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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-second 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 22 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 22 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.



Hindmarsh Shire Council – at a glance



Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Hindmarsh 61



State-wide 61



Small Rural 60

Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages

The three areas where Council performance is significantly higher by the widest margin



Appearance of public areas



Compared to State-wide average

Compared to group average

Waste management



Elderly support services



Building & planning permits

The three areas where Council

performance is significantly

lower



Sealed local roads



Unsealed roads



Waste management



Appearance of public areas



Lobbying

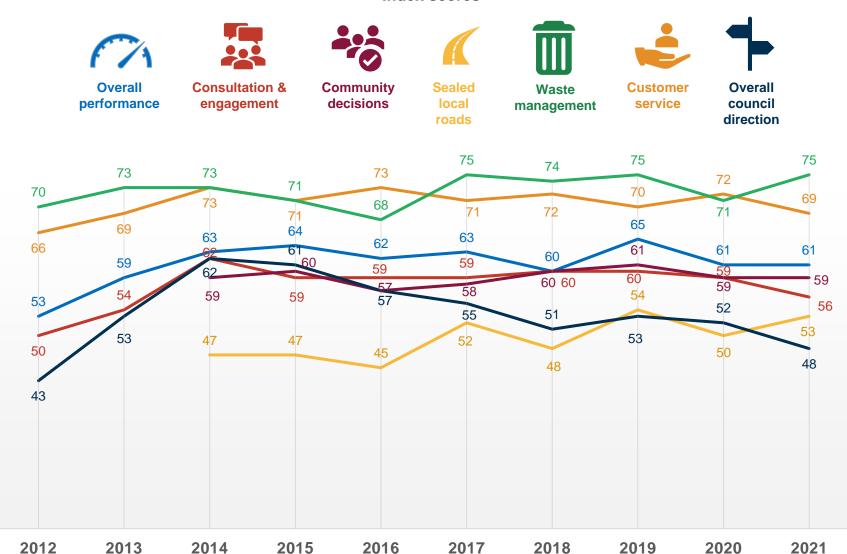


Building & planning permits

Summary of core measures



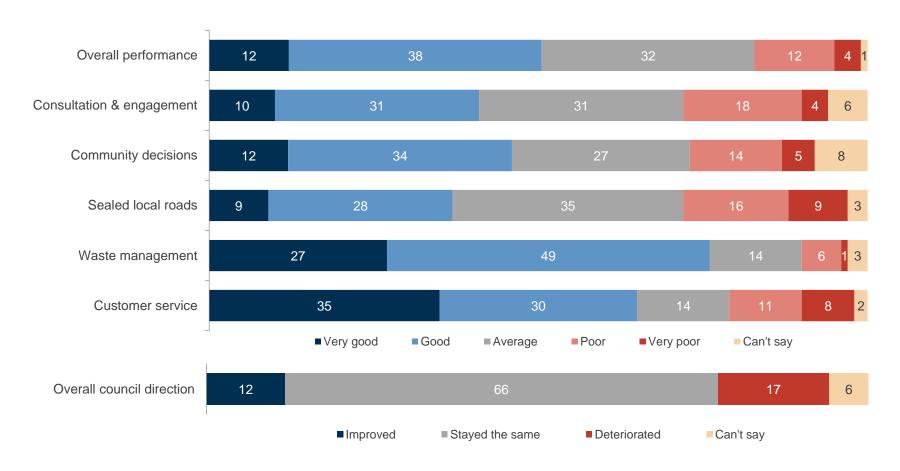
Index scores



Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Hindmarsh Shire Council performance



Servio	ees	Hindmarsh 2021	Hindmarsh 2020	Small Rural 2021	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
<i>(</i> %	Overall performance	61	61	60	61	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
\$	Value for money	55	-	52	54	Aged 65+ years, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
+	Overall council direction	48	52	53	53	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
÷	Customer service	69	72	69	70	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	79	79	75	73	West Ward residents	East Ward residents
	Waste management	75	71	68	69	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Elderly support services	74	74	72	69	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
外	Recreational facilities	70	71	69	71	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Enforcement of local laws	65	66	63	64	Aged 18-34 years	North Ward residents
	Bus/community dev./tourism	62	61	62	61	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years

Summary of Hindmarsh Shire Council performance



Servi	ces	Hindmarsh 2021	Hindmarsh 2020	Small Rural 2021	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
full.	Local streets & footpaths	60	61	58	59	North Ward residents	Aged 35-49 years
	Informing the community	59	59	61	60	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
***	Community decisions	59	59	56	56	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
<u>. 1</u>	Lobbying	59	61	55	55	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Consultation & engagement	56	59	56	56	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
A	Sealed local roads	53	50	53	57	East Ward residents	Aged 18-34 years
1	Slashing & weed control	50	50	49	51	Aged 18-34 years	East Ward residents
	Building & planning permits	45	52	49	51	East Ward residents, Women	Men, West Ward residents
	Unsealed roads	42	42	44	45	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of Council performance are largely in line with 2020 results – both on overall performance and the individual service areas evaluated. There are only a few exceptions: perceptions of waste management increased significantly from 2020, whereas perceptions of Council's overall direction and planning and building permits declined significantly.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Council's ability to make decisions in the community's best interests and advocate on behalf of residents are the two measures that have the strongest positive influence on overall impressions. Council currently performs average relative to other measures on both. Good communication and transparency with residents, particularly around issues pertaining to planning and building permits and unsealed road maintenance, will have the strongest positive affect on overall opinions moving forward.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Council performs in line with or significantly higher than Small Rural group and State-wide averages on almost all measures. The exceptions are building and planning permits, where Council performs significantly lower than group and State-wide averages and sealed and unsealed local roads, where Council performs significantly lower than the State-wide average.

Consolidate gains over time

Significant declines in perceptions seen last year have not continued into 2021. There is an opportunity to now consolidate and build upon perceptions in the year ahead. Council should focus on unsealed and sealed roads, and planning and building permits. Unsealed roads and planning and building permits comprise the lowest rated service areas, and perceptions declined significantly on building and planning permits in the past year. All three measures have a moderate influence on overall impressions.

DETAILED FINDINGS





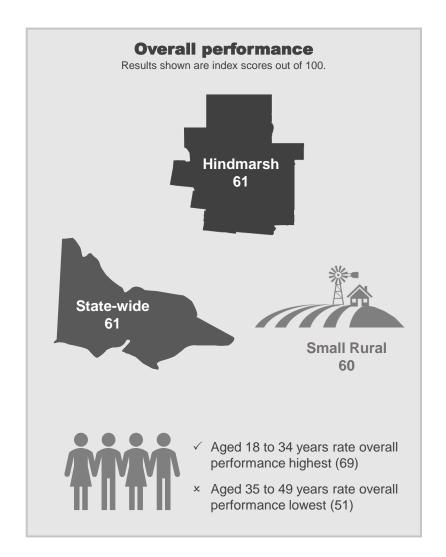
The overall performance index score of 61 for Hindmarsh Shire Council is unchanged from 2020.

 Council has not been able to recover the significant decline in ratings seen last year, following the peak performance achieved in 2019 (index score of 65).

Hindmarsh Shire Council's overall performance is rated similar to the Small Rural group and State-wide averages for councils (index scores of 60 and 61 respectively).

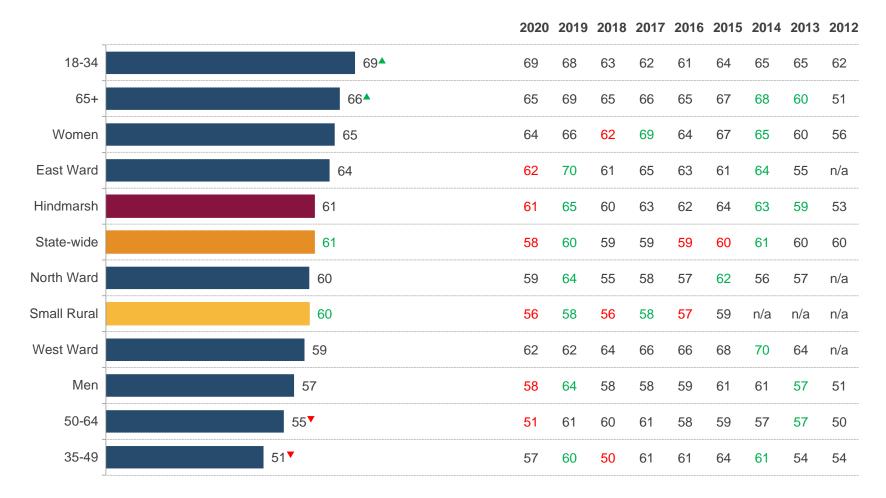
- Residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 69) and 65+ years (index score of 66) rate overall performance significantly higher (at the 95% confidence level) than the Council average.
- Conversely, residents aged 35 to 49 and 50 to 64 years rate Council significantly lower than average (index scores of 51 and 55 respectively).

Two in five residents (41%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services as 'very good' or 'good'. This is almost twice as many as those who rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (23%). A further 33% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.



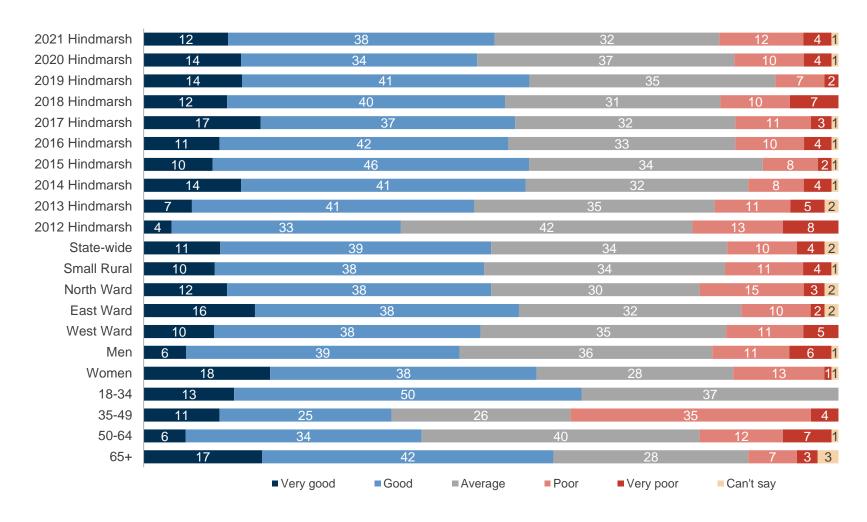


2021 overall performance (index scores)





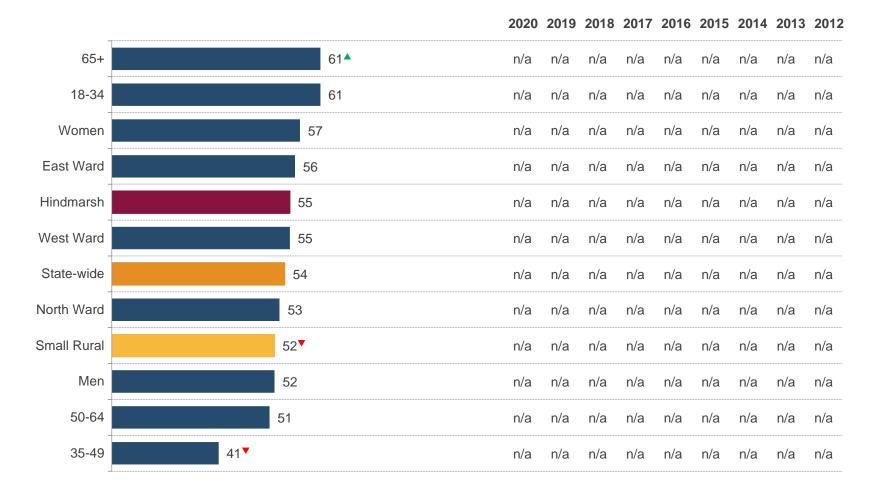
2021 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



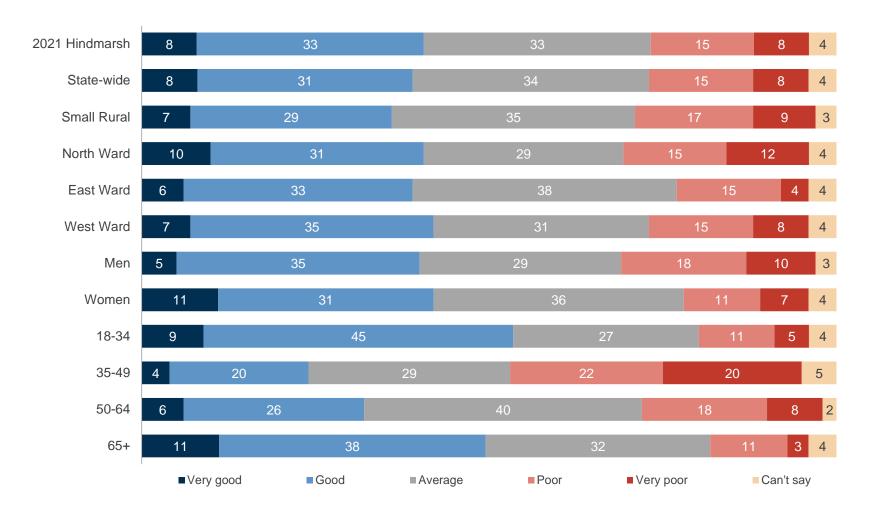
2021 value for money (index scores)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2021 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

Appearance of public areas (index score of 79, unchanged from 2020) is the area where Council performed best in 2021. Council has maintained peak performance in this area since 2017.

- Residents in the West Ward (index score of 85) are significantly more positive here. Should improvements be planned, these should first be focused in other areas.
- More than one in ten residents (13%) volunteer parks and gardens as the best thing about the area.

Waste management is Council's next highest rated service area (index score of 75, up a significant four points).

Notably, on these two top performing services areas, Council is rated significantly higher than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages.

Elderly support services (74) is Council's next highest service area. Positively, ratings are significantly higher than average among residents aged 65+ years (79).

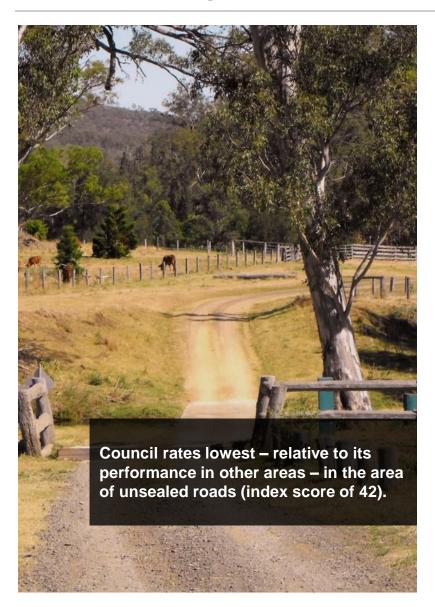
Recreational facilities (index score of 70) is also rated highly relative to other areas.

- Residents in the East Ward rate recreational facilities significantly higher than average (index score of 75).
- Recreational facilities has a moderate influence on the overall performance rating and so council should look to maintain this positive result.



Low performing service areas





Council's performance ratings declined significantly in just one area – planning and building permits (index score of 45, down seven points to a new low).

- Residents aged 18 to 34 years (down 15 points), men, and North and West Ward residents (down 11 each), declined significantly in their impressions of planning and building permits.
- Council rates significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages on this measure (index scores of 49 and 51 respectively).

Council rates lowest – relative to its performance in other areas – in the area of maintenance of unsealed roads (index score of 42). One in ten (11%) volunteer unsealed roads as a Council area in need of improvement.

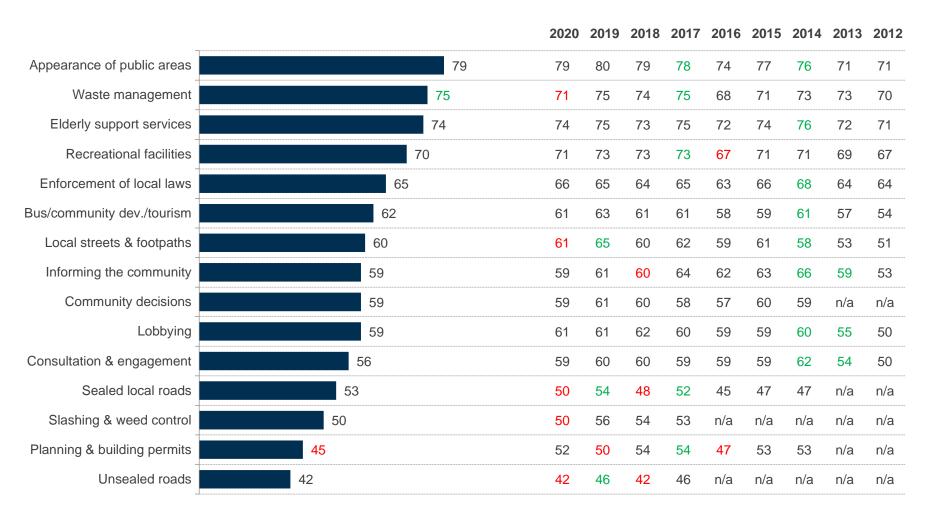
Large gaps exist between perceived importance and Council performance in both the areas of unsealed roads (-41 points) and planning and building permits (-22 points). Sealed local roads is equally problematic with a 30-point gap between perceived importance and performance and 17% of residents volunteering sealed road maintenance as an area in need of improvement.

Unsealed roads, and planning and building permits, also have a moderate influence on overall performance and so Council should ensure ratings do not decline further.
 J W S R E S E A R C H

Individual service area performance



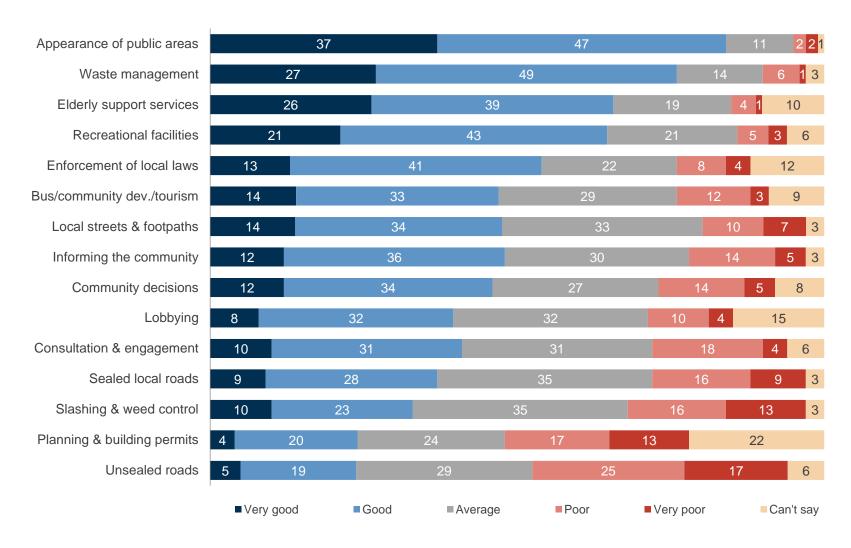
2021 individual service area performance (index scores)



Individual service area performance



2021 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



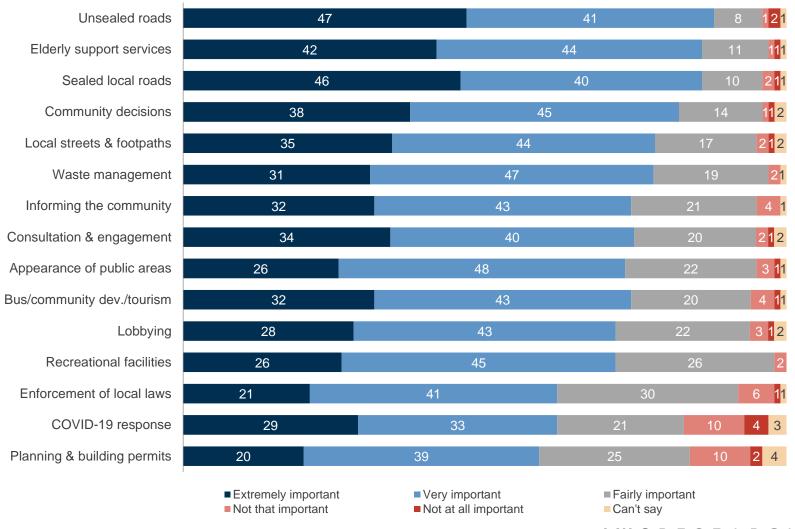
2021 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



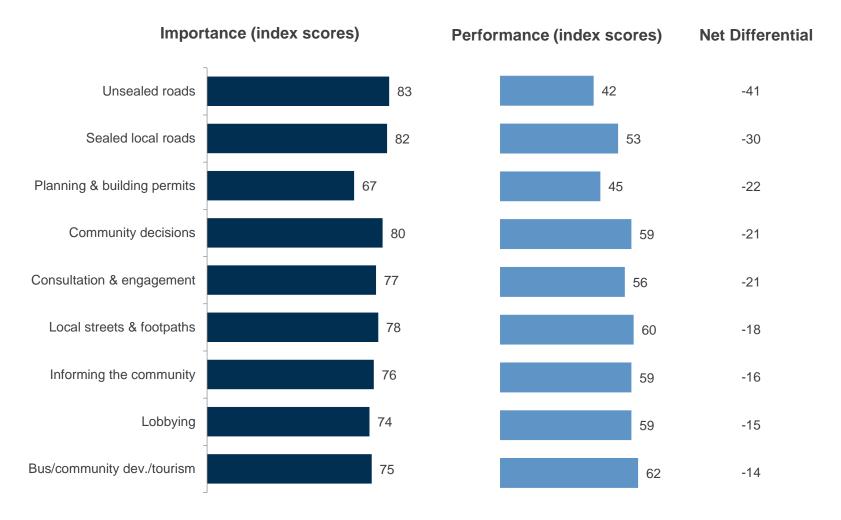
2021 individual service area importance (%)



Individual service areas importance vs performance



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



Influences on perceptions of overall performance



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

· Decisions made in the interest of the community.

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

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

- Lobbying on behalf of the community
- Recreational facilities
- Planning and building permits
- Condition of sealed local roads
- Community consultation and engagement
- Informing the community.

Looking at these key service areas only, recreational facilities has a high performance index (70) and a moderate positive influence on the overall performance rating. Maintaining this positive result should remain a focus but there is greater work to be done elsewhere.

Other service areas that have a positive influence on overall perceptions, but perform less well, are the condition of sealed local roads and Council's community consultation, lobbying, and informing the community (performance index of 53, 56, 59 and 59 respectively).

Attending to the condition of sealed local roads and ensuring that Council informs, consults and defends the interests of local residents can also help shore up positive opinion of Council.

However, most in need of attention is the maintenance of unsealed roads and planning and building permits, which are poorly rated (performance index of 42 and 45 respectively) and have a moderate influence on overall performance ratings.

It will be important to address resident concerns about the condition of unsealed roads and Council's approach to planning and building permits to help improve overall ratings of Council.

Regression analysis explained



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

In the charts that follow:

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

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

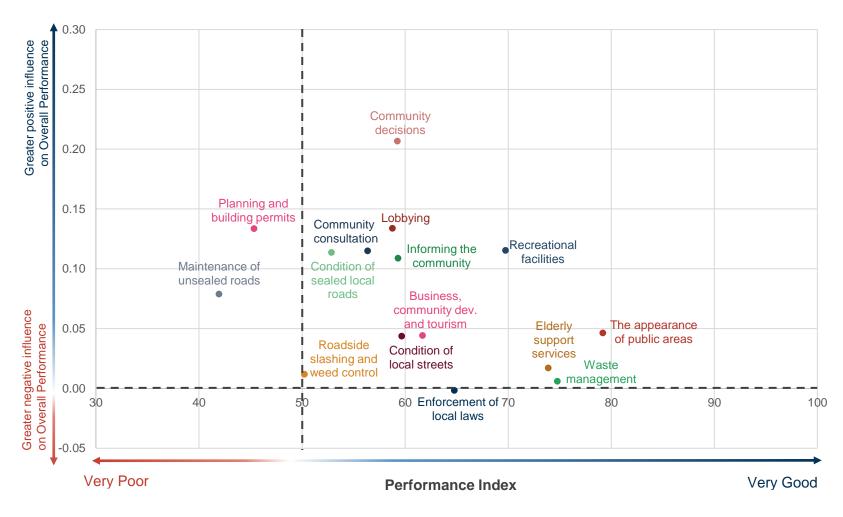
- The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of all individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas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



2021 regression analysis (all service areas)

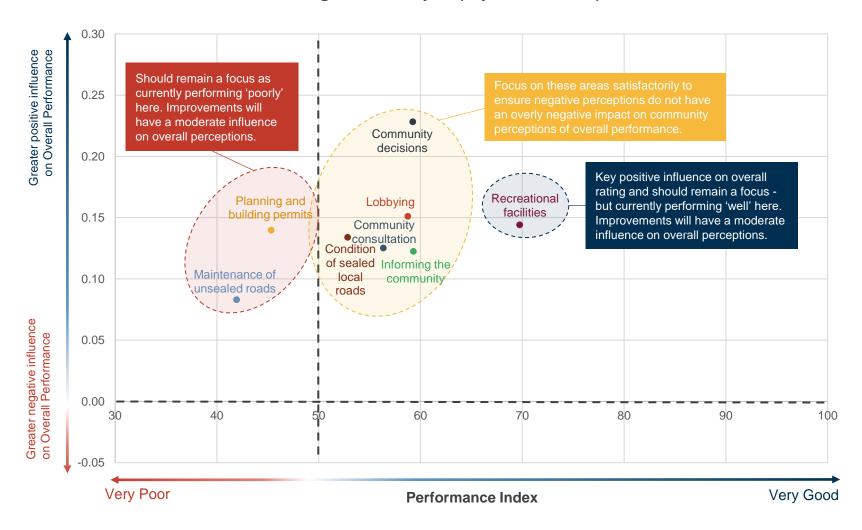


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.626 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.611, which means that 63% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 42.84. This model should be interpreted with some caution as some data is not normally distributed and not all service areas have linear correlations.

Influence on overall performance: key service areas

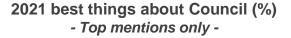


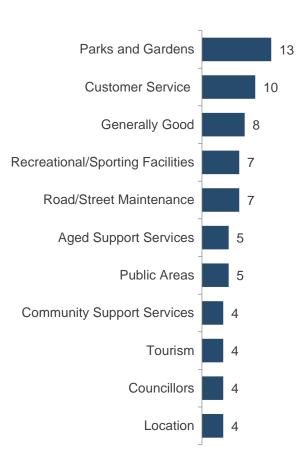
2021 regression analysis (key service areas)



Best things about Council and areas for improvement







2021 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -



Q16. Please tell me what is the ONE BEST thing about Hindmarsh Shire Council? It could be about any of the issues or services we have covered in this survey or it could be about something else altogether?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 28 Councils asked group: 9



Customer service

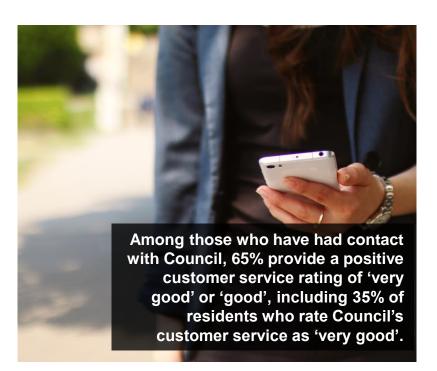
Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Three in five Council residents (59%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact is down five percentage points from 2020.

- Residents aged 35 to 49 years (76%), who rate
 Council lowest on most measures, had significantly more contact with Council than residents overall.
- Conversely, rate of contact among residents aged 18 to 34 years (43%) is significantly lower than average.



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 69 is down slightly (three points) from 2020. Although this is not a statistically significant decline, Council's customer service rating is at its lowest point since 2012, following a run of scores in the low 70s over the past seven years. Council should look to ensure perceptions do not decline further.

 Notwithstanding this, customer service is rated in line with Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 69 and 70 respectively).

Among those residents who have had contact with Council, 65% provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'.

- Perceptions of customer service are higher in the East and West wards (index scores of 74 and 70 respectively) than in the North (index score of 63).
- Additionally, customer service ratings are lowest among residents aged 35 to 49 years (index score of 59, down a significant 12 points). This group have the highest rate of contact with Council and so extra attention may be required here.

Contact with council



2021 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



2021 contact with council (%)

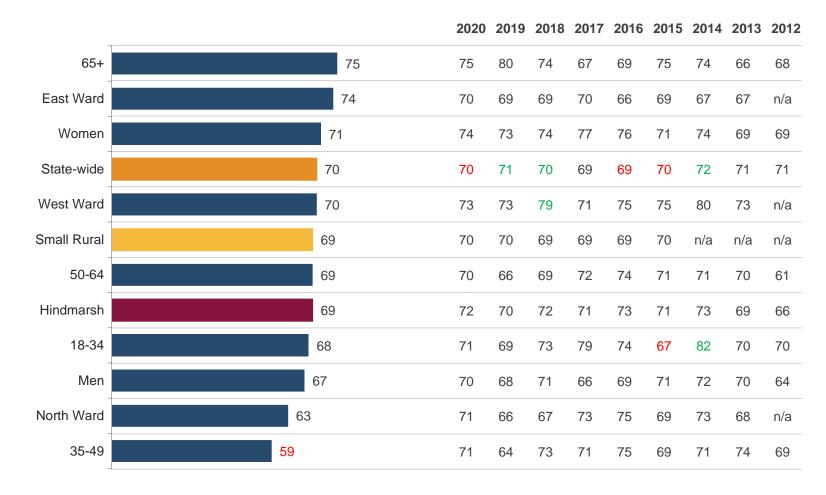


Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Hindmarsh Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Customer service rating



2021 customer service rating (index scores)

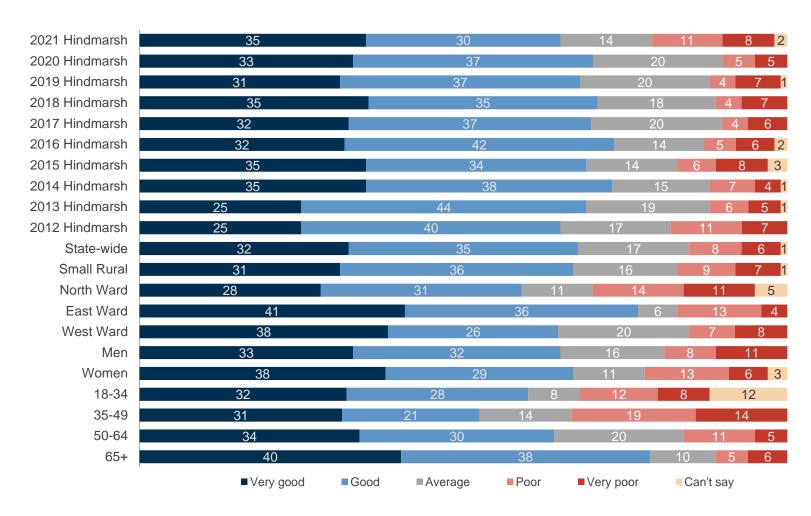


Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Hindmarsh Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked state-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Customer service rating



2021 customer service rating (%)





Council direction

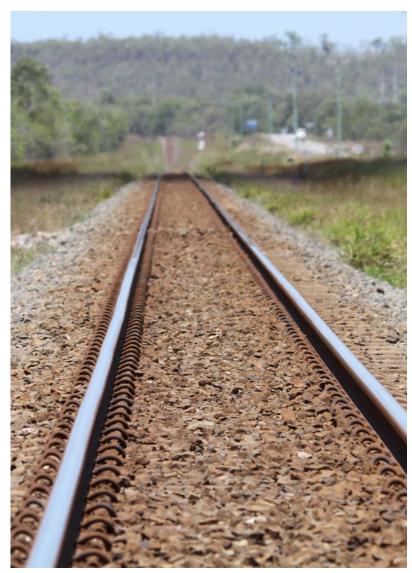
Perceptions of Council's overall direction have declined significantly by four points to an index score of 48. Ratings have been declining steadily across a number of years from a peak index score of 62 in 2014.

Over the last 12 months, 66% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has remained the same, similar to 2020 results (63%).

- 12% believe the direction has improved, down six points on 2020.
- 17% believe it has deteriorated, up two points on 2020.
- The most satisfied with Council direction are those aged 18 to 34 years, despite declining significantly in their impressions of Council direction.
- The least satisfied with Council direction are those aged 35 to 49 years.

Most residents believe Council is generally heading in the 'right' direction (58%) compared to 28% who think Council is heading in the 'wrong' direction.

To improve local services, residents are more likely to prefer service cuts (46%) over a rate rise (33%), with 21% undecided.



Overall council direction last 12 months



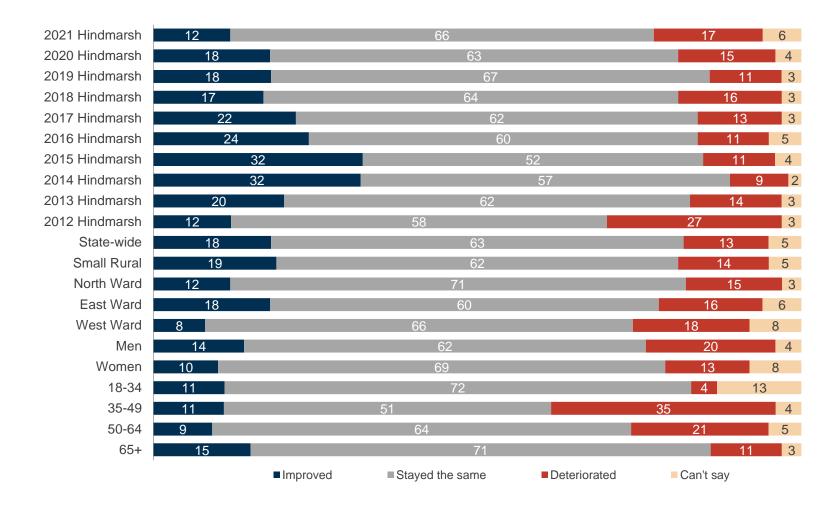
2021 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



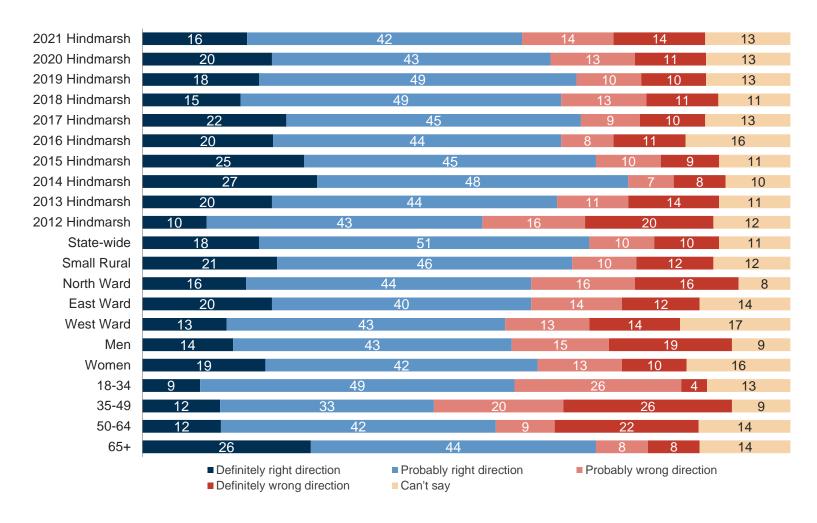
2021 overall council direction (%)



Right / wrong direction



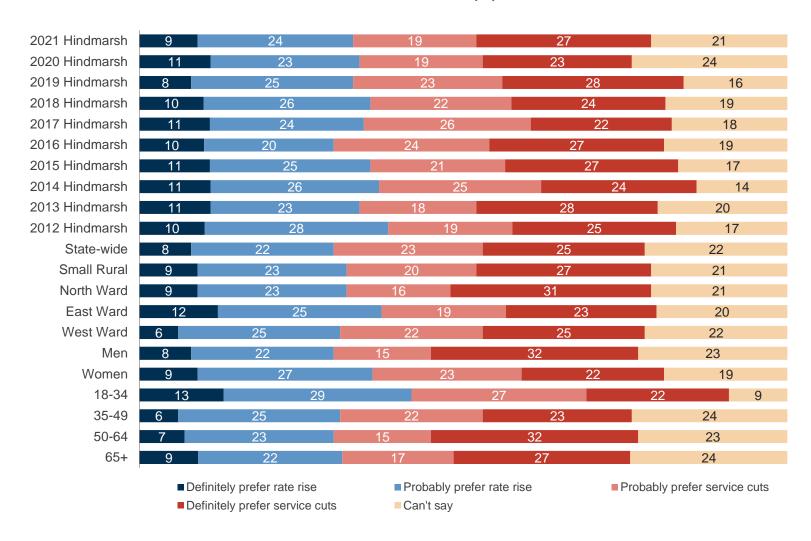
2021 right / wrong direction (%)



Rates / services trade-off



2021 rates / services trade-off (%)





Community consultation and engagement importance





2021 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

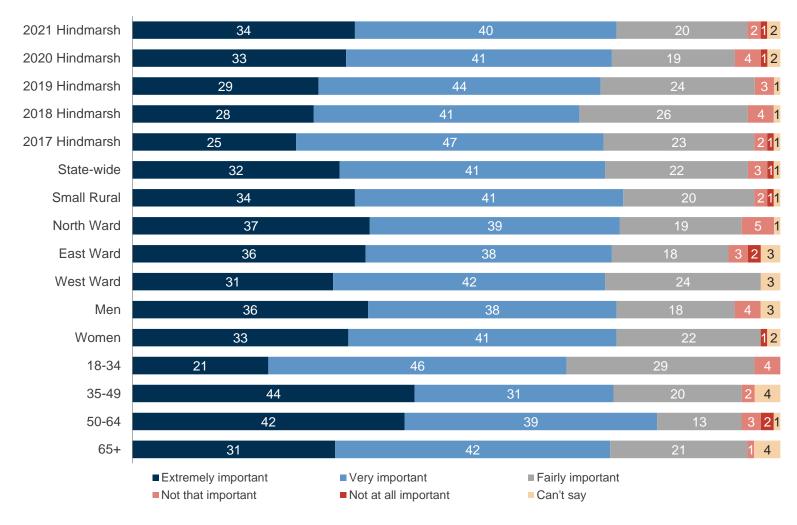


Community consultation and engagement importance





2021 consultation and engagement importance (%)



Community consultation and engagement performance





2021 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

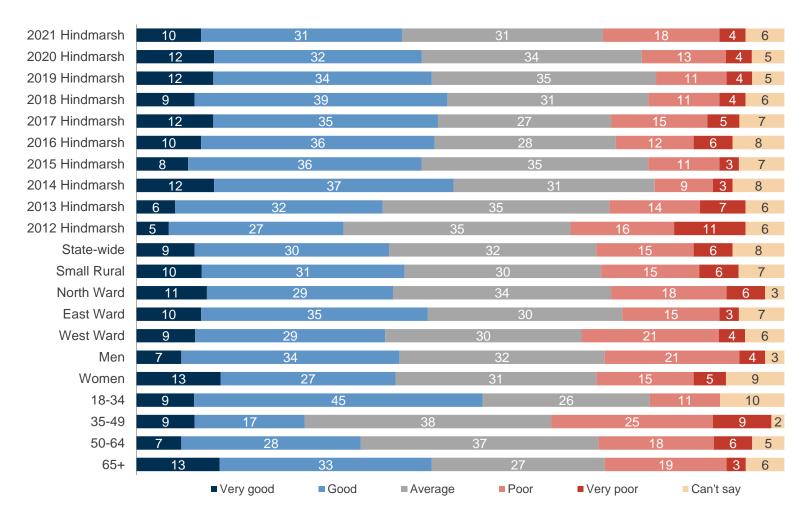


Community consultation and engagement performance





2021 consultation and engagement performance (%)

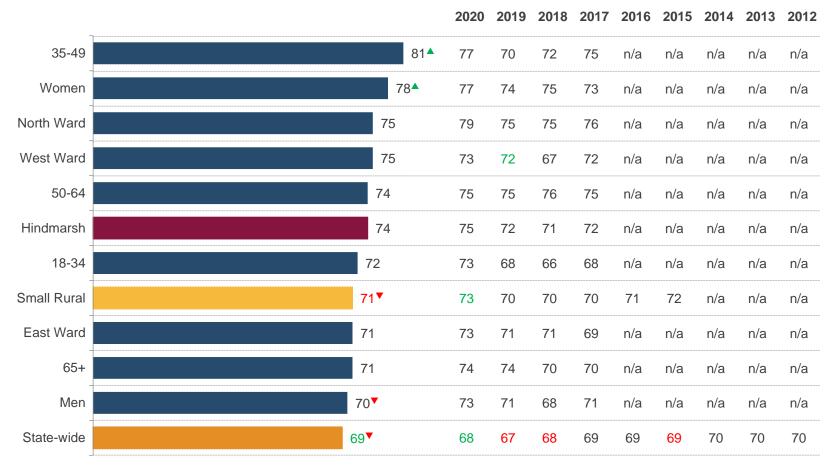


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2021 lobbying importance (index scores)

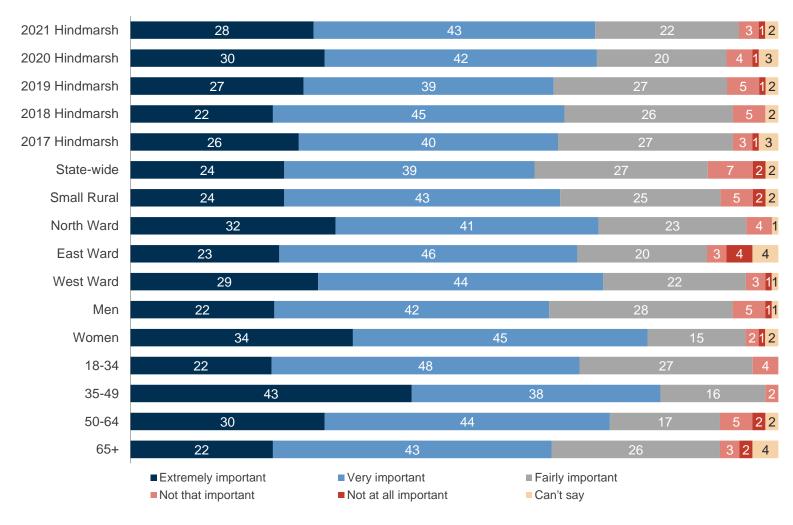


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2021 lobbying importance (%)

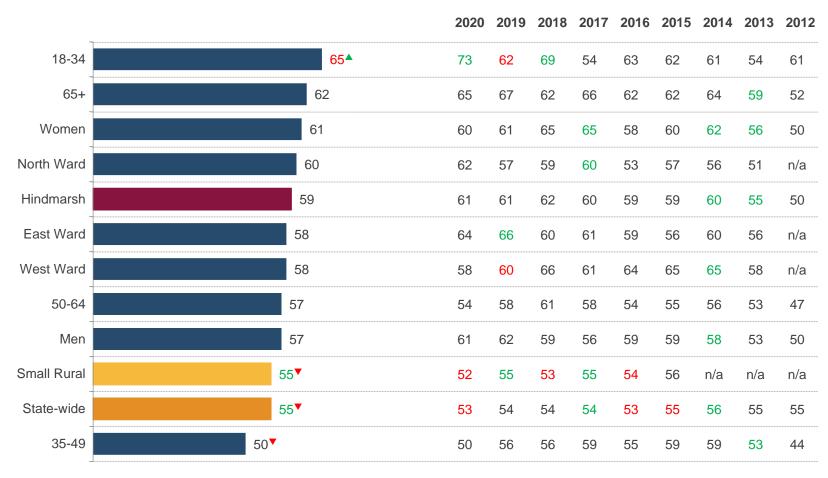


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2021 lobbying performance (index scores)

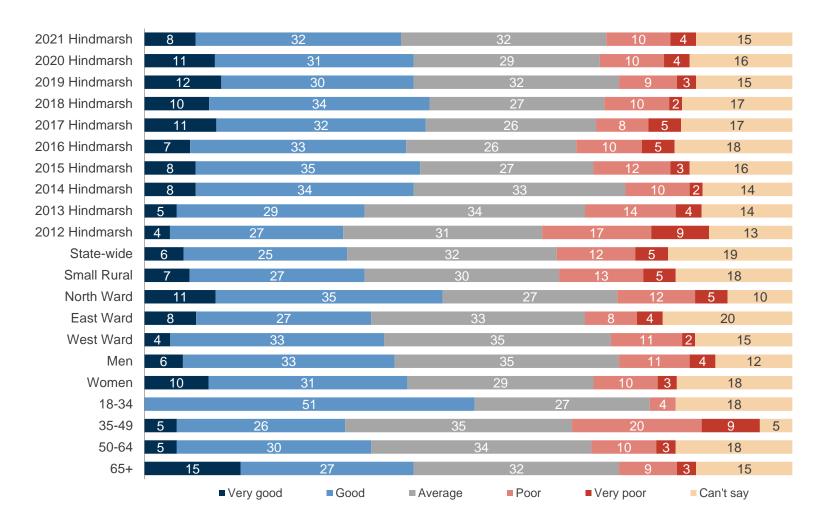


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2021 lobbying performance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2021 community decisions made importance (index scores)

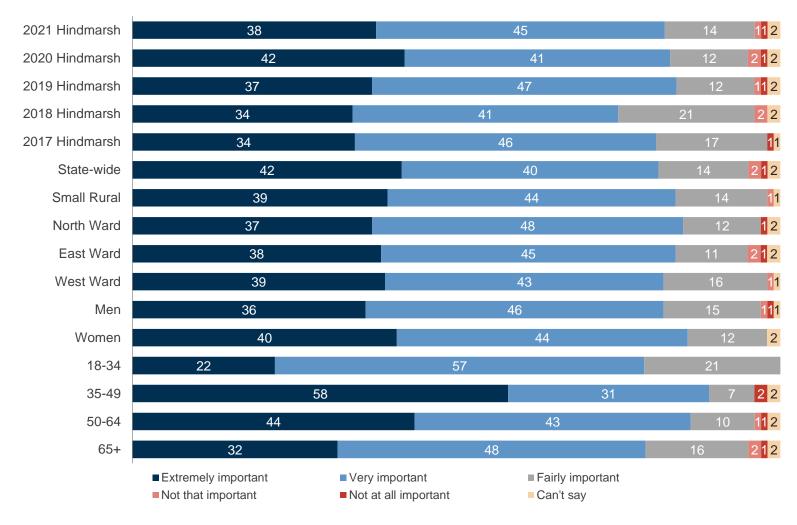


Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2021 community decisions made importance (%)

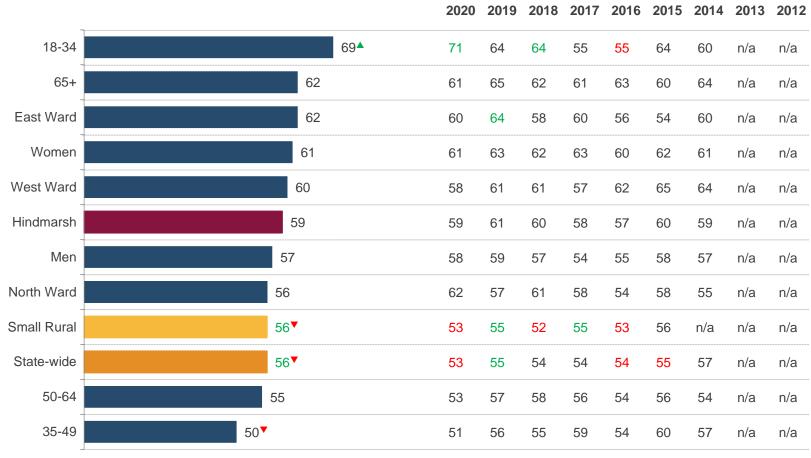


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2021 community decisions made performance (index scores)

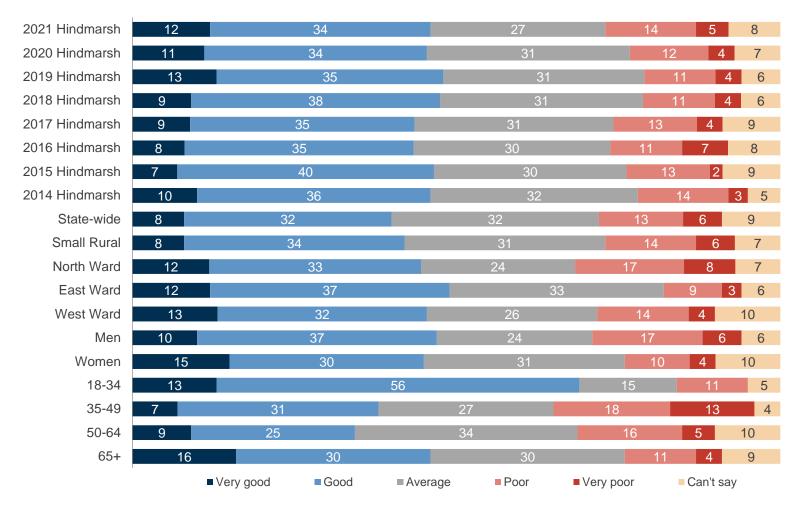


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2021 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2021 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

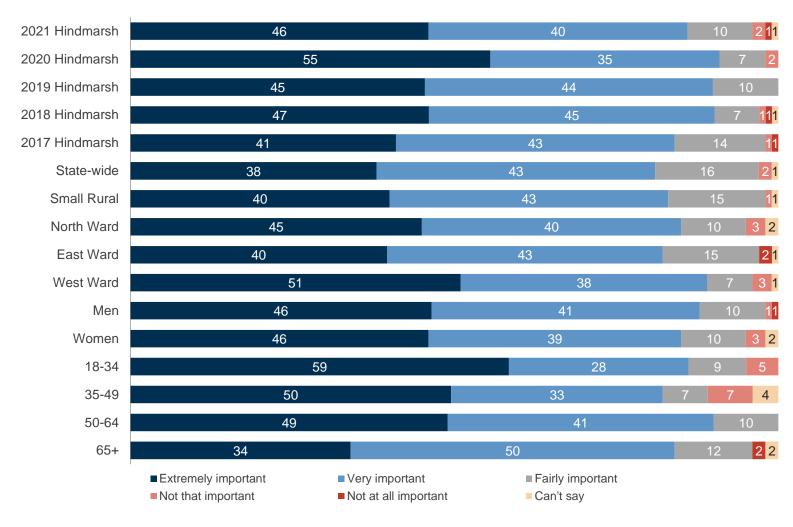


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2021 sealed local roads importance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2021 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

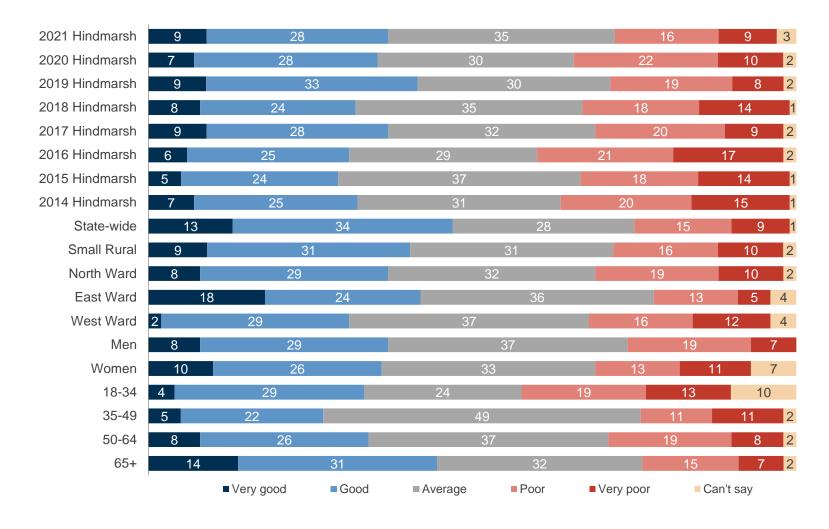


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2021 sealed local roads performance (%)

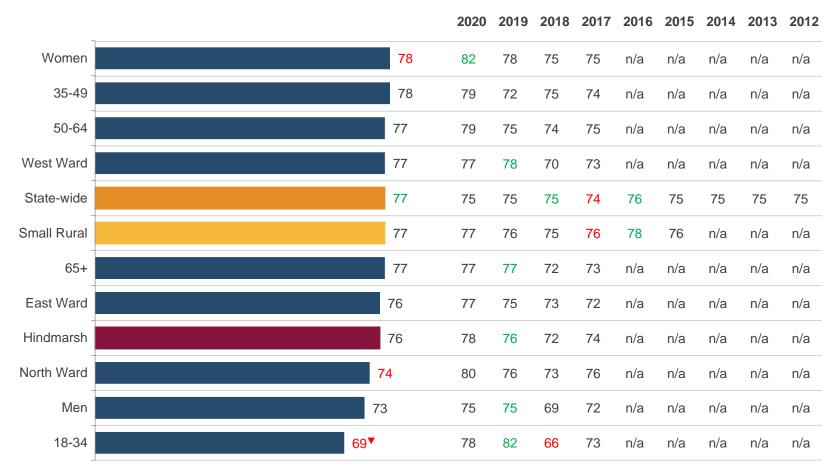


Informing the community importance





2021 informing community importance (index scores)

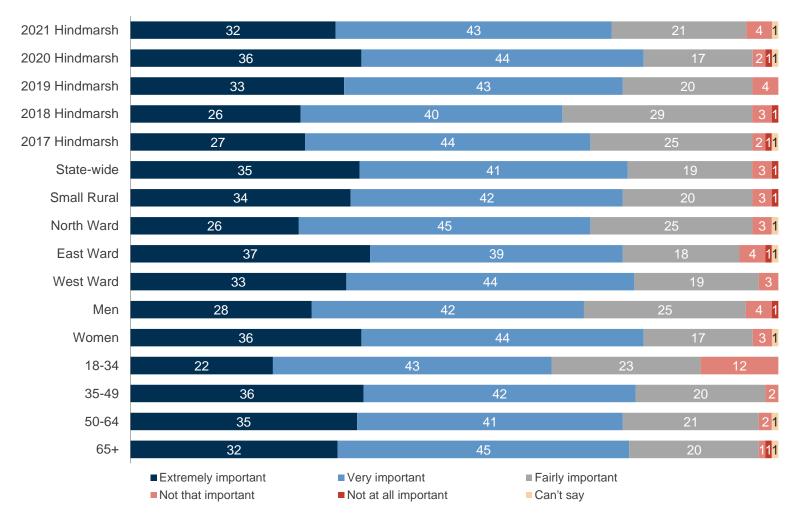


Informing the community importance





2021 informing community importance (%)



Informing the community performance





2021 informing community performance (index scores)

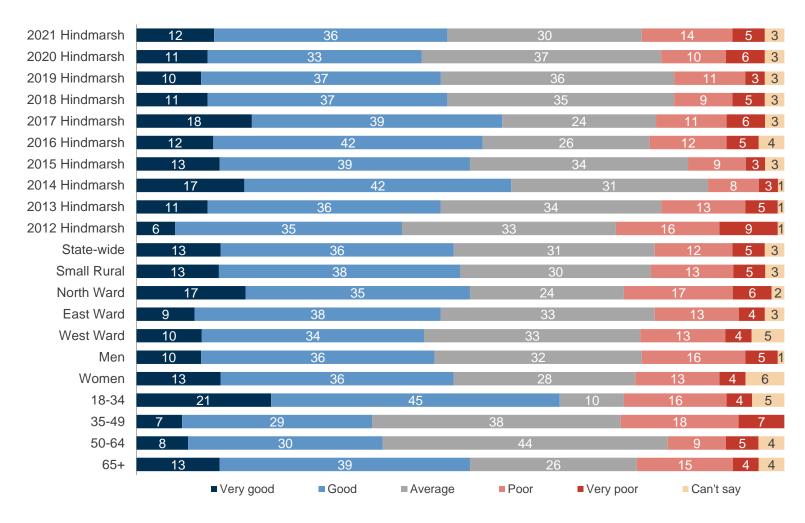


Informing the community performance





2021 informing community performance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2021 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

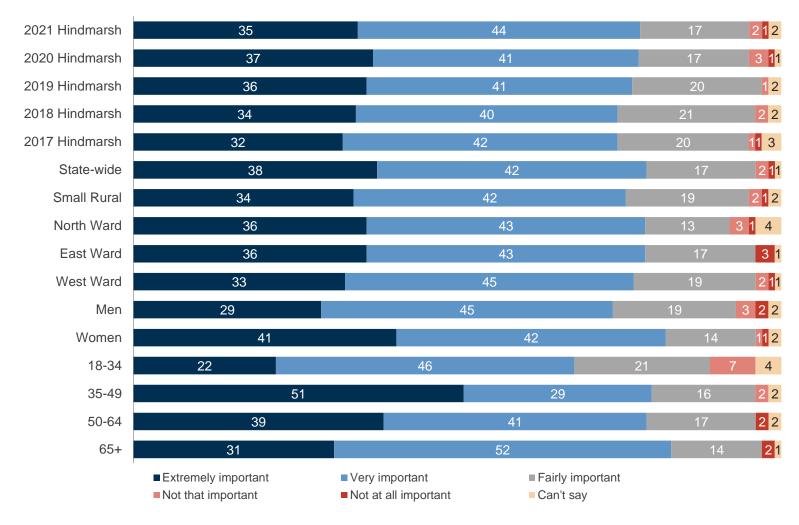


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2021 streets and footpaths importance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2021 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

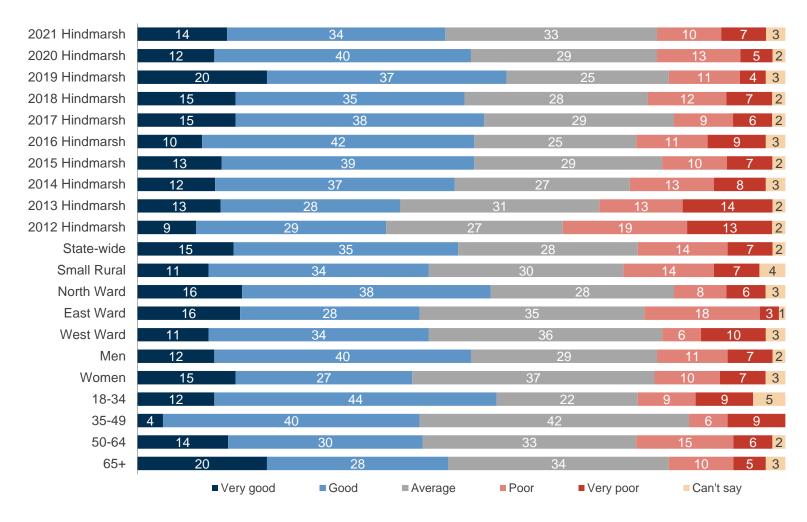


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2021 streets and footpaths performance (%)



Enforcement of local laws importance





2021 law enforcement importance (index scores)

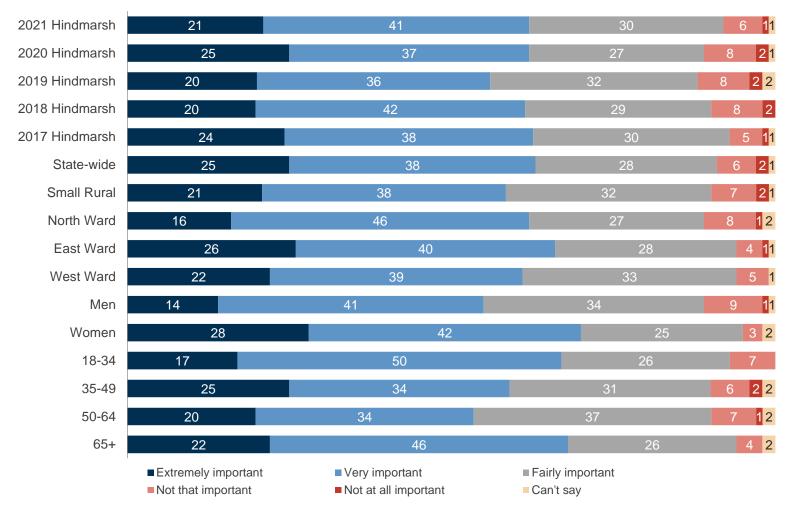


Enforcement of local laws importance





2021 law enforcement importance (%)



Enforcement of local laws performance





2021 law enforcement performance (index scores)

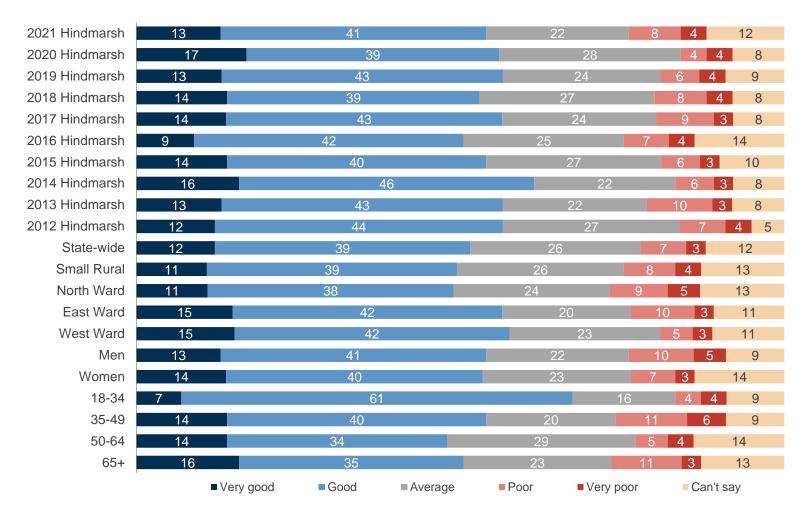


Enforcement of local laws performance





2021 law enforcement performance (%)



Elderly support services importance





2021 elderly support importance (index scores)

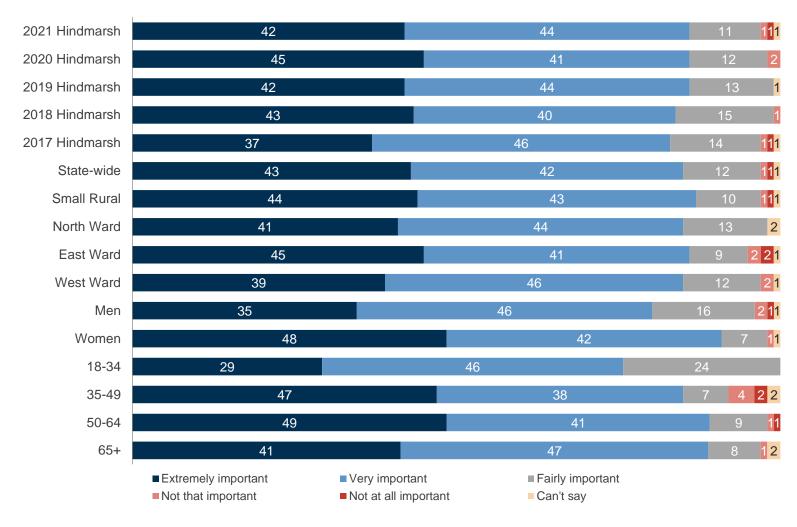


Elderly support services importance





2021 elderly support importance (%)



Elderly support services performance





2021 elderly support performance (index scores)

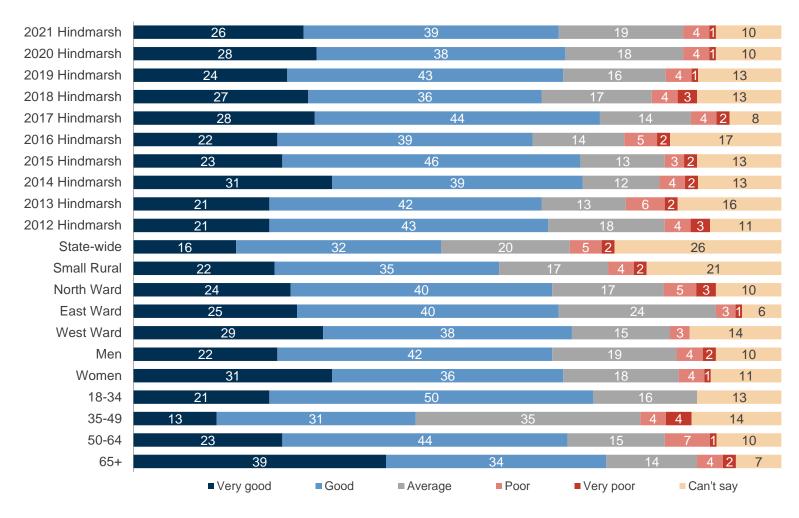


Elderly support services performance





2021 elderly support performance (%)



Recreational facilities importance





2021 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

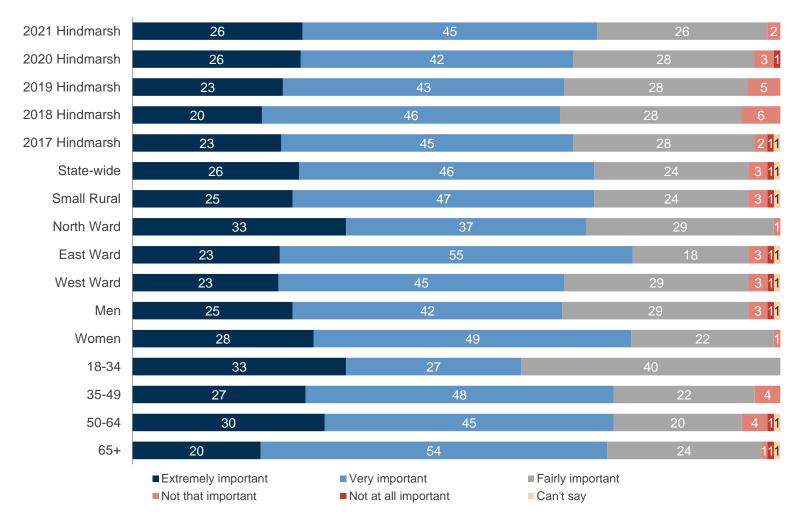


Recreational facilities importance





2021 recreational facilities importance (%)

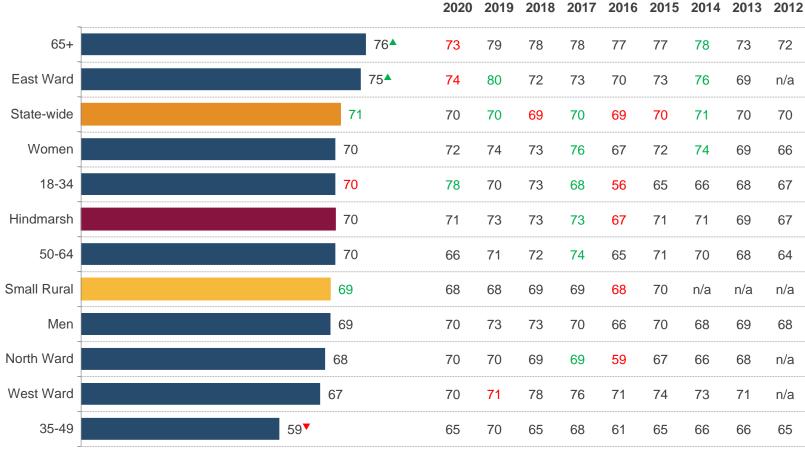


Recreational facilities performance





2021 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

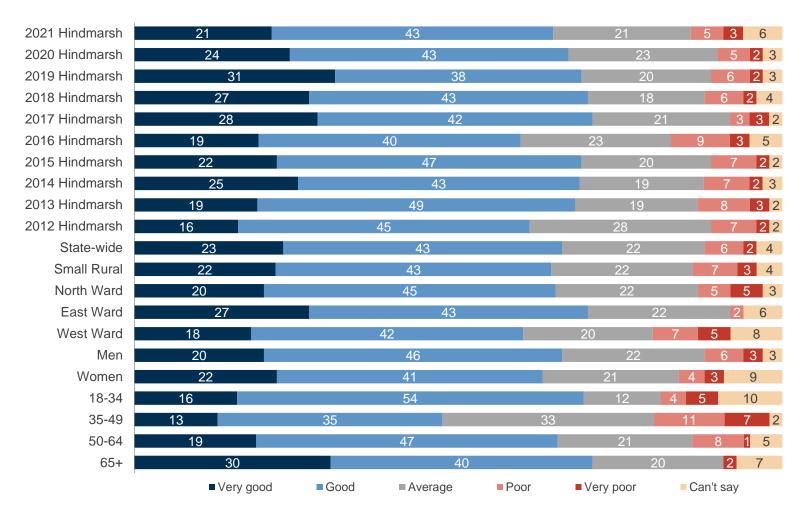


Recreational facilities performance





2021 recreational facilities performance (%)



The appearance of public areas importance





2021 public areas importance (index scores)

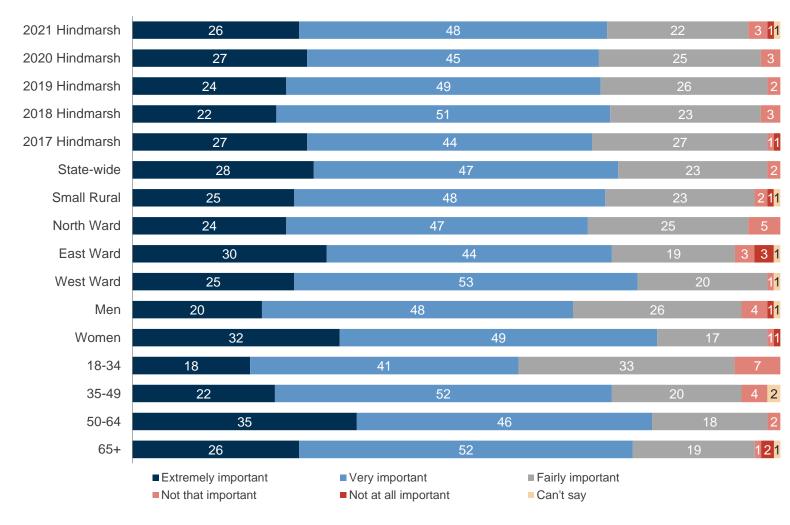


The appearance of public areas importance





2021 public areas importance (%)



The appearance of public areas performance





2021 public areas performance (index scores)

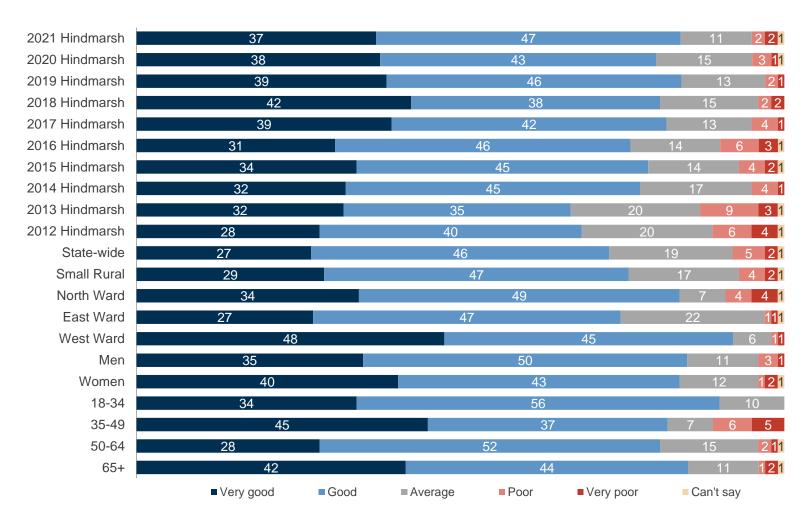


The appearance of public areas performance





2021 public areas performance (%)

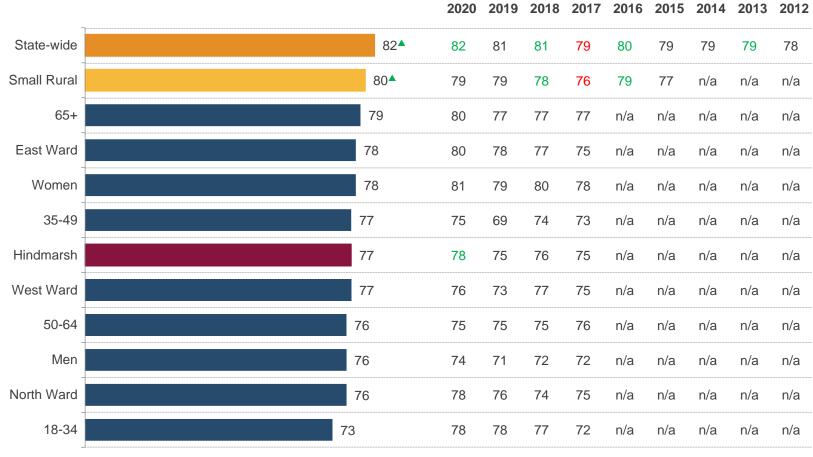


Waste management importance





2021 waste management importance (index scores)

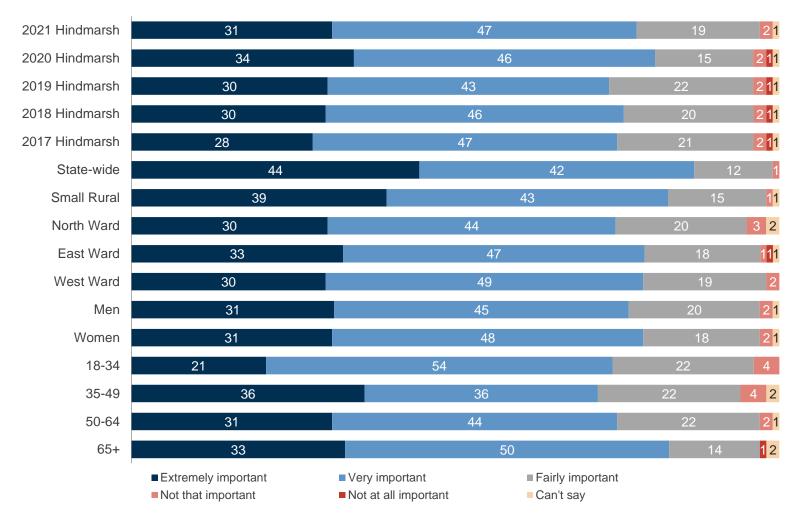


Waste management importance





2021 waste management importance (%)

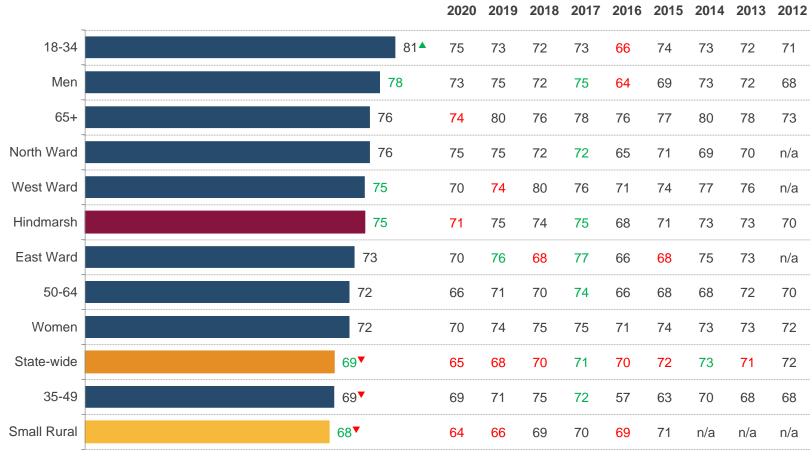


Waste management performance





2021 waste management performance (index scores)

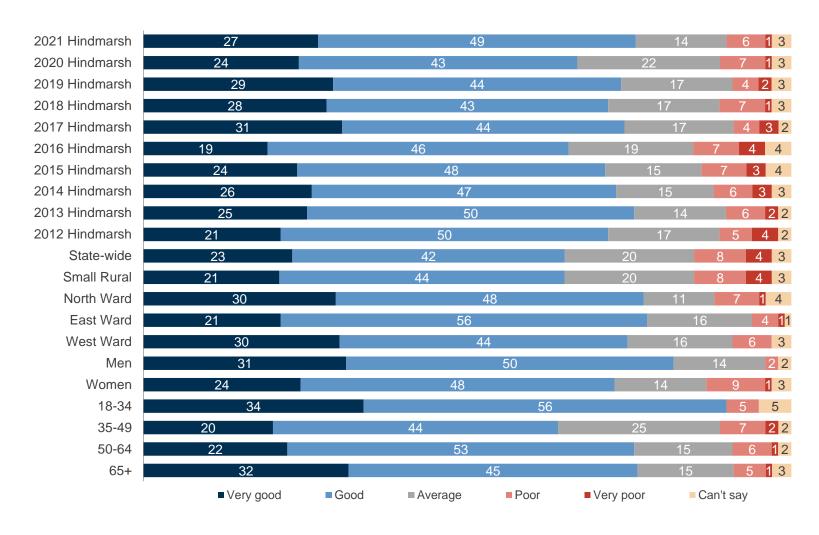


Waste management performance





2021 waste management performance (%)

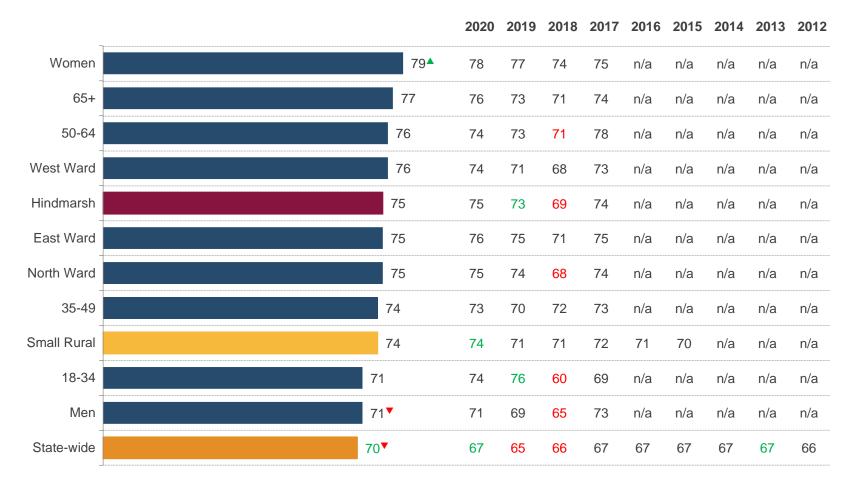


Business and community development and tourism importance





2021 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

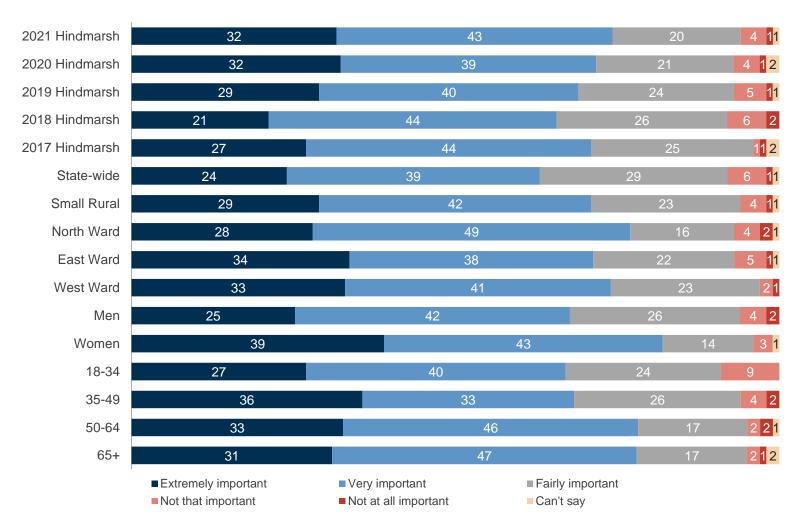


Business and community development and tourism importance





2021 business/development/tourism importance (%)

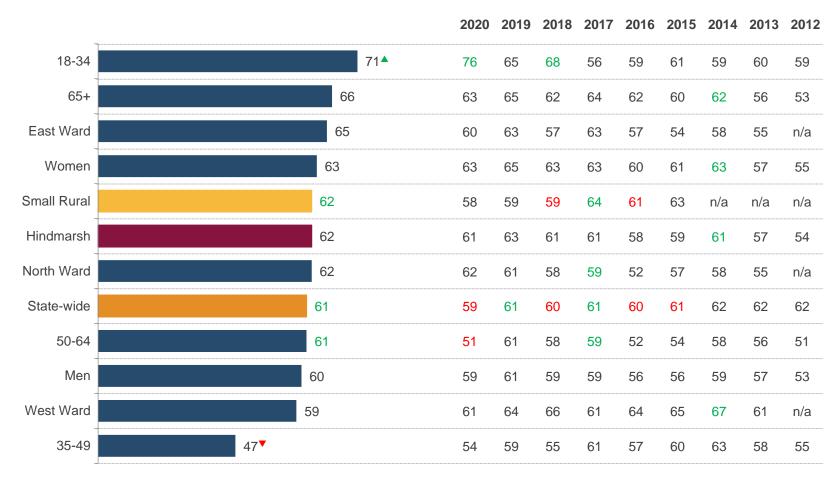


Business and community development and tourism performance





2021 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

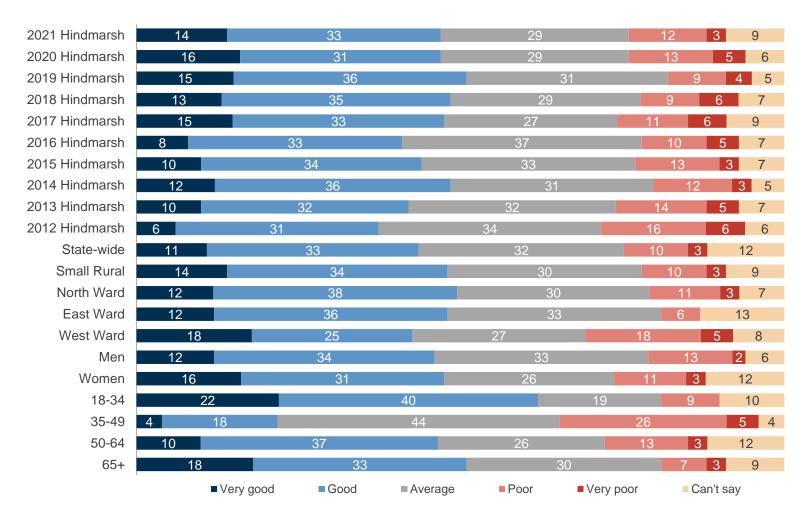


Business and community development and tourism performance





2021 business/development/tourism performance (%)



Planning and building permits importance





2021 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

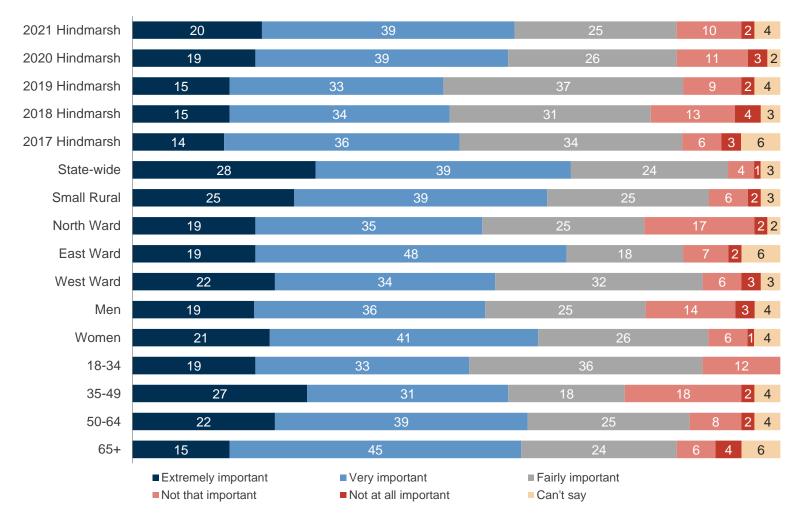


Planning and building permits importance





2021 planning and building permits importance (%)

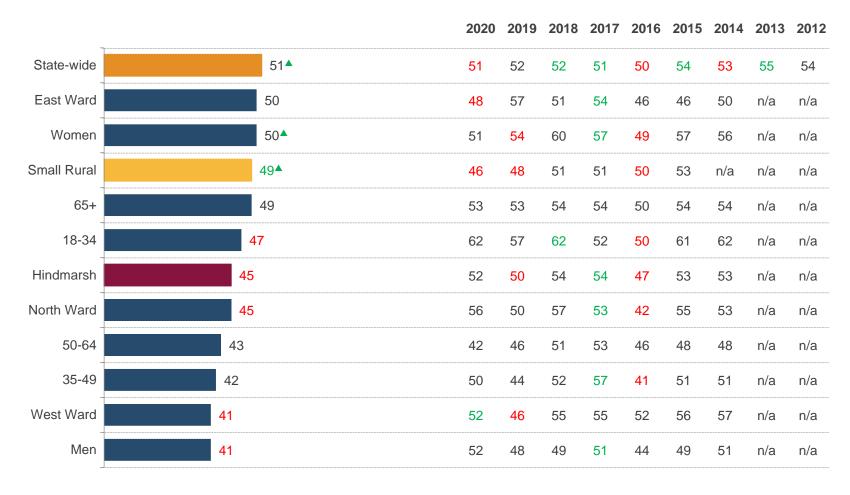


Planning and building permits performance





2021 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

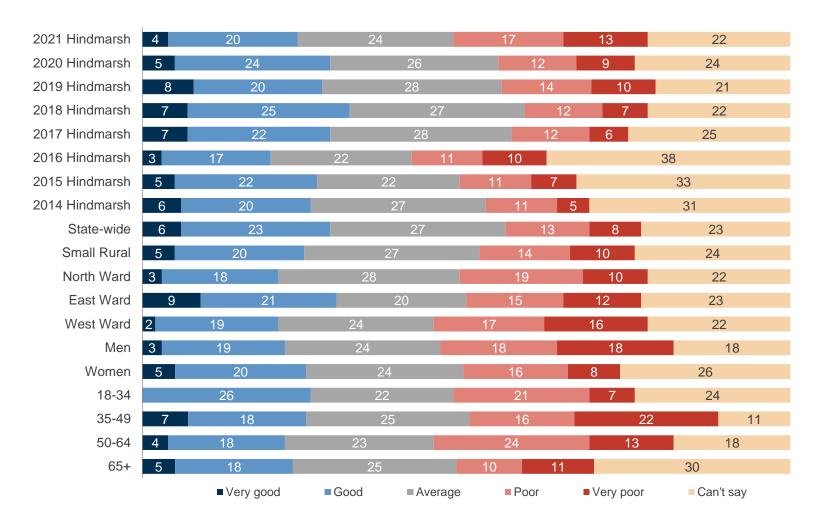


Planning and building permits performance





2021 planning and building permits performance (%)



Roadside slashing and weed control performance





2021 roadside slashing and weed control performance (index scores)

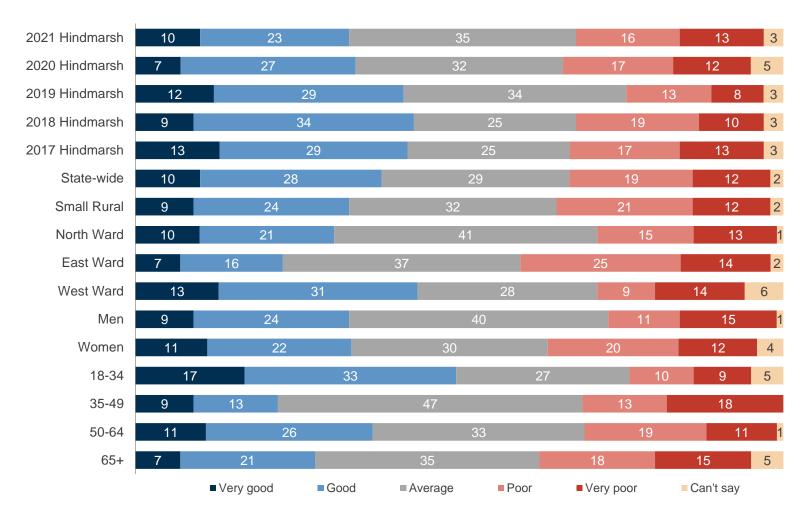


Roadside slashing and weed control performance





2021 roadside slashing and weed control performance (%)

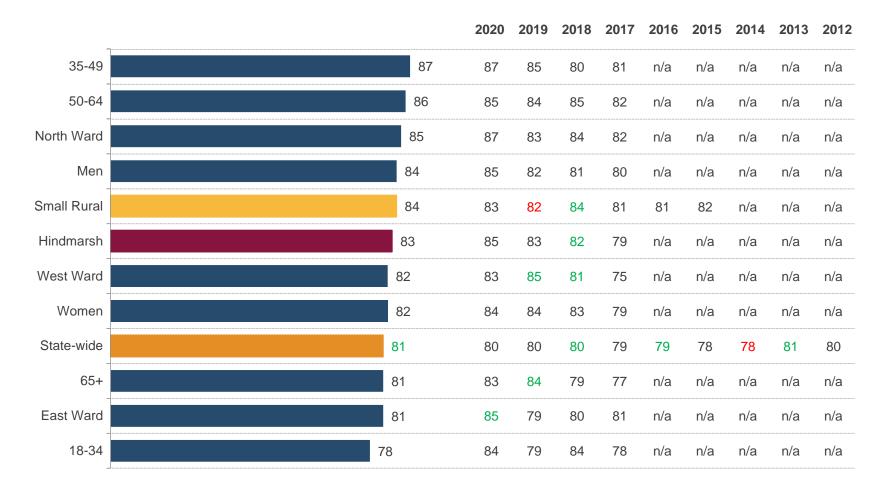


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2021 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

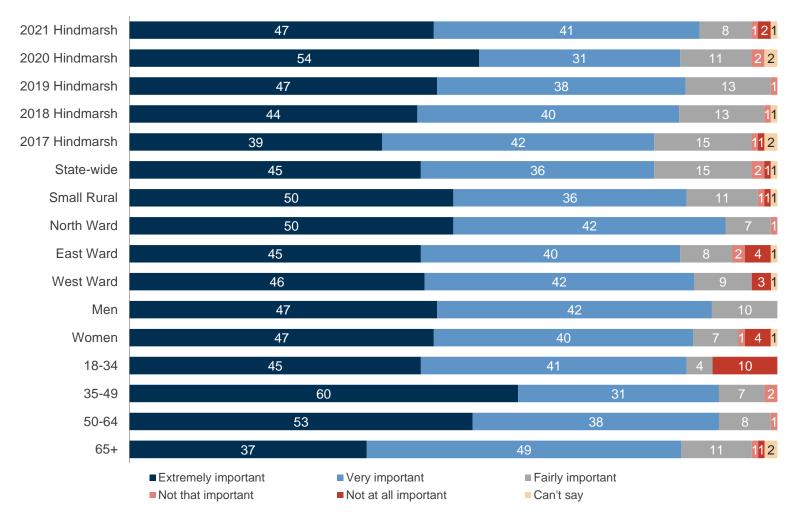


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2021 unsealed roads importance (%)

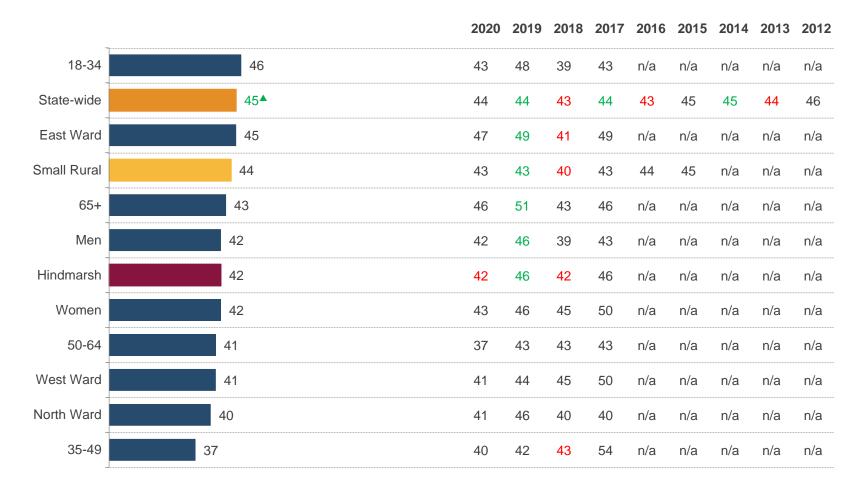


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2021 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

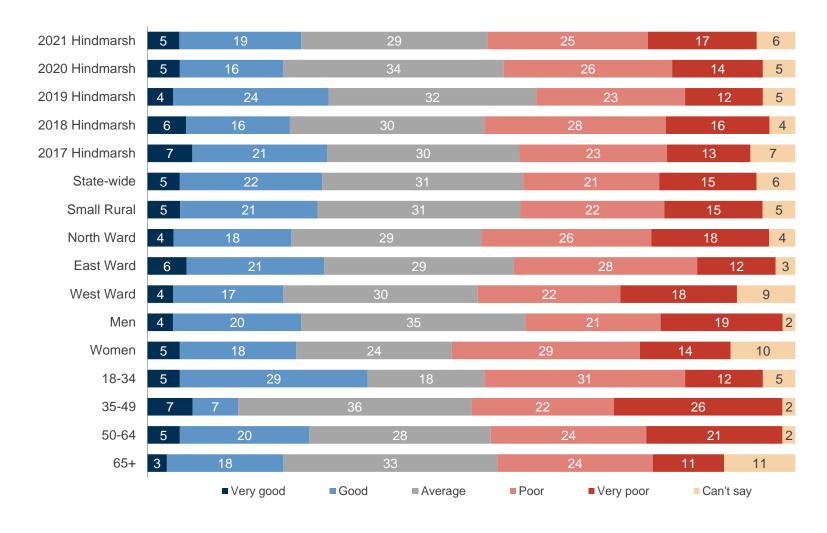


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2021 unsealed roads performance (%)



COVID-19 response importance





2021 COVID-19 response importance (index scores)

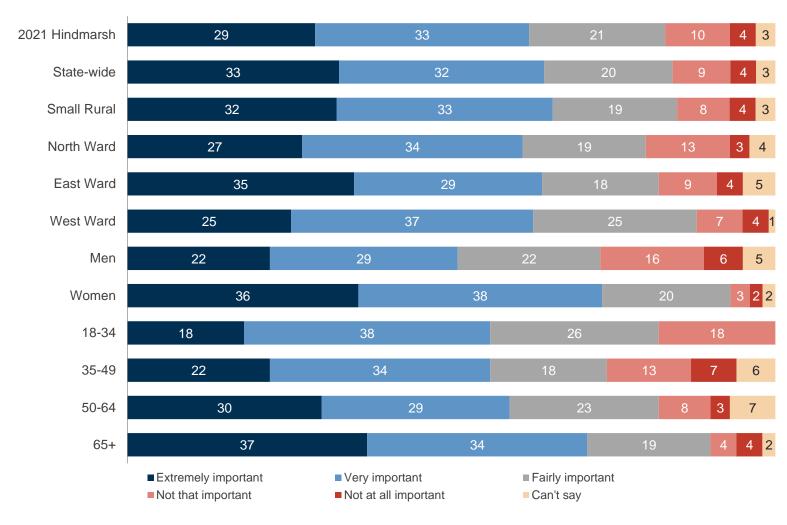


COVID-19 response importance





2021 COVID-19 response importance (%)

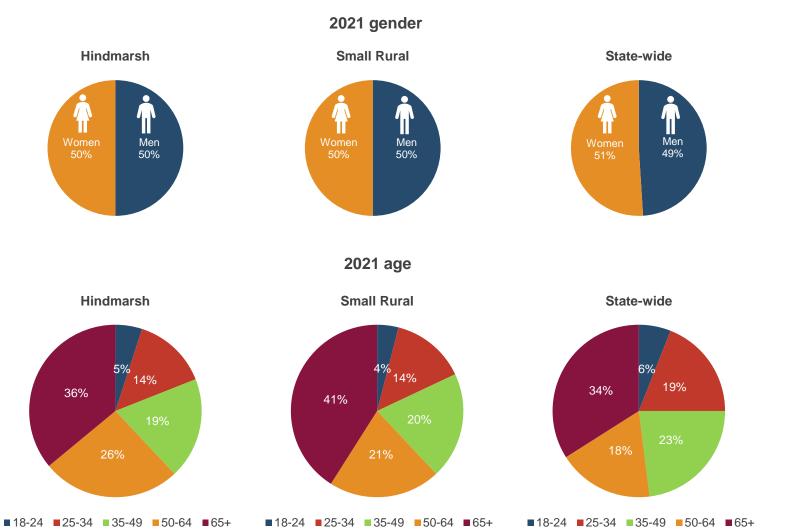


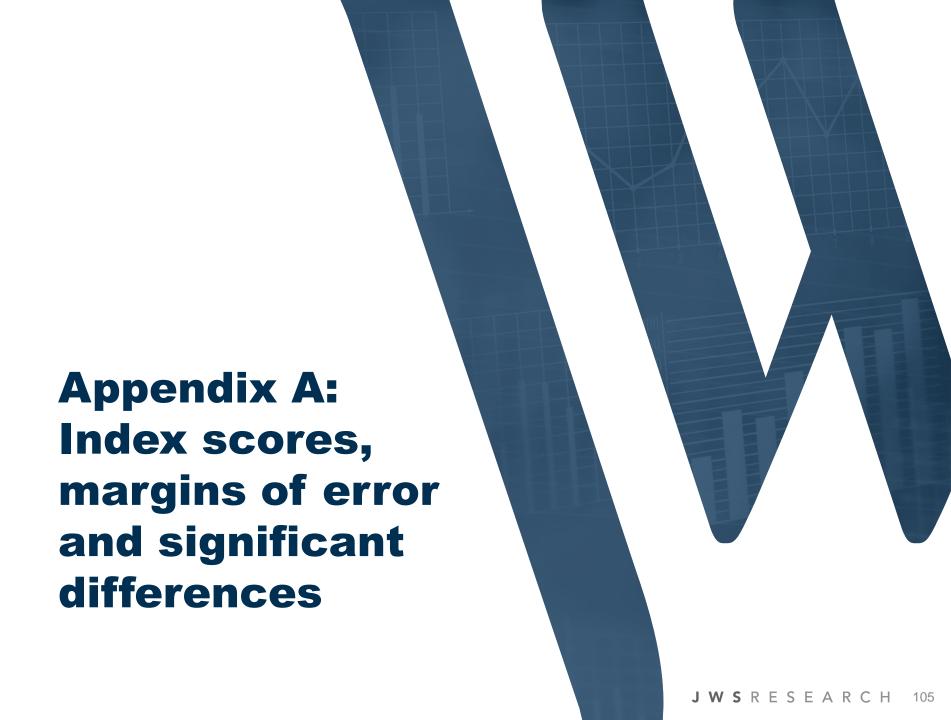


Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile







Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix A: Margins of error

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The sample size for the 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Hindmarsh Shire Council was n=400. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

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

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 4,500 people aged 18 years or over for Hindmarsh Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Hindmarsh Shire Council	400	400	+/-4.7
Men	183	200	+/-7.1
Women	217	200	+/-6.5
North Ward	129	133	+/-8.5
East Ward	128	120	+/-8.6
West Ward	143	147	+/-8.1
18-34 years	24	76	+/-20.4
35-49 years	55	75	+/-13.3
50-64 years	132	103	+/-8.4
65+ years	189	146	+/-7.0

Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



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

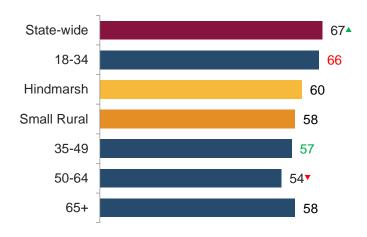
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

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

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2020. Therefore in the example below:

- The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is significantly higher than the result achieved among this group in 2020.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2020.

2021 overall performance (index scores) (example extract only)



Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



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

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

Where:

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

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

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

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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 2021 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 2021 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February - 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February - 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February - 30th March.
- 2016, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February - 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February - 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January – 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18th May - 30th June.

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

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

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

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

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Hindmarsh Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 28th January – 18nd March. 2021.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2021, 66 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 2012-2021 vary slightly.

Council Groups

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

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

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

 Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Wherever appropriate, results for Hindmarsh Shire Council for this 2021 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: 2012 survey revision

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The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

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

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2021 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2021 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 2021 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 2021 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: 2021 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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