

# COMMUNITY INSIGHTS REPORT

## 2025-26 BUDGET CONSULTATION



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cook Shire Council's 2025–26 Budget Consultation offered community members a voice in shaping the services, fees, and capital works projects that matter most to them.

The consultation revealed clear support for essential infrastructure—particularly roads, drainage, water, and waste—alongside a strong desire for transparency and more visible outcomes from spending. Most participants supported modest fee increases (up to 2.5%), particularly when linked to essential services. However, there was also a strong caution against rate increases for new or undefined projects.

Community views were diverse and, at times, conflicting. While some residents called for more investment in footpaths, youth programs, and parks, others emphasised financial restraint and better value for money. This tension highlights the challenge Council faces in balancing community expectations, rising service costs, and long-term financial sustainability.

This report presents a summary of the feedback received, supported by data, quotes, and thematic analysis. It informs Council's budget planning and supports transparent reporting back to the community.

## KEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

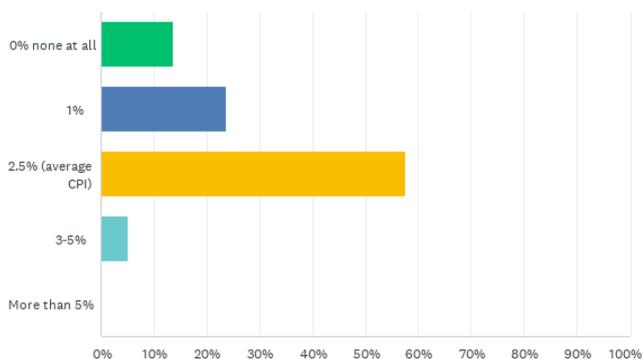
- Most supported fee increase: Up to 2.5% (in line with CPI).
- Top priority service areas: Roads, water, sewerage and waste.
- Capital projects prioritised: Waste Infrastructure, draining and animal management.
- Biggest concerns: Rising costs, waste fees, poor drainage and lack of maintenance.

Top suggestions: Footpaths, aged care, childcare, better waste facilities, animal control.

# COMMUNITY SENTIMENT: FEES AND CHARGES

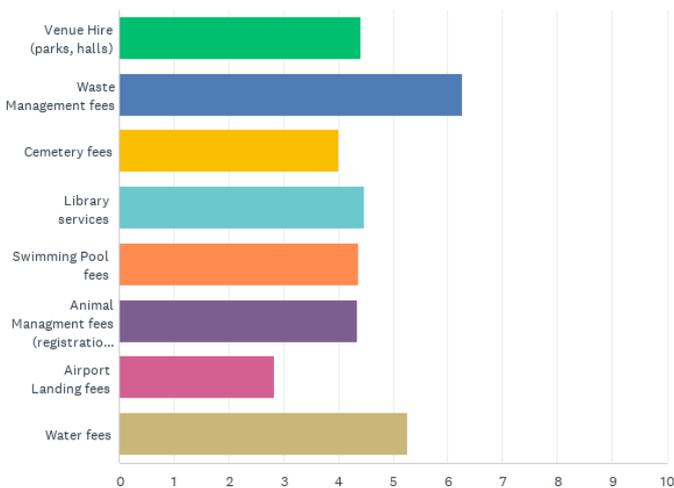
## WE ASKED:

If an increase to fees and charges is necessary, what is the maximum percentage increase you believe is fair?



## WE ASKED:

Rate the areas where you LEAST want fee increases, from most important (no increase at all) to least important.



## KEY FINDINGS

58% of respondents supported increases of up to 2.5% (CPI level).

Fee sensitivity varies by service

Most protected categories: Library services, swimming pool fees, cemetery fees, and water charges.

Moderate acceptance: Waste management and animal management fees.

Least concern: Venue hire and airport landing fees.

*“Please remember the role of Council is to provide services to ratepayers. It’s not to run profit-making services.”*

*“...There has to be a clear understanding of what the fees cover, and why an increase is required”*

*“If a fee is for something compulsory, like water, animals or waste management... price rises should be limited.”*

# CAPITAL WORKS PRIORITIES BY TOWN

## WE ASKED:

Which of the following capital works projects (across a number of different townships) should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget?

### **Cooktown:**

**Top priority:** Waste infrastructure projects (loading ramps, bin upgrades) 30.4%.

**Followed by:** Animal Impound upgrade (32.1%) and Marton Boat Ramp (14.3%).

### **Cooktown externally funded projects:**

**Highest priority:** Finch Bay Road upgrade (35.7%) then Walker Bay Road (30.4%).

### **Coen:**

**Top priority:** Coen Landfill design and leachate management (44.6%).

### **Laura:**

**Highest priority:** Laura WTP Renewal (55.4%), followed by Reservoir replacement (19.6%).

### **Lakeland:**

**Most supported:** Stormwater drains cleaning (44.6%) and Landfill capping (28.6%).

### **Ayton/Bloomfield:**

**Even split:** Landfill capping and Russell Creek Bridge (each 37.5%).

### **Rossville/Helenvale:**

**Most supported:** for Leswell Creek crossing upgrade (61.1%).

*“Why is Oakey Creek Crossing still a problem?  
How much longer?”*

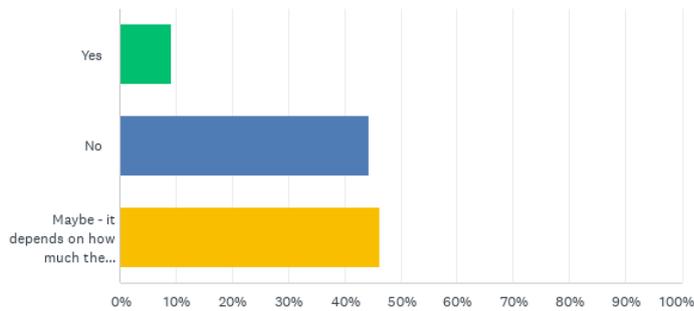
*“Rehabilitation of Billy Goat Creek causeway.”*

*“Footpaths – to assist elderly in being more  
mobile and independent...”*

# COMMUNITY WILLINGNESS: ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

## WE ASKED:

Would you support a rate increase to fund additional projects that HAVE NOT been mentioned as part of this consultation?



C

## KEY FINDINGS

46% said "maybe," depending on the size of the rate increase.

44% opposed any increase.

Only 9% gave full support to new rate-funded projects.

The majority of the community is cautious about rate increases for unspecific projects. Broad support will depend on clear communication of purpose, cost and benefit.

Transparency and project-specific engagement will be critical to securing future support for new initiatives.

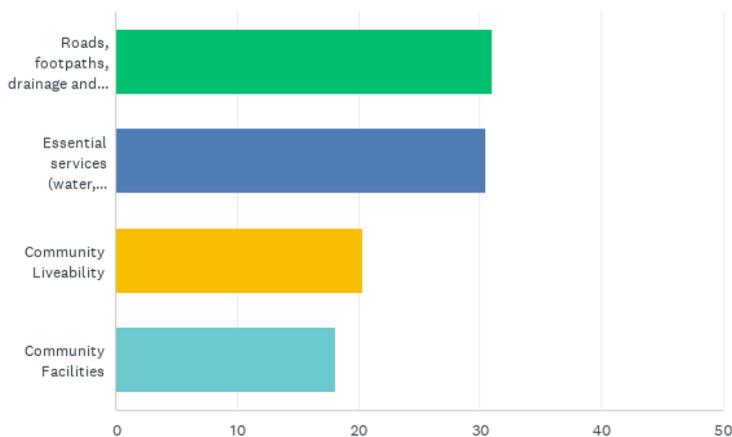
Council must clearly explain any proposed rate increases, linking them to visible outcomes.

Community education is need around project costs and funding limitations.

# COMMUNITY SENTIMENT: \$100 EXERCISE

## WE ASKED:

You have \$100 to spend across the following areas. Please allocate your funds based on what you believe to be most important. Please put a dollar value next to each of the categories. Total across the categories must equal \$100.



## KEY FINDINGS

Strong community alignment with strategic infrastructure focus.

Community facilities and liveability still seen as important but secondary.

Council indicate an opportunity to review the number and usage of Council-owned facilities Community education is need around project costs and funding limitations.

*“Council needs to spend more on infrastructure that provides clean drinking water.”*

*“Provide proper line-marking throughout Cooktown – much of it is not to standard.”*

*“Youth engagement activities and programs.”*

*“Fence waterpark! Continue de-sexing program.”*

# KEY THEMES IN COMMENTS

## WE ASKED:

Q11

Are there any other major Capital Works projects that you think Council should prioritise in 2025-26 financial year, AND

Q14

Are there any specific projects or area that you feel Council should prioritise in the 2025-26 financial year.

## CAPITAL WORKS SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED:

### *Footpaths and pedestrian safety:*

Particularly in Cooktown and around key public areas.

### *Heritage gutters:*

Restoration and maintenance seen as critical.

### *Storm water and drainage improvements:*

Especially in flood-prone zones.

### *Waste facility upgrades:*

Significant concern about current conditions.

### *Aged care and youth services:*

Identified gaps in social infrastructure.

### *Animal management improvements:*

More proactive approach requested.

### *Tourism infrastructure:*

Proposals include walking tracks, public toilets, and low-cost camping options.

### *Traffic management:*

Roundabouts, signage, and line-marking concerns

## GENERAL THEMES

Transparency and understanding:  
Some respondents indicated they'd accept higher fees if they understood the justification.

Operational efficiency:  
Several comments pointed to perceived "top-heavy" staffing or resource waste.

Frustration with waste fees and management was common.

Better communication of responsibilities between state and local government was requested.

# STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The community's feedback provides strong direction on what matters most—but also highlights the complexity of budgeting in a region as vast and diverse as Cook Shire.

Residents consistently prioritised essential infrastructure such as roads, water, drainage, and waste. There was strong support for maintaining and improving existing services, particularly in remote areas, and for transparent, responsible spending. However, community views were not always aligned. While some participants called for increased investment in liveability—such as footpaths, youth programs, and beautification—others expressed concern about spending beyond Council's core responsibilities.

Importantly, most respondents supported modest increases to fees and charges only when they are clearly linked to essential services. Few were willing to accept rate increases to fund new or discretionary projects.

These insights reinforce the importance of:

- **Protecting core services** while pausing or deferring non-essential projects.
- **Ensuring spending decisions are risk-based**, evidence-informed, and transparent.
- **Communicating trade-offs clearly**, especially when not all community requests can be met.
- **Strategically pursuing external funding** and partnerships to deliver higher-cost projects that Council cannot fund alone.

In the face of rising costs, limited own-source revenue, and increasing infrastructure demand, Council must continue to balance short-term community expectations with long-term financial sustainability and responsible asset stewardship

# CONCLUSION

The 2025–26 Budget Consultation offered rich insights into what residents value and expect from Cook Shire Council. While there is strong alignment around the need to maintain and improve essential services—roads, water, sewerage, and waste—there is also clear divergence in opinions on liveability, growth, and fees.

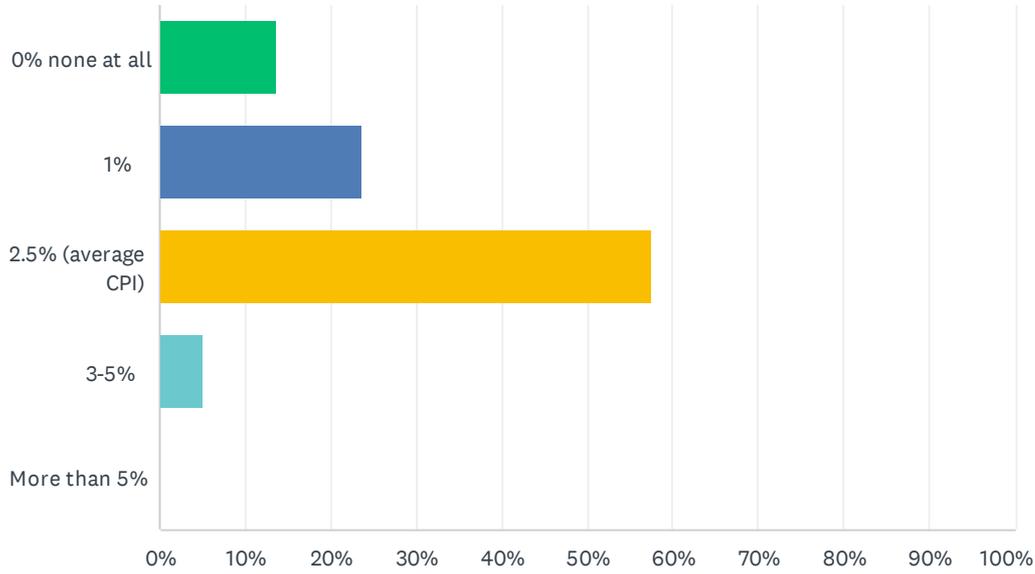
Council’s budget will not be able to address every request, but the findings in this report have shaped decision-making. In areas where funding is limited, Council has committed to protecting core services, pausing lower-priority projects, and seeking external funding for future initiatives.

This report reflects Council’s commitment to transparency and evidence-based decision-making. It will form the foundation of a “You said, we did” community feedback loop—ensuring that community input remains central to our planning, even when decisions are difficult.

# APPENDIX

## Q1 If an increase to fees and charges is necessary, what is the maximum percentage increase you believe is fair?

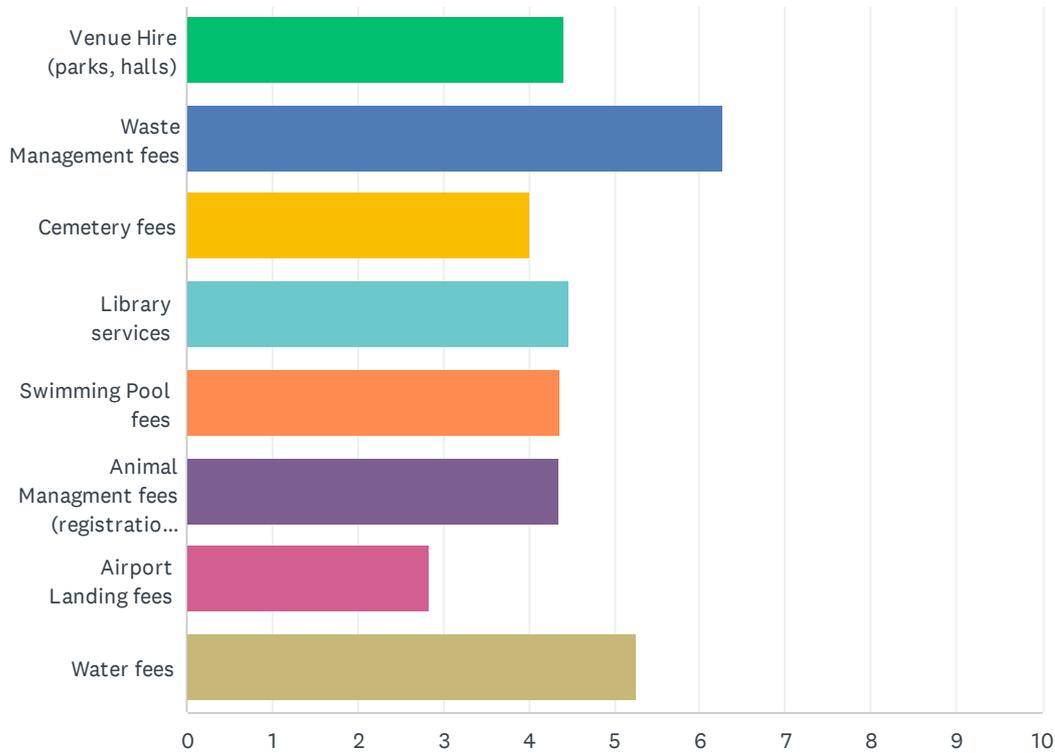
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES     | RESPONSES |           |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 0% none at all     | 13.56%    | 8         |
| 1%                 | 23.73%    | 14        |
| 2.5% (average CPI) | 57.63%    | 34        |
| 3-5%               | 5.08%     | 3         |
| More than 5%       | 0.00%     | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       |           | <b>59</b> |

## Q2 Rank the areas where you LEAST want fee increases, from most important (no increase at all) to least important.

Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



|   | 1            | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8            | TOTAL | SCORE |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Venue Hire (parks, halls)                                   | 10.17%<br>6  | 11.86%<br>7  | 11.86%<br>7  | 15.25%<br>9  | 16.95%<br>10 | 6.78%<br>4   | 15.25%<br>9  | 11.86%<br>7  | 59    | 4.42  |
| Waste Management fees                                       | 33.90%<br>20 | 25.42%<br>15 | 6.78%<br>4   | 15.25%<br>9  | 10.17%<br>6  | 5.08%<br>3   | 1.69%<br>1   | 1.69%<br>1   | 59    | 6.27  |
| Cemetery fees   | 3.39%<br>2   | 5.08%<br>3   | 23.73%<br>14 | 8.47%<br>5   | 10.17%<br>6  | 23.73%<br>14 | 15.25%<br>9  | 10.17%<br>6  | 59    | 4.00  |
| Library services  | 5.08%<br>3   | 15.25%<br>9  | 11.86%<br>7  | 23.73%<br>14 | 11.86%<br>7  | 10.17%<br>6  | 10.17%<br>6  | 11.86%<br>7  | 59    | 4.47  |
| Swimming Pool fees  | 3.39%<br>2   | 10.17%<br>6  | 22.03%<br>13 | 5.08%<br>3   | 23.73%<br>14 | 18.64%<br>11 | 13.56%<br>8  | 3.39%<br>2   | 59    | 4.37  |
| Animal Management fees (registration, impound release fees) | 6.78%<br>4   | 18.64%<br>11 | 6.78%<br>4   | 13.56%<br>8  | 11.86%<br>7  | 18.64%<br>11 | 15.25%<br>9  | 8.47%<br>5   | 59    | 4.36  |
| Airport Landing fees  | 6.78%<br>4   | 0.00%<br>0   | 6.78%<br>4   | 10.17%<br>6  | 6.78%<br>4   | 10.17%<br>6  | 20.34%<br>12 | 38.98%<br>23 | 59    | 2.83  |
| Water fees  | 30.51%<br>18 | 13.56%<br>8  | 10.17%<br>6  | 8.47%<br>5   | 8.47%<br>5   | 6.78%<br>4   | 8.47%<br>5   | 13.56%<br>8  | 59    | 5.27  |

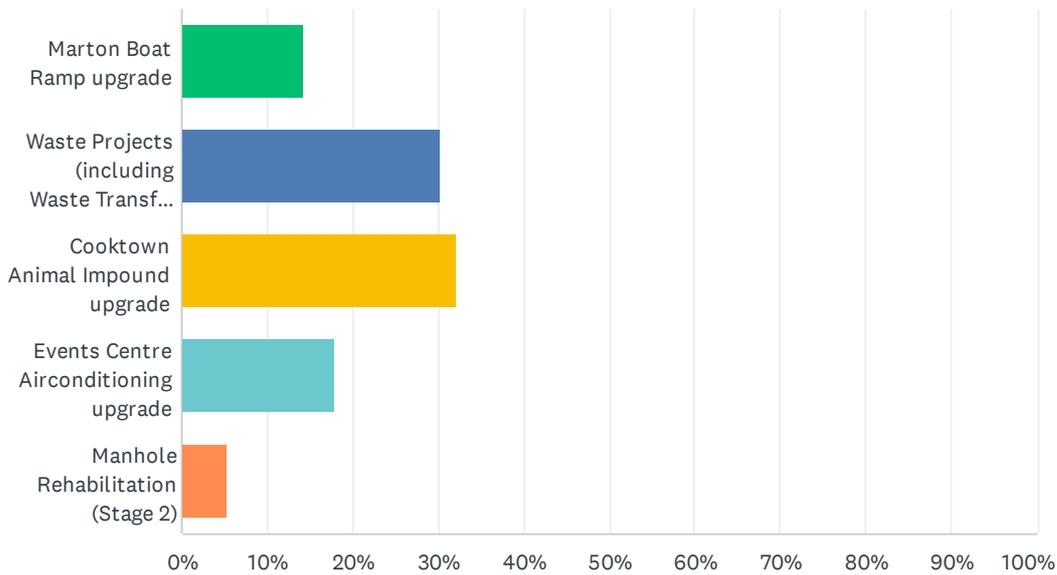
### Q3 Do you have any additional comments or concerns about Council fees and charges?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 34

| #  | RESPONSES  | DATE               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | No   | 3/31/2025 10:10 PM |
| 2  | f  | 3/31/2025 7:39 PM  |
| 3  | No   | 3/31/2025 2:18 PM  |
| 4  | No   | 3/31/2025 11:44 AM |
| 5  | More and more staff seemed to be employed in the office making it so top heavy it might fall off the hill. Look at reducing office staff and make the office more efficient. Don't put up any charges  | 3/31/2025 10:34 AM |
| 6  | Consideration for ratepayers outside of town areas   | 3/31/2025 10:11 AM |
| 7  | why are the rates so high? free garden waste dumping   | 3/31/2025 9:52 AM  |
| 8  | Council's current fee charges for 2024/25 are excessive eg \$18.60 for invoice or receipt  | 3/27/2025 12:38 PM |
| 9  | no   | 3/26/2025 11:55 AM |
| 10 | will contribute to cost of living  | 3/24/2025 10:11 AM |
| 11 | no   | 3/24/2025 10:07 AM |
| 12 | increases have to be faced!  | 3/24/2025 10:02 AM |
| 13 | should give option of yearly pool + gym membership or consider my fitness passport as many councils/gyms do OR free pool entry should be paid by rates   | 3/24/2025 9:56 AM  |
| 14 | They are great compared to other councils  | 3/24/2025 9:50 AM  |
| 15 | No   | 3/21/2025 7:50 AM  |
| 16 | Please remember the role of council is to provide services to ratepayers and residents. It is not the role of council to run profit making services. This became a concern in 2024 in relation to waste management.  | 3/21/2025 7:22 AM  |
| 17 | Consider increase 2-3 years years - not annual   | 3/20/2025 3:30 PM  |
| 18 | Q: If an increase to fees and charges is necessary, what is the maximum percentage increase you believe is fair? To assess the fairness, there has to be a clear understanding of what the fees cover, and why an increase is required. I would consider paying more than 5% increase, if I'd understand, what it is for and why.                  | 3/19/2025 10:57 AM |
| 19 | If a fee is associated with something that is compulsory, ie water, animal management, waste management and is used frequently its price rise should be limited. If associated with a service that is more optional or leisure related, or rarely utilized i.e. pool, air travel, or dying it should weigh more in the balance towards user-funded | 3/19/2025 9:12 AM  |
| 20 | Need to be simplified to make it easier for the public to decipher the different categories. The way the fees and charges are presented on the Council website are not user friendly.  | 3/18/2025 10:39 AM |
| 21 | none   | 3/18/2025 10:30 AM |
| 22 | No need to put the fees up at all  | 3/18/2025 7:46 AM  |
| 23 | No   | 3/18/2025 6:57 AM  |
| 24 | No funding for non-essential activities like parades etc.  | 3/17/2025 6:51 PM  |
| 25 | n/a  | 3/17/2025 4:18 PM  |

### Q4 Which of the following capital works projects in Cooktown should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).

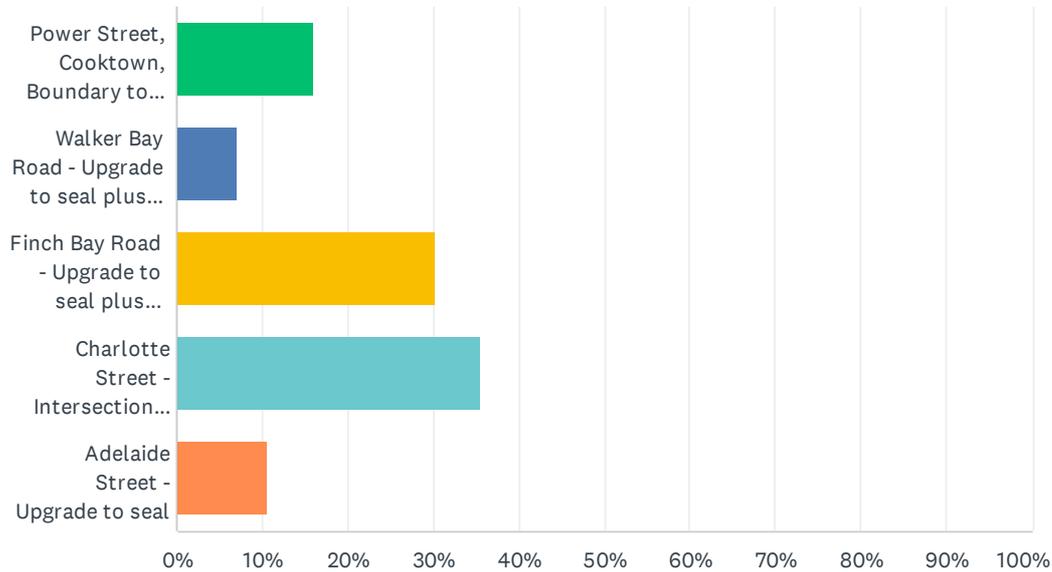
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Marton Boat Ramp upgrade   | 14.29%    | 8         |
| Waste Projects (including Waste Transfer Station loading ramp and replace/upgrade recycling skip bins) | 30.36%    | 17        |
| Cooktown Animal Impound upgrade  | 32.14%    | 18        |
| Events Centre Airconditioning upgrade  | 17.86%    | 10        |
| Manhole Rehabilitation (Stage 2)   | 5.36%     | 3         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>56</b> |

**Q5 Which of the following capital works projects in Cooktown (that are dependant on external funding) should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).**

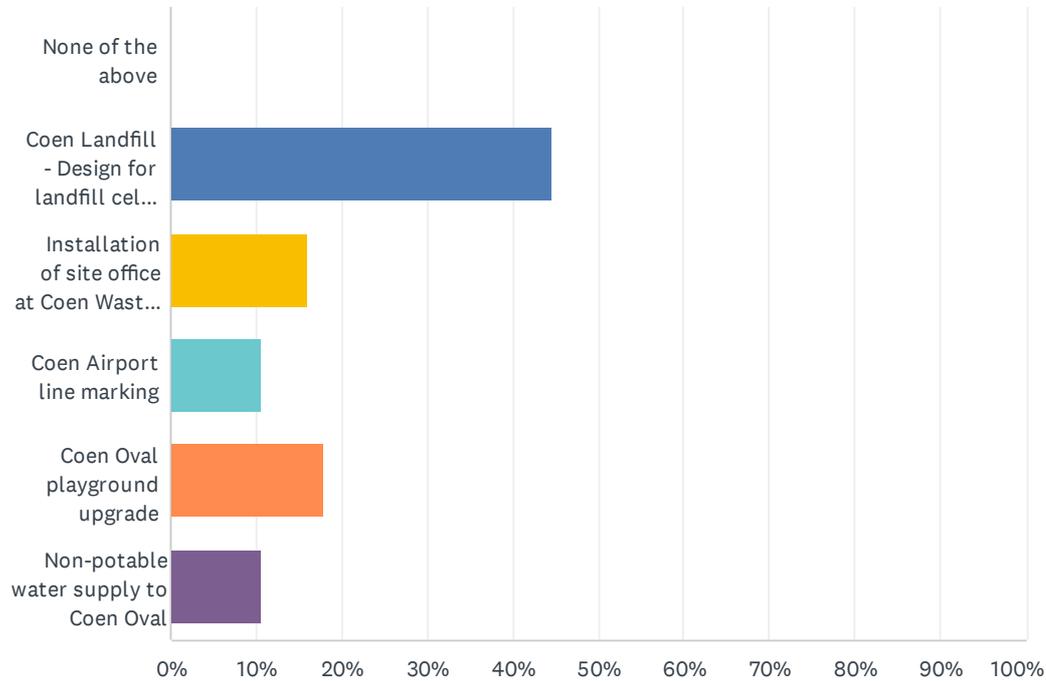
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Power Street, Cooktown, Boundary to Howard Streets - Upgrade to seal and drainage | 16.07%    | 9         |
| Walker Bay Road - Upgrade to seal plus drainage crossings                         | 7.14%     | 4         |
| Finch Bay Road - Upgrade to seal plus drainage crossings                          | 30.36%    | 17        |
| Charlotte Street - Intersections and drainage upgrade                             | 35.71%    | 20        |
| Adelaide Street - Upgrade to seal   | 10.71%    | 6         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |           | <b>56</b> |

### Q6 Which of the following capital works projects in Coen should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).

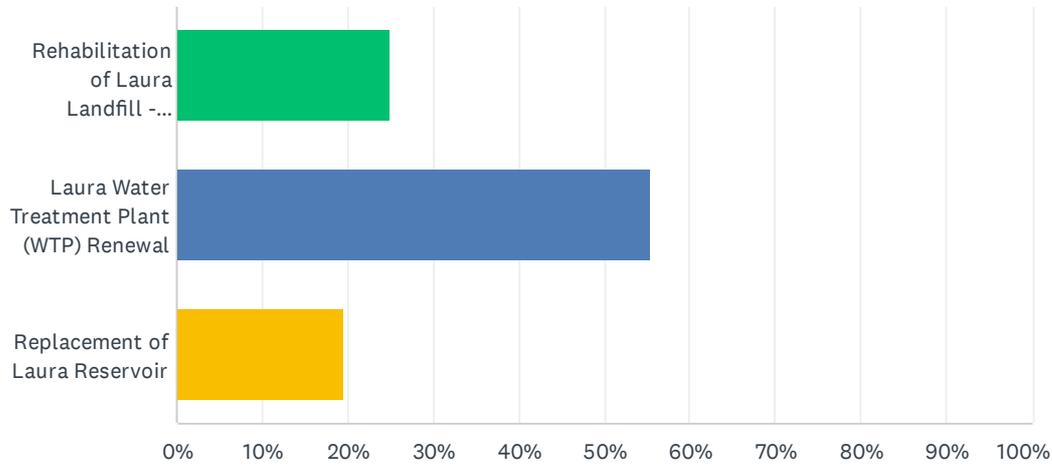
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| None of the above  | 0.00%     | 0         |
| Coen Landfill - Design for landfill cell and leachate management | 44.64%    | 25        |
| Installation of site office at Coen Waste Transfer Station (WTS) | 16.07%    | 9         |
| Coen Airport line marking  | 10.71%    | 6         |
| Coen Oval playground upgrade                                     | 17.86%    | 10        |
| Non-potable water supply to Coen Oval                            | 10.71%    | 6         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>56</b> |

**Q7 Which of the following capital works projects in Laura should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).**

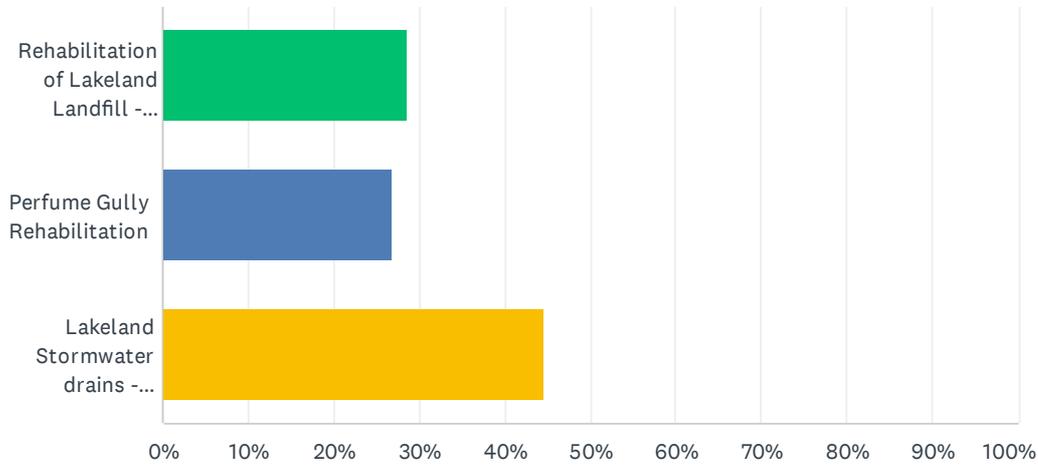
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES                             | RESPONSES |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Rehabilitation of Laura Landfill - Capping | 25.00%    | 14        |
| Laura Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Renewal  | 55.36%    | 31        |
| Replacement of Laura Reservoir             | 19.64%    | 11        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               |           | <b>56</b> |

### Q8 Which of the following capital works projects in Lakeland should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).

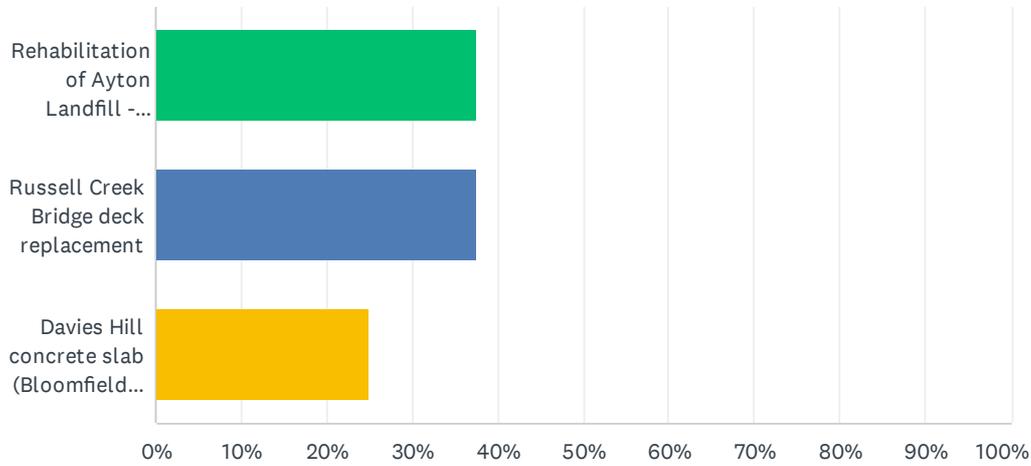
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES                                | RESPONSES |    |
|---|-----------|----|
| Rehabilitation of Lakeland Landfill - Capping | 28.57%    | 16 |
| Perfume Gully Rehabilitation                  | 26.79%    | 15 |
| Lakeland Stormwater drains - Cleaning         | 44.64%    | 25 |
| TOTAL   |           | 56 |

### Q9 Which of the following capital works projects in Ayton/Bloomfield should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).

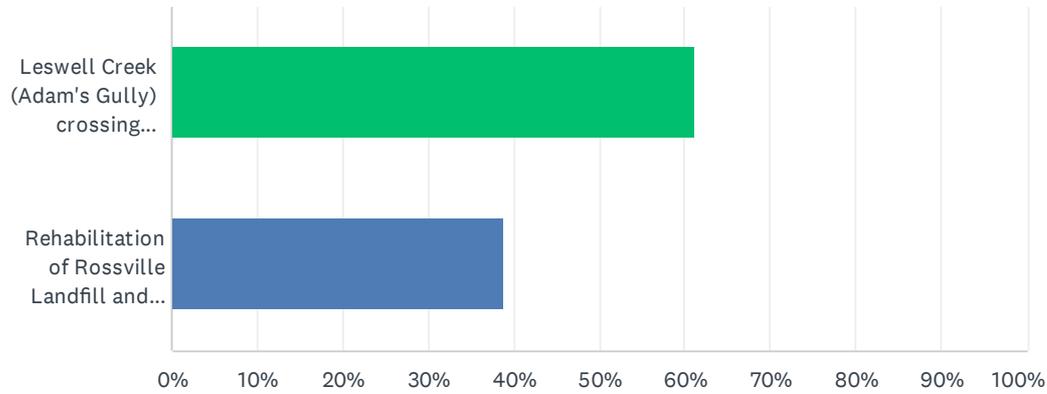
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES                              | RESPONSES |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Rehabilitation of Ayton Landfill - Capping  | 37.50%    | 21        |
| Russell Creek Bridge deck replacement       | 37.50%    | 21        |
| Davies Hill concrete slab (Bloomfield Road) | 25.00%    | 14        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                |           | <b>56</b> |

**Q10 Which of the following capital works projects in Rossville/Helenvale should Council prioritise in the 2025-26 Budget? Choose only one (1).**

Answered: 54 Skipped: 5



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |    |
|--|-----------|----|
| Leswell Creek (Adam's Gully) crossing upgrade            | 61.11%    | 33 |
| Rehabilitation of Rossville Landfill and install signage | 38.89%    | 21 |
| TOTAL  |           | 54 |

## Q11 Are there any other major Capital Works projects that you think Council should prioritise in the 2025-26 financial year? If so, please list them below.

Answered: 28 Skipped: 31

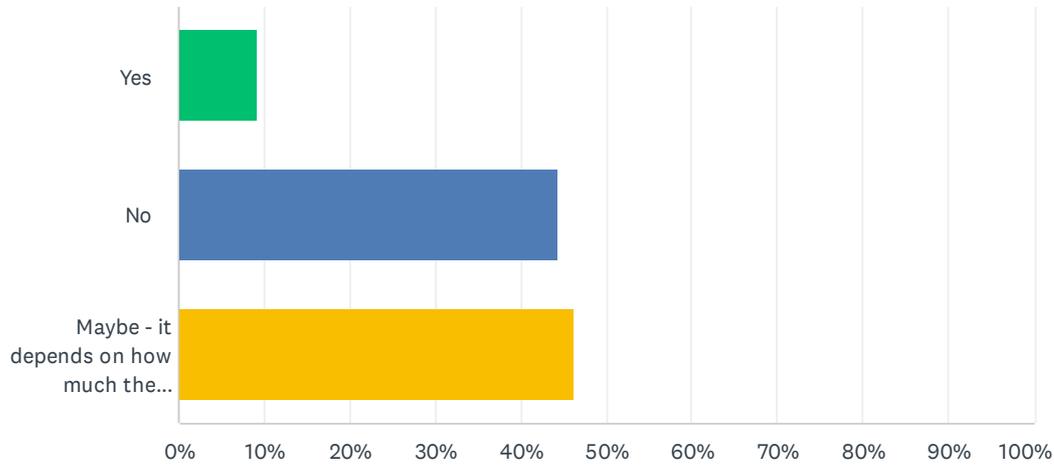
| #  | RESPONSES   | DATE               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | Keep ALL our roads in better condition  | 3/31/2025 2:21 PM  |
| 2  | Footpath along Sherrin Esplanade  | 3/31/2025 12:57 PM |
| 3  | No  | 3/31/2025 11:50 AM |
| 4  | Maintain and repair the Heritage guttering. Clear dirt and weeds out before each wet season.  | 3/31/2025 10:43 AM |
| 5  | air condition the Town Hall   | 3/31/2025 9:53 AM  |
| 6  | footpaths. furnace to fire station then onto green street. Can be dangerous then finally to the sovereign hotel.  | 3/31/2025 9:50 AM  |
| 7  | Drainage cleaning across all towns in the Shire.  | 3/31/2025 7:44 AM  |
| 8  | Sealing of township roads   | 3/27/2025 12:43 PM |
| 9  | swimming pool four shoure   | 3/26/2025 11:56 AM |
| 10 | Do what is necessary  | 3/24/2025 10:03 AM |
| 11 | Roundabout Harrigan Street to Hope Street esp. if IGA is moving, recycling plant, fence water park Cooktown   | 3/24/2025 9:59 AM  |
| 12 | Rehabilitation of oflusin creek causeway (billy goat creek causeway) - installation of a proper causeway and drainage   | 3/21/2025 10:41 AM |
| 13 | No  | 3/21/2025 7:52 AM  |
| 14 | Not sure if this belongs here but please don't undertake any more projects that create more concrete and bitumen and make Cooktown lose its character and just look like any other place.   | 3/21/2025 7:26 AM  |
| 15 | Sealing Railway Avenue West - popular road with businesses along the road and school bus route. Pot holes in wet season are out of control and dust in the dry season is extremely unhealthy and dangerous.   | 3/19/2025 11:41 AM |
| 16 | Sealing the road to the Cooktown dump.  | 3/19/2025 11:00 AM |
| 17 | Cooktown STP upgrade  | 3/19/2025 9:55 AM  |
| 18 | Waste Management Cooktown should be funded to incur lowered operational costs long term, and to provide a visibly better value for money experience for tip fees paid for the largest localised community base in the shire. At present users regularly attend a site with outdated infrastructure more like what you would expect in a remote bush site. | 3/19/2025 9:20 AM  |
| 19 | provide proper line marking throughout Cooktown - much of it is not to standard. This includes those dreadful traffic islands!  | 3/18/2025 10:33 AM |
| 20 | Trevathan Falls - A walking track created for falls access, the erosion on the current path is getting quite bad and access to the falls is becoming limited  | 3/18/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 21 | More Reticulated Water and Sewer Infrastructure   | 3/18/2025 8:13 AM  |
| 22 | no  | 3/18/2025 7:50 AM  |
| 23 | Maintenance and cleaning of Cooktown gutters, to avoid stormwater damage to property - on a regular basis throughout the year. Clean the Lions Park Playground - its disgusting and unhygienic for kids - sad to see a new playground not looked after by council. Events Centre airconditioning upgrade. Seal local roads around the townships.          | 3/18/2025 7:33 AM  |
| 24 | No  | 3/18/2025 7:00 AM  |

## Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

|    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 25 | Oakey creek crossing on Endeavour Valley road. Why do we still have this problem? How much longer??? | 3/17/2025 6:54 PM |
| 26 | Footpaths - to assist elderly in being more mobile and independent                                   | 3/17/2025 4:33 PM |
| 27 | Minke and Poison Creek crossings need to be raised to ensure year round access to residents          | 3/17/2025 4:23 PM |
| 28 | Rossville Museum upgrade   | 3/17/2025 2:45 PM |

## Q12 Would you support a rate increase to fund additional projects that HAVE NOT been mentioned as part of this consultation?

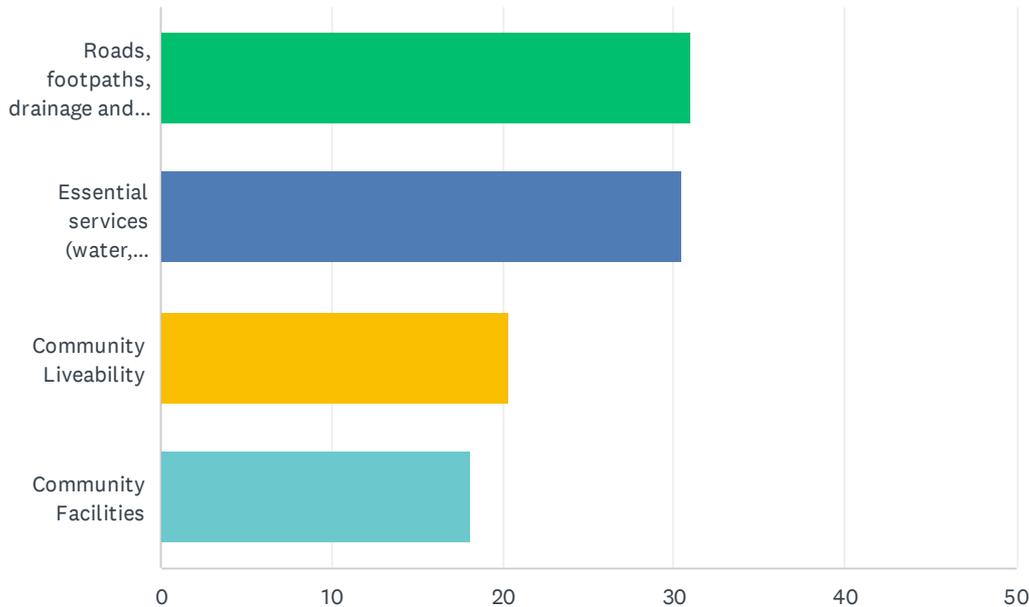
Answered: 54 Skipped: 5



| ANSWER CHOICES                                       | RESPONSES |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Yes  | 9.26%     | 5         |
| No   | 44.44%    | 24        |
| Maybe - it depends on how much the increase would be | 46.30%    | 25        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>54</b> |

**Q13 You have \$100 to spend across the following areas. Please allocate your funds based on what you believe most important. Please put a dollar value next to each of the categories. Total across the categories must equal 100.**

Answered: 47 Skipped: 12



| ANSWER CHOICES                                 | AVERAGE NUMBER | TOTAL NUMBER | RESPONSES |
|--|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Roads, footpaths, drainage and public works    | 31             | 1,460        | 47        |
| Essential services (water, sewerage and waste) | 31             | 1,435        | 47        |
| Community Liveability                          | 20             | 955          | 47        |
| Community Facilities                           | 18             | 850          | 47        |
| Total Respondents: 47                          |                |              |           |

| #  | ROADS, FOOTPATHS, DRAINAGE AND PUBLIC WORKS | DATE               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | 5   | 3/31/2025 10:14 PM |
| 2  | 25  | 3/31/2025 7:41 PM  |
| 3  | 55  | 3/31/2025 2:23 PM  |
| 4  | 35  | 3/31/2025 12:58 PM |
| 5  | 30  | 3/31/2025 12:39 PM |
| 6  | 25  | 3/31/2025 11:51 AM |
| 7  | 30  | 3/31/2025 10:56 AM |
| 8  | 25  | 3/31/2025 9:53 AM  |
| 9  | 40  | 3/31/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 10 | 25  | 3/31/2025 9:48 AM  |
| 11 | 30  | 3/31/2025 7:45 AM  |

Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

|          |   |                    |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| 12       | 40  | 3/26/2025 11:57 AM |
| 13       | 30  | 3/26/2025 11:54 AM |
| 14       | 50  | 3/26/2025 11:52 AM |
| 15       | 20  | 3/24/2025 12:54 PM |
| 16       | 20  | 3/24/2025 10:12 AM |
| 17       | 10  | 3/24/2025 10:09 AM |
| 18       | 25  | 3/24/2025 10:06 AM |
| 19       | 50  | 3/24/2025 10:04 AM |
| 20       | 40  | 3/24/2025 10:01 AM |
| 21       | 20  | 3/24/2025 9:55 AM  |
| 22       | 40  | 3/24/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 23       | 30  | 3/21/2025 10:44 AM |
| 24       | 50  | 3/21/2025 8:33 AM  |
| 25       | 30  | 3/21/2025 7:30 AM  |
| 26       | 0   | 3/20/2025 2:36 PM  |
| 27       | 30  | 3/20/2025 9:16 AM  |
| 28       | 25  | 3/20/2025 7:18 AM  |
| 29       | 25  | 3/19/2025 11:45 AM |
| 30       | 20  | 3/19/2025 11:02 AM |
| 31       | 30  | 3/19/2025 9:58 AM  |
| 32       | 25  | 3/19/2025 9:38 AM  |
| 33       | 20  | 3/18/2025 3:28 PM  |
| 34       | 20  | 3/18/2025 10:50 AM |
| 35       | 40  | 3/18/2025 10:35 AM |
| 36       | 40  | 3/18/2025 10:29 AM |
| 37       | 40  | 3/18/2025 9:54 AM  |
| 38       | 50  | 3/18/2025 7:55 AM  |
| 39       | 40  | 3/18/2025 7:36 AM  |
| 40       | 20  | 3/18/2025 7:01 AM  |
| 41       | 30  | 3/17/2025 10:38 PM |
| 42       | 10  | 3/17/2025 9:11 PM  |
| 43       | 80  | 3/17/2025 6:59 PM  |
| 44       | 35  | 3/17/2025 6:53 PM  |
| 45       | 50  | 3/17/2025 4:34 PM  |
| 46       | 30  | 3/17/2025 4:26 PM  |
| 47       | 20  | 3/17/2025 2:47 PM  |
| <b>#</b> | <b>ESSENTIAL SERVICES (WATER, SEWERAGE AND WASTE)</b> | <b>DATE</b>        |
| 1        | 5   | 3/31/2025 10:14 PM |
| 2        | 25  | 3/31/2025 7:41 PM  |
| 3        | 15  | 3/31/2025 2:23 PM  |
| 4        | 25  | 3/31/2025 12:58 PM |

## Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

|    |    |                    |
|----|----|--------------------|
| 5  | 20 | 3/31/2025 12:39 PM |
| 6  | 25 | 3/31/2025 11:51 AM |
| 7  | 20 | 3/31/2025 10:56 AM |
| 8  | 25 | 3/31/2025 9:53 AM  |
| 9  | 30 | 3/31/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 10 | 25 | 3/31/2025 9:48 AM  |
| 11 | 40 | 3/31/2025 7:45 AM  |
| 12 | 20 | 3/26/2025 11:57 AM |
| 13 | 30 | 3/26/2025 11:54 AM |
| 14 | 50 | 3/26/2025 11:52 AM |
| 15 | 20 | 3/24/2025 12:54 PM |
| 16 | 50 | 3/24/2025 10:12 AM |
| 17 | 50 | 3/24/2025 10:09 AM |
| 18 | 25 | 3/24/2025 10:06 AM |
| 19 | 30 | 3/24/2025 10:04 AM |
| 20 | 30 | 3/24/2025 10:01 AM |
| 21 | 20 | 3/24/2025 9:55 AM  |
| 22 | 20 | 3/24/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 23 | 30 | 3/21/2025 10:44 AM |
| 24 | 20 | 3/21/2025 8:33 AM  |
| 25 | 30 | 3/21/2025 7:30 AM  |
| 26 | 0  | 3/20/2025 2:36 PM  |
| 27 | 30 | 3/20/2025 9:16 AM  |
| 28 | 45 | 3/20/2025 7:18 AM  |
| 29 | 25 | 3/19/2025 11:45 AM |
| 30 | 40 | 3/19/2025 11:02 AM |
| 31 | 40 | 3/19/2025 9:58 AM  |
| 32 | 50 | 3/19/2025 9:38 AM  |
| 33 | 40 | 3/18/2025 3:28 PM  |
| 34 | 15 | 3/18/2025 10:50 AM |
| 35 | 40 | 3/18/2025 10:35 AM |
| 36 | 40 | 3/18/2025 10:29 AM |
| 37 | 15 | 3/18/2025 9:54 AM  |
| 38 | 50 | 3/18/2025 7:55 AM  |
| 39 | 40 | 3/18/2025 7:36 AM  |
| 40 | 50 | 3/18/2025 7:01 AM  |
| 41 | 30 | 3/17/2025 10:38 PM |
| 42 | 50 | 3/17/2025 9:11 PM  |
| 43 | 20 | 3/17/2025 6:59 PM  |
| 44 | 35 | 3/17/2025 6:53 PM  |
| 45 | 50 | 3/17/2025 4:34 PM  |

Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

| 46 | 30                    | 3/17/2025 4:26 PM  |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 47 | 20                    | 3/17/2025 2:47 PM  |
| #  | COMMUNITY LIVEABILITY | DATE               |
| 1  | 80                    | 3/31/2025 10:14 PM |
| 2  | 25                    | 3/31/2025 7:41 PM  |
| 3  | 15                    | 3/31/2025 2:23 PM  |
| 4  | 15                    | 3/31/2025 12:58 PM |
| 5  | 20                    | 3/31/2025 12:39 PM |
| 6  | 25                    | 3/31/2025 11:51 AM |
| 7  | 30                    | 3/31/2025 10:56 AM |
| 8  | 25                    | 3/31/2025 9:53 AM  |
| 9  | 15                    | 3/31/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 10 | 25                    | 3/31/2025 9:48 AM  |
| 11 | 15                    | 3/31/2025 7:45 AM  |
| 12 | 20                    | 3/26/2025 11:57 AM |
| 13 | 10                    | 3/26/2025 11:54 AM |
| 14 | 0                     | 3/26/2025 11:52 AM |
| 15 | 20                    | 3/24/2025 12:54 PM |
| 16 | 10                    | 3/24/2025 10:12 AM |
| 17 | 20                    | 3/24/2025 10:09 AM |
| 18 | 25                    | 3/24/2025 10:06 AM |
| 19 | 10                    | 3/24/2025 10:04 AM |
| 20 | 10                    | 3/24/2025 10:01 AM |
| 21 | 30                    | 3/24/2025 9:55 AM  |
| 22 | 20                    | 3/24/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 23 | 20                    | 3/21/2025 10:44 AM |
| 24 | 20                    | 3/21/2025 8:33 AM  |
| 25 | 20                    | 3/21/2025 7:30 AM  |
| 26 | 100                   | 3/20/2025 2:36 PM  |
| 27 | 10                    | 3/20/2025 9:16 AM  |
| 28 | 20                    | 3/20/2025 7:18 AM  |
| 29 | 25                    | 3/19/2025 11:45 AM |
| 30 | 20                    | 3/19/2025 11:02 AM |
| 31 | 15                    | 3/19/2025 9:58 AM  |
| 32 | 15                    | 3/19/2025 9:38 AM  |
| 33 | 10                    | 3/18/2025 3:28 PM  |
| 34 | 40                    | 3/18/2025 10:50 AM |
| 35 | 10                    | 3/18/2025 10:35 AM |
| 36 | 10                    | 3/18/2025 10:29 AM |
| 37 | 40                    | 3/18/2025 9:54 AM  |
| 38 | 0                     | 3/18/2025 7:55 AM  |

Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

| 39 | 5                    | 3/18/2025 7:36 AM  |
|----|----------------------|--------------------|
| 40 | 10                   | 3/18/2025 7:01 AM  |
| 41 | 20                   | 3/17/2025 10:38 PM |
| 42 | 10                   | 3/17/2025 9:11 PM  |
| 43 | 0                    | 3/17/2025 6:59 PM  |
| 44 | 15                   | 3/17/2025 6:53 PM  |
| 45 | 0                    | 3/17/2025 4:34 PM  |
| 46 | 25                   | 3/17/2025 4:26 PM  |
| 47 | 30                   | 3/17/2025 2:47 PM  |
| #  | COMMUNITY FACILITIES | DATE               |
| 1  | 10                   | 3/31/2025 10:14 PM |
| 2  | 25                   | 3/31/2025 7:41 PM  |
| 3  | 15                   | 3/31/2025 2:23 PM  |
| 4  | 25                   | 3/31/2025 12:58 PM |
| 5  | 30                   | 3/31/2025 12:39 PM |
| 6  | 25                   | 3/31/2025 11:51 AM |
| 7  | 20                   | 3/31/2025 10:56 AM |
| 8  | 25                   | 3/31/2025 9:53 AM  |
| 9  | 15                   | 3/31/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 10 | 25                   | 3/31/2025 9:48 AM  |
| 11 | 15                   | 3/31/2025 7:45 AM  |
| 12 | 20                   | 3/26/2025 11:57 AM |
| 13 | 30                   | 3/26/2025 11:54 AM |
| 14 | 0                    | 3/26/2025 11:52 AM |
| 15 | 40                   | 3/24/2025 12:54 PM |
| 16 | 20                   | 3/24/2025 10:12 AM |
| 17 | 20                   | 3/24/2025 10:09 AM |
| 18 | 25                   | 3/24/2025 10:06 AM |
| 19 | 10                   | 3/24/2025 10:04 AM |
| 20 | 20                   | 3/24/2025 10:01 AM |
| 21 | 30                   | 3/24/2025 9:55 AM  |
| 22 | 20                   | 3/24/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 23 | 20                   | 3/21/2025 10:44 AM |
| 24 | 10                   | 3/21/2025 8:33 AM  |
| 25 | 20                   | 3/21/2025 7:30 AM  |
| 26 | 0                    | 3/20/2025 2:36 PM  |
| 27 | 30                   | 3/20/2025 9:16 AM  |
| 28 | 10                   | 3/20/2025 7:18 AM  |
| 29 | 25                   | 3/19/2025 11:45 AM |
| 30 | 20                   | 3/19/2025 11:02 AM |
| 31 | 15                   | 3/19/2025 9:58 AM  |

Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

|    |    |                    |
|----|----|--------------------|
| 32 | 10 | 3/19/2025 9:38 AM  |
| 33 | 30 | 3/18/2025 3:28 PM  |
| 34 | 25 | 3/18/2025 10:50 AM |
| 35 | 10 | 3/18/2025 10:35 AM |
| 36 | 10 | 3/18/2025 10:29 AM |
| 37 | 5  | 3/18/2025 9:54 AM  |
| 38 | 0  | 3/18/2025 7:55 AM  |
| 39 | 15 | 3/18/2025 7:36 AM  |
| 40 | 20 | 3/18/2025 7:01 AM  |
| 41 | 20 | 3/17/2025 10:38 PM |
| 42 | 30 | 3/17/2025 9:11 PM  |
| 43 | 0  | 3/17/2025 6:59 PM  |
| 44 | 15 | 3/17/2025 6:53 PM  |
| 45 | 0  | 3/17/2025 4:34 PM  |
| 46 | 15 | 3/17/2025 4:26 PM  |
| 47 | 30 | 3/17/2025 2:47 PM  |

## Q14 Are there any specific projects or areas that you feel Council should prioritise in the 2025-26 financial year? Please comment below.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 29

| #  | RESPONSES  | DATE               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | Youth engagement activities and programs   | 3/31/2025 10:14 PM |
| 2  | Roads and bridges..  | 3/31/2025 2:23 PM  |
| 3  | -  | 3/31/2025 12:58 PM |
| 4  | No   | 3/31/2025 11:51 AM |
| 5  | Replace, repair, clean the Heritage guttering.   | 3/31/2025 10:56 AM |
| 6  | New jetty for permanent moorers  | 3/31/2025 9:53 AM  |
| 7  | mt amos road put pipe in o we dont have to drive through water. a must do job. i have been told the job in pipe line. When?  | 3/31/2025 9:48 AM  |
| 8  | service roads  | 3/26/2025 11:52 AM |
| 9  | Upgrade the Ayton library kids park  | 3/24/2025 12:54 PM |
| 10 | aged care  | 3/24/2025 10:09 AM |
| 11 | No   | 3/24/2025 10:04 AM |
| 12 | Fence waterpark! Continue de-sexing program  | 3/24/2025 10:01 AM |
| 13 | Aged care facilities   | 3/24/2025 9:55 AM  |
| 14 | Upgrade or focus animal shelters/facilities and welfare  | 3/24/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 15 | Anything that would make household recycling easier. So many times the recycling bins are full. For many of us that means a wasted trip and fuel into town and then another trip with fingers crossed that the bins won't be full this time.   | 3/21/2025 7:30 AM  |
| 16 | the safety of the community, reduce crime, lobbying for more health facilities and looking after and upgrading current facilities to align with the times  | 3/19/2025 11:45 AM |
| 17 | Stormwater management  | 3/19/2025 11:02 AM |
| 18 | Council needs to spend more money on the infrastructure that provides our communities with clean drinking water.   | 3/19/2025 9:58 AM  |
| 19 | New public toilets where required, so every public park has modern safe toilets with an external security camera monitoring the site. Taking into account the ongoing reality of vagrancy. A vastly improved animal pound is extremely important, and relatively low cost. Current facility is medieval. Seal the high use roads ie Finch Bay and Waste Transfer. Other proposed sealing projects can take a back seat or have the culverts etc addressed in first year, be sealed in second year. Not areas of high traffic or beneficial to vast numbers of people. That should be a key question for prioritizing, what number of people will directly benefit on an ongoing basis? | 3/19/2025 9:38 AM  |
| 20 | I believe Council should prioritise somehow increasing childcare services in the 2025-26 financial year. There is a growing demand for accessible and affordable childcare, and many families are struggling to secure placements. Expanding childcare facilities and support programs would greatly benefit working parents and the wider community. This could also include before/after school care to allow parents to work full time.   | 3/18/2025 3:28 PM  |
| 21 | Swimming Pool Upgrade  | 3/18/2025 10:50 AM |
| 22 | would be good to see the boardwork completed from town to the racecourse - great for tourism. Must also include viewing platforms though to allow people to stop   | 3/18/2025 10:35 AM |
| 23 | Walkway to Trevathan Falls. Increased animal management (pick-ups of roaming dogs)   | 3/18/2025 9:54 AM  |
| 24 | fixing potholes at roads outside town and even in town quicker   | 3/18/2025 7:55 AM  |

## Cook Shire Council 2025-26 Budget Consultation Survey

|    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 25 | Look after the existing assets - heritage gutters, playgrounds, facilities   | 3/18/2025 7:36 AM |
| 26 | No   | 3/18/2025 7:01 AM |
| 27 | Expanding programs at the Event Centre for community activities and after school programs, drainage issue in lower lying areas.                | 3/17/2025 9:11 PM |
| 28 | Oakey creek crossing on Endeavour Valley road.   | 3/17/2025 6:59 PM |
| 29 | Animal management - it's unsafe to be active in Cooktown   | 3/17/2025 4:34 PM |
| 30 | charlotte street needs a lot of attention. trees, street scaping, shade, it's ugly. looks kike a tired old ghost town and it has no character. | 3/17/2025 4:26 PM |

## Q15 Do you have any other questions, queries or comments that you'd like to add?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 42

| #  | RESPONSES  | DATE               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | No   | 3/31/2025 2:23 PM  |
| 2  | -  | 3/31/2025 12:58 PM |
| 3  | No   | 3/31/2025 11:51 AM |
| 4  | Reduce the height of steps on the walking track from Botanical Gardens to Finch Bay. Put pipes under the Finch Bay Road at the two points that wash out each year but no need to seal it. Install speed humps near children's water park. Maintain and raise or move path higher as its very wet and link the walking track from the cemetery to Boundary st/ Old Railway line   | 3/31/2025 10:56 AM |
| 5  | The speed limit of 50kph in cooktown is too high for a residential area  | 3/31/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 6  | sewage   | 3/26/2025 11:52 AM |
| 7  | Will there be any driver education/training lessons for students?  | 3/24/2025 10:09 AM |
| 8  | Charlotte St (old footpaths) need attention ASAP as many of the aging population are having difficulties   | 3/24/2025 10:04 AM |
| 9  | You are a great presenter! Council needs to clarify local vs state vs federal responsibilities. I think most complaints about council stem from a lack of understanding.   | 3/24/2025 10:01 AM |
| 10 | Council is doing a great job with what they have resource wise   | 3/24/2025 9:51 AM  |
| 11 | No   | 3/20/2025 2:36 PM  |
| 12 | Less focus on vanity and "this is my legacy" projects and less additional infrastructure for tourism. Tourism attendance is already guaranteed because of a sealed highway. As long as they have somewhere to stay, they will come and spend their tourist dollars. A cheaper stay option would see them stay longer and spend more. They dont need additional fancy stuff built to motivate them to come here. Many shires offer a council run camping facility unpowered with basic shower/toilet amenities for low overnight fees. With capped length of stay. This would be a low cost infrastructure cost with large return via tourism \$ spent around the town due to longer more affordable stays. Many travellers cannot afford caravan park fees for very long, and at times all accomodation in town is fully booked, as ex-tourism worker I am well aware. If such a site was somewhere picturesque i.e. Walker Bay, it would be a massive draw card | 3/19/2025 9:38 AM  |
| 13 | none   | 3/18/2025 10:35 AM |
| 14 | Put the Water over Road Indicator away at Endeavour Valley Road, Causeway just before Oakey Creek Road. It was a waste of money at all.  | 3/18/2025 7:55 AM  |
| 15 | No   | 3/18/2025 7:01 AM  |
| 16 | Library services could do with more budget as it now assisting with tech education, digital support, phone activations (no telstra in town), online form assistance, printing and laminating services being the only affordable service in town, as well as digital programs , kids programs, and much more. Opening longer on Saturdays would be a great way to reach more families.  | 3/17/2025 9:11 PM  |
| 17 | Rate payers exist outside of Cooktown on Charlotte St. We matter too.  | 3/17/2025 6:59 PM  |