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Background and objectives

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Victoria for 23 years

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

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



Kingston City Council – at a glance



Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



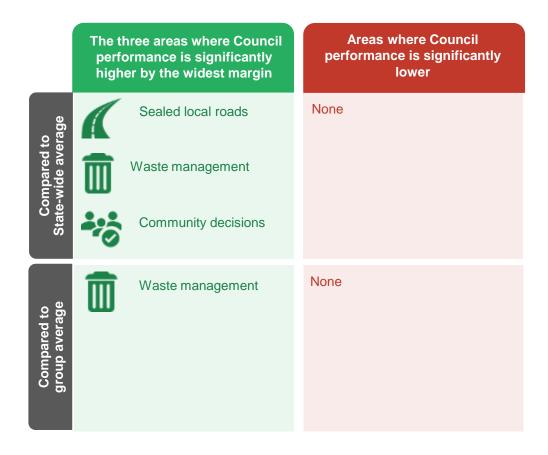
Kingston 64



State-wide 59



Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages



Summary of core measures



Index scores



performance



engagement



decisions



roads



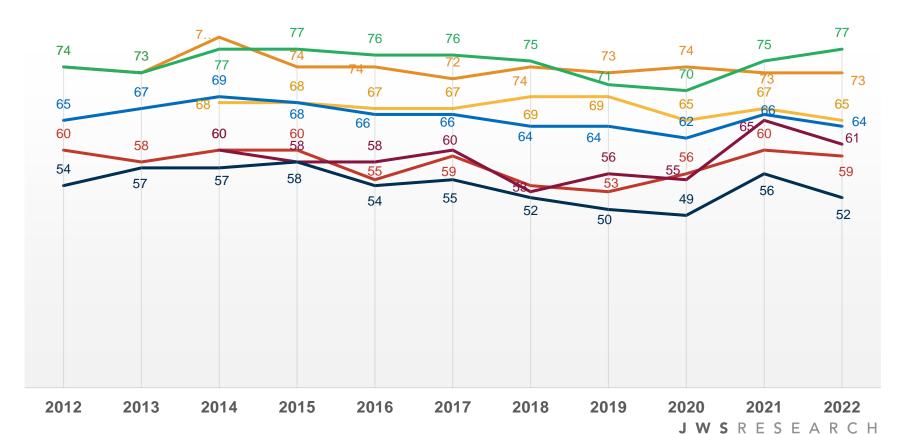
management





Customer service

Overall council direction

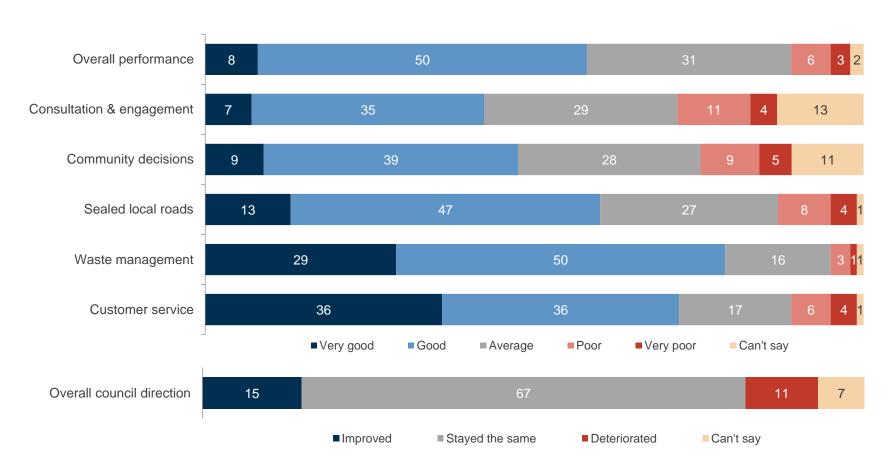


6

Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Kingston City Council performance



Services		Kingston 2022	Kingston 2021	Metro 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
<i>(</i> %	Overall performance	64	66	65	59	Aged 18-34 years, Central residents	Aged 50-64 years
\$	Value for money	64	63	61	53	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
+	Overall council direction	52	56	53	50	Central residents, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
	Customer service	73	73	72	68	Women	Men
	Waste management	77	75	71	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
A	Sealed local roads	65	67	65	53	North residents, Aged 18-34 years	South residents
fried (Local streets & footpaths	62	-	63	57	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
***	Community decisions	61	65	59	54	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Consultation & engagement	59	60	58	54	Central residents	Aged 50-64 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Council's performance ratings are largely in line with 2021 results, with the exception of two measures – overall council direction and community decisions – which declined significantly in ratings in the last 12 months. On a positive note, perceptions of waste management improved slightly. Having maintained and built upon gains achieved in this area between 2020 and 2021, Council's rating for waste management has returned to peak levels.

Focus areas

Council should endeavor to improve transparency and communications with residents around Council decision-making processes. Ratings of community decisions (index score of 61, down from 65 in 2021) declined significantly in the past year. This, coupled with a perceived deterioration in the direction of council performance, would indicate waning confidence in Council's decision-making on behalf of community interests.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Importantly, Council performs significantly higher than State-wide averages on all service areas and significantly higher than the Metropolitan group for waste management, it's highest rated service area. Council performs in line with group averages on all other service areas.

Monitor and rebuild on declines

Aside from the two aforementioned areas, Council generally rates in line with 2021 results despite (non-significant) declines of a few points in some areas. The condition of sealed local roads in the South region is an area to monitor over the next 12 months. Impressions here are significantly lower than average in this area and are trending down over time from a (close to) peak rating in 2018. As a result, Council again rates at its lowest level recorded for sealed local roads.

DETAILED FINDINGS





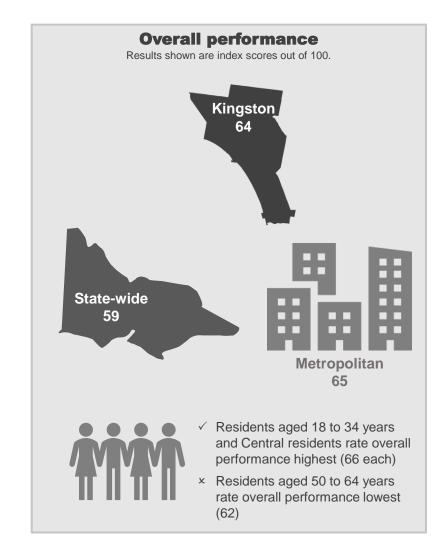


The overall performance index score of 64 for Kingston City Council represents a slight (not significant) two-point decline from the 2021 result. Council's overall performance rating remains lower than its peak level of 69 index points in 2014.

Kingston City Council's overall performance is rated statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence interval) than the average rating for councils State-wide and in line with the Metropolitan group (index scores of 59 and 65 respectively).

- Women (index score of 64, down five points) and residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 66, down six points) declined significantly in their impressions of Council's overall performance in the past year.
- Ratings are fairly similar across Council regions.

A majority of residents (57%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services as 'very good' or 'good' (up from 51% in 2021). By comparison, only 11% rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor'. A further 27% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.



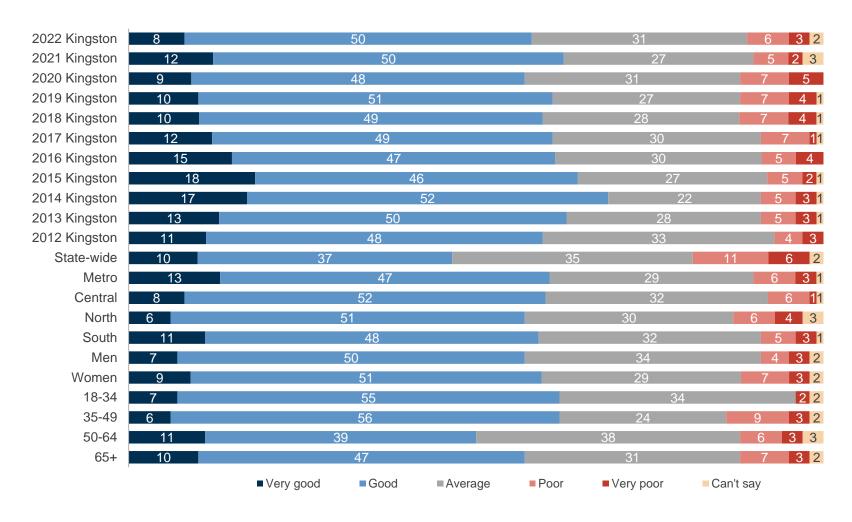


2022 overall performance (index scores)





2022 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



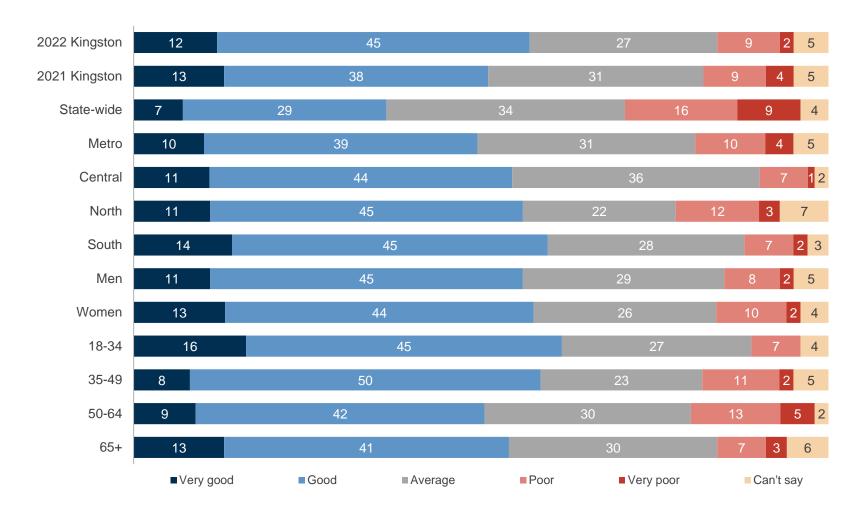
2022 value for money (index scores)

2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 18-34 69^ n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a South 66 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Women 65 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 64 Central 63 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Kingston 64 63 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 64 Men 59 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 65+ 64 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 63 35-49 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a North 63 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 61▼ Metro n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 50-64 59 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 53▼ State-wide n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a

Value for money in services and infrastructure



2022 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

Waste management (index score of 77) remains Council's highest performing service area, where it has stayed for the past ten years in a row.

Council performs significantly higher than the Metropolitan group and State-wide averages for councils in this service area (index scores of 71 and 68 respectively).

- Council has continued to build on its performance in this area after having received lower ratings in 2019 and 2020 (index scores of 71 and 70 respectively).
 Council's performance rating for waste management has returned to peak levels last seen in 2015.
- Residents aged 65+ and 18 to 34 years (index scores of 80 and 78 respectively) rate Council higher for waste management than residents aged 35 to 49 and 50 to 64 years (index scores of 73 and 74 respectively).





Low performing service areas





Council rates lowest in the area of consultation and engagement (index score of 59). Council however has maintained ratings gains achieved since 2019, when performance dropped to an index score of 53. Council's current index score is just one point below its highest achieved rating in this area of 60 index points.

- Council rates significantly higher than State-wide and in line with Metropolitan group averages for consultation and engagement (index scores of 54 and 58 respectively).
- Central residents (index score of 65) rate Council's performance in the area of consultation and engagement significantly higher than the average rating for Council.

Council's performance rating declined significantly in the last year in the area of community decisions (index score of 61, down four points from 2021).

Similar to consultation and engagement, Council rates significantly higher than State-wide and in line with Metropolitan group averages for community decisions (index scores of 54 and 59 respectively).

Individual service area performance



2022 individual service area performance (index scores)

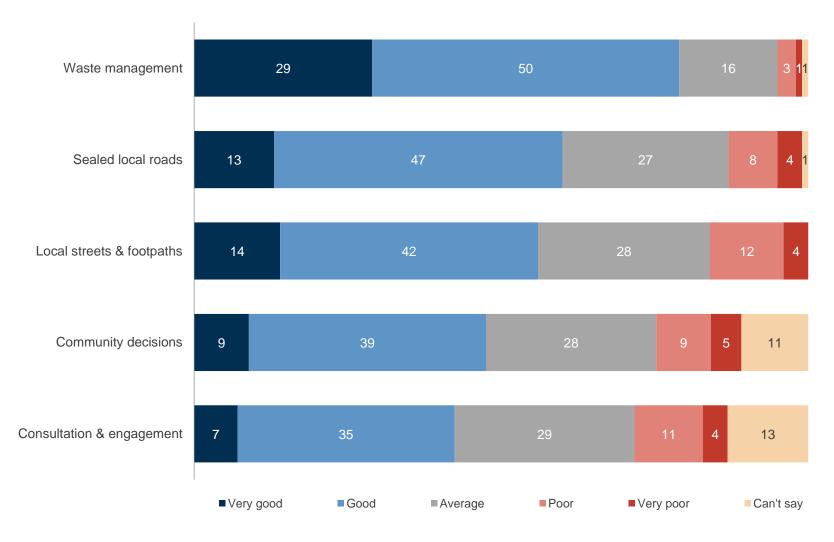
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012



Individual service area performance



2022 individual service area performance (%)





Customer service

Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Three in five Council residents (61%) had contact with Council in the previous 12 months. Rate of contact is five percentage points higher than in 2021.

As in previous years, residents are most likely to have contacted Council by telephone (33%), followed by email (21%) or via Council's website contact form (14%). In-person communications dropped significantly with the onset of the pandemic (from 21% in 2020 to 9% in 2022).



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 73 is unchanged from 2021. While Council's customer service rating has stayed consistent over the past six years, it has yet to return to peak levels achieved in 2015 (index score of 79). Customer service is rated significantly higher than the State-wide and in line with the Metropolitan group averages (index scores of 68 and 72 respectively).

Seven in ten residents (72%) who had contact with Council provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'.

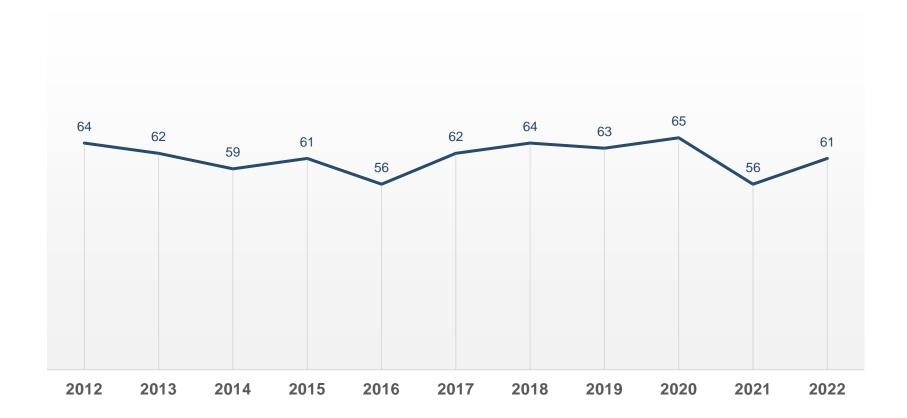
 Perceptions of customer service are equally positive among residents of the North, Central, and South council regions.

Customer service ratings are highest among residents who communicated with council in-person (index score of 80) (noting this is finding is based on a small sample size).

Contact with council



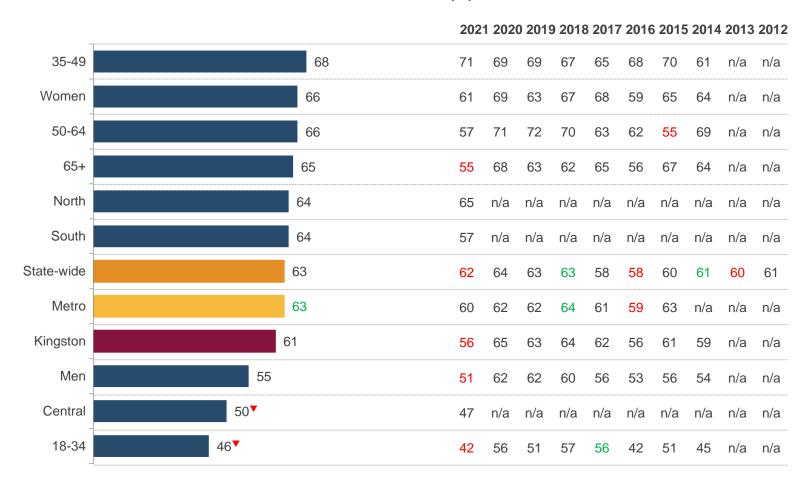
2022 contact with council (%) Have had contact



Contact with council



2022 contact with council (%)



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

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 8

Note that some data may be missing from 2012 and 2013 due to a change in demographic analysis...

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

Customer service rating



2022 customer service rating (index scores)

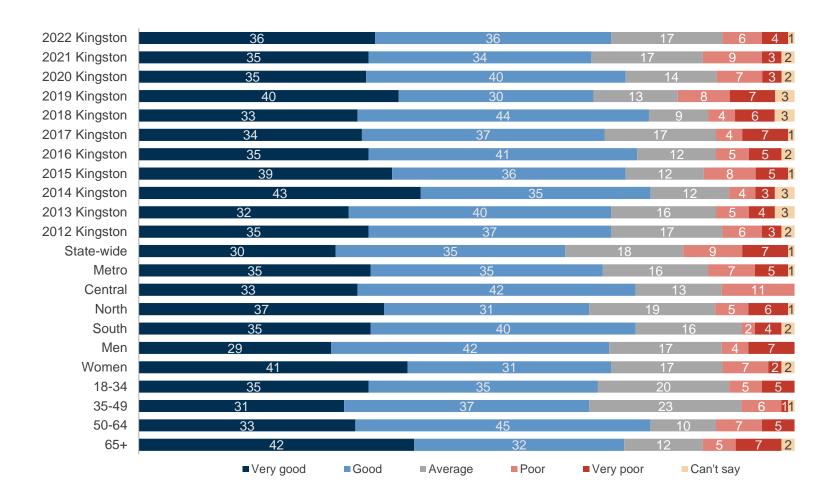


Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Kingston City Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 16 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Customer service rating



2022 customer service rating (%)



Method of contact with council



2022 method of contact (%)















In Person

In Writing

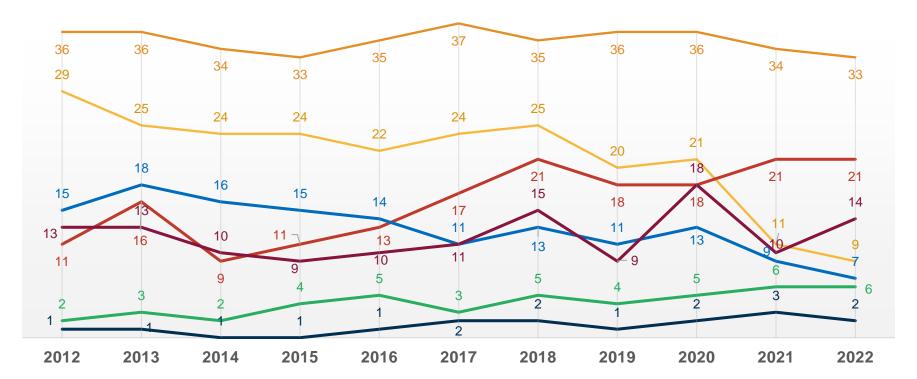
By Telephone

By Text Message

By Email

Via Website

By Social Media



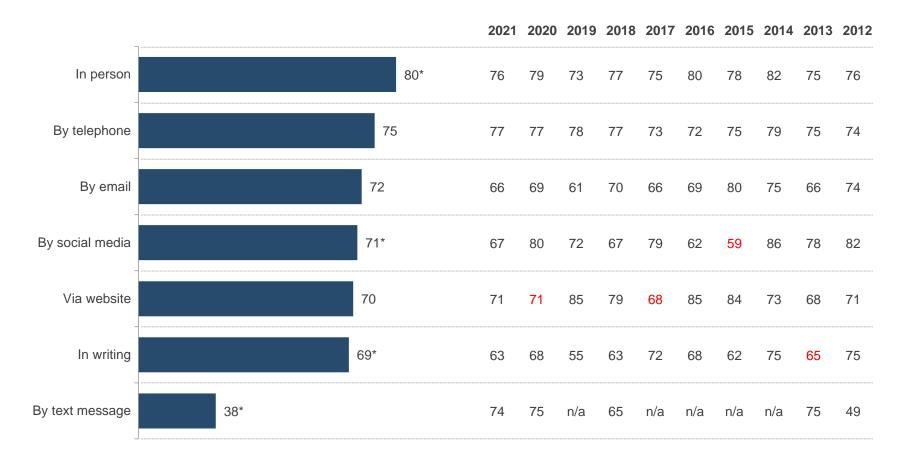
Q5a. Have you or any member of your household had any recent contact with Kingston City Council in any of the following ways?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 8

Customer service rating by method of last contact



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



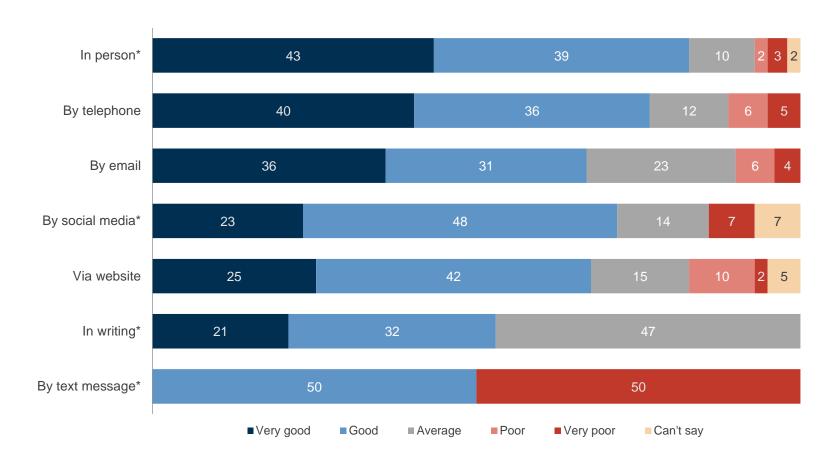
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Kingston City Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 8

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences. *Caution: small sample size < n=30

Customer service rating by method of last contact



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



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Kingston City Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group: 8

*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Council direction

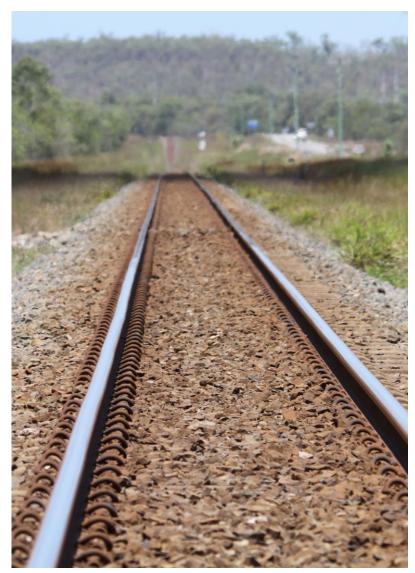
W

Two-thirds of Council residents (67%) believe the direction of Council's overall performance stayed the same over the previous 12 months.

- Another 15% describe the direction of Council's overall performance as having improved over the previous 12 months (down five points from 2021).
- One in ten (11%) describe it has having deteriorated.
- All demographic and geographic groups tend to rate the direction of Council's performance within a few index points of the average.

Gains achieved between 2020 and 2021 (when Council's overall direction index score increased significantly from 49 to 56 index points) have not been maintained. More broadly, perceptions of council direction have declined significantly since 2015 when Council's rating peaked at 58 index points, and 23% of residents described the direction of Council's overall performance as having improved.

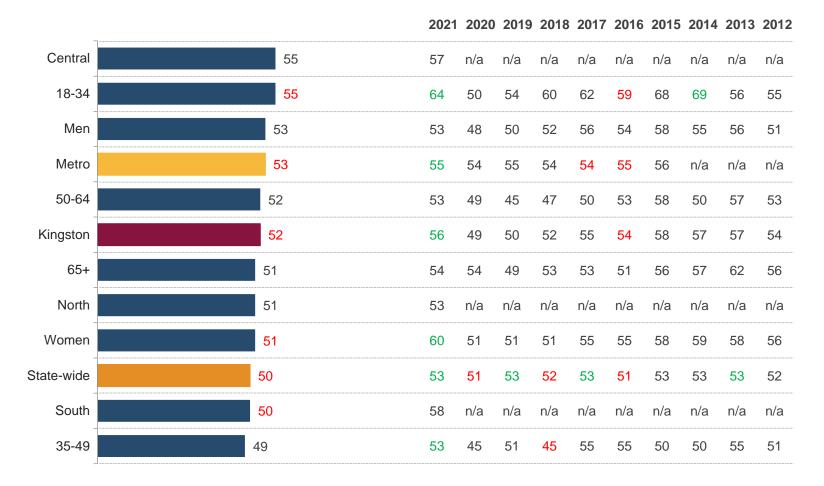
 Perceptions of the direction of council performance have declined significantly in the past year among residents aged 18 to 34 years and women. Ratings declined by nine index points each among both groups.



Overall council direction last 12 months



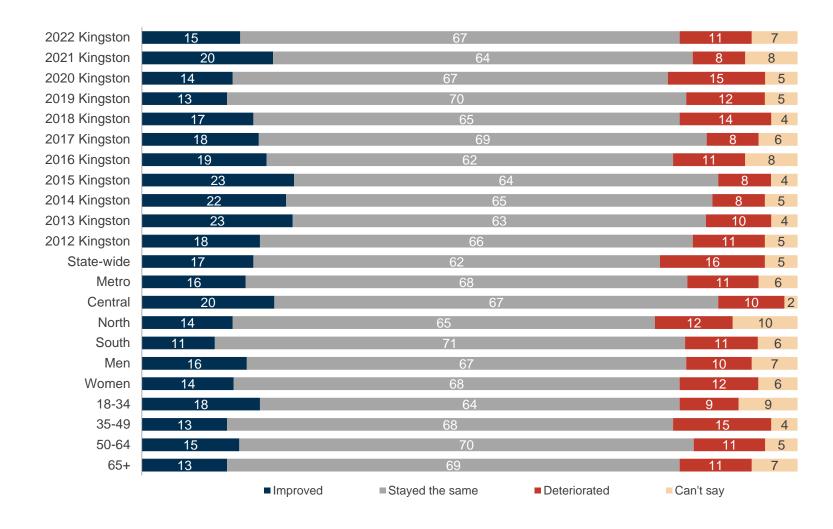
2022 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



2022 overall council direction (%)





2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

Community consultation and engagement performance

54▼





2022 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

65^ Central n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 18-34 65+ South n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Men Kingston Women Metro n/a n/a n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

n/a

35-49

North

50-64

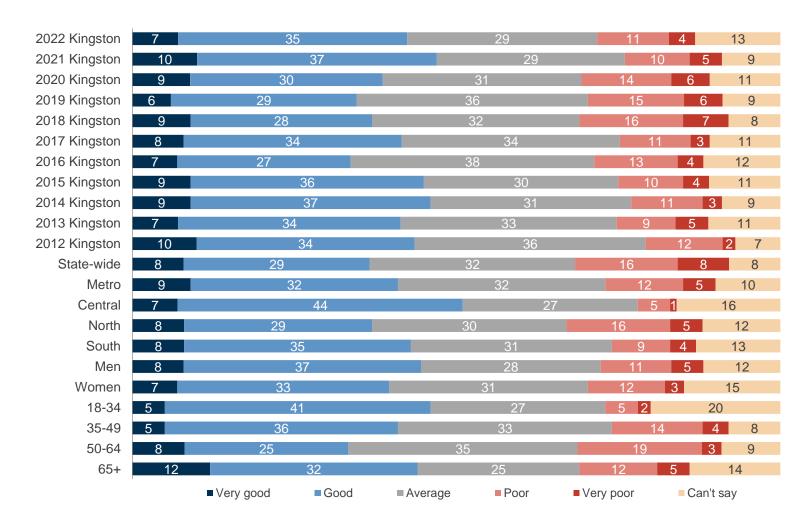
State-wide

Community consultation and engagement performance





2022 consultation and engagement performance (%)

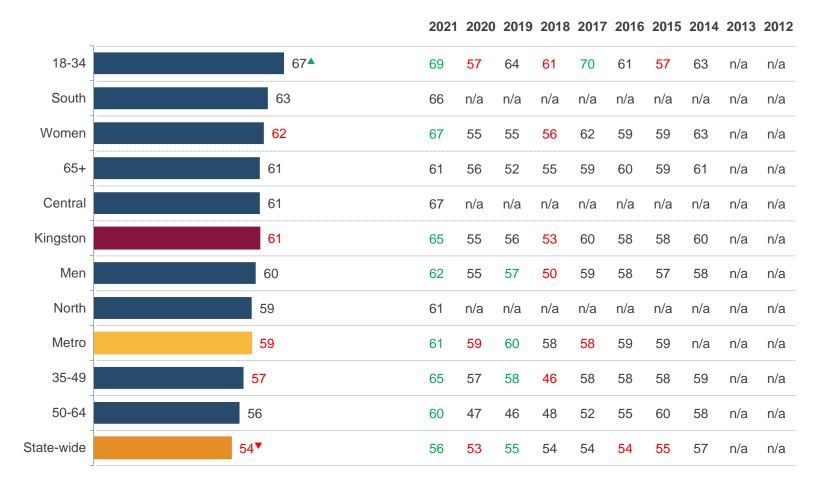


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2022 community decisions made performance (index scores)

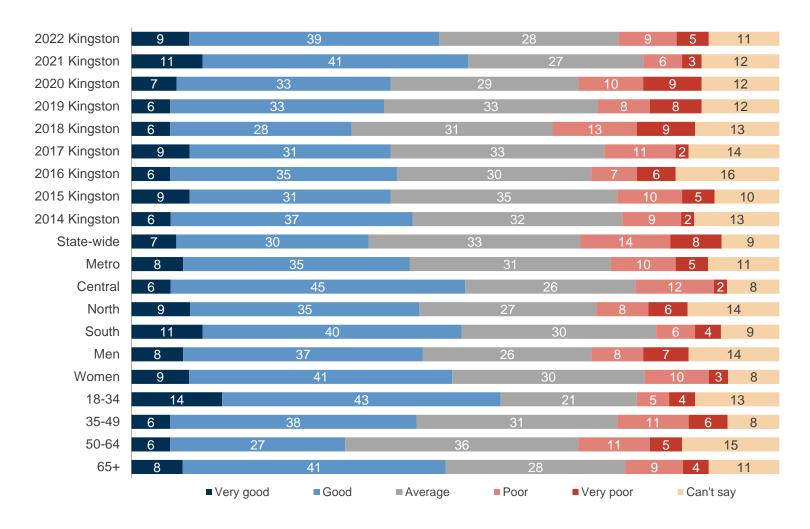


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2022 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2022 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

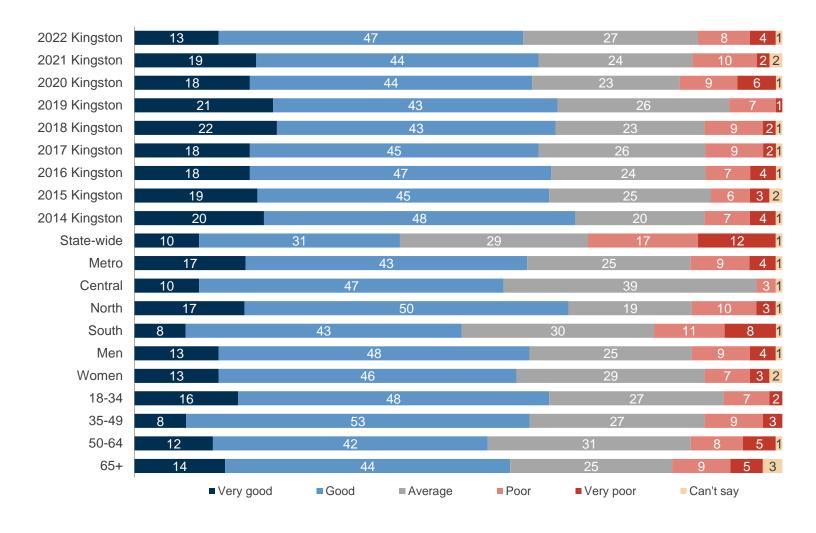
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 North 67 67 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 18-34 67 68 69 74 70 69 69 77 69 n/a n/a Central 66 69 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 65 Metro n/a 68 67 69 68 66 67 69 n/a n/a Women 65 69 67 70 68 67 68 67 67 n/a n/a Kingston 65 67 65 69 69 67 68 68 67 n/a n/a Men 64 65 64 68 70 67 66 70 69 n/a n/a 65 +n/a 64 66 67 67 66 69 68 69 66 n/a 35-49 63 68 62 73 67 65 64 67 63 n/a n/a 50-64 62 69 65 64 67 69 66 67 66 n/a n/a South 58₹ 66 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 53▼ State-wide 55 57 54 56 53 53 54 55 n/a n/a

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2022 sealed local roads performance (%)



The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2022 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

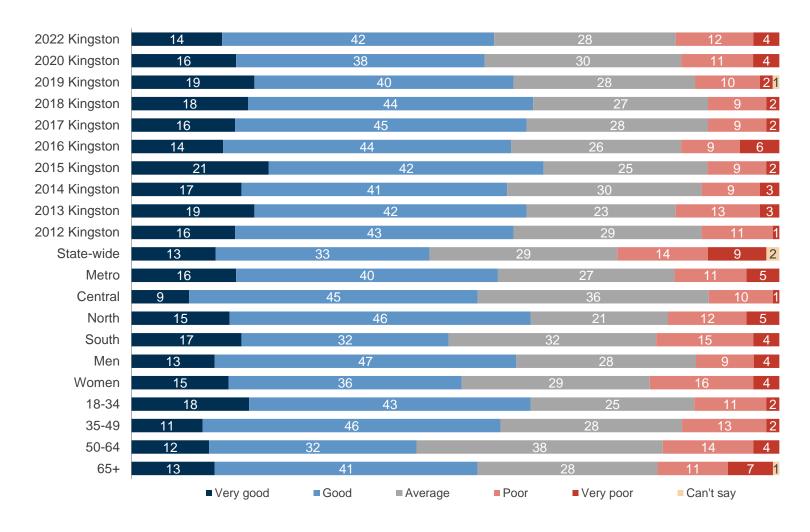


The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance





2022 streets and footpaths performance (%)



Waste management performance





2022 waste management performance (index scores)

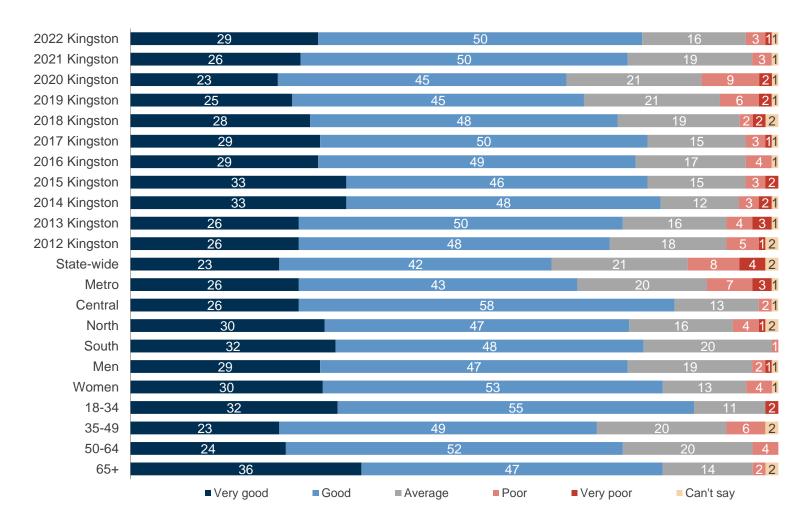


Waste management performance





2022 waste management performance (%)

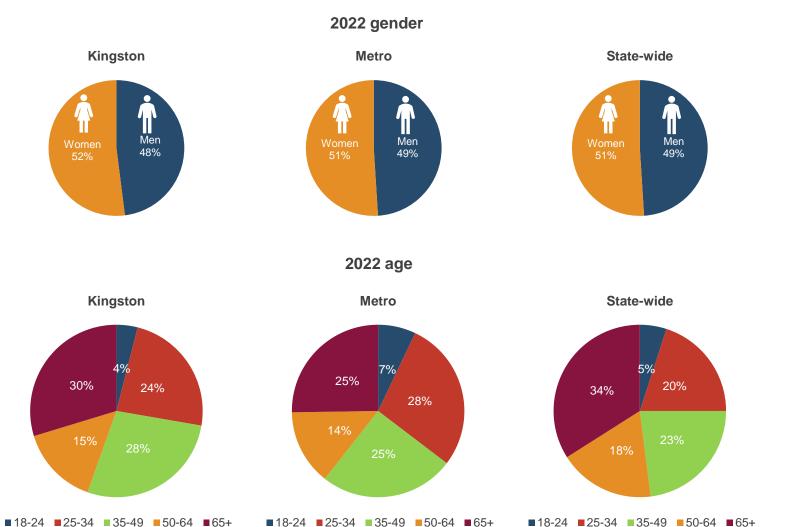




Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile







Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix A: Margins of error



The sample size for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Kingston City 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 +/-4.9% 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 45.1% - 54.9%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 131,500 people aged 18 years or over for Kingston City Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Kingston City Council	400	400	+/-4.9
Men	175	194	+/-7.4
Women	225	206	+/-6.5
Central	97	105	+/-10.0
North	182	186	+/-7.3
South	121	109	+/-8.9
18-34 years	44	112	+/-14.9
35-49 years	98	110	+/-9.9
50-64 years	83	58	+/-10.8
65+ years	175	119	+/-7.4

Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



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

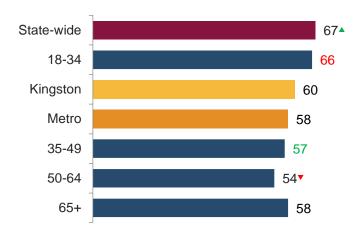
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

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

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

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

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



Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



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

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

Where:

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

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

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



Appendix B: Further project information

Appendix B: Further information



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

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

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

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

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

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling

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

- 2021, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18th May – 30th June.

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



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

Council Groups

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

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

Councils participating in the Metropolitan group are:

 Banyule, Boroondara, Brimbank, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Whitehorse. Wherever appropriate, results for Kingston City Council for this 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Metropolitan group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: 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 Kingston City Council according to the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates, whereas the results were previously not weighted.
- The service responsibility area performance measures have changed significantly and the rating scale used to assess performance has also changed.

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

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

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

These core questions comprised:

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

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

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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Reporting

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

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

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

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

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

CSS: 2022 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tailored questions: Individual questions 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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John Scales

Founder jscales@jwsresearch.com

Katrina Cox

Director of Client Services kcox@jwsresearch.com

Mark Zuker

Managing Director mzuker@jwsresearch.com

