

CITY OF CLARENCE

# Coastal Access Strategy

## Consultation Report

October 2025





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# Background

The Coastal Access Strategy is a 10-year framework to make access safer and more inclusive while caring for dunes and coastal habitats. Many sites have ageing paths and stairs, informal parking, gaps between bus stops and beach entries, and limited accessible toilets. Land is managed by City of Clarence, the State and Crown Land, so delivery and upkeep differ from place to place.

The draft sets a simple, consistent way to plan upgrades. It classifies places and access points (T1–T5 for beaches and coastlines, C1–C3 for tracks, CAP1–CAP3 for paths and ramps), maps constraints and opportunities, and gives clear design guidance. This helps create continuous paths of travel, better links to amenities and public transport, more seating and shade where suitable, and buffers to protect sensitive dune areas. It also identifies priority works on our land and where we can advocate with other land managers.

## What is in scope now

- Finalising the Framework and the simple ratings.
- Listing site opportunities on Council-managed land.
- Setting priorities for future budgets and grant bids.
- Explaining where we will partner or advocate on non-council land.

## What is not in scope

- Approving or funding individual works at this stage.
- Changing dog rules or vehicle access.
- Beach engineering works that sit outside access improvements.
- All future projects will still need detailed design, approvals and checks for coastal hazards, environment and heritage.

# Survey design

## Purpose of the survey

The survey gathers community feedback on the draft Coastal Access Strategy. It tests the vision, checks support for the access ratings and features, and identifies places where access is hard. We are looking for recurring themes and practical ideas that can shape priorities in the final Framework.

## Feedback sought

The survey asked how the community uses the coast, what gets in the way, and how it can be more inclusive. It checked support for the vision and gauged support for the proposed beaches and features for the new tier ratings.

## Rationale for the design of the questions

Questions are written to link real experiences to design choices and priorities. They test the access ratings in plain language and asks about equity needs for people with disability. The survey is short and simple, with the option to add comments.

## Structure of the survey (i.e. questions under outcome areas)

Questions followed the Strategy's outcome areas. We began with the overall vision and guiding principles. The survey then stepped through each access level (T1–T5), testing support for the proposed features and the beach level, inviting short comments after each, asked how we can make beaches and coastal areas more accessible, and closed with an open comment and a brief “about you” section (gender, age, suburb, disability).

# What we did

## How the survey was promoted



373 unique visitors to the Coastal Access Strategy **Your Say** webpage and 751 page views



**34 coreflutes** displayed at coastal sites around Clarence.



**Consultation ad** in the Eastern Shore Sun.



**Posters** and **postcards** with QR link to the website, with posters included in letters/emails to key stakeholders for display on notice boards



**Social media posts** with a total reach of **7,415 people** and an engagement of 31.

## Ways people engaged and provided feedback



**63**

Online survey responses



**3**

Written submissions received



**48%**

accessed via Facebook



**55%**

visited the page on mobile

## Consultation period

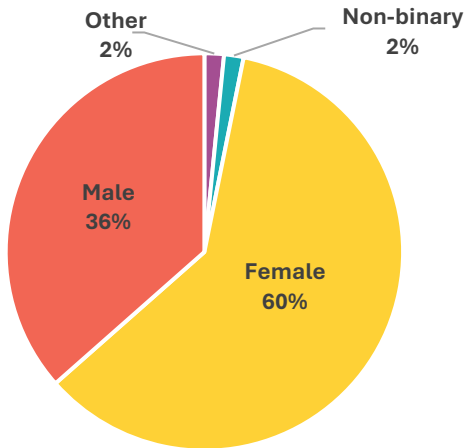
**6 weeks** (2 September – 9 October 2025)

# Data Summary

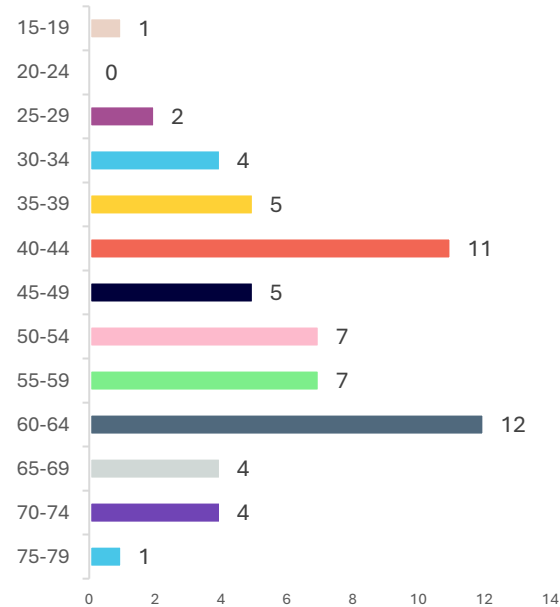


# Demographics

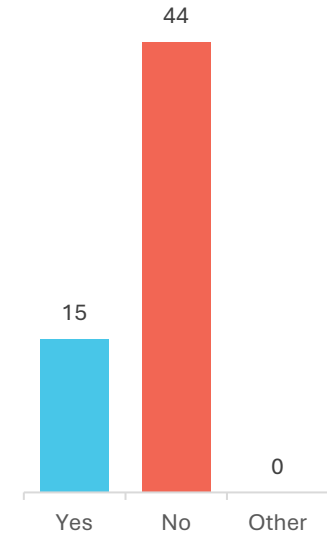
## Gender



## Age

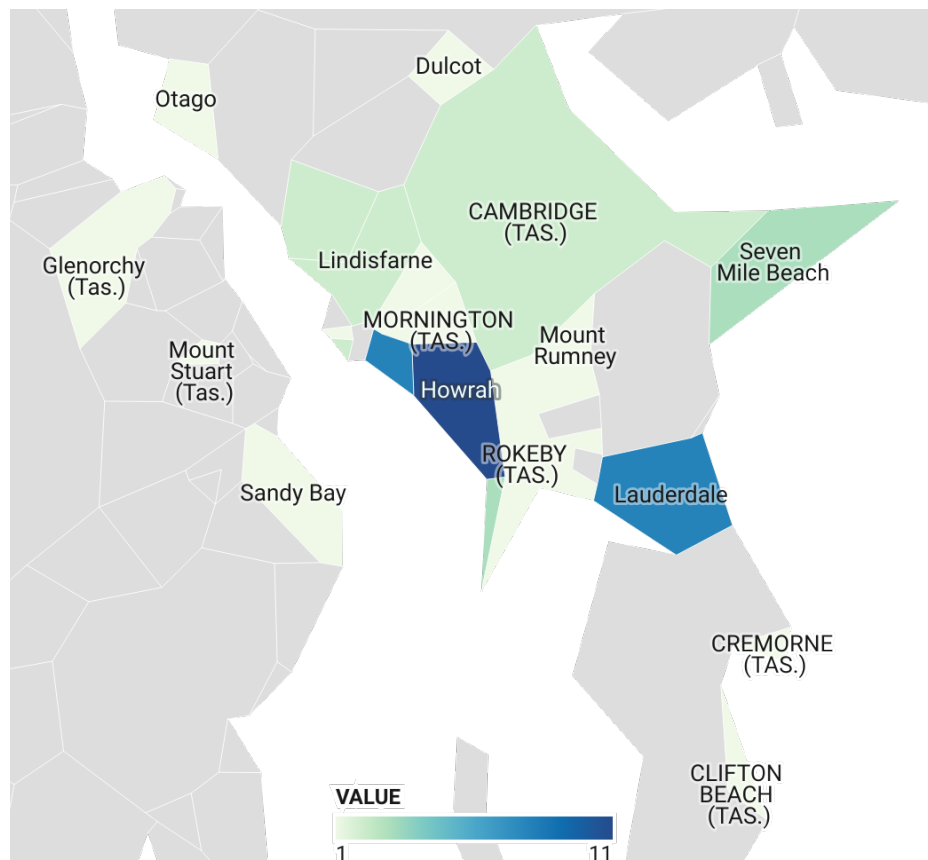
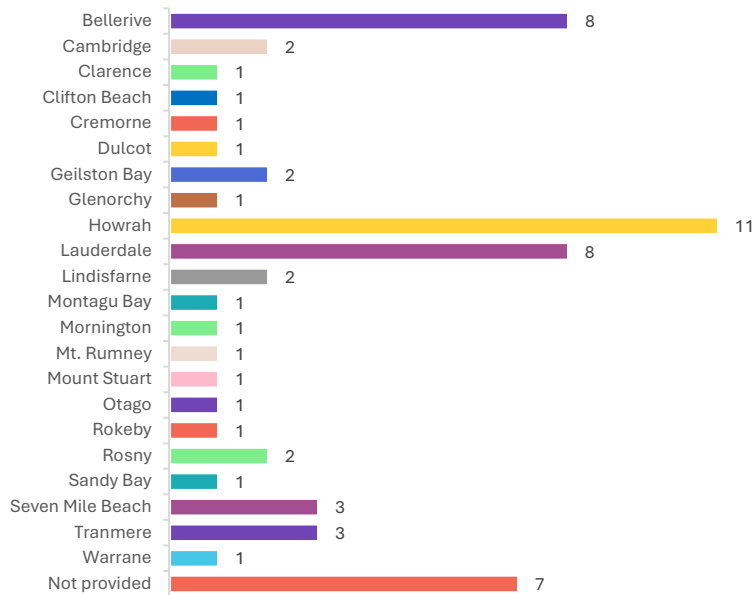


## Disability



# Demographics

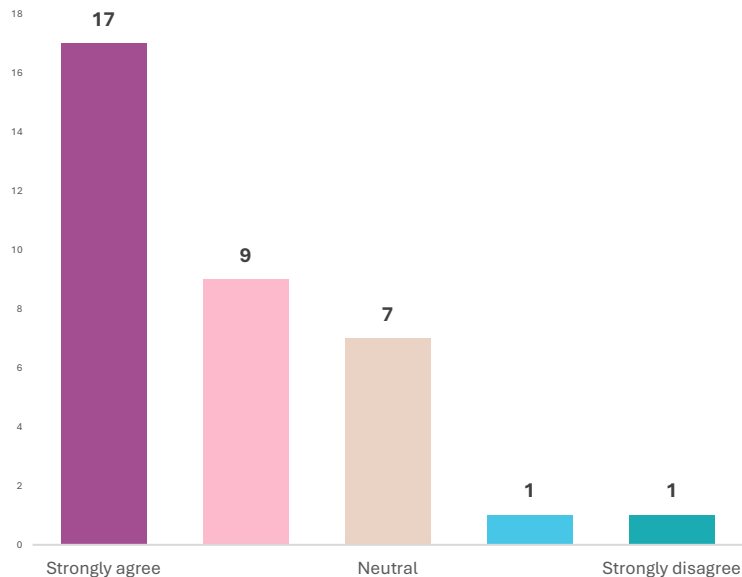
## Suburbs



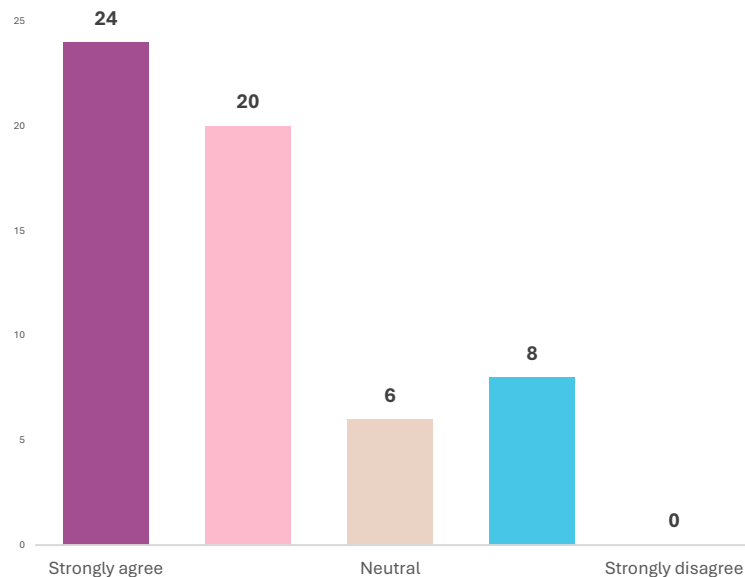


# Vision and Guiding Principles

How satisfied are you with the vision?



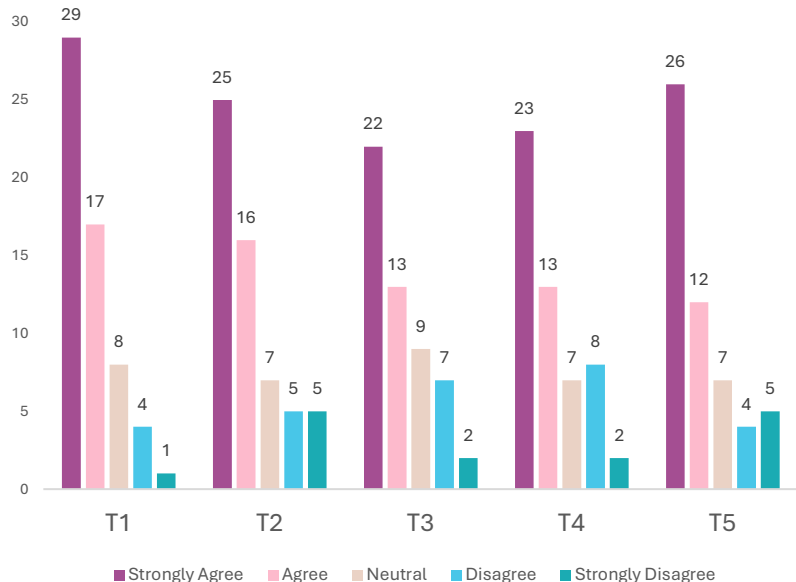
How satisfied are you with the Guiding Principles?



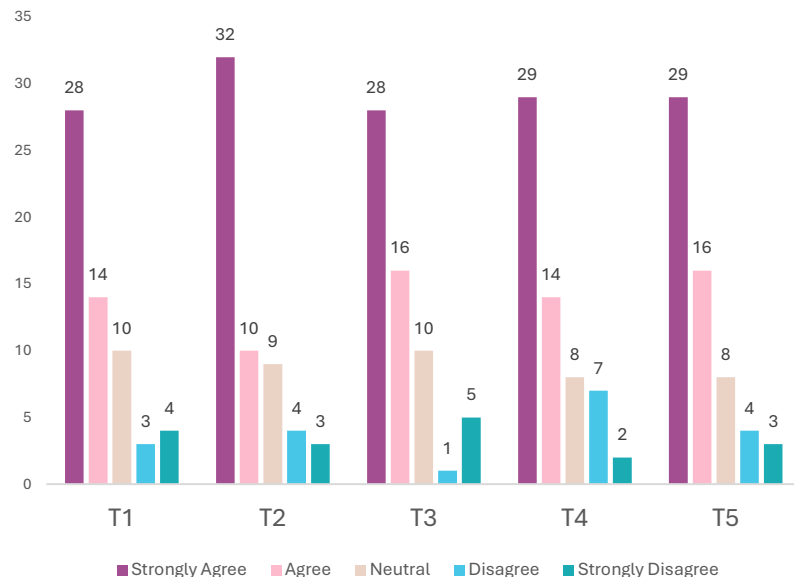
# Support for Access Categories

Classifications outline the typical features and levels of accessibility visitors can expect at coastal locations. They are rated from T1 – T5, with T1 being optimal accessibility and T5 being minimal accessibility.

## Features



## Beaches



# 4

## Key findings

### Inclusive access and comfort

People back features that make visits easier for wheelchair users, prams and older residents. Suggestions include shade near the beach, a dedicated platform, beach wheelchairs (MLAK), and adult change tables. A nudist beach was also requested. *“A dedicated platform for wheelchair users.”*

### Toilets, showers and change rooms

Amenities are a repeated priority. Respondents want upgrades to accessible toilets and simple wash-down facilities at popular beaches. *“Toilets need immediate upgrades.” “Beach showers and foot washing stations.”*

### Multiple access points to spread use

People ask for more than one accessible entry at busy beaches to reduce congestion and support sensory needs. *“Important to have access at more than one location.”*

### Wayfinding and information

Clearer signs and simple maps of access points would help visitors find suitable entries and ease pressure on a few popular spots. *“Information boards with maps to other beaches and their accessibility.”*

### Safer entries, dunes and parking

People report broken steps and difficult dune crossings, especially at Seven Mile Beach, alongside limited parking and bins. *“Broken steps along access to Bellerive Beach.” “Access over hot soft sandy dunes [is] extremely difficult.”*

### Dog access

Several comments ask that dog walkers be considered in access planning, including bins and designated areas. Others want reliable dog-free stretches for comfort, safety and health needs, especially for families with allergies. *“Make Bellerive Beach dog-free year-round.” “Dog areas, dog bins, dog friendly.”*



# Summary

Community feedback shows strong overall support for the Coastal Access Strategy and its direction. People shared many practical, place-based ideas about features and facilities. While these do not change the Strategy's structure, they will guide how we scope and plan future projects so upgrades are fair, safe, and balance access with environmental and cultural values.

From here, we will make minor refinements to the access categories and add short explanations about how site features are chosen. Matters outside this Strategy, such as some access rules and broader coastal management issues, will be handled through the relevant policies and processes. Finally, we will finalise the Strategy for Councillor consideration.

