



Your Budget, Your Choice
Community Budget Information
Consultation Report

Date: April/May 2013

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Executive Summary

The Mayor for Rockhampton Regional Council has been legislated to prepare and deliver a draft budget to the elected representatives of the Council for deliberation. As part of this process Mayor Margaret Strelow has sought to understand the community's views and opinions on potential changes to service delivery with an aim to increase financial sustainability and deliver appropriate services into the future.

The "Your Budget, Your Choice" community engagement was designed to ensure that any person who resides in the remaining Rockhampton Regional Area wanting to participate could do so. A proactive approach was used by the Mayor to speak to local residents across the Region with 18 face to face workshops at different localities; specific sessions inviting key community groups and specific sessions for sector leaders and business groups. Other methods such as an online survey and a mail-based survey were also undertaken with the same context and questions being asked through these mediums as through the workshops.

Total response for the exercise was 624 respondents; this represented a 95% confidence level with an interval of 3.91% (based on the remaining Regional population of approx 80,000). In terms of representivity there was a good cross section of people from across the Region that responded, with all age groups represented. Of the respondents 344 attended workshops, 262 completed the survey online and 18 completed the paper based survey.

Main messages from participants...

Consider placing the Heritage Village in community hands and leasing the Shearing Shed

- 78% of respondents "liked or could be persuaded" by the idea of the Heritage Village operated by the community.
- 79% of respondents "liked or could be persuaded" by leasing out the Shearing Shed to a private operator.
- 52% of respondents "did not like" the idea of the Heritage Village without animals.

Consider selling the Rockhampton Airport but use the money wisely

- 69% of respondents "liked or could be persuaded" by the idea of the selling the Airport on the basis that the funds would be used to bring down the debt.
- 31% of respondents "did not like" the idea, generally 1/3 of the respondents opposed was the average across most localities.
- Various additional statements were provided by respondents to sell the airport including using all of the funds on Council's \$166M debt, leaving Council with close to no debt. Comments to save the airport also expressed.

Consider changing mowing maintenance (35 days to 40 days) for selected Parks

- 86% of respondents "liked or could be persuaded" by the idea of changing the mowing cycle for selected parks.

Consider lowering the temperature of the Southside Pool to save money

- 90% of respondents "liked or could be persuaded" by the idea of lowering the temperature of the Southside Pool.

Keep the animals in the Rockhampton Zoo and place an entry fee between \$2 and \$5

- 60% of respondents "did not like" the idea of progressively reducing the exhibits.
- 88% of respondents were willing to pay entry to the Rockhampton Zoo.
- 80% of respondents willing to pay between \$2-\$5, 8% of respondents more than \$5 and 12% not willing to pay.

Participants polarised for the option of Reducing days for the Art Gallery

- 42% of respondents "liked the idea" of closing the Art Gallery for 2 days a week, whilst 36% of respondents "did not like the idea". Comments were made around closing it for 2 days through the week instead of the weekend.
- 47% of respondents "did not like" the idea of reducing the shown collection.

Participants polarised on whether to keep or close the Technology Centre (COIN)

- 41% of respondents "liked the idea", 39% of respondents "did not like" the idea and 20% "could be persuaded".
- Participants from different age groups were also polarised on whether to keep or close COIN.

Overall Statistical Summary

	Potential saving / income per year	I like it	I could be persuaded	I don't like it
Rockhampton Heritage Village				
Operate without animals – therefore having it as a static display	121K	22%	26%	52%
Operate without animals but keep horses for the stagecoach rides	15K	25%	23%	52%
Lease the Shearing Shed	Overheads	50%	29%	21%
Rockhampton Heritage Village to be community run	735K	50%	28%	22%
Rockhampton Art Gallery				
Reduce the days of opening days from 7 days to 5 weekdays	46.5K	42%	22%	36%
Reduce the shown collection.	400K	32%	21%	47%
Rockhampton Zoo				
Progressively reduce the number of exhibits.	300k by third year	22%	18%	60%
Southside Pool				
Council can save expenditure by reducing the temperature by a couple of degrees	21.5K	76%	14%	10%
Rockhampton Community Technology Centre				
Discontinue the centre and have other service providers deliver service	201K	41%	20%	39%
Mowing Maintenance of Local Parks				
Mowing maintenance would go from 35 days to 40 days across growing seasons	350K	66%	20%	14%
Rockhampton Airport				
Council could sell it, use half to reduce the debt, invest the rest and get to a surplus without impacting rate bills when sold	\$12.5M Note that the components of this includes income and savings	44%	25%	31%

	Potential saving / income per year	Not willing to pay	\$2	\$3	\$5	\$8	\$10 and above
Rockhampton Zoo							
What would you be willing to pay to enter the Zoo if it retained all exhibits? This will help to reduce the overall cost to Council.	Pedant on visitor numbers	12%	26%	14%	40%	6%	2%

Methodology

The “*Your Budget, Your Choice*” community engagement was triggered by the Mayor who wanted to understand the community’s views and opinions on potential service delivery modifications with an aim to increase financial sustainability and deliver appropriate services into the future.

The “*Your Budget, Your Choice*” community engagement was undertaken between the Wednesday 3 April and Monday 6 May and was designed to ensure that any person who resides in the remaining Rockhampton Regional Area wanting to participate could do so. Methods included face to face sessions, an online survey and a mail based survey (requested through customer service) which all had the same context and questions.

The “*Your Budget Your Choice*” sessions and survey were communicated to the public using a variety of methods including, media releases, advertising, use of traditional media, use of Regional Voice and social media. The Mayor undertook some informal lead up communications through local media, and the sessions were officially announced by media release at the end of March. This was followed by fairly extensive coverage by all local newspapers including The Morning Bulletin and the Queensland Telegraph, local radio stations 4RO, ABC Capricornia and Sea Fm/Hot FM and the local television news programs of WIN News and Seven Local News. Paid advertisements were placed in both The Morning Bulletin and The Queensland Telegraph on several occasions. Posts were made to Facebook and Twitter in the lead up to, and throughout the consultation, both advising of upcoming sessions and directing people to the online survey. Images of posters listing the dates on Facebook seemed to be effective. Utilising the bush telegraph (via key contacts) for rural engagements also ensured a quality turnout in these areas.

The Mayor took a proactive approach to speak to as many local residents across the region as possible. In total 18 face to face workshops covering:

- Localities – including Rockhampton (North) and (South), Gracemere, Mount Morgan, Bouldercombe, Alton Downs, Bajool, Wycarbah
- Specific sessions – community groups, including arts|culture|heritage, sporting and seniors
- Specific sessions for sector leaders and persons from the business/economic sector

The sessions, the online survey and the mail based survey provided an overview of the current situation that the Council is in, which included:

- How did we get to where we are?
- What has changed? Our debt position
- The level of Government Grants
- Increased services, infrastructure investment
- Increased expenses
- What have Council already decided to do and considering to more in the future
- De-amalgamation
- Comparison of rates across like Councils
- What are our options?




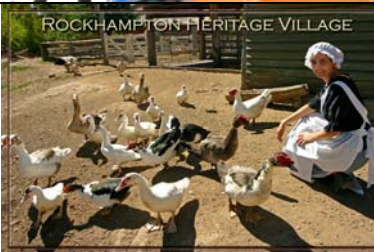




Keypad used by respondents at workshops/meetings

Then questions were asked of respondents and this was based on Mayor (or delegate) describing the service provision in detail then providing the options for the respondents and asking whether they “liked it”, “could be persuaded” or “didn’t like” the option being placed forward.

A new technology was used in the sessions and this was the Turning Point software which provided in real-time interactive where the Mayor asked questions and the respondent would select the preferred option via the Keypad shown here in the picture above.

Importance of facilities ranked from participants within the Region

<u>Overall Rank</u>	<u>Facility Provided</u>	
1	Pilbeam Theatre	
2	Sporting Fields	
3	Playgrounds	
4	Rockhampton Heritage Village	
5	Pools	
6	The Rockhampton Zoo	
7	Rockhampton Art Gallery	

Rockhampton Heritage Village

Through the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and also the online/mail based survey participants were provided with an overview of the Heritage Village, its social value and its current operating position. The following is the specific overview information provided:



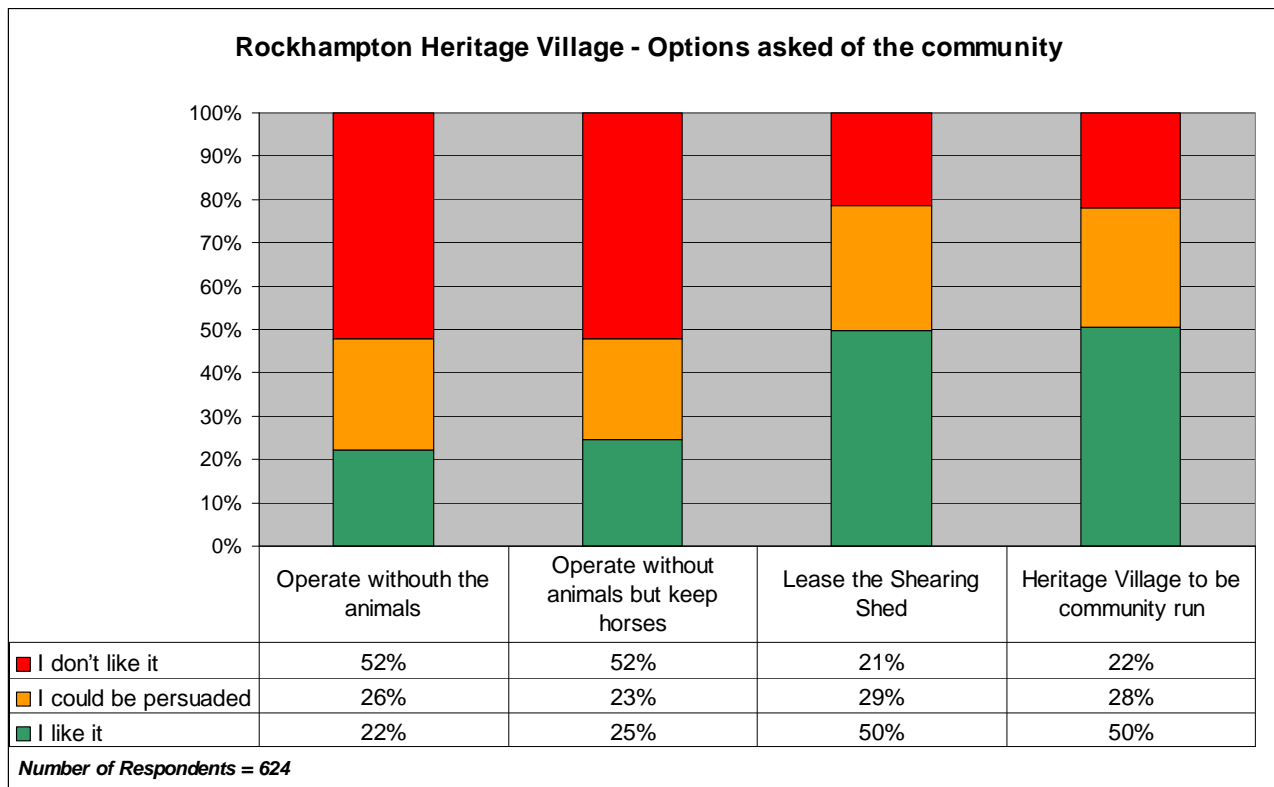
"It costs 735K as this is operating at a financial loss but a social gain

- *We employ 7.63 FTE staff + casual hours as required for functions at the Shearing Shed*
- *Costs \$589,712 cost to Council plus an additional \$146,00 for facilities maintenance*
- *Volunteers donate around 40,000 hours per year*
- *7288 paying visitors for year ended 30 June 2012; income from visitors (excluding markets) - \$51,000*
- *Total visitation for markets 46,651"*

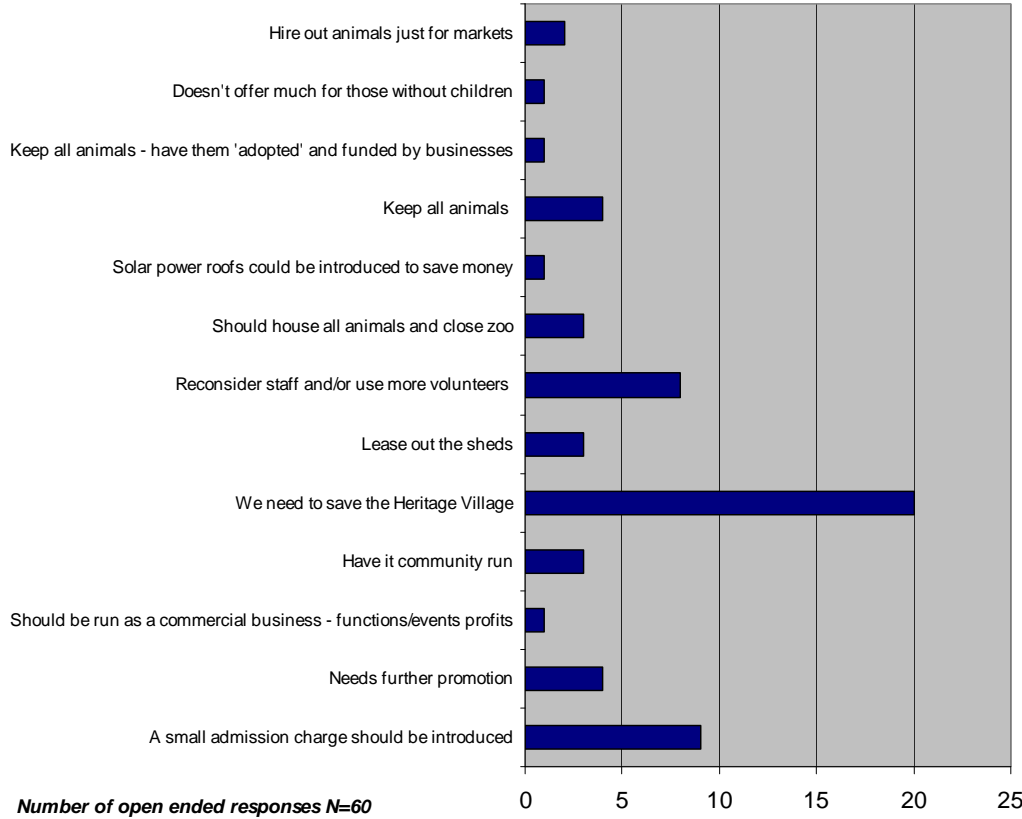
Four options were asked of the community:

- 1) Operate without animals therefore having it as a static display – *"Would save approx \$121k per annum - saving in one staff member, stock food and vet fees"*
- 2) Operate without animals but keep horses for the stagecoach rides. – *"Would save \$15,000 per annum"*
- 3) Lease the Shearing Shed – *"The Shearing Shed operates close to break even, however still has various overheads. We could lease the Shearing Shed"*
- 4) Heritage Village to be community run – *"Would save a significant amount of money for Council and put this in the hands of the community"*. It was detailed a transition period between Council and an appropriate organisation would need to be completed.

Results

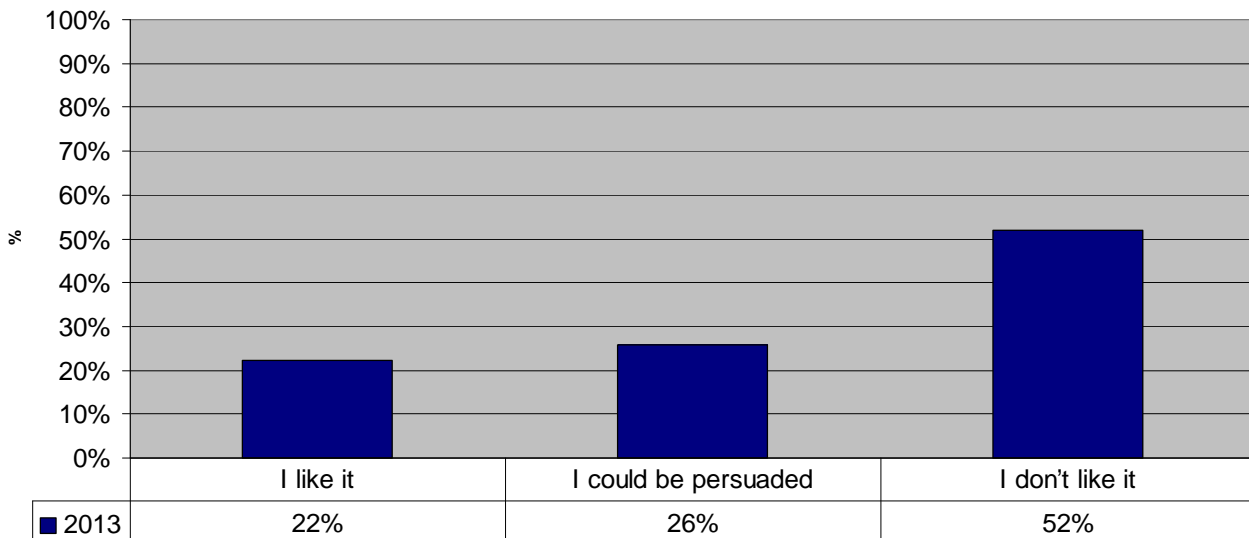


Heritage Comments - Workshop and Survey combined



Rockhampton Heritage Village – Operate without animals

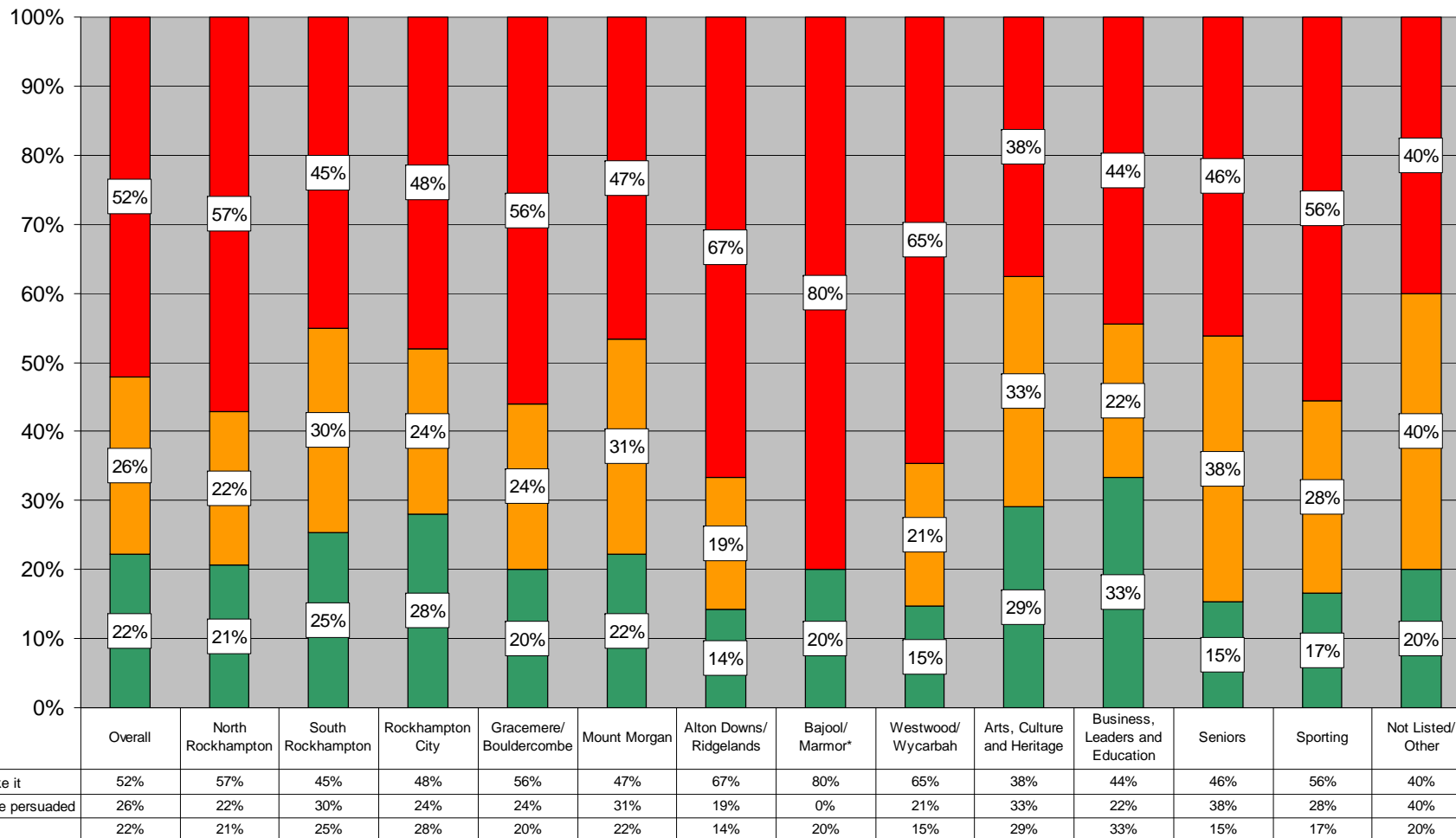
Rockhampton Heritage Village – Operate without animals – therefore having it as a static display "Would save approx \$121k per annum - saving in one staff member, stock food and vet fees"



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=13

Analysis: As can be seen above, 52% of participants “didn’t like” the idea of operating without animals; further analysis suggests that persons of all ages didn’t support this idea and those that lived within the region for over 30 years were significant in their opposition. The localities of Bajool and surrounds* (80%), Alton Downs (67%), Wycarbah and surrounds (65%), and North Rockhampton (57%) were the strongest in their opposition.

Rockhampton Heritage Village - Operate without the animals

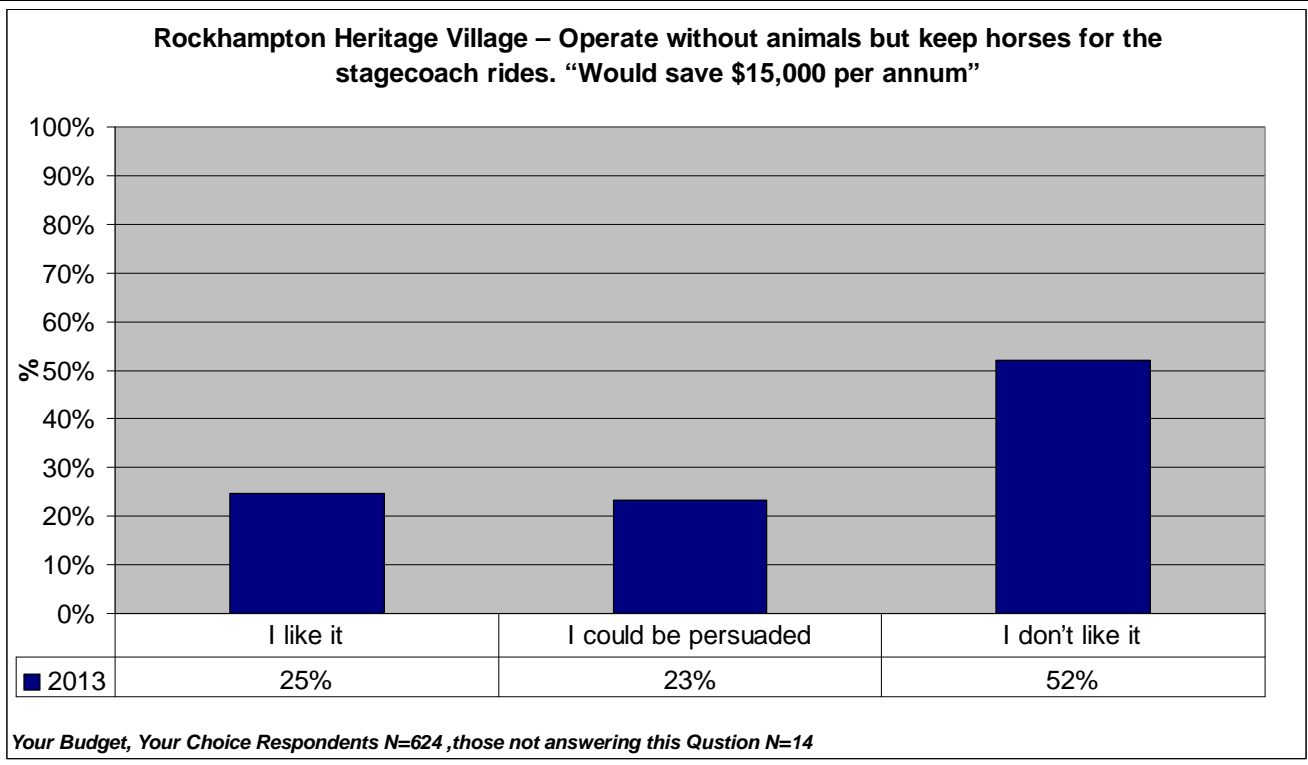


Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=13

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have low amount of participant*

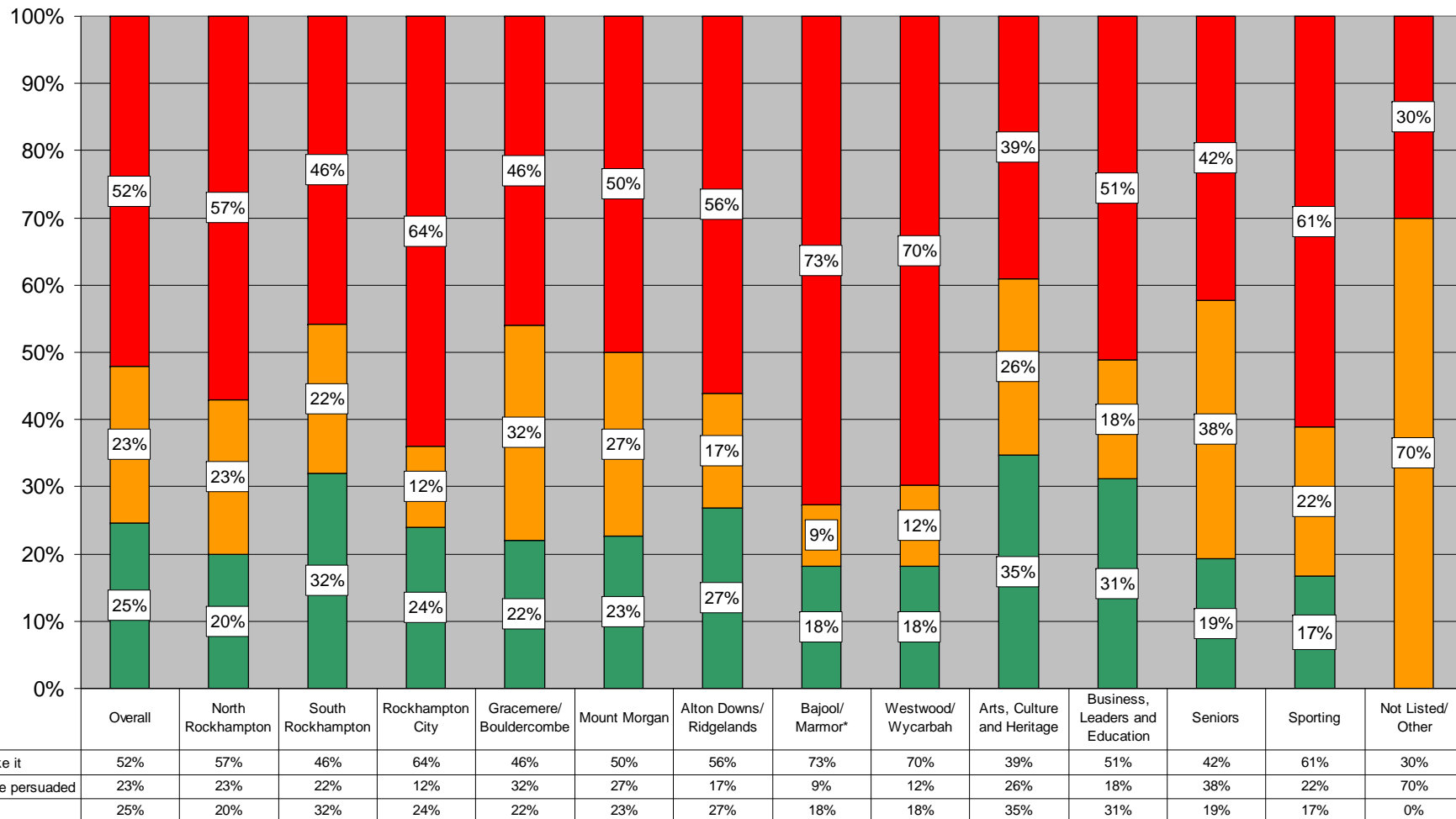


Rockhampton Heritage Village – Operate without animals but keep the horses



Analysis: The chart above is similar in many respects to the “Operating without animals chart” with those that didn’t support that idea generally thought the same with this option. The exception was the 18-25yr olds where 1/3 of this group “Liked the idea”, 1/3 “Could be persuaded” and 1/3 “Didn’t like the idea”. Those that did not support the idea of the Heritage Village being community run were also strongly opposed to this concept as well.

Rockhampton Heritage Village - Operate without animals but keep horses

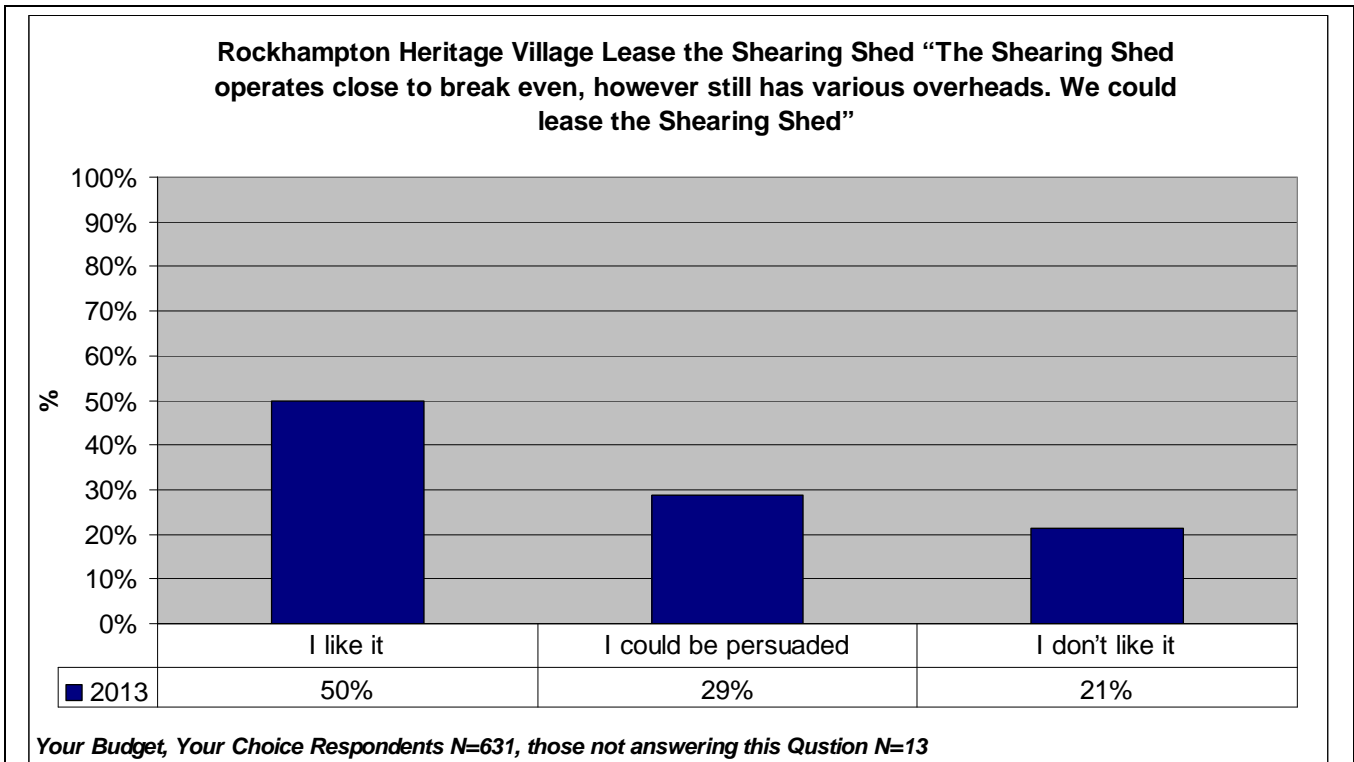


Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=14

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*

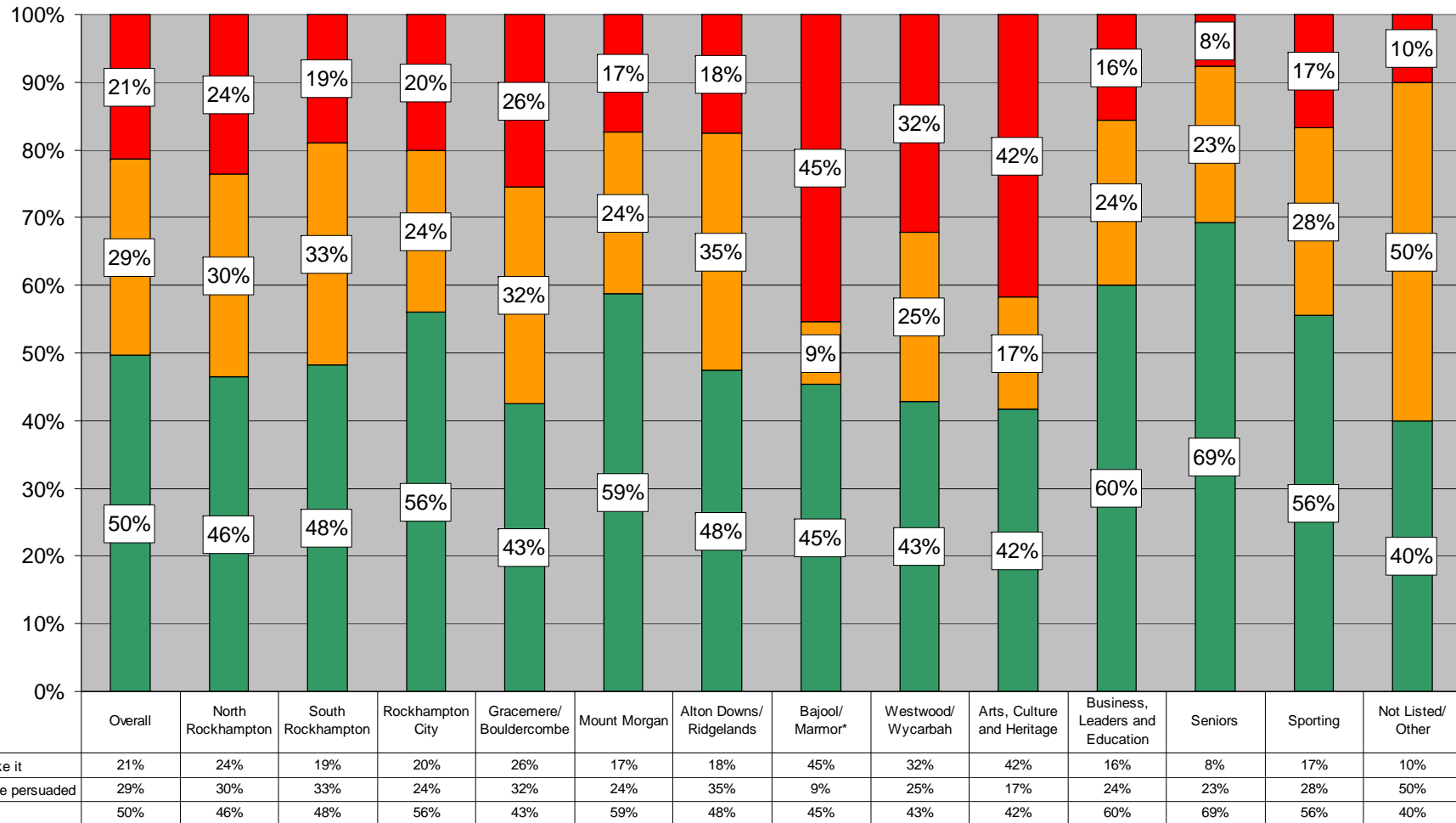


Rockhampton Heritage Village – Lease the Shearing Shed



Analysis: As can be seen above leasing the Shearing Shed had half of all respondents liking the concept. This was strongly supported by 18-25yr olds (63% support), 26-40yr (53% support) and 41-55yr olds (55% support each). 60% of all participants at the business session also supported this concept. Those that were supportive of the Heritage Village being community run were also highly supportive of this idea.

Rockhampton Heritage Village - Lease the Shearing Shed

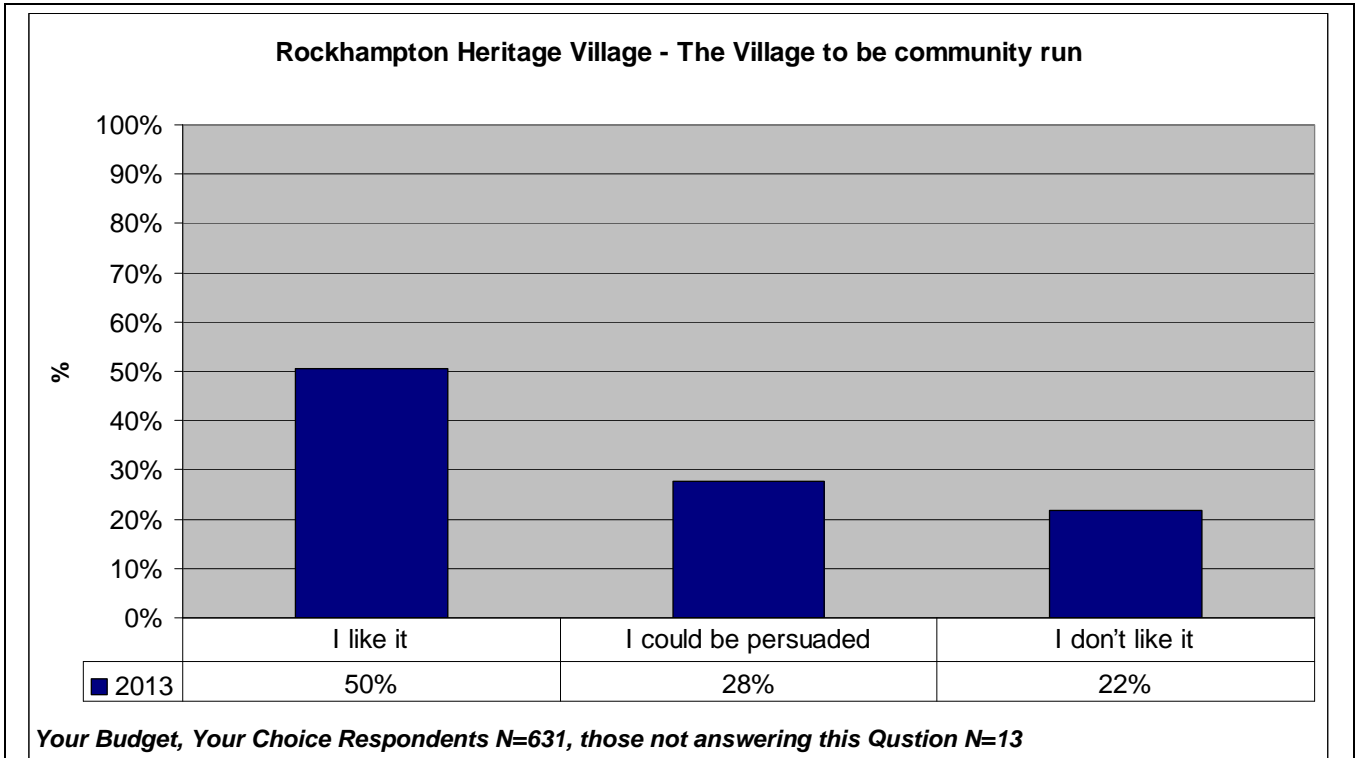


Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=21

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*

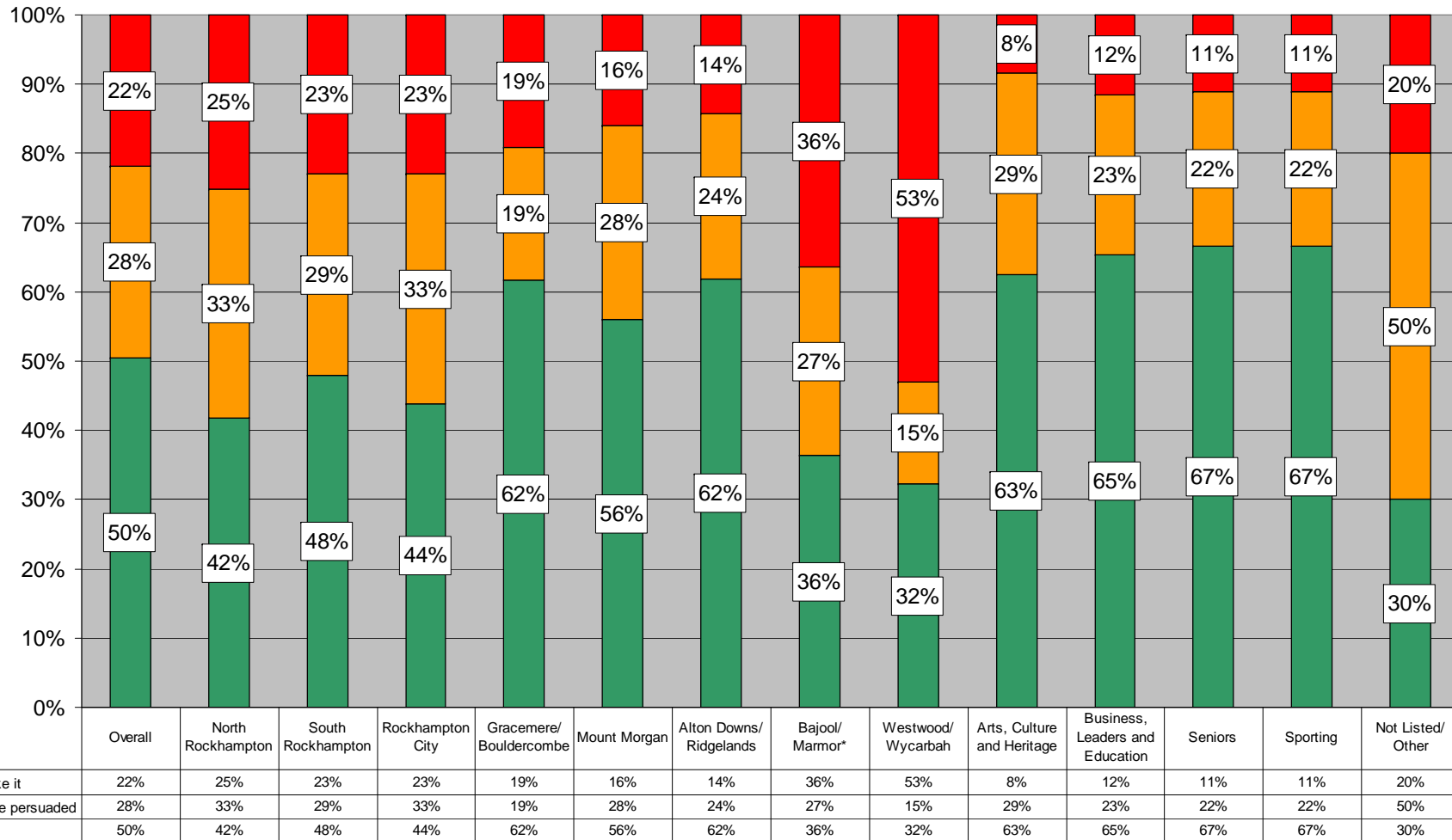


Rockhampton Heritage Village – The Village to be community run



Analysis: The Rockhampton Heritage Village to be community run option had very strong support from Sporting and Seniors groups with both groups having 67% of participants that liked this idea. In terms of a person's age and their support the age groups of 56-59 had the least amount of support of any group with 26% of this group not liking this option.

Rockhampton Heritage Village - Village to be community run



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=11

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*

Rockhampton Art Gallery

Through the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and also the online/mail based survey participants were provided with an overview of the Rockhampton Art Gallery and it being one of best regional art collections in Australia. The following is the specific overview information provided:



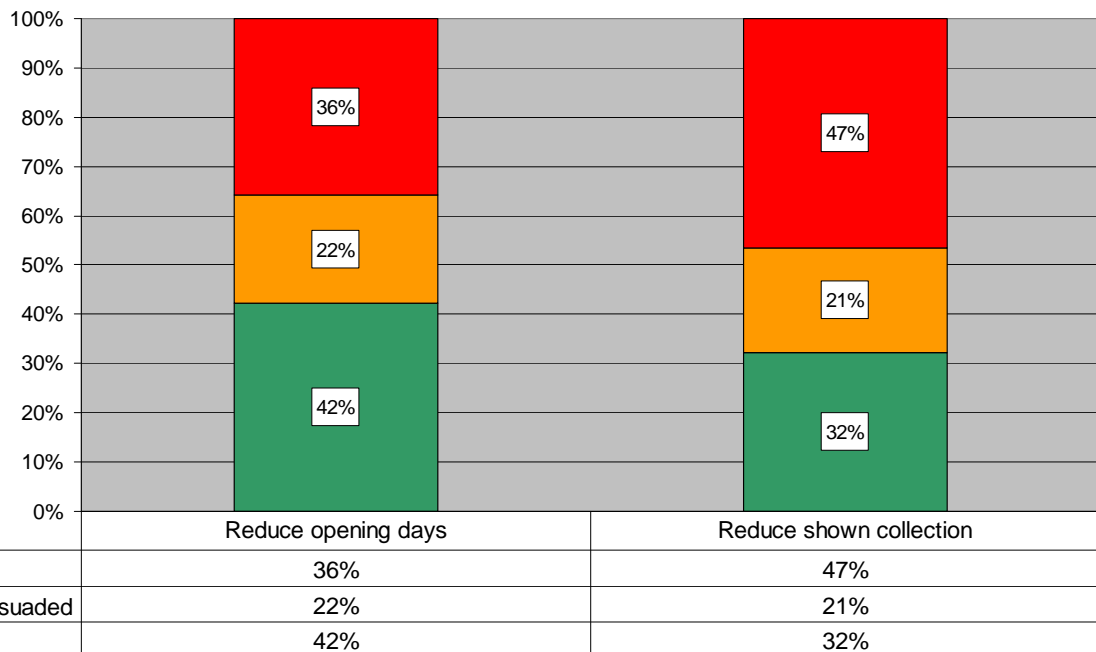
- “Costs \$ 747,918 per annum
- Last valued at \$14 million
- 5.37 Full Time Staff Equivalent
- 16733 visitors per annum - for year ended 30 June 2012
- 2088 volunteer hours for period from 1/7/12 - 28/2/13 - figures not previously kept”

Two options were asked of the community:

- 1) Reduce the days of opening days from 7 days to 5 days a week (weekdays) “Savings of approx \$46,500 could be expected.”
- 2) Council could mothball the major collection and revert to being a much smaller ‘local’ gallery “Savings of approx \$400,000 could be expected.”

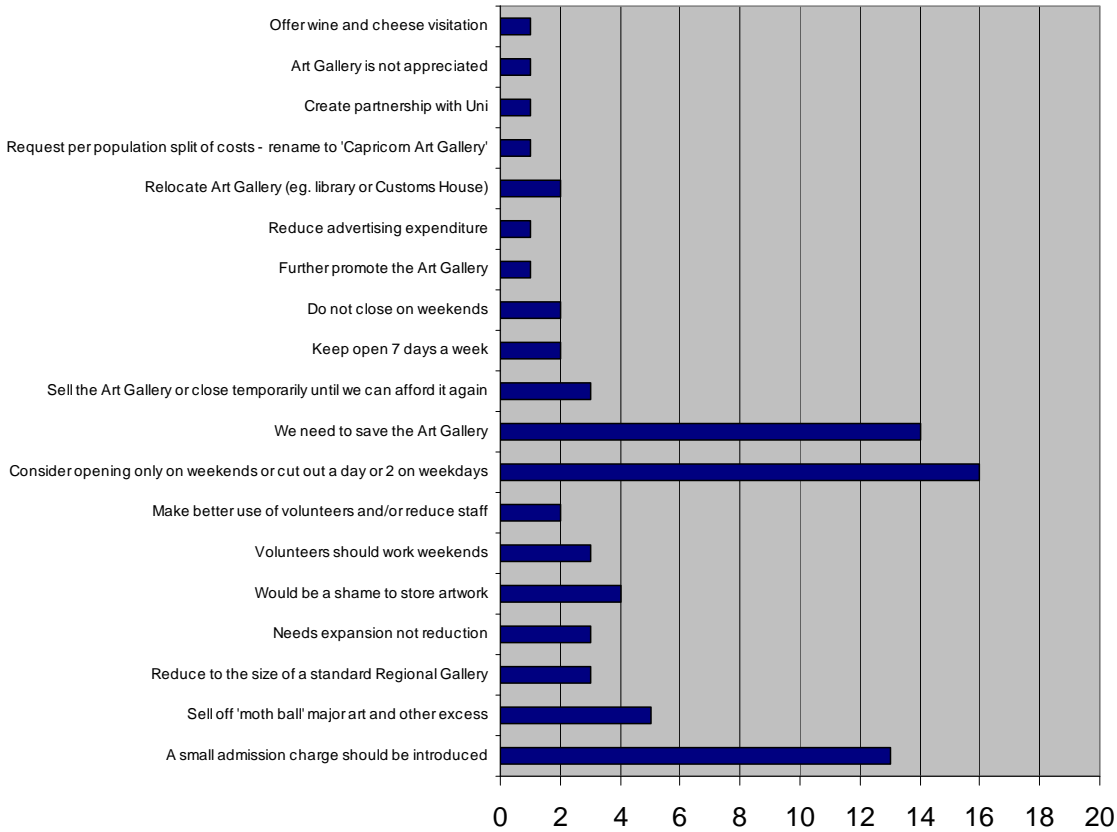
Results

Rockhampton Art Gallery - Options asked of the community



Number of Respondents to Your Budget, Your Choice consultation N=624

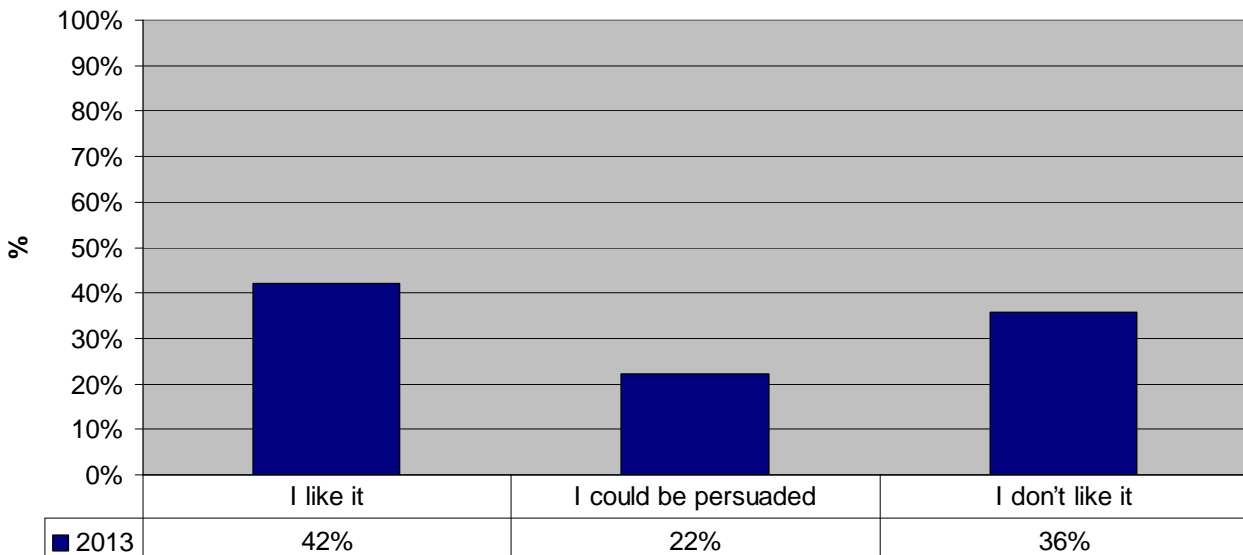
Art Gallery - Workshop and Survey combined



Number of open ended response N=78

Rockhampton Art Gallery

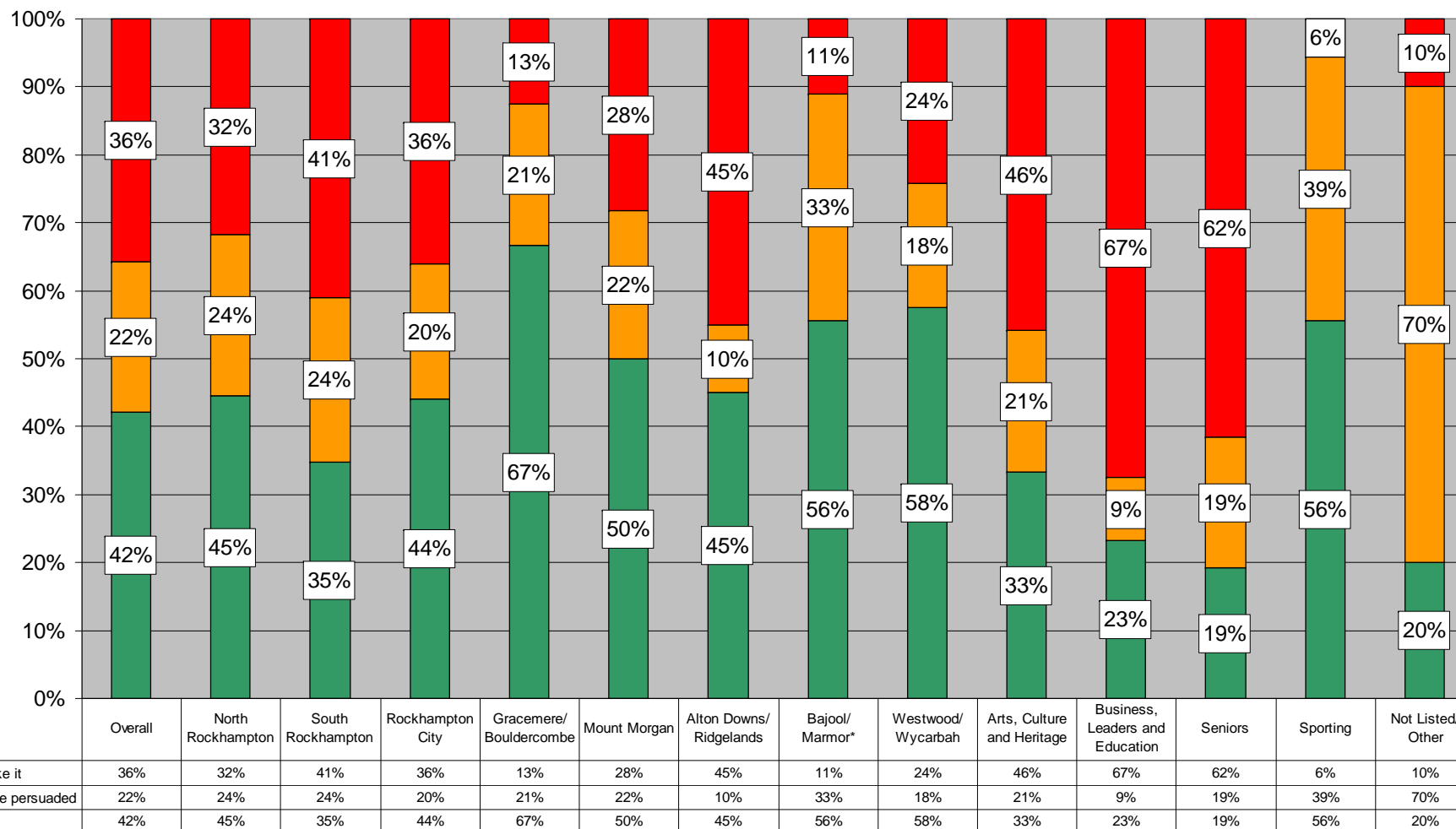
Rockhampton Art Gallery - Reduce the days of opening from 7 days to 5 weekdays (Monday to Friday) "Would save \$46,500 per annum"



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624 those not answering this Question N=19

Analysis: While overall this option is polarised when all responses are combined, an age of a person provides a different perspective. On average the older a person gets the more likely they are to like this as option, for example only 29% of 18-24yr olds like this concept, then results ranged upwards for older age groups.

Rockhampton Art Gallery - Reduce the days of opening to weekdays

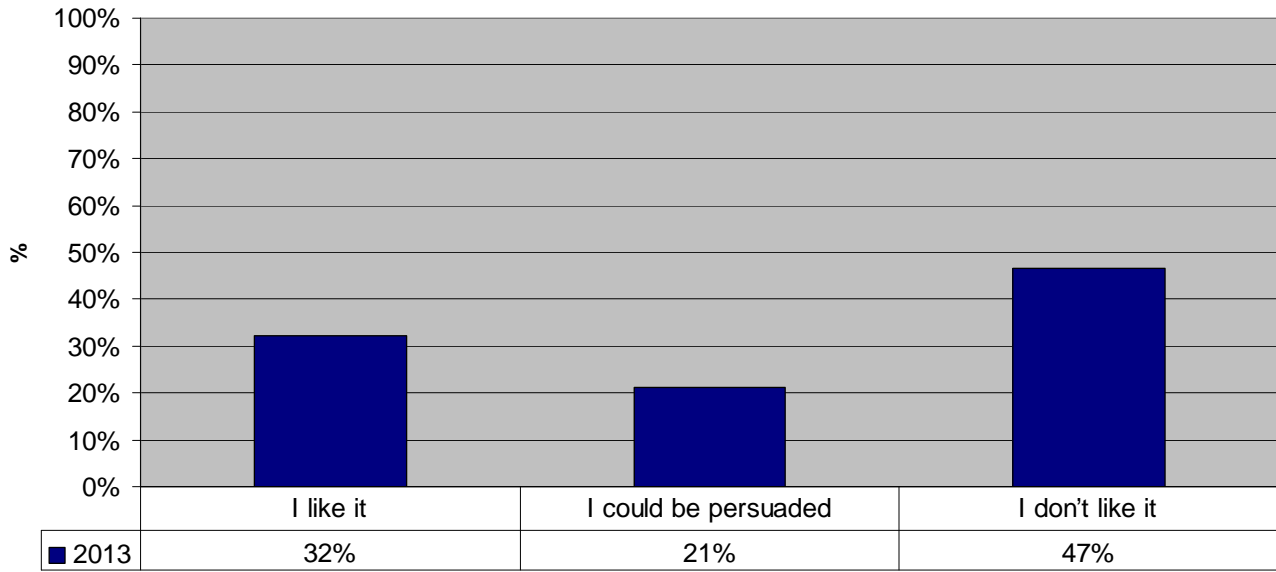


Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=11

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*



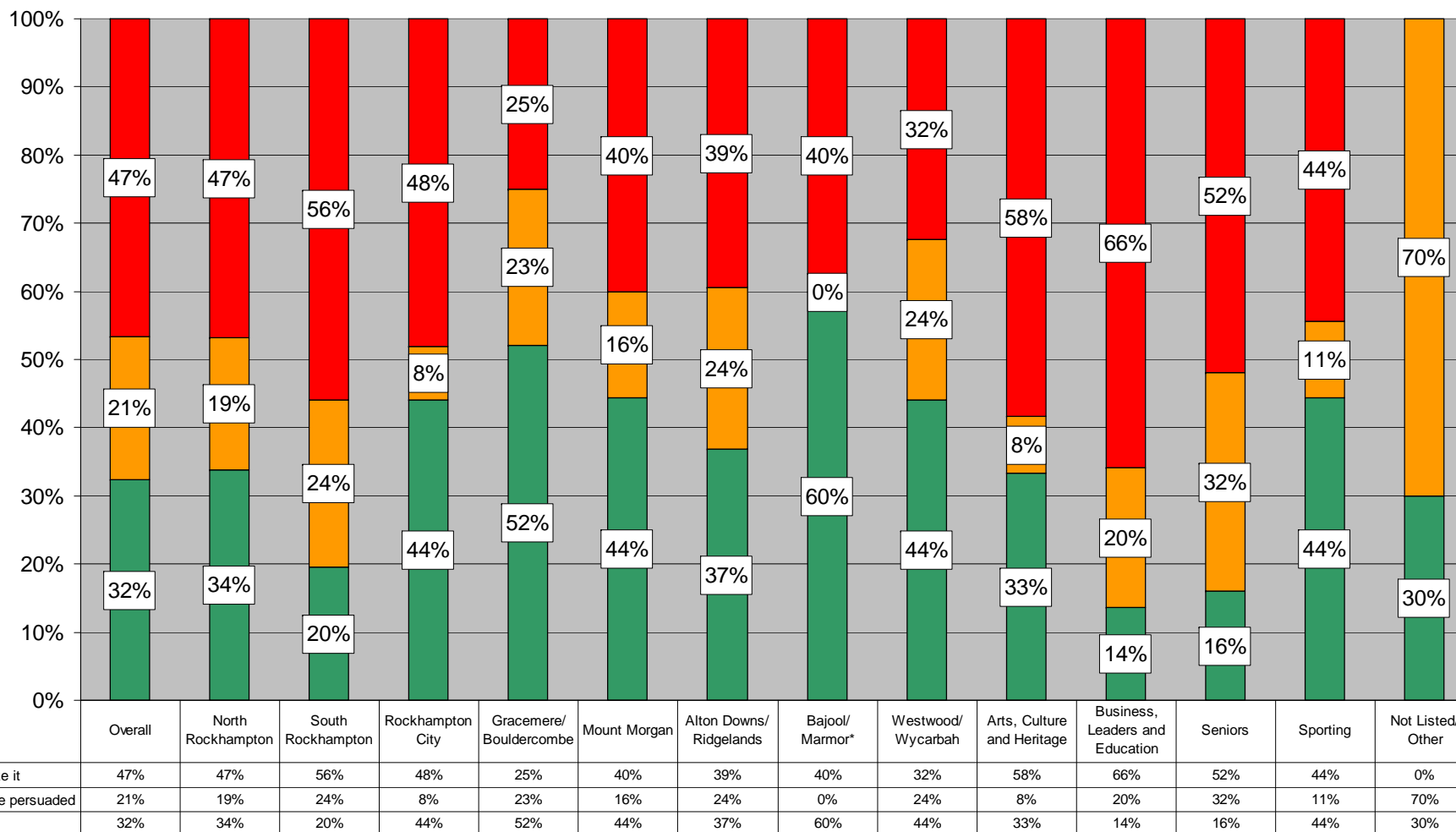
Rockhampton Art Gallery - Reduce the shown collection "Would save approx \$400,000 but an alternative location would need to be found"



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=21

Analysis: As can be seen by the chart above this was not a well supported option. The main groups of participants that did not like this concept were 18-24yr olds (54%), 70+ yr olds (58%) and the Business|Community Leaders|Education sector (67%).

Rockhampton Art Gallery - Council could store the major collection



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=11

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*



Rockhampton Zoo

Through the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and also the online/mail based survey participants were provided with an overview of the Rockhampton Zoo, that it has a variety of exhibits and that it is one of few Council owned Zoos in Australia. The following is the specific overview information provided:

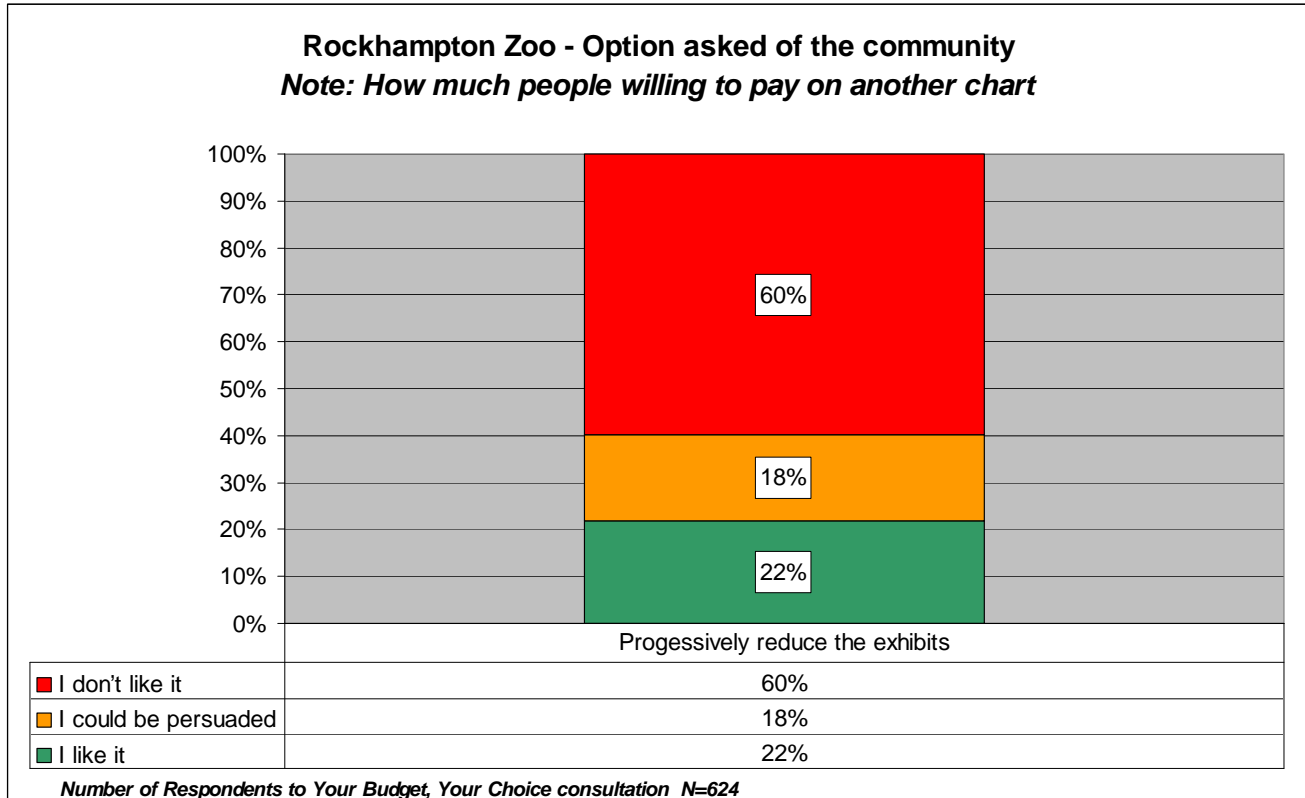


- *“We have 9 staff members*
- *An attraction for locals/tourists/visitors*
- *We have 5 active volunteers*
- *Costs \$955,524 per year to operate*
- *Iconic displays such as the Chimp enclosure and also the Bird Aviary*
- *Volunteers donate around 1800 hours per year*
- *No specific charge for admission”*

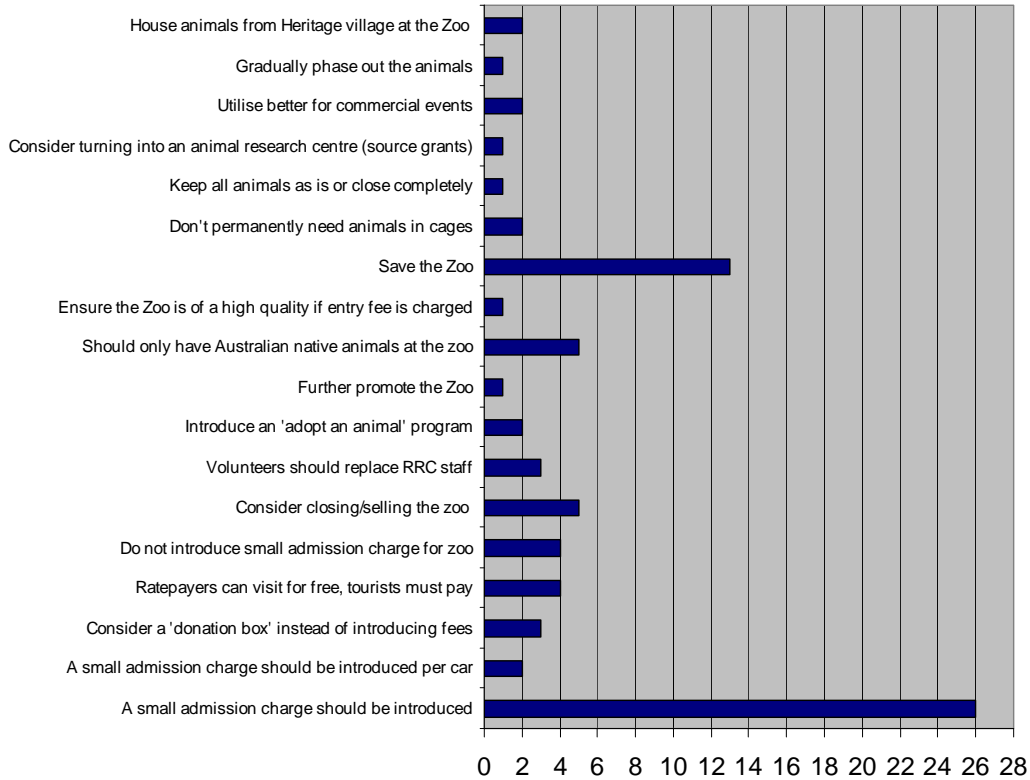
Two options were asked of the community:

- 1) *Progressively reduce the number of exhibits, “The aim will be to save 300k by the third year*
- 2) *What would you be willing to pay to enter the Zoo if it retained all exhibits?*

Results



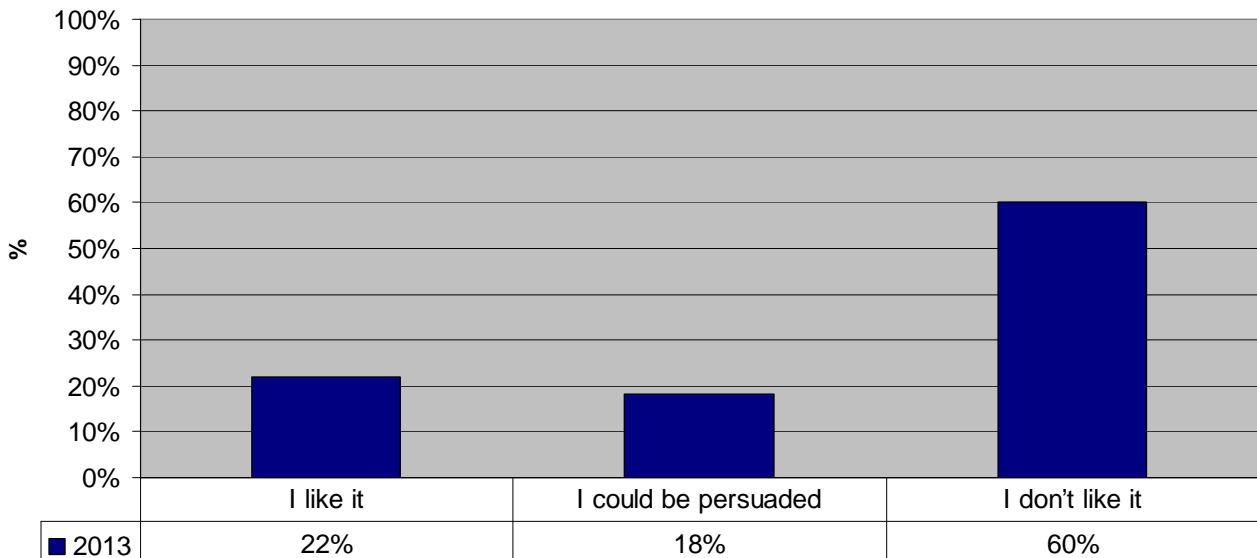
Rockhampton Zoo - Workshop and Survey combined



Number of open ended responses N=78

Rockhampton Zoo

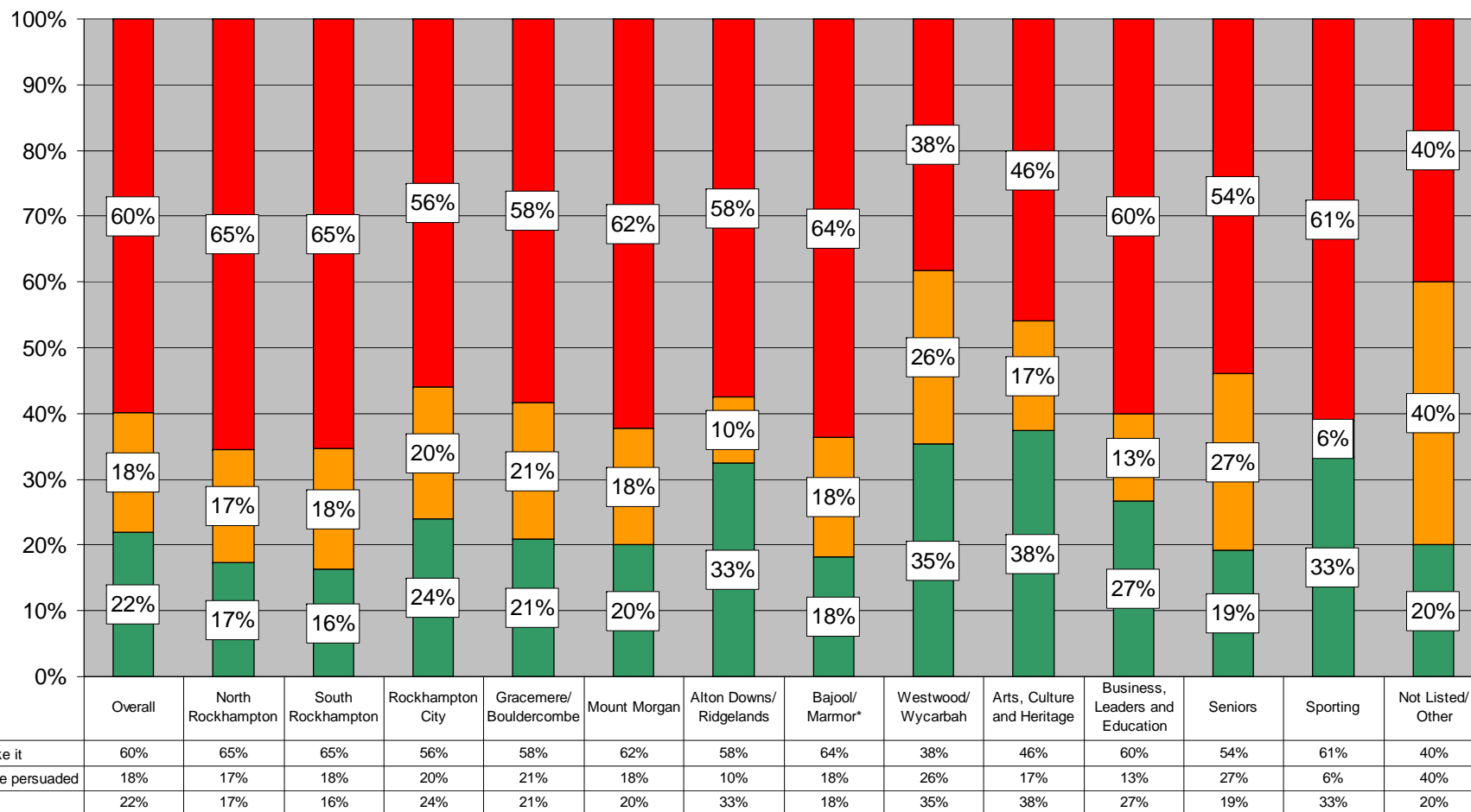
Rockhampton Zoo - Progressively reduce the number of exhibits "The aim will be to save 300k by the third year"



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=18

Analysis: This option was not well supported; the more significant groups that opposed this idea were 18-25yr olds (68%) and 26-40yr olds (78%). North and South Rockhampton participants were both in strong opposition each with 65% of participants that did not support this concept.

Rockhampton Zoo - progressively reduce the number of exhibits

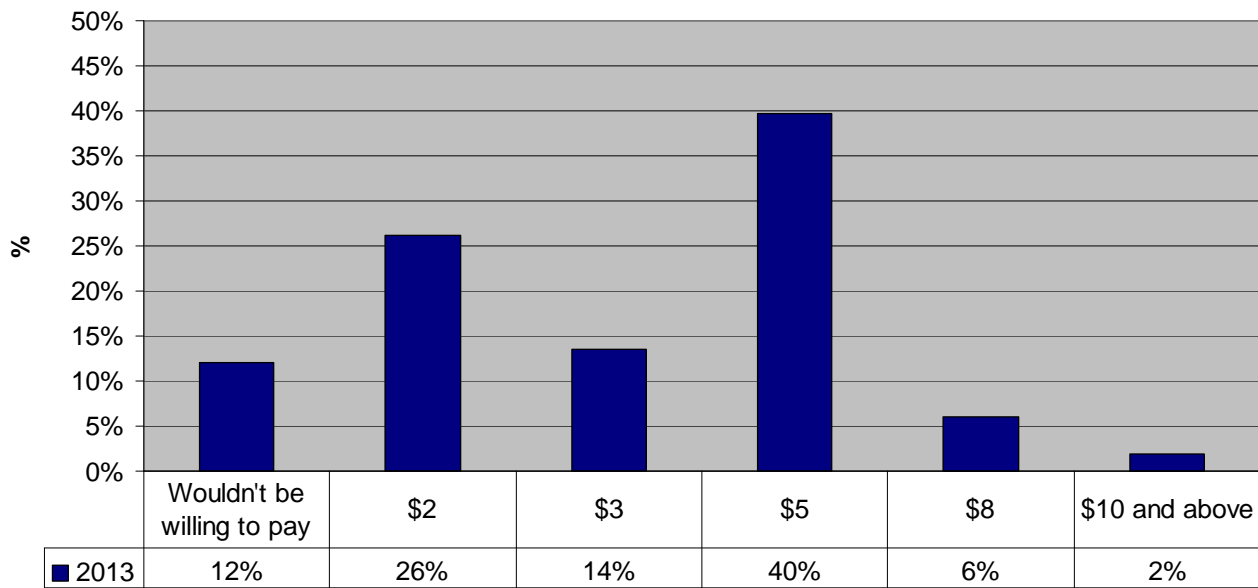


Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=21

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*



What would you be willing to pay to enter the Zoo if it retained all exhibits



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=55

Analysis: Those of older age groups were the main drivers of those that wouldn't be willing to pay with 41-55yr olds (14%), 56-69 (13%) and 70+ (12%) stating as such. Participants that strongly supported \$5 came predominantly from the Arts|Culture|Heritage sector, sporting sector, localities of Mount Morgan and Gracemere.

Southside Pool

Through the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and also the online/mail based survey participants were provided with an overview of the Southside Pool, that it is in the process of being built and will be up to Olympic standards. The following is the specific overview information provided:

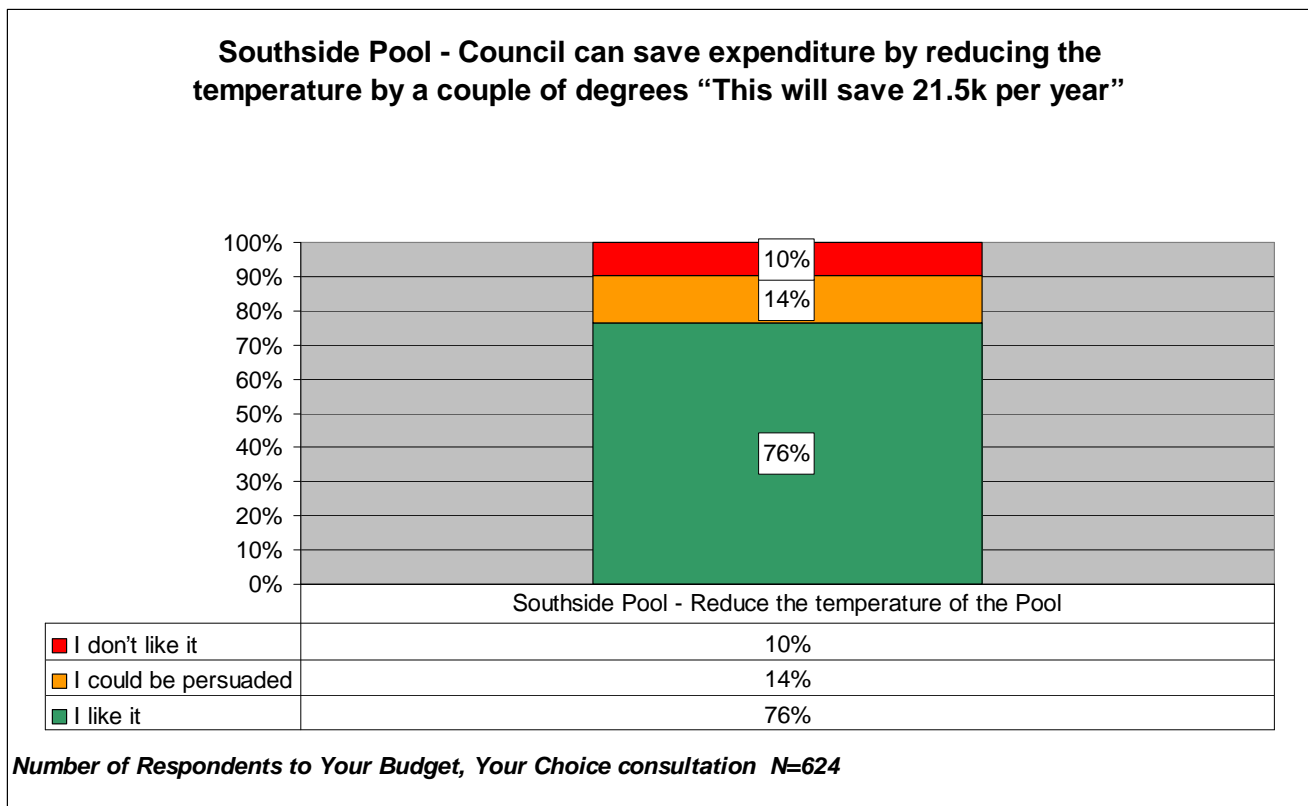


- *“The Pool is operated by a third party under a management agreement*
- *We have 26,000 visitors for this season*
- *Estimated to cost \$850k for 2012/13*
- *Under the management agreement all revenue from gate takings is retained by the operator*
- *We pay the operators a retainer as well”*

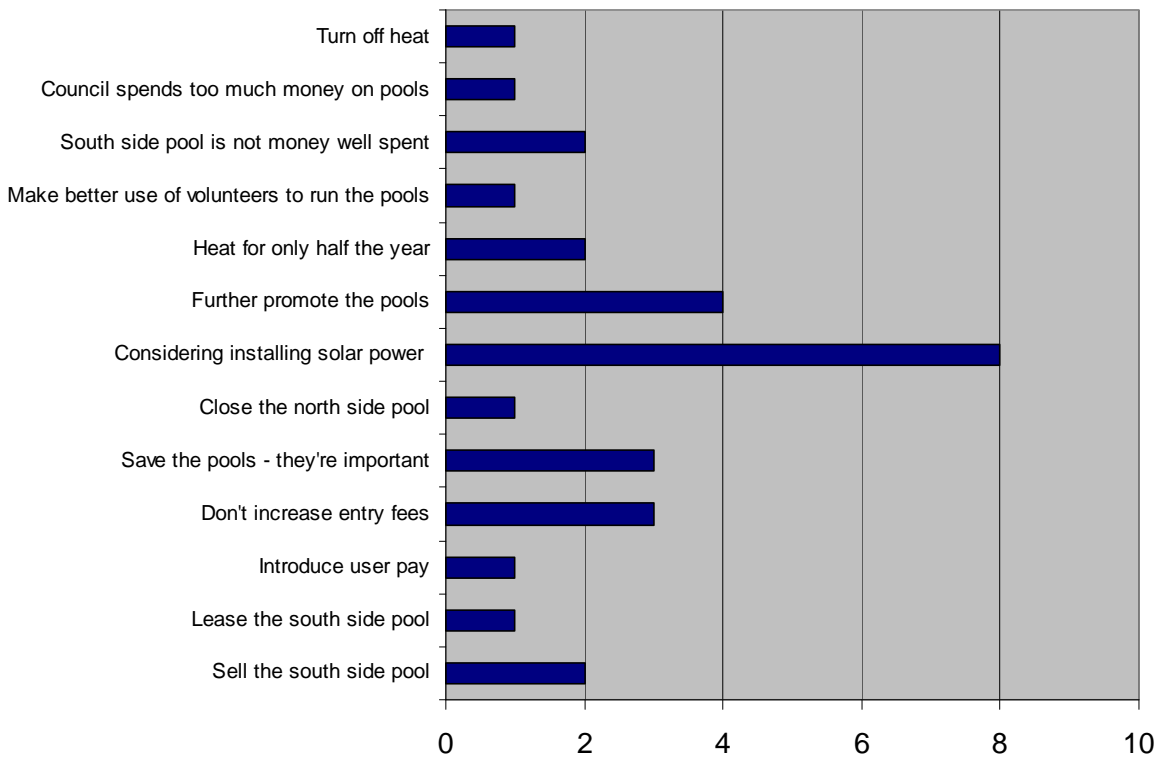
One option was asked of the community:

- 1) Council can save expenditure by reducing the temperature by a couple of degrees, *“This will save 21.5k per year”*

Results

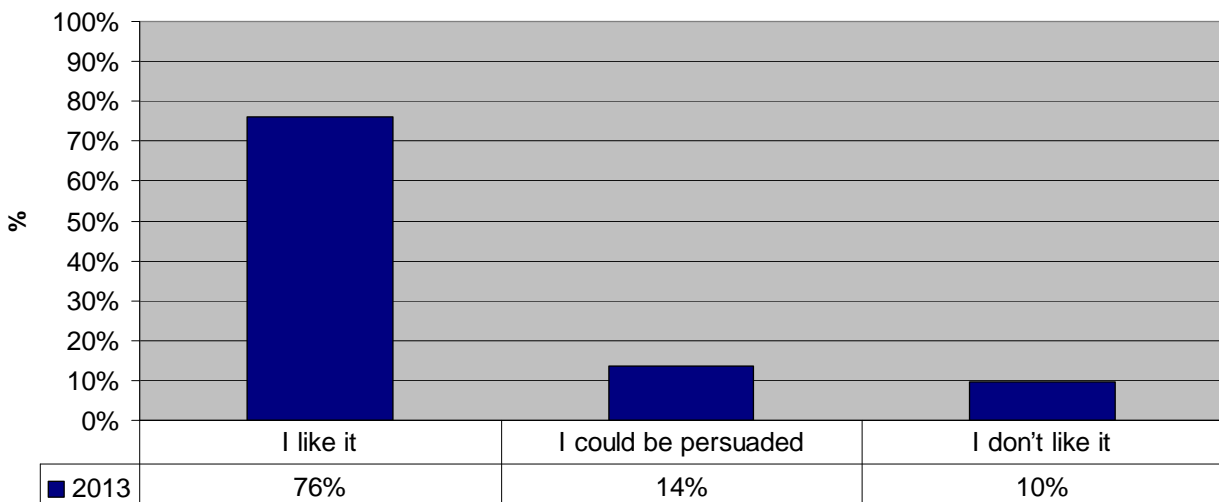


Southside Pool - Workshop and Survey combined



Number of open ended responses N=30

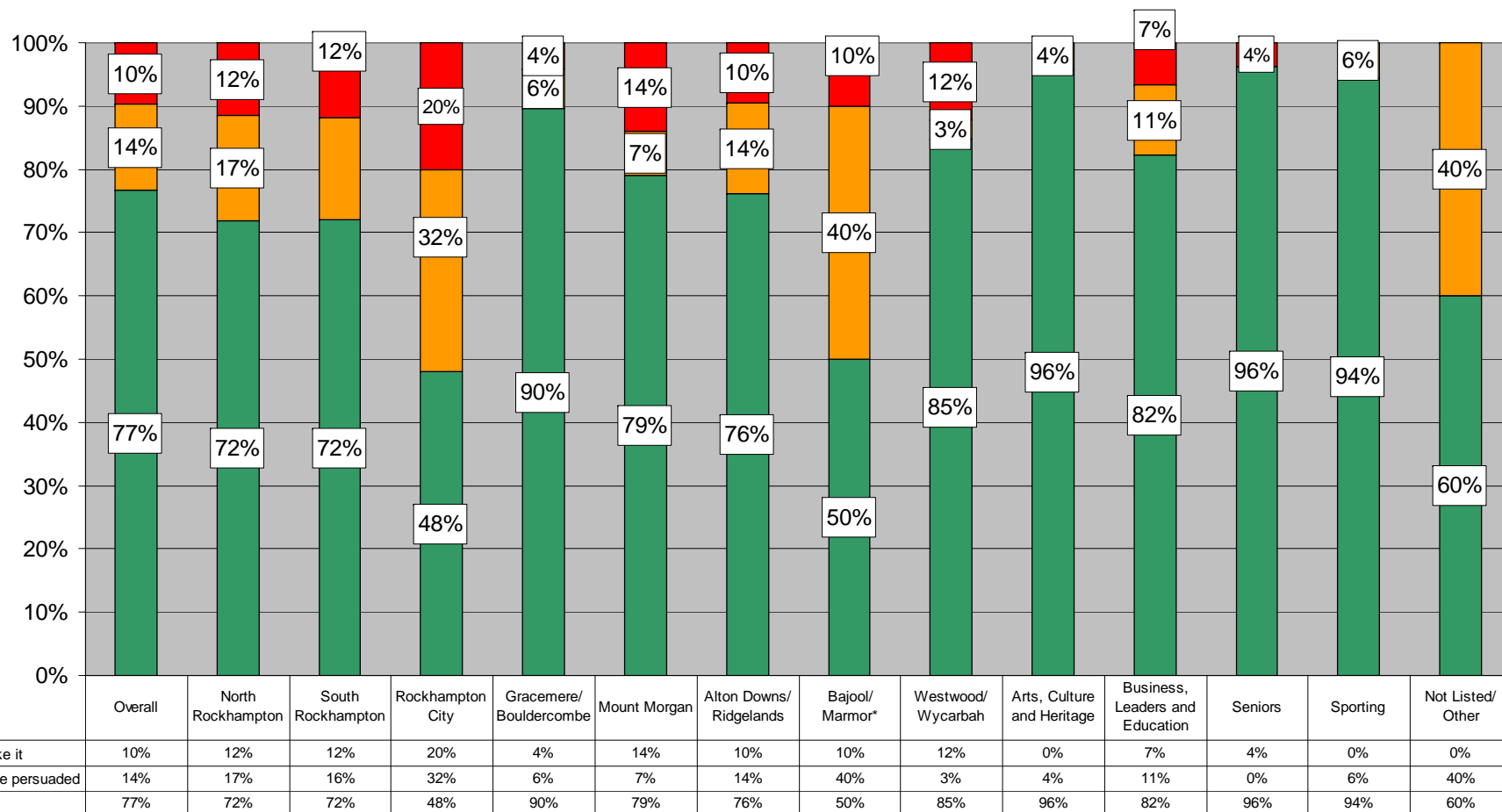
Southside Pool - Council can save expenditure by reducing the temperature by a couple of degrees "This will save 21.5k per year"



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=18

Analysis: This option was well supported across a broad range of ages, sectors and locations with the exception of Rockhampton City which provided only 48% of participants that liked this option.

Southside Pool - Reduce the temperature of the Pool



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=18

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*



Rockhampton Community Technology Centre (COIN)

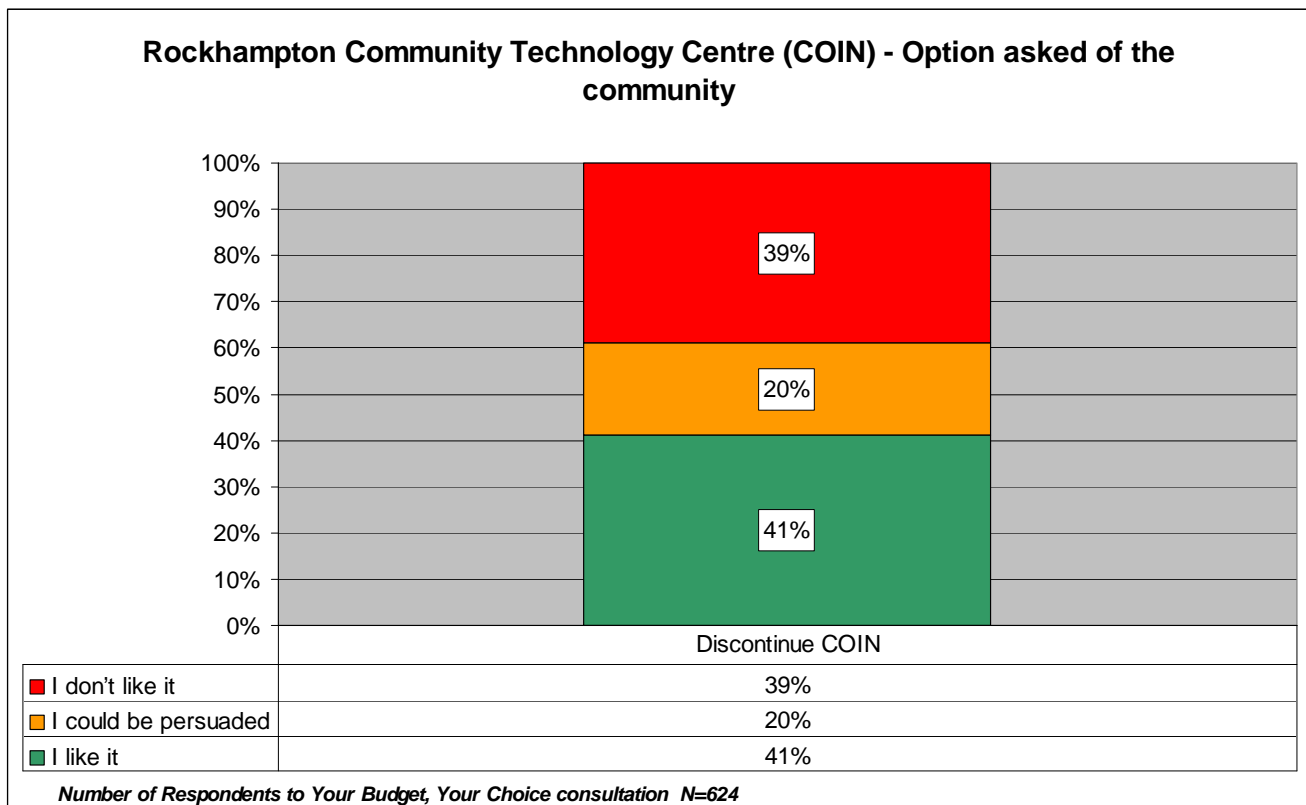
Through the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and also the online/mail based survey participants were provided with an overview of the Rockhampton Technology Centre and that has provided valuable service to community in the past when the internet was relatively new and that it had trained many older people to use computers. The following is the specific overview information provided:

- *The public can access the technology centre through the Rockhampton Regional Library*
- *Groups that use the facility include: general public, cerebral palsy league, 60s and better, U3A, CQLUG*
- *This facility also provides all the in house Council staff training for Microsoft*

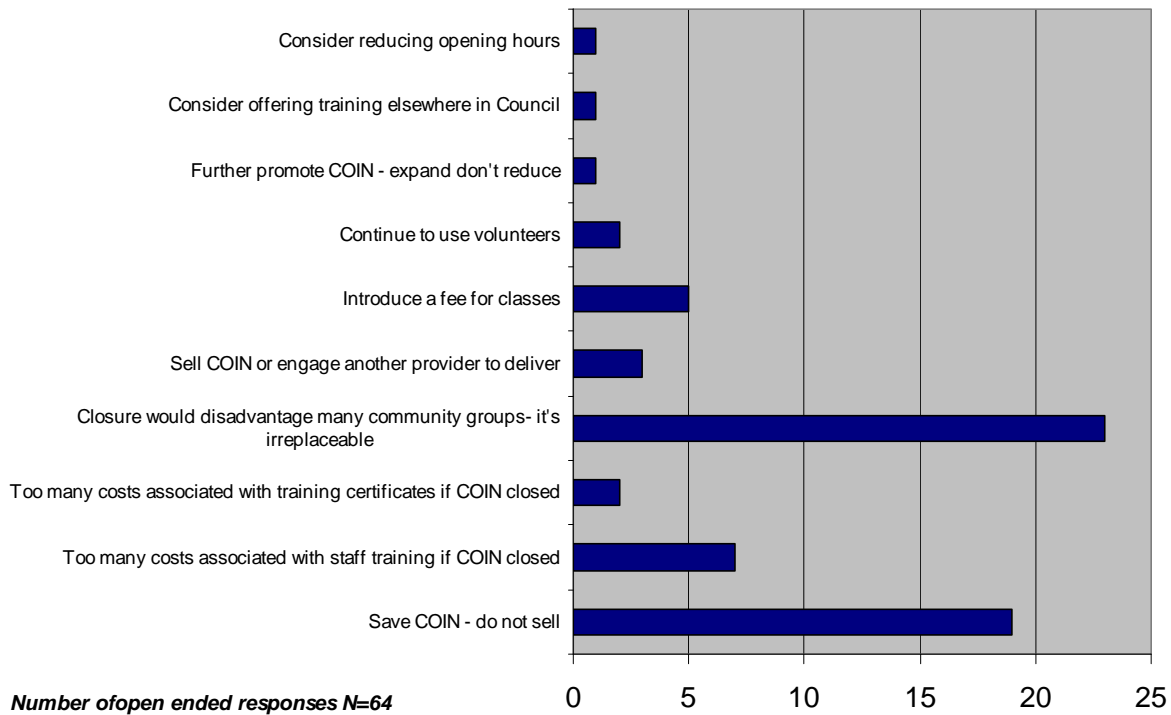
One option was asked of the community:

1) Discontinue the centre and have other service providers deliver service, *“This will save 201k per year”*

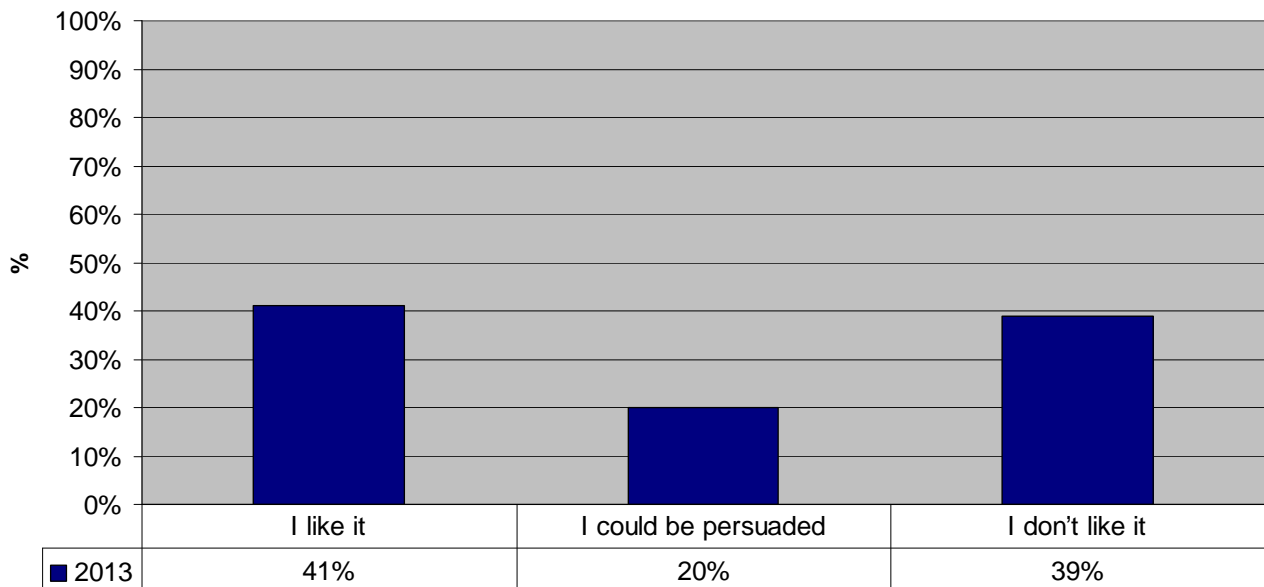
Results



Rockhampton Technology Centre COIN - Workshop and Survey combined



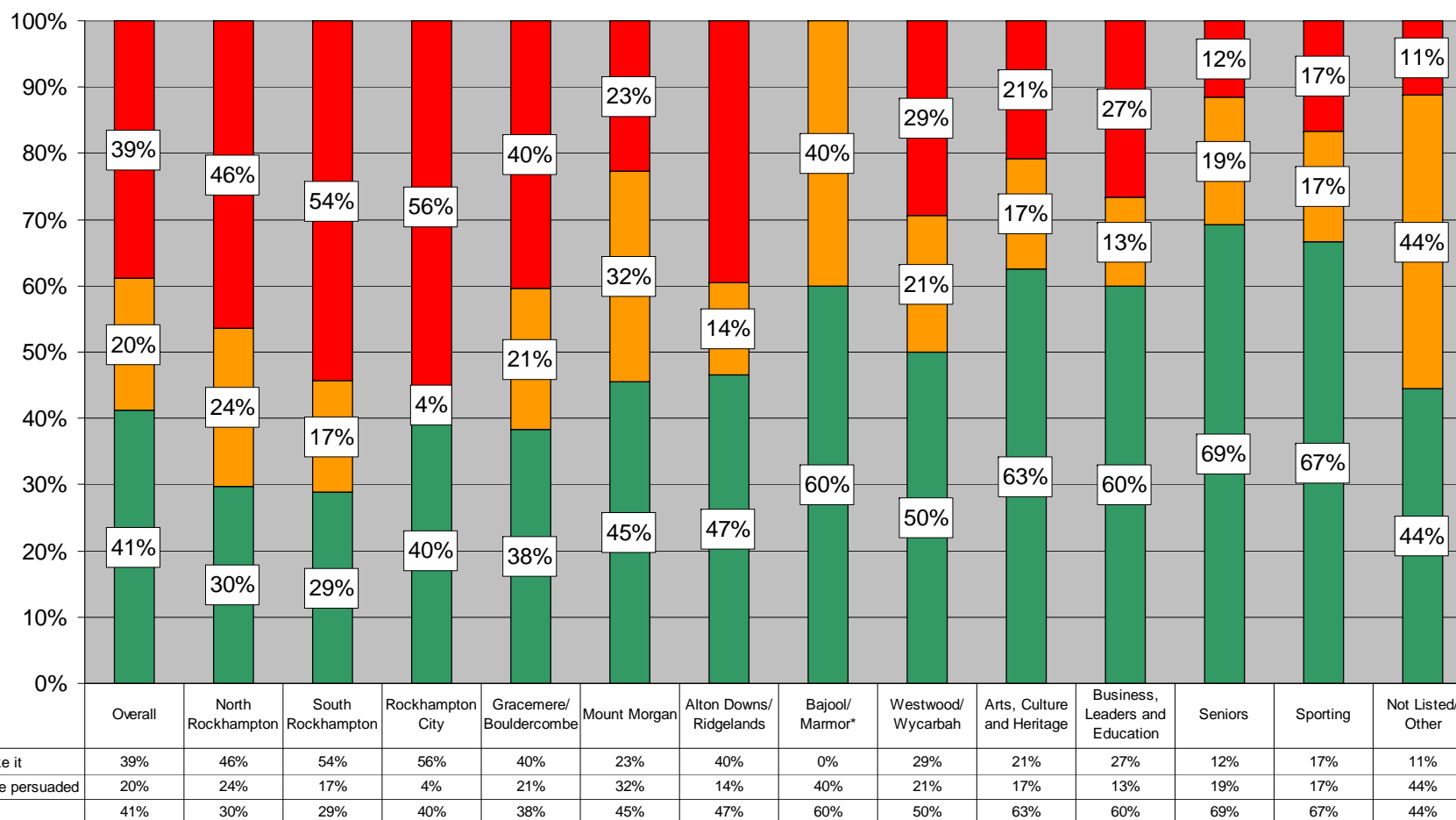
Rockhampton Technology Centre - Discontinue the centre "This will save 201k per year"



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=13

Analysis: The chart above provides a polarization overall and through the analysis it reveals that this extends to ages as well, all ages from 18-25 to 70+ have a similar polarization as the chart above. This extends further to how long a person has lived in the region with the exception of those who have lived here 40+ years. North, South and the City of Rockhampton are more strongly opposed to this concept.

Rockhampton Technology Centre - Discontinue the service



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=19

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*



Mowing Maintenance

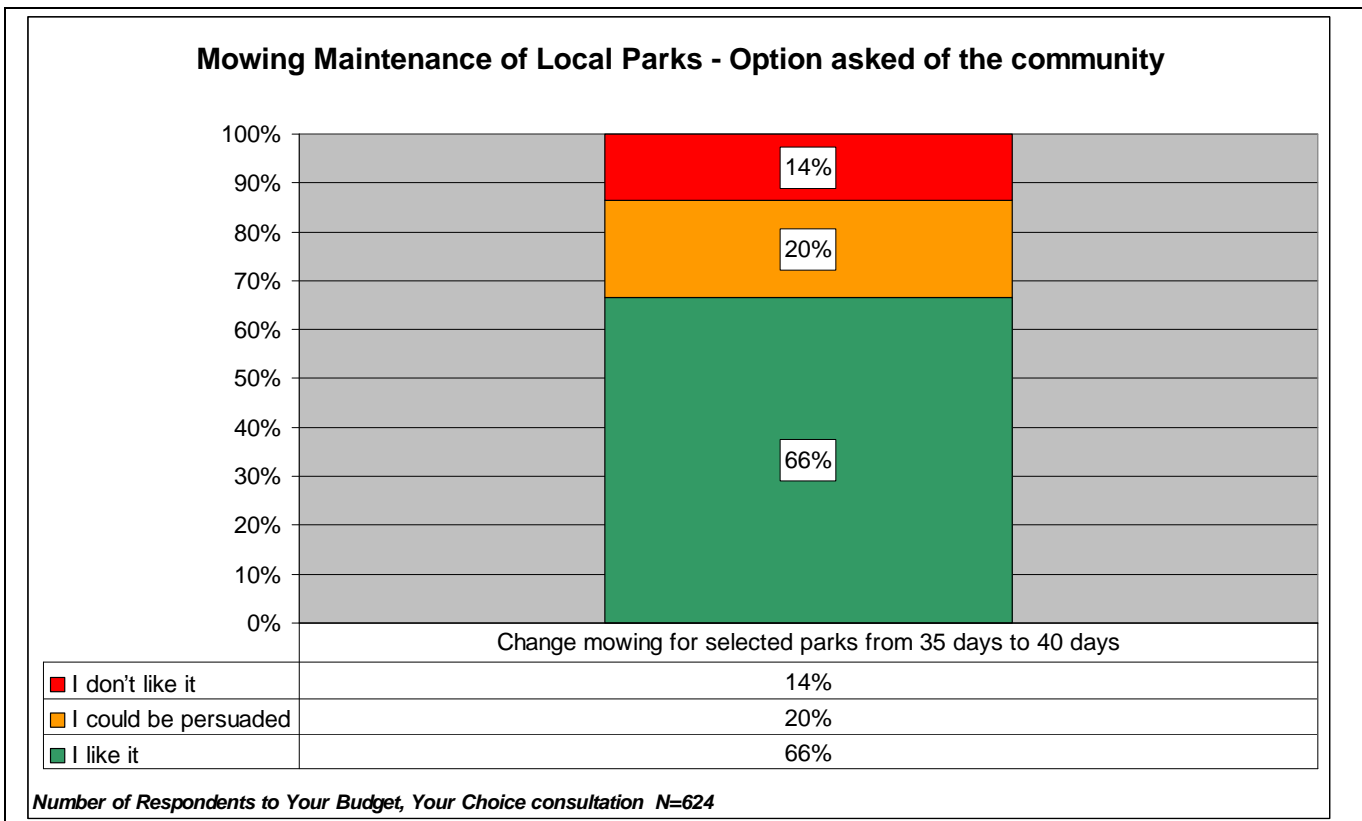
Through the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and also the online/mail based survey participants were provided with an overview of the Mowing Maintenance and examples of which parks are rated at category B and category C types of parks. The following is the specific overview information provided:

- An Option is to categorise some local parks from a “B” to a “C”
- This would mean that mowing maintenance would go from 35 days to 40 days across growing seasons
- Then in periods such as Winter a supervisor will dictate when various local parks should be mowed

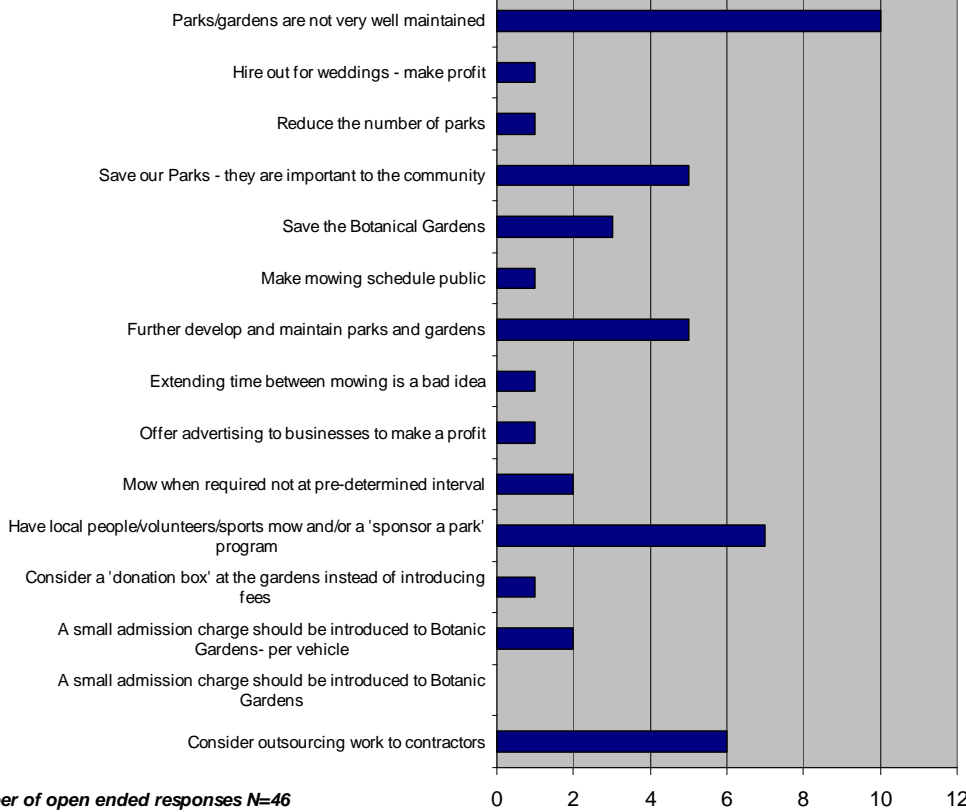
One option was asked of the community:

- 1) Mowing maintenance would go from 35 days to 40 days across growing seasons for selected park

Results

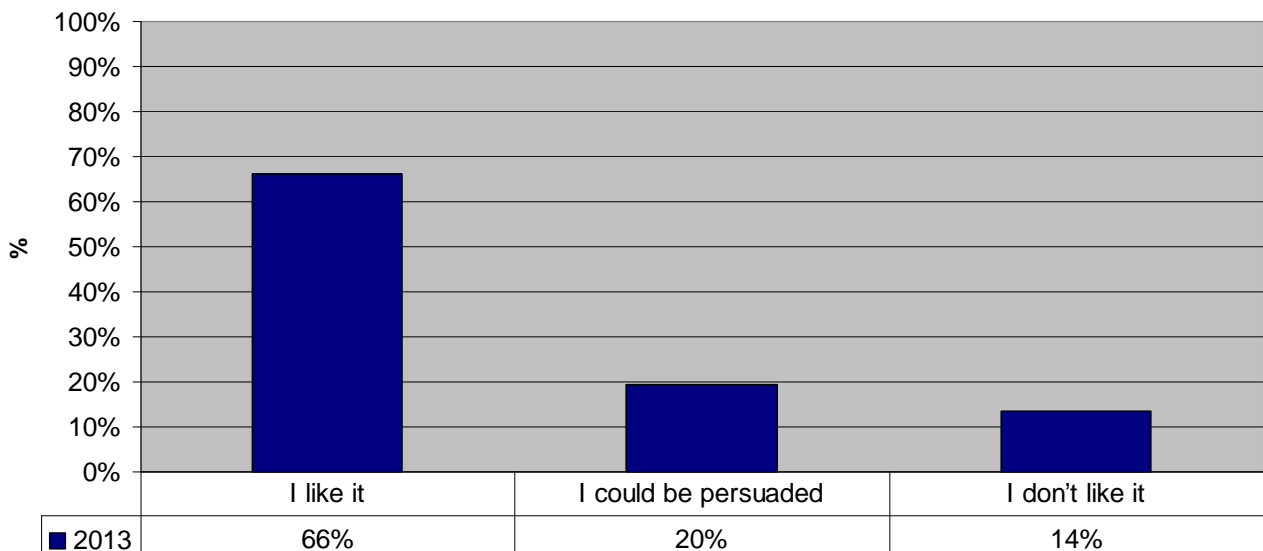


Parks & Gardens - Workshop and Survey combined



Mowing Maintenance of Local Parks - Change mowing for selected parks from 35 days to 40 days.

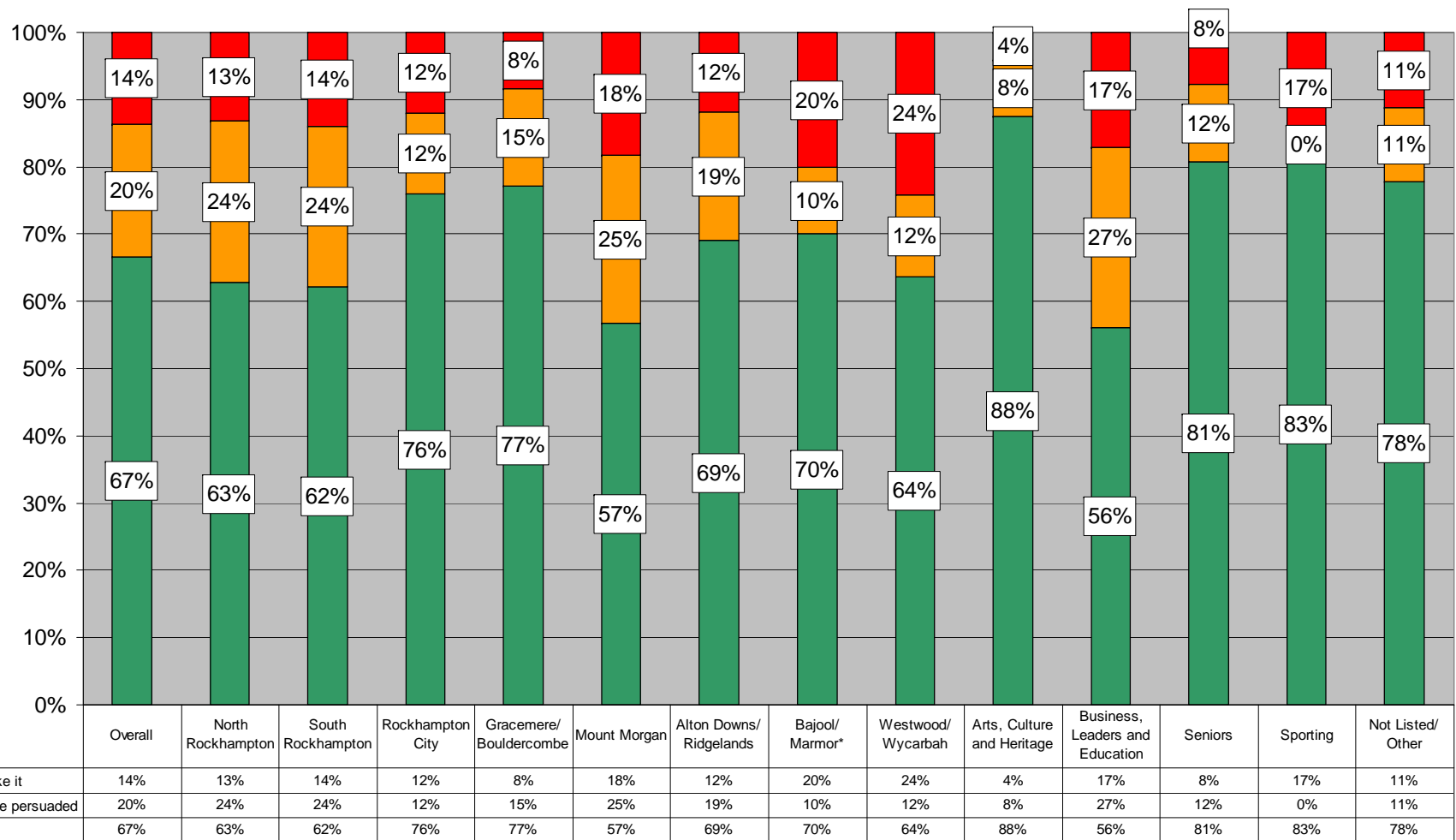
“By changing the way we operate we could save 350k per year”



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624 those not answering this Question N=13

Analysis: This option was well supported across all age groups, across all localities and sectors with the exception of Mount Morgan (57% support) and Business|Community Leaders|Education (56% support). The concept was also well supported by participants that had lived in the area up to and beyond 40+ years.

Mowing Maintenance - Change schedules for selected parks



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=24

**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*



Rockhampton Airport

A detailed understanding of the Rockhampton Airport, what is occurring with our neighbours, what challenges Council will have with funding improvements and a detailed description of the option being placed forward were provided to respondents, for example:

Rockhampton Airport

- Number of user per year: 750,000 people movements, holding constant
- Value: Upwards of \$160 million dollars
- Income to ratepayers: \$4million per annum
- Strategic location utilised by a wide variety of sectors – tourism, military, mining – FIFO
- GKI going ahead will increase tourism movements

The Airport is a big issue

- Needs major investment that we can't afford right now, \$30M in the next couple of years
- It returns less than 2.5%
- An option is to sell the Airport, bring down debt and establish a "Future Fund"

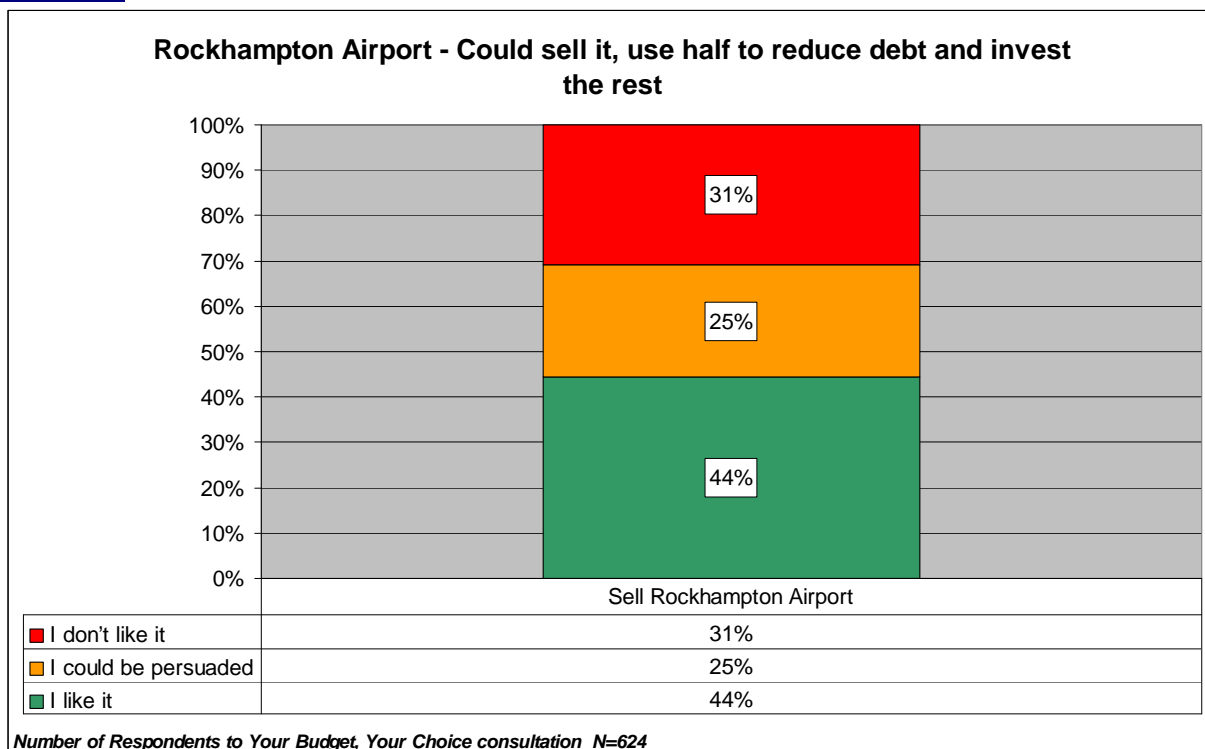
One option is to sell the Airport from upwards of \$160m

- Invest \$80m in a Future Fund = \$3.2m income per year
- Reduce current debt by \$80m, therefore \$166m - \$80m = \$86m
- Interest Payment on \$166m (RRC debt) = \$8.2m per year
- Interest Payment on \$86m = \$4.2m per year
- Add Interest Saving \$4m per year + Income of \$3.2m = \$7.2m
- Less Net Operational from Airport earnings = \$4.1m per year
- Equals Net Operational improvement = \$3.1m per year
- Redemption of Capital = \$5.3m per year – can be invested elsewhere or reduce overall Council debt

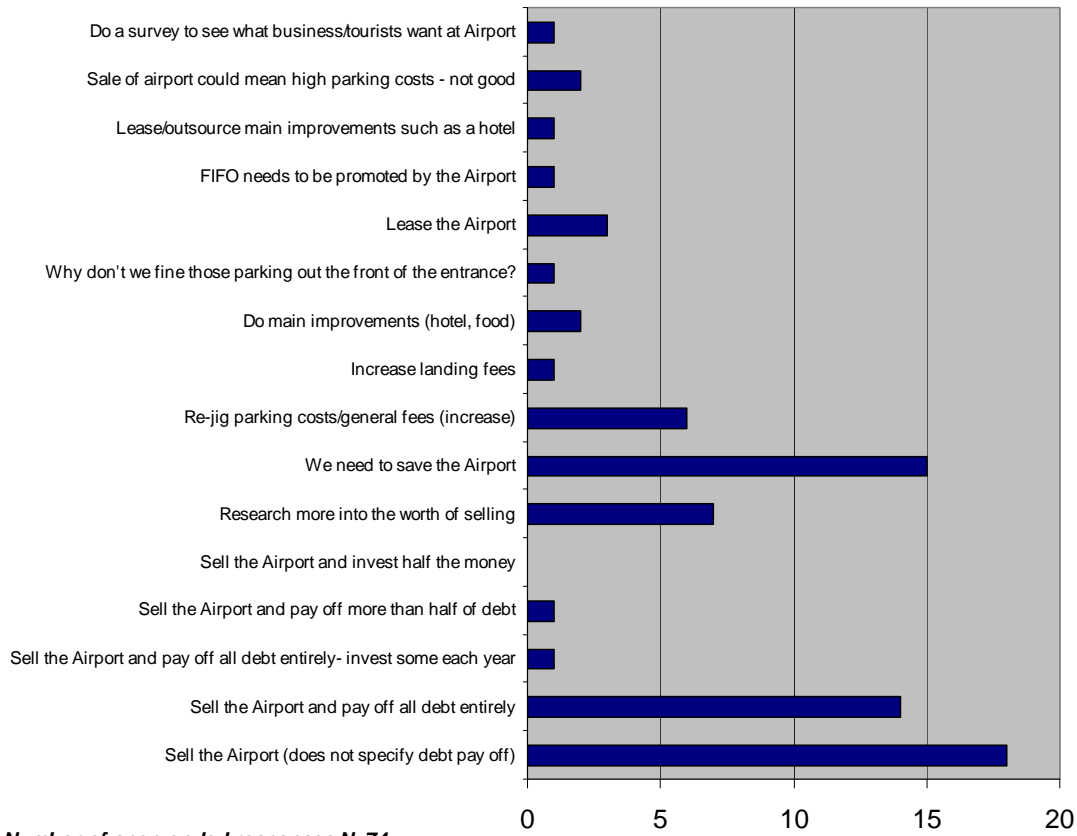
Therefore we will be in a position of strength

- Halve the debt
- Have a nest egg of \$80m
- \$12.5m will be earned each year from income, interest savings and redemption of capital
- If we lose \$4.1m in income from the airport operations we will still be \$8.4m better off

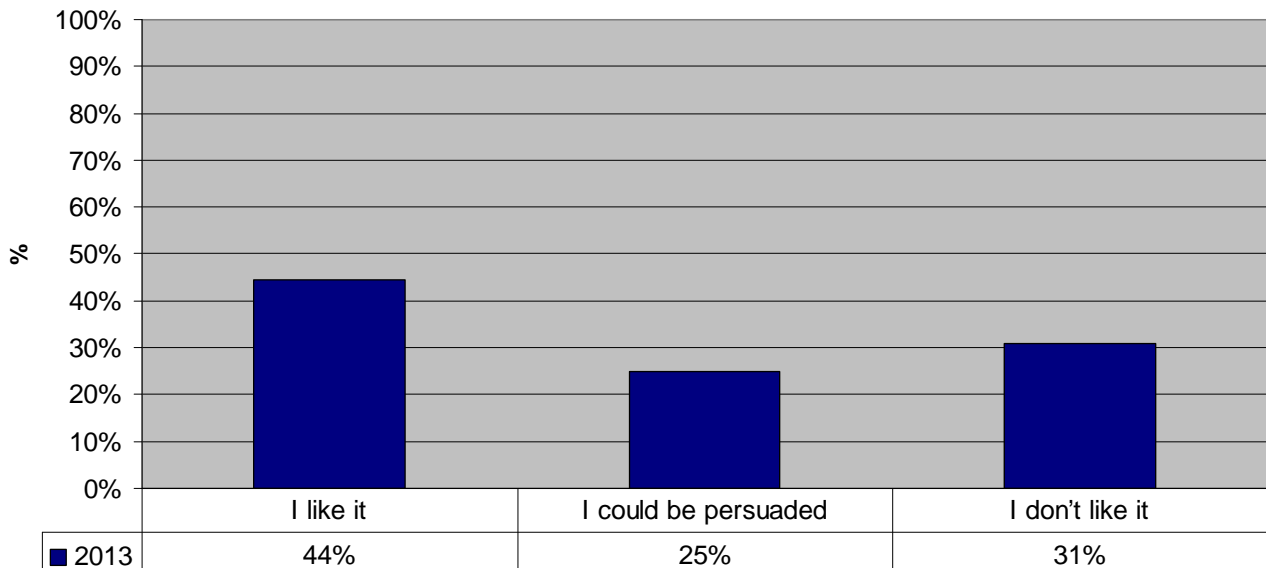
Results



Airport Comments - Workshop and Survey combined



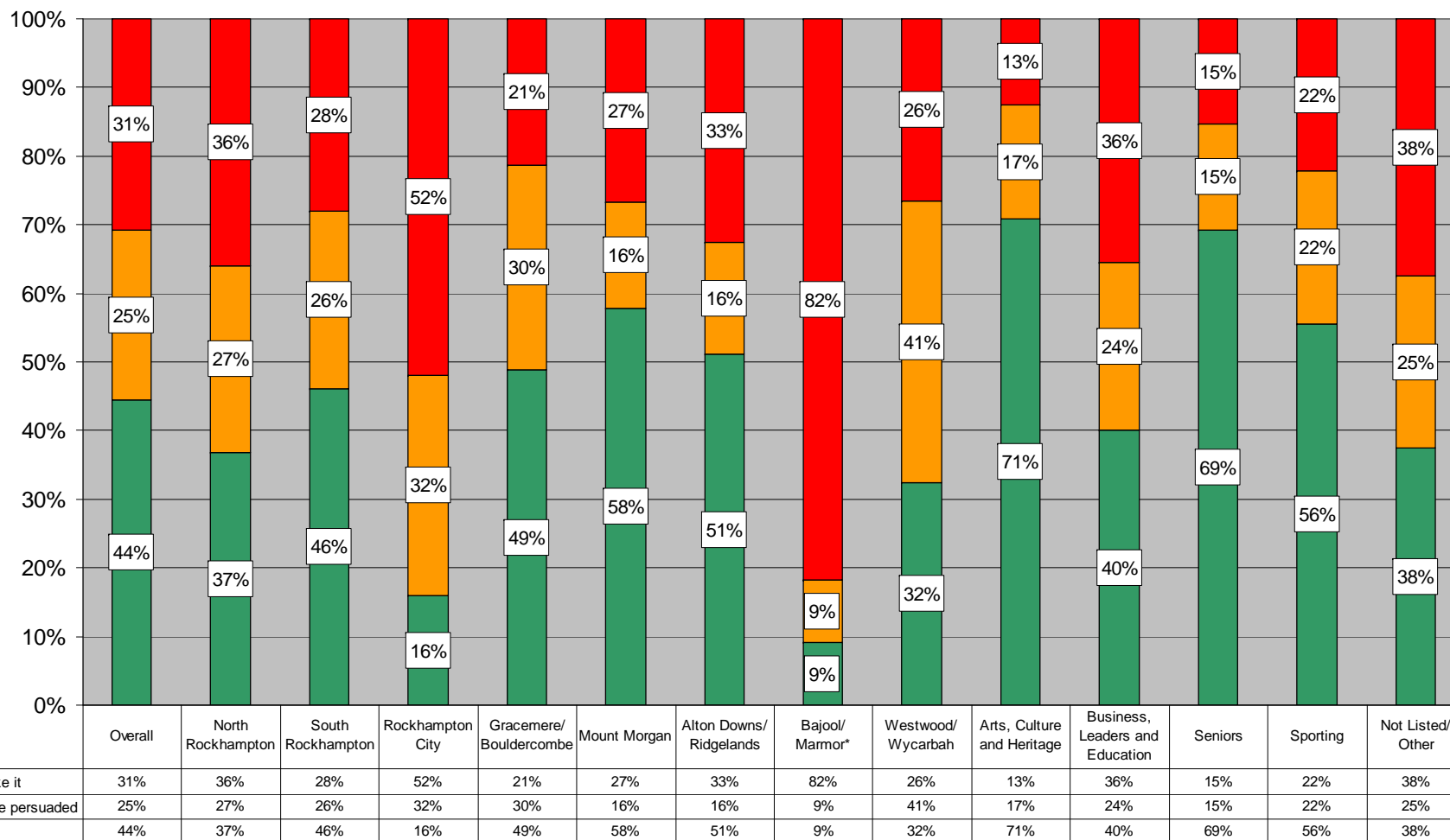
Rockhampton Airport - Could sell it, use half to reduce the debt and invest the rest



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=19

Analysis: This concept was supported by a broad range of localities across the region with the exception of Rockhampton City and Bajool/Marmor* and surrounds. There was strong sector support from Arts|Culture|Heritage, and Sporting groups.

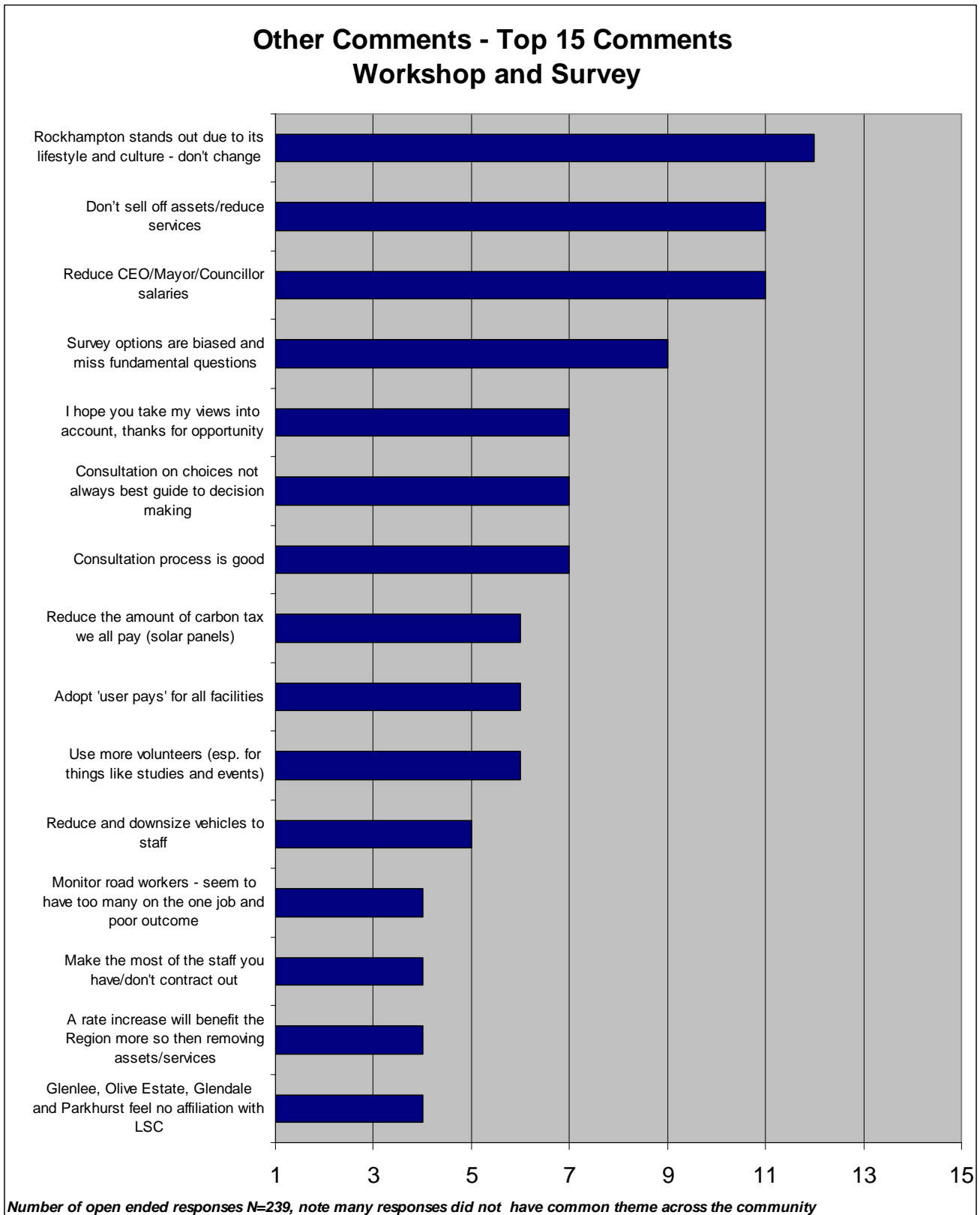
Rockhampton Airport - Could sell it, use half to reduce the debt and invest the rest



Your Budget, Your Choice Respondents N=624, those not answering this Question N=24

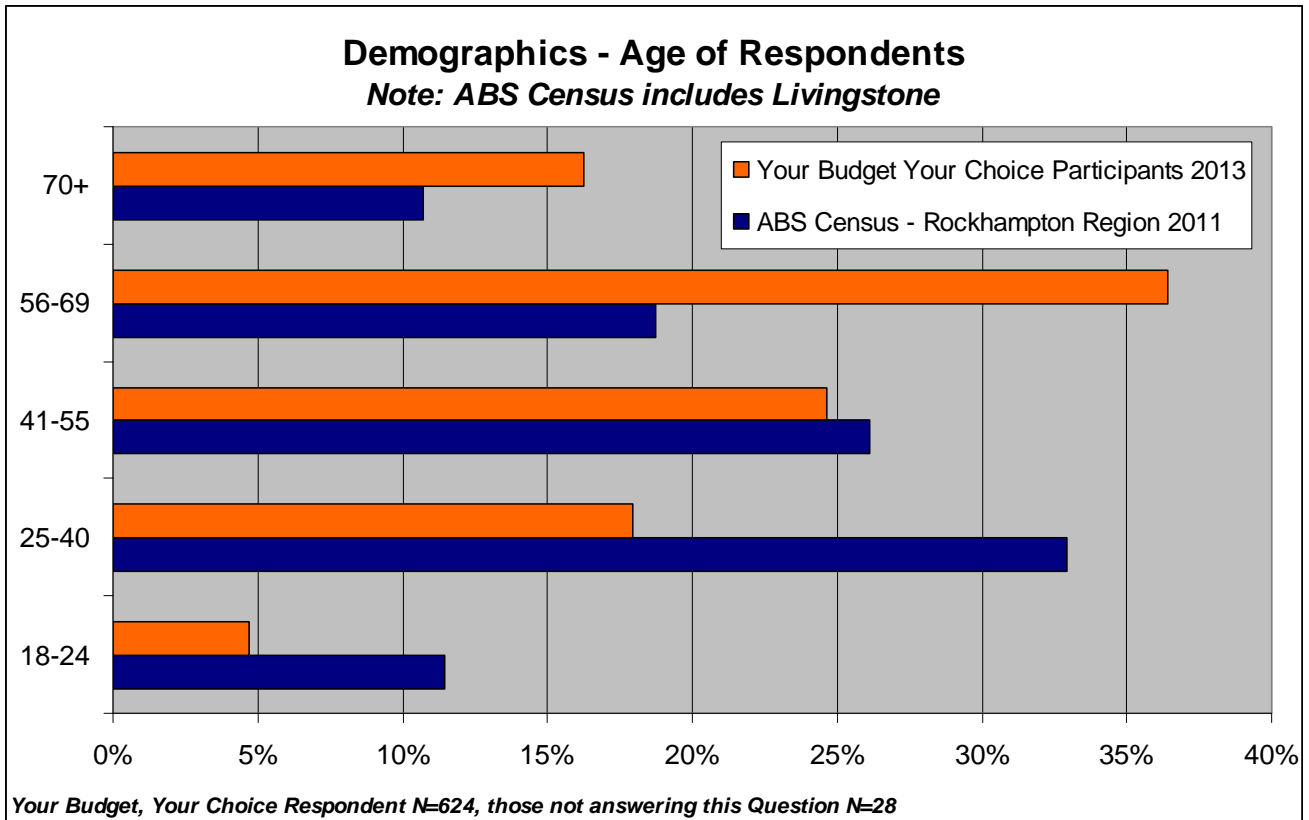
**Note that Bajool/Marmor and Not Listed/Other have a low amount of participants*

Other Comments – Workshops, Online Survey and Mail based Survey

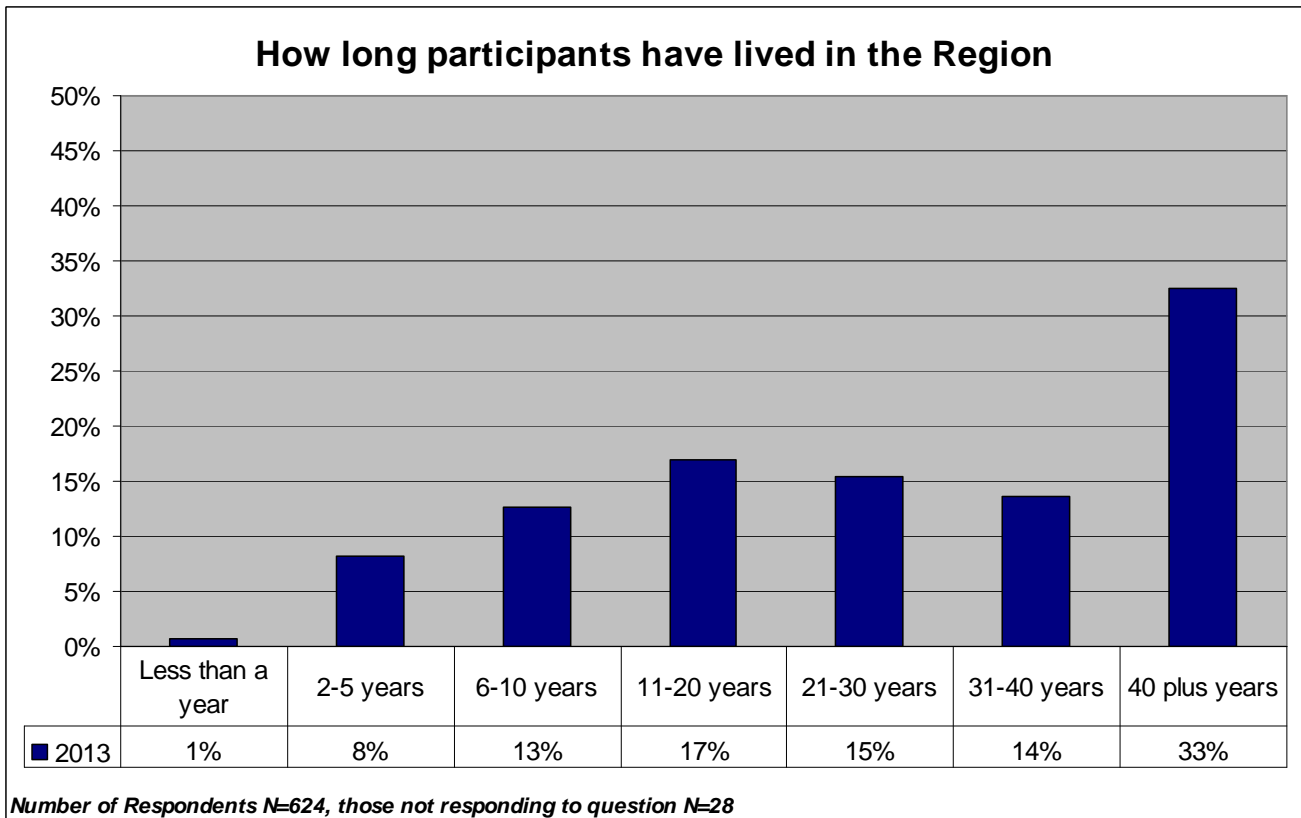


Demographics

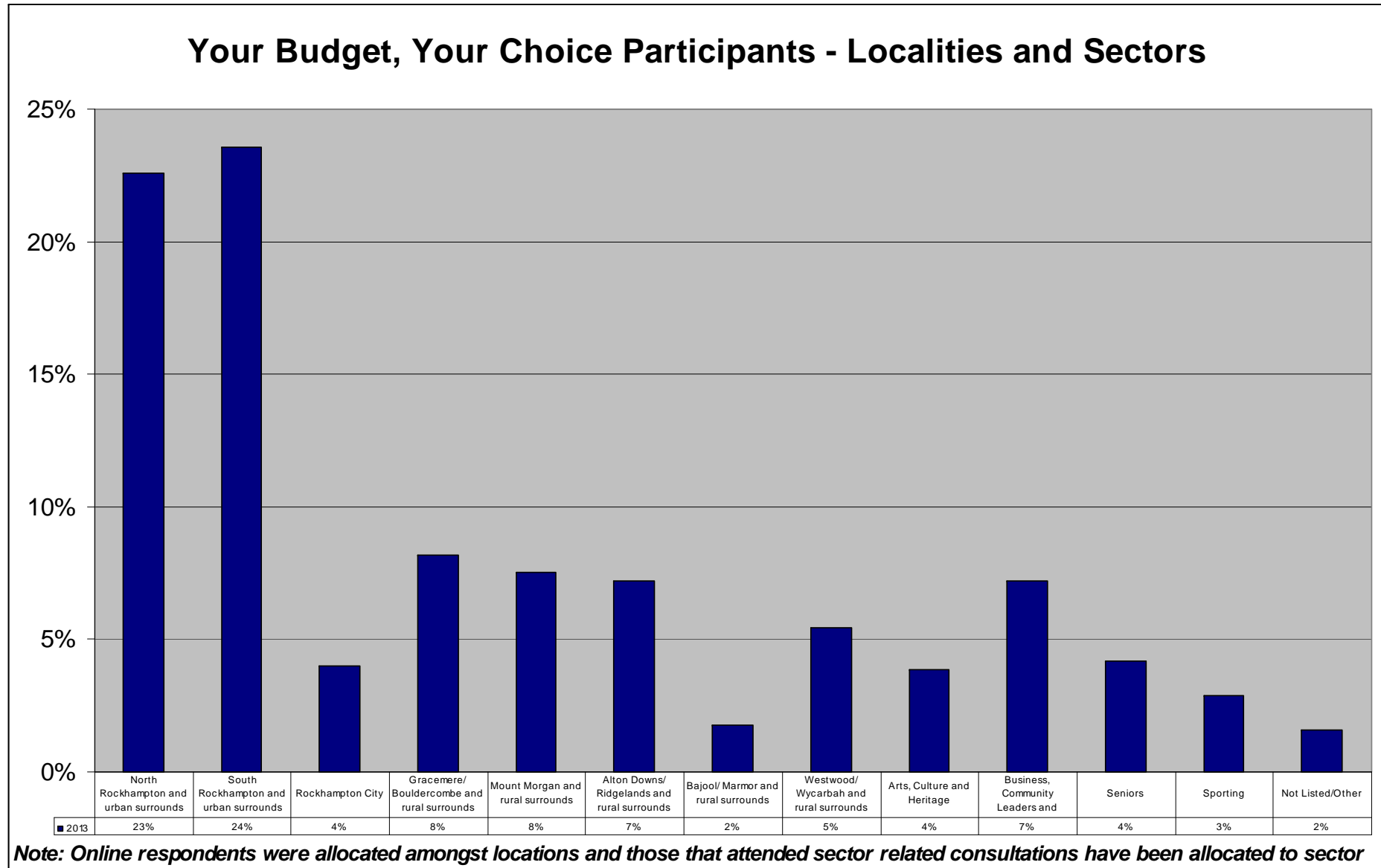
Age of respondents



How long participants lived in the Region



Localities and Sectors that respondents represented



Appendix

- Open ended responses
- Mail based survey

ONLINE COMMENTS

Reading that there hasn't been a fee on certain public attractions is highly senseless act and should of encountered some form of cost. Then we wouldn't be in this financial problem. I think the southside pool has been money not very well spent and will be interested in the future to see how much more of a financial problem this will be. The technology area at the library is a valuable area for all people of this region and instead of scrapping this area why not put a fee on this area, to help with costs. As a supervisor for disable people of all ages where else would these people be able to learn technology skills. These people can afford some cost if there was to be one. Otherwise where else could these people learn some technology. Please don't scrap this very important area of the community, without putting some form of fee to help with costs.

I moved to Rockhampton this year for work. The majority of my life has been spent in Sydney however in recent years I have moved to country towns for work. Rockhampton stands out from the others. It has a beautiful community feel, gorgeous gardens and parks and great affordable facilities for fitness and leisure. I would consider making this my home although the changes you are proposing frighten me. I do have concerns with privatisation. It would be such a shame if these changes had a negative affect on the community spirit, a spirit that draws me to this lovely city.

Look at options which will improve the revenue obtained from Council's facilities. Encourage functions/activities to the city which are able to use the Council's facilities and so reduce the operating costs by obtaining additional revenue. Don't sell assets of the council for a one off gain which will not significantly reduce the council's debt. If a rates increase occurs explain to ratepayers what this extra rates income will be used for - make the expenditure visible and beneficial to the ratepayers of the council.

I live in the Mt Morgan area which is not covered in this survey. However, there are many social problems in Mt Morgan and it would be unwise to reduce any amenities in the area as this would make matters worse. Instead, more facilities and transport should be available to reduce the isolation and boredom that exists in a low socioeconomic location.

I do like the selling of the airport, and leaving everything else as is. I understand our rates are lower than certain councils but I did notice the council with higher rates also had a lot of mining and industry involved. Rockhampton does not and being in that back ground it is actually slowing at the moment. I know a lot of people layed off because of the cuts due to the carbon tax brought in. Also where has the money gone from the sale of the sound shell, that was a venue that should have been kept. The carols and concerts at the heritage are not the same. Everyone i spoke to will not be going back to the Carols at the Heritage, due to location and sound quality as they could hear nothing. Since i have owned a home (just over 10 years) the rates went from \$600 half to know a huge \$1200 a half. My wage has not doubled (i wish) but nothing has changed in my community or area. I have lived in gracemere all my life and I do not see any changes. In front of my house I do need even have a full width road or a gutter for my extra \$1200 I contribute every year. We financially are not to bad off and keep on top of the bills, but I would have to say we are struggling to pay this lot of rates just gone by. I would be all for quartly bills\$600 is still a lot a quarter. Maybe also save costs on using your people instead of contracting infrastucture and roads out. Maybe look at your work shops as I know with spending through the company I work for is quiet high.

I think if you increased rates people will whinge and then get over it within a couple of months. It's for the benefit of the region. Perhaps people who volunteer could get a subsidy on their rates. So their is a community benefit and a personal benefit also. The state govt shouldn't have allowed due amalgamation if it was going to send the regions broke.

There's really not enough detail to make an informed decision.

The playgrounds, parks and general recreation areas must stay as must the pool. These are where the youth, families, sports people and those who wish to maintain their health exercise go. They are the only areas in which it is moderately safe to do this. Not only must they stay but there must be more incentives for people to use them such as BBQS and walkways and dog friendly areas. And hopefully less drunks of all races to make them threatening and univiting. Even more skate parks and scooter areas. Perhaps those who live in areas close to the parks, or those who use them frequently could volunteer to assist with maintenance in some small time and money saving way This happened in the Victorian town where I once lived.. Much as Clean up Australia Day is run, people in the neighbour hood picked up rubbish and kept the creek area and park clean and pretty. The pool must be opened and training groups encouraged to use it. The charges should not be increased as that is one of the main reasons it is not used as much as it could be at the moment. The high charges are prohibitive for families. (Only today I had a conversation with a person who wanted to take his family of three children to the pool on a regular basis and to have them taught to swim, but on hearing of the charges told me that they simply could not afford it). Lower prices may well mean 'more bums on seats" It has cost a lot of money to build and to close it would be criminal. I am sure that heating the pool does not cost as much as both heating and cooling the library - I am a user of both. I have been swimming in the pool almost

every day that it has been opened for the past fifteen years and there are almost no teenagers there now compared to before the pool was upgraded and the charges went up! The zoo may well have to go. The alternative is to fence it off from the rest of the gardens and charge an entry fee. I do not believe that this would raise a lot of revenue if any as it is so small that to charge a fee would be more costly to run than not charging a fee.. Other zoos throughout Australia do charge enormous entry fees. An alternative may be to turn it into some kind of animal research centre which may be self sustaining through grants etc. The Pilbeam Theatre should stay. To have a large city without a theatre would be a crime. Perhaps a small 'tax' on each seat until the debt is cleared may help to offset running costs. COIN is also a much needed and used facility. Why not ask those large national companies who are encouraging if not threatening to make us all pay out bills through the internet subsidise this most necessary library course. I have attended many of their courses and would have gladly paid to do so. The airport must go. It is going to be an ongoing financial burden to upgrade it, maintain it and floodproof it. I do not believe that it is worth keeping for the \$4million per annum that it currently brings in. Whether or not it is privatised these costs will have to be borne by the consumer.. The Art Gallery should be closed temporarily until we can afford it again. Does it have as many paying visitors as the pool? We should have parking meters which would assist in controlling the parking problems and also raise some revenue to help relieve the financial burden the council is bearing. I am a Tasmanian by birth and for minor offences such as parking meter overstays or minor criminal offences, offenders were requested to do community clean up work. This entailed walking along the roads and picking up rubbish. This could be a thought to try and get things done without a great cost. Whatever you do, people cannot afford more rates, and council cannot afford in several senses to cast aside things such as the pool, the theatre or the sports grounds as these may never be resurrected again and like a house that is not lived in will deteriorate in every sense.

I could be persuaded about the airport. The one thing that employers and industry discuss constantly is recruitment and retention. In order to attract and keep new residents, we need CULTURE. As a person who chose to relocate here, the Pilbeam Theatre and particularly the high quality Art Gallery were definitely assets which made me feel that I could give up my Brisbane lifestyle because I had access to culture (also Walter Reid, Rocky Flix etc). I always promote Rockhampton to outsiders and the things I use as leverage are the aforementioned and one of the last regional zoos in Australia! PLEASE Mayor Strelow, don't strip culture away from Rockhampton - there is just not enough to give.

acronyms should be used as not all people know what they mean

I think that the options presented in this survey (and from what I've heard has been discussed at "Your Budget, Your Choice" nights, miss some fundamental questions that need to be considered/asked and focus too much on minor aspects that have less potential for cost savings. Rather than base the options on evidence of cost/benefit or value to ratepayers or visitors, it seems that the options have been biased and based on personal preferences or experiences.

Cost cutting is a sore subject for most ratepayers. How and why this debt as been allowed to become so large is not an issue now. I do hope that my answers here have made the need for changes that must come a little easier to take.

I would only agree to selling the airport if we got \$160 million or more for it. Definitely not for less. Council needs to ruthlessly prune the middle management level of bureaucracy - there are too many intermediate steps and supervisors of supervisors. Stuff gets lost going back up the line for decisions, and takes so long coming back (if it ever does) that trying to do anything is a nightmare. As a member of a couple of Friends groups and a community group trying to communicate with the RRC, the frustration level is gigantic. It is also quite obvious that Council officers do not communicate openly with elected councillors. Give people closer to the grassroots a budget and the authority to make decisions. RRC also needs to remember that community groups other than sports clubs deserve support; not direct financial support, but through reducing unreasonable charges and expectations that place onerous burdens on not-for-profit and hobby groups. Council needs to value both its own volunteers and those unpaid members of community groups who contribute to the very liveable quality of our area.

The Council should not jeopardise Culture, the Arts or the beautification of the city (and that includes animal attractions) to justify its cost-cutting exercises. Nor should water increases or rate increases occur. Rather take a public referendum on a letter to the Governor General in protest to cuts by either the State or Federal Government in the reduction of funding to regional areas such as ours. According to the Constitution (amended 1980) the Federal Government cannot properly make such reductions if the needs of a community of Her Majesty's subjects require such for living standards and development projects. We occupy a region with a catchment (river) area the size of England and in exceptionally dry seasons only should water rates apply. The council rates are already exorbitant. The water meter readings inaccurate- and I've protested this to no avail. Instead of penalising your ratepayers, use their protests to the benefit of the city. Your web site is a good idea, more public interaction is needed (Ban glass partitions at City Hall). Access to your local representatives is mandatory. Yes! you may have the occasional kook or crank subject, but your people are a resource that can be used. Many citizens have become suspicious of nepotistic practices by Local, State and Federal governments.

<p>(Jobs for the boys) Resources have always gone to Capital cities, such as Brisbane, this practice should cease. Decentralisation should be a keynote of development (it works in Europe). I would like to see an increase in Tourism which brings revenue to local areas, and this means cheap, available flights, good attractions and good accommodation and food. The last two are sadly lacking in our area. Killing the wildlife, is a bad move- it should bring Tourists! Ugly architectural development (JM Kelly) should be out. Buildings should reflect our heritage -not become a mini-New York. Public apathy is a result of bad practices.</p>
<p>Why don't you close the roadside bins which cost the council 850000 a year, why should householders pay for (mainly) businesses to dispose of their waste. Ask the community- they will back you on this one. A total misuse of ratepayer money. Stop focussing on the detail, where is the vision for the community, the region. Lets look at what is important to get us to a sustainable future. Facilities that have low community use are not sustainable. Need to look at new business models for their operation. Stop blaming everyone and everything else for Rockhampton woes. All councillors need to get on with the job they were elected to do. Make the tough decisions that need to be made.</p>
<p>Although I live in Yeppoon, our Family Trust owns land at Stanwell (ie in Rton boundaries) where we spend a couple of months a year. We also have other investments in the Rton area (ie not livingstone). I hope you will take my views into account as we are part-time residents of your shire and have a vested interest.</p>
<p>From volunteer experience in several council-run organizations over some years, I believe there has been an increase in unnecessary, time-wasting and therefore expensive "red-tape". Simplicity of operations increases efficiency and encourages the community to volunteer; reducing the need for paid staff. Rather than selling assets, could all areas take a budget cut (to be reviewed in a year) with a simultaneous call to the community to volunteer in areas of interest. Properly-run volunteer programs mean greater community engagement and "ownership" rather than the domination by professionals which seems to have occurred in recent years. While sale of the airport does look tempting, it worries me that airport parking may become impossibly expensive under private ownership. Those who do not live in Rockhampton must use the carpark when travelling (for health treatment,for example.)</p>
<p>please leave the community events aloan</p>
<p>I work in the finance industry, in particular Equipment Finance. I want to know if all the current loan contracts, upcoming residuals for finance on plant and equipment have been reviewed and negotiated with your Banker.</p>
<p>Council MUST be responsible for community engagement activites and areas. The fact that they do not produce an income is irrelevant when discussing community.</p>
<p>business plan must be prepared for all departments and opened to the public so we can where the goaks are and what is failing.</p>
<p>I don't see the point in downsizing tourist attractions and still think that tourists will support these attractions. What about corporate and public/private sponsorship for these attractions. Does the council fine people who park their cars along the street leading into the airport. These people should be paying for parking at the airport instead of making the entrance to the airport look unsightly.</p>
<p>I feel we have a great need for the these places of interest and entertainment to be available to the general public for the sake of Rockhampton and should be saved.</p>
<p>remove small scale investment of minor events. In kind contributions with venue hire, rubbish removal etc should be sufficient. If this is too hard line, cap all event grants by type. eg. local level \$500, regionally significant \$5000. Organisational threshold (maximum amount to be given in any one year \$1000. - remove or equalise all funding that is not regional. eg. Rocky Show is supported, no other Show is supported to the same extent. - Create secure carparking and charge for the priveledge, a modest amount, but even with long term contracts on carparks to enable Quay St/ East St tenants permanent use to fix them using the customer parks - A regional festival (of significant size) to celebrate our region coming together is much better use of money rather than zillions of smaller events that can be supported by local business/ industry. - put catering out to a tender arrangement to secure more cost effective prices. - try to capitalise on the heritage in the City by linking them together as attractions. Package them and market them this way, perhaps using a tour company?</p>
<p>Why are all the proposed cuts focused mostly on Tourism? What about all the other places Council spends money?? This survey was very manipulative. If it didn't have the facts listed, it would of been a total waste of my time. I understand that something has to give (and anything in order to keep rates down) - but more options need to be put on the table!</p>
<p>I lived in Rockhampton for 8 Years from 2002-2009 as a full time resident and then 2 years living in rocky during the week and yeppoon on the weekends. I hope my input has been useful thank you for the opportunity</p>

Yes - the survey could be improved for example: The first option on each question is "I like it". What do you mean "I like it"? Do you mean I like the proposal or the service as it is at the moment? The "Committee" needs to sort this question as soon as is practicable - I also think you need to look at each of the proposals from the participants (respondants') point of view and make the proposal/responses more clearly answerable. (I believe you need to get an outsiders point of view on the english/grammar of each proposition. Incidentally, this response is under a nom de plume...I have earlier completed the survey, however I decided that a number of things should be clarified as I believe the survey and responses could be misunderstood or ambiguous. Thank you

Needs an option for living 1-2 years in Rockhampton.

G'day, I have completed the survey, and commend the Council for its foresight in addressing this very real problem not only will your Councils be facing but also the new Coast Council, in the coming years In my opinion there was definitely I am a confused resident and rate payer of RRC up until the de-amalgamation take place on 1st January 2014. My concern is in relation to 2013 / 2014 budget, will funds be directed to the Keppel Sands Drainage Scheme stage 2 ? (stage 1 completed) Thank you

Like everyone I feel a little bitter that we are being asked to make up for what feels like mismanagement and financial trickery by giving up services that make our city a good place to live. There seems to be a disconnect between the business and so called growth the council is always chasing and the people who live, work and visit the Rockhampton region. I don't pretend to know the answer. I have seen a real surge in community involvement and participation in the lifestyle areas I am interested in - Community gardens, art/ craft opportunities- and projects such as KickstartCQ(which I am a member), activities run at the libraries and art gallery have all been much more visible in the past few months. So part of me really feels that this 'budget crisis' will again have everyone focusing on what isn't available rather than organising and working on projects that everyone can access. Alternative solutions seem to just be subsumed into negativity in this place. I am a huge history buff but rarely visit the Heritage Village (as much as I love it once you've seen it there doesn't seem to be activities or exhibits to draw locals without kids back), love the zoo but would not be prepared to pay a huge entry fee and visit the art gallery often. I can rarely afford to attend events at the Pilbeam and don't play an organised sport so my opinion on all the areas is by no means rounded or unbiased. Thank you for giving me a chance to vent and I guess we will all wait and see who loses the most. (I am guessing it won't be sports!)

Council needs to consider the overall value of all assets from a social, commercial and net community benefit perspective not simply a one off way of managing rate rises in the current term. If any of the 6 identified cultural icons are removed or downgraded it will be a significant detriment to the community. The mayor/council need to realise and acknowledge that the Rockhampton Region is already significantly behind most other centres as we do not have a large conference cultural centre capable of attracting large conferences and associated tourism. If the councillors and the mayor do not recognise this then I challenge the entire council to jump in a bus, share the driving to keep costs down and drive up to Cairns and visit the water features/attractions, conference centres etc. that other regions enjoy along the way, visit Mackay, Whitsundays, Townville, Cairns, Port Douglas. Whilst Industrial centres such as GIA are essential for growth so are cultural assets such as parks, gardens, zoos and pools etc.. Whilst I personally do not use the pool as I have my own, I recognise its importance to the community. Paying higher rates and this may be the only and smarter option rather than relinquishing the minimum local community attractions that we currently have. All other areas have water parks etc. whereas no one seems to have the vision within the RRC of beautifying or enhancing current facilities to attract and or keep visitors to the region here longer. Short sightedness during a political term will always have longer term impacts that lead to an overall degradation of quality of life for the residents of communities and regions. Having a long term vision which may increase ratepayer costs in the short-term need to be considered as should alternatives for creating greater income on a user pays principals. Short term political decisions will ultimately cost the ratepayers of the region much more and all councillors need to consider what they want to be remembered for, if it is the destruction of the current minimal cultural and community needed assets then continue down the path that this Council seems hell bent on pursuing. I acknowledge that surveys are a fantastic way of allowing community members to have their say and I applaud the initiative. A better thought out survey without the limited and pointed nature of the survey questions would have adequately allowed for members to have quality input. Sadly this does not, other than through this feedback section which will largely be overshadowed by survey statistics which will focus on the pointed questions. Please follow this survey up with a broader survey, treat this as a learning exercise.

Bye bye XX!

The future of our region growing and attracting people and industries is to continue to support the fantastic services we already have and not to reduce. I know that running costs are increasing and the area has been hit with a number of catastrophes but we are going to get bigger not smaller therefore we must improve not remove what we have.

The survey presents limited options for consideration and only allows the public to comment on what has been decided by Council. True community input would allow the community to also make suggestions.

I strongly believe we need to fight to keep our parks and sporting fields at the same time it is important for our children to have the services that is provided by the Art Gallery for cultural reasons. This cultural activity is just as important as being able to go to the library and loaning a book or the Theatre to see a show. These activities provide a balance in our lives. Living a relatively isolated community these services are vital for your children and for the adult population. Mothballing the collection or breaking it up to other galleries and venues for other communities to benefit because Rockhampton people just don't get art? This is the most ridiculous thing I have heard and it such a dumb question to survey. Do you not take pride in the fact that previous Mayors of our region had the for-site to think that our community would benefit greatly for having such a great asset and resource that is used by , families, schools, TAFE, Universities, Intellectually challenged and tourists who frequent our region. By cutting back the hours to this service you are making it harder for families to attend outside school hours. As a mother of 3 young children,I wholeheartedly endorse the services provided by the Art Gallery and enjoy immensely the quieter special moments spent pondering the changing touring exhibitions and The Rockhampton Art Gallery permanent collection. I delight in watching my children interact with the vibrant displays and joy on their faces and the thoughtful discussion that follow, It's not about the "cheese and bickies"as the uneducated narrow minded would say. The Gallery, Theatre and Library spaces work hand in hand and provide enormous community benefit no matter what your economic situation. The interactive displays at the heritage village also provide an education, a museum of our local history. I have supported many school excursions with my children over the years. Would our council rather our children sit at home in front of a flat screen television viewing a slide show of images from The Louves, Paris and viewing static displays? I voted for the Mayor and I'm extremely disappointed that you are trying to dumb down our region and our community.

Charge a \$5 enter fee to art gallery. Don't spent money on levies for depot hill ,port crutis we do not need them .the Fitzroy used too run out to sea around Yamba divert excess flood water back down old river course to sea this would be a much better way of reducing the affects of flooding and a report has been done in the early 1900s on this very idea it must be some where and I would be happy too explain at length my reason phone me on XX thank you

Sell airport and retire more than \$80 million debt, exclude non Australian animals from the Zoo, mow parks when required not at a pre determined interval, do a job once and do it correctly not take 4 attempts and not fix the problem which still exists in our street use a portion of airport sale proceeds to do away with bulk land fill by implementing a private partnership to burn rubbish and generate electricity using Australian techniques such as those in use in Singapore (Mckay co generation)

If the figures quoted are accurate selling he airport should be a priority. The pool, heritage village, art gallery and pilbeam are great facilities to have in Rocky but are used by a minority of residents. We should be striving to get toward a user pays situation for these facilities. Why does it take 5 staff to run the art gallery.....surely there could be a saving here. Perhaps encourage those who want it to volunteer some time to reduce overheads, same applies to the zoo, pool and village. Finally whilst not mentioned in his survey I would seriously have a look at what the councillors do for their salary.

Do not sell assets. Continue reducing overheads.

No, I am Just glad that Rockhampton is starting to really look good. Good on you Council...ect

Very limited options shown for stream-lining council services / rates. NO OPTIONS given for suggesting other savings, even small ones. The introductory remarks as to 'this has already been implemented' did not give any details - so ratepayers cannot judge how effective the implementations are / will be! BIG LETTERS when the Airport was discussed -- BAD SURVEY policy, that! How much extra - in DOLLARS - would it be if did NOT sell off our one and only asset - the airport, and WHAT exactly is needed to be spent on it? Nobody tells the ratepayers! Talk to the other Qld Councils affected and tell US (ratepayers) - via local papers - what they say!!!!

RCC needs to hold on to the airport, coal mines will expand in the long term, thus making it more viable to go to a FIFO from rockhampton to the mines, and this will in turn attract more development (building of houses ect) due to the fact of more miners in the town and more miners want to come to rockhampton to live.. RCC needs to promote FIFO from the airport, and some how work with the mines to establish this. I think it will benefit everyone that lives here

We need to keep the attractions that bring Tourists to the area, I believe the Heritage Village is a major contributor to this. It is or can be a significant supplementary educational facility - both history and where do milk, eggs etc. originate. A true young family venue. The Rockhampton Community Technology Centre, This should be sublet to a volunteer provider, it is presumed that RRC turns over computers on about a 3 year time frame, the best of these 2nd hand computers can then be used at RCTS. This in general is a community service not a training provider centre per see, Council training surely can be set aside in another small venue like the Disaster Management Room. We see no problem in introducing a small charge for adults (not children) at the zoo. If there was a one off \$200 a year increase in rates above CPI to achieve the above we have no problem with it

<p>The sale price quoted for the airport seems over-inflated. Private enterprise is unlikely to invest in something where the return is only 2.5%. If the Council expects that private enterprise would run it more efficiently, why not be more efficient themselves? What is the underlying cause of the budget blowout? If amalgamation led to fewer staff why has it happened? Surely this should be the starting point. There must be huge areas of waste. Observation of eg roadworks indicate a great deal of inefficiency. There are often several people who appear to be wandering around and machinery not fully utilised. How have so many bad debts accumulated? How do people get away without paying their rates. If the electricity bill is not paid the electricity is turned off. For city dwellers, turn the water off and deny garbage collection and later sale of property.</p>
<p>We could increase user pay fees for regional facilities such as pilbeam, zoo, etc., and then give ratepayers and maybe residents of Rockhampton Regional council a discount to account for the fact that our rates are subsidising these facilities whereas those outside are not providing any support outside of attendance. Alternatively it may be possible to gain financial support from adjoining Local Government areas to support regional facilities. Sporting fields could be a good place to initially investigate. -----</p>
<p>The Heritage Village is a major attraction. The animals should be kept. It gives city children a chance to interact with them. The opening hours of the Art gallery should NOT be Monday - Friday. People who work need to have the opportunity to visit as well. Perhaps opening one evening during the week as the new Southside library now does should be considered if opening times are changed to Mon - Fri. There has already been a lot of money spent on the zoo. Why reduce exhibits and waste that capital expenditure? How much does the operator of the pool receive in takings and retainer? Does the operator pay any expenses? Why does the council pay so much? We should NOT sell the airport. If a decision is made to do so, the whole proceeds of the sale should be used to reduce the council's debt. Interest paid on borrowings is more than interest earned on investments. The council will not be earning \$12.5m from the plan put forward. Getting your own capital back is NOT earnings and it should not be represented as such. I am against selling off our assets. Reduce running costs where possible. Charge entry fees to venues. Encourage more volunteers to help to reduce numbers of paid staff. Make paid staff operate more efficiently.</p>
<p>Utilize the council workers more .</p>
<p>I have heard that the Rockhampton Airport has some of the lowest landing fees in QLD. Perhaps by increasing the landing fees (even by as little as \$5-\$10) it would mean that our area could continue to have the same quality of attractions & facilities while also minimising the debt - and it would still ensure that the landing fees at the airport remain competitive in QLD.</p>
<p>The Rockhampton Region should focus on being more environmentally friendly, reducing the amount of Carbon we pay. The government should provide some source of solar panels go local businesses so they do not have to pay the tax.</p>
<p>- If you are going to sell the airport, please consider investing the entire return to repay debt. - The Botanic Gardens and Zoo are a massive credit to this city and need whatever investment is required to sustain. - Consider imposts on Livingstone Shire residents continuing to use Rockhampton Regional Council road, shopping centres and other services post de-amalgamation. It isn't fair for them to continue using our infrastructure and assets without contributing. Border stations and residency checks should be implemented, along with a temporal brand such as 'non-contributor.' * * I'm not serious.</p>
<p>My grandmother has accessed the wonderful Technology Center classes, without these she would not be able to communicate with our relations in other cities. This keeps her active and her gives her something to do otherwise she would be quite lonely at home. And a sense of pride with accomplishing the use of the computer, which was not taught in her day.</p>
<p>Any reduction in the operation of the Art Gallery and/or the Pilbeam Theatre would just reinforce the poor image others have of Rockhampton. Mayor Pilbeam put us on the map with these structures and we are recognised now throughout Australia and we are on the circuit for good productions at the theatre and travelling art exhibitions. Taking our only really cultural venues and amazing art collection off the map would be the action of a vandal council. Residents of the area have contributed thousands of money to enable the art collection. By all means reduce staff a little and don't have such lavish advertising. Refreshments at opening nights at the gallery could be less lavish or guests required to contribute to fully cover the costs of both refreshments and staff overtime costs. Obviously ratepayers do not elect councillors with any appreciation of the arts, usually just apologies for non-attendance - apart from the one or two with an appointment to the committee that has responsibility for the gallery. As these venues are used/supported by residents of the Livingstone area request a per population split of the costs between the Councils and rename the gallery the Capricorn Art Gallery</p>

Perhaps council could cut back on the paper quality of all bills sent out -they do not need to be coloured and glossy! The council should be run like a business - you have a growing customers base paying more each year - yet you have trouble balancing the books- perhaps council pay rises could be done when you actually get the accounts in the Black! Council needs to work as a team not just within but also with other councils! Councillor's own business ventures should not take priorities! In house fighting and bickering are not getting us anywhere - and set such a terrible example to all in the community! I would like to have attended the meetings but due to work and family commitments I have completed the survey instead which I thank you for!

I don't agree with paying to park our vehicles at the airport. It should be free to everybody all year round.

Services should NOT be reduced, Airport should NOT be sold. Airport is a community owned asset started by citizens (rockhampton aero club and others in the 1930's) and should remain so. It is NOT a cash cow but rather a community owned amenity. In the hands of private operators costs to users (including parking fees, landing charges, etc) would certainly rise and would not be able to be controlled by the community or council. This would a poor result for ratepayers. The primary reason for the current debt debacle is low rates charges. Our low rates as compared to other similar regional centres seems applaudable but only if it is sustainable - and clearly it is not. Previous councils have repeatedly resisted rates rises to the extent to which they are really need. No one likes rates or taxes to increase but the reality is that they must. Face up to your responsibilities in this regard.

While in favour of the Airport sale (based on the published valuation) I have serious concerns regarding the actual sale price that may be achieved. Will the sale still go ahead if the best offer is say \$80 million? In this case I don't believe the sale should happen and we should look at ways of raising the return from the airport to commercial levels - just as a private owner would. Have you considered putting an arrivals and departures levy on passengers? This would work similarly to departure taxes around the world and could be collected by airlines as part of the ticket price. The attraction of this (apart from it being user pays) is that we receive revenue from non-residents broadening our revenue base. This revenue could initially be used to fund any upgrades required. 750,000 passenger movements times \$10 starts to approach a commercial rate of return when added to the current income. If saving money from the Art Gallery, why not reduce weekday openings and retain weekends? I work, I don't have time to attend the gallery during the week. How many visitors go to the Zoo/Botanical gardens each year? A per vehicle charge upon entry (or exit) should be reasonably easy to implement. An example of a similar arrangement is the Hanging Rock facility in Victoria where a \$10 charge is collected upon entry and doesn't seem to dissuade visitors. I think there are many options available to reduce expenditure/raise revenue and while I'm in favour of asset sales where appropriate value is received I am wary of future councils again borrowing (with then nothing to sell). Will the council place strict expenditure limits as a percentage of income on itself (and future councils)? We don't have to look very far at the moment to see the result of regions living beyond their means for extended periods of time. A responsible government (council) will take the necessary steps to return the balance sheet to surplus but will also communicate their message well. I suggest that communication of the message is one area that the RRC can improve upon.

Selling the Rockhampton Airport should be top of the list. And I commend the actions of not funding Capricorn Enterprise to save much more money for everyone.

The sale of the airport seems to be the most logical choice. All of the other reductions in community services really pale into insignificance when viewing the overall picture. Strongly against the closure of the Technology Centre. In this day and age, the need for the community to be able to learn about current technology seems to be a VITAL service, particularly for disadvantaged, aged and minority groups. All of the other community savings recommended are leisure based. The Technology Centre is the only option which actually enhances the skill base of our community - why then would Council want to close it?

if you sold the airport, it would mean you could keep all other services like the heritage centre and the zoo and most important the COIN Technology Centre. Why was there no operational \$figures for the Technology Centre, or has that decision been made to disbandon it already! Do the general public actually know what the COIN Technology Centre does to improve social isolation of the older people by actively training them to use the Internet. What would happen to the present art collection? With the growing younger population recreation grounds have to be well kept

Once you sell your major assets you'll never get them back. Council need to look long and hard and gather stats from other councils before selling off the airport. Also the loss of the Technology Centre will be greatly felt by the senior citizens of Rockhampton. Where will they go to learn. TAFE is too expensive, and UNI is out of the question. The Heritage Village could possibly run well with an admission of \$2 to \$5 per person, kids free and the same entre for market day. Doesn't matter which way you look at the budget it is going to be tough.

i see no reason why the proceeds from sale of airport should not be used to totally pay off debt. Also while i do not live in Rockhampton,i run a business and pay rates on 3 properties. Why can't sporting clubs mow their own fields?In Brisbane Friends of Huxtable Park Chermside look after their own park very well. Worth atry here!

I believe selling the airport is the best solution. the heritage village may cost to keep running but it makes so many children happy each holidays. we attend every holidays and my 2 children love it. they told me totals of ppl that were out there the holidays just gone & it was huge. dont get rid of iy just look at the numbers and it shows how many ppl enjij going there.
The cultural facilities are assets that should not be lost and are integral to a healthy community (assisting mental health and civic pride), but they probably could be better managed. These are the things we like about Rocky. Mackay airport was privatised several years ago and is an example of a stunning gateway into the city. The airport could easily be sold as it is not a core responsibility of the council, whereas the other facilities are. Facilities such as the Heritage Village belong to the people and should never be lost. An appeal to the people for volunteering or fundraising might bring citizens onside. Keep the cultural assets, sell the airport. PS We live in Glenlee so still part of Rocky and hope the boundary can be changed as we want to stay in Rocky.
Survey seems to 'direct' survey takers to a preferred option by Council. Far more information provided re airport sale than any other proposition - increased font etc. Focus on Heritage Village seems pitiful in light of scrimping and saving minor amounts in comparison with sale of airport. Regional Art Gallery is one of the defining features of the region - don't sell the artwork! Legacy for our children.
Yes!!!! * Why don't you learn from the sell off of Telstra. Selling the airport is a short term gain for the council but in the long term VERY EXPENSIVE to consumers. * Your ideas on the pool and zoo is just undermining the average locals ability to enjoy what is in our own back yard. Start charging and only the tourists will go. My family used to go to the pool 20-30 times every year but now it is too expensive to take the whole family more that a couple of times each year. * The Heritage village wold run ok if the counil supported the community group that takes it on. It is not easy to apply for grants (especially the RRC ones). * Imagine what the footpaths of our fair city would look like during the growing season if we only mowed them once every 40 days. I'm looking out my door at the lawn I mowed less that a week ago, I'm not sure my mower will be strong enough if I leave it three more weeks. Try that one on the Real Estate agents if you are renting a house and see if you don't get an immediate 7 day breach. * This survey is only a token jesture as you haven't asked us any of the important questions. There are many issues that would be too embarassing for the council if you asked the public their opinions.
I'm fundamentally opposed to the sale of the airport. I would support a rate rise well before I would support the sale of the airport.
sell the airport and use all proceed to pay off debt....the council is there to supply services not create nest eggs. Review wages of all concerned. get rid of all unnecessary costs..and best of call for council elections now
Selling the airport seems to be the best option. How many other regional councils of similar size to Rockhampton own and operate their own airport? Just wondering for comparison. I think it is reasonable to charge an entry fee to the zoo. Most zoos charge for entry don't they.
Yes 1. Re the airport sale and proceeds - the future fund would need to be protected. 2.Council would need to have a debt ratio that could not be changed. Without this protection, selling assets is a short term gain. 3. the entrance fee that I have selected for the zoo and botanical gardens is per car. If you charge per car you can have boom gates installed at the 2 entrances and then close off the entrance to the Japanese Gardens. This will possibly decrease expenditure in having to fence off the zoo area and police entrance fees. 4. If Council employees have their Microsoft training provided by the technology centre, then that expense/benefit has to be taken into account. What would the expense be to Council if Council needs to bring in external trainers? 5. I would like to see the Music Bowl used more so that the land and the venue can contribute positively to the budget. 6. The same applies to the cafe at Mount Archer. I believe that this could be a great restaurant (like Mt Mee or Mt Coother) with decks and viewing areas. Even though, as I understand it, the current cafe is privately leased, I believe that there are great opportunities for Council in improving the area.
1. Yes airport should be sold. Not many Councils in Australia own an airport. 2. Close the zoo. Development the Botanical and Kershaw Gardens. Zoos, apart from Toronga where research/breeding is done in a meaningful way are a thing of the past. Animals need to be kept in large habitat like areas. Those poor chimps are demented. The monkeys sad and the poor old croc bored out of his brain. 3. Keep the animals at the Heritage if people/organizations in the community will adopt them and pay a yearly amount for their upkeep. Can't see why Rotary Clubs, Lions etc, private citizens can't have say, an 'adopted' goat. So many free visits/year to pet and check on its welfare. Would make great mascots. e.g. Woollies Dairy Cow! The Giddy Goat's Nanny! Sell shares in the Clydesdale Support! Have a Clydesdale Race at Calighan Park! Get the Jockey Club to sponsor one! etc etc 4. Partnership with the Uni and the Art Gallery.
Why to keep money after selling the airport and still pay interest rate of debts. This option creates 1m loss to the council per year. Also the zoo should be completely closed for ever and there should be no encaged animals at all in the Heritage Village. Thank you to consider Tax payers opinion.

Sell the airport. What debt did Livingstone bring with them.. are they at least taking the same debt plus an indexed increase with them. Gradually phase out the animals...at the zoo, a sorry sight is caged animals... Close the north side pool, or sell it to a conglomerate...of users, ie Ed Department, swim clubs, health organisations, and perhaps have the get sponsors such as football has. Evaluate council holdings...vehicles, depots etc and sell unwanted 'things'...(At the moment there seems to be surplus as there are lots of road working signage, bits and pieces still beside roads that have been repaired after the deluge) How much does council own in terms of vacant land?,,, perhaps some of that could be sold off. What other programs does the council run, that haven't been made generally known to the public.... get rid of them , or list them to survey which ones the public thinks other organisations could run....I'm sure there must be something in that line to get rid of. Perhaps council could find partners to help maintain the Heritage village... we need to keep that as if you really think about it, there aren't many local tourist attractions, well not close at hand anyway. It Mt Morgan is to stay with the council, some effort has to be kept in keeping it presentable as it is/could be a very good tourist attraction , as a whole entity. Up until a few years ago the area always seemed neglected. Develop some cooperation with groups at Mt Morgan to help maintain parks, sidewalks etc. I'm not sure who should fund the organisation that Mary Carroll is CEO to...It seems to me, if business wants to promote itself, then it should fund and run that organisation...get rid of it. If business money funds that organisation, you never know it may actually be more efficient and achieve better goals... or actually achieve goals.

You can not get rid of our arts

Regarding the Art Gallery - reducing the opening hours of the Gallery may be a good idea, but personally I would think that moving toward having a week day or two closed would be a better option than being closed on weekends?

The Art Gallery is a fantastic community asset built up over the years by very generous donations from the community and from Artists and collectors through the Cultural gifts program. The collection belongs to the people of Rockhampton Region and is overseen by a Trust. Therefore, thoughts of selling or mothballing the collection would I believe have legal ramifications and would jeopardise future donations to further build the collection.

Please don't "mothball" the city art collection - what a joke! These artworks are of national historical and cultural significance. There are so many better ways council can save money than this. From the figures you showed at the start the financial situation doesn't look so bad anyway - the government pays the interest of our debt. Why would you want to give the youth another reason to leave town and never come back? Why would you want to stifle creativity and innovation?

DON'T SELL THE ART GALLERY!!!! It is a short sighted embarrassment that you are even considering potentially damaging a collection of international historical and cultural significance. "Mothballing" how appalling! This survey is an embarrassment to our entire region. It is so bias and slanted and obvious what the desired outcomes are, not to mention poorly written and containing grammatical errors. The Rockhampton Art Gallery is a bastion of creative thinking and contemporary innovation - values that RRC upholds. Shame RRC Shame.

The idea of selling off cultural assets would be a mistake. The questions regarding the Art Gallery were confusing and misleading. Most of the City's art collection is already in storage and needs to be put on display on a rotating basis in the current upstairs Gallery space. So the "Mothballing" question seems irrelevant. The question is misleading - finding an "alternate exhibit" what does that mean? Also, most people who work can only attend the gallery and other venues on weekends - by closing on weekends you are denying most people the opportunity to attend. The visitor numbers will drop and Council will lose revenue from the Gallery Shop.

* Long overdue internal restructure, the original point of amalgamation was to cut costs and red tape. Please look at the seemingly complicated and myriad processes, applications and procedures faced by residents and businesses. * Makes more sense to close the Art Gallery midweek, eg Mon, Tues and open it on at least one day on weekends. Making the Gallery even smaller than it already is would pretty well defeat the purpose of having it. * Don't really have a strong opinion about the Heritage Village however, on our visits we have really enjoyed the experience with the animals, especially kids under 12years - prefer that it goes to community managed, the Timber Town example is a good one. * I can live with zoo entry fees. At least this does not mention the Botanical Gardens, these are world class and should be a matter of regional pride and presented as such. * I am one of the many people who did NOT know the pool was even open last year. * It is simplistic to increase and/or introduce fees without supportive measures to increase turnover by broadening access and awareness. * One hopes this current round of community consultation is real and not just a band aid for the recent spate of negative publicity nor ignoring the fact Council operations should be about efficient management of resources not politics and welfare. Good luck

Could you please define what: 'moth balling the art collection' means, and how this will save money. consider other options for reducing the budget, eg. christmas banners; staff uniforms. provide a figure of what increase would be required by ratepayers to retain cultural facilities for the region. state how the following been considered: how threatening to significantly reduce funding to the Gallery impacts other external stakeholder relations, such as donors of money; works of art; the city's reputation in the museum and gallery sector; threats to future partnerships with sponsors; other galleries; and the public. if the Mayor perceives a conflict of interest with being a Trust member, and speaking publicly about reducing funds to the Gallery. embracing and nurturing the further development of the Gallery to increase visitation, and position the Gallery at the centre of cultural tourism in Central Queensland. cost of funding other assets, eg. Archer Park; Railway Museum - these were not included in the survey.

The art gallery and theater are the most important cultural assets we have. Look after them and protect them.

Re: Art Gallery. With a small number of visitors and high cost, I think this is a facility which does not give value for money and should be closed/sold. Re: Southside Pool. Again, small number of visitors for a very large expenditure. Not sure how to address this but it seems like a big waste of money. Re: Zoo. Maybe an expanded volunteer programme could be used to reduce costs further. Perhaps reconfigure the Zoo with smaller number of exotic exhibits and incorporate a small farm animal exhibit with animals from the Heritage Village. Re: Airport. If sale goes ahead, it is vital that some sort of binding guidelines are put in place to ensure the money isn't squandered by a future council and we find ourselves back in the same position with no asset to sell.

I have lived in Rockhampton from a much larger city now for 1 year (there was no choice for me in the last question) and think the greater number and variety of choices that you give families in the area are fantastic and I think would be a great shame to lose. In particular I have utilised the art gallery (the child activities are terrific) and the Rockhampton Zoo. In my travels I have NEVER seen a zoo that you don't have to pay to get into and it is wonderfully refreshing. I personally think that selling off such a large asset such as the airport would be a shame because once it is sold, there is nothing else that you can fall back on. The selling of assets, I don't think worked very well when the Victorian Government did it many years ago.

ART GALLERY - Is there a charge to visit the Art Gallery? If not, then I would be willing to pay an entrance fee to the Art Gallery. Art Galleries I have visited usually have some charge. Normal times: \$2.00 per person; Special exhibits: \$5.00 per person. ZOO - I would be willing to pay an entrance fee to visit the zoo. For example: Single/Pensioner: \$2.00; Family (2 adults, 2 children): \$7.00; Family (2 adults, 2+children): \$10.00. ARCHER PARK RAIL MUSEUM - I wanted to take my grandchildren (out-of-towners) on the Purrey Steam tram during the Christmas holidays but was unable to do so as it was not running during this time. I found this to be most unusual as I would have thought this would have been a time when a lot of families would have visited. I personally think selling any assets is a backward step. Need to have more imagination in how services are delivered.

My Great Grandfather was a Mayor of this City in the 1890's and his Brother was a Councillor for many years - this gives me a great feeling as being an descendent of one of the cities forefathers and do not wish to see the City go backwards. Selling off assets will only achieve a short term improvement - look at what Bligh did to Queensland - DO NOT DO this to the RRC Mayor Strelow because you will go down in history as the Worst female Mayor of RRC - similar to the comments being made about Juliar Gillard as PM of Australia. You Sold off the Fitzroy River Barrage without the referral to or consent from the citizens of Rockhampton during your last term as Mayor. It seems to me that it will be an automatic decision from you to sell everything without due consideration of Rockhampton's Citizens. Any sale of assets worth over \$1,000,000AU should go to referendum of the Rockhampton Regional Voters NOT just your say-so.

Sounds like the mayor has already made her mind up anyway with the way the questions are asked. Survey gives all the information which makes it look like we have an asset in the pool yet we just put money into it and get nothing back, why weren't we asked if we wanted to sell it or take back the management so that we could make money from it. Surely the budget would have had to have been finalised well before most of the community talk sessions actually occur in late April/May.

Capricorn Enterprise - is this a council funded enterprise? Is it accountable? It seems political. What use is it? If it is funded by Council, why aren't the details included in this survey? Are Coucillors accountable to the rate payers of the area they represent?

I feel closing Coin is a bad move as it is a valuable place for learning, meeting new friends, popular with tourists, and a wonderful assest for the library as a lot of people will meet for coffee browse through the library also after or before Coin Classes read paper etc.and use the social computers to contact friends far and wide throught the world. I use Coin every two weeks have learnt a lot from the wonderful staff and volunteers, also have met some wonderful new friends. I say it will be an enormous mistake to close Coin.

I have been a trainer at coin for 10 years and in that time I helped a lot of people mostly elderly and I am sure there are a lot more people who want to learn how to use a computer.

<p>COIN/Technology Centre +Council staff training still needs to happen, this will cost considerably more than \$200K for consultants, purchase of new programmes and materials etc. Therefore NO benefit to council for cutting this service. NB This cost not mentioned in the Mayor's Budget suggestions. : +Many thousands of Seniors and Disabled benefitted over 11 years, FREE of Charge. +There are thousands more ratepayers to be deprived of an essential service for communication and independence, protection from viruses etc., especially as the IT world evolves. +The CQUniversity donated all the computers for the benefit of the community, not as a donation to council. +25 Volunteer trainers who gave 8plus hours weekly, now going to waste.</p>
<p>As an IT industry professional my major concern highlighted here is the possible closure of the COIN and and loss of the ability to do industry recognised certifications locally. Without this facility an exam that would normally cost in the order of \$200 could cost upwards of \$700.</p>
<p>COIN is essential for anyone in the IT industry. I have Cisco certifications that are a work requirement and without COIN it means that I will have to travel to Brisbane to sit exams. There are also numerous people currently travelling from Brisbane and other parts of Qld to sit exams in Rocky which generates income in the form of flights/food/accomodation etc. If anything, maybe reduce their operating hours but don't cut it out totally.</p>
<p>The Technology Centre (Coin) is extremely important to the IT and technology training and exams for Rockhampton. If we loose this, this many local companies will go to Mackay or Brisbane for skilled IT staff with training centres. Please do not sell this off..</p>
<p>I would strongly resist any move to close down the Community Technology Centre. One function of this group is to provide a facility for "IT Certification" exams, and this is the only venue in QLD outside of Brisbane to provide this service. I currently employ almost 30 IT professionals in the Rockhampton area and have worked extremely hard to retain local talent, and in some cases to reclaim lost talent from capital cities and bring them back. The inability to locally certify our people will be devastating and will have a tremendous flow-on affect to our region's technology capabilities moving forward.</p>
<p>The Technology Centre is a vital part of the community and I feel that outsourcing this would be a mistake. It's a valuable asset to the people of Rockhampton and should be kept internal.</p>
<p>As a local workers in the IT industry I disagree strongly with the proposed closure of COIN as this makes access to training significantly cheaper for the IT community as a whole as otherwise people would have to travel to Brisbane to sit for certifications. Scrapping this service will only contribute further to the knowledge drain from the region, which is something we can ill afford.</p>
<p>I regret to say that I was unable to attend the Mayor's "Your Budget Your Choice" sessions and I am also very sad to hear about the communities Technology Centre (COIN). This service is a must for all, particularly the elderly and disadvantage. I have been attending the computer courses for about two years and the staff and volunteer's are magnificent. The volunteer's are highly skilled people and I would recommend their skills to people of all ages. There is no pressure doing these courses like other places and you are able to do the course again if you either missed a class or didn't quite understand the first time. I have learned some very important day to day matters in all courses such as- Computer Identity Fraud (criminals who hunt for your data) Internet Security (Antivirus, Bot Protection), On Demand Scanning (Super Anti- Spyware) Password Security(KeePass) Methods of Stealing Your Money (Credit Card Scams, Card Skimming. Work From Home Scams. Internet Bullying, Ransomware, (Hacker's Lock Up Computer's) and so much more. Maybe you should go along and see for yourself, maybe you may learn something new. If it wasn't for COIN I would certainly be in trouble. If you would like more information or just a chat on their services, please feel free to call me. Thank you so much COIN for saving me from the criminal acts of today's Internet.</p>
<p>As a pensioner I value the library and the COIN Academy and have always been extremely well catered for in both those facilities. My social life is limited and COIN has allowed me great access to the outside world and given me new friends.</p>
<p>The coin technology centre is poorly advertised and should be developed/expanded not reduced</p>
<p>I would like to say that I am disappointed that there were no options for COIN, unlike the other services you had the options. Surely there would have to be options so that COIN would not have to close as it is a very valuable facility to the community. If you have ever been over there you would notice that the computers are being used as well as the training rooms, but maybe you just aren't interested as you don't care about the rest of the community. I work for the Cerebral Palsy League and we use the COIN facility to help our students gain more skills with using a computer as this is the only option because we do not have access to computers at our centre. It is such a valuable service for the community as some would not have access to computers due to whatever reason. Also the wonderful staff are always obliging to help the trainers as well as the community with whatever problems they face. If you did not have this service they would miss out on the opportunity of learning these important lifeskills, as computer technology is at the forefront of all areas. As you would be aware, there are not many places that you can access for the elderly, disabled as well as the rest of the community that does not have a cost.</p>

<p>keep the technology centre - for seniors to access courses licence the airport for use if possible keep some control zoo is too out of the way - if possible increase accessibility from highway keep liaising with other state run and commonwealth institutions do what Pilbeam did in "the History of Rockhampton" keep road projects continually maintained and improved and put under "miscellenious" until some state or federal funding comes up- in this ways assets don't deteriorate and can use incoming funds to finish off ongoing projects.</p>
<p>Couldnt CQU offer a 'coin' type service for the community - it would open up the campus to the community. Art gallery could be 6 days per week or mon-sat - weekday only operating is a problem for people with jobs ... We woudn't be able to visit. Take the animals from the heritage village and put them in the zoo, so families still have the ability to engage with them.</p>
<p>you should lave rockhampton as it is. and dont coles down the coin poeple thank you</p>
<p>the coin academy is frequented by a lot of disable services.And is used constantly by aged and less affluent members of the community, and is a major benefit to all that use it,It also has brought more people into the library. As we not all get the mayors salary. And i have noticed options for other community services, but none for the technology centre. There are lots of options that can be taken to improve our debt. And if yeppoon wanted to deamalgamate, they should pay all costs, not us ratepayers. Selling everything or closing down services that are a benefit to the community, is a stupid choice for our future growth and i feel an official vote on any decision made by our representatives, should be the first expense tackled.</p>
<p>The COIN Academy could charge for use of PCs etc to help minimize costs. Could we implement a system where local business can buy into parks and gardens with advertising/etc to help pay those costs? Could we investigate income streams as opposed to cost (and job) cutting?</p>
<p>It would be really sad to see the technology center go. I would happily pay to go to the zoo - we've been a couple of times in the last year alone. Definitely should not sell the Airport.</p>
<p>I think there could be a better management system with the Technology Centre. I would like to run computer training sessions there for the CQFHA, and can't because of the "conditions". I want to be able to charge for the sessions (to raise funds for the non-profit organisation), but am told I can't. I would be more than happy to go 50/50 with the council/library.... At this stage the only option appears to be for me to do it for free. I have submitted an alternative idea to the Library, where they 'pay' CQFHA for my training services, and then the Library could charge whatever they want...but, although it was initially warmly received, the momentum seems to have been lost with a change of staff. I know it is only a small thing, but perhaps there are lots of other little opportunities like this, which when added up could make a difference. The Heritage Village needs better promotion and signage (does it need the word Museum there somewhere, as we don't have a Rockhampton Museum). I think most tourists would not even be aware it would somewhere they could stop, until they are past it (and I know when we are travelling, my husband is very reticent to 'turn back' to something, so I need to know what is ahead and plan for it). They probably look at it with interest as they drive past, without realising that it is 'open' - to be perfectly honest I thought it was only open for the markets and events at the Woolshed! The entrance is pretty much hidden. The animals make it far more interesting for families and foreign tourists, so I think they are very important. If you are going to put a fee on the Zoo then that also needs to be promoted better, and have better signage as well. The pool only needs to be heated in Winter.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the impact the possible closure of the Technology Centre will have on a lot of the senior residents, and others, that currently use these facilities on a regular basis. The community classes are wonderful and all of the training is done by volunteers. There is often a waiting list to participate in the computer classes. With today's society requiring the use of computers, many of us seniors would be left behind if it weren't for the opportunity to attend this training. There are other training options, ie TAFE, however, many of the teachers at the Tech Centre are seniors themselves and this enables us to feel more comfortable and they understand the difficulties we face. This also gives me an outing and allows me to interact with the community, which otherwise I would be staying at home.</p>
<p>I'm originally from Yeppoon, but I think Livingstone Shire's decision to de-amalgamate was short-sighted and foolish.</p>
<p>Let us (Rockyview) stay with Rocky and then you will have our rates!!!! We don't want to go to Livingstone - we live in North Rockhampton! I understand that when the original boundaries were done our block was probably a farm but things have changed. Rockyview being part of Livingstone is the most absolutely ridiculous concept!!!!</p>
<p>Why are we being punished for State and Local Government mistakes. We didn't have a say at all in either the amalgamation or the divorce, but we are assualted by Local Government telling us that we have to pay. Apparently we somehow paid for the publicity concerning the divorce without even being asked. What for, how did you get us into this mess, and what are you going to change in your approach, you application, your benefits, to ammend this state? I don't see any volunteers for voluntary redundance amongst the career officers, nor the coucillors. As a final point: this is a predominantly Labor council and yet appears to be oblivious to Labor vaules and policy.</p>

<p>This is a ridiculous situation. Firstly it is inconceivable how any rational State Government would consider a single group (Livingstone shire people) can have a vote that significantly (negatively) impacts on their neighbours. Secondly - I have always wondered how long this "community consultation" would take to get to this extreme...."how much tax do you want to pay_ Nil...how many services do you want_ all of them please". The Councillors are elected to govern. If you wish to step aside from that responsibility and "ask the audience" then the council is not performing its duty and should step aside. In the same way that when Cr XX and Cr XX took a significant stance contrary to that of Council they too should have resigned. The answer is really...you have been elected to govern.... Vote on our behalf "as if we were as fully informed as you" Do not act as indicated by the populous in a "get votes" mentality</p>
<p>nope when are u going to put flood markers in wood street to help residents drive when flooded as there are lots of retards that live in wood street that make signs and yell abusive language,and the silly morning bulletin published the retards.</p>
<p>I think that there are many other ways that council could be saving money, such as no longer putting fluoride into the town water. I don't think that selling the airport is a good idea because I don't believe that a nest egg would really be saved. I would be happy to pay to enter the zoo, even if we could buy food to feed the animals, the kids would really enjoy that. The zoo is a great day out but it wouldn't be as attractive if it had less exhibits. Rockhampton is a city so it deserves a real art gallery, not just a local one.</p>
<p>I think that the council should look at using people that are on community service to help, especially with the general jobs, e,g- mowing, gardening, helping with the labouring on the road works This would free up the workers to get on with other work. It would only require one or two supervisors and the work would be done much faster.</p>
<p>I have travelled to many parts of Australia and whenever Rockhampton is mentioned I have heard only positive comments about our Botanical Gardens and the Heritage Village. These tourist attractions must be maintained. You only have to visit such places to see the delight on the faces of children and adults and we must allow these to be maintained in the way they operate today. We do not want "Private Enterprise" to turn our city into another "Gold Coast" type tourist venue.</p>
<p>Something not mentioned about the Heritage Village is the cost of entry. \$ gold coin donation is ridiculous, of course most people will only put in a single dollar. It should be \$2 at least per person over 5yrs of age. The animals should certainly NOT be got rid of as the school kids would not have any contact with farm animals at all unless they actually live on a farm.</p>
<p>I hope the heritage village will stay on, to my knowledge it is known as a world class.</p>
<p>Please do not get rid of the Heritage Village it is such a great resource for our children. As for operating it without animals - we only go there for the animals.</p>
<p>The question about keeping the horses but not the other animals does not make sense - all of the animals are a major attraction of the heritage village. To have a static display only would mean visitation would be dramatically reduced. Most urban children do not have any exposure to farm animals and love the experience. The horses are magnificent and need to stay, as they hold appeal to so many people both in and out of harness. All the animals need professional handlers, assisted by volunteers. It would be irresponsible and dangerous to leave the well being entirely to volunteers in a facility of such high public scrutiny. The other animals particularly calves, could be free leased/leant from producers. Poddy calves are often a management problem for larger primary producers, many of whom (particularly dairy farmers) would probably be happy to lend them until they are mature enough to graze independently. Not keeping mature breeding cattle, or large numbers of other breeding animals would reduce feed costs and grazing pressure on the limited pastures available and still provide children with public access to the small calves in a safe environment. A mutually beneficial arrangement could be made between primary producers and the Heritage Village to reduce costs and improve environmental outcomes by partnering with organisations such as Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments.</p>
<p>1. Heritage – old MacDonalds farm could be hired out on the Heritage Market days. Instead of keeping the animals. 2. Art Gallery should remain open 7 days a week – it is a tourist attraction. A \$2 charge should be applied? 3. The agreement with the Pool is one sided, renegotiate? Either promote the pool and the events held there, or, turn off the heating. Plenty of other pool in the region that are heated. 4. Very pool decision of council to say how much the airport is worth, debt we are in and the revenue the airport doesn't make. Any vendors in the marketplace will smell our desperation to sell and they will get the better deal. 5. The 13.6 million owed to council (as reported in the Morning Bulletin) should help ease all debts?</p>
<p>One of the slides didn't work. Around the Airport scenario. I don't know if I was missing out on information or if it was just a glitch. I love this region, it's my home. We need to work smarter - not sell everything off. Look how well that worked for the federal government selling off our rail networks and Telstra. Your information was fantastic - telling us how much money is used where. If we don't know as a people - we can't help! Tell us more about how dire the situation is and I'm sure people will care. I didn't realise there were 40,000 volunteer hours used at the Heritage Village. This is amazing! And certainly makes me sit up and take notice. Surely we can make money without selling everything wonderful that we own. I hope you get some ideas from these forums - I</p>

<p>really do. p.s. thanks for asking us for our thoughts :o)</p>
<p>+ Heritage Village to stay as is (A major tourist attraction). + Charge for admission to the Art Gallery & Zoo (with family concessions) + Dissappointment that the Council did not install solar panels on buildings owned and operated by the Council. This would be a great reduction in running costs.(eg Airport,Showgrounds,Council Workshop and Office buildings,Pilbeam Theatre,Heritage Village, Library, Pools. + Reduce the number of Councillors. + The Council Committee should know of responsible ways to reduce spending as they were there when the money was spent. +To extend the life of the Lakes Creek Waste (dump) some of the hardfill could be used to build a levy-bank around the airport to divert flood waters.</p>
<p>I think it is very important to keep The Heritage Village as is because of its tourist value. Why should tourists with or without children bother stopping at a static display of historical buildings some of which would have to be kept locked, eg doll's house, for security reasons if it is no longer a "working" village. My husband and I are just 2 of the volunteers who would be very disappointed if it were to close! Sporting fields and playgrounds are important to the younger people and some of the older generation. Unfortunately the Art Gallery is of interest to only a select few, also only a small portion of the population use the south side pool. I feel the Pilbeam Theatre somehow needs to attract more use to get more revenue. Thank you for reading this. Please accept my contribution as I live at Glenlee an "unwanted" suburb. We have had more service since amalgamation than before when under Livingstone Shire Council. Many thanks XX</p>
<p>Leave all tourist attractions alone, leave the heritage village well alone. & REDUCE HIGH Payed staff in the TOWN HALL. or do you want the this town to die. Look at what Campbell Newman has done to the police force & do it to council.</p>
<p>Heritage Village- hire animals for special occasions Zoo- NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION this is one attraction that families can access and it is free there needs to be more family friendly free attractions. I regularly see Grandparents with small children, single parents with custody access with children, groups picnicking, people with family in hospitals taking a break etc this needs to stay free The Art Gallery needs a larger space to have bigger displays if possible NOT REDUCED</p>
<p>Firstly the idea of having the heritage centre run by community groups (rotary, lions etc) have merit. They would have to be allowed to receive the heritage grants from both State & Federal Govt to help with operating costs. A service club like above will attract more volunteers & more donations/ entrance fees as people will see their money going to a good cause. With regard to the zoo, I feel it needs better management of existing exhibits combined with support from the Govt's regional tourist association to have tourists recognise the benefits of visiting the zoo, therefore allowng for an entrance fee of up to \$10.00 per person would be acceptable. A residents discount for bringing travellers to the zoo would also encourage locals to promote it as well. I like the idea of reducing the art gallery exhibits but not to mothball the other exhibits. If an exhibit rotation could be achieved on a "theme" basis, this would create enough change to have attendance numbers increase by attracting visitors on a more regular basis. Opening hours, if you need to reduce them should be 4 days (Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday) this will allow for school access as well as the weekday workers. Is there an entrance fee for the Art Gallery? I also believe a re think of the pool management retainer fee is in order, as they should be promoting their product to increase the usage & therefore their gate takings.I don't think rate payers should subsidize this as we are already supplying all operating equipment.</p>
<p>Some animals at the Heritage Village and some animals at the Zoo; just have them in the one area if Heritage Village is to be retained under Council management and shift the Zoo from the Gardens to the Heritage Village. Pilbeam Theatre - possibility management there could attract more professional travelling shows, thus giving better income, rather than relying on local productions. All Council staff should, as part of their annual appraisal process, set goals to achieve finance performance outcomes for the good of the Council.</p>
<p>Sell off unwanted blocks of land. Think outside the box like Rex Pilbeam did when he auctioned off Mt Archer. If you sell off the airport to clear this lot of debt what are you going to sell off next time you are in trouble. Find a long term solution not a quick fix. It is there you just have to look for it.</p>
<p>well iv been here ever since this librery opened and i do cartooning here i love whats been done and i dont want nothing to be changed :)</p>
<p>Sell the Sound Shell, remove exotic animals from the Zoo, (while retaining birds and Australia specific animals such as Kangaroos) Sell airport and use ALL net funds from sale to retire Council debt Make effective and cost efficient use of Council resources i.e Make sure repair works are completed correctly the first time, I have personal experience of FRW staff having to attend the same road works drainage problem on four (4) occassions before fixing it properly Hope Livingstone implodes</p>

No but what is wrong with the council selling The Music Bowl as it is in disrepair and never gets used. Also councilors pay rates should be reduced and their expenses cut back and this would be a big saving. We cannot sell the airport as this would be a backwards move. Also you could put a charge on the zoo as this is free entry at the moment
I believe that in-house savings such as "no take home cars" for staff should be exercised by the Council as a first measure. In addition, electricity usage could be minimised in most buildings after hours as well as in business hours. Also, expenditure for outsourcing should be examined as against Council wages/salaries. I believe it doesn't "add-up" to outsource at all, in most cases. Thank you for the opportunity to make suggestions ...on-line.
I enjoy cultural pursuits, eg theatre and art, however with a young family, our main priorities are for all encompassing entertainment for everyone. Parks, Pools, Rocky Zoo and the Heritage village cater to all ages, abilities and incomes, as well as allowing us to enjoy our mostly wonderful climate. Good luck with trying to reduce the debt, I struggle to comprehend how this ridiculous amount of \$\$ has spiralled to beyond managing. Like all organisations these days, too many beaurocrats, too much beaurocracy, too many feasibility studies that cost more than actually implementing something, too many consultants and legal hanger on'ers....the gravy train list goes on! Whatever happened to common sense and a fair go for all?
I would like to see community groups for each park. Which can mow and trim and have a vegetable garden at each one too. Promoting community spirit and encouraging younger people and families to volunteer.
The only things stopping Rockhampton from being a "hick" town are things like the theatre, gardens and the Historical Village.
Maybe the best idea is wait for an election and have a vote on whether people like major changes, this council and all councils in rockhampton over the last 15 years have done nothing but waste money, on things they do not need to do and now find themselves in a bigger debt, instead of focusing on what is important, if the Council, Mayor listened to the people not what the councillors want done, but the people, People vote you in, please let them vote you out and vote in somebody who will listen to "us" the voters
Offload the Pools, everyone knows they are a money pit Do not under any circumstances sell the Airport, the community knows that the \$80m will be wittled away when things get tight Charge an entry fee for the Zoo, some return is better than no return Lease out the Heritage Village or as suggested make it a community run facility Consider gaining some efficiencies in the way road crews are managed, mass amounts of OT paid via weekend and night work, if the community wants to save money they will accept the delays created by carrying out the work in normal business hours Rationalisation of other assets than those being considered, park and recreation assets and the maintenance of these assets, make sporting clubs and other clubs more responsible for building maintenance etc.. If we are the 2nd cheapest rates / water in the area / state then is this the reason why we are in so much debt. Increases may be unavoidable. And finally, it is a shame that the community know has to suffer obviously for poor decision sfrom the Council to get to that level of debt in the first place, hopefully Councillors will acknowledge to their constituents that they are ultimately at fault.
Reduce costs at the south side pool. Spend less on council staff - the wages there are a much higher pay rate than other businesses. Also make sure the existing staff actually work- alot seem to do the bare minimum. Instead of spending money on new playgrounds - take more care of existing ones. Spend money widely on council cars, trucks and other machinery.
I feel very strongly that we need to adopt a " user pay's " system. I have never used the pool's, sporting field's or play ground's. I have never been to the theater, the library, the art gallery, the zoo or the heritage village. I would however be happy to pay an entrance fee should I do so in the future. I have my own lovely garden, extensive libary, spa etc etc. I pay for the things I want in my life. I don't feel that it is fair that only rate payer's should have to pay for things that everyone has access to. Everybody needs to contribute to the running cost of these services. I'm sorry if that seem's a bit harsh, but it is the fairest sollution. I can't afford to continually pay more in rates for other people's recreational or personal intrests. Regards XX
Concern with number of staff undertaking civil works and how long it takes. Seems to be a lot standing around while one part of project is completed. Seems to be large inefficiencies.
Curious as to why no cost saving options pertaining to the Showgrounds were presented? Surely the showgrounds are a drain Council's money and resources. I do agree with reducing days of Art Gallery, but don't agree with Monday to Friday. Could reduce from 7 days to 4 days Friday to Monday and closed public holidays. The zoo has come a long way and it would be a shame to go backwards. Have no problem with paying a fee to enter the zoo, in fact I think we should, provided it was kept to a level that families could afford to go. COIN - Discontinuing this service might save costs to Council, but wouldn't those savings be negated by the cost of using other service providers? Would like to see the figures before deciding on this one.
We have the show ground and heritage village that could be used better. the show grounds are used around 3-4 times per year. What a waste. There are markets at the vilklage once a month. There should be markets at the village every week. Some within council should be apointed as a marketing manager to properly market the showgrounds, zoo and the heritage and to get an increased income from these venues. NOT HARD!!!

<p>Power usage across all operations need to be reviewed, options to reduce power consumption and substitute with renewable power and better technology must be a much higher priority. eg Sydney City Council is using LED illumination for street lights. Why can't RRC be at the forefront of innovation? There are ways now for Council to install solar panel systems and lease them with ownership later reverting to RRC. Sale of water by FRW to industrial users is an area of long term growth. The Heritage Village should have more community and private sector involvement, but it has a tremendous cultural and social capital value for our region and we should be encouraging volunteers to contribute, not making it harder for them. The zoo needs to be closed down as it is not core business. These days nobody wants to pay to see a tiny relic zoo from a past era when Australia Zoo did not exist, (which has hundreds of volunteers also), when there were not all the alternative recreational options now available to families and when our region will never have the population base or visitor base for it to become profitable. New York City Zoo has no large African animals etc! (The Bronx Zoo has a few). Let's lets get realistic about the long term prospects for ours and make the hard decision to get of the zoo business. Partial sale of the airport or leasing it would also allow revenue stream to continue. Airports are local government business all over Australia. Don't forget inter- generational equity demands future generations of ratepayers and service users to also pay for the construction of long term assets. Why should this generation sell an asset like the airport to reduce the debt when it is manageable with expenditure reduction? This Council has no control over future Councils spending the nest egg and raising debt levels again, this time without revenue from a bigger and more profitable airport to help with redeeming it.</p>
<p>Provision of sports and leisure facilities along with those facilities of cultural importance should be retained by the council. The airport, while important to the economic development of the region, can be successfully operated by others, at no cost to the council or rate-payers.</p>
<p>Please just do the job and stop asking people about everything all the time. You are elected and if you do a good job you will be elected again. If you do a bad job someone else can try the job. Too many councillors and mayor taking too much time to make people run the council. You get the pay and you must do the job. Please ignore the loud mouths that whinge all the time. Thank you Mrs X</p>
<p>Yes. I do not come to the sessions because I hear about them with no time to organise transport and I do not like fuss at the meetings that come from a small loud group that get too much attention. I do not plan to ever come and listen to noisy wheels get too myuch attention again. There are many quiet people who do not like to come to meetings and make fuss. I think it would be good if council makes decisions and do not waste money with talking to the community. We elect you to do the job, not to keep asking us so you can pass the decisions over. If we do not like your decisions you will not be elected the next election. Many people think this and agree with me when we talk about this. Thank you Mr X</p>
<p>I have given my replies in this survey. I would just like to know why we are paying the RCC operations manager more than the Prime Minister is earning, and also giving him carte blanche as to who he can sue or not.</p>
<p>Not enough areas covered. very limited. There are big ticketed items that could be cut and no problem caused to Council operations or income. These are not mentioned. Mayor and Councillors are paid very,very well indeed to do the job. And at the moment you are not and have not been in past doing an exceptional job. Council is responsible for this massive debt and should be made accountable to ratepayers.</p>
<p>not so much about the survey but i hear it on authority that all tea, coffee and milk are provided to council staff. In many other workplaces, staff have to provide these themselves so i suggest you remove the free offerings and save some \$\$\$\$. cheers p.s. can i commend you on the beautiful upkeep of the botanical gardens. they are something to be very proud of.</p>
<p>with all these budget cuts how about the elected councilors also look at their wages, I can't believe the region has a huge amount of debt and you are wanting us rate payers to agree to have a fire sale to sell off assets etc but I have not heard of any talk of the mayor and/or the elected councillors offering to reduce their wages, after all did you all not just vote recently for a payrise ??? fairs fair I say. stop the pay rises for all council employees until you have the region's debt paid off. also encourage the government to bring in work for the dole and have all dole receipients work 1 day a week for the community mowing, cleaning parks/gardens etc, this will assist council I am sure by cutting costs, after all these people are being paid by tax payers to do nothing at present.....no such thing as a free ride any longer.. bring back the paid parking meters in Rocky, in lue of paying a meter man/women to try and get around the region to book cars who may have overstayed their time limit, charge all who park there expiring after a few hours, you will have \$\$\$\$ constanting coming in every weekday. I know some of my work colleagues just pay the fines cause it is cheaper than paying for paid parking in the cbd area, or they are just lazy and won't walk the few blocks to work. I personally would like to see the pilbeam theatre and arts centre sold off to save \$\$ in lue of parks/gardens/animals etc thanks</p>
<p>Excellent Survey - good for those who can;t get to meetings. Well done</p>
<p>I believe that presenting these facts and options to the general public is an extremely worthwhile excise which not only enhances the democratic process but also engages with and educates people as to the many issue's local government faces. Thankyou. X.</p>

Thank you for the opportunity to complete this survey. I certainly appreciate that there are difficult decisions to be made and it is empowering that the community is included in this consultation.

Perhaps the zoo could continue to be free for Rockhampton rate payers, through a voucher system like the dump. That way the tourists foot the bill. There are often huge bus loads of foreign tourists regularly through the zoo.

Not enough option for answers. Not clear that "Zoo" does not include Gardens. Should be an option of making the zoo for native Australian animals only. Airport - would car park be included in sale ?

Regarding the Rockhampton Zoo, I ticked I would be happy to pay \$5 - but I just want to add, that would only be if the zoo was presentable, and the standards more than satisfactory. I realise there has been an improvement with the zoo over the last couple of years, making it a little bit more inviting, but there is always room for improvement to make it a more quality attraction that visitors and locals alike could both enjoy. Apart from that, I agree that the best bet for Rockhampton Regional Council to improve their financial situation would be to sell the Rockhampton Airport.

I have answered this survey as a retiree and a grandparent. The Zoo I visit on a regular basis with my grandchildren where I observe many visitors with happy laughing children, it is also a safe place for single parents on their access times. A place to relax and enjoy. The art gallery is sheer pleasure for me which I once again visit on a regular basis, to see this gallery honed down in any way would be tragic, it is a gallery that I am sure many Rockhampton people are enormously proud of. We need facilities for the over 60's, for challenges to keep their minds active, the library is a great place for this with individual activities. (U3A) So many performances at the Theatre are at near capacity, we have to cater for all tastes so not all performances can be well attended. The volunteers do a marvellous job. Sporting facilities are essential for our young citizens.

Zoo - chimps and aviary are not "iconic" and you sound silly saying so. Chimps should be in a group environment and all the silliness you lot spruik in the media about them is cringe-worthy. Haven't you ever read In The Shadow Of Man? I read it as a teenager and have been ashamed of what the Rocky Zoo is ever since. Better off relocating them to Taronga to be with a family group instead of the silly "breeding program" fantasy you have going. Monkeys, ditto, all intelligent and should be in state of the art facilities. Aviary hasn't been much good at any stage. Our zoo is 19th century style. Either do the Zoo properly or not at all. Gardens - should be better run and if you rehoused the zoo you could concentrate on the gardens. Heritage Village - without working animals would be a farce. However I'm not sure the village is laid out like a real village or uses animals like working animals anyway. Again, either do it properly or not at all. Airport - happy to get rid of. Sports facilities - don't care, happy to ditch the lot. You could try WORKING WITH the community instead of paying lip service and then riding roughshod over community endeavours. You could try getting a single internal database instead of each dept having their own. You could get the different depts to talk to each other instead of acting like a feral octopus - 8 hands all doing their own thing. You could get a proper electronic document tracking system so everything is searchable (that would make it easier for the community to deal with "Council" instead of running around trying to advise/coordinate 8 different depts - it would save you duplication and waste too) Maybe focus more on getting a workable council and workable relations with community.

The Zoo appears to be in direct competition to at least 2 local businesses and I do not think Council should in any way be subsidising the Zoo. I like the idea to support community groups becoming more involved in partnerships with Council as suggested with the Heritage Village. This is potentially a tricky area for the Council if the community groups do not meet an agreed set of outcomes. The Walter Reid Centre would appear to be an example of a situation where community groups have access to Council facilities but there is limited involvement or access for other community groups that are generating significantly better community outcomes. Good luck.

I think that it is crazy to take away the facilities that we currently have. I have been coming to the Rockhampton Zoo for 30 years. Even as a child living in Emerald, we used to come to the zoo, not when there was a multi-million dollar monkey cage or any of that, just to see the animals. I have friends that come to the Cap coast for holidays, and come into Rocky to go to the zoo. The kids loove seeing the animals. The pilbeam Theatre is one of the only venues left, where would we have our children's events like the Wiggles and elmo if you got rid of that. Not everyone wants to go to a pub to see an event/performance?? The Music Bowl is out of action, so where would these things take place? I think that maybe there is things happening, that really need to be looked into by an independent party?? We are in soo much debt, yet our roads are disgraceful and the only real repairs that seem to be happening are to the highway roads, and I understand that, but someone needs to have a good look around, Berserker street is a prime example.

4 APRIL - 10AM - WALTER REID

1 - Sporting field eg. Park Ave - Glenmore Rd. 1. Sprinkler on 2-3 times a week, rainy periods also. 2. Lights run 2-3 nights - no one using fields. 3. Who pays mowing for. 2 - What other fields are the same. 4 - Any land Council has, sell off if not being used.



Church Park excess waste of water even when raining. Lights on at night with no one using the grounds, mowing every week whether it needs it or not. (and trees need a trim they are too big and hang over the roof at St Matthews Cottage.
Art Gallery - close 1 weekday (small savings are still worthwhile) - sell some of the collection to reduce storage costs etc. Zoo - gold coin admission - more donation points - kangaroo feed is it for sale near the enclosures? - duck feed for sale near pond. - "voluntary" gold coin admission eg. near aviary. Pool - heat only May/June to Aug/Sept - solar heating - heat retaining blankets - reduce temperature Technology Centre in Library. Church Park - mowing and sprinkling no longer in use? Clubs - do they contribute something to mowing? Why wait to address the lawn - mowing for sporting clubs issue? Sprinklers - I suspect sprinklers are not turned off in rainy weather. Is there generally no options to keep Glenlee, Olive Estate, Glendale and Parkhurst with RRC? These areas feel no affiliation with Livingstone. Pilbeam does not promote the restaurant/café. Redeveloping Walter Reid to upgrade to entail Art Gallery is a great idea. Robert Schwarten Pavilion also seems to be very under-utilised. The 2 new Councils need to be very smart about sharing of resources, out-sourcing of staff between the 2 areas etc. Some functions clearly should not be divided between the 2 Councils.
Art G 7 days charge admission! Zoo - donations? Donation boxes. Ever recorded? Family concession price! \$5 adults. Reduce vehicles to staff.
Move Art Gallery to Customs House
Road maintenance. Holes in the bitumen - the most effective is to clean out the hole seal with liquid bitumen add pre mix and tamper down, currently being used in Brisbane. I believe this is saving in the long term maintenance. Parks - Jeffries Park Rats of Tobruk Memorial. When sand around memorial was replaced a couple of years ago, it was done by two men in approx 4 hours, last time took 5 men and approx two days?
Road maintenance and construction - frequency - adequacy. Art Gallery - increase awareness to visitors. Zoo - charge price for the zoo - increase awareness. Parks - Options to reduce numbers. Airport - Increase the fees - go for business model, maximise profit. Use the airport itself to secure loan to put necessary facilities to reach optimum viability and business returns.

4 APRIL - 12:30PM - WALTER REID
Art Gallery - Wednesday - Sunday, Less staff on weekends. ?? For local artists and reduce actual collection. Zoo - more utilisation of lagoon/park area for events/commercial activity. Technology Centre - Engage TAFE/Uni to deliver. Utilise ?? To teachers not a great deal of IT jobs in Rocky. Mowing maintenance - privatise services.
Sponsor. Data. XX attitude not good. Youth Program - ? Staff member. No ? TV. TV DVD. Emails (processes)
Art Gallery - increase attendance fee or close Monday. Hire to other gallery not loan. Zoo - charge to enter. \$3 per person, family open night \$5 each person. Pool - encourage out of town clubs to use the pool (use for training for Comm Games 2018). Use solar take roof off. Attach solar to new built flat floor. COIN - go to service providers when needed, continue to use volunteers in same room, such as at the Heritage Village. Parks - Make many more parks @ Airport - Put hotel at Airport and food. No sale. Put up rates to 8%. Rp/Livingstone - Rp age groups 70+. How long lived in Region 73 years.
Charge more to enter Heritage Village. It would be a shame to put the art into storage at the Art Gallery. People would be happy to pay to see through zoo. I think solar is the way to go for heating the pool. The technology centre supplies access to computers for ages people who otherwise wouldn't be able to learn how to use them. Maybe charging a small fee for world classes would help. Extend the parking time, charge more for long term parking at airport.
Pool - why is it so big? Do they have sports. Airport - why should..
Art Gallery - Wed - Sunday (50-8-31). Can I suggest the 50% who want to shut CTC (COIN) don't like computers or don't consider them significant. Information technology underpins cultural and assorted intellectual and social activities once people learn how to use it! XX Heritage Village and gardens cater for all ages and they play a vital role. What if Art Gallery was contained with the South Rocky Library in an extra building behind say behind History section. This already has Saturday staff. The Art Gallery building could be a saleable asset. If we look at other zoos such as Lone Pine etc they all charge to enter. Parks be mowed on a case by case basis. Have a questionnaire be answered by business and tourists to see what they want at an airport or put the lands on private enterprise with a percentage of profits being retained by Council. Option 3 sell and build another asset or to help with the overall debt and save other areas.

4 APRIL - 3PM - WALTER REID
List of park ratings , ie A B C to be made public
Rockhampton City Businesses could sponsor the zoo. Mowing parks - could local people mow and have a sign it would thank the mower city pride.

4 APRIL - 7:30PM - WALTER REID

Fortune favours the bold' - Sell the Airport, take bold steps, protect people's jobs. COIN Question = \$210,000 was number given tonight for wages. Staff = 1 trainer, 1 level 2 admin person, 1 part time admin. Does not equate \$210,000. COIN is a community organisation funded by Council. COIN provides: an opportunity for the aged, diengaged and lovely to meet and be introduced to technology that enables them to discover new experiences; the opportunity to 'kill lonely hours' for many; training for Council employees; keeps community updated with new technology. Organisations like COIN should be embraced by our community = not every service that doesn't provide a profit be 'let go'.

5 APRIL - 7AM - FRENCHVILLE

Be more proactive to development in the area and this can be achieved by reducing 'red tape' in your planning dept, streamline procedures and staffing so applications are not transferred from one staff to another and started from scratch again etc. Do not reduce any existing community facilities as these are what bring people together, what interest people to come to the area to live. Increase interest in activities where people meet for fitness, fun and friendship - as these activities assist in reducing mental and physical illness in the population (including obesity!). Levy a fee (extra one) on all Livingstone Shire residents using RRC provided facilities. Heritage Village - needs promotion. Gallery - sell off 'moth ball' major art and reduce to scale of a standard regional gallery. Solar pool heating - add a roof structure on car park that will support the required solar units plus provide shade for vehicles. (Been done on Magnetic Island for their sun solar project).

5 APRIL - 7:30PM - MOUNT MORGAN

Don't expect business to carry disproportionate burden of revenue increases. Maintain public transport especially to our hospitals and aged care homes. Divest non-core assets (eg. Airport)

This process is interesting but the numbers attending are too few to make it a valid decision making process. Bottom line is opinions are not always good guides to decision making. Elected reps are accountable and therefore this cannot/should not be used to make quality finance choices. Big picture - sell Airport while it's worth something. FIFO/coal and tourism may not deliver expected outcomes due to international issues - peak oil for example.

Modern effects involve lots of cash that weren't exactly necessary. (Drew a picture of house once costing \$120,000 and now \$230,000).

A large number of Asian and European tourists come to the zoo each week (bus loads) - we need to maximise dollars from this!!

Will you take notice of what the residents discussed tonight or will you and the Crs go your own way and do your own thing? Why can't the landfill keep going towards Thozet Creek, hence making the Lakes Creek Rd, Koongal etc. area flood proof? It could be made the same height of original landfill area. What's going to the areas who voted 'no' for deamalgamation? Livingstone Shire have already said they don't want them. Build high rise parking instead of flat rise parking. No to secure the airport. Build the hotel if you can on a flood plain. Is Rocky the only Council owned Airport in Qld? Sell the Sound Shell, it's been a white elephant since it was built. Ask the people of Rockhampton to donate \$2 each towards the debt that's owing and all the business. The Airport is not for sale. Save our Airport. Save the Heritage Village. Lease out the sheds. Charge entry fee.

I suggest Council place more donation boxes around Botanical Gardens with explanation signs stating what it costs annual to maintain the gardens and zoo - and that the money collection would go towards this. Botanical gardens are family and children oriented - a cheap outing for a family many not high income earners. Keep admission fee very low or no admission fees and see how donation system works first. Promote Rockhampton City more across Australia as a good city to come and live in. Advertise cheap water/rates, plenty of good cheap affordable water. If Gov can clean the mine water up. More residents = bigger rate bases.

Cutting of services is not necessarily the best thing for the residents or for attracting new residents/business/industry. Rockhampton is a Regional Centre and if it wishes to continue this role it needs to provide services. Failure to do so will mean that other regional centres will take over this function. Council should put more effort into value adding to existing assets/services, rather than cutting. Value the social capital of the people and services.

I am strongly against to close the COIN centre. This resource has a big impact to the community on a need basis compared with the swimming pool which is more of a want of bitter temperature etc. Try to imagine if a person cant afford to have internet at home but need to be connected to others. The COIN centre is the only place can make it happen. Why cut this resource which will have huge impact to the community?

We need to make Rockhampton an appealing place to visit and to live in. Culling community services is not the way to do this. We want to be proud of our city. I love the Art Gallery and the Zoo and would be prepared to pay to visit them. We should be looking to increase revenue from current assets not demolishing them.

Mayor, I have lost lots of faith in Council's management due to the media campaign of late and my experiences with constantly shifting pool hours last winter. There is much to be done to rebuild trust. I really suggest the following things: work on protecting POSITIVE messages for the Region. Rework the website - it is very hard to access information and navigate pages. Advertise Council assets - it is very hard to find out about school holiday activities. If the Airport is sold - pay off the debt entirely.
Recycling collection once a month.
Dump/Mt Morgan/Were. Pool/Mt Morgan - \$300,000 heating! 4 cylinder cars - V6, 4X4? Over award payments? RRC > Capricorn
Sell Southside Pool. Sell Childcare Centre - plenty of private operators. Stop Council staff in office positions using Council cars - pay them km allowances. Outside staff need trucks, not office staff. (Km allowance paid for work kilometres only, not private use). Stop propping up Rocky Show - all other areas have community volunteers running their shows - why not Rocky? Stop mowing footpaths to concentrate on parks and Council land. Schotia Place and Bauhinia House - review level of free services and charge user pays for services.
If the Council is going to sell the Airport to pay off \$80m and invest \$80m they would have to have a very good guarantee on the invested money. Council got enough with the GFC when they were told to invest by the Qld Govt. Why what has happened in Cyprus the \$80m could be in jeopardy. If the Council can get a higher return on invested money then the interest they pay on borrowings, I want to invest alongside them If you are going to use the interest for promotions, couldn't you use the money saved by not paying interest. The money invested would be more accessible than going to banks and having to borrow.
Do not use the ?? for all of this preparation for a meeting, to me if it is an unnecessary expense, just how much did the whole thing cost? Visitors to our town want to be our future. What can they see if every attraction in the town is taken from us or closed down. After taking part in this meeting I can see the reason for it all. A good meeting.
Suggest a review of how applications for small business/manufacturing/commercial development are received/reviewed/zoned in future. There is no 'business' or 'commercial' areas in Mt Morgan area so a prospective business person has to buy land that is rural or rural residential and make application with no guarantee/guidelines. Only hope that the development will be approved or accepted and pay 'CBD' per square metre fees for a small business application. This current fee structure prohibits small business as it makes the fees almost as much as the cost of the business, or more. Suggest a rural business/commercial fee structure with more openness to favourably consider development application for our rural business developments. We don't need to be paying for unnecessary flood upgrades/kerbing etc. Application fees/conditions need to be relative to the nature of the business proposal.
Congratulations the workshop was very informative. Thank you for the opportunity. Good luck.
Road problems/culvert water pipe.
Clean up behind house (in River) - needs slasher. Gazetted road behind.
Transfer station could be leased - recycling done here. Recycled, unwanted goods sold by lessee. Users pay. Town water on eastern end of Darcy St still in black plastic pipes. News mains stop at corner of Black and Darcy. Community garden at Corner St - swinging bridge needs shade cloth and use by residents.
Work to be done - XX Rd Bouldercombe - move out to fence line on both sides. Gutters on both side to be cleaned out on XX Rd from Hotel to end of XX Rd. Drain under XX Rd goes into XX Rd. Who is responsible for this easement? I'm told Council doesn't get paid to mow XX Rd. Residents are expected to look after nature strips. It's Council's responsibility.
Instead of paying people for all these things to do with tourism, call in volunteers and work for the dole scheme. Try making money instead of getting rid of/selling off all to do with tourism.
15 APRIL - 2:30PM - SCHOTIA PLACE
On the question 'willing to pay to enter the zoo' I'll not be willing to pay to enter the zoo due I'm against of keeping animals on zoos. This question does not leave the option to close completely the zoo, as it will save much more. Those animals have natural habitats where can stay like National Parks. On the Airport question: why not to pay off the full debt. It will save money on interest? Why not to lease/outsourcing the main improvements on the Airport like the hotel.
Volunteers to replace staff whenever possible. The audience at Schotia House on 15/4/13 was a good example of volunteers that could be utilised for this purpose - mostly retired. Work for the dole - all levels of Govt working together to give people life experiences. Community Service - wayward outh help Council to achieve goals. Make the very hard decisions now. What is the sweetener - you may be able to reduce rates. Close down the Art Gallery during the week if weekdays are not patronaged. \$14ml - Value of Art Gallery. What value is on show at any one time or % of total art pieces? Patronage during week - if low - close entire week? If it makes sense for the transfer station to replace the dump and transport the waste to Brisbane - do it! Volunteers replace the staff at the Heritage Village. Zoo - replace staff with volunteers. Zoo \$1ml/yr * Use volunteers * Work for the dole.

<p>Southside Pool - same business model as Northside Pool. Southside pool \$850k. Pay off all debt, not just half. Airport - sell 100% - agreement from Treasury for a debt ceiling in the future. Locks in future Councils. Rockhampton Airport. Mowing/maintenance - lease out - alternative business models. Mowing/maintenance local parks save \$350k/yr - "reduced staff". COIN \$201k/yr. \$20.5ml. \$110ml income. 40% to % - grants. \$7ml/yr Transfer Station. SS Pool \$5ml - \$700k/yr. \$300k/yr - heating. Zoo \$1ml/yr. \$10 - Spending \$12. Staff - major cost. Consultants - road maintenance. Debt incremental - unwind. 37% of rate base leaving with Livingstone. HV \$589k exp/Income \$86k. \$146k. Volunteers willing to take over all activities. Food for animals \$122k.</p>
<p>How will we know what the options for the future of COIN are? Will there be any future discussions on the options of keeping COIN? When will the decision on COIN be made?</p>
<p>The numbers of older people who would not touch a computer without teaching from COIN (Technology Centre) is quite large. I run into people who speak with gratitude about COIN and how they learnt from COIN. They don't come back but say how they were struggling to come to terms with the new technology - which will soon be the only way available to us to do anything. KEEP COIN PLEASE.</p>
<p>Have a goat herd owned by 'someone' - set up a milking area and sell the milk - and it would keep the grass down! - Go from park to park.</p>
<p>Governance and leadership - need more people knowing what is going on in the world. Arts and heritage - Keep. Solar power on all Council buildings would be save lots of problems. Recycle all rubbish.</p>
<p>Park Maintenance - parks are not well maintained. Broken glass is in the Victoria Park (near the swimming pool) area.</p>
<p>Sell the Airport - it's a no brainer. Solar panels for Rockhampton Library. Water efficient taps in the lavatories (no more floods).</p>
<p>Question on make up on heritage village budget. Question if the survey is online. Thursday to Tuesday should be an option for the Art Gallery. The Art Gallery could be operated on weekends by volunteers. 28/30 participants voted on having one day a weekend for the weekend. What day is least patronised for the Art Gallery? Can we close the zoo? Children price/family price? What other factors would need to take into consideration when/if an amount of money is to be paid? Fencing etc.. How is the expenditure made up to 850k? COIN question = what is the 210k made up of? Were there computers donated - we would keep them. COIN is important to the community. How much would it cost for staff to be trained externally? Is the Airport value actually 160 million? Why don't Council pay off all the debt from the Airport. Council does not need to have an Airport as part of its asset base. Who would be interested in buying an Airport? Are there other business models that could be implemented to be more profitable?</p>
<p>What was the rate rise % in first year after amalgamation? What is the current shortfall on the Gracemere Industrial Area? What was the cost to buy back the North Side Pool? Where would the Gallery Collection (excess) be housed and what would it cost? COIN facility closure would disadvantage some of the already disadvantaged? And add to the (compulsory) training costs of Council.</p>
<p>Suggestions - Zoo - Adopt an animal program. Art Gallery - Where would collection be 'mothballed' - Walter Reid? No climate control. Minimal staff on weekend anyway. Volunteers work weekends. Art Gallery needs expansion not reduction.</p>
<p>Local park maintenance - I hope the contractor will take the clippings away. Otherwise they blow away and wash into the sewer system through the drains.</p>
<p>As a teacher at CTC (COIN) I do hope that this does not stop as it is a feature that Rockhampton will have great disappointment and find it is hard to replace.</p>
<p>I feel closing COIN is a bad step. The cost savings would be overriden by the extra expense to Council re training etc (Office 2007). Also the general community both young and old use the services.</p>
<p>Pot holes. Solar power on pls on pool. COIN. No landfill - reuse all.</p>
<p>Why not fine the mining corporations for polluting the environment in the Fitzroy River Basin. Solar power to roofs at Heritage Village could generate a big saving in electricity. Have a token system. People can purchase at kiosk or a single point.</p>
<p>15 APRIL - 7PM - BAUHINIA HOUSE</p>
<p>Not right standard for Gracemere development. Who is responsible? Can the roof for the pool be fixed to support solar? Can a small charge be allocated towards zoo (gate entry). Can a small charge be allocated towards Art Gallery. Can a small charge be allocated towards Heritage Village. Livingstone had nothing to do with the running of our assets prior to amalgamation, so what is the issue now when Livingstone leaves? Sending rubbish to Brisbane, how is this economical - road damage caused from more traffic and inherited hazards? Can senior management be streamlined further? Can we utilise our assets to cover operating costs instead of servicing assets. 15k saving by having horses and no other animals. Other animals 105k?</p>

On delling/closing the COIN Academy: it is important to consider the cost of sending, probably to Brisbane the Council staff for training. Also training for community groups.
17 APRIL - 7PM - GRACEMERE
Stabilize your debts. Look carefully at outsourcing for park maintenance. Streamlining administrative processes to encourage new business.
Can we stop more housing development in Gracemere until Yeppen is completed? Would prefer to pay off all debt if Airport is sold. Invest some each year. Sound shell site?
To try to recoup Council costs right across the board, introduce user pays for most areas of Council services. Eg. Heritage Village, Art Gallery etc. Re Capricorn Enterprise, it should remain as it is and not have duplication of services with an additional Council run business. Would it be a possibility for regional Councils to contribute to cost of having Capricorn Enterprise, because it promotes the entire region. Parks and gardens would probably run more efficiently and effectively if contractors were paid to do the job. It would be good to have the Heritage Village run more like a commercial operations and promoted and used for more functions, events, things that pay. Consultancy process is good to see.
Use contract operators for roadworks to save costs.
23 APRIL - 7PM - BAJOOL
What is the core business of the Council?
The Zoo, Art Gallery etc are already established and well used and loved by all. Why spend money on riverbank upgrading when nobody goes there?
South Side Pool lease out. Parks and gardens mowingto contractors.
Sell art collection, not store it. Hire out gardens for weddings. \$2 gate takings for Zoo. 1) stop using hire or lease vehicles for short runs; use a mini bus to transport workers to and from work, use less vehicles and down grade to smaller cars, and only use four wheel drive when necessary. 2) Less administration workers. 3) Ask for highly retired educated volunteers to do the studies on levee banks or other studies that may need to done in the future that will cut costs and that person will feel a value to his or her community. Volunteers are used in the community everyday working for hospitals, libraries or churches, so our Council could make a start and ask for retired volunteers to help. 4) Mowing around small towns and back roads could be contracted out, as it has been done in the past. North Langmorn hasn't been mowed in about 2 years. 5) Let all of your ratepayers know in the future if and when councillors are to be given a pay rise by a memo, not many may see it on the television or read it in the paper, the flyer the Council send out about the meeting nf the 23-04-2013 is a good example, the CEOs and others in the council are given a disgusting amount of money which could be put to other good uses in wider community. 6) Use commonsense when it comes to taking people to court who only are out to help the community in general. We are only human and want to help when we are able to. 7) Ask for local farmers and graziers to help fix our back roads in times of disasters, it has been done in some western councils in the last floods.
29 APRIL - 7PM - ALTON DOWNS
Session held too late in the evening given the season and attendee geographic. 6:30 or 6 would be better for Autumn/Winter. Mayor clearly out of touch with our area at Alton Downs - we are not Gracemere, we do not have sewerage service or water services. Need better training/clearer instruction and explanation on the remote voting things. Animals are liability - lovely to see but don't need permanently. COIN - why is there a trainer employed by Council but they havent done any training since they started 6 months ago? Only the volunteers have been providing training in this time. Is it a viable option to lease Airport - similar to CQLX and Gracemere Saleyards for 99 years. Heritage Village house all native animals and close zoo? Option discussed at end - good idea but would it be financially viable? Investigate further please and report back to us. Park mowing discussion - "Sponsor a park" etc - good idea investigate further please and report back to us. Community is thinking with their heart, not their head. Please make the tough business (and sometimes deemed heartless) decisions to make Council run as a viable business. Rate increases are not the answer.
Heritage Village - increase the cost for entry. Increase cost for riding on equipment - coaches, buses etc. Keep the animals in this day and age our children don't get the opportunity to see chooks, sheep, ducks, goats and the like. Art Gallery - Charge people to visit the Gallery. \$2.00/person isnt much to pay. Zoo - we need to charge admission.

No point in having Heritage Village if its not a complete working Village as it is now. Art Gallery closed 1 day on weekend and 1 week day. Zoo - gold coin donation entry per person, need to keep all exhibits as money already spent to keep this attraction worthwhile or close it completely. Cutting back mowing is not a good idea as it is so over grown now. Don't invest the money if the airport is sold. Pay off debt faster with all proceeds. Very concerned about road works, recently part of our road received a 'touch up' no gravel, no drains, still pot holes, some of road not done at all with pot holes etc right across sections of road. Not acceptable as the expenses to our vehicles is breaking us!
Heritage Village - Find out what staff actually do - cut is not necessary. Do they need more than one on the gate (assuming they are not volunteers). Advertise more. Is there a sign on the highway? Charge \$5 entry fee. Lease the shearing shed to private business
Heritage Village - 1. Why do we need 3+ office staff at the Village. There are a number of volunteers who can/do/could absorb some of the routine admin work - How much effort is devoted by full time staff to paper shuffling? 2. The service provided by the village for schools, students from UCQ or overseas origins and disadvantaged local children is inestimable and cannot have a \$ value applied. Most kids - even those from the bush have little understanding of our early pioneer origins and have equally limited knowledge of the ver basics such as where does meat, milk, eggs come from. Most think it comes from a supermarket. 3. Full time staff - a X is needed if only to comply with exceptional H&S requirements is. stage coach and vintage vehicles. 4. Heritage village management committee seem to have been there too long. New ideas and challenging decisions are not dealt with as they should be. The current uncertainty re future of the village should be viewed as an opportunity to revitalise leadership. Art Gallery - Have been there once and 1/2 the pictures on display were not appreciated. Waste of time and money that could be better handled by a private or commercial enterprise. Zoo - unnecessary extravagance - people interested in animals have access to innumerable DVDs on the subject and the animals are not serving life in prison.
No words
Recycling A Downs a none event. Livingstone 74mil (total 240-74) June. Nil recycling A Downs 8.1%. Encase Lakes Creek Transfer Station. 10.6mill. Harvesting gas? (methane?). Running cost Heritage Village. 38 senior managers 38-15. Valuation/land tax. Heritage Village management?? Bad!
Art Gallery - Open 5 highest/most popular days. Sell some paintings. Charge small fee at door. Pay off most of the debt from proceeds of Airport sale.
Regarding the gardens in Rockhampton - how can you possibly spend (waste) money doing gardens, getting them established then pulling them out to put something else in under 2 years. I was recently in Townsville and the same established gardens and median strips were still there after 15 years AND STILL LOOKING GOOD. Regarding your road gangs - get some practical men who know their job and not supervised by some highly educated? Engineer who never gets out of his office.
29 APRIL - 7PM - PARK AVENUE
Could the animals at the zoo be restricted to Australian native animals and horses etc which could be phased with the Heritage Village? I feel the Art Gallery hours should include both Saturday and unday. Could we sell just a few items of our collection at the Art Gallery? I feel that the sale of the Airport should not just be a last resort answer. I don't believe it is necessary for the Council to run the Airport. Many people use the Airport as a step to the coast. If Livingstone were to build their own, we could lose out if we keep it.
Re Art Gallery - cut times open during the week. - Charge admission. If we close the zoo, should keep some animals at Heritage Village. How certain are we if we apply a charge for the zoo, how often people would come?
Would there be enough excess solar power generated from the southside pool to power other Council sites?
I have already filled in an internet survey. The following comments are additional to those already made. 1. I do not believe one paid staff would be sufficient to adequately run the Heritage Village. It would need atleast 2 - one to do admin, finance bookings etc and one outdoors in charge of animal welfare etc, and possibly another for the machinery. 2. The Region's finances will not improve if the cost of using community facilities is increased beyond the ability of community groups or individuals to pay. 3. We do not need an RRC PR department, glossy brochures, duplicated form letters (my husband and I each received a separately posted letter to the same address to attend this evening) etc. Cut beaurocratic waste. 4. Wasted work hours spent clipping shrubs on mediam strips into tight balls. On highway near Shopping Fair we need a continuous hedge - block pedestrians, low impact barriers if vehicles mount centre median, reduce headlight glare. "Full cost of deamalgamation' to be paid by Livingstone Shire. Does this include - their share of the original costs of amalgamation (which none of us wanted), cost of work hours used to sort out what assets and debts/costs go to Livingstone. Livingstone. Credit - cash assets at amalgamation, all sales received since amalgamation, sale of assets in Livingstone. Debit - debt of amalgamation, cost of all capital works in Livingstone, cost of all services supplied to ratepayers of Livingst over amal, share of amalgamation costs, costs of accounting.

Water, sun and uni. Why can't we sell back into the grid? CQU work experience to supplement staff. Eg. even for Village. Airport Parking (not big stick but mutual agreement) for those who won't pay now. Other solar for Council facilities. Valuation on RHV collections? Offence - wine and cheese visitation: Art Gallery
Agree with paid parking but do not believe that the drop off school zone should be issued with tickets - do not see this as economical. Redesign drop off zone.
1 MAY - 7PM - WYCARBAH
CEO should be more accountable for his salary. No person is worth what he is being paid. Councillors should consider pay cuts also the Mayor. Maybe staff should be more accountable for their salaries. If you ring the customer line you can wait up to half an hour to get a response. Lovely on a mobile. Leave the Heritage Village as is. If Council are removing themselves from the Zoo, Heritage Village and Art Gallery, what would be (country ratepayers) receive for our rateable dollar? We have no road works of suitable standard. If these things disappear or are downsized it would be a backward step and show poor management. There should be no major rate increase. People have to 'earn' their wage. People who have allowed this debt to develop should be removed or the wastage will continue. People are hurting after floods and famine and the bottom line is that we also have to cut expenses not find more money to give to a Council that have not budgeted their finances correctly. Amalgamation (Thanks to Beatey) was the biggest con job of all time. We were going to have cheaper rates - they have done nothing but rise!
\$240m RRC Aml. \$74m Liv. \$166m RRC D Aml. Toll on over pass
Would flexible solar membranes be an option for both shading and heating the pool?
\$90m. \$240m - \$74m. \$166m Debt. \$110m general. \$20.5m Debt
2 MAY - 7PM - BOULDERCOMBE
Airport - increase PA # charge. Do not sell. Heritage Village leave all as it is. Extra charge for passenger numbers at airport including above tourist information and development. Art Gallery leave as it is but close say Monday and Tuesday? Zoo 5.00
Zoo - Adopt an entrance fee
No response to gentleman. Concrete wall was a sand back.
82 million at amalgamation. Combined debt 240 million to June. Liv take 74M RRC 166m. Key infrastructure - Gracemere Industrial Area, Southside Memorial Swim Pool, Lakes Creel Transfer Station. Options 16% rate rise this year. Heritage 735K 7288 visitors inc \$51,000 Markets 46651.
I don't think our rainy day has come. We need to keep the Airport for the future. Who knows who will be Mayor in the future? And how they will operate. That Airport will land the biggest aircraft in the world. It is a tourist attraction - Keep it whatever you do!!
Sell the Airport pay off the whole dept and put in place something to stop Council from borrowing more money.
What is the breakdown of running costs of Heritage Village? All Council vehicles to have makers mudflaps only - no RRC logo mudflaps. How much money was paid by Woolies or developer for Canning Street when expanding Allenstown square? Just what works at the airport are going to cost \$30 M - Cost breakdown?

Your Budget, Your Choice Survey



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PRIVACY NOTICE: Rockhampton Regional Council is collecting the personal information you supply in this survey for the purpose of research with details being kept on an overseas server. 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.

The purpose of this survey

Mayor Margaret Strelow wants the community to consider various options that the Council could undertake to reduce expenditure and debt while continuing to provide the services/ facilities/ infrastructure that the community wants to keep.

The results from this survey along with the information collected from the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions will be utilised by the Mayor in the preparation of Council's Budget which the Mayor will present and discuss with the Councillors.

Please note that the questions being asked below are identical to the questions asked in the *Your Budget, Your Choice* sessions and in the online survey on this subject.

The survey has questions on the following areas:

- Heritage Village
- Southside Pool
- The Zoo
- Rockhampton Community Technology Centre
- The Art Gallery
- Rockhampton Airport

Can you please provide details on yourself and where you live?

Name:

Address:

Phone (optional):

Email Address (optional):

Demographic Questions (please tick)

Age Group:

18-25 26-40 41-55 56-69 70+

Do you live in the Rockhampton Regional Area (Not Livingstone)

Yes No

How long have you lived in the Region?

Less than a year 2-5 yrs 5-10 yrs 11-20 yrs
 21-30 yrs 31-40 yrs 40+ yrs

Rockhampton Regional Council's Current Position

- At amalgamation, combined debt was \$82 million – it will be by June \$240 million (approx)
- Livingstone will take \$74 million with them
- That leaves \$166 million for the remaining Rockhampton Regional Council
- Interest and Capital payments per year for remaining Council is currently \$8.1million interest and \$12.4 million of Capital.

Our Funding Avenues are Decreasing

Commonwealth: - Federal Assistance Grants in 2007/08 were \$8.1million

- What we are receiving for this Financial Year 2012/13 is \$8.6m million

- In terms of CPI increases there has been an erosion of \$831,000 from Federal Grants

State Grants: - Infrastructure such as roads and drainage grants, SafeST, TIDS (reduced)

- Many grants have been removed - water and sewerage works attracted 40% subsidy, today 0%

Increasing Expenses

- Regional cultural and sporting facilities are costing more

- We will require more facilities and services to operate as the Region's population grows

- We have a looming and very expensive landfill problem

What we have already done or decided to

Done: - Significant restructure of 69 staff positions (2012)

- At amalgamation there were 38 senior managers (third line) today there are only 15

Decided to:

- Reduce number of vehicles we run

- Reduce the use of consultants

- Reduce over award payments

- Reduce our marketing budget

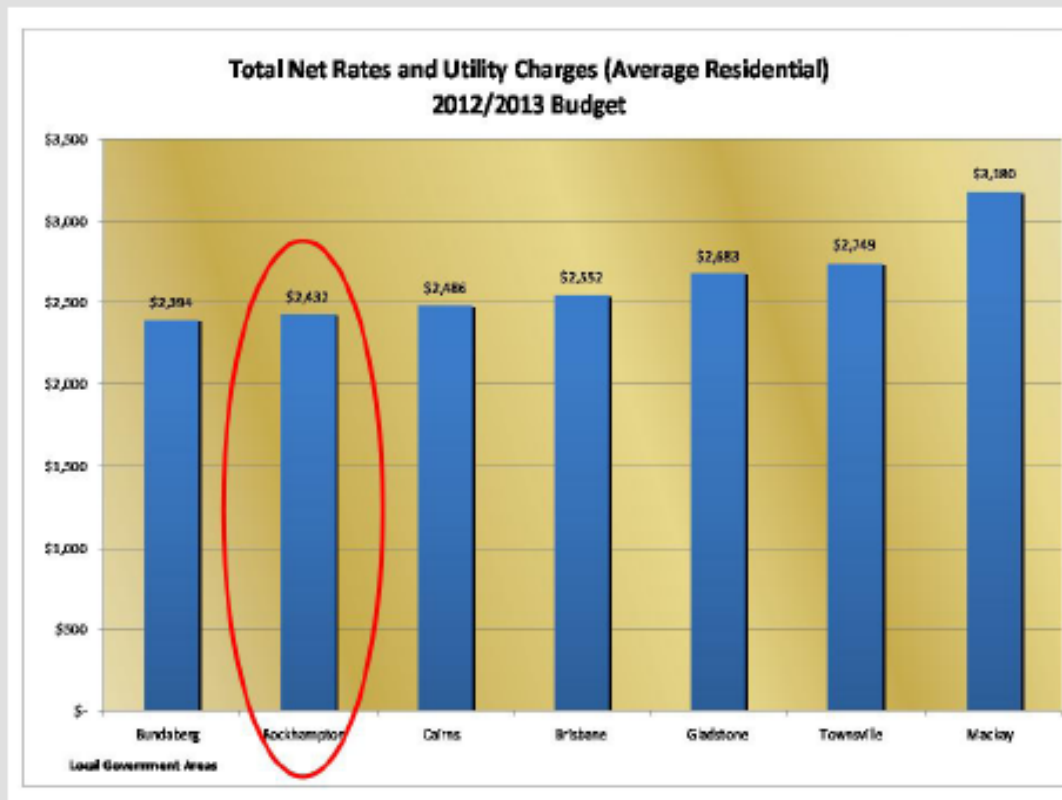
- Make reductions in many individual budgets across Council

A total excess of \$5 million in internal savings

We already have plans in place that will:

Reshape our management structure going forwards, review our internal service delivery and assess the effectiveness and efficiency of our road maintenance and construction.

How do we compare against like Councils



Question 1) Please rank the following facilities in terms of importance (rank 1 – 7)

Place Number 1 as your most important, 2 your second most important, 3 for your third and so forth.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilbeam Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming Pools
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockhampton Art Gallery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockhampton Heritage Village
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sporting Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playgrounds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockhampton Zoo		

Heritage Village

- It costs \$735,000 to run. However this is operating at a financial loss but a social gain.
- We employ 7.63 full time equivalent staff and casual hours as required for functions at the Shearing Shed.
- Volunteers donate around 40,000 hours per year.
- 7288 paying visitors for year ended 30 June 2012 (excluding markets): income \$51,000
- Total of 46,651 visitations for the markets - income \$35,000

Question 2) Operate without animals at the Heritage Village – therefore it would be a Static Display and save approx \$121,000?

I like it	<input type="checkbox"/>	I could be persuaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't like it	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Question 3) Operate without animals but keep the horses for the stage coach and save approx \$15,000?

I like it	<input type="checkbox"/>	I could be persuaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't like it	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Question 4) The Shearing Shed operates close to break even however still has various overheads not taken into account and we could lease the Shearing Shed to another organisation/business to operate. Lease the Shearing Shed?

I like it	<input type="checkbox"/>	I could be persuaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't like it	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Question 5) Council could go down the track of having a Community Group take over the Village. This would save a significant amount of money for Council and put this in the hands of the community.

Similar villages are usually run by volunteers not Council. For example, Timbertown in Wauchope and the Caboolture Heritage Village.

There are sufficient gate takings to allow a community run organisation to employ one full time staff member.

Council would need to support through transition.

I like it	<input type="checkbox"/>	I could be persuaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't like it	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rockhampton Art Gallery

- High cultural value - one of the better Regional Collections.
- Costs \$747,918 per annum
- Last valued at \$14 million
- 5.37 full time staff equivalents
- 16,733 visitors per annum for the year ended 30 June 2012
- 2088 volunteer hours from 1/7/12 to 28/2/13

Question 6) Reduce the opening days from 7 days to 5 days (Monday to Friday). This will save \$46,500 per annum?

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it

Question 7) Reduce the shown collection. Council could store the major collection and revert to being a smaller 'local' gallery? Savings of approx \$400,000, but an alternate exhibition space would need to be found.

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it

Rockhampton Zoo

- We have 9 staff
- An attraction for locals/tourists/visitors
- We have 5 active volunteers
- Costs \$955,524 per year to operate
- Iconic displays such as the Chimp enclosure and also the Bird Aviary
- Volunteers donate around 1800 hours per year
- No charge for admission

Question 7) Progressively reduce the number of exhibits at the Zoo? The aim will be to save \$300,000 by the third year.

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it

Question 8) How much would you be willing to pay to enter the Zoo if it retained all exhibits?

- Wouldn't be willing to pay
- \$2
- \$3
- \$5
- \$8
- \$10 and above

Southside Swimming Pool

- The Pool is operated by a third party under a management agreement.
- We have 26,000 visitors for this season.
- Estimated cost \$850,000 for 2012/13.
- Under the management agreement all revenue from gate takings is retained by the operator.
- We pay the operators a retainer as well

Question 9) Reduce the pool temperature by a couple of degrees? This will save approx \$21,500 per annum.

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it

Rockhampton Community Technology Centre (COIN)

- The public access the technology centre through the Rockhampton Regional Library.
- Groups that use the facility include: general public, cerebral palsy league, 60s and better, U3A, CQLUG.
- This facility also provides all the in house Council staff training for Microsoft.

Question 10) Discontinue the centre and have other service providers deliver the service? This would save approx \$201,000 per year.

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it

Mowing Maintenance of Local Parks

By changing the way we operate we could save \$350,000 per year. Council could change some of the local parks and their categories from a "B" to a "C". This would mean that mowing maintenance would go from 35 days to 40 days across growing seasons for these parks.

Then in periods such as Winter a supervisor will dictate when various local parks should be mowed.

Question 11) Extend mowing maintenance days from 35 days to 40 across the growing seasons? This would save approx \$350,000 per year?

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it

Rockhampton Airport

- Number of users per year: 750,000 people movements, holding constant
- Value: Upwards of \$160 million dollars
- Income to ratepayers: \$4 million per annum
- Strategic location utilised by a wide variety of sectors: tourism, military, mining – FIFO
- Great Keppel Island going ahead will increase tourism movements

The Airport is a big issue

- It needs major investment that Council can't afford right now
- It returns less than 2.5%
- As a Region we need to be aggressively attracting new business and Council is scrimping because of the debt
- An option is to sell the Airport, bring down debt and establish a "Future Fund".

How would this work?

Sell the Airport from upwards of \$160m

Invest \$80m in a Future Fund = \$3.2m income per year

Reduce current debt by \$80m, therefore \$166m - \$80m = \$86m

Interest Payment on \$166m (RRC debt) = \$8.2m per year

Interest Payment on \$86m = \$4.2m per year

Add Interest Saving \$4m per year + Income of \$3.2m = \$7.2m

Less Net Operational from Airport earnings = \$4.1m per year

Equals Net Operational improvement = \$3.1m per year

Redemption of Capital = \$5.3m per year – can be invested elsewhere or reduce overall Council debt further

Therefore we will go to a position of strength

If we go down this path and sell the airport based on the figures, we would:

- Halve the debt
- Have a nest egg of \$80 million
- \$12.5 million will be earned each year from income, interest savings and redemption of capital
- If we lose \$4.1 million in income from the airport we will still be \$8.4 million better off.

Airport vs Rates

- If we go down this path, the Mayor will be able to put to the Council table rates in line with CCI (Council Cost Index) after sale of the Airport
- If we do not sell the Airport we will be stuck with \$166 million of debt and it is a long road to bring it back to the same levels, well outside the 10 year period
- If we don't do this we are back to the high rate increases needed which the Mayor believes are unsustainable for many ratepayers

Question 12) Sell the Rockhampton Airport, use half to reduce the debt, invest the rest and get to a surplus without impacting rates bills when sold?

I like it

I could be persuaded

I don't like it



Would you like to be part of Rockhampton Regional Council's new community engagement initiative - the Regional Voice?

The Regional Voice aims to keep you up to date on upcoming community engagements and how you can participate.

For more information please go to <http://www.rrc.qld.gov.au/> or Contact Council on 1300 22 55 77 or 4932 9000.

PRIVACY NOTICE: Rockhampton Regional Council is collecting the personal information you supply below for the purpose of being contacted through the Regional Voice. 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.

If you have placed in your name, address and contacts details on the first page of this survey and wish to be part of the Regional Voice please tick this box

If you have not placed your name, address and contact details on the first page and you wish to be part of the Regional Voice please place your details below.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email Address:

Rockhampton Regional Council appreciates your time in completing this survey.

Please send this survey either via a Reply Paid Envelope provided by the Council or send it to PO Box 1860, Rockhampton QLD 4700. Or alternatively hand it to the customer service desk at either Rockhampton, Gracemere or Mount Morgan Council offices.

Feel free to provide any comments or feedback regarding any of the areas covered within this survey.