

Greater Wellington Regional Council Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016



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Greater Wellington Regional Council

Hutt River Corridor

User Survey 2016

Prepared for the Greater Wellington Regional Council

by Rob Greenaway & Associates

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1 Summary

This is a report on the results and method of a survey of recreational use of the Hutt River Corridor, with 960 respondents. The data will be used to advise the review of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy and to provide a baseline against which the effects of management activities can be measured.

Key points from the results:

- Improving water quality in the Hutt River was considered the top priority management activity. More than double the number of respondents considered water quality a top priority for action compared with reducing the risk of flooding businesses and houses.
- Most respondents (60%) considered that the River corridor was better compared with when they first visited it, and 33% thought it had not changed. The longer a respondent's experience with the River corridor, the more likely they were to think that it had improved: 82% of respondents with more than 20 years of experience thought it was better.
- The level of conflict between users is low, with 4% of inter and intra-activity interactions being reported as negative, while 87% of interactions were reported as positive.

The intercept survey was carried out between the 5th of March 2016 and the 3rd of April 2016 with 293.5 hours of effort expended. Survey days were picked to coincide as much as possible with high use periods – weekends, Easter and weekday evenings.

The survey had six main focus areas:

1. **Demographics.** Those aged under 15 were not interviewed and were treated as non-responses.¹ The 15-24 age group was under-represented in the survey results compared with the regional population, while the 50-64 age group was over-represented.² Men made up 54% of respondents and 48% of the regional population. Older women were relatively unlikely to have been encountered in the River corridor compared with the regional population. This spread of data suggests that the survey results are reasonably representative. Hutt City residents made up 51% of respondents, Upper Hutt residents 34% and Wellingtonians 10%. Only 1% were of international origin. The Census population ratio between Upper Hutt and Hutt City is 1:2.5 (102,900 Hutt City and 40,600 Upper Hutt residents at 2013). The ratio for respondents is 1:1.5, meaning Upper Hutt residents are over-represented in the results compared with their population.
2. **Activity.** The four main activities recorded were walking, dog-related activities (mostly walking the dog, but also swimming and driving³ them) and cycling (collectively representing 85% of respondents) and running (at 4% but a sufficiently large group to use in further analysis). Swimming and running were important activities undertaken at other times (not on the days of the interviews), and are likely to be under-represented in the data set in comparison with 'average' use over a full year. Cyclists and runners use the entire length of the River corridor, while walking and dog-related activities wane a little in the middle reaches. Twenty-seven percent of respondents did their main activity in only the River corridor, and 61% of all respondents' activity time for their main activity was carried out in the corridor.
3. **Change over time.** Respondents were asked if, in their opinion, the River corridor was better, worse or the same as the first time they had visited it. They were also asked how many years they had been visiting the River. Overall, 60% of respondents with enough

¹ Standard survey etiquette requires permission from a guardian or parent for potential respondents aged under 15.

² Over-representation does not mean that the results are biased and therefore skewed towards a group that is over-represented. It just means that, in comparison with some benchmark (such as Census data) there is more of a sub-group in the data-set. This is a reality of the survey sample and not necessarily a sampling problem – although it could be if, for example, the survey sample was 80% male, and this was considered unlikely in reality.

³ Having them run beside a moving vehicle.

experience over time felt the corridor was better, 8% felt it was worse and 33% thought it had not changed. Those with a longer period of experience tended to think the corridor had changed for the better (82% for those with more than 20 years of experience). Better tracks and paths and other forms of access, planting and recreation amenities were frequently cited as reasons for improvement. Issues with algae, lower flows and rubbish were frequently cited as reasons for negative change.

4. **Best and worst aspects.** Respondents were asked to name their best and worst aspects of the River corridor via an unprompted open question. There was almost 1.8 times the number of best aspects compared with worst. Best aspects included the quality of the scenery, the cycle and walking tracks and general accessibility, separation from traffic, the River itself, peace and tranquillity, a dog-friendly setting, open space and safety. The main worst aspects were rubbish, dog poo and dogs off-lead, algae, personal safety, track quality and anti-social behaviour.
5. **Conflicts.** Respondents were asked whether they saw or interacted with other visitors to the River corridor on 'this or other visits'. Sixteen percent of respondents said they had no interactions. Runners and dog-related respondents had the highest levels of negative interactions at 8% and 5% respectively. The total level of negative interactions was low at 4% (compared with other settings where this question has been applied, where the range has been 1% to 14%). These results do not mean that 4% of interactions within the corridor were negative, but that 4% of respondents who reported interactions had a negative one. Those visiting the corridor with a dog described cyclists as the main cause of negative interactions (15 of 33). Cyclists were also the main cause of negative interactions with walkers (9 of 20 negative interactions). However, it is important to note that the majority of interactions between these and other parties were positive. For every 9 negative interactions between walkers and cyclists (with walkers as the complainant) there were 155 positive interactions. Anti-social behaviour, car-related activities and motorbiking/quad gained no positive or neutral interaction responses.
6. **Improvements.** A closed question was provided with the options of ordering three top priorities from the following list:
 - Reducing the risk of flooding houses and businesses
 - Making the river a more fish-friendly environment
 - Protecting and enhancing cultural and historic values
 - Making the river margins better for native birds, insects and lizards
 - Improving water quality by better controlling algae, and bacteria and other pollution
 - Improving the river corridor for recreation activities
 - Improving the landscape and visual quality of the river corridor

Improving water quality was the top issue by a wide margin, with 674 of all respondents deciding this was the top or second priority. Water quality was identified as a priority (1, 2 or 3) by over 80% of all respondents. Compared with reducing the risk of flooding – which was the second-rated top priority – more than double the number of respondents considered water quality to be a priority 1 issue. Priorities were quite consistent regardless of respondents' origin, although Upper Hutt respondents were slightly more interested in water quality issues compared with Hutt City respondents, and Wellington respondents were more interested in recreation facilities. Respondents were also asked what actions should be carried out to support their priority action. Managing algae was the top action for improving water quality.

2 Introduction

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is carrying out a review of its Hutt River Environmental Strategy. The data from this survey are intended to support that review by:

- Providing a description of the characteristics and preferences of users of the Hutt River Corridor,
- Quantifying opinions about the quality of natural values and built features in the River corridor,
- Providing a baseline against which changes in the effects of management activities can be measured,
- Identifying preferences for future development of the River corridor, considering both natural and built features.

2.1 Method

The research method was an intercept survey of users of the Hutt River Corridor from the river-mouth to Harcourt Park. A target response rate total of 1000 respondents was set, subdivided by four main corridor sections; with targets of 250 respondents for each of: the mouth to Ewen Bridge; Ewen Bridge to Fraser Park; Fraser Park to Trentham Memorial Park; and Trentham Memorial Park to Harcourt Park. Almost all corridor users encountered were interviewed and so little random selection was required.

The questionnaire was designed by Rob Greenaway of RG&A, in consultation with the project team of Ross Jackson and Susan Jones of the GWRC and Boyden Evans of Boffa Miskell. The questions used were based on those used in other similar river studies. The survey method was designed and recorded so that GWRC will be able to easily replicate it if required.

Four surveyors were employed. Their activity schedule appears in Appendix 2, showing date and the individual surveyor's time-inputs by colour.

The aim of the survey method was to gain the maximum number of respondents, rather than to collect a truly representative sample of all River corridor users. Therefore, survey days were timed to coincide, as much as possible, with statutory holidays and weekends, and sunny weather, with some week day evenings included to ensure that commuters were canvassed.

The questionnaire is included in Appendix 3.

2.2 Survey sites

Figure 2 (page 10) shows how the corridor was subdivided into four 'beats' for surveying purposes. Appendix 2 shows the schedule applied by the surveyors to each of these. The intent was for each surveyor to move along the beats and to intercept all users they met, or to randomly select an individual from within groups or in busy areas. The beats above Fraser Park feature long sections of river trail between entry and exit points, and only those sites where the most respondents were likely to be encountered were surveyed. Below Fraser Park, it was expected that surveyors would be busy along the entire length of their beats. However, McEwan Park at the river mouth was often deserted and there were safety concerns about intoxicated Park users. The lower beat was shortened to focus on mostly the left bank nearer the CBD. Similarly, the right bank in the Ewen Bridge to Fraser Park beat was very quiet and some potential personal safety issues arose. The focus in this beat became the left bank.

Figure 4 and Figure 5 (pages 12 and 13) show the River corridor sections referred to in the questionnaire (Q5 – *Which parts of the Hutt River are you using today?*). Respondents were presented with these maps on a laminated card. These match the corridor sections used in the Hutt River Environment Strategy.

The objective of gaining 250 responses from each of the four beats almost achieved with: 66 hours spent in beat 1 (with 236 forms completed); 90 hours in beat 2 (229 forms); 72 hours in beat 3 (250 forms); and 66 hours in beat 4 (254 forms). The low response rate in beat 2 was a surprise considering it was nearer the Hutt City CBD, but it lacked weekend activity.

2.3 Error and bias

An error in a survey is defined as a difference between the data gained through research (usually in average values) and the true characteristics of the study's target population. Bias is one cause of error, and can be caused by strategic responses from respondents, poor or inconsistent interviewing techniques, and leading or unclear questionnaire design. An example of bias in this survey is its focus on high-use periods (there is a bias against visitors who prefer using sites when no-one else is around). There is no way of compensating for or measuring this type of bias with the results gained, as the scale of its effect is unknown.

Some other forms of error, such as sampling error, can be quantified, but only if the sampling technique relies on the random selection of respondents. While this survey targeted almost all users encountered, the sample periods were not randomly selected; and so the sample is neither the population nor randomly selected from the population.

With those errors in mind, surveys of this type can be considered in two ways. At one level they are merely the collection and presentation of a large number of opinions and the provision of descriptive data. At another level, they are a quantitative representation of the likely use patterns and recreation values of a resource. This survey is largely the former due to the targeted survey method – that is, survey days were not randomly selected and therefore do not show truly representative use patterns. Consequently, the level of statistical error in the results is not known (because the selection method was not truly random).

However, if the same selection method is used in the future and the same errors are applied, trend analysis should be possible. Also, response levels (shown as *n* in data tables and figures)⁴, were high at 960. If 960 respondents were randomly selected from any sized population, the margin of error would be $\pm 3.1\%$ where there was a 50 / 50 split in response to an either / or question (greater agreement or disagreement to a question means lower error).

The author of this report agrees with Ziliak & McCloskey⁵ in relation to the danger and irrelevance of applying tests of statistical significance to survey samples which are clearly non-random, and as result, none is used in this report.

Some missing data are evident in several data tables (where *n* is less than the total number of responses). These gaps result largely from several questionnaires being only partly completed during the interview, with the respondent running out of time or interest. Where enough of the questionnaire was completed, the available data were coded. Rounding results in a few data sets not adding to 100%.

2.4 Refusals

Table 1 shows the reasons by activity for a questionnaire not being completed when a potential respondent was available. A total of 238 non-responses or refusals was recorded, 18% of whom were respondents who had already been questioned. Cyclists made up 45% of refusals, with most not stopping for the surveyor.

⁴ 'n' describes the number of completed responses (the 'sample') of relevance to the analysis being described. Where a table describes only percentage figures, n describes the size of the sample (or number of 'observations') the percentage figures refer to. Where n is low and those data are being used in a cross-tabulation, there is likely to be a high level of error. In mathematical terms, 'n' is any indefinite number.

⁵ Ziliak, S.T., McCloskey, D.N. 2008. *The Cult of Statistical Significance*. University of Michigan

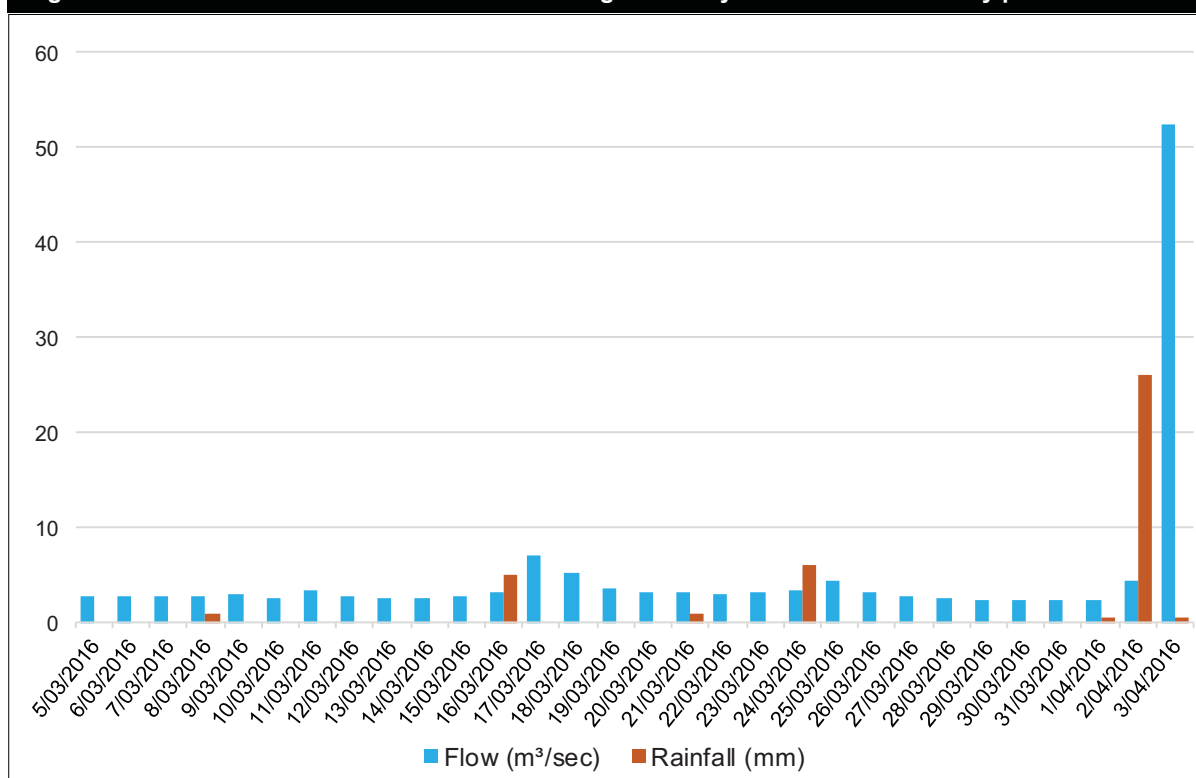
Table 1: Non responses – reasons by activity (count)	Cycling	Walking	Running	Dog walking	Fishing	Relaxing	Playing in river	Driving	Blackberrying	Total
Passed by	61	1	24	1						87
Declined, not interested	12	30	4	14		2		2	1	65
Repeat – surveyed before	19	9	1	12	1		1			43
No time	13	8	9	3						33
Incapable - hard hearing / stoned	1	3			2	1	1			8
In river					2					2
Total	106	51	38	30	5	3	2	2	1	238

2.5 Weather and river flows

Figure 3 (page 11) shows the NZ Meteorological Service weather records for the survey period for Wellington Airport. The survey period was generally quite warm. Two survey days were cut short by strong winds.

Flows on the Hutt River were consistently low and mostly below 4 m³/s for the survey period (Figure 1). The seven-day mean annual low flow for the Hutt River at Taita Gorge is 3.7 m³/s with an annual median of 14.2 m³/s, and a lowest record of 1.6 m³/s.⁶ Flows were therefore generally at the lowest users would normally experience. Rainfall was slight with only 40 mm within the survey period in the Hutt Valley.

Figure 1: Rainfall and Hutt River flows at Taita Gorge - midday flow in m³/s for survey period



⁶ Hudson, H .R. 2010. *Assessment of potential effects on instream habitat with reduced flows in the Hutt River at Kaitoke*. Environmental Management Associates, Christchurch.

Figure 2: Hutt River corridor survey sites

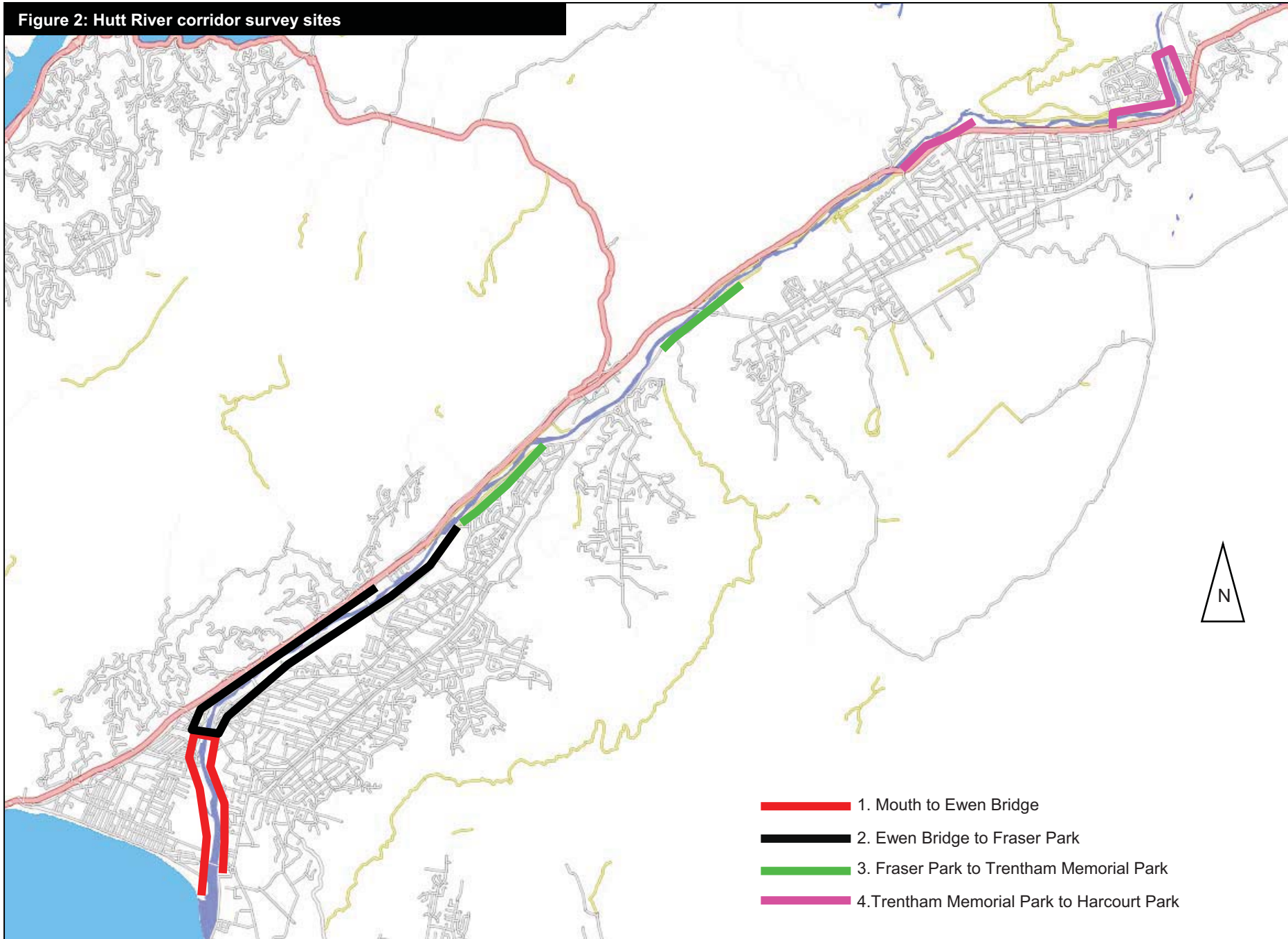


Figure 3: Weather record – temperature and wind - for Wellington Airport for 3 March to 3 April 2016. Source: NZ Met Service

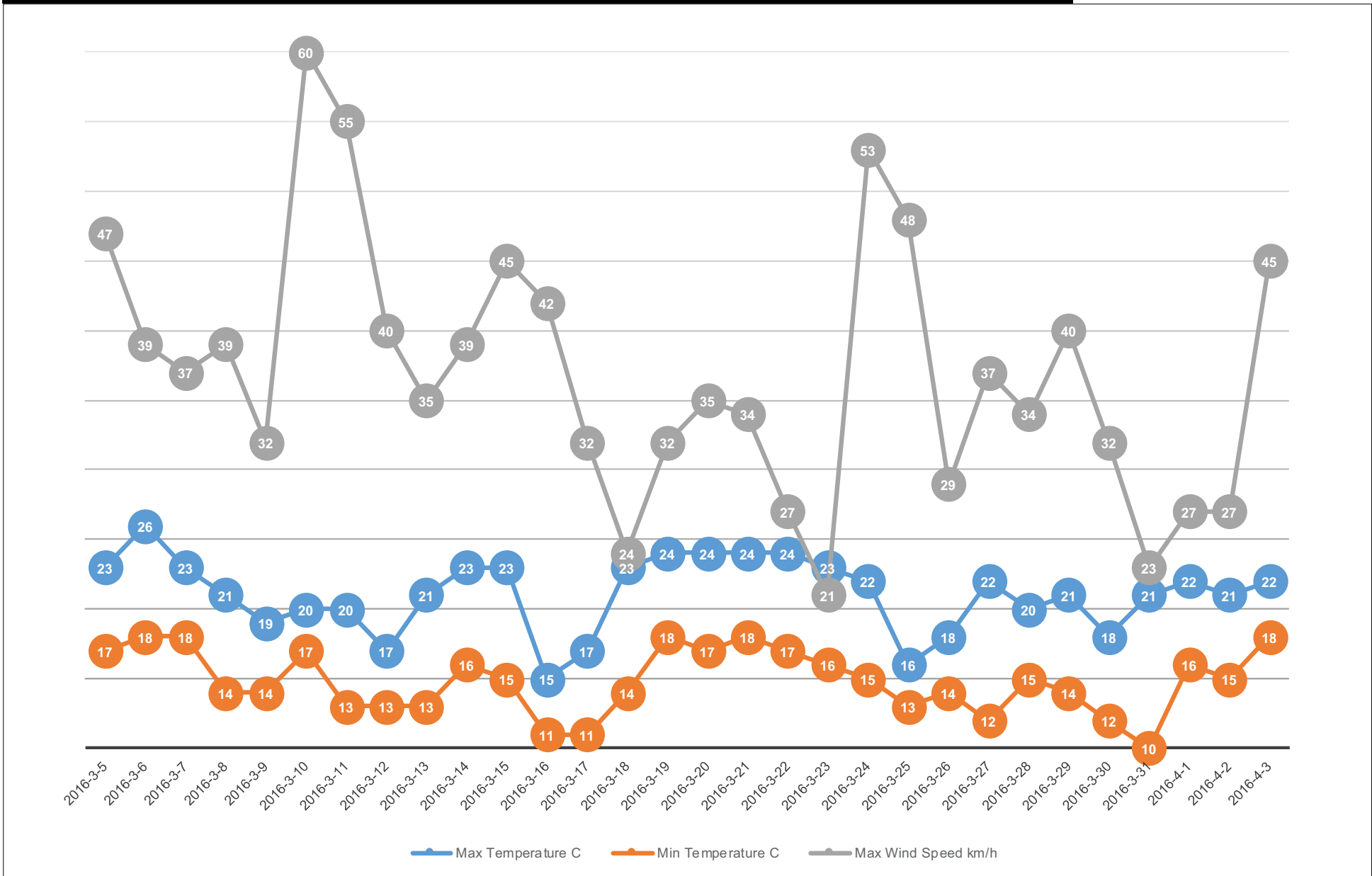


Figure 4: Hutt City River Corridor sections

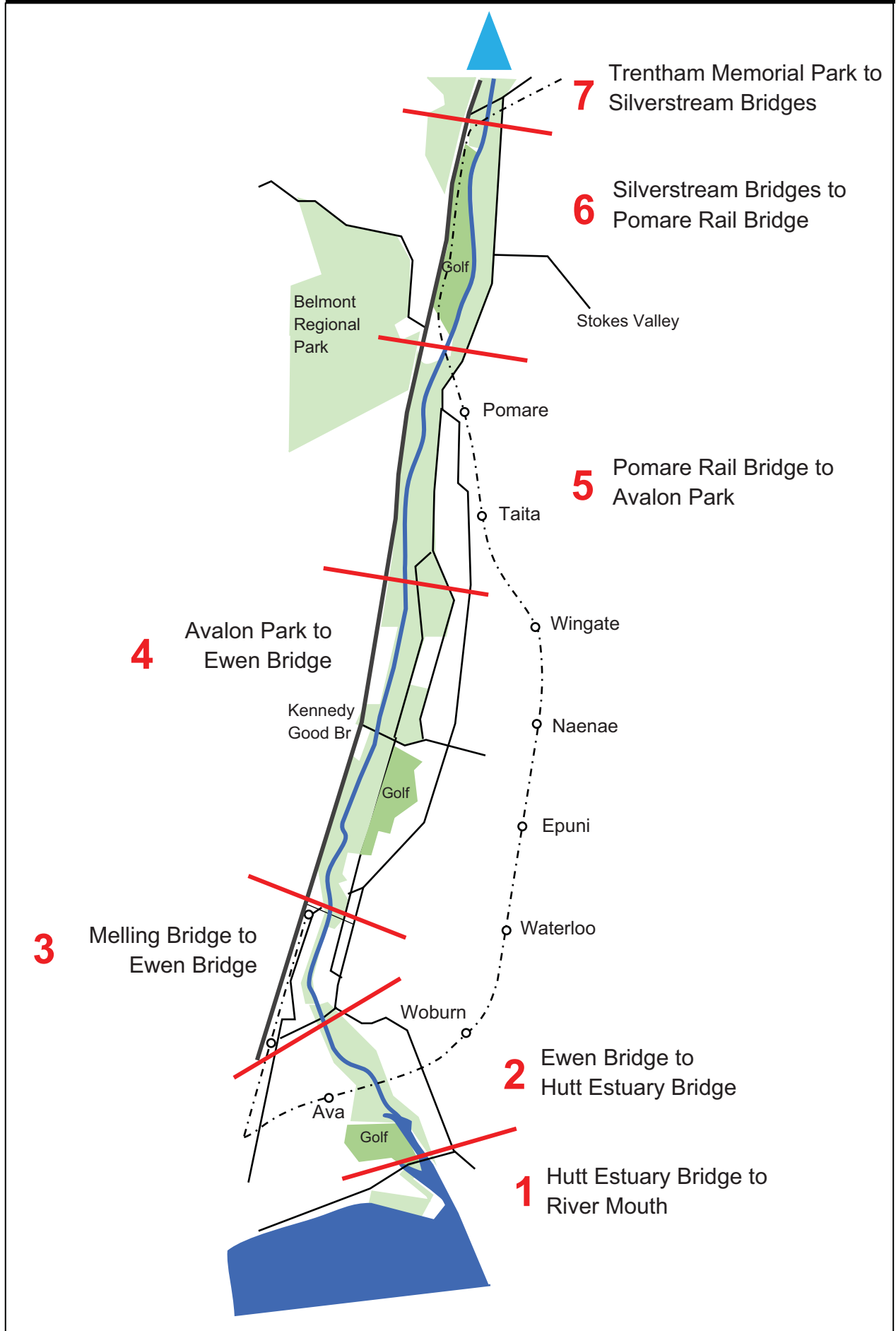
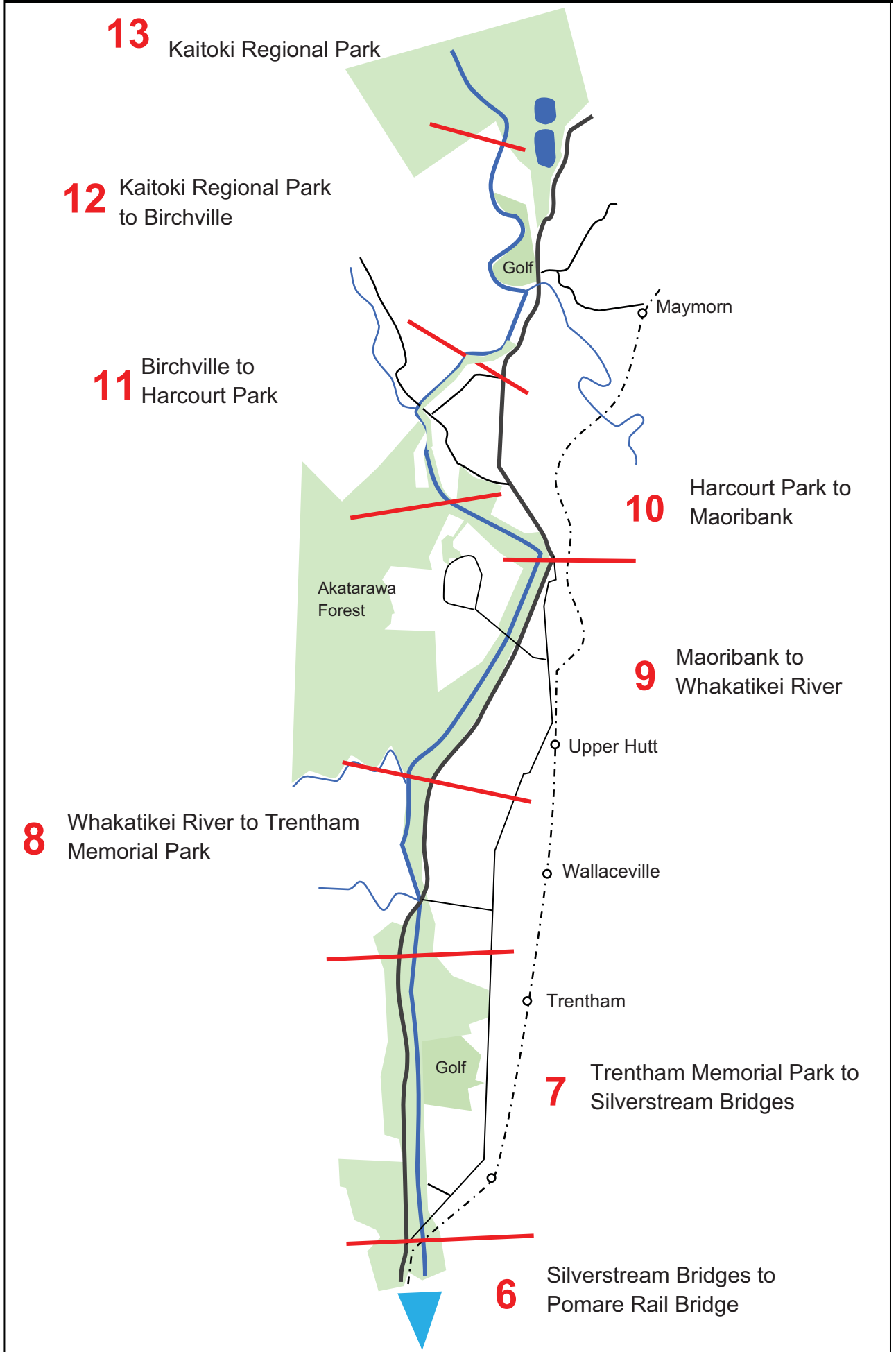


Figure 5: Upper Hutt River Corridor sections



3 Results

3.1 Demographics

Figure 6 shows the age groups of respondents compared with 2013 Census data for the Wellington Region. Those aged under 15 were not interviewed and that age group has also been deleted from the Census data for this comparison. The 15-24 age group was under-represented in the survey results compared with the regional population, while the 50-64 age group was over-represented.⁷ Men made up 54% of respondents and 48% of the regional population. Older women were relatively unlikely to have been encountered in the River corridor compared with the regional population. This spread of data suggests that the survey results are reasonably representative.

Figure 6: Age group and sex compared with Wellington Region 2013 Census data

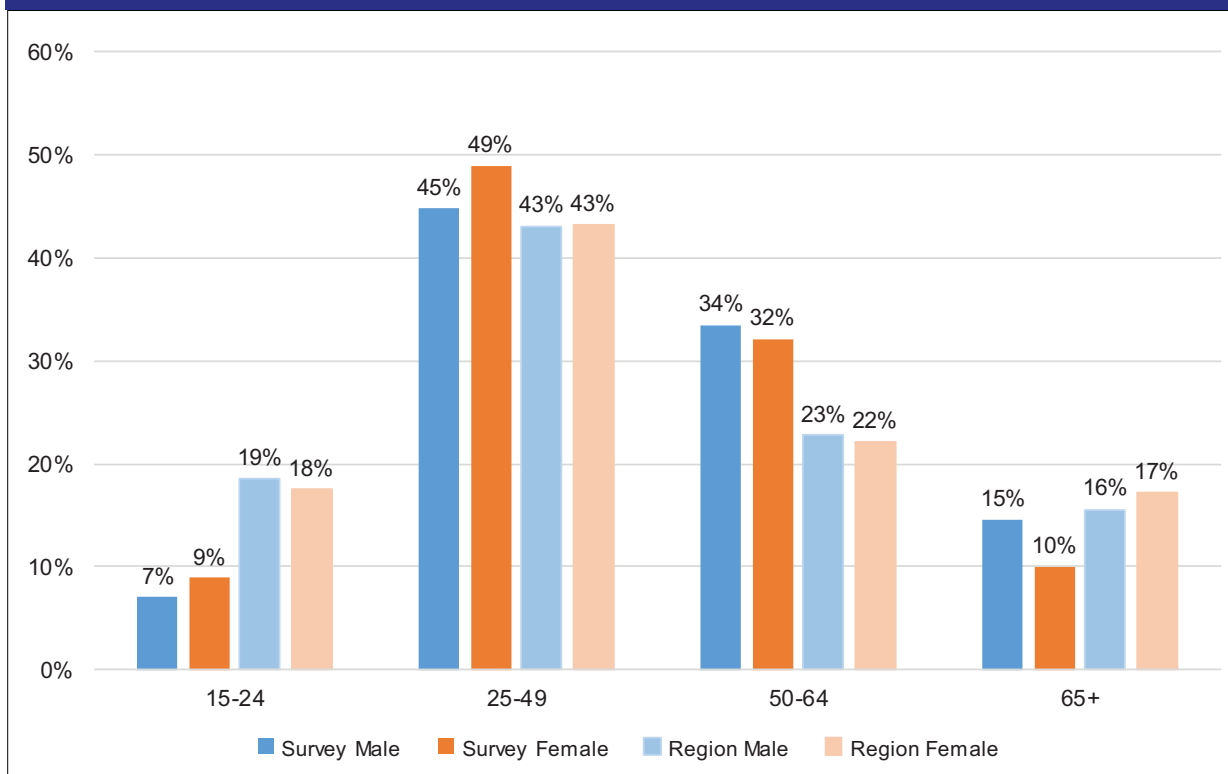


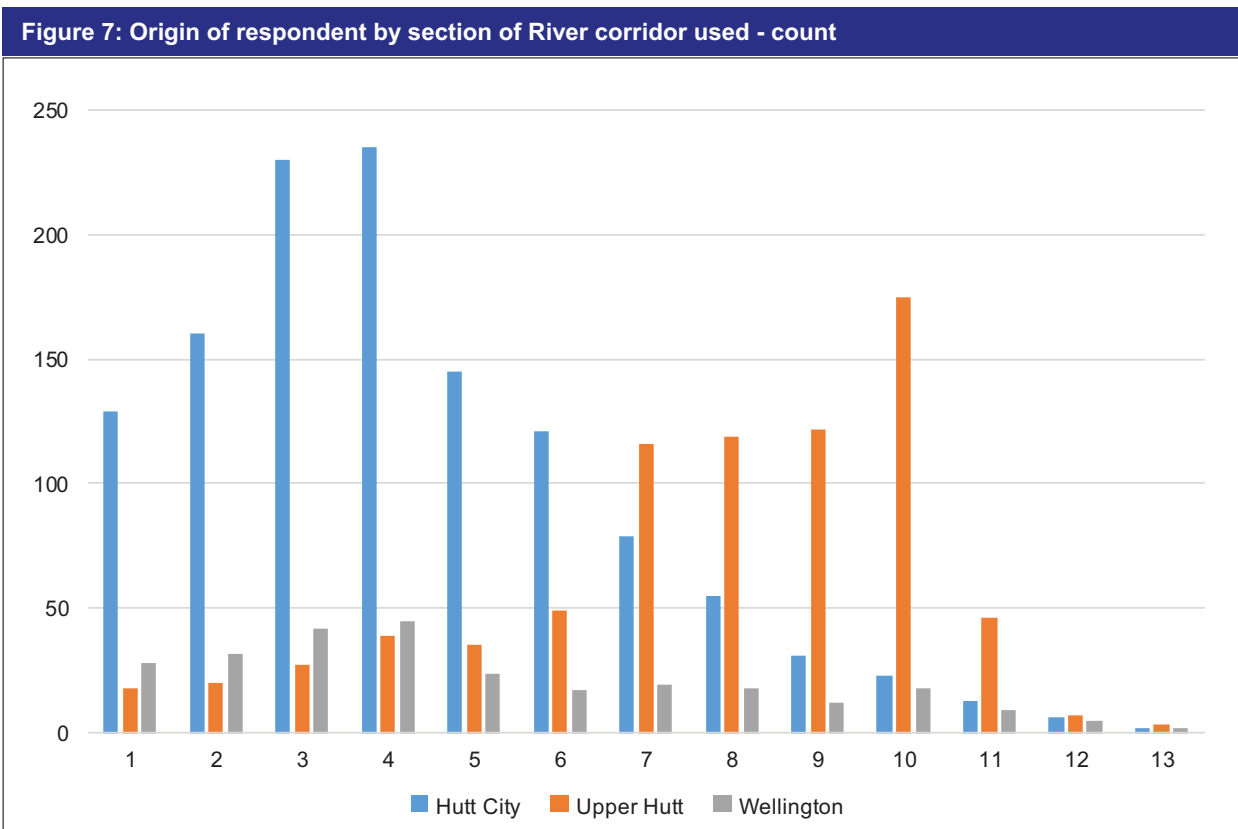
Table 2 shows the origin of respondents. The vast majority (94%) were from Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Wellington. Table 23 in Appendix 1 shows specific suburbs, cities and countries.

Figure 7 shows the sections of the River corridor used by respondents from Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Wellington (by count, with n=2276 – respondents named all the sections of the corridor they were visiting on the day they were questioned). Unsurprisingly, Upper Hutt residents were obvious in the corridor above the Silverstream Bridges, while Hutt City residents showed the reverse. Wellington City respondents had a relatively even distribution of use with peaks around the Hutt City CBD. River sections on the horizontal axis in Figure 7 are as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 on pages 12 and 13.

The population ratio between Upper Hutt and Hutt City is 1:2.5 (102,900 Hutt City and 40,600 Upper Hutt residents at 2013). The ratio for respondents is 1:1.5, meaning Upper Hutt residents are over-represented in the results compared with their population.

⁷ Over-representation does not mean that the results are biased and therefore skewed towards a group that is over-represented. It just means that, in comparison with some benchmark (such as Census data) there are more of a sub-group in the data-set. This is a reality of the survey sample and not necessarily a sampling problem. Although it could be if, for example, the survey sample was 80% male, and this was considered unlikely in reality.

Table 2: Origin		n=951
Hutt City		51%
Upper Hutt		34%
Wellington		10%
North Island - other		2%
International		1%
Porirua		1%
South Island		1%
Kapiti		0.4%
No fixed abode (NZ travellers)		0.2%
Wairarapa		0.2%
Totals		100%



3.2 Activities, location and frequency

Table 3 lists the main activity undertaken by respondents on the day they were interviewed, and all activities undertaken by respondents 'today and in the past'. Table 24 in Appendix 1 lists all activities.

The data for 'other' activities are shown in two ways. The first is the percent of respondents who named the other activity, and the second is the representation of that other activity as percent of all other activities named. So for walking: 31% of respondents were walking on the day they were interviewed (their main activity that day); 55% of respondents walked along the River corridor at some stage in the past; and 25% of 'other' activities named were walking.

The main activities are used in later cross-tabulations to identify preferences by activity. Swimming and running are under-represented in the 'main' activity category (1% as a 'main' activity compared with 19% for 'other' for swimming, and 4% and 20% for running), and so these activities will be relatively poorly accounted for in later analysis of these data (noting that almost all 'other' activities outweigh their role as a main activity – which stands to reason since 'other' activities may have only been undertaken once in the past). Kayaking also has low relative representation, but also a low absolute status as an 'other' activity. All other 'other' activities are reasonably equally-represented in the main activities.

Table 3: Main and other activities	Main (n=960)	Other as % of respondents (n=960)	Other in total (n=2097)
Walking	31%	55%	25%
Dog related	29%	37%	17%
Cycling	25%	51%	23%
Running	4%	20%	9%
Fishing	2%	6%	3%
Relaxing / socialising	2%	3%	1%
Swimming	1%	19%	9%
Picnicking	1%	5%	2%
Parks / playground	1%	1%	<1%
Blackberries	<1%	2%	1%
Boating /sailing /waka /rafting /tubing /rowing	<1%	2%	1%
Car related	<1%	1%	<1%
Exercise	<1%	1%	<1%
Kayaking	<1%	3%	2%
School / scout trip	<1%	0%	<1%
Commuting	<1%	1%	<1%
Geocaching	<1%	0%	<1%
Golf / disc golf	<1%	1%	<1%
Photography	<1%	1%	<1%
Stone / sand gathering / throwing	<1%	1%	1%
Croquet	<1%	0%	0%
Market	<1%	1%	<1%
Meditation / prayer / yoga	<1%	0%	<1%
Picking grass for rabbit	<1%	0%	<1%
Playing	<1%	2%	1%
Other	0%	4%	2%
Totals	100%		100%

The response rates for all activities beyond the top four are too low for use in any averages or cross-tabulations, and so they only appear in Table 3 in this report. For example, 13 swimmers were interviewed, one of whom swam every day of the year and another swam 200 days per year. Using these data to describe the average number of days per year of activity for a swimmer would give a result of 63, compared with walkers with an average of 97 days per year (with n=296). The results for swimming are highly unreliable and easily skewed. Consequently, no such descriptive data are provided for any activities with fewer than 40 respondents, limiting further analysis to walking, cycling, dog-related activities and running.

Figure 8 shows the distribution of River corridor use for the top four main activities based on a cross-tabulation of main activity by sections of the corridor used 'today'. This makes it appear that cycling is the main use of the corridor; and if a count of use was completed for each individual section, cyclists would be shown to be the highest user group. However, this is because cyclists travel further and each individual would be counted many times.

Figure 8: Main activity by use of River corridor

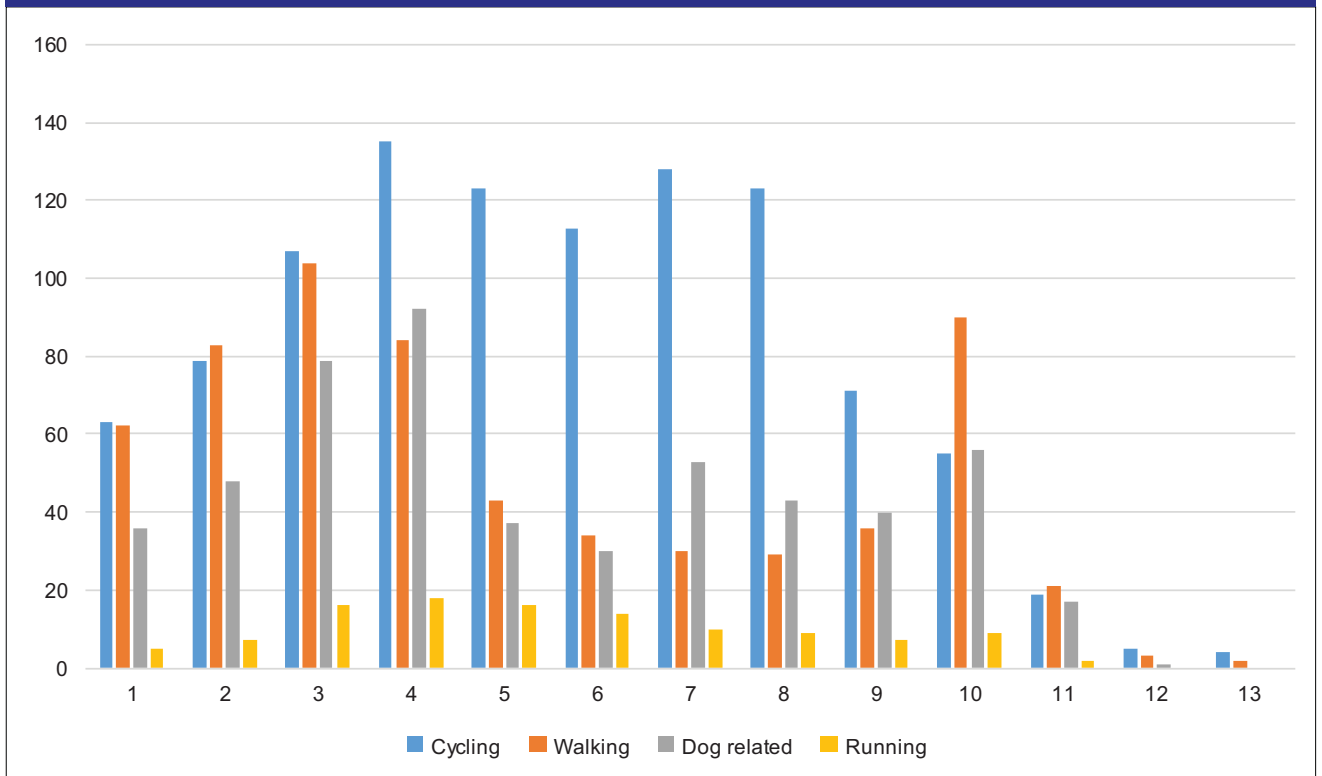


Table 4 shows the average number of days in 'the past 12 months' that respondents used the River corridor for their main activity, and the number of days they carried out their activity in any location.⁸ This results in a figure for 'loyalty' – the percent of activity time spent within the River corridor – and 'total loyalty' – the percent of respondents who do their main activity **only** within the River corridor.⁹ For example, walkers on average visited the corridor on 96 days over the 12 months prior to being questioned, and walked on average 190 days in any location (including the River corridor). An average walker therefore spent 50% of their walking activity time in the corridor; and 22% of respondents walked only in the corridor. The results were quite consistent for all activities.

⁸ For dog walkers and walkers, several respondents visited the corridor twice a day or more often. This use has been coded as 365 visits per year.

⁹ For a review of this approach see Greenaway, R. 2002. Measuring Significance of Outdoor Recreation Areas, in *Annals of Leisure Research* Vol. 5, 2002, 65 – 79.

Table 4: Days of use and loyalty by main and all activities	Mean days using corridor	Mean days at any location	Loyalty	Total loyalty
Walking	96	190	50%	22%
Dog related	188	284	66%	29%
Cycling	72	131	55%	27%
Running	109	181	60%	26%
All activities	114	185	61%	27%

These figures can be compared with other settings where these questions have been asked (all and additional references are available from the author of this report):

Table 5: Loyalty and total loyalty data from other surveys	Loyalty	Total loyalty
Walking, Sumner Beach (Christchurch)	70%	34%
Dog walking, Sumner Beach	64%	29%
All, Sumner Beach	65%	35%
Walking, Port Hills (Christchurch)	55%	20%
Dog walking, Port Hills	53%	24%
All, Port Hills	56%	17%
All, Waitaki River	68%	43%
All, Hurunui River	32%	20%
All, Rakaia River	90%	65%
All, Rangitaiki River	50%	30%

The River corridor compares as an accessible urban natural resource, akin to Sumner Beach, although corridor users are slightly more likely to seek alternative settings for their recreation. The other river settings have far higher levels of in-river activity – such as fishing, jet boating and kayaking – and data for those reflect more skilled and specialised uses, and in the case of the Hurunui River, no local population of users.

Table 6 shows how respondents moved along the River corridor, indicating, for example that respondents interviewed in survey section 1 (top row) had the least mobility with only 28% moving into site 2 and 20% into site 3; while those interviewed in site 3 had relatively high mobility with 58% also using site 2 and 67% also using site 4. Those interviewed at site 5 were often encountered right on the border of site 6, and so there is quite a high level of movement between these two sites. The results indicate that while most respondents used two or three sections of the corridor during their visit, a substantial number used quite a length of the corridor. For example, 12% of those interviewed in section 5 also visited section 10 during their trip, 8% went as far as section 11, and 16% went all the way to the river mouth (section 1).

Table 6: Corridor sections used by site intercepted											
Survey site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	n
Sections used											
1	100%	54%	28%	12%	16%	6%	9%	3%		2%	197
2	28%	100%	58%	17%	19%	6%	11%	3%		2%	233
3	20%	11%	100%	38%	29%	12%	16%	3%		2%	324
4	12%	6%	67%	100%	45%	24%	18%	3%		4%	346
5	7%		27%	30%	100%	44%	21%	3%		4%	226
6	5%		9%	13%	92%	100%	34%	9%		6%	204
7	5%		2%	10%	38%	29%	100%	40%		12%	233
8	1%		2%	7%	32%	15%	66%	100%	20%	22%	212
9	1%		2%	3%	23%	9%	26%	49%	100%	49%	184
10	1%		1%	2%	12%	6%	15%	23%	70%	100%	238
11			1%	1%	8%	3%	9%	9%	20%	28%	80
12					4%		6%	3%		5%	22
13							2%			2%	7
n	74	35	206	120	77	34	137	35	10	187	

3.3 Change over time, best and worst aspects

Respondents were asked if, in their opinion, the river was better, worse or the same as the first time they had visited it. They were also asked how many years they had been visiting the river. Those who were on their first visit to the River corridor (n=62) were not included in this response set.

Table 7 shows the responses for the top four main activities and for all activities. The vast majority of respondents – 92.3% – considered the setting to be the same or better as when they first visited, while 7.7% considered it to be worse (rounding affects the totals in Table 7). Visitors with dogs were the most likely to consider that the corridor had changed for the worse (12%).

Table 7: Change over time by activity	Better	Same	Worse	n
Walking	59%	36%	4%	278
Dog related	55%	33%	12%	278
Cycling	72%	25%	3%	212
Running	64%	33%	2%	42
All activities	60%	33%	8%	898

Figure 9 shows the opinions about change compared with the respondents' length of experience with their main activity in the River corridor. The longer the experience, the more respondents felt that the corridor has changed for the better. The proportion who thought that the corridor had changed for the worse was consistent across the periods, with a small increase for those who had been visiting for more than 40 years – although the sample size for this group is small (n=23) and is more subject to error.

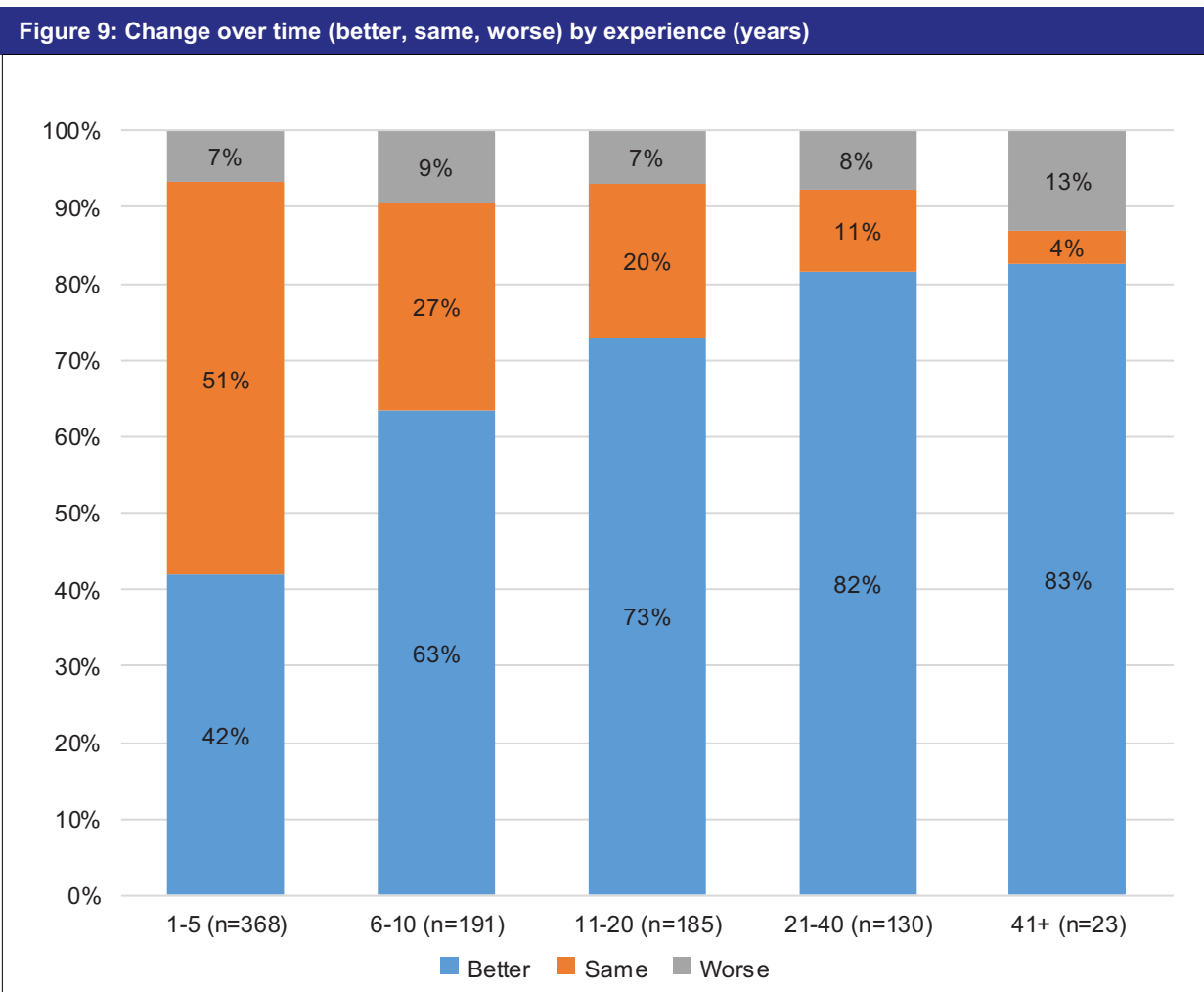


Table 8 shows the main reasons the River was considered better than in the past. Improved tracks and paths and other access, and trees and planting, were frequently cited.

Table 8: Reasons better	Count
Better track / pathway / trail	312
Tar seal / asphalt surface and sections	78
Access easier	60
Trees / planting	60
Lower half improved	54
Cleaner / tidier	44
Safer	37
Signage better	28
River cleaner / wider / shallower / straighter	28
Higher use	28
Developed more / generally better	25
Facilities	21
Cycle friendly	20
Family friendly / community feel	19
Dog facilities / designated places for / access / bags	16
Stop bank work	13
Bridge / underpass / foot / rail	12
Parks / landscaping / open space	12
Nicer / more pleasant	11
Flood protection	10
Continuous / connected	10
Other	93

Table 9 shows the main reasons the rivers were considered worse than in the past. Issues with algae, low flows and rubbish were frequently cited. Algae was a key concern for dog owners.

Table 9: Reasons worse	Count
Algae	19
River shallower	12
Rubbish - more / bins removed	10
Water quality	7
Dog poo / number of dogs	6
Can't swim	4
Over-developed / manicured	4
Fish / wildlife scarce	4
Clearing of trees / scrub	4
Congested / too many people	4
Other	29

Full results for both Table 8 and Table 9 are given in Table 25 in Appendix 1.

Table 10 lists the 'best aspects' of the corridor. Respondents were able to name more than one 'aspect'. Scenery, tracks and access were the top features.

Table 10: Best aspects	Count
Scenery / beauty / view	248
Cycle / walking track	236
Easily accessible	193
Away from cars / off road	162
River itself	146
Peaceful / uncrowded / quiet	135
Dogs off-lead allowed / dog friendly	129
Open space	102
Safe	91
Trees / planting	77
Flat	71
Close to home / city / work	63
People / friendly	46
Natural / nature	42
Clean and tidy	40
Wildlife	37
Maintained well	32
Multi-purpose / shared use	31
Family friendly	28
Variety	25
Swimming	19
Facilities	16
Pleasant / relaxing	14
Fishing	12
Shelter / shade	12
Other	73
Total	2080

Table 11 list the 'worst aspects' of each river. Rubbish, dog issues, algae and safety were the top four issues.

Table 11: Worst aspects	Count
Rubbish and litter – dumping, more bins required	160
Dog poo / dogs off lead	111
Algae – health hazard, bad for dogs	111
Personal safety – at night especially, poor lighting	91
Cycle / walking track quality, lack of connections	87
Anti-social behaviour – cars, crime, loitering youth	66
Traffic – noise from roads (greatest issue), speed, dust	57
Cyclists – quiet, no warning, too fast	40
Motorbikes / quadbikes – loud, illegal, dangerous	38
Gates / barriers – narrow, tricky, restrict access	30
Facilities – need more water, toilets, seats, shade	28
Weather / wind	28

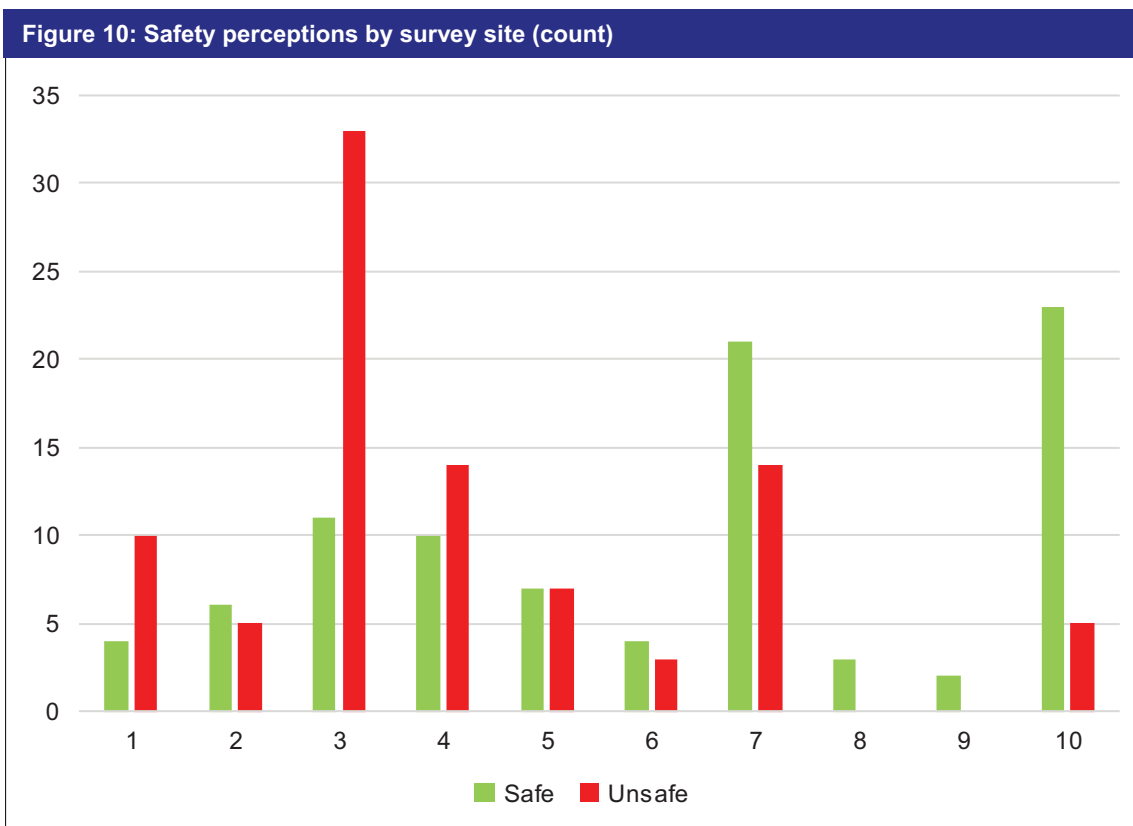
Table 11: Worst aspects	Count
Graffiti	24
River – low flow, not deep enough for recreation	23
Water quality – pollution, bacteria	23
Gravel / corrugations	19
Access	17
Toilets	17
Signage	17
Flooding	13
Maintenance	11
Pollution	11
Other	142
Total	1164

Almost 1.8 times as many 'best aspects' were named for the corridor in comparison with 'worst aspects' (2080 best compared with 1164 worst). By comparison, for the same question, the Maitai River in Nelson gained 2.5 times as many 'best aspects' compared with 'worst', and the Roding River 2.1.

The survey question for best and worst aspects asked respondents to name their 'aspects' and to give a reason why they thought of that aspect. The 'reasons' were less frequently given than the aspects and were only used to ease grouping of this response set.

Full responses for worst and best aspects are in Table 26 and Table 27 in Appendix 1.

Interestingly, exactly the same number of respondents thought that safety was both a best and a worst aspect. Personal safety was a concern during the survey process in the lower two survey beats, and it is interesting to see if one end of the River corridor had more respondents concerned about safety. Figure 10 suggest that respondents using the lower River corridor were more likely to consider the area unsafe, and section 3 – Melling Bridge to Ewen Bridge – was considered the



least safe.

3.4 Conflicts

Respondents were asked whether they saw or interacted with other visitors to the River corridor on 'this or other visits'. Sixteen percent of respondents said they had no interactions. In previous applications of this question in other settings, it appears that the busier a setting is the more likely respondents are to ignore other site users and, therefore incongruously, report fewer interactions. Dog-related visitors were the most likely to interact (7% no interactions) and cyclists the least (22% no interactions). Walkers reported 18% no interactions and runners 17%.

Table 12 show the main activity being undertaken by those who noted an interaction and how they felt about other visitors (multiple responses were possible). Runners and dog-related respondents had the highest levels of negative interactions at 8% and 5% respectively. The total level of negative interactions was low at 4%, compared with other settings where this question has been applied, with a range of 1% (Rakaia River, Canterbury, and others) to 14% (Spencer Park, Christchurch). Other settings had: 8% negative interactions (Avon Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch); 5% (Port Hills, Christchurch); 3% (Sumner Beach, Christchurch); 2% (Waiiau River, North Canterbury); 2% (Waitaki River); 1% (New Brighton Beach, Christchurch); 1% (Rangitaiki River).

Remember that these results do not mean that 4% of interactions within the corridor were negative, but that 4% of respondents who reported interactions had a negative one.

Main activity	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Total	n
Walking	3%	9%	88%	100%	697
Dog related	5%	10%	85%	100%	668
Cycling	3%	10%	87%	100%	496
Running	8%	8%	84%	100%	106
Other	2%	7%	91%	100%	171
All	4%	9%	87%	100%	2173

Table 13 shows who had negative interactions with whom. The 'complainant' (the person making a 'complaint') is described here by their 'main activity'; and the activity that caused a perceived negative interaction is described as the 'defendant'. Remember, when reviewing the tables that comments were made only by the complainant. The number of complainants are shown in Table 13 within brackets to show, for example, that the 33 negative interactions identified by those visiting the corridor with a dog were made by 32 respondents.

Those visiting the corridor with a dog had the most negative interactions by count (but not by percent – runners had the highest), and cyclists were described as the main cause (15 of 33 negative interactions). Cyclists were also the main cause of negative interactions with walkers (9 of 20 negative interactions).

Table 13: Negative interactions by complainant		
Complainant (n)	Defendant	Count
Dog related (32)	Cycling	15
	Motor biking / quad	9
	Dogs / owners	5
	Anti-social	3
	Horse riding	1
Walking (19)	Cycling	9
	Motor biking / quad	7
	Dogs / owners	4
Cycling (12)	Dogs / owners	4
	Motor biking / quad	3
	Walking	2
	Anti-social	2
	Car related	1
	Cycling	1
Running (8)	Motor biking / quad	3
	Dogs / owners	2
	Anti-social	1
	Cycling	1
	Fishing (used motor bike)	1
Fishing (3)	Swimming	1
	Dogs / owners	1
	Anti-social	1
	Car related	1
Relaxing / socialising (1)	Car related	1
Swimming (1)	Anti-social	1
Boating / sailing / waka / rafting / tubing / rowing (1)	Cycling	1
Geocaching (1)	Cycling	1
Total (78)		82

It is important to note that the majority of interactions between these and other parties were positive. These are shown in Table 14. This indicates, for example, that for every 9 negative interactions between walkers and cyclists (with walkers as the complainant) there were 155 positive interactions. Neutral interactions made up another 16 interactions between walkers and cyclists.

Anti-social behaviour, car-related activities and motorbiking / quad gained no positive or neutral interaction records.

Table 14: Positive and neutral interactions (main activities only) – count			
A bouquet from	To	Positive	Neutral
Walking	Walking	163	15
	Cycling	155	16
	Dogs / owners	129	14
	Running	78	8
Dog related	Dogs / owners	205	22
	Walking	115	9
	Cycling	112	22
	Running	59	3
Cycling	Cycling	141	11
	Walking	97	12
	Dogs / owners	94	15
	Running	47	6
Running	Running	26	3
	Cycling	23	3
	Walking	21	2
	Dogs / owners	12	1
All (including other)	All	1887	204

The reasons for positive interactions were broad and uplifting, relating to general friendliness, consideration and mutual interests. These data have not been grouped from their raw state in the questionnaires as they are just a long list (1890 responses) of happy statements about people saying hi, hello, being friendly, waving and sharing a positive experience.

Reasons for negative interactions were quite thematic. All responses are listed in Table 28 in Appendix 1, but in summary, for each defendant, were:

- Cyclists (27 comments): Too fast, dominate path, no warning of approach
- Motor biking / quad (20 comments): Noisy, fast, intimidating, dangerous
- Dogs / owners (16 comments): Intimidating / dangerous when off-lead, not safe
- Anti-social (8 comments): Scary, loitering, drinking, vandals
- Car-related (3 comments): 4WD in river, uncontrolled, need separate path
- Walking (2 comments): Occupy path and can't bike, disgruntled about cyclists
- Swimming (1 comment): Pollute river
- Horse riding (1 comment): Leave horse poo
- Fishing (1 comment): Used motor bike

3.5 Improvements

Figure 11 shows respondents' preferences for improvements to the River corridor. These data are based on a closed question with the options of ordering three top priorities from the following list (based on priorities identified in the Hutt River Environmental Strategy):

- Reducing the risk of **flooding** houses and businesses
- Making the river a more **fish**-friendly environment
- Protecting and enhancing **cultural** and historic values
- Making the river **margins** better for native birds, insects and lizards
- Improving **water** quality by better controlling algae, and bacteria and other pollution
- Improving the river corridor for **recreation** activities
- Improving the landscape and **visual** quality of the river corridor

Respondents were also able to name an 'other' option, and 21 did (see Table 22 on page 32).

Figure 11 shows the results; and is ordered by the counts for priority 1 and 2 options, using the words in bold above on the horizontal axis to indicate the options preferred. Improving water quality was the top issue by a wide margin, with 674 (70%) of all respondents deciding this was the first or second priority; and with it being identified as a priority (1, 2 or 3) by over 80% of all respondents. Compared with reducing the risk of flooding, which was the second-rated activity, more than double the number of respondents considered water quality to be a priority 1 issue.

Priorities were mostly consistent regardless of respondents' origin, although Upper Hutt respondents were slightly more interested in water quality issues compared with Hutt City respondents, and Wellington respondents were more interested in recreation facilities (Figure 12, Figure 13 and Figure 14). Second and third priorities were very similar across all respondent groups.

Figure 11: Priorities for improvement (count)

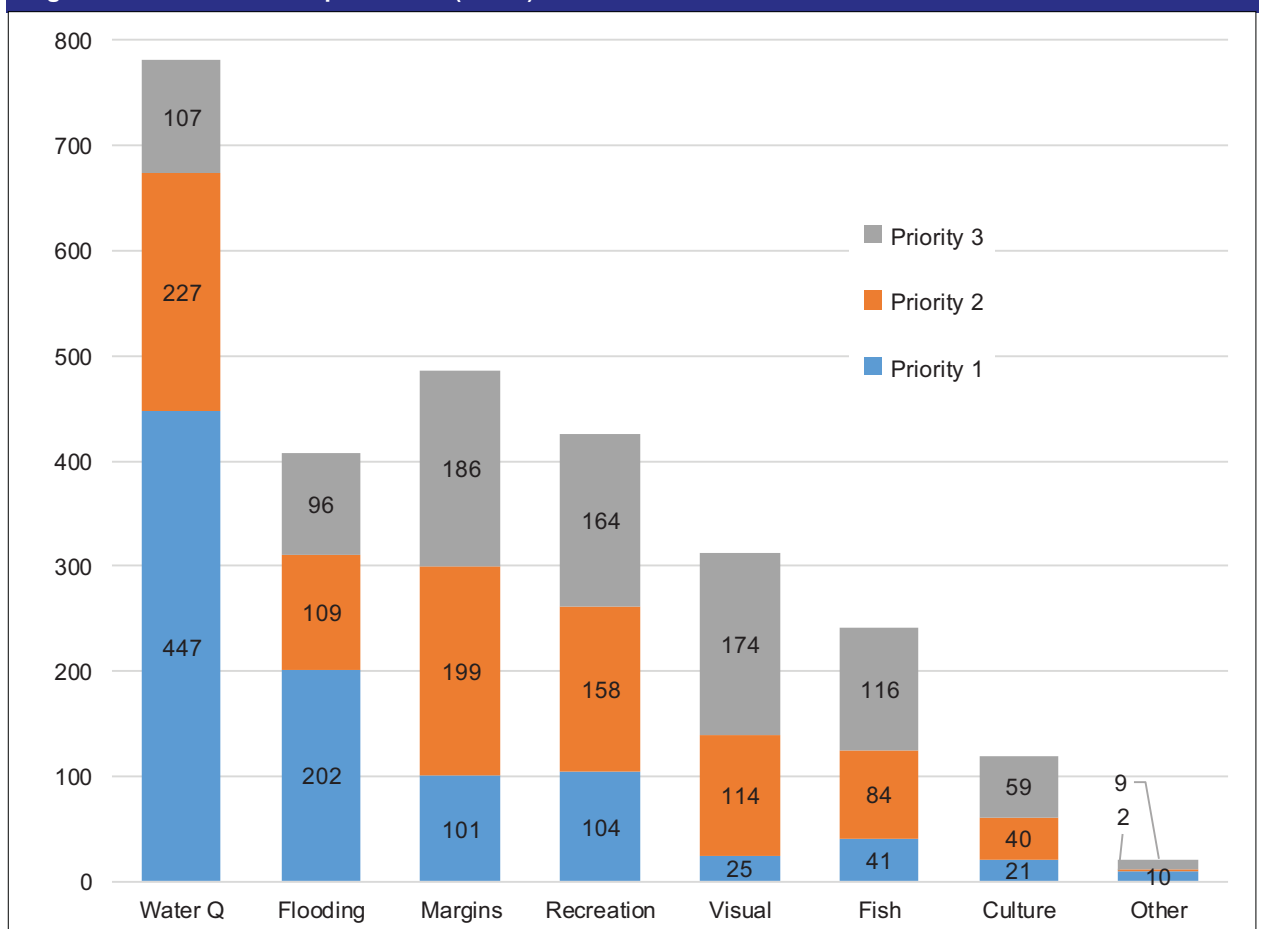


Figure 12: Top Priorities for improvements by origin

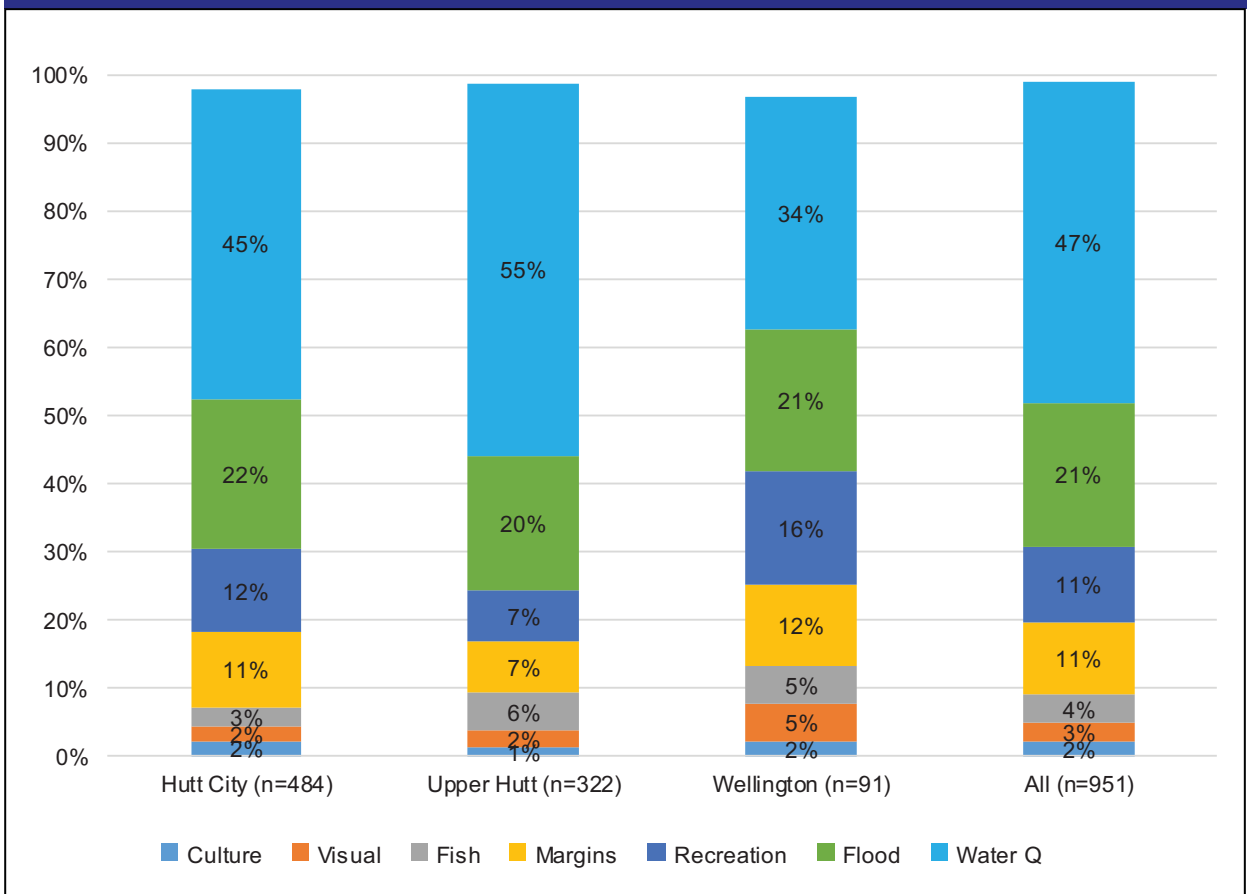


Figure 13: Second priorities for improvements by origin

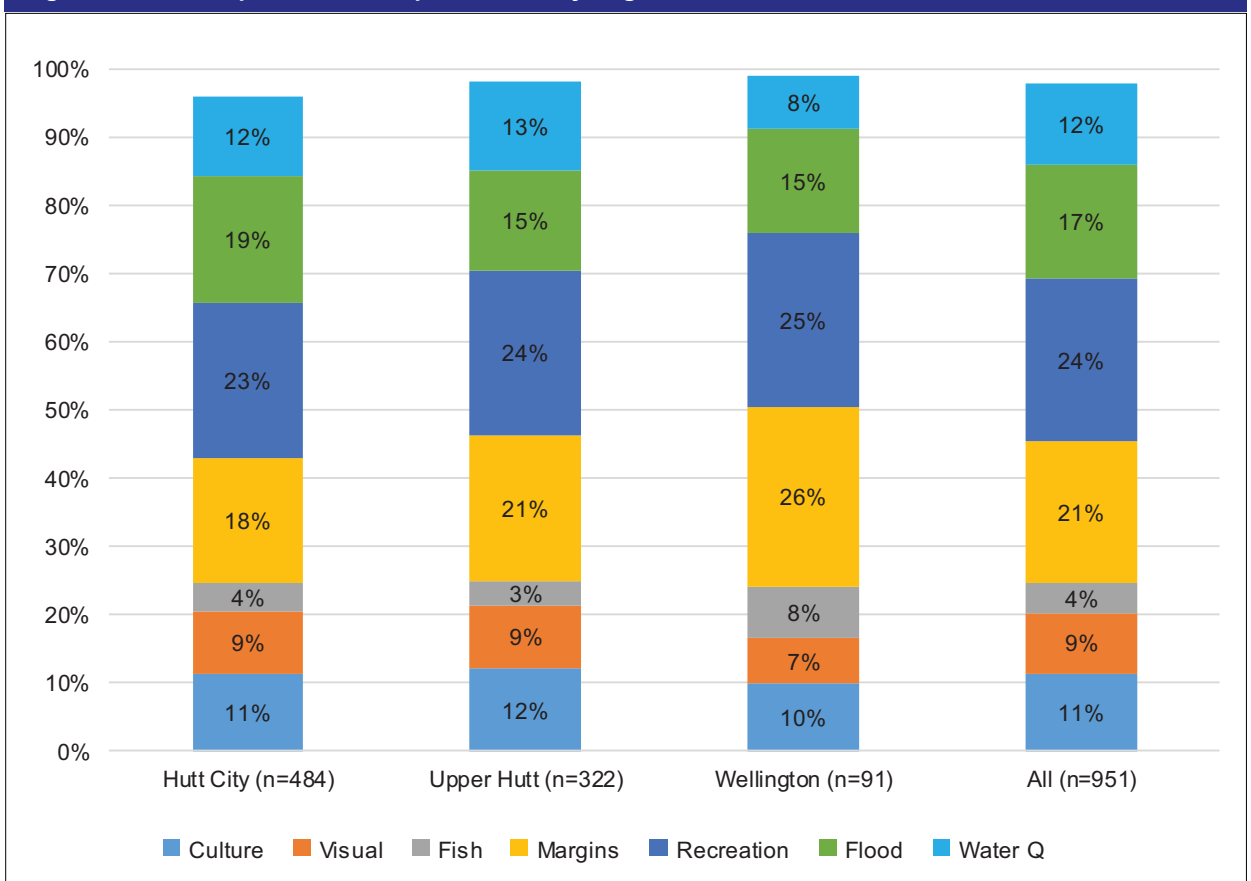
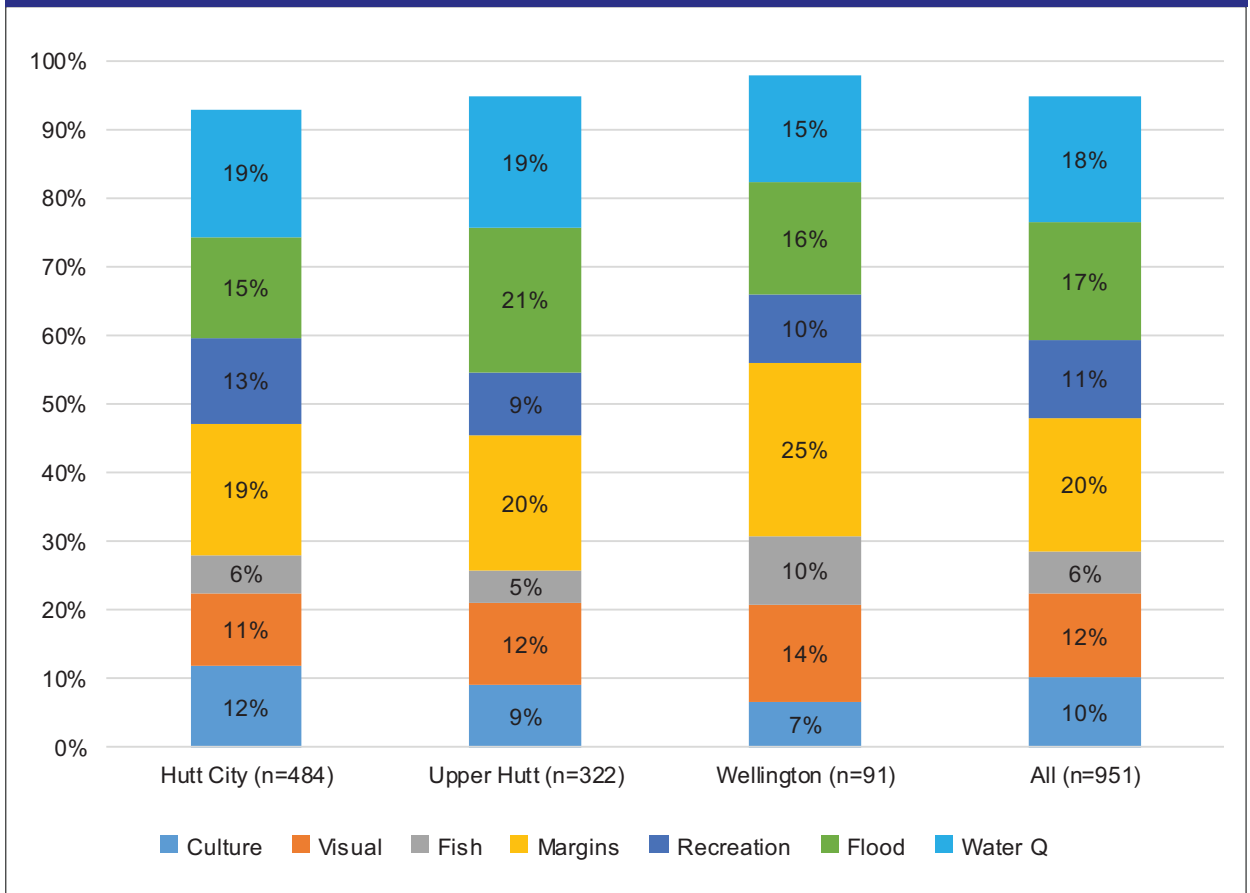


Figure 14: Third priorities for improvements by origin



Respondents were asked what specific activities could be carried out for their top priority activity. The main responses for each are listed below. Where 'other' is shown in a table, the full data set is provided in Appendix 1 in Table 29 to Table 32.

Activities for 'Other' priorities are shown in Table 33 in Appendix 1.

Table 15: Activities to reduce the risk of flooding	Count
Stop-bank – maintain / enhance	36
Already being done / trying / doing a lot	27
Dredge / lower river bed / clear shingle	12
Maintaining existing infrastructure	6
Employ engineers / competent people	6
Widen river bed	3
Signage - Warnings in time	3
Climate change effects research	3
Planting	3
River flow rate needs to be controlled	2
Rubbish - reduce littering around drain pipes	2
Other	56

Table 16: Activities to make the River more fish friendly	Count
Leaving pools ungraded, don't disturb bed	5
Clean the river	4
Water quality needs improving	3
Trout – more, farm	3
Run-off – reduce	3
Algae – get rid of	3
Increase flow / water level	2
Dredging seems to be good	1
Rubbish - reduce litter	1
Exposed gas line at Taita Rock	1
Leave the flow natural - don't level it out	1
Controlling water levels	1
Weed control for habitat	1
Water flow - increase - difficult without rain	1
Pipe at Stokes Valley pumping station is a potential hazard	1
Leave kelp	1
Water sampling	1
River quality with fish habitat in mind	1
Access to river itself - improve	1

Table 17: Activities to protect and enhance cultural and historic values	Count
Sign and information about history of area	8
More natural vegetation, wildlife	4
Rubbish – keep it tidy	2
Minimise disturbance to historical features – protect and preserve	2
Better communication with iwi - Was Maori land in past	1
Bridge for walking	1

Table 18: Activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	Count
Planting - more natives	36
Pest control	8
Wildlife - more / look after	7
Rubbish - clean up	4
Leave river as is	2
Weed control	2
Ask a scientist / expert / professional	2
Maintain wilderness along river banks - great for wildlife	2
Notify what is in area - keep people away	2
Other	25

Table 19: Activities to improve water quality	Count
Algae - research / control	87
Run-off, stormwater, farm inputs, pollution – treat, control	49
Increase flow / water level	48
Monitor and identify cause of degradation	32
Swimming - make safe for	20
Rubbish and dumping - control	18
Council should know / sort / are working on this	5
Planting	5
Is too much water being taken out?	3
Signage - Public awareness	2
Dam - feed rivers to make container ponds. Keep higher level in summer	2
Other	87

Table 20: Activities to improve recreation activities	Count
Trails - wider, maintain, seal	21
Playgrounds	8
Connections - complete trail links	8
Picnic areas	7
Fitness equipment	7
Gates - change / remove	4
Drinking fountains	4
BBQ areas	4
Sun shelter	3
Encourage kayaking	3
Rubbish bins - more	3
Courts	3
Planting - continue	3
Improve community engagement - more activities	3
Signage - more	2
Toilets	2
Maintained well	2
Access - better river access	2
Other	20

Table 21: Activities to improve landscape and visual qualities	Count
Planting - trees	2
Rubbish - stop people dumping	2
Facilities - regular seating	2
Beyond Melling Bridge to sub-station is favourite area - use that as standard	1
Signage - for cyclists	1
Continue clearing river bank - blocked view from stop bank	1
Dredge / not stop bank	1
Stock piles of rock destroys the landscape	1
Planting - native	1
Planting - keep going	1
Cars out / specific separate areas for cars	1
Clean up graffiti	1
Pomare rail needs more art painting	1
Hedges between cycle paths and roads	1
Separate path from the main road and house as much as possible	1
Improve look of industrialised areas	1
Some places could use beautifying	1
Less open	1
Trees decrease the highway presence	1
Maintenance	1
Mosaic - something artistic. Make boring things have life, colour, character	1

Table 22: Other activities	Priority
Continued promotion as an asset for region	1
Community engagement around river	1
Barrier along highway	1
Reducing pollution	1
Interested in Council spending to beautify city (complement river walkway)	1
Not removing trees from riparian areas	1
All part and parcel of same ecosystem	1
No strong opinion	1
Too hard to prioritise	1
Don't change it	1
Safety	2
Getting river to flow better - too low	2
Beautify river through Hutt - City has 'back' to river bed	3
Family friendly	3
Control pollution	3
More open river access	3
Enforcing dogs on lead	3
Riverside café	3
Between Melling and Ewan bridges needs improving	3
Rubbish - tidy around estuary	3
Environment in general	3

3.6 Final comments

Respondents were finally asked if they had 'any other comments to make about the Hutt River Corridor and its use or management, and the facilities provided'. Many additional comments were given, most of which were positive, and included many suggestions for additional recreation facilities, particularly toilets and rubbish bins. The word cloud below gives an indication of the key themes. A full list of comments is included in Table 34 in Appendix 1.

Figure 13: Final comments: word cloud (Wordle)



4 Reflections on the method

This section considers possible improvements to the survey method. This section is particularly important if the survey is to be repeated and a trend analysis carried out.

4.1 Timing

The survey was carried out late in the summer season, and although the weather was generally very good – and possibly unusually so – a higher response rate from different activities could have been achieved earlier in the year. However, river flows define the likelihood of including more kayakers and anglers in the responses; and flows are naturally low over summer.

For the purposes of trend analysis, using the same survey period would be beneficial, and some compromise accepted. The main activities of walking, dog-related activities and cycling will dominate the results regardless of the period chosen.

4.2 Questions

The questionnaire was limited to three pages, and so some consideration was applied in choosing what was included. A general satisfaction question is often used in surveys of this ilk for trend analysis, and the report author accepts all responsibility if this is considered an omission. However, for management purposes, general satisfaction questions are not often helpful unless there are other means of identifying why respondents might not be totally happy, or the reverse. Recent events – such as an assault, a graffiti epidemic or a pollution spill – also colour satisfaction responses and may result in odd trends depending on when the survey was carried out.

The questions used here were designed to provide relevant background qualitative data, with quantitative measures: conflicts, best and worst aspects, change over time (and why), and priority actions for improvement. For trend analysis to be valid, these questions cannot be fiddled with, but more questions could be added and some could be deleted. Perhaps a satisfaction question could be included, but not if the three page maximum is desired and no questions are removed.

Questions were designed to avoid leading any particular response. For example, ‘algae’ was used to cover all forms of periphyton and cyanobacteria, and the word ‘toxic’ was not used. This word would almost certainly increase pertinent responses, even though the issue might not be relevant to the respondent.

4.3 Intercept method

The intercept method appears to have worked well, but its success is entirely dependent on the quality of staff used, and their training. In this process, the first weekend’s completed forms were coded and any errors by staff quickly addressed. For trend analysis to be valid, the intercept method is unavoidable. The definitions of corridor sections and target quota for survey beats will need to be retained.

4.4 Coding, grouping and analysis

Microsoft Excel is the preferred tool for coding and analysing the data. There are a few limitations with this software for surveys of this type, but by applying a few tricks it is quite achievable; and pivot tables are an excellent tool. The benefit of using Excel over more specialised software is that the Regional Council can play with the relevant spreadsheet at will, relying on software that is widely available, and which many staff know how to use. Understanding pivot tables – which is not hard – is a necessary skill, however.

Another benefit of Excel is that we are not tempted to over-analyse the data. As discussed in section 2.3 of this report, the sampling method does not readily permit significance tests, and, in the opinion of this report’s author, much survey data of this ilk is treated as having a level of

accuracy that does not exist; and unnecessary and misleading analyses of confidence and significance are often completed – because it is so easy many statistical analysis packages, and not because it is useful.

Grouping responses is always a challenge. Respondents give multiple responses to many questions, and there are often only shades of difference between similar concerns. Choices are made as to whether, for example, a respondent's response of 'pollution and algae' relate to just algae, or to 'runoff', 'stormwater', 'bacteria' or 'rubbish'. Grouping of responses is necessary, otherwise this report would be three times as long and just be a collection of the likes of Table 34 in Appendix 1 (the full list of final comments). Grouping choices are never perfect, and some errors will have been made (a few responses relating to 'algae' might be grouped as 'water quality', for example). However, the effects of these errors are very slight and do not affect the ordering of main issues.

In future surveys, an attempt should be made to group responses using the same or similar terms applied in this report. If two groups of data are joined in a future study – such as 'Cycle / walking track' and 'Easily accessible' in Table 10 – then any trend reporting needs to rely on the future report author regrouping the relevant responses in this report.

Appendix 1: Full data tables

Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	Count
Akatawara	7
Alicetown	22
Amsterdam	1
Auckland	4
Australia	3
Avalon	16
Bay of Plenty	1
Belmont	22
Birchville	7
Boulcott	13
Brown Owl	21
Campervan	1
Canada	1
Christchurch	2
Churton Park	2
Clearwater	3
Clouston Park	6
Dunedin	1
Eastbourne	6
Ebdentown	1
Elderslea	2
Emerald Hill	1
Epuni	12
Fairfield	2
France	1
Gemstone	2
Germany	2
Gracefield	2
Grenada Village	1
Greytown	1
Hamilton	1
Harbourview	9
Hawkes Bay	1
Hellensville	1
Heretaunga	8
Hikurangi	1
Hutt Valley	6
Johnsonville	4
Kaitaia	1
Kaiwherawhare	1
Kapiti	2

Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	Count
Kelson	17
Khandallah	1
Kingsly Heights	1
Korokoro	3
Levin	1
Lower Hutt	46
Mangaroa	2
Manor Park	4
Maoribank	12
Masterton	2
Maungaraki	14
Melling	2
Milford Sound	1
Moera	22
Mt Marua	1
Naenae	28
New Plymouth	1
Newlands	2
Ngaio	3
None	1
Normandale	11
Oamaru	1
Ohakea	2
Palmerston North	2
Paraparaumu	1
Patanui	1
Petone	38
Pinehaven	17
Poets Block	1
Pomare	2
Porirua	2
Pukerua Bay	1
Riverglade	2
Riverside	2
Riverstone	10
Seaview	1
Silverstream	38
South Island	1
Stokes Valley	81
Taita	23
Tauranga	3
Tawa	5
Timberlea	10
Tirohanga	15

Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	Count
Totara Park	68
Trentham	26
Turangi	1
UK	2
Upper Hutt	55
USA	2
Waikato	1
Wainuiomata	19
Wairarapa	1
Waiwhetu	13
Waiwhitau	1
Wallaceville	5
Wanganui	1
Waterloo	13
Wellington	71
Western Hills	2
Whitby	4
Whitemans Valley	2
Whitesline	1
Woburn	27
Woodridge	1
Totals	951

Table 24: All activities (count)	Main	Other
Walking	302	528
Dog related	281	357
Cycling	237	491
Running	42	188
Fishing	15	55
Relaxing/socialising	15	29
Swimming	13	185
Picnicking	10	45
Parks/playground	9	9
Blackberries	4	19
Boating/sailing/waka/rafting/tubing/rowing	4	23
Car related	3	7
Exercise	3	9
Kayaking	3	33
School/scout trip	3	4
Commuting	2	10
Geocaching	2	4
Golf/disc golf	2	10
Photography	2	6
Stone/sand gathering/throwing	2	11

Table 24: All activities (count)	Main	Other
Croquet	1	
Market	1	7
Meditation/prayer/yoga	1	4
Picking grass for rabbit	1	1
Playing	1	21
Scoot/skate board/roller blade		9
Sport		8
Bird feeding/watching		6
Access river/beach		3
Campfire/camping		3
Cleaning river/picking up rubbish		2
Firewood		2
Motor biking		2
Other river bank activity		2
Kite flying		1
River		1
Shooting		1
Train spotting		1
Totals	959	2097

Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	Better	Worse
Better track / pathway / trail	312	
Tar seal / asphalt surface and sections	78	
Access easier	60	
Trees / planting	60	
Lower half improved	54	
Cleaner / tidier	44	
Safer	37	
Signage better	28	
River cleaner / wider / shallower / straighter	28	
Higher use	28	
Developed more / generally better	25	
Facilities	21	
Cycle friendly	20	
Algae		19
Family friendly / community feel	19	
Dog facilities / designated places for / access / bags	16	
Stop bank work	13	
Bridge / underpass / foot / rail	12	
Parks / landscaping / open space	12	
River shallower		12
Nicer / more pleasant	11	
Flood protection	10	
Continuous / connected	10	

Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	Better	Worse
Rubbish - more / bins removed		10
Rubbish - less	9	
Gates / barriers / bollards	9	
Multi use / recreational activities	8	
Lighting	7	
Water quality		7
Gravel sections	7	
Dog poo / number dogs		6
Car parking improved	5	
Controls with vehicles	5	
Swimming - Can't		4
Over-developed / manicured		4
Fish / Wildlife scarce		4
Birdlife / Wildlife	4	
Clearing of trees / scrub		4
Congested / too many people		4
Natural / wild feel	4	
Smoother / flat	3	
Vehicles can access / too close		3
Erosion work	3	
Bridge		3
Maintenance deteriorated		3
Bulldozing	1	1
Sports fields gone	2	
Upper half improved	2	
Weeds	2	
Stones removed	2	
Parking worse		2
River access		2
Golf / disc golf course	2	
Cyclists		2
Quarry	2	
Seasonal variation	2	
Flooding issues		2
Taita gorge improved	1	
Not as exciting since the golf course because of trees removed	1	
Unsafe feeling on True left		1
Not enough restoration of habitat		1
Corrugations of gravel on back of river		1
Rocks more shiny		1
Railway line shrunk	1	
Not much has changed		1
Used to be wind-y	1	
Events	1	
Stones along river reduced erosion	1	

Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	Better	Worse
Closed part because of new track		1
Blackberries - more	1	
Fencing Improved	1	
Duck pond destroyed		1
Sheds are leased	1	
Unnecessary expenditure		1
New road obstructs old walkway		1
Ranger presence improved	1	
Fewer blackberries	1	
reduced swamp	1	
Plans sufficient - no more money spent please	1	
Avalon - preparation for new park	1	
Private road and loss of tracks		1
Gates - around tower that used to jump off		1
Totals	991	103

Table 26: Best aspects	Count
Scenery / beauty / view	248
Cycle / walking track	236
Easily accessible	193
Away from cars / off road	162
River itself	146
Peaceful / uncrowded / quiet	135
Dogs off-lead allowed / dog friendly	129
Open space	102
Safe	91
Trees / planting	77
Flat	71
Close to home / city / work	63
People / friendly	46
Natural / nature	42
Clean and tidy	40
Wildlife	37
Maintained well	32
Multi-purpose / shared use	31
Family friendly	28
Variety	25
Swimming	19
Facilities	16
Pleasant / relaxing	14
Fishing	12
Shelter / shade	12
Signage	8
Car parking	8

Table 26: Best aspects	Count
Blackberries	7
Exercise / fitness	7
Connections	6
Water sports	5
Wind / weather	5
Playground / sports fields	4
Free	4
Golf course / disc golf	3
Community resource / great amenity / recreation facility	3
Bridge access	2
Carnivals / events	2
Flood protection / stop banks	2
Unique	1
Dogs unwelcome off-lead	1
Wide flood plain	1
Feels like Taupo	1
The dam	1
No dogs when it is raining	1
North of Silverstream Bridge	1
Total	2080

Table 27: Worst aspects	Count
Rubbish	160
Dog poo / dogs off lead	111
Algae	111
Safety	91
Cycle / walking track	87
Anti-social behaviour	66
Traffic	57
Cyclists	40
Motorbikes / quadbikes	38
Gates / barriers	30
Facilities	28
Weather / wind	28
Graffiti	24
River	23
Water quality	23
Gravel / corrugations	19
Access	17
Toilets	17
Signage	17
Flooding	13
Maintenance	11
Pollution	11

Table 27: Worst aspects	Count
Muddy / wet	9
Shared path	9
Swimming	8
Bridge	8
Trees / planting	8
Unattractive / neglected / lack ambience	8
Wildlife	8
Crowded	7
Lighting	7
Parking	7
Weeds / gorse	7
Fishing	6
Shelter / shade	5
Bulldozing	5
Could be more dog friendly	5
Walkers	5
Non-continuous	5
Spraying	3
Manor Park golf course / station	3
Under-used	2
Rocks	2
Playgrounds	2
Trains	2
Sandflies	1
Erosion	1
Kaitoke	1
Cricket grounds	1
GWRC sometimes	1
Subway on Western side	1
Jet boats	1
Taita Gorge	1
Too much drainage	1
Exposure from Silverstream bridges - Totara Park	1
Over-development	1
Total	1164

Table 28: Reasons for negative interaction	Count
Cycling	27
Nuisance - Ava bridge too narrow to accommodate walkers and cyclists	1
Suddenly appear and some are rude	1
Some don't understand it is shared track	1
Approach fast and silently. Can't always get out of way	1
Arrogant and too fast and too close	1
Occasionally had altercation	1
Biker harassed walker and dogs	1
Some go very fast and little consideration	1
Can approach quietly and quickly - dangerous	1
Think they own walkway - too fast and no warning of approach	1
Dangerous	1
No bells, too fast and suddenly there	1
Dominant and dangerous for walker and dogs - some not all	1
Occasionally arrogant (middle aged male)	1
Don't alert you - especially by Strand Park; not respecting multi-use path	1
Occasionally kick out at dog	1
Expect walkers to move	1
Some go too fast and overtake on left and right	1
Expect youth to move off path and some of them take over path	1
Speed and silent approach - concern for self and dog	1
Go too fast, disregard walkers	1
Think they have priority	1
Go very fast and often come up unaware	1
Too dominant - think they own walkway	1
Need a code to better co-exist. Cyclists seem to think they 'own' the track	1
Aggressive	1
No bells	1
Motor biking / quad	20
Noisy, loud	6
Noisy and fast	2
Nuisance	1
Too close, loud	1
Some go too fast	1
Noise, speed, destroy grass	1
Intimidating	1
Disliked by dog	1
Pull finger when told to slow down	1
Some good and some bad	1
Annoying	1
Not permitted	1
Dangerous	1
Not supposed to be there	1

Table 28: Reasons for negative interaction		Count
Dogs / owners		16
Sometimes bad experiences		1
Some dogs off lead are intimidating		1
Dogs off-lead can be intimidating		1
Take up path and can't bike freely		1
Not sure if it is safe		1
Scared of large dogs off-lead		1
Not very courteous		1
some people get defensive		1
Occasional bad dog owner - off-lead, poo left		1
Sometimes big dogs a concern		1
Occasionally had altercation		1
Terrified of dogs and they are often off-leash		1
Off-leash dogs		1
Dogs off lead		1
Off-leash, unsafe for kids, bothered picnickers		1
Anti-social		8
Youths near high school - smoking, intimidating, loitering		1
Scary		1
Loitering		1
Dodgy interaction - boy racer, older		1
Youths - Vandals / Dumping rubbish		1
Drinking		1
Caught people - Vandals / Dumping rubbish		1
Hang around bridges drinking and up to no good		1
Car related		3
Melling to Kennedy uncontrolled cars		1
Separate pathway please		1
More people with 4WD on river - entering river near Melling doing 60kmph.		1
Walking		2
Take up path and can't bike freely		1
Disgruntled over cyclists using track		1
Swimming		1
Pollute river		1
Horse riding		1
Leave horse poo		1
Fishing		1
Used motor bike		1
Total		78

Table 29: All activities to reduce the risk of flooding	Count
Stop bank maintain/ enhance	36
Already being done/trying/doing a lot	27
Dredge	12
Maintaining existing infrastructure	6
Employ engineers / competent people	6
Widen river bed	3
Signage - Warnings in time	3
Climate change effects research	3
Planting	3
River flow rate needs to be controlled	2
Important	2
Rubbish - reduce littering around drain pipes	2
Want to protect environment	1
Keep doing mitigation work	1
Historical precedents	1
Contingency plan	1
Make the river bed wider	1
Continue with plan to remove housing near river to make recreation areas	1
Buy vulnerable houses	1
Council communicate about flooding risks and management - notify public	1
Concern about river delta	1
Damming	1
Looking to buy house and worried about flooding - especially in lower socio-economic areas and river mouth	1
Community needs to decide	1
Concerned about Melling Bridge - river overflows and blocks road	1
Channels	1
Deal with problem	1
Stream in front of house used to flood pump station at Woburn station really helped	1
Development plan - preferred option and high priority	1
Whatever needs to be done	1
Digging and trenching	1
Block Road is an issue	1
Awareness and mitigation	1
Hutt CBD is priority	1
Melling needs more stock banks because the Council sold a lot of land without protecting it	1
Increasing river capacity	1
Particularly good around Birchville	1
Limit risk to residents	1
Breakwaters	1
Block Road up along park in section 4 can only use sealed path	1
Remove houses in prone areas	1
Closer to Petone/river delta primary area affected	1
Right side river needs to be graded	1

Table 29: All activities to reduce the risk of flooding	Count
Personal connection to flood area	1
Enough stop banks already	1
Proactive rather than reactive	1
Ensure capacity to handle large deluge of water	1
Restrict building in flood zone	1
Environmental regulations	1
Risk assessment	1
Erosion near Kennedy Good bridge - more gravel work?	1
Riverbanks already quite high	1
Existing infrastructure to prevent under-cutting banks	1
Sculpting the river	1
Flood a few years ago quite frightening	1
Aware of Melling plan	1
Some things already underway	1
Flood protection work	1
Stuck in Hutt last time it flooded	1
Flood risk - notify residents	1
Water flow - continue to improve river flow	1
Flooding - An issue to stay on top of/continue improving risk areas	1
Whatever possible	1
Focus on problem areas	1
Worried about valley and low-lying areas	1
Generally a high priority preparing for future 1 in 50 year event	1
Greater public awareness	1

Table 30: All activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	Count
Planting - more natives	36
Pest control	8
Wildlife - more / look after	7
Rubbish - clean up	4
Leave river as is	2
Weed control	2
Ask a scientist / expert / professional	2
Maintain wilderness along river banks - great for wildlife	2
Notify what is in area - keep people away	2
Providing access that benefits one controlled access point	1
Don't eliminate grass and replace with gravel	1
Safe for dogs	1
Keep it going	1
Protected habitats	1
Keep motorised vehicles away	1
Research - improving habitat	1
Bird feeders	1
Traffic congestion - reduce	1
Carparks less	1

Table 30: All activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	Count
Get DOC involved	1
Measureable outcomes	1
Protecting/improving/fencing off any wetland areas	1
Not mowing grass so often	1
Reduce/remove exotics	1
Algae - find out cause	1
Doing a good job	1
Clean the river	1
Sectioning the margins area so people can't wander through	1
Dogs on leads	1
Water activities - kayaking, canoeing	1
Planting natives rather than willows	1
Don't trust Council to do this - watched them do silly things too often	1
Planting trees - can be exotic	1
Promote green and wet areas	1

Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	Count
Algae - research / control	87
Run-off - control	49
Increase flow/water level	48
Monitor and identify cause of degradation	32
Swimming - make safe for	20
Rubbish and dumping - control	18
Council should know/sort/are working on this	5
Planting	5
Is too much water being taken out?	3
Signage - Public awareness	2
Dam - feed rivers to make container ponds. Keep higher level in summer	2
Clean enough so kids can swim	1
More thought into gravel activities	1
Clean and tidy; stop pollution	1
Clean up	1
Pier in front of Scout Club	1
Cleaning banks	1
Useable for dogs	1
Climate change effects research	1
Make it a nation-wide issue	1
Combination of effects	1
Need to drain on Eastern side - polluted stream - can get very smelly	1
Community activities	1
Riverstones - flush	1
Concern	1
Tie issues together	1
Consult expert in public health engineer e.g. NZET	1
Water quality - already doing - expensive though	1

Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	Count
Continuous grading to make it a wide shallow river has caused algae - e.g.. Warm, slow water no swimming depth	1
Maintaining a free-flowing river	1
Continuously monitored and if there is an issue it should be proactively dealt with	1
Mangaroa River - lots of small holding farms cause issues - farmers use a lot of fertiliser	1
Controls	1
Nation-wide issue worth a better look	1
Balance between use and flow - river is #1 asset	1
Not worried about drinking water	1
Cows out of waterway upstream	1
Re-do walkways	1
Clean - concerning that isn't	1
Clean rivers for NZ	1
Safe - for animals and children	1
Section 4 to school - make it safe (dogs)	1
Difficult in dry summer	1
Clean - then the people come in	1
Doesn't seem to be any proactive steps that 'Joe Blow' can take apart from accept that it is there	1
Unsafe for dogs in particular - can't go near river in summer	1
Doing a good job	1
Walking - greater combination of walks to do/make more attractive for pedestrians	1
Don't deteriorate to the point of not being able to swim	1
What exists in the river - old dumping site	1
Education	1
Lower part of section 4 - near Melling Bridge - can flood badly and block road	1
Enforce industry roles upriver	1
Maintenance - Pre-summer work	1
Experts employed	1
Make sure to address algae issues along river (recreation etc)	1
Facilities - Drinking water for dogs and people	1
Beyond control	1
Facilities - picnic tables in shade	1
National problem of rivers dying - probably chemicals	1
Fill river with straw like at Matata estuary - where a lot of run-off ran into the water. Also acts as a perimeter	1
Natural phenomenon	1
Filtration in side streams - natural or technical	1
Not nice for dogs	1
Fishing - enhance if improved	1
Open up river and keep it clean	1
Fishing - Restrictions on anglers	1
Caused by summer	1
Focus on the issue and fix the basics - clean and green - be true to this	1
River narrower and shallower than used to be	1
Geological scientists need to do research	1
Check run-off from residential (lots of rubbish near Kennedy Bridge)	1

Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	Count
Get rid of round-up - pump it out- high priority	1
Rusted metal leaching into water 100m north of Stokes Valley	1
Good to be aware when problem exists	1
Science	1
GWRC have comprehensive plan	1
Shift stones	1
Haven't had issues in sites 3 and 4	1
Something needs to be done	1
Helps keep harbour clean and river clean	1
Texts are good	1
If river can't be entirely algae free perhaps there could be places designated safe for swimming	1
Toilets - more in Lower Hutt section and especially Melling dog park	1
Better public information about where it is safe to swim	1
Unsure - Council do best	1
Whatever can be done	1
Waiwetu Stream has a lot of \$ spent	1
Wildlife - places for	1
Water experts with green degrees	1
Keep plants cleared from river - cause algae?	1
Water quality - Keep vehicles out of river - not good for	1
Like to be able to swim again	1
What is different between now and 10 years ago	1
Link to 1080 poison - things falling into river	1
Look at other places where improvements made - Lake Geneva and mounted police	1
Alert public when bad	1
Just concerned	1

Table 32: All activities to improve recreation activities	Count
Trails - wider, maintain, seal	21
Playgrounds	8
Connections - complete trail links	8
Picnic areas	7
Fitness equipment	7
Gates - change / remove	4
Drinking fountains	4
BBQ areas	4
Sun shelter	3
Encourage kayaking	3
Rubbish bins - more	3
Courts	3
Planting - continue	3
Improve community engagement - more activities	3
Signage - more	2
Toilets	2
Maintained well	2

Table 32: All activities to improve recreation activities	Count
Access - better river access	2
Tough to cross roads - maybe an underpass	1
Improving safety	1
Want to make sure recreation is balanced by flood risk	1
Mountain bikes - make it more interesting for	1
Swing bridge for walkers	1
Build on improvements	1
Unsealed path on true right	1
Anything that doesn't detract from the current access	1
Stricter rules for dog walkers regarding leads	1
Football grounds lost	1
Swimming - people and dogs	1
Recreation - area for kites, frisbee, swing sets - see section 4	1
Lighting - night walking	1
Art installations	1
Access - for elderly	1
Safe - increase safety for cyclists near river banks	1
Very on top of things	1
Separate cycle way	1
Cyclists/pedestrians should have right of way over cars in car parks	1
More people friendly	1

Table 33: Reasons for 'Other' priorities	Priority
All part and parcel of same ecosystem	1
Barrier along highway	1
Beautify river through Hutt - City has 'back' to river bed	3
Between Melling and Ewan bridges needs improving	3
Community engagement around river	1
Continued promotion as an asset for region	1
Control pollution	3
Don't change it	1
Enforcing dogs on lead	3
Environment in general	3
Family friendly	3
Getting river to flow better - too low	2
Interested in Council spending to beautify city (complement river walkway)	1
More open river access	3
No strong opinion	1
Not removing trees from riparian areas	1
Reducing pollution	1
Riverside café	3
Safety	2
Too hard to prioritise	1

Table 34: Final comments

A lot of people use the area
Access - Make it easy to access from Stokes Valley
Access to river for swimming a great attraction - no good if algae prevents
Activities for children - more
Add some more exiting off-road trails for cyclists
Advertise more
Algae - Fish that eat algae
Algae - Hutt City Council issued warning whereas Upper Hutt Council did not. Told people about Silverstream
Algae - remove for swimming
Algae - up-to-date information
Algae bloom - more done
Algae if main concern
Algae terrible a few months ago - Sladden Park
All enhancements positive
All good
Allow adverts for café proximity to trail
Allow more bicycles on the train (or book in advance); work on line disrupts schedule
Always see something different
Anglers off bridge aren't checked - taking small fish
Another frisbee golf park
Appreciated
Approach people about dogs and don't do anything
Archery club would be cool
Area has improved
Area improving - good
Area near bridge is run-down. Needs improving
Areas where there is bulldozing of gravel and boulders - pointless. Should remove material to create aggregate - greater benefit and equal ;harm' to environment
Art - Artist - Chimp - lives in Eastbourne - could help to beautify area
Art - Beautiful art-piece at children's playground
Avalon to South is great
Avoid filtration to avoid algal bloom
Awareness of cyclists
Awareness over off-lead use - promote this
Awesome facility
Balance cost to rate payer of benefits they get from river. Proportionate changes to what people want
Balance development and natural aspects - healthy river with good facilities
Ban dogs running behind cars - control with a ranger
Barriers aren't allowing use of bike trailers
BBQ
Be friendly and helpful to freedom campers
Beautification
Beautiful
Beautiful - good asset

Table 34: Final comments

Beautiful hills
Beautiful park - best in NZ
Best asset in the area - need to use it
Best 'main road' have ever seen
Better access for swimming
Better communication
Better river access
Better signage
Better signage/warnings
Big drawcard for real estate
Bike path to Wellington
Bike users should be encouraged to use bells - and walkers need to understand what bells mean
Bins around Stokes Valley
Birchville walkways are much nicer now
Birdlife - not many
Blind crest at Taita rock top entrance off Taita Drive
Boardwalk is too narrow - not cycle-friendly
Bridge is a bit dangerous
Bridge required from Stokes Valley to Haywards Melling Bridge should be doubled-up - intersection problematic
Bridge widen Ara rail
Bridges widened to accommodate all recreational users
Bush areas tidy so you feel safer - greater visibility
Busy road between city and river
Cafes, restaurants on river and major walkways
Car park extended
Cars shouldn't be allowed on river bed
Carving - call Raniera Pukitapu
Cater for many people
Change the wind
Cleaner river
Cleaning contracts - greater supervision as messy
Closer to Central Hutt make the River more of a feature
Commercial activities - tea room
Communications plan for different parts of river
Community activity to have designated clean up rubbish day
Community annual clean-up - stack firewood, logs - festival atmosphere
Community projects - clean-up
Concern about flood mitigation work reducing access to park in section 4 on true right - huge use by dog owners
Concerns about accessibility
Concerns about market rubbish
Confine Lower Hutt developments further up river
Congratulate managers and rangers
Connecting routes e.g. Wellington to Featherston
Connection - Wellington

Table 34: Final comments

Connections Manor Park not well connected apart from through golf course
Constant upgrade
Consult more people with erosion knowledge
Continue good work
Continue improvements over time
Continue length of trail
Continue to improve everything - access, layout, secluded zones
Continue to promote river usage
Continue track both sides
Continue track Manor Park to Silverstream
Continuous track at Haywoods would be great
Corridor is great as it is
Could be under-used
Council do a lovely job with upkeep of corridor
Council does a good job in general
Council does a good job, but could do more
Council does quite a good job
Council doing a great job
Council, is doing positive activity - especially continual upgrades and initiative to do a survey
Courtesy shown on public event days with dogs
Cultural and heritage at Pa, Stokes Valley, Rimutaka Incline
Cultural past needs to be better communicated
Cultural values
Cyclacross - lack of continuity of support between Upper and Lower Hutt (Upper Hutt is only supporter)
Cycle crossing at Avalon
Cycle trail ends at Pomare - section 6 - would be good if continuous
Cyclists and walkers aren't always a good mix - perhaps a dividing line down middle
Cyclists sometimes a bit fast for dog areas
Dangerous at night
Dangerous steps around Petone Sea Scout building - nearly ad accident on bike - need to be removed from path
Debris in river - could be cleared
Deer carcasses (hooves, torso) Moonshine Bridge - Totara Park
Development around Ava bridge
Distance markers
Doesn't like Queensgate
Dog bags - more people should use
Dog drinking taps
Dog is allergic to wandering dew so preference is to drive further to walk dog away from this plant
Dog poo bins - too far to walk with full bags
Dog poo on tracks
Dog rubbish bins
Dog runaround play area with fences (dog park)
Dogs - sometimes dogs and their bags are an issue
Dogs bags

Table 34: Final comments

Doing a good job/run well/well as it is maintained
Doing a great job
Doing quite well now
Don't be afraid to upset some people some of the time
Don't allow it to be lost
Don't build it up too much
Don't make river 'sterile'
Don't open to freedom camping
Don't over-regulate
Don't seal the track
Don't see why levis have increase around some areas and not others
Don't spray the blackberries
Don't think it a good idea to knock house down
Don't want too many people using it
Dredge River for flood protection and kayaking
Drinking fountains
Drinking water
Easy to walk to teach music at Hutt High School
Ebb and flow ecologically
Educate in schools
Education
Education to raise awareness - engage schools, community to understand river
Eliminate the gorse
Eliminating natural pools might not be good for the nation.
Email Hutt Council about water congregating and told to contact GWRC
Emphasis on safety and water quality
Encourage cyclists to use bells
Encourage family groups
Engage school kids
Enjoy having dogs off-lead
Enjoy it
Enjoy letting dog off lead
Enjoy the set-up
Enjoy walking here
Enjoying it
Enliven access points
Events - Bike the Trail
Events - for dog walkers, cyclists and runners
Events - fun and activities
Ewan Bridge - link to Civic Centre and River
Excellent corridor -really enjoying it
Excellent facility - keep up good work
Exercise circuits - outside
Exercise stations for simple stretching

Table 34: Final comments

Expand opportunities for motorised recreation - engage community
Extend bike path past Silverstream
Extend path on true right to Upper Hutt
Extend trail to Eastbourne
Fabulous place
Facilities - BBQ
Facilities - BBQs free to use - at places like Kaitoki
Facilities - bench seats
Facilities - benches - solid plain and robust in view of houses and people
Facilities - benches, tables, BBQ
Facilities - bike tourism
Facilities - Bins for dog poo
Facilities - chairs
Facilities - changing rooms
Facilities - changing/toilets
Facilities - drinking - for people and dogs
Facilities - drinking fountains
Facilities - drinking fountains for people and dogs
Facilities - drinking water along walkways
Facilities - Exercise equipment
Facilities - few toilets from Stokes Valley to Petone
Facilities - fitness stop and gym equipment
Facilities - for families - BBQs
Facilities - gym and exercise stations
Facilities - gym equipment on walkways, drinking fountains
Facilities - gym park
Facilities - more bench seats
Facilities - more benches and picnic tables
Facilities - More drinking water fountains
Facilities - more seating around grass area
Facilities - more seating to look at lovely vista
Facilities - permanent seating should have shade
Facilities - picnic areas, exercise stations
Facilities - picnic benches beyond Silverstream
Facilities - picnic tables
Facilities - picnic tables in true right section 4
Facilities - playground
Facilities - provide at every bridge
Facilities - recreational e.g. BBQ
Facilities - Robust seating in right places
Facilities - seating
Facilities - seating - especially where nice view
Facilities - seating and picnic tables
Facilities - seating to enjoy views

Table 34: Final comments

Facilities - seating, picnic tables, shelter from sun
Facilities - seats
Facilities - seats as many elderly residents nearby
Facilities - seats on true left bank - especially for elderly
Facilities - seats, rubbish bins
Facilities - seats, tables, coffee cart, water fountain
Facilities - shade to shelter from sun and rain
Facilities - shelters
Facilities - table near Scout Hall
Facilities - toilets would be good
Facilities - water for dogs and people
Facilities - water fountain
Facilities - water taps for dogs and people
Family space
Fantastic
Fantastic - valuable asset
Farm run-off needs to be controlled
Fast bridges across river - see Timber Trail
Feel pretty safe - but walk in a pair
Feels largely under-used
Feels safer
Finish off Manor Park to Silverstream part on true right
Finish track
Finish track on western side between Manor Park and Silverstream
First aid facility e.g. defib
Firth industries took rock from river - what will future river be like if shallower?
Fitness stations
Fix bridge
Flood mitigation will reduce recreation
Flood protection appreciated in last storm
Flooding seems more in control
Focus is good on walkers, cyclists, anglers
Foot bridge on the Pomare Rail bridge
Footpath along river - make sure stays intact - including during flooding mitigation work
Free to public
From Harcourt Park the river trail is too narrow for birds and steep - through to Tamarua
Gate - some are too narrow - better if can ride further without getting off
Gates - make cycle friendly
Gates - remove barriers for cyclists as doesn't stop motorcycles - very 2km have to get off and on
Gates - zig sag ones are difficult
Gates 0 to let bikes through
Gates a hassle
Gates need to be checked to see that bikes can get through
Generally enjoyed

Table 34: Final comments

Generally happy
Geocaching - thanks for support - would be good to encourage with open days and publicity
Get rid of the bloom (for swimming)
Getting better all the time
Glad to see Council gathering information
Good
Good as it is
Good experience
Good for recreation/luckily
Good investment in local population
Good path upgrades
Good place for animals and kids
Good that text messages get through from registered dog part of Council
Good to get away
Good to see survey
Good to see surveyors
Good to see surveys and people taking notice
Graffiti Moera area
Grass could be greener in some places
Grateful for facility 0 keep it up GWRC
Gravel paths provide feedback/noise/texture
Gravel taken from river as is building up and no good for flooding risk
Great as is
Great asset
Great asset - make more of it
Great facility
Great how it is
Great job
Great resource
Great resource to have on door step/asset
Great spot for dogs
Great to have it
Great work on bike brochure
Greater ranger presence
Greatest asset of Hutt Valley
GWRC doing a good job with flood protection
GWRC doing good job considering budget
GWRC needs to raise standards
GWRC should be commended
Happy
Happy - nice and natural
Happy - think it is really good
Happy about ongoing paving work
Happy customer

Table 34: Final comments

Happy on whole
Hate to see corridor being used for quad bikes, motorised vehicles.
Heritage needs preserving
High standard ambience
Hikoikoi Reserve is a lovely area
Hope it doesn't deteriorate
Hope it remains
Hutt City carpark very polluted
Hutt Council could provide more visible activities
Hutt lucky to have this place
If Council 'crunches' in on corridor, they will ruin it
Illegal quadbike use along this section of river - 4
Important to have swimmable rivers
Impressed at how much used
Impressed by graffiti clean-up on bridge pillars
Impressed with what has been done
Improve isolated areas to make them safer
Improve pathways
Improve safety in evening
Improve weather
Improved for most part
Improvement
Improvement from rail bridge south
Improvements should take rate increases into account
Increase flora and fauna
Increase in rabbit population - should be culled
Increase motorbike signage as there isn't enough information telling people it isn't allowed
Increase police activity near youth hangouts
Incremental improvements
Intend to explore further up-river
Involved in Waiwhetu Stream clean-up experience worthwhile
Is safe for swimming
Is Chris Turver still at GWRC
It is good
Kayakers get stranded now - low water levels
Keep 4WD out
Keep and maintain the access points to the river
Keep blackberries - family appeal
Keep dog-friendly please
Keep good access
Keep improving it - larger and better
Keep improving things for cyclists
Keep it as it is
Keep it beautiful

Table 34: Final comments

Keep it clean
Keep it clean for future generations
Keep it maintained
Keep it natural
Keep it open
Keep it safe
Keep it the way it is
Keep it tranquil - improve corridor for quieter recreation
Keep maintenance up
Keep nice for people to enjoy
Keep on improving
Keep progressing
Keep river fishable and swimmable
Keep rubbish out as much as possible
Keep spending and developing
Keep up good work
Keep water clean for future generations
Kelp has been removed - sand hoppers breed there - food source for fish
Landscape architecture - points of interest
Large areas seem under-used - could be developed to encourage different activities
Large grass space for festivals etc
Leave nature alone
Leave one side gravel
Left could be more clear and open
Letting too much water out further north - not enough further south
Lighting
Lighting - at night
Lighting - Better light at night
Lighting - could be better all along
Lighting - very important
Lighting - walkways through trees below Melling Bridge
Lighting along Moera strip
Lighting for evening walkers
Lighting needed
Lighting on Western side would be good
Like how safe it is
Like name of reserve changed to a European name
Lived here all life - 100x better now
Loop to true right would be great
Love it - keep it natural
Love it and feel privileged
Love it that free and open
Love the place
Love the river

Table 34: Final comments

Lovely
Lovely - wouldn't like to see it too developed
Lovely resource
Lovely spot
Lovely, valuable asset
Loves corridor and doesn't want it changed
Low use of river upstream
Lower Hutt City doesn't related to river - need to encourage use of river and embrace river as asset
Lucky it is here
Lucky to have access to such a beautiful area
Lucky to have it
Maintain facilities
Maintained
Maintained well
Maintained well - only concern is algae
Make better use of money
Make continuous loop on both sides
Make cycle-way safer for first 500m between Petone and motorway. Shoulder very narrow
Make part of the corridor not accessible to people
Make river visible from the walkway more pleasant and safer
Make some actual swimming spots
Make visible to international tourists.
Managed invisibly which is good
Markets - enjoy - good sense of community
Melling bridge traffic flow is very bad
Melling train line - could it run weekend
Metal punctures in unsealed track
Mitigate use
Moera - true left of river is barren
Money to Masterton - not enough goes there
More access points
More chairs/tables
More fish friendly
More habitat is needed for native birds
More information about use of kayaks
More picnic areas - table, BBQ seats
More river access
More rubbish bins
More rubbish bins for general purpose
More shady spots, places to relax
More social events to engage with river
More tables at Taita Drive north gate
More toilets
More tree diversity and color

Table 34: Final comments

More trees
More work on 'old mens beard' and 'wandering willy'
Mostly very positive
Motorbike user comes to area
Motorbikes - have little regard and don't interact
Motorbikes riding by young kids - signage
Mountain bike tracks - more - would be good
Mountain bike trails needed - more
Mountain biking track on true right of river for kids. Better biking facilities overall
Mow more often
Much better than where form in the UK
Multi-use
Narrow between Stokes Valley and Silverstream
Narrow part just north of Stokes Valley has rubbish issues
Narrow path Taita gorge
Natural and peaceful
Natural flooding will occur
Need more toilets at ocean end
Need to police motorcyclists using the area
Never feel unsafe
Never gone home without fish
Never had a bad encounter in 22 years
Never seen anyone dodge
Nice as is
Nice job
Nice to see it improving
Nice/beautiful place
Night markets - more community involvement
No cars
No connection between Manor Park and Silverstream
No more pathways or parks
Not keen on further planting
Nothing can be done about algae because there is already little to no effluent run-off
Number of uncontrolled dogs
Objection to cultural and historic values
On the whole very good
Orange goo at Stokes Valley being pumped into river
Outdoor covered area
Parking - - taken over by commuters - regulate hours for change
Parking cars
Parks for good all the way along
Path less direct and more interesting
Paths through bush
Pathways - extend north

Table 34: Final comments

Pathways great - keep them maintained
Pathways have been improved but could continue to be
Pedestrian access over river
Penalties for dog litter
People talk about limiting uses of area
Picnic shelter and tables
Place to camp overnight - like Kaitoke
Plan act observe reflect
Plans for river-mouth - path widening/non-continuous?
Plant more trees to adapt landscape
Plant natives to attract birdlife
Planting - more natives
Planting - more riparian
Planting - some areas untidy
Planting and cutting down?
Plantings - continue
Plants to fix river banks
Playground
Playgrounds - more
Pleasant surprise to visit. Plan to come back and ride whole length
Please protect flowering/fruited trees along the river which the birds like. Don't spray - just trim
Pleased it is here
Pleased to see it used more
Plough bird numbers
Pohutukawa trees need protecting
Poisoning and spraying on river bank - should leave nature to do its thing
Police dog area and fine offenders
Pretty good
Pretty happy
Pretty happy with corridor
Pretty lucky to have it
Pretty satisfied
Priorities don't mix -extracting water for Wellington outweighs recreational users needs. Stupid local notice - 6 months of the year the sign for algae doesn't relate to the river condition
Promote shared pathways
Provide parking
Proximity good
Publicise penalties for dog litter
Quite happy
Really enjoyed
Really like the Corridor
Reduce hiding areas for dodgy people and criminals
Reduce tip fees to discourage illegal dumping
Regeneration
Regular pop-up market

Table 34: Final comments

Removal of barriers has not led to an increase in motorised vehicle use near Stokes Valley as feared
River in an urban environment is rare and should be valued
River is a lot less polluted
River mouth should be developed and beautified
River used to be 2-3 metres lower
River used to be dredged, which was good for kayaking. Now that has stopped, kayaking is not so great
River was once full of yellow-eyed mullet - gone now
Rock being placed places
Rubbish
Rubbish - more bins especially around Ewan Bridge
Rubbish - Better glass management
Rubbish - bins along trails
Rubbish - bins for dog poo
Rubbish - bins for dog walkers
Rubbish - dog bag stations
Rubbish - Dog poo a problem - more bins needed
Rubbish - dog poo bags and bins
Rubbish - dog poo bags and bins needed
Rubbish - Dog poo bags have to be carried too far
Rubbish - dog poo bags need a place to go - special bin
Rubbish - education around this
Rubbish - get PD workers to pick up
Rubbish - Litter occurs at night time
Rubbish - lots left on bridge form anglers - need bins
Rubbish - Make trash cans (for dogs)
Rubbish - more accessible bins - especially for dog poo
Rubbish - more bins
Rubbish - more bins needed
Rubbish - more dog bins
Rubbish - more dog poo bags and bins
Rubbish - more effort to pick up
Rubbish - more frequent places for dog bags, bins
Rubbish - Need more dog poo bags and bins for poo- especially down river
Rubbish - need more of a clean up effort
Rubbish - not enough bins for dog poo
Rubbish - people leave rubbish - more bins in section 4
Rubbish - plastic bags are left
Rubbish - receptacles
Rubbish - tidy up/more bins - especially for markets
Rubbish at true right Silverstream - target offenders
Rubbish bins
Rubbish bins - art on bins
Rubbish bins - between access points - i.e. not necessarily at car parks
Rubbish bins - especially for dog poo

Table 34: Final comments

Rubbish bins - for dog poo
Rubbish bins - for dog poo - have to carry a long way to dispose of
Rubbish bins - more
Rubbish bins - more - don't want to carry dog poo
Rubbish bins - more available for dog park in section 4 - dog bags left frequently
Rubbish bins - more for dog droppings
Rubbish bins - next to seats
Rubbish bins every km good
Rubbish bins for dog poo - especially between Stokes and Taita
Rubbish bins need to be emptied more frequently or add a few more
Rubbish chucked from cars
Rubbish/graffiti/glass
Safety - areas which are so open aren't safe
Safety - especially true left bank a huge issue for women and children
Safety - issues of personal safety along river on section 3 - reports of a lurker last winter
Safety - Need more security cameras around parking area
Safety and security concerns - more lighting (woman attacked recently)
Safety priority
Salt water is good for cleaning dog
Saturday markets create a lot of rubbish
Saw a seal in the river by Silverstream
Sculpture - add to landscape
Seal unsealed areas
Sealed on one side but not other
Sealed sections - more
Sealing around Silverstream roundabout
Seclusion of certain areas - safety
Section 4 my favourite place to go
Section 4 well cared for
Security
Security - improve
Security cameras
Security cameras to prevent theft, especially in parking areas
Security is a shame around cars
See people in wheelchairs use walkway
Segregated walking and cycle paths
Separate cycle lane
Separate cycle way and walkway
Separate trail for walkers and cyclists
Separation from road
Sewage overflow?
Shame to shut it down to vehicles - not very kiwi
Shared pathway doesn't work with cars
Shelters

Table 34: Final comments

Sign posting - especially for toilets
Signage - information panels that tell about areas
Signage - about cultural values and old residences
Signage - better
Signage - distance markers
Signage - guidance and awareness for cyclists to share pathway
Signage - increased and better
Signage - more needed e.g.. Electronic or up-to-date
Signage - nice to see more maps
Signage - on true right to say track stops
Signage - prevent car theft
Signage - Reference point in a safety context so know where are
Signage - reminding people to keep dogs on leads
Signage and bags provided
signage saying 'No motorised recreation' or 'no hooning'
Signage to get to trails
Signage with contact numbers for when a problem
Signs - better signage and maps. Got quite lost
Signs - better signs - the whole range
Signs - Km markers
Silverstream bridge - country lane heading north
Skate park at Stokes Valley
Sladden - toilets are dodgy and feel unsafe
Small coffee carts
So many people use it
Some areas feel isolated
Some areas in Lower Hutt feel a little isolated and less safe at night
Some areas that are dog-friendly are close to road
Some cyclists too fast and could use a bell
Some land should never be used for buildings
Some motorised users still slip through
Some places seem neglected compared with other sections
Sometimes motorbikes
Somewhere safe for kids to jump in river
Stay on top of mitigation work - issues after last flood
Steadily improving - keep doing this
Still some undesirable people at night time
Stoked with it - wished had used earlier
Stop bank changes
Stop bank maintenance
Stop bank paths narrow and bumpy
Stop discharge - clean it up
Straighten river to improve flow
Street lights at country lane carpark

Table 34: Final comments

Superb
Surcharge on glass bottle sales
Surprised more people don't use it - love it
Sweet if deeper more consistently for kayaking
Swimming holes - deep ones would be cool
Taita gorge area needs improving - especially for cycling and children
Taking down trees by river reduces shade on the water (warms the temperature and adds to algae). Trees also help native wildlife e.g.. Pukeko
Taps would be great
Tar seal - is it necessary
Tar seal east north of Silverstream bridge
Terrific recreational facility
Thank you for beautiful area
Thank you for work
Thanks foot friends of Hutt
The reason we live here
There is a feel-good aspect to visible conservation and beautification projects
Thick gravel on course during popular event
Thumbs up to GWRC
Tidy up around Melling Bridge
Toilet
Toilet - another one
Toilet - chemical
Toilet - north of Silverstream bridge
Toilet - upgrade Sladden/Memorial
Toilet for public
Toilet needed at Waterloo station
Toilets
Toilets - a bit sparse
Toilets - closer to walkway
Toilets - Eastern side
Toilets - for elderly
Toilets - lack of
Toilets - more
Toilets - more - especially Taita rock
Toilets - more as more people
Toilets - more at ocean end
Toilets - more in key areas
Toilets - need more
Toilets - none apart from Sladden Park (not very nice)
Toilets - not many
Toilets - Not many toilets where families go
Toilets - public
Toilets (nothing from Naenae to Petone)
Toilets at access points

Table 34: Final comments

Toilets needed
Toilets please at Hikoikoi Reserve
Toilets/shower
Too much money spend on some bench seats
Toxic algae dangerous for dogs
Track - dubious at Taita gorge
Track improvements
Tracks widened
Tracks wider
Traffic lights mean cyclists have to wait for cars to trigger them at Haywards
Trail - bumpy near Whakatikei that could be smoothed out
Trees - don't cut down
Try and get lights at Birchville
Under-used
Unhappy about future plans - concerned will be a wasteland
Unique resource
Upper Hutt Council is more dog friendly than Lower Hutt Council
Upset with number of motorbikes on trail. Has been surrounded and intimidated. Especially concerned for safety of 5 year-old daughter
Use it often
Used to enjoy blackberry picking - gone now
Usually very clean
Valuable to access trail by train - capacity could be extended
Value these areas
Valued asset
Vast improvement past 50 years
Vegetation islands along path
Vehicle access to river
Vehicle bridge at Stokes Valley
Very good job
Very impressed
Very positive
Waiwhetu Stream project is excellent
Walkways seem to stop further up. Gravel difficult for buggy
Wary of meeting horses and young kids in off-lead areas
Waste and sewage control
Water activities
Water low is important to decrease algae and debri
Water quality
Water quality - wonder about inlet opposite golf course
Water running very low
Weeds - old mans beard out of control
Well maintained generally
Well managed
Well used

Table 34: Final comments

Well-used
West side traffic noise is too much
Western side needs improvement
Whakatiki River toilet is disgusting
White baiters - wearing vinyl waders is unsafe - potential drowning
White baiting should be banned as numbers decimated. Whitebait is a food source for other creatures
Whitebait will be encouraged if trees planted on river edge
Whole concept is fantastic
Why isn't river mouth more used - nice place but no one here
Why not many birds
Wide path
Willow removed - stuff gets caught in willows - flax would be better
Willows screen too much of river - flax might be better
Wind belt
Wonder if plans to raise stop banks even higher are necessary
Wonderful
Wonderful asset
Wonderful facility
Wonderful public space
Work with natural features (e.g.. Rocks/boulders) to make playgrounds
Worth maintaining - valuable resource
Would be nice to see more people
You don't use the left where the youths hang out
Zone 7 is awesome

Appendix 2: Intercept survey schedule

Colours refer to each member of the survey team.

Schedule - hours																	Easter							Hours per site				
Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T		T	Sat	Sun	
5-Mar	6-Mar	7-Mar	8-Mar	9-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	13-Mar	14-Mar	15-Mar	16-Mar	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	31-Mar	2-Apr	3-Apr	
Beat																												
1 - lower	8			2				5	2	2		2		6	8	2	2	1.5		4	7	5	7	2.5				66
2 - city	7	7					2	8		2		2	4	7		3	3				4.5	7	11	13	2	2	5	89.5
3 - mid	8		2	2	2	2		8	8	2	2		2	2	8					8	8	8						72
4 - upper	8	8		2		2					2		2	4	8	8		2			8	8		4				66
																												293.5

Forms																								Count				
Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T		T	Sat	Sun	
5-Mar	6-Mar	7-Mar	8-Mar	9-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	13-Mar	14-Mar	15-Mar	16-Mar	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	31-Mar	2-Apr	3-Apr	
Beat																												
1 - lower	21			5				26	3	6		3		21	32	3	7	1		15	25	27	34	7			236	
2 - city	17	17					5	22		5		5	10	12		6	6				10		43	37	7	7	20	229
3 - mid	24		8	6	7	7		24	29	9	8		7	7	30					28	28	28					250	
4 - upper	22	27		9		6					11		7	9	35	33		8			30	37		20			254	
																												969

Appendix 3: Questionnaire
