



**WHANGAMATA**  
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

**WRA SURVEY 2023**  
**TCDC 2023/24 - Rebuild and Recover**  
**WRA 2023/24 - Collaboration and Consolidation**



# Primary Objective of WRA Survey 2023

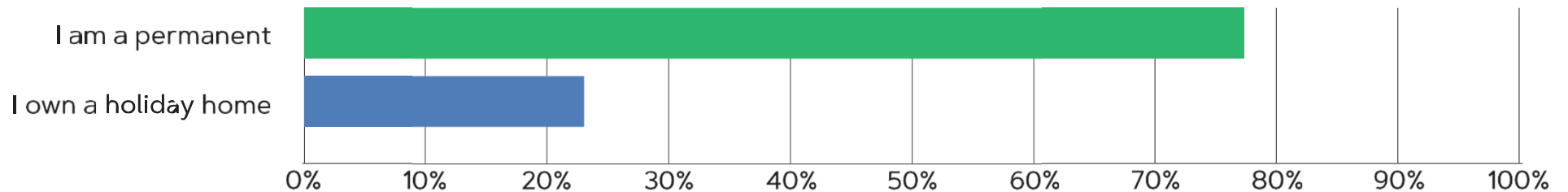
- To find out what is important to the ratepayer/resident and where they think their rates should be spent.
- To help TCDC make informed decisions on prioritising what the Whangamata ratepayer/resident see as issues, opportunities and priorities facing the area.
  - The main **Issues** facing Whangamata
  - Where they would like to see their **rates spent** in 2023/24
  - What **actions are a priority**
  - Opportunities for **improving collaboration**



## Demographics - 561 respondents

The majority of the respondents have been residing and paying rates in Whangamata for a long time.

- Majority are permanent resident and/or ratepayers



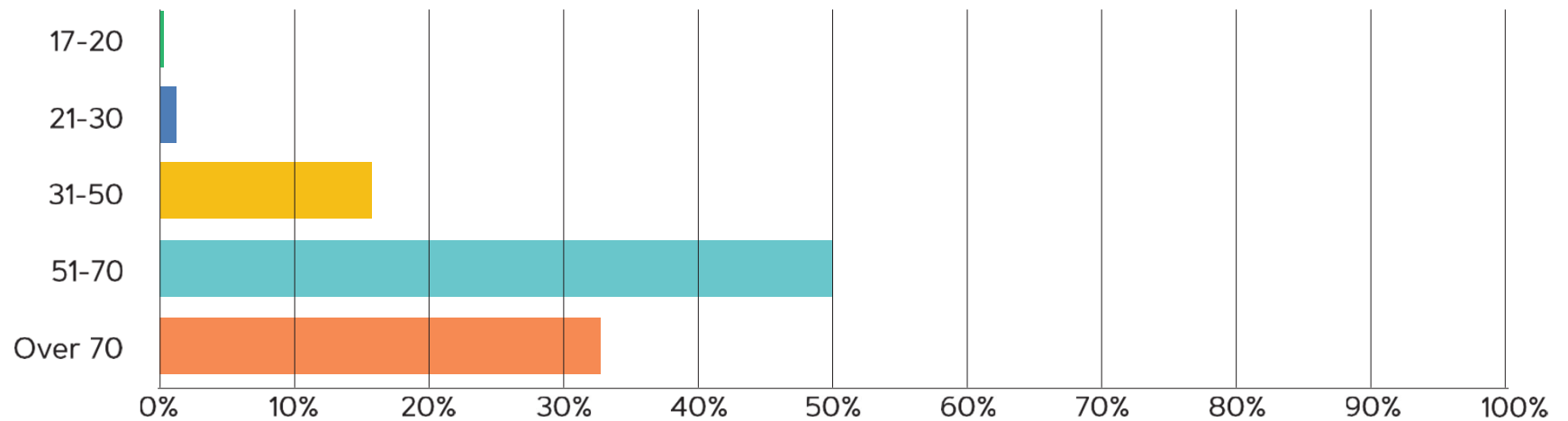
78% are permanent residents and/or ratepayers

22% own a holiday home and a non-resident ratepayer



# Respondents Demographics

- Majority are between the age of 51 to over 70+ years (83%)

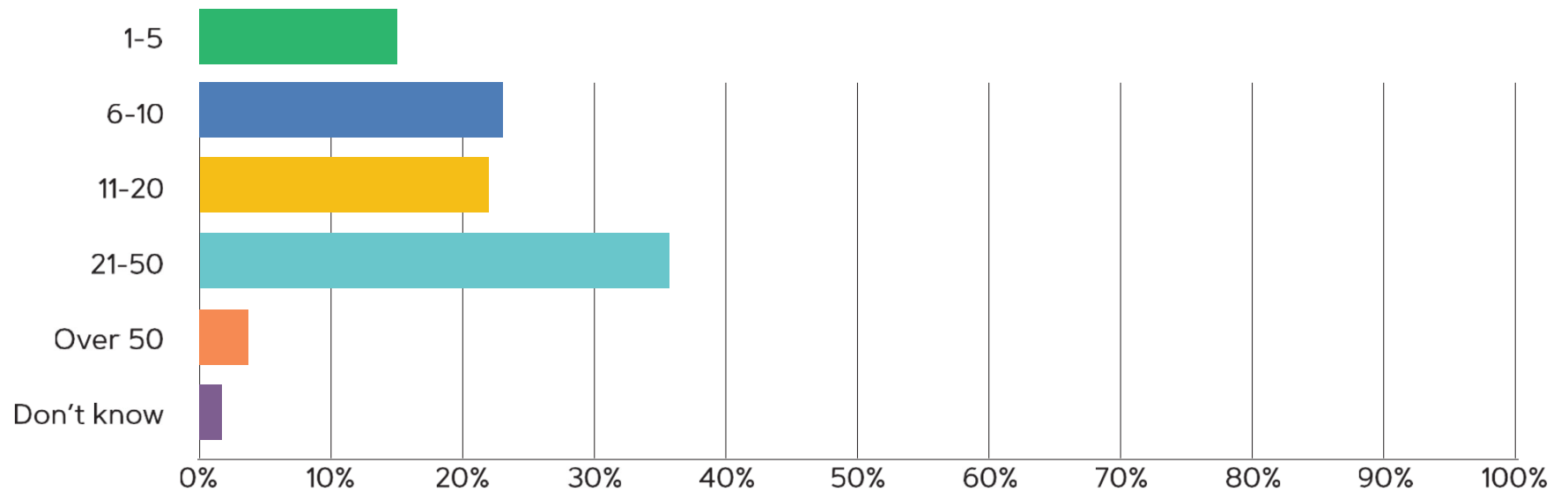






## Respondents Demographics

- Majority have been paying rates for 11 to over 50+ years



## Respondents Demographics

- Majority of respondents have been residing and paying rates in Whangamata for a long time.



## What makes Whangamata an attractive place to live?

- Beach
- Lifestyle
- Friendly people
- Small town community
- Lots to do



## Collaboration - Work together

Whangamata ratepayers/residents want more engagement/transparency/service

- **82%** - **do not** think they get value for their rates money
- **93%** - specifically **want to be informed** where and what their rates are spent on annually
- **70%** - are **not aware** of the TCDC financial planning documents
- **84%** - would **like to see** a Whangamata specific TCDC financial planning documents
- **66%** - are **not aware** of the Whangamata Community Plan

What is the effect on the community, from the lack of investment from TCDC?

- Fatigue
- Lack of trust in the process

**Objective: To overcome Apathy**



# What are the main Issues facing Whangamata?

- Stormwater Flooding – stormwater infrastructure, drainage
- Maintenance and Repairs – upgrade, rundown
- Coastal Management – beach, erosion, dunes, environmental
- Roding – access, kerbing, potholes, street lighting, footpaths
- High Rates – rate increases, money wasted
- Housing Shortage – affordability, lack of accommodation
- Street Lighting – residential security, road safety
- Extreme Weather Events – impact, preparedness, climate change

## Social & Economic Impact

- Huge consequences for social, economic, environmental & cultural well-being of Whangamata community.
- Impact is major and is historical, due to ever increasing rates and lack of return in services.
- Council assets have been allowed to rundown and have become Health & Safety issues.



# Opportunities

**What actions** do the ratepayer/resident want to see their rates spent on in the next 12months?

## Infrastructure

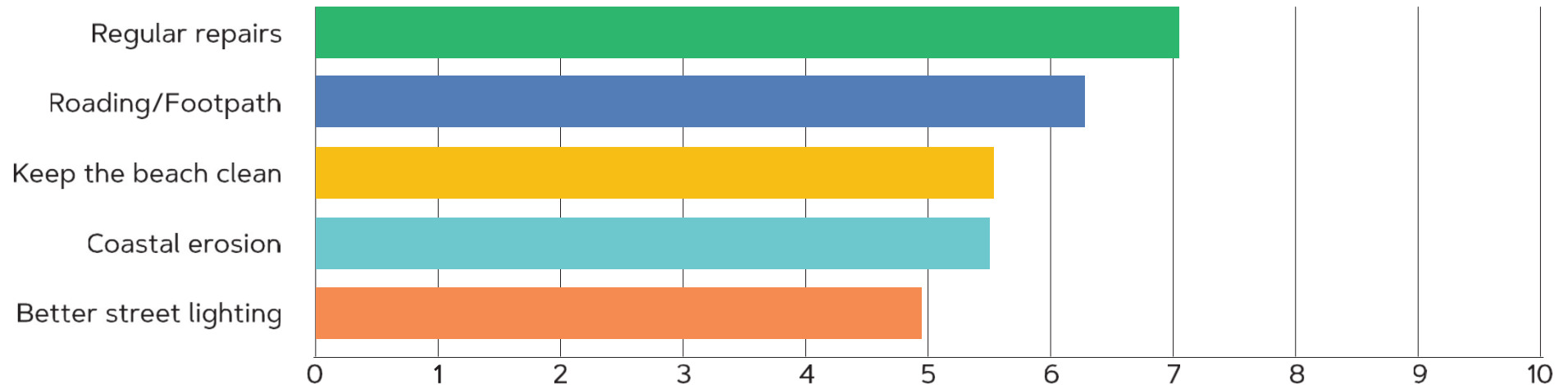
- Mitigate flooding – improve stormwater/drainage
- Regular maintenance & repairs of existing council assets
- Roading – improve street lighting/roads/kerbing
- Beach - coastal erosion protection/keep the beach clean/beach accessways

Plan ahead to minimise consequences and build community resilience.



## Consolidate – Reprioritise

Actions in order of priority



- Regular repairs and maintenance of existing Council assets
- Roding/footpath improvements
- Keep the beach clean
- Coastal erosion protection
- Better street lighting & CCTV in town.

No new projects until existing council assets are upgraded, repaired and maintained and the above addressed.

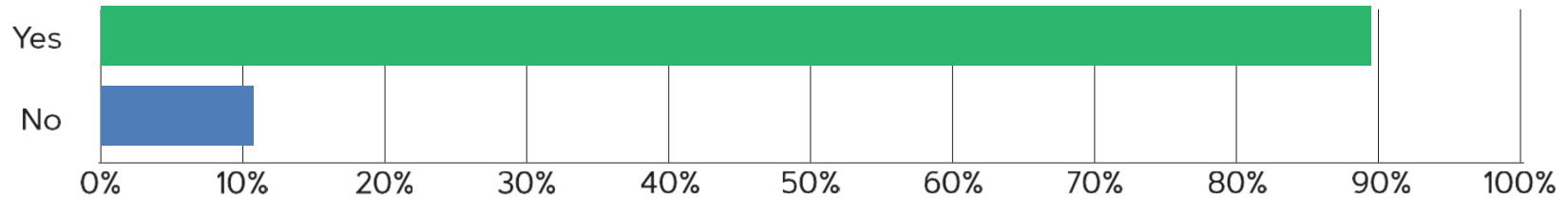




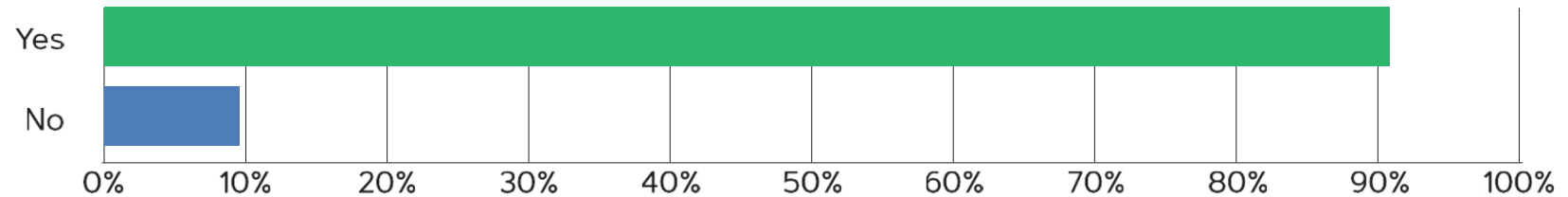
# Consolidate – Prioritise

The **projects** ratepayers/residents want to see their rates spent on are:

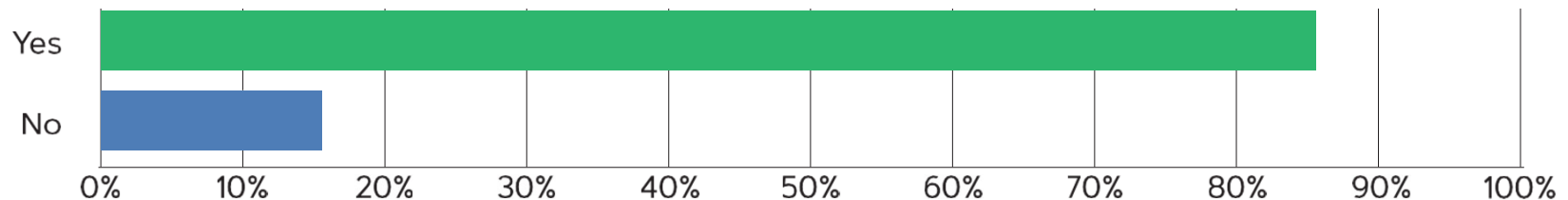
## 1. Kerbing and Stormwater improvements.



## 2. Recycling and Resource Centre Seagull Centre to improve waste management of materials destined for landfill.



## 3. Cycle/walkways from town to the mountain bike park initiative.





# WRA Required Actions

## Collaborate/Rebuild – Trust

- Work together to create a sustainable partnership and become more resilient.
- Transparency - Inform the community annually where/what rates spent on.
- Engage by producing a Whangamata specific TCDC financial planning document.

## Consolidate/Recover – Reprioritise

- Redirect capital expenditure from new projects and cancel projects no longer viable.
- Upgrade/Maintain/Repair existing Council assets.
- Use more local contractors and fewer consultants.



# Process for WRA Survey 2023

Accountable partnership – Collaboration to produce a positive community outcome

- **WRA Committee Sign off 17th October 2023**

Report to the committee on the analysis, prior to advocating to the relevant authority on the community's behalf.

- **Community Networking Meeting – with Whangamata CB**

Informal meeting/presentation/agreement

- **Whangamata Community Board - Meeting 28th November 2023**

Public forum/presentation/tabling report/minutes acknowledgement/ commitment of survey outcome.

Local Government Act 2002, s.52.

- **Whangamata Area Councillors**

Commitment/representation of survey outcome.

- **TCDC – Meeting Mid Dec**

Local Government Act section 10



# WRA Acknowledgements

Certificate of community service presented to:

- **Whangamata Area School and Y7 students**
  - Creation of the online version and collation of data
- **Whangamata Community Organizations**
  - Helped promote the survey
- **Information Centre**
  - Survey outlet
- **Whanga Books**
  - Survey outlet
- **Port Rd Project**
  - Survey outlet