

**DRAFT**

# **Lockhart Shire Council Community Engagement Report**

April 2015 & November 2016

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# 1. Introduction

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During recent NSW Fit For the Future process, the community made it clear that they were determined to continue as a financially sustainable and independent Rural Council. Council assessed its performance against benchmarks and was determined fit to continue as a Rural Council subject to the implementation of a Council Improvement Action Plan, which aims to increase Council's Own-Source Revenue to 60%.

Council undertook community engagement in April 2015 to confirm and determine the community's priorities and the support for the Fit for the Future Council Improvement Action Plan, which recommended applying for a Special Rate Variation application and pursue private contracting works to increase Own Source Revenue.

Lockhart Shire Council engaged Projectura in September 2016 to assist in further engaging the community for the Special Rate Variation, Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The Community Strategy Plan and Delivery Program are required to complete the Special Rate Variation application and to assist in determining the priorities for the community, as well as the support for a Special Rate Variation.

Projectura worked collaboratively with Council to engage with the community, to understand their future aspirations and their level of support for increased rates to meet community need.

The following document provides an overview of the consultation and engagement data that was collected throughout the process, along with the town sessions, school sessions, targeted disability inclusion action plan sessions and a community survey.

## 1.1 Methodology

The following methodology was applied for the community engagement for the Lockhart Shire Council:

- Project establishment meeting;
- Development of community engagement plan;
- Community engagement preparation (material development, invitations);
- Community engagement (survey and focus groups);
- Data collation and analysis;
- Community engagement report prepared; and
- Report presented to Council.

## 1.2 Consultation Plan

The first round of community engagement occurred in April 2015 and consisted of:

- Five (5) Town meetings;
  - The Rock, Tuesday 14 April;
  - Yerong Creek Hall, Tuesday 15 April;
  - Lockhart Council Chambers, Thursday 16 April;
  - Pleasant Hills Hall, Tuesday 21 April; and

- Osborne Recreation Ground, Wednesday 22 April.
- Media releases and newspaper articles;
- Dedicated Fit for the Future tab on the Lockhart Shire Council website;
- Facebook updates;
- Lockhart Shire Community Newsletter; and
- Pamphlets provided to Shire residents outlining the Fit For the Future improvement plan, including the proposal for a Special Rate Variation.

The community engagement occurred during October and November 2016, and consisted of:

- Five (5) community meetings; one each in Pleasant Hills, Osborne, Lockhart, The Rock, and Yerong Creek;
- Two (2) sessions with people with disability, their families, carers and service providers; one each in Lockhart and The Rock;
- Five (5) sessions with school children at three (3) schools; three primary sessions and two secondary session in Lockhart and The Rock;
- One (1) community-wide survey.

The five community meetings held in the townships included a workshop to determine community priorities for the Community Strategic Plan, an information session on the Special Rate Variation and Q&A on the Special Rate Variation.

In addition to the town meetings, information on the SRV was provided in the following forms:

- Lockhart Shire Council Newsletter;
- Lockhart Shire Council website;
- Lockhart Shire Council Facebook;
- Media Releases and newspaper articles;
- Poster outlining community meetings dates; and
- Council IP&R documents.

### 1.3 Participation April 2015

| Engagement method | Community participants | Number of sessions |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Community meeting | 118                    | 5                  |

| Engagement method | Details                            | Total participation | Council representatives |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Community meeting | The Rock<br>Tuesday 14 April       | 22                  | 8                       |
| Community meeting | Yerong Creek<br>Wednesday 15 April | 13                  | 9                       |
| Community meeting | Lockhart<br>Thursday 16 April      | 39                  | 9                       |
| Community meeting | Pleasant Hills<br>Tuesday 21 April | 13                  | 8                       |
| Community meeting | Osborne<br>Wednesday 22 April      | 31                  | 8                       |

### 1.4 Participation October/November 2016

| Engagement method | Community participants | Number of sessions |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Community meeting | 43                     | 5                  |
| DIAP meeting      | 7                      | 2                  |
| School session    | 99                     | 5                  |
| Community survey  | 96                     | 1                  |

| Engagement method | Details   | Total participation | Community members | Council representatives |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Community meeting | Pleasant Hills Memorial Hall<br>Thursday 20 October | 15                  | 7                 | 8                       |
| Community meeting | Osborne Recreation Reserve<br>Friday 21 October     | 18                  | 9                 | 9                       |
| School session    | Years 5/6<br>The Rock Central School                | 39                  | 38                | 1                       |

|                   |   |    |    |   |
|-------------------|---|----|----|---|
|                   | Tuesday 25 October  |    |    |   |
| School session    | The Rock Central Years 7/8<br>Tuesday 25 October<br>The Rock Central School | 15 | 14 | 1 |
| DIAP session      | The Rock Bowling Club<br>Tuesday 25 October                                 | 5  | 3  | 2 |
| Community meeting | The Rock Bowling Club<br>Tuesday 25 October                                 | 18 | 9  | 9 |
| School session    | Years 2 to 6<br>Lockhart Central School<br>Wednesday 26 October             | 12 | 10 | 2 |
| School session    | Years 7 to 11<br>Lockhart Central School<br>Wednesday 26 October            | 12 | 10 | 2 |
| School session    | Years 3/ 4 & 5/ 6<br>St Joseph's Primary School<br>Wednesday 26 October     | 21 | 21 | 2 |
| DIAP session      | Lockhart Council Chambers<br>Wednesday 26 October                           | 6  | 4  | 2 |
| Community meeting | Lockhart Council Chambers<br>Wednesday 26 October                           | 16 | 8  | 8 |
| Community meeting | Yerong Bowling Club Hall<br>Thursday 27 October                             | 18 | 10 | 8 |

## 2. Special Rate Variation

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### 2.1 Support for Special Rate Variation – April 2015

| Vote                  | Number (people) | Per cent (%) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Yes                   | 93              | 79%          |
| No                    | 18              |              |
| Abstained from voting | 6               |              |
| Total                 | 118             | 100%         |

Table 1. Support for Special Rate Variation – April 2015

### 2.2 Support for Special Rate Variation – October 2016

At each community meeting, the participants were asked to show their support for a Special Rate Variation. The support was to be shown through a yes-or-no vote. The table below is a collation of the results.

| Vote                  | Number (people) | Per cent (%) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Yes                   | 26              | 72.2         |
| No                    | 10              | 27.8         |
| Abstained from voting | -               | -            |
| Total                 | 36              | 100          |

Table 2. Support for Special Rate Variation – November 2016. Note: 5 participants left the meeting before the vote was undertaken.



## 3. Whole of community summary

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### 3.1 Community strategic plan – identifying the big issues

#### **Strengths**

1. Liveability (92% strength)
2. A sense of community (89% strength)
3. Tourism and events (77% strength)

#### **Aspirations**

##### **Infrastructure**

Roads (21), footpaths (2), infrastructure (6), natural gas (1), wet weather roads (1), flood management and drainage (9)

##### **Council**

Shire independence (19) Funding (1), less red tape (1), supporting small towns (2), maintaining all services (2), equal rates (1), supporting rural industry (1)

##### **Community**

Community facilities (9), pools (4), health services/age care (11), activities (1), community involvement (6), town presentation (1), The Rock mens shed (3)

##### **Services**

Transport (2), policing (2), education/child care (7), phone/internet (2)

Environment/recycling (4)

##### **Economic development**

Economic development general (29), business and land development (10), population growth (8) tourism (12)

#### **Challenges**

1. Shire independence/amalgamation
2. Employment
3. Funding
4. Roads
5. Economic development and growth
6. Flood repairs/management
7. Population decline
8. Major infrastructure

- 9. Ageing population
- 10. Young people leaving
- 11. State Government
- 12. Environment
- 13. Community projects
- 14. Retaining services
- 15. Keeping rates down
- 16. Staff communication
- 17. Transport

### 3.2 Priorities

| What is important to you?   | All town meetings | Pleasant Hills | Osborne | The Rock | Lockhart | Yerong Creek |
|---|-------------------|----------------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Roads   | 1                 | •              | •       |          | •        | •            |
| Phone coverage/internet   |                   | •              |         |          |          |              |
| Council support of local infrastructure                             | 4                 | •              |         |          |          | •            |
| Less red tape   |                   | •              |         |          |          |              |
| Environmental and recycling   |                   | •              |         |          |          |              |
| Good community, sport and recreation facilities (sport, retail etc) | 2                 |                | •       | •        | •        | •            |
| Maintaining a diverse community                                     |                   |                | •       |          |          |              |
| Keeping skilled workers in community                                |                   |                | •       |          |          |              |
| Economic growth   | 3                 |                | •       | •        | •        | •            |
| Community connection  |                   |                |         |          | •        |              |
| Health services   |                   |                |         | •        |          |              |
| Community Hub   |                   |                |         | •        |          |              |
| Maintaining a towns focal point                                     |                   |                |         |          |          | •            |
| Parity of services  |                   |                |         |          |          | •            |

### 3.3 What the community told us

Below is a summary of what the community told us under the five key community strategic directions.

#### A connected & resilient community

##### What the community would like

We value spending time with each other and want more opportunities to come together.

Our community services and facilities meet the needs of our communities.

People of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds participate in community life.

##### Bright ideas

##### From our young people

- More entertainment;
- Sporting clubs;
- Access to services (hospital);
- Community;
- Opportunities for everyone – jobs, education, leisure/retail;
- Community link – being brought together through tragedy, celebration and festivities; and
- Supporting each other (groups and counselling).

##### From our community

- Support community growth;
- Improve community engagement;
- Phone coverage;
- Good community, sport and recreation facilities;
- Encourage community diversity;
- Strong community values (safety of citizens and property);
- Family/community; and
- Maintaining a strong and active community.

## A dynamic & prosperous economy

### What the community would like

Our Shire is attractive and welcoming to businesses, industry, residents and visitors.

Our community has a robust retail offering, strong tourism sectors, and a range of job opportunities.

We develop, attract and retain skilled individuals in our community.

#### Bright ideas

##### From our young people

- More shops;
- Better café;
- Events; and
- Jobs – casual jobs, strong source of income for the town.

##### From our community

- Attract industry to Shire;
- Phone and internet coverage;
- Maintaining services (banking, post office, shops, medical);
- Keep skilled individuals in the community;
- Increased availability of housing land;
- Tourism and business development; and
- Improve job opportunities, business creation, and tourism development.

## An environment that is respected and protected

### What the community would like

Our environmental practices are sustainable.

Flora and fauna are protected across the Shire.

Our open space and natural environment are protected for future generations.

#### Bright ideas

##### From our young people

- Healthy flora and fauna;
- Parks & environment; and
- Wildlife.

##### From our community

- Display environmental stewardship;
- Improve recycling capacity for non-roadside garbage collection;
- Revegetate the Shire; and
- Maintain remnant vegetation.

## Infrastructure for the long term needs of the community

### What the community would like

Our assets and infrastructure are well planned and managed to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

Our planning and development controls work to attract new residents and investment.

#### Bright ideas

##### From our young people

- More public transport;
- Better roads;
- New swimming pools that are deeper and with water slides;
- Bigger skate park;
- Street lights in small villages;
- BMX track;
- Improve disabled access;
- Horse riding facilities; and
- Build a free basketball court.

##### From our community

- Maintain community assets and infrastructure;
- Maintain roads and increase sealed road network;
- Improve flood mitigation and drainage;
- Improve telecommunications; and
- Sporting (swimming pools, improved facilities, disability access, lifting frame, rails, ramps, change rooms, toileting); and

## Strong leadership & services

### What the community would like

Council is strong, sustainable, and able to stand-alone.

Council actively engages with its residents to support and facilitate decision making.

Council responds collectively and responsibly to community needs.

#### Bright ideas

##### From our young people

- Involve young people in decision making; and
- Provide better community engagement follow up.

##### From our community

- Communication and engagement;
- Responsible local governance;
- Provide parity of services (rates, transport, maintenance of parks and gardens); and
- Council independence and sustainability.

### 3.4 Game changers

The following game changers are threats, opportunities, and disruptions that may impact on the community's ability to achieve its ten-year vision. They are presented in no order.

- Natural disasters (floods, fire, disease, drought, climate change, weather, environmental disaster)
- Technology advances and innovation (automation, drones)
- NBN and mobile coverage
- Money and funding
- Economic downturn / global economic collapse
- Government priorities and reform
- Forced mergers / amalgamation (not achieving FFF Improvement Plan)
- Attitudes and behaviours (cultures, social norms, vision, social opinion)
- New industry and projects (mining)
- Infrastructure backlog
- Work health and safety
- Transport (fast trains)
- Community support and awareness training
- Changing demographics (population growth, migration, youth retention)
- Changing social license Right to farm Agriculture
- Land availability and planning restrictions/opportunities
- Reputation
- Terrorism

## 4. Overview of community meetings

### 4.1 Community meetings

#### Attendance

| Meeting name   | Date and location                                   | Total attendance | Community members | Council representatives |
|----------------|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Pleasant Hills | Thursday 20 October<br>Pleasant Hills Memorial Hall | 15               | 7                 | 8                       |
| Osborne        | Friday 21 October<br>Osborne Recreation Reserve     | 18               | 9                 | 9                       |
| The Rock       | Tuesday 25 October<br>The Rock Bowling Club         | 18               | 9                 | 9                       |
| Lockhart       | Wednesday 26 October<br>Lockhart Council Chambers   | 16               | 8                 | 8                       |
| Yerong Creek   | Thursday 27 October<br>Yerong Bowling Club Hall     | 18               | 10                | 8                       |
| Total          |   | 85               | 43                | 42                      |

#### What the community told us?

The community engagement sessions held at the various town locations brought out of range of different issues, directions and aspirations of the community. Below is a summary of the key points categorised under the five different Community Strategic Plan, strategic directions.

#### A connected & resilient community

Supporting community growth

Community engagement on local issues

Phone coverage

Good community, sport and recreation facilities (sport, retail etc)

Maintaining a diverse community

Strong community values (safety of citizens and property)

Family/community

Maintaining a strong and active community

#### A dynamic & prosperous economy

Attract industry to Shire

Phone and Internet Coverage (NBN)

Maintaining services (banking, post office, shops, medical)

Keeping skilled individuals in the community (doctors, lawyers, engineers, police)



Increased availability of housing land – increased families, increased population

Tourism and business development

Vibrant economy (job opportunities, business creation, tourism development)

Economic growth (increase boarders, bring in industry and employment)

## **An environment that is respected and protected**

Environmental stewardship

Recycling capacity for non-roadside garbage collection

Revegetation around the Shire

Maintenance of good remnant vegetation

## **Infrastructure for the long term needs of the community**

Maintaining community's assets and infrastructure

Maintenance of Roads, flood mitigation, drainage

Increased sealed network

Improved telecommunications/NBN

Sporting (swimming pools, improved facilities, disability access, lifting frame, rails, ramps, change rooms, toileting)

Infrastructure (roads, parks, footpaths, public amenities, toilets)

## **Strong leadership & services**

Communication and engagement

Responsible local governance

Policing (community safety)

Parity of services (rates, transport, maintenance of parks and gardens)

Council independence and sustainability

## 5.2 School sessions

Engagement sessions were held at the Rock Central School, Lockhart Central School and St Joseph's Primary School, Lockhart.

### Participation

The Rock Central, Tuesday 25 October (Years 5/6 and Years 7/8)

Attendances: 58 students

Lockhart Central, Wednesday 26 October (Years 7 to 11 and Years 2 to 6)

Attendances: 20 students

St Joseph's, Wednesday 26 October (Years 3/4 and 5/6)

Attendances: 21 students

Below is a summary and collation of the information provided by the students at the schools.

| CSP strategic directions                                | What the community told us  |
|---|---|
| A connected & resilient community                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More entertainment</li> <li>Sporting clubs</li> <li>Access to services (hospital)</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Opportunities for everyone – jobs, education, leisure/retail</li> <li>Community link – being brought together through tragedy, celebration and festivities</li> <li>Supporting each other (groups and counselling)</li> </ul>  |
| A dynamic & prosperous economy                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More shops</li> <li>Better café</li> <li>Events</li> <li>Jobs – casual jobs, strong source of income for the town</li> </ul>   |
| An environment that is respected and protected          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy flora and fauna</li> <li>Parks &amp; Environment</li> <li>Wildlife</li> </ul>  |
| Infrastructure for the long term needs of the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More public transport</li> <li>Better roads</li> <li>Modern pool/ water slides / upgrade / diving board</li> <li>Skate Park</li> <li>Street lights</li> <li>BMX track</li> <li>Transport</li> <li>Better Parks</li> <li>Disabled access</li> <li>Horse riding facilities</li> <li>Sports – Basketball, (establishing a court), swimming, extended opening hours at pool, soccer</li> </ul> |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | Roads (Brooking causeway, fixing the potholes) |
| Strong leadership & services | Libraries<br>Education<br>Health               |

Students were asked to draw or write where they see themselves in 10 years, and what their community would look like, below are a few examples from the students.

### 5.3 DIAP sessions

Disability Inclusion Action Plan sessions were held in two locations across the Shire, The Rock and Lockhart.

#### Participation

The Rock Bowling Club Tuesday 25 October

Lockhart Council Chambers Wednesday 26 October

The following provides a summary for the information collected at those sessions.

| Key outcome areas        | What is important to you (group)?  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Attitudes and Behaviours | Integrating children with a disability in schools<br>Family<br>People in need voicing their needs<br>Community education<br>Acceptance of difference<br>Building an understanding<br>Education of community  |
| Livable Communities      | Sustainability and maintenance of community garden (uneven ground, could benefit from sensory)<br>Access to local café, pharmacy, commercial hotel, IGA, ex services club<br>Main street crossing – zebra crossing, roundabouts<br>Magnolia lodge units upgrades<br>Accommodation being age appropriate<br>Accessing knowledge<br>Access to services locally<br>Physical access into the pool<br>Wider footpaths<br>Access to supermarket, café<br>Soccer access |
| Employment               | Parks and gardens at Council<br>Social enterprise  |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| System and processes | Access to community garden<br>Better community education<br>Sharing information<br>Proactive medical practitioners |
|----------------------|--|

## 6. Survey results

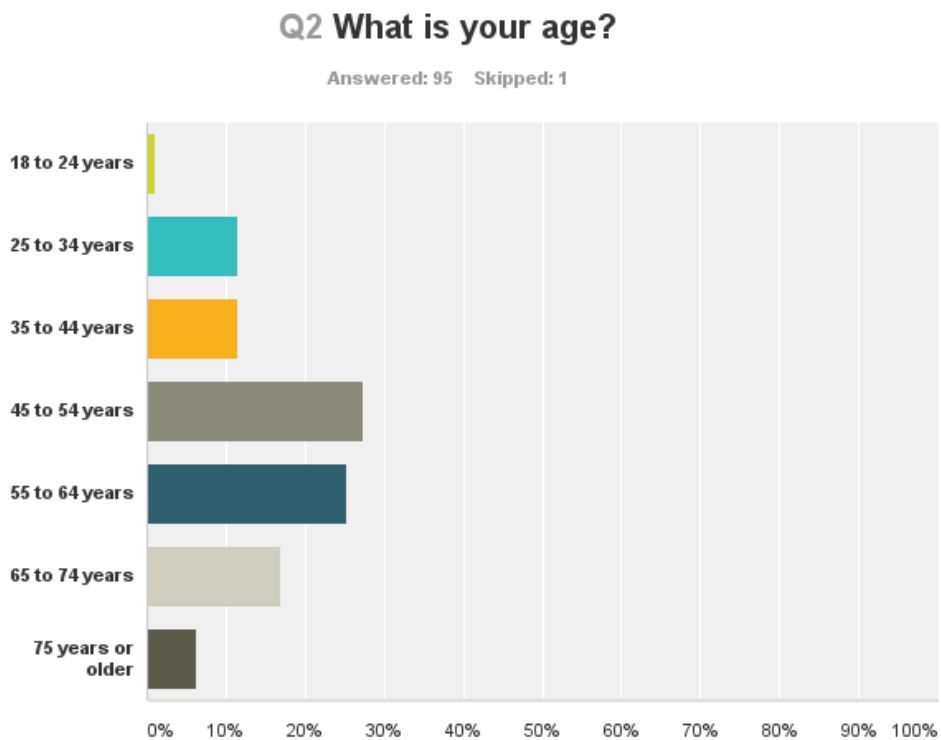
Respondents to survey were 96, with 35% of those being male and 64% being female. The following provides a summary of the information provided by respondents.

### Q2. Top 3 Age brackets

45 to 54 years (26)

55 to 64 years (24)

65 to 74 years (16)



### Q3. Where do you live? (Top 3)

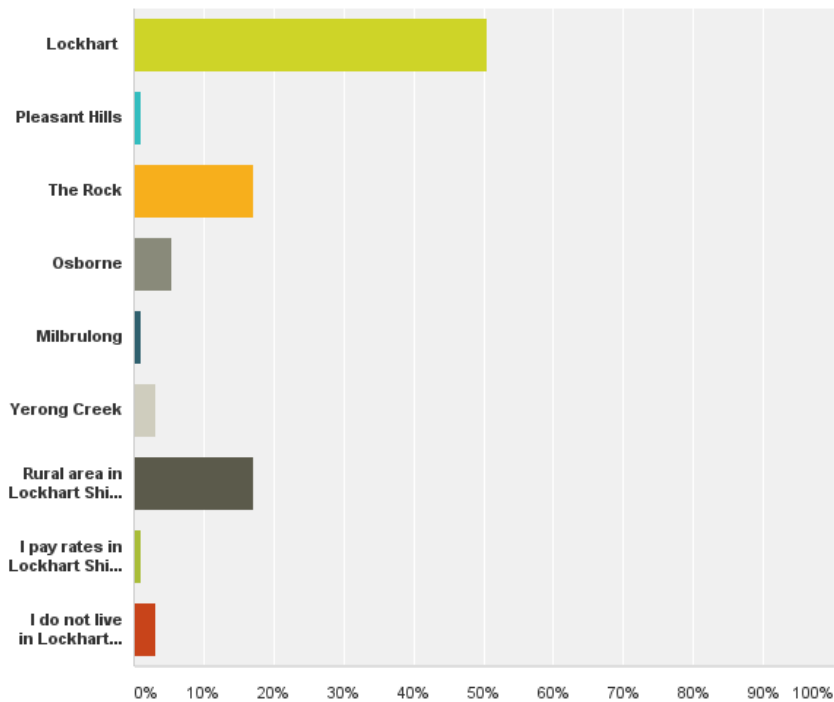
Lockhart (50.54%)

The Rock (17.20%)

Rural area in Lockhart Shire (17.20%)

### Q3 Where do you live?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 3



### Q4. Do you, or someone you know, identify as having a disability?

54.17% responded no, 38.54% responded yes and 7.29% did not wish to disclose.

### Q5. If yes, which of the following do you identify with? (top 4)

My friend/colleague has a disability 32.26%

My family/household member has a disability 25.81%

I am a carer 22.58%

I have a physical disability 19.35%

### Q6. Do you think the Lockhart Shire community are welcoming of people with a disability?

On a scale from non-welcoming to welcoming 35% of respondents fell in the middle of the scale, with over 50% leaning towards the very welcoming end of the scale and only 15% responding to a more un-welcoming community.

|   | Very unwelcoming | (no label) | (no label)   | (no label)  | Very welcoming | Total | Weighted Average |
|---|------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| ★ | 10.71%<br>3      | 3.57%<br>1 | 35.71%<br>10 | 32.14%<br>9 | 17.86%<br>5    | 28    | 3.43             |

### Q7. Are Council's facilities accessible?

The Swimming Pools in The Rock and Lockhart are rated low in accessibility, though a large percentage of respondents were unsure of the accessibility.

Council offices, the local park, local aged care facility were all rated high in accessibility. The mobile library van, the local hall and the local sport and recreation ground were found to be accessible by over 50% of respondents.

|                                | Yes          | Could be improved | Not accessible | Unsure       | Total | Weighted Average |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Lockhart Swimming Pool         | 17.24%<br>5  | 37.93%<br>11      | 3.45%<br>1     | 41.38%<br>12 | 29    | 1.45             |
| The Rock Swimming Pool         | 13.33%<br>4  | 30.00%<br>9       | 6.67%<br>2     | 50.00%<br>15 | 30    | 1.13             |
| Lockhart Shire Council offices | 83.33%<br>25 | 3.33%<br>1        | 0.00%<br>0     | 13.33%<br>4  | 30    | 3.40             |
| Mobile library van             | 58.06%<br>18 | 9.68%<br>3        | 3.23%<br>1     | 29.03%<br>9  | 31    | 2.52             |
| Lockhart Caravan Park          | 45.16%<br>14 | 12.90%<br>4       | 0.00%<br>0     | 41.94%<br>13 | 31    | 2.06             |

|                                      |              |              |            |              |    |      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----|------|
| The Rock cemetery                    | 24.14%<br>7  | 13.79%<br>4  | 0.00%<br>0 | 62.07%<br>18 | 29 | 1.24 |
| Lockhart cemetery                    | 40.00%<br>12 | 16.67%<br>5  | 0.00%<br>0 | 43.33%<br>13 | 30 | 1.93 |
| Your local hall                      | 53.33%<br>16 | 26.67%<br>8  | 0.00%<br>0 | 20.00%<br>6  | 30 | 2.67 |
| Your local sport / recreation ground | 58.06%<br>18 | 29.03%<br>9  | 6.45%<br>2 | 6.45%<br>2   | 31 | 2.90 |
| Your local park                      | 80.65%<br>25 | 6.45%<br>2   | 6.45%<br>2 | 6.45%<br>2   | 31 | 3.35 |
| Your local aged care facility        | 76.67%<br>23 | 6.67%<br>2   | 0.00%<br>0 | 16.67%<br>5  | 30 | 3.20 |
| Local footpaths                      | 38.71%<br>12 | 51.61%<br>16 | 6.45%<br>2 | 3.23%<br>1   | 31 | 2.58 |

#### Q8. Do you find Council's information, publication and services accessible?

The community newsletter, calls to customer service and visits to customer service are seen as being accessible to a high number of respondents. The Facebook posts and the website could be improved according to survey respondents.

|                                    | Yes          | Could be improved | Not accessible | Unsure      | Total | Weighted Average |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------|------------------|
| Website                            | 64.52%<br>20 | 25.81%<br>8       | 3.23%<br>1     | 6.45%<br>2  | 31    | 3.10             |
| Community Newsletter               | 87.50%<br>28 | 9.38%<br>3        | 0.00%<br>0     | 3.13%<br>1  | 32    | 3.69             |
| Emails                             | 61.29%<br>19 | 19.35%<br>6       | 0.00%<br>0     | 19.35%<br>6 | 31    | 2.84             |
| Facebook posts                     | 51.61%<br>16 | 22.58%<br>7       | 0.00%<br>0     | 25.81%<br>8 | 31    | 2.52             |
| Calls to Council Customer Service  | 70.97%<br>22 | 6.45%<br>2        | 0.00%<br>0     | 22.58%<br>7 | 31    | 2.97             |
| Visits to Council Customer Service | 71.88%<br>23 | 6.25%<br>2        | 0.00%<br>0     | 21.88%<br>7 | 32    | 3.00             |

#### Q9. What would make access to services easier for you? (top 3)

Hard-copy documents (rather than electronic format) 62.5%

Better Transport 54.17%

Better physical buildings 37.5%

**Q10. Do you think the Lockhart Community Vision is still relevant?**

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Yes, it is still relevant     | 55.13% (43) |
| Yes, it is but needs refining | 38.36% (30) |
| No it is not relevant         | 6.41% (5)   |

**Q11. What are your three top priorities for Lockhart Shire for the next ten years?**

73 survey responses for this questions, which included over 200 individual responses. The responses have been grouped into categories based on the frequency of responses.

**Infrastructure**

Roads (21), footpaths (2), infrastructure (6), natural gas (1), wet weather roads (1), flood management and drainage (9)

**Council**

Shire independence (19) Funding (1), less red tape (1), supporting small towns (2), maintaining all services (2), equal rates (1), supporting rural industry (1)

**Community**

Community facilities (9), pools (4), health services/age care (11), activities (1), community involvement (6), town presentation (1), The Rock mens shed (3)

**Services**

Transport (2), policing (2), education/child care (7), phone/internet (2)

Environment/recycling (4)

**Economic development**

Economic development general (29), business and land development (10), population growth (8) tourism (12)

**Q12. What are the three biggest challenges you think the Lockhart Shire area will face over the next ten years?**

70 survey responses for this question, which included over 190 individual responses. The responses have been grouped into categories based on the frequency of responses.

**Infrastructure**

Roads (12), major infrastructure (7), flood repairs/management (8)

**Council**



shire independence/amalgamation (26), Funding (13), keeping services (2), keeping rates down (2), staff communication (1)

**Community**

Community projects (2), transport (1)

**Economic Development**

Economic development (11)

**Population**

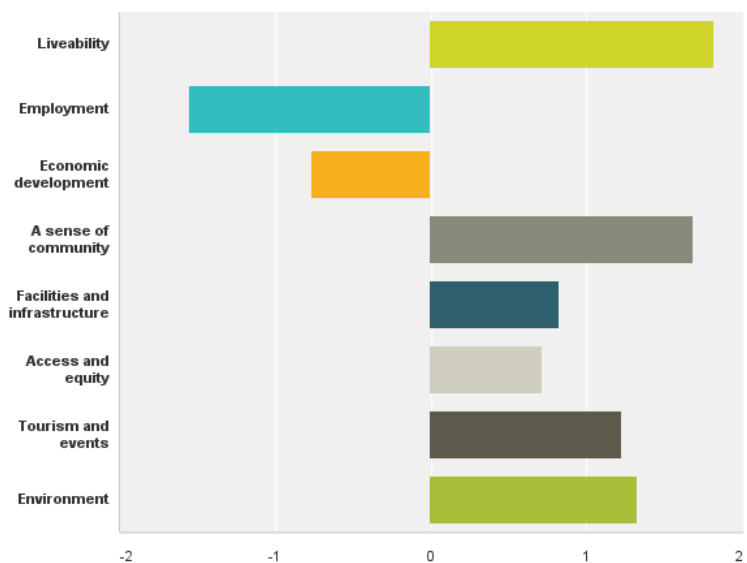
Ageing population (6), young people leaving (5), population decline (8), growth (4)

**State Government (4)**

**Environment (2)**

**Q13. Please indicate whether you believe the following items are strengths or weaknesses for the Lockhart Shire area.**

Employment (84% weakness) and economic development (57% weakness) were the two weaknesses identified by respondents for question 13, while liveability (92% strength), a sense of community (89% strength) and tourism and events (77% strength) being the top three strengths of the area.



**Q14. Please rank the following in order of important to you.**

The following were listed as the most common top four that were rated as high importance:

- Agricultural;
- Economic development;
- Employment;
- Retention of Shire;
- Education;

- Flood mitigation; and
- Local access to services (health, centrelink, police, banking).

**Q15. If you have any other comments, please write them below.**

Comments for this section were only 15 and the responses were mainly included in the survey through other questions.

Rural transactions for the Shire (eg The Rock)

Presenting Lockhart Shire as a retirement option

Provision of community therapies (speech therapist, occupational therapist and physiotherapist)

Concern about cost of replacing two swimming pools will be a huge burden for our Shire

More Childcare

Doctor availability and contract issues