



# 2021 SURVEY RESULTS



Your Collective Voice  
for **Landcare** in WA

The WA Landcare Network (WALN) conducted its biennial survey of WALN Members between May and July 2021. We sought to understand the needs and challenges of community based land and coastcare groups across Western Australia, to better support them, and to inform WALN's actions as a collective peak landcare voice at the State and National level. Over 50% of our members responded to the survey, with a total of 110 participants. Survey responses were received from a wide range of landcare groups including friends of reserve groups, local landcare and environmental groups, coastcare, grower and catchment management groups and individuals, spanning all corners of Western Australia.

On behalf of the WALN Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this survey for their time providing valuable information on their activities. This information helps us provide a better service to our members and highlights activities more valued by our members. Of note for many groups is the need for assistance in succession planning and attracting and retaining younger members and volunteers. But as you will see, there is also much more support needed by our members. WALN's products and services most valued by our members are the new Landcare News, our Landcare Checks In online discussion sessions and face to face events where networking and capacity building can occur. Despite the impacts of COVID-19, particularly on the planting season, an estimated 15,000 volunteers from all groups undertook conservation activities in the last 12 months, including tree planting, workshops, field days, forums and rubbish clean up days.

An estimated 71,600 volunteer hours were contributed by WALN members this year, which when run through the Volunteer Benefits Calculator on the Volunteering WA website, amounts to at least \$3,437,500 in volunteer labour. An amazing volunteer contribution to protecting and restoring our environment! Encouragingly, 46% of groups indicated they were working in some way with First Nations representatives. By walking and talking together into the future, we hope to see this number increase, as we know that by healing country together, we are in fact healing ourselves. Critically, our members reported that 70% of groups have no full-time staff and 41% of groups are purely voluntary. The multiplier effect if these groups had funded community landcare coordinators available on a part or full-time basis to lead activities and maximise opportunities is considerable. Advocating for this important resource was seen as an important role for WALN.

Groups identified their biggest threats and challenges as being too much work to do, scarcity of government support, lack of a paid coordinator and the absence of engagement with young people. These are real challenges for groups providing significant environmental services to the State, and the community, through actions on biodiversity and conservation, threatened species work, erosion control, natural habitat restoration, planting and revegetation, and public education. This year's statistics confirm what we already know to be true; that with reduced funding available for Landcare, fewer new groups can commence, and it is harder for current groups to expand their activity. This is a real concern, and one WALN is constantly working to address. The good news is that many groups currently operating are 'doing okay' which tells us what a resilient sector community landcare is. In the same way we came together as a community to fight COVID-19, bushfires and flooding, we must keep working together to build on our strengths and support each other to protect the environments across Western Australia that we all care for so much.

I'd like to congratulate everyone who contributed to this year's survey for their insights into how their group and the network is performing, as well as their suggestions on what we can do better in the future. I know the WALN team is looking forward to representing and supporting our members into the future and I commend them for their hard work preparing this member survey report.

Together we can continue to care for Western Australia's precious land and seas.



Mick Davis  
Chair, WA Landcare Network



## Background/Methodology

Before developing the 2021 survey, a review of previous biennial WA landcare surveys was conducted. All other State and Territory Organisations (STO's) were also contacted in an effort to align our survey with the other STO's and include some of the same questions to aid in correlation of survey results. WALN committee members and the State NRM Office also provided input to the survey.

The survey was designed for a representative from a local landcare group to complete with encouragement to associate members, farmers/landholders, individuals and key partners to participate. Two prizes of \$500 were drawn from the completed entries for two grassroots landcare groups to assist with group projects.

The survey was promoted in our monthly newsletter and on our Facebook for two months from 31 May 2021, to which we received 110 responses, representing more than 50% of total membership at the time.

The 42 questions covered a range of areas as shown in the table of contents including:

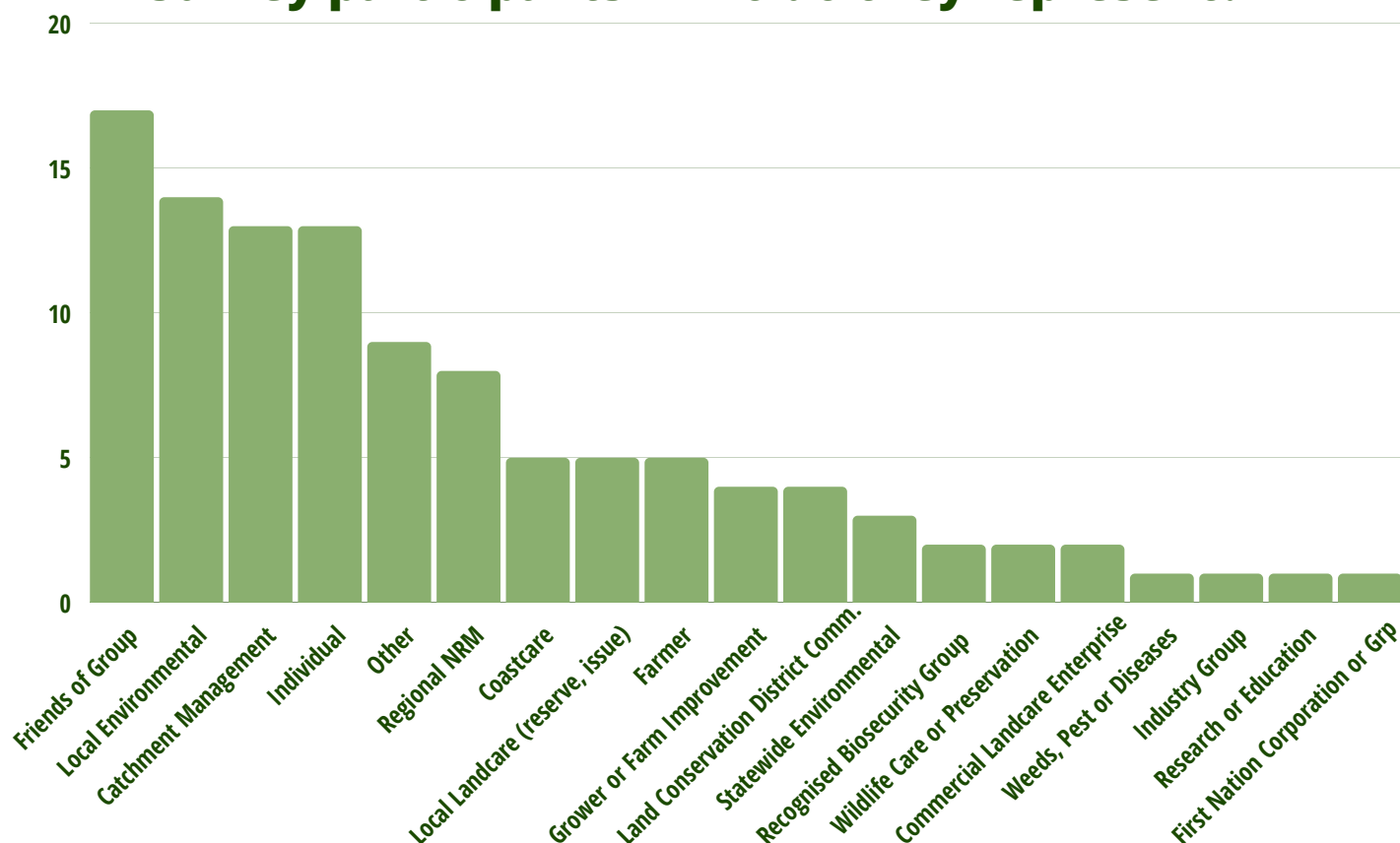
- About your group
- Members and volunteers
- Health of your group
- Communication and engagement
- Engagement with schools
- Traditional custodian engagement
- Issues and Activities
- WA Landcare Network support and involvement
- Groups details
- Closing comments

Respondents were asked to answer based on their experiences and outputs for the previous year 2020.

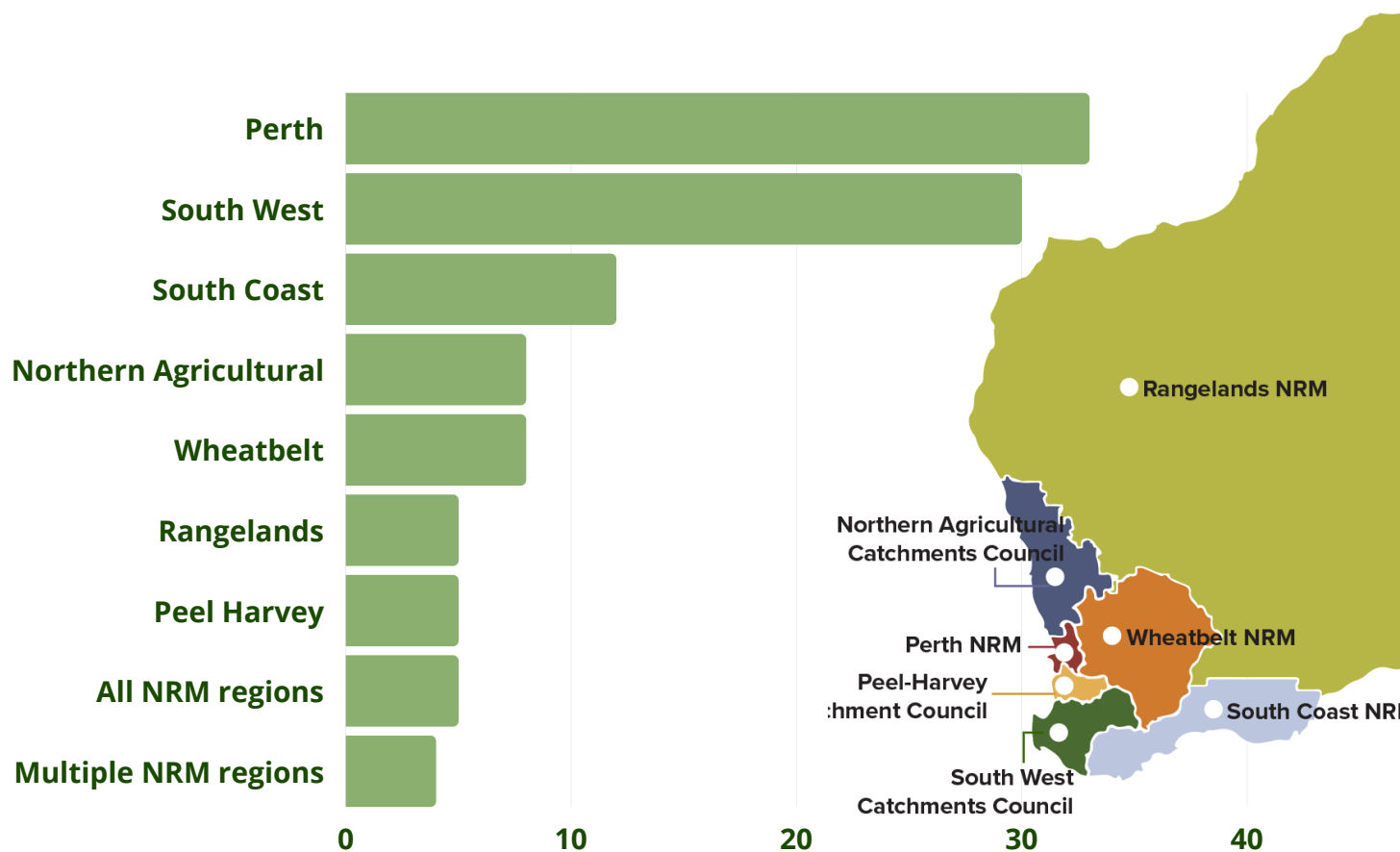


Photo courtesy of Justin Jonson

## Survey participants - who do they represent?



## Which NRM region is your group in?





6000+ members of  
groups



1,700  
regular volunteers



71,600+  
volunteer hours



15,000+  
volunteers participated  
in activities



Value of  
volunteers  
**\$3,437,516**



78% engaged with  
traditional owners

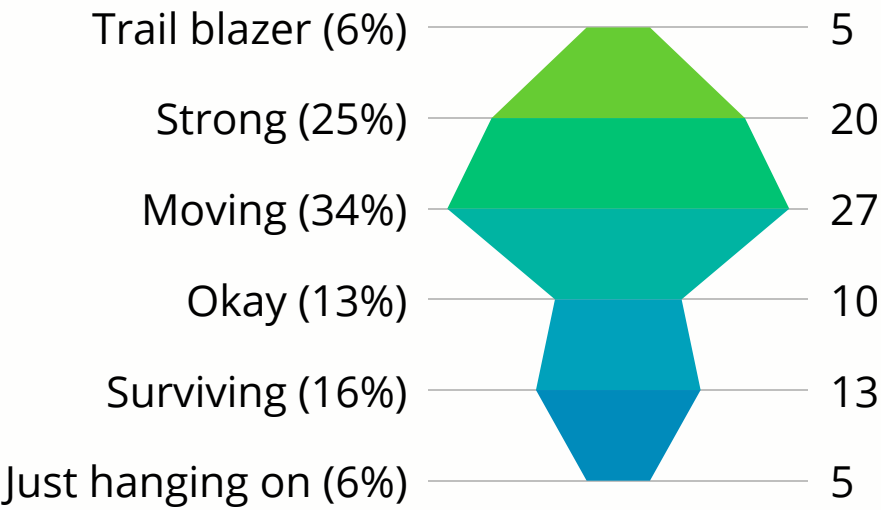


49% engaged with  
schools  
13% didn't due to covid

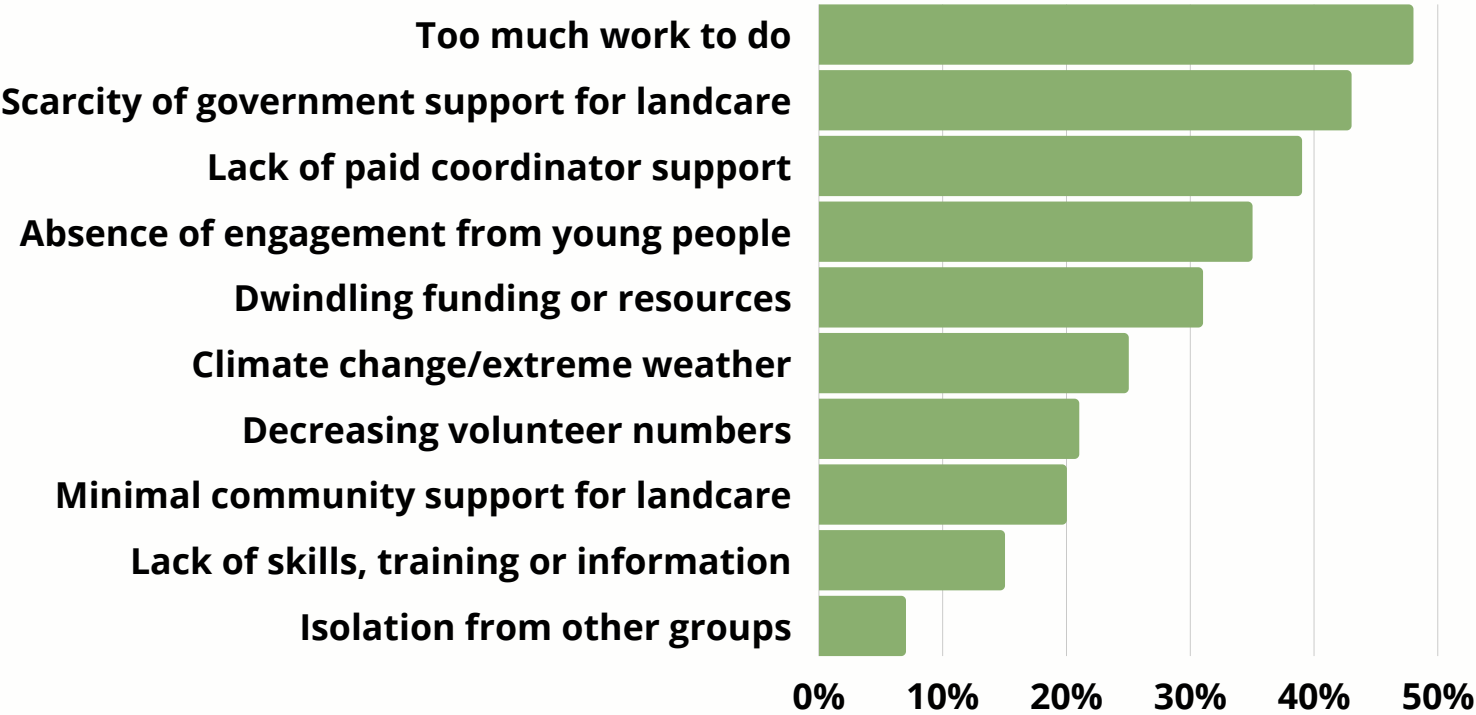


5400 children in  
134 schools  
engaged by 39  
groups

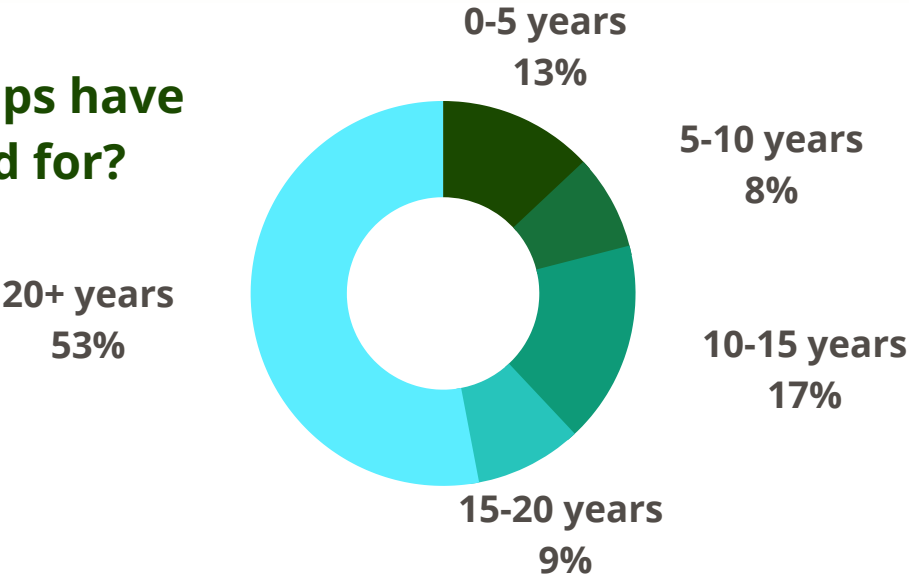
# Group heath rating



## Biggest threats/challenges

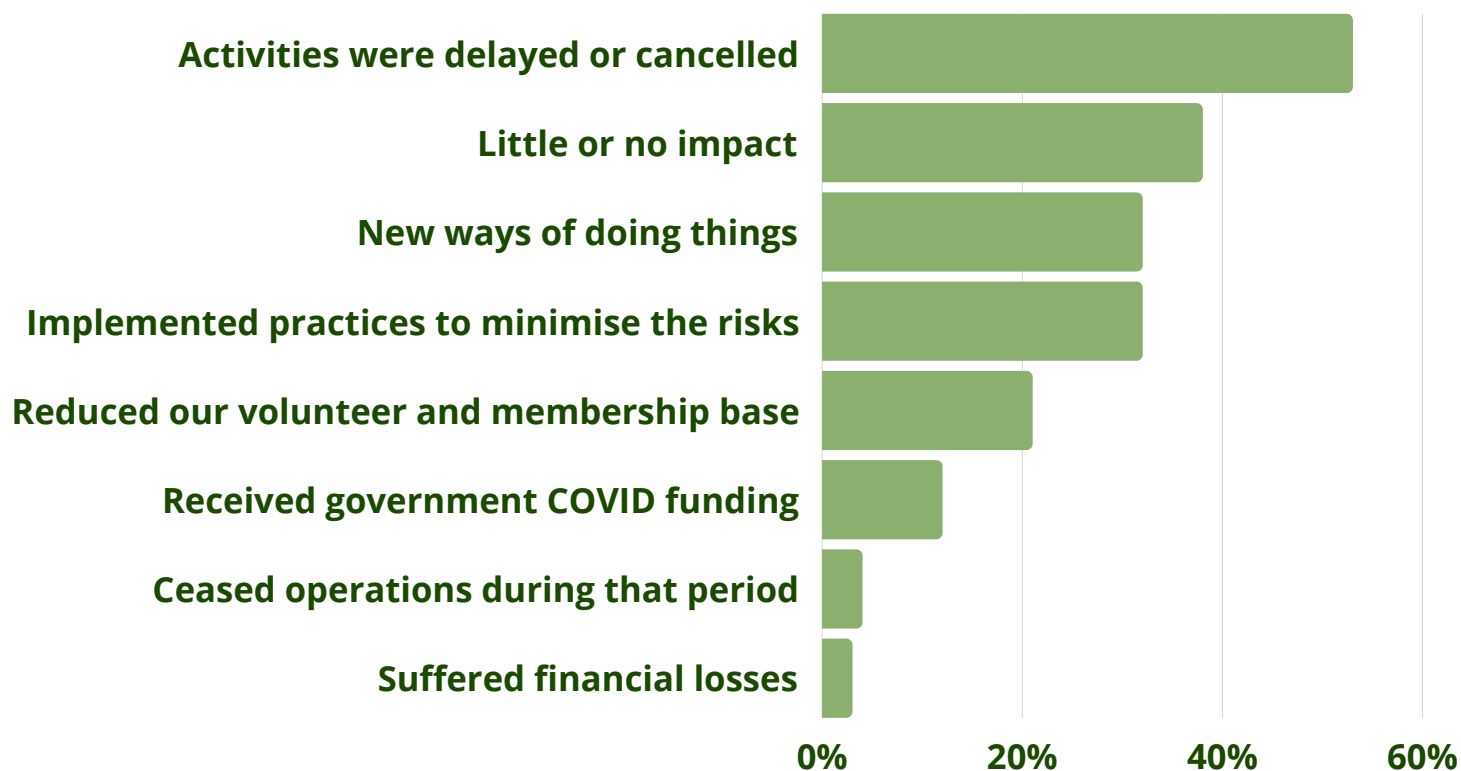


## How long groups have been around for?

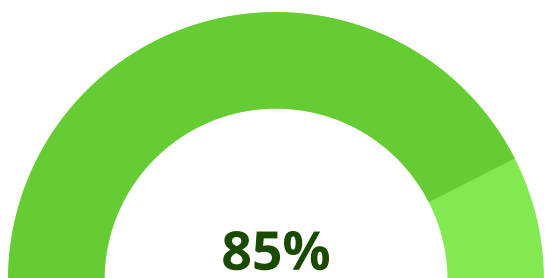


# Challenges and issues

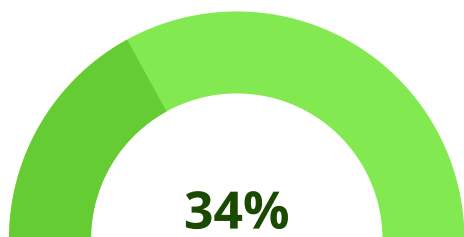
## Covid impact on groups



## Age of volunteers

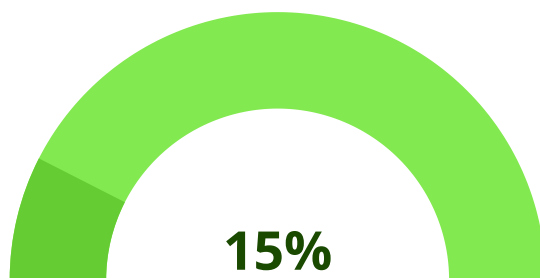


over 45

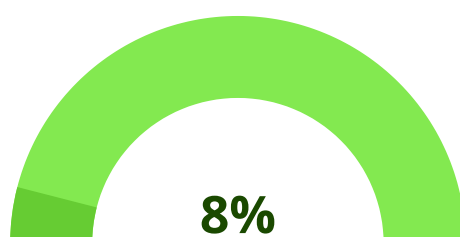


over 60

## Age of volunteers

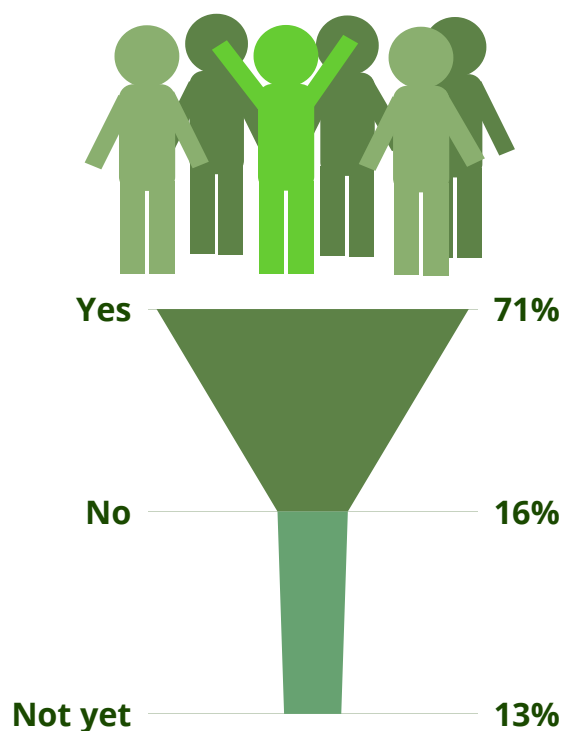


under 45

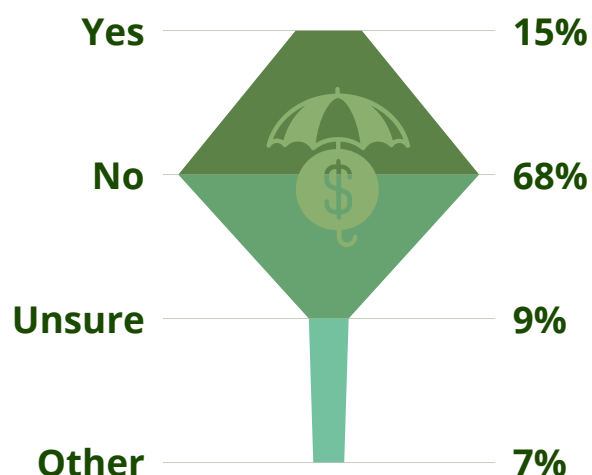


under 30

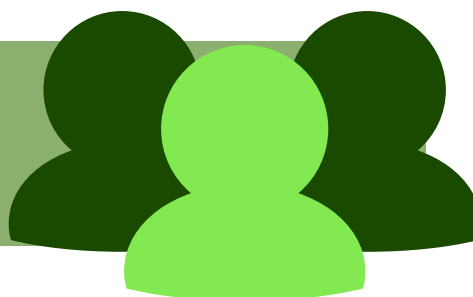
## Member of the WA Landcare Network?



## Taken out insurance available to WALN members?

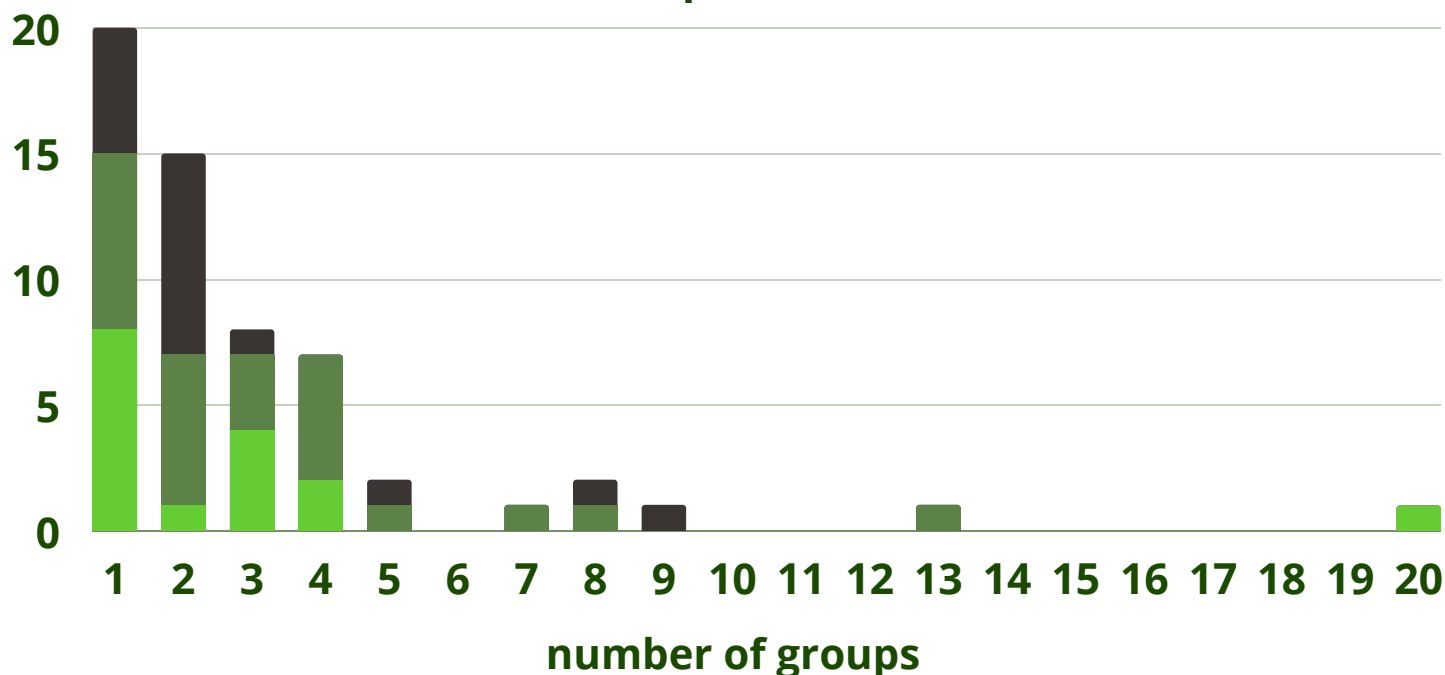


12 Landcare groups have replaced other groups eg. LCDC's



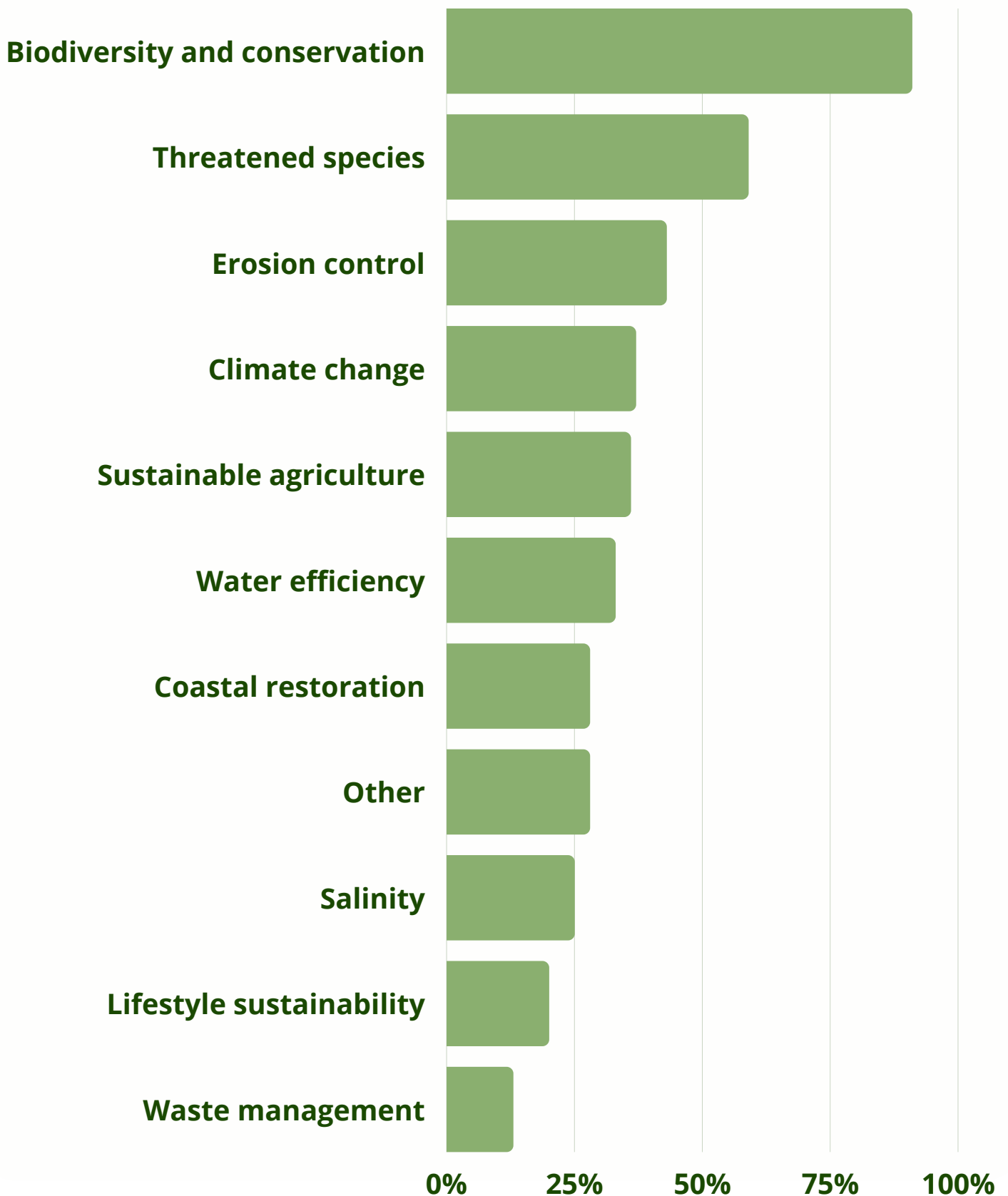
## Number of employees groups have

■ full Time ■ part Time ■ casual

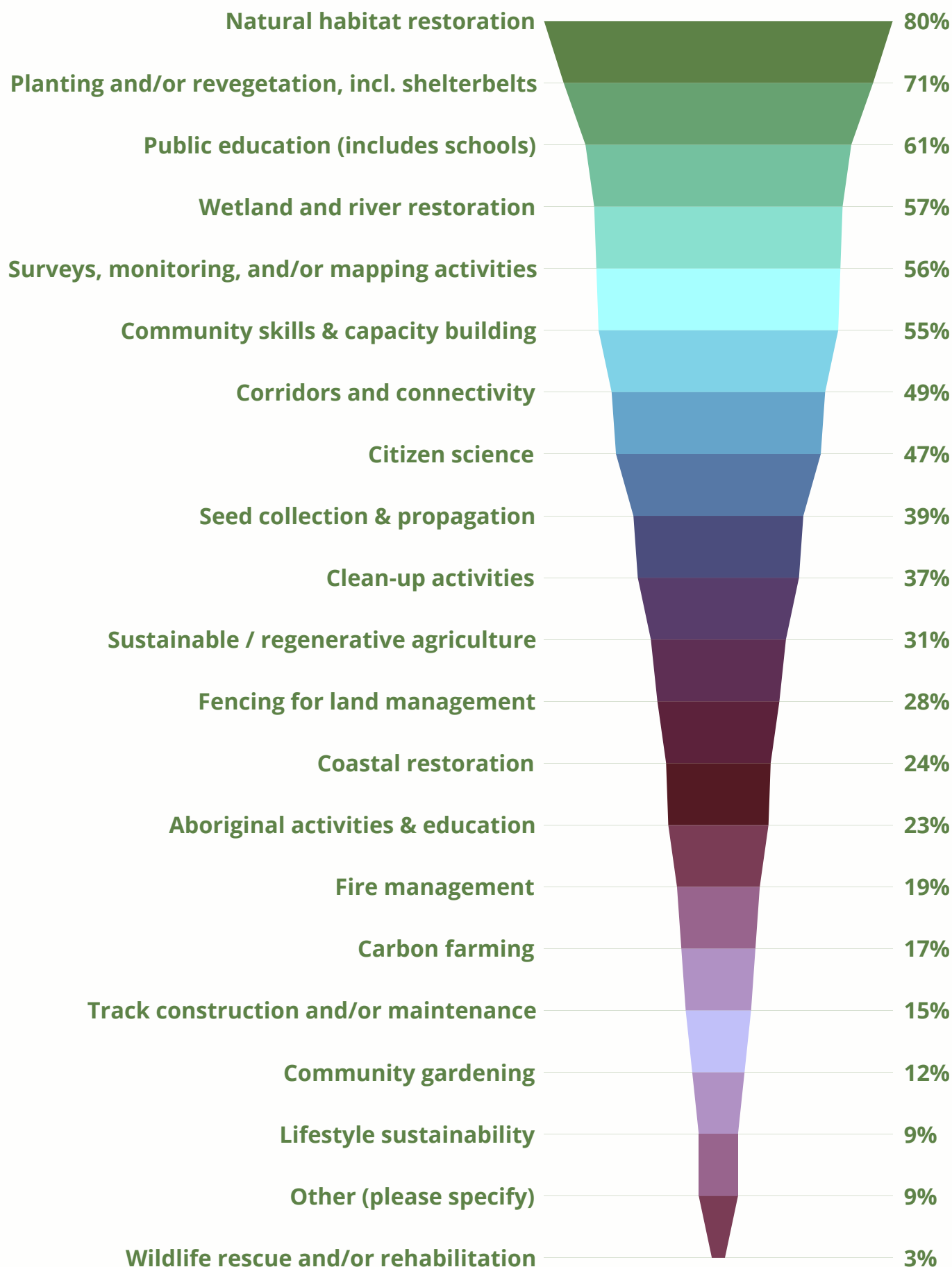




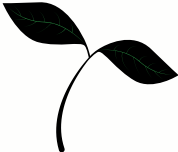
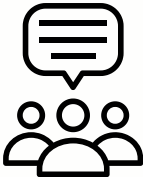

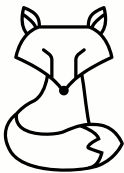



## Issues groups are working on.....



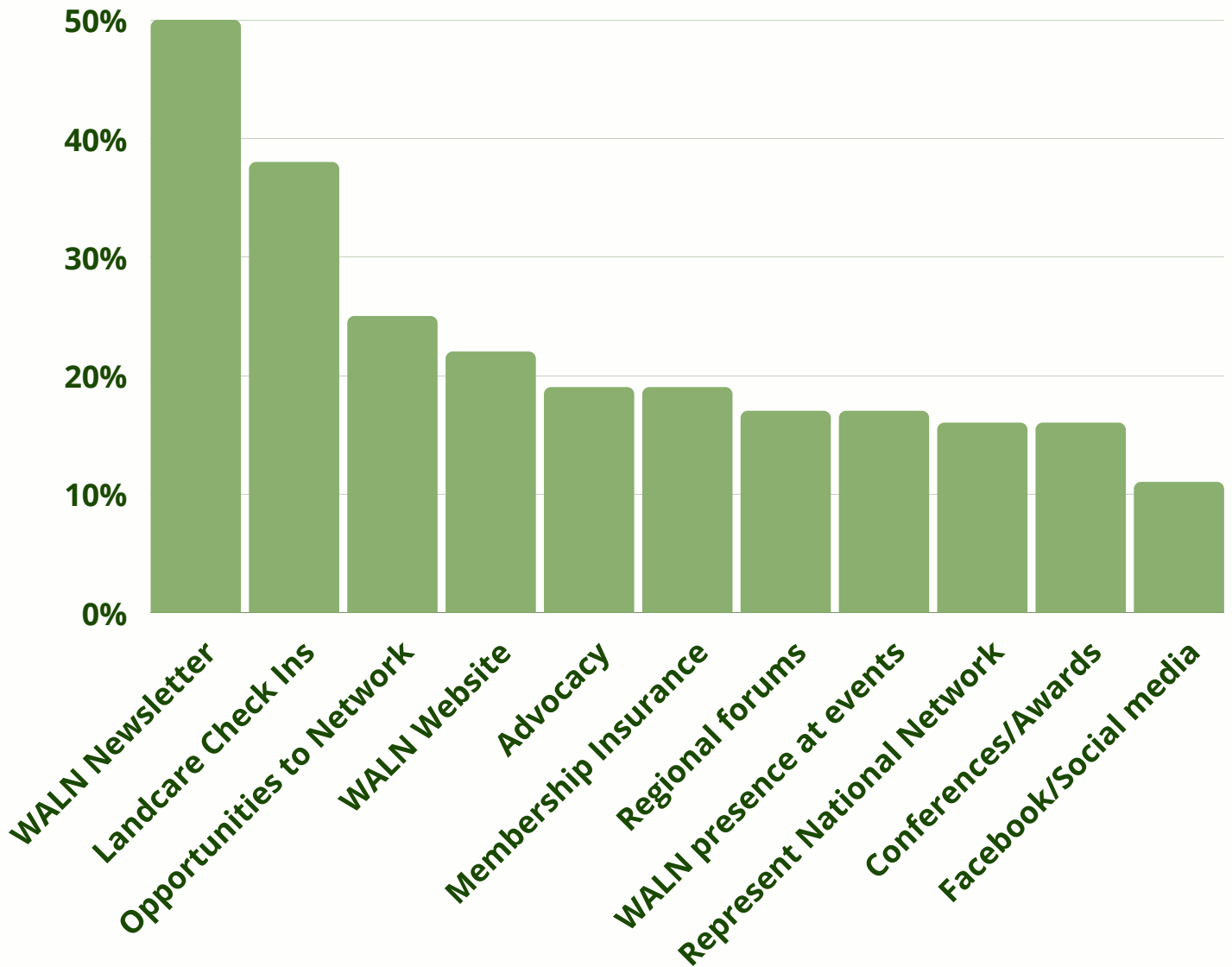
## Activities groups are involved in....



## Major projects groups are planning to do in the next 12 months

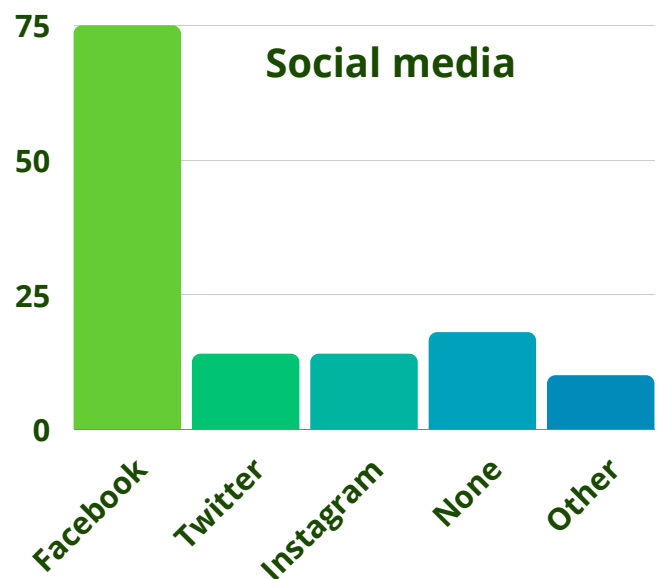
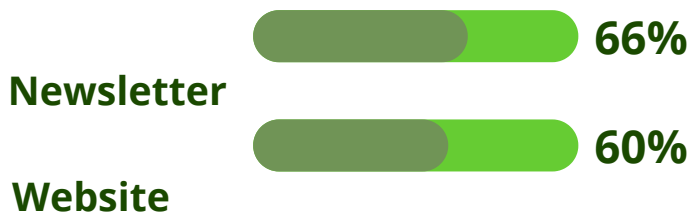
	Revegetation / restoration works
	Public education
	Coastal or estuarine
	Weed or feral animal control
	First Nations or cultural
	Continuing with current projects
	Wetland/ river

## Most useful products services from WALN


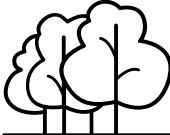







## Group communication

How groups communicate with their members and the wider community



## Suggested topics / issues landcare checks in and regional forums

	Fire management
	Revegetation / carbon farming
	Regenerative farming
	Climate change
	Funding
	Skills training & extension programs
	Lobbying government

## Other issues highlighted

Weeds and feral animal control

Volunteers

Governance

Data management

Rivers / coasts






Wildlife









## Suggestions for Training and Networking Online

	Grant writing
	Social media skills
	Facilitation skills
	Presentation skills
	Engagement with First Nations
	Governance / leadership training
	Volunteer recruitment and management






## Suggestions for training and networking face to face

	<b>Revegetation</b> (techniques and activities) - in conjunction with our member nursery's
	Weed ID and management
	Flora ID / threatened flora management – regional
	Seed collection – in conjunction with our member nurseries
	Monitoring (ecological change, site, soil etc.)

## Services or support groups would like WALN to provide

	Funding / resourcing
	Advocacy
	Collaboration/ networking
	Training workshops/ information
	Recruiting volunteers, particularly young people
	Promotion of groups - particularly wheatbelt

## What we should do with our Collective Voice?

	Lobby government about <b>funding for coordinators</b> and groups
	Advocate for funding support from government, particularly state government
	Foster networking and collaboration between groups
	Promotion and storytelling
	Fire management

The WA Landcare Network is a member of the National Landcare Network, funded by the National Landcare Program. This survey was conducted with support from the National Landcare Network and the WA Government's State Natural Resource Management Program.



natural resource  
management program



The information contained in this survey is collected as a sample of community landcare groups, associate members and interested individuals who are members of the WA Landcare Network. We appreciate their participation and look forward to learning more about them and our growing community of new members in 2023.