

# Kingborough

## **Funding Priorities Consultation 2025/26**

**PREPARED BY**  
Kingborough Council

May 2025

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# Public Consultation

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Council allocates funding for services, infrastructure, and community programs. This year, Council sought community input to ensure our budget reflected the key priorities for Kingborough.

The engagement aimed to understand what matters most to residents, ensuring funding allocations reflect the needs and priorities of our community.

## HOW FEEDBACK SHAPES THE BUDGET

Community input will be considered when distributing funding. By sharing your ideas you'll help identify the areas that should be prioritised, whether it's roads, parks, community programs, essential services, or other vital initiatives.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions were completed via an online survey and written responses.

## PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

**255** Online Survey

**24** Written/email submissions & hard copy survey received

## ENGAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS

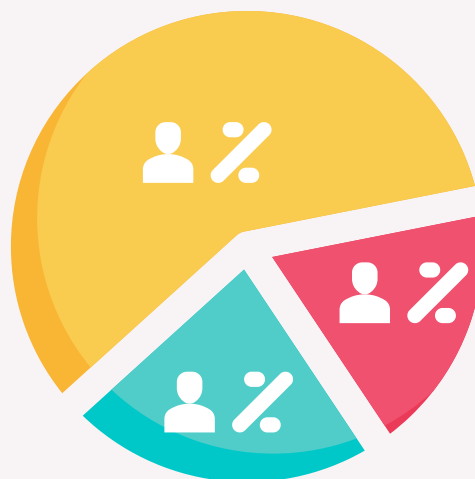
Prior to the start of this engagement, Council Officers consulted with a number of stakeholders to help build the consultation.

# Summary

The consultation revealed that essential infrastructure and core services are the top community priorities.

Roads, stormwater management, waste collection, and tracks and trails consistently ranked as the most valued services, reflecting a desire for well-maintained infrastructure and efficient service delivery.

In addition to infrastructure, the survey revealed strong community interest in public amenities, including playgrounds, sporting facilities, and public toilets, reflecting a commitment to maintaining vibrant, well-equipped community spaces.



# Key Themes

**Infrastructure and Maintenance:** There was a strong sentiment that Council should focus more on core responsibilities. Many respondents called for improvements in road maintenance, including more frequent repairs, clearer line markings, safer footpaths, and better stormwater management.

Specific concerns were raised about pedestrian safety in Margate, faster responses to road damage, and improved traffic flow around Kingston. Council was commended for its work in waste collection, street cleaning, and general maintenance while criticism was directed at perceived project mismanagement, with clear calls for more timely delivery, greater transparency, and better cost control.



**Environmental Protection and Sustainability:** There was strong community support for more active environmental management, including weed control, wildlife protection, and preservation of natural areas. Council was recognised for maintaining parks, reserves, and bushland areas, as well as supporting local Landcare volunteers.

Many respondents also called for improved sustainability practices, such as expanded recycling options, enhanced biodiversity protection, and greater investment in green infrastructure, tracks and trails. There were clear expectations for Council to lead on sustainability initiatives across the municipality.



**Community Engagement and Communication:** Respondents expressed a desire for more transparency and accountability in Council decisions, improved communication with residents, and more meaningful community consultation. Responses called for clearer community feedback and more accessible information on Council projects and a desire for Council to be honest, accountable, and responsive, with improved staff interactions and customer service.



**Recreation, Accessibility and Public Spaces:** Many community members expressed a strong desire for more recreational facilities, such as upgraded parks and playgrounds, expanded bike paths, and accessible nature trails.

There was also support for a broader range of community events and amenities that cater to all age groups, from youth to seniors. Community members thought Council maintained great parks, sports ovals and facilities. Residents expressed a need for a Council that is inclusive and welcoming, one that ensures equitable services and opportunities across all suburbs and community groups, including smaller and rural areas.



**Planning and Development:** There were strong calls for better management of urban growth, with concerns about overdevelopment, housing density, and the impact of new subdivisions on existing infrastructure. Respondents also requested streamlined planning processes and greater consideration of long-term sustainability in development decisions. There were repeated concerns that Kingston and Blackmans Bay receive disproportionate attention.

# Funding Priority Survey Responses

## Demographic Participant's information

### LOCATIONS

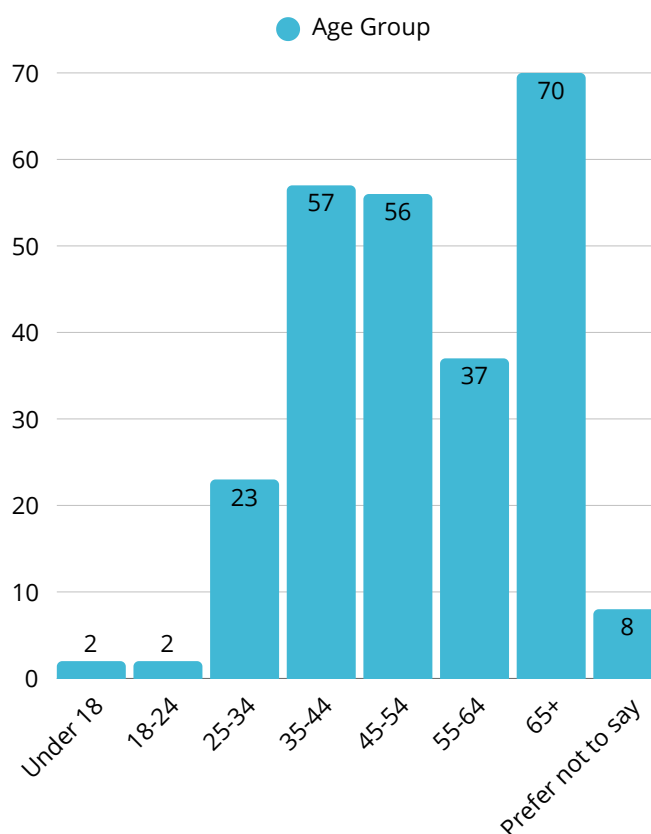
Which suburb do you spend the most time in?

101	Kingston/Kingston Beach
36	Blackmans Bay
35	Margate
17	Taroona
9	Snug/Lower Snug
9	Bruny Island
7	Howden
7	Kettering
6	Allens Rivulet
3	Oyster Cove
3	Sandfly
2	Coningham
2	Electrona
2	Firthside
2	Longley/Lower Longley
2	Neika
2	Spring Farm
2	Woodbridge
1	Birchs Bay
1	Gordon
1	Leslie Vale
1	Middleton

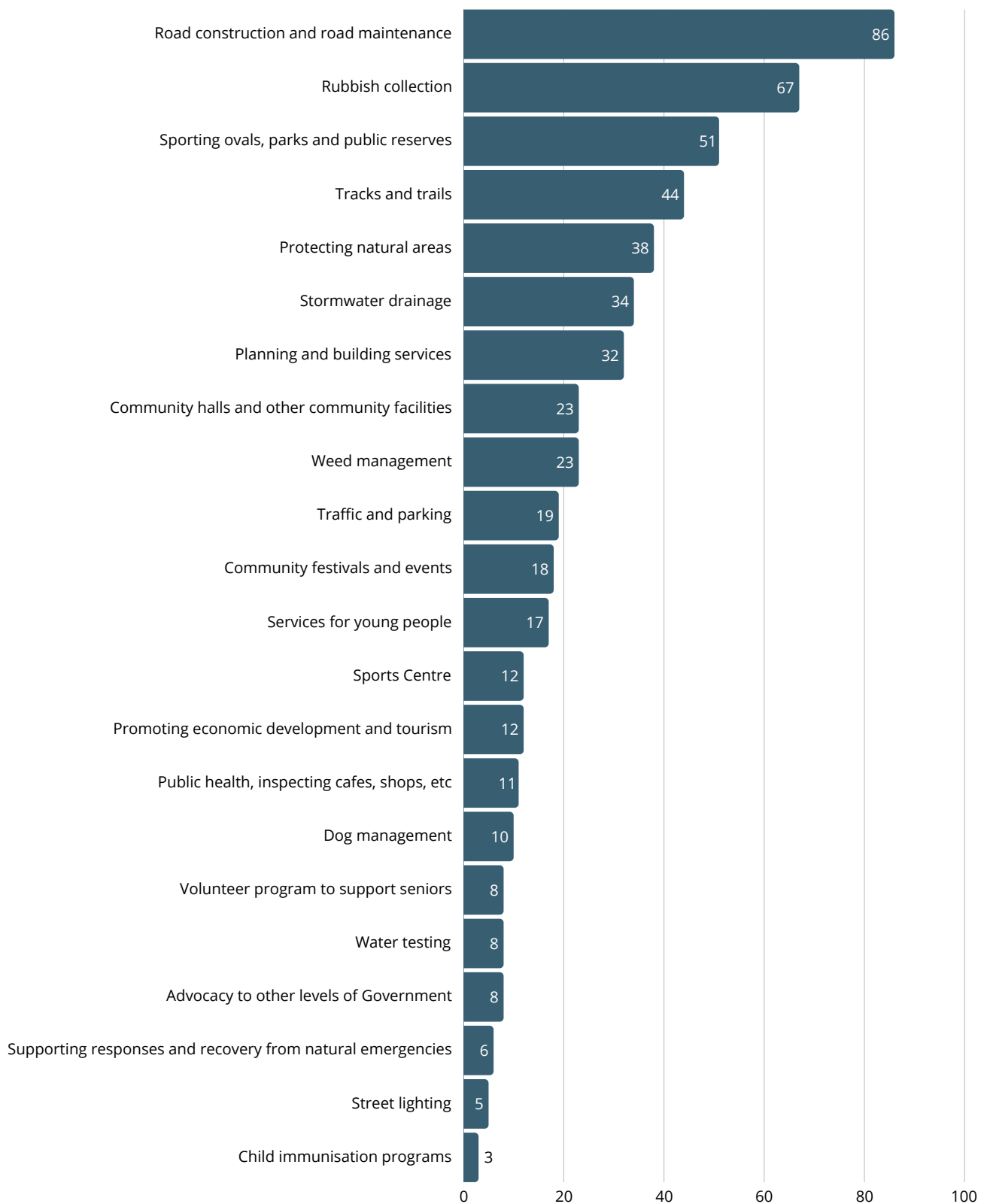
### AGE GROUPS

Under 18	2
18 - 24	2
25 - 34	23
35 - 44	57
45 - 54	56
55 - 64	37
65 +	70
Prefer not to say	8

More than  
**27%**  
of respondents  
were over the  
age of 65



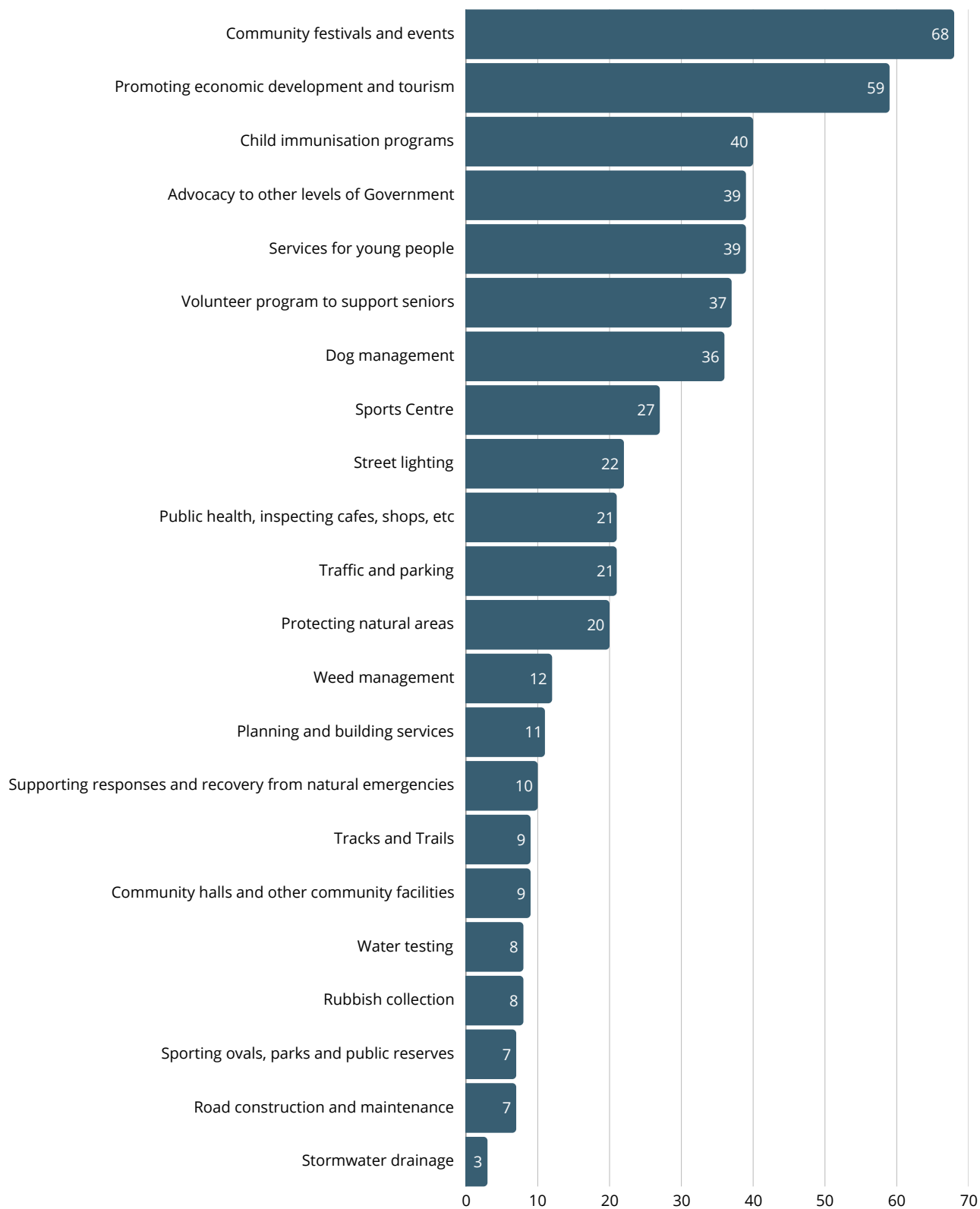
**Q3. What are the three most important things Council does or provides?**



Answered: 176 Skipped: 79



**Q4. What are the three least important things Council does or provides?**



Answered: 172 Skipped: 83

## Written Response Summary

### Q5. What are three things you would like Council to do better?

The consultation responses revealed three major themes for improvement in Kingborough.

1. Residents expressed a strong desire for better infrastructure and maintenance, including improved road surfaces, safer pedestrian crossings, and enhanced traffic management. Many also called for more effective project planning and timely completion of infrastructure works to reduce disruption and costs.
2. Significant support for stronger environmental protection and sustainability measures, with calls to protect natural areas, enhance biodiversity, manage waste more effectively, and reduce the impact of urban development.
3. Community engagement and communication emerged as a key theme, with respondents seeking more transparent decision-making, clearer communication on Council projects, and more meaningful opportunities for local voices to shape planning and policy.

The top respondents were from Kingston/Kingston Beach, Blackmans Bay and then Margate.

#### Quotes:

"Enable and promote active and public transport modes and reduced car dependency with planning decisions and infrastructure that prioritise active and public transport over cars. Communicate the outcomes of reported incidents. Improve transparency and availability of information."

"Engage the community. Manage large infrastructure projects on time and within budget. Urban greening."

"Enhance planning and stakeholder communication prior to commencing major infrastructure projects to minimise the risk of financial loss and ensure a more effective use of resources..."

"Fix Blackmans Bay Beach water pollution. Focus on core activities."

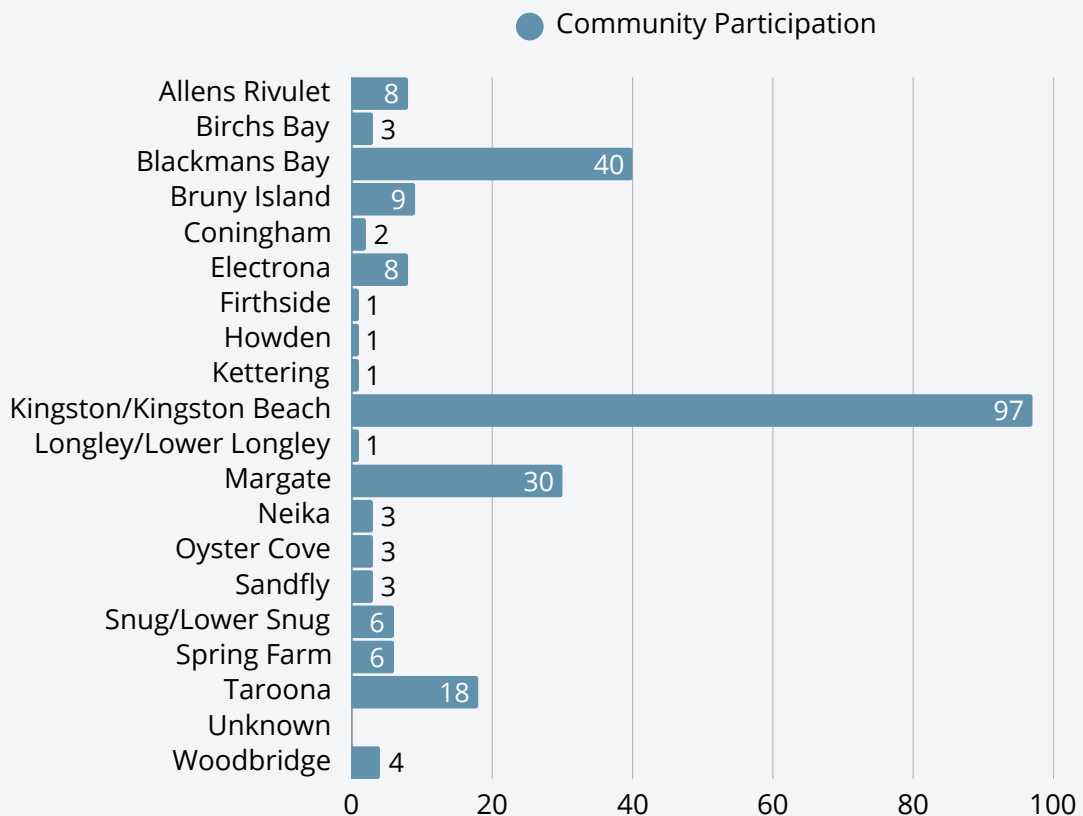
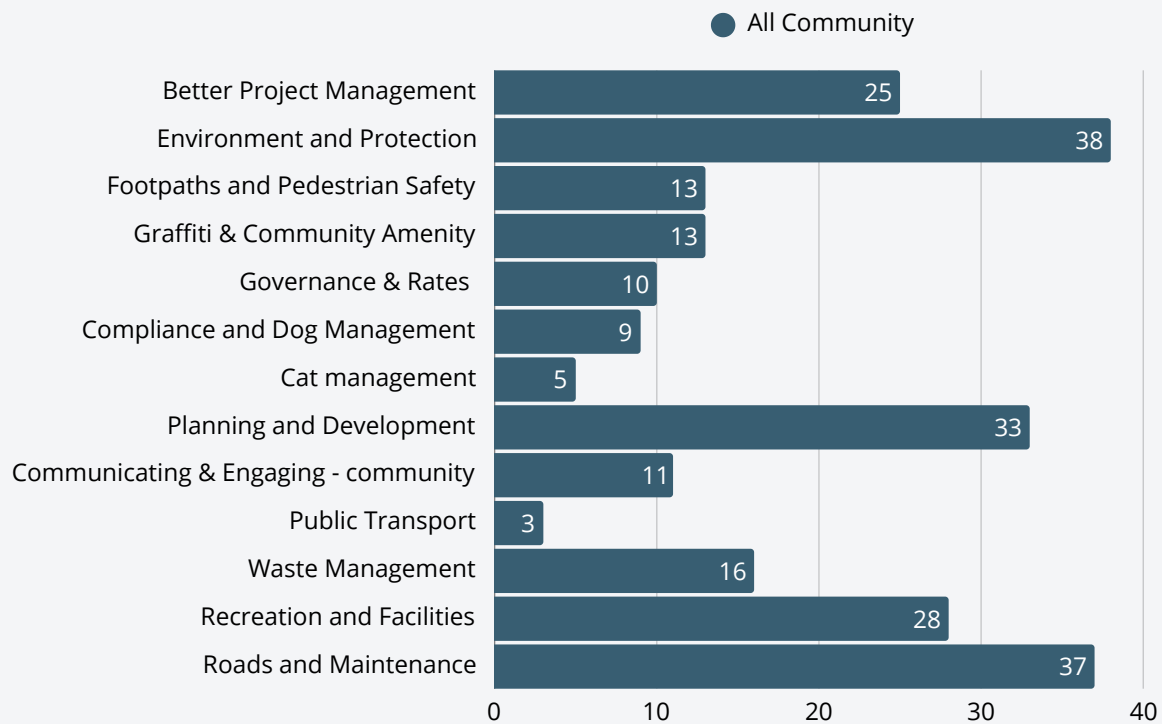
" 1) Provide more long term (all day) free parking near Kingston Central. 2) Repair damaged roads quicker (Polverata Rd is a disgrace). 3) Do more feral cat removal."

"Meet timeframes for road repairs. Weed management around buildings and walking tracks. Improve traffic flow around CBD."

Answered: 162   Skipped: 93



**Q5. What are three things you would like Council to do better?**



Answered: 162 Skipped: 93

## Suburb Breakdown

**Q5. What are three things you would like Council to do better?**

	Better Program Management	Environment & Protection	Footpaths & Pedestrian Safety	Graffiti & Community Amenities	Governance & Rates	Compliance & Dog Management	Cat Management	Planning, & Development	Communicating & Engaging - community	Public Transport	Waste Management	Recreation & Facilities	Roads and Maintenance
Allens Rivulet		1					1		1	1	2		2
Birchs Bay		1									1	1	
Blackmans Bay	7	8	1	2	1	1	1	5	3		4	2	5
Bruny Island		2			1			2					4
Coningham	1		1										
Electrona	1	1	1		1	1		1	1				1
Firthside						1							1
Howden		1											
Kettering													1
Kingston/ Kingston Beach	13	18	5	10	2	5	3	10	2	3	5	10	11
Longley/ Lower Longley											1		
Margate	1	1	5	1	2			5	4			6	5
Neika					1			1			1		
Oyster Cove												2	1
Sandfly	1							1					1
Snug/Lower Snug					1			1				1	3
Spring Farm	1	1										1	3
Taroona		4			1	1		5			2	5	
Woodbridge		1						2					1

Themes mentioned more than 5 times are highlighted

Answered: 162 Skipped: 93

## Written Response Summary

### Q6. What do you think Council does well?

Kingborough Council is widely appreciated for its well-maintained parks, tracks, trails, and playgrounds, including popular spaces like Kingston Park and the Margate Oval. Waste management services, such as reliable rubbish collection and green waste disposal, were also highlighted as strong points. The Kingston Hub and other community facilities were valued for supporting local gatherings and recreational activities.

Respondents also praised the Council's support for youth and seniors, volunteer programs, and community engagement initiatives. Communication efforts, including social media and phone support, were noted as responsive and effective, reflecting positively on the Council's commitment to community connection.

However, some responses indicated a desire for improved planning processes, reduced red tape, and more balanced resource distribution beyond Kingston and Blackmans Bay. These mixed views highlight the importance of ongoing consultation to address the diverse needs of the community.

The top respondents were Kingston/Kingston Beach, Blackmans Bay and then Margate.

#### Quotes:

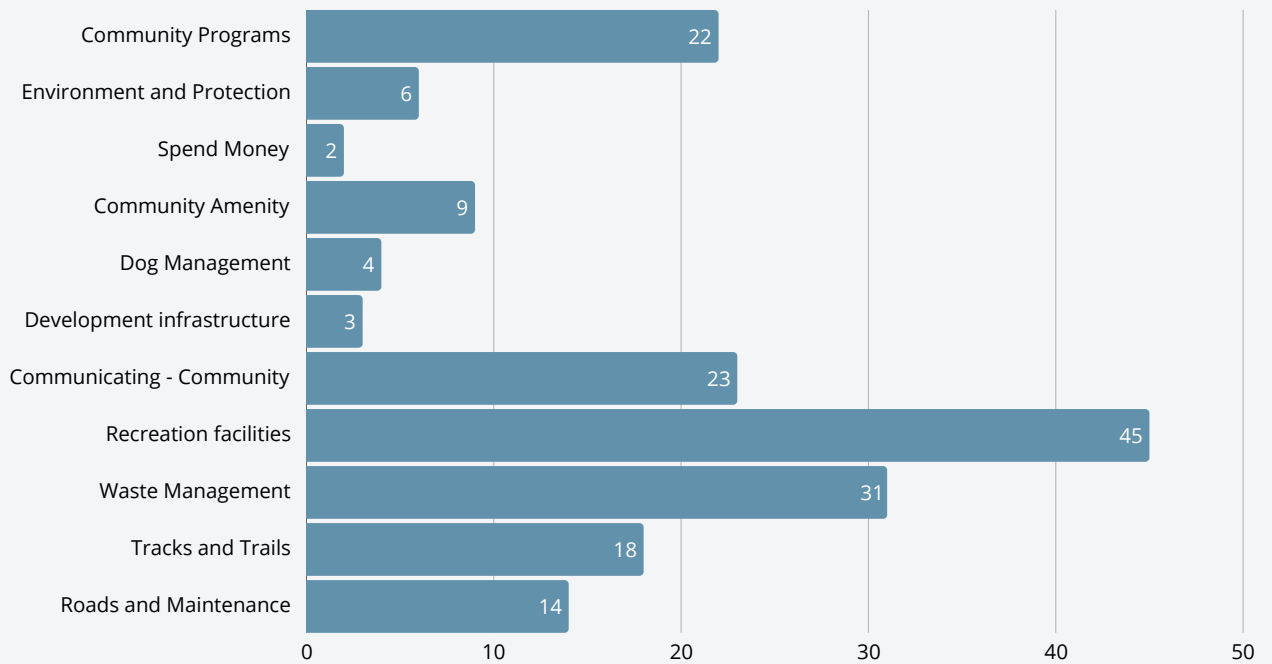
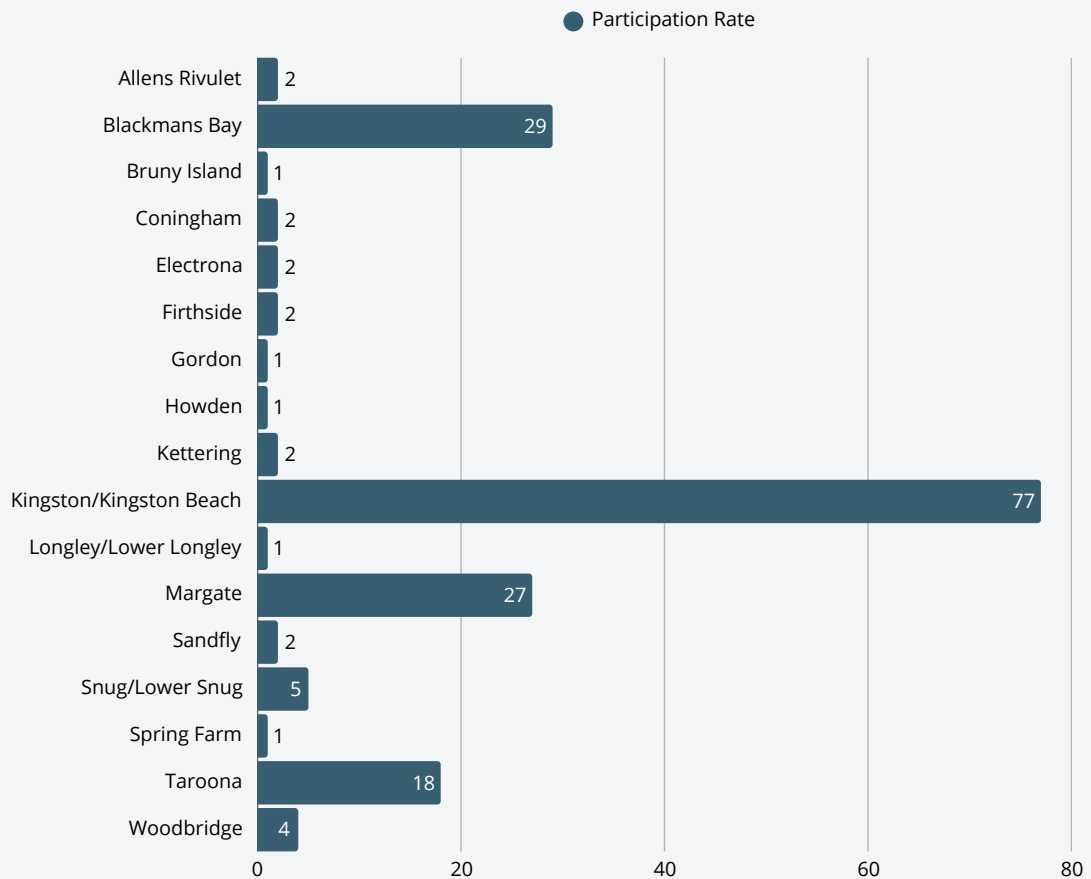
"Behaviour of elected members in meetings. Most of the responsibilities of Kingborough Council are handled well, actually. Volunteering opportunities and celebration of volunteers. Community services, including the various public activities and events Council supports."

"1. The organisation has brought to the community some great facilities like Kingston Park and the footways connecting. Another example is the new community hub building. They have had some great ideas to rebrand improve on attraction/value. 2. There are a lot of new faces in the Council Building, and it is reasonable to assume there has been a clear commitment made towards hiring new staff as well as attracting them. This presents a real opportunity for change. 3. The civil workers are always out and about doing things by the roadside or even in peoples' properties. It is good to see that many things out there are getting the attention they need from public working crews."

"Free green waste weekends occasionally throughout the year. I think the Kingston Park is an outstanding family venue that has been done well and continues to be presented well. Free parking while people shop keeps the business in Kingborough."

Answered: 150 Skipped: 105

## Q6. What do you think Council does well?



Answered: 150 Skipped: 105

## Suburb Breakdown

### Q6. What do you think Council does well?

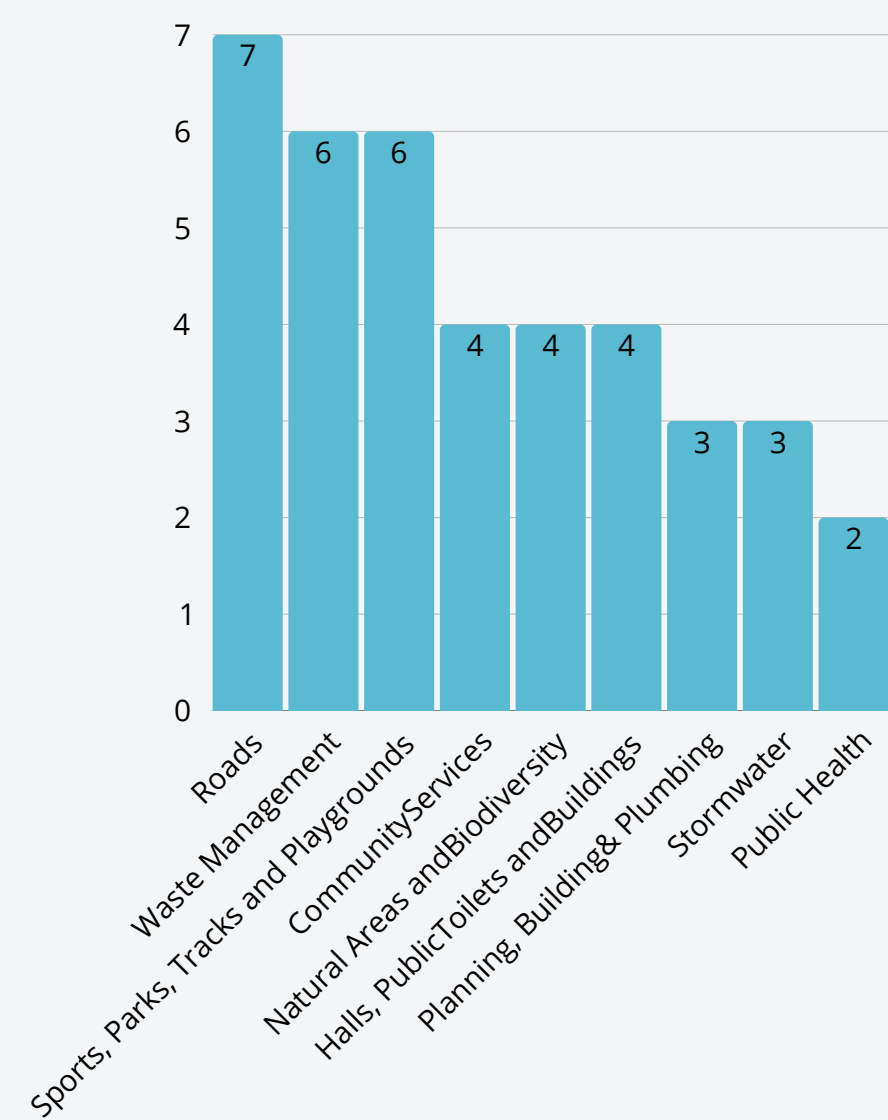
	Community Programs	Environment & Protection	Spend Money	Community Amenity	Dog Management	Development of Infrastructure	Communicate with Community	Recreation Facilities	Waste Management	Tracks & Trails	Roads & Maintenance
Allens Rivulet								1	1		
Blackmans Bay	2					1	4	8	6	3	5
Bruny Island							1				
Coningham		1		1							
Electrona									1	1	
Firthside		1				1					
Gordon								1			
Howden								1			
Kettering	1		1								
Kingston/ Kingston Beach	12	4		5	1		13	18	13	8	3
Longley/Lower Longley								1			
Margate	4			1	1		1	7	8	2	3
Sandfly										1	1
Snug/Lower Snug					1		1	1	1		1
Spring Farm							1				
Taroona	2		1	2	1	1	1	6	1	2	1
Woodbridge	1						1	1		1	

Themes mentioned more than 5 times - highlighted

Answered: 150 Skipped: 105

**Question 7** asked respondents to rank (in order) the most important area of Council such as Roads, Community Service, Planning, Building and Development. The survey provided the funding allocation for each area from last year’s budget (24/25).

**Q7. Which areas are the most important to you?**



Answered: 170    Skipped: 85



## Written Response Summary

### Q8. What capital works or projects would you like to see prioritised?

The consultation responses on capital works and project priorities highlighted three key themes.

1. **Transport and Infrastructure** emerged as a major focus, with calls for better road maintenance, more footpaths, and safer pedestrian crossings, particularly in high-traffic areas like Margate and Kingston. There were also requests for improved cycling and walking paths, more effective stormwater management, and safer intersections, alongside better public transport facilities, including upgraded bus stops and ferry services.
2. **Community and Recreational Facilities** were frequently mentioned, with strong support for the construction of a public swimming pool, sports grounds, skateparks, and more connected trails. Respondents also emphasized the need for more multipurpose community spaces and improved amenities for families, youth, and seniors.
3. **Environmental and Sustainability** Projects were a common theme, including calls for improved natural area conservation, weed management, and habitat restoration. Many respondents also highlighted the importance of green infrastructure, such as tree planting, sustainable drainage systems, and better stormwater control to protect local ecosystems.

The top respondents were Kingston/Kingston Beach, Blackmans Bay and then Margate.

#### Quotes:

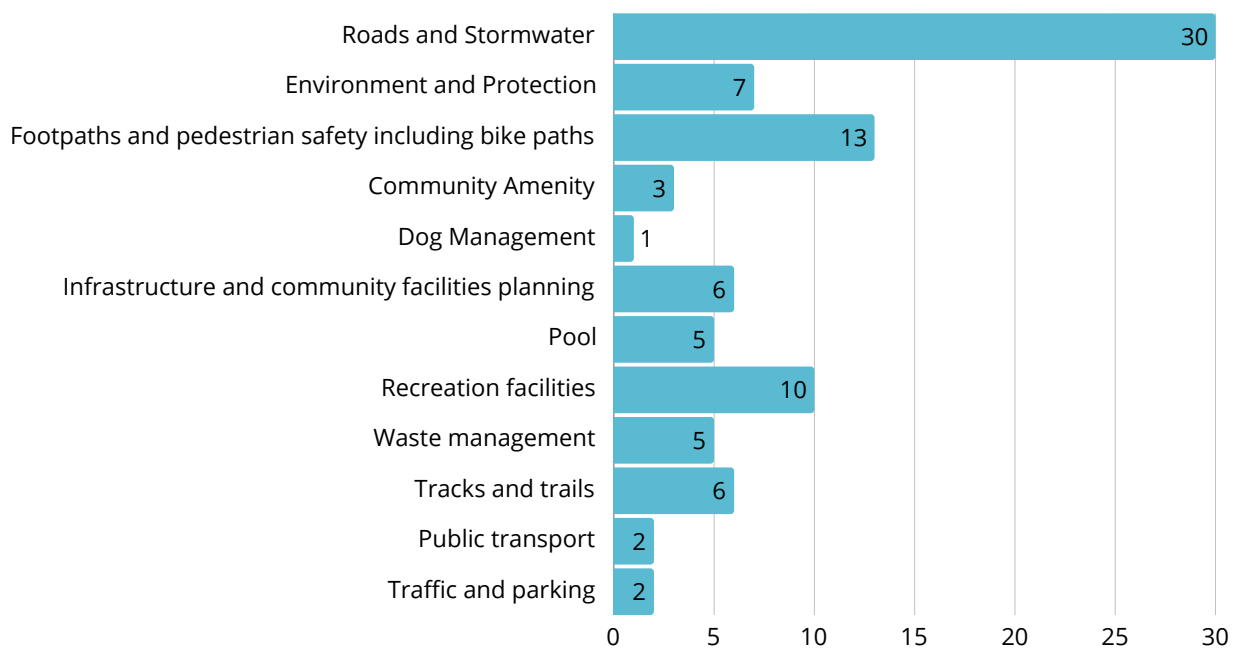
"Making Margate safer to walk around. There are lots of young people and elderly people living in the area. They are all particularly vulnerable when crossing roads and walking around Margate. Footpaths need a design change near the servo and those shops. Some kind of pedestrian crossing is needed on side roads not just Channel Highway. "

"More walking tracks, protection and management of natural areas. Playgrounds, dog walking areas. Encourage boutique shops & more cafes and restaurants."

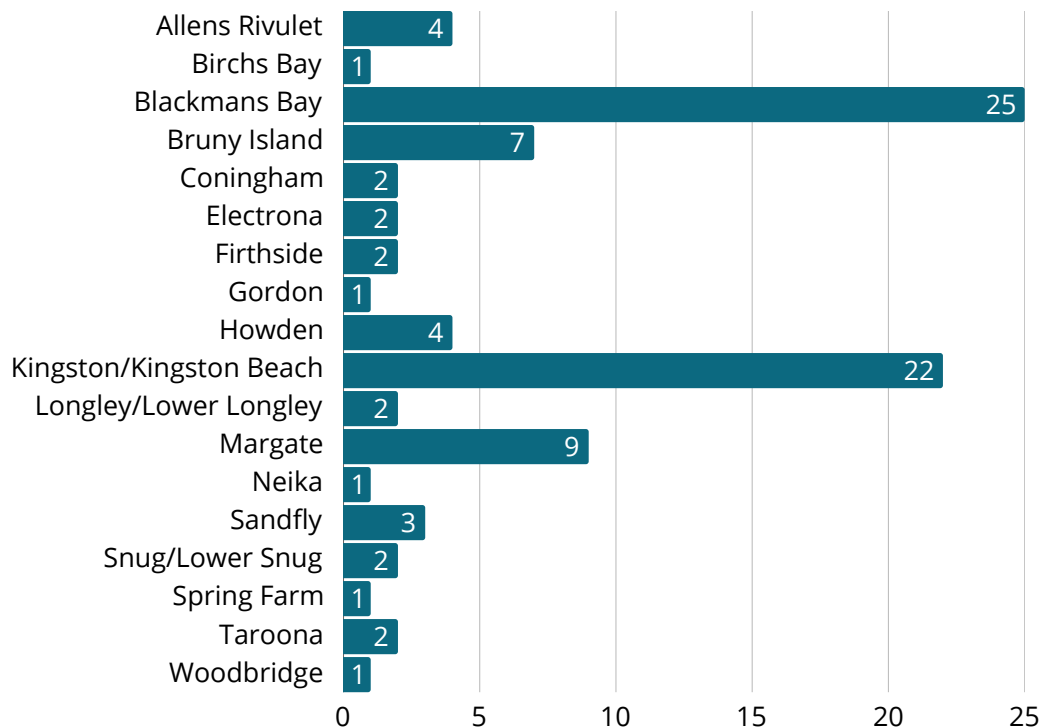
"Road separated bike paths. Huntingfield to Kingston, along Channel Highway. Huntingfield path from Sirius Drive to Park and Ride. Algona Road shared path. Westside Circle and Summerleas Road Junction Crossing. Further extension of Whitewater Creek Track to Maddocks Road. Connection of Whitewater Estate to Huntingfield Park and Ride. Whatever gets through-traffic off Channel Highway through the centre of Kingston and reduces the noise that makes dining outside the cafes and restaurants very unpleasant."

Answered: 142 Skipped: 113

**Q8. What capital works or projects would you like to see prioritised?**



● Participation



Answered: 142 Skipped: 113

# Breakdown of Suburb Analysis

**Q8. What capital works or projects would you like to see prioritised?**

	Roads & Stormwater	Environment & Protection	Footpaths & bike paths	Community Amenity	Dog Management	Community facility planning	Pool	Recreation Facilities	Waste Management	Tracks & Trails	Public Transport & Parking facilities
Allens Rivulet	1								1	1	1
Birchs Bay									1		
Blackmans Bay	8	3	3			2	1	2	1	3	1
Bruny Island	2	2						2	1		
Coningham					1	1					
Electrona	1		1								
Firthside	1			1							
Gordon							1				
Howden	1		1					1	1		
Kingston/ Kingston Beach	6	2	3	2		1		3		2	2
Longley/Lower Longley	1		1								
Margate	3		3				2	1			
Neika	1										
Sandfly	3										
Snug/Lower Snug	2										
Spring Farm								1			
Taroona						1	1				
Woodbridge			1								

Themes mentioned more than 5 times - highlighted

Answered: 142 Skipped: 113

## Q8. Mentioned Road Projects

- **"Burwood Drive"** (10 mentions)
  - Mentioned several times regarding concerns about road widening, footpaths, wildlife, and preserving the rural character.
  - Also referenced in connection with recent upgrades and requests for full-length footpaths and drainage improvements.
- **"Channel Highway"** (8 mentions)
  - Referenced multiple times in relation to pedestrian crossings, safety, upgrades through Margate and Kingston, traffic congestion, and noise issues affecting local businesses.
- **"Whitewater Creek Track"** (4 mentions)
  - Environmental management, and trail connections (to Maddocks Road and Huntingfield Park & Ride)
  - Extending Whitewater Creek track
- **"Pelverata Road"** (1 mention)
  - Calling for general repairs and another for corner widening and edge maintenance.
- **"Tinderbox Road"** (2 mentions)
  - Sealing and footpath installation between Suncoast Drive and the treatment plant.
- **"Leslie Road / Huon Highway intersection"** (2 mentions)
  - Called out specifically for redesign due to near misses and pedestrian safety concerns. Also mentioned again in the context of broader safety and traffic upgrades.

Answered: 142   Skipped: 113



**Q9. As we shape the future through this budget, let us know what kind of Council you want us to be?**

Many respondents expressed a desire for a Council that is responsive, transparent, and committed to efficient service delivery. Key themes included the need for:

**1. Get the Basics Right: Roads, Rubbish, and Infrastructure**

Many respondents strongly emphasized the importance of core services: maintaining roads, stormwater systems, rubbish collection, and public infrastructure. They want practical, visible outcomes — not overblown or expensive projects they feel don't offer value.

“Stick to your knitting — roads, rubbish, water.”

“Stop wasting money on vanity projects like Summerleas underpass and poorly planned bus stops.”

**2. Be Genuinely Consultative and Transparent**

There is mistrust around consultation and decision-making. People want to feel heard and see how their feedback is being used. They expressed a desire for more transparency, follow-through, and honesty from Council.

“Listen to your constituents, not just the squeaky wheels.”

“More transparency, less defensiveness. Show how feedback informs your decisions.”

**3. Plan Smartly and Manage Growth Thoughtfully**

Growth and development were hot topics, with people asking for better urban planning that respects the environment and community character. There were concerns about over development, congestion, and poorly planned infrastructure.

“Balance growth with liveability — don't approve everything that cuts down trees.”

“We need proper planning, not just knee-jerk approvals or pushing agendas.”

**4. Prioritise Community and Environment over Profit**

Respondents want a Council that serves its people and protects natural values, not one overly focused on business or tourism. They asked for inclusive, people-first policies and environmental protections — especially regarding development.

“Focus on the environment and people, not profits or developers.”

“Protect what we love — bushland, access to nature, and community values.”

**5. Act with Accountability, Efficiency, and Integrity**

Calls for fiscal responsibility and better project management were strong. Many were frustrated with what they see as wasteful spending and wanted a Council that is cost-effective, delivers results, and is accountable for mistakes.

“Live within your means. Provide value for money.”

“No more massive rate rises due to poor planning or political pet projects.”

Answered: 139   Skipped: 116

# Community Written Submissions

The community consultation also collected written submissions from the public.

There were **24 written/mailed submissions** either through written letter or email.

## Roads, Footpaths & Infrastructure

Recurring concerns:

- Upgrades and sealing of specific roads, including:
  - Van Morey Road, Margate
  - Burwood Drive, Blackmans Bay (mixed views: some support improvements, some have received anti-upgrade flyers)
  - Endeavour Place, Bruny Island (request for sealing or speed humps to reduce dust)
- New or completed footpaths requested in several areas:
  - Belhaven Avenue (Taroona)
  - Dianella Drive to Golden Grove Drive (Blackmans Bay)
  - Woodlands Drive into Burwood Drive (Blackmans Bay)

## Active Transport & Accessibility

Frequent submissions supported:

- A cycling/walking track from the Algona Road/Channel Highway roundabout to:
  - Kingston CBD
  - Blackmans Bay
  - Margate
- Improved pedestrian links in Taroona:
  - Illawong-Wandella-Hinsby pedestrian link
  - Hills Face Bushland walking track (Stage 2 of Tracks and Trails Strategy)
  - Accessibility and connectivity between reserves, schools, shops, and coastal areas.

## Environmental & Coastal Management

Regular issues raised:

- Erosion and pollution at Blackmans Bay Beach:
  - Requests to mitigate marine erosion at the south end.
  - Pollution and stormwater runoff raised as health and safety issues.
- Wildlife safety measures along Channel Highway:
  - Modify paling/mesh fences to allow native wildlife safe passage.
- Stream erosion repair in Mary Knoll Reserve (Blackmans Bay).

24 written/mailed submissions



# Community Written Submissions

## Community Infrastructure & Facilities

Common requests:

- Taroona Hall and Taroona Park master plan support and continued implementation.
- Fee reductions for halls:
  - Especially for informal senior wellbeing groups (e.g. yoga).
- Upgrades to Blackmans Bay Skate Park:
  - Include a bike fixing station, seating, mural, lighting, and notice board.

## Amenity & Cleanliness

Notable mentions:

- Graffiti removal and improved management (multiple mentions).
- Dog poo bag dispensers (Barnes Bay, Nebraska Beach).
- No camping signage (Nebraska Beach).

## Public Transport & Town Centres

Infrastructure planning:

- Reconstruction of Kingston CBD bus mall to better serve the community.

24 written/emailed submissions

