

# RiverConnect Draft Strategic Plan 2017-2022

## “What You Said” document



The information collected over the six week Draft RiverConnect Strategic Plan consultation period has been processed and included into the Strategic Plan 2017-2022 in collaboration with RiverConnect partners. There were twenty seven community survey responses, seven agency responses and five emailed responses. RiverConnect representatives also collected feedback from community members at thirty one community events, activities and meetings between Monday 13 February and Monday 27 March 2017.

The information is presented as follows:

1. Comments and Emailed Responses (qualitative data).

This data includes references to the relevant section of the plan, the comment and the outcome/action of the comment.

2. Survey Responses (quantitative data)

- a. Agency/Organisation Survey
- b. Community Survey
- c. Event Survey
- d. Overall Survey Responses (comparable data only)

The priorities indicated by the surveys will be used to inform annual planning in line with partners' strategic direction and funding availability.

Please contact RiverConnect on 5832 9700 or [riverconnect@shepparton.vic.gov.au](mailto:riverconnect@shepparton.vic.gov.au) with any questions or enquiries related to this information.



In partnership with: Department of Education and Training, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, Goulburn Valley Water, Parks Victoria, Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative, Word and Mouth and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

# 1. Comments and emailed responses (qualitative data)

Theme	Keyword/Topic	Comment	Potential outcome/action
Partners, Signatures, Summary	Signatories	SMULG should appear as one of the signatories on the inside front cover.	Signatory's page is for program partners as per the Terms of Reference, SMULG is a broader stakeholder project partner.
		GVW will continue to assist River Connect to implement programs where suitable (including educational programs and activities which contribute to improved water management and quality objectives), and will nominate a member to sit on the Implementation Advisory Committee.	Noted, complete.
	Summary document	Strategic Plan Summary This could be improved/clearer if it included the long-term goals, aspirational targets, indicators, actions etc (not the content but the concept as part of the plan's hierarchy). E.g. how do these things relate to the priorities and 5-yr targets? The priorities are called Connection Priorities in the Summary and Strategic Priorities in the body of the plan.	Noted, changed to connection priorities, but think summary contains most of content needed to give a clear overview of what is in strategy.
		In the priority list although some of the points link to tourism a little such as art and culture and private enterprise I think a key area clear priority that could be including in here is tourism and visitor economy initiatives aimed at showcasing this key tourism product to the nature tourism market. Also do we need a clear priority in there around indigenous tourism/ education specifically? Understand this is just broad level framework list but we think the wording could be tweaked to make the tourism element stand out more.	Noted, language around tourism strengthened throughout.

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	RiverConnect is a partnership between numerous land management agencies, stakeholders and community groups.	Included 1.1.
	<b>Where is RiverConnect?</b>	The focus area is the Goulburn & Broken River areas surrounding Shepparton and Mooroopna; with the Shepparton Regional Park & Lower Goulburn National Park being the two priority areas. Murchison and Toolamba may be included in the future.	Included 1.2.
		It would be good to include a range of locations beyond Shepparton and Mooroopna for RiverConnect activities and projects. Daunts Bend and Campbell's Bend come to mind.	Noted, all communities are able to be involved but primary focus area is for projects along river, improved description in 1.2.
		Expand coverage - consider other non-river towns.	Noted, all communities are able to be involved but primary focus area is for projects along river, improved description in 1.2.
		Broaden reach of project with schools in municipality.	Noted, all communities are able to be involved but primary focus area is for projects along river, improved description in 1.2.
		Can the project be extended to the entire municipality?	Noted, all communities are able to be involved but primary focus area is for projects along river, improved description in 1.2.
		Interested in project area being extended and include projects in Arcadia.	Noted, all communities are able to be involved but primary focus area is for projects along river, improved description in 1.2.
		Expand the project to include more around Seven Creeks, use the wetlands for regeneration works etc.	Noted, all communities are able to be involved but primary focus area is for projects along river, improved description in 1.2.

	<b>Strategic Plan</b>	The plan aims to make the river environments a place for greater community use, education and a place of cultural awareness.	Concept covered.
		Funding and operational staffing are key to this partnership. GBCMA & City of Greater Shep contribute \$100,000 annually to this program. Parks Victoria currently contributes limited funding in terms of direct financial contributions however Parks Victoria does contribute in-directly through ongoing park management, staffing, management of visitor facilities and delivery of interpretation, information and education. Parks Victoria will look at calculating our in-kind contributions and including that commitment to the plan.	Included 5.2.2.
		Parks Victoria is investigating options to further support RiverConnect in the II&E field and to manage operational aspects of this project through formal agreements and alignment of projects and priorities.	Comment, included 5.2.2.
<b>2. Vision, purpose and values driving goals and priorities</b>	<b>Vision</b>	Maybe the vision could be "connecting" rather than "connected". I strongly agree that all 4 goals are very relevant to the aspirations of visitors to Greater Shepparton. Whilst the goals talk about the direct benefits for our local community, the offshoot is that visitors engaging with the river will also have benefits for the community (social - community pride, economic - increasing length of stay, and environmental if our visitors are also respecting the river environs.).	Noted. Connected is the end point of the ultimate vision.
		Vision - could be phrased river and wetland environment, so as to encompass the aquatic and terrestrial interface. In the "vision and purpose will be achieved by..." - add in "community benefits of.." Value 1 - don't think the second part is clear or needed - should be broader than project design and delivery.	Noted - was discussed through workshopping, is encompassed with wording.

	<b>Targets</b>	Another 30km of bike paths are proposed in the future which is supported by Parks Victoria and will be captured in the draft Red Gum Management Plan.	
	<b>Priorities</b>	Increased access to the river and the river environment is a priority.	
		Licensing of City of Greater Shepparton assets located within the Shepparton Regional Park is a priority and is being progressed.	
		Resilient and accessible may be difficult to achieve simultaneously (disturbance factors etc).	Comment, projects will be considered for their benefits to both resilience and accessibility as IAC believes these to be interrelated.
		Removal of rubbish determines if all of the other priorities can be achieved. No-one wants to have activities along a dirty, polluted waterway.	Comment, agreed.
		Litter management is listed as a major issue and a high priority. The issue of litter in this landscape is a major community issue which needs to be addressed by all parties. Potentially the Environmental Protection Authority & DELWP should play bigger roles in managing this issue.	Noted included RARE action 4.
		I believe that increasing and improving access will open up opportunity for all other aspects, particularly if there is a reason for people who wouldn't usually access the river environment by providing commercial ventures (i.e. boating or cafe) and by continuing to educate the next generation.	Comment, agreed.
		Community engagement and education is so important with our beautiful river areas. I would love my children to learn about how our river was/ is important in Bboriginal culture.	Comment, agreed.

	Climate change.	Noted, included in care goal section.
	Would love to see fishing encouraged. We need a usable boat ramp with facilities for parking, toilets, picnic. Could also act as a parking area for walking tracks or rest area for cyclists or bus parking for cultural/education visitors. Should have a large eco-friendly caravan and camping park in the bush and alongside the river - this would be great for tourism and could manage/maintain public spaces like a boat ramp and picnic area. Bush camping tourism is huge in places like Cobram and Echuca, but we could have a controlled environment and attract tourists who want to camp but also want facilities. The fact that ski boats do not use our rivers is a huge selling point.	Noted.
	Extend the outlet pipe behind war memorial then I'll in old river bed, extend levee from bridge to current princess park that would create large garden and car park on edge of CBD that then connects us directly to the river Tier the levee to the water edge and grass it . Requires considerable fill which over time could come from developments that currently goes to waste long term but need to truly make River accessible at water level. Lift weir height at cemetery to increase water level/ flow Clean up The tributaries upstream of Shepparton Need increase in environmental river flow from storages on broken.	Council priority is for Eastbank Lake project, much of this may be satisfied by Eastbank Lake.
	Build more resilient and accessible river environment - most important.	Comment, noted.
	No more funding from Council. It receives enough.	Comment.
	Why don't we have tree planting days along the river to replace natural decline?	Comment, see resilient and accessible action plan for planting projects.

	<b>Goals</b>	In relation to the frog reference on p8, we wondered if the following species would be the most relevant to include: Murray cod; Trout cod; Fat-tailed dunnart; Nankeen night heron; Broad-shelled turtle.	Noted, updated 2.4.1.
		A paragraph mention of weed control in the river and wetlands environment in the "Increase care of" section. Also edit to Marsh Frog	Noted, paragraph not considered necessary but language strengthened throughout.
		On Page 9 add under "increase care of riverine environment " a specific target for weed control. Performance could be assessed by weed mapping.	Noted, actions around decreasing priority weeds included in ETC action 5, RARE action 4 and 5 year target.
<b>3. Current Environment</b>	<b>Attributes and Issues</b>	Shepparton is a community of great diversity and as such the community have varying needs.	Comment, see 3.1 for similar comment.
		Overall in my opinion as CEO it is a start to ongoing development. Epistemology could have been a part of the plan, again YYNAC need to add, this adds to the strong links of Aboriginal community and an education toll. If connecting Aboriginal people it needs to go beyond the contemporary to historical. Cultural environmental management systems prior to occupation could tell an ancient way of viewing the landscape. This is related to language/cultural biodiversity, interlinks of space, time and spirituality landscapes.	Agreed, will look at opportunities and strengthening partnerships.
<b>4. RiverConnect Achievements</b>	<b>IAC evaluation</b>	p.24 of Plan - what works well. Add in partnerships, e.g. GMLN.	Section is about information received during initial consultation.
		Page 16 SMULG should be in the achievement section as we Partner with Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.	Noted, included in 4.3.
	<b>Achievements</b>	More than 6400 people have participated in RiverConnect events with 6800 students spending more than 10,000 hours at the river. This is a	Comment.

		great outcome.	
	<b>Strategic Links</b>	GSCC Economic Development, Tourism & Events Strategy.	Noted, included 4.6.
		I believe the plan should acknowledge Yorta Yorta Nation as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the planning area and the Yorta Yorta Co-operative Management Agreement 2004 which covers much of the RiverConnect planning area.	Amended 4.6.
		There are 2 key requirements that have been neglected to be included which are the Cooperative Management Agreement 2004 and the Cultural Heritage ACT 2006 which requires YYNAC to have a governance role in this area of the Goulburn. These are legally binding processes of the VIC State Government and requirement of Local Council also to take a more proactive role in Joint Management and protection of the environmental cultural landscape.	Noted amended 4.6.
		The plan also should acknowledge the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the need for compliance with this act in any works undertaken by RiverConnect.	Amended 4.6.
		The plan also should acknowledge the Victorian Heritage Act 1995 which is soon to be updated.	Amended 4.6.
		The focus area falls within the area covered by the River Red Gum Management Plan with a draft plan due for release in coming weeks. Key themes in the draft plan include: Protection and awareness of cultural values, protection of the River Red Gum Environment, providing educational opportunities, promotion of recreational activities including fishing, camping & boating. All of these aspects fit under the Parks Victoria Shaping Our Future plan which focuses on Connecting people &	See 4.6.



		parks, Conserving Victoria's special places and Providing benefits beyond boundaries. The outcomes from this plan will help shape and influence future projects delivered by RiverConnect.	
		Healthy Parks Healthy People are recognised in the plan.	Noted, see 4.6
		Gemmil's Swamp upgrades (tables, paths, signage) and Kaieltheban Park upgrades (caravan stopover, boat ramp, beautify) mentioned in Mooroopna Community Plan.	Noted, Community Plans acknowledged in 5.2.1, projects to be included in River Masterplan.
		Links with Arcadia Community Plan including signage, strong knowledge of European history in area and increased use of river.	Noted, Community Plans acknowledged, projects to be included in River Masterplan.
		Shepparton Mooroopna Framework being worked on that may take in some of the ideas of the River Masterplan.	Comment, await development of framework.
		p.25 Include Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy 2016-2021 as a key sub strategy of the GBRCS.	Noted, included 4.6
<b>5. Action, implementation, evaluation</b>	<b>Actions/Key Projects - Engage the community</b>	Building on our comments re: support for engaging with disengaged you, Lighthouse if investigating the potential of opening another "Haven" in Mooroopna to support a-risk youth. There may the potential to partner here to provide activities for participants.	Noted, follow up in future.
		Partner with "The Haven" and/or alternative education settings to offer outdoor activities along the river for disengaged youth.	Noted, included ETC Action 2.
		We are glad to see that engagement with vulnerable groups has been incorporated. We are happy to be part of the discussions on how best to	Noted.

		implement this, following Lighthouse's extensive consultation with the audience.	
		Fairley Foundation has good money around for projects involving young migrant groups.	Suggestion, alternate funding source to be investigated.
		p.27 Action 2 - Add in Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project as a potential lead.	Noted.
		Include stuffing up the system by Europeans.	Comment, post-contact human impact discussed in various education topics.
		Art, science, maths, philosophy, literature...	The aim of the education program is to encourage use of the river environment for a range of education subjects, including those outside environment/sustainability.
		I know getting the local Aboriginal History into schools has been a priority for many groups. Is there an opportunity to pump this up through River Connect?	RiverConnect will continue promote, support and link schools with Aboriginal organisations to provide education about Aboriginal history.
		Climate change and adaptation.	Theme is incorporated in a number of topics and RiverConnect will continue to investigate future opportunities.
		Perhaps link in with the importance of the river for agriculture, and how we need to work to bring the agricultural and environmental issues closer together to find joint solutions.	Theme is incorporated in a number of topics and RiverConnect will continue to investigate future opportunities.

		Some of the events that have been held so far...night strolls, turtle hugging etc. Is this for everyone, no...but as far as I'm concerned, if 5 people turn up for anything you organise then who cares. Whatever floats people's boats (except art...I totally dislike art)! Keep it up. And I dare say the events may have been well attended anyway.	Comment.
		<p>Last but not least...we should be trying to get as many children as possible fishing! Better than sitting on their arse looking at a screen. Linking this into the river could be problematic! As in, it may be difficult to organise any fishing event for kiddies on the river. Finding a suitable place would be difficult if a heap of people attended. Other issue is the chances of catching carp in the river...this species has to be killed and therefore not a good thing for children's first fishing experience. Mind you, I have been fishing with people when their kids have caught carp and there is no issue when it comes to the killing bit if explained properly to the child. Just not something I think that should be done with lots of people around.</p> <p>Council had some learn to fish days at Vic lake several years ago...maybe last year as well. From memory the weather may have affected it last year but I can remember earlier ones being attended extremely well...once again...I have to use the word shitloads again of people went. I don't think many carp are caught from the lake either which is good. But if fishing the river is something that you would like to promote...then a starting point may be a session at the lake then turn the people loose at their own leisure upon the river.</p>	RiverConnect partners continue to conduct fishing days on a regular basis, and access is recognised as an issue in focus of strategic plan.
		More opportunities to pat/hold/connect with native animals.	Noted. Will consider in future events, reliant on funding.

		More Reedy Rambles.	Noted. Will consider in future events, reliant on funding.
		School holiday programs/activities (daytime, not just evening information sessions).	Noted. Will consider in future events, reliant on funding.
		Clarity around who is running Activities in the Park events or RiverConnect.	Noted. Will improve communication about partnerships.
		Most of the programs EC do are with new arrival women as are often less mobile and more socially isolated, often have an element with child care and art based, possibility of this near river area?	Noted. Will consider in future events, reliant on funding, will follow up with EC and other potential partners.
		More opportunities like Canoeing.	Noted. Will consider in future events, reliant on funding.
		More "Clean Up Australia" days.	Noted. Some consideration in R & A action 4.
		p.26 Action 4. Electronic and printed media seems too narrow.	Noted - changed wording to various media.
		Support teacher professional development, e.g. Flats education/tour. Regularly check in with schools on how to improve school engagement. Understand and learn from factors that have lead to fluctuating levels of participation from schools.	Noted - further investigation recommended.
	Actions/Key Projects - Access and Resilience	Find a spot for solitude silence; easier access for chill/therapeutic spaces.	Noted, will consider in future projects.
		Access to river for all abilities - green spaces, picnics etc.	Noted. Eastbank Lake project may provide these opportunities, will be considered in future projects.

		Consider gradient on paths and access points for wheelchair/all abilities people. Potential to engage with team to measure gradients and provide input into future planning or maps of area to promote for all abilities.	Noted, see ETC Action 1.
		Link Paths network more with the Cycling/Movement and Place Strategy.	Noted. Follow up meetings planned.
		Update Access Map to include map of all abilities access points.	Noted, see ETC Action 1.
		The river is under used as a recreational resource special for kayaking as access is very unsafe. The steps opposite the lake should be removed or upgraded as I would not let any of our club members risk their safety or equipment damage by using these steps.	Noted, upgrading access points identified, further investigations required as to location of upgrades.
		All good projects. I've probably written this before somewhere, but personally I think that there are behind Welsford street chambers should be highest priority for a project. This is the closest river forest environment to the Shepparton CBD and has had the city turn its back on it for over 100 years. There is amazing opportunity in this area, even though residing in floodzone, including improved access and signage inviting people from Welsford st/CBD, key view points along river, cultural heritage including wharf and old light fittings (as it used to be the town beach)and existing indigenous vegetation including some very large old gums. It could be the key native open space area for Shepparton, including being the link between the lake/Aquamoves, the CBD and Council offices/Princess park precinct. It could be a key education area within the Riverconnect area with a school to adopt the reach and revegetate and conduct maintenance. There are a number of issues with this area including lack of maintenance, weeds, unformed tracks, grass cutting dumping ground for tennis club and need for screening at rear of GV water site. The history of this area is why	Noted. Some elements of this project may be incorporated in Eastbank Lake Project and weed control and revegetation measures. Will consider as part of River Masterplan and in line with VEAC requirements.

		Shepparton is where it is today.	
		[Triple tick at Rehabilitate and revegetate, double tick at Aboriginal cultural events] Why does the project only involve Shepparton? It could be celebrated from Murch to Undera. Make more access at Mooroopna. You'd think the river begins and ends at Shepparton.	Please see 1.2. All Greater Shepparton communities are welcome to be involved; access at Mooroopna has been identified, Murchison also has a flood marker and the school is engaged in the education program.
		The walking paths along the river a real drawcard for Shepparton. We use this facility everyday and a safe way to travel into town with young children whilst enjoying the environment. Look forward to more connections to Botanic Gardens, all the way to 7Creeks.	Comment, included in Paths Masterplan, will be implemented as funding becomes available.
		Clean up the banks, tier areas behind the lake to allow access. The old large sandbars disappeared with the river course alterations leaving a cesspit in the remaining old river bed south of princess park Perhaps extend the outlet piper behind the war memorials to the current river course and then overfill the old riverbed to create parking and parkland on the edge if the CBD. This would take time and expense but could make it attractive like the park created over the area south of the high road around to the old punt. Parking is desperately needed and the area could become a most appealing entry/access to the waters edge. The levee behind Princess Park would need to extend to the bridge and Significant amount of fill would be required to reach a height above	Part of comment will be included as part of Eastbank Lake Project (subject to funding) and some additional project ideas that will be considered. Remainder involves dramatically modifying the natural environment and would not align with "Lighter Environmental Footprint" value driving RiverConnect.

		regular flood level. I think it's around 28ft at Shepp. There's thousands of potential filling dumped at the tip now. Negative to that is that Council would see it as lost revenue. May take some years but in time our river front could look like Mildura, Berri, Renmark, Albury, where lawns and gardens intermingle with parking and river trails	
		Increasing mountain bike tracks around the rivers to bring people to Shepparton. Sculptures, art, local history information each kilometre along the shared paths to entice tourists and families to go out and explore, they must be able to be changed to prevent them getting tired or stale. A link to the old tip site? Picnic spots along the shared paths.	Will consider as part of River Masterplan and ongoing projects. Link to tip site identified in Paths Masterplan - see website.
		Also look to create a safe and user friendly area along the river bank between the causeway and Aquamoves. This would provide a friendly and safe walking link, but also parkland that could be used by city workers and shopping visitors. Would government or private funding be available to establish a native fish aquarium?	Noted, will be considered in River Masterplan. Native fish aquarium is considered outside the scope of this Strategic Plan.
		Access to fishing spots with young children/people.	Noted, access identified as high priority.
		Potential boardwalk from anabranch along river, under causeway and around the river to join near Aquamoves to allow people to get closer to the river, could be good in conjunction with Eastbank Lake Project.	Noted, some elements may be captured in Eastbank Lake and other upgrades in area; subject to funding and infrasture in floodzone requirements that will require investigation and unlikely to be possible within this Strategic Plan.

		How about raising the water level by building up the cemetery weir.	Comment, unlikely to align with government policy, current river management best practice and lighter environmental footprint value.
		Improvements at Gemmil's Swamp - paths, tables, signage - (mentioned in Community Plan).	Noted, will be considered in River Masterplan.
		Improvements at Kaieltheban Park - upgrades, caravan stopover, beautify (mentioned in Community Plan.	Noted, will be considered in River Masterplan.
		Other comments: make the area from Balaclava Rd to CMA offices more visually appealing and accessible for more of a park, not entirely manicured but more appealing and better managed. Consider opportunities and challenges of future development along Welsford Street.	Noted, may be improved through proposed revegetation and weed control and potential projects discussed above. To be considered in River Master Plan.
		Expansion of shared path networks is really important for Shepparton to compete with rail trails (eg high country/Mansfield Tallarook). Need a study of the economic benefits of trails to Shepparton and then get on with expanding the network.	Agreed. Further investigations and funding required in partnership with other agencies including Council Economic Development Department.
		Don't feel safe along the river.	Noted - see IHW Action 4 and RARE action 2.
		Perceived safety along the river is low, talk to Joel (Council Community Safety Officer) re: safety.	Noted - see IHW Action 4 and RARE action 2.
		Possibility of lighting improvements to help with safety.	Noted - to be considered in river Masterplan.



		Toilets - helpful for encouraging access for all ages, particularly if encouraging families to go on big walks or for older people.	Noted - will consider locations and feasibility in River Master Plan, see IHW action 4.
		Should there be an action around improving signage here ? Seems to be missing and is a key conduit for engaging with the community. From a visitor and local education perspective this is imperative and we could aim big for this.	Signage is included in the 2030 aspirational targets and as parts of Paths Masterplan, will also be considered in the River Masterplan.
		Stormwater monitoring should be included as well as Waterwatch as ongoing projects.	Noted. Monitoring benchmarks will be used to measure future improvements discussed in R & A 5.
		Re anti-dumping perhaps more advocate for vouchers and affordable dumping for tip to encourage appropriate waste disposal.	Councils Resource Recovery Centre's operate on a user pays principle, meaning residents pay for the waste they create. Tipping vouchers may encourage residents to generate more waste as disposal would be free.
		Rubbish dumping! What is stopping council or parks or whoever wants to accept responsibility from installing 'trail cameras' at popular dumping sites? Even at entrance tracks to bushland areas. Vehicle comes in with load...departs empty, the owner of the vehicle can at least be questioned about it. Without proof of actually seeing them dumping it you could not prove anything but if the individuals at least get questioned about it...they will think twice about doing it again! And word will spread. Backpackers who camp along the river permanently...I guess they are told to move on at times. Can they be stopped altogether? Or is it hard to differentiate between people camping for a few days and people staying for an extended period while working. Please don't tell me it is breach of privacy to do so as I know an	Noted. Subject to feasibility and funding, will be considered in illegal dumping campaigns.

		organisation that does it...legally. There is a lot of red tape shit they have to go through but I would assume it can be done by any government body.	
		More focus on invasive species.	Noted. Included 2.4.1, 3.1, 3.2, RARE action 4 and long term goal 75% decrease in weeds.
		Groups need to work together better to manage weeds in area, each agency only looks after their patch, need to collaborate in maintenance SCC could share some of the outdoor workers with the understaffed Parks Vic, all know difficulties but it is not impossible to set up a collaborative plan Set up a shared workforce (GV Water, GSCC, Parks, CMA, Landcare, Enviro Group, GM Water). Have volunteer rangers to examine & report. Present plan is not working. RiverConnect must be more involved in the maintenance issues in the riparian zones.	Agreed. Weed control included 2.4.1, 3.1, 3.2, RARE action 4 and long term goal 75% decrease in weeds.
		Concerns about quality of tracks and vegetation in the area near the river in Arcadia.	Noted, subject to land manager funding. Feedback forwarded to partner agency.
		Interested in revegetation work along the river to improve riverbed, potential partnership with RiverConnect and Council's One Tree Per Child, may have some Landcare funding to contribute to a project.	Noted. Potential partnership being investigated.

	Reduce campers littering near river in municipality including Arcadia, not very supportive of camping at river in Arcadia or promotion of camping there as litter is a problem.	Noted, illegal dumping and littering key focus area in Strategic Plan, including RARE action 4.
	Rubbish art to bring to people's attention the illegal dumping.	Noted in SAC action 5.
	Fire pits in river area to contain fires and encourage people to use.	To be considered in consultation for River Red Gum Management Plan - Parks Victoria.
	"Friends of" group may help to create ownership.	Noted, see PGG action 2.
	Stronger language around water quality and causes of decreased water quality.	Improve water quality included in 2.4 and RARE action 5.
	Presently there is a blackberry, bridal veil creeper, moth vine, Madiera Winter Cherry and nightshade are rampant in areas upstream from Aquamoves and towards the confluence of the Broken and Goulburn and Jordan's Bend. Also we feel there should be more liason to increase the involvement of schools.	Weed control included 2.4.1, 3.1, 3.2, RARE action 4 and long term goal 75% decrease in weeds. Re: schools, agreed will investigate future opportunities.
	I would like to see a strategic response from all agencies to deal with the terrible wee problem we have along our rivers and along our bike and walking paths. Three of these areas are the walking track and riverside along 1. Jordan's Bend and right along2. from behind Vic Park Lake on Tom Collins Drive right along the walking track that leads to the convergence of the Broken River. 3. along the Broken River walking paths. The problem is way out of hand and from a tourism, community and environmental point of view is an eyesore. Leading the Spotlights along some of these areas is embarrassing because of the number of weeds. Overseas visitors and out of town visitors often enquire about the plants. I have to point out that they are weeds and the berries	Weed control considered 2.4, 3.1 and RARE action 4, added 75% decrease in weeds along shared path goal.

		poisonous.	
		GVW continues to implement the WaterWatch program which provides data on water quality throughout the catchment.	Comment, noted.
		Regenerate understory, possibly funded through carbon sequestration funding?	Revegetation included which considers species mix. Will investigate funding opportunities.
	Actions/Key Projects - <b>Social and Private Enterprise</b>	we need to highlight the importance of increasing promotion of the river as this links heavily in other key priority areas.	Agreed.
		Not sure if it fits here or Priority engage the community (3 celebrate the river environment through events) or Priority encourage social and private enterprise sections which is around tourism but in the recently adopted economic development tourism and major events strategy action 48 includes diversifying the events base and leverage significant investment in arts and cultural assets support more arts, food, cultural and music events specifically indigenous event (including the establishment of annual large scale event) This is something that could really fit well into the river connect strategy so needs to be considered. We would love to see a large scale flats festival that celebrates indigenous culture in a large scale. It would be hoped that this would become more than a local / regional festival but have state and national significance. This links well with 1, 2 and 3 actions in that section.	Noted Tourism Strategy in 4.6, included comment around Corroboree or Festival in SAC action 3.

	Actions/Key Projects - <b>Art and Culture</b>	Street art – based on the recent success of the aboriginal street art project in the cbd significant opportunity to look to expand this in the river connect strategy particularly as a way of linking to the cbd and new Sam development as part of a big picture thinking trail to further leverage our indigenous tourism strengths. There could be some really interactive innovative ways to link this to river connect that could really help put this project on an even larger scale.	Noted, see SAC action 5.
		Cultural art based projects along the river.	Noted, see SAC action 5.
		Art ideas for side of Dainton's Bridge (Near WAM reach).	Noted, see SAC action 5.
		Identify and build suitable event/activity sites along the river: this is really important from a tourism visitor perspective and word visitor could be included emphasised more around this point.	Noted. Further investigations required. Must consider Light Environmental Footprint value in support for this project.
		Live music, events near river - not just lake focussed.	Noted see SAC action 1.
		RiverConnect could easily be based within an existing education facility. SAM is perhaps not the best fit for this project.	Noted, SAM location no longer considered feasible for "home" project. Will investigate alternate options.
		The redevelopment at Kidstown (food hub etc) will include an education center. Consideration needs to be given as to how RiverConnect will relate to this - could be a potential base for the Project too?	Noted, altered SAC action 4 to be investigate viable location for home inc. KidsTown.
		From memory, it may have been suggested that Riverconnect have some sort of presence at SAM when it is built. Yeah...Nah! The words art and river should not be used in the one sentence as far as I'm concerned!	Comment, noted.

		<p>Interpretative signage around European history around Monash Park, was the beginning of "Shepparton" with McGuire's Punt and old pool - Use Tungamah Signage as an example for Euro Heritage signage.</p> <p>Concerns about carparks at Monash Park and increasing parking in area should the Shepp Post Office Project go ahead and improvements to Monash Park attract more people, will need better parking.</p>	<p>Noted, partnership with Historical Society to be pursued. Subject to funding. See SAC action 3.</p>
		<p>New arrivals often walk in the Lake open space, not so much the paths themselves, particularly women as they have had bad experiences along the paths particularly when wearing hijabs etc. Lake is a common place to "be seen", opportunities for lake orientated events and activities as is a known and sense of safe place for new arrivals. Festivals and events also opportunities.</p>	<p>Comment, noted, will investigate opportunities.</p>
		<p>RiverConnect generally weak on European history.</p>	<p>Comment, noted. Greater engagement being pursued.</p>
		<p>Thinks probably more opportunities and potential with younger people across all new[er] arrival communities.</p>	<p>Alterations to Engage the community - "at risk" groups to At risk and new arrival groups.</p>
		<p>Multicultural communities have an interest in Aboriginal culture, could do multicultural Flats Walk session?</p>	<p>Added to ETC Action 2.</p>
		<p>Home for River Connect - the Visitor Centre in the new SAM development may provide the ideal place for interpretation and info provision.</p>	<p>See SAC action 5.</p>
		<p>Increase Flats Signage.</p>	<p>Noted, consider project as part of SAC action 2.</p>

		The two 5 year targets in the 'showcase art and culture' connection priority are another avenue by which La Trobe University and RiverConnect can partner in a staged level of development over the next five years. In particular, the University can extend invitations to the university community to assist with these targets. Further in regard to 'events and projects to celebrate our shared history and river inspired creativity', University students could become involved in events organised by RiverConnect to this end as part of regular student engagement activities. This would serve to promote closer connection between the University community and the river environments and the community as a whole.	Noted, listed as partner SAC Action 5.
		Would be interested in European history around Monash Park.	Noted in SAC action 3.
		Language around European heritage should be "post-contact".	Comment, decision made to retain current language.
		When upgrading the Flats interpretive signs, the amount of text needs to be significantly reduced.	Comment, noted.
		SAM linkage – huge opportunities to leverage this game changing project so perhaps needs a bit more detail in the document. Also note although a great idea the incorporation of the interpretive centre may be very unlikely. In the new eco dev strategy tourism and major events strategy (as per action 33.3 snippet at the end of the email below) there is opportunity to perhaps look at that further at the Australian botanic gardens as part of a future review into developing a visitor and education / interpretation space / centre. May be something to consider if appropriate.	Noted in SAC action 4.

	Actions/Key Projects - <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Eastbank lake project – as a key game changing tourism and community project this could be highlighted further? Also feel as per notes further below on the priority encourage social and private enterprise section feedback more detail is required around generating commercial opportunities on the river.	Noted, considered as one of a number of significant projects to be investigated and/or supported.
		River crossing – as per above point should we be aiming higher re river crossings (and based what's in the 10 year council capital plan).	Considered unlikely within 5 years with current capital budget planning, but will pursue additional funding opportunities as they arise.
		The major project behind the council and the education is ridiculous! Stop crafting plans for money on infrastructure with no viability.	Comment -contributed to prioritisation.
		Eastbank lake project? No. Waste of money.	Comment -contributed to prioritisation.
		Shared path connecting Toolamba along river to Murchison, can R/C provide support? Toolamba River connection to Old Toolamba	Support for the growth of shared path network in region considered in Paths Masterplan.
		I would like to see the Jodie Ridges Memorial Bike Path included - this is a key link from Tatura into the Goulburn, and will help promote access from our surrounding towns into Shepparton and Mooroopna. I would also like to see path connections from Murchison/Toolamba into Mooroopna.	Support for the growth of shared path network in region considered in Paths Masterplan.
		Supportive of implementation of Paths Masterplan.	Comment - aides prioritisation.
	Actions/Key Projects - <b>Social and</b>	Encourage social and private enterprise - from a tourism team perspective as this priority predominantly relates to visitor economy initiatives in attracting visitors we wonder if wording can be tweaked to	Noted, see SPE Action 2.



	<b>Private Enterprise</b>	clearly indicate tourism / visitor economy type terminology.	
		Develop regional tourism plan - as mentioned above and below council has just recently adopted the economic development tourism and major event strategy the tourism section isn't specifically re river connect but has a number of actions that relate to the Goulburn river parkland and related tourism product. So as such not sure if another plan is required? Happy to discuss brainstorm this more.	Agreed, action removed from section 5.
		I don't think another plan that sits outside Riverconnect's strategic plan and the Greater Shepparton Economic Development, Tourism & Major Events Strategy is what is needed here. The action needs rewording - the intent of the example activities under this target is ideal, but I think asking the communications WG to deliver a tourism plan is beyond the scope of that group. The action should be more around River Connect keeping abreast of and involved in proposals for tourism development and activities within the River connect area - ensuring partners are informed and supportive of wider strategies that encourage tourism activity and are aligned with River connect directions. Similarly, whilst the idea of River connect developing its own tourism marketing plan is great, surely just actions written the overall RiverConnect marketing plan that are designed to target visitors would suffice. What is more critical is that these activities don't happen in silo from what is happening on a broader scale in terms of visitor attractions and engagement - a major action in Council's Economic Development, Tourism & Events Strategy is to review the structure of the tourism industry in Greater Shepparton, especially re. duplication of marketing bodies - it would not be helpful if River Connect was to attempt to become yet another "driver" of marketing activities - makes more sense to leverage and contribute to	Comment, noted.

		existing tourism marketing activities.
		<div data-bbox="521 248 1478 595"> <p>You may not be aware but at the moment the state government is throwing shitloads (not sure exactly so used a generic term) of dollars at getting Victorians motivated to go fishing. You may not be aware that our area (upstream and downstream as well) is a popular fishing camping spot for Melburnians chasing Murray cod etc. Fisheries inaugural Codference (conference talking about cod) was held in Shepparton last December. Yes, here in Shepp as they obviously deemed it to be cod central here.</p> <p>Anyway, I am not sure how but you may be able to promote the fishing aspect to draw people into the area...or make the most of the ones that come here. It may not be a massive economic boost but you may be able to improve the visitors local spending.</p> <p>Reality is they are camping, therefore not paying any money for accommodation. However, they need fuel, alcohol (I don't drink but rumour has it many fishos do), food...more alcohol. Many campers to the area may arrive and be totally independent but you never know. Also, I will admit, I have no suggestions as to how. Several years ago I organised a meet and greet on a fishing forum. Most members were in Melbourne. We met up south of Tatura. One question I was asked...where is a bakery (Murchison in this case)! So they are always after something. Just got to get the message to them.</p> <p>Better access would help as well...just a few spots. Hard I know with fluctuating levels but a couple additional platforms would be great.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1503 248 2018 323"> <p>Fishing will be considered in events and promotional activities where possible.</p> </div>

		<p>Make reference to Eco Dev Tourism and Major Events strategy and incorporate actions - this strategy has a number of actions around developing tourism product that link to river connect. I have done a snippet of these below. Can these please be reviewed and incorporated into this section or as appropriate. Particularly important are items mentioned around:</p> <p>Commercial water and other activities and experiences</p> <p>Nature based accommodation</p> <p>Commercial waterfront activities</p> <p>Explore long term opportunities to establish a riverfront precinct and expansion of Eastbank including commercial opportunities and river activation</p> <p>Linkage to the development of other key tourism precincts and master plans in the Australian Botanic gardens and Kidstown as well further enhancement of the Vic Park Holiday Park and VPL</p>	Noted - see SPE action 1.
	<p>Actions/Key Projects - <b>Education Sector</b></p>	<p>In particular, the tertiary education project target in the 'Inspire the education sector' connection priority compliments La Trobe University's commitment to sustainability thinking embedded in our offerings of undergraduate subjects. We are of the view that this opens the way for joined-up projects which utilise the University's work-integrated-learning (WIL) subjects so they firstly, encourage sustainability thinking vis-a-vis the Goulburn River and Broken River environments. Secondly, facilitate supervised undergraduate research placements progressively to assist with activities which strengthen the Strategic Plan over its lifetime.</p>	Noted, see IES action 1.
		<p>Re the education. There lacks obvious connection to curriculum or support from the key gov departments? Why? What investment are the schools/ed dept providing?</p>	Comment, needs further consideration.

		GVW run extensive educational programs throughout the Goulburn Valley, and will continue to implement programs based on material designed by GVW staff – if opportunities exist to develop shared educational material to meet River Connect objectives they can be discussed with River Connect’s GVW representative.	Comment.
		I think a more complete list of projects will evolve as a result of the updated Plan. This list seems a little premature? Some additional ideas: Hold an annual event for schools to promote the importance of the river to environmental health, community health, sense of place, employment etc - including a range of stories and take-home messages.	Noted, example activities only. Event will be considered as part of Inspire Education.
	<b>Governance</b>	p.31 Consider establishing an education working group.	See below, will explore regular educators meeting.
		Environmental Educators meeting - catch up with all educators may be more useful than meeting with teachers.	Noted, include in IES action 2 example activities.
		p.32 mentions Table 4 (Staffing roles), but this isn't in the document.	Noted, mention removed from Strategic Plan.
	<b>Partnerships</b>	GSLP can be a good connector between organisations and individuals and has the Industry Links Coordinator currently working with Shepparton High School to improve links between curriculum and industry/community.	Noted, included in IES action 2.
		Seem to all be key river connect core issues. Need to maintain and further develop partnerships.	Comment.
		Conservation Management Networks should also be included: Whroo Goldfields and Lower Goulburn both have active networks that should be included. Also there is no mention of Shepp Mooroopna Urban Landcare	Whroo Goldfields considered outside of municipality, Lower Goulburn, SMULG and FOTBG included 5.2.1 .

		or Friends of the Botanic Gardens as partners.	
		To be honest, looking at the organisations involved, it (Riverconnect) appears to me that it is possibly one big tree hugging movement anyway. Please excuse my negativity so far but I do get annoyed a bit at times with some of these mobs. Parks Vic etc.	Comment.
		Social Connections may have some programs that could work as partners.	Included pg 31 in broader stakeholder groups.
		I would like to have the Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group acknowledged for its contribution.	Agreed. IAC appreciative of SMULG's strong partnership. SMULG listed as partner in numerous sections and noted for work with Clean Up Australia Day and tree planting.
		GM Water should be a partner.	GM Water have advised will be involved as broader stakeholder group and/or on a project by project basis.
		Historical Society are interested in working together on projects, have not been engagement in past but are interested.	Noted in broader stakeholder group 5.2.1 and noted in ACTIONS***
		Friend of Botanic Gardens could be partners.	Noted in broader stakeholder group 5.2.1, will consult to establish interest.
		These targets should include GMLN among the lead agencies - especially Engaging the community; Inspire the Education sector and "clean up the RiverConnect area.	Noted, included in ETC actions 1, 3, 4 & 5, RARE action 1 and 4, and IES action 1, 2 & 3.

		<p>The SMULG has been involved with RiverConnect since inception. The SMULG has been represented on the Land Managers group and has often helped with educational activities and has partnered with RiverConnect or Sustainability team for Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day. Also SMULG has played a large role in the purchase of the council of the Boulevard Bushland Reserve, it's clean up, management plan and signage.</p> <p>It would be good if our group were acknowledged in the plan as separate to Goulburn Murray Landcare.</p>	<p>Noted, included in 4.3, ETC action 1, 3, 4 &amp; 5, RARE action 4 &amp; 5 and Broader Stakeholder group 5.2.1 .</p>
		<p>The Strategic Plan offers significant opportunities for La Trobe University Shepparton Campus to engage in partnership with RiverConnect to address the goals of increasing awareness and participation in the river environment and its cultural heritage. This is most apparent in the Strategic Plan's operating principle of joined-up efforts as well as the 'Inspire the education sector' and 'showcase art and culture' as a two connection priorities and their respective 5 year targets.</p>	<p>Noted, added specific partnership.</p>
		<p>There is a canoe and adventure club located on the south end of lake these are great assets that could be used by RiverConnect.</p>	<p>Noted, included in broader stakeholder group 5.2.1 and ETC action 1.</p>
<b>Appendix</b>		<p>p.36 Correct Light House to Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project.</p>	<p>Noted, updated.</p>
		<p>Page 36 SMULG should be included as a partner.</p>	<p>Agreed, noted.</p>

	Document who in the education sector was consulted.	Primary/Secondary education sector did not arrange a Coffee Catch Up consultation nor in Draft Consultation. Universities completed feedback in Draft consultation. Emailed information circulated to RiverConnect Education email lists.
<b>Does the plan reflect what the community wants?</b>	Those that know about it - strongly. There are too many that don't know about the river or RiverConnect.	Comment.
	Just need to increase access to the river for passive recreation. Promote ecology and health of the river as vital. Promote removal of all farm animals from river banks in rural locations.	Comment.
	General community need to be constantly updated on river issues.	Comment - see GBCMA and GV Water website. RC will promote via social media and website.
	Connecting to the river doesn't need a heap of money to build big buildings. Keep it simple. Opportunities to engage with the environment like kayaking or fishing. That's about it. This plan is over the top. I hope my rates don't get wasted on that.	Comment.
	I think the community wants to acknowledge the rivers that run through our towns. At present our CBD turns its back on it. Presently very little encouragement of river tourism. RiverConnect needs a 'grand plan' idea. Probably with private enterprise, to motivate and get momentum - boardwalks along the banks, conference and events centre with expansive windows facing the bush, restaurants on Welsford St overlooking bush park, aboriginal education centre, tourism/camping centre.	Several of these suggestions have been included in amendments or partners' strategies.

	Needs to reflect an informed community; not just any old ratbag.	Comment.
General	Actions you have listed have most of the ideas from my end covered; • Increased participation in activities with an Aboriginal component. • Improved knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal history and cultural issues in the River Connect area. • Showcasing arts & culture.	Comment.
	Happy with proposals.	Comment.
	KidsFest does not get a mention in the strategy as a very useful tool for promotion.	Mentioned in ETC action 3, is one of many useful local events for promotion.
	There is confusion between RiverConnect and Activities in the Park (along with other user groups) which need clarification.	Noted will address in future, not relevant for inclusion in plan.
	RiverConnect is wider than just Shepp/Mooroopna area. All rate payers need to see value for their rate \$\$\$\$. All towns/communities are connected to the river in some way and this should be reflected in the strategy in some way.	Noted see 1.2.
	RiverConnect utilize the services of GMLN staff and resources. At some stage this may lead to a "pay for use" strategy so we can continue to provide support at an ongoing level.	Noted. Requires further investigation.
	Maps on page 4 and 21 are unreadable.	Noted - updated.
	I started to read the draft and, well, some of the jargon just put me off....a bit long winded but I understand that as a document it must be written rather, full of jargon! Anyway, I did notice that 'anglers' got a mention a couple times.	Comment.
	I really visited Deniliquin and was impressed with that town's focus on	Comment.



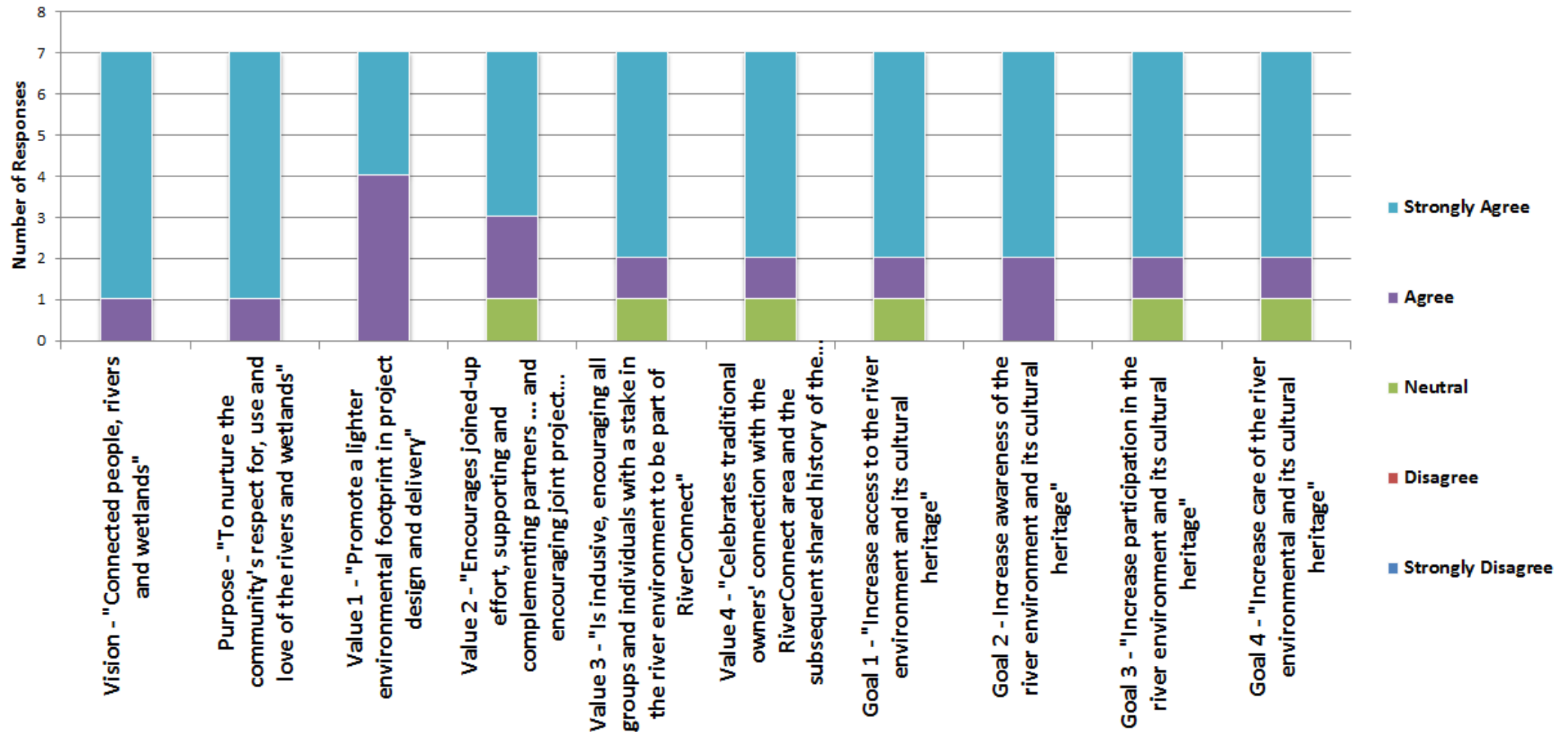
	and use of their Edward River. Shepparton could learn from Deni's experience.	
	Lack of funds. Real Council commitment not lip service and short term mentality Successive council have shown by there inactivity they are not really committed. Hopefully RiverConnect will change this Shepparton / Mooroopna have never valued the river for what it could be. In travels right around Australia the fast majority of places have made the river a focal point for a vast array of activity. We seem to have treated it as a drain. Take on the water sharks who see it only as a commodity to be traded. Rising the water level and regular flow could have a major impact on the river quality. Must clean up the feeder creeks/rivers that deliver tonnes of slush each year. Look at what comes out of the Broken River now.	Comment, noted revegetation works and planned projects may assist.
	I think RiverConnect is a great program and it would be great if the model is replicated in other regions too.	Agreed, subject to funding and agency support.
	Budget inclusion in the plan. Community needs to understand the investment in these projects.	Included in page 32 under 5.2.2.
	Important that it remains community driven and isn't caught up in red tape.	Agreed.
	The major projects are not required. We don't need monuments for the river. It is a natural environment.	All projects are considered within the lighter environmental footprint value and any project is developed to build resilience in the natural environment.

	The plan doesn't spell out your coverage area. Whist it talks about all of the council area, in reality your mandate is much, much smaller (eg ends at Raftery Road, Doyles Road etc). It would be good to, in the least, see the Seven Creeks Estate area included - given our connection to the water and the importance of this connection to our estate. Our community is active and embraces the outdoors and participation in community events.	Noted, see 1.2.
	It would be great to hear how RiverConnect works with other state organisations to promote and develop programs.	Noted, will investigate communications and reporting to improve.
	Overall I think it looks good. Cool layout, easy to read & show what work has been done before going into what you are doing in the future. Priority areas are good & like that you have listed important things like cleaning up the river and creating tourism opportunities but also have some new initiative that will attract people to the river like yoga!	Comment.
	RiverConnect is the biggest waste of investment on output. It was previously, and may still be, stacked with politics costing rate payers a fortune, over and above all other community projects. Accountability to the community for output is paramount on all projects, but especially this one.	Comment.
	GVW is aware of the past River Connect strategy and programs performed within the Shepparton-Mooroopna areas, and has participated in programs aimed at meeting past strategy objectives.	Comment.
	Good format, great document, easy to read.	Comment.

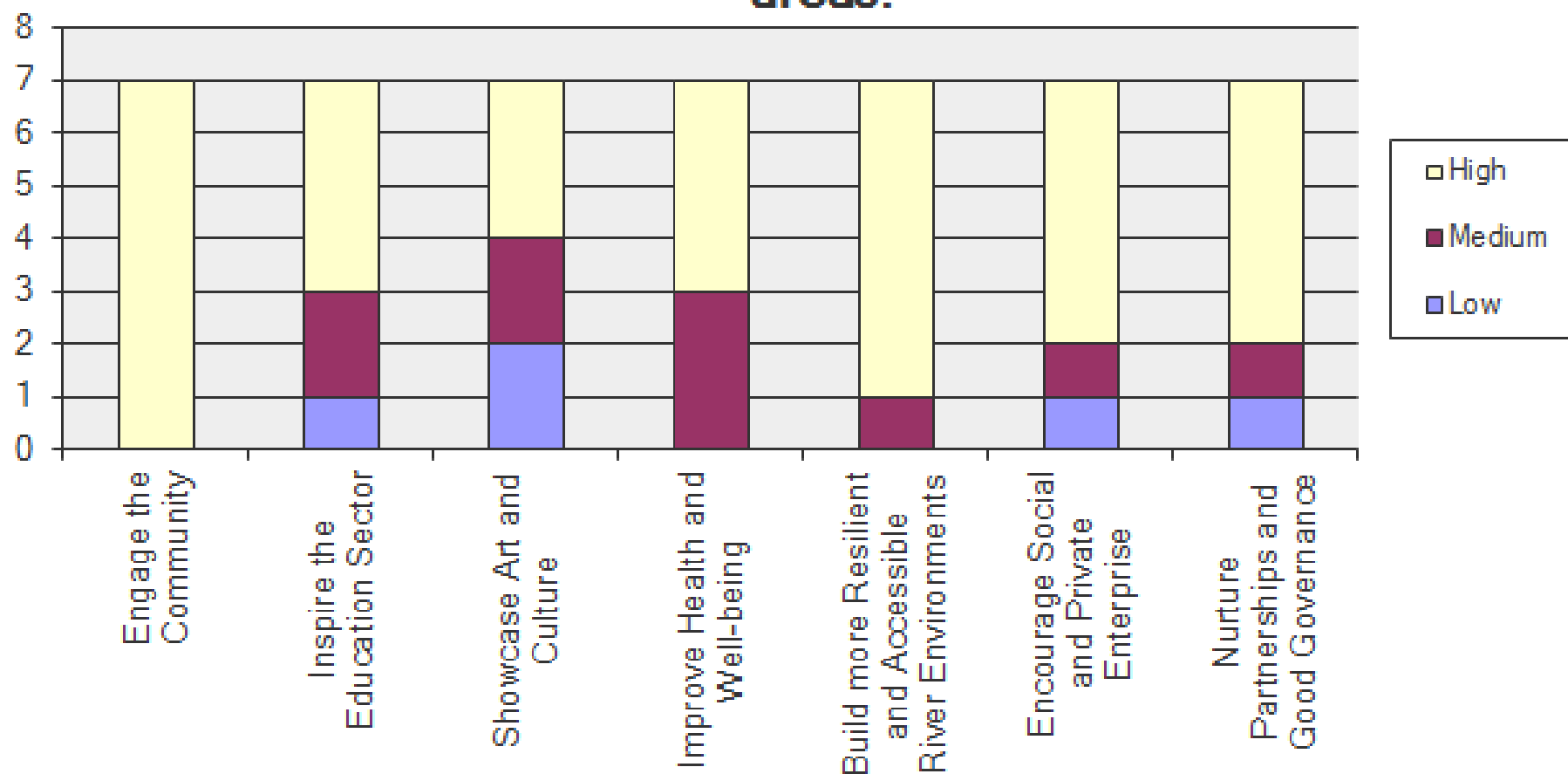
## 2. Survey Responses (quantitative data)

### a) Agency/Organisation Survey

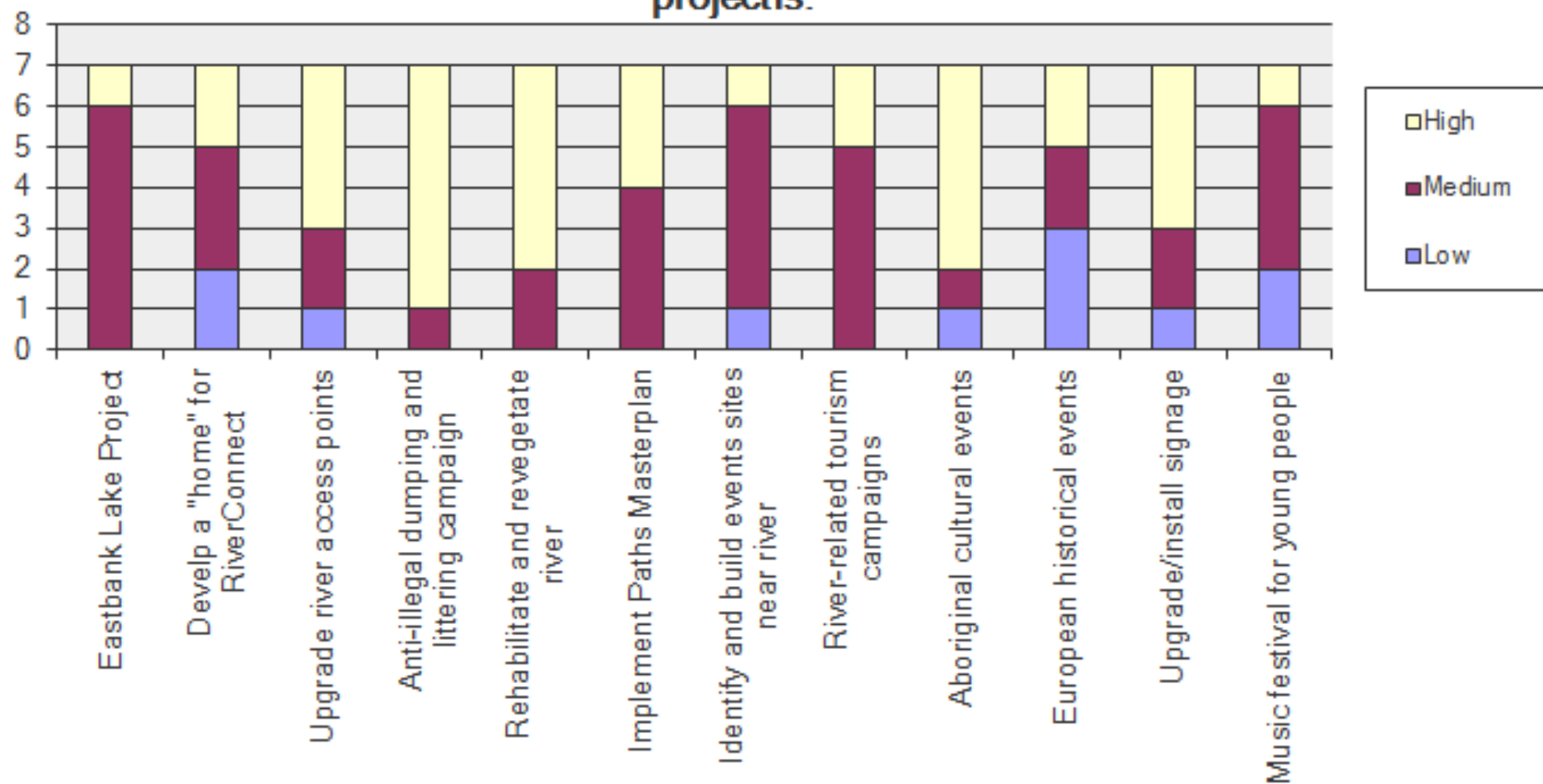
How strongly do you agree with the proposed Vision, Purpose, Values and Long Term Goals of RiverConnect



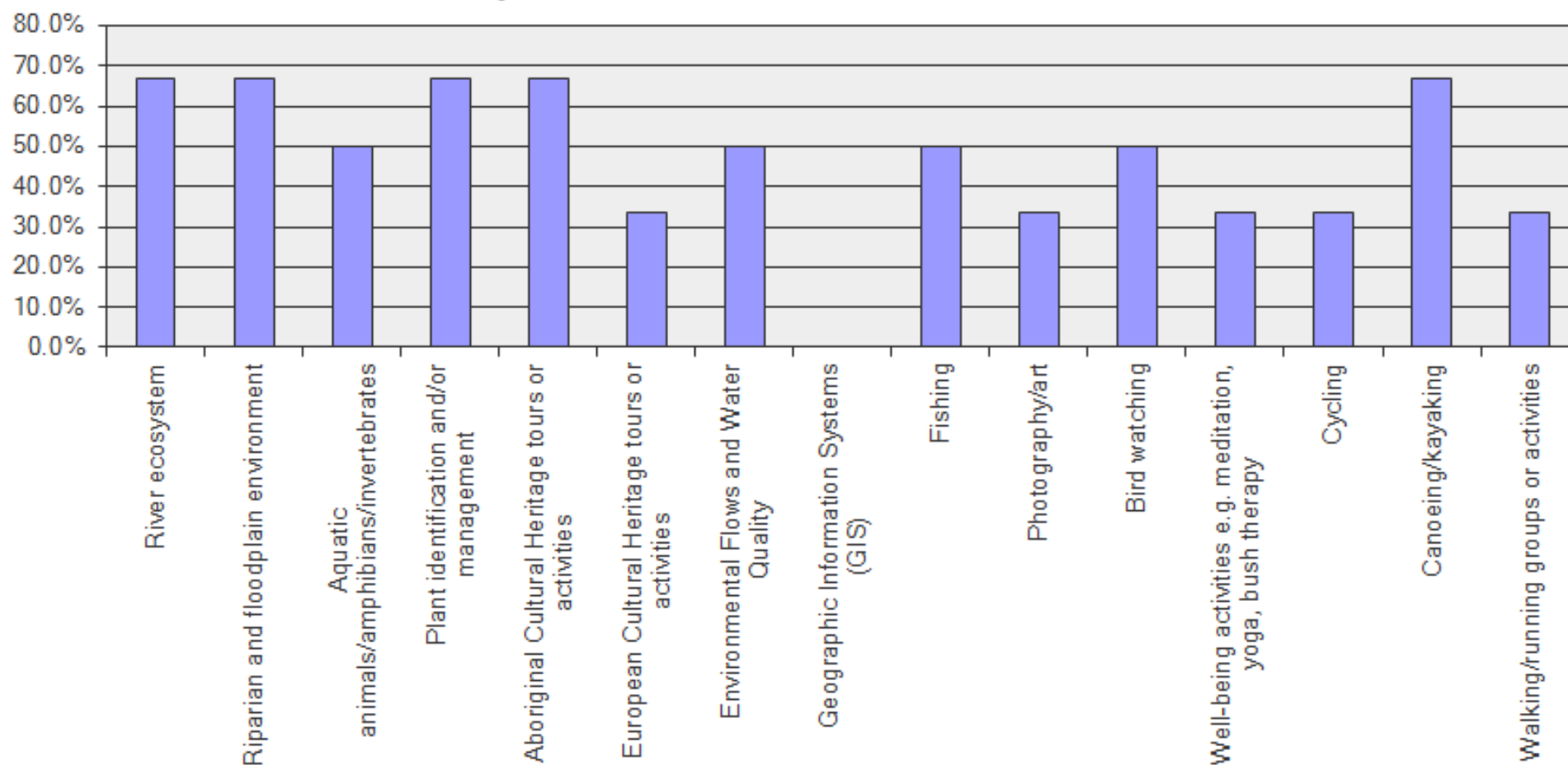
**We have proposed 7 key priority areas. Please rate these priorities from high to low to assist us to determine our focus areas.**



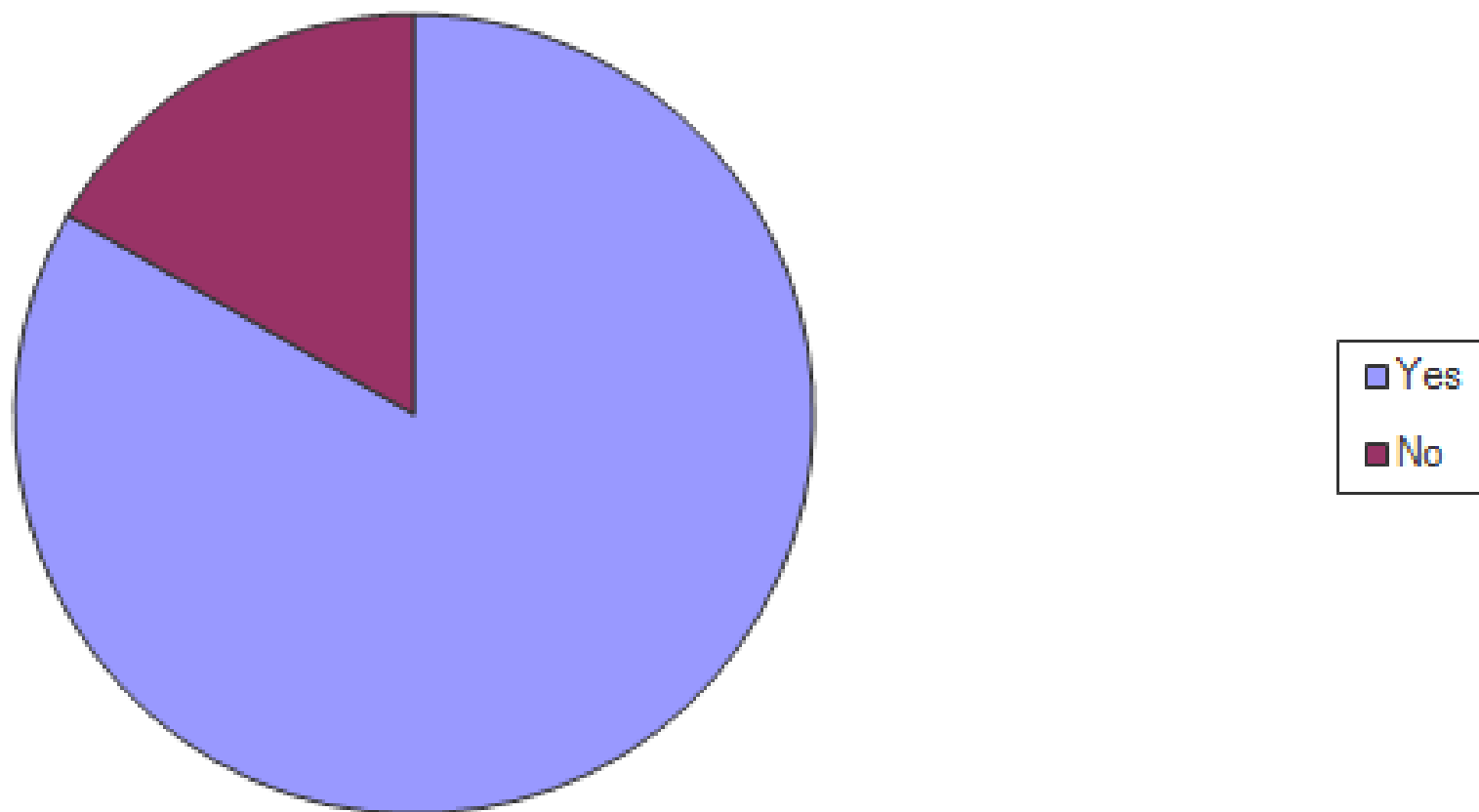
**We have proposed a number of key projects requiring prioritisation. Please select either high, medium or low according to how important you believe the project is.**



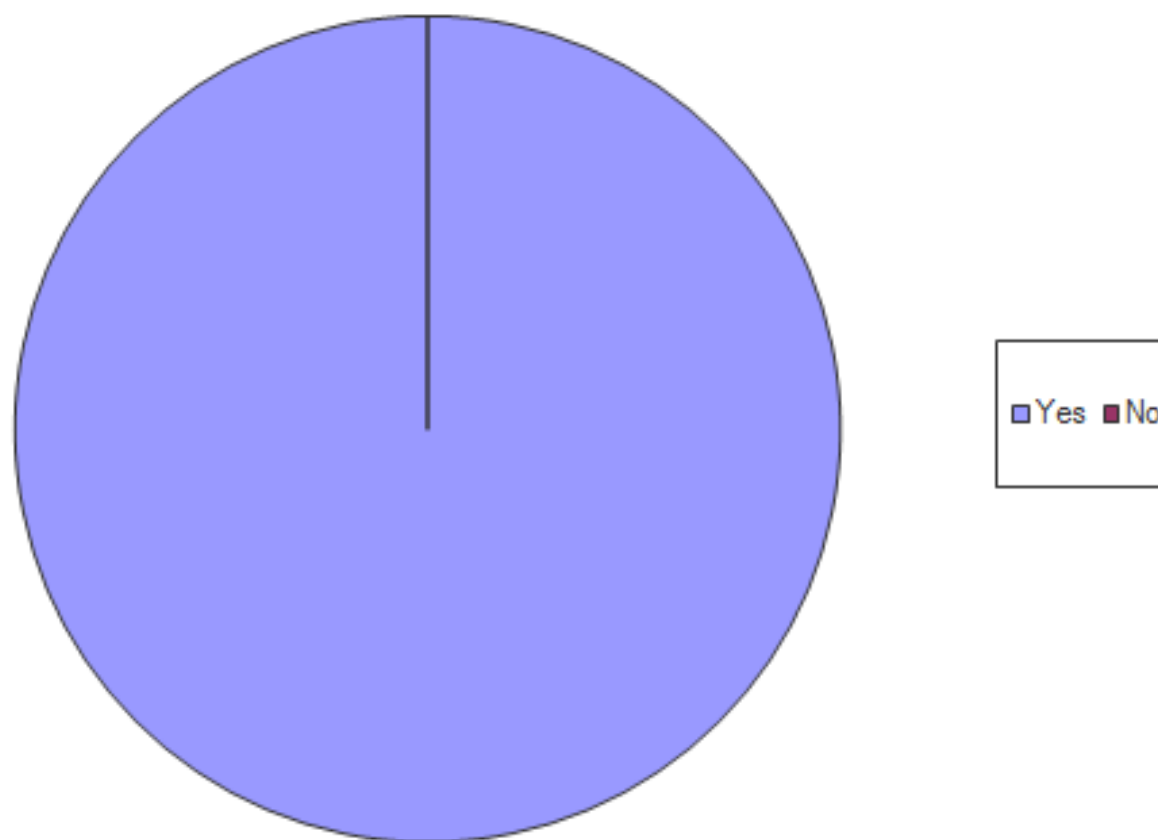
### What kind of activities or programs would your organisation be interested and able to partner with RiverConnect to conduct?



**Has your organisation been involved with RiverConnect in the past, and if yes, in what capacity?**



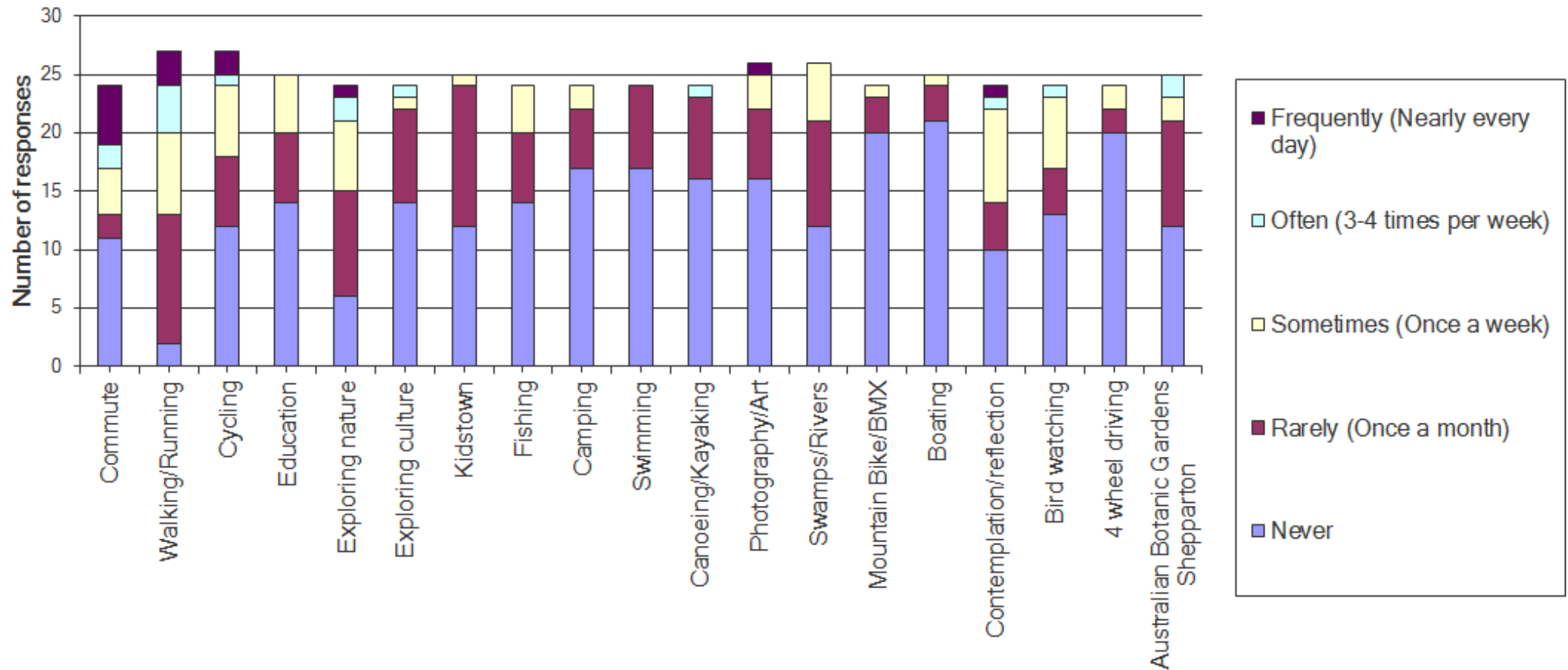
## Would you like to be involved in RiverConnect in the future?



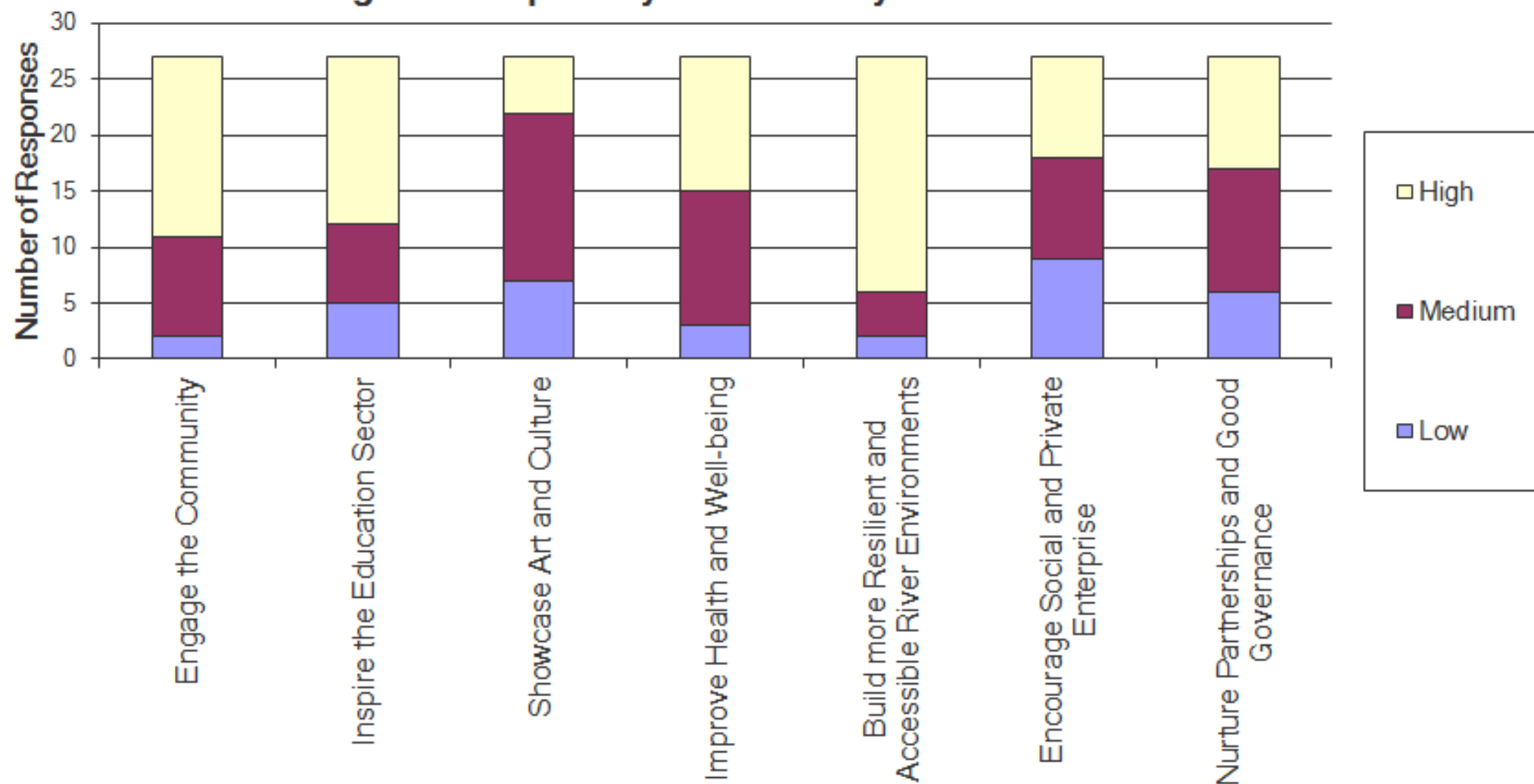


## **b) Community Surveys**

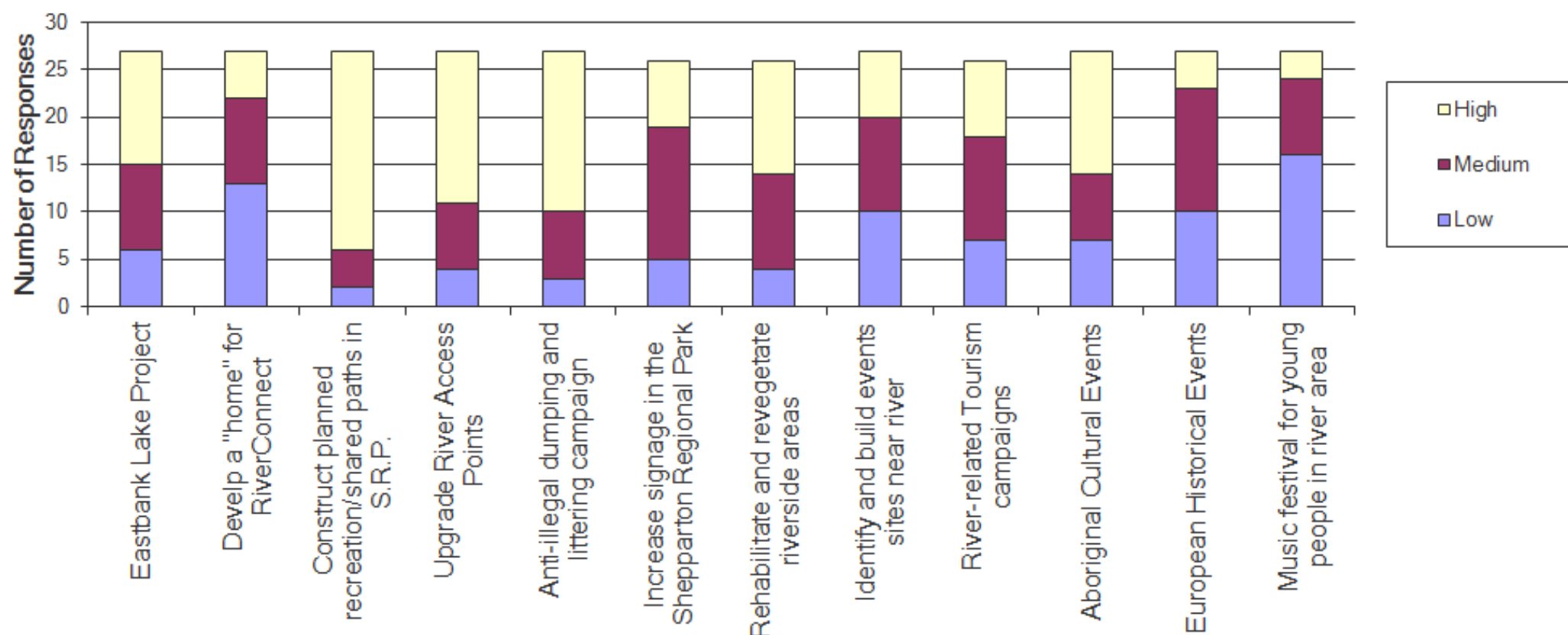
**What activities to do you enjoy near the river and how often to you do them?**

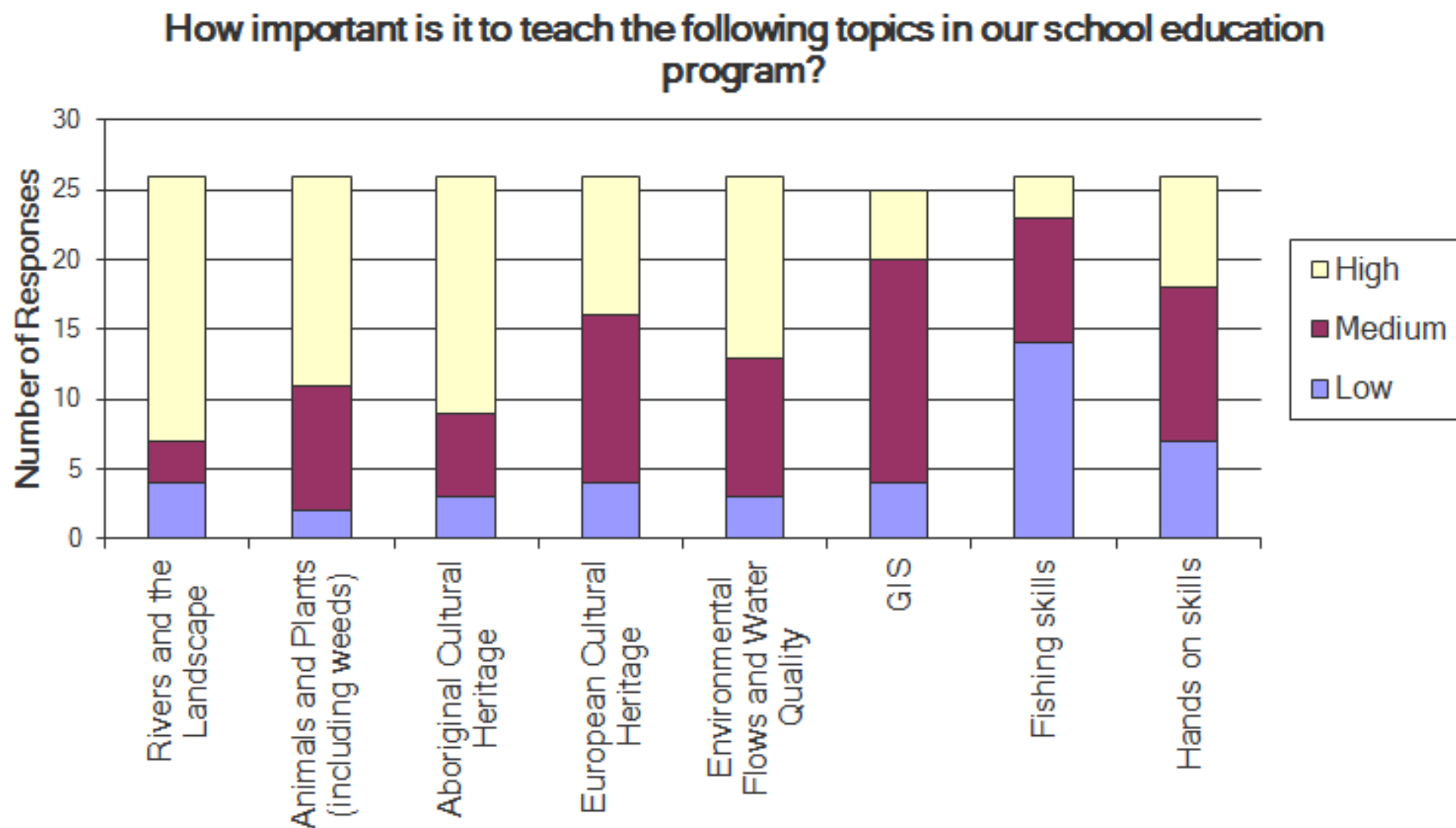


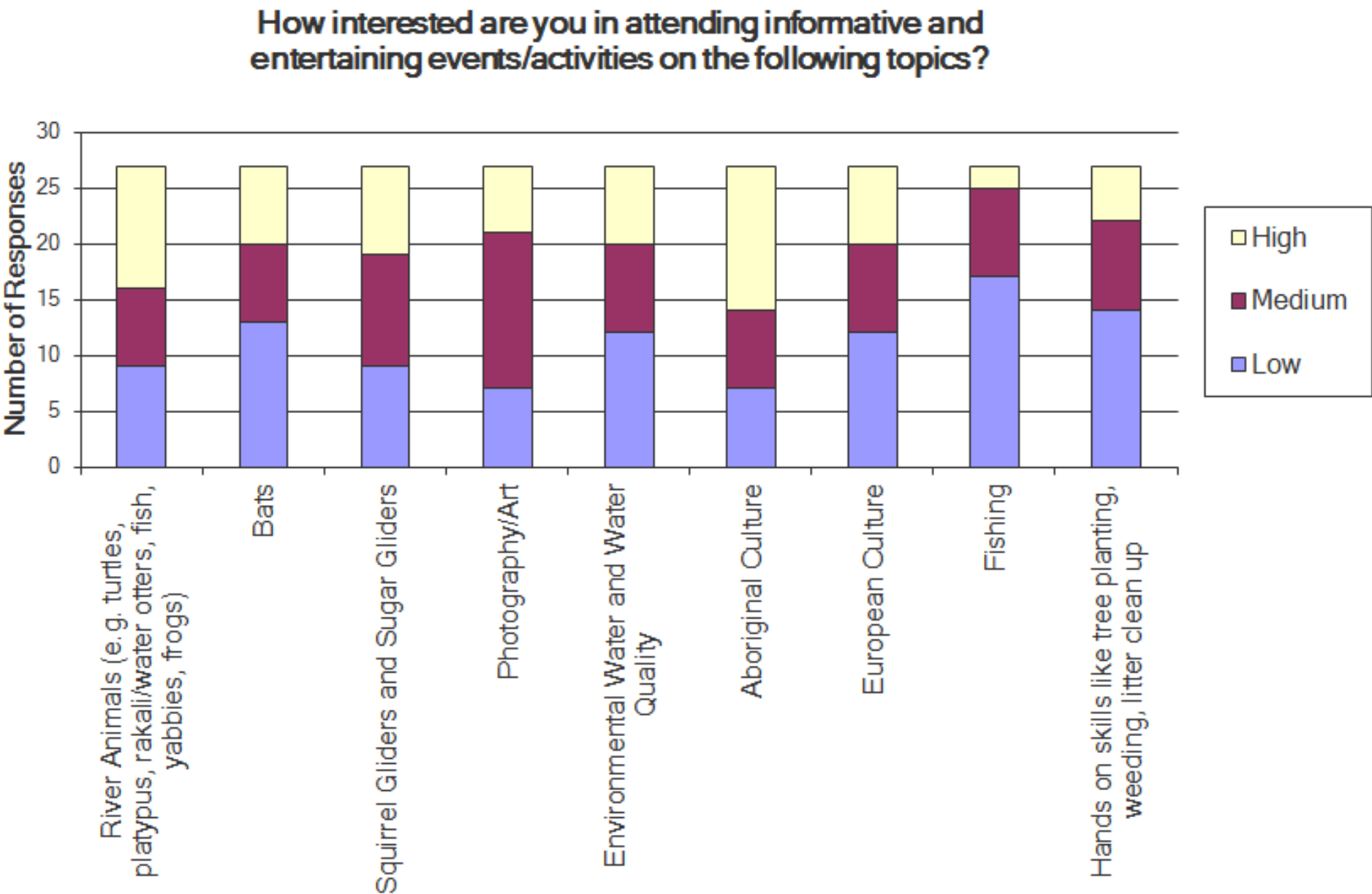
**We have 7 key priority areas. Please rate these priorities high, medium or low according to how important you believe they are for RiverConnect.**



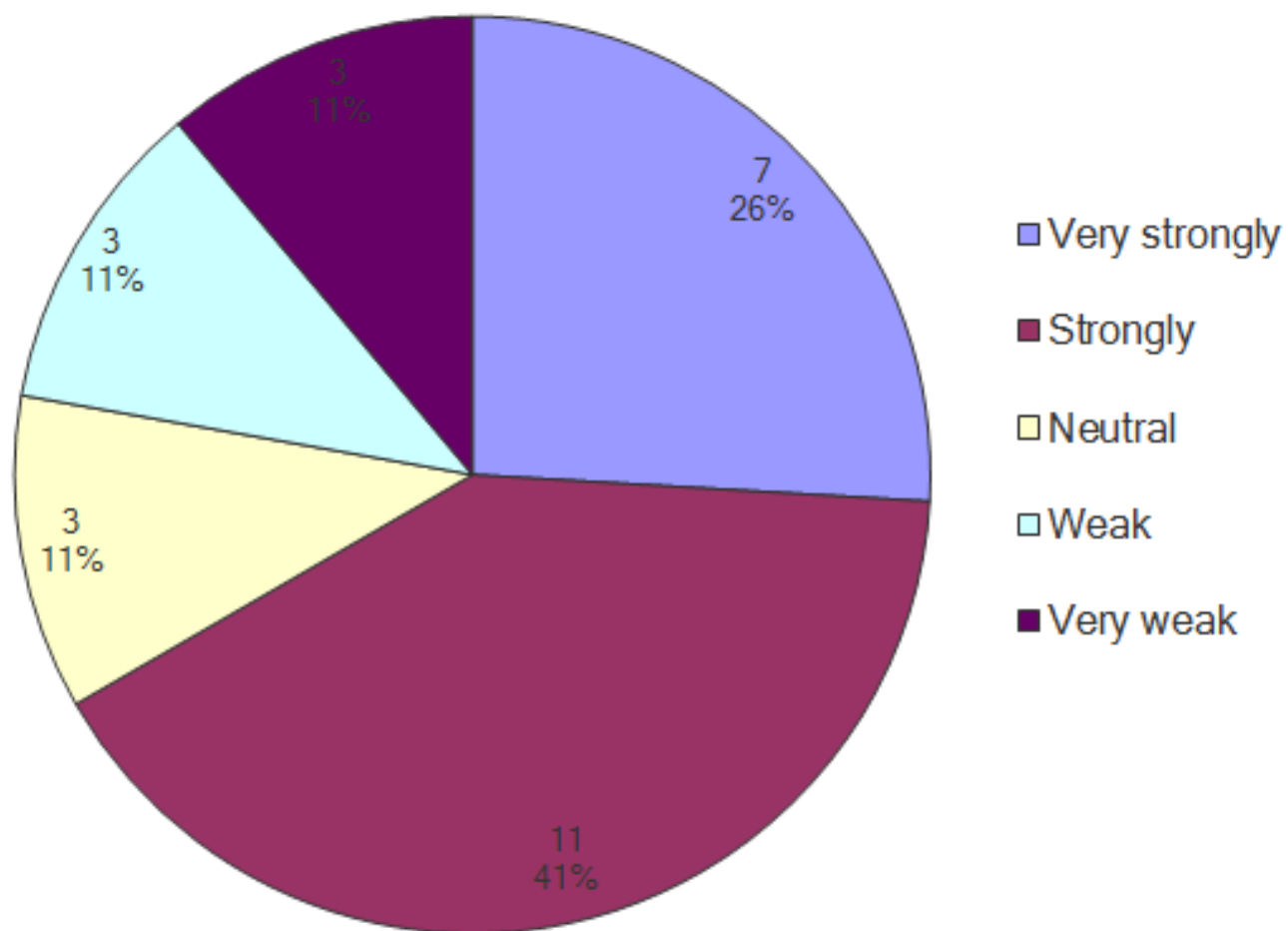
**We have a number of key projects, can you help us to prioritise them? Please select either high, medium or low according to how important it is for RiverConnect to focus on the project.**

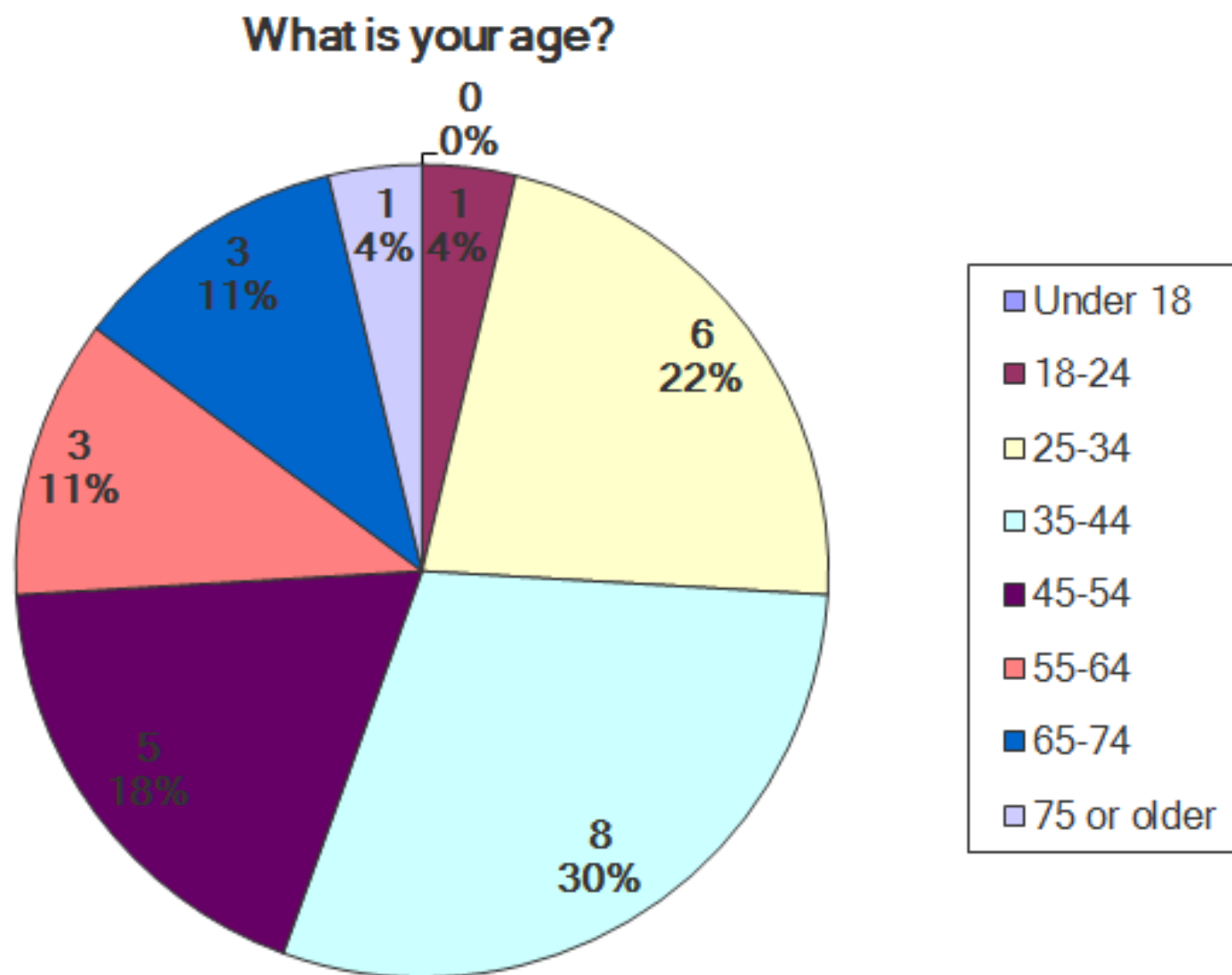




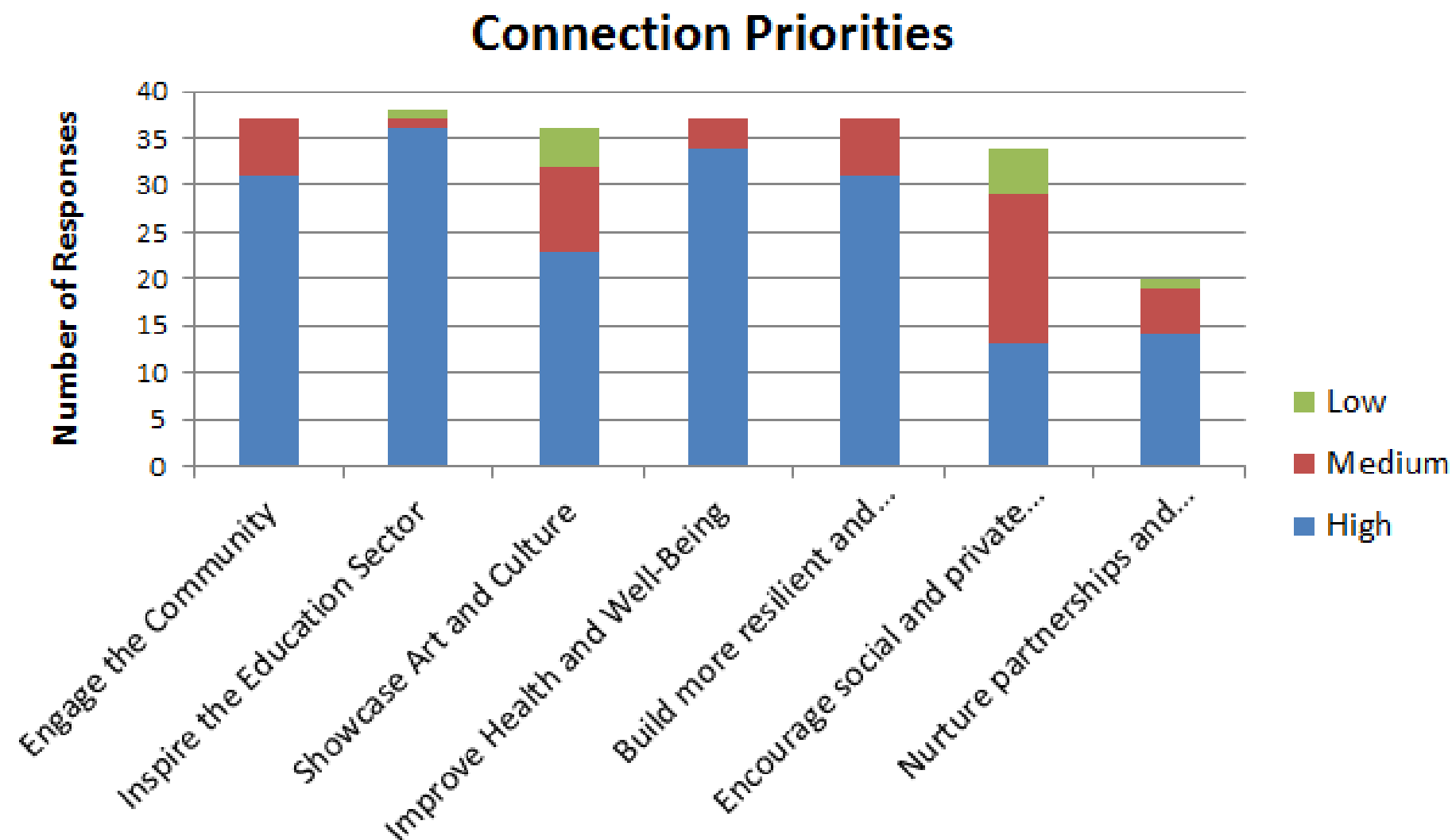


### How strongly do you think RiverConnect's future plans reflect what the community wants?



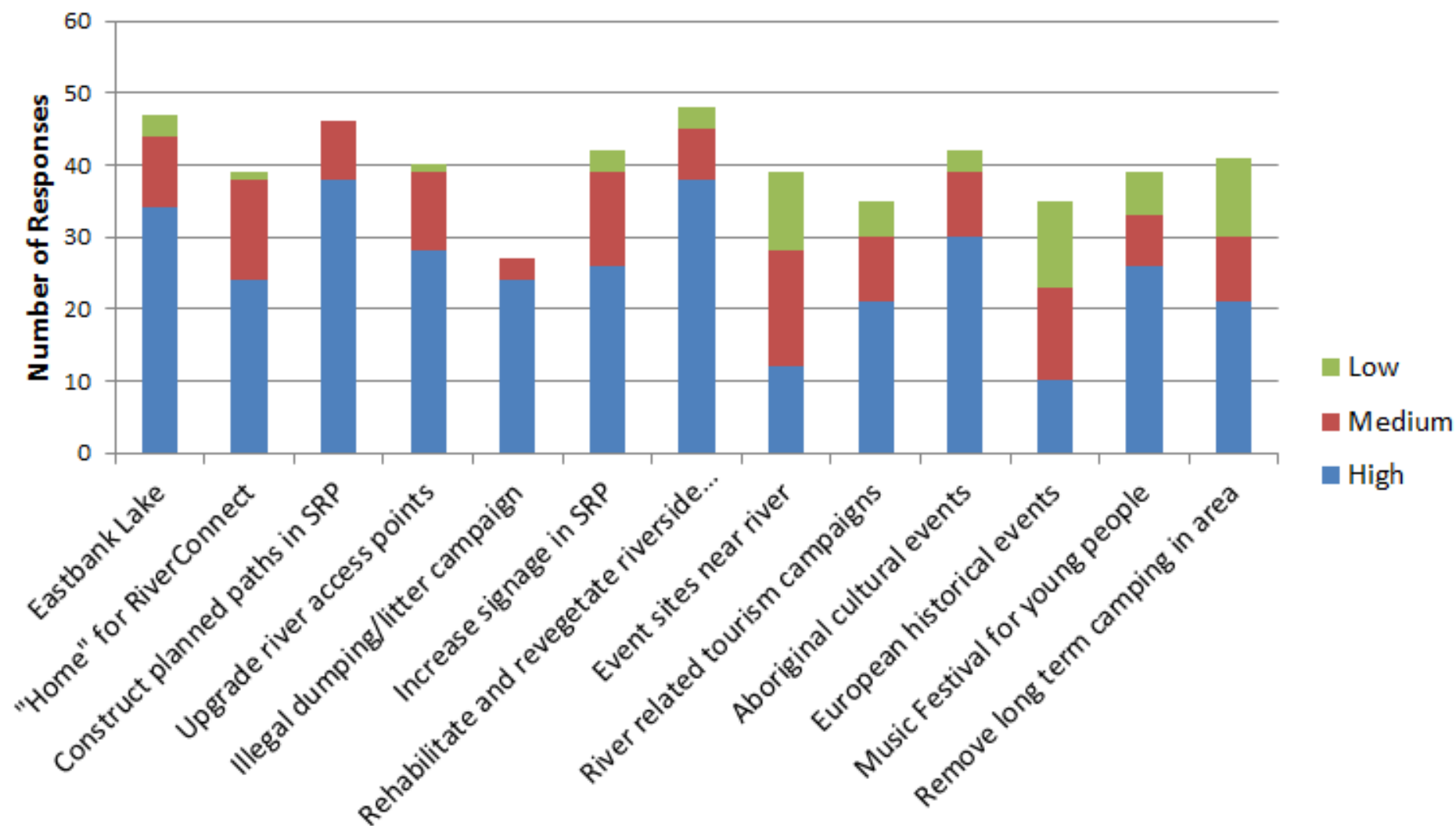


### c) Event survey responses

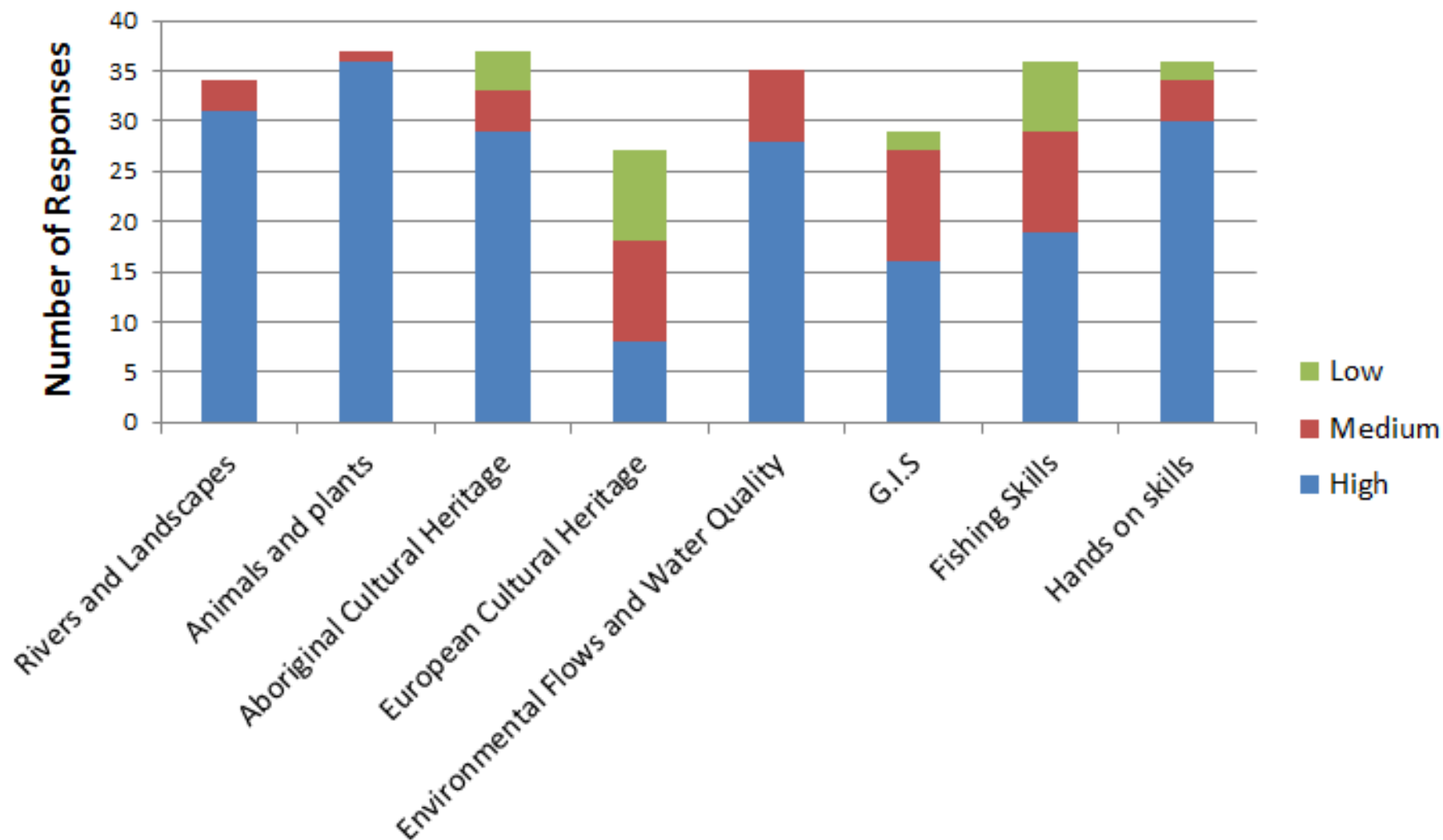




## Major Projects



## Informative activities and events



**d) Overall Survey Responses (comparable data only)**

## Prioritising Connection Priorities (total)

