



FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

BURRUM RIVER WEIR 1

PROPOSED SPEED CHANGE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVALUATION

REPORT – Community Survey

September 2024

Remit: Determine residents' level of support to change the speed of watercraft on Burrum River Weir 1 and to what extent.



| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|---|
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| Directorate: | Strategy, Development & Community | | |



Fraser Coast Regional Council

BURRUM RIVER WEIR 1 PROPOSED SPEED CHANGE CONSULTATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVALUATION SURVEY – Community Survey, August-Sept 24

Fraser Coast Waste & Water Services is investigating options for the management of boat traffic on Burrum Weir 1. One option is to introduce a speed limit of 6 knots on the river, which is consistent with the limit on Lake Lenthall. There are other options which may also be considered, such as limiting the types of watercraft permitted on Burrum Weir 1. Council is open to exploring ways to manage watercraft which can damage our drinking water catchment on the Burrum River, as part of the implementation of the Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy, endorsed in 2023.



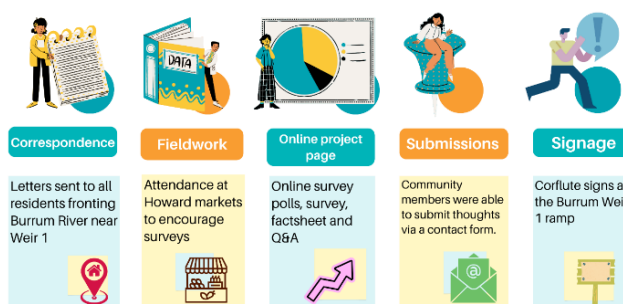
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 OVERVIEW – ENGAGEMENT

Engagement occurred with stakeholders and the community from inception of the project identification, to implementation and reporting on the consultation. All stakeholders were encouraged to contribute towards the development of the engagement plan and will be provided the results to enable Wide Bay Water Advisory Committee and Council decision-making.

The community engagement occurred in several stages:

Communication Channels: Burrum River Speed Change



1. Stakeholder consultation for more in-depth, qualitative insights. These were held with relevant Council staff, Councillors and the Wide Bay Water Advisory Committee.
2. Community survey to gain both quantitative and qualitative insights into expectations of stakeholders, and what changes stakeholders would like to see.

Key messages included:

1. Fraser Coast Waste & Water Services is investigating community support to change the maximum speed of watercraft between Burrum River Weir 1 and Weir 2.
2. One option is to introduce a speed limit of 6 knots on the river, which is the limit on Lake Lenthall. There are other options which may also be considered, such as limiting the types of watercraft permitted on Burrum Weir 1.
3. Feedback from the community will be included in a recommendation developed by the Waste & Water Services team for any proposed changes
4. We are seeking feedback on a proposed change of speed of watercraft on Burrum River Weir 1 via a simple online survey.
5. We will consider your feedback when developing the final recommendation by Council officers.

1.1.2 LIMITATIONS

An online survey is going to exclude a certain demographic of our population who is either not technically confident, or does not have access to a computer or mobile phone. This was in part overcome by offering a printable survey at the markets, sending a letter inviting participation and also an email submission option.

1.2. ENGAGEMENT (SURVEY) KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

This survey received a high response rate, given the restricted nature of the engagement, with stakeholder responses providing a sample size of 141 to provide a 95% confidence level and a 6.6% margin of error¹, indicating that this sample represents the views of stakeholders who are interested in the management of Weir 1 of the Burrum River.

1.2.1 SUBMISSIONS

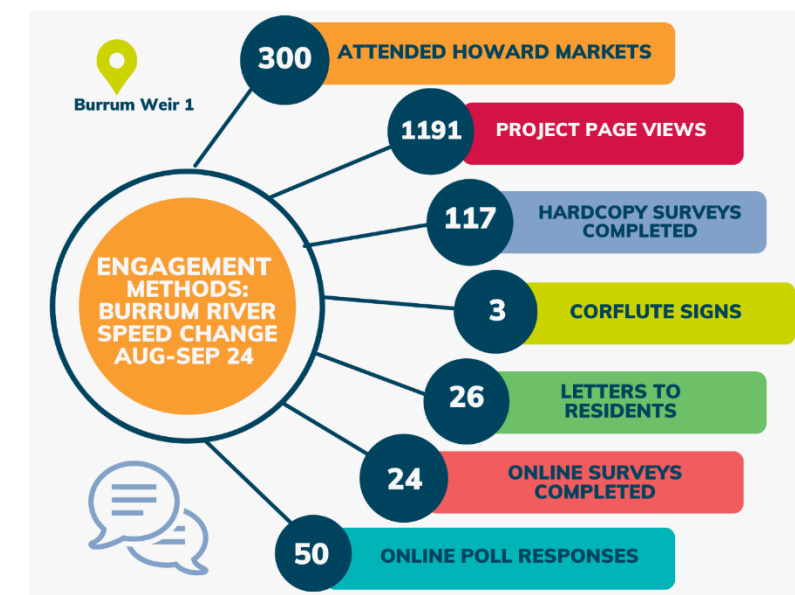
- One hard copy survey was received via email and entered into the online survey.
- Three email submissions were received (see [Appendix 8.7](#) for details)
- 117 hardcopy surveys were obtained at the Howard markets on Saturday 7 September.

1.2.2 SURVEY FINDINGS

The results from the survey are as follows:

- The majority chose “Yes” (89%, n= 125), to the question “Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users?”, while 6% chose “No” (n=9) and 5% (n=7) said “Yes, with conditions”.
- The majority of respondents were supportive of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots: yes: 92% (n=130). Only seven people were not at all supportive (5%) and four people were supportive, with conditions.
- The most common comments in response to “further comments” was a request to remove all

powered watercraft from that section of the river altogether.



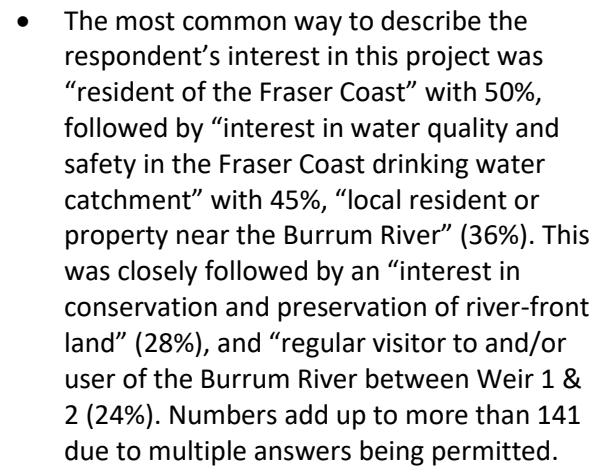
Comments of interest were:

“Still allow skiing/boating with slower speed limit to make safe”
“Not just in the weirs - right along the length of the Burrum River”
“Safe for everyone”

A summary of demographics of those who responded:

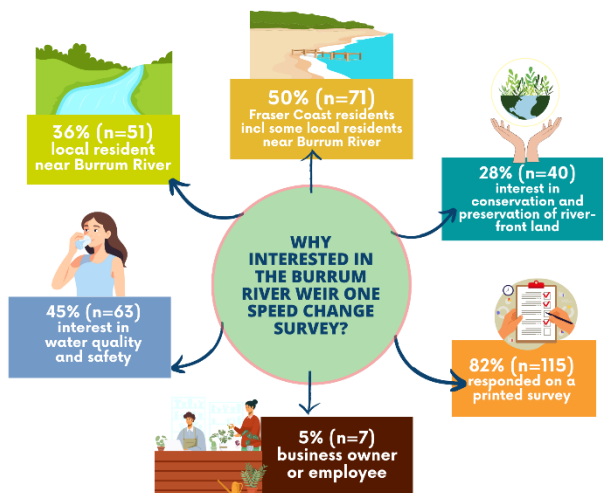
- The high proportion of respondents was aged between **56 and 70 years**, with 43%, compared to the actual population age group of 24.4% according to the 2021 Census.
 - People identifying as female comprised the largest group of respondents (54%, n=77), with 45% (n=63) identifying as male, and one person preferring not say.
- The majority filled in the survey on printed survey (82%, n=115), followed by a desktop or laptop device (18%, n=13).

¹ Confidence level indicates the level of confidence or certainty that the data collected for this project is representative of the entire population. Most researchers strive for a 95% confidence level, meaning that there is a 95% certainty that the results reflect the opinions of the entire target population. The margin of error is a statistic expressing the amount of random sampling error in the results of a survey. The lower the margin of error, the more confidence one should have that a poll result would reflect the result of a survey of the entire population.



DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS TO THE BURRUM RIVER WEIR ONE SPEED CHANGE SURVEY

- 54% (n=77) identify as female
- 43% (n=60) aged between 56-70 years
- 14% (n=10) aged between 26-40 years
- 81% (n=115) heard about survey at the markets
- 22% (n=31) aged between 71-84 years
- 28% (n=20) aged 41-55 years



Crosstab between interest and support

A bar chart titled 'Crosstab between interest and support'. The x-axis represents 'Interest' levels from 0 to 14, grouped into 'No' (0-10) and 'Yes' (11-15). The y-axis represents the count, ranging from 0 to 25. Each bar is labeled with its value. The 'No' group has bars for interest levels 0-10, with values 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, and 2. The 'Yes' group has bars for interest levels 11-15, with values 3, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 0, 2, 3, 5, 2, 1, and 21.

| Interest | Support: No | Support: Yes |
|----------|-------------|--------------|
| 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 4 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 | 0 | 1 |
| 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 10 | 2 | 3 |
| 11 | 0 | 5 |
| 12 | 0 | 2 |
| 13 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | 0 | 21 |

- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - Resident of the Fraser Coast (please state postcode below) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) =
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - Resident of the Fraser Coast (please state postcode below) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) owner or employee of a business with an inte
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - Resident of the Fraser Coast (please state postcode below) - (blank) - I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments - (blank) servation an
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - Resident of the Fraser Coast (please state postcode below) - (blank) - I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments - (blank) - (blank) -
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments - (blank) n
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments - (blank)
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments - (blank)
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments - (blank)
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - I have an interest in conservation and preservation of river-front land - (blank) - (blank)
- ☐ Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 - (blank) - (blank) - (blank) - (blank)

A cross-tabulation analysis has been conducted to determine if there is a statistical significance between the following:

- There is correlation between those who “Live near the Burrum River”, “Reside on the Fraser Coast”, & “Have an interest in water quality” & support for the reduction in speed to 6 knots.

Cr Michelle Byrne shared the survey link to her Facebook page once, and to two other community group pages accounts over the period of the four-week engagement.

As these are not official Fraser Coast Regional Council social media accounts, we were unable to determine how many people saw or interacted with these posts.



Reactions to the Facebook posts were polarised, with some stating “the ramps should instead be improved and made easier for watercraft to access” and others supporting the posts and the survey with the “thumbs up” (like) and “heart” (love) reactions.

The comments report generated from the Facebook post has not been included in this report for privacy reasons.

The results will feed into the drafting of a recommendation on whether to change the maximum speed limit on the Burrum River between Weir 1 and 2.

People need somewhere to be able to drive their boats and JetSki.

The vast majority of motor vessel users on the weirs are hoons and if you can't provide rangers to catch them, BAN them altogether.

Myself, my family members and guests have personally sighted Platypus in this river section on various occasions. I have long been concerned that the Platypus are in danger of propellor strikes and the effect of pollution from petrol boat engines.

I think that rules to manage watercraft on this section of river are long overdue, due to the damage done by speeding watercraft to the riverbanks, as well as noise and water pollution.



1.5. DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

This survey garnered 141 respondents, which provided a representative sample of Fraser Coast residents with a 95% level of confidence and 6.6% margin of error.

This means we can be 95% certain the results reflect the majority of residents, +/- 6.6%.

1.5.1 SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHICS

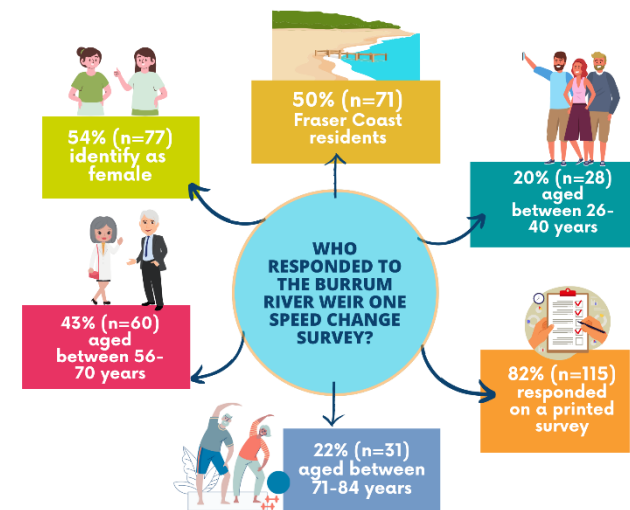
Questions 1 to 6, and 15 to 17 are addressed here:

The age breakdown of respondents was largely reflective of the Fraser Coast population age groups, with the exception of the largest group, the 56-70 year old age group.

- The high proportion of respondents was aged between **56 and 70 years**, with 43%, compared to the actual population age group of 24.4% according to the 2021 Census.
- The **41-55 age group** made up the second largest group with 20% compared to the actual population of 16.7%, followed by the **71-85 year age group** with 22% compared to the actual population of 18.4%.
- The age group of **26-40 years** made up 10% of respondents, compared to the actual population of 13.2%. Only four people were aged under 15 (3%), compared to the actual demographic of 7.2% (8,000 12-17 year olds)

Other demographics:

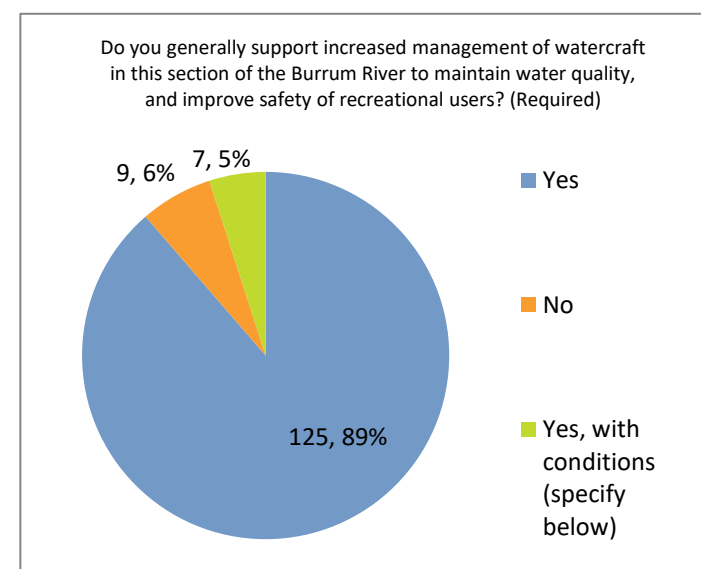
- People identifying as female comprised the largest group of respondents (54%, n=77), with 45% (n=63) identifying as male, and one person preferring not say.
- The majority filled in the survey on printed survey (82%, n=115), followed by a desktop or laptop device (18%, n=13).
- The most common way to describe the respondent's interest in this project was "resident of the Fraser Coast" with 50%, followed by "interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchment" with 45%, "local resident or property near the Burrum River" (36%). This was closely followed by an "interest in conservation and preservation of river-front land" (28%), and "regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 (24%). Numbers add up to more than 141 due to multiple answers being permitted.



1.5.2 SUMMARY OF OTHER QUESTIONS:

Q.5 Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users? (Required)

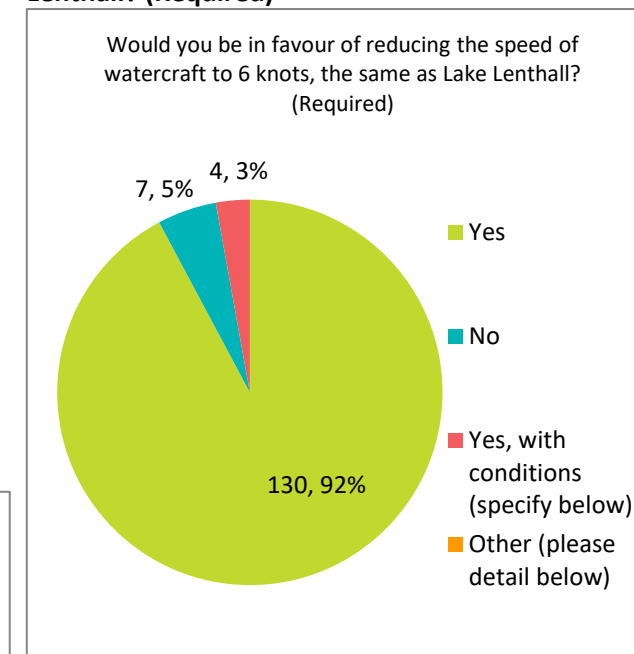
- The majority chose "Yes" (89%, n= 125), 6% chose "No" (n=9) and 5% (n=7) said "Yes, with conditions". For more details of the comments see the detailed survey report in the Appendix.
- The 'maybe' comments included:
 - "Still allow skiing/boating with slower speed limit to make safe"
 - "Not just in the weirs - right along the length of the Burrum River"
 - "Safe for everyone"



Q.6 If you selected 'no' for the previous question, what concerns you about a possible increase in management? (Optional)

The majority of comments were not in support of increased management of watercraft on this section of the Burrum River, with six of the 11 comments (54%). Most of these related to reduction of 'having fun' and 'government interference'. This indicates that up to five of these comments were in support of changing the speed limit, and incorrectly chose "no" on the previously question. The data has not been adjusted to reflect this. See detailed report for actual comments.

Q7. "Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall? (Required)"



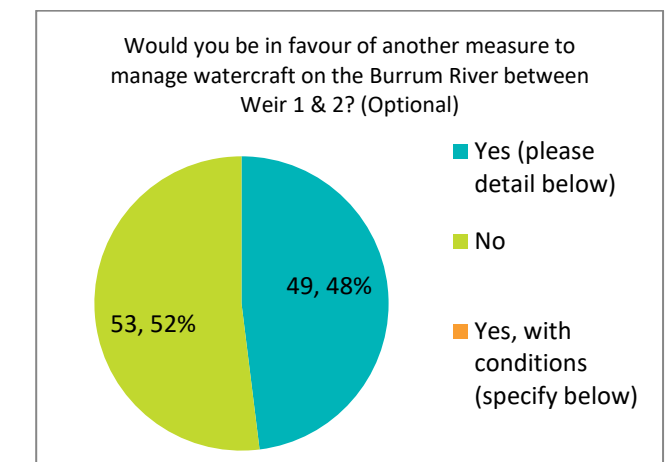
- The **majority of respondents were supportive** of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots: **yes: 92%, n=130**
- Only seven people were not at all supportive (5%) and
- four people were supportive, with conditions.

Comments included: (see detailed report for all comments)

No jetskis
As above in answer 5 (speed to 6 knots too restrictive 10 to 15 is acceptable)
Right along the Burrum River

Q8. "Would you be in favour of another measure to manage watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2? (Optional)"

Not everyone responded to this question. Of the 102 people who did, 53 (52%) said no, and 49 (45%) said yes. See detailed report for actual comments.



Q9. "Any other feedback you'd like to add to this response? (Optional)"

Only 24 people added additional comments. A sentiment analysis shows that most of the comments were in support of the proposed speed change (n=21, 87.5%)

In summary:

- Comments reflected the previous comments within the survey.
- There is a concern about motorised watercraft in general on this section of the Burrum River. The counterpoint is that self-regulation is most cost-effective as it is difficult to regulate speeding in this section of the Burrum River.
- Those in support of the reduced speed limit commented in greater proportion to those who do not.

For a list of all comments and a sentiment analysis, please refer to the detailed report.

1.6 CONCLUSIONS

This survey indicates with a high level of confidence that the targeted residents of Fraser Coast region near the Burrum River Weir 1 or who use the Burrum Weir 1 for recreational purposes would support the reduction of the speed of watercraft to 6 knots.



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2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY OUTLINE

Fraser Coast Waste & Water Services Planning and Environmental Services team are investigating options for the management of boat traffic on Burrum Weir 1. One option is to introduce a speed limit of 6 knots on the river, which is consistent with the limit on Lake Lenthall. There are other options which may also be considered such as limiting the types of watercraft permitted on Burrum Weir 1.

Community Engagement team, in conjunction with the project team, developed an Engagement Hub project page and the content for the page, including a survey, poll, fact boxes, Q&As, background and an image gallery.

It was agreed that the primary target market for engagement was residents who lived on or close to the river, and recreational users of Weir 1. Therefore a broader media relations and social media campaign were not required.

2.2 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Remit: Determine residents' level of support to change the speed of watercraft on Burrum River Weir 1 and to what extent.

2.2.1 Engagement Scope

Inclusions:

Consultation in relation to a proposed change of speed on Burrum River Weir 1:

- To provide residents with opportunity to have their say on proposed speed change on Burrum Weir 1, or suggest another way to manage watercraft on that section of the Burrum River
- To engage with the targeted community and stakeholders and keep them updated throughout the process
- To educate and inform the targeted community of the reasoning behind the proposed change
- To ensure effective communication through relevant, accurate and timely engagement methods in regard to the engagement process
- To build positive relationships with stakeholders and the targeted community.

Exclusions:

- Engagement with the broader community, other than those residents who live on or near the Burrum River and recreational users of Weir 1, was considered unnecessary.

2.2.2 Engagement Timeline

- **Phase 1 - Planning & Pre-Engagement – March-August 2024**
 - Prepare engagement plan: dates, methods, timeframes, reporting
 - Prepare Engagement Hub website page, fact sheets, correspondence, posters, corflutes
 - Obtain approvals to proceed with recommended engagement strategy
- **Phase 2 – Engagement (incl notifications & targeted engagement) – Monday 19 August-Sunday 15 September 2024**
 - Engagement Hub Project page - fact sheets, project information, online survey and a poll
 - Hard copy information posted to residents along Burrum River Weir 1
 - Social media limited to relevant community page from local Councillor, email notifications to key residential stakeholders and Engagement Hub members
 - Corflute signage at boat ramps
- **Phase 3 – Post Engagement – Monday 16 September – Monday 30 September**
 - Engagement Report – summary only, not detailed, provided 19 September
 - More detailed report provided 30 September
- **Phase 4 – Development of recommendation and presentation to Executive Leader Team (ELT) for approval – October 24**
 - Officer Report presentation



Latest News/Blog

Project Timeline

Project Background



Planning & pre-engagement

April-July 2024



Engagement Period

Survey, polls, submissions, affected residents interviews

August-Sept 2024



Engagement closes, reporting begins

Sept-Oct 2024



Consider feedback and recommend action to MSQ

November-December 2024

2.3 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Fraser Coast Regional Council Planning and Environmental Services team is currently investigating options for the management of boat traffic on Burrum Weir 1.

The process for reducing speeds or restricting activities on the river is broadly as follows:

- Following consultation with Council's internal stakeholders, a briefing note was submitted to Councillors outlining the proposed changes.
- Further to any Councillor feedback, public consultation will be carried out to gauge the level of public support for any proposed changes. Public consultation will build on existing data gathered during the community engagement undertaken as part of the Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy in 2023. Existing data suggest strong support for restriction of motorised watercraft recreation activities in drinking water catchment areas.
- Following the consultation process, endorsement of any proposed changes will be required by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) approval.
- The endorsement will be submitted to Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) for consideration, and if approved, MSQ will make the required changes to gazetted speed limits or allowed uses.

Background information on the Burrum River:

- The Burrum River is a public waterway, and its use is regulated by the Queensland Government.
- The boating speed limit for all watercraft on the Burrum River (freshwater Weir 1 section above the barrage) is 40 knots, as per all inland waters in Queensland where no specific alternative speed limit has been set.
- The only public access to the Weir 1 portion of the Burrum River is through the Fraser Coast Regional Council-owned recreation reserve on River Road, Howard. Council maintains an informal boat ramp at the reserve, which is utilised by staff to access the river for water quality sampling and maintenance activities. The informal boat ramp is also utilised by the public.
- This part of the river forms part of Fraser Coast's drinking water catchment and contains our water off-take point just above the barrage wall (approximately 150m from the boat ramp and reserve). The river is accessed recreationally by a range of watercraft including motorboats, jet skis, kayaks and paddleboards.
- The lower part of the river near the barrage and park reserve is frequently subject to hooning behaviour by jet skiers and motorboats that drive very fast and in circular patterns, causing erosion and environmental impact along the riverbanks, noise disturbance for local residents, and safety issues for other river users.
- The safety of boat passengers, skiers and swimmers is a significant concern due to the many submerged stumps and difficulty in identifying swimmers and other non-motorised watercraft by boat drivers on the waterway.
- Several local residents complain to Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) regularly about hooning behaviour and noise. Weekends and school holiday times are the most problematic.



- It is noted that very few areas of the river are currently able to be legally navigated at 40 knot speeds, due to 'proximity to shore' restrictions (60m for personal watercraft) or 'proximity to built structure' restrictions (30m for boats, 60m for personal watercraft), however MSQ expressed that it is very difficult to police speeding on the waterway.
- Use of the recreation area where the boat ramp is located is problematic in other ways including illegal camping, unsafe rope swings, lack of toilets, litter, and general safety of swimmers in close proximity to the weir wall (barrage) during overflow events.

Long term options for managing access to the recreation reserve have been investigated in the past, and options are still being explored; however, no short-term solutions for restricting access are currently considered easy to implement.

The Council's Planning and Environmental Services team is interested to instead explore reducing speed limits on Burrum Weir 1 from the current 40 knots to 6 knots, as per many other speed restricted waterways across Queensland. This is also consistent with the speed limit on Lake Lenthall (noting Lake Lenthall is managed by Council and is listed in Section 12 of the 'Schedule of Speed Limits in Queensland' as 6 knots).

A preliminary concept meeting was recently held with MSQ, which has expressed support for the potential to reduce the speed limit or alternatively to restrict certain activities (e.g. water skiing) on Burrum Weir 1, noting that MSQ have limited resources to police any illegal activities on the river.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 THEMES AND CATEGORISATION

Fraser Coast Regional Council Planning and Environmental Services team identified a number of themes which were important to collect data in relation to a possible change in speed on Burrum River Weir 1.

These were summarised and included in the Community Engagement survey:

- Current practices with watercraft on Weir 1.
- Level of interest in changing (reducing) the speed from 40 knots to 6 knots.
- Level of support for the change of speed, or other watercraft management suggestion.

Not included in the survey, but explored during the literature review and through community feedback:

- Comparing what is delivered by other councils
- How it would be policed, and who would police it.

Key messages included:

1. Fraser Coast Regional Council is investigating community support to change the maximum speed of watercraft between Burrum River Weir 1 and Weir 2.
2. One option is to introduce a speed limit of 6 knots on the river, which is the limit on Lake Lenthall. There are other options which may also be considered, such as limiting the types of watercraft permitted on Burrum Weir 1.
3. Feedback from the community will be included in a recommendation developed by the Planning and Environmental Services team for any proposed changes
4. We are seeking feedback on a proposed change of speed of watercraft on Burrum River Weir 1 via a simple online survey.
5. We will consider your feedback when developing the final recommendation by Council officers to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

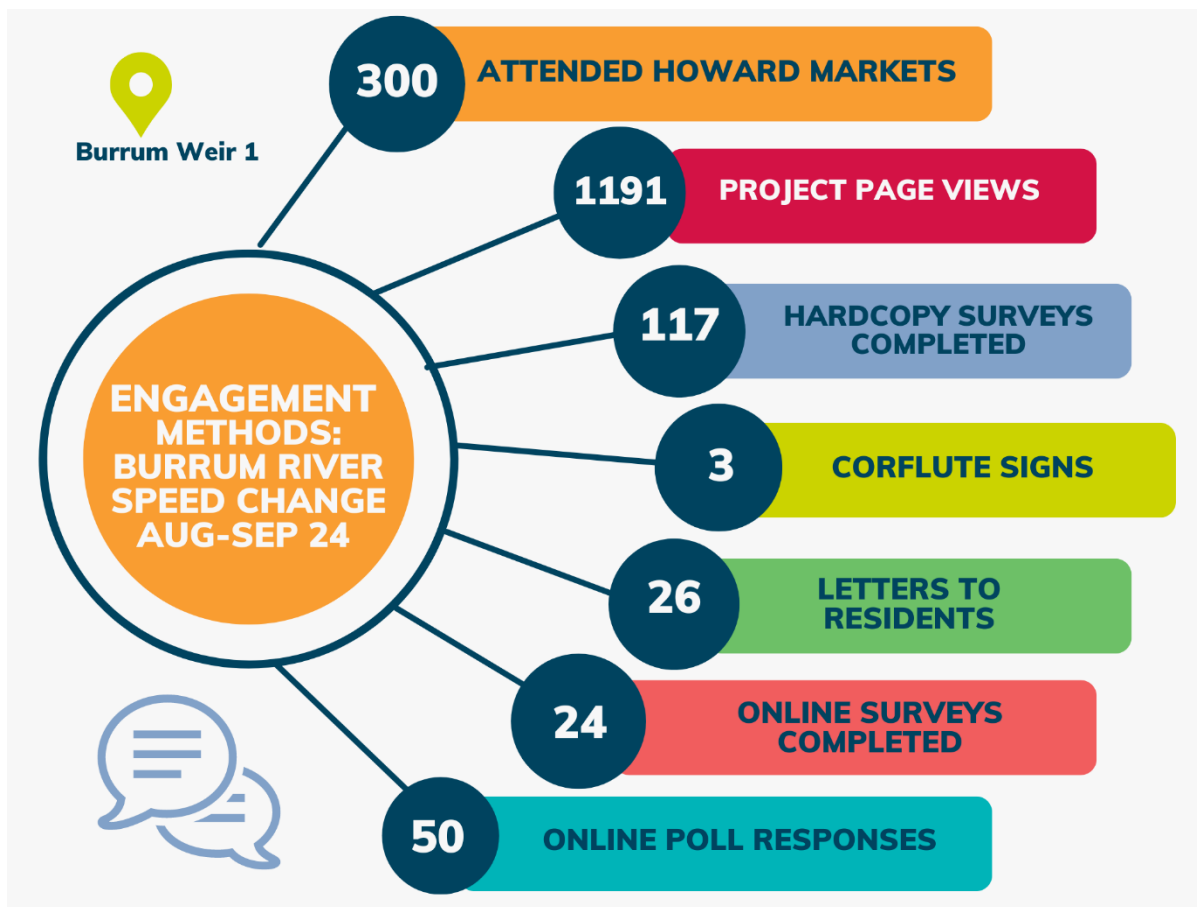
3.2 LIMITATIONS

An on-line survey is going to exclude a certain demographic of our population who is either not technically confident, or does not have access to a computer or mobile phone. This was in part overcome by offering a printable survey and attending the Howard markets, sending a letter to residents and outlining the various options, and also offering an email submission option.



3.3 COMMUNICATION CHANNELS – Phase 1.1

3.3.1 Engagement Results – Summary



3.4.1 Communication Channels used for survey period

Communication Channels: Burrum River Speed Change





3.4.2 Survey

There were 141 surveys successfully submitted, which provided a confidence level of 95% with a 6.6% margin of error¹ based on a total possible target size of 400 people, including 26 property owners, up to 50 users of recreational watercraft and potentially interested people attending the Howard markets on Saturday 7 September (estimated total sample size at the markets = 300).

See [Section 4.2](#) for a summary of findings, and [Appendix One](#) for all graphs and tables.

3.4.3 Poll

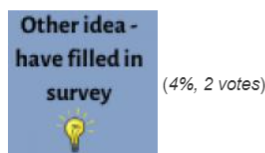
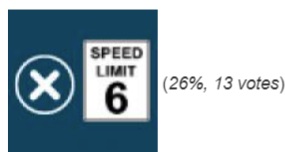
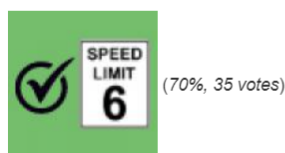
There were 50 responses to the online poll, with the following results:

- 35 (70%) votes “yes, I support the reduction of the speed limit on Burrum River at Weir 1 to 6 knots”
- 13 (26%) votes “no I do not support...”
- 2 (4%) votes “I have other ideas and have filled in a survey”

Poll Result

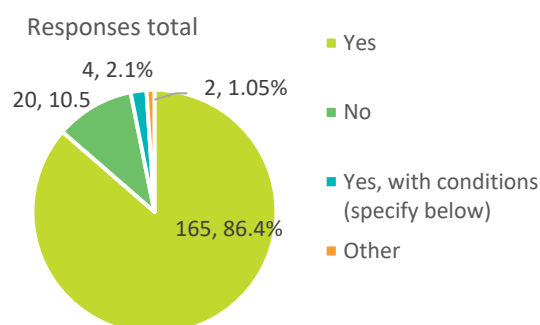
Do you support the reduction of the speed limit on the Burrum River between Weir 1 and Weir 2 to 6 knots, so it is the same as Lake Lenthall?

(Other ideas on ways to better manage watercraft on this section of the Burrum River for safety, turbidity and erosion can be included in the survey.)



Total Votes: 50

If we combine the poll results with the survey respondents, we obtain the following statistics:



¹ Sampling confidence level: A percentage that reveals how confident you can be that the population would select an answer within a certain range. For example, a 95% confidence level means that you can be 95% certain the results lie between x and y numbers. Margin of error: A percentage that tells you how much you can expect your survey results to reflect the views of the overall population. The smaller the margin of error, the closer you are to having the exact answer at a given confidence level. Most researchers aim for 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. See ABS [website](#) for more detail.



This provides responses of 191 (although some may be double-ups with both the poll and surveys filled in). That provided a confidence level of 95% with a 5% margin of error² based on a total possible target size of 400 people, as identified previously.

3.4.3 Submissions

- Three email submissions were received (see [Appendix 8.7](#) for details)
- One emailed survey (entered manually by CE team).

3.4.4 Face-to-face/ fieldwork

The project team visited the Howard markets on Saturday 7 September to obtain as many printed survey responses as possible. This opportunity was provided to ensure that those members of the local community who were not well-connected online would be able to respond to the survey.



3.4.5 Social media

Cr Michelle Byrne shared a post to her page twice, to the Howard Community page twice, and the Howard markets page once. The Community Engagement and Comms team provided content for the post for her to share. The Council did not post the project on any of its official social media platforms.

3.4.6 Corflutes at the Burrum River Weir 1 ramp

Two corflutes were installed near the ramp for the recreational watercraft users.



² Sampling confidence level: A percentage that reveals how confident you can be that the population would select an answer within a certain range. For example, a 95% confidence level means that you can be 95% certain the results lie between x and y numbers. Margin of error: A percentage that tells you how much you can expect your survey results to reflect the views of the overall population. The smaller the margin of error, the closer you are to having the exact answer at a given confidence level. Most researchers aim for 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. See ABS [website](#) for more detail.



3.4.7 Emails, eNews from the Engagement Hub

Notifications of the survey were sent to 3315 registered users on the Engagement Hub list via a newsletter. The newsletter was sent once to the Engagement Hub list.

3.4.5 Other Feedback

The only feedback received was from the survey questionnaire, the poll and three email submissions. Two submissions were very supportive of the speed reduction, and advocated for further restrictions on watercraft. One was in favour of speed reduction, on the condition it was not policed.

4 ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

4.1 SOCIAL MEDIA

There were no posts from the official Fraser Coast Facebook page, only from Cr Michelle Byrne (and possibly others who may have shared it privately) to her own page and the Howard Torbanlea Community Group, and the Torbanlea, Howard, Burrum Heads and Surrounds Community pages. As these are not official Fraser Coast Regional Council social media accounts, we were unable to determine how many people saw or interacted with these posts.

The screenshot displays two Facebook posts. The top post is from the 'Howard Torbanlea Community Group' and features a photo of two people kayaking on a river. Below the photo, it identifies 'Michelle Byrne- Councillor' as a 'Politician' and includes a 'Send message' button. The bottom post is from 'Michelle Byrne- Councillor', dated '15 hours ago'. It includes a star icon indicating 'Not yet rated (2 reviews)' and a 'Photos' section with a grid of nine images. These images include a 'HURRY HAVE YOUR SAY' banner, a helicopter, a map, a 'Handmade Artisan' market sign, a 'CATTLE/STOCK GRIDS INFORMATION SESSION' poster, and various community scenes. The main text of the post states: 'Have your say! Council is considering a proposal to reduce the speed limit on Burrum River 'Weir 1' to 6 knots, down from the current 40 knots, to align with the speed limit on Lake Lenthall. Visit our Engagement Hub page here to read more about the proposal and share your thoughts. See more'. A large graphic at the bottom right of the post reads 'HAVE YOUR SAY BURRUM RIVER Speed Change Proposal' with a background image of kayakers. At the very bottom of the screenshot, a footer contains links for 'Privacy · Terms · Advertising · Ad choices · Cookies · More · Meta © 2024'.



4.2 SURVEY

For a comprehensive report, a copy of the questionnaire and list of specific comments, see [Appendix 8.1](#).

4.2.1 Who participated

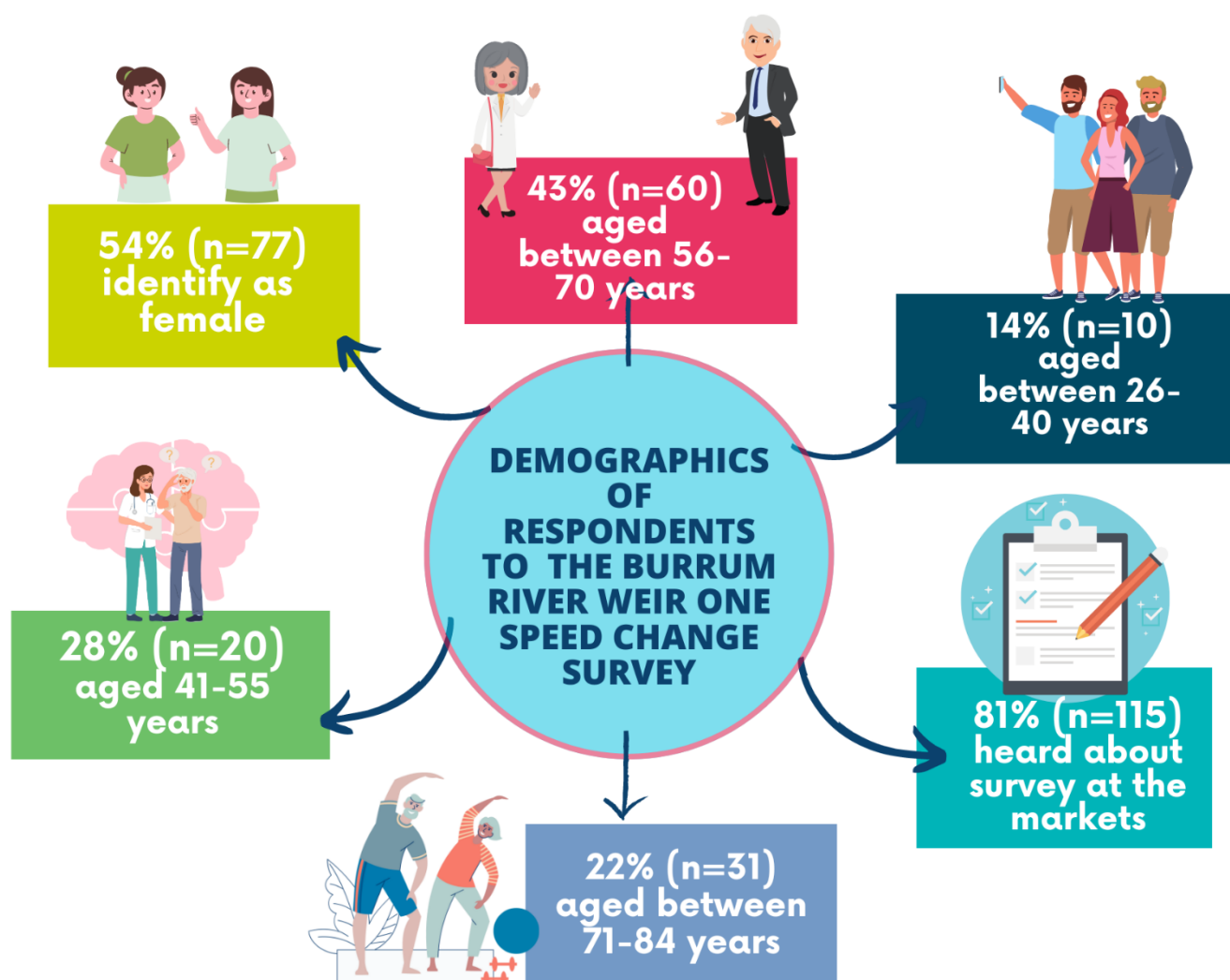
This survey garnered 141 respondents, which provided a representative sample of the targeted audience (residents living on or near the river, recreational users of the Weir and those who may have an interest at the Howard markets) with a 95% level of confidence and 6.6% margin of error. This means we can be 95% certain the results reflect the majority of residents, +/- 6.6%.



Questions 1 to 4, and 10 (demographics) are addressed here:

The age breakdown of respondents was largely reflective of the Fraser Coast population age groups with a skew towards the 56-70 year olds.

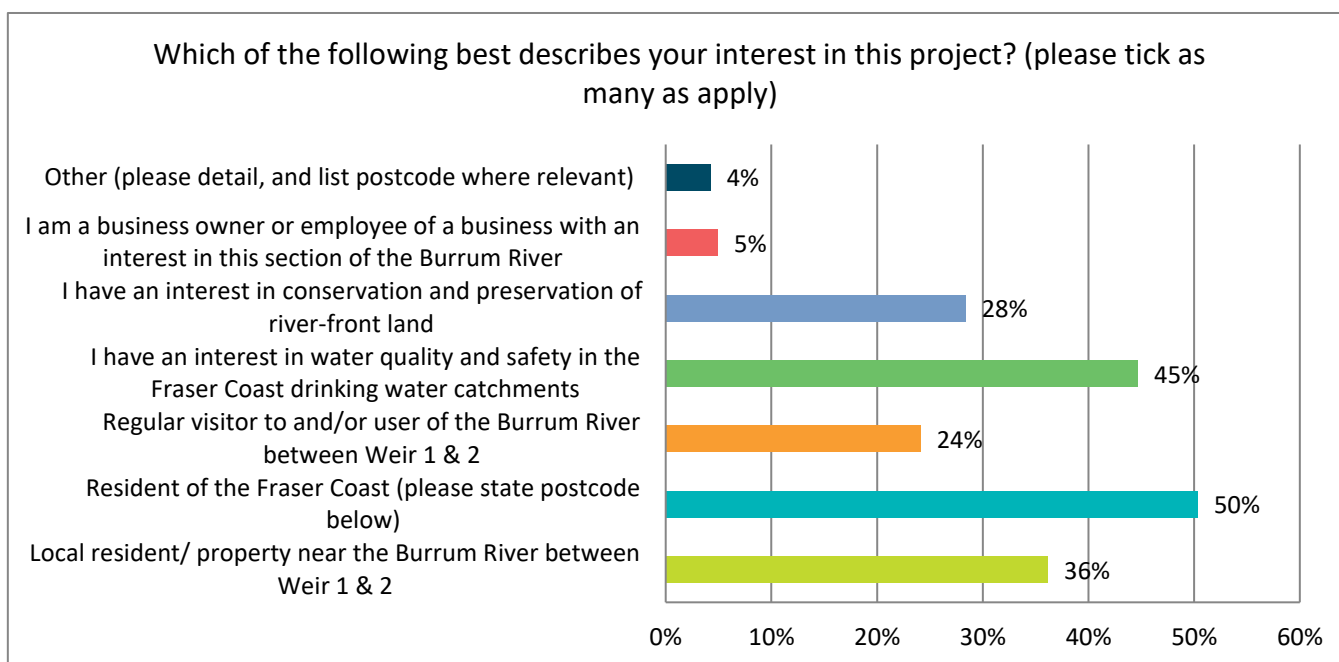
- The high proportion of respondents was aged between **56 and 70 years**, with 43%, compared to the actual population age group of 24.4% according to the 2021 Census.
- The **41-55 age group** made up the second largest group with 20% compared to the actual population of 16.7%, followed by the **71-85 year age group** with 22% compared to the actual population of 18.4%.
- The age group of **26-40 years** made up 10% of respondents, compared to the actual population of 13.2%. Only four people were aged under 15 (3%), compared to the actual demographic of 7.2% (8,000 12-17 year olds)





Other demographics of the respondents were:

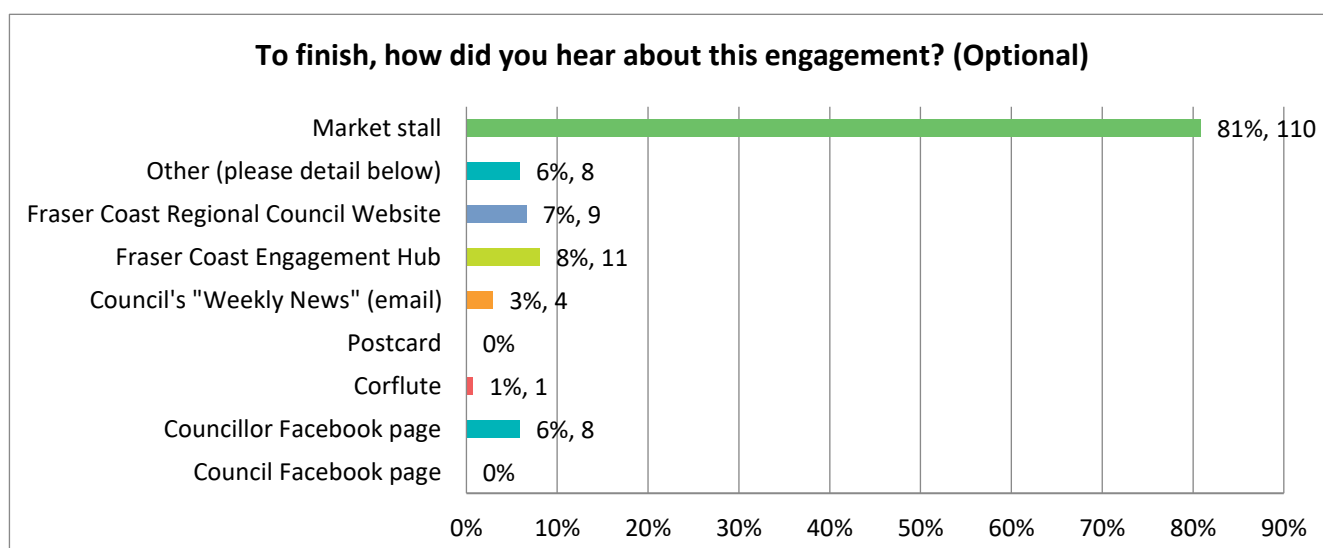
- People identifying as female comprised the largest group of respondents (54%, n=77), with 45% (n=63) identifying as male, and one person preferring not to say.
- The most common way to describe the respondent's interest in this project was **"resident of the Fraser Coast"** with 50%, followed by "interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchment" with 45%, "local resident or property near the Burrum River" (36%). This was closely followed by an "interest in conservation and preservation of river-front land" (28%), and "regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2" (24%). Numbers add up to more than 141 due to multiple answers being permitted. **NB: Many of those who responded "local resident near river" also chose "resident of Fraser Coast"**.
- The majority filled in the survey on printed survey (82%, n=115), followed by a desktop or laptop (18%, n=13).

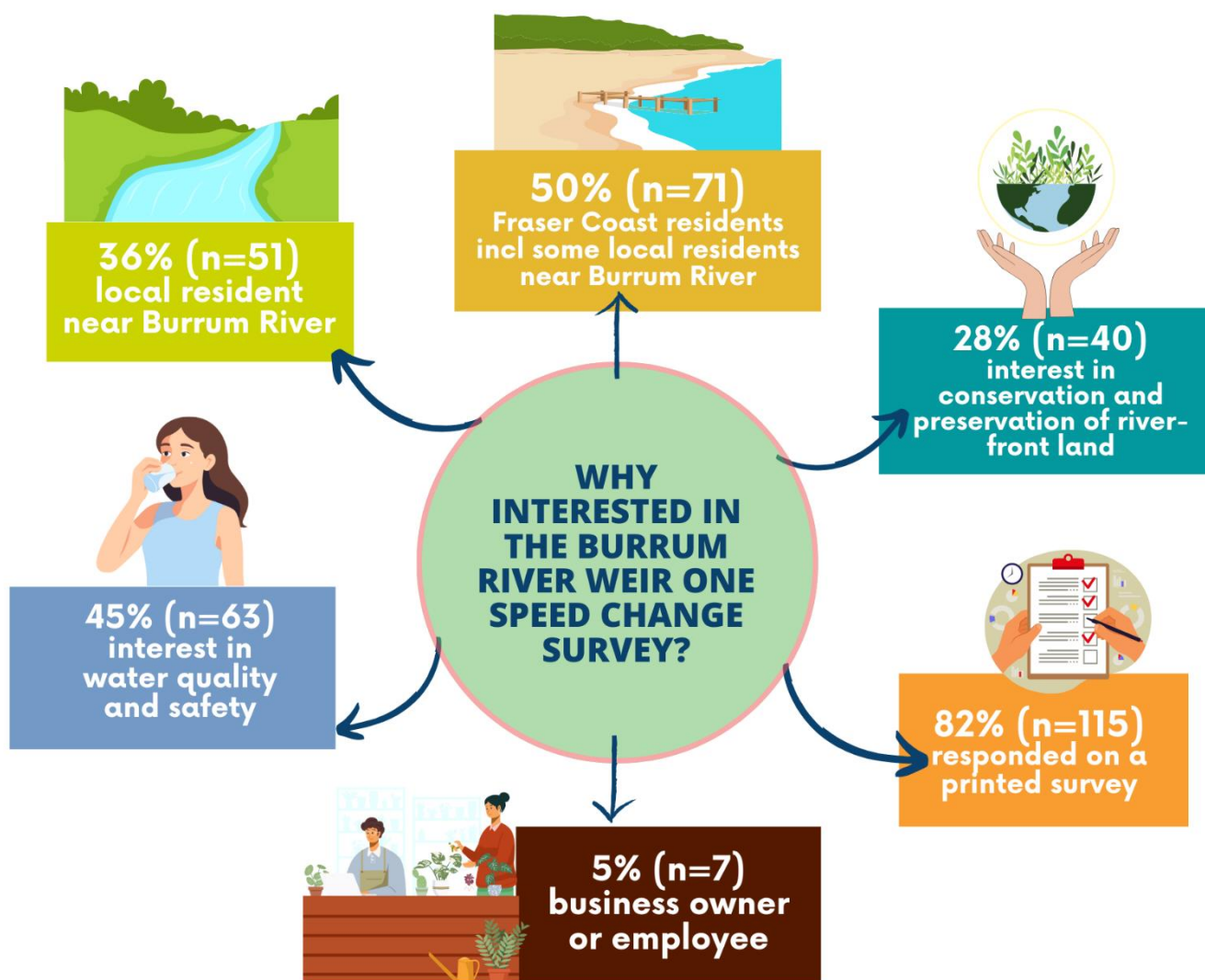


The most common way people heard about the survey was:

- Through the markets at Howard (81%, n=110),
- Followed by "Fraser Coast Engagement Hub" (8%, n=11), and "Fraser Coast Council website" (7%, n=9).
- A letter sent directly from Council ("Other – always a letter from Council", 6%, n=8) and
- "Councillor Facebook page" (6%, n=8) The "Council's weekly news" was actually a newsletter to Engagement Hub subscribers (3%, n=4).

There may be some confusion between these two platforms as the engagement was not featured on the Council's website, only on the Engagement Hub.





4.2.2 Summary of other questions:

Q.5 Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users? (Required)

The majority chose "Yes" (89%, n= 125), 6% chose "No" (n=9) and 5% (n=7) said "Yes, with conditions". For more details of the comments see the detailed survey report in the Appendix.

"Still allow skiing/boating with slower speed limit to make safe"
"Not just in the weirs - right along the length of the Burrum River"
"Safe for everyone"

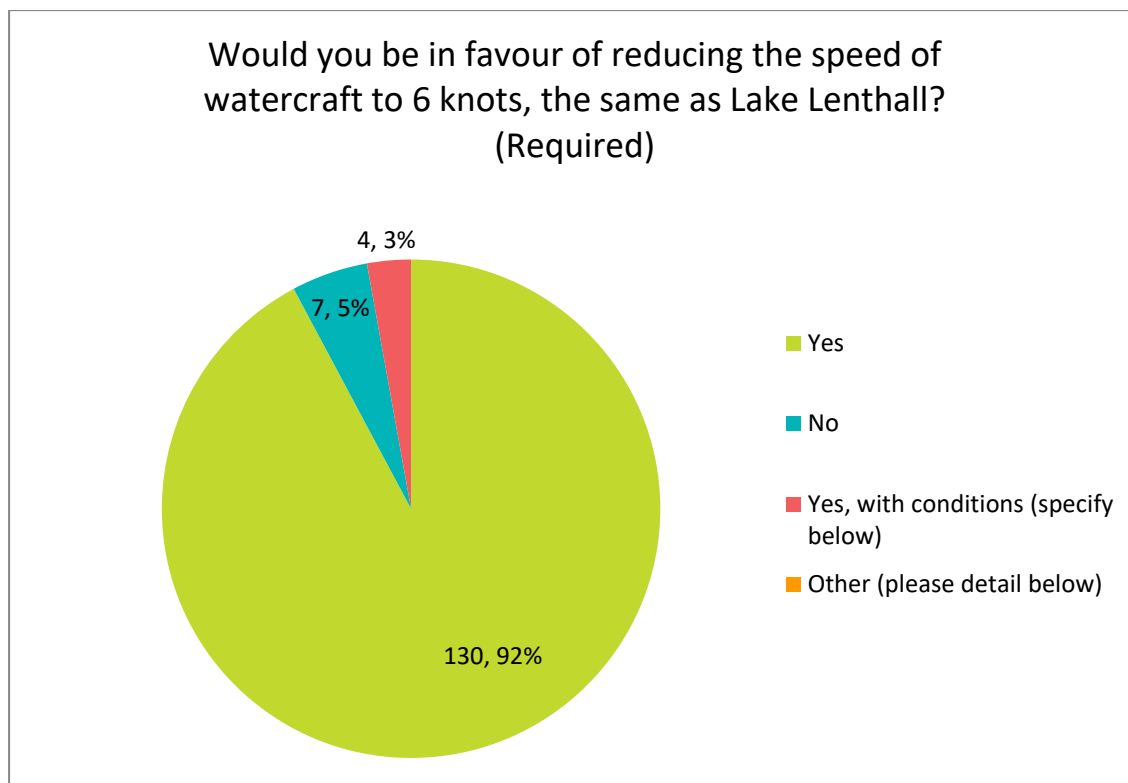
Q.6 If you selected 'no' for the previous question, what concerns you about a possible increase in management? (Optional)

The majority of comments in Q6 were not in support of increased management of watercraft on this section of the Burrum River, with six of the 11 comments (54%). Most of these related to reduction of 'having fun' and 'government interference'. See detailed report in [Appendix 8.2](#) for actual comments. However, this indicates that some people chose "no" when they actually meant to choose "yes", perhaps up to five of the respondents. The survey data has not been adjusted for this.

Q.7 Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall? (Required)

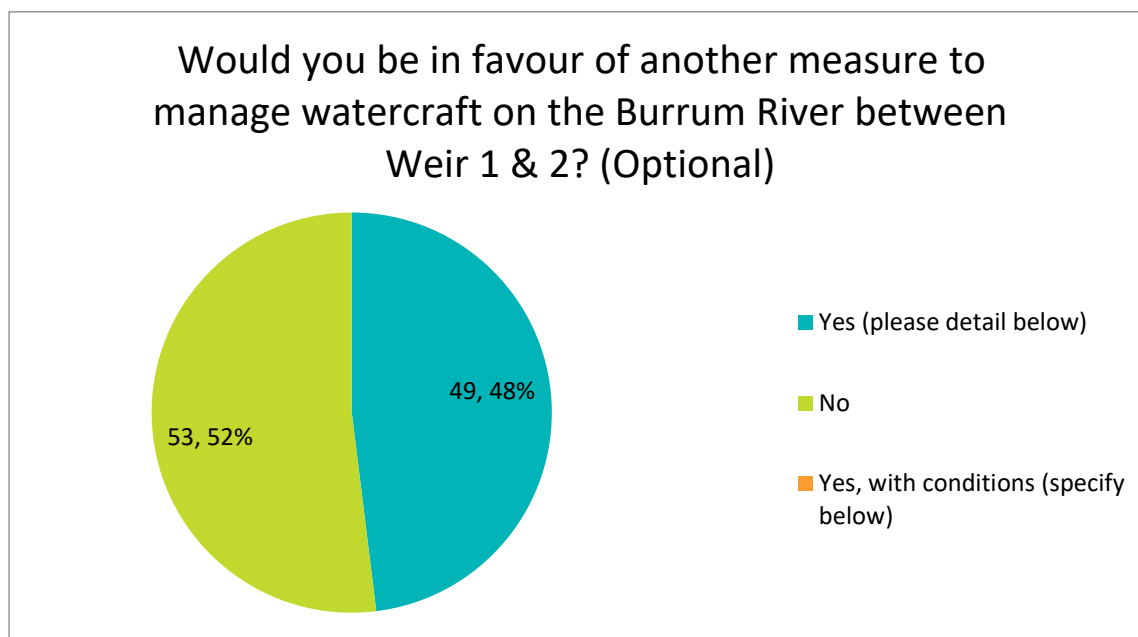


- The **majority of respondents were supportive of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots: yes: 92%, n=130**
- Only seven people were not at all supportive (5%) and
- Four people were supportive, with conditions.



Q.8 Would you be in favour of another measure to manage watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2? (Optional)

Not everyone responded to this question. Of the 102 people who did, 53 (52%) said no, and 49 (48%) said yes. Comments ranged from removing all powered watercraft, through to ensuring that the new speed limit was enforced. For a list of responses, see [Appendix 8.2](#).



A common theme is the removal of powered watercraft, and in particular, jet skis.



Q.9 Any other feedback you'd like to add to this response? (Optional)

Only 24 people added additional comments. A sentiment analysis shows that most of the comments were in support of the proposed speed change (21, 87.5%). For a complete list of responses, see the detailed analysis in [Appendix 8.2](#).

Summary of comments:

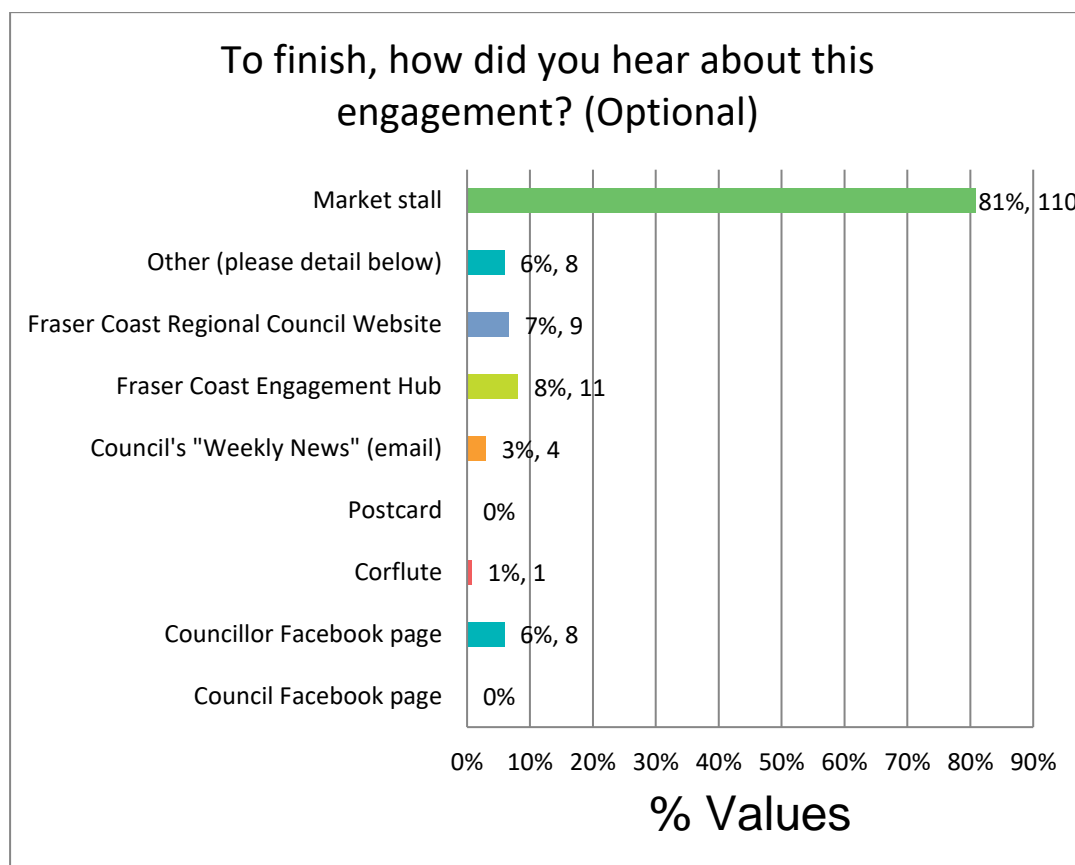
- Comments reflect the previous comments within the survey.
- There is a concern about motorised watercraft in general on this section of the Burrum River.
- The counterpoint is that self-regulation is most cost-effective as it is difficult to regulate speeding in this section of the Burrum River.

Those in support of the reduced speed limit commented in greater proportion to those who do not.

Lower speed limits protect riverbanks, stopping erosion
Start a stocking program to increase fish numbers in the weir 1 and 2
Water navigation isn't a Council matter

Q.10 To finish, how did you hear about this engagement?

Please see below for an analysis of these comments:



Most people heard about the survey at the Howard markets (81%, n=110). The next highest category was from the Fraser Coast Engagement Hub (8%, n=11). For the purposes of this survey, those who responded "Fraser Coast Regional Council website" will be added to the Engagement Hub responses, as Council did not post this engagement on the website. This brings the total to 15%, n=20.



4.2.3 Crosstabulations

A useful method to determine whether an answer to one question has relevance to the answer of another question is to use a crosstabulation between the two questions.

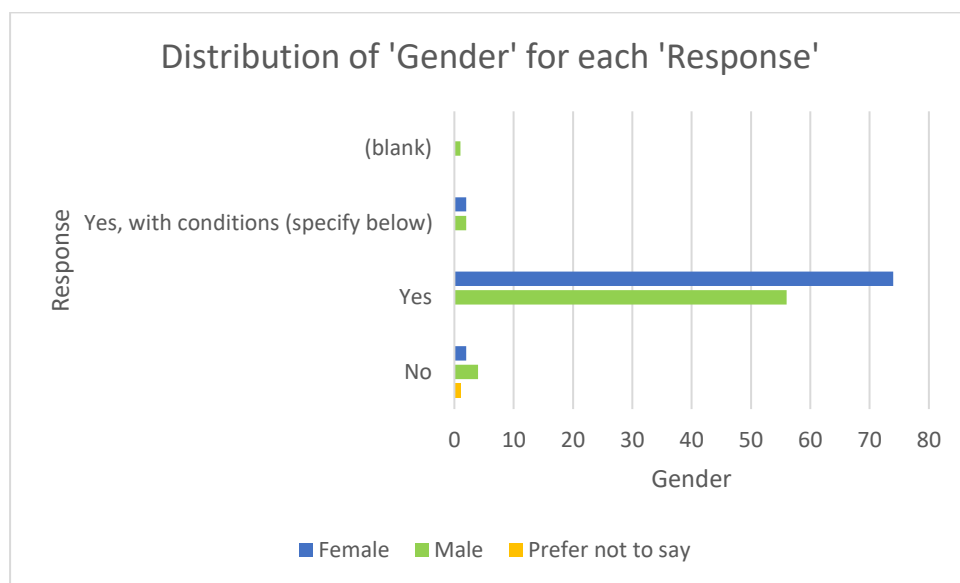
Two crosstabulations considered relevant to this survey are:

- “Gender?” and “Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall?”
- “What is your interest in this engagement project?” and “Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall?”

A calculation was made for a Chi-square correlation, which calculates the likelihood of a relationship between the two variables (i.e gender and response). However, the numbers of ‘no’ responses were so low that any correlation between expected responses and actual responses was not valid.

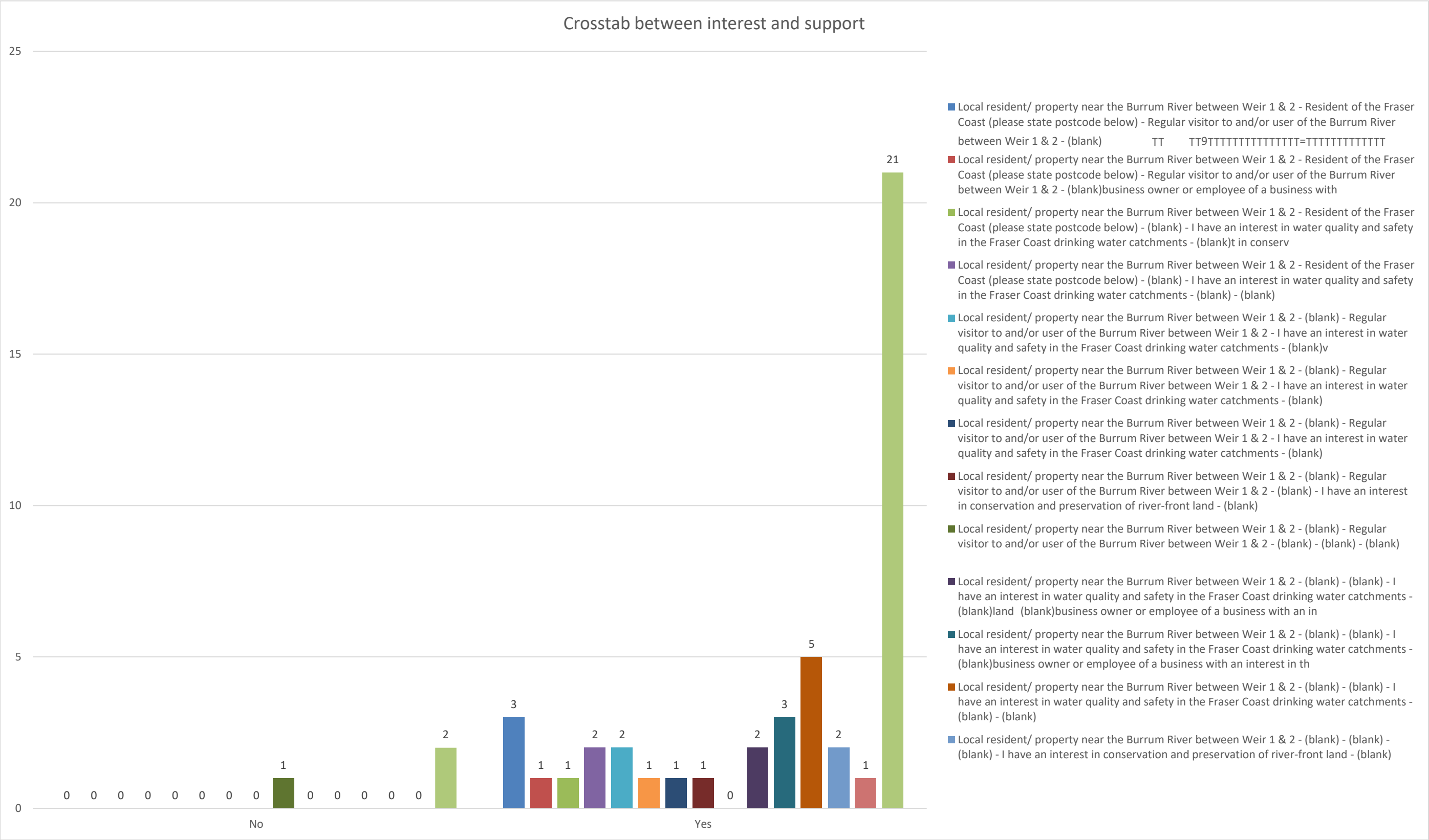
4.2.3.1 “Gender” and “Would you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users?”

- There may be a correlation between gender and the support for reduction of speed to 6 knots; however the number of “no” responses is so low that the Chi-Square calculation cannot be performed. However, more males than females did not support the reduction of the speed limit.



4.2.3.2 “Interest in this project?” and “Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall?”

There appears to be a casual relationship between people’s interest in the project and their support to reduce the speed, or lack thereof, for the project. However, the numbers of “no” support is so low as make further analysis irrelevant. See the table on the next page for a graphic depiction.



4.3 SUBMISSIONS

Who contributed

There were submissions received for the survey via the contact form. These were forwarded to the project team for consideration and responded to by the Community Engagement Officer in each case.

They can be viewed at [Appendix 8.4](#).

4.5 FEEDBACK (SURVEY) RESULTS SUMMARY

The sample size of the survey response of 141 was significant enough to provide a 95% confidence level and a 6.6% margin of error in the survey results. **When combining the poll results with the survey results**, there were 191 responses to the question: “Would you support a change in speed on the Burrum River between Weir 1 and 2 to 6 knots?”, providing a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

This means that Council can feel confident this sample represents the views of residents, property owners, recreational watercraft users and attendees at the Howard markets who may be affected directly or have a vested interest in the management of watercraft on the Burrum River Weir 1.

- The majority chose “Yes” (89%, n= 125), to the question “Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users?”, while 6% chose “No” (n=9) and 5% (n=7) said “Yes, with conditions”.
- The majority of respondents were supportive of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots: yes: 92%, n=130 Only seven people were not at all supportive (5%) and four people were supportive, with conditions.
- The most common comments in response to “further comments” was a request to remove all powered watercraft from that section altogether.

5 ENGAGEMENT SURVEY & POLL CONCLUSIONS

This survey indicates with a high level of confidence that the residents who live on or near to the Burrum River, and who use Weir 1 for recreational watercraft usage would, in principle, support the reduction of speed on the Weir to 6 knots, or another form of watercraft management.

Cross tabulation indicates there is likely to be a relationship between the respondents’ interest in the engagement and their general support for the speed reduction, and for management of watercraft on the Burrum River Weir 1.

6 NEXT STEPS

The results will feed into the drafting of a recommendation regarding a proposed speed reduction on Burrum River Weir 1.

7 ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION OVERVIEW

| IAP2 CORE VALUES | |
|--|---|
| 1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. | This is evident through the community engagement commitments of this project (particularly the community's input via the survey) and commitment for the future phases, as well as Council's overall commitment through Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework. |
| 2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision. | This has been displayed through the community engagement processes and activities, highlighted by inclusion of the community's feedback and concerns in the detailed report from the survey. |
| 3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers. | The needs and interests of all stakeholders (including Council) were considered during the project. Analysis was also performed during the planning phase to make sure that all key stakeholders would be identified and engaged. |
| 4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision. | This has been highlighted through the process of engaging with residents, property owners and recreational watercraft users on or near the Burrum River Weir 1. This commitment will be carried out as part of all phases in developing the final recommendation. |
| 5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate. | Council will utilise a variety of community engagement activities through the process, which will enable the stakeholder community a choice in how they want to be involved in the process and which activities they want to participate in. This included an online survey, corflutes at the boat ramp, direct mail and hard copy surveys at the Howard markets, as well as a direct submission via a "Contact Us" form. |
| 6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way. | As for Point 5 above, the target community was provided with various pieces of information throughout the survey period of engagement to enable them to participate in the process in a meaningful way. For example, for the survey, the community had access to (but not limited to) websites, background, a fact sheet, images and posters/corflute signs etc. |
| 7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision. | This initial engagement report indicates how the community's input has been an important part of the development of the recommendation. It is also important to note that the intention is to communicate the findings from this process with the community once endorsed by Council. |

8 APPENDICES

8.1 SURVEY

8.1.1 Questionnaire

Community Feedback survey for proposed change of speed on Burrum River Weir 1

The community is being encouraged to have a say on proposed changes to management of watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 and Weir 2.

Council is open to exploring ways to manage watercraft which are currently impacting our drinking water catchment on the Burrum River, as part of the implementation of the Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy, adopted by Council in 2023. One of the options is to reduce the maximum speed of watercraft to 6 knots, which is the same as Lake Lenthall, and many other waterways in Queensland.

This survey concludes online at 11:55 pm on Sunday 15 September 2024. If you are not logged onto our Engagement Hub, you will not be notified if you have successfully submitted your responses. You can sign up to the Engagement Hub or sign in to your account at <https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/>. You can print this survey out and submit in hardcopy according to the instructions at the end of the survey questionnaire. Deadline for receipt: COB Friday 12 September.

Part One: A few questions about you. (This helps us determine if a representative sample for this survey has been obtained.)

Q.1 Which of the following best describes your interest in this project? (please tick as many as apply) (Required)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident/ property near the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> I have an interest in conservation and preservation of river-front land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident of the Fraser Coast (please state postcode below) | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a business owner or employee of a business with an interest in this section of the Burrum River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular visitor to and/or user of the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please detail, and list postcode where relevant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have an interest in water quality and safety in the Fraser Coast drinking water catchments | _____ |
| | _____ |

Q.2 Please select your age group: (Required)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15 years of age (please note parent/carer details below) | <input type="checkbox"/> 56-70 years of age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-25 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> 71-85 years of age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-40 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> 86+ years of age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 41-55 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to state |

Parental/carer approval details for under 15 years of age (name and contact details):

Q.3 What gender do you identify as? (Required)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please detail): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-identify | _____ |

Q.4 What device did you use to fill in this survey? (optional)

- ☐ Mobile phone or tablet
- ☐ Laptop or desktop
- ☐ Printed survey

☐ Other (please specify): _____

Part Two: Your feedback on the proposed changes to management of watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2:



Q.5 Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users? (Required)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, with conditions (please specify):

Q.6 If you selected 'no' for the previous question, what concerns you about a possible increase in management? (Optional)

Q.7 Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall? (Required)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, with conditions (please specify): _____

☐ Other (please detail): _____

Q.8 Would you be in favour of another measure to manage watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2? (Optional)

- ☐ Yes. Please detail: _____

☐ No

☐ Yes, with conditions, Please detail: _____

Q.9 Any other feedback you'd like to add to this response? (Optional)

Q.10 To finish, how did you hear about this engagement? (Optional)

☐ Through Facebook

☐ Corflute signage (near the waterway)

☐ Postcard (small flyer)

☐ Social media

☐ Fraser Coast Engagement Hub

☐ Fraser Coast Regional Council Website

☐ Market stall

☐ Other (please detail):

Conclusion:

Thank you for your valuable time to complete this survey.

How to submit the completed survey:

- a. It is preferred that you complete the survey online – this reduces data entry time, and increases accuracy.
- b. If you filled a printed version of this survey, please:
 - send it back by mail to PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Qld 4655 or
 - deliver it to 77 Tavistock Street, Hervey Bay or 211-213 Adelaide Street, Maryborough
 - Attn: Burrum River Survey.

Mailed responses will be accepted until Close of Business Friday 12 September (online closing date 11:55 pm Sunday 15 September 2024).

You also have the option to email a written submission to Community@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

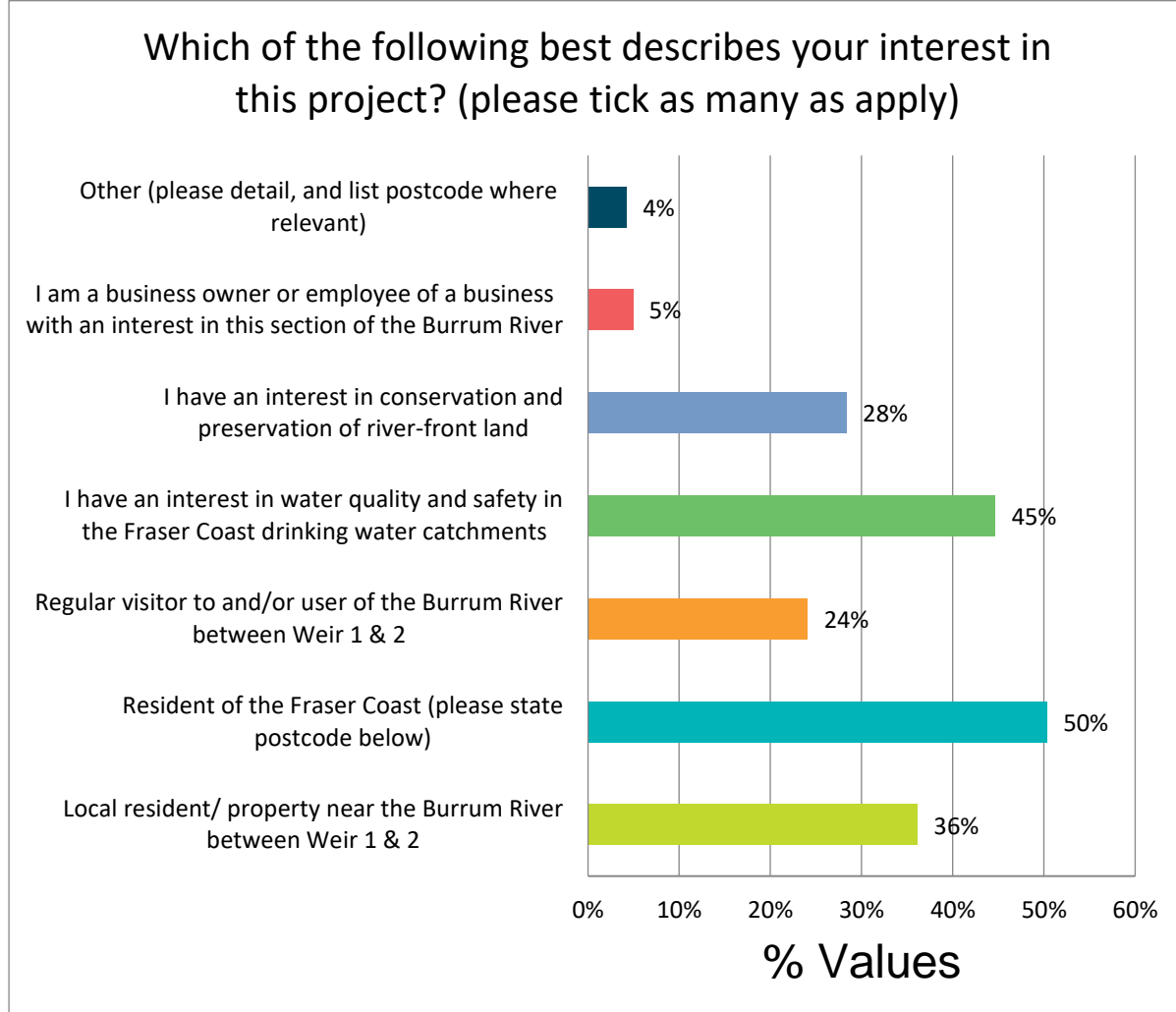
To stay informed about any updates to this project, please click on the 'Follow Project' box on the top right of this project page (<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/burrum-river-speed-change>) Further information: To stay informed on the projects Fraser Coast Regional Council is conducting community engagement for, please register on the Engagement Hub (<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au>).

8.1.2 Summary of findings

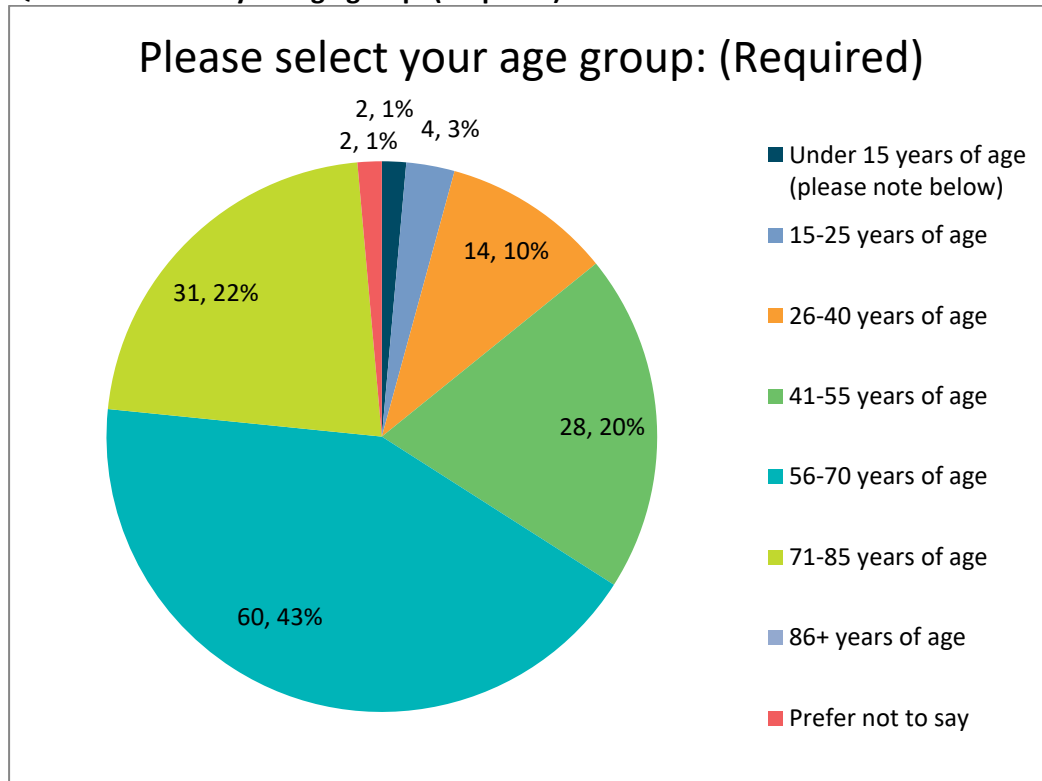
- The majority chose “Yes” (89%, n= 125), to the question “Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users?”, while 6% chose “No” (n=9) and 5% (n=7) said “Yes, with conditions”.
- The majority of respondents were supportive of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots: yes: 92%, n=130 Only seven people were not at all supportive (5%) and four people were supportive, with conditions.
- The most common comments in response to “further comments” was a request to remove all powered watercraft from that section altogether.

8.1.3 Detailed responses

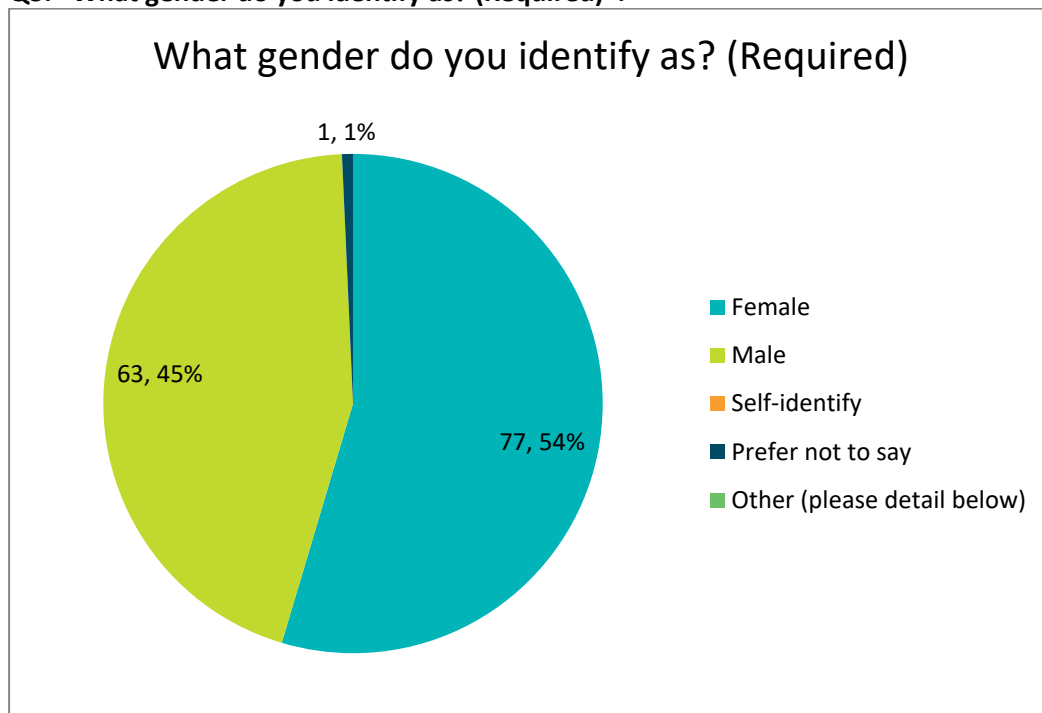
Q1. "Which of the following best describes your interest in this project? (please tick as many as apply)"



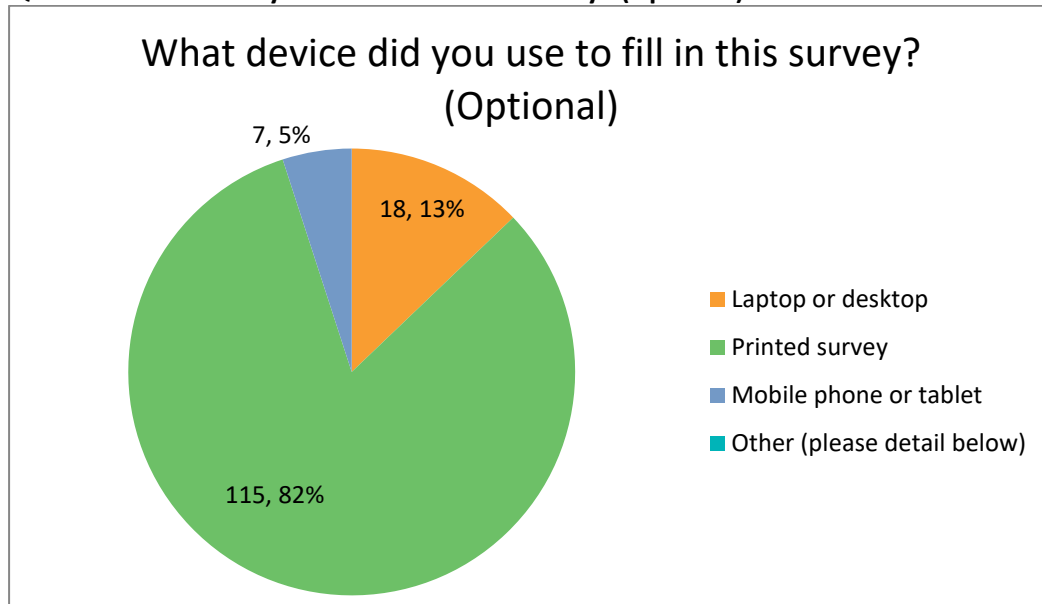
Q2. "Please select your age group: (Required)"



Q3. "What gender do you identify as? (Required)":



Q4 "What device did you use to fill in this survey? (Optional)"

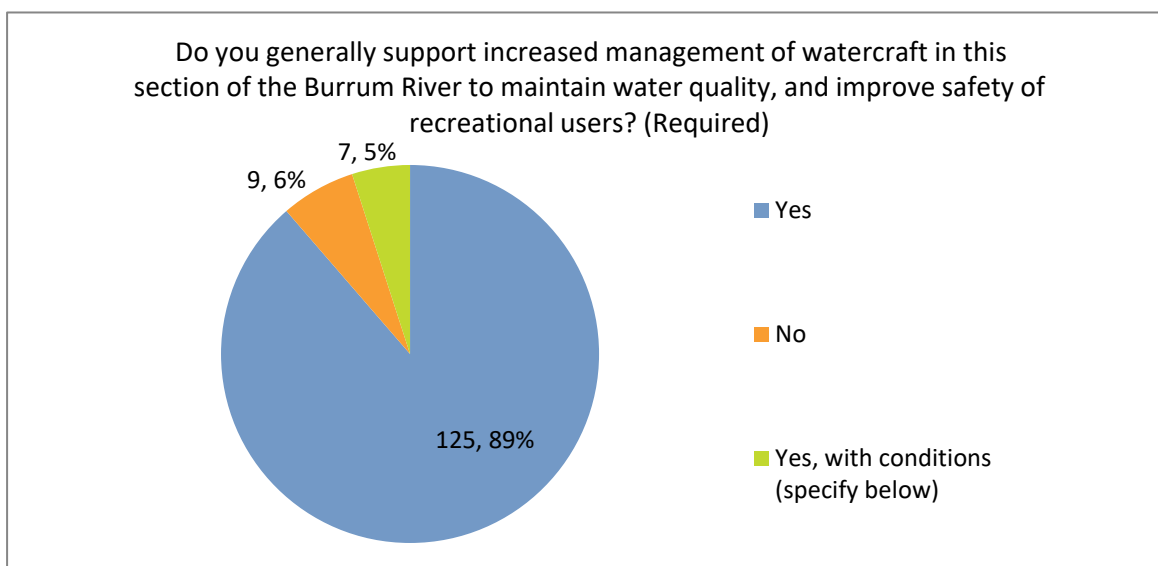


Q.5 Do you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users? (Required)

The majority chose "Yes" (89%, n= 125), 6% chose "No" (n=9) and 5% (n=7) said "Yes, with conditions".

The "yes, with conditions" comments included:

- Kids
- No jetskis
- That every use isn't removed
- Gair for all
- Safe for everyone
- Lower rivercraft speed limit
- Still allow skiing/boating with slower speed limit to make safe
- Swimming only
- Speed to 6 knots too restrictive, 10 to 15 is acceptable
- Not just in the weirs - right along the length of the Burrum River
- I support rules if they are the same as Lake Lenthalls. i.e. petrol motors allowed with Max speed on 6 knots

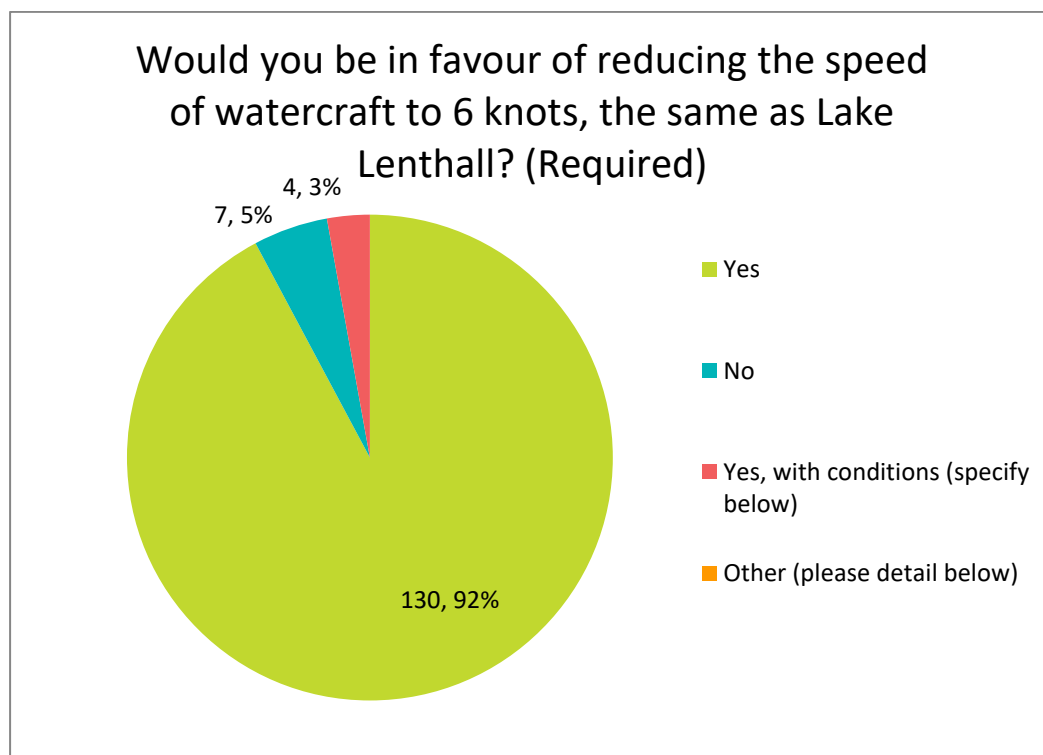


Q6. "If you selected 'no' for the previous question, what concerns you about a possible increase in management? (Optional)?"

The majority of comments were not in support of increased management of watercraft on this section of the Burrum River, with six of the 11 comments (54%). Most of these related to reduction of 'having fun' and 'government interference'. See detailed report for actual comments.

| Theme | Comment |
|--|---|
| Exclusionary, unnecessary government controls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is just to please a certain few on the river? • As a property owner on the river I don't have a problem with people enjoying themselves. • Only a very small group of people are wanting this to be changed and think they own the river. • I also think there is a conflict of interest as a member of council and also a member of a local business is responsible for this proposal. • No evidence of any problems. Why add to interference in people's lives if it is only a power grab by small minded bureaucrats. It isn't navigable and doesn't need regulation. • Government interference. |
| Supportive environmentally and for water quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General interest in water conservation. • No problem with increased management - needed to preserve riverbank's quality of water, river fauna and species. • I live near the river. |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat owner who fishes. • I don't take much interest. |

Q7. "Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall? (Required)"

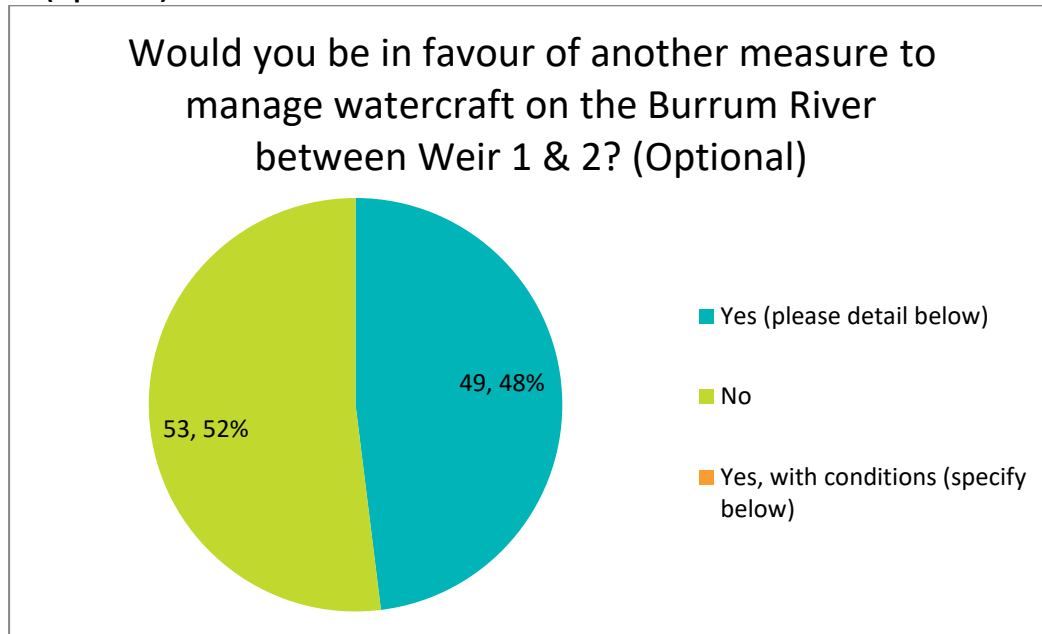


Comments from those who supported the 6 knots, or said yes with conditions:

- No jetskis
- Keep everyone safe

- Need to protect environment
- Jetskis, boats
- Max 10 knots
- As above in answer 5 (speed to 6 knots too restrictive 10 to 15 is acceptable)
- Right along the Burrum River - very few watercraft/boats do 6 knots past pontoons along the river - it appears most don't know the rules or don't care.

Q8. "Would you be in favour of another measure to manage watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 & 2? (Optional)"



Not everyone responded to this question. Of the 102 people who did, 53 (52%) said no, and 49 (48%) said yes. Comments ranged from removing all powered watercraft, through to ensuring that the new speed limit was enforced. Those who said yes or yes with conditions made the following comments:

- No jetskis!
- Limit horsepower to 6hp
- No jetskis
- No waterskis or jetskis
- Policing
- More monitoring of limits and capacity usage
- Need details
- Please limit use of jetski watercraft
- Enforce above (?)
- Keep boats out
- No jet skis or high powered boats
- Restricting to paddled watercraft only
- No two stroke
- No power boats allowed. Electric, sail, and paddle only
- Removal of public access to the informal boat ramp located at the recreational reserve on River Rd.
- Ban them completely, they should use the salt water where there are boat ramps and no water supply
- No Jet skis as they are causing most damage and nuisance issues
- Limit the type of watercraft that are able to use the river - no Jet Skis
- Only kayaks / canoes and electric motors permitted.
- Kayaks and electric motors only.

A common theme is the removal of powered watercraft, and in particular, jetskis.

Q9. "Any other feedback you'd like to add to this response? (Optional)"

Only 24 people added additional comments. A sentiment analysis shows that most of the comments were in support of the proposed speed change (n=21, 87.5%)

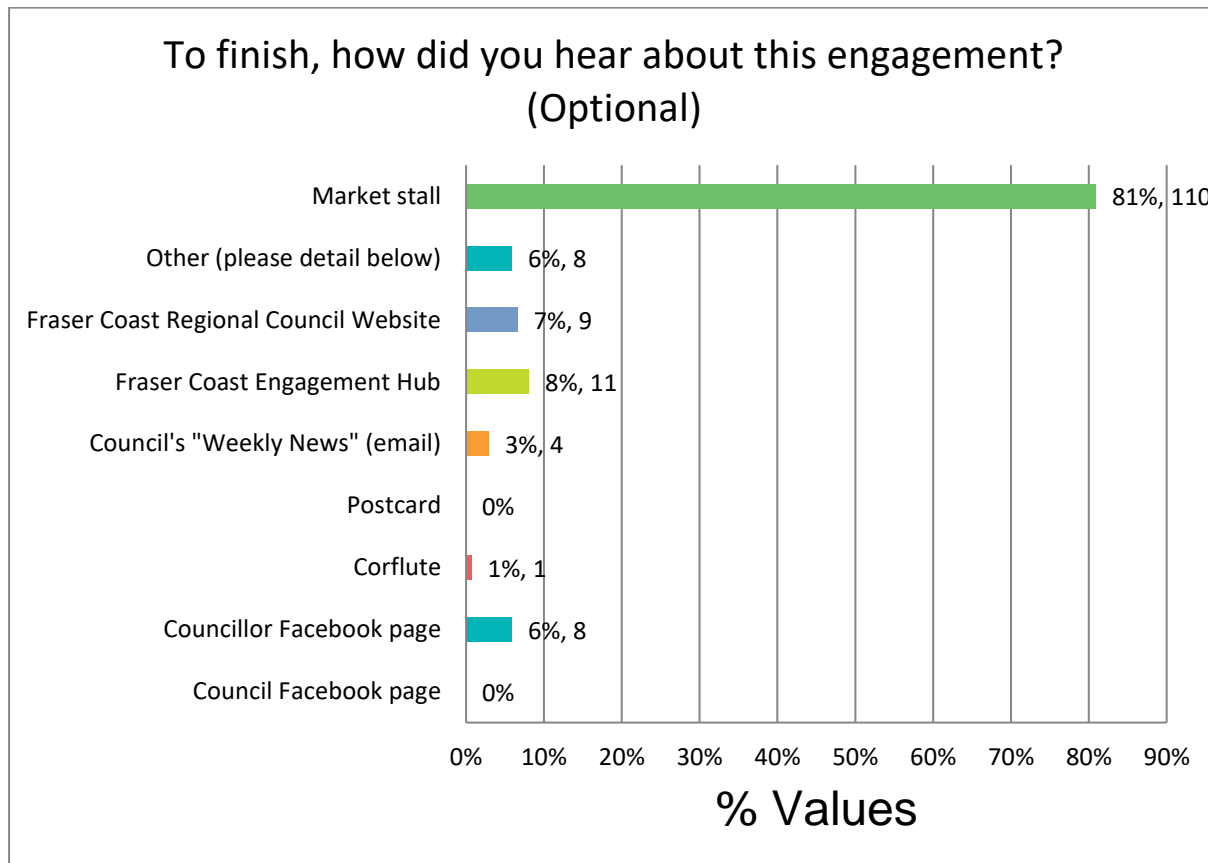
Summary of comments:

- Comments reflected the previous comments within the survey.
- There is a concern about motorised watercraft in general on this section of the Burrum River. The counterpoint is that self-regulation is most cost-effective as it is difficult to regulate speeding in this section of the Burrum River.
- Those in support of the reduced speed limit commented in greater proportion to those who do not.

| Supportive of 6 knot speed limit | Unsupportive |
|--|--|
| I fish on Weir 1 regularly and believe you don't need any more speed than 6 knots | If they were there to manage it, less problems |
| The slower speed limit may help to protect the banks of the river but I have also seen jetskis produce significant wake when they are going slow so this doesn't necessarily change things. Overall, it should provide a safer and more enjoyable experience for those using non-motorised watercraft on the weir. The weir is not that long overall, so a higher speed limit is not really warranted. Potentially it could deter waterskiing, but it will come down to how it is enforced. Given the weir is where the drinking water take of is located, it makes sense to reduce turbidity in the water at this part in the river system. | I think as there has not been any actual accident or any real reason for concern about people boating on the river that you should just leave them alone |
| As a regular angler on the weir, reducing the speed limit to 6 knots would be an inconvenience. Motoring from River Rd (only public boat access) to weir 2 at 6 knots, would take over an hour. But on consideration, it is an inconvenience I would be prepared to accept. The wash / noise must annoy local resident on the River, many have signs up saying 6 knots, and I believe the waterway is still part of the drinking water catchment so should probably come under the same regulations as Lake Lenthalls. Another concern is the increase in speedboat / waterskiing / PWC activity last summer. The proposed regulation change would take these craft / activities off the water, which I'm sure locals and anglers would prefer. | People need somewhere to be able to drive their boats and JetSki It is only annoying a very small group of people who need to learn to share and let people have fun |
| Why does Lake Lenthalls have a 60hp max limit when the max speed limit is restricted to 6 knots? A 60hp outboard can do up to 30 knots on many boats. I don't have an issue with the 6 knot limit but why can't larger hp outboards be used on the lake as no matter what the size it's still a 6 knot speed limit. Teemburra Dam near Mackay used to have a 20hp outboard limit but this has since been removed so now any size outboard can be used. Wivenhoe Dam near Bris also has a 6 knot speed limit but no outboard size restriction. Lake Lenthalls is now the only Dam in Qld with this silly rule about time its changed as it excludes many boats from being used there and forces people to use less safe small boats. | Downstream water quality won't be improved by this and if anyone ever does "speed" it is only briefly and only young people having fun. Water navigation isn't a Council matter. Tares, roads, rubbish. Facilitate, don't overregulate |
| I have lived on a property fronting the Burrum River between weir 1 and 2 for the last 17 years. I think that rules to manage watercraft on this section of river are long overdue due to the damage done by speeding watercraft to the river banks as well as noise and water | Concerns on cost of enforcement of more rules |

| | |
|---|--|
| pollution. This issue is usually at its worst during summer and school holidays when there are a lot more fishing boats as well as Jet Ski's running up and down the river at speed causing excessive wakes and damage to the river bank. I | What fines envisaged which are not mentioned which they should be in this form |
| Noise problems | |
| More access to main river | |
| "- make sure it's safe for everyone - speed limit around swimmers" | |
| slow down | |
| "Better boat ramp at Walls Camp. Possibility of fish ladder on Weir 1 or dam" | |
| Speed limits and restricting jet ski speeds which cause erosion | |
| Great initiative | |
| This is a lovely part of the river for paddling and observing birds and water dragons and a nice 45 minute paddle. | . |
| Reducing speed is definitely needed for safety and quality, but there must not be every removal of use via everyone for anyone. | |
| The vast majority of motor vessel users on the weirs are hoons and if you can't provide rangers to catch them, BAN them altogether. | |
| Lower speed limits protect riverbanks, stopping erosion | |
| Start a stocking program to increase fish numbers in the weir 1 and 2 | |
| I have lived on this section of the Burrum River for over 17 years. Myself, my family members and guests have personally sighted Platypus in this river section on various occasions. I have long been concerned that the Platypus are in danger of propellor strikes and the effect of pollution from petrol boat engines. | |
| Our drinking water supply. | |
| Safety for boat users and swimmers is a huge concern for us as residents. Boats drive much too fast along this stretch of river to see submerged objects and to keep swimmers in the water safe. | |

Q10. "To finish, how did you hear about this engagement? (Optional)"



Crosstabulations

A useful method to determine whether an answer to one question has relevance to the answer of another question is to use a crosstabulation between the two questions.

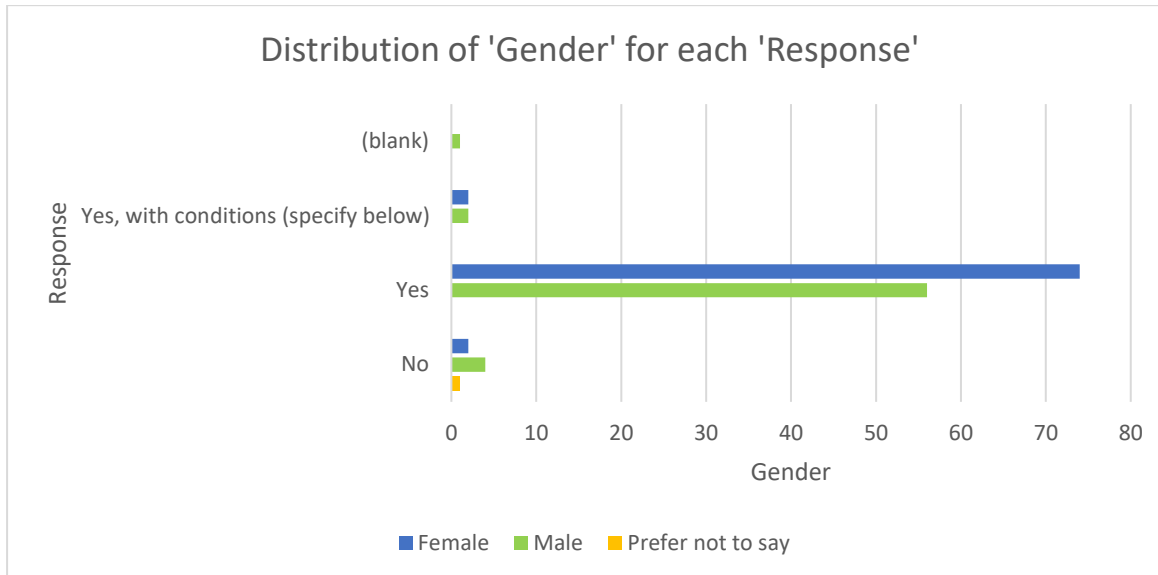
Two crosstabulations considered relevant to this survey are:

- "Gender?" and "Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall?"
- "What is your interest in this engagement project?" and "Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall?"

A calculation was made for a Chi-square correlation, which calculates the likelihood of a relationship between the two variables (i.e gender and response). However, the numbers of 'no' responses were so low that any correlation between expected responses and actual responses was not valid.

Crosstabulation 1: "Gender" and "Would you generally support increased management of watercraft in this section of the Burrum River to maintain water quality, and improve safety of recreational users?"

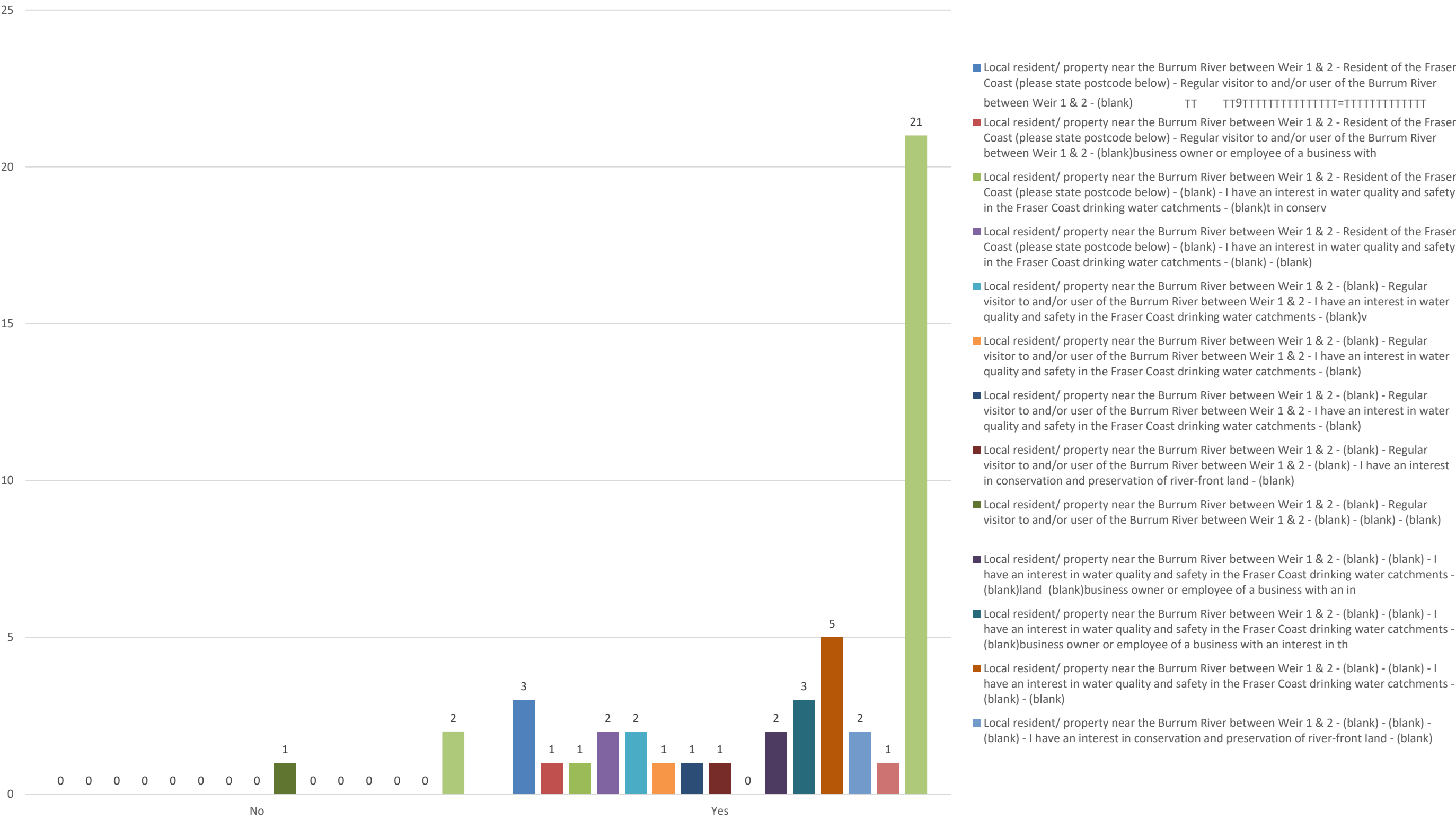
- There may be a correlation between gender and the support for reduction of speed to 6 knots; however the number of 'no' responses is so low that the Chi-Square calculation cannot be performed. However, more males than females did not support the reduction of the speed limit.



Crosstabulation 2: “Interest in this project?” and “Would you be in favour of reducing the speed of watercraft to 6 knots, the same as Lake Lenthall?”

There appears to be a casual relationship between people’s interest in the project and their support to reduce the speed, or lack thereof, for the project. However, the numbers of ‘no’ support is so low as make further analysis irrelevant. See the table on the next page for a graphic depiction.

Crosstab between interest and support



8.2 FACT SHEETS

Frequently Asked Questions and printable PDF of the survey were included in the Document Library.

Burrum River Proposed Speed Changes



QUESTION & ANSWERS

New restrictions proposed for Burrum River Weir 1

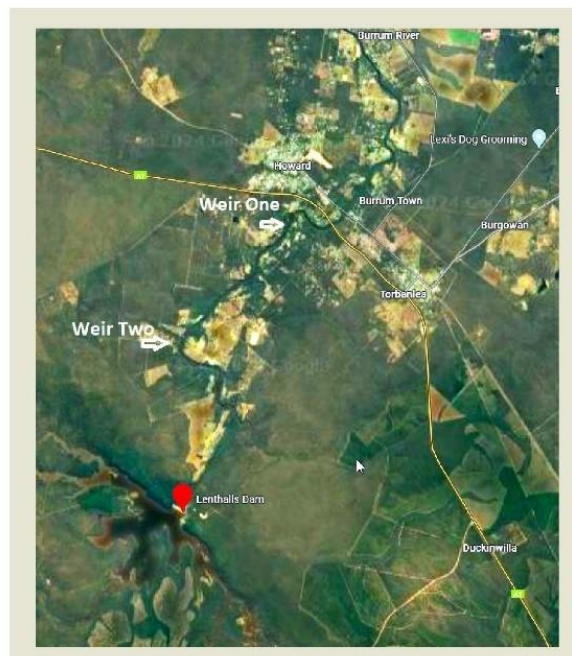
The Fraser Coast Regional Council Planning and Environmental Services team is currently investigating options for the management of boat traffic on Burrum Weir 1.

Q. Isn't the use of the Burrum River regulated by Marine Safety Queensland (MSQ), not Council?

A. In part, yes. However, MSQ have limited resources to police every river in Queensland, and have indicated that if Council, which is responsible for drinking water quality, could also take action to ensure the safety of water users, reduce the turbidity of the water and reduce erosion of the banks, this would help MSQ to undertake compliance activities.

Q. Are there other considerations for watercraft in this section of the Burrum River?

A. Yes. Use of the recreation area where the boat ramp is located is problematic in other ways including illegal camping, lack of toilets, litter, and general safety of swimmers in close proximity to the weir wall (barrage) during overflow events. Fraser Coast Regional Council would like to explore restricting activities, rather than restricting watercraft or recreational use of the river entirely, which is why we are currently considering other control measures.



Q. Have any injuries occurred on this stretch of the Burrum River?

A. Not to date. Rather than waiting until there is an accident or life-threatening injury, Council wishes to implement safety measures which will protect other water-craft users, and swimmers, as well as boat-users from potential hazards such as submerged stumps, slower watercraft, and proximity to structures on the banks which could be dangerous if approached at speed.

For more information visit
www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au



Building better communities together.



Q. How does this section of the river affect our drinking water? Isn't our catchment in Lenthalls Dam?

A. This part of the river forms part of our drinking water catchment and contains our water off-take point just above the barrage wall (approximately 150m from the boat ramp and reserve).
The river is accessed recreationally by a range of watercraft including motorboats, jet skis, kayaks and paddleboards.



Q. Why are you taking away the only part of the Burrum River where boaties can really enjoy themselves?

A. Very few areas of this part of the river are currently able to be legally navigated at 40 knot speeds, due to 'proximity to shore' restrictions (60m for personal watercraft) or 'proximity to built structure' restrictions (30m for boats, 60m for personal watercraft).
Council is happy to work with MSQ to create a safe watercraft environment for recreational users on our drinking water catchments.




For more information visit
www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au



Building better communities together.

8.3 ENGAGEMENT HUB (PROJECT WEBPAGE)

<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/organics-waste-collection>




BURRUM RIVER

Speed Change Proposal

Burrum River Proposed Speed Change

Project Overview



The Fraser Coast Regional Council is currently investigating options for the management of boat traffic on Burrum Weir 1. One option is to introduce a speed limit of 6 knots on the river, which is the limit on Lake Lenthall. There are other options which may also be considered, such as limiting the types of water craft permitted on Burrum Weir 1.

Council is open to exploring ways to manage watercraft which are currently damaging our drinking water catchment on the Burrum River, as part of the implementation of the Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy, endorsed in 2023.

This consultation has now been completed. Please check this page to stay up to date, and select the "Follow Page" on the top right of this page (under the banner) to be notified of any project updates.


Project Document Library

Common Question & Answers

Project Links


Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy 2023-2033

Who to contact



Wide Bay Water

Fraser Coast Regional Council
water@frasercoast.qld.gov.au



Contact for queries about the consultation

Fraser Coast Regional Council Community Engagement
community@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Quick Facts

Partnering with MSQ

Implementing the Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy

Speed limit on Burrum River

Quick Poll

Community Feedback survey for proposed change of speed on Burrum River Weir 1

The community is being encouraged to have a say on proposed changes to management of watercraft on the Burrum River between Weir 1 and Weir 2.


Council is open to exploring ways to manage watercraft which are currently impacting our drinking water catchment on the Burrum River, as part of the implementation of the Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy, adopted by Council in 2023. One of the options is to reduce the maximum speed of watercraft to 6 knots, which is the same as Lake Lenthall, and many other waterways in Queensland.

This survey concludes online at 11:55 pm on Sunday 15 September 2024. If you are not logged onto our Engagement Hub, you will not be notified if you have successfully submitted your responses. You can sign up to the Engagement Hub or sign in to your account at <https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/>

You can print this survey out (see Document Library to download) and submit in hardcopy according to the instructions at the end of the survey questionnaire. Deadline for receipt of printed survey is COB Friday 13 September.

[Take this Survey](#)

Image Gallery



[View all](#)

Submission

Your name*

Your contact number*

Your email*

Subject*

Message*


[Choose a file to upload](#)

(Format: doc, docx, pdf, jpeg, png, mp3)

☐ I'm not a robot

[Send](#)


Latest News/Blog



Survey for proposed speed limit change to Burrum River Weir One has closed

Thank you for your feedback. A report on the community feedback will be forwarded to the project team for consideration.

[Read More >](#)



Have your say on proposed Burrum River Speed Change

Community engagement on proposed speed changes to one section of the Burrum River, between Weir 1 and Weir 2.

[Read More >](#)

Project Timeline

Project Background

8.4 SUBMISSIONS VIA CONTACT FORM AND EMAIL

There were three submissions via the Contact Form on the engagement hub project page. All submissions were responded to, either to encourage filling in the survey, or to answer any questions posed. Three submissions were received during the engagement period.

Sentiment analysis:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Do support change of speed: 2 | Do support change of speed, with conditions: 1 |
|-------------------------------|--|

Wednesday 4 September 2024

A new contact form has been submitted from your portal (<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au>).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Message: Hi, We live on the Burrum River and regularly witness boats speeding past pontoons, including ours, causing erosion and subsidence of the river banks. There are no speed limit signs in the river , other than the ones we have purchased and erected on the banks of our residents. Burrum River needs speed signs erected, just like our suburbs have speed signs, we pay our rates, our boat registration but are forgotten when it comes to river safety of our properties. I trust this can be discussed along with the Weir speed limits at your next convenience.
 Regards [REDACTED]

Response:

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Good morning

Thank you for your submission, this will be included in email submissions in the engagement report.

I encourage to also fill in the survey and/or poll here: <https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/burrum-river-speed-change> if you have not already, so that we may include your sentiments in the data.

Kind regards

Monday 2 September 2024

A new contact form has been submitted from your portal (<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au>).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Message: Lowering speed will help reduce erosion on river bank preserving habitat for river fauna and flora. The proposal would serve to encourage the sensitive use of this waterway in line with its ecological value and its use as important drinking water catchment

Response:

Monday 2 September 2024:

Good morning

Thank you for your submission, this will be included in email submissions in the engagement report.

I encourage to also fill in the survey and/or poll here: <https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/burrum-river-speed-change> if you have not already, so that we may include your sentiments in the data.

Kind regards

Thursday 22 August 2024

A new contact form has been submitted from your portal (<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au>).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Message: My wife and I have had a property on this section of the river for nearly 20 years. There's never been a problem and the boat users we see are infrequent, peaceful and respectful of the river. There is little evidence of erosion caused by boats. THE ONLY time we've seen erosion on our riverbank has been from floodwater from the dam. By all means put a speed limit of 6 km, Nobody needs to be on a hurry on this limited stretch of water. If there's ever a problem then the users or the residents can be informed of who to contact. A sign by the boat ramp should be more than sufficient, not an excuse to harass boat users with speed traps etc.

Attachment : Burrum speed change p2.jpg (page 2 of the survey)

Response:

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Good morning [REDACTED]

Acknowledging your submission to the survey re: the proposed change to the speed on the Burrum River Weir One.

Your response will be added to the engagement report under "submissions". I encourage you to also fill in the survey fully, including part 1, so that we might add your responses to the survey data.

Regards