



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## Runaway Bay Sports Precinct Master Plan

July 2025

CITY OF  
**GOLDCOAST.**

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# 1. Executive Summary

## Introduction

The Runaway Bay Sports Precinct Master Plan will guide the design and delivery of sustainable infrastructure (new and renewed) for community purposes at the precinct. This includes sport, recreation, library, and community services. In April 2025, the City presented a draft master plan to key stakeholders and the community for their feedback on the plan.

The engagement period ran from 9 April to 30 April 2025.

## Methodology

The focus of the consultation was to understand community sentiment around:

- The provision of sports and community spaces and facilities in the precinct into the future.
- Proposed changes to the layout of the site, including circulation of cars and people.

The engagement strategy focussed on informing key stakeholders, precinct users and local residents around the precinct about the proposed master plan and providing a user-friendly platform for the community to provide their feedback and comments on the plan.

Targeted communications methods were used to support the consultation including the distribution of postcards to local residents around the precinct, targeted emails to over 100 identified stakeholders, the installation of corflute signs around the precinct and three pop-up kiosks held at the Runaway Bay Library.

## Key findings

A total of 642 feedback surveys were submitted via GC Have Your Say. Key insights include:

- 65% of all respondents, and 81% of respondents who take part in outdoor sports, agreed the proposed master plan would improve sporting and recreation options in the precinct.
- Activities or services most used by respondents were outdoor sports (44%), the Luke Harrop Cycling Circuit (41%) and walking/cycling the pathways around the precinct (33%).
- There was strong opposition identified on the proposed realignment of the Luke Harrop Cycle Circuit, with users citing potential issues with user safety and usability of a realigned circuit.
- 48% of users of the Luke Harrop Cycle Circuit disagreed the proposed master plan would improve safety in the precinct. This is likely a reflection of safety concerns about the realignment of the memorial Circuit.
- 80% of outdoor sport users felt the draft master plan would improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the precinct.
- Common key themes around specific sports (excluding cycling) included:
  - Concerns raised there were an inadequate number of dedicated pickleball courts in the draft master plan.
  - Users of the netball courts wanted more green space and/or space for grass courts.
  - Cricket/Athletics users cited sentimental history with their current spaces, which were proposed to be moved in the draft master plan.

# 2. Project background

The Runaway Bay Sports Precinct is a premier sporting area servicing the mid-north Gold Coast. It offers indoor and outdoor facilities for a range of sports. The site also facilitates numerous informal recreation activities, including BMX, skateboarding, picnicking, and dog exercising in a designated off-leash area. Its nine lots are spread over 65 hectares.

The Precinct also includes a public library and community centre, a youth centre, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance, State Emergency Services, and the Gold Coast Performance Centre (operated and managed by the Department of Tourism and Sport).

The aim of the project is to develop a master plan for the precinct that will guide the future design and delivery of sustainable infrastructure (new and renewed) for community purposes, including sport, recreation, library, and community services.

The master plan presents opportunities to improve walking areas, provide more equitable access and active transport, promote an active and healthy lifestyle experience, and celebrate the local cultural values and heritage of the area.

In December 2024, project consultants, Ralph Wheeler and Associates (RWA) facilitated four stakeholder workshops about the current state of the precinct. These were held with identified key users of the facility as well as State Government authorities and discussed their ideas for the future of the precinct. This engagement exercise informed the first draft of the master plan.

### 3. Community engagement approach

Community engagement was conducted from Wednesday 9 April to Wednesday 30 April 2025. This approach aligned with the 'Consult' level in the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation. A focus was placed on providing clear, plain-language content and multiple options for feedback to encourage broad and meaningful participation.

| INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION  |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                         | INFORM                                                                                                                                                   | CONSULT                                                                                                                                           | INVOLVE                                                                                                                                                                                   | COLLABORATE                                                                                                                                                               | EMPOWER                                                    |
| PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL                                                                                               | To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.                                                                             | To work with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.                                                 | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.                     | To place final decision making in the hands of the public. |
| PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC                                                                                                   | We will keep you informed.                                                                                                                               | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decisions. | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. | We will implement what you decide.                         |
| ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY                                                                                                   | LISTEN                                                                                                                                                   | CONTRIBUTE                                                                                                                                        | PARTICIPATE                                                                                                                                                                               | PARTNER                                                                                                                                                                   | DECIDE                                                     |

IAP2 (International Association of Public Participation) spectrum

The objective of the engagement campaign was to inform the community about the Runaway Bay Sports Precinct Master Plan and to gather insights to inform the draft plan. To achieve this, feedback was sought from specific key stakeholders and user groups with knowledge of and a vested interest in the Runaway Bay Sports Precinct.

It is important to note that the precinct does not just offer sports facilities and activities, but also community services such as the Runaway Bay Youth Centre, Community Centre and Library. As such, priority was given to stakeholders with interest in both the sporting and community offerings of the precinct. Messaging was clear that the precinct would continue to offer community services and facilities into the future.

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## Stakeholder participation

Key stakeholders were invited to a second round of targeted stakeholder workshops, led by project consultants RWA. These stakeholder groups were;

- State Government authorities (ie, QPS, Department of Transport and Main Roads)
- Outdoor sporting club representatives
- Indoor sporting club representatives
- Users of the Youth and Community centres
- Representatives from the Gold Coast Performance Centre (GCPC)
- Nearby schools.

These workshops featured a high turnout from State Government authorities, GCPC, and outdoor sporting clubs. However, there was low interest and turnout from indoor sports representatives, community centre users and schools.

Target stakeholders for the community engagement period were identified as follows:

### Primary audience

- Users of the facilities and services of precinct
- Residents who live around the precinct

### Secondary audience

- Local businesses around the precinct
- Schools who use the precinct for sports and activities

To collect feedback from these groups, a dedicated GC Have Your Say (GCHYS) project page was created. A map with a key was designed and published on the website to clearly outline the draft plan for users.

The survey was concise and user-friendly. It featured high-level, sentiment-based questions around safety, accessibility, layout and provision of activities/services in the future.

To ensure respondents had the opportunity to give their specific feedback on the draft master plan, an open text question was also included. Questions around current usage of the precinct were also included, giving the opportunity for more detailed analysis of the data.

The engagement campaign was not supplemented by a social media marketing campaign. As such, the engagement campaign relied on highly-targeted and cost-effective strategies to inform the community about the master plan and to drive traffic to the GCHYS page. The campaign included:

- Installing 8 corflute signs ([Appendix A](#)) around the precinct to target specific users. They were installed;
  - In the Runaway Bay Library
  - Outside of the Community Centre
  - At the playground
  - Outside the Rugby Clubhouse
  - Next to the athletics field
  - Outside the tennis courts
  - Next to the netball courts
  - At the amenities block between the Indoor Centre and the netball courts

- At the amenities block next to the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit.
- Approximately 2000 postcards ([Appendix B](#)) were dropped to residential properties around the precinct (see [Appendix C](#)).
- Postcards were provided at the Runaway Bay Youth Centre and the Rugby Clubhouse for distribution to members and users.
- Three community pop-up kiosks at the Runaway Bay Library.
- Leveraging organic digital promotion through the City's Facebook page, and support from Division 4 Councillor Cr Shelly Curtis, who further amplified the consultation via her own social media channels (see [Appendix D](#)).
- Promoting the engagement through internal City channels, including an email campaign sent to over 18,000 GCHYS subscribers, and in the GC Weekly Newsletter
- Direct emails sent to over 100 identified stakeholders (such as local business and community groups, schools who use the precinct and all sporting users of the precinct).
- Direct emails to key stakeholders, with a gentle request to share the GCHYS link on their social media platforms.

## 4. Community campaign results

| Engagement objectives                                                                                                                                           | Measurements and KPIs                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Results                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To positively promote and increase awareness of the draft Master Plan, its benefits, purpose, and opportunities.                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Page views of project page on GCHYS</li> <li>- Citywide outreach</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5457 'aware visitors'* on GC Have Your Say</li> <li>- 1544 views of the draft master plan on GCHYS</li> <li>- Over 100 emails sent to identified stakeholders</li> <li>- GCHYS Newsletter sent to over 18,000 GCHYS subscribers</li> </ul> |
| To inform targeted stakeholders, precinct users and the local community about the draft Master Plan, its benefits, purpose, and opportunities for the Precinct. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interactions/briefings with key stakeholders</li> <li>- Community pop-up events</li> <li>- Downloads of the draft master plan on GCHYS</li> <li>- Targeted communications outreach</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 pop-up kiosks</li> <li>- Local postcard delivery to around 2000 residents</li> <li>- Over 100 emails sent to stakeholders</li> </ul>                                                                                                     |
| Feedback from identified key stakeholders on the draft plan to inform future iterations of the draft.                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieve over 350 survey responses.</li> <li>- Community attendance at pop-up kiosks</li> <li>- Key stakeholder feedback</li> </ul>                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 642 survey responses</li> <li>- 50 attendees to pop-up kiosks</li> <li>- 11 written submissions from stakeholders</li> </ul>                                                                                                               |

The Runaway Bay Sports Precinct Master Plan engagement campaign successfully met or exceeded all key performance indicators, confirming the effectiveness of the strategy in reaching and engaging the target audience. With no paid advertising, the campaign attracted almost 5500 visitors to the GCHYS project page through a mix of signage, postcard distribution, targeted emails, organic social media promotion, and pop-up kiosks. This approach ensured strong visibility across the targeted area and audience. In total, the following results were achieved:

- **5457** 'aware visitors'\* on GC Have Your Say
- **4225** 'informed' visitors\*\* on GC Have Your Say
- **642** survey completions on GC Have Your Say
- **1544** views of the master plan draft map
- **569** views of the of the Terms and Conditions PDF document on GC Have Your Say
- Approx **50** visitors to our pop-up kiosks (refer [Appendix C](#))
- A direct email was distributed to the approximately 19 000 subscribers of the GC Have Your Say Newsletter. This had a click-through rate of 3.7% and resulted in 148 informed visits and 55 survey completions.
- **11** emails were received via [gchaveyoursay@goldcoast.com.au](mailto:gchaveyoursay@goldcoast.com.au), RWA (project consultants) and Invest Gold Coast.

\* 'Aware' visitors are visitors who made at least one single visit to the GC Have Your Say project page.

\*\* 'Informed' visitors are visitors who visited multiple pages, clicked within the project page, opened a link, viewed a document, etc.

The survey results were strong, far surpassing the set KPIs. Of these who responded, 76% indicated they visited the precinct daily, weekly or a few times a month, demonstrating the feedback was received from those who regularly use the precinct.

Respondents were also primarily from local suburbs, with 45% residing in Division 4. Only 9% of respondents were from outside of the Gold Coast. The precinct does host events from outside of the Gold Coast across several sports, so responses from outside of the Gold Coast provided input from the perspective of a visitor to the precinct.

The optional open question yielded 492 responses. This was a very high number considering the question was optional and is evidence of the high interest the community and users have around the future of the precinct. These responses provide valuable and specific insight and feedback on individual sports and activities in the precinct, and highlights some of recurring concerns about the proposed master plan. The most prominent theme was around strong opposition to the realignment of the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit. All key themes identified in these responses are outlined in the [Survey Response](#) section of this document.

## 5. Pop-up kiosks

Three pop-up kiosks were held in the Runaway Bay Library during the engagement period. These were advertised on the GC Have Your Say page and on the Divisional Councillor's social media page. These were held on:

- Thursday 10 April 9am – 12pm
- Saturday 12 April 10am – 12pm
- Tuesday 15 April 9am – 12pm

Over the three kiosks, City staff had conversations with approximately 50 members of the public. Of those attending the library kiosk, the vast majority were users of the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit and/or members of local cycling groups. These conversations primarily were around opposition to the proposed realignment of the cycling circuit. Key issues raised from the cyclists in attendance included concerns that:

- Cyclists riding two-ways (as is indicated in the draft plan) is unsafe.
- The turns in the realigned circuit are too sharp, particularly in the south-western corner of the track.
- The proposed track is too narrow for racing, and for general cyclist safety. This issue is compounded when considering cyclists would be riding two-ways. There was a suggestion that the track had to be a

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minimum of 8 metres wide for each lane (16 metres in total) to be safe for cyclists and compliant with racing events.

- The realigned track is too short for racing events. There were multiple suggestions to increase the length of the track even further than its current length, including around the outside of the cricket ovals, and around the whole precinct and around the back of the emergency services.
- The incline on the western side of the track will be too steep for amateur cyclists if they were forced to cycle in a two-way switch-back.

Some issues raised regarding the current cycling circuit include:

- Users of the cycling track (and precinct in general) being targeted by youth engaging in anti-social and/or unlawful activities. This included incidents of assault and placing debris on the criterium track to create significant obstacles potentially causing cyclist accidents.
- Requests for the City to work on stopping young people from walking over to cycle track and aggravating cyclists (suggesting fencing the area between the skate park and the criterium track).
- People (particularly young people) riding eBikes and eScooters around the criterium track and around the precinct at high speed.
- Parents and children using the criterium track as a 'learn to ride' space, which can be a safety hazard for both cyclists and the children.

From the conversations outside of cycling, the following key points were raised:

- **Parking and traffic** issues in the precinct were raised several times. A local resident said that on event days, parking will spill onto local streets, sometimes up to 2kms away. Netball event days were said to be particularly busy for traffic and parking. One kiosk visitor said that on netball carnival days, up to 20 netball games would finish at one time, meaning close to 1000 people would be rushing to their cars to try to be in the first wave to leave the precinct. He said that if you missed getting out quickly, it could take well over 20 minutes to get from the courts to the precinct exit. Parking was also stated as an issue on rugby and soccer game days. Some mentioned that a multi-level carpark/s should be considered.
- Some concerns around keeping a single main **entry/exit point** in the draft master plan. The potential extra exit point onto Oxley Drive was noted but considered not enough to improve circulation. One participant suggested investigating the service road around the GCPC as another access point, may assist with improving traffic congestion.
- Multiple people liked the idea of a **junior criterium track** but noted that the track could not be built in the Conservation Park. There was a comment that any junior track should be at least 800m long.
- There was a comment that the **playing fields** in the Runaway Bay West precinct were not suitable for soccer as they are the wrong type of turf (too spongy).
- There were concerns raised about the safety of a **level crossing on Morala Avenue**, considering how busy the area can get.
- Calls for more **pickleball** courts that what has been provided in the draft plan, and for some courts to be covered.
- A request for the '**library** to remain just a library'. This stemmed from concerns around a hub facility potentially being too busy and noisy.
- One conversation raised concerns around replacing facilities that could just be repaired/refurbished, which was perceived a waste of ratepayers money.
- Multiple commenters liked the provision of the **dog park**, but one local resident was concerned that it was located too far away from precinct parking, so people with dogs wouldn't walk all the way over to it.
- There were some comments around the master plan not providing enough rugby fields. There were some calls to relocate the soccer fields to the playing fields in the west precinct, so the rugby area could be increased.

Some positive comments to note were:

- Many people liked the provision of a junior criterium track, dedicated dog off-leash area and a larger car park.

- People overwhelmingly supported the idea of a Community Hub and an Emergency Services Hub. The proposed addition of a junior multi-purpose sports area close to the Community Hub was also very well received.
- Most people supported the general layout of the precinct (outside of the realigned cycling circuit).
- Many people had positive comments around the provision of a BBQ/playground area near to the indoor centre.
- People supported the idea of more lighting around the precinct.
- People supported the proposed footpaths that would connect the precinct. Though there were some concerns it would be used by eBikes.
- There was general support for relocating the tennis courts and adding more pickleball courts. There were also calls to consider paddleball as an up-and-coming sport.
- There was general support for relocating the athletics field and adding a throwing area.
- There was general support for keeping the open green space of the playing fields. One participant noted that the area is also used as a landing area for skydivers.

## 6. Written submissions

Written submissions on the draft master plan were also accepted and encouraged from stakeholders. Some members of the community also chose to email their feedback on the plan. There were 11 submissions received from:

- 3 x local residents
- 1 key stakeholder
- Gold Coast Roller Sports Club
- Tennis Queensland
- Gold Coast Cycling Club
- Aus Triathlon
- The Event Crew
- St Francis Xavier School
- Runaway Bay Cricket Club

Each of these submissions will receive a response directly from the project team addressing their feedback and any specific concerns.

## 7. GC Have Your Say – Survey data

The online survey hosted on the GC Have Your Say platform included 17 questions.

- Part A: Questions about the draft master plan (5)
- Part B: Questions about current use of the precinct (2)
- Part C: Demographic questions (10)

In total **642** survey responses were received.

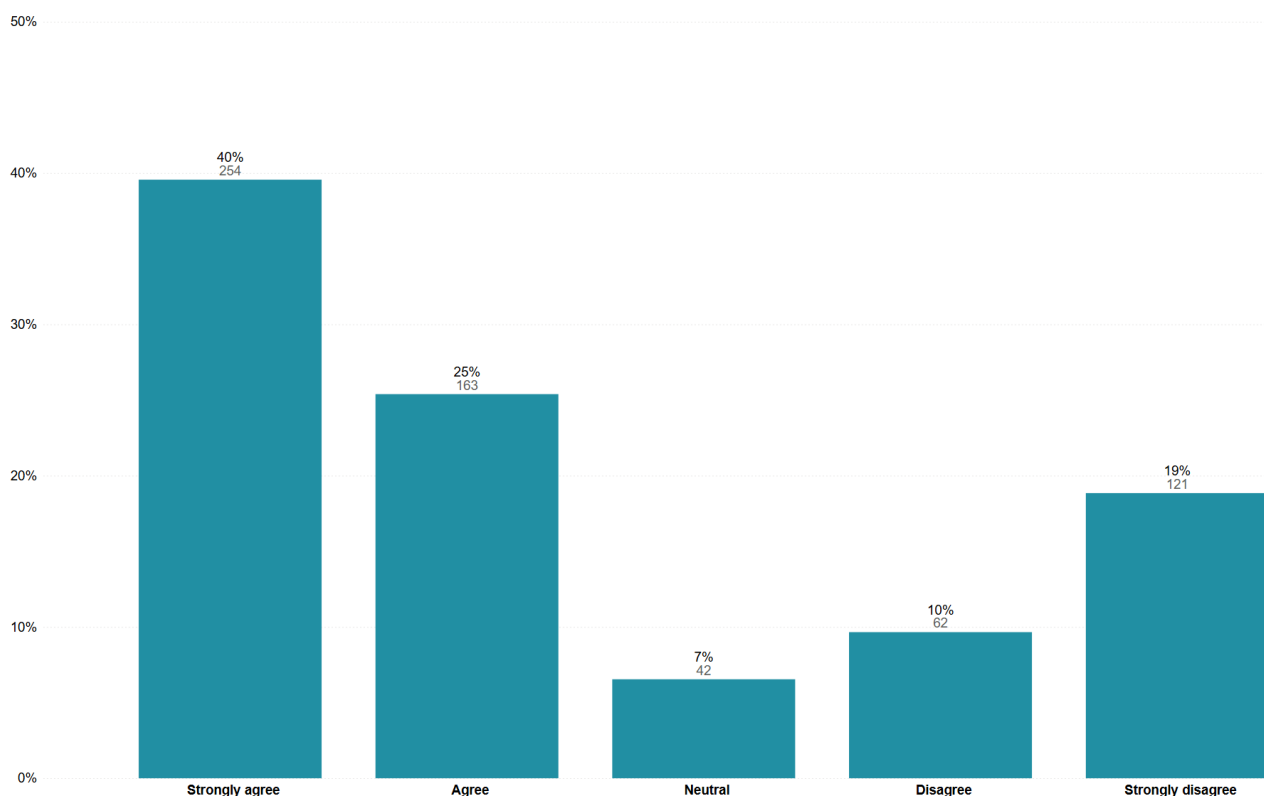
Through conversations during our pop-up kiosks and analysis of the open text within the survey, we have identified a recurring theme that users of the Luke Harrop Criterium Circuit strongly oppose the proposed changes to the circuit, and this opposition came through in the survey responses. To better understand how users of the precinct who are not cyclists perceive the draft master plan, the below results will outline responses from:

- All respondents

- Respondents who identify as users of the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit
- Precinct users who do not use the Luke Harrop Memorial circuit
- Respondents who identified as using outdoor sports at the precinct (the highest number of responses came from this user group).

**Question 1 – We want to design a Precinct that can offer excellent sporting, recreational and community service options into the future. We want this Master Plan to cater for a wide range of sport and community services, while also ensuring they are of the highest quality, and suited to our growing and changing community.**

**Do you agree that the draft Master Plan improves the sporting and recreational options and opportunities in the Precinct?**



- 40% (254) of respondents strongly agree
- 25% (163) of respondents agree.
- 7% (42) of respondents are neutral.
- 10% (62) of respondents disagree.
- 19% (121) of respondents strongly disagree.

## Comparison of results



## Analysis

Over half of respondents (52%) who use the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit disagree that the draft master plan improves sporting and recreational options in the precinct. This is reflective of the general feedback received from this group.

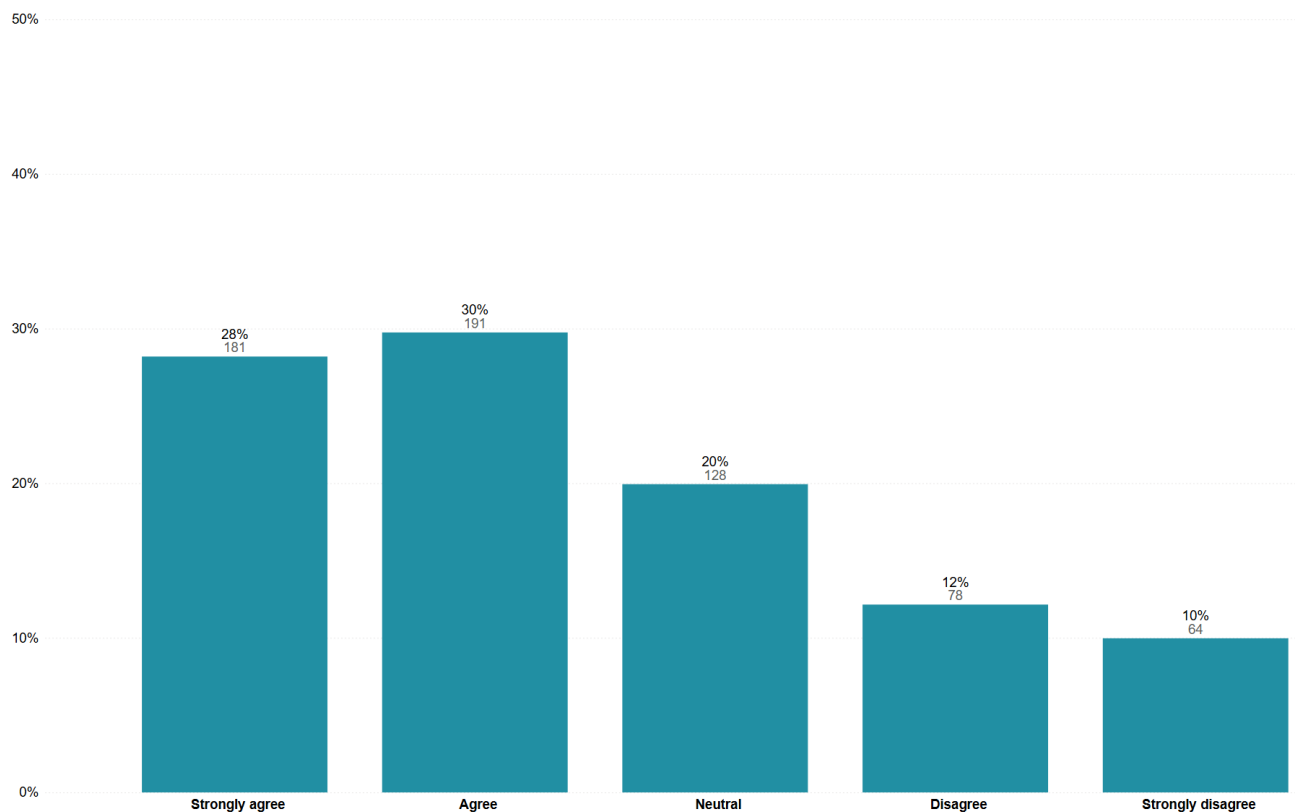
In comparison, only 18% of other respondents disagree that the plan improves sporting and recreational options, and 74% feel that the master plan does improve sporting and recreational options.

Finally, 81% of respondents who indicated that they were outdoor sporting users of the precinct felt that the master plan improved sporting and recreational options

From this, we can conclude that respondents disagree with the proposed changes to the Memorial Circuit but do agree that the proposed master plan will improve options in the rest of the precinct.

**Question 2 – We know that accessing and leaving the Precinct can be difficult during busy periods, and have worked to improve this by including additional access points for cars in this draft Master Plan. We have also provided more parking options, and more pedestrian pathways.**

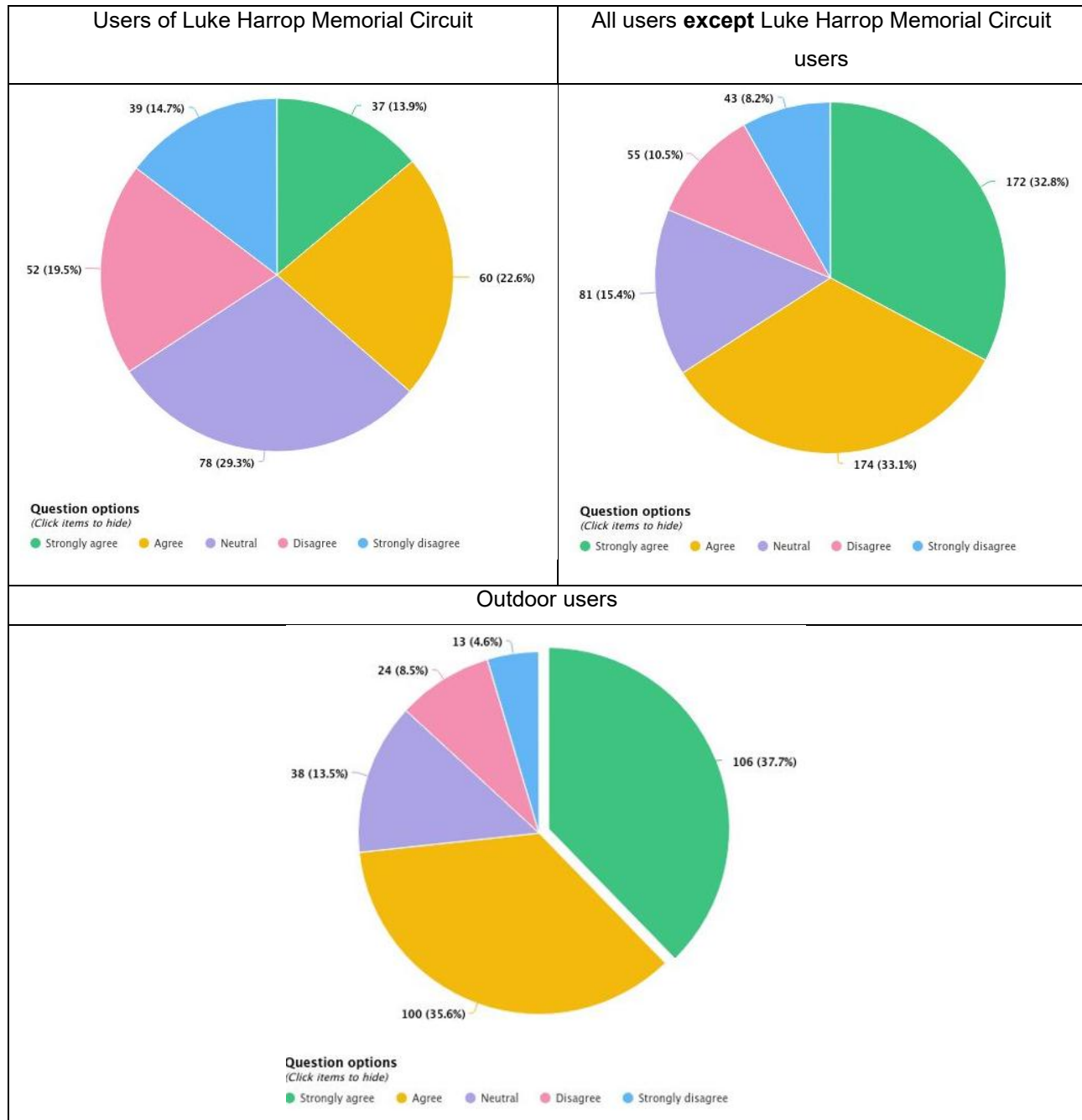
**Do you agree that the draft Master Plan provides for better circulation of people and cars through the precinct, with easier and more direct access to the facilities on offer?**



The results are:

- 28% (181) of respondents strongly agree.
- 30% (191) of respondents agree
- 20% (128) of respondents are neutral
- 12% (78) of respondents disagree
- 10% (64) respondents strongly disagree.

## Comparison of results



## Analysis

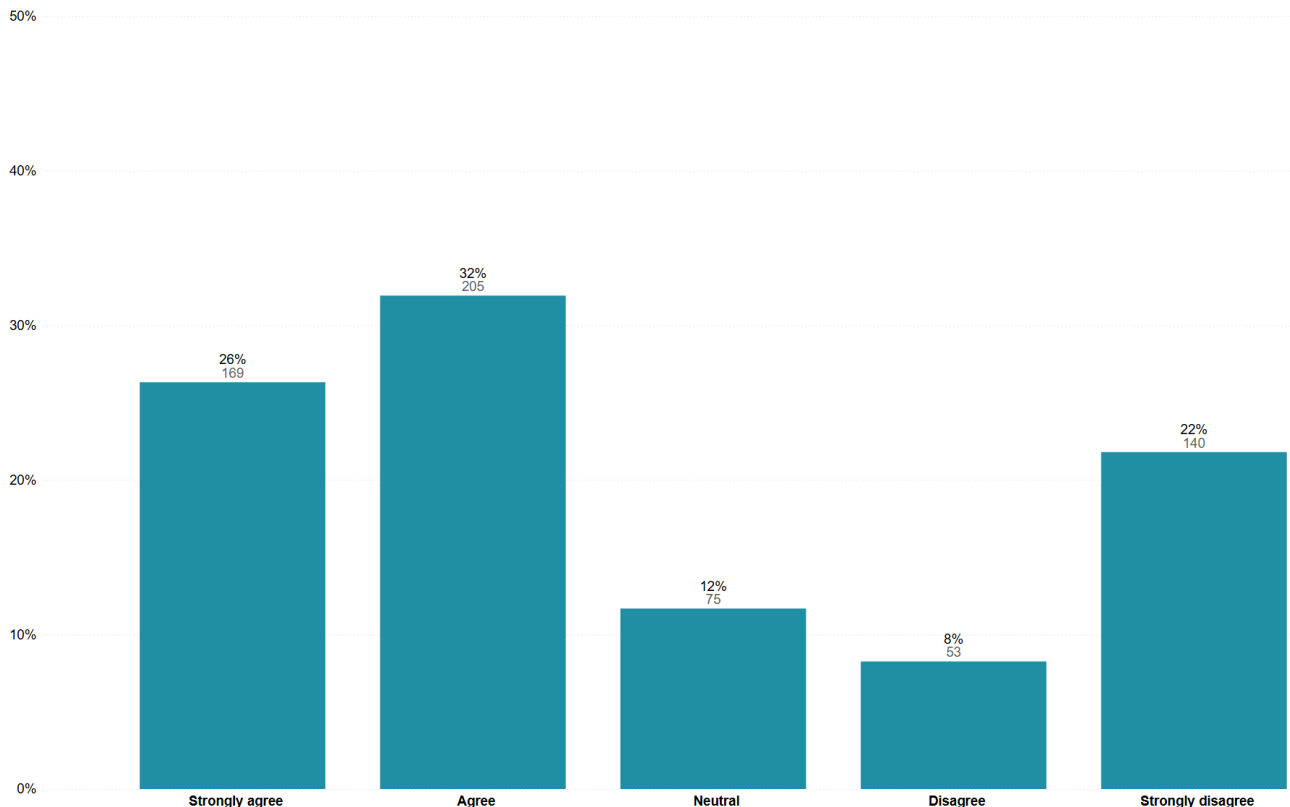
Approximately one third (37%) of respondents who use the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit, agree that the draft Master Plan improves circulation and accessibility the precinct. This may be reflective of opposition to the proposed realignment of the circuit (i.e., accessibility on the circuit), and/or accessibility and circulation of the precinct in general. Almost 30% of this group were neutral in this response, potentially indicating low interest in the topic.

In comparison, 64% of other respondents agree that the draft master plan will improve accessibility and circulation. This many of the open response comments reference inadequate parking and issues with traffic, with is likely impacting this response.

Most outdoor users (74%) feel the draft master plan will improve circulation and accessibility.

**Question 3 – Improving safety for users of the Precinct is a priority. In our draft Master Plan, all areas of the Precinct can be accessed via a dedicated pedestrian pathway. We have minimised the risk of pedestrians walking across the cycle circuit at unmarked points. Increased lighting (including pathways and sporting fields) is a high priority to support increased use of the Precinct in the evenings.**

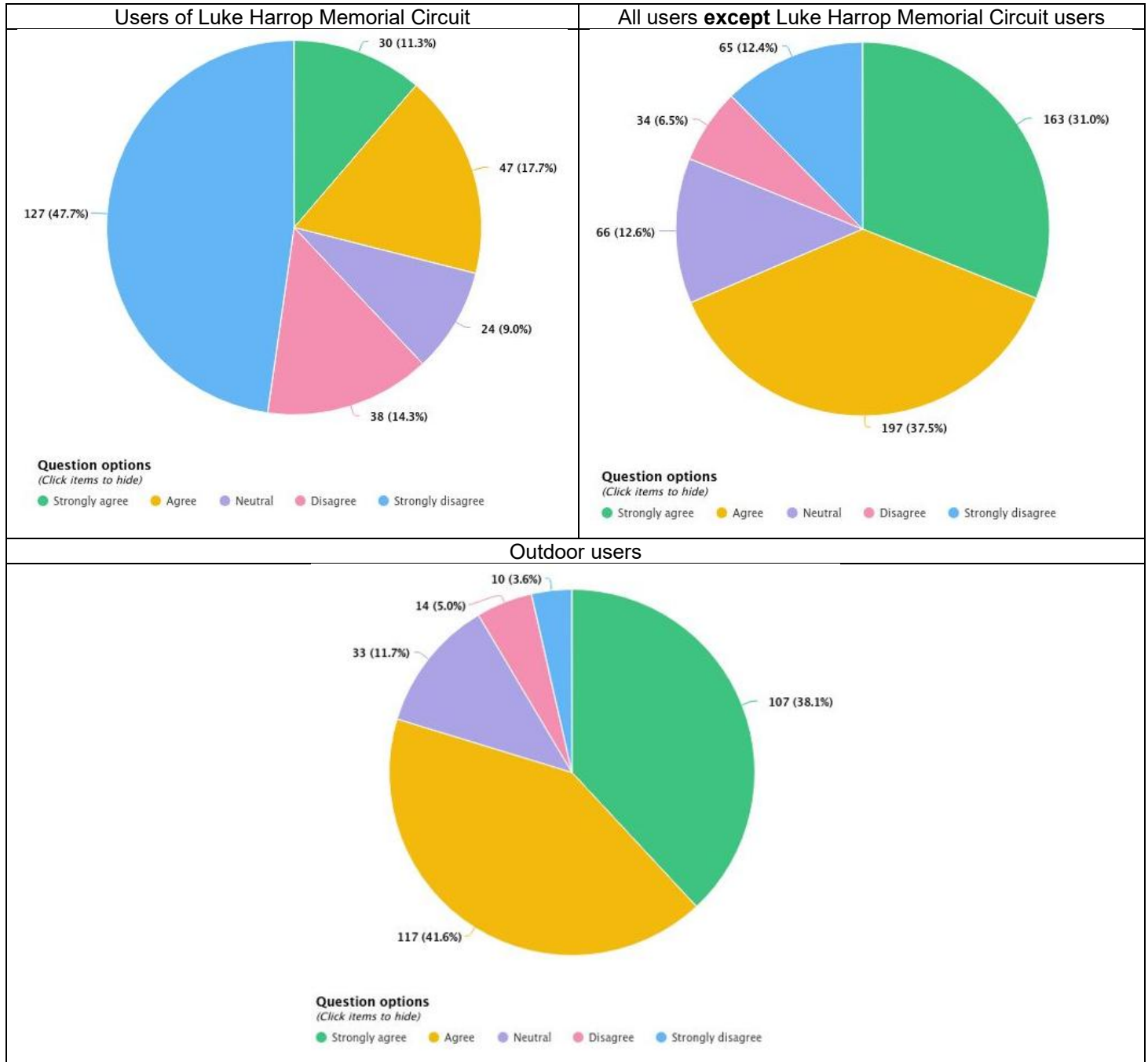
**Do you agree that the draft Master Plan improves safety for pedestrians and users (including cyclists) in the Precinct?**



The results are:

- 26% (169) of respondents strongly agree.
- 32% (205) of respondents agree
- 12% (75) of respondents are neutral
- 8% (53) of respondents disagree
- 22% (140) respondents strongly disagree.

## Comparison of results



## Analysis

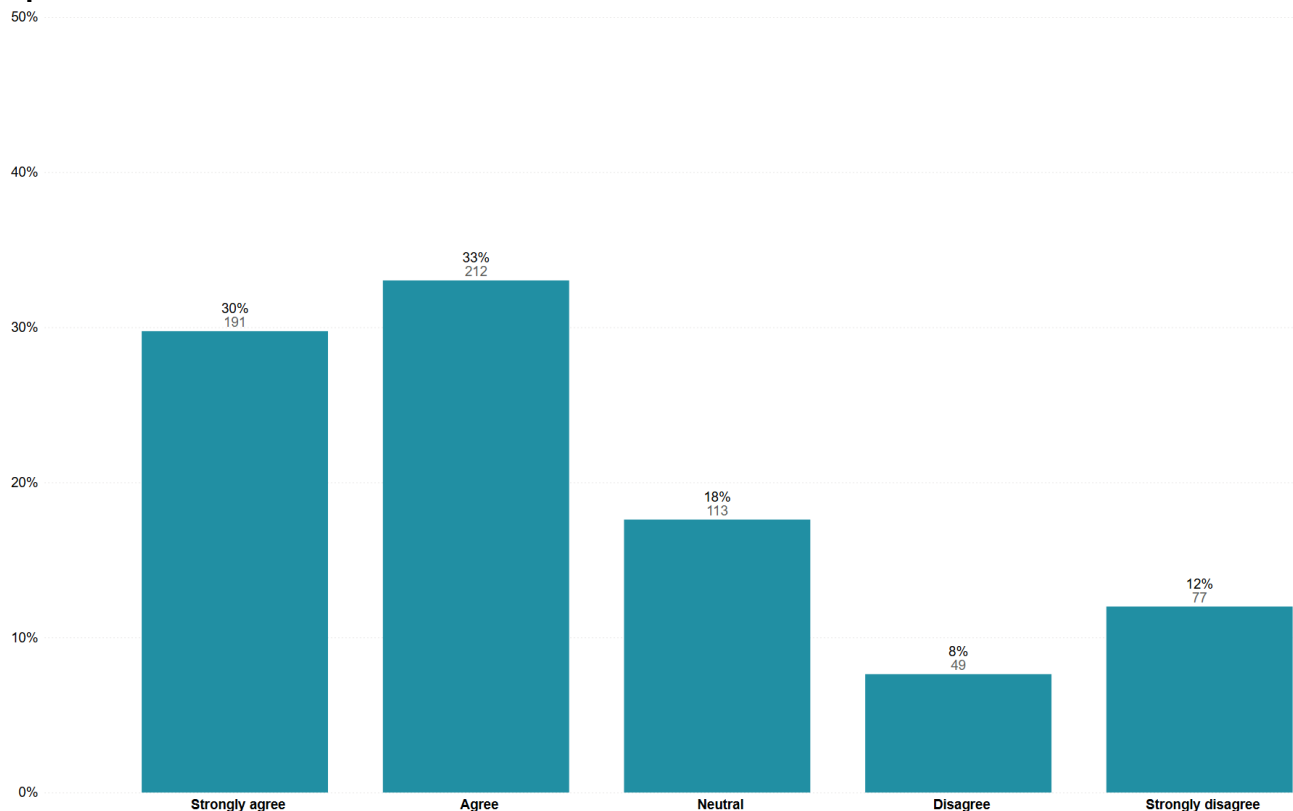
A majority respondents (62%) who use the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit, do not agree that the proposed master plan will improve safety for users of the precinct. This is reflective of the general feedback received from this group through in-person conversations, submissions and the open response comments. Users of the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit feel strongly that the proposed new track alignment will decrease safety for cyclists on the circuit.

In stark comparison, only 19% of other respondents and 8% of outdoor users disagree that the draft master plan will improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Most respondents who were outdoor users (80%) felt that the draft master plan would improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

From these results, we can conclude that respondents do not feel the realignment of the circuit will improve safety (rather, they feel it will be more dangerous for cyclists). However, respondents feel that the draft master plan will improve safety for users of the precinct outside of the Memorial Circuit.

**Question 4 – The open space provided in the current Precinct is a huge asset to the community, and provides excellent options for a range of field sports and events. We want to make sure that our draft Master Plan has kept the right balance between maintaining essential open space for fields and events, while also offering a diverse range of sporting, recreational and community services.**

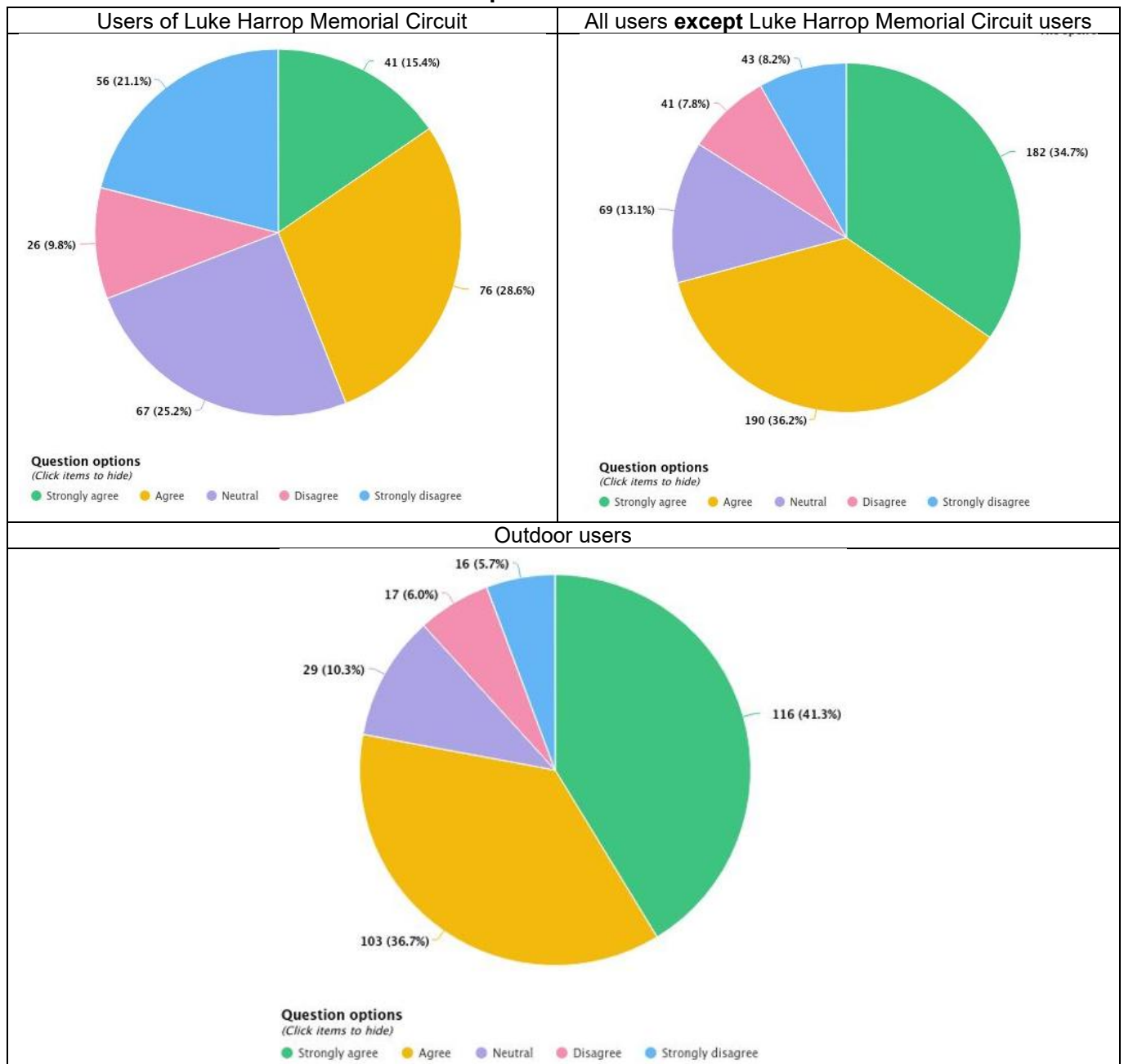
**Do you agree that the draft Master Plan maintains the site’s quality open space for field sports and events?**



The results are:

- 30% (191) of respondents strongly agree.
- 33% (212) of respondents agree
- 18% (113) of respondents are neutral
- 8% (49) of respondents disagree
- 12% (77) respondents strongly disagree.

## Comparison of results



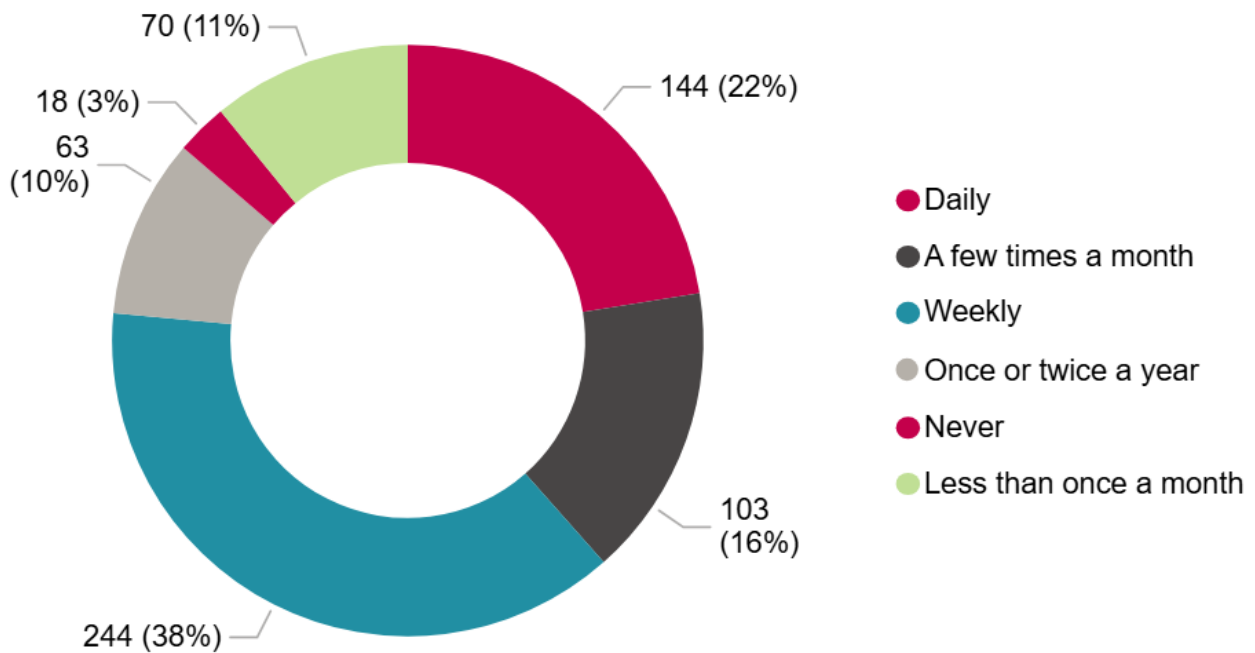
### Analysis

About one third of respondents (32%) who use the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit, do not feel that the proposed master plan provides best use of the open space in the precinct. This is reflective of the general feedback received from this group and is likely referring to the new proposed alignment of the circuit not being best use of the space in the precinct for cyclists.

In comparison, 71% of other respondents, and 78% of outdoor users agree that the proposed plan makes best use of the open space of the precinct.

From these results, we can conclude that respondents do not feel the realignment of the circuit makes best use of the space at the precinct. However, most users (other than those who use the Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit) agree that the master plan makes best use of the open space in the rest of the precinct.

**Question 5 – How often do you or your family visit the Runaway Bay Sports Precinct (including the sporting and community services and facilities)?**

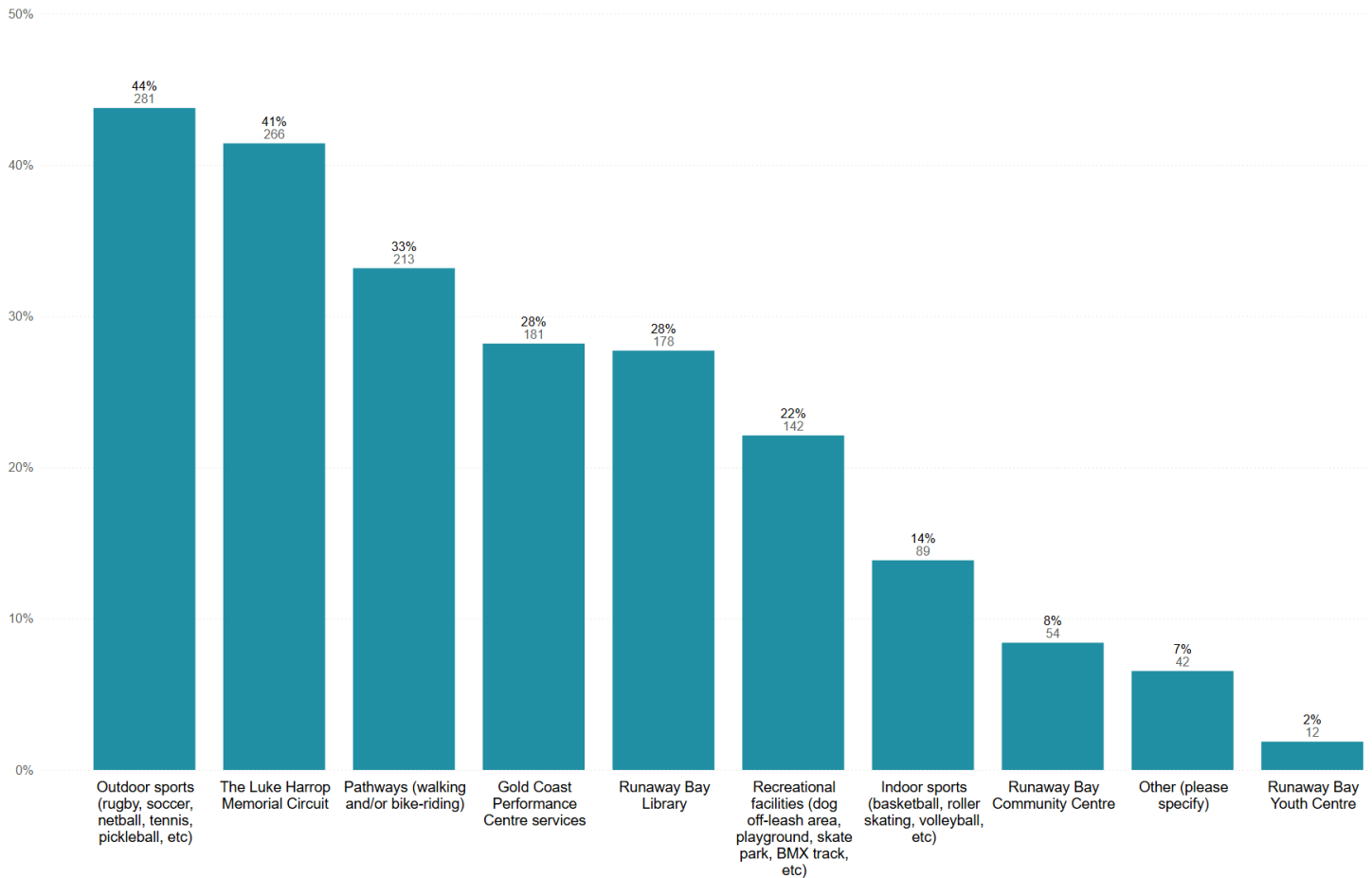


**The results are:**

- 22% (144) visit daily
- 38% (244) visit weekly
- 16% (103) visit a few times a month
- 11% (70) visit less than once a month
- 10% (63) visit once or twice a year
- 3% (18) never visit the precinct.

**Visitation rates were similar across all user groups of the precinct.**

## Question 6 – What sporting/recreational activities or services do you or your family access at the Precinct when you visit?



The top five most used facilities/services in the precinct by respondents are:

- Outdoor sports - 44% (281)
- The Luke Harrop Memorial Circuit - 41% (266)
- Walking/riding on the pathways - 33% (213)
- Gold Coast Performance Centre services – 28% (178)
- Runaway Bay Library – 28% (178)

The most common activities detailed in the 42 'Other, please specify' responses are:

- Athletics
- Netball
- Cricket
- Gym



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courts in the master plan does not allow it space to grow as a sport. Several comments claimed that the pickleball courts are more popular than the tennis courts. There are also calls for the courts to be covered to allow for all-weather play (or at least, shaded).

### **Parking and traffic management**

Concerns about insufficient parking provision and traffic congestion were frequently mentioned. Respondents pointed out that the increased number of sporting facilities would lead to higher traffic volumes and parking demands. Suggestions included adding more parking spaces, considering multi-level parking structures, and improving traffic flow with additional entry and exit points

### **Netball Courts and facilities**

Respondents raised concerns about the proposed netball courts, feeling that they lacked adequate space. Respondents emphasised the need for more green space around the courts for shade and seating, as well as better spacing between courts to ensure safety and comfort for players and spectators.

### **Environmental and Community Impact**

Many responses highlighted concerns about the environmental impact of the proposed changes, including the loss of green space and potential harm to local wildlife. There were also calls for more community-oriented facilities, such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and off-leash dog parks, to ensure the precinct serves a broader range of community needs beyond just sports. Some respondents also highlighted the importance of incorporating large structural vegetation, permeable pavements, and water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) devices to manage stormwater and reduce heat island effects. There is a call for maintaining existing vegetation and planting more trees to provide shade and support local wildlife.

### **Cricket**

Respondents raised concerns about the potential loss of space for cricket. Respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining existing cricket facilities and the Sam Loxton Oval, which holds historical and sentimental value for the (cricketing) community.

### **Safety and Security**

Respondents called for improved safety measures, including better lighting, security cameras, and designated pedestrian crossings. There were several comments about people using eBikes and eScooters around the precinct, as well as concerns about the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, particularly with the proposed changes to the cycling track.

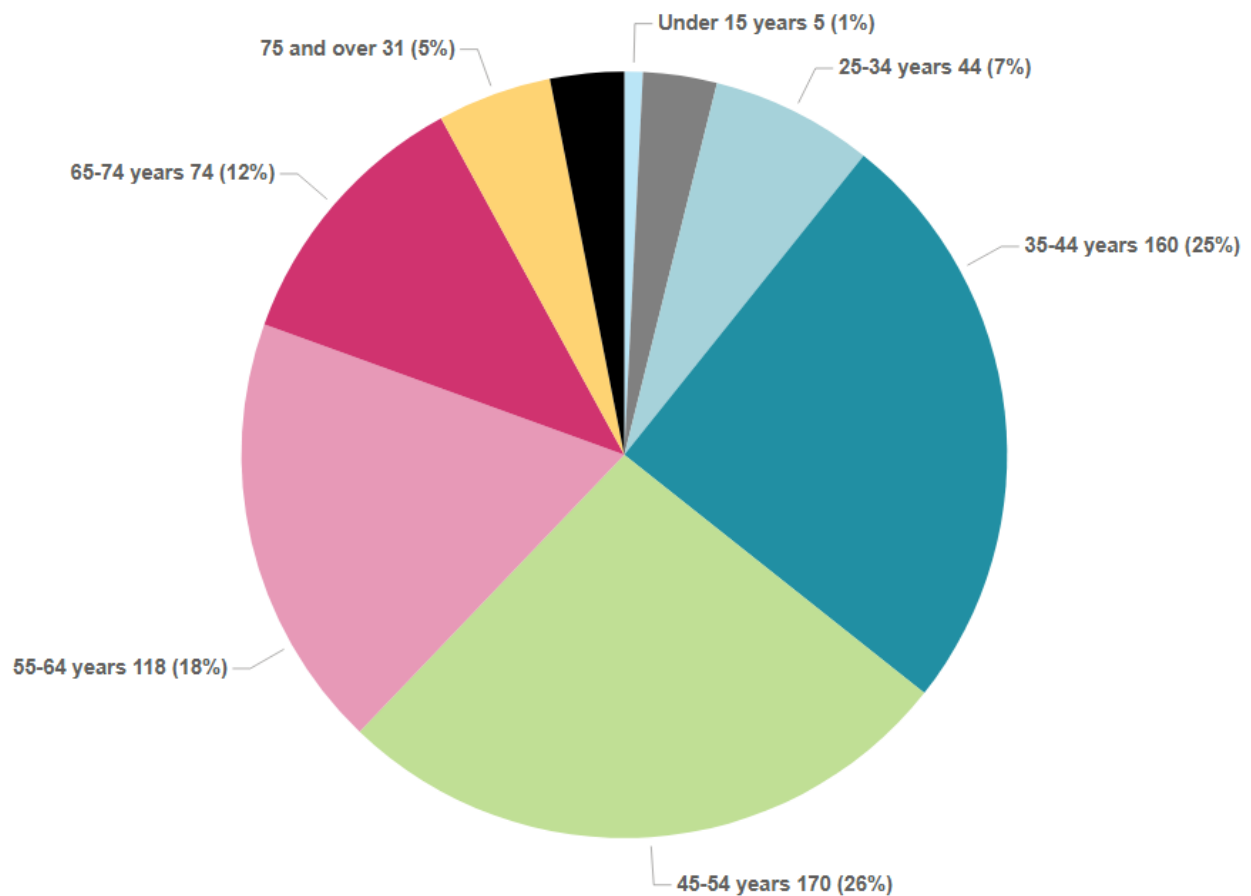
### **Accessibility and Inclusivity**

There were calls for better accessibility for wheelchair users and other individuals with disabilities. This includes ensuring that facilities such as bathrooms and courts are accessible to all members of the community.

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## Demographic information

Please indicate your age group

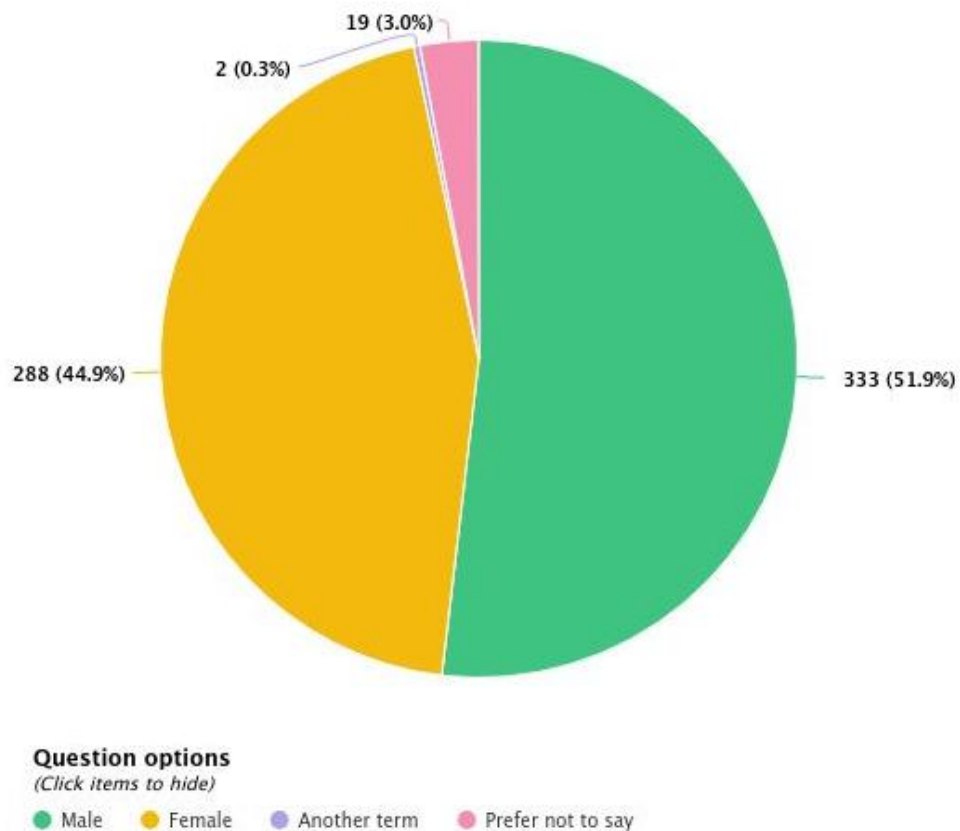


### The results are

- Under 15 years – 1% (5)
- 15 – 24 years - 3% (20)
- 25-34 years – 7% (44)
- 35-44 years - 25% (160)
- 45-54 years – 26% (170)
- 55-64 years – 18% (118)
- 65-74 years – 12% (74)
- 75 years and over – 5% (34)
- Prefer not to say – 3% (20)

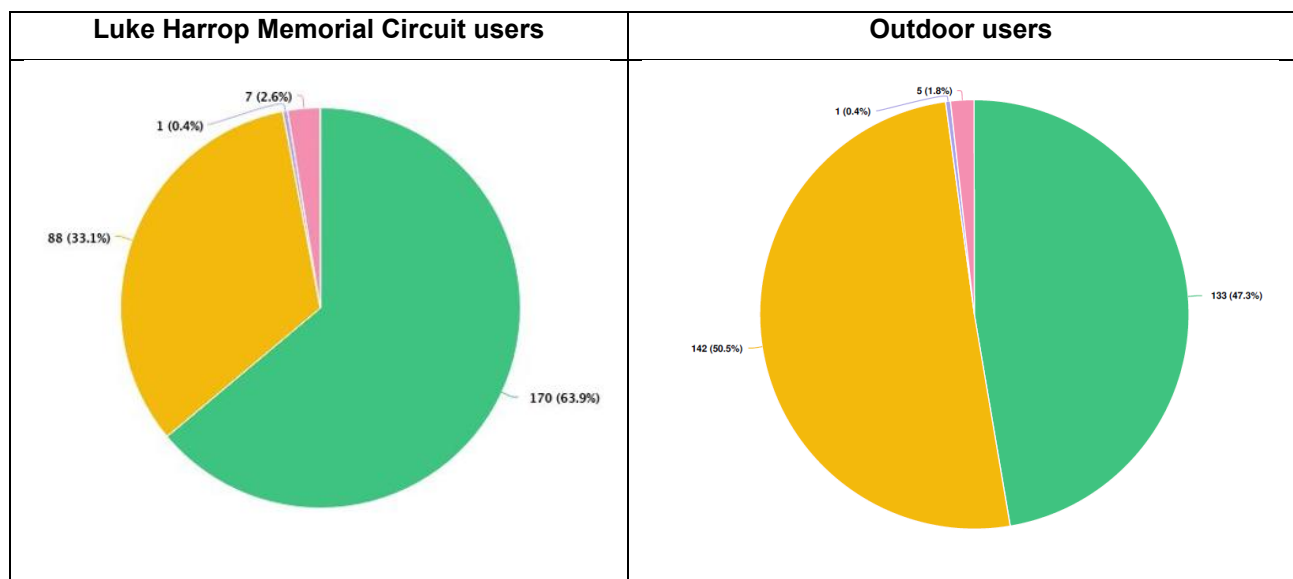
**These results are broadly similar across user groups.**

## How do you identify your gender?

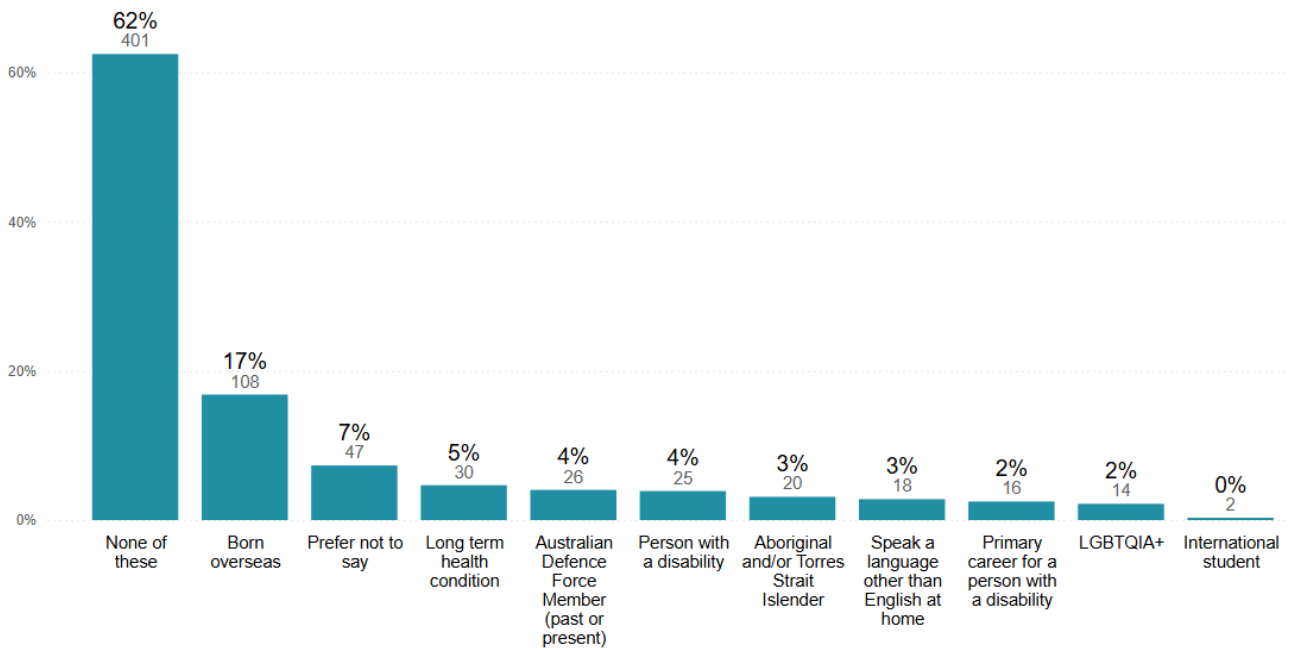


The results are:

- 52% of participants were male
- 45% were female,
- 3% selected prefer not to answer
- <1% selected Another Term



## Do you identify with any of the following?

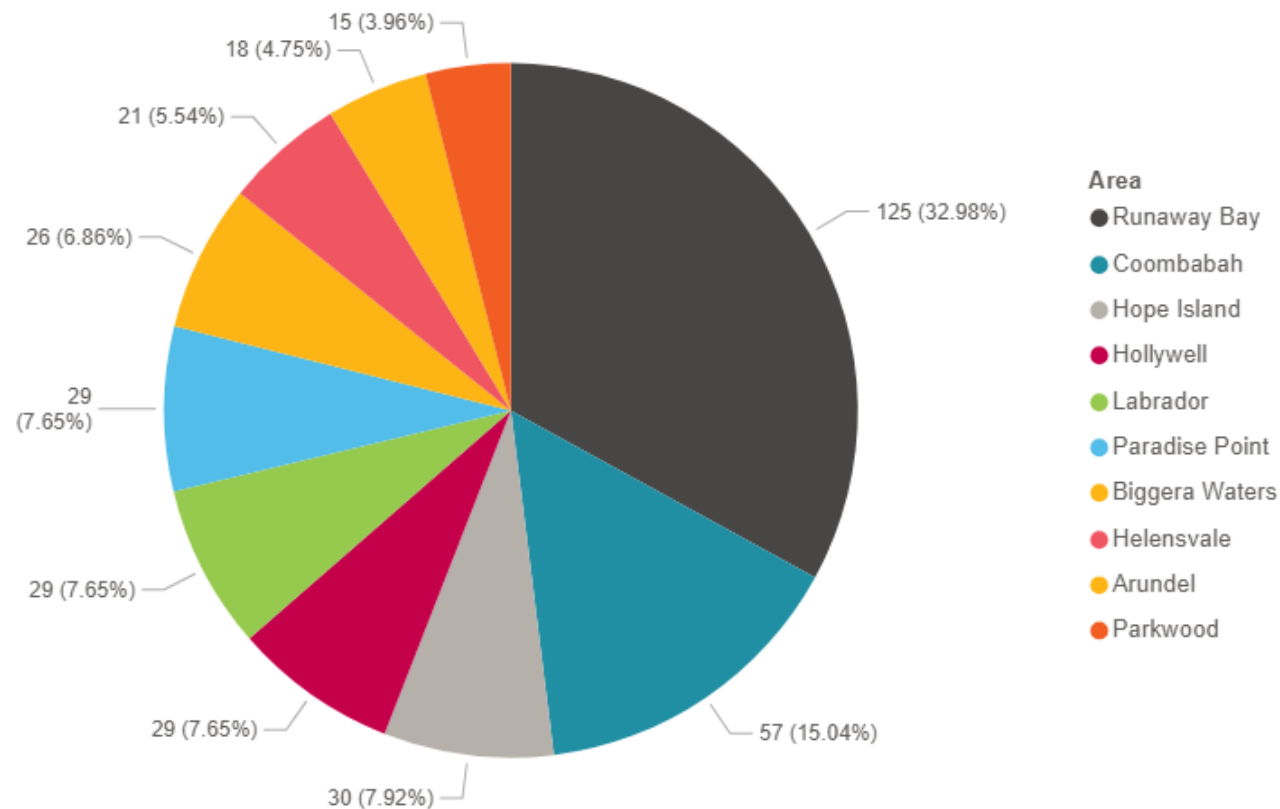


### The results are;

- None of these – 62% (401)
- Born overseas – 17% (108)
- Prefer not to say – 7% (47)
- Long-term health condition – 5% (30)
- Australian Defence Force Member (past or present – 4% (26)
- Person with a disability – 4% (25)
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – 3% (20)
- Speak a language other than English at home – 3% (18)
- Primary carer for a person with a disability – 2% (16)
- LGBTQAI+ - 2% (14)
- International student - <1% (2)

**These results are broadly similar across user groups.**

What suburb do you live in?

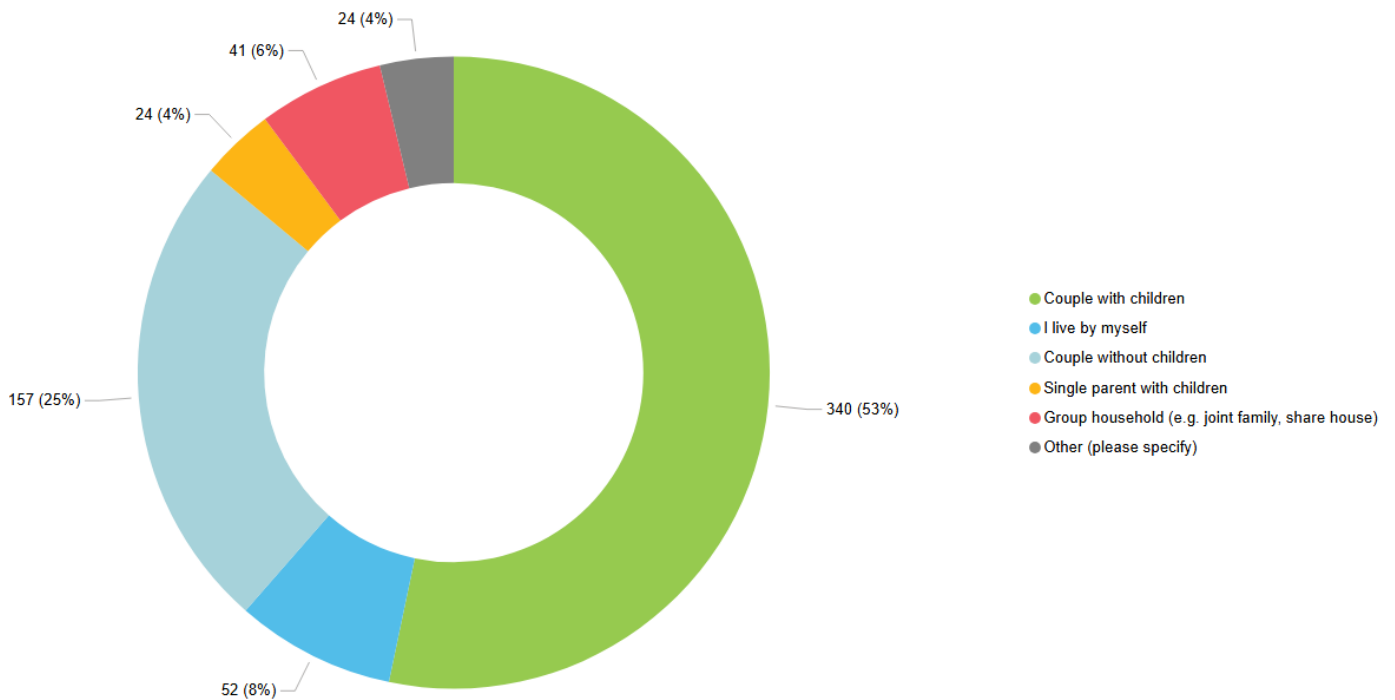


The results are:

The majority of respondents were from Runaway Bay, Coombabah and Hope Island.

This is a similar result across user groups.

## Which of the following best describes your household

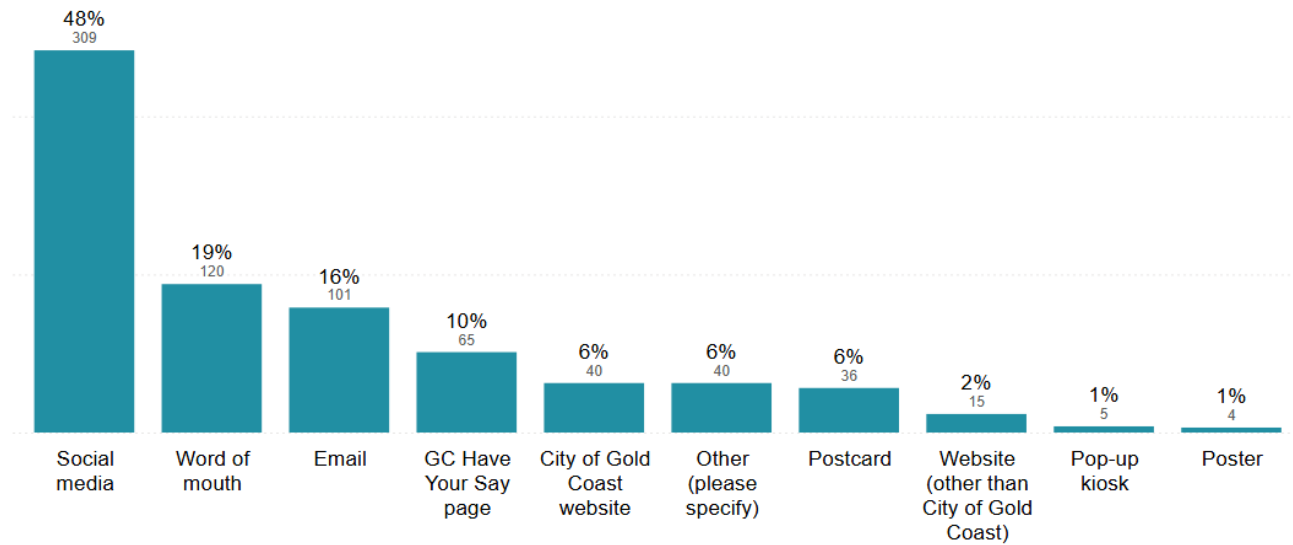


The results are:

- Couple with children - 53% (340)
- Couple without children – 25% (157)
- I live by myself – 8% (52)
- Single parent with children – 4% (24)
- Group household – 6% (41)
- Other – 4% (24)

**These results are broadly the same across user groups.**

## How did you hear about this survey?



The results are:

- Social media – 48% (309)
- Word of mouth – 19% (129)
- Email – 16% (101)
- GC Have Your Say Page – 10% (65)
- City of Gold Coast website – 6% (40)
- Other (please specify) – 6% (40)
- Postcard – 6% (36)
- Website (other than City of Gold Coast) – 2% (15)
- Pop-up kiosk – 1% (5)
- Poster – 1% (4)

The most common responses for those who selected 'Other' were;

- Divisional Councillor's social media
- A sign at the library
- Through their cycling club/pickleball club/triathlon club/roller skating club.

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## 8. Conclusion

Analysing the data and responses from the survey, the submissions received, and the conversations at the pop-up kiosks demonstrates that many users of the precinct are passionate about the future of this important community asset. Many users have strong sentimental feelings around their sport and activities, and their sports' dedicated area/facilities within the precinct. Around 60% of respondents visit the precinct multiple times a week, evidencing their connection to the precinct.

Many respondents who identified as having a connection with a specific sport were concerned solely with outcomes and provision for their sport, and less concerned with the layout of the precinct as a whole. The only issue that was consistent across sporting codes was concerns around traffic and parking – though few specific comments were made around the proposed circulation in the draft master plan. Most comments around traffic and parking related to the current state of the precinct.

**Generally, respondents were satisfied with the proposed layout of the draft master plan, except for the realignment of the Luke Harrop Memorial circuit.**

There were few mentions of the library/community hub in the survey responses, but the notion of a community hub was received positively during discussions at the pop-up kiosk.

## Appendix A - Corflute signage

4x single-sided A1 corflute signs, and 6x single-sided A2 corflute signs were displayed at strategic points around the precinct, targeting community facilities and sport fields/clubhouses. These signs aimed to target users of the precinct.



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

**WIN**  
A \$250 EFTPOS  
GIFT CARD

# Runaway Bay Sports Precinct Draft Master Plan

We are drafting a Master Plan to guide how we will deliver new and upgraded infrastructure at the Runaway Bay Sports Precinct over the next 20 years.

We want your feedback on the draft plan.

Engagement period 9–30 April 2025



View the draft plan and complete the survey

[gchaveyoursay.com.au/runaway-bay](https://gchaveyoursay.com.au/runaway-bay)

CITY OF  
**GOLDCOAST**

## Appendix B - Letterbox drop A6 postcard

A dual-sided postcard was distributed to approximately 2000 local residents and businesses (map in [Appendix C](#))



We are drafting a Master Plan for the Runaway Bay Sports Precinct to guide how we will deliver new and upgraded infrastructure in this precinct over the next 20 years.

We want you to have your say on the draft plan. Scan the QR code to find out about our pop-up events and to complete the survey.

**Engagement dates**  
9 April – 30 April 2025



 Complete the survey here

**Get in touch**  
P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)  
E [gchaveyoursay@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:gchaveyoursay@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)  
[gchaveyoursay.com.au/runaway-bay](https://gchaveyoursay.com.au/runaway-bay)



25-HGC-00176

## Appendix D - Digital promotion

### Organic social post - City of Gold Coast Facebook page

 **City of Gold Coast**   
9 April · 🌐

Want to help shape the future of the Runaway Bay Sports Precinct? Review our draft Master Plan and share your feedback in our survey 🗳️ [citygc.au/4joSJWC](https://citygc.au/4joSJWC)

We want to design a sustainable and highly-accessible precinct that can offer exceptional sporting opportunities to the local community and beyond.

You'll have the opportunity to share your feedback on whether the draft design:

- 🏃 Improves the sporting infrastructure options and opportunities in the precinct
- 🚶 Improves safety for pedestrians and users
- 🚗 Provides for better circulation of people and cars through the area
- 🌳 Maintains the site's quality open space for field sports and events

Our community engagement is open until Wednesday 23 April. Have your say and you'll also go in the draw to win a \$250 EFTPOS gift card. T&Cs apply.



### Organic social post - Divisional Councillor's Facebook page

 **Cr Shelley Curtis**  
9 April · 🌐

🔗 Runaway Bay Sports Precinct Masterplan 🗳️

✓ GC Have Your Say survey opens today!

🗳️ Don't miss your opportunity to share your views on a 20-year masterplan for our home of sport and recreation

📅 Public consultation activities also include Pop-up kiosks at the Runaway Bay Library:

- o Thurs 10/4/25 9am – 12pm Runaway Bay Library
- o Sat 12/4/25 10am – 12pm Runaway Bay Library
- o Tue 15/4/25 9am – 12pm Runaway Bay Library

💚 More voices make for better decision making so please take this once in a generation opportunity to shape the heart of Division 4

<https://gchaveyoursay.com.au/runaway-bay>

Survey closes 30 April

Runaway Bay Cricket Club Runaway Bay Junior Rugby League Football Club Runaway Bay Sport & Leadership Excellence Centre Runaway Bay and District Seniors Citizen Association Inc. Runaway Bay Swimming Club Runaway Bay Soccer Club Runaway Bay Little Athletics Gold Coast Performance Centre Team T-Rex Triathlon Coaching Northern Gold Coast Netball Association North Gold Coast Seahawks Senior Domestic Competition Gold Coast Roller Sports Gold Coast Cycling Club North Gold Coast Seahawks Basketball

