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# 6X6 Survey

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July 2021



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*  
T A S M A N I A

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# Introduction

Regional Development Australia - Tasmania is conducting a survey to gather responses regarding the 6 priorities for regions identified by the Australian Government.

The results will be tracked every six months to help shape the future direction of our planning, development, and advice to the government, and provide a deeper analysis of current conditions in Tasmanian regions.

The Australian Government identified these 6 regional priorities:

## Connectivity and infrastructure.

- Digital connectivity, transport links, freight, and supply chain infrastructure.

## Human capital and skills.

- To provide skilled and adaptable workforces, regional Universities, and training and schooling.

## Regional employment and business.

- To develop regional business and industry, local R&D and innovation and a strategic regional vision.

## Leadership and collaboration.

- By investing in regional leadership, capable local government and the indigenous community.

## Amenity and liveability.

- Providing services, facilities and liveability, and support for local priorities.

## Sustainable natural resources.

- To build future resilience, ensure sustainable foundations, and provide economic opportunities and jobs.

# Results

The latest *6X6 Survey*, and the first in the series, was conducted in July 2021. 66 respondents, representing different places and industry sectors from across Tasmania answered the survey questions.

In a diverse region covering urban, regional, and remote locations it would be expected that different people experience things differently, but where there is consensus it indicates a structural issue affecting Tasmanians that could be addressed by a regional development approach.

The survey questions are based on the Likert scale<sup>1</sup> and with a combination of questions that rank priorities by importance, assess levels of satisfaction and track change over time, we can reveal areas of consensus amongst respondents.

Shared issues are:

- Housing availability,
- Human capital (availability of a skilled workforce), and
- Infrastructure for transport services (mostly public transport and congestion).

It should be noted that respondents responded positively to:

- Amenity and liveability (e.g., quality of open spaces, places for recreation and urban settings), and
- Education Services.

Responses were split for many priorities, indicating place-based differences for Tasmanians for:

- Health services,
- Leadership and collaboration (strength of strategic plans and willingness to collaborate),
- Digital connectivity (inequality between urban and regional areas)
- Business conditions, and
- Management of natural resources.

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<sup>1</sup>A Likert Scale survey question uses a 5 or 7-point scale, sometimes referred to as a satisfaction scale, that ranges from one extreme attitude to another. (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/likert-scale/>)

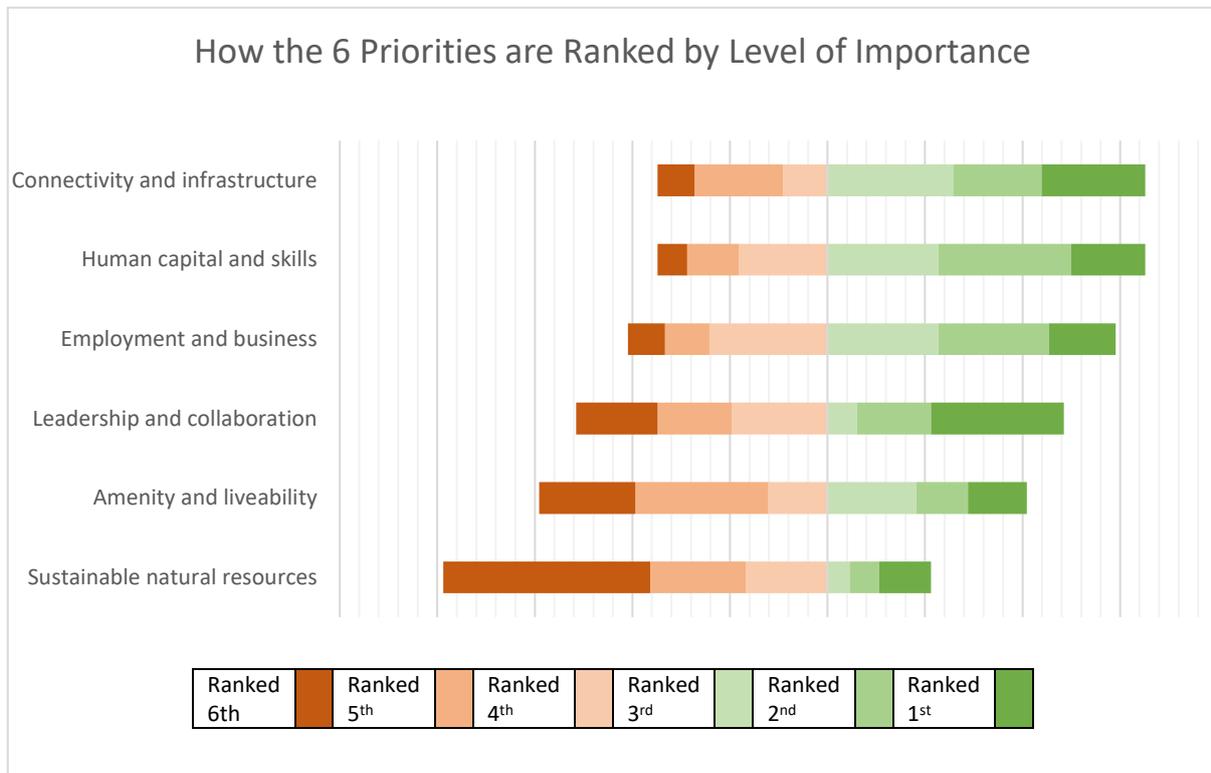
## Level of Importance

Ranking the priorities from 1 to 6 gives respondents the option to express the level of importance to them.

The priority with the most first places is *Leadership and Collaboration*, which 18 respondents selected.

Broadly speaking, *Connectivity and Infrastructure* received the most top 3 places selections and the least low 3 places selections. Followed closely by *Human Capital and Skills* and *Employment and Business*.

Conversely, *Sustainable Natural Resources* received more lower ratings, which 28 respondents selected as their 6<sup>th</sup> most important.



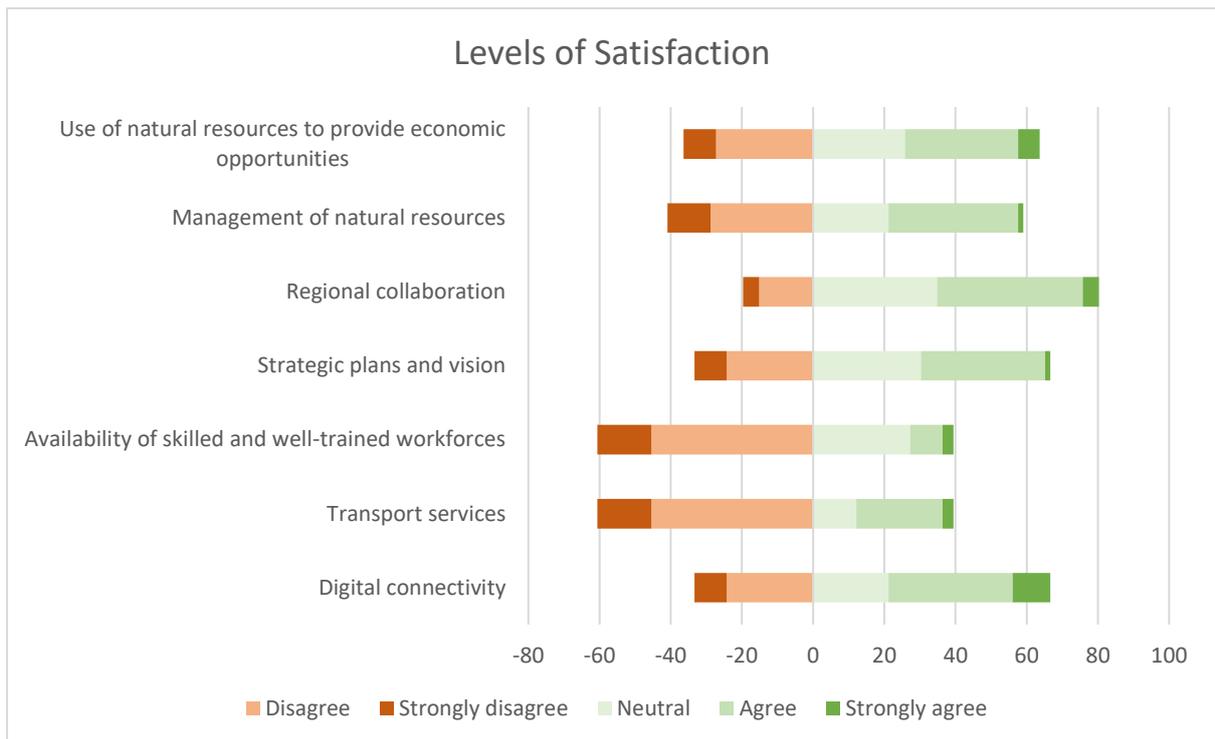
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## Levels of Satisfaction

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Questions were asked to provide deeper understanding of how well respondents think the six priorities are being addressed.

*Human Capital and Skills* is the priority providing the respondents with the highest level of concern, due to the high number that were dissatisfied with the *availability of skilled and well-trained workforces*. Similarly for *Connectivity and Infrastructure*, where transport services are identified as something causing high levels of dissatisfaction.



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## Change Over Time

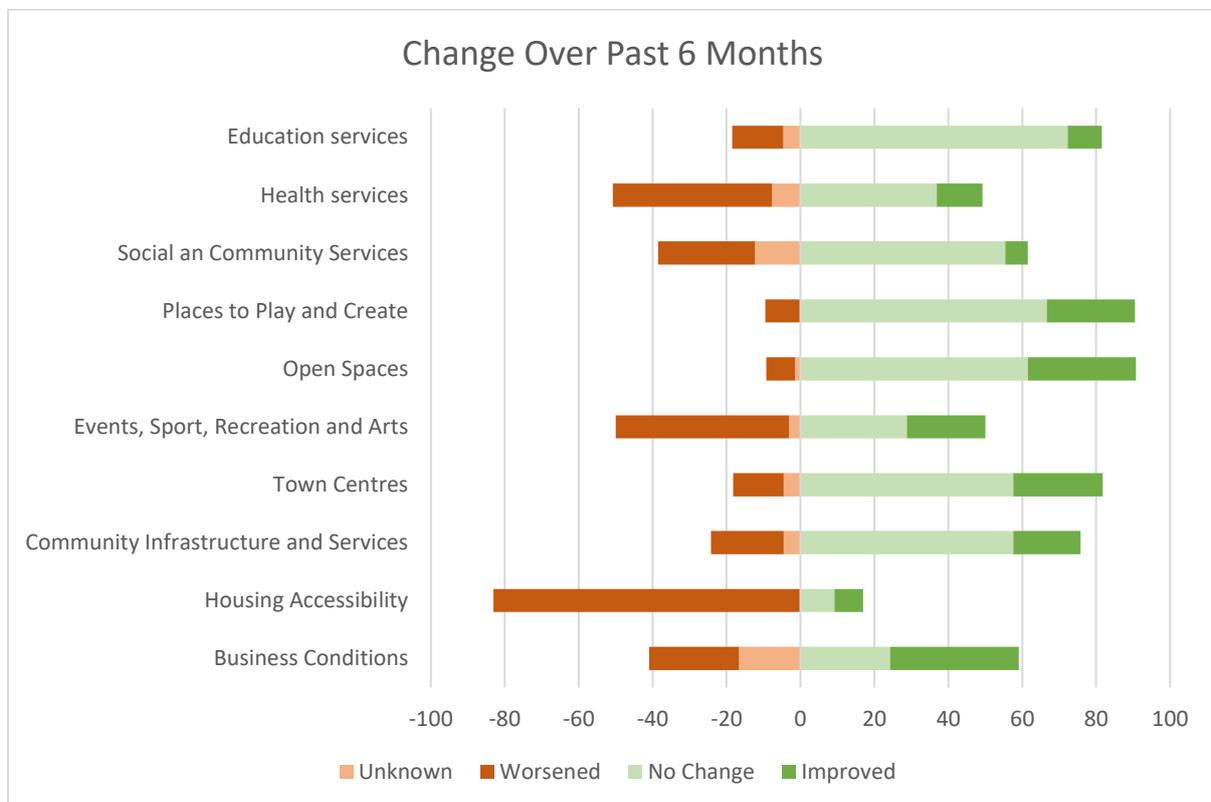
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Respondents answers to *change over time* provides an understanding of different elements of the region.

In a diverse region covering urban, regional, and remote areas it would be expected that different people experience things differently. We see this with *Health Services* and *Events, Sports, Recreation and Arts* where responses are split nearly 50/50 between positive and negative.

What we also see is that wherever you live in the state you are more likely to think that *Housing Accessibility* has worsened.

Positively, many elements of the region have not changed or improved. *Places to Play and Create* and *Open Spaces* have over 90 per cent of respondents saying they have improved or not changed.



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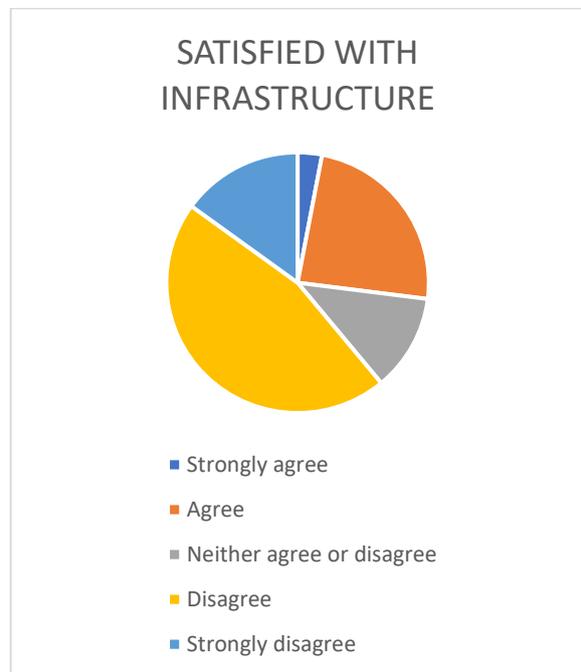
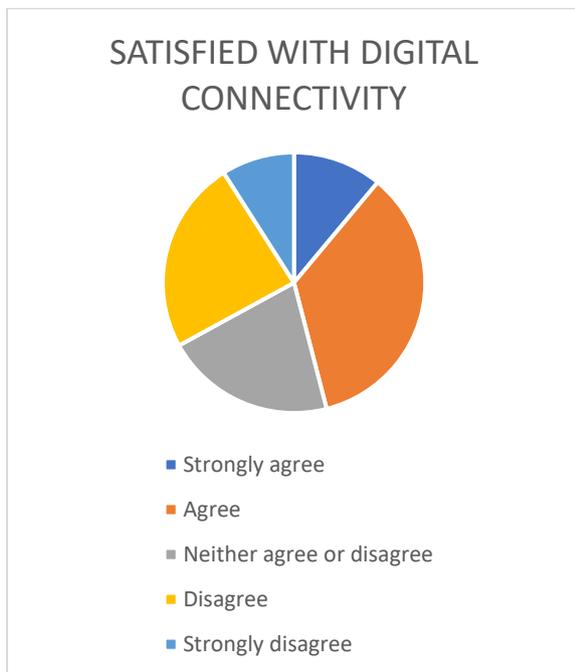
## Connectivity and infrastructure.

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Feedback on digital connectivity, transport links, freight, and supply chain infrastructure:

60% of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with transport service. The vast majority who disagree hold the opinion that there is insufficient public and private transport connectivity. Other comments included *“The costs of public transport from outer regional areas are high, and the website for Tassielink service is outdated”*, *“CBD congestion has adverse impacts on liveability and placemaking”*, *“some highways especially Arthur highway are slow and dangerous”* and *“for shipping products many are reliant on Australia Post which is considered expensive and insufficiently customer focused”*.

Survey responses:



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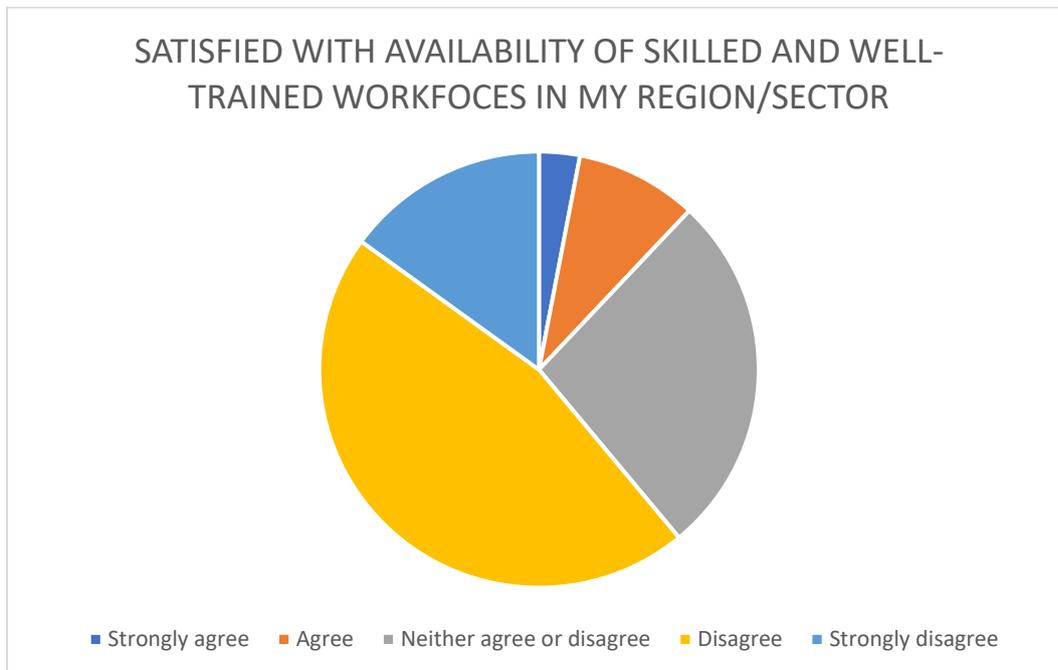
## *Human capital and skills.*

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Feedback on providing skilled and adaptable workforces, regional Universities, and training and schooling:

Only 12% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the availability of skilled and well-trained workforces in their region/sector. They identified some training programs are not as flexible and place-based to balance the needs of employees and employers, they seem to be behind current industry standards. Training facilities are also insufficient. A shortage in housing in regional areas for purchase and rent is also a detractor from seeking a job in regional areas or retaining employees. On the other hand, attrition of industries during Covid, lack of training for young workforce and difficulties for aging workforce to phase out of work made it challenging to develop our economy.

Survey responses:



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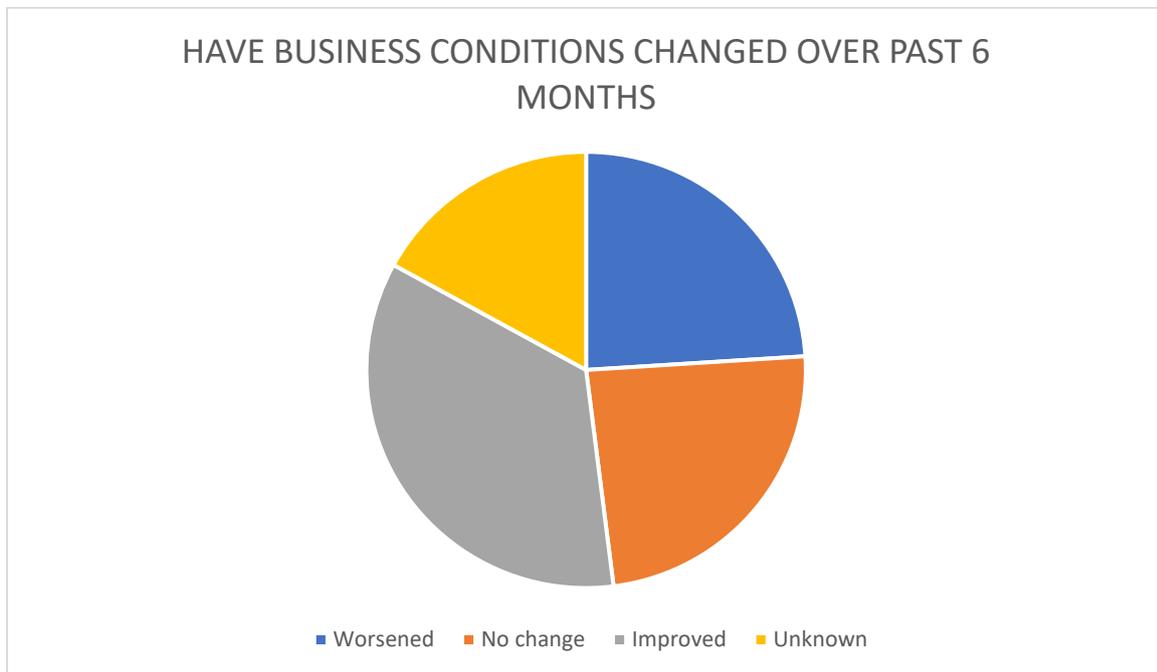
## *Regional employment and business.*

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Feedback on developing regional business and industry, local R&D and innovation and a strategic regional vision:

Broadly across the board there has been an improvement since the COVID lockdowns but there is significant difference between the economic sectors. Tourism, hospitality, import and export supply chains, supply of building products are significantly impacted. Retail and consumer demand has been very strong post-COVID. Also, population growth and demand for property (both residential and light industrial) is very strong.

Survey responses:



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## Leadership and collaboration.

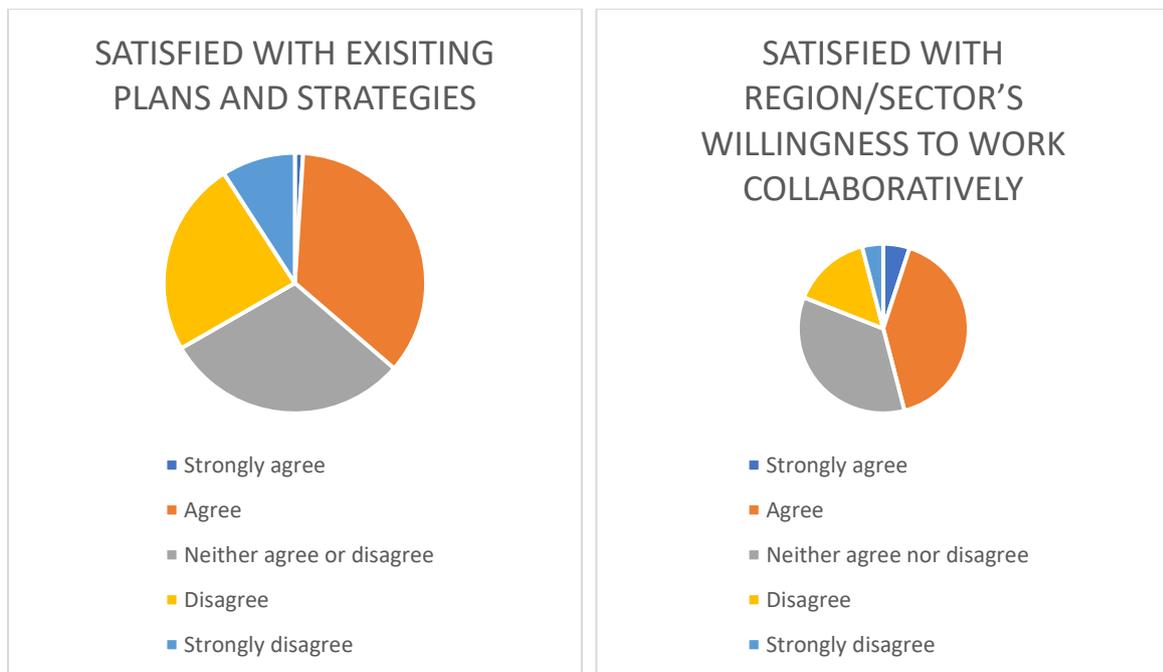
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Feedback on investing in regional leadership, capable local government and the indigenous community:

Respondents suggested that Federal, State and local government should work together to achieve a cohesive region. They suggested there should be more cooperation across all sectors, includes industries and the broader community, between chambers or councils. On the other hand, better public transport options, enhancing education, aged care and health across Tasmania are also needed.

The re-emergence of interstate and intrastate tourism industry and regional migration create opportunity for economic growth, bring skills, aspirations, culture, and broader social foresight for the region.

Survey responses:



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## Amenity and liveability.

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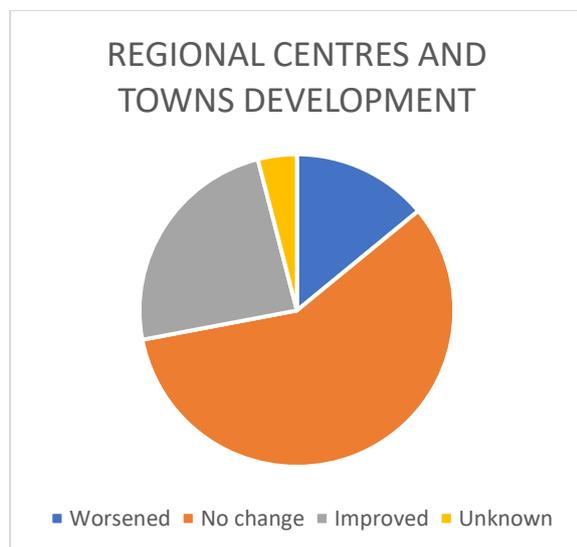
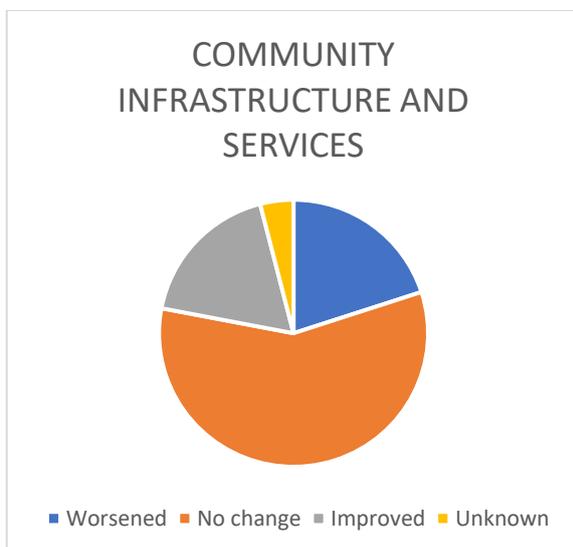
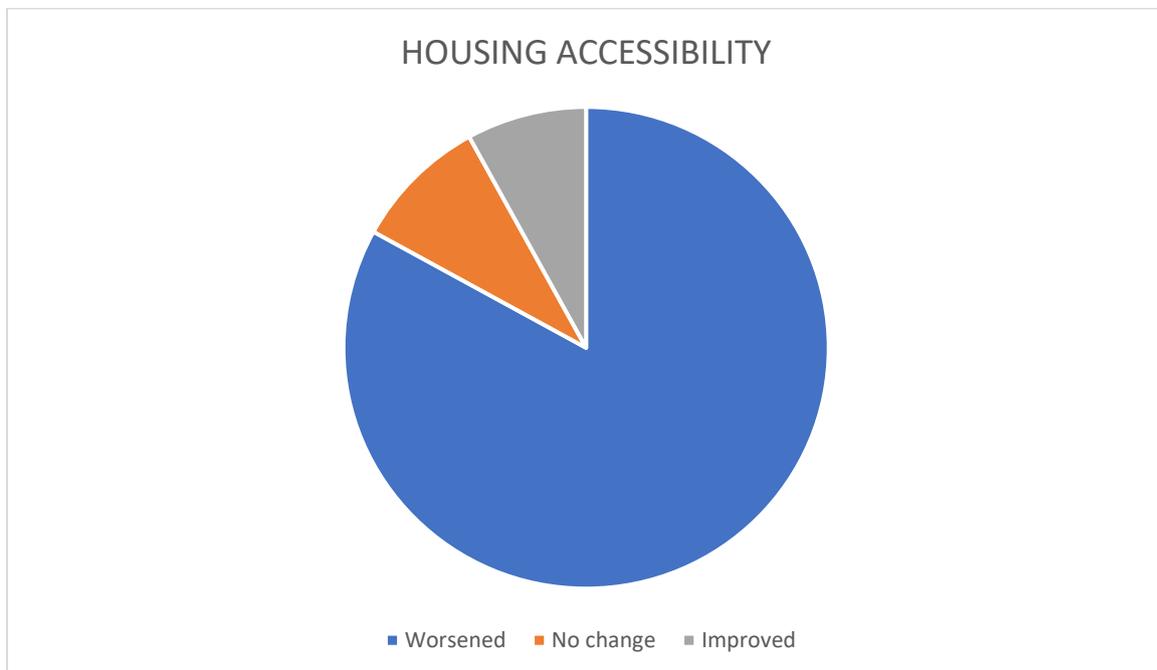
Feedback on providing services, facilities and liveability, and support for local priorities:

Lack of housing and affordable housing is presenting as one of the biggest challenges for Tasmania. Retaining skilled workers, recovering from the COVID pandemic (e.g., sudden cancellations), impacted supply chain and uncertainty about tertiary education student numbers are existing challenges for communities.

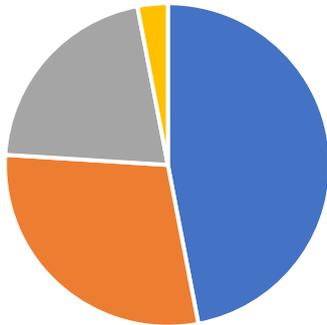
Digital readiness has become a bigger part of liveability.

Survey responses:

HOW HAVE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF LIVEABILITY CHANGED OVER PAST 6 MONTHS:

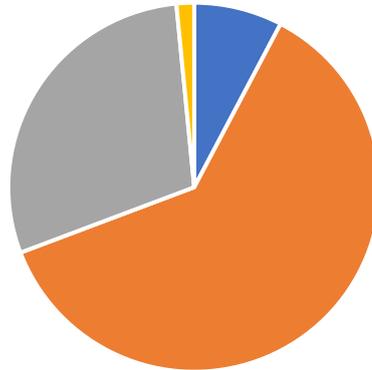


### ARTS, CULTURE, SPORTS, RECREATION, MAJOR EVENTS



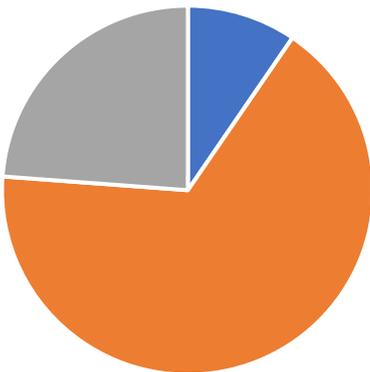
■ Worsened ■ No change ■ Improved ■ Unknown

### ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACES



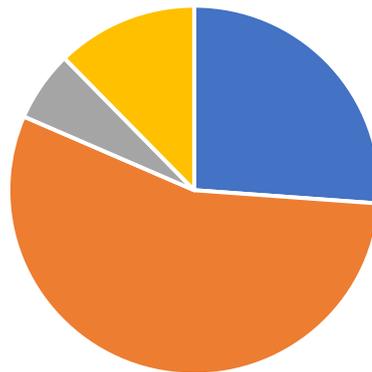
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### PLACES TO PLAY AND CREATE



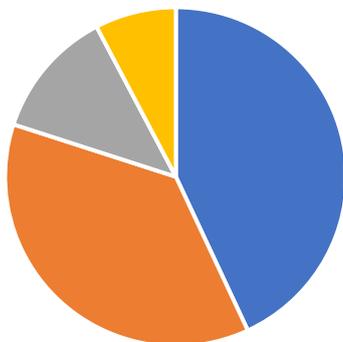
■ Worsened ■ No change ■ Improved

### SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



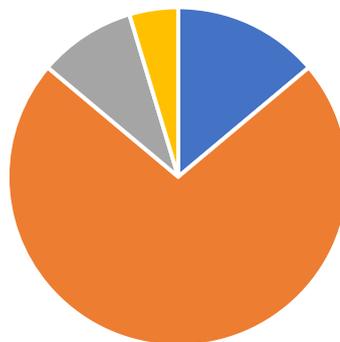
■ Worsened ■ No change ■ Improved ■ Unknown

### HEALTH SERVICES



■ Worsened ■ No change ■ Improved ■ Unknown

### PLACES TO LEARN



■ Worsened ■ No change ■ Improved ■ Unknown

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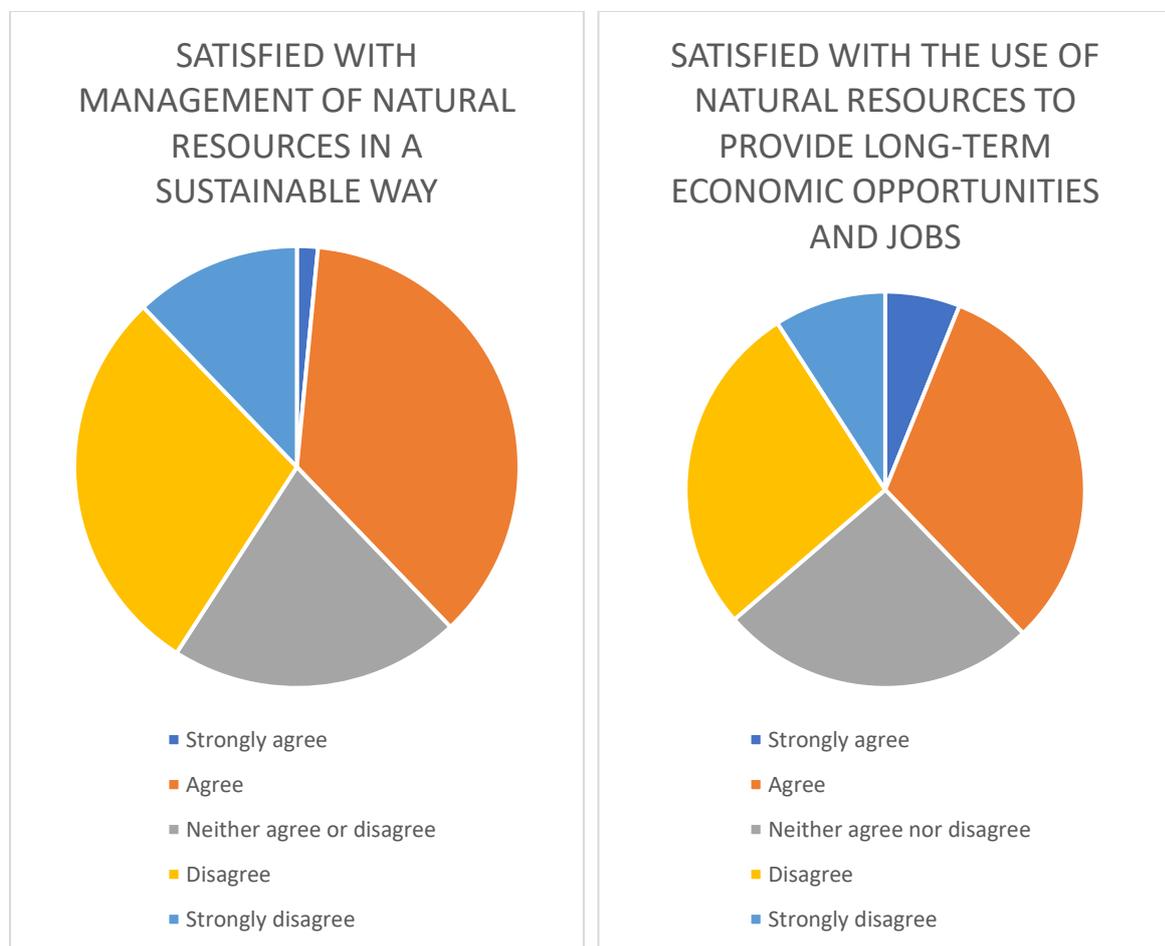
## *Sustainable natural resources.*

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Feedback on building future resilience, ensure sustainable foundations, and provide economic opportunities and jobs.

Sustainable development and innovation around carbon management, and renewable energy are regarded as emerging opportunities. Climate change, in terms of unpredictable weather and its management are challenges.

Survey responses:



# Conclusion

Every longitudinal study must start somewhere, and the results of the July 2021 survey have provided the baseline for all future survey and some clear indicators of structural issues that need to be addressed right now.

Going forward, the *6X6 Survey* will continue to ask questions about the Australian Government's six priorities for the region, on a six-monthly basis. The next edition will begin to illustrate any evidence of change and as the survey is continued year after year it will become a useful record of attitudes to key issues and drivers for regional development.

Today, the *6X6 Survey* reveals that housing accessibility, skilled workers and transport services are having an adverse effect on regional development. These are areas that Tasmania must continue to work on to facilitate projects that make a difference to our region.

On a positive note, liveability such as public open spaces and places to learn and play are working well, and regions are perceived to be collaborative and willing to work across sectors.