Resident perceptions of Council spending 2025-26

Overview In 2025-26, the Resident Satisfaction Survey included five new questions asking residents whether they considered the amount Council spends on selected service areas to be too much, about right or too little. The tables provides the first-year results and an additional breakdown by respondent location.

Percentages for Too much, About right and Too little exclude respondents who selected Don't know. The number of valid responses therefore varies by service area. Location results, particularly for village areas, should be interpreted with caution because respondent numbers are small.

District-wide results

Service area	Too much	About right	Too little	Valid responses	Don't know
Water management: water supply, wastewater and stormwater	10%	73%	17%	256	200 (44%)
Waste and rubbish disposal services	6%	78%	16%	301	155 (34%)
Roads, footpaths and cycleways	6%	40%	54%	332	124 (27%)
Parks, reserves and sportsgrounds	6%	86%	8%	307	149 (33%)
Libraries, pools, public toilets, halls and other Council-owned facilities	20%	72%	8%	320	136 (30%)

Key observations

- Across four of the five service areas, the majority of respondents who expressed a view considered Council spending to be about right.
- Roads, footpaths and cycleways was the exception: 54% considered spending to be too little, while 40% considered it about right.
- Parks, reserves and sportsgrounds had the highest proportion considering spending about right (86%), followed by waste and rubbish disposal services (78%).
- Libraries, pools, public toilets, halls and other Council-owned facilities had the highest proportion considering spending to be too much (20%).
- The proportion selecting Don't know ranged from 27% for roads, footpaths and cycleways to 44% for water management.

Results by location

The table below shows the distribution of views among respondents who expressed an opinion. Each cell is shown as Too much / About right / Too little. “Don't know” responses are excluded from the percentages.

Service area	Feilding	Rural Northern	Rural Southern	Village Northern	Village Southern
Water management: water supply, wastewater and stormwater	7% / 80% / 13% (n=159)	22% / 52% / 26% (n=23)	9% / 68% / 23% (n=53)	18% / 64% / 18% (n=11)	30% / 40% / 30% (n=10)
Waste and rubbish disposal services	6% / 88% / 6% (n=176)	3% / 69% / 28% (n=29)	6% / 65% / 29% (n=69)	13% / 53% / 33% (n=15)	0% / 58% / 42% (n=12)
Roads, footpaths and cycleways	6% / 44% / 50% (n=187)	9% / 28% / 63% (n=32)	2% / 39% / 59% (n=85)	13% / 31% / 56% (n=16)	8% / 25% / 67% (n=12)
Parks, reserves and sportsgrounds	5% / 87% / 8% (n=178)	9% / 82% / 9% (n=33)	4% / 89% / 7% (n=74)	17% / 75% / 8% (n=12)	20% / 80% / 0% (n=10)
Libraries, pools, public toilets, halls and other Council-owned facilities	21% / 71% / 8% (n=192)	21% / 76% / 3% (n=34)	14% / 76% / 10% (n=71)	31% / 62% / 8% (n=13)	30% / 70% / 0% (n=10)

What the location breakdown indicates

- Roads, footpaths and cycleways was the service area most commonly viewed as receiving too little spending across every location. The proportion ranged from 50% in Feilding to 67% in Village Southern among respondents who expressed a view.
- For parks, reserves and sportsgrounds, “about right” was the dominant response in every location, ranging from 75% in Village Northern to 89% in Rural Southern.
- Perceptions of water management and waste and rubbish disposal show more variation between Feilding and rural/village respondents. These differences should be treated as indicative only because of the smaller respondent bases outside Feilding.
- For libraries, pools, public toilets, halls and other Council-owned facilities, “about right” remained the most common response in every location, although around 20% of valid responses district-wide considered spending to be too much.

Response base

The survey included 456 respondents: Feilding 253, Rural Northern 51, Rural Southern 115, Village Northern 18 and Village Southern 19. Because “Don't know” responses are excluded from the percentages above, the valid response base shown in each cell is lower and varies by question.