

Living in the Lockyer Valley, 2023

Views report

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community views | views.id

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LOCKYER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Local Area Overview

About Lockyer Valley

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council local government area - home of the [Yuggera and Ugarapul people](#) - is located in south-east Queensland, about 90 kilometres west of the Brisbane CBD. It straddles the Warrego Highway and covers an area of approximately [2,200 sq kms](#).

More than [42,000 people currently live](#) across the Lockyer Valley. The local area economy produces \$2.25 billion each year, with the LGA's [main industry_\(by employment\)](#) being Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

LIVING IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY

About Living in Place for the Lockyer Valley Regional Council

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 the Lockyer Valley

[.id](#) deployed the Living in Place survey across the proposed Inland Rail Alignment across April and May 2023, returning a sample of $n=3,757$ completed surveys.

Surveys were collected to represent the views of communities across the Alignment at the local government area level (Goondiwindi, Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Ipswich and Logan).

The ARTC has contracted [.id](#) to deliver Living in Place annually between 2022 and 2024 to monitor how communities along the proposed Alignment feel they are progressing with regard to various aspects of Inland Rail's social performance framework, including the 'community health and wellbeing' agenda. As part of the Project, [.id](#) provides access to all insights and data to each LGA.

A total of $n=507$ Lockyer Valley residents were surveyed as part of the Program. Additional reports, data and resources are available from the [views.id reporting and exploratory platform](#).

OVERALL LIVEABILITY

The values, experiences, overall liveability and future needs of Lockyer Valley residents...

The chart below shows what Lockyer Valley Regional Council residents believe makes somewhere a good place to live and how they experience their local area in that regard. It also highlights how the Region's current Overall Liveability compares with the 2022 Benchmark.

Living in Place

Overall Liveability Index



Australia: 2023	62.6 ↑
Queensland: 2023	60.9 ↑
Regional Australia: 2023	61.2 ↑
South East Queensland: 2023	62.2 ↑

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Overall Liveability Index



Results sorted by importance in Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Feeling safe

Health services 🏥

Affordable decent housing

Natural environment

Sense of community

Shopping, leisure & dining 🛍️

Good job prospects

Making your way

Public transport

A lack of road congestion 🚗

Education

Opportunity for all 🌐

Social cohesion

Sports and recreation

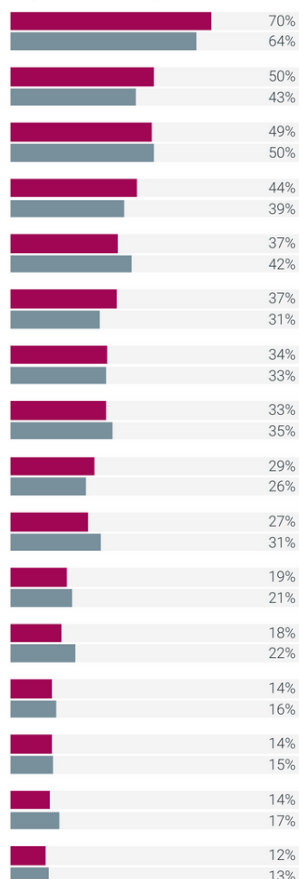
A prosperous economy

Cultural facilities

May 2022 Overall Liveability Index

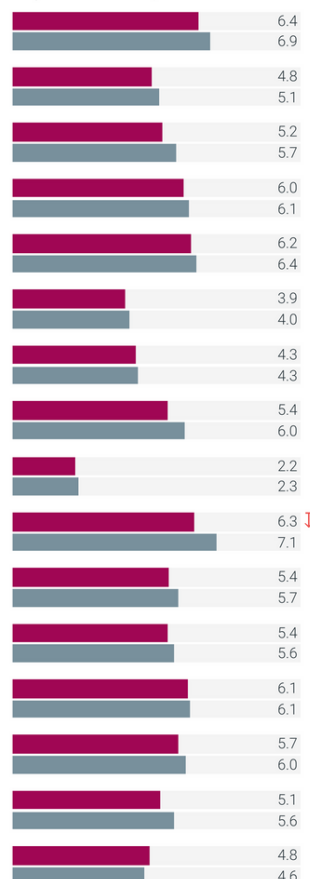


Importance Sort by ▾



Lockyer Valley Regional Council ■ May 2022 ■

Experience Sort by ▾



↑ Significantly higher ↓ Significantly lower

KEY INSIGHT 1

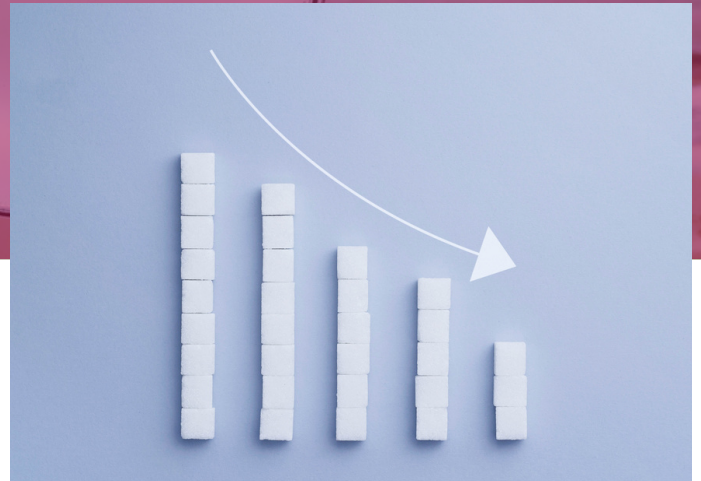
Overall Liveability across the Lockyer Valley has contracted since 2022 and is lower than contemporary Australian and Regional Australian benchmarks.

Lockyer Valley's Overall Liveability Index – created by combining residents' values and local area experiences – returned a score of 52.6/100, lower than Australian (62.6) and Regional Australian (61.2) benchmarks.

The community's values shifted slightly since last year, with increasing importance placed on 'feeling safe' (70% from 64% in 2022), 'high quality health services' (50% from 43% in 2022) and 'a diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences' (37% from 31% in 2022).

Critically, perceived local area experiences contracted in comparison to 2022 for the top five most important liveability attributes. The community rated their local area an average of 6.4 out of 10 for 'feeling safe' in 2023 (compared with an average of 6.9/10 in 2022) and 5.2/10 for 'affordable decent housing' (was 5.7/10 in 2022).

This decline in perceived local area experiences for the attributes of greatest importance to the Lockyer Valley community are responsible for driving the contraction in Overall Liveability.



Policy and advocacy that is directed explicitly at advancing quality of life for attributes of relative high importance should, over the long-term, see residents across the Lockyer Valley reporting better local area experiences which, by extension, will flow through to a higher Overall Liveability Index.

Monitoring the community's perceptions in that regard annually - and comparing these findings each year with external benchmarks to maintain a contemporary context - will assist Council and organisations invested in improving the lived-experience of Lockyer Valley residents and gauge the effectiveness of their efforts

KEY INSIGHT 2

Residents across Lockyer Valley Regional Council have a clear set of beliefs regarding what makes somewhere a good place to live, centred around safety, health and housing.

In 2023, the community placed the greatest value on 'feeling safe' (70% selecting it among their five most important liveability attributes), followed by the provision of 'high quality health services' (50%), 'affordable decent housing' (49%).

Lockyer Valley residents place greater importance on these three attributes compared to the average Australian, indicating that these are the core things that matter in the region.

'Access to the natural environment' (44%), 'a strong sense of community' (37%), and 'a diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences' (37%) completed the list of most important items.

While this provides a clear lens on the residents' hierarchy of values, understanding how the community experiences these most important items in their local area (and how these experiences manifest demographically and spatially across the region's many towns), is crucially important to help inform where efforts should be focused moving forward.



For example, younger Lockyer Valley residents (aged 18-34 years) place considerably higher weight on safety, affordable housing and natural environment, while residents aged 60 or above have a greater focus on health services.

In addition, public transport infrastructure is a key concern in the region (34% identifying it as a top issue facing their local area) – particularly in the Laidley, Plainland and the East areas (36% identified as a top issue; 34% chose 'reliable and efficient public transport' among their most important attributes of liveability).

KEY INSIGHT 3

Advocating for 'high quality health services' represents the single biggest opportunity to advance local area liveability.

50% of residents selected 'High quality health services' as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live, making it the 2nd most important liveability aspect for Lockyer Valley residents overall.

While 'high quality health services' are considered highly important in the Lockyer Valley, residents rated their experience in their local area 4.8 out of 10, making it the 12th most positively experienced attribute of 16. In comparison to Regional Australians, your community placed the same level of importance on, but reported less positive local area experiences for 'high quality health services' (51%, 5.6 across Regional Australia). Lockyer Valley residents were more likely to cite 'Healthcare/Hospitals' as one of the top issues facing their local area compared to the average Australian (30% compared to 21%).

In addition, perceptions of residents' own health and wellbeing are below how the average Australian feels about their own health (physical health rated 6.7 compared to 7.0 for Australia). Lockyer Valley residents are also less optimistic about their

mental health and social wellbeing over the next year with only 18% and 16% feeling these aspects will improve, compared to 24% for each across Australia. In particular, 18-34 year olds report lower levels of mental health at 6.0/10 compared to 7.1 across all Lockyer Valley residents, and 17% of 18-34 year olds feel their mental health will get worse over the next year.

Health plays an important role in the Lockyer Valley's current demographic composition and economic future. The [2021 ABS Census](#) revealed that a substantially higher proportion of Lockyer Valley residents report having at least one long term health condition (37%) compared to the average Australian (32%). The most common conditions include mental health conditions and arthritis (each affecting 11.8% of the community).

A healthy community is a prosperous one. Given its high importance within the Lockyer Valley community, any investment or advocacy in health services would contribute positively towards perceived liveability in the area.

KEY INSIGHT 4

Despite a growing economy, Lockyer Valley residents are feeling the impacts of rising cost of living.

58% of Lockyer Valley residents listed 'Inflation/Cost of Living' in their top issues/concerns, up from 50% in 2022 and the top issue in the region.

As reported on your economy.id site, the region is experiencing strong objective economic outcomes. The [Gross Regional Product \(GRP\)](#) of the Lockyer Valley is growing (+16.9% year-on-year), faster than the Australian average (+3.7%).

Despite this, 'Inflation/Cost of Living' is the top issue facing the Lockyer Valley, with 58% of residents listing it in their top concerns (up from 50% in 2022). 'Housing/Price of Housing' was the second most common issue, mentioned by 37% (up from 29% in 2022).

Lockyer Valley residents rate their financial situation 5.7/10 – lower than all of Australia (6.1) and Regional Australia averages (6.1). As many as 28% predict their financial situation will get worse over the next year, and 47% feel pessimistic about the economic situation in their local area. Almost one in ten (9%) are often or



always late in meeting their financial commitments, up from 4% in 2022.

LGA level estimates suggest [unemployment in the Lockyer Valley region](#) is falling, but not as fast as it is elsewhere. In the 2023 March quarter, the unemployment rate in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council was 6.1%, compared to 3.6% for Australia (although the Department of Employment advise that unemployment estimates at the LGA level should be viewed with caution).

A focus on ensuring your residents have access to good job prospects would help to correct the perceived imbalance between value and local area experience (the 7th most valued attribute but ranked only 14th on delivery).

KEY INSIGHT 5

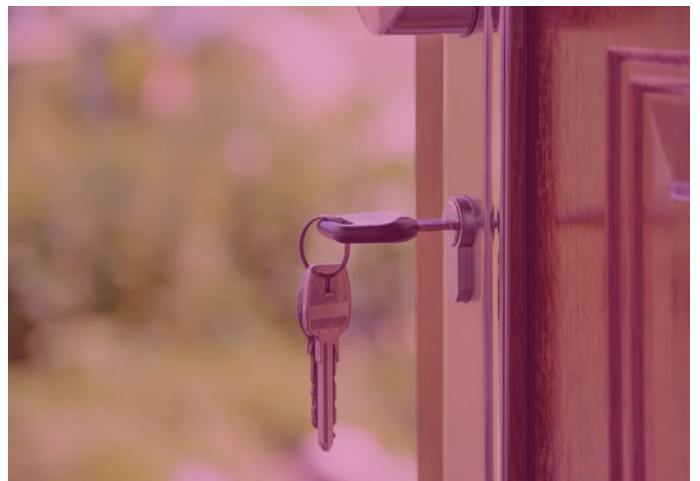
The region's ability to deliver 'affordable decent housing' may attract people to consider building a life in the Lockyer Valley.

Lockyer Valley residents rated their local area an average of 5.2 out of 10 for 'affordable decent housing', significantly higher than the benchmark for Australia (4.9) and Regional Australia (4.7)

The provision of 'affordable decent housing' is a national challenge. For context, the average Regional Australian nominates it as the 4th most important item (50%) and the 15th most positively experienced (4.7/10).

Your residents aged between 18 and 34 years place considerably more value on 'affordable decent housing' (63%; ranked 2nd), but positively, report similar local area experiences (5.1/10) to residents aged 60+ years (5.5/10).

The local area experiences of young people living in the Scenic Rim regarding 'affordable decent housing' are comparatively better than those living in larger towns and cities across South East Queensland.



These positive experiences of affordable housing relative to neighbouring areas represent an opportunity to attract young people to establish themselves in the Lockyer Valley, particularly as the region currently has a lower proportion of 'young workforce' (12.5%) than the South East Queensland average (14.1%). However, there must be 'good job prospects' (of importance to 34% of Lockyer Valley residents) to underpin and support attractive housing options.

LOCAL AREA INSIGHTS ACROSS LOCKYER VALLEY

Living in Gatton and the West

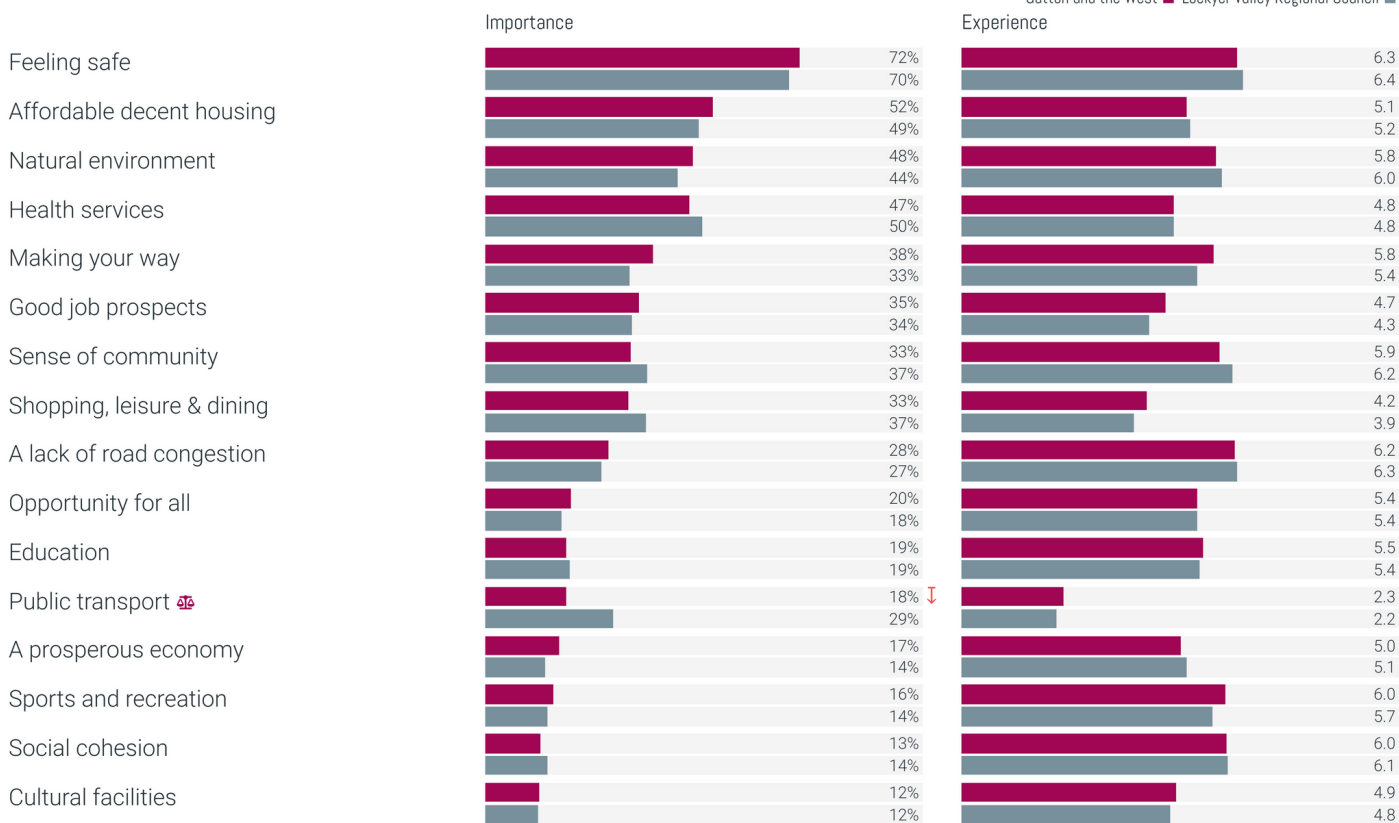
The Gatton and the West Local Area is made up of Gatton, Woodlands, Grantham, Lockyer, Withcott, Helidon Spa, Placid Hills, Flagstone Creek, Helidon, Blanchview, Carpendale, Fordsdale, Iredale, Murphy's Creek, Winwill, Fifteen Mile, Buaraba South, Woodbine, and Black Duck Creek. 151 residents from Gatton and the West participated in the survey.

The Gatton and the West Local Area Overall Liveability Index returned a value of 53.7/100, higher than the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Index (52.6).

Gatton and the West Overall Liveability Index



Lockyer Valley Regional Council Overall Liveability Index



↑ Significantly higher ↓ Significantly lower

LOCAL AREA INSIGHTS ACROSS LOCKYER VALLEY

Living in Laidley, Plainland and the East

The Laidley, Plainland and the East Local Area is made up of Kentville, Laidley, Laidley Heights, Mulgowie, Regency Downs, Laidley North, Kensington Grove, Glenore Grove, Forest Hill, Ropeley, Adare, Plainland, Lockyer Waters, Blenheim, Mount Sylvia, Hatton Vale, Mount Berryman, Thornton, Laidley Creek West, Lockrose, Laidley South, Brightview, Summerholm, Upper Tenthill, Rockside, Churchable, Ingoldsby, Lake Clarendon, Glen Cairn, and Lynford. 356 residents from Laidley, Plainland and the East participated in the survey.

The Laidley, Plainland and the East Local Area Overall Liveability Index returned a value of 52.1/100, lower than the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Index (52.6).

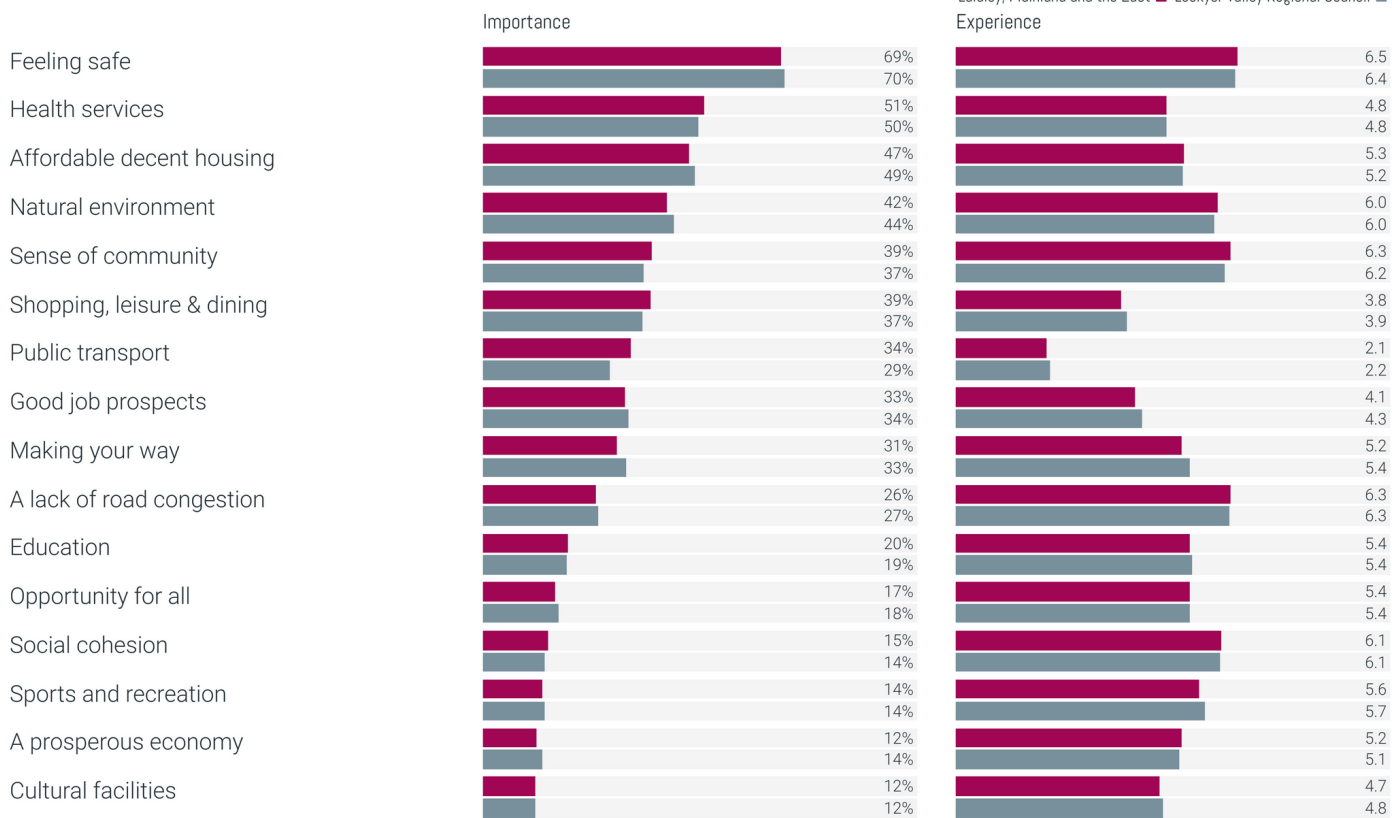
Laidley, Plainland and the East Overall Liveability Index



Lockyer Valley Regional Council Overall Liveability Index



Laidley, Plainland and the East Lockyer Valley Regional Council



↑ Significantly higher ↓ Significantly lower



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Please visit views.id.com.au/lockyer-valley
for additional insights, resources and data.