

An underwater photograph of a diver in a blue wetsuit and mask swimming through a large school of black and white striped fish with long, thin tails. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above. The diver is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking towards the school of fish. The fish are densely packed in the center and foreground, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Lord Howe Island Marine Park

COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

Lord Howe Island Marine Park

COMMUNITY VALUES SURVEY

Lord Howe Island Marine Park is one of six marine parks within the New South Wales (NSW) marine estate and was first established in 1999. Located in the Pacific Ocean, approximately 600 kilometres from the coast of NSW, the marine park covers 480 km² of the NSW marine estate, including the waters surrounding, and seabed of, Lord Howe Island, Balls Pyramid and the South-East Rock. Its unique environmental and geological characteristics support the world's most southerly shallow water coral reef, seagrass beds, and a vast array of marine species.

The Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) recognise the importance of input from the Lord Howe Island, and NSW mainland population to help guide marine park management planning.

On behalf of the Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) - Fisheries engaged the professional services of EY Sweeney to undertake an independent community survey program with a diverse array of stakeholders, including residents of Lord Howe Island, subject matter experts, Lord Howe Island

Marine Park Advisory Committee members, community bodies, marine park users or visitors and the mainland population.

The primary objective of the program was to identify community and stakeholder values (environmental, social, cultural, and economic) for Lord Howe Island Marine Park, and the perceived threats to these values. The outcomes from this community survey will inform a risk assessment for the values of the Marine Park, and the preparation of a management plan for the Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

This document provides a high-level summary of results from this community survey, across four areas of consideration: Environmental values, Economic values, Social values, Cultural values. The threats to these values were also identified.

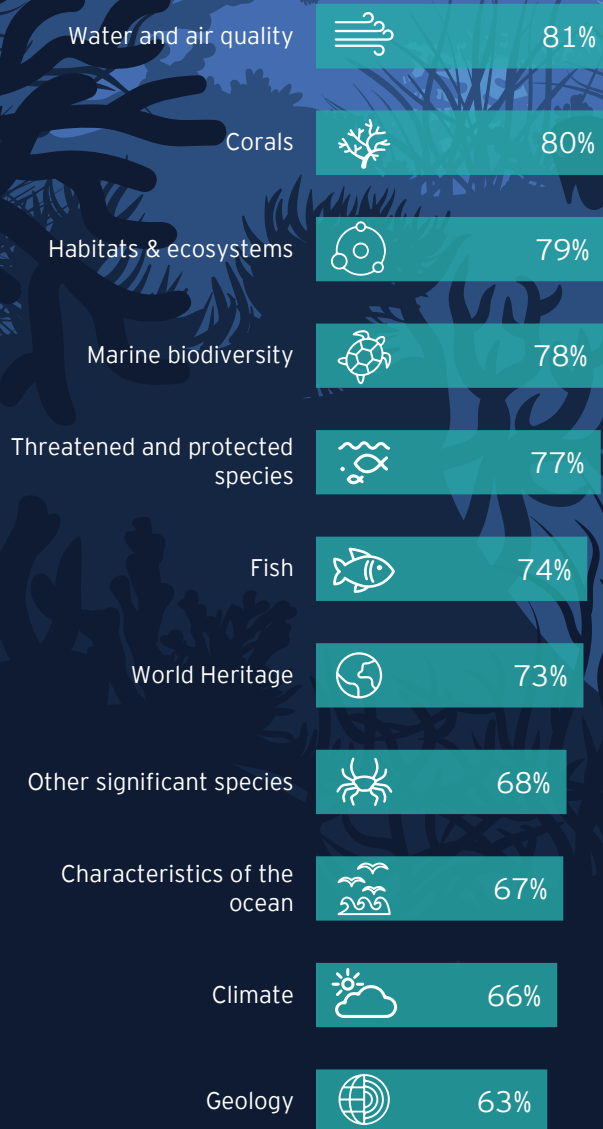
Over the following pages, all quantitative results have been derived from a representative sample of NSW residents and an opt-in survey with residents and visitors to Lord Howe Island.

Summary of the approach



Environmental values

NSW residents are highly conscious of the natural environment within, and surrounding Lord Howe Island Marine Park. Water and air quality, as well as corals, unique habitats and ecosystems are top considerations for the public - highlighting the importance they place on the preservation of marine flora and fauna. The geology and ecology of the area is also recognised to be highly important.



“

I think there needs to be more regulations and education around damaging/maiming sharks during fishing as there is a culture... of bycatch.

Lord Howe Island resident

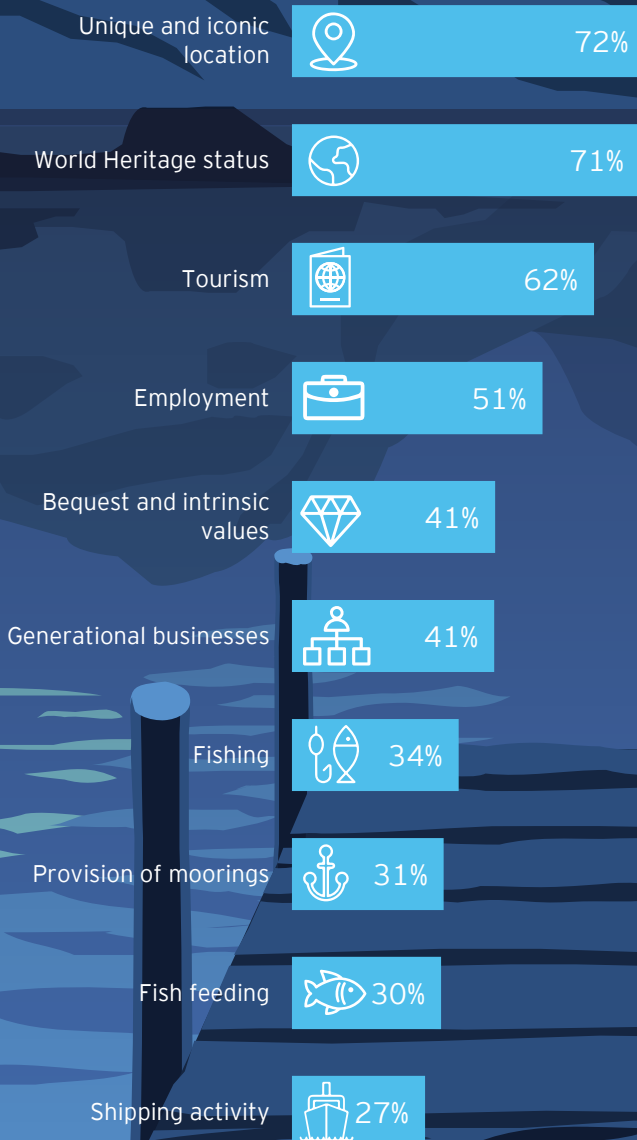
“

The LHI Marine Parks [sic] are truly unique - the only place I have visited with such a pristine, untouched, and continuously monitored marine environment.

Visitor to Lord Howe Island

Economic values

Lord Howe Island Marine Park supports a thriving tourism economy, driven by the unique location and dedication of the Lord Howe Island community. The Marine Park plays a key role in driving economic opportunities, through tourism, employment, fish-related activities and shipping.



“

Proposed foreshore and marine developments have the potential to adversely affect the coastal marine environment.

Lord Howe Island resident

“

It is very important to not overly exploit Lord Howe Island for economic purposes and the protection and preservation of the island should be the most important factor in any decisions made with regard to the island because if the island and its fauna and flora are not protected then there is no value to the island.

Visitor to Lord Howe Island

Social values

There are a variety of social benefits and values related to Lord Howe Island Marine Park including physical and mental health benefits, which can benefit the overall wellbeing of the NSW community. The people of NSW feel a connection to nature in the Marine Park and many say a key benefit of the Marine Park is the ability to leave something valuable for future generations.



“

I believe the interactive relationship developed with the ocean and its marine life whilst spending hours underwater observing the behaviour of fish fosters a deep and genuine desire to protect.

Lord Howe Island resident

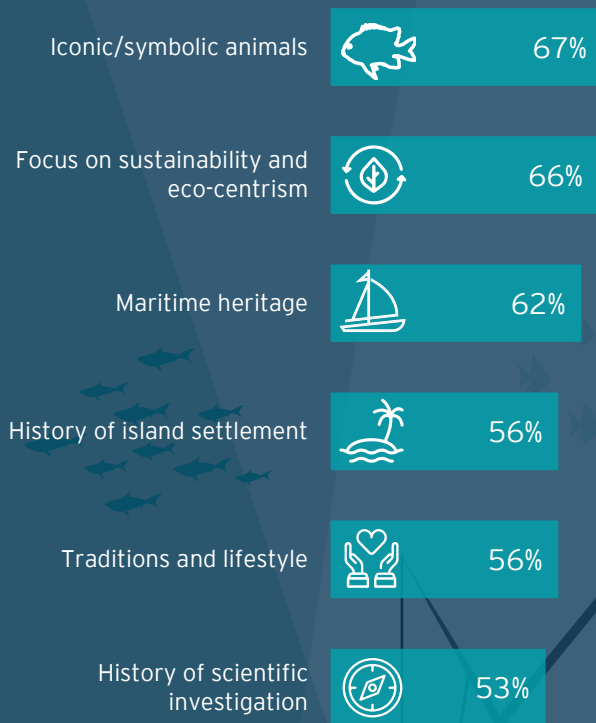
“

Special places like this need to be monitored and protected so our future generations can enjoy them as we have.

NSW resident

Cultural values

There are a range of iconic symbols and animals that represent the unique and diverse cultural history of Lord Howe Island. Maritime heritage is a key focal area for Lord Howe Island Marine Park. The NSW mainland population recognise this and place a high degree of value on these parts of the island's history as a result.



“

The cultural practices that are protective of living creatures their habitats and the environment, their history, buildings and wrecks, should be respected and encouraged.

NSW resident

“

The locals are the ones who are consistent. They are the ones who have been here for six, seven generations (...). Often when [government] executives come in (...) they don't have cultural or environmental knowledge to back up their decisions.

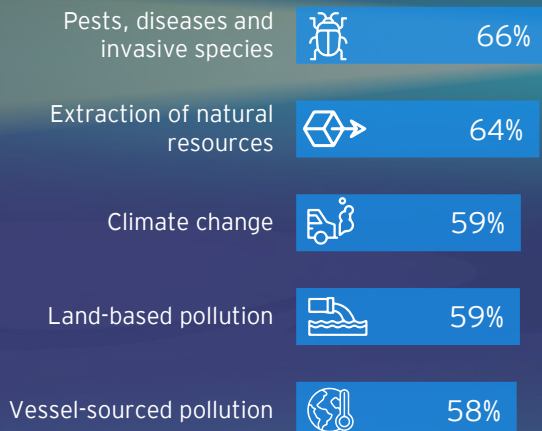
Lord Howe Island resident

Threats to values

The community identified a range of potential threats to the values/benefits offered by Lord Howe Island Marine Park. From an environmental and social perspective, pests, diseases and invasive species are recognised as key concerns. From an economic perspective, losing its World Heritage status is seen to be a primary risk (although the likelihood of this occurring is limited). Finally, at a cultural level, damage to historical sites is recognised as a potential issue for regulators and marine park managers.

TOP 5 THREATS TO

Environmental threats



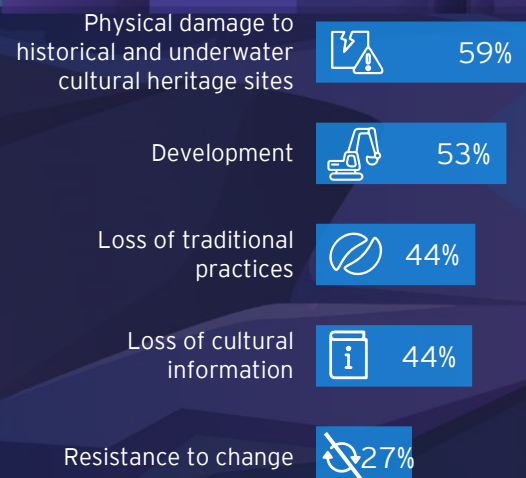
Economic threats



Social threats



Cultural threats



EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

About EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

EY refers to the global organisation, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organisation, please visit ey.com.

© 2024 Ernst & Young, Australia.
All Rights Reserved.

ED None.

eysweeney.com.au

Report disclaimer

This EY Report may be relied upon by The Department of Primary Industries (DPI - Fisheries) for the purpose set out in the Scope section only pursuant to the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 June 2023. EY disclaim all responsibility to any other party for any loss or liability that the other party may suffer or incur arising from or relating to or in any way connected with EY report, the provision of EY report to the other party or the reliance upon EY report by the other party.