



**LAKE DUNSTAN**

— CHARITABLE TRUST —



Biannual survey  
July/August 2021



# Purpose of survey

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This is the first survey we have undertaken since receiving the 'jobs for nature' funding from LINZ in March 2021

We will be undertaking biannual surveys over the next four years to monitor community satisfaction and aspirations for Lake Dunstan.

This survey creates a baseline upon which the Trust and its stakeholders can build upon.

# Biannual survey: 26th July to 22nd August 2021

Purpose: To understand the concerns and aspirations of the community regarding key issues (for example, weeds, silt, commercial activities)



# Promotion

- Posters in key locations (e.g. supermarkets, cafes, schools)
- Local Bulletin - Weekly advert
- Email to key groups and individuals in the community (e.g. Lions, schools, sailing club)
- Regular Facebook posts on our own page and partner pages (e.g. Cromwell Today, Cromwell Promotions Group)
- Radio interview - Radio Central
- Visits to groups & businesses - E.g. Care homes, New World, Garden Centre, schools)

LAKE DUNSTAN  
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## Help Create a Community Vision for Lake Dunstan

*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."*

Help us learn what would improve the lake and ensure your views are expressed to stakeholders and council.

Your concerns, opinions and ideas will help to shape the future of Lake Dunstan.



Scan the QR code with your phone camera or visit our website to complete our quick survey.

The more feedback we get, the better we can represent the community. Be sure to share with friends, family and colleagues.

To learn more about the trust, the lake and what is being done to improve it, visit: [www.lakedunstan.org](http://www.lakedunstan.org)

# Results

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# Participation

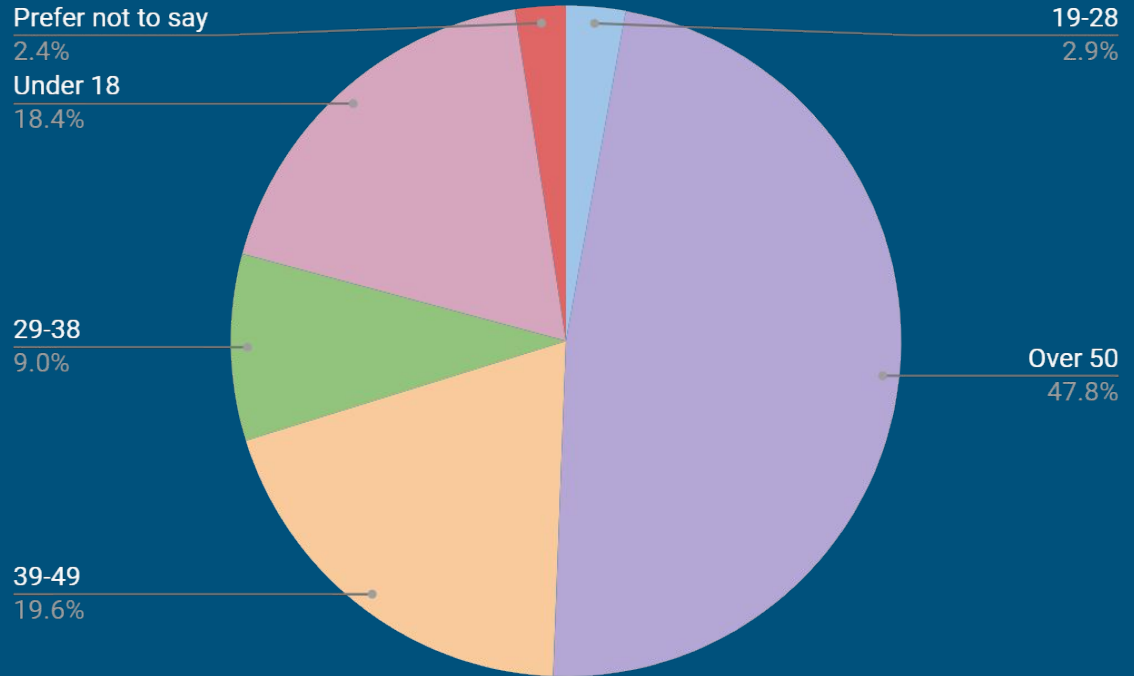
## Total of 262 participants

Percentage of Cromwell  
Basin population: 2.8%

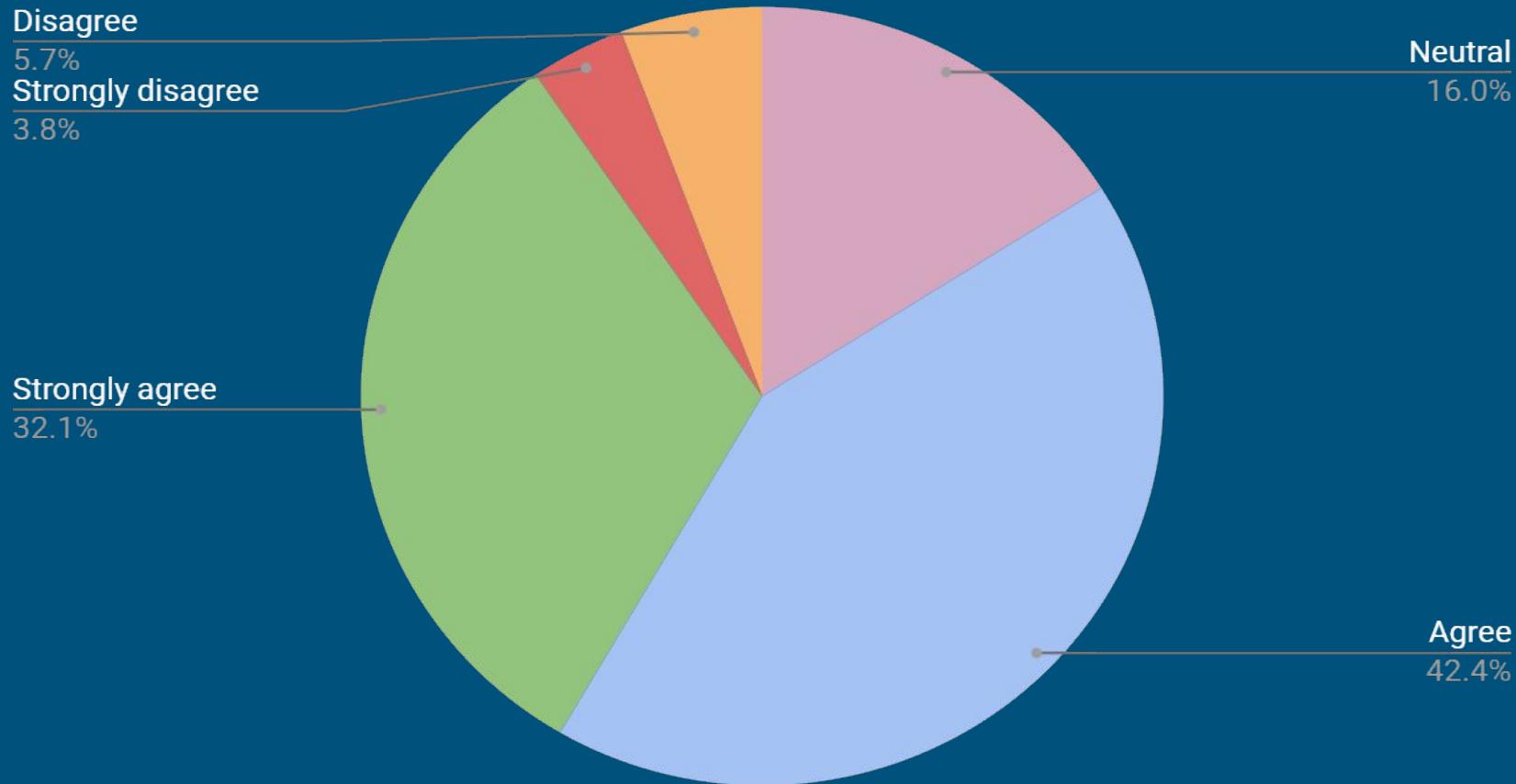
Percentage of Central Otago  
District population: 1.1%

## Comparison

2021 CODC masterplan  
percentage of C.Otago  
District Population: 3.5%



# Q1: I am proud to call Lake Dunstan my local lake

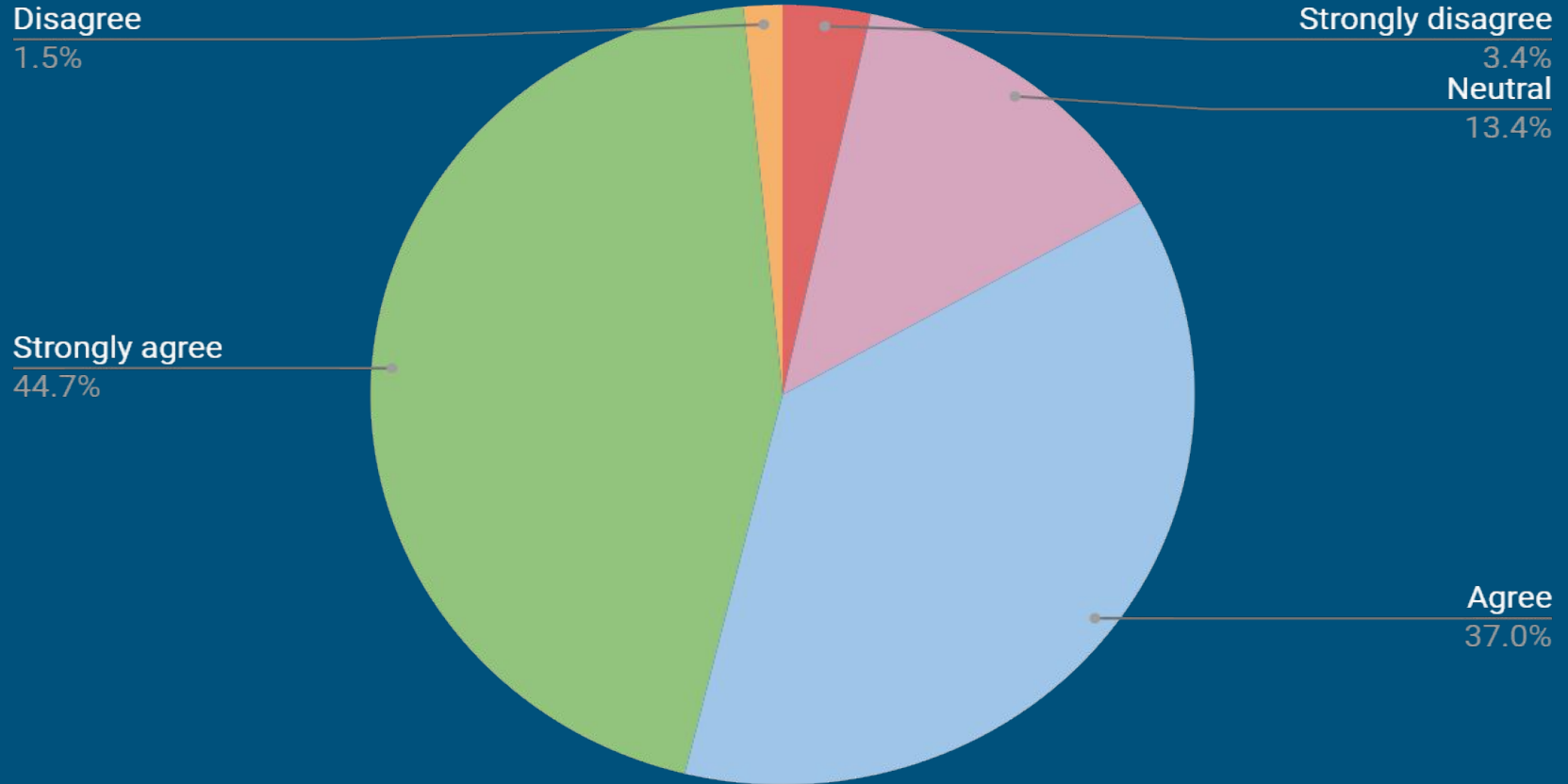


# I am proud to call Lake Dunstan my local lake

Comments: 14% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Needs more management as weeds and silt impact appearance and use of the lake.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Not very appealing</li><li>Neglected</li><li>Weeds and silt impact use</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Heritage Precinct main cause for concern - silt</li><li>“Embarrassing mess”</li><li>Not as nice as neighbouring lakes</li></ul>

## Q2: Spending time at the lake improves my mental health

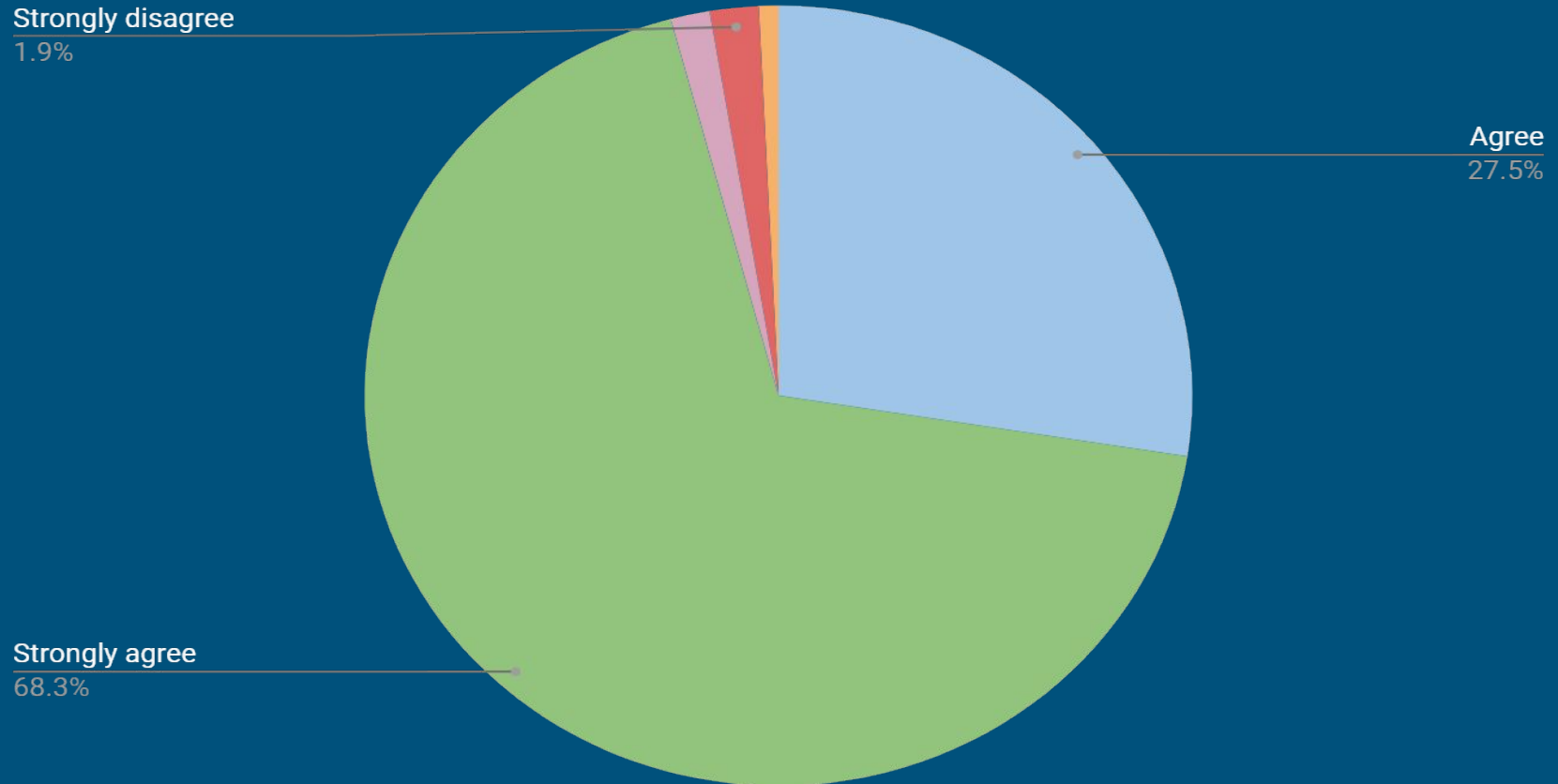


# Spending time at the lake improves my mental health

Comments: 8% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Family recreation</li><li>● Cycling</li><li>● Walking</li><li>● Swimming</li><li>● Kayaking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Don't utilise it or used to</li><li>● "Neglect is disheartening"</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● None</li></ul>

### Q3: Maintaining a healthy natural environment is important to me

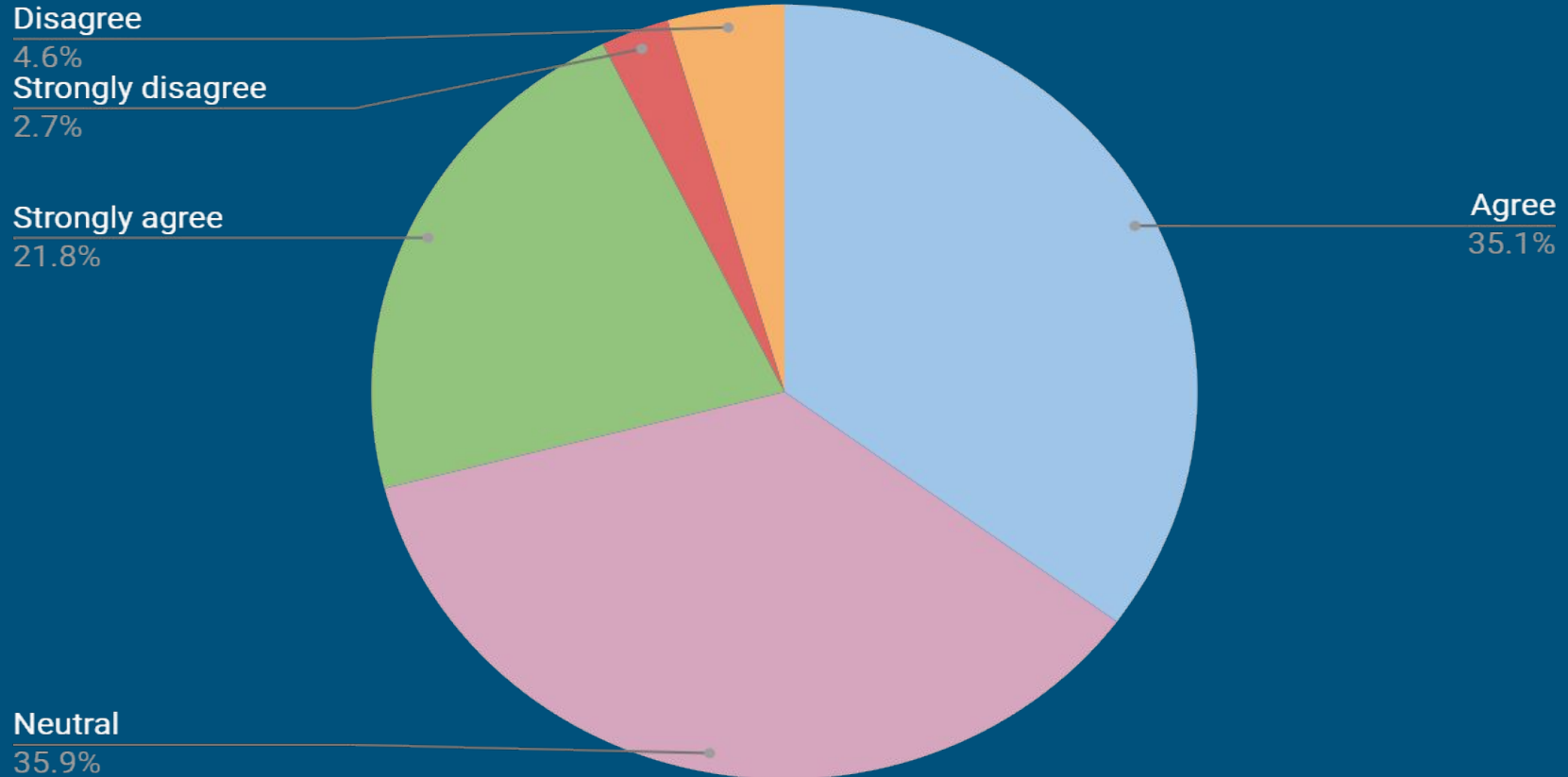


# Maintaining a healthy natural environment is important to me

Comments: 5% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Difficult when man-made lake</li><li>• Want it to be healthy &amp; clean</li><li>• Should be priority both on land and in the lake</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'We already have traffic noise from SH8 in the background, it would be nice for us and nature to have some areas that are kept quieter.'</li></ul>

## Q4: I would like greater access to sports and recreational activities

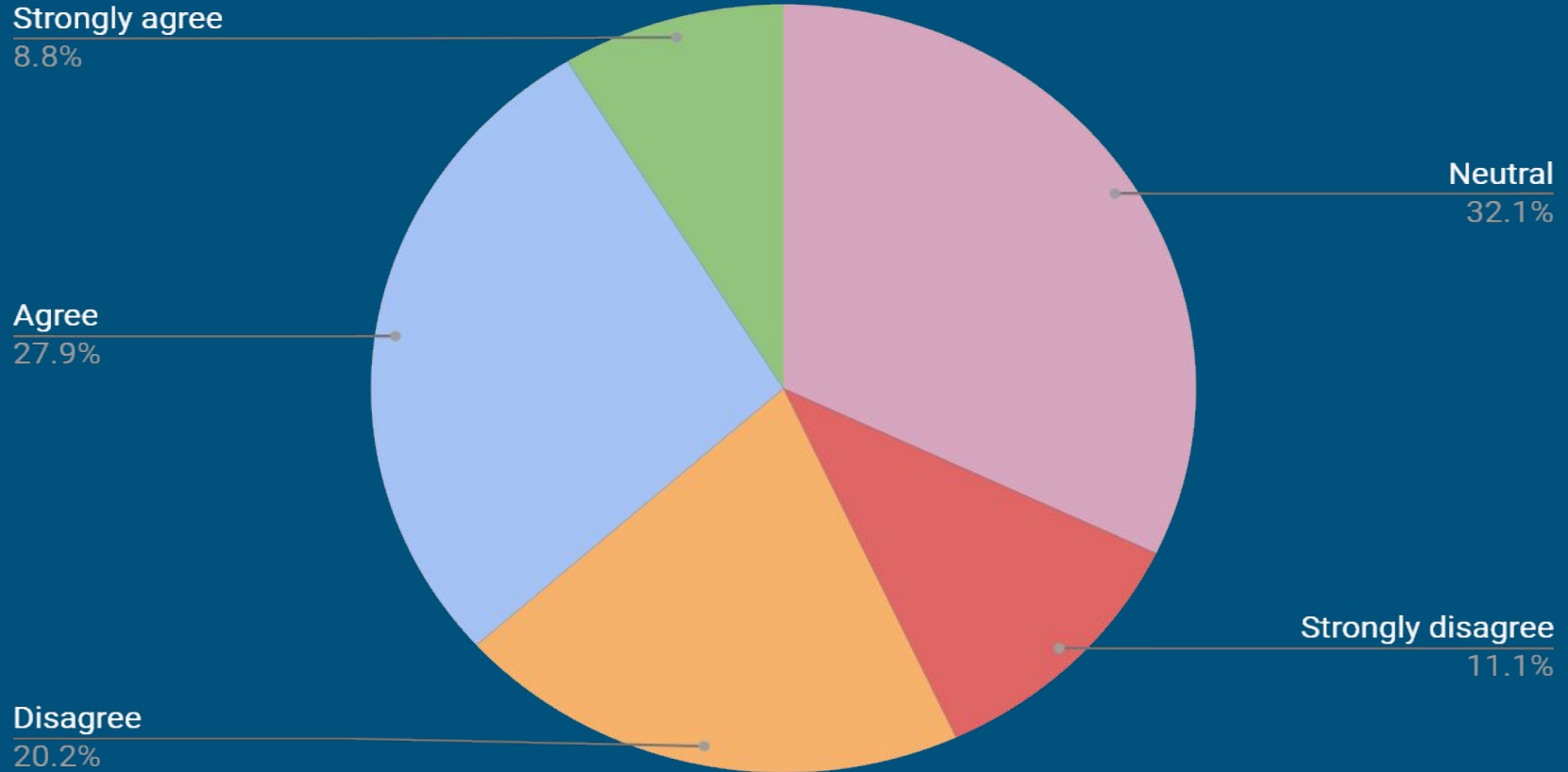


# I would like greater access to sports and recreational activities

Comments: 12% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Silt &amp; weeds impacting use</li><li>● Fishing negatively impacted by weeds</li><li>● Safer swimming areas</li><li>● More non-motorised water sports</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● No issue with current access</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Plenty of access</li><li>● More activity would impact quiet nature of the lake</li></ul>

## Q5: I would like to see more commercial activities on the lake

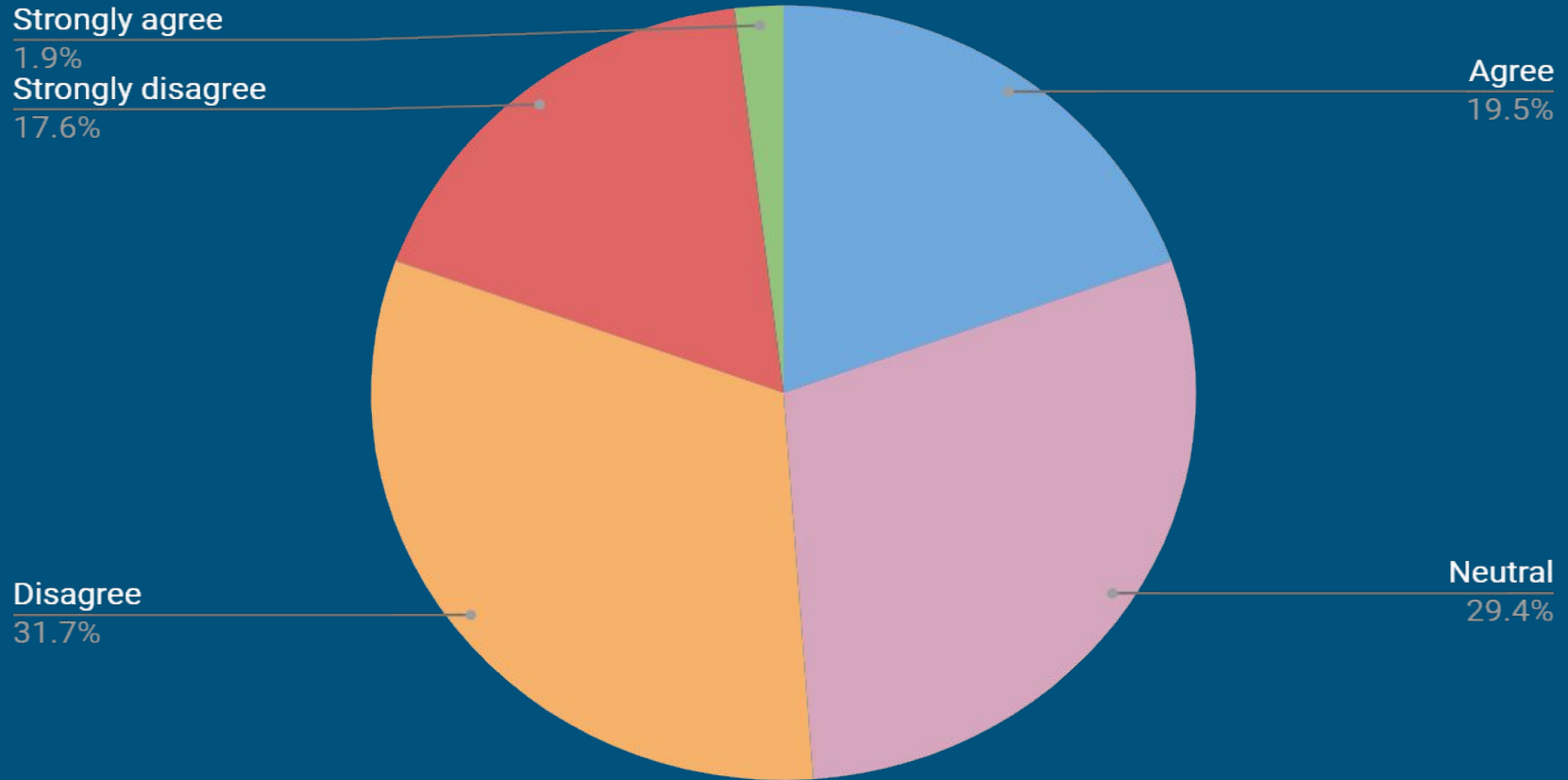


# I would like to see more commercial activities on the lake

Comments: 12% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More hiring opportunities - kayaks, paddleboards, etc</li><li>• Barge across Kowarau arm</li><li>• Restaurants and shops on the waterfront</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depends on what they will be - needs to be good fit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't want more noise</li><li>• Don't want to become tourist attraction like neighbouring lakes</li></ul>

## Q6: I am happy with the water quality of Lake Dunstan

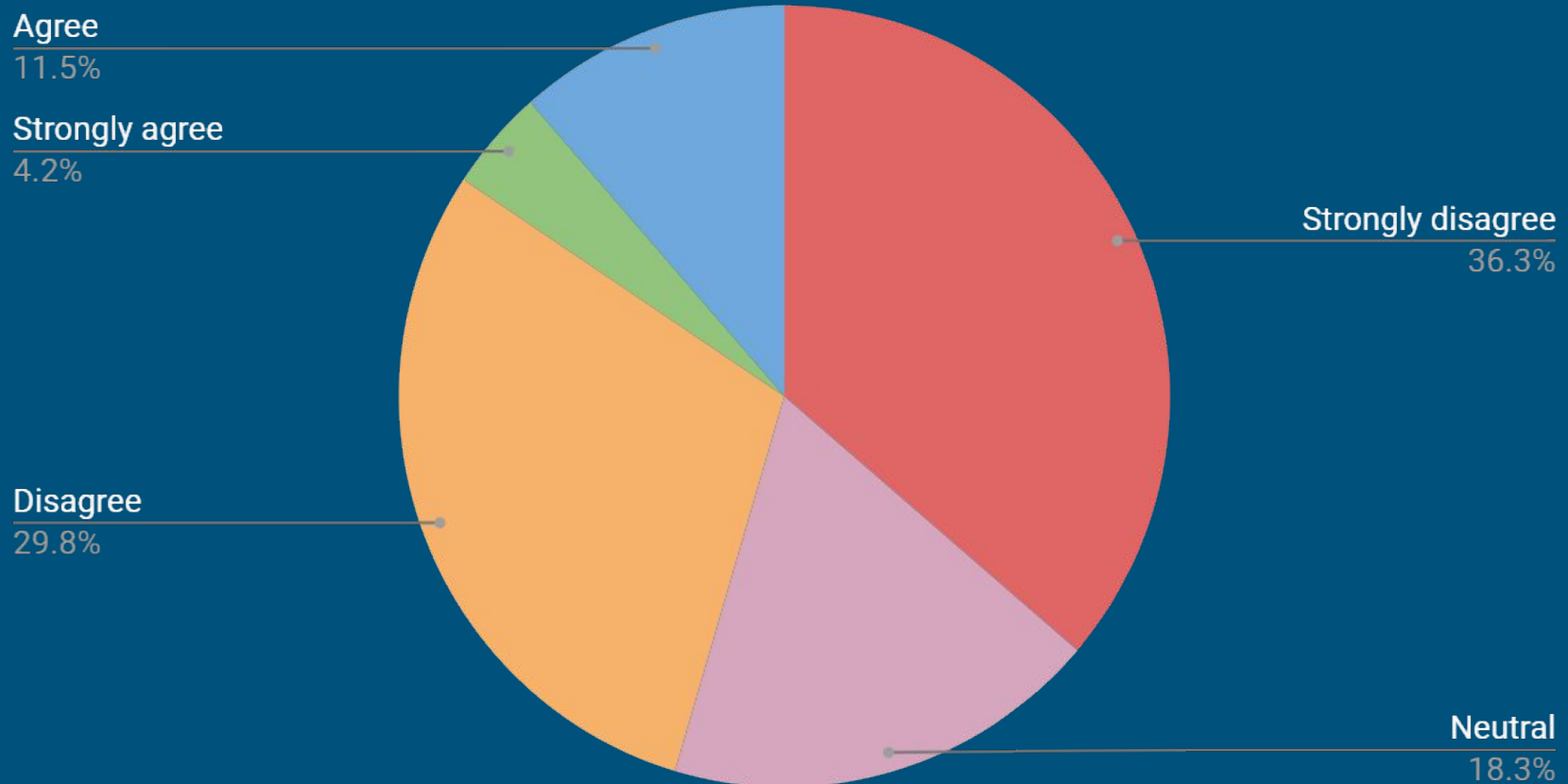


# I am happy with the water quality of Lake Dunstan

Comments: 18% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Overall quality acceptable though weeds &amp; silt concerning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Room for improvement</li><li>● Don't know enough</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Weeds &amp; silt main focus</li><li>● Believe not safe for swimming</li><li>● Worried about sewage discharge from Cromwell and upstream</li></ul>

## Q7: I am happy with the current efforts to remove weed from the lake

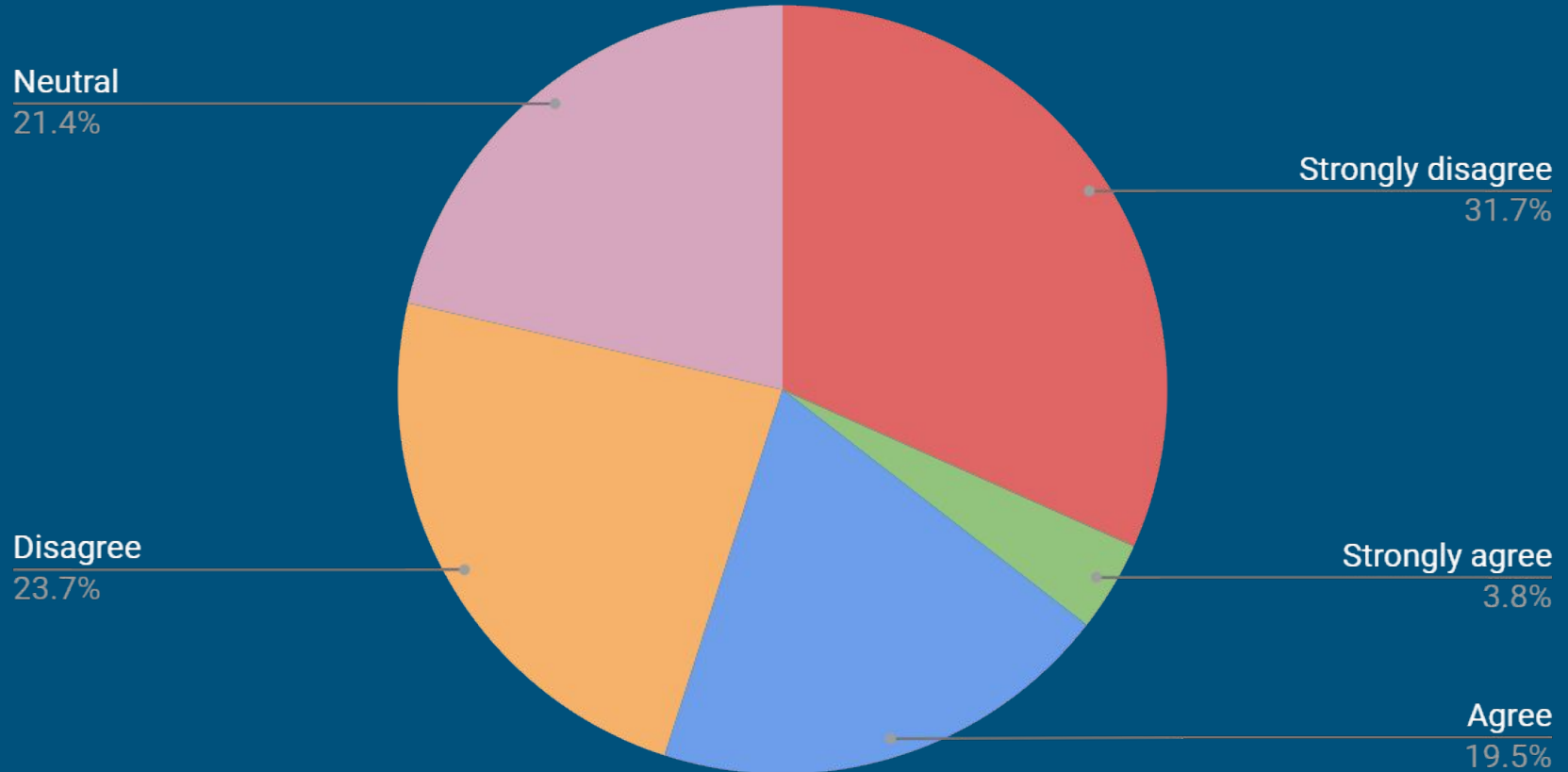


# I am happy with the current efforts to remove weed from the lake

Comments: 18% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stakeholders working hard to combat the weed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Don't know enough about scope of issue &amp; how it is tackled</li><li>More can be done</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Very visible</li><li>Current efforts not effective</li><li>Don't agree with use of herbicides</li><li>Bendigo saturated</li></ul>

## Q8: I am happy with the current visual effects of the Kowarau Arm as it transforms back into a braided river



# I am happy with the current visual effects of the Kawarau Arm as it transforms back into a braided river

Comments: 17% gave more information

## Agree/strongly agree

- Inevitable
- We need to accept that the lake will be replaced with a river

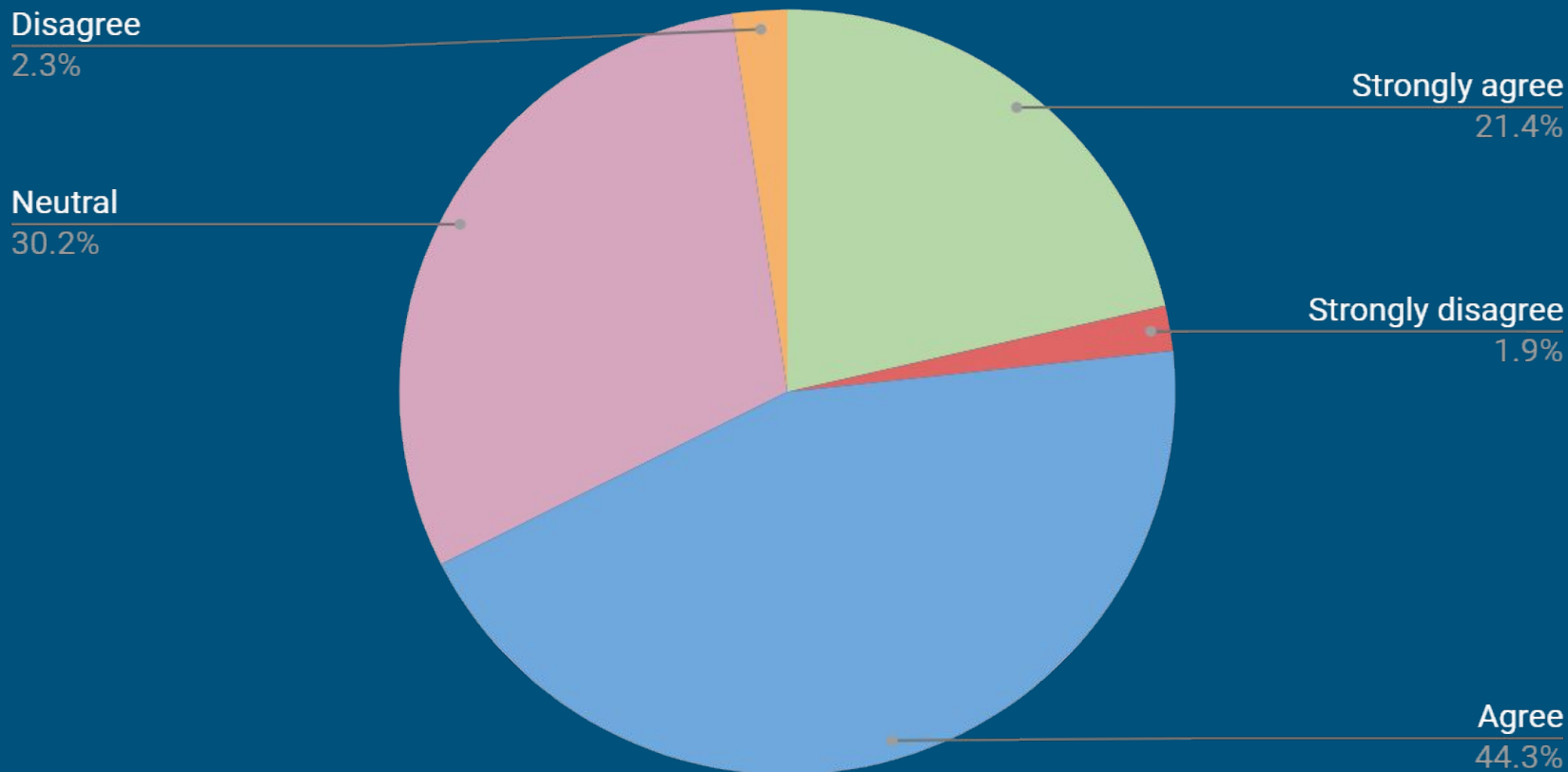
## Neutral

- Don't know enough about this aspect of the lake
- Happy as long as managed

## Disagree/strongly disagree

- Negatively impacting appearance & business in heritage precinct
- Loss of boat ramp
- Poor driftwood management
- Need to communicate the process better
- "Can't leave community with swamp like mess for next few years whilst it transitions"
- Poor management
- Disgusting/appalling
- Dredging needs to be done
- Promote land formation and plant natives

## Q9: The Lake Dunstan Charitable Trust is best positioned to represent the views of the local community



# The Lake Dunstan Charitable Trust is best positioned to represent the views of the local community

Comments: 8% gave more information

<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree/strongly disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Good to see a group proactive</li><li>● Invaluable work with stakeholders</li><li>● Great communication with the public</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Too many groups - confusing</li><li>● Yet to be determined</li><li>● As long as represent to voices of the community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Don't have credible mandate from the community</li><li>● Too many groups - confusing</li></ul>

## Additional comments: 26% gave more information

<p>“I would like to see more swimming only areas created. A swim across the lake challenge each year. BBQ areas outside of town for people to enjoy the whole lake”</p>	<p>“The lake is a fantastic asset for the community. It would be a huge shame for it to become unusable &amp; become a visual eyesore due to increasing weed, silt build up &amp; driftwood. Boat ramps around the lake need to be maintained better, particularly to ensure these remain usable.”</p> <p>“Toilets &amp; better campground”</p>	<p>“The lake is such an important part of our community and a strong draw for tourists during the summer. If more areas of the lake shore were cleared and easy to access it would mean more space available for people to enjoy.”</p>
<p>“We need stronger action to hold Contact Energy and the councils to account for their action or lack of action in most cases.”</p>		<p>“Keep up the good work LDCT &amp; know that your community is behind you!”</p>
<p>“Opening up the lake foreshore by removing willows and exotic species and replanting in natives would be a great way to showcase the lake and showcase its beauty.”</p>		

# Additional comments: Kowarau Arm focussed

<p>“Old Cromwell town needs to wake up to the stinking cess pit that they will be looking at”</p>	<p>“The Kowarau arm in particular needs most of the weed and silt removed to create swimming and boating beaches.”</p>	<p>“I'd love to see an artist vision for how the kowarau arm might look after it has transitioned back to a river. This would help everyone imagine the possibilities and work towards it.”</p>
<p>“Fix the lake in old Cromwell. Dredge it or do something so we can use it”</p>		
<p>“People would have been less upset by Kowarau Arm siltation if they had known all along this was inevitable. I don't understand why no-one knew/was told before now. Very strange.”</p>	<p>“Please plant the new silt beds in the Kowarau Arm of Lake Dunstan to native species or they will be filled by willows and other non natives. Once the willows get established, nobody will be able to see or access the river.”</p>	<p>“What was envisaged 30 years ago for the Kawaura arm is no longer applicable. A detailed plan needs to be done to look at options. Contact are not being responsible. I look forward to more visible protests on the Lake.”</p>

# Conclusion

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- Most of the negative opinions are on the impacts of the silt & weed on the visual amenity, recreational use and safety of the lake.
- The Kowarau arm is the main concern for participants of the survey
- Community are keen to have more opportunities to utilise the lake but without increase commercial activities to the level found on Lake Wakatipu and Wanaka
- There needs to be more communication on the issues/aspects of the lake so the community are more aware - LDCT, LINZ, Contact Energy & Council all need to address this lack of communication.
- There is a good relationship with LDCT & the community but we can work to improve it further

# Future Surveys

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- This was a pilot survey to see how we progress and level of community participation/interest.
- We need to get a higher percentage of the community to participate - ideally 40% minimum. We therefore need to do more research into how we can achieve this.
- The topic of future surveys will be focused on the various aspects of the waterways & on our project as it progresses.
- We want to ensure everyone in the community has the opportunity to voice their opinions in our surveys to ensure development is community led