



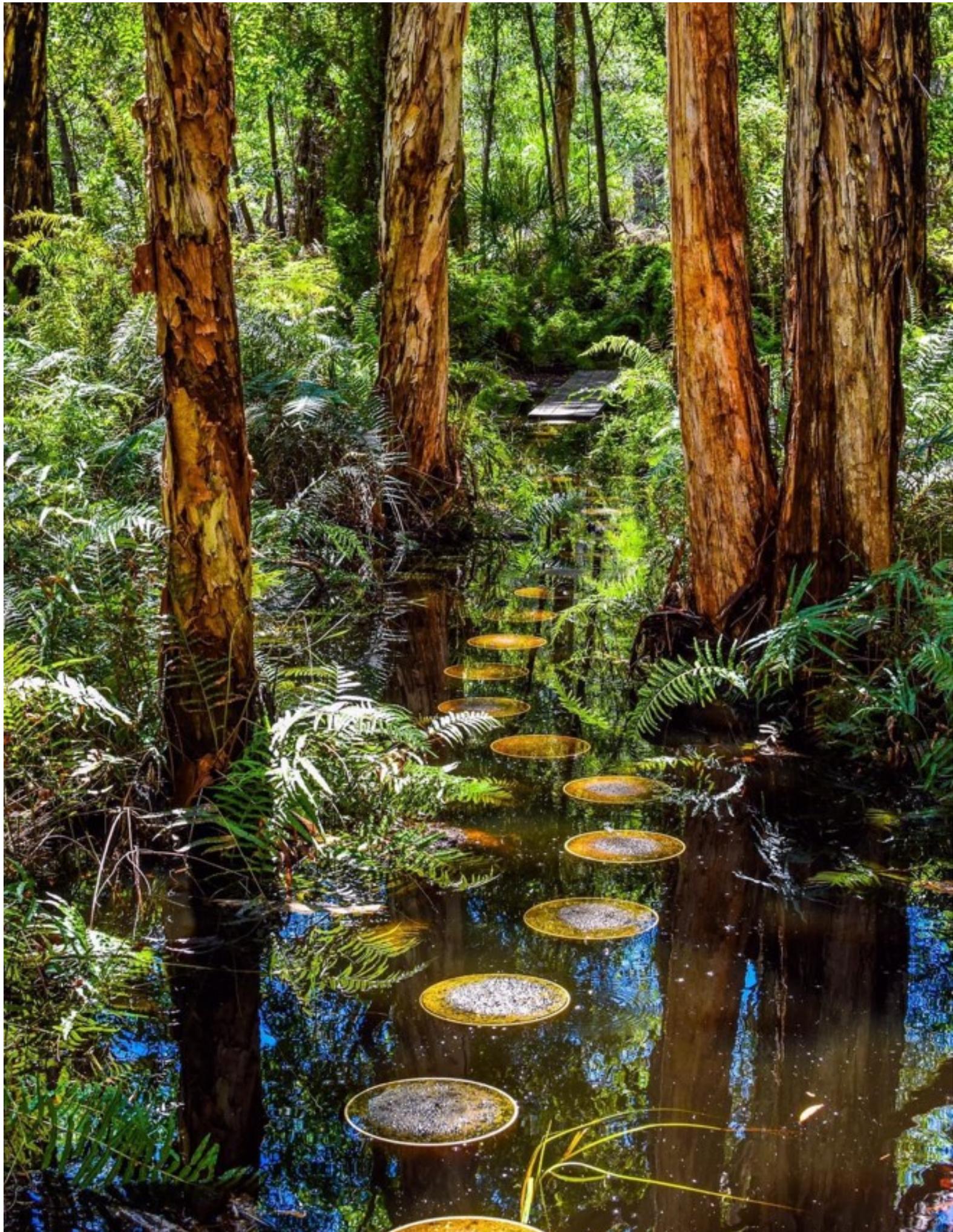
Heart of Agnes Community Association Inc.
Community Spirit in Action!

BIGGEST COMMUNITY SURVEY

for the Agnes Water region



Final Report 2022



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BIGGEST COMMUNITY SURVEY

for the Agnes Water region

The BIGGEST COMMUNITY SURVEY for the Agnes Water region was produced by local residents through the Heart of Agnes Community Association Inc; a launchpad for community collaboration and supporting local partnerships.

The aim of the survey was to gain a better understanding of our changing culture and current community profile, with a focus on qualitative input to help paint a picture of Agnes life that locals know and see every day.

A further goal is to begin building a community-led foundation for our community's development, by generating quantitative, community-owned data to support a more productive working relationship with Gladstone Regional Council and other Industry bodies; to see locally driven initiatives prioritised with the support, resources and acknowledgment they deserve.

We would like to thank our *local leaders and organisations* who took the time to share their thoughts and visions for a stronger Agnes regional community. We appreciate your input and the level of expertise and care you bring to all of us. Thanks to *Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS)* for their assistance with the huge task of helping us work through the survey feedback; and to present a final report that fairly reflects the diverse views of our local community. A huge thank you also to *Ray White Agnes Water, Gladstone Neighborhood Center and Gladstone Region engaging in action Together* for their generous support with printing. And of course all of our *volunteers*, who talked to hundreds of people while delivering surveys at the Discovery Coast and Captain Creek markets and around Main Beach. We couldn't have achieved this result without you!

We wish to *acknowledge the Gooreng Gooreng* people as the traditional custodians of the land to which this report relates. A special shout out as well to our amazing local photographers *Wayne Proudfoot, Helen Hansen, Virginia Mckenna, Layla Grace and William Debois* for their original contributions to the report.

Most importantly, we would like to thank YOU! Our neighbours, groups, organisations and businesses. Together we have taken the first step towards building a stronger united community.



Agnes Water ... *from a distance*

Located at the Southern most tip of the Great Barrier Reef in Central Queensland, Agnes Water is a town of historical significance and incredible natural beauty.

A part of the greater Gladstone Region, Agnes Water and neighbouring towns Seventeen Seventy, Round Hill, Captain Creek, Baffle Creek, Deepwater and Rules Beach hold a unique community profile in a geographical location unlike anywhere else in the region. Featuring the best of all worlds, the rural town boasts pristine coastline alongside rich farming and natural bush land.

The Gladstone Region

Known for its tourism destinations and rapidly growing industry, Gladstone continues to expand its manufacturing capabilities, energy production and agricultural sector; all supported by the Western Heavy Vehicle Transport Corridor and connected to the international Port of Gladstone.

With almost 64,000 people now living in the region, Gladstone also welcomes over 500,000 overnight visitors each year; driving the population of small towns such as Agnes Water to capacity during holiday seasons and peak times.

In 2022, Gladstone struggles with affordable housing and the rising issue of homelessness. Additional community infrastructure is needed along with medical and health facilities for a population largely comprising of families.



While the cultural and commercial influences of Gladstone are slowly encroaching on the quiet town, Agnes remains largely untouched by the growing presence of industrial development surrounding it. With the regional economic focus falling largely upon industry and the Gladstone CBD, Agnes experiences both benefits and challenges for the lesser attention.

As the region continues to grow, time will tell if Agnes can maintain its own identity as a unique Queensland community. For now, it is this contrast from the rest of the region that will see Agnes Water continue to be a favourite destination for travelers and holiday-makers, as well as locals.



Agnes Water... on the ground

Agnes Water is changing.

The last 5 years have seen a laidback seaside village evolve into a bustling town, with more visitors and new residents calling Agnes home.

Struggling at times to cope with overcrowding and changes to a traditional local culture, the town and region are on the precipice of major change that; if we aren't careful, will see us lose the magic that drew us all here to begin with.



With a population of over 2700 according to the 2021 Census, Agnes Water is struggling with limited housing, infrastructure and essential services. We are witnessing new development without community or environmental planning, and do not feel represented adequately by Gladstone Regional Council.

Recent COVID events have also impacted the town and region, bringing new residents of a different culture who desire further development and conveniences for the area. The community remains alert to further social restrictions which previously caused a sense of division among many residents.

In spite of these factors, Agnes Water remains a favourite destination for visitors from around Australia and internationally. Those of us who live here feel strongly about our home; the natural beauty of our environment and relaxed, small-town community. Regardless of how long you've called Agnes Water home, the town remains an iconic and unique corner of Australia that must be protected by all of us as we grow.



Agnes at a Glance:

- * **Agnes Water's official population** in 2021 was **2729**, up 519 from 2016.
- * The local population **including neighboring towns** collectively rose from **3085** in 2016 to **3804** in 2021.

“ In Agnes we are able to build our land to where we can grow and sustain our family, and help support our community at the same time”



Survey Background, Aims & Scope

The BIGGEST COMMUNITY SURVEY for the Agnes Water region was produced and delivered by local residents through the Heart of Agnes Community Association Inc; a launchpad for community collaboration and supporting local partnerships.

The aim of the survey was to gain a better understanding of our current community profile and changing culture, with a focus on qualitative input to help paint an accurate *quantitative* picture of life that locals know and see every day.

Residents were motivated to find common ground amongst the range of views within the community for how we should move forward as a region in the midst of current growth. With no operational data effectively representing the Agnes Water region, it was agreed that independently gained statistics could speak to our capabilities as a community, and represent us through accurate figures to substantiate our own communities vision and leadership.

Community-owned data supports a stronger and more productive working relationship with Gladstone Regional Council and other Industry bodies; to see locally-led initiatives prioritised and backed by these commercial partners to provide the support and resources our community needs.

The survey aims to compliment existing macro data from the 2021 Census and regional statistics from QLD Government and Gladstone Regional Council, by providing a micro view of Agnes Water and surrounding towns. The intention was to gain a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data through direct community consultation and online delivery.

Delivered throughout September-October 2022, the survey was open to both locals and visitors aged 15+ from Agnes Water, Seventeen Seventy, Round Hill, Captain Creek, Baffle Creek, Deepwater and Rules Beach. The survey was available through the Heart of Agnes website and promoted on social media, as well as in-person at the Discovery and Captain Creek Markets, Main Beach and other locations in the area. Community leaders we're also consulted for further input.

The survey explored themes from a local's point of view, gaining insight into our values, priorities and concerns as a community of townships. It considered our diverse coastal and rural geographies and the varying cultures and activities of those places. It considered the range of perspectives between the old and young; between tourists, newer and established residents.

We wanted to discover answers to the questions:

- * *Who are we as a local community?*
- * *How do we want to live on this land we call home?*
- * *What is our shared vision, and what are our goals?*
- * *What will it take, and what do we need to achieve them?*



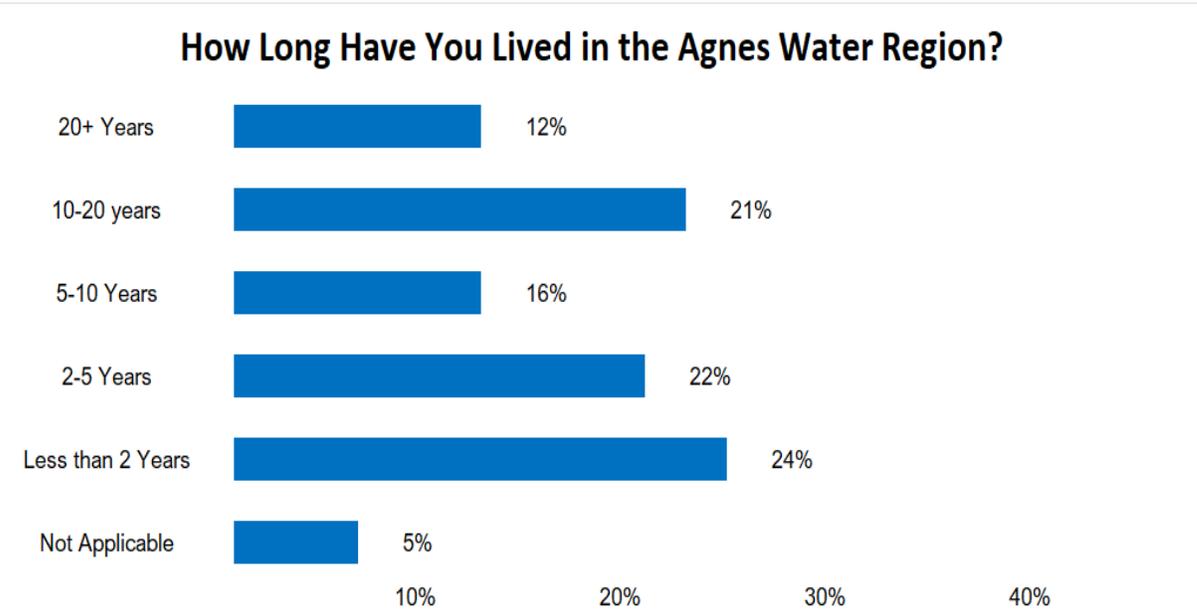
The Agnes Water Region Today

Total Number of Surveys Completed:



Do you live permanently in the Agnes Water region?

Yes	87%
No	13%

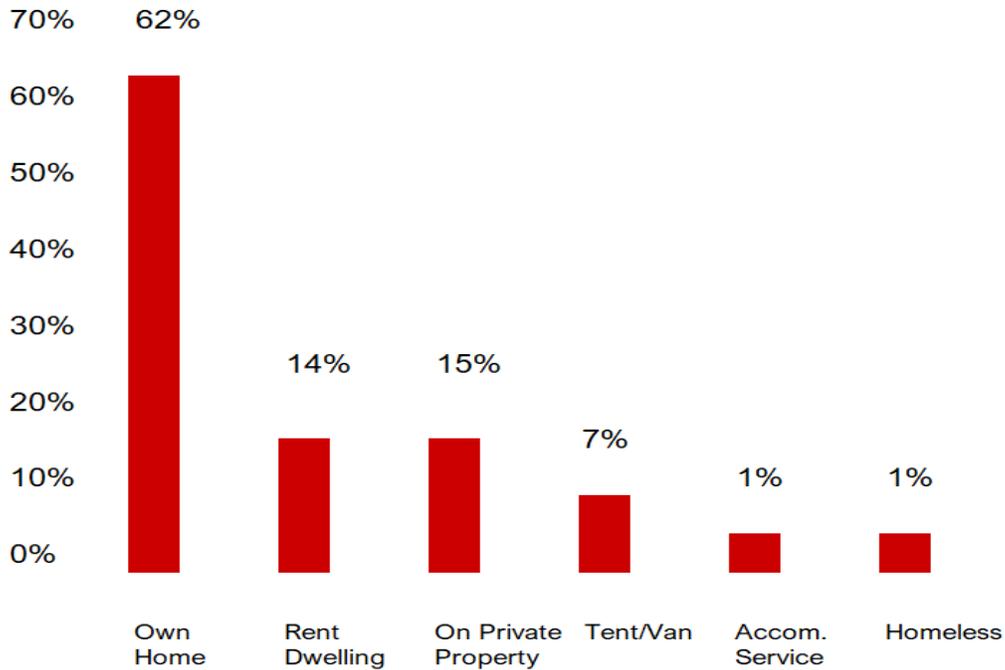


Our local population reflects a contrast of new and long-term residents, demonstrated by the numbers of people now moved into the area, as well as changes we are seeing to the local culture.

“I remember when Main Beach was run on a generator that got turned off at 9pm each night. Everyone knew each other and there was just nothing much here. For a number of years, we had paradise all to ourselves”



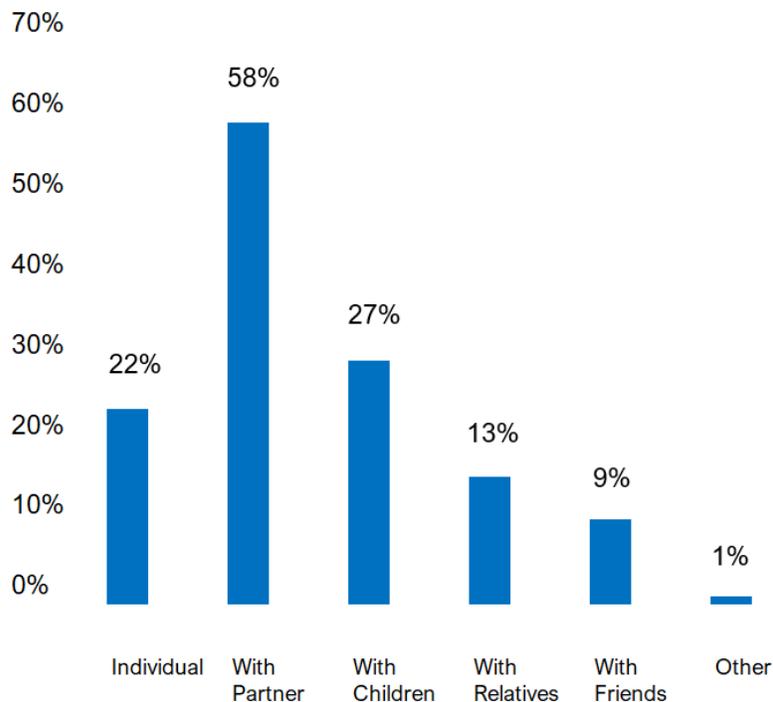
How We Live



** Figures reflect multiple options selected by participants*

Most of us have established life permanently in Agnes with a partner or family; many of us raise our children here. Many of us also live independently, staying with friends/relatives on private property, or living van life. Most of us invest financially to reside here or attempt to secure residence in the region.

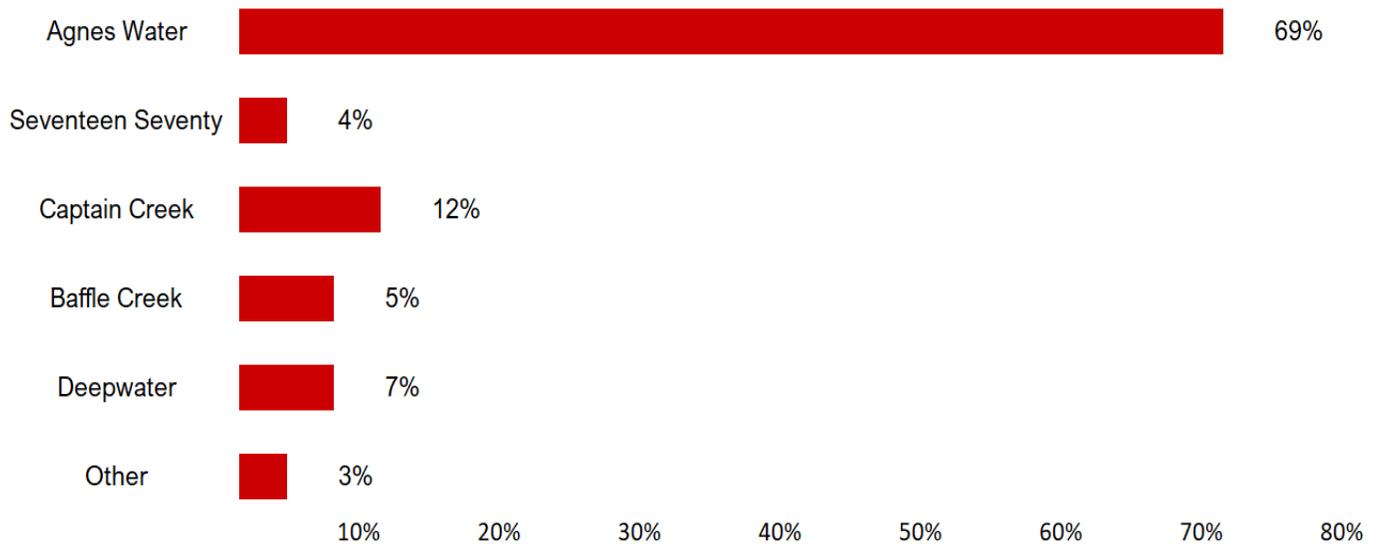
How We Live



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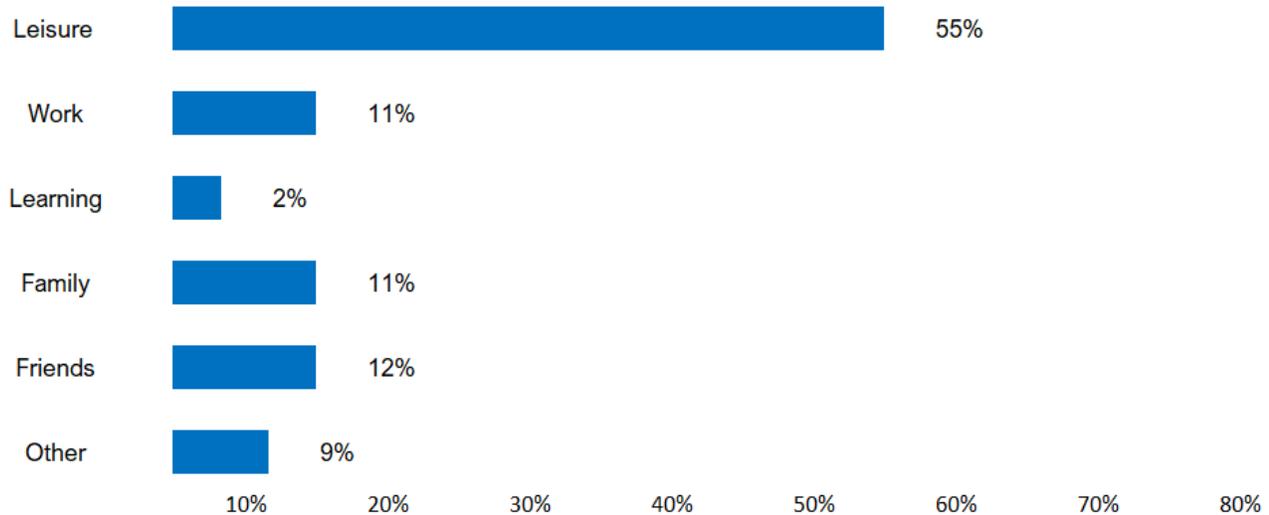


Where We Live



* Including towns of Rosedale, Miram Vale, Round Hill, Mt Maria, Boyne Valley, Berajondo & Euleilah

If You Don't Live Here, What Brought You to This Region?



* Visitors also love Agnes for the clean environment, lifestyle and relaxed vibe.

“We have been visiting Agnes Water for years; we brought our kids here when they were young, and now we bring our grandkids”



How we get around

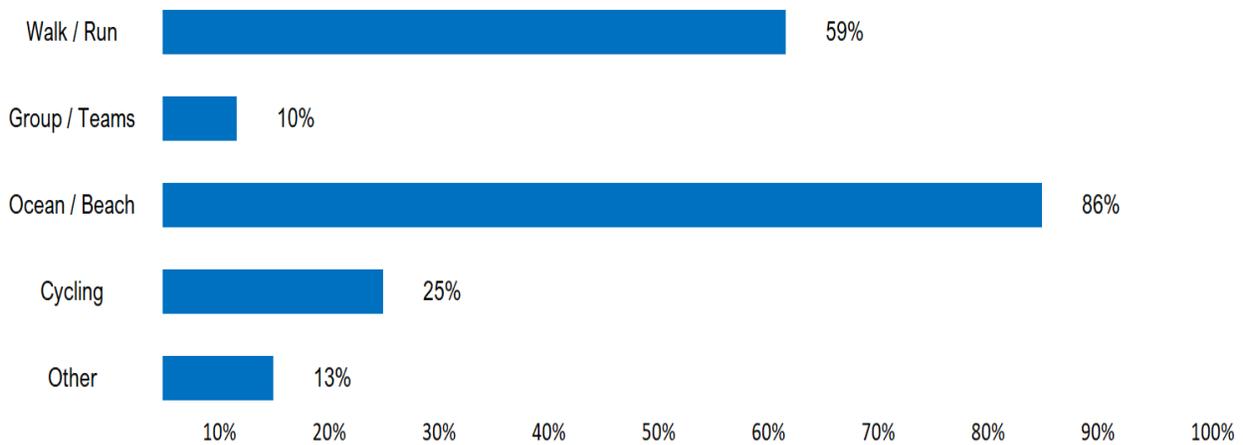
Own vehicle	65%	Borrowed vehicle	10%	Motorbike	10%
Bicycle	25%	Public transport	0%	Other	5%

** Figures reflect multiple options selected by participants*

“We have no public transport in the area, and not enough bike lanes to safely travel on roads”

“We have an amazing community who will often help out if you need a lift or get stuck somewhere, but it would be hard to live here without a vehicle”

Our Favourite Sport & Recreation Activities



We also love:

- Boating
- Fishing
- Lawn Bows
- Dragon Boats
- Yoga
- Horse Riding
- Camping

“Agnes has an incredible local music scene with many talented musicians”

“There isn’t much here for kids to do except surf or skate”



What We Like

We feel strongly about our home. For us it's the lifestyle; getting to live where its still (relatively) quiet and laidback. A place to live sustainably and in harmony with the local environment. We love to spend time at the beach, and with friends and family. We spend a lot of time outdoors enjoying our climate, and we love our local festivals!

Our natural environment is what we feel most strongly about. The combination of pristine coastline and natural bushland, our national parks and wildlife that many of us are still blessed to greet each day right at our front door.

We believe the local Agnes Water region is a good place for families and to raise children; we feel safe and positive about our towns and community. We feel proud of our Indigenous culture and our local traditional community values. Most of us know and have a good relationship with our neighbours and are more than willing to lend a hand to someone in need.

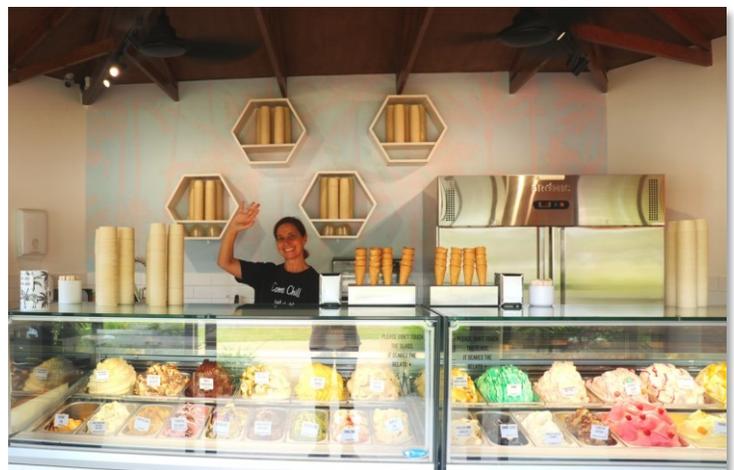


“We have wildlife in our backyard every day and the beach is just down the road. Agnes is paradise”

“Baffle Creek has always been a wonderful place to live and to raise children”

“Agnes Water is such a unique place in Australia; we have the best of everything”

“Moving to the Creek was a great choice for our family”



And What We Dont

The destruction of our natural environment, poor planning and rapid development are what we *dont* want. This is also reflected through several other identified issues such as poor consultation from Gladstone Regional Council, limited parking, a lack of affordable housing, overcrowding and traffic management.

Along with the destruction to the environment, our other biggest dislike is the lack of doctors and medical facilities in Agnes Water. A shortage of other essential services, as well as the rising cost of living were identified as well.

Toxic attitudes and negativite behavior within our community were also highlighted, as “new people”, “tourists” and “locals” were all equally identified cohorts.

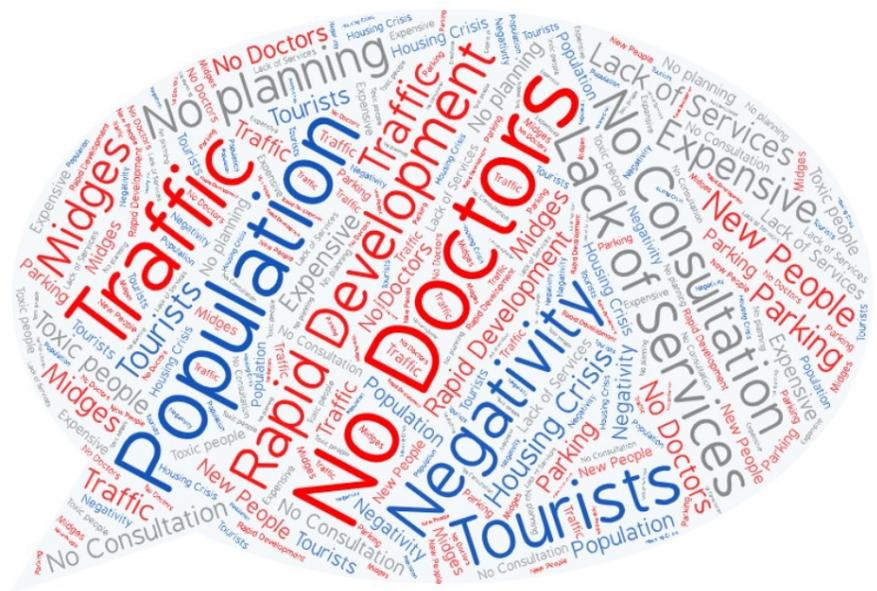
“There is a lot of quiet division and judgement within our community that stops us from achieving our larger goals”

“3 weeks to see a doctor, and no doctor at all if you’re new”

“We get almost no support from Gladstone Council and our town suffers for that”

“There’s a lack of affordable rental housing for employees desperately needed by local business”

“It is very difficult to rally the community as a collective”



Locals Hit List: Top 5

- Destruction of the environment
- Lack of doctors/medical services
- Pace of unplanned development
- Overcrowding/population
- Affordable housing/cost of living

We Also Don't Like:

- Poor community consultation
- Water quality
- Phone/internet connectivity
- Lack of public transport



Current Views

*** How would you rate services, resources and general access for your area?**

Unsurprisingly, services for TOURISTS rated highest for the area, acknowledging the attraction of our region to visitors and the capacity for local business to accommodate the changing tides of population.

Services for YOUNG PEOPLE are most lacking, with limited resources or places for social connection outside of sporting activities. Services for PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY also rated poorly, specifically related to public access and limited professional support services in town.

	Very Poor	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Very Good	Total
Youth / Teenagers	22%	52%	18%	5%	3%	493
Seniors	11%	34%	47%	6%	2%	492
People with a Disability	18%	61%	17%	3%	1%	481
Tourists/Visitors	2%	4%	20%	54%	20%	488
Children	6%	23%	54%	13%	4%	486
Families	5%	20%	56%	13%	6%	489
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	17%	52%	22%	5%	4%	470

“Youth services are lacking in Agnes.... personal support, health and mental health, vocational etc. We need a safe drop-in space for young people to connect, learn and get help. It is not fair to ask young people to go to Bundaberg or Gladstone”



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE are also missing services that are culturally specific or more appropriate. Most Indigenous activity in the area is currently linked to tourism.

Services for SENIORS were also rated low, however this perception differed between locals and visitors, with residents giving a poorer score.

CHILDREN and FAMILIES services rated moderately in comparison to other groups, but per population and in general, were still rated low.

Responses to this question highlights that most services around Agnes are oriented to visitors more than residents.

“We need a cultural heritage centre for locals and tourists to connect to our Indigenous heritage, and learn more of the local stories to help build our relationship with the land”



What We Want

Local Business

Identified Business Priorities:

1. 24hr service station / pharmacy
2. Gym
3. Phone / tech servicing & repairs
4. Car / boat wash
5. Public pool



Other Suggestions:

- “Supervised Indoor play center for kids and families”
- “A BCF... but not a BCF”
- “More live music and performance venues”
- “An indoor entertainment centre; cinema, rock wall, go kart etc”
- “The Marina could be a lot nicer with more parking and shops”
- “Boredom supplies for kids and adults when on holidays”



There are many new commercial or retail businesses we would like to see in the area, but are conscious of the impact of such development on our environment, population and culture. We'd like a few more conveniences, but are happy to forego these for the sake of preserving our town. We like the idea of original or independent businesses more than the generic chain stores.

A large number of people surveyed identified that, in addition to specific businesses, we urgently need increased/upgraded commercial infrastructure with improved, community-led planning in partnership with Gladstone Council.



Development & Infrastructure



“Agnes often feels ignored by Gladstone Council and does not receive the support or resources it needs for its growing population”

Identified Priorities:

1. Improved town planning for sustainable residential and business growth
2. Improved traffic management systems
3. Local environmental protection plan to guide development
4. Improved working relationship with Gladstone Council

We are deeply concerned about a lack of infrastructure for essential social services and facilities. **Medical, Emergency and Allied Health** rate highest as a local infrastructure priority.

In line with national trends Agnes is also experiencing a **housing** crisis, with many unable to find housing and long-term residents having to leave the area.

A lack of **parking** in town and the condition of our **roads** everywhere were also identified. **Town water** quality, **community transport**, a **public pool** and increased **bike paths** featured heavily in responses as well.

However, before any further development commences our community are in favour of **reviewing the planning and approval processes for new development** in the area, highlighting 3 key priorities under this question:

1. Planning
2. Community Consultation
3. Environmental Protection

We feel strongly about the way development is occurring in our town, seemingly with **little community consultation, sustainability planning or consideration of the local environment**. Right now we are very concerned about the unnecessary destruction of our environment and future business culture due to rapid commercial growth.

“We need an environmental protection plan that includes local groups, Gladstone Council and State Government”

“Developments are just approved without any real consultation with the community; and the way they're built... no consideration, no planning”.



*** What should we be doing to further protect, enhance or promote our natural environment including our national parks, coastline and public spaces?**

Collaboration
Locals
Vehicles
Destruction
Council
Attitudes
Partnership
Tourists
Access
DCEG
Consultation
Youth
Industry
Planning
Education
Indigenous

Our natural environment is our greatest asset; and the reason so many of us live here. As a community we recognize the way we access and manage our environment is the key to maintaining our way of life. We reject the “new Noosa” model as our town’s future.

Our biggest concern is the impact of commercial development, from planning and approvals to construction. We are seeing developments being approved without community consultation that are over-clearing land and destroying local habitats.

We want more forward planning with sustainability in mind. We want greater collaboration with Council and input into local proposals. We want an environmental protection plan to guide new development.

- More on-ground management and security of our bush and coastline.
- Positively educating and engaging tourists and visitors about our local environment.
- Stronger presence and leadership by Gooreng Gooreng people for local environmental education, knowledge and guidance.



“We’re all here because of how beautiful the place is; lets remember that and help protect it”

“We must protect our oceans from the impact of commercial industry”



*** How could we improve community support and welfare services to better care for isolated/vulnerable members of our community?**

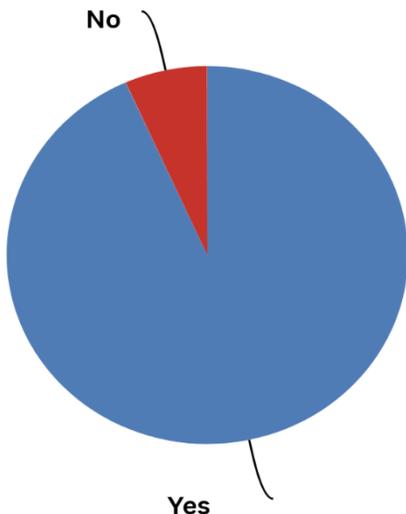
We would like a community services hub in town with everything centrally located, including a neighborhood centre featuring a variety of supports and local referral pathways. We would also like to see outreach services to assist our more remote or isolated residents, and strongly support the idea of a resourced mobile health bus.

We want to see stronger collaboration and partnerships among our local services. We also have a critical shortage of volunteers, and see addressing volunteering as a priority to supporting and strengthening local groups.

It is important to us to provide more services for local youth, and see improved community access for people with a disability. Community transport was also identified as a high priority.



*** Would more MOBILE or OUTREACH services better support our remote residents?**



YES: 92%
NO: 8%



“This would be a huge help in the delivery of welfare services to isolated residents”

“Baffle Creek & Deepwater would benefit from mobile services”



*** Which COMMUNITY SERVICES are important to where you live?**

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Don't Know	Total
Ambulance	74%	25%	1%	0%	499
Fire Brigade	74%	25%	1%	0%	499
Emergency planning & response	73%	25%	2%	0%	499
Communtiy/Neighborhood Centre	71%	21%	6%	2%	495
Children & families	68%	27%	4%	1%	484
Arts, music, entertainment & events	62%	30%	8%	0%	496
Relief & Welfare	60%	32%	5%	3%	491
Seniors	54%	40%	5%	1%	494
Disability Access	53%	41%	4%	2%	496
Mental Health	53%	41%	5%	1%	486
Sports & Recreation	52%	43%	5%	0%	494
Schools	51%	43%	5%	1%	488
Wildlife & animal control	50%	45%	5%	0%	484
Childcare	39%	46%	12%	3%	477
Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander	36%	48%	11%	5%	483
Legal	24%	57%	15%	4%	485

With many of us geographically isolated in a region prone to fire and flood, it is no surprise that our family's safety is our top priority. Welfare and community access are also very important to us, with a Community/Neighbourhood centre an essential resource identified by both locals and visitors.

Which could be improved?

- Community drop-in centre
- Relief & welfare support
- Sporting facilities
- Children & family services
- Mental health services for youth
- Emergency planning for fire & flood
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander services



“We are seriously lacking a functional community centre with a central place for services and local referrals”



*** Which ESSENTIAL SERVICES are most important to where you live?**

We are urgently needing more **Doctors, medical/emergency services** and **allied health** professionals.

We would like to see more **rangers** and support from Council in **caring for our environment**.

Road construction and maintenance, parking and **bike paths** all rated highly as local access priorities.

Improving **connectivity** and **water quality**, and increasing affordable **housing** also featured as immediate priorities.



	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Don't Know	Total
GP, Emergency & Allied Health	76%	21%	3%	0%	493
Environmental Protection	74%	23%	3%	0%	497
Connectivity (Phone, Internet)	69%	27%	4%	0%	496
Roads & Vehicle Access	68%	29%	3%	0%	497
Housing – residential, care etc	66%	25%	8%	1%	491
Water Quality	65%	27%	7%	1%	491
Local Transport	57%	29%	13%	1%	489
Facilities	57%	37%	6%	0%	492
Waste Collection & Disposal	47%	46%	7%	0%	49
Town appearance	45%	47%	8%	0%	494
Employment & Training	35%	49%	13%	3%	488
Commercial Dev. & Infrastructure	32%	49%	17%	2%	491
Mail Delivery	32%	53%	15%	0%	485
House Numbers/Lot Identification	24%	56%	19%	1%	486

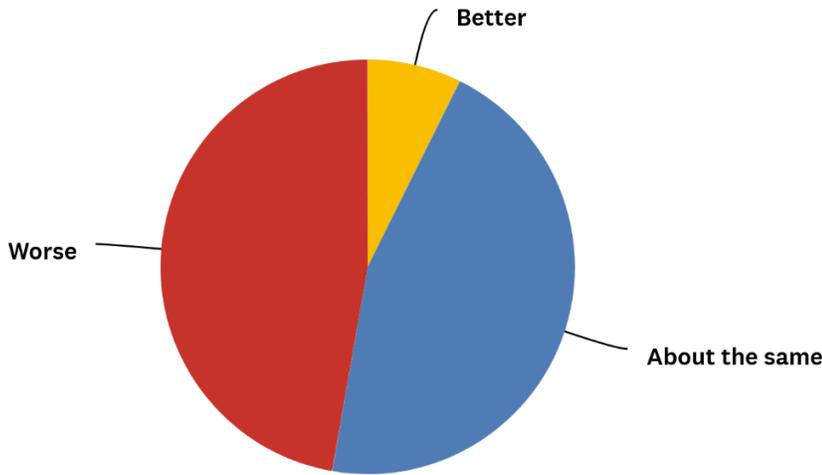
Which could be improved?

- Doctors, emergency & allied health
- Toilets & bins at beach access points
- Phone & internet connectivity
- Infrastructure for business
- Road maintenance
- Affordable housing
- Increased bike paths
- Water quality



What Concerns Us

* Is the Agnes Water region a better/same/worse place to live than 1 year ago?

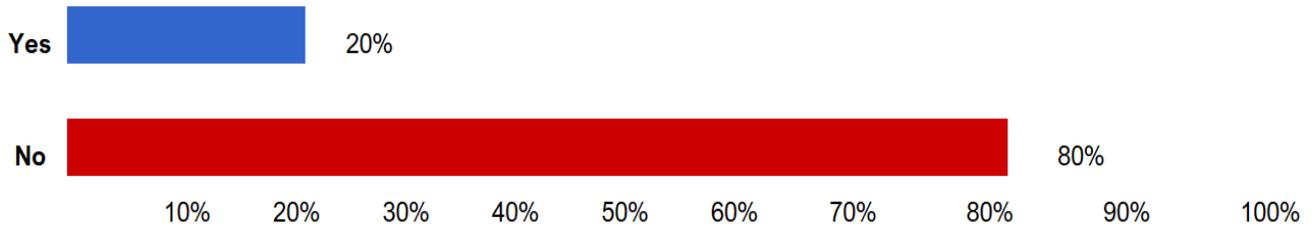


BETTER:	7%
ABOUT THE SAME:	46%
WORSE:	47%

- Over population
- No planning to guide growth
- Destruction of environment
- Development without consultation
- Culture of the community changing
- Relationship with Gladstone Council
- Social division

“We’re losing some of our community feel to overpopulation and a different culture coming into the area”

Does Agnes Water and surrounding towns receive the appropriate support, resources and acknowledgement from Gladstone Council?



“We desperately need more community leadership to work more effectively with Council in planning decisions so Agnes is resourced appropriately”

“Gladstone Council has a corporate culture that does not yet recognise the value of Agnes Water beyond tourism and commercial investment”



Our Future Direction

** Do you have any special skills, knowledge or qualifications, even if you are not using them right now?*

We have an established local skills pool, with many residents now retired following extensive careers, and many new members of our community bringing considerable professional strengths.

It is evident through the range of qualifications, specialist knowledge and professional skills within our community that our residents are one of our most valuable assets!



Industry Skills:

- Education
- Hospitality
- Legal
- Building
- Therapies
- Music
- Mechanical
- Driving
- Nursing
- Retail
- Landscaping
- Disability
- Trades
- Sales
- IT



Current Figures:

According to the 2021 Census, just under half of Agnes Water are employed (47%), with half of that number working full-time (46%).

Almost 20% of those working part-time/casual worked 9 hrs per week or less, where nearly 24% of those working full-time identified working hours of 45+ per week.

Not surprisingly, accommodation services, cafes and restaurants are our top local employers, with a high number of residents in technology and consulting roles, and trade workers who live in Agnes but likely work outside the area.



*** What do we need to do NOW, to preserve our region for the FUTURE?**

Responses to this question prompted a range of strong, consistent opinions from the community. We are clear on what we do *not* want; and largely agree on what we *do*. Now is the time to solidify this understanding and commence working on common goals:

- Improved working partnership with Gladstone Council
- More basic and essential services: medical, health, community, transport etc
- An environmental protection/sustainability plan to support future development
- Comm-Unity: starting to work together through agreement on common local goals
- Beginning to build an operational model of community governance and leadership
- Balancing the needs for affordable housing with population increase
- Address roads, traffic, parking and infrastructure including maintenance
- A welcome/orientation/introduction resource for new residents
- Improved community access to local First Nations culture and knowledge

Governance Vision
Skills Strength
Attitudes Environment Lifestyle
Groups Partnership Locals
Together Community
Preserve Council
Collaboration Planning
Care Coordination Growth
Sustainable Consultation Manage
Tourists Leadership

“Protecting our environment should be an ongoing partnership between residents, Council and State Government”

“We need to organise at a community level, and empower ourselves to build our future”



ANALYSIS & SUMMARY

The survey revealed a wealth of insights into our local community profile. Responses varied by age, resident status and location, providing a balanced range of views reflected through the data.

Our Vision (Heart & Mind):

Our community's most valued asset is our natural environment. We recognise this in our hearts and through our actions. We want to see our land preserved; and our native flora and fauna protected. Many of us are active in supporting this goal through involvement with locals groups, or as a part of our daily lifestyle.

Living in "Agnes" means something to us; we feel strongly about where we live. We feel protective of our natural environment and our relaxed way of life. We take pride in our local identity when in contrast with Gladstone, Noosa or larger cities. We reject attitudes of ignorance and disrespectful behaviour when it comes to our community. We welcome anyone who is independent with a desire to join-in and support good works happening on the ground.

We are concerned by the nature of recent construction and the impact of commercial industry on our environment and lifestyle. We are witnessing development without community input that is destroying land and wildlife habitats. We have a poor relationship with Gladstone Regional Council and feel unsupported and unheard regarding many of the important issues we are facing.

We are also concerned about changes within our community. We are frustrated at times over the sheer volume of people, and the pressures placed on business, services and roads. We are feeling some cultural division between older and newer residents, and see the impact of covid and social uncertainty in the demographic of newer people moving to Agnes.

Our challenge at present is to begin managing our growth as a region and as a community. Most of us agree we are in urgent need of additional medical, community and business resources, however we are generally skeptical about *any* new development, and do not want to lose more of the magic of our town through an even higher population. We currently have no local environmental protection plan or coordinated, community-led planning. We have no operational statistics or data to support community needs, and no governance or leadership structure to work more effectively with Council and industry bodies.



FOCUS FOR 2023:

- 1. Environmental Protection**
- 2. Planning for Development**
- 3. Community Leadership**



Local Priorities:

* Town / regional planning	<u>Urgent</u>
* Environmental protection	<u>Urgent</u>
* Medical / health facilities	<u>Urgent</u>
* Upgraded roads, parking and infrastructure	<u>Urgent</u>
* Improved relationship with Council	<u>Urgent</u>
* Affordable housing	<u>Important</u>
* Community governance and leadership	<u>Important</u>
* Neighborhood centre	<u>Important</u>
* Upgrade to NBN Network	<u>Important</u>
* Emergency services	<u>Important</u>
* Community transport	<u>Recommended</u>
* Mobile/outreach services	<u>Recommended</u>
* Services for young people	<u>Recommended</u>

Challenges to Address:

* Environmental impact	<u>Urgent</u>
* Community consultation	<u>Urgent</u>
* Lack of infrastructure to support current/future population	<u>Urgent</u>
* Volunteer shortage / poor community engagement	<u>Important</u>
* Poor relationship with Council	<u>Important</u>
* Poor community cohesion and agreement	<u>Important</u>
* Limited collaboration among organisations	<u>Recommended</u>
* Social division within our community culture	<u>Recommended</u>

Opportunities to Build:

* <u>Community Identity</u>	Infrastructure, training, consultation, self-governance, planning, data
* <u>Local Relationships</u>	Volunteering, communication, collaboration, leadership
* <u>Guiding Resources</u>	Environmental protection, sustainability plan, strategic planning



Agnes Water... *looking forward*

We have an opportunity now.

To work together as a community in protecting our environment; and build a sustainable future that nurtures all that we love about our home.

We are witnessing change all around us, and don't want to lose what makes Agnes so special. We are blessed by so many of our original residents still with us who carry the stories of our formation. We are honoured by the presence of our Gooreng Gooreng First Nations people who hold place for our older and deeper local history.

The Biggest Community Survey 2022 is a strong first step towards us becoming a thriving, secure and independent community; part of a larger regional network but not reliant or driven by outside factors. We have commenced a journey of self discovery as a community; and it is now up to us to transform what learnings we glean into tangible fruit for us all to share. It is time to work towards solidifying our values, and strengthening our capacity for leadership and collaboration. Change can never be stopped; only steered. And for that we need participation, courage and leadership.

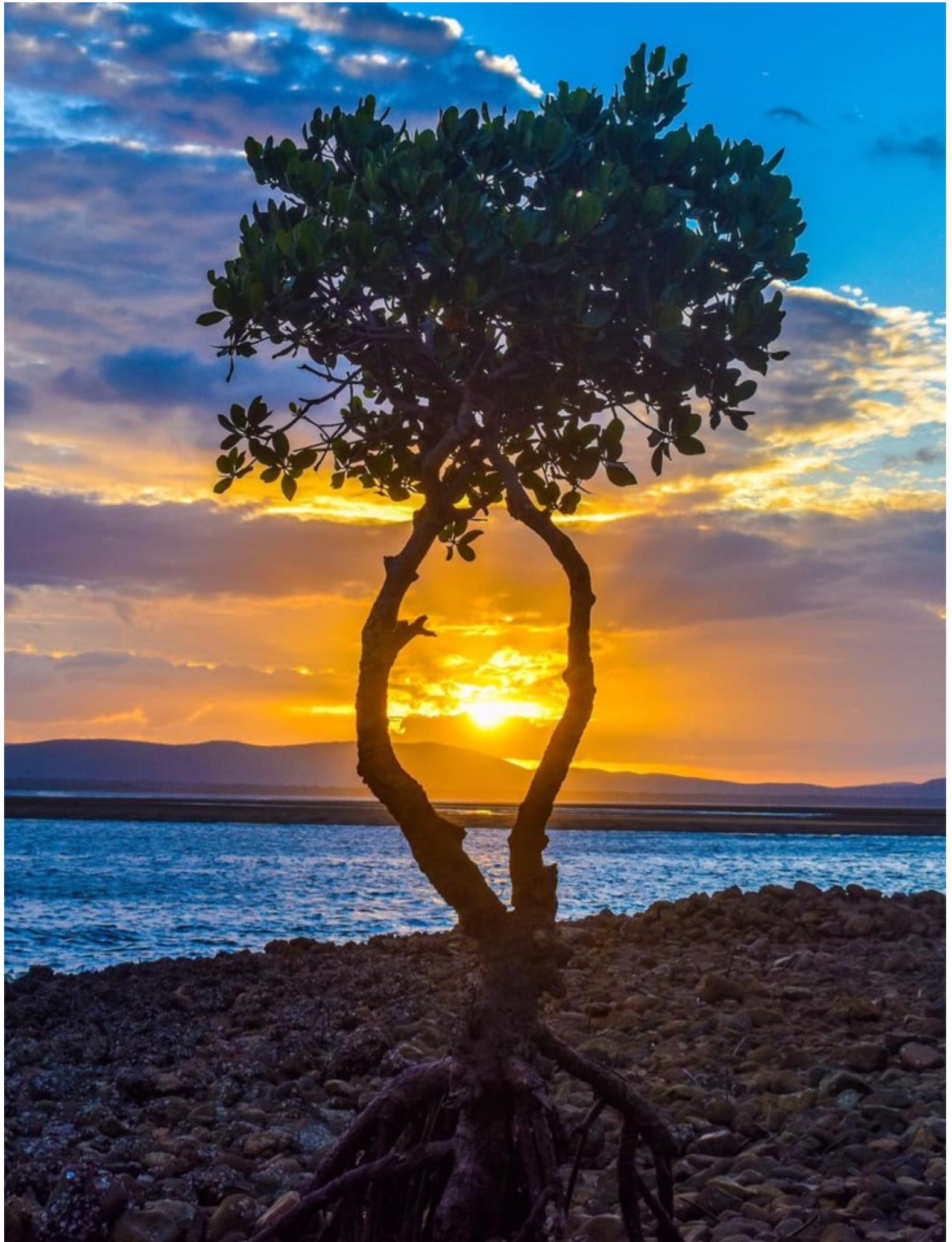
In recent years we have welcomed a new wave of energy into the area; new people bringing fresh skills and a capacity to contribute that we must nurture and encourage. It is time to galvanize our collective community; older and newer residents together for the purpose of community-led planning. It is in this way, we have the greatest chance at attracting the support and resources we need to grow sustainably into the future.



REFERENCES

- * Gladstone Economic Transition Roadmap 2022-2032
- * Gladstone Regional Council - 2022-23 Strategic Priorities
- * Gladstone Regional Council –2021-26 Community Development Strategy
- * Gladstone Regional Council - 2021-26 Corporate Plan
- * Gladstone Regional Council - 2020-21 Operational Plan
- * Gladstone Region Together - Gladstone Region Wellbeing 2021 Baseline Report
- * Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy Structure Plan Report 2013
- * Australian Bureau of Statistics - Agnes Water Census 2021







Heart of Agnes Community Association Inc.
Community Spirit in Action!

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