CONSULTATION | Tree Preservation Order Private Land

October 2023

Community Engagement Summary

Consultation for a Tree Preservation Order for Private Property was undertaken to **INVOLVE** community and provide residents opportunities for feedback on Councils recommendation to explore urban tree management regulation on private property.

Engagement methods & activities included a dedicated consultation page on the YourSay platform, community information sessions, digital based campaigns, and direct mailbox flyer distribution.

Methods to gain feedback included two engagement methods including a survey and voting poll, to provide further sentiment from community.

A summary of engagement activities and resulting community participation is highlighted below.

How we reached you and raised awareness

55 days of engagement

- 11 August - 4 October 2023

1316 visits to YourSay page

- **31** project followers
- **104** Survey contributions (93 online; 11 offline)
- **83** Vote contributions (76 online; 7 offline)

Print advertisement and media release

- **2** Media Release on DRC website
- **1** advertisement in Dubbo Photo News

Digital engagement

- **10,441** social media impressions (the number of times a post appears)
- **428** social media engagements (the number of times a post was interacted with - which can be likes, shares, comments etc)

Information sessions

- **2** information sessions across Dubbo and Wellington
- **20** attendees

Survey locations

- YourSay Online Survey
- Customer Experience Centres
  - Wellington and Dubbo
- Macquarie Regional Library
  - Wellington and Dubbo

Direct mail drop

- **13,000** flyers dropped to private properties within urban suburbs across Dubbo & Wellington.

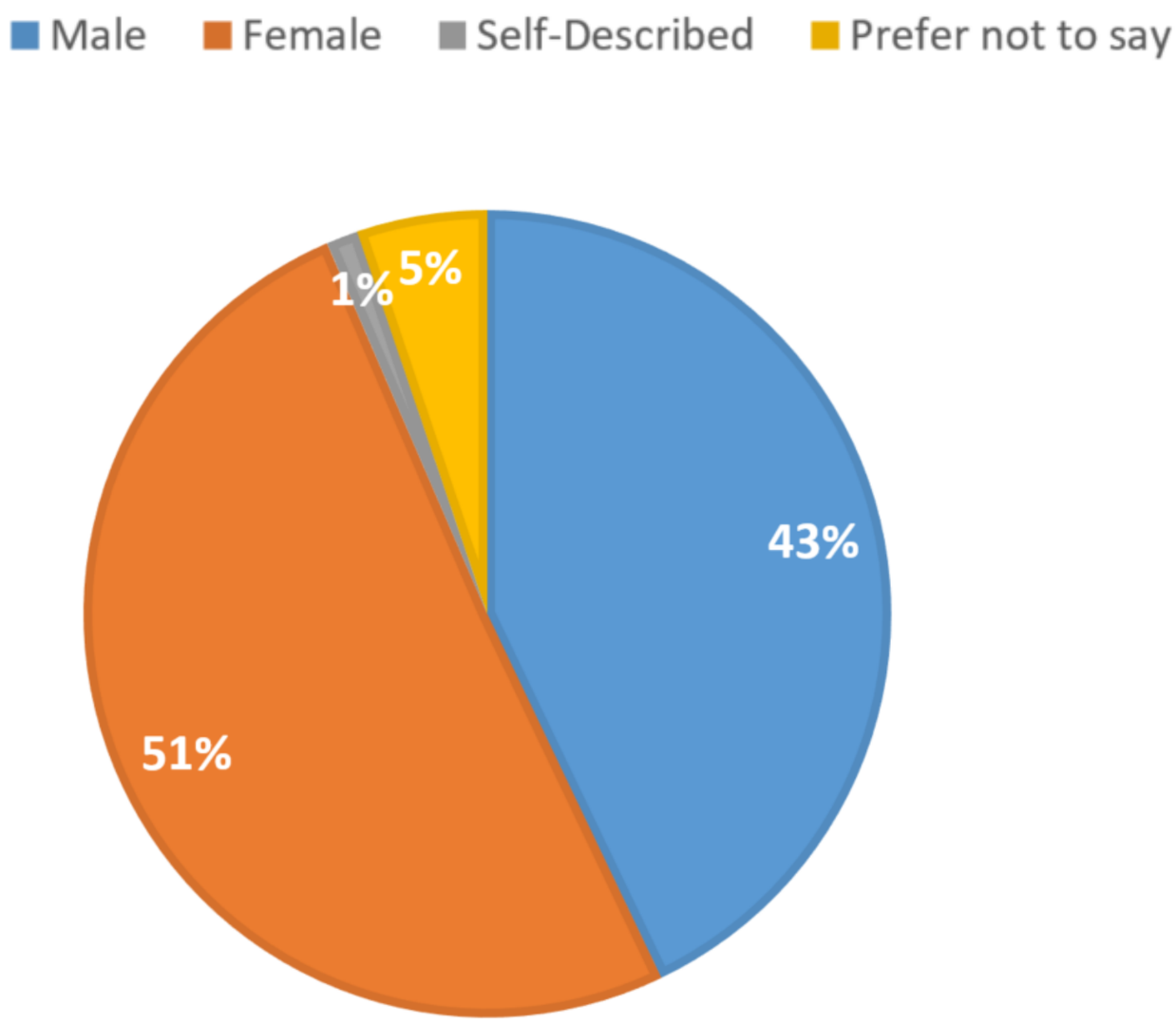
Dedicated QR code

- 474 QR scans to project page

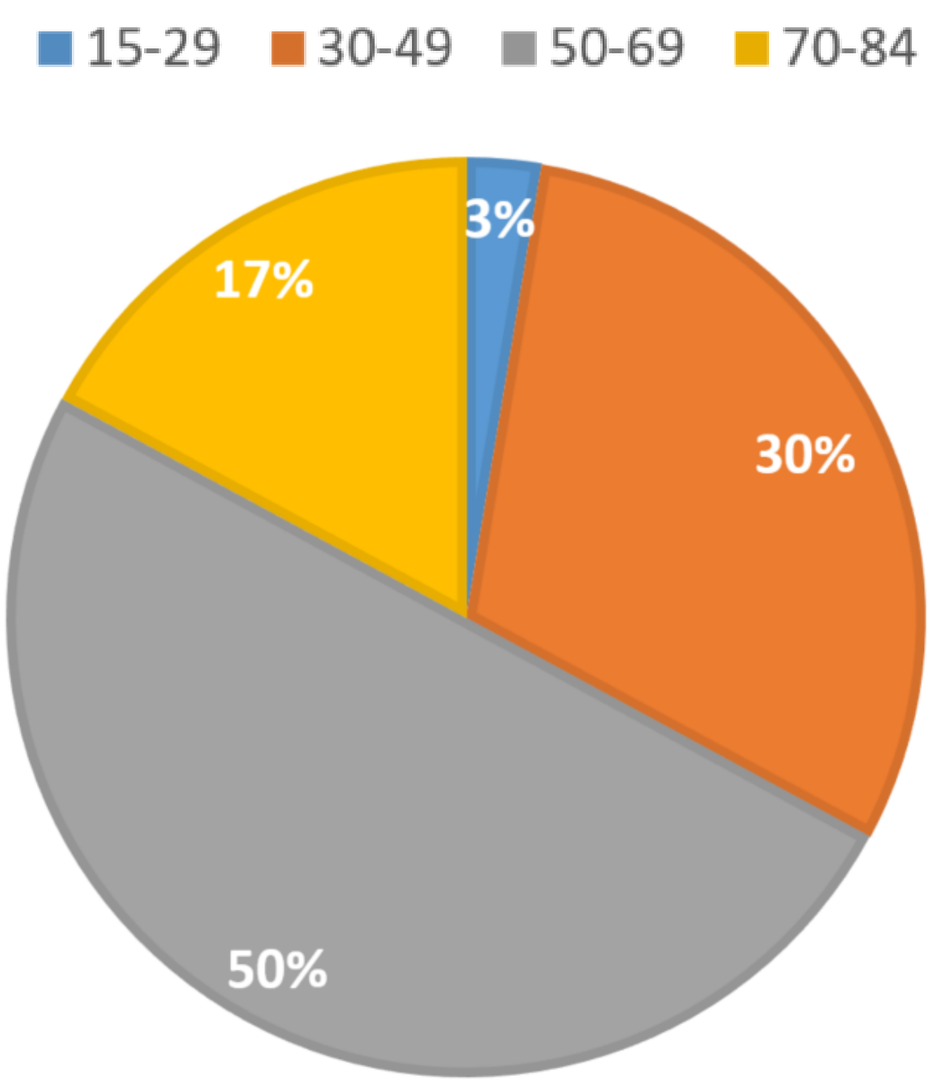
Who we reached

The below demographics information is based on online engagement activities.

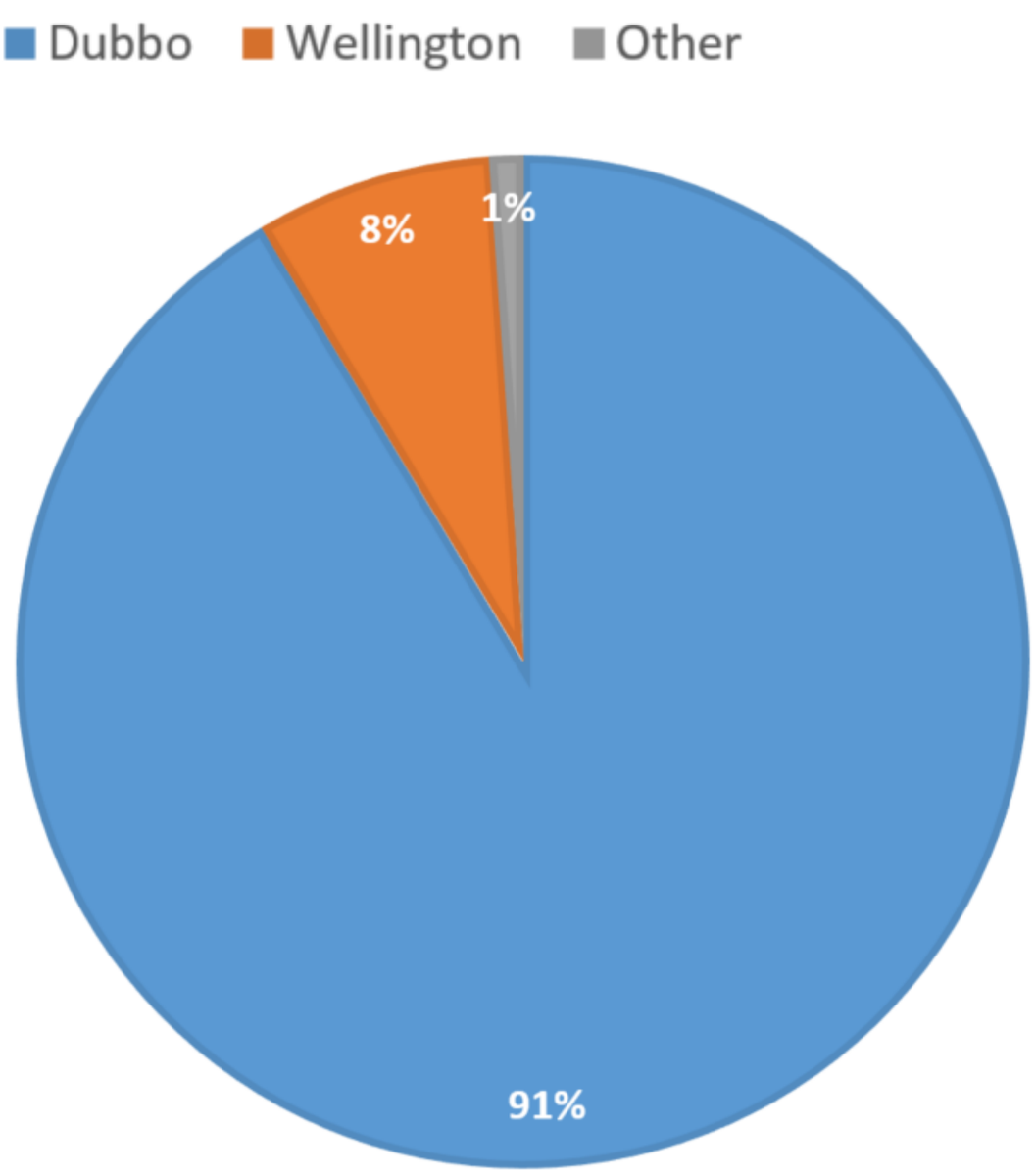
Gender



Age



Location



What we heard from our Survey

of 104 Survey participants;

- Majority of participants identified as **Urban Resident - Private landowners (90%)**, whilst the remaining participants identified as non-urban residents/urban business or organisation/business or industry related.

When we asked 'Do you support an implementation of a Tree Preservation Order on privately owned land?'

Yes **47%**

No **53%**

- Of those who selected NO, **15%** indicated, I support the concept, but it is not **Dubbo Regional Councils responsibility**.

When we asked 'Do you believe Council should be managing trees and canopy coverage on privately owned land?'

Yes **44%**

No **56%**

When we asked 'Do you believe Council should resource the managing trees and canopy coverage on privately owned land?'

Yes **41%**

No **59%**

When we asked 'Do you support a cost associated to a permit application fee/charge?'

19%

81%

When we asked 'Do you support a penalty structure for those who do not comply?'

51%

49%

The following themes emerged in relation to Council's role in;

- Increasing urban canopy through tree planting: **51%** selected educator, whilst **27%** selected enforcer.
- Increasing urban canopy through a replacement planting approach: **42%** selected educator, whilst **35%** selected enforcer.
- Safeguarding future urban canopy: **40%** selected educator, whilst **36%** selected enforcer.

Survey insights

When we asked ‘do you have an alternative solution?’ the following themes emerged for the open ended answer.

- 24 identified Council over-reach to privately owned land.
- 20 identified Council should hold an educator role for planting & managing trees on private land.
- 16 solutions were provided, from LGA’s to unique ideas to support private land tree canopy cover.
- 10 expressed concern for the flow on effects a TPO will have on resourcing and sector related businesses.
- 4 expressed solutions and concerns within land development.

I don't believe that Council should have the say in how to manage trees that are on our own private property.
Private property owners should have the freedom to manage trees on their land.

The primary role of the council should be to educate residents about the benefits of trees and the proper way to maintain them. Education is seen as a more positive approach to encourage tree preservation.

This is Tree Contractors core business and they have a greater level of responsibility to follow the rules and regulations.

Council should focus on increasing and maintaining the tree canopy in public spaces, streets, parks, and other communal areas.
Council should consider the impact of urban development and aim for sustainable growth that retains tree cover.

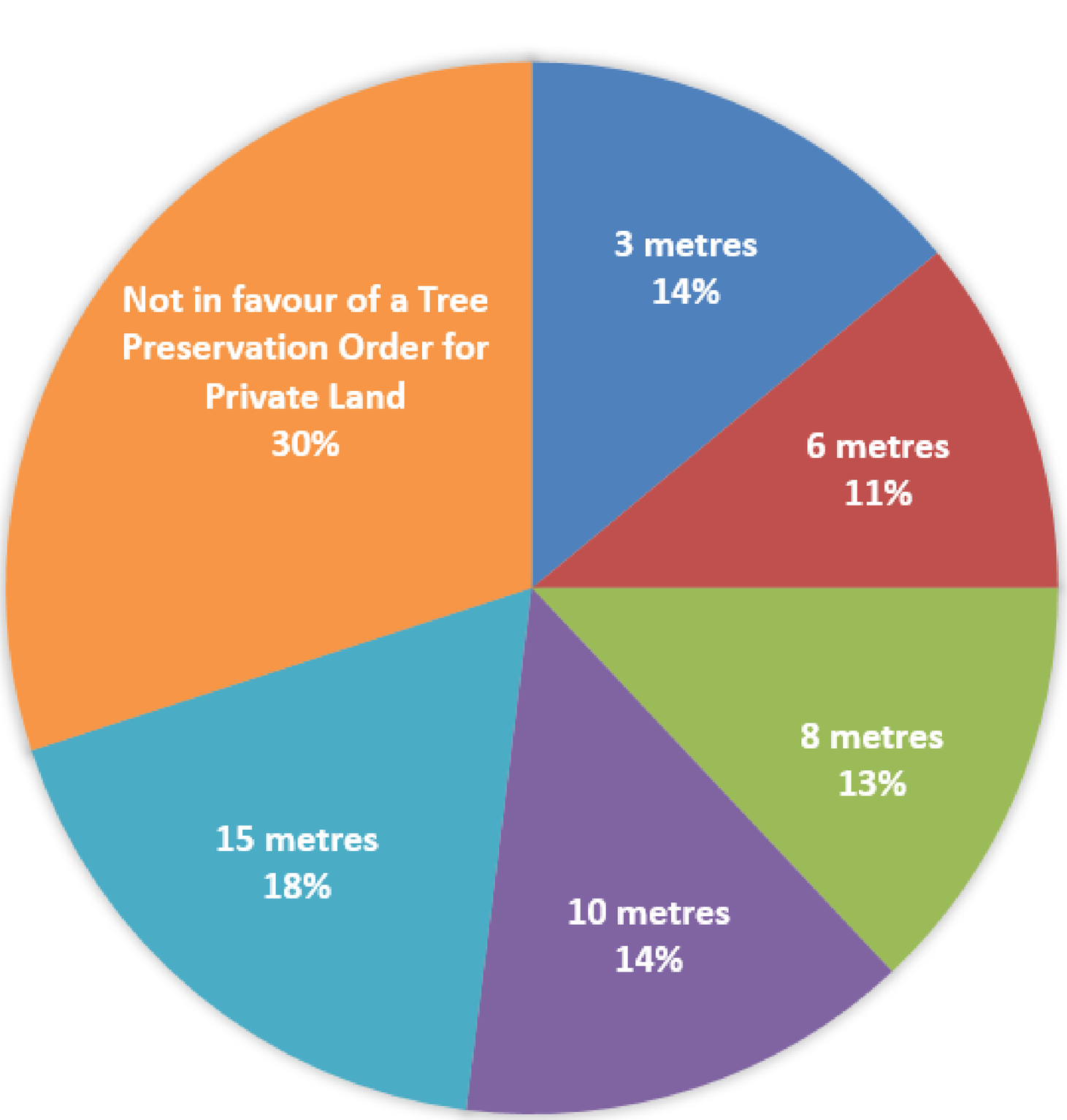
I would prefer to see more street trees being planted, especially in new developments to create the tree canopy we need. Having restrictive TPO's encumbers backyards and may reduce the option of placing a secondary dwelling / developing a site for much needed multi dwelling development

Voting Results - Poll

A poll was made available on the project page to gauge community sentiment on potential intervention levels. Each participant had up to 5 points to spread across the 6 intervention levels of: 3 metres (diameter at breast height 200mm), 6 metres (diameter at breast height 250mm), 8 metres (diameter at breast height 300mm), 10 metres (diameter at breast height 350mm), 15 metres (diameter at breast height 400mm) and Not in favour of a Tree Preservation Order.

83 people took part in the poll and 148 votes were allocated across the below interventions;

- **30%** - Not in a favour of a Tree Preservation Order for Private Land
- **18%** - 15 metres (diameter at breast height 400mm)
- **14%** - 10 metres (diameter at breast height 200mm)
- **14%** - 3 metres (diameter at breast height 350mm)
- **13%** - 8 metres (diameter at breast height 300mm)
- **11%** - 6 metres (diameter at breast height 250mm)



Outcomes and next steps

- A report will be provided to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held at the Dubbo Council Chambers, 5:30pm Thursday 26 October 2023 for consideration.
- For more information on addressing Council or to view the live stream event please visit: https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/About-Council/Meetings-and-Documents/council-meetings
- All project followers and members participated in this engagement activity will be notified of the outcome of Council.

We thank you for your participation.