

#### **Contents**



Background and objectives				
Key findings and recommendations	<u>4</u>			
<u>Detailed findings</u>	<u>10</u>			
Overall performance	<u>11</u>			
<u>Customer service</u>	<u>19</u>			
Council direction	<u>25</u>			
Individual service areas	<u>29</u>			
Community consultation and engagement	<u>30</u>			
Lobbying on behalf of the community	<u>32</u>			
Decisions made in the interest of the community	<u>34</u>			
Condition of sealed local roads	<u>36</u>			
Detailed demographics	<u>38</u>			
Appendix A: Index scores, margins of error and significant differences	<u>40</u>			
Appendix B: Further project information	<u>45</u>			

#### **Background and objectives**

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community.

Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

Now in its twenty-first year, this survey provides insight into the community's views on:

- councils' overall performance with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- · community consultation and engagement
- advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the community
- · customer service, local infrastructure, facilities and
- overall council direction.

When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable historical source of the community's views since 1998. A selection of results from the last nine years shows that councils in Victoria continue to provide services that meet the public's expectations.

#### **Serving Victoria for 21 years**

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 21 years of results, the CSS offers councils a long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional. Participating councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial and other considerations.



#### Frankston City Council – at a glance



#### **Overall council performance**

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



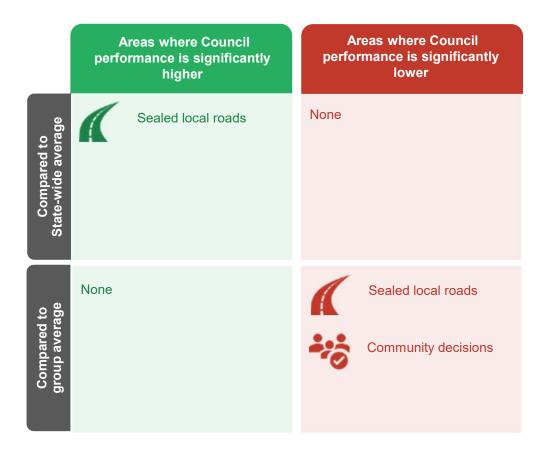
Frankston 57



State-wide 58



#### Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages



#### **Summary of core measures**



#### **Index scores**







Community consultation



Lobbying



Making community decisions



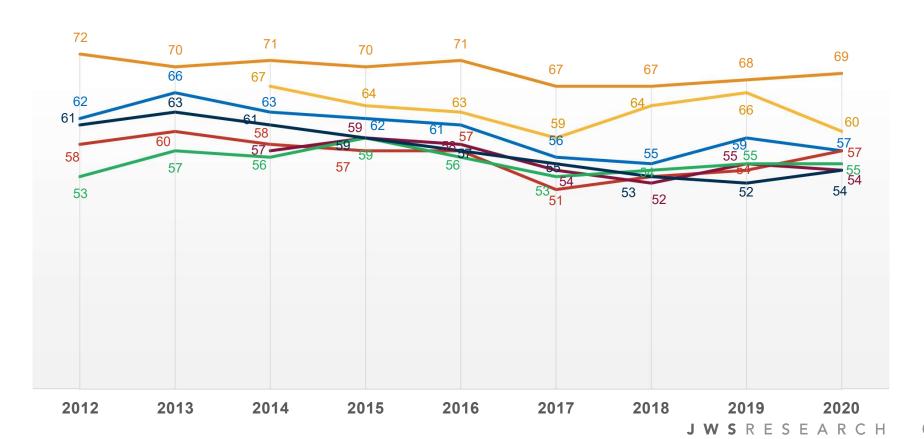
Sealed local roads



**Customer** service



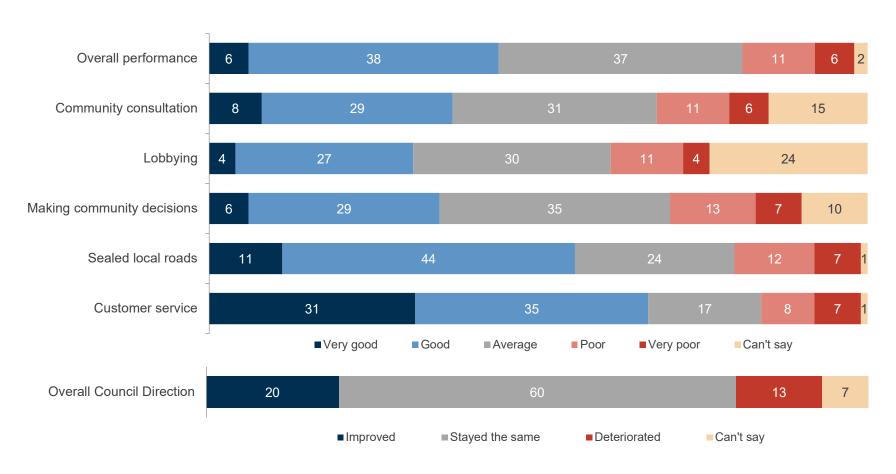
Overall council direction



#### **Summary of core measures**



#### Core measures summary results (%)



#### **Summary of Frankston City Council performance**



Services		Frankston 2020	Frankston 2019	Metro 2020	State-wide 2020	Highest score	Lowest score
<i>(</i> %	Overall performance	57	59	66	58	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years, Aged 50-64 years
+	Overall council direction	54	52	54	51	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
	Customer service	69	68	74	70	Women	Men
A	Sealed local roads	60	66	67	54	South Ward residents	Aged 50-64 years
	Consultation & engagement	57	54	58	55	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years, Aged 50-64 years
<u> </u>	Lobbying	55	55	57	53	Aged 18-34 years	North East Ward residents, Aged 50-64 years
**	Community decisions	54	55	59	53	North West Ward residents	Aged 50-64 years

#### Focus areas for the next 12 months



**Overview** 

Perceptions of Council performance on most service areas evaluated have either held firm or fluctuated slightly over the past year, with some incremental improvements and declines. The exception is sealed local roads, where performance ratings declined significantly. This, and a slight dip in ratings in some other services areas, is likely to have contributed to a (not significant) two-point decline in perceptions of Council's overall performance (index score of 57).

Focus area

Despite being a higher rated service area, Frankston City Council should focus on improving performance of sealed local roads, as it is the only area in which perceptions have decreased significantly. Ratings in this area are just one point away from the lowest recorded to date. Council should look to improve perceptions of sealed local roads, or at least prevent perceptions from getting any lower.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Another area that stands out as being most in need of attention is making community decisions which, despite remaining stable in 2019, is one of Council's lowest rated measures and is rated significantly lower than the Metropolitan group council average. Sealed local roads is also rated significantly lower than the Metropolitan group average, although significantly higher than the State-wide average.

Consolidate gains over time

Council should look to level out fluctuations in its performance on most service areas over the next 12 months and build steady trends of improvement. In recent years, Council has been unable to maintain the gains it makes in performance ratings. Efforts to build these trends are already apparent in some areas such as consultation and engagement. Council should look to continue to build on this and replicate such efforts in other service areas.

# **DETAILED FINDINGS**





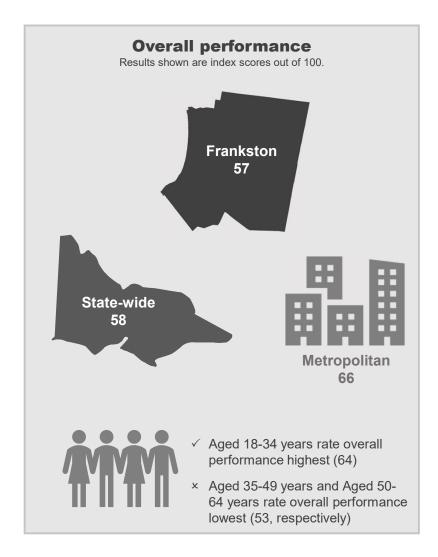


The overall performance index score of 57 for Frankston City Council represents a two-point decline on the 2019 result, having been unable to maintain all the gains made the previous year.

Frankston City Council's overall performance is rated statistically significantly lower (at the 95% confidence interval) than the average rating for councils in the Metropolitan group, and is rated in line with the Statewide average for councils (index scores of 66 and 58 respectively).

- Younger residents rate Council's overall performance significantly higher than the average (index score of 64).
- While there have been no significantly changes over the past year, ratings among residents of the North East Ward and those ages 35 to 49 years are at their lowest point to date (index scores of 54 and 53 respectively).

More than twice as many residents rate Frankston City Council's overall performance as 'very good' or 'good' (44%) as those who rate it as 'very poor' or 'poor' (17%). A further 37% sit mid-scale, rating Council's overall performance as 'average'.



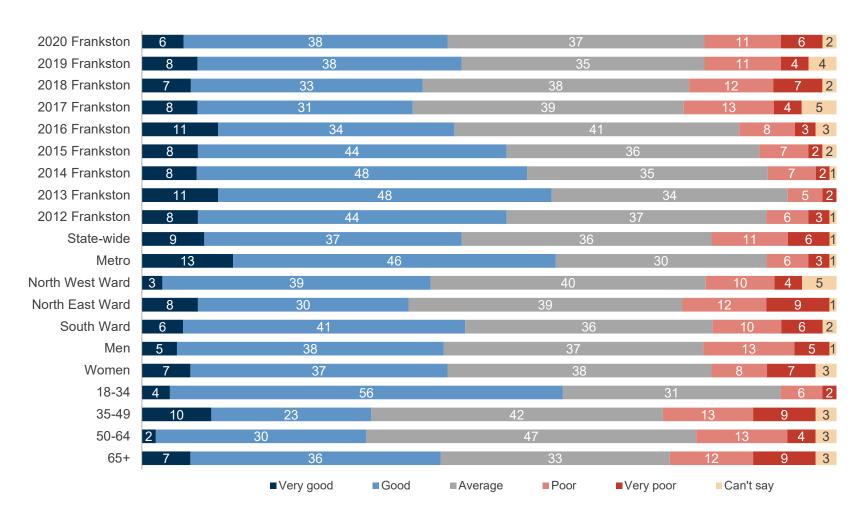


#### 2020 overall performance (index scores)





#### 2020 overall performance (%)



#### **Higher performing service areas**

Sealed local roads (index score of 60) is the area where Council performed best in 2020, despite ratings decreasing by a significant six index points from 2019.

 Ratings among most demographic and geographic cohorts declined significantly over the past year.

Council performs significantly lower than the Metropolitan group average and significantly higher than the State-wide average in this service area (index scores of 67 and 54 respectively).

Consultation and engagement is Council's next highest rated service area (index score of 57). Performance ratings in this area have increased by three points over the past 12 months.

- This marks the third year in a row Council has improved perceptions in this area, steadily making progress back towards the high of 60 in 2013.
- Ratings among most demographic and geographic cohorts have increased over the past 12 months.
- Ratings among younger residents aged 18 to 34
  years (index score of 63, returning to the peak rating
  recorded for this group) have increased significantly
  since 2019 and are also significantly higher than the
  Council average.



#### Lower performing service areas





Council rates lowest – relative to its performance in other areas – in the areas of community decisions (index score of 54) and lobbying (index score of 55).

Ratings of community decisions have declined one point over the past 12 months, having been unable to maintain all the gains made in 2019.

- Council rates in line with State-wide and significantly lower than Metropolitan group averages for community decisions (index scores of 53 and 59 respectively).
- Ratings among residents aged 50 to 64 years (index score of 46) are significantly lower than the Council average.
- Perceptions among North West Ward residents have improved significantly since 2019, up eight points to an index score for 58. For the first time, this cohort is the most satisfied of all groups.

Council's performance rating on lobbying is steady at an index score of 55, unchanged from 2019.

 Council rates in-line with State-wide and Metropolitan group averages in this area (index scores of 53 and 57 respectively).

#### Individual service area performance



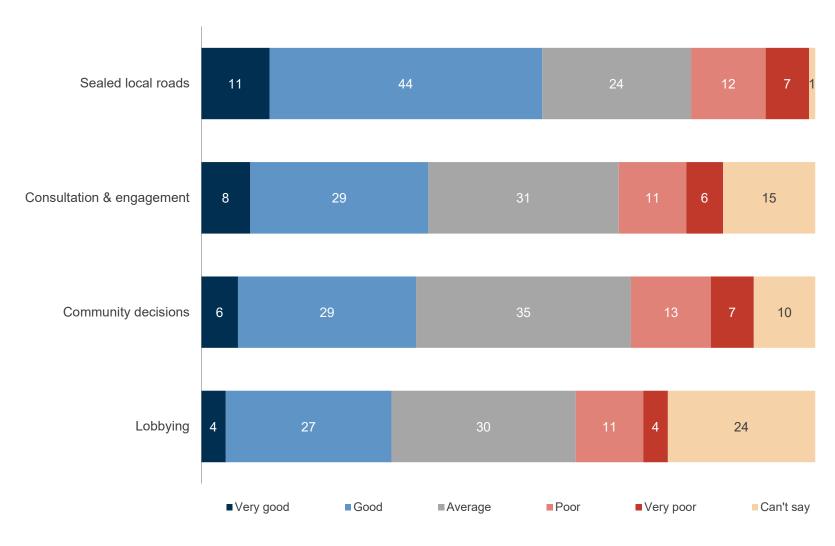
#### 2020 individual service area performance (index scores)



#### Individual service area performance



#### 2020 individual service area performance (%)





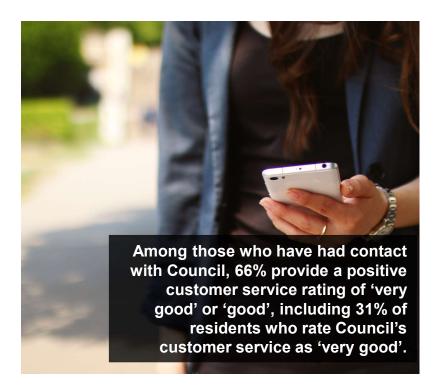
## **Customer service**

#### **Contact with council and customer service**



#### Contact with council

Just over half of Council residents (54%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months. Rate of contact is three percentage points higher than last year.



#### **Customer service**

Council's customer service index of 69 is a (not significant) one-point improvement from 2019. This is the second year in a row Council has made an incremental increase in customer service ratings, edging closer to the peak rating of 72 seen in 2012.

Customer service is rated in line with the State-wide group average but is significantly lower than the Metropolitan group average (index scores of 70 and 74 respectively).

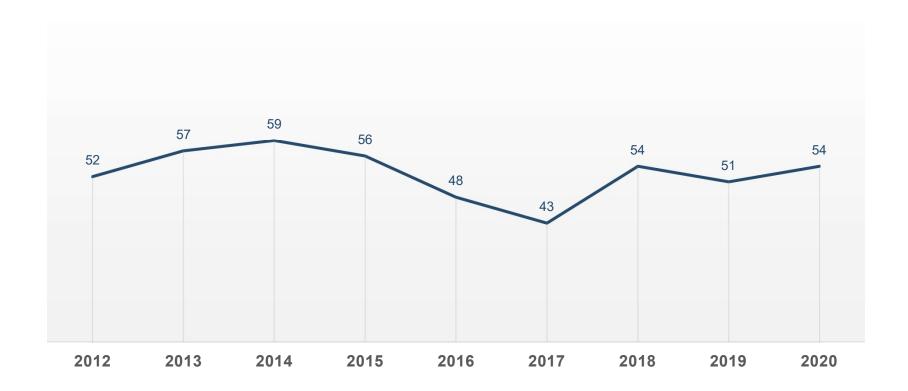
Among those residents who have had contact with Council, two-thirds (66%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good.

Perceptions of customer service are most positive among women (index score of 74). Conversely, men have the lowest ratings of customer service (index score of 62), although neither rating is significantly different to the average rating for all residents.

#### **Contact with council**



#### 2020 contact with council (%) Have had contact

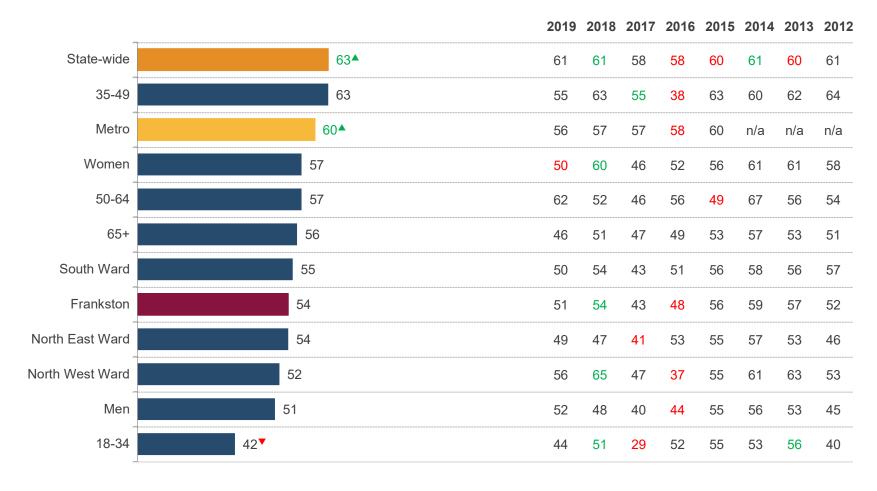


Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Frankston City Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

#### **Contact with council**



#### 2020 contact with council (%)



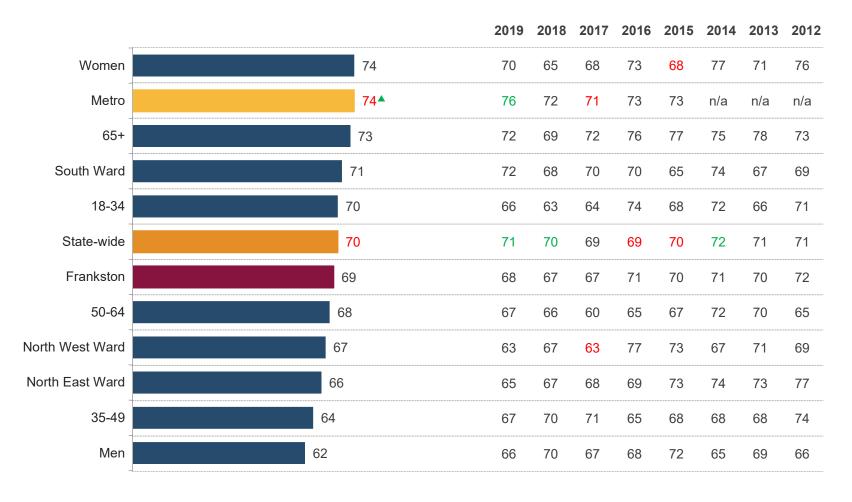
Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Frankston City Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked state-wide: 36 Councils asked group: 7 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

#### **Customer service rating**



#### 2020 customer service rating (index scores)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Frankston City Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received. Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

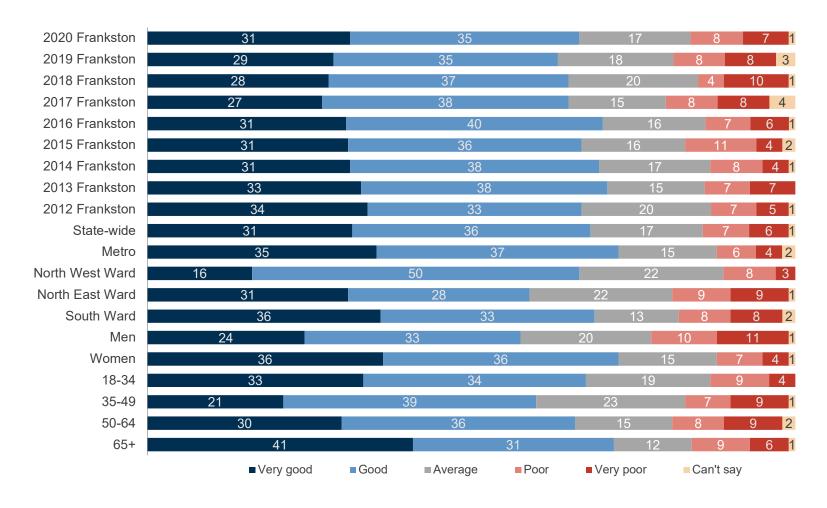
Councils asked state-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 14

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

#### **Customer service rating**



#### 2020 customer service rating (%)



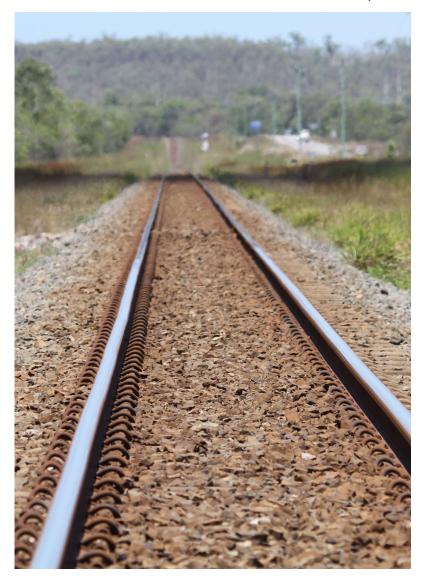


#### **Council direction**

Perceptions of Council's overall direction have improved by (a not significant) two points to an index score of 54. Positively, this increase puts a stop to the multi-year trend decline since the high rating of 63 points in 2013.

Over the last 12 months, 60% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same, up two percentage points on 2019.

- 20% believe the direction has improved (up one point on 2019) in the last 12 months.
- 13% believe it has deteriorated, down four points on 2019.
- Younger residents aged 18 to 34 years old are the <u>most</u> satisfied with council direction, significantly more so than the Council average.
- The <u>least</u> satisfied with council direction are those aged 50 years and over and North East Ward residents (index scores of 49 and 50 respectively).

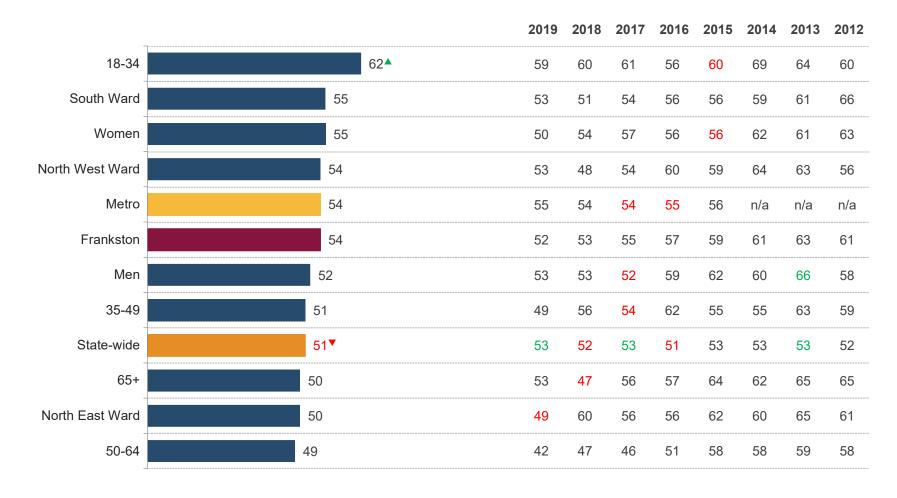




#### **Overall council direction last 12 months**



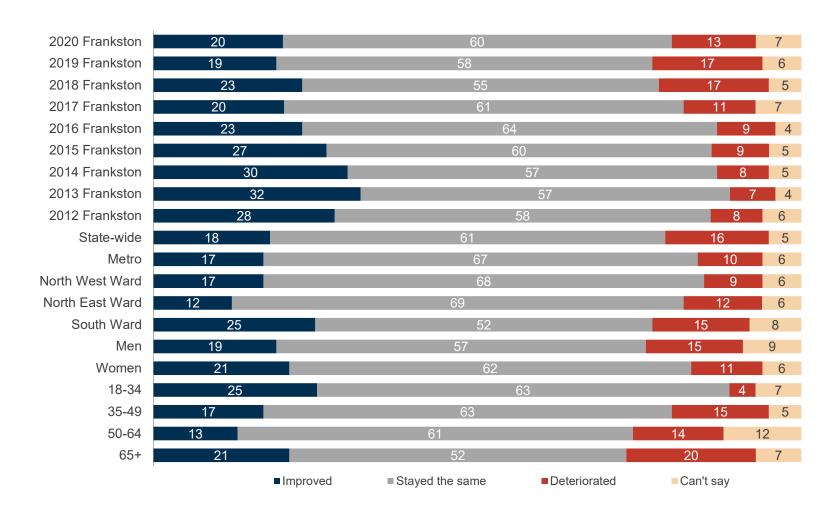
#### 2020 overall direction (index scores)



#### **Overall council direction last 12 months**



#### 2020 overall council direction (%)





#### Community consultation and engagement performance





#### 2020 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

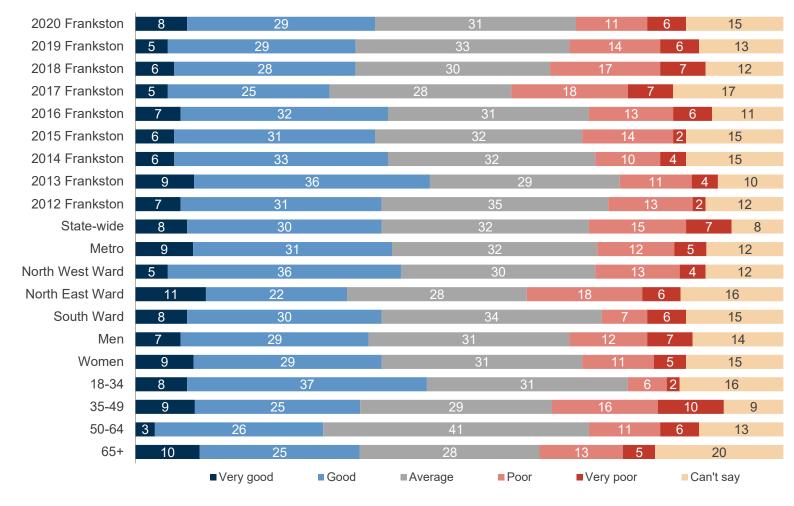


#### **Community consultation and engagement performance**





#### 2020 consultation and engagement performance (%)

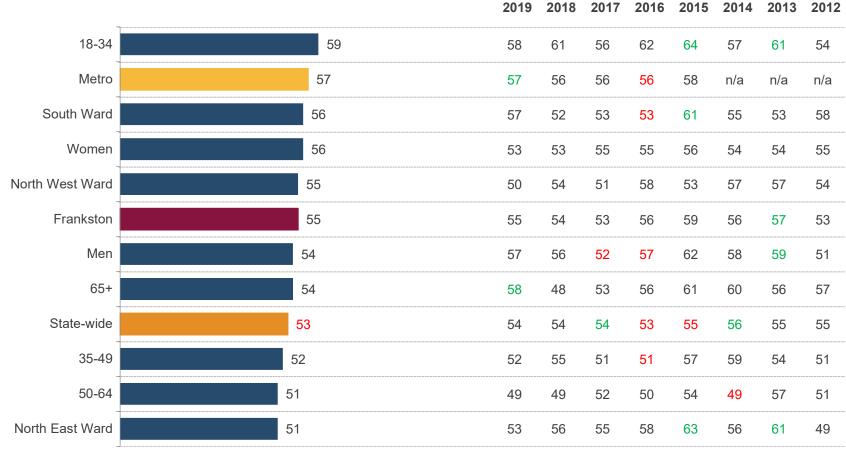


#### Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





#### 2020 lobbying performance (index scores)

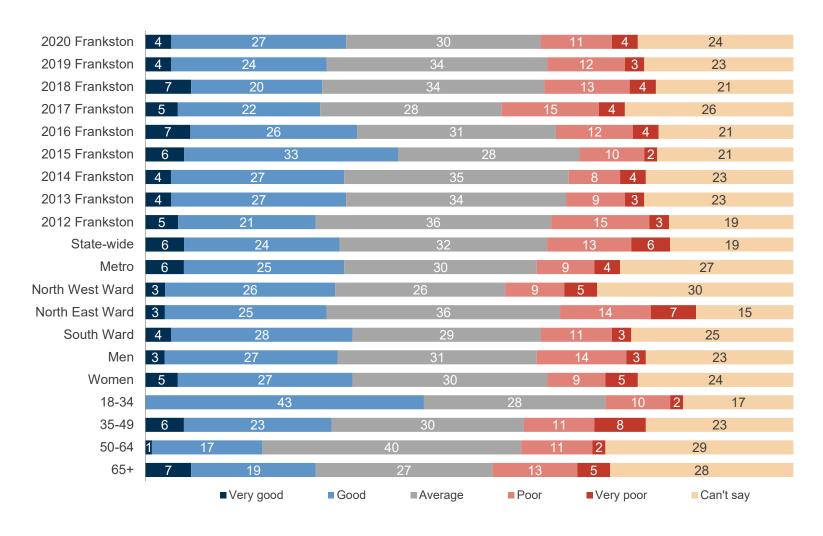


#### Lobbying on behalf of the community performance





#### 2020 lobbying performance (%)

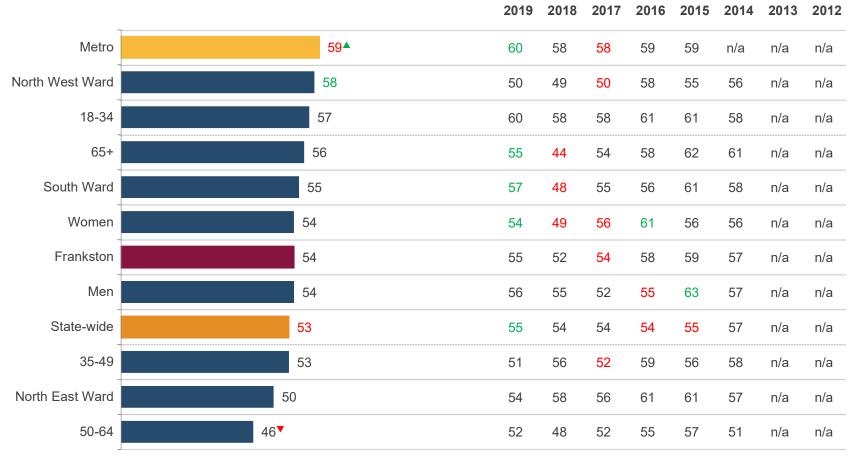


## **Decisions made in the interest of the community performance**





#### 2020 community decisions made performance (index scores)

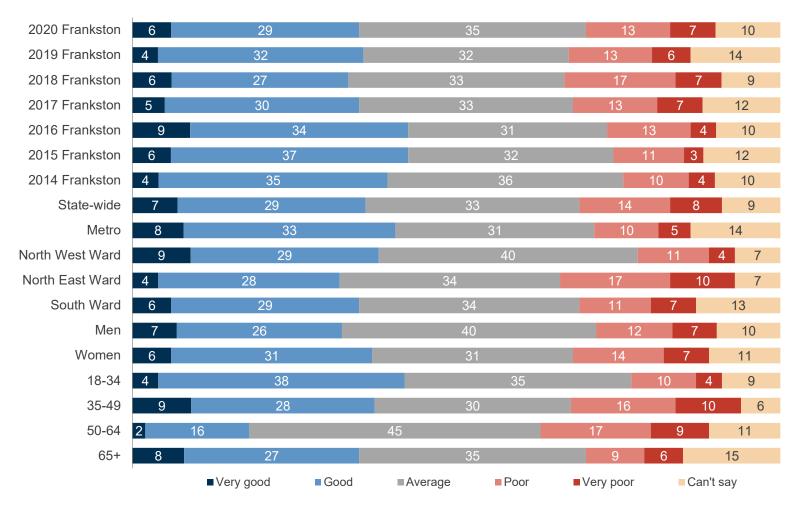


## **Decisions made in the interest of the community performance**





#### 2020 community decisions made performance (%)



## The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





#### 2020 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

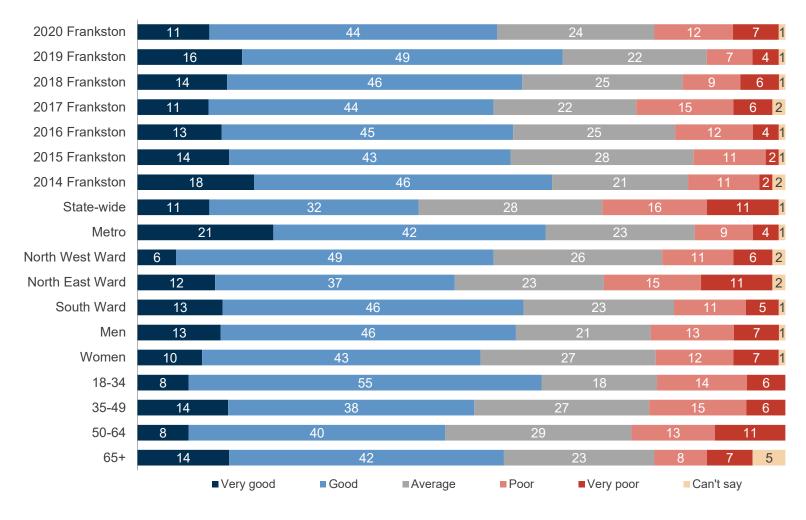


## The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance





#### 2020 sealed local roads performance (%)

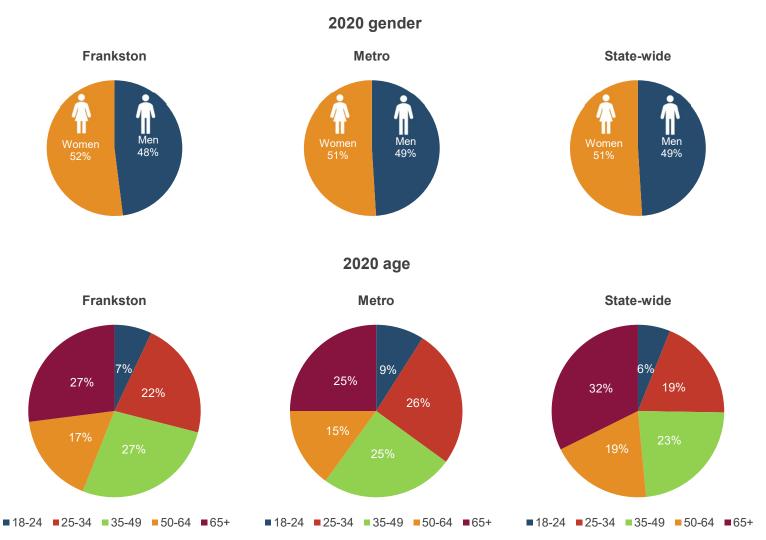




**Detailed demographics** 

#### **Gender and age profile**







### Appendix A: Index Scores



#### **Index Scores**

Many questions ask respondents to rate council performance on a five-point scale, for example, from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response category. To facilitate ease of reporting and comparison of results over time, starting from the 2012 survey and measured against the statewide result and the council group, an 'Index Score' has been calculated for such measures.

The Index Score is calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale), with 'can't say' responses excluded from the analysis. The '% RESULT' for each scale category is multiplied by the 'INDEX FACTOR'. This produces an 'INDEX VALUE' for each category, which are then summed to produce the 'INDEX SCORE', equating to '60' in the following example.

Similarly, an Index Score has been calculated for the Core question 'Performance direction in the last 12 months', based on the following scale for each performance measure category, with 'Can't say' responses excluded from the calculation.

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Very good	9%	100	9
Good	40%	75	30
Average	37%	50	19
Poor	9%	25	2
Very poor	4%	0	0
Can't say	1%		INDEX SCORE 60

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Improved	36%	100	36
Stayed the same	40%	50	20
Deteriorated	23%	0	0
Can't say	1%		INDEX SCORE 56

## Appendix A: Margins of error

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The sample size for the 2020 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Frankston City Council was n=400. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=400 interviews is +/-4.9% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 45.1% - 54.9%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 110,200 people aged 18 years or over for Frankston City Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Frankston City Council	400	400	+/-4.9
Men	194	194	+/-7.0
Women	206	206	+/-6.8
North West Ward	82	84	+/-10.9
North East Ward	110	112	+/-9.4
South Ward	208	205	+/-6.8
18-34 years	51	118	+/-13.9
35-49 years	106	107	+/-9.6
50-64 years	93	67	+/-10.2
65+ years	150	108	+/-8.0

## Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation



Within tables and index score charts throughout this report, statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level are represented by upward directing green ( ) and downward directing red arrows ( ).

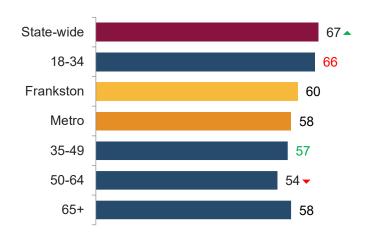
Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

- The state-wide result is significantly higher than the overall result for the council.
- The result among 50-64 year olds is significantly lower than for the overall result for the council.

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2019. Therefore in the example below:

- The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is significantly higher than the result achieved among this group in 2019.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is significantly lower than the result achieved among this group in 2019.

#### Overall Performance – Index Scores (example extract only)



## Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



The test applied to the Indexes was an Independent Mean Test, as follows:

Z Score =  $(\$1 - \$2) / Sqrt ((\$5^2 / \$3) + (\$6^2 / \$4))$ Where:

- \$1 = Index Score 1
- \$2 = Index Score 2
- \$3 = unweighted sample count 1
- \$4 = unweighted sample count 2
- \$5 = standard deviation 1
- \$6 = standard deviation 2

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

The test was applied at the 95% confidence interval, so if the Z Score was greater than +/- 1.954 the scores are significantly different.



Appendix B: Further project information

## **Appendix B:** Further information



Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in this section including:

- · Background and objectives
- Analysis and reporting
- Glossary of terms

#### **Detailed survey tabulations**

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

#### **Contacts**

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2020 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

(03) 8685 8555 or via email: admin@jwsresearch.com

## Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



The 2020 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30<sup>th</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 2019, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January – 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during the fieldwork phase. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the age and gender profile of the Frankston City Council area.

Any variation of +/-1% between individual results and net scores in this report or the detailed survey tabulations is due to rounding. In reporting, '—' denotes not mentioned and '0%' denotes mentioned by less than 1% of respondents. 'Net' scores refer to two or more response categories being combined into one category for simplicity of reporting.

This survey was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in Frankston City Council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Frankston City Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 60% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Frankston City Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Frankston City Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 30<sup>th</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020.

## Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2020, 62 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings. Please note that councils participating across 2012-2020 vary slightly.

**Council Groups** 

Frankston City Council is classified as a Metropolitan council according to the following classification list:

 Metropolitan, Interface, Regional Centres, Large Rural & Small Rural.

Councils participating in the Metropolitan group are:

 Banyule, Boroondara, Brimbank, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Frankston, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Melbourne, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Whitehorse. Wherever appropriate, results for Frankston City Council for this 2020 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Metropolitan group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.

## Appendix B: 2012 survey revision

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The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

- The survey is now conducted as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18 years or over in local councils, whereas previously it was conducted as a 'head of household' survey.
- As part of the change to a representative resident survey, results are now weighted post survey to the known population distribution of Frankston City Council according to the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates, whereas the results were previously not weighted.
- The service responsibility area performance measures have changed significantly and the rating scale used to assess performance has also changed.

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2020 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.

#### Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



#### Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2020 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils

These core questions comprised:

- Overall performance last 12 months (Overall performance)
- Lobbying on behalf of community (Advocacy)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2020 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.

## Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

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#### Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2020 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-councils/council-community-satisfaction-survey.

Tailored questions commissioned by individual councils are reported only to the commissioning council and not otherwise shared unless by express written approval of the commissioning council.

## Appendix B: Glossary of terms

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**Core questions**: Compulsory inclusion questions for all councils participating in the CSS.

**CSS**: 2020 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

**Council group**: One of five classified groups, comprising: metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural.

**Council group average**: The average result for all participating councils in the council group.

**Highest / lowest**: The result described is the highest or lowest result across a particular demographic subgroup e.g. men, for the specific question being reported. Reference to the result for a demographic sub-group being the highest or lowest does not imply that it is significantly higher or lower, unless this is specifically mentioned.

**Index score**: A score calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale). This score is sometimes reported as a figure in brackets next to the category being described, e.g. men 50+ (60).

**Optional questions**: Questions which councils had an option to include or not.

**Percentages**: Also referred to as 'detailed results', meaning the proportion of responses, expressed as a percentage.

**Sample**: The number of completed interviews, e.g. for a council or within a demographic sub-group.

**Significantly higher / lower**: The result described is significantly higher or lower than the comparison result based on a statistical significance test at the 95% confidence limit. If the result referenced is statistically higher or lower then this will be specifically mentioned, however not all significantly higher or lower results are referenced in summary reporting.

**Statewide average**: The average result for all participating councils in the State.

**Tailored questions**: Individual questions tailored by and only reported to the commissioning council.

**Weighting**: Weighting factors are applied to the sample for each council based on available age and gender proportions from ABS census information to ensure reported results are proportionate to the actual population of the council, rather than the achieved survey sample.

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