



Lithgow City Council

Community Research

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Date: October 2024

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Methodology and Sample

Sample selection and error

A total of 400 resident interviews were completed. Respondents were selected by means of a computer based random selection process using Australian marketing lists.

A sample size of 400 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=400 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.9%. For example, that an answer such as 'yes' (50%) to a question could vary from 45% to 55%.

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with The Research Society Code of Professional Behaviour.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Within the report, blue and red font colours are used to identify statistically significant differences between groups, i.e., gender, age, etc.

Significance difference testing is a statistical test performed to evaluate the difference between two measurements. To identify the statistically significant differences between the groups of means, 'One-Way Anova tests' and 'Independent Samples T-tests' were used. 'Z Tests' were also used to determine statistically significant differences between column percentages.

Note: All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Ratings questions

The Unipolar Scale of 1 to 5 was used in all rating questions, where 1 was the lowest support or concern and 5 the highest support or concern.

Top 2 Box (T2B): refers to the aggregate percentage (%) score of the top two scores (i.e. agree and strongly agree, concerned and very concerned, etc.)



Research Objectives

Lithgow City Council commissioned Micromex Research to conduct a random telephone survey with residents living in the Lithgow City Council local government area (LGA).

Objectives (Why?)

- Understand and identify community priorities for the Lithgow LGA
- Identify the community's perceived quality of life
- Identify the community's level of agreement with statements regarding the Lithgow City Council area
- Gauge level of support towards a range of future Council projects and initiatives
- Understand the community's level of concern and preparedness for shocks and stressors

Sample (How?)

- Telephone survey (landline N=67 and mobile N=333) to N=400 residents
- We use a 5-point scale (e.g. 1 = not at all concerned, 5 = very concerned)
- Greatest margin of error +/- 4.9%

Timing (When?)

- Implementation 16th – 23rd September 2024

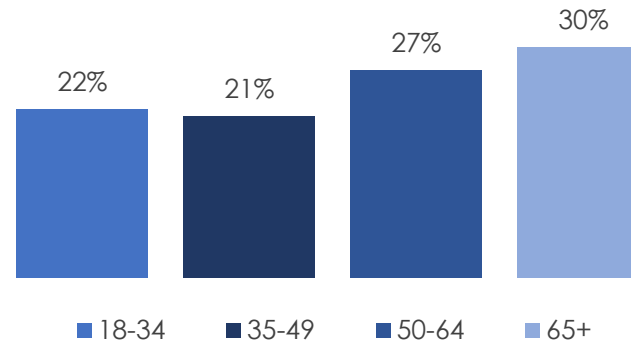
Sample Profile

The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2021 ABS Census data for the Lithgow City Council area.

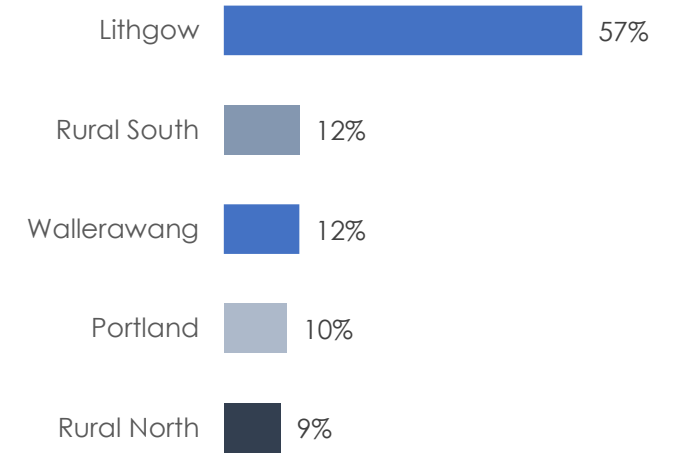
Gender



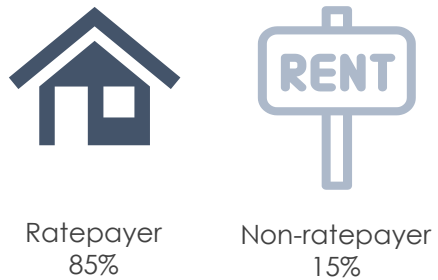
Age



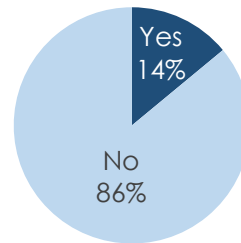
Ward



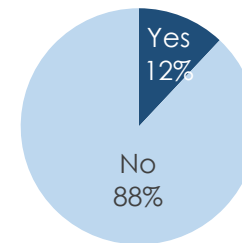
Ratepayer status



Do you identify as living with disability?



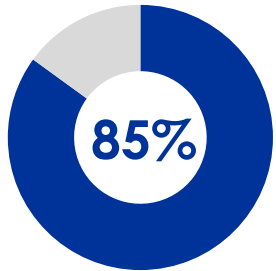
Are you a carer to a person living with disability?



Summary Findings



Snapshot Summary



Quality of life

Of residents rate their quality of life as good, very good or excellent.



What do residents want prioritised?

Economic development, roads, more infrastructure, services and facilities.



What do residents love?

The sense of the community, environmental aspects, the convenience and location and the relaxed/ peaceful lifestyle.

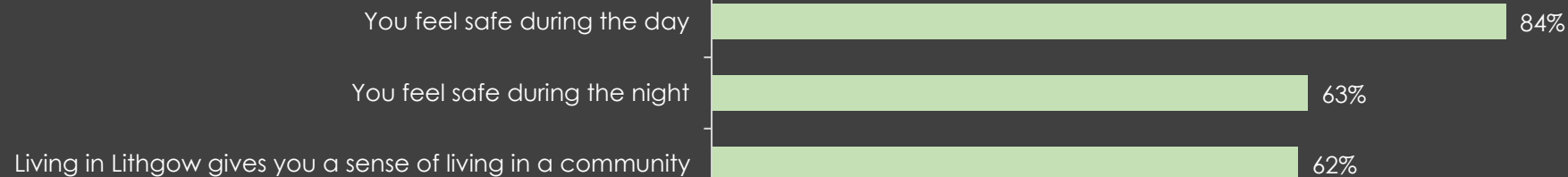


What future projects residents support the most?

Employment opportunities, aged care, education, attracting large retailers, youth services and mental health services.

Top 3 Agreement Statements

Agree/ strongly %



Bottom 3 Agreement Statements

Disagree/ strongly disagree %



Key Themes

Community Sentiment



Overall quality of life in Lithgow is high, with 85% rating it as good to excellent. Residents particularly value the sense of community, natural environment, convenient location, and relaxed lifestyle. However, there are growing concerns about economic development, infrastructure, and Council planning/management.

Economic Development and Employment



This emerged as the top priority issue, with 58% mentioning it as the highest priority for the next 10 years. There is very low levels of agreement with economic development measures and current job opportunities, especially for youth. Only 13% agree there is a wide range of work opportunities locally, and just 8% believe young people are likely to get a quality local job in the future. There is strong support (91%) for developing more employment opportunities for young families and attracting larger retailers to the area (84%).

Planning and Communication



There is low agreement with Council's performance in several areas. Only 15% feel that information about Council decisions is clear and accessible and just 10% believe Council adequately considers community concerns in decision-making. Only 9% agree Council plans well for the long-term future. This suggests a need for improved transparency and community engagement in planning.

Infrastructure and Services



Roads and infrastructure are a concern to residents, with 32% wanting to see changes in road upgrades and maintenance. Only 19% agree that roads are safe for motorists. There are also large concerns about demands on health services, with 76% concerned/ very concerned about this issue. Support is high for increased aged care services (87%), developing more education opportunities for young families (86%), improved health services access (84%) and increased youth services (84%).

The key findings from the community research highlight the desire for balanced growth that preserves Lithgow's natural assets and community feel, while addressing challenges in terms of economic growth and infrastructure. Improving Council communication/engagement and youth opportunities have emerged as key areas for focus.

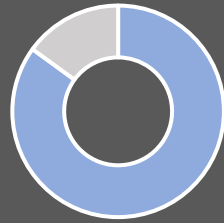


Living in the Lithgow LGA

This section explores what residents love the most about living in Lithgow, what they would change, quality of life and agreement with liveability statements.

Section One

Summary: Living in the Lithgow LGA



85% of residents rated their **quality of life** as 'good' to 'excellent'.

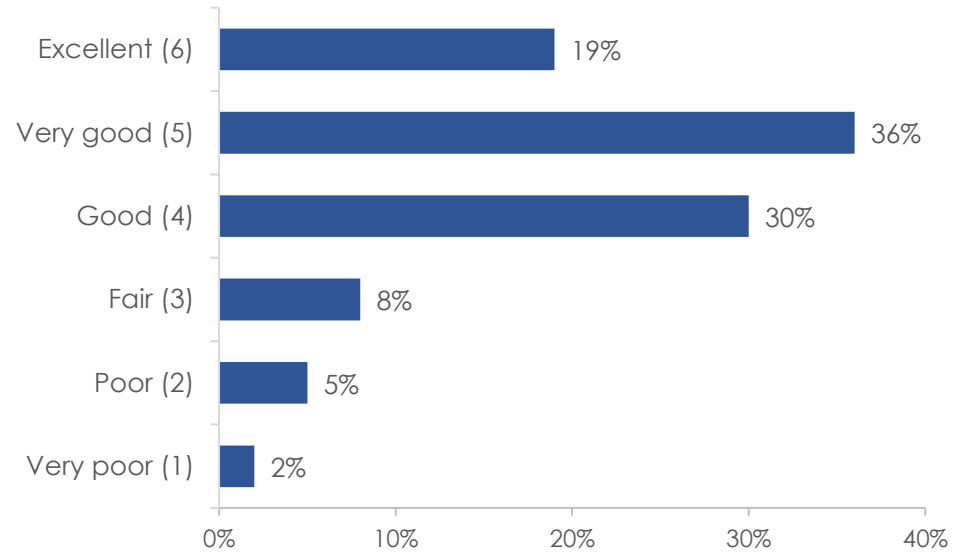
Sense of community and cost of living has the greatest influence on quality of life in the area (see slide 24).

- What do they **love**?
 - Community
 - Environment
 - Location
 - Lifestyle
- What should be **changed**?
 - Economic development
 - Roads
 - Management, planning and action of Council
 - Recreational opportunities
- **Agreement statements**
 - Agreement was highest overall for safety in the LGA during the day, with 84% in agreement.
 - 68% or more disagree/strongly disagree with the statements; Council adequately considers community concerns and views in making decisions (73%), Council is focused on the future and plans well to help secure the community's long term future (71%), There is sufficient planning for local economic growth and development (71%), the local economy is ready for the future (70%), the Lithgow Council encourages and supports a diverse range of industries and businesses (68%) and young people are likely to get a local, quality job in the future (68%).
 - Compared to the Micromex LGA Benchmark there was higher agreement (9% higher) for responsiveness of Police and lower agreement (20% or more lower) for clear and accessible information, new developments (preservation of landscape and heritage), shops and services, future planning and leisure/recreation opportunities.

Quality of Life

Overall, 85% of residents rated their quality of life living in the Lithgow City Council area as 'good' to 'excellent'.

Lower quality of life ratings was seen for those aged 18-34 and those living with disability. Higher ratings was seen for those aged 65+ and those living in the Rural South and Rural North.



	Overall	Micromex Regional Benchmark	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
			Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Top 3 Box %	85%↓	91%	82%	87%	77%	85%	84%	91%	86%	75%
Mean rating	4.49↓	4.84	4.38	4.61	3.97	4.61	4.54	4.74	4.54	4.20
Base	400	18,295	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Top 3 Box %	82%	92%	83%	89%	88%	74%	86%
Mean rating	4.41	4.82	4.22	4.57	4.82	3.93	4.58
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: N = 400

Note: Question cannot be compared to 2021 due to a scale change (4-point satisfaction scale in 2021)

Q3a. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life you have living in the Lithgow City Council area?

Scale: 1 = very poor, 6 = excellent

A significantly higher/lower percentage/rating (by group)

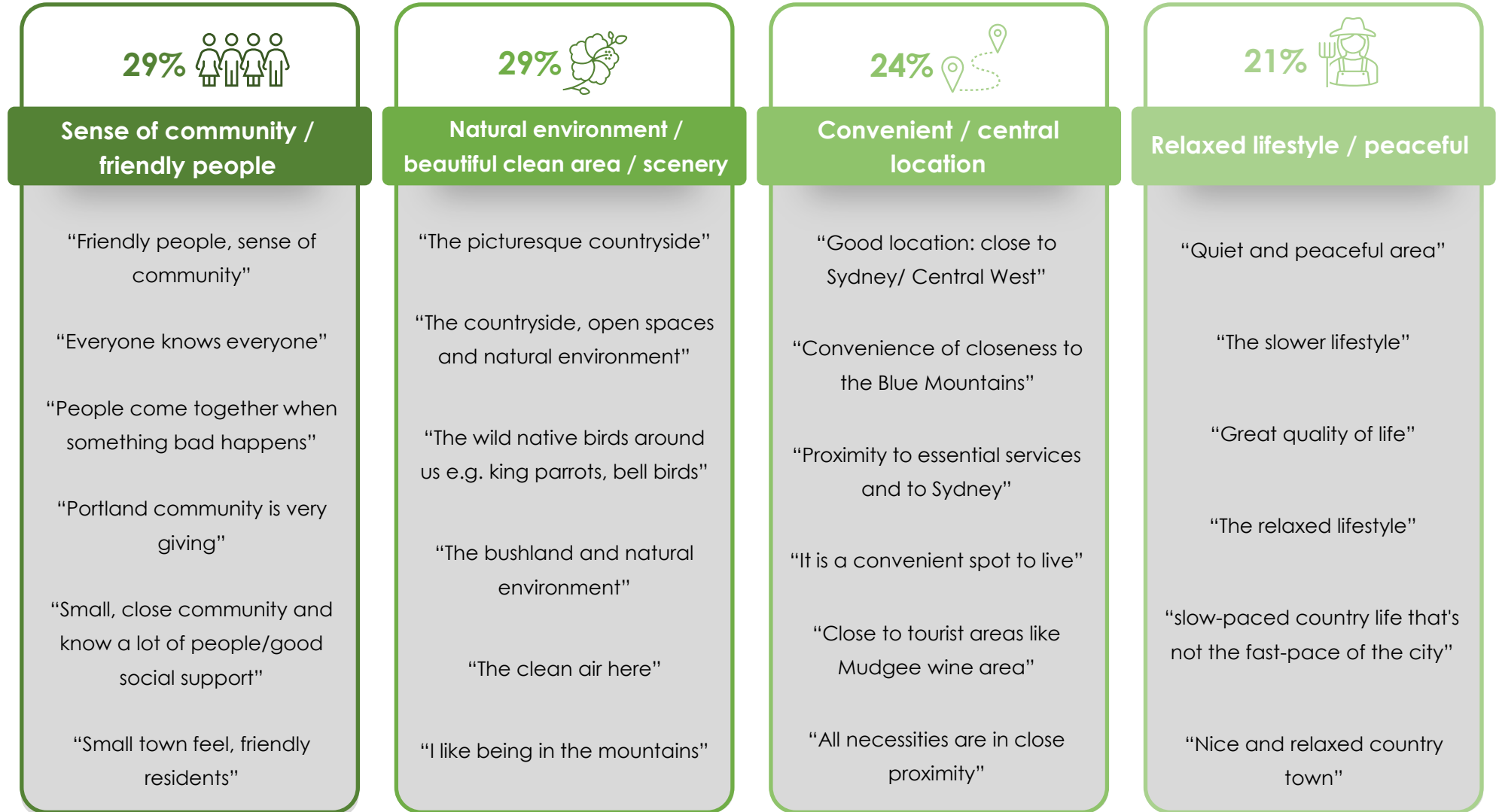
↑↓ = Significantly higher/lower result compared to the Benchmark 10

Most Loved Aspects of Living in the Lithgow LGA

When asked about the most loved aspects of the Lithgow LGA, 29% of residents mentioned the community and the environment.

Further, 24% stated they love the location, and 21% mentioned the relaxed lifestyle of the area.

A complete list with comparison to 2021 results is shown on the following slide.



Base: N = 400

Q2a. What do you love most about living in the Lithgow LGA?

Most Loved Aspects of Living in the Lithgow LGA

The community and the environment remain the most loved aspects of living in the Lithgow LGA.

Compared to 2021 significantly more residents stated they love the location, sports and recreational activities and the ease of movement.

Loved aspects	2024 (N=400)	2021 (N=401)
Sense of community/friendly people	29%	27%
Natural environment/beautiful clean area/scenery	29%	26%
Convenient/central location	24%	14%
Relaxed lifestyle/peaceful	21%	23%
Rural aspect/country living	14%	12%
Always lived here/know the area well	8%	8%
Close to friends and family	8%	8%
Sports and recreational activities	6%	3%
Ease of getting around/lack of traffic congestion	6%	2%
Climate/nice weather	6%	8%
Employment opportunities	5%	4%
Everything/wouldn't want to live anywhere else	3%	2%
Good facilities/services/infrastructure e.g. schools, medical	3%	3%
Affordability	2%	2%
Low population	2%	4%
Good council	1%	0%
Transport services	1%	1%
History of the area	1%	1%
Parking	<1%	<1%
Other	4%	2%
Don't know/nothing	4%	6%

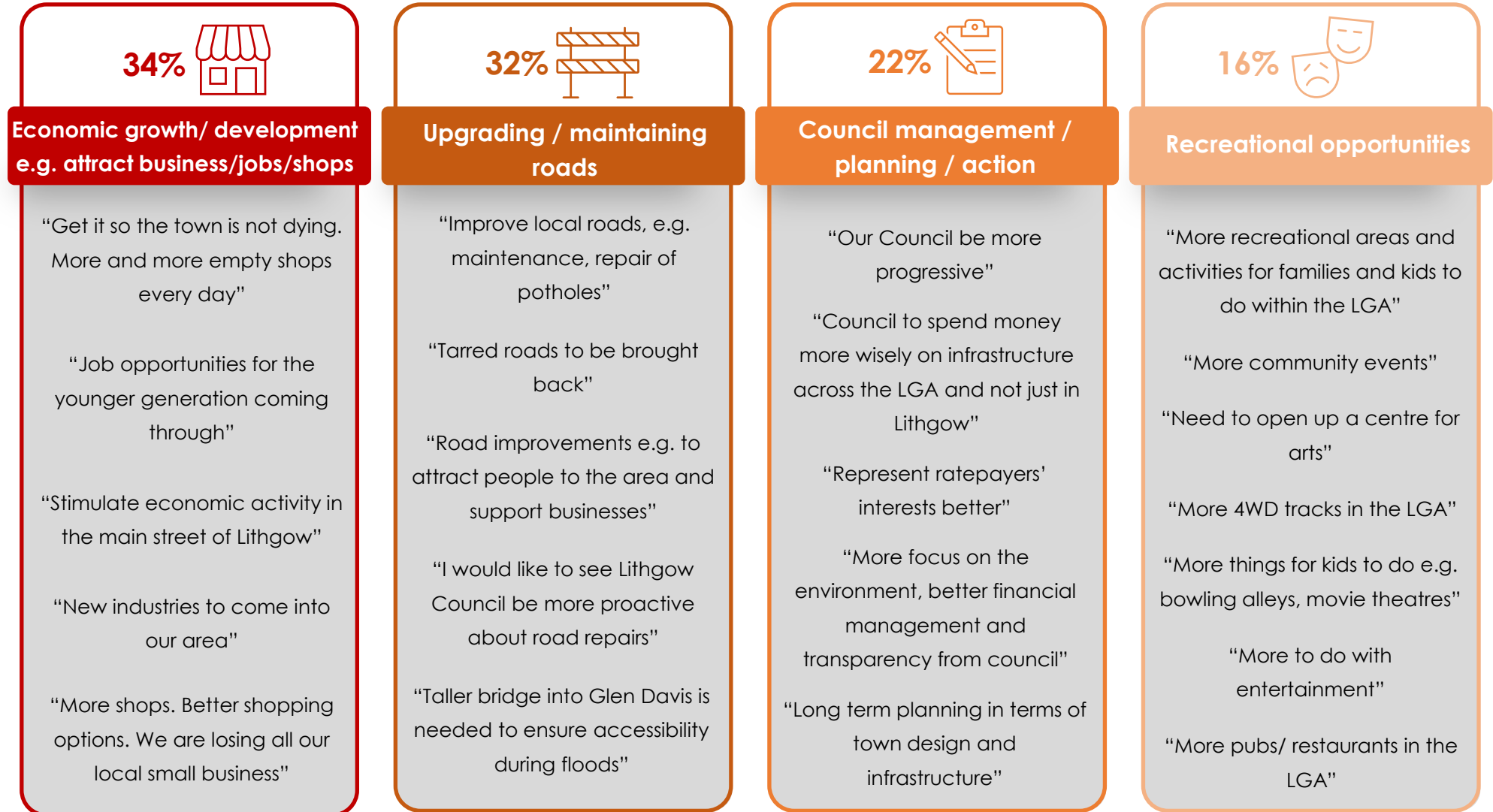
Note: Slight amendments have been made to the code frame this year. Last year's data has been updated to reflect changes

What Could be Changed about Living in the Lithgow LGA

34% would like to see change in the economic development of the LGA with mentions of having more job opportunities and attracting more businesses and shops. 32% mentioned roads.

Other priority areas include Council management/ planning (22%) and more recreational opportunities (16%).

A complete list with comparison to 2021 results is shown on the following slide.



Base: N = 400

Q2b. And what would you like to change about living in Lithgow LGA?

What Could be Changed about Living in the Lithgow LGA

Residents continue to predominantly want to see changes to the Lithgow economy and roads.

Compared to 2021 significantly more residents would like to see changes in Council management, planning and action and cost of living/rates.

Areas of change	2024 (N=400)	2021 (N=401)
Economic development e.g. attract more businesses/job opportunities/shopping	34%	30%
Upgrading/maintaining roads	32%	29%
Council management/planning/action	22%	13%
Recreational opportunities (particularly for youth) e.g. cinemas, restaurants, entertainment, activities	16%	13%
Cost of living/rates	10%	2%
Beautification/maintenance of the area	7%	8%
Supporting tourism	7%	5%
More/improved infrastructure/services/facilities e.g. health, education, sports, aged, etc.	6%	7%
Improved essential services e.g. waste collection, sewerage, water	4%	5%
Upgrading/maintaining footpaths and cycleways	3%	4%
Availability/affordability/quality of housing	3%	3%
Council communication/engagement	2%	4%
More/improved public transport	2%	2%
Managing population growth/development	2%	2%
Increased sense of community/cohesion/diversity of community	2%	1%
Environmental aspects e.g. renewable energy, natural disaster management	2%	3%
Community safety/crime prevention	1%	1%
Want the area to succeed/grow	1%	0%
Traffic management	1%	1%
Disability access	1%	1%
The weather e.g. too cold	1%	1%
Animal control	1%	1%
Internet/reception services	<1%	1%
Other comments	3%	2%
Don't know/nothing	5%	12%

Note: Slight amendments have been made to the code frame this year. Last year's data has been updated to reflect changes

Q2b. And what would you like to change about living in Lithgow LGA?

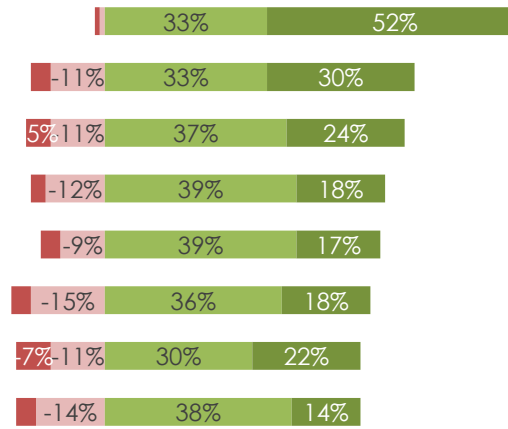
A significantly higher/lower percentage (by year) 14

Agreement with Liveability Statements – Highest / Lowest

Highest Level of Agreement (T2B)

Agreement was highest overall for safety (during the day, night and using public facilities), community (sense of community and support networks), quality education and the natural environment (retaining beauty and respected).

Agree/Strongly agree (T2B) %



84%	You feel safe during the day
63%	You feel safe during the night
62%	Living in Lithgow gives you a sense of living in a community
57%	Quality education is available and accessible in the LGA
56%	Our natural environment is retaining its beauty
54%	There is a good range of community groups and support networks for residents
52%	You feel safe using public facilities
52%	The natural environment is respected

Lowest Level of Agreement (B2B)

Areas of lower agreement focus on future prospects of the area e.g. economic growth (planning, job opportunities, attracting business), future planning for the LGA, considering community concerns in decision-making and the provision of information the community.

Our roads are safe for motorists

55% -31% -24% 14% 5%

Information about Council and its decisions is clear and accessible

59% -33% -26% 11%

The local economy provides a wide range of work opportunities

60% -29% -30% 11%

The Lithgow Council encourages and supports a diverse range of industries and businesses

68% -40% -28% 9%

Council adequately considers community concerns and views in making decisions

73% -44% -29% 9%

Council is focused on the future and plans well to help secure the community's long-term future

71% -43% -28% 7%

The local economy is ready for the future

70% -34% -35% 7%

Young people are likely to get a local, quality job in the future

68% -30% -38% 6%

There is sufficient planning for local economic growth and development

71% -39% -32%

Disagree/Strongly disagree (B2B) %

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

Note: Order is determined by highest to lowest T2B result

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

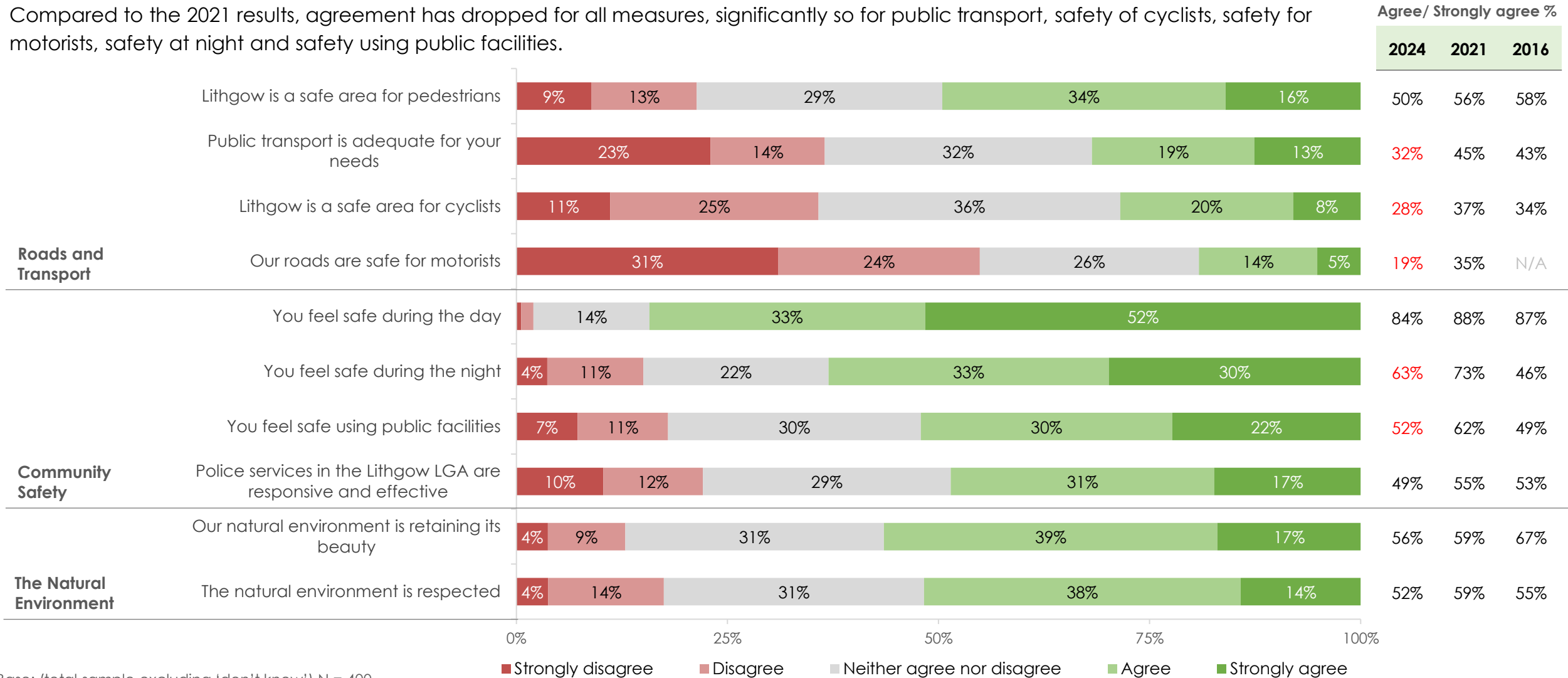
Base: (total sample excluding 'don't know') N = 400

Note: Data labels <5% are not shown above

Agreement with Liveability Statements

84% of residents agree with the statement 'you feel safe during the day', whilst 55% disagree with the statement 'our roads are safe for motorists'.

Compared to the 2021 results, agreement has dropped for all measures, significantly so for public transport, safety of cyclists, safety for motorists, safety at night and safety using public facilities.



Base: (total sample excluding 'don't know') N = 400

Note: Data labels <3% are not shown above

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (compared to 2021)

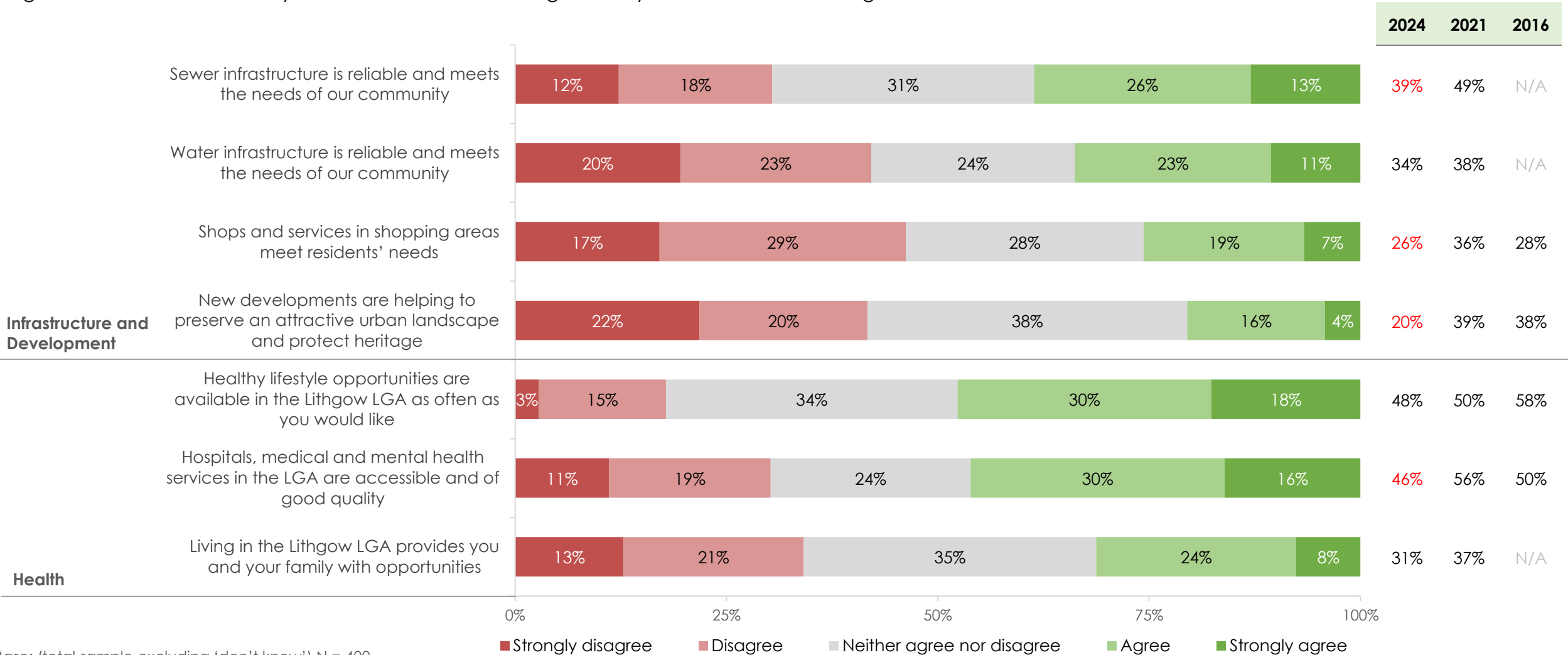
Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics 16

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Compared to the 2021 results, agreement has dropped for all measures, significantly so for sewer infrastructure, shopping and new developments preserving urban landscape and heritage.

Agreement with the reliability of sewer infrastructure is significantly lower for those residing in Rural South.

Agree/ Strongly agree %



Base: (total sample excluding 'don't know') N = 400

Note: Data labels <3% are not shown above

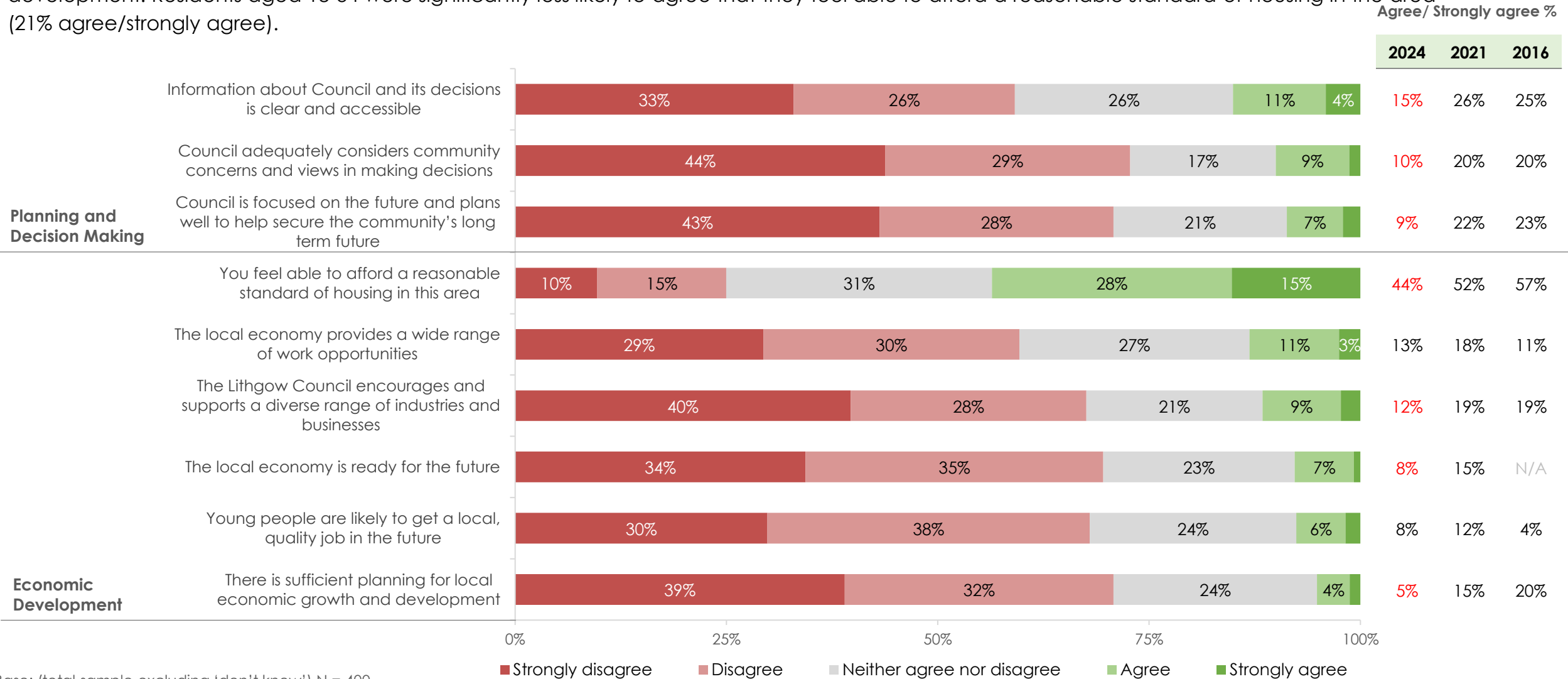
Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (compared to 2021)

Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics 17

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Very low levels of agreement was seen for planning and decision making and economic development measures. Top 2 box scores of less than 10% was seen for future planning, the local economy ready for the future, young people able to get a local job and sufficient planning for economic growth and development. Residents aged 18-34 were significantly less likely to agree that they feel able to afford a reasonable standard of housing in the area (21% agree/strongly agree).



Base: (total sample excluding 'don't know') N = 400

Note: Data labels <3% are not shown above

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

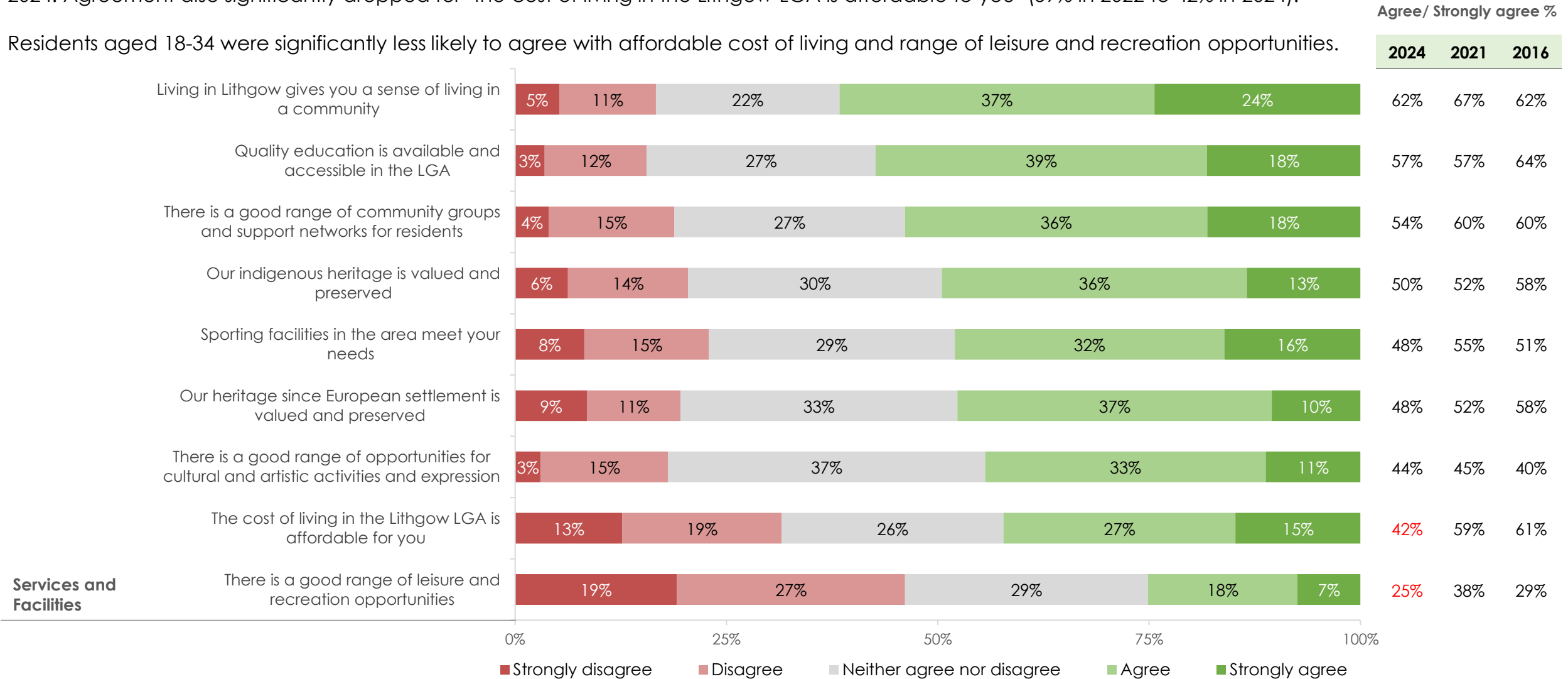
A significantly higher/lower percentage (compared to 2021)

Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics 18

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Within the Services and Facilities pillar, agreement was highest for 'living in Lithgow gives you a sense of living in a community' (62%) and lowest for 'there is a good range of leisure and recreation opportunities' – which has also significantly dropped from 38% T2B to 25% T2B in 2024. Agreement also significantly dropped for 'the cost of living in the Lithgow LGA is affordable to you' (59% in 2022 to 42% in 2024).

Residents aged 18-34 were significantly less likely to agree with affordable cost of living and range of leisure and recreation opportunities.



Base: (total sample excluding 'don't know') N = 400

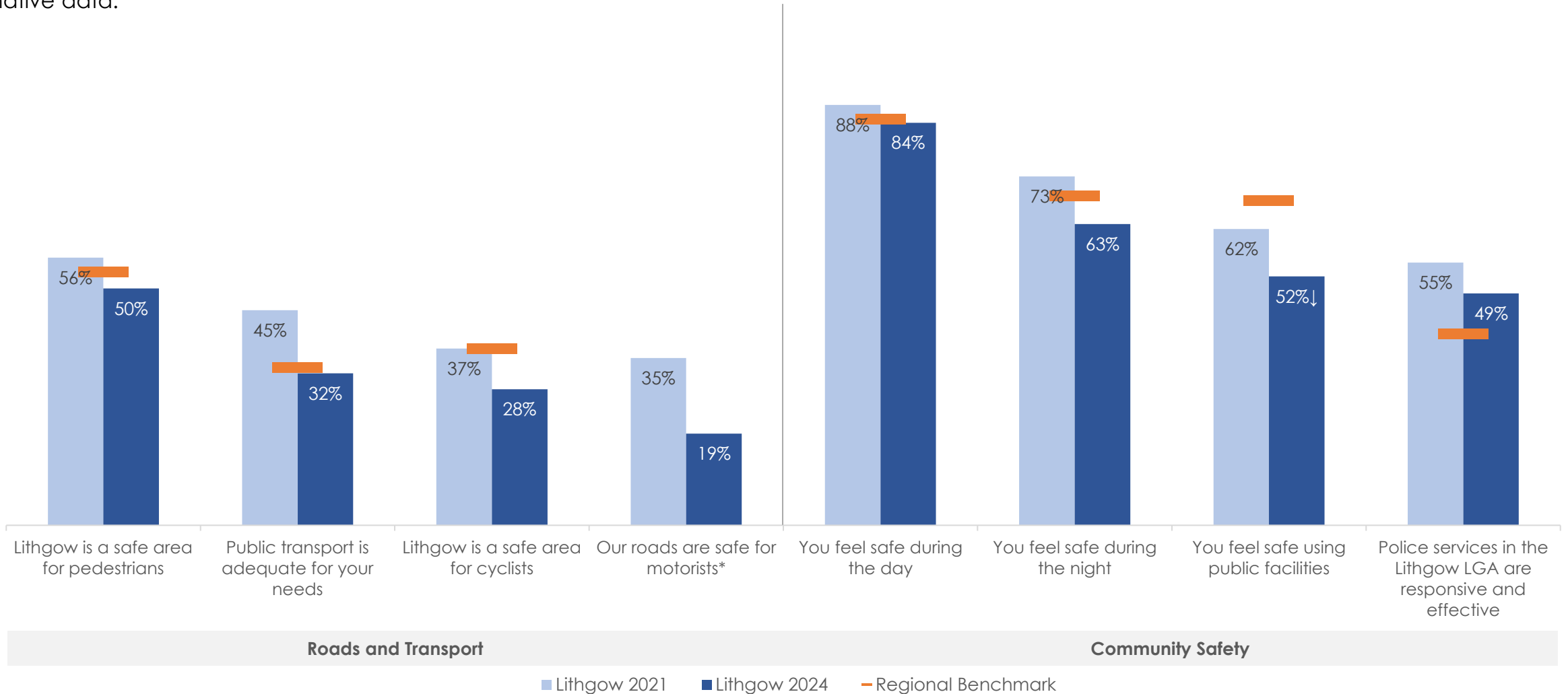
Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (compared to 2021)

Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics 19

Agreement with Liveability Statements – Benchmark Comparison

The chart below (and continuing over the next 3 slides) show the top 2 box (agree/ strongly agree) scores for 2021, 2024 and the Micromex Regional Benchmark (orange line). Here we can see the results over time, and, how Lithgow City Council's scores compare to other regional councils. With the exception of police services, overall, within the Roads and Transport and Community Safety pillars the 2024 results have dropped from 2021 and are below Micromex normative data.



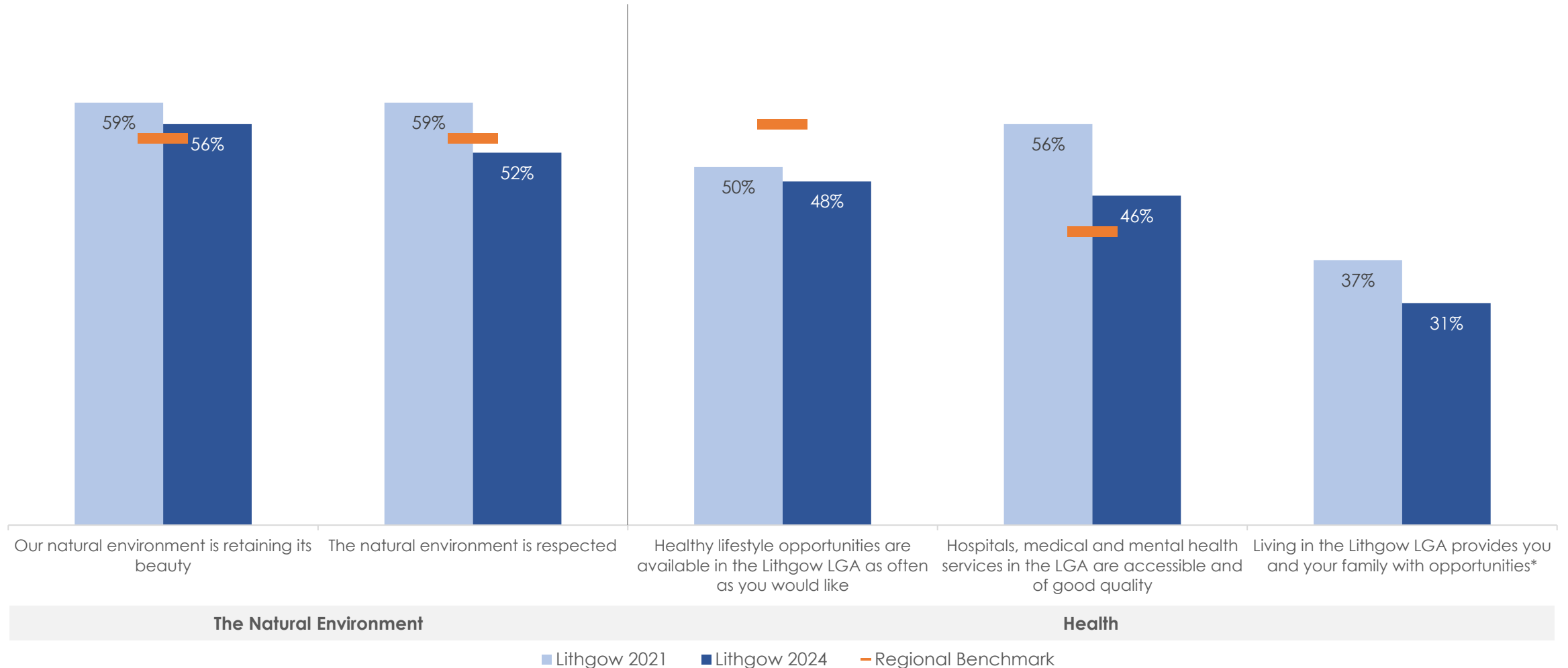
*No comparable benchmark

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

Note: Benchmark differences are based on assumed variants of +/- 10%, with variants beyond +/- 10% more likely to be significant
 ↑↓ = positive/negative difference equal to/greater than 10% from Benchmark.

Agreement with Liveability Statements – Benchmark Comparison

Compared to the Micromex Regional Benchmark, the results for 'healthy lifestyle opportunities' are lower and for 'hospitals, medical and mental health services' are higher.



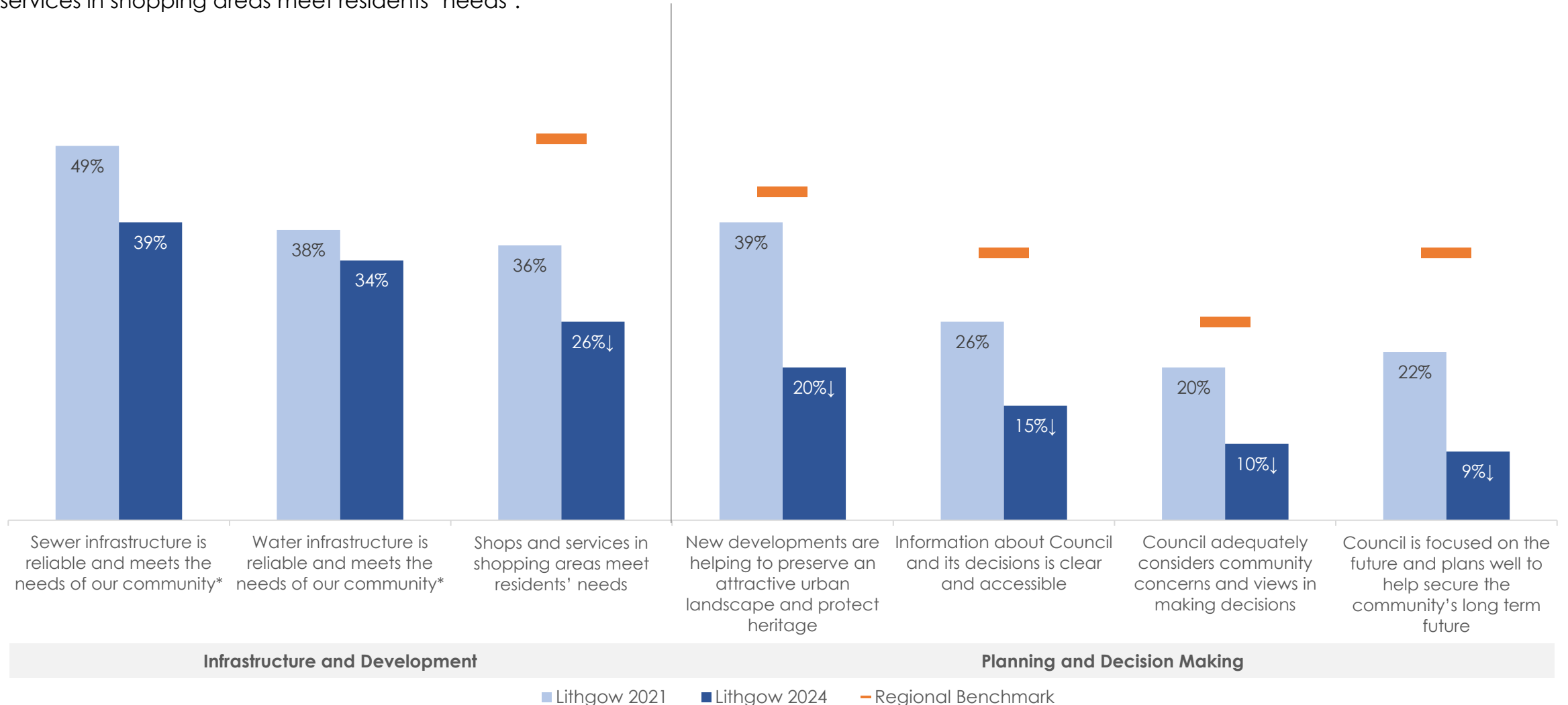
*No comparable benchmark

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

Note: Benchmark differences are based on assumed variants of +/- 10%, with variants beyond +/- 10% more likely to be significant 21

Agreement with Liveability Statements – Benchmark Comparison

Under the Infrastructure and Development, and Planning and Decision Making Pillars, results are significantly below the Micromex Regional Benchmark for all comparable measures. Larger gaps are seen for 'Council is focused on the future and plans well to help secure the community's long-term future' and 'shops and services in shopping areas meet residents' needs'.



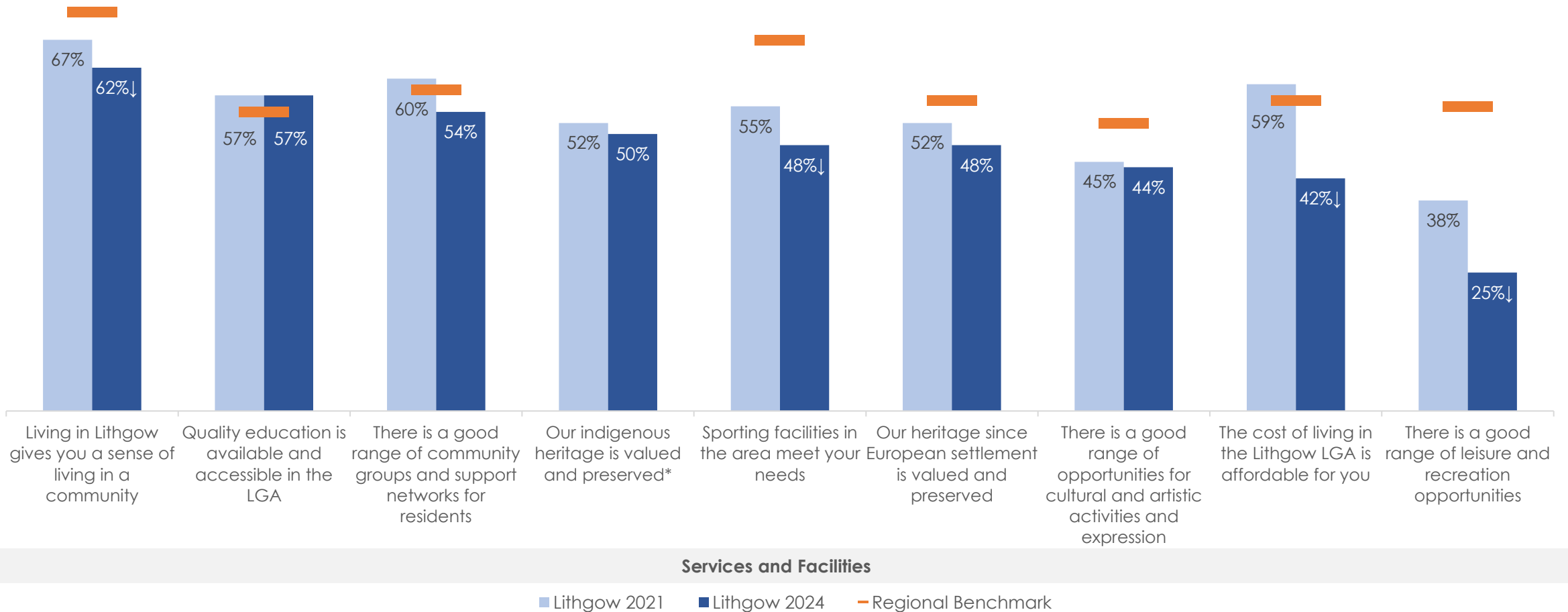
*No comparable benchmark

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

Note: Benchmark differences are based on assumed variants of +/- 10%, with variants beyond +/- 10% more likely to be significant
 ↑↓ = positive/negative difference equal to/greater than 10% from Benchmark.

Agreement with Liveability Statements – Benchmark Comparison

Compared to the Micromex Regional Benchmark, results are significantly lower for sporting facilities, cost of living and leisure and recreation opportunities. The gap between the Lithgow City Council T2B score and the Regional Benchmark is greatest, across all 35 measures, for 'there is a good range of leisure and recreation opportunities', with a difference of 30%.



*No comparable benchmark

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

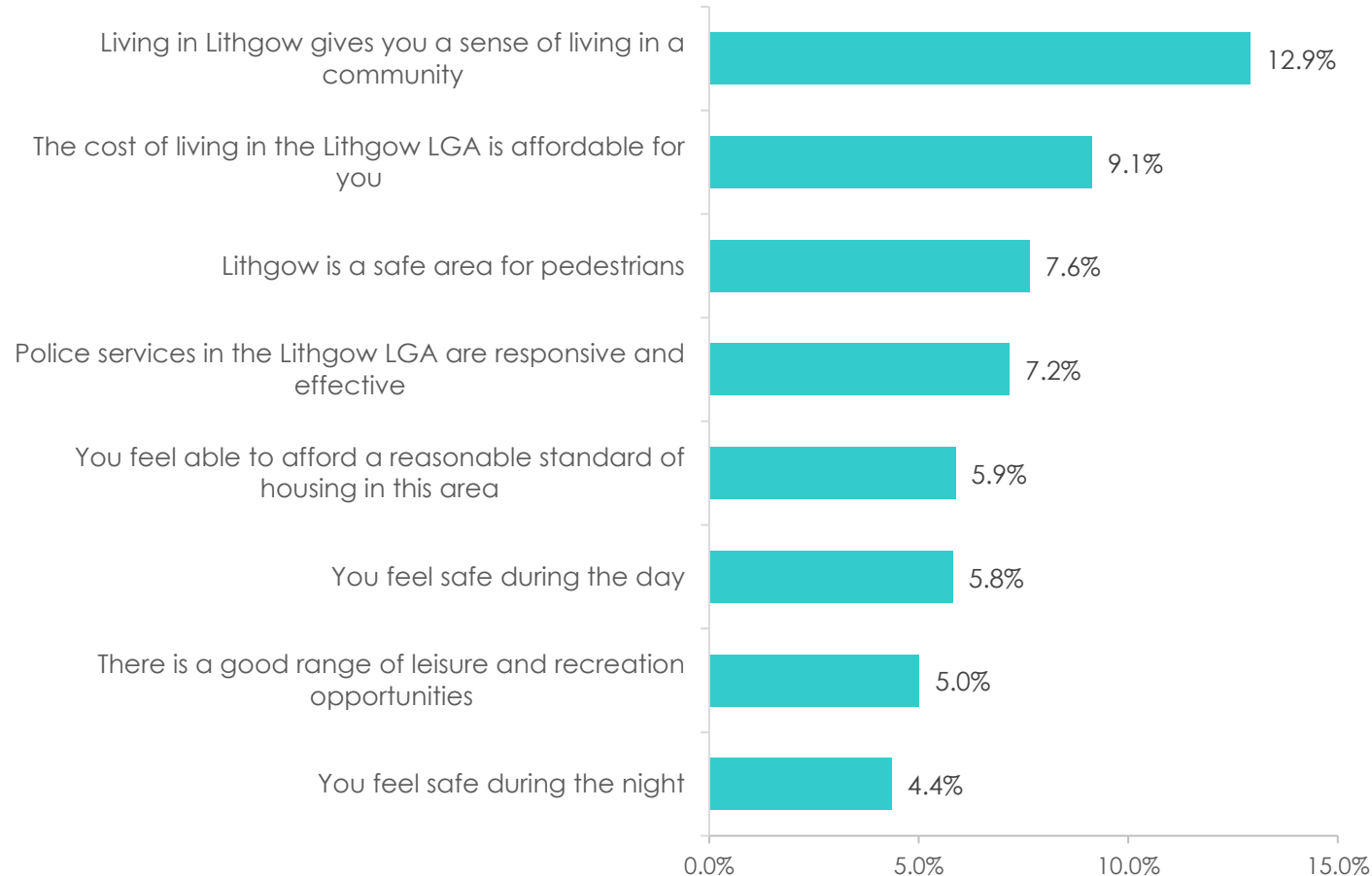
Note: Benchmark differences are based on assumed variants of +/- 10%, with variants beyond +/- 10% more likely to be significant
 ↑↓ = positive/negative difference equal to/greater than 10% from Benchmark.

Regression Analysis – Overall Quality of Life

Explanation of Analysis

Regression analysis is a statistical tool for investigating relationships between dependent variables and explanatory variables. Using a regression, a category model was developed. The outcomes demonstrated that increasing resident quality of life by actioning areas of lower agreement would not necessarily positively impact on quality of life.

In the model, the score assigned to each measure is not a measure of agreement/disagreement – rather, it indicates the percentage of influence each measure contributes to overall quality of life. All areas are important – but if Council can increase agreement in key driver areas, they will likely see an improvement in overall quality of life.



These top 8 statements (so 23% of the 35 statements) account for almost 60% of the variation in quality of life.

'Living in Lithgow gives you a sense of living in a community' has the greatest impact, contributing to 13% of the variation in overall quality of life.

Other measures having a greater impact on quality-of-life ratings include affordability (cost of living and affordable housing), safety (pedestrian safety, police services, safety during the day and night) and leisure/ recreation opportunities.

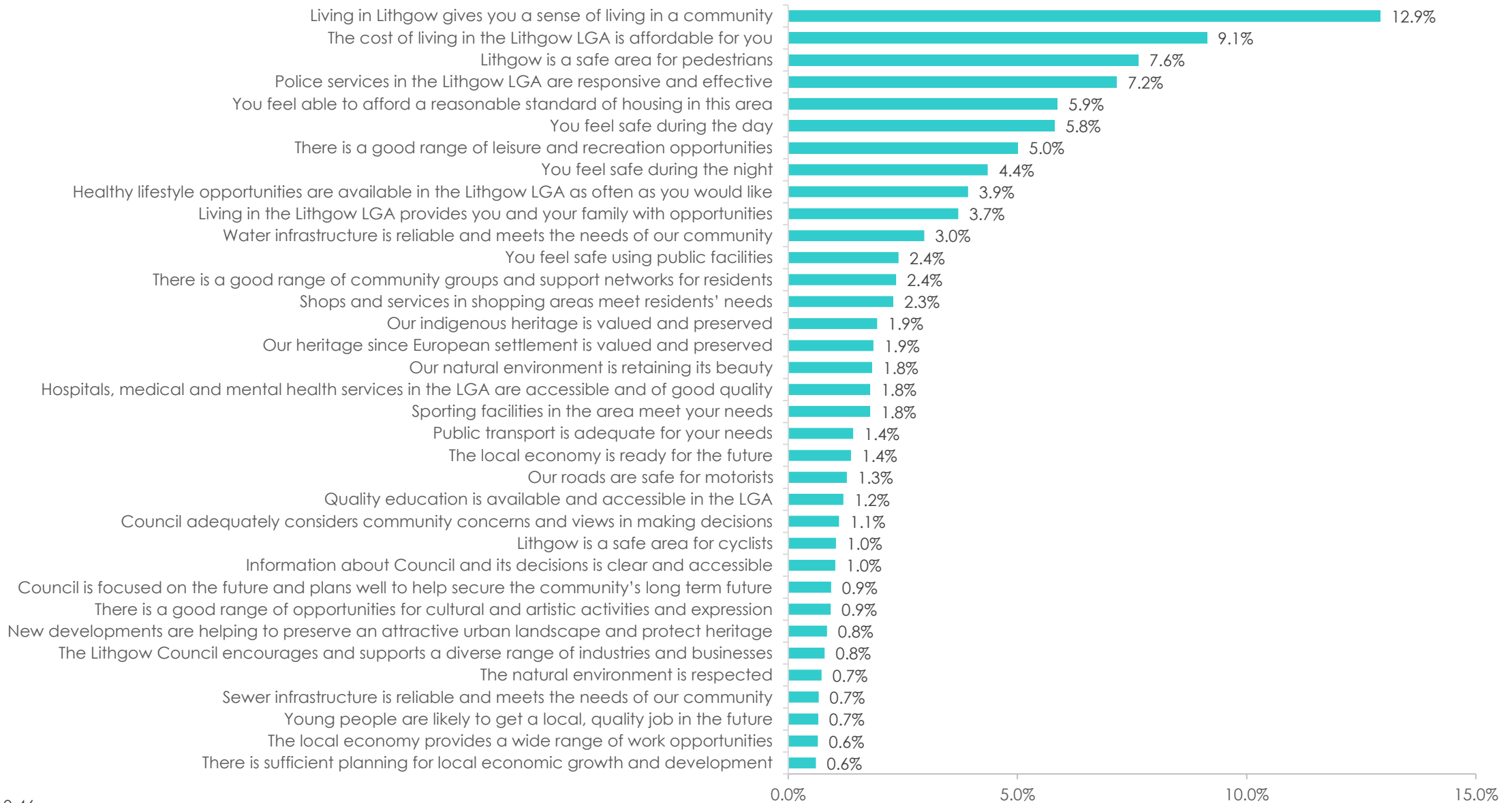


R² value = 0.46

Dependent Variable: Q3a. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life you have living in the Lithgow City Council area?

Independent Variable: Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

Regression – Overall Quality of Life



R² value = 0.46

Dependent Variable: Q3a. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life you have living in the Lithgow City Council area?

Independent Variable: Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.



Priority Issues

This section explores what residents believe are the highest priority issues for the next 10 years and level of support for projects and initiatives.

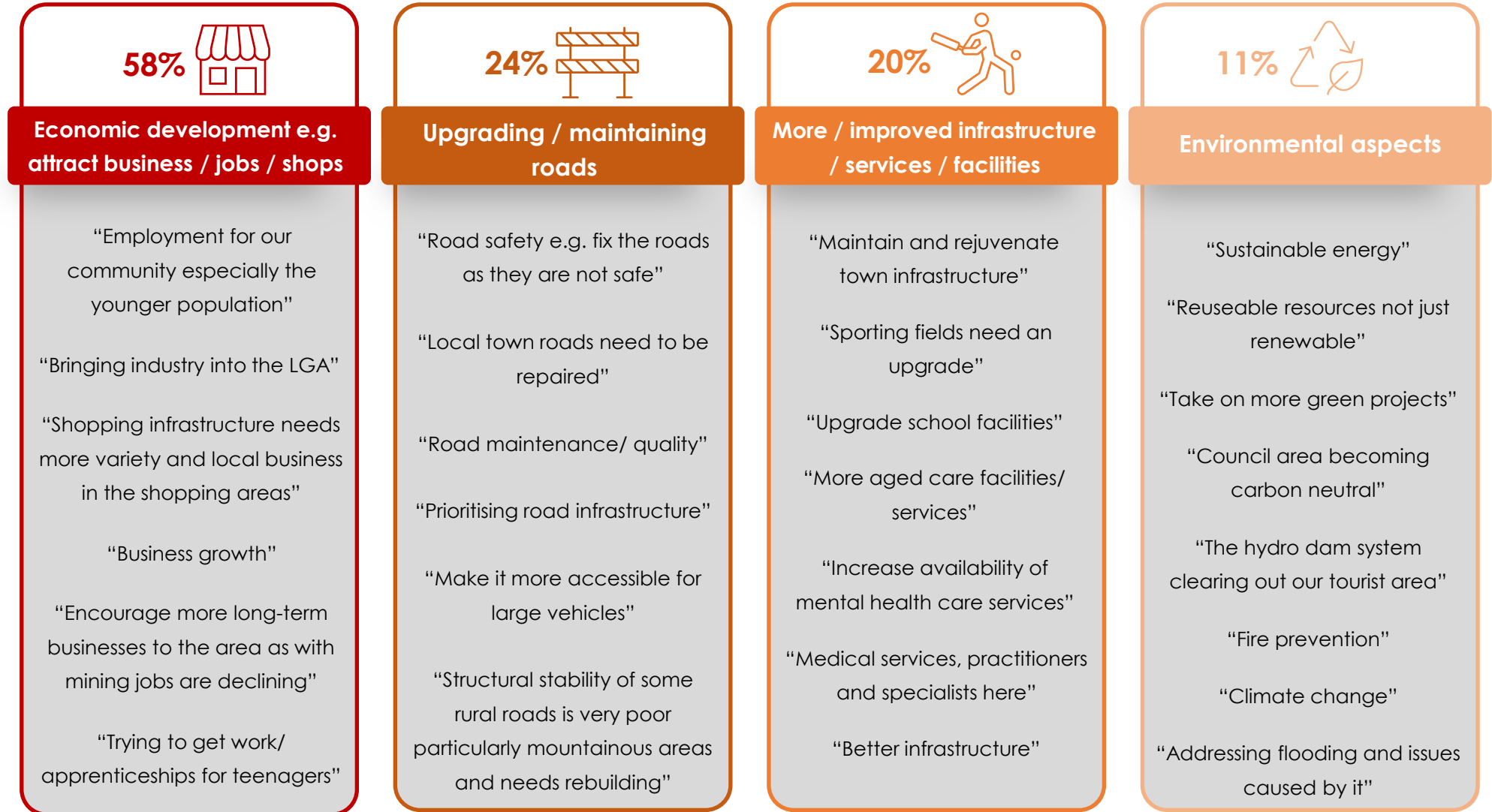
Section Two

Highest Priority Issues for the Community in the Next 10 Years

58% of residents would like to see Council prioritise the economic development of the LGA over the next 10 years, and 24% would like to see roads prioritised.

Other priority areas for residents include the provision of infrastructure/ services/ facilities and environmental considerations such as renewables, environmental protection and natural disaster management.

A complete list with comparison to the 2021 results is shown on the following slide.



Base: N = 400

Q2c. Thinking of the next 10 years, what do you believe will be the highest priority issues for our community?

Highest Priority Issues for the Community in the Next 10 Years

Economic development remains the highest priority area, with more than 50% believing this will be the highest priority area for the next 10 years.

Compared to 2021 significantly more residents prioritised the cost of living/rates and managing growth and development (e.g. retaining residents and ensure adequate infrastructure to match growth).

Priority areas	2024 (N=400)	2021 (N=401)
Economic development e.g. attract more businesses/job opportunities/shopping	58%	51%
Upgrading/maintaining roads	24%	19%
More/improved infrastructure/services/facilities e.g. health, education, aged, sports, community services, etc.	20%	19%
Environmental aspects e.g. renewable energy, sustainability, climate change, power plant, natural disaster management and protecting the environment	11%	11%
Availability/affordability of housing/land	8%	8%
Recreational opportunities (particularly for youth)	8%	7%
Cost of living/rates	7%	2%
Managing growth/development e.g. retaining/attracting people in the area, plan for growth	7%	3%
Council management	6%	6%
Supporting tourism	5%	4%
Improving essential services e.g. waste, sewerage, water	3%	7%
Beautification/maintenance of the area	2%	2%
Public transport	2%	2%
Managing growth/development e.g. stop overdevelopment, keep rural feel	1%	1%
Community safety/crime prevention	1%	1%
Community consultation/engagement	<1%	2%
Traffic management	<1%	1%
Other comments	4%	2%
Don't know/nothing	3%	4%

Note: Slight amendments have been made to the code frame this year. Last year's data has been updated to reflect changes

Q2c. Thinking of the next 10 years, what do you believe will be the highest priority issues for our community?

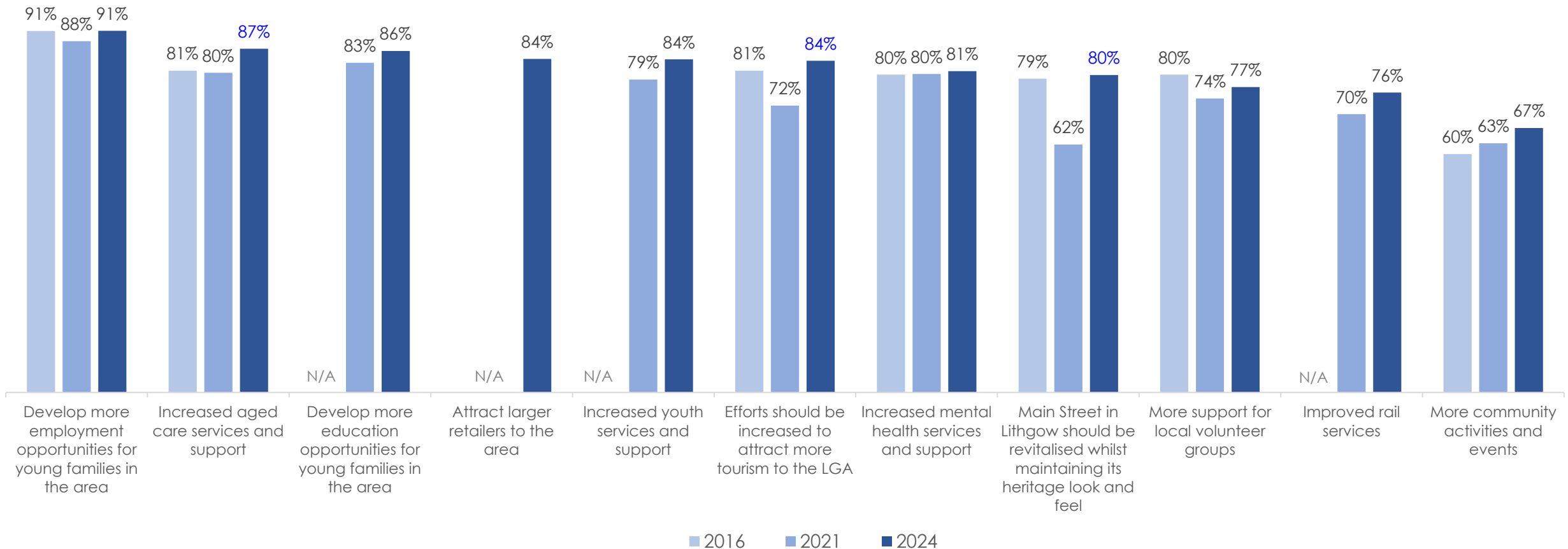
A significantly higher/lower percentage (by year) 28

Support for Future Projects and Initiatives

8 of 11 projects and initiatives to be implemented across the LGA received 80% commitment to the top 2 box (being supportive/ very supportive).

Support for all projects and initiatives increased from 2021, significantly so for 'increased aged care services and support', 'efforts should be increased to attract more tourism to the LGA' and 'Main Street in Lithgow should be revitalised whilst maintaining its heritage look and feel'.

Top 2 Box (supportive/ very supportive) by Year



Base: N = 397-400

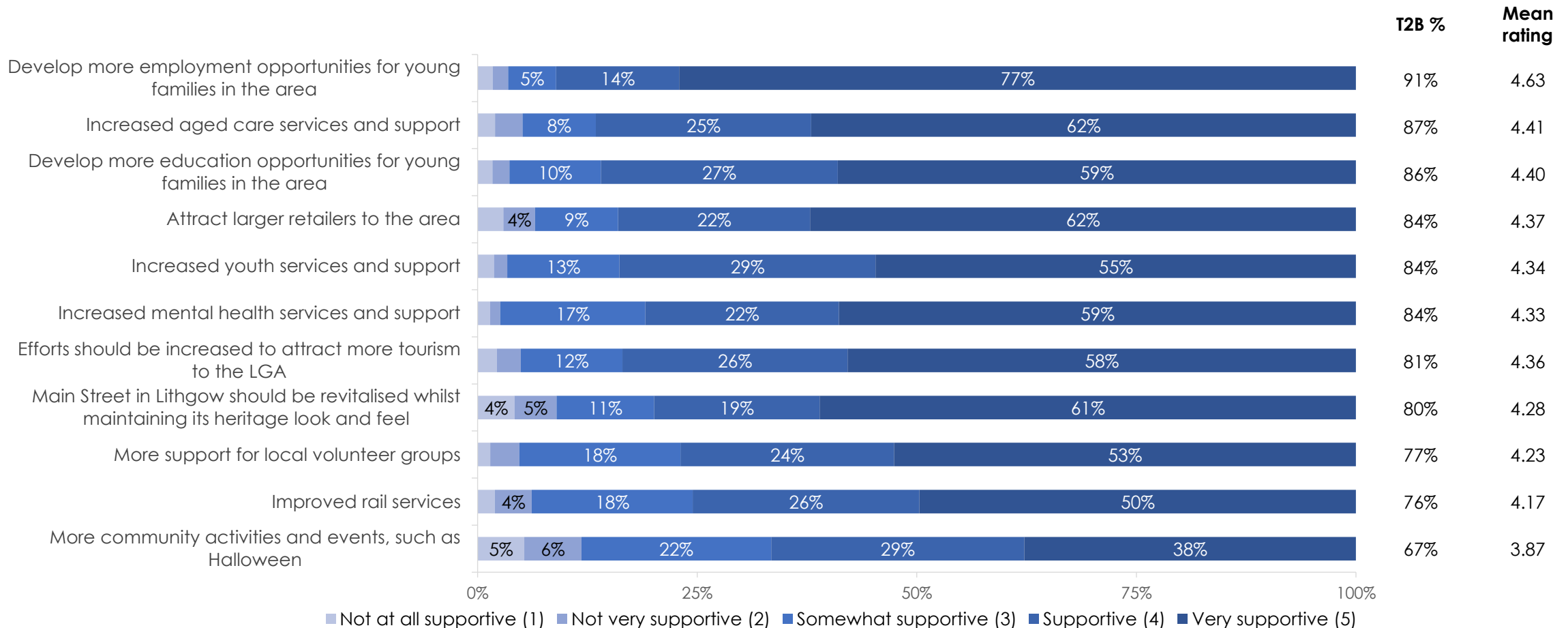
A significantly higher/lower percentage (compared to 2021)

Q4. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented across the LGA over the coming years. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.

Support for Future Projects and Initiatives

Support is highest overall for developing more employment opportunities for young families in the area, with 91% of residents supportive/very supportive (77% commitment to the top box 'very supportive'), followed by aged care services and education.

Residents aged 18-34 are significantly more supportive of Main Street revitalisation and more community activities and events.



Note: Label for results <4% have not been shown above

Base: N = 397-400

Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics

Q4. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented across the LGA over the coming years. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.



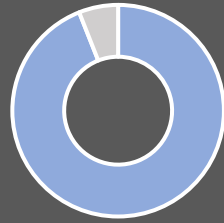
Section Three

Resilience

This section looks at the issues residents have dealt with in the last few years, how concerned they are about future shocks and stresses, how prepared they feel in dealing with these shocks and who they could ask for support in a crisis.



Summary: Resilience



94% of residents feel at least somewhat prepared to respond to shocks and stressors, with 58% feeling prepared/ very prepared.

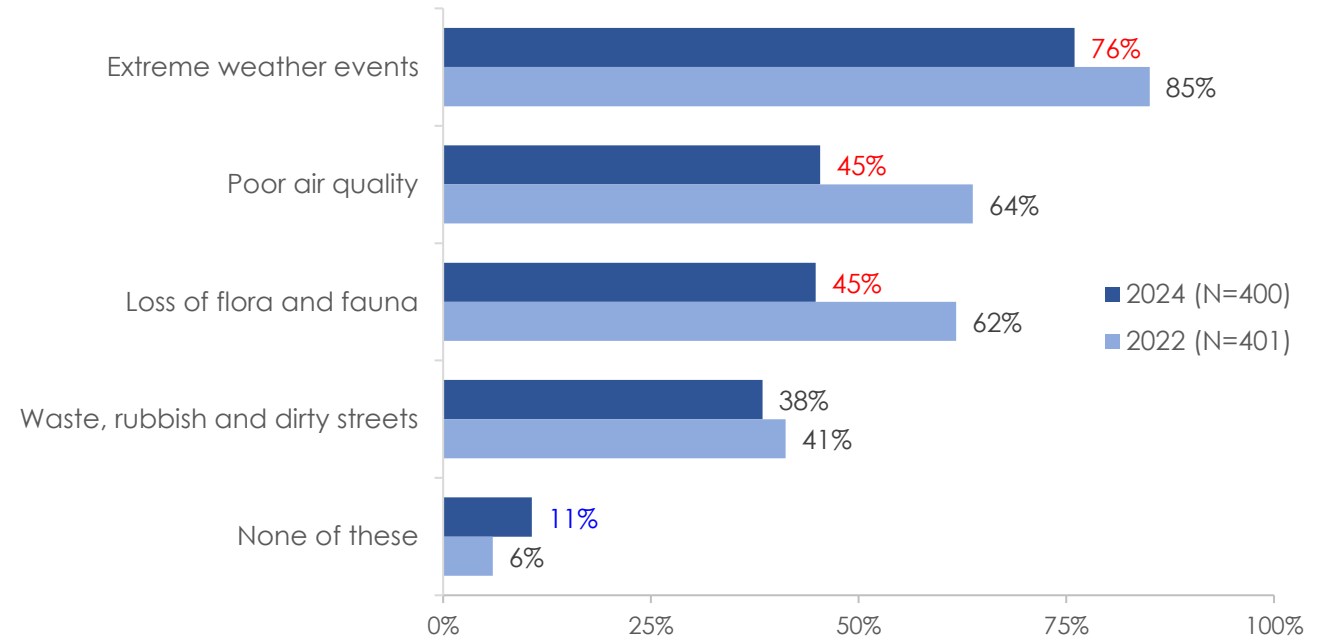
Residents feel most able to seek support in a crisis from a friend, health, medical, legal or professional service and a family member.

- Concerned/ very concerned % for **sudden events**:
 - Bushfires (74%)
 - Lack of electricity (49%)
 - Infrastructure failure (45%)
 - Lack of water (38%)
- Concerned/ very concerned % for **everyday pressures**:
 - Lack of opportunities for young people (82%)
 - Demand on our roads (79%)
 - Demand on our health services (76%)
 - Inadequate investment in critical infrastructure (75%)
- Supportive/ very supportive % for **sustainable recovery projects**:
 - Promoting local employment (92%)
 - Provision of access to clean, safe water (90%)
 - Equity in access to quality education (86%)
 - Improve access to health services and precincts (84%)

Environmental Issues

Positively, significantly fewer residents had experienced environmental issues compared to 2021, however, 76% of residents stated they had experienced extreme weather events in the local area over the last 2 years.

Residents living in Portland were significantly more likely to have experienced poor air quality over the last 2 years compared to other areas.

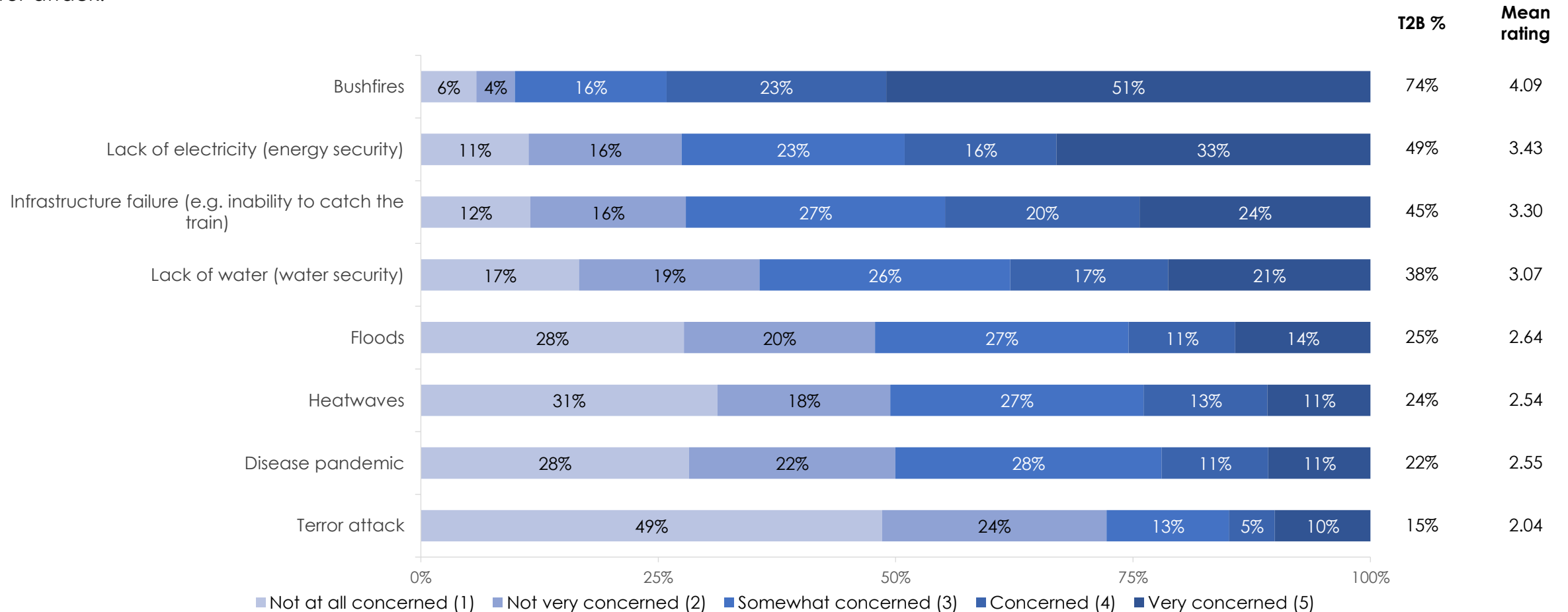


	Overall	Area				
		Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North
Extreme weather events	76%	74%	80%	84%	72%	79%
Poor air quality	45%	44%	37%	51%	63%	39%
Loss of flora and fauna	45%	42%	44%	59%	44%	46%
Waste, rubbish and dirty streets	38%	39%	29%	40%	46%	34%
None of these	11%	11%	9%	9%	7%	15%
Base	400	226	47	48	42	37

Concern for Short-term / Sudden Events

In terms of short-term or sudden events, Lithgow residents are most concerned about bushfires (74% concerned/ very concerned), followed by lack of electricity (49%) and infrastructure failure (45%). Very low concern for terror attacks.

Older residents are generally more concerned, with those aged 65+ significantly more concerned about a lack of electricity, disease pandemic and a terror attack.



Base: N = 400

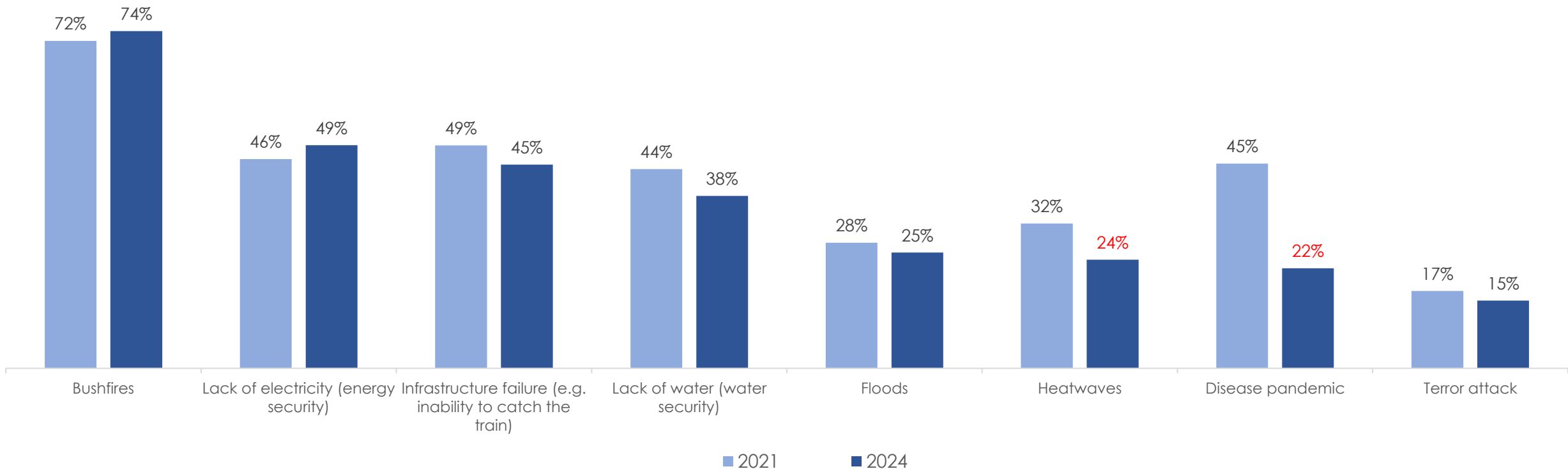
Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Scale: 1 = not at all concerned, 5 = very concerned
Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics

Concern for Short-term / Sudden Events

Concern has remained relatively consistent to levels of concern in 2021, except for a significant drop in concern for heatwaves and disease pandemic.

Top 2 Box (concerned/ very concerned) by Year



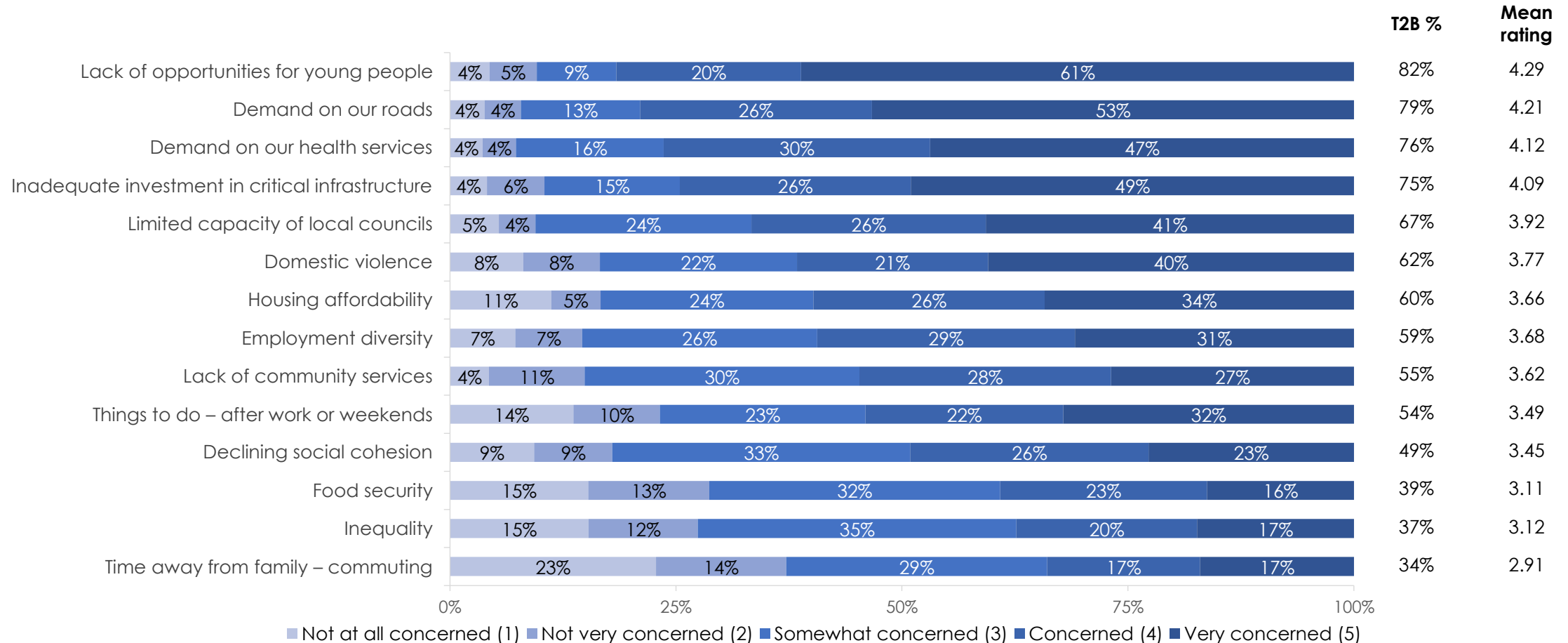
Base: N = 400

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Concern for Everyday Pressures

In terms of everyday pressures, residents are most concerned with the lack of opportunities for young people (82%), demand on roads (79%), the demand on health services (76%) and investment in infrastructure (75%).

Females are more concerned across all pressures and those aged 18-34 are significantly more concerned about 'things to do – after work or weekends'.



Base: N = 400

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

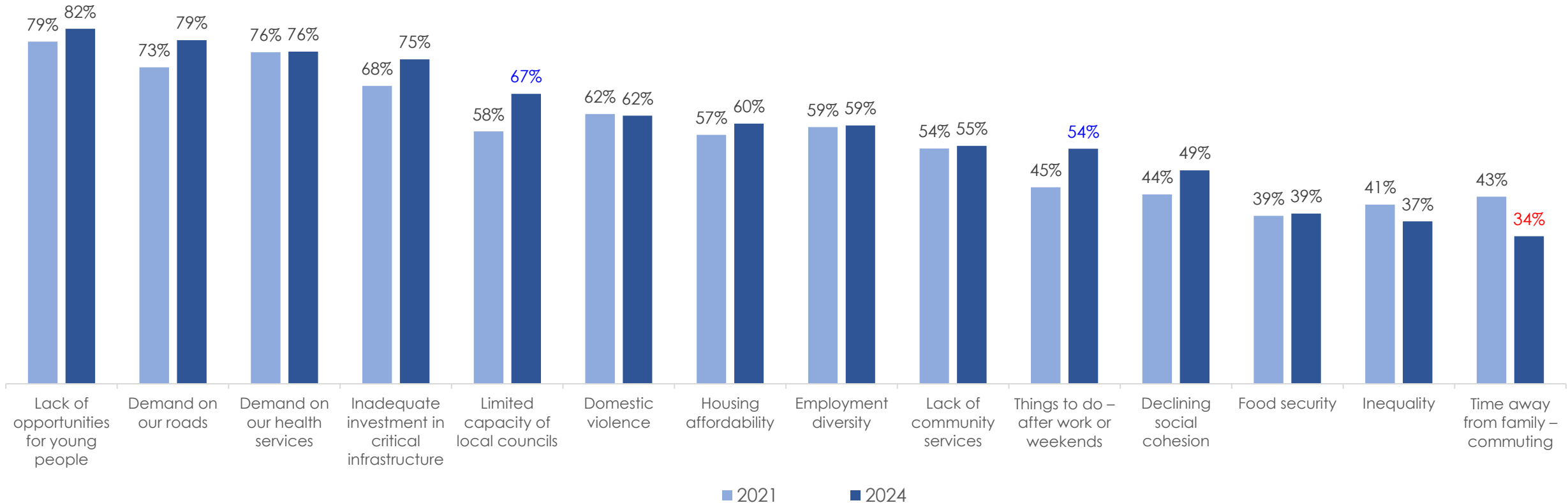
Scale: 1 = not at all concerned, 5 = very concerned

Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics

Concern for Everyday Pressures

Compared to 2021, concern significantly increased for the capacity of schools and things to do after work/on weekends and significantly reduced for commuting time.

Top 2 Box (concerned/ very concerned) by Year



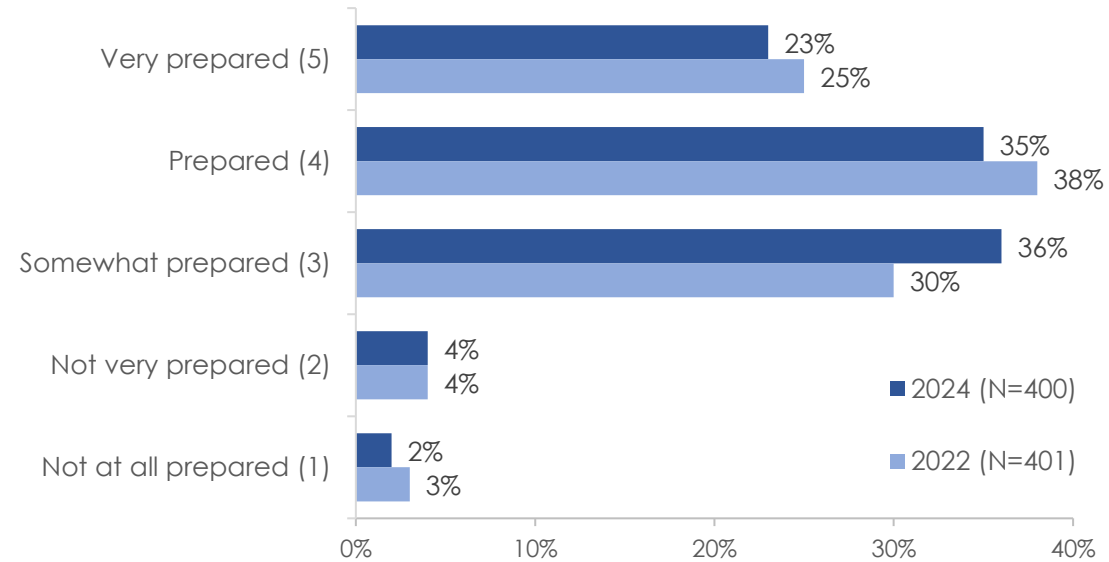
Base: N = 400

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Preparing for Significant Shocks and Stressors

94% of residents feel at least somewhat prepared to respond to shocks and stressors, with 58% feeling prepared/very prepared.

Females and those who identify as living with disability feel significantly less prepared. Although not significant, only 45% of those aged 18-34 stated they feel prepared/very prepared to respond to significant shocks and stressors.



	Overall 2024	Overall 2022	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
			Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Top 2 Box %	58%	63%	65%	51%	45%	62%	63%	59%	59%	54%
Mean rating	3.72	3.79	3.80	3.64	3.48	3.76	3.82	3.79	3.74	3.62
Base	400	401	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Top 2 Box %	54%	63%	61%	64%	67%	45%	60%
Mean rating	3.64	3.74	3.98	3.75	3.84	3.45	3.77
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: N = 400

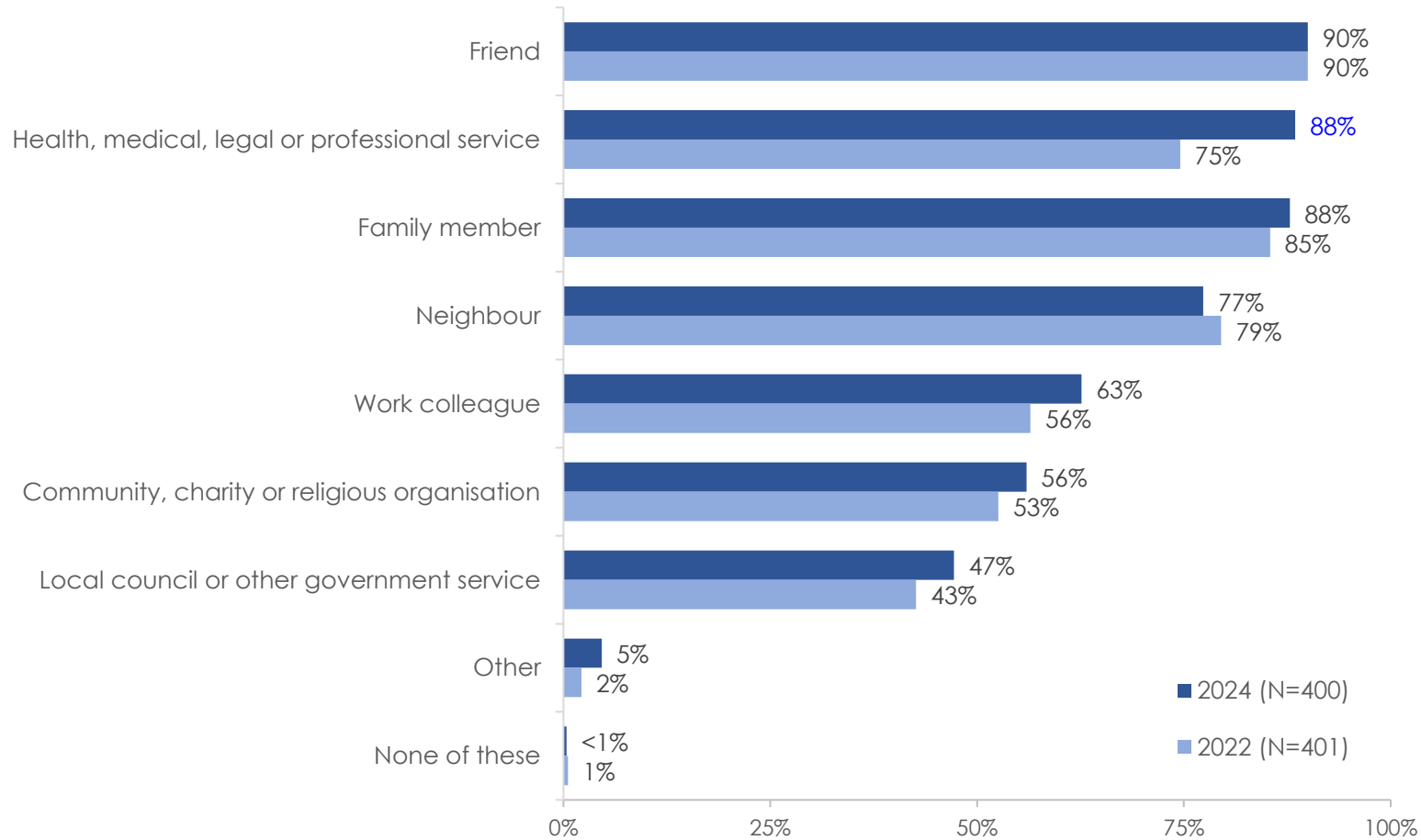
Q7. Considering the most significant shocks and stressors to you, how prepared do you feel you and/or your family are to respond?

Scale: 1 = not at all prepared, 5 = very prepared
A significantly higher/lower percentage/rating (by group)

Support in a Crisis

Asking for support from a friend (90%) remains the most common source of assistance, followed by health, medical, legal or professional service (88%) and a family member (88%). Compared to 2021, significantly more residents feel they can ask for support from a health, medical, legal or professional service.

Positively, almost half of residents feel they can seek support from local council or other government service (increasing from 43% to 47%).

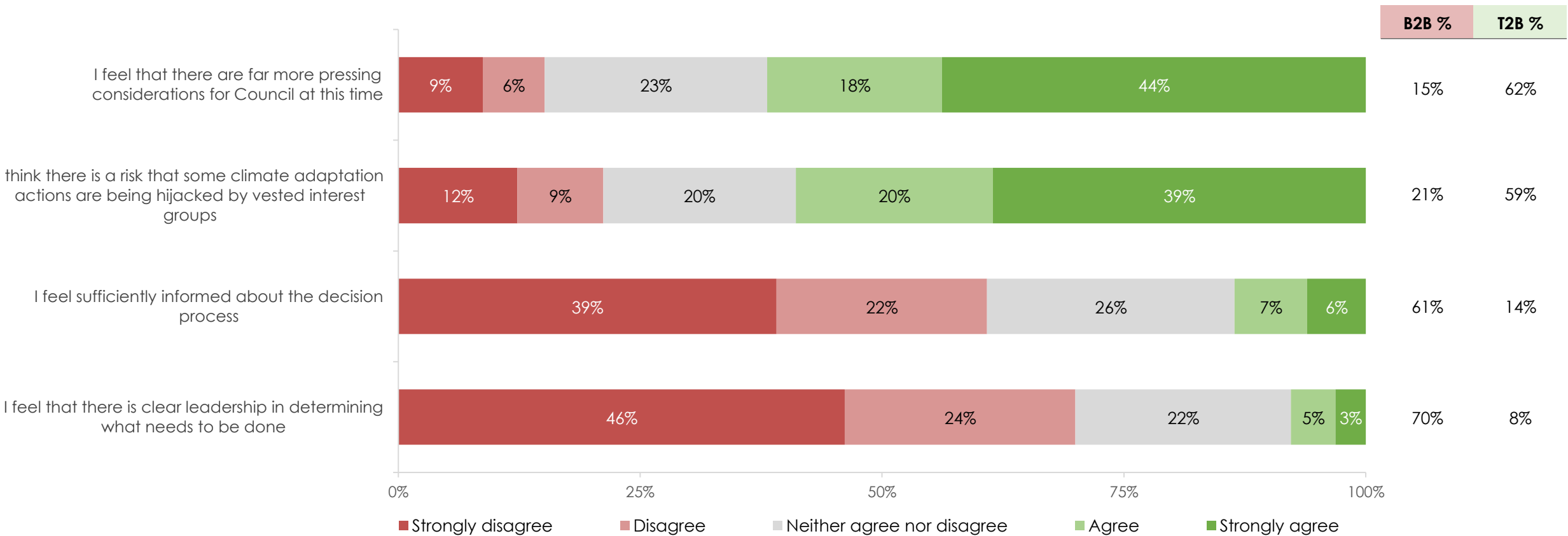


Other specified	Count
Emergency services	11
Employer	3
Educator	1
Government support e.g. NDIS, Members	1
Retirement staff/carer	1

Council's Response to Climate Change

In terms of Council's response to climate change, approximately 60% agree there are far more pressing considerations for Council and that some climate adaptation actions are being hijacked by vested interest groups.

61% disagree that they feel sufficiently informed about the decision process and 70% disagree that there is clear leadership in determining what needs to be done.



Base: (total sample excluding 'don't know') N = 400

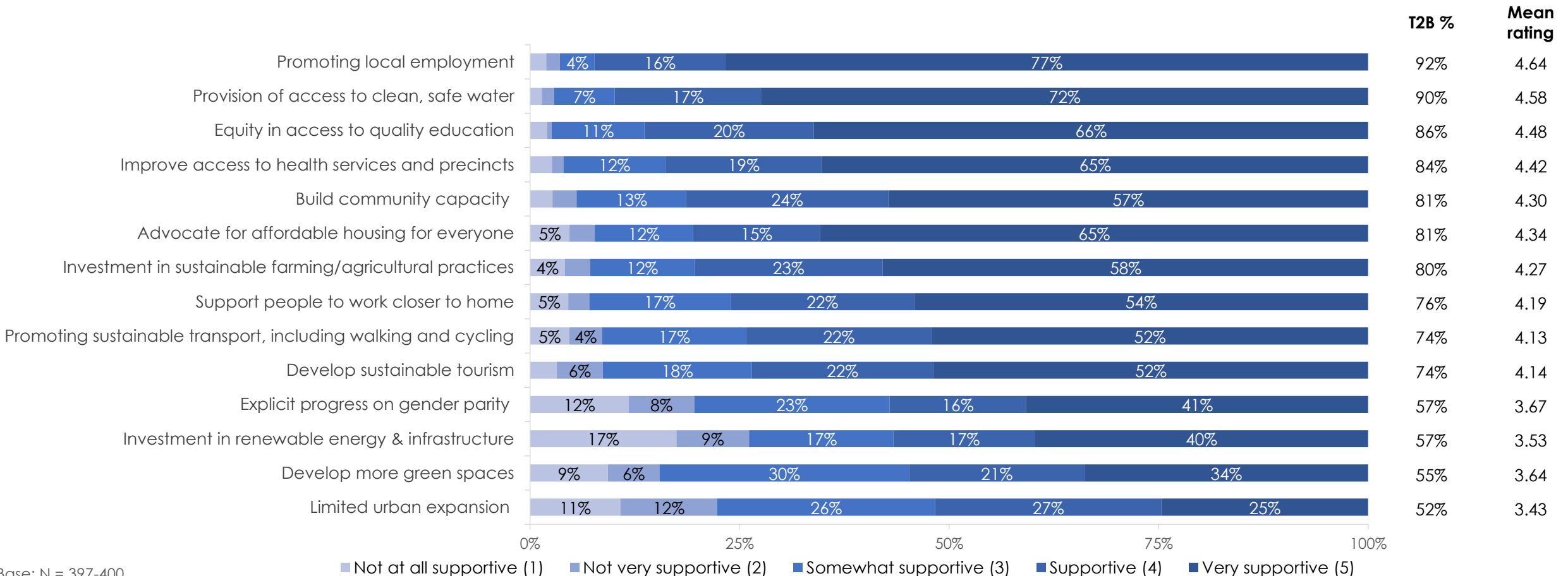
Q9. As a response to climate change, Council is looking to alter some policies and programs. Please rate how strongly you agree, or disagree, with each of the following statements

Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics

Support for Sustainable Recovery Projects and Initiatives

Residents are most supportive of Council promoting local employment, providing access to clean, safe water and access to quality education. Lower levels of support for urban expansion and the development of more green spaces.

Residents in the Rural South are significantly more supportive of investment in renewable energy and infrastructure.



Base: N = 397-400

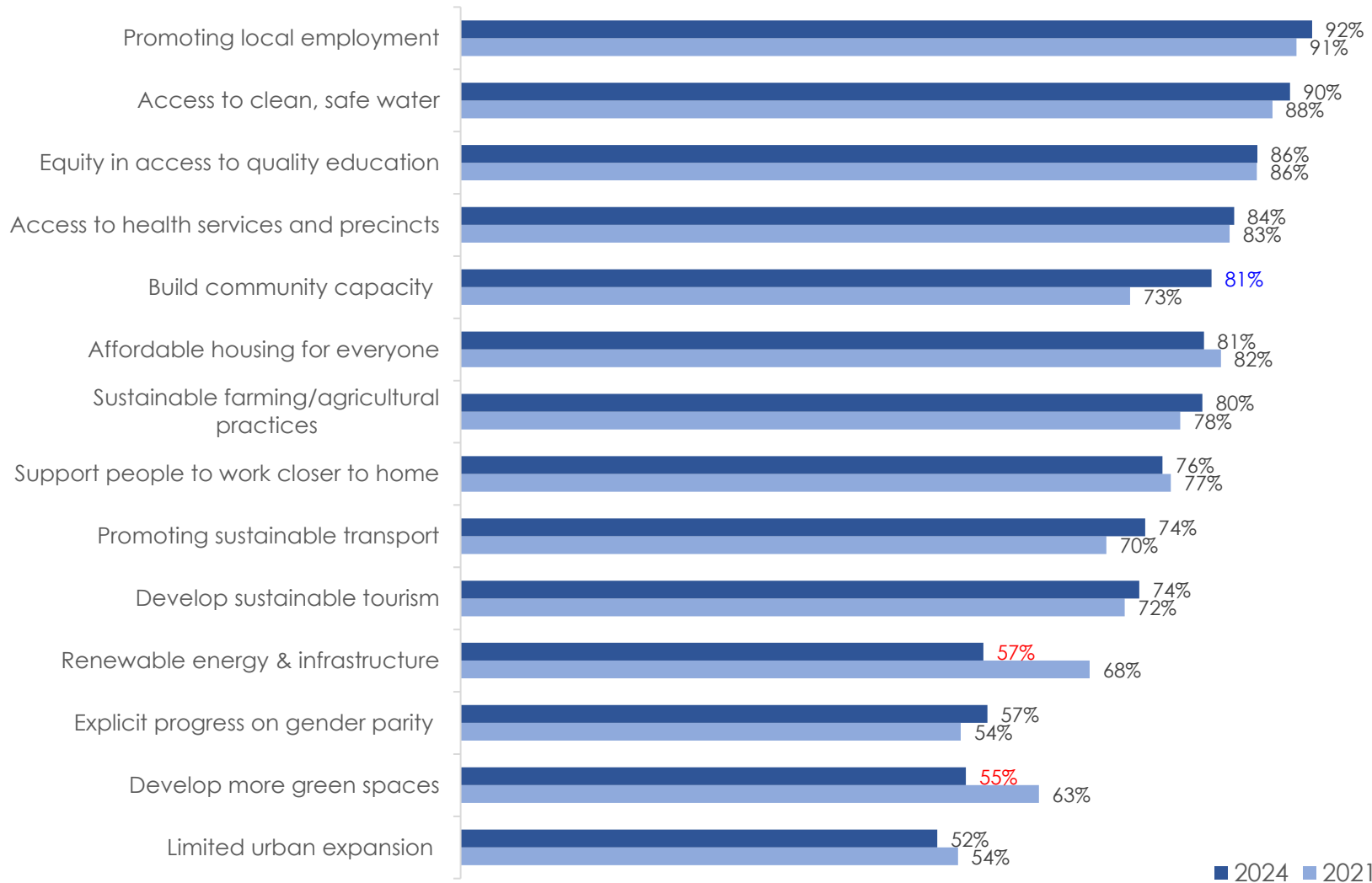
Note: Label for results <4% have not been shown above

Q10. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented for Australia to promote a sustainable recovery after extended drought periods, natural disaster or pandemic. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
Please see Appendix 1 for results by demographics

Support for Sustainable Recovery Projects and Initiatives

Top 2 Box (supportive/ very supportive) by Year



Overall, support has remained relatively consistent for projects and initiatives that could be implemented to promote a sustainable recovery after extended drought periods, natural disasters or pandemics.

Compared to 2021, support significantly increased for building community capacity (creating opportunities for local skills development and lifelong learning to ensuring our community can cope with stresses and shocks), and significantly reduced for investment in renewable energy and infrastructure and the development of more green spaces.

Base: N = 397-400

Q10. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented for Australia to promote a sustainable recovery after extended drought periods, natural disaster or pandemic. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.



Additional Analyses

Appendix 1

Further Demographics – Suburb

Suburb	N = 400	Suburb	N = 400
Lithgow	27%	Hartley Vale	1%
Portland	10%	Hermitage Flat	1%
Wallerawang	10%	Lowther	1%
South Bowenfels	9%	McKellars Park	1%
Bowenfels	6%	Oakey Park	1%
Littleton	5%	Rydal	1%
Marrangaroo	5%	Sheedys Gully	1%
Hartley	4%	South Littleton	1%
Morts Estate	3%	Corney Town	<1%
Kanimbla	2%	Doctors Gap	<1%
Lidsdale	2%	Ganbenang	<1%
Little Hartley	2%	Glen Alice	<1%
Vale of Clwydd	2%	Good Forest	<1%
Ben Bullen	1%	Megalong	<1%
Capertee	1%	Pipers Flat	<1%
Clarence	1%	Pottery Estate	<1%
Cullen Bullen	1%	Sodwalls	<1%
Glen Davis	1%	Tarana	<1%
Hampton	1%	Wolgan Valley/Newnes	<1%

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Roads and Transport 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Lithgow is a safe area for pedestrians	50%	48%	51%	37%	50%	54%	54%	51%	43%
Public transport is adequate for your needs	32%	33%	31%	20%	34%	29%	41%	31%	35%
Lithgow is a safe area for cyclists	28%	28%	29%	23%	26%	27%	35%	31%	17%
Our roads are safe for motorists	19%	19%	19%	8%	20%	14%	31%	20%	14%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Roads and Transport 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Ward					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Lithgow is a safe area for pedestrians	48%	64%	48%	50%	43%	31%	53%
Public transport is adequate for your needs	39%	17%	30%	13%	26%	23%	33%
Lithgow is a safe area for cyclists	30%	38%	18%	26%	24%	31%	28%
Our roads are safe for motorists	19%	23%	10%	17%	27%	14%	20%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

The Natural Environment 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Our natural environment is retaining its beauty	56%	56%	57%	51%	62%	54%	58%	56%	61%
The natural environment is respected	52%	50%	53%	51%	52%	45%	58%	52%	49%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

The Natural Environment 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Our natural environment is retaining its beauty	54%	55%	59%	66%	58%	56%	57%
The natural environment is respected	52%	49%	55%	54%	50%	41%	54%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: Total - 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group) 45

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Community Safety 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
You feel safe during the day	84%	82%	86%	71%	83%	88%	91%	86%	74%
You feel safe during the night	63%	61%	65%	43%	68%	64%	73%	64%	57%
You feel safe using public facilities	52%	52%	53%	34%	50%	60%	60%	53%	48%
Police services in the Lithgow LGA are responsive and effective	49%	47%	51%	41%	48%	46%	57%	50%	41%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Community Safety 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
You feel safe during the day	82%	93%	76%	92%	87%	73%	86%
You feel safe during the night	56%	78%	63%	80%	68%	62%	63%
You feel safe using public facilities	49%	58%	48%	55%	68%	52%	52%
Police services in the Lithgow LGA are responsive and effective	47%	46%	55%	55%	43%	40%	50%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: Total - 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group) 46

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Infrastructure and Development 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Sewer infrastructure is reliable and meets the needs of our community	39%	36%	42%	33%	38%	33%	49%	40%	29%
Water infrastructure is reliable and meets the needs of our community	34%	34%	34%	25%	26%	30%	49%	36%	22%
Shops and services in shopping areas meet residents' needs	26%	30%	21%	17%	23%	25%	34%	24%	34%
New developments are helping to preserve an attractive urban landscape and protect heritage	20%	21%	20%	11%	23%	18%	28%	19%	30%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Infrastructure and Development 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Sewer infrastructure is reliable and meets the needs of our community	41%	22%	45%	38%	36%	37%	39%
Water infrastructure is reliable and meets the needs of our community	36%	29%	30%	29%	34%	29%	34%
Shops and services in shopping areas meet residents' needs	24%	37%	17%	31%	25%	24%	26%
New developments are helping to preserve an attractive urban landscape and protect heritage	21%	14%	12%	25%	31%	28%	19%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: Total - 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group) 47

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Planning and Decision Making 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Information about Council and its decisions is clear and accessible	15%	18%	12%	6%	15%	15%	22%	15%	17%
Council adequately considers community concerns and views in making decisions	10%	11%	9%	6%	5%	8%	19%	9%	14%
Council is focused on the future and plans well to help secure the community's long-term future	9%	9%	9%	3%	0%	12%	16%	9%	10%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Planning and Decision Making 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Information about Council and its decisions is clear and accessible	16%	18%	7%	11%	19%	14%	15%
Council adequately considers community concerns and views in making decisions	12%	5%	5%	7%	14%	10%	10%
Council is focused on the future and plans well to help secure the community's long-term future	9%	9%	7%	7%	8%	13%	8%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: Total - 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group) 48

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Health 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Healthy lifestyle opportunities are available in the Lithgow LGA as often as you would like	48%	48%	47%	37%	45%	49%	56%	49%	37%
Hospitals, medical and mental health services in the LGA are accessible and of good quality	46%	55%	37%	38%	41%	40%	61%	47%	40%
Living in the Lithgow LGA provides you and your family with opportunities	31%	34%	29%	31%	26%	30%	36%	32%	27%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Health 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Healthy lifestyle opportunities are available in the Lithgow LGA as often as you would like	48%	60%	47%	39%	42%	40%	49%
Hospitals, medical and mental health services in the LGA are accessible and of good quality	48%	48%	28%	45%	57%	39%	47%
Living in the Lithgow LGA provides you and your family with opportunities	29%	41%	34%	29%	31%	23%	33%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: Total - 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group) 49

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Services and Facilities 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Living in Lithgow gives you a sense of living in a community	62%	58%	65%	49%	58%	67%	69%	63%	54%
Quality education is available and accessible in the LGA	57%	56%	59%	46%	58%	56%	67%	59%	50%
There is a good range of community groups and support networks for residents	54%	56%	51%	43%	54%	52%	64%	55%	47%
Our indigenous heritage is valued and preserved	50%	52%	47%	45%	51%	50%	50%	48%	57%
Sporting facilities in the area meet your needs	48%	48%	48%	35%	42%	48%	62%	51%	32%
Our heritage since European settlement is valued and preserved	48%	50%	46%	44%	45%	45%	54%	48%	45%
There is a good range of opportunities for cultural and artistic activities and expression	44%	42%	47%	43%	42%	40%	50%	43%	52%
The cost of living in the Lithgow LGA is affordable for you	42%	41%	44%	23%	44%	43%	54%	44%	33%
There is a good range of leisure and recreation opportunities	25%	29%	21%	8%	23%	27%	37%	27%	12%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Services and Facilities 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Living in Lithgow gives you a sense of living in a community	61%	59%	58%	74%	59%	51%	63%
Quality education is available and accessible in the LGA	57%	47%	75%	44%	66%	48%	59%
There is a good range of community groups and support networks for residents	53%	55%	50%	68%	46%	38%	56%
Our indigenous heritage is valued and preserved	49%	40%	48%	52%	61%	53%	49%
Sporting facilities in the area meet your needs	47%	55%	36%	60%	47%	38%	50%
Our heritage since European settlement is valued and preserved	43%	56%	49%	50%	61%	34%	50%
There is a good range of opportunities for cultural and artistic activities and expression	43%	33%	48%	58%	50%	44%	44%
The cost of living in the Lithgow LGA is affordable for you	41%	52%	30%	45%	47%	21%	46%
There is a good range of leisure and recreation opportunities	24%	28%	30%	15%	31%	28%	25%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Base: Total - 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group) 50

Agreement with Liveability Statements

Economic Development Growth 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
You feel able to afford a reasonable standard of housing in this area	44%	42%	45%	21%	48%	42%	58%	46%	32%
The local economy provides a wide range of work opportunities	13%	14%	12%	11%	12%	13%	16%	13%	13%
The Lithgow Council encourages and supports a diverse range of industries and businesses	12%	15%	8%	9%	5%	15%	16%	10%	20%
The local economy is ready for the future	8%	6%	10%	6%	5%	7%	12%	8%	5%
Young people are likely to get a local, quality job in the future	8%	7%	8%	6%	8%	8%	9%	7%	11%
There is sufficient planning for local economic growth and development	5%	4%	6%	3%	1%	4%	10%	5%	8%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Economic Development Growth 'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
You feel able to afford a reasonable standard of housing in this area	40%	62%	40%	52%	39%	27%	46%
The local economy provides a wide range of work opportunities	11%	16%	18%	16%	12%	11%	13%
The Lithgow Council encourages and supports a diverse range of industries and businesses	10%	17%	9%	15%	12%	15%	11%
The local economy is ready for the future	6%	4%	15%	15%	4%	8%	8%
Young people are likely to get a local, quality job in the future	6%	13%	6%	9%	9%	6%	8%
There is sufficient planning for local economic growth and development	6%	4%	3%	5%	6%	9%	4%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Note: 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q3b. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement.

Support for Future Projects and Initiatives

'Supportive / Very supportive (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Develop more employment opportunities for young families in the area	91%	90%	92%	97%	94%	90%	86%	91%	91%
Increased aged care services and support	87%	85%	89%	88%	80%	90%	87%	88%	77%
Develop more education opportunities for young families in the area	86%	85%	87%	94%	82%	85%	84%	86%	84%
Attract larger retailers to the area	84%	83%	85%	91%	86%	81%	79%	85%	78%
Increased youth services and support	84%	81%	86%	86%	85%	81%	84%	84%	84%
Efforts should be increased to attract more tourism to the LGA	84%	80%	87%	91%	74%	85%	83%	85%	75%
Increased mental health services and support	81%	73%	89%	80%	81%	83%	80%	81%	79%
Main Street in Lithgow should be revitalised whilst maintaining its heritage look and feel	80%	74%	86%	91%	68%	79%	80%	80%	80%
More support for local volunteer groups	77%	76%	78%	77%	70%	83%	76%	78%	73%
Improved rail services	76%	73%	78%	71%	71%	72%	85%	76%	73%
More community activities and events	67%	64%	69%	86%	62%	63%	59%	64%	82%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Q4. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented across the LGA over the coming years. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.

Support for Future Projects and Initiatives

'Supportive / Very supportive (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Develop more employment opportunities for young families in the area	91%	94%	94%	90%	85%	85%	92%
Increased aged care services and support	85%	97%	90%	86%	77%	72%	89%
Develop more education opportunities for young families in the area	86%	86%	93%	84%	76%	80%	87%
Attract larger retailers to the area	86%	73%	94%	74%	86%	77%	85%
Increased youth services and support	82%	84%	92%	87%	83%	77%	85%
Efforts should be increased to attract more tourism to the LGA	86%	83%	78%	81%	78%	80%	84%
Increased mental health services and support	82%	84%	85%	81%	65%	78%	81%
Main Street in Lithgow should be revitalised whilst maintaining its heritage look and feel	84%	77%	77%	68%	80%	74%	81%
More support for local volunteer groups	77%	70%	84%	74%	76%	77%	77%
Improved rail services	73%	69%	85%	82%	78%	69%	77%
More community activities and events	70%	55%	76%	64%	52%	64%	67%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Q4. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented across the LGA over the coming years. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.

Concern for Short-term / Sudden Events

'Concerned / Very concerned (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Bushfires	74%	67%	81%	80%	65%	79%	71%	72%	86%
Lack of electricity (energy security)	49%	48%	50%	46%	35%	53%	57%	49%	47%
Infrastructure failure (e.g. inability to catch the train)	45%	45%	44%	40%	41%	51%	45%	44%	52%
Lack of water (water security)	38%	33%	43%	29%	33%	47%	40%	37%	43%
Floods	25%	21%	30%	29%	29%	26%	21%	24%	35%
Heatwaves	24%	22%	26%	20%	21%	25%	28%	23%	30%
Disease pandemic	22%	18%	26%	12%	17%	25%	31%	22%	24%
Terror attack	15%	10%	20%	12%	9%	16%	21%	15%	12%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Concern for Short-term / Sudden Events

'Concerned / Very concerned (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Bushfires	72%	80%	79%	69%	80%	80%	73%
Lack of electricity (energy security)	45%	48%	55%	58%	57%	53%	48%
Infrastructure failure (e.g. inability to catch the train)	47%	39%	38%	49%	44%	45%	45%
Lack of water (water security)	34%	45%	43%	40%	43%	42%	37%
Floods	27%	16%	27%	24%	26%	38%	23%
Heatwaves	22%	25%	26%	30%	23%	29%	23%
Disease pandemic	26%	15%	13%	18%	21%	27%	21%
Terror attack	16%	15%	11%	13%	12%	16%	15%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Concern for Everyday Pressures

'Concerned / Very concerned (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Lack of opportunities for young people	82%	77%	86%	83%	85%	83%	77%	82%	76%
Demand on our roads	79%	74%	84%	77%	76%	82%	80%	78%	82%
Demand on our health services	76%	70%	83%	69%	68%	85%	80%	77%	75%
Inadequate investment in critical infrastructure	75%	74%	76%	68%	77%	81%	72%	76%	69%
Limited capacity of local councils	67%	67%	67%	74%	59%	69%	64%	67%	67%
Domestic violence	62%	59%	64%	57%	61%	65%	62%	61%	66%
Housing affordability	60%	55%	64%	63%	59%	67%	52%	59%	65%
Employment diversity	59%	50%	69%	49%	62%	64%	61%	59%	63%
Lack of community services	55%	48%	61%	63%	46%	52%	57%	56%	48%
Things to do – after work or weekends	54%	51%	57%	74%	53%	50%	43%	52%	67%
Declining social cohesion	49%	45%	53%	43%	47%	52%	52%	51%	41%
Food security	39%	32%	46%	29%	32%	43%	48%	38%	48%
Inequality	37%	29%	45%	26%	33%	42%	44%	37%	38%
Time away from family – commuting	34%	27%	41%	43%	30%	33%	30%	34%	31%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Concern for Everyday Pressures

'Concerned / Very concerned (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Lack of opportunities for young people	84%	81%	83%	63%	86%	80%	82%
Demand on our roads	78%	85%	67%	88%	80%	74%	80%
Demand on our health services	76%	73%	69%	83%	87%	75%	77%
Inadequate investment in critical infrastructure	73%	79%	76%	77%	76%	69%	76%
Limited capacity of local councils	67%	65%	71%	62%	64%	58%	68%
Domestic violence	63%	69%	57%	58%	53%	63%	61%
Housing affordability	58%	59%	68%	62%	58%	65%	59%
Employment diversity	60%	52%	56%	64%	62%	58%	60%
Lack of community services	56%	52%	54%	53%	55%	51%	55%
Things to do – after work or weekends	55%	43%	66%	50%	50%	51%	55%
Declining social cohesion	48%	48%	51%	55%	49%	52%	49%
Food security	40%	30%	38%	53%	31%	47%	38%
Inequality	36%	48%	26%	48%	33%	36%	37%
Time away from family – commuting	36%	37%	30%	30%	27%	38%	33%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following?

Council's Response to Climate Change

'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
I think there is a risk that some climate adaptation actions are being hijacked by vested interest groups	59%	64%	60%	68%	68%	60%	54%	60%	70%
I feel that there are far more pressing considerations for Council at this time	62%	58%	60%	40%	66%	66%	62%	62%	43%
I feel sufficiently informed about the decision process	14%	16%	11%	11%	5%	11%	24%	13%	16%
I feel that there is clear leadership in determining what needs to be done	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	5%	13%	8%	8%
Base	400	201	199	89	82	107	122	341	59

'Agree / Strongly agree (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
I think there is a risk that some climate adaptation actions are being hijacked by vested interest groups	66%	41%	65%	60%	62%	61%	62%
I feel that there are far more pressing considerations for Council at this time	58%	59%	57%	62%	63%	58%	59%
I feel sufficiently informed about the decision process	14%	17%	13%	8%	13%	21%	12%
I feel that there is clear leadership in determining what needs to be done	10%	0%	5%	7%	7%	4%	8%
Base	226	47	48	42	37	55	345

Note: 'Don't know' responses have been excluded

Q9. As a response to climate change, Council is looking to alter some policies and programs. Please rate how strongly you agree, or disagree, with each of the following statements

Support for Sustainable Recovery Projects and Initiatives

'Concerned / Very concerned (T2B) %'	Overall	Gender		Age				Ratepayer status	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Promoting local employment	92%	91%	94%	94%	88%	95%	91%	92%	92%
Provision of access to clean, safe water	90%	88%	91%	91%	83%	91%	92%	89%	92%
Equity in access to quality education	86%	85%	87%	86%	80%	86%	91%	88%	77%
Improve access to health services and precincts	84%	78%	90%	83%	80%	86%	85%	85%	78%
Build community capacity	81%	79%	84%	89%	77%	81%	79%	79%	93%
Advocate for affordable housing for everyone	81%	73%	88%	86%	79%	81%	77%	80%	86%
Investment in sustainable farming/agricultural practices	80%	77%	84%	89%	70%	83%	80%	80%	81%
Support people to work closer to home	76%	74%	78%	80%	70%	80%	74%	76%	76%
Promoting sustainable transport, including walking and cycling	74%	72%	76%	74%	64%	78%	78%	74%	75%
Develop sustainable tourism	74%	69%	79%	77%	62%	76%	77%	74%	68%
Explicit progress on gender parity	57%	48%	66%	55%	53%	60%	59%	58%	51%
Investment in renewable energy & infrastructure	57%	49%	65%	63%	43%	61%	58%	56%	60%
Develop more green spaces	55%	52%	57%	52%	47%	58%	59%	52%	71%
Limited urban expansion	52%	44%	59%	52%	51%	46%	57%	51%	58%
Base	396	199	197	89	82	106	120	337	59

Q10. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented for Australia to promote a sustainable recovery after extended drought periods, natural disaster or pandemic. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.

Support for Sustainable Recovery Projects and Initiatives

'Concerned / Very concerned (T2B) %'	Area					Identifies as living with a disability	
	Lithgow	Rural South	Wallerawang	Portland	Rural North	Yes	No
Promoting local employment	94%	82%	94%	93%	91%	83%	94%
Provision of access to clean, safe water	92%	76%	89%	96%	89%	88%	90%
Equity in access to quality education	87%	85%	94%	80%	80%	76%	88%
Improve access to health services and precincts	85%	79%	92%	82%	72%	77%	85%
Build community capacity	83%	72%	86%	85%	76%	81%	81%
Advocate for affordable housing for everyone	81%	72%	86%	84%	74%	79%	81%
Investment in sustainable farming/agricultural practices	79%	85%	84%	83%	78%	81%	80%
Support people to work closer to home	76%	77%	78%	74%	74%	76%	76%
Promoting sustainable transport, including walking and cycling	78%	62%	76%	68%	70%	77%	74%
Develop sustainable tourism	76%	75%	67%	69%	72%	68%	74%
Explicit progress on gender parity	56%	70%	53%	59%	51%	56%	57%
Investment in renewable energy & infrastructure	53%	72%	64%	48%	57%	48%	58%
Develop more green spaces	59%	42%	54%	54%	46%	56%	55%
Limited urban expansion	50%	53%	54%	66%	39%	53%	52%
Base	225	46	48	41	37	55	342

Q10. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented for Australia to promote a sustainable recovery after extended drought periods, natural disaster or pandemic. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support.



Questionnaire

Appendix 2

**Lithgow City Council – Community Strategic Plan
Survey 2024**

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is _____ and I'm calling on behalf of Lithgow City Council from a company called Micromex. Lithgow Council wants to ensure that it is focused on the issues that matter most to the local community. The survey will take up to 15 minutes, would you be able to assist us please?

QA1. Before we start, can I please confirm that you do live in the Council area?

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Yes	Continue
2	No	Terminate

Q1. Which suburb, town or village do you live nearest to?

Rural North– Quota 40

Position	Answers	Ward
1	Ben Bullen	
2	Blackman's Flat	
3	Bogee	
4	Capertee	
5	Clarence	
6	Cullen Bullen	
7	Dargan	
8	Dunville Loop	
9	Glen Alice	
10	Glen Davis	
11	Marrangaroo	
12	Palmer's Oak	
13	Round Swamp	
14	Springvale	
15	Upper Nile	
16	Wolgan Valley/Newnes	

Rural South – Quota 40

Position	Answers	Ward
1	Ganbenang	
2	Good Forest	
3	Hampton	
4	Hartley	
5	Hartley Vale	
6	Kanimbla	
7	Little Hartley	
8	Lowther	
9	Megalong	
10	Rydal	
11	Sodwalls	
12	Tarana	

Lithgow – Quota 230

Position	Answers	Ward
1	Bowenfels	
2	Cobar Park	
3	Corney Town	
4	Doctors Gap	
5	Hermitage Flat	
6	Lithgow	
7	Littleton	
8	McKellars Park	
9	Morts Estate	
10	Oakey Park	
11	Pottery Estate	
12	Sheedys Gully	
13	South Bowenfels	
14	South Littleton	
15	State Mine Gully	
16	Vale of Clwydd	

Wallerawang – Quota 45

Position	Answers	Ward
1	Lidsdale	
2	Wallerawang	

Portland – Quota 45

Position	Answers	Ward
1	Pipers Flat	
2	Portland	

Section A – Priority Issues

Q2a. What do you love most about living in the Lithgow LGA?

Position	Answers	Notes
1		3 lines

Q2b. And what would you like to change about living in Lithgow LGA?

Position	Answers	Notes
1		3 lines

Q2c. Thinking of the next 10 years, what do you believe will be the highest priority issues for our community?

Position	Answers	Notes
1		3 lines

Section B – Living in Lithgow LGA

Q3a. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life you have living in the Lithgow City Council area? Prompt (SR)

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Excellent	
2	Very good	
3	Good	
4	Fair	
5	Poor	
6	Very poor	

Q3b. In this section I will read out a number of statements. For each of these could you please indicate your level of agreement with each statement? The scale is from 1 to 5, where 1 strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree. Prompt

Value	Answers	Notes
5	Strongly agree	
4	Agree	
3	Neither agree not disagree	
2	Disagree	
1	Strongly disagree	
99	Don't know	

Roads and Transport

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Public transport is adequate for your needs	
2	Lithgow is a safe area for pedestrians	
3	Lithgow is a safe area for cyclists	
4	Our roads are safe for motorists	

Community Safety

Position	Answers	Notes
1	You feel safe during the day	
2	You feel safe during the night	
3	You feel safe using public facilities	
4	Police services in the Lithgow LGA are responsive and effective	

Infrastructure and Development

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Shops and services in shopping areas meet residents' needs	
2	New developments are helping to preserve an attractive urban landscape and protect heritage	
3	Water infrastructure is reliable and meets the needs of our community	
4	Sewer infrastructure is reliable and meets the needs of our community	

The Natural Environment

Position	Answers	Notes
1	The natural environment is respected	
2	Our natural environment is retaining its beauty	

Services and Facilities

Position	Answers	Notes
1	There is a good range of leisure and recreation opportunities	
2	Sporting facilities in the area meet your needs	
3	Living in Lithgow gives you a sense of living in a community	
4	There is a good range of community groups and support networks for residents	
5	The cost of living in the Lithgow LGA is affordable for you	
6	Our heritage since European settlement is valued and preserved	
7	Quality education is available and accessible in the LGA	
8	There is a good range of opportunities for cultural and artistic activities and expression	
9	Our indigenous heritage is valued and preserved	

Planning and Decision Making

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Council adequately considers community concerns and views in making decisions	
2	Information about Council and its decisions is clear and accessible	
3	Council is focused on the future and plans well to help secure the community's long-term future	

Health

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Hospitals, medical and mental health services in the LGA are accessible and of good quality	
2	Healthy lifestyle opportunities are available in the Lithgow LGA as often as you would like	
3	Living in the Lithgow LGA provides you and your family with opportunities	

Economic Development Growth

Position	Answers	Notes
1	The local economy is ready for the future	
2	There is sufficient planning for local economic growth and development	
3	The Lithgow Council encourages and supports a diverse range of industries and businesses	
4	The local economy provides a wide range of work opportunities	
5	You feel able to afford a reasonable standard of housing in this area	
6	Young people are likely to get a local, quality job in the future	

Section C Priorities for Council

Q4. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented across the LGA over the coming years. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all supportive and 5 is very supportive.

Randomise

Value	Answers	Notes
5	Very supportive	
4	Supportive	
3	Somewhat supportive	
2	Not very supportive	
1	Not at all supportive	
99	Can't say	

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Efforts should be increased to attract more tourism to the LGA	
2	Main Street in Lithgow should be revitalised whilst maintaining its heritage look and feel	
3	Attract larger retailers to the area	
4	Develop more education opportunities for young families in the area	
5	Develop more employment opportunities for young families in the area	
6	More support for local volunteer groups	
7	Increased mental health services and support	
8	Increased aged care services and support	
9	Improved rail services	
10	More community activities and events, such as Halloween	
11	Increased youth services and support	

Section C – Resilience

It has been a challenging time for our community over the last few years. We have faced, fires floods and Covid.

Q5. Which of the following environmental issues have you experienced while living in your local area over the last 2 years? Please answer yes or no as I read each one. (MR) Prompt

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Extreme weather events	
2	Poor air quality	
3	Loss of flora and fauna	
4	Waste, rubbish and dirty streets	
5	None of these	

Q6. Lithgow City Council is developing a resilience strategy and has identified the following shocks and stresses that may impact the community. Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten the immediate wellbeing of a city. Stresses are everyday life pressures. How concerned are you about the following? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all concerned and 5 is very concerned. Prompt

Value	Answers	Notes
5	Very concerned	
4	Concerned	
3	Somewhat concerned	
2	Not very concerned	
1	Not at all concerned	

Short-term/Sudden Events

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Heatwave	
2	Bushfire	
3	Flood	
4	Lack of water (water security)	
5	Lack of electricity (energy security)	
6	Disease pandemic	
7	Infrastructure failure (e.g. inability to catch the train)	
8	Terror attack	

Everyday Pressures

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Housing affordability	
2	Declining social cohesion	
3	Employment diversity	
4	Food security	
5	Inequality	
6	Lack of opportunities for young people	
7	Domestic violence	
8	Demand on our health services	
9	Demand on our roads	
10	Limited capacity of local councils	
11	Lack of community services	
12	Inadequate investment in critical infrastructure	
13	Time away from family – commuting	
14	Things to do – after work or weekends	

Q7. Considering the most significant shocks and stressors to you, how prepared do you feel you and/or your family are to respond? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all prepared, and 5 is very prepared?

Value	Answers	Notes
5	Very prepared	
4	Prepared	
3	Somewhat prepared	
2	Not very prepared	
1	Not at all prepared	

Q8. Who could you ask for support in a crisis? Please answer yes or no as I read each one. MR Prompt

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Neighbour	
2	Family member	
3	Work colleague	
4	Community, charity or religious organisation	
5	Local council or other government service	
6	Health, medical, legal or professional service	
7	Other	Go to Q8i

Q8i. Other specify.

Position	Answers	Notes
1		5 lines

Q9. As a response to climate change, Council is looking to alter some policies and programs. Please rate how strongly you agree, or disagree, with each of the following statements. Ratings are on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree.

Value	Answers	Notes
5	Strongly agree	
4	Agree	
3	Neither agree nor disagree	
2	Disagree	
1	Strongly disagree	
99	Don't know	

Position	Answers	Notes
1	I feel sufficiently informed about the decision process	
2	I feel that there is clear leadership in determining what needs to be done	
3	I think there is a risk that some climate adaptation actions are being hijacked by vested interest groups	
4	I feel that there are far more pressing considerations for Council at this time	

Q10. I'm now going to read out a list of some projects and initiatives that could be implemented for Australia to promote a sustainable recovery after extended drought periods, natural disaster or pandemic. Council may be directly involved in providing these initiatives, or it may lobby other levels of government for their support. For each one, please rate your level of support on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all supportive and 5 is very supportive.

Randomise

Value	Answers	Notes
5	Very supportive	
4	Supportive	
3	Somewhat supportive	
2	Not very supportive	
1	Not at all supportive	
99	Can't say	

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Provision of access to clean, safe water	
2	Promoting local employment	
3	Equity in access to quality education	
4	Investment in renewable energy and infrastructure	
5	Promoting sustainable transport, including walking and cycling	
6	Investment in sustainable farming/agricultural practices	
7	Explicit progress on gender parity (i.e. Bridging the pay gap, encouraging more women in profile roles and promoting equal opportunity)	
8	Limited urban expansion (i.e. Limiting development to our towns and villages, so we can retain our rural areas)	
9	Advocate for affordable housing for everyone	
10	Develop more green spaces	
11	Improve access to health services and precincts	
12	Support people to work closer to home	
13	Develop sustainable tourism	
14	Build community capacity (i.e. Creating opportunities for local skills development and lifelong learning to ensuring our community can cope with stresses and shocks such as, natural disasters and economic downturns)	

Section E – Demographic & Profiling Questions

Finally, some questions about you...

Q11a. Please stop me when I read out your age group. Prompt

Position	Answers	Notes
1	18 - 34	
2	35 - 49	
3	50 - 64	
4	65 +	
5	Refused	

Q11b. Which of the following best describes the house where you are currently living? Prompt

Position	Answers	Notes
1	I/We own/are currently buying this property	
2	I/We currently rent this property	

Q11c. What is your identified gender?

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Male	
2	Female	
3	Other	
4	Prefer not to say	

Q11d. Do you identify as living with disability?

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Yes	
2	No	

Q11e. Are you a carer to person with disability?

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Yes	
2	No	

As a participant in this research, you may be invited to participate in further community consultation, such as face to face focus groups, about specific issues.

At this stage we are developing a register of interest for future consultations.

Q12a. Are you interested in registering to participate in future consultation activities?

Position	Answers	Notes
1	Yes	
2	No	(Go to end)

Q12b. May I please confirm your contact details?

Position	Answers	Notes
1	First name	1 line
2	Surname	1 line
3	Email	1 line
4	Telephone	1 line

Thank you for your time and assistance. This market research is carried out in compliance with the Privacy Act, and the information you provided will be used only for research purposes. Just to remind you, I am calling from Micromex Research on behalf of Lithgow Council (if respondent wants our number, it is 1800 639 599 – Council Contact is Deborah McGrath on 6354 9999).



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