

## Boulevard Lights 2022

### Resident Consultation (April 2022) - Summary Report



*Prepared by*  
Arts & Culture Team

#### OVERVIEW:

- The Boulevard Christmas Lights is a resident-initiated event originating 60 years ago which has been supported by Banyule Council over the past 16+ years through traffic management, programming and event infrastructure.
- In recent years the event had attracted between 7,000 and 10,000 visitors a night, prompting Victoria Police to raise ongoing concerns regarding the high-risk levels at the event due to the mix of vehicles and pedestrians on this scale.
- In 2020 State Government directives regarding public gatherings due to COVID-19, made it impossible for the event to go ahead at all. Despite some protestations, residents mostly complied by not decorating and community stayed away.
- In April 2022 Council officers surveyed local residents to gain perspective about the Boulevard Christmas Lights, including how future Boulevard Lights celebrations are best planned and managed.

#### EVENT FOOTAGE

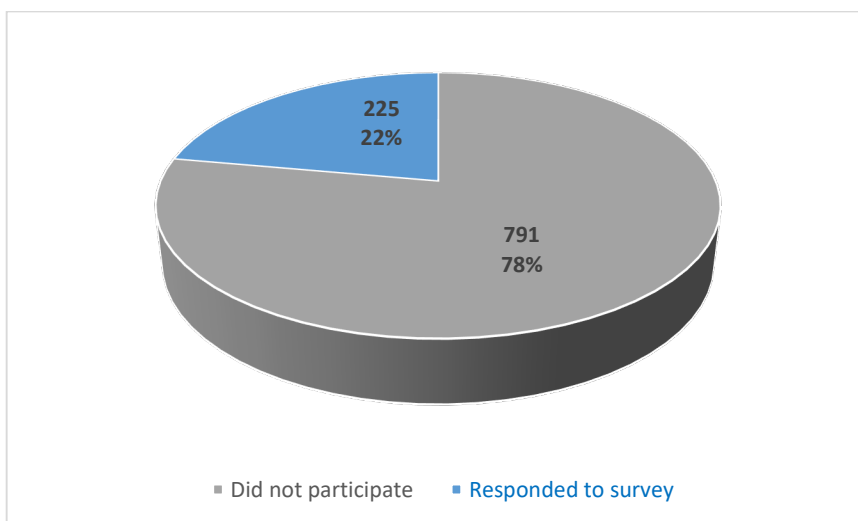
[The Boulevard Christmas Lights | Ivanhoe 2018](#)

## WHO PARTICIPATED?

The survey was mailed to 1,016 residents living on The Boulevard and in surrounding streets affected by previous traffic management plans. A mix of handwritten, and online surveys were completed.

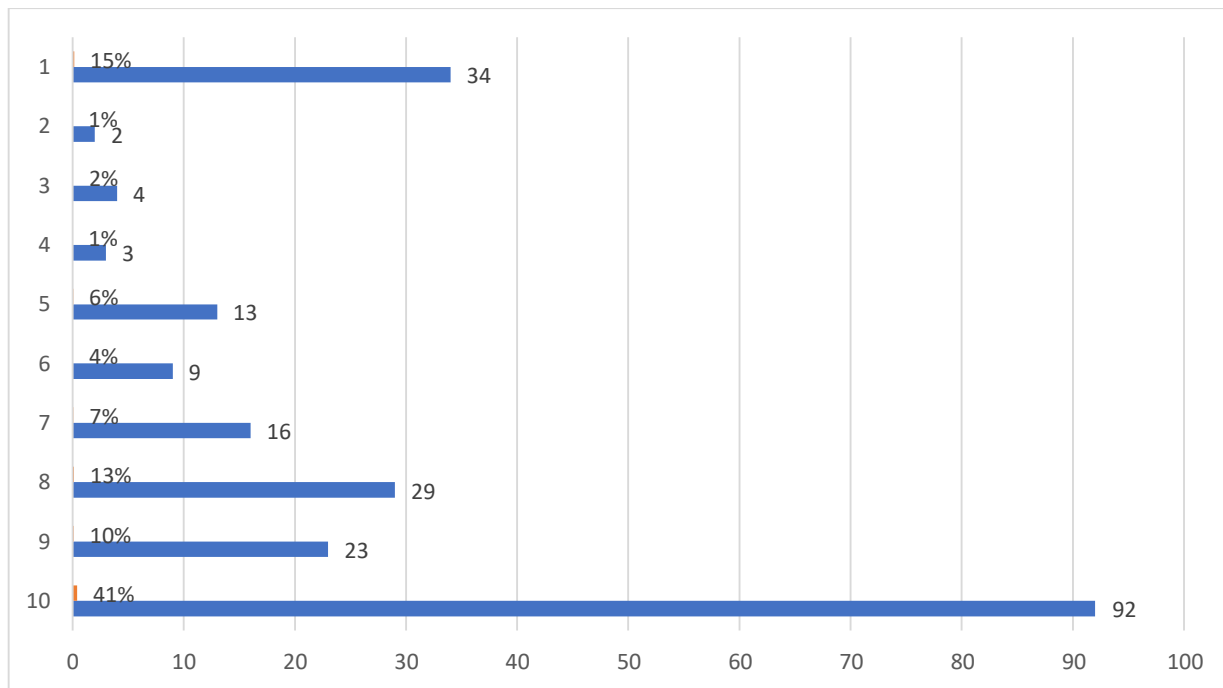


Total Responses: 225 = 22% response rate.

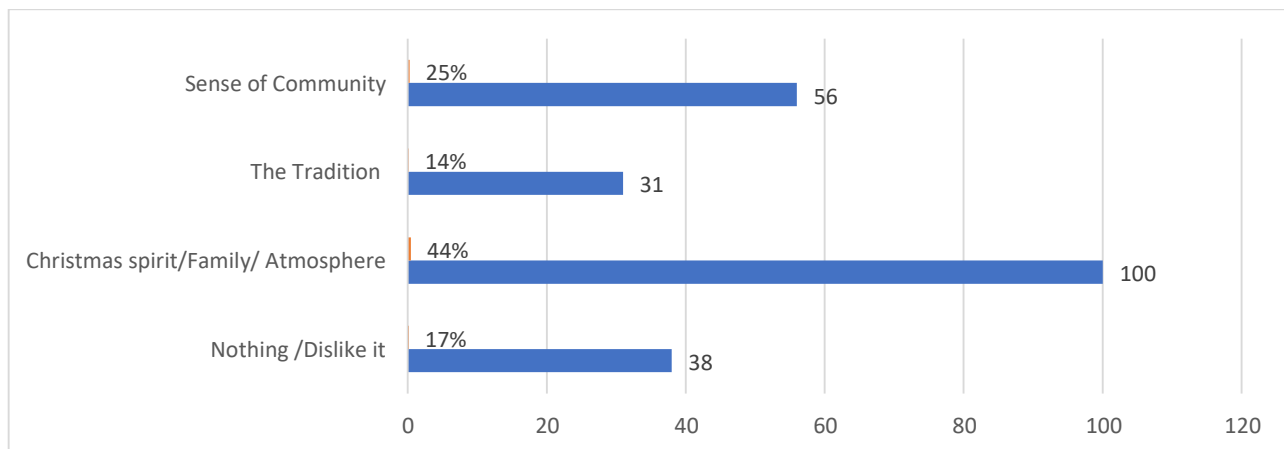


**Q1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is the Boulevard Christmas Lights tradition to you?**  
(1 = not at all important; 10 = extremely important)

81% of respondents (182 people) rated it between 5 and 10, with 51% rating it as a 9 or 10.



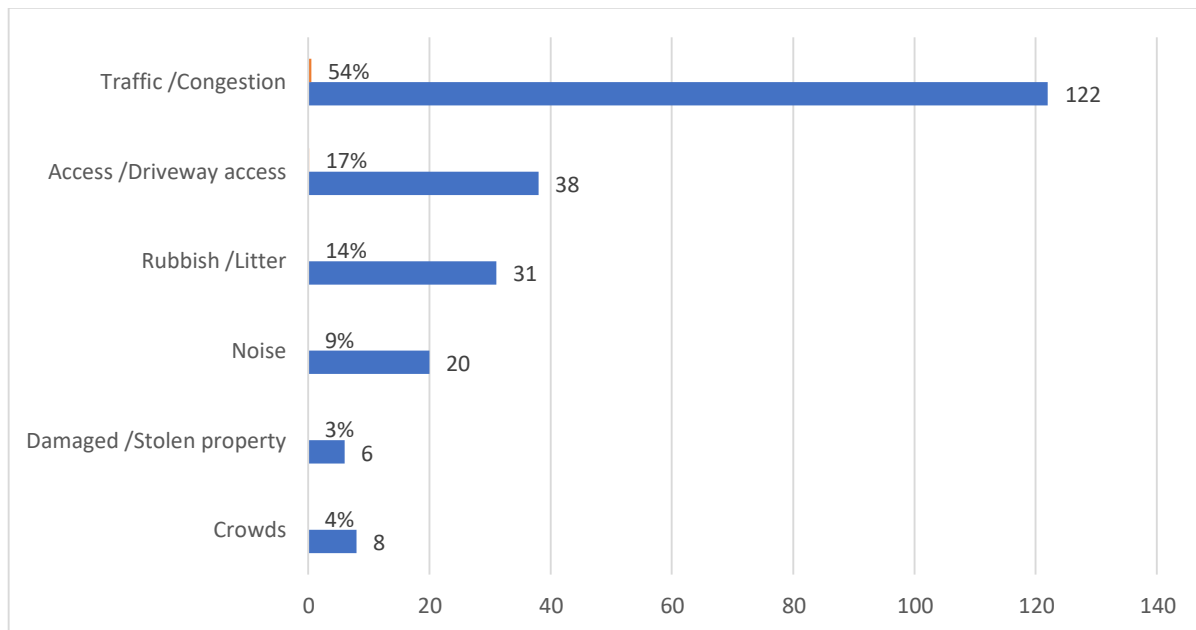
**Q2. What do you value most about the Boulevard Lights?**



Overall, 83% of respondents (187 people) indicated they would like to see the Boulevard Christmas Lights continue.

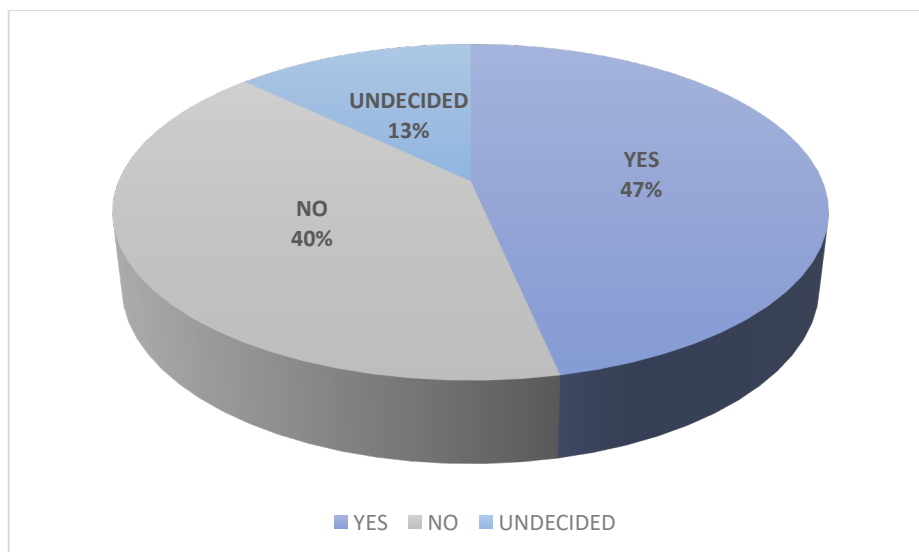
### Q3. What challenges or negative impacts do you experience due to the Boulevard Lights?

71% of respondents (160 people) listed traffic congestion and/or access to their home as the biggest impact.



### Q4. At this stage do you plan to decorate your home?

105 Respondents answered Yes, 91 stated No and 29 were undecided at the time of survey.

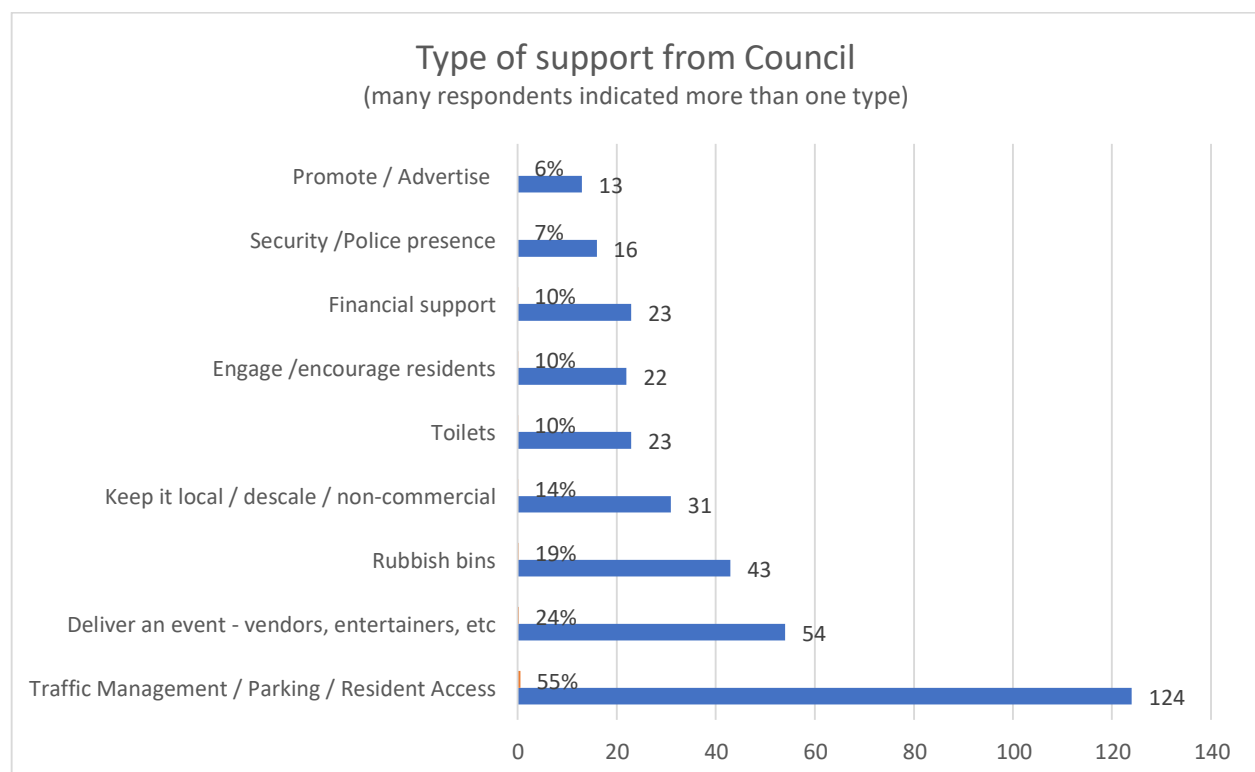
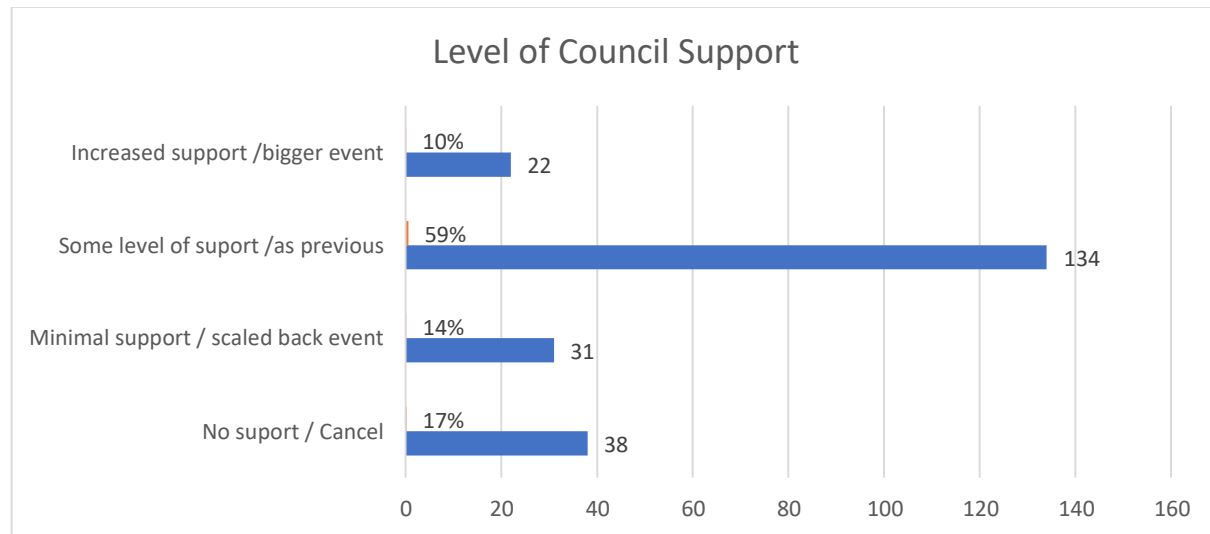


Of the respondents who indicated they want the Boulevard Lights to continue (187 people) – 23% (43 people) stated they do not plan to decorate this year, and 13% (24 people) were undecided at the time of the survey.

### Q5. In your view, how can Council best support this community tradition into the future?

83% of respondents indicated they wanted some level of support from Council.

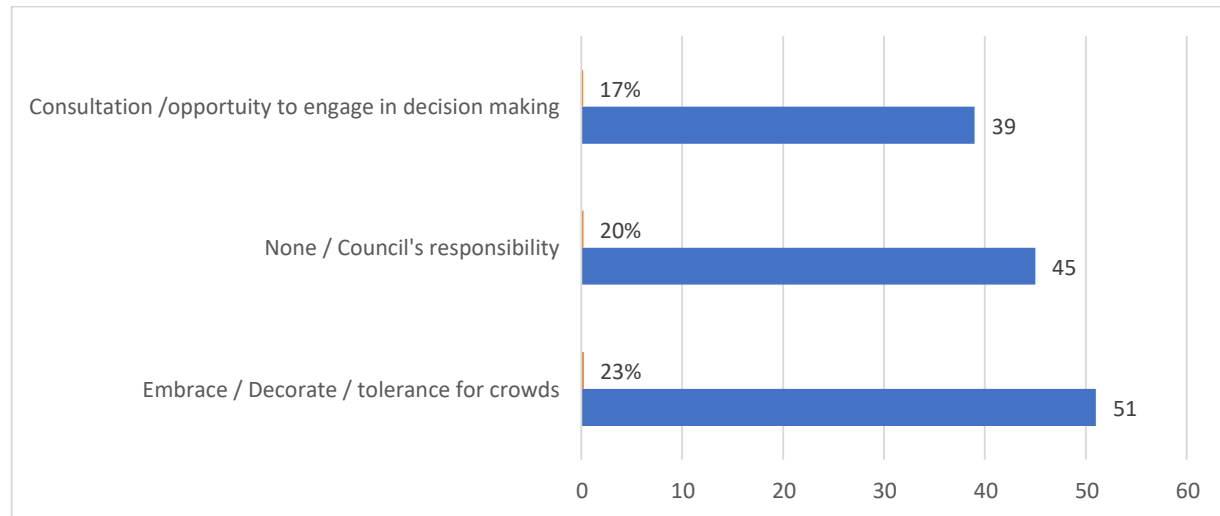
31% of respondents indicated they would like to see no or minimal support.



## Q6. What role do you feel the local community should take in how the Boulevard Lights are managed and celebrated?

There was some confusion around this question, with many respondents repeating their views on how Council should provide support for the Boulevard Lights, or not answering at all.

Dominant themes that were apparent were a desire to be consulted about the event (17% /39 people), a wish for locals to embrace the tradition and participate in decorating (23% /51 people), and that this question was either not applicable or that it was Council's responsibility to manage (20% /45 people).



## Q7. Additional responses

52% of participants (116 people) provided further comments. These have been grouped by theme below.

