



Country Mayors Association of NSW

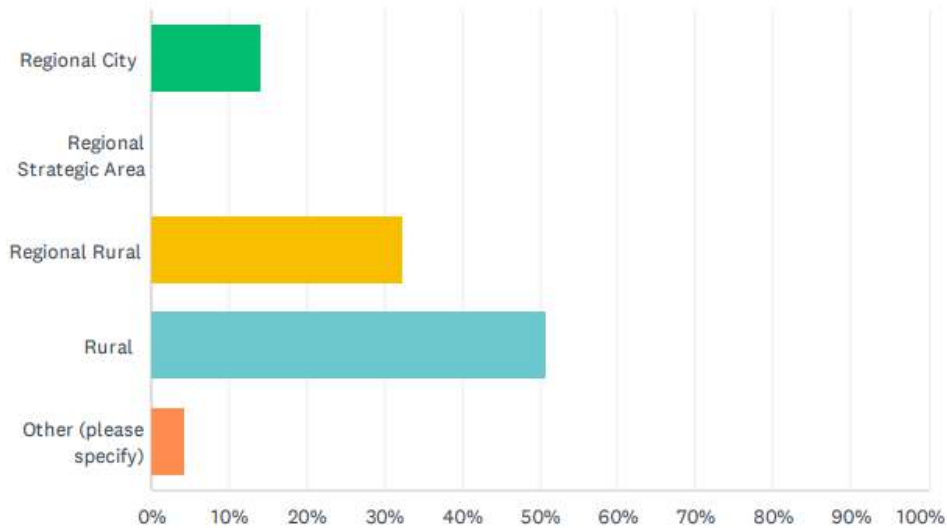
Members Annual Survey

May 2023

NSW Country Mayors Association Survey Results/Data

Q1 Tick your Local Government Area Category (refer to LG Remuneration Tribunal Categories)

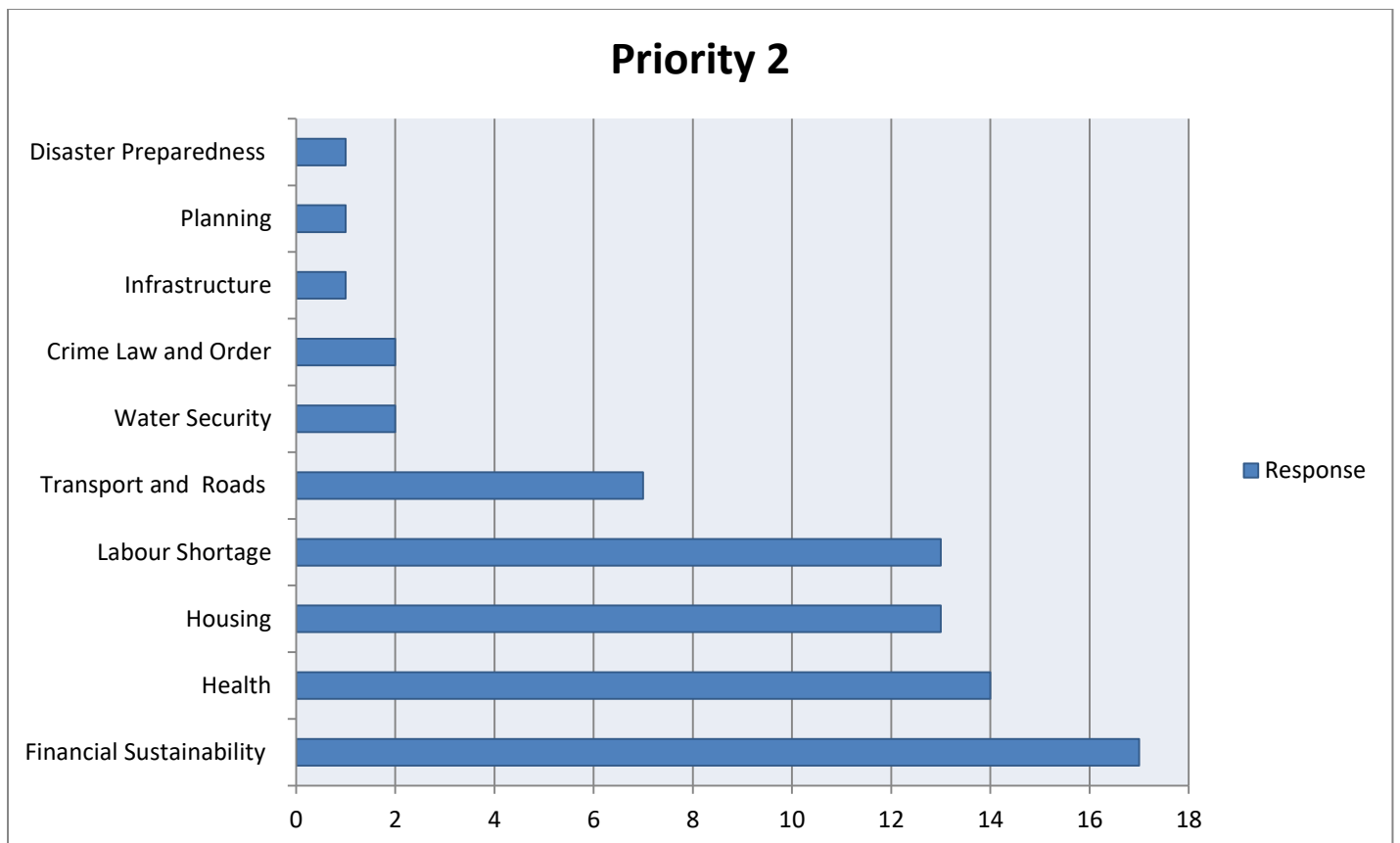
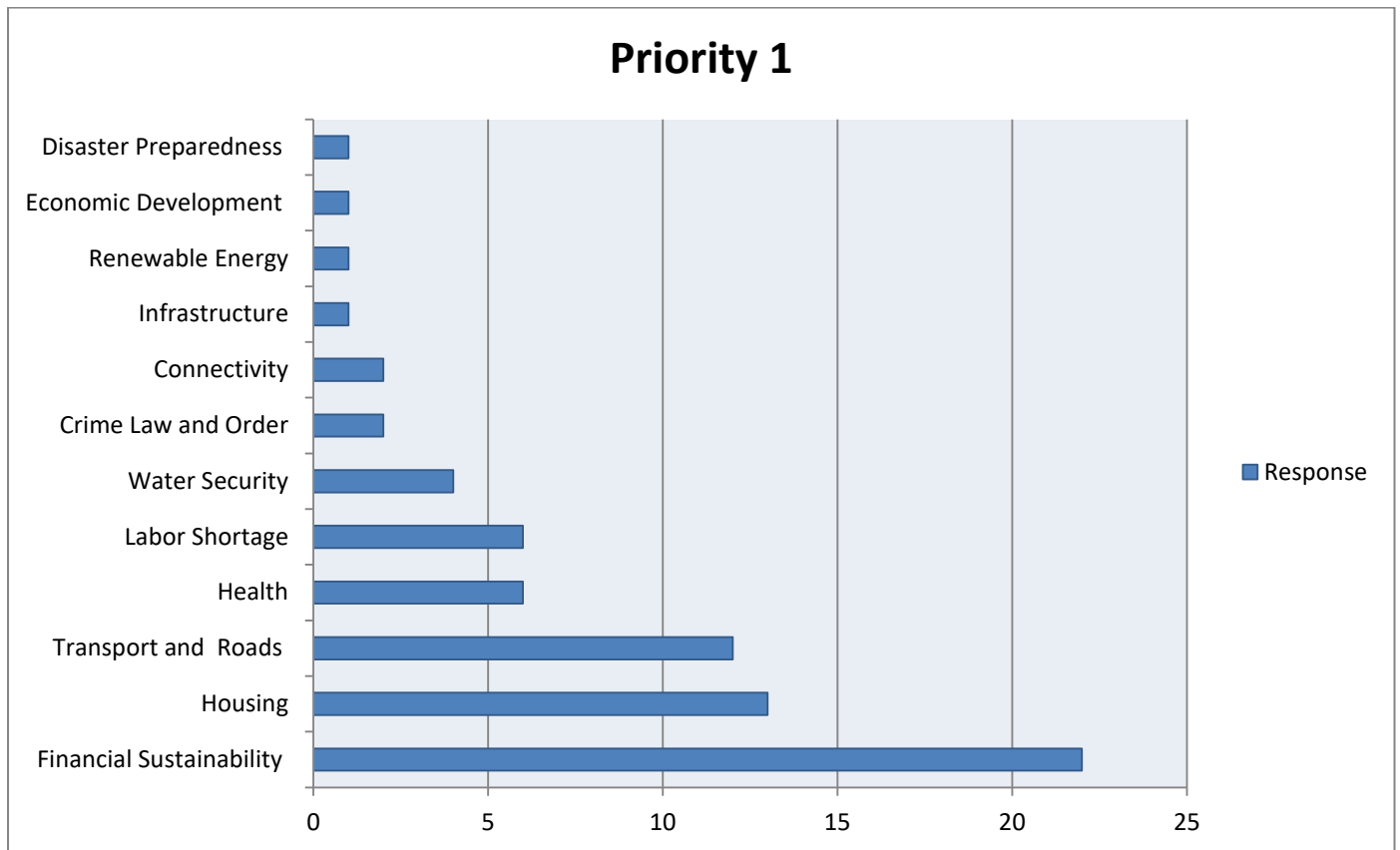
Answered: 71 Skipped: 0



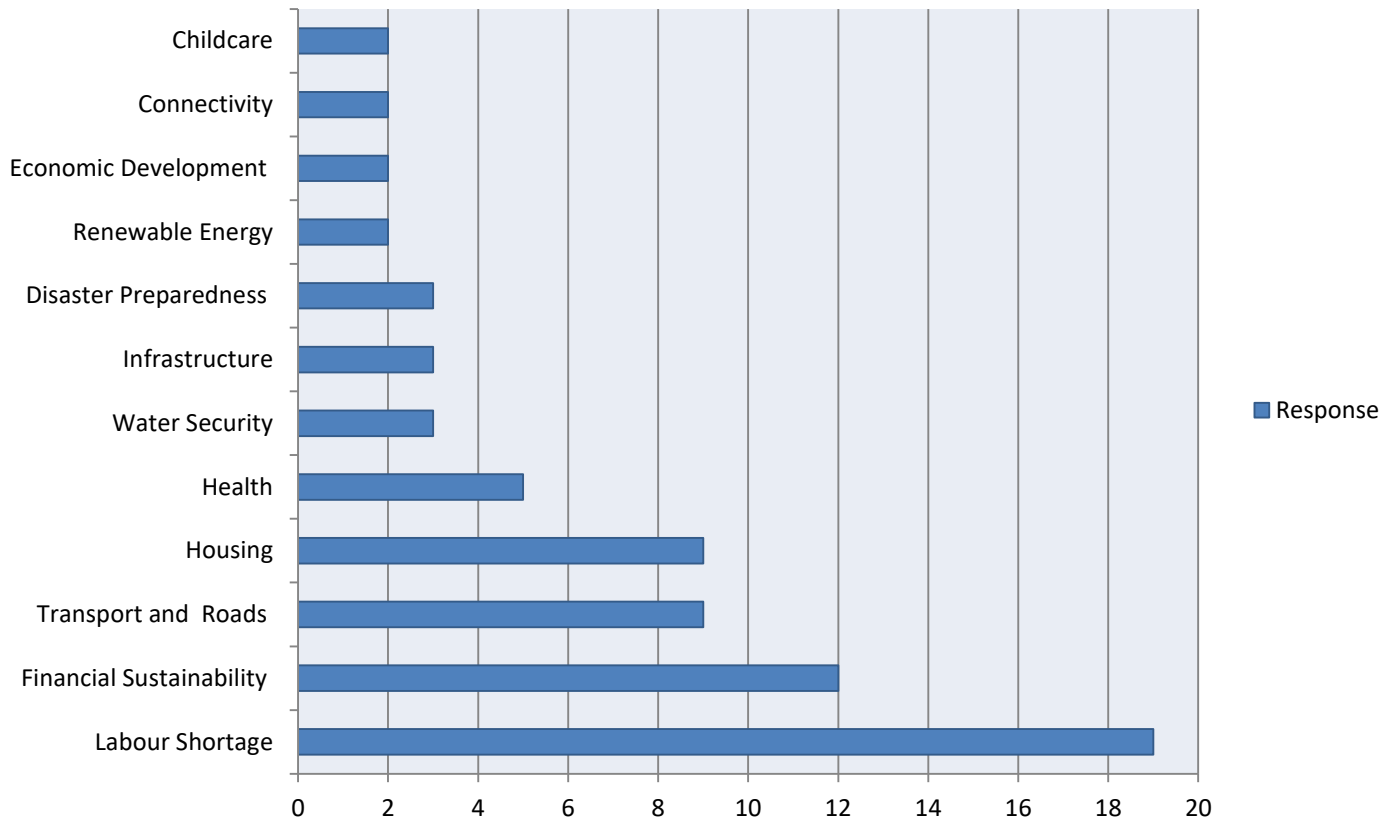
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Regional City	14.08% 10
Regional Strategic Area	0.00% 0
Regional Rural	32.39% 23
Rural	50.70% 36
Other (please specify)	4.23% 3
Total Respondents: 71	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Regional Centre	5/17/2023 2:38 PM
2	Rural Large	5/16/2023 3:59 PM
3	Regional Centre	4/24/2023 2:51 PM

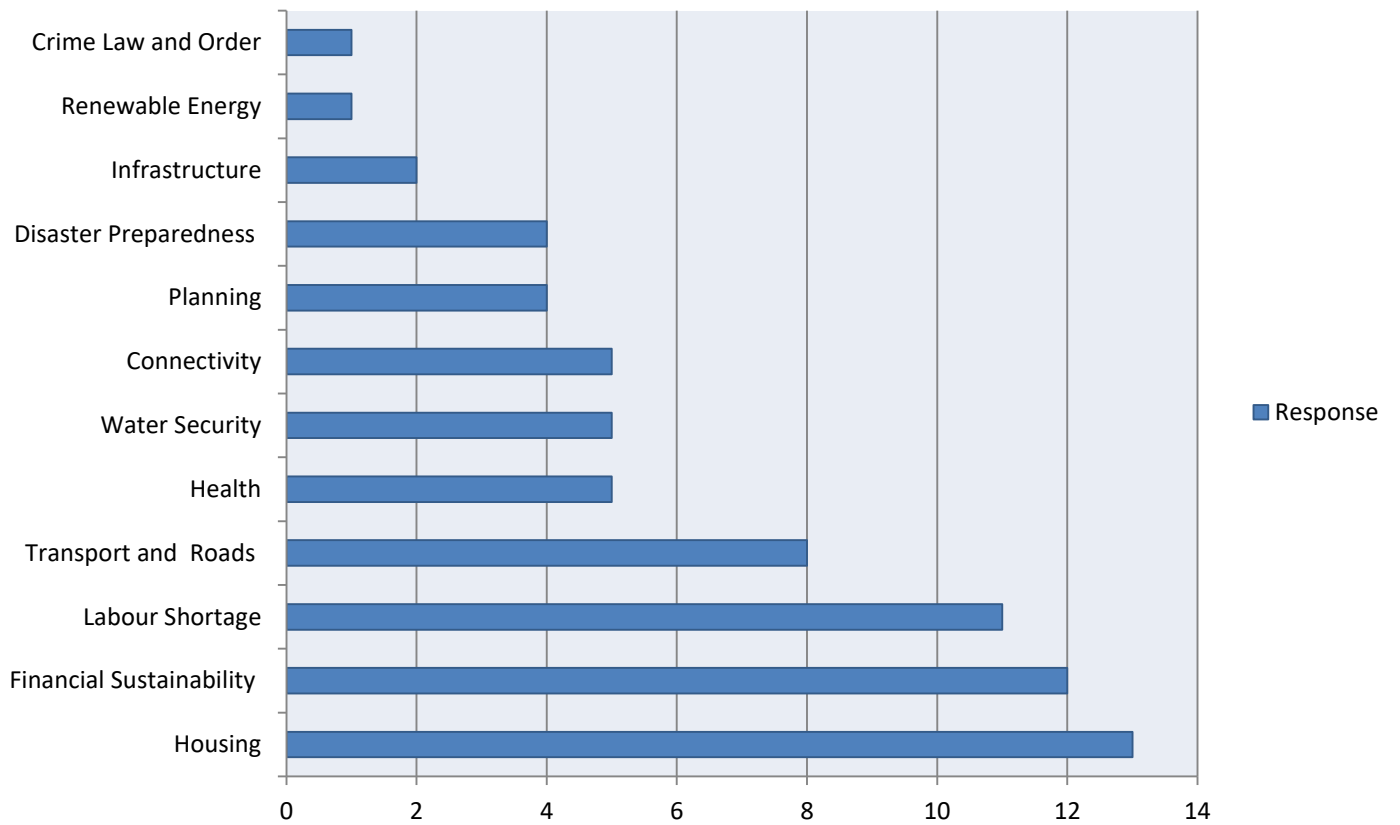
Q2 List and rank the top five issues currently affecting your Local Government Area:



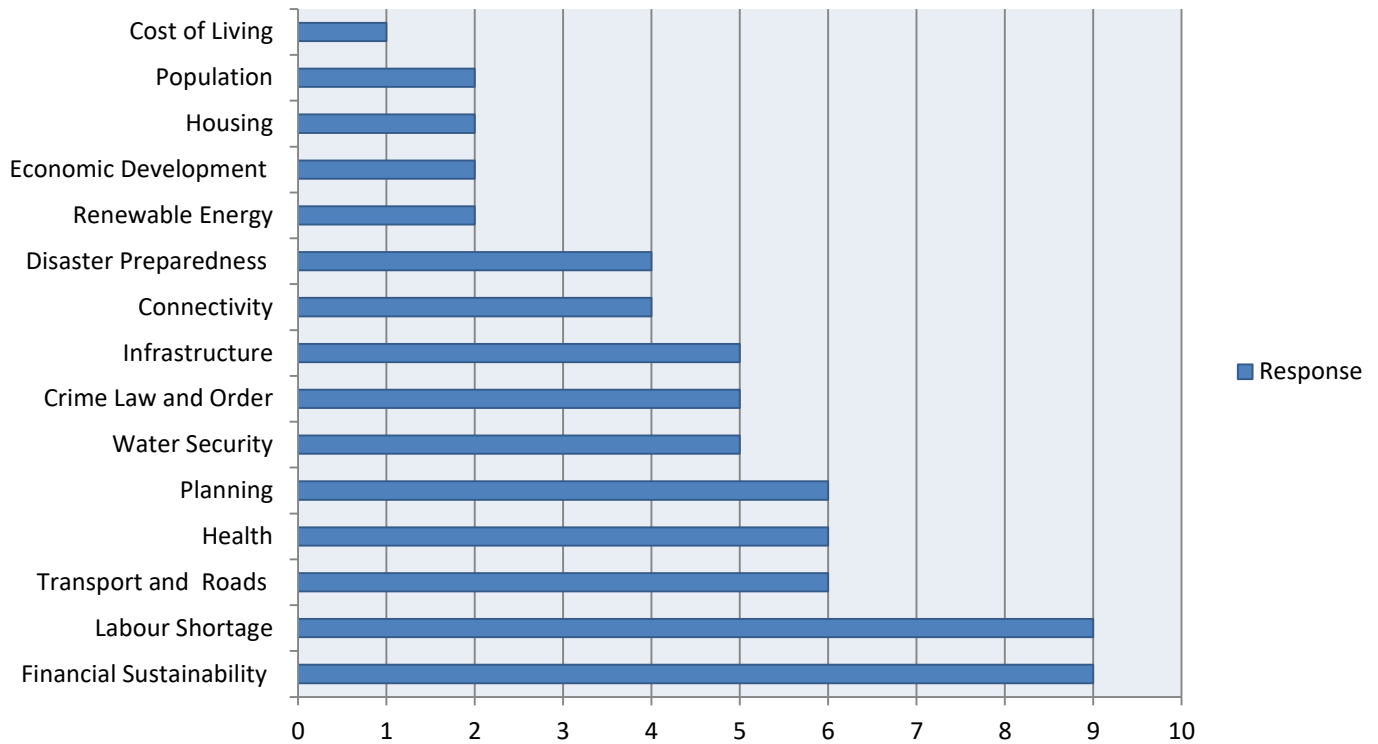
Priority 3



Priority 4



Priority 5



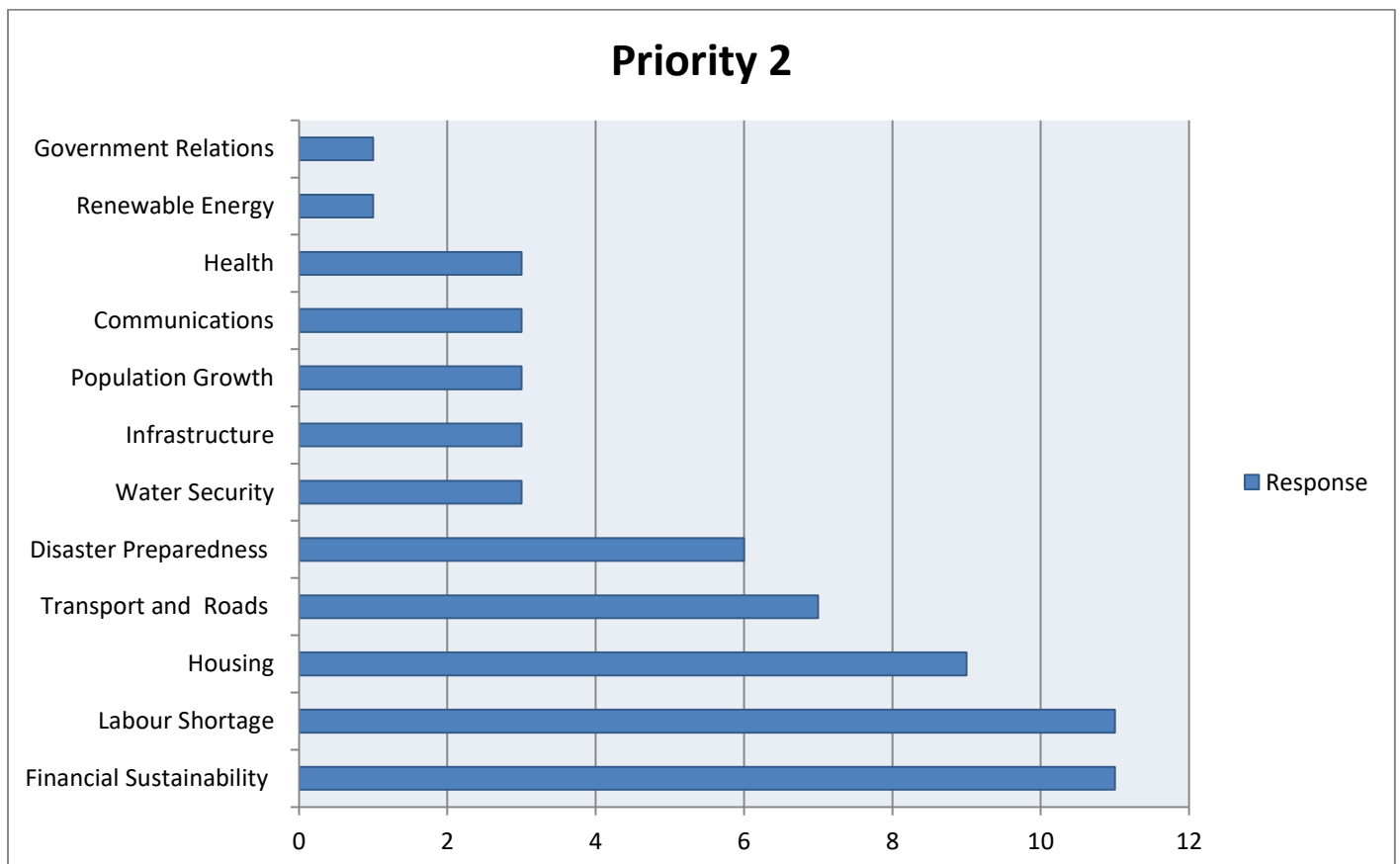
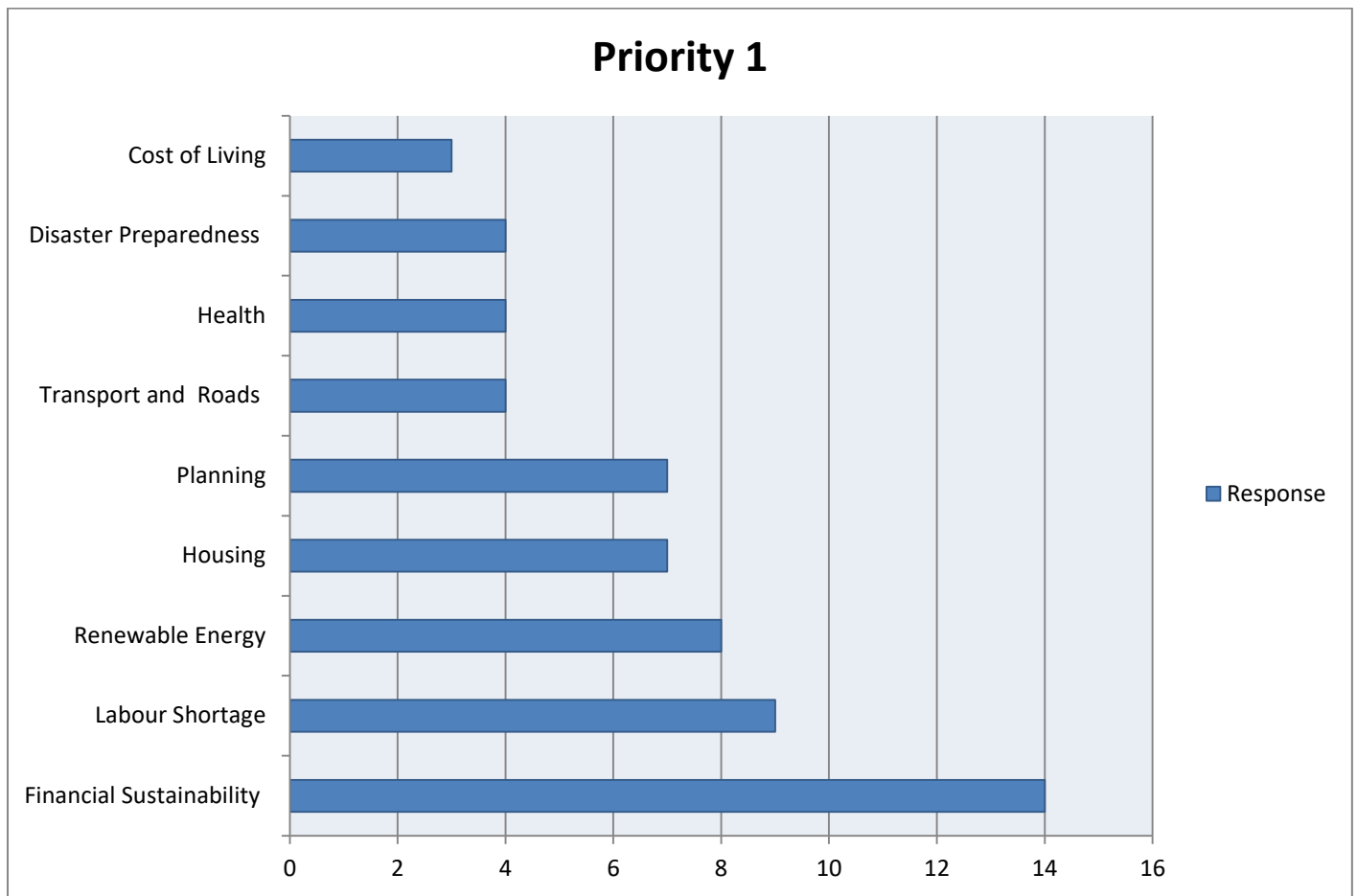
Ranking of Top 5 Current Issues



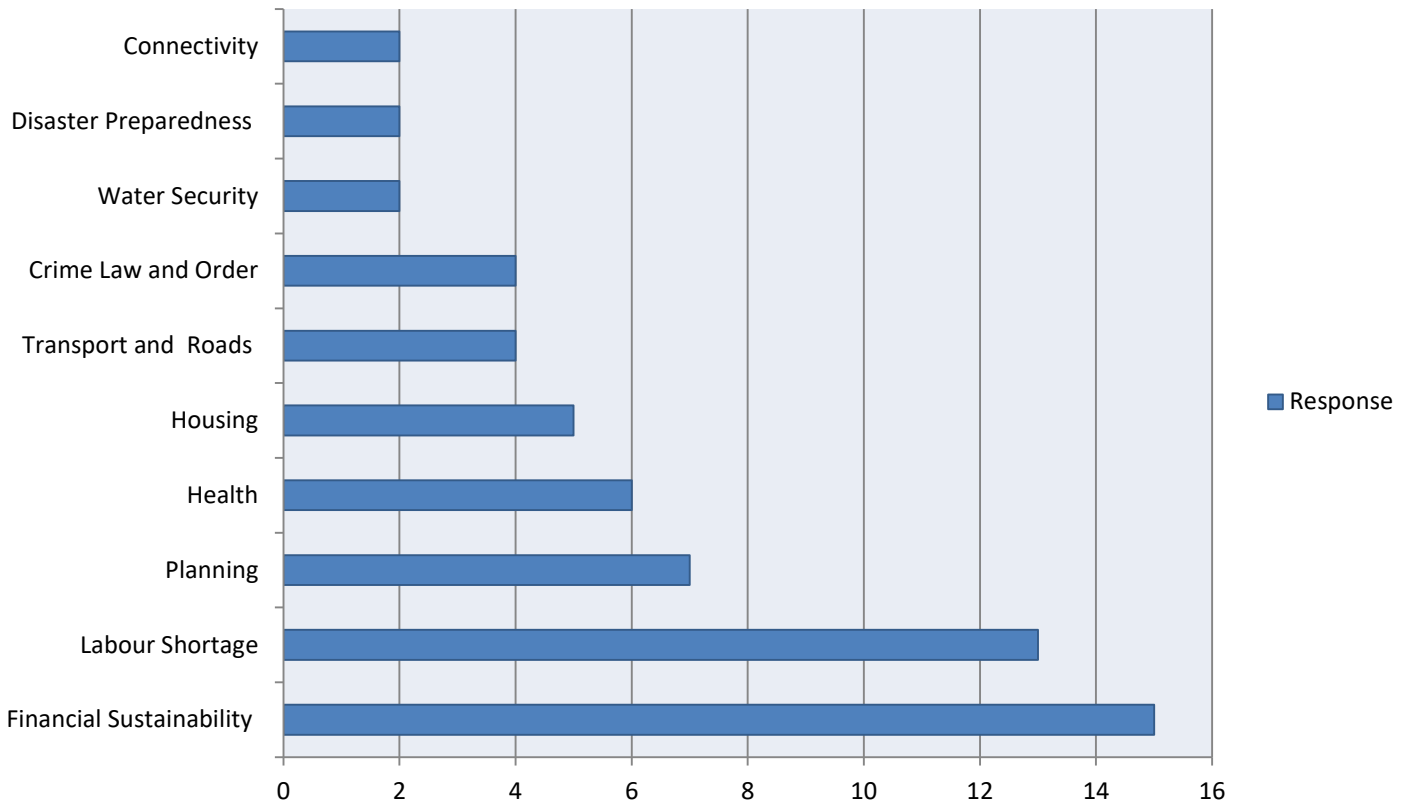
Calculation of Weighting System

Priority 1 received 100% value, priority 2 received 80% value, priority 3 received 60% value, priority 4 received 40% value and priority 5 received 20% value. The percentage value shown on the graph is calculated by adding the weighted average divided by the sum of priorities.

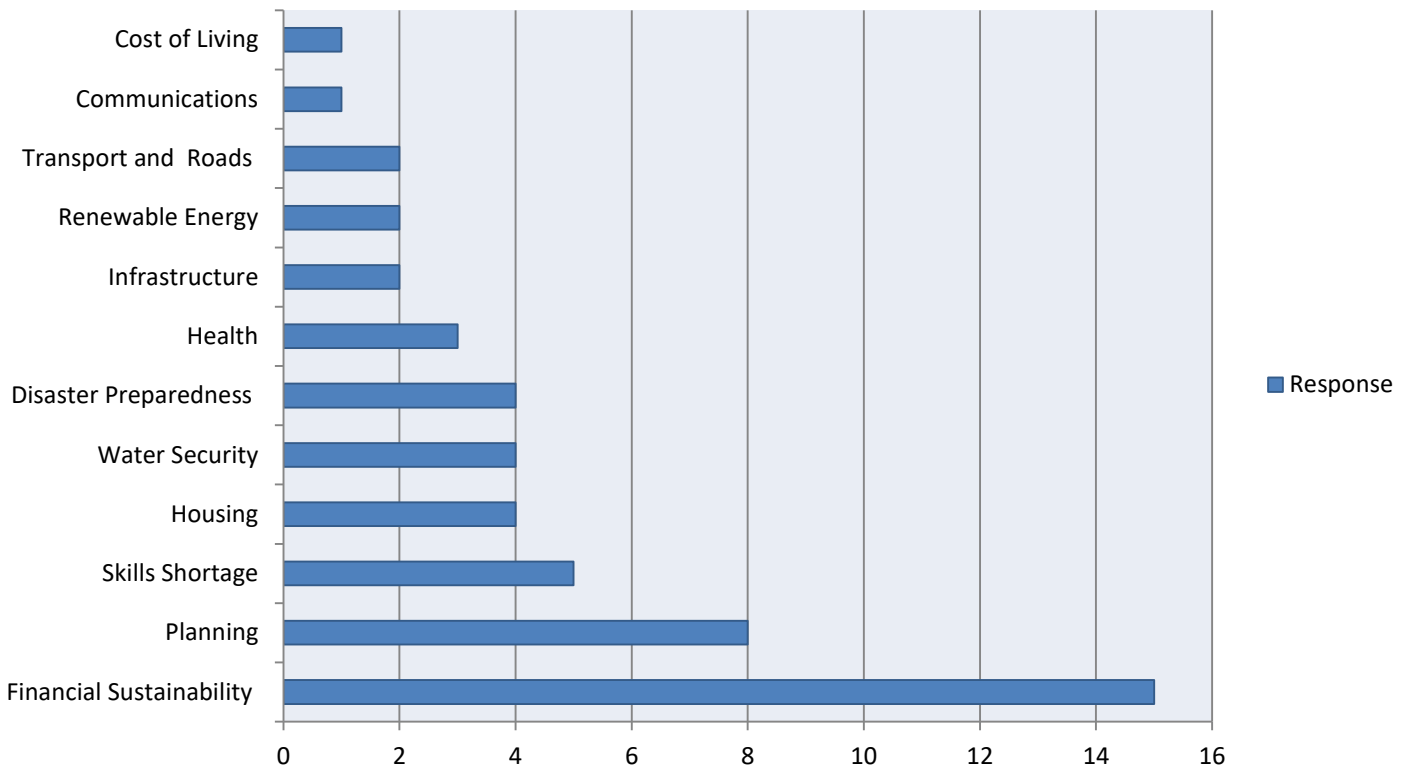
Q3 List and rank emerging issues affecting your Local Government Area:



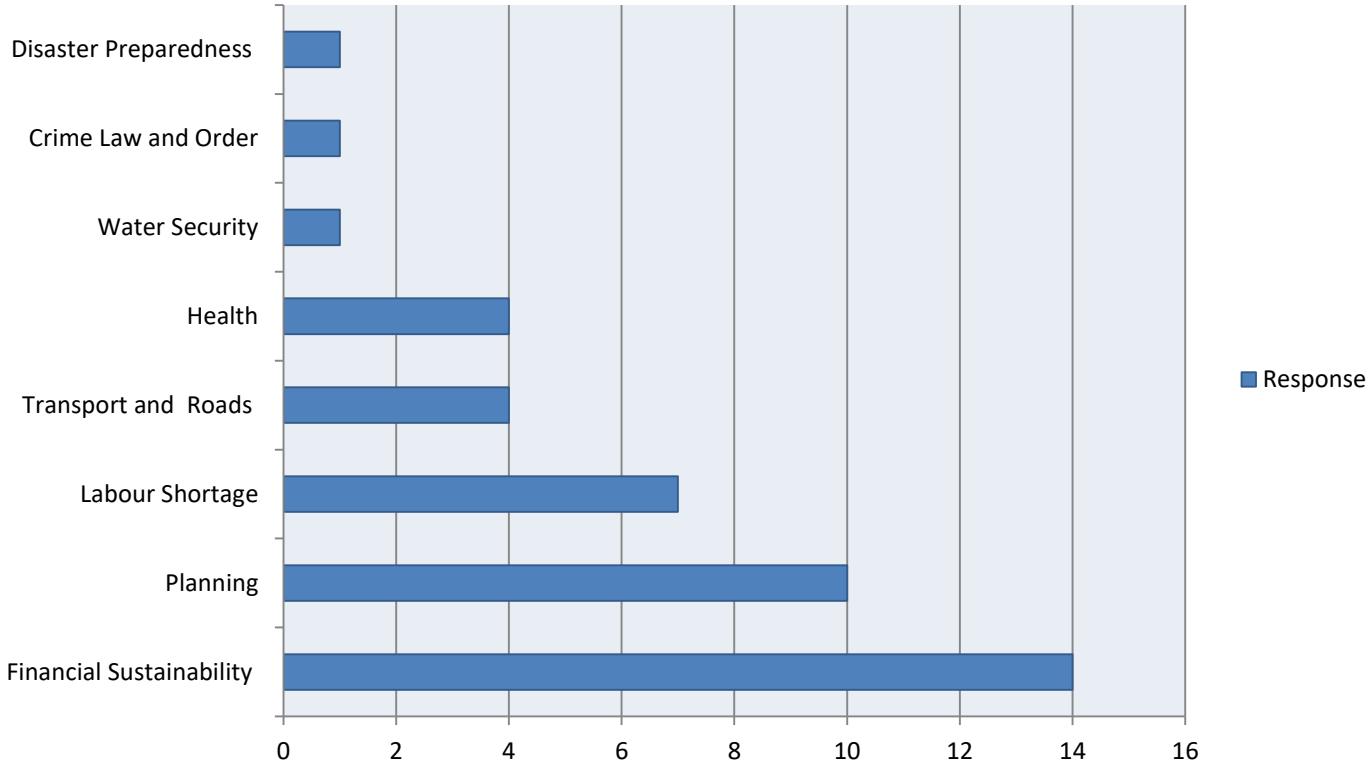
Priority 3



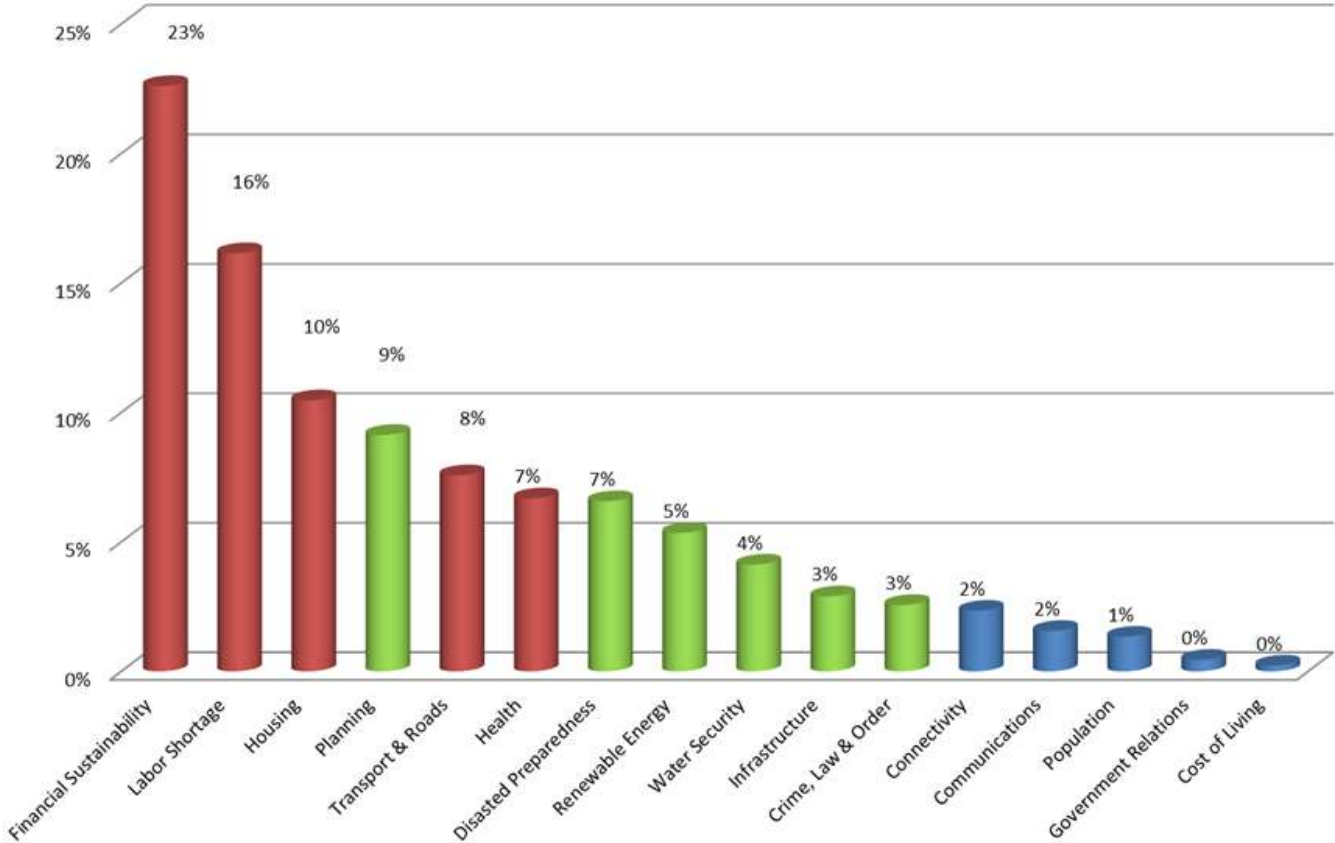
Priority 4



Priority 5

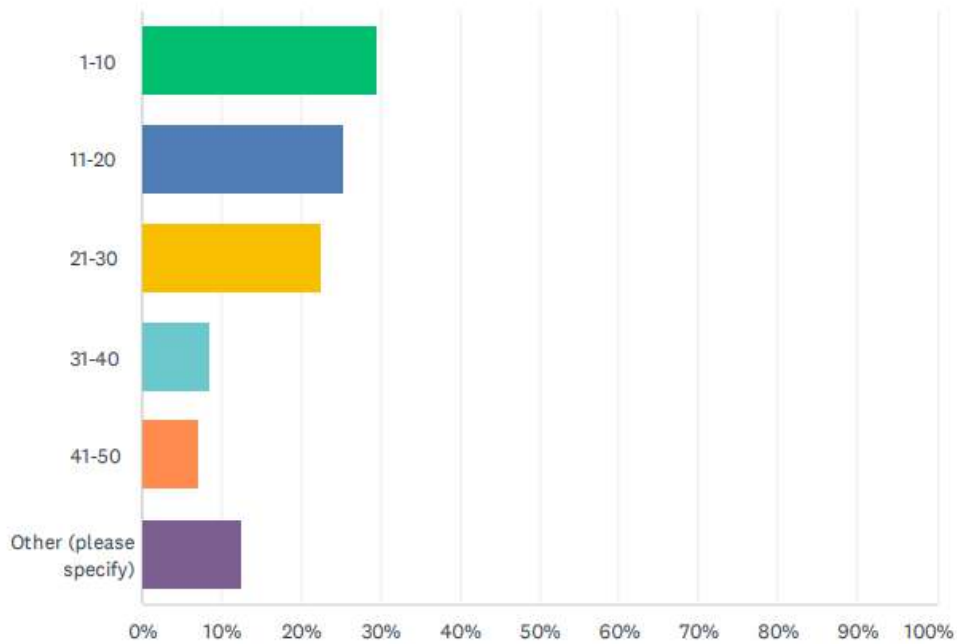


Relative Importance of Emerging Issues



Q4 Tick the category below that best represents the number of positions vacant at your Council:

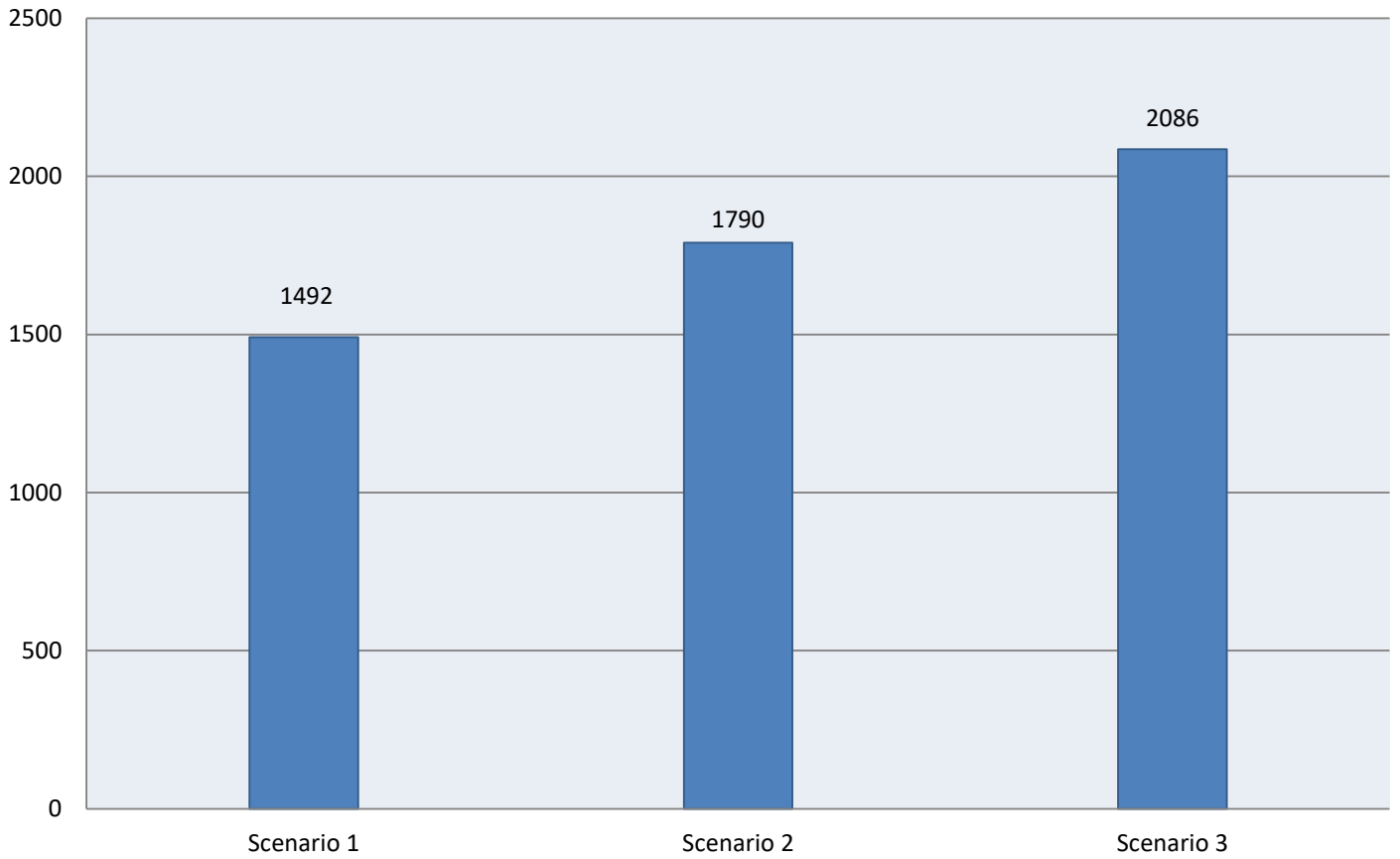
Answered: 71 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-10	29.58%	21
11-20	25.35%	18
21-30	22.54%	16
31-40	8.45%	6
41-50	7.04%	5
Other (please specify)	12.68%	9
Total Respondents: 71		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Closer to 10 than 1	5/19/2023 12:26 PM
2	Professional staff in engineering and planning - impossible	5/19/2023 8:58 AM
3	FTE 106	5/17/2023 6:08 PM
4	Around 70	5/8/2023 3:23 PM
5	70+	5/2/2023 10:33 AM
6	North of 50	5/1/2023 2:38 PM
7	160	4/26/2023 2:01 PM
8	We have been innovative and adapted to attract and retain staff	4/24/2023 8:15 PM
9	80	4/24/2023 2:49 PM

Regional NSW Vacancies in Local Government



Explanation

Scenario 1

Lesser value of each category plus the value of other responses

Scenario 2

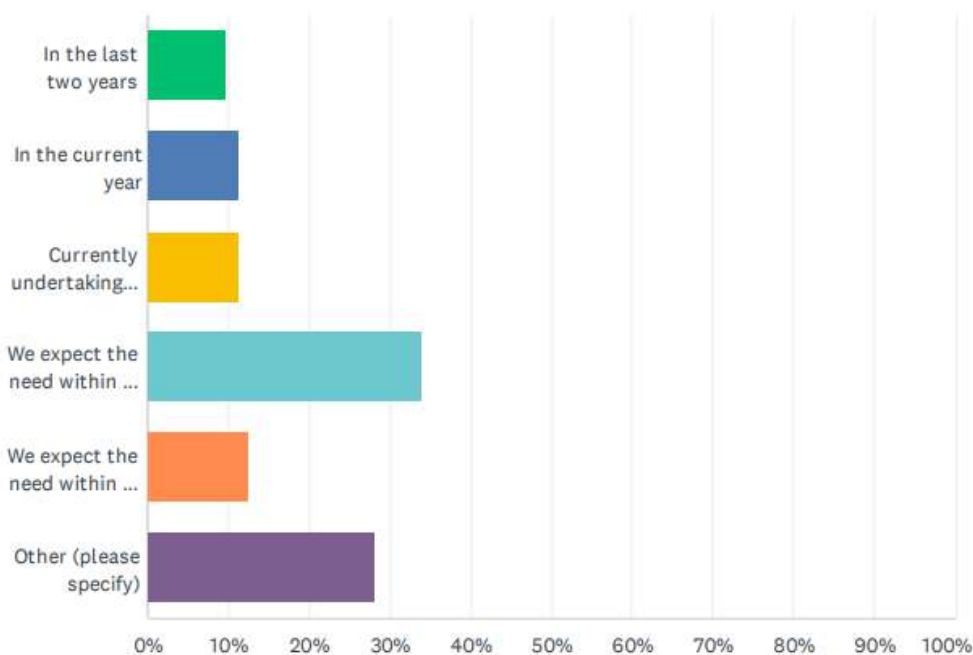
Mid value of each category plus the value of other responses

Scenario 3

Full value of each category plus the value of other responses

Q5 Has your Council undertaken a Special Rate Variation:

Answered: 71 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
In the last two years	9.86% 7
In the current year	11.27% 8
Currently undertaking community consultation	11.27% 8
We expect the need within the next three years	33.80% 24
We expect the need within the next five years	12.68% 9
Other (please specify)	28.17% 20
Total Respondents: 71	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Never	5/19/2023 9:31 AM
2	It is being considered but no timeline determined at this point	5/18/2023 9:17 PM
3	Working on other alternatives to SRV, such as increasing own source revenue, changing levels of service, service reviews on every function to see what we can get out of especially things previously downloaded by State, Seeing if we can deliver on condition based depreciation as an alternative.	5/18/2023 11:40 AM
4	Awaiting outcome	5/17/2023 6:08 PM
5	currently not considering SRV	5/15/2023 9:55 AM
6	not envisaged at this stage	5/9/2023 8:33 AM
7	In the process of applying for SRV	5/8/2023 4:46 PM
8	Specific purpose for levee with reversion to prior rates	5/8/2023 3:23 PM
9	Have applied for 50% currently being assessed	5/8/2023 9:18 AM

10	Maybe in the next 10 years.	5/7/2023 8:02 PM
11	Yes. SRV approved on 1 May 2019. We are currently in year 4 of a 5 year SRV cumulative increase of 76%	5/2/2023 10:21 AM
12	5 years ago we did a large, 33.5% over four years increase	5/1/2023 1:53 PM
13	Not required	4/27/2023 9:34 AM
14	no	4/26/2023 10:08 AM
15	Application with IPART for 23/24	4/24/2023 2:49 PM
16	Never	4/24/2023 1:38 PM
17	No	4/24/2023 1:37 PM
18	Rate Base is very small, Council has not considered an SVR	4/20/2023 2:37 PM
19	Not being actively considered	4/20/2023 2:17 PM
20	Mostly likely within the next 10 years	4/19/2023 1:56 PM

Q6 Please provide any detailed information you feel is relevant for the Executive of Country Mayors Association to consider for future advocacy on behalf of our membership

Answered: 39 Skipped: 32

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The eight key priorities are supported with our addition of impact of REZ construction and transmission line upgrades and new routes.	5/19/2023 12:26 PM
2	Perhaps pre-plan questions of politicians so that they are focused on the wider state instead of individual council issues.	5/19/2023 11:52 AM
3	The new REZ is creating all sorts of challenges that need addressing immediately	5/19/2023 9:31 AM
4	Making sure the new state gov understands the importance of supporting rural communities - its not about politics its about sustaining the standard of living for all residents in the state	5/19/2023 8:58 AM
5	Appears to be a lack of engagement with local governments from the State Government. Local Government deserves to be respected, the lack of responsiveness is very frustrating.	5/18/2023 5:12 PM
6	Overhaul of the Local Government Act Changes to the sustainability ratios to include FAGS as own source revenue	5/18/2023 11:40 AM
7	Remove the Rate Peg and let elected community representatives decide	5/15/2023 5:36 PM
8	The Government's response to the ESL is very concerning. All indications from both sides of politics lead many councils to believe that action would be taken to remove the ESL and explore proper funding models for the RFS and SES moving forward. The failure to do so amounts to misleading (at best) information from both sides of politics. Perhaps this fact needs to be put into the media and CM Executive should advocate to make the government stand accountable for their failure to act on their commitment.	5/15/2023 3:53 PM
9	The Alliance model for tFNSW road upgrades with passing lanes appears flawed. Interstate and out of area crews and equipment were engaged over the use of pre qualified council crews. the rework on most sections must have outstripped the projected savings .	5/15/2023 9:55 AM
10	ESL RFS accounting	5/11/2023 9:13 AM
11	Crown land surrounding our towns and villages is impeding the release of new land for residential housing while biodiversity credits further increase the cost of developing land which already exceeds the price the market will pay for residential land. The lack of available housing is preventing businesses for expanding and we have examples of existing business opening new facilities in larger towns and cities because they cannot find housing for new employees in our shire where the main business is located.	5/11/2023 8:11 AM
12	ESL and other cost shifting. Waste levy to be return to Council to enable recycling options. Use buffer zone for new job opportunities.	5/9/2023 7:57 PM
13	We have to remain a country-based association and endeavor to have all country councils on our membership.	5/9/2023 11:33 AM
14	As a small council that runs aged care, we accept that we are in the minority of issues faced by Local Govt. However at present this is our toughest issue to manage and is important for our community.	5/9/2023 8:33 AM
15	To ensure that no matter the population changes in rural and regional that support for those areas is critical moving forward for the entire states future	5/8/2023 3:23 PM
16	Continue to seek appropriate representation to peak bodies and to collaborate with other rural memberships of similar roles in the other states.	5/8/2023 1:07 PM
17	Most rural towns have a lack of affordable or social housing for skilled labour & the	5/8/2023 12:37 PM

disadvantaged.

18	Bio-diversity offset is making it very difficult to progress development.	5/8/2023 10:06 AM
19	Cost shifting and inequity between councils with rate income and service they deliver.	5/8/2023 9:22 AM
20	Ongoing reliance on grants in small rural councils is a double edge sword - we finally receive grant funds for roads works and infrastructure that our community expects but we have difficulty gearing our organisation to recruit the necessary staff and compete with larger regional and city councils nearby. Variability in grant funding programs makes it difficult to plan ahead long term -this impacts projections for the LTFP and ability to deliver on community expectations in the CSP	5/2/2023 10:21 AM
21	TBA	5/1/2023 6:22 PM
22	Getting the FAG back to 1% Local government Code of Conduct having far more teeth. Advocacy for resilience and emergency services funding.	5/1/2023 2:38 PM
23	Better use of statistics for growth and financial support from government support , and to STOP shift moving of \$\$\$ to local government without the support mechanisms	5/1/2023 1:53 PM
24	Continue to strongly advocate for a change to the Emergency Services Levy - i.e. remove from our notional rate income.	4/28/2023 9:05 AM
25	use of crown lands JO and better resourcing for OLG to support LG	4/27/2023 4:24 PM
26	Impacts of REZ in regional NSW and the need to advocate on our behalf for Planning Agreements	4/27/2023 9:34 AM
27	Shortfall in education places in schools and preschools	4/26/2023 2:01 PM
28	Utmost importance at a minimum to retain the Resource for Regions grant program as is, if not increased (including current distribution matrix / model)	4/24/2023 8:15 PM
29	Federal Assistance Grants	4/24/2023 7:56 PM
30	Public transport	4/24/2023 4:58 PM
31	The cost shifting from the state is a major issue and the impact of a new government is currently unknown. The rural areas are unique and need special consideration as a pure economic approach to funding will always favour urban areas. There needs to be a recognition of this.	4/24/2023 2:49 PM
32	Lets provide some solutions to the NSW Government to our issues, not just problems	4/24/2023 2:49 PM
33	Strengthen pharmacies roles in providing primary health care to regional communities Continue to improve roads infrastructure and safety Provide better rail passenger services for country people Improve health outcomes for country people	4/24/2023 1:51 PM
34	E S L	4/24/2023 1:38 PM
35	Continue to build relationships with both state and federal governments. Keep nsw government to account around supporting regional nsw as a whole	4/24/2023 1:37 PM
36	We seem to be on a constant merry-go-round. The problems relating to the whole funding model (income) don't look like they'll ever be addressed. In particular, regional and rural LGAs are facing challenges that surpass those of the past by a considerable margin. (The age-old trick of using financial sustainability issues to push through amalgamations is now well known, so a State Government won't be able to try that on too soon.) Until a real review of income, that supplies tangible improvements to LG sustainability, is undertaken and then recommendations ADOPTED, not just cherry-picked, I cannot see change for the better. LG is in crisis management mode and the other two levels of government seem to be in denial.	4/20/2023 12:10 PM
37	Adequate remuneration for councillors so they can dedicate the time required to perform their duties as is being demanded as a councillor without the pressures of needing to work other jobs to sustain themselves and their families	4/20/2023 11:35 AM
38	As renewable energy projects sweep the rural areas State and Federal Governments have not kept pace with this change. This is leading to massive land use and social conflict in this area. I would like to see this form part of CMS' advocacy.	4/20/2023 6:29 AM
39	Grant funding for our members to reduce the financial pressures and enable delivery of services to our community	4/19/2023 1:56 PM

END OF REPORT