



# YALINGBILA BIBULA MOOLOOMBA, MINJERRIBAH

WHALE ON THE HILL  
POINT LOOKOUT, NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND

June 2019

## Yalingbila Bibula Pre Design Consultation Report

Prepared for Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

Prepared by Articulous



Queensland  
Government

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## Executive Summary

Articulous was engaged by Cox Architecture to deliver an online survey and two community workshops to support the delivery of the Yalingbila Bibula (Whale on the Hill) project. These activities were hosted between 13 December 2018 and 8 February 2019 and reached approximately 500 residents and visitors.

A total of 273 people completed the online survey. Between 80 and 100 people attended the first community workshop and between 50 to 70 people attended the second workshop.

76% of survey respondents said it was either very important or important to recognise the relationship between the whales (yalingbila) and Point Lookout (Mooloomba).

78% of survey respondents thought it was either very important or important that residents and visitors can watch yalingbila from land as they pass Mooloomba and 70% of respondents believe that it is either very important or important that the story of Quandamooka and yalingbila is shared at Mooloomba.

Qualitative analysis of comments revealed that:

- 11% of respondents directly opposed the project.
- 7% of respondents supported the project but at a different location.
- 2% were strongly in favour.

80% of survey respondents expressed no strong feelings toward this project.

All those who completed this survey adopted the Quandamooka place names and words used in the survey text in their responses.

Many who attended the two community workshops expressed strong reservations about this project. Some who attended said that there were better locations for this installation.

Common concerns expressed at the community workshops included:

- There has been insufficient community input into the location of this facility.
- Increased tourism will impact on traffic and parking at Mooloomba.
- 18,000 people signed a petition opposing the transfer of land by Redland City Council for this project.
- The economic transition process is being imposed on the community and that the community would like self-determination on their future.

## Project Summary

Yalingbila Bibula is one of 23 initiatives identified in the Queensland Government's North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy and is being led by Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC).

The purpose of Yalingbila Bibula is to develop a whale watching and interpretive facility including a high-quality natural history, science, cultural museum with audio-visual interpretive facilities.

Yalingbila Bibula is to be designed to have a minimal footprint, be culturally sensitive, and showcase the skeleton of an adult humpback whale currently housed by the Queensland Museum for the Traditional Owners.

Yalingbila Bibula is expected to deliver the following economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits:

1. World class eco-tourism experiences on Minjerribah, creating a new Indigenous attraction that will complement the growing whale-watching visitation in the non-peak season.
2. Increase opportunities for Quandamooka people to share their cultural knowledge to visitors, while providing an additional business opportunity.
3. Local economic growth and the creation of long-term local employment opportunities.
4. Increased participation by Quandamooka people, island residents and businesses in island activities.
5. Harness the cultural significance of the area and increase awareness of the island's unique cultural heritage and environmental values.
6. Scientific research partnership opportunities.
7. Promote, exchange and share knowledge about whales, marine conservation, Quandamooka culture and connection to whales and the environment

## Project scope

Yalingbila Bibula builds on the outcomes of previous research and engagement activities conducted by the Queensland Government, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and the Redland City Council. The proposed site for this facility was previously developed as a tennis court and was identified in the Point Lookout (Mooloomba) Conservation Management Plan as appropriate for built works that enhance cultural heritage values.

The goals of this pre design engagement were to:

- Gather community ideas to inform the final design of this facility
- Understand community values for this site
- Inform and educate the community on the cultural importance of whales to the Quandamooka People and the significance of Mooloomba as site of scientific research on whales
- Inform and educate the community on Quandamooka place names and create awareness of the Quandamooka language and culture

## Project Methodology

Residents were invited to participate in:

- An online survey
- Two face-to-face community workshops

### Online survey

The survey was launched on 13 December 2018 and closed on Friday, 8 February 2019 and included:

- A video summary of Yalingbila Bibula project
- 11 questions that were woven around the cultural history of North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) as provided by Quandamooka story tellers
- Artwork by Quandamooka artist Lincoln Costelloe which was specifically commissioned for this project. Mr Costelloe was chosen for this project both for his artistic skill and his cultural family links to the yalingbila of Moreton Bay.

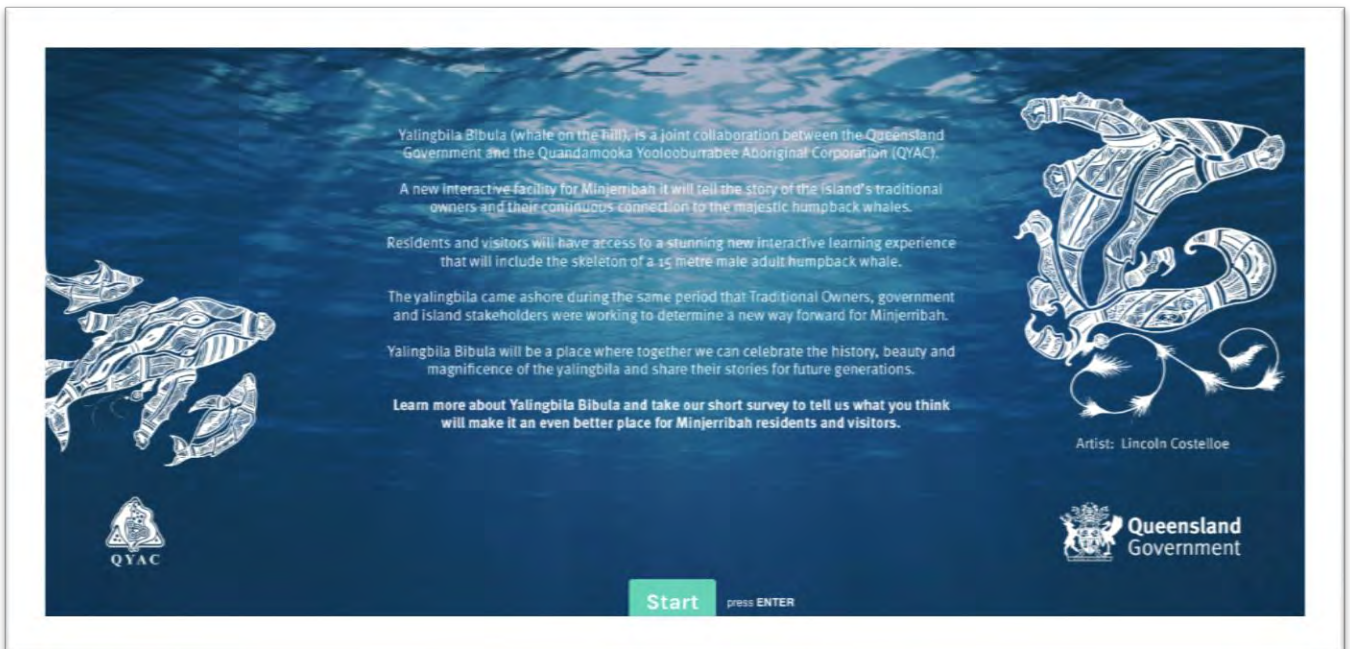


Image 1: Front page of Yalingbila Bibula survey featuring artwork by Lincoln Costelloe.

## Face to face community workshops

QYAC hosted two community consultation workshops. The goal of these workshops was to seek community ideas for the design of whale interpretive installation at Mooloomba.

On both occasions' workshop participants were:

- Welcomed to Country by the Traditional Owners.
- Provided an overview of Yalingbila Bibula project.
- Provided an overview QYAC'S role in this project
- Given an outline of previous consultation activities supporting this project and the broader economic transition strategy for Minjerribah.
- Clearly told the scope and purpose of the current phase of consultation.
- Provided cultural experiences explaining connection between whales and the Quandamooka people.

Session 1 - 20 December 2018

- At this session facilitator Bernard Houston, of Articulous, welcomed visitors, providing an overview of Yalingbila Bibula and sought, and received, agreement for how the forum would be conducted.

Session 2 – 23 January 2019

- In response to community request, the second consultation session included senior State Government representatives, senior QYAC representatives, Cox Architects, and consultants who completed key background studies.
- This second event was hosted as a community fair where visitors could engage directly with these experts to learn about this project and to provide their ideas on the design of the Yalingbila Bibula facility.
- Quandamooka performers and story tellers communicated the cultural significance of this site and of the whales that visit it.

At both forums visitors were given verbal explanations and written documentation that explained:

- Native title has been recognised on land at Mooloomba that was previously occupied by a tennis court.
- The scope and purpose of this project as part of the economic transition of Minjerribah.
- The history of the whale skeleton to be displayed.
- That a conservation management plan has been completed for the headland and the tennis court site was identified as one that was appropriate to enhance cultural heritage infrastructure.
- How the community can contribute to the design of this facility.

## Results

### Survey analysis

The Yalingbila Bibula survey contained seven quantitative questions and three qualitative questions.

Responses to qualitative questions were categorised into common themes. These themes were then analysed quantitatively.

Qualitative questions were further analysed to provide an overall sentiment rating. Where a respondent had clearly indicated a fundamental opposition to this project in any qualitative question their completed survey was given a value of “against”.

Where a respondent had clearly identified support for this project in any qualitative question that survey was given a value of “For”.

In some cases, respondents said they supported this initiative but would prefer that it at a different location.

These surveys were given a value of “Different site”. All other surveys were given a value of “Neutral”.



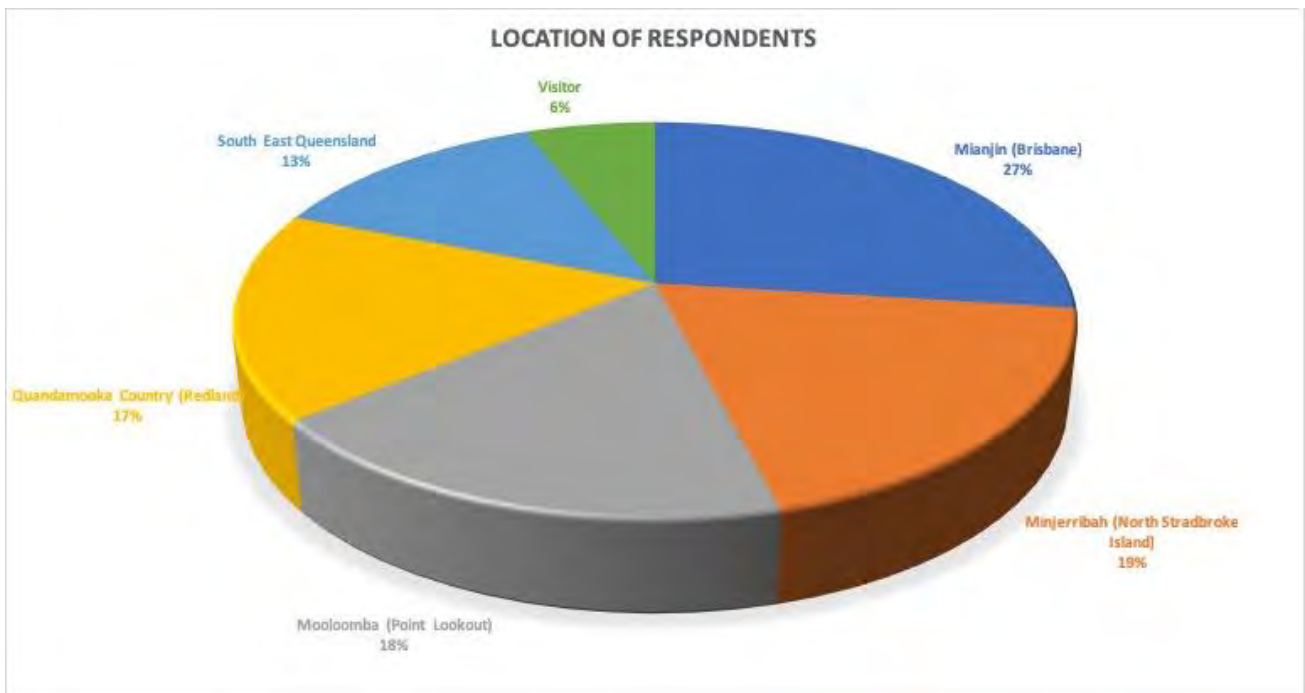


## Respondents

The following graphs provide a breakdown of the survey respondents.

### Question: Select what best describes you:

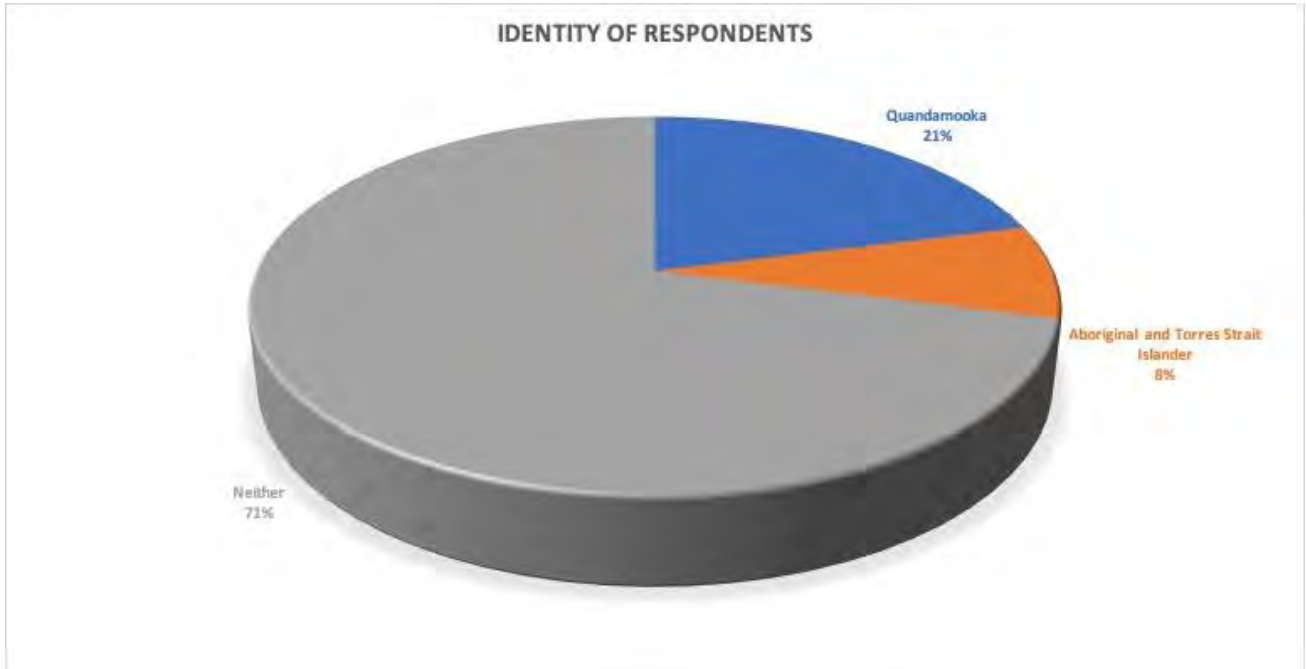
- Live in Meeanjin (Brisbane)
- Live on Minjerribah
- Live at Mooloomba
- Live in Quandamooka Country (Redlands)
- Live in South-East Queensland (Yuggera, Gubbi Gubbi, Waka Waka and Badtjala)
- Visitor



A majority of respondents, 27%, indicated they lived in Meeanjin with 19% of respondents said they lived in Minjerribah while 18% came from Mooloomba.

**Question: Do you identify as:**

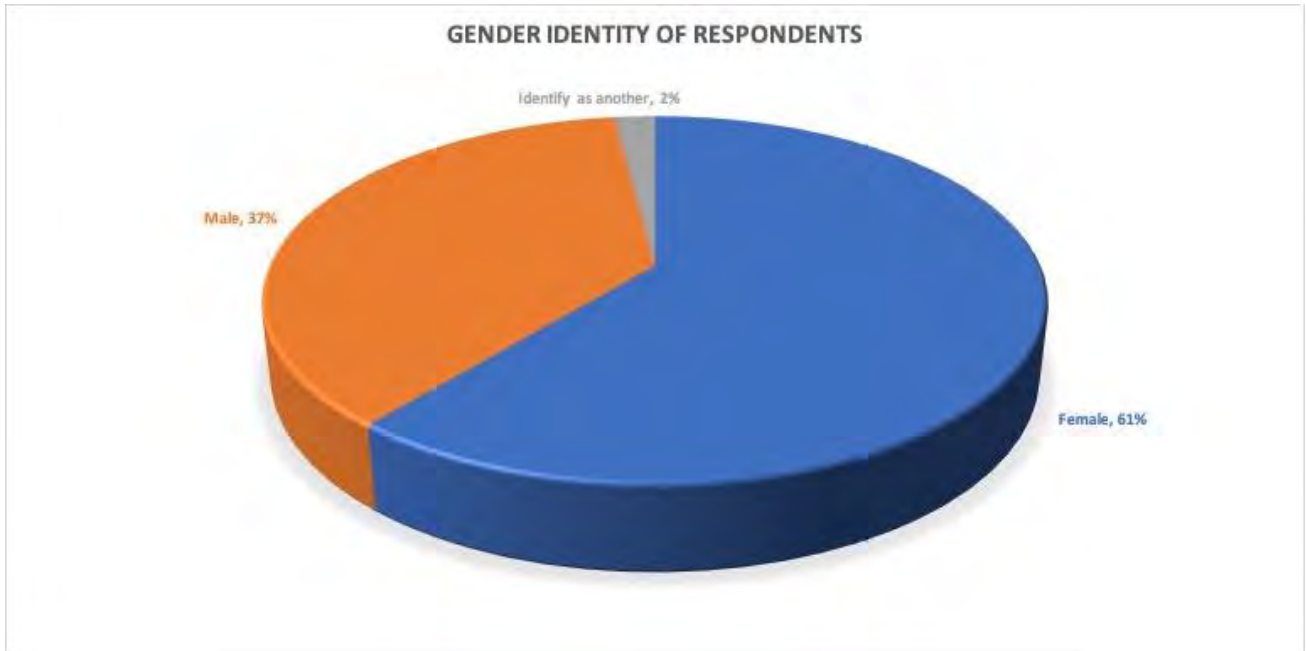
- Quandamooka
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Neither



21% of respondents indicated they were Quandamooka, with 8% identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

**Question: What is your gender identity:**

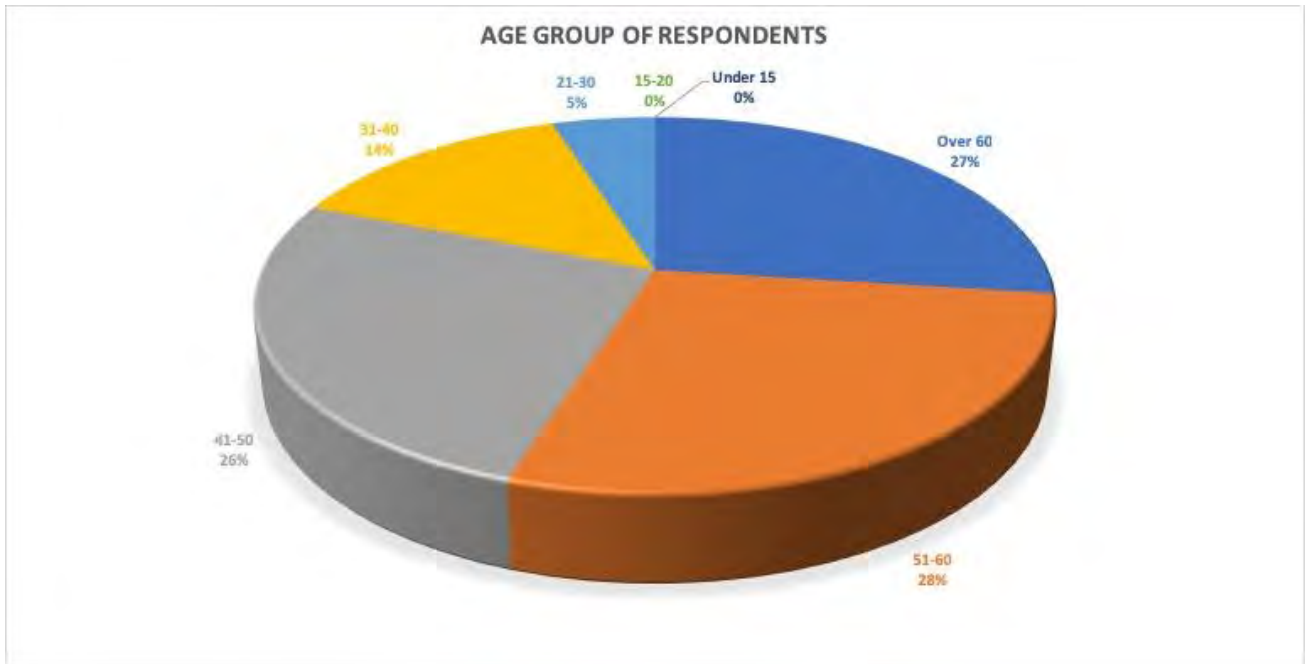
- Female
- Male
- Identify as another



The majority of respondents, 61%, identified as being female.

**Question: What is your age group**

- Over 60
- 51 - 60
- 41 - 50
- 31 - 40
- 21 - 30
- 15 - 20
- Under 15



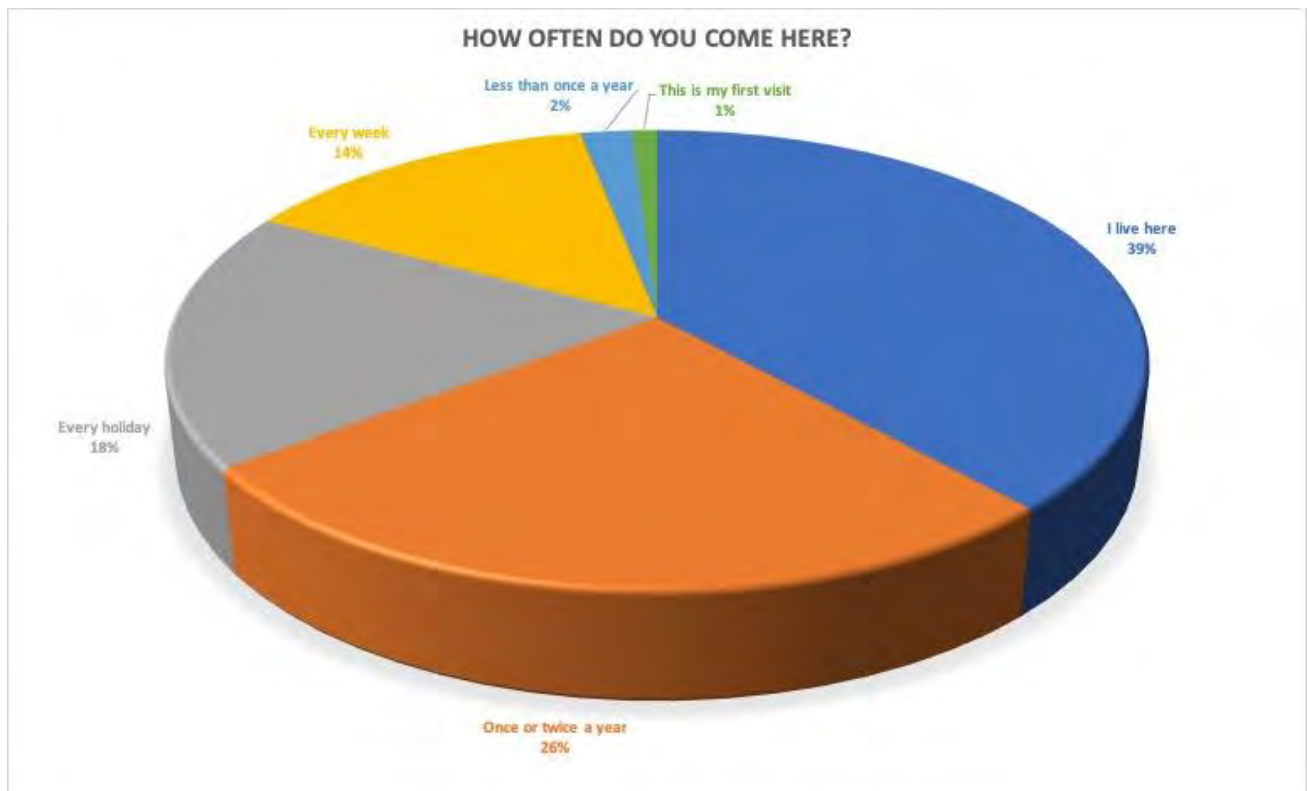
The majority of respondents were aged over 40, with 28% identifying as being in the 51-60 age group and 26% from the 41-50 demographic. No respondents identified as being aged under 20.

## Attitudes

The following graphs provides an overview of the respondents' sentiment with regards to Yalingbila Bibula.

**Question: Yalingbila visit every year. How often do you come here?**

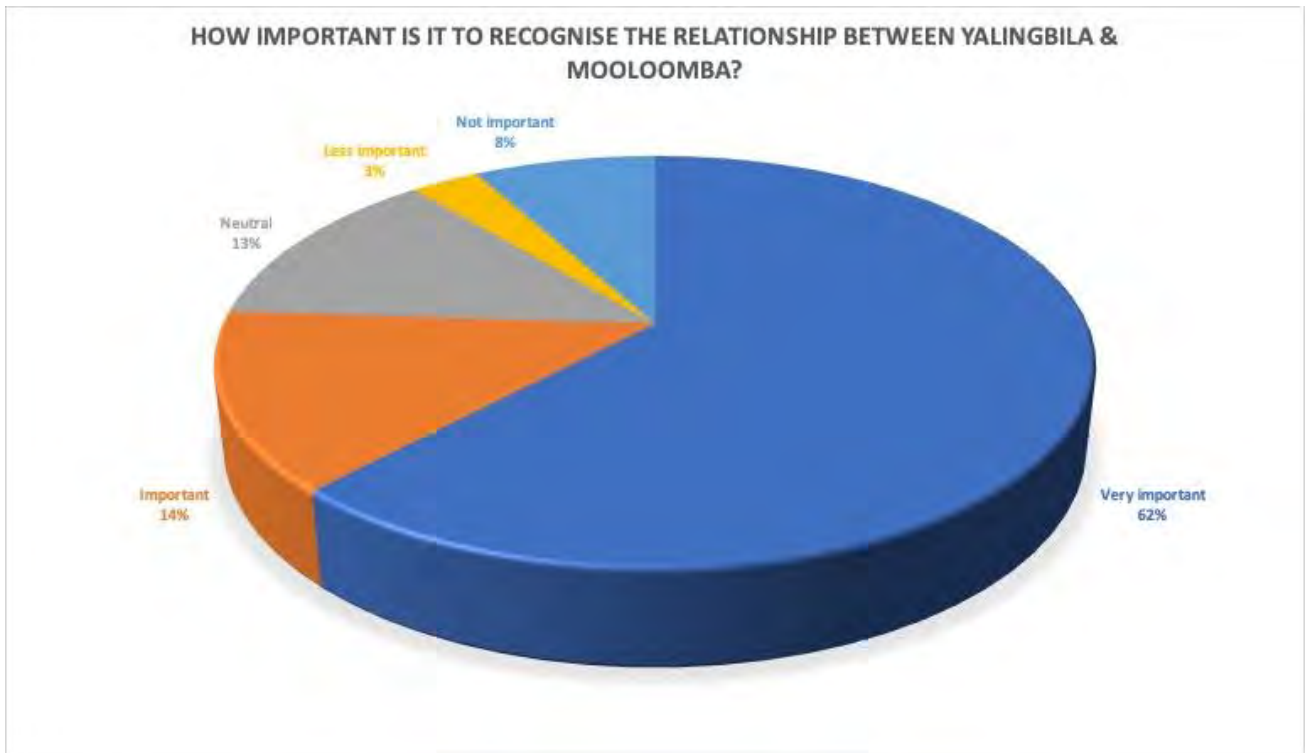
- I live here
- Once or twice a year
- Every holiday
- Every week
- Less than once a year
- This is my first visit



38% of respondents indicated that they lived on the island with 26% suggesting they visit once or twice a year.

Question: Mooloomba is unique. It's one of the only places in Australia where you can see whales close up from the land and is where the world's largest running scientific study of whales is conducted from. How important is it to recognise the relationship between yalingbila and Mooloomba?

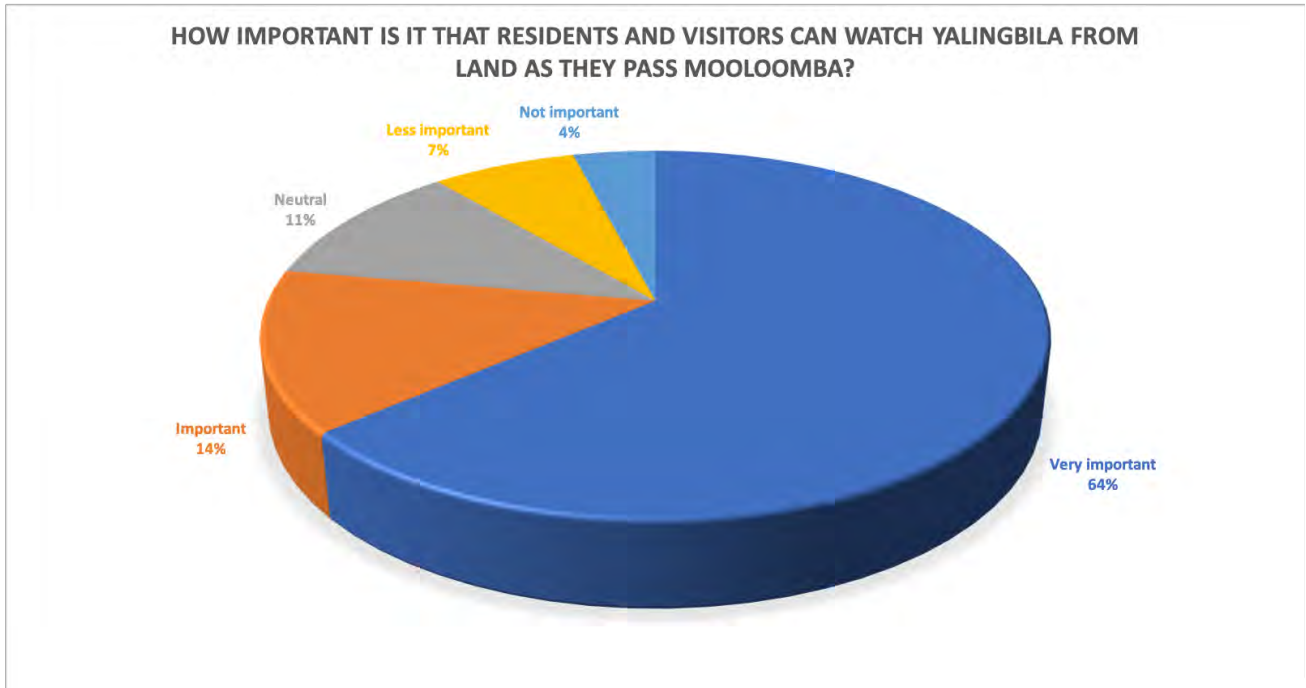
- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less important
- Not important



76% of respondents said it was either very important or important to recognise the relationship between yalingbila and Mooloomba.

**Question: It's the yalingbila that people come to see. How important is it that residents and visitors can watch yalingbila from land as they pass Mooloomba?**

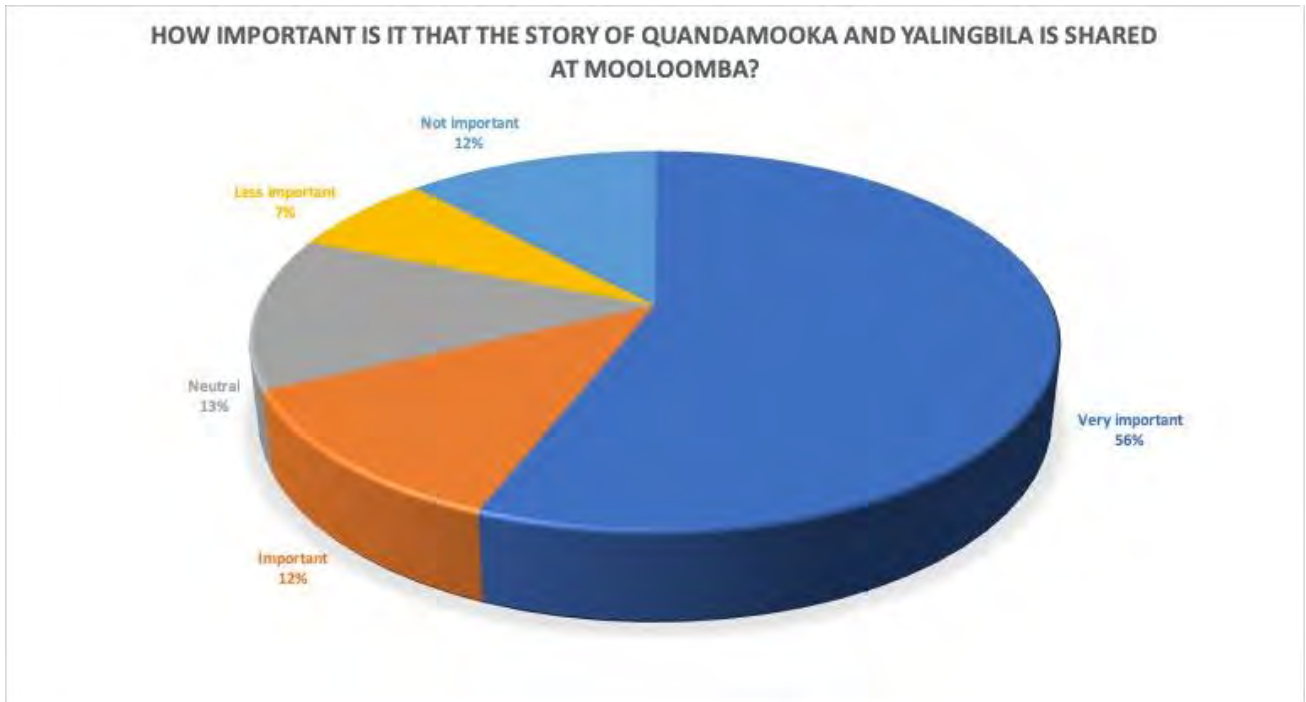
- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less important
- Not important



78% of respondents thought it was either very important or important that residents and visitors can watch yalingbila from land as they pass Mooloomba.

**Question: How important is it that the story of Quandamooka and yalingbila is shared at Mooloomba?**

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less important
- Not important

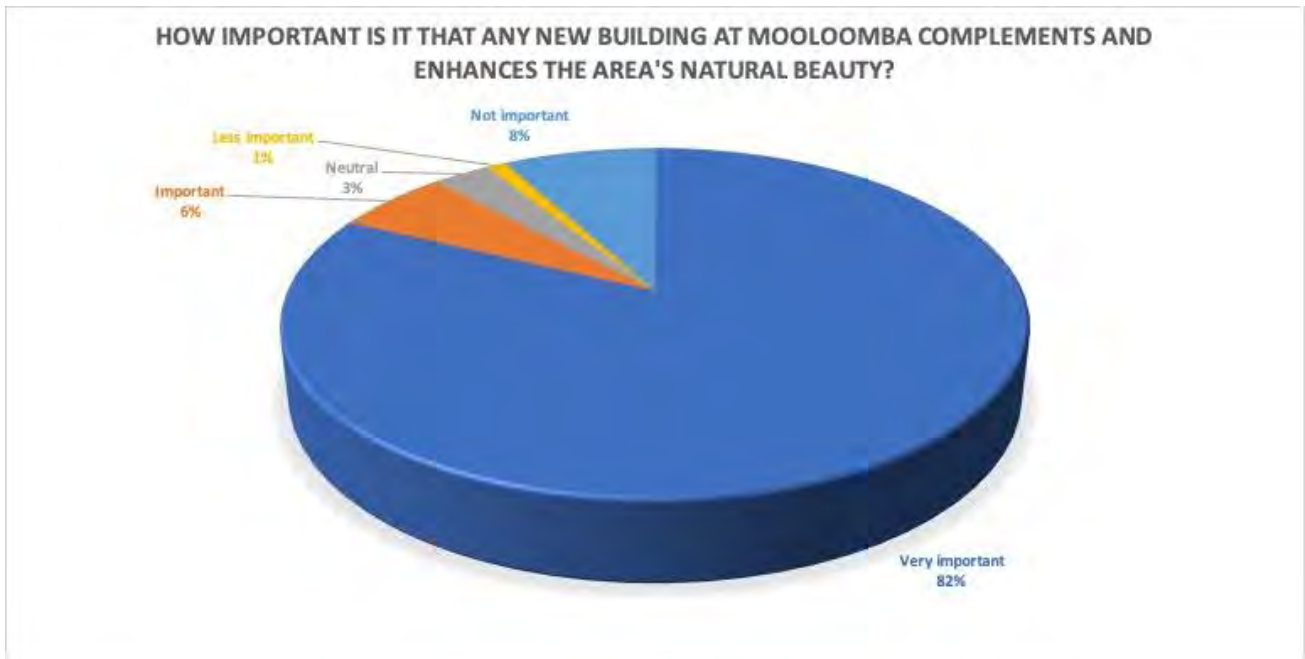


70% of respondents believe that it is either very important or important that the story of Quandamooka and yalingbila is shared at Mooloomba.



Question: To share their story, the Quandamooka People are proposing to build the Yalingbila Bibula Centre. They recognise the natural beauty and values of this place and want to protect it. How important is it that any new building at Mooloomba complements and enhances the area's natural beauty?

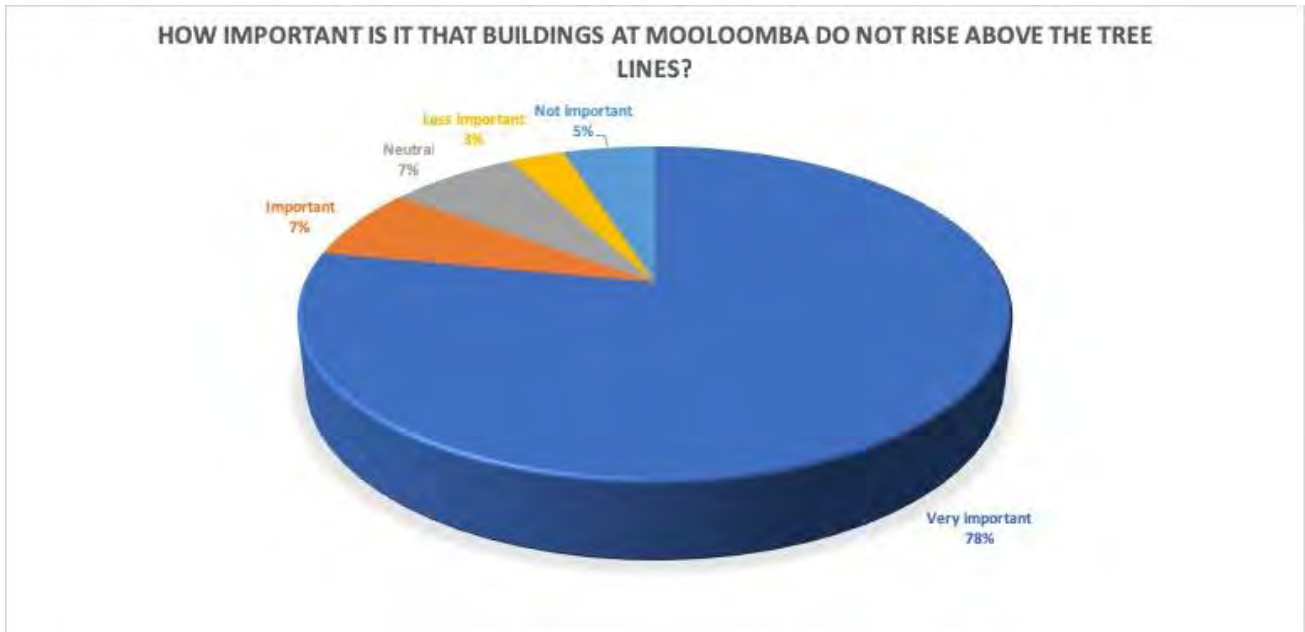
- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less important
- Not important



89% of respondents thought it was very important or important that any new building at Mooloomba complements and enhances the area's natural beauty.

**Question: How important is it that buildings at Mooloomba do not rise above the tree lines?**

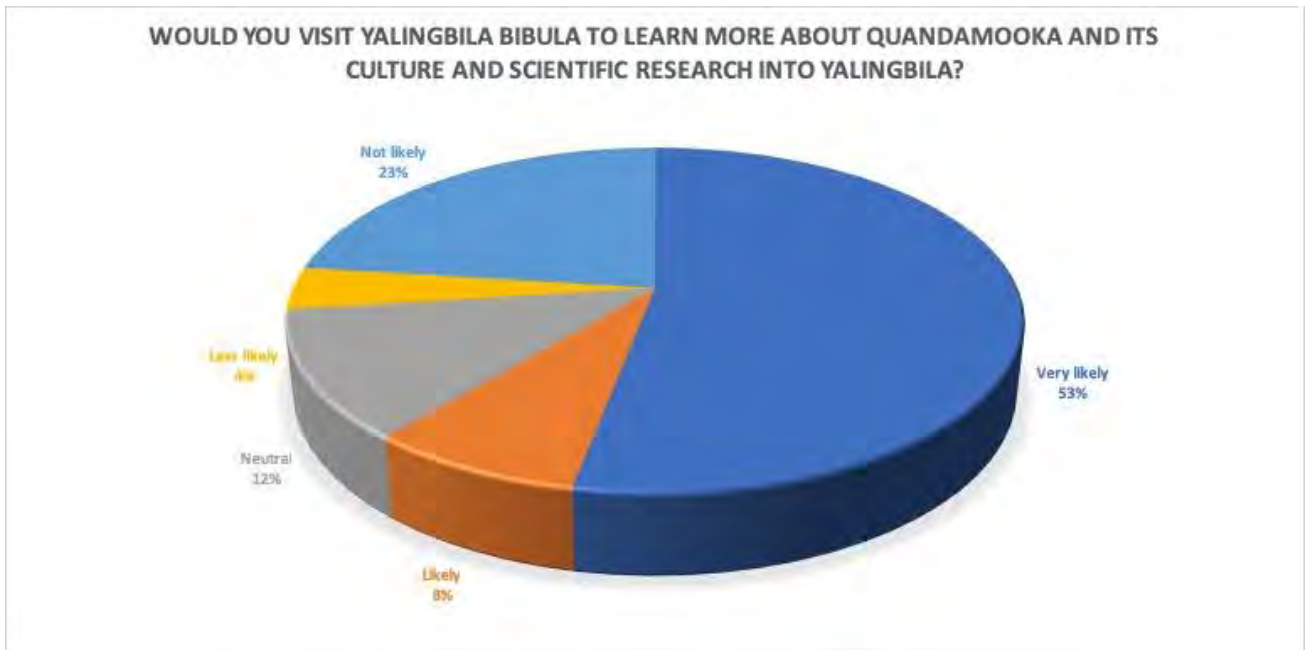
- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less important
- Not important



85% of respondents said it was very important or important that buildings at Mooloomba don't rise above the tree lines.

Question: Yalingbila Bibula would be a place where people can come to learn and appreciate these magnificent animals. Would you visit Yalingbila Bibula to learn more about Quandamooka and its culture and scientific research into yalingbila?

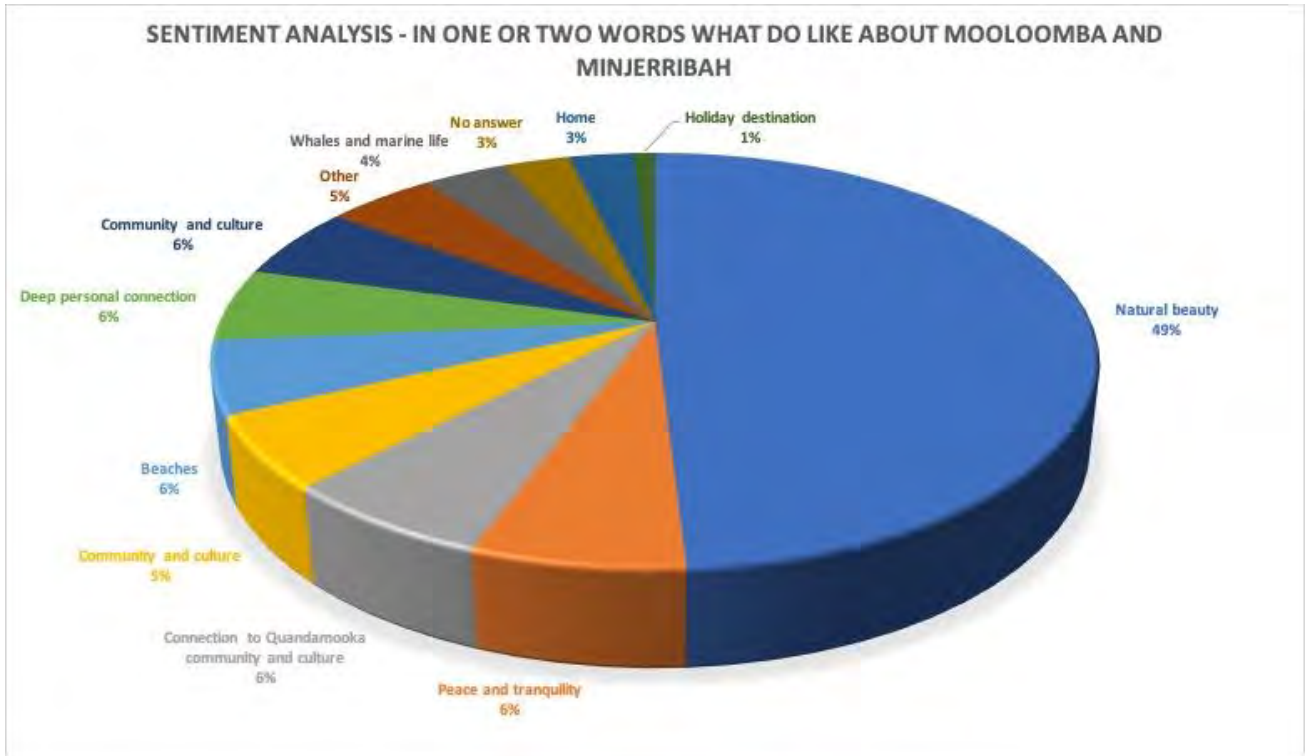
- Very likely
- Likely
- Neutral
- Less likely
- Not likely



61% of respondents said they were either very likely or likely to visit Yalingbila Bibula to learn more about Quandamooka and its culture and scientific research into yalingbila.

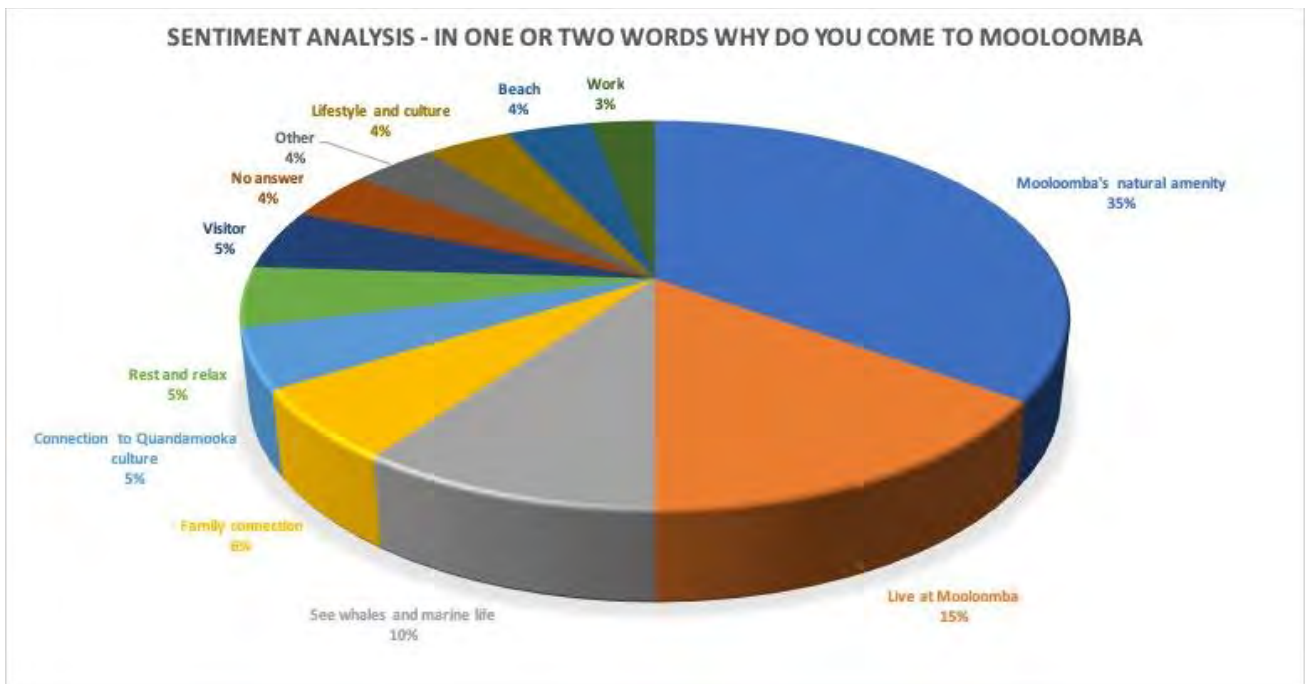
### Sentiment analysis

Respondents given the opportunity to detail in one or two words what they liked about Mooloomba and Minjerribah.

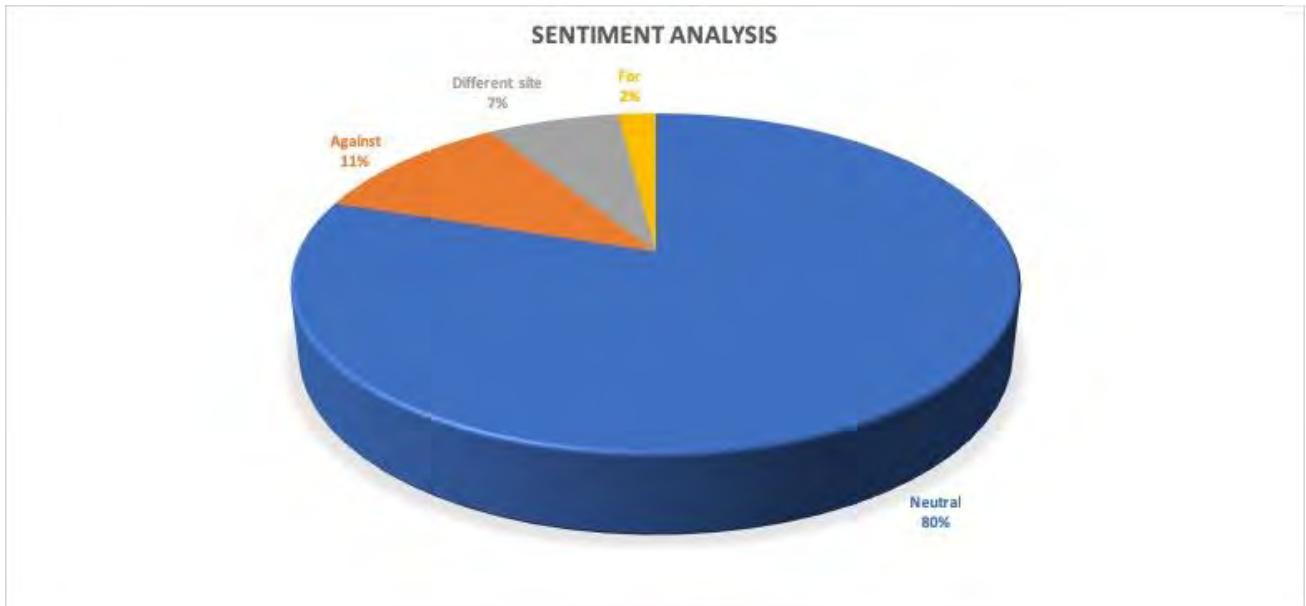


An analysis of the responses showed that 49% of respondents appreciated the natural beauty of Mooloomba and Minjerribah.

Respondents were asked to detail in one or two words why they visited Mooloomba.



An analysis of the responses showed that 35% of respondents appreciated the natural amenity of Mooloomba with 15% suggesting they lived locally. 10% of respondents said they visited Mooloomba to see whales and marine life.



Further analysis of the sentiments in relation to the project indicate that:

- 80% of respondents expressed no strong feelings toward this project
- 11% directly opposed the project
- 7% of respondents supported the project but at a different location
- 2% were strongly in favour.

## Community workshops

Between 80 and 100 people attended the first community workshop and between 50 to 70 people attended the second workshop. Many of those attending the second workshop also attended the first workshop.

Key questions raised by members of the community at both facilitated sessions included:

- How was the site for Yalingbila Bibula decided and were other locations considered?
- Will Yalingbila Bibula include associated retail and parking?
- What is the design of Yalingbila Bibula?
- Have Traditional Owners and Elders been consulted, and do they agree with the site selection?
- What consultation has been done so far in relation to Yalingbila Bibula?
- Have environmental and archaeological studies been carried out on the proposed location?
- Who owns the land being considered for Yalingbila Bibula?
- Have any transport and planning studies been undertaken in relation to the development?
- Will there be further opportunity for the community to have their say on Yalingbila Bibula?
- Will QYAC host future public forums on weekends to ensure greater participation by the local community?

There was considerable discussion at both these meeting on the following points:

- 18,000 people have signed a petition opposing Redland City Council's transfer of land for this project.
- A lot people like the island the way it is now.
- A traditional owner said that it would impact a dreaming story for the headland area.
- Some people feel that this installation should be constructed elsewhere.
- Some people feel that the skeleton should be returned to the ocean and that putting a kin ancestor on land is not right.
- The economic transition process is being imposed on the community and that the community would like self-determination.
- That there was an engagement meeting in November 2014 with twelve conservation groups and traditional owners. Environmental groups wrote a subsequent letter not supporting the site to the Redland City Council (RCC).
- That the community has not been consulted on the fundamental assumptions of this project and that community has not seen any background studies or visible data.
- Some people do not want tourism as an alternative to sand mining and that there are other industries that could be supported.
- That increasing tourism will impact island traffic congestion.
- That increasing tourism will impact the island's social fabric.
- That other areas were more suited to this installation. These areas included a site on the same Point Lookout headland near the Point Lookout public toilets and also a site near the proposed Dunwich Cultural Centre.
- Some residents said that the Point was not an appropriate location for a Quandamooka cultural installation.
- Some Traditional Owners did not support the location and believed that there was no engagement with the Quandamooka People in the Economic Transition Strategy.

There was an emotional plea from one resident that QYAC heed these community concerns and locate facility away from the Point Lookout Headland.

One resident asked that a moratorium be placed on this project. This request was declined by QYAC.

The following points were made in response to community questions about the economic transition process:

- The Queensland Government conducted two rounds of engagement on the economic transition of Minjerrabah. The first was in 2010/2011 and the second was in 2015/2016.
- There were 300 responses to the second round of engagement.
- In addition, in being submitted to the Queensland Parliament, this economic transition strategy has been subject to a further full public process.
- The three key opportunities for the island's economic transition are tourism, education and small business.
- Transport is being considered and that the outcomes of a recent public transport study will be shared.
- The Queensland Government has currently committed \$26 million to the island's economic transition.
- In relation to the site location it was advised:
  - In 2008 the Redland City Council undertook an in-depth Heritage Management Plan (including cultural heritage) that indicated the proposed site was appropriate for heritage infrastructure;
  - Cultural Heritage surveys and management plans indicated the site was suitable;
  - QYAC undertook land use planning workshops with Quandamooka People in 2012/13 that identified Point Lookout Headland Reserve as an appropriate area for whale watching infrastructure;
  - The Queensland Government commissioned an Indigenous Business Development Plan in 2010 as part of the Economic Transition Strategy that consulted the Quandamooka Community and specifically identified the Point Lookout Headland Reserve as an area for a whale facility.
- There was also considerable discussion raised about QYAC as an organization, objections to native title, and the QYAC CEO personally. These discussions were not relevant to the whale facility project or design.