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Background and objectives

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community.

Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

Now in its twenty-third year, this survey provides insight into the community's views on:

- councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- · value for money in services and infrastructure
- community consultation and engagement
- decisions made in the interest of the community
- customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
- · overall council direction.

When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable historical source of the community's views since 1998. A selection of results from the last ten years shows that councils in Victoria continue to provide services that meet the public's expectations.

Serving Victoria for 23 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 23 years of results, the CSS offers councils a consistent, long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional. Participating councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial and other considerations.



Buloke Shire Council – at a glance



Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Buloke 55

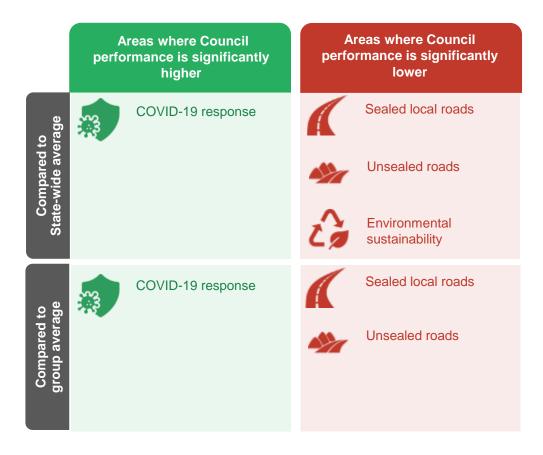


State-wide 59



Small Rural 58

Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages



Summary of core measures



Index scores







Consultation & engagement



Community decisions



Sealed local roads



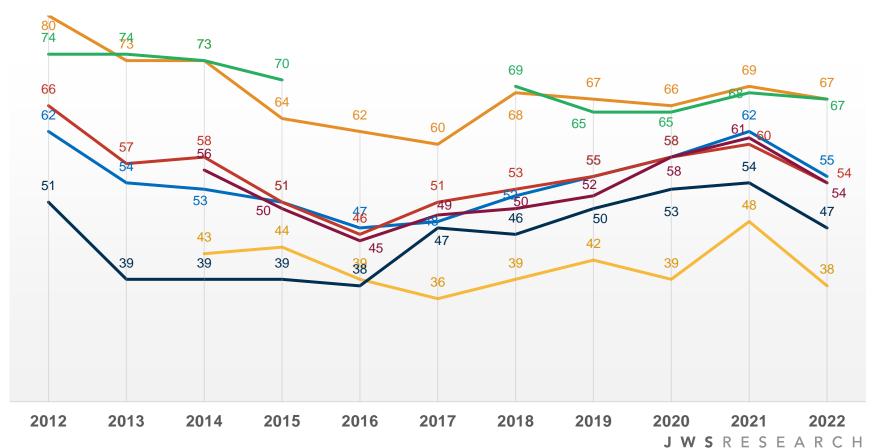
Waste management



Customer service



Overall council direction

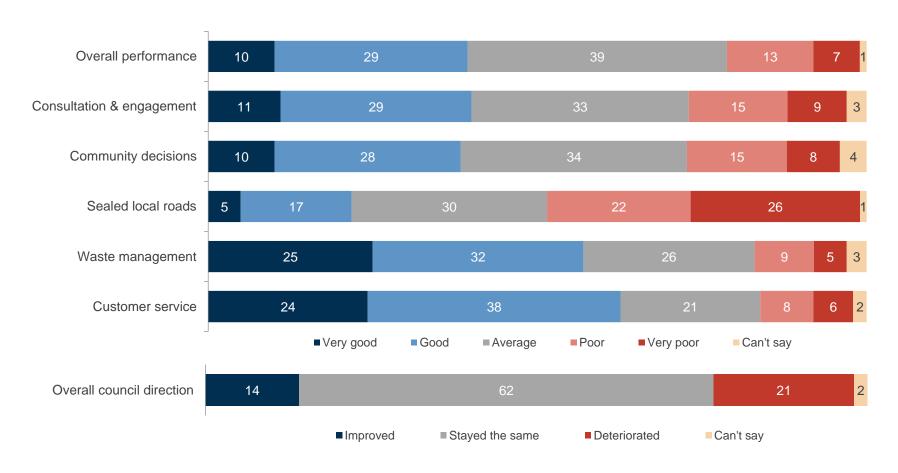


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Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Buloke Shire Council performance



Services		Buloke 2022	Buloke 2021	Small Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
(%	Overall performance	55	62	58	59	Aged 65+ years	Sea Lake residents, Aged 35-49 years
5	Value for money	48	52	51	53	Aged 65+ years	Sea Lake residents
+	Overall council direction	47	54	51	50	Aged 18-34 years	Sea Lake residents, Aged 35-49 years
Ė	Customer service	67	69	67	68	Aged 18-34 years, Sea Lake residents	Charlton residents
**	COVID-19 response	72	78	69	69	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
ず	Recreational facilities	71	74	69	69	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	71	75	73	71	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
A A	Elderly support services	69	71	70	67	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Waste management	67	68	68	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years

Summary of Buloke Shire Council performance



Services		Buloke 2022	Buloke 2021	Small Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
	Bus/community dev./tourism	62	64	63	60	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Enforcement of local laws	62	65	62	63	Women	Sea Lake residents
23	Environmental sustainability	58	63	59	61	Aged 65+ years	Donald residents
	Consultation & engagement	54	60	54	54	Aged 18-34 years	Sea Lake residents, Aged 35-49 years
***	Community decisions	54	61	54	54	Aged 65+ years	Sea Lake residents
<u></u>	Lobbying	53	58	54	53	Aged 65+ years	Sea Lake residents
A	Sealed local roads	38	48	50	53	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Unsealed roads	31	38	42	41	Sea Lake residents	Aged 35-49 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of Buloke Shire Council's overall performance have declined significantly over the past 12 months (index score of 55, down seven points), arresting a trend of steady improvement seen since 2016. This reflects significantly declining performance in eight of the fourteen service areas evaluated – including core measures of consultation and engagement, community decisions and sealed local roads. While a mixed result for Council, not all of the previous gains achieved over time have been lost.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance Decisions made in the community's interest, consultation and engagement, and lobbying have the strongest influence on overall opinions. Environmental sustainability also exerts a moderate to strong influence on performance. These are all lower rated areas with significantly declining performance in 2022. Improving engagement, and communication around Council decisions and efforts to advance residents' interests – together with promoting sustainability initiatives – will help strengthen overall performance.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Across the vast majority of service areas, Buloke Shire Council's performance is in line with Small Rural group and State-wide averages. COVID-19 response is the area where Council rates significantly higher than both averages. On both sealed and unsealed roads, Council performs significantly lower than both averages.

Maintain strengths and improve lower performing areas

In addition to the aforementioned areas, COVID-19 response and recreational facilities have a moderate influence on opinions. As the highest rated areas, Council should look to abate declining COVID-19 response ratings and uphold its strong performance in these areas. Improving perceptions of Council's lowest rated areas – unsealed roads and sealed local roads – should be a priority over the next 12 months. Both have experienced significant declines, with unsealed roads now at its lowest recorded level.

DETAILED FINDINGS



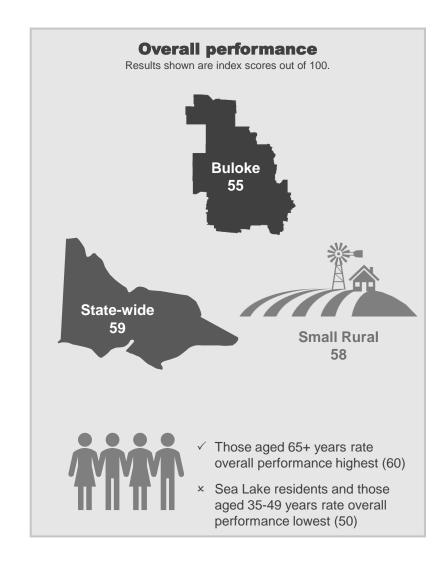


The overall performance index score of 55 for Buloke Shire Council represents a significant seven-point decline on the 2021 result, arresting a trend of steady improvement seen since 2016.

Buloke Shire Council's overall performance is rated significantly lower than both the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 58 and 59 respectively).

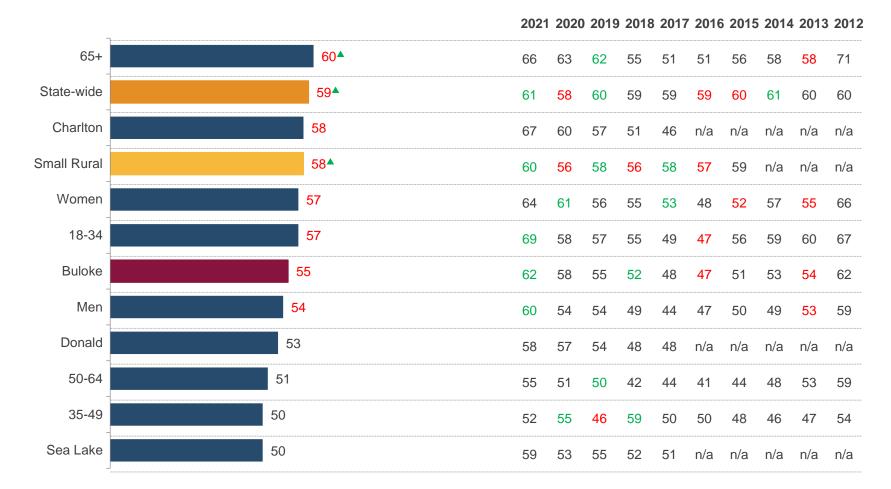
- Significant declines in overall performance ratings are seen across the majority of demographic and geographic cohorts in 2022, with the largest drop recorded among those aged 18 to 34 years (down 12 points) and Charlton residents (down nine points).
- Perceptions of overall performance are highest and significantly higher than average – among residents aged 65+ years (index score of 60, down six points).
- While ratings have remained relatively steady over the past year, perceptions are lowest among Sea Lake residents and those aged 35 to 64 years (although not significantly lower to the average).

Close to three in 10 residents (29%) rate value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and service as 'very good' or 'good'. This is lower than the 33% rating it as 'very poor' or 'poor'. A further 36% rate Council as 'average' on this measure.



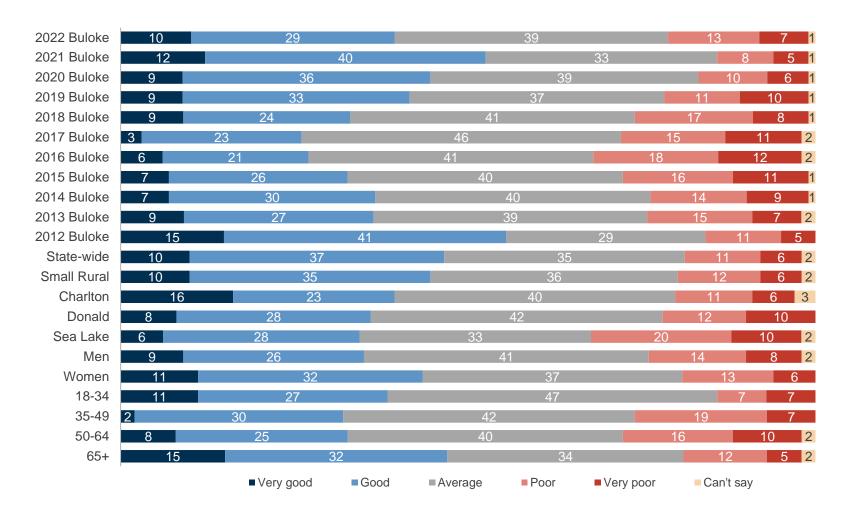


2022 overall performance (index scores)





2022 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2022 value for money (index scores)

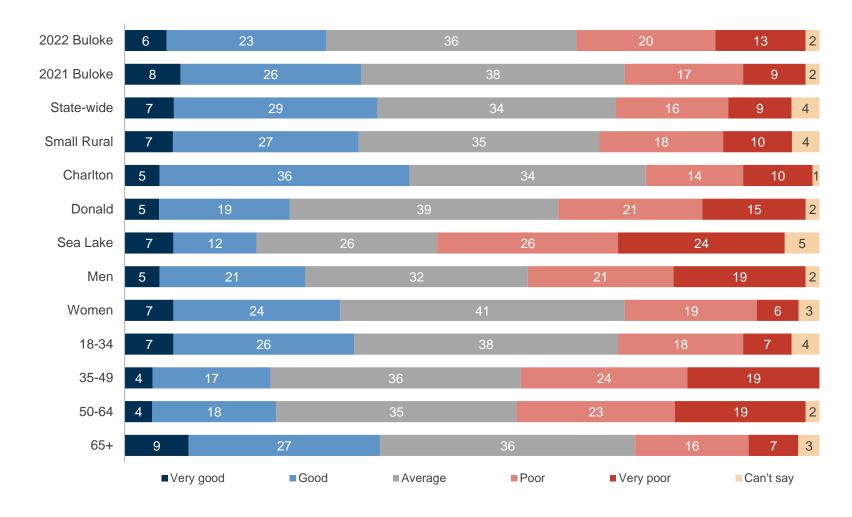
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 54 65 +n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 53 Charlton n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a State-wide 53^ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 18-34 52 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 52 Women 55 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Small Rural 51 52 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Buloke 48 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Donald 44 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 43▼ Men 50 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 35-49 41[▼] n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 50-64 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 37▼ Sea Lake n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a

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

Value for money in services and infrastructure



2022 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

COVID-19 response is Council's highest performing area (index score of 72), although ratings declined significantly over the past year (down six points).

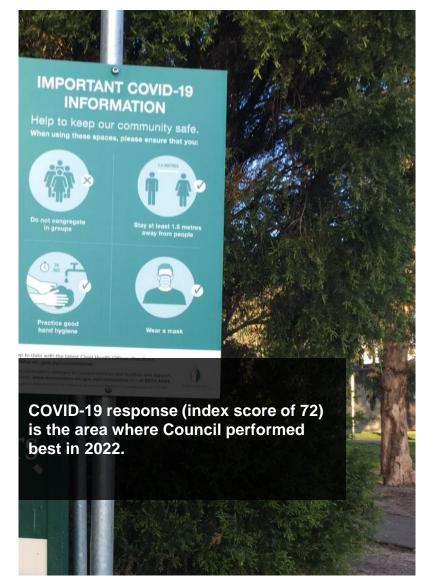
Council performs significantly higher than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages in this area.

Recreational facilities and appearance of public areas are Council's next highest rated service areas (index score of 71 for each).

- Ratings of recreational facilities held steady in 2022 (down three index points, which is not a statistically significant decline). Residents aged 65+ years rate this service highest (index score of 77), and significantly higher than average, whereas residents aged 35 to 49 years rate this service the lowest (65).
- Ratings of the appearance of public areas fell significantly over the past year (down four points).
 Ratings of this area are lowest – and significantly lower than average – among residents aged 50 to 64 years (64).

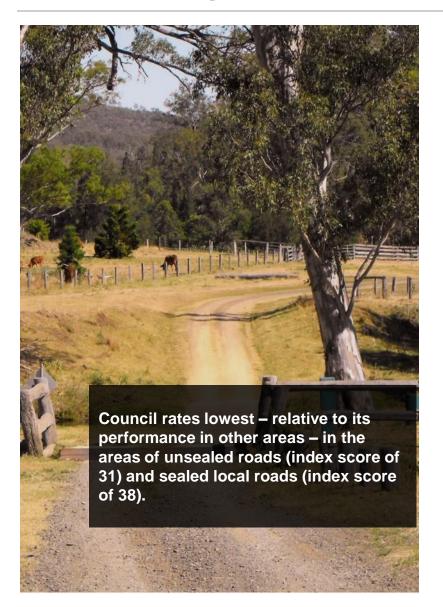
Council performs in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages for both recreational facilities and appearance of public areas.

One in ten residents (9%) volunteer recreational and sporting facilities as one of the best things about Buloke Shire Council.



Low performing service areas





Eight of the 13 service areas evaluated experienced significant declines in performance over the past year.

Council rates lowest in the area of unsealed roads (index score of 31), which fell by a significant seven points in 2022. Council's next lowest rated area, sealed local roads, recorded the largest significant decline (down 10 points to an index score of 38).

- Council rates significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages for both of these service areas.
- On unsealed roads, a substantial 55-point gap (up from 48 in 2021) exists between the perceived importance of the service and Council performance in that area.
- Ratings of sealed local roads among Charlton residents, and ratings of unsealed roads among Sea Lake residents are significantly higher than average. This suggests Council should focus on other geographic areas first to lift perceptions.

Consultation and engagement, and community decisions are among lower rated areas experiencing significant and relatively large declines in performance over the past year (each 54, down six and seven points respectively).

Individual service area performance



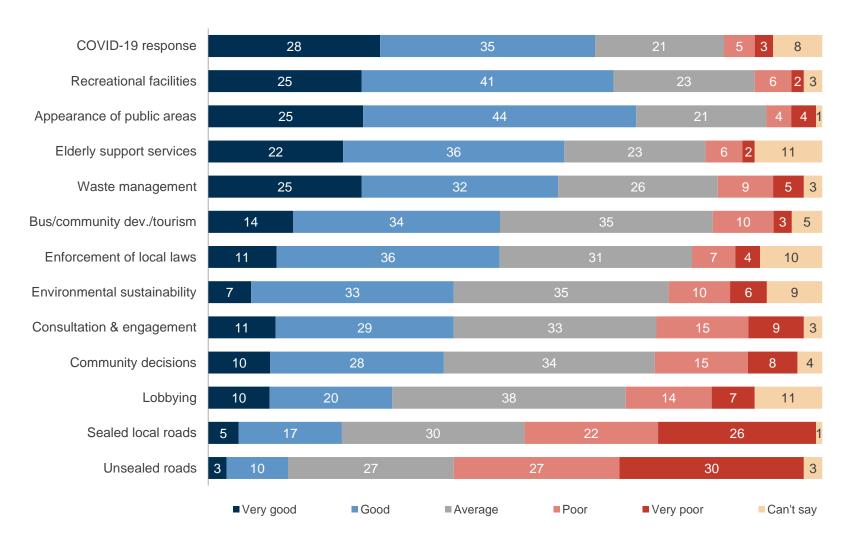
2022 individual service area performance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 COVID-19 response n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Recreational facilities n/a n/a Appearance of public areas n/a n/a Elderly support services n/a n/a Waste management n/a n/a Bus/community dev./tourism n/a n/a Enforcement of local laws n/a n/a Environmental sustainability n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Consultation & engagement Community decisions n/a n/a Lobbying Sealed local roads n/a n/a Unsealed roads n/a n/a

Individual service area performance



2022 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



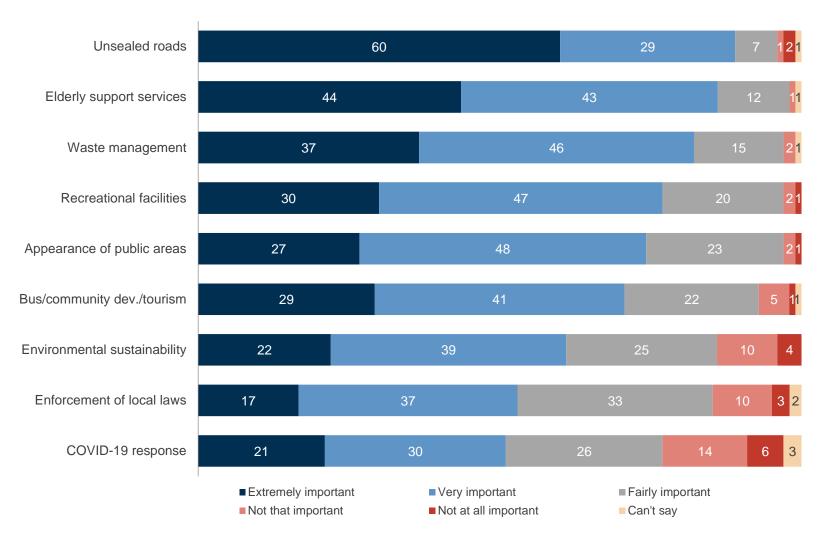
2022 individual service area importance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 Unsealed roads 86 n/a n/a 81 82 83 Elderly support services 82 82 n/a n/a 82 Waste management 79 78 n/a n/a 76 76 76 76 Recreational facilities 76 n/a n/a 75 77 Appearance of public areas 75 76 75 74 74 75 n/a n/a 74 Bus/community dev./tourism 73 73 n/a n/a 72 72 Environmental sustainability 66 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Enforcement of local laws 64 66 66 n/a n/a 69 70 69 71 COVID-19 response 62 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a

Individual service area importance



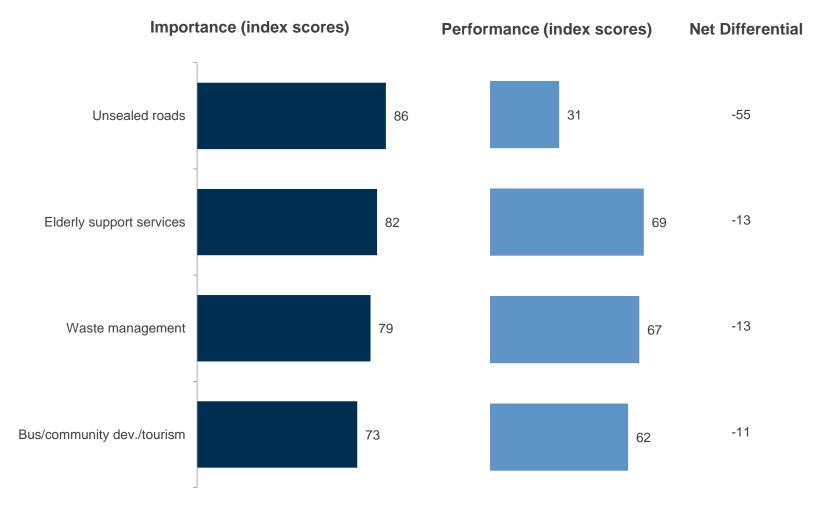
2022 individual service area importance (%)



Individual service areas importance vs performance



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



Influences on perceptions of overall performance



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

· Decisions made in the interest of the community.

Good communication and transparency with residents about decisions Council has made in the community's interest provides the greatest opportunity to drive up overall opinion of Council's performance.

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

- · Community consultation and engagement
- Lobbying on behalf of the community
- · Recreational facilities.
- Environmental sustainability
- Council's COVID-19 response.

Looking at these key service areas only, Council's COVID-19 response and recreational facilities have a high performance index (72 and 71 respectively) and a moderate influence on the overall performance rating.

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

Other service areas that have a moderate to strong influence on overall perceptions, but perform relatively less well, are lobbying on behalf of the community, community consultation and engagement, and environmental sustainability (performance index of 53, 54 and 58 respectively).

A focus on consulting local residents and demonstrating Council efforts to advance and defend their interests, as well as promoting Council's sustainability initiatives, can also help shore up overall ratings of Council.

Regression analysis explained



We use regression analysis to investigate which individual service areas, such as community consultation, condition of sealed local roads, etc. (the independent variables) are influencing respondent perceptions of overall council performance (the dependent variable).

In the charts that follow:

- The horizontal axis represents the council performance index for each individual service.
 Service areas appearing on the right side of the chart have a higher performance index than those on the left.
- The vertical axis represents the Standardised Beta Coefficient from the multiple regression performed.
 This measures the contribution of each service area to the model. Service areas near the top of the chart have a greater positive effect on overall performance ratings than service areas located closer to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

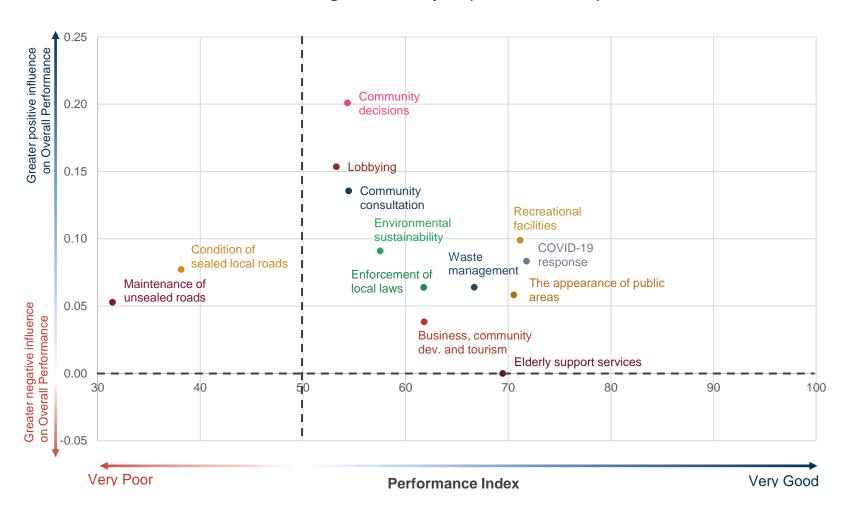
- 1. The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of *all* individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas with a weak influence on overall performance (i.e. a low Standardised Beta Coefficient) have been excluded from the analysis.

Key insights from this analysis are derived from the second chart.

Influence on overall performance: all service areas



2022 regression analysis (all service areas)

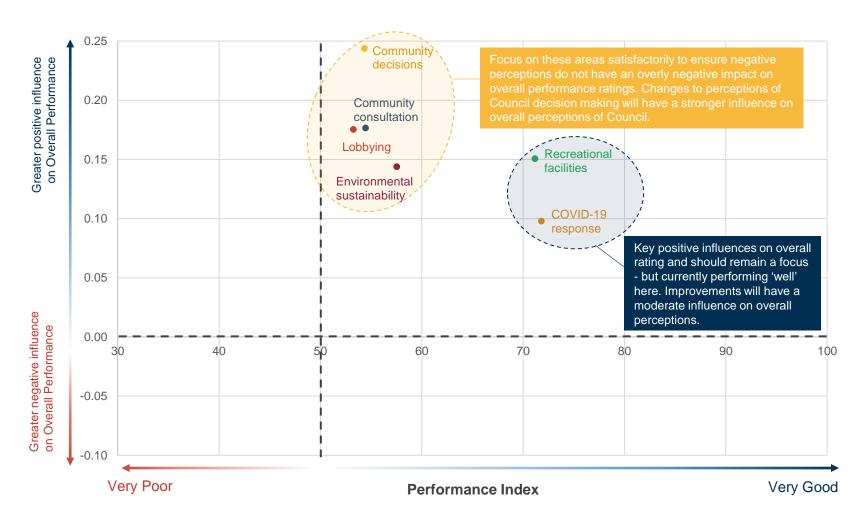


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.580 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.566, which means that 58% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 41.05. This model should be interpreted with some caution as some data is not normally distributed and not all service areas have linear correlations.

Influence on overall performance: key service areas



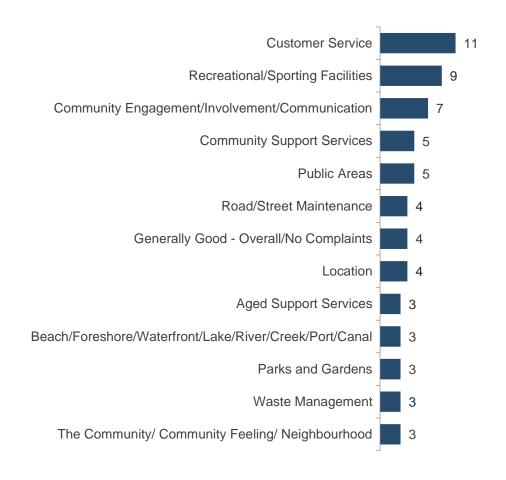
2022 regression analysis (key service areas)



Best things about Council



2022 best things about Council (%) - Top mentions only -





Customer service

Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Seven in ten residents (69%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months, a significant increase of 10 percentage points on last year. Rate of contact is highest and has increased significantly among residents aged 18 to 34 years (75%, up 28 percentage points) and women (74%, up 13 percentage points).

Telephone (48%), in-person communications (23%) and email (22%) comprise the main methods of contacting Council. Both telephone and email contact with Council increased by seven percentage points from 2021.



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 67 is just slightly lower than its 2021 rating (index score of 69). Since 2018, Council's customer service ratings have remained relatively consistent, and continue to be lower than the peak level achieved in 2012 (80).

Customer service is rated in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 67 and 68 respectively).

- Perceptions of customer service among residents aged 18 to 34 years declined significantly (70, down 11 points). In 2021, this age group recorded the highest rating for customer service, and despite the significant decline in ratings this year, remain among the groups providing the highest rating.
- Significant declines in perceptions of customer service are also seen among Charlton residents (62, down 15 points) and women (65, down eight points).

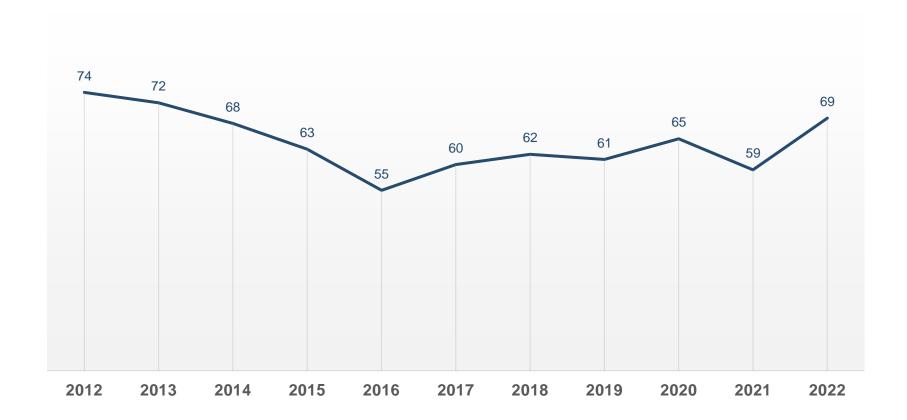
Customer service ratings among those having inperson contact with Council have declined significantly (67, down 13 points). Ratings among those communicating via telephone (69, unchanged) and email (58*, up one point) remain consistent with 2021 results.

^{*} Caution: small sample size.

Contact with council



2022 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



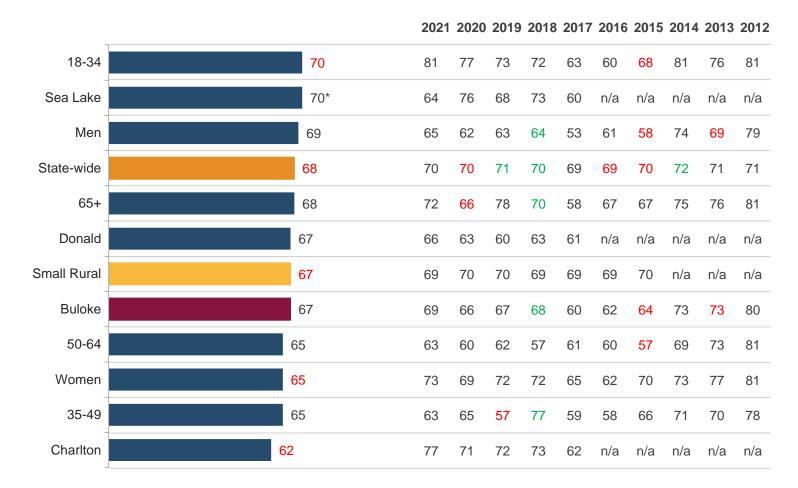
2022 contact with council (%)



Customer service rating



2022 customer service rating (index scores)



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

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

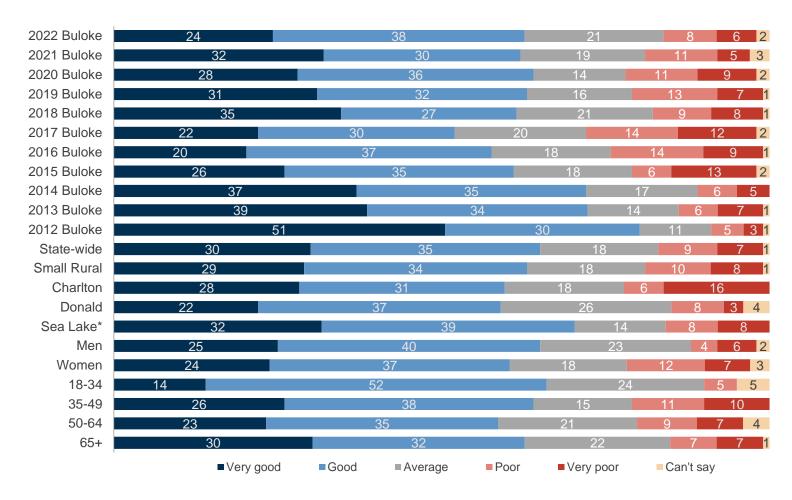
Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19

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

Customer service rating



2022 customer service rating (%)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Buloke Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19

*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Method of contact with council



2022 method of contact (%)















In Person

In Writing

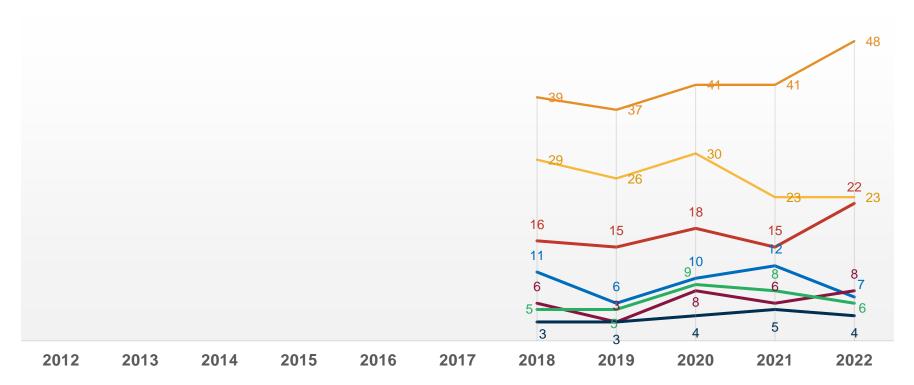
By Telephone

By Text Message

By Email

Via Website

By Social Media



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

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 4

Customer service rating by method of last contact



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



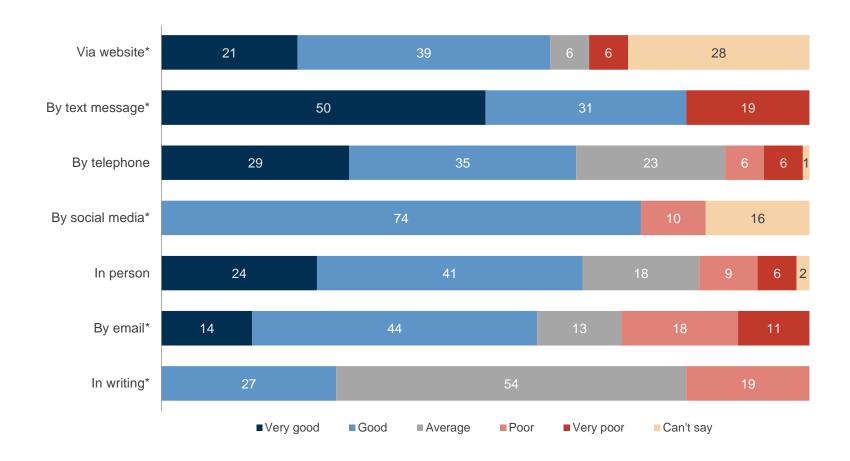
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Buloke Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 4

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

Customer service rating by method of last contact



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



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Buloke Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 4



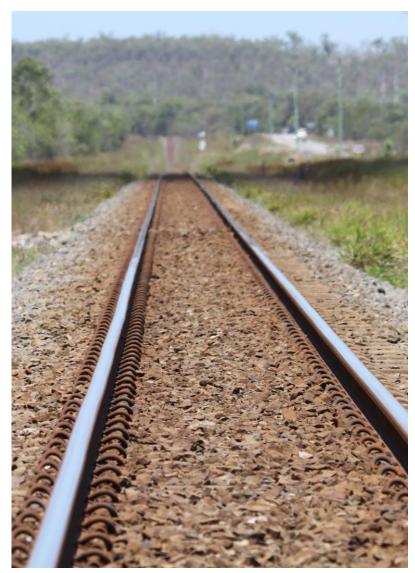
Council direction

W

A clear majority of residents (62%, down one percentage point since 2020) believe the direction of Council's overall performance has 'stayed the same' over the past 12 months.

- 14% believe the direction has improved (down six percentage points on 2021).
- Comparatively, 21% believe it has deteriorated, an increase of eight percentage points from 2021.
- The <u>most</u> satisfied with Council direction (and significantly higher than the Council average) are residents aged 18 to 34 years.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with Council direction are Sea Lake residents and those aged 35 to 49 years (both significantly lower than the average).

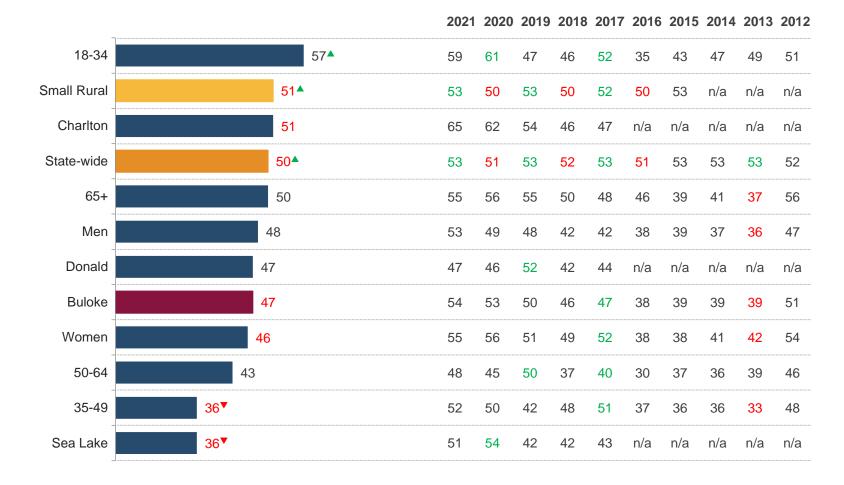
Perceptions of Buloke Shire Council's overall direction (index score of 47) are significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 51 and 50 respectively).



Overall council direction last 12 months



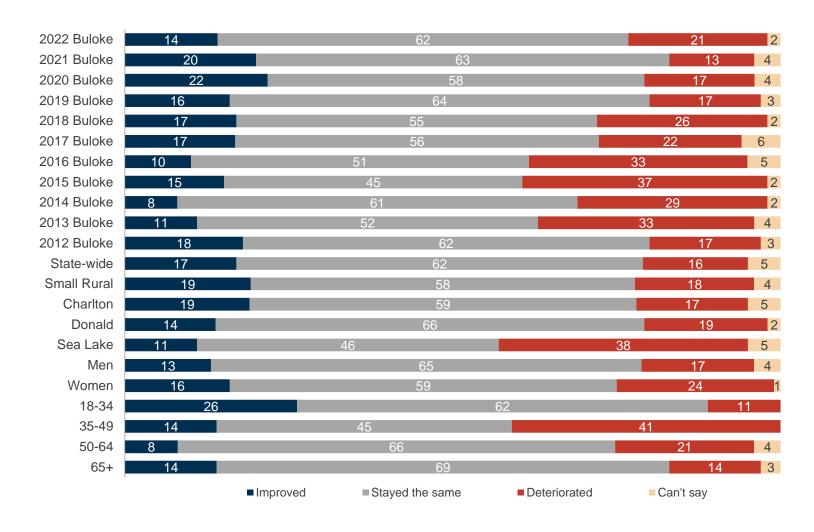
2022 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



2022 overall council direction (%)



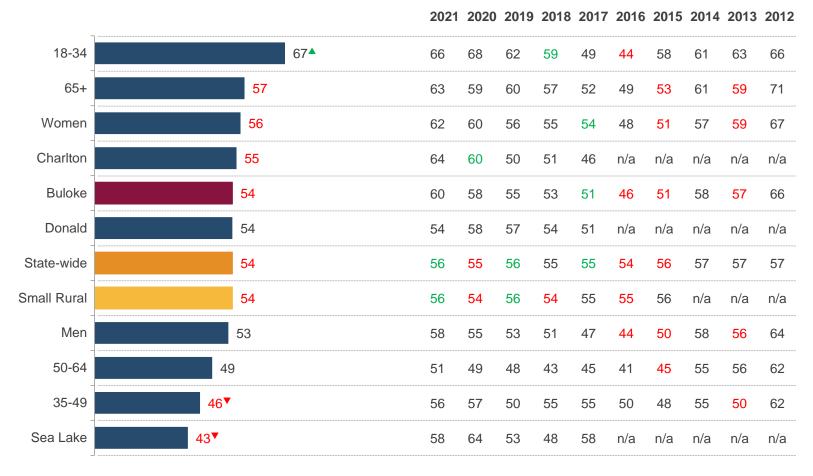


Community consultation and engagement performance





2022 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

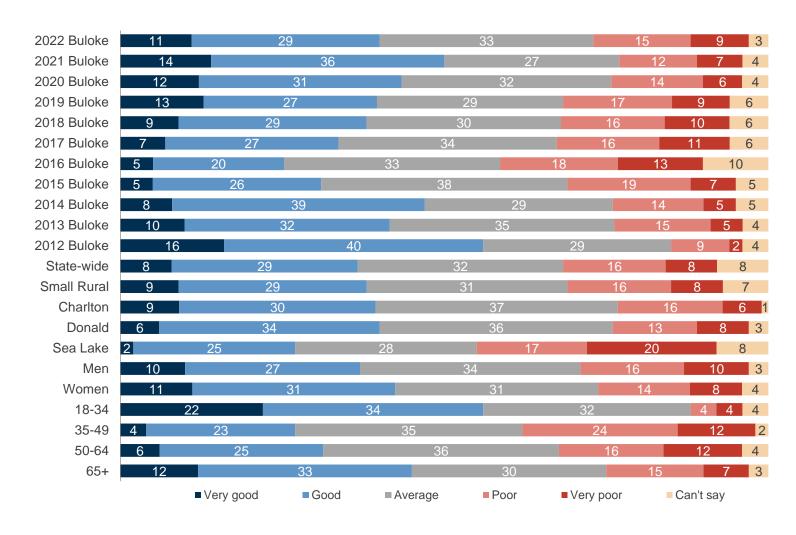


Community consultation and engagement performance





2022 consultation and engagement performance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2022 lobbying performance (index scores)

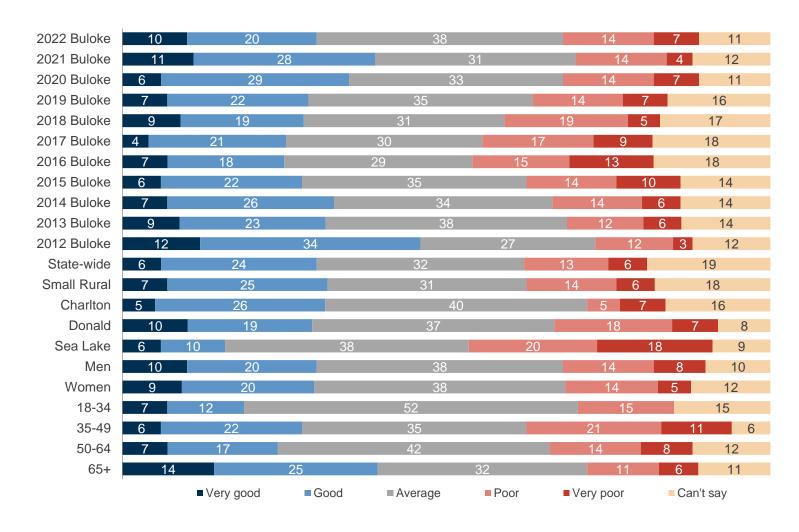


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2022 lobbying performance (%)

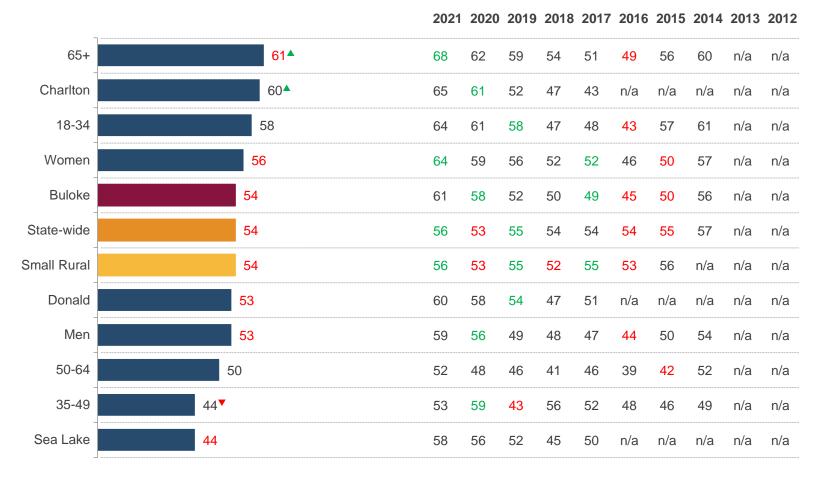


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2022 community decisions made performance (index scores)

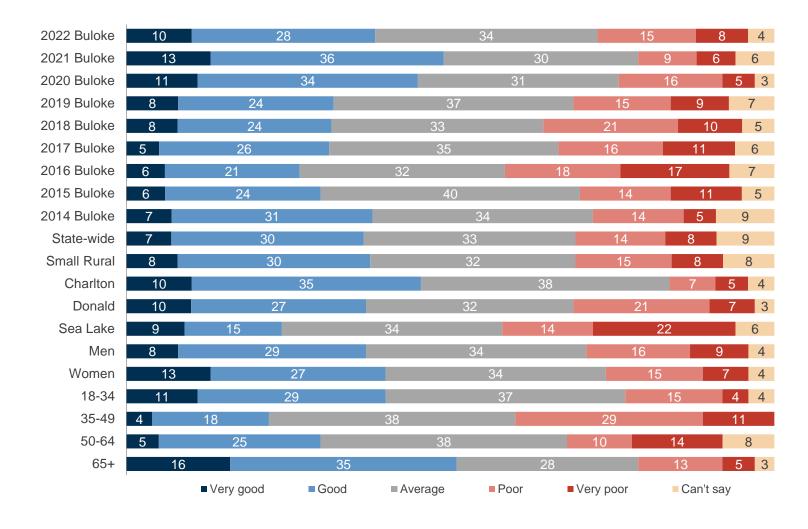


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2022 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2022 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

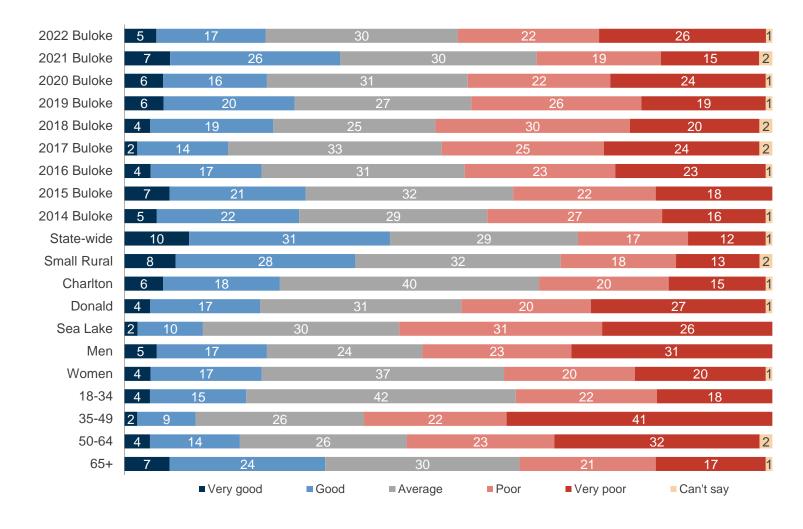
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 State-wide n/a n/a Small Rural 50^ n/a n/a n/a 65+ n/a n/a Charlton n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Women n/a n/a 18-34 n/a n/a **Buloke** n/a n/a Donald n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Men n/a n/a 50-64 n/a n/a Sea Lake n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 35-49 n/a n/a

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2022 sealed local roads performance (%)

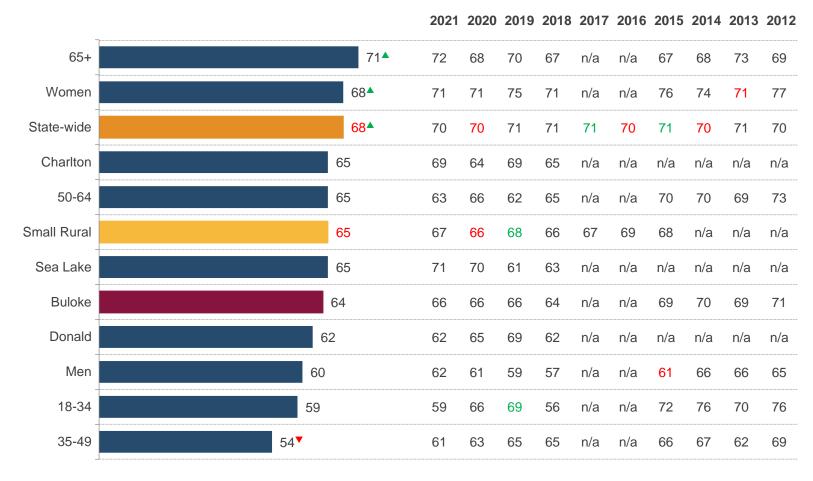


Enforcement of local laws importance





2022 law enforcement importance (index scores)

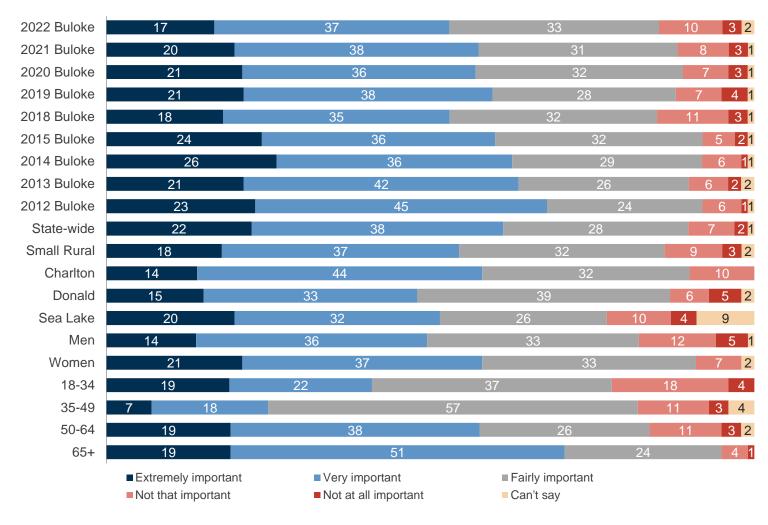


Enforcement of local laws importance





2022 law enforcement importance (%)



Enforcement of local laws performance





2022 law enforcement performance (index scores)

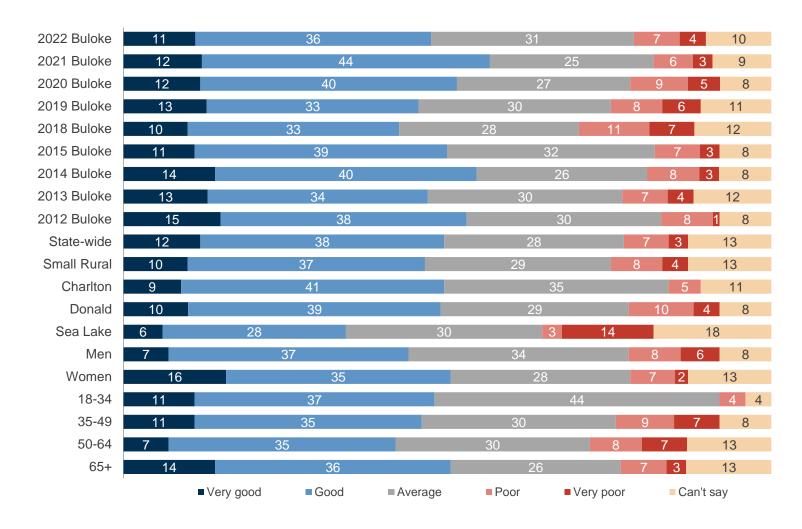


Enforcement of local laws performance





2022 law enforcement performance (%)



Elderly support services importance





2022 elderly support importance (index scores)

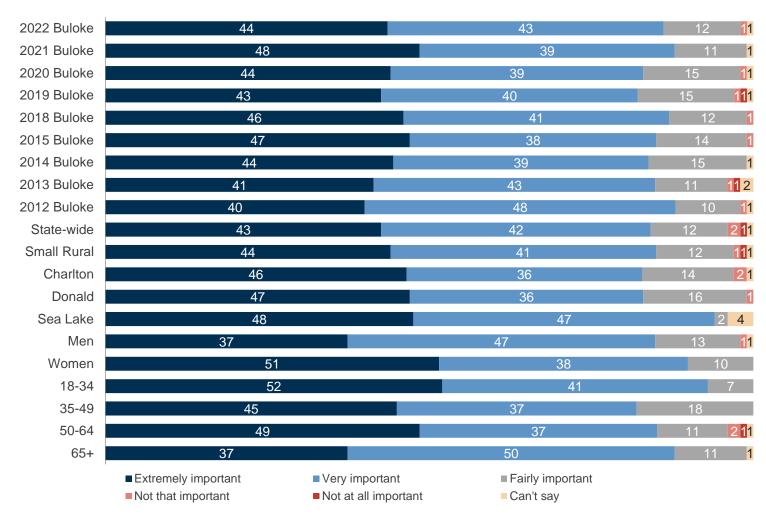


Elderly support services importance





2022 elderly support importance (%)

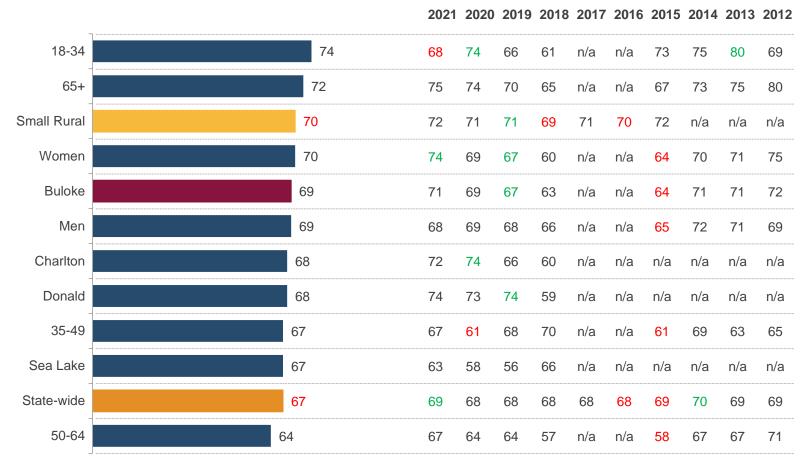


Elderly support services performance





2022 elderly support performance (index scores)

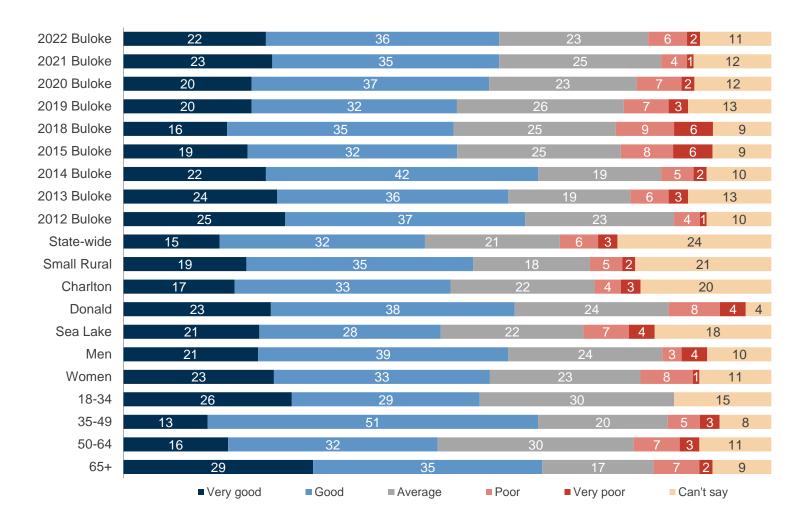


Elderly support services performance





2022 elderly support performance (%)



Recreational facilities importance





2022 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

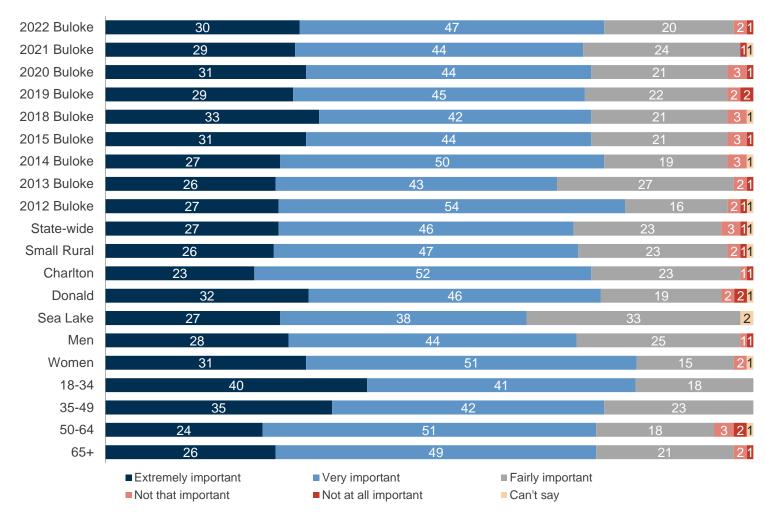


Recreational facilities importance





2022 recreational facilities importance (%)



Recreational facilities performance





2022 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

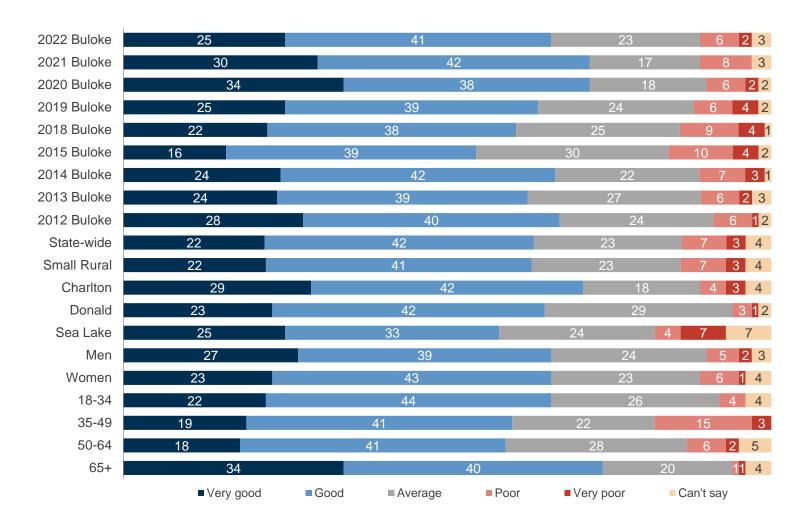


Recreational facilities performance





2022 recreational facilities performance (%)

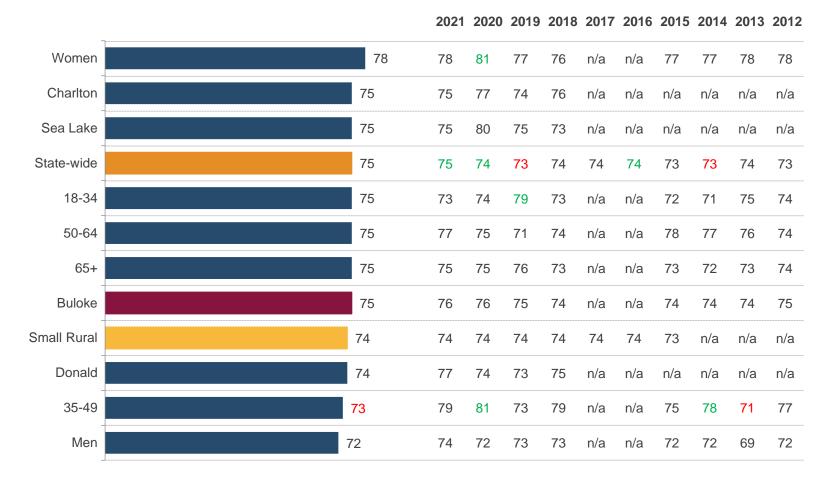


The appearance of public areas importance





2022 public areas importance (index scores)

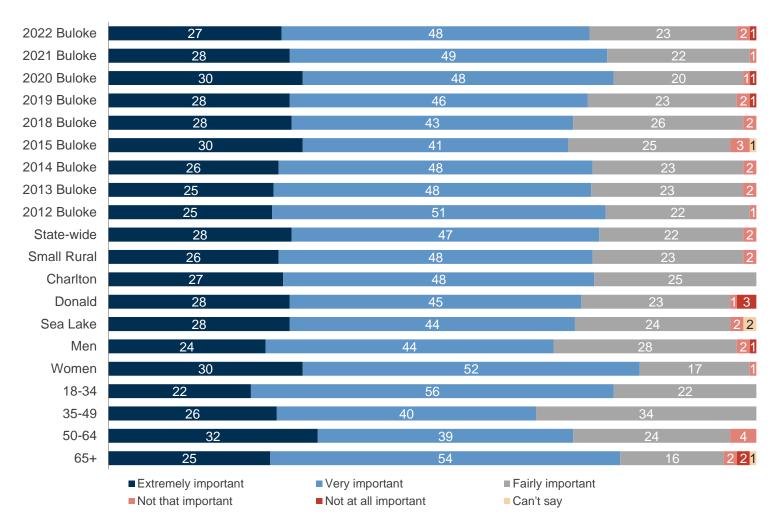


The appearance of public areas importance





2022 public areas importance (%)



The appearance of public areas performance





2022 public areas performance (index scores)

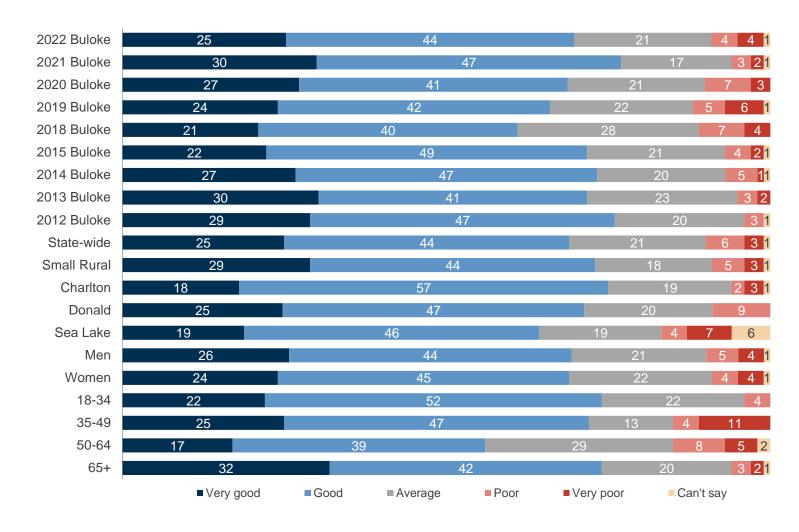


The appearance of public areas performance





2022 public areas performance (%)

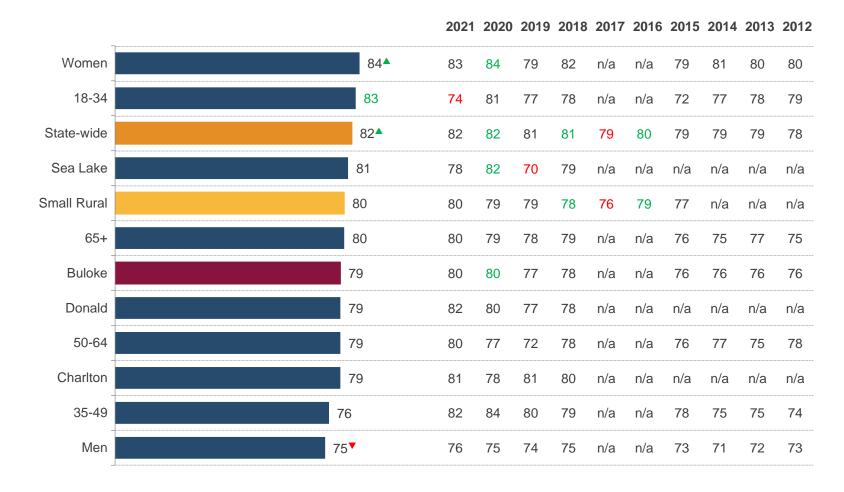


Waste management importance





2022 waste management importance (index scores)

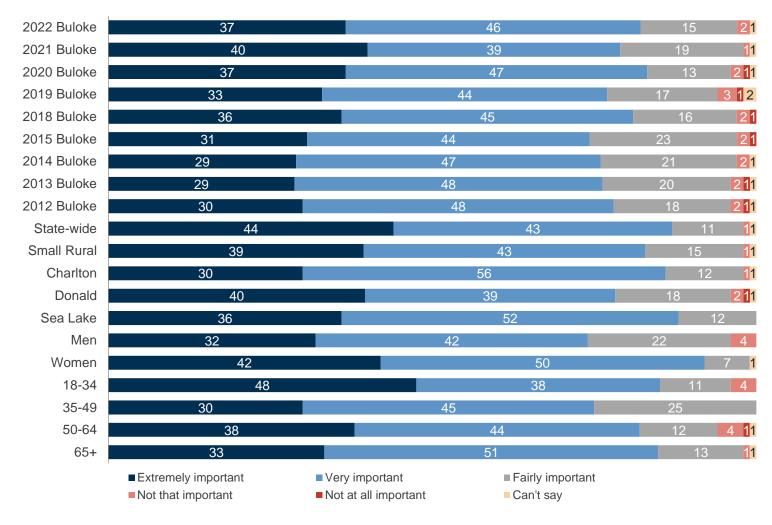


Waste management importance





2022 waste management importance (%)



Waste management performance





2022 waste management performance (index scores)

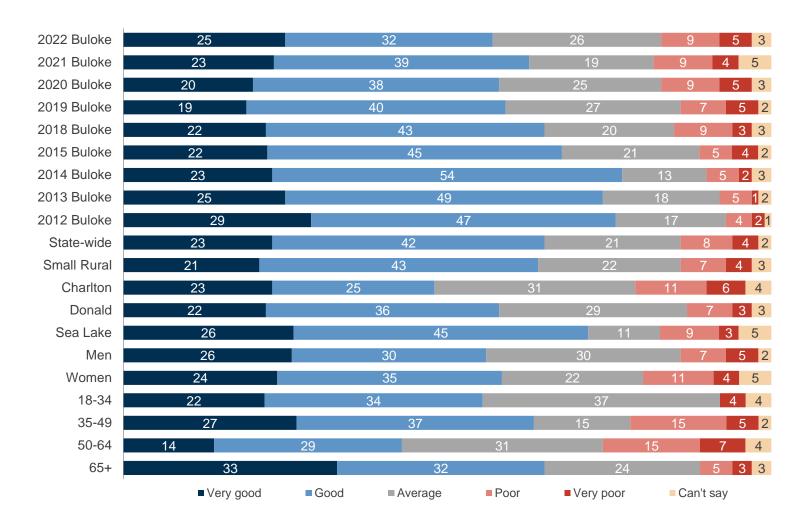


Waste management performance





2022 waste management performance (%)

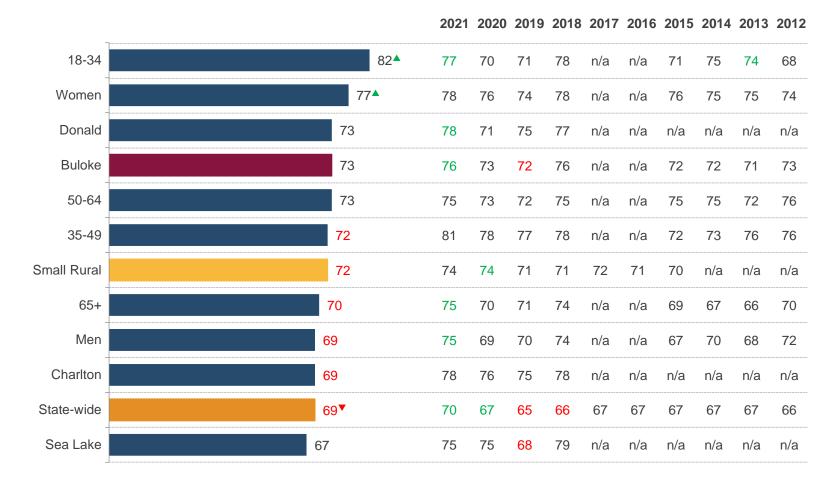


Business and community development and tourism importance





2022 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

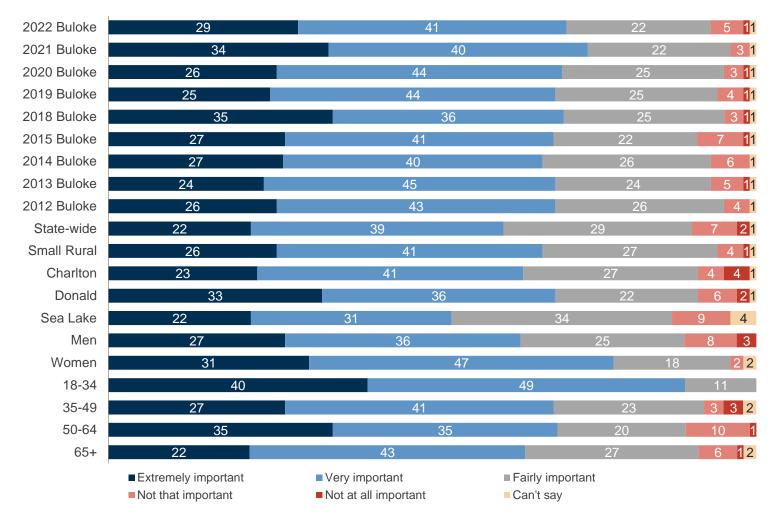


Business and community development and tourism importance





2022 business/development/tourism importance (%)



Business and community development and tourism performance





2022 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

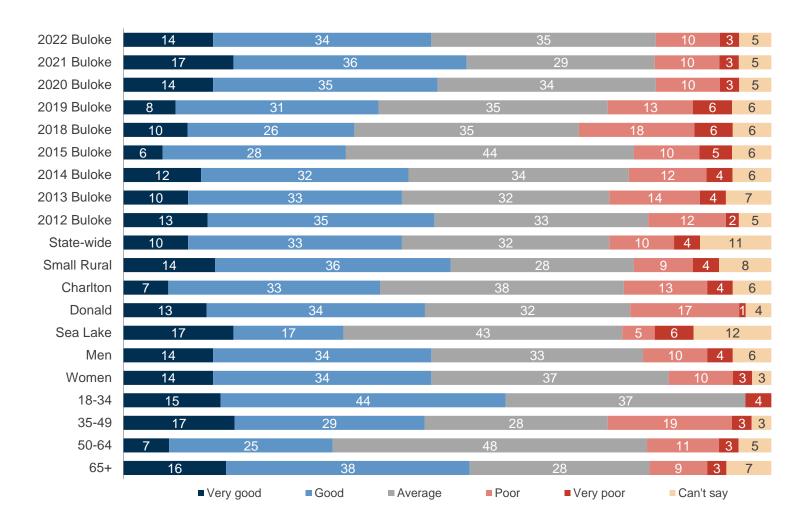


Business and community development and tourism performance





2022 business/development/tourism performance (%)



Environmental sustainability importance





2022 environmental sustainability importance (index scores)

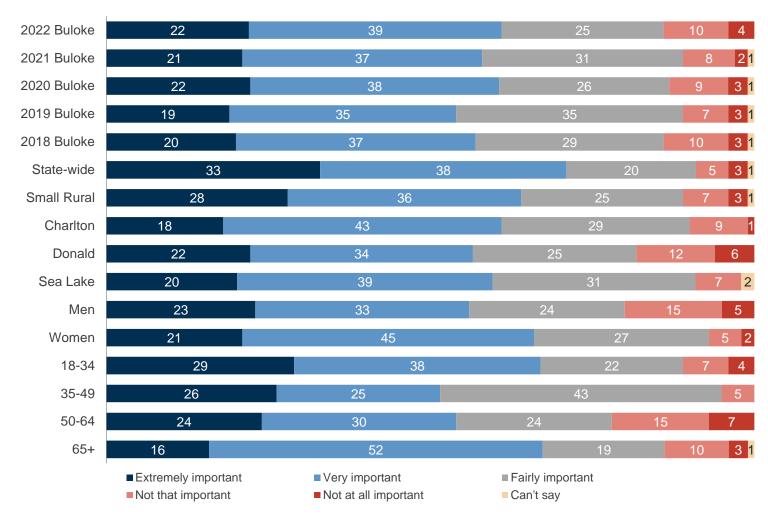


Environmental sustainability importance





2022 environmental sustainability importance (%)



Environmental sustainability performance





2022 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

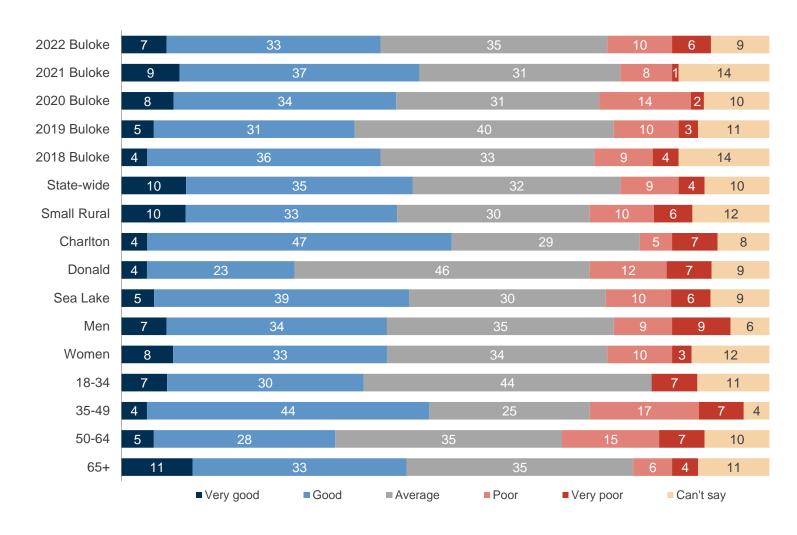


Environmental sustainability performance





2022 environmental sustainability performance (%)

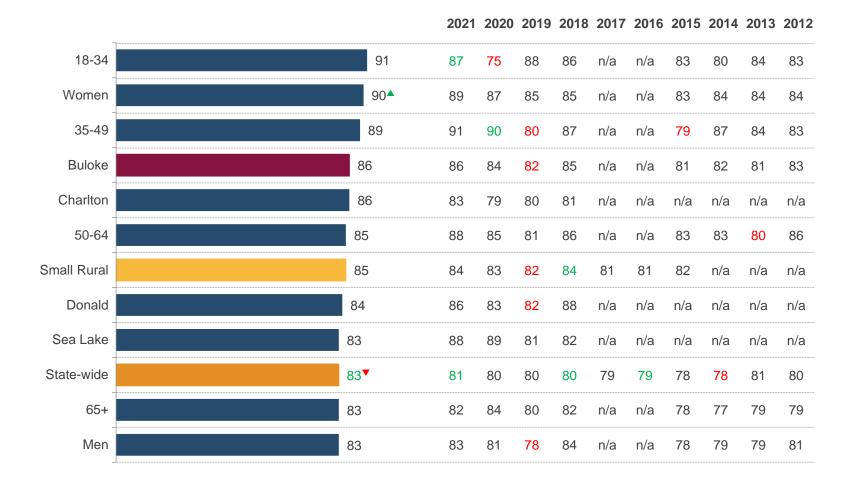


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2022 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

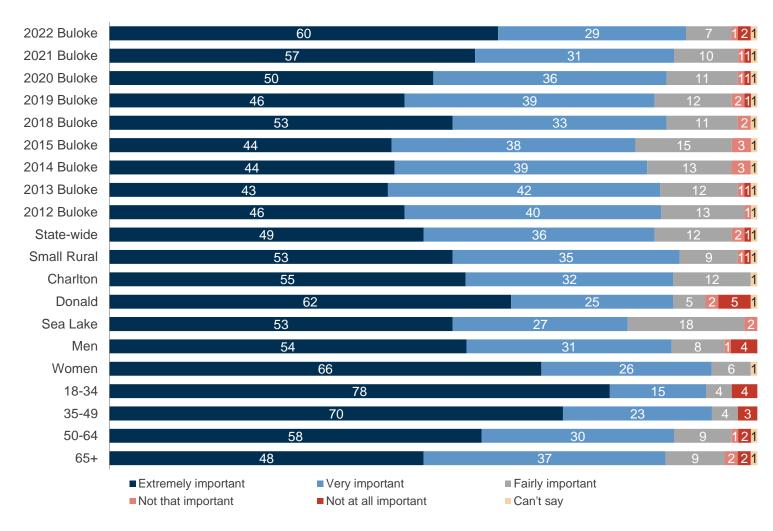


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2022 unsealed roads importance (%)

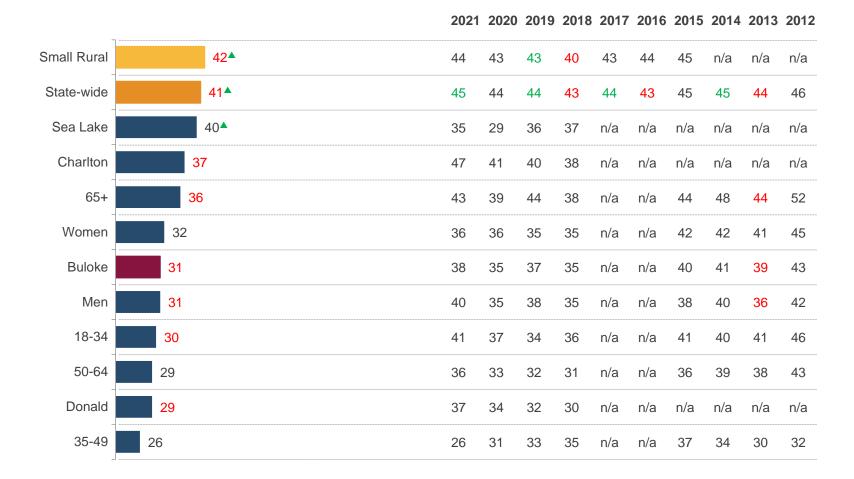


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2022 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

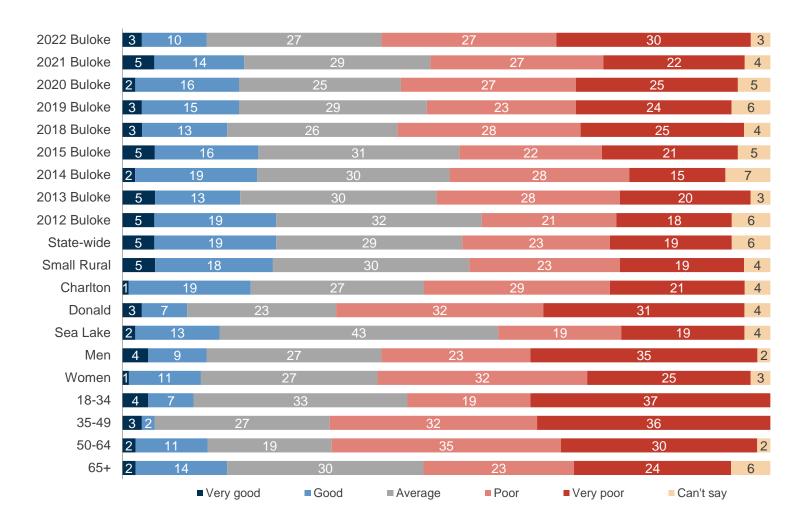


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2022 unsealed roads performance (%)



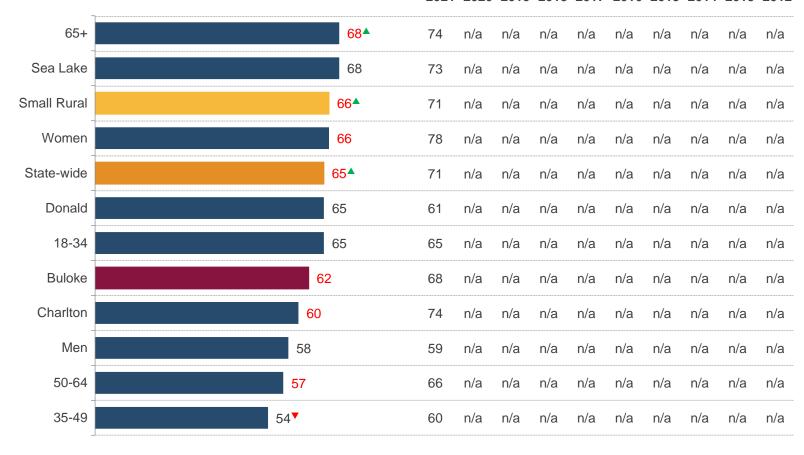
COVID-19 response importance





2022 COVID-19 response importance (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

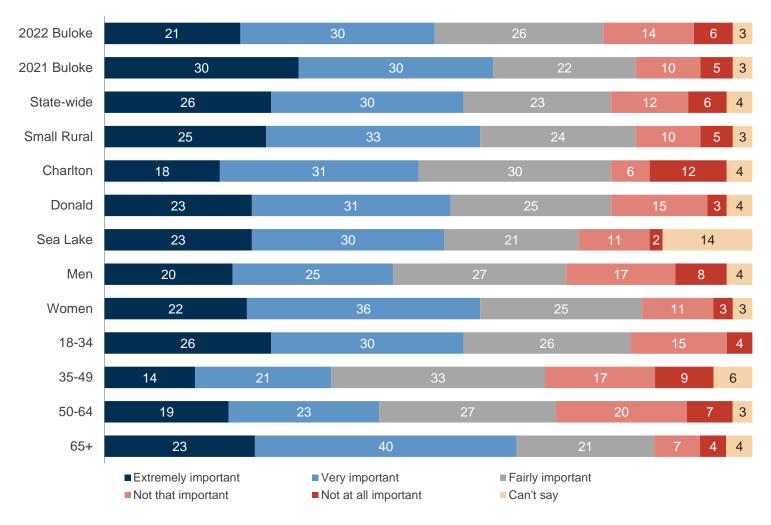


COVID-19 response importance





2022 COVID-19 response importance (%)



2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

COVID-19 response performance





2022 COVID-19 response performance (index scores)

18-34 81 83 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 65+ 76 n/a 81 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 73 Women 85 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Charlton 72 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 80 n/a n/a Buloke 72 78 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Sea Lake 71 83 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 71 Men 73 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 70 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Donald 76 n/a n/a n/a Small Rural 69▼ 75 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 69▼ State-wide n/a n/a n/a n/a 73 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a

78

70

n/a

66

64[▼]

35-49

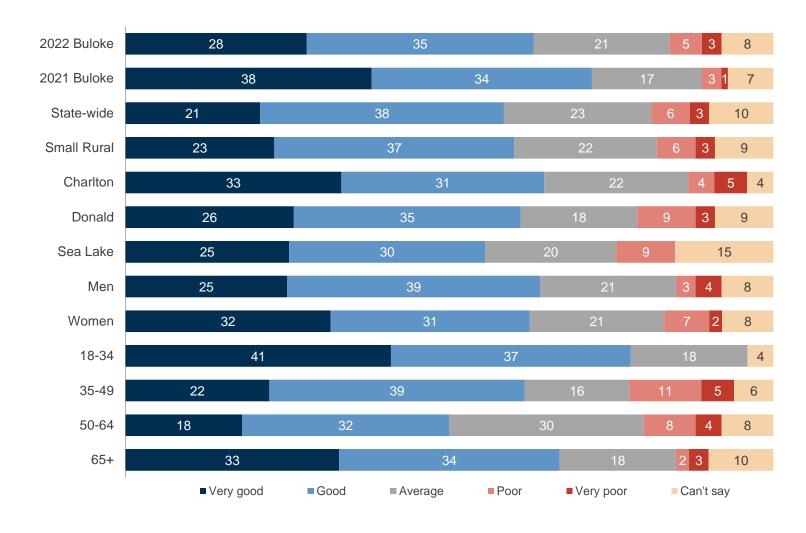
50-64

COVID-19 response performance





2022 COVID-19 response performance (%)

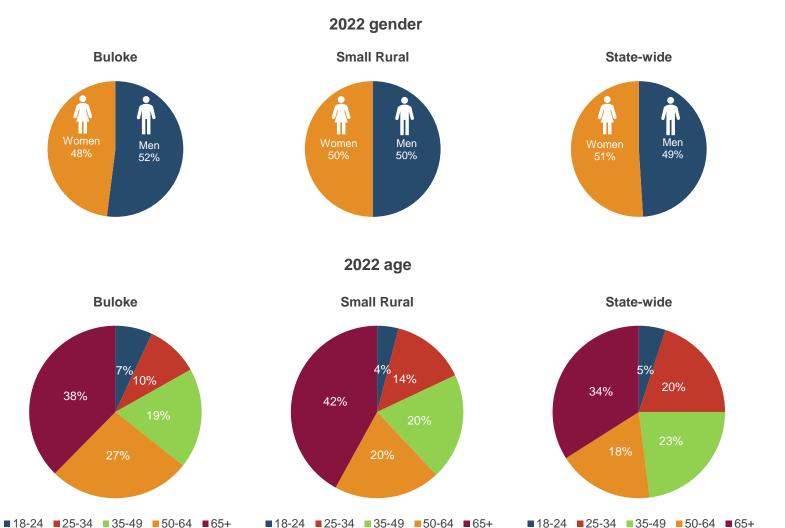


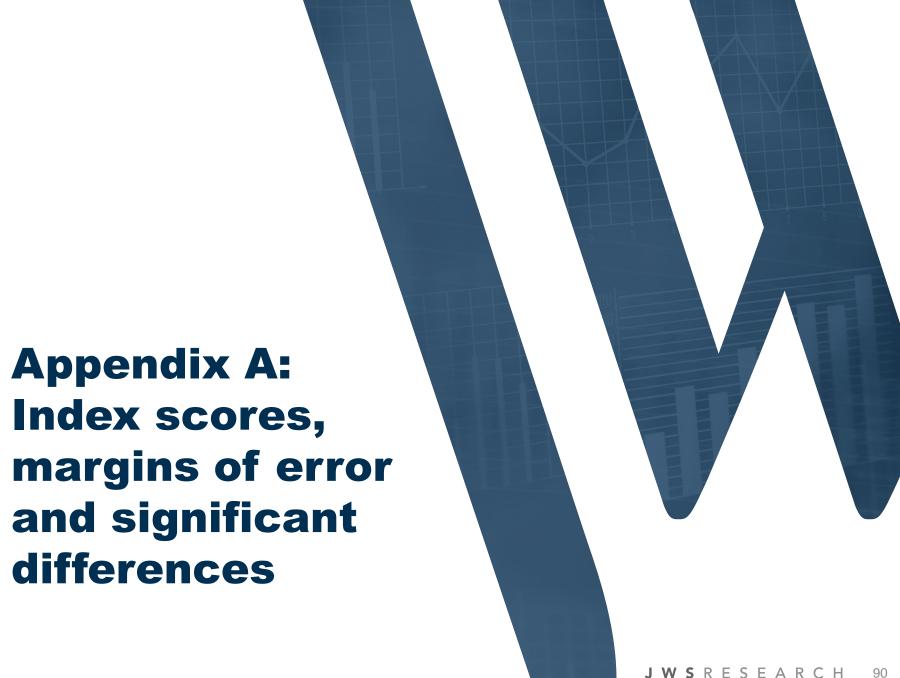


Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile







Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

Many questions ask respondents to rate council performance on a five-point scale, for example, from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response category. To facilitate ease of reporting and comparison of results over time, starting from the 2012 survey and measured against the statewide result and the council group, an 'Index Score' has been calculated for such measures.

The Index Score is calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale), with 'can't say' responses excluded from the analysis. The '% RESULT' for each scale category is multiplied by the 'INDEX FACTOR'. This produces an 'INDEX VALUE' for each category, which are then summed to produce the 'INDEX SCORE', equating to '60' in the following example.

Similarly, an Index Score has been calculated for the Core question 'Performance direction in the last 12 months', based on the following scale for each performance measure category, with 'Can't say' responses excluded from the calculation.

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Very good	9%	100	9
Good	40%	75	30
Average	37%	50	19
Poor	9%	25	2
Very poor	4%	0	0
Can't say	1%		INDEX SCORE 60

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

Appendix A: Margins of error



The sample size for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Buloke Shire Council was n=400. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=400 interviews is +/-4.7% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 45.3% - 54.7%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 4,900 people aged 18 years or over for Buloke Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Buloke Shire Council	400	400	+/-4.7
Men	165	207	+/-7.5
Women	235	193	+/-6.3
Charlton	84	83	+/-10.7
Donald	125	119	+/-8.7
Sea Lake	44	41	+/-14.9
18-34 years	27	67	+/-19.2
35-49 years	40	75	+/-15.6
50-64 years	134	107	+/-8.4
65+ years	199	152	+/-6.8

Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



Within tables and index score charts throughout this report, statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level are represented by upward directing green () and downward directing red arrows ().

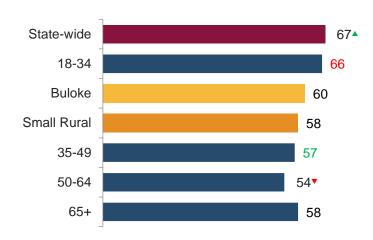
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

- The state-wide result is significantly higher than the overall result for the council.
- The result among 50-64 year olds is significantly lower than for the overall result for the council.

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2021. Therefore in the example below:

- The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is significantly higher than the result achieved among this group in 2021.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2021.

2022 overall performance (index scores) (example extract only)



Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



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

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

Where:

- \$1 = Index Score 1
- \$2 = Index Score 2
- \$3 = unweighted sample count 1
- \$4 = unweighted sample count 2
- \$5 = standard deviation 1
- \$6 = standard deviation 2

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

The test was applied at the 95% confidence interval, so if the Z Score was greater than +/- 1.954 the scores are significantly different.

J W S R E S E A R C H

Appendix B: Further project information

Appendix B: Further information



Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in this section including:

- · Background and objectives
- · Analysis and reporting
- Glossary of terms

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

(03) 8685 8555 or via email: admin@jwsresearch.com

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling

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

- 2021, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18th May – 30th June.

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

Any variation of +/-1% between individual results and net scores in this report or the detailed survey tabulations is due to rounding. In reporting, '—' denotes not mentioned and '0%' denotes mentioned by less than 1% of respondents. 'Net' scores refer to two or more response categories being combined into one category for simplicity of reporting.

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

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Buloke Shire Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 60% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Buloke Shire Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Buloke Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March, 2022.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2022, 67 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings. Please note that councils participating across 2012-2022 vary slightly.

Council Groups

Buloke Shire Council is classified as a Small Rural council according to the following classification list:

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

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

 Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Wherever appropriate, results for Buloke Shire Council for this 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: 2012 survey revision

W

The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

- The survey is now conducted as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18 years or over in local councils, whereas previously it was conducted as a 'head of household' survey.
- As part of the change to a representative resident survey, results are now weighted post survey to the known population distribution of Buloke Shire Council according to the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates, whereas the results were previously not weighted.
- The service responsibility area performance measures have changed significantly and the rating scale used to assess performance has also changed.

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2022 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

- Overall performance last 12 months (Overall performance)
- Value for money in services and infrastructure (Value for money)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Waste management

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/council-community-satisfaction-survey

Tailored questions commissioned by individual councils are reported only to the commissioning council and not otherwise shared unless by express written approval of the commissioning council.

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

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

CSS: 2022 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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