



Department of Environment and Science.
Swanbank Community Research.

Research Report.
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Executive Summary.

Key Findings.

Ipswich as a place to live

Perceptions of Ipswich and surrounds as a place to live are largely positive.

Positive perceptions are largely associated with proximity to amenities and everything residents need.

Negative perceptions are largely associated with crime/violence/theft, but smells/odour concerns were heightened amongst those who participated in the online consultation.

Specific concerns in the area

The range of **general** issues perceived to be affecting the Ipswich area is varied; but the smell and the dump are spontaneously mentioned in the top third of issues. Environmental impacts rank high in terms of levels of concern.

Looking specifically at **environmental issues** affecting the local area, waste management facilities and air pollution quality are the top two most commonly mentioned issues. Concern about local rubbish issues, air pollution / quality and water management facilities is high.

However when asked about the greatest threats to the local environment, smells / odours rank lower by comparison.

Over half of the Ipswich community believe industry is impacting the Ipswich and surrounding environment.



Key Findings.

Awareness and concern of odours

When prompted, awareness of odours in the local community is moderately high and are certainly a concern given frequency and intensity. Half of residents (52%) have noticed an odour nuisance in the local area, and 6 in 10 (57%) are concerned about local air quality.

Amongst those who have noticed an odour:

- A significant proportion (73%) have noticed it at least once a week, including over a third (36%) who report this occurs daily.
- A significant proportion (76%) also report this most recently occurred in the last week, including 55% reporting it occurred in the last few days.
- The odour generally lasts several hours (57%), a further 19% report it lasts all day.
- The odour is largely described as faecal (like manure) (44%) or compost waste (37%). However a mixture of odours are described, with a further quarter describing it as rotten eggs (25%) or dead animal (22%).
- The intensity tends to vary (65%). Most residents describe the intensity of the odour as strong, very strong or extremely strong (70%).
- Most residents say the odour is more noticeable in changing weather conditions, particularly when its windy.
- 2 in 3 residents believe they know the source of the odour – the Swanbank Dump is the most commonly mentioned suspect.

Odour awareness, concern, perceived frequency and duration is higher amongst those who opted into the online public consultation.



Key Findings.

Future updates on the odour

4 in 10 (39%) Ipswich residents surveyed by telephone would like to be updated on odour management issues in the Ipswich area. This increases to 76% of those who opted into the online public consultation.

Both groups clearly prefer being updated by email than any other channel (60%+).

Future updates on other environmental matters

Residents would like to be updated on a broad range of environmental topics important to Queensland (no stand-out topics).

They would receive this topical information via social media (incl. Facebook), and to a lesser extent, TV or radio.

Reporting environmental matters to the Department

When reporting an environmental matter to the Department, most residents would prefer to do so via phone or email.

However, when prompted on the idea, there is certainly support for a mobile app to report an issue and provide supporting material to the Department, particularly amongst the online public consultation group who are more engaged with the topic.

