

# Whitehorse City Council

Coordinated by the Department of Government Services on behalf of Victorian councils



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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-sixth 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.

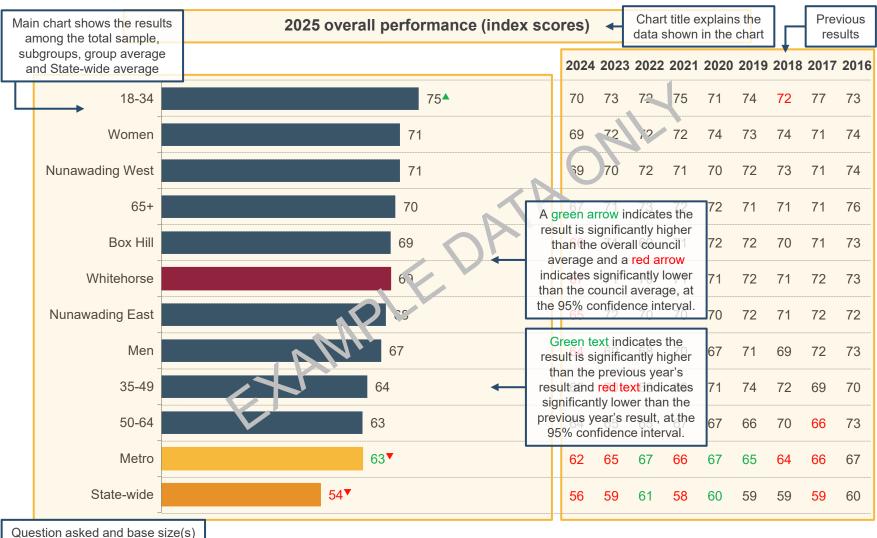
#### **Serving Victoria for 26 years**

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 26 years of results, the CSS offers councils a 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.

# How to read index score charts in this report





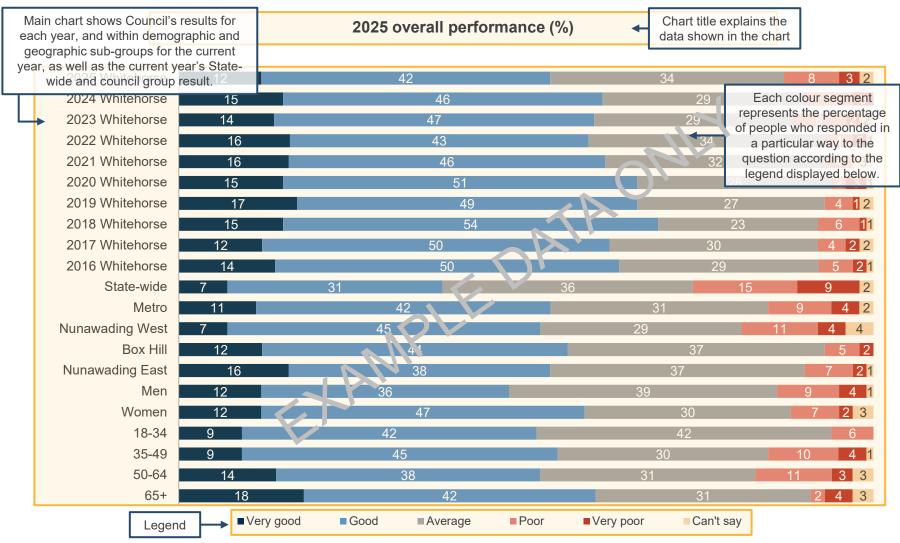
Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Whitehorse City Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 56 Councils asked group: 8

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

# How to read stacked bar charts in this report







# Whitehorse City Council – at a glance



#### **Overall council performance**

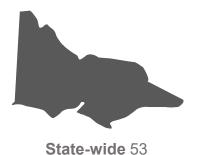
Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Whitehorse 63



Metropolitan 62



# Council performance compared to group average



## **Summary of core measures**

money



#### **Index scores**



**Performance** 





Community Consultation



Making Community **Decisions** 



Sealed Local Roads



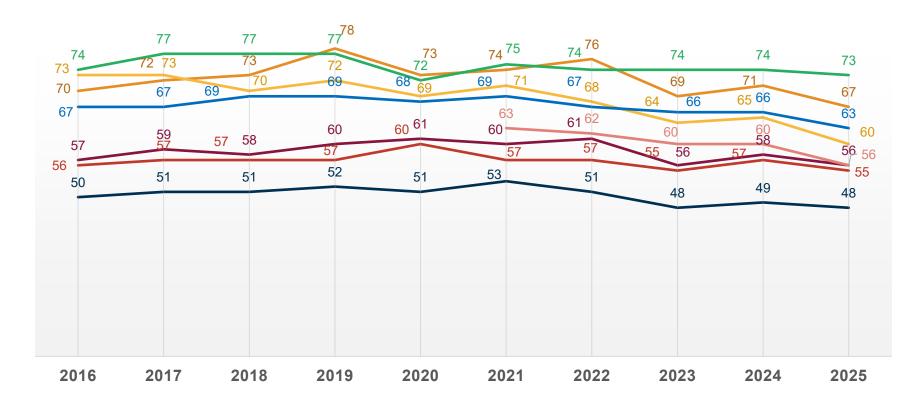
Waste management



**Customer Service** 



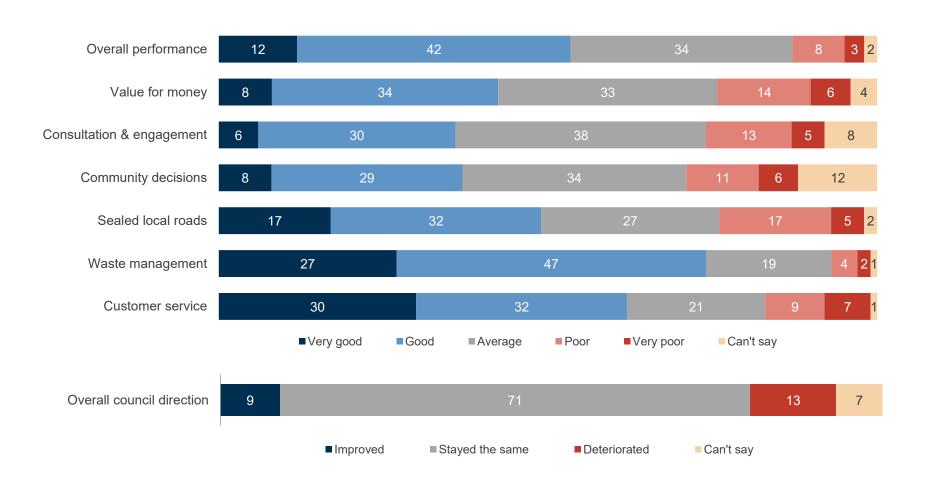
Overall Council **Direction** 



## **Summary of core measures**



#### Core measures summary results (%)



# **Summary of Whitehorse City Council performance**



Services		Whitehorse 2025	Whitehorse 2024	Metro 2025	State-wide 2025	Highest score	Lowest score
<b>C</b> X	Overall performance	63	66	62	53	65+ years	Nunawading West residents, Men, 35-49 years
S	Value for money	56	60	56	47	65+ years	Men
+	Overall council direction	48	49	48	46	18-34 years	50-64 years
Ė	Customer service	67	71	71	66	Women	Men
<b>\$</b> /	Art centres & libraries	75	76	76	73	65+ years	Men
ず	Recreational facilities	74	75	74	67	Nunawading East residents	Nunawading West residents
	Waste management	73	74	72	65	Nunawading East residents	Nunawading West residents
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	70	72	71	68	Box Hill residents	Nunawading West residents
<b>E</b>	Community & cultural	68	70	69	65	65+ years	18-34 years
***	Family support services	65	65	66	62	Nunawading East residents	Box Hill residents, 65+ years, Nunawading West residents

# **Summary of Whitehorse City Council performance**



Services		Whitehorse 2025	Whitehorse 2024	Metro 2025	State-wide 2025	Highest score	Lowest score
2	Environmental sustainability	64	65	64	59	Nunawading East residents	Nunawading West residents, Box Hill residents
	Enforcement of local laws	64	63	62	59	Nunawading East residents, 18-34 years, Women	Nunawading West residents, Men
<b>A</b>	Sealed local roads	60	65	59	45	18-34 years, Box Hill residents, Nunawading East residents	Nunawading West residents
	Informing the community	59	60	61	56	18-34 years	Nunawading West residents
***	Community decisions	56	58	56	49	18-34 years	Nunawading West residents, 50-64 years
	Consultation & engagement	55	57	56	50	Women, 65+ years	50-64 years, Men
<u></u>	Lobbying	52	56	54	49	35-49 years, 65+ years	50-64 years, Nunawading West residents
	Planning & building permits	51	51	47	43	18-34 years	50-64 years

#### Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Residents' perceptions of Whitehorse City Council's overall performance index score of 63 is not significantly different to last year, but has been trending down incrementally from a peak index score of 69 (last recorded in 2021). Performance perceptions on most individual service areas are in line with 2024 results – which is a positive result. Exceptions to the aforementioned trend are lobbying, sealed local roads and value for money, where performance ratings declined significantly this year.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Council should focus foremost on maintaining and improving performance in the individual service areas that most influence perception of overall performance, namely, community consultation and engagement, and decisions made in the interest of the community. Following this, the more moderately influential but lower rated service area of planning and building permits should be prioritised for service improvements in the year ahead.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Council performs significantly higher than the State-wide result on the majority of measures evaluated. Council is rated in line with the Metropolitan group averages on most measures, but rates significantly higher on planning and building permits, and significantly lower on customer service. This is a positive comparative result for Council against the group averages.

Maintain and shore up stronger performing areas

Perceptions of Council's performance on waste management and customer service have been relatively stable over time and remain among Council's stronger performing core measures. Historically (back in 2019), Council has performed more strongly in both of these areas – suggesting there is potential to shore up efforts here. Encouragingly, the tangible nature of waste management makes it possible for changes to be noticed, thus positively impacting perceptions of Council performance in these areas (and overall).

# **DETAILED FINDINGS**







The overall performance index score of 63 for Whitehorse City Council is not significantly different to the 2024 result. That said, perceptions have been trending down over recent years and Council's overall performance rating is now at a 10-year low.

Council's overall performance continues to rate statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence level) than the State-wide average, but now rates in line with the Metropolitan group average (index scores of 53 and 62 respectively).

 Performance ratings across demographic and geographic cohorts are not significantly different from the Council average.

More than four in 10 residents (42%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. A further 33% rate Council as 'average', while 20% rate it as 'very poor' or 'poor' in terms of providing value for money.

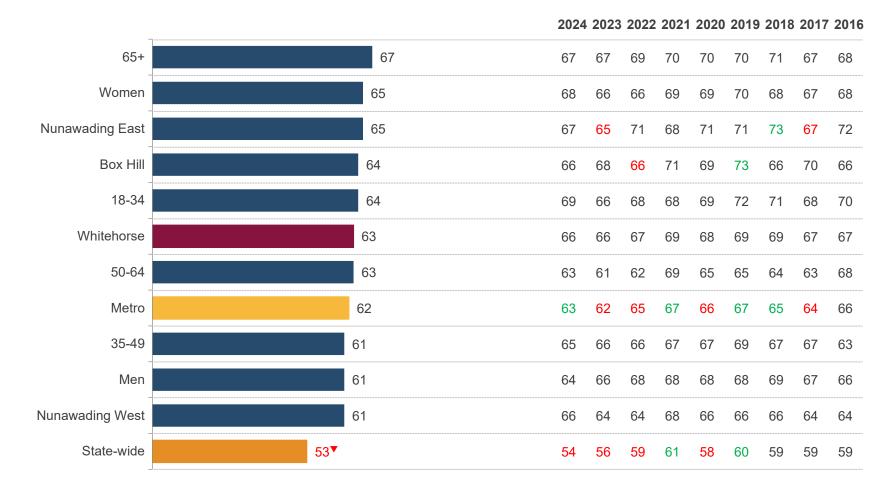
Since the last evaluation perceptions of Council's value for money have significantly declined (index score of 56, down four index points this year).

 Contributing to this result are significant declines in perceptions among 18 to 34 year olds, Nunawading West residents and women.



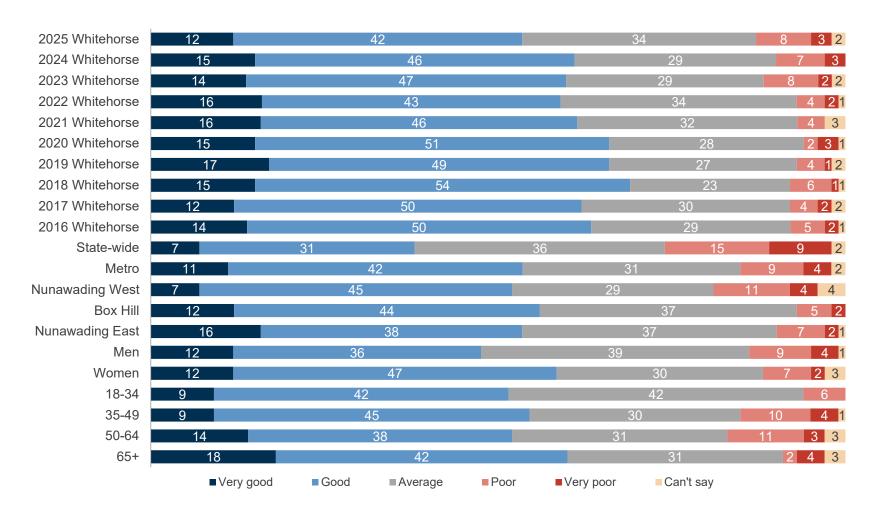


#### 2025 overall performance (index scores)





#### 2025 overall performance (%)



# Value for money in services and infrastructure



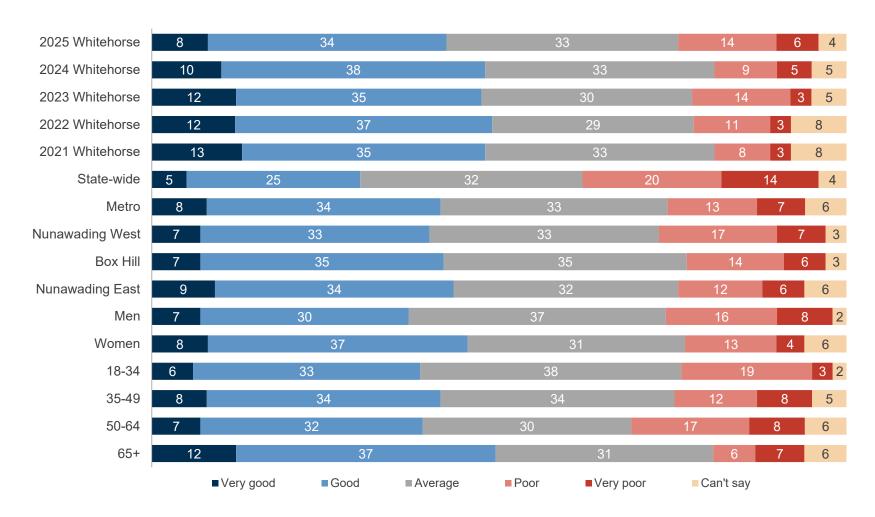
#### 2025 value for money (index scores)



# Value for money in services and infrastructure



#### 2025 value for money (%)



## **Top performing service areas**

Whitehorse City Council continues to perform best in the area of art centres and libraries (index score of 75).

 Ratings of this service area are significantly higher among residents aged 65 years and over.

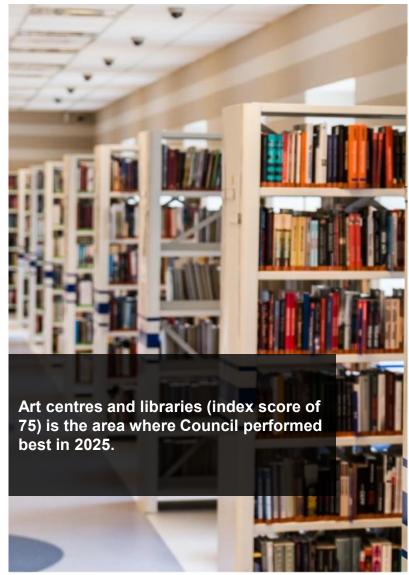
Recreational facilities is Council's next highest-rated service area, followed by waste management (index scores of 74 and 73 respectively).

 Ratings of these service areas are highest among Nunawading East residents (significantly so for recreational facilities).

Council performs in line with the Metropolitan group average in each of these areas and significantly higher than the State-wide average in recreational facilities and waste management. Waste management is an area shown to have a moderate to strong influence on perceptions of Council's overall performance, so upholding and building upon these positive results should remain a focus in the coming 12 months.

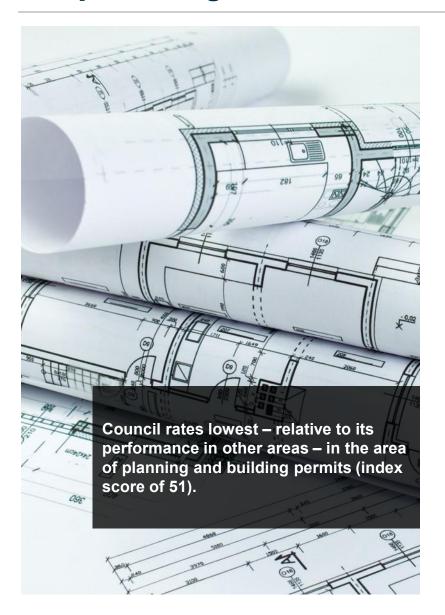
Council's strong performance in the aforementioned areas is further highlighted by the fact that 9% of residents nominate recreational/ sporting facilities as the best thing about Council, while 8% cite libraries and 8% cite waste management (noting an equal proportion also cite this as the area most needing improvement).





#### Low performing service areas





Planning and building permits continues to be the service area where Whitehorse City Council rates lowest (index score of 51).

 Town planning/ permits/ red tape and inappropriate/ over development are consistently among the most frequently nominated areas by residents as needing improvement (by 8% and 7% of residents respectively).

Lobbying is Council's next lowest-rated service area (index score of 52). Since the last evaluation, ratings of this area experienced a significant four-point decline, with perceptions now at a 10-year low.

 This result is largely driven by significant declines among 18 to 34 year olds, men and Nunawading West residents.

Consultation and engagement, and community decisions are other areas where Council performs less well (index scores of 55 and 56 respectively, both on par with the 2024 result). These are the service areas with the strongest influence on Council's overall performance rating, so it will be important for Council to bolster its performance in these areas in the coming 12 months.

Residents aged 50 to 64 years are among the most critical of Council's performance in each of these service areas, indicating this cohort warrants extra attention.

#### Individual service area performance



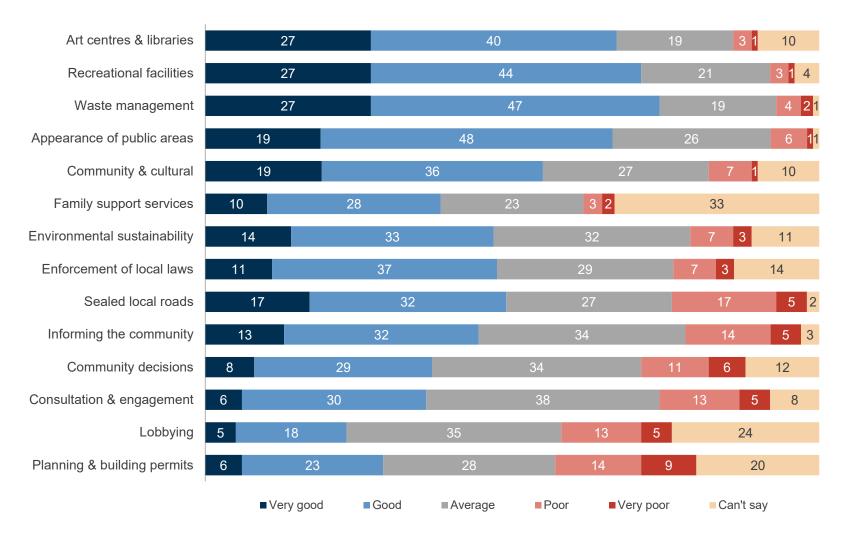
#### 2025 individual service area performance (index scores)



## Individual service area performance



#### 2025 individual service area performance (%)



# Individual service area importance



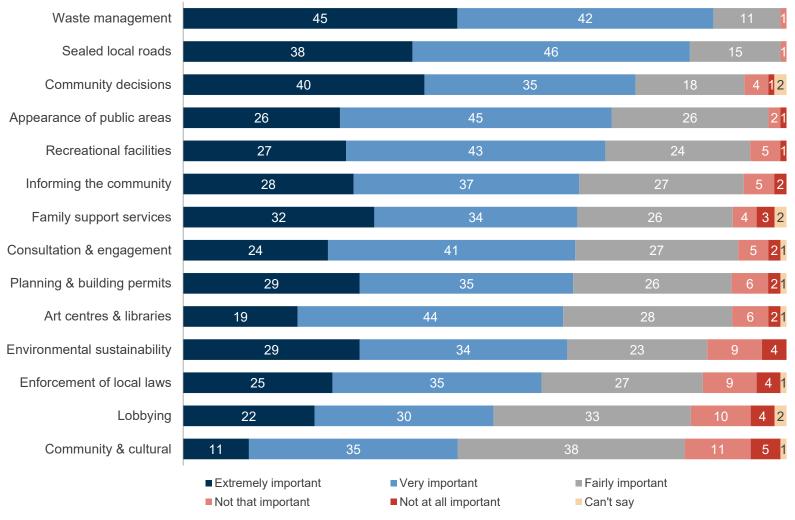
#### 2025 individual service area importance (index scores)



# Individual service area importance



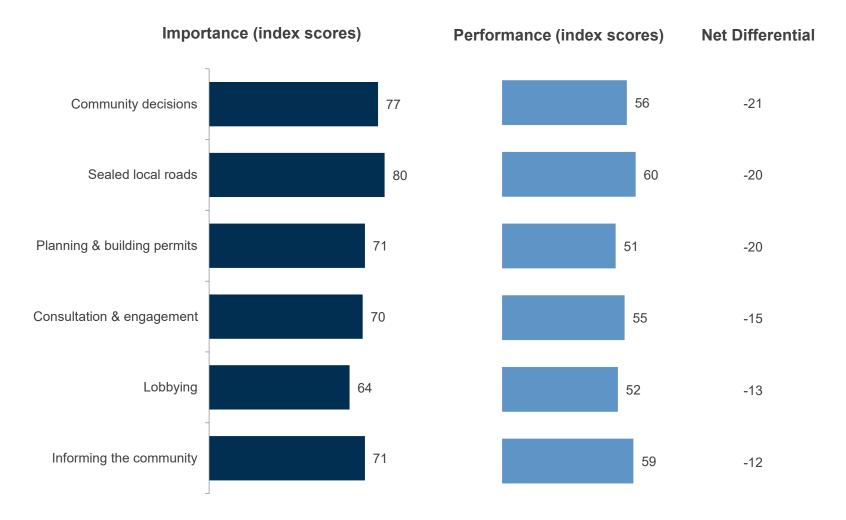
#### 2025 individual service area importance (%)



# 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 areas that have the strongest influence on the overall performance rating (based on regression analysis) are:

- Community consultation and engagement
- · Decisions made in the interest of the community.

Good communication and consultation with residents and transparency around Council decision making provide the greatest opportunities to drive up overall opinion of Council's performance.

Following on from that, other services with a moderateto-strong influence on the overall performance rating are:

- Waste management
- The appearance of public areas
- · The condition of sealed local roads
- Planning and building permits.

Looking at these key service areas only, waste management and the appearance of public areas have high performance index scores (73 and 70 respectively), with waste management being a stronger influence on the overall performance rating than public areas.

Council also performs well on the condition of its sealed roads (index score of 60).

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

Council performs relatively less well on planning and building permits (index score of 51), which has a moderate influence on perceptions of overall performance.

Ensuring that Council's permit system for planning and building is working well and any community concerns are addressed can also help to shore up positive overall opinion of Council.

# Regression analysis explained



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

In the charts that follow:

- The horizontal axis represents Council's performance index score for each individual service.
   Service areas appearing on the right side of the chart have a higher index score 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 those located closer to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

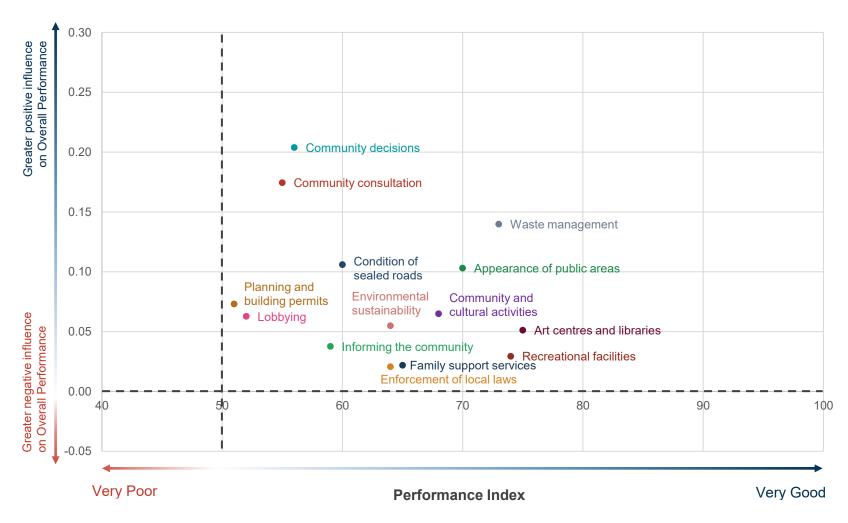
- 1. The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of *all* individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas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



#### 2025 regression analysis (all services)

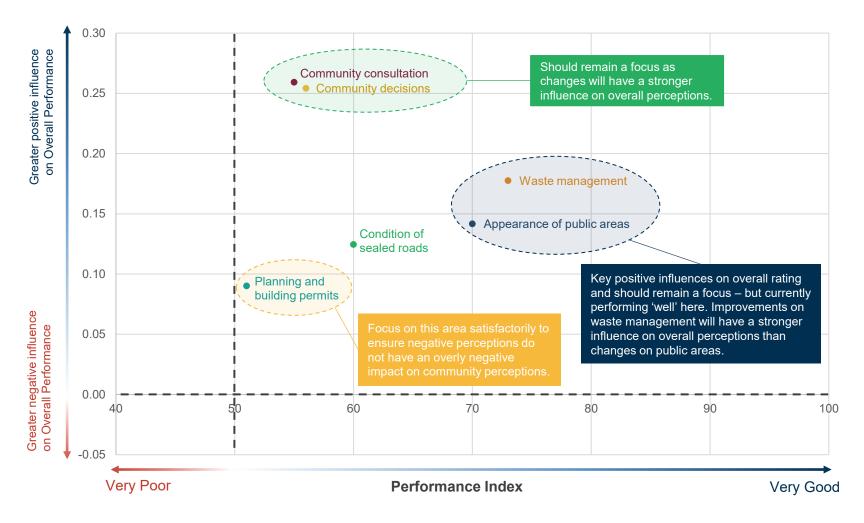


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an  $R^2$  value of 0.559 and adjusted  $R^2$  value of 0.546, which means that 55% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 44.27. 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 services



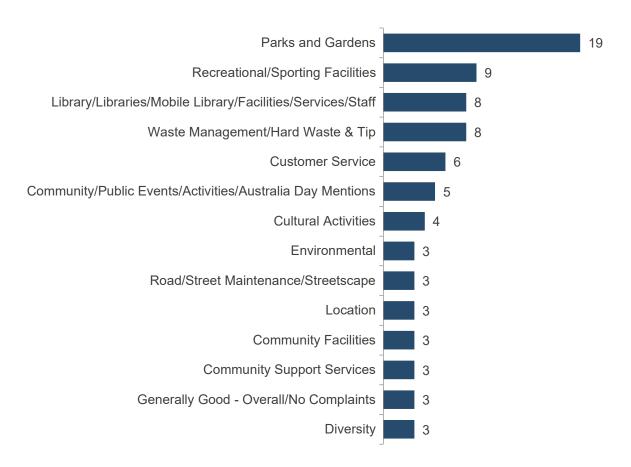
#### 2025 regression analysis (key services)



# **Best things about Council**



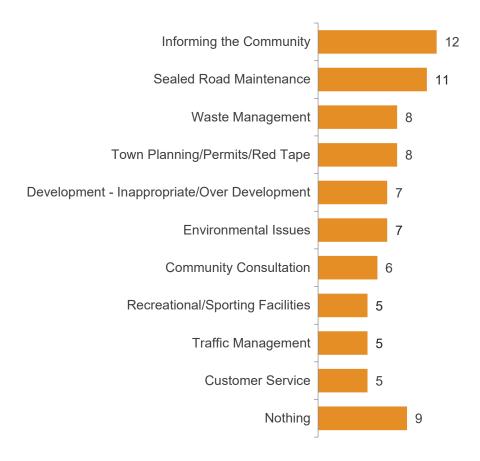
# 2025 best things about Council (%) - Top mentions only -



# **Areas for improvement**



# 2025 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -





# **Customer service**

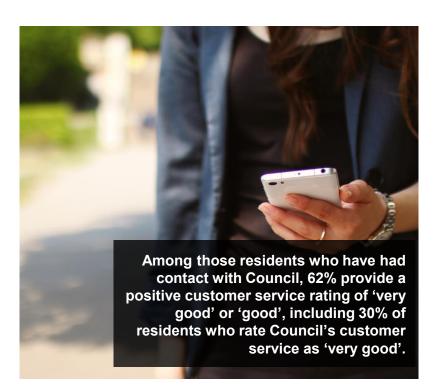
#### **Contact with council and customer service**



#### **Contact with council**

Just over three in five households (61%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact is similar to last year, but on the downturn following a couple of years of increasing levels of contact.

 Rate of contact is highest among residents aged 50 to 64 years (70%) and lowest among those aged 65 years and over (52%).



#### **Customer service**

Council's customer service index score of 67 marks a (not significant) four-point decline on the 2024 result. Perceptions have not recovered from the significant decline evident in 2023, with Council historically having stronger customer service results.

 Customer service is now rated in line with the Statewide average and significantly below the Metropolitan group average (66 and 71 respectively).

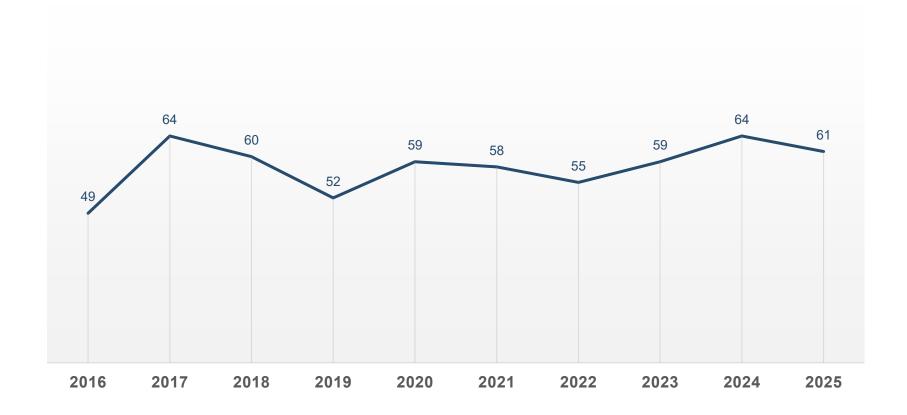
Many more residents (62%) who have had contact with Council provide a 'very good' or 'good' customer service rating than those who rate it 'poor' or 'very poor' (16%).

- Perceptions of Council's customer service show little variation across demographic cohorts, with ratings highest among women and those in Nunawading East (index score of 71) and lowest among men (62).
- Of note, 50 to 64 year olds are the only age group where perceptions improved instead of declining. Though not statistically significant, this increase indicates that Council's efforts to enhance interactions with these residents have been effective. Residents aged 50 to 64 years also have the highest rate of contact with Council, so this is a positive outcome, but efforts to replicate this among other cohorts will be required to lift overall ratings.

#### **Contact with council**



# 2025 contact with council (%) Have had contact

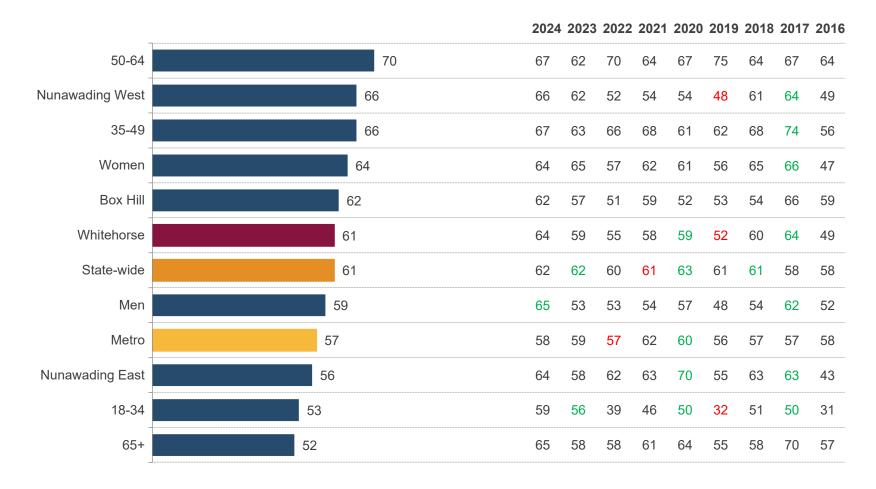


Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Whitehorse City Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

#### **Contact with council**



#### 2025 contact with council (%)



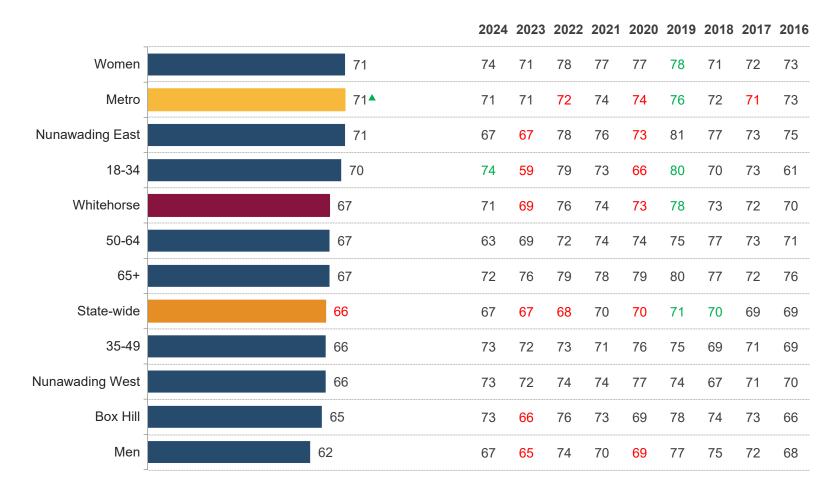
Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Whitehorse City Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 32 Councils asked group: 4 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

## **Customer service rating**



#### 2025 customer service rating (index scores)

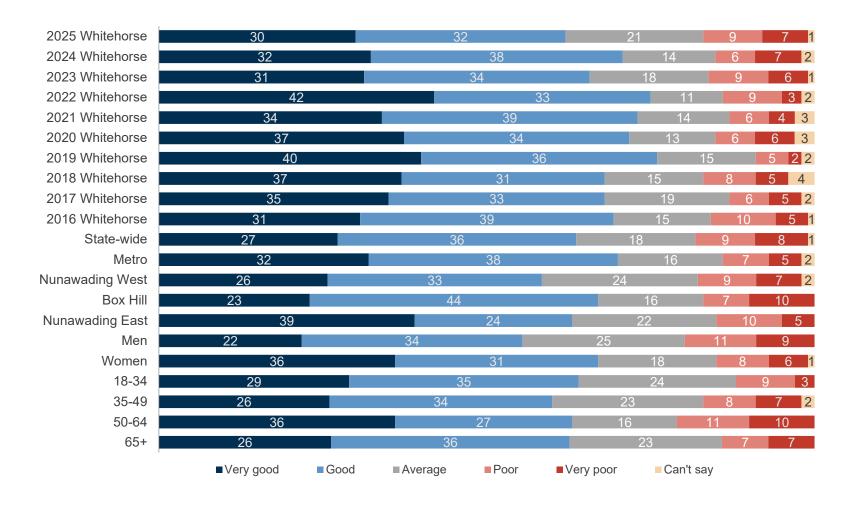


Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Whitehorse City Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 56 Councils asked group: 8

## **Customer service rating**



#### 2025 customer service rating (%)





### Communication

W

The preferred forms of communication from Council about news and information and upcoming events remain newsletters sent via email (41%) or via mail (31%). Preference for emailed newsletters has increased by nine percentage points over the past year.

Other forms of communication come much further behind as a preferred channel, including social media (9%) and text message (7%).

Communications preferences differ by age groups.

- Among residents aged <u>under 50 years</u>, the preferred form of communication is similar to the community at large, namely a newsletter sent via email (40%), followed by mail (30%). Social media is somewhat behind these preferred channels (11%).
- Among those aged 50 years and over, email newsletters (42%) are also preferred over those via mail (32%). Preference for emailed newsletters has increased by 12 percentage points since last year, overtaking the mail format, which declined by nine points. For this age group, a Council newspaper displayed in shops and council facilities is the next preferred channel (7%).



### **Best form of communication**



#### 2025 best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



Council Website



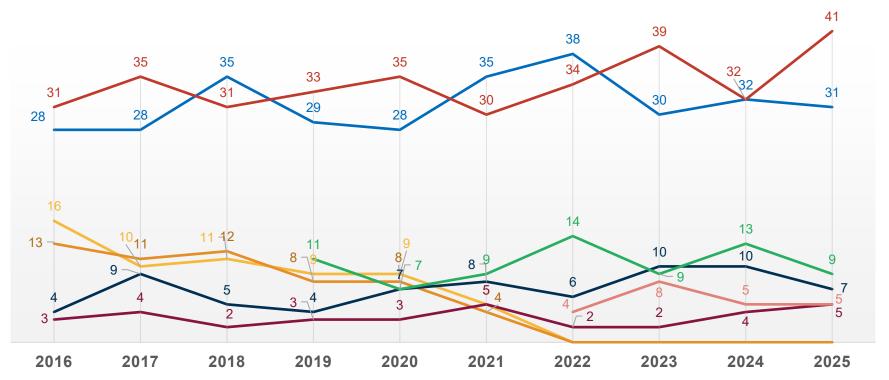
Text Message



Social Media



Council Newspaper Displayed in Shops and Council Facilities



Q13. If Whitehorse City Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 33 Councils asked group: 5 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

## **Best form of communication: under 50s**



#### 2025 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



Council Website



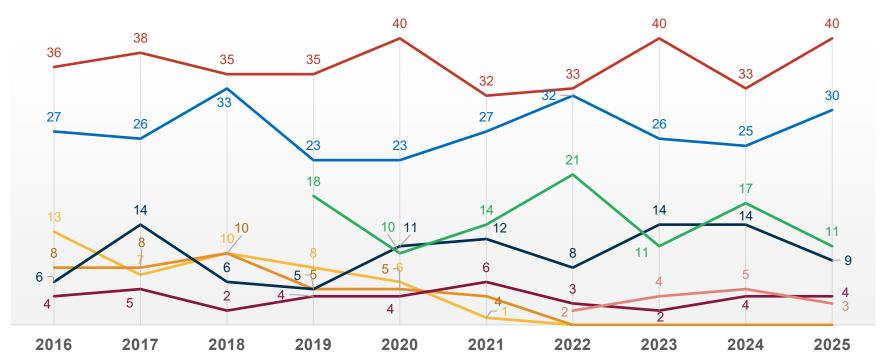
Text Message



Social Media



Council Newspaper Displayed in Shops and Council Facilities



Q13. If Whitehorse City Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 33 Councils asked group: 5 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.

## **Best form of communication: 50+ years**



### 2025 50+ years best form of communication (%)



Advertising in a Local Newspaper



Council Newsletter via Mail



Council Newsletter via Email



Council Newsletter as Local Paper Insert



Council Website



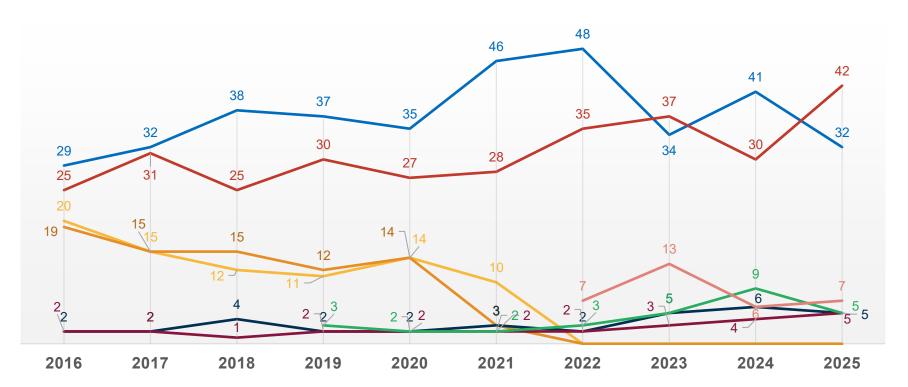
Text Message



Social Media



Council Newspaper Displayed in Shops and Council Facilities



Q13. If Whitehorse City Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

Base: All respondents aged 50+ years. Councils asked State-wide: 33 Councils asked group: 5 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



### **Council direction**

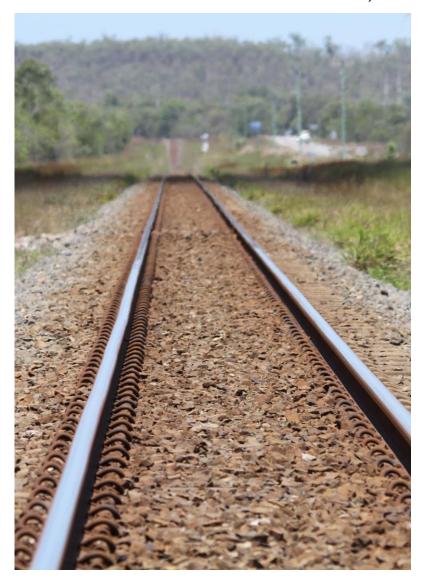
W

Perceptions of Whitehorse City Council's overall direction (index score of 48) are mostly consistent with that seen in 2024

Over the last 12 months, 9% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has improved (down two percentage points on the previous result).

A majority (71%) of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same (up one percentage point), while 13% think it has deteriorated (unchanged from 2024).

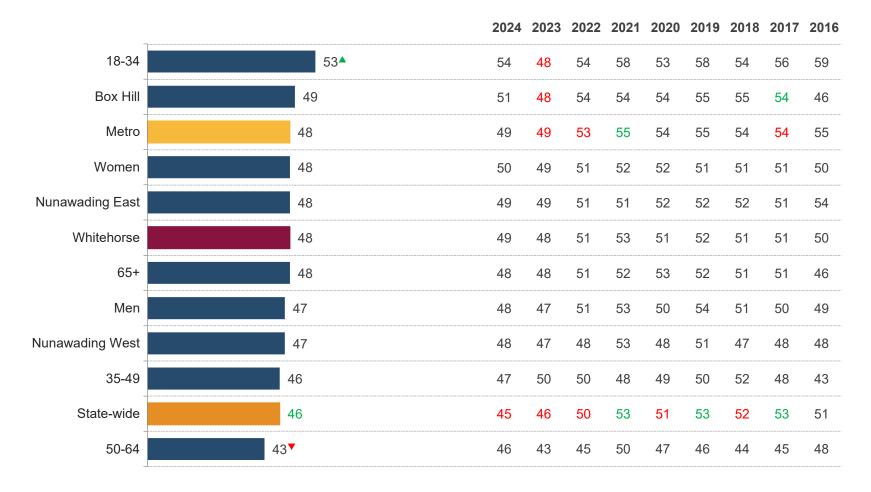
- The <u>most</u> satisfied with council direction are residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 53 – significantly higher than average). Of these residents, more think Council's overall performance has improved in the last year than think it has deteriorated.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with council direction are those aged 50 to 64 years (43 – significantly lower than average). More than four times as many in this age group think Council's overall performance has deteriorated since the last year as those who think it has improved.



### **Overall council direction last 12 months**



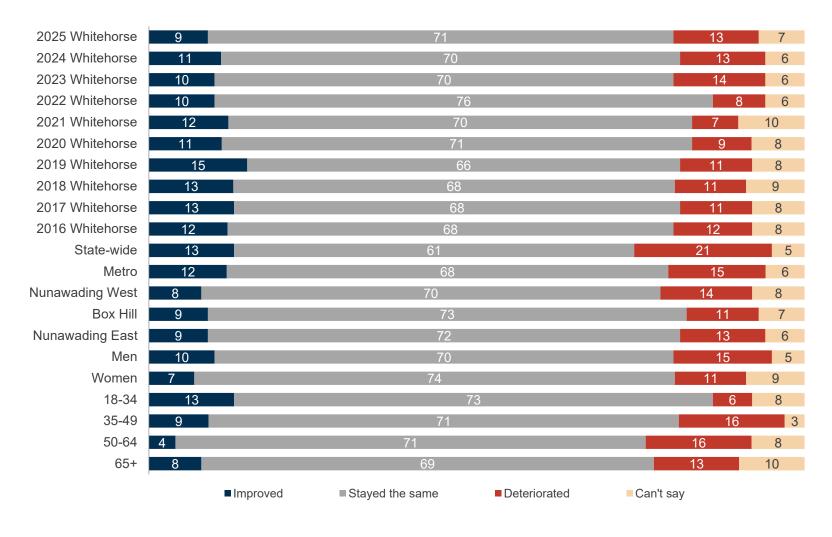
#### 2025 overall council direction (index scores)



### **Overall council direction last 12 months**



#### 2025 overall council direction (%)





## **Community consultation and engagement importance**





#### 2025 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

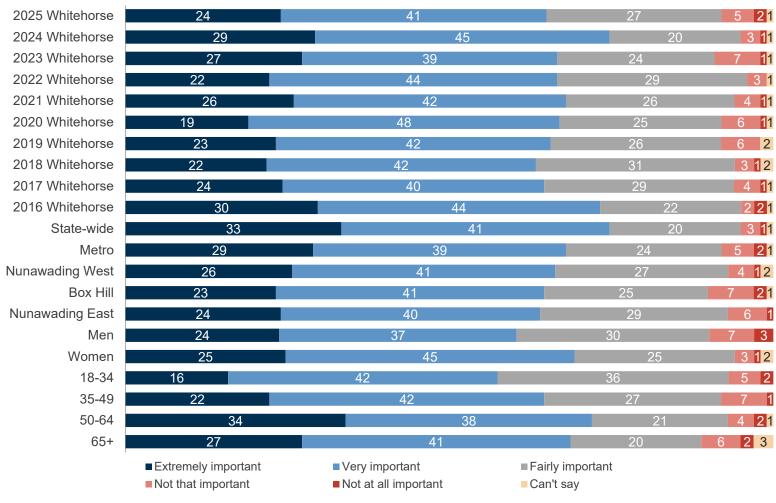


## **Community consultation and engagement importance**





#### 2025 consultation and engagement importance (%)



## Community consultation and engagement performance





#### 2025 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

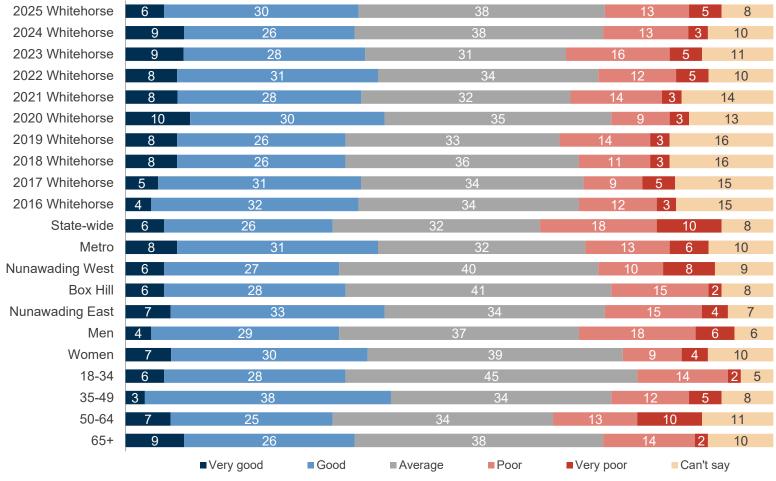


## Community consultation and engagement performance





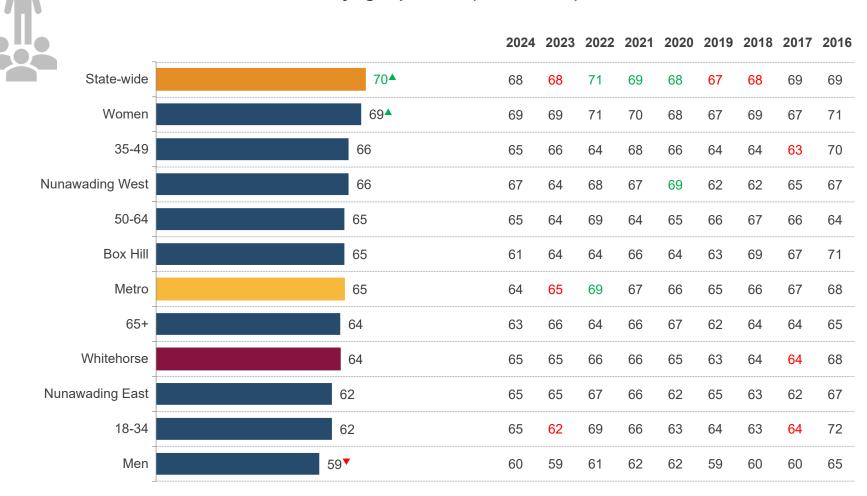
#### 2025 consultation and engagement performance (%)



## Lobbying on behalf of the community importance



#### 2025 lobbying importance (index scores)

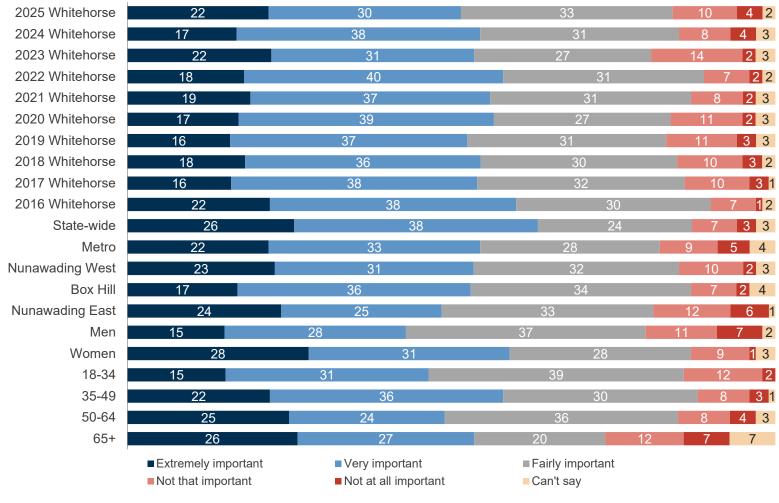


## Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





#### 2025 lobbying importance (%)



## Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



#### 2025 lobbying performance (index scores)

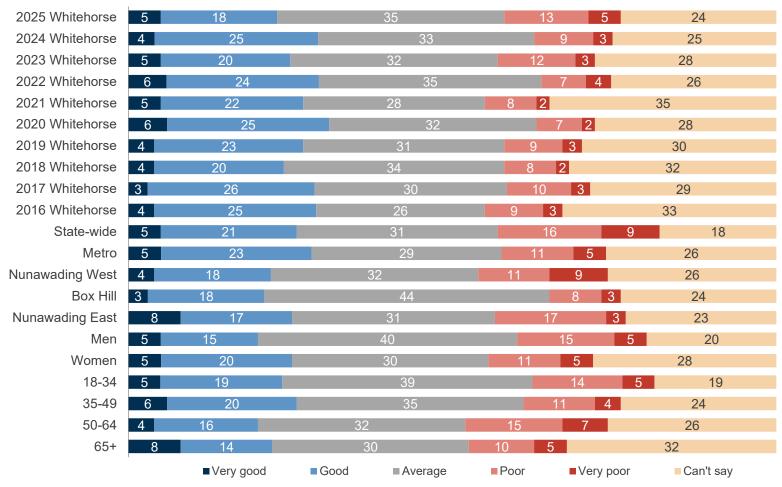


## Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





#### 2025 lobbying performance (%)

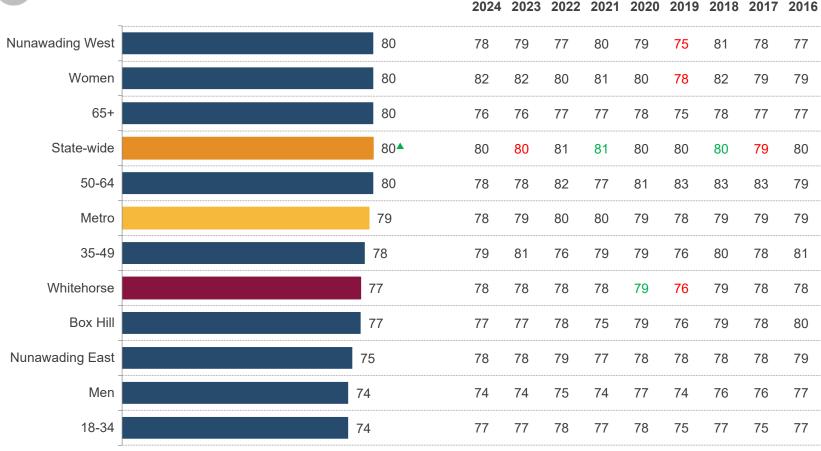


# **Decisions made in the interest of the community importance**





#### 2025 community decisions made importance (index scores)

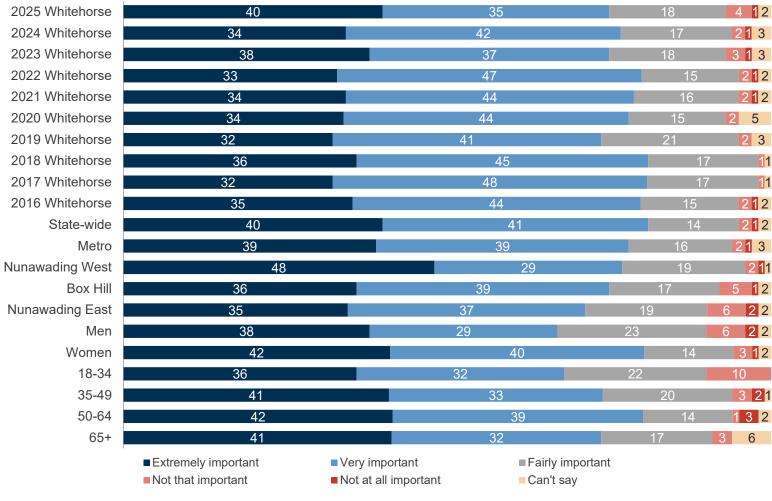


# **Decisions made in the interest of the community importance**





#### 2025 community decisions made importance (%)



# **Decisions made in the interest of the community performance**





#### 2025 community decisions made performance (index scores)

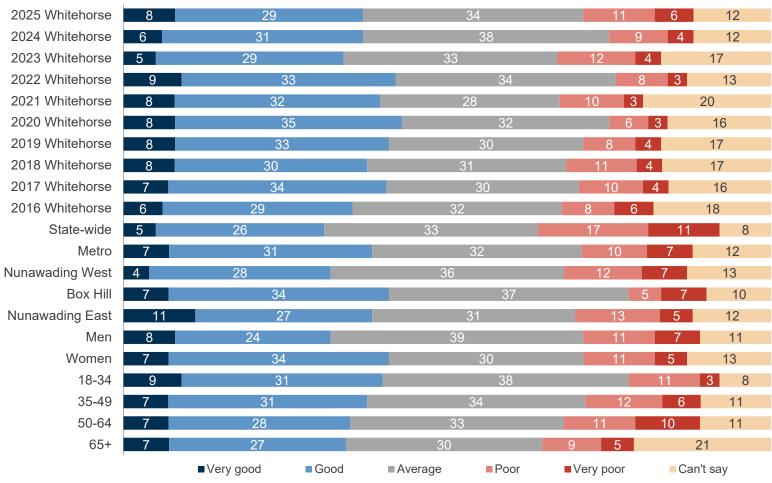


# **Decisions made in the interest of the community performance**





#### 2025 community decisions made performance (%)



# The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





#### 2025 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

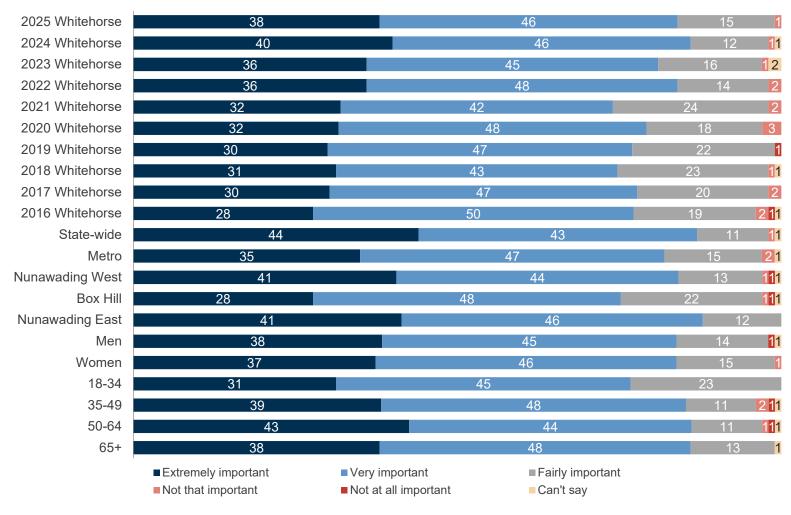


# The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





#### 2025 sealed local roads importance (%)



# The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





#### 2025 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

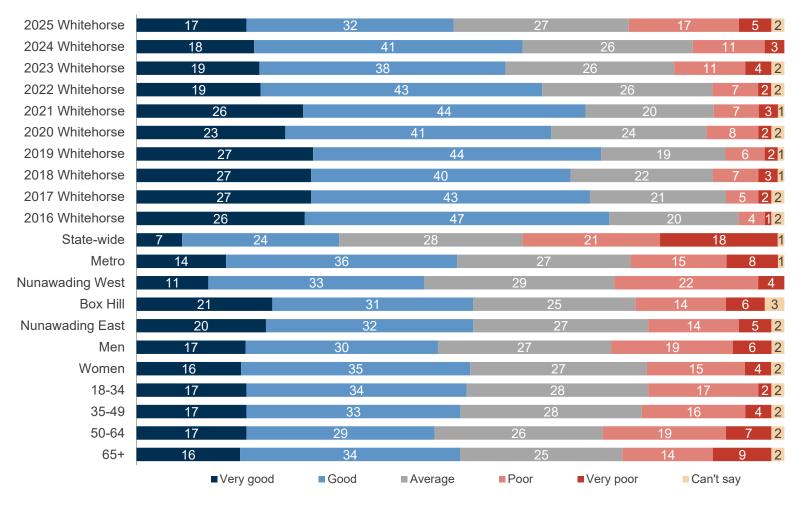


# The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





### 2025 sealed local roads performance (%)

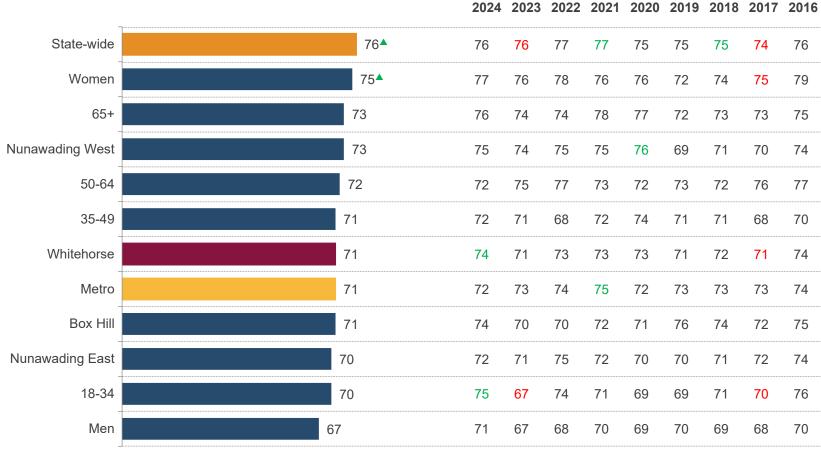


## Informing the community importance





#### 2025 informing community importance (index scores)

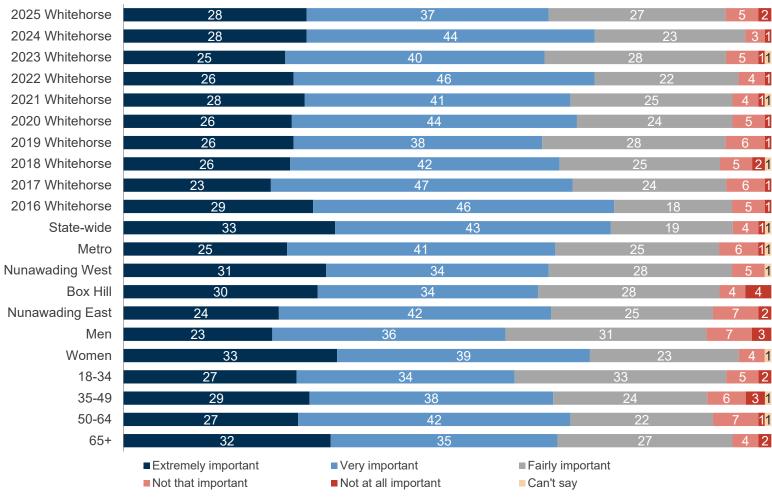


## Informing the community importance





#### 2025 informing community importance (%)



## Informing the community performance





#### 2025 informing community performance (index scores)

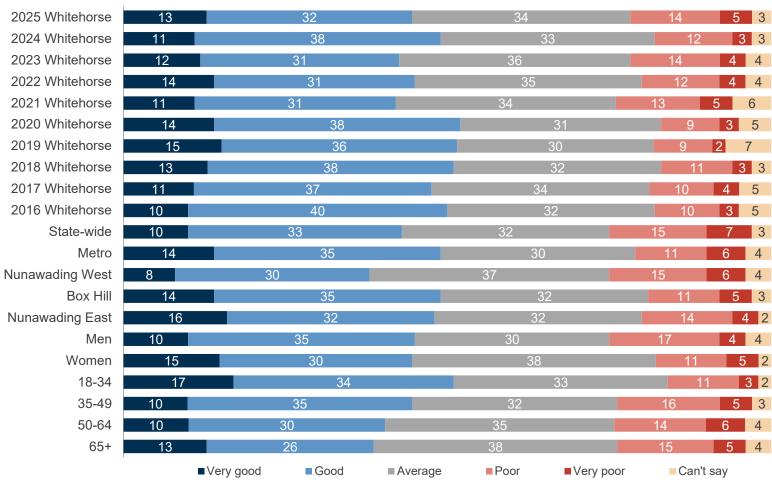


## Informing the community performance





### 2025 informing community performance (%)



## **Enforcement of local laws importance**





#### 2025 law enforcement importance (index scores)

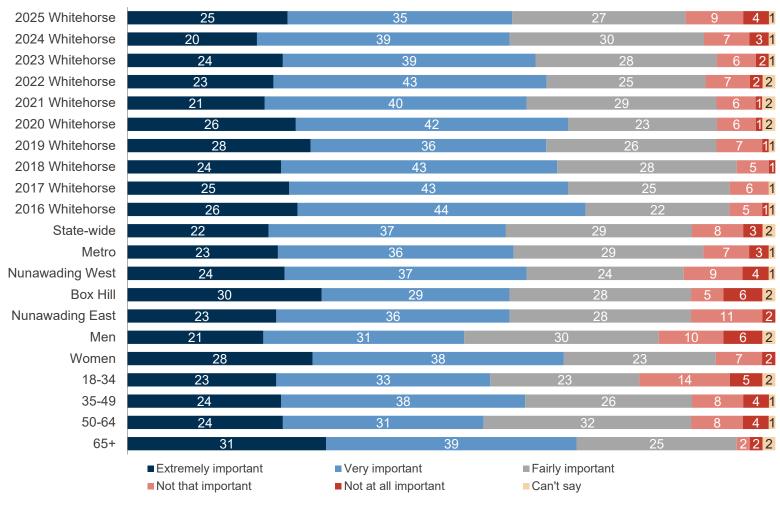


## **Enforcement of local laws importance**





#### 2025 law enforcement importance (%)

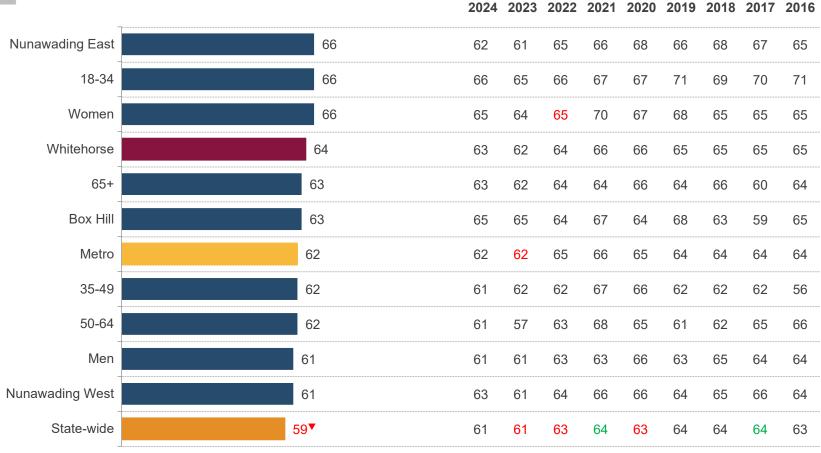


## **Enforcement of local laws performance**





#### 2025 law enforcement performance (index scores)

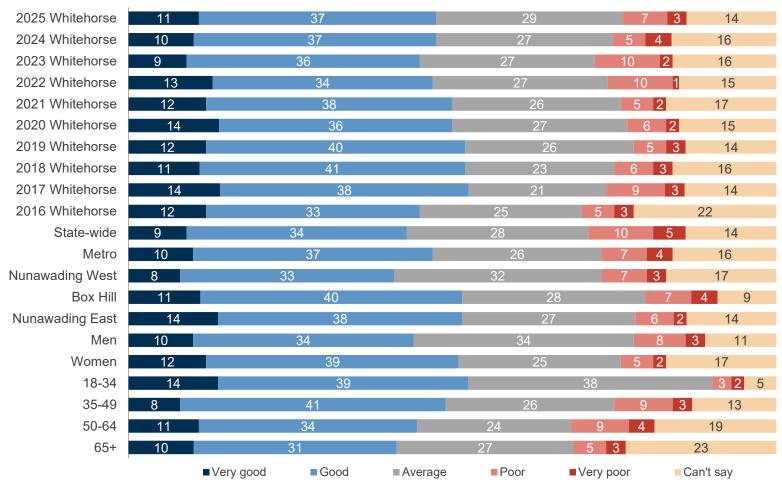


## **Enforcement of local laws performance**





#### 2025 law enforcement performance (%)



## Family support services importance





#### 2025 family support importance (index scores)

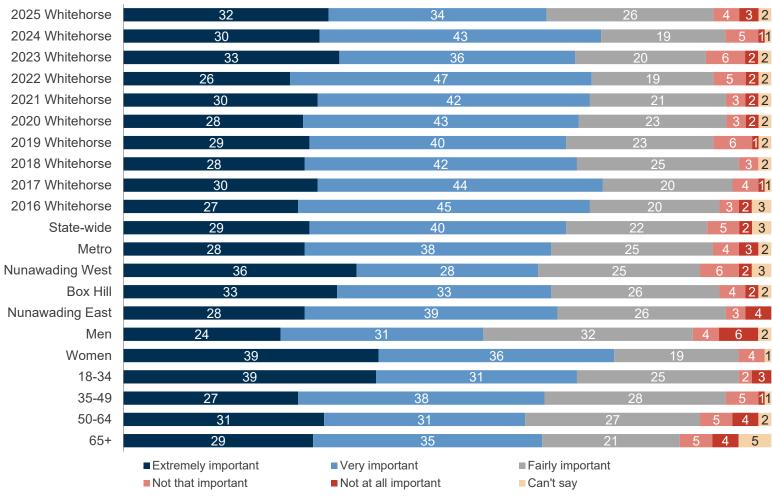


## Family support services importance





#### 2025 family support importance (%)



## Family support services performance





#### 2025 family support performance (index scores)

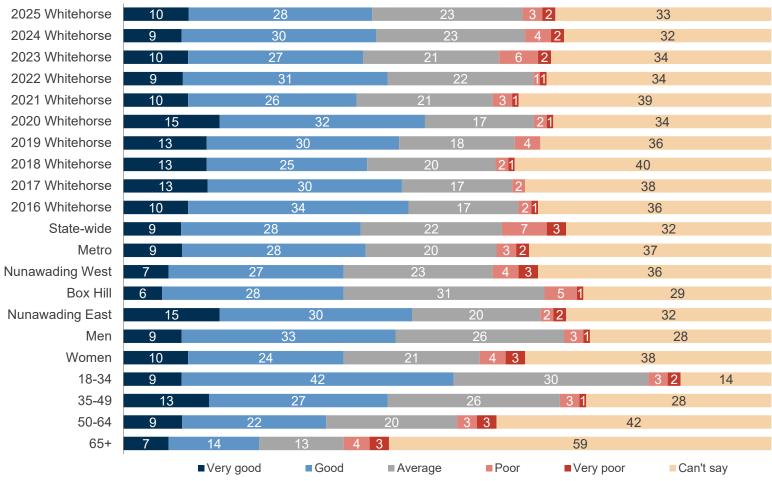


## Family support services performance





#### 2025 family support performance (%)



# **Recreational facilities importance**





#### 2025 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

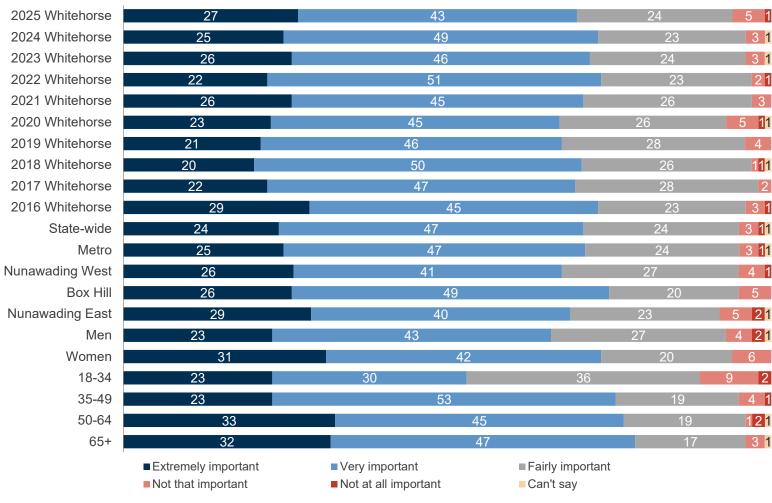


## Recreational facilities importance





#### 2025 recreational facilities importance (%)



# Recreational facilities performance





#### 2025 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

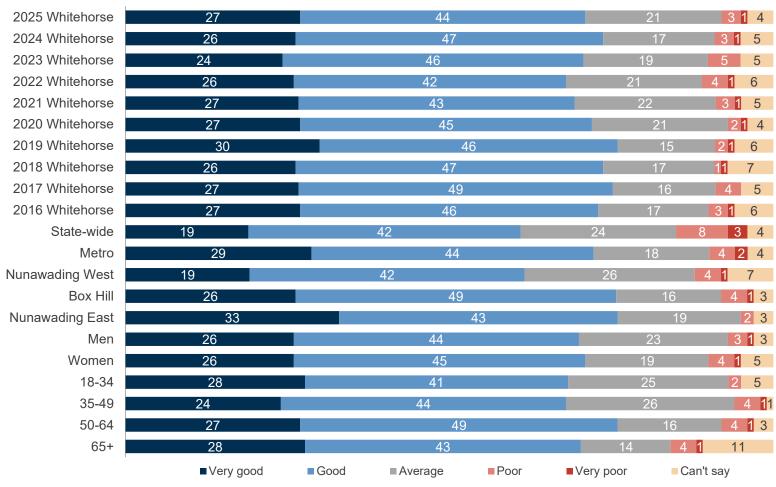


### **Recreational facilities performance**





#### 2025 recreational facilities performance (%)



## The appearance of public areas importance





#### 2025 public areas importance (index scores)

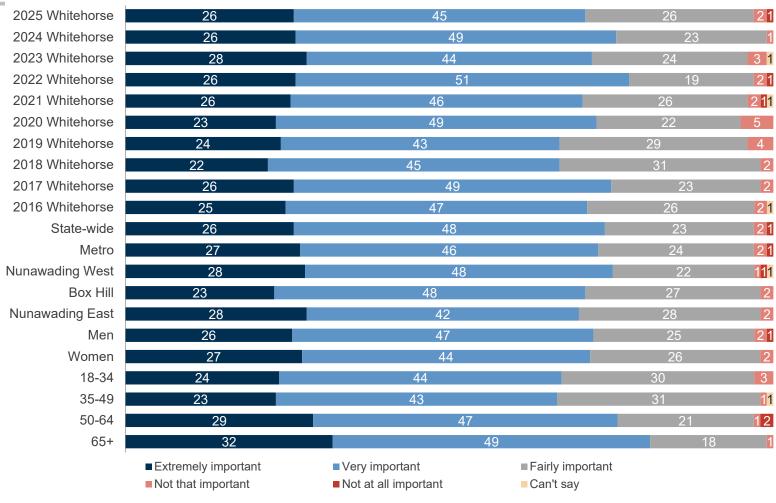


## The appearance of public areas importance





#### 2025 public areas importance (%)

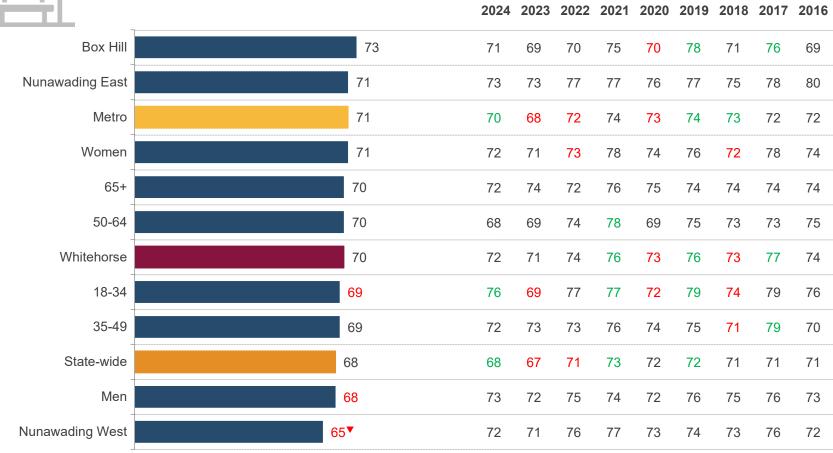


## The appearance of public areas performance





#### 2025 public areas performance (index scores)

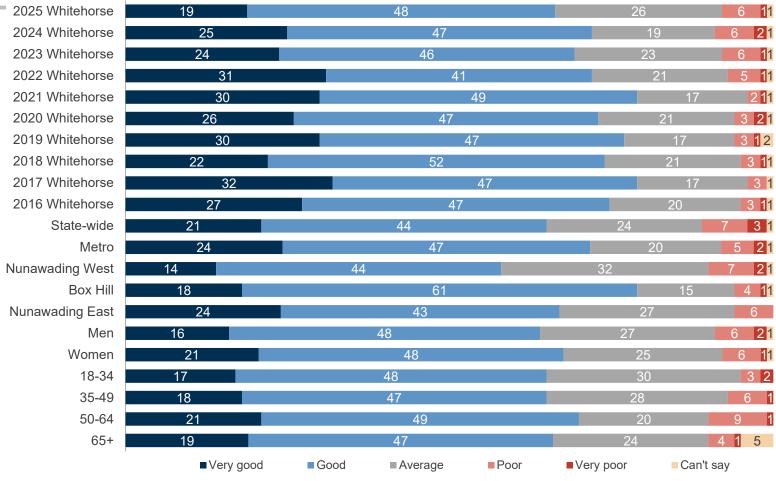


## The appearance of public areas performance





#### 2025 public areas performance (%)

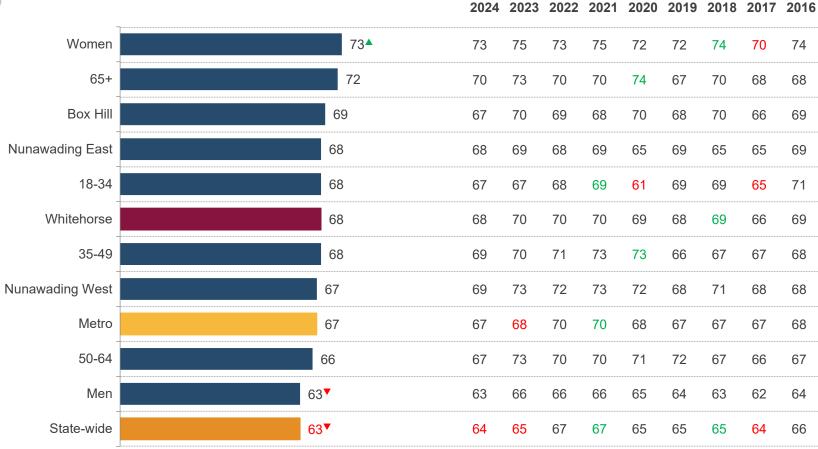


## **Art centres and libraries importance**





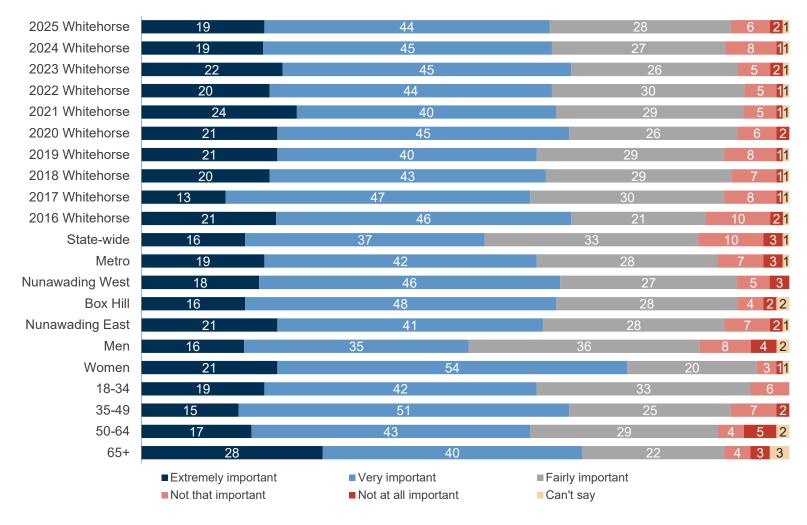
#### 2025 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)



## **Art centres and libraries importance**





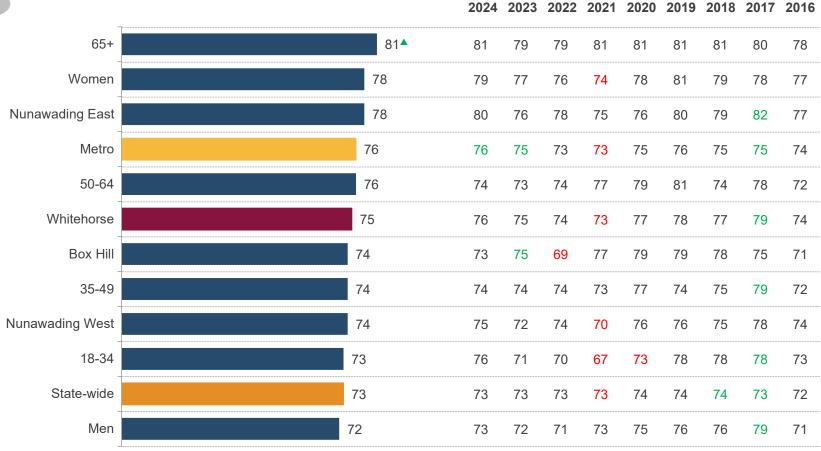


### Art centres and libraries performance





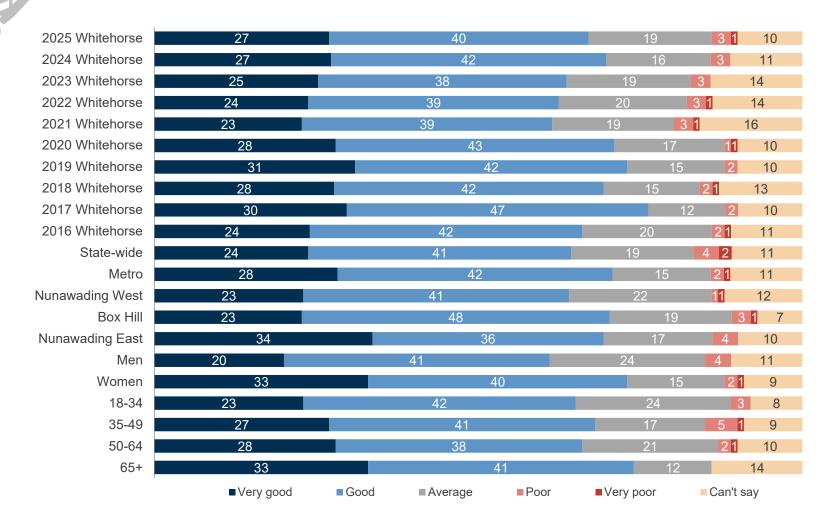
#### 2025 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)



## **Art centres and libraries performance**



#### 2025 art centres and libraries performance (%)

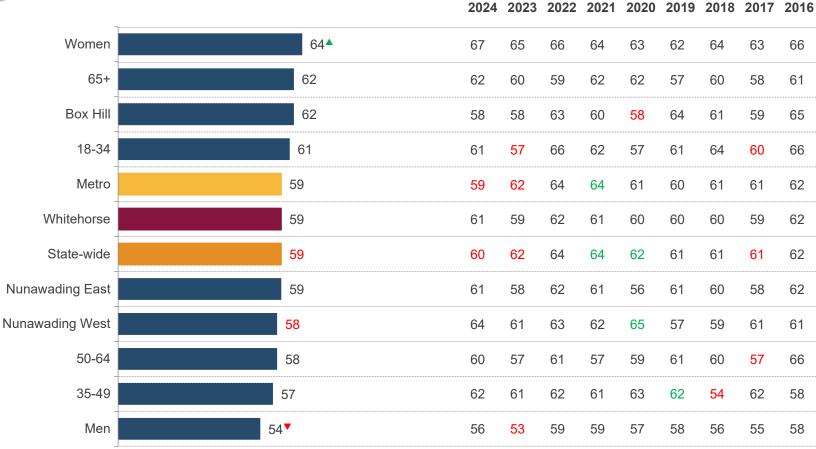


## Community and cultural activities importance





#### 2025 community and cultural activities importance (index scores)

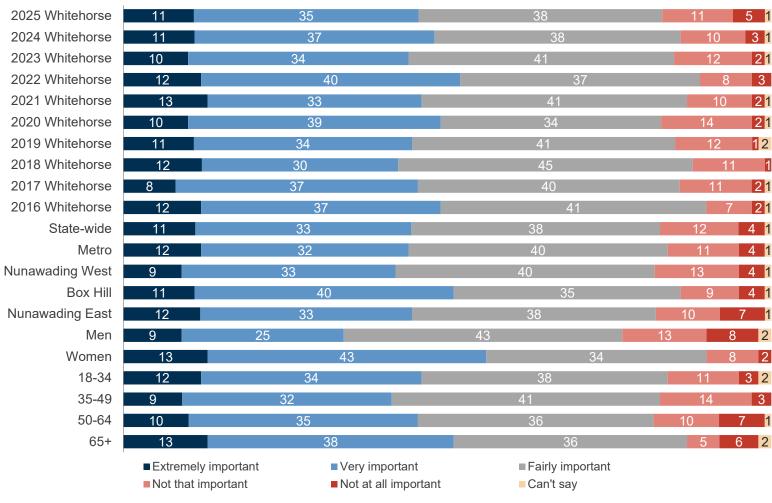


# Community and cultural activities importance





#### 2025 community and cultural activities importance (%)



### Community and cultural activities performance





#### 2025 community and cultural activities performance (index scores)

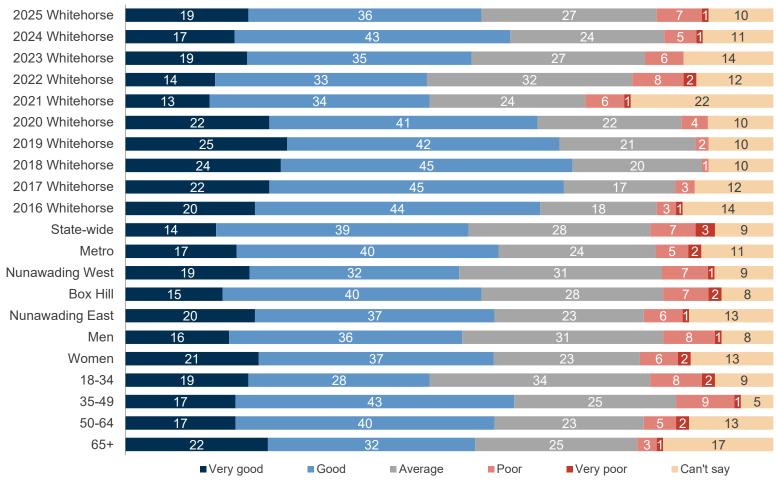


## Community and cultural activities performance





#### 2025 community and cultural activities performance (%)

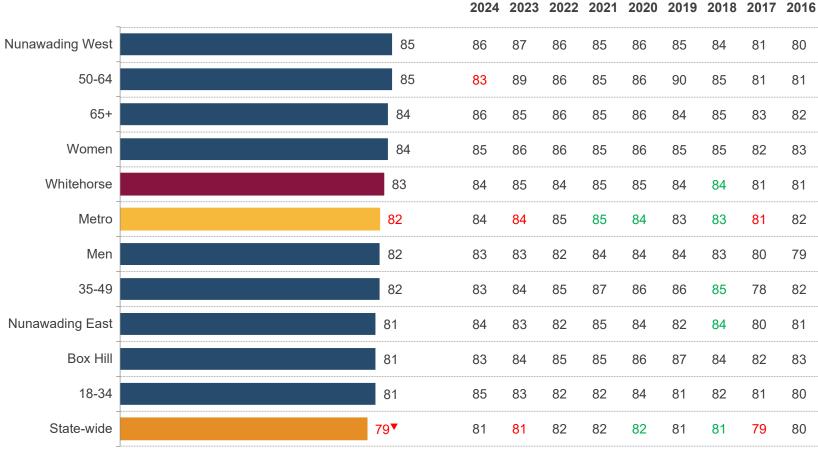


# **Waste management importance**





#### 2025 waste management importance (index scores)

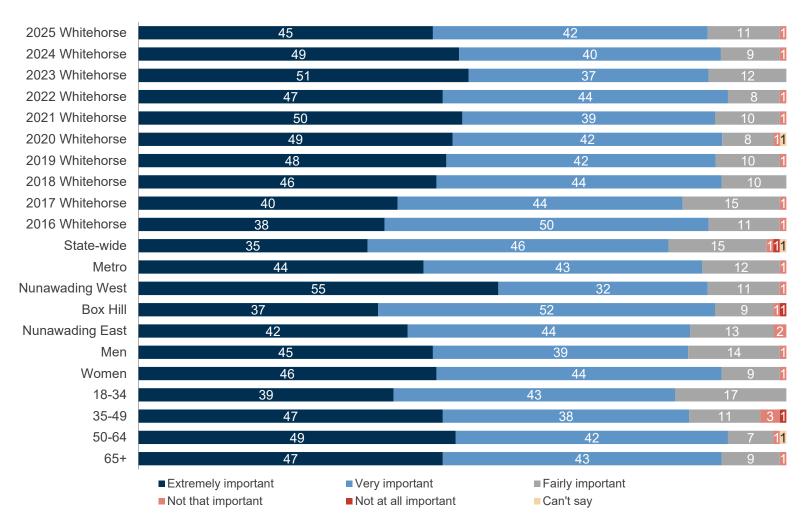


## **Waste management importance**





#### 2025 waste management importance (%)

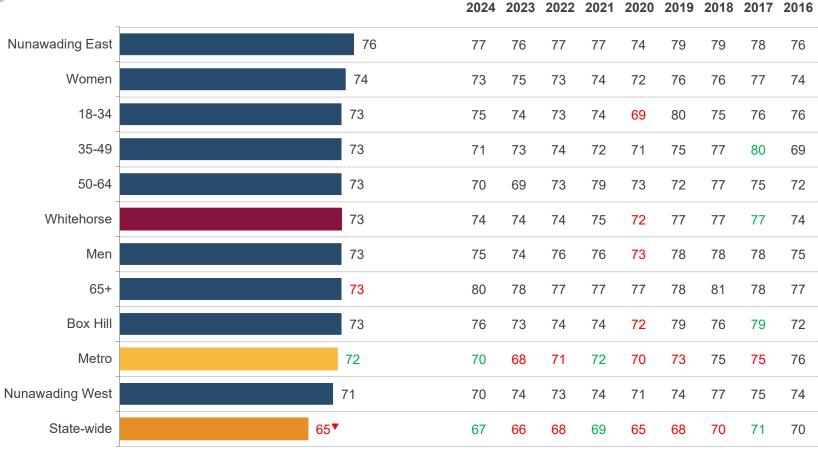


## **Waste management performance**





#### 2025 waste management performance (index scores)

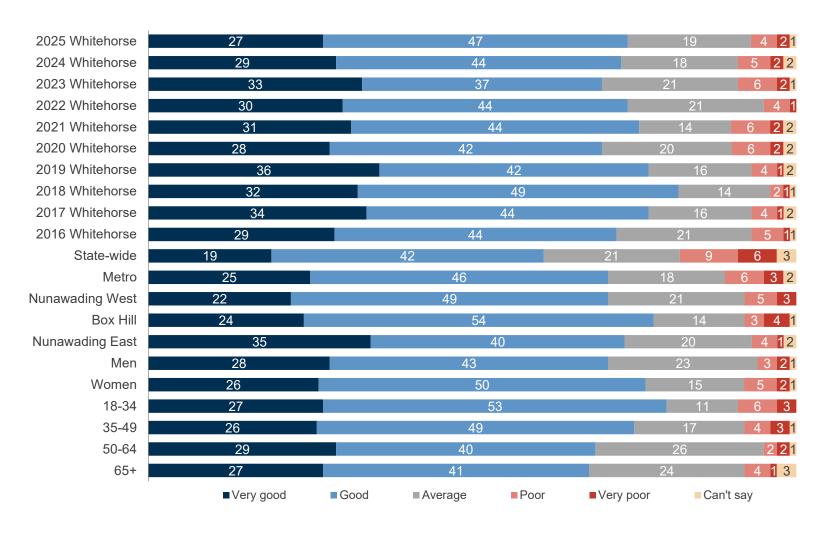


## **Waste management performance**





#### 2025 waste management performance (%)

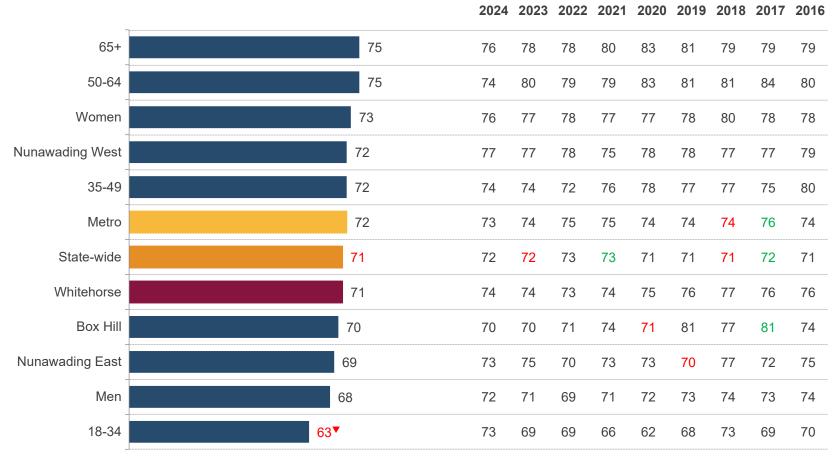


## Planning and building permits importance





#### 2025 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

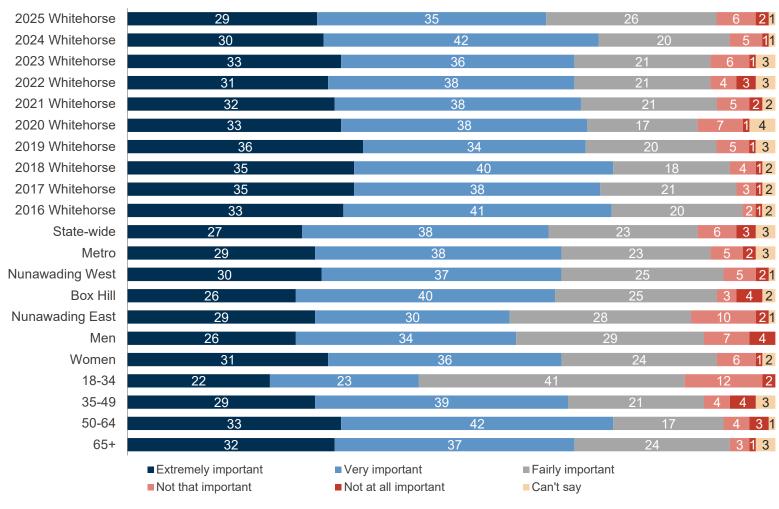


## Planning and building permits importance





#### 2025 planning and building permits importance (%)

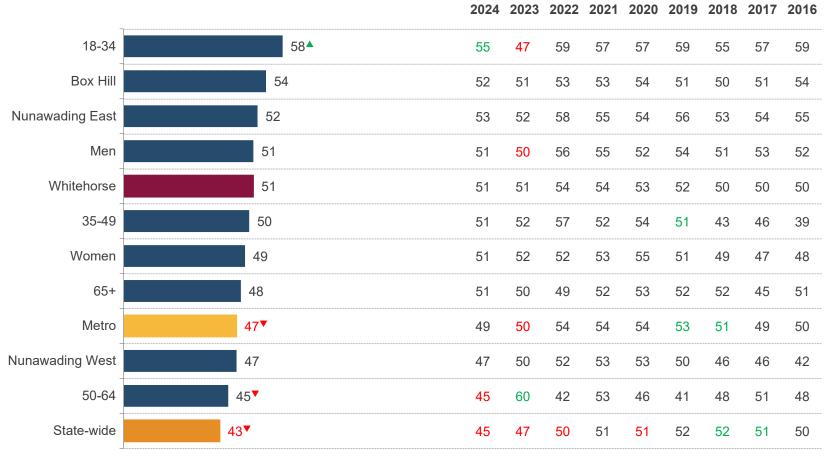


## Planning and building permits performance





#### 2025 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

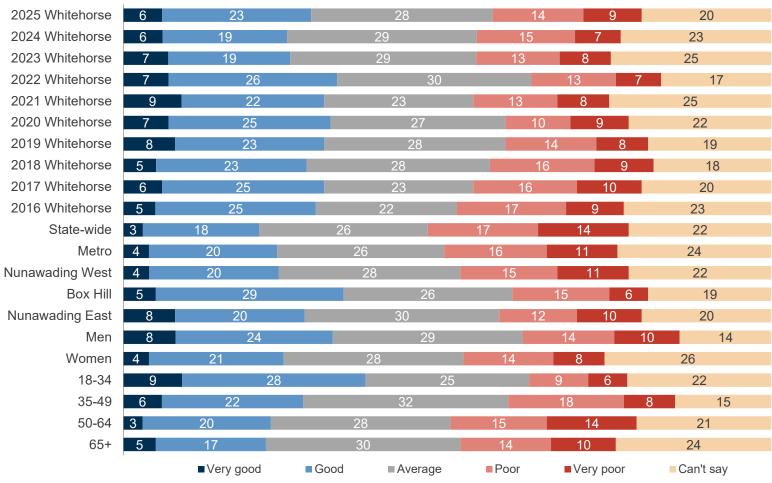


## Planning and building permits performance





#### 2025 planning and building permits performance (%)

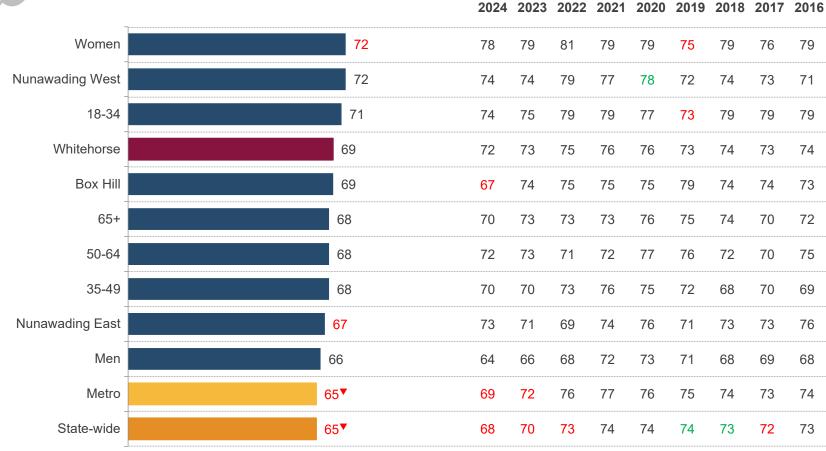


## **Environmental sustainability importance**





#### 2025 environmental sustainability importance (index scores)

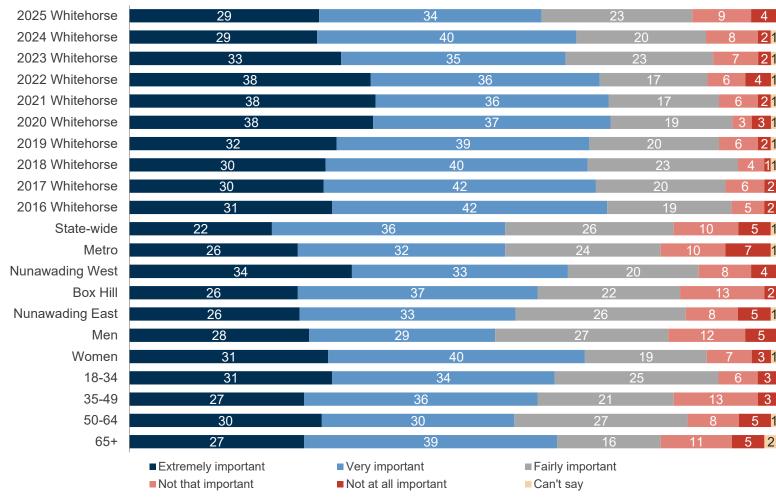


## **Environmental sustainability importance**





#### 2025 environmental sustainability importance (%)

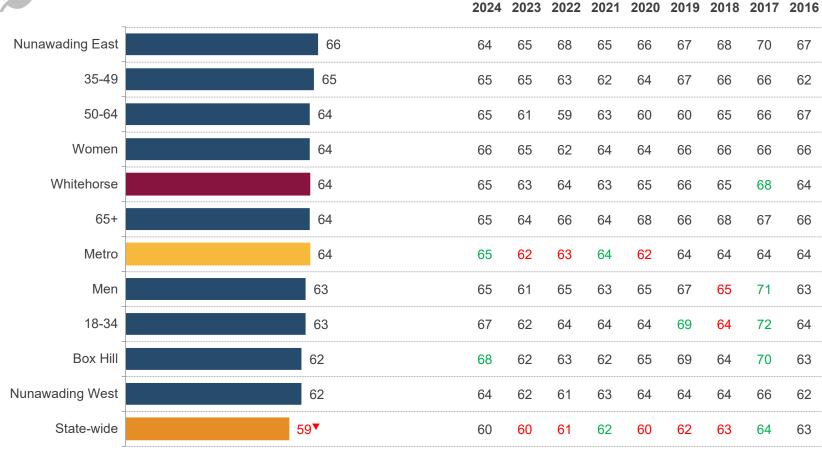


### **Environmental sustainability performance**





#### 2025 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

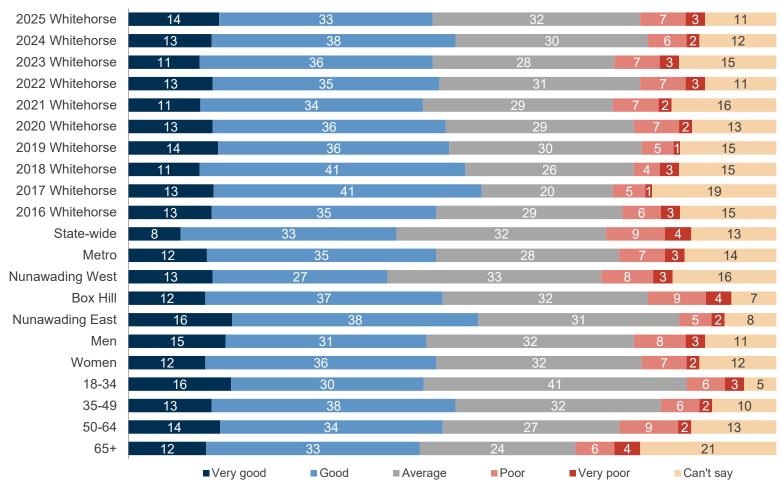


## **Environmental sustainability performance**





#### 2025 environmental sustainability performance (%)

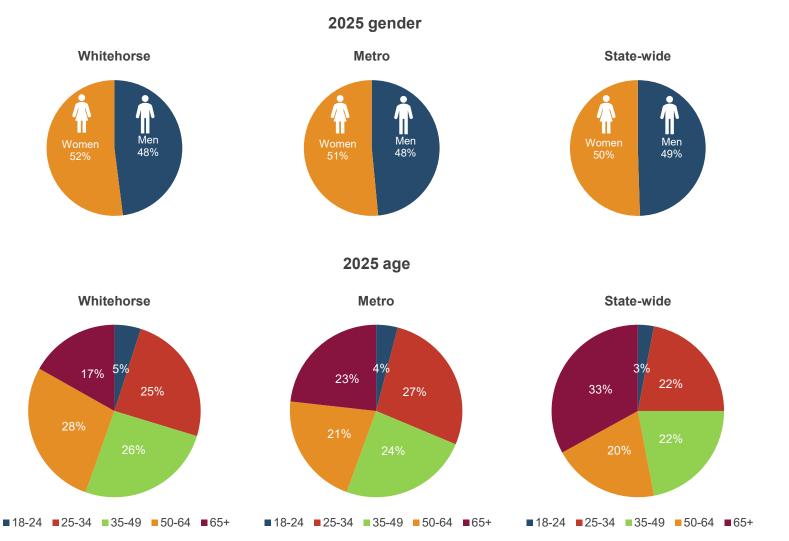




**Detailed demographics** 

## **Gender and age profile**





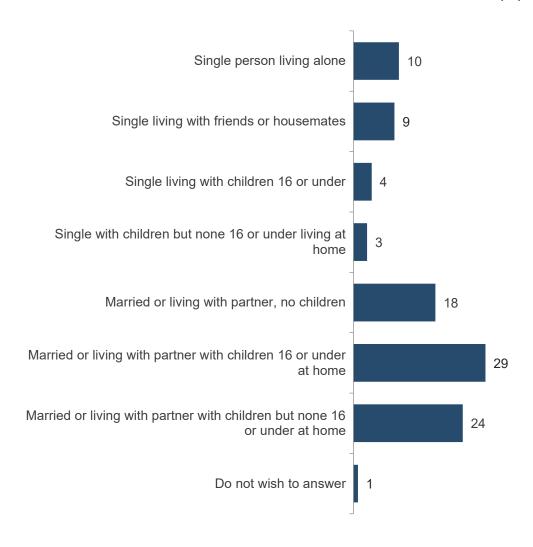
S3. How would you describe your gender? / S4. To which of the following age groups do you belong? Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 56 Councils asked group: 8

An "Other" option has been included for gender, hence the results may not add to 100%.

### **Household structure**



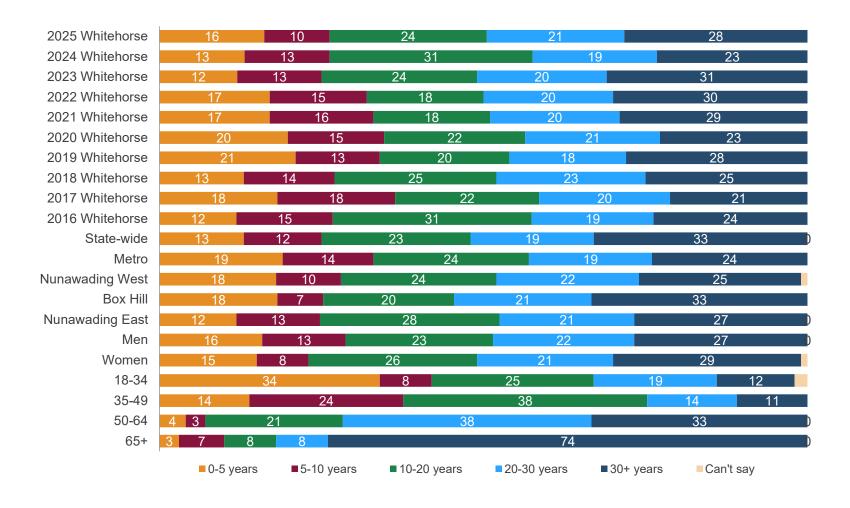
#### 2025 household structure (%)



### Years lived in area



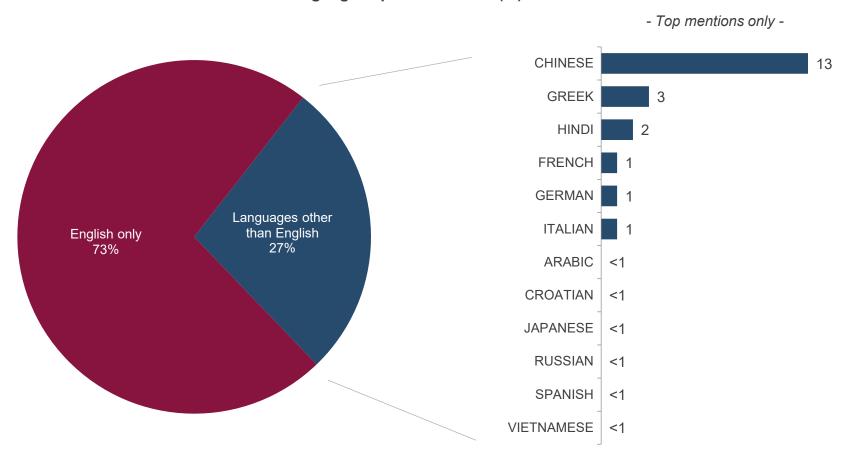
#### 2025 years lived in area (%)



#### Languages spoken at home



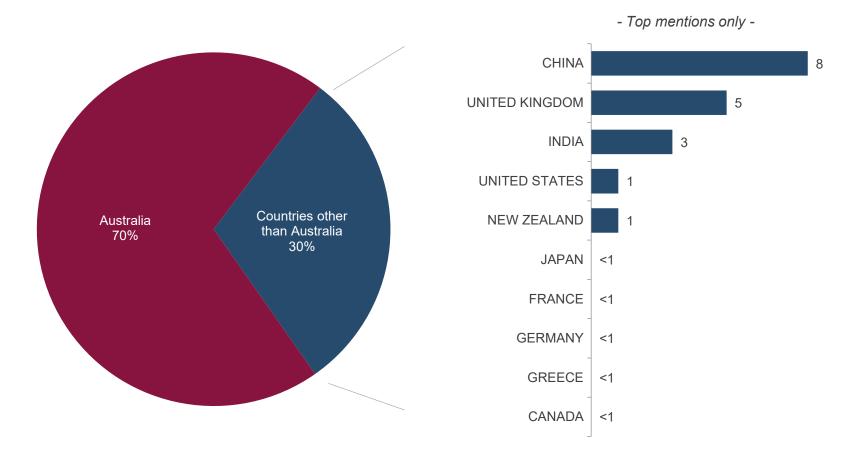
#### 2025 languages spoken at home (%)



#### **Country of birth**



#### 2025 country of birth (%)





## 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

Please note that the horizontal (x) axis of the index score bar charts in this report is displayed on a scale from 20 to 100.

# Appendix A: Margins of error



The sample size for the 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Whitehorse City Council was n=504. 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=504 interviews is +/-4.4% 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 45.6% - 54.4%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 137,400 people aged 18 years or over for Whitehorse City Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Whitehorse City Council	504	400	+/-4.4
Men	248	191	+/-6.2
Women	252	206	+/-6.2
Nunawading West	181	143	+/-7.3
Box Hill	132	101	+/-8.6
Nunawading East	191	157	+/-7.1
18-34 years	64	120	+/-12.3
35-49 years	150	102	+/-8.0
50-64 years	182	111	+/-7.3
65+ years	108	66	+/-9.5

#### **Appendix A:** Index score significant difference calculation



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

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

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

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

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

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Appendix B: Further project information

### Appendix B: Further information



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

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

#### **Detailed survey tabulations**

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

#### **Contacts**

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2025 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 2025 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2024, n=501 completed interviews, conducted across four guarters from 1st June 2023 – 18th March 2024.
- 2023, n=500 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 19th March.
- 2022, n=501 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January - 24th March.
- 2021, n=500 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=500 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=500 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.

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 Whitehorse City 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 Whitehorse City Council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Whitehorse City Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 73% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Whitehorse City Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=504 completed interviews were achieved in Whitehorse City Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted across four quarters from 20th June 2024 -16th March 2025.

# Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DGS website. In 2025, 56 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 2012-2025 vary slightly.

#### **Council Groups**

Whitehorse City Council is classified as a Metropolitan council according to the following classification list:

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

Councils participating in the Metropolitan group are:

 Boroondara, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Manningham, Maroondah, Melbourne, Stonnington and Whitehorse. Wherever appropriate, results for Whitehorse City Council for this 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Metropolitan 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:** 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 2025 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 2025 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

# W

#### Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2025 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: 2025 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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