

Community Engagement Summary Report

Project name	Improving Road Safety - South Creek Rd, Fisher Rd North & Middleton Rd
Consultation period	22 August – 19 September 2024
Background	<p>The current road network spanning South Creek Road, Fisher Road North and Middleton Road in Cromer has a large number of people walking, bike riding and driving through the area. We are proposing road safety improvements at this location to increase safety and connectivity for people walking and cycling. The upgrade will also improve vehicle flow, ease congestion, calm traffic, support freight movement in the Cromer Industrial area, and enhance access to public transport.</p> <p>We propose to construct two new roundabouts and convert the existing zebra crossing into a raised pedestrian crossing. Both roundabouts will be engineered to accommodate heavy vehicles and will feature pedestrian refuges to enhance safety during crossing.</p> <p>List of works below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New roundabout at the intersection of South Creek Road and Middleton Road with pedestrian refuges on the northern and eastern legs of this intersection 2. New roundabout at Fisher Road North and South Creek Road intersection with pedestrian refuge on the eastern leg of the roundabout (previously approved at October 2021 Traffic Committee) 3. Replace existing zebra crossing on Fisher Road North with a raised pedestrian crossing (previously approved at March 2021 Traffic Committee). <p>An internal traffic modelling study has been conducted and supports the concept plan. This includes an analysis of traffic counts, pedestrian counts, road geometry, impact to speed and traffic delays.</p>
Engagement approach	<p>The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's <u>Community Engagement Strategy (2022)</u>.</p> <p><u>A Your Say project page</u>¹ was established with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. The proposal was exhibited for 28 days.</p>

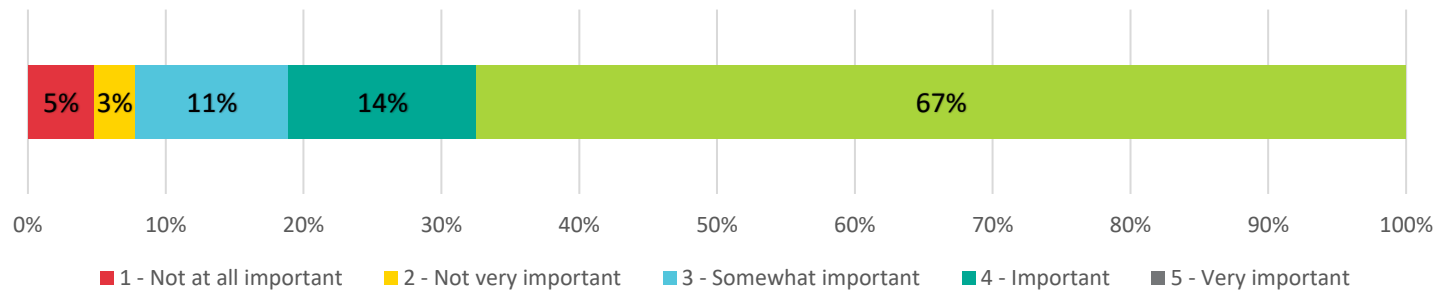
¹ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/improving-road-safety-south-creek-road-cromer>



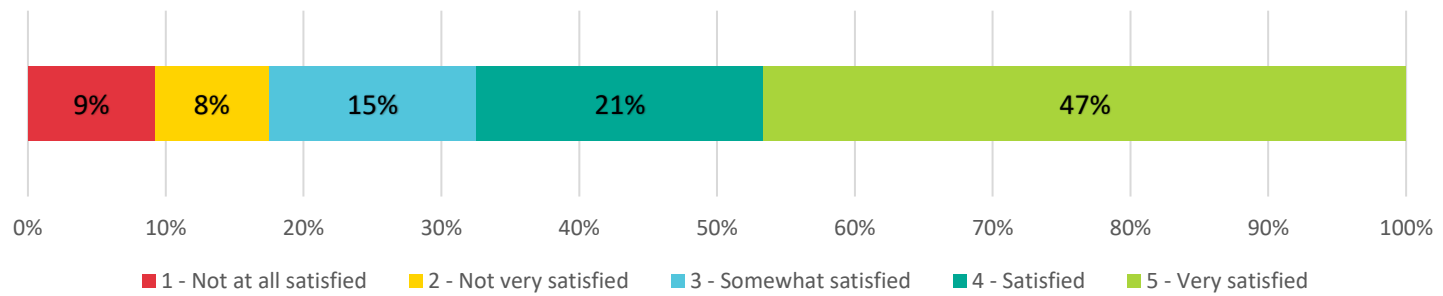
	<p>Local residents, business owners and key stakeholders received notification letters requesting feedback on the proposed changes. Site signage (8) was installed around the proposed site along with VMS boards to reach those travelling through and frequently visiting the area.</p> <p>The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) and media channels.</p> <p>Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the Have Your Say project page. The form directly asked respondents to rate the importance of values such as fewer traffic jams and better traffic flow, reduced vehicle speed, safer routes for walking and cycling, easier access to bus stops and better heavy vehicle movement. Respondents were also asked how satisfied they were with the concept plan's alignment with these values and to provide suggestions for improvement.</p> <p>We also welcomed comments via email and in writing.</p>
<p>Total number of submissions</p>	<p>208 total</p> <p>206 via Your Say 2 email</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	<p>The community's response to the proposed road safety improvement plans was largely positive, with varying satisfaction levels across different aspects. The plans received strong approval for key priorities such as creating safer walking and cycling routes, reducing traffic congestion, and lowering vehicle speeds, with many respondents expressing high satisfaction that aligned with the community's values. Respondents' feedback was mixed regarding bus stop accessibility and heavy vehicle movement; while some were satisfied, a significant number remained neutral. Overall, the concept plans effectively addressed core community concerns, particularly in enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety and managing traffic flow.</p> <p>The tables below highlight the community's response.</p>

Fewer traffic jams and better traffic flow

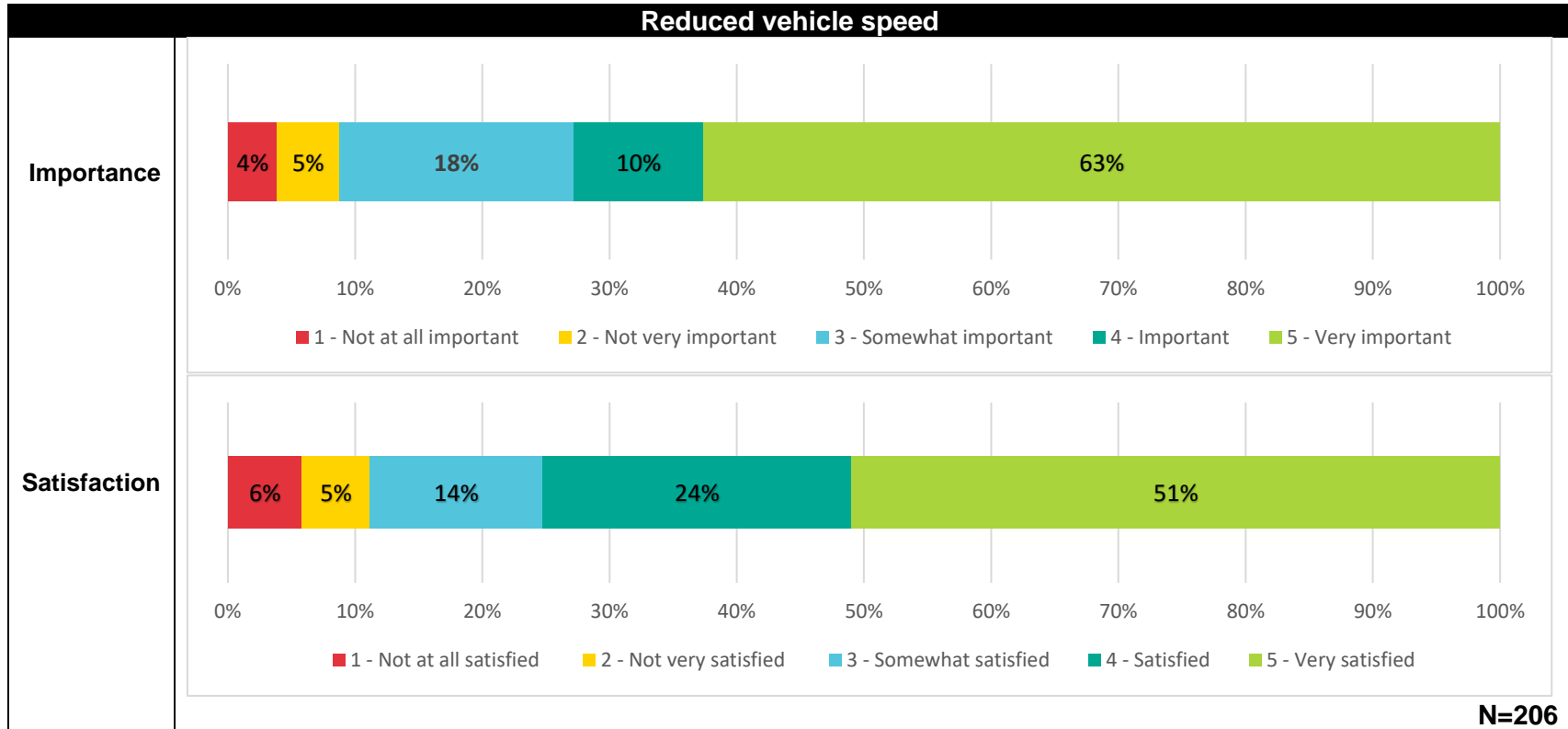
Importance



Satisfaction

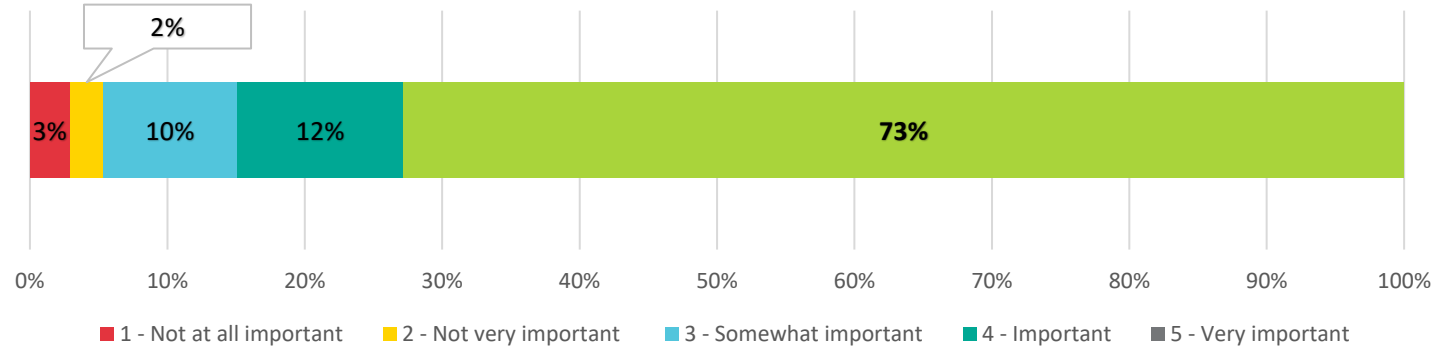


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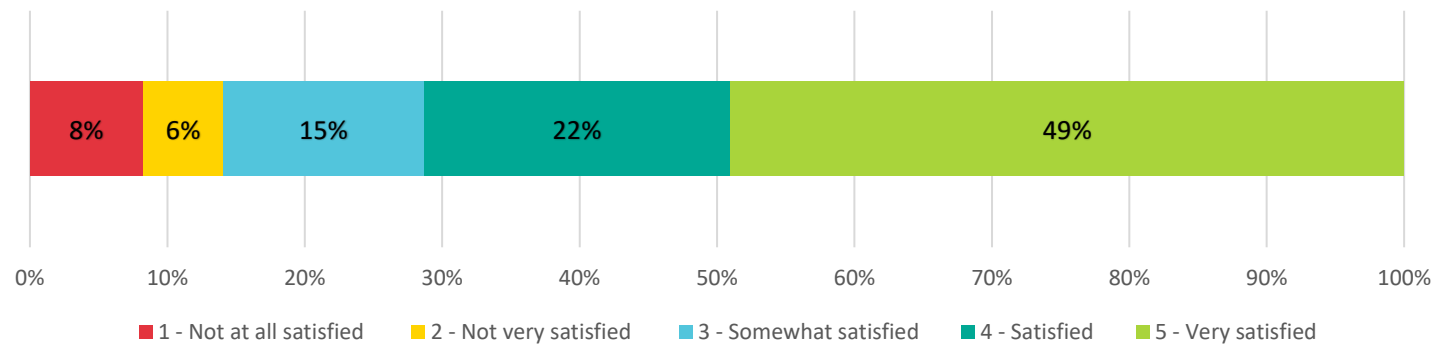


Safer routes for walking and cycling

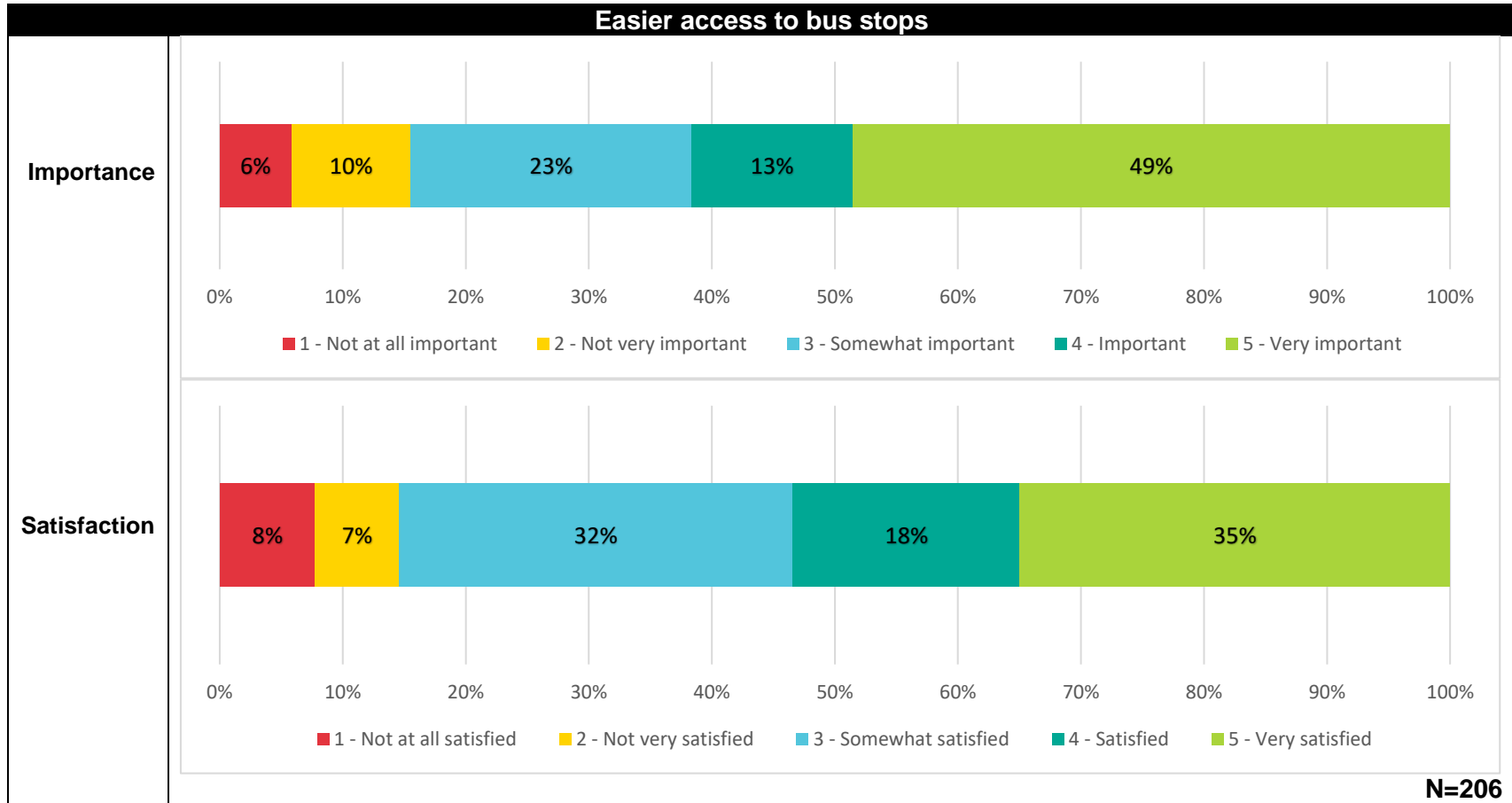
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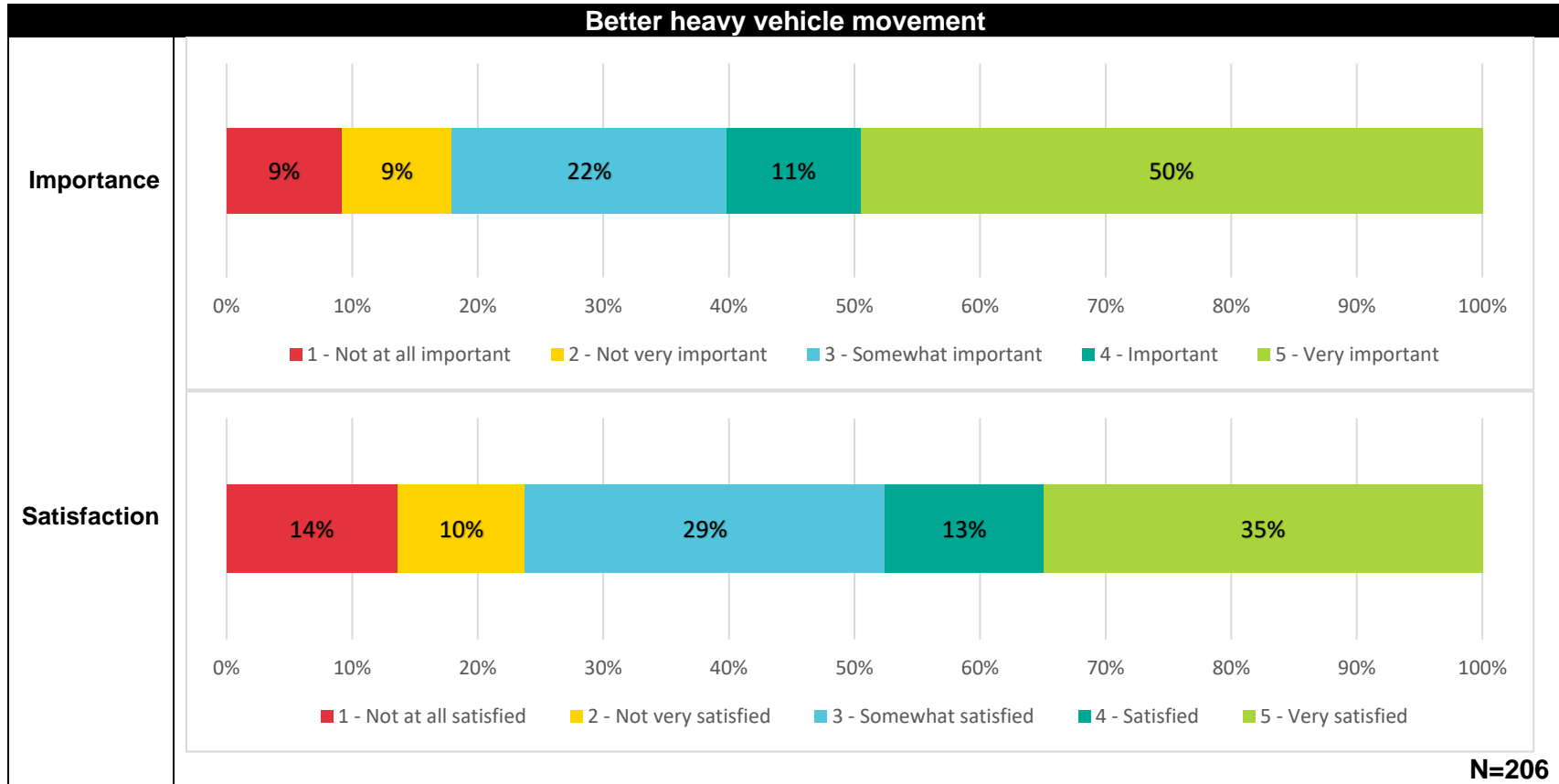


Satisfaction



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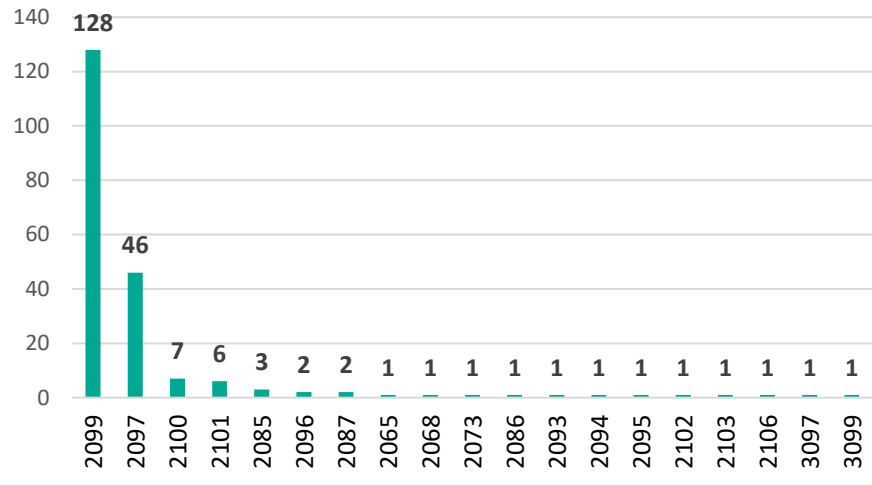






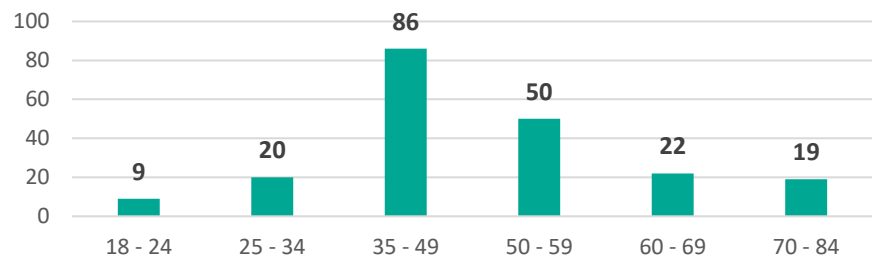
Who we heard from

Postcode



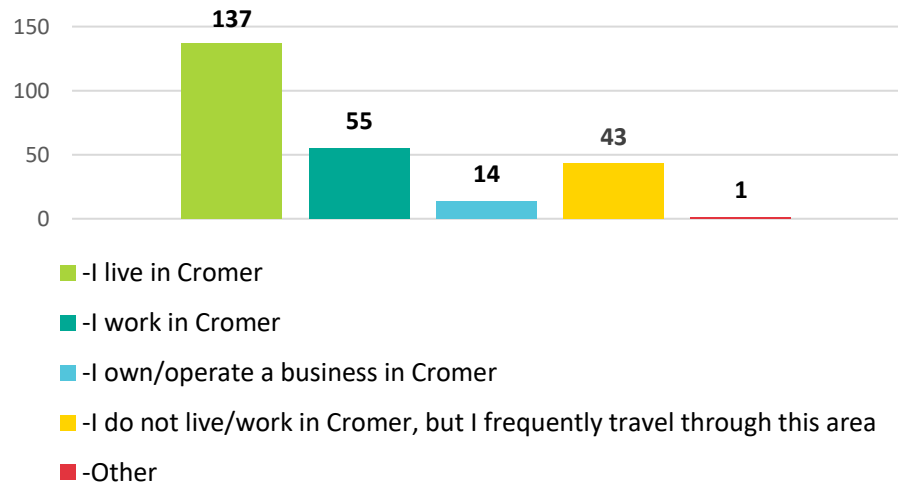
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Age



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Relationship to the area



N=206*

**Respondents could select all that apply.*

How we notified	
Properties notified by letter	594 letters
Stakeholder external emails	20 emails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URM - Keolis Downer - CDC - Emergency services - Cromer High - Cromer Primary School - Childcares in Cromer: Only About Children, Ballykin, Ekidna, Kids Academy Cromer, Cromer Kids Club - Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club - Chocolate Box Training - Plie Groove n Shuffle - Dee Why Bowling Club - Modbod gym Cromer - Manly Warringah Football Association - Collaroy Cromer Strikers FC - Made at Lukes - Dee Why Mechanical Repairs
Visitors to Your Say page	1,825 visits

Findings		
Theme	What we heard	Council response
Support for the overall proposal	<p>Many residents express strong support, describing the project as "long overdue" and "badly needed."</p> <p>There's a general consensus that the current intersections are dangerous and congested, particularly during school hours and sporting events.</p> <p>Residents appreciate Council's proactive approach to addressing these issues.</p> <p>Eagerness for the project to be implemented quickly, with some</p>	<p>We agree that the proposal will improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>We acknowledge the delay in delivering the construction of the previously approved roundabout at South Creek and Fisher Road North and raised pedestrian crossing due to funding constraints.</p> <p>We are pleased that we are now in a financial position to deliver all three traffic calming devices.</p>



Findings		
	<p>questioning the time taken since initial approval in 2021.</p> <p>Requests for regular updates on the project's progress and expected completion date.</p>	<p>A Your Say project page was established for this project. If you would like to be kept informed on the progress of the project, please Click +Follow at the top of our online project page.</p>
<p>Concerns for traffic flow and congestion</p>	<p>Many respondents expressed their support for the proposal of the dual roundabouts for the improvements it will have on relieving congestion.</p> <p>While supportive of improvements, some respondents are concerned that two roundabouts in close proximity might cause more congestion, especially during peak hours.</p> <p>Some suggest that only one roundabout (near the petrol station) might be sufficient.</p> <p>Multiple comments were made about the difficulties exiting Grover Avenue, especially during peak times and weekends, some residents requested "keep clear" road markings or do not queue across intersection.</p>	<p>Traffic studies and modelling have been conducted for the dual roundabouts with findings supporting our recommendation for the proposal.</p> <p>The introduction of the dual roundabouts and the raised pedestrian crossings should reduce the speed at which motorists are travelling and should provide a break in the traffic for motorists coming out of Grover Avenue.</p> <p>We encourage motorists who wish to travel south along Fisher Road North from Grover Avenue, to turn left and use the roundabout at South Creek Road to make a U-turn.</p> <p>Keep clear markings on the road are usually reserved for areas near hospitals, fire stations or near car parks to ensure their vehicles are not obstructed when leaving on an emergency call. Council is not delegated to install "Do not Queue across intersections".</p>
<p>Pedestrian and cyclist safety</p>	<p>Strong support for improved pedestrian crossings, with many citing the current difficulty and danger in crossing these busy roads.</p> <p>There were multiple requests for additional crossings, especially near the skate park, childcare</p>	<p>We appreciate respondents conveying their concerns about the important issue of pedestrian and cyclist accessibility and safety. We are committed to improving pedestrian and cyclist access for all in our community and to</p>



Findings		
	<p>centres, and along South Creek Road.</p> <p>There were calls for better cycling infrastructure, including protected bike lanes and clear signage for cyclists at crossings.</p>	<p>promoting walking and cycling as safe modes of transport.</p> <p>This proposal includes three pedestrian refuges which have been purposely designed to cater for cyclists.</p>
<p>Speed reduction and road safety</p>	<p>Respondents frequently mentioned excessive speeding on these and surrounding roads.</p> <p>Many requested additional speed reduction measures beyond the proposed changes, such as speed bumps or lowered speed limits.</p>	<p>The road network of South Creek Road, Fisher Road North, and Middleton Road is a busy area with many pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. The road, situated between a sports field/skate park to the west and a childcare centre to the east, is frequently visited by younger children.</p> <p>Traffic and speed data identifies that a number of motorists are currently travelling at inappropriate speeds at various times throughout the day though this location.</p> <p>The dual roundabouts and raised threshold will enhance traffic flow and turning movements while also aiming to reduce travel speed for improved safety of pedestrians and cyclists. We will monitor the effectiveness of these facilities after installation. If needed, we will explore additional traffic calming methods to further reduce speed in the area.</p>



Findings		
<p>Extend traffic calming measures to other areas</p>	<p>Some respondents suggested we implement additional traffic calming measures to address speeding in the following streets: Willandra Road, South Creek Road, Carawa Road, Fisher Road North, Tennyson Road and Toronto Avenue.</p> <p>Others suggested intersection improvements along Fisher Road North at Ryrie Avenue and Grover Avenue.</p>	<p>These requests are noted but are beyond the scope of this proposal. Council has been and will continue to consider traffic calming options within the Cromer area as part of our broader Safer neighbourhoods' program.</p> <p>Council has no current plans to install roundabouts at the intersection of Fisher Road with Ryrie Avenue or Grover Avenue.</p> <p>We are working towards creating safer neighbourhoods, which includes measures to reduce the speed limits and discourage traffic flow through our residential areas and move the majority of traffic to our major roads.</p>
<p>Additional infrastructure requests</p>	<p>Some respondents have called for more footpaths in the surrounding area, with specific mentions of lower Alfred Street and Tennyson Road.</p> <p>Concerns were raised for the current condition of the road surface.</p> <p>Requests for lighting improvements, especially at pedestrian crossing facilities for better visibility during early mornings and evenings.</p> <p>Suggestions have been made for the beautification of the roundabouts with landscaping or public art to improve the area's aesthetics.</p>	<p>Whilst new footpaths are outside the scope of this project, the requests have been documented and will be considered during the next review of our footpath program.</p> <p>Our current plans for new footpaths can be viewed on our Your Say page or alternatively by searching 'new footpath program' at yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.</p> <p>Road surface resheeting is planned for the area and will be undertaken after the road safety upgrades have been installed.</p> <p>Council has submitted street lighting modification and new street light requests to Ausgrid at the proposed devices to</p>



Findings		
		<p>improve visibility during early mornings and evenings.</p> <p>We have investigated the request for the beautification of the roundabouts and whilst we understand the request to improve the aesthetics of the environment, we do not support the change to the proposal for the impact it would have on safety. With the high volume of traffic including heavy vehicles that travel through this area and the increased number of young pedestrians and cyclists, it is essential that motorists and pedestrians' visibility and attention is not drawn away from the dangers that are present when driving through or crossing the roads.</p>
Loss of parking	Some respondents expressed concerns about the negative impact on local businesses from reduced parking.	<p>We have met with local businesses that risk losing parking spaces for their customers directly in front of their premises. Those business owners voiced that they understand the significance of improving safety for pedestrians crossing the road.</p> <p>We agreed to review the existing timed parking restrictions on the northern and southern sides of Middleton Road, with the aim to provide some time restricted parking spaces to improve turnover and reduce the impact to businesses.</p>

During the consultation period, Council received the following questions either through direct contact or online.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
<p>As the pedestrian crossings are near bicycle paths will there be signage that all cyclists must DISMOUNT before crossing the pedestrian crossing?</p>	<p>Where a bike path is marked out on the crossing, bike riders can ride across without dismounting and drivers will be required to give way. This will be reinforced by appropriate signage and line marking, similar to where they have been installed in other locations such as Campbell Avenue, Dee Why and Kenneth Road, Manly Vale. We still encourage all road users including pedestrians and bike riders to look out for one another. This provides connectivity between the shared user paths on both sides of the road.</p>

Verbatim Responses received via Your Say

Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

Click on the following link to view verbatim responses:

<https://eservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ePlanning/live/Common/Output/Document.aspx?t=webdoc&id=IEnniw2MaKsV0A60ki4OEg==>

Verbatim Responses received via Email

Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

No.	Email response
1	<p>Thank you for your interest in trying to fix the problems we have turning right from Grover Ave onto Fisher Rd North.</p> <p>We do not believe the roundabouts will solve our problems.</p> <p>Once the roundabouts are installed there will be nothing to slow vehicles travelling south from both sections of South Creek Rd past Grover Ave.</p> <p>Added to that we still have to contend with vehicles believing they have right of way as they exit the service station opposite Grover Ave.</p>
2	<p>As a regular walker in this area, I take my life in my feet when crossing on both eastern streets. So I am definitely in favour of this proposal. Bring it on! Thank you for this not-before-time suggestion.</p>

Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	23 September 2024
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport Network Team
Status	Final
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.