

Pyrenees Shire Council

Coordinated by the Department of Government Services on behalf of Victorian councils



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Background and objectives

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Victoria for 26 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 26 years of results, the CSS offers councils a long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

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

How to read index score charts in this report





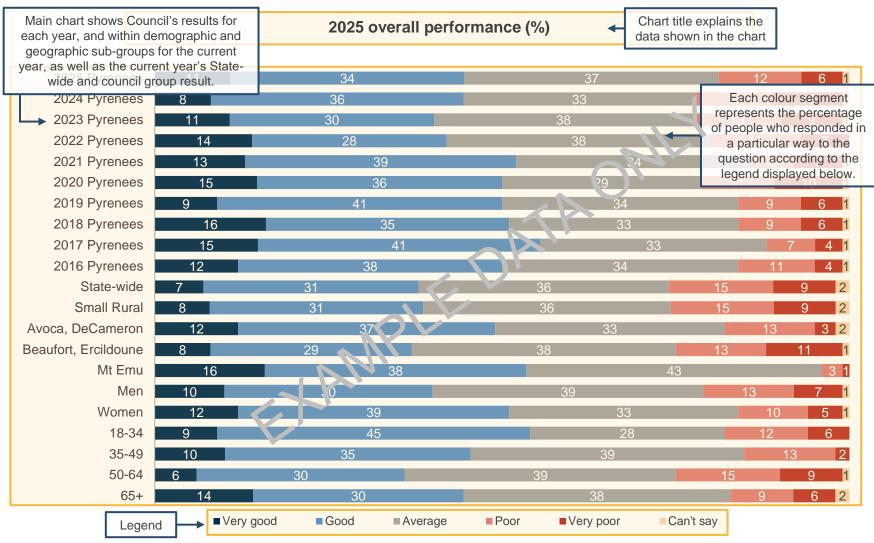
Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Pyrenees Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 56 Councils asked group: 19

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

How to read stacked bar charts in this report







Pyrenees Shire Council – at a glance



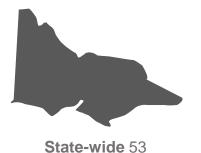
Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Pyrenees 58





Council performance compared to group average



Summary of core measures



Index scores



Value for **Performance**

money



Community Consultation



Making Community **Decisions**



Sealed Local Roads



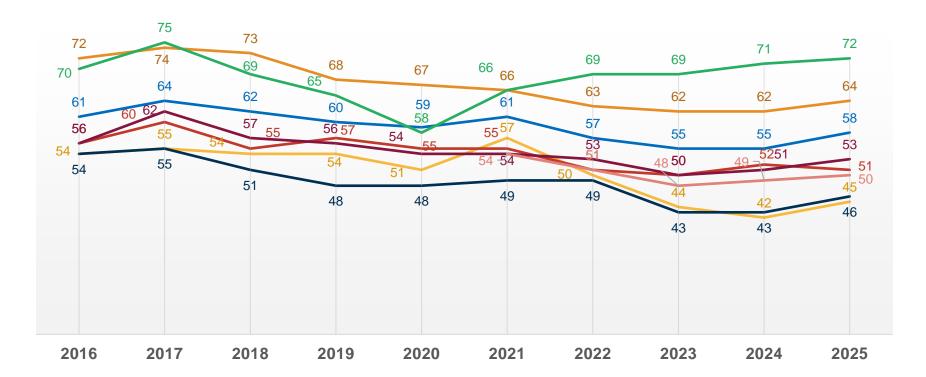
Waste management



Customer **Service**



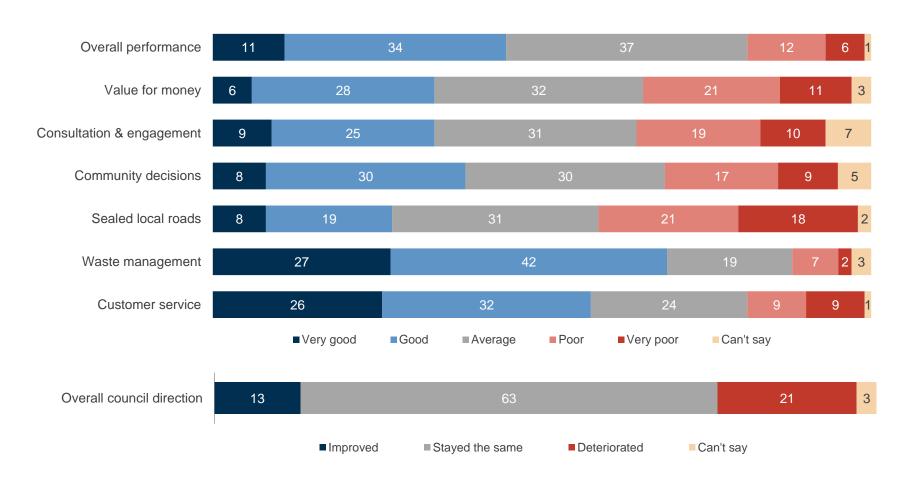
Overall Council Direction



Summary of core measures



Core measures summary results (%)



Summary of Pyrenees Shire Council performance



Services		Pyrenees 2025	Pyrenees 2024	Small Rural 2025	State-wide 2025	Highest score	Lowest score
<i>(</i> %	Overall performance	58	55	54	53	Mt Emu residents	50-64 years, Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
S	Value for money	50	49	47	47	18-34 years	50-64 years
+	Overall council direction	46	43	46	46	18-34 years	50-64 years
Ė	Customer service	64	62	65	66	65+ years	18-49 years
	Waste management	72	71	66	65	65+ years, 35-49 years	18-34 years
<u>.</u>	Appearance of public areas	71	69	70	68	Avoca, DeCameron residents	50-64 years
	Art centres & libraries	70	70	72	73	35-49 years	50-64 years
泣	Emergency & disaster mngt	66	69	66	65	Mt Emu residents	Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
外	Recreational facilities	66	68	66	67	Mt Emu residents	Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
***	Family support services	64	60	61	62	35-49 years	50-64 years

Summary of Pyrenees Shire Council performance



Services		Pyrenees 2025	Pyrenees 2024	Small Rural 2025	State-wide 2025	Highest score	Lowest score
	Bus/community dev./tourism	60	61	57	56	Mt Emu residents	50-64 years
	Enforcement of local laws	58	60	58	59	Mt Emu residents	Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
*6	Community decisions	53	51	50	49	Mt Emu residents	50-64 years
	Consultation & engagement	51	52	51	50	18-34 years, Avoca, DeCameron residents	50-64 years
A	Sealed local roads	45	42	44	45	65+ years, Avoca, DeCameron residents	35-49 years
	Unsealed roads	39	33	40	38	65+ years	35-64 years

Focus areas for the next 12 months



Overview

Perceptions of Pyrenees Shire Council's overall performance have slightly improved from the previous evaluation. Performance perceptions on most individual service areas are not significantly different to 2024, with exception to family support services and unsealed roads, where perceptions improved significantly.

Key influences on perceptions of overall performance

The condition of sealed local roads is among the lowest rated areas for Council yet it has a moderate influence on perceptions of Council's overall performance. Community decisions has the strongest influence on the overall performance rating, therefore, communicating any decision of Council's to focus on the condition of sealed roads is likely to be most beneficial in driving up opinion of overall performance.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Council rates significantly higher than both the Small Rural group and State-wide averages on overall performance, value for money, business, community development and tourism, community decisions and waste management. In family support services, Council is rated significantly higher than the Small Rural group. It is also performing above the State-wide average when it comes to the appearance of public areas, but is lower in art centres and libraries. In all other metrics, Council rates in line with the State-wide and group average.

Opportunity to engage

Residents aged 50 to 64 years warrant extra attention in the year ahead, as they continue to rate Council lowest on overall performance and on most individual service areas. This age group has the highest rate of contact with Council, so there is opportunity to use these interactions to engage with them and improve perceptions. Special attention should also be paid to residents in the Beaufort and Ercildoune area, as perceptions among this group are often lower and in some cases have deteriorated significantly in the last 12 months.

DETAILED FINDINGS





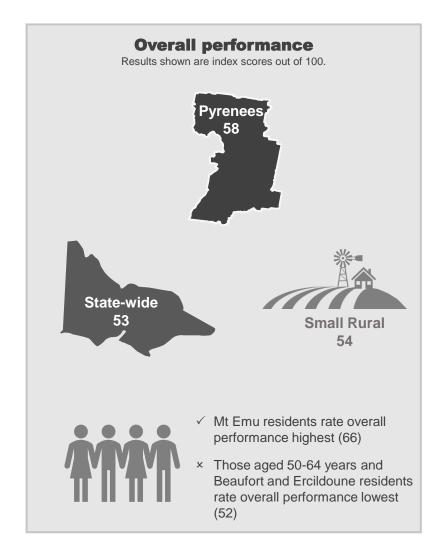


The overall performance index score of 58 for Pyrenees Shire Council is a slight three point improvement on both the 2024 and 2023 result (index score of 55 for both).

Pyrenees Shire Council's overall performance is now rated statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence interval) than the Small Rural group and the State-wide average for councils (index scores of 54 and 53 respectively).

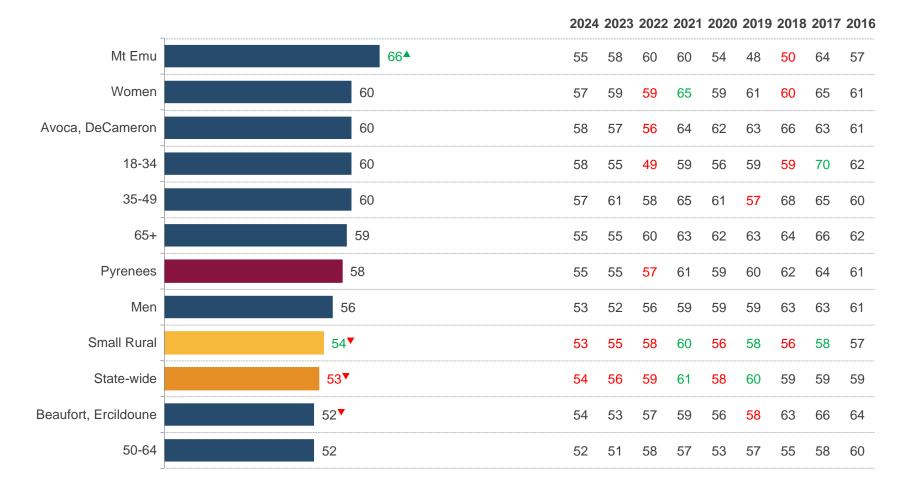
- Residents of Mt Emu (index score of 66) rate
 Council's overall performance significantly higher
 than average. Impressions have also significantly
 improved from last year (index score of 55), reaching
 an all-time high.
- By contrast, Beaufort and Ercildoune residents (index score of 52) rate overall performance significantly lower than average.
- Performance ratings across the remaining geographic and demographic cohorts are not significantly different from the Council average.

Just over one in three residents (34%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services as 'very good' or 'good'. A similar amount rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (32%), or as 'average' (32%) in terms of value for money.



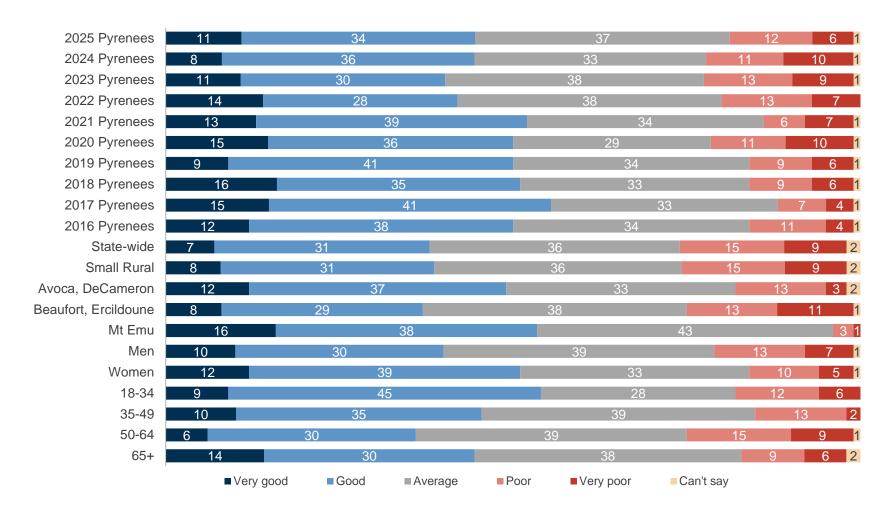


2025 overall performance (index scores)





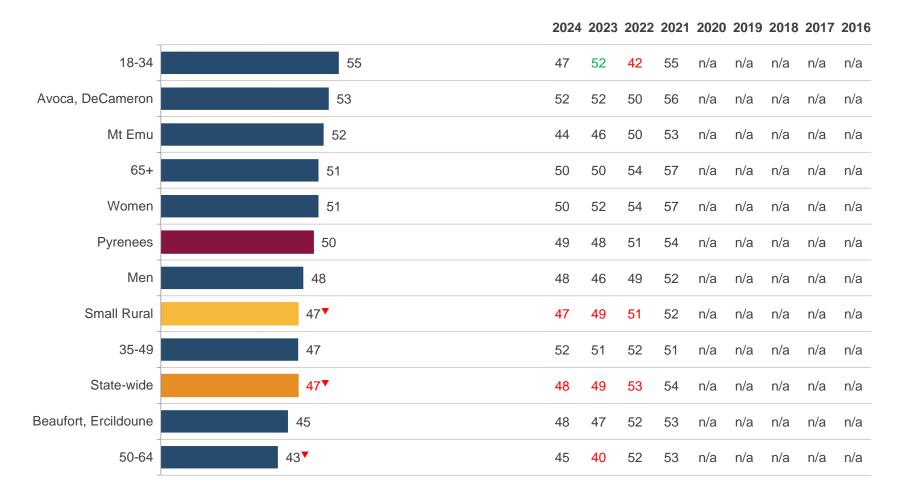
2025 overall performance (%)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



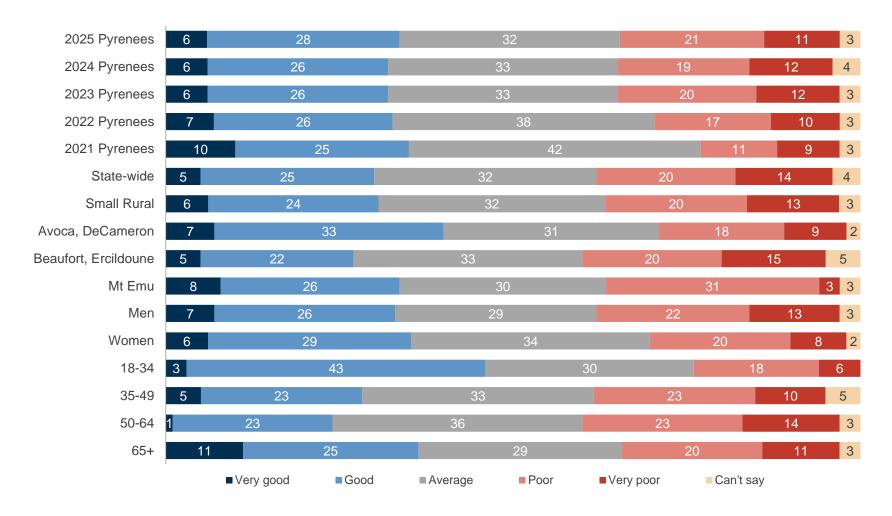
2025 value for money (index scores)



Value for money in services and infrastructure



2025 value for money (%)



Top performing service areas

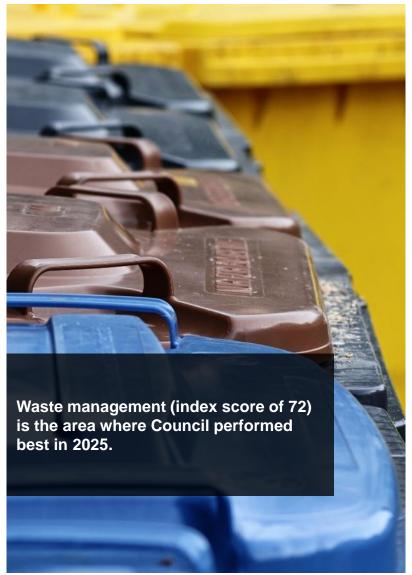
Council continues to perform best in the area of waste management (index score of 72). Performance in this service area has been improving since 2021.

- Council continues to performs significantly higher than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 66 and 65 respectively) in this service area.
- Further, 8% of residents mention waste management as one of the best things about Council.
- Residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 62) rate performance in waste management lowest and significantly lower compared to the Council average.

The appearance of public areas (index score of 71) and art centres and libraries (index score of 70) are Council's next best performing service areas. Both service areas have continually performed at a relatively high level since tracking commenced and remain in line with the Small Rural group average.

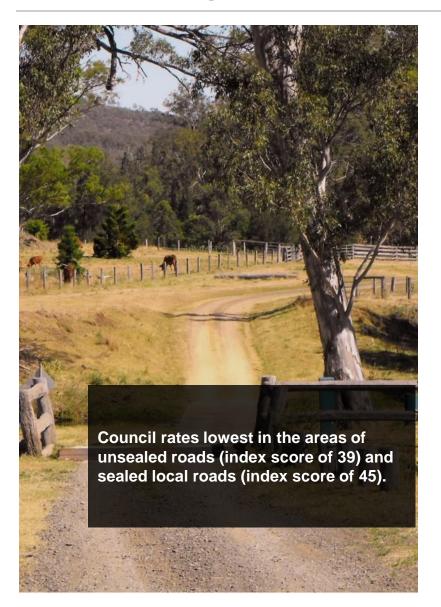
- In the case of the appearance of public areas, Council's performance rating has improved by two points since 2024, though this is not a significant change.
- In art centres and libraries, Council's index score has been maintained for three years now. Ratings among residents aged 35 to 49 years old are now significantly higher than average.





Low performing service areas





Council's lowest performing service areas continue to relate to roads. Performance on unsealed roads (index score of 39) is rated lowest (despite perceptions improving significantly in the last 12 months), followed by sealed local roads (45).

This year, Council rates in line with the State-wide and Small Rural group averages for both areas.

Just over nine in 10 residents (93%) believe unsealed roads should be 'extremely' or 'very' important to Council, including 53% who believe it should be 'extremely' important.

Around one in five residents (19%) mention sealed local roads as the top area for improvement, along with 5% who volunteer unsealed roads.

The condition of sealed local roads has a moderate influence on overall perceptions of Council, so should remain a key focus.

Sealed local roads ratings are lower among Beaufort and Ercildoune residents and have not improved at all since significantly declining in 2023, meaning efforts would likely be best directed here.

In terms of areas to focus on for unsealed roads, ratings have significantly improved among Avoca and DeCameron residents, meaning efforts would be best directed to the other remaining geographic areas.

Individual service area performance



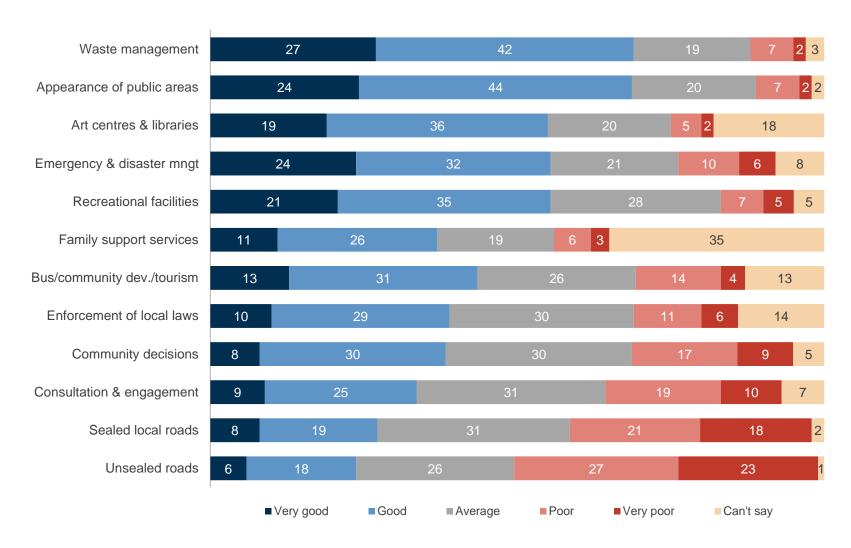
2025 individual service area performance (index scores)



Individual service area performance



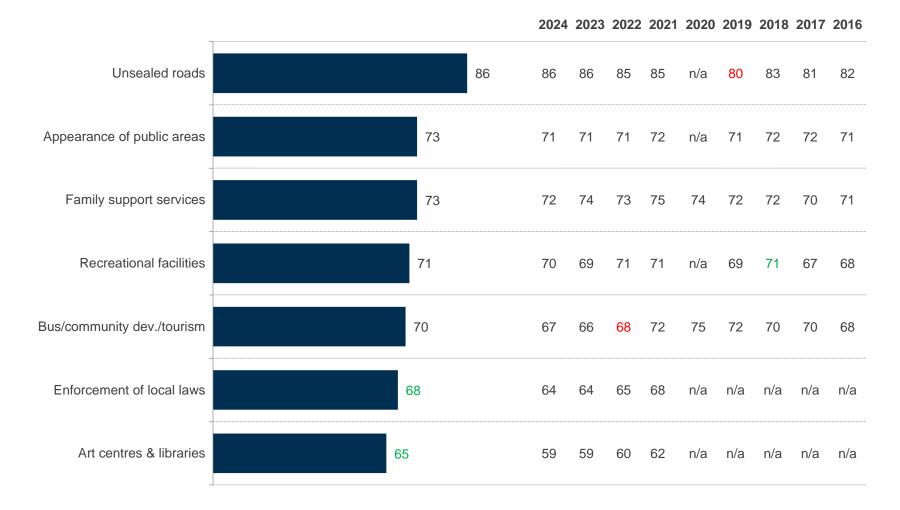
2025 individual service area performance (%)



Individual service area importance



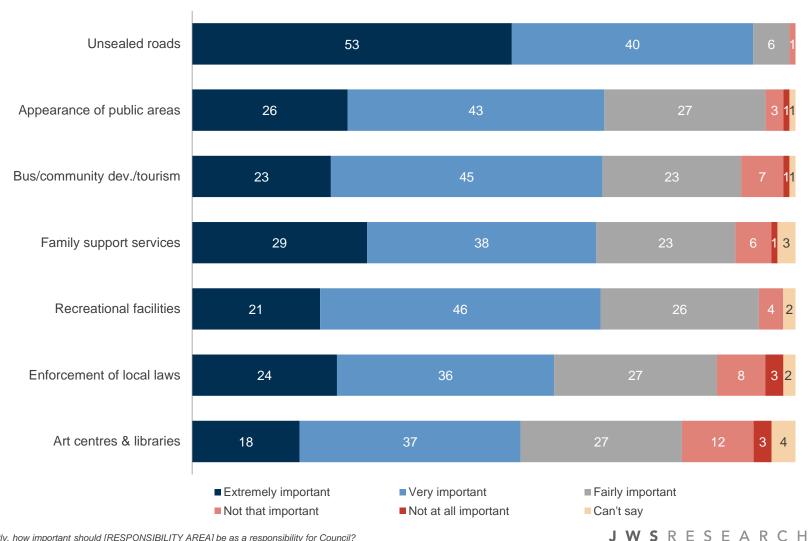
2025 individual service area importance (index scores)



Individual service area importance



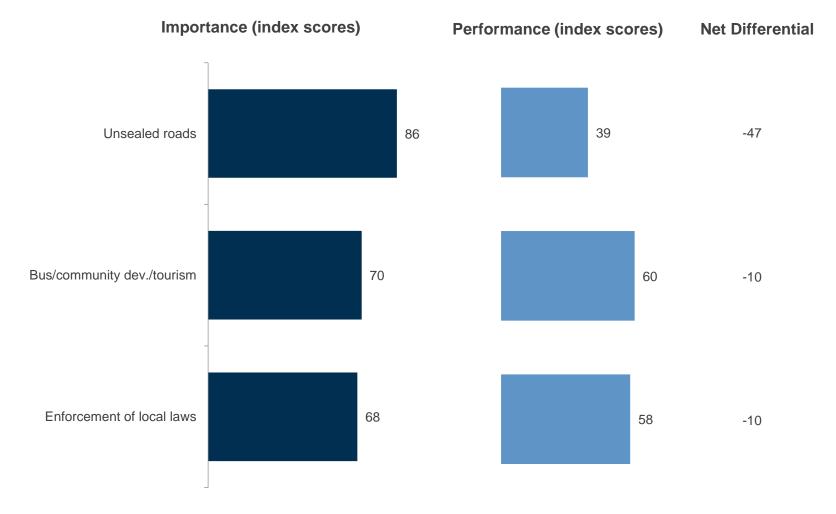
2025 individual service area importance (%)



Individual service areas importance vs performance



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



Influences on perceptions of overall performance



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

• Decisions made in the interest of the community.

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

Following on from that, other services with a more moderate influence on the overall performance rating are:

- Community consultation and engagement
- Emergency management
- Condition of sealed roads.

Looking at these services only, emergency management has a high performance index (66) and a moderate influence on the overall performance rating.

Maintaining this positive result should remain a focus – but there is greater work to be done elsewhere.

Another service that has a moderate influence on overall perceptions, but where Council performs relatively less well, is community consultation and engagement (performance index of 51).

A focus on consulting local residents about key issues in the community can also help shore up positive overall opinion of Council.

However, most in need of attention is condition of sealed roads, which is poorly rated (performance index of 45) and a moderate influence on overall community opinion.

It is therefore important to attend to residents concerns around maintaining sealed roads to help improve overall ratings of Council performance.

Regression analysis explained



We use regression analysis to investigate which individual service areas such as community consultation and the condition of sealed local roads (the independent variables) are influencing respondent perceptions of overall council performance (the dependent variable).

In the charts that follow:

- The horizontal axis represents Council's performance index score for each individual service.
 Service areas appearing on the right side of the chart have a higher index score than those on the left.
- The vertical axis represents the Standardised Beta Coefficient from the multiple regression performed.
 This measures the contribution of each service area to the model. Service areas near the top of the chart have a greater positive effect on overall performance ratings than those located closer to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

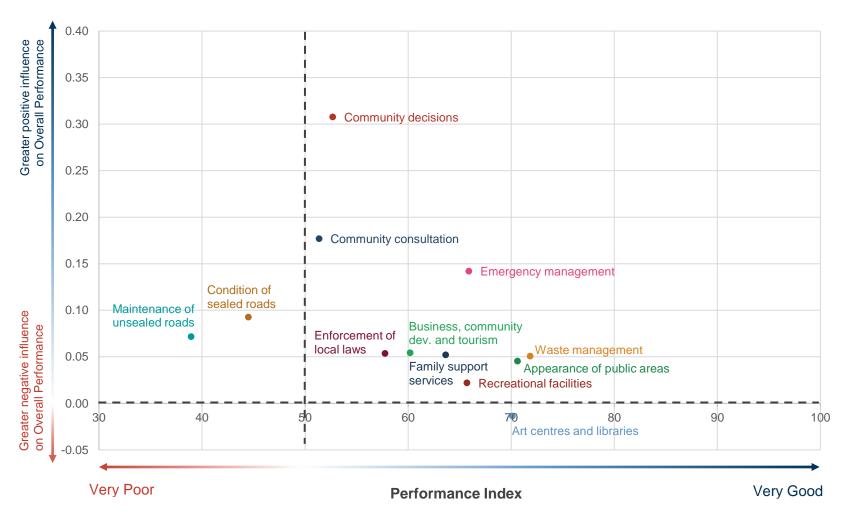
- 1. The first chart shows the results of a regression analysis of *all* individual service areas selected by Council.
- 2. The second chart shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas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

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

Influence on overall performance: all services



2025 regression analysis (all services)

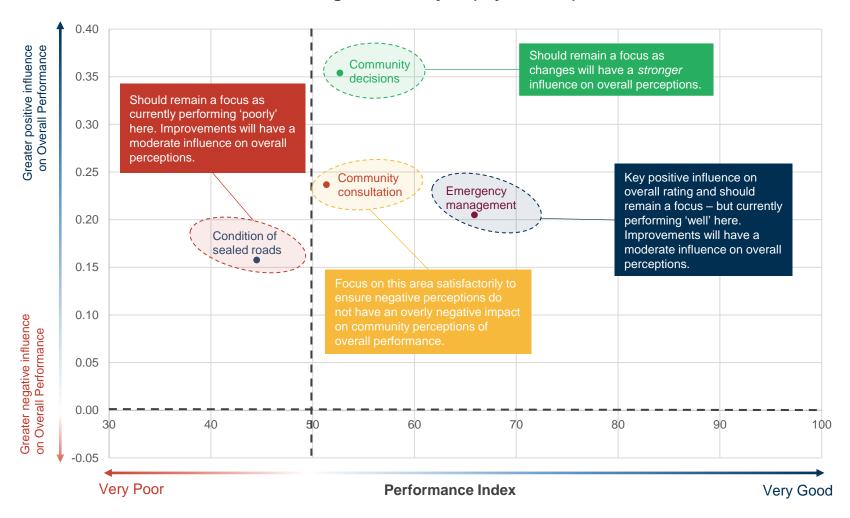


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.565 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.551, which means that 55% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at p = 0.0001, F = 41.80. This model should be interpreted with some caution as some data is not normally distributed and not all service areas have linear correlations.

Influence on overall performance: key services



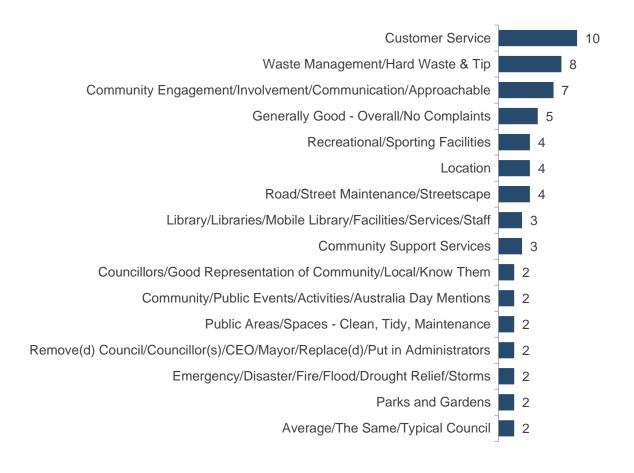
2025 regression analysis (key services)



Best things about Council



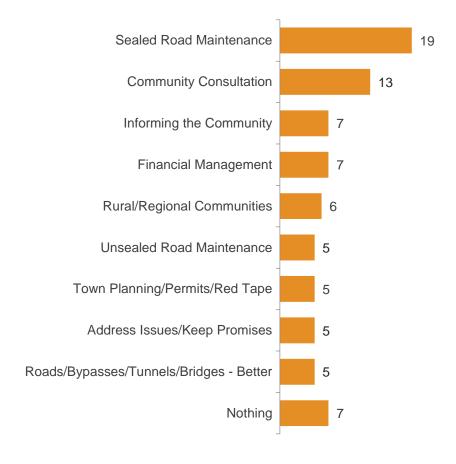
2025 best things about Council (%) - Top mentions only -



Areas for improvement



2025 areas for improvement (%) - Top mentions only -





Customer service

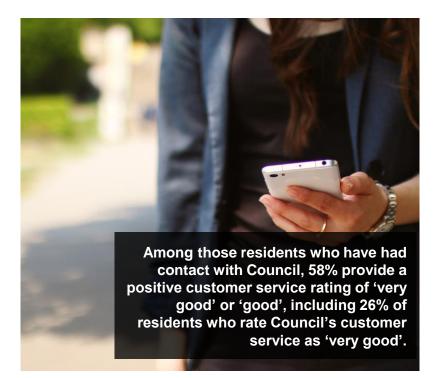
Contact with council and customer service



Contact with council

Just over three in five Council residents (64%) had contact with Council in the last 12 months. This is a significant drop from last year (72%).

The rate of contact is also significantly lower than last year among those aged 35 to 49 years (64%, down from 83%) and Avoca and DeCameron residents (57%, down from 68% in 2024).



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 64 remains in line with last year, slightly improving from its lowest level recorded (up two index points from 62 in 2024).

 Customer service is rated in line with the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (index scores of 66 and 65 respectively).

Over half of Council's residents (58%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'. This far outweighs the 18% who rate Council's customer service as 'very poor' or 'poor'.

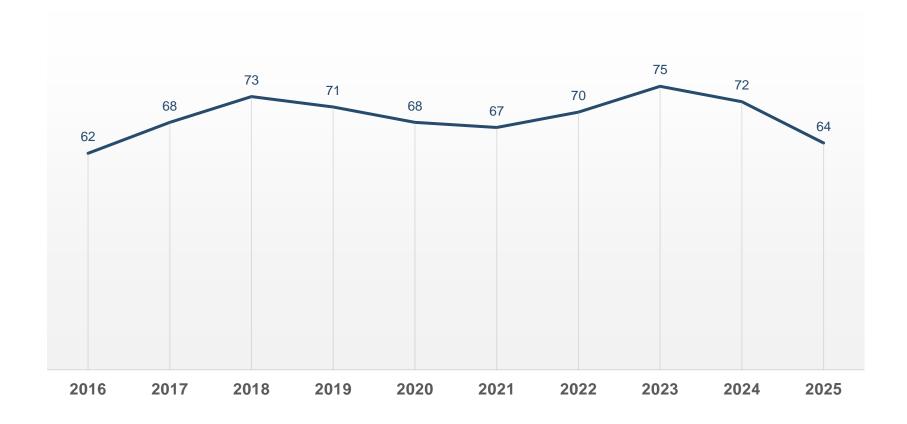
Customer service ratings across all demographic and geographic cohorts are not significantly different from the Council average.

- Residents aged 65 years and above rate customer service highest (index score of 70)
- Residents aged 18 to 49 years rate customer service lowest (index score of 60)

Contact with council



2025 contact with council (%) Have had contact

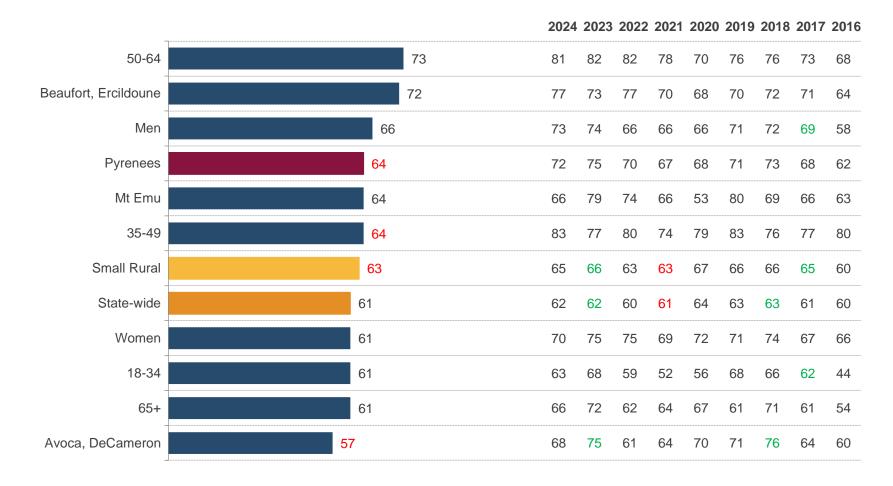


Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Pyrenees Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Contact with council



2025 contact with council (%)



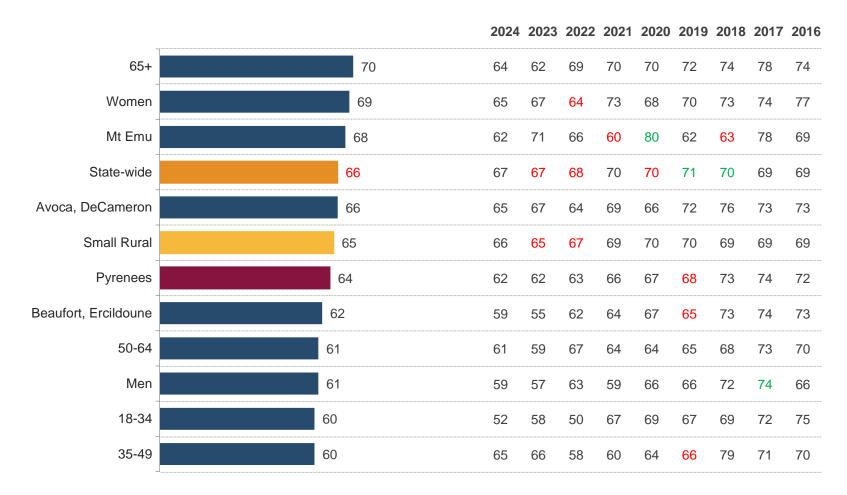
Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Pyrenees Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 32 Councils asked group: 14 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Customer service rating



2025 customer service rating (index scores)



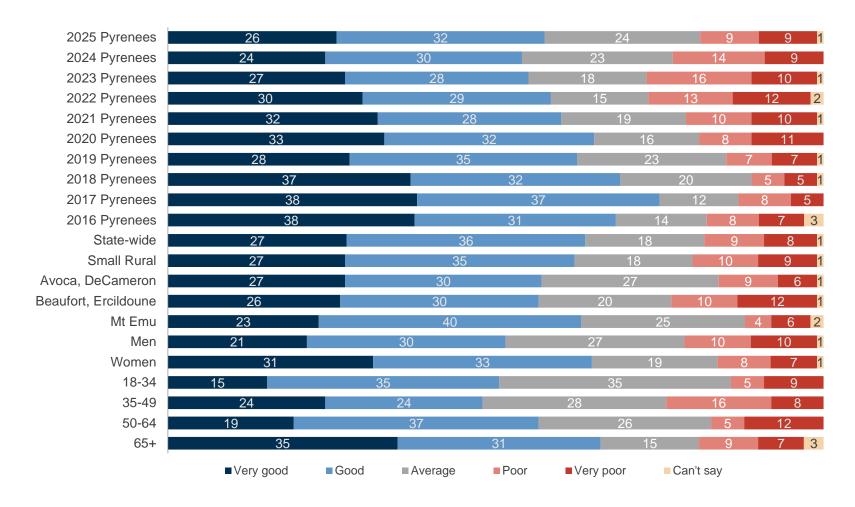
Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Pyrenees Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Councils asked State-wide: 56 Councils asked group: 19

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

Customer service rating



2025 customer service rating (%)





Council direction

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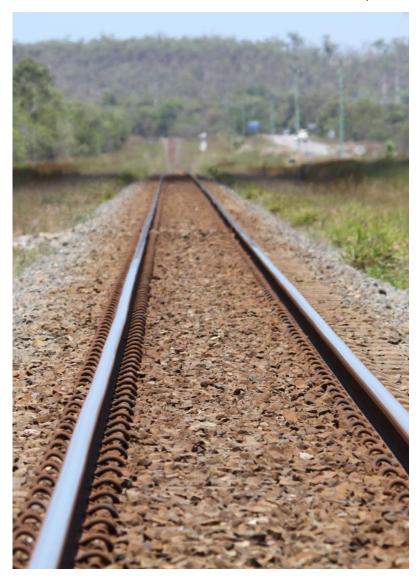
Over the last 12 months, 63% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same. This is unchanged from last year.

- Just over one in 10 residents (13%, up from 10% in 2024) believe the direction of Council's overall performance has improved.
- More (21%) believe it has deteriorated (down from 24% in 2024).

Council's overall direction index score (46) has improved by three points, though this is not a statistically significant change. Perceptions of Council's overall direction are in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index score of 46 for both).

 The most satisfied with council direction are residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score of 50). Impressions among this cohort have significantly increased since last year (up 14 index points), a pleasing turnaround given they were least satisfied with Council's overall direction last year. The least satisfied this year are residents aged 50 to 64 years (index score of 40).

In a trade-off between rates and services, 54% of residents 'definitely' or 'probably' prefer cuts in council services to keep council rates at the same level as they are now, compared to 22% who would 'definitely' or 'probably' prefer rate rises to improve local services.



Overall council direction last 12 months



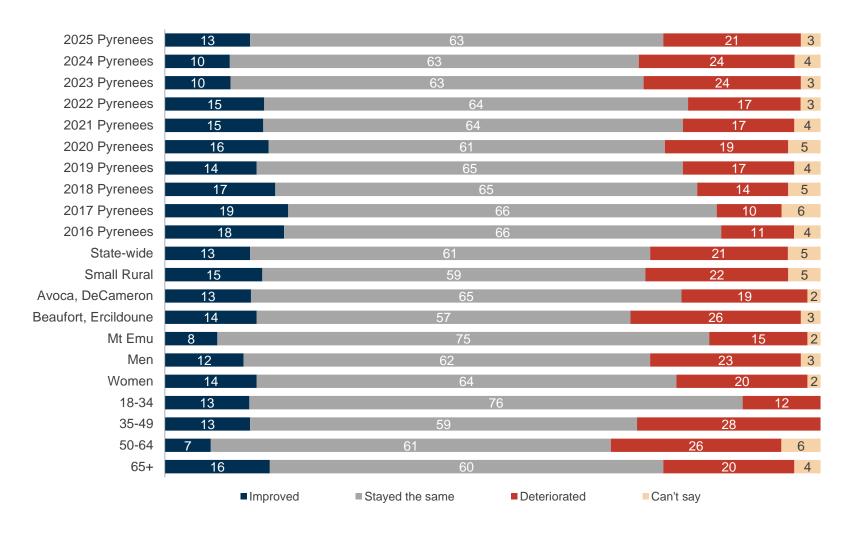
2025 overall council direction (index scores)



Overall council direction last 12 months



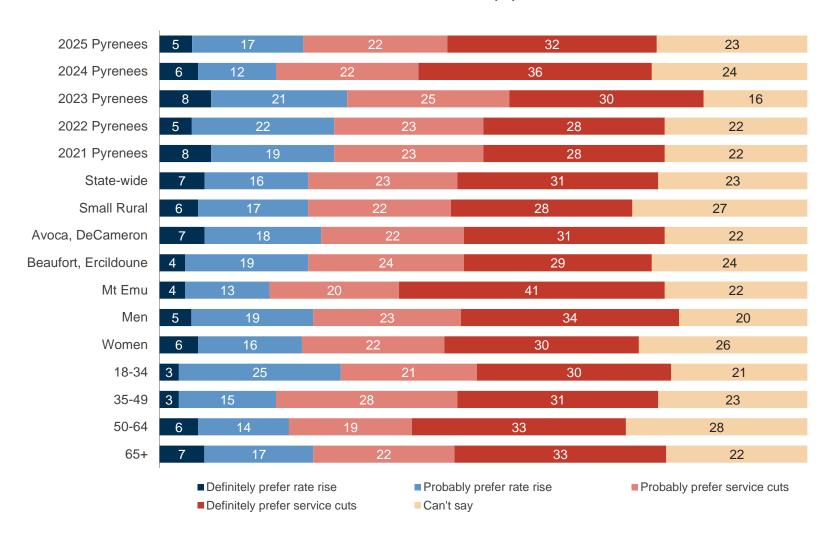
2025 overall council direction (%)



Rates / services trade-off



2025 rates / services trade-off (%)



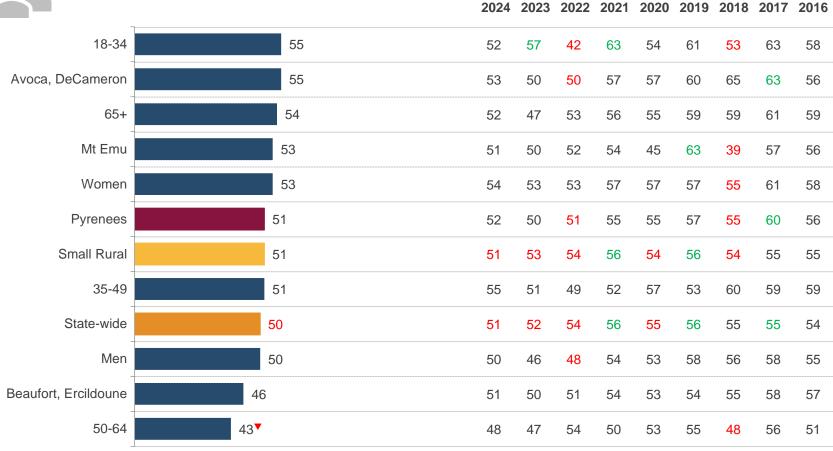


Community consultation and engagement performance





2025 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

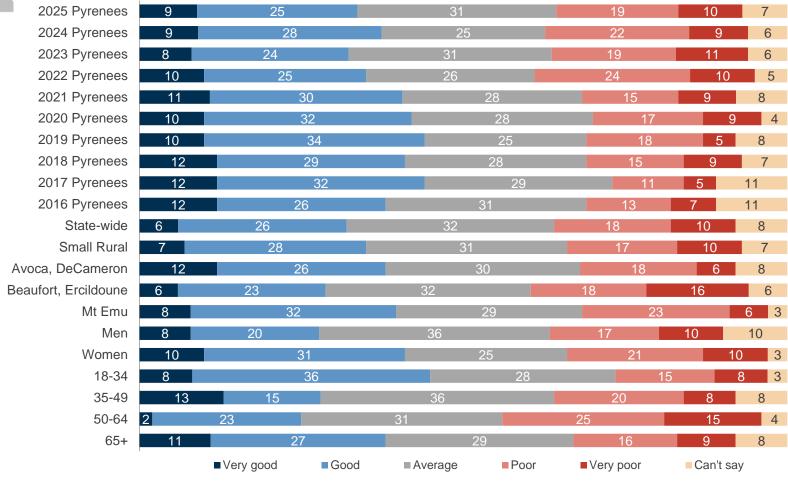


Community consultation and engagement performance





2025 consultation and engagement performance (%)

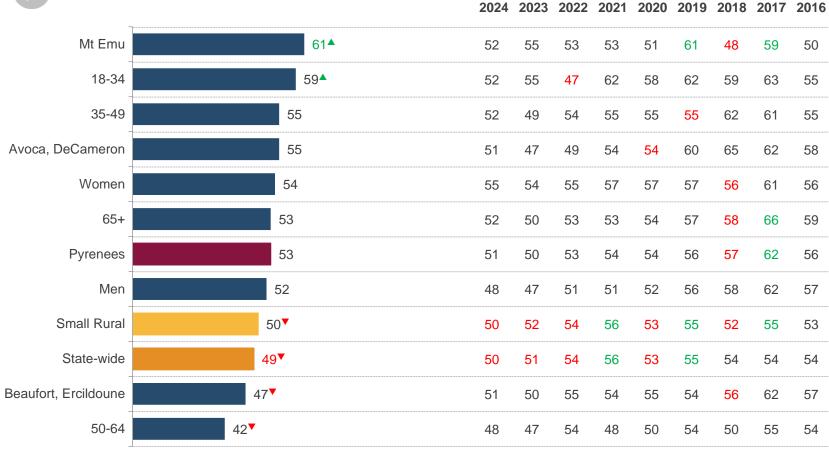


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2025 community decisions made performance (index scores)

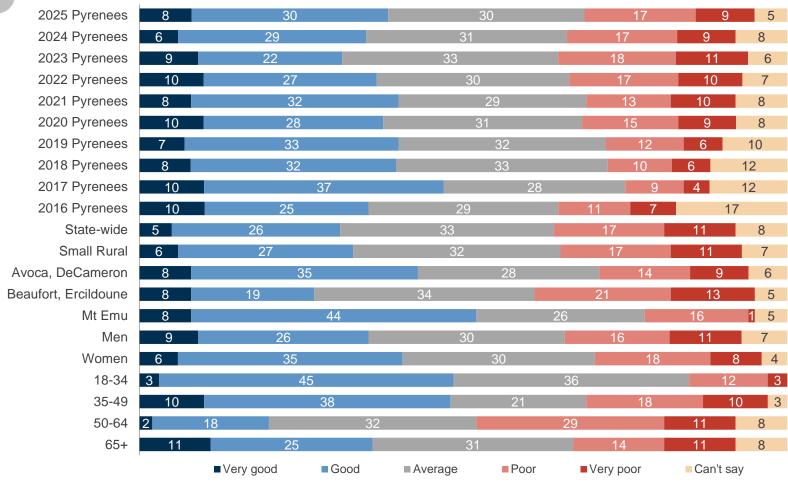


Decisions made in the interest of the community performance





2025 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2025 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

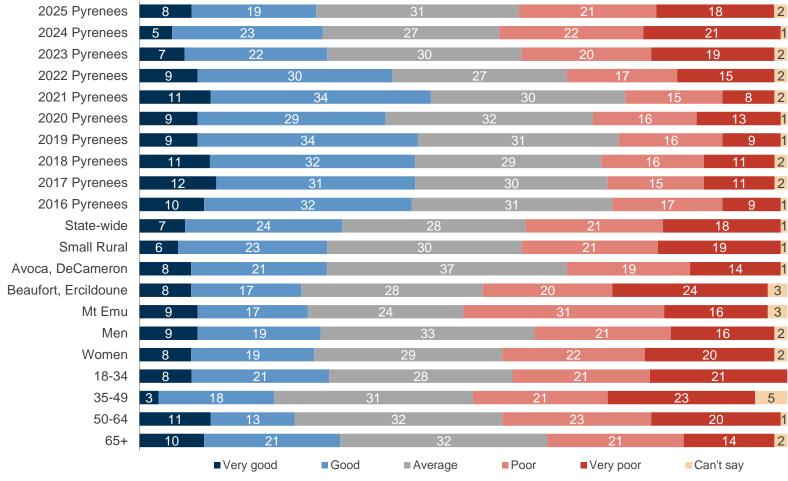


The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





2025 sealed local roads performance (%)



Enforcement of local laws importance





2025 law enforcement importance (index scores)

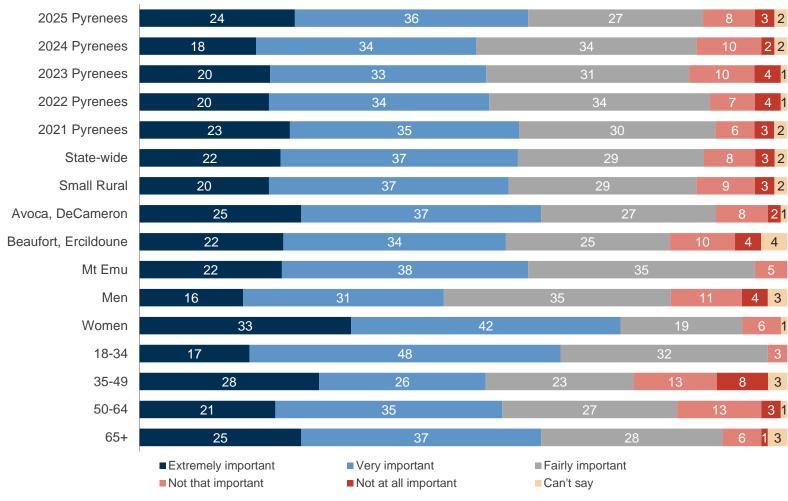


Enforcement of local laws importance





2025 law enforcement importance (%)

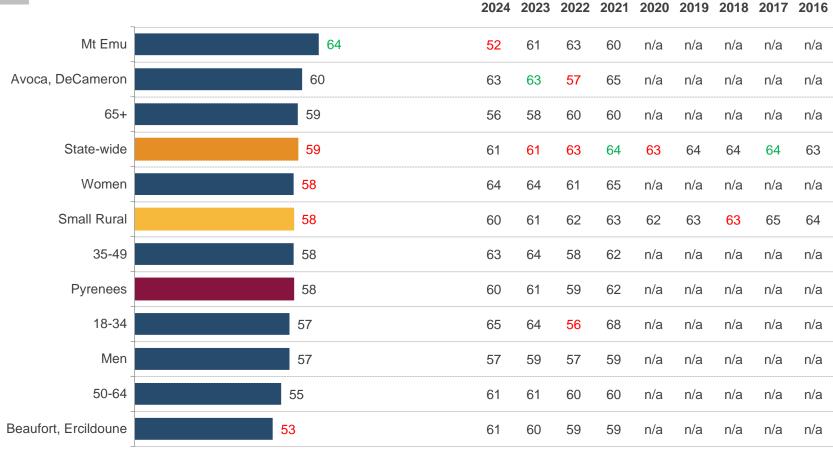


Enforcement of local laws performance





2025 law enforcement performance (index scores)

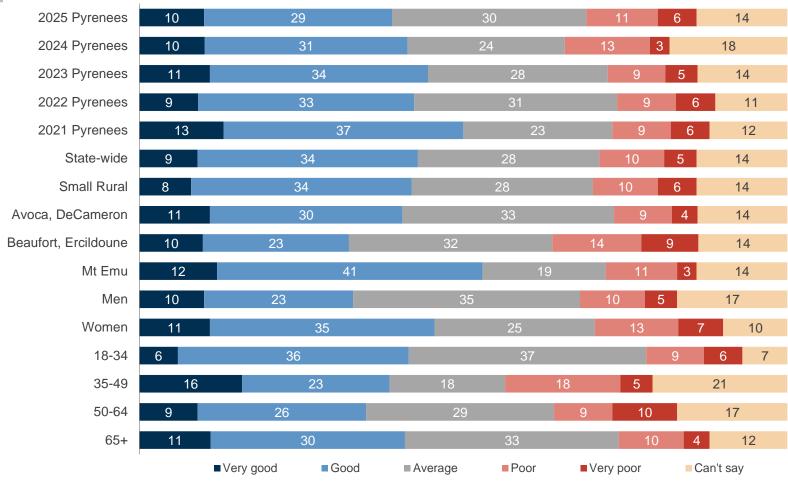


Enforcement of local laws performance





2025 law enforcement performance (%)



Family support services importance





2025 family support importance (index scores)

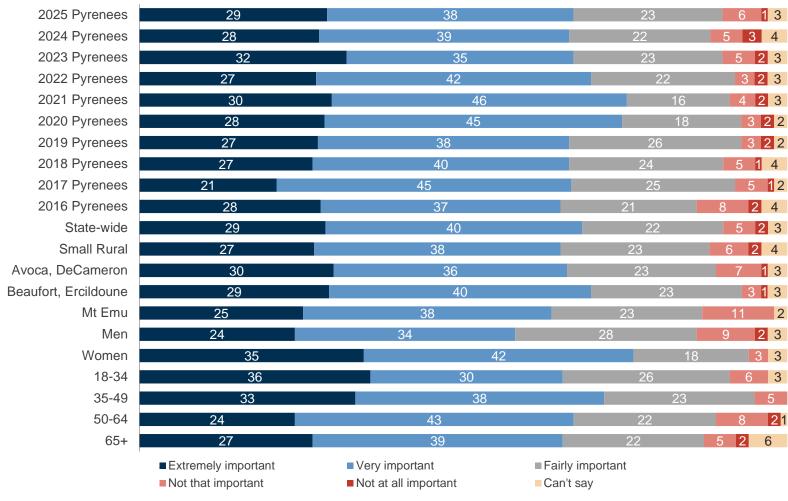


Family support services importance





2025 family support importance (%)



Family support services performance





2025 family support performance (index scores)

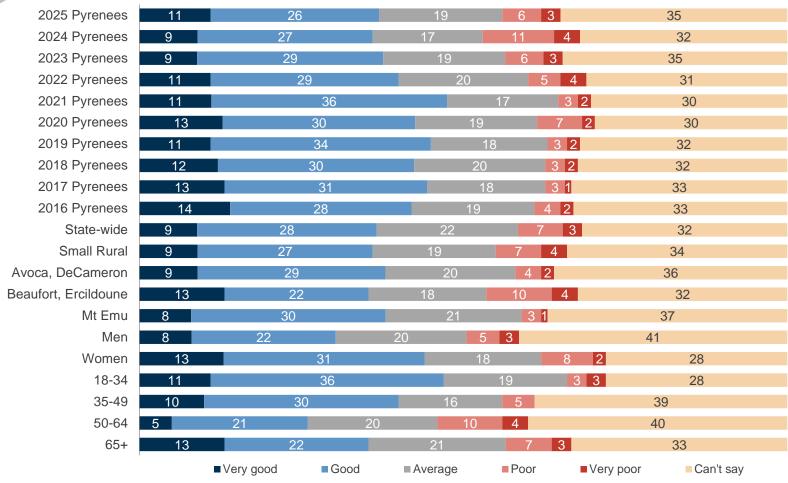


Family support services performance





2025 family support performance (%)

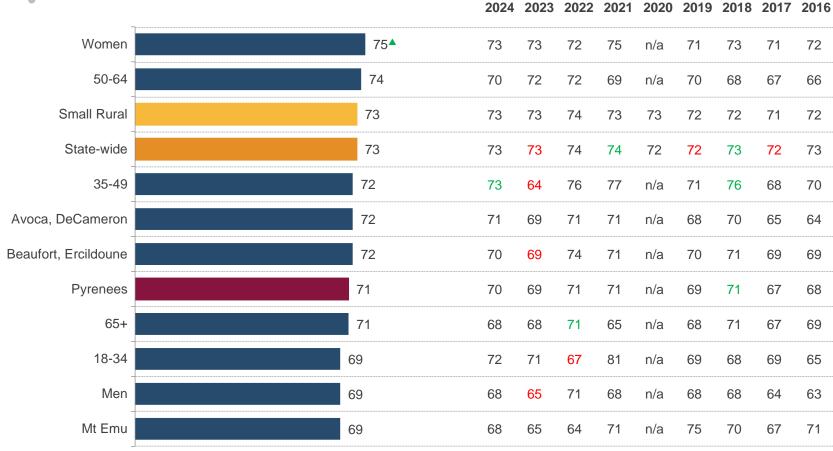


Recreational facilities importance





2025 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

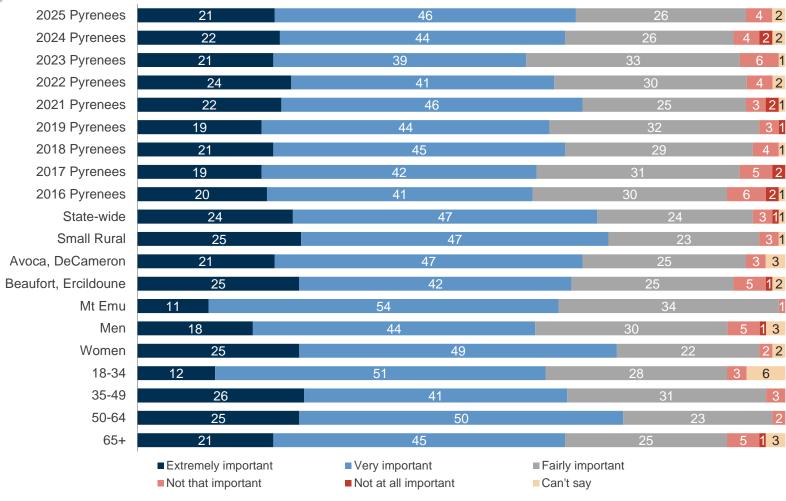


Recreational facilities importance





2025 recreational facilities importance (%)



Recreational facilities performance





2025 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

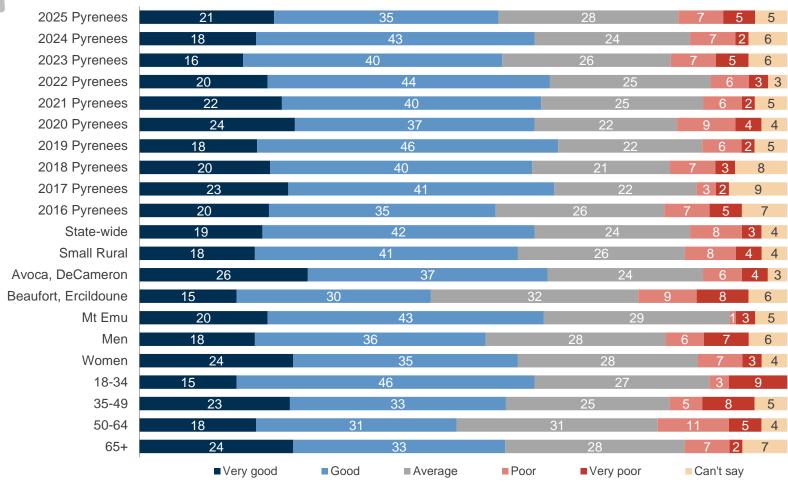


Recreational facilities performance





2025 recreational facilities performance (%)

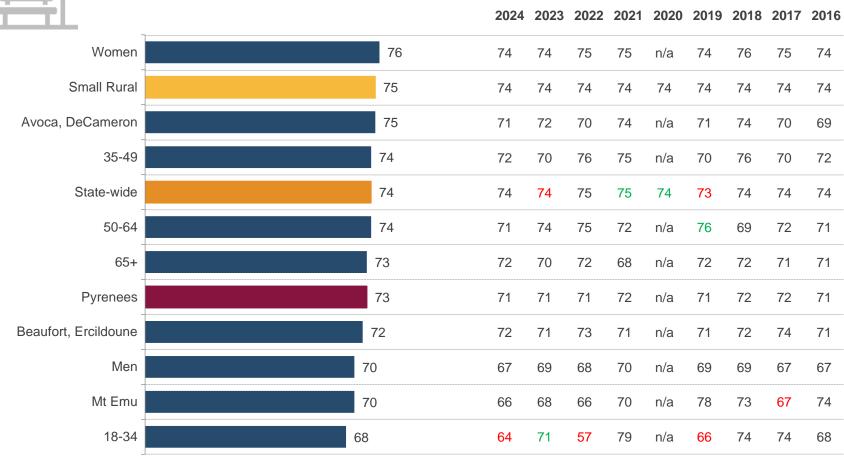


The appearance of public areas importance





2025 public areas importance (index scores)

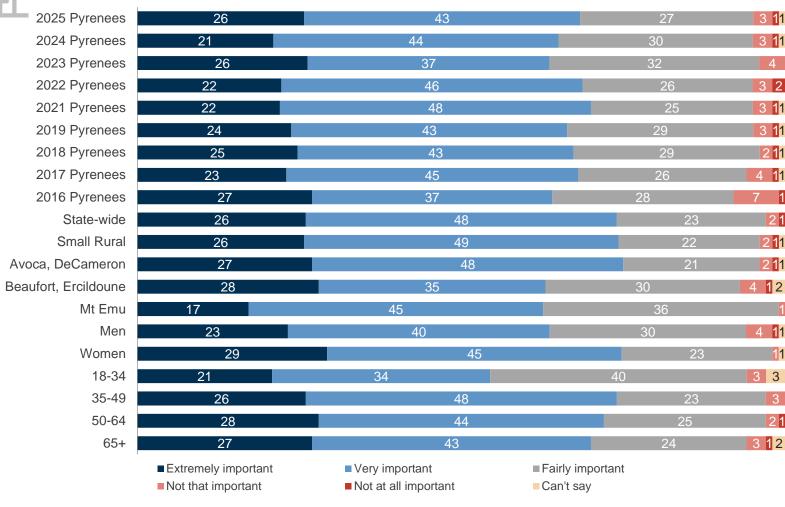


The appearance of public areas importance





2025 public areas importance (%)

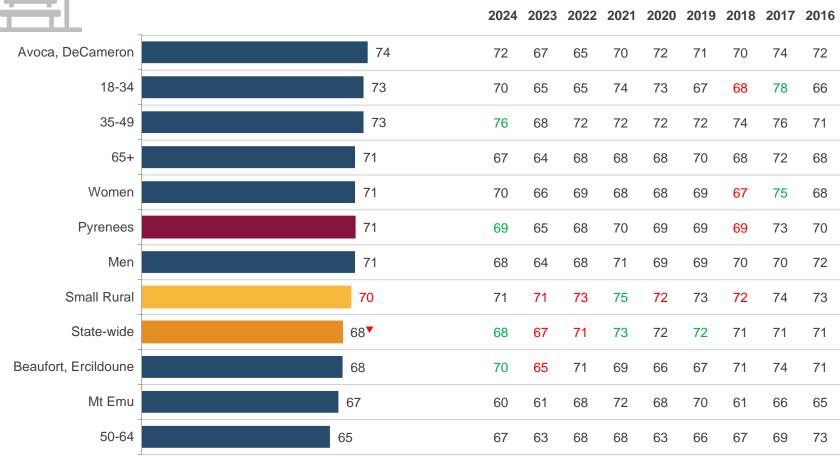


The appearance of public areas performance





2025 public areas performance (index scores)

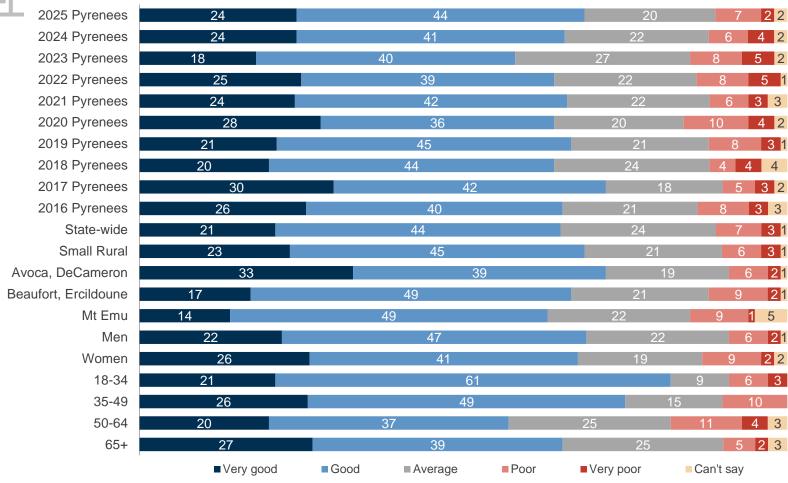


The appearance of public areas performance





2025 public areas performance (%)



Art centres and libraries importance





2025 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)

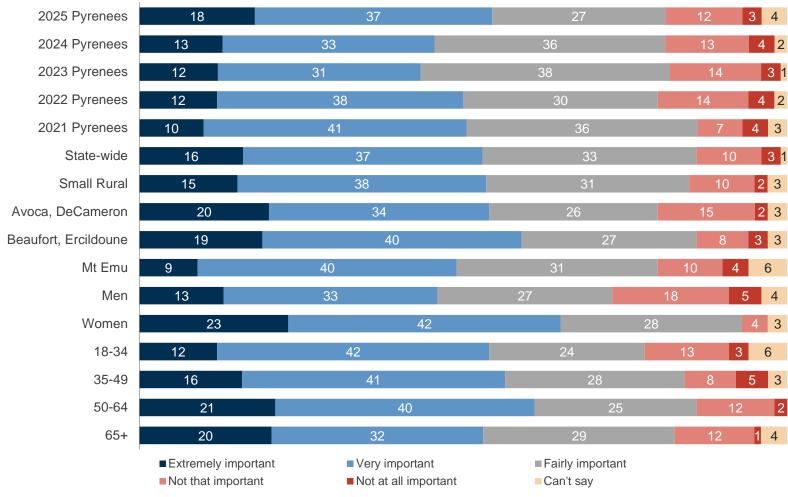


Art centres and libraries importance





2025 art centres and libraries importance (%)

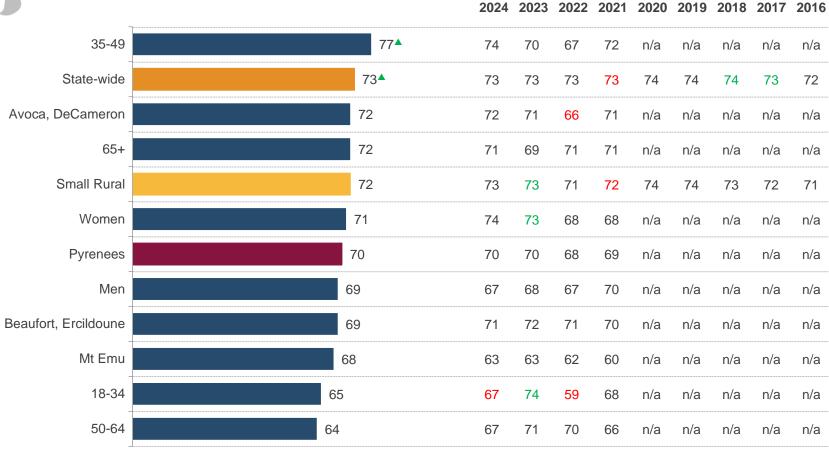


Art centres and libraries performance





2025 art centres and libraries performance (index scores)

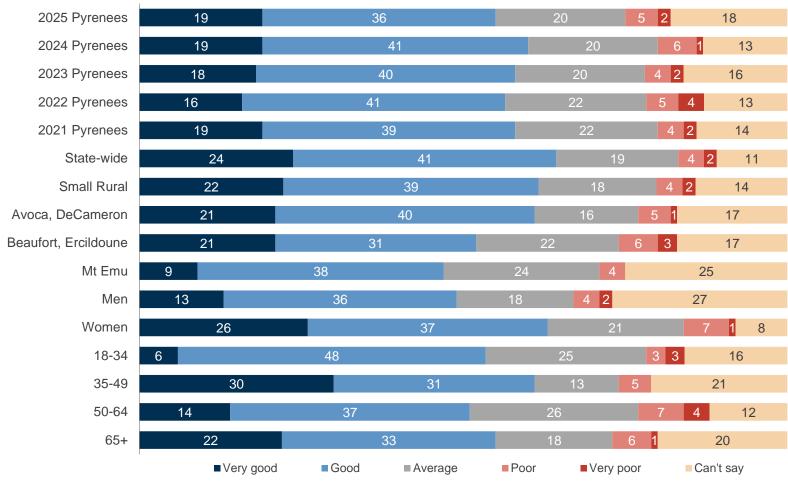


Art centres and libraries performance





2025 art centres and libraries performance (%)



Waste management performance





2025 waste management performance (index scores)

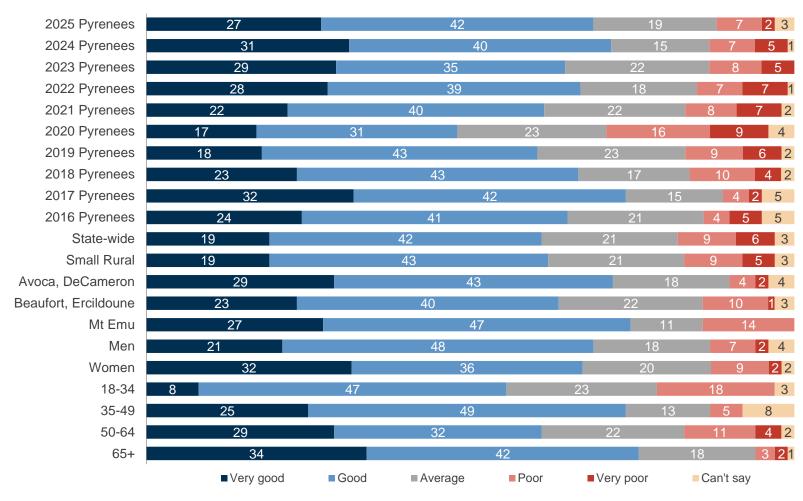


Waste management performance





2025 waste management performance (%)



Business and community development and tourism importance





2025 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

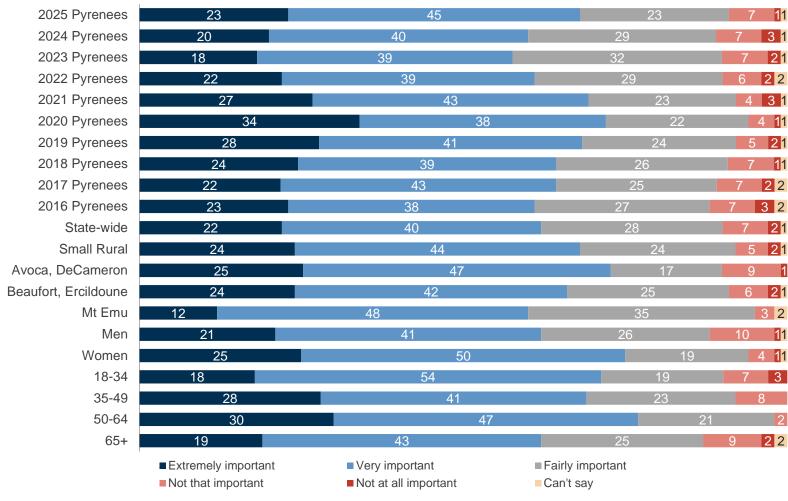


Business and community development and tourism importance





2025 business/development/tourism importance (%)



Business and community development and tourism performance





2025 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

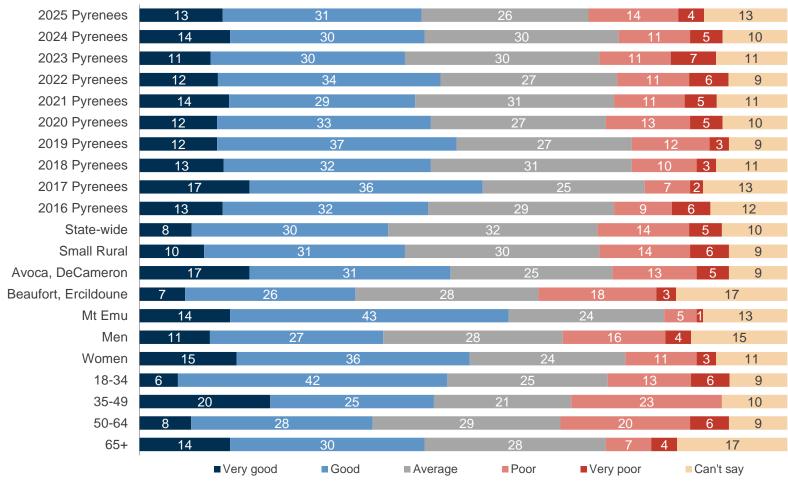


Business and community development and tourism performance





2025 business/development/tourism performance (%)



Emergency and disaster management performance





2025 emergency and disaster management performance (index scores)

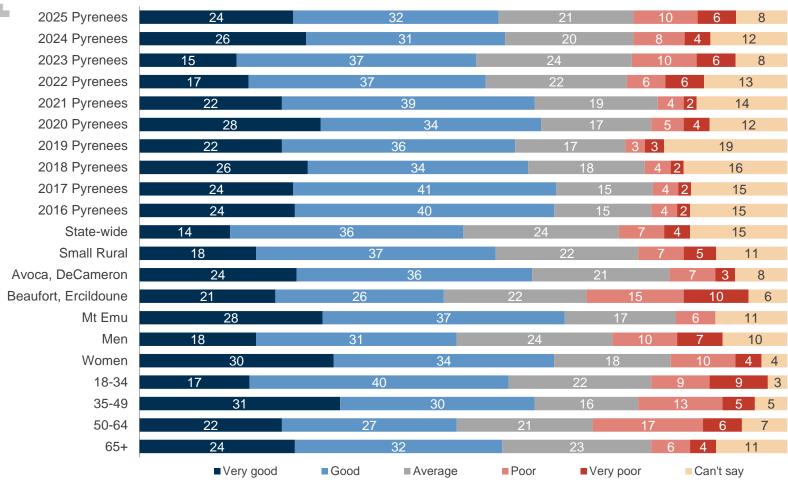


Emergency and disaster management performance





2025 emergency and disaster management performance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2025 unsealed roads importance (index scores)

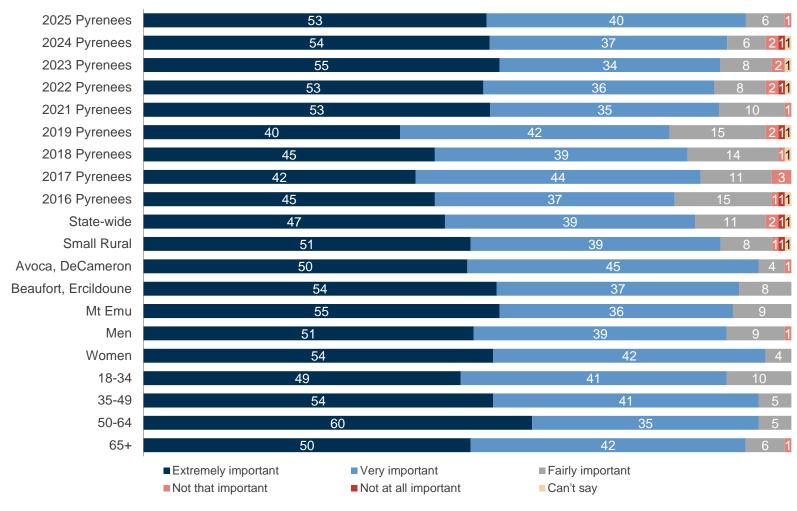


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance





2025 unsealed roads importance (%)



Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2025 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

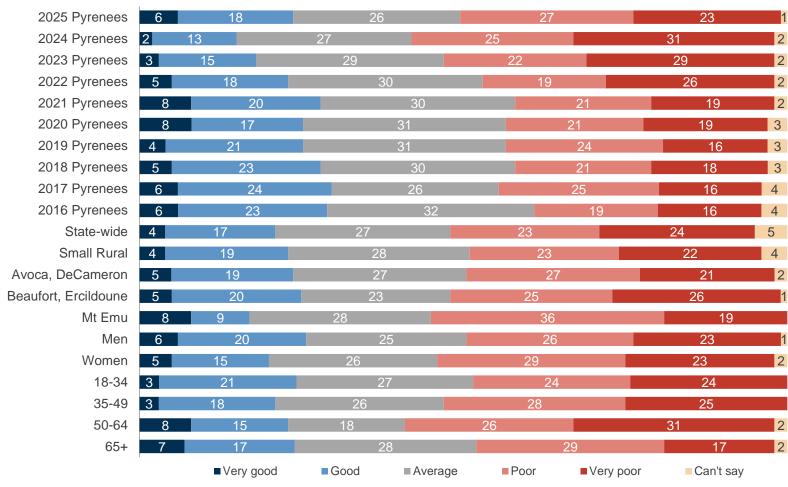


Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance





2025 unsealed roads performance (%)

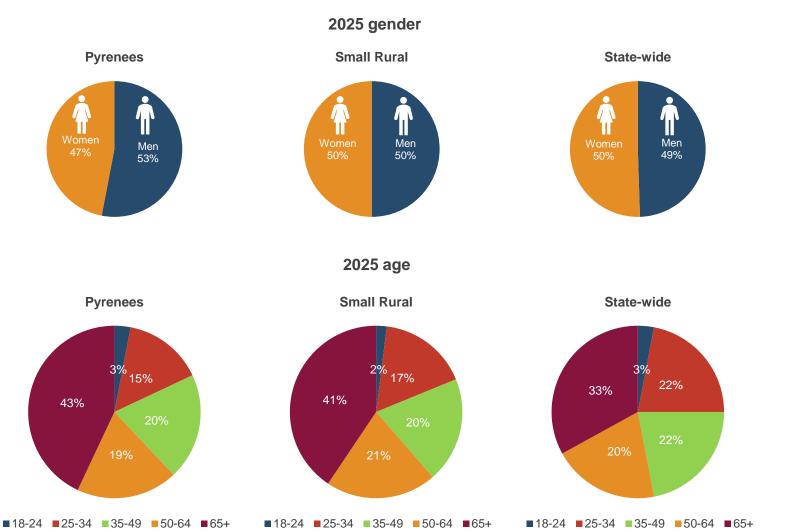




Detailed demographics

Gender and age profile



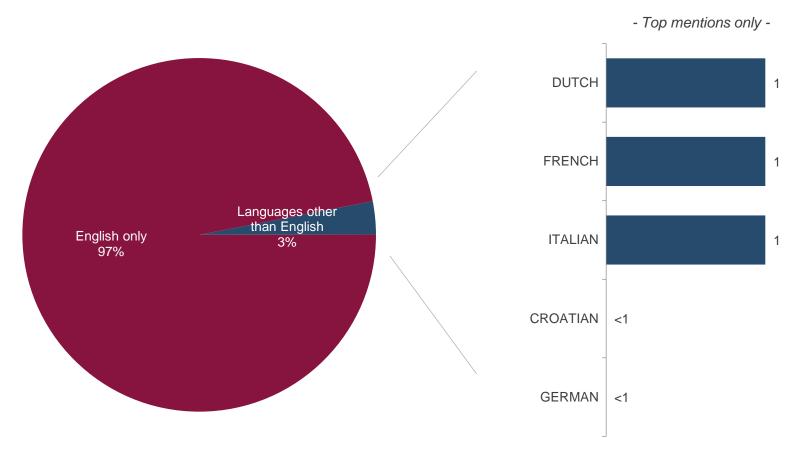


S3. How would you describe your gender? / S4. To which of the following age groups do you belong? Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 56 Councils asked group: 19
An "Other" option has been included for gender, hence the results may not add to 100%.

Languages spoken at home



2025 languages spoken at home (%)





Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

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

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

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

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

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

Please note that the horizontal (x) axis of the index score bar charts in this report is displayed on a scale from 20 to 100.

Appendix A: Margins of error

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The sample size for the 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Pyrenees Shire Council was n=400. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=400 interviews is +/-4.7% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 45.3% - 54.7%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 6,200 people aged 18 years or over for Pyrenees Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Pyrenees Shire Council	400	400	+/-4.7
Men	208	212	+/-6.7
Women	192	188	+/-7.0
Avoca, DeCameron	190	186	+/-7.0
Beaufort, Ercildoune	156	154	+/-7.8
Mt Emu	54	60	+/-13.4
18-34 years	33	72	+/-17.3
35-49 years	39	81	+/-15.8
50-64 years	100	75	+/-9.8
65+ years	228	171	+/-6.4

Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



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

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

Where:

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

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

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

J W S R E S E A R C H

Appendix B: Further project information

Appendix B: Further information



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

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

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

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

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



The 2025 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2024, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 29th January – 18th March.
- 2023, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 19th March.
- 2022, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March.
- 2021, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=402 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=402 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.

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

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

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

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Pyrenees Shire Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 56% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Pyrenees Shire Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Pyrenees Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 28th January – 16th March, 2025.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DGS website. In 2025, 56 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings. Please note that councils participating across 2012-2025 vary slightly.

Council Groups

Pyrenees Shire Council is classified as a Small Rural council according to the following classification list:

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

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

 Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, Towong, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Wherever appropriate, results for Pyrenees Shire Council for this 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

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

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2025 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

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

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

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

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

CSS: 2025 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tailored questions: Individual questions tailored by and only reported to the commissioning council.

Weighting: Weighting factors are applied to the sample for each council based on available age and gender proportions from ABS census information to ensure reported results are proportionate to the actual population of the council, rather than the achieved survey sample.

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