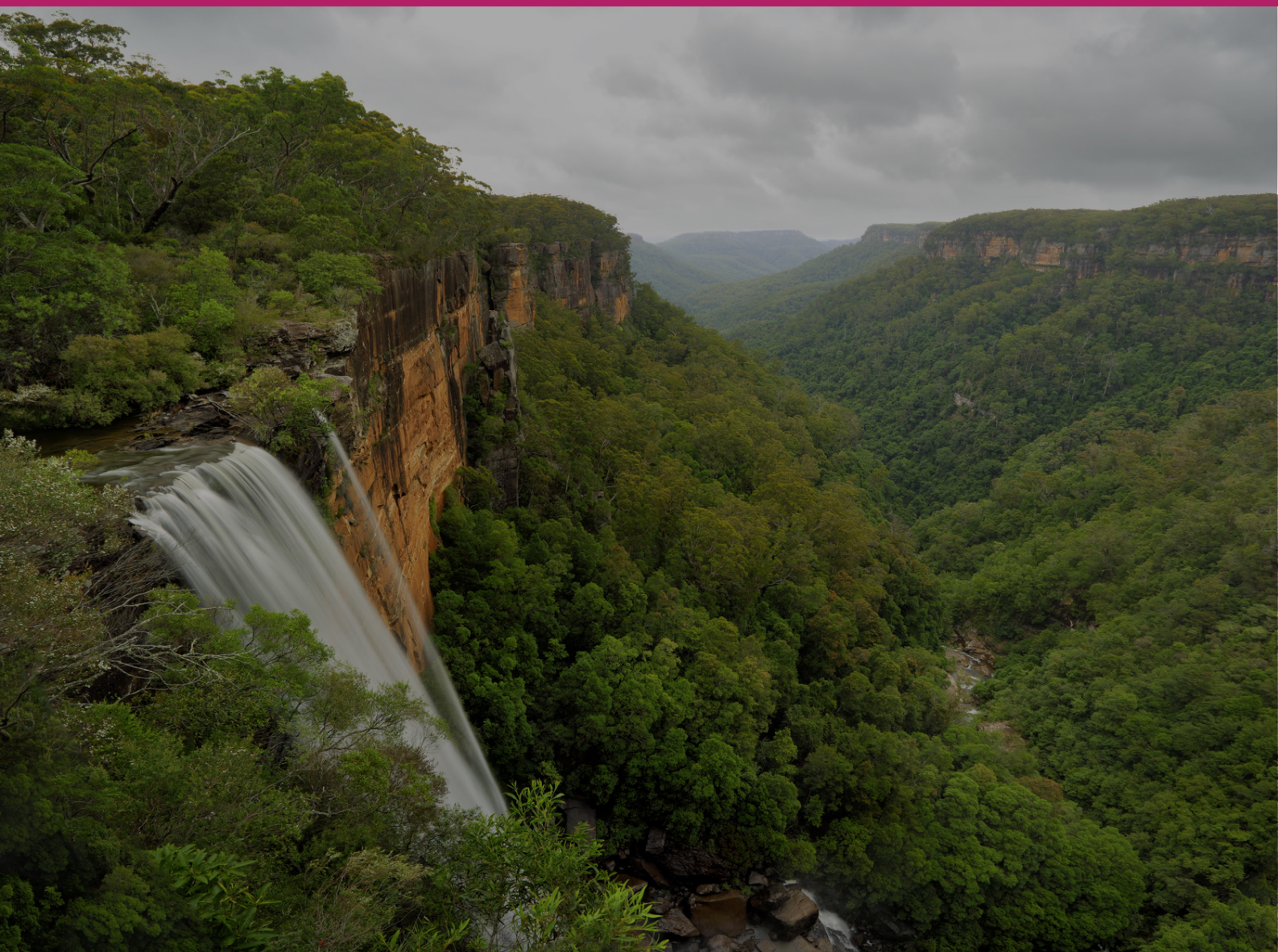


Living in Wingecarribee, 2023

Views report



community views | views.id

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WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE

Local Area Overview

About Wingecarribee

The Wingecarribee Shire local government area - on the traditional lands of the [Gundungurra and Tharawal people](#) - is in the Illawarra Region of New South Wales, about 110 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD. The area is known for its natural beauty, and much of the LGA is covered by national parks and state forests. The largest town in is Bowral, with other larger towns including Moss Vale, Mittagong, Robertson, and Bundanoon.

More than [50,000 people currently live](#) across Wingecarribee. The [median age](#) of residents is 48 years, compared to 38 across Australia. There is a high proportion of [older couples without children](#) (18% compared to 10% across Australia). [Median weekly mortgage repayments and rents](#) are higher than averages for Australia and Regional NSW.

The population is estimated to [grow by over 20%](#) in the next 17 years to 2041. Wingecarribee attracts older adults, including retirees, and some younger families, [mostly from across Sydney](#). With agricultural employment no longer being significant, residents are primarily attracted by the amenity of the area.

The local area economy produces [\\$3.4 billion each year and supplies over 25,000 local jobs](#). The LGA's [largest industry \(by employment\)](#) is Construction.



LIVING IN WINGECARRIBEE

About Living in Place for Wingecarribee Shire

About the Living in Place survey

[Living in Place](#) is an independent, robust and repeatable community survey that seeks to understand and help advance quality of life across Australia's local areas.

It uses 16 attributes to determine community values and experiences, calculate local area liveability and identify future needs. It also measures community health and wellbeing, financial circumstances, local area concerns and ideas for improving quality of life.

The Living in Place survey data is analysed and reported through our leading online platform, [views.id](#).

Together, Living in Place and [views.id](#) provide councils and other organisations with a deep and representative understanding of their community's views to inform, monitor and evaluate strategic planning and advocacy.

Living in Place is delivered in partnership with leading social research consultancy, Ipsos Public Affairs.

About Living in Wingecarribee

[views.id](#) deployed the Living in Place survey in December 2023 and January 2024, returning a sample of n=964 completed surveys.

The insights and data from Living in Wingecarribee will help to bring a credible resident lens to how the community feels about their quality of life in relation to its Community Strategic Plan. It will also enable Council to compare it's community views to external benchmarks (such as Australia, Regional Australia, New South Wales and Southern NSW).

This Living in Wingecarribee Views Report provides the reader with an overview of what residents across Wingecarribee Shire believe makes somewhere a good place to live, how they experience their local area in that regard, and what needs to happen to happen to advance quality of life.

Additional reports, data and resources are available from the [views.id reporting and exploratory platform](#).

LIVING IN WINGECARRIBEE

5 KEY INSIGHTS

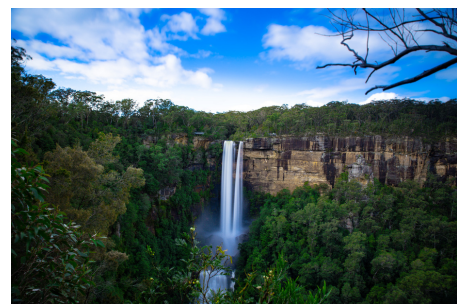
1

Liveability in Wingecarribee is influenced by perceptions of safety, access to the natural environment, quality of health services, a sense of community and level of road congestion.



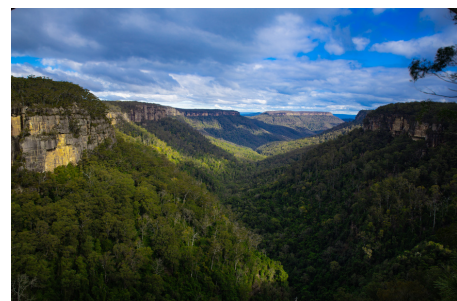
2

Safety, natural environment, health services and a sense of community are considered key strengths of the region.



3

Experiences with road congestion are putting downward pressure on overall liveability.



4

The ability to access 'affordable decent housing' is a key issue for young Wingecarribee residents and renters.



5

There are a range of liveability perceptions spatially across Wingecarribee to consider in strategic planning.

KEY INSIGHT 1

Liveability in Wingecarribee is influenced by perceptions of safety, access to the natural environment, quality of health services, a sense of community and level of road congestion.

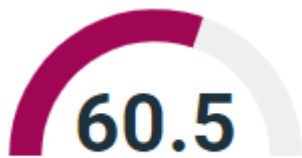
Wingecarribee’s Overall Liveability Index – created by combining residents’ values and local area experiences – returned a score of 60.5/100.

Wingecarribee residents have a clear set of beliefs regarding what makes somewhere a good place to live. And, it is how your residents experience those attributes in their local area that informs not only current levels of overall liveability, but more importantly what the community believes needs to happen to advance quality of life.

The 2023 Living in Wingecarribee survey returned an Overall Liveability Score of 60.5, slightly lower than the Australian, Regional Australian, New South Wales and Southern NSW benchmarks.

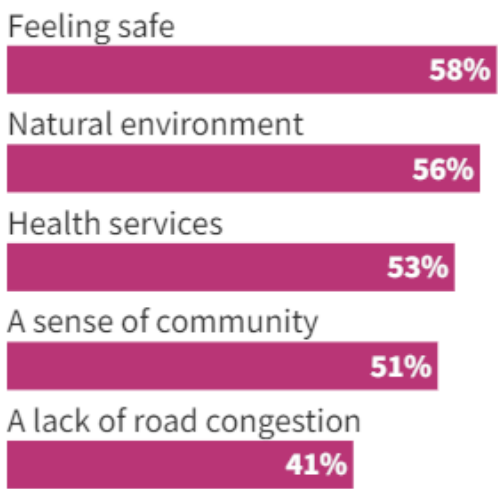
Wingecarribee residents nominated 'feeling safe' and 'access to the natural environment' as the two attributes that contribute most towards making somewhere a good place to live. 'High quality health services', 'a sense of community' and 'a lack of road congestion' round out the top five most important aspects of liveability in the area.

Living in Place Overall Liveability Index



Australia: 2023	62.6
Regional Australia: 2023	61.2
New South Wales: 2023	62.7
Southern NSW: 2023	61.5

Most valued attributes (Top 5)



What’s driving Overall Liveability: Mapping the 16 Liveability Attributes

By mapping the 16 liveability attributes based on importance to Wingecarribee residents and local area experiences, we can isolate the things that will most impact quality of life.

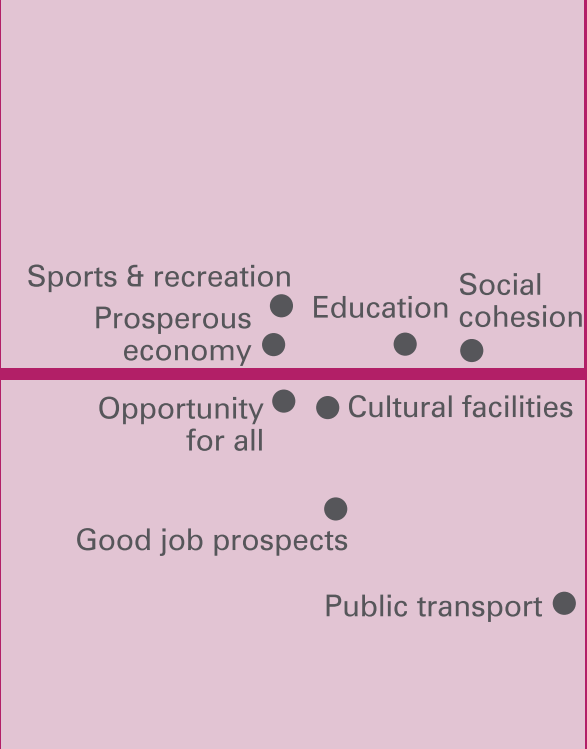
Attributes considered of high importance and above average in terms of local area experiences (i.e. **areas of strength**) include: ‘feeling safe’, ‘access to the natural environment’, ‘a sense of community’ and ‘high quality health services’.

Attributes considered of high importance but below average in terms of local area experiences (i.e. **areas to improve**) include: ‘a diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences’, ‘making your way to and from essential services with relative ease’, ‘a lack of road congestion’ and ‘affordable decent housing’.

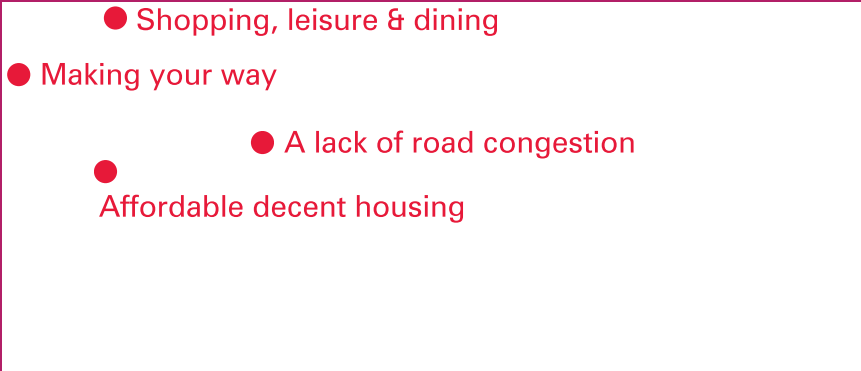
These results indicate that there is opportunity for further policy and advocacy directed at advancing quality of life for the attributes of relatively high importance, but poorer local area experiences.

Importance / experiences matrix

Lesser importance, better experiences



Greater importance, better experiences



Lesser importance, worse experiences

Greater importance, worse experiences

KEY INSIGHT 2

Safety, natural environment, health services and a sense of community are considered key strengths of the region.

These four attributes were identified as the most important to residents, and among the most positively experienced in Wingecarribee.

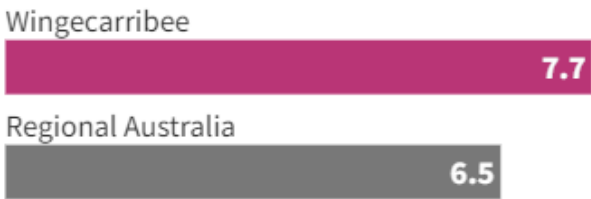
In the Australian Government’s ‘[Measuring What Matters](#)’ Framework, a prosperous society is defined (among other things) as being healthy, secure and cohesive. It is therefore important that Wingecarribee residents identified ‘feeling safe’, ‘access to the natural environment’, ‘high quality health services’ and ‘a sense of community’ as key strengths for the area.

Compared to benchmarks for Regional Australia, Wingecarribee particularly stands out for ‘feeling safe’ (7.7/10 vs. 6.5 for Regional Australia) and ‘high quality health services’ (6.3/10 vs. 5.6).

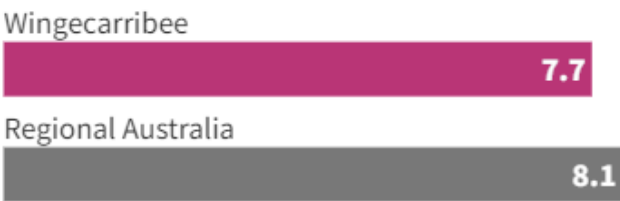
In addition, Wingecarribee residents enjoy higher levels of physical health (7.5/10), mental health (7.9/10) and social wellbeing (7.6/10) compared to national, state and regional benchmarks.

Despite this, the community may benefit from some targeted health-related policy, with young people reporting poorer mental health (6.9/10 compared to 7.5 across Wingecarribee overall).

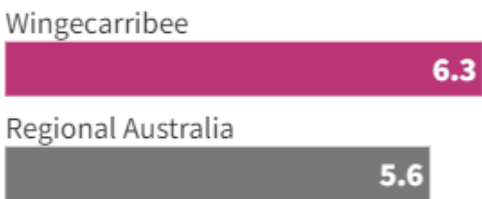
'Feeling safe' experiences (0-10)



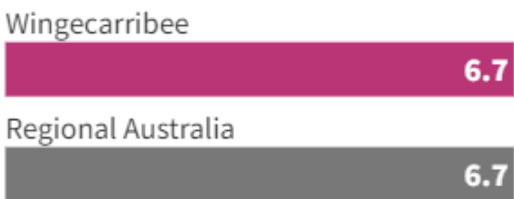
'Natural environment' experiences (0-10)



'Health services' experiences (0-10)



'Sense of community' experiences (0-10)



KEY INSIGHT 3

Experiences with road congestion are putting downward pressure on overall liveability.

Forty-one percent of Wingecarribee residents identified ‘a lack of road congestion’ as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live.

The ability to move easily to and from essential services, education and jobs is important for [addressing social disadvantage](#).

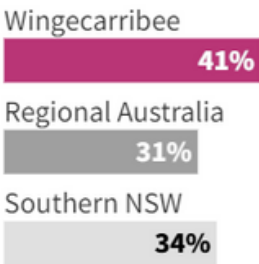
In Wingecarribee, ‘a lack of road congestion’ is the 5th most important attribute, but the 14th most positively experienced. Experiences with road congestion are worse on average in the towns of Moss Vale (3.2/10) and Bowral (3.8/10).

‘Reliable and efficient public transport’ is the 9th most important attribute in Wingecarribee overall, but is more important in Wingecarribee than in other parts of Regional Australia and Southern NSW. It is also of greater importance among residents aged 60 years or over (30%). In addition, when asked to identify the top issues in the local community, 37% of Wingecarribee residents mentioned ‘Transport/Public Transport/Infrastructure’.

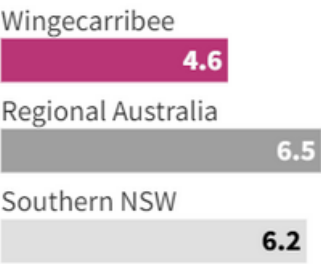
Based on the importance placed on road and public transport within the community, any initiatives to improve in this regard would contribute positively to Wingecarribee’s Overall Liveability Index.

A lack of road congestion

Importance (%)

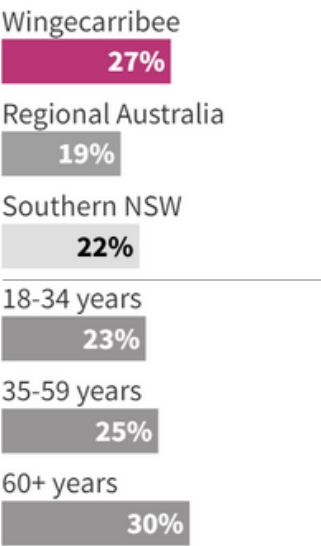


Local area experiences (0-10)



Reliable & efficient public transport

Importance (%)



KEY INSIGHT 4

The ability to access ‘affordable decent housing’ is a key issue for young Wingecarribee residents and renters.

Seventy percent of renters in Wingecarribee selected ‘affordable decent housing’ as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live.

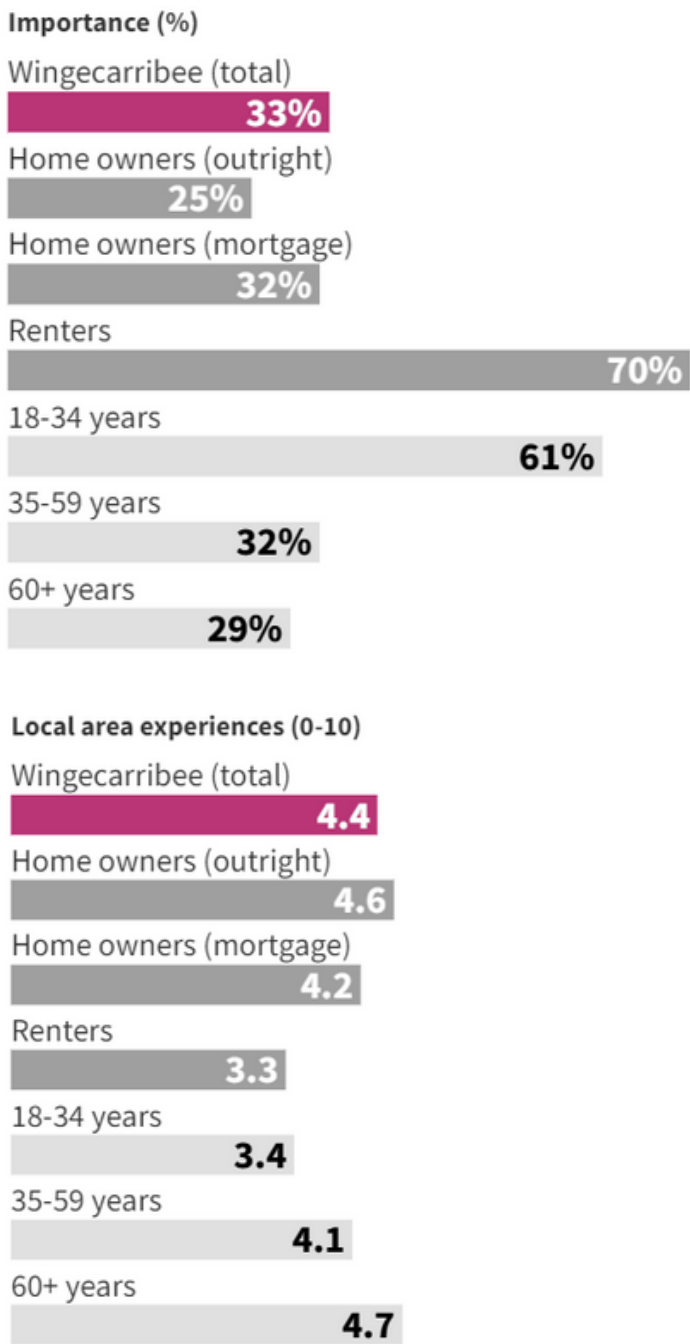
The provision of affordable housing is a [national challenge](#), and a key issue for local governments. It is also an important issue in Wingecarribee, identified as the 7th most important attribute for residents overall.

Access to ‘[affordable decent housing](#)’ is a particularly important issue for younger generations. In Wingecarribee, 61% of 18-34 year olds consider it important, a significantly higher proportion than those aged 35 or above.

Wingecarribee residents rated their local area an average of 4.4 out of 10 for ‘[affordable decent housing](#)’, below the benchmark for Regional Australia (4.7) but above the average for Southern NSW (4.2). Experiences of ‘[affordable decent housing](#)’ in Wingecarribee were also perceived to be lower among renters (3.3) and those aged 18-34 years (3.4).

With an [ageing population](#), it will be important to support accessible housing options for young people in Wingecarribee who represent the current and future workforce.

Affordable decent housing



KEY INSIGHT 5

There are a range of liveability perceptions spatially across Wingecarribee to consider in strategic planning.

While the overall results provide a picture of Wingecarribee as a whole and how it compares to other areas, it is important to also understand the different perceptions within Wingecarribee.

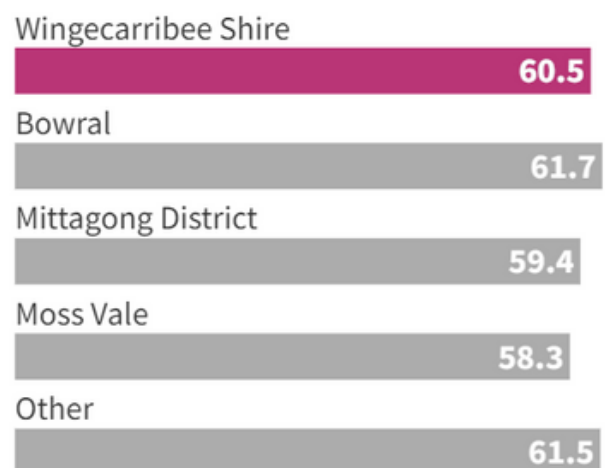
Overall liveability varies across Wingecarribee, from 61.7/100 in Bowral to 58.3 in Moss Vale.

Perceived liveability in Bowral is high primarily due to exceptional experiences with local health services. 'High quality health services' are of elevated importance to this community due to it's higher median age (55 years compared to 48 years across Wingecarribee).

In Moss Vale, overall liveability is lower at 58.3. Moss Vale is a younger community than the rest of Wingecarribee (median age of 45 years) and an area experiencing population growth. Residents of Moss Vale place a higher level of importance on 'a lack of road congestion', 'affordable decent housing' and 'good job prospects'. They report significantly poorer experiences for road congestion (3.2/10).

In the Mittagong District (made up of Mittagong, Balaclava, Welby, Renwick, Willow Vale, and Braemar) higher importance is placed on having access to 'a diverse range of shopping, leisure & dining experiences' (43% compared to 33% across Wingecarribee).

Overall Liveability Index by Area



Wingecarribee's diverse population determines that planning is well served through the local community lens. Understanding the values, experiences, and future needs of your communities should lead to actions and advocacy that serve specific local issues, solving local problems.

When administered consistently over several years, this approach should deliver better local area experiences which will, by extension, return a collective benefit to liveability in Wingecarribee Shire.

ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

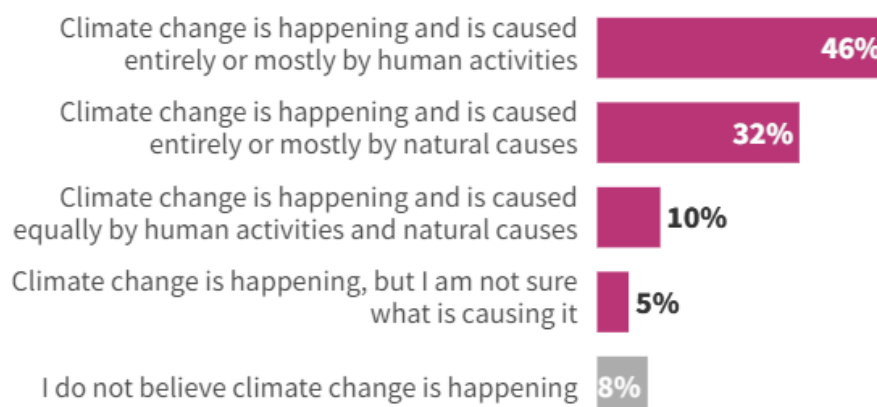


There is a high level of belief in climate change in Wingecarribee, and many feel it is already affecting the local area.

Over four in five Wingecarribee residents believe climate change is happening.

However, they are divided over the cause, with 46% believing it is caused mostly or entirely by human activities and 32% entirely or mostly by natural causes.

Which of the following best describes your personal views on climate change?



All respondents, n=964

Two thirds (66%) of those that believe in climate change believe that their local area is currently feeling the effects of climate change.

A further 22% feel that climate change will affect their local area in the future, while 13% don't expect it will in their lifetime.

Please select the extent to which climate change is impacting or will impact your local area in your lifetime?

- Local area is feeling the effects of climate change
- Local area is not feeling the effects of climate change, but expect it will in my lifetime
- Local area is not feeling the effects of climate change, and do not expect it will in my lifetime

Wingecarribee



Respondents that believe in climate change, n=886

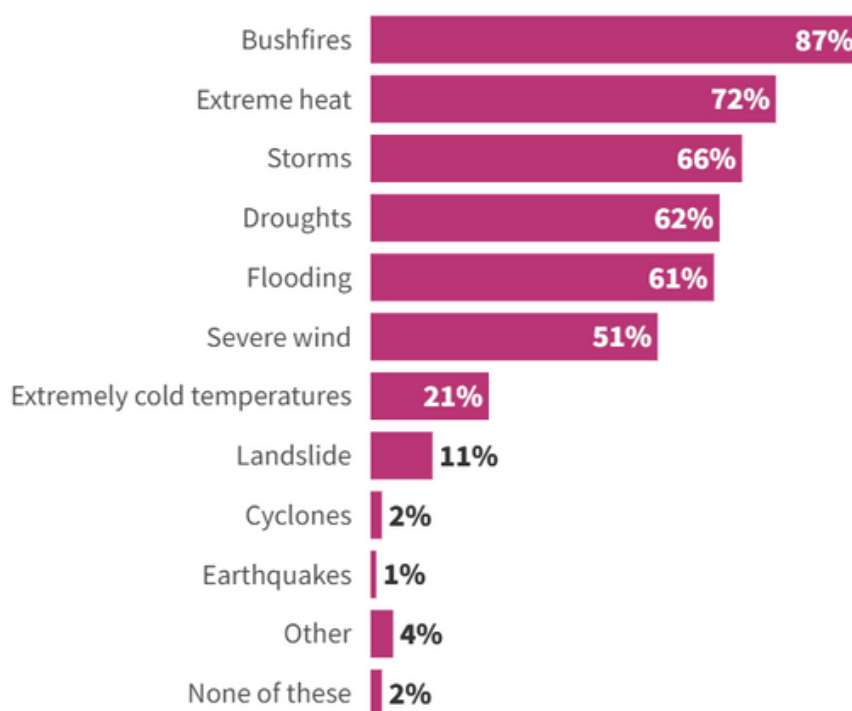
ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Bushfires are a key source of concern in Wingecarribee, and the majority are not confident about the ability of the local area to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Bushfires are the main concern among Wingecarribee residents. Behind this is extreme heat, storms, drought, flooding and severe wind.

How is your local area currently, or how do you expect it will, feel the effects of climate change in your lifetime?



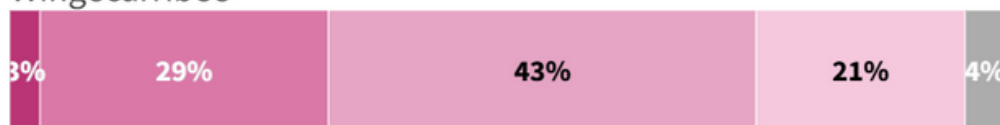
Respondents that believe in climate change and feel it is affecting their local area, n=775

Among residents that believe in climate change and feel it is affecting their local area, 32% are at least somewhat confident in the ability of the local area to adapt. Almost two in three (64%) are not confident.

How confident are you that your local area will be able to adapt to the effects of climate change in your lifetime?

Very confident Somewhat confident Not very confident
Not at all confident Don't know

Wingecarribee



Respondents that believe in climate change and feel it is affecting their local area, n=775

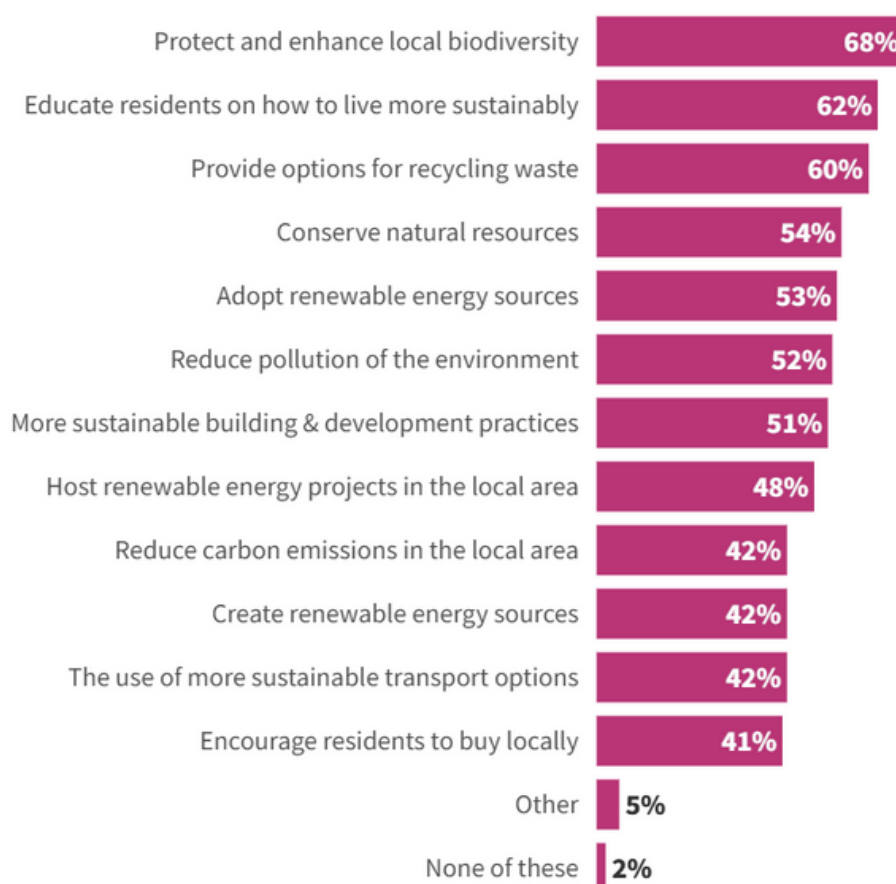
ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Wingecarribee residents would like to see a focus on protecting and enhancing local biodiversity, and show some willingness to be educated and adjust their own behaviour.

Protecting and enhancing local biodiversity, educating residents on how to live more sustainably and providing options for recycling waste are the key things Wingecarribee residents feel can be done to address climate change. This suggests that residents are open to adjusting their behaviours to help tackle climate change and adverse impacts to the local area environment.

What do you feel are the best ways to address the effects of climate change in your local area?



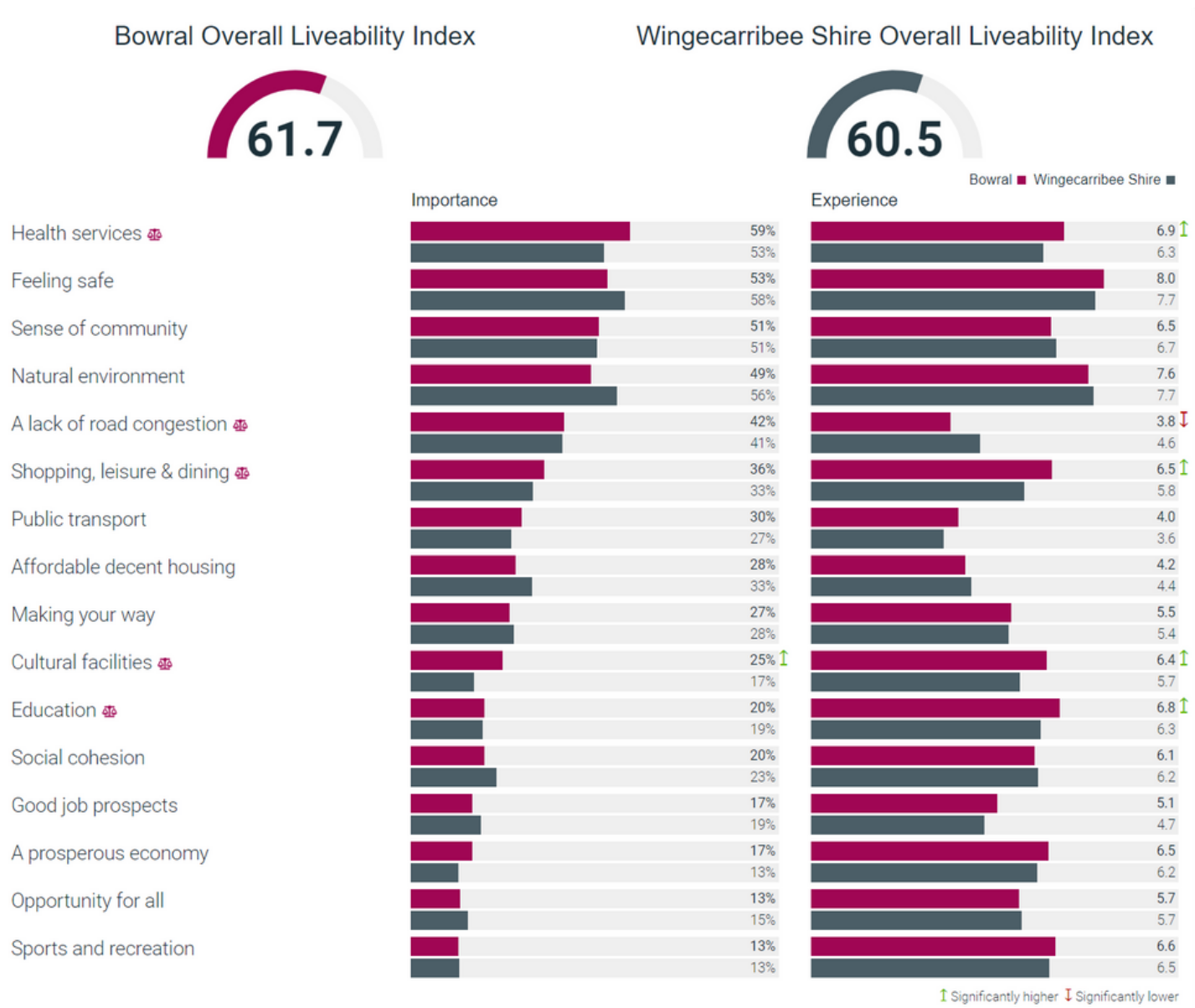
Respondents that believe in climate change and feel it is affecting their local area, n=775

APPENDIX

LOCAL AREA INSIGHTS: BOWRAL

The Overall Liveability Index for Bowral was 61.7/100, higher than the Wingecarribee Index (60.5).

Sample size: n=180



APPENDIX

LOCAL AREA INSIGHTS: MITTAGONG DISTRICT

Mittagong, Balaclava, Welby, Renwick, Willow Vale, Braemar

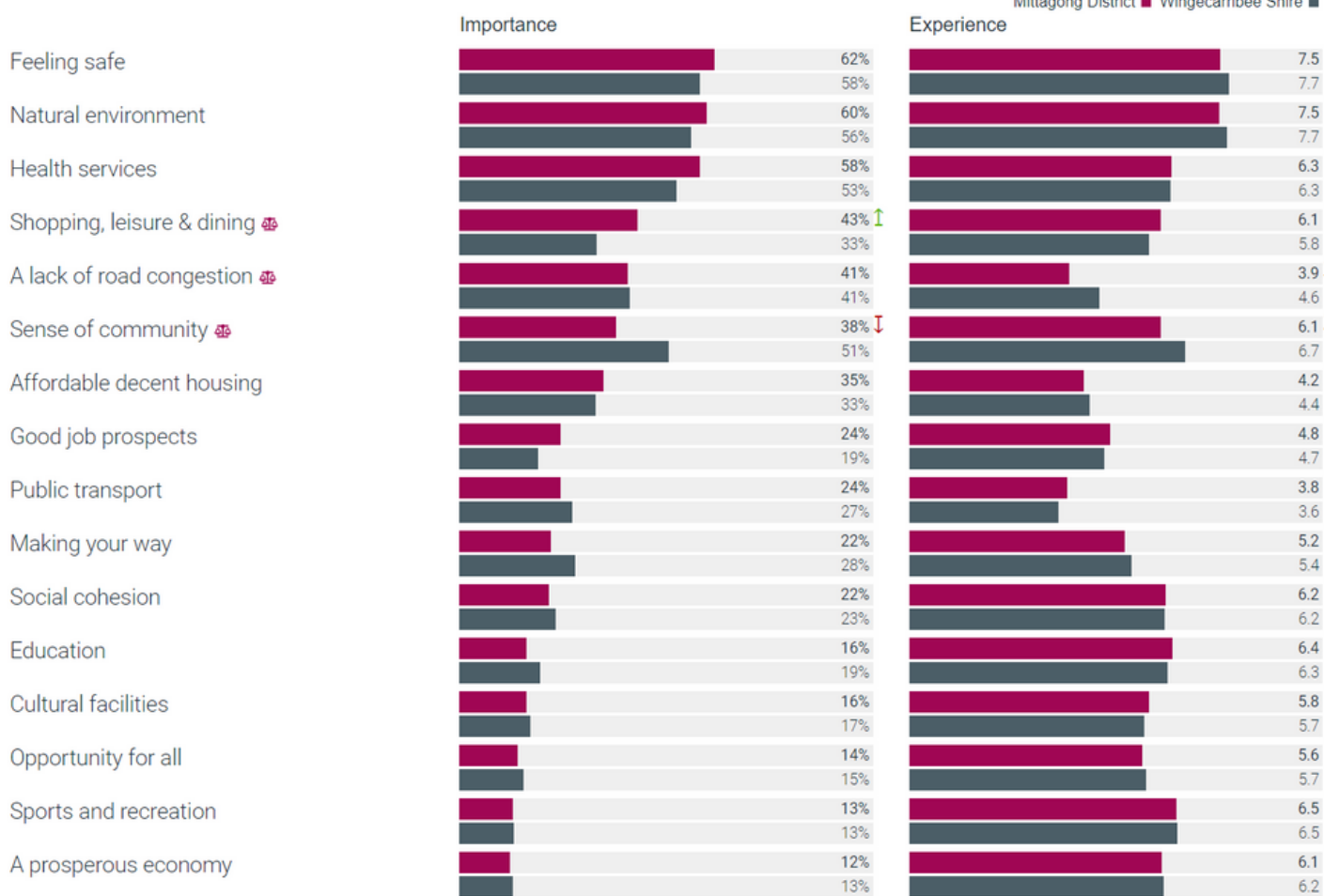
The Overall Liveability Index for Mittagong District was 59.4/100, lower than the Wingecarribee Index (60.5).

Sample size: n=172

Mittagong District Overall Liveability Index



Wingecarribee Shire Overall Liveability Index



↑ Significantly higher ↓ Significantly lower

APPENDIX

LOCAL AREA INSIGHTS: MOSS VALE

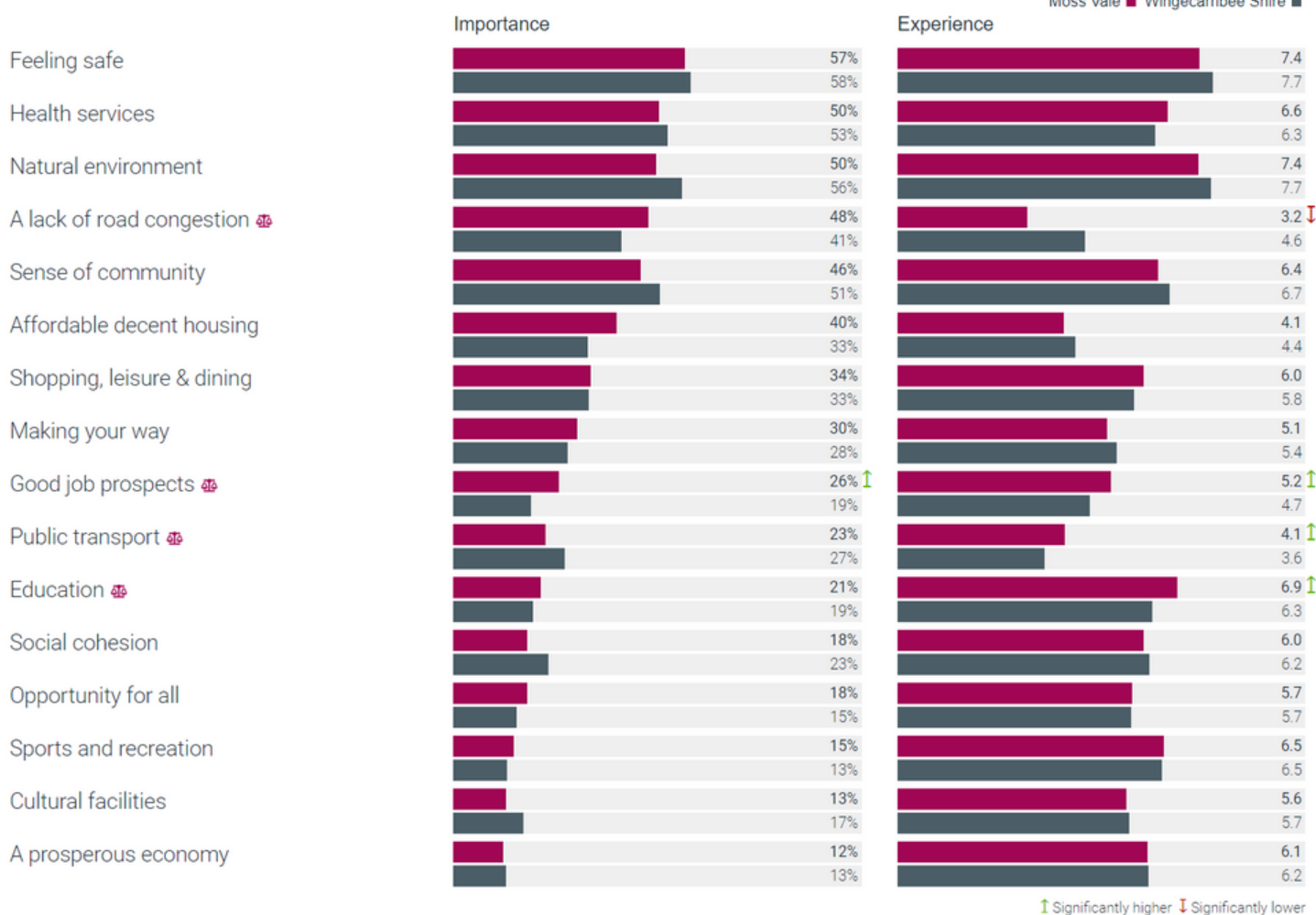
The Overall Liveability Index for Moss Vale was 58.3/100, lower than the Wingecarribee Index (60.5).

Sample size: n=155

Moss Vale Overall Liveability Index



Wingecarribee Shire Overall Liveability Index



APPENDIX

LOCAL AREA INSIGHTS: OTHER

Canyonleigh, Robertson, Bundanoon, Mandemar, Colo Vale, Joadja, Bargo, Woodlands, Werai, Wingello, Hill Top, Berrima, Yerrinbool, Wildes Meadow, Alpine, Burrawang, Manchester Square, Bullio, High Range, Burradoo, Wombeyan Caves, Avoca, Buxton, New Berrima, Exeter, Tallong, Penrose, Fitzroy Falls, Mount Murray, Kangaloon, Balmoral, Sutton Forest, Glenquarry, East Kangaloon, Aylmerton, Upper Kangaroo Valley, Medway, and Paddys River.

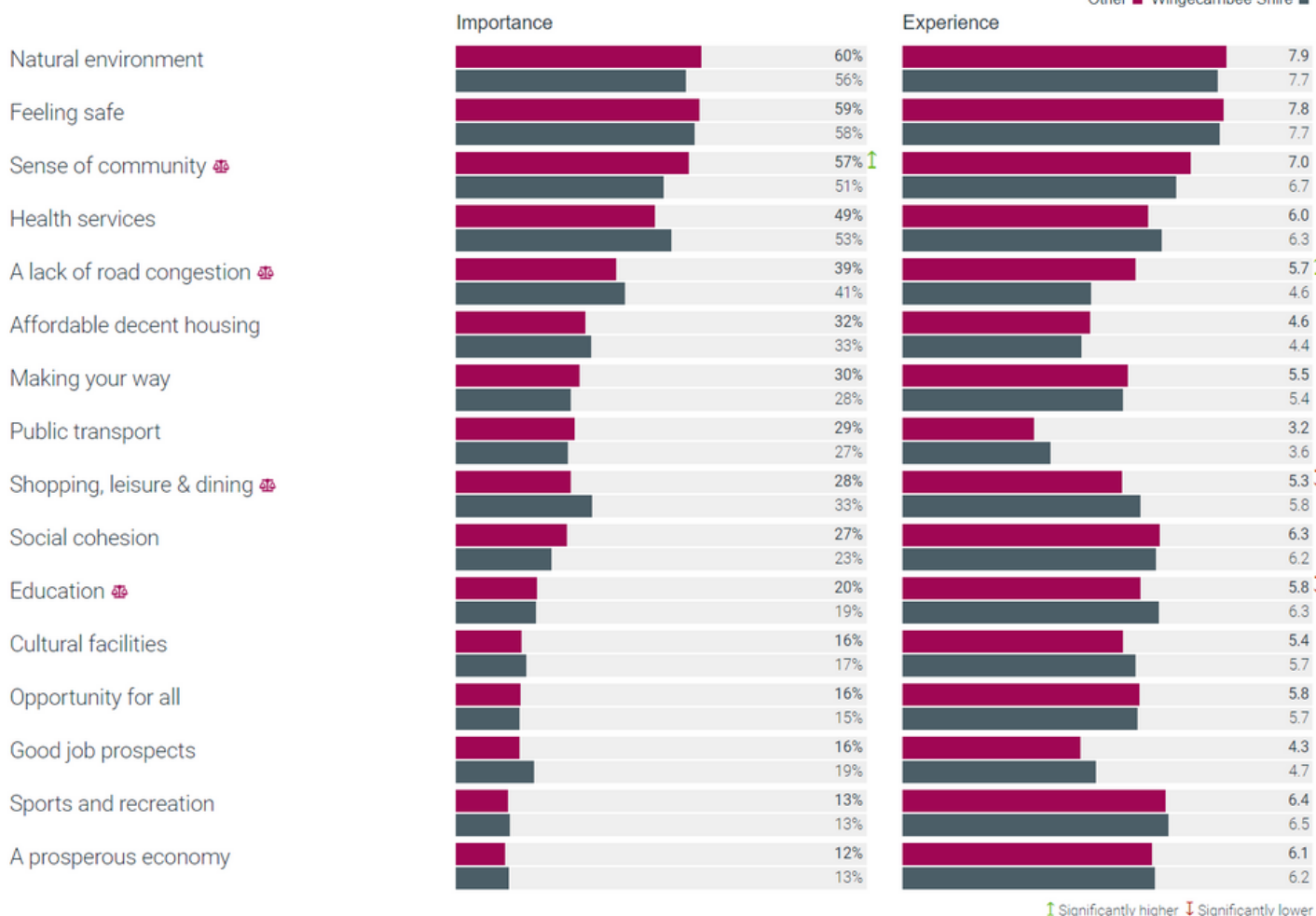
The Overall Liveability Index for Other was 61.5/100, higher than the Wingecarribee Index (60.5).

Sample size: n=457

Other Overall Liveability Index



Wingecarribee Shire Overall Liveability Index





Living in Wingecarribee, 2023 Views Report

Please visit views.id.com.au/wingecarribee
for additional insights, resources and data.