

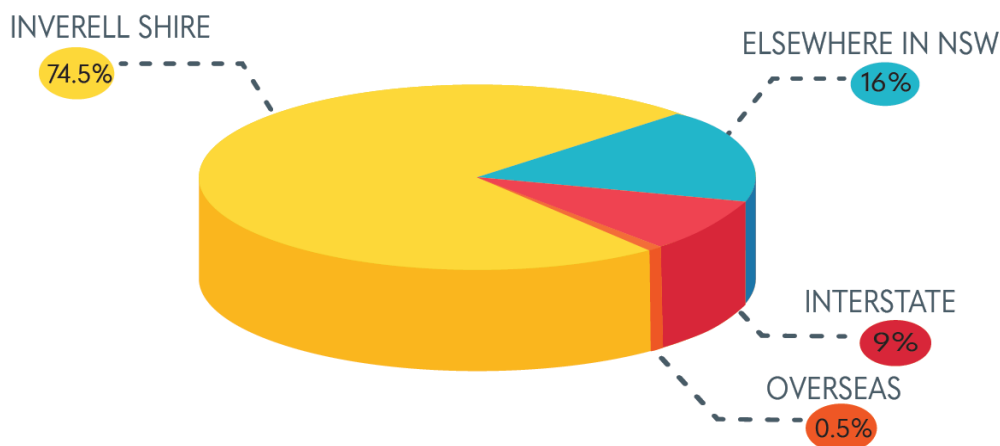
Community Consultation, January 2019

Inverell Shire Council conducted a community survey between November 2018 and January 2019 to encourage community input and participation in the project design.

In total, 632 individuals completed the survey. Survey participation was restricted to one survey per device, to preserve the integrity of responses and avoid any skew to results which may be caused by a single respondent completing the survey more than once.

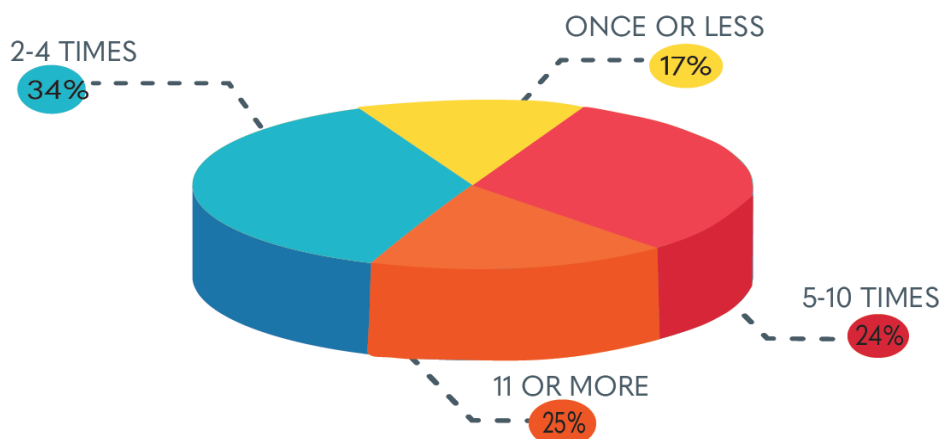
Feedback is summarised below.

1. What is your usual place of residence?



>25%
of respondents
were from outside
Inverell LGA.

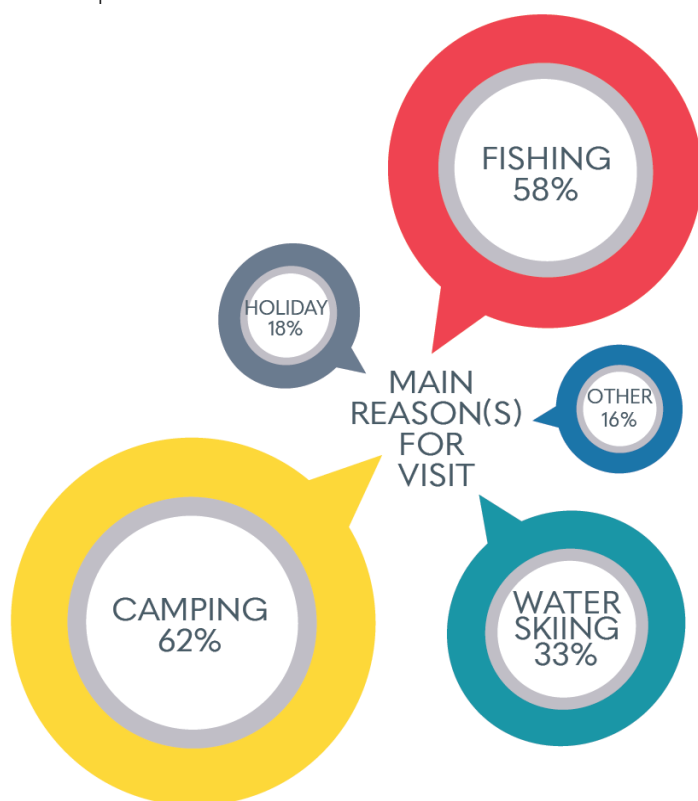
2. How often do you visit Copeton Northern Foreshores each year?



49%
of respondents
visit more than 5
times per year.

3. What is the main reason for your visits?

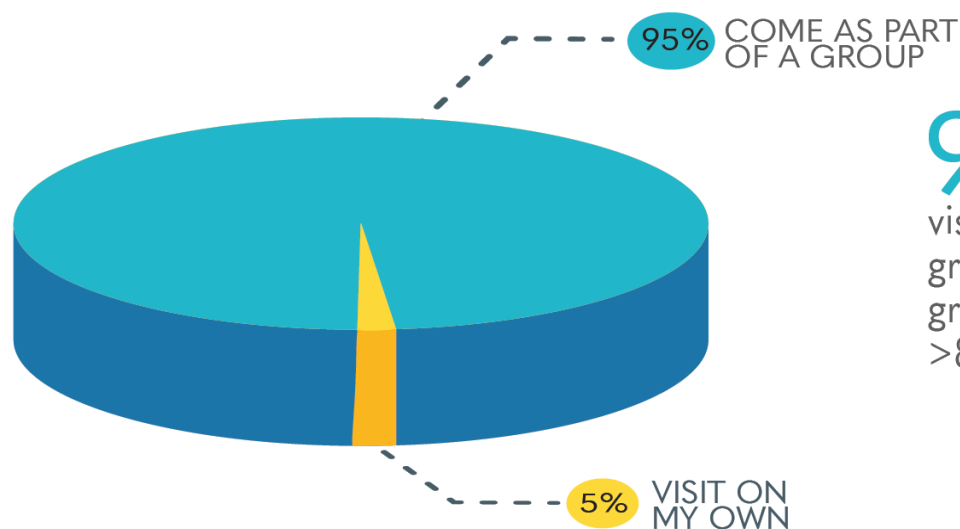
* Multichoice response



16%

of respondents indicated 'Other', which included family reunions, birding / bushwalking, photography & kayaking

4. Do you tend to visit on your own or usually with others?

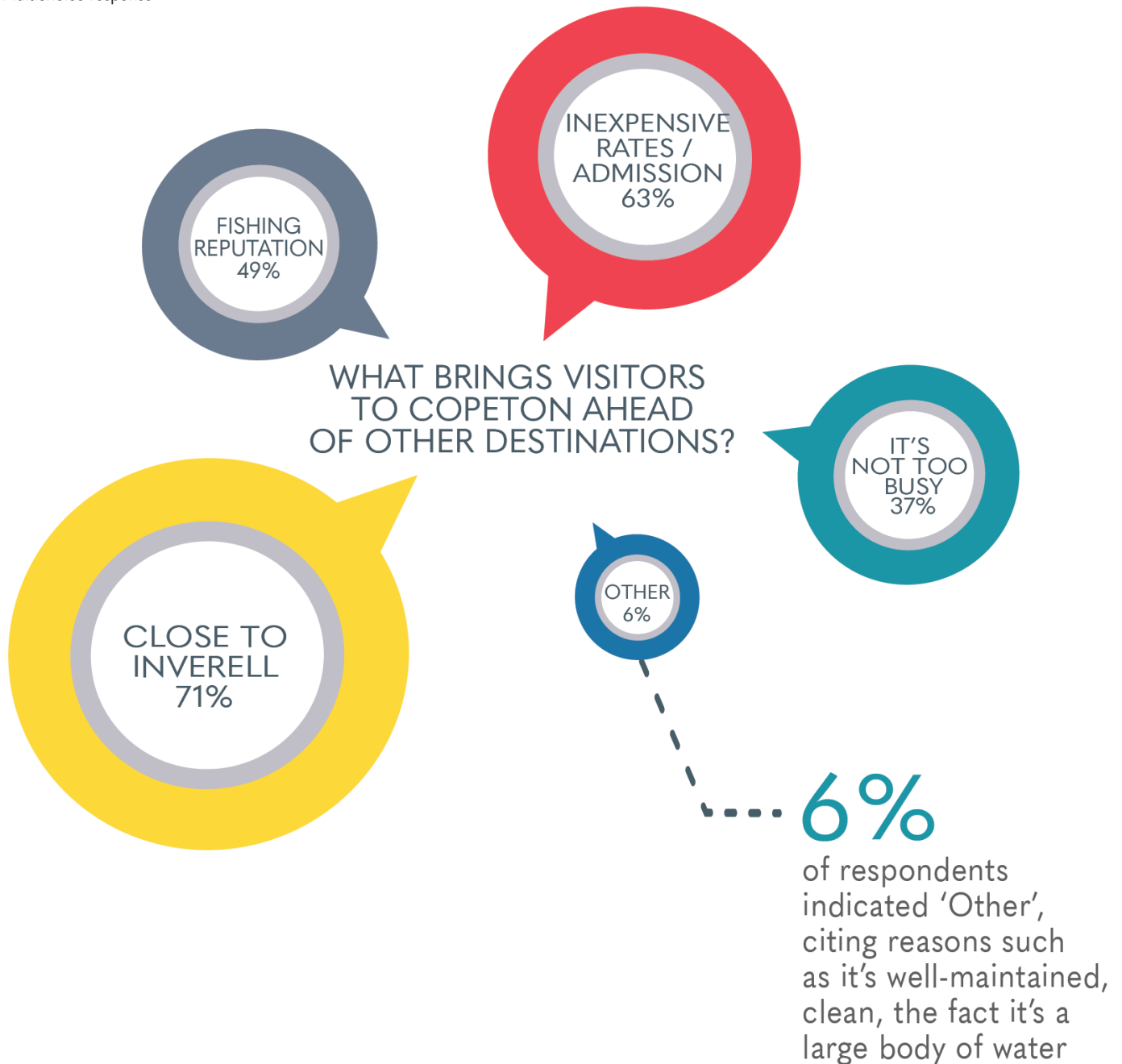


95%

visit as part of a group, with average group size being >8 people.

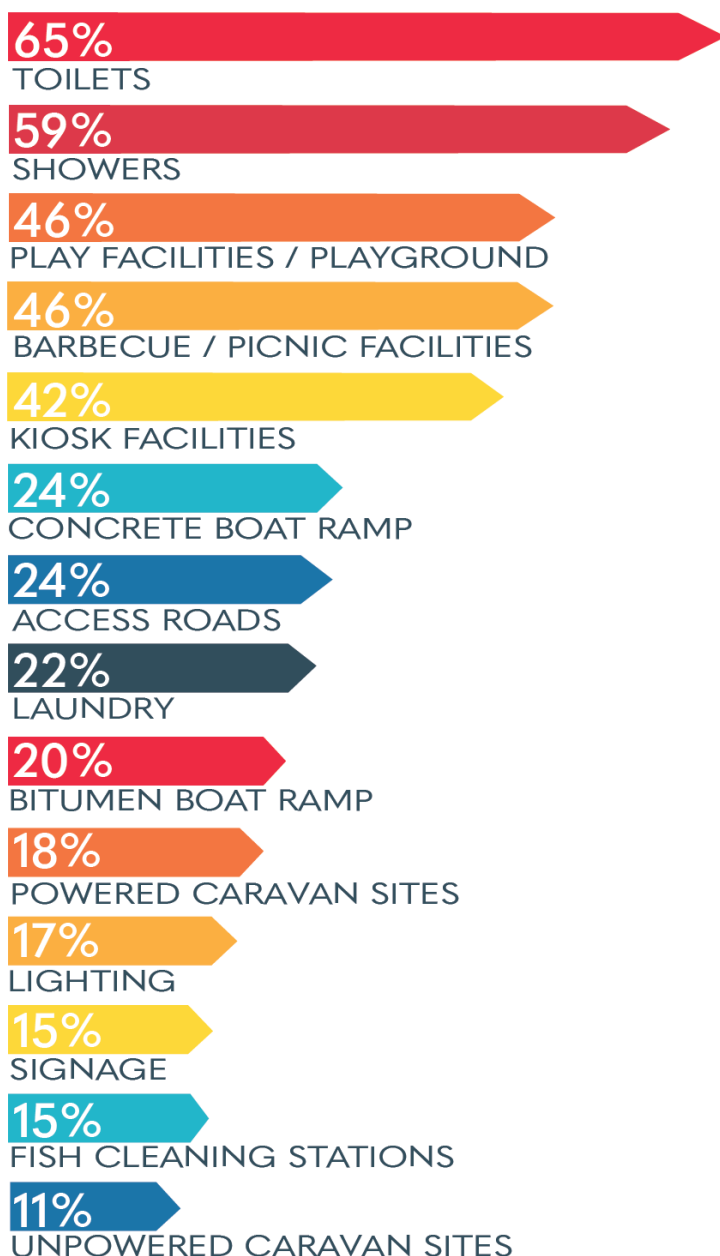
5. What do you think brings visitors to Copeton Northern Foreshores ahead of other dams?

* Multichoice response



6. Are there any improvements you would like to see at Copeton Northern Foreshores?

* Multichoice response



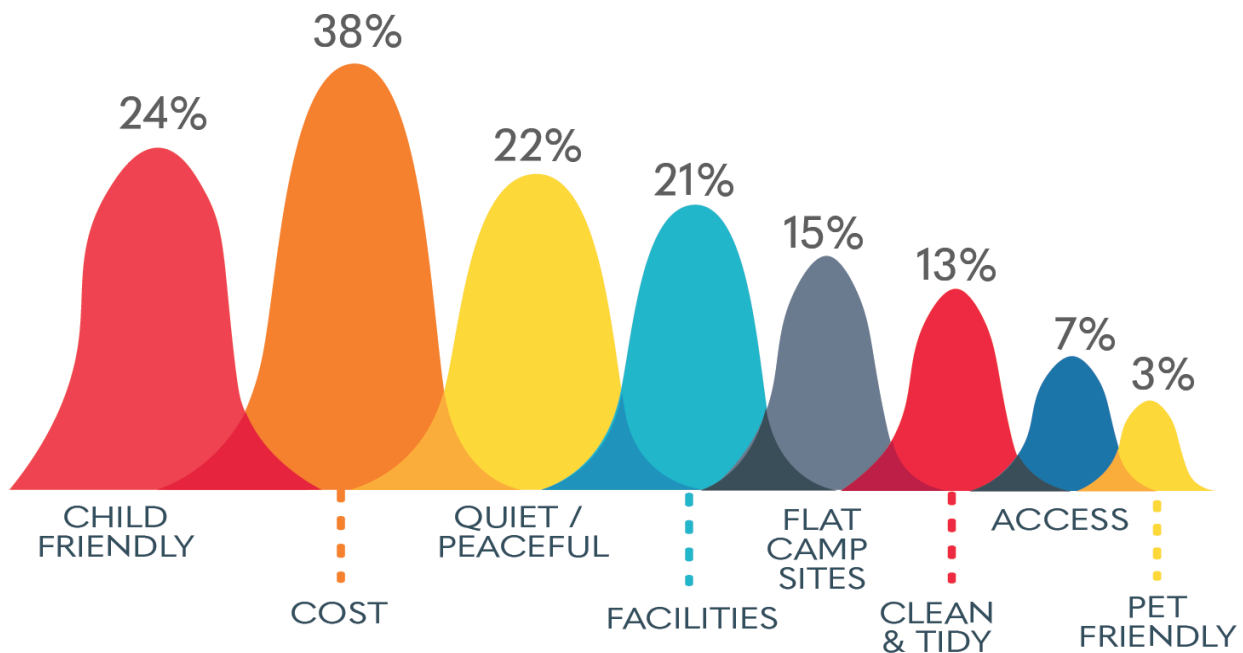
18%

of respondents indicated 'Other', with suggestions including:

FLOATING PONTON
BIKES FOR HIRE
SHADE STRUCTURES
MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION
FIREWOOD

7. List the top things you look for when choosing a campground (eg. cost, facilities, child friendly, quiet surroundings, etc).

Open ended response



Other priorities among respondents included:

SAFETY
MOBILE SERVICE
BOAT RAMPS
VIEW / SCENERY
FRIENDLY STAFF
PROXIMITY TO SHOPS

8. Please provide any additional comments / suggestions.

Open ended response

'Recent changes to the other side of Copeton, in my opinion, have resulted in a backward step. Inverell Shire Council have the opportunity to capitalise on this. If people see progress, they will support the Northern Foreshores'

'Keep the system affordable. Tom (the caretaker) is great'

'Any improvements would be good'

'The managers out at Northern Foreshores are fantastic and should be commended for the wonderful, friendly, helpful job they do out there!'

'Council should be proud of the bitumen access to the foreshores'

'If you have a playground / kids area you would probably double the length of stay for day trippers and campers'

'Power to caravan sites needs improvement - too much fluctuation with extra vans on site'

'Please do not overcommercialise the area, keep it affordable and a pleasant area for day trips for families and friends'

'At this point, it's a wasted asset for Inverell that could bring many more people to town if we promoted it'

'I have been saying this for years, it needs an upgrade to their amenities and a small place to buy food and you will kill it'

'Would be nice to see a kids playground with shade and barbecues'

'A play area for kids would be great. Even a canteen - convenient for campers'

'The other side of the dam keeps raising prices to ridiculous amounts! Hence why for the 2019 New Year's week there was no one there and they were all at Northern Foreshores'

'Needs overhauling. Looks tired'

'Power to caravan sites is pretty ordinary. An undercover area for barbecuing would be good'

'Extend the concrete boat ramp and the bitumen boat ramp'

'Northern Foreshores is such an untapped resource for Inverell, 90% of people I talk to online via Facebook groups or fishing forums have never known about this side, which is closer to Inverell and a lot cheaper for them to stay. Most fish late night and early morning and sleep during the day. It is lacking in family friendly facilities'

8. Please provide any additional comments / suggestions.

Open ended response

'It's going to get busier at Northern Foreshores so we're going to need more toilets.'

'Mobile phone service so we can give people directions, post on social media and for emergencies'

'Showers are free here - unheard of among campgrounds and we have travelled across Australia'

'Give the access roads a touch-up'

'Can't believe how big the place is'

'More things for kids to do'

'I don't fish or ski, so it's good I can duck back into town (Inverell) easily'

'Fabulous spot. Great asset to the region'

'Copeton is the best fishing spot in eastern Australia. Your visitor numbers are going to grow more and more. Better facilities will bring more people'

'It's clean and tidy. The sky's the limit in terms of what you could do with this site'

'My family love going to Copeton Foreshores to camp, waterski, fish or just BBQ...any improvements that could be done out there will only attract more people from all over NSW and interstate, which will benefit Inverell and further promote our town'

'This is a great facility that with a few improvements would make it heaps better - so close to Inverell for travellers and locals'

'During busy periods there is no where near enough toilets or showers to accommodate the amount of people staying at the dam'

'Change the speed limit on the road entering the dam, people drive too fast'

'Thank you for involving the community in future shire decisions'

'Copeton should have way more amenities and facilities due to the traffic flow coming through all areas and parts of the dam. The exposure this dam has had through fishing magazines etc the boating experience etc is massive and the general feedback from fellow campers, fishermen etc is of disappointment due to lack of amenities and facilities'

'I think we need to upgrade the Northern Foreshores, so we can keep the money in the Inverell Shire'

'Would be more appealing if showers and toilets were upgraded and kids play area'