



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Reserve Management Plan Engagement Report 2024

Document status: **Final**
Version: **V1.0**
Date: **3 March 2025**
Author: **Jason Sellaiah**
Mira Schwill



Reserve Management Plan – Engagement Report 2024

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The views expressed in this report are those of the respondents and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Buller District Council.

Respondents have self-selected to participate. Self-selecting respondents may have characteristics and opinions inconsistent with those of the general population.

The views expressed from the sample size are not statistically representative of the population in the Buller District.

1. Introduction

This report summarises the results of the Reserve Management Plan 2024 survey. This survey was conducted primarily through Let's talk Buller from 21 October to 25 November 2024.

The purpose of the survey was to gather public feedback on the usage, future development, maintenance and protection of the recreational reserves in the Buller District. Eighty-seven submissions were received, 82 came through Let's talk Buller, and five were received in hard copies.

Survey participants could select which reserve they wanted to submit feedback on. The Carters Beach Domain Reserve received 12 responses, the most significant share of responses for one single reserve (13.8%). Westport Domain and the Mokihinui Recreation Reserve attracted seven responses, claiming each a share of 8%. The Omau Reserve gained eight responses, accounting for 9.2%. Other reserves, with a share of 6.9% (six responses), were Victoria Square and Brougham Street Reserve. The Ngakawau/Hector Recreation Reserve received five responses (5.7%). All other reserves attracted less than five responses. A full breakdown of the responses per reserve is supplied in Table 1.

Please tick the reserve in the list below that you like to provide feedback on. (Question type: RadioButton)	
Karamea Memorial Reserve (Campground)	4
Little Wanganui Recreation Reserve	0
Glasseye Drive Recreation Reserve	3
Seddonville Memorial Park Reserve (Campground)	3
Mokihinui Recreation Reserve (Campground)	7
Ngakawau/Hector Recreation Reserve	5
Waimangaroa Recreation Reserve	7
Brougham Street Reserve	6
Eastons Road Reserve	3
Rayner Park	3
Kilkenny Park	1
Hunter Street Reserve	0
Victoria Square	6
Mill & Colvin Street Reserve	1
Derby Street Playground	1
Westport Domain	7
Carters Beach Domain	12
Omau Reserve	8

Inangahua Junction Reserve	2
Reefton Buller Road (Pony Grounds)	1
Crampton Road Park	0
King George V Jubilee Park	2
Reefton Reserve (Motor camp)	2
Blacks Point Reserve	1
Mawheraiti Reserve	0
Maruia Hall Reserve	0
Springs Junction Reserve	2

Table 1: Question 1 n¹=87

2. Background

The Reserve Management Plan (RMP) survey is part of a broader engagement process aimed at shaping the future management of public recreational reserves across the Buller district.

The early engagement through surveys and workshops was conducted over five weeks, ensuring that community members, stakeholders, and interest groups had sufficient time to contribute their insights before the public consultation process on the draft Plan. The scope of the engagement spans multiple reserves across the district, covering both urban and rural areas, including reserves with campgrounds, community halls, and spaces used for recreation and environmental conservation.

The timeframe was structured to allow for meaningful participation, including an initial feedback phase followed by further opportunities to refine the plan based on community input. The target audience for this survey included residents, reserve and hall subcommittees, reserve users, community groups, recreational clubs, environmental organisations, iwi, and businesses interested in the management and development of these public spaces. Their feedback is critical in ensuring the final RMP aligns with community needs, environmental sustainability, and cultural values.

Insights gathered from this survey will help shape policies regarding access, facilities, conservation efforts, future developments, and governance structures. Engaging a diverse range of voices ensures the plan reflects a balanced approach between public enjoyment, ecological protection, and long-term sustainability.

3. Legal obligations

Council is required to prepare and review Reserve Management Plans for reserves that it manages or controls under the Reserves Act 1977. The Act also outlines the process for

¹ 'n,' represents the total number of individuals or observations in the sample. Therefore it signifies the sample size, indicating how many data points are included in the analysis. If not specified otherwise n represents the number of responses received to a question in this report.

reviewing these plans. The periodic review process for the Reserve Management Plan under the Reserves Act 1977 involves six phases, as outlined in Figure 1. Reviews typically occur every 10 years or sooner if necessary.

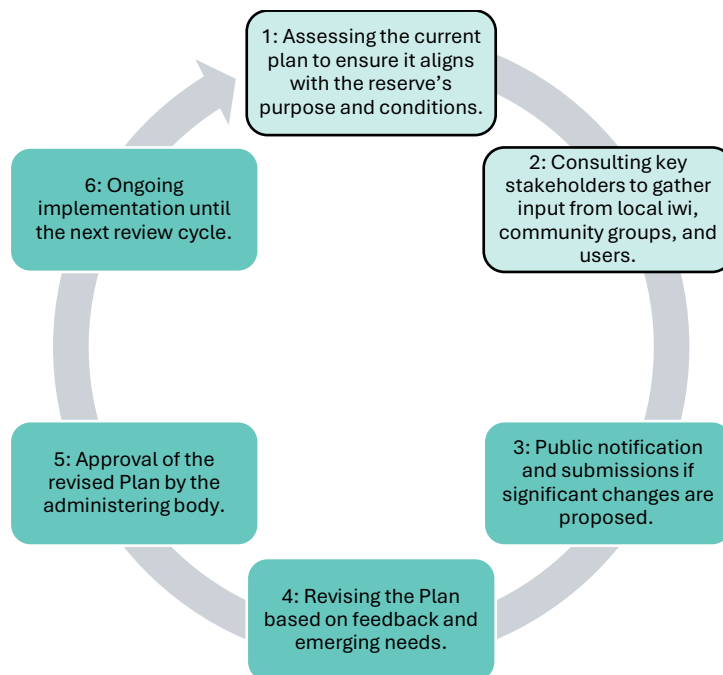


Figure 1: Reserve Management Plan review process as defined in the Reserves Act 1977

The first two steps involve informal engagement with the community to collect feedback to inform the draft Reserve Management Plan (the draft Plan).

Steps three to five will focus on the formal consultation on the draft Plan. During this formal consultation process, Council will call for public submissions on the draft Plan. The submissions will be considered during the hearing and deliberation process. Considering these submissions, any alterations will be made to the draft Plan to be included in the final plan. Council will adopt the final plan. Ongoing implementation will occur until the next review cycle captured in step six.

4. Key findings

The engagement through the survey and the workshops has provided staff with valuable insights into key aspects of the future management of Council's reserves. This rich information will inform the draft RMP for public consultation in mid-2025.

4.1. Importance for the community

Participants believe that the reserves are significant because they provide a space for play, support environmental value, and serve as the heart of the community. They also offer essential areas for events and sports, fostering social connections and recreational opportunities.

Survey participants expressed that space for events, environmental value, space to play, being the heart of the community, and space for sport are key reasons why reserves are essential to them and their community.

4.2. Usage ideas

Participants believe Buller's recreational reserves can be used more effectively by enhancing its infrastructure, improving landscaping and planting, and providing better amenities. Additionally, scheduled maintenance will ensure the space remains safe and well-maintained. Utilising the reserve for more events can further strengthen community engagement.

4.3. Upgrades and improvements

Participants believe that Council could improve its reserve by ensuring regular scheduled maintenance, enhancing infrastructure, and implementing better weed control. Additionally, improvements in landscaping, planting, and upgraded amenities would enhance the reserve's usability and appeal.

4.4. Community events and activities

Participants would like to see a variety of activities in the reserves, with the most popular being sporting activities, swimming, and running, highlighting a strong interest in recreation and fitness. Quiet enjoyment of open space is also a priority, reflecting a desire for relaxation and nature appreciation. Additionally, community gardening was highly rated, showcasing an interest in environmental and social engagement. These key aspects demonstrate the community's vision for making the reserve a vibrant and inclusive space.

Participants would like to see various events held in the reserves, with a strong preference for music events, sporting events, and markets, which foster community engagement and entertainment. Family gatherings were also highly valued, highlighting the reserve's role in bringing people together. Additionally, having a dedicated space for events would enhance the reserve's ability to host various activities.

4.5. Environmental enhancements

Participants believe the reserves' long-term environmental value can be improved by planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers, which was the most supported initiative. Enhancing wildlife habitat and creating green spaces with diverse vegetation were also highly valued, reflecting a strong interest in biodiversity conservation. Additionally, key priorities were boosting soil health through organic mulch and compost, limiting chemicals, and involving the community through education programs and volunteer activities.

4.6. Access and amenities

Participants believe that access to this reserve can be enhanced through better infrastructure and footpaths, ensuring ease of movement for all visitors. Disabled-friendly facilities were also highlighted as a priority, promoting inclusivity and accessibility. Additionally, parking facilities and clear signage would improve convenience and wayfinding.

The most cited access enhancements suggested by participants are parking facilities, disabled-friendly facilities, signage, footpaths, and better infrastructure.

Participants identified benches and seating areas as the most essential amenity when visiting the reserve, emphasising comfort and relaxation. Toilets and/or disability-accessible toilet facilities were also a top priority, ensuring convenience and accessibility for all users. BBQs and parking were highly valued, supporting social gatherings and ease of access. Additionally, paths and walkways were highlighted as essential for movement within the reserve.

4.7. Comments

Sustainability and environmental protection emerged as a significant focus, with many advocating for continued efforts in weed control, native planting, and ecosystem restoration. Ongoing and future-focused improvement of facilities and infrastructure was a key theme, which is singled out by the high frequency of the themes of sustainable management and scheduled maintenance. Requests were made for better parking, drainage, and amenities like seating, recreational equipment, and durable toilets. Restoring historical buildings and community halls was also highlighted.

Community engagement and volunteer support were widely recognised, with calls for greater Council involvement in maintenance and opportunities for schools and local groups to use reserves. Preserving open spaces while ensuring developments align with community values was essential to many. Finally, future planning and alternative land uses were recurring themes.

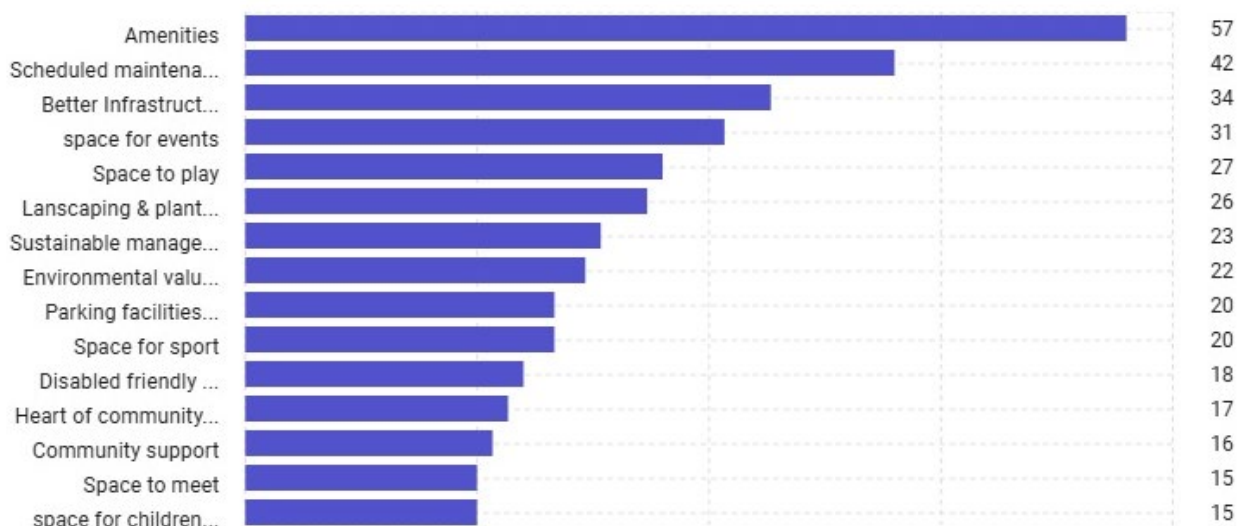


Figure 2: Frequency of themes across all open-ended questions RMP survey

4.8. Reserve specific feedback

Environmental sustainability and infrastructure maintenance

Across multiple reserves, environmental sustainability and infrastructure maintenance are recurring priorities. For example, the Carters Beach Reserve is focused on coastal protection and reducing damage to the shoreline through integrated planting and weed control, while the Springs Junction/ Maruia Reserve are working on planting native vegetation. Similarly, at the Seddonville Reserve and Waimangaroa Reserve, there is an emphasis on environmental initiatives such as tree planting and weed management. The ongoing challenge lies in ensuring that these environmental efforts are supported by adequate infrastructure, which often requires funding and collaboration with local councils. Improvements such as drainage, bund maintenance, and facility upgrades are essential to meet growing community needs while ensuring the protection of natural resources.

Volunteer engagement and financial sustainability

Volunteer engagement and financial sustainability present significant challenges for many reserves. For example, Carters Beach Reserve faces issues with an ageing volunteer base, limiting its ability to maintain the reserve's facilities and run programs. Similarly, the Seddonville Reserve Campground is hindered by a lack of Council funding for upgrades, which affects both the maintenance of facilities and the ability to address safety concerns. At the Inangahua Reserve, ongoing operational support and financial assistance are necessary to ensure the facility's long-term viability. Many reserves rely heavily on volunteers, and the lack of consistent funding makes it difficult to address infrastructure needs and improvements, signalling a need for more sustainable funding models and resource allocation strategies from councils or external sources.

Facility upgrades and community engagement

Upgrades to facilities and increasing community involvement are central to the growth and success of the reserves. The Reefton Motor Camp, for example, has seen improvements in infrastructure and safety measures, but still requires Council support for large-scale projects like electrical upgrades and facility renovations. Similarly, the Springs Junction/ Maruia Reserve is focusing on creating more inviting spaces, such as constructing picnic areas, shelters, and nature play areas. The development of facilities like improved toilet blocks, new picnic areas, and better signage at several reserves is aimed at improving accessibility and enhancing the visitor experience. These upgrades, combined with ongoing community involvement in activities such as planting and conservation efforts, play a critical role in ensuring that the reserves continue to serve both locals and visitors effectively.

5. Engagement design

Early engagement comprised two main components: a public-facing survey and structured workshops with the different reserve subcommittees.

The survey consisted of four closed-ended questions² and six open-ended questions³. At the beginning of the survey, respondents had to select which reserve they wished to submit feedback on. If people wanted to provide input on more than one, they had to fill out another survey. For each reserve, the same questions were covered.

The questions were designed to cover elements that were identified as negotiable.⁴ Each question allowed respondents to express what options within these negotiable elements were most important to them.

Negotiable	Non-negotiable
Usage ideas: Feedback on how the recreational reserve can be better utilised is encouraged (e.g., additional recreational activities, improved accessibility, events, or community uses that fit within the reserve's current purpose).	Core purpose of the reserve: The reserve's primary designation (e.g., campground, hall, or recreational space) will not change. Campgrounds will remain campgrounds, and halls will continue to function as community halls.
Upgrades and improvements: Suggestions for improvements to facilities (e.g., new seating, playgrounds, landscaping, walking tracks, signage) are welcome as long as they align with the reserve's purpose and legal requirements.	Compliance with the Reserves Act 1977: Any feedback or changes must align with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, ensuring the reserve is used in a manner consistent with its legal classification (e.g., recreational, scenic, or local purpose reserves).
Community events and activities: Ideas for new events or activities that can be held on the reserve, as long as they are appropriate for the space and align with the Reserves Act.	Preservation of natural and cultural values: Any development or changes must respect and preserve the reserve's environmental, cultural, and historical values.
Environmental enhancements: Proposals for ways to improve environmental sustainability (e.g., planting native species, waste reduction initiatives) within the reserve are open to consideration.	Existing infrastructure: Major changes to existing infrastructure like buildings or facilities (e.g., removal or repurposing of halls or significant buildings) are not up for negotiation unless required for safety or compliance.
Access and amenities: Feedback on enhancing access (e.g., parking, pathways, disabled access) and amenities (e.g., restrooms, picnic areas) is encouraged and negotiable within budget and feasibility constraints.	

Table 2: Negotiable and non-negotiable elements for the RMP early engagement

² A closed-ended question is any question for which a researcher provides research participants with options from which to choose a response. There are many types of closed-ended survey questions, such as multiple-choice questions, ranking survey questions, drop down surveys, or single-choice questions.

³ Open-ended questions do not have predefined answers. Respondents can answer any way they wish, providing insight that may not be gathered from a closed-ended question.

⁴ When planning the early engagement factors that the community and stakeholders can influence were defined. These were the negotiable elements and constituted the focus of the engagement. What cannot be changed, the non-negotiables, were clearly communicated during the engagement.

The closed-ended questions gave people a list of specific items or activities they could choose from. This gave participants an easy way to indicate their preferred choices from a pre-defined selection. Structuring the lead question for each negotiable element as closed-ended questions guided participants towards a range of feasible options, increasing the usefulness of the feedback.

The open-ended questions enabled Council staff to understand participant's motives and capture their ideas. Open-ended questions were used for more complex elements that would yield a broader spectrum of suggestions. Also, more detailed answers were required to generate valuable insights. What type of question covered what element is displayed in Table 3.

Element	Type of question
Choice of reserve	Closed-ended question
Importance for community	Open-ended question
Usage ideas	Open-ended question
Community activities	Closed-ended question
Community events	Open-ended question
Environmental enhancements	Closed-ended question
Upgrades and improvements	Closed-ended question
Amenities	Closed-ended question
Access	Open-ended question
Other suggestions	Open-ended question

Table 3: Type of question for each element covered in the survey

The workshops were structured to ensure meaningful engagement with the subcommittees and other key stakeholders. Initially, participants were given a feedback form (Appendix 10.1), which guided them in discussing key aspects of the Reserve Management Plan and allowed them to submit informed responses. The subcommittees and stakeholders discussed these questions internally before submitting their collective feedback. Council staff facilitated two workshops with individual stakeholders. The insights gathered from these workshops were then compiled.

A total of two staff-facilitated workshops were conducted at Westport South School and Maruia Springs School to gather input for the Reserve Management Plan. Additionally, several reserve and hall subcommittees held internal workshops and submitted feedback, including Karamea, Inangahua, Waimangaroa, Seddonville, Springs Junction/Maruia, Carter's Beach, and Reefton. The Omau, Ngakawau/Hector, Mokihiui, and Little Wanganui reserve and hall subcommittees provided their feedback through the online survey. External stakeholders, such as Te Ha O Kawatiri and Buller Rugby Club, also participated via the online survey, while the Reefton Historic Trust Board and Kawatiri Riding for the Disabled provided feedback using the feedback form.

6. Engagement communication

The survey was promoted in several ways to encourage as much user participation as possible. It was available online through Let's Talk Buller and in hard copies at the Council's offices, libraries, and information centres throughout Buller.

As this survey targeted users of the reserve and key stakeholders, direct communication through Council's subcommittee liaison officer was key in promoting the survey. Stakeholders were encouraged to share the survey with their networks.

Various other channels were used to promote the survey. These included social media, the Connect Newsletter, email newsletters, local publications, radio advertisements, features on Council's websites, and a Let's Talk Buller promotion.

Council also used media releases to notify the Buller community of the survey's intention and closing date.

7. Engagement reach

The survey page received 639 visits⁵ during the four-week survey period between the 21 October and the 25 November 2024. Sixty-six visitors were engaged, 169 were informed, and 497 were aware.⁶ This yielded an engagement rate of 13.3%⁷.

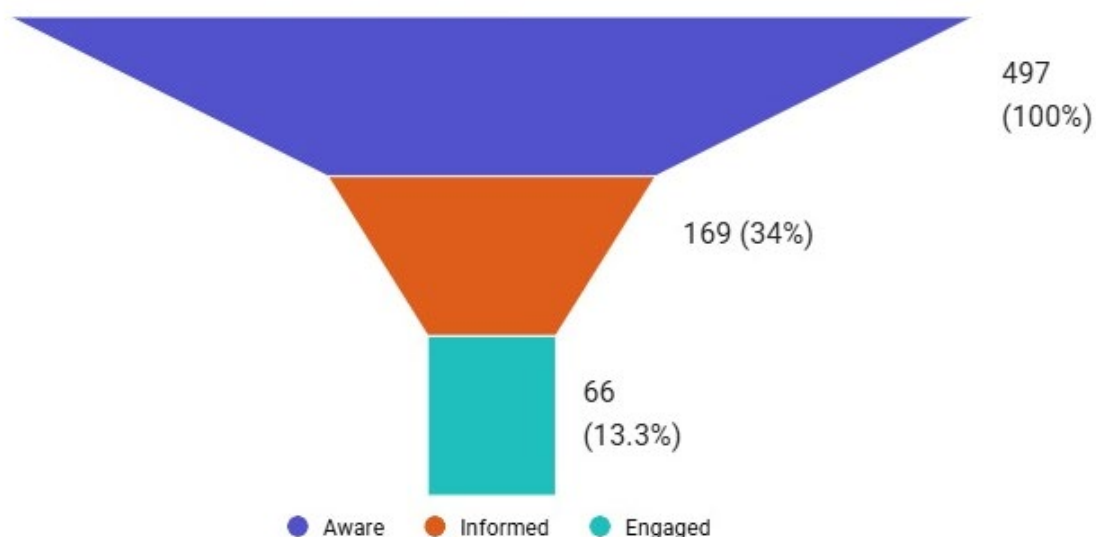


Figure 3: Levels of engagement with RMP survey

Traffic to the page peaked mid-survey with a maximum of 97 visitors a day.

⁵ Visits is the number of unique visits by a browser. Each Visit creates a new session which lasts until there have been 30 minutes of inactivity. Visits from admins who have logged in are not counted.

⁶ An **aware visitor** has made at least one visit to your site or project. An **informed visitor** has clicked on something. An **engaged visitor** has contributed to a project using the tools provided.

⁷ The percentage of visitors who contributed to projects.

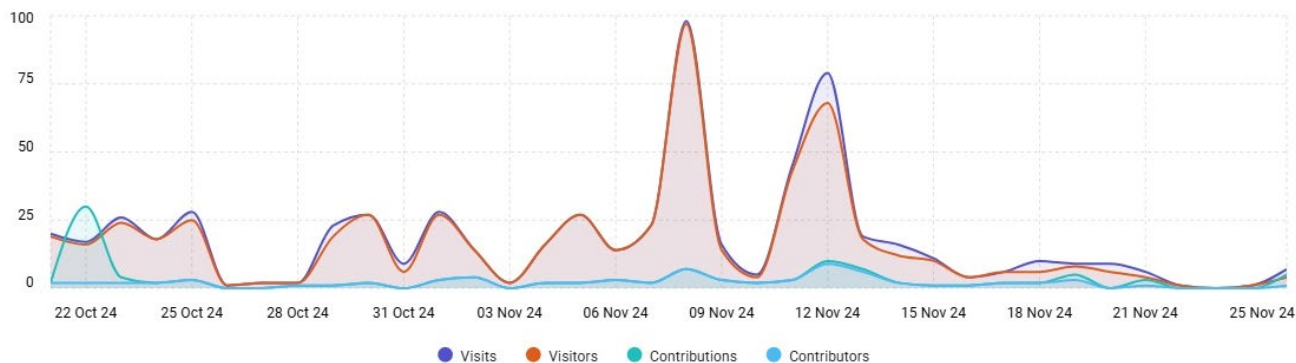


Figure 4: Activity overtime on Let's talk Buller RMP survey

Most traffic to the page was through direct channels⁸ like clicking on a link.

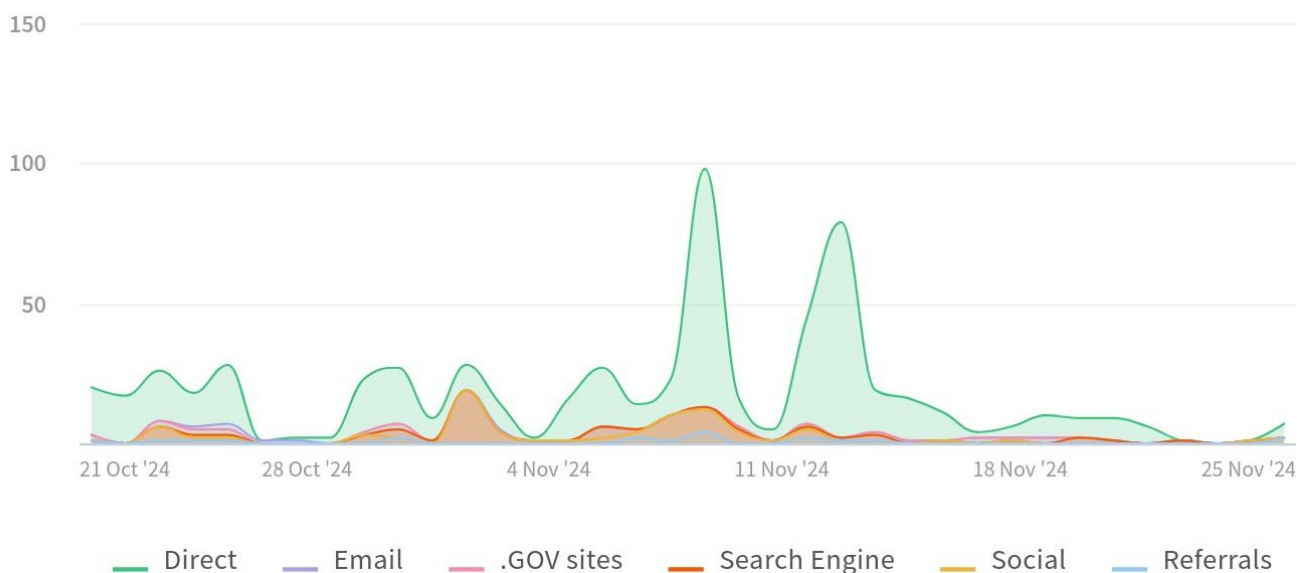


Figure 5: Visits by channel Let's talk Buller RMP survey

Direct channels contributed to 506 aware visits, of which 29.4% were informed visits and 10.7% were engaged visits. Government sites, search engines, and social traffic channels⁹ contributed significantly fewer aware visits but yielded a much higher percentage of informed visits and engaged visits.

Channel	Aware visits	Informed visits	Engaged visits
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⁸ **Direct:** People who have arrived at your site by entering the URL directly into their browser. Direct traffic may also be due to links from emails sent, traffic sources that were untraceable for whatever reason, such as apps that don't allow referrer tracking, are logged as direct, users who have bookmarked or saved the URL in their browser history

⁹ **Email:** Traffic arriving at your site via links in let's talk Buller email or external email tools that include a tracking link.

Gov Sites: Traffic arriving via links from sites with .gov or .govt in the domain.

Search Engine: Traffic generated from search engines such as Google or Bing.

Social: Traffic linked from social media such as Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Google+, or Instagram.

Referrals: Traffic linked from non-government websites, such as community groups or business websites.

Direct	506	149 (29.4%)	54 (10.7%)
Search Engine	21	14 (66.7%)	4 (19%)
Referrals	19	7 (36.8%)	2 (10.5%)
Social	67	34 (50.7%)	14 (20.9%)
.GOV sites	20	16 (80%)	4 (20%)
Email	6	1 (16.7%)	0 (0%)

Table 4: Aware, informed, and engaged visit by channel RMP survey

8. Data analysis methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data were collected to provide meaningful insights into the topic.

Quantitative and qualitative data are complementary since numerical data only includes information about the 'what'. Qualitative data captures the deeper 'why', which reveals underlying reasons for the 'what' like behaviours, beliefs, values, habits or constraints. Surfacing the 'why' enables the researcher to draw meaningful conclusions to inform actions and recommendations.

Both data types are essential and work hand-in-hand to capture what is happening and dive deeper into underlying reasons.

8.1. Quantitative analysis

The quantitative analysis of the numerical data from closed questions involved identifying patterns, trends, and relationships between variables through mathematical calculations and statistical tests. The quantitative data analysis turns individual data sets into meaningful insights to drive informed decisions.

The quantitative data analysis was done through the analytical functions embedded in Buller District Council's community engagement platform Let's talk Buller.

8.2. Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of responses from open-ended questions and written feedback was analysed using a thematic analysis approach.

This approach is rooted in the systematic framework introduced by Braun and Clarke in 2006, and it offers a structured method for identifying, analysing, and interpreting patterns of meaning within data.

The following outlines the specific phases of this methodology:

1. **Familiarisation with the data:** Analysts immersed themselves in the data through repeated reading to understand its content deeply.
2. **Generating initial codes:** A systematic coding process was executed across the entire dataset. This foundational step organised the data into distinct segments, labelling them to reflect critical insights.
3. **Searching for themes:** Initial codes were subsequently grouped into potential overarching themes, providing broader patterns of meaning.

4. **Reviewing themes:** The themes were refined to ensure their relevance to the coded extracts and the broader dataset. Themes with substantial supporting data or which were more diverse were reconsidered.
5. **Defining and naming themes:** Each theme was meticulously refined to encapsulate its core, with further deliberation on potential sub-themes.
6. **Identifying frequency:** Tables illustrating the frequency of key themes have been included to demonstrate the significance of each key theme. The tables focus on the critical themes revealed from the analysis.

It should be noted that not all percentages are shown to add up to 100 per cent. This is due to rounding or allowing multiple selections.

9. Data analysis

9.1. Importance for the community

Participants believe that the reserves are important because they provide a space for play, support environmental value, and serve as the heart of the community. They also offer essential areas for events and sports, fostering social connections and recreational opportunities.

Survey participants expressed that space for events, environmental value, space to play, the heart of the community, and space for sport are key reasons why reserves are essential to them and their community. Table 5 contains these key reasons and the frequency of how often they were mentioned.

It demonstrates the community's strong connection to the reserves and the high significance of the reserve in the respondent's daily lives and for the community. The frequency of all themes for this question is displayed in Appendix 10.2. 67.1 % of the responses were positive, and 29.3% were neutral. This consistent positive sentiment underlines the importance of the reserves for respondents.

"This creates a hub where the community can gather and connect. It hosts our community hall and also doubles as an emergency evacuation facility. It also has our community camp ground and playground which bring visitors and income to our community. It has a field for sports and recreational events." (Survey respondent)

"Public spaces are important to communities' health and wellbeing. It's great having a motor camp in our community plus a great big public space behind the motor camp for public use such as kicking a ball around. The Memorial Gates/ Gates of Remembrance and 10-acre reserve is an asset to our community." (Survey respondent)

"We are a very isolated community, and this space is the only community space we have to come together and support each other." (Survey respondent)

Space for events	Environmental value	Space to play	Heart of community	Space for sport
12	12	19	13	12

Table 5: Frequency of key themes for question 2: Why is this reserve important to you and your community?
n=82

9.2. Usage ideas

Participants believe Buller's recreational reserves can be used more effectively by enhancing infrastructure, improving landscaping and planting, and providing better amenities. Additionally, scheduled maintenance will ensure the space remains safe and well maintained while utilising the reserve for more events can further strengthen community engagement.

The five most mentioned themes are displayed in Table 6, reflecting the community's priorities for maximising the reserve's potential. The frequency of all themes is shown in Appendix 10.3.

"Expand the playground. Allow more activities on the reserve. More BBQ areas and bench seats. More for tamariki to do." (Survey respondent)

"It is already used for many recreational facilities however more parking facilities would be an asset to support these events. Road signage for vehicle users to ensure safety for public and pedestrians. Better drainage as some areas are quite boggy and damp. Turf maintenance to ensure our grass areas remain in prime condition. Upgrade of public toilets - these are in desperate need of a recondition. Footpaths for pedestrians. Skate ramp for youth activities. (Survey respondent)

"Community events, installations for children - swings, basketball hoops, bike track etc." (Survey respondent)

Space for events	Better infrastructure	Landscaping & planting	Amenities	Scheduled maintenance
13	14	14	26	13

Table 6: Frequency of key themes for question 3: How can we use this recreational reserve better? n=82

9.3. Upgrades and improvements

Participants believe that Council could improve its reserve by ensuring regular scheduled maintenance, enhancing infrastructure, and implementing better weed control. Additionally, improvements in landscaping, planting, and upgraded amenities would enhance the reserve's usability and appeal.

Singling out the five themes mentioned the most in Table 7 strongly echoes these key aspects. It reflects the community's priorities for maintaining and improving these valued community spaces. The frequency of all themes for this question is displayed in Appendix 10.5.

61.1% of the responses were neutral, 4.2% mixed and 8.3% negative, emphasising participants' sentiment that Buller's reserves require improved scheduled maintenance, better infrastructure, weed control, landscaping, planting, and amenities.

"Keep it tidy" (Survey respondent)

“Keep the quality of the hall up.” (Survey respondent)

“Take better care of it - NOTICE what is happening there and introduce mitigation strategies. Care for the asset, for future generations, before it's completely ruined.” (Survey respondent)

Scheduled maintenance	Better infrastructure	Weed control	Landscaping & planting	Amenities
15	10	7	6	16

Table 7: Frequency of key themes for question 7: What improvements (if anything) could the Council make to this reserve? n=82

9.4. Community events and activities

Participants would like to see a variety of activities in the reserves, with the most popular being sporting activities, swimming, and running, highlighting a strong interest in recreation and fitness. Quiet enjoyment of open space is also a priority, reflecting a desire for relaxation and nature appreciation. Additionally, community gardening was highly rated, showcasing an interest in environmental and social engagement. As highlighted in Table 8, these key aspects demonstrate the community's vision for making the reserve a vibrant and inclusive space.

What activities would you like to see in this reserve? Please tick all that apply. (Question type: CheckBox)	
School visits	34
Walking	37
Running	31
Cycling	25
Picnicking	56
Sporting activities	45
Using the toilet facilities	34
Quiet enjoyment of open space	56
Community gardening	27
Spending time outdoors with family/friends	53
BBQing	43
Playing on the playground equipment	43
Dog walking	42
Swimming	16
Tree planting, pest control or other ecological restoration work	39
Other (please specify)	19

Table 8: Question 4: What activities would you like to see in this reserve? n=84

Participants would like to see various events held in the reserves, with a strong preference for music events, sporting events, and markets, which foster community engagement and entertainment. Family gatherings were also highly valued, highlighting the reserve's role in bringing people together. Additionally, having a dedicated space for events would enhance the reserve's ability to host various activities.

These key aspects are highlighted in Table 9, which presents the five most frequently named themes asking what events people would like to see held in this reserve. The selection reflects the community's desire for a vibrant and well-utilised space. The frequency of all themes for this question is displayed in Appendix 10.4.

"Its location offers a great place for sporting activities as is already the case with rugby, marathon and other events." (Survey respondent)

"Sport events like a fun run and other mid-winter swims are great. The hall is amazing for workshops and more music events would be great." (Survey respondent)

"Music nights, outdoor movie nights, etc during summer." (Survey respondent)

Music events	Space for events	Sporting events	Family gatherings	Market
8	4	13	9	5

Table 9: Frequency of key themes for question 5: What events would you like to see held in this reserve? n=61

9.5. Environmental enhancements

Participants believe the reserve's long-term environmental value can be improved by planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers, which was the most supported initiative. Enhancing wildlife habitat and creating green spaces with diverse vegetation were also highly valued, reflecting a strong interest in biodiversity conservation. Additionally, key priorities were boosting soil health through organic mulch and compost, limiting chemicals, and involving the community through education programs and volunteer activities. As highlighted in Table 10, these aspects demonstrate the community's commitment to ecological sustainability and environmental stewardship.

How can we improve the long-term environmental value of this reserve? (Question type: CheckBox)	
Plant native trees, shrubs, and flowers	52
Enhance wildlife habitat	30
Plant more trees and protect mature ones	38
Improve water management by using permeable surfaces	17
Boost soil health through organic mulch, compost, and limit chemicals	24
Promote community gardens and edible landscapes	32
Create green spaces and plant diverse vegetation	27

Involve the community through education programs and encourage volunteer activities	41
Enhance birdlife through predator control	32
Incorporate climate change adaptation in future planning	26
Other (please specify)	10

Table 10: Question 6: How can we improve the long-term environmental value of this reserve? n=78

9.6. Access and amenities

Participants believe that access to this reserve can be enhanced through better infrastructure and footpaths, ensuring ease of movement for all visitors. Disabled-friendly facilities were also highlighted as a priority, promoting inclusivity and accessibility. Additionally, parking facilities and clear signage would improve convenience and wayfinding.

The most cited access enhancements suggested by participants are parking facilities, disabled-friendly facilities, signage, footpaths, and better infrastructure. As highlighted in Table 11, these key themes reflect the community's priorities for making the reserve more accessible and user-friendly. The frequency of all themes for this question is displayed in Appendix 10.6.

"More parking, disabled access" (Survey respondent)

"More paths and seats, more accessible playground equipment and nature play" (Survey respondent)

Parking facilities	Disabled friendly facilities	Signage	Footpaths	Better infrastructure
17	12	7	8	6

Table 11: Frequency of key themes for question 8: How can we enhance access to this reserve? n=72

Participants identified benches and seating areas as the most crucial amenity when visiting the reserve, emphasising comfort and relaxation. Toilets and/or disability-accessible toilet facilities were also a top priority, ensuring convenience and accessibility for all users. BBQs and parking were highly valued, supporting social gatherings and ease of access. Additionally, paths and walkways were highlighted as essential for movement within the reserve. These key aspects, as shown in Figure 3, reflect the community's desire for well-equipped and user-friendly amenities.

What amenities are most important to you when visiting this reserve? Please tick all that apply. (Question type: CheckBox)	
Toilets and/or disability-accessible toilet facilities	39
Rubbish bins	34
Playground equipment	37
Pumps tracks	9
Skate ramps	6

Paths and walkways	39
Cycleways and bike stand	21
Signs and information	33
Benches and seating areas	56
Sport grounds	23
Parking	34
Halls	26
BBQs	32

Table 12: Question 9: What amenities are most important to you when visiting this reserve? n=80

9.7. Comments

Sustainability and environmental protection emerged as a significant focus, with many advocating for continued efforts in weed control, native planting, and ecosystem restoration. The ongoing and future-focused improvement of facilities and infrastructure was a key theme, which is singled out by the high frequency of sustainable management (13) and scheduled maintenance (12) mentioned, as displayed in Appendix 10.7. Requests were made for better parking, drainage, and amenities like seating, recreational equipment, and durable toilets. Restoring historical buildings and community halls was also highlighted.

Community engagement and volunteer support were widely recognised, with calls for greater Council involvement in maintenance and opportunities for schools and local groups to use reserves. Preserving open spaces while ensuring developments align with community values was essential to many. Finally, future planning and alternative land uses were recurring themes.

“We need a big commitment from the council to work with us to make our community hall accessible, usable and a safe space for us all. We rely on this hall to keep everyone in our small community connected for the benefit of our wellbeing.” (Survey respondent)

“The future management needs to be sustainable and not just dependent on volunteers.” (Survey respondent)

“Victoria Square is vital to Westport’s community identity and well-being. Its future management should focus on preserving its role as a central hub for local gatherings, sporting events, and community activities like it does already. Maintaining and enhancing the reserve’s facilities will ensure it continues to support economic and social benefits for our town, for generations to come.” (Survey respondent)

9.8. Reserve specific feedback

The below analyses the feedback received from subcommittees through a feedback form and workshops.

Carters Beach Reserve

The Carters Beach Reserve and Hall serve as vital community assets for recreational and social events while prioritising environmental protection. The hall offers affordable facilities for various community functions, but there are ongoing challenges, including the maintenance of infrastructure, coastal inundation risks, and accessibility issues. Efforts are being made to address environmental sustainability through weed control, integrated planting, and managing public access to minimise damage to the shoreline and surrounding ecosystem. Additionally, improvements in drainage, bund maintenance, and facility upgrades are crucial to meet the community's growing needs and ensure long-term sustainability.

However, the reserve faces significant challenges in volunteer engagement and financial sustainability, as volunteer capacity is limited and ageing. The long-term management plan highlights the importance of addressing these issues by finding alternative resource allocation and funding models. Planned upgrades to the hall, playground, and public amenities, along with improvements to accessibility, safety, and coastal protection, are essential for maintaining the reserve's role as a community hub. Sustainable financial strategies and continued collaboration between the council and volunteers will be critical for the reserve's ongoing success and protection.

Reefton Reserve (Motor camp)

The Reefton Motor Camp has undergone significant improvements, funded entirely by the sub-committee, including building refurbishments, landscaping, and the installation of security measures. Essential infrastructure, such as the kitchen, bathrooms, and cabins, have been updated. At the same time, operational efficiency has improved with the purchase of maintenance equipment and the development of a new website with a booking system. These upgrades have enhanced safety, comfort, and accessibility for visitors. However, ongoing and large-scale projects, such as electrical upgrades, facility renovations, and improved drainage, require additional support from the Buller District Council to maintain the camp's high standards and accommodate growing demand.

The subcommittee has successfully funded smaller-scale improvements, but several key projects planned for 2025, including replacing garage doors, track maintenance, reception upgrades, and cabin refurbishments, require council funding. The camp's continued success depends on council support for these more significant developments, ensuring the camp remains a vital asset for the local community and tourists. The subcommittee remains committed to the camp's growth, but Council's involvement is crucial for future-proofing the facility and enhancing the visitor experience.

Springs Junction and Maruia Reserves

The Springs Junction Reserve subcommittee aims to increase the usability and tourism potential of the reserve through creating a more inviting space for locals and visitors. The primary challenge is the lack of rubbish and toilet facilities, which the community hopes to address through further development. Environmental sustainability efforts include planting native vegetation and mitigating tree hazards through a risk assessment while collaborating with the Department of Conservation to manage pests. Strong collaboration with the West Coast Regional Council is essential for better management. Accessibility and safety

concerns for the Maruia Hall have now been addressed, improving the hall's usability and value.

The Springs Junction/Maruia Reserve & Hall Subcommittee envisions revitalising an underutilised reserve section, transforming it into a welcoming and functional space. Short-term plans include constructing an interpretation kiosk, picnic areas, shelters, and a nature play area, with long-term plans for a permanent toilet block and playground. Community involvement is encouraged through local planting projects, and additional signage and landscaping will enhance the site's visibility. Reusing existing structures, like the tennis fence poles, will help preserve the site's history while improving its future use.

Inangahua Reserve

The Inangahua Reserve Subcommittee aims to provide an affordable, accessible recreational facility that meets community needs while preserving the hall's cultural and historical value. Funding and council support are essential for maintaining the hall, ensuring safety and wheelchair accessibility, and implementing necessary upgrades.

The subcommittee plans to improve energy efficiency, develop a picnic area, and address fire safety needs. Simplifying rental agreements and increasing staff hours will improve operations. Plans include upgrades to the kitchen, lighting, heating, and electrical systems, as well as a new picnic area and information board to enhance the hall's functionality and community uptake. Financial support is needed to preserve this vital community asset.

Seddonville Reserve (Campground)

The Seddonville Reserve (Campground) requires several upgrades to maintain its functionality and improve its appeal for recreational and civil defence purposes. Key needs include a new toilet block, additional powered sites, better water storage, and a new garage.

There is also a push to install fire safety measures, improve public safety, and ensure accessibility with ramps. The campground has undertaken initiatives like planting fruit trees and working on weed control. Still, a lack of funding from Council is a significant barrier to maintaining and upgrading the facility. Other challenges include the high cost of rubbish disposal and the need for better infrastructure, including meters for powered sites, a new pump shed, and general building maintenance like painting.

The campground's management seeks a more realistic budget from Council to ensure that necessary improvements, such as the website upgrade, registration and feedback forms, and meters on powered sites, are carried out effectively. Addressing these needs would not only enhance the experience for visitors but also help ensure that the campground remains safe, functional, and well-maintained. Council's support is crucial for enabling long-term sustainability and improving the overall infrastructure of the reserve.

Waimangaroa Reserve

The reserve now offers a comfortable and safe gathering place for small to medium-sized groups, with a modern kitchen suitable for public events and small-scale commercial activities. After significant building works, the facility is no longer derelict and is ready for public use, though ongoing maintenance remains voluntary until an ongoing income stream can be secured. There is a need for further planting, particularly native trees and shrubs, to

enhance the space. While the facilities are accessible and safe, continued efforts are required to maintain and improve the reserve for future use.

Karamea Reserve (Campground)

The Karamea Reserve and Campground are well-maintained and serve the community's needs, offering essential facilities for campers and occasional use for school events. Over the past decade, continuous improvements have been made to the campground, including upgrades to the men's toilet and shower areas and a disability-accessible shower building. While the campground is popular and receives favourable reviews, expansion is limited by power constraints, with no immediate challenges the community faces. The reserve also benefits from a native vegetation planting program, enhancing its environmental sustainability. However, the campground's power supply is fully committed, and further powered sites are not feasible without a significant upgrade.

The campground's operations are funded primarily by camp fees, with some support from the Council's funded grants. A full-time caretaker provides excellent service to visitors, and finances are carefully managed to maintain a surplus. While the reserve and campground meet the travelling public's needs, future expansion is constrained by power limitations, and efforts to upgrade facilities are focused on maintaining and enhancing current offerings. The long-serving volunteer committee ensures the facility remains well-utilised and financially stable, though further funding may be required to continue improvements.

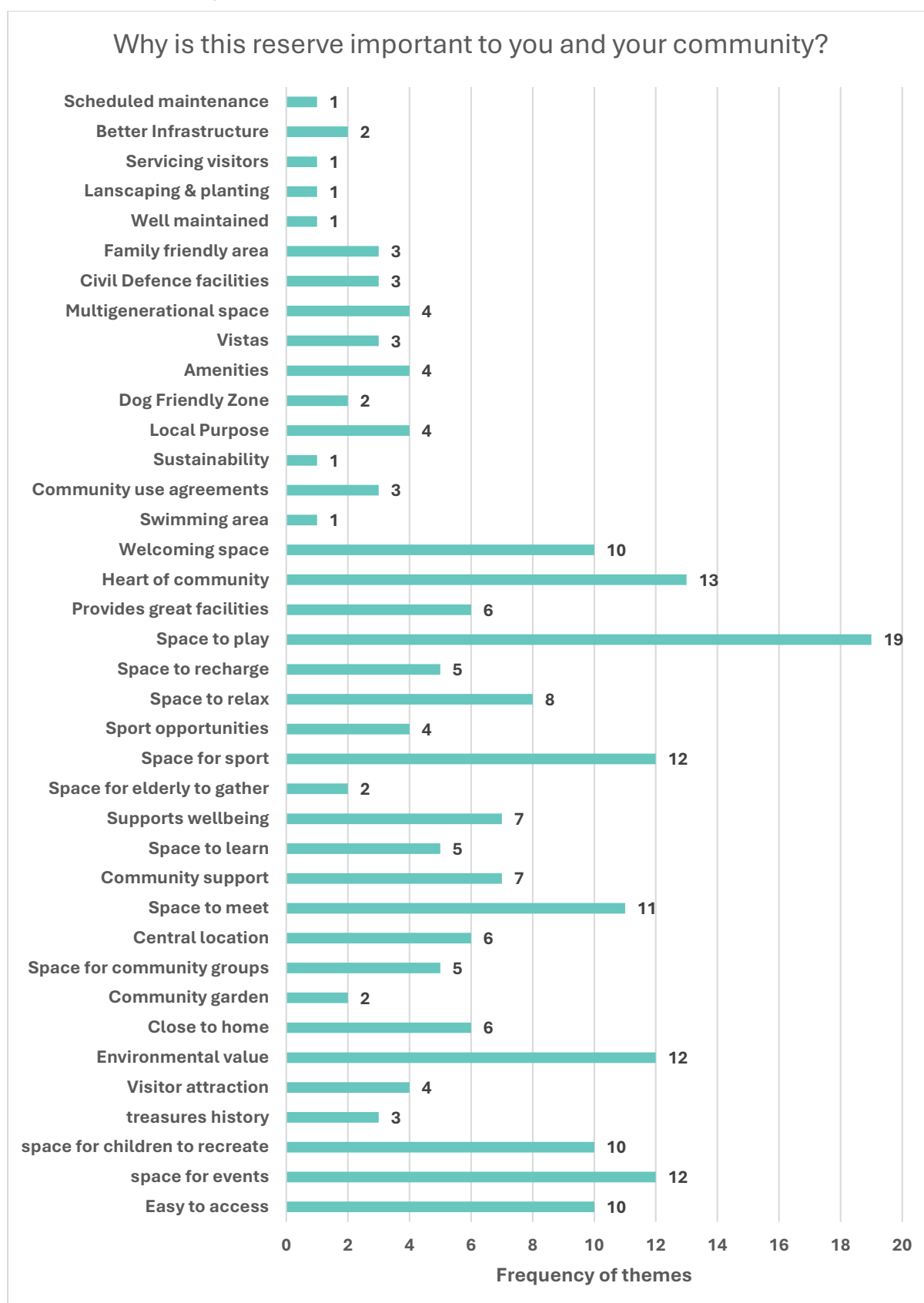
10. Appendix

10.1. Stakeholders feedback form

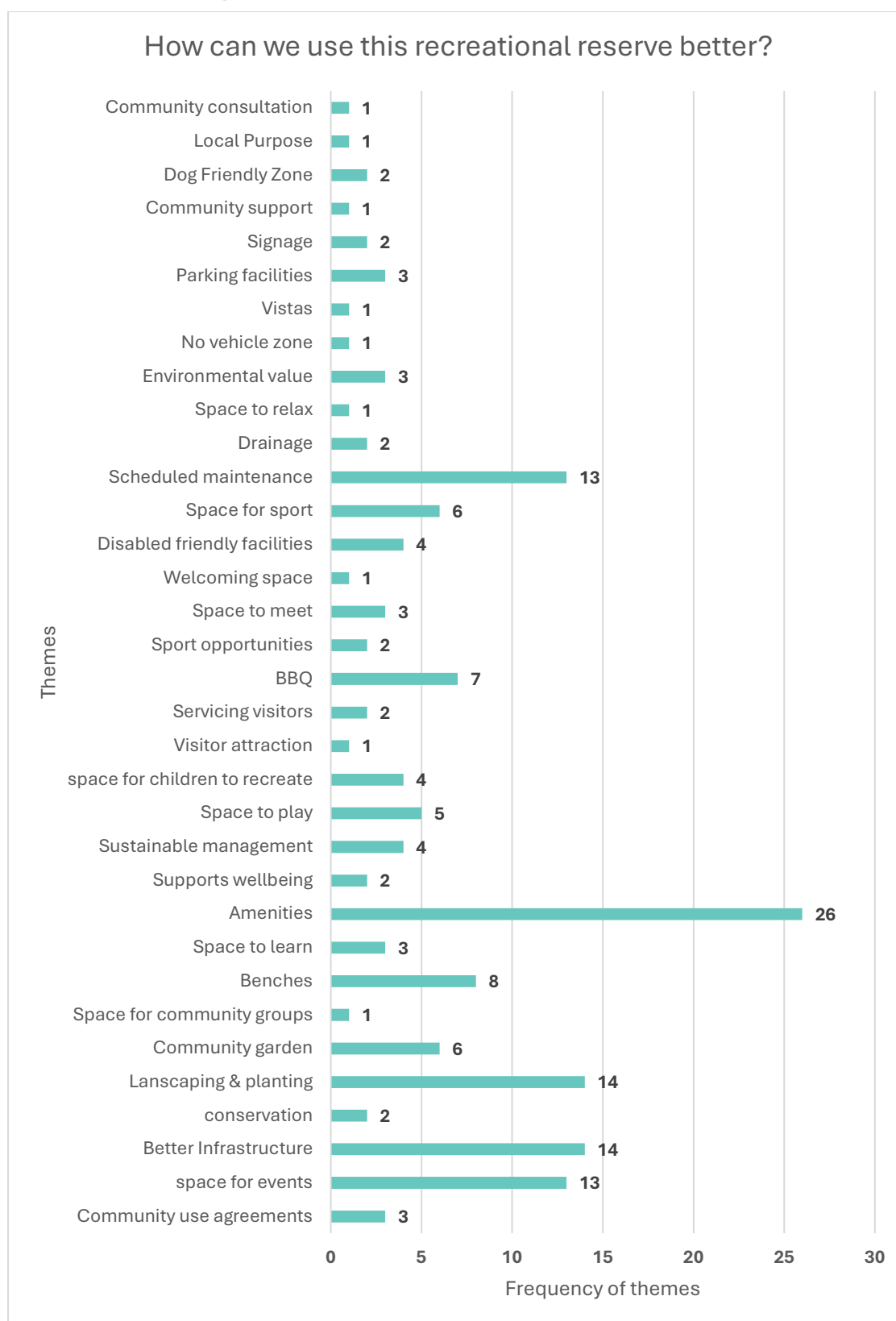
1. Purpose and Vision of the Hall/ Campground/ Reserve
 - 1.1. What is the long-term vision for the hall/ campground/ reserve and how it aligns with the community's needs and reserve's overall goals. (e.g., increased public access, conservation, enhanced recreational use)
2. Community
 - 2.1. What are the needs and expectations of the subcommittee/ community regarding the hall's facilities and services?
 - 2.2. What are the biggest challenges or issues you believe the reserve is facing? (e.g., safety concerns, overuse, lack of facilities, poor maintenance)
3. Cultural and Historical Considerations
 - 3.1. Identification and incorporation of any cultural, historical, or heritage values associated with the hall or the reserve.
 - 3.2. Engagement with mana whenua (local iwi with ancestral connections to the area) to ensure that their perspectives and cultural values are respected and integrated into the plan.
4. Environmental Sustainability
 - 4.1. Assess the environmental impact and explore opportunities for improving sustainability, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable materials.
 - 4.2. Plan for the integration of native vegetation or other ecological enhancements around the reserve.

- 4.3. Are there any environmental concerns or threats you have noticed in the reserve
(e.g., *pollution, invasive species, erosion*)
- 5. Maintenance and Upkeep
 - 5.1. Feedback on current maintenance practices and any improvements that might be needed
- 6. Accessibility and Safety
 - 6.1. Is the hall/ campground accessible to all community members, including those with disabilities.
 - 6.2. Reviewing and incorporate safety standards, including fire safety, emergency exits, and public safety measures.
- 7. Usage Policies and Booking Procedures
 - 7.1. Feedback on current policies and potential improvements to make the reserve more user-friendly.
- 8. Funding and Budgeting
 - 8.1. Identify the financial resources needed to maintain and upgrade the facilities.
 - 8.2. Setting of budget priorities and the allocation of resources.
- 9. Future Development and Expansion
 - 9.1. Feedback on potential new facilities or upgrades that could enhance the hall/ campground/ reserves' functionality.
- 10. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the Reserve Management Plan?

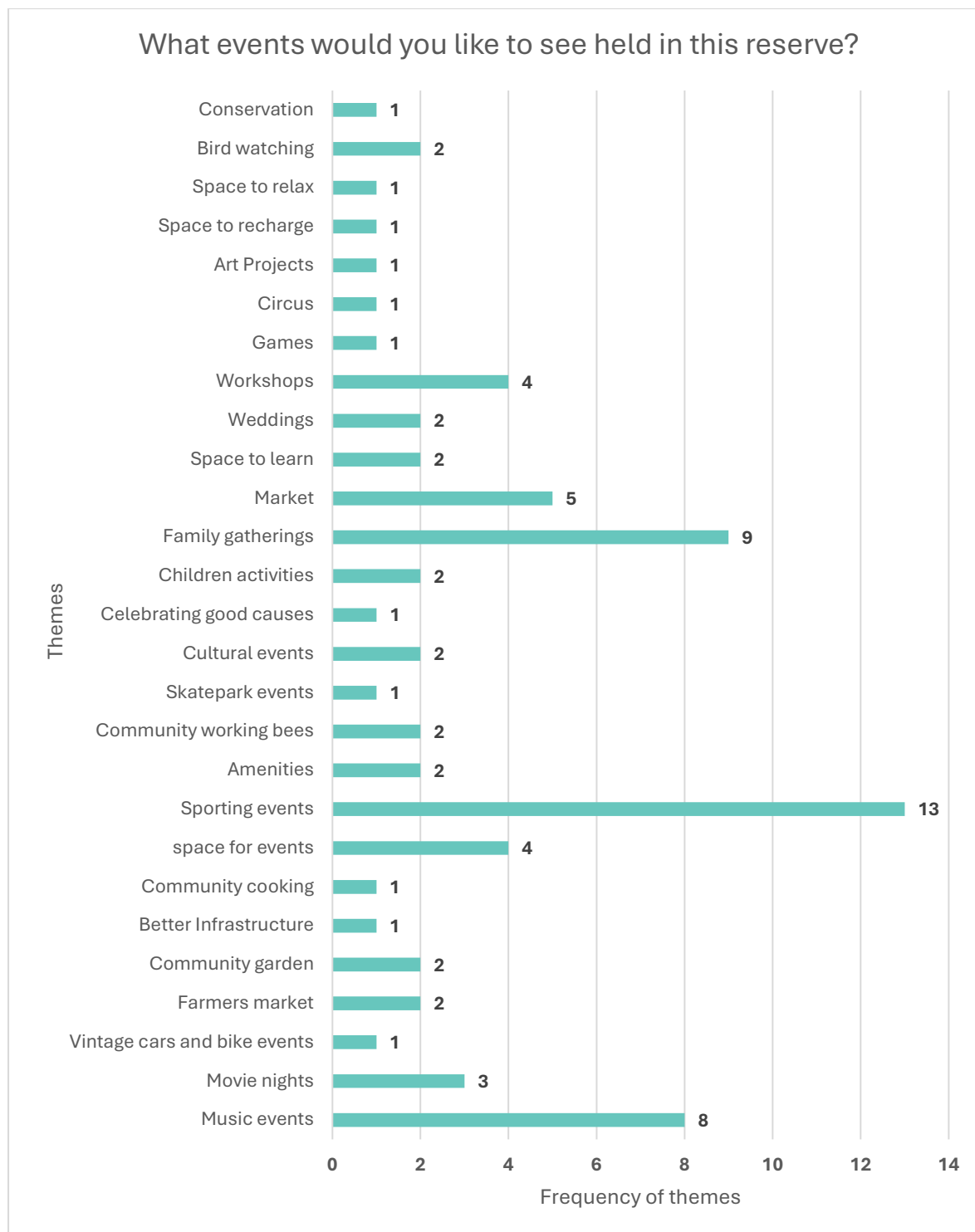
10.2. Frequency of themes Question 2



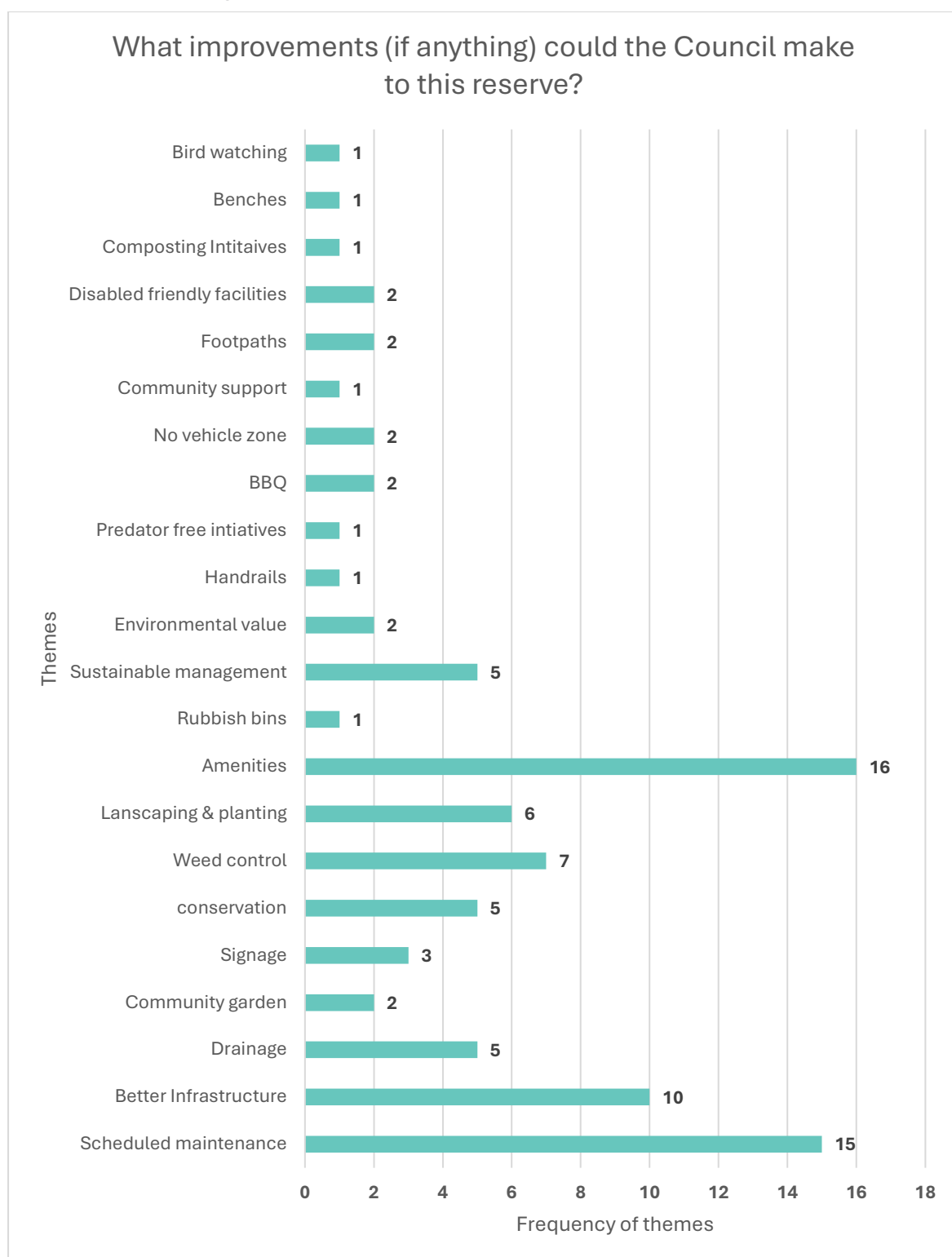
10.3. Frequency of themes Question 3



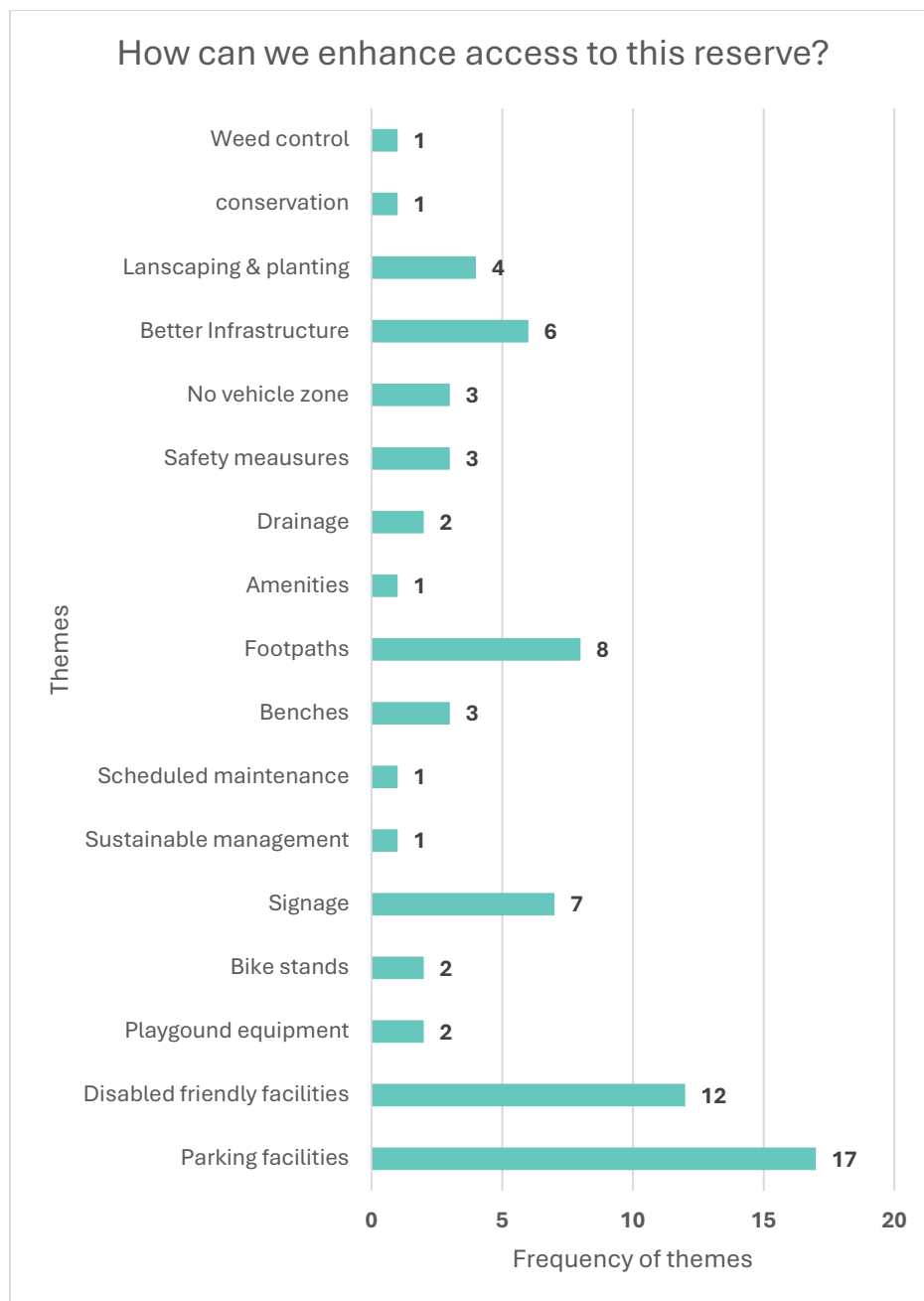
10.4. Frequency of themes Question 5



10.5. Frequency of themes Question 7



10.6. Frequency of themes Question 8



10.7. Frequency of themes Question 10

