

MEMORANDUM

Document Information			
Date	13 October 2025		
Client	State Government of Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action		
Project	DEECA – Silverleaves Additional Engagement		
Project Number	250033		
Subject	Community Engagement Findings		
File Reference	250033-CST-MEM-003	Revision	B
Attachments	Survey-data.xlsx		

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project overview

In recent years, the Silverleaves area on Phillip Island has faced significant coastal erosion, resulting in shoreline retreat and increased risks from storm tides and permanent inundation. In response, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Bass Coast Shire Council have undertaken temporary interim erosion protection works, constructing a rock bag revetement along the prominent erosion hotspot at Silverleaves, and commissioned FSC Range to develop a long-term adaptation pathway for the region. The Draft Silverleaves Adaptation Pathways Planning Report was released to the community to receive final feedback for incorporation into the final report and Adaptation Plan.

This document aims to summarise the 31 responses received between 30 April and 8 Jun 2025 from a questionnaire aimed at understanding community feedback on the Draft Silverleaves Adaptation Pathways Planning Report.

2 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

2.1 Question 1- Awareness

All respondents confirmed that, by completing the survey, they were aware they were providing feedback on the long-term adaptation plan for Silverleaves, not on the interim coastal protection works scheduled for April 2025.

2.2 Question 2- Participation

To understand the level of community involvement in the project, respondents were asked to indicate which activities they had participated in, with the option to select multiple responses. The majority reported taking part in three to four activities, and no respondents indicated that this was their first time engaging with the project (Figure 2- 1).

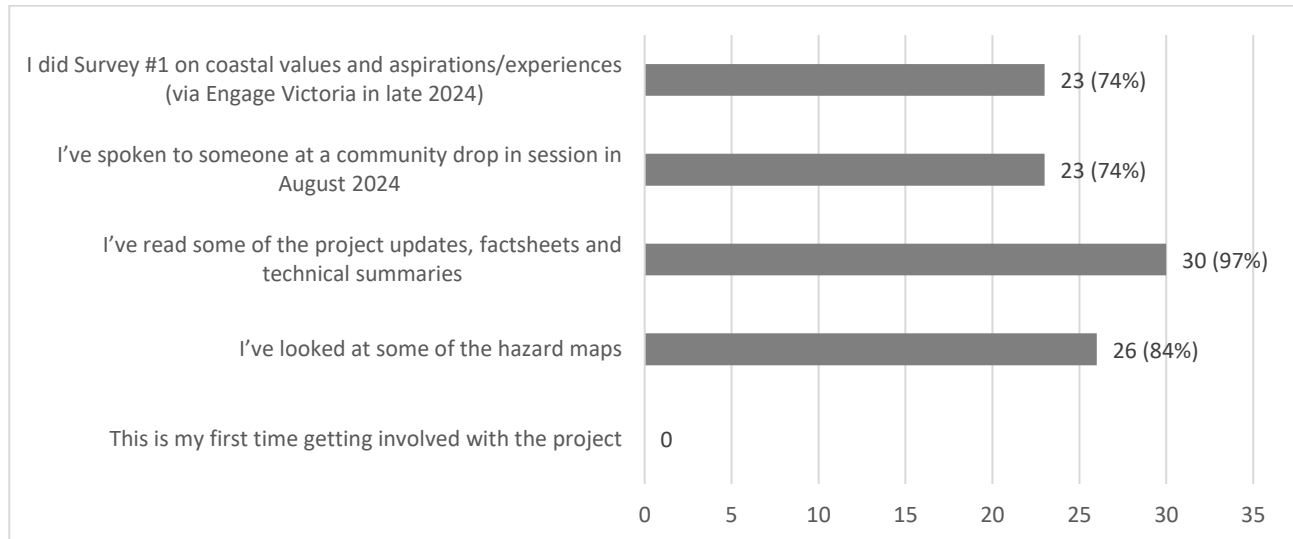


Figure 2- 1: Question 2- Which of the following project activities have you taken part in so far?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select multiple options. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.3 Question 3- Familiarity

To further determine respondents' understanding, they were then asked which relevant documentation they have read. Based on the responses, most of the participants had read the Silverleaves Draft Adaptation Pathways Planning Report and the Coastal Processes Study (Figure 2- 2). As can be seen in Figure 2- 3, Figure 2- 4, Figure 2- 5 and Figure 2- 6, as part of follow up questions they were asked to rate their level of understanding of the documents they have read.

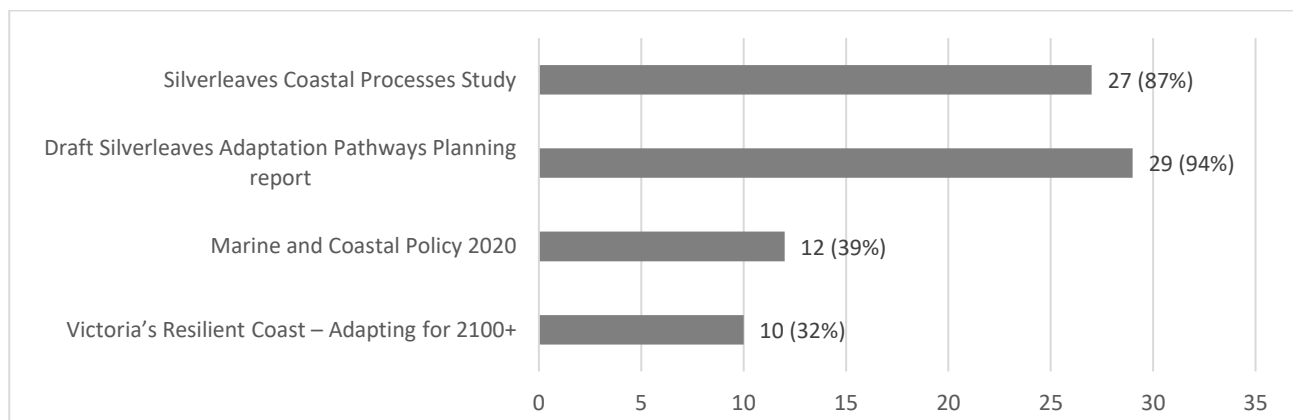


Figure 2- 2: Question 3: Please select which of the below documents you have read?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select multiple options. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.4 Question 4- Level of understanding- Coastal Processes Study

The 27 respondents that indicated they had read the Silverleaves Coastal Processes Study were asked to rate their understanding of the document on a scale from 1 (very little understanding) to 5 (very high understanding). Thirteen respondents selected 5, and nine selected 4, indicating a strong grasp of the document's content (Figure 2- 3).

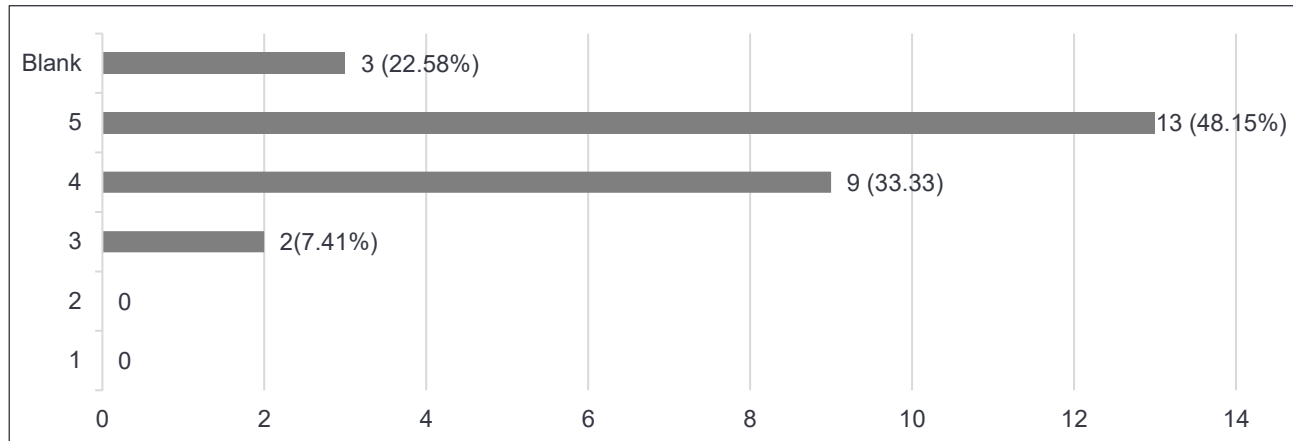


Figure 2- 3: Question 4- Please rate your level of understanding of the Silverleaves Coastal Processes Study

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.5 Question 5- Level of understanding- Draft Silverleaves Adaptation Pathways

Out of the 29 respondents that indicated that they had read the Draft Silverleaves Adaptation Pathways Planning report, 27 provided ratings for their level of understanding of the document on a scale from 1 (very little understanding) to 5 (very high understanding), with majority of responses indicating a high understanding (Figure 2- 4).

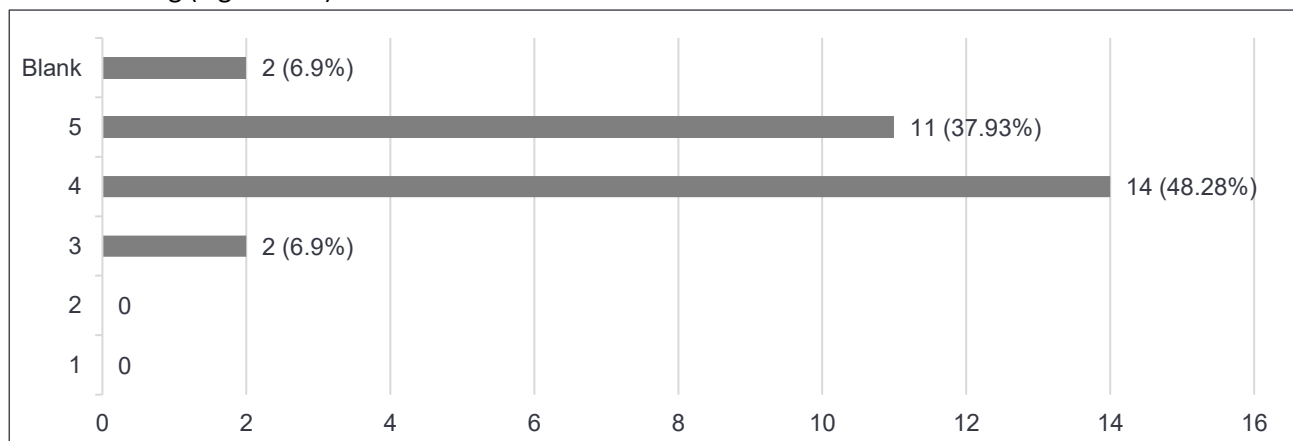


Figure 2- 4: Question 5- Please rate your level of understanding of the Draft Silverleaves Adaptation Pathways Planning report

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.6 Question 6- Level of understanding- Marine and Coastal Policy 2020

Out of the 12 respondents that indicated they had read the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020, 10 provided ratings for their understanding of the policy on a scale from 1 (very little understanding) to 5 (very high understanding), with majority indicating very high understanding (Figure 2- 5).

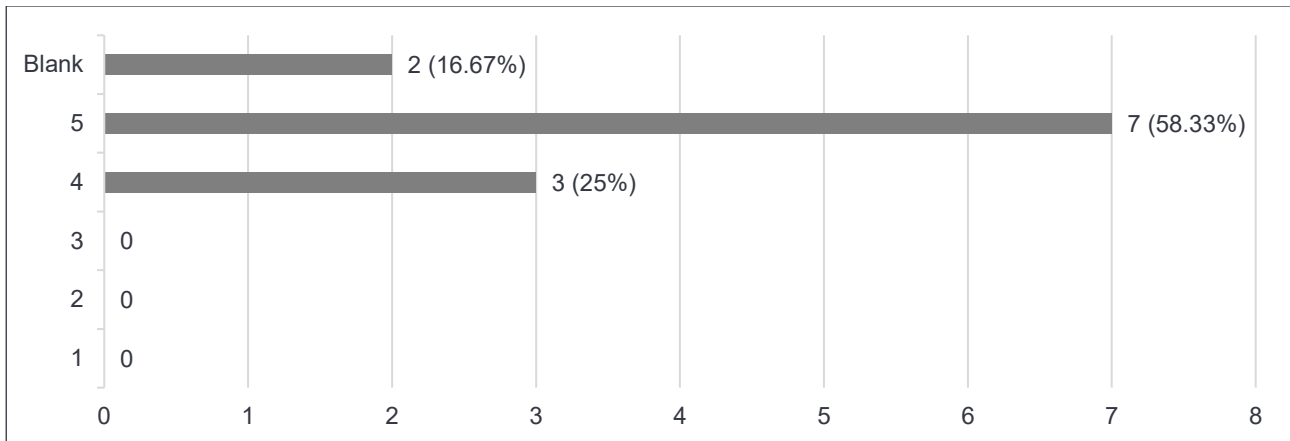


Figure 2- 5: Question 6- Please rate your level of understanding of the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.7 Question 7- Level of understanding- Victoria's Resilient Coast

Out of the 10 respondents that indicated they had read the Victoria's Resilient Coast- Adapting for 2100+, 9 respondents gave their rating of understanding of the document on a scale from 1 (very little understanding) to 5 (very high understanding), with majority indicating very high understanding (Figure 2-6).

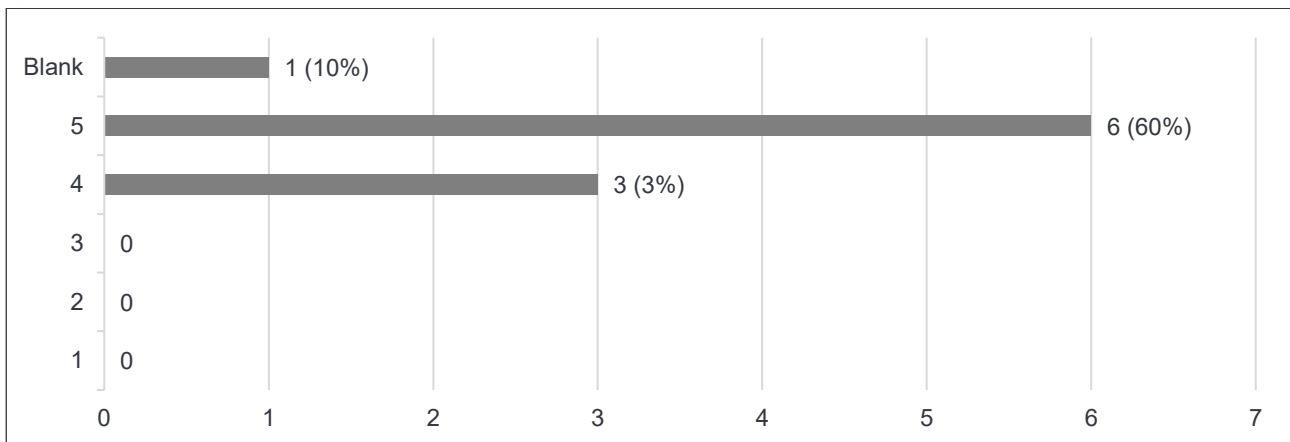


Figure 2- 6: Question 7- Please rate your level of understanding of the Victoria's Resilient Coast- Adapting for 2100+

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.8 Question 8- Suggestions

Respondents were invited to suggest ways to improve their understanding of the Adaptation Pathways Planning Report, with 18 individuals providing feedback (Table 2- 1). Several responses highlighted the value of incorporating modelling and other visual aids, while others suggested that a more concise, clear, and straightforward report would enhance accessibility and comprehension.

Table 2- 1: Responses to Question 8- What information would help you better understand the Adaptation Pathways Planning Report?

Information to Assist Understanding of Adaptation Pathways Planning Report

A meeting to allow relevant people to facilitate a guided talk through of the document to better understand some of the technical language and processes that are used and suggested.
A photo of the adaptation plan for section B. Could be either an example of location where this has taken place before or an AI generated picture to give a more visual of understanding of how this will look.
a physical scaled modelling to demonstrate what a rock sill with littoral vegetation would look like for section B. What position relative to low/high tide, how wide and how deep? What access points through it to the ocean?
A review of the rock wall and groyne field's effectiveness in stabilising the beach from Erehwon Point to school camp at Rose Ave.
Diagrams and plain english
Discussion with the consultant
Drawings are very helpful with flow of water impacts accompanied with simple less wordy explanation
Face to face information session and opportunity to ask questions
Historical evidence of sand migration AROUND Phillip Island
How will this adaptation affect wildlife? Both Marine animals and Land-based animals.
I think it might help if the information was summarised more simply.
I think you've laid the information out clearly - it's just a lot to take in - and overlaid with a lot of emotion and fear as this is such an important part of our lives.
I understand reasonably well. I'm not sure many true locals who have lived in Silverleaves for more than 20 yrs have had the opportunity to contribute much
Information on what is going to be changed on the fatally flawed new rock wall and groynes to slow down the major cause of the erosion at Silverleaves at its source.
No timeline for instigation of work for section B and no strategy for how replanting will be supported ie wallaby issues
The Adaptation Pathways report is quite comprehensive and gave a better understanding of the possible solutions.
The information provided has been excellent, I simply need to devote more time to reading the APP Report to gain deeper understanding. I believe that I have a good understanding of the 6 Adaptation options and potential consequences for Silverleaves.
There was insufficient description of the technical aspects in Part B

2.9 Question 10- Preferred options- Section A

Using their reading and previous project relevant activities, respondents were asked to choose their three most preferred options for Section A- the existing revetment area between Coghlan & Ellen Rd. Responses indicated that realignment and repair of the existing revetment is the more favourable option. The most popular combination of preferences was dune reconstruction, minor repair for the existing revetment and groyne fields (Figure 2- 7).

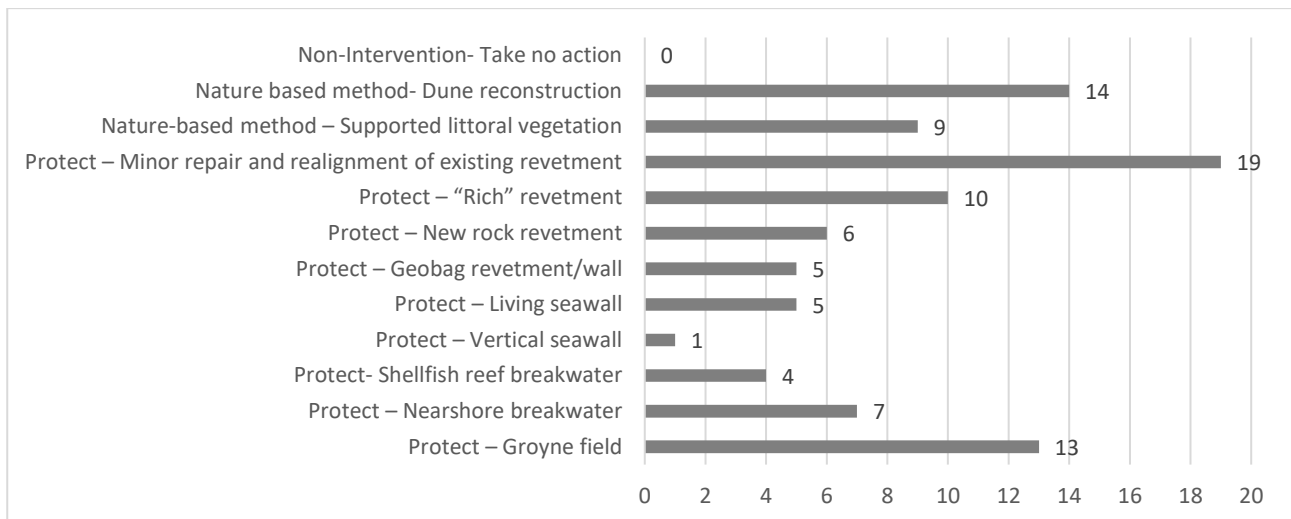


Figure 2- 7: Question 10-Pick your three most preferred options from the below shortlisted actions for the Existing Revetment area - Section A (old rock wall between Coghlan Rd & Ellen Rd)

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

2.10 Question 11- Preferred options- Section B

Similarly, respondents were asked to choose their three most preferred options for the West Silverleaves area (Section B- beach between Ellen Rd and Banksia St). Responses indicated nature-based methods such as dune reconstruction, supported littoral vegetation and a groyne field are the more favourable options, being the most common combination of choices (Figure 2- 8).

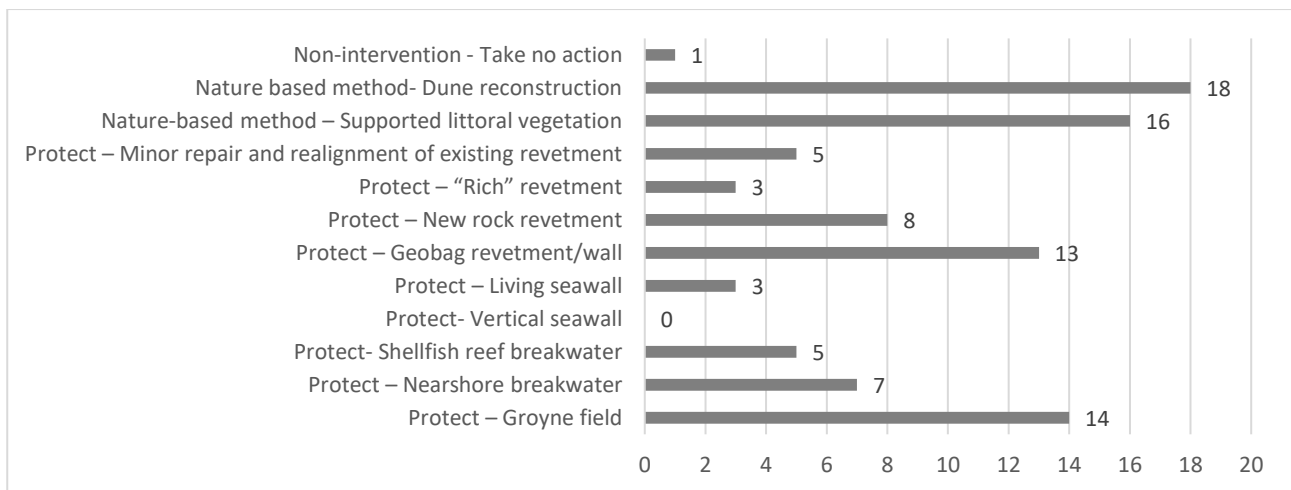


Figure 2- 8: Question 11- Pick your three most preferred options from the below shortlisted actions for the West Silverleaves area -Section B (Silverleaves beach between Ellen Road & Banksia St)

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

2.11 Question 12- Preferred options- Section C

Respondents were asked the same question for Section C (Beach between Banksia Street and Dolphin Drive). Like Section B, responses indicated nature-based methods such as dune reconstruction, supported littoral vegetation and a groyne field once again being the more favourable options and most common combination (Figure 2- 9).

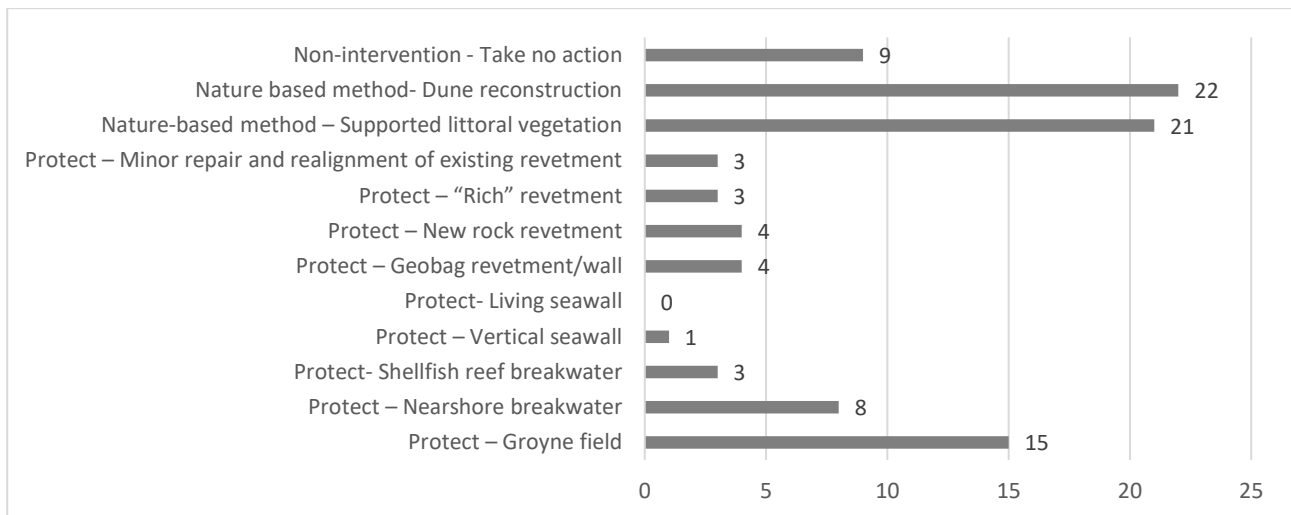


Figure 2- 9: Question 12- Pick your three most preferred options from the below shortlisted actions for the East Silverleaves area - Section C (Silverleaves beach between Banksia Street and Dolphin Drive)

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

2.12 Question 13- Least preferred

To gain a clearer understanding of not only the preferred strategies but also those that are strongly opposed, respondents were asked to identify the coastal adaptation options they least preferred. The majority indicated that non-intervention approaches were the least favourable, followed by hard engineering solutions such as sea walls and breakwaters (Figure 2- 10).

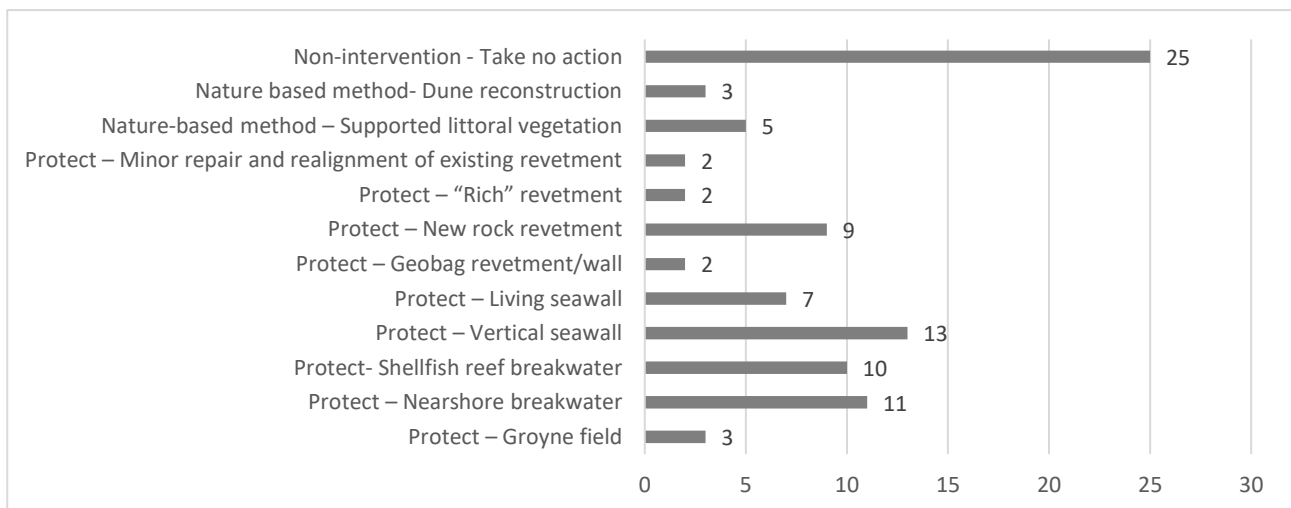


Figure 2- 10: Question 13- Across the Silverleaves foreshore please select any of the below shortlisted options that you disagree with and would not support?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

2.13 Question 14 -Support- Section A

Respondents were asked to rate their support for the adaptation options proposed for the existing revetment Section A (existing revetment between Coghlan & Ellen Rd), with 5 indicating strong support and 1 indicating no support. This input provides valuable insight into the level of acceptance or concern

surrounding each option. Most respondents expressed support for the options currently under consideration (Figure 2- 11).

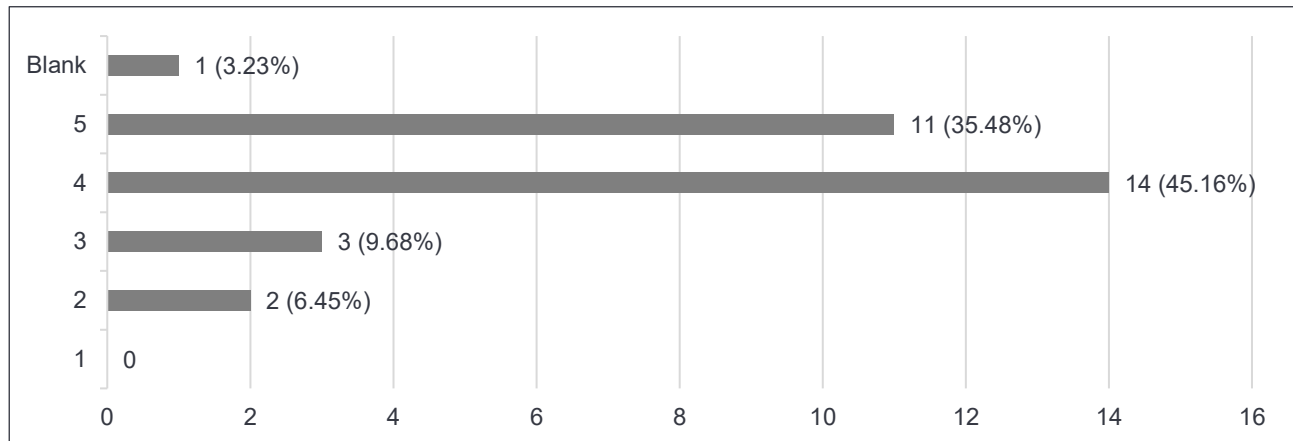


Figure 2- 11: Question 14- Please rate your support of the adaptation options for the existing revetment area (section A) – referring to section 4.1 on page 34 and the adaptation pathway for section A on page 35 of the adaptation plan?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.14 Question 15- Support- Section B

Respondents were asked to rate their support for the adaptation options proposed for Section B- between Ellen Rd and Banksia St, with 5 indicating strong support and 1 indicating no support. As with the previous section, many respondents expressed strong support for the options currently under consideration (Figure 2- 12).

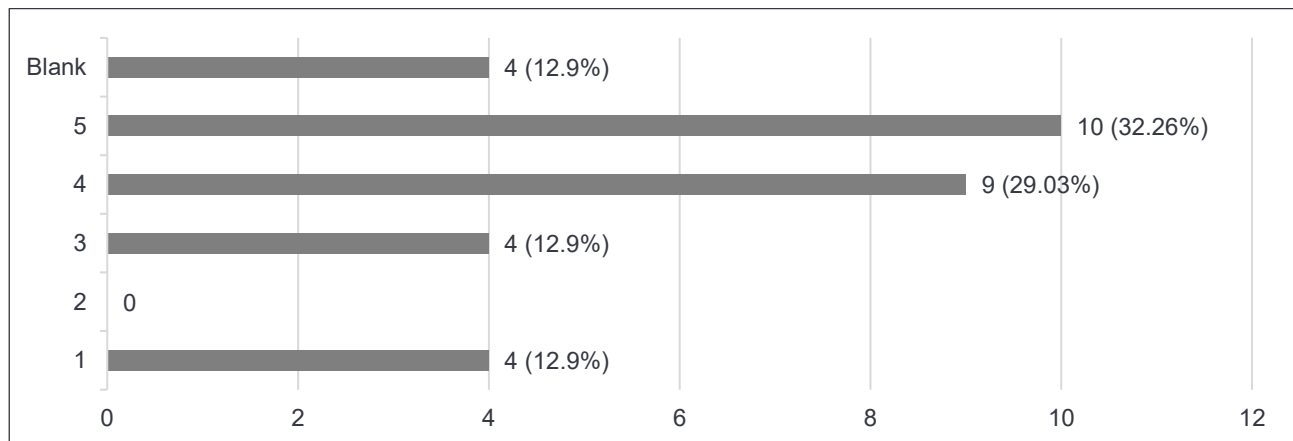


Figure 2- 12: Question 15- Please rate your support of the adaptation options for the west Silverleaves area (section B) – referring to section 4.2 on page 36 and the adaptation pathway for section B on page 37 of the adaptation plan?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.15 Question 16- Support- Section C

Respondents were again asked to rate their level of support for the proposed adaptation options For Section C, spanning Banksia Street to Dolphin Drive. Unlike previous sections, the majority of respondents indicated neutral to low support for the options currently being considered. (Figure 2- 13Figure 2- 11).

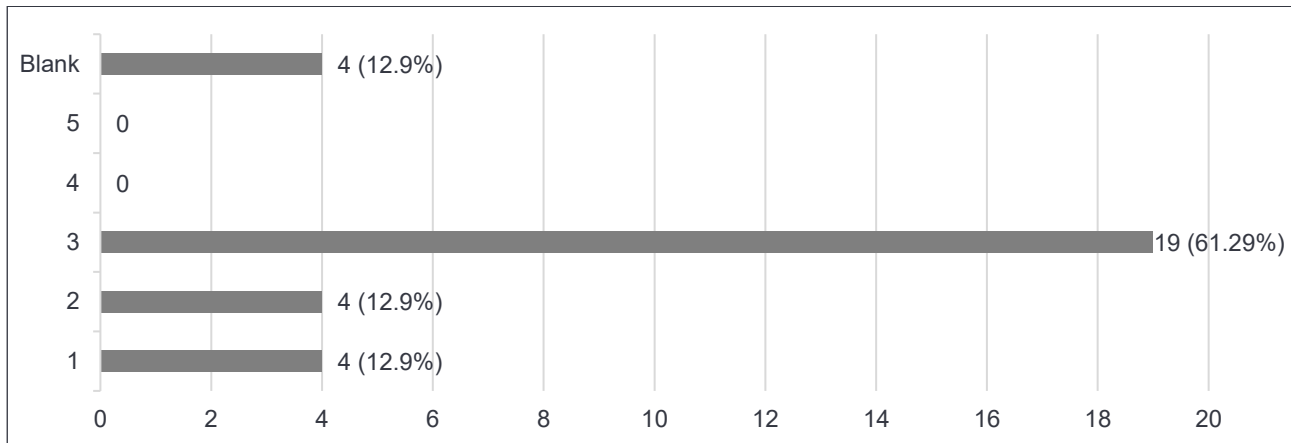


Figure 2- 13: Question 16- Please rate your support of the adaptation options for the east Silverleaves area (section C) – referring to section 4.3 on page 38 and the adaptation pathway for section C on page 39 of the adaptation plan?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.16 Question 18- Support- Whole Site

Respondents were asked to rate their support for the proposed pathways across the site as a whole. Majority indicated overall support (Figure 2- 14).

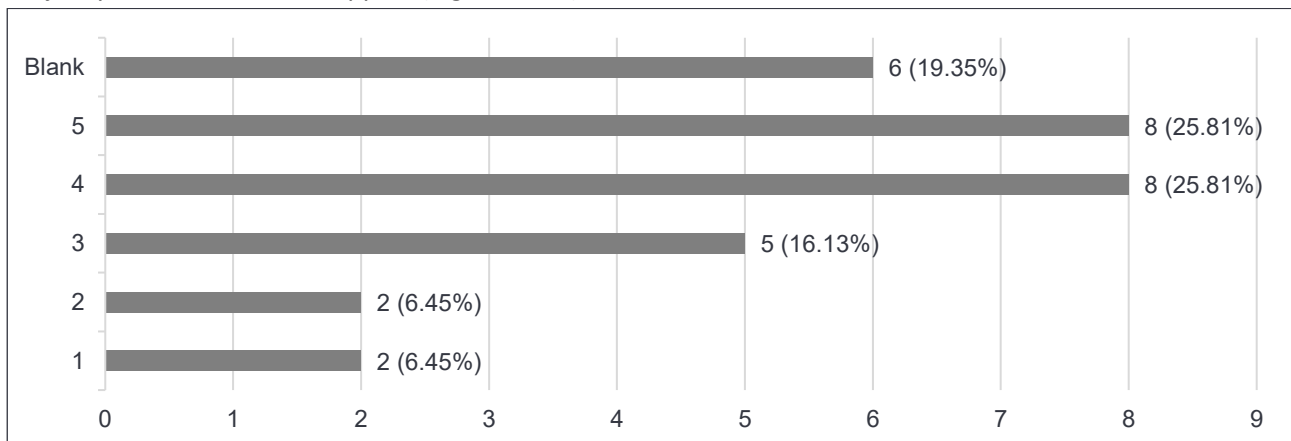


Figure 2- 14: Question 18- Rate your support of the proposed pathways across the whole site?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

2.17 Question 19, 20 & 21- Connection

The respondents were asked to indicate their connection to the Silverleaves shoreline, with the majority being holiday homeowners (Figure 2- 15).

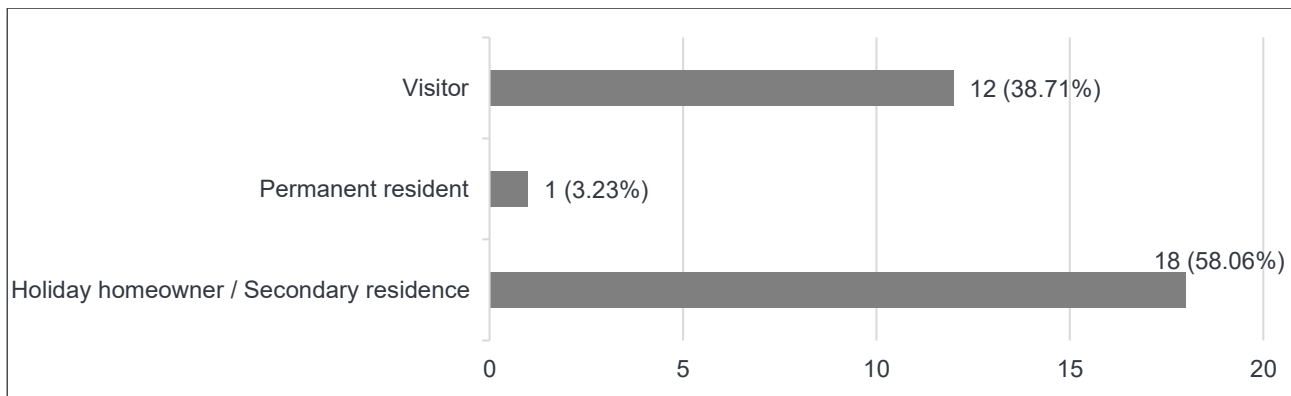


Figure 2- 15: Question 19- How would you describe your connection to the Silverleaves area?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

Question 20 allowed respondents to specify if they had a different connection to Silverleaves but none were specified.

Question 21 asked homeowners to specify their location within the region and its proximity to Silverleaves. Responses indicate majority live within 1 km to 5 km from the site (Figure 2.16).

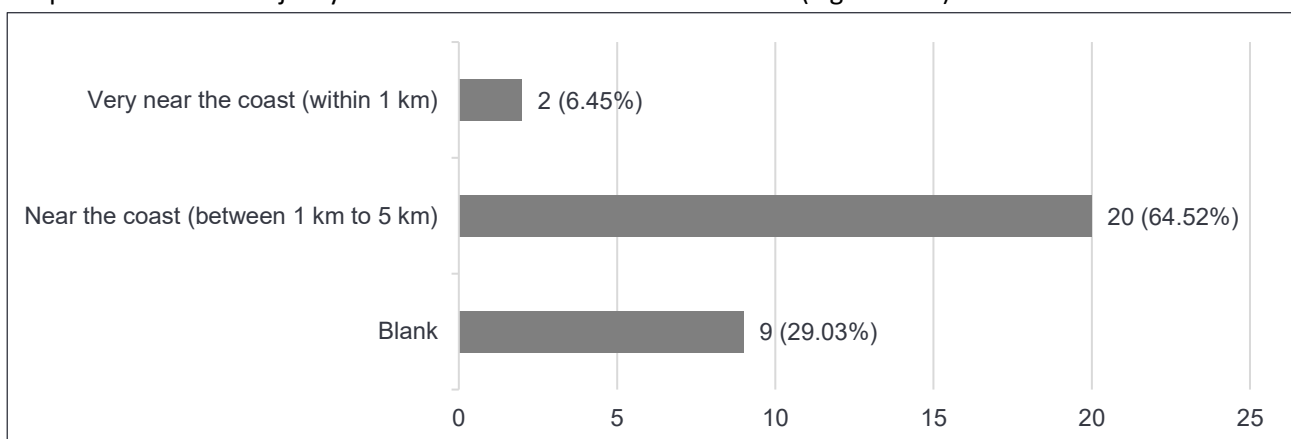


Figure 2- 16: Question 21- If you own or live in a house within the region, where is it?

Shows the number of responses received for each option, whereby respondents were allowed to select a single option. Percentages indicate the proportion of total respondents who selected each option.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Data Reliability

All responses came from separate IP addresses, indicating there are no duplicate submissions or multiple entries from the same household or location.

3.2 Summary

Most survey respondents for this questionnaire were holiday homeowners with secondary residence located within 1 to 5 kilometres of the project area, indicating strong local interest in the coastal adaptation plan. Feedback showed high levels of engagement, with many participants involved in past project activities and having read several key documents. The majority rated their understanding as high, though suggestions were

made to improve clarity through visual aids, modelling, more concise reporting and further engagement, which are important considerations for future work.

Preferred adaptation options varied slightly by location but showed a clear trend toward practical and nature-based approaches. In Section A, realignment and minor revetment repair, dune reconstruction and groyne fields were favoured. Similar options were preferred in Sections B and C, with consistent rejection of non-intervention approaches. Strong support for the proposed options in Sections A and B suggests these can progress with confidence, while neutral to low support for Section C options indicated a need for further review or community engagement. Overall, the feedback provides a solid foundation for refining the plan, but incorporating suggestions for clearer communication and addressing concerns in Section C will help ensure broader support.