

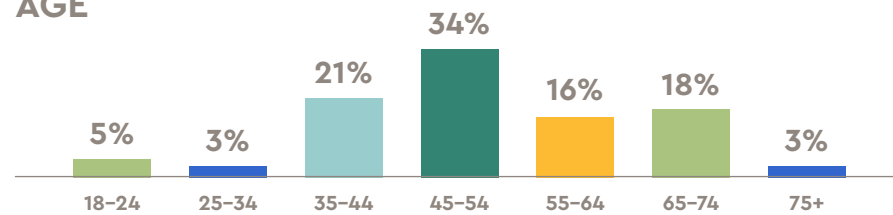
**Dwellingup Futures**

# **Survey Report**

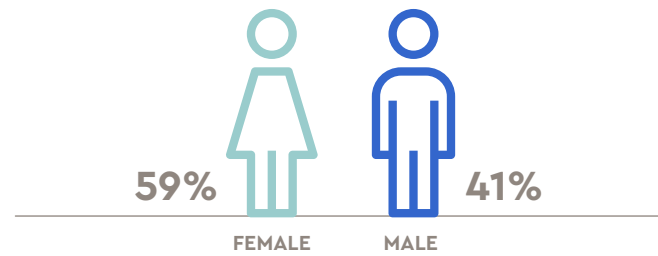
**September 2020**

## ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

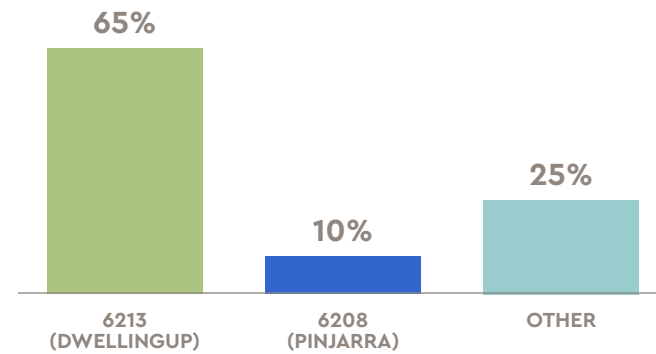
### AGE



### GENDER



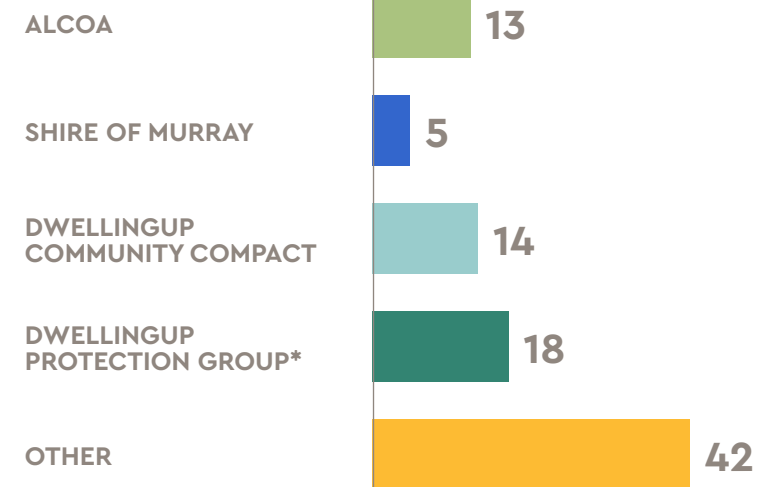
### POSTCODE



**81**  
SURVEYS  
COMPLETED

157 Website visits  
12 registered  
15 unverified  
57 anonymous  
2 hardcopies

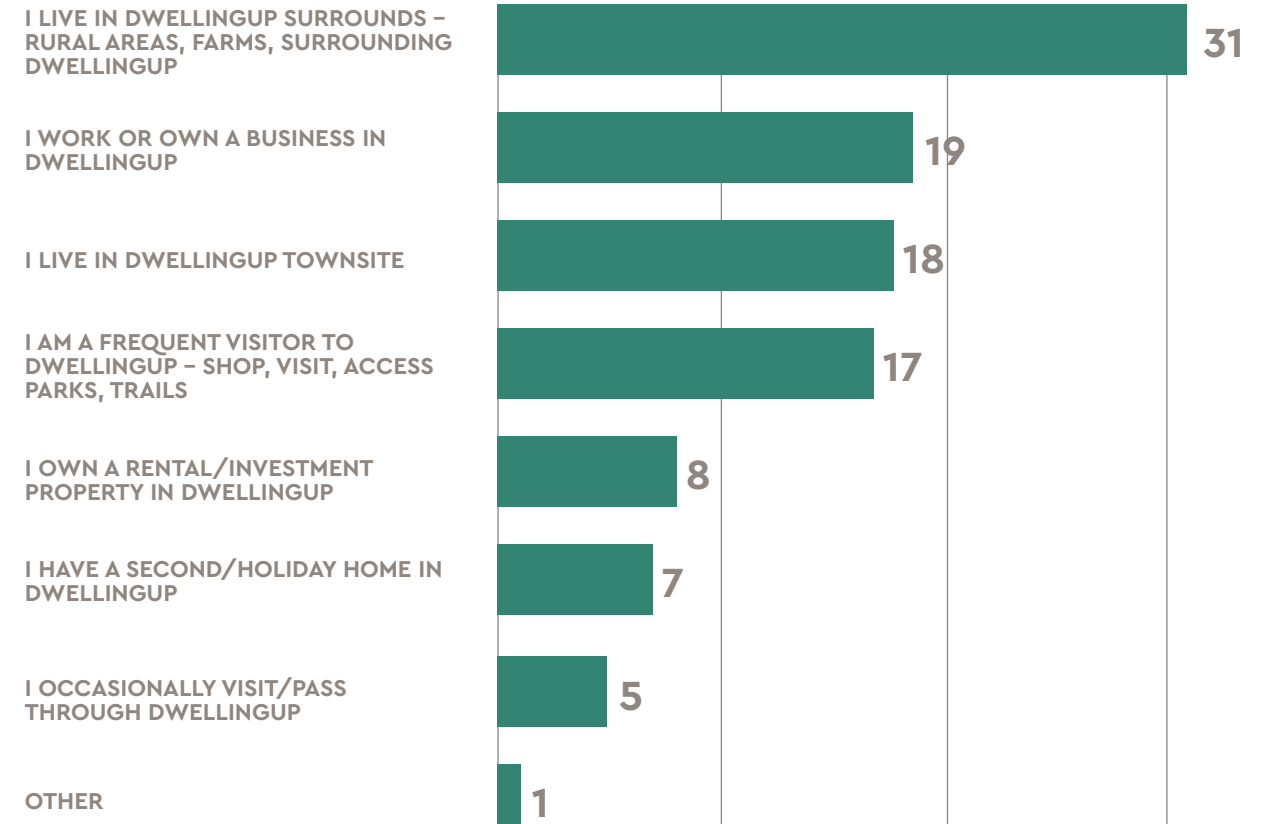
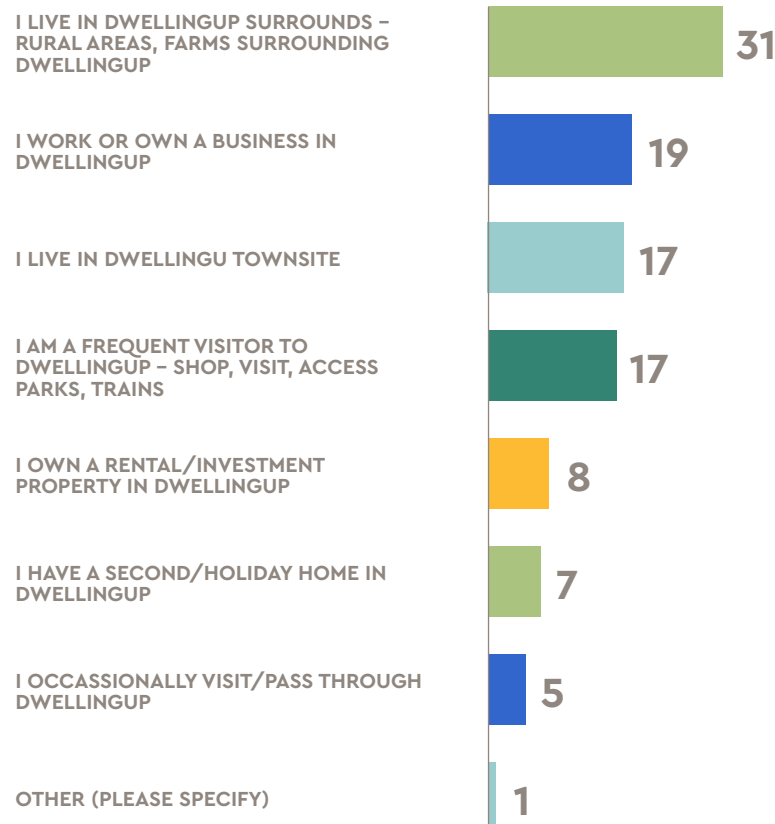
## ASSOCIATED GROUPS AND AFFILIATIONS



### OTHER

Residents / Retirees  
None / No affiliations  
Regular visitors to Town  
Businesses / Self Employed  
Organisations (DBCA, Landcare, Primary School, Emergency Services)

\*There are only 6 x members of the Dwellingup Protection Group. This data includes contributions from members of the Dwellingup Discovery Forest Working Group, which is an active group with no formalised structure. This group has no formal association with the Dwellingup Community Compact.



## FUTURE IDENTITY

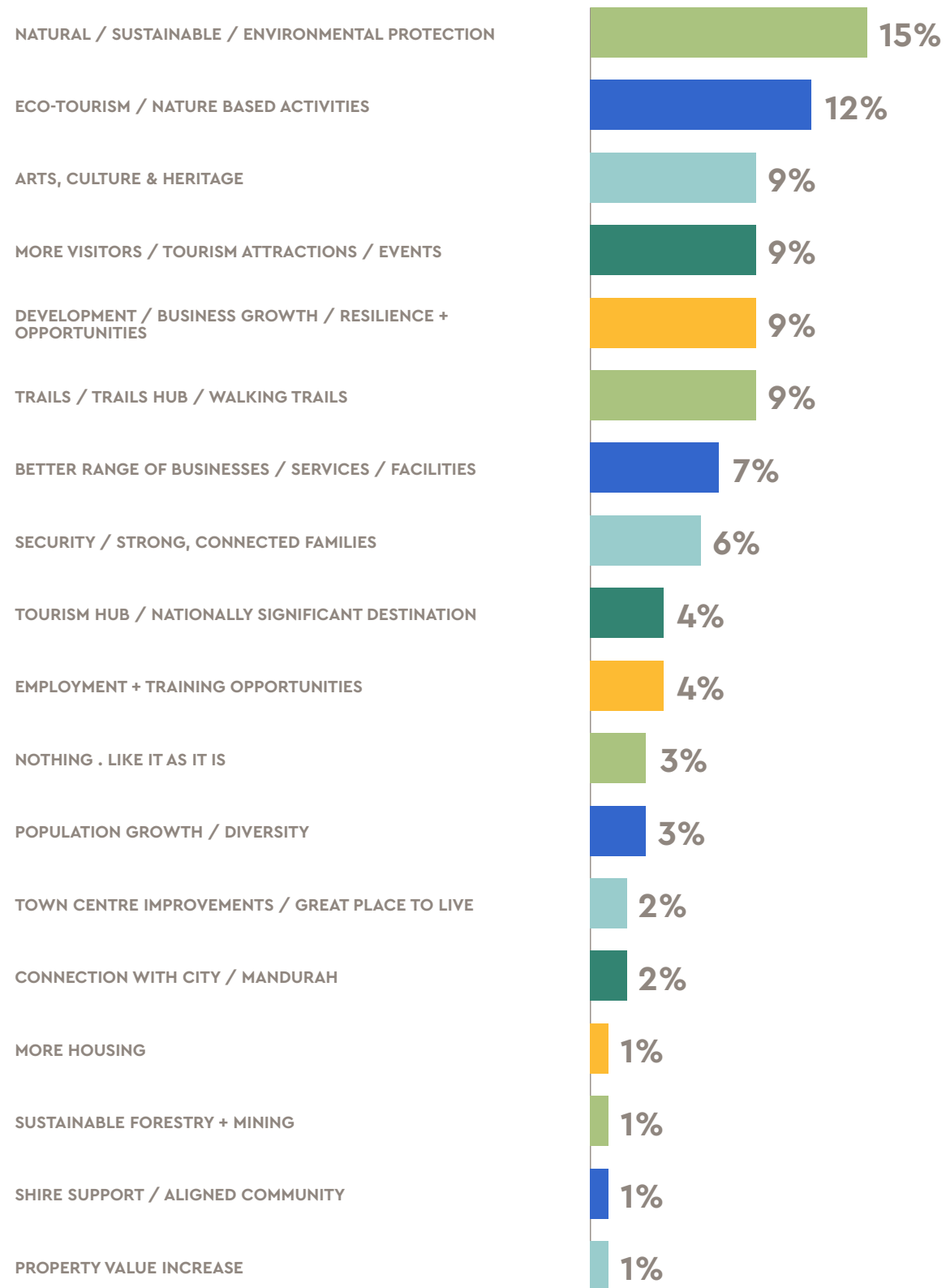
Survey respondents were asked to provide five words that they hope will describe Dwellingup's future. The data has been presented in the word cloud below. The most popular responses feature as the largest and boldest text. Strong themes around a Thriving, Welcoming Community, Natural and Sustainable Living reinforce what have heard through the Information Session in February, and Vision Sessions with the Working Group.



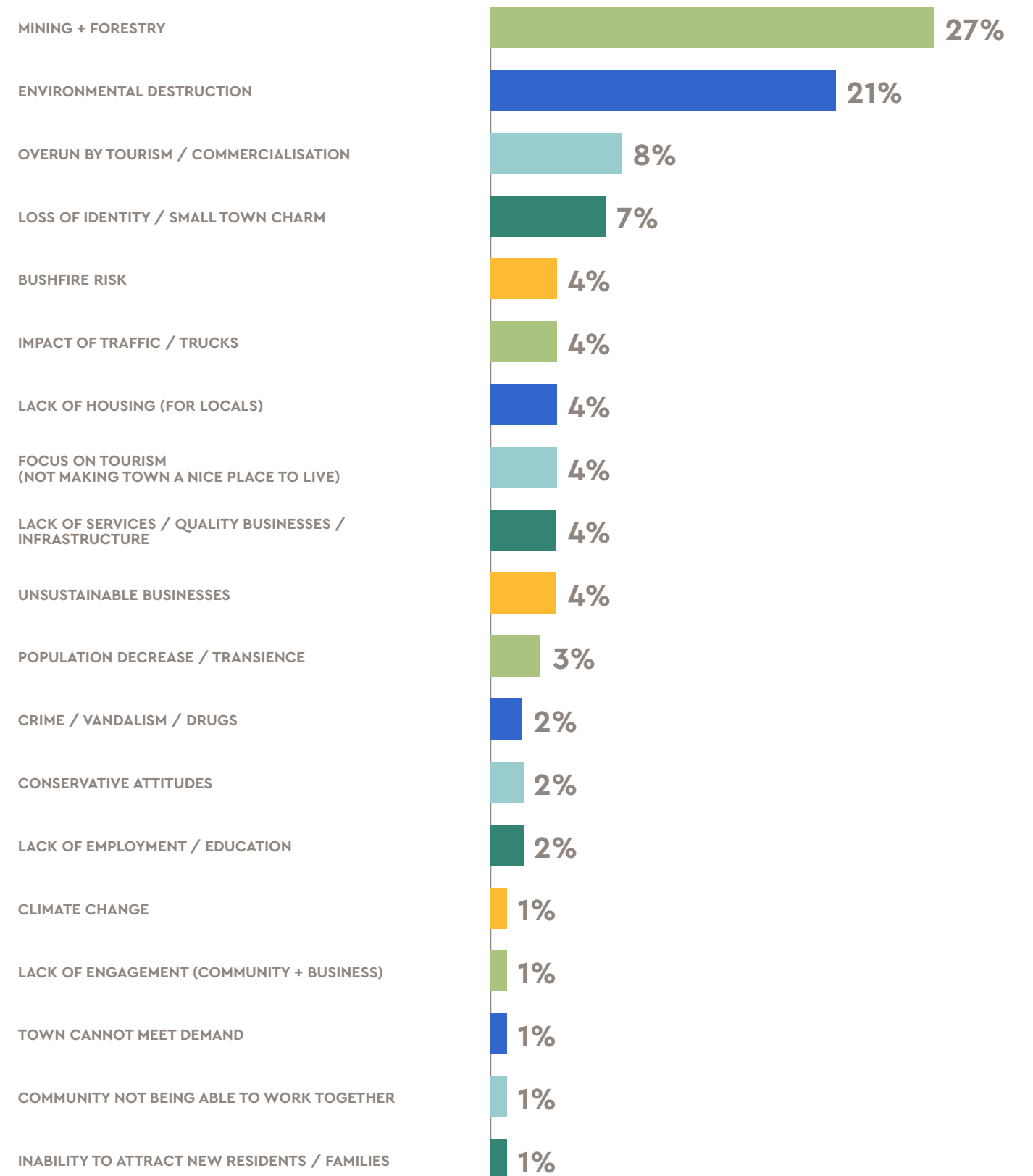
## QUOTES

- “It’s rustic charm must be preserved”
- “Keeping the natural landscape as well as cultural heritage in the area
- “Massive opportunity to celebrate and grow tourism natural resources and eco retreats. We can never get it back once mining starts”
- “I would love it to remain largely unchanged, as it currently has a truly unique natural charm that I would hate it to lose.”
- “Prosperous, self supporting, nature based activities, options”
- “Ideally, I would like to keep the charm of a small country town. However, I accept that we have a jewel that we need to share and so, some of that charm may be lost.”
- “Inclusive of a broad demographic, local population increase (managed), opportunities for broad training & employment, resilient industries to risk manage during uncertain times, variety of community, not for profit, government and industry stakeholders aligned with positive direction and purpose.”
- “Growth, Spaces for families to connect, Historical value to new ventures, Opportunities for businesses to invest and support the community.”
- “Protection of forest, flora and fauna. Creation of Dwellingup discovery forest protection area. Expansion of tourism. Strong community. Creative community.”
- “Keeping its natural beauty”

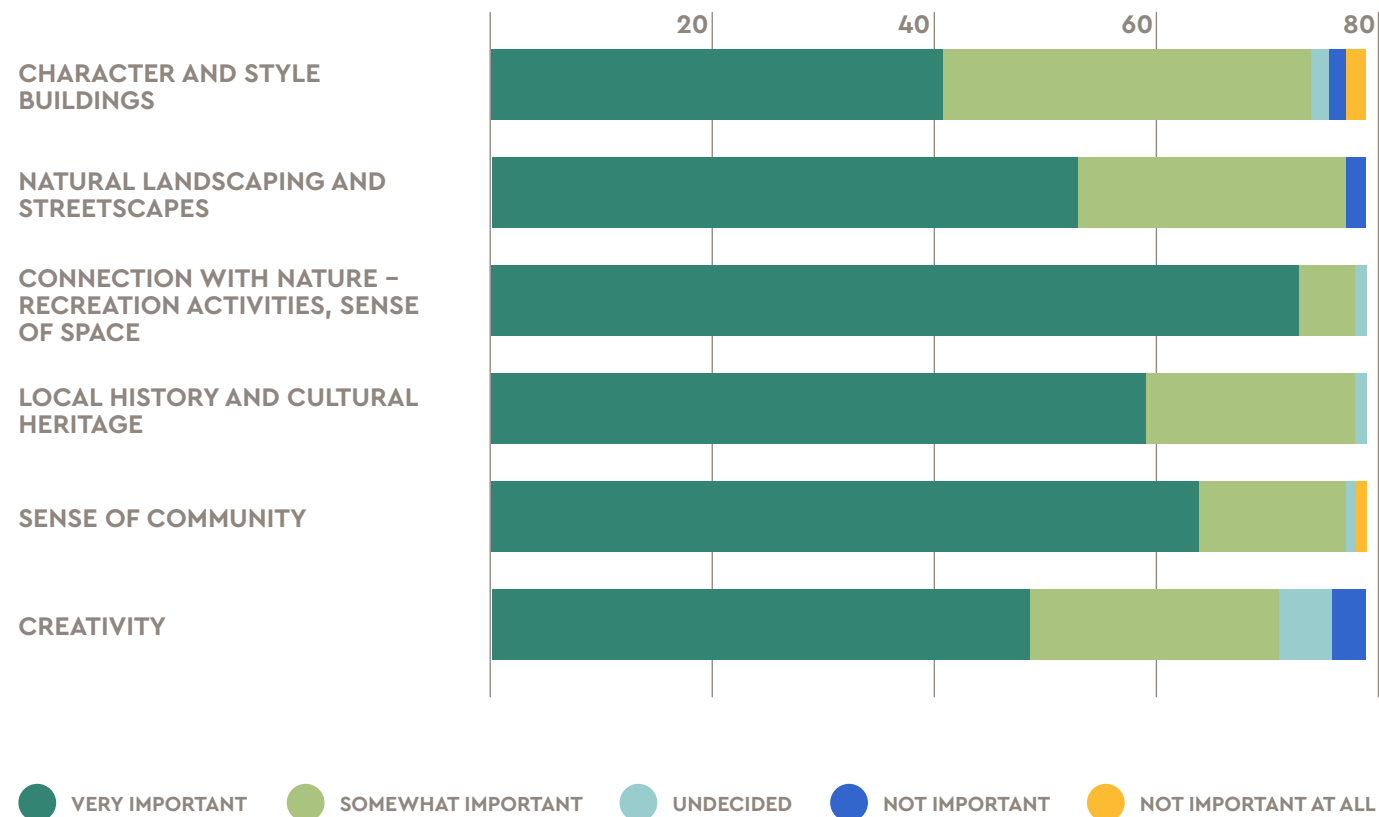
## WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE FUTURE



## WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR DWELLINGUP? (LIST UP TO FIVE)



## FEATURES AND ELEMENTS SHOULD BE RETAINED AND REINFORCED, TO SHAPE DWELLINGUP'S IDENTITY INTO THE FUTURE



### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Tourism is not enough to keep town alive, it is a welcome boost but other industry must be allowed to operate

That it not just be a day trippers haven

Dwellingup has the potential for a bright and prosperous future with broad and varied land users working together.

Lets see Dwellingup be the best Trail town in the world.

Keep the forest identity, clean water, clean air. Mining closer to town a HUGE concern

I would like to see less holiday rental homes in the town and more permanent residents

Support for small businesses not just large established farms

Keeping the towns future in line with nature and events which reflect the community

More retail needed

A country town feel in a friendly environment

All information about change/development should be passed onto the residents first to make comment before the changes can take place

There needs to be a 'no mining' zone surrounding Dwellingup to protect natural old growth forest

Should be promoted along its historical character

Retention of character houses and streetscape

Subdivision of existing cleared land would address housing issue to some extent.

Dwellingup will become a mining town not a trails nature based town if we don't protect the forests

Tourism driven town that supports local businesses and protects the environment.

I feel the standard of accommodation needs upgrading for visitors.

We need a small light industrial area. Also more small acreage to grow the town for families

We need families desperately to support our school. People move away if they cant get housing.

Make sure no local businesses are negatively impacted especially accomodation and shops

Murray shire to continue to invest in the town to continue to upgrade facilities and keep people coming to the town.

Have lived here since 1978 and am pleased with slow steady progress in a good direction and hope this will continue without changing the character of the town.It is important that rapid development does not negatively impact the townscape and lifestyle

It is important that rezoning of land along Mclarty st is done. This would create opportunities for more diverse reatale sector in town and accommodation

Its peacefulness gives me solace.

Do not let Alcoa destroy the forest. Support a long term tourism plan for the town's future

Please, please leave it as it is!!!

If the environment around Dwellingup and the Lane Poole Reseve is mined by alcoa then the environment will be irreparably destroyed. Rehab is not jarrah forest

"We need very skilled, imaginative and possibly well paid Brand creatives to create our future identity. We look a bit amateurish at the moment.



## PEOPLE + PLACE

The survey respondents reinforced similar themes to those expressed by the Community Vision Working Group. The most common issues raised included a lack of basic services and a shortage of housing.

Strong sentiments were also expressed around the importance of growing and supporting the Town and a strong community, and not just investing all efforts towards the growth of tourism.

The community is wary of growth – and does not want its small town charm to be overrun by Tourism, or new development that is not in keeping with existing character.



**“ Becoming more family friendly and exciting environment for children”**

**“ An inability to attract young families to live permanently in Dwellingup”**

**“ What is being done to attract people to live in the town and support local groups, businesses?”**

**“ Upgrade our roads please and keep upgrading our facilities when able.”**

**“ Lack of transportation, lack of services, lack of diverse local employment.”**

**“ Old ways and attitudes preventing growth”**

**“ Lots of money being spent on tourism which is great for the town but the actual locals are needing more for or children and older folks. Spend money where it is needed not just on tourism”**

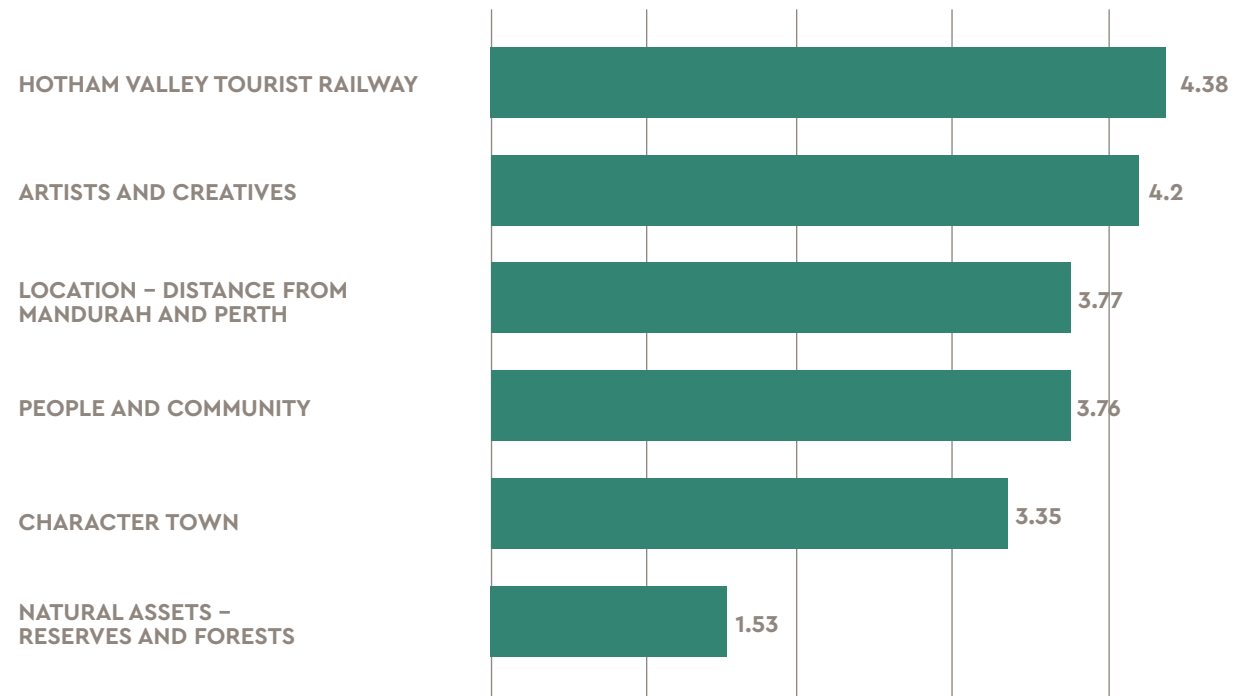
**“ The changing demographic of residents and visitors. The increasing variety of recreation and cultural options developing, from active, challenging to relaxing, recharging. The increasing visitor numbers bringing sense of activity and vibrancy to the town. Hopefully an increase in the number of well run businesses servicing tourists”**

**“ Inclusive of a broad demographic, local population increase (managed), opportunities for broad training & employment, resilient industries to risk manage during uncertain times, variety of community, not for profit, government and industry stakeholders aligned with positive direction and purpose.”**

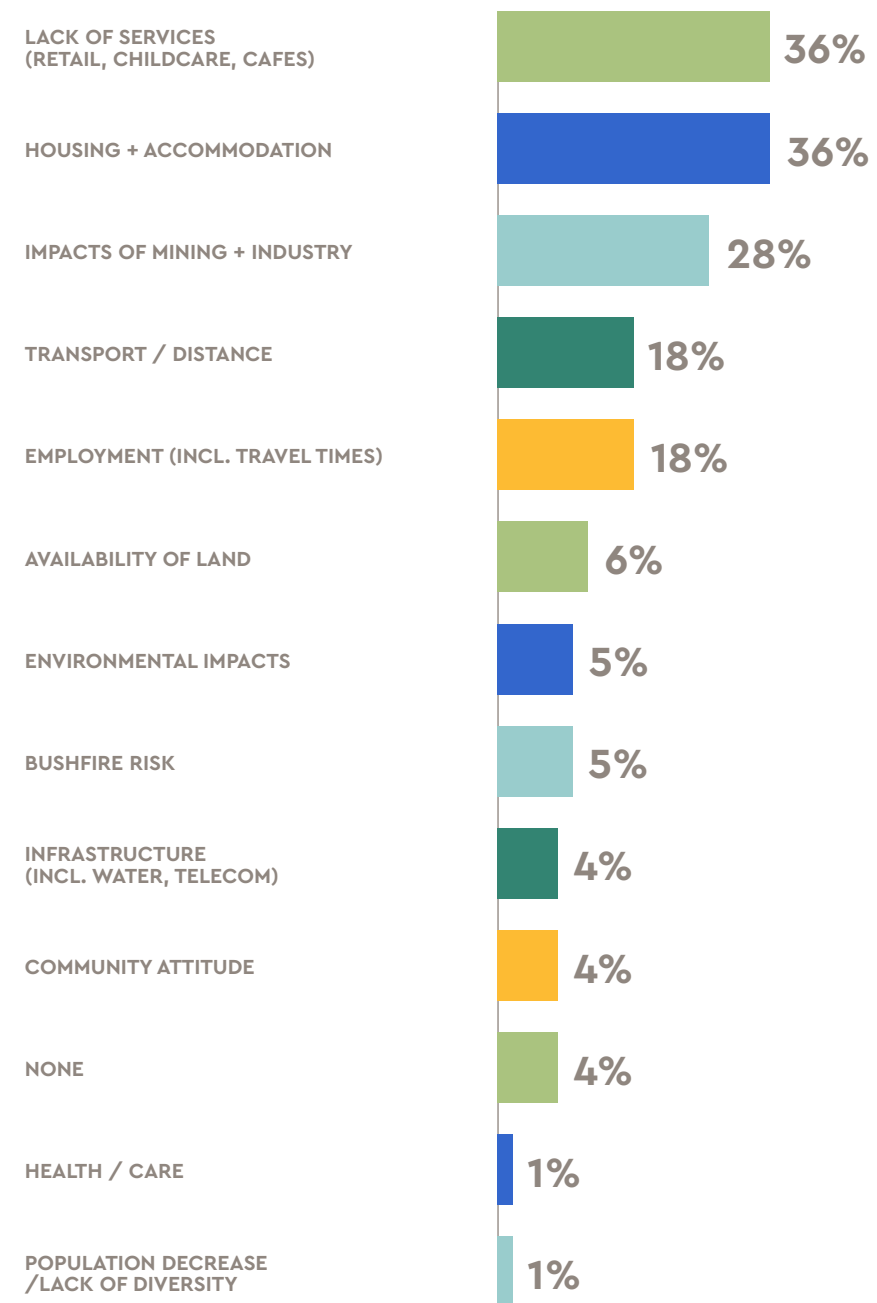
**“ It grows too big and loses its character. It becomes more of a transient population of renters - decreasing the overall appeal of the town.**

**“ Seriously need to delineate who is responsible for all the wasteland that spoils the aesthetics of the middle of town , ie the railway land , and around the timber mill on banksiadale road”**

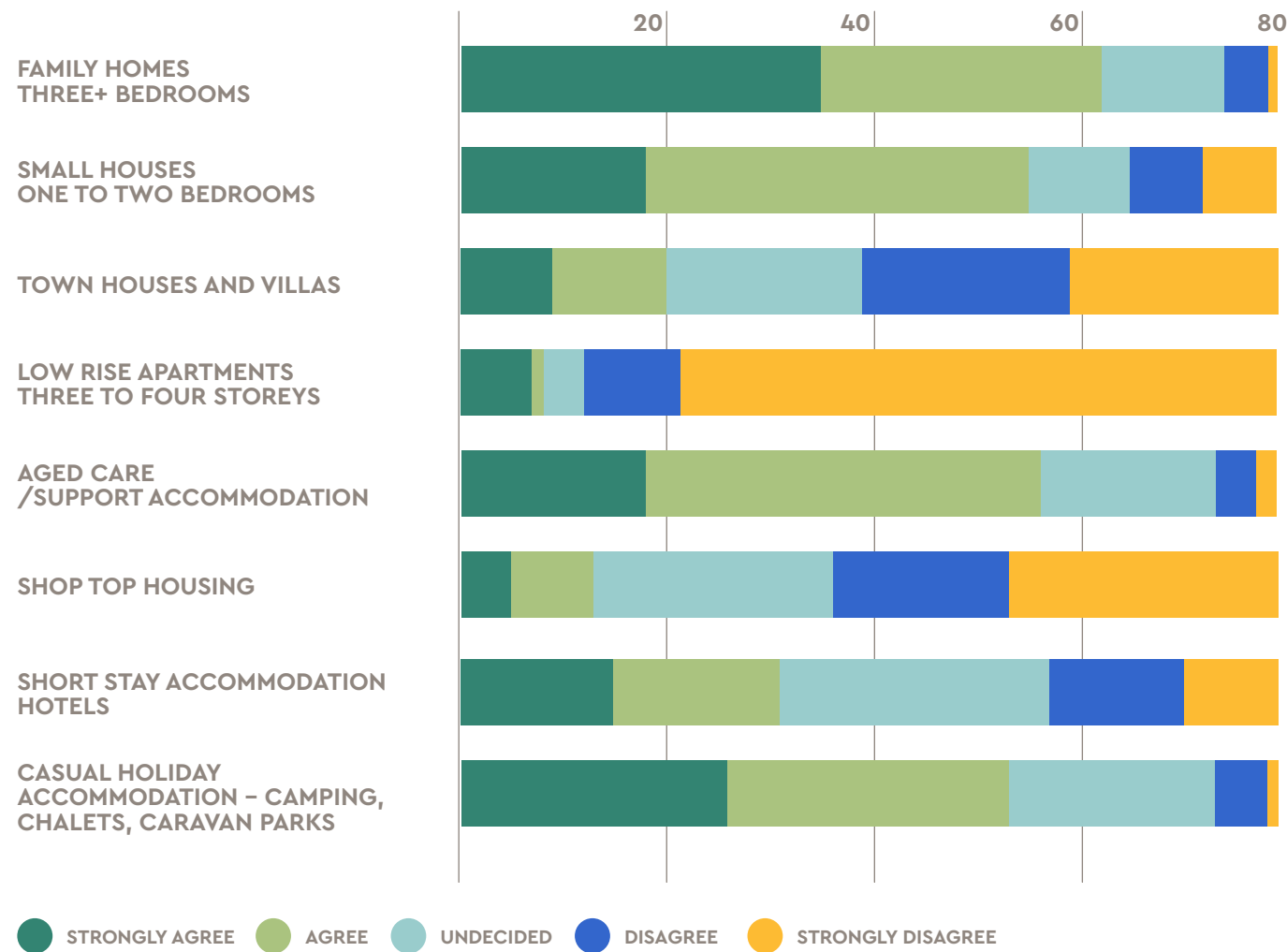
### BEST ATTRIBUTES AND ASSETS



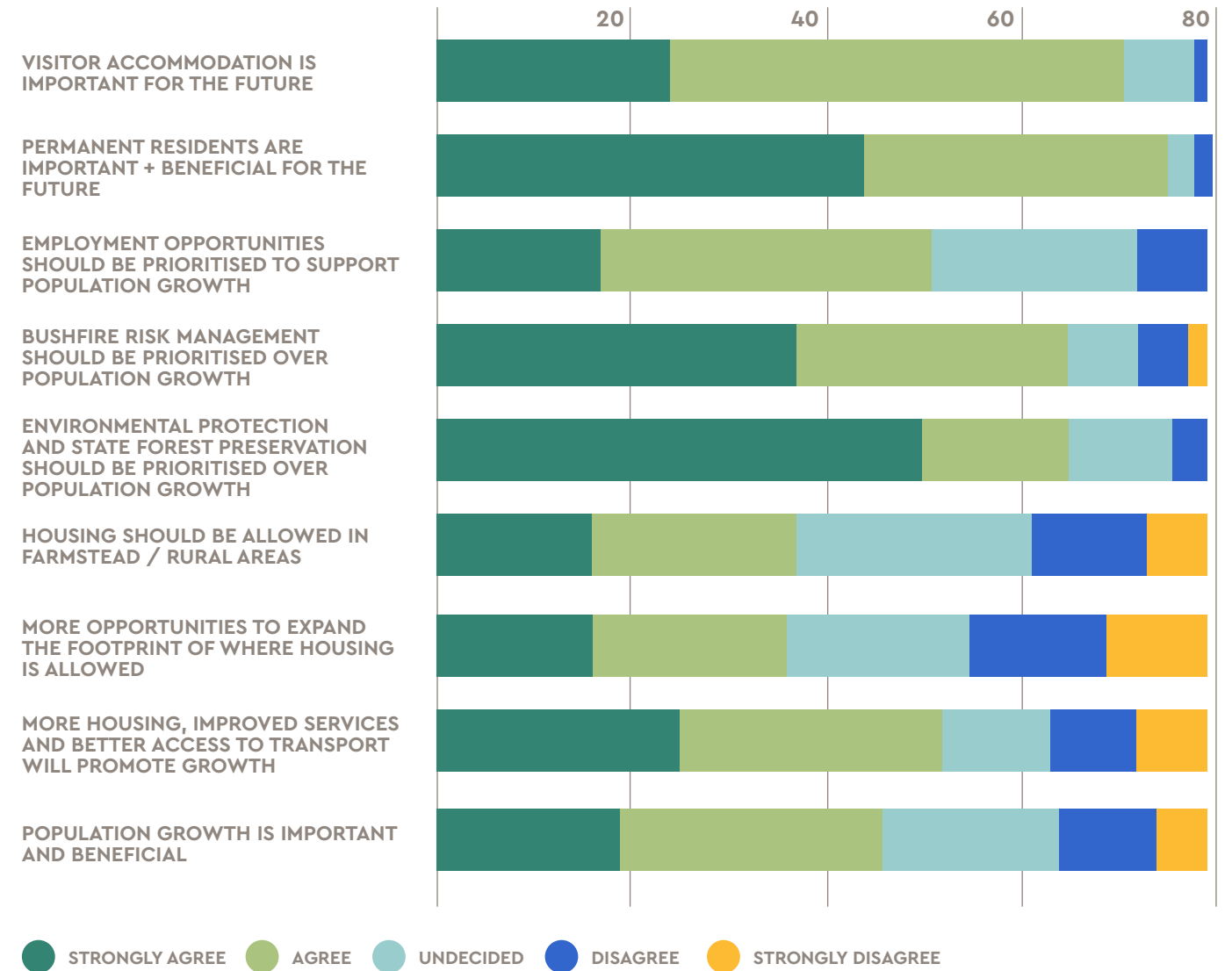
### ARE THERE ANY CONSTRAINTS WHICH CURRENTLY DETER PEOPLE FROM WANTING TO LIVE IN DWELLINGUP?



## HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION (IN 25 YEARS)



## POPULATION GROWTH





## PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

There are diverging views amongst the Community with respect to key industries that should support the Town into the future. Local jobs and employment diversity has been identified as a key issue.

A proportion of the community see Mining as an important industry that can provide diversity, but many respondents are concerned about the impacts of Mining on the Environment, Tourism and Town itself.

When asked about potential risks to economic expansion, waste and noise management, road safety and insufficient infrastructure were perceived to be of most concern.

Indecision and uncertainty around Mining was also noted as the greatest barrier to investment, from the perspective of respondents.



**“Tourism is not enough to keep town alive, it is a welcome boost but other industry must be allowed to operate”**

**“That it not just be a day trippers haven”**

**“Becoming nationally (or internationally) renowned destination for trails.”**

**“Prosperous, self supporting, nature based activities, options”**

**“Its vital for industry like mining and timber to work with tourism”**

**“Dwellingup’s economy has in the past been subject to industries that have not been sustainable however with increase in tourist activity it is the type of industry that will be sustainable for many years to come. Mining will come and go”**

**“Do not let Alcoa destroy the forest. Support a long term tourism plan for the town’s future”**

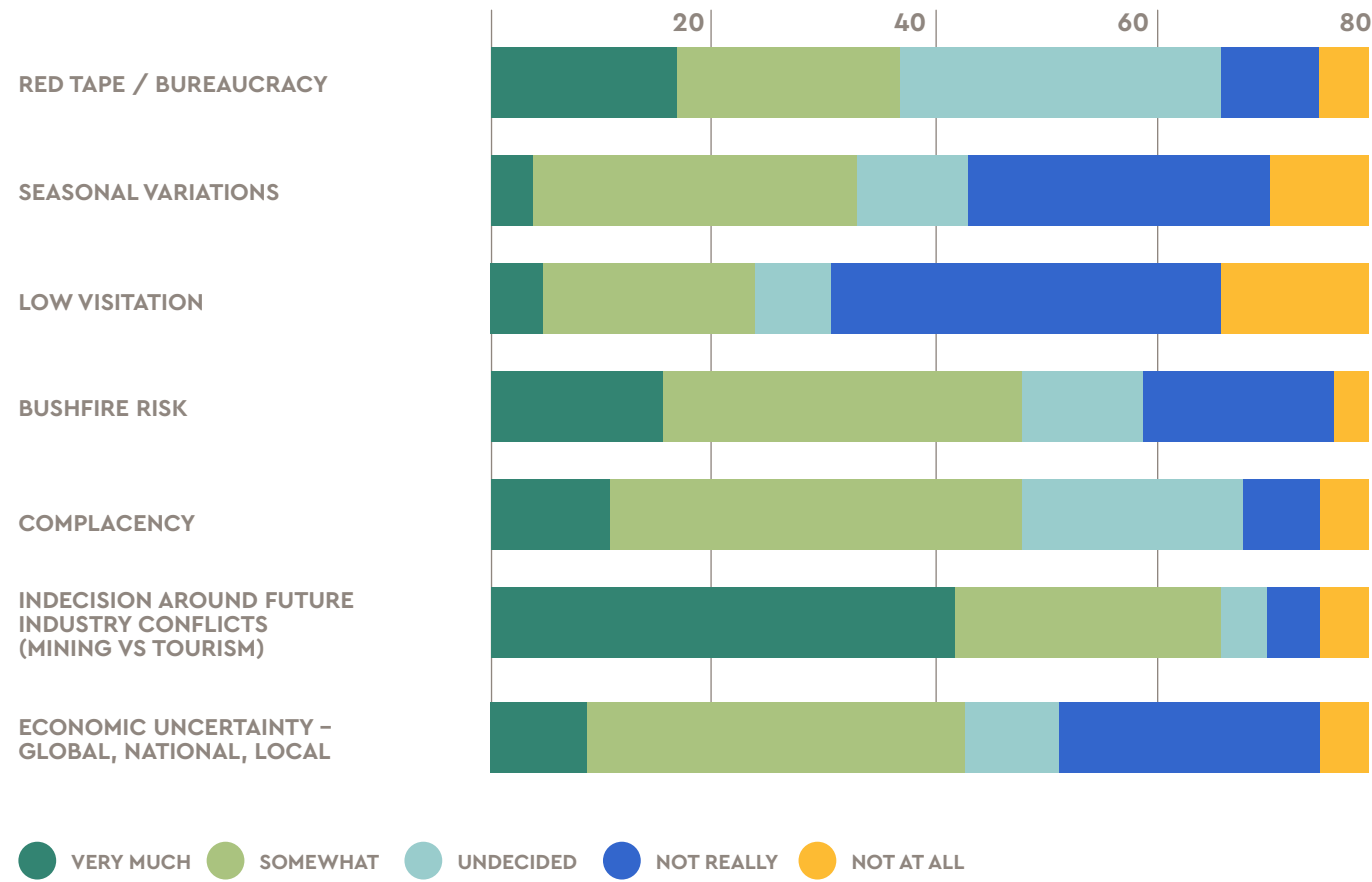
**“Tourism driven town that supports local businesses and protects the environment.”**

**“I would like to see Dwellingup grow in a sustainable manner. It shouldn’t lose it’s old mill town cottage charm. The surrounding forests, flora and fauna, need protection so that industry doesn’t encroach upon the town too closely.”**

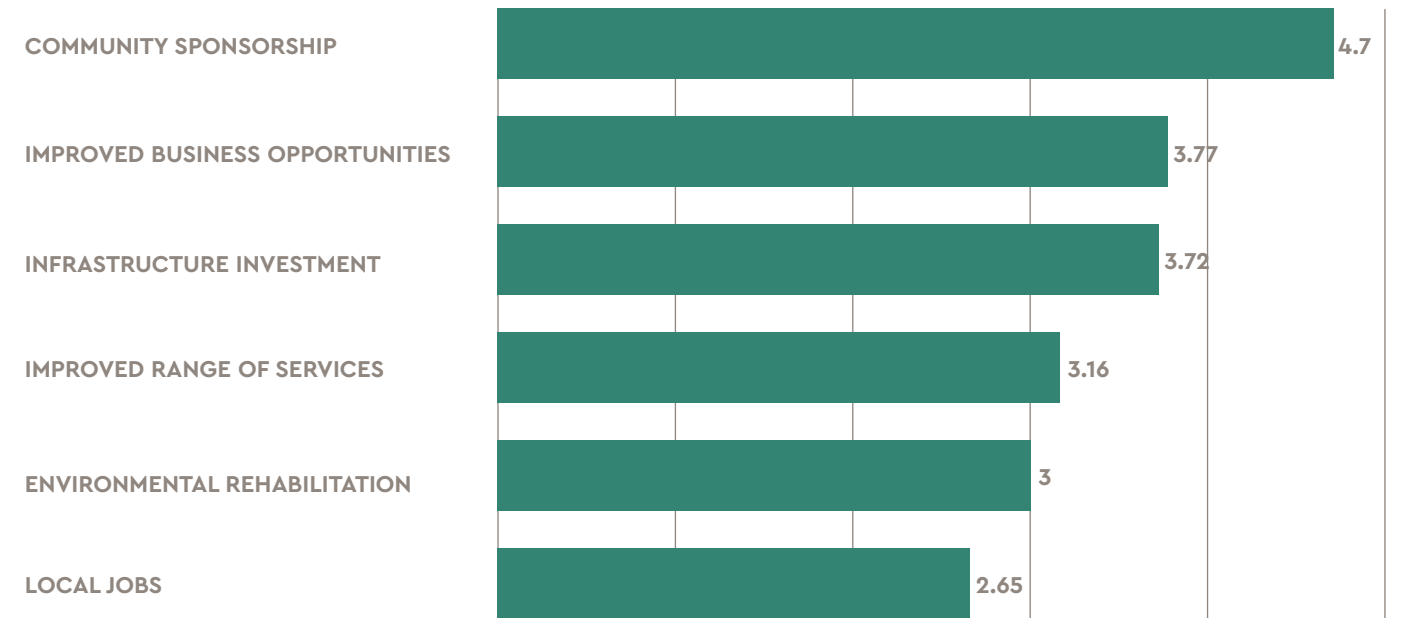
**“Ongoing and improved employment opportunities for the local community people through mining, tourism, local timber production and forestry protection”**

**“Broad economic opportunity and business plans that manage uncertainty and risk.”**

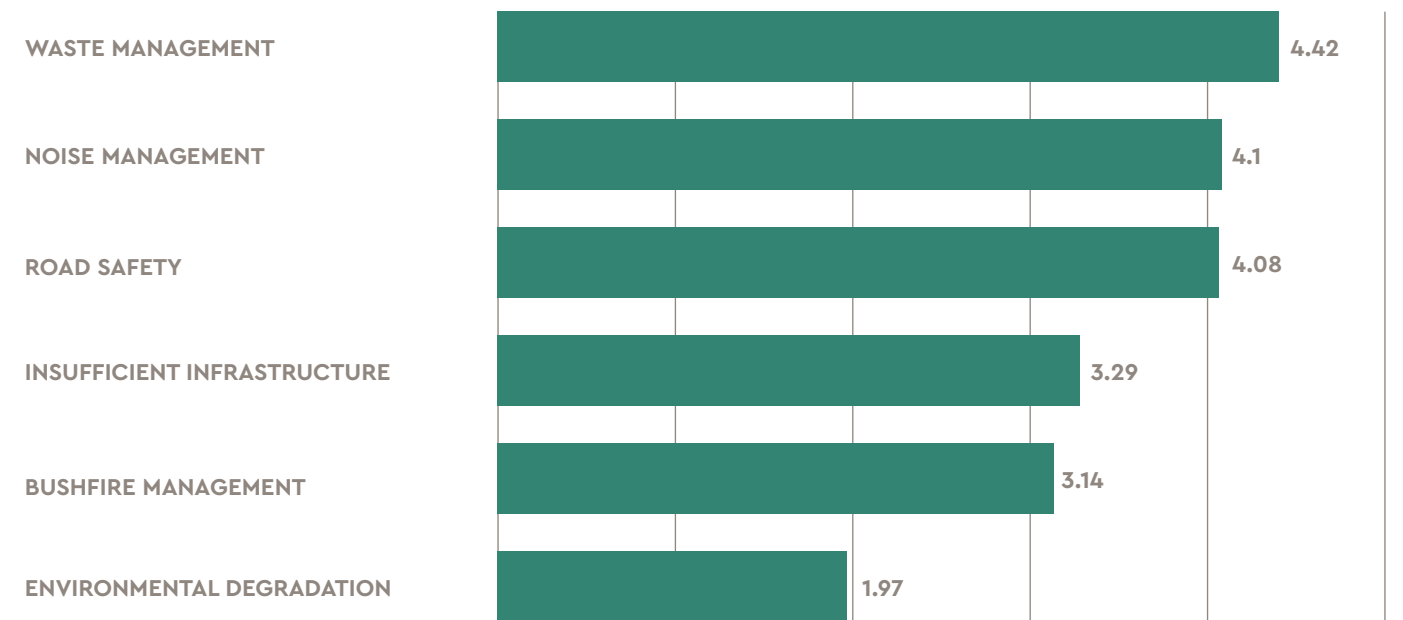
## BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT



## BENEFICIAL OUTCOMES



## POTENTIAL RISKS TO EXPANSION OF THE ECONOMY



## ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Without a doubt, Environment, Culture and Heritage are critically important to Dwellingup's future.

Survey respondents demonstrated a passionate response for protecting the forest, sustainable practices and nature based, tourism activities. The need to be more proactive around sharing stories and promoting heritage and culture, including indigenous heritage also featured prominently. The Hotham Valley Train and its Artists and Creatives were also identified as Dwellingup's Best Attributes and Assets.

A strong contingent of respondents do not support a mining footprint close to the Dwellingup Townsite.



**" Keeping its natural beauty"**

**" The history of the original custodians of the land needs to become a dominant feature. A sculpture acknowledging the first nations people of Dwellingup would enhance Dwellingup's identity."**

**" Dwellingup becoming a significant regional hub for creativity and cultural events, putting the forests and native species first in all decision making and leading by example."**

**" Dwellingup is a unique town in a unique forest in a unique location worthy of protection for the residents and tourists, local and internationals alike. The protection of this town will be a show case for future generations to see what the forest was like in years gone by. Not a mining pit.**

**Just remember that the future of the town "Will be on your watch".**

**" Dwellingup has all the charm expected of a small rural community and is the perfect location to live to enjoy the natural environment and a relaxed lifestyle.**

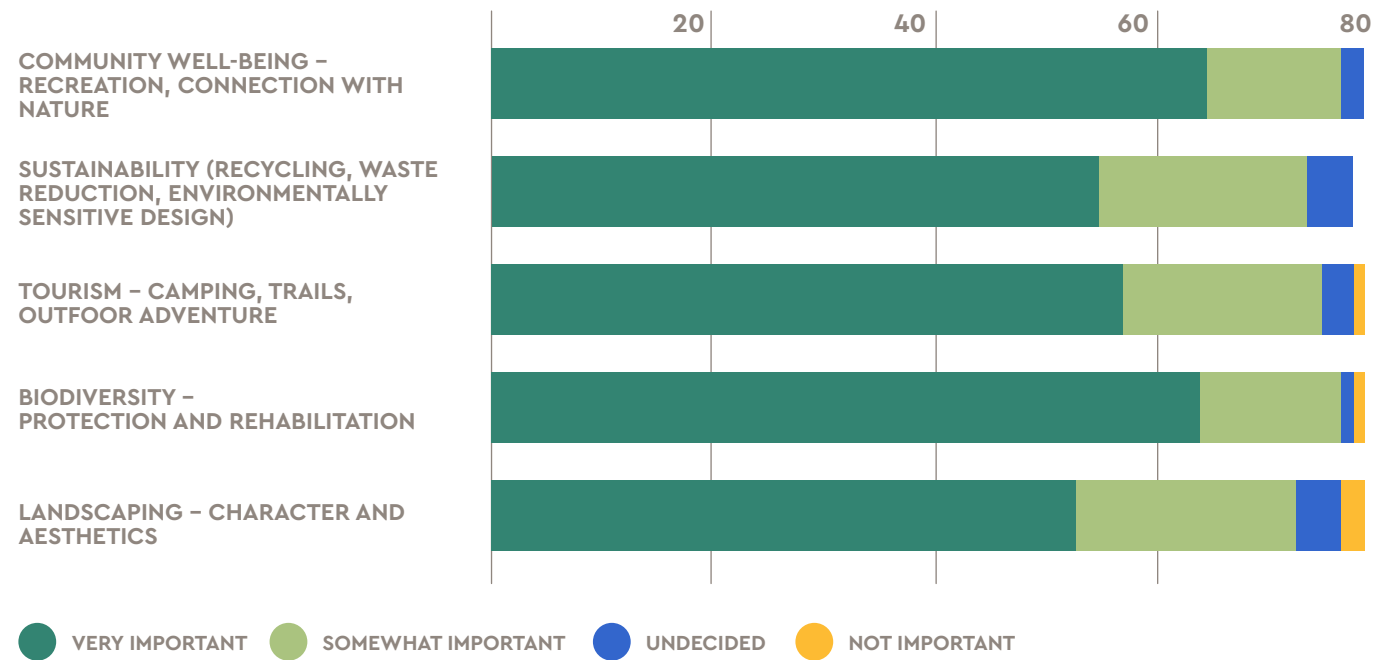
**Future growth is unavoidable but hopefully can be achieved while maintaining a sustainable balance which protects the natural surroundings, blends well with the existing landscape and promotes the wellbeing of everyone who lives in or visits the area."**

**" Conservation and artistic creation"**

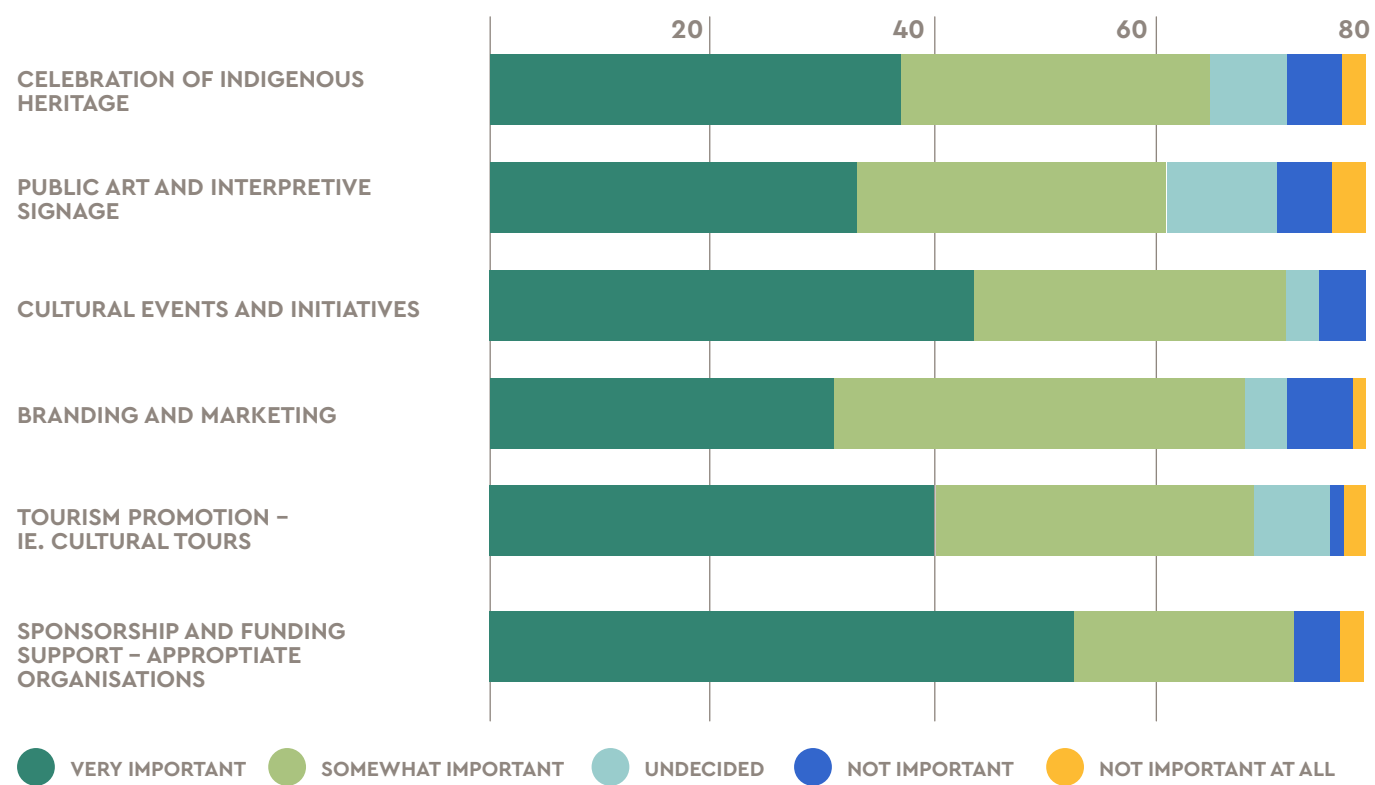
**" Preserve it. Promote it"**

**" Mining and the community not finding a happy medium for both to exist in an amicable arrangement. Minority groups having the loudest voice. Stopping a fully sustainable industry that many in the community are heavily reliant on**

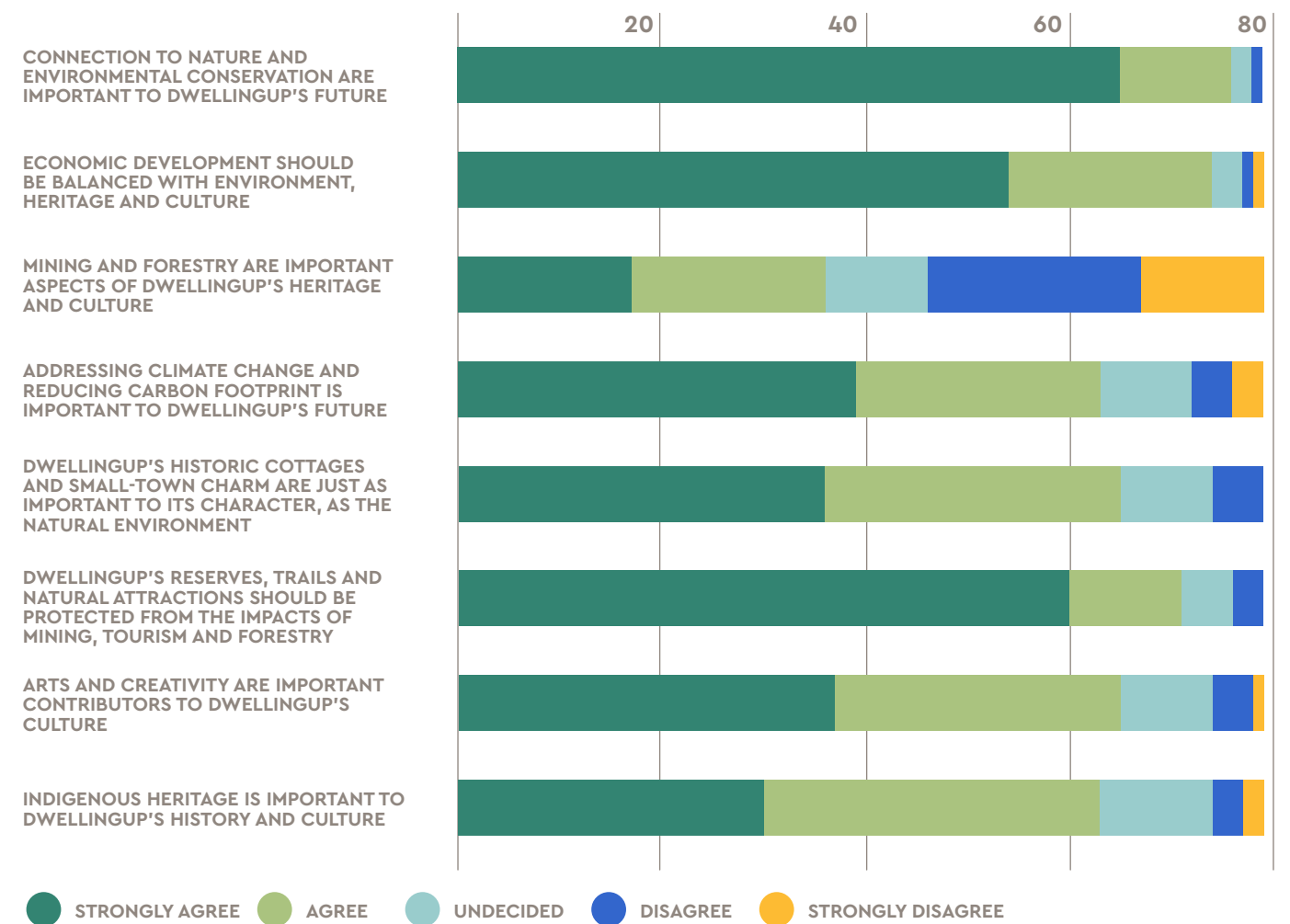
## ROLE OF ENVIRONMENT IN THE FUTURE



## ROLE OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE IN THE FUTURE



## PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

By encouraging environmentally sustainable tourism

"More cultural based initiatives – signs/ language/'tours'

By respecting and valuing the forest and area surrounding Dwellingup

Embracing what makes Dwellingup unique and special

Arts + music festivals

History of the town is important and should be preserved for future generations

Reduce the mining foot print in close proximity to the town

Protection & feral specie eradication

Dwellingup should be a centre of research and management of Jarrah forest.

Sustainable mining and forestry can exist alongside tourism.

Need to have high level planning to ensure that attractions can accomodate large numbers of people whilst ensuring the impact on the environment is minimal.

By allowing the economic development that ensures these aspects are well managed

Better forestry management.

Keep tourist numbers low

Training opportunities to learn the importance of all of the above, to promote connectedness, understanding, respect and acceptance.

Keep what we have currently but build new things to help improve town facilities.

Revival and strengthen the dept of conservation in town and its importance to the northern jarrah forest in relation to native flora and fauna preservation.

Heritage can be enhanced by investing with a museum for the Forest Discovery Centre into a Living Village for a timber town village, flora and fauna museum, early history of Dwellingup

Invest in art and and artisan businesses and cultural events in Dwellingup.

By encouraging environmentally sustainable tourism such as expanding hiking and mountain bike networks, camping sites and promoting water activities in a manageable way

By rehabilitating and preserving the local and regional environment as well as the cottage character of the housing

Stop polluting the water catchments, destruction of large areas for construction parking.

The creation of a substantial forest heritage zone around the town.

By sound management and community consultation

Work together with mining and forestry

Accountability (government agencies). Create certainty (around future mining operations)

Balanced managment, promotion of those that make Dwellingup unique

Reduce the footprint of mining so that it has a smaller impact, but can sustain jobs over a longer period of time.

## CONNECTIVITY, ACCESS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

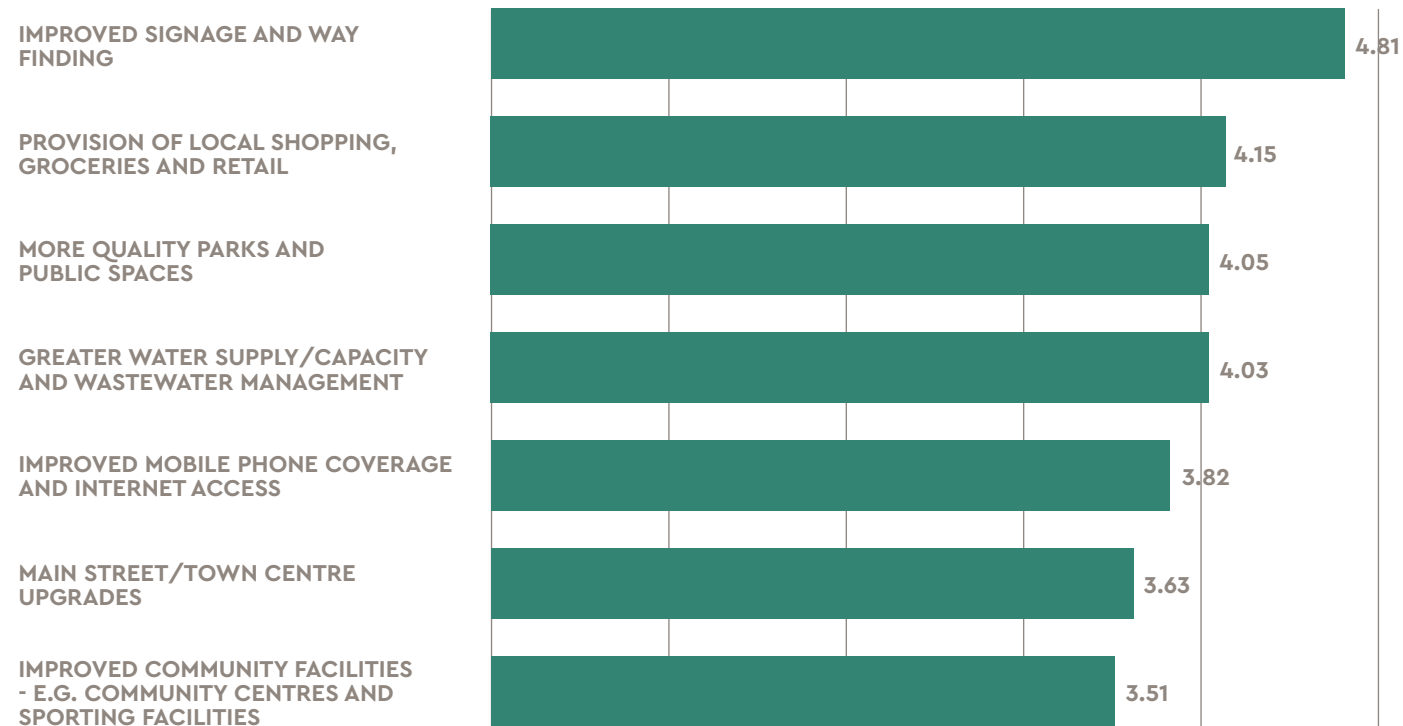
Improved access to health, education and an extended range of basic services was reinforced by respondants, when probed about Infrastructure and Services.

The range of suggested improvements put forward would equally benefit locals and well as visitors.

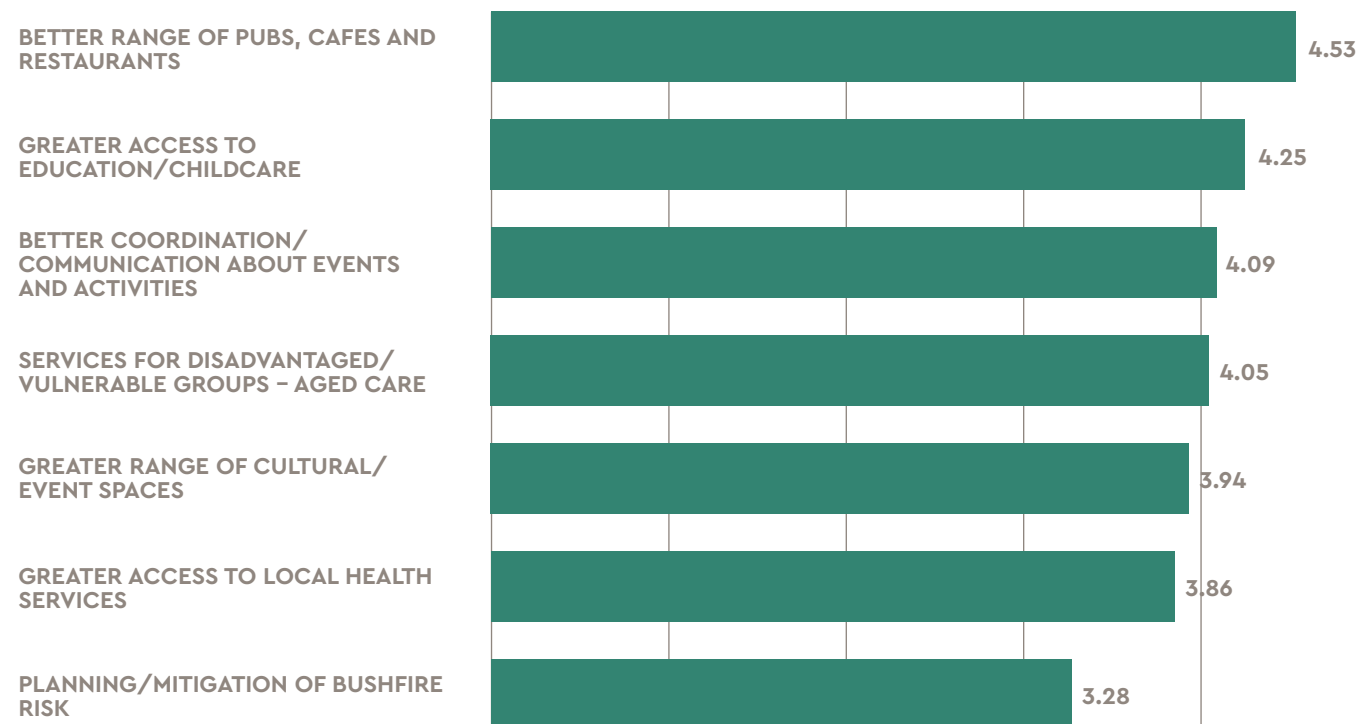
There are some conflicting outcomes noted between the suggested ideas which were ranked, and an open list of missing services. For example, health related services and community facilities were ranked amongst the lowest ideas, yet also mentioned most frequently by respondants when asked to list up to 5 missing services that should be prioritised.

A better range of shops, retail, cafes and restaurants, childcare and public transport once again featured as strong themes.

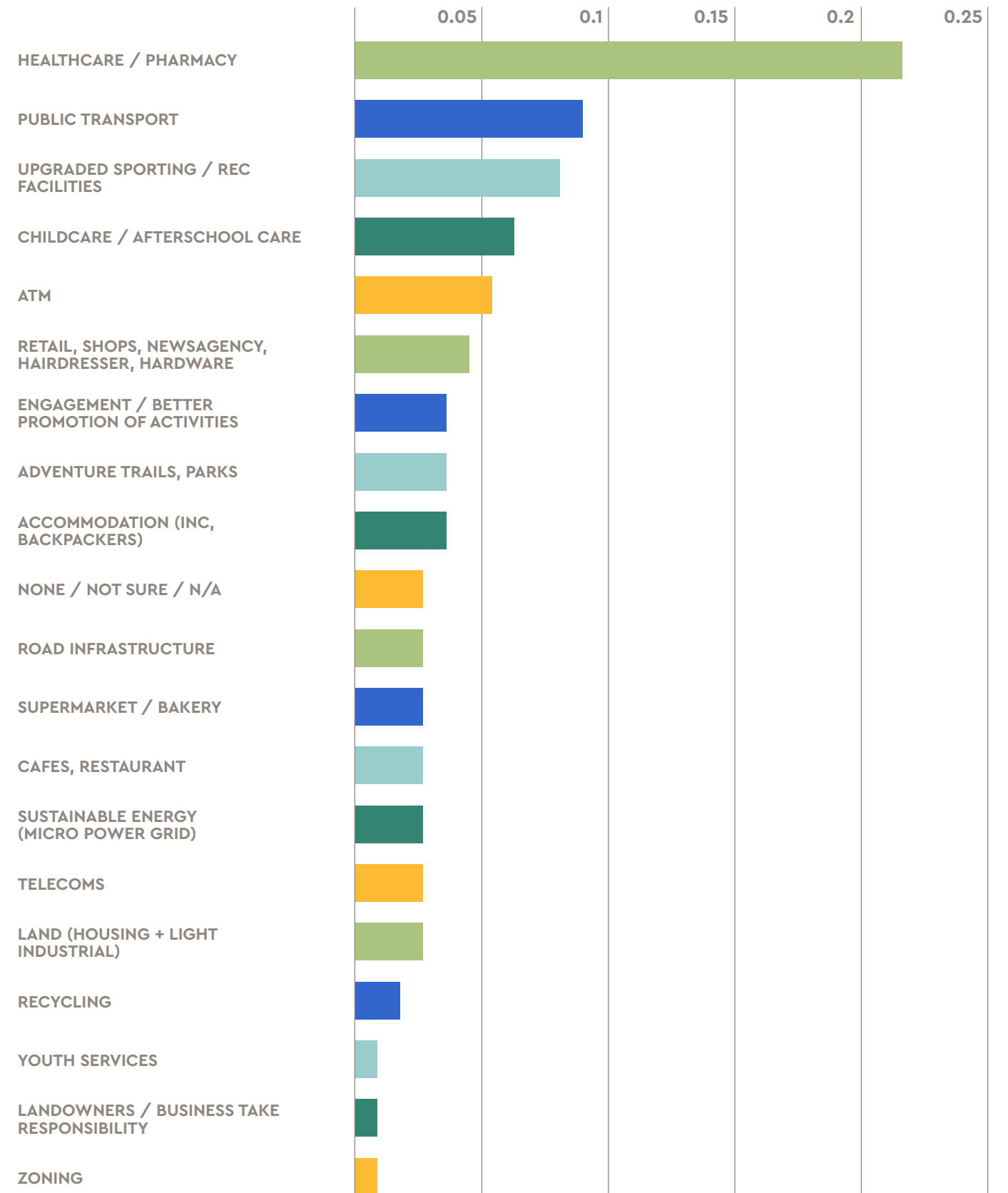
## INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT IDEAS



## SERVICE IMPROVEMENT IDEAS



## MISSING INFRASTRUCTURE OR SERVICES THAT SHOULD BE PRIORITISED





## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Development of heritage – Marrinup Prisoner of War Camp, former outlying settlements, timber heritage

Upgrade roads Marginata is the worst

Heavy haulage through centre of town addressed

Men's shed

Library

Garden centre with environmental sustainability theme

Wildlife centre to care for injured fauna / wildlife bridges

Centrelink / Support for unemployed, local job placement

long term planned landscaping of main street

the exclusion of mining within the "Dwellingup Discovery Forest" precinct

More camping – Lane Poole

More artisans

Grants for tourism ventures

water pumping station which does not rely on electricity

Bike shop + hire service

New Hotham expansion.

Off road motorbike area.

Update Lane Pool / more camping areas

Dump point for caravans

Outdoor gym equipment (near pump track)

48 hour free camping in Town alongside rail track/oval

Enclosed Adventure playground for tots

Enclosed dog park

## GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY + COMMUNICATION

Survey respondents have put forward a number of suggestions to improve the way the Dwellingup community can work better together.

By the responses received, there appears to be concern around the distribution of information, and the current engagement tools applied. The response suggests the need to explore ways in which the community could work better together, into the future.

QUOTES

“ There are efforts, but the message just doesn’t seem to be getting across. Liaison between various community groups, and the Shire might be a way to go.”

“ Need to engage with the highly recognised expertise who live in the community and not with the over opinionated self serving individuals”

“ I am a Noongar Man who lives in Dwellingup, and I don’t like how I am not a voice for Dwellingup.”

“ I believe that the shire do an excellent job at communicating with the people of Dwellingup”

“ Government could state clear boundaries for mining buffers surrounding Dwellingup ensuring mining activities cannot be conducted close to town or the surrounding areas.

Clear communication and governance regarding this would avoid unrest and negativity within the community towards the future plans and mining presence.”

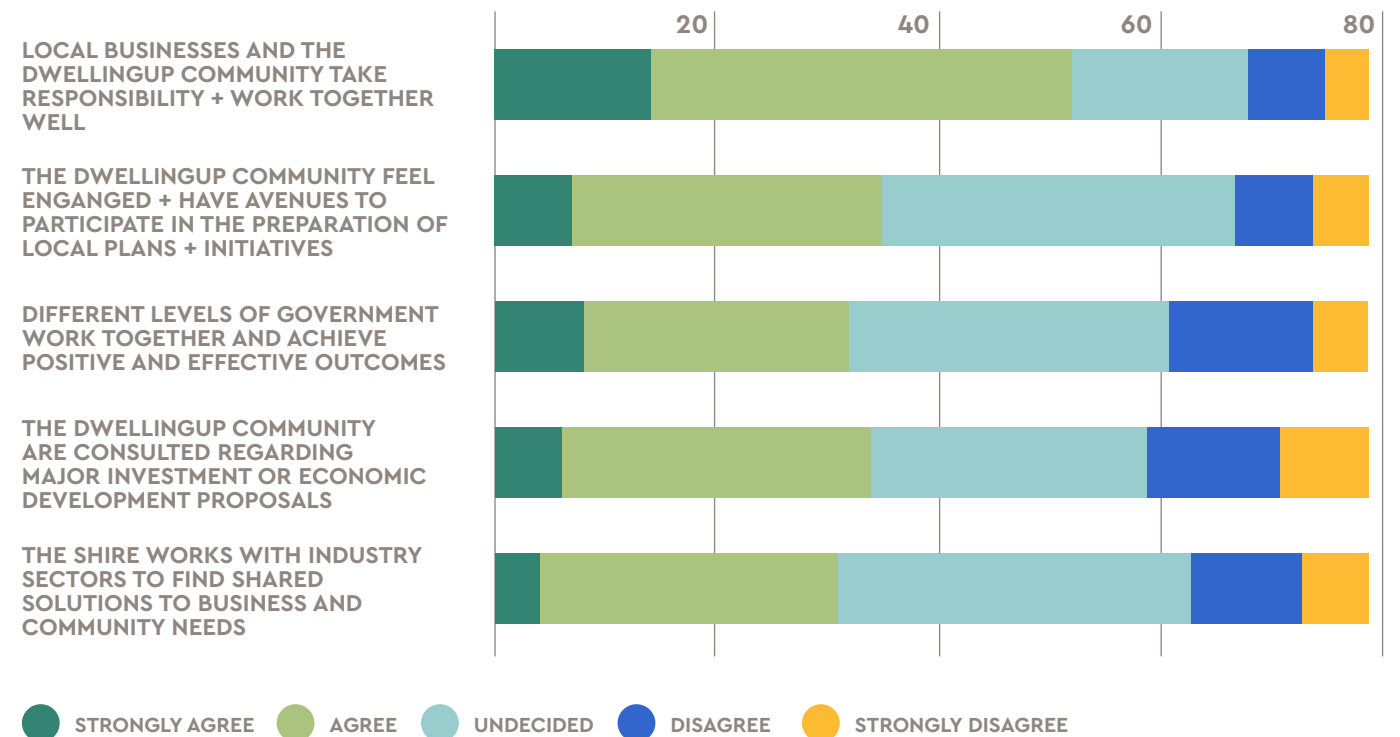
“ The Local Authorities need to address the actual residents and current business owners of the town. Organisations like the Dwellingup Community Compact don’t seem to be attended by most residents or business owners.”

“ An official channel of communication is needed. Currently there is a printed newsletter produced by the primary school (so not inclusive/general enough), and a Facebook page (not an official channel, plus older residents are not on Facebook). A Dwellingup newsletter or newspaper would be brilliant.”

“ Dwellingup wants its own identity so the people of Dwellingup need to be encouraged and supported to assist with town development”

“ More scope for the ‘silent’ voices to have their say. Too often the vocal minority hold public sway.”

COMMUNICATIONS + ENGAGEMENT



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Improve telephone towers.

Community Newsletter

Social Media

Keep seeking public comment.

Input not just for tourism but for locals

Transparency

Meeting with local people and listen

Greater consultation by government bodies to advise the residents for the future prospects and a summary and outcomes of previous plans for the town to ascertain the effectiveness of the proposals.