee shop Artisti and the back of the Presbyterian church in Coffs, the dip before you enter is too deep and wrecks cars. Turn Moonee st into a dining experience area, similar to some areas on the Gold Coast, lights, buskers, vibrancy, it would turn that area into a dining precinct like the Jetty, trust me it will work.
Improve the facilities in all parks and reserves and maintain them to a high standard to enhance the natural beauty of our region.
Improve the maintenance of bike tracks
Improved cleaning and security at the new skate park.
In my local area, kerb and guttering, footpaths/cycle ways, weekly bin service (not fortnightly), lifeguards on the beach
In the community consulting meetings on public subjects, have all suggestions noted by the Council so those meetings/suggestions become a matter of public record and make a difference in the decision making process. CURRENTLY, the community consultative meetings are lip service at best and an affront to honest consultative decision processes.
Increase bike path network and bike racks to increase opportunities to use bikes as a viable form of transport for the community. Close off city centre to cars.
Increase public transport in Woolgoolga including to / from Coffs. Complete Woolgoolga to Coffs cycle path and get it off the highway
increased grant funding for events, upgrades of low standard sporting facilities, upgrades of low standard walk-ways e.g. boardwalks and tracks, keep vehicles off dunes and beach, proactive action to deter pollution into waterways and lakes by way of media communication and reactive action by way of penalties for those who ignore pollution control.

Is there a web site for Coffs area activities
It is extremely unfortunate that we do not have a cultural centre such as port Macquarie does. To many including myself Coffs is a city without "soul". what culture there is fragmented and all over the place. I could not believe that an opera was held in a sports stadium
Keep crime down. Take hard line on drugs. Don't tolerate antisocial behaviour. Monitor Police results in local area.
keep the surveys going I also think the jetty areas should be left alone and not revamped.
Keeping our general area cleaner, repairing damaged council controlled items and not leaving them for months, make the show more pleasant to the eye.
Less growth
Local public transport is very poor and expensive, An improvement in this would be very beneficial to people who live in the outlying areas.
Look after the existing infrastructure before bowing to minority groups. More pressure on state and federal Government to get the bypass happening
Lower the rates to a level that pensioners can afford seeing that there are hardly any services apart from garbage collection.
Make Coffs Harbour as safe a place as possible for all people attending functions or facilities at night - whether this be by policing, security guards, cameras or a combination of the above. There should be more done to increase policing of theft of both businesses and private houses. I know this is not councils problem, but council can lobby for extra resources to help with this problem.
Make the foreshores more user friendly and safe, work/exercise stations along the foreshore that are safe to use early morning and late afternoon
Maybe plant fruit bearing trees near skate parks or playing fields so kids have something healthy to eat when they are in season, or anywhere in general would be nice. I did notice some nice spinach on one of the roundabouts, and thought that it was clever as people during the day wont be able to pick it due to traffic giving it a chance to grow. I'd think planting lots of fruit and vegetables strategically around the city could benefit the wellbeing of the community greatly.
Maybe young people who are unemployed could be given opportunities to help others. Sitting at home or being unproductive could lead to depression, a lack of self worth. People need meaningful things to do within the community so that they feel apart of the community.
Men's stuff to be better advertised and described.
More activities and culture for youth and young adults that doesn't involve drinking. A better environment and more facilities to entertain people where they aren't drinking. Thank you for the skate park, that is wonderful.
More aged care transport.
More ambassador tours and similar events please
More arts and cultural events. Police dog-free beaches and act on breaches. Liven up the city centre, especially at night and on weekends.
More attention could be given to the northern beaches area, not just Coffs harbour and suburbs south of it
More bins in all play areas for children
More cafes along the jetty foreshores.
More cafe's and bars on Ocean Parade Park Beach. Convert some of Park Beach caravan Park to Restaurant/bar/cafe/commercial strip above the playground near the surf club (similar to South West Rocks).

More community seniors activities in Northern Beaches
More cultural activities. At one stage we were visited by live theatre (conducted in a large marquee) but not anymore. Why?
More cycle ways would be good, especially in areas other than inner Coffs Harbour.
More cycle ways, especially northern beaches, off the highway.
More cycle ways/walkways. Having a town hall to have performances in.
More facilities for the disabled would be a big help
More flights to other cities apart from Sydney
More focus on lessening the amount of rubbish that can be found left lying around. Entertainment facility would be handy.
More footpaths so you feel safer to walk around in the neighbourhood. Fix pedestrian infrastructure
More free parking should be provided at the hospital. Coffs Harbour should become a RV friendly city and not be so negative to RV tourists as they spend money in our city. We should enhance the vegetation not cut it down in our area e.g. the jetty area and Pioneer Park. Toilet facilities should be upgraded throughout the area and cleaned regularly. Areas outside the city should have a more equal share of the funding as they are being left behind.
More night public transport
More organised healthy walks
More parks scattered at various sights in Coffs and in all the other places between Coffs and Arrawarra, thus also providing more public toilet facilities.
More police
More Police Patrols during the night in areas outside Coffs Harbour city precinct.
More progressive events. More street culture. Bigger environmental awareness and actions, i.e. recycling bins in public areas.
More public transport to northern beaches curb and gutter at Fiddermans rd its a disgrace
more roundabouts and less traffic lights
More support from local council
Need for cooperation between groups to a common purpose
Negotiating to have a flight from Coffs to Gold Coast/Brisbane to enable people to attend to: medical appointments, business meetings, mining work and other employment without the stress and cost of either driving or flying to Sydney then flying back past home to get to QLD.
NO MOST OF THESE QUESTION RELATE TO BEING IN COFFS ITSELF NOT OUT LYING AREAS. DAILY PUBLIC TRANSPORT AVAILABILITY FOR THOSE UNABLE TO DRIVE BUT NOT NECESSARILY ABLE TO USE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ASSOC. AS YOU HAVE TO GIVE THREE DAYS NOTICE. DOCTORS ETC.
Nothing, the country's (EXPLETIVE)... Too many illegal immigrants making the place more violent
Not really, but it is a gem in NSW... hopefully it stays like that.
Not wasting council monies appealing judicial judgements when we are going to fail. Look at the money wasted by (in my opinion) by Mayor (name deleted)
Ongoing development of open space areas - i.e. Jetty foreshores. Look to create a connectiveness of precincts - Jetty/Plaza/City Centre, maybe a light rail or tram, would double as a tourist attraction.

<p>Perhaps some activities that involve greater interaction between the younger residents and the aged residents so that each has greater understanding, appreciation, respect & empathy for each other. Maybe aged mentors invited to be involved in various activities. This is a complicated thing to do in today's society due to child protection safety issues etc. I don't know but hope someone has a fantastic suggestion. We all need to care about the Wellbeing of our Community especially in our rapidly changing society.</p>
<p>Picnic/relaxing sitting areas overlooking beaches needed not as at present where they are hidden behind sand dunes - Woolgoolga beach reserve is excellent for this/Jetty and Park Beach extremely poor.</p>
<p>Please fix damaged walkways and pathways one in particular is the pathway leading to and from the little jetty in the area off the Dolphin Pool and not put orange hazard barriers around the damaged area. Another one is the orange barriers at Park Beach Park boarding the park and the water This practice seems to be a habit within this council in the last few years. I'm sure there are many more areas that require a lot of love and care to repair the damage areas in our community.</p>
<p>Please put a needle bin somewhere else besides outside woollies in Park Ave. I self inject 3x a week and as far as I know, the only other venues to dispose of syringes in bulk are at the waste collection centre and at the hospital - neither venue is easily accessible for me (I have MS). Please don't tell me to take them to a chemist as I have been down that route and they want to charge me - which I can't afford. Also, I would like to see ALL businesses assessed for disabled access as some older places are not all that accessible if you have difficulty getting up stairs.</p>
<p>Promote Thursday and Saturday morning markets in centre of town</p>
<p>Provide more follow-through. Some time ago, there was an on-line forum where residents could put forward opinions, hopes, dreams re: art & cultural centre. But after a flurry of initial interest, it seemed to die out. Or was abandoned. It was never followed-through. You get the feeling that ... nobody's listening. Nobody really cares. Just so much lip-service ... so disappointing.</p>
<p>Provide seats at bus stops around town as many of the people who need to catch buses are elderly .</p>
<p>Provision of a sound wall at Emerald Beach. Expansion of existing safe cycling and walking tracks. Continued development of The Jetty area - removal of scrub to open up the beach and make it safer for the public. The toilets are usually pretty grotty. More up-to-date resources in the libraries - ours are very basic compared with those on the Gold Coast. Overall, we are very grateful to live in an amazing area. We are both still working so don't take full advantage of what is offered but love the beaches and our local national park area.</p>
<p>Public Awareness Campaigns targeting ALL demographics. starting from school and through to senior Citizens care establishments</p>
<p>Put in a hall for concerts and plays so the community has a place to go like the old civic centre</p>
<p>put some fitness equipment (as Councils in QLD do i.e. Southport and Noosa)that people can do exercise with, maybe in reserves that are run by council and have more protection from thugs, so suggest Boambee reserve etc.</p>
<p>Reasonably priced activities for youth (e.g. all-ages concerts/battle of the bands, etc) Better lighting in some areas for greater security (e.g. along the newer section of Hogbin drive, particularly between the bridge and Watsonia Avenue)</p>
<p>Reduce sponsorship of elite sporting events and or visiting sports teams and facilities used by a very small percentage of your rate payers, redirect that wasted finance into community service and not into over inflated payroll packages. Cut back on Council wastage and only support your managers for achieving good management and not for repeated mismanagement of funds, staff and equipment. Thank you.</p>

<p>A VERY poor survey, so many times, because an answer MUST be supplied, the wrong conclusions will be gained. ie 7 is a yes/no question, 8 asks you to rate it even if you tick no !!, 18 rate it even if you have never used it and there are others, just plain DUMB. Possibly better for me not to submit really.</p>
<p>Remember the northern beaches. The jetty beach area is for everyone not just the rich</p>
<p>Remember you have outlying suburbs that require better walkways, cycle ways, (off the highway), no point having tracks that lead to nowhere. Better access to bus stops etc to help with safety and access to Coffs Harbour for facilities. Better lighting on streets in Woolgoolga both for vehicular and personal safety. E.g.. High Street Access from River Street is a large intersection leading to the sporting fields with no lighting in place to see where the turn is at night, as headlights don't show the street until after you have turned into it and you then can see the centre line.</p>
<p>Repair cycle ways and add more street lighting, good paths, repairs to gutters in streets that aren't trip hazards i.e.. Cnr Joyce & Argyll St</p>
<p>Review disability access. Some disable toilet doors are too heavy for people to open on their own.</p>
<p>Roads need regular maintenance More foot paths</p>
<p>Safe cycle ways and walkways.</p>
<p>Safer areas for women to go for a jog or walk, but which aren't along a busy road. The Coffs Creek Walk is a bit creepy in places when it's not busy. A water park for kids to play in when it's hot would be a good idea such as the jetty foreshore (e.g. Hervey Bay).</p>
<p>Safer cycle lanes for commuters, including more effort by Council and others to complete construction work more quickly when cycle ways are blocked by the works - e.g. recent interruptions to Orlando Street cycle lanes were unacceptable and downright dangerous for cyclists, and the work took four times as long as it should have.</p>
<p>Seating for all bus stops, sun and rain covering for those seats. I have back problems and standing for long periods limit my activities.</p>
<p>Security cameras in the parking centres, more security personnel in pairs doing rounds in shopping areas especially at night in the city centre. More patrolling of the local beaches and fining people with dogs on beaches where dogs are not allowed and also fining people for dogs running off leashes where dogs are allowed on a leash only. I have a dog and am too frightened of him being attacked by dogs not properly restrained by owners. This is a major problem in our community which reflects badly for tourism, especially families who don't feel safe on our beaches. I also think we need cameras in public toilets to help reduce vandalism. Coffs has the worst public toilet facilities within the parks and reserves and beachside areas. Perhaps we need to discover how other councils keep their loos safe and reduce vandalism.</p>
<p>Spend less money on the gardens in the roundabouts and more on the potholes in the roads.</p>
<p>Stop businesses from changing residential old homes into businesses which sprawl to the jetty and along the highway. Would like to see empty business spaces in the CBD occupied. would like to see residential accommodation built above the CBD businesses to encourage activity and growth of local business and activities. Love the plants in the roundabouts and trees along the roadways. Would like to see a Marine museum or like at the Quarry in the harbour and the marina extended. Hope that the slipway is allowed back after the cleanup.</p>
<p>Suitable centre capable for bigger events e.g. dance eisteddfod, shows</p>

<p>Thank you for linking up cycleway/pathways eg. Bunnings to KFC.. and completing linking coastal walkways. Well done on the skate park! And the adjoining kids park full of rides! All well used! Can I suggest more of these things being created for the great well being experiences for locals and for great memories for tourists (as a Coffs Harbour attraction). Well done on the recently created Korora TV tower lookout platform. It was well used the day I went already. I actually found it by accident?! Thank you for constantly improving the Hogbin Drive cycleway. One other thing (I may have missed it) but I would love to see an obvious link on the CHCC website to an email page for improvement ideas for the city so as I think of positive things I could simply email them to you.</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to participate as a member of your online survey panel. I feel community well-being can be improved in the Coffs Harbour region by providing more late night public transport from Coffs Harbour to the Woolgoolga and the northern beaches. It is very frightening when you miss the last bus to Woolgoolga and you have no way to get back to your home in Emerald Beach and no money for a cab. My answers in relation to how safe I feel are based on my feelings about being alone in Emerald Beach day or night. As my son and I have lived here for over 10 years, we feel very safe in our community of Emerald Beach. I do not feel particularly safe in Coffs Harbour at night. Especially after the last bus to Woolgoolga has left promptly at 5.30pm and the bus you got on at Cook Dr to get into Coffs was running late and didn't arrive in Coffs until 5.32. That happened to me three times in the first week while my car was in for repairs and I worked in Cook Dr. So, more regular "peak hour" bus services would certainly go a long way towards increasing community well-being. In addition, more services are needed to Moonee shopping centre from the northern beaches and vice versa. It stands to reason that one would be required eventually as it is the nearest major shopping venue for residents north of Moonee and as the population grows, so should the services provided by Council. Thank you for your time</p>
<p>The Council needs to implement all the sustainable living options mentioned in their 2030 Vision Plan.</p>
<p>The Council should be reserving agricultural land (if necessary compensating owners) to ensure that Coffs Harbour can provide sufficient food to feed the town and surrounding area. The Council should strongly encourage the use of rain water tanks and solar power, to give the area a degree of resilience and not be so dependent on the provision of these services from elsewhere. The provision of cycle ways should be considered an important service.</p>
<p>The footpaths down near the Jetty to the fishing club needs fixing as I twisted my ankle about two weeks ago. The paths need to be just a foot wider. Otherwise good.</p>
<p>The new festival of Surf that took place earlier this year needs to be much more SHARING of our local surf environment. The festival of Surf should have as its Motto/Mantra "Share the waves, in a crowded ocean". These people are visitors to our surfing beaches and show the local surfing community very little to NO respect. The concept that they have applied to the festival surf sites of CLEARING the surf zone of all other surfers for the exclusive use of the Festival of Surf should not be condoned by council or other govt bodies. The Coffs local area has a lot of surf visitors from all over the world that pay for their stay in our district at all times of the year and to have these paying surf tourists exclude from our surfing beaches while the Festival of Surf is on for a handful of competitors is not good for the surfing tourism in Coffs harbour. I have more to say but not enough room here. I would like to talk to council about some of the problems and to discuss some answers the Festival of Surf has brought to Coffs Harbour for the local and visiting surfers.</p>
<p>The reason I don't feel safe walking around at night is that there are very few footpaths and street lights in Woolgoolga, making it extremely dangerous to navigate. While it the day it is often safer to walk on the road, this becomes a problem at night when visibility is poorer.</p>
<p>The road to south Sawtell headland is an eyesore. Need to see the water (less trees) around the jetty foreshore. A bypass for Coffs Harbour</p>

<p>the spreading of commercial areas and the dominance of one group is not in this area is not really to community benefit.</p>
<p>There is a great OH & S need for large rocks or a barrier at Gallows to stop cars from going over the edge it only takes knocking off a hand brake or getting hit by a car that's hooning to go over the edge ...also more public toilets and places for people with disabilities to sit by the ocean</p>
<p>Things are on the improve.</p>
<p>Think more of the elderly</p>
<p>To not be so politically partisan in your approach to people assembling peacefully. To encourage local employment. Get the highway traffic out of the town centre, it's horrendous.</p>
<p>Toilet facilities near the Coffs Harbour boat ramp and near the new revamp North Wall area.</p>
<p>Train and air services are an absolute disgrace. Dogs on beaches are no better. Tidy Town idea is a laugh. Rubbish and graffiti on the streets is unbelievable. Roundabout gardens are very nice, but why not use plants that can still look good, an not only last a few weeks and have to be re planted.</p>
<p>Views of water along the jetty walk. Road improvements to Sawtell Headland, jetty , Skywalk Please look toward other towns - like Port Macquarie, Townsville for exciting city scapes.</p>
<p>Walking Tracks. These should be expanded and improved to encourage the community to walk more, especially on the Northern Beaches. The Coastal Walk is not very practical on the beach when the tide is high. There should be a signed alternative in such instances.</p>
<p>Watch your council spending to help keep costs down.</p>
<p>We are part of a multicultural community yet there is a conspicuous absence of this in our business precinct. I would like to see the blood donation bus parked in town on a regular basis as engagement in such pro-social activities supports community well being both physically and psychologically. There needs to be more evidence of our humanity- it is easy to include symbols of this through sculpture and art. Also signage that is clearly handcrafted speaks more powerfully to community than all fantastic plastic we have everywhere. The enormous success of shops like Happy Frog that have a clear environmental agenda continue to thrive where other commercial businesses have come and gone. This speaks to the values of the community and the fact that this is what people want- more connection to community. It is a pity that the antique shop owner can display his items on the street without being slugged a ridiculous amount by council. Antique items also speak to our humanity- a reminder of our connection to our history and other people.</p>
<p>We could use a town hall.</p>
<p>We NEED a Civic Centre where Coffs can get overseas artists and entertainment. We have NOTHING here .. we SHOULD!!!!</p>
<p>We need to find a way of reducing local youth unemployment. Maybe encourage more manufacturing, more tourism, build on more traineeships. I think the high unemployment is causing more issues in Coffs Harbour than anything else.</p>
<p>Well being is such a personal view so I would think this hard to generalise for me community is about an environment that looks and feels great - good infrastructure, great parks and gardens, clean beaches, ability of visitors to access our tourist spots with ease, and most importantly GET the HIGHWAY BYPASS COMPLETED BY RMS ASAP.</p>
<p>Whatever you can do to discourage loutish and drunken behaviour. Elderly people are frightened of the potential violence and avoid being around that situation if possible. 2. Ask for community participation through various service organizations e.g. Rotary</p>

<p>While Coffs Harbour is a great place to live it has many social problems that appear to be swept under the carpet. I would like to see Council become more proactive in lobbying both the State and Federal governments and informing the community of the results. Our local members of parliament need to do more to assist the disadvantaged groups in our area.</p>
<p>Wish some eateries were open between 5 and 8pm - without the high costs I believe federal government has imposed for wages! Also more classical background music, rather than modern songs - the words of which often inappropriate when busy or talking!</p>
<p>With an indoor entertainment facility such as The Glasshouse in Port Macquarie. Maybe consider using the Bunning's South building for this purpose. For bands and indoor entertainment</p>
<p>Woolgoolga Swimming Pool lengthened and widened ! Coffs to have an Arts and Entertainment Centre as promised but not delivered. A lie! Disgraceful.</p>
<p>Would love to see a fitness walking track in Coffs and Woolgoolga (similar to Broadbeach) where along the track is exercise bars or benches etc and signs explaining how to use them.</p>
<p>Yes, whilst I believe our cycling/walking/running paths along Hogbin Drive, Coffs Creek Walk and some of the Coastal Walk are terrific, have you ever run along these tracks and at the same time, do battle with ignorant cycle riders who either have no warning bells or refuse to use them when coming flat out up behind an elderly person like myself who is out exercising which has almost ended up in a collision on more the one occasion. No wonder Motorist drive off the road, for they are doing the same to us pedestrians. I have to keep looking over my shoulder to make sure I do not get run over. When I do see them coming and stand my ground, they take a wide birth.</p>
<p>You have talked about walking paths which are great but as far as bike paths we have a long way to go which would be safe to get from the city to the beach or Sawtell etc. Also the new skate park while I am to old to use myself it has been great for the young with many positive comments coming from the young. I am a member of the local body boarding club and I hear so many good things about the skate park well done.</p>