



GLAMORGAN  
SPRING BAY  
COUNCIL

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW SURVEY REPORT



# CONTENTS

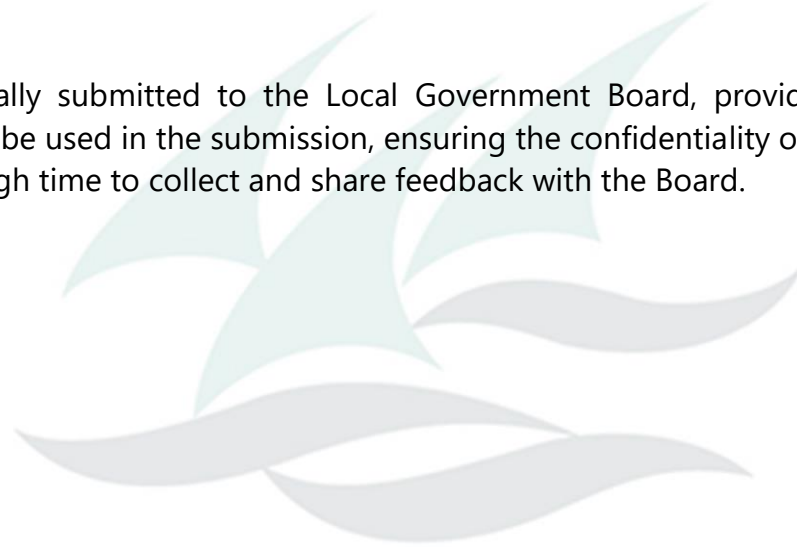
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
KEY FINDINGS.....	4
COMMON THEMES FROM WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS.....	6
SUMMARY OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS.....	10
DATA .....	11



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council conducted a survey aimed to gather insights on respondents' perspectives and ideas regarding the future of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, particularly focusing on proposed Council boundaries by the Local Government Board. The Future of Local Government Review Community Survey ran over 3 weeks – from 5 July to 26 July 2023. The Survey attracted 191 responses 96% of whom were permanent residents. The Respondents represent diverse locations within the Council area, with Orford, Swansea, and Bicheno having the highest representation, 19-20% each location. Coles Bay and Triabunna made up approximately 15% each.

The survey responses will be formally submitted to the Local Government Board, providing a snapshot of the communities' preferences. Personal details will not be used in the submission, ensuring the confidentiality of respondents. Submissions were open for a specified period, allowing enough time to collect and share feedback with the Board.



## KEY FINDINGS

### 1. Residency Status and Location:

- The survey captured responses from both permanent residents and ratepayers of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (96.34%) and individuals who are not residents or ratepayers (3.66%).

### 2. Age Demographics:

- Respondents' ages spanned across various groups, with the 55-64 age group being the most represented (25.65%).
- Responses were received from individuals across different age ranges, with the youngest and oldest age groups having the lowest representation.

### 3. Support for Boundary Adjustments:

- A majority of respondents (56.02%) expressed support for proposed boundary adjustments that would impact Glamorgan Spring Bay Council.
- A smaller percentage (24.08%) opposed the proposed adjustments, with 20.42% undecided.

### 4. Expectations on Access to Local Councillors:

- Respondents had diverse expectations regarding access to local Councillors in the event of a larger Council area.
- Some anticipated decreased access (27.23%), while others expected increased access (12.57%), and the majority believed their access would remain the same (46.07%).
- A smaller portion (14.14%) were uncertain about the potential impact on access.

### 5. Importance of Access to Local Councillors:

- Access to local Councillors was considered important by a significant majority of respondents (76.44%).
- While 27.23% deemed it "Very important," 49.21% regarded it as "Somewhat important."
- 23.56% of respondents considered access to Councillors "Not important."

#### **6. Impact of Becoming a Larger Council Area on Access to Services:**

- Respondents' expectations on the impact of becoming a larger Council area were varied.
- The majority thought a larger Council would see an increase to services (39.27%), while others expected decreased access (26.70%).
- A significant portion believed their access to services would remain the same (20.94%), and (13.09%) expressed uncertainty about the potential impact.



## COMMON THEMES FROM WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

### 1. Support for Amalgamation:

- Several respondents expressed support for amalgamation, favouring larger councils to ensure services remain sustainable and efficient.
- Some respondents specifically mentioned the need for a whole East Coast regional council or joining with neighbouring councils like Break O'Day.

### 2. Opposition to Amalgamation:

- Conversely, some respondents were not in favour of amalgamation, citing concerns about past experiences with mergers and potential negative impacts on services and local representation.
- Some participants raised concerns about the state government's intentions behind the proposed reform and the potential loss of local control and decision-making.

### 3. Desire for Efficient Services:

- Respondents emphasized the importance of efficient service delivery and cost-effectiveness, suggesting that some current council structures may be top-heavy and not efficient in resource management.
- Some respondents called for a reduction in the number of councils to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and costs.

### 4. Retaining Local Community Engagement:

- Many participants highlighted the importance of retaining a sense of place and local community engagement in any reform or amalgamation process.
- Some expressed concerns that larger councils might lose touch with the specific needs and concerns of smaller communities.

### 5. Clarification and Information:

- Several respondents mentioned the need for more information and details about the reform, including the cost, benefits, and potential improvements.
- Some respondents expressed uncertainty due to the lack of clear benefits or independent economic modelling.

#### **6. Mixed Opinions on Past Amalgamations:**

- Some respondents mentioned previous amalgamations and acknowledged that the outcomes varied, with both positive and negative impacts reported.

#### **7. Concerns About Planning Control:**

- Several participants expressed concerns that amalgamation might lead to centralization of planning decisions and a loss of local control over development and land use.

#### **8. Need for Resource Sharing:**

- Some respondents highlighted the potential benefits of resource sharing, including human resources, technology, and equipment, to improve service delivery.

#### **9. Advocacy for Local Representation:**

- Some participants appreciated the current Council's efforts to represent their community's interests and emphasized the importance of maintaining local representation.

Overall, the survey comments reflect a range of opinions on the proposed amalgamation and local government reform. While some participants support the idea of larger councils for efficiency and sustainability, others express reservations about potential consequences and the impact on local communities. Many respondents emphasize the importance of clear information, community engagement, and retaining a sense of place in any reform process. The comments highlight the diverse perspectives and considerations surrounding the future of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the need for comprehensive planning and community involvement in any potential changes.

### **Age Distribution:**

The survey captured responses from individuals across a wide range of age groups, which allows for a fairly comprehensive analysis of the age demographics of the respondents.

The age group with the highest number of responses is the 55-64 category, with 49 respondents, making up approximately 25.65% of the total respondents. The 65-74 age group is the second-largest, with 47 respondents, accounting for around 24.61% of the total.

The combined responses from the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups account for approximately 31.89% of the total respondents. This indicates a significant presence of middle-aged individuals in the survey.

The youngest age group (Under 18) and the oldest age group (85+) both have the lowest representation, each comprising only 1.05% of the total respondents. This suggests that the survey may not have captured as many responses from these age extremes compared to the other age groups.

The age distribution appears to be relatively balanced, with no single age group dominating the responses. This balance is beneficial for obtaining a more representative view of the overall population's opinions, as it prevents the survey results from being skewed toward a particular age group's preference.

In conclusion, the survey data provides a reasonably diverse representation of respondents across various age groups, enabling meaningful insights into the opinions and preferences of different age demographics within the surveyed population. However, the lack of representation from individuals under 18 and the elderly (85+ age group), should be noted.



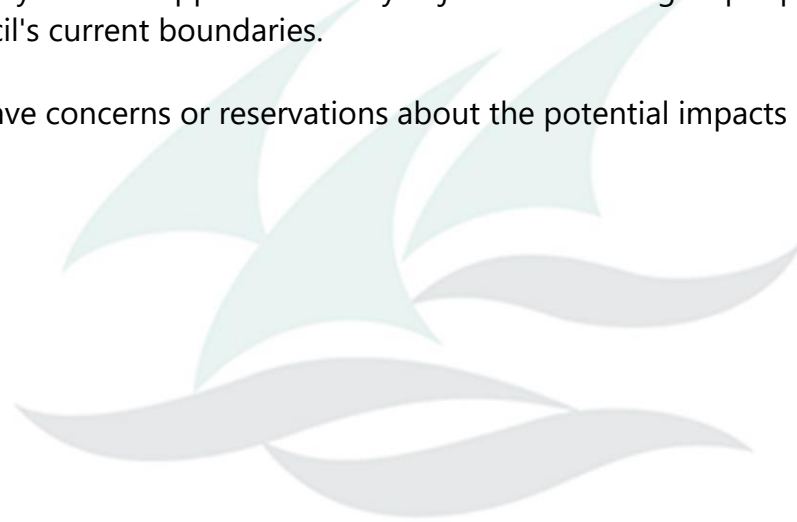
**Boundary Adjustments:**

56.02% of respondents expressed support for boundary adjustments, indicating that a majority of participants are in favor of changes to the council's boundaries that would impact its jurisdiction.

This level of support suggests that a significant portion of the respondents believe there are potential benefits or reasons for modifying the council's boundaries.

24.08% of respondents stated that they do not support boundary adjustments. This group represents a minority of respondents who are against any changes to the council's current boundaries.

This portion of respondents might have concerns or reservations about the potential impacts of such adjustments.



## SUMMARY OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

From the written survey data, it is evident that there are mixed opinions about the amalgamation of councils to create larger entities. Some respondents strongly support the idea, emphasizing the need for efficiency, scale, and reduced bureaucracy in providing services. They believe that merging councils will lead to better resource allocation and improved service delivery.

On the other hand, there are others who express concerns and opposition to amalgamation. They have concerns around losing local representation and the ability to control planning and development decisions. Some respondents worry that larger councils may neglect rural areas and prioritize more populous regions. They also mention past experiences of amalgamations that did not bring clear benefits, leading to scepticism about the potential advantages of future mergers.

Furthermore, it's evident that some respondents raise concerns about specific council performances and their focus on certain issues over others. There are opinions suggesting that some councils may prioritize short-term projects and interests over critical infrastructure needs.

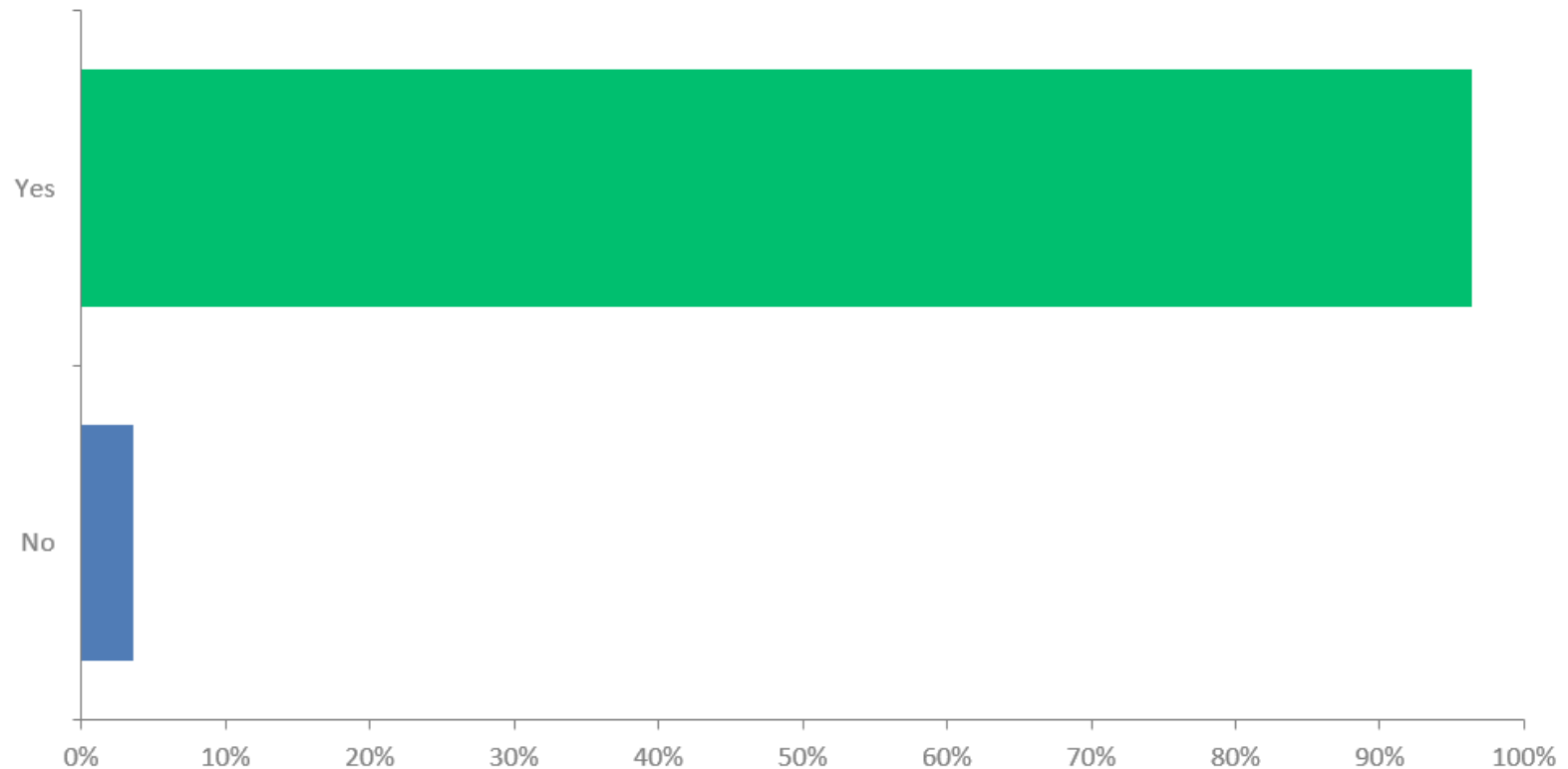
Overall, the data shows a diversity of opinions on the matter, with some strong emotions and comments expressed.

The written submissions are not included in this report but are available for perusal. Some comments could be deemed derogatory to staff. It is not considered appropriate to select only certain comment for publishing.

## DATA

### Q2: Are you a permanent resident or ratepayer of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



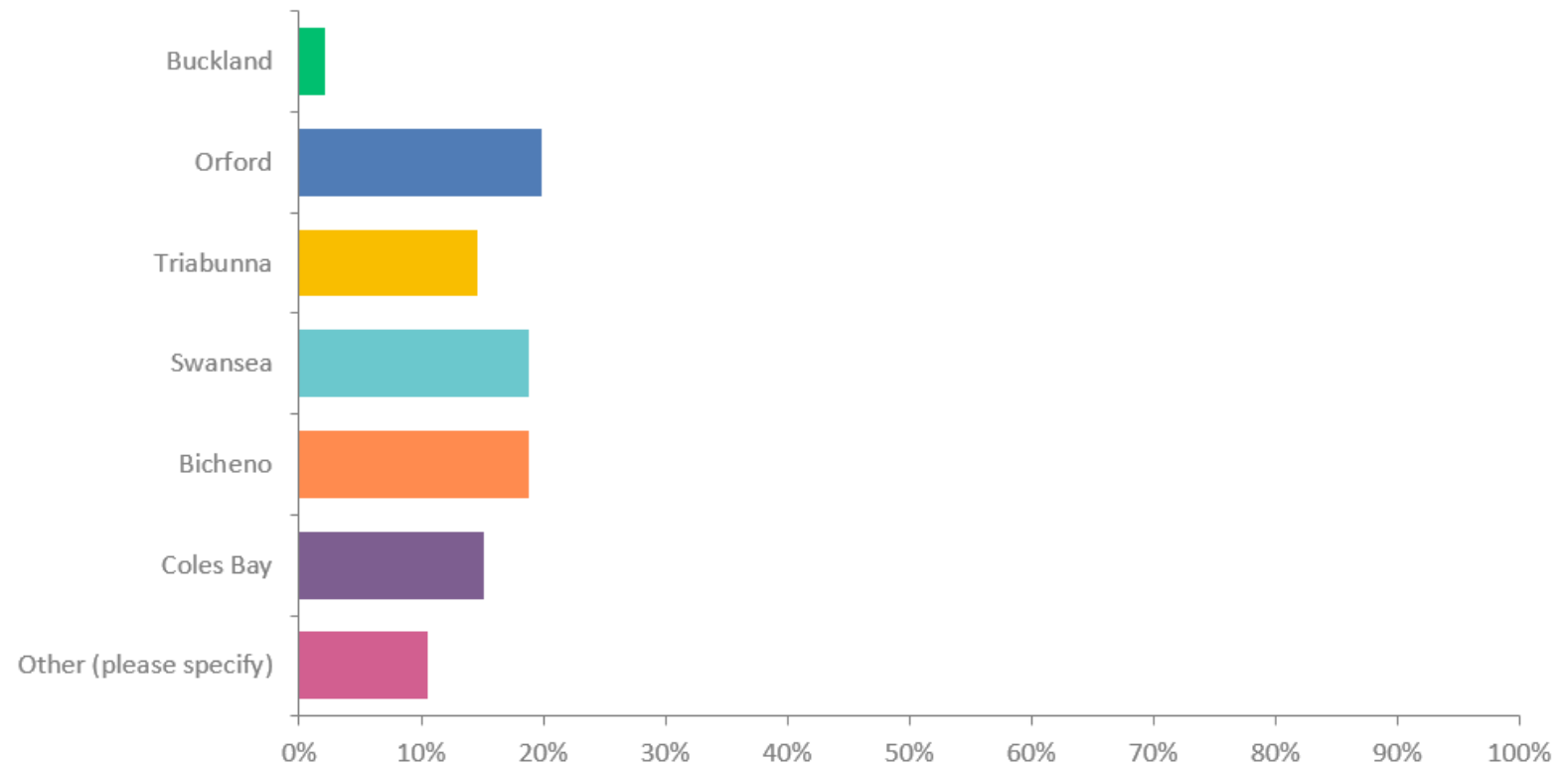
---

**Yes – 96.34% (184)**

**No – 3.66% (7)**

### Q3: Which location do you live in?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0

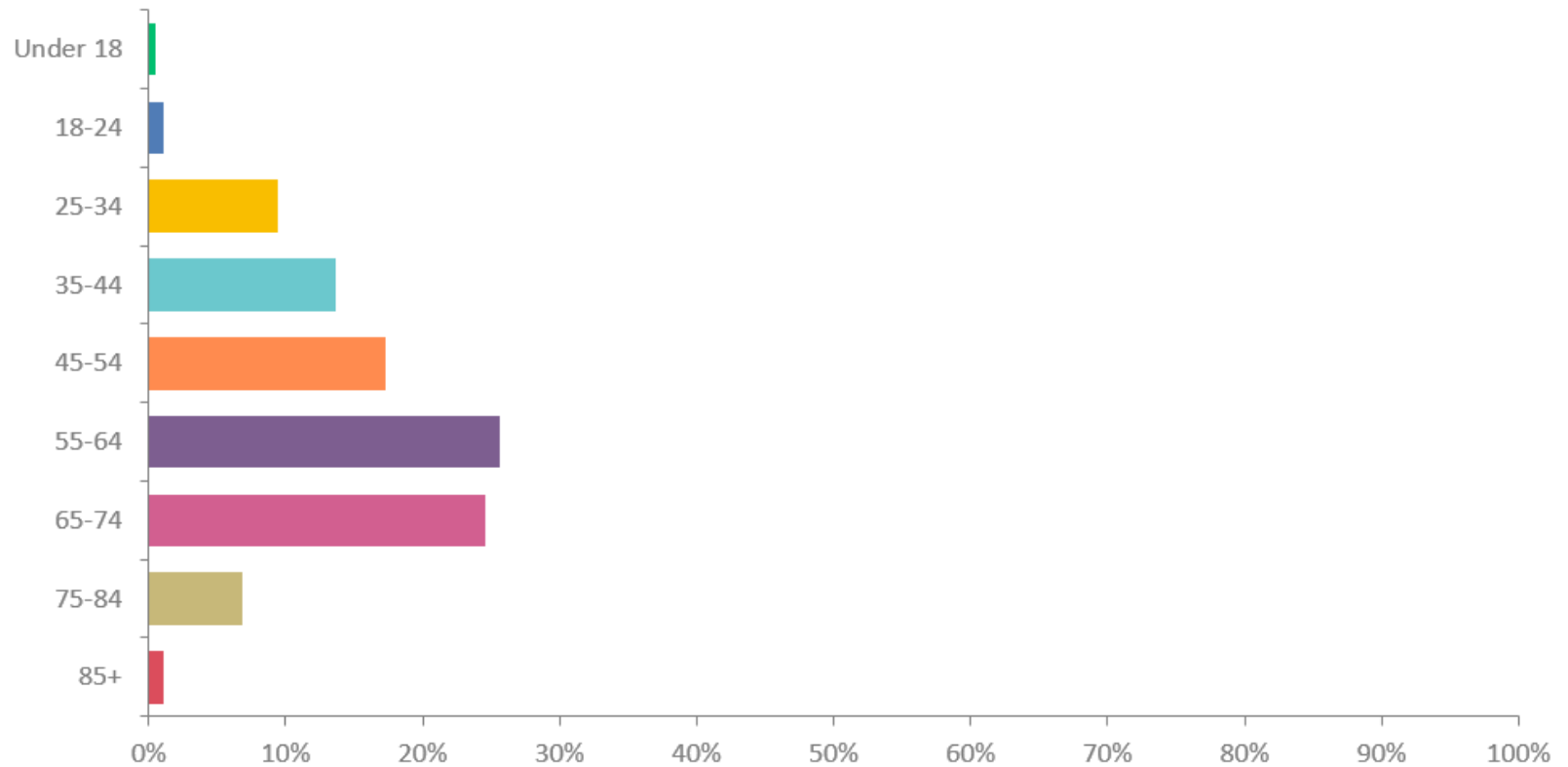


---

Buckland 2.09%, Orford 19.90%, Triabunna 14.66%, Swansea 18.85%, Bicheno 18.85%, Coles Bay 15.18%, Other 10.47%

## Q4: How old are you?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



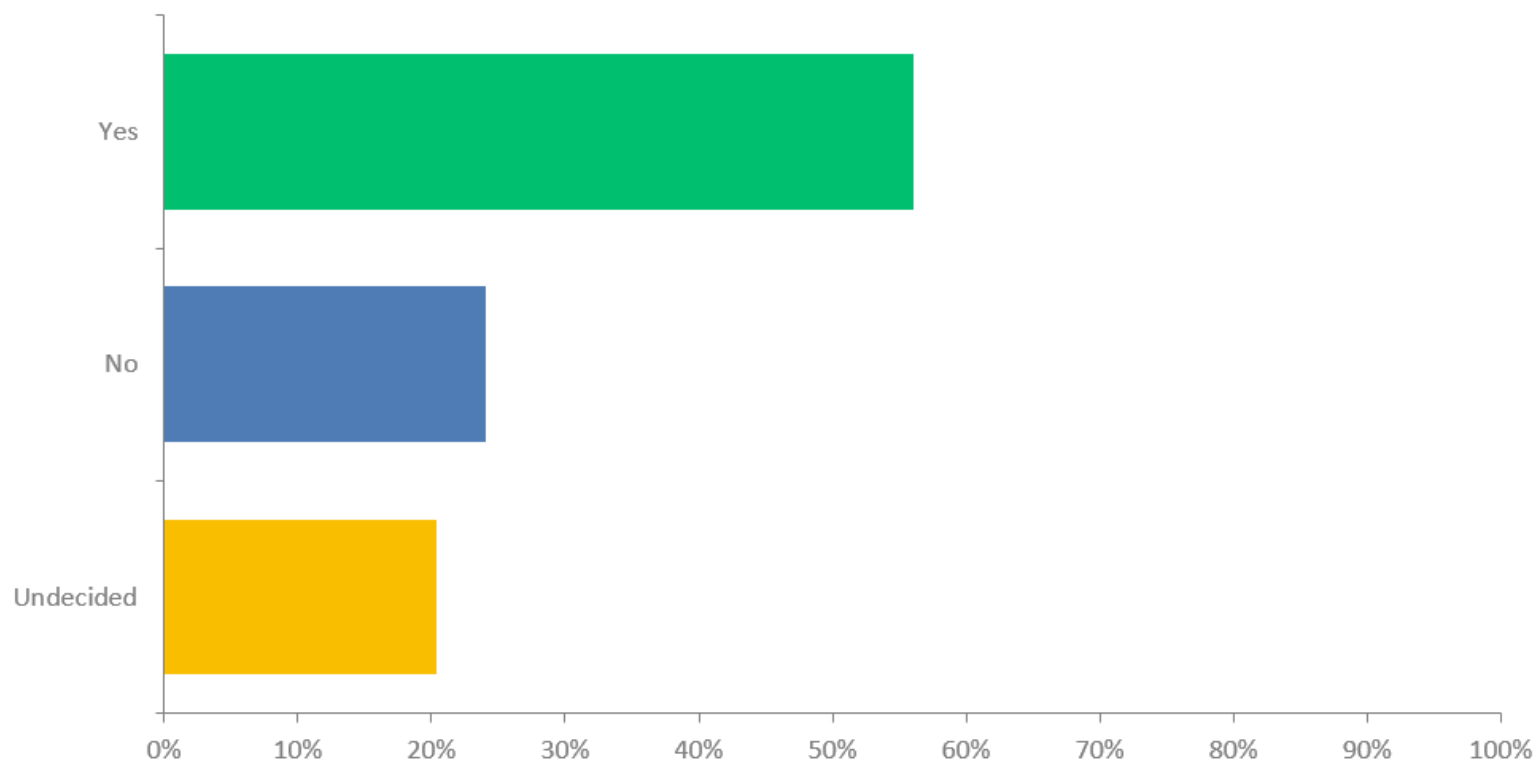
---

Under 18: 0.52% (1 response) , 18-24: 1.05% (2 responses) , 25-34: 9.42% (18 responses) , 35-44: 13.61% (26 responses) , 45-54: 17.28% (33 responses) , 55-64: 25.65% (49 responses) , 65-74: 24.61% (47 responses) , 75-84: 6.81% (13 responses) , 85+: 1.05% (2 responses)



**Q5: The Local Government Board's work to date suggests scenarios for a South East & North East Catchment that impact Glamorgan Spring Bay Council. Do you support boundary adjustments, ie Northern part of municipality amalgamates with Northern Councils, Southern part amalgamates with Southern Councils.**

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



---

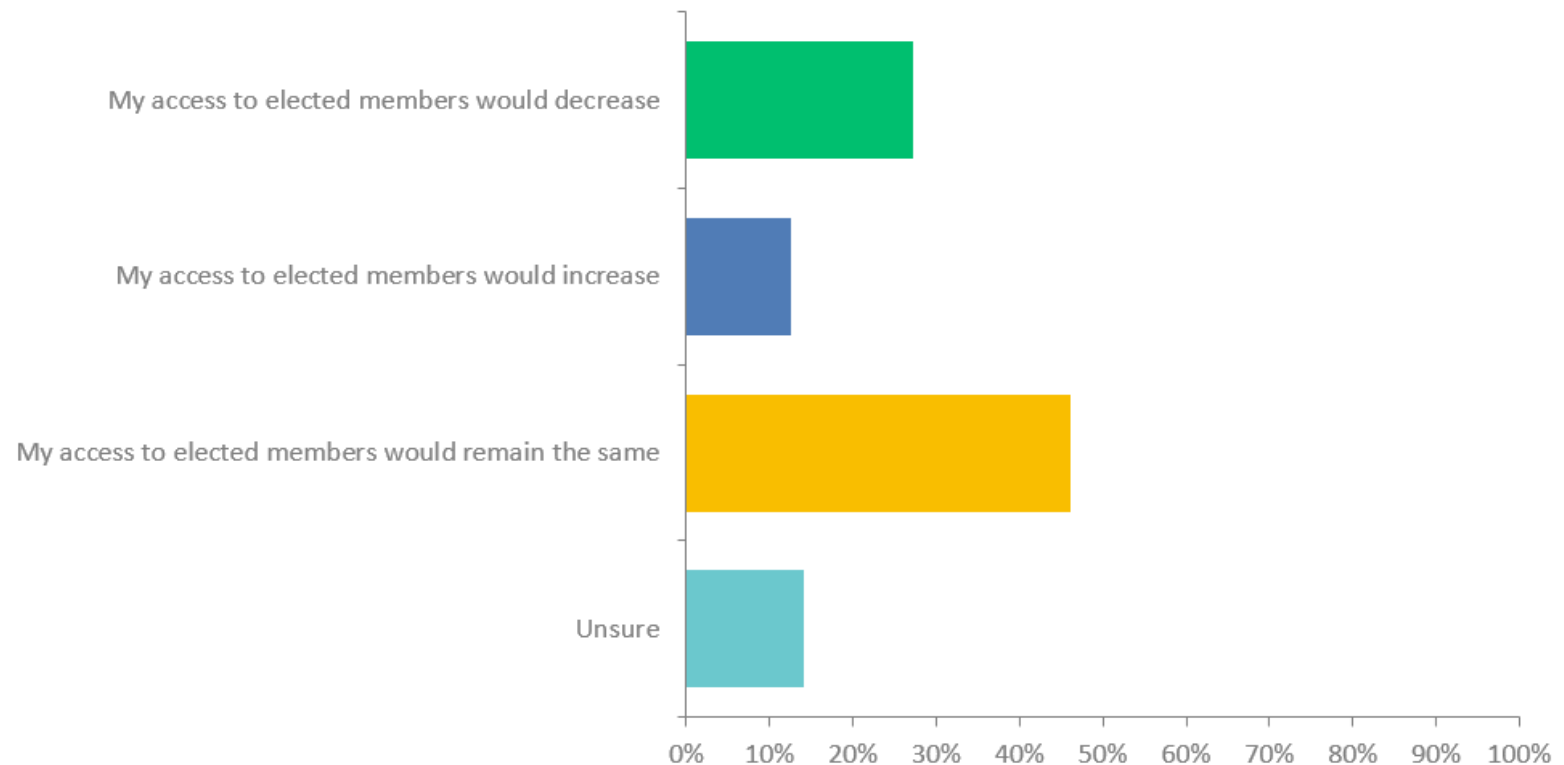
**Yes – 56.02% (107)**

**No – 24.08% (46)**

**Undecided 20.42% (39)**

## Q6: If our Council area was to increase - how do you think it could affect your access to your local Councillors?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



My access to elected members would decrease: 27.23% (52)

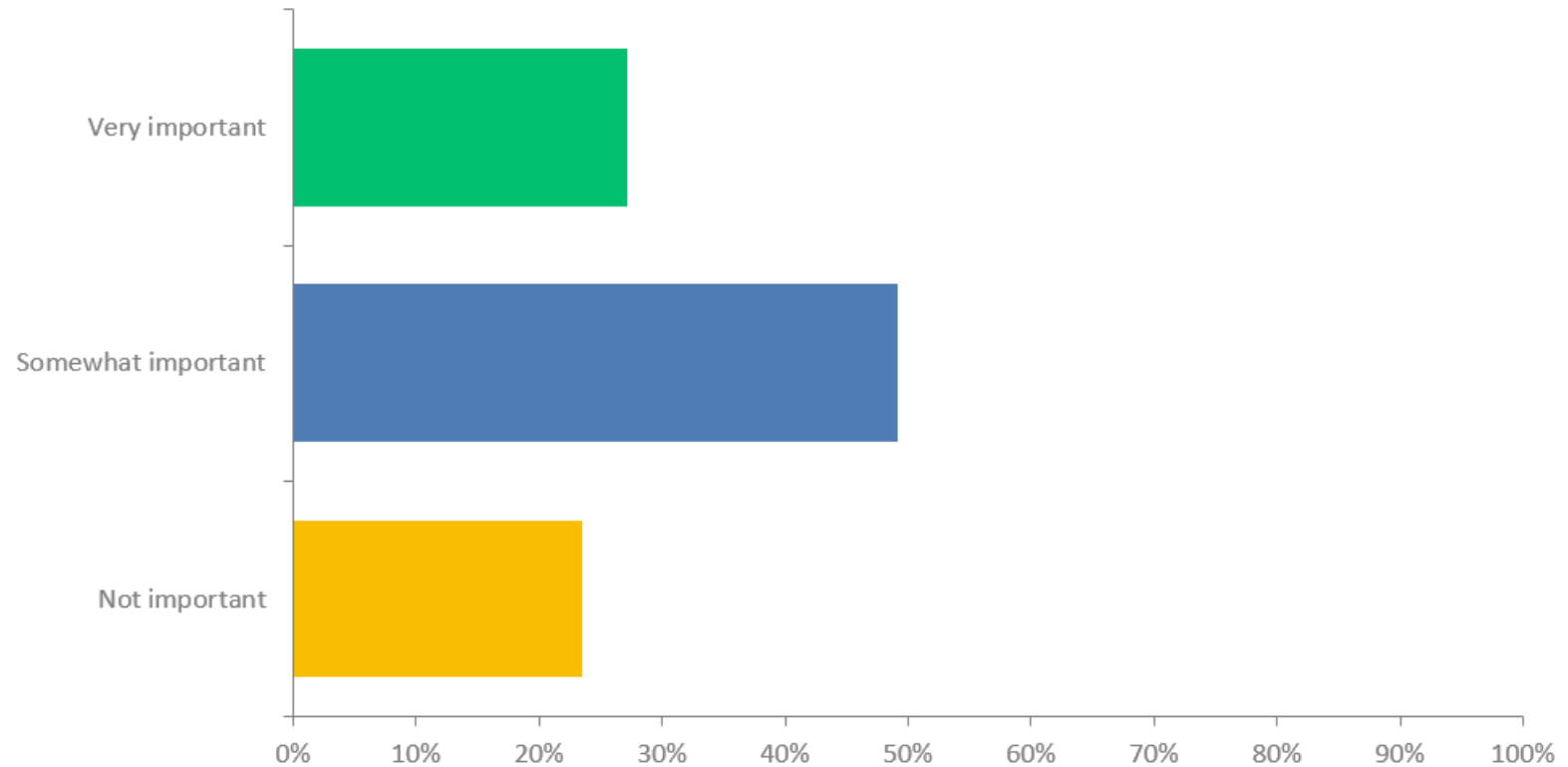
My access to elected members would increase: 12.57% (24)

My access to elected members would remain the same: 46.07%

Unsure: 14.14% (27)

## Q7: How important to you is access to your local Councillors?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



---

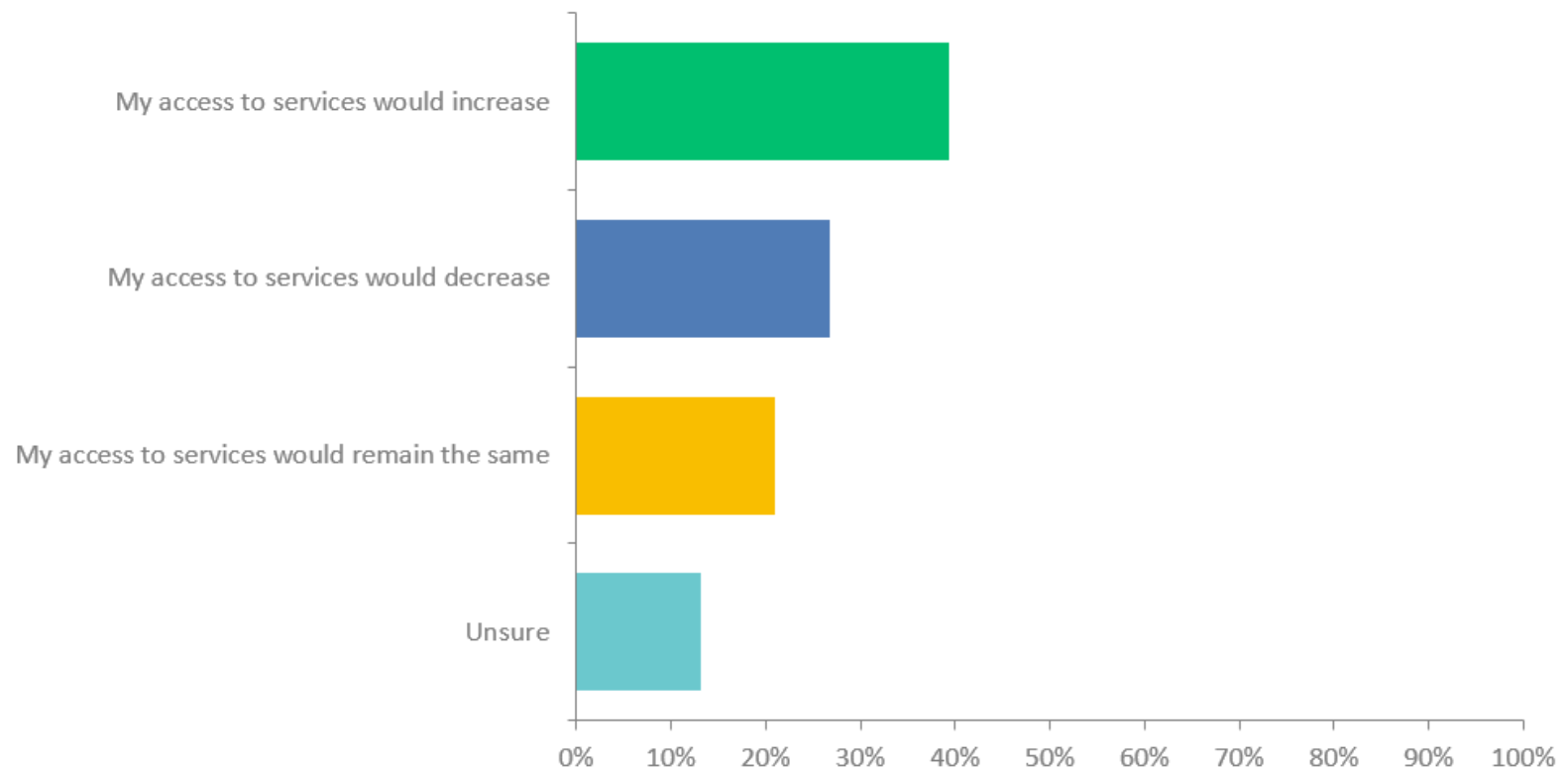
**Very Important – 27.23% (52)**

**Somewhat important – 49.21% (94)**

**Not important 23.56% (45)**

## Q8: If we were to become a larger Council area - how do you think this would affect your access to Council services?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



---

**My access to services would increase – 39.27% (75)**

**My access to services would decrease – 26.70% (51)**

**My access to services would remain the same – 20.94% (40)**

**Unsure – 13.09% (25)**