

Hindmarsh Shire 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-fifth 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.

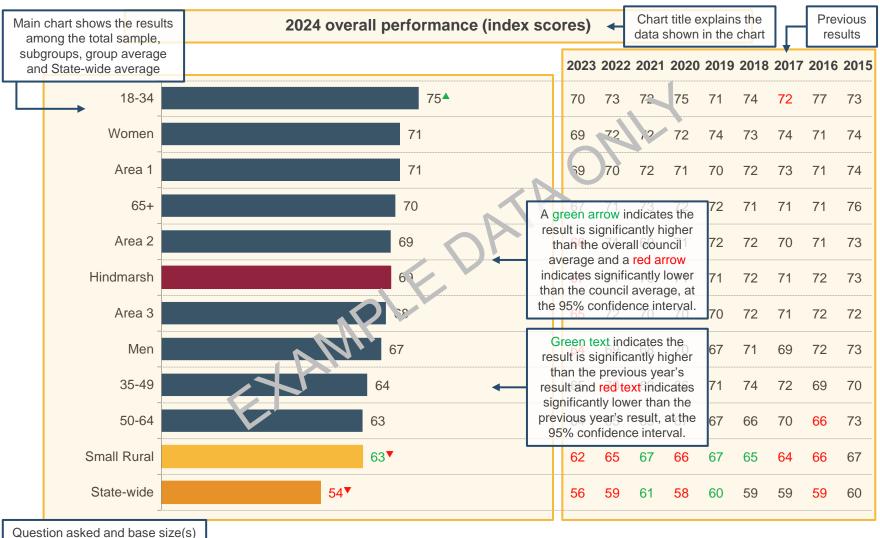
Serving Victoria for 25 years

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 25 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





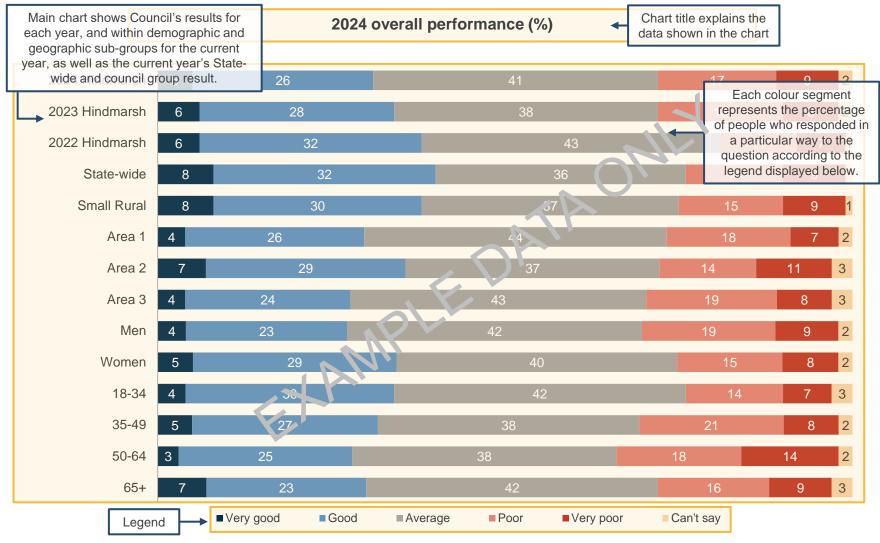
Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Hindmarsh Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 9

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

How to read stacked bar charts in this report







Hindmarsh Shire Council – at a glance

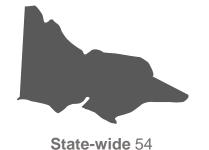


Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.







Council performance compared to group average



Summary of core measures



Index scores







money

Community Consultation



Making Community **Decisions**



Sealed Local Roads



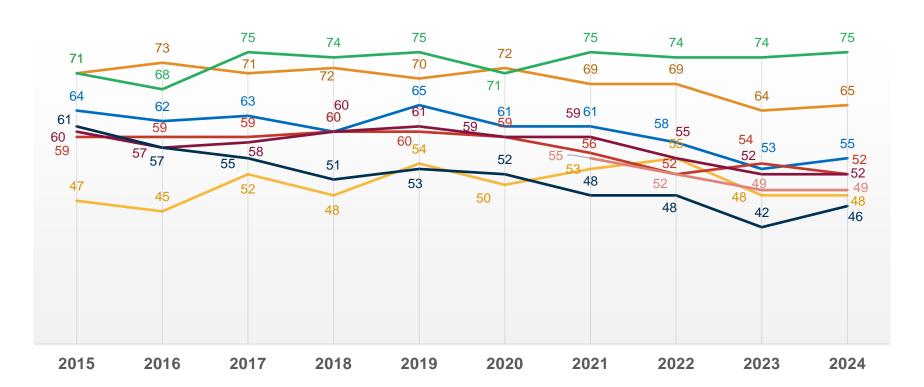
Waste management



Customer Service



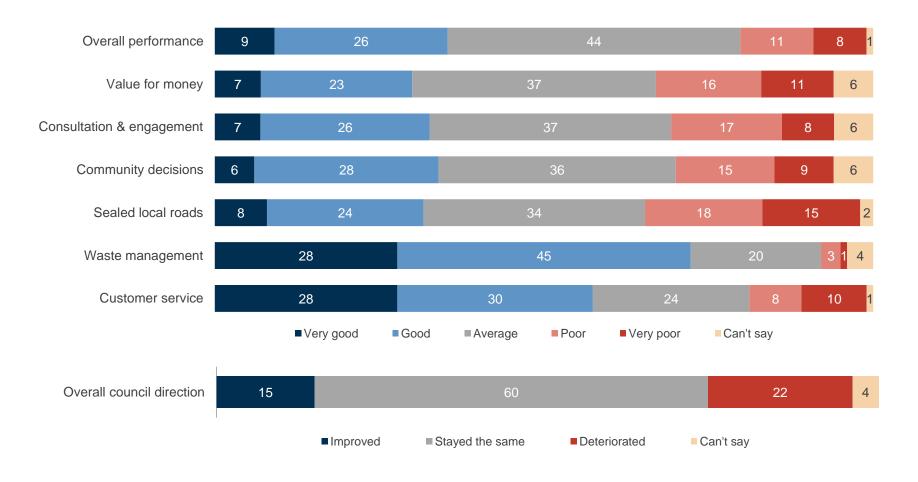
Overall Council Direction



Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Hindmarsh Shire Council performance



Services		Hindmarsh 2024	Hindmarsh 2023	Small Rural 2024	State-wide 2024	Highest score	Lowest score
M	Overall performance	55	53	53	54	65+ years	18-34 years
\$	Value for money	49	49	47	48	East Ward residents	35-49 years
+	Overall council direction	46	42	44	45	18-34 years, East Ward residents	35-64 years
	Customer service	65	64	66	67	65+ years	18-34 years
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	76	77	71	68	50-64 years	18-34 years
	Waste management	75	74	67	67	18-34 years	35-49 years
外	Recreational facilities	68	66	67	68	East Ward residents, 65+ years	18-49 years, West Ward residents
MA	Elderly support services	62	66	65	63	65+ years	18-34 years
	Enforcement of local laws	60	61	60	61	18-34 years, West Ward residents	North Ward residents
a fu	Local streets & footpaths	59	59	51	52	35-64 years	18-34 years

Summary of Hindmarsh Shire Council performance



Services		Hindmarsh 2024	Hindmarsh 2023	Small Rural 2024	State-wide 2024	Highest score	Lowest score
	Bus/community dev./tourism	56	59	59	57	East Ward residents	West Ward residents, Men
	Informing the community	54	55	56	56	East Ward residents	18-34 years, Men
<u>.</u>	Lobbying	52	53	50	50	East Ward residents	35-49 years
	Consultation & engagement	52	54	51	51	50-64 years	18-49 years
**	Community decisions	52	52	50	50	65+ years	35-49 years
A	Sealed local roads	48	48	41	45	East Ward residents	35-49 years
***	Slashing & weed control	45	46	46	45	50-64 years	35-49 years
	Planning & building permits	43	42	43	45	Women	Men, West Ward residents
4	Unsealed roads	36	36	35	36	65+ years	35-49 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of Hindmarsh Shire Council's performance has been stable across all measures evaluated in the past year with one exception. In the service area of elderly support services, perceptions have declined significantly for the third year running. In other areas, declines in perceptions have been abated, including for overall performance where perceptions improved this year (albeit not significantly). This is a positive result for Council.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

Council should focus on maintaining and improving performance in the individual service area that most influences perception of overall performance, namely decisions made in the interest of the community. Other service areas where attention is required is in the areas of planning and building permits, as well as the condition of sealed local roads, as these areas are rated less well and also have an influence on overall performance. Communications will be important to ensure the community are aware of the actions Council is undertaking.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Positively, Council performs as well as, or significantly higher than, the State-wide and Small Rural council averages on all core measures (including overall performance) and almost all service areas evaluated. The only exception is business and community development and tourism which is rated significantly lower than the Small Rural group average.

Maintain and shore up stronger performing areas

Perceptions of Council's performance on waste management and recreational facilities have been relatively stable over time and remain among Council's strongest performing areas. Maintaining efforts here is warranted as these service areas are moderate influences on the overall performance rating. Perceptions of consultation and engagement, also an influence on overall perceptions, while not significantly different to last year, is trending down and at a 10 year low. It is important to ensure that residents feel heard on key local issues.

DETAILED FINDINGS





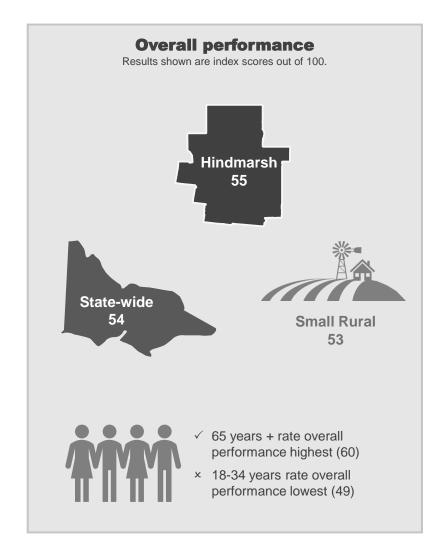


The overall performance index score of 55 for Hindmarsh Shire Council is similar to the 2023 result, up two (not significant) index points. This represents a plateauing of a downward trend evident in perceptions of Council's overall performance from its peak in 2019.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's overall performance is rated in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide average for councils (index scores of 53 and 54 respectively).

- Similar to last year, overall performance is rated significantly higher than the Council average among residents aged 65 years and over (index score of 60).
- Residents aged 18 to 34 years have the lowest perceptions of overall performance (not significantly different to the average), which is also the case with the previous year's findings.

As in 2023, three in 10 residents (30%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. This is slightly more than those who rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (27%) when it comes to value for money.



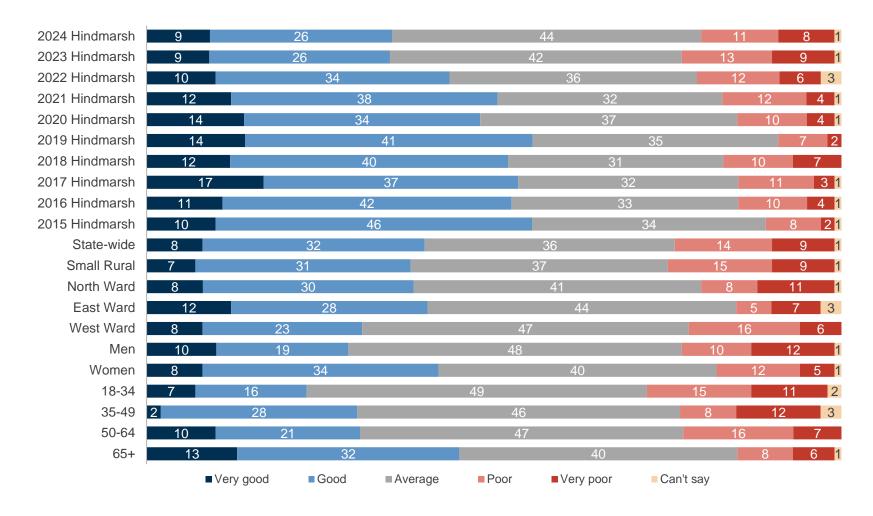


2024 overall performance (index scores)





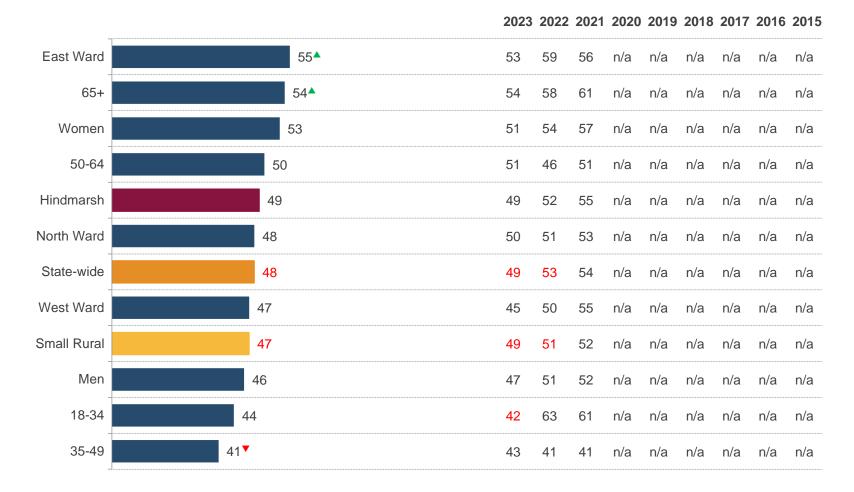
2024 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



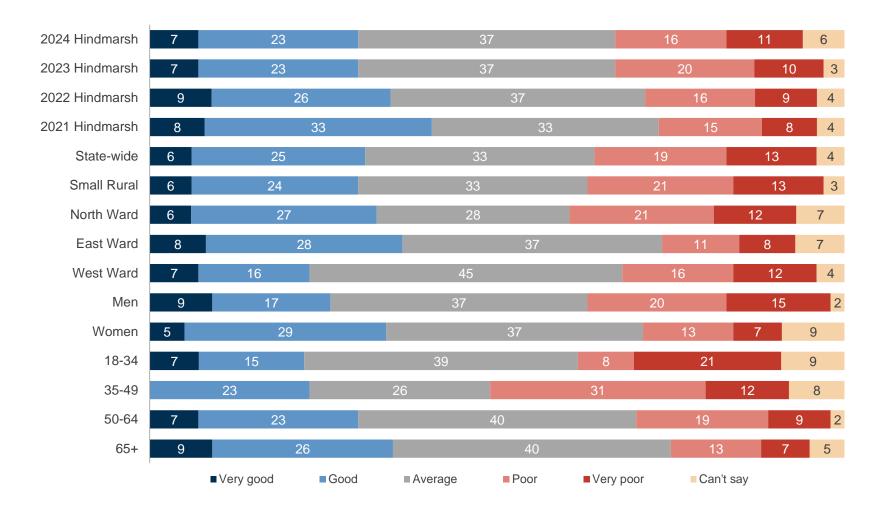
2024 value for money (index scores)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2024 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

Appearance of public areas (index score of 76) is the area where Council continues to perform best, despite decreasing by one (non-significant) index point from 2023.

 Council performs significantly higher than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages on this service area (71 and 68 respectively).

Waste management is Council's next highest rated service area (index score of 75). Perceptions here have also been relatively stable over time.

- This is a positive result as waste management is a key influence on overall performance.
- Council is also rated significantly higher than the Small Rural Group and State-wide averages in this service area.
- Perceptions of waste management performance increased significantly this year among residents aged 18 to 34 years (78, up six index points).

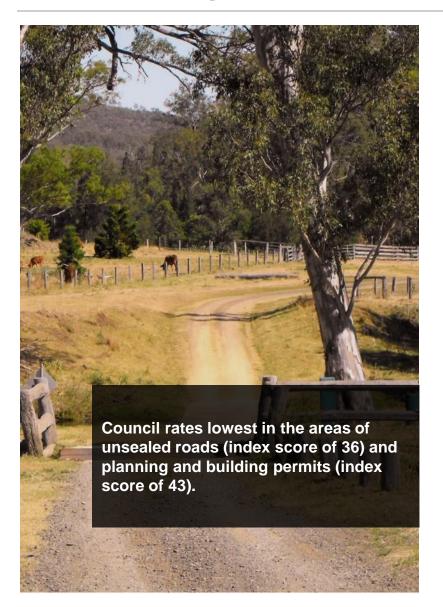
Council's next highest performing service area is recreational facilities (index score of 68). Like waste management. This service area also has moderate to strong influence on overall performance rating.

 East Ward residents, and those aged 65 years and over, have significantly higher than average perceptions of Council in this service area.



Low performing service areas





Council rates lowest in the area of maintenance of unsealed roads (index score of 36). Ratings for Council's maintenance of unsealed roads remain unchanged from last year and remain at an eight year low. Performance has not yet recovered from the significant decline in perceptions evident last year.

- That said, Council performs in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 35 and 36 respectively).
- Residents aged 65 years and over (42) rate Council significantly higher than average in this area.
- This service area is considered the most important (of those evaluated) (importance index score of 86).

Council's next lowest rated service area, planning and building permits (index score of 36), also rates in line with last year's result.

- Council also performs in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide average on this measure.
- Council should look to restore positive perceptions among West Ward residents and men, who rate this service area significantly lower than average (index score of 38 for both). In contrast, performance ratings among women (49) are significantly above average and higher than the previous year.

Individual service area performance



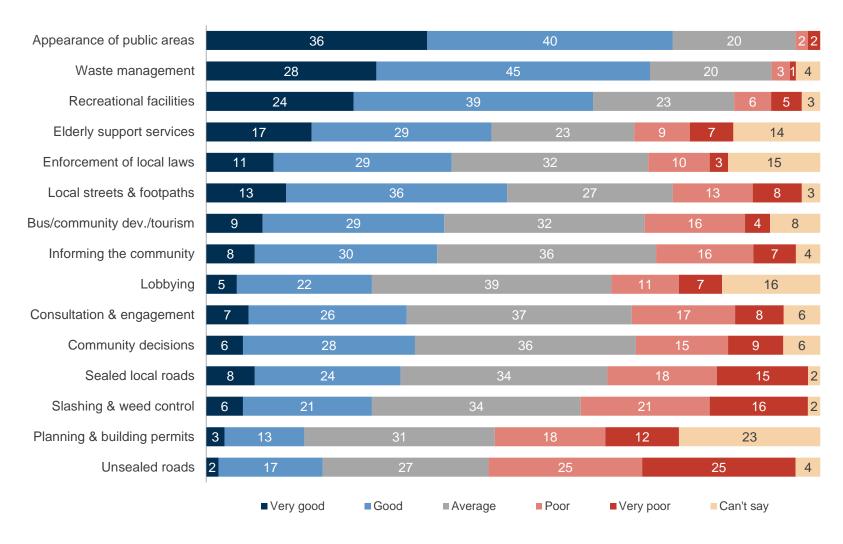
2024 individual service area performance (index scores)



Individual service area performance



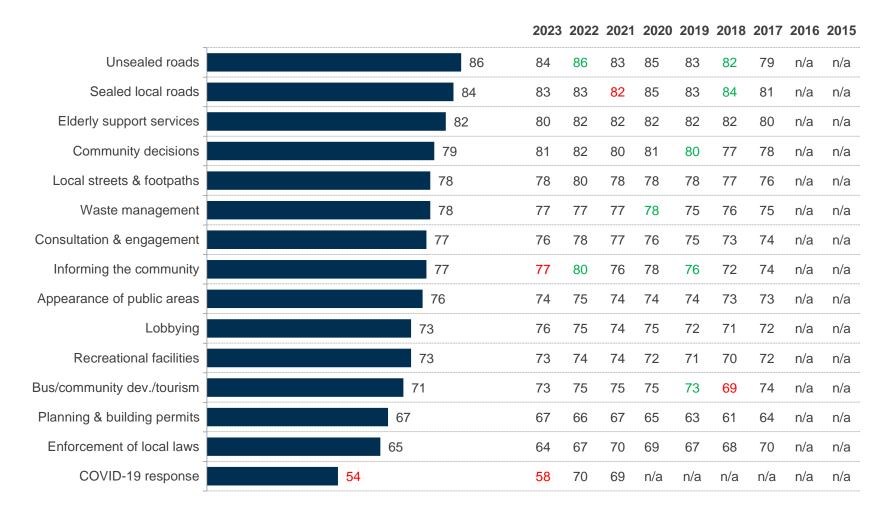
2024 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



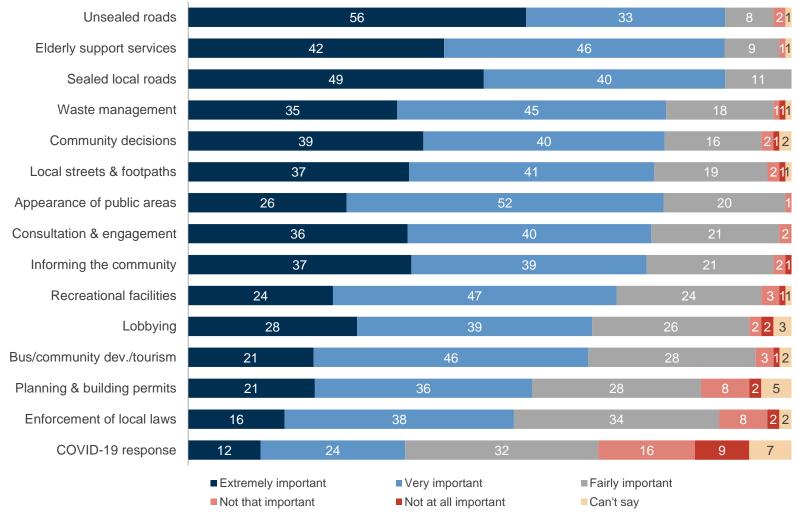
2024 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



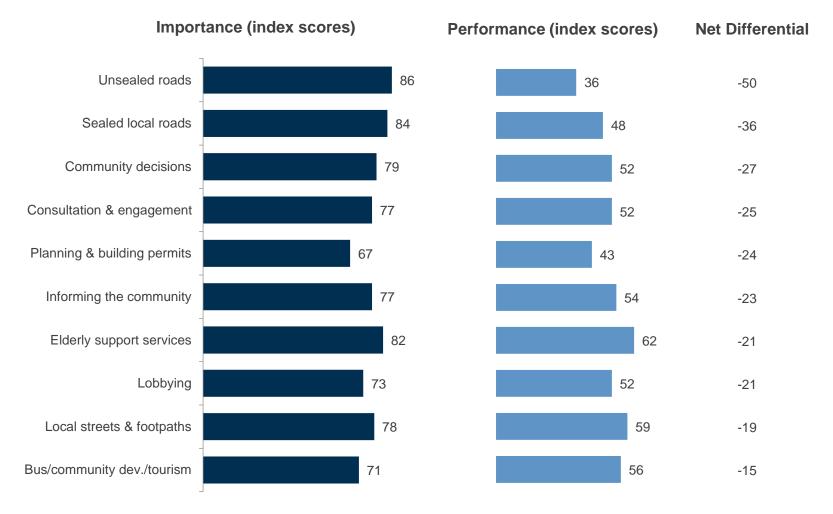
2024 individual service area importance (%)



Individual service areas importance vs performance



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



Influences on perceptions of overall performance



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

Decisions made in the interest of the community.

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

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

- The condition of sealed local roads
- Community consultation and engagement
- Lobbying on behalf of the community
- Waste management
- · Recreational facilities
- Planning and building permits.

Looking at these key service areas only, waste management and recreational facilities have high performance index scores (75 and 68 respectively) and are moderate influences 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 stronger influence on overall perceptions, but where Council performs relatively less well, are community consultation and lobbying (index scores of 52 for each).

A focus on consulting residents about key local issues and demonstrating efforts to advocate on their behalf can also help to shore up positive overall perceptions of Council.

However, most in need of attention is Council's performance on planning and building permits and sealed roads, which is rated as poor (index scores of 43 and 48 respectively).

Council's maintenance of sealed roads is a strong influence on community ratings of overall performance.

It will be important to attend to the maintenance of sealed roads and address community concerns about planning and building permits to help improve overall ratings of Council performance.

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 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 service areas located closer to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

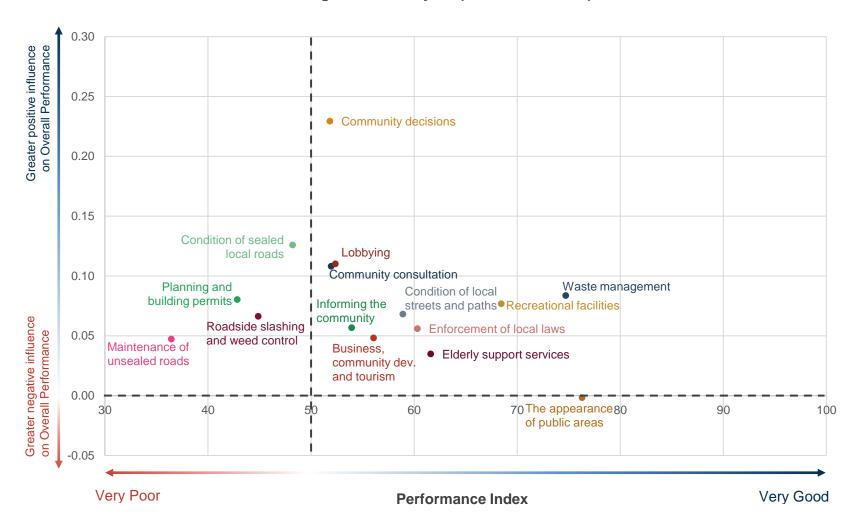
- The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of all individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas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

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

Influence on overall performance: all service areas



2024 regression analysis (all service areas)

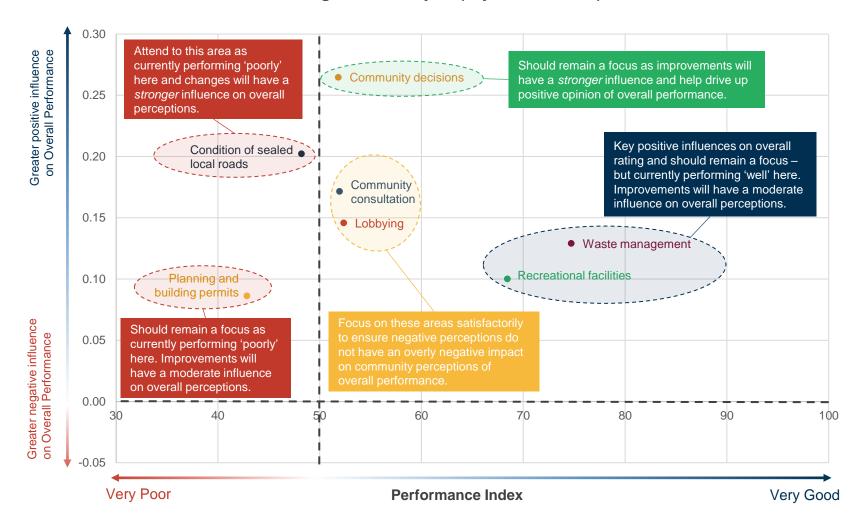


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.634 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.620, which means that 62% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 44.47. 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



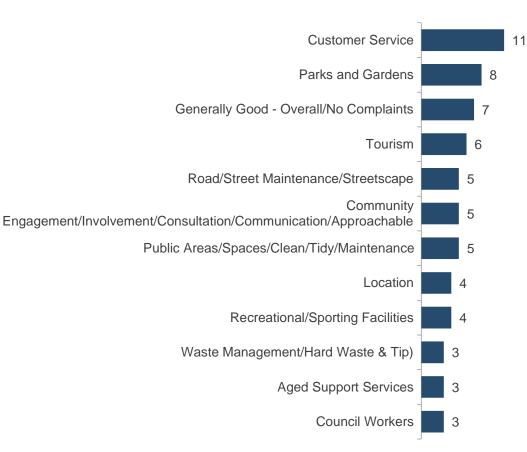
2024 regression analysis (key service areas)



Best things about Council and areas for improvement



2024 best things about Council (%) - Top mentions only -



2024 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?

Rass: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide: 31 Councils asked group: 8



Customer service

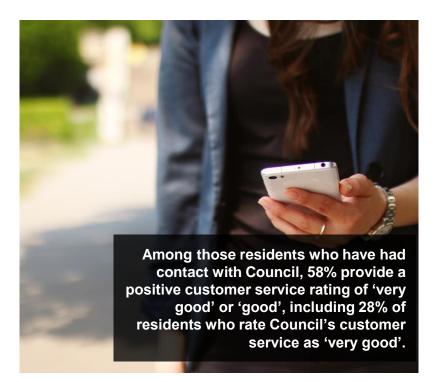
Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Just over three in five Council residents (61%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact with Council has been largely stable over time.

- Significantly fewer residents of North Ward and those aged 18 to 34 years had contact with Council this year (60% and 38% respectively).
- Rate of contact among those aged 18 to 34 years is also significantly lower than average.



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 65 is similar to 2023 (index score of 64). Customer service is rated in line with the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (index scores of 67 and 66 respectively).

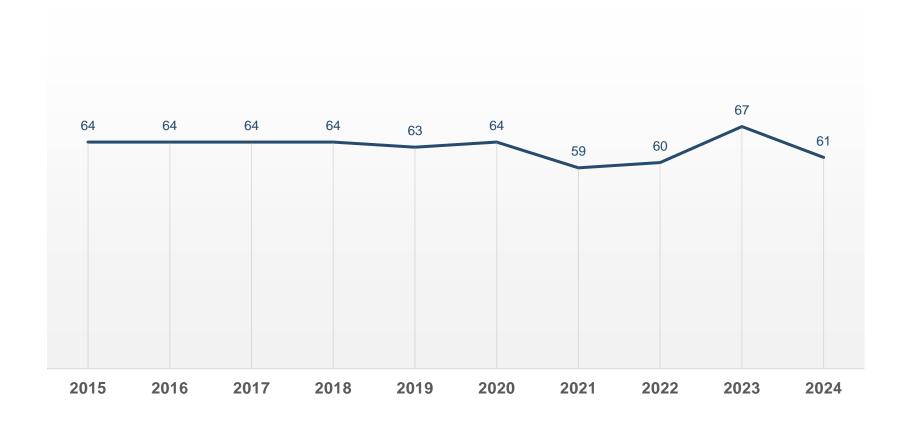
- Geographically, customer service ratings are lowest among residents of North Ward (index score of 59) and highest among residents of East Ward and West Ward (index scores of 68 and 67 respectively).
- Younger residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 52) have the least positive perceptions of customer service, significantly lower than the Council average. However, as discussed, they contact Council less frequently than other cohorts.

Nearly three in five residents (58%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'. Far fewer residents (18%) rate Council's customer service as 'poor' or 'very poor'.

Contact with council



2024 contact with council (%) Have had contact

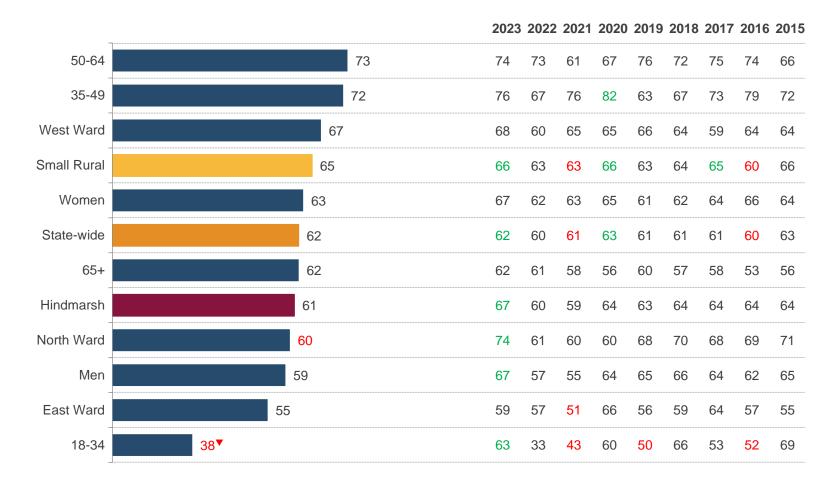


Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Hindmarsh Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Contact with council



2024 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



2024 customer service rating (index scores)



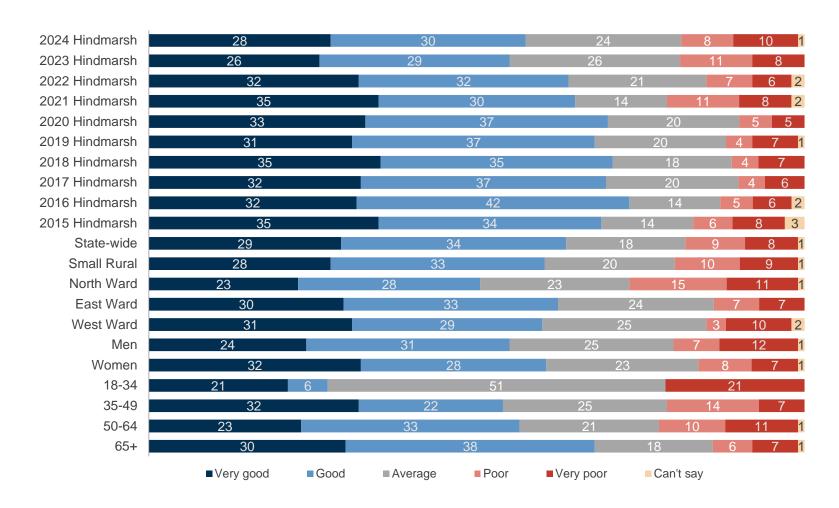
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Hindmarsh Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

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

Customer service rating



2024 customer service rating (%)





Council direction

W

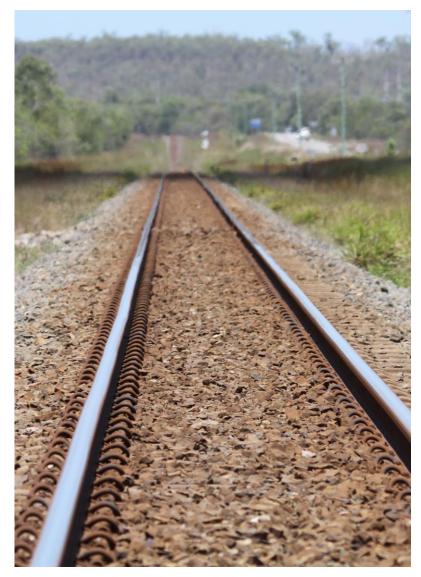
The direction of Council's overall performance index score of 46 is in line with the 2023 result. Direction of Council's overall performance is also in line with both the Small Rural group and State-wide averages, noting that both group scores (44 and 45 respectively) are significantly lower than the previous year's result.

- Since the previous evaluation, ratings significantly improved among residents of West Ward, and those aged 18 to 34 years.
- As was the case last year, residents in East Ward are significantly more satisfied than average with the direction of Council's overall performance.

Over the last 12 months, 15% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has improved (compared to a lower 10% in 2023). Meanwhile, 22% (down three percentage points) believe it has deteriorated.

More than half of residents (52%) feel Council is moving in the 'right direction' ('definitely' or 'probably') and 35% feel it is moving in the 'wrong direction'.

When it comes to the trade-off between rates and services, residents have a stronger preference for cuts in Council services to keep rates at the same level as they are now (41% 'definitely' or 'probably' prefer this) over rate rises to improve local services (32%).



Overall council direction last 12 months



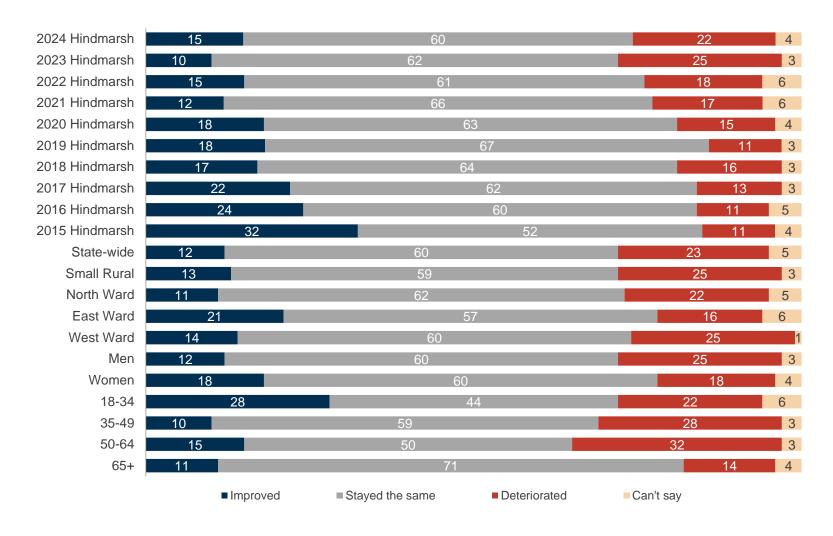
2024 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



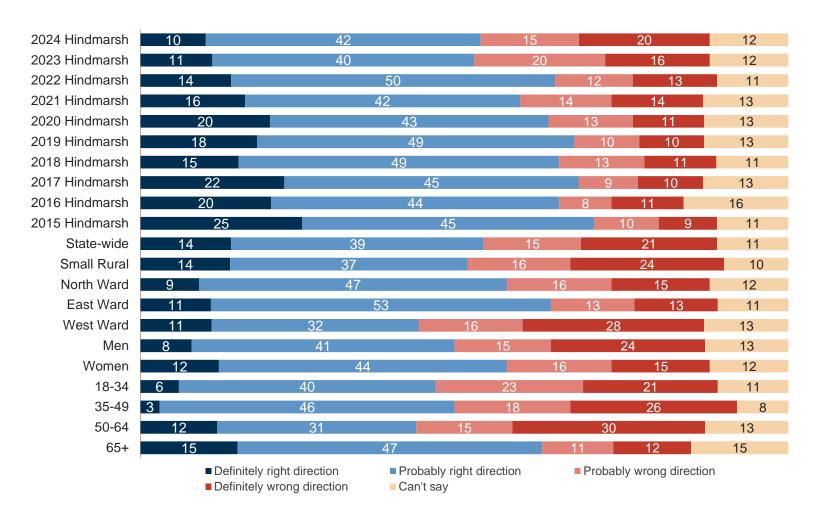
2024 overall council direction (%)



Right / wrong direction



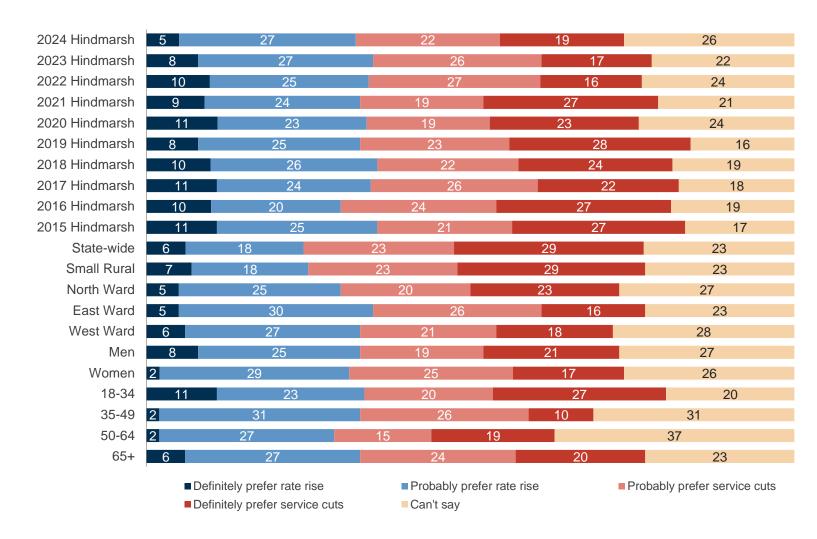
2024 right / wrong direction (%)



Rates / services trade-off



2024 rates / services trade-off (%)



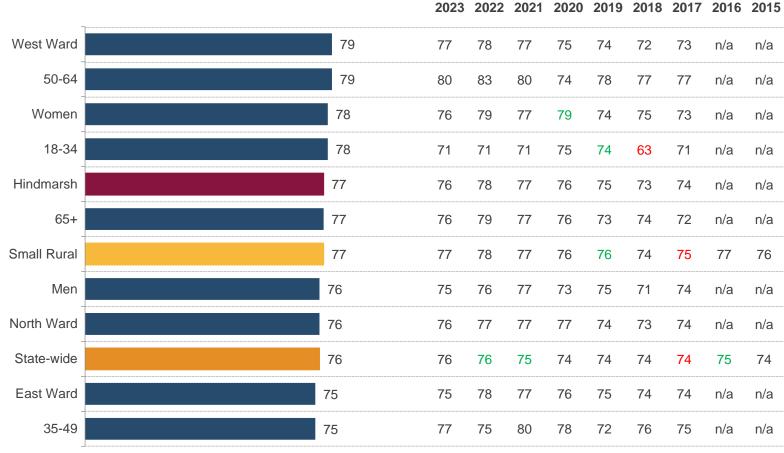


Community consultation and engagement importance





2024 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

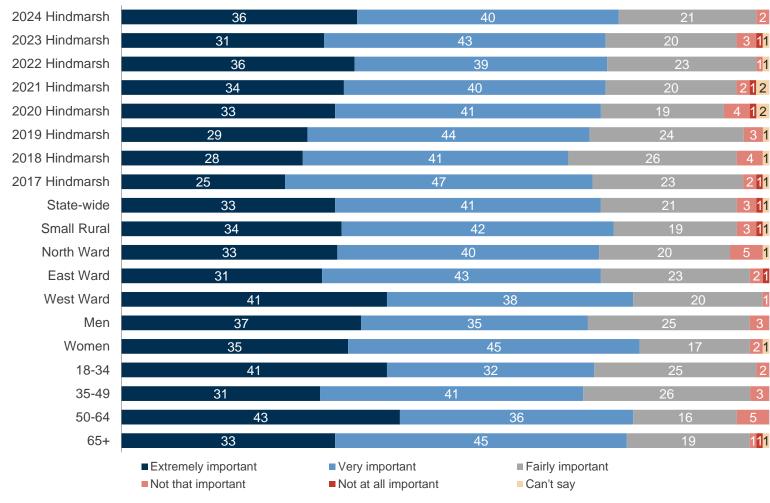


Community consultation and engagement importance





2024 consultation and engagement importance (%)

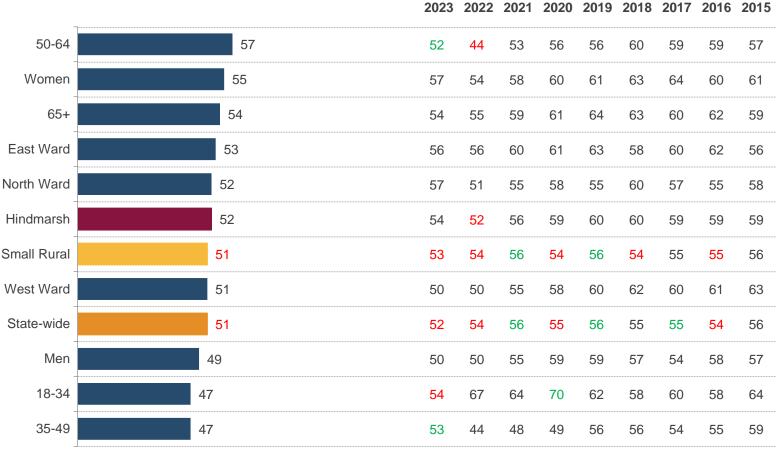


Community consultation and engagement performance





2024 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

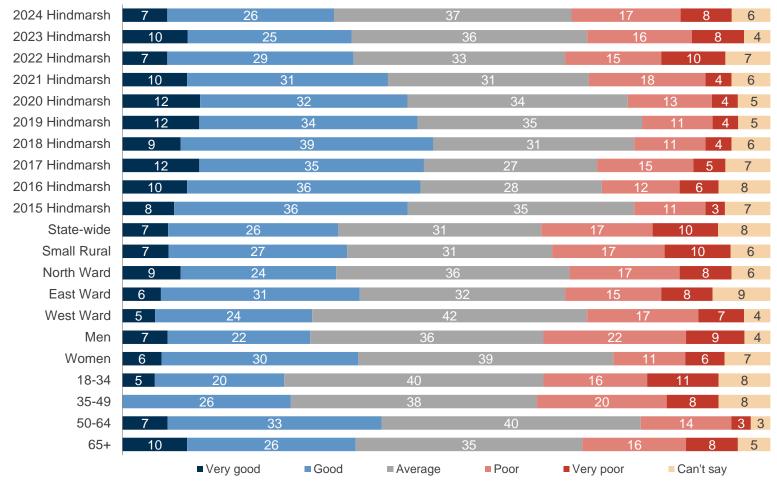


Community consultation and engagement performance





2024 consultation and engagement performance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2024 lobbying importance (index scores)

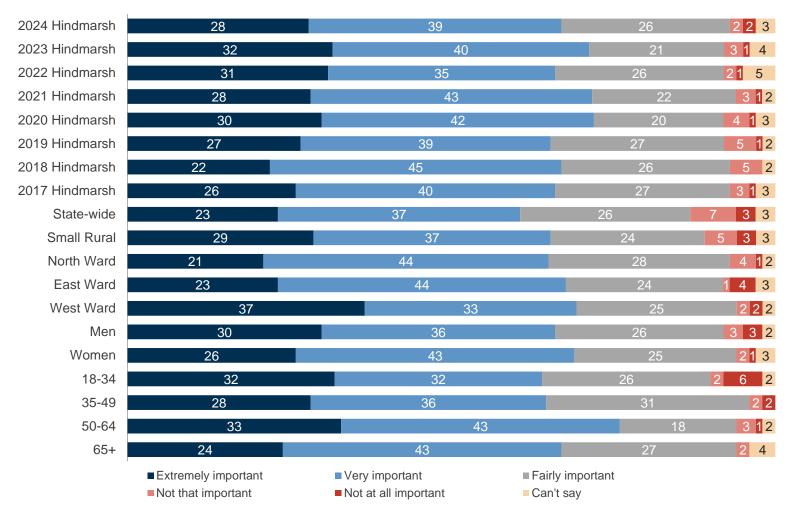


Lobbying on behalf of the community importance





2024 lobbying importance (%)



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2024 lobbying performance (index scores)

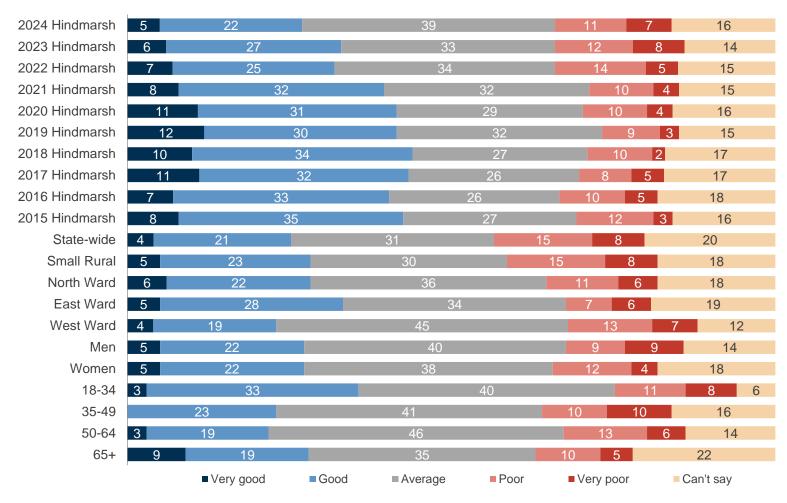


Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





2024 lobbying performance (%)

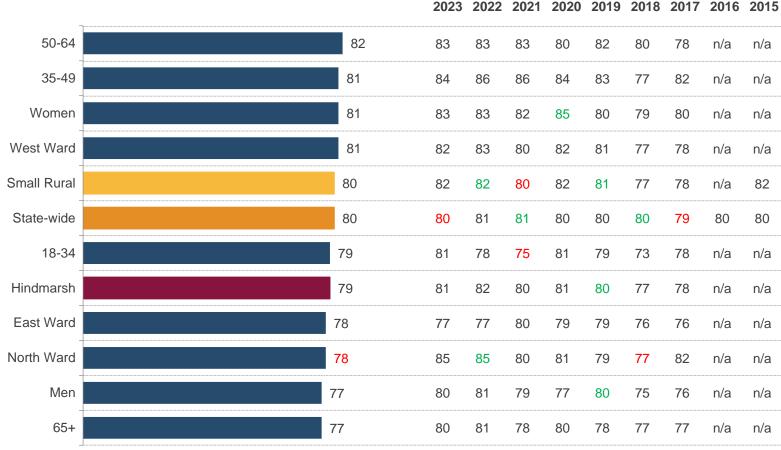


Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2024 community decisions made importance (index scores)

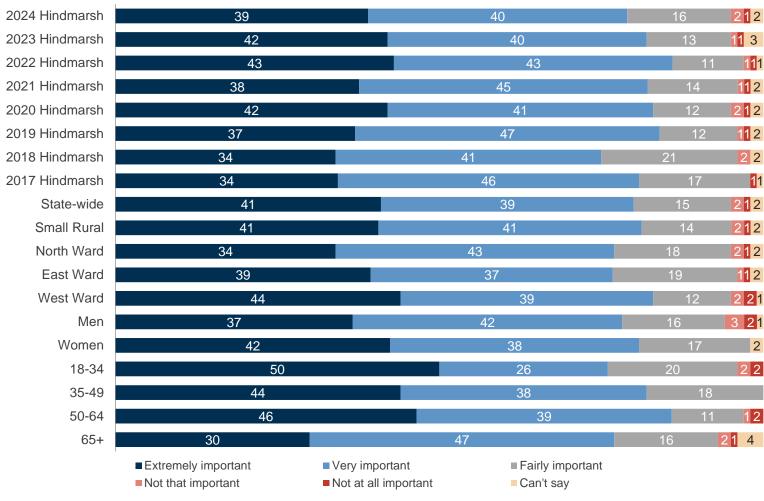


Decisions made in the interest of the community importance





2024 community decisions made importance (%)

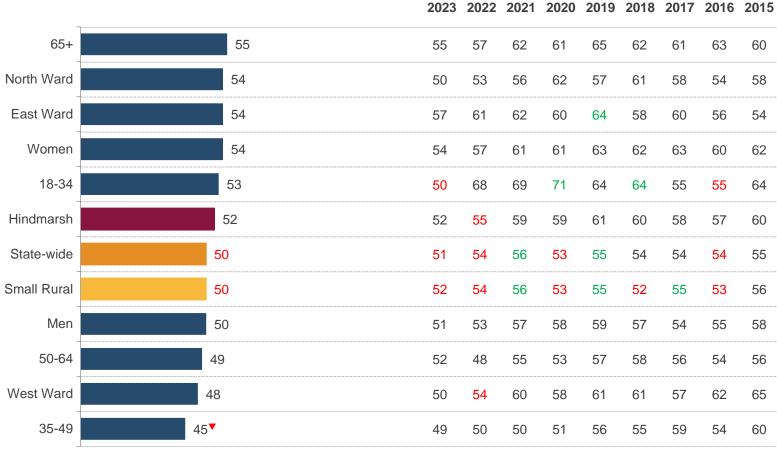


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2024 community decisions made performance (index scores)

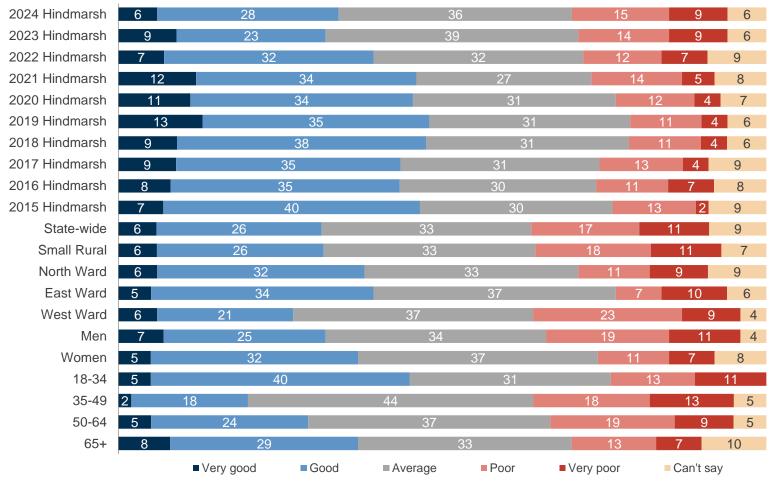


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2024 community decisions made performance (%)

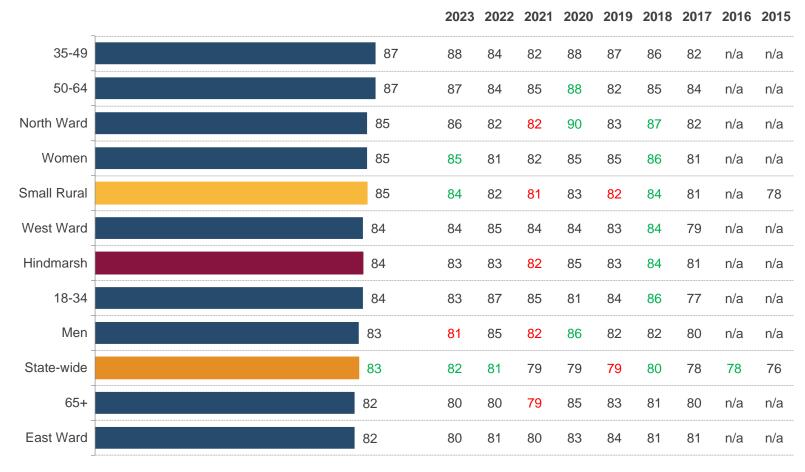


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2024 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

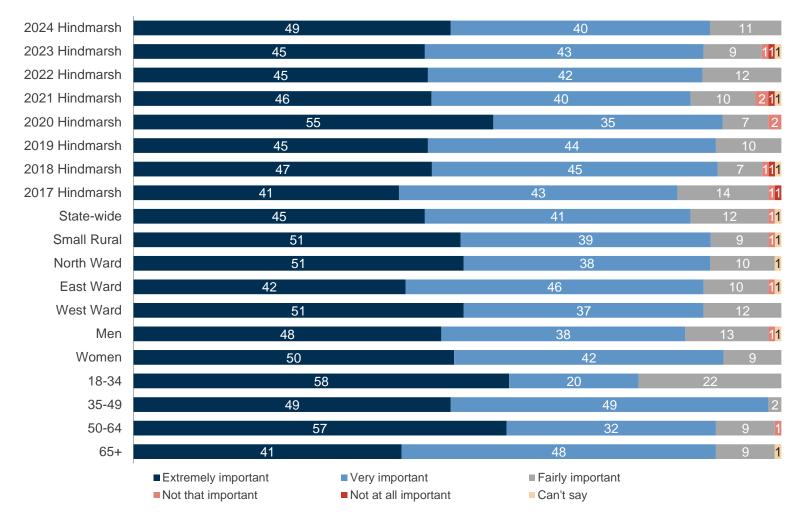


The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance





2024 sealed local roads importance (%)

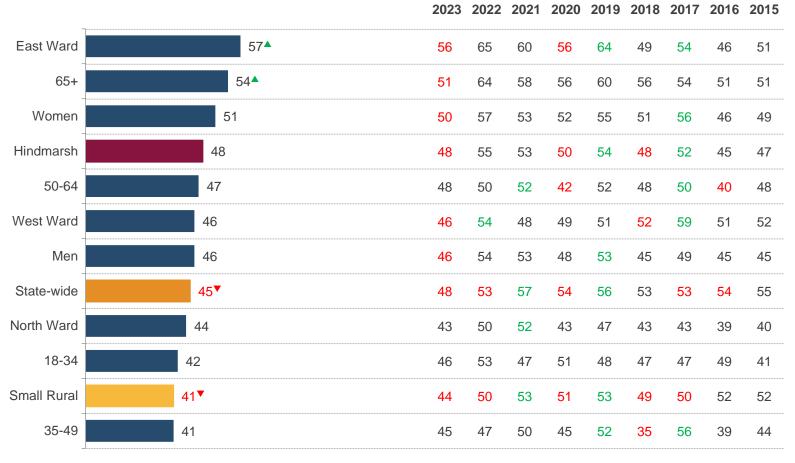


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2024 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

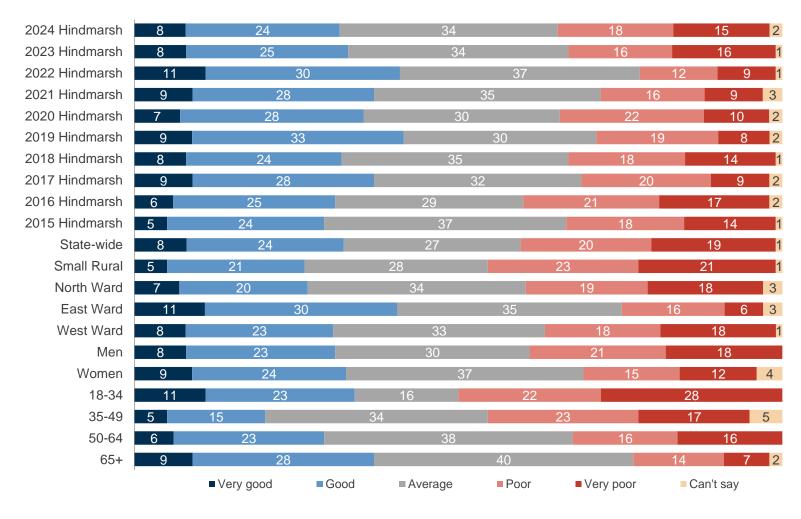


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2024 sealed local roads performance (%)

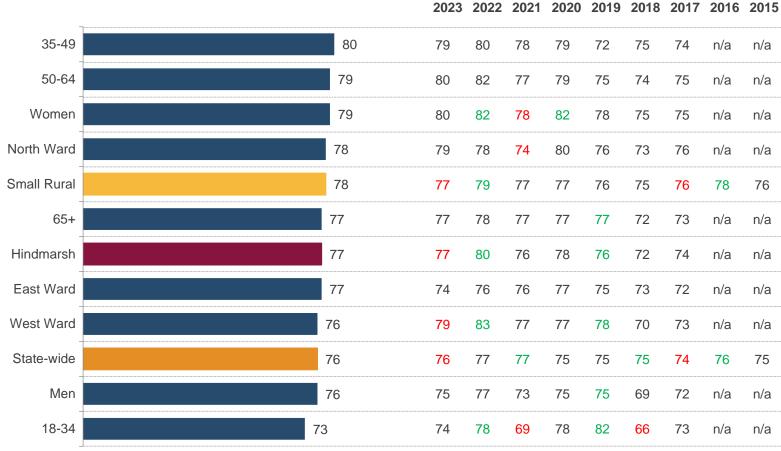


Informing the community importance





2024 informing community importance (index scores)

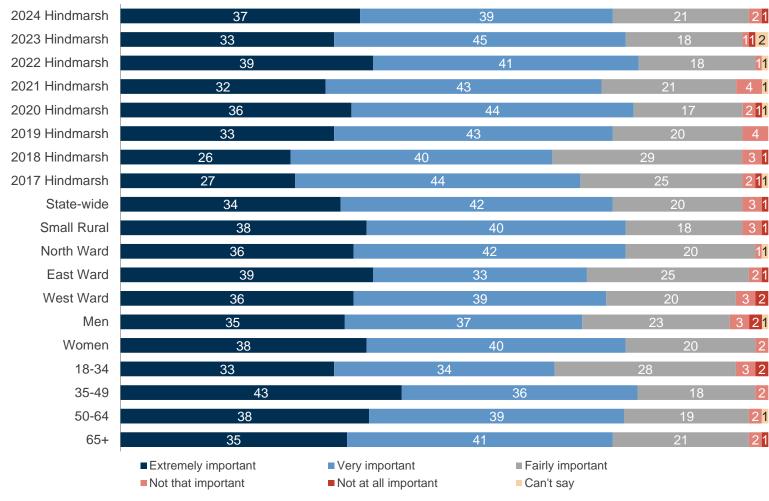


Informing the community importance





2024 informing community importance (%)



Informing the community performance





2024 informing community performance (index scores)

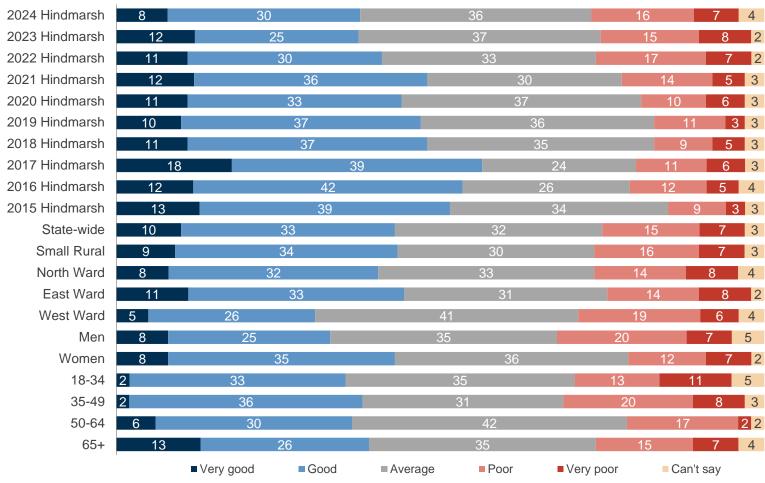


Informing the community performance





2024 informing community performance (%)

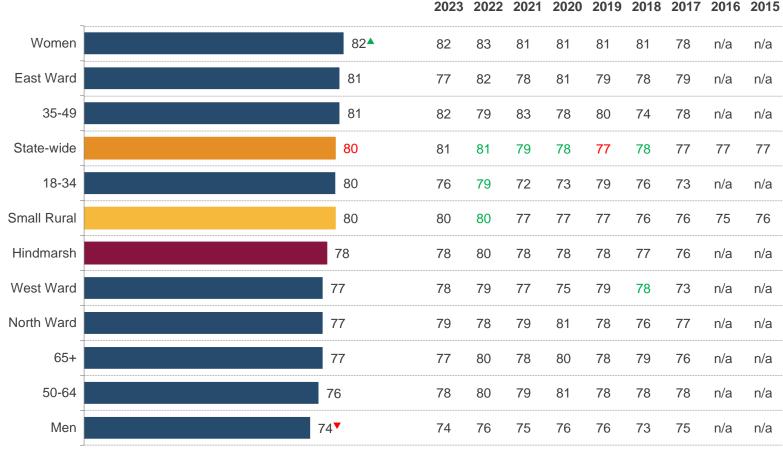


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2024 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

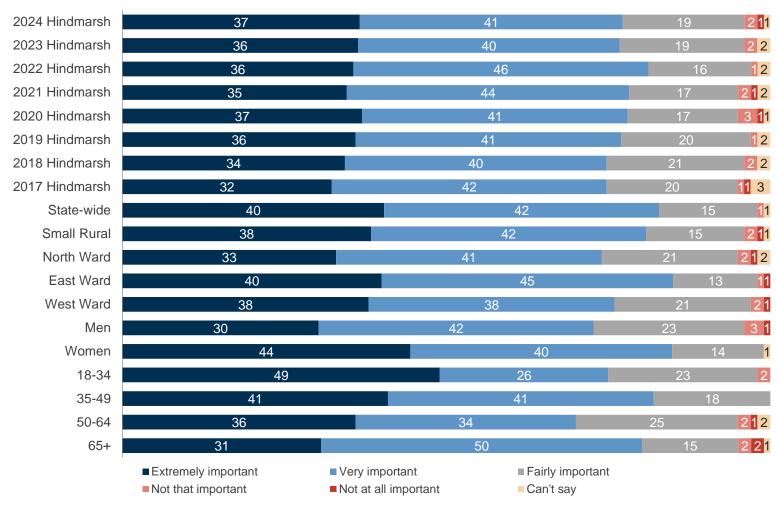


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance





2024 streets and footpaths importance (%)

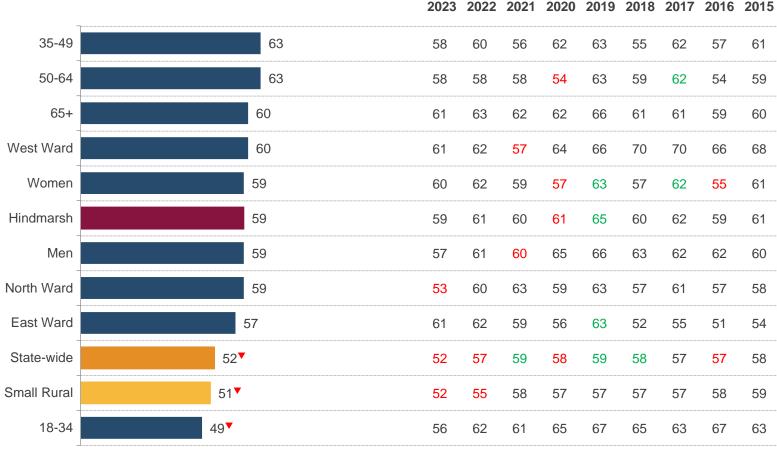


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2024 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

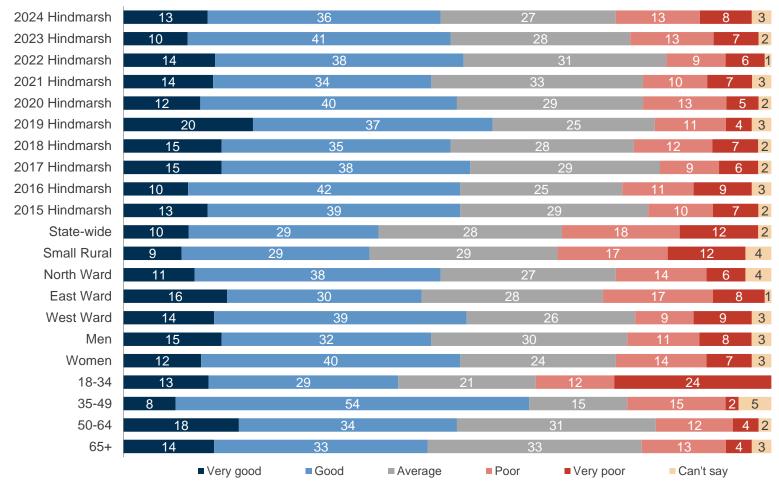


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2024 streets and footpaths performance (%)

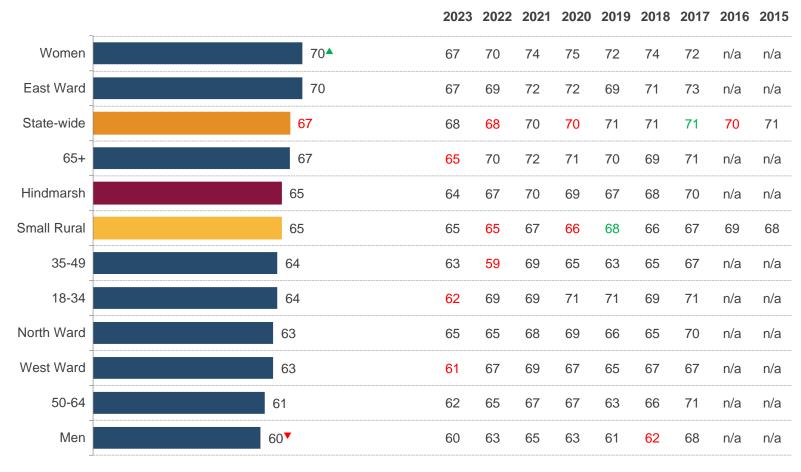


Enforcement of local laws importance





2024 law enforcement importance (index scores)

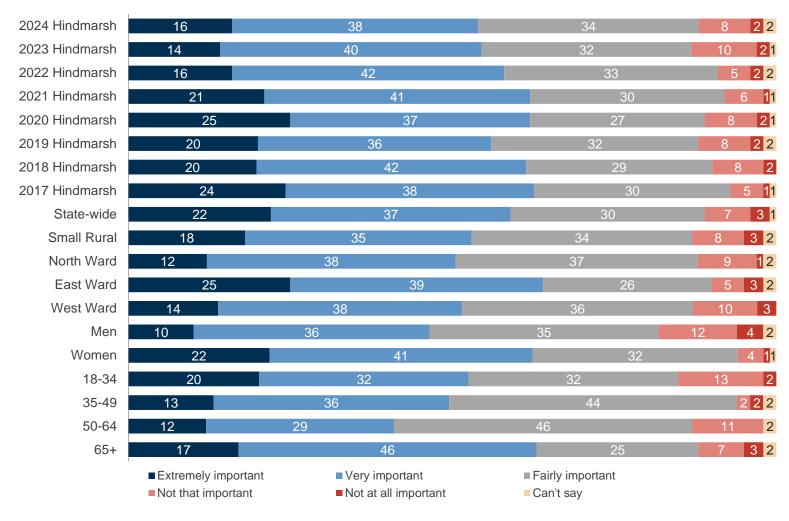


Enforcement of local laws importance





2024 law enforcement importance (%)

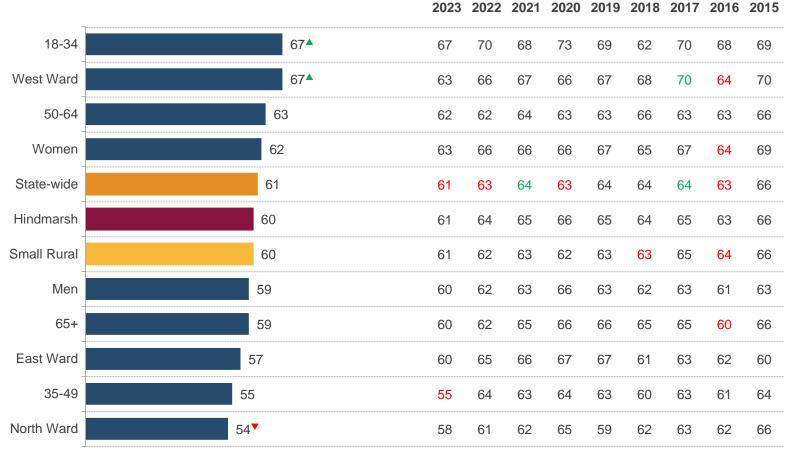


Enforcement of local laws performance





2024 law enforcement performance (index scores)

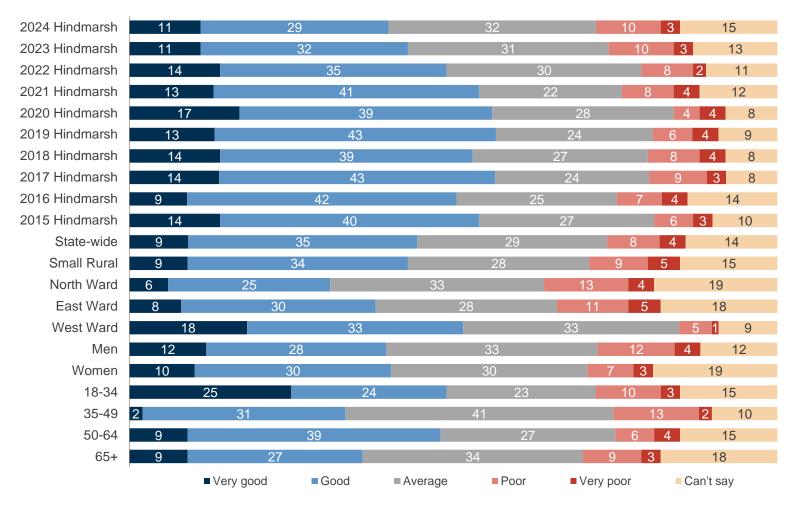


Enforcement of local laws performance





2024 law enforcement performance (%)

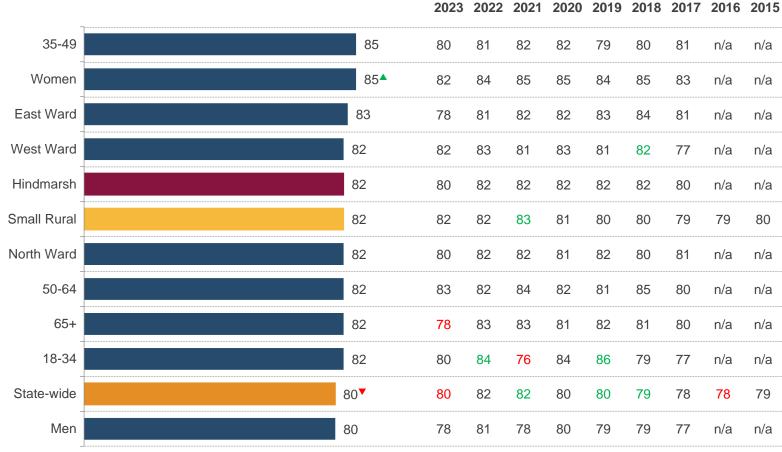


Elderly support services importance





2024 elderly support importance (index scores)

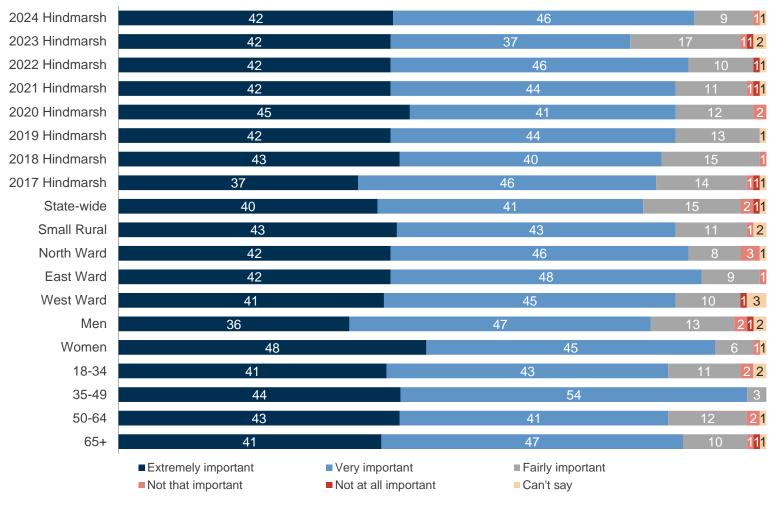


Elderly support services importance





2024 elderly support importance (%)



Elderly support services performance





2024 elderly support performance (index scores)

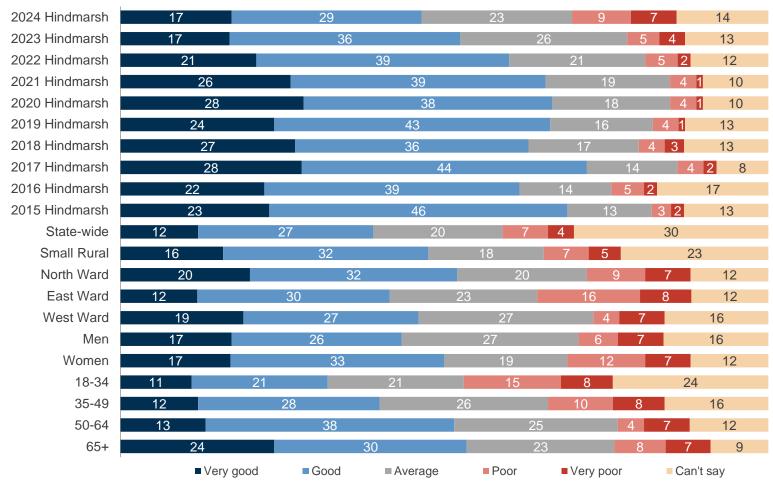


Elderly support services performance





2024 elderly support performance (%)



Recreational facilities importance





2024 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

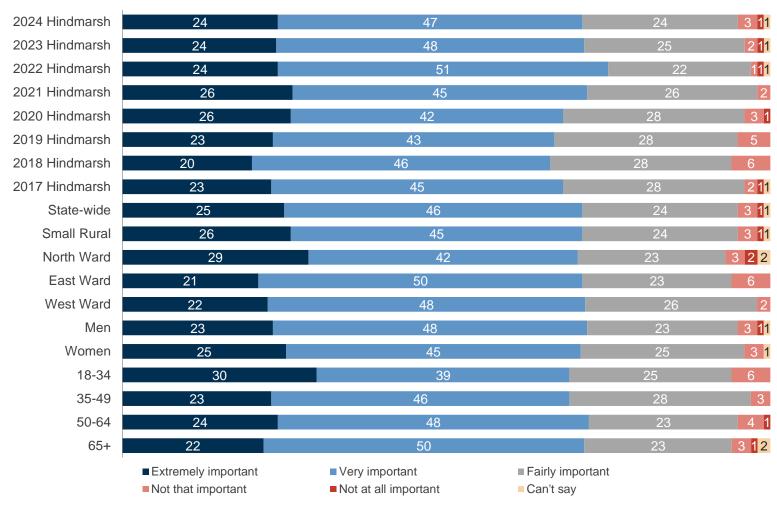


Recreational facilities importance





2024 recreational facilities importance (%)



Recreational facilities performance





2024 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

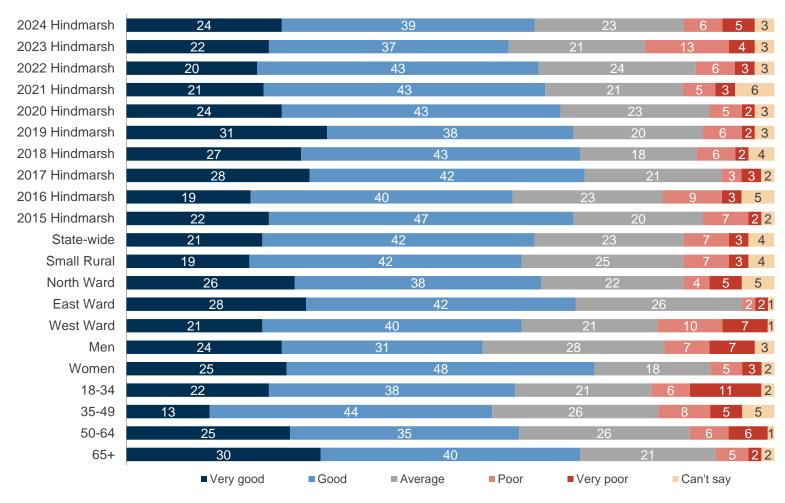


Recreational facilities performance





2024 recreational facilities performance (%)

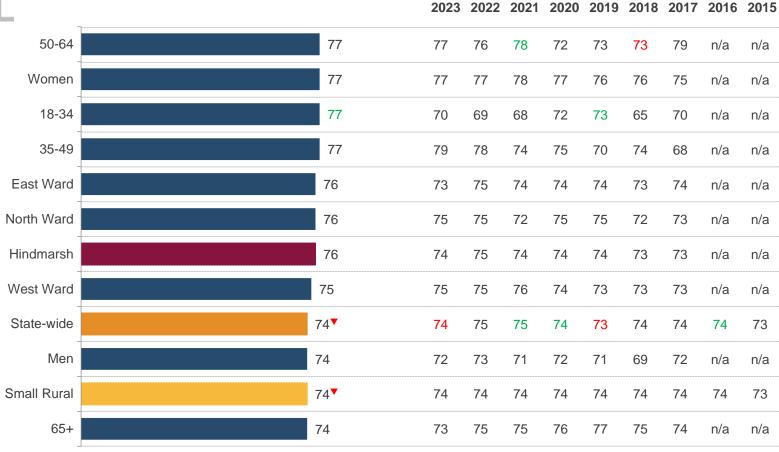


The appearance of public areas importance





2024 public areas importance (index scores)

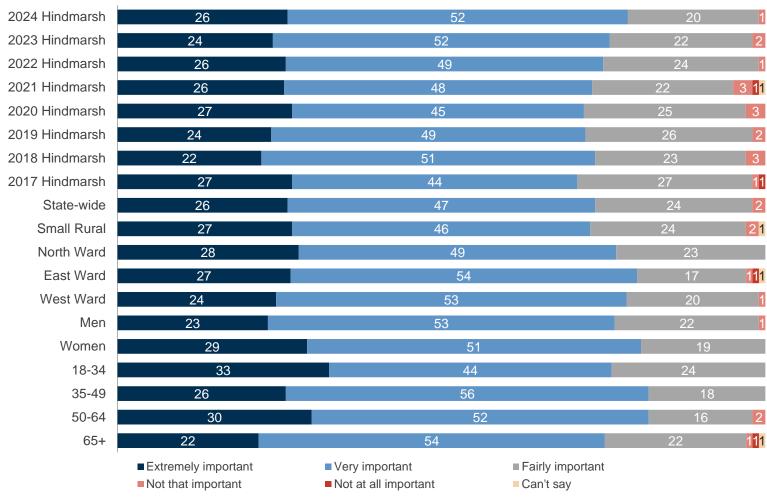


The appearance of public areas importance





2024 public areas importance (%)



The appearance of public areas performance





2024 public areas performance (index scores)

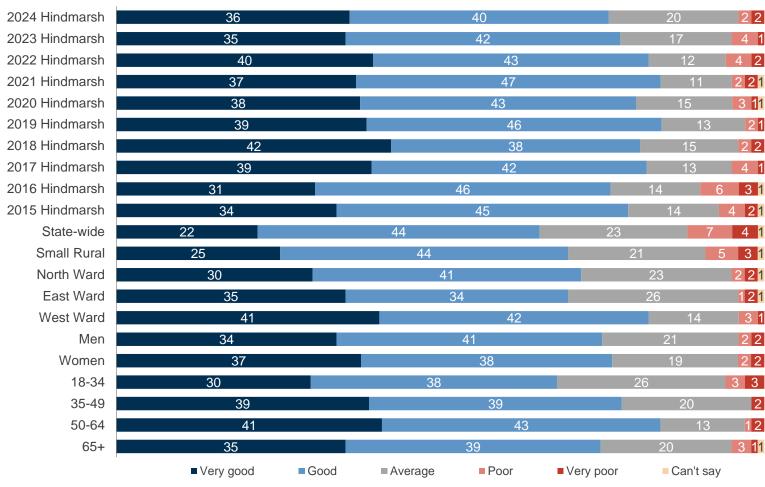


The appearance of public areas performance





2024 public areas performance (%)



Waste management importance





2024 waste management importance (index scores)

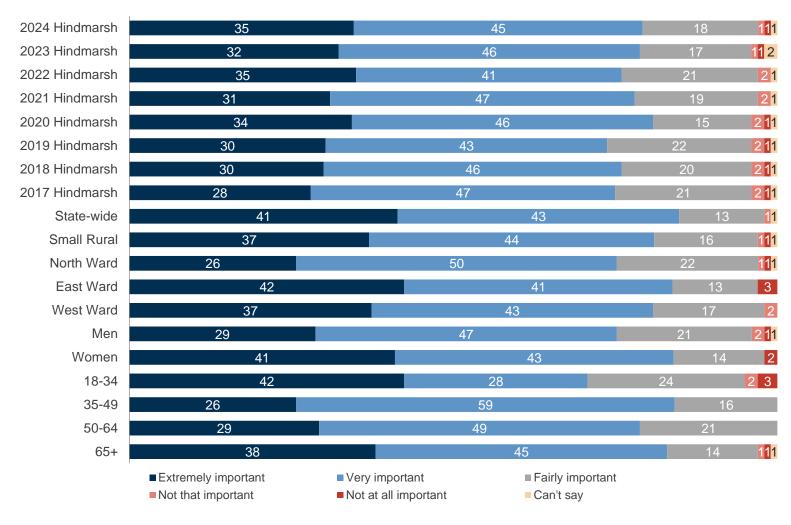


Waste management importance





2024 waste management importance (%)

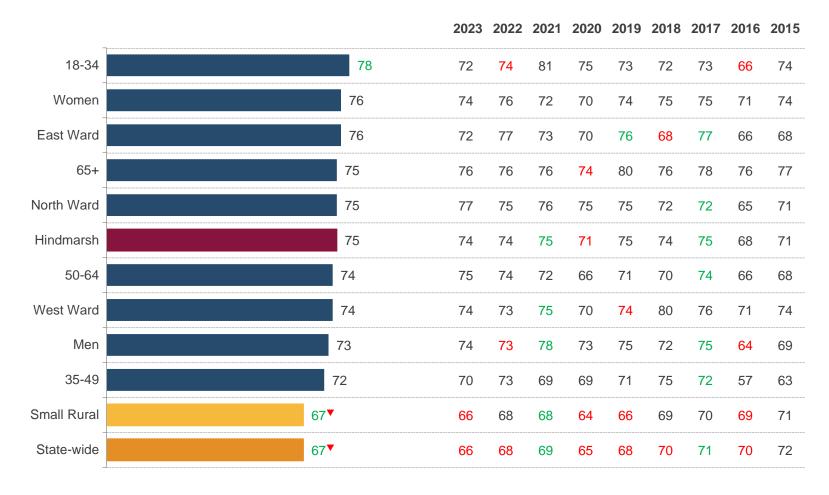


Waste management performance





2024 waste management performance (index scores)

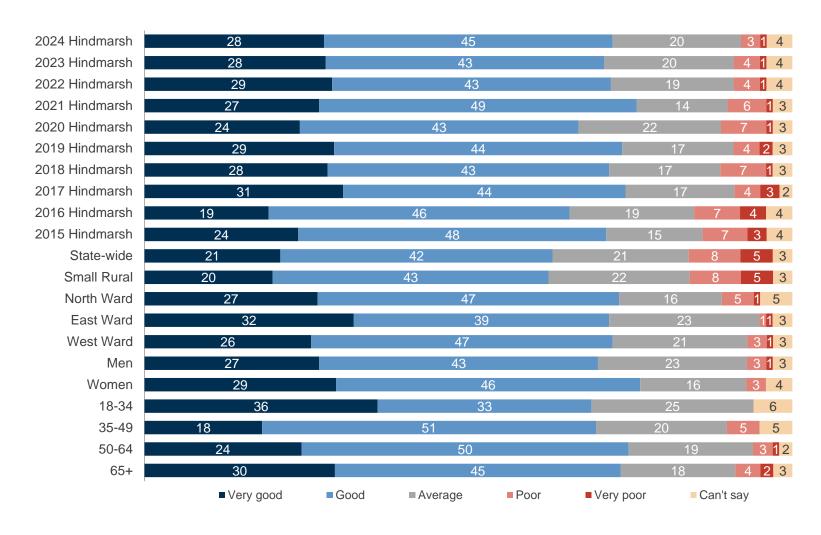


Waste management performance





2024 waste management performance (%)



Business and community development and tourism importance





2024 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

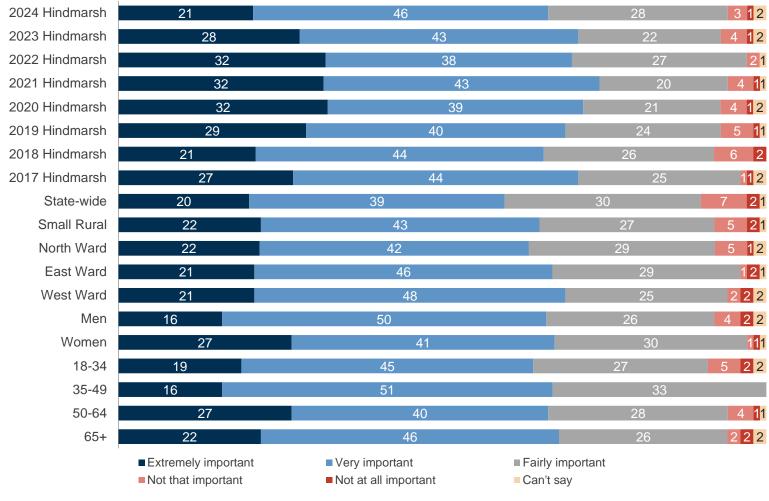


Business and community development and tourism importance





2024 business/development/tourism importance (%)



Business and community development and tourism performance





2024 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

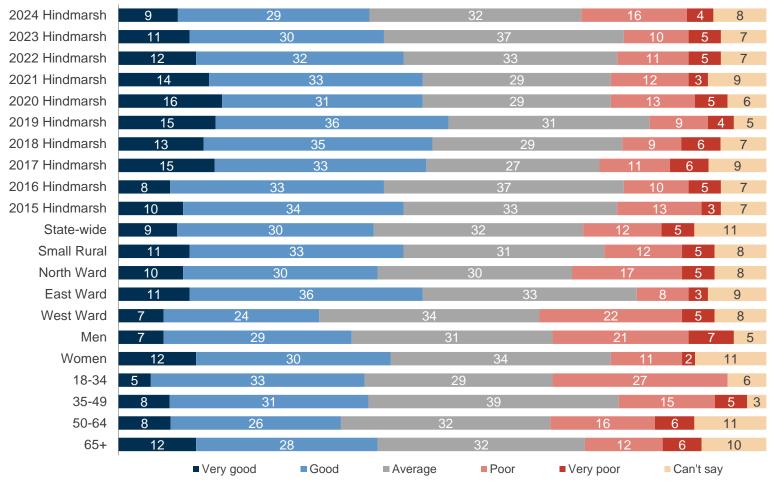


Business and community development and tourism performance





2024 business/development/tourism performance (%)

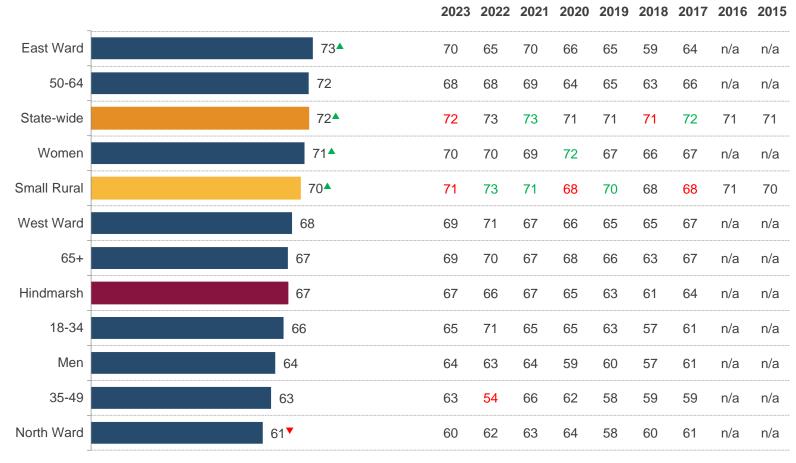


Planning and building permits importance





2024 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

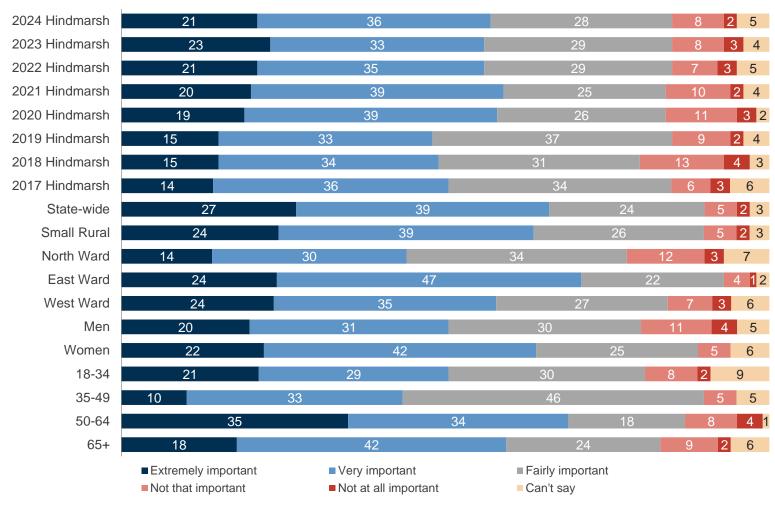


Planning and building permits importance





2024 planning and building permits importance (%)



Planning and building permits performance





2024 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

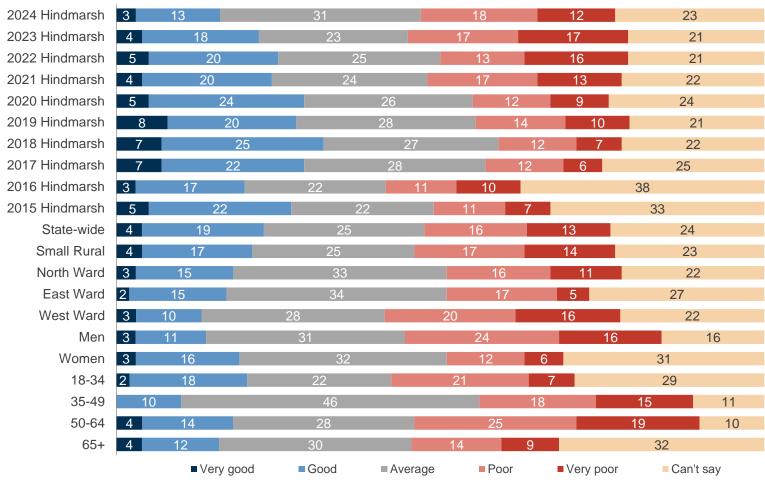


Planning and building permits performance





2024 planning and building permits performance (%)



Roadside slashing and weed control performance





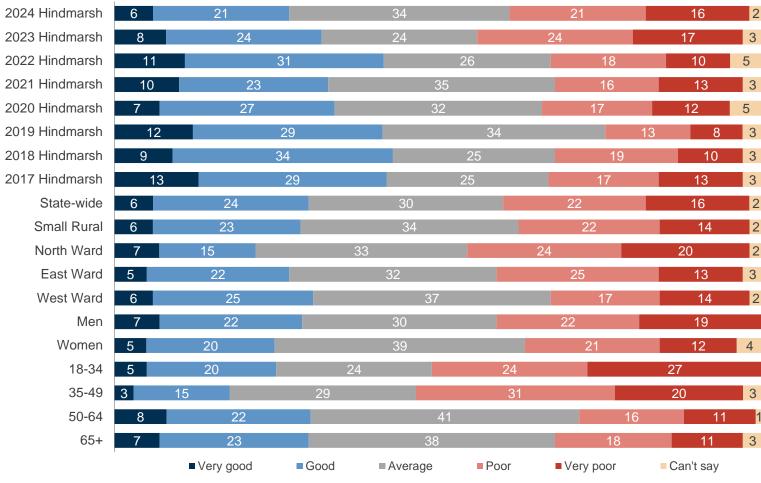


Roadside slashing and weed control performance





2024 roadside slashing and weed control performance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2024 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

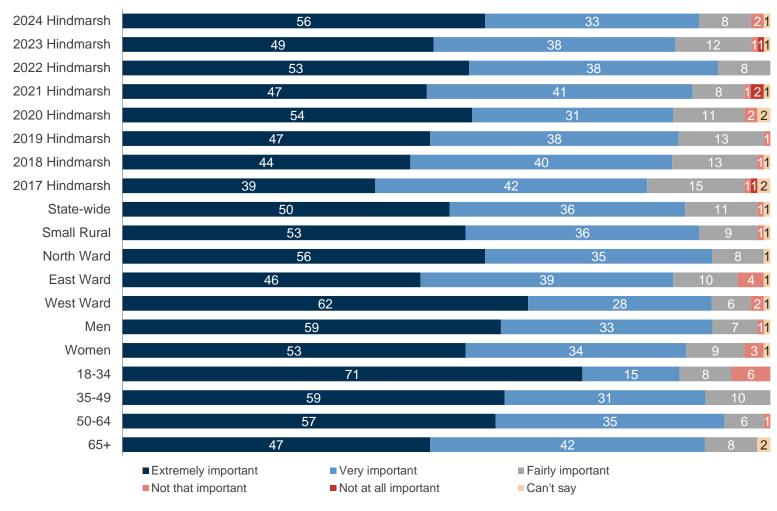


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2024 unsealed roads importance (%)

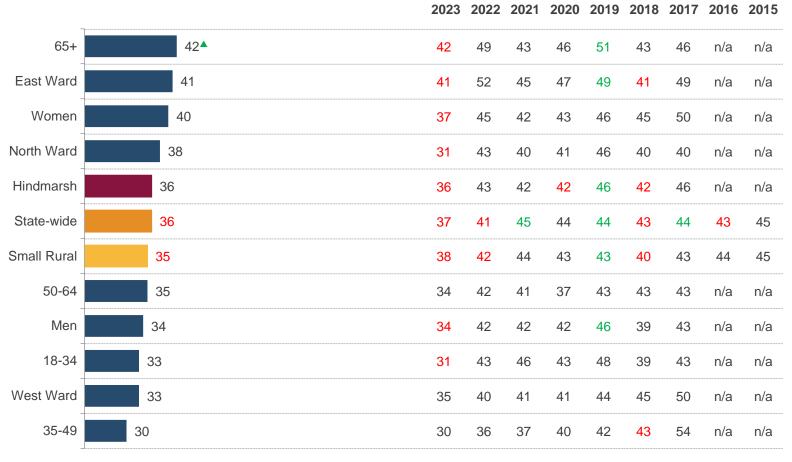


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2024 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

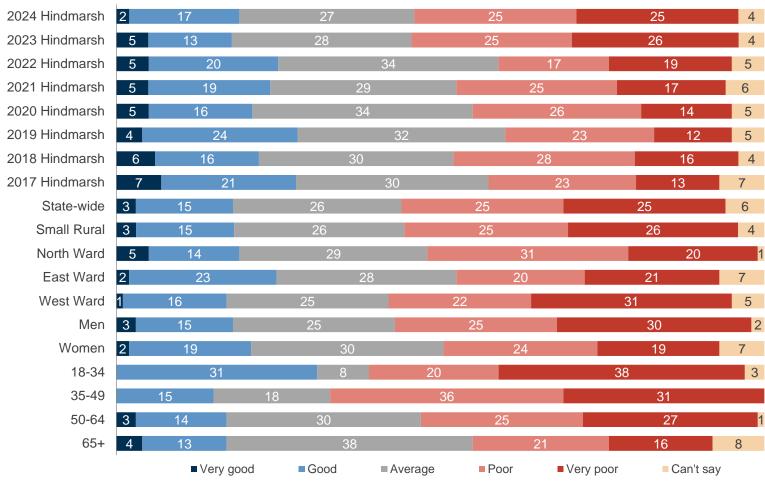


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2024 unsealed roads performance (%)



COVID-19 response importance





2024 COVID-19 response importance (index scores)

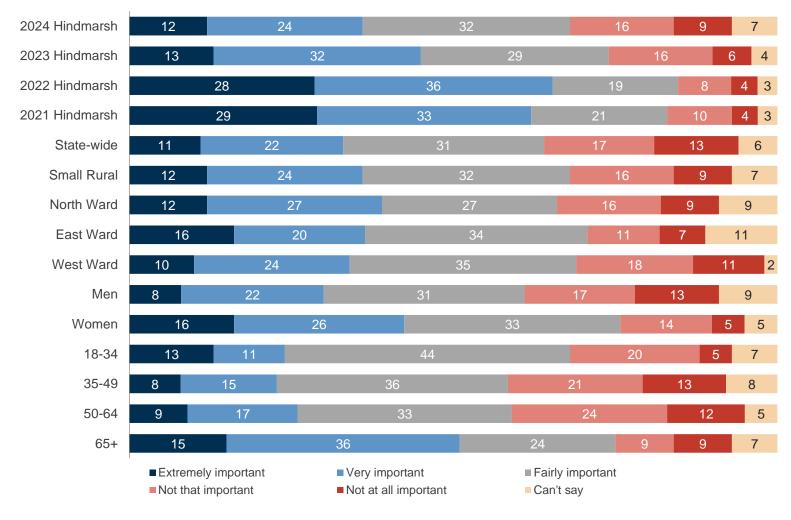


COVID-19 response importance





2024 COVID-19 response importance (%)

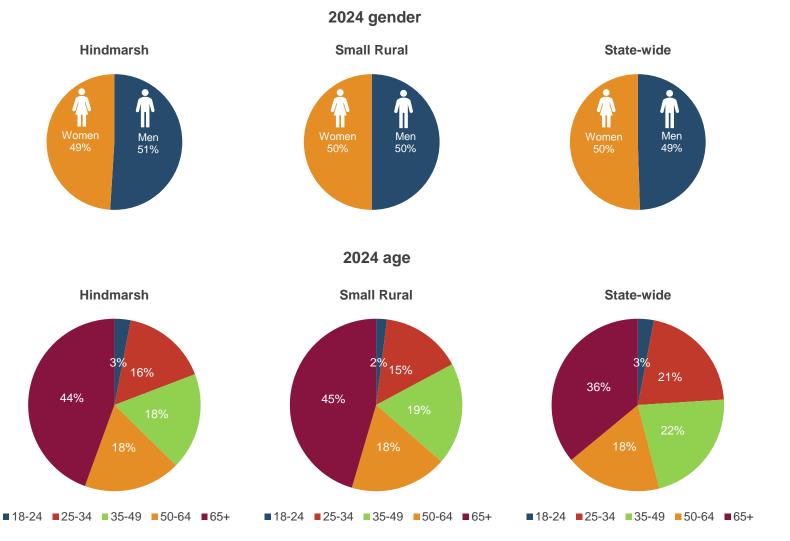




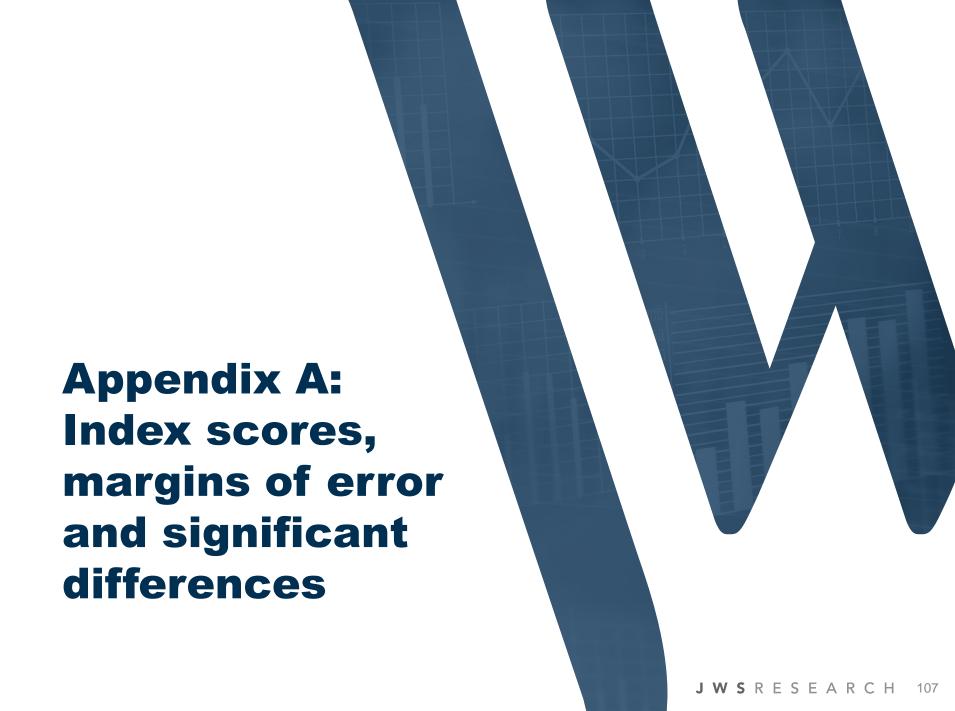
Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile





S3. [Record gender] / S4. To which of the following age groups do you belong?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
Please note that for the reason of simplifying reporting, interlocking age and gender reporting has not been included in this report. Interlocking age and gender analysis is still available in the dashboard and data tables provided alongside this report. Councils interviewing residents on an annual basis included an "Other" option for gender, hence the State-wide and Small Rural gender results may not add to 100%.



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

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The sample size for the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Hindmarsh Shire Council was n=401. 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=401 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 4,600 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	401	400	+/-4.7
Men	214	202	+/-6.6
Women	187	198	+/-7.0
North Ward	140	134	+/-8.2
East Ward	103	106	+/-9.6
West Ward	158	160	+/-7.7
18-34 years	36	78	+/-16.5
35-49 years	39	73	+/-15.8
50-64 years	96	73	+/-9.9
65+ years	230	176	+/-6.3

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 2024 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 2024 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2023, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 19th March.
- 2022, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March.
- 2021, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=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.

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=401 completed interviews were achieved in Hindmarsh Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted across four quarters from 1st June 2023 – 18th March 2024.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DGS website. In 2024, 62 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 2012-2024 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 2024 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: 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 2024 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 2024 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

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Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2024 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: 2024 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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