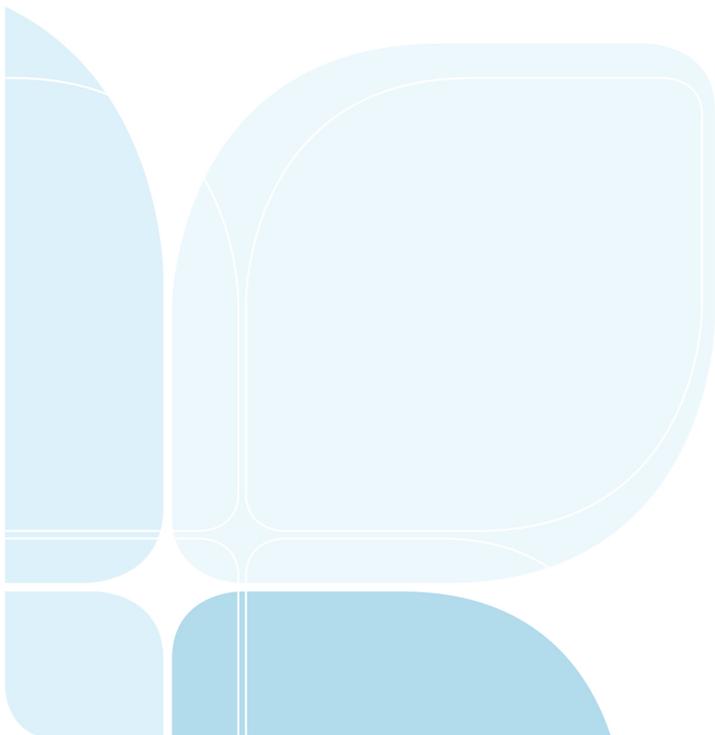




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Services

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Western Local Land Services



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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing March 2021. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a survey of Aboriginal people in the Western Local Land Services region. The objectives of the survey were to:

1. inform Western Local Land Services about Aboriginal issues in relation to Country;
2. understand the awareness of Western Local Land Services amongst Aboriginal people and identify preferred methods of engagement;
3. provide benchmarks for key performance indicators identified in the Western Local Land Services Strategic Plan; and
4. compare the findings of the 2020 survey with that of the previous 2017 survey.

Characteristics of Aboriginal people completing the survey

Forty-eight percent of people in the survey were male, the average age was 45 years and 49% of people lived in Brewarrina and Bourke.

People had lived in their local area for an average of 35 years, with 53% of people having lived in their local area all their life.

Twenty percent of people were employed, which was significantly less than the 39% who reported they were employed in 2017.

Knowledge and access to Country

Eighty-seven percent of all people knew who the Traditional custodians were of the Country on which they lived, which was significantly higher than the 74% reported in 2017.

In addition, 81% of people also indicated that they knew of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in their local area, which was significantly less than the 93% reported in 2017.

A third of all people (60%) indicated they had access to Country.

Those with access to Country were more likely to be males (68%) than females (53%) with relatively younger people more likely to have access to Country than older people. Furthermore, those people who were employed were more likely to have access to Country than those people who were not employed.

Sixty-five percent of people indicated that if they were given access to rural properties they would want to know more about Country.

Looking after Country through employment and training

Of those people who were employed, 47% indicated their work involved looking after Country.

Only 10% of people had undertaken any training in the last three years which involved looking after Country.

Involvement in looking after Country

Forty-eight percent of all people indicated that in the last 12 months they had undertaken activities which involved looking after Country. Those employed were more likely to be involved in looking after Country than those who were not employed.

The three most common activities through which people had been involved in looking after Country were through NAIDOC activities, community events and through Traditional Owner groups.

Amongst those people who had *not* been involved in looking after Country in the last 12 months, the most reported reasons for *not* being involved in looking after Country were that they hadn't 'heard of any activities'; that 'nothing ever happens'; that they did not have enough time or were too busy; or that they didn't have any transport.

When people were asked if they thought “the level of involvement by Aboriginal people in caring for Country in this area was very good”, 26% agreed with the statement and 44% disagreed. This percentage was lower than that found in the 2017 survey, where 46% were found to agree with this statement.

In addition, although 27% of people believed the level of involvement with Aboriginal people in caring for Country in the area was better than it was three years ago; 41% also disagreed with this statement and 32% expressed no opinion.

Sharing traditional land management practices

Forty-eight percent of people had been involved in sharing traditional land management practices in the last 12 months, with the most common practices being ‘sharing yarns’ (39%), using bush medicines (35%), telling stories (32%) and collecting bush tucker (31%).

Issues affecting Country

People identified issues related to water, including fish populations and the use and quality of water as the most important issues affecting Country. This included the loss of fish populations (62%), lack of water (61%) and water quality (60%).

Engagement with Local Land Services

Thirty-percent of people had heard of “Western Local Land Services”, which was lower than that found in the 2017 survey, where 50% of people reported they had heard of “Local Land Services”.

Those people who were currently employed were more likely to have heard of Western Local Land Services (48%) than those who were not employed (25%).

Of those people who had heard of Western Local Land Services, a third (33%) did not know what Western Local Land Services did and 56% believed Western Local Land Services undertook Aboriginal site protection and were involved in preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Of those people who had heard of Western Local Land Service only 28% (or 8% of the total sample) reported they had contact or communication with Western Local Land Services in the previous six months, with contact or communication primarily being through face-to-face meetings with staff and through Aboriginal advisory groups.

Of the 16 people who had contact or communication with Western Local Land Services, most people were satisfied with the contact and service provided.

While based on a small sample (16) most people believed Western Local Land Services did ‘really well’ at Aboriginal cultural heritage site protection and communication and engagement. Although again based on a small sample (12), most people believed Western Local Land Services ‘could do better’ at providing more employment opportunities.

People completing the survey believed the best way for Local Land Services to ‘yarn up’ with Aboriginal people was through holding community meetings (64%), through community events (64%), face-to-face (63%) and meetings with elders (50%).

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Introduction

Local Land Services brings together agricultural production advice, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management into a single organisation. As a regional organisation they are responsible for delivering services that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, protect industries from pests and disease and help communities respond to emergencies such as flood, fire and drought. Western Local Land Services has undertaken a survey of Aboriginal people to help inform the delivery of projects and programs within the region.

Objectives

The core objectives of the project were to:

- To inform Western Local Land Services about Aboriginal issues in relation to Country;
- To understand the awareness of Western Local Land Services amongst Aboriginal people and identify preferred methods of engagement;
- To provide a benchmark for key performance indicators identified in the Western Local Land Services Strategic Plan; and
- To compare the findings of the 2017 survey of Aboriginal people with the current survey of Aboriginal people undertaken in 2020.

Methodology

There were two core components to the project methodology which included (i) questionnaire design and (ii) the implementation of the survey.

Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed through discussions with Western Local Land Services staff.

The questionnaire was designed for use as a self-completion questionnaire, although an equivalent web-based questionnaire was also developed if people chose to complete the questionnaire online.

The questionnaire focused on several core areas of interest which included:

1. The characteristics of survey respondents;
2. Knowledge of and access to Country;
3. Looking after Country through employment and training;
4. Aboriginal involvement in looking after Country;
5. Sharing traditional land management practices;
6. Identifying issues affecting Country; and
7. Engagement with Western Local Land Services.

The questionnaire used in the survey is presented in Appendix A.

Survey sampling and implementation

The sampling frame consisted of all Aboriginal people within the Western Local Land Services region.

The questionnaire was distributed by Local Land Services staff and members of the Western LLS Aboriginal Community Advisory Group to Aboriginal people in the region between October 2020 and January 2021.

The final sample included 200 completed questionnaires of which 17 (8%) were completed using the web-based questionnaire format. Only 14 (7%) of people who completed the 2020 survey reported completing the same survey in 2017.

Analysis of survey data

The analysis of survey data included frequency tables which were used to describe responses to all survey questions.

The questionnaire included several questions which allowed people to provide multiple answers or responses. For instance, in identifying what Western Local Land Services does, people may have identified one or any number of specific activities. Similarly, in identifying the best way for Aboriginal people to engage with Western Local Land Services several different methods of engagement may have been identified.

Tables based on the analysis of multiple responses have been identified in the footnote of each table. In these tables a single person may be included in multiple rows of the table if they have provided multiple responses to the question being analysed. In these tables it is important not to sum across the rows of the table to avoid double counting of individuals who may be reported in multiple rows.

Although the total sample included 200 people, the analysis of specific questions may be based on a sample which is somewhat lower than the total sample size. This is due to people being unable or unwilling to answer the question or people refusing or omitting to answer the question.

Comparisons between 2017 and 2020 survey periods

The analysis presents the findings from the 2017 and 2020 surveys and where appropriate provides a comparison across survey periods.

However, some caution should be used in interpreting the findings of these comparisons as the methodology used in the sampling of people in the 2014 survey was not necessarily the same as that used in the current survey. In both surveys the sampling was non-random and selective and there could be unintentional and different sampling biases in each survey.

In some instances, there were minor changes to the structure and wording of questions between survey years that did not in a significant way change the intended meaning of the question.

Significance tests

When comparing differences between the two survey periods, whether it is a comparison of percentages or medians; specific statistical tests of significance have been used to determine whether the differences are simply due to sampling variation or are meaningful differences.

Significance tests have been reported in the footnotes of each table. In the case of open-ended questions without response categories and where people could provide multiple responses, no significant tests have been undertaken.

Where questions provide multiple predefined response categories and are not open-ended questions, the most frequently reported responses have been identified for each year in the table (with cells shaded in grey).

The tests of statistical significance should be used as a guide to assessing differences between survey periods. For instance, for a specific variable of interest there may be a significant difference in scores between the two survey periods, however this difference may not always have any practical significance in terms of policy or decision making.

Characteristics of Aboriginal people completing the survey

Table 1 indicates that 48% of all people completing the survey were male and 52% were female.

Table 1: "Please identify your gender?"

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Male | 41 | 60.3 | 96 | 48.0 |
| Female | 27 | 39.7 | 104 | 52.0 |
| Other | - | - | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total number of people | 68 | 100.0 | 200 | 100.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.
The response category 'other' was not included in the 2017 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

Town of residence

Bourke (37%) Brewarrina (12%) and were the two towns in which most people completing the survey were located (Table 2).

In the 2017 survey more people were from the towns of Brewarrina (39%) and Goodooga (12%). This information may need to be considered when comparing the findings of the two surveys.

Table 2: "What is the name of the town in which you live?"

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|---|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Bourke | 21 | 30.4 | 72 | 37.5 |
| Brewarrina | 27 | 39.1 | 23 | 12.0 |
| Weilmoringle | 1 | 1.4 | 12 | 6.3 |
| Enngonia | 0 | 0.0 | 11 | 5.7 |
| Goodooga | 8 | 11.6 | 10 | 5.2 |
| Ivanhoe | 1 | 1.4 | 8 | 4.2 |
| Mildura | 2 | 2.9 | 8 | 4.2 |
| Wanaaring | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 4.2 |
| Dareton | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 3.1 |
| Lake Cargelligo | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 3.1 |
| Murrin Bridge | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 3.1 |
| Cobar | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 2.6 |
| Menindee | 2 | 2.9 | 5 | 2.6 |
| Euabalong | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 2.1 |
| Buronga | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Gol Gol | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Wentworth | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Balranald | 4 | 5.8 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other towns (<i>frequency of one</i>) | 3 | 4.3 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Total number of people | 69 | 100.0 | 192 | 100.0 |

Source: EBC (2020).

Age of people completing the survey

The age of all people completing the survey varied between 17 and 85 years, with the average age being 45 years (Table 3 and Figure 1).

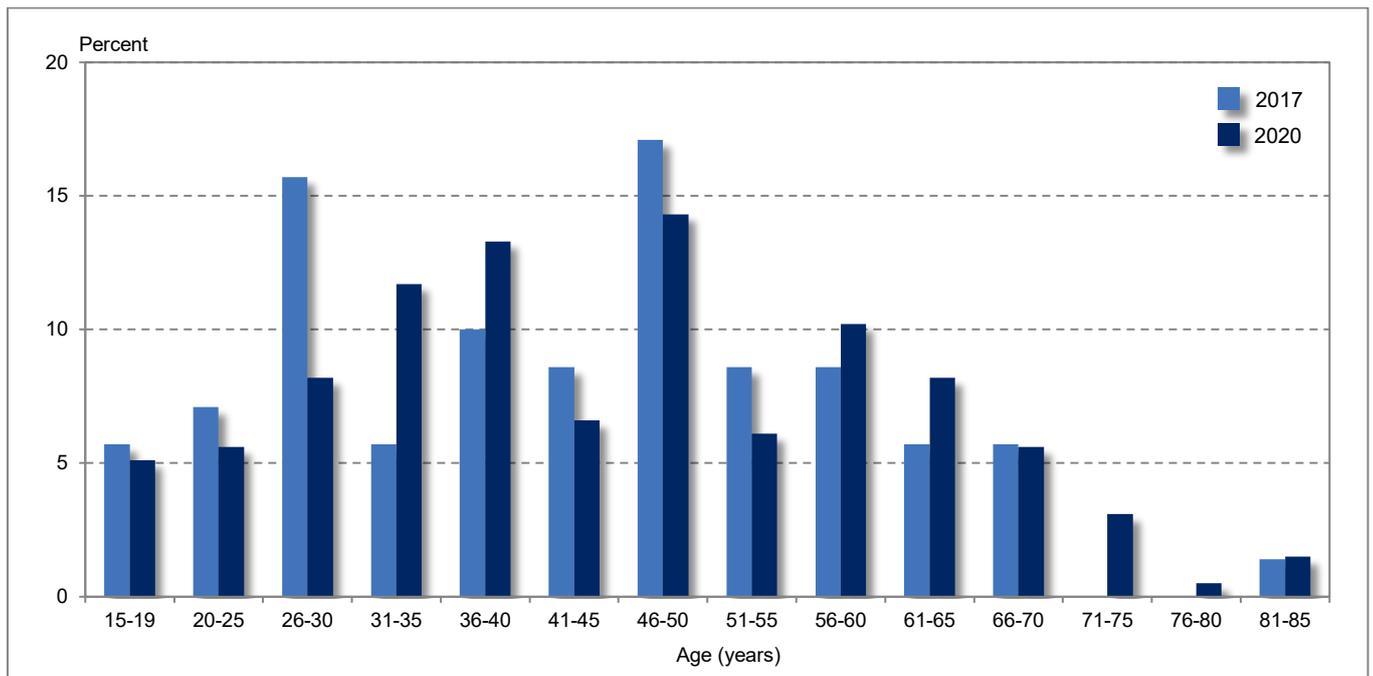
Table 3: "In what year were you born?"

| Age (years) | 2017 | | | 2020 | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|
| | Count | Percent | Cumulative Percent | Count | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| 15-19 | 4 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 10 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| 20-25 | 5 | 7.1 | 12.8 | 11 | 5.6 | 10.7 |
| 26-30 | 11 | 15.7 | 28.6 | 16 | 8.2 | 18.9 |
| 31-35 | 4 | 5.7 | 34.3 | 23 | 11.7 | 30.6 |
| 36-40 | 7 | 10.0 | 44.3 | 26 | 13.3 | 43.9 |
| 41-45 | 6 | 8.6 | 52.8 | 13 | 6.6 | 50.5 |
| 46-50 | 12 | 17.1 | 70.0 | 28 | 14.3 | 64.8 |
| 51-55 | 6 | 8.6 | 78.6 | 12 | 6.1 | 70.9 |
| 56-60 | 6 | 8.6 | 87.1 | 20 | 10.2 | 81.1 |
| 61-65 | 4 | 5.7 | 92.8 | 16 | 8.2 | 89.3 |
| 66-70 | 4 | 5.7 | 98.6 | 11 | 5.6 | 94.9 |
| 71-75 | 0 | 0.0 | 98.6 | 6 | 3.1 | 98.0 |
| 76-80 | 0 | 0.0 | 98.6 | 1 | 0.5 | 98.5 |
| 81-85 | 1 | 1.4 | 100.0 | 3 | 1.5 | 100.0 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | | 196 | 100.0 | |
| Median years | | | 58.0 | | | 45.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in medians between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 1: age of people completing the survey



Source: EBC (2020).

Years lived in the local area

Table 4 and Figure 2 shows that half of all people (50%) had lived in their local area for 35 years or less.

A comparison of a person's age (Table 4) with how long they had lived in the local area (Table 3) showed that 106 of 200 people, or just over half the sample (53%), had lived in their local area all their life.

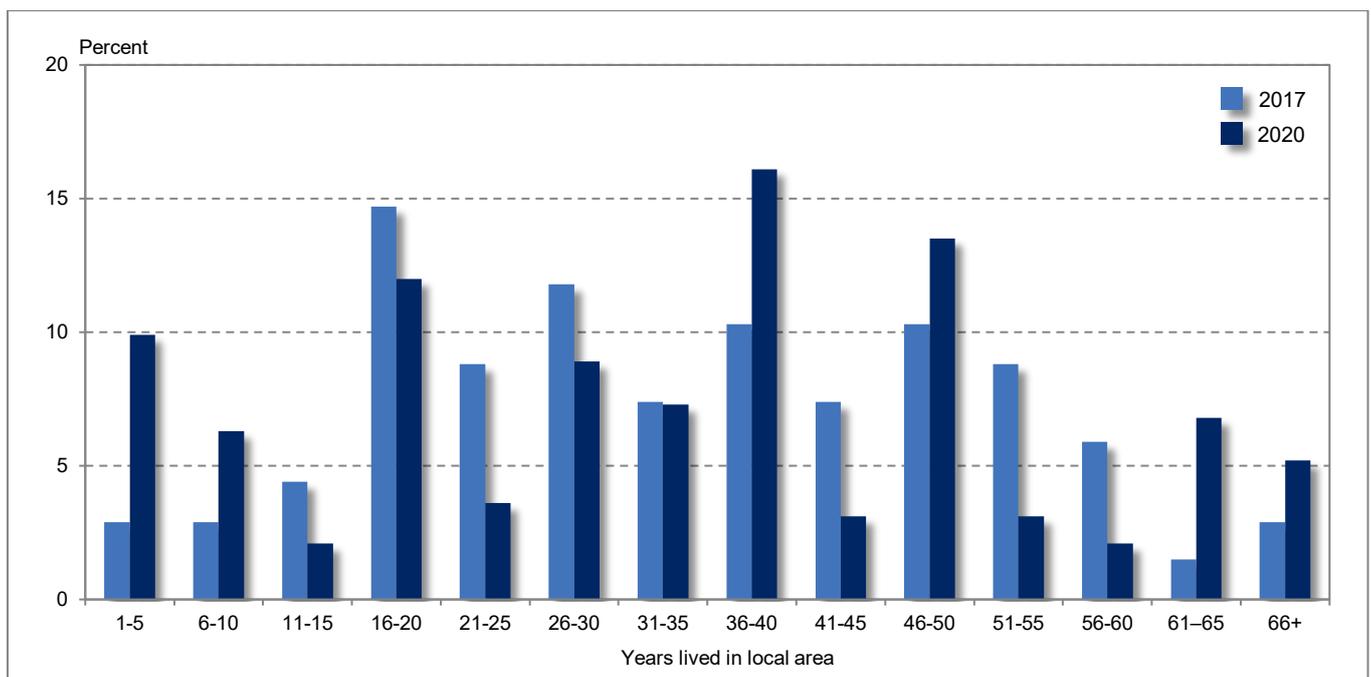
Table 4: "How many years have you lived in your local area?"

| Years in local area | 2017 | | | 2020 | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|
| | Count | Percent | Cumulative Percent | Count | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| 1-5 | 2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 19 | 9.9 | 9.9 |
| 6-10 | 2 | 2.9 | 5.8 | 12 | 6.3 | 16.1 |
| 11-15 | 3 | 4.4 | 10.3 | 4 | 2.1 | 18.2 |
| 16-20 | 10 | 14.7 | 25.0 | 23 | 12.0 | 30.2 |
| 21-25 | 6 | 8.8 | 33.8 | 7 | 3.6 | 33.9 |
| 26-30 | 8 | 11.8 | 45.5 | 17 | 8.9 | 42.7 |
| 31-35 | 5 | 7.4 | 52.9 | 14 | 7.3 | 50.0 |
| 36-40 | 7 | 10.3 | 63.2 | 31 | 16.1 | 66.1 |
| 41-45 | 5 | 7.4 | 70.5 | 6 | 3.1 | 69.3 |
| 46-50 | 7 | 10.3 | 80.8 | 26 | 13.5 | 82.8 |
| 51-55 | 6 | 8.8 | 89.7 | 6 | 3.1 | 85.9 |
| 56-60 | 4 | 5.9 | 95.5 | 4 | 2.1 | 88.0 |
| 61-65 | 1 | 1.5 | 97.0 | 13 | 6.8 | 94.8 |
| 66+ | 2 | 2.9 | 100.0 | 10 | 5.2 | 100.0 |
| Total number of people | 68 | 100.0 | | 192 | 100.0 | |
| Median years | | | 34.5 | | | 35.5 |

Note: There was no significant difference in medians between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 2: length of time lived in the local area



Source: EBC (2020).

Current employment

Table 5 shows that 24% of people were employed, which was significantly lower than that found in 2017 (39%). Further analysis showed that in 2020 significantly more females (30%) were employed than males (17%). There was no age difference between those who were employed and those who were not.

Table 5: "Are you currently employed?"

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 26 | 39.1 | 47 | 23.7 |
| No | 43 | 60.9 | 151 | 76.3 |
| Total number of people | 69 | 100.0 | 198 | 100.0 |

Note: There was a significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Of those people who were employed, the majority in both the 2017 and 2020 surveys were found to be community and personal service workers (Table 6).

Table 6: "Please describe your job"

| Occupational classification | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Community and personal service workers | 5 | 26.3 | 10 | 25.0 |
| Managers | 2 | 10.5 | 5 | 12.5 |
| Professionals | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 10.0 |
| Labourers | 3 | 15.8 | 4 | 10.0 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | 1 | 5.3 | 2 | 5.0 |
| Technicians and trade workers | 2 | 10.5 | 1 | 2.5 |
| Sales workers | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 2.5 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Unclassifiable | 6 | 31.6 | 13 | 32.5 |
| Total number of people | 19 | 100.0 | 40 | 100.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who were currently employed.

Occupational categories based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (2019).

Source: EBC (2020).

Knowledge and access to Country

Table 7 shows that in the 2020 survey, 87% of people reported they knew who the Traditional custodians were of the Country on which they lived. This compares to 74% of people with this knowledge in 2017.

Table 7: “Do you know who the Traditional custodians of the Country you now live on are?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 56 | 74.3 | 172 | 87.3 |
| No | 6 | 8.6 | 25 | 12.7 |
| Don't know | 12 | 17.1 | - | - |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 198 | 100.0 |

Note: The response category 'don't know' was not included in the 2020 survey.
There was a significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

In 2017, 93% of people indicated they knew of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in their local area. However, in 2020 81% of people reported they knew of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in their local area (Table 8).

Table 8: “Do you know of any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites in your local area?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 65 | 92.9 | 158 | 80.6 |
| No | 5 | 7.1 | 38 | 19.4 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 196 | 100.0 |

Note: In the 2020 survey the question was changed from 'Aboriginal sites' to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites'
There was a significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Nearly a third of all people completing the survey (60%) indicated they had access to Country (Table 9).

Those with access to Country were significantly more likely to be males (68%) than females (53%). In addition, relatively younger people (43 years) were significantly more likely to have access to country than those who did not have access to Country (48 years).

Furthermore, those people who were employed were more likely to have access to Country (76%) than those who were not employed (24%).

The length of time they had lived in the local area was unrelated to whether they had access to Country.

Table 9: “Do you have access to Country?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 44 | 64.7 | 119 | 60.1 |
| No | 24 | 35.3 | 79 | 39.9 |
| Total number of people | 68 | 100.0 | 198 | 100.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Table 10 shows that 65% of people, if they were given access to rural properties, would want to know more about Country.

Table 10: “Given the opportunity to access rural properties, would you want to know more about country?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 50 | 71.4 | 129 | 65.5 |
| No | 1 | 1.4 | 25 | 12.7 |
| Maybe | 19 | 27.1 | 43 | 21.8 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 197 | 100.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.
Source: EBC (2020).

Looking after Country through employment and training

Of those people who were employed (Table 5), 47% indicated their work involved looking after Country (Table 11).

Table 11: “Does your work involve looking after Country?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 14 | 53.8 | 18 | 47.4 |
| No | 12 | 46.2 | 20 | 52.6 |
| Total number of people | 26 | 100.0 | 38 | 100.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who were employed.
There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.
Source: EBC (2020).

As shown in Table 12, only 10% of people had undertaken any training in the last three years which involved looking after Country.

Table 12: “In the past three years have you done any training in relation to looking after Country?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 9 | 13.4 | 19 | 10.1 |
| No | 58 | 86.6 | 170 | 89.9 |
| Total number of people | 67 | 100.0 | 189 | 100.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.
In 2017 three respondents identified the type of training which included Aboriginal studies; learning to look after Country; and workshops.
In 2020 nine respondents identified the type of training which included ACH site surveys (5); fencing; Land Council; mining-managing traditional lands; senior country officer on Country.
Source: EBC (2020).

Involvement in looking after Country

Forty-eight percent of people indicated that in the last 12 months they had undertaken activities which involved looking after Country (Table 13).

The age and gender of the person did not distinguish between those who had and had not been involved in looking after country. Those employed were significantly more likely to be involved in looking after Country (63%) than those who were not employed (43%).

Table 13: "In the last 12 months have you been involved in looking after Country?"

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 38 | 54.3 | 94 | 48.2 |
| No | 32 | 45.7 | 101 | 51.8 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 195 | 100.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Table 14 and Figure 3 show the most common activities through which people had been involved in looking after Country were NAIDOC activities (54%); community events (53%); and through Traditional Owner groups (34%).

Table 14: "In the last 12 months have you been involved in looking after Country? Yes, it included:"

| Activities | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|---|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| NAIDOC activities | 16 | 42.1 | 51 | 54.3 |
| Community events | 15 | 39.5 | 50 | 53.2 |
| Traditional owner group | 15 | 39.5 | 32 | 34.0 |
| Through Land Councils | 11 | 28.9 | 27 | 28.7 |
| Fishing competition | 14 | 36.8 | 21 | 22.3 |
| Native Title Group | - | - | 18 | 19.1 |
| Aboriginal Community Advisory Group | 12 | 31.6 | 17 | 18.1 |
| Cultural tours | - | - | 14 | 14.9 |
| Workshops (inc. property management) | 4 | 10.5 | 12 | 12.8 |
| Through Landcare groups | 4 | 10.5 | 5 | 5.3 |
| Other activities | 6 | 15.8 | 18 | 20.2 |
| Being on Country (with family/others) | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 8.5 |
| Aboriginal organisation or group member | 1 | 2.6 | 2 | 2.1 |
| Cultural tours | 2 | 5.2 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other (frequency of one) | 3 | 7.9 | 8 | 8.5 |
| Total number of people | 38 | 100.0 | 94 | 100.0 |

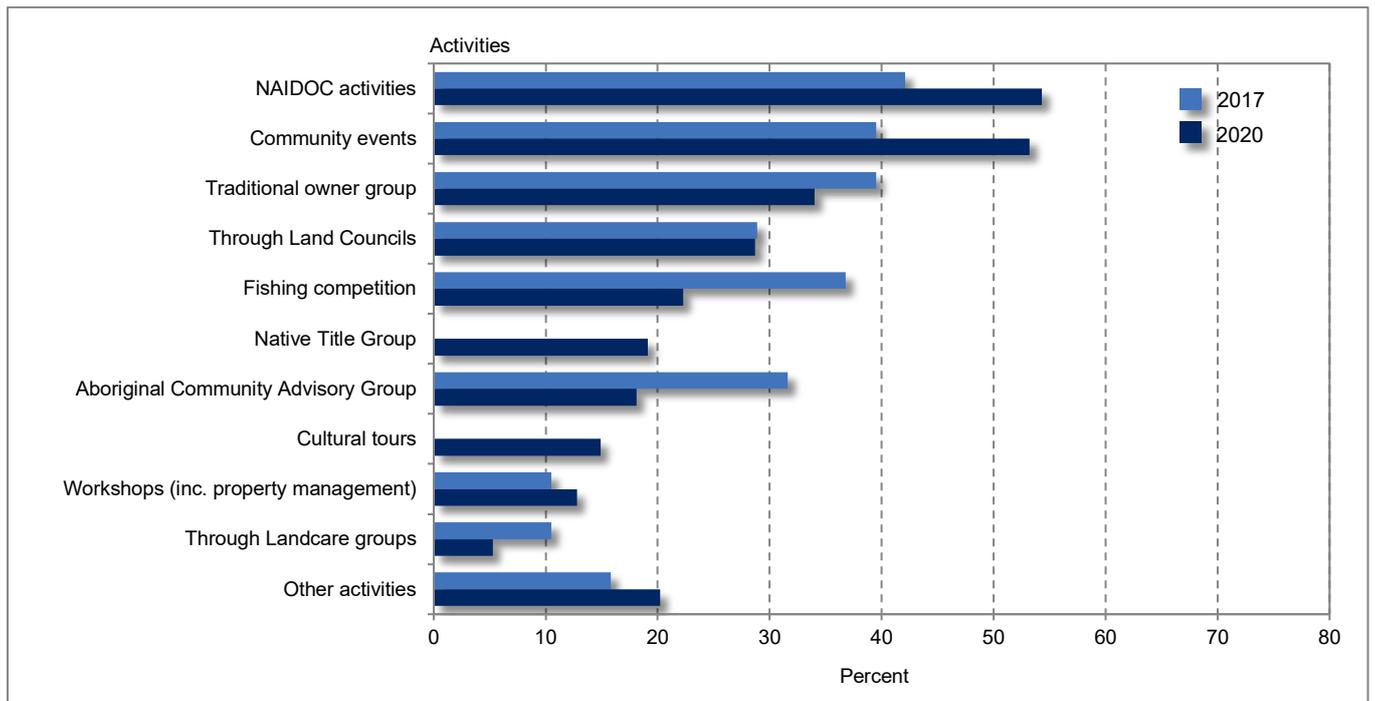
Note: Percentages based on those people who had been involved in looking after country in the last 12 months.

This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows.

The response categories native title group and cultural tours were not included in the 2020 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 3: activities through which people had been involved in looking after Country



Source: EBC (2020).

Amongst those people who had *not* been involved in looking after Country in the last 12 months (Table 15 and Figure 4), the most reported reasons for *not* being involved in looking after Country were that they hadn't 'heard of any activities' (59%); that 'nothing ever happens' (41%); that they did not have enough time or were too busy (22%); or that they didn't have any transport (26%).

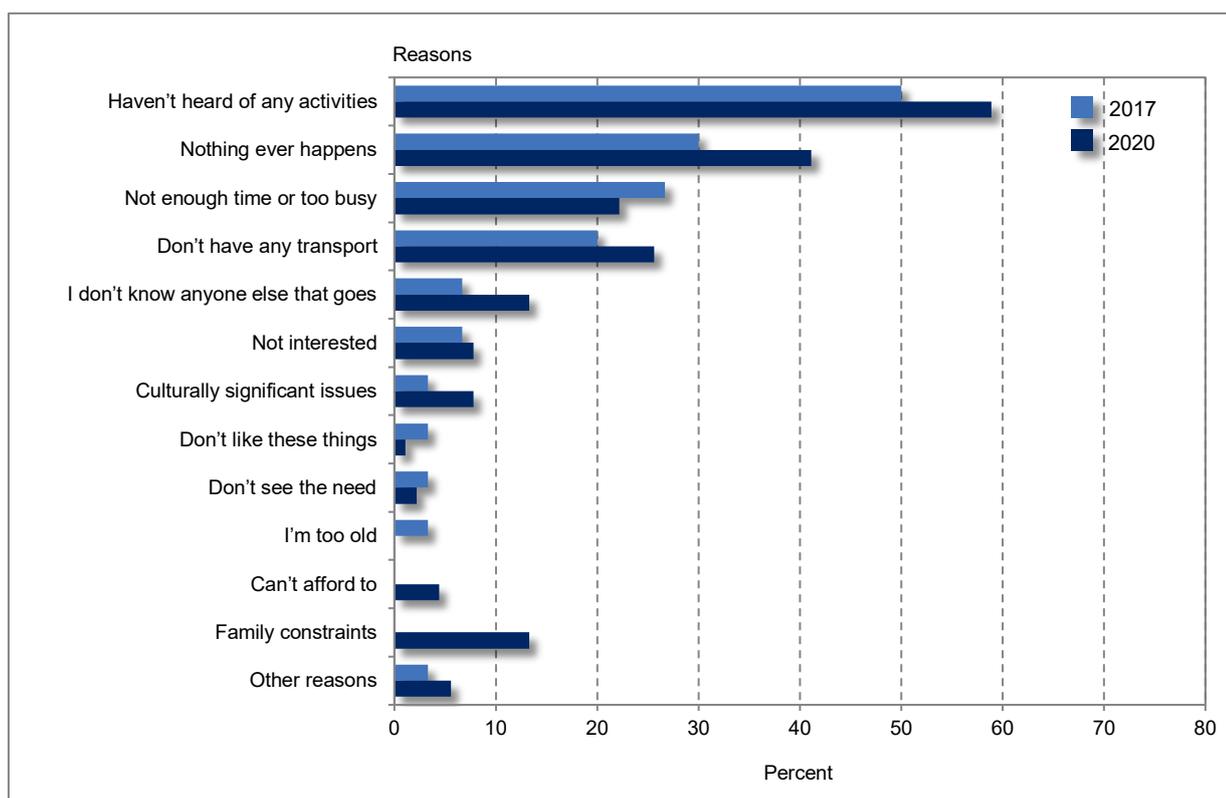
Table 15: "In the last 12 months have you been involved in looking after Country? No, because:"

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Haven't heard of any activities | 15 | 50.0 | 53 | 58.9 |
| Nothing ever happens | 9 | 30.0 | 37 | 41.1 |
| Not enough time or too busy | 8 | 26.7 | 20 | 22.2 |
| Don't have any transport | 6 | 20.0 | 23 | 25.6 |
| I don't know anyone else that goes | 2 | 6.7 | 12 | 13.3 |
| Not interested | 2 | 6.7 | 7 | 7.8 |
| Culturally significant issues | 1 | 3.3 | 7 | 7.8 |
| Don't like these things | 1 | 3.3 | 1 | 1.1 |
| Don't see the need | 1 | 3.3 | 2 | 2.2 |
| I'm too old | 1 | 3.3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Can't afford to | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 4.4 |
| Family constraints | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 13.3 |
| Other reasons | 1 | 3.3 | 5 | 5.6 |
| Total number of people | 38 | 100.0 | 90 | 100.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who had not been involved in looking after country in the last 12 months. This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows. In 2017, other reasons included not many programs. In 2020 other reasons included COVID; not a TO; don't feel welcome; not my Country; only just moved here; and sick

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 4: reasons given for *not* being involved in looking after Country



Source: EBC (2020).

When people were asked if they thought “the level of involvement by Aboriginal people in caring for Country in this area was very good” (Table 16), 26% agreed with the statement and 44% disagreed. This percentage was significantly lower than that found in the 2017 survey, where 46% were found to agree with this statement.

Table 16: “Would you say...the level of involvement with Aboriginal people in caring for Country in this area is very good?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Agree | 32 | 45.7 | 51 | 26.0 |
| Disagree | 22 | 31.4 | 86 | 43.9 |
| No opinion | 16 | 22.9 | 59 | 30.1 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 196 | 100.0 |

Note: There was a significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Table 17 shows that although 27% of people believed the level of involvement with Aboriginal people in caring for Country in the area was better than it was three years ago; 41% also disagreed with this statement and 32% expressed no opinion.

Table 17: “Would you say...the level of activities with Aboriginal people in caring for Country in this area is better than it was three years ago?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Agree | 25 | 35.7 | 53 | 27.0 |
| Disagree | 23 | 32.9 | 81 | 41.3 |
| No opinion | 22 | 31.4 | 62 | 31.6 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 196 | 100.0 |

Note: There was no significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Sharing traditional land management practices

Table 18 shows that 48% of people had been involved in sharing traditional land management practices in the last 12 months.

The most common practices (Table 18) were 'sharing yarns' (39%), using bush medicines (35%), telling stories (32%) and collecting bush tucker (31%).

Table 18: "In the last 12 months have you been involved in sharing any of the following traditional land management practices?"

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Not been involved in sharing any traditional land management practices | 41 | 58.6 | 101 | 52.3 |
| Sharing yarns | 25 | 35.7 | 76 | 39.4 |
| Using bush medicines | 11 | 15.7 | 68 | 35.2 |
| Telling stories (ecological cultural knowledge) | 13 | 18.6 | 61 | 31.6 |
| Collecting bush tucker | 14 | 20.0 | 60 | 31.1 |
| Sharing knowledge of fishing traps | 13 | 18.6 | 32 | 16.6 |
| Sharing spiritual places | 11 | 15.7 | 32 | 16.6 |
| Making sure sites are recorded | 8 | 11.4 | 31 | 16.1 |
| Looking after scar trees | 6 | 8.6 | 30 | 15.5 |
| Looking after waterways | 8 | 11.4 | 28 | 14.5 |
| Sharing art sites | 3 | 4.3 | 25 | 13.0 |
| Sharing hunting grounds | 5 | 7.1 | 23 | 11.9 |
| Sharing corroboree grounds | 2 | 2.9 | 18 | 9.3 |
| Sharing grinding stones | 1 | 1.4 | 17 | 8.8 |
| Collecting and carrying seed | 4 | 5.7 | 13 | 6.7 |
| Spear making with family | 1 | 1.4 | 9 | 4.7 |
| Traditional burns | 2 | 2.9 | 8 | 4.1 |
| Other practices | 1 | 1.4 | 6 | 3.1 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 193 | 100.0 |

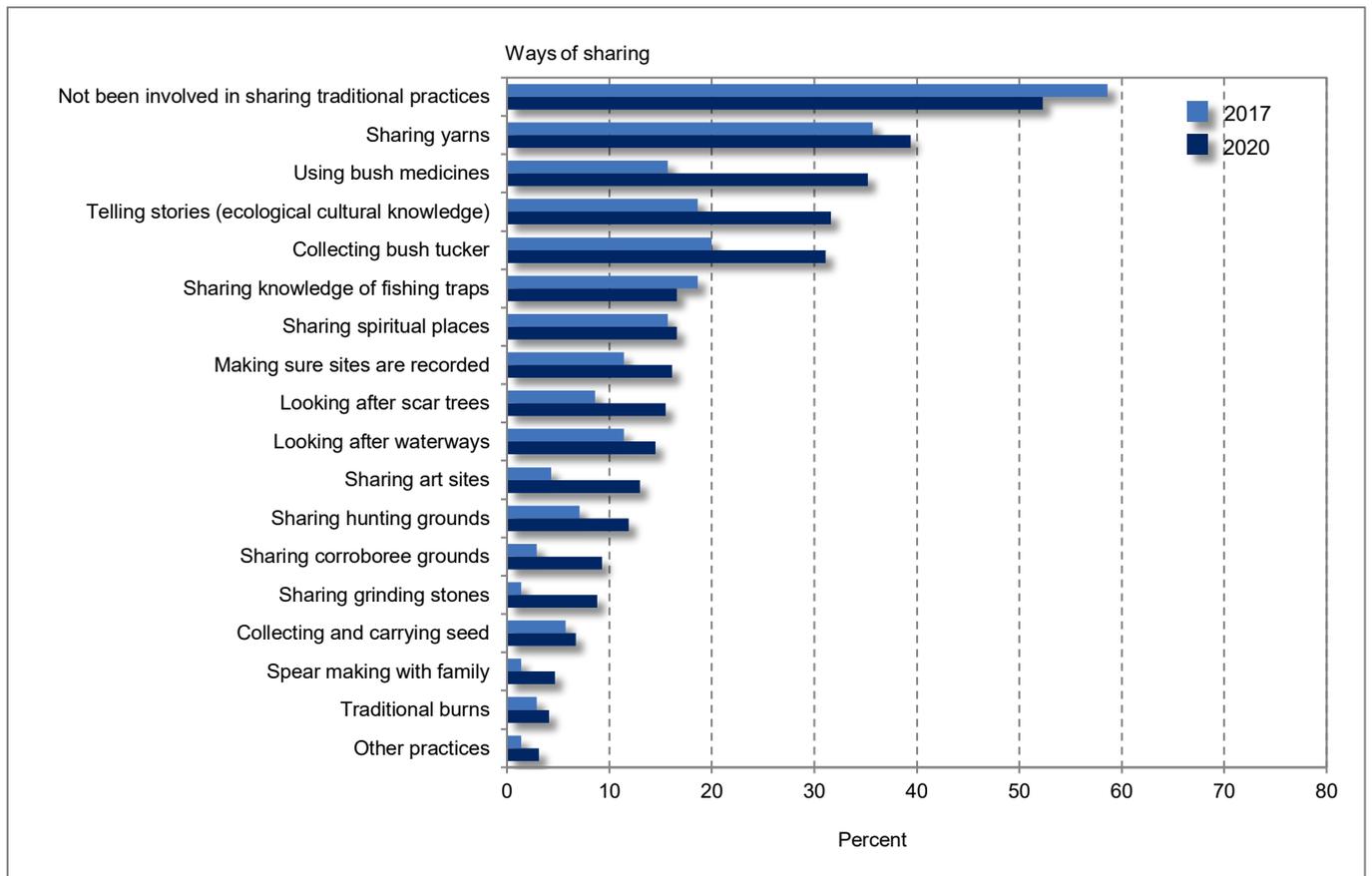
Note: This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows.

In 2017 other reasons included celebrating Baime's Ngunnhu.

In 2020 other reasons included continuing with family, not since COVID, only with my TO family, sharing Country with other TOs, sharing with family and only my mob, with family.

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 5: ways of sharing traditional land management practices



Source: EBC (2020).

Issues affecting Country

People identified issues related to water, including fish populations and the use and quality of water as the most important issues affecting Country (Table 19). This included the loss of fish populations (62%), lack of water (61%) and water quality (60%).

Table 19: “Which of the following do you think are most important in affecting Country around where you live?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|---|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Don't know | 16 | 22.9 | 33 | 16.8 |
| Loss of fish populations | 33 | 47.1 | 122 | 61.9 |
| Lack of water | 33 | 47.1 | 121 | 61.4 |
| Water quality | 28 | 40.0 | 119 | 60.4 |
| Loss of native plants and animals | 23 | 32.9 | 115 | 58.4 |
| Spraying herbicides or poisons | 18 | 25.7 | 99 | 50.3 |
| Weeds | 22 | 31.4 | 97 | 49.2 |
| The impact of climate change | 17 | 24.3 | 93 | 47.2 |
| Lack of grasses | 15 | 21.4 | 92 | 46.7 |
| The overuse of water (i.e., irrigation) | 31 | 44.3 | 91 | 46.2 |
| Carp | 37 | 52.9 | 87 | 44.2 |
| Poor soil health | 10 | 14.3 | 81 | 41.1 |
| Overgrazing | 16 | 22.9 | 76 | 38.6 |
| Introduced pest animals | 20 | 28.6 | 70 | 35.5 |
| Soil erosion | 20 | 28.6 | 70 | 35.5 |
| Invasive native scrub (i.e., scrubby land) | 10 | 14.3 | 66 | 33.5 |
| The management of waste and pollutants | 8 | 11.4 | 53 | 26.9 |
| The impacts of urban development (i.e., stormwater) | 7 | 10.0 | 39 | 19.8 |
| Salinity | 10 | 14.3 | 38 | 19.3 |
| Kangaroos | 7 | 10.0 | 29 | 14.7 |
| Other issues | 1 | 1.4 | 12 | 6.1 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 197 | 100.0 |

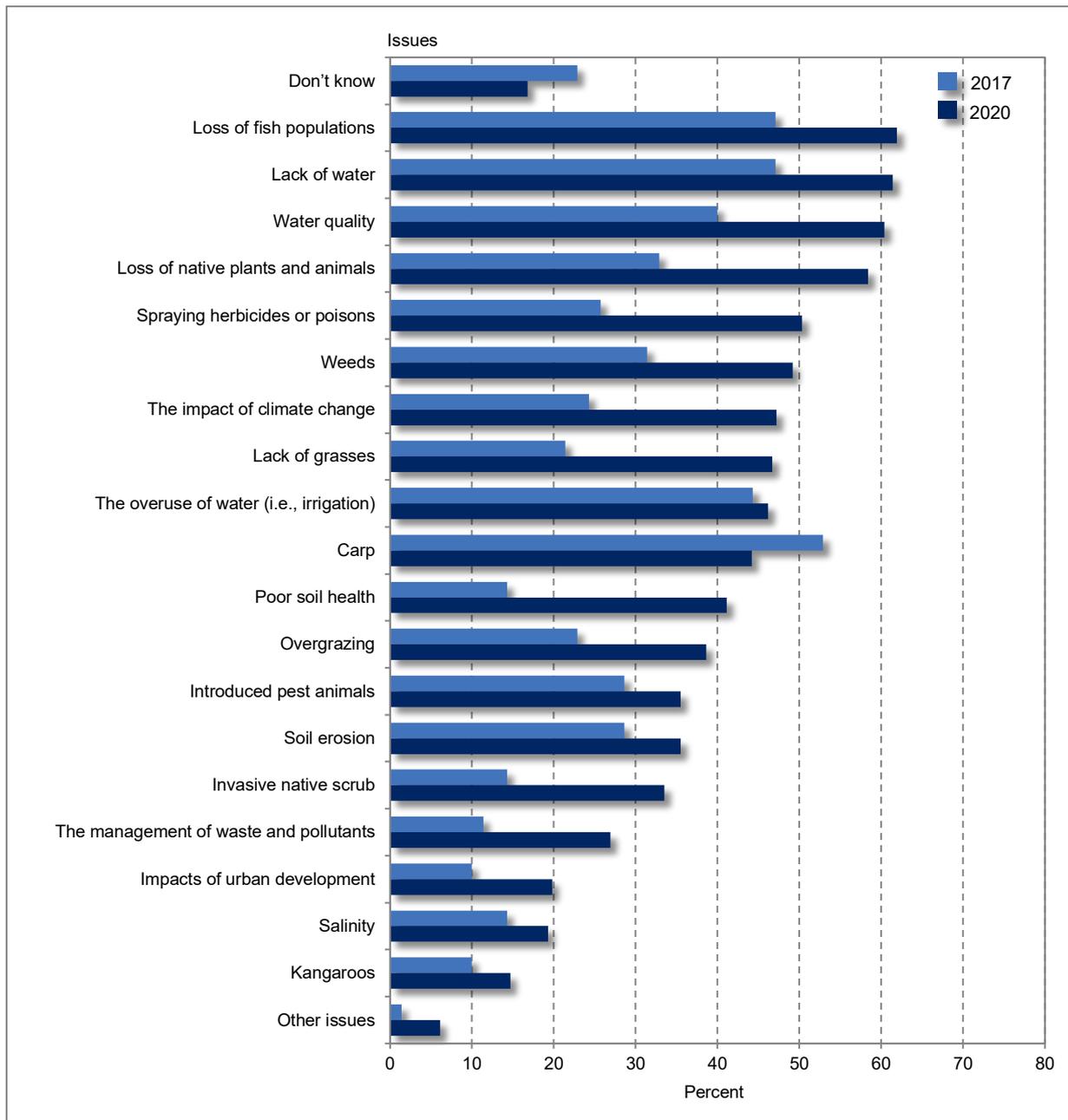
Note: This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows.

In 2017 other issues included, over clearing.

In 2020 other issues included no access to Country (3); no involvement or voice (2); mining on Country; white man impact and everything

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 6: issues affecting Country



Source: EBC (2020).

Engagement with Local Land Services

A third of those people completing the survey (30%) had heard of “Western Local Land Services” (Table 20), which was significantly lower than that found in the 2017 survey, where 50% of people reported they had heard of “Local Land Services”.

In 2020, people who were employed were significantly more likely to have heard of Western Local Land Services (48%) than those who were not employed (25%).

Table 20: “Had you heard of Western Local Land Services prior to receiving this survey?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 35 | 50.0 | 58 | 30.1 |
| No | 35 | 50.0 | 135 | 69.9 |
| Total number of people | 70 | 100.0 | 193 | 100.0 |

Note: In 2017 the question referred to ‘Local Land Services’ and in 2020 the question referred to ‘Western Local Land Services’. There was a significant difference in percentages between survey years.

Source: EBC (2020).

Of those people who had heard of Western Local Land Services, a third (33%) did not know what Western Local Land Services did. Over half (56%) believed Western Local Land Services undertook Aboriginal site protection and believed they were involved in preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage (Table 21 and Figure 7).

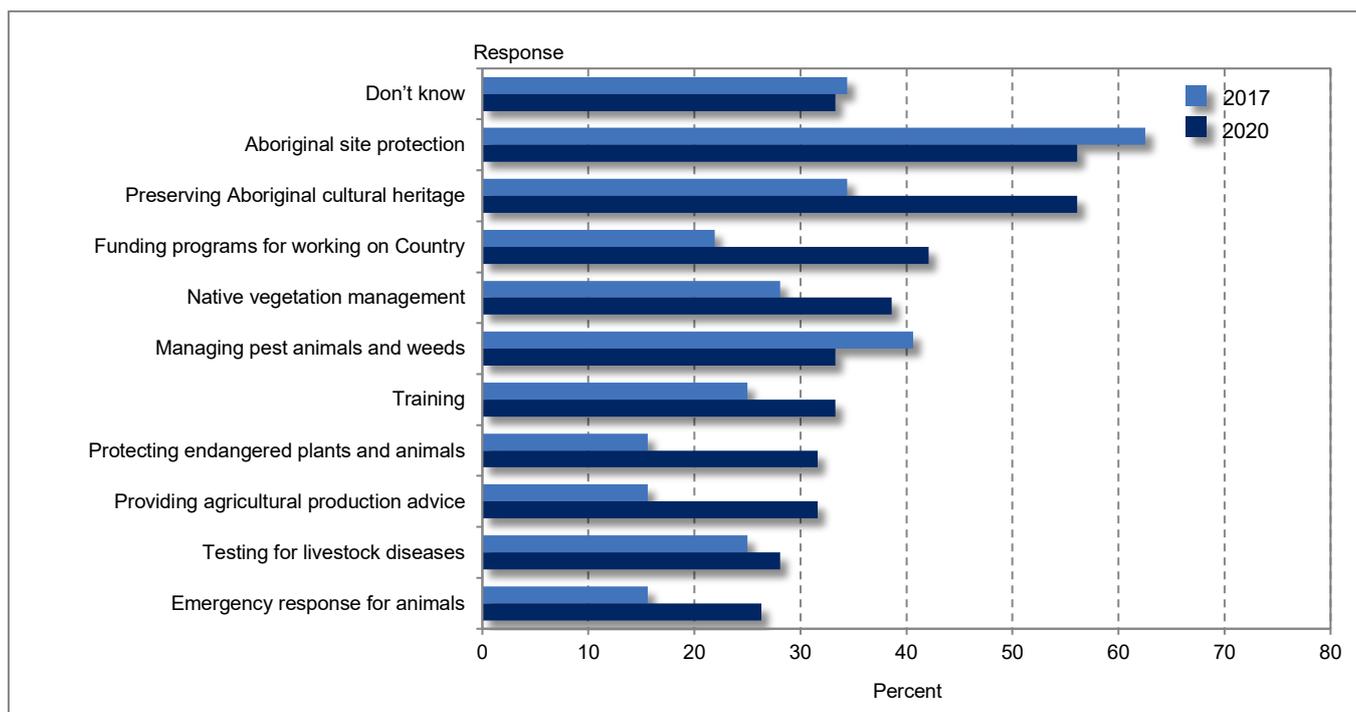
Table 21: “Do you know what Western Local Land Services does?”

| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Don’t know | 11 | 34.4 | 19 | 33.3 |
| Aboriginal site protection | 20 | 62.5 | 32 | 56.1 |
| Preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage | 11 | 34.4 | 32 | 56.1 |
| Funding programs for working on Country | 7 | 21.9 | 24 | 42.1 |
| Native vegetation management | 9 | 28.1 | 22 | 38.6 |
| Managing pest animals and weeds | 13 | 40.6 | 19 | 33.3 |
| Training | 8 | 25.0 | 19 | 33.3 |
| Protecting endangered plants and animals | 5 | 15.6 | 18 | 31.6 |
| Providing agricultural production advice | 5 | 15.6 | 18 | 31.6 |
| Testing for livestock diseases | 8 | 25.0 | 16 | 28.1 |
| Emergency response for animals | 5 | 15.6 | 15 | 26.3 |
| Total number of people | 32 | 100.0 | 57 | 100.0 |

Note: In 2017 the question referred to ‘Local Land Services’ and in 2020 the question referred to ‘Western Local Land Services’. This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows. Percentages based on those people who had heard of Western Local Land Services.

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 7: beliefs about the role of Local Land Services



Source: EBC (2020).

Table 22 shows that of those people who had heard of Western Local Land Services, 28% (or 8% of the total sample) reported that they had contact with Western Local Land Services in the past six months.

Table 22: “Have you had any contact or communication with Western Local Land Services in the past six months?”

| Response | Count | Percent |
|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 16 | 28.1 |
| No | 41 | 71.9 |
| Total number of people | 57 | 100.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who had heard of Western Local Land Services. This question was not included in the 2017 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

Amongst those people who had contact with Western Local Land Services, 46% indicated they had contact through face-to-face meetings or discussions with staff and 38% indicated contact was through an Aboriginal advisory group (Table 23).

Table 23: “What type of contact did you have?”

| Response | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Face to face meetings or discussions with staff | 6 | 46.1 |
| Aboriginal cultural heritage monitoring and project involvement | 4 | 30.8 |
| Through Aboriginal Advisory Group | 2 | 15.4 |
| As a Traditional Owner representative | 1 | 7.7 |
| Total number of people | 13 | 100.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who had contact or communication with Western Local Land Services. This question was not included in the 2017 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

Most people (81%) were satisfied (score of 6 or more) with the contact and service provided by Western Local Land Services (Table 24).

Table 24: “How satisfied were you with the contact or service provided by Western Local Land Services”

| Response | Count | Percent | Cumulative percent |
|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 6.3 |
| 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 6.3 |
| 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 6.3 |
| 4 | 1 | 6.3 | 12.6 |
| 5 | 1 | 6.3 | 18.9 |
| 6 | 1 | 6.3 | 25.2 |
| 7 | 6 | 37.5 | 62.5 |
| 8 | 2 | 12.5 | 75.2 |
| 9 | 1 | 6.3 | 81.4 |
| 10 | 3 | 18.8 | 100.0 |
| Total number of people | 16 | 100.0 | |
| Median score | | | 7.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who had contact or communication with Western Local Land Services. This question was not included in the 2017 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

Although based on a small sample count, most people believed Western Local Land Services did ‘really well’ at Aboriginal cultural heritage site protection and communication and engagement (Table 25).

Table 25: “In relation to your experience with Western Local Land Services, what did we do really well?”

| Response | Count | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Aboriginal cultural heritage site protection | 4 | 25.0 |
| Communication and engagement | 3 | 18.7 |
| Aboriginal employment projects | 2 | 12.5 |
| Involvement in Aboriginal Advisory Group | 2 | 12.5 |
| Erosion control | 1 | 6.2 |
| Fund Aboriginal Traditional Owner projects | 1 | 6.2 |
| Services provided | 1 | 6.2 |
| Total number of people | 16 | 100.0 |

Note: This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows. Percentages based on those respondents who had heard of Western Local Land Services. This question was not included in the 2017 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

Although again based on a small sample, people believed Western Local Land Services ‘could do better’ at providing more employment opportunities (Table 26).

Table 26: “In relation to your experience with Western Local Land Services, what can we do better?”

| Response | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| More employment opportunities | 6 | 50.0 |
| Better communication and engagement | 4 | 33.3 |
| More Aboriginal projects on Country | 2 | 16.7 |
| Aboriginal cultural heritage site surveys | 1 | 8.3 |
| Looking after Country | 1 | 8.3 |
| Total number of people | 12 | 100.0 |

Note: This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows. Percentages based on those respondents who had heard of Western Local Land Services. This question was not included in the 2017 survey.

Source: EBC (2020).

People completing the survey believed the best way for Western Local Land Services to ‘yarn up’ with Aboriginal people (Table 27 and Figure 8) was through holding community meetings (64%), through community events (64%), face-to-face contact (63%) and meetings with elders (50%).

Table 27: “What do you think is the best way for Western Local Land Services to yarn up with Aboriginal people?”

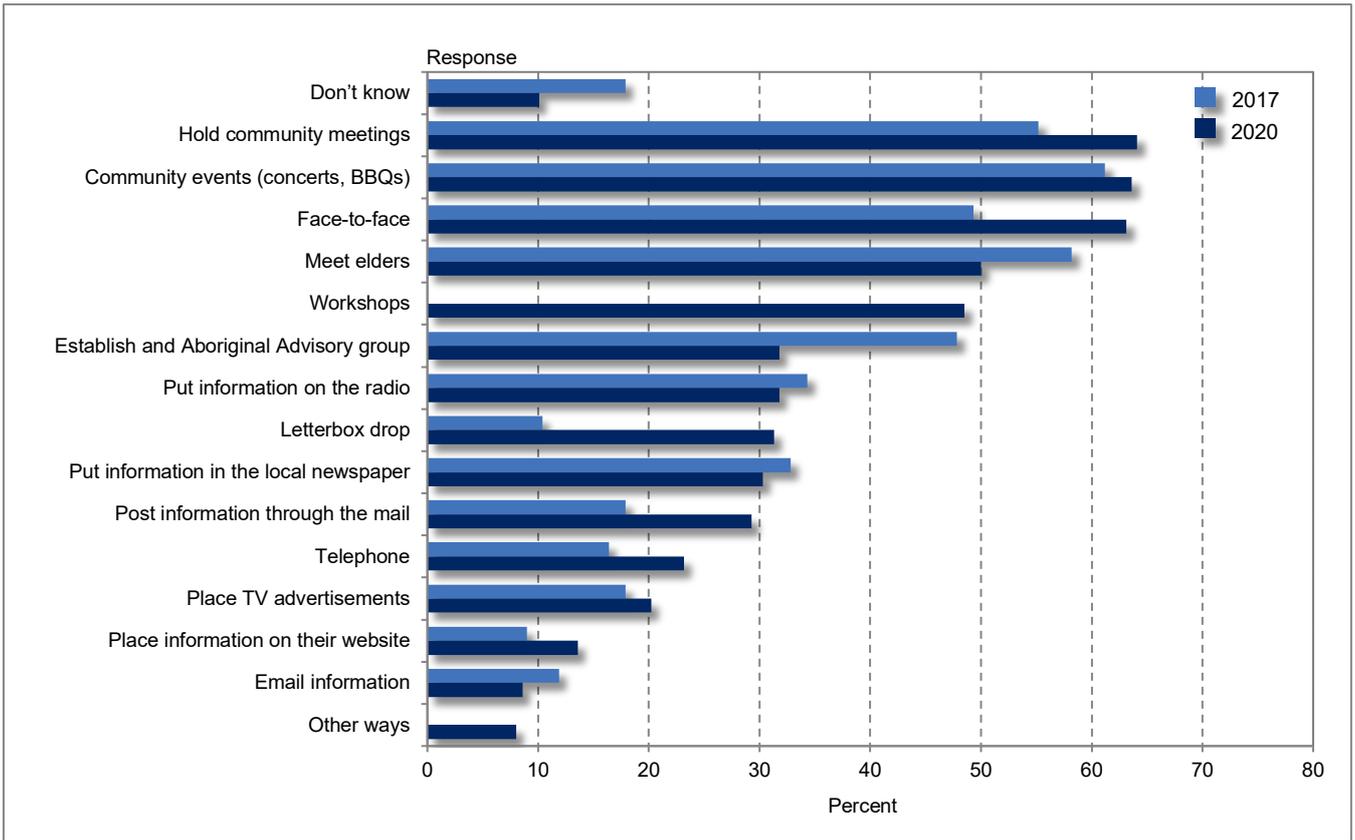
| Response | 2017 | | 2020 | |
|---|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Don't know | 12 | 17.9 | 20 | 10.1 |
| Hold community meetings | 37 | 55.2 | 127 | 64.1 |
| Community events (concerts, BBQs) | 41 | 61.2 | 126 | 63.6 |
| Face-to-face | 33 | 49.3 | 125 | 63.1 |
| Meet elders | 39 | 58.2 | 99 | 50.0 |
| Workshops | - | - | 96 | 48.5 |
| Establish and Aboriginal Advisory group | 32 | 47.8 | 63 | 31.8 |
| Put information on the radio | 23 | 34.3 | 63 | 31.8 |
| Letterbox drop | 7 | 10.4 | 62 | 31.3 |
| Put information in the local newspaper | 22 | 32.8 | 60 | 30.3 |
| Post information through the mail | 12 | 17.9 | 58 | 29.3 |
| Telephone | 11 | 16.4 | 46 | 23.2 |
| Place TV advertisements | 12 | 17.9 | 40 | 20.2 |
| Place information on their website | 6 | 9.0 | 27 | 13.6 |
| Email information | 8 | 11.9 | 17 | 8.6 |
| Other ways | 0 | 0.0 | 16 | 8.0 |
| Total number of people | 67 | 100.0 | 198 | 100.0 |

Note: Percentages based on those people who had heard of Western Local Land Services.
This is a multiple response table in which a respondent may be included in multiple rows.
The response category ‘workshops’ was not included in the 2017 survey.

Other ways included establishing a Traditional Owner group or committee (8); engage with Traditional Owners; landholders invite Traditional Owners on Country; meet all elders and Aboriginal people in community; through Land Councils; meet with Aboriginal people at community forum; engage only with Traditional Owners.

Source: EBC (2020).

Figure 8: beliefs about the best way for Local Land Services to engage with Aboriginal people



Source: EBC (2020).

Appendix A
Aboriginal community questionnaire



Local Land
Services
Western

Aboriginal community survey within the Western Local Land Services region (2020)



_____ Questionnaire Number

Aboriginal community survey for Western Local Land Services

The survey is being done to monitor the number of Aboriginal people involved in programs to:

1. encourage connection to Country; and
2. facilitate the sharing of traditional land management practices.

This information is used by Western Local Land Services to develop new programs and monitor current programs.

The questionnaire should take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

You are not required to give your name or address and all information is confidential.

The questionnaire can also be completed on line, by accessing the following web page:

<http://survey.ebc.net.au/s3/aboriginal>

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact:

Buronga Office

Ronni O'Donnell

Senior Land Services Officer (Aboriginal Communities)

t: 03 5021 9429

e: ronni.odonnell@lls.nsw.gov.au

Brewarrina Office

Blackie Gordon

Senior Land Services Officer (Aboriginal Communities)

t: 0428 607 536

e: blackie.gordon@lls.nsw.gov.au

Bourke Office

Guy Gibbs

Land Services Officer (Aboriginal Communities)

t: 0428 673 829

e: guy.gibbs@lls.nsw.gov.au

8. What is the name of the town in which you live?

9. In what year were you born?

10. Please identify your gender

- Male
 Female
 Other

11. How many years have you lived in your local area?

_____ years

12. Do you know who the traditional custodians of the Country you now live on are?

- Yes
 No

13. Do you know of any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites in your local area?

- Yes
 No

14. Do you have access to Country?

- Yes
 No

15. Given the opportunity to access rural properties, would you want to know more about Country?

- Yes
 No
 Maybe

16. Are you currently employed?

- Yes
 No → Go to Question 12

17. Please describe your job

18. Does your work involve looking after Country?

- Yes
- No

19. In the past three years have you done any training in relation to looking after Country?

- Yes
- No → Go to Question 14

20. What was that training? (please describe)

21. In the last 12 months have you been involved in looking after Country?

Yes, it included: (you may tick more than one box)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional owner group | <input type="checkbox"/> Community events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing competition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NAIDOC activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Through Landcare group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (incl. property management) | <input type="checkbox"/> Through Land Councils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Community Advisory Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Title Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

No, because: (you may tick more than one box)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time or too busy | <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing ever happens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have any transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't like these things | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't see the need |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm too old | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know anyone else that goes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haven't heard of any activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Culturally significant issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Can't afford to | <input type="checkbox"/> Family constraints |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

22. Would you say...that the level of involvement with Aboriginal people in caring for Country in this area is very good?

- Agree Disagree No opinion

23. Would you say...that the level of activities with Aboriginal people in caring for Country in this area is better than it was three years ago?

- Agree Disagree No opinion

24. Which of the following do you think are *most important* in affecting Country around where you live? (you may tick more than one box).

Don't know

OR

Salinity

Soil erosion

Weeds

Invasive native scrub, i.e. scrubby land

The impacts of urban development, i.e. stormwater

Overgrazing

Loss of native fish populations

Introduced pest animals

Kangaroos

The management of waste and pollutants

Other (please describe) _____

Water quality

Poor soil health

Lack of grasses

The impacts of climate change

Over use of water, i.e. irrigation

Carp

Lack of water

Loss of native plants and animals

Spraying herbicides or poisons

25. In the last 12 months have you been involved in sharing any of the following traditional land management practices? (you may tick more than one box).

Have not been involved in sharing any traditional land management practices

OR

Traditional burns

Sharing yarns

Collecting and carrying seed

Sharing hunting grounds

Sharing grinding stones

Telling stories (ecological cultural knowledge)

Looking after waterways

Sharing spiritual places

Using bush medicines

Looking after scar trees

Sharing knowledge of fishing traps

Making sure sites are recorded

Spear making with family

Sharing art sites

Sharing corroboree grounds

Collecting bush tucker

Other practices (please describe) _____

26. Had you heard of Western Local Land Services prior to receiving this survey?

Yes

No → Go to Question 26

27. Do you know what Western Local Land Services does? (you may tick more than one box)

Don't know

OR

Aboriginal site protection

Managing pest animals and weeds

Training

Protecting endangered plants and animals

Preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage

Providing agricultural production advice

Funding programs for working on country

Testing for livestock diseases

Native vegetation management

Emergency response for animals

Grazing management

28. Have you had any contact or communication with Western Local Land Services in the past six months?

Yes

No → Go to Question 26

29. What type of contact did you have?

(Please specify)

30. How satisfied were you with the contact or service provided by Western Local Land Services? Use the scale from 0 to 10 to rate how satisfied you were with the contact or service provided.

Not at all satisfied

Very satisfied

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

31. In relation to your experience with Western Local Land Services, what did we do really well?

32. What can we do better?

33. **What do you think is the best way for Western Local Land Services to yarn up with Aboriginal people?** (you may tick more than one box).

Don't know

OR

Put information in the local newspaper

Hold community meetings

Put information on the radio

Post information through the mail

Place information on their website

Email information

Place TV advertisements

Letterbox drop

Establish an Aboriginal Advisory group

Face-to-face

Phone call

Meet elders

Community events (concerts, BBQs)

Workshops

Other ways _____

34. **Do you remember completing this questionnaire in 2017?**

Yes

No

35. **Would you like Western Local Land Services to add your email address to their mailing list? Your responses to this survey will remain confidential. Only your email address will be used for the mailing list.**

Yes, my email address is _____

No

For completing this survey, you will receive a \$20 gift card from Western Local Land Services.

What address do you want the Gift Card sent to?

OFFICE USE ONLY

Gift Card Number

Date Issued

Issued by

Thank you for your support and help in completing this questionnaire
