

14.2.3 Late Item - 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan Community Engagement Results to be presented under separate cover

Department	Strategy and Governance	
	Strategic Management	
Author	Community Interaction and Promotion Officer	
People Consulted	Chief Executive Officer	
	Chief Finance Officer	
	Residents of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie	
Attachments	1. 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan - Community Engagement	
	Results [14.2.3.1 - 20 pages]	

<u>Overview</u>

In preparation for the upcoming 2024-25 budget, Annual Business Plan, and Community Strategic Plan and Corporate Plan considerations, a community engagement campaign was created. In an effort to promote open, accountable, and responsive decision making, four separate engagement activities were made available to the community to receive feedback on a range of Council functions and proposed projects, and to learn more about the community that Council represents.

Community engagement commenced Monday 19 February 2024 and concluded 5pm Friday 15 March 2024. The four engagement activities comprised:

- 1. **Community Survey** allowing Council to better understand community demographics, satisfaction with Council, key interested, and preferences.
- 2. **Investment Preferences** enabling the community to better understand some of the areas Council invests resources in, and encouraging feedback on which areas the community would like to see greater investment in the upcoming year.
- 3. **Project Budgeting** allowing the community to vote on ten projects suggested by Council to occur over the next three years within the upcoming Draft Corporate Plan.
- 4. **Pitch Your Project** providing a space for the community to pitch new project ideas, big or small, and indicate their support for other community member submissions.

The community engagement campaign was promoted across multiple channels including social media, email (subscription list), website, community engagement platform (Shaping Loxton Waikerie), newspaper, media release, and hard copies were delivered to the retirement villages in each major township and available at the Council office and the Loxton and Waikerie Libraries.



Considerations

When collating data to report to Council, particular attention was paid to the statistics provided for **number of contributions** compared to **number of contributors**, both for the overall campaign and for each individual activity. This comparison relates to how many individual submissions were made, and the number of IP addresses that submissions were made from.

Some submissions from the same IP address could account for multiple members of a household using the same computer/device to complete an engagement activity. However, in some instances the submission data shows a match for IP address and personal information, which has allowed for 24 submissions to be removed as duplicates within the Project Budgeting activity.

General Results

Views – 3,768 Visitors – 1,765 Contributions – 1,010 Contributors – 657

Activities:

- 1. Community Survey 127 contributions
- 2. Investment Preferences 97 contributions
- 3. Project Budgeting 735 contributions*
- 4. Pitch Your Project 51 contributions*

Individual Results

All data is included within the attachment, with the exception of personal information that has been kept confidential.

Community Survey

127 contributions

Key Insights

- Submissions indicated that the community is **most interested** in matters relating to **Riverfronts**.
- Facebook was the most preferred platform for updates and information about projects/strategies open for community input, followed by Council's website, email newsletter, and newspaper notices.
- The importance of community engagement for improved Council outcomes had an average score of **90.95/100**.



- Perceived community awareness of the Shaping Loxton Waikerie engagement platform (engagement.lwdc.sa.gov.au) had an average score of **43.22/100**.
- **Via email** and **online at engagement.lwdc.sa.gov.au** were the most preferred methods of providing feedback to Council.
- 48.15% of participants feel that their contributions are valued by Council, however,
 33.33% of participants did not feel that their contributions are actioned by Council.

Investment Preferences

97 Contributions

Participants were asked to use a sliding scale ranging from 0 (decrease investment) to 50 (maintain investment) to 100 (increase investment) for twelve different areas. The following data shows the average scores of all submissions:

Area of investment	Average score
Riverfronts	68.54
Tourism	68.84
Parks & Gardens	63.68
Footpaths	67.89
Walking Trails	63.98
Playgrounds	60.84
Arts & Culture	54.09
Town CBDs	64.36
Environment	61.85
Sport & Recreation	64.84
Events	66.44
Town Beautification	60.82
Additional thoughts	46 contributions (included in attachments)

Project Budgeting

711 Contributions

^{* 24} contributions were identified as duplicates and were removed from the results.

Rank	Project
1	Swimming Pool Upgrades
2	Waikerie CBD Enhancement
3	Waikerie Institute Upgrades
4	Waikerie Sporting Stadium
5	Paisley Boat Ramp & Riverfront Restoration
6	Population Growth Initiative
7	Capital Items to Reduce Operating Expenditure
8	Child Care Facilities
9	Loxton North Multi-Purpose Storage & Workshop
10	Waste Water Upgrades



Pitch Your Project

48 contributions

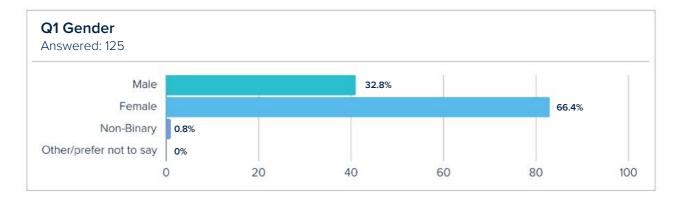
* three submissions were identified as test/duplicates and were removed from the results.

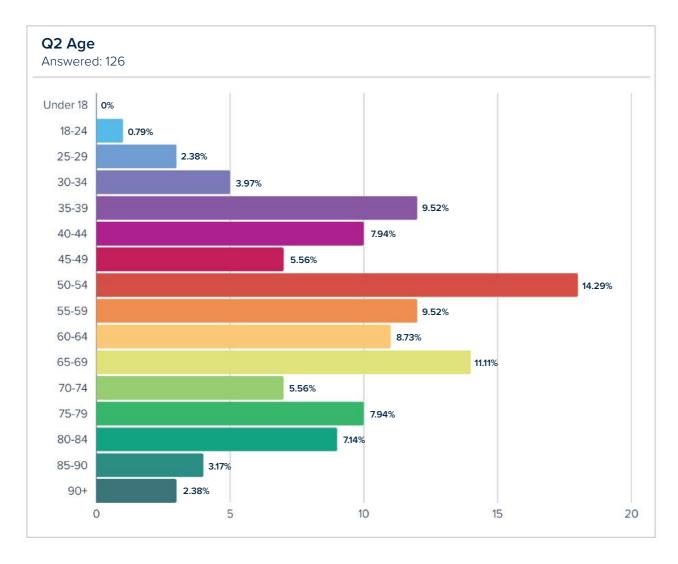
In reviewing the submissions under 'Pitch My Project', 37 project ideas were identified with potential for Council to consider in an upcoming financial year.

11 submissions have been categorised as either being not, or not-entirely, a function of Council. Dependent on the individual idea, Council may be able to support the project by way of advocating, linking stakeholders, or other.

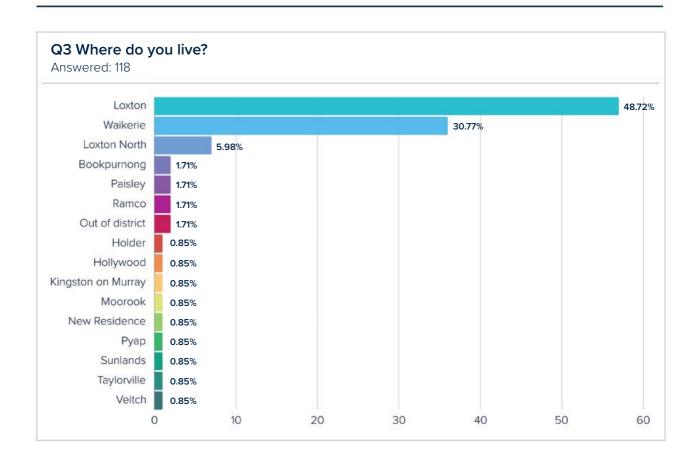
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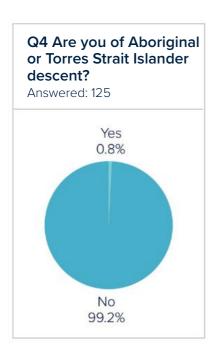
contributions

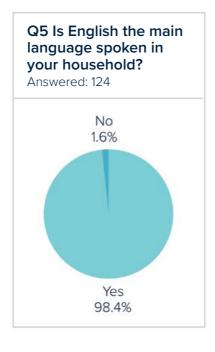


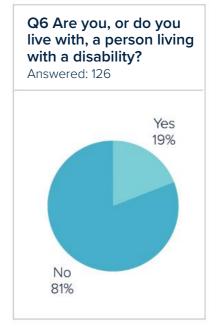


District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results



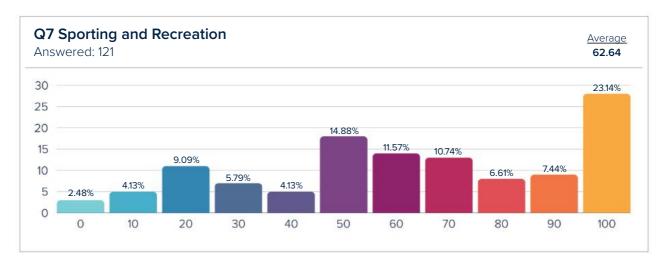


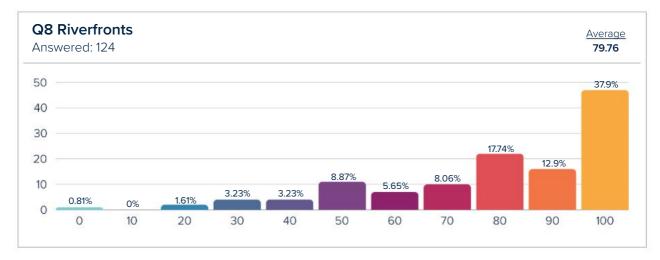


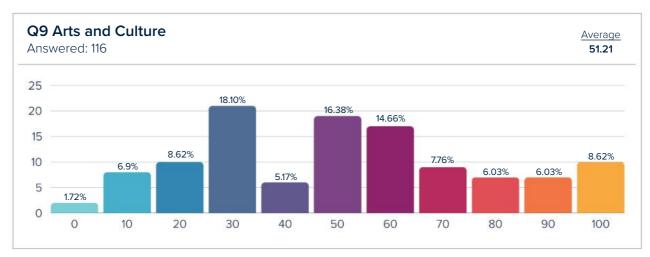


District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results

Key Interests (level of interest)

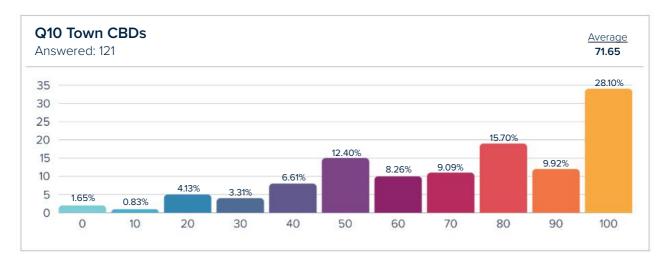


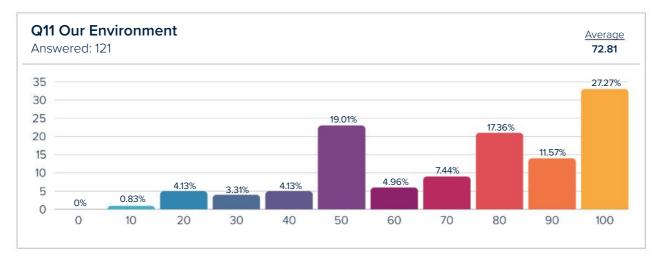


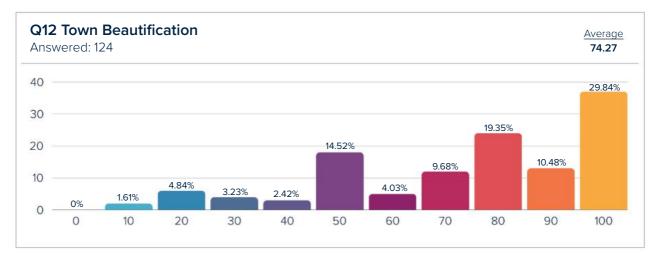


District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results

Key Interests (level of interest)







District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results

Key Interests (level of interest)

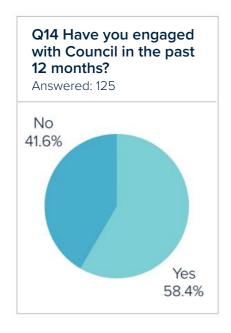
Q13 Please provide other areas of interest

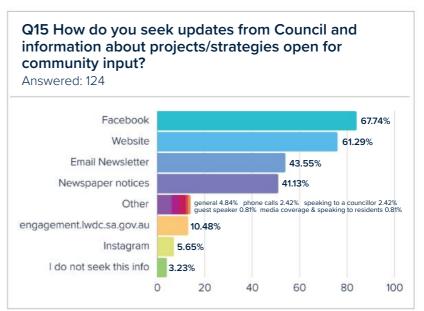
Answered: 74

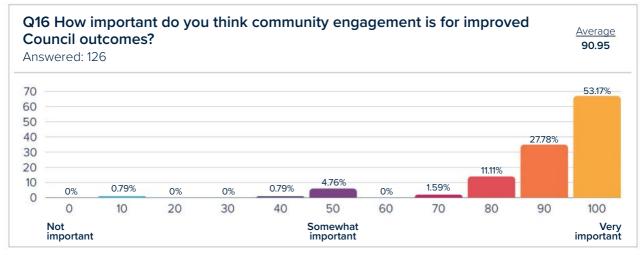
- Tourism; economic development; new business support (8)
- Waikerie Institute maintenance and restoration (5)
- Family friendly areas; playgrounds; shaded play areas (4)
- Roads; traffic; rural townships & roads (4)
- Upgrades required at caravan park / prompt sale to allow developers to improve the site (4)
- Footpaths and walking, bike trails; accessible pathways (4)
- Long vehicle parking; near town centre; before town (3)
- Shared public spaces; parks and gardens (2)
- Aged care facilities (2)
- Increased support for local sporting clubs; volunteers at Waikerie Football Club (2)
- · Library; Loxton Library Development (negative) (2)
- Local history preservation; archiving & digitisation; access for public (2)
- Maintenance and upgrades for public buildings; historical buildings (2)
- Public transport; inter-town transport (2)
- Support for homeless population; needy (2)
- Town centres; Public Amenities (2)
- "Town entrances (2)

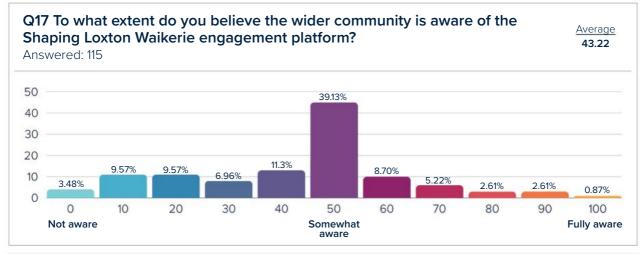
(Waikerie town entrance Blanchetown Road/Sturt Highway)

- (Waikerie western enterance Sturt Highway/Vasey Road)"
- Aviation (1)
- Community organisations (1)
- Construction of a bridge to replace ferry (1)
- Council services provision (1)
- Curches (1)
- Decrease vandalism (1)
- Health and wellbeing (1)
- Hospital (1)
- Improved control and maintenance of camping areas; camping (general) (2)
- Increasing riverfront tourism (café/tourist centre at the end of East Terrace) (1)
- Interesting activities and opportunities for teenagers (1)
- Kokoda Terrace upgrade (1)
- Listening to the community's ideas (1)
- Local wildlife (1)
- Mens Shed; Probus (1)
- More signage; McCoy Street (1)
- Music (1)
- Paisley riverfront refurbishment (1)
- Projects impacting the elderly (1)
- Schools (1)
- Services for areas outside of town centres (1)
- Support for population living with dementia (1)
- Thiele's Sandbar & surrounds (1)
- Waikerie CBD enhancement; Improved footpaths & seating in McCoy Street; Shaded parking in CBD; New car park area in CBD (1)



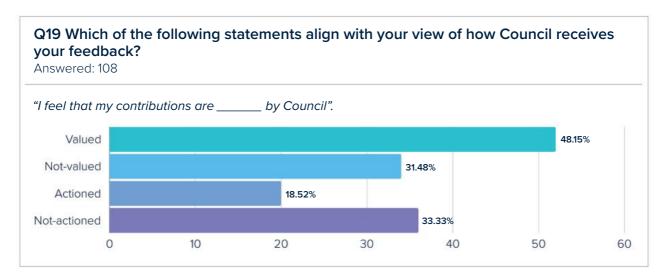






District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results





Q20 First Name

Answered: 100

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q21 Last Name

Answered: 99

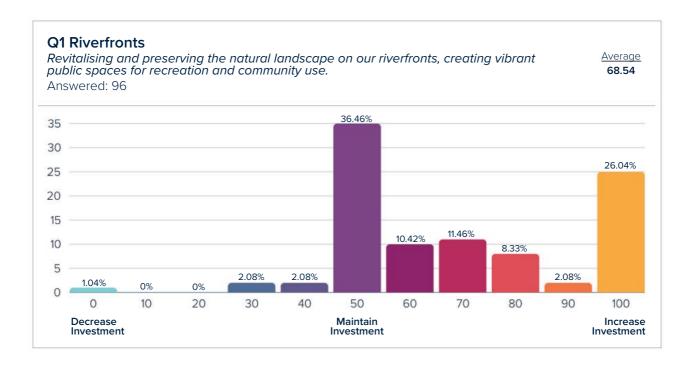
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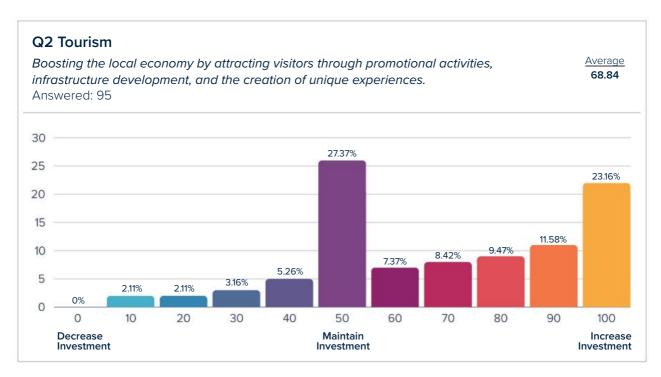
Q22 Email Address

Answered: 92

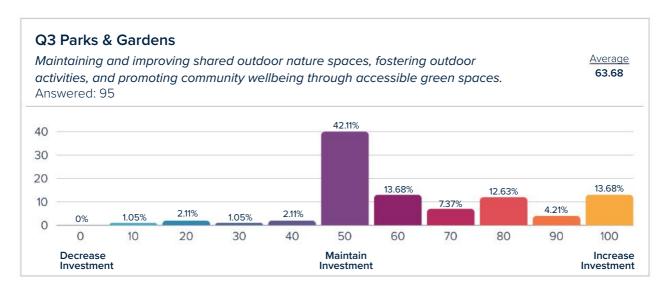
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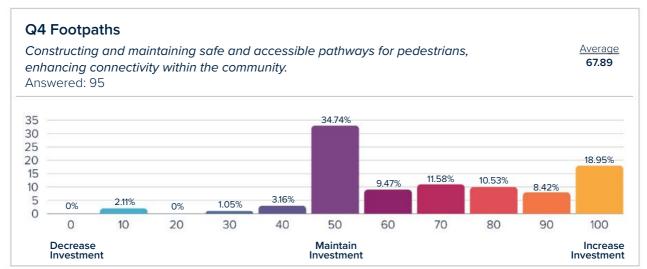
97 Where would you like to see increased investment by Council? contributions

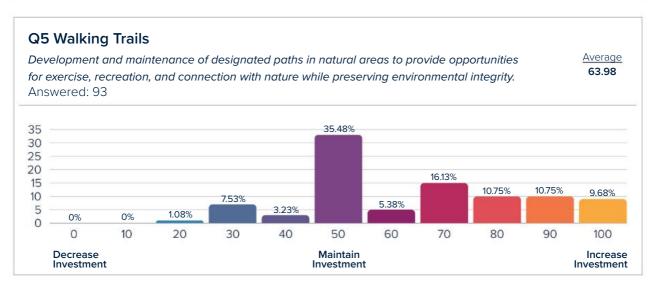




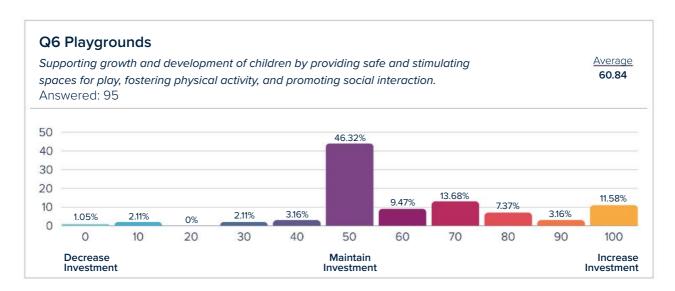
District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results

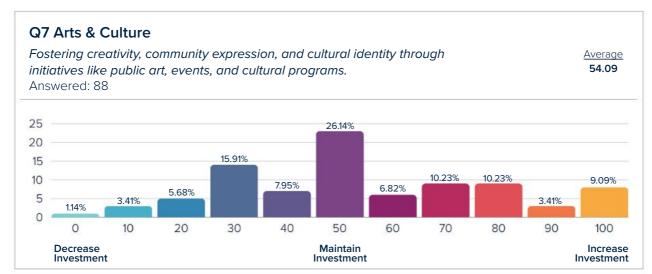


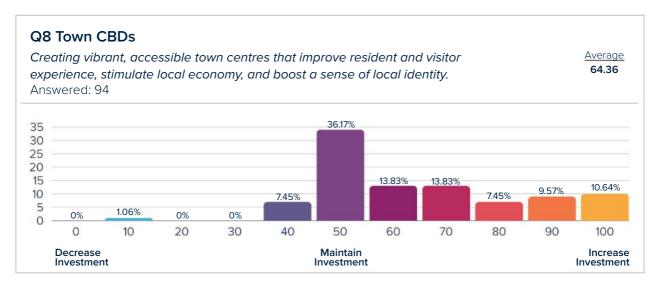




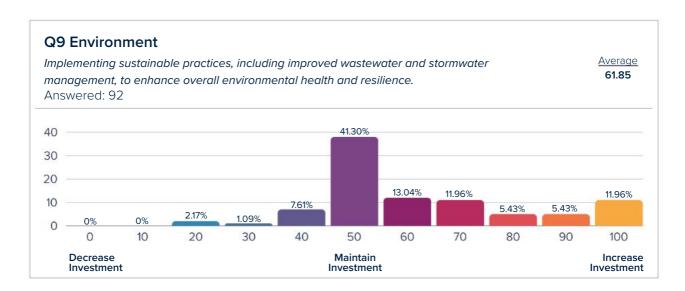
District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results

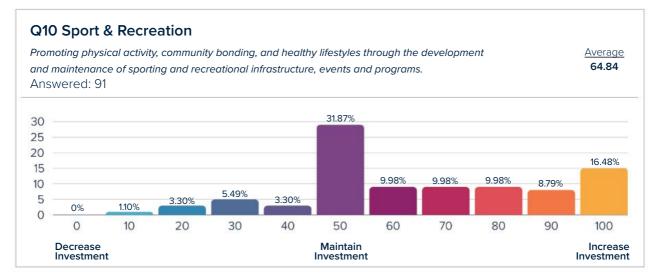


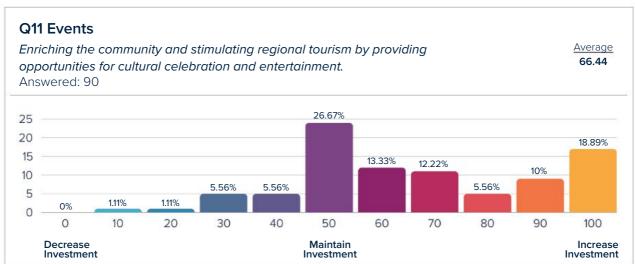




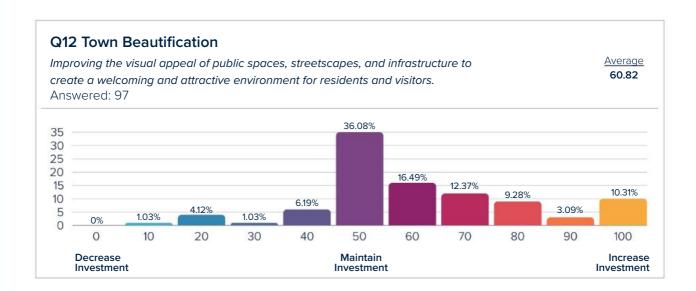
District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results







District Council of Loxton Waikerie 2024-2025 Community Engagement Results



Q13 Please share any of your additional thoughts or reasoning behind your selections with us.

Answered: 46

Council needs to enforce the restoration of the fire-damaged building at top end of McCoy Street. This is a disgrace for the entrance to our town, it's now 5 years since the fire.

As a senior citizen I find the footpaths very poor for walking and people on mobility scooters.

We must keep up and create a better Waikerie. I think the Council is doing a great job in doing this so far - keep up the great work.

Would like to see the upgrade and a completion of the Waikerie institute it is imperative that this building is fixed so our community can use it to the full extent, dances, bands, community events. We could be doing so much in this building but cant till its fixed.

Fix what is there (Waikerie Institute!!!!) Stop useless stuff (using carparks/roadway to widen footpath "because it's needed" then place rusty high maintenance planter boxes in the way.. usable footpath same width, wide road now skinny and blocks easily... same time removed u turn space in centre island top of Peake tce, now car u turn at Rowe St intersection causing clogged intersection with ferry traffic! Also when queue for ferry reaches back onto Peake tce, new car Island adjacent Matthew St means noone can pass, nor can they turn away so are stuck 10-20 mins awaiting ferry traffic movements minimum!! Whoever looked at your traffic appeared to not take this into account.. there are other points about town where improvements made it worse (eg why take left turn away from white-> McCoy?? No accidents reported there in 15 years, now have to wait for roundabout traffic which often is not hoing into mccoy.....

We are so fortunate to have a unique rover environment. We need to capitalise on this and use it to promote and entice people to our region.

Encourage street art. Has great visual appeal.

Make funding applications for local groups simpler to apply for - when minor sums of money are involved. E.g. photocopying costs are a big factor for small groups but only small in overall Council budget.

Bringing people from out side of our community's is important, tourism, play and walking trails as well as sport bring money from outside in to our community helping businesses prosper and the flow on affect is great facilities for those who live in the community.

Set up a five year plan and make it happen to repair and maintain Waikerie Institute - an important icon in our town. Stop putting this off as it will cost more each year to fix!

Work with businesses to improve opening hours on Mondays as this is good for tourism, and see if you can encourage new business to our town.

Make sure there are street crossings included in plans to improve McCoy St and as much parking as possible as elder people can't walk far uphill, and we have a lot of elder people in town.

lan Oliver entrance is a disgrace. It needs urgent upgrade. Strangman Road entrance also.

I would like to see more done for aged care (e.g. therapeutic swim pool)

A comprehensive survey! We need to attract more reliable food providers to cater for tourists especially. Too much red tape and regulations, make it too daunting for new, and existing business opportunities!

A dedicated gardener/arborist; Corella control person; Suitable riverfront required dedicated parking/camping areas, with charges to apply & overseen by a ranger.

Enough money has been spent at Riverfront, town needs an uplift - the Institute, bench area by Institute is a very dark, dirty looking area, needs an uplift, shops need painting, a real freshen up. NO planter boxes, more disability parking.

Upgrading of Waikerie Institute kitchen is a priority. The burnt-out shop at the top of McCoy Street needs to be fixed up ASAP, not a good introduction to our town.

Dog park - tunnels etc & chairs or seats at front end.

Attention need to be made to the burnt out building at the top of McCoy Street. Not a good look for visitors entering the town. Taking too long to be dealt with.

I am not an administrator so do not have skills to request improvements or criticism.

Speaking about Waikerie CBD needs a lot of money spent on it. Needs to come into the 21st century. The Main Street has to have work done on gutters, footpaths and speed restrictions (50km/hr)

Waikerie's is green enough. Where is Loxton new bins? New posts along the riverfront? Enough culture and arts, any more is an over kill.

Tourism is where the money is. Focus on bringing people into the area, so much more potential

We need to do more to bring tourists to our towns. We need more available on our riverfront as visitors want to enjoy the river via cruises, hiring canoes, paddle boards, etc. We need food vans providing light meals, coffee, etc on the riverfront so visitors can make use of the seating and grassed areas. We need more tourist attractions to bring people to the area and therefore bring in money spent on accommodation, meals and shopping to support our small retail businesses

It is vital that whatever investment is made that there are always enough funds available to maintain these areas/buildings/paths etc so they do not fall into disprepair, like what has happened to the Waikerie Institute

Continue developing the Waikerie river front further to the west.

Thinking of aged community, active residents, a variety of services with consideration to tourists, local children & family activities. The council area looks fabulous. Something for everyone and our current council areas are a visitor drawcard. Thank you.

Would be fantastic to improve the road to Ramco boat ramp and upgrade the facilities there.

Loxton is a beautiful town but let's face it, after 12pm on a Saturday what the appeal of being in Loxton over the weekends? Nothing open and nothing to do unless you own a speedboat.

It's time for Waikerie to have their basketball stadium and Institute revamped. The Band-Aid approach which council employs is just wrong, not to mention corrupt on so many levels. I don't live in Waikerie anymore but don't get me started on the Physio pool (private) in Loxton that Council helps to maintain! Meanwhile, Waikerie keep getting shunned for their heated pool project and second basketball court. [ending removed due to inappropriate language].

I would love to see a bike pathway between Loxton and Berri or Loxton and Moorook, somewhere safe to ride, that's not on the road but is a long distance. Similar to the Barossa. I'd also like to see a mountain bike path for kids, the one near heaven is not safe or approachable.

It's uncertain whether fostering tourism really brings real, usable capital into the town. Sporting facilities need some investment, but clubs need to understand that fair doesn't mean equal, and that just because one area gets something spent on them, doesn't mean the same needs to be spent everywhere, as some facilities have far less public use than others.

Riverfront is our best asset but it is under used compared to all other towns. The council should have purchased to club property as part of building the precinct to enable the club to be moved down the end of East Tce in the side of the hill. Community engagement is needed to get more people to help with the town like when we us3d to win tidy towns regularly. The parks garden and ovals are always well maintained which is good and keeps town beautiful but we have little to bring tourists here and to stay. Although I'm am now an older resident I feel the town is seen as the "greying" town of the Riverland. Not much has been invested to keep our youth entertained, engaged and here. The skate park is rarely used no one uses any of the fitness equipment along the river the walkway along the river is very un inviting as it is on the wrong side of the road with no grass between the ski club and the lions toilets (now not there) and the caravan riverfront has no grass when it would have its own river water license.

Needs to increase spend on tourism attractions to stimulate increase community revenue so the local economy doesnot need to rely on viticulture as this will be a continuous poor sector for the next 25 years. Increase spending on recreation and sports to increase the use of our local already owned facilities. In Loxton we have a wonderful facility but with how much it cost is well under used and prob doesn't go close to covering costs let alone earring a commercial ROE. Waikerie will soon have similar. Where Moorook has the best actual sports oval but now it's not used for anything. What has happens with the Loxton footy ball club rooms was stupid. Where else in the Riv other than the Greek churches could a 300 plus person event be held. Our town has high community spirt general but not to the level of 25 years ago when multiple tidy towns were won. Our Xmas lights now are not worth visitors coming anymore. An easy way to promote better lights and community engagement would be to award a simple \$500 prize to the best display in the town but not from existing houses so this engages new homes only to compete for the prize. Maybe have \$250 prize for best overall lights but more for a new address. We might then get the busses back we had 20 years ago.

Waikerie and surrounding areas need to see an increased investment. Things have picked up during this election cycle but our town has been treated like second class citizens for a very long time previous to this.

I believe that our main street building facades should not be allowed to change. The top chemists shop does not fit in with the general look of the street (I know this can not be changed).

Too many empty shops in waikerie. Need other attraction to attract tourists.

Increasing river and tourism focussed funding will benefit locals as well as bringing in tourists with their financial contributions

We have some of the best weather for outdoor activities, events, and sport in Australia. With a current problem of obesity in today's society as well as electronic devices that kids seem addicted to we need to encourage through great facilities and events the lifestyle of being active and healthy.

Implement the Greening Loxton Plan

Keep up the good work with River Fringe and the cooperation with Country Arts SA.

Would love to see some investment in the Paisley riverfront post flood. It certainly needs some love, it's a very popular place for people to go on the weekends.

Riverfringe and other Country Arts collaborations particularly with Karen's efforts are great. Keep them going. The upgrading of power in the Loxton's East Tce. Extremely important for unique Main Street Community Events that will help Tourism development and maintain viability of township "space". Think laser light show on old Institute facade. Events. The vibrant feel of a unique space. Support all sporting development, not only the Council asset base. The golf course and club are a huge asset. Unfortunately cycling is poorly served and huge opportunities are wasted. Even the cycling stands are pathetic. Please do something about the Loxton Caravan park and riverfront (Packards Bend) Even just clean it up properly.

One of the biggest detractors is the big trucks moving through out town at speed.

Support housing new developments

Perhaps thought given to employing a CEO for the whole of the Riverland ie initially a Ceo secretiat that covers all the three councils, reducing two wages, dozens of PA's etc.

I would like to see the entrances to Waikerie completed. I would also like to see the entrance crossing from The Avenue to the Waikerie Hart Lagoon with ramps either way and not the current rubbly unsafe mess it is. There is a number of people who enter the trail from this point and it is very slippery especially when you hit one of the marbly rocks! I have sent pictures and been waiting 2-3 years. I dislike that there is no ticket number or response indicating the request submitted by email has been viewed, acted upon or sitting in the que.

There are 2 spots in Waikerie where the floodlights create blind spots for drivers at night, creating a safety issue, the floodlights on the silo art (submitted by Darren Schmitke) and over the sign both ways at the lifestyle village. I would like to see NO Parking along Peake Tce next to the current Football clubrooms. This is very unsafe when both sides of the road have cars parked.

Footpaths especially in Hayward terrace are unusable, people Always walking on road and the elderly using mobility scooters on the road accident potential. Kokoda terrace median strip very untidy and unusable.

Support for an Arts and Cultural Facilitator

The town needs activities for families and visitors that is not dependant on the river or visiting wineries. Examples - ninja warrier style playground for older kids/ active adults Indoor playspaces for bad weather days - school hols weekends eg inflatable world

Q15 First Name

Answered: 82

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q16 Last Name

Answered: 80

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

Q17 Email Address

Answered: 71

Personal information kept confidential in Council records.

PROJECT BUDGETING

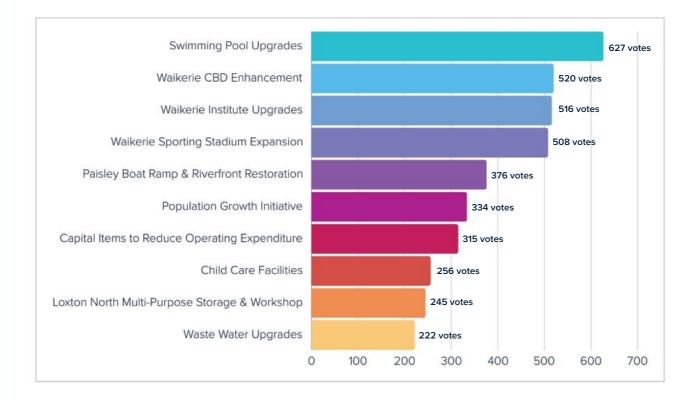
711

contributions

What projects should we fund?

While a points system was used to indicate the approximate scope and budget required to complete each project, Results have been recorded on number of votes received.

24 contributions were identified as duplicates (data match against IP address and personal information) and were removed from the results.



PITCH YOUR PROJECT

48 contributions

During data collation, the following submissions (37) were identified with potential for Council to consider in an upcoming financial year:

Waikerie silo internal enhancement project to be utilised for tourism.

A highly visible structure in town displaying the number of deaths of women in Australia at the hands of intimate partners during a year.

The supply and erection of a combined storage/sheds facility for Loxton service and community groups.

Waikerie needs more lighting on the roadside of Ramco Road near the extended part of the Lifestyle Village.

Fix x2 concrete cricket pitches/matting @ Waikerie Sports Centre. Watering = Black mould = Unsafe playing surface. Top dress oval needed.

Encourage youth to be part of our town's development (> sporting fixtures, new and existing business development, retain youth in region).

Loxton Riverfront Caravan Park requires accountability, transparency & vision plus resources to make it a financial success. Do not sell it.

Continue the beautification of the riverfront and houseboat area and new boat ramp at Waikerie.

How to bring your community group or not for profit up to date so it is able to apply for grants and therefore help the community grow .

Implement National standards for Volunteering into all volunteer organisations .

Clean up median strip along kokoda Terrace, lawn and tables or walking tracks, just needs to be care for .

Safety and welfare of riverbank at paisley ski reserve. River drive

Council purchase 10 hand-held UHF radios (walkie-talkie) for loan to community events to improve event operation, coordination and safety

As a person with a disability I thank you for up & down ramps but the condition of footpaths in Waikerie are very sub standard.

Zebra crossing in Loxton Main Street by Library so that elderly and parents with kids can cross safely.

Bike lane / better footpaths both sides of the Loxton Lutheran School. So kids can safely walk or ride to school.

PITCH YOUR PROJECT

A footpath is required on Ramco Road from the Ramco Lagoon to the Ramco Primary School as School Students are walking on the road

Select suitable Ramco to Holder Riverfront campsites - creating hard surfaces in these designated areas. Booking of sites & charges to apply

Assist LDCC with their current idea to get NRM building childcare off the ground

Develop a splash park similar to that found in towns like Cowell - including a jumping pillow etc.

Shaded car park to be created between Loxton CWA Hall and 13 Kokoda Terrace. To ease the congestion on Loxtons 2nd busiest street, Anzac cres

Use the existing power supplied to toilets & lights at the War Memorial Gardens in WAIKERIE & illuminate the war memorial & cannon with LED?

Develop a community garden in the Waikerie area. We have many ideal spots for this; such as the area near the lifestyle village & parks.

Utilising the riverfront more in loxton above 1956 level, at the end of the main street a water play area similar to Mildura.

Beautification of Paisley beach, replacing tired structures/barrier, xtra bins and signage and ensuring the bank is safe for entering river

Paisley Ski Beach: New barrier along road to replace existing, + bins, extra 'no camping' signage, update/fix shelters, fix sandbags @ bank

The council needs to invest in paying for a plan or revising the exiting drawn plan for the riverfront at the end of Fast Tce.

Refurbish an old court into a pickle ball court and encourage physical activity

To fix the space by the tennis courts to make a mountain bike track. There is an old one there already, it needs work. It's full of prickles

opening the swimming pool earlier than the current time of 1pm. enabling access before the maximum heat sets in for the day.

shade sails needed to cover the local swimming pool to create a safer environment for the local children to keep cool in summer.

Installation of a multi purpose water fountain at LNSC so players and the community can drink, fill up a water bottle and water for dogs.

Treat the wood on council projects & property with oil asap as its already very badly dried out. This includes BBQ Shelters, park signs etc

The Waikerie Institute: an upgrade with a functional kitchen, improved lighting, running water, and chairs. The bar area needs upgrading too

PITCH YOUR PROJECT

I'd like to see new modern tables and chairs scattered around the lawn of the rotunda area in loxton with permanent umbrellas attached.

East Tce Loxton Light Shows on Institute facade of Library/ VIC. utilising the Rotunda as a base. History Events Christmas Arts and Culture.

More infrastructure for population growth.

The following submissions (11) were identified as either being not, or not-entirely, a function of Council. Dependent on the individual idea, Council may be able to support the project in an alternate way (such as advocating, supporting, or linking stakeholders).

Supporting young people to start their small businesses within the Council region. Provide seed funding and support to help get them started

Purpose-built/modified residence/s to shelter women and children who need to seek security from violence, harassment or coercive control

Attracting a paddle boat to Waikerie would be a great achievement - say, something like the Proud Mary or Murray Princess.

Mural Art Festival - A purpose built mural art competition where a number of local and metropolitan mural artists are selected to paint amural

Continue Developing the Waikerie Riverfront the West of the 2nd Boat ramp Redevelop the Western Entrance to Waikerie at the Vasey Rd end

Farmers markets on the Loxton Riverfront every month and a coffee van / food van to utilise the space more.

Somehow the LLoyd Griffiths motorcar collection should be relocated to Loxton. I'm sure it would be a major tourist attraction.

Miniature train at the historical village, Similar to the train in Clare, Train can travel throughout the village, support from Men shed.

Tree climb similar to adelaide and Kuipto at Loxton riverfront near caravan park, within the gum trees

A purpose-built facility for the needy.

LWDC. Survey Farmers / Horti /Carriers re Heavy / RAV. Access. Ask for ideas about less trips, lower cost + labour, and improved safety