

John Connell Reserve Master Plan

# Survey Results

645 total responses



JOHN  
CONNELL  
RESERVE

MASTER PLAN

City of  
**Melville**



**645**  
completed  
surveys

## Reach and participation



**1,403**  
Melville Talks  
unique visits



**18K** eNews subscribers  
received an invitation



**142** subscribers clicked  
the link



**19K**  
Readers  
received the  
PerthNow  
Melville ad



**4K** Letters and promo  
cards to local  
residents



**250** Engagement followers  
were updated



**8**  
Signs on site  
at John  
Connell  
Reserve



**29K** Facebook users saw  
the advert



**1.1K** Facebook users  
clicked the link



**18K** Facebook users  
watched the videos

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# **Key Findings**

# Current Use



The reserve is most commonly frequented on a multiple times a week basis (29%). Driving a car or walking were the most popular travel methods (63% and 53% respectively) however cycling also has a considerable number of votes.



The top 3 reasons for visiting the reserve were to: exercise (24%), play with the dog (17%) and play sports (12%).



Walking (57.5%) and using the playground equipment (44.1%) were the most common activities.



Running and participating in a sporting or active recreation activity were most engaged in the last month (both 80%). Organised community events were most engaged in the last 2-12 months (48%). Attending indoor social events/activities were most engaged more than a year ago (9%).



Although playgrounds were voted as the most important feature in the reserve currently, nature-themed responses can be combined to be more important than playgrounds: open greenspace, nature, natural bushland, trees, wildlife, kangaroos, bird habitats (see Q14). Walking paths and the reserve's dog-friendly nature are also important to users.

## Future Use



Weather protection was most common feature respondents would like to see in the future, with 52 mentions. This included shade, rain protection and shelter.



Aside from this, respondents would like to see the most improvements in the reserve's amenities and sport facilities. Improvements to community, food, access and nature were also commonly raised.



Overall, commonly mentioned suggestions included: more cricket pitches, indoor archery, skate park, oval extension, archery, picnic facilities, playground upgrade, more toilet facilities, more seating, fenced dog area, community events, café, parking and better access, nature play and more plants.



Being able to have local opportunities to live an active, healthy lifestyle was the most important value respondents voted for, with a combined 96% importance rate.

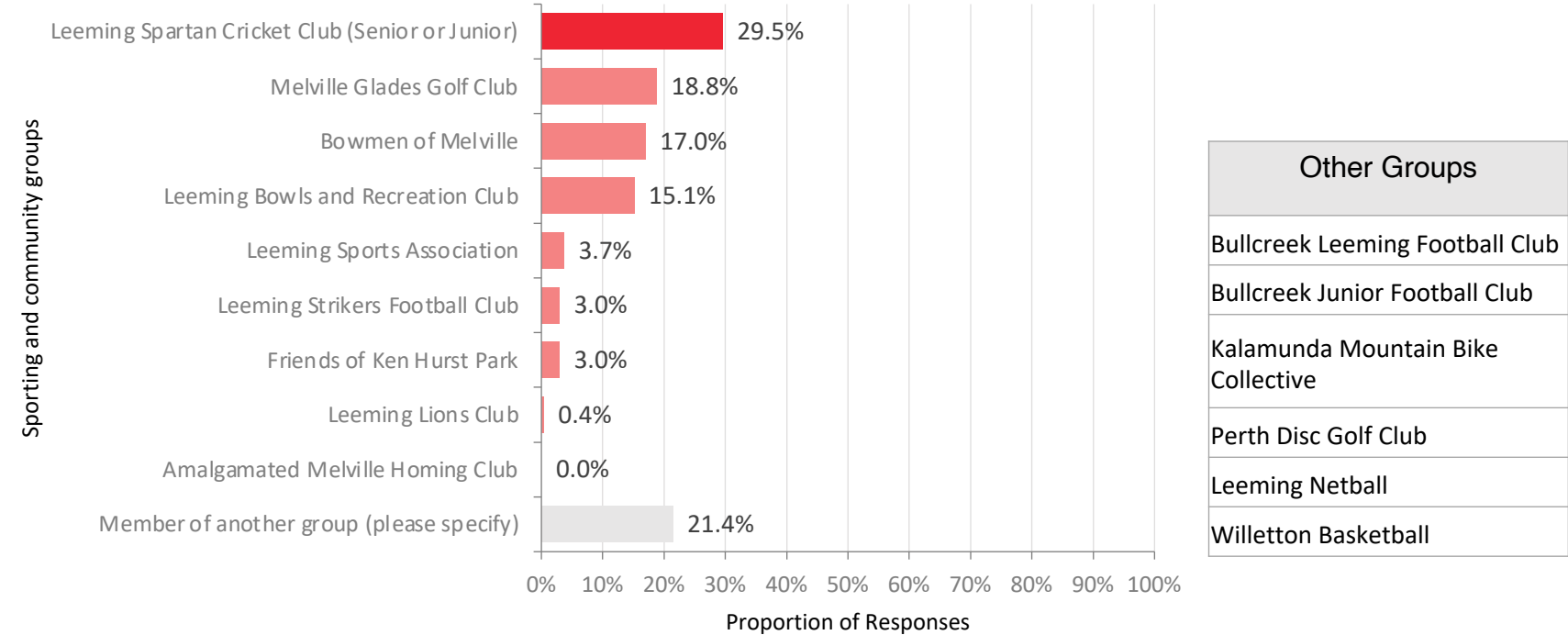
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**Results**

Q3: Are you a member of any of the following sporting or community groups?

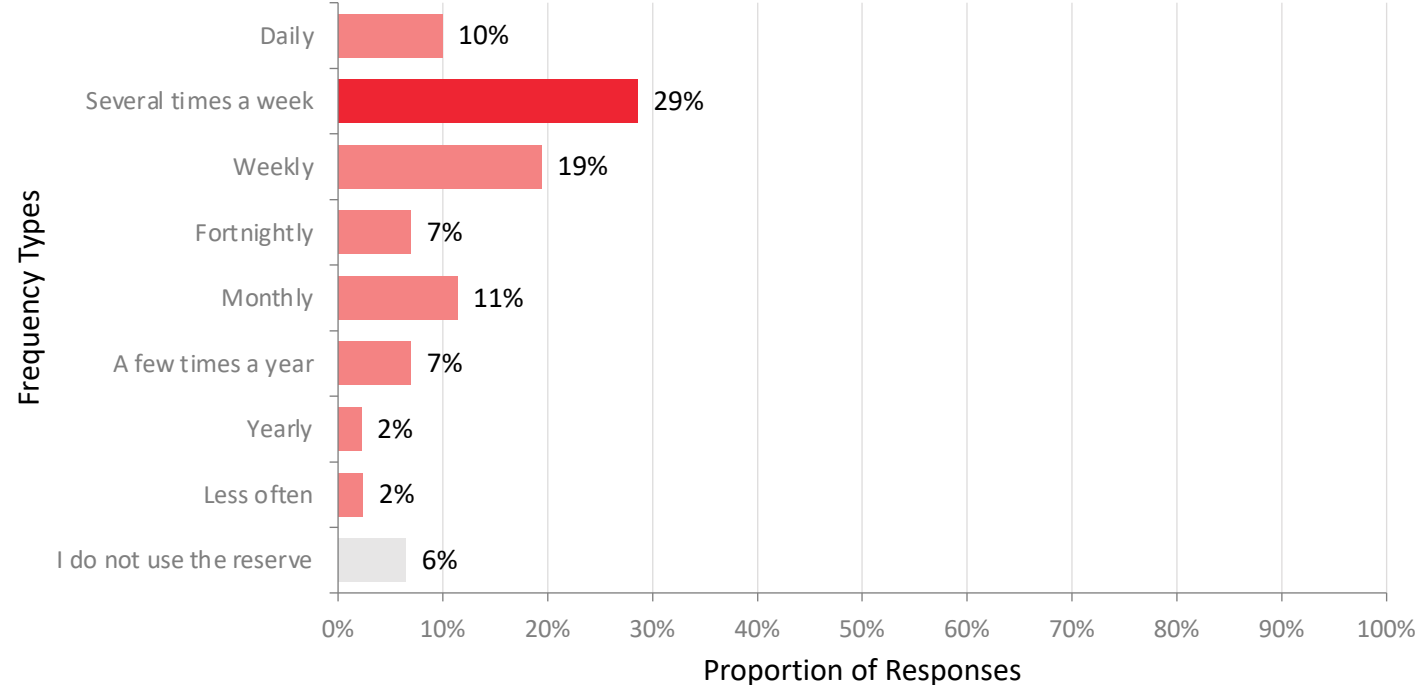
Answered: 271 Skipped: 374

374 respondents were not part of a sporting or community group. Of the 271 people who answered, they were members of:



# Q5: How often do you visit the reserve?

Answered: 634 Skipped: 11

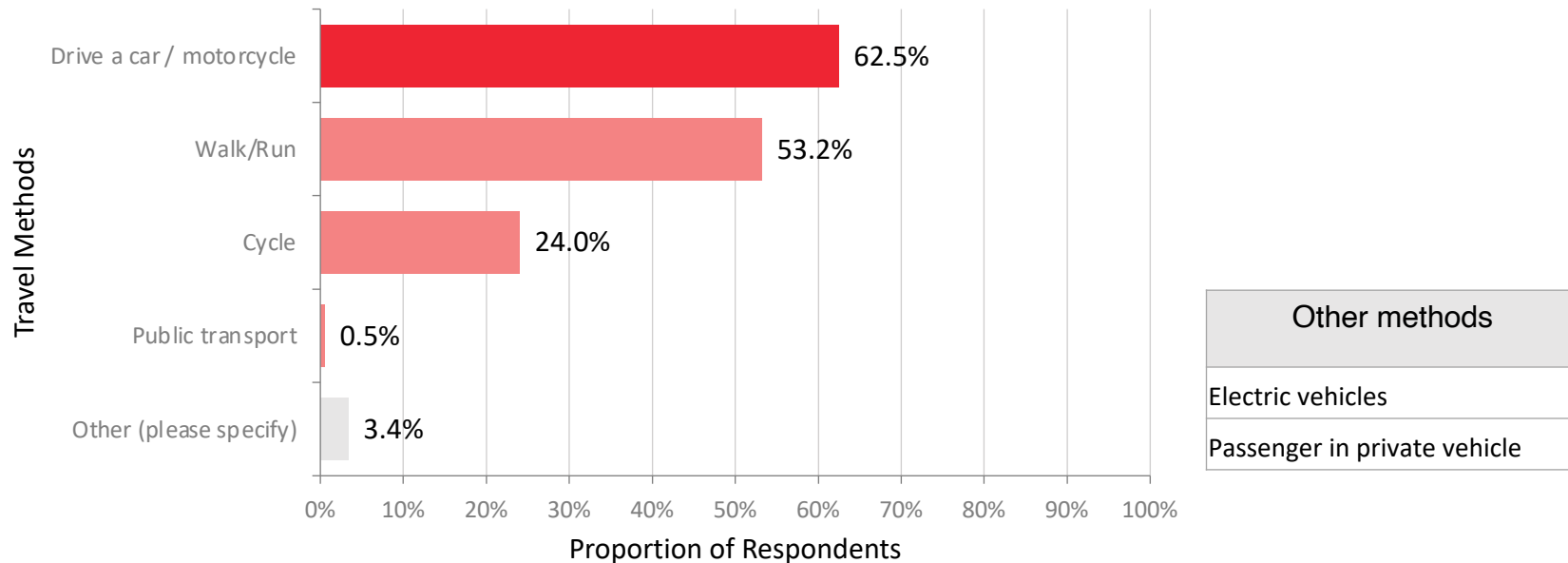


Respondents mostly visit the reserve several times a week.



## Q6: How do you normally travel to John Connell Reserve? Tick all that apply

Answered: 562 Skipped: 83



Despite **72.3%** of people living in Leeming and **55%** of people living within 1km of the reserve, driving a vehicle is the most dominant travel method. Walking/running is still common though.

## Q7: What is the main reason that you visit the John Connell Reserve?

Responses were categorised based on the themes below:

<b>Exercise</b>	<b>131</b>
Dog-friendly space	96
Sports	69
Family activities	66
Recreation	62
Playground	55
Sporting team	51
Cricket	48
Archery	41
Social	36
Golf	33
Open space	22
Bowls	21
Community events	17
Children's sports	9
Food vendors	8
AFL	7
Exercise equipment	3
Other	6

**Exercise was the most common category, which includes activities such as walking, biking, running etc.**

Dog-friendly space included all activities which mentioned a dog, inclusive of general dog walking.

Sports covered any mention of a sport that wasn't specified, or sports that did not belong to an organised group.

Family activities included any mention of family when partaking in an activity.

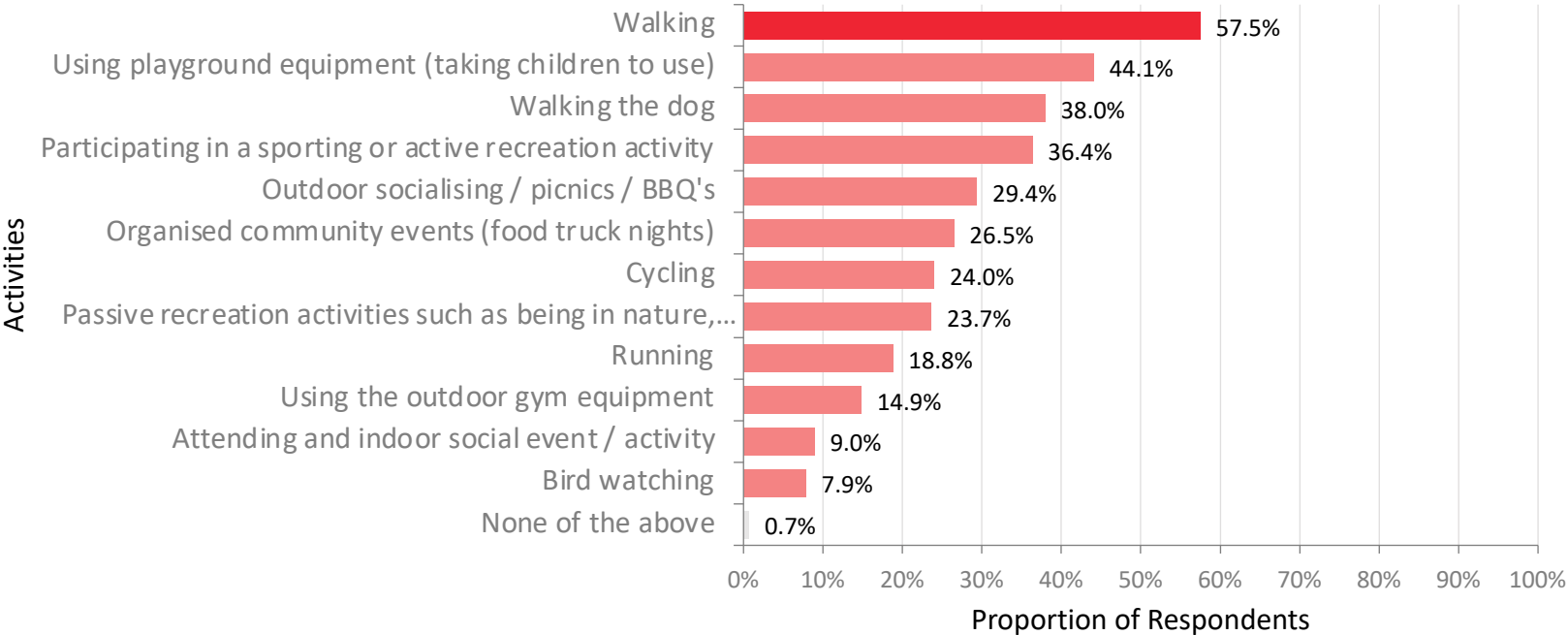
Recreation covered any mention of enjoying the park, having BBQ's or picnics etc.

Multiple themes were applied to every answer where relevant.

Other categories included comments that weren't applicable, or people who didn't visit the reserve. One person thought the reserve was boring.

Q8: Which of the following do you do at John Connell Reserve? Tick all that apply

Answered: 558 Skipped: 87

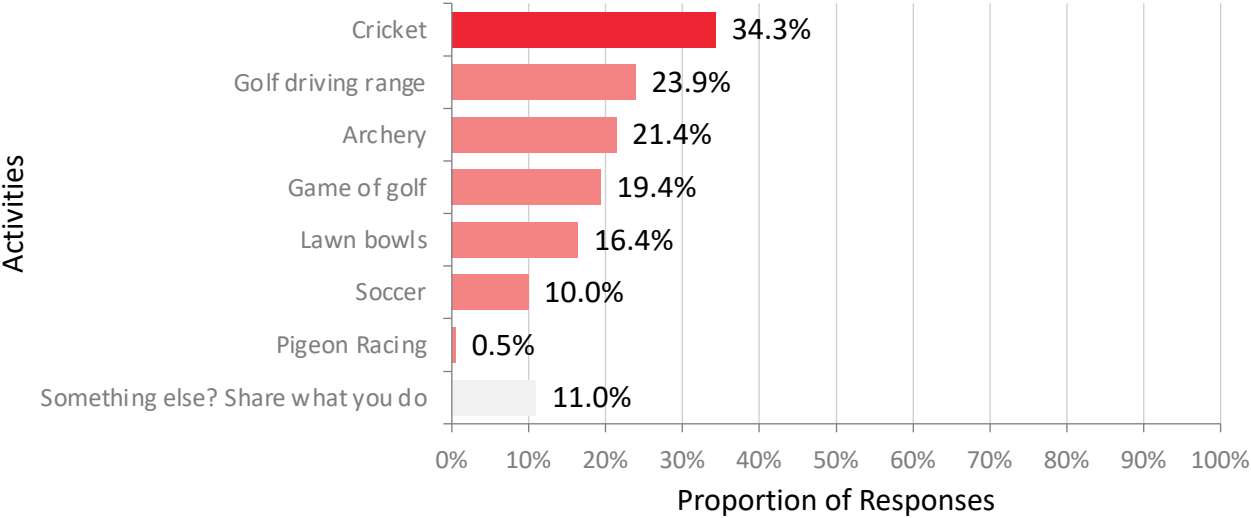


Respondents were encouraged to select all activities that applied. **Walking** was the most popular at **57.5%** and **bird watching** was least popular at **7.9%**.

# Q10: Which group sporting or active recreation activity was that?

Answered: 201    Skipped: 444

Of the people who selected 'participating in a sport or active recreation activity' in the previous question, the following categories were most popular.

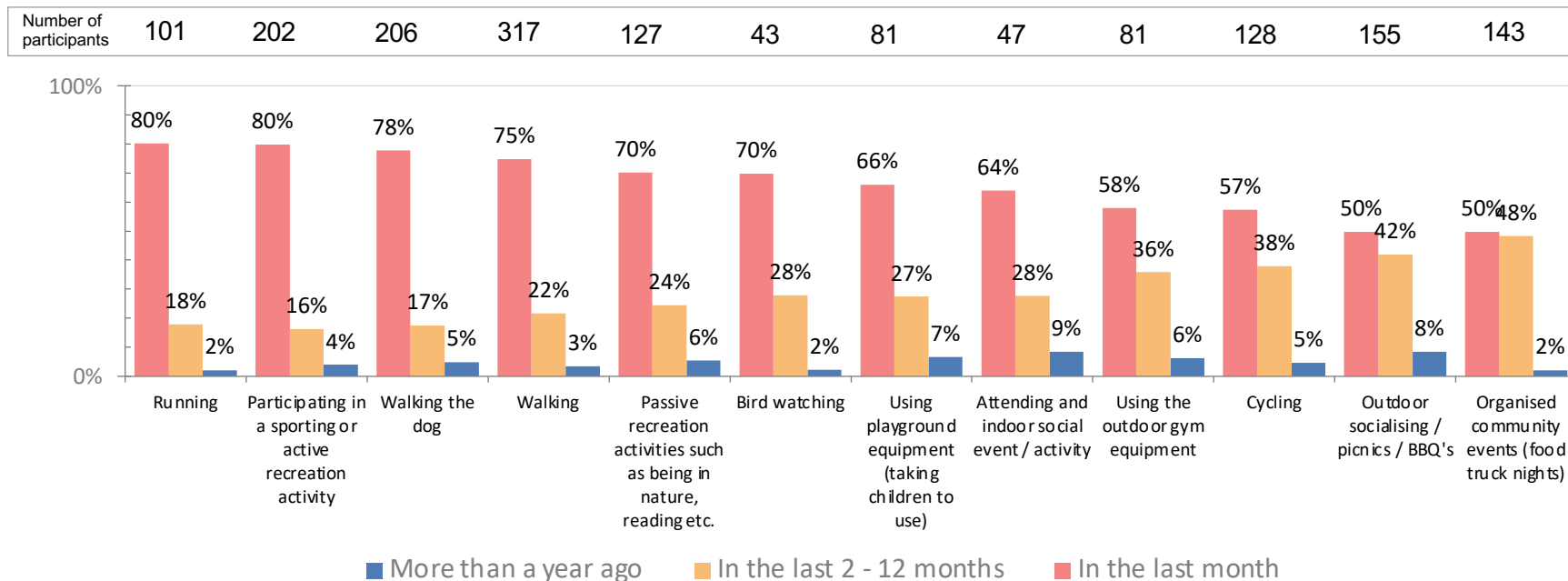


Other methods
AFL Football
Basketball
Junior Soccer
Hockey
Tennis

Cricket is the most popular sport.

## Q9: How often have you engaged in each of the following activities at John Connell Reserve?

Answered: 546 Skipped: 99



**Running** and **participating in a sporting or active recreation activity** were most engaged in the last month. Organised community events were most engaged in the last 2-12 months. Attending indoor social events/activities were most engaged more than a year ago.

## Q11: Are there any additional activities that you participate in at John Connell Reserve?

This question was a follow-up to Question 8. Responses were categorised based on the themes below. Interesting activities that were not reflected in Q8 came from the **Leisure** and **Nature** category.

Sports	37
<b>Leisure</b>	<b>21</b>
Community	18
Family	17
<b>Nature</b>	<b>15</b>
Socialising	12
Exercise	5
Dog Walking	4



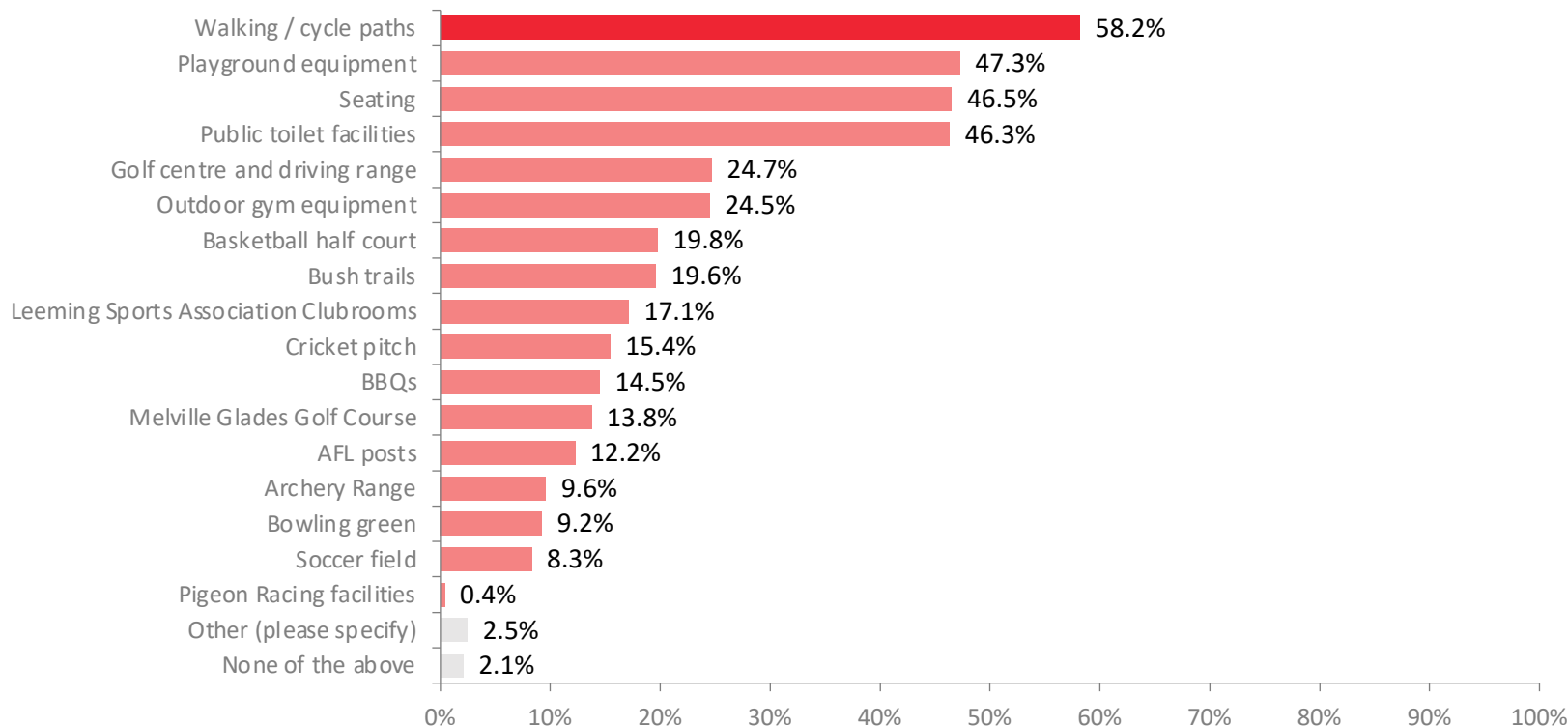
Activities including photography, drone flying and meditation.



Activities including weeding, observing wildflowers and watching kangaroos.

## Q12: Which of the following equipment or facilities, if any, have you used at John Connell Reserve within the last 12 months

Answered: 531 Skipped: 114



Given that walking was the most popular activity, walking and cycle paths were expected to be used the most.

### Q13: Are there any other facilities, equipment or infrastructure would you like to see in the future at John Connell Reserve?

Responses were categorised by **80** activities and features. These were grouped into 6 key themes: sporting activities, general recreation, community, food, access and nature.

**Weather protection was most common, with 52 mentions. This included shade, rain protection and shelter.**

- Weather protection was most commonly mentioned out of all responses. **Specific locations** for weather protection include **over the bowling greens, otherwise just general locations** i.e., over picnic facilities.
- Most commonly mentioned infrastructure to **existing sporting** facilities include: **more cricket pitches indoor archery and general archery improvements, and an oval extension.**
- Most commonly mentioned infrastructure for the **future reserve** include **skate park, pump track, and a full-basketball court.**
- There was a large response **wanting improvements to the playground**: general playground upgrade, more playgrounds water playgrounds, nature play, fenced playground.
- Additionally, picnic facilities, more toilets, more seating and a fenced dog area were commonly mentioned.
- Parking and better access was another common response, as well as general community events and a café.



## Q13: Are there any other facilities, equipment or infrastructure would you like to see in the future at John Connell Reserve?

### Sporting activities

More cricket pitches	23
Indoor archery	20
Skate park	17
Oval extension	17
Archery	13
Pump track	12
Full basketball court	9
BMX track	8
Exercise equipment	8
Swimming pool	8
Clubroom upgrade	8
Mountain bike trail	6
More sports	5
Tennis courts	4
More soccer pitch	4
Disc golf	4
Levelling of grounds	4
Football club	3

### Sporting activities

Table tennis	3
Running track	3
Mini golf	3
Public 9 hole golf course	2
AFL goals	2
Zip line	2
Half-court basketball	2
Relocation of nets	2
Upgrade driving range	2
Basketball net	2
Soccer nets	2
Frisbee golf	1
Archery club house	1
Netball ring	1
Children's bike park	1
Measured running paths	1
Changeroom upgrade	1
Upgraded cricket nets	1

‘More cricket pitches’ had the most mentions.

## Q13: Are there any other facilities, equipment or infrastructure would you like to see in the future at John Connell Reserve? Cont.

### General recreation

Picnic facilities	26
Playground upgrade	25
More toilet facilities	22
More seating	18
Fenced dog area	18
More <b>playgrounds</b>	17
Water <b>playground</b>	16
Path quality	15
More paths	14
Better lighting	13
Bushwalking	11
Drinking water	9
Dog park	9
Cycle paths	8
Fenced <b>playground</b>	3
Water features	3
More bins	2
Dog water fountain	2
Sanitary dispenser	2
Dog poo bins/bags	1
Gathering circle	1
Chess tables	1
Sound wall	1
Ampitheatre	1
CCTV	1

### Community

Community events	9
Food trucks	7
Community hall	5
Educational facility	1

### Food

Café	21
Bar	3
Pub	3

### Access

Parking and better access	23
Disabled access	13
Wayfinding	2

Answers relating to 'playgrounds' were most common.

### Q13: Are there any other facilities, equipment or infrastructure would you like to see in the future at John Connell Reserve? Cont.

#### Nature

More plants	26
Nature play	19
Preserve bushland	5
Garden	2
Wildflowers	1
Bird boxes	1
Open space	1
More grass	1

Overall, each overarching category had the following number of activities/features:

Sports	Amenities	Community	Food	Access	Nature
36	25	4	3	3	8

**Sports** and **amenity** features had the most mentions.

## Q14: What current aspects/features of John Connell Reserve are most important to you?

Responses were categorised by 41 features, terms or concepts. Key insights include:

- Although playgrounds were most important, **nature-themed responses can be combined to be more important** than playgrounds: open greenspace, nature, natural bushland, trees, wildlife, kangaroos, bird habitats.
- **Walking paths** and the **dog-friendly nature of the reserve** were also commonly mentioned.
- Many responses which noted the **open greenspace** valued it in relation to **dog-related activities**.
- There were no specific nature areas in the reserve that were notably identified as important.

## Q14: What current aspects/features of John Connell Reserve are most important to you?

Playground	106	Golf centre	12
Open green space	100	Safe	12
Walking paths	67	Accessible	10
Nature	42	Basketball court	9
Dog friendly	37	Ovals	9
Natural bushland	37	Recreation activities	8
Archery	35	Close by/location	7
Trees	33	Seating	7
Toilet facilities	32	Peaceful	6
Cricket club	30	Soccer club	6
Cycle paths	28	Community	5
Sporting uses	23	Bird habitats	4
Golf course	19	Picnic facilities	4
Shade	19	Clean	3
Exercise equipment	15	Close to café	3
Bowling club	14	Exercise area	3
Wildlife	14	Kangaroos	3
Family friendly	13	Free	2
Leeming sports association		Parking availability	2
clubrooms	13	Undercover tables	2
BBQ	12		

The playground was mentioned the most, closely followed by open green space.

## Q15: Do you have any suggestions to improve John Connell Reserve?

Responses were categorised by 127 features, terms or concepts. **Improvements to play equipment** was the most common suggestion. **More shade, an enclosed dog park, an additional sporting oval and more seating were also commonly mentioned.**

### General Reserve Improvements

More parking, better lighting, more trees/preserve nature, activities for older kids/teenagers, water features, picnic areas, mountain bike trail, upgrade path.

### Cricket Improvements

Additional cricket ground, relocation of cricket nets, indoor cricket nets, more cricket facilities, replace cricket nets.

### Archery Improvements

Leveling of grounds to compete at Olympic level, better wheelchair and disability access, upgrade of clubhouse, indoor archery range, upgrade toilets, improved facilities.

## Q15: Do you have any suggestions to improve John Connell Reserve?

Play equipment	44
Shade	35
More trees	32
Enclosed dog park	30
Additional sporting oval	21
More seating	21
More parking	19
Lighting	18
Preserve natural bush	17
Universal access	17
Upgrade clubhouse	15
Activities for older kids/teenagers	14
Levelled archery turf	14
Upgrade archery club	14
Water feature	14
All age play	13
BBQ	13
Gazebos/ covered picnic area	12
More community events	12
More native plants	12
Mountain bike trail	12
Nature play	12
Additional cricket ground	11
Indoor archery range	11
Open fenced off area	11
Upgrade paths	11

Landscaping	9
More toilets	9
Second cricket pitch	9
Skatepark	8
Undercover bowling green	8
Café	7
Dogs on leads	7
Maintain green space	7
More food options/hospitality	7
More shelter	7
More social areas	7
More walking tracks	7
Amphitheatre	6
Multipurpose sporting area	6
Remediate tip area	6
Remove electrical poles	6
Upgrade change rooms	6
Bush trails/ hiking track	5
Community garden	5
Improve infrastructure	5
Increase bushland	5
Relocate cricket nets	5
Retain current facilities	5
Upgrade toilets	5
Full basketball court	4
Improve road connectivity.	4
Install CCTV	4
Larger picnic area	4
More bins	4

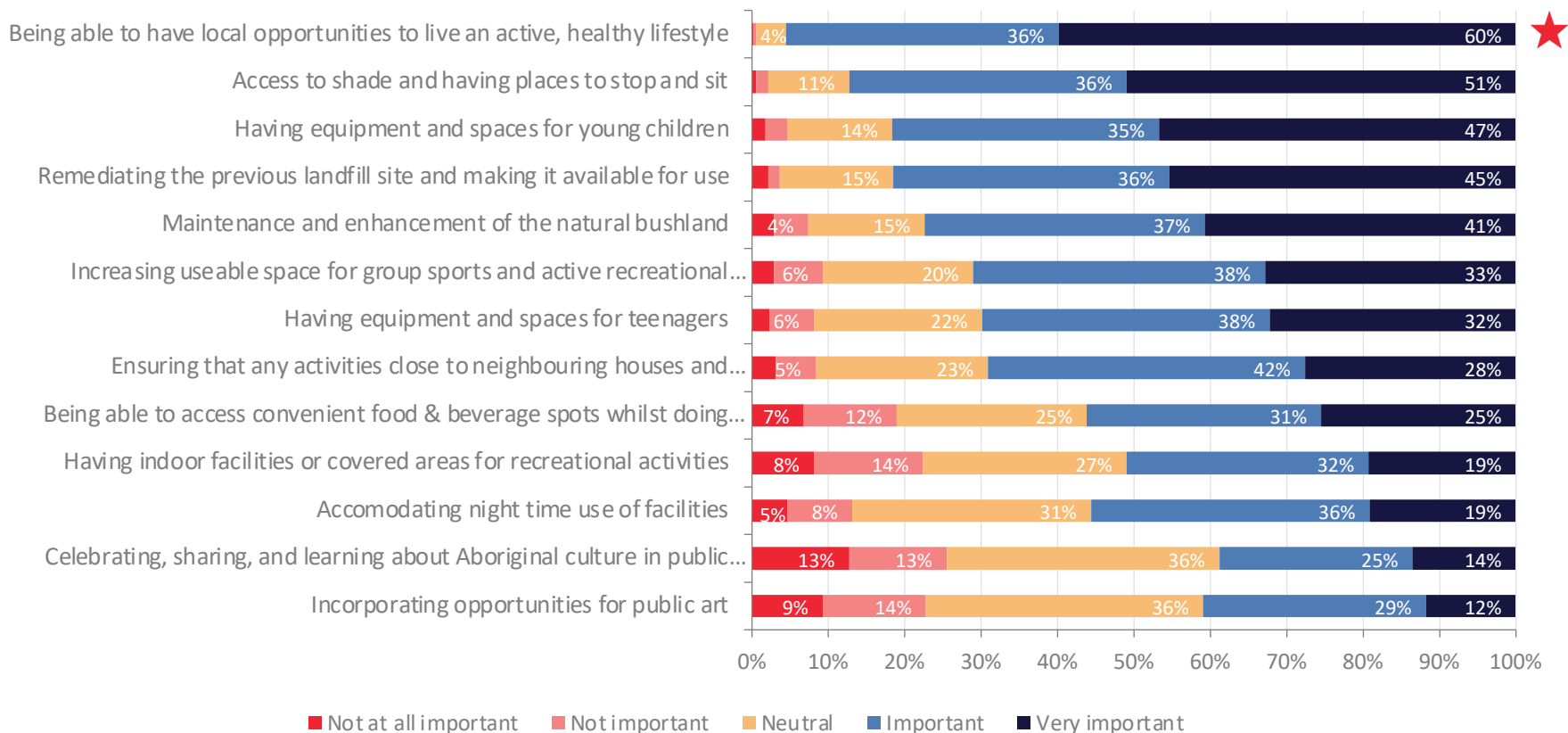
## Q15 Cont.

More water fountains	4	Indigenous interpretation	2
Outdoor concerts/ events	4	Indoor cricket nets	2
Parking	4	Leisure centre	2
Public golf course	4	Level running track	2
Relocate archery	4	More cricket facilities	2
Repurpose landfill area	4	More facilities	2
Revegetate landfill area	4	Netball court	2
Water playground	4	Ninja course	2
Better access	3	No dogs	2
Disc golf	3	No vehicles	2
Environment integration	3	Outdoor concerts	2
Extend the road	3	Reduce bushland	2
Goals all year round	3	Reduce fire hazard	2
Improve greens in golf centre	3	Renewable energy/ solar	2
Information signage	3	Running track	2
Licensed venue	3	Separate paths	2
No scooters/skates	3	Space out equipment	2
Noise reduction	3	Table tennis	2
Pump track	3	Tennis court	2
Replace cricket nets	3	Volleyball	2
Repurpose oval	3	Batting nets	1
Swimming pool	3	Direct access to archery club	1
Upgrade exercise equipment	3	Half tennis court	1
Better parking	2	Improve golf driving range facilities	1
Better signage	2	Improved archery club & facilities	1
Combined sports	2	Increase outdoor equipment	1
Connect to ken hurst	2	Looped walking track	1
Dog equipment	2	Pub	1
Equestrian	2	Skate park	1
Fence/move archery area	2	Upgrade basketball court	1
Housing	2	Unsure	3
Improved visibility	2	Nothing	12
		Not applicable	5
		Other	13



## Q16: Thinking about now and into the future, how important are each of the following to you?

Answered: 518 Skipped: 127



**Q17: We are interested in understanding how people enter and travel through John Connell Reserve via car, on foot or other method.**

**What suggestions, if any, do you have to improve movement for the following?**

### **Motorised Vehicles**

- **More/better quality parking:** inclusion of verge parking, bus parking or dedicated parking for clubs. Improvement to marking quality.
- **Safety concerns around traffic,** some suggesting limited to no vehicle traffic within the reserve. Speed limits and speed bumps also suggested.
- **Improved access between facilities within the reserve, as well as to surrounding streets.**
- Notably: access to driving range by connecting Dimond Court to the main golf carpark, new access road to Bowmen of Melville via Beasley Road as current access does not allow for 24/7 access for club members, and connecting Dundee to golf and cricket club.

### **Pedestrians**

- Respondents were generally happier with pedestrian access
- Key improvement points mentioned include **improved access outside of the park, more paths, better lighting, safety concerns, improved access within the park, ACROD suitable paths, path quality and maintenance.**
- Notable access points include: access from Ken Hurst, from Karel Ave, and pedestrian crossing on Dundee street.

### **Cyclists and non-motorised methods**

- There weren't as many opinions on cyclist improvements however **more paths, bike facilities and generally facilitating for cyclists more were common.**
- **Safety concerns were raised** surrounding small e-vehicles, some calling for a ban.
- **Dual-use paths/separate pedestrian and cycle paths were popularly mentioned.**
- A continuous cycle path along the perimeter of the reserve was also mentioned.

**Q17: We are interested in understanding how people enter and travel through John Connell Reserve via car, on foot or other method.**

**What suggestions, if any, do you have to improve movement for the following?**

Motorised vehicles 

More parking	110	Rain permeable roads	2
Improve access	52	Small vehicle management	2
New road	14	Street parking	2
More entrances	12	Widen roads	2
Speed limits	10	ACROD access	1
Parking quality	8	Angled parking bays	1
ACROD parking	7	Better gates	1
Road quality	7	Better path access	1
No roads through the park	6	Better signage	1
No vehicles	6	Break-in concerns	1
Speed bumps	5	Clear markings	1
Limit vehicles	4	Closer bus stop	1
No additional roads	4	No roads through the golf course	1
No cars	4	Remove speed bumps	1
Better car flow	3	Roundabout	1
Dedicated parking	3	Safer parking	1
No small vehicles	3	Service vehicles only	1
Verge parking	3	Shared space design	1
Bus parking	2	Solar and EV power systems	1
Marking quality	2	Speed control barriers	1
Off-road parking	2	Traffic management	1

**Q17: We are interested in understanding how people enter and travel through John Connell Reserve via car, on foot or other method.**


**What suggestions, if any, do you have to improve movement for the following?**

Pedestrians 

More paths	32	Seating	2
Improve access outside of the park	21	Separate pedestrian and cycle paths	2
Better lighting	19	Bush track quality	1
Safety concerns	17	Close the loop	1
Improved access within the park	15	Improved entrances	1
ACROD suitable paths	11	Maintain paths	1
Path quality	11	Night footpaths	1
Path maintenance	10	No parking at exits	1
Weather protection	8	No small vehicles	1
Widen paths	6	Path materials	1
Interesting walk trails	3	Paths around entire perimeter	1
Linking footpaths	3	Raised paths	1
More bush trails	3	Sealed paths	1
Wayfinding	3	Separate pedestrian and small vehicles	1
Dual use pathway	2	Shared cycle paths	1
More entrances	2	Shared paths	1
Path markings	2	Shared spaces	1
Pedestrian only	2	Too landscaped undesirable	1
Pedestrian underpass	2	Trail variety	1

**Q17: We are interested in understanding how people enter and travel through John Connell Reserve via car, on foot or other method.**

**What suggestions, if any, do you have to improve movement for the following?**

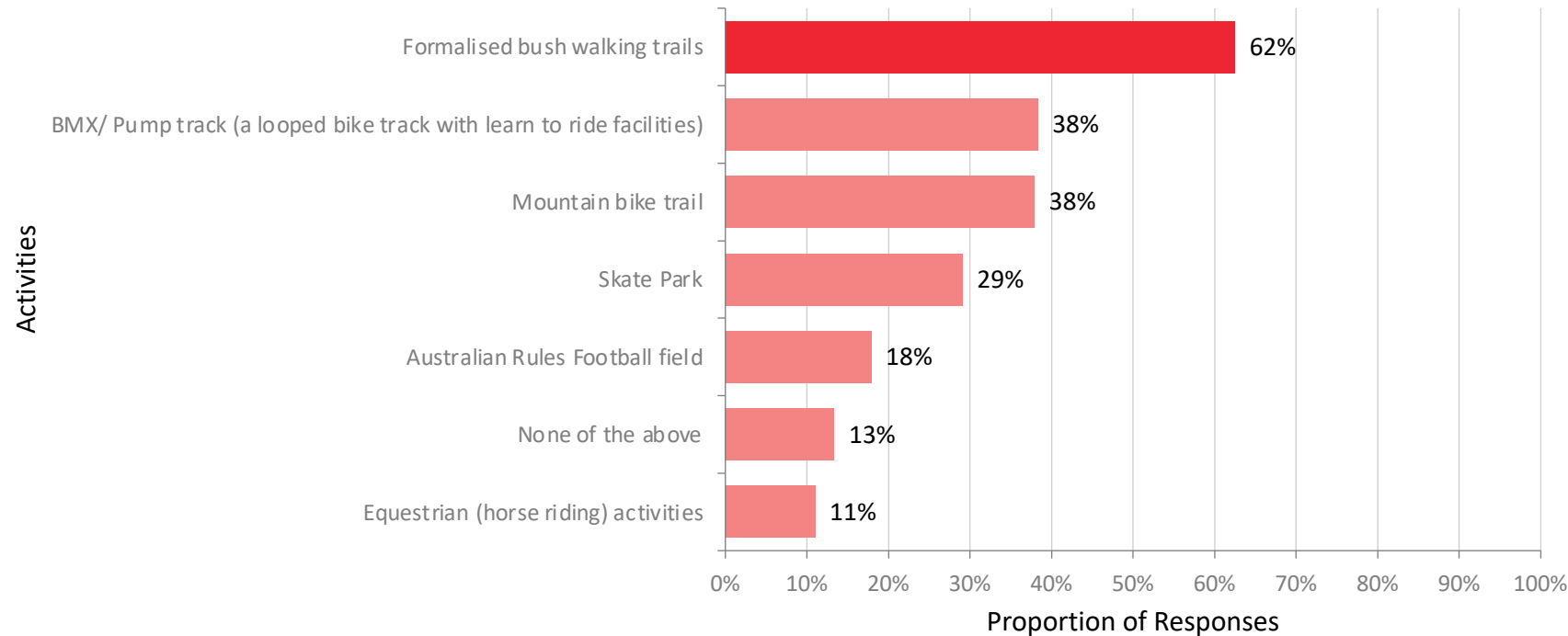
Cyclists or other non-motorised travel methods 

Facilitate for cyclists	24		
More paths	14	Cycle path around perimeter	2
Bike facilities	13	Mountain bike trails	2
Safety concerns	12	Wider paths	2
Access from surrounding streets	10	Concrete paths	1
Path quality	9	Cycle park	1
Separate pedestrian and cycle paths	8	Cycle path for young children	1
Designated cycle paths	7	Dual use paths	1
Speed limit	6	Improve access within the park	1
Better lighting	5	Marked paths	1
No motorised	3	More entrances	1
Path maintenance	3	No cyclists	1
ACROD suitable paths	2	Pump track	1
Connecting paths	2	Safety signage	1
		Sealed bike paths	1
		Separate pedestrian	1
		Skate park	1
		Underpass	1



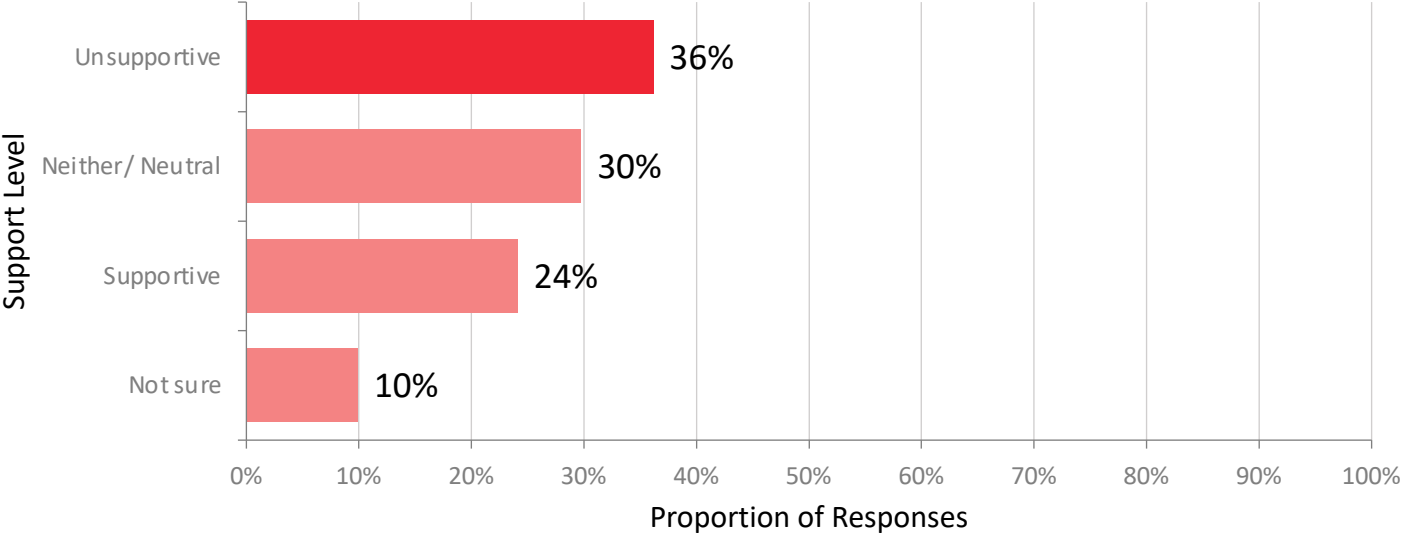
**Q20: Thinking about the future, which of the following activities would you support at John Connell Reserve - in addition to existing activities? Tick all that apply. Note: some of the activities below were identified in previous planning projects at John Connell Reserve.**

Answered: 509   Skipped: 136



**Q21: Would you be supportive of indoor e-sports being accommodated at John Connell Reserve. Electronic sport includes virtual-reality experiences for existing sports and gaming activities.**

Answered: 514   Skipped: 131



The most valued sentiment was **‘being able to have local opportunities to a healthy and active lifestyle’ (96% net positive)** therefore it isn’t surprising most respondents are unsupportive of e-sports. This could change if e-sports are promoted as an active activity, unlike what people may perceive it to be.

## Q22: Are there any other recreation, leisure or sporting activities that you would like to see incorporated into John Connell Reserve?

Swimming pool	17
Enclosed dog park	10
Basketball	8
More food options/hospo	7
Water feature	7
Bike track (mountain or BMX)	6
Cricket	6
Tennis court	6
Nature play	5
Netball	5
Playground	5
Recreation centre	5
Second oval	5
Yoga/Pilates/Thai chi	5
Amphitheatre	4
Not e-sports	4
Volleyball	4
Badminton	3
Disc golf	3

Indoor archery	3
Outdoor exercise classes	3
Archery	3
Afl	2
Bouldering	2
Disability access	2
Dog agility	2
Flat paths	2
Gymnasium	2
Indoor basketball	2
Information signage	2
Running paths	2
Seating	2
Skatepark	2
Soccer	2
Community garden	2
Baseball	1
Community hall	1
Conservation facility	1
Croquet	1
Cycling paths	1
Dance studio	1

Dark sky site (astronomy site)	1
Dog training	1
Environment integration	1
Family friendly activities	1
Flying fox	1
Go carts	1
Golf buggy facility	1
Handball	1
Hockey (field)	1
Indigenous golf course	1
Indoor tennis	1
Licensed venue	1
Mini golf	1
Orienteering	1
Outdoor cooking classes	1
Passive recreation	1
Sheltered spot for children's groups	1
Table tennis	1
Touch rugby	1
Ultimate frisbee	1
Restore to bushland	1
No dangerous sports	1
Dedicated sports facility	1
No buildings	1
Golf	1



## Q23: Do you have any other thoughts about how you would like to see the John Connell Reserve used and celebrated in the future? Tell us your top priority.

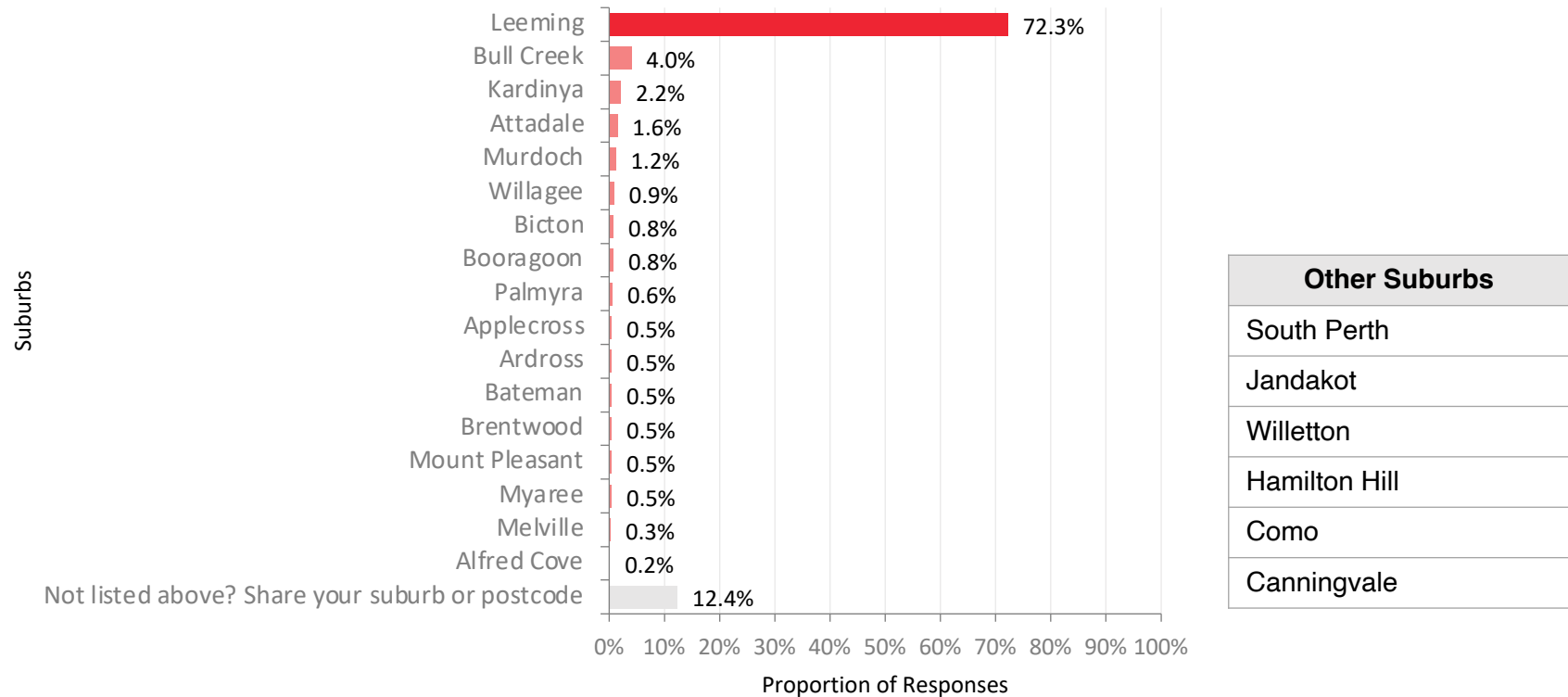
Increase/improve native bush	33	Picnic facilities	7	Protect natives	2
Open green space	30	Undercover bowling green	6	Relocating cricket nets	2
Archery	28	More parking	5	Skatepark	2
Community	26	Pump track	5	Sports lighting	2
Second cricket ground	23	Remediate landfill area	5	Vegetate fenced area	2
Family friendly	20	Sports area	5	BBQ	1
Enclosed dog area	18	Water play	5	Community garden	1
Play ground	18	Afl	4	Dog equipment	1
Shade	18	Nature play	4	Drinking fountain	1
Universal access	18	No skateparks	4	E-sports	1
Safe	17	Rehabilitate landfill site	4	Gates on oval	1
Trees	15	Upgrade playground	4	Grass maintenance	1
Food & beverage outlet	14	Upgraded toilets	4	Half basketball court	1
Activities for older kids/teenagers	13	Cycle paths	3	Improve access	1
Bush trails	11	Fenced play ground	3	More outdoor exercise equipment	1
Outdoor activities	11	Public golf course	3	Netball court	1
Lighting	10	Swimming pool	3	No change to golf course	1
Second soccer ground	10	Walking paths	3	Remove overhead power towers	1
More seating	9	Water feature	3	Replace cricket nets	1
Outdoor community events	9	Amphitheatre	2	Research	1
Incorporate aboriginal culture	8	Aquatic centre	2	Roof over bowling greens	1
More community events	8	Basketball court	2	Second cricket pitch	1
Better utilisation of existing facilities	7	Covered picnic tables	2	Tennis court	1
Mountain bike trails	7	Horse riding	2	Through road	1
Paths	7	Housing	2	Traffic concerns	1
		Landscaping	2	Upgrade fencing around golf course	1
		Limit vehicle access	2	Wave pool	1

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# Demographics

# Q1: What suburb do you live in?

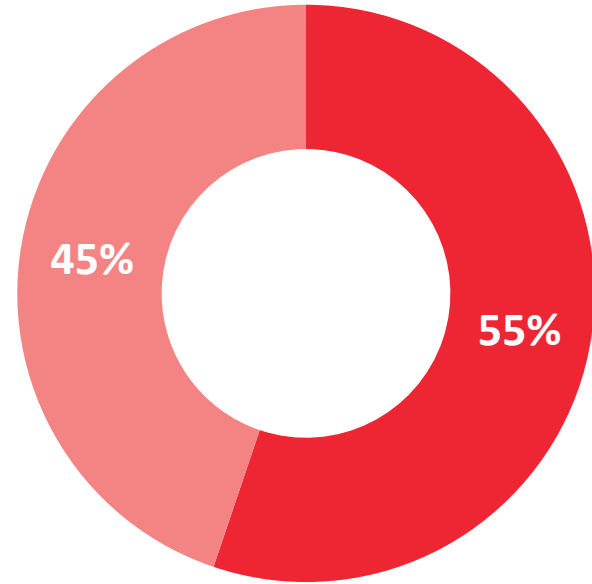
Answered: 645 Skipped: 0



72.3% of respondents live locally in Leeming however reserve users live as far away as Hamilton Hill.

## Q2: How close do you live to John Connell Reserve?

Answered: 645 Skipped: 0

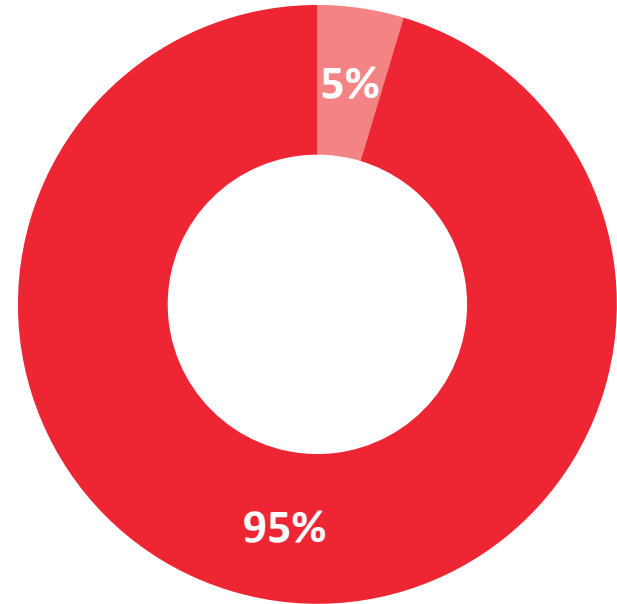


- Within one kilometre
- More than one kilometre away

Of these responses **55%** live within one kilometre of the reserve

#### Q4: Do you own or work in a business within 1 kilometre of John Connell Reserve?

Answered: 645 Skipped: 0

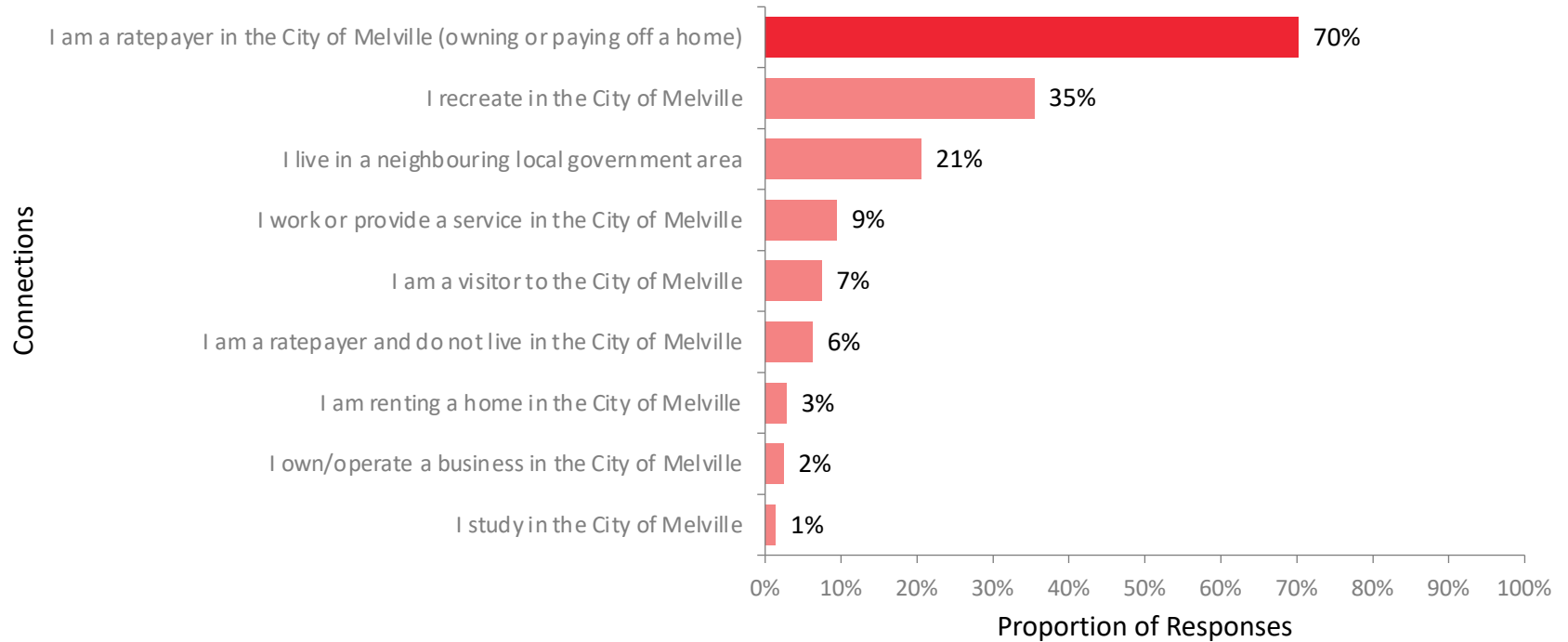


■ Yes ■ No

Only **5%** own or work within 1 kilometre of the reserve

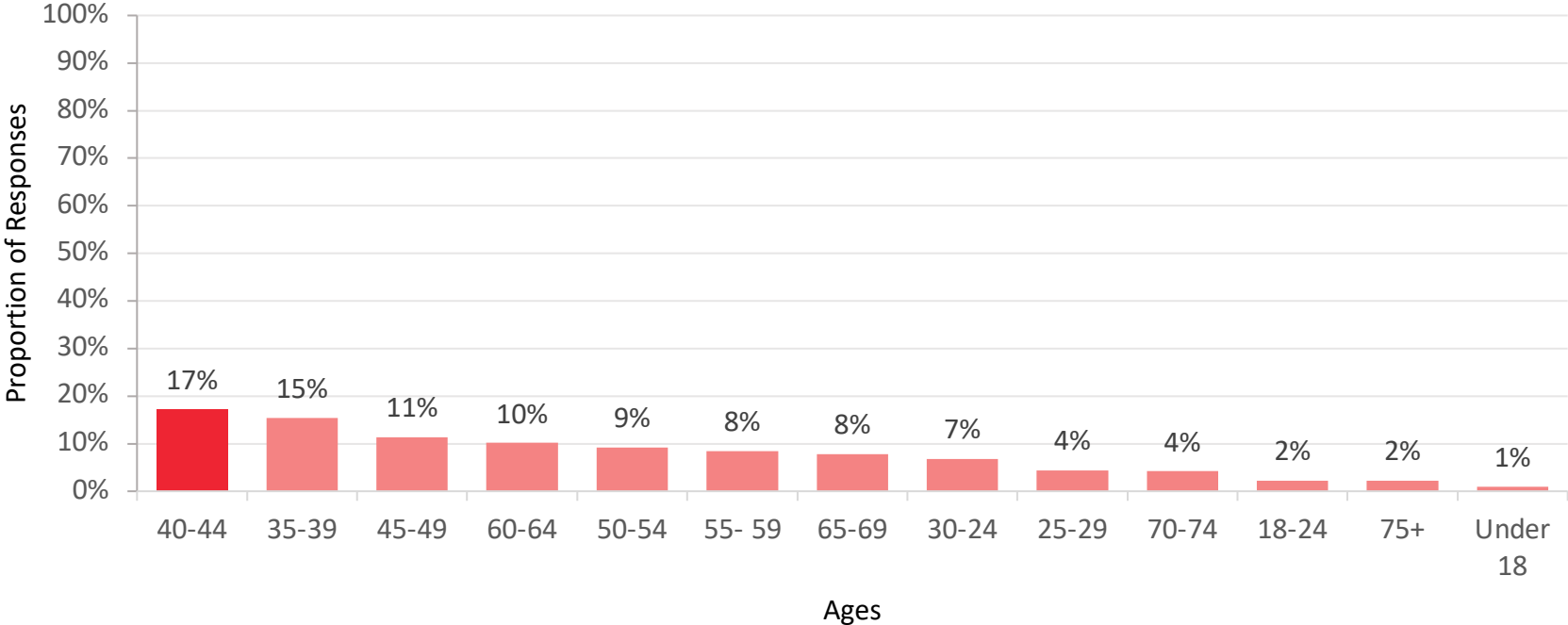
## Q25: How are you connected to the City of Melville? Tick all that apply

Answered: 497 Skipped: 148



# Q26: What is your age?

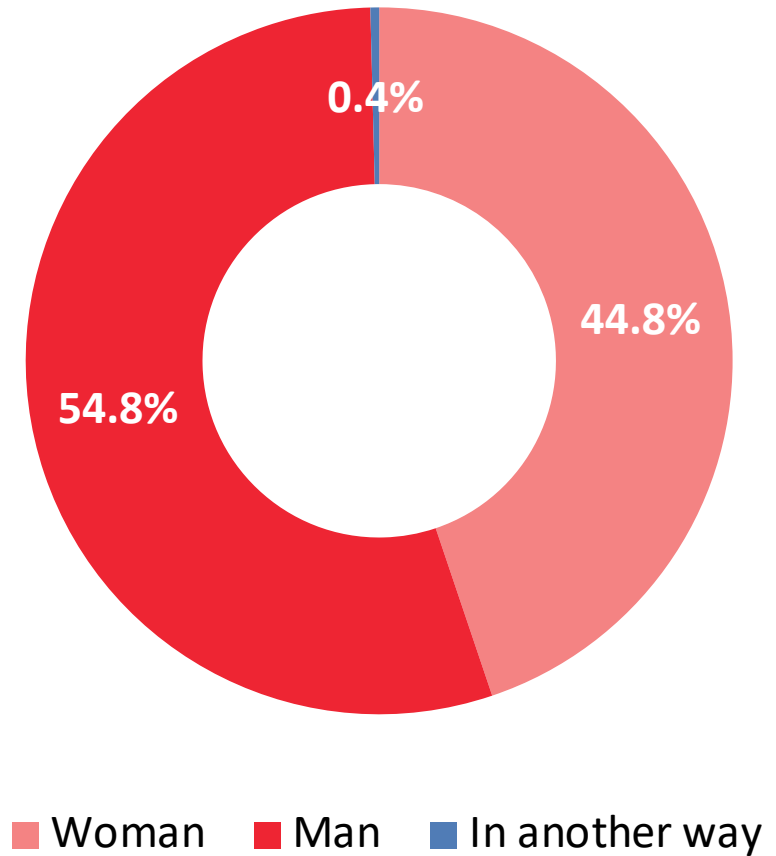
Answered: 502   Skipped: 143



There was a good range of respondents age.

## Q27: What gender do you identify as?

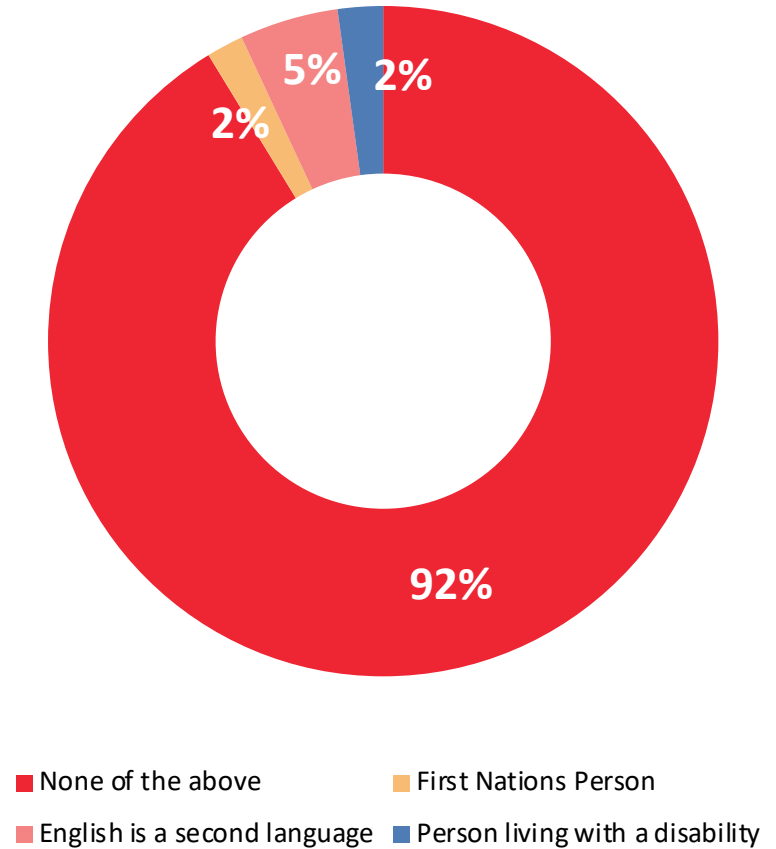
Answered: 502 Skipped: 143

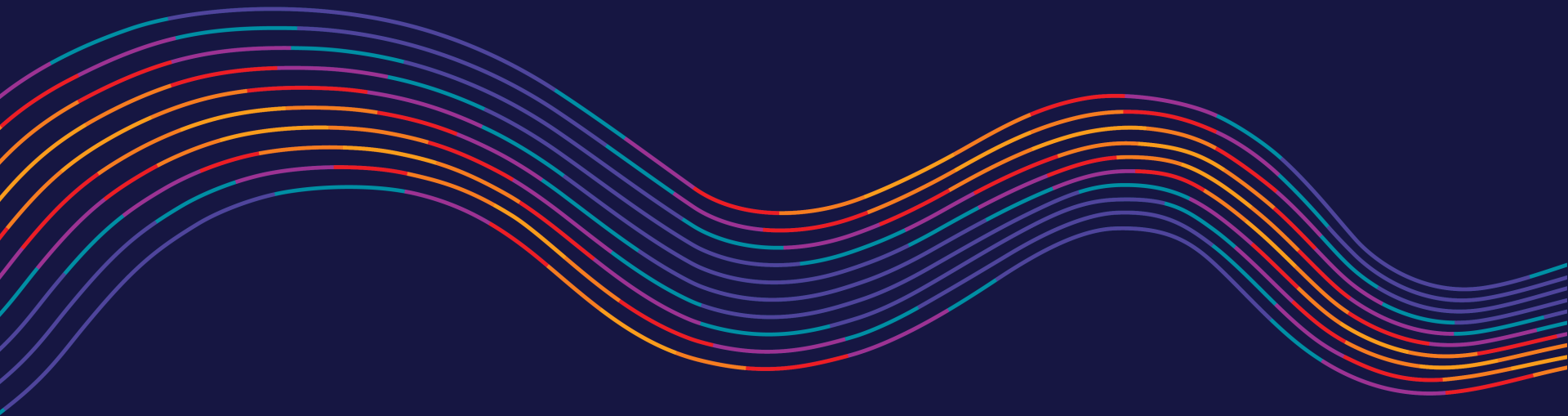




## Q28: Do you identify as one of the following?

Answered: 502 Skipped: 143





JOHN  
CONNELL  
RESERVE

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MASTER PLAN

City of  
**Melville**

**element.**  
the art and science of place