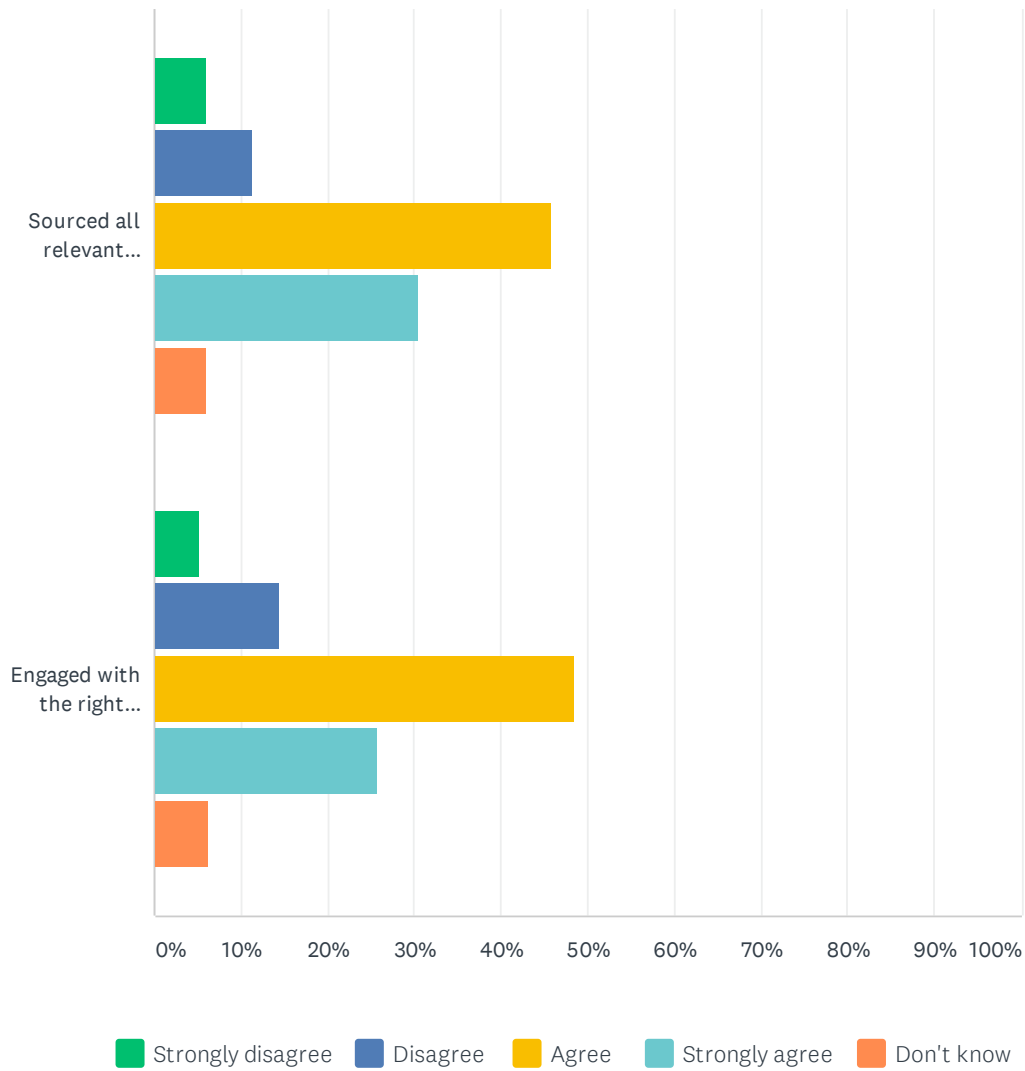


Q1 When undertaking the inquiry, the Commission:

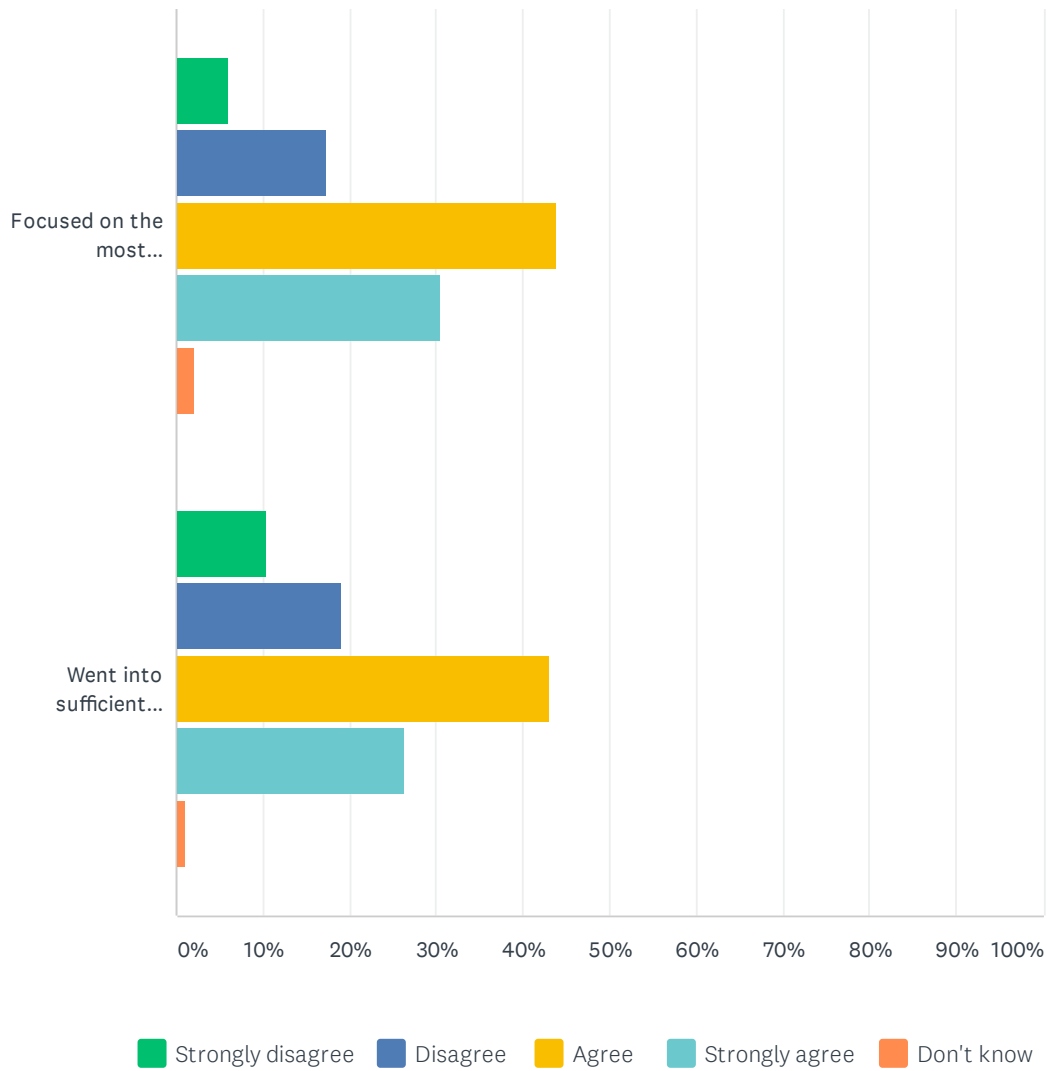
Answered: 99 Skipped: 1



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Sourced all relevant research and information	6.12% 6	11.22% 11	45.92% 45	30.61% 30	6.12% 6	98
Engaged with the right people	5.15% 5	14.43% 14	48.45% 47	25.77% 25	6.19% 6	97

Q2 The inquiry report:

Answered: 98 Skipped: 2



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Focused on the most significant issues to local government funding and financing	6.12% 6	17.35% 17	43.88% 43	30.61% 30	2.04% 2	98
Went into sufficient depth on the issues it covered	10.53% 10	18.95% 18	43.16% 41	26.32% 25	1.05% 1	95

Q3 How could the focus of the inquiry or the impact of the inquiry report have been improved?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 35

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It was too soft in my view and missed the opportunity to address the fundamental issues or poor governance and management in local government.	3/5/2020 11:27 AM
2	It takes a "holistic" view of the country. As such there are local variation that are "material" to outcomes but are not considered. For example in Hamilton City approx 20% of the city is covered by "Restricted Covenants" that prohibits further development. This significantly reduces the supply of sites (for re development) and therefore effects (adversely) price. No where in the report is "Restrictive Covenant" mentioned. I know of other cities that have the same/ similar issues. This needs to be factored into the report as it material effect "affordability."	3/3/2020 3:36 PM
3	Spend more time and focus on the requirements placed on elected members to honor their declaration/oath/promise to the community to perform the duties imposed on them by the LGA (specifically the requirement of s39(a)). I have tried unsuccessfully to find out what has been done about this piece of legislation over the past two years and have come to the conclusion that in many local authorities - if not all local authorities - nothing has been done to promote this key aspect of governance (and hence limit spending).	3/3/2020 11:00 AM
4	The scope seemed insufficient. Rates are an efficient collection method but the better question should have been whether rates and other existing revenue tools alone were sufficient to generate the income needed to be effective in their mandate and to align them with central govt. in my view rates alone are clearly insufficient and cost recovery missed incentives linked to economic growth	3/1/2020 12:29 PM
5	Recognising that the ToR were restrictive, the Commission has, to the extent possible, addressed the underlying core issues that need to be addressed.	2/28/2020 2:45 PM
6	the scope was too narrow in that Crown ineligibility for rates, DCs etc was excluded.	2/28/2020 12:48 PM
7	The report could have been bolder in asserting its recommendations, some felt like there was a compromise position. For example, the Commission recommended a first principle review of the performance reporting framework but did not discuss or make any recommendations about the wider accountability framework where it could have discussed its views on local government's accountability to its communities vs accountability to central Government. It would also have been useful to provide a roadmap for change i.e. what was important to do first/sequencing, over what timeframes	2/28/2020 8:05 AM
8	The submitter group of which I was a member found the inquiry focus, engagement and intended impact excellent. Our own focus was relatively narrow. On that score, we have no improvements to suggest and are not well placed to comment on other areas considered in depth by the Commission. The impact of its recommendations will depend materially on the Government and sector response..	2/27/2020 9:33 PM
9	Fundamental taxation and government funding reform and options not considered. Failure to consider and understand the primary purpose of taxation, which is the equitable distribution of wealth, and the mechanisms by which money and credit are created by the financial sector. The ability for central government to raise interest-free or low interest grants and loans from RBNZ-created credit for essential infrastructure is not considered, and the LGFA as a source of funding is also not mentioned in the report, and should have been. Taxation on speculation, capital gains, and environmental footprint should have had consideration, but only land banking got a passing mention. Freeing more land for residential construction will not ease housing affordability if the new properties are snapped up by leveraged investors and speculators. However, I very strongly oppose charging rates on Crown properties because they provide social, cultural, economic and well-being services to both locals and the whole nation. Examples are schools, hospitals and the Public Conservation Land (PCL). If these properties, which are actually publicly-owned, did have to pay rates, their budgets would blow out, and the quantity and quality of their services would be gravely diminished.	2/27/2020 5:19 PM
10	An approach was taken which relied too heavily on subjective and quite narrow principles for funding local government. When applied, this meant that the Commission reached a conclusion that the existing model was broadly ok, when evidence demonstrates chronic failure. The Commission effectively concluded that the principles it identified were more relevant than the observable performance of the system, which undermined the credibility of the report.	2/27/2020 5:16 PM
11	The report was too accepting of the status quo and not visionary enough.	2/27/2020 3:54 PM
12	understand that that the world that LG is operating has changed - and in a disruptor environment BAU is no longer BAU - especially with regards to funding and revenue requirements	2/27/2020 3:52 PM

Local government funding and financing survey

13	In some cases there was good problem identification, however the solutions presented showed a lack of detail or consideration of options.	2/27/2020 3:18 PM
14	We sought a meeting with PC to discuss the tourism issues. With it being one of the eight priority areas PC could have been more proactive in their engagement. We hear they went to regions to visit farming sector - why didn't they make this effort with tourism sector?	2/27/2020 3:15 PM
15	The report expends a considerable period of time dealing with things that are not at all local authority issues, such as affordable housing. That is a central government issue. By focussing on currently fashionable issues the report misses the core issue with funding and financing - local authorities again and again provide financial statements with obvious gaps. They do not know how they are spending their money and frequently avoid statutory reporting or accounting obligations which, if complied with, might provide some clues. I know of one council that frequently provides a statutory report saying certain assets exist as part of justifying the purchasing then maintenance costs. It can be easily proven the assets do not exist. There is limited ability for rate-payers to get this scrutinised because there is no central government scrutiny. In fact DIA explicitly states its job is limited to collecting reports, and never to confirming they are accurate even if it has good reason to believe they are fabricated. This enables and encourages incorrect and non-compliant reporting and accounting practises. The starting place for finances and funding is to make sure councils know where their money is and are managing it sensibly. That issue should have been the starting place for the report. It does not even figure.	2/27/2020 3:06 PM
16	More work on the distribution of rates between property types - urban residential, farmland, commercial etc. - would have added weight to the evaluation of whether rates are fit for purpose.	2/27/2020 2:50 PM
17	It took a narrow fiscal approach to local govt funding as opposed to an economic lense. Thus it understated/underestimated the costs communities (as opposed to councils) are bearing	2/27/2020 2:35 PM
18	The report told us a lot of the problems but lacked courage in solutions	2/27/2020 2:32 PM
19	Better engagement with stakeholders in the preparation of the draft report.	2/27/2020 12:16 PM
20	Happy with what it covered	2/26/2020 3:10 PM
21	At engagement events, more time could have been spent listening to feedback rather than presenting the findings which had been published and read beforehand.	2/26/2020 10:48 AM
22	Should have had deeper engagement with Local Councils.	2/26/2020 6:25 AM
23	The inquiry did a great job of identifying the issues. Sadly it was prevented from looking at actual solutions but the terms of reference.	2/25/2020 4:55 PM
24	Climate mitigation and Te Tiriti o Waitangi have to be the overarching principles councils and local boards need to consider before spending money and the Government must set this requirement. Also provide enough money to fix and enhance the infrastructure required to ensure the infrastructure is strong enough for the next 50- 100 years.	2/25/2020 11:51 AM
25	Greater central government support for local government	2/25/2020 11:30 AM
26	It needed to quantify the cost of the challenges and quantify the recommended responses. It outright did not look into areas of funding based on flawed philosophy - like economic taxes to fund Local Government	2/25/2020 10:58 AM
27	I acknowledge the terms of reference precluded inquiry into the reorganisation of local authorities and financial sustainability etc and it was beyond the remit of the PC, however it is disappointing a wider scope of drivers of affordability and financial sustainability were not able to be inquired into	2/25/2020 9:35 AM
28	The report doesn't mention the role of territorial authorities with regard to management of terrestrial indigenous biodiversity. This role is key to management of biodiversity on private land. Gap given the drive through the NPSIB and NZBS to clarify role and responsibilities and ensure TA's undertake their role effectively. The issues are the same with rural councils struggling to resource what is essentially a public good.	2/25/2020 9:26 AM
29	The inquiry had a real urban feel and did little to account for the pressures facing rural councils	2/25/2020 9:25 AM
30	It skipped the obvious question as to why central govt properties are generally exempt from rates, and why rates are not exempt from GST etc,	2/24/2020 5:13 PM
31	found the focus of the report very much aimed at Council funding with little impact on those who actually generate the money i.e. ratepayers. It simply seemed to treat them as ATM's	2/24/2020 4:15 PM

Local government funding and financing survey

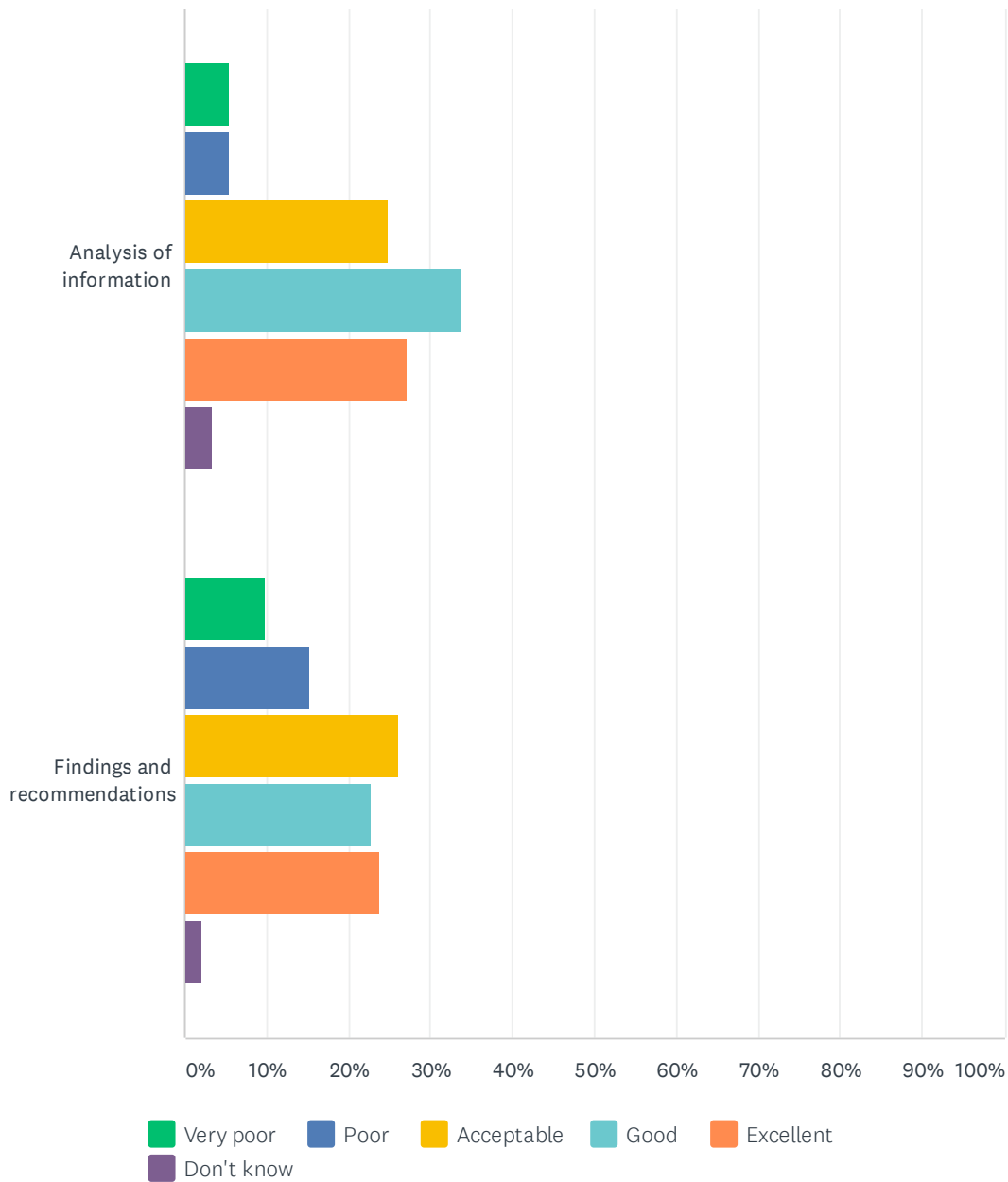
	with vague reference about the ability to pay but a focus on what 'benefit' they get from Councils	
32	NA	2/24/2020 4:13 PM
33	Insufficient focus on the equity rates levied on ratepayers, and insufficient focus on how councils are prioritising their spend, looking for efficiencies, consulting on what ratepayers would like money spent on.	2/24/2020 3:00 PM
34	Rateability of seaspace could have been considered as well	2/24/2020 2:53 PM
35	Affordability was not comprehensively considered nor the limitations with the data fully disclosed	2/24/2020 2:50 PM
36	Greater central government buy-in / stronger mandate	2/24/2020 2:50 PM
37	Simplified the document, with easy linked relevant relating reports	2/24/2020 2:40 PM
38	For example, the Inquiry could have helpfully discussed how you measure the affordability of local authority rates, rather than simply producing another set of measures to, apparently, justify the Commissions predetermined position. Secondly, the assumption that beneficiary pays principles should automatically apply to local government services is simply out of line with the New Zealand ethos. It would lead to a closing of public libraries and swimming pools. The Commissions discussion of this was entirely blinkered and straight out of the mean spirited world view that prevailed in new Zealand in the 1980s.	2/24/2020 2:27 PM
39	the inquiry picked up on the smaller issues well and took on feedback and made good recommendations, but really it avoided the harder questions	2/24/2020 2:15 PM
40	It would appear that the report authors had a poor understanding of the funding issues facing local government	2/21/2020 3:16 PM
41	More analysis was needed to substantiate the recommendations. The issues and concepts were clearly identified, but then the report reached conclusions without providing a comprehensive systemic analysis in some areas.	2/21/2020 10:53 AM
42	I was very pleased to see the case study on the '3 Waters' infrastructure, as it is probably the biggest issue facing local government, yet collectively the sector is in denial about the need for institutional reform.	2/19/2020 8:30 AM
43	The alteration in approach between the draft and the final report was a considerable disappointment and was not well-signaled. The sector was not impressed. The Commission had a reputation for courage. This report undid that a bit. It essentially is simply yet another rates review that will go nowhere. Unfortunate.	2/18/2020 11:31 AM
44	Focus of the enquire should have been at and in local government. It seemed to take an outsiders view without looking at what was going on inside.	2/16/2020 3:09 PM
45	ask the ratepayers only, not the councils or other financially biased organisations	2/14/2020 4:56 PM
46	Recommendations could have been more prominent, with supporting evidence, etc. contained in appendices. This may then have attracted more media (and other) attention?	2/14/2020 9:20 AM
47	Bringing to the fore what really matters and what matter less - what are the things the must be done, as distinct form 'would be nice if they were done'	2/13/2020 4:59 PM
48	more on public opinion and expectations and the impact on decision-making	2/13/2020 3:24 PM
49	Open dialogue with submitters may have helped change perspectives. Would also have shown respect and appreciation to those who took time to submit.	2/13/2020 11:58 AM
50	Representation from civil society appear to be minimally referenced. Groups at the outcomes end of the spectrum in relation to local govt arrangements-in a sense price takers or passive adherents-seem poorly reflected from my readings of the report and supporting material. Sectional and motivated interests (property developers etc) appear to be overrepresented. Report is exceedingly technocratic and focus on tactical responses (eg., tax on vacant land. It does little to address superordinate and fundamental questions of social-political aspiration (future vision) and present reality (bureaucratic malaise and structural inequality in representation and influence). Until that overriding context is addressed the report remains, in my view, technocratic, superficial, and solutionist (as distinct from sustainable and generative).	2/13/2020 11:23 AM
51	Save the money and do not bother	2/12/2020 7:11 PM
52	Consider gender issues.... funding is a different challenge for women than for men.	2/12/2020 5:26 PM

Local government funding and financing survey

53	While climate change was considered in the report, it should have received more attention, with more recommendations for local government how to fund mitigation and adaptation, since the urgency to act has been rapidly increasing over the last three years.	2/12/2020 5:13 PM
54	There are severe problems with local government that the report ignored. These issues amount to corruption. I could give examples.	2/12/2020 4:30 PM
55	The scope of such a review simply cannot be limited to exclude potential funding sources simply because that funding source is central government funding. Absolutely recognised where the Commission has pushed back against the limiting of the scope of the inquiry in some places in the Final Report, but by accepting this limited scope the value and potential success of the final recommendations is reduced.	2/12/2020 4:03 PM
56	This report was too dependent on statistics, and not on the experiences of people out in the community. It failed to address the increasing gap between rate rises and wages/salaries/benefits - meaning people have less in their pocket each year. It failed to send a strong message to government about the increasing compliance regimes where costs are being pushed down on local councils, and then on to local residents and businesses, and that this is fundamentally unfair and unsustainable.	2/12/2020 4:02 PM
57	The terms of reference, set by the Government, excluded some important issues such as 'substantial privatisation', land exempted from rates, and structural reform. These exclusions were not the Commission's fault.	2/12/2020 3:18 PM
58	By accepting that the current system of LG revenue gathering is archaic Hr	2/12/2020 2:52 PM
59	It should have considered the financial and/or funding implications of simplifying the local government business model by removing many of the capital intensive services they provide. Local government is overly complex and far too conflicted which results in excessive and competing bureaucracy. Multi purpose businesses ultimately fail and local government is currently taking the long road to failure.	2/12/2020 2:28 PM
60	Certain services (for example, Compliance/enforcement services for the RMA) could be delivered in a different way (eg. from a central govt agency). The report could have been stronger if it had done a comparative analysis of the potential costs of different institutional arrangements (eg. larger agency delivering these services might have greater economy of scale and be placed to deliver same-or-better services at a lower overall cost).	2/12/2020 2:26 PM
61	More explanation of the finding that current rating is fit-for-purpose, given comprehensively expressed concern that is not.	2/12/2020 2:17 PM
62	It is always the personal communication which brings forward the answers.	2/12/2020 2:14 PM
63	Failed to take into account the pressures on ratepayers already struggling with day to day living. Unfounded mandates from Central Govt have continued from the early 1990s adding to ratepayer burden without taxpayer input. The conclusion that existing rates types are sufficient with some help to rural/provincial for certain projects is weak and ineffectual. The government of the day can and will ignore this.	2/12/2020 2:14 PM
64	Like most reports I feel overall impact lacks or not fully understood	2/12/2020 2:12 PM
65	Maybe some views on where the reports agreed/disagreed with the submissions made (and reasons why) may have been helpful.	2/12/2020 2:07 PM

Q4 Considering the local government funding and financing report, how would you rate the:

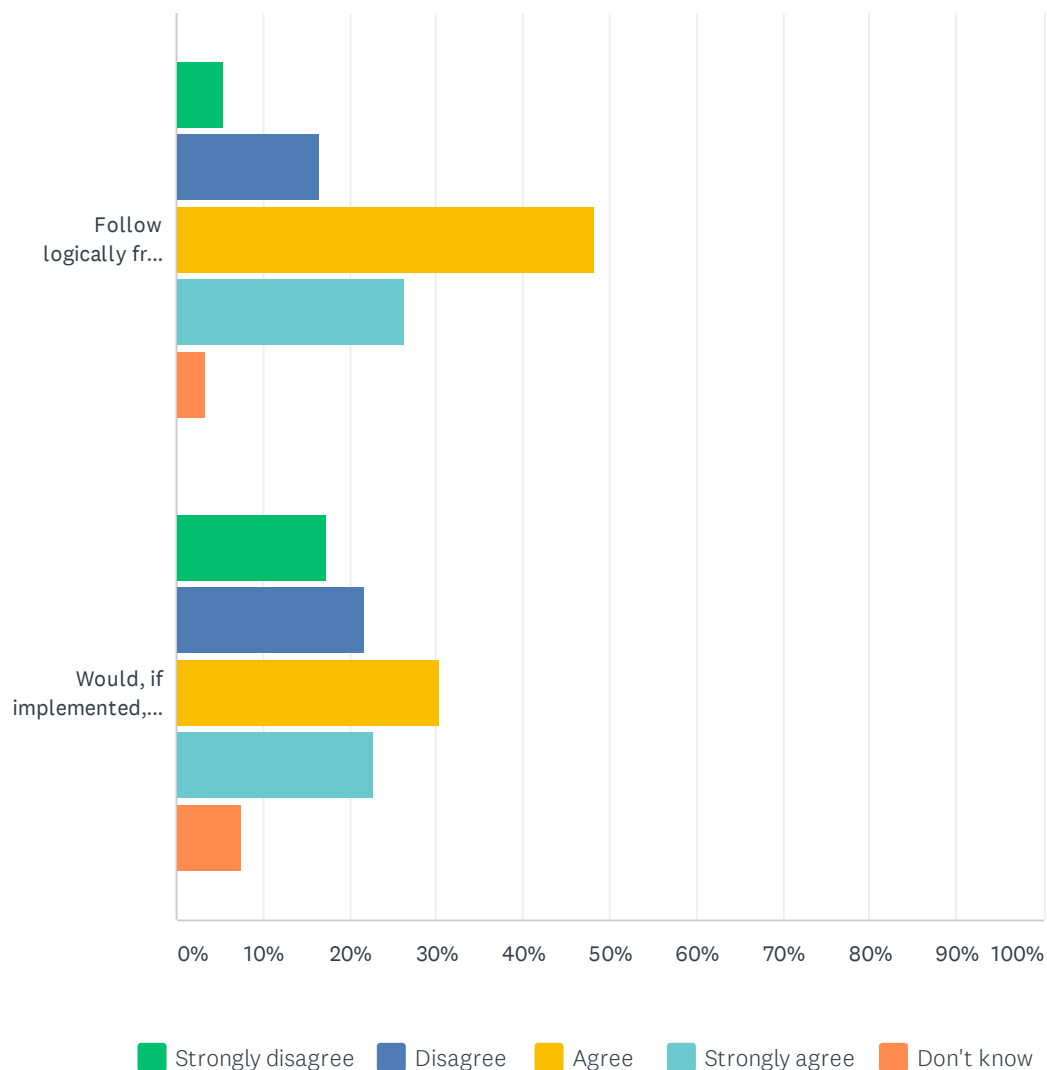
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	VERY POOR	POOR	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD	EXCELLENT	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Analysis of information	5.43% 5	5.43% 5	25.00% 23	33.70% 31	27.17% 25	3.26% 3	92
Findings and recommendations	9.78% 9	15.22% 14	26.09% 24	22.83% 21	23.91% 22	2.17% 2	92

Q5 The Commission's recommendations

Answered: 92 Skipped: 8



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Follow logically from the analysis and findings	5.49% 5	16.48% 15	48.35% 44	26.37% 24	3.30% 3	91
Would, if implemented, materially improve local government funding and financing	17.39% 16	21.74% 20	30.43% 28	22.83% 21	7.61% 7	92

Q6 How could the inquiry's analysis or recommendations have been improved?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 53

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The report highlights the importance of good quality decision making (page 2) "The elected member model is not consistently delivered a mix of councilors who collectively possess the full range of skills required for effective governance etc" . (page 92) Yet the report is silent on the issue of "Standing Order" adopted by councils throughout NZ. Local Govt NZ only require reports to be delivered to councilors 2 days prior to a meeting. A survey undertake by ourselves shows council vary from 2 to 5 days delivery. The Institute of Directors requires report to be provided 14 days in advance. If reports had to be provided at least 14 days in advance of meeting it is possible, that the quality of decision making would be greatly improved. For most Local Authorities, councilors do not have sufficient time or skill set to challenge advise provided by staff. By being required to provide reports 14 days prior to meetings, and being able to access outside advise prior to voting, would greatly improve councilors performance.	3/3/2020 4:12 PM
2	See scope feedback earlier. Address need for consolidation	3/1/2020 12:31 PM
3	Some commentators feel that the Commission was unduly restrained by terms of reference and didn't go far enough in certain recommendations. While that tension is inevitable, I recognise that alternatives were proposed, eg. expansion of shared services in place of aggregation. The inquiry's analysis was often detailed and could perhaps have been streamed more to assist access by a wide audience. Some general recommendations could have been sharper for practical application (re better governance and use of existing tools). Main topics proposed in my group's submissions were well reflected in their particular context.	2/27/2020 10:00 PM
4	See my comments under question 3.	2/27/2020 5:19 PM
5	The Commission's recommendations do follow logically from the analysis, but the analysis was predicated on flawed principles. An approach which examined the evident failings in the current system, why these failings persist and options to address them would have been more suitable than an evaluation of the current system against select principles.	2/27/2020 5:18 PM
6	By going "out of the box"	2/27/2020 3:55 PM
7	dealt with some of the elephants in the room - status quo is limiting	2/27/2020 3:53 PM
8	Sometimes they missed the point or were no accurate in the argument presented - things which could have been avoided with more thorough engagement with particular groups early on in the process	2/27/2020 3:20 PM
9	There is no doubt it is a well-written, easy to follow report. I consider that many of the things it says are sound, relevant and sensible. The issue is it did not address the core issues.	2/27/2020 3:07 PM
10	Made a series of stronger recommendations. The final recommendations played it fairly safe	2/27/2020 12:17 PM
11	I didn't agree with the inquiry's assumption that private property owners could easily arrange their affairs so they could claim rates as a tax deduction.	2/26/2020 3:11 PM
12	I have rated the "findings and recommendations" in question 4 as "acceptable" because some of them I consider to be "excellent" and others "poor".	2/26/2020 10:54 AM
13	Poor reference material leads to poor findings.	2/26/2020 6:26 AM
14	The terms of reference, prevented the inquiry looking at the revenue share between local and central government. This needed to be considered for the recommendations to make a real difference.	2/25/2020 4:57 PM
15	Stronger direction for central government support	2/25/2020 11:30 AM
16	See previous answer - quantify the problems and solutions, look at all issues rather than discounting items without analysing them.	2/25/2020 11:00 AM
17	As mentioned previously the findings are equally applicable to TA's wider roles despite the once over lightly on biodiversity. Interesting that this wasn't covered given the importance of taonga management through NPSIB and treaty settlements	2/25/2020 9:29 AM
18	Less emphasis on a one size fits all approach	2/25/2020 9:26 AM
19	Rather than the usual drivel of create more CCO's, leverage balance sheets, why can't the commission actually report on the scary cost of actual results such as what is now Wellington Water, the FENZ model etc before even looking at Akl	2/24/2020 5:20 PM
20	see previous comment, no point focusing on how Councils are funded if ratepayers can't see a benefit from rates and/or can't afford them. There should have been a much greater focus	2/24/2020 4:18 PM

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	on Councils living within their means and controlling their costs rather than just looking at new ways to fleece rate payers	
21	A good balance has been struck and the findings appropriate	2/24/2020 4:14 PM
22	Didn't identify that sourcing from rates leads to inadequate funds for councils AND unhappy ratepayers who can't sustain the rate rises constantly above inflation.	2/24/2020 3:02 PM
23	Consider increasing council ability to borrow and / or recommend significantly increased central government funding	2/24/2020 2:52 PM
24	Simplify the process	2/24/2020 2:41 PM
25	By adopting a fundamentally 21st century world view	2/24/2020 2:28 PM
26	It seems that the inquiry had already decided that the current rates based funding model was it's preferred option and never seriously investigated and considered other options e.g. regional gst	2/24/2020 2:17 PM
27	More work was needed to understand the internal policies, practices and procedures of central government organisations that play a role in local government funding and financing. Also, the report would have benefited from reflecting the changing political and legislative context to ensure the report was up to date.	2/21/2020 11:07 AM
28	The use of incentives appears to have been dismissed. At best the report's recommendations might incrementally improve things at the margin but it will not drive the sector change that is required. A competitive tax model would have done so.	2/18/2020 11:33 AM
29	The report needed to include a recommendation addressing the serious issues the Commission identified in its Draft report about poor incentives on local government to facilitate housing development.	2/17/2020 11:43 AM
30	There should have been a toolbox of options for local govt as part of the recommendations. The current situation is broken and unsustainable and the report doesn't acknowledge that problem or look to address it.	2/16/2020 3:11 PM
31	by radically changing the funding method to include all the population instead of using a land tax.	2/14/2020 4:58 PM
32	See earlier comment about presentation...	2/14/2020 9:21 AM
33	See previous comment	2/13/2020 4:59 PM
34	While some measures would have a positive impact the recommendations are relatively timid, when we are operating a non-sustainable model here in NZ. Moving more funding from government level to local levels could have encouraged more community engagement and solutions.	2/13/2020 12:01 PM
35	symptomatic of how thoroughly undermined and miscast is public engagement in political processes, improvements to the approach and recommendations from my POV would appear to be an impossible as of the Commission. Much, much greater representative public engagement and corresponding public discourse on questions such that the Commission addresses would have lent legitimacy and power to recommendations. How to achieve quality general public engagement in the contemporary moment I do not know? Our environments and opportunities for qlty public discourse are whittled down to stumps as traditional media has denigrated itself to become baying, reactionary, populist and shallow. Our elected representatives (national/local) respond more attentively to near-term interests as dictated by Party than they do to their electorates. The recent trend of stacking "consultation committees" with high profile middle managers, professional director classes, technology disruptors and ex-shot putters does worse than nothing to increase the stock of public representation and general engagement.	2/13/2020 11:37 AM
36	I think it underplayed the value of local government having incentives to see economic prosperity in a region. As would happen with an income based revenue source, as central government has at the moment.	2/13/2020 8:50 AM
37	By focusing on who pays and the tangible benefits (as determined by independent cost benefit)	2/12/2020 7:12 PM
38	See earlier comment for Q3	2/12/2020 5:14 PM
39	The inquiry squired around some fundamental problems of local government finance. It was far too timid.	2/12/2020 4:32 PM
40	The inquiry points the finger at local councils to improve their practices and efficiencies.	2/12/2020 4:08 PM

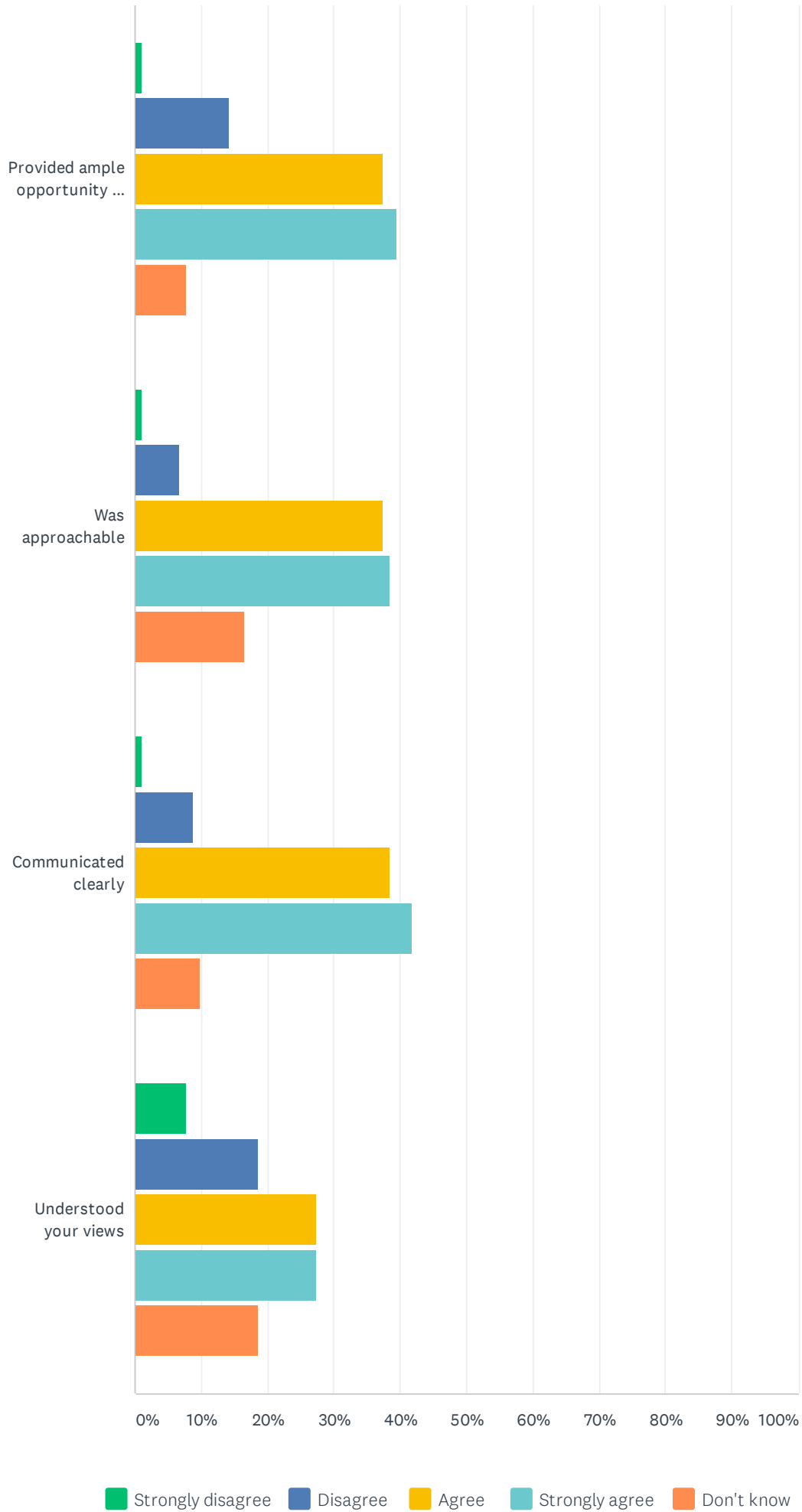
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Even when a council has a sterling record, a great credit rating and a good excellence ranking, it has not been possible to reduce rates without drastically cutting level of service. Recognising that NZ has one of the lowest local funding levels of the developed world, it ignored the conclusion that central funding could be devolved locally to better allow councils to meet local needs - ie funding libraries, swimming pools, halls, sports facilities. The current rating system is broken, the restrictions on DCs and other funding mechanisms are crippling, and this report has shown less frankness and honesty about the current situation than the Shand report. Using local government as the whipping boy seems to give central government a get out of jail free card. The aging population with high capital assets and low income has also been largely ignored - how will our elderly pay their rates?

41	It would have been to have seen more analysis in the report on how much different sectors pay in rates across the sector and for each council, but I acknowledge this isn't easy to get out of councils. Good though that there was a recommendation to this end.	2/12/2020 3:19 PM
42	By acknowledging that LG has developed into a self preservation organisation which has all but ensured that elected representatives have little influence into the day to day running of their respective councils. The gagging clauses in codes of conduct have ensured that factor	2/12/2020 3:00 PM
43	the analysis and recommendations would be different if simpler business models had been considered.	2/12/2020 2:29 PM
44	Comparative analysis of costs associated with different institutional arrangements.	2/12/2020 2:26 PM
45	See previous comments. Added pressures around climate change, 3 waters and treaty settlements will impact heavily on ratepayers, with central government typically several years behind in any supporting funding (if at all). The recent announcement on infrastructure funding typifies government thinking - 10 years too late and the problems have been allowed to compound requiring further investment which will be too late again. Local government have had to resort to "Just in time expenditure" to keep rate rises in check. This has been a subject of criticism from the Auditor-General of under expenditure in infrastructure levelled at LG, where it should be squarely placed at Central Government - they control 85+% of the total tax take in NZ	2/12/2020 2:24 PM
46	That is a hard question. A lot of course is individual interpretation, needs at the time etc. Listening to people carefully brings out the answers.	2/12/2020 2:16 PM
47	Need a view of what the impact is for and what other efforts it may have had reference but Auckland transport said they had released 85 new car parks but didn't say the had removed around 45 car parks misleading info	2/12/2020 2:16 PM

Q7 During the inquiry, the Commission:

Answered: 91 Skipped: 9

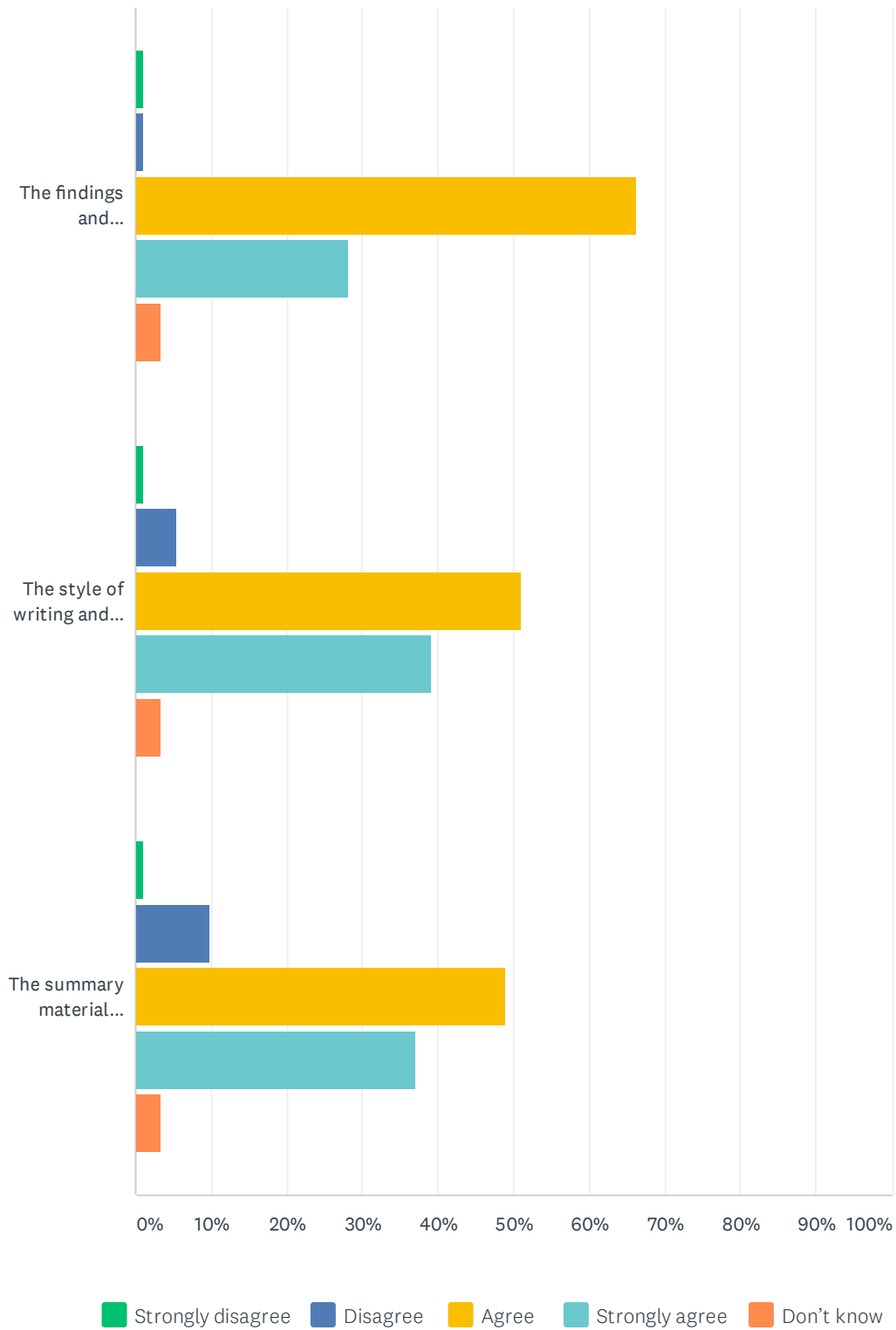


Local government funding and financing survey

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Provided ample opportunity to participate	1.10% 1	14.29% 13	37.36% 34	39.56% 36	7.69% 7	91
Was approachable	1.10% 1	6.59% 6	37.36% 34	38.46% 35	16.48% 15	91
Communicated clearly	1.10% 1	8.79% 8	38.46% 35	41.76% 38	9.89% 9	91
Understood your views	7.69% 7	18.68% 17	27.47% 25	27.47% 25	18.68% 17	91

Q8 In the inquiry reports:

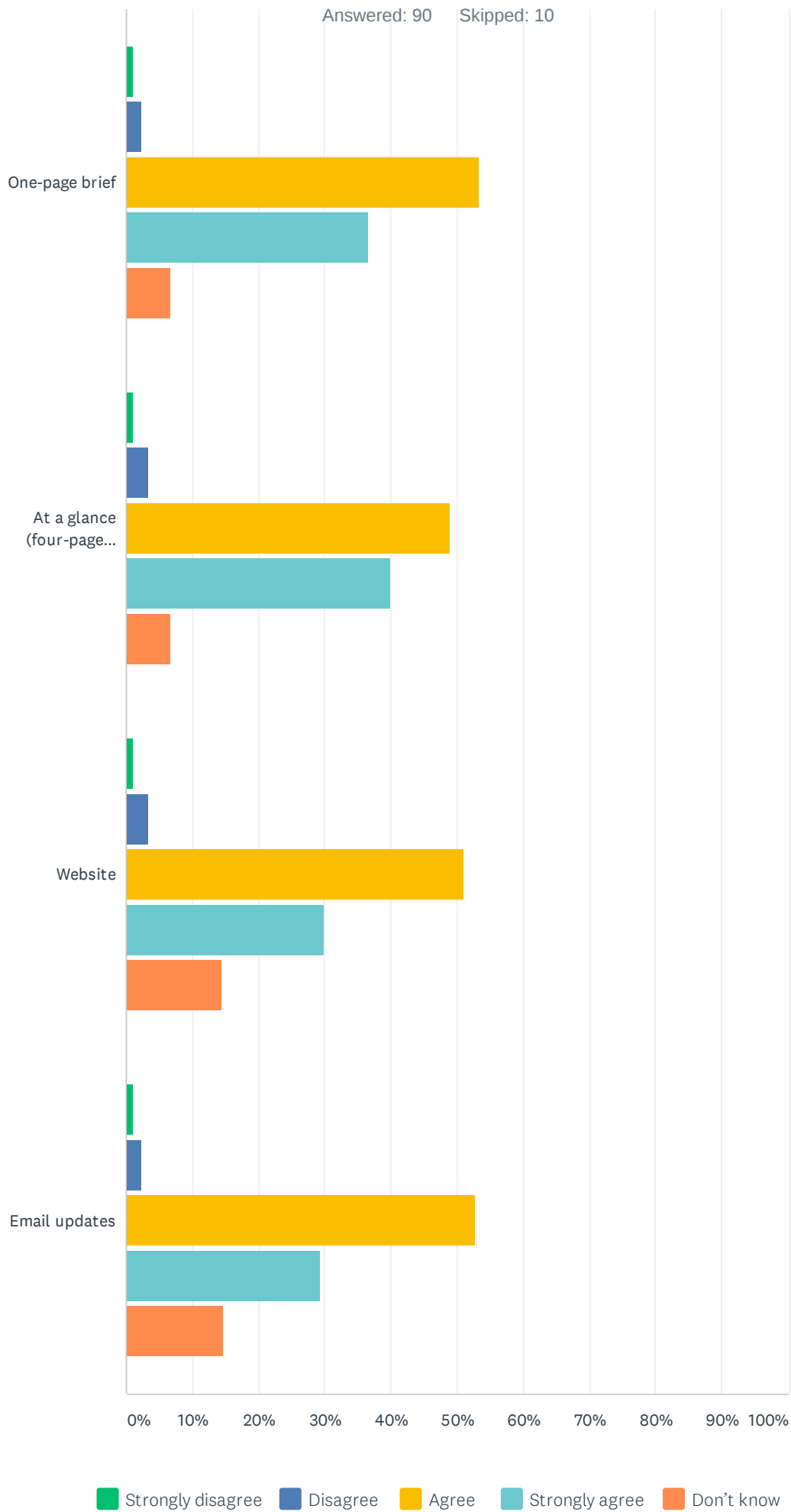
Answered: 92 Skipped: 8



Local government funding and financing survey

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
The findings and recommendations were clear	1.09% 1	1.09% 1	66.30% 61	28.26% 26	3.26% 3	92
The style of writing and language used was clear	1.09% 1	5.43% 5	51.09% 47	39.13% 36	3.26% 3	92
The summary material provided was useful	1.09% 1	9.78% 9	48.91% 45	36.96% 34	3.26% 3	92

Q9 The communications materials were clear and easy to understand:



Local government funding and financing survey

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
One-page brief	1.11% 1	2.22% 2	53.33% 48	36.67% 33	6.67% 6	90
At a glance (four-page summary)	1.11% 1	3.33% 3	48.89% 44	40.00% 36	6.67% 6	90
Website	1.11% 1	3.33% 3	51.11% 46	30.00% 27	14.44% 13	90
Email updates	1.12% 1	2.25% 2	52.81% 47	29.21% 26	14.61% 13	89

Q10 How could communication have been improved?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 74

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The report is written carefully to avoid message uncertainty. In places it comes across as verbose and repetitive, and could have been edited more tightly. At over 300 pages with small print, a full read is challenging. While key points and conclusions in each chapter help, an option is to consign detailed analysis to appendices. Cross-referencing is good and the website very well presented.	2/27/2020 10:10 PM
2	Bearing in mind that the Inquiry itself was principally intended to further explore the 'affordability of rates for households' arising out of the core conclusions of the 2007 Inquiry, The shallowness of the Findings and Recommendations relevant to this aspect, amounting as they seem, to a repudiation of this concern: is a complete disappointment. What, for example was the Commission's findings related to 'affordability' for business or other tax efficient entities like trusts? Are not household's, meaning those individuals paying the rate demands on property owned in the personal identity of the occupier, nevertheless disadvantaged in comparison with businesses and trusts?	2/27/2020 8:05 PM
3	There were a few things that lacked clarity (and therefore required more engagement) in the draft report - the final report was much improved.	2/27/2020 12:18 PM
4	Happy with it.	2/26/2020 3:12 PM
5	I consider the Productivity Commission's publications to be an exemplar of simple clear writing style and effective summaries	2/26/2020 11:01 AM
6	Comms were ok but the message was BAU.	2/26/2020 6:28 AM
7	Communication was excellent	2/25/2020 4:57 PM
8	no recommendations	2/25/2020 11:32 AM
9	Less is more: those interested had every opportunity to participate and officials at all levels were easy to engage with	2/25/2020 9:37 AM
10	Communication was excellent.	2/25/2020 9:27 AM
11	Na	2/24/2020 4:15 PM
12	The ability to participate was very restrictive - those already in the know about the issues, those who are articulate enough to get their views across ie you missed the views of 90% of Kiwis.	2/24/2020 3:03 PM
13	Clearer, simpler less busy presentation in emails and on website	2/24/2020 2:54 PM
14	staff were really good	2/24/2020 2:51 PM
15	N/A	2/21/2020 11:08 AM
16	It was the change of approach between the draft and the final report which was the issue. If you are going to raise expectations with a draft then you would be wise to put in place a good communications strategy if you subsequently depart from that draft.	2/18/2020 11:35 AM
17	There was a 180 degree turn from the draft to the final report. Communication about that change was non existent and is as if local govt concerns and input was ignored.	2/16/2020 3:13 PM
18	Actively Engaging with submitters	2/13/2020 12:03 PM
19	As it was, fine. Simpler would have been preferable. Detail consigned to technical endnotes. I worry that many people would not have had the capacity, even if they had the inclination, follow the materials. And surely these people would number in the majority. And therefore, they're all but unrepresented.	2/13/2020 11:41 AM
20	By listening to who pays, not those that spend	2/12/2020 7:13 PM
21	Publishing the draft report in multiple chunks, as parts of it are completed, instead of just one large draft report that takes a long time to read and digest. Not sure if this is feasible, though.	2/12/2020 5:17 PM
22	Communication was good.	2/12/2020 4:33 PM
23	How about meeting with all local councils, and residents outside of Wellington? We never had an opportunity to participate properly, no discussion or two way feedback - a submission is not enough.	2/12/2020 4:10 PM
24	I was very satisfied with the way the Commission communicated with me, both formally and informally.	2/12/2020 3:20 PM
25	Approach the current method of rating and fees and charges gathering as beneficial, only to	2/12/2020 3:15 PM

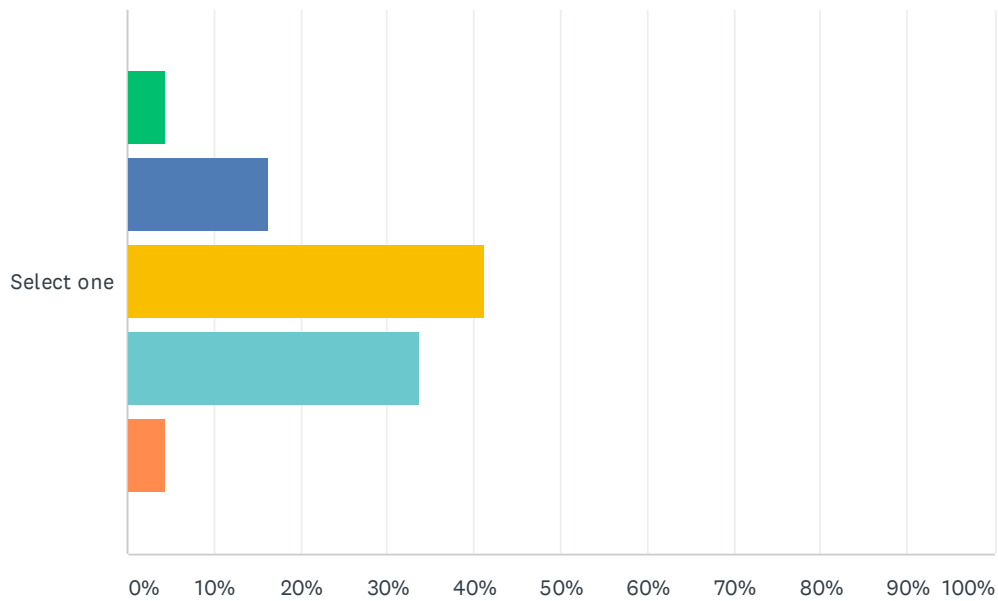
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LG, not the suppliers of the revenue.

26	Happy to give my view so good	2/12/2020 2:18 PM
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Q11 Overall, I was satisfied with the Commission’s process for running the inquiry:

Answered: 92 Skipped: 8



■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree
 ■ Don't know

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Select one	4.35%	16.30%	41.30%	33.70%	4.35%	92
	4	15	38	31	4	

Q12 How could the inquiry process have been improved?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 71

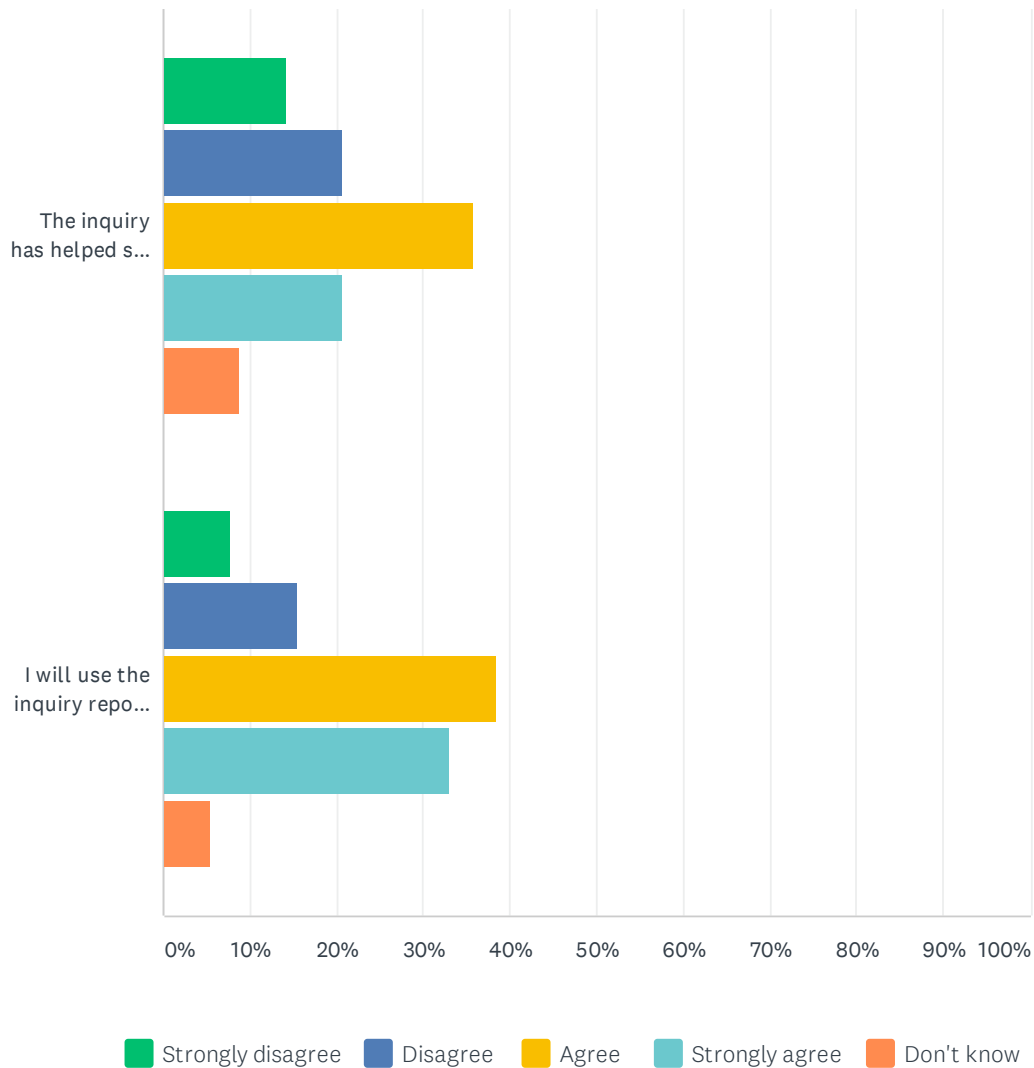
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We spent significant time preparing a submission. It addressed the shortcoming of HCC around "affordable housing" We identified that HCC have lost over \$60m of ratepayers money in the last 20 years. Yet our report has not been referred to as a contributor.	3/3/2020 4:35 PM
2	The conclusion that local government has sufficient tools if it used them is insufficient in the political economy ie incentives and risk re using these are against them. I agree there's more tool but why use them in the legislative environment we have.	3/1/2020 12:34 PM
3	My group had been focused on making submissions on our city council's planning documents with little success. The inquiry opened our horizon. We were given a good hearing at two meetings following our submissions and very satisfied with the process and reflection of our specific proposals.	2/27/2020 10:18 PM
4	Stick to your knitting; do not assume the basics (like accounting and reporting) are being done well without significant investigation. Make sure the basics are right before leaping into higher order issues.	2/27/2020 3:41 PM
5	No suggestions	2/26/2020 3:13 PM
6	Greater depth in their inquiries and with LG.	2/26/2020 6:29 AM
7	As noted the terms of reference needed to be broader	2/25/2020 4:58 PM
8	not applicable	2/25/2020 11:32 AM
9	Preconceived thinking, lack of accurate analysis, and lack of understanding of Local Governments impact on local economies and the causal nexus of cost drivers has limited the results	2/25/2020 11:03 AM
10	by making it open, not taking the very questions off the table that mean the outcome is useless	2/24/2020 5:21 PM
11	focus on cost efficiency as much as new sources of revenue	2/24/2020 4:19 PM
12	It is too elitist, you didn't engage with most of the population.	2/24/2020 3:04 PM
13	Don't run consultation period over Christmas	2/24/2020 2:55 PM
14	process was a good one, just some of the outcomes that I don't agree with	2/24/2020 2:51 PM
15	The Commissions process doesn't allow for enough analysis and original thought	2/24/2020 2:29 PM
16	agree apart from really kicking the big issue	2/24/2020 2:18 PM
17	N/A	2/21/2020 11:09 AM
18	Previous comments apply.	2/18/2020 11:35 AM
19	It could have been more local govt focussed. Didn't seem to get the issues or be willing to grapple with them.	2/16/2020 3:14 PM
20	As ratepayers are footing the bill only their voice should have been heard. The claim "Radical reform is not required; and there is no clearly superior alternative to a property-tax-based system, given the modest scope of local government in NZ" given in the report shows clearly to me that the entire inquiry was predetermined from the beginning and is nothing more than a whitewash intended to shut up complainers.	2/14/2020 5:02 PM
21	More participation and dialogue	2/13/2020 12:03 PM
22	As previous. Commission follows conventional approach and methodology when public consultation is sought. In that regard, the outcome is acceptable. Measured against a higher or more meaningful standard of qlyt engagement and deliberative representation I think . . . clear a space on the self. The public will be unmoved	2/13/2020 11:43 AM
23	Dont bother as you do not listen and cost the tax payer a fortune for no tangible result	2/12/2020 7:14 PM
24	If the draft report was published in multiple chunks, the Commission could have sought early feedback for each one, for example with surveys like these, before entering the formal submission process once the full draft report had been published	2/12/2020 5:19 PM
25	The inquiry ignored fundamental issues that a number of people raised.	2/12/2020 4:34 PM
26	Public meetings with residents and provincial councils to hear the true level of hurt and frustration in our communities.	2/12/2020 4:11 PM

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27	It did nothing to satisfy the need to correct the alarming disparity of incomes and entitlements of LG employees compared to revenue supplier. The power of LG staff without financial penalty is long past being tolerated.	2/12/2020 3:25 PM
28	Well done but as always much will depend on how central government and local government take the recommendations forward. Maybe an improvement would be the Commission being able to periodically publish progress reports on uptake of recommendations from their past inquiries?	2/12/2020 3:21 PM
29	Possibly mroe "one-on-one" with businesses and other interested parties when putting together the draft (and final) reports to ensure views were clearly uderstood	2/12/2020 2:10 PM

Q13 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

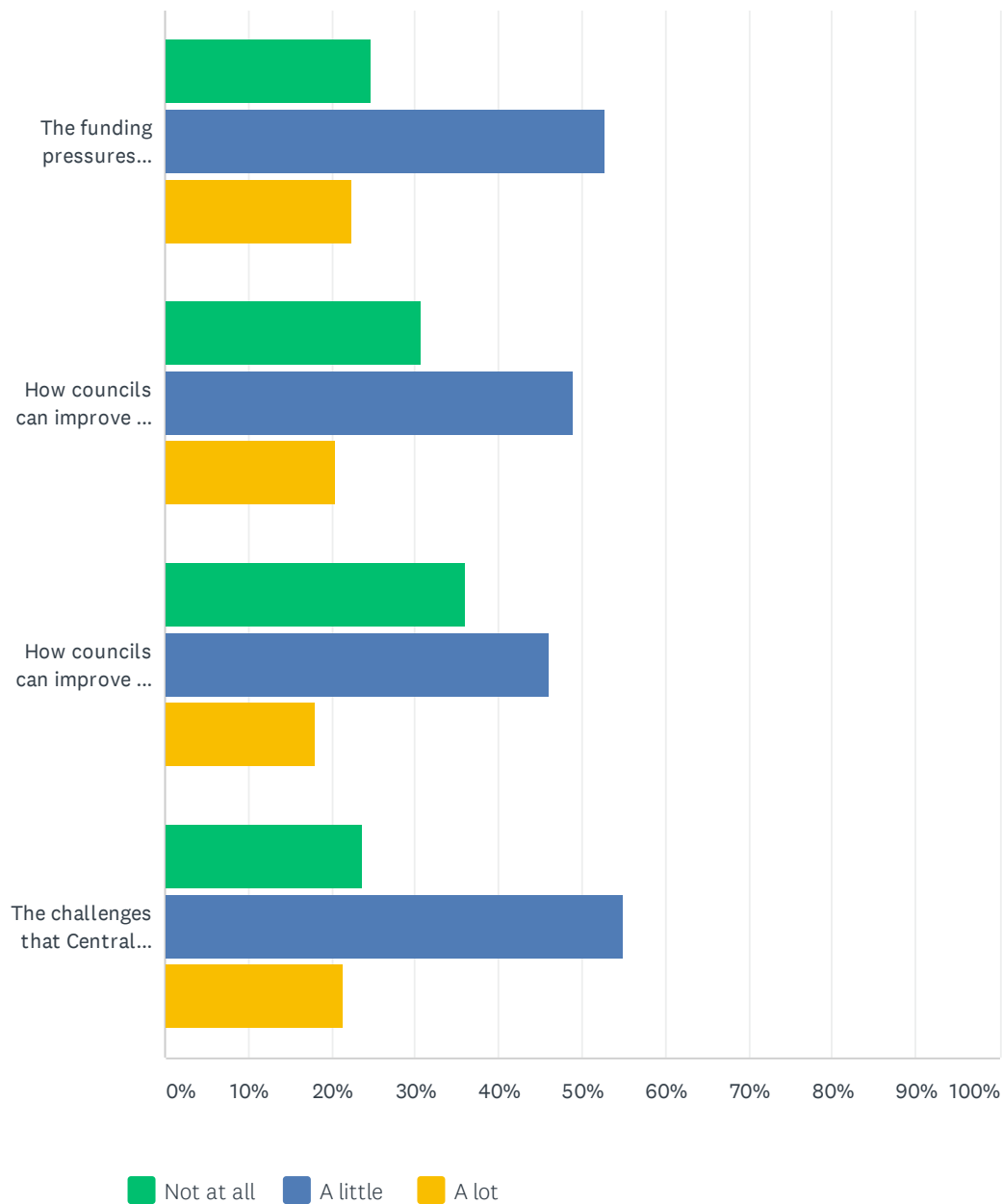
Answered: 92 Skipped: 8



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
The inquiry has helped set or lift the standard in New Zealand for high quality analysis and advice on local government funding and financing.	14.13% 13	20.65% 19	35.87% 33	20.65% 19	8.70% 8	92
I will use the inquiry report as a resource and reference in the future.	7.69% 7	15.38% 14	38.46% 35	32.97% 30	5.49% 5	91

Q14 The inquiry increased my understanding of:

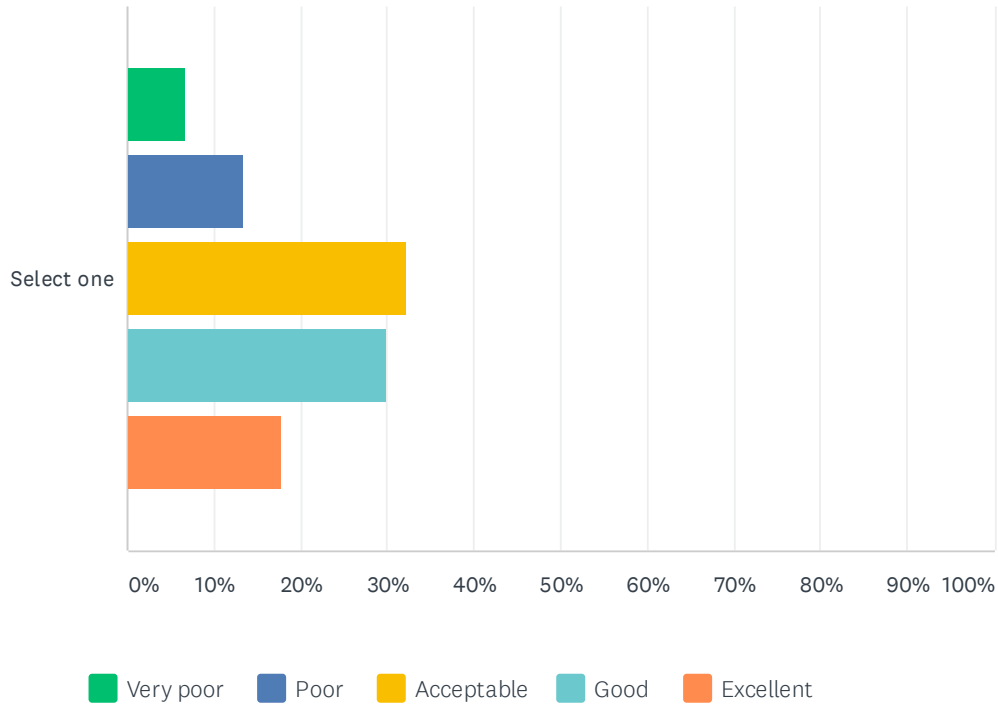
Answered: 89 Skipped: 11



	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	TOTAL
The funding pressures facing local government	24.72% 22	52.81% 47	22.47% 20	89
How councils can improve the use of their existing funding tools	30.68% 27	48.86% 43	20.45% 18	88
How councils can improve the way they conduct business	35.96% 32	46.07% 41	17.98% 16	89
The challenges that Central Government and Local Government face in adapting to climate change	23.60% 21	55.06% 49	21.35% 19	89

Q15 Please rate the overall quality of the inquiry, taking into account the focus of the report, quality of analysis, engagement, delivery of message and process:

Answered: 90 Skipped: 10



	VERY POOR	POOR	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL
Select one	6.67%	13.33%	32.22%	30.00%	17.78%	90
	6	12	29	27	16	

Q16 Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make about the inquiry?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 70

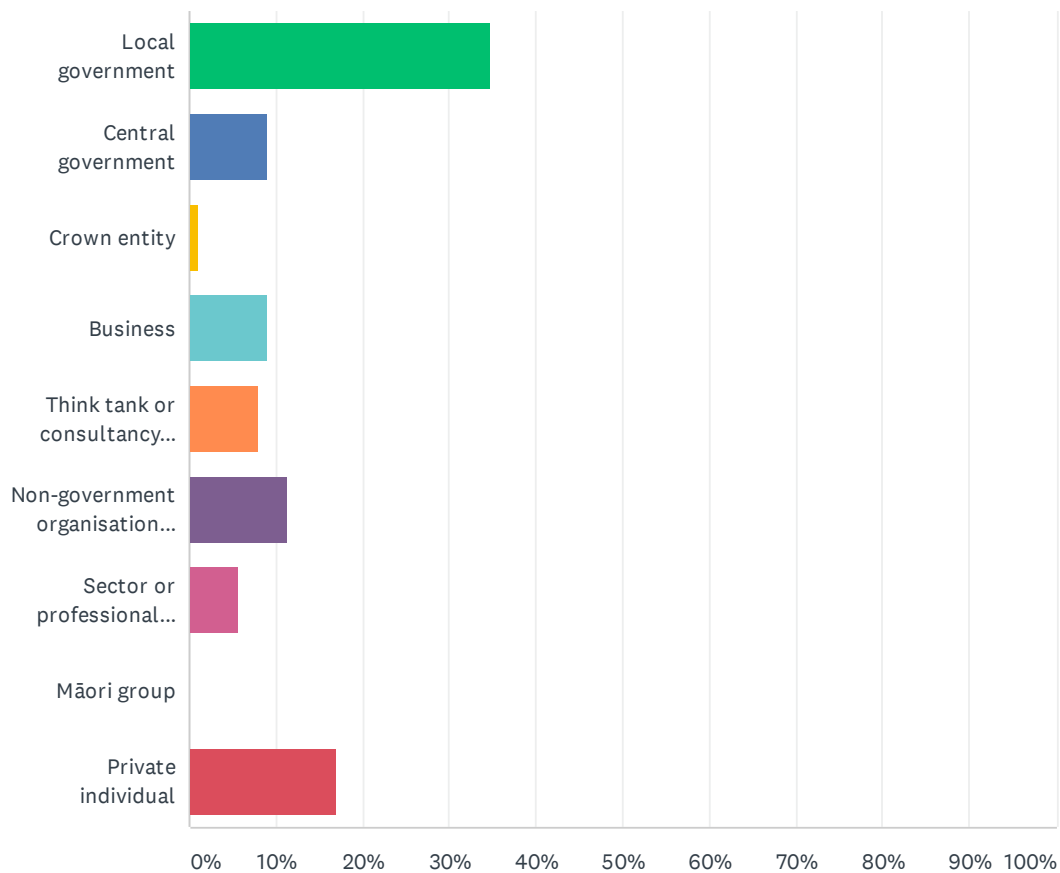
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The report may well act as a catalyst to start the process of essential change that is needed to a sector of the economy that does not operate as designed in legislation and that is obviously under efficient and in desperate need of radical change.	2/28/2020 2:49 PM
2	My overall assessment is between 'good' and 'excellent'. The Commission has produced a comprehensive review that should prove to be a useful reference on funding and financing issues. A final thought is that some ranking of the recommendations across the board (what matters most / should bring greatest gains) might help gain traction and focus the Government response.	2/27/2020 10:27 PM
3	I have said 'a little' in response to the previous question only because the report reconfirmed most of what I already knew.	2/27/2020 9:48 PM
4	My dissatisfaction with the unsympathetic nature of the findings on 'affordability for householders' might possibly be mitigated by the standards recommended for good quality decision making. If in fact these heavy responsibilities for fair, transparent and accountable decision making are implemented by Government and effectively delivered by elected representatives some improvement to 'household affordability should result. Presently, elected representatives are incompetent and do not deserve their local autonomy.	2/27/2020 8:16 PM
5	The problem of local government agency capture by powerful sectoral interests, and how to combat it, should have been addressed in detail. This is a particular problem in small, isolated rural districts, with some wealthy landowners, but a generally low-income and ill-informed population, such as the West Coast of the South Island.	2/27/2020 5:28 PM
6	The observable effects of policy are more important than the theory!	2/27/2020 5:21 PM
7	The report itself was fine, the issue was the issues it considered.	2/27/2020 3:42 PM
8	It's a really hard and BIG topic to cover so I'd say impossible to please everyone. An area for improvement would be to better incorporate feedback given as it often did not change after consultation, not necessarily relating to differences of opinion but rather factual inaccuracies which undermine key recommendations.	2/27/2020 3:23 PM
9	One major recommendation was for Local Government to change from assisting fixed income elderly through a rates rebate scheme to claiming the accommodation supplement, as it could allow the home owner from accessing more financial assistance. This change has been met with scepticism with Local Government	2/26/2020 3:16 PM
10	To clarify my responses to question 15 - my understanding of central and local government funding challenges was already high, so I didn't learn a lot. I am sure others with less existing knowledge would have learned a lot.	2/26/2020 11:09 AM
11	No.	2/26/2020 6:30 AM
12	A realistic pragmatic report	2/25/2020 11:33 AM
13	This is an excellent piece of scholarship and analysis of the framework and issues in funding and financing the services and activities that local authorities deliver. It also collates into one piece of work a lot of other commentary and reporting on this issue.	2/25/2020 9:41 AM
14	reading the inquiry focus it had an air about it that the inquiry was out to prove a preconceived view rather than actually review Council funding. There was little about what the core role of Council is and whether they effectively provide services that meet these core roles, rather it was just about new sources of revenue	2/24/2020 4:21 PM
15	Congratulations on excellent work	2/24/2020 3:05 PM
16	This is such a complex topic and there are very many differences between councils that I think a vanilla report has been the result.	2/24/2020 2:52 PM
17	It addressed moderate issues but you get the feeling it was never really going to address the big one - felt a wee bit 'Claytons' to be honest	2/24/2020 2:19 PM
18	Commission staff are very good to deal with. Generally commissioners are too. I am at a loss to understand why the two versions of the report altered to such a degree and why no one seemed to think that that might cause issues.	2/18/2020 11:38 AM
19	Seems to me a weak report that doesn't grapple with the problems inherent in local government funding. Was disappointing that no real solutions were offered. In fact the report seems to say that things are honky dory when we know they are not.	2/16/2020 3:17 PM
20	I think the inquiry was a joke and yet another waste of money meant to distract ratepayers	2/14/2020 5:04 PM

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	from the real problem, which is that the council system is corrupt and needs to be discarded forthwith.	
21	Would have liked to see implications of implementation of various options better evaluated with predicted outcomes.	2/13/2020 12:06 PM
22	It might have been better if the inquiry had a slightly wider brief to understand the incentives and role local government has, or lacks, in improving local economic performance.	2/13/2020 8:53 AM
23	It would be great if qualified members of the public could participate in panels during the development of such reports, similar to how a citizens' assembly works. These panels could take place as moderated online meetings.	2/12/2020 5:23 PM
24	Good intentions often go awry, when those involved are unwilling to courageously confront fundamental issues that are being ignored. Basically, the inquiry has not challenged the local government establishment's status quo. Interesting that even LGNZ was critical.	2/12/2020 4:38 PM
25	This document only encourages central government's unwritten mandate of dismantling local government, and using them as the scapegoat for real problems. I was really hoping for some funding options that local councils could put into practice to assist residents.	2/12/2020 4:15 PM
26	My response to your exercise dated 16/12/2019 gives a clear understanding of some of the points that apparently weren't considered.	2/12/2020 3:41 PM
27	As always well done and thank you for the opportunity to engage and for your engagement with me.	2/12/2020 3:22 PM
28	The report did not go into enough depth about next steps, how are the findings going to be implemented, or will this be another report, with no real change.	2/12/2020 2:50 PM
29	The inquiry itself was well run and inclusive. The issues I have are around the conclusions which leave LG exactly where we were from the changes in the late 80's. Prior to then, government funded much of the infrastructure, as well as roads. Education, health and welfare were largely funded adequately. It can be argued that all these areas are now demonstrably underfunded and subject to ridiculous and costly changes according to party policy at each election.	2/12/2020 2:33 PM
30	No	2/12/2020 2:20 PM

Q17 What type of organisation do you primarily represent?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local government	34.83%	31
Central government	8.99%	8
Crown entity	1.12%	1
Business	8.99%	8
Think tank or consultancy firm	7.87%	7
Non-government organisation or community group	11.24%	10
Sector or professional interest group	5.62%	5
Māori group	0.00%	0
Private individual	16.85%	15
TOTAL		89

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#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I am involved but do not represent anyone other than myself to safeguard all parties	3/2/2020 10:17 PM
2	Informal group concerned about our council's effectiveness and efficiency	2/27/2020 10:33 PM
3	Previously a local authority CEO for many years	2/27/2020 9:49 PM
4	also a a private individual who has fully financed home ownership out of tax paid income.	2/27/2020 8:19 PM
5	Have spent 21 years as elected rep on Local Council	2/27/2020 4:23 PM
6	I was pleased to provide some input to the Commission	2/25/2020 11:34 AM
7	Officer of Parliament	2/17/2020 4:58 PM
8	Residents and ratepayers - key stakeholder	2/12/2020 7:15 PM
9	Residents Association	2/12/2020 3:42 PM
10	In local support groups and sport clubs	2/12/2020 2:22 PM