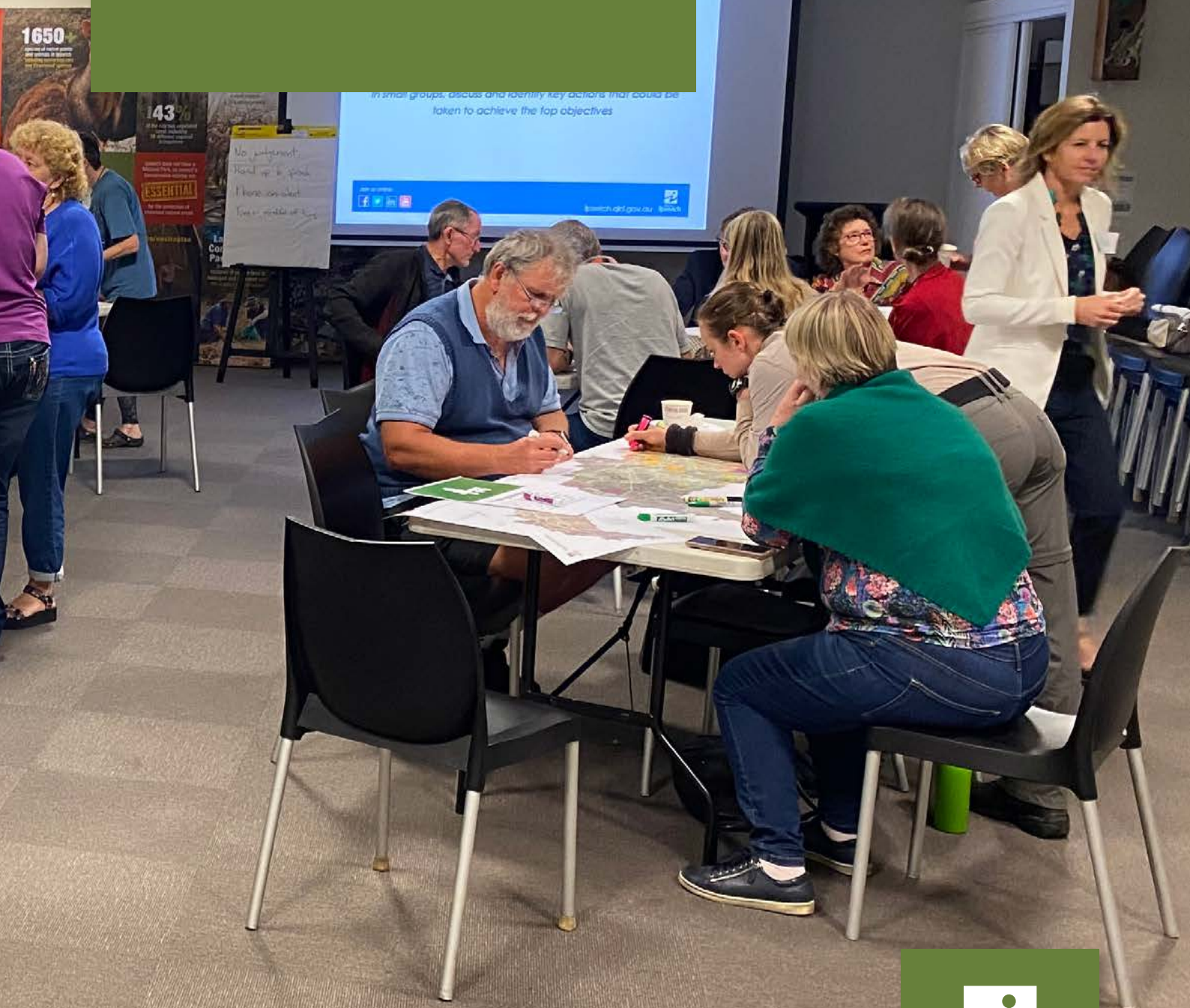


Ipswich City Council **Natural Environment Strategy 2023**

Stakeholder Engagement Report



ACTIVITY

How could we achieve the top objectives?

In small groups, discuss and identify key actions that could be taken to achieve the top objectives

Join us online:



lpswich.qld.gov.au



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BACKGROUND

Purpose

In July 2021, Ipswich City Council (council) commenced a new corporate plan known as iFuture. One of the plan's themes is 'Natural and Sustainable'. A catalyst project of the plan is to develop a Natural Environment Policy and Strategy.

Soon after, in September 2021, the Natural Environment Policy was adopted. The policy sets rules for operation and decisions. The policy's development was through research and several stakeholder engagement activities.

With rules in place, the next step was to set strategic priorities – A Natural Environment Strategy.

Important to success of the strategy is stakeholder input. Council is committed to meaningful engagement with stakeholders on issues affecting the city's natural environment and impacting stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is the foundation of sustainable decision making and is mutually beneficial to stakeholders and council.

With this approach front and centre, in February 2022 the Environment and Sustainability Branch set out on an engagement program with stakeholders to gain input and feedback.

Staff from council's Communications and Engagement Branch provided support, guidance and facilitated the engagement process.

The engagement program involved several phases including:

1. **Discovery Phase** – to define the strategy purpose and objectives.
2. **Development Phase** – to develop the strategy document.

This report provides a summary of the outcomes of the engagement undertaken for both of these phases.

This Stakeholder engagement report accompanies the Natural Environment Strategy.

What will the strategy do?

The Natural Environment Strategy captures where we are now, where we are going and the preferred approach to get there.

It identifies approaches that give the greatest benefit to best achieve the natural environment vision for council.

The strategy covers natural environment elements and guides actions through support strategies, plans and program.

Engagement Aims

Council sought to gain representative and reliable stakeholder insight on strategic priorities it should focus on, specifically in relation to:

- natural environment elements
- objectives that are most important
- approaches that give the greatest benefits
- locations of highest values.

Engagement Approach and Activities

Best practice engagement principles and practices underpinned the process. Engagement activities involved online surveys, in-person workshops and individual meetings. These approaches provided all stakeholders opportunity for input. This document presents the outcomes of these activities undertaken as part of Phase 1: Discovery and Phase 2: Development.

DISCOVERY PHASE ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Council's online engagement platform Shape Your Ipswich (SYI) contained a strategy landing page. The public face for engagement, the page contained a survey and background information.

The survey asked for feedback on the strategy's themes, their objectives and an opportunity to identify what natural areas are most valued.

The public was invited to participate in the survey. The survey was open for a period of just over seven weeks from 13 April to 29 May 2022.

There were 59 contributors to the survey. Not all survey questions were completed by all contributors.

SYI also contained a specific closed page for Community Panel members to access, provide input and ask questions.

64 Community Panel members were invited to attend a workshop on the 26 April 2022. Members registered to the 'Environment, sustainability and climate change' and 'Governance' categories were invited.

14 members RSVP'd and 11 attended. Attendees participated in a workshop that followed a similar structure to the survey. They could provide commentary and feedback, along with voting activities.

A similar workshop was also held with identified key external stakeholders on the 3 May 2022. Email invitations were sent to more than 100 representatives from 17 sectors.

28 participants from nine sectors were represented at the workshop. Sectors represented were:

- Environmental or Catchment Management Group
- Regional Group
- Commerce or Development Industry
- Natural Area User Group or Business
- Community or Landholder Partner – Council
- Rural Landholder Partner
- Waterways User Group or Business
- Biosecurity Organisation
- Recreation – Non-Government Organisation.

Internal Stakeholders

Council's subject matter experts participated in individual meetings, workshops and a 'dotmocracy' – a method of voting. Subject areas represented include:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- biosecurity planning and compliance
- destination development
- development assessment
- environmental and sustainability education and awareness
- infrastructure planning

- land-use planning
- natural areas planning, projects and management
- natural environment and land management
- open space design
- outdoor and nature-based recreation
- sustainability
- urban greening

Internal stakeholder engagement involved two stages. The initial stage involved meetings with representatives to gain insight on opportunities, barriers, tools and key natural areas. Information was used as part of theme and objective development.

A follow-up stage involved a workshop and dotmocracy exercise to identify popular objectives for each theme. Feedback on additional objectives was also provided.

Mayor and councillors were initially briefed in February 2022. A workshop was undertaken in May 2022 to outline the draft strategy scope, natural environment elements and to test key objectives at the time.

Promotion and Communication Activities

The survey was promoted to the wider Ipswich region during April and May via:

- social media advertising (Facebook)
- social media posts
- social media shares on local group pages
- direct email networks (Environment matters newsletter, Shape Your Ipswich newsletter, Ipswich First newsletter)
- stakeholder network emails
- Ipswich First website
- council intranet website (The Wire)
- events (posters at Trees for Mum planting day and Ipswich Show)
- print (posters in council's administration building)

Targeted emails were sent to stakeholder networks on several occasions to increase participation.

Engagement Limitations

Limitations relevant to the engagement process:

- a targeted engagement approach specific to Aboriginal and Traditional Owner groups was not undertaken during this phase, while overall communication and engagement was being resolved. Groups were invited to participate in the survey and workshops.
- limited demographic information was obtained through engagement activities. Generally, participants were identified by their broad types – community, Community Panel member, key external stakeholder and internal stakeholders.

Methodology and Analysis

Community feedback on the city's natural environment element as part of developing the policy, sustainability policy (and strategy) and corporate plan was reviewed. This identified important trends in priorities, outcomes, objectives and actions.

This feedback and internal input, research of best environmental practice and a review of existing strategies led to identifying six priority outcomes. For engagement purposes the terminology used was:

1. Waterways and wetlands
2. Native plants and animals
3. Aboriginal Cultural landscapes
4. Urban greening
5. Outdoor/nature-based recreation
6. Rural landscapes.

Several objectives were also drafted for each outcome. These outcomes and their objectives were tested with stakeholders through the survey and workshops.

Identification of locations of highest natural environment values was also undertaken.

Frequently emerging objectives and approaches issues were prioritised for consideration when developing the draft strategy.

As a result of engagement and draft strategy development, the six priority outcomes terminology were refined to:

1. Waterways and wetlands health improvement
2. Biodiversity and threatened species recovery
3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition
4. Urban biodiversity enhancement
5. Sustainable nature-based recreation
6. Rural biodiversity enhancement.

The two highest emerging objectives for each outcome were prioritised. These were further refined when developing the draft strategy.

The top voted approaches to support were highlighted for further consideration in the strategy's development.

This methodology of identifying key stakeholder priorities and further refinement supports developing a focused strategy that concentrates on matters of the greatest importance.

Community Survey

The survey contained questions regarding:

- the level of agreement for each priority outcome – using a scale
- whether an outcome was missed – open ended
- selection of the top 3 objectives for each outcome
- listing any objectives missed – open ended.

Contributors could also mark an important location on a map of the city and provide information on why it needs protection.

Closed questions and open comments provided an opportunity to provide feedback. To analyse the data, a contributor's selection of a 'top 3 objectives' was converted to a vote. Comments were categorised into high frequency aspects/themes.

Workshops

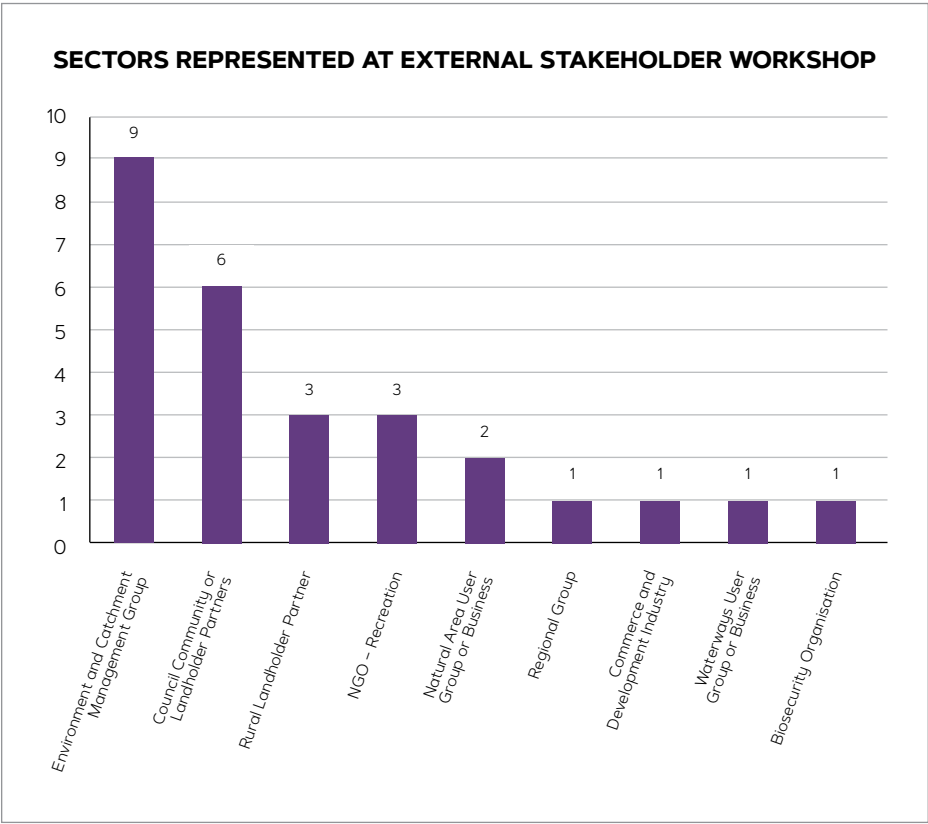
Each workshop involved:

- identifying a favourite natural place
- obtaining feedback and voting on the outcomes and its objectives
- highlighting where to target effort.

Participants had 10 'dots' each to vote on objectives. Large citywide maps, post-it notes and blank paper were hand marked. Maps for each outcome contained contextual spatial background information.

DISCOVERY PHASE ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

External Stakeholders



KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
100 INVITED
28 PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY SURVEY CONTRIBUTIONS

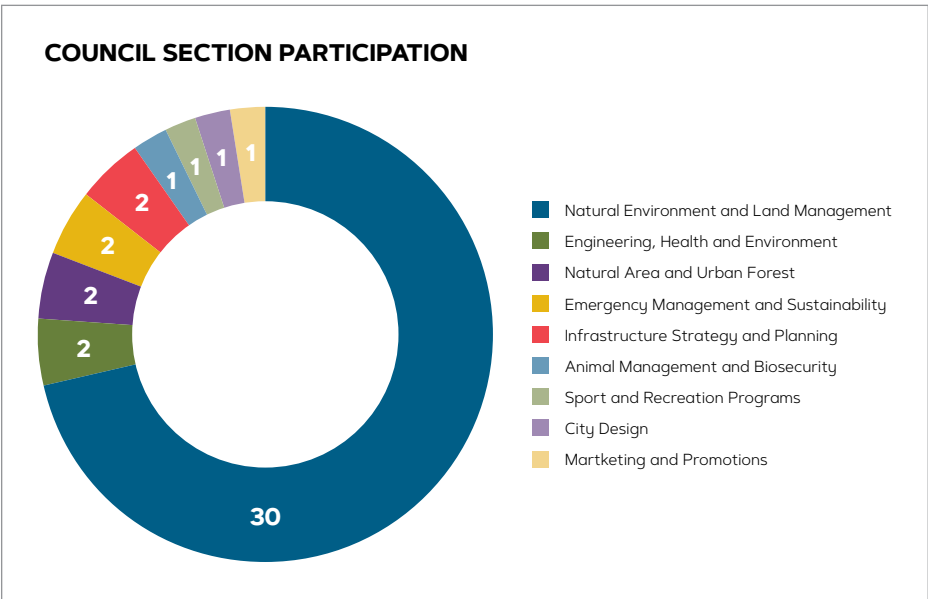
59 contributors

83% of contributions were anonymous

35-64 was distribution age group for the majority of participants

Ipswich suburbs participants are from – Collingwood Park, Flinders View, Pine Mountain, Redbank Plains, Silkstone, The Bluff and Woodend

Internal Stakeholders



COMMUNITY PANEL WORKSHOP

64 members invited

11 participants

Ipswich suburbs participants are from – Woodend, Barellan Point, The Bluff, Coalfalls, North Ipswich, Newtown, Goodna, Bundamba, Yamanto, Eastern Heights and Springfield Lakes

DISCOVERY PHASE KEY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

Most Valued Areas

- White Rock and White Rock-Spring Mountain Conservation Estate
- Flinders Peak and Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate

Priority Strategic Outcomes (themes)

Discovery Phase Engagement Version

- Waterways and wetlands
- Native plants and animals
- Aboriginal cultural landscapes
- Urban greening
- Outdoor/nature-based recreation
- Rural Landscapes.

Draft Strategy Version

- Waterways and Wetlands health improvement
- Biodiversity and threatened species recovery
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition
- Urban biodiversity enhancement
- Sustainable nature-based recreation
- Rural biodiversity enhancement.

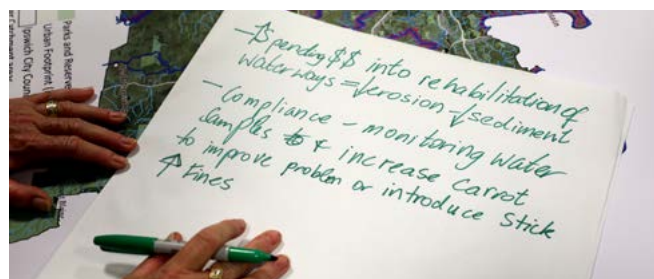
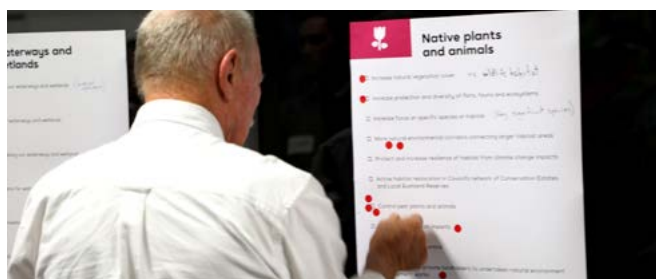
Two Highest Voted Objectives for each Strategic Outcome

Discovery Phase Engagement Version	Draft Strategy Version
Waterways and wetlands health improvement:	
 ▪ Reduce sediment (pollution and salinity) entering our waterways and wetlands ▪ More native vegetation along our waterways and wetlands	▪ Reduce sediment entering our waterways and wetlands ▪ Increase extent and condition of vegetation cover around waterways and wetlands
Biodiversity and threatened species recovery:	
 ▪ Increase protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems ▪ More natural environmental corridors connecting larger habitat areas	▪ Increased protection and enhancement of natural habitat areas across Ipswich ▪ Increase in ecological corridor land protected and enhanced across Ipswich
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition:	
 ▪ Improve recognition of Aboriginal cultural landscapes and cultural heritage values ▪ Increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in management of the natural environment	▪ Improved recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition across Ipswich's natural areas ▪ Increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in the management of Ipswich's natural environment
Urban biodiversity enhancement:	
 ▪ Including natural landscapes when designing and developing urban areas ▪ More corridors of natural landscapes and vegetation in urban areas	▪ Increased native canopy in urban areas ▪ Increase the extent and condition of protected urban habitat corridors
Sustainable nature-based recreation:	
 ▪ Community connection to nature ▪ Increase community access to natural areas	▪ Increase in sustainable nature-based recreation opportunities across Ipswich ▪ Increase in participation of the community in nature-based activities
Rural biodiversity enhancement:	
 ▪ Increase corridors for native wildlife movement ▪ Protect the natural flows and water quality in waterways and wetlands	▪ Increase the protection and condition of rural ecological corridors ▪ Increased protection and function of Ipswich floodplains

Top Voted Approaches to Support Priority Strategic Outcomes

Priority Strategic Outcome	Approach
 Waterways and wetlands health improvement	- Partnerships, incentives and support - Restoration and rehabilitation - Education and awareness
 Biodiversity and threatened species recovery	- Restoration and rehabilitation - Partnerships, incentives and support - Research and monitoring
 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition	To be developed
 Urban biodiversity enhancement	- Restoration and rehabilitation - Education and awareness
 Sustainable nature-based recreation	- Education and awareness - Infrastructure investment - Research and monitoring
 Rural biodiversity enhancement	- Partnerships, incentives and support - Restoration and rehabilitation

WORKSHOP IMAGES



DISCOVERY PHASE RESPONSE DATA

What natural environment areas are most valued and why?

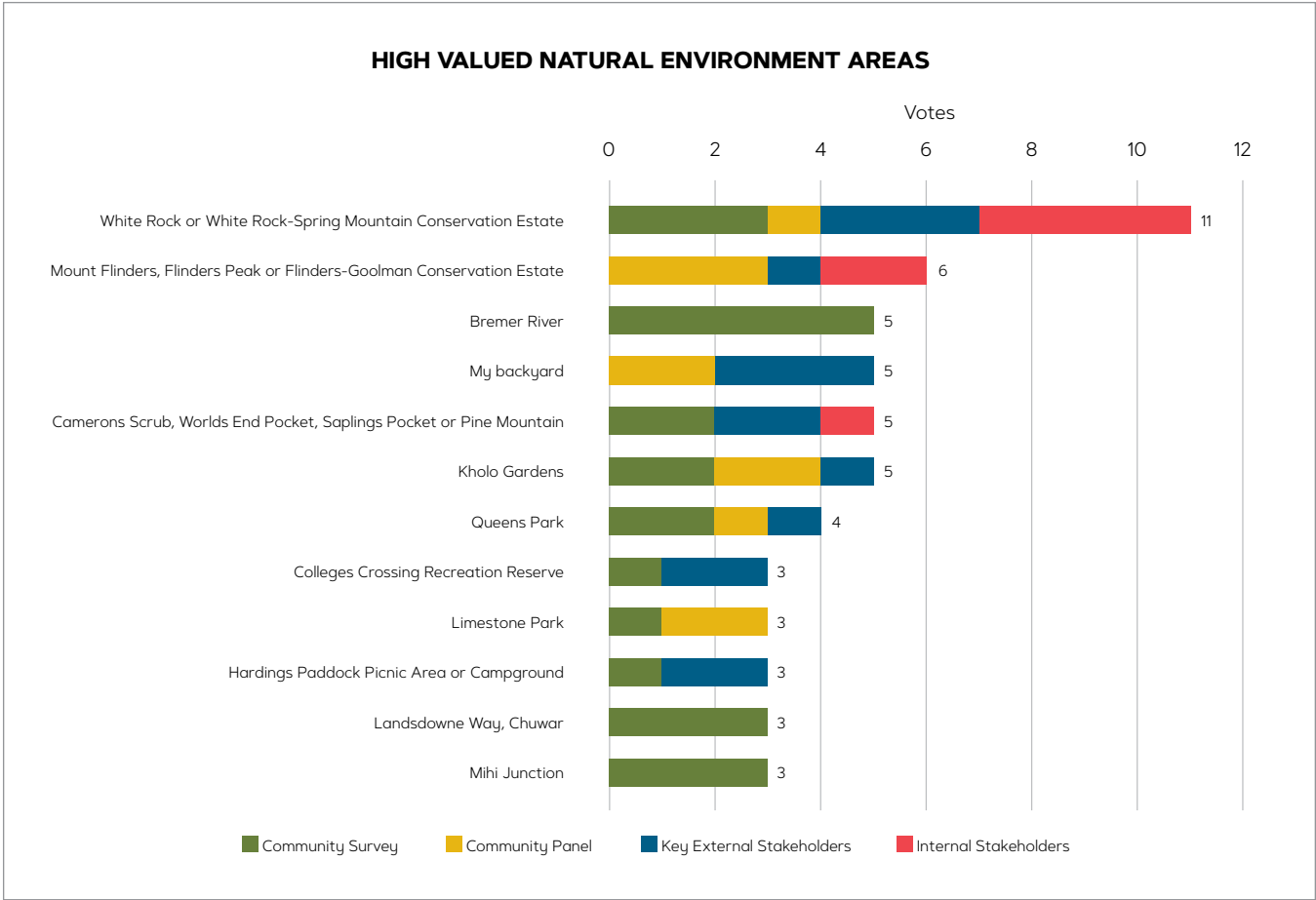
44 contributions were made to the online digital map as part of the survey. This involved ‘pinning’ a priority outcome icon onto the digital map. An open comment field linked with the icon provided opportunity for contributors to explain why that area was valued.

Attendees at the Community Reference Panel and Key External Stakeholder workshops nominated areas which were recorded on handwritten maps and notes taken.

Internal stakeholders also nominated favourite areas during consultation.

Council’s two large, protected greenspace areas received the most mention – White Rock-Spring Mountain and Flinders – Goolman conservation estates.

The Bremer River was the most identified area by contributors to the survey.



Examples of Sentiment

White Rock-Spring Mountain Conservation Estate

– “Over years of accessing tracks concern around disregard for cultural heritage of this area and vandalism of recent signage put in. Very sad to see people climbing and defacing the rock and surrounds daily. (Dogs still accessing the area frequently too.)”

Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate – “White Rock and Flinders (plants, rocky outcrops, lookouts etc) – Great achievement to get people to experience the special places within these.”

Bremer River – “The Bremer is a critical ecological feature of Ipswich but its aquatic and terrestrial condition is woeful. A suggestion would be to plant DNA/species nodes every 100-ish metres where you re-introduce the drupe species that have long since been removed so that the birds/bats/rodents/fish/gravity/water can spread those species instead of exotic drupe species such as celtis and camphor.”

Brisbane River – “Restoring native fish populations eg Brisbane River Cod & Jungle Perch. Riparian vegetation needs to be improved for native fish populations to recover. Control program needed for introduced pest fish like tilapia & carp.”

Haig Street Quarry Bushland Reserve – “Nice walking area. Concern over potential algae blooms in quarry pond and no explanatory signage about whether humans/animals should not enter.”

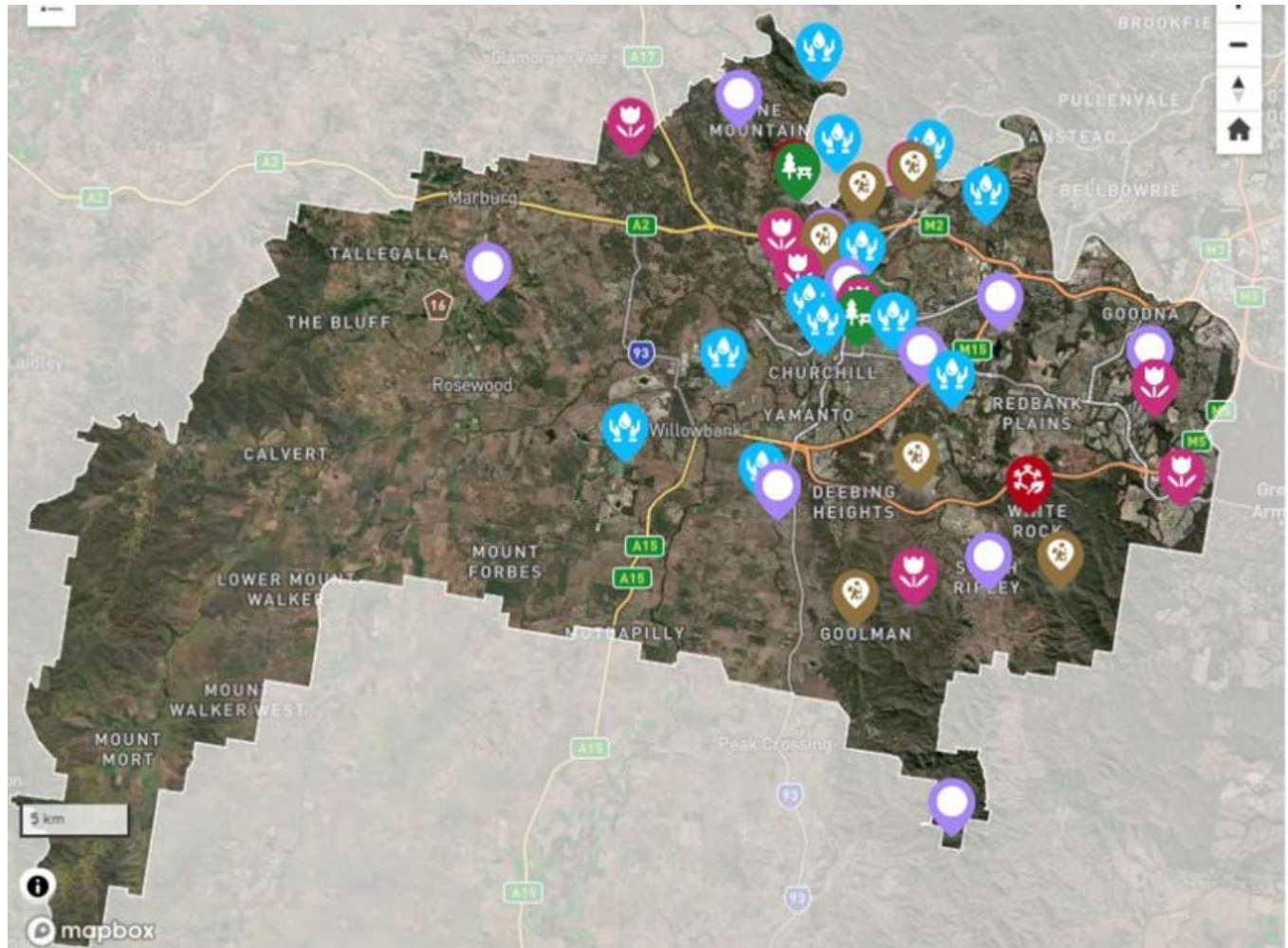
Kholo Botanic Gardens – “This is one of our family's favourite parks in Ipswich. There is so much to see and there is a great diversity of plant and animal life here. The open grassy area and picnic areas make it a great place to visit with family and friends.”

Opossum Creek – “This area hosts species such koalas, echidnas and a breeding pair of vulnerable Powerful Owls. There is plenty of photographic evidence, though a lack of education in the community on how they can help these animals by reporting sightings, etc.”

Woogaroo Creek – “Has enormous potential to provide high level environmental services of many descriptions.”

Nerima Gardens – “We love to walk to this park and it has so much going on in one space. My children enjoy the park and nature centre and I appreciate that I can also get my free plants and native plants at the nursery. It could benefit from having more nature play experiences for children such as a nature play playground.”

Chuwar – “Lots of native birds, including parrots, kookaburras, butcher birds, pigeons (crested and bronze wings), ducks, and noisy minors (happy to thin out the native minors).”

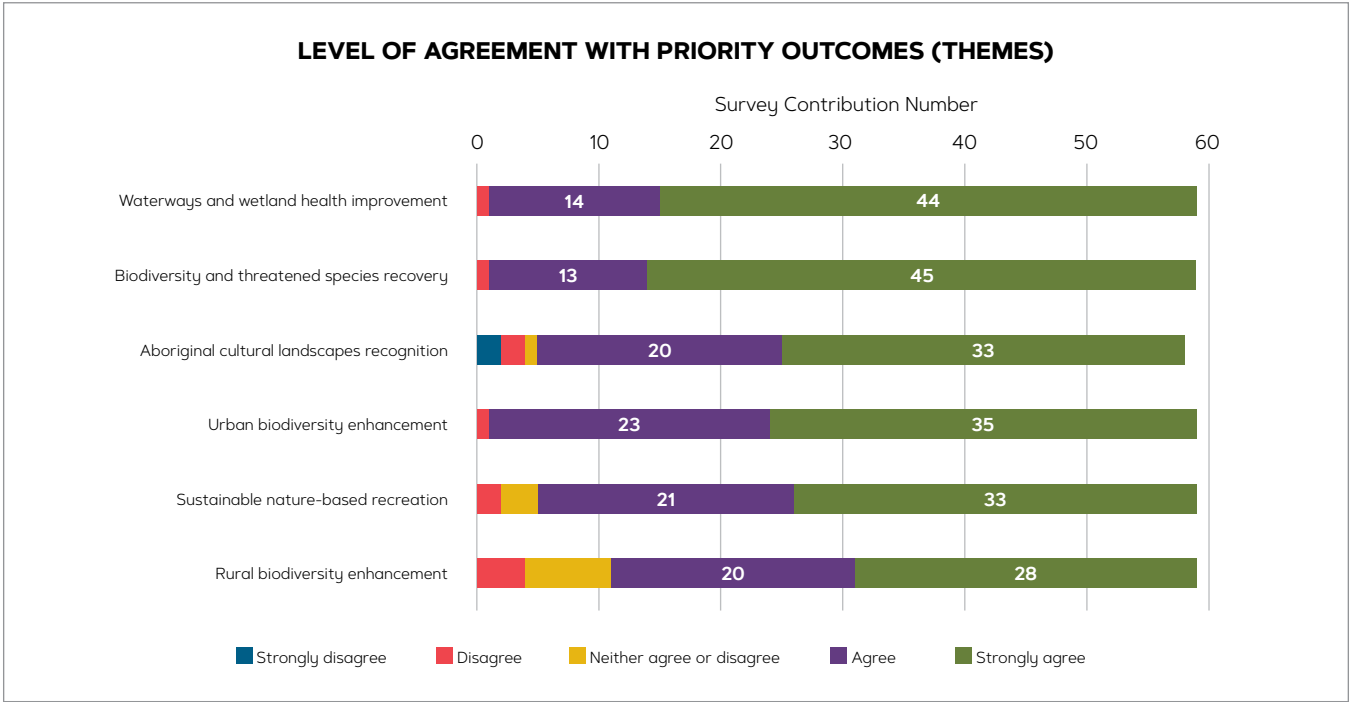


What is the level of agreement for each of the strategy priority outcomes (themes) and have we missed any?

The community were surveyed for the level of agreement with the strategic priority outcomes (themes) and whether any were missed.

60 contributions provided a level of sentiment for the outcomes. There was strong community support for all outcomes.

Contributions relating to missed outcomes were either not in-scope or considered actions/approaches e.g. 'Educating ratepayers about how they can encourage the themes of Native Plants and Animals and Urban Greening in their own properties is also important to me'.



Examples of Sentiment

"Promotion of backyard wildlife corridors."

"Increase conversation estates and limit development in bushland."

"Protect/divide animal habitat from traffic/road where possible to save wildlife."

"I want to see more tree planting be it in rural area like farms, parks, recreation areas and beside footpaths."

"Perhaps to add to urban greening – the railway corridors are weed spreading, ugly areas. Careful planning could improve the look and help with noise and dust pollution."

"Connectivity – For humans and animals. We, like all animals, don't live in isolation. Without easy connections throughout the region people and animals are unable to move freely. Habitat corridors, wider riparian zones and more bike ways!"

"Regeneration of land to counteract all the land clearing for housing developments."

"Do need to consider the impact of dogs – need some dedicated dog off leash areas to minimise impact on wildlife etc."

"Households – especially those that adjoin bush reserves, creeks and sensitive areas."

"Stop allowing massive tracts of bushland to be cleared for single dwelling housing."

"Integrating and giving effect to these values in Planning and development rather than just performing the regulations that allow developments to buy a licence to pollute e.g. developer offsets that transfer the cost of their profit maximisation to the comm."

"1. clean air – freedom from industrial and automobile pollution 2. clean environment – more rubbish bins in city streets and parks."

"Fresh air – reducing the impact of the urban environment on air quality – exhaust fumes, rubbish dumps, burning etc."

"Community Education and Participation."

"Community food and flower gardens."

"Self-sustainability (particularly growing your own food)."

Which objectives for waterways and wetlands health improvement are most important?

Participants were provided an opportunity to contribute to identifying the most important waterways and wetlands health improvement objectives.

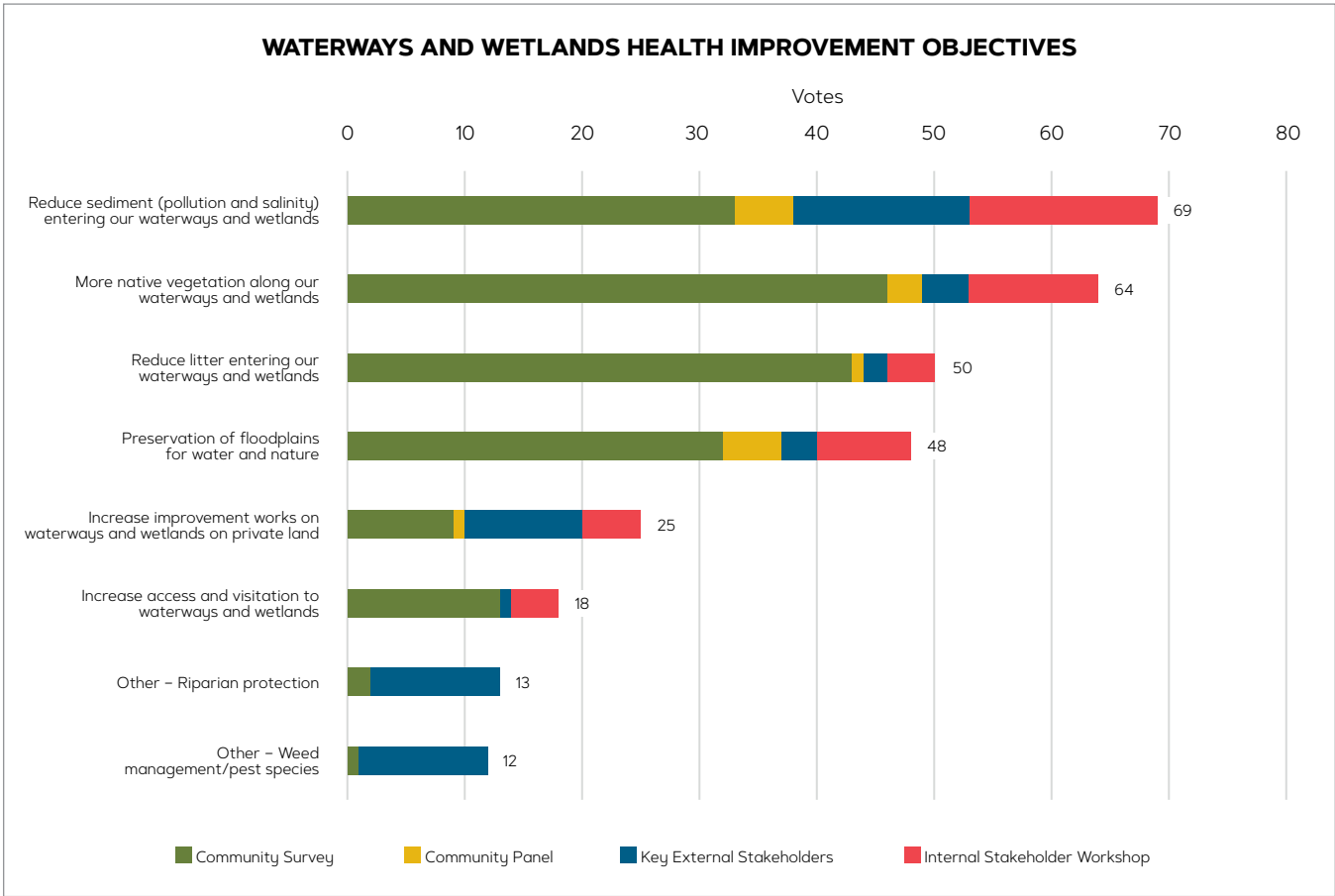
Two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- reduce sediment (pollution and salinity) entering our waterways and wetlands (69 votes)
- more native vegetation along our waterways and wetlands (64 votes)

Sediment reduction was the top objective identified by internal stakeholders, community reference panel and key external stakeholders.

More native vegetation and reducing litter entering the waterways received the most votes through the community survey.

Additional objectives suggest were riparian protection and weed management/pest species.



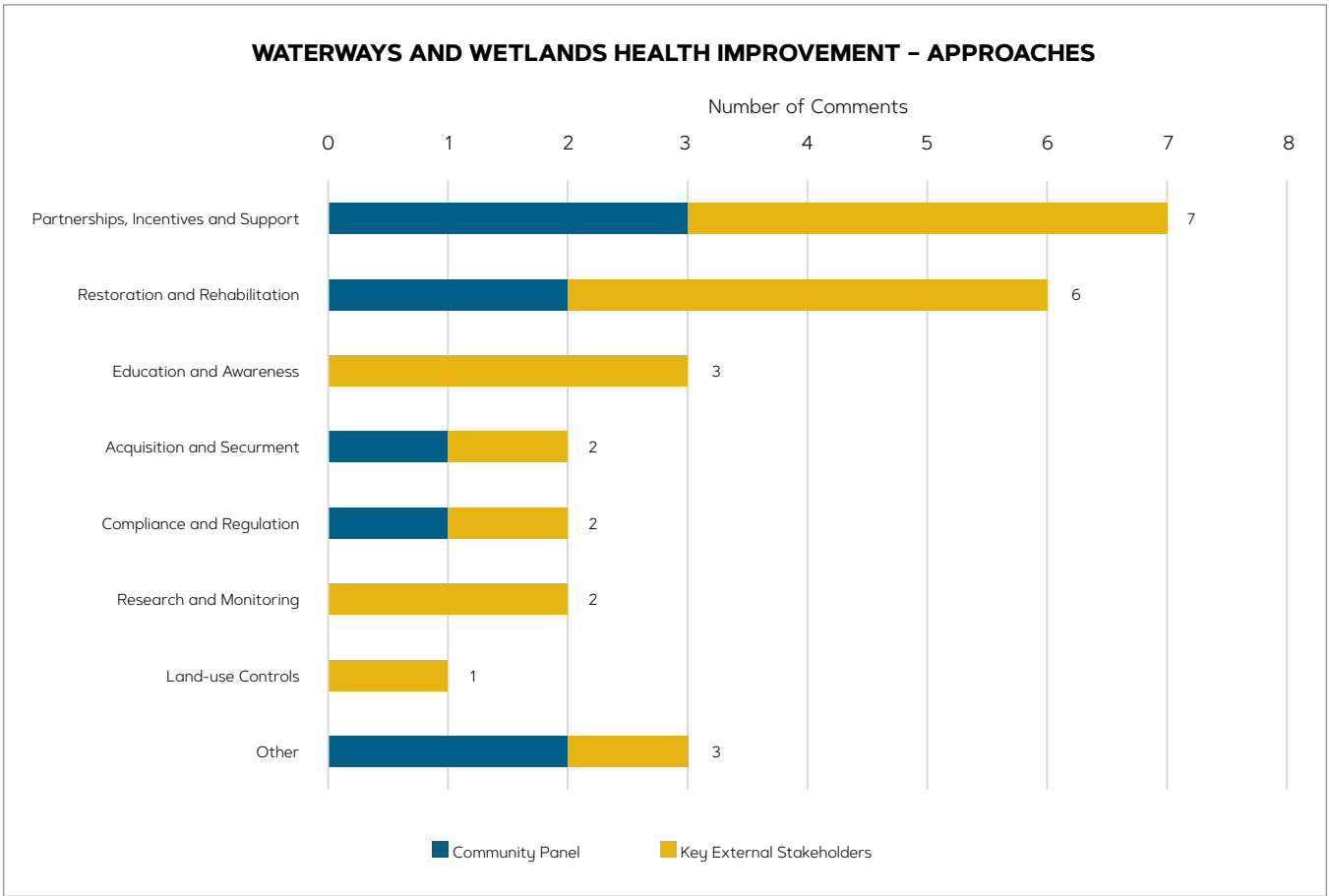
What key approaches could be taken to achieve waterways and wetland health improvement objectives?

Approaches to achieve waterways and wetland objectives were identified as part of the Community Panel, key external stakeholder workshops and community survey.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 7 comments mentioned community partnerships, incentives or support activities
- 6 comments stated a need to undertake restoration or rehabilitation works
- 3 comments referred to the importance of educating and raising awareness.



Examples of Sentiment

"Greater education for landowners on waterways. How to reduce runoff, what pollutants are and impacts."

"Increase spending into rehabilitation of waterways= less erosion & less sediment."

"More bushcare groups – greater financial support and greater collaboration."

"More financial support for landowners."

"Reduce rates if owners restore degraded land."

"Pest plant and weed control (e.g. eradicate all *Leucaena* growing near One Mile Bridge and infesting all downstream Bremer River)."

"Access to areas, invite people to help plant."

"More water quality and communication of results."

"Close to lower bank (mud area) along the river need revegetation."

"More native fish and less feral fish."

"Erosion control on public and private land."

"Improve erosion and sediment controls in construction projects"

"Study of rubbish in river – what is it and where does it come from."

"More work in upper catchments."

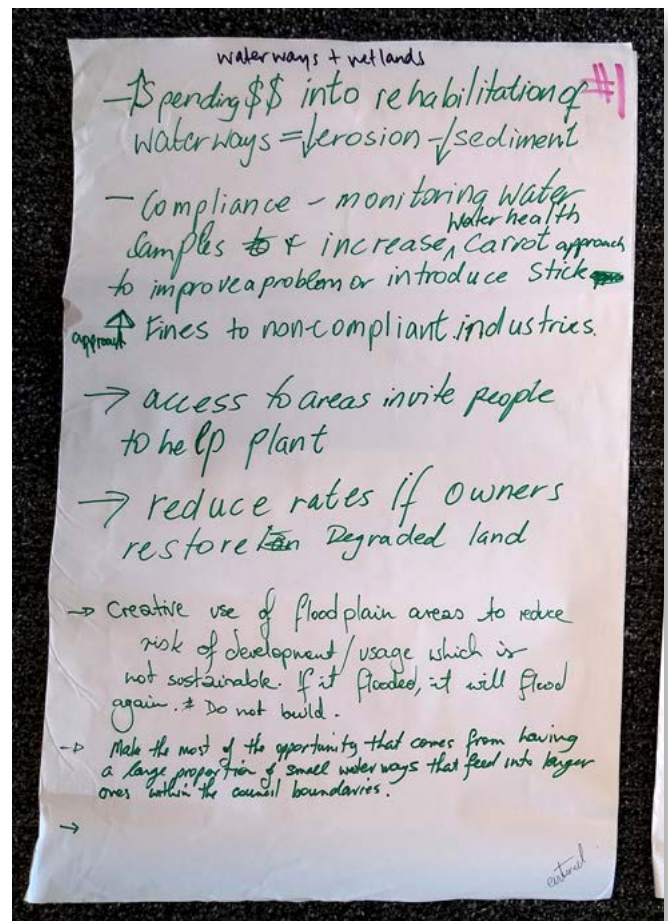
"Increase riparian width meters in policy."

"Creative use of floodplain areas to reduce risk of development/usage which is not sustainable. If it flooded, it will flood again. Do not build."

"Increase fines to non-compliant industries."

"Reduce dirty and other liquid contaminants (other than sediment) entering the waterways and wetlands."

"Protect wetlands from human involvement."



Which objectives for biodiversity and threatened species recovery are most important?

Participants voted on which are the most significant biodiversity and threatened species recovery objectives.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

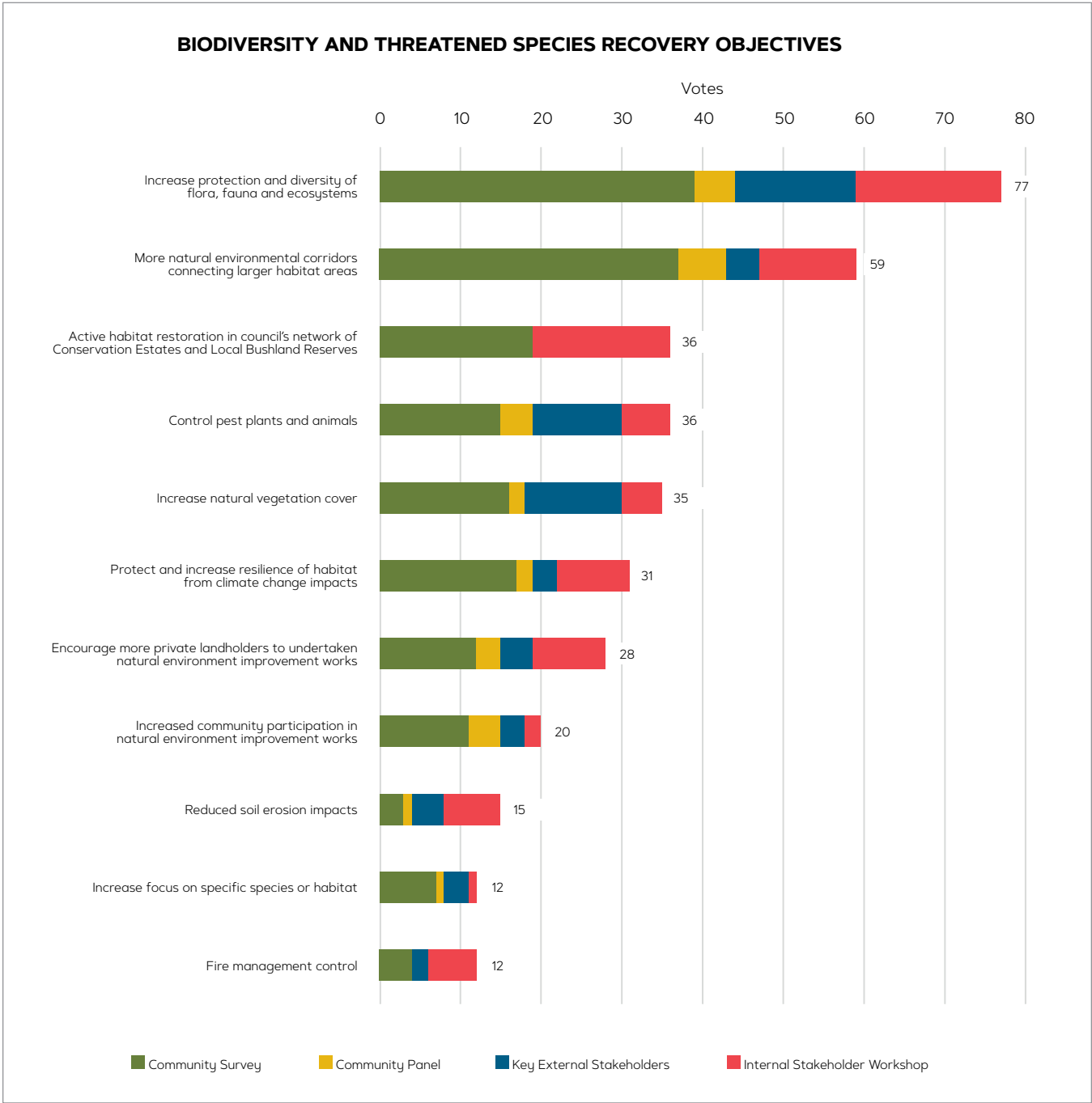
- Increase protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems (77 votes)
- More natural environment corridors connecting larger habitat areas (59 votes)

These objectives received the most community survey and the Community Panel votes.

The top two objectives for key external stakeholders were:

- Increase protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems (15 votes)
- Increasing vegetation cover (12 votes)

Increasing protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems (18 votes) was in the top two for Internal stakeholders, along with Active habitat restoration in council’s network of Conservation Estates and Local Bushland Reserves (17 votes).



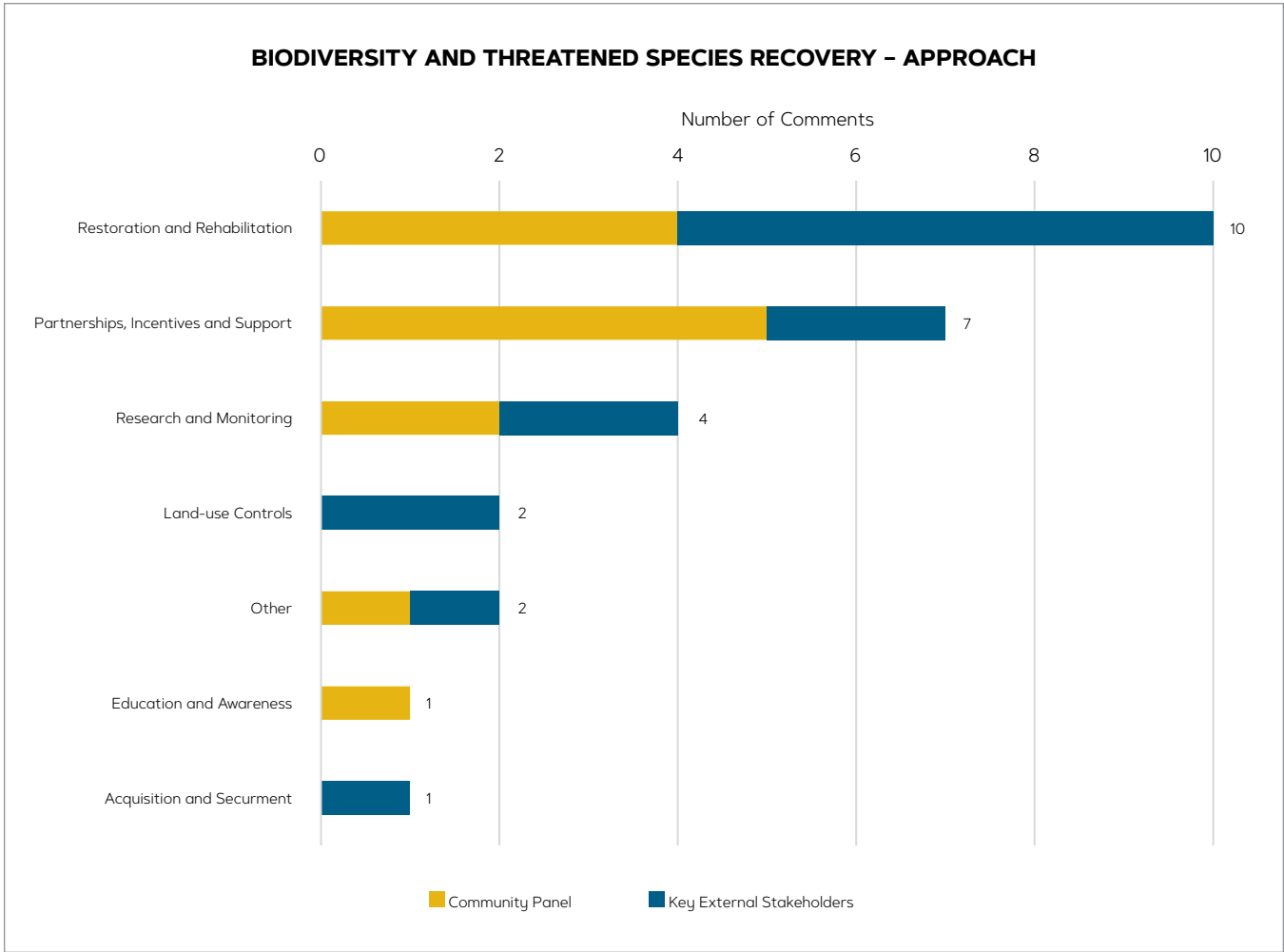
What key approaches could be taken to achieve biodiversity and threatened species recovery objectives?

Workshop participants provided comments on what approaches would provide the best success in achieving biodiversity and threatened species recovery.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 10 comments mentioned undertaking restoration and rehabilitation works
- 7 comments stated partnerships, incentives and support for the community
- 4 comments referred to research and monitoring.



Examples of Sentiment

"Connectivity to corridors – how will animals move safely e.g. road underpass, bridges, rope bridges – Compton Road Karawatha Park."

"Corridors – connect east & west side of LGA habitats via the creek/river network."

"Baseline data – citizen science projects i.e. platypus watch, great koala count, echidna watch."

"Network and share priorities with adjoining shires. Many outcomes depend more on what our neighbours do than what we do."

"Get community involved in programs and hands on action to increase interest, understanding and awareness."

"Look at existing reserves and create connectivity to encourage movement versus land locking keynote species and map out keynote species – plants and animals."

"Offset all the land clearing for housing developments by buying land for wildlife and flora!!"

"Reveg. of cleared areas (with endemic vegetation), especially in flow paths (starting at the top of the catchment) is the key priority. This will have flow on impact for water quality and fauna diversity."

"Encourage and educate the community to become more aware of human presence impact on natural environment including impact of leaving/dropping/dumping of rubbish and taking care not to disturb or injure wildlife."

"More Indigenous plant propagation and distribution through council nursery. More plants for waterway properties."

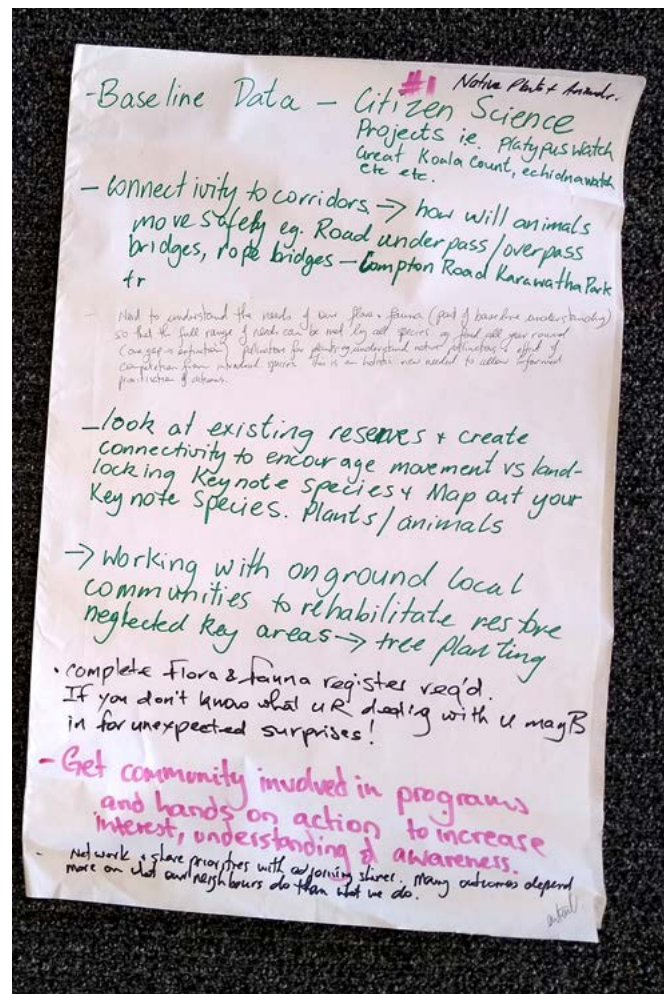
"Council to only use natives. Council nursery only use natives."

"Protection of native dry rainforest as a specific environment."

"Council to take ownership and control of open space corridors between major urban developments for conservation."

"Develop Rosewood Scrub Strategy – council needs to acquire and protect remnants of Rosewood Scrub e.g. Perry's Knob."

"Increase participation of community/private landholders to connect remaining patches of Rosewood Scrub."



Which objectives for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values are most important?

Participants had an opportunity to vote for the most significant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition objectives.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

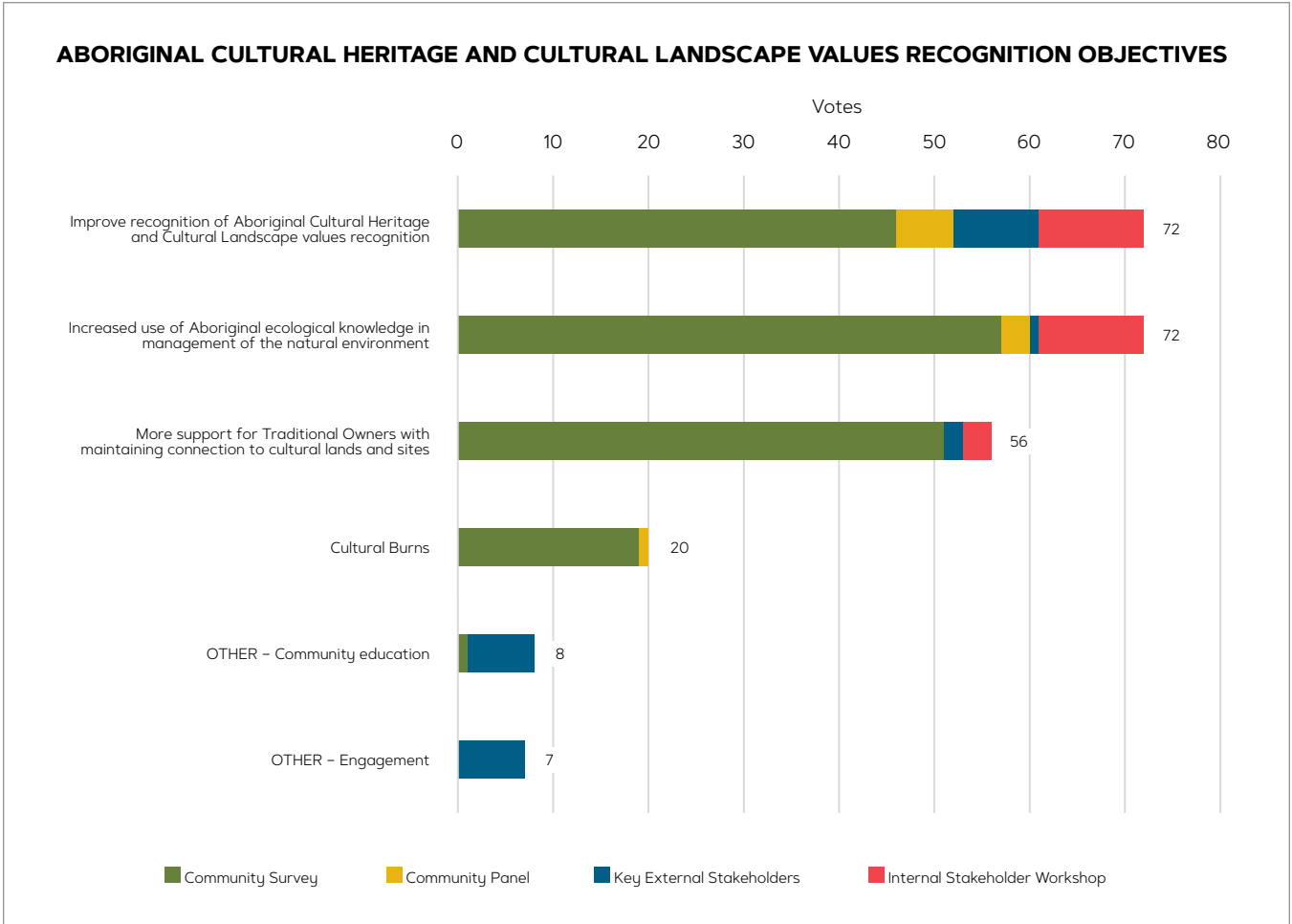
- improve recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values (72 votes)
- increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in management of the natural environment (72 votes).

The Community Panel and internal stakeholders both voted these as the top two objectives.

For key external stakeholders, community education (7 votes) and engagement (7 votes) are top objectives along with improving recognition (9 votes).

More support for Traditional Owners with maintaining connection to cultural lands and sites (51 votes) along with increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge (57 votes) received the most votes in the community survey.

As no aboriginal representatives attended both workshops, a decision was made to limit voting and commenting to objectives.



Examples of Sentiment

"Conversation with Yuggera, Ugarapul & Wirrinyah peoples before strategy development continues."

"Education of the wider community e.g. what are the significant areas and why."

"Seeking input on where the traditional owners would like to improve the natural environment."

"Protection from development – no point being awarded native title over land that's been utterly destroyed by immoral developers."

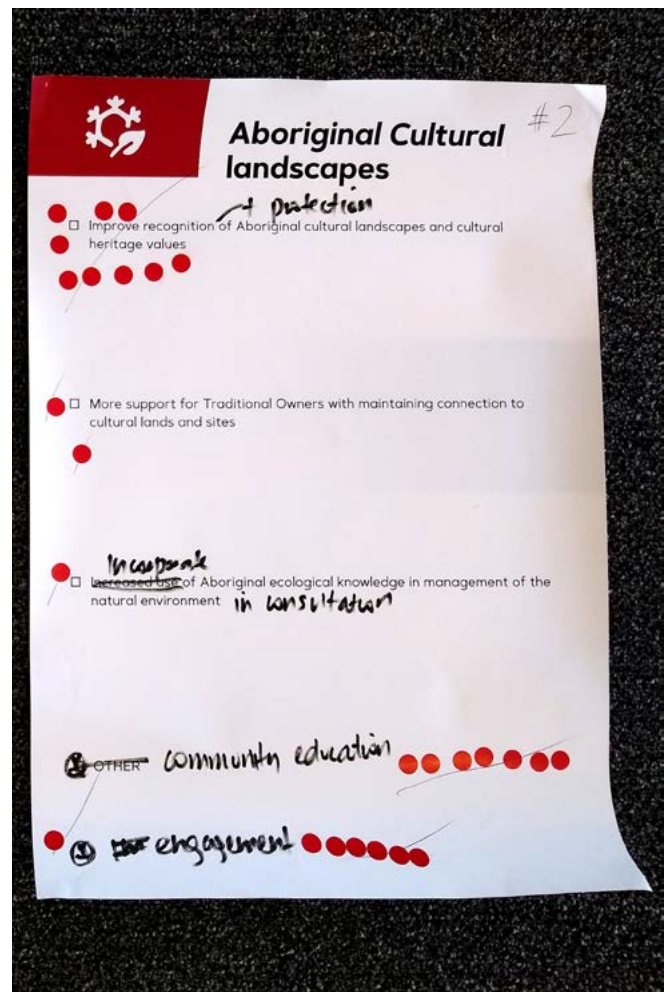
"Increased community awareness and education, particularly in all schools, using a range of action plans."

"Respect cultural sites and traditions regardless of development plans."

"Recognition and preservation of cultural significance of Deebling Creek for First Nation people."

"Return Deebling Creek significant land to traditional owners."

"Specifically – support Deebling Creek Protection Camp by stopping development there."



Which objectives for urban biodiversity enhancement are most important?

Participants voted on the most significant urban biodiversity enhancement objectives.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- including natural landscapes when designing and developing urban areas (70 votes)
- more corridors of natural landscapes and vegetation in urban areas (64 votes).

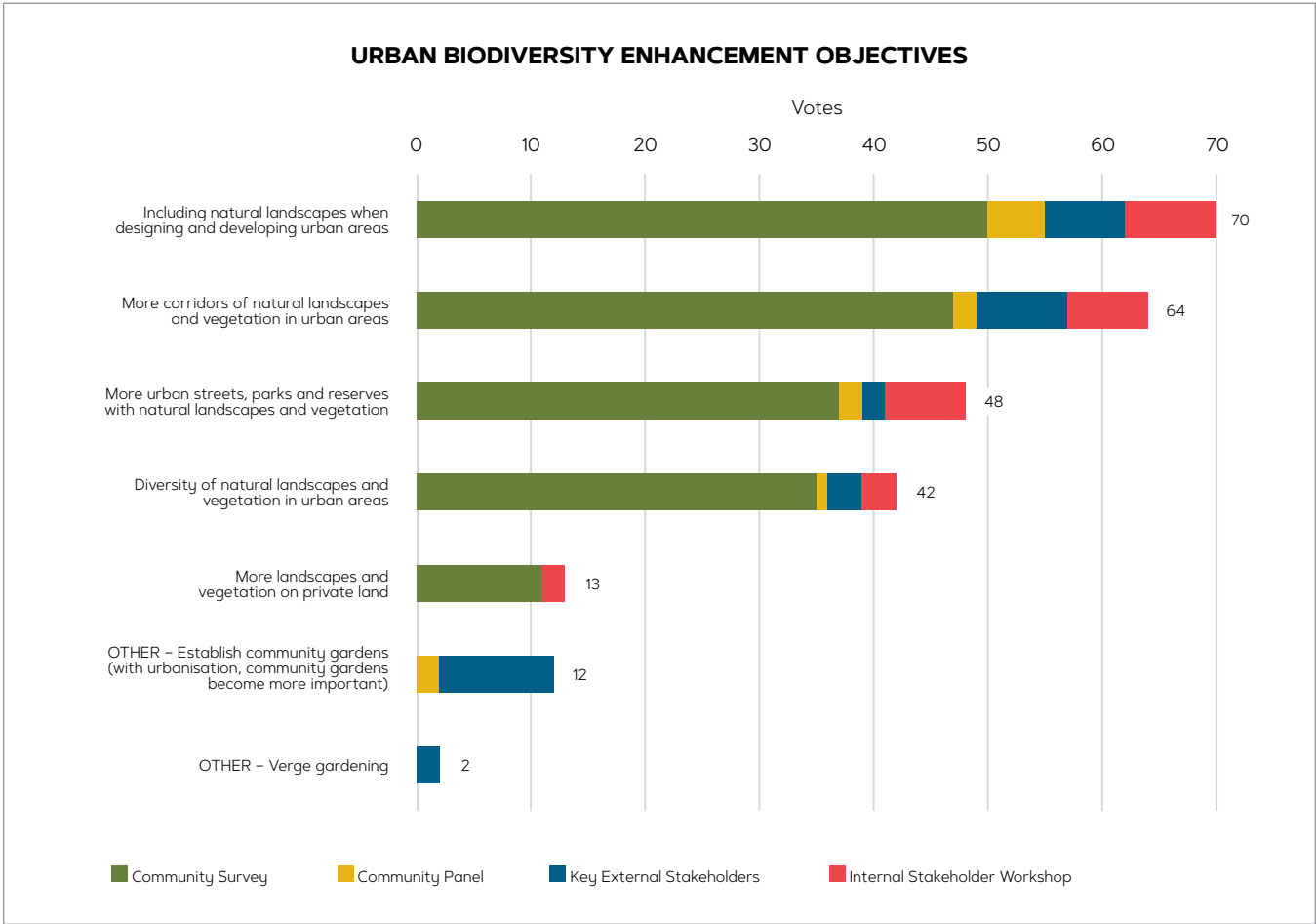
These objectives received the most votes by community survey participants.

Internal stakeholders also voted these objectives as the top two, along with more urban streets, parks and reserves with natural landscapes and vegetation (7 votes) which received the same votes.

These objectives were voted in the top two by the Community Panel as well as:

- more urban streets, parks and reserves with natural landscapes and vegetation (2 votes)
- an additional suggestion to Establish community gardens (2 votes).

Establishing community gardens (10 votes) and more corridors (8 votes) were the top two voted by key external stakeholders.



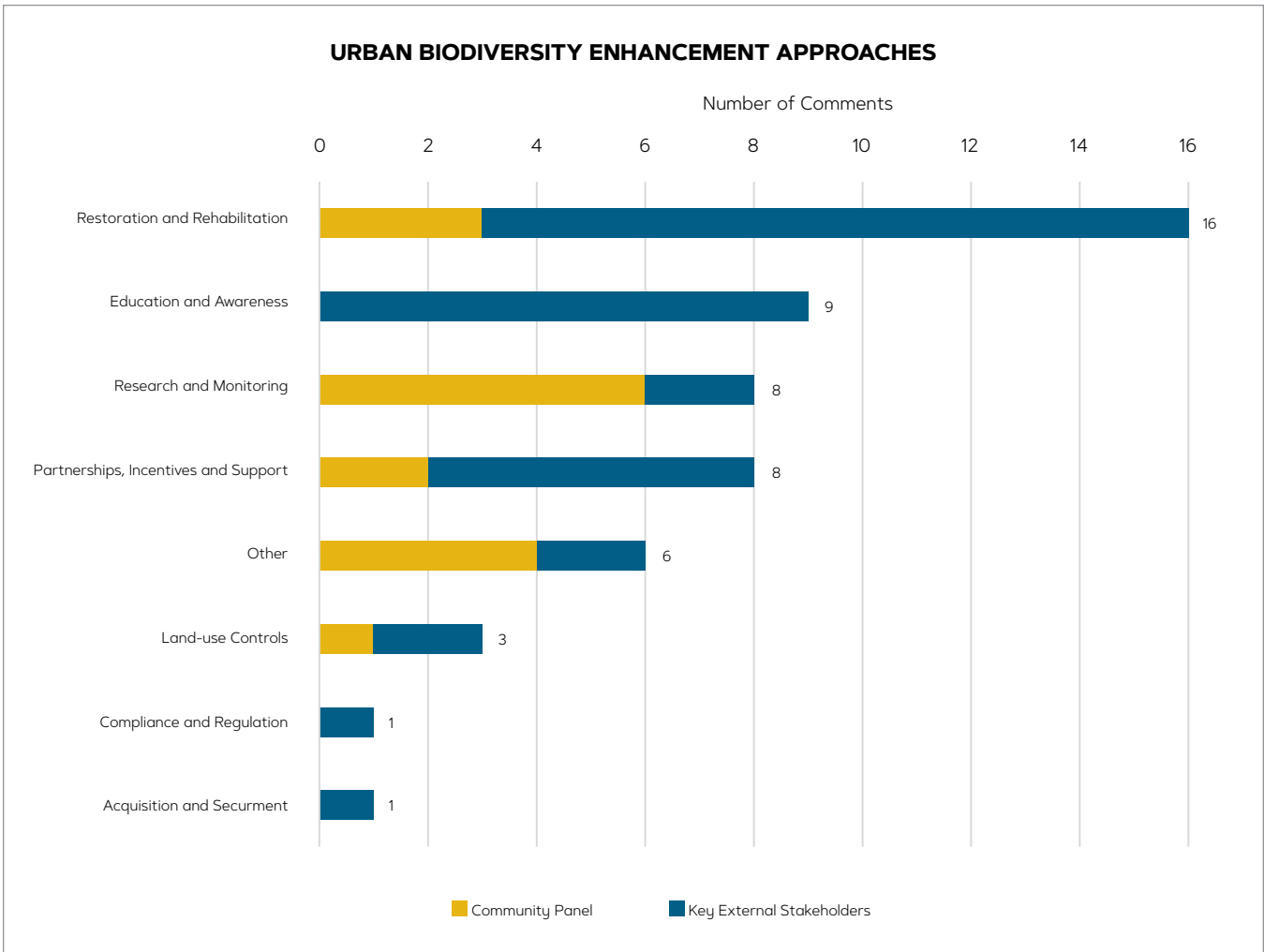
What key approaches could be taken to achieve urban biodiversity enhancement objectives?

Workshop participants provided comments on what approaches would provide the best success in achieving urban biodiversity enhancement objectives.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 16 comments referred to restoration and rehabilitation activities
- 9 comments mentioned education and awareness.



Examples of Sentiment

"Comprehensive parks plan. Improve walkability, improve connectivity, wider walkways."

"Greater protection of corridors in urban areas."

"RE (regional ecosystem) maps don't always provide the best indication of vegetation."

"Street trees and roundabouts should NOT be part of the natural environment. Urban greening should be along connecting corridors, bike ways, natural water, interconnecting parks."

"Maintaining natural landscapes in new development areas, not just planting new ones. More trees in Limestone Park. And more treelined streets across all of Ipswich, especially older areas."

"Design landscapes with least possible interaction between humans and wildlife as possible, so that cars, dogs or people could not hurt or injure wildlife."

"Ensure vegetation is suitable for wildlife habitat and food."

"Focus on tree lined streets to help combat increased temperatures."

"Animals are displaced when new estates are developed as the native bushland is totally destroyed in the development and then replanted as the houses are built. Is there a way of preserving some of the natural bushland?"

"Review the free plants program. Make it more accessible. What about renters? Why limit plant numbers? (attend large community events. Can be hard to get to nursery)."

"Legislate to empower local government override State Governments obsession for extreme rapid dense urban sprawl."

"Connect with active transport and development strategies for the city."

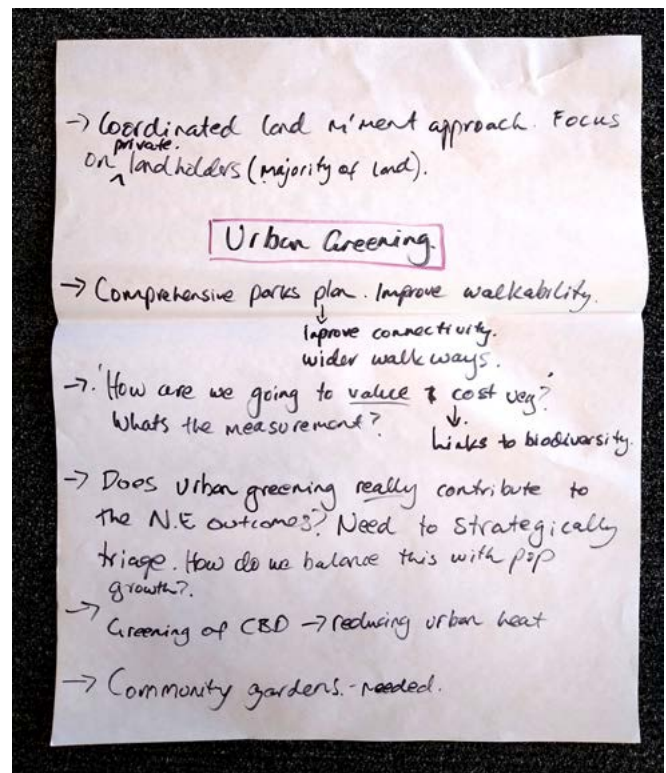
"Community gardens – food, community education, self-reliance, native bee-hive programs, sustainable and affordable."

"Partner with nursery's (OR Bunnings) to promote native bee friendly gardens."

"Does urban greening really contribute to the natural environment outcomes. Need to strategically triage. How do we balance this with population growth."

"Support and increase Habitat Gardens program. Educate and encourage planting of safe trees."

"Chuwar – extend koala corridor through remnant bush."



Which objectives for sustainable nature-based recreation are most important?

Internal stakeholders, Community Panel members, key external stakeholders and community members voted on which sustainable nature-based recreation objectives are priorities.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

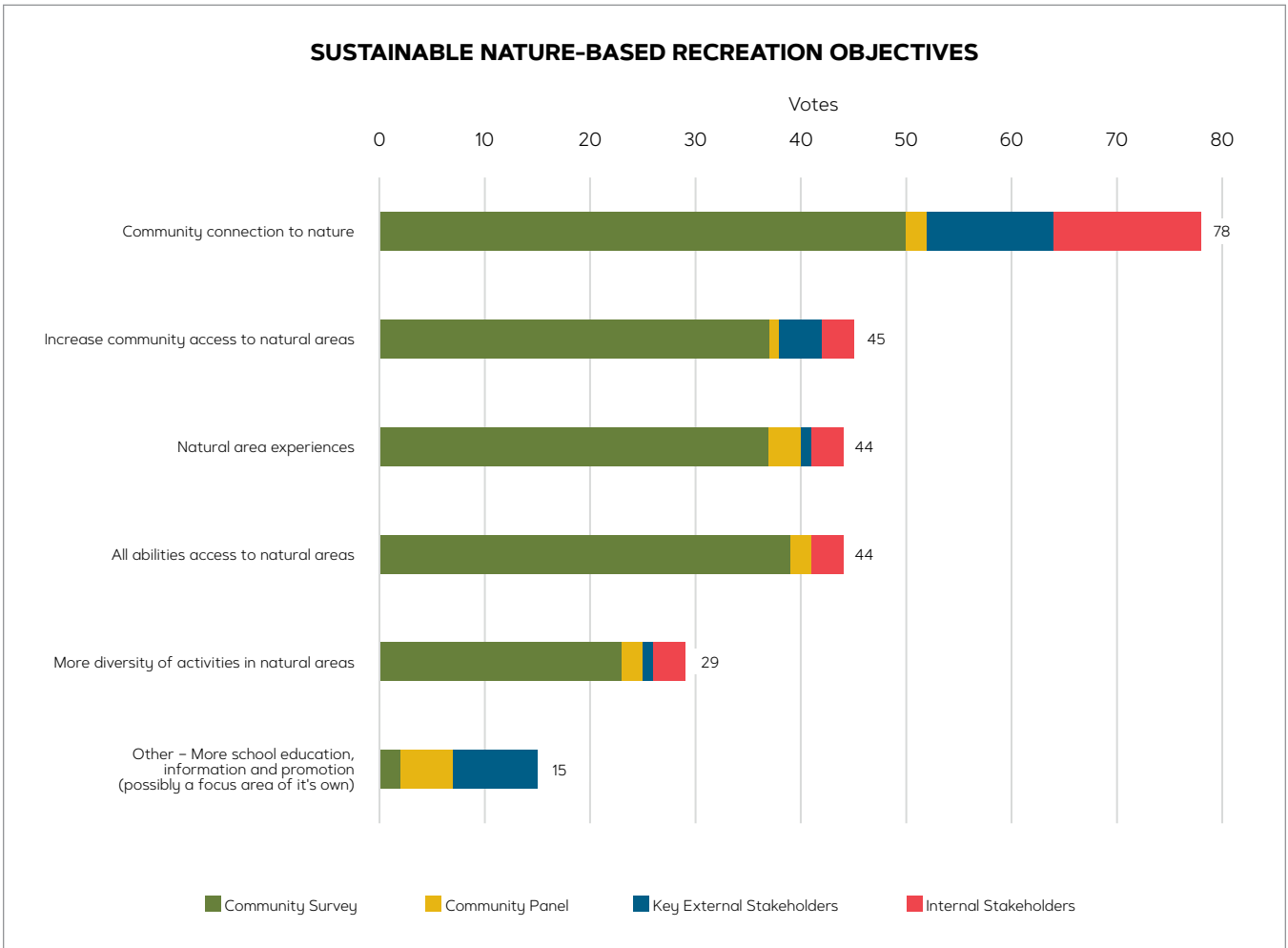
- community connection to nature (78 votes)
- increase community access to natural areas (45 votes).

All abilities access (39 votes) and community connection to nature (50 votes) received the most votes in the community survey.

More school education, information and promotion (8 votes) and connecting to nature (12 votes) were top two objectives voted by key external stakeholders.

- The top two objectives for the Community Panel were:
- more school education, information and Promotion (5 votes)
 - natural area experiences (3 votes).

For internal stakeholders, community connection to nature (14 votes) received by far the most votes. Increase community access to natural areas; natural area experiences; all abilities access to natural areas; and more diversity of activities in natural areas all received 3 votes.



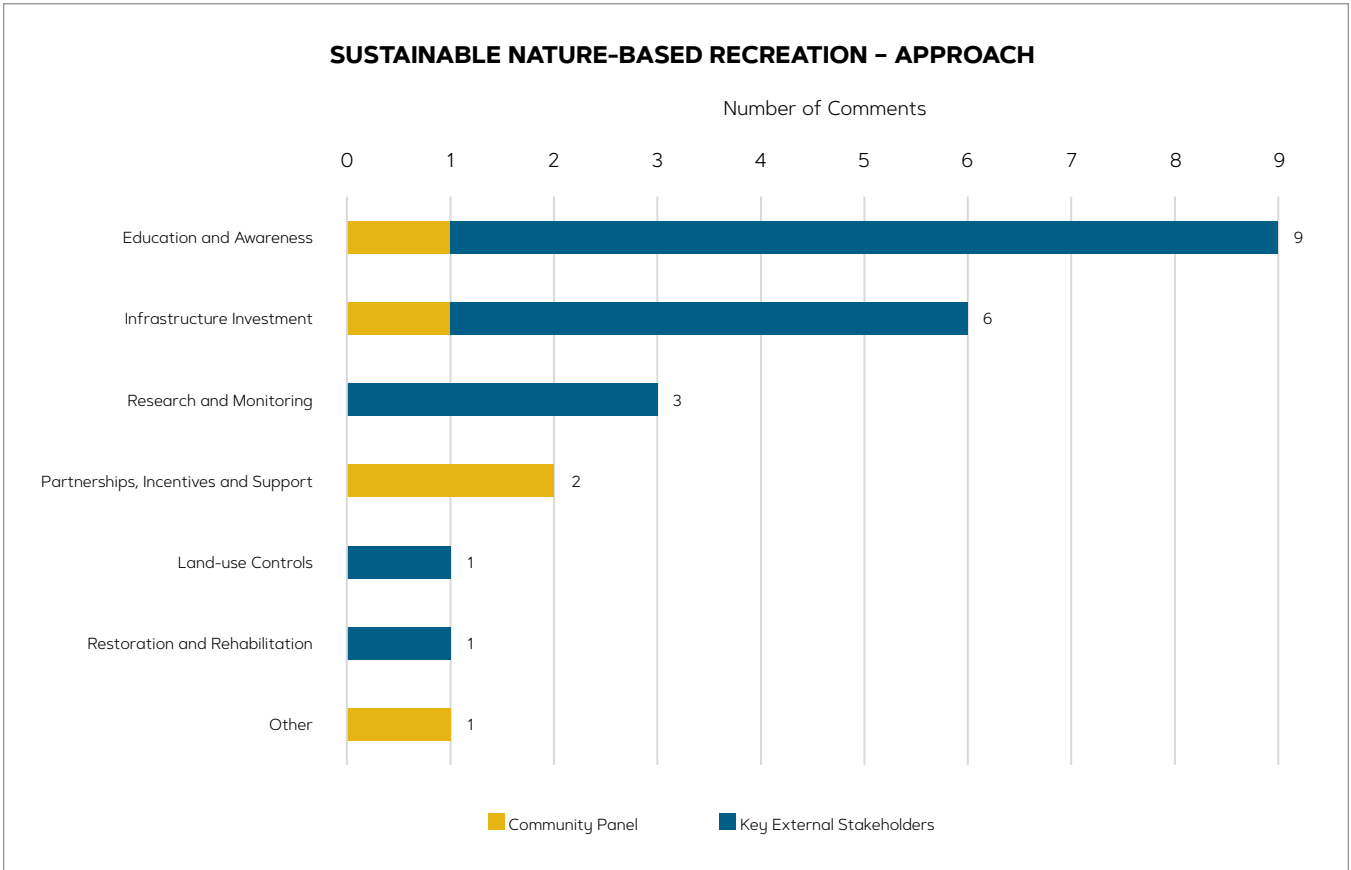
What key approaches could be taken to achieve sustainable nature-based recreation objectives?

Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshop participants provided comments on what approaches would provide the best success for achieving sustainable nature-based recreation objectives.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 9 comments referred to education and awareness
- 6 comments mentioned the need for infrastructure investment.



Examples of Sentiment

"Educational walks through the areas with signs explaining the flora, flora, climate, geography and other aspects of the area."

"Activities that improve the environment are encouraged over experiencing the environment – council could provide more active care of the environment."

"Management of rubbish, weeds and infrastructure (track maintenance) in natural areas if open for public use."

"Development of outdoor recreational parks (not sporting fields) with greater natural environmental forest plantings. There is a perfect part rehabilitated mine at Rosewood for an Olympic standard mountain bike facility, nestled into remnant vegetation."

"Leave natural areas natural, don't interfere too much."

"Increase community awareness through activities of how to care for and improve the environment."

"Keep wildlife protected from human interaction/activities where possible."

"Stop development close to waterways, better walking trails with water and shelter and bins."

"Enabling community access/connection to nature should be balanced with impacts on those natural areas."

"Increased natural vegetation areas and themes within parkland and public open spaces and recreation precincts."

"More activities/programs (children & adult) which bring community into natural spaces and increase connection/understanding."

"Increase community awareness of locations and potential uses."

"Improve river activation, particularly for kayaks / canoes. Provide jetties/pontoons at interesting locations along the river."

"Wider accessways desirable."

"Local interest groups."

"Infrastructure to support activities."

"More education/information/promotion signage."

"Recognise mental and physical benefits."

"Where is the education component? Should be a leading theme – not integrated."

Which objectives for rural biodiversity enhancement are most important?

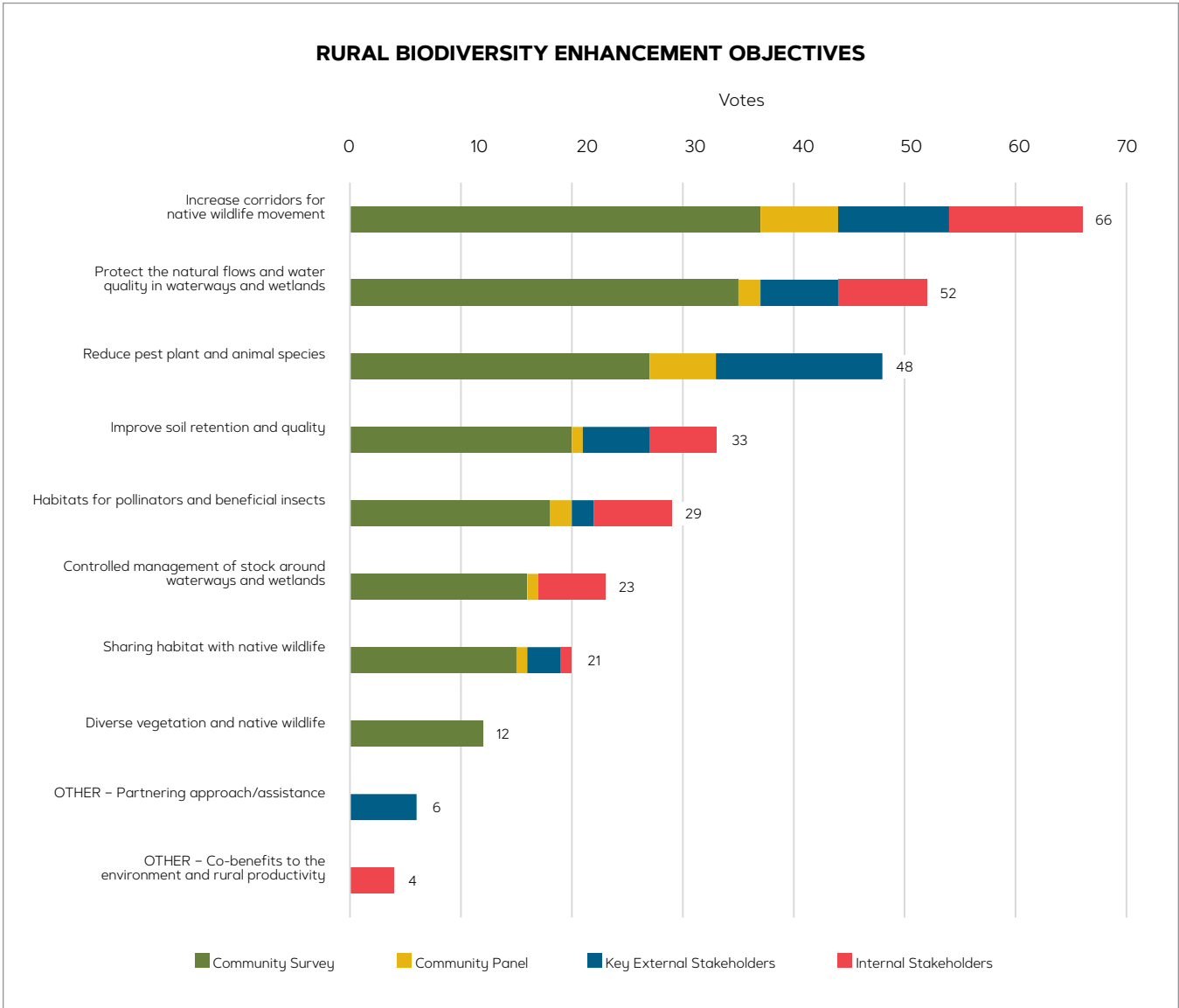
Participants voted on which rural biodiversity enhancement objectives they saw as priorities.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- increase corridors for native wildlife movement (66 votes)
- protect the natural flows and water quality in waterways and wetlands (52 votes).

These objectives were the top two voted in the community survey and by internal stakeholders.

Increasing corridors and reducing pest plant and animal species were the top objectives voted by the Community Panel and key external stakeholders.



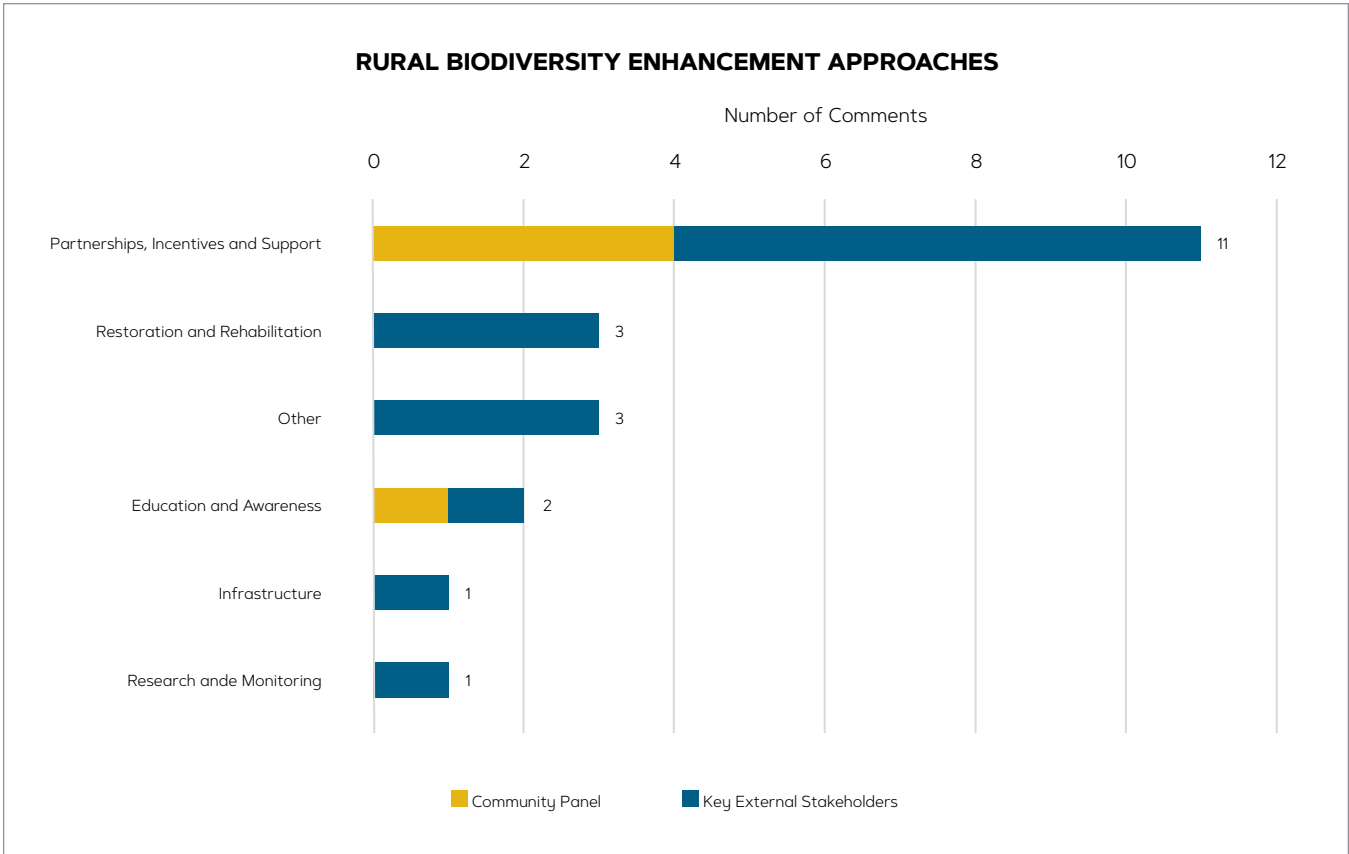
What key approaches could be taken to achieve rural biodiversity enhancement objectives?

Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshop participants provided comments on what approaches provide the best success in achieving rural biodiversity enhancement objectives.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 11 comments referred to partnerships, incentives and support
- 3 comments mentioned restoration and rehabilitation.



Examples of Sentiment

"Weed rebate – incentive for property owners. Didn't need a property agreement."

"Opp. To broaden levy – set new conditions – e.g. lot size, environmental value."

"Habitat corridors throughout the region."

"Erosion control and stabilisation / Improve soil retention and quality."

"Encourage farmland owners to leave patches of vegetation for native species to shelter and thrive in. These areas then could also provide shade and shelter for livestock."

"As the significant percentage of rural land is privately owned, it will be absolutely essential, through consultation and awareness, to encourage all rural landowners to embrace the Theme."

"Implement support for youth to invest in farming."

"Recognise the value of retaining agricultural land and not allowing it to be carved up for large scale housing developments."

"Co-operation with rural landholders – education, incentives (e.g. free trees/\$\$)."

"Support catchment approach to cooperation between landholders and other stakeholders."

"Supporting landholders."

"Pest animal and plant management."

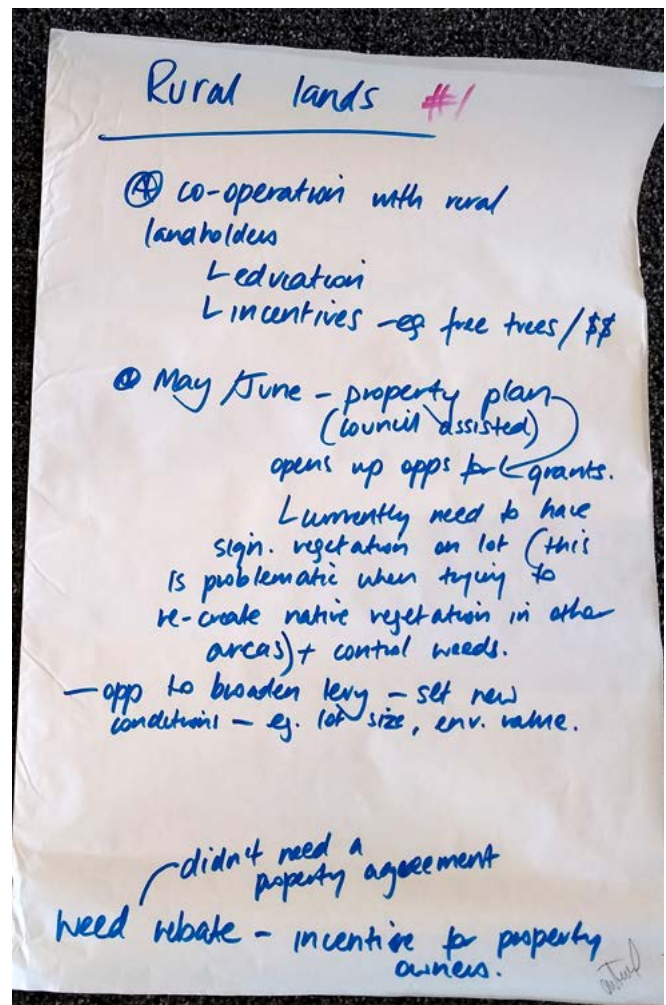
"Partnering with landholders/farmers – weed poisoning discounts accepted."

"Managing waterways and erosion."

"Improving water quality – Franklin vale initiative."

"Education."

"Community networking."

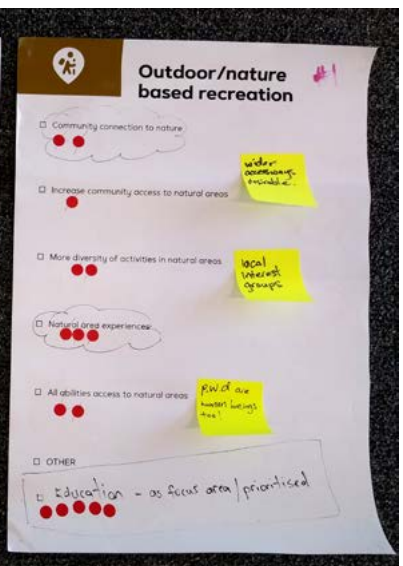
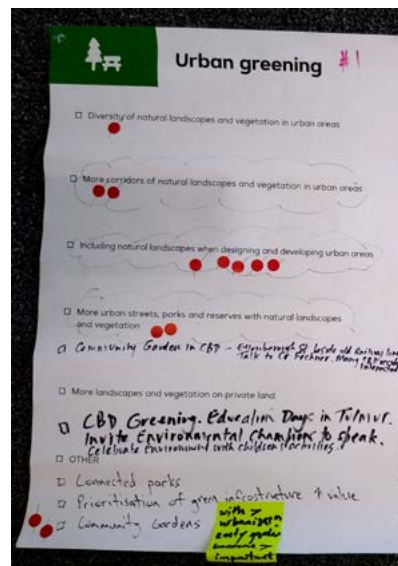
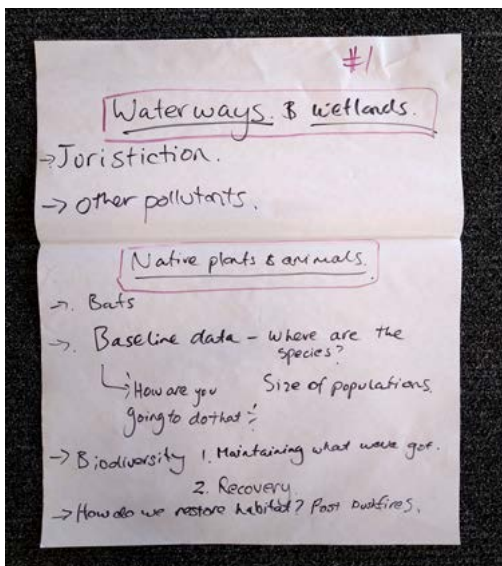
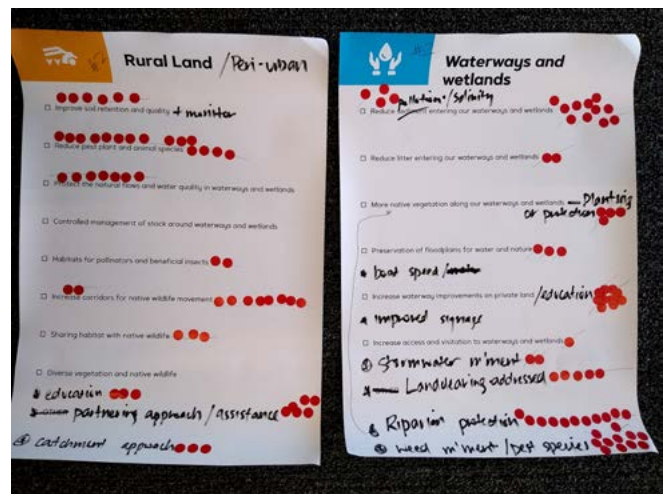
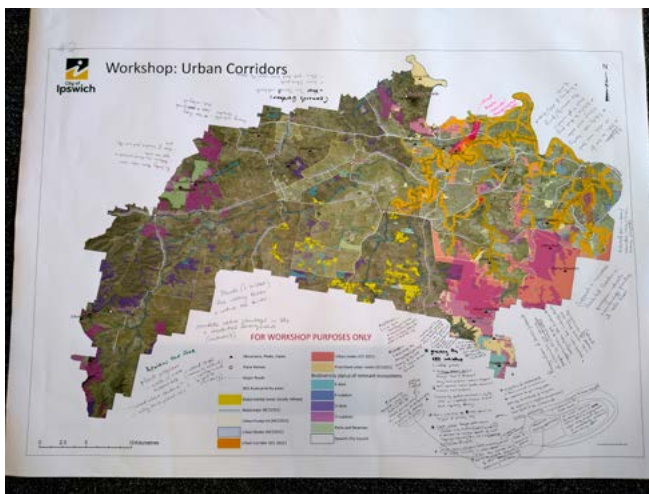
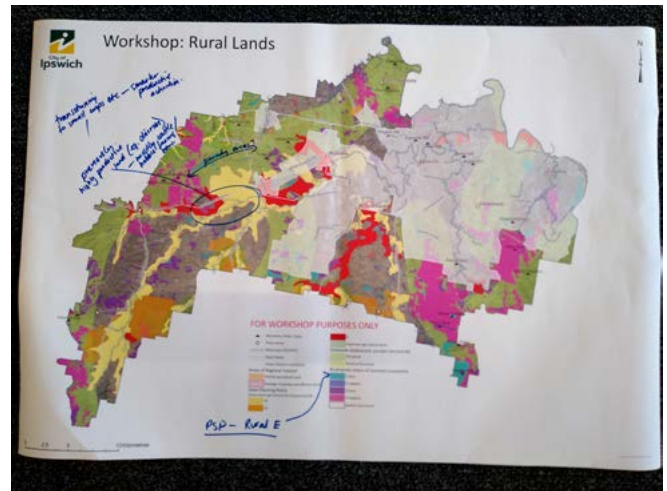


Examples of General Comments

Related comments through Facebook and Community Panel Member Shape Your Ipswich page regarding objectives include:

- "SE Qld has some of the most spectacular trees on the planet. Iconic examples of these in Ipswich could be recognised (e.g. plaques, education) which may reduce the risk of their destruction." (Panel member)
- "More street trees for shade!" (Panel member)
- "There needs to be attempts to control effect that mynah birds are having on the population of small birds e.g. finches in the environment." (Facebook post)
- "Love the bird life out here in my new community." (Facebook post)
- "Maybe do something about the out-of-control weeds too? Lantana is everywhere." (Facebook post)
- "Build upwards with smart urban green planning." (Facebook post)
- "Stop destroying the habitat of native species and building housing estates in their place...." (Facebook post)
- "Protect koala habitats." (Facebook post)

Sample of Feedback from Workshops



DEVELOPMENT PHASE ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

External Stakeholders

A survey was developed to gain feedback on the draft strategy and supporting background document.

The external workshop invitees (total 103 recipients) from Phase 1 were invited via email to participate in the survey on council's Shape Your Ipswich. This survey was also open to general public.

The Community Panel members were invited via email (total 64 panel members) to participate on an identical survey on their closed members' page.

An invitation to provide feedback on the draft strategy was also included in the quarterly Shape Your Ipswich newsletter sent to 2,498 members.

These surveys were open for over 2 weeks between 20 September and 9 October 2022.

There were 15 contributors across the two surveys, including one panel member response. Not all survey questions were completed by all contributors.

Additional external stakeholders from neighbouring Local Governments and State Government departments were also emailed a copy of the Draft Strategy and Background Document for review and comment (total 16 recipients). One neighbouring Local Council responded with comments.

Internal Stakeholders

Council's subject matter experts were also emailed a copy of the Draft Strategy and Background Document for review and comment.

Engagement Limitations

There was limited engagement with the final online survey which may have been due to limited promotion. This number of responses to the survey makes it difficult to get robust data for analysis. The understanding of the demographic profile of respondents is also limited.

Again, there was no additional targeted engagement with Aboriginal and Traditional Owner groups as the overall communication and engagement strategy was still being resolved.

Methodology and Analysis

The survey contained questions regarding:

- how happy they were with the council's new strategic direction for the natural environment – using a scale
- level of agreement with each of the 6 focus areas and priority objectives – using a scale
- if there was anything missing – open ended question with word limit.

The numbered responses were consolidated and analysed and the written responses were collated and responded to.

DEVELOPMENT PHASE ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS PERSONALLY INVITED TO RESPOND TO SURVEY	COMMUNITY PANEL SURVEY	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER WRITTEN RESPONSES
>100 invited 16 participants 87% of contributions were anonymous	64 members invited	1 neighbouring local government 2 industry representative groups

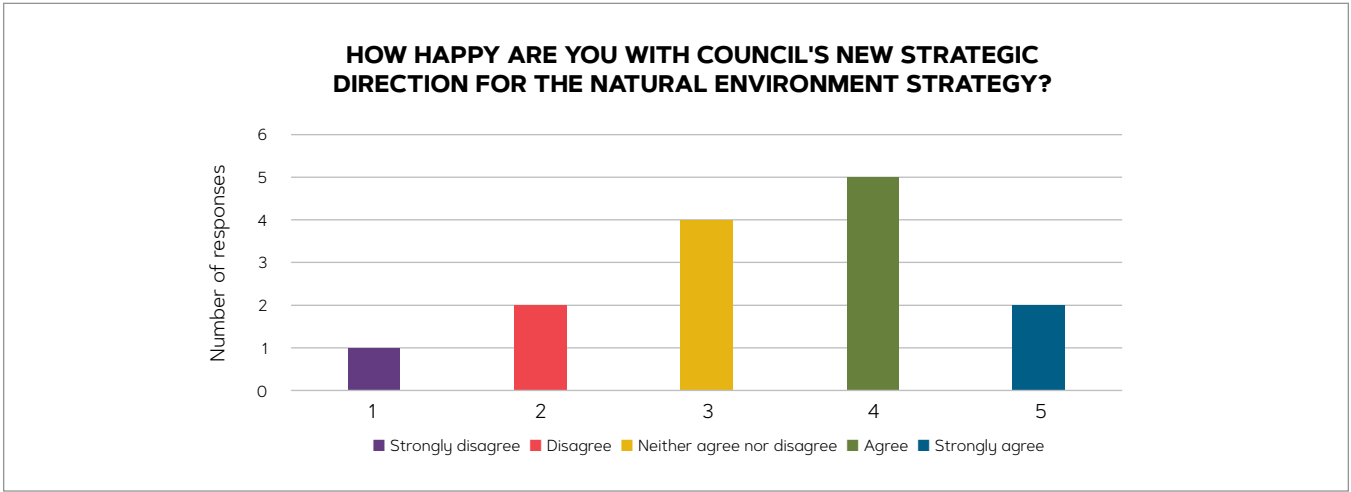
DEVELOPMENT PHASE RESPONSE DATA

The following is a summary of the feedback gathered from external stakeholders on the draft strategy. This includes:

- survey data (x15) – consolidated from both the panel and the Shape Your Ipswich surveys
- neighbouring local government (x1) written feedback
- industry representative groups (x2) written feedback.

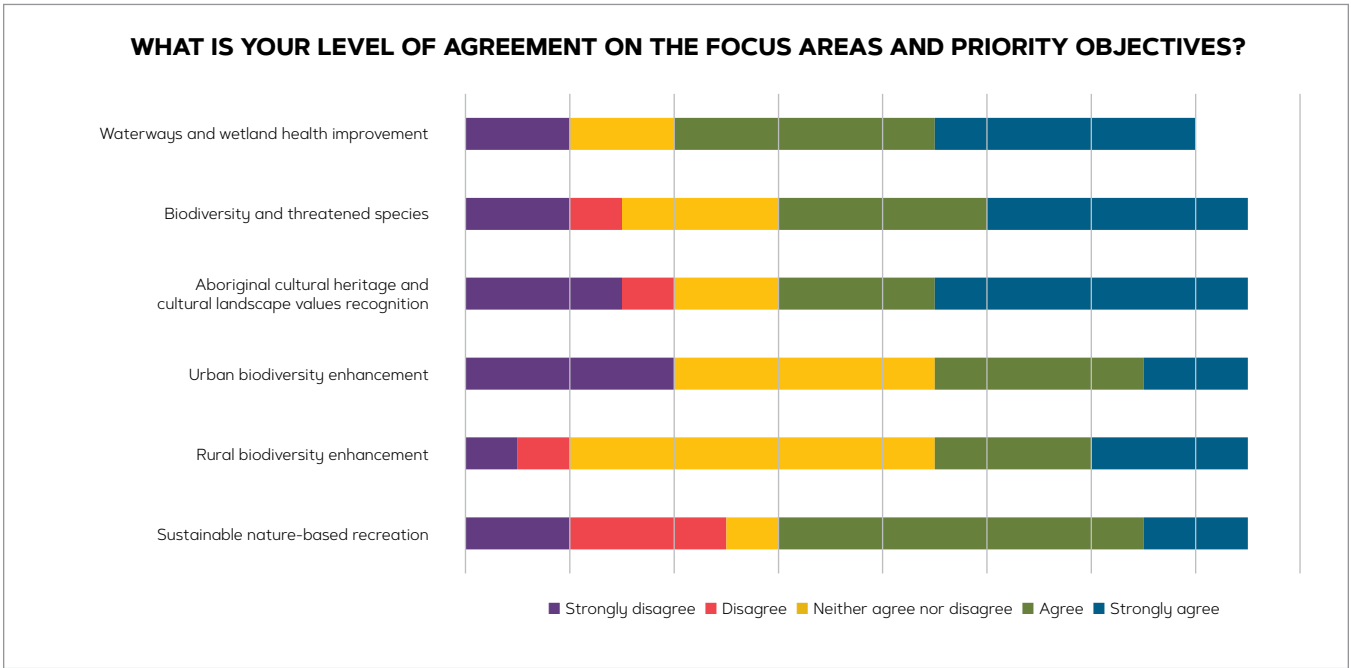
How happy are you with the council's new strategic direction for the natural environment? (survey data only)

14 contributors provided a very small size to represent the level of agreement with the direction set in the draft Natural Environment Strategy. 50% of respondents said they were happy or very happy with the new strategic direction for the natural environment.



What is the level of agreement for each of the focus areas and priority objectives? (survey data)

15 contributions provided a very small sample size to represent a level of sentiment for the focus areas and priority objectives within the Strategy. Overall, there was support for the focus areas and priority objectives.



IS THERE ANYTHING MISSING? ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

Contributions relating to missing elements/additional feedback was reviewed and consolidated into common themes. These are summarised below with acknowledgment of how these will be addressed either in updates to the strategy or through other council programs.

Nothing missing / general support

There were comments received to say the strategy didn't need anything additional included at this stage.

Examples of Sentiment

'It is very thoughtful and thorough. Not a lot to add at this stage.'

'Well done; it's very evident that a massive amount of work has gone into this strategy! It's comprehensive and easy to understand. I didn't have any comments, note any issues, or see any gaps in the content.'

Requirements for urban land development

There were a number of comments which are related to the impacts and requirements for urban development which will be outlined in more detail in the new planning scheme (which will be available for public comment).

Examples of Sentiment

'Stop approving subdividing of land.'

'More green corridors, (with trails) through urban areas. Especially the new developments which appear to cleared all vegetation and have houses stacked gutter to gutter. These densely packed non-rain absorbing structures lead to more runoff surely.'

'It is inadequately defined to clarify the potential impact on the delivery of housing.'

Traditional Owners' engagement

It was recognised that improved engagement with Traditional Owners would be beneficial. It is recognised this is a current limitation in the engagement undertaken to date. The strategy has been drafted using best available information and close collaboration with council's native title and cultural heritage officer. It acknowledges this is the first step in the process and that further engagement will be required once the Traditional Owner communication and engagement protocols have been resolved.

Example of Sentiment

'Sadly a profound loss of TO language, songs, ceremony and knowledge has already occurred in Ipswich. To claim sacred landscape values, require cultural assessments, consultations, permissions etc without true knowledge and authentic connection to country is disingenuous and harmful to reconciliation.'

Nature-based recreation

There were some comments related to the opportunity for nature-based recreation to improve the community's stewardship and protection of the natural environment. The strategy has been updated to reflect this.

Examples of Sentiment

'Nature-based rec is the principal tool available to engage our unsophisticated community. Use it and stop demonising it.'

'Under Sustainable nature-based recreation, there is a statement about key threats posed due to increase in demand for recreation – that could be balanced by a statement about the benefits associated with increased participation.'

Loss of native biodiversity

Some comments on specific threats and locations of native biodiversity were provided. While these species and threats are mentioned in the strategy, the planning and implementation of specific actions will be the focus of other council programs and plans such as natural areas management and the implementation of conservation and recovery plans for significant species such as koalas and platypus.

Examples of Sentiment

'Acknowledge biocondition loss within the conservation estate.'

'No mention of the Koala populations in Collingwood Park and Bellbird Park. No mention of Platypus population in Six Mile Creek in Collingwood Park. Are these to be abandoned to local extinction?'

Natural area management practices and partnerships

There were a range of comments related to specific management actions and partnerships which will be beneficial for the natural environment across Ipswich. Again, the planning and implementation of specific actions will be the focus of other council programs and plans such as natural areas management, partnership programs and community environmental education.

Examples of Sentiment

'More emphasis needs to be directed towards actively involving private landholders particularly rural lands, to embrace the Strategy, through partnerships and other incentives.'

'The strategy looks like a whole heap of nice words with little meaning or practical application. The actual process and how it will be achieved is missing. Also on this, theres no publicity or advertising for community involvement on these sort of projects. The bulk of environmental work is left to volunteers with little assistance by council workers or their machinery.'

'Nest boxes are a really important tool when old trees have been knocked down. I would love to see more nest boxes in our parks, reserves and on private property. No point having a biodiversity checklist when theres no where for animals to breed.'

'Someone please stop putting plastic bags around tubestock I've watched thousands of them float down the bremer during the floods.'

'The strategy should also define those locations in which council seeks to use offsets to increase or rehabilitate habitat.'

Scale and timing

Comments were provided related to the scale of the strategy. It should be noted that Council's new approach on strategies has removed timeframes which means that objectives may be met quickly. The ongoing monitoring of the objectives will be important to ensure that they are renewed once they are delivered.

Examples of Sentiment

'Scale – the scale of implementation is too small. Over the strategic period, increasing natural habitat areas protected across Ipswich by only 993ha is an under-commitment and undervalues the environment.'



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