

Alkimos

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Public Environmental Review



Appendix D Community Consultation – Evaluating Attitudes Towards Alkimos



Community Consultation *- Evaluating Attitudes Towards Alkimos*

September 2005



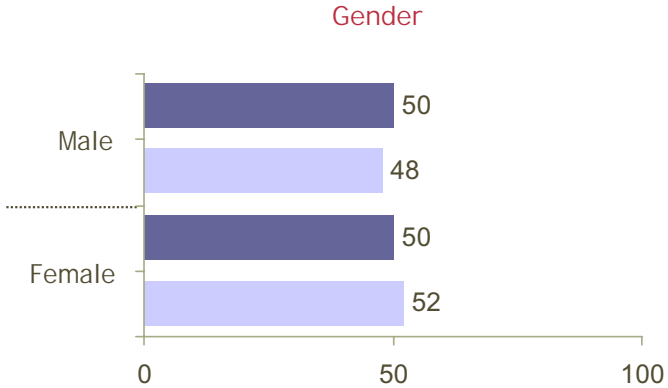
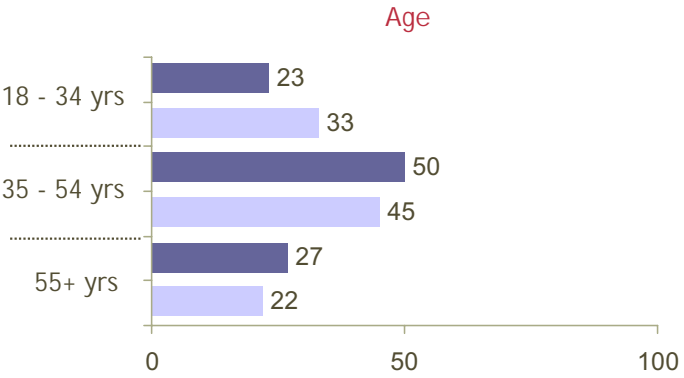
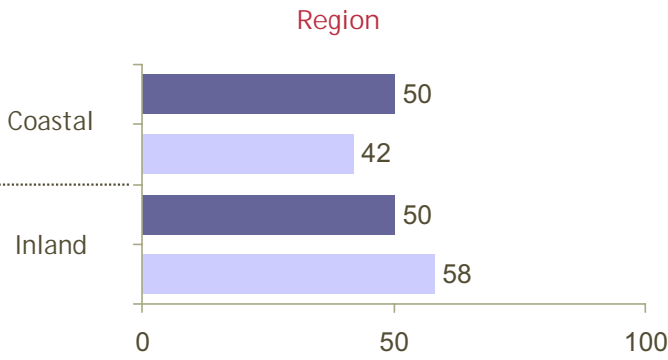
- With the population continuing to grow in Perth's northern corridor, well-planned infrastructure is required to support the community. The Water Corporation has responded to this need with its plan for significant development in the Alkimos area, including the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant. Before the development is approved, the Water Corporation has sought to obtain feedback from the community.
- Information, opinions and feedback received at a local shopping centre display in June 2005 regarding the Alkimos development fed into the design of this quantitative survey.
- Research was subsequently conducted to measure and understand community attitudes and expectations towards:
 - ▶ The overall Alkimos development
 - ▶ The location of the WWTP
 - ▶ Odour acceptability
 - ▶ Water recycling and re-use opportunities
 - ▶ Usage of the buffer zone
- Findings will ultimately be used in the PER submission.

- A two-staged methodology was adopted in order to gauge opinions before and after information was provided regarding the development.
- **Stage 1** involved the recruitment of a random sample of northern suburbs residents to take part in the research. Telephone interviewing was used to contact and recruit residents living in coastal and inland suburbs in Perth's north-west corridor. Residents were asked questions up-front about the Alkimos proposal.
- A summary document regarding the Alkimos development was then mailed out to residents interviewed in stage 1.
- Allowing a few days for participants to review the information, residents were re-contacted by telephone for **Stage 2** of the interviewing process.
- The entire process involved the interviewing of residents between the 5th and 23rd of August 2005.
- The final sample was comprised of 300 residents, corresponding to an error rate of $\pm 5.6\%$.

Sample Composition

Data was weighted by **region**, **age** and **gender** to reflect the actual population of Perth's northern corridor.

Unweighted 
 Weighted 



n=300
 % of residents

- The sample was comprised of residents living within the proposed catchment boundary.



- Those suburbs falling within the catchment boundary are listed in the table below.

Coastal	Coastal	Inland	Inland	Inland
Alkimos	Jindalee	Alexander Heights	Hamersley	Neerabup
Beldon	Kallaroo	Ashby	Henley Brook	Nowergup
Burns	Kinross	Balga	Herne Hill	Pearsall
Butler	Marmion	Ballajura	Hocking	Ridgewood
Carine	Merriwa	Banksia Grove	Joondalup	Sinagra
Clarkson	Mindarie	Beachboro	Kingsley	The Vines
Connolly	Mullaloo	Belhus	Kinross	Upper Swan
Craigie	Ocean Reef	Carabooda	Koondoola	Wangara
Currambine	Padbury	Carramar	Landsdale	Wanneroo
Duncraig	Quinns Rocks	Cullacabardee	Madeley	Warwick
Eglington	Sorrento	Edgewater	Malaga	West Swan
Heathridge	Tamala Park	Ellenbrook	Marangaroo	Whiteman
Hillarys	Two Rocks	Girrawheen	Middle Swan	Woodvale
Iluka	Yanchep (coastal)	Greenwood	Mirrabooka	

Key Findings

- **Awareness** of the Alkimos development is relatively low (31% overall), with residents in coastal suburbs slightly more likely than those in inland suburbs to have heard of the proposal.
- **Support** for the development is high, with:
 - ▶ 55% initially supporting the development (a further 35% felt they didn't know enough to say)
 - ▶ 83% providing support after having reviewed information regarding the proposal
 - ▶ Regardless of whether they had reviewed the information, 10% of residents did not support the development (stage 1 and stage 2)
 - ▶ Once informed, support for the development is equally strong for both coastal and inland residents.
- The **key reasons** provided by residents **for supporting the development** are that it will service the needs of the growing population and help with the water shortage.
- The **key reasons** provided by residents **for not supporting the development** is the perception that there will be a negative environmental impact on the ocean and sand dunes, as well as the emission of odours.
 - ▶ At the end of the interview, some residents indicated that they would like to receive more information regarding the environmental impact.

Key Findings

- After reading the information provided, the vast majority of residents felt that they **understood the reasons** for:
 - ▶ The development itself (89%)
 - ▶ The proposed coastal location (92%)
 - ▶ Aside from understanding the reasons for the location, 73% of residents agree with the coastal location.
 - ▶ Two-thirds (69%) believe that the development should go ahead as planned at the proposed location. However 14% believe that the development should only proceed if a viable inland site for the WWTP can be determined.
- **Odours** are a key concern for some residents and there is an expectation that any odours will at least be minimised - with 29% believing that the development should only proceed if there will be no odour impact.
- Strong support exists for the usage of the buffer zone surrounding the WWTP, as well as for various water recycling initiatives.

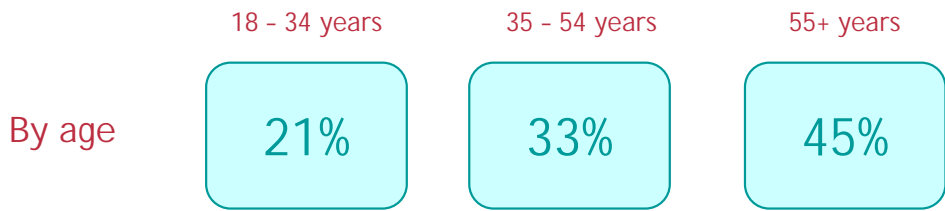


Stage 1 - Prior to receiving information



Awareness of the Alkimos Proposal

Q: Have you heard of the proposal to develop a wastewater treatment plant in the suburb of Alkimos?

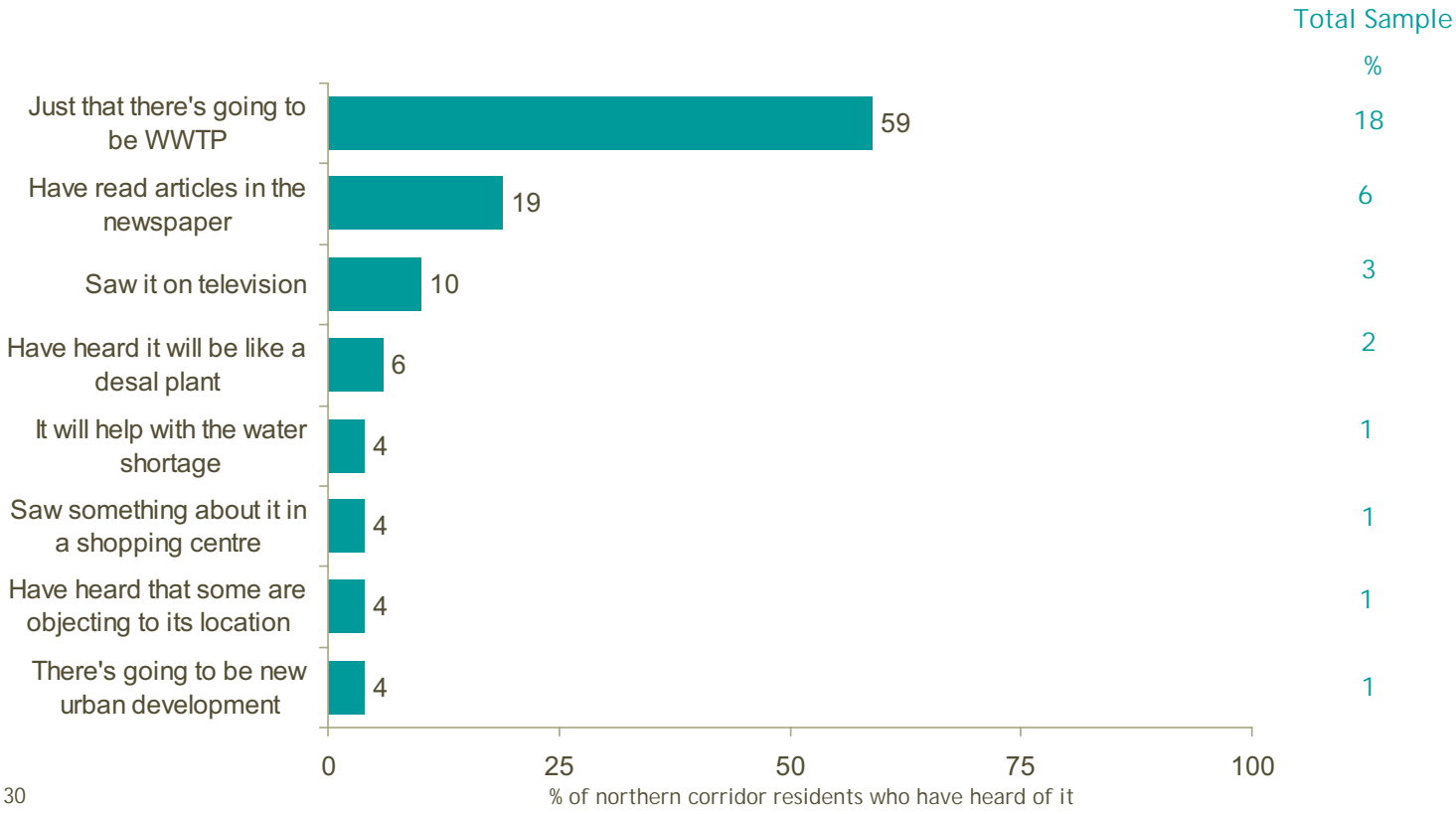


One third of northern corridor residents had heard of the Alkimos proposal prior to receiving information. Older residents and coastal residents are more likely to have heard something.



What Have Residents Heard?

Q: What have you heard about it?

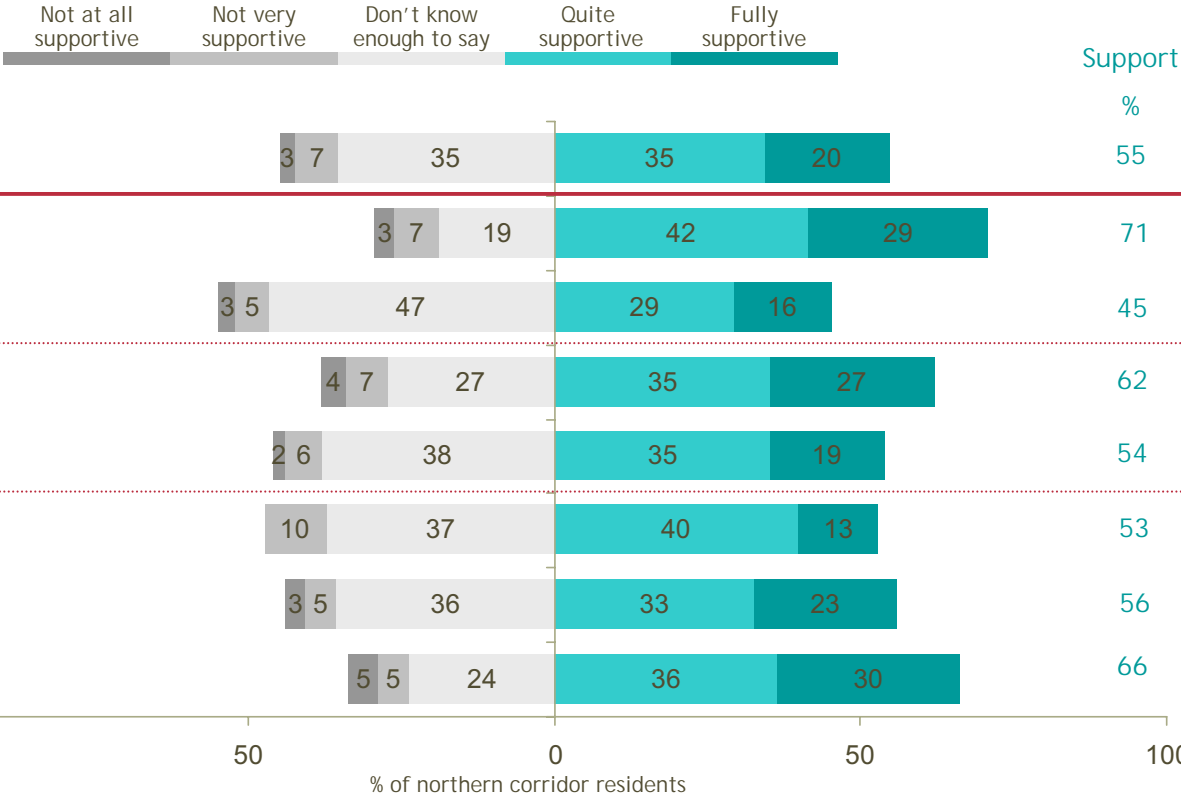


n=130

Awareness of what is actually involved in the development is quite low.

Support for the Development

Q: From what you know about the Alkimos proposal, how supportive are you towards the development of this treatment plant?



Most residents either support the development or feel they don't know enough about it to say either way. Coastal area residents are more supportive than those in the inland suburbs, who feel less well informed to comment.



Stage 2 - After receiving information

Before reading
the information



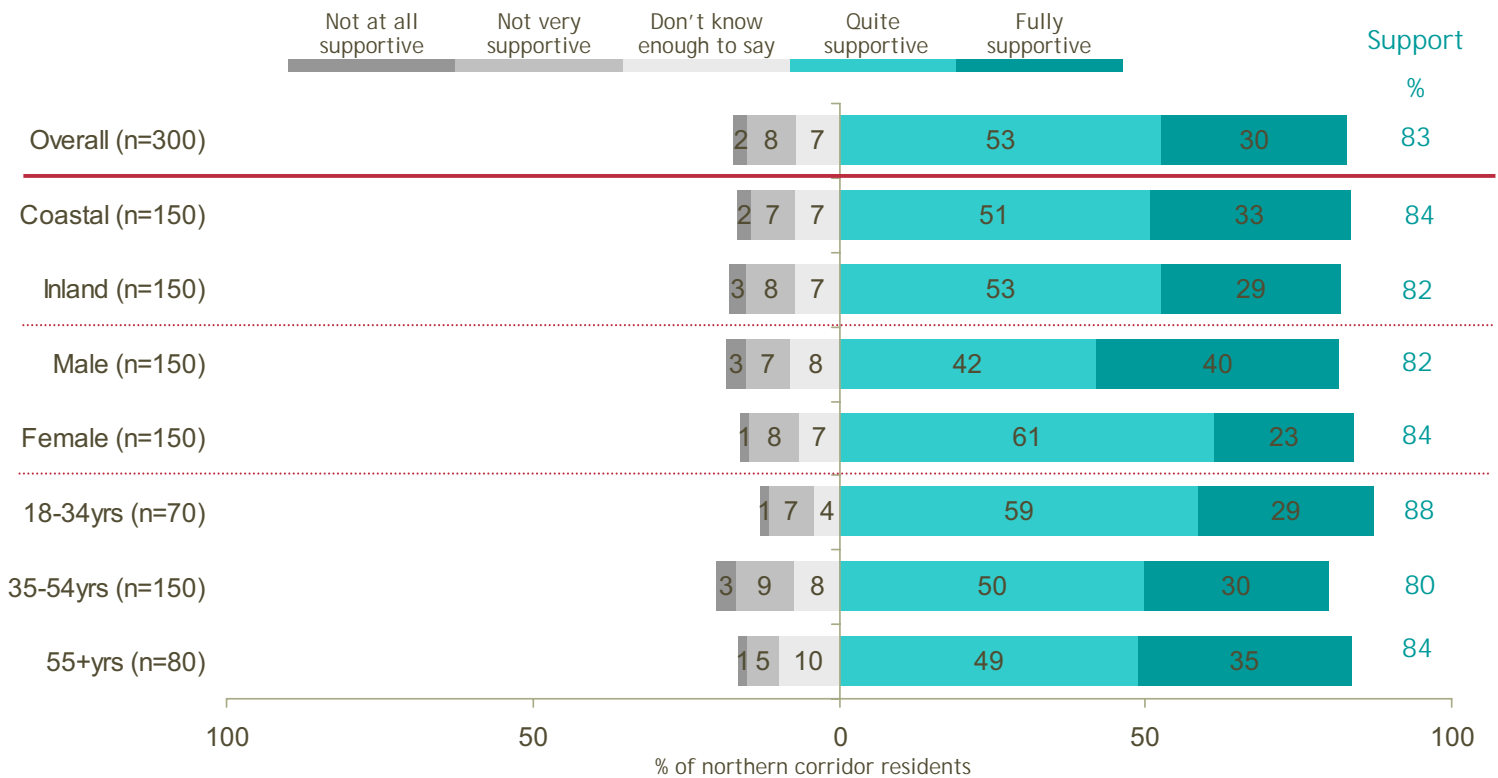
After reading
the information



After reading some information about the proposed development, support for it increased considerably, with more people feeling that they were sufficiently informed to comment.

Support for the Development

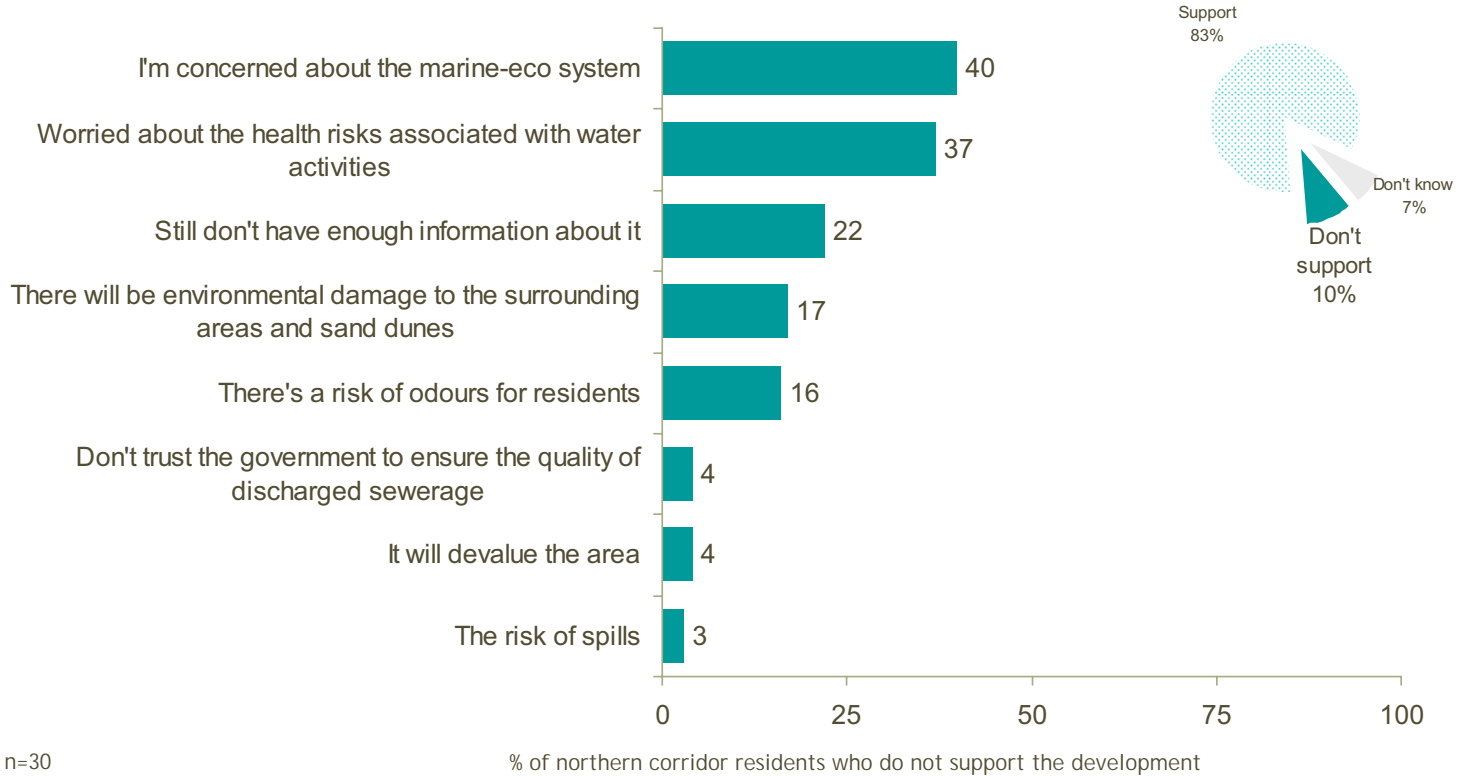
Q: Having read the information regarding the proposed Alkimos Wastewater Treatment Plant and urban development in the area, how do you feel about the proposed development?



Support for the proposed development was higher amongst residents once they read the information, regardless of location, age and gender.

Why Don't Residents Support the Development?

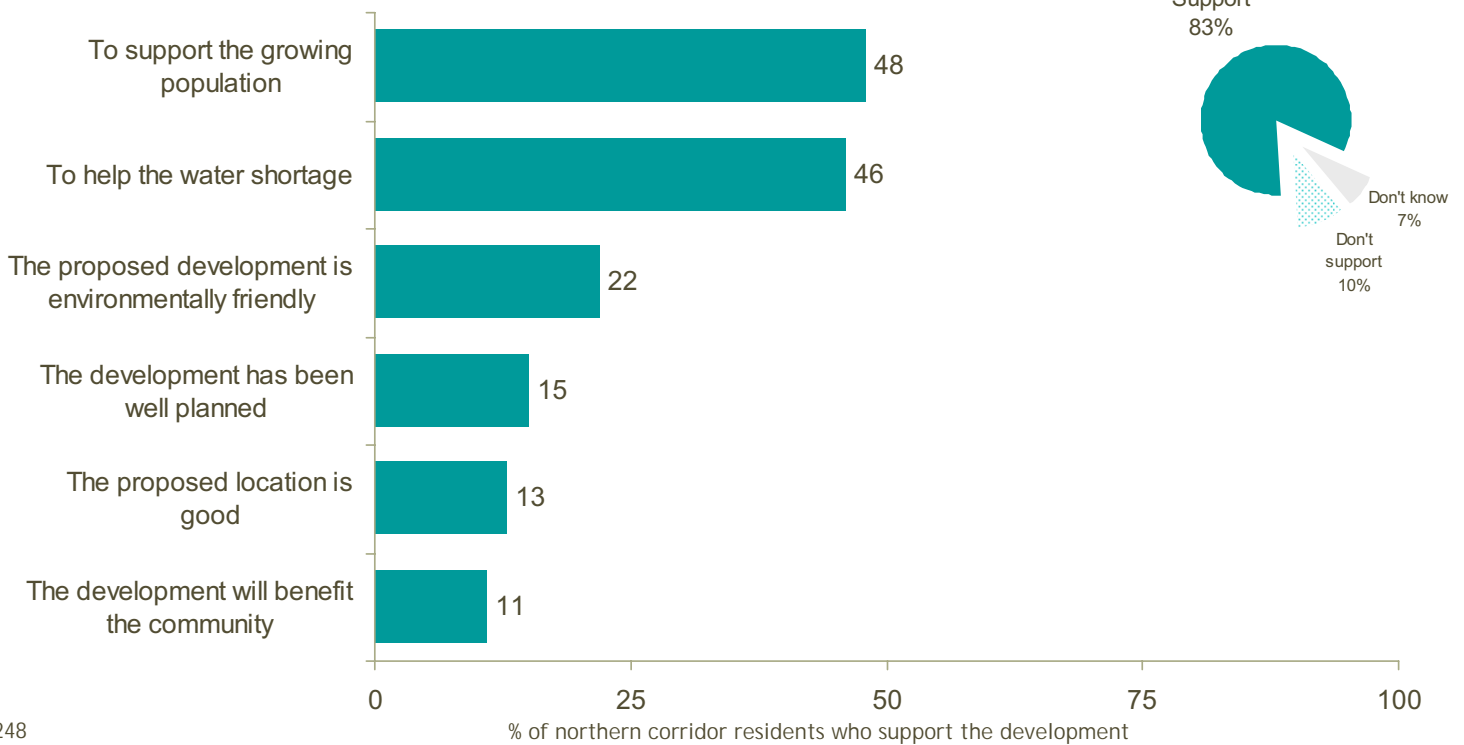
Q: Why don't you support the development? What areas of concern do you have?



Many of those who don't support the development are concerned about the environmental and health impacts.

Why Do Residents Support the Development?

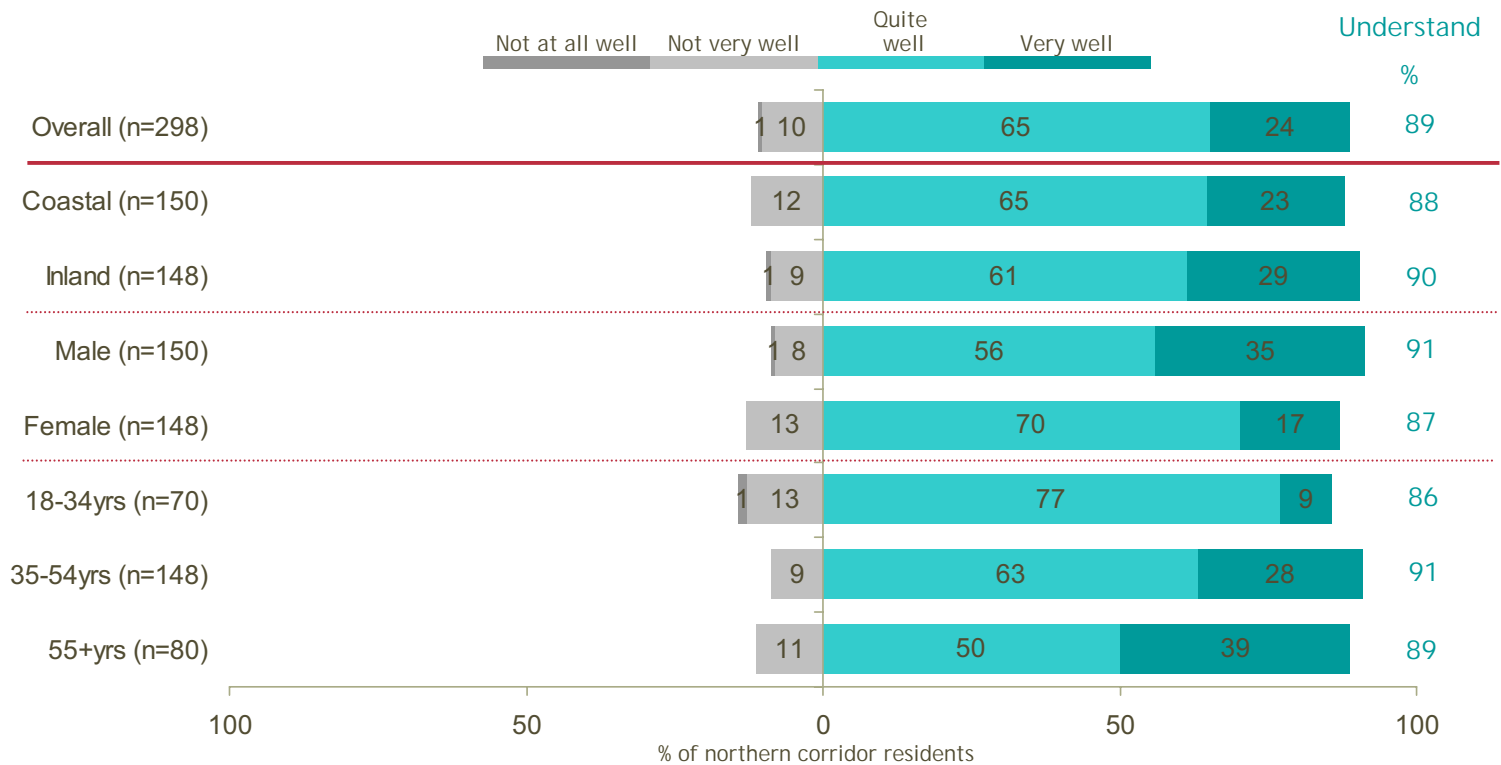
Q: Why do you support the development? What makes you think it is the right thing to do?



The vast majority support the development as they feel it will support the growing population and help with the water shortage.

Understanding the Reasons for the Development

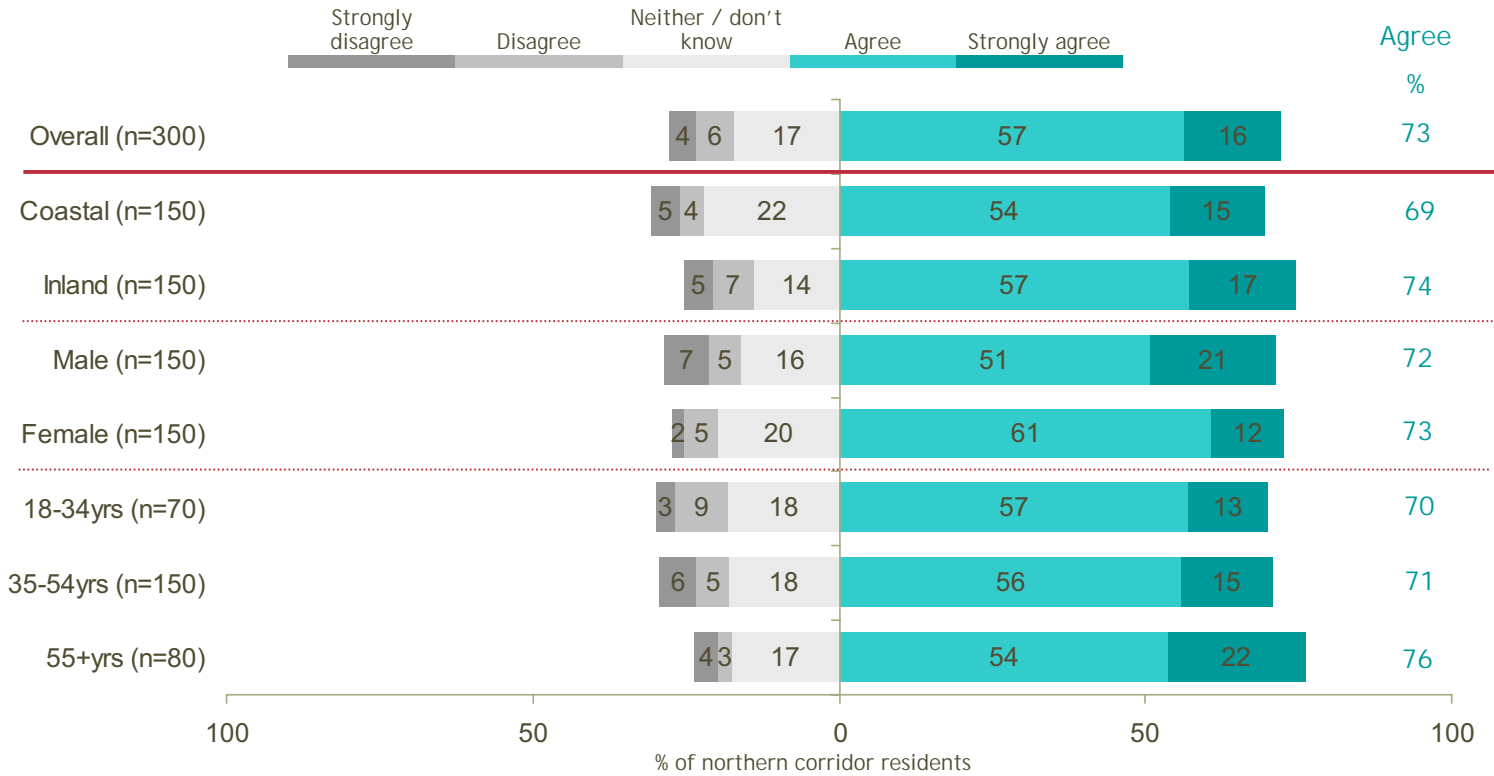
Q: Based on all you've heard and read about the proposed Treatment Plant, do you understand the reasons for its development?



Approximately nine out of ten residents feel they understand the reasons for the development.

Agreement with Proposed Location

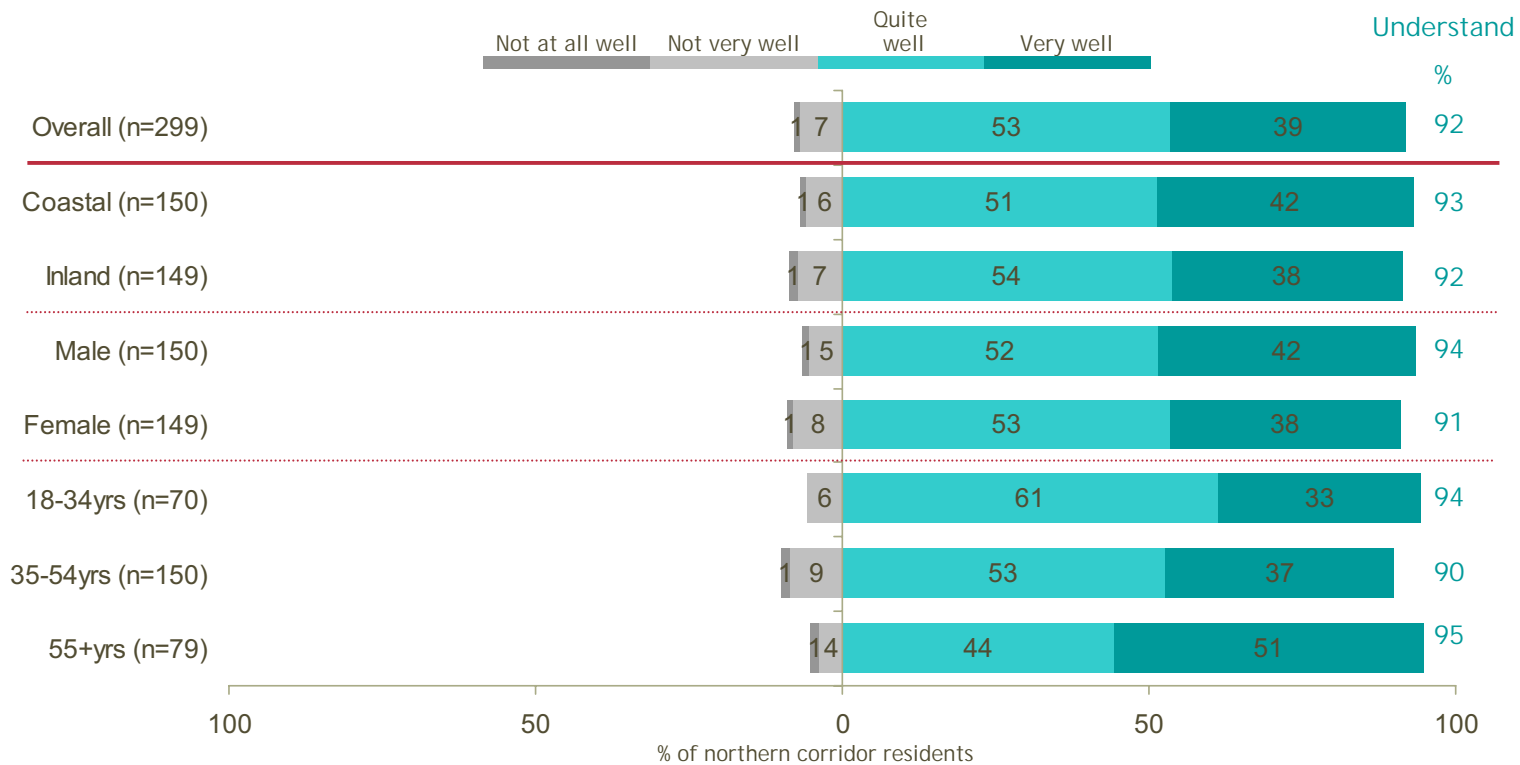
Q: And based on what you have heard and read, do you agree or disagree with the proposed location of the Treatment Plant?



Just under three quarters of all northern corridor residents agree with the proposed location of the Treatment Plant. Only 10% disagree, with others not being sure.

Understanding of the Proposed Location

Q: Still thinking about its location, do you understand the reasons for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be situated on the coast?

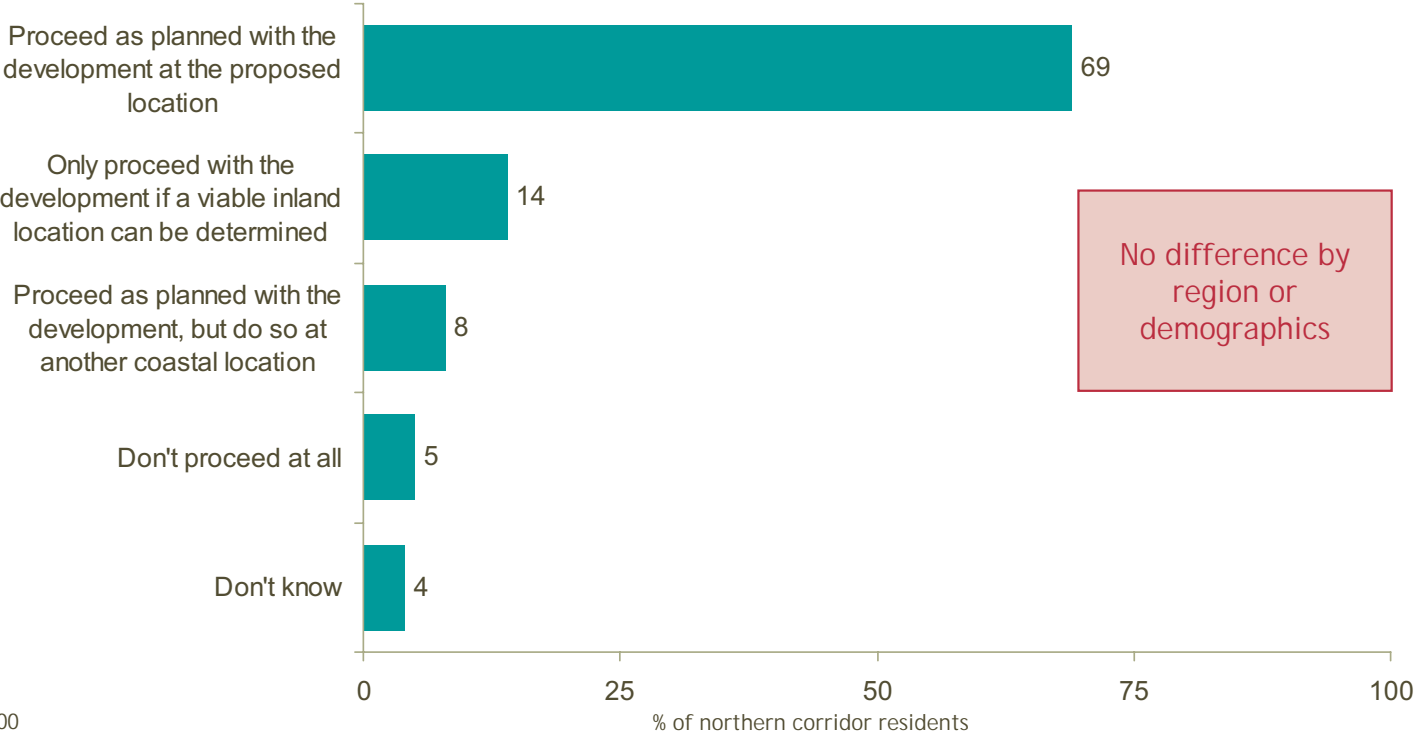


Nearly all residents understand the reasons for the proposed location of the development.



How the Water Corporation Should Proceed

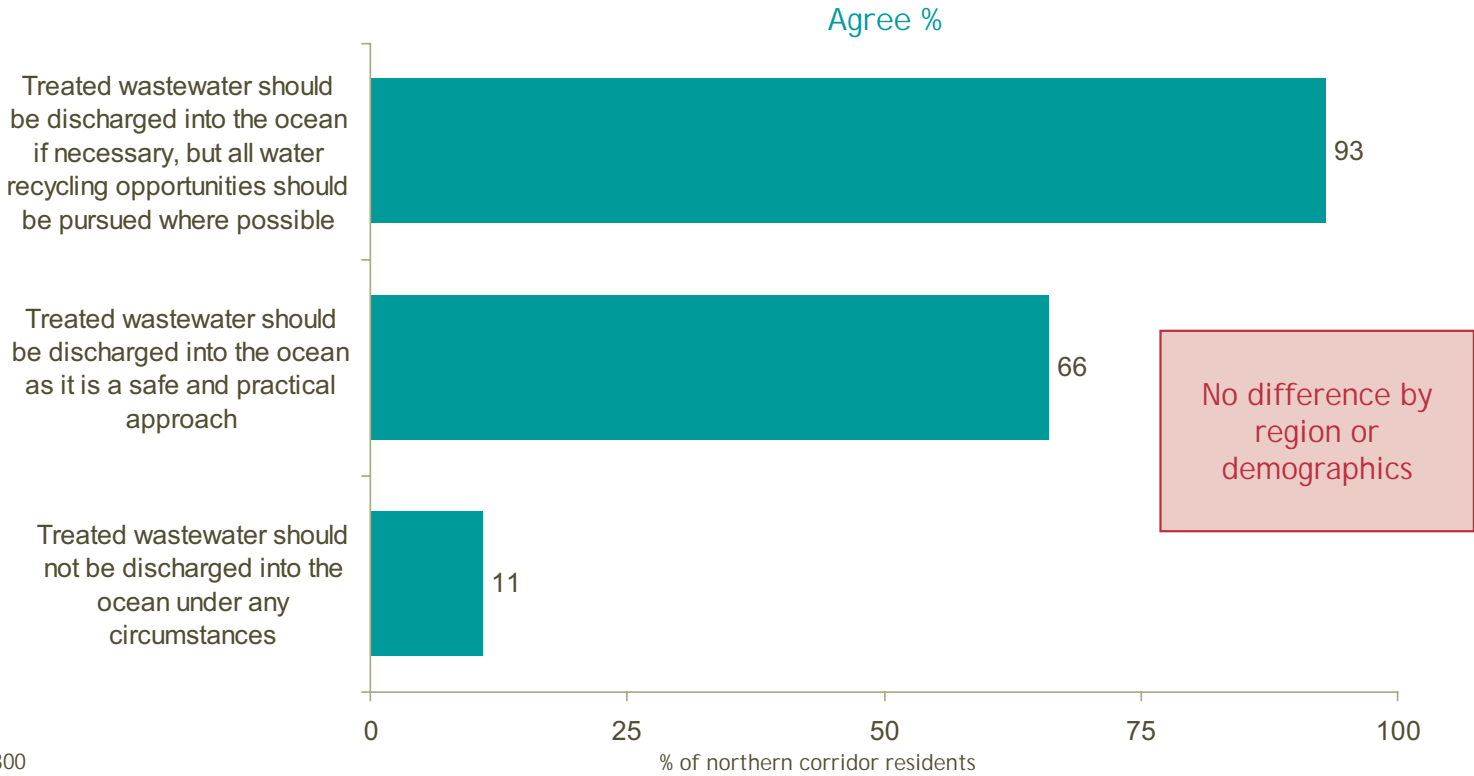
Q: So now based on what you know about the area, which of the following statements best describes the way you feel the Water Corporation should proceed with the development?



Two-thirds of residents believe that the Water Corporation should proceed as planned with the development at the proposed location, with only 5% believing that the development should not proceed at all.

Attitudes towards Ocean Discharge

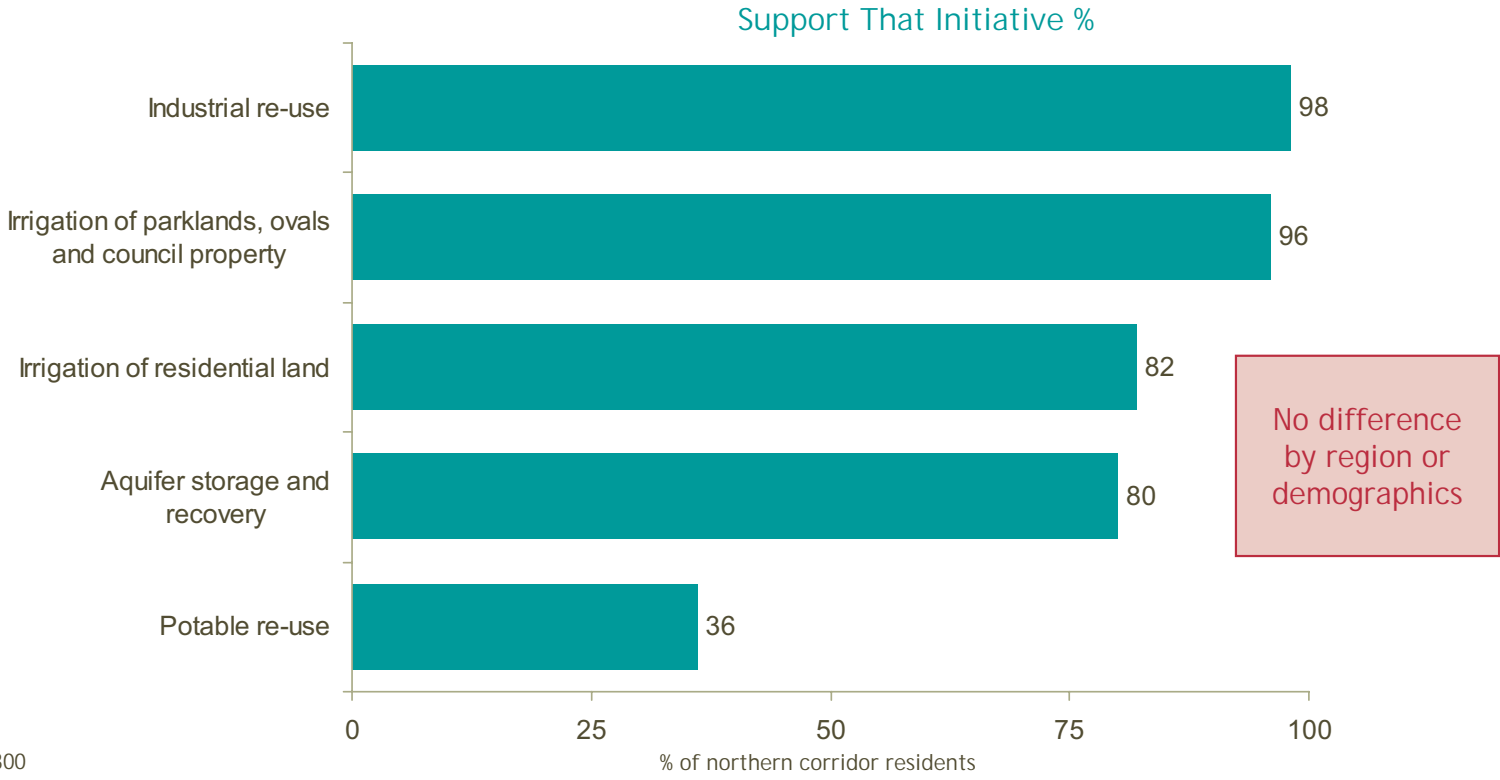
Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Most residents support the ocean discharge concept.

Support for Water Recycling and Re-use Initiatives

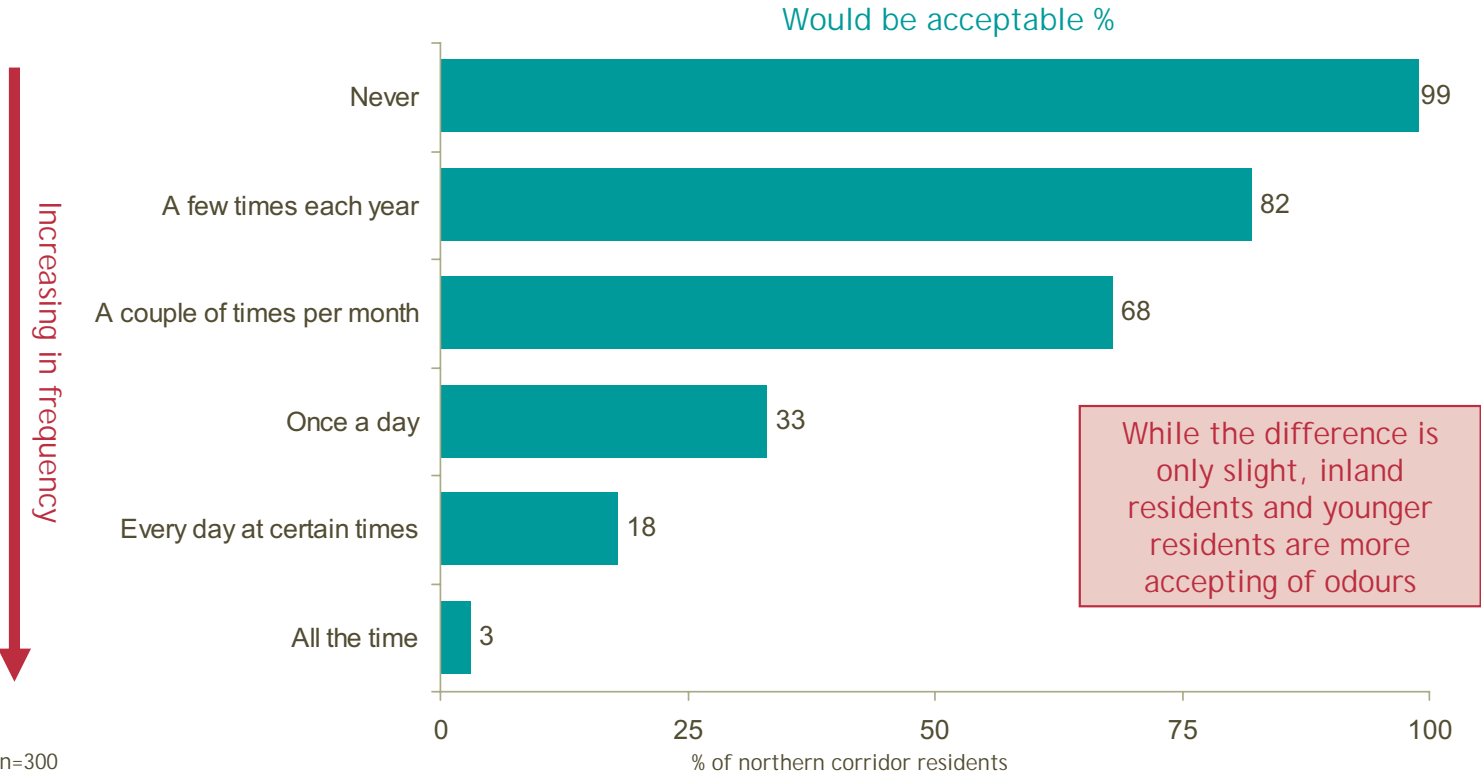
Q: How do you feel about the following water recycling and water re-use initiatives being incorporated into the development of the Alkimos Wastewater Treatment Plant?



Support for various water recycling and re-use initiatives is high, with the exception of potable re-use.

Acceptability of Odours

Q: If you were living in an area where you may detect odours, how would you feel about noticing odours...

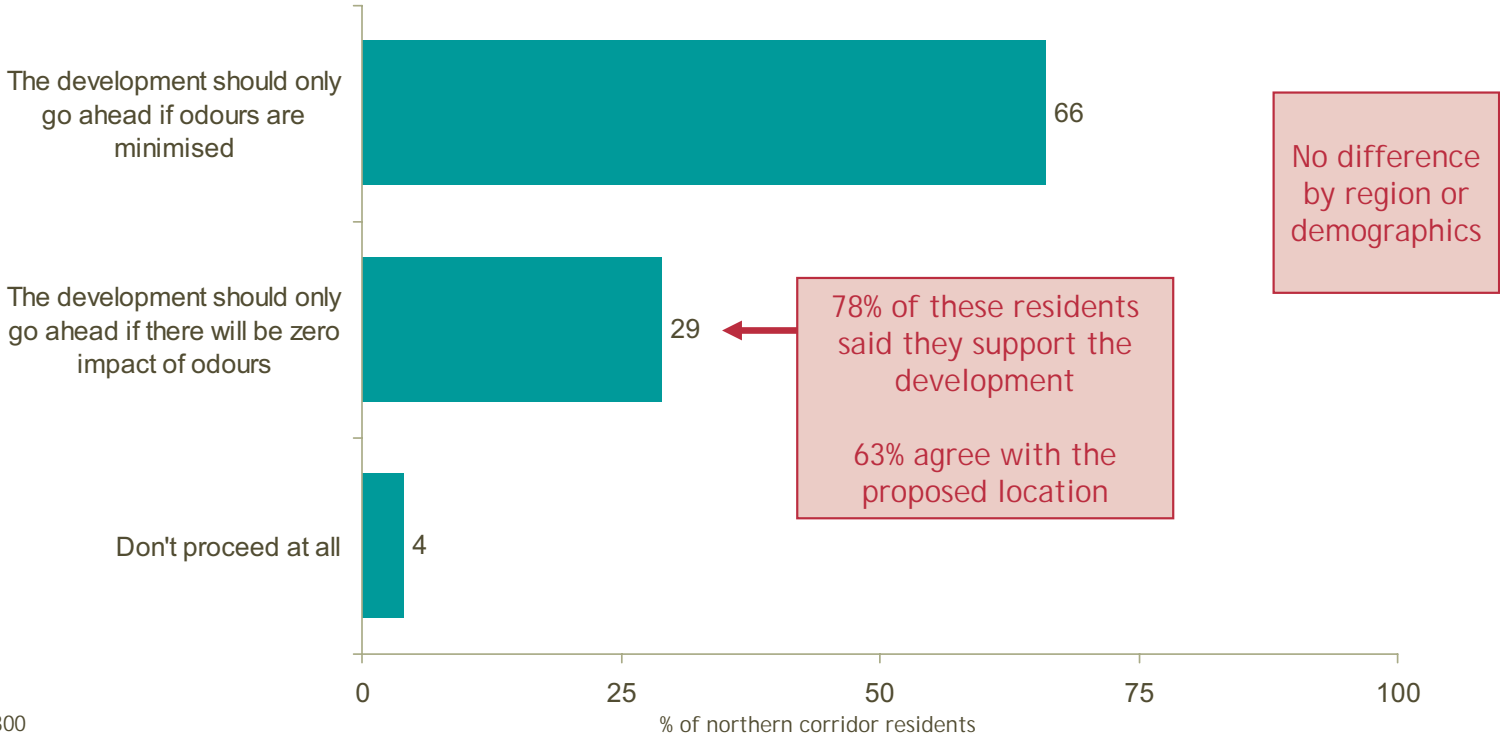


Two thirds of residents would accept odours being noticed a couple of times per month. Coastal residents are slightly less accepting than inland residents.



How Odours Impact on Support for the Development

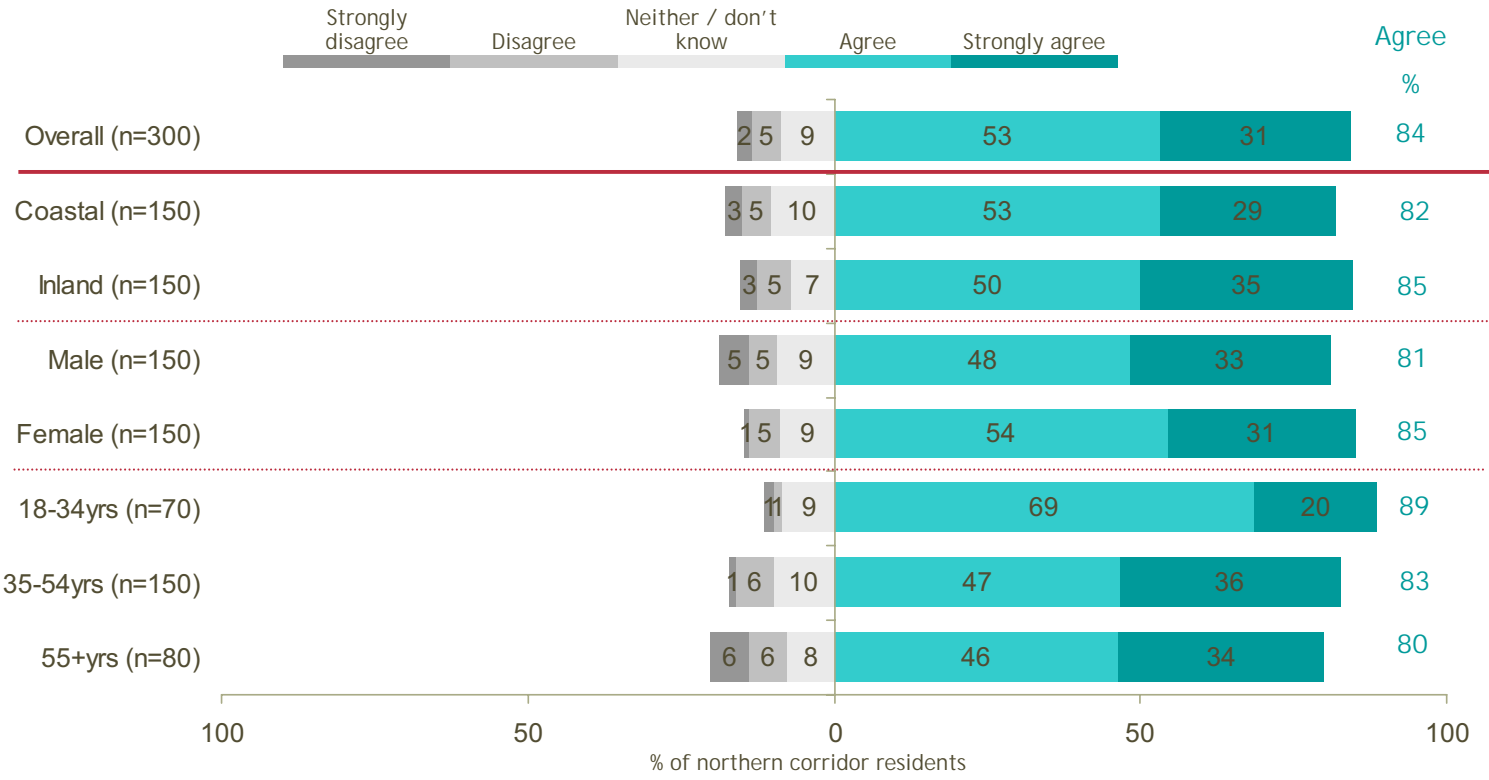
Q: How do you feel about the proposed development?



While most residents support the development, there is an expectation that odours will at least be minimised. 29% think it should only go ahead if there are no impact of odours.

Usage of Buffer Zone

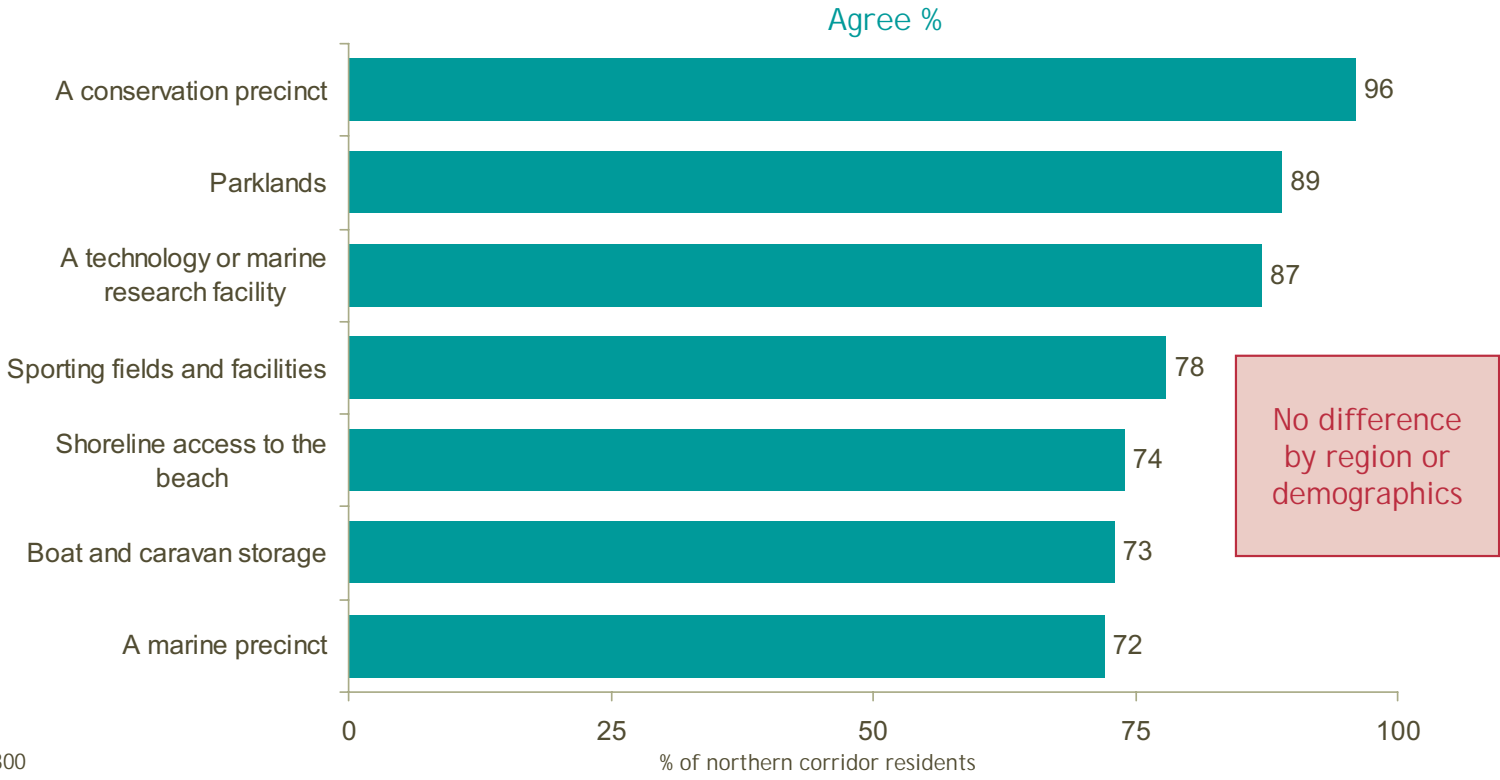
Q: To add value to the community, this buffer zone could be used for a variety of purposes. How do you feel about this possible usage?



Most are supportive of the buffer zone being used for community purposes.

Possible Land Uses

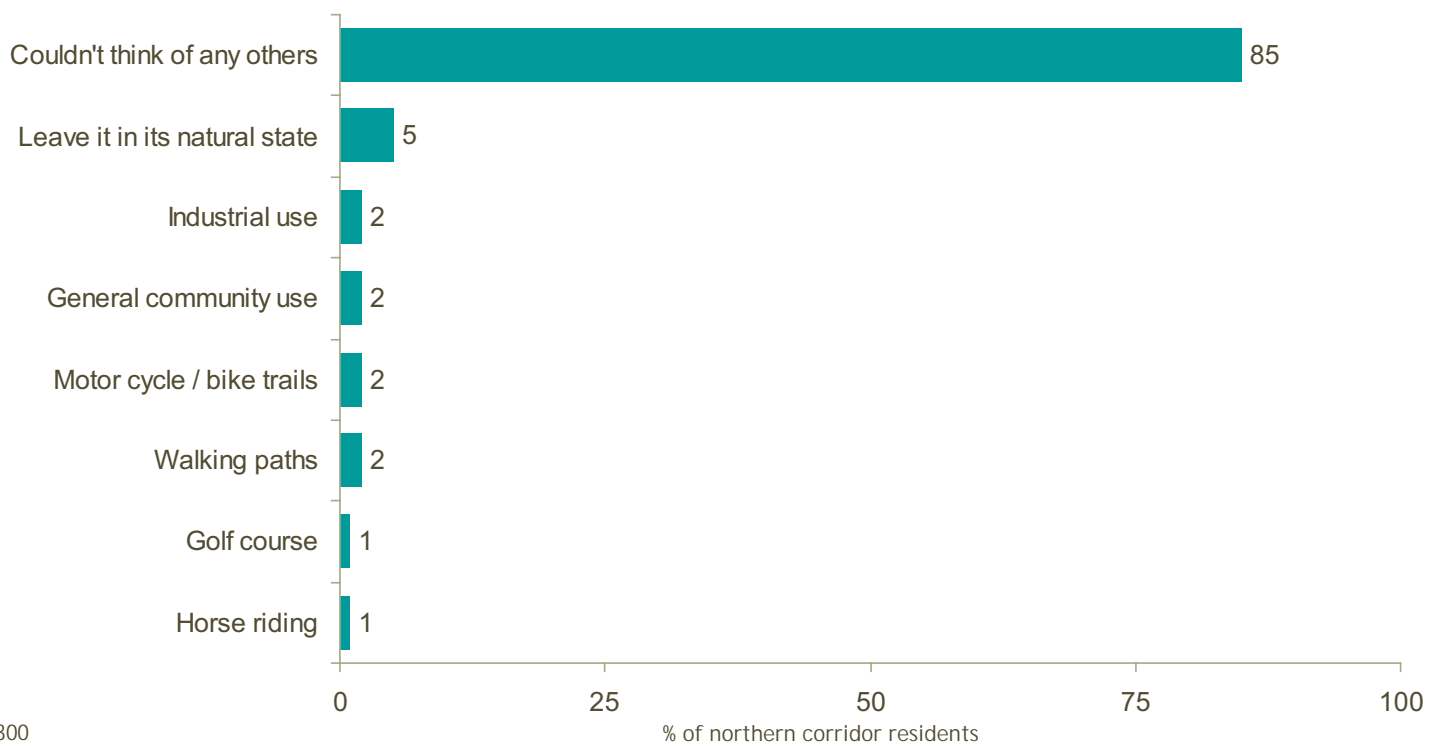
Q: How do you feel about the following possible uses of the land surrounding the proposed Treatment Plant?



Support for various possible uses of the buffer zone is high, especially in regards to a conservation precinct, parklands or a technology or marine research facility.

Other Uses of the Buffer Zone

Q: In what other ways do you believe the buffer zone surrounding the proposed Treatment Plant could be used?



The various ways in which the buffer zone could be utilised cover off most uses that residents could think of.

What Else Do People Want to Know?

45% of residents indicated at the end of the survey that they would like to find out more about the Alkimos development. The main questions they asked at the end of the survey are summarised below.

Asked most often

What will be the environmental impact?

How far out in the ocean will the waste be dumped?

What will be the exact location and dimensions of the site?

Also asked

What are the pros and cons of each site?

How much will this cost?

Are there any health risks for those in the area?

Will the waste be washed up on the beach?

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