



# Comment on Cockburn

## Proposed No Fishing Zone at the Engineered Fringing Reef, C.Y. O'Connor Beach

### Community Insights Snapshot

An engineered fringing reef was installed off C.Y. O'Connor Beach in two stages between 2022 to 2024 to reduce coastal erosion. In addition to reducing wave height, the reef has significantly enhanced biodiversity, with fish species numbers more than doubling. Its popularity with snorkellers and divers, alongside fishing activity including spearfishing, has raised safety and environmental concerns from community. In response to concerns, the City sought feedback on a proposed 50 metre no fishing zone from 2 February to 22 March 2026, with the final decision resting with the Minister for Fisheries. This snapshot provides a summary of feedback received through the consultation process and should be considered alongside technical, environmental, operational, and legislative considerations.

#### How we promoted the consultation



Comment on Cockburn webpage and online survey



E-newsletter to all Comment on Cockburn subscribers



Flyer distribution at engagement pop ups



Signage at C.Y. O'Connor Beach



Article in February and March Cockburn Soundings e-news

#### Who we heard from



**2,182**  
visits to Comment on Cockburn



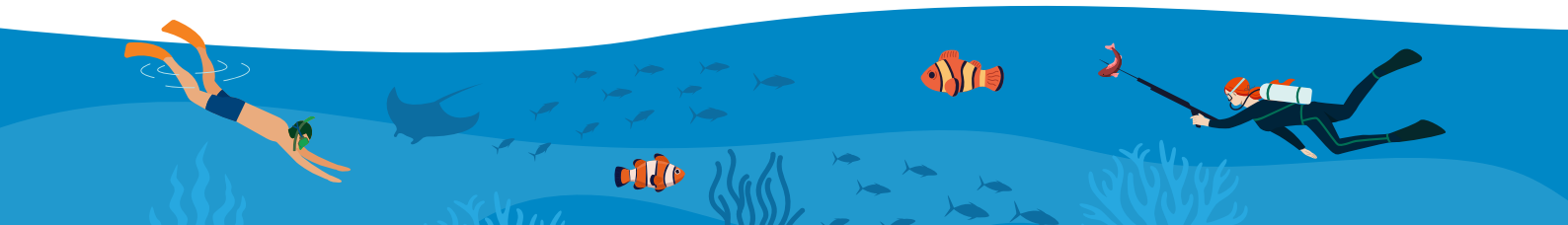
**364**  
survey submissions



**24**  
email submissions



**4**  
written formal submissions



## Key Findings

### Survey Respondents



**68%**

of survey respondents **support** a no fishing zone surrounding the engineered fringing reef



**31%**

**do not support** a no fishing zone surrounding the engineered fringing reef

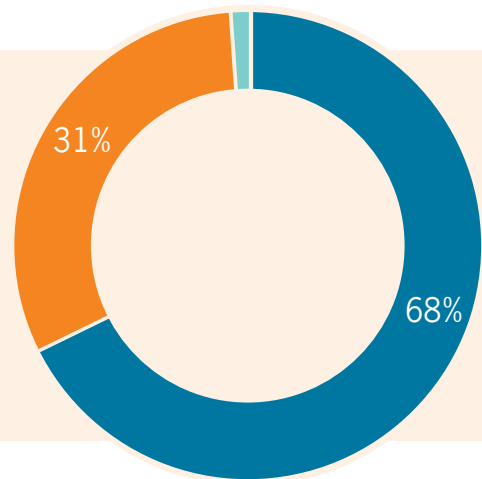


**1%**

indicated other or unsure of support\*

- Support a no fishing zone
- Do not support a no fishing zone
- Other or unsure\*

\*Respondents indicated that they would support a spearfishing ban but would still like to be able to fish/collect sea urchins.



### Email Responses



**50%**

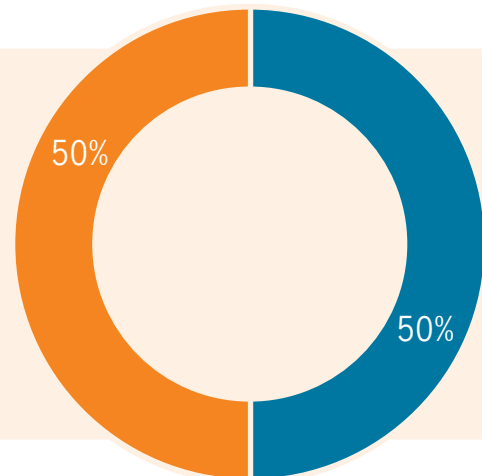
of email responses **support** a no fishing zone surrounding the engineered fringing reef



**50%**

**object to** a no fishing zone surrounding the engineered fringing reef

- Support a no fishing zone
- Do not support a no fishing zone



Of those providing a formal written response, Recfishwest indicated their **strong opposition** to a no fishing zone, and the Honourable Amanda Dorn MLC, the WA State Convenor and Cockburn members of the Animal Justice Party, and the Woodman Point Regional Park Community Advisory Committee **noted their support** of a no fishing zone.





### For those supporting a no fishing zone, the most frequently cited reasons were:

- It would increase safety, from removing the risk of accidental harm from fishing hooks or spear guns, and reduce the perceived risk of shark attraction
- It would protect the marine habitat and allow it to thrive
- It would enhance the snorkelling and diving experience due to the increase in marine habitat.

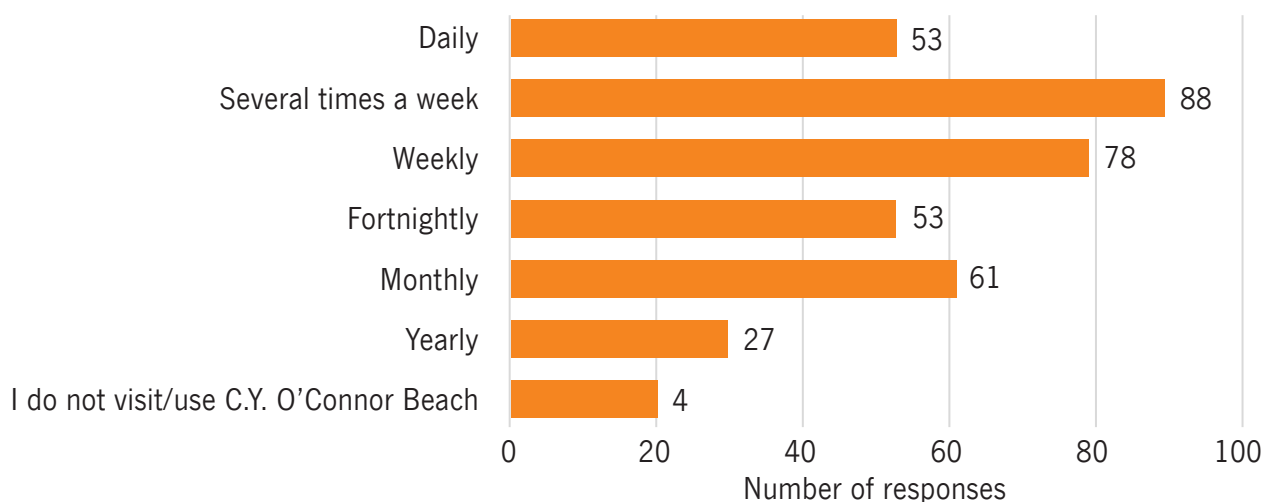


### For those objecting a no fishing zone, the most frequently cited reasons were:

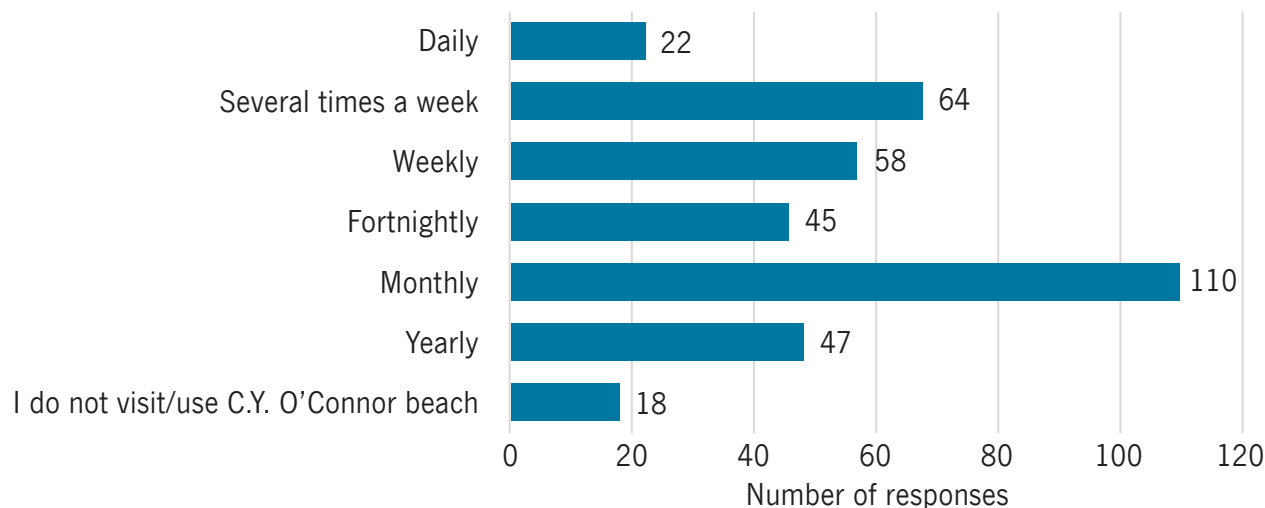
- The reef was publicly funded and should be shared and accessible for all
- Reduced fishing location options
- Impact on teaching children how to fish and/or spearfish
- Loss of recreational enjoyment.

## Relationship to C.Y. O'Connor Beach (survey responses only)

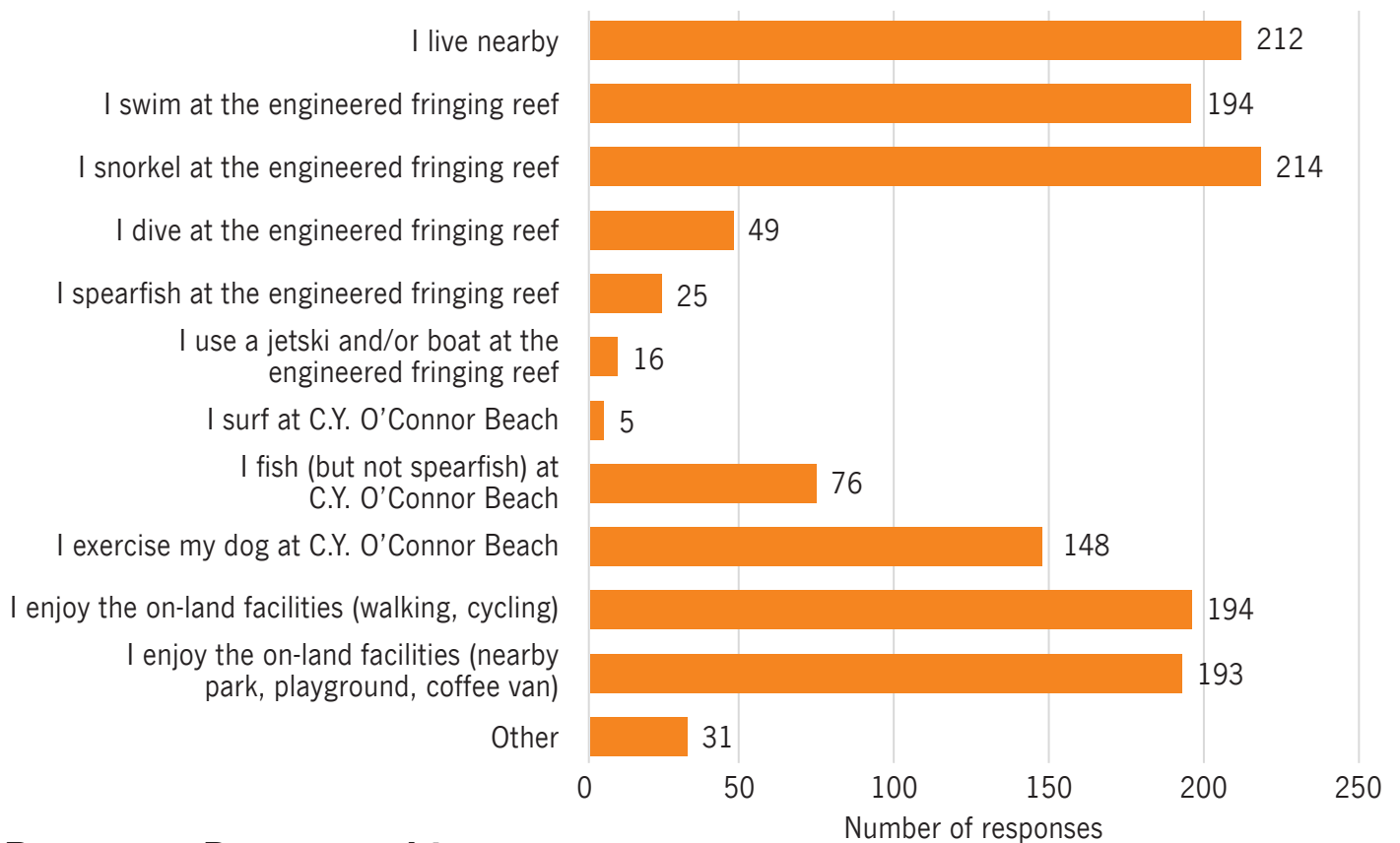
How often do you visit C.Y. O'Connor Beach (north of Catherine Point Groyne during the warmer months, on average?)



How often do you visit C.Y. O'Connor Beach (north of Catherine Point Groyne) during the cooler months, on average?

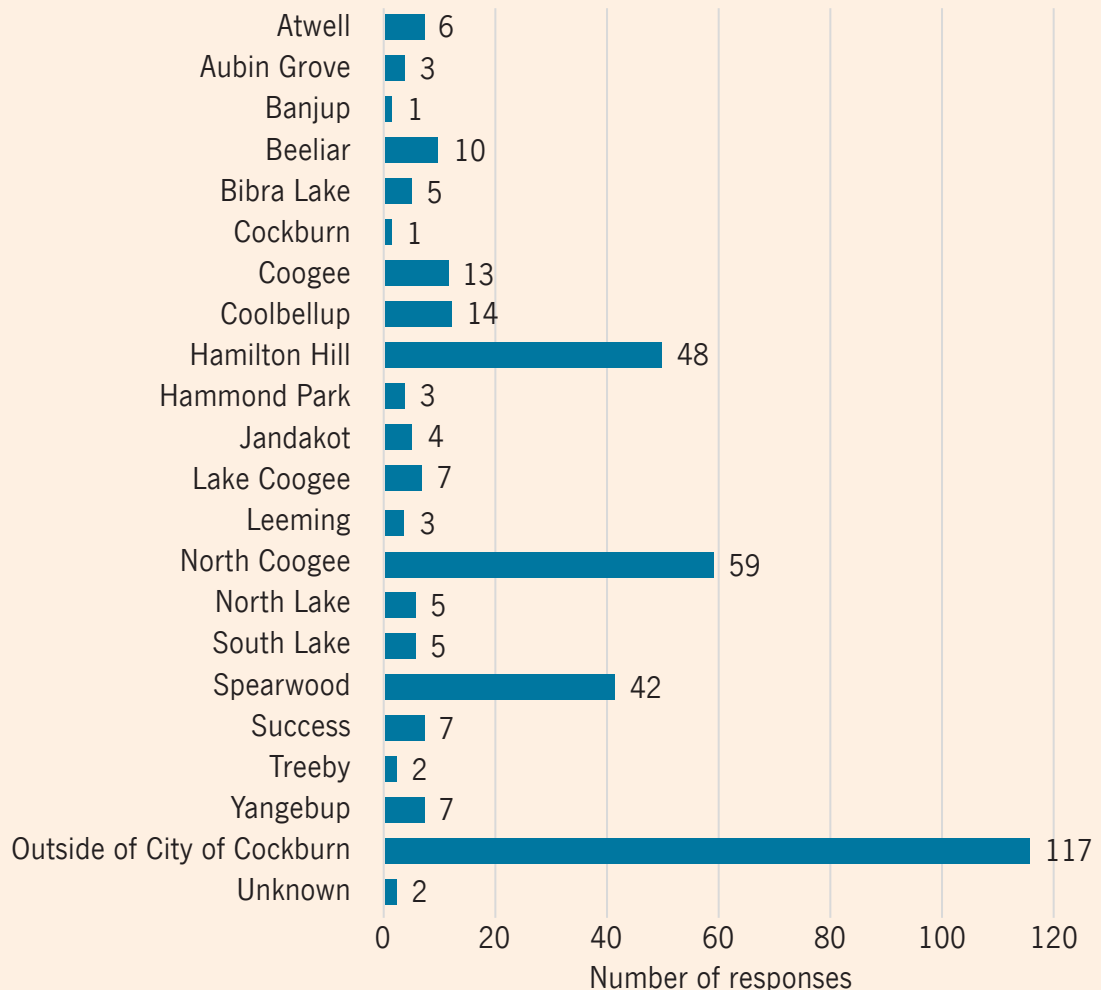


## How do you use or what is your connection to the engineered fringing reef at C.Y. O'Connor Beach?

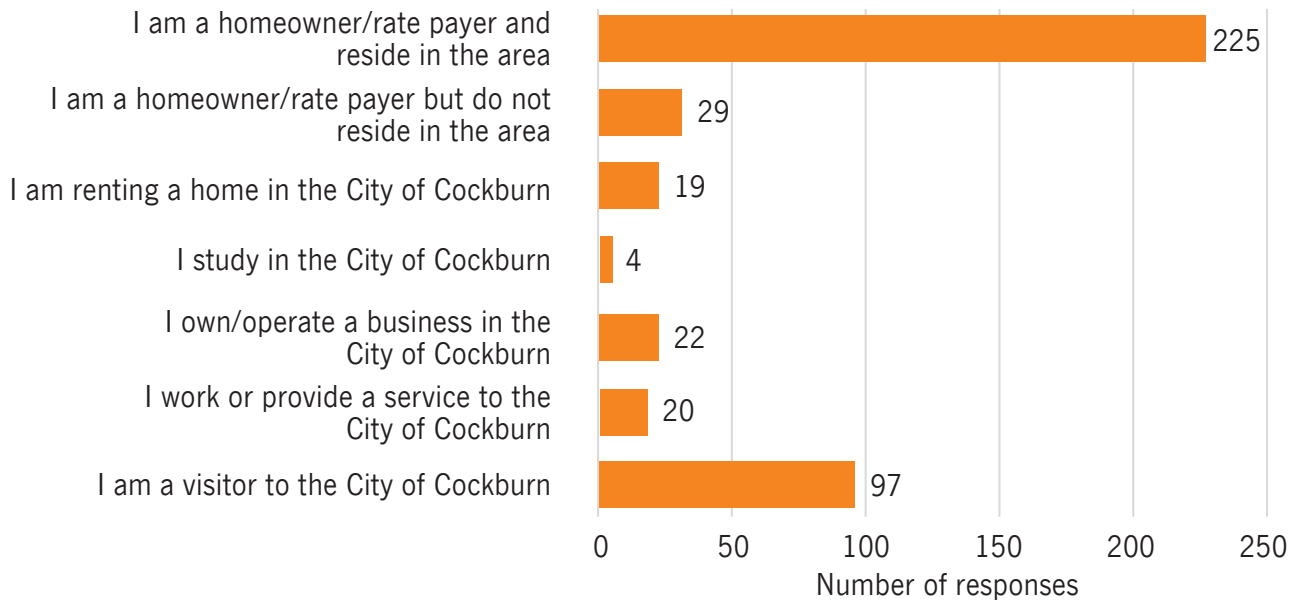


## Response Demographics

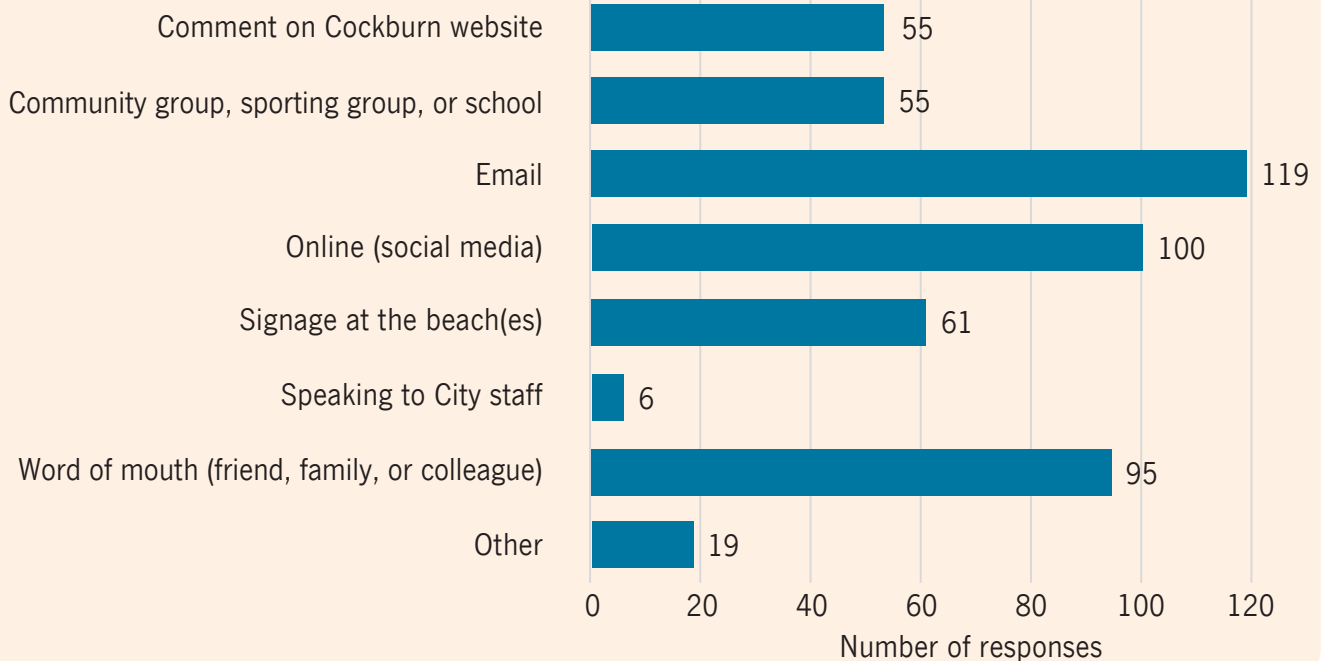
### Suburb:



## Connection to the City of Cockburn



## How did you find out about this project?



## Next Steps

The City of Cockburn would like to thank the community for their involvement in the community consultation process for a proposed no fishing zone 50m surrounding the engineered fringing reef at C.Y. O'Connor Beach. Community feedback will be presented to Council for consideration at its upcoming Ordinary Council Meeting on 14 July 2026.

Upon review of this feedback Council may decide to submit a formal request to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Fisheries, Forestry, Small Business and Mid-West to establish a no fishing zone.

Next steps, as well as any outcomes or decisions about this project published on the Comment on Cockburn website when available.

For further information, please contact the City of Cockburn **08 9411 3444** or email [comment@cockburn.wa.gov.au](mailto:comment@cockburn.wa.gov.au)

