

Rural West Liveability Index 2020



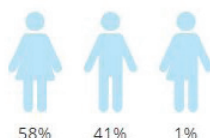
In September 2020 we teamed up with Place Score to complete our first ever place census. Over 3,700 people told us what they value and how they rate their neighbourhood.

The results allows us to focus on the things most valuable to our community. It helps us plan and make decisions that will have the biggest impact on your wellbeing.

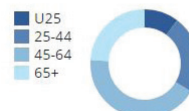
145

responses from
Rural West

Gender



Age



Liveability is simply what a place is like to live in — a liveable place is a healthy place.

Liveability is influenced by safety, the natural environment, infrastructure, accessibility, things to do, attractiveness and inclusivity.

Rural West



Port Stephens



National Average



OUR TOP 5 RURAL WEST VALUES

These are the things most important to Rural West residents in their ideal neighbourhood:



Elements of natural environment — 71%



General condition of public open space (street trees, footpaths, parks) — 62%



Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity (shops, parks) — 55%



Sense of neighbourhood safety (from crime, traffic, pollution) — 54%



Locally owned and operated businesses — 54%

In the Rural West your ideal neighbourhood has:

- locally owned and operated businesses that provide the community with their daily needs
- well maintained and managed public domain; footpaths, parks, roads and other public assets
- easy to access shared community amenities, like the local shops, on foot or bike

OUR STRENGTHS

These are the things you care about most and say are performing well. We must continue to celebrate and protect these.



Sense of personal safety (for all ages, genders, day or night)



Overall visual character of the neighbourhood



Physical comfort (including noise, smells, temperature)



Elements of natural environment (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc)



Sense of neighbourhood safety (from crime, traffic, pollution)

OUR LIVEABILITY PRIORITIES

These are the things most important to you and are underperforming. We must work to improve these.



Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity (shops, parks)



Spaces suitable for specific activities or special interests (entertainment, exercise, dog park, BBQs)



General condition of public open space (street trees, footpaths, parks)



Protection of the natural environment



Landscaping and natural elements (street trees, planting, water features)



Evidence of recent public investment (roads, parks, schools)



Access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport (signage, paths, lighting)



Quality of public space (footpaths, verges, parks)



Evidence of community activity (volunteering, gardening, art, community-organised events)



Evidence of Council/government management (signage, street cleaners)



Amount of public space (footpaths, verges, parks)



Spaces for group or community activities and/or gatherings (sports, picnics, performances)



Things to do in the evening (bars, dining, cinema, live music)



Local history, historic buildings or features



Local businesses that provide for daily needs (grocery stores, pharmacy, banks)



Free places to sit comfortably by yourself or in small groups



Spaces suitable for play (from toddlers to teens)

