



**Rockhampton
Recreational Fishing
Development Strategy
Community Engagement Report**

Date: November 2015 to July 2016

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Overall Executive Summary

The Queensland State Government last year (October 2015) regulated Net Free Zones (NFZ) in three locations across the State. The NFZ is a ban on the use of commercial gill netting of fish in these areas. The Fitzroy River and a significant proportion of Keppel Bay is one of three NFZ's with the others being in Mackay and Cairns.

Rockhampton Regional Council identified an opportunity to expand its recreational fishing tourism sector and directed a Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Strategy be developed on the 4 November 2015.

A comprehensive community engagement was initiated to assist with the development of the draft strategy.

Over a nine month period a variety of engagement techniques were used to develop and refine the draft strategy, these included stakeholder interviews, meetings, community surveys and a submission process.

Overall the community engagement yielded 983 responses:

- Marine Infrastructure & Fishing Tourism Survey (Open ended survey). 410 respondents.
- Boat Ramp & Land Based Fishing Survey. 485 respondents.
- Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy submission. 88 submissions.

Main Messages from participants

- 96% of respondents that made a submission on the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy either supported the draft strategy or requested further items.
- Improving land based fishing infrastructure was one of the most important issues throughout the entire community engagement.
- New marine infrastructure should focus on North Rockhampton and Port Alma:
 - 85% of respondents indicated that the proposed North Rockhampton Boat Ramp facility is a preference for them.
 - 82% of respondents indicated that the proposed North Rockhampton land fishing areas is a preference for them.
 - 80% of respondents indicated that an extension of the Port Alma boat ramp facility is a preference for them.
 - 77% of respondents indicated that an extension of the Quay Street boat ramp parking is a preference for them.
 - 75% of respondents indicated a new Port Alma boat ramp facility is a preference for them.
- Mixed results for existing boat ramp facilities in the Rockhampton Region:
 - Reaney Street and Port Alma facilities did not rate highly with boaties / fishers. 8% rated Reaney Street Boat Ramp as "Good" or "Very Good", 14% rated Port Alma as "Good" or "Very Good".
 - Quay Street Boat Ramp facility rated better with boaties / fishers. 72% rated the Quay Street boat ramp as "Good" or "Very Good". 52% rated the Parking at this facility at "Good" or "Very Good".
- Boaties and Fishers agree that more and better quality infrastructure in the Region is needed.
- Fishing charters, boat hire, tour guides, targeted accommodation and bait & tackle shops were business development opportunities mentioned by respondents:
 - Other ideas included: fishing lodges, eco tours, seafood restaurants, houseboats, BBQ boats, bait farming, additional caravan parks, food & drink vendors and charter|catch|cook operations.
- Cost of running a business, floods and needing more tourist's key obstacles for tourism.
- Leveraging off the Barra Bounty and the Women That Fish are ways to promote the Fishery.
- Lowering sports fish bag limits, improving compliance, adjusting sports fish size limits were the three main methods fishers indicated to ensuring a sustainable fishery.
- Cleaning up the Riverbank/River, Keeping pollutants out of the River and increase policing were the three main methods fishers thought would improve the local catchment environment.

Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy Executive Summary

The Rockhampton Regional Council endorsed the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy (the draft strategy) document to undertake a full community consultation at its meeting on the 9 June 2016.

Various engagement methods were undertaken to inform and consult the community on the draft strategy. Informing methods included media releases, Facebook advertising, website updates, a shopping mall visit (Northside plaza) and providing information to local fishing and boating clubs.

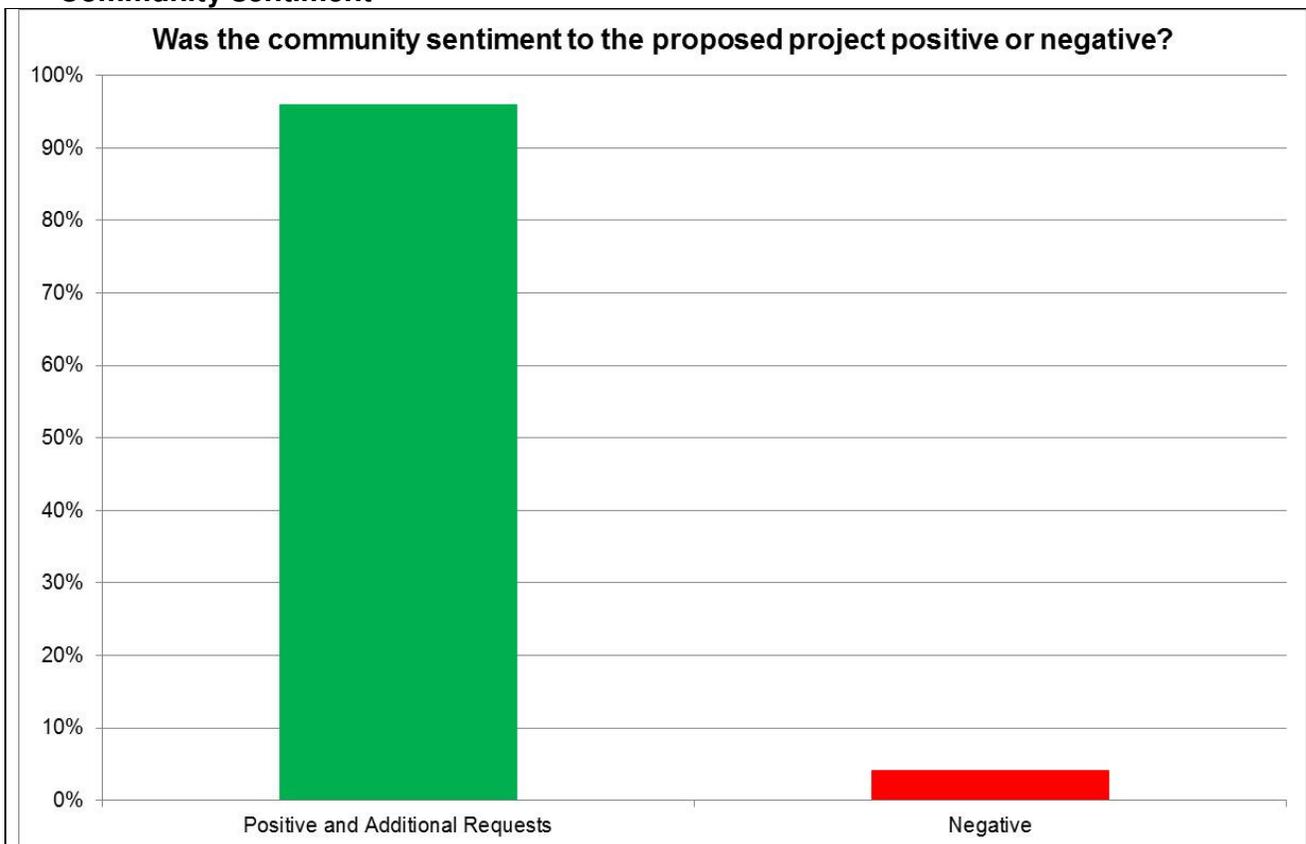
The consultation period was from the 17 June 2016 to 15 July 2016.

The main consulting method was through obtaining submissions from the community on the draft strategy document. In total, 88 submissions were received, this included mail, online and face to face submissions.

Main Messages from participants

- 96% of respondents who made a comment in their submissions either supported the draft strategy or requested further items.
- Improving land based fishing infrastructure was the most important issue through the consultation.
 - Resident comment: *"Yes, If land based fishing platforms are to be built in the future, can they be constructed on a pontoon style system so they can raise and lower with the tide. The current fishing platforms in the Fitzroy River are four meters off the water at low tide and are not user friendly"*.
 - Resident comment: *"For The Common we need to level the area made into a fishable bank. There is a huge area down there and if put in a 20 tonne excavator in and level it we could have a great area for fishing for many families/people. This area at the moment has a lot rubbish in there; this action will help to keep the rubbish out as well. Also it will make it easier for the council to mow the area and keep it clean. Also you need to keep the hoons out when it rains at the common"*.
- Tourism opportunities were identified by submitters through implementing the draft strategy.
 - Resident comment: *"An exciting concept. Will improve the appearance from the Southside and as you drive over the bridge heading North. Will encourage tourism and possibly longer stays by visitors to our town. A walkway along the river bank would be a boom for the community. Would be fantastic if development could happen from the current boat to past the racecourse area making access very easy. A development such as this could boost the use of the council caravan park on the other side of the Fitzroy Bridge. This could be promoted in conjunction with the development bringing in more revenues from the caravan park"*.
- Further comments received to improve boat ramps at North Rockhampton and Port Alma.
- Improve boat ramp areas by implementing toilets, lights, CCTV raised.
- Cleaning up of current facilities required focus on the Quay Street Boat Ramp facility.
 - Resident comment: *"What is necessary is for council to clean up what it already has, the maintenance needs to consider in the longer term. I can't support additional infrastructure when the current infrastructure is not maintained. Rubbish in the river is a major issue as well. Managing rubbish removal is imperative. I remove rubbish from the river on a continual basis; I help to clean up the river as well"*.
- Capricorn Enterprise suggest: the short to medium focus is to grow the number of visitors within the 400km radius, and beyond to south east Queensland, who will fish whilst visiting our destination. In the long term, once fishing tour product is established other markets afield can be targeted.

Community sentiment



Data analysis:

To calculate the sentiment of the community overall all comments were analysed and segmented into the following groups: Positive and/or Additional Requests and No Response.

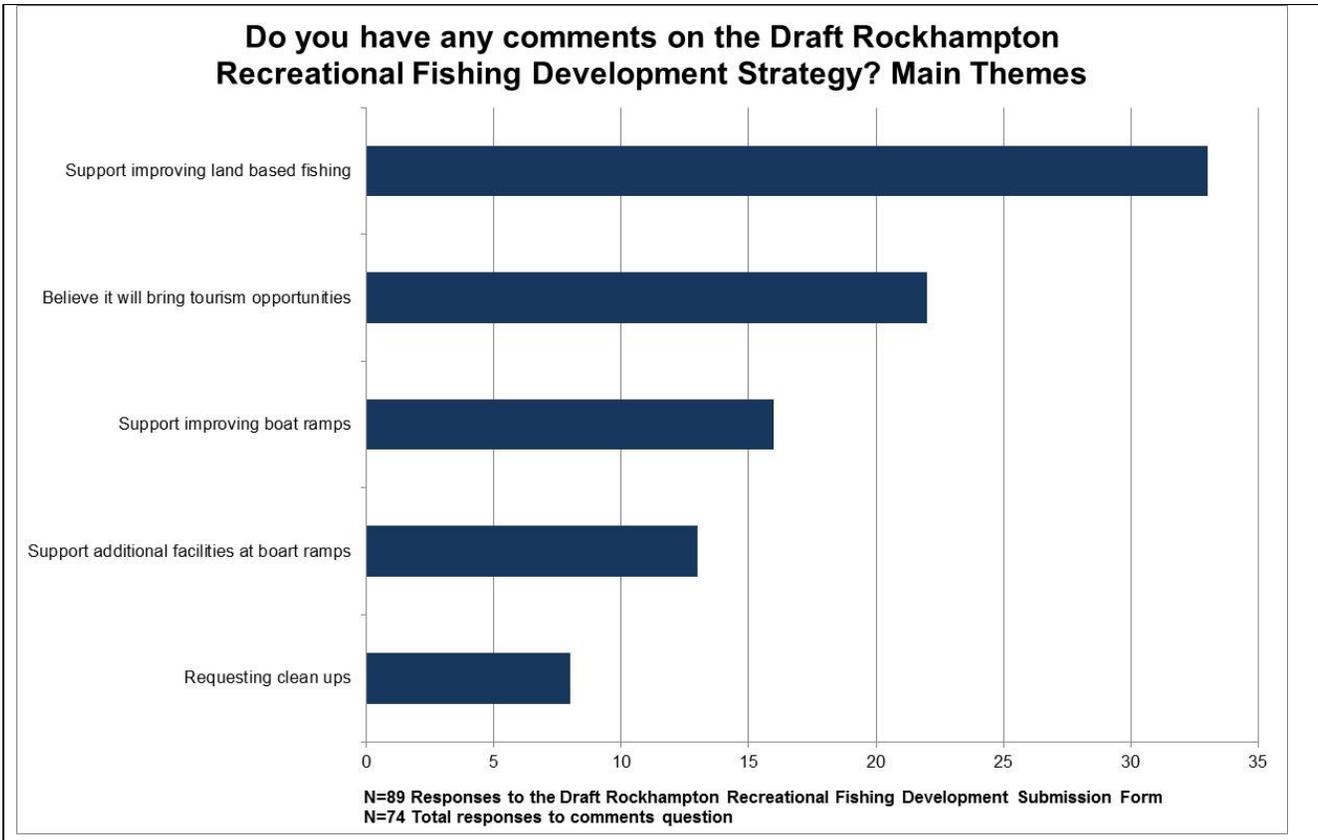
From the 89 submission forms that were completed, here are the number of responses in those groupings:

- 71 people indicated that they were either positive and/or had additional requests
- 3 people were negative
- 15 people didn't provide a response

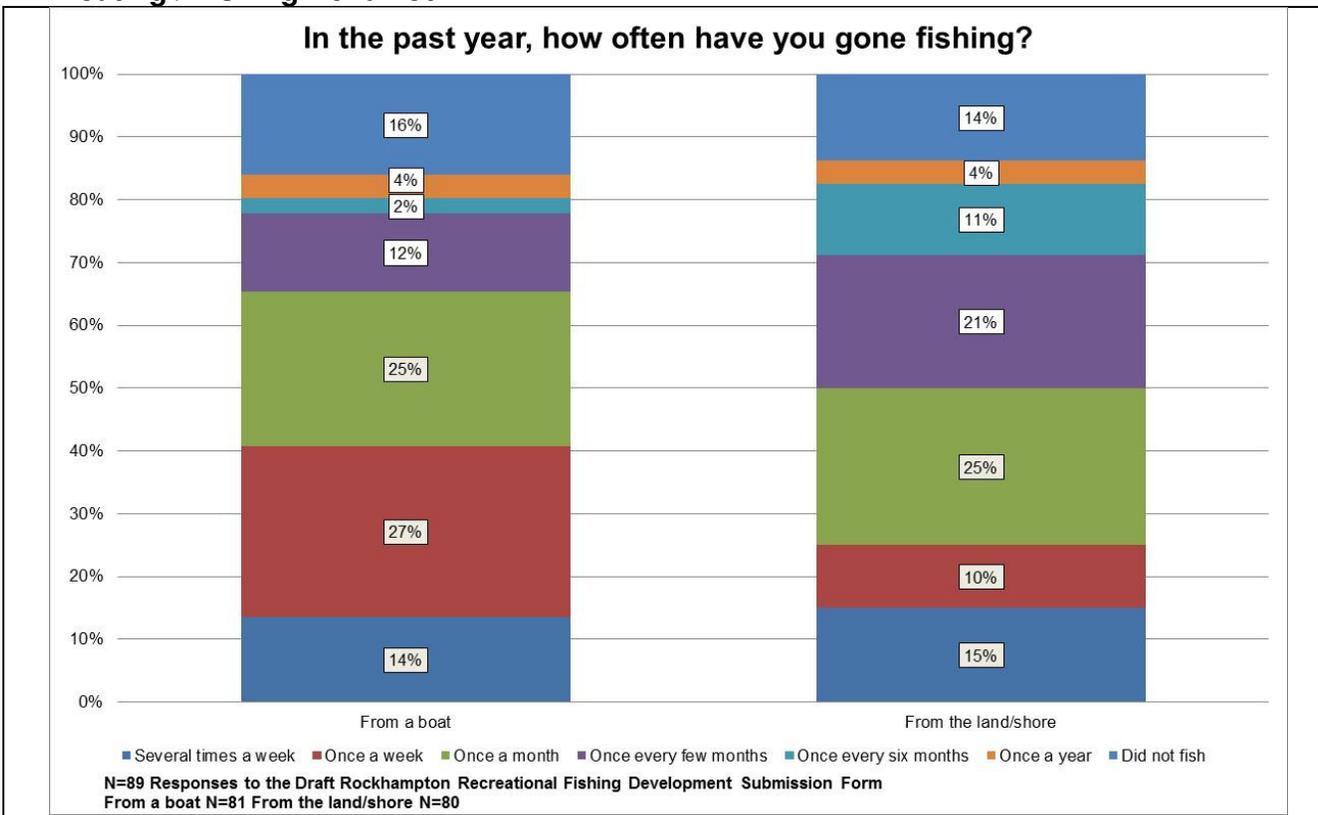
So considering those that provided a response to whether they were either positive (71) or negative (3) regarding the concept being proposed, a total base of 74; 96% were positive and 4% were negative.

The sample range of 89 provides for a confidence level of 95% with a confidence interval of +/- 10.4%.

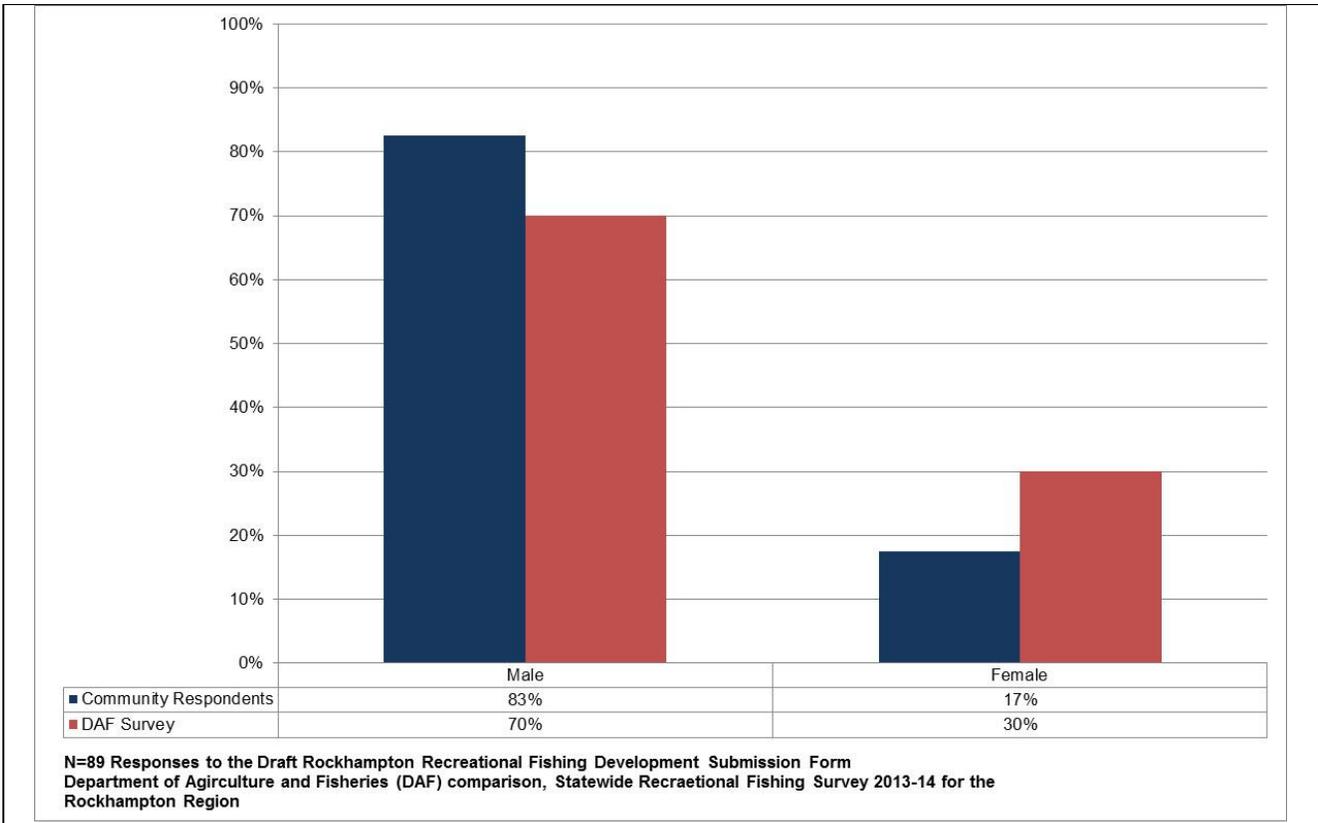
Main Themes from submissions



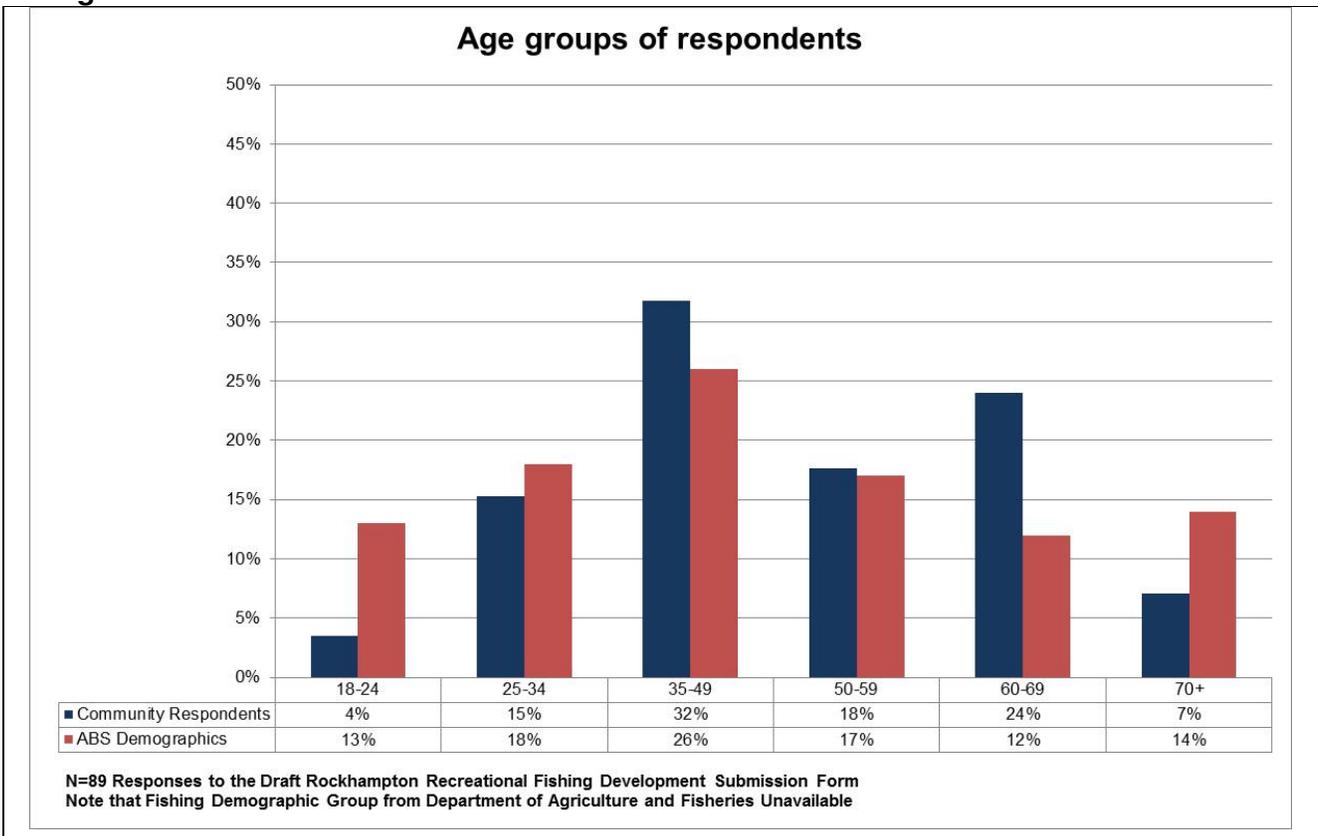
Boating / Fishing Behaviour



Gender



Age



All Submissions made on the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy

Reference No	Do you have any comments on the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy?	Gender	Age group
1	1. The map within the strategy is terrific and a similar map would highlight to tourists the awesome options for any type of fishing that they may want. Perhaps allowing for fishing holidays that allow for visitors to try all varieties, river fishing, pier fishing, estuary fishing, boat fishing etc. Holiday packages could be based around trying the whole lot out. 2. The Rocky region could easily be promoted as easy place to come and fish because: • We have more boats ramps • We have better river and estuary pier fishing • Fishing locations are within easy distance of town • Local business very well setup to provide rental equipment such as boats, fishing gear, safety gear and maps • Local accommodation from Camping to Hotels accommodates people with boats and caravans. • With over 300 days of sun the fishing conditions are some of the best in the world 3. I would like to suggest that council work with local tourism and fishing related business to create short and medium term stay fishing holidays where tourists can organise there fishing holiday consistency through multiple places, this would work in the same way as people who go to tourism related shops in Queenstown in New Zealand all get the same brochures, stories, prices and integrated experience to make the booking of holiday activities easy.	Male	35-49
2	1. Slash and weed along the North side river bank for easy access, behind bowls club and opposite the race course. 2. Resume part of Caravan Park near old bridge. Use concrete blocks (1 tonne) and make a wall behind the caravan park to walk along, under the bridge also.	Male	70-84
3	A toilet in the land based fishing areas are important. The city reaches provide some of the fishing. The freshwater system too is good however there are not a lot of areas that you can fish. Development of Thompsons point would be good too. The more fishing platforms the better. The more people will be using the river.	Male	60-69
4	An exciting concept. Will improve the appearance from the Southside and as you drive over the bridge heading North. Will encourage tourism and possibly longer stays by visitors to our town. A walkway along the river bank would be a boom for the community. Would be fantastic if development could happen from the current boat to past the racecourse area making access very easy. A development such as this could boost the use of the council caravan park on the other side of the Fitzroy bridge. This could be promoted in conjunction with the development bringing in more revenues from the caravan park.	Male	60-69
5	Concentrates on area below the barrage only. Could the Council consider a development strategy for above the barrage to encourage sport and tourism activities? Potential exists for swimming, camping, tourism, eco tours, boat hire, food supply and all water sports as well as fishing, leading to even greater community and tourist involvement than the current targeted area. Online surveys, hard copy surveys and face to face surveys, currently utilised, are proven to have potential for bias. If those groups supporting the strategy (mentioned in acknowledgments) are considered, members would be encouraged to complete the survey. This would reflect those fishing above the real mean of community participation (first survey, N =410), with other community members not completing the survey or being unaware of the survey. Council would understand that potential for bias could exist for any other survey for sports having similar numbers and attracting visitors to carnivals to fishing enthusiasts and fishing tourists and un. I note that a random, unbiased survey by telephone has not been used. I believe phone survey, aimed at all rate payers, requesting gender, age cohort and fishing frequency would produce different data.	Male	60-69
6	Facilities for land based fishing is an excellent idea.	Male	35-49
7	Fishing is good for wellbeing and is relaxing. I don't fish but I know women that take their children fishing to de-stress. It is also positive to encourage more women to fish.	Female	35-49

8	For The Common we need to level the area made into a fishable bank. There is a huge area down there and if put in a 20 tonne excavator in and level it we could have a great area for fishing for many families/people. This area at the moment has a lot rubbish in there; this action will help to keep the rubbish out as well. Also it will make it easier for the council to mow the area and keep it clean. Also you need to keep the hoons out when it rains at the common.	Male	60-69
9	Go for it	Male	50-59
10	Good plan. Infrastructure is the key. Need to consider a marina at the city reach to enable fishing charter vessel operations and support businesses including river cruisers - this will bring the tourists, create jobs and promote 'Destination Rockhampton'.	Male	35-49
11	Great idea need more land based fishing infrastructure. I live on the north side and go fishing with my family around Queens park. I take my family fishing there and better facilities to access this area is required	Male	25-34
12	Great job and shows some forward thinking initiatives. Another idea for Land Based infrastructure that has been mentioned to me is: redeveloping the pond area next to the dump as a stocked fishing area. Typo error in Mayor's Message - magnificent is incorrectly spelt (magnificant)	Female	50-59
13	Great to see the RRC being proactive on the subject. While work currently restricts my fishing outings, my approaching retirement will see me on the water more often. Tourism is a major industry at present and fishing is an amazingly top pastime for tourists. Better facilities, along with resource management will ensure a healthy industry.	Male	60-69
14	Having read the draft, I am mostly happy, and in agreement with the planners on what needs to happen to ensure sustainability of the resource, and a great destination for fishers. I just have a couple of points I would like to make. Whilst I applaud your plan to increase the size of boat ramps and car parks adjacent thereto, I would like to request that consideration be given to placing high definition cctv cameras on both the ramps and overlooking the carpark to widely discourage theft and vandalism, which will quickly destroy any of your attempts to market the place as a holiday destination. The second point I would like to draw your attention to is with regard to regulation. The last thing we need is increased regulation to the point that it again discourages people, and encourages them to go to other fisheries (ie the NT). I think that the state regulations regarding bag limits and size should suffice. I know that you were given a lot of input from fishing clubs etc, but what they forget is that not everyone can fish as well as them, or go as often due to work commitments. This resource needs to be for everyone to enjoy, not the fishing elite. Thanks for the opportunity to provide some feedback and I wish you well in your plan.	Male	50-59
15	I believe a wider cross section of stakeholders should have been involved. Some questions were leading to the answers you wished to hear. It appears no business plan has been arrived at to match or exceed lost regional revenue from commercial fishing.	Male	50-59
16	I believe on face value it is a good plan. One thing not mention is the effect the increased boat traffic will have on the boats on moorings. A main channel needs to be formed/marked that can be driven down by power boat vessels at speed.	Male	25-34
17	I believe the current strategy is great and long overdue for this Region. Has consideration been given for the upgrading the run down boat ramp at Thompson Point with collaboration with the Livingstone Shire Council.	Male	35-49
18	I feel that if the Council puts a ramp at the back of the racecourse, it will make the roads extremely unsafe. You have traffic going to the races on race day and traffic going to the greyhound races. You have young kids walking or cycling to the soccer or touch football or travelling with their parents in cars. Plus the added pressure of all race traffic. Then add trucks, cars and four wheel drives and their boat trainers, you have a recipe for disaster at some time. By all means put in fishing jetties, parking areas, roads and pergolas to improve the north side of the river. However, I think my idea of a 3 lane boat lane at Donovan Park opposite Stack Street, is a much safer place to put a new boat ramp. It would benefit all fisherman. A wash down area could also be placed in the same place. There would be less damage to mangroves as there is already an opening there for a	Male	70-84

	ramp. My final point is good fish up to 1200mm long have already been caught in this area.		
19	I like the land based fishing areas, it gives me a choice of where I launch the boat. Also land based area properly done can assist the banks.	Male	25-34
20	I like the plan this is great, the accessibility for persons with mobility issues is important.	Female	70-84
21	I like the proposals. I would like to see Nerimbera receive a fishing platform. I would like to see a Thompsons point boat ramp upgrade (single lane concrete ramp). I would like to also see a fishing platform at Thompsons point	Male	25-34
22	I live near the 400 meter limit for no fishing. The signage for the no fishing area is too small and I am constantly asked by visitors where the limit is. Let's get bigger signs on each bank. Floating pontoons at the between the rail bridge and the barrage to fish on cause the current structures are too high. And a pontoon at port alma next to the ramp.	Male	35-49
23	I love what you are doing and actually working with the fishing public but then working outside fisheries by reducing size and bag limits. This should be the blueprint for other systems like the Noosa river which draws a huge amount of tourist fishing dollars. I spent a week fishing the Port Alma region and caught nothing yet saw many Barra pulled into commercial boats. You now have me thinking of coming back to the area in a few years	Male	35-49
24	I really hope that they give the green light for more fishing piers like the ones down in the Huish Drive area for the common area (Cyril Connell touch fields - Norbridge Park soccer fields). To develop something like that on the Northside sure would be an asset for our community. It has been warranted for many years now. I come from a fishing family and my mother spent many years on the river is now wheel chair bound. So to have a platform that is assessable for the disabled and that they can still take advantage of our beautiful river and therefore still have a quality of life to be able to fish. I feel that the fishing infrastructure built in Huish Drive near the Alexander Bridge is really well designed. It is a great safe place with the railings to take the small children too so they can learn to fish. Also to be able to spend the whole day fishing with the family you really need to look at putting in a toilet and disabled one as well in the vicinity. Huish drive ticks all the boxes at the moment with access through the coffee shop to use the pools toilet. I'm sure there would be lots of old folks with disabilities and families that would take advantage of these fishing platforms if there were amenities close by.	Female	50-59
25	I support fishing, occasionally. I believe women need to get out and have a fish, give it a go. I support any great changes to help and support anyone and everyone get out and have a fish.	Female	18-24
26	I support the ideas in the draft! I personally don't fish, but know lots of people that do. We have a beautiful river and I support all efforts to upgrade the riverbank so that as many people from our community can enjoy it. I especially support more women getting involved in male dominated sports such as fishing. The women that fish comp are awesome.	Female	25-34
27	I think it is really important that we are considering the impact of fishing overall to our region but more importantly the stats on the adventure market. The adventure market will bring people to Rockhampton. The Fitzroy is known as one of the best places to fish for wild Barra so encouraging people to start their own adventure tourism businesses will bring people to Rockhampton. There are not many places where you can fly into an airport and be fishing in 30mins.	Male	35-49
28	I think the idea of more shore fishing facilities is a great idea. I mostly use the Port Alma boat ramp which is long overdue for an upgrade as on windy days it can be a hassle to get to boat on the trailer.	Male	25-34
29	I think the planned infrastructure will be well received by the local fishing community. The infrastructure will attract visitors to our region and promote the region as an attractive location for fishing holidays. The infrastructure will provide greater access to the Fitzroy River for fisherman with and without boats. Fishing Platforms will provide safe access for the wider community to enjoy our region and the fishing activity it provides.	Male	50-59
30	I think this is great; it would be good to limit the pro fishing so there is a better chance of catching fish from the shore. I also think having WTF is a good way of	Female	25-34

	getting the women involved.		
31	I use: - Quay St Boat Ramp - Ski Gardens Southside Boat Ramp - Port Alma Boat Ramp - Rosslyn Bay Boat Ramps - Stanage Bay Boat Ramps Also beach launch Emu Park beach Langham Beach also	Male	60-69
32	I wish to comment on the proposed development of the boat ramp at Port Alma. 1. Toilet facilities at the Port are of high importance. This facility is not being utilised by families due to the lack of adequate toilet facilities. 2. The current boat ramp in itself meets the current need of use, but urgently requires a pontoon on one side for the safety of recreational fishing persons. 3. Parking facilities are adequate to meet current usage. If the ramp is upgraded in the future, than it will need to be addressed. The Port Alma complex is developed will be more utilised as it supplies many opportunities from fishing, crabbing and access to the islands etc.	Male	60-69
33	I would like to see better access for fishing for persons for disabilities, particular for land based fishing. The best king threadin fishing is seen around here in the Fitzroy	Male	70-84
34	I write (as Chairman) on behalf of the local community "AFS Men's Shed" organisation; which has a passionate focus on both men's health/esteem issues, and enhancing the liveability/quality of local community. The RRFDS enhanced focus/drive on utilising/maximising the local asset (Fitzroy River & marine life within) is to be strongly commended for it's object of making Rockhampton a more liveable community and adding local economic opportunity. The focus should be extended to "river recreation" and not just "Recreational Fishing". Following on from the very successful development of the community BBQ Trailer project (AFS Snag Wagon), (partly council funded) as a community asset, the AFS Men's Shed is exploring the idea of developing a "BBQ Boat" project, for use on the Fitzroy River. I would like to commend to the RRC that, all river infrastructure planning (for Recreational fishing tourism), also maintain a focus on other "River recreation" opportunities (eg, a BBQ Boat hire business opportunity). I would like to leave you with the wonderful visual picture of tourists (and locals), hiring the AFS Men's Shed - BBQ Boat, (on the Fitzroy River), enjoying the memorable experience of a scenic BBQ trip along the river reaches, fishing for barramundi & then BBQing them "fresh as" on the boat, whilst they play the locally sponsored "spot/photo the crocodile to win \$100 restaurant voucher" competition - Wow.	Male	50-59
35	I'd be pleased to see the North Rockhampton Boat ramp go in, that would be fantastic. Also improving fishing off the bank particularly at the common is important, need to have fishing platforms that go across the mud.	Male	70-84
36	Infrastructure: Thompson's Point boat ramp We have a river which acts as a boundary between councils with north bank and south bank infrastructure required. Although Thompson's Point (35km downriver) and is within Livingstone Shire Council, the plan needs a boat ramp to be established there. The location is ideal for access of lower reaches of the Fitzroy for safety purposes. The current facility was crudely constructed by the Defence Force in 1970 as a barge facility. There is an element of danger associated with current use of the facility being originally constructed by pushing rocks and gravel over the embankment. Large rocks and mud provide inadequate traction for vehicles attempting to launch/retrieve boats particularly outside the launch/retrieve tidal window. I would rate the priority as very high. Infrastructure: Land based fishing platform at Woolwash (Serpentine Lagoon) The Woolwash is a popular stopping place for tourists. There is a significant barramundi population in the lagoon which is replenished every flood run-through. Currently the banks are overgrown and provide little access.	Male	60-69
37	It's a great strategy; I certainly look forward to the new North Rocky boat ramp. I can't wait to take the nephews and nieces in the land based fishing spots too	Male	35-49
38	Keep up the good work!	Male	60-69
39	Land based fishing is a great idea. For the river banks you can see were people go and some are sort of destroying the banks so land base fishing is a great idea.	Male	25-34

40	Large signs Saying fishing only No fires (meaning open fires) No boats to tie up here Place all rubbish in bins and leave the area clean Don't destroy something you came to enjoy What length would the pontoons be example: 50 mts X 30 mts What length for the fishing platforms example 500mts X 30 mts? Fishing platforms need to be in the water at low tide so you obtain live bait. Also need steps on both side for landing fish and obtain live bait. Thank you	Male	60-69
41	Looks very comprehensive. Good to see a focus on land based fishing not just boats.	Female	35-49
42	Massive congratulations to the RRC for committing to develop this strategy, and then to go on and do a good job of it. It truly is something for locals to be proud of. I agree with all elements of the strategy and the proposed priority actions. Hard to improve on the infrastructure plans. It will be important to create additional land based platforms as there are often problems with land based fishers utilising boat ramp pontoons inappropriately. This is usually creating mess and/or not allowing safe passage for boats. The other real problem is around security. If fishing alone or with children, and there are a range of people using the pontoon as a fishing platform, I am very reluctant to leave my boat tied to the pontoon while I go and get the trailer to retrieve it. Serious fishers have a lot invested in sport fishing gear and electronics and it can tempt theft. Need to seriously consider not allowing fishing from boat ramp pontoons. The marketing and recognition opportunity offered by the original Dharumbal name for barramundi is huge. It creates recognition of the people and the origins of the name, and a truly unique regional branding option. I would be proud to have a shirt/sticker/hat/boat decal with an aboriginal artist print of a Bardda moon di. Magic. Travelling fishers is the most significant target market for tourism. These people generally need budget accommodation that has space to securely store expensive boats that will be coming and going at dawn/dusk. Like the idea of using something like infofish to create awareness around the fish populations. There could also be some important basic tips to give travelling fishers some help with getting into some fish. The Fitzroy is a large system and can be difficult to work out, especially on certain tides when fishing becomes very difficult. For example, fishing is much easier around the neaping tides. We don't want travelling fishers going home with tales of catching no fish just because they were here on poor tides. Captag, Keppel Bay Sportfishing Club, Fish Stocking Group could all help with this. I wholeheartedly support the introduction of a voluntary code of conduct. I believe three Barra/threadfin per fisher is entirely adequate, and we should be looking to adjust the size limits to more realistic and biologically appropriate measures, eg 60-90cm for Barra, and 75-100cm for king threadfin. I support the allowance of catch and release fishing for barramundi in the NFZ during what is currently the closed season (Nov-Jan). HOWEVER this must be matched with a heavy aligned compliance effort that includes additional FTEs for the QBFP so that they can maintain a high level presence on the water during this time. It will be imperative to make sure people are not targeting known spawning aggregation areas. Even if there are no changes to existing fishery management, this is something that RRC should vigorously pursue with the state government, and consider co-funding. It will be extremely important to instil education and compliance in the area in the first few years of the NFZ. Everybody knows the QBFP are extremely poorly resourced at the moment and the only way we can be sure of getting useful effort from them is to co-fund and stipulate the degree of presence required. I have personally called the DAF fishwatch hotline 4 times in the last two years to report illegal rec fishing activity in the Fitzroy River and QBFP have been unable to respond in every case. In one additional instance I could not actually get anyone to answer the call at all (and this was to report people fishing ON THE FISHWAY of the Fitzroy Barrage. This compliance presence is critical and if we have to pay for it ourselves then so be it - it simply is not an option to not have it because the state govt wont resource it. Too important for the success of the overall strategy. Managing the freshwater reaches of the river and floodplain for maximum ecological benefit is brilliant and necessary. An important part of this I didn't see in the strategy is around fish passage and the Eden Bann weir. This weir has a fish lock that is rarely if ever used by the weir operators. This is an unacceptable situation and should not be tolerated into the future. Similarly RRC will have to be vigilant	Male	35-49

	about ensuring that the new Rookwood weir is built with best practice in mind for fish passage. Mount Morgan dam is an opportunity few have thought about and could be much more significant than we have ever thought. RRC should look into the opportunity to stock it with both barramundi and jungle perch which have recently become an option due to new research into their breeding. They (jungle perch) are perhaps an even more iconic species and used to be present in the area. They are now locally extinct due largely to waterway barriers. However if stocked they will thrive in an impoundment like Mt Morgan Dam. They have not yet been stocked in any impoundment (ever) and this would create massive interest and a huge point of difference for travelling and local fishers as they will grow faster and bigger than anywhere previously reported. Contact Micheal Hutchinson in QDAF for details. There has also been some important work in increasing productivity in impoundments by DAf researchers and this could also be important for Mt Morgan dam.		
43	My Wife and myself enjoy fishing immensely ,and we have found that there are Very limited fishing spots on the east street side of the river , so we go to the other side in the Callaghan park area all along the river , but even there there is very limited spots to fish ONLY because the river bank is so badly maintained , if it wasn't for the High grass it would be a lot different as the clear spots are very limited we find that during the week we may be lucky enough to find a spot BUT on the weekends it is virtually impossible .	Male	70-84
44	New boat ramp and pontoon on the North side in City. - More car parks at South side boat ramp - Security at boat ramps - Clear 400 meter markers at Barrage - Pontoons for land based fisher people - City run fishing comp (Barra Bounty is closed)	Female	25-34
45	No Comment	Male	25-34
46	No Comment	Male	35-49
47	No Comment	Male	35-49
48	No Comment	Male	60-69
49	No Comment	Male	18-24
50	No Comment	Male	35-49
51	No Comment	Female	35-49
52	No Comment	Male	50-59
53	No Comment	Male	60-69
54	No Comment	Male	18-24
55	No Comment	Male	60-69
56	No Comment	Female	
57	No Comment	Male	35-49
58	No Comment	Male	35-49
59	No Comment	Male	50-59
60	One idea for the strategy is at the boat ramps is to have a bath bay to hose the boats down. They do this at cairns and at Weipa. Overall mate good idea, like where it is going.	Male	35-49
61	Only that I think it is really important to reduce bag limits and maximum size limits of particularly Barramundi and Threadfin Salmon	Male	35-49

62	Overall it seems like a reasonable plan within realistic time frames, but funding will (clearly) be the key issue. However before we step forward we need to step back and look at what we currently have, the cleaning standard of the Quay St. (Littler Cum-Ingram) ramp toilets is a disgrace. I am sure that a "box" is being ticked that says it is being cleaned, but the effort needs to be increased very significantly. Additionally the pontoon needs to be hosed off regularly. Obviously some users (of the facilities) don't do the right thing, but that is the reality that has been accepted and taken care of. That is a very high use facility and we are talking (in the new plan) about expanding numbers using it. My point is that it is all very well moving forward building/expanding new facilities when the existing facilities are poorly maintained. Sitting behind any new development there also needs to be a comprehensive ongoing (funded) plan to maintain everything to a high standard (including over the peak weekend period). If visitors come to Rocky for the first time to fish (in particular ladies) I doubt many will come back after having used those toilets, particularly if those users have paid a premium for a fishing charter. This criticism is not a one off observation, my wife and I look to use those toilets when we are out in our boat and also when we are out just walking - we would look to use them at least once a week and the standard is always poor. As a rate payer I would be looking for that side of things to improve significantly before there is any further financial impost on implementing the new plan.		
63	Overall some great ideas. Hopefully everyone gets on board and makes the area as good as it can be. The major problem I can see is the taking of undersize fish and bag limits in the River.	Male	35-49
64	Overall, I like the direction that the Development strategy is taking, however, I think that certain future opportunities are being overlooked, in particular, only installing a 2 lane ramp on the northside is to me, short-sighted in terms of what will be needed, but also in terms of costings, it would be far simpler and cost effective to install 4 lanes from the outset (with the ability in increase parking as demand grows) instead of having to undertake an expansion project later on. In terms of the Port Alma facility, if another ramp is being installed there, it would be advantageous and safer, if it were installed further upstream of the existing one, which suffers from strong cross currents and is very open to rough swell in certain winds.	Male	35-49
65	Overview The strategy is very important if the region is to maximise the benefits of the NFZ to the community and at the same time ensure the sustainability of the resource. It is also important that the council take a leading role in the strategy and that it engages with the fishing and broader community in the implementation of the strategy. The strategy provides the means for council to seek funding to implement key elements of the strategy. Some details The priorities for boat ramps should be improvements to parking (more parks and a secure parking area), wash-down facility and new signage at the Quay Street ramp followed by a new ramp on the north side. As part of the infrastructure development this should include appropriate signage promoting the NFZ, the voluntary code of practice and the need to report the recapture of tagged fish as tagging is an important component of monitoring the NFZ. For land based fishing platforms it will be necessary to get the views of land based fishers in relation to design as there are negative attitudes towards the platforms on the south side of the river as these were designed without any input from fishers. The priority is for platforms on the north side of the river. The establishment of a Fishing Tourism Industry Partnership Program is necessary to encourage the development of businesses to service the needs of fishers. Ideally this should be lead by those involved in fishing businesses. It is important that the voluntary code of practice be advanced to demonstrate the desire of the fishing community to take an active role in the management of the NFZ and to ensure its sustainability. It is important that the fishing community play an active role in the independent monitoring of the NFZ through the Crystal Bowl as the monitoring by Qld Fisheries is limited and unlikely to continue beyond the current 3 year commitment.	Male	60-69
66	Placing in navigational markers is important from the city reaches to Nerimbera. Need to mark hazardous markers. Overall I like it.	Male	25-34

67	Please at least put more fishing pontoons. If you are trying to launch at Quay Street, you are fighting 10 people fishing off the pontoon (who don't bother bringing their lines in as signed). and 4 blokes throwing cast nets. Fishing pontoons elsewhere will keep the ramps for boats only (as they were intended). Then you can launch your boat without the abuse of people fishing because you have run over their line.	Male	35-49
68	Putting a boat ramp at North side of Rockhampton near the racecourse is a great idea keeping in mind how shallow that side of the river is, dredging an area where the bottom of where they would end is something I would suggest. I would rather see less fishing platforms that are built right than many platforms that are not practical or are easily damaged.	Male	50-59
69	Something on the northside would be very good from Park Street off Glenmore Road to Main Street. There has been a few times I have slipped on a very muddy rock and have slipped into the water. Or something down near the far northside near the soccer grounds and touch grounds. The Rockhampton Council really need to start thinking about the land fisherman a bit more than they do. Especially if they are trying to get more people here from all over the world wanting to catch the old Rockhampton Barra!! Come on Rockhampton Regional Council think about the land based fishing a bit more PLEASE!!!	Male	25-34
70	Something really needs to be done about from main street down the bank near the train bridge. I have slipped off a rock into water a few times now!! I take my girlfriend fishing along the bank with me... What does it take for some thinking to be done? Someone eaten by a crock? Something need to be done really bad about Northside bank. Main street to Park Str before someone fall in at the wrong time and gets killed by a crock. I also think the council should have a think about the freshwater side too.. There's no place to sit by the water when jet skiing or boating. There's not much safe spots for jet ski's to stop.	Male	25-34
71	Stocking of barramundi should also occur above the barrage to maintain a fishery on both sides of the river (saltwater below the Barrage and freshwater above the Barrage.) This will allow the whole river to be utilised. Natural recruitment of barramundi does occur above the Barrage during major floods but this is not consistent enough to maintain a viable fishery where persons fishing for Barramundi would go. Tourist are happy to travel to a stocked Barramundi impoundment and the Fitzroy River could offer the best of both worlds for tourist fisherman. Further boat ramps should be established above the Barrage (both sides of the river) so there is minimal impact on motor boats going past the rowing area. Also if the barramundi used to stock the river came from a local Barramundi Breeding facility then this establishment/complex could be part of a larger tourist attraction in the area. Education needs to be undertaken on the boating/fishing public. I have already seen an increase in boating traffic on the River. I have seen poor behaviour at boat ramps and on water due to limited knowledge of rules of these individuals. Better signage needs to be available to inform persons of these rules. Signs also need to be posted on all areas of the no go/fish zones above and below the barrage. There are no signs anywhere informing persons then there is a 400 meter limit below the barrage. (You only need to see the well-worn paths in these areas to know that the rules are being ignored).	Male	50-59

72	<p>The culture of recreational fishing in this region has evolved over many generations, from saltwater, tidal river to upstream freshwater and up to this point in time, fishing has been the domain of the local community and the pro fishing industry.</p> <p>The mindset of hunting, gathering and fishing has matured to what it is, for each individual in the community adventure, roughing it, teaching your children to adopt, confronting different weather conditions. All these and more has created our own unique culture. The experience is “just the hook in the water, and you’ll get a fish”.</p> <p>Because recreational fishing has been the domain of the local community for the past 150 years might explain why the infrastructure for this activity is in the condition it is. It just meets local requirements.</p> <p>Duty of care is a challenge for the council moving forward into the future.</p> <p>In the fourteen years that we have been here I can’t recall any drownings, boats catching fire or any extreme accident while people fish. A testament to the local culture and its level of skill and knowledge.</p> <p>Minor accidents, boat ramp activity, cuts, scratches and hooks in the will always have an impact on services. Tourism will change this!</p> <p>Tourism and Recreational Fishing</p> <p>Rockhampton has the capacity to be the Barra Capital on the east coast. Well established infrastructure; airport, accommodation, good roads to the coast a great foundation to deliver an experience of great diversity for the recreational fisherman. But how does this animal give birth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the local fishing culture accept a large impact on their domain 2. How will the local fishing community choose to share their domain 3. Who will police this clash of ego’s on the river system 4. Who will be the lead agent in the development and transformation of the recreational fishing industry on the Fitzroy <p>Rockhampton Council, Capricorn Enterprise, the local community the Darumbal people, other outside agencies, developers, this clash of ego’s will slow progress to a stall for 18 months.</p> <p>Using the philosophy of eco-tourism a carrier for social development. I think that the whole regional tourism strategy should be under the umbrella of eco-tourism and invite the local community along for the ride.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing knowledge by the locals, do’s and don’ts - Indigenous Ranger Program - A more diverse presentation of “the experience” - A soft but effective process for the social change required for the awareness and understanding of mitigating for 2 degree but adapting to 4 degree all along the Capricorn line. <p>Thank you for a chance to make comment for this development strategy.</p> <p>I would not consider any of these comments as “in confidence” because I do not fish.</p>	Male	50-59
73	<p>The majority of the development strategy appeared to focus on the river access? What is the plan for regional promotion and support for new and innovative businesses built around recreational fisheries? How are we going to generate employment and growth from this resource?</p>	Male	35-49

74	The report points to comments made about cleaning up the riverbank and preventing pollutants in the river. To this end, someone should consider closing or re purposing the Fitzroy Motor Boat Club. Boat cleaning and anti-fouling is done regularly on the slip facilities and this has the potential to foul the river (if it is not already). These type of activities need to be moved out of the town reach. This entire building could be removed and the area re purposed as another boat ramp/parking facility with land based fishing wharf or pontoon. This would reduce the need to extend the current boat facility by 45 parks. Another alternative is to close the boat cleaning/storage/slip facility and use the building as a café/bait shop/fishing gear outlet. I would like to see multiple fishing wharfs/jetties on either side of the river bank which could be linked with each other via concrete walkways to encourage fitness/walkers. They could serve a double purpose of providing a history of Rocky and the area they are in. Depot Hill would be ideal for its rich history as the major access to Rocky prior to the road network. It could be marketed as a tourist walk. These structures could be lit with solar powered lights at night to highlight the river. If the walkways were over the riverbank itself, they could be used for fishing also (similar to walkways in Brisbane). Major fishing competitions could be held at Cum-Ingham park next to the boat ramp.	Female	35-49
75	The south side of the river is great but when you are using it and look across to the northern bank it spoils the feeling. We have great river let's show it off. Get rid of the old house with horse floats and trucks lying around it.		
76	The strategy is very welcomed and a positive step for the entire community. This 10yr plan will set up infrastructure to ensure the longevity of the fishing industry whether its focus on tourism or business. Also this will encourage more participants in the "WTF - Women That Fish Classic" and competitors extending their stay and spending money in our region and the Cap Coast. This strategy is a great initiative!!	Female	35-49
77	Think it's a great idea, it's about time council did something for the northside, if a walkway was on the foreshore of the pony club was done would give good outlook from the city heart side. Visitors, not only fishermen to the city would want to stay longer. There is a gazetted road at the northern end of the pony club, which would allow council to put a sealed road right to the river. There could be full or part decks for fishing or just taking in the river views along that pony club foreshore.	Male	60-69
78	This is a good compromise and step in the right direction. My personal priorities would be: Pt Alma boat ramp upgrade asap. Land based fishing platforms at devil's elbow North side of the river. Pontoon on Nerimbera Boat ramp. Not sure if this one is Rockies or Livingstone shires problem. Coorooman creek boat ramp second pontoon to help alleviate friction between boaties and people fishing on the pontoons. Have you ever seen what fishing line does to gearbox seals on an outboard motor. Having two pontoons would have the fishing lines running away from the boats and ramp as people would fish of the pontoon that is down side of the current.	Male	60-69
79	This is a great strategy that will help establish Rockhampton as a major fishing tourist destination. I wish to offer a couple of possible enhancements. This strategy will clearly increase water based activities on the Fitzroy river. Increased boating activity from the public, Indigenous Sea Rangers and other forms of monitoring will proportionally increase boating and potentially demand for Coast Guard Services. The Rockhampton Coast Guard QF19 has a presence on Quay Street with a tailorable rescue vessel but may need to look at the option of a permanent pontoon that could possibly be shared with the Indigenous Sea Ranger and other authorities who would be regularly launching and retrieving. The Draft strategy identifies a need as "Provision of multiple land based fishing opportunities close to the centre of the City" I believe it would be a great opportunity to establish one such platform between Denham & Fitzroy street to enable public viewing of people fishing. This would help enhance fishing opportunities and the promotion to interested spectators. (Lunch time entertainment!) Fishing platform design needs to enable catch and release. Landing & releasing is best done near the water's edge so this may need stairs to the water. This may in turn need side rails and gates each 2 metres as croc	Male	60-69

	deterrents. The proposed enhanced facilities need to be family friendly to cater for those who may not love fishing. Adjacent to the platforms should be toilets, BBQs, table & chairs, possibly a couple of shade structures. All facilities associated with fishing should have fresh water available and rubbish bins that must be emptied daily. The strategy should include a clear policy statement on the disposal of unused bait and fish frames. Either back into the water, which may encourage crocs, or into bins that will need daily clearance. Either way, have it researched and make it very clear. Dumping at ramps should be outlawed. There should be consideration, a clear statement, and appropriate signage about overnight stays in campers and caravans at the very start of implementation.		
80	Toilets, fishing cleaning areas. Security measures lots of lights. Sealed car parking, BBQ's Fishing Platforms - Wheel chair friendly entrance. But the entrance small enough to stop cars being driven on them. Rod holders - 75mm holes design into the pontoons or fishing jetties = steps so you can walk down to land your fish. Throw a cast net. Safety in case someone falls in they can get out of river.	Male	60-69
81	Very impressed with what you have done so far. 1. Can see the fishing platforms in town being a major problem for you during large floods. 2. What about on the highway from the south replacing the " Beef Capital of Australia" with " Beef and Barra Capital of Australia". 3. In among the cattle statues in town have a Barra and Salmon installation . 4. If at any time stocking is required get local businesses (including all the supermarkets) to sell tokens for Barra fingerlings and also do an online crowdfunding programme to get people from other areas involved. This would be similar to the Snapper stocking programme in Fremantle W. A. Geoff Clarke (owner Barra Jacks Rockhampton)	Male	60-69
82	Well researched. Definitely need more boat ramps even around Lakes Creek area. More fishing spots on the river bank and fishing platforms. Better toilet facilities especially in the Mall (usually dirty and poor amenities) Fishing guides would be a welcome addition to fishing spots downstream from city reaches towards Thompson's point.	Male	60-69
83	What is necessary is for council to clean up what it already has, the maintenance needs to consider in the longer term. I can't support additional infrastructure when the current infrastructure is not maintained. Rubbish in the river is a major issue as well. Managing rubbish removal is imperative. I remove rubbish from the river on a continual basis, I help to clean up the river as well.	Female	35-49
84	While I respect people's 'right' to fish and enjoy our seaside, I strongly urge that any new facility respect the natural and urban architecture where it maybe planned. The proposed Emu Park ramp has little merit and will distract the recent improvements of the Emu Park central area. In fact, it will destroy elements of Emu Park that attract local and distant tourists. Increasing boat facilities is fine but destroying urban landscape is not. Anyone that has travelled overseas will appreciate that attractive urban landscapes should be protected from such schemes.	Female	50-59
85	With the land based infrastructure, I believe we should be looking at providing a fishing platform at the Nerimbera boat ramp area for local and tourist based fishers. Ensure that Capricorn Enterprise is behind all tourism aspects, competitions and advertising of all events Excellent presentation provided. Thankyou	Male	50-59
86	Would support any increase in sporting or tourism development in the region but would encourage Council to ensure that all data come from unbiased surveys. Currently utilised online surveys, hard copy surveys, and face to face surveys (depending on collection points, eg tackle shops and boat ramps) can be biased, with those heavily interested in fishing taking the effort to respond and those residents not heavily interested in fishing not completing the survey or being unaware of the survey. I note that telephone surveys, random and unbiased, better reflecting all ratepayer's views, have not been undertaken. Perhaps both types of surveys should be used and a comparison made. It would appear that emphasis is placed on development below the barrage, with the area above the barrage having great potential for swimming, sailing, kayaking, rowing, skiing,		

	camping and all other water sports - as well as fishing, possibly being neglected.		
87	Yes more places a long the river bank to fish off. There good places long the banks too much stuff to down near the water. Some boat ramps could be a bit wider so couple can load all unload.	Male	60-69
88	Yes, If land based fishing platforms are to be built in the future , can they be constructed on a pontoon style system so they can raise and lower with the tide. The current fishing platforms in the Fitzroy River are four meters off the water at low tide and are not user friendly. I would like to see a well-constructed boat ramp facility on the north side of the Fitzroy river , with 50 car / trailer parks, toilet block, wash down bay , floating pontoon, and lighting. The same should also be built at Port Alma. These two areas are essential for the growth and promotion of the Fitzroy River / Port Alma to tourism nationally and even internationally. With the basic infrastructure in place , the tourism and business opportunities will follow.	Male	35-49
89	You need to think of the security, I have used quay street and have had my roof racks stolen. Cameras are needed and better security for all facilities. We need to make sure that the water being pumped in to the river needs to be of a good quality. Wrecks are not properly marked. The net free zone should be all nets out the river, including cast/bait nets. We need to have the bait cycle improved. Boat launching and docking system should be just that, there should not be any fishing/cast net in these areas. Also there are people are burning fires at the end of the quay street pontoon. The boats should also in severe conditions not be attached to the pontoons systems. This will degenerate the pontoons.	Male	50-59

Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy Submission Form

<p>Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy Submission Form</p> <p>Council is seeking community feedback on the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy Submission.</p> <p>Enquiries: 1300 22 55 77 Fax: 1300 22 55 79 Address: PO Box 1880, Rockhampton QLD 4700 Email: wade.clark@rrc.qld.gov.au</p>	 <p>www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au</p>
<p><small>PRIVACY NOTICE: Rockhampton Regional Council is collecting the personal information you supply in this form for the purpose of community consultation for the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy. Your personal details will not be disclosed to any other person or agency external to Council without your consent unless required or authorised by law.</small></p>	

Do you have any comments on the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy? (Please list below) (Further space on the back page)

Rockhampton Regional Council appreciates your time in completing this submission. Please use the reply paid envelope to send this survey back to Council (No stamp required). Closing date for this survey is the 15 July 2016.

Gender Male Female

Age group: 18-24 25-34 35-49 50-59 60-69 70-84 85+

In the past year, how often have you gone fishing?	Several times a week	Once a week	Once a month	Once every few months	Once every six months	Once a year	Did not Fish
From a Boat	<input type="checkbox"/>						
From the Land/Shore	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Your contact details (Please list below)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing
Development Strategy Submission Form**

Council is seeking community feedback on the Draft Rockhampton
Recreational Development Strategy Submission.

Enquiries: 1300 22 55 77 Fax: 1300 22 55 79
Address: PO Box 1860, Rockhampton QLD 4700
Email: enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au



www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au

Continued.....

Do you have any comments on the Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy?
(Please list below)

A large, empty rectangular box provided for submitting comments on the draft strategy.



Rockhampton Office:
Ground Floor Foyer, 34 East Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 1313, Rockhampton Q 4700

Capricorn Coast Office:
Ross Creek Roundabout, Scenic Hwy, Yeppoon
PO Box 166, Yeppoon Q 4703

Email: admin@capricornenterprise.com.au
Web: www.capricornenterprise.com.au
Ph: 07 4927 2055 Fax: 07 4922 2605

ABN: 72 142 612 280
Capricorn Tourism & Economic Development Ltd
Trading as Capricorn Enterprise

12th July 2016

Evan Pardon
Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council
PO Box 1860
Rockhampton Qld 4700

Dear Evan,
Re: Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy

Congratulations on the above document and thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback during this public consultation period. Capricorn Enterprise has also broadly circulated the draft document to over 2,000 contacts via our e-newsletter over the past month, encouraging our local business and industry partners to be involved in this process.

The content and format of the document including the **Priority Actions** summary in the areas of *Infrastructure, Business Development, Marketing, Fisheries Management and Ecology*, is to be commended.

Capricorn Enterprise, as the official Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the Capricorn region (from the Central Highlands in the west to the Keppel Islands in the east) and includes Rockhampton, is pleased to be included as a stakeholder in the two recreational fishing strategy focus areas of the *Business Development and Support Plan* and the *Marketing and Promotions Plan*.

The key to tourism success, both as a business and a destination, is in the areas of **Product, Management and Marketing**.

From a marketing perspective, it is very important to understand the difference between visitors who fish whilst they are on a holiday, compared to visitors who go on a fishing holiday. In other words, '*fishing tourism*' is very different to '*fishing in tourism*'.

The National Visitor Survey (NVS) data, investigated by Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ), reveals the following relevant ten year averages from year ending March 2007 to year ending March 2016 for domestic visitors who fish whilst they are on a holiday to our region.

- 17% of holiday visitors to the Capricorn region do some sort of fishing whilst in the region. That is, fishing is undertaken as one of a range of activities in the region.
- The largest source market for those undertaking fishing were visitors from Southern Great Barrier Reef Destination (Capricorn, Gladstone and Bundaberg regions) with 42% share of visitors, followed by Brisbane (18%), Sunshine Coast (6%) and Southern Queensland Country (6%).
- Interstate holiday visitors undertaking fishing activities were approximately the same as the state average (about 15%).
- The data becomes quite small and was unable to measure any indication of fishing specific travel. That's not to say it's not occurring, however it is too small to measure.

The overall assessment is that fishing is a popular visitor activity as part of a range of activities within the Capricorn region, primarily for those living within a 400km radius. This reflects recent Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) primary research that indicated "lots to see and do" was the third highest ranked driver of destination choice for 82% of Australians.



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ABN: 72 142 612 280
Capricorn Tourism & Economic Development Ltd
Trading as Capricorn Enterprise

-2-

This means that marketing efforts need to focus on what is currently available for our primary target market, which is visitors participating in some sort of fishing activity whilst in region, as opposed to visitors seeking a fishing holiday in isolation of a holiday with a range of things to see and do.

Additional boat ramps on the Fitzroy River is an important part of product development as identified in this strategy, but just as important is product development of complimentary infrastructure and accessibility such as adequate safety, lighting, sealed access roads, parking, as well as fishing charter operations. The development of new boat ramps will cater for the self drive market, towing their own boat, which is currently the predominant recreational fishing visitor to our destination.

It is encouraging to see the "establishment of new businesses" noted in the *Business Development* chapter within the strategy. The strategy makes the point to "support fishing related businesses to establish themselves within the region" and "bring together businesses to create recreational fishing packages". It is widely accepted in the tourism industry that it can take up to three years to make a profit after establishing a new business, particularly in the area of tour operators. Therefore, the challenge will be how those new businesses are supported to establish (i.e. monetary, licensing etc).

Packaging of accommodation and tour products which are sold via the tourism distribution network is a critical part of growing visitors to our destination, not just for those who are seeking a fishing experience.

Our destination is still establishing, with operators gradually focussing on packaging and contracting with tourism wholesalers and inbound tour operators, whilst developing ways to make the visitor experience seamless via transport connectivity between products and services. The ability and willingness for operators to participate in the tourism distribution network is critical to continued tourism growth, which is why our Organisation invests significant resources and budget annually into digital and trade mentoring programs for our operators.

In summary, the short to medium term focus is to grow the number of visitors within the 400km radius, and beyond to south east Queensland, who will fish whilst visiting our destination.

In the long term, once fishing tour product is established on the Fitzroy River, and actively participating in the tourism distribution network, other markets further afield can be targeted.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Carroll
Chief Executive Officer

Boating & Fishing Survey Executive Summary

A boating and fishing survey was undertaken as part of the development of Draft Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy (the draft strategy).

The focus of the survey was to understand details of marine infrastructure usage, ratings and preferences for future marine infrastructure developments. Information was also taken to understand the economic impacts of fishing and boating related activities.

The survey was open to all residents / visitors via an online survey or via paper survey. Interviews were also completed at boat ramps and land based fishing areas along the Fitzroy River.

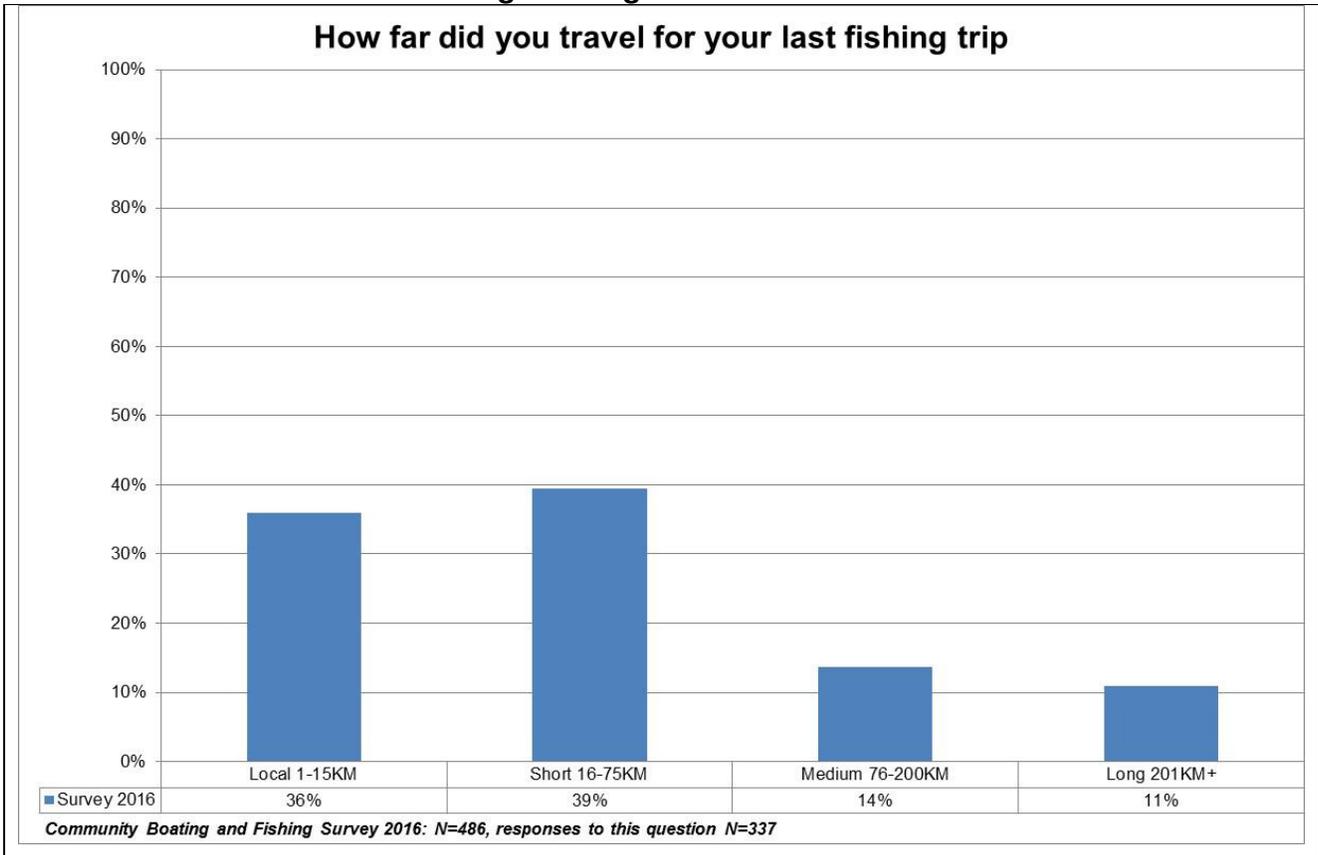
The consultation period was from the 22 April 2016 to 20 May 2016.

In total 485 surveys were completed, this include mail, online and face to face surveys. With a Regional Fishing population of 22,000 (based on the Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey 2013–14) this provides the sample with a 95% confidence level +/-4.4%.

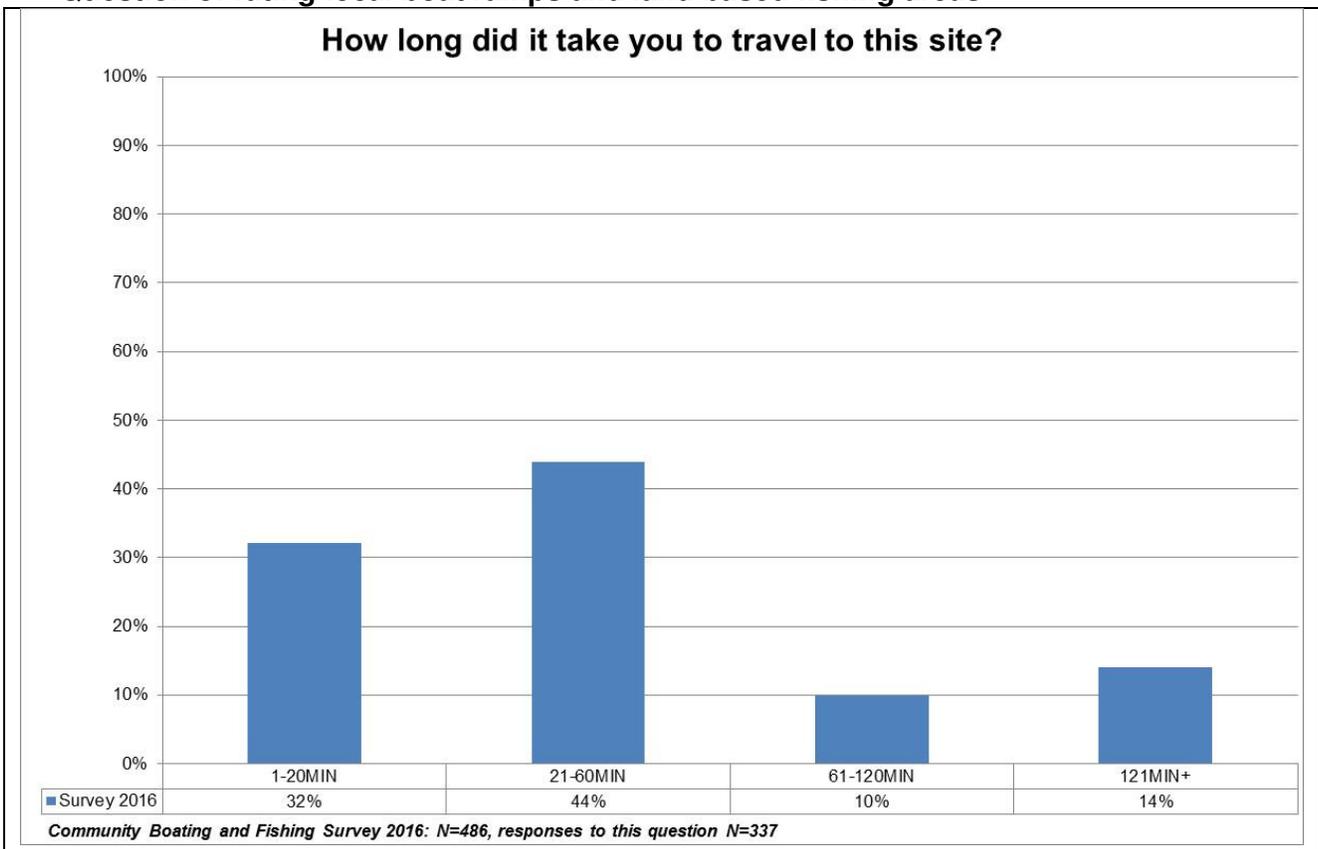
Main Messages from participants

- New marine infrastructure should focus on North Rockhampton and Port Alma.
 - 85% of respondents indicated that the proposed North Rockhampton Boat Ramp facility is a preference for them.
 - 82% of respondents indicated that the proposed North Rockhampton land based fishing areas is a preference for them.
 - 80% of respondents indicated that an extensive the current Port Alma boat ramp facility is a preference for them.
 - 75% of respondents indicated that the proposed Port Alma boat ramp facility is a preference for them.
- Mixed results for existing boat ramp facilities in the Rockhampton Region.
 - Reaney Street and Port Alma facilities did not rate highly with boaties / fishers. 8% rated Reaney Street Boat Ramp as “Good” or “Very Good”, 14% rated Port Alma as “Good” or “Very Good”.
 - Quay Street Boat Ramp facility rated well with boaties / fishers. 72% rated the Quay Street boat ramp as “Good” or “Very Good”. 52% rated the Parking at this facility at “Good” or “Very Good”.
- Boaties and Fishers agree that more and better quality infrastructure in the Region is needed.
- Additional facilities at boat ramps rated the highest include – Pontoons, Lighting and Toilets.
- Visitors coming to the Region for boating / fishing purposes on average spending \$1270.
 - 48% of visitors that responded to the survey indicated they spend between \$1001 and \$5000 on their fishing related holidays to the Rockhampton Region.
 - 52% of visitors that responded to the survey indicated they spend \$1000 or below on their fishing related holidays to the Rockhampton Region.
- Quay Street Boat Ramp is the most used boat ramp facility in the Rockhampton Region.
- Local spend on boating / fishing trips average spend was \$126 (bait, tackle, boat fuel, food etc...)
 - 29% of respondents indicated spending between \$51-\$100
 - 23% of respondents indicated spending between \$21-\$50
 - 21% of respondents indicated spending between \$101-\$200
 - 16% of respondents indicated spending \$200 or over
 - 11% of respondents indicated spending \$20 or less

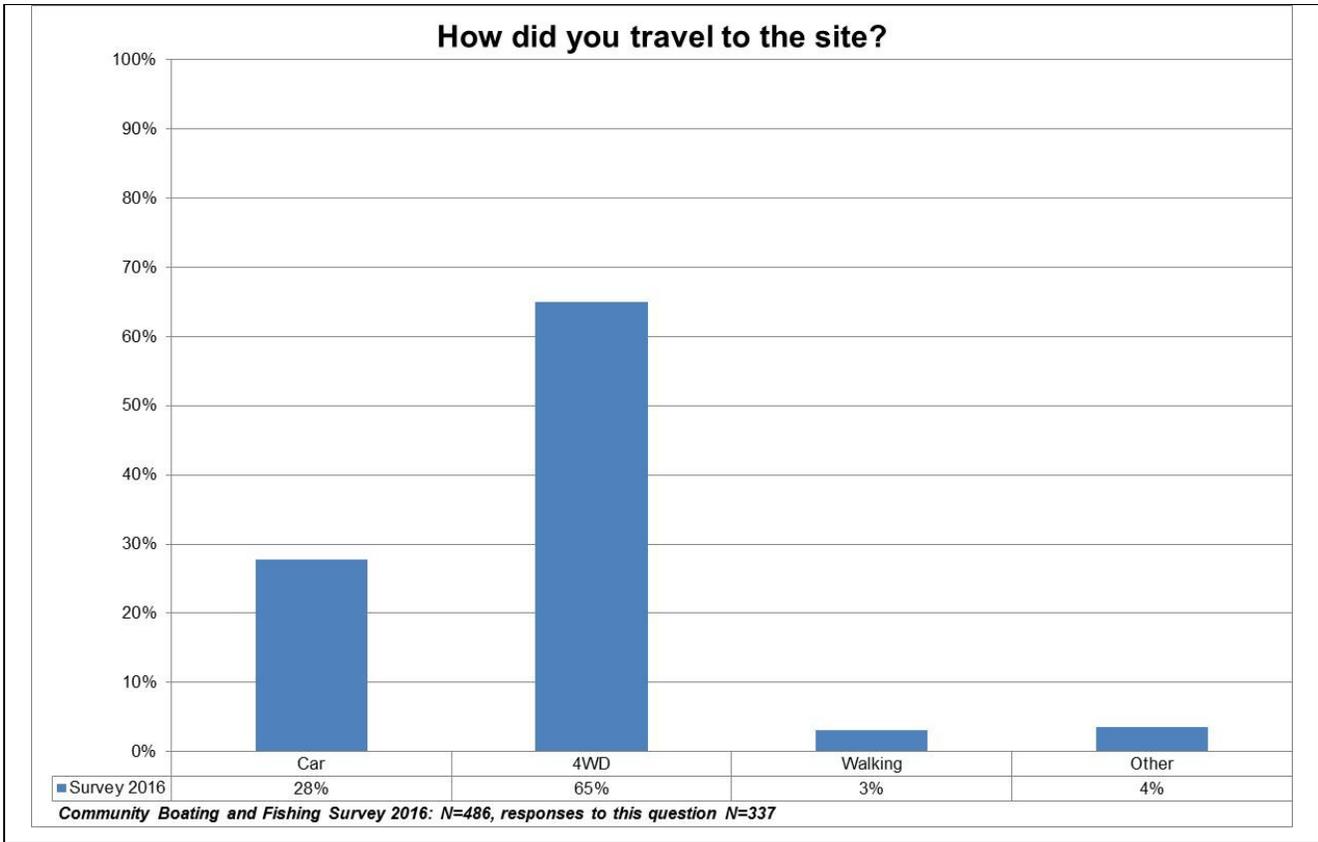
Question on distance travelled to go fishing



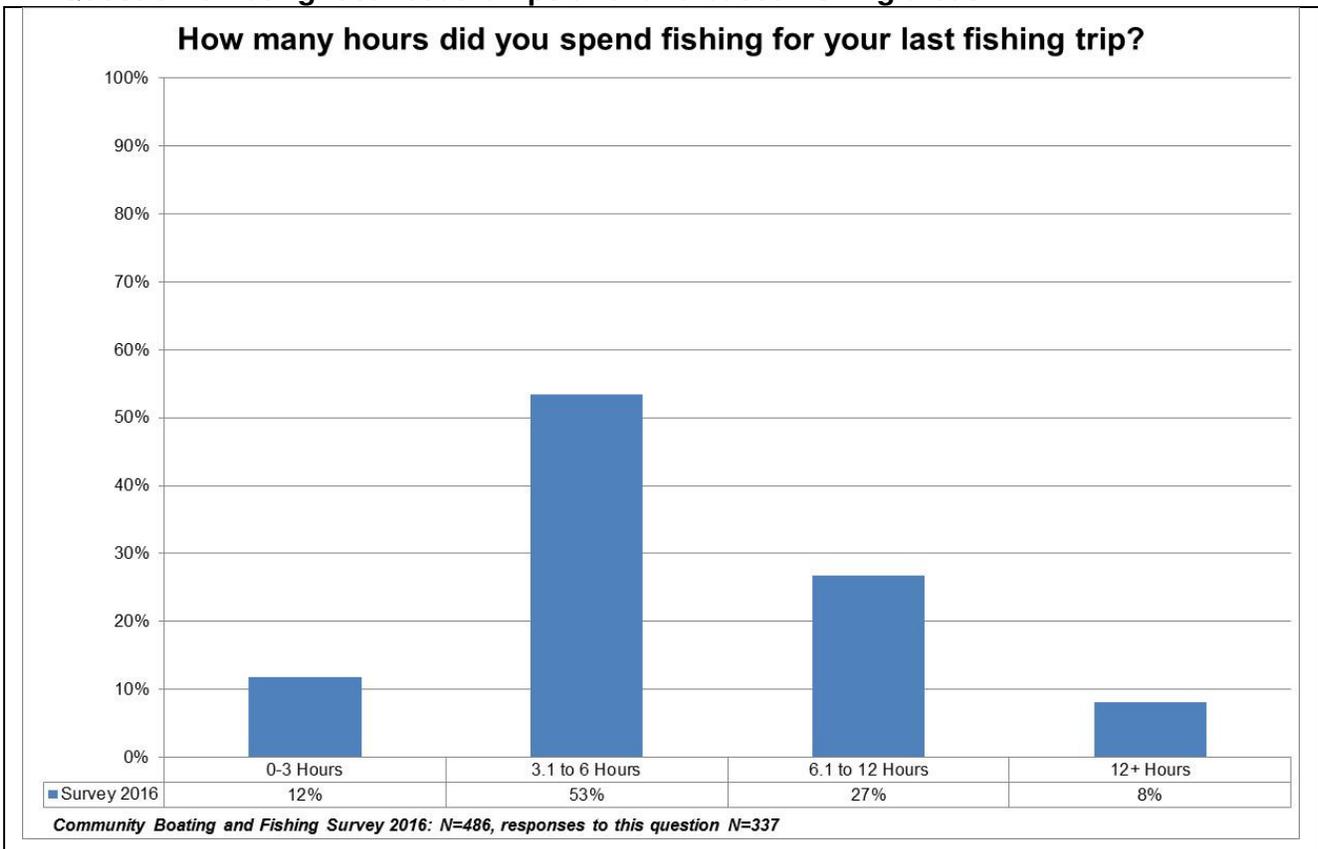
Question of rating local boat ramps and land based fishing areas



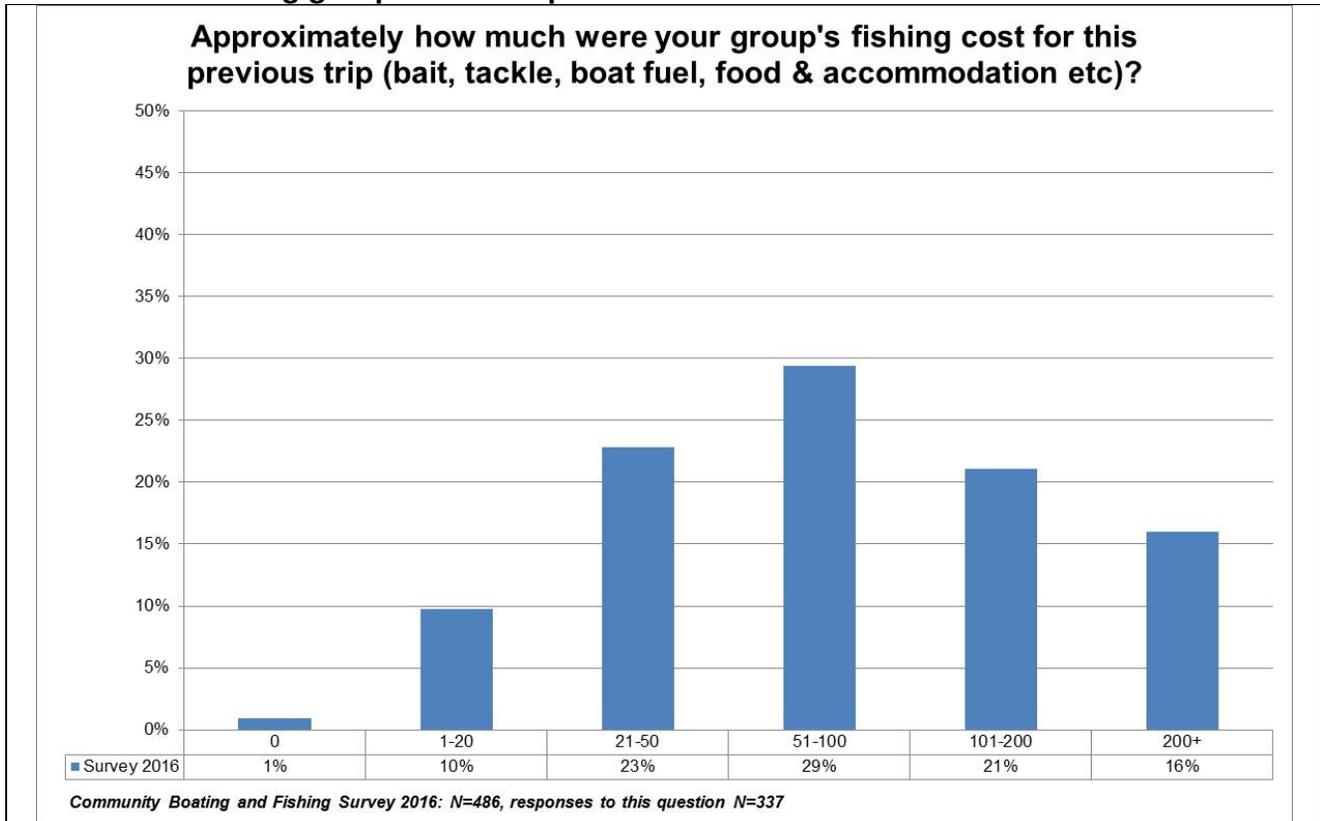
Question on method of travel



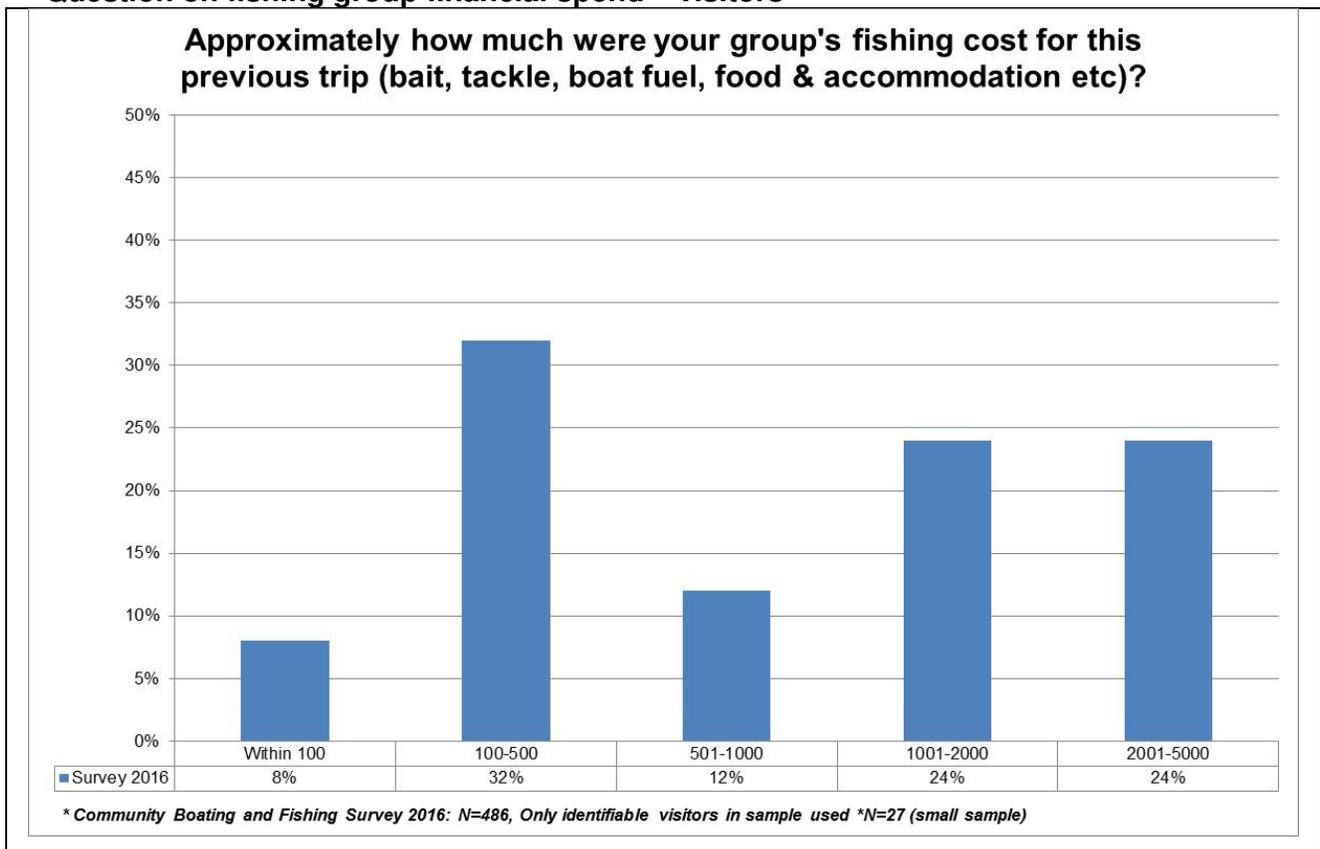
Question of rating local boat ramps and land based fishing areas



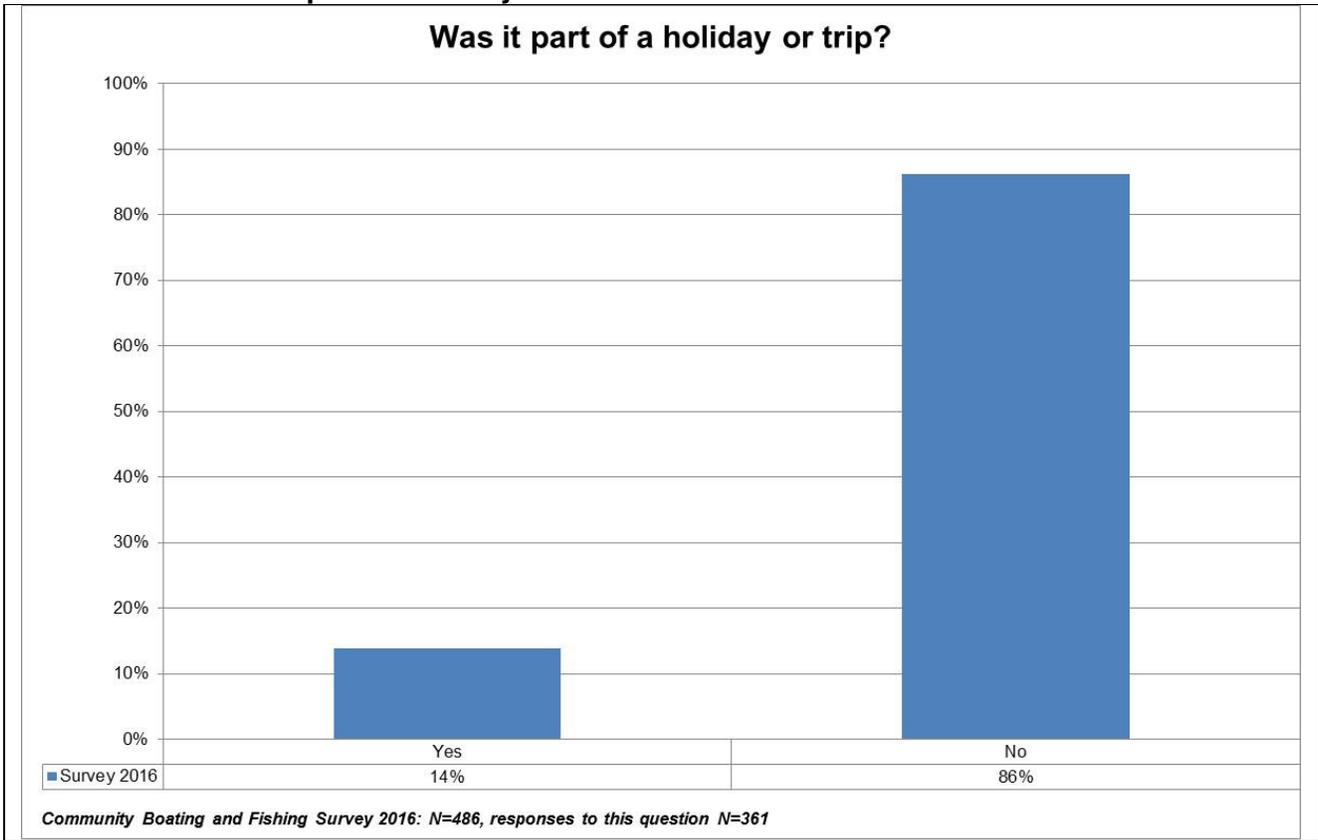
Question on fishing group financial spend – local



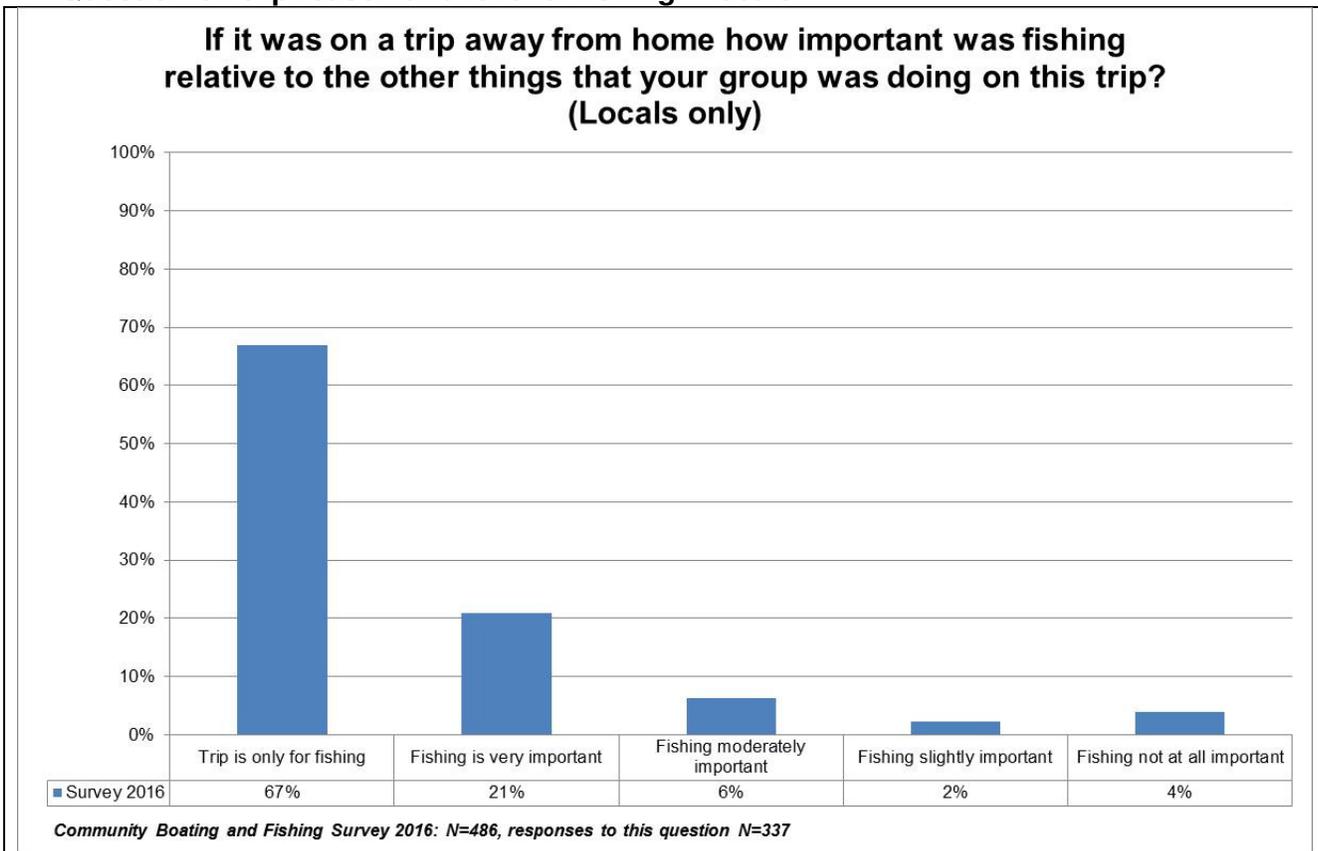
Question on fishing group financial spend – visitors



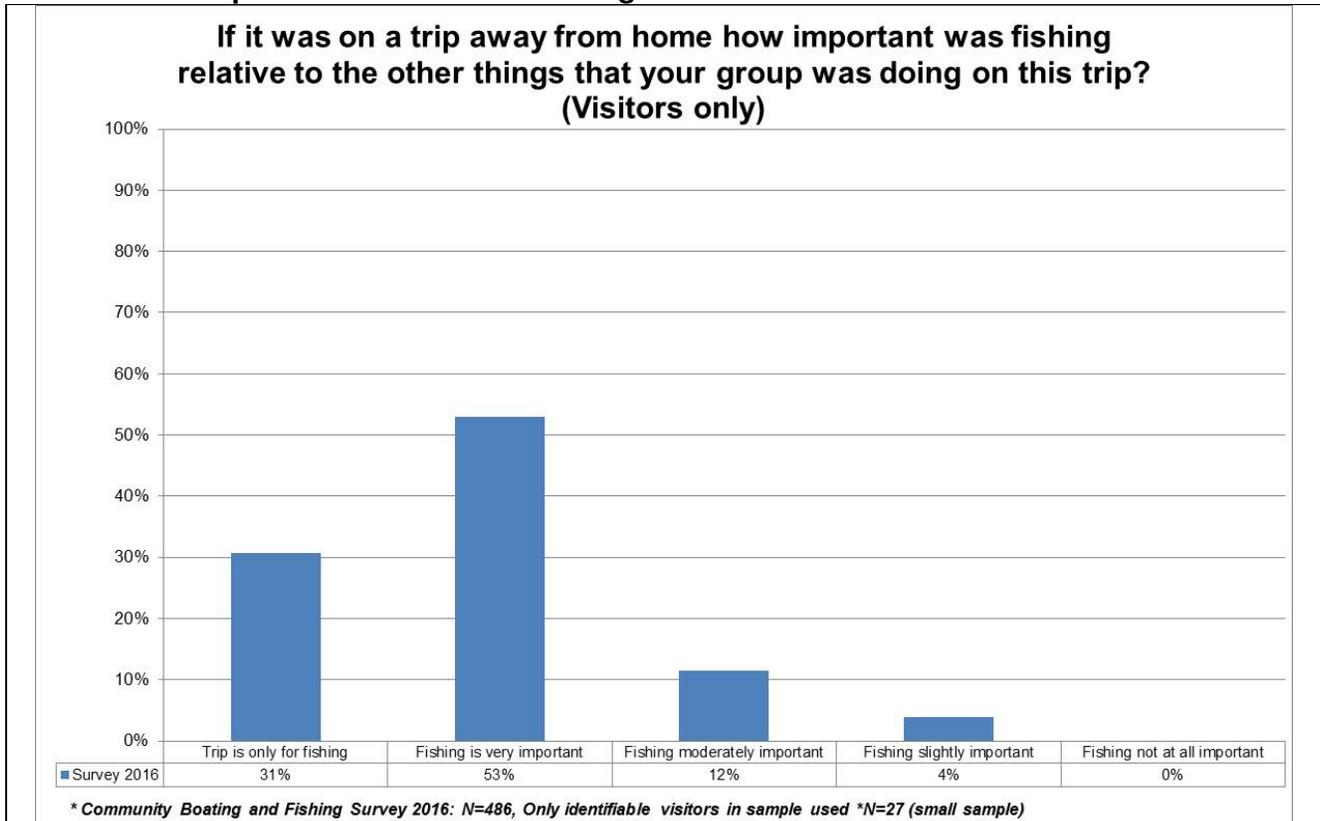
Question on local trips and holiday makers



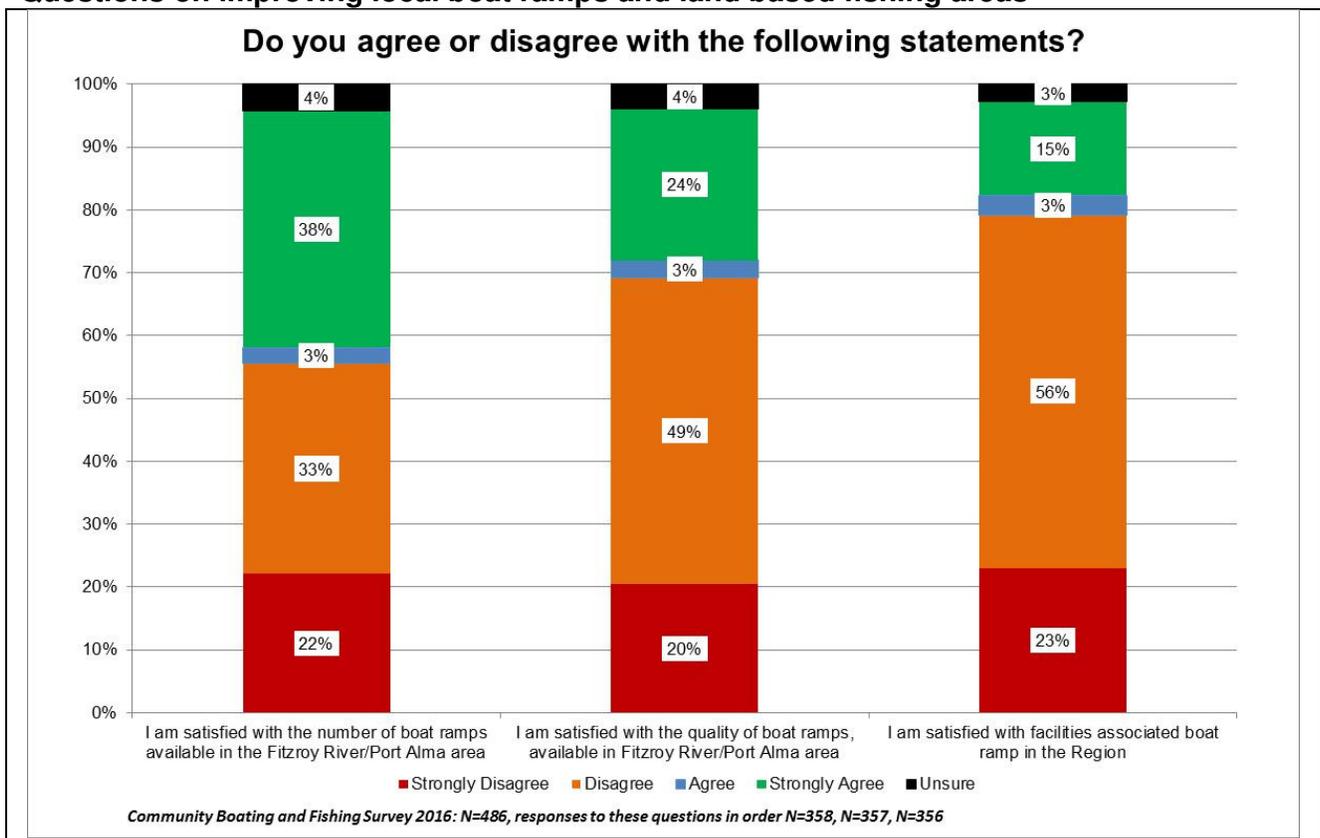
Question on trip reason and level of fishing – locals



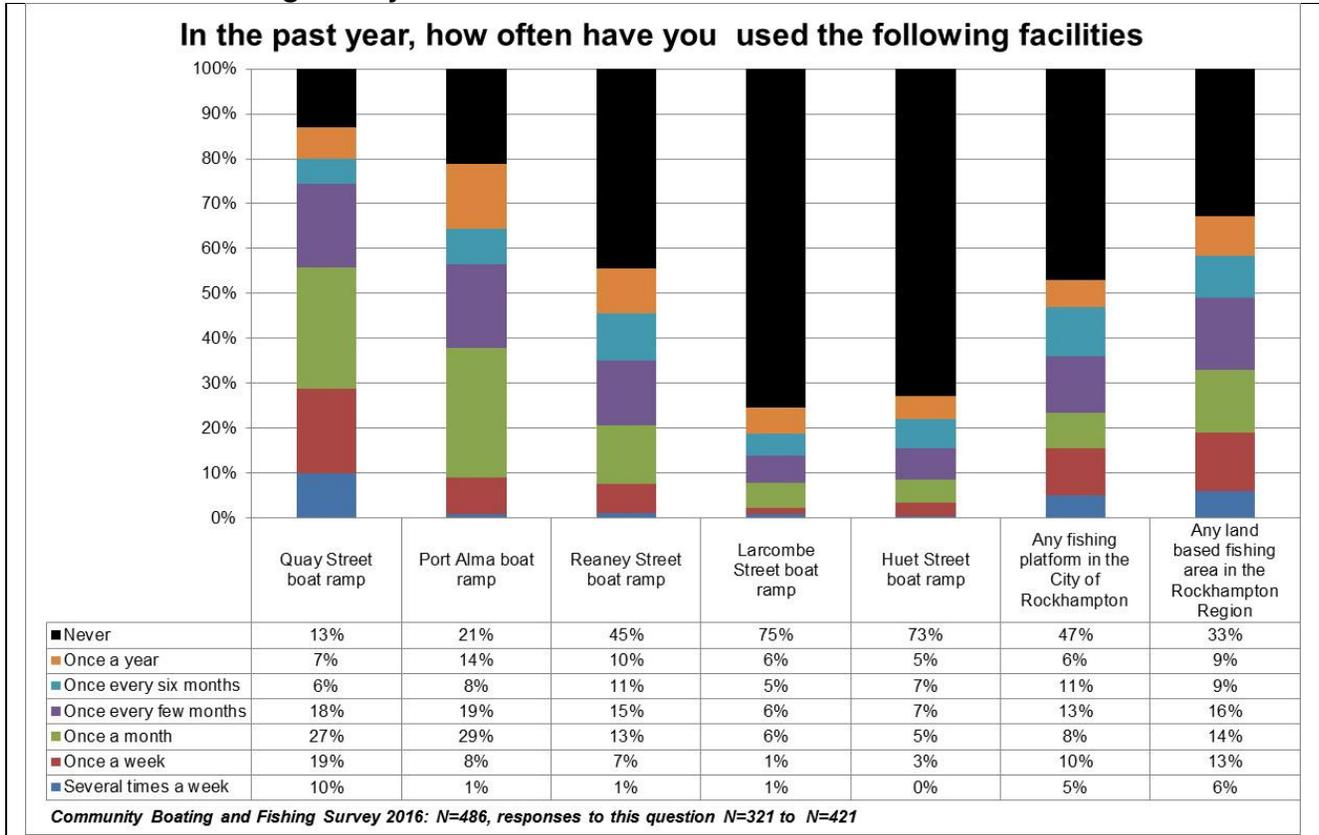
Question on trip reason and level of fishing – visitor



Questions on improving local boat ramps and land based fishing areas



Question on fishing facility use

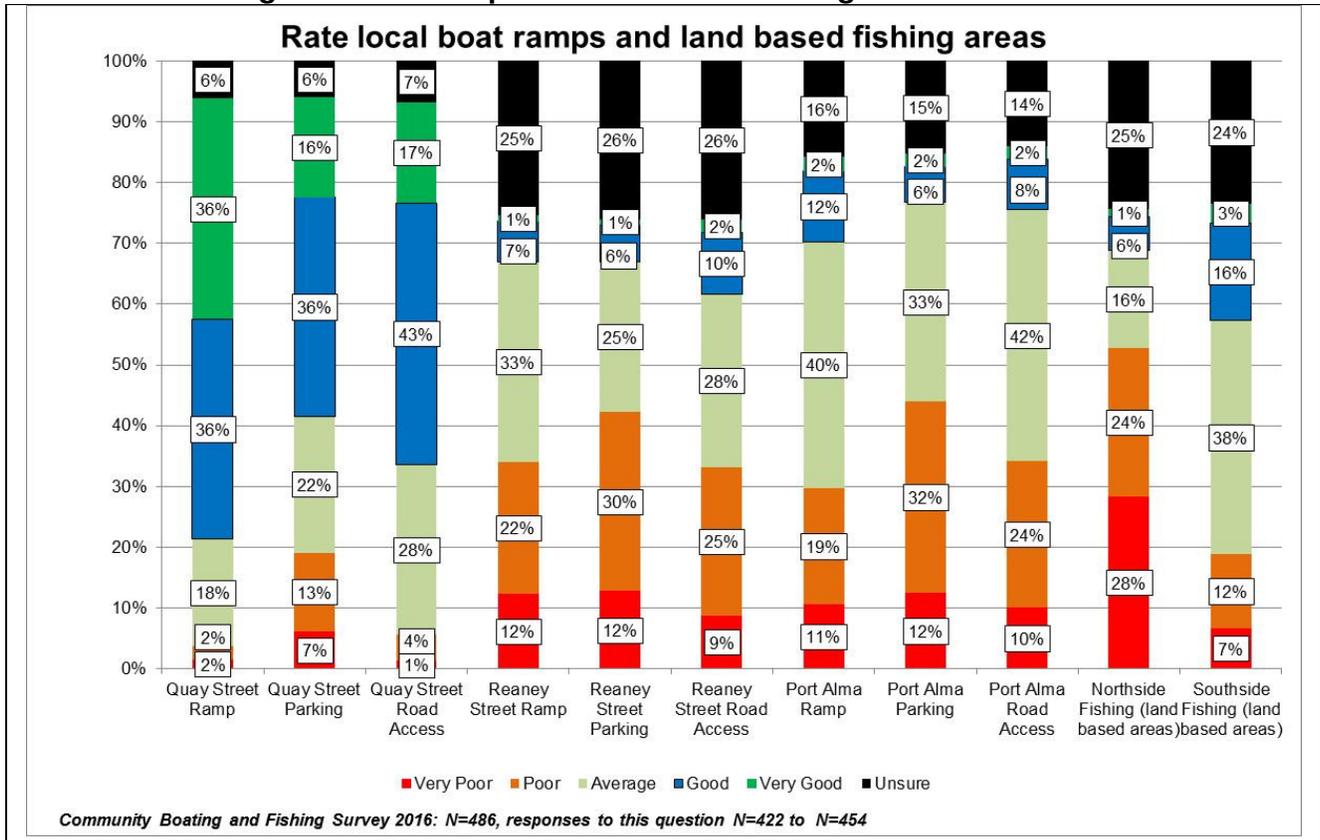


Question preference of additional facilities at boat ramps

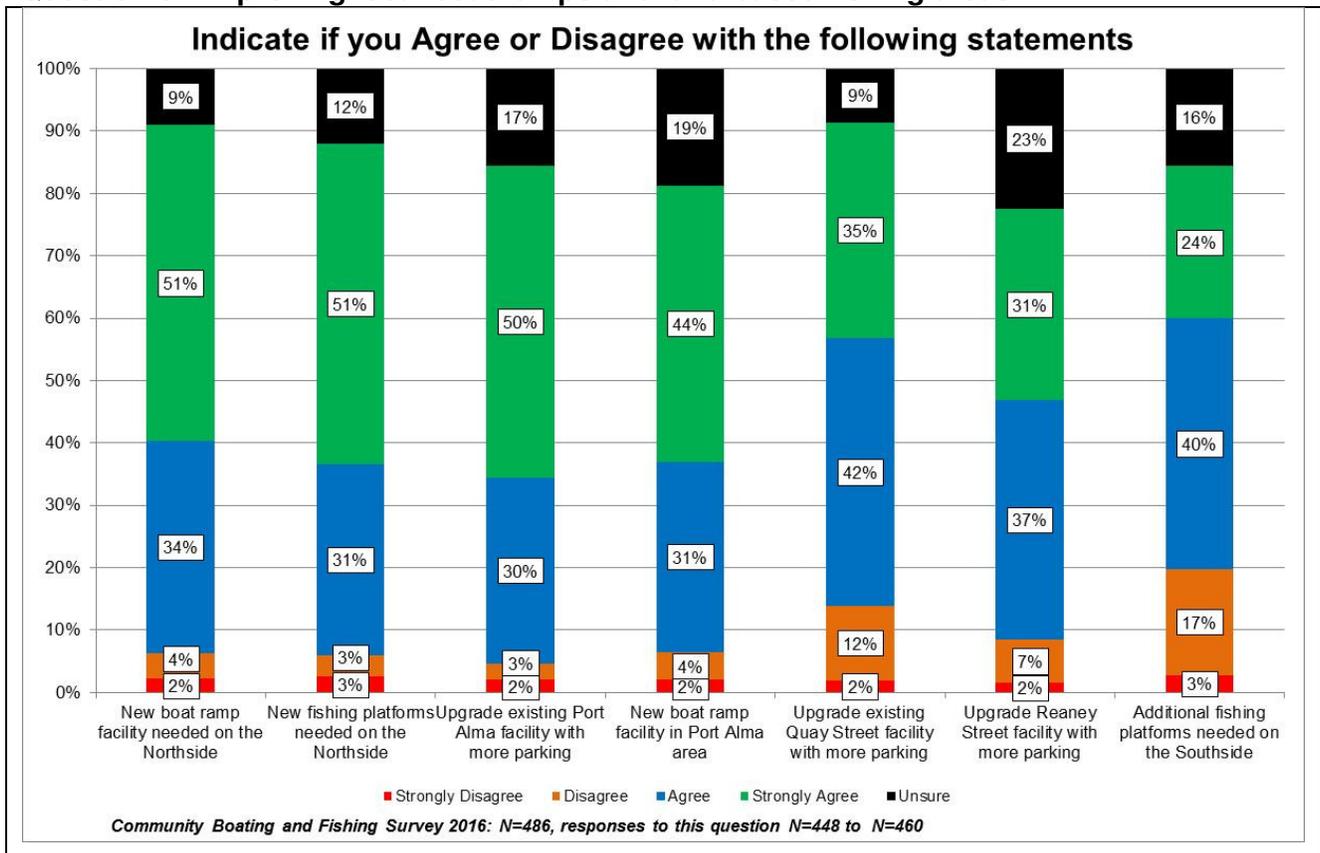
Rank which additional facilities are most important at boat ramps.

Item	Rank
Pontoons	1
Lighting	2
Toilets	3
Security Measures	4
Sealed Car Parking	5
Designated Land Based Fishing Areas	6
Fish Cleaning Areas	7
BBQ's	8

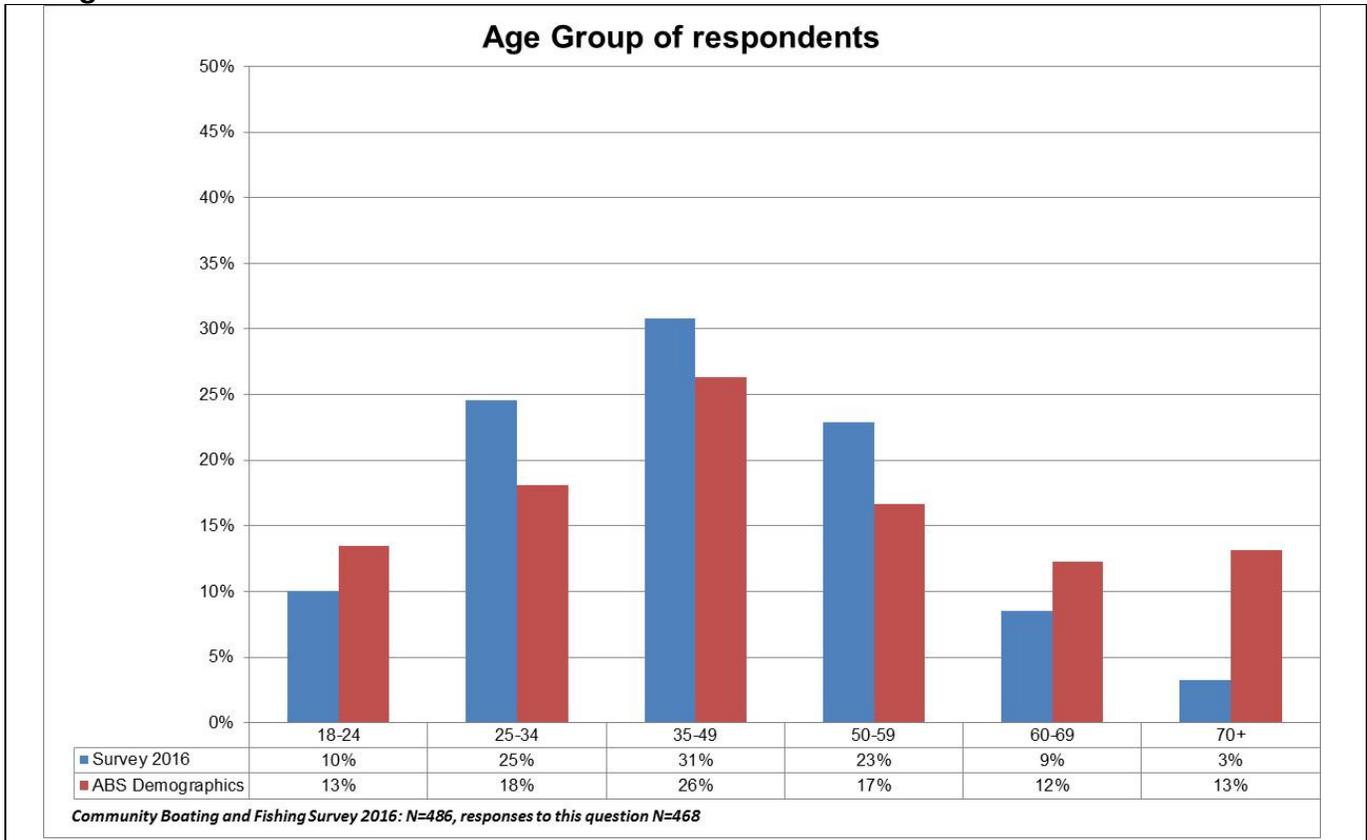
Question of rating local boat ramps and land based fishing areas



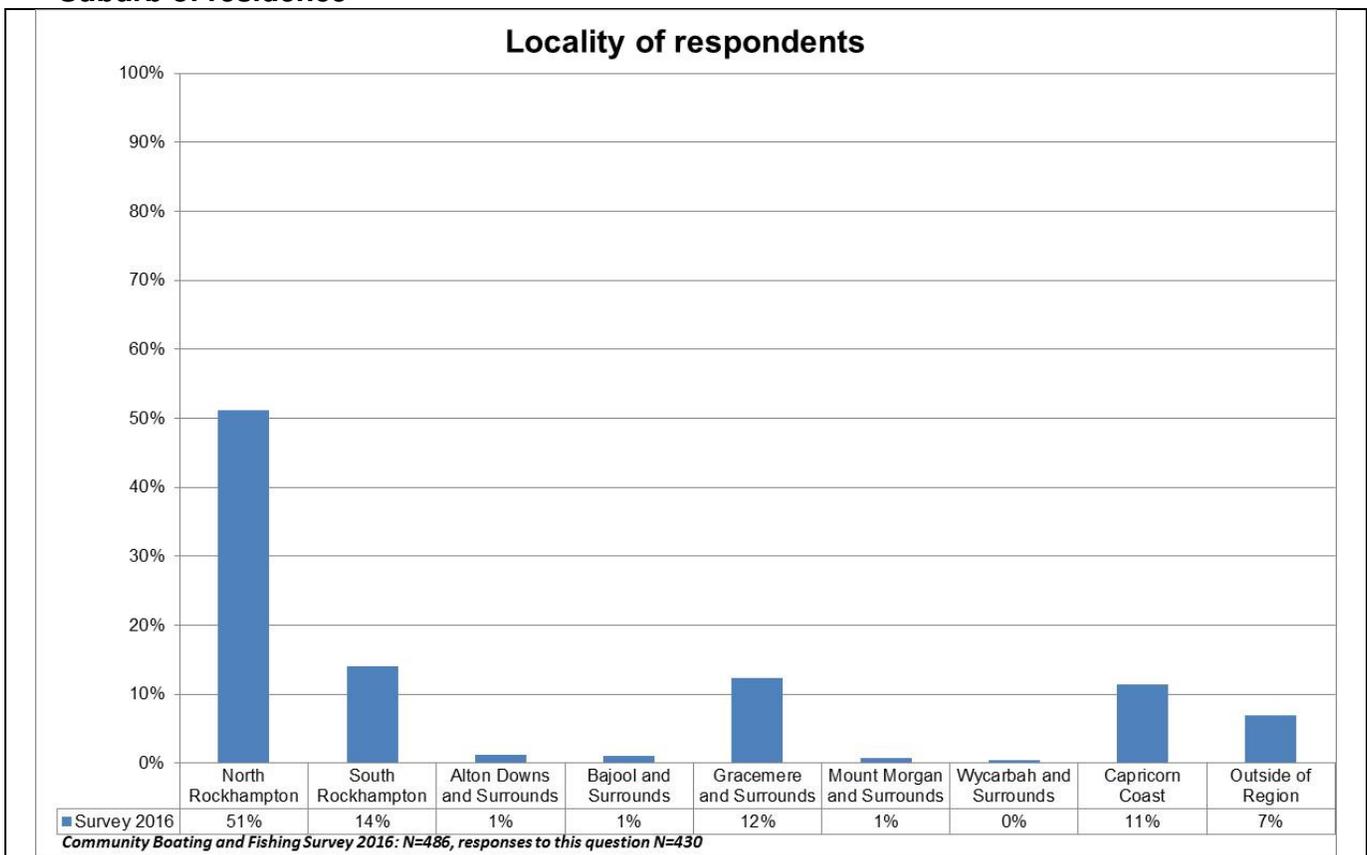
Question on improving local boat ramps and land based fishing areas



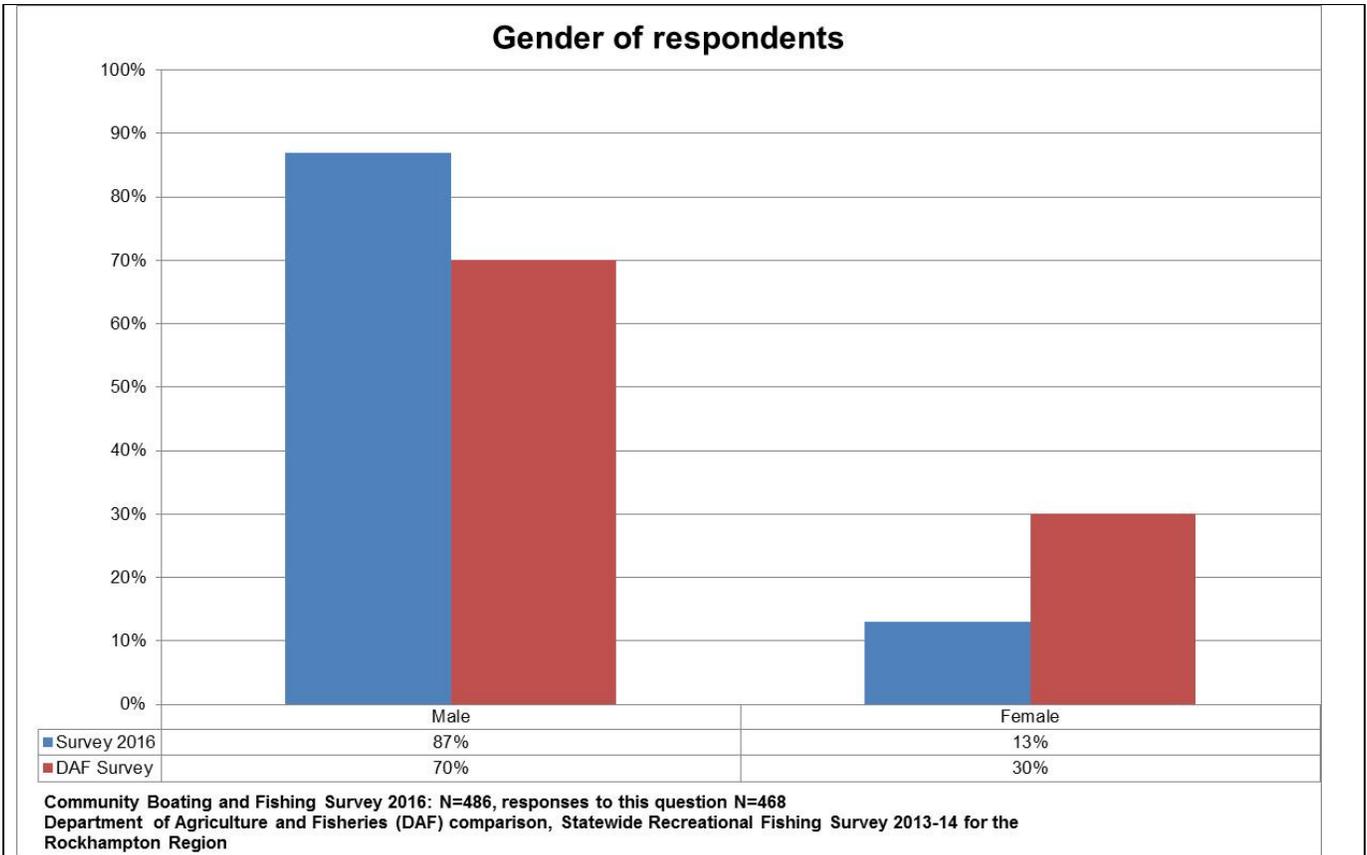
Age



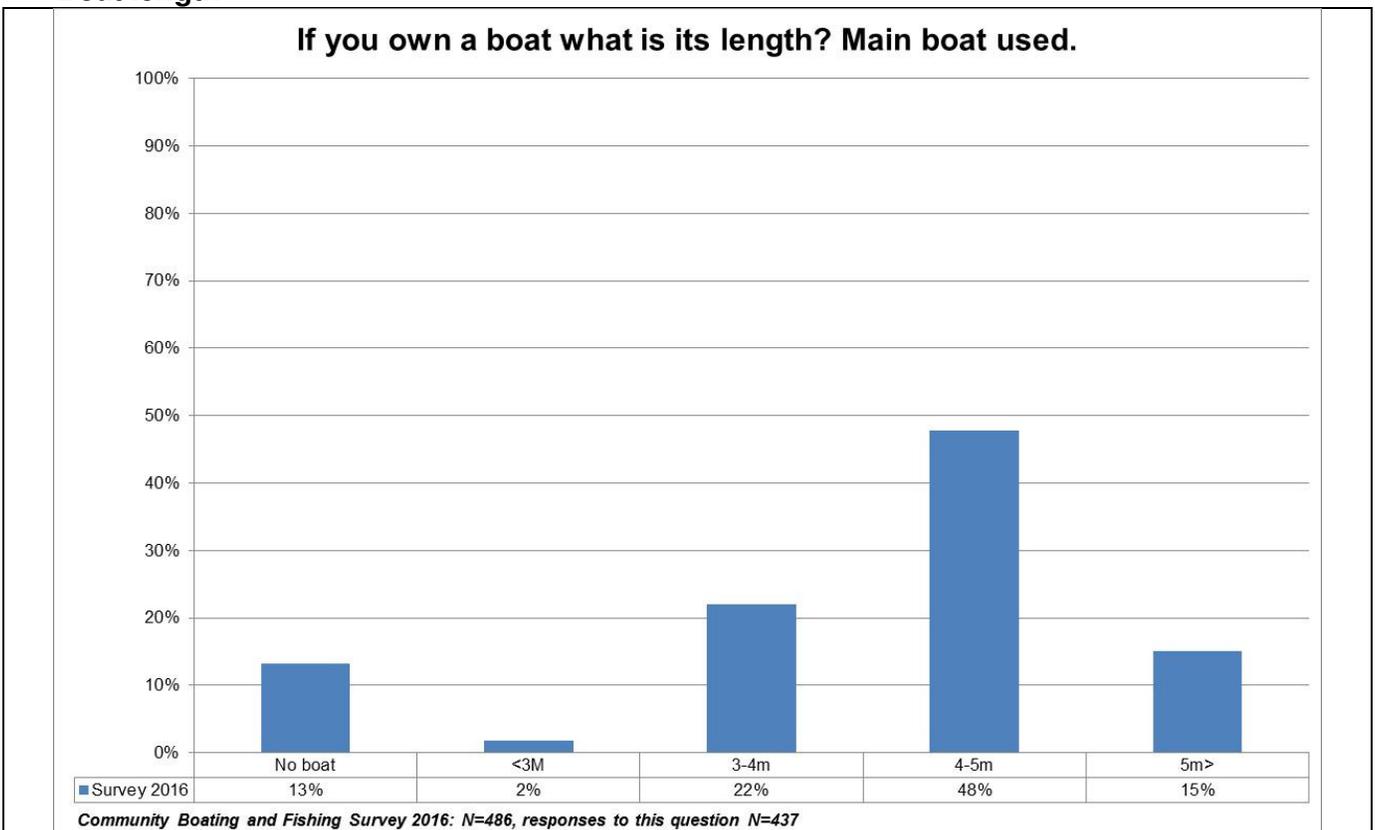
Suburb of residence



Gender



Boat length



Boating & Fishing Tourism Survey

<p>Community Boating and Fishing Survey</p> <p>To assist the Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Strategy.</p> <p>Enquiries: 1300 22 55 77 Fax: 1300 22 55 79 Address: PO Box 1880, Rockhampton QLD 4700 Email: wade.clark@rrc.qld.gov.au</p>	 www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au
<p><small>PRIVACY NOTICE: Rockhampton Regional Council is collecting the personal information you supply in this survey for the purpose of community consultation for the Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Strategy. Your personal details will not be disclosed to any other person or agency external to Council without your consent unless required or authorised by law.</small></p>	

Rockhampton Regional Council is seeking information on fishing / boating activity to understand the community's perspective on marine infrastructure and fishing / boating economic spend.

Latest Fishing Trip Details

How far did you travel for your last fishing trip?	KM'S (One way)
How long did it take you to travel to this site?	Hours Mins
Did you travel to the site in a: <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> 4WD	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
How many people were in your group (including you)?	
How many hours did you spend fishing for your last fishing trip?	
Approximately how much were your group's fishing cost for this previous trip (bait, tackle, boat fuel, food & accommodation etc)?	\$
Was it part of a holiday or trip?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: how many days? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No
If it was on a trip away from home how important was fishing relative to the other things that your group was doing on this trip?	<input type="checkbox"/> Trip is only for fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing is very important <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing moderately important <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing slightly important <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing not at all important

Questions on fishing facilities

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (One response per statement)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Unsure
I am satisfied with the number of boat ramps available in the Fitzroy River/Port Alma area					
I am satisfied with the quality of boat ramps, available in Fitzroy River/Port Alma area					
I am satisfied with facilities associated with boat ramps in Fitzroy River/Port Alma area					

In the past year, how often have you used the following facilities	Several times a week	Once a week	Once a month	Once every few months	Once every six months	Once a year	Never
Quay Street boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Port Alma boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Reaney Street boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Larcombe Street boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Huet Street boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Any fishing platform in the City of Rockhampton	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Any land based fishing area in the Rockhampton Region	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Rank which additional facilities are most important at boat ramps. Start with 1 Most Important

BBQ's Designated land based fishing areas Fish Cleaning Areas
 Lighting pontoons Sealed car parking Security measures Toilets

Community Boating and Fishing Survey

Council is creating a Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Plan and requires information from the community.

Enquiries: 1300 22 55 77 Fax: 1300 22 55 79
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Rate local boat ramps and land based fishing areas (One response per statement)

Rate the following boat ramp facilities	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Unsure
Quay Street ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Quay Street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Quay Street road access	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Reaney Street ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Reaney Street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Reaney Street road access	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Port Alma ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Port Alma parking	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Port Alma road access	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Northside Fishing (land based) areas	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Southside Fishing (land based) areas	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Questions on improving local boat ramps and land based fishing areas

Indicate if you Agree or Disagree with the following statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Unsure
Additional fishing platforms needed on the Southside	<input type="checkbox"/>				
New boat ramp facility needed on the Northside	<input type="checkbox"/>				
New fishing platforms needed on the Northside	<input type="checkbox"/>				
New boat ramp facility needed in Port Alma area	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Upgrade existing Port Alma facility with better parking and pontoon	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Upgrade existing Quay Street facility with more parking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Upgrade existing Reaney Street facility with more parking	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Demographics

Age Group	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69 <input type="checkbox"/> 70+
Suburb of Residence	Postcode _____
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
If you own a boat what is its length? Main boat used.	<input type="checkbox"/> <3m <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4m <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5m <input type="checkbox"/> >5m <input type="checkbox"/> No boat

If you want to be kept informed and further consulted on the development of the Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Strategy please fill out the following details:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Marine Infrastructure & Fishing Tourism Survey Executive Summary

Rockhampton Regional Council directed a *Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Strategy* be created to influence more recreational fishing. To help create the Strategy a community engagement has been launched.

To open the community engagement a community conversation was initiated using an open ended survey asking questions on key areas of the Strategy including: marine infrastructure, business development, marketing, fisheries management and the ecology & environment.

The open ended survey was undertaken through an online survey, a hard copy survey and face to face interviews from 11 January 2016 to 8 February 2016. In total, 410 responses were received.

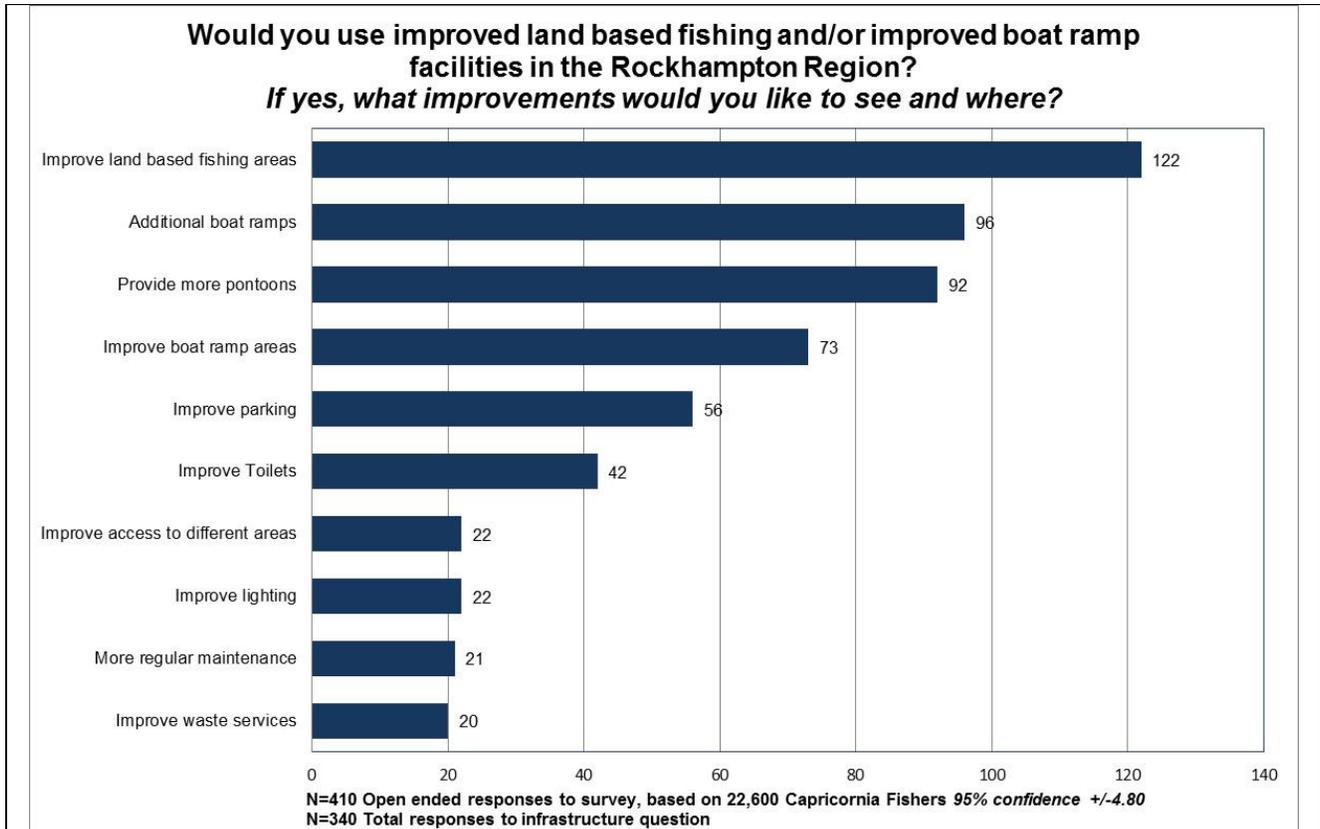
The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries undertake a regular Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey, in the 2013–14 survey there was an estimated 22,000 anglers in the wider Region (Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast). For the purpose of calculating a Regional population of anglers and boaties this estimate will be used.

410 responses provides the survey with a 95% confidence level +/-4.8% based on a 22,000 population. In terms of representivity some age groups have a correlation with the ABS service age groups, 25-34 & 35-49 over represented whilst 70+ under represented. Gender representation was higher for males than females.

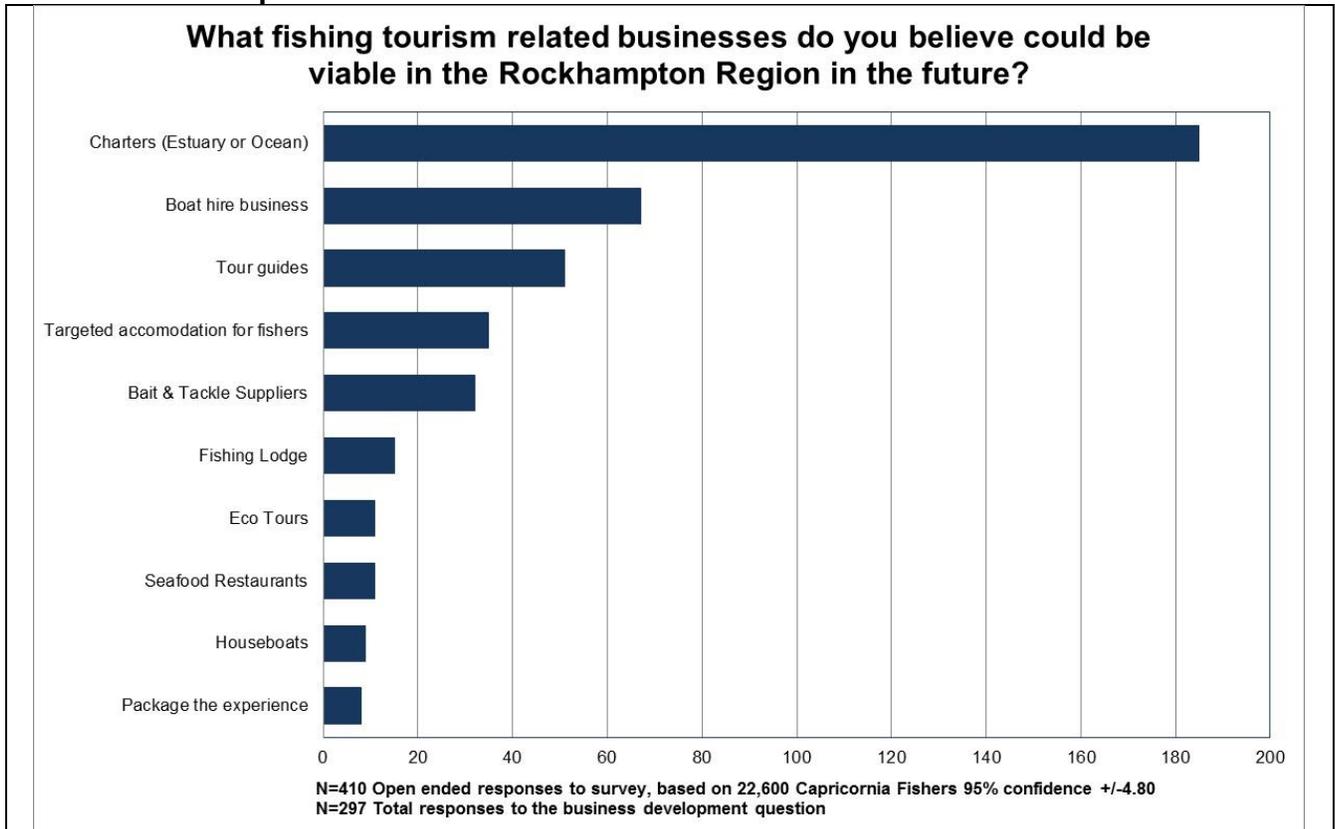
Main Messages from participants

- **83% of respondents want to see improvements to marine infrastructure**
 - A total of 340 respondents out of 410 total respondents wanted to see improvements to items like land based fishing opportunities, boat ramps and boat ramp areas including amenities.
- **Most boating respondents requested improvements to existing boat ramps**
 - Improving boat ramp areas varied from providing more floating pontoons, providing more parking, improving lighting, providing toilets (Port Alma) and improving waste services/bins.
- **Improving land based fishing opportunities is the single most important aspect for local fishers**
 - 36% of those that want to see improvements to infrastructure indicated that land based fishing areas needed to be improved due to current high height of structures / inaccessibility to riverbanks.
- **Additional boats ramps requested at various locations**
 - 28% of those that want to see improvements to infrastructure indicated more boats ramps were needed.
 - Most wanted to see a new facility built on the North side (Callaghan Park) and then at Port Alma.
- **Fishing charters, boat hire, tour guides, targeted accommodation and bait & tackle shops were business development opportunities mentioned by respondents**
 - Other ideas included: fishing lodges, eco tours, seafood restaurants, houseboats, BBQ boats, bait farming, additional caravan parks, food & drink vendors and charter|catch|cook operations.
- **Cost of running a business, floods and needing more tourists key obstacles for the fishing tourism industry**
- **Social media, TV shows and more fishing tournaments key aspects to marketing our Fishery**
 - Many indicated that undertaking these methods (when the fishery was ready) would be the best and easiest way to promote our Region. Some went further seeking rebranding Rockhampton to the *Beef & Barra Capital*.
- **Leveraging off the Barra Bounty and the Women That Fish additional ways to promote the Fishery**
- **Lowering sports fish bag limits, improving compliance, adjusting sports fish size limits were the three main methods fishers indicated to ensuring a sustainable fishery.**
- **Cleaning up the Riverbank/River, Keeping pollutants out of the River and increasing policing were the three main methods fishers thought would improve the local catchment environment.**

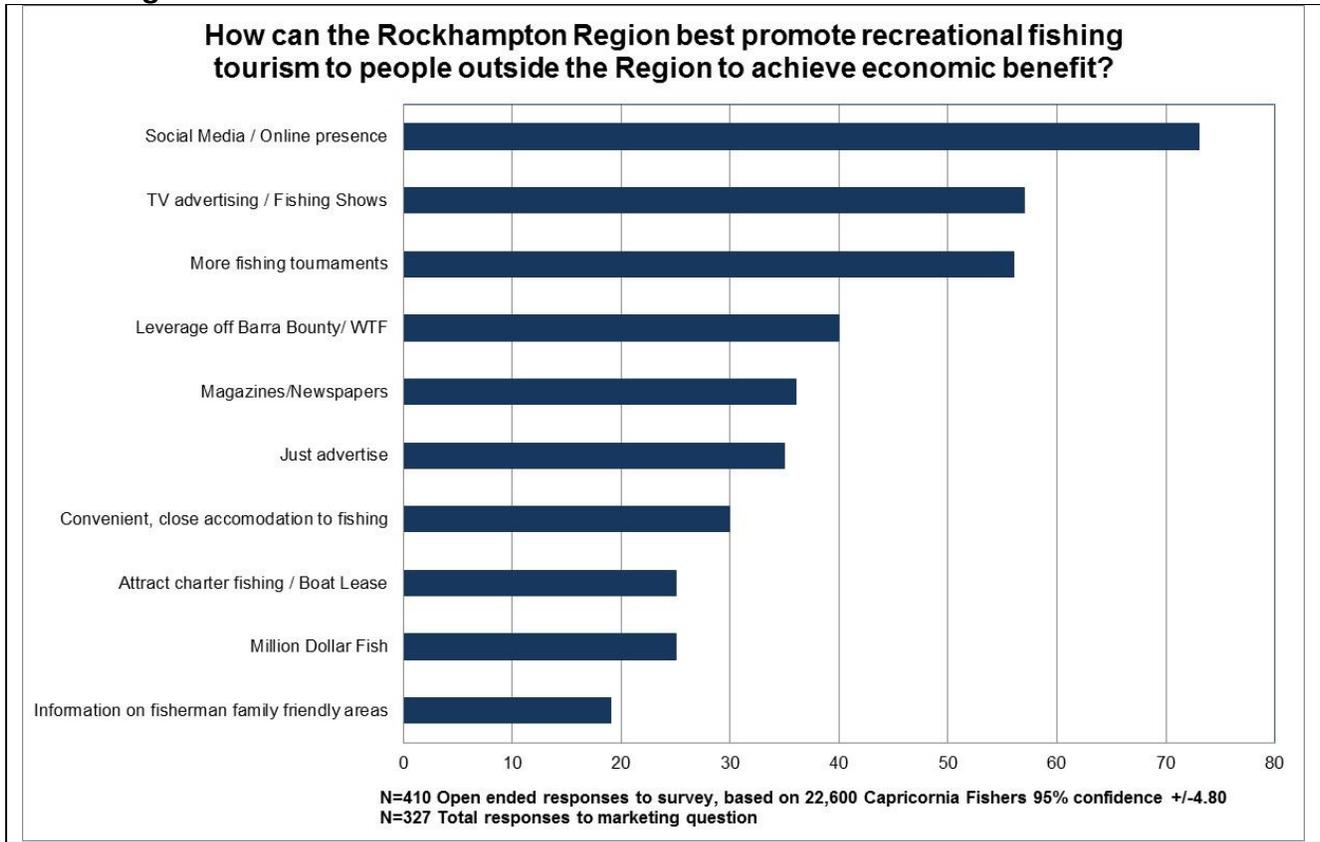
Marine Infrastructure



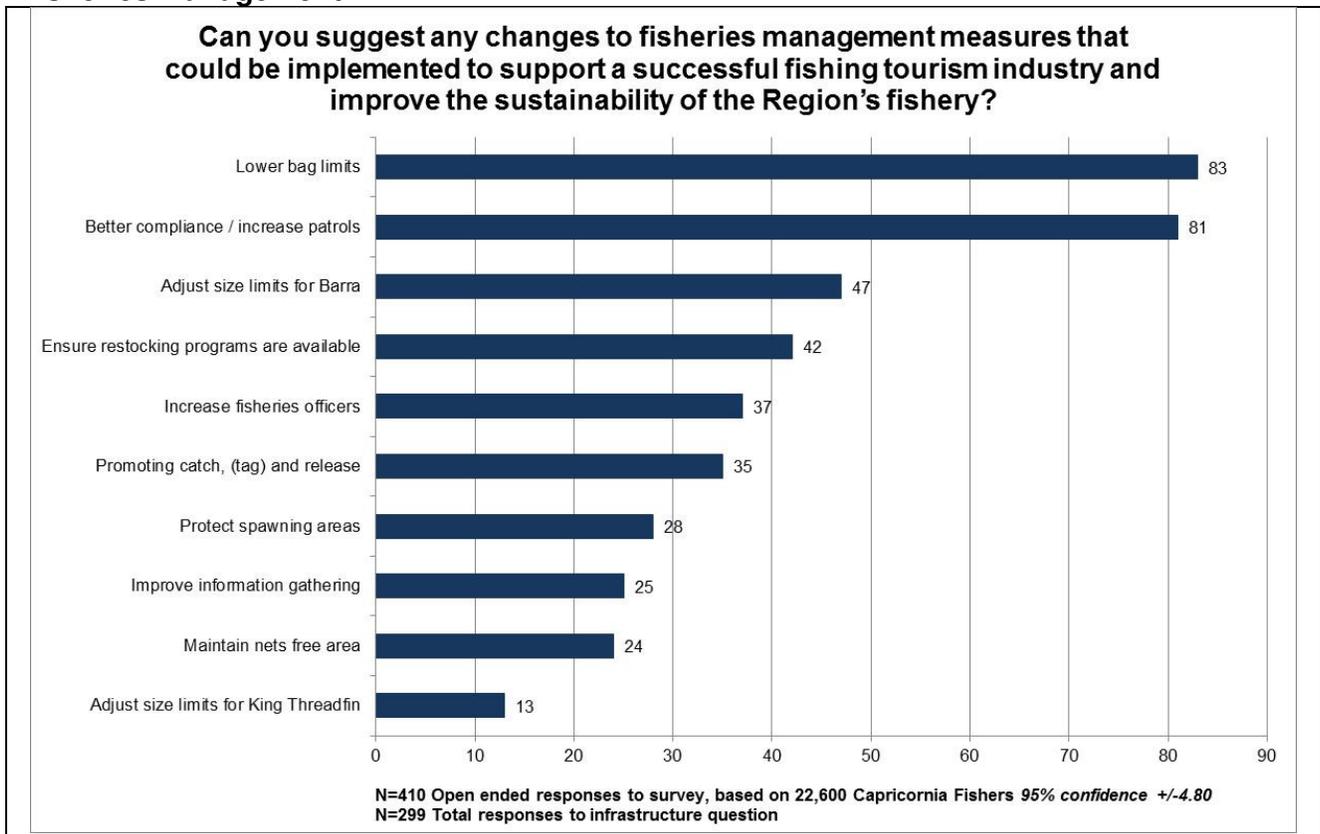
Business Development



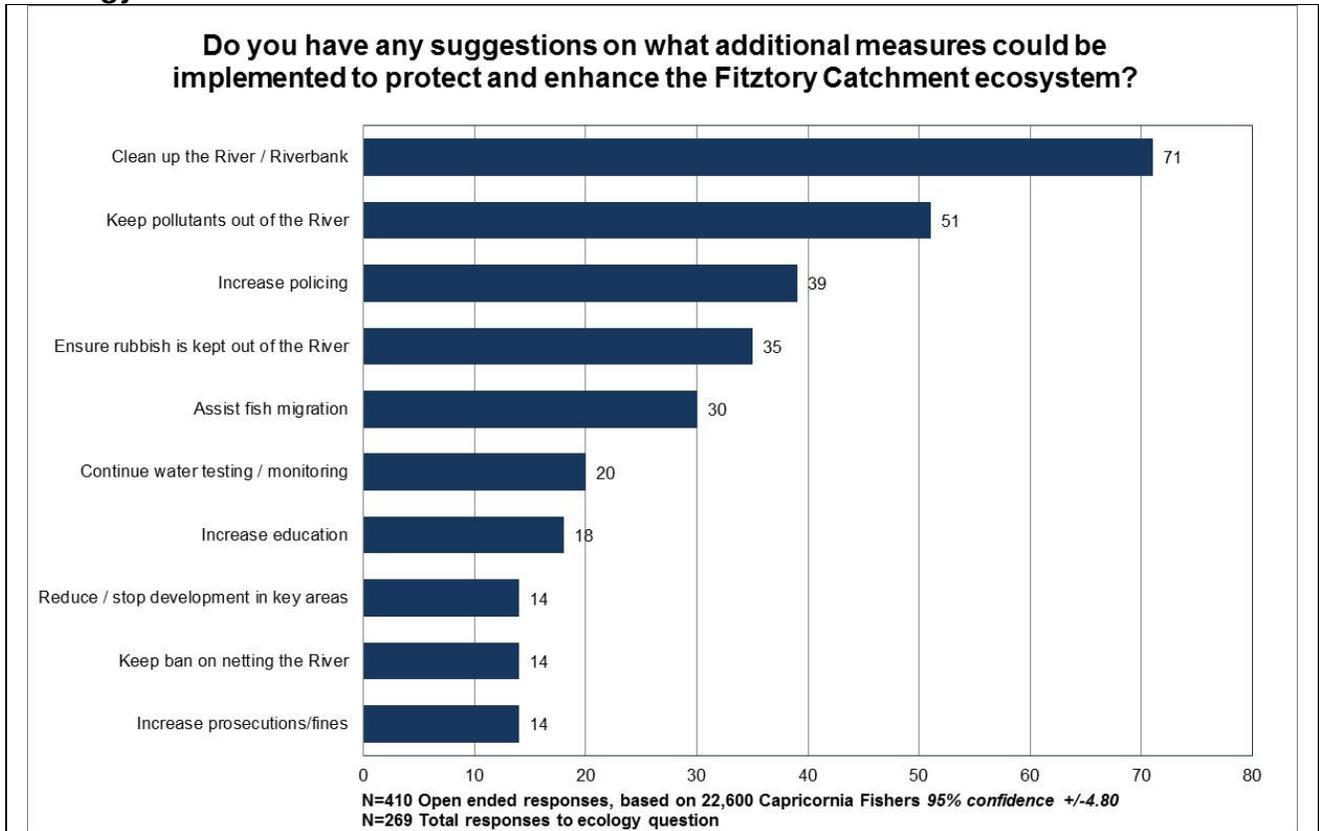
Marketing



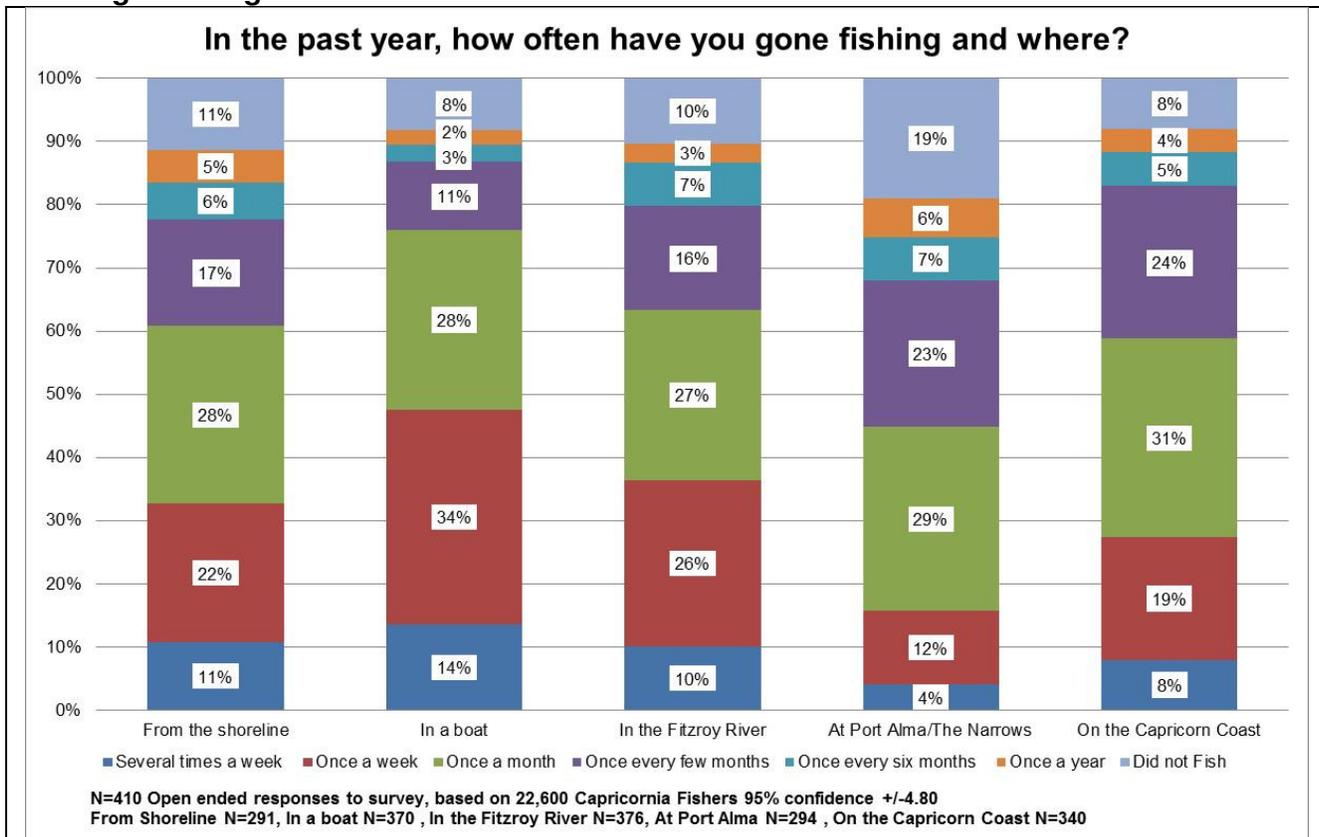
Fisheries Management



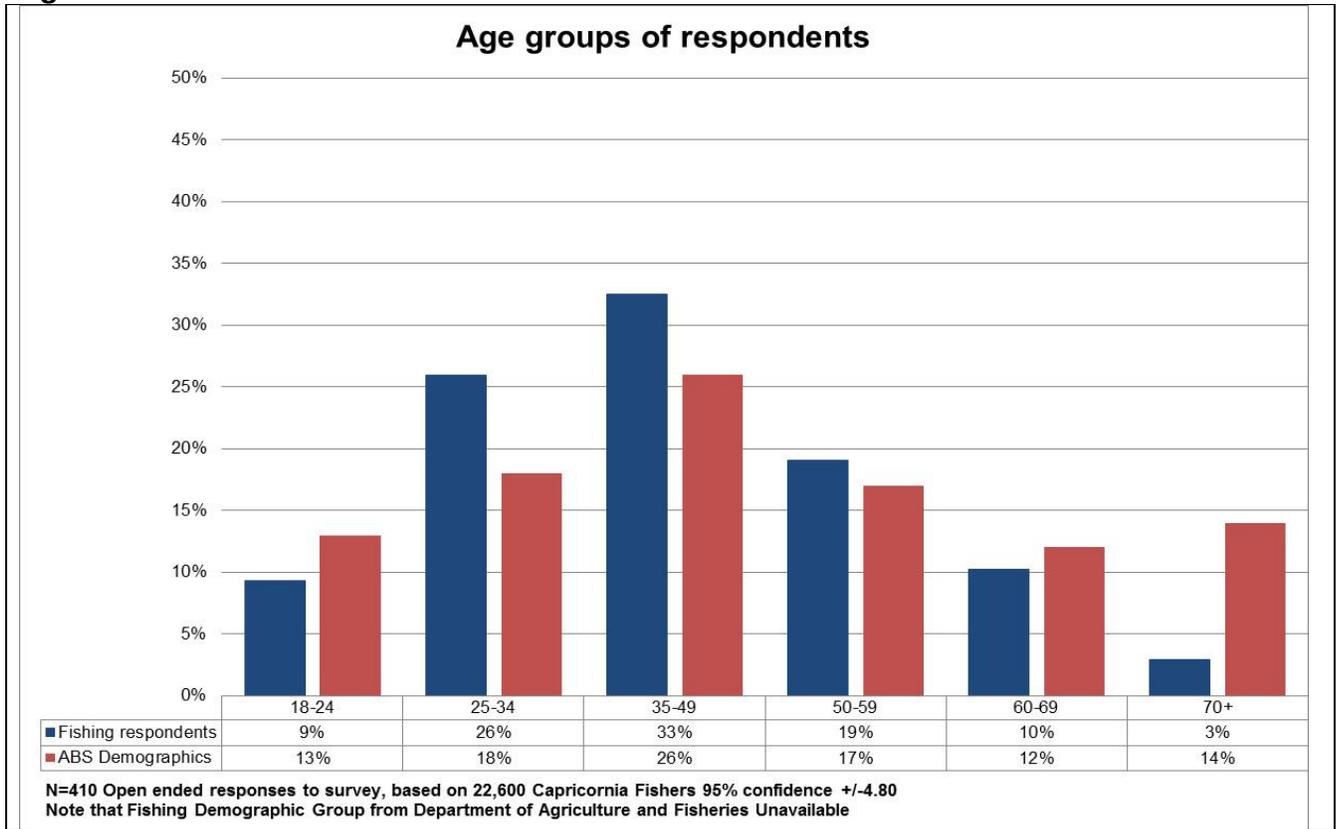
Ecology



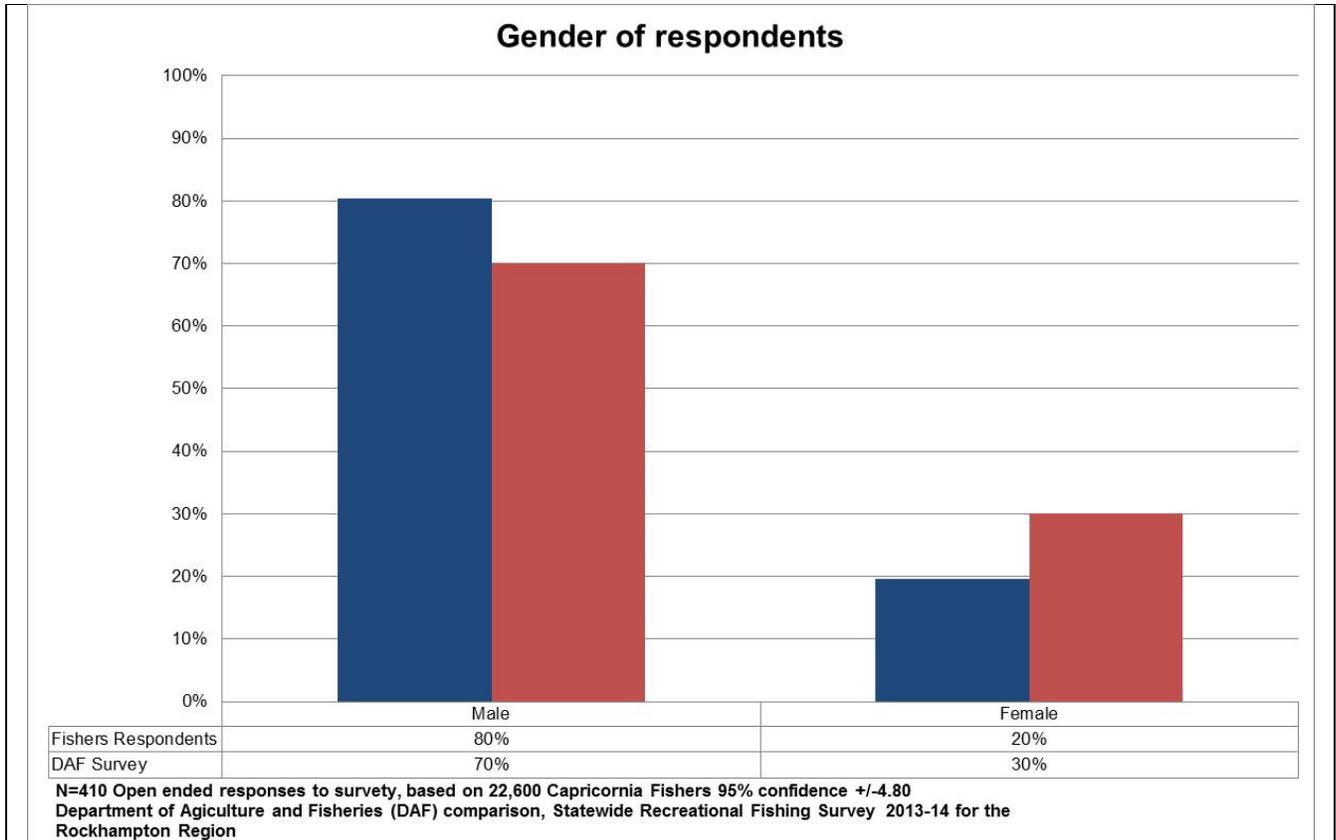
Boating / Fishing Behaviour



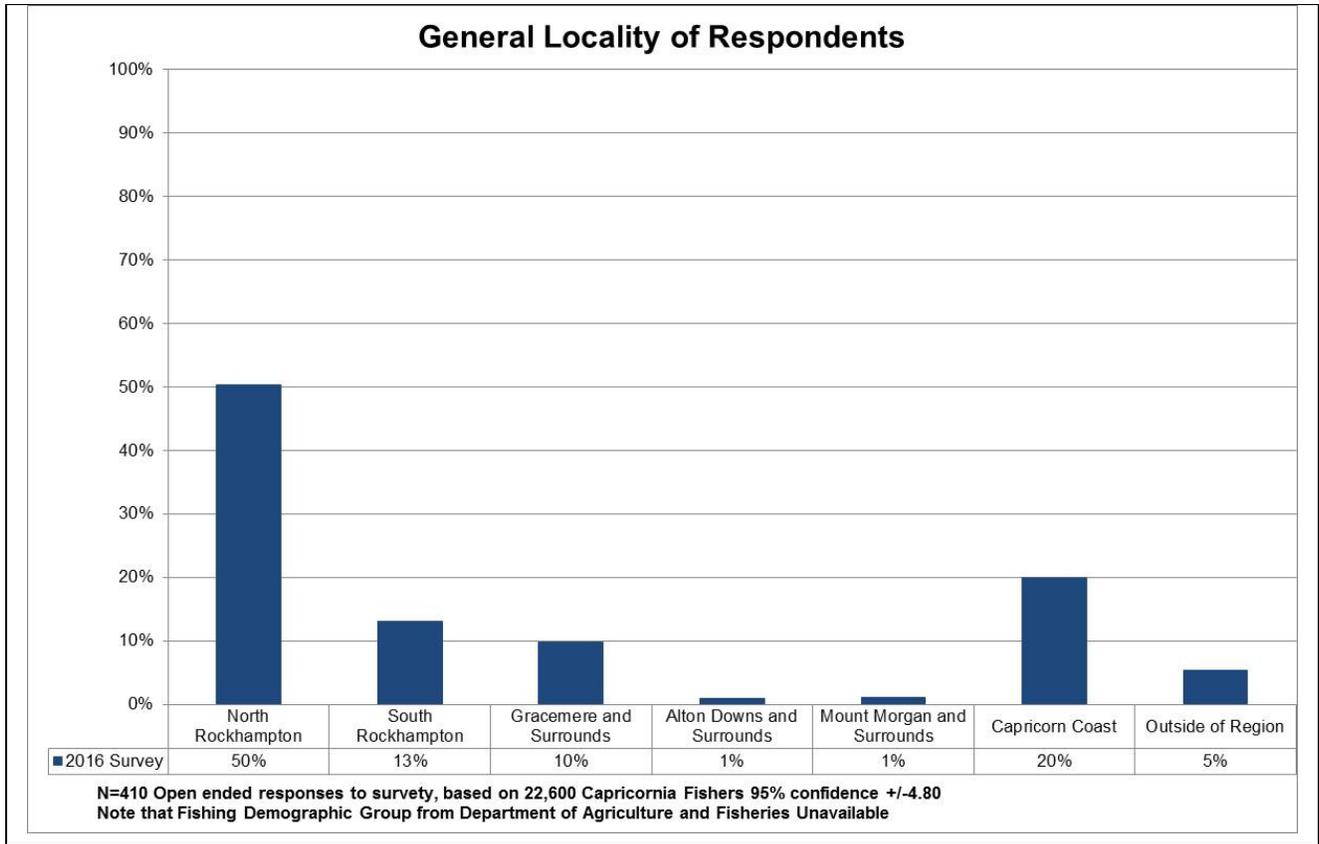
Age



Gender



Location



Marine Infrastructure & Fishing Tourism Survey

Rockhampton Regional Council is creating a Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Strategy and requires your input to help guide the Plan.
Please complete this survey by COB 5 February.

Enquiries: 1300 22 55 77 Fax 1300 22 55 79
Address: PO Box 1860, Rockhampton QLD 4700
Email: wade.clark@rrc.qld.gov.au



www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au

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Personal information							
Age Group	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69 <input type="checkbox"/> 70+						
Suburb (please list)							
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female						
In the past year, how often have you gone fishing and where?	Several times a week	Once a week	Once a month	Once every few months	Once every six months	Once a year	Did not Fish
From the shoreline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In a boat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the Fitzroy River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Port Alma/The Narrows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On the Capricorn Coast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Question on Marine Infrastructure							
Would you use improved land based fishing and/or improved boat ramp facilities in the Rockhampton Region? If yes, what improvements would you like to see and where? (Please list below)							

Question on Marketing / Promotion							
How can the Rockhampton Region best promote recreational fishing tourism to people outside the Region to achieve economic benefit? (Please list below)							

Question on potential fishing related businesses							
What fishing tourism related businesses do you believe could be viable in the Rockhampton Region in the future? What major obstacles do you think these businesses could encounter? (Please list below)							

Rockhampton Regional Council is creating a Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Plan and requires your input to help guide the Plan.

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Question on Fisheries Management

Being proactive in monitoring and maintaining the local fishery will assist new fishing related businesses and allow future generations to enjoy and benefit from this natural resource.

Can you suggest any changes to fisheries management measures that could be implemented to support a successful fishing tourism industry and improve the sustainability of the Region's fishery?
(Please list below)

Question on the Region's Marine Environment

Protecting and enhancing the health of our marine environment and the Fitzroy catchment area is fundamental to a sustainable local fishery.

Do you have any suggestions on what additional measures could be implemented to protect and enhance these ecosystems?
(Please list below)

Want to be part of the ongoing development of the Plan?

If you want to be further informed and consulted on the development of the Draft Marine Infrastructure and Fishing Tourism Plan please fill out the following details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Rockhampton Regional Council appreciates your time to complete this survey. Please return the survey to Council using the ballot box or reply paid envelope provided.

Results from this survey will be provided to Council officers and Councillors and then published on the Council's Regional Voice webpage:

<http://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/Community-and-Events/Regional-Voice>

If you do not have online access please call 1300 22 55 77 for a copy of the results.