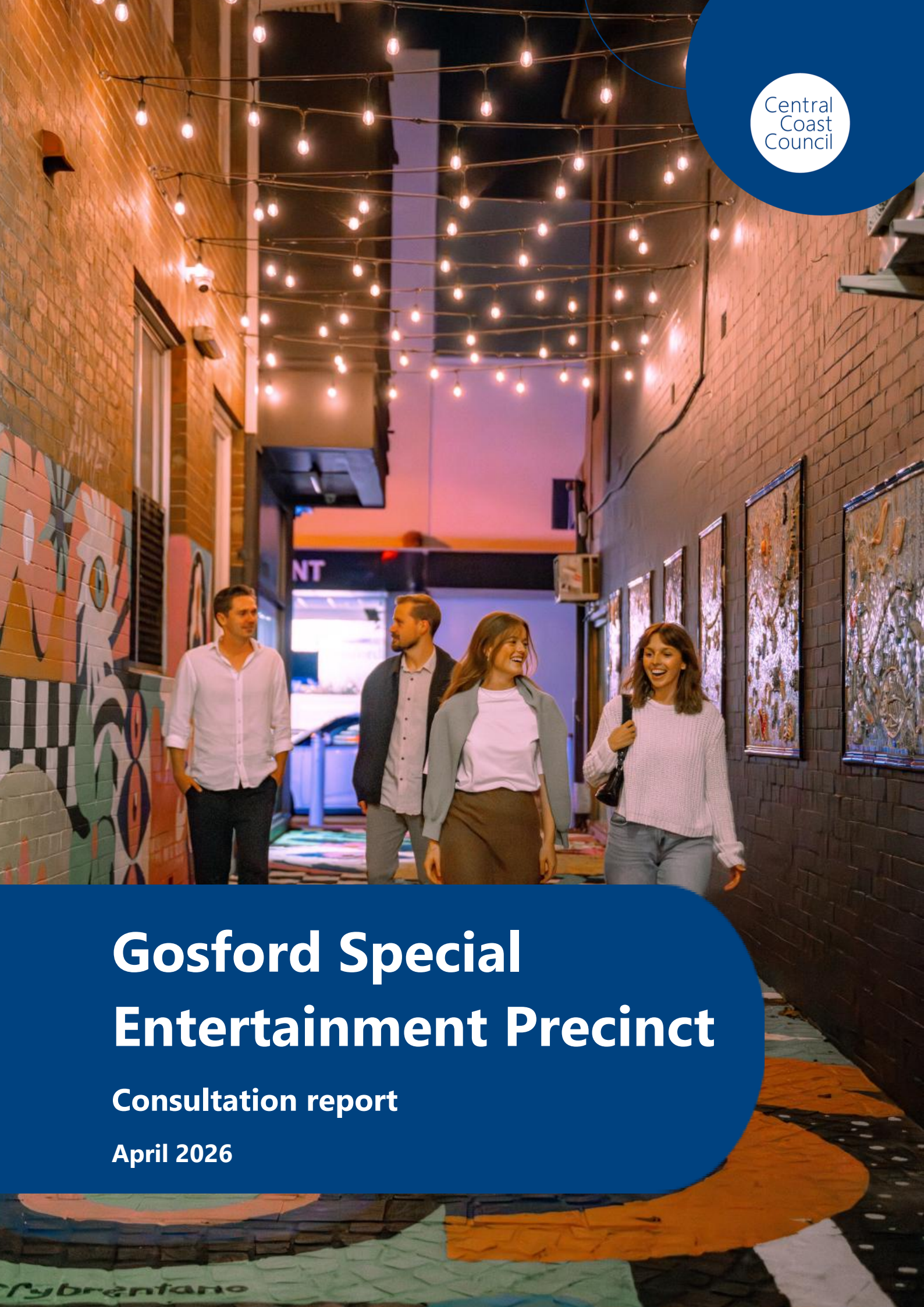


The background image shows a narrow alleyway at night, illuminated by warm string lights hanging from the ceiling. The walls are made of brick and feature colorful murals and framed artwork. Four people (two men and two women) are walking through the alleyway, smiling and looking at each other. The overall atmosphere is lively and artistic.

Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct

Consultation report

April 2026

Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Engagement Approach	5
	3.1 Purpose of Engagement	5
	3.2 Our Engagement Strategy	6
	3.3 How we consulted	6
4	What we heard	10
	4.1 Key findings.....	10
	4.2 Online Survey.....	11
	4.2 Online Social Map	22
	4.3 Pop-up	28
5	Council's response	30
6	Next steps.....	32
7	Appendices	33
	Appendix A – Survey questions.....	33
	Appendix B – Media Release	46
	Appendix C – Pop-up feedback	48
	Appendix D – Quantitative data from online survey	49

1 Executive Summary

Council is investigating the establishment of a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in Gosford to support a safer, more vibrant and more diverse night-time experience. Establishing a SEP is a key action in the Night-time Economy Action Plan 2025-27.

This report provides an overview of the early engagement activities undertaken by Central Coast Council for the SEP between February and March 2026, outlining the engagement methods and approach, and analysing community and stakeholder feedback received during this phase.

What we heard

More than 800 community members participated in the consultation. Community feedback demonstrates strong support for the establishment of a SEP trial in Gosford, with 89% of survey respondents indicating support.

Across all engagement activities, participants consistently highlighted the importance of a safe, accessible and vibrant night-time economy. Overall, the SEP is viewed as a significant opportunity to transform Gosford into a thriving and attractive night-time destination, provided that key considerations, particularly safety and accessibility, are addressed through careful planning and implementation.

Key themes emerging from the consultation include:



Strong support for the SEP (89%)



Gosford CBD needs revitalisation



Improved safety and security are crucial



Desire for more live music and entertainment



Public transport and parking needed

Next steps

Council will apply for the NSW Government's Kickstart Grant to support further investigation and implementation of the proposed Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct. A dedicated Working Group has been established to guide the project, and the community will continue to be informed and involved through Your Voice Our Coast.

2 Introduction

As the Central Coast continues to grow, it is important to have safe, vibrant places for people to gather and enjoy themselves, particularly at night. As a key action in Council's Night-time Economy Action Plan 2025-27, Council is investigating establishing Gosford as the Central Coast's first Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP).

Gosford has been chosen as the preferred location for the initial SEP for the Central Coast, due to the increase in residents moving to the centre, as well as an increase in interest from businesses and key stakeholders to support a more vibrant centre in Gosford, particularly at night.

The objectives of a SEP in Gosford are to:

- Facilitate the opening of more businesses during evening hours.
- Enhance safety in Gosford at night.
- Expand and diversify the range of entertainment options available in Gosford.
- Increase night-time visitation in Gosford.

The proposed investigation area runs from the new University of Newcastle campus building in the north, down to Drifters Wharf in the south, Polytech Stadium to the west and Kibble Park in the east.

The proposed boundary is intended to include existing entertainment and activity areas that may benefit from changes to operating hours and sound management.



Figure 1: Proposed Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct area

3 Engagement Approach

3.1 Purpose of Engagement

The purpose engagement was to:

- **Inform:** Provide accessible information about the proposed SEP through the Your Voice Our Coast website, outlining the purpose of the SEP, the proposed precinct area and the process to establish a SEP. This ensured the community and stakeholders were well informed and able to understand the proposal and its objectives.
- **Consult:** Seek early community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed SEP through multiple consultation methods, including an online survey, online social map, a pop-up event and written submissions. These methods enabled participants to share their perspectives and ideas for improvements to encourage greater night-time use of the precinct.

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Goal 	To provide the community with the information to assist their understanding of the issue	Provide the community with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make informed decision, and obtain feedback and information about attitudes, information and preferences.	To work on an ongoing basis with the community and businesses to ensure they are listened to	To partner with the community and businesses	To place final decision making in the hands of the stakeholders
Commitment 	We will keep you informed	We will equip you with understanding of the issue. We will listen.	We will give you a role in shaping the input.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in forming solutions	We will act on what you decide.
Methods 	Website Social Media eNewsletters Advertisements Signs Flyers Letterbox drops	Workshops Webinars Pop up events and drop in sessions Workshops, focus groups, community meetings Surveys	Community reference groups	Partnerships	Referendums

Figure 2: Modelled from IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum Source: International Association for Public Participation, 2014

3.2 Our Engagement Strategy

Consultation has been designed in accordance with Central Coast Council's Community Engagement Strategy. The Strategy can be viewed at: [community-engagement-strategy.pdf](#)

3.3 How we consulted

Council sought early feedback from the community between Friday 20 February and Monday 23 March 2026. Engagement included a mix of online and face to face opportunities for community members and stakeholders to share their feedback.



800+

Participants



710

Survey
responses



79

Pop-up
attendees



117

Pins on
online map



2

Written
submissions

Consultation methods

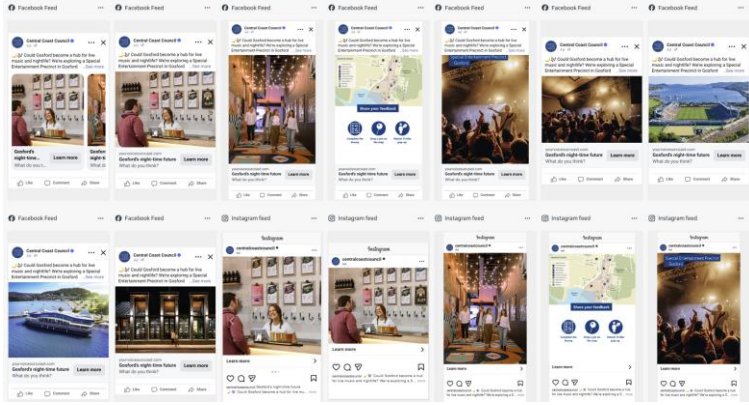
Online survey	All residents and stakeholders could complete the online survey at yourvoiceourcoast.com A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A.
Online social map	All residents and stakeholders could contribute to the online social map. Participants could select a location within the precinct and answer the question 'What improvements would encourage you to spend more time in the proposed precinct area at night?'.
Pop-up event	A pop-up event was held on Saturday 14 March 12-3pm at Rotary Park Gosford.
Written submissions	All residents and stakeholders could make a written submission via email or post.

Promotion of activities

We carried out promotion of the consultation to ensure the community and stakeholders were aware of the opportunity to participate.

Your Voice Our Coast website	A dedicated project page on Council's engagement platform, Your Voice Our Coast. Published Friday 20 February 2026. 7,524 webpage views https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/gosford-special-entertainment-precinct
Media Release	23 February 2026 Open rate 49.57% Community invited to have their say on Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct Central Coast Council A copy of the media release can be found in Appendix B.
Council weekly eNews	25 February 2026 Sent to 21, 548 people 9.7% of clicks = 168 clicks  Have your say on Gosford's night-time future We're exploring the idea of establishing a Special Entertainment Precinct in Gosford to support live music, performance and late-night businesses – helping to grow a vibrant night-time economy. Now we want to hear from you: do you support this proposal? Tell us what you think 4 March 2026 Sent to 21,632 people 8.1% of clicks = 102 clicks

	 Coast Connect 3 March 2026  Meet me at the Entertainment Precinct 'pop-up' As we grow, Gosford is fast developing as our social and economic heart and we want to hear your thoughts about how we can deliver a more vibrant night-time economy. We'll soon be trialling a 'Special Entertainment Precinct', stretching from the University of Newcastle campus to Drifter's Wharf and Kibble Park. We've chosen this area to include existing entertainment venues, and our goal is to see if an entertainment precinct creates beneficial night-time activity opportunities. You can visit our community engagement hub, Your Voice Our Coast, and take our survey until 20 March. Or you can meet me in person at our pop-up event at Gosford Rotary Park on Saturday 14 March from 12 noon to 3pm to learn more. More from the Mayor
Print advertising	26 February 2026 Readership of 60,000+ Have your say on Gosford's night-time future We're exploring the idea of establishing a Special Entertainment Precinct in Gosford to support live music, performance and later-night businesses – helping to grow a vibrant night-time economy. Now we want to hear from you: do you support this proposal? Check out the proposed boundary and complete the short survey at yourvoiceourcoast.com  12 March Readership of 60,000+

	Have your say on the future of the Central Coast We're inviting the community to share feedback on a range of plans and projects currently open for comment, including: • Draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program • Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct • Heritage Conservation on the Central Coast • Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park Landscape Masterplan You can also help us understand what makes the Central Coast a welcoming place by completing the Connected Communities survey. As a thank you, you'll go into the draw to win a family day pass to The Australian Reptile Park. Are you a skater or scooter rider? We want your ideas to help shape new skate parks planned for: • Halekulani Oval, Budgewoi • Hylton Moore Oval, East Gosford To get involved, visit yourvoiceourcoast.com
Media	Radio on Hit 101.3 Central Coast - 24 February 2026
Organic social media	Reach of 57,062 generating 695 interactions
Paid social media	Reach of 59,381 
Factsheet and flyers	Published on Your Voice Our Coast Distributed to local businesses within the precinct Distributed at pop-up event




Have your say on a
**Special Entertainment
Precinct for Gosford**

We're exploring establishing a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in Gosford and want to hear your views.

A SEP is a defined area where Council can set sound conditions and trading hours to support live music, performance and later night businesses. The aim is to create a safer, more vibrant and diverse night time experience in Gosford.

We want to hear from you.



Do you support establishing a SEP in Gosford?
For more information and to have your say, search 'SEP' at yourvoiceourcoast.com by 20 March 2026.

A copy of the factsheet can be found here: https://hdp-au-prod-app-cencoast-yourvoice-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/8417/7155/2081/Gosford_SEP_Factsheet_CCC.pdf

4 What we heard

4.1 Key findings

Across the engagement activities, community support for establishing a SEP is very strong, with **89%** of survey respondents in favour. Across the survey, social map and pop-up, participants consistently expressed a desire for a safer and more vibrant night-time experience in Gosford.

Key findings include:

- Strong support for a SEP**
 89% support the SEP trial, while 8% were unsure/needed more information and only 3% opposed.
- Revitalisation of Gosford**
 Community members want to see the CBD "brought back to life" through more activity, better use of public spaces and activation of empty shops.
- Safety and accessibility**
 Safety is a top concern, particularly for women and young people. Improved lighting, security presence and safer pedestrian routes are considered essential. Reliable and affordable late-night transport and parking are also key to ensuring the success of the SEP.

- **Live music and entertainment**

There is strong demand for live music, arts, diverse dining and events. The SEP is seen as a way to showcase local talent and create a vibrant cultural identity in Gosford.

- **Economic growth**

The SEP is viewed as a catalyst for economic growth - supporting local businesses, increasing employment opportunities and encouraging residents to spend locally rather than travelling to Sydney or Newcastle.

- **Conditions for support**

Those unsure or opposed to the SEP cited the need for clearer information on the precinct's boundaries, funding, noise management, safety and security and parking or public transport improvements. Addressing these concerns is critical to building broader confidence in the proposal.

4.2 Online Survey

Who we heard from

A total of 710 people responded to the survey. Most respondents were Central Coast residents who live outside the Gosford precinct but regularly visit it (74%, n=527), followed by people who live within the precinct itself (23%, n=165). Smaller groups included people who work in the precinct (11%, n=80) and those visiting from outside the Central Coast (5%, n=36), while very few respondents owned a business in the precinct (1%, n=7) (Figure 3).

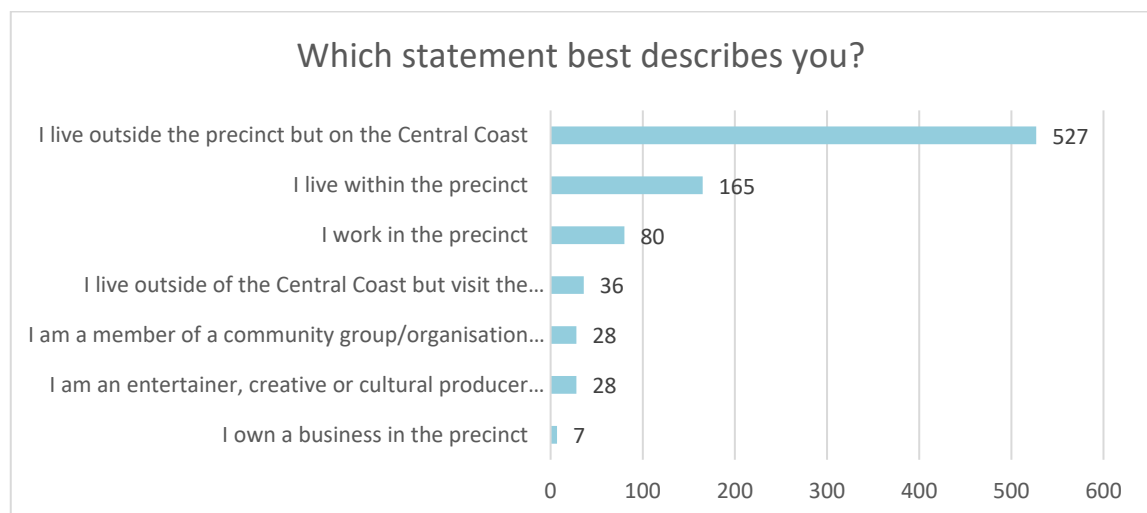


Figure 3: Respondents relationship to Gosford, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 February to 23 March, 710 responses. *Note: as respondents could select multiple options, totals are greater than 710.

Respondents were mostly middle-aged or older, with the **largest age groups being 40–49 years** (27%, n=193) and 50–59 years (26%, n=180). The survey was **completed more often by women** (62%, n=435) compared to men (38%, n=265). Small proportions of respondents

identified as LGBTQIA+ (6%, n=44), culturally and/or linguistically diverse (5%, n=35), Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (3%, n=21), or as a person with disability (3%, n=22).

Current activity in Gosford

The survey included a range of questions about how respondents currently visit the Gosford precinct area and how they would rate their experience. Feedback indicates that respondents current experience in Gosford at night is largely negative, with overall dissatisfaction with features such as number and type of activities and feeling safe.

Survey responses revealed that:

- 41% of respondents **occasionally** visit Gosford at night (once per month)
- The most common time respondents visit is **6-8pm** (83%) and **8-10pm** (50%).
- Respondents typically stay for **1-2 hours** (60%)
- Respondents mostly visit Gosford to **eat at a café or restaurant** (75%) or **drink at a bar or hotel** (53%)
- Respondents predominantly travel to Gosford by **car** (84%)

When asked how activated and vibrant respondents would describe the current night-time activity in Gosford on a scale of 1 – 5, a strong majority (82%) of respondents rated low (Figure 4).

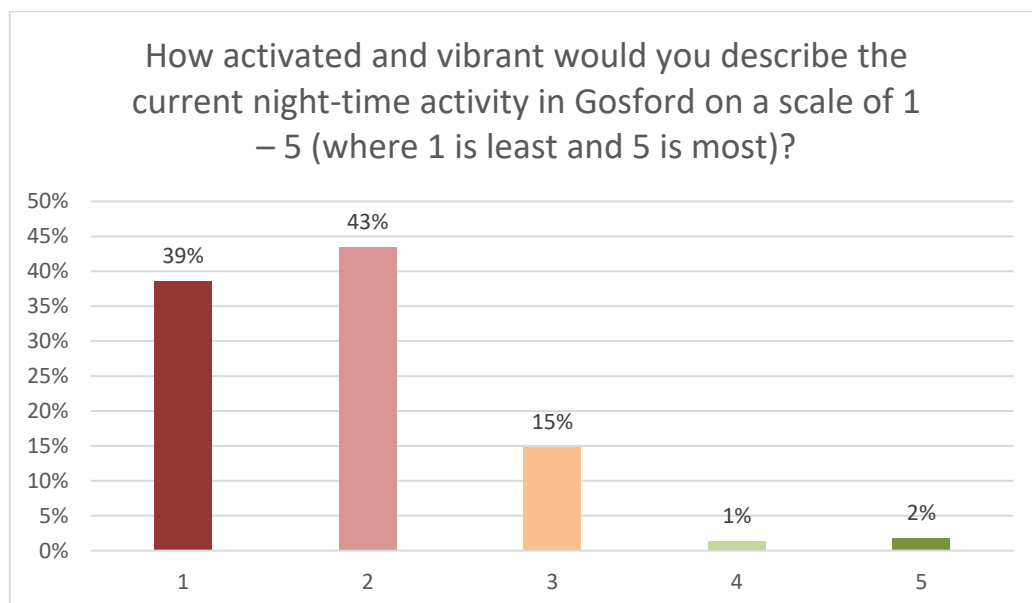


Figure 4: Gosford vibrancy ratings, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 February to 23 March, 601 responses.

When respondents were asked to rate satisfaction for specific features in Gosford, around **60%** of respondents were **unsatisfied** with all features bar one. Dissatisfaction for the number and type of night-time activities was highest, with 77% of respondents either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. On the other hand, 72% of respondents feel neutral or satisfied by the cost of activities and value for money (Figure 5).

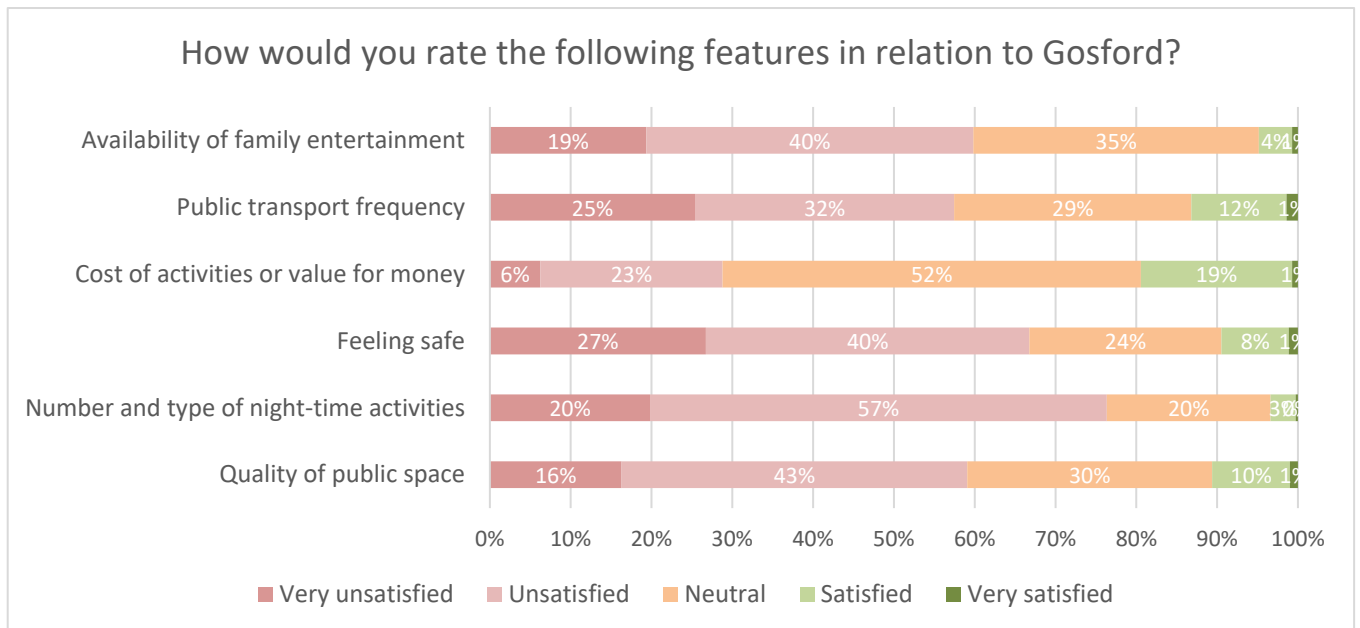


Figure 5: Satisfaction with features in Gosford, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 February to 23 March, 708 responses.

Support for SEP trial

Survey respondents revealed strong support for the SEP. When asked if respondents supported a SEP trial in Gosford, **89%** answered **yes**, while **8%** were **unsure/needed more information** and **3%** answered **no** (Figure 6).

When asked what potential benefits of a SEP trial were important to respondents, the top answers were **safer and easier to get around at night** (85%, n=601), **greater mix of evening services and entertainment** (83%, n=586) and **more live music and performances** (82%, n=579) (Figure 7).

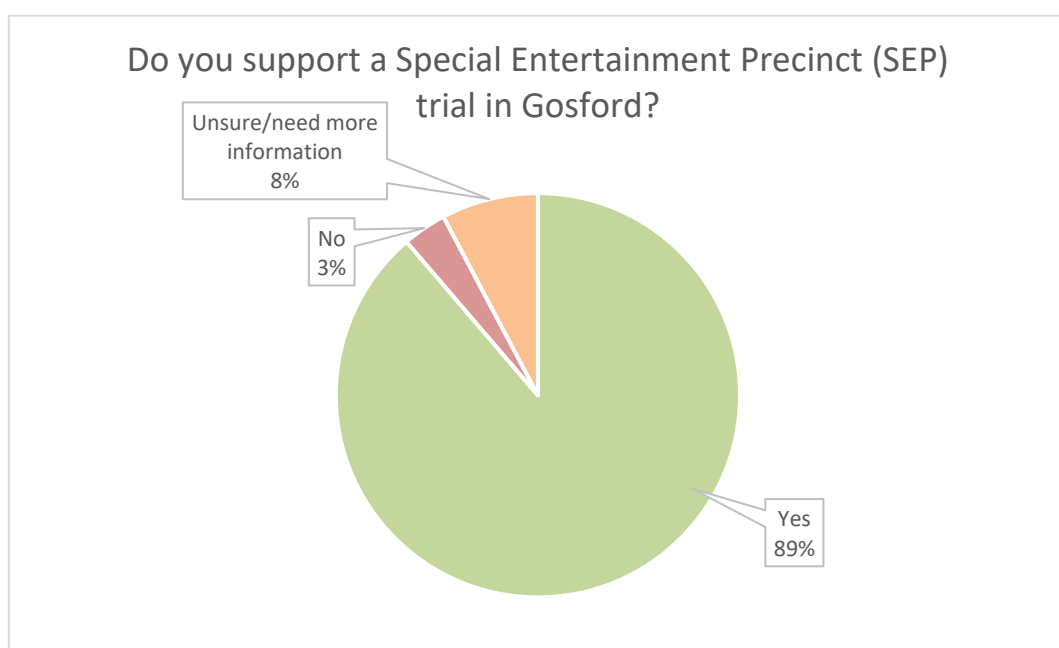


Figure 6: Support for the SEP trial, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 February to 23 March, 710 responses.

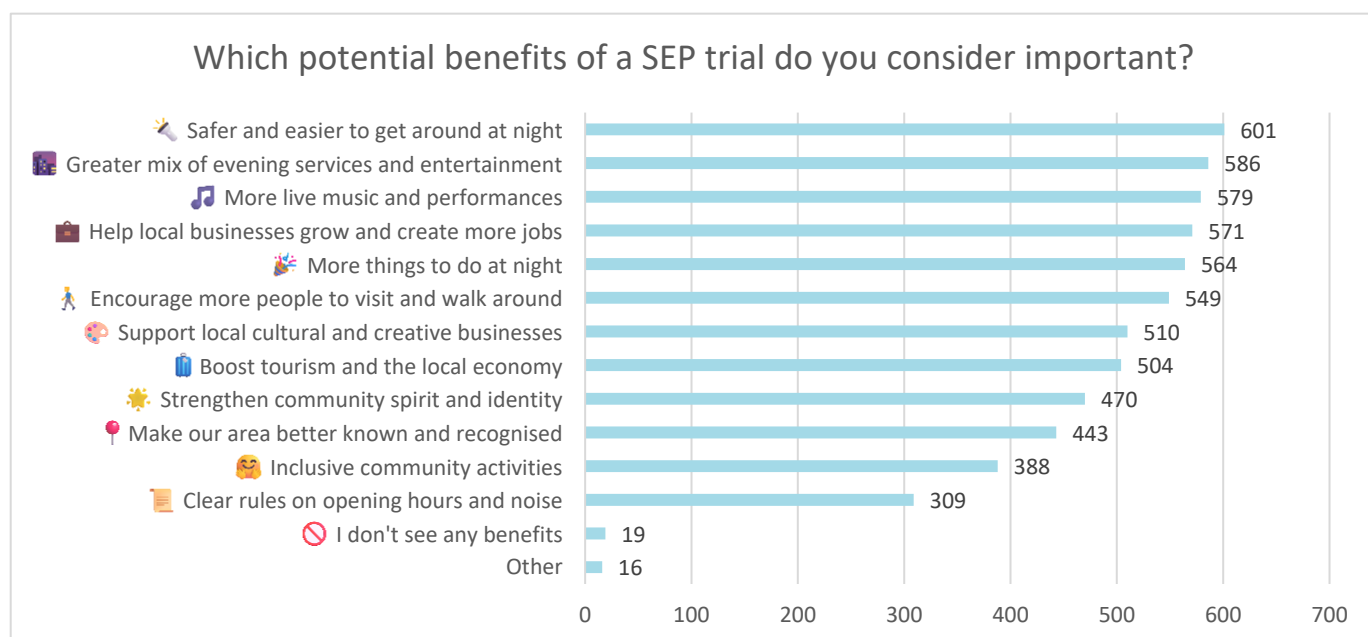


Figure 7: Benefits of SEP trial, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 February to 23 March, 707 responses. *Note: as respondents could select multiple options, totals are greater than 707.

Why respondents support a SEP trial

Respondents who support a SEP see it as a way to improve safety and security, revitalise the Gosford CBD, support live music, arts and culture and encourage economic growth. Respondents emphasised the need for improved safety for women and young people, stronger live music and arts opportunities and better use of vacant buildings and public spaces. Many also highlighted economic benefits, including supporting local businesses, creating jobs and keeping entertainment spending on the Central Coast rather than travelling to Sydney or Newcastle.

Of the 630 respondents who supported the SEP, key themes are analysed below:

Theme	Theme summary	Example quotes
Revitalising Gosford CBD	Gosford has potential but is perceived as quiet and neglected	"Gosford needs activity and activation... Gosford is a city of ghosts and could be so much more with higher density and increased activation. "Gosford has loads of potential to be a great little city. Most Coasties would agree it's a bit of a dead hole" "Gosford has great potential but is currently dead and scary. I don't think it will evolve organically without intervention."

	Desire for vibrancy and activation, to bring Gosford 'back to life'	"Great to have an area where locals can enjoy a diverse set of nightlife and activities. Gosford is in need of a revamp!!" "Gosford downtown has been dead and run down for years. Let's bring it to life!" "Gosford needs more life in its central area. It doesn't feel like a city, more run down than alive. It needs any boost it can get." "Gosford is a dying town, it needs life brought back to it!"
	Making better use of empty buildings and public spaces	"Gosford has many empty shops. It needs an economic injection to boost the area's economy and bring more life into the ghost town." "REALLY keen for Gosford to revitalise. Currently SO many empty and derelict premises." "Make use of the empty shops. It's pretty depressing."
Improved safety and security	Safer night-time environments where people can gather comfortably	"We are much safer as a community when people party and celebrate within regulated environments within a late night precinct as opposed to homes and or areas without the transport and security that a SEP offers" "Live music would bring more people out at night, making the precinct feel safer whilst giving residents an alternative night-time activity." "The coast is desperate for safe regular open activities / venues and music etc for people to be able to connect and enjoy"

	Safety for women and young people	"Young people need safe evening venues." "As a woman, I often have safety concerns at night in Gosford. Having more people out and about, as well as more lighting creates a safer community for us all." "Safer, well-lit areas need to be considered to ensure safety of young women"
	Support was often conditional on better transport, parking, security and lighting	"Activating the area for people to come to the area & walk around also means providing more off-street parking, looking at traffic flow & making streets one-way, improving safety with lighting, CCTV & security patrols" "We need upgraded Security safety!!! We need to upgrade all the lighting on the Main Street of Gosford down the paths and make sure we have security along the street. Gosford is getting better, but it is still a very dangerous place to be late at night." "Safety and accessibility are critical. Transport and lighting are two major issues that need addressing. People need to feel safe moving around the precinct at night and have reliable ways to get home. This could include better lighting, clear pedestrian pathways, late-night transport, and designated pick-up zones for taxis and rideshares."
More live music, arts, culture and entertainment	Strong demand for live music and entertainment	"The bones are there. Just need have places for people to enjoy like live music." "Gosford is in desperate need of more live music venues. Also, the ones that are currently operating need way more exposure. There needs to be significant change to revitalise Gosford's night life" "Gosford has the potential to transform into a vibrant city. However, while investment is delivering apartments and retail, we are lacking in community driven arts, culture, music and entertainment, particularly at night. This initiative will fill that gap."
	Supporting local artists and performers	"There's so much raw talent on the coast, let's create a space to enjoy & showcase it!" "I strongly support the SEP trial as it will create more opportunities for live music, support local artists and help transform Gosford into a vibrant entertainment destination on the Central Coast."

		"As a performer and avid music and theatre fan, I am aware of the excellence of the artists on the coast and the dearth of opportunities for them. We need to build a stronger culture to allow the community to flourish through engaging with the exemplary artists on their doorstep. We need to build a stronger culture so that artists and the venues willing to put them on may thrive"
	Arts and culture are essential to a thriving city and community	"With the development of any urban area it's essential to provide culture and creativity. The arts are more important than ever and are a way for us to develop as a community." "Development is great in Gosford bringing much needed residents, economic activity and facilities, but without culture, it is just buildings." "The central coast needs more venues that promote community, arts, and culture. Keeping connected in a world where loneliness is an epidemic is essential to maintaining the fabric of a health society. The central coast is a place where families live. It's not just a place Sydneysiders visit occasionally. Let's treat like a place people want to live and thrive and not yearn for all the things that big cities enjoy."
Economic growth, support for local businesses and jobs	Supporting local businesses and increasing employment opportunities	"Bring people back to Gosford city, encourage businesses back to the area." "It would give the central coast an identity and provide employment for our kids." "Really important to support local businesses, particularly entertainment, arts and hospitality businesses who were hit so hard during Covid. Also encourages new pathways for young people in terms of employment and opportunities."
	Retain local spending and increase tourism	"Nothing there at the moment hasn't been for years coasties have to go to Sydney or Newcastle which is a pain, it would benefit all locals/business if this were to happen" "Giving great late-night options for locals in a central area will boost the local economy and allow locals to find entertainment locally without having to travel to Sydney." "Gosford needs some invigoration and with a focus on live entertainment and music, night life and food Gosford could become a great destination for tourism as well as locals."

Why respondents were unsure/needed more information

Respondents who were unsure or required more information generally expressed conditional support. Their uncertainty related to a lack of detail about what a SEP is, how it would operate and how issues such as safety, transport, parking and noise impacts would be managed. Some indicated they could support the proposal if these issues were adequately addressed.

Of the 55 respondents who were unsure or needed more information, key themes are analysed below:

Theme	Theme summary	Example quotes
Need clarity on what the SEP involves	Unclear definition, scope and purpose	"What is the aim/purpose of a 'trial'? What body hopes to achieve what? Is the aim to sell tickets? To improve the quality of life on the Coast? This could be clearer." "Lack of details how this to be execute. Ideas is great but this just about goal but no details of how this can be achieved."
	Need clearer detail on location and what is included in the boundary	"I need more information of exactly what is proposed and where." "Yes, I support in principle BUT.... The precinct area includes my RESIDENTIAL building (cnr of Parlour Lane and Georgiana Terrace) that has NO commercial element to it. Why has it been included??" "It's strange to not include the longest running entertainment venue in the area as part of the proposed precinct. Laycock Street Theatre has been operating continuously for 38 years and has contributed thousands of performances for Gosford and supported the local economy through its many events throughout the year. Include Laycock street theatre in the proposal."
	Uncertainty about funding and which stakeholders are involved	"Who knows how it is going to work, who is funding it?" "I would also want to know how our rates will impacted, as someone will have to pay for this." "Depending on who is being consulted on this project and driving this vision is the main reason... Please consult with prominent event operators on this initiative as council aren't experts on this matter and very outdated."

Safety and security concerns	Safety and security needed, especially for women	"What kind of security and safety measures are being put in place? We need immensely more lights and cameras in the area alongside security who will actually assist with issues raised." "We need to have much safer areas for the community and in particularly female to feel safe when they venture out at night and during the day. Too many women are targets around our community" "There is a pretty bad element in Gosford now. While I want to see Gosford come alive, there needs to be really good lighting, parking and police patrols."
	Anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug related problems	"Not sure why Council requires people of all ages to be staying out until after midnight where the increase of many risks escalates, especially with alcohol being available much later? Surely the economy could be boosted before pumpkin hour?" "While I understand the need for 'Entertainment' I believe a specific precinct will create problems relating to alcohol & drugs. There are numerous registered clubs on the coast within walking distance or cost-effective transport options. The LGA doesn't need longer operating hours. We saw what happened years ago in Sydney. There aren't enough police resources available to cover additional misdemeanours caused by later opening hours."
Public transport, parking and access to Gosford needed	Parking and public transport as a safety issue and practical barrier	"I've seen little about accessibility... how do people get there and back home again... I'm referring to public transport - train, bus, potentially ferry and private vehicles: parking. Transport is essential for safety." "The idea of an entertainment precinct sounds great. The coast needs more and varied options for entertainment. However, the types, routes and frequency of public transport needs to be significantly improved to make this attractive, affordable, convenient and safe for people, particularly women, to return home at night. Increased public parking, with low or no fees should also form part of the planning." "Gosford needs council to create more permanent free or low-cost parking in Gosford to allow for this initiative. Traffic flow is important. Public transport and taxis needed as we never want to see a repeat of what happened to Audrey due to not being able to get a safe ride home at night."
Noise impacts	Need to manage noise	"I support increased night-time venues and events as long as adequate controls are put in place so existing residents can live peacefully in their own homes. If venues want to play loud

for residents	impacts and protect residential liveability	music, then sound proofing to contain the noise within the venue need to be implemented. If the SEP removes the requirement for noise control than this is unfair to people living in these areas. Sufficient safety measures need to be implemented too." "I'm concerned about the impact to noise for residents and also current poor transport options at night and parking options." "Need further information on what noise levels would be like for residents in the area."
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Why respondents were unsupportive

Respondents who do not support a SEP trial raised concerns relating to safety, noise impacts, parking availability and the use of ratepayer funds. Some cited lived experience of noise disturbance at night, antisocial behaviour and inadequate policing. Unsupportive respondents expressed low confidence that Gosford's current infrastructure could support a SEP without negatively impacting resident's wellbeing and community safety.

Of the 25 respondents who were unsupportive of the SEP trial, key themes are analysed below.

Theme	Theme summary	Example quotes
Safety, crime and security concerns	SEP would increase alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour	"We don't need drunken violence here which is what this could lead to." "Not enough police to patrol the area and keep us safe. The area is full of drug affected people! Day and night! Mixing up drug affected people with alcohol affected people without heavy police presence will be unsafe." "It will bring noise, drunk people, crimes, drink driving and danger to Gosford."
Noise impacts for residents	Objection from residents who already have lived experience of noise impacts	"Having both high density living and an Entertainment precinct in the same area will not work." "I live in Mann street Gosford and I live opposite Gosford hotel ever Friday and Saturday night they have a nightclub the music is blaring loud... as you can imagine the music is blaring loud which does make your apartment vibrate because of the music, we have to close our windows and balcony doors to try and keep the music at bay BUT it doesn't - we try sleeping with ear plugs, we wake up hearing

		people shouting, screaming and fighting and you want to make Gosford into entertainment precinct." "Council continues to approve development applications for high rise apartments within this area. Many of the new residents will be commuters and working shift. They will have little quality of life and have various health issues if their sleep patterns are interrupted by a 'Night time Entertainment Precinct'. Having both high density living and an Entertainment precinct in the same area will not work."
Parking and supporting infrastructure	Gosford lacks the parking and infrastructure needed for a SEP	"Insufficient parking, and no room to expand parking." "The idea of SEP trial itself is brainless. Not enough parking in Gosford no enough public services in Gosford at night, who will visit?" "Limited parking, narrow roads and limited infrastructure to support large events in Gosford"
Opposition to cost	SEP a waste of ratepayer money, lack of trust in Council's ability to plan and deliver.	"Council needs to STOP wasting ratepayers money." "CCC can't provide the basics - roads, maintain parks, trees, drainage etc - so don't waste our rates on this type of proposal." "Gosford is full of potholes and broken pavements, the money is wasted on vanity projects such as these."

Feedback from businesses and community organisations

As key stakeholders for the proposed SEP, the survey included specific questions for respondents who identified as a local business owner and/or local community group/organisation member. Responses from these groups were limited, with 7 respondents identifying as a local business owner (1% of total responses) and 28 respondents identifying as a member of a community group/organisation in the precinct (4% of total responses).

Support for the SEP trial between these groups was consistent with that of the wider survey results, with 88% (n=29) supportive, 9% (n=3) unsure/needing more information and 3% (n=1) unsupportive.

While support for a SEP is high amongst these respondents, intended participation is slightly mixed. 59% of respondents said they would be likely or very likely to take advantage of later opening hours (n=10) or host live entertainment (47%, n=8), while 24% (n=4) were neutral or unsure (Figure 8). The nature of the responding businesses and organisations helps explain this. Most had been operating in Gosford for over 10 years (56%, n=9), suggesting a stable and invested group, but the majority were not traditional night-time or hospitality venues. Most did

not serve alcohol (88%, n=14) or have outdoor trading (94%, n=15) and many identified as community services or “other” organisation types.

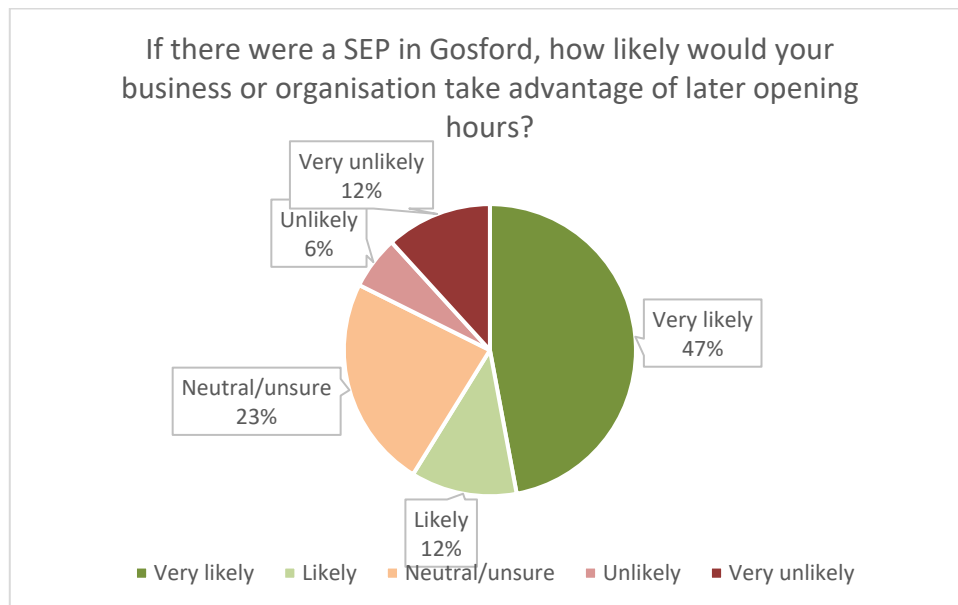


Figure 8: Businesses/organisations likelihood of extending operating hours, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 February to 23 March, 17 responses.

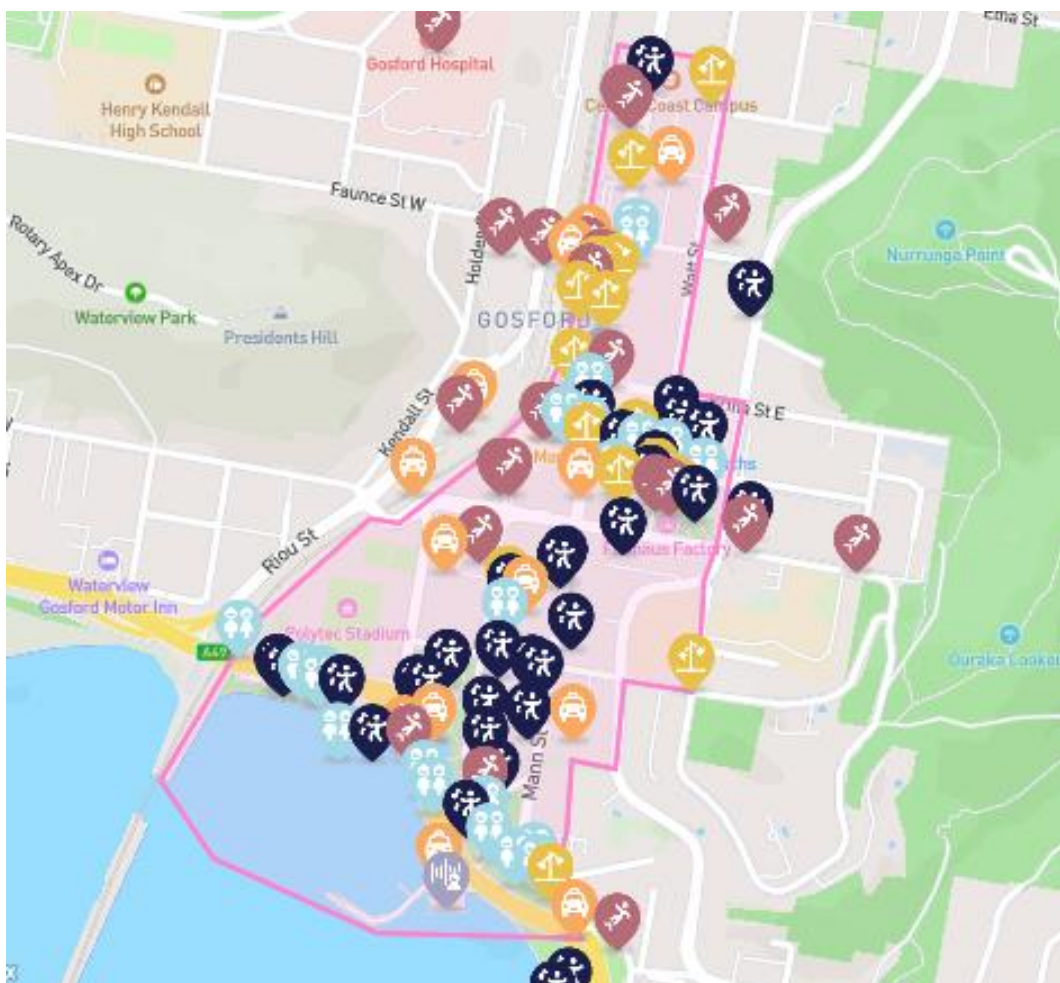
Respondents generally described the precinct as quiet in the late-night period (60%, n=6), with moderate activity during the day and early evening. Together, this suggests that while local businesses and community organisations are supportive of a SEP, further guidance and targeted support may be needed to help a wider range of organisations confidently engage with extended hours and entertainment opportunities.

Further quantitative data from the online survey can be found in Appendix D.

A note about sampling bias: The online surveys was 'opt-in', which means participants proactively sought to complete the surveys as opposed to a sample or respondents being selected to more accurately reflect and represent the population makeup of the Central Coast community.

4.2 Online Social Map

Consultation included an online interactive social map tool, available on the Your Voice Our Coast page. The purpose of the social map was to gather location-based feedback on what specific improvements would encourage people to spend more time in Gosford at night.



How the map works

Participants could choose from 6 categories (entertainment, noise, space and amenities, lighting, transport, safety) and drop a pin anywhere within the proposed precinct area. Participants were asked to describe the location they had selected and what improvements they wanted to see there.

What we heard

The social map received 117 contributions. In terms of who contributed to the social map, we heard the most from visitors to the precinct (53%, n=62) and people who live within the precinct (32%, n=37). Entertainment was the category which received the most contributions (37), followed by space and amenities (25) and safety (23). The feedback for each category is analysed below.

Entertainment

Entertainment-related pins highlighted strong demand for more night-time activity in Gosford, particularly through live music, food and dining experiences and activation of existing public spaces. Live music was the most requested improvement (n=11) and was raised across a wide range of locations including Kibble Park, Mann Street, cafes and restaurants, the Imperial Centre and waterfront areas.

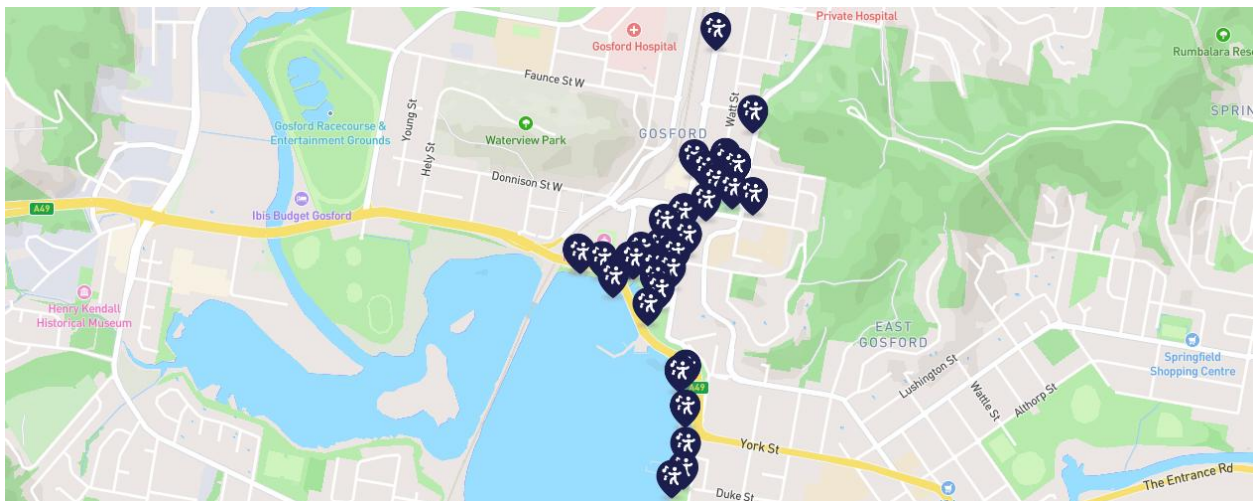
Participants described the waterfront area, Kibble Park and Leagues Club Park as underutilised sites. There were suggestions for activations, night markets and regular programming to make these spaces more inviting and safer after dark.

Example comments:

"It would be great to see some pop-up wine bars, a pop-up beer garden, night markets etc along this space. It feels like this space has an amazing view south over Brisbane Water but is very underutilised."

"Gosford waterfront should be a Darling Harbour style venue with alfresco bars and dining... currently it's a complete waste of natural resources."

"Arthouse cinema, theatre performances, music venues, restaurants, cafes music wine bars overlooking kibble park."



Space and amenities

Space and amenities received 25 pins. Feedback emphasised the need to improve quality and everyday usability of public spaces, particularly along the waterfront and Kibble park. Participants requested improved seating, shade, toilets, lighting and playspaces.

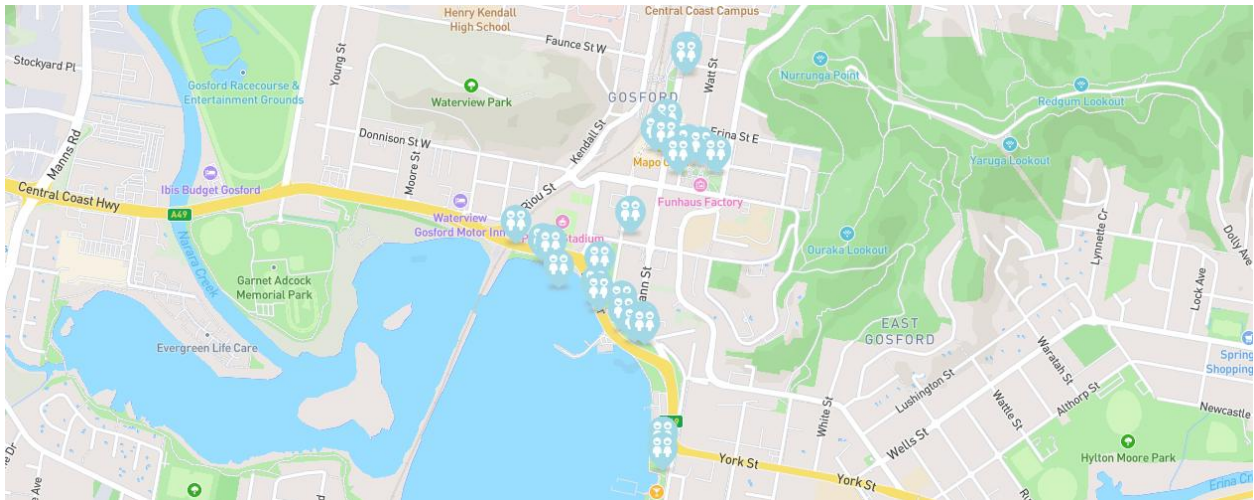
Participants highlighted poor connectivity and presentation as key issues, noting barriers to walking between the city centre and the waterfront and outdated streetscapes. Walkability, modernising the area, increasing tree canopy and public art and attracting higher-quality cafes and retail were seen as important to encourage people to spend more time in Gosford after dark.

Example comments:

"4 lanes of often heavy traffic disconnect the waterfront from the rest of Gosford, we need a better way to connect the two."

"Using tree plantings or public art to screen the pump station at Dane Drive would be a visual upgrade at this end of the precinct."

"Covered picnic tables, toilets, cafes, good transport"



Safety

Safety received 23 pins. Feedback highlighted significant concerns about personal safety at night, particularly in parks, laneways, car parks and pedestrian routes connecting the station, waterfront and town centre. Participants described these areas as poorly lit, isolated and affected by loitering, anti-social behaviour and limited natural surveillance.

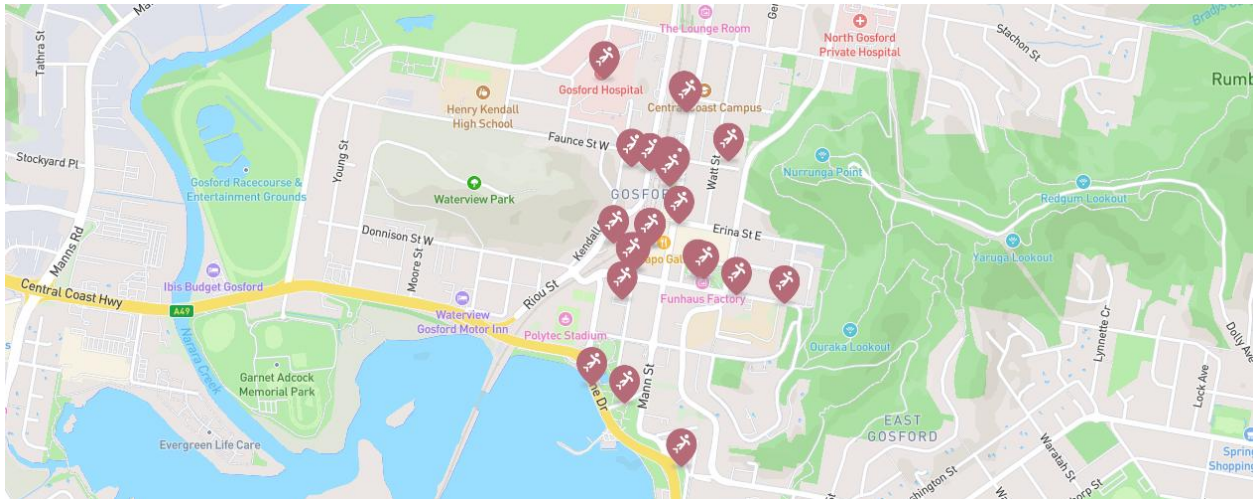
Participants called for improved lighting, CCTV, police or security patrols and clearer sightlines, alongside safer connections to public transport. Several comments noted that a stronger night-time economy could improve safety if supported by appropriate controls, services and non-alcohol-led activity, with an emphasis on ensuring women, families and shift workers feel safe moving through Gosford at night.

Example comments:

"Open the space so it's entirely visible from both the train station and Mann St. have police and social services patrol the area. Install cameras, have safe points/emergency buttons within the park."

"This park (Kibble Park) is underutilised and needs to be reimagined. With better lighting, more security, open sightlines from Donnison Street, events in the evening or a la carte dining along William St, people will feel more comfortable using the space in the evening."

"More safety in this area. Dangerous people have been hanging around here and I don't feel safe as a female"



Lighting

Lighting received 16 pins. Feedback indicates that lighting is a critical factor influencing safety and willingness to move through the precinct at night. Participants highlighted numerous dark or poorly lit areas including Kibble and Rotary Park, laneways and the main streets in the precinct (Manns St, Baker St, Erina St).

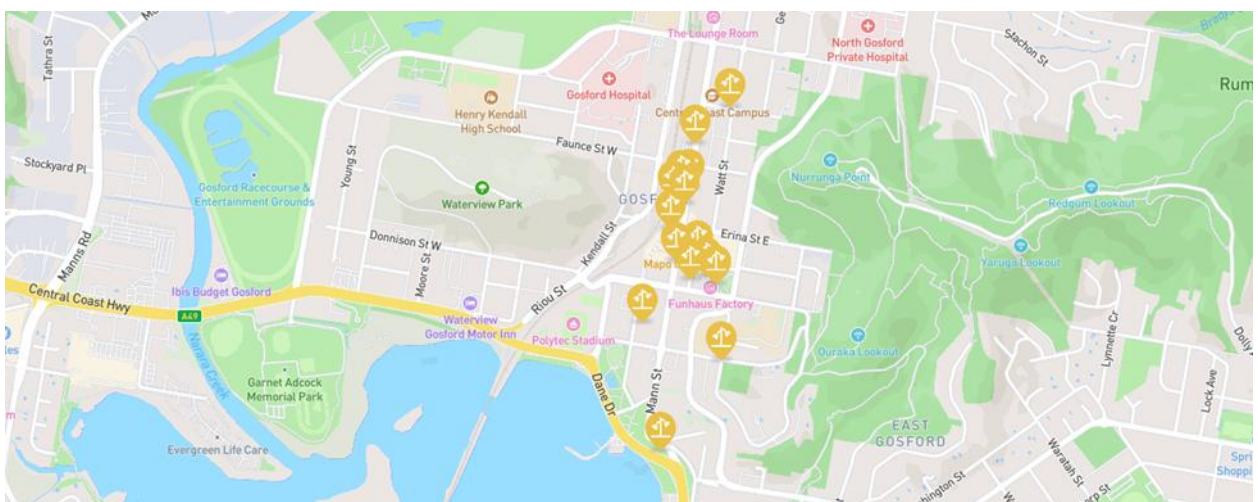
Participants called for more consistent and modern lighting (particularly cool LED lighting) to improve visibility, pedestrian safety and perceptions of security. Improved lighting was also linked to encouraging greater foot traffic, supporting night-time activity and increasing natural surveillance, with several comments noting that better lighting would help people feel safer and more confident using the precinct after dark.

Example comments:

"People use this lane for pickup and drop off to the train station. It also link to the baker st car park. Lighting in the lane assist people feel safe and see at night to walk to their cars."

"What is key is lighting in the area. There are many dark areas around the cbd and it helps me feel more safe."

"Cool LED lighting to improve visibility and pedestrian safety."



Transport

Transport received 14 pins. Feedback highlighted significant challenges accessing and leaving Gosford at night, particularly due to limited late-night public transport and parking availability. Participants noted that buses and trains are infrequent or unavailable after certain hours, making it difficult for people to get home safely and affordably, discouraging visitation to the precinct.

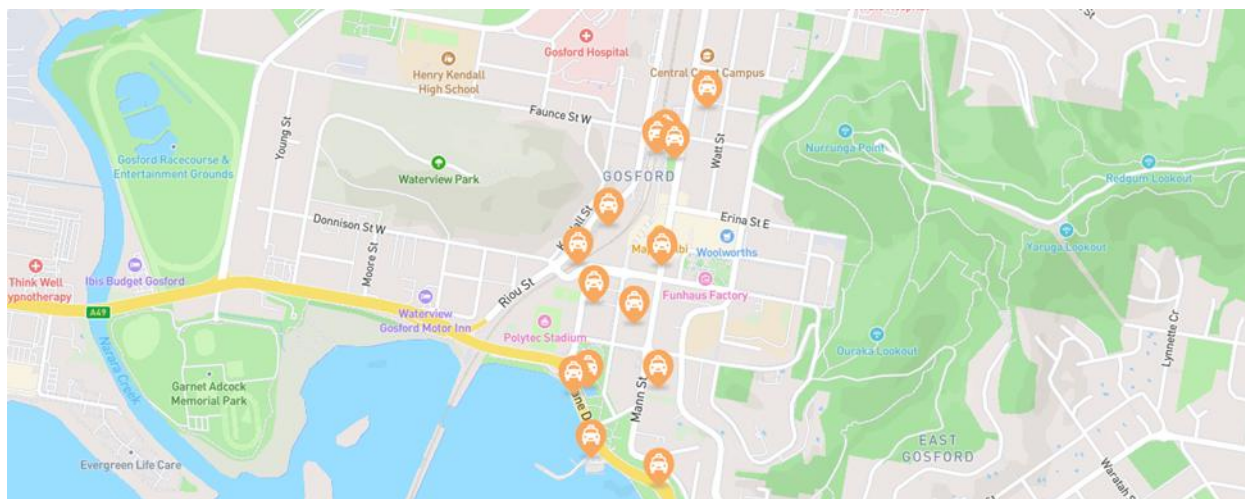
Participants called for a mix of short and long-term transport improvements, including extended free parking at night and increased bus and taxi services. There was support for ideas such as a free shuttle bus, ferry connections from Woy Woy/Koolewong to Gosford and future light rail, with several comments emphasising the importance of strong transport links to support a successful and safe night-time economy.

Example comments:

"Public transport needs to be improved in Gosford and beyond. There are no buses to the north end of the coast after 11.30pm on a weekday and 12.26am on a Saturday or 12.23am on a Sunday. This causes issues with people getting home safely and cheaply as Ubers and Taxis can be expensive. Driving is not always an option and parking in Gosford is not always available."

"Ensuring adequate, safe, off-street parking options in the heart of the SEP will be key to attracting visitors who are driving from the coast to come into Gosford in the evening."

"Free courtesy bus through one end of Gosford to the other - the courtesy bus in Shoal Bay is actually a coach. How we have no free or low-cost safe transport is beyond me."



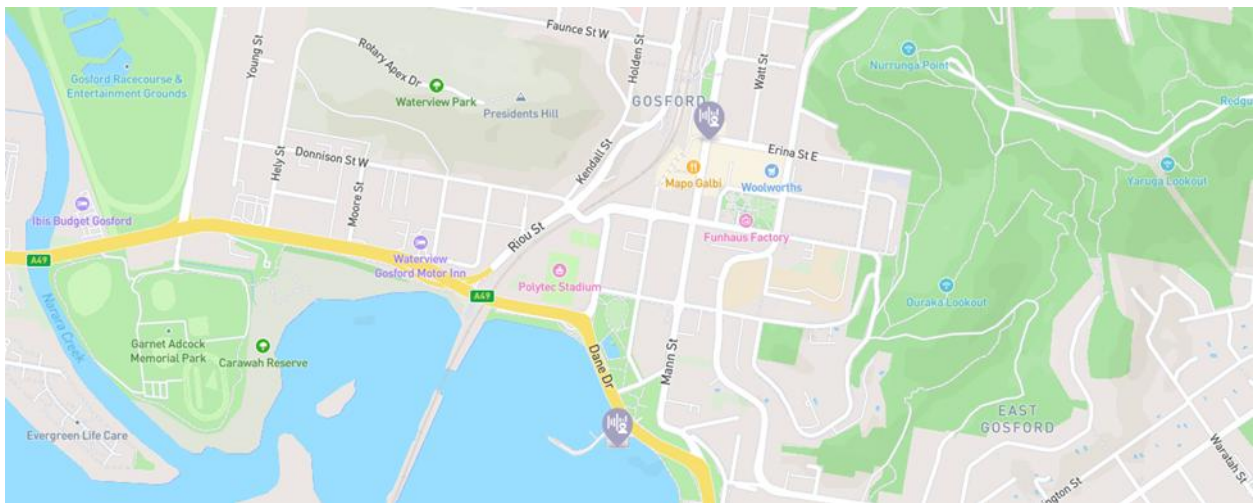
Noise

Noise received 2 pins. Feedback related to the need to balance night-time activity with consideration of residents. Participants emphasised that improved sound proofing and noise management should be a requirement for night-time venues to ensure residents can continue to enjoy their homes.

Example comments:

"Better sound proofing"

"Venues implement adequate sound proofing so existing residents are able to enjoy their own home. I am all for increased nightlife but it cannot be at the cost of people already residing in these areas."



4.3 Pop-up

A pop-up event was held for the SEP on Saturday 14 March 12-3pm at Rotary Park Gosford. The place-based pop-up also featured two other projects within the same precinct area that were also open for consultation at the time. A total of 79 community members attended the event.



Participants could chat with Council staff about the project and contribute to the feedback board (pictured above). The feedback board prompted participants to vote yes, no or

unsure/need more information to the question 'Do you support the proposed Gosford SEP?', then explain their answer on a sticky note.

Feedback from the pop-up revealed strong overall support for the proposed SEP. 30 participants votes 'Yes' to the SEP compared to 3 'No' votes. Key themes for support included a desire for cultural and economic activation in Gosford. Concerns were limited, focusing mainly on noise impacts and the need for more parking and public transport.

Key themes from the feedback board are analysed below. All verbatim comments from the pop-up activity can be found in Appendix C.

Theme	Summary of theme	Example comments from sticky notes
Vibrancy, nightlife and activation in Gosford (n=8)	Gosford needs more life, activity and reasons to visit at night.	<i>"Gosford is dead we need more life and activities"</i> <i>"It would create a more vibrant area to improve the night-time economy (saves going to Sydney)"</i> <i>"Bring life and energy to the locality, encourage local businesses and residents"</i>
Live music, entertainment and cultural offerings (n=6)	Desire for diverse, creative and culturally rich entertainment offerings.	<i>"Make more dance floors where is the live music? Where can we dance?"</i> <i>"Live music open space enjoy entertainment. Security."</i> <i>"More poetry nights!"</i> <i>"Add multicultural restaurants, Greek, Lebanese open till LATE."</i> <i>"Also family friendly"</i>
Economic benefits (n=3)	SEP viewed as an opportunity to strengthen the local economy.	<i>"Jobs: Lost of extra jobs and employment in area"</i> <i>"Great to bring more businesses into the area and attractive for residents moving into Gosford."</i> <i>"Bring life and energy to the locality, encourage local businesses and residents"</i>
Parking and transport needed (n=3)	More parking and public transport options needed.	<i>"Yes great idea but you need to provide parking or transport"</i> <i>"If we have a bigger nightlife could be great to look at parking options. Love the idea!"</i> <i>"Love the idea please keep in mind travel/parking logistics"</i>
Noise impacts (n=2)	Concerns for noise impacts to local residents.	<i>"Noise to local residents at Point Frederick, can hear everything from Drifters."</i> <i>"Just not the noise. Too much for residents. Restaurants are OK."</i>

5 Council's response

Due to the large volume and variety of content contained within community feedback, not every issue or theme was able to be included and responded to in the following table, however all feedback has been read and will be considered by the team.

Concerns/issues raised and Council's response:

Theme	Summary of theme	Council's response
Safety, crime and security concerns	Support was often conditional on better transport, parking, security and lighting	In the development of the Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) and the Purple Flag investigations these concerns will be raised and addressed with the Gosford SEP Working Group, specifically NSW Police, Transport for NSW and the Brisbane Water Liquor Accord.
	Concern for anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug related problems	As responded above these concerns will be raised and addressed with the Working Group, specifically NSW Police, Transport for NSW, Liquor and Gaming and the Brisbane Water Liquor Accord.
Public transport, parking and access to Gosford needed	Gosford lacks the parking and public transport needed for a SEP	To ensure the SEP is a success and throughout the Purple Flag investigations, public transport and carparking constraints will be raised and addressed with the Working Group, Transport for NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy.
Noise impacts for residents	Objection from residents who already have lived	An acoustic consultant will be engaged to undertake investigations and provide a report to Council to understand constraints and potential mitigation measures that will inform the Precinct Management Plan. This plan will be informed from feedback received through the Working Group.

	experience of noise impacts	
Need clarity on what the SEP involves	Unclear definition, scope and purpose	Council will address this through ongoing communications. Council staff will review and update information (including the project scope and expected outcomes) on Your Voice Our Coast.
	Uncertainty about funding and which stakeholders are involved	Council will apply for funding through the NSW Government. Council endorsed on the 27 January 2026 the development of a working group to support the development and implementation of a SEP. The working group includes: • Darkinjung LALC representative • Liquor and Gaming NSW representative • Brisbane Waters LAC representative • Central Coast LHD representative • Gosford Strip representative • Disability group representative • Stand with Audrey representative • Business NSW representative • Gosford Erina Business Chamber representative • Gosford Liquor Accord Chair • Music Industry representative • Central Coast Council officer representatives

6 Next steps

Council will progress an application to the NSW Government's Kickstart Grant program. If successful, the funding will support the next phase of work required to further investigate and implement the proposed Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct, including technical studies and detailed planning.

A Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct Working Group has been formally established to provide ongoing advice and guidance throughout the development and implementation of the precinct. The working group will include a mix of Council officers and key external stakeholders and will play an important role in ensuring a collaborative approach that reflects local knowledge and priorities.

The community will continue to be kept informed as the project progresses. Updates, key milestones and future engagement opportunities will be shared through Council's online engagement platform, Your Voice Our Coast.

7 Appendices

Appendix A – Survey questions

Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct Survey

01. First Name

02. Last Name

03. Email address **Required**

04. Which statement best describes you? **Required**

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ I live within the precinct
☐ I live outside the precinct but on the Central Coast
☐ I live outside of the Central Coast but visit the precinct
☐ I work in the precinct
☐ I own a business in the precinct
☐ I am an entertainer, creative or cultural producer who uses the precinct
☐ I am a member of a community group/organisation in the precinct

05. Do you support a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) trial in Gosford? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure/need more information

06. Please provide reason/s for your answer

--

07. Which potential benefits of a SEP trial do you consider important?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply	
☐  Greater mix of evening services and entertainment	
☐  More things to do at night	
☐  More live music and performances	
☐  Support local cultural and creative businesses	
☐  Safer and easier to get around at night	
☐  Clear rules on opening hours and noise	
☐  Help local businesses grow and create more jobs	
☐  Encourage more people to visit and walk around	
☐  Boost tourism and the local economy	
☐  Make our area better known and recognised	
☐  Inclusive community activities	
☐  Strengthen community spirit and identity	
☐  I don't see any benefits	
☐  Other (please specify)	
<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr></table>	

08. How activated and vibrant would you describe the current night-time activity in Gosford on a scale of 1 – 5 (where 1 is least and 5 is most)?

___ / 5

09. How would you rate the following features in relation to Gosford?

Quality of public space

☐ Very unsatisfied
☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied
Number and type of night-time activities
☐ Very unsatisfied
☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied
Feeling safe
☐ Very unsatisfied
☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied
Cost of activities or value for money
☐ Very unsatisfied
☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied
Public transport frequency
☐ Very unsatisfied
☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied
Availability of family entertainment
☐ Very unsatisfied

☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied

Visiting the precinct



10. How often do you usually visit the precinct area at night (i.e. after 6pm)?

If you live in the precinct, this question refers to time spent outside your home

Select one answer only
☐ Frequently: more than twice per week
☐ Less frequently: once per week
☐ Occasionally: once per month
☐ Rarely: once a year or less
☐ Never: I only visit during the day

11. What time in the evening do you usually visit the area?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ 3pm - 5pm

☐ 6pm – 8pm
☐ 8pm – 10pm
☐ 10pm – 12am
☐ 12am – 2am
☐ 2am – 4am
☐ 4am – 6am

12. Approximately how long do you stay in this area per visit?

Select one answer only
☐ 30 minutes
☐ 1-2 hours
☐ 4 hours or more
☐ It varies

13. What are your main reasons for spending time in the area?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐  Seeing live music
☐  Seeing other live entertainment that is not music (e.g. theatre show, comedy)
☐  Eating at a restaurant, café, or other venue
☐  Drinking at a bar, hotel, or other venue
☐  Going for a dance
☐  Browsing shops
☐  Purchasing goods from a shop
☐  Engaging a service (e.g. hairdresser, banking, mail)
☐  Using community facilities or services
☐  Using public open space
☐  Going to work
☐  Passing through the area on the way to another location
☐  Physical recreation (e.g. gym, dance class)

☐ Other
--

14. How do you travel to the area?

Select all that apply
☐ Walk
☐ Bike/scooter
☐ Bus
☐ Train
☐ Car
☐ Uber/taxi
☐ Other

15. What would encourage you to visit the area more at night?

16. Please leave any further comments on the proposed SEP trial here

Businesses and organisations

Skip this section if

- you have not selected either "I own a business in the precinct", or "I am a member of a community group/organisation in the precinct" in question Which statement best describes you?

17. What is the name of your business or organisation?

--

18. What is the address of your business or organisation?

--

19. If there were a SEP in Gosford, how likely would your business or organisation take advantage of later opening hours?

Select one answer only
☐ Very likely
☐ Likely
☐ Neutral/unsure
☐ Unlikely
☐ Very unlikely

20. If there were a SEP in Gosford, how likely would your business or organisation consider hosting live entertainment?

Select one answer only
☐ Very likely
☐ Likely
☐ Neutral/unsure
☐ Unlikely
☐ Very unlikely

21. How long have you operated your business or organisation in Gosford?

Select one answer only
☐ Less than 12 months
☐ 1 to 3 years
☐ 4 to 10 years
☐ 10 years or more

22. What type of business or organisation do you operate?

If many of the below apply, please select the most relevant type

Select one answer only
☐ Small bar (maximum 120 patrons or less)
☐ Bar (over 120 patron capacity)
☐ Brewery or distillery
☐ Pub/hotel
☐ Club (e.g. RSL)
☐ Nightclub
☐ Entertainment venue (e.g. theatre, concert hall)
☐ Cultural venue (e.g. library, town hall)
☐ Community service
☐ Place of religious worship
☐ Restaurant
☐ Fast/takeaway food
☐ Café
☐ Hotel or other accommodation
☐ Retail – general
☐ Retail – convenience and tobacconist
☐ Retail – supermarket and food
☐ Physical recreation (e.g. gymnasium)
☐ Utility and personal services (e.g. laundromat, hair salon)
☐ Other

23. Does your business or organisation serve alcohol?

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No

24. Does your business or organisation have outdoor trading? (e.g. footpath dining, beer garden)

Select one answer only

☐ Yes
☐ No

25. What are your busiest days of trade/operation?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Monday
☐ Tuesday
☐ Wednesday
☐ Thursday
☐ Friday
☐ Saturday
☐ Sunday

26. What are your busiest times of trade/operation?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Early morning 5am to 10am
☐ Day time 10am – 3pm
☐ Evenings 3pm – 6pm
☐ Night 6pm – 11pm
☐ Late-night 11pm – 5am

27. How busy and lively is the proposed SEP area at the below times of day/night?

Early morning 5am to 10am
☐ Very quiet
☐ Quiet
☐ Moderately busy
☐ Busy
☐ Very busy
Day time 10am to 3pm
☐ Very quiet

☐ Quiet
☐ Moderately busy
☐ Busy
☐ Very busy
Evenings 3pm to 6pm
☐ Very quiet
☐ Quiet
☐ Moderately busy
☐ Busy
☐ Very busy
Night 6pm to 11pm
☐ Very quiet
☐ Quiet
☐ Moderately busy
☐ Busy
☐ Very busy
Late-night 11pm to 5am
☐ Very quiet
☐ Quiet
☐ Moderately busy
☐ Busy
☐ Very busy

28. Does your business or organisation want to open later or for more nights during the week?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Yes - later
☐ Yes - more nights during the week
☐ No
☐ Unsure/need more information

29. What would assist your business or organisation to extend its operating hours?

Skip this question if

- you have not selected either "Yes - later", or "Yes - more nights during the week" in question Does your business or organisation want to open later or for more nights during the week?

30. Does your business or organisation currently host live music or live entertainment performances?

Select one answer only

☐ Yes

☐ No

31. How often does your business or organisation currently host live music or live entertainment performances?

Skip this question if

- you have not selected either "Yes" in question Does your business or organisation currently host live music or live entertainment performances?

Select one answer only

☐ More than 2 times per week

☐ Less than 2 times per week

☐ 1-3 times per month

☐ Less than once per month

32. Does your business want to hold more live music or entertainment performances?

Skip this question if

- you have not selected either "Yes", or "No" in question Does your business or organisation currently host live music or live entertainment performances?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Yes - more often
☐ Yes - later hours
☐ Yes - with different sound conditions
☐ No
☐ Unsure/need more information

33. What would assist your business or organisation to hold more live music or entertainment performances?

Skip this question if

- you have not selected either "Yes - more often", "Yes - later hours", or "Yes - with different sound conditions" in question Does your business want to hold more live music or entertainment performances?

--

34. Do you have any further comments about the night-time activities or the current night-time operations of your business?

--

About you

These questions are optional but will help us understand who responded to the survey within our community.

35. Suburb

36. What is your age?

Select one answer only
☐ 5-11
☐ 12-17
☐ 18-24
☐ 25-29
☐ 30-39
☐ 40-49
☐ 50-59
☐ 60-69
☐ 70-79
☐ 80+

37. What is your gender?

Select one answer only
☐ Woman
☐ Man
☐ Non-binary
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Other

38. Do you identify as any of the following?

Select all that apply

Select one answer only
☐ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
☐ Culturally and/or linguistically diverse
☐ Person with disability
☐ LGBTQIA+
☐ None of the above
☐ Prefer not to say

Appendix B – Media Release

Media Release

Special Entertainment Precinct

Central Coast Council Media Release

Community invited to have their say on Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct

Central Coast Council is inviting the community to have their say on a proposed Special Entertainment Precinct in Gosford, aimed at supporting a vibrant and growing night-time economy.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna said Gosford was the natural choice for the Central Coast's first Special Entertainment Precinct, with the city centre experiencing strong residential growth and increased demand for after-dark activities.

"Gosford is changing, with more people choosing to live in the city centre. Locals and businesses are telling us that they want a more vibrant, diverse and welcoming nightlife," Mayor McKinna said

"A Special Entertainment Precinct gives us the opportunity to support local venues, attract new businesses and create a safer, more enjoyable night-time experience for everyone.

"This type of precinct also helps support local businesses and cultural activity. While it is a great initiative, it is important that we are still making sure growth is well planned and feels right for our community. We want the community to help guide what that looks like, because this precinct will ultimately belong to them."

Special Entertainment Precincts have been introduced across NSW since 2023. They are defined areas where councils set sound conditions and trading hours to support live music, performance and later-night businesses. They also improve transparency for residents and buyers, helping people identify if a property is located within the boundary.

The proposed Special Entertainment Precinct in Gosford aims to:

- support more businesses to operate during evening hours
- enhance safety in Gosford at night
- expand and diversify entertainment options
- increase night-time visitation and activity.
-

Director Community Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said early feedback from the community will help Council understand what the community wants from a potential Special Entertainment Precinct in Gosford.

“A Special Entertainment Precinct is about supporting a local 24-hour economy by encouraging vibrant, diverse and safe night-time activity that adds social and economic value to town centres,” Ms Smith said.

“The proposed precinct boundary stretches from the new University of Newcastle campus in the north, past Kibble Park, down to Drifters Wharf and across to polytec Stadium.”

The community is invited to share feedback by completing a short online survey and attending a pop-up session to speak directly with the project team.

Pop-up event in Gosford

Saturday 14 March

Gosford Rotary Park, Vaughan Avenue

12-3pm

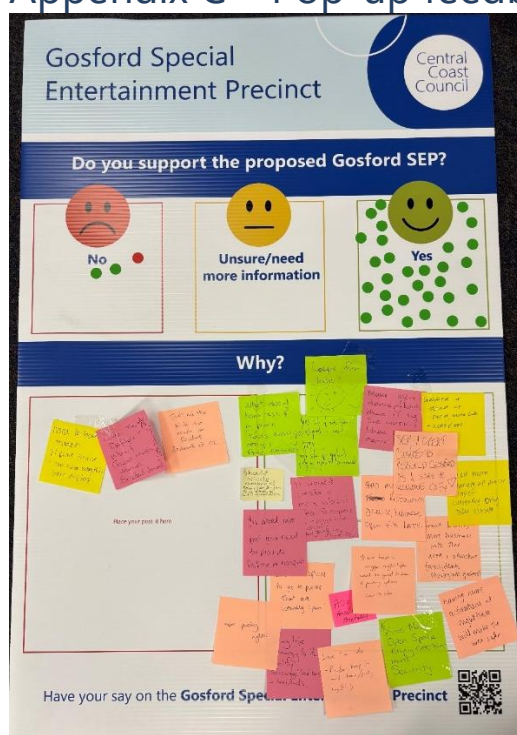
To view the proposed boundary and complete the survey, search ‘**SEP**’ at **yourvoiceourcoast.com**. Community feedback closes 20 March 2026.

ENDS

View all Central Coast Council’s recent media releases at www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

To keep up to date with Council’s breaking news like/follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages

Appendix C – Pop-up feedback



Question	Result/comments on sticky notes
Do you support the proposed SEP?	Yes: 30 votes No: 3 votes
Why yes?	• Loud, fun, late • What about homeless? In park. Pods and overnight stays, free showers. • Jobs: Lost of extra jobs and employment in area. Safety: Much safer for people who party in regulated environment • Make more dance floors where is the live music? Where can we dance? • SEP a great chance to rebuild Gosford as a safe and inclusive city. • Gosford is dead we need more life and activities • Need more variety of places open. Currently only cafes open. • Should include extension of Erina, William, Donnison St to Albany St as it is a commercial zone • It would create a more vibrant area to improve the night-time economy (saves going to Sydney) • Yes great idea but you need to provide parking or transport • Add multicultural restaurants, Greek, Lebanese open till LATE.

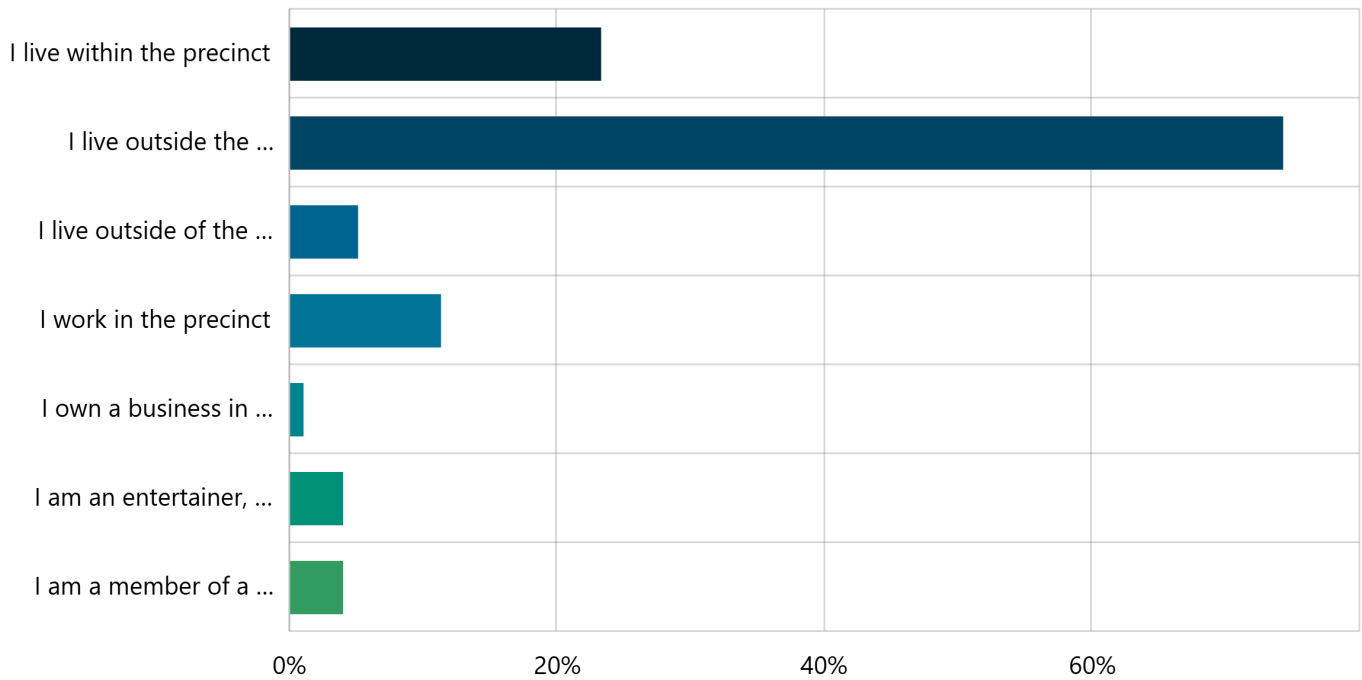
	• <i>Great to bring more businesses into the area and attractive for residents moving into Gosford.</i> • <i>If we have a bigger nightlife could be great to look at parking options. Love the idea!</i> • <i>Have more options to go to places that are actually open</i> • <i>Also family friendly</i> • <i>More poetry nights!</i> • <i>Bring life and energy to the locality, encourage local businesses and residents</i> • <i>Love the idea please keep in mind travel/parking logistics</i> • <i>Live music open space enjoy entertainment. Security.</i> • <i>Having more attractions at night-time will make the area safer</i>
Why no?	• <i>Noise to local residents at Point Frederick and can hear everything from drifters. Counter post it note attached: Love Drifters Wharf great music venue, excellent sound. I live in Point Frederick!</i> • <i>Just not the noise. Too much for residents. Restaurants are OK.</i>

Appendix D – Quantitative data from online survey

Contribution Summary

4. Which statement best describes you? Required

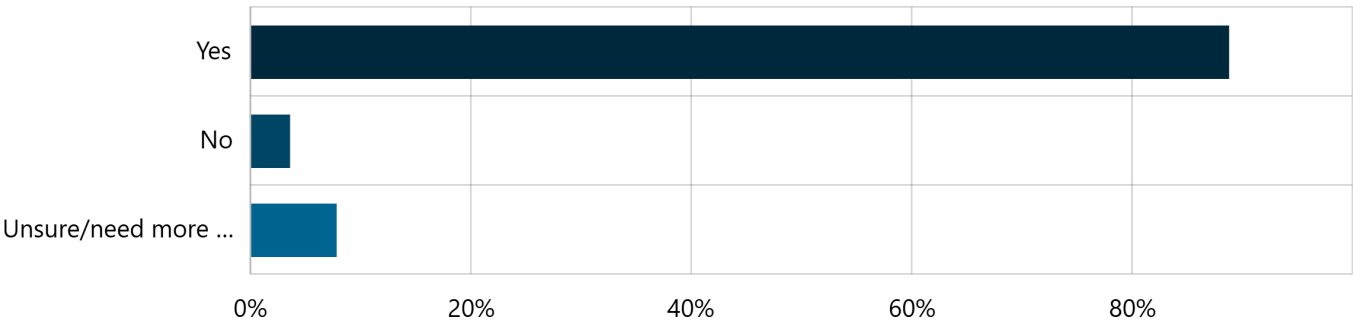
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 710 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
I live within the precinct	23.24%	165
I live outside the precinct but on the Central Coast	74.23%	527
I live outside of the Central Coast but visit the precinct	5.07%	36
I work in the precinct	11.27%	80
I own a business in the precinct	0.99%	7
I am an entertainer, creative or cultural producer who uses the precinct	3.94%	28
I am a member of a community group/organisation in the precinct	3.94%	28

5. Do you support a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) trial in Gosford? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 710 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	88.73%	630
No	3.52%	25
Unsure/need more information	7.75%	55
Total	100.00%	710

6. Please provide reason/s for your answer

Long Text | Skipped: 123 | Answered: 587 (82.7%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

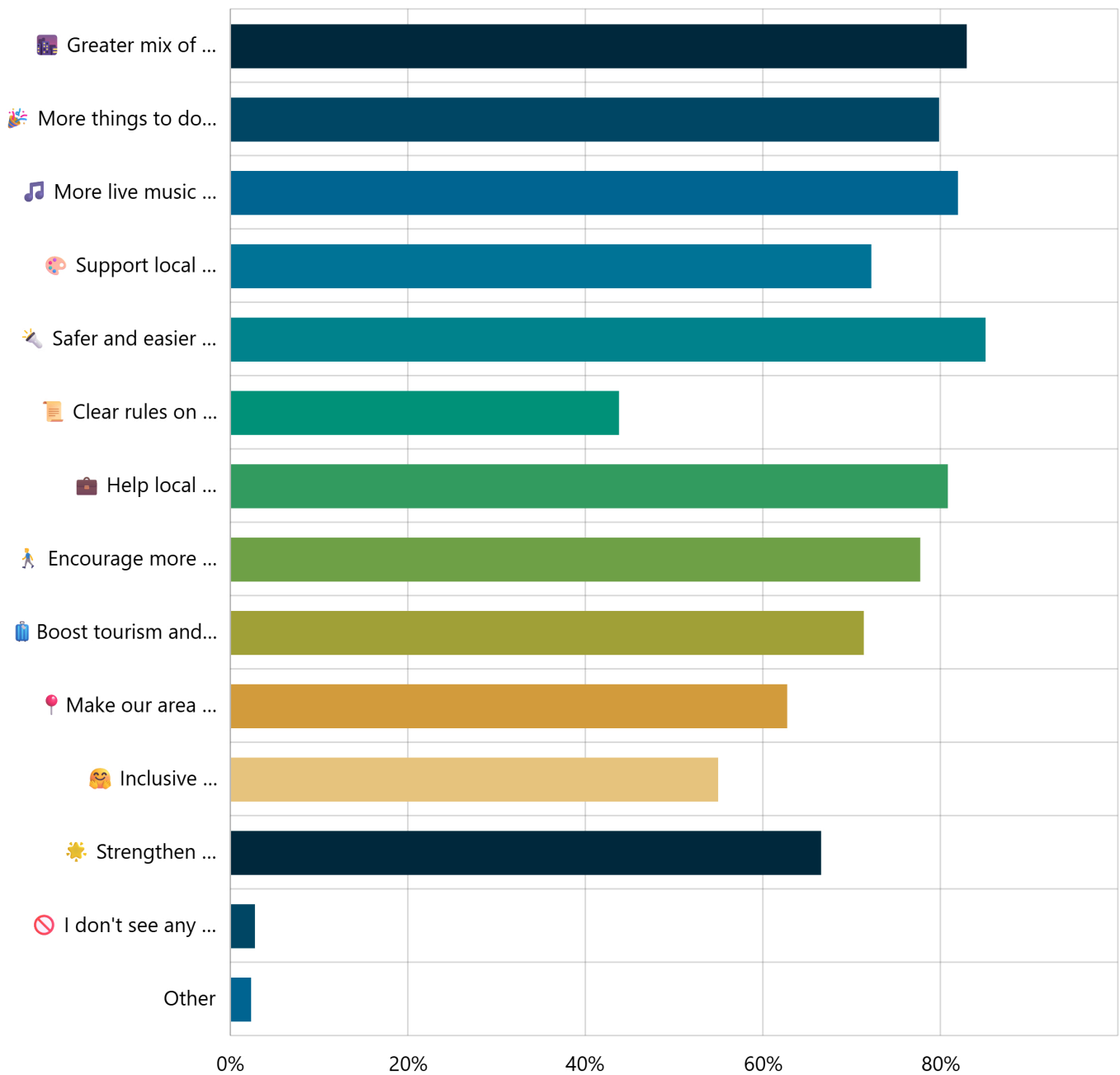
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

7. Which potential benefits of a SEP trial do you consider important?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 707 (99.6%)

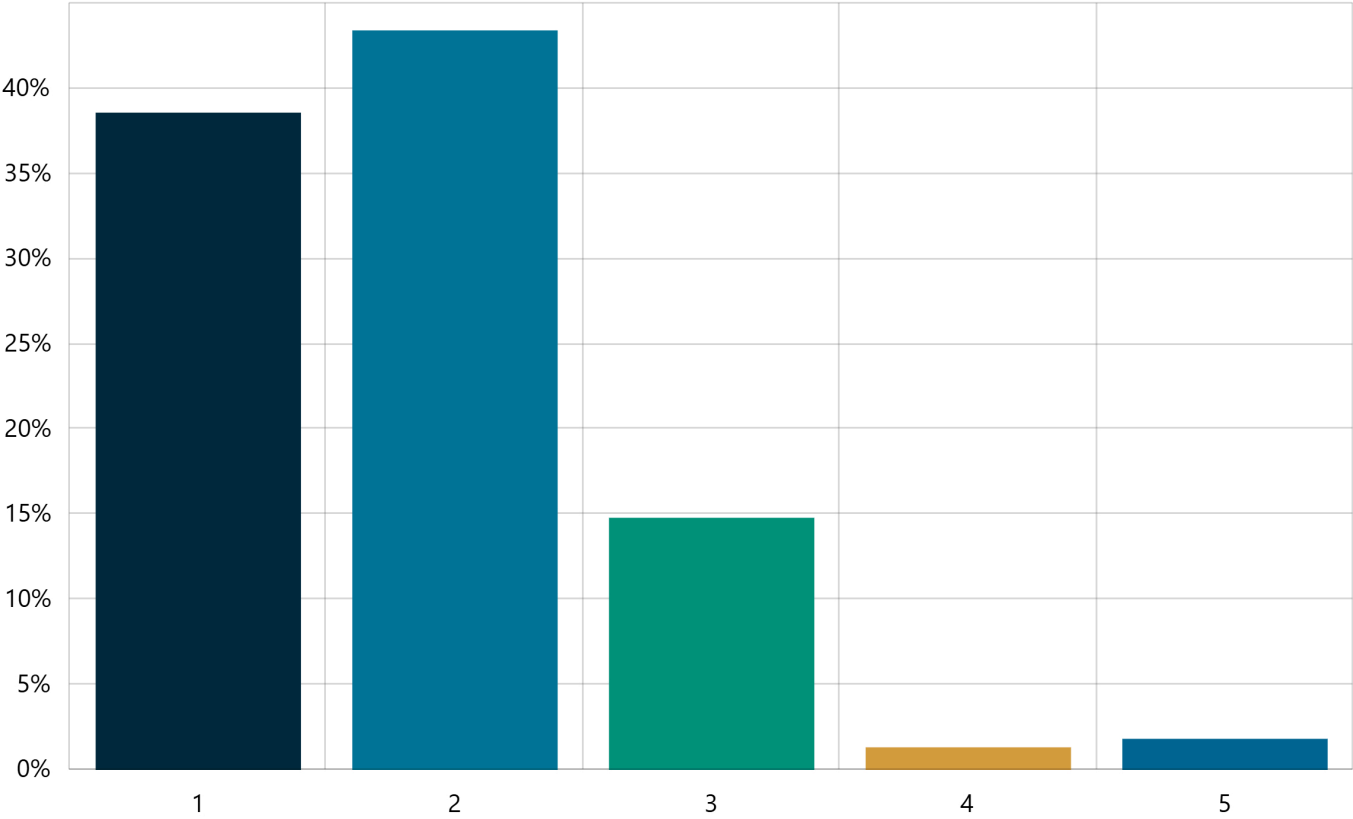


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Greater mix of evening services and entertainment	82.89%	586
More things to do at night	79.77%	564
More live music and performances	81.90%	579
Support local cultural and creative businesses	72.14%	510
Safer and easier to get around at night	85.01%	601

☐☐ Clear rules on opening hours and noise	43.71%	309
☐☐ Help local businesses grow and create more jobs	80.76%	571
☐☐☐ Encourage more people to visit and walk around	77.65%	549
☐☐ Boost tourism and the local economy	71.29%	504
☐☐ Make our area better known and recognised	62.66%	443
☐☐ Inclusive community activities	54.88%	388
☐☐ Strengthen community spirit and identity	66.48%	470
☐☐ I don't see any benefits	2.69%	19
Other	2.26%	16

8. How activated and vibrant would you describe the current night-time activity in Gosford on a scale of 1 – 5 (where 1 is least and 5 is most)?

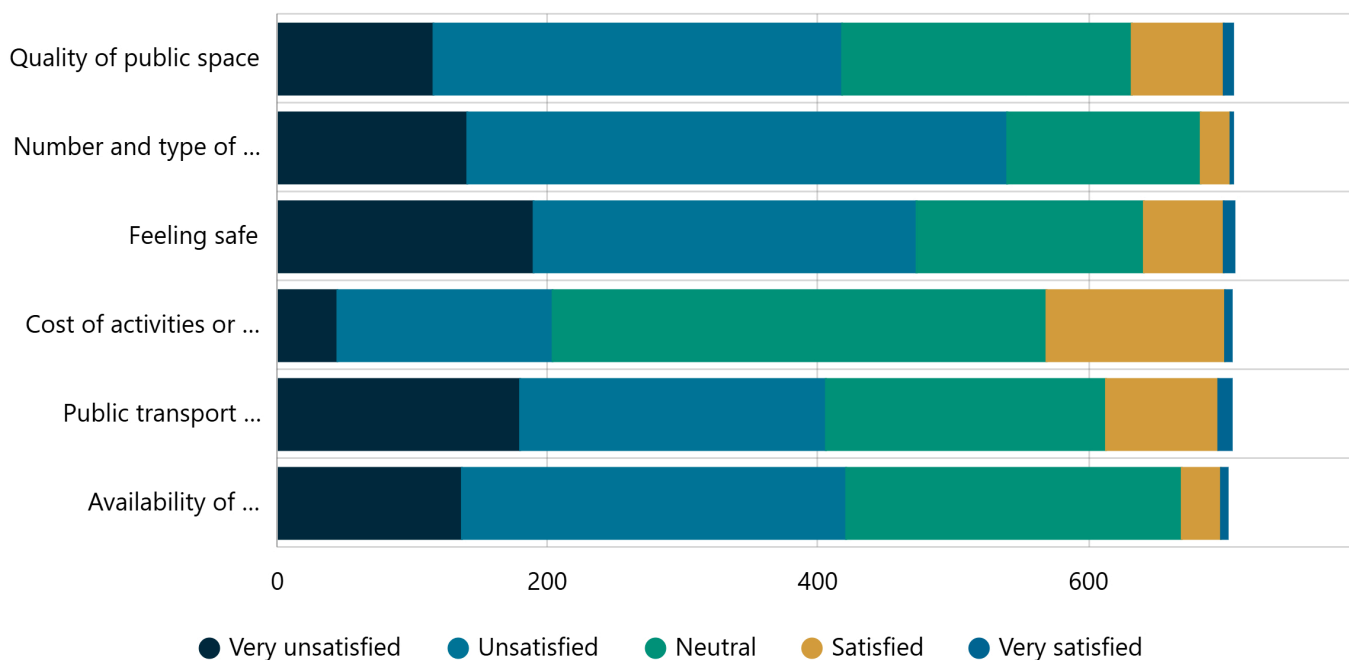
Rating | Skipped: 109 | Answered: 601 (84.6%)



1	2	3	4	5	Count	Weighted average
38.60% 232	43.43% 261	14.81% 89	1.33% 8	1.83% 11	601	1.84

9. How would you rate the following features in relation to Gosford?

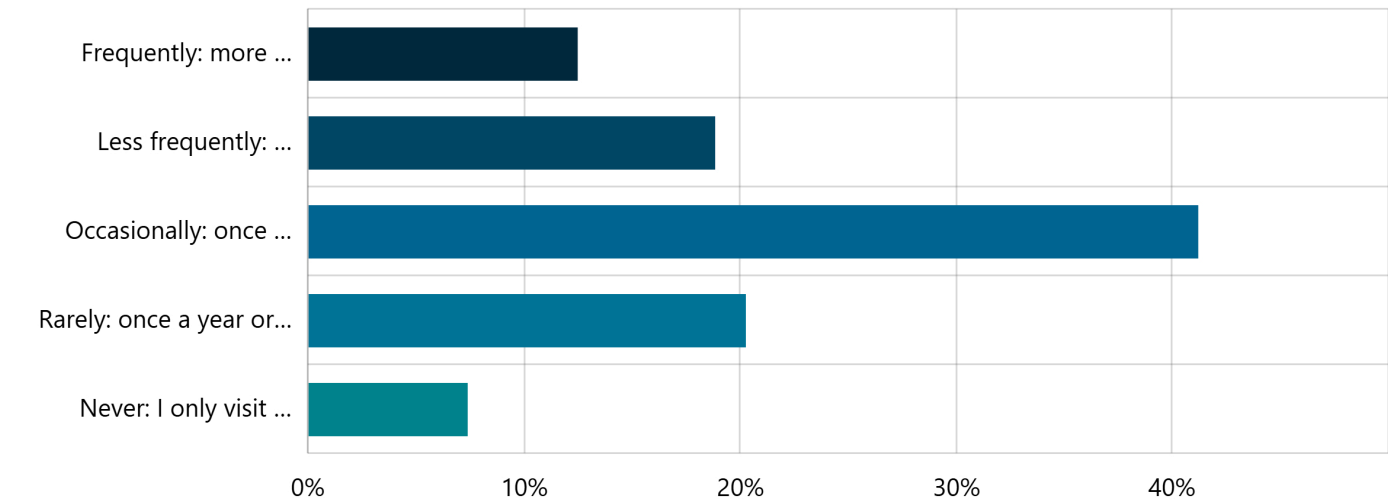
Matrix | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 708 (99.7%)



	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Count	Score
Quality of public space	16.29% 115	42.78% 302	30.31% 214	9.63% 68	0.99% 7	706	2.36
Number and type of night-time activities	19.83% 140	56.52% 399	20.25% 143	3.12% 22	0.28% 2	706	2.08
Feeling safe	26.73% 189	40.03% 283	23.76% 168	8.35% 59	1.13% 8	707	2.17
Cost of activities or value for money	6.24% 44	22.55% 159	51.77% 365	18.72% 132	0.71% 5	705	2.85
Public transport frequency	25.39% 179	32.06% 226	29.36% 207	11.77% 83	1.42% 10	705	2.32
Availability of family entertainment	19.37% 136	40.46% 284	35.33% 248	4.13% 29	0.71% 5	702	2.26

10. How often do you usually visit the precinct area at night (i.e. after 6pm)?

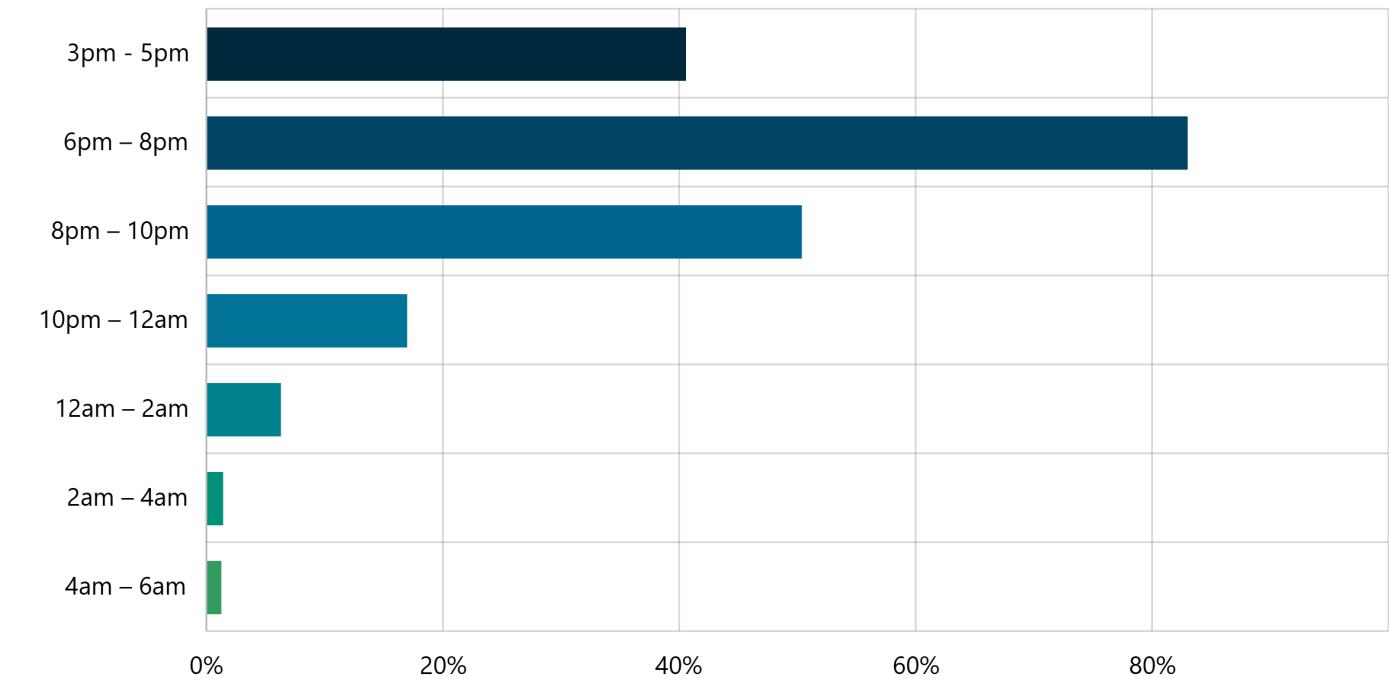
Multi Choice | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 707 (99.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Frequently: more than twice per week	12.45%	88
Less frequently: once per week	18.81%	133
Occasionally: once per month	41.16%	291
Rarely: once a year or less	20.23%	143
Never: I only visit during the day	7.36%	52
Total	100.00%	707

11. What time in the evening do you usually visit the area?

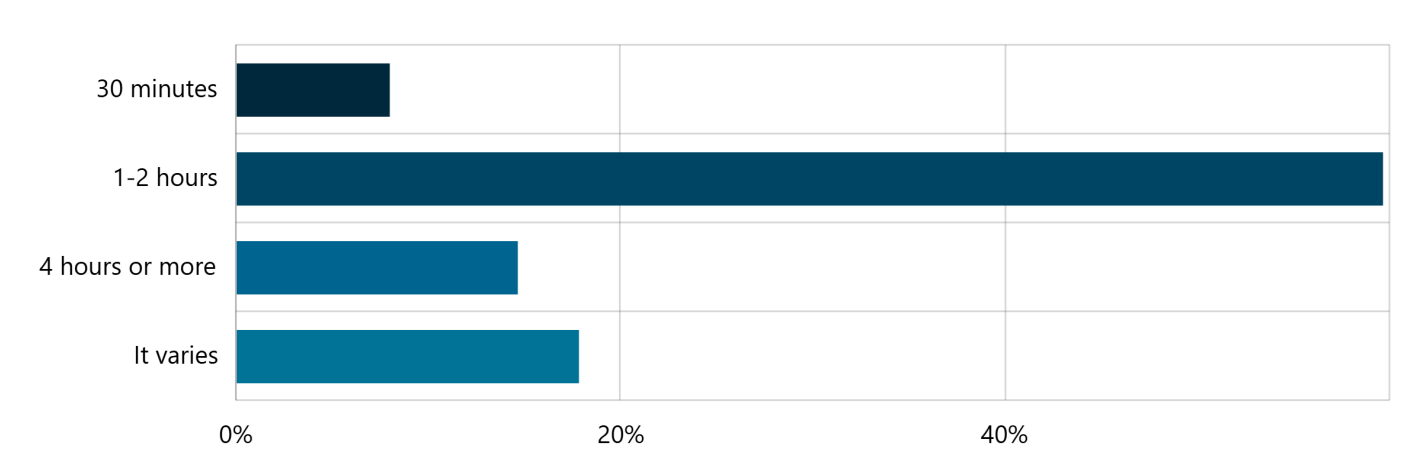
Multi Choice | Skipped: 36 | Answered: 674 (94.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
3pm - 5pm	40.50%	273
6pm - 8pm	82.94%	559
8pm - 10pm	50.30%	339
10pm - 12am	16.91%	114
12am - 2am	6.23%	42
2am - 4am	1.34%	9
4am - 6am	1.19%	8

12. Approximately how long do you stay in this area per visit?

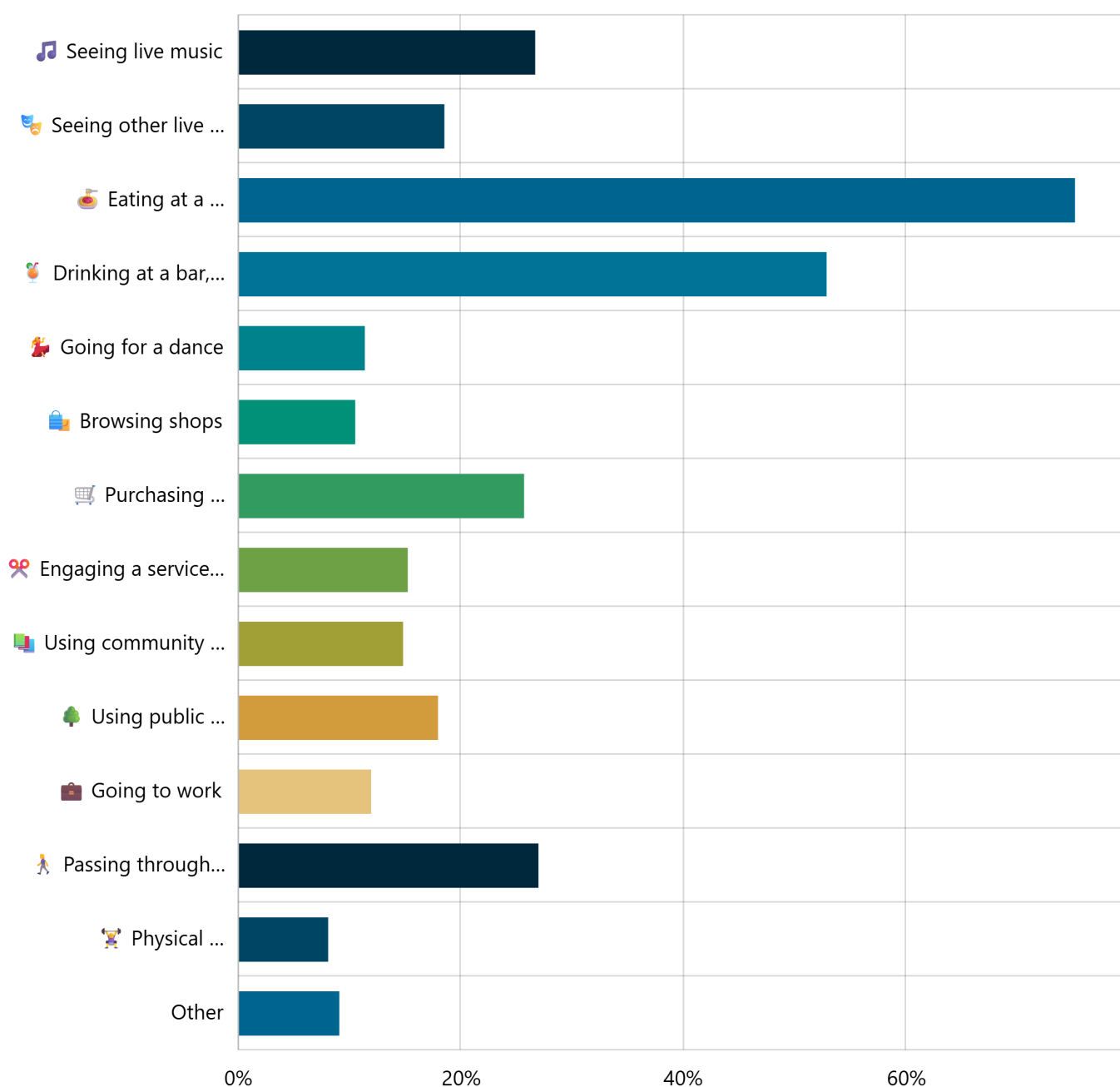
Multi Choice | Skipped: 19 | Answered: 691 (97.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
30 minutes	7.96%	55
1-2 hours	59.62%	412
4 hours or more	14.62%	101
It varies	17.80%	123
Total	100.00%	691

13. What are your main reasons for spending time in the area?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 11 | Answered: 699 (98.5%)

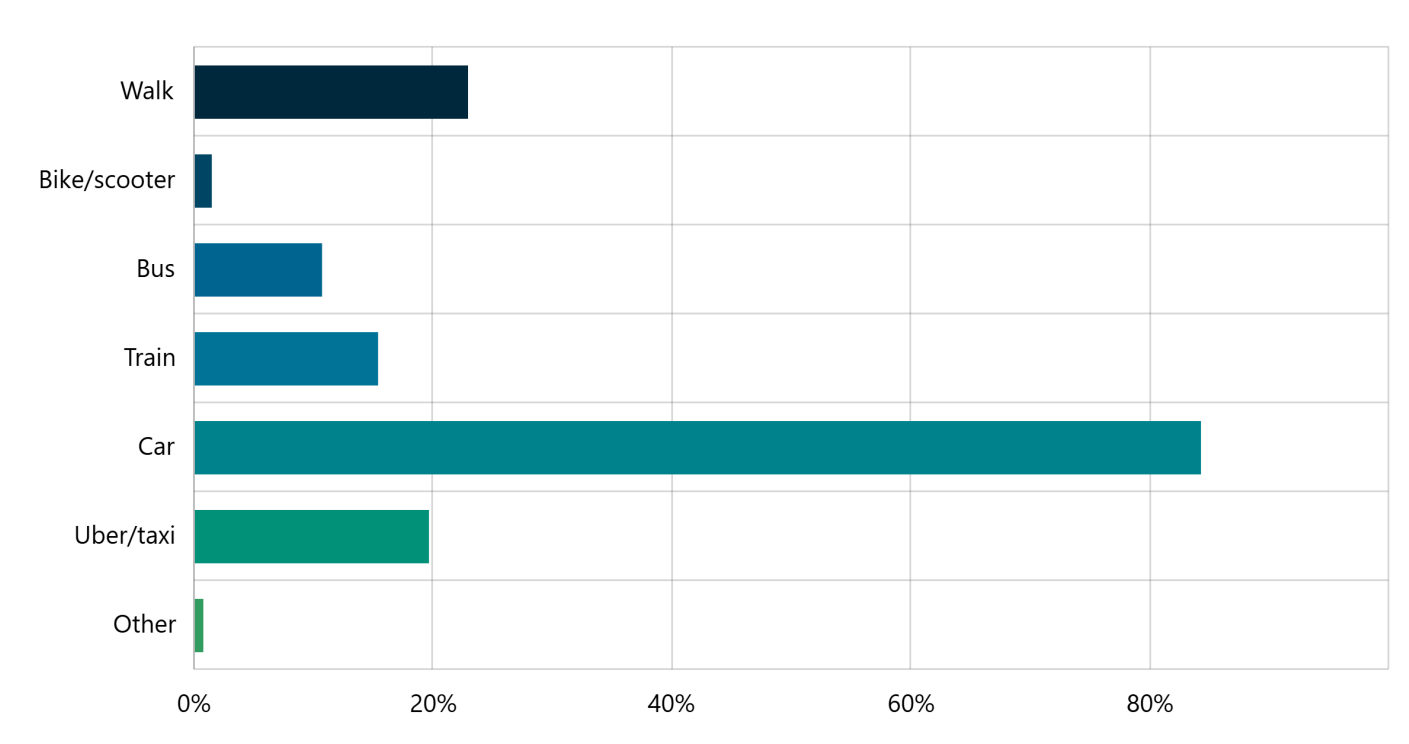


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Seeing live music	26.61%	186
Seeing other live entertainment that is not music (e.g. theatre show, comedy)	18.45%	129
Eating at a restaurant, café, or other venue	75.11%	525
Drinking at a bar, hotel, or other venue	52.79%	369
Going for a dance	11.30%	79

□□□ Browsing shops	10.44%	73
□□ Purchasing goods from a shop	25.61%	179
□□ Engaging a service (e.g. hairdresser, banking, mail)	15.16%	106
□□ Using community facilities or services	14.74%	103
□□ Using public open space	17.88%	125
□□ Going to work	11.87%	83
□□□□ Passing through the area on the way to another location	26.90%	188
□□□□ Physical recreation (e.g. gym, dance class)	8.01%	56
Other	9.01%	63

14. How do you travel to the area?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 6 | Answered: 704 (99.2%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Walk	22.87%	161
Bike/scooter	1.42%	10
Bus	10.65%	75
Train	15.34%	108
Car	84.23%	593
Uber/taxi	19.60%	138
Other	0.71%	5

15. What would encourage you to visit the area more at night?

Long Text | Skipped: 65 | Answered: 645 (90.8%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

16. Please leave any further comments on the proposed SEP trial here

Long Text | Skipped: 471 | Answered: 239 (33.7%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

17. What is the name of your business or organisation?

Short Text | Skipped: 693 | Answered: 17 (2.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

18. What is the address of your business or organisation?

Short Text | Skipped: 694 | Answered: 16 (2.3%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

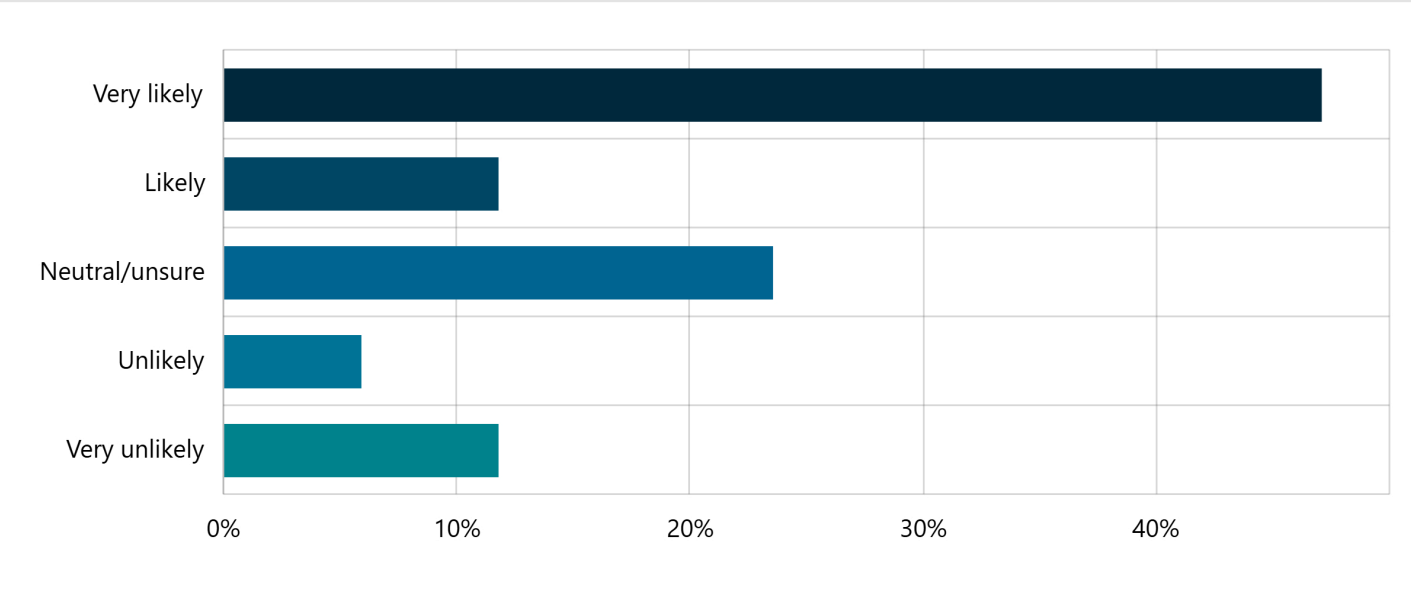
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

19. If there were a SEP in Gosford, how likely would your business or organisation take advantage of later opening hours?

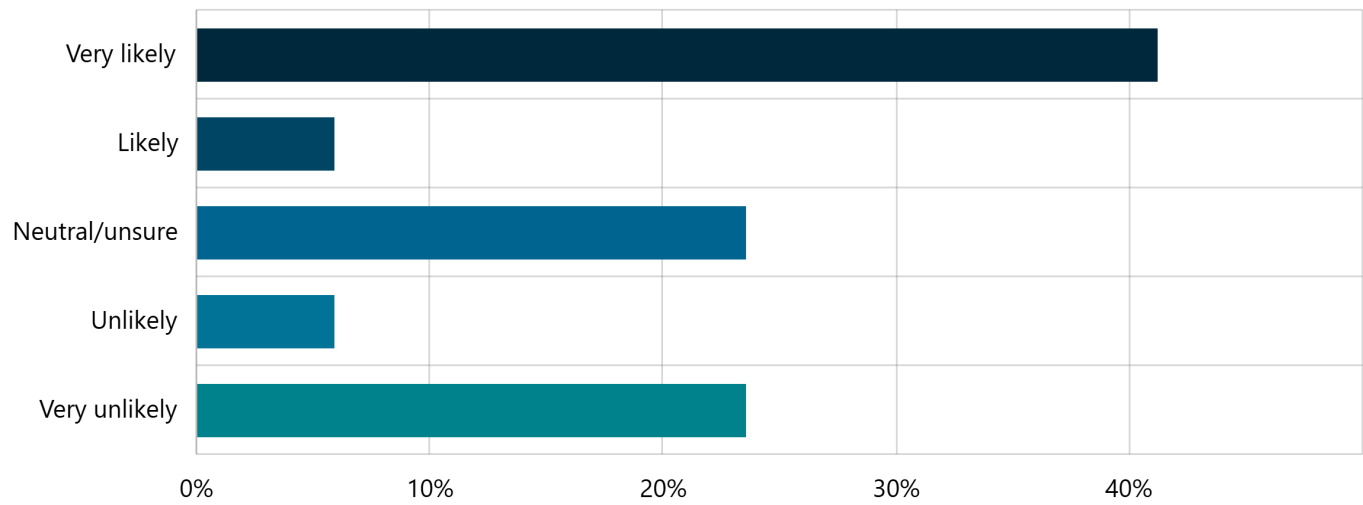
Multi Choice | Skipped: 693 | Answered: 17 (2.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Very likely	47.06%	8
Likely	11.76%	2
Neutral/unsure	23.53%	4
Unlikely	5.88%	1
Very unlikely	11.76%	2
Total	100.00%	17

20. If there were a SEP in Gosford, how likely would your business or organisation consider hosting live entertainment?

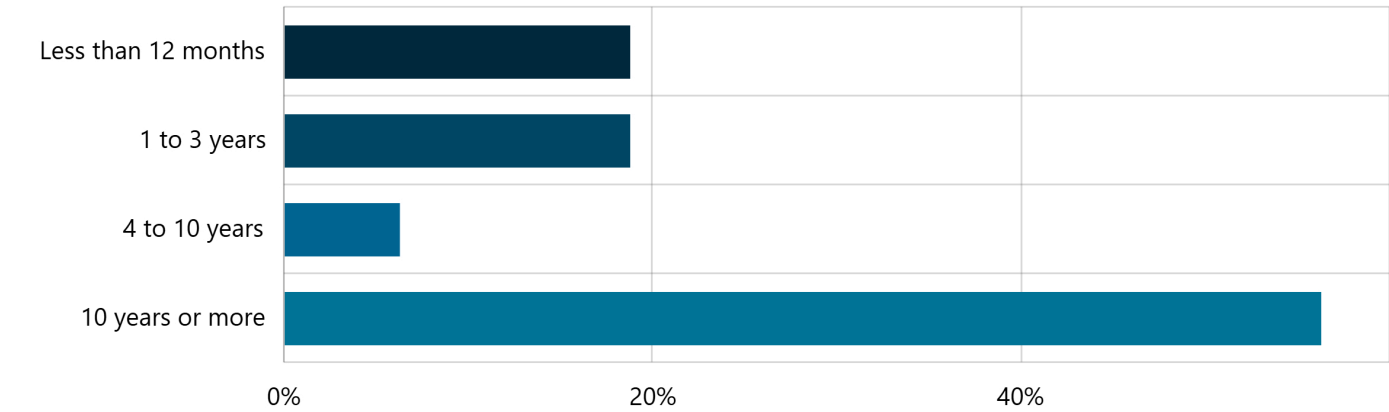
Multi Choice | Skipped: 693 | Answered: 17 (2.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Very likely	41.18%	7
Likely	5.88%	1
Neutral/unsure	23.53%	4
Unlikely	5.88%	1
Very unlikely	23.53%	4
Total	100.00%	17

21. How long have you operated your business or organisation in Gosford?

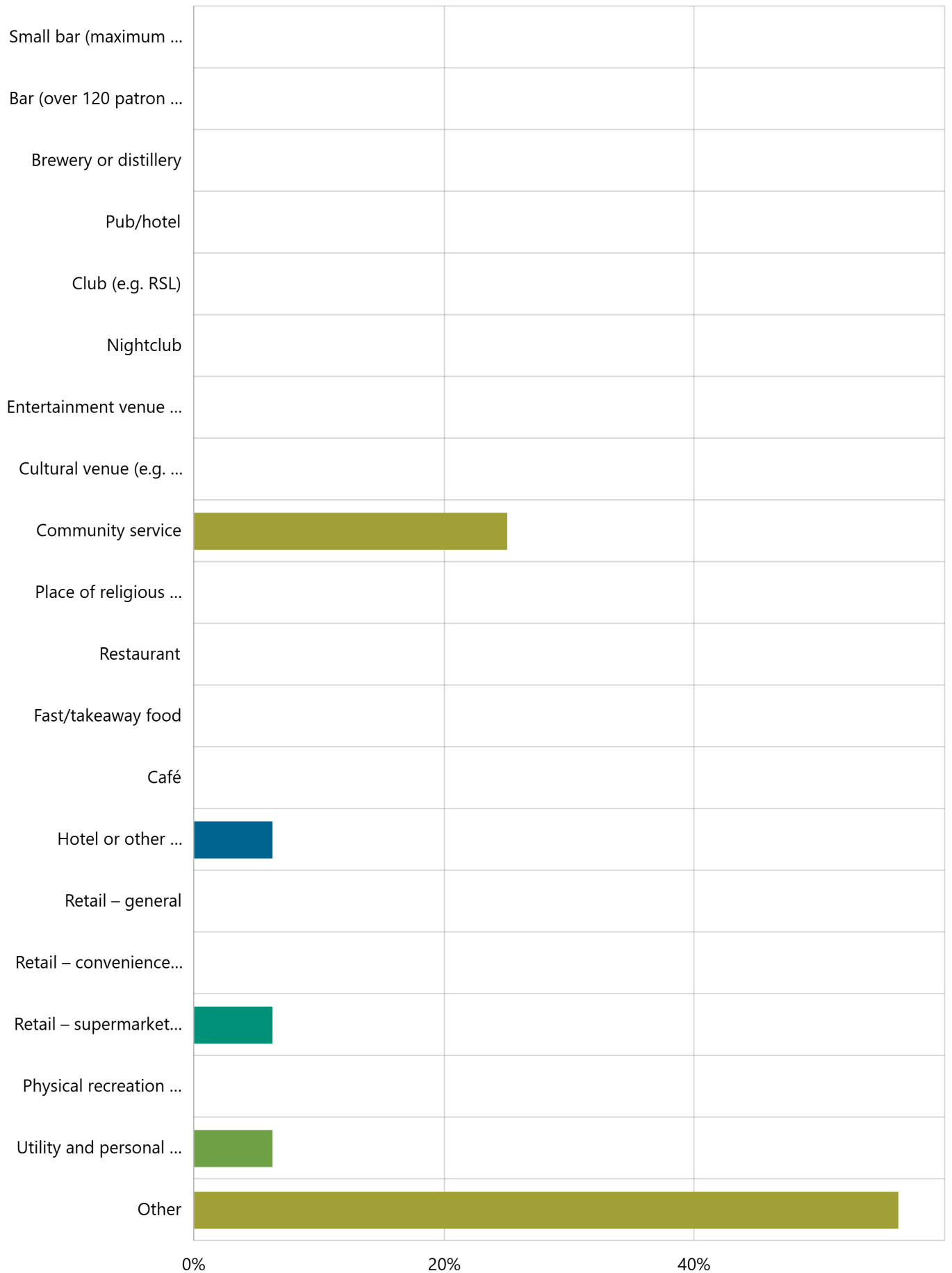
Multi Choice | Skipped: 694 | Answered: 16 (2.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Less than 12 months	18.75%	3
1 to 3 years	18.75%	3
4 to 10 years	6.25%	1
10 years or more	56.25%	9
Total	100.00%	16

22. What type of business or organisation do you operate?

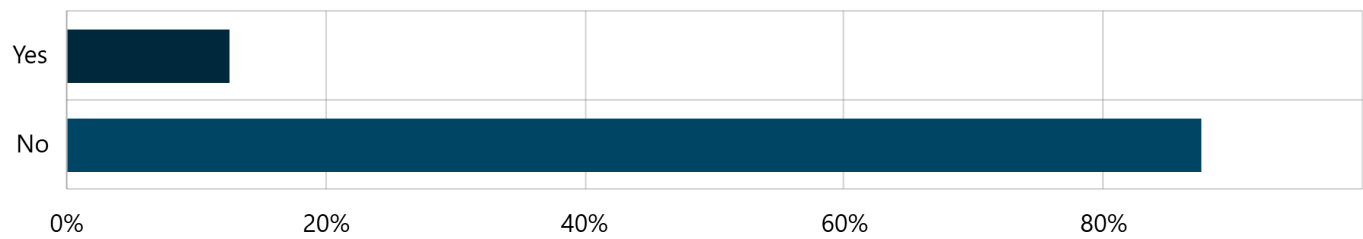
Multi Choice | Skipped: 694 | Answered: 16 (2.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Small bar (maximum 120 patrons or less)	0%	0
Bar (over 120 patron capacity)	0%	0
Brewery or distillery	0%	0
Pub/hotel	0%	0
Club (e.g. RSL)	0%	0
Nightclub	0%	0
Entertainment venue (e.g. theatre, concert hall)	0%	0
Cultural venue (e.g. library, town hall)	0%	0
Community service	25.00%	4
Place of religious worship	0%	0
Restaurant	0%	0
Fast/takeaway food	0%	0
Café	0%	0
Hotel or other accommodation	6.25%	1
Retail – general	0%	0
Retail – convenience and tobacconist	0%	0
Retail – supermarket and food	6.25%	1
Physical recreation (e.g. gymnasium)	0%	0
Utility and personal services (e.g. laundromat, hair salon)	6.25%	1
Other	56.25%	9
Total	100.00%	16

23. Does your business or organisation serve alcohol?

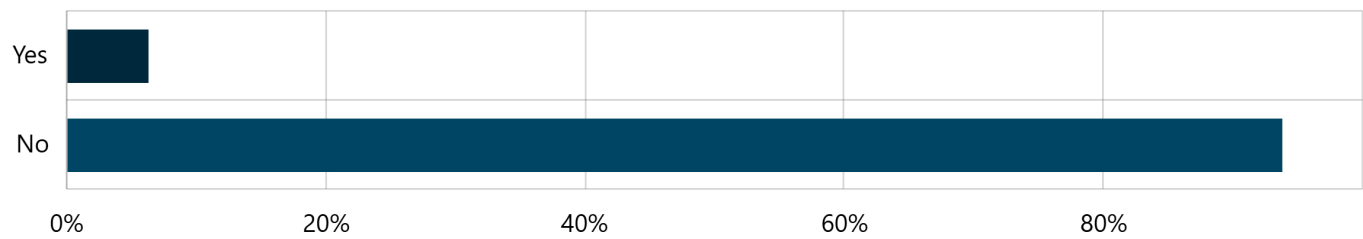
Multi Choice | Skipped: 694 | Answered: 16 (2.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	12.50%	2
No	87.50%	14
Total	100.00%	16

24. Does your business or organisation have outdoor trading? (e.g. footpath dining, beer garden)

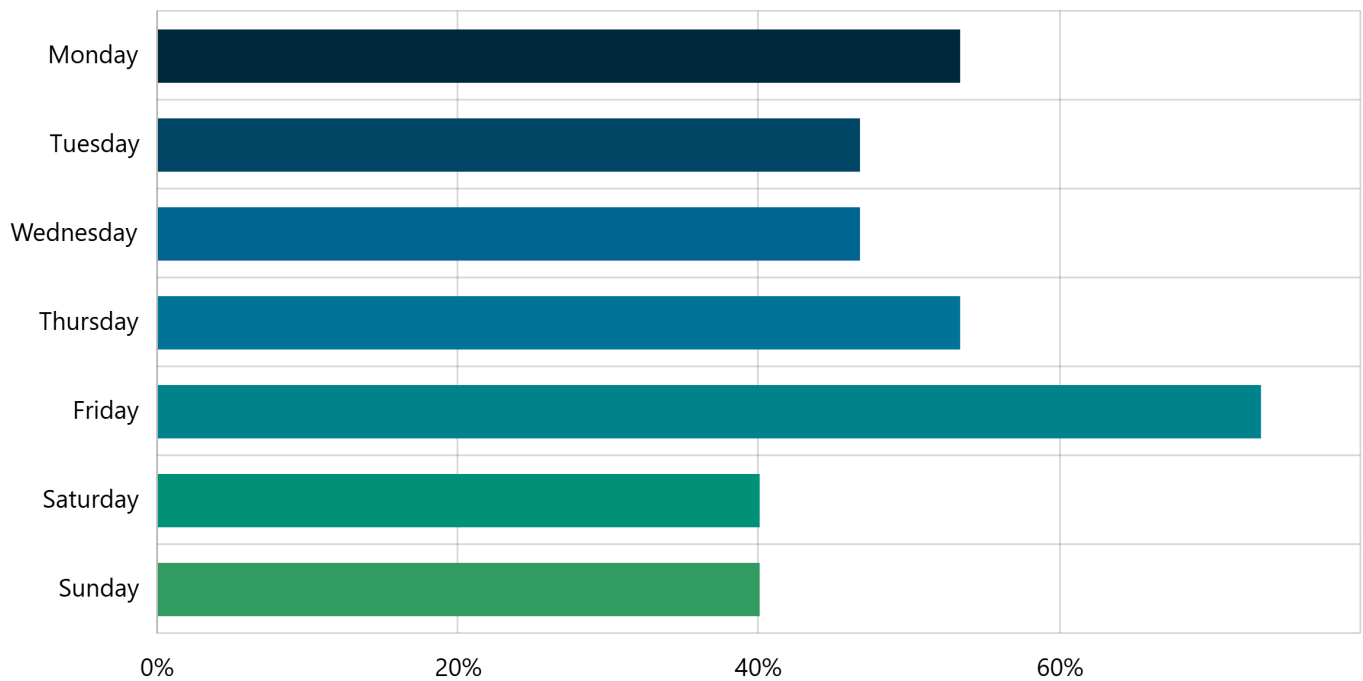
Multi Choice | Skipped: 694 | Answered: 16 (2.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	6.25%	1
No	93.75%	15
Total	100.00%	16

25. What are your busiest days of trade/operation?

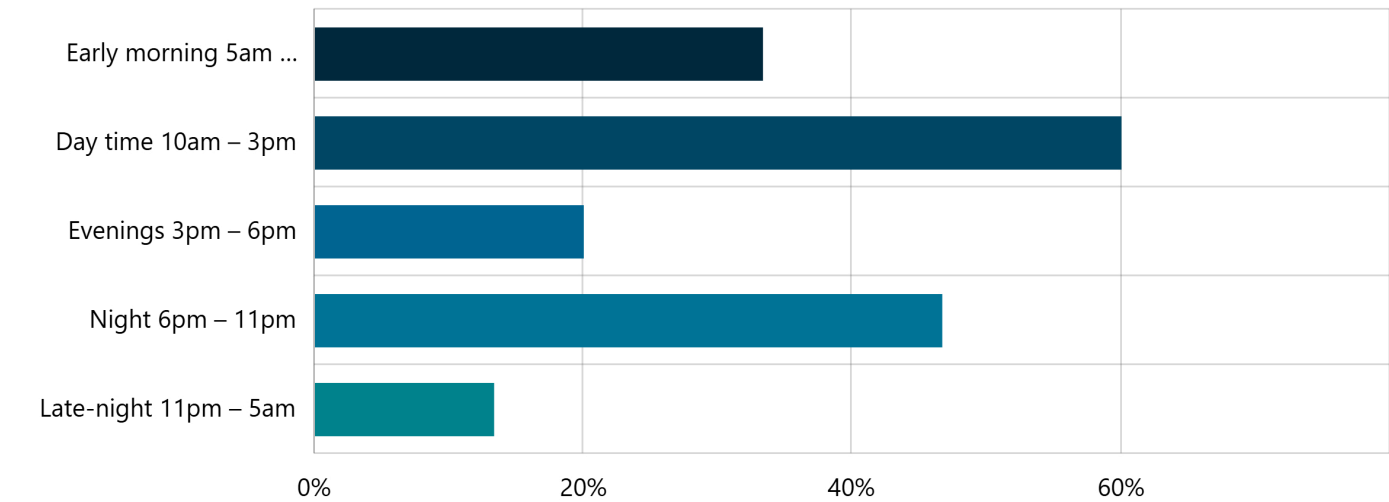
Multi Choice | Skipped: 695 | Answered: 15 (2.1%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Monday	53.33%	8
Tuesday	46.67%	7
Wednesday	46.67%	7
Thursday	53.33%	8
Friday	73.33%	11
Saturday	40.00%	6
Sunday	40.00%	6

26. What are your busiest times of trade/operation?

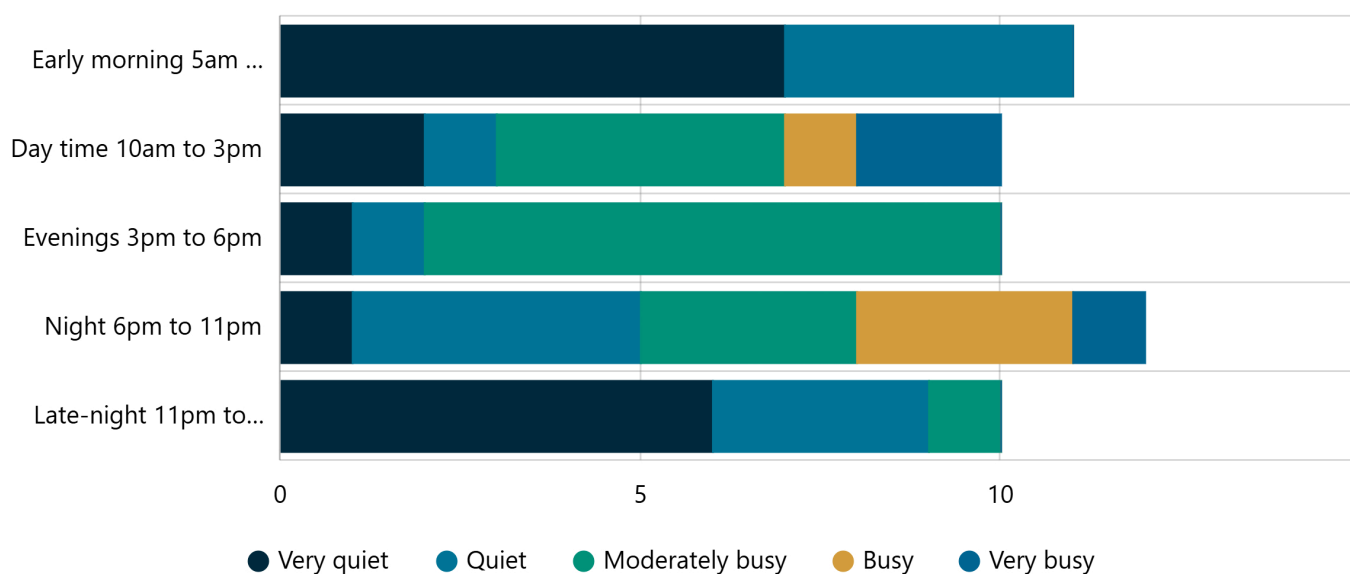
Multi Choice | Skipped: 695 | Answered: 15 (2.1%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Early morning 5am to 10am	33.33%	5
Day time 10am – 3pm	60.00%	9
Evenings 3pm – 6pm	20.00%	3
Night 6pm – 11pm	46.67%	7
Late-night 11pm – 5am	13.33%	2

27. How busy and lively is the proposed SEP area at the below times of day/night?

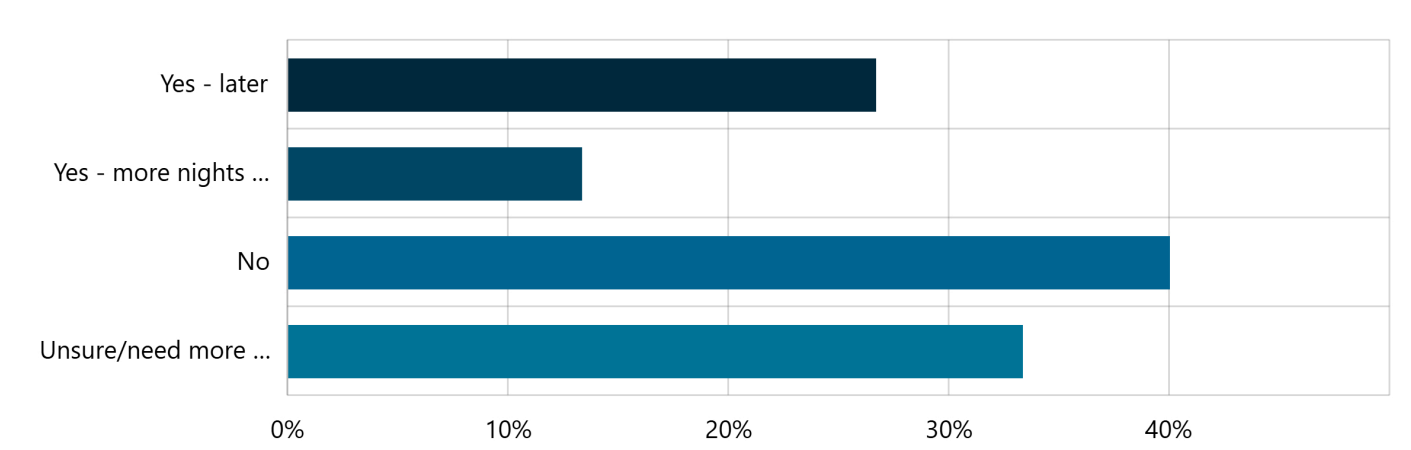
Matrix | Skipped: 697 | Answered: 13 (1.8%)



	Very quiet	Quiet	Moderately busy	Busy	Very busy	Count	Score
Early morning 5am to 10am	63.64% 7	36.36% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	11	1.36
Day time 10am to 3pm	20.00% 2	10.00% 1	40.00% 4	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	10	3.00
Evenings 3pm to 6pm	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	80.00% 8	0% 0	0% 0	10	2.70
Night 6pm to 11pm	8.33% 1	33.33% 4	25.00% 3	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	12	2.92
Late-night 11pm to 5am	60.00% 6	30.00% 3	10.00% 1	0% 0	0% 0	10	1.50

28. Does your business or organisation want to open later or for more nights during the week?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 695 | Answered: 15 (2.1%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes - later	26.67%	4
Yes - more nights during the week	13.33%	2
No	40.00%	6
Unsure/need more information	33.33%	5

29. What would assist your business or organisation to extend its operating hours?

Long Text | Skipped: 709 | Answered: 1 (0.1%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

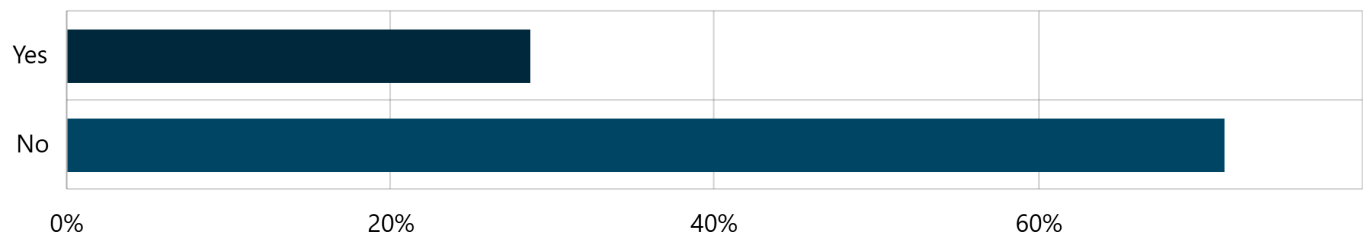
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

30. Does your business or organisation currently host live music or live entertainment performances?

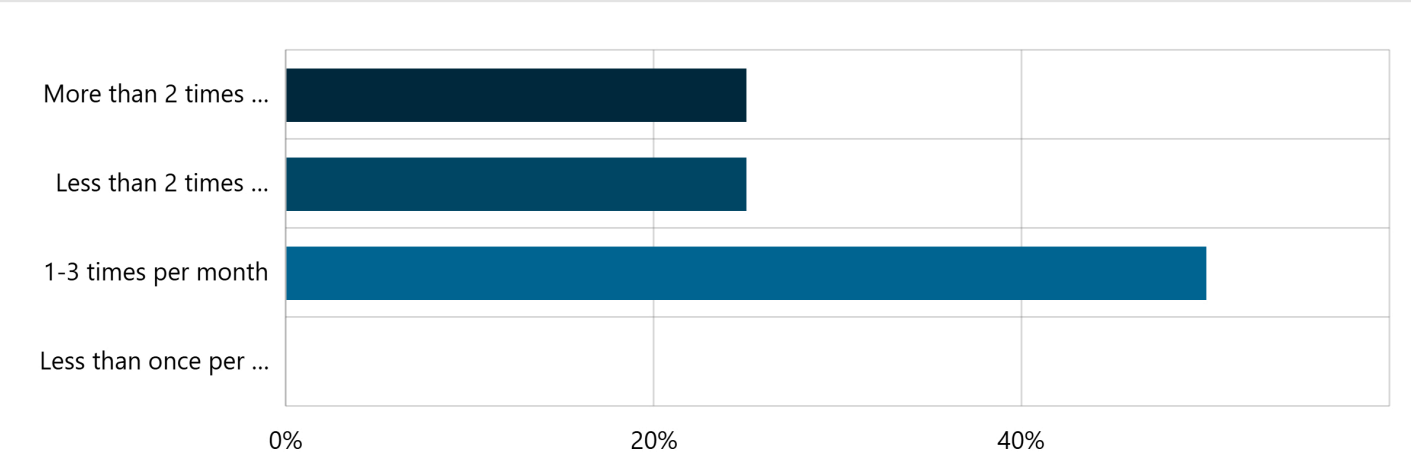
Multi Choice | Skipped: 696 | Answered: 14 (2%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	28.57%	4
No	71.43%	10
Total	100.00%	14

31. How often does your business or organisation currently host live music or live entertainment performances?

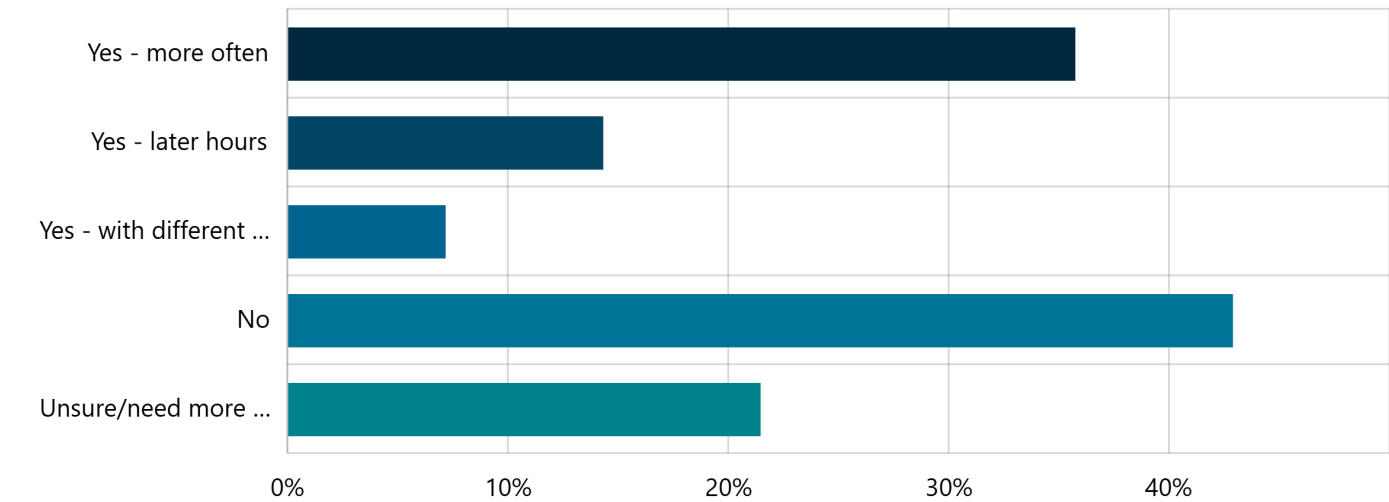
Multi Choice | Skipped: 706 | Answered: 4 (0.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
More than 2 times per week	25.00%	1
Less than 2 times per week	25.00%	1
1-3 times per month	50.00%	2
Less than once per month	0%	0
Total	100.00%	4

32. Does your business want to hold more live music or entertainment performances?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 696 | Answered: 14 (2%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes - more often	35.71%	5
Yes - later hours	14.29%	2
Yes - with different sound conditions	7.14%	1
No	42.86%	6
Unsure/need more information	21.43%	3

33. What would assist your business or organisation to hold more live music or entertainment performances?

Long Text | Skipped: 706 | Answered: 4 (0.6%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

34. Do you have any further comments about the night-time activities or the current night-time operations of your business?

Long Text | Skipped: 704 | Answered: 6 (0.8%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

35. Suburb

Select Box | Skipped: 108 | Answered: 602 (84.8%)

Answer choices	Percent	Count
Alison (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Avoca Beach (Gosford East Ward)	1.16%	7
Bar Point (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Bateau Bay (The Entrance Ward)	2.33%	14
Bensville (Gosford East Ward)	1.33%	8

Berkeley Vale (The Entrance Ward)	1.50%	9
Blackwall (Gosford West Ward)	0.66%	4
Blue Bay (The Entrance Ward)	0.33%	2
Blue Haven (Budgewoi Ward)	0.33%	2
Booker Bay Gosford West Ward)	0.33%	2
Bouddi (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Box Head (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Budgewoi (Budgewoi Ward)	0.50%	3
Buff Point (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Bushells Ridge Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Calga Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Canton Beach (Budgewoi Ward)	0.17%	1
Cedar Brush Creek (Wyang Ward)	0%	0
Central Mangrove (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Chain Valley Bay (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Charmhaven (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Cheero Point (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Chittaway Bay (The Entrance Ward)	0.17%	1
Chittaway Point (The Entrance Ward)	0.17%	1
Cogra Bay (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Colongra (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Copacabana (Gosford East Ward)	0.50%	3
Daleys Point (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Davistown (Gosford East Ward)	0.83%	5
Dooralong (Wyang Ward)	0%	0
Doyalson (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Doyalson North (Budgewoi Ward)	0.17%	1

Durren Durren (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
East Gosford (Gosford East Ward)	4.98%	30
Empire Bay (Gosford East Ward)	0.66%	4
Erina (Gosford East Ward)	1.66%	10
Ettalong Beach (Gosford West Ward)	1.16%	7
Forresters Beach (The Entrance Ward)	1.00%	6
Fountaindale (The Entrance Ward)	0.17%	1
Frazer Park (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Freemans (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Glenning Valley (The Entrance Ward)	0.66%	4
Glenworth Valley (The Entrance Ward)	0%	0
Gorokan (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Gosford (Gosford West Ward)	11.30%	68
Green Point (Gosford East Ward)	1.99%	12
Greengrove (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Gunderman (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Gwandalan (Budgewoi Ward)	0.17%	1
Halekulani (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Halloran (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Hamlyn Terrace (Wyong Ward)	0.50%	3
Hardys Bay Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Holgate (Gosford East Ward)	0.33%	2
Horsfield Bay (Gosford West Ward)	0.17%	1
Jilliby (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Kangy Angy (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Kanwal (Budgewoi Ward)	0.33%	2
Kariong (Gosford West Ward)	1.99%	12
Kiar Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0

Killarney Vale (The Entrance Ward)	1.16%	7
Killcare (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Killcare Heights (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Kincumber (Gosford East Ward)	1.99%	12
Kingfisher Shores (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Koolewong (Gosford West Ward)	1.16%	7
Kulnura (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Lake Haven (Budgewoi Ward)	0.33%	2
Lake Munmorah (Budgewoi Ward)	0.17%	1
Lemon Tree (Wyang Ward)	0%	0
Lisarow (Wyang Ward)	1.50%	9
Little Jiliby (Wyang Ward)	0%	0
Little Wobby (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Long Jetty (The Entrance Ward)	1.00%	6
Lower Mangrove (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
MacMasters Beach (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Magenta (The Entrance Ward)	0%	0
Mangrove Creek (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Mangrove Mountain (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Mannering Park (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Mardi (Wyang Ward)	0.33%	2
Marlow (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Matcham (Gosford East Ward)	0.33%	2
Mooney Mooney (Gosford West Ward)	0.50%	3
Mount Elliot (Wyang Ward)	0%	0
Mount White (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Narara (Wyang Ward)	4.98%	30

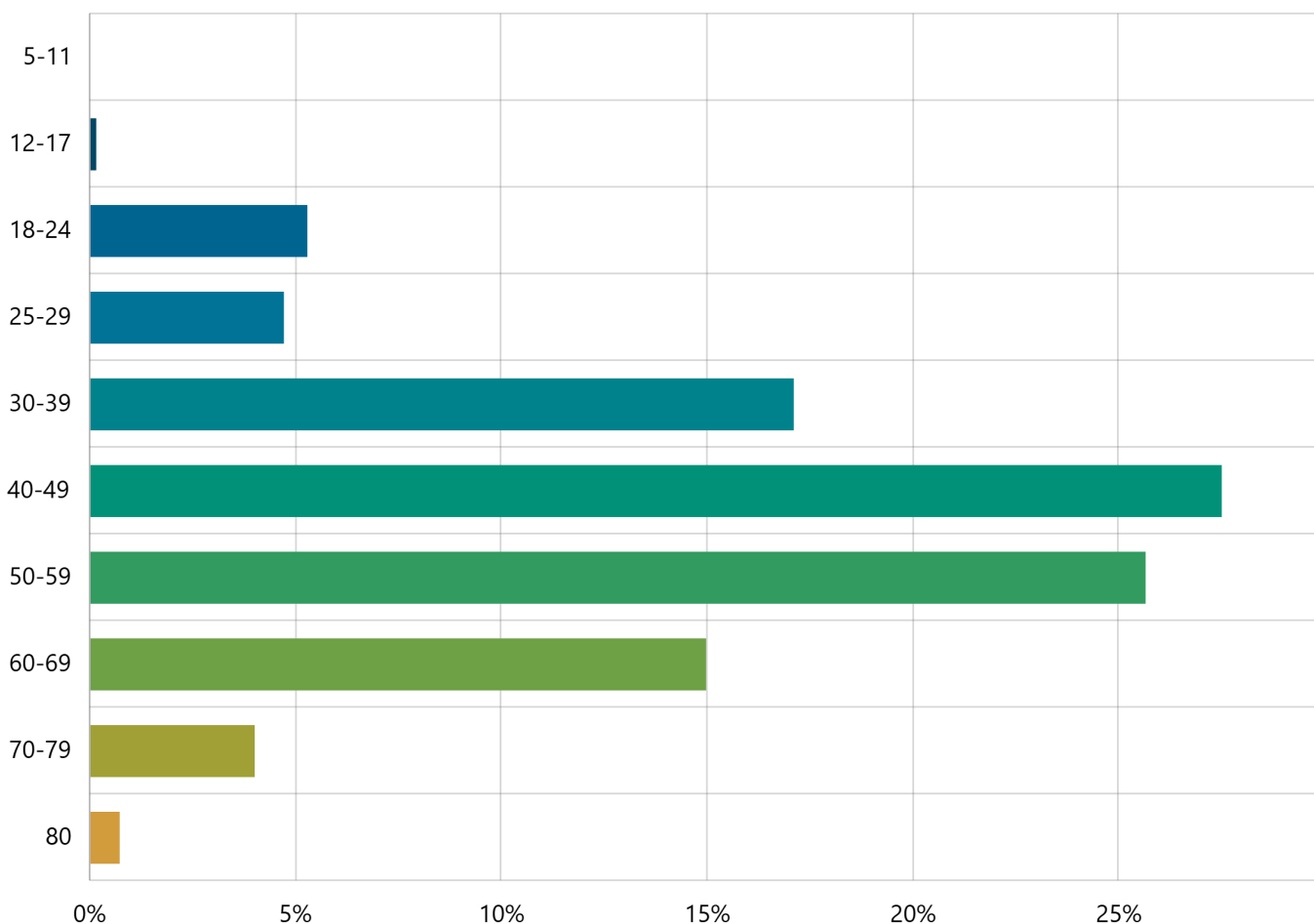
Niagara Park (Wyong Ward)	1.66%	10
Norah Head (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Noraville (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
North Avoca (Gosford East Ward)	0.83%	5
North Gosford (Wyong Ward)	5.15%	31
Ourimbah (Wyong Ward)	1.66%	10
Palm Grove (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Palmdale (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Patonga (Gosford West Ward)	0.17%	1
Pearl Beach (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Peats Ridge (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Phegans Bay (Gosford West Ward)	0.33%	2
Picketts Valley (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Point Clare (Gosford West Ward)	2.66%	16
Point Frederick (Gosford East Ward)	2.82%	17
Point Wolstoncroft (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Pretty Beach (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Ravensdale (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Rocky Point Wyong Ward)	0%	0
San Remo (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Saratoga (Gosford East Ward)	2.16%	13
Shelly Beach (The Entrance Ward)	0%	0
Somersby (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Spencer (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Springfield (Gosford East Ward)	4.82%	29
St Huberts Island (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Summerland Point (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Tacoma (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0

Tascott (Gosford West Ward)	1.33%	8
Terrigal (Gosford East Ward)	3.49%	21
The Entrance (The Entrance Ward)	0.17%	1
Toowoon Bay (The Entrance Ward)	0%	0
Toukley (Budgewoi Ward)	0.50%	3
Tuggerah (The Entrance Ward)	0.17%	1
Tuggerawong (Wyang Ward)	0.33%	2
Tumbi Umbi (The Entrance Ward)	0.50%	3
Umina Beach (Gosford West Ward)	4.98%	30
Upper Mangrove (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Wadalba (Budgewoi Ward))	0.50%	3
Wagstaffe (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Wallarah Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Wamberal (The Entrance Ward)	1.83%	11
Warnervale Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Watanobbi (Wyang Ward)	0%	0
Wendoree Park Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
West Gosford (Gosford West Ward)	2.16%	13
Wisemans Ferry (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Wondabyne (Gosford West Ward)	0%	0
Woongarra (Budgewoi Ward)	0.33%	2
Woy Woy (Gosford West Ward)	3.49%	21
Wybung (Budgewoi Ward)	0%	0
Wyoming (Wyang Ward)	5.81%	35
Wyang (Wyang Ward)	1.00%	6
Wyang Creek (Wyang Ward)	0.17%	1
Wyangah (Wyang Ward)	0%	0

Yarramalong (Wyong Ward)	0%	0
Yattalunga (Gosford East Ward)	0%	0
Total	100.00%	602

36. What is your age?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 8 | Answered: 702 (98.9%)

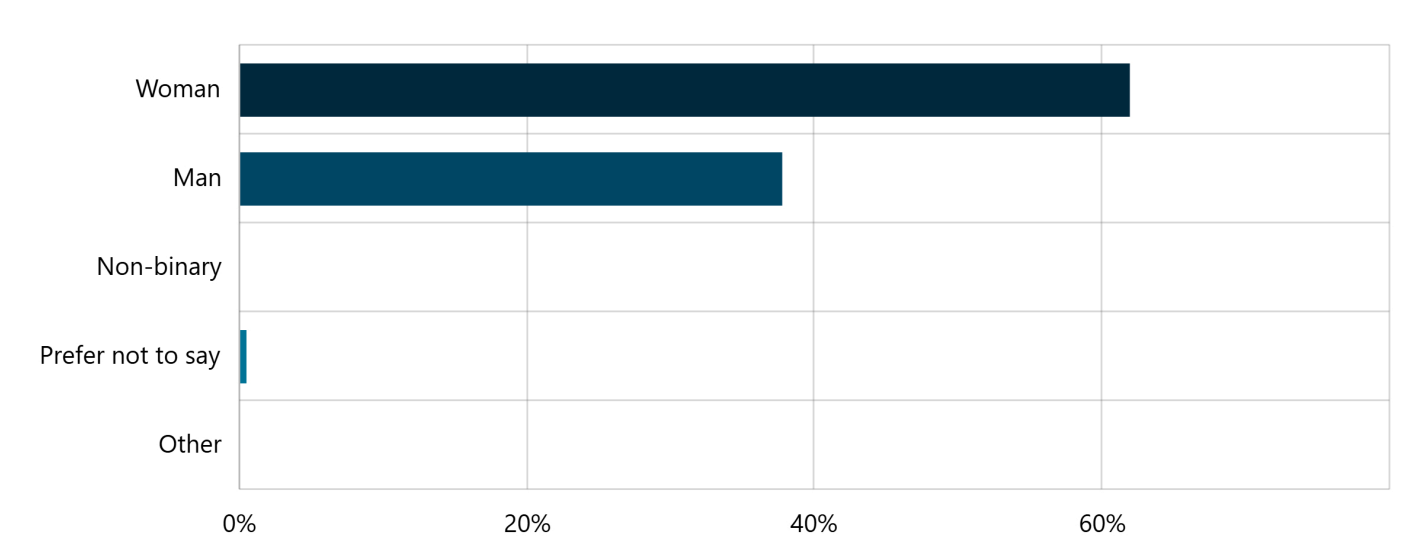


Answer choices	Percent	Count
5-11	0%	0
12-17	0.14%	1
18-24	5.27%	37
25-29	4.70%	33
30-39	17.09%	120
40-49	27.49%	193
50-59	25.64%	180
60-69	14.96%	105
70-79	3.99%	28
80	0.71%	5

Total	100.00%	702
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37. What is your gender?

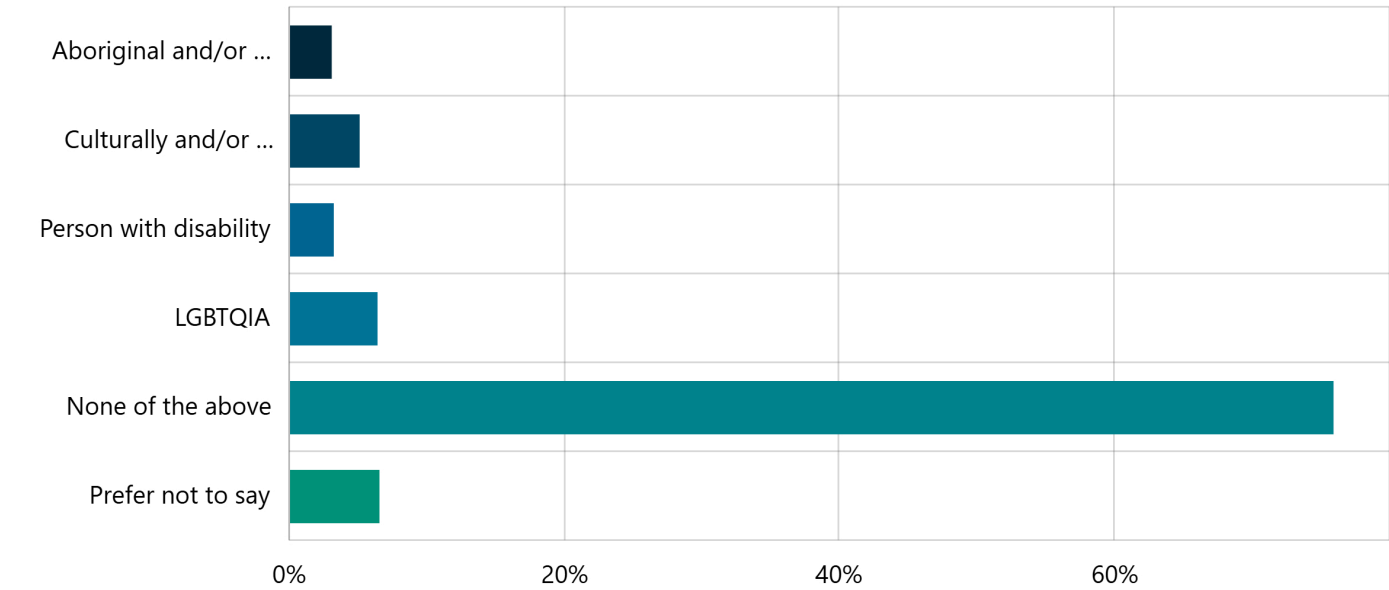
Multi Choice | Skipped: 7 | Answered: 703 (99%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Woman	61.88%	435
Man	37.70%	265
Non-binary	0%	0
Prefer not to say	0.43%	3
Other	0%	0
Total	100.00%	703

38. Do you identify as any of the following?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 18 | Answered: 692 (97.5%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3.03%	21
Culturally and/or linguistically diverse	5.06%	35
Person with disability	3.18%	22
LGBTQIA	6.36%	44
None of the above	75.87%	525
Prefer not to say	6.50%	45
Total	100.00%	692