

Federal Village MASTERPLAN

Door-to-door Survey Results

Prepared by
Federal Village Masterplan Steering Committee
May 2021

In association with
Byron Shire Council



Federal Village Masterplan Door-to-Door Survey

The aim of the survey was to understand how residents move around the village of Federal, their preferences in relation to these movements, and any barriers preventing these movement preferences.

Process

- 10 x volunteer interviewers (of whom 5 were members of the Federal Village Masterplan Steering Committee) interviewed the residents of the inner streets of Federal Village over two weekends, 20-21 and 27-28 February 2021.
- Most of the interviewers were surveying the street they themselves live in, which meant that they often already knew their respondent, and this helped with the interviewees feeling comfortable to chat openly.
- Of the approximately 135 households in the streets surveyed, 84 households participated in the survey – approximately two thirds of the village households.
- The Federal Village Masterplan flyer was also handed out by the interviewers.
- The survey questions were prepared by the Federal Village Masterplan Steering Committee, with significant guidance from a Federal resident who is a statistician.
- The interviewers were instructed to refrain from giving their opinion about any perceived issues or outcomes, and not to push people for answers, but to be as neutral as possible.
- It was expected that each survey would take 10-15 minutes. However, the interviewers found that people were very keen to talk about the masterplan process, and so generally each interview took around 30 minutes.
- People were generally already aware of the masterplan process, and were keen to talk.
- There were many comments on the character of Federal, and how much this is valued by the residents. This seemed to be consistent whether they had lived in the village for 3 months or 30 years. Indeed, more than one recent newcomer cited this as one of the reasons for buying property in Federal.

Key Finding

All respondents are active in the village and have a high level of usage of the all the amenities eg shops, hall and park.

However nearly every respondent (96%) mentioned barriers to movement in the village due to traffic concerns (90%), lack of pedestrian friendly facilities (86%), or just a general lack of safety (57%).

In addition, 58% commented that the increase in vehicular traffic was impacting on their lives in a negative way with 24 % making comments about the chaotic state of the main street and 50% saying they had stopped performing a particular activity they used to do because of the increased traffic.

Varied suggestions for improvement were made, including a reduction in the speed limit, traffic calming measures, increased signage, improved parking, pedestrian facilities such as paths and clearly defined bus zones.

Although the respondents of the survey tended to be older, long term residents, an important subgroup was households with children under 18 which constituted 36% of the sample. They are very active in the community which means they are mobile in the village daily, but have concerns for their children's safety and issues with buses.

Specific Findings

- **All respondents are very active in and around the village**, especially households with children. All respondents visit the village shops and more than 75% of respondents use the hall facilities and park for various activities. In addition 75% use the village area for exercise, 69% visit other friends in the village and 32% use the school bus. Households with children had even higher responses for all activities. (see chart 1)
- About 2/3rds of respondents visit the shops daily with weekdays being preferred to weekends (50% vs 24%)
- **2/3rds of respondents said they drive to locations in the village**. Reasons given include convenience such being on route, buying/transporting (26%), living too far away (11%) and dropping kids off (11%). There were some mentions of concern for safety as well (11%). Households situated further away were more likely to drive (89%)
- **About 2/3 also said they mainly walk to locations in the village** because they live near by (20%) and for reasons of exercise or fitness (14%).
- **14%** said they cycle.
- **About 70% of people use pathways around the village** – the most popular being the informal route from Roses Road to the preschool (37%), the Coachwood Court path (31%) and Wean Way pathway (19%).
- **Barriers to movement around the village centre on traffic and lack of pedestrian facilities**. 90% mentioned traffic issues eg the volume of cars (81%) and speeding (69%) and 86% mentioned the lack of pedestrian needs such as the lack of footpaths (62%), pedestrian crossings (54%) and people parking on the verges (55%). 57% Said that lack of safety generally was a barrier. (see Chart 2)
- Many suggestions were made to **improve movement and access** to the village. 32% said pathways would improve access and 17% suggested a crossing, 30% made comments related to parking, 25% wanted to reduced speeding, 20 % had comments about signage and 14 % made comments about the buses. Other areas include speed bumps, roundabouts, bike paths. 10% suggested paths for wheelchairs as a way to help disabled people access the village.
- The increase in traffic (both vehicular and pedestrian) is impacting the live of the villagers. **58% commented that they had changed or ceased** activities due to increasing traffic. 50% said they had actually stopped doing something such as going

to the shop or Doma cafe at certain times or completely. Others had ceased engaging in an activity such as walking or cycling. 24% made comments about the chaotic nature of the traffic – too busy/too many people/too noisy.

- Most respondents believe that the main street is more than just a road primarily for cars and this is evident in the **85% of respondents who said they would like to see a speed reduction** in the village centre.
- The questions concerning how to deal with non-vehicular traffic and landscaping into the future caused a lot of comment. Many respondents realise that the space for pathways and landscaping is competing with parking and are unsure if they want to lose parking given the problems that are already being experienced, although many are in favour of pathways and landscaping (Note – this needs further investigation.)
- When asked about other general comments all the issues previously raised were mentioned.
Eg safety (21%), busyness (14%), parking issues (19%), signage (24%) with the addition of landscaping (23%).
- Residents of the village travel regularly to all the surrounding villages with Mullumbimby getting the most mentions (83%), and nearly all of these drive (98%). Only a few people use other sources of transport. However respondents were open to other methods of transport if they were available – 44% said they would like public buses. About 1/3 mentioned walkways and cycle ways each. Not surprisingly 57% would like improved roads.
- Respondents were **mainly older** with 66% being over 50 and 63% being in an adult sharing household. 36% had children under 18 in the household. Most respondents **were long time residents** of Federal with 86% living here for over 5 years.

Chart 1. Activities Participated in/Locations attended by Total and Households with Kids

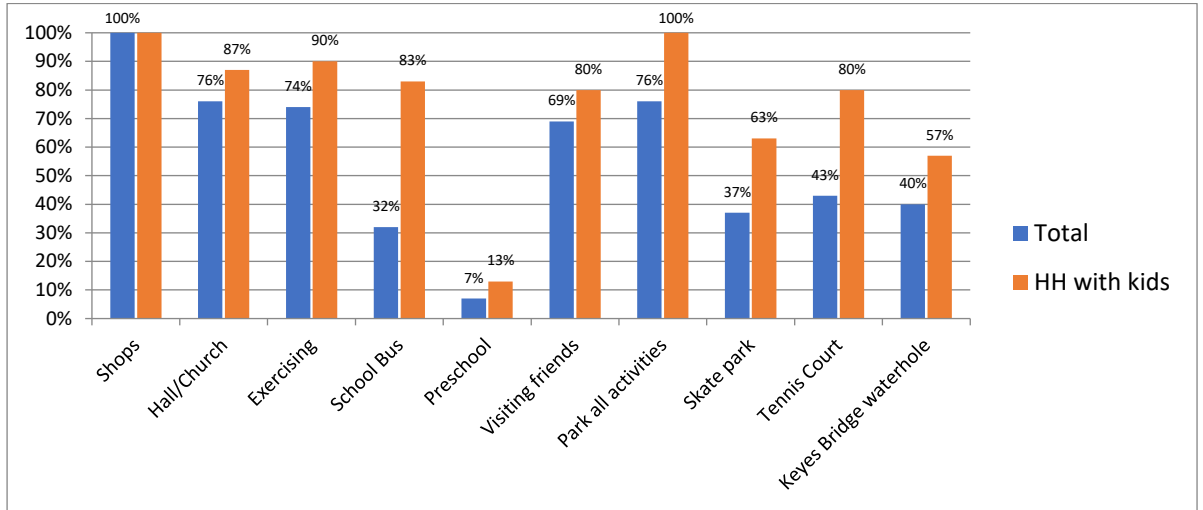
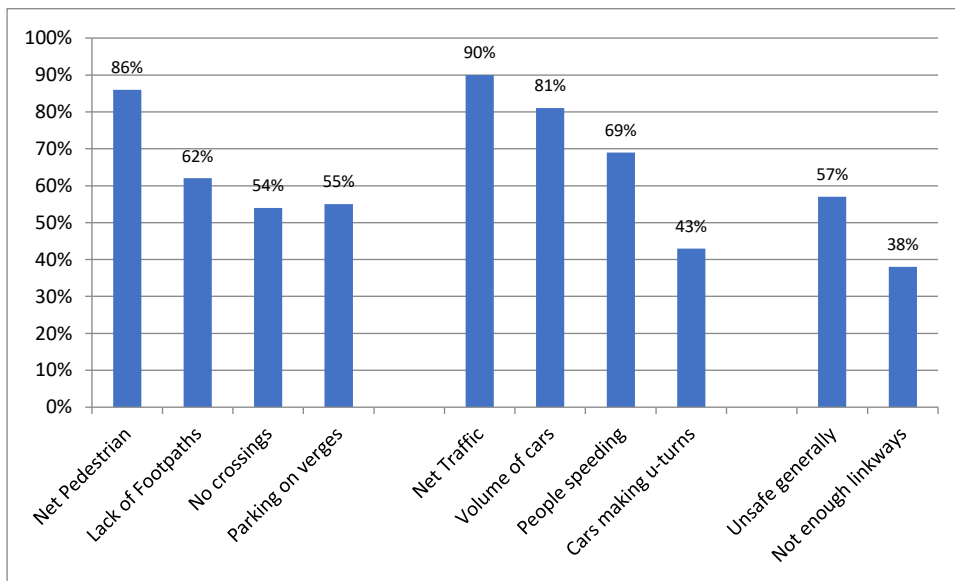


Chart 2. Barriers to movement in Federal



Appendices

- A – Federal Village Masterplan Door-to-door Survey
- B – Guidelines for Interviewers
- C – Map of extent of area surveyed



Door-to-Door Village Survey

Are you over 18 and can you speak on behalf of all other members of household – Yes, No (Interviewer to circle one)

Q1. Location of respondent (*interviewer to circle one*)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Main road (Albert Street)/Federal Drive to Lizray Rd | 6 | 6 | Charltons Rd |
| 2 | Coachwood Ct | 7 | 7 | Lizray Rd |
| 3 | Roses Rd | 8 | 8 | Bougainvillea Dr/Calistemon Dr |
| 4 | Binna Burra Rd – from tennis court to Weemala | 9 | Other – please specify | |
| 5 | Coorabell Rd/Wean Way/Echnida Pl/Cooina Pl | _____ | | |

Q2. What are the main activities you do in Federal and what places do you and members of your household visit in the village?
(*interviewer circle all that apply*)

1. Shops/postoffice/Doma/Moonshine
2. Hall/Church daytime - yoga, pilates, choir, sewing, markets
3. Hall/Church night time – film night, pop up food nights
4. Exercising – walking, running, cycling, dog walking
5. School Bus transport – dropping off (mornings)
6. School Bus transport – picking up (afternoon)
7. Federal preschool
8. Friends houses in village
9. Federal Tennis Court
10. Skateboard /basketball area/kids’ playground in the park
12. Park for other activity eg picnic, meet friends (specify) _____
13. Keyes bridge waterhole
14. Any other activity or location in the village (specify) _____

If go to the shops or park

Q3. You mentioned you go to the shops and/or park – how often do you and members of your household do that?

Activities/Places	Daily or more	Weekly	Monthly/Less often	Mostly on Weekdays	Mostly on Weekends
Shops/postoffice/Doma/Moonshine					
Park					

Q4. Thinking of your activities and the places visited in the village, which would you and members of your household...

...mainly drive to and why

...mainly walk to and why

...mainly cycle/ride to and why (if relevant)

Q5. Are there any other places/paths you use for moving around the village, other than the roads – for example walkways or informal tracks

- 1 Yes (other than park) where _____
- 2 Park
- 3 No

Q6. What things make it difficult for you and members of your household to move around the village (*interviewer circle all that apply*)

1. Lack of footpaths eg in front of shops, linking to other streets
2. No pedestrian crossings
3. People parking on verges
4. Volume of cars
5. Cars making u-turns
6. Lack of safety generally (specify) _____
7. People speeding
8. Not enough off-road, linking through-ways eg Lizray to shops
9. Other specify _____

Q7. What would improve movement and access in the village for you and members of your household

Q8. If anyone in your household has a **disability** are there any additional factors that could improve movement and access in the village for them?

Q9. If you've lived here for over 5 years - is there any activity which you used to do in Federal Village, which the recent increasing vehicular traffic in Federal has stopped you doing?

Q10. Concerning the main street of Federal (ie Albert St from the Hall to the tennis court), would you like to see this *in the future* mainly as (*interviewer read out options*)

1. A road – primarily for cars
2. A road with a pedestrian crossing between the shop and the park, or a different location?
3. A designated shared area for cars, bikes and pedestrians
4. Other specify _____
5. Would you like to see a reduced speed limit here? – **Yes or no.**

Q11. In regards to non vehicle traffic, pushbikes, skateboards, scooters, pedestrians would you like to see (*interviewer read out*)

- 1 Part of the road set aside for this
- 2 Separate pathway off the road
- 3 Don't know

Q12. Would you be prepared to lose on-street parking for landscaping, to grow shade trees and help beautify /soften the main thoroughfare? (*interviewer read out circle all that apply*)

1. Yes – outside shops/Doma

2. Yes – outside hall
3. Yes - Other specify _____
4. No
5. Don't know

Q13. Do you have any other comments about moving around the village?

Now a few questions about travelling to other villages and towns around Federal

Q14. What other villages do you travel to regularly in the region (say weekly or more often)? *(interviewer circle all that apply)*

1. Ballina
2. Bangalow
3. Byron
4. Lismore
5. Mullumbimby
6. Other (specify) _____

Q15. How do you mainly travel to these locations by *(interviewer circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Car as driver | 6 Cycle |
| 2 Car as passenger | 7 Other specify |
| 3 Community Transport | _____ |
| 4 Bus | |
| 5 Share ride eg uber /taxi | |

Q16. What changes, if any, would you like to see that would make a difference to how you and others move to and from the village to other centres? *(interviewer read out circle all that apply)*

1. Public buses
2. Dedicated cycle ways
3. Dedicated walk ways/ rights of way
4. Share/ride groups
5. Better roads
6. Other please specify _____
7. None – happy the way it is
8. Don't know

Finally - so we know we have a good sample of the village residents, could you answer the following:

D1. Gender (*interviewer to circle*)

1. Male
2. Female
3. Prefer not to say

D2. Age group (*interviewer to circle*)

1. 18 - 29
2. 30 - 39
3. 40 - 49
4. 50 - 59
5. 60+

D3. In total how many people of all ages live here?

Interviewer to record number _____

D4. What fits your Household group most closely – (*interviewer **read out** - circle all that apply*)

1. Adults sharing a house/residence/adult family
2. Household with young children under 5
3. Household with children 5-12
4. Household with children 12 - 18
5. Other specify _____

D5. Does anyone in your household – (*interviewer **read out** and circle all that apply*)

1. Work – mainly from home
2. Work – mainly from other locations (outside Federal)
3. Study at school or higher education

D6. Do you have access to a car at this residence? (*interviewer to circle*)

1. Yes
2. No

D7. How long have you been living in Federal village (*interviewer to circle*)

1. Less than 1 year
2. 1 year to 5 years
3. 5 to 10 years
4. More than 10 years

D8. How would you best like to hear about the Federal Village Masterplan in the future? (*interviewer to circle*)

1. Email
2. Noticeboard at the Federal Shop
3. Our Facebook page
4. Other specify _____

Thank you for time and help with our survey.



Guidelines for Interviewers

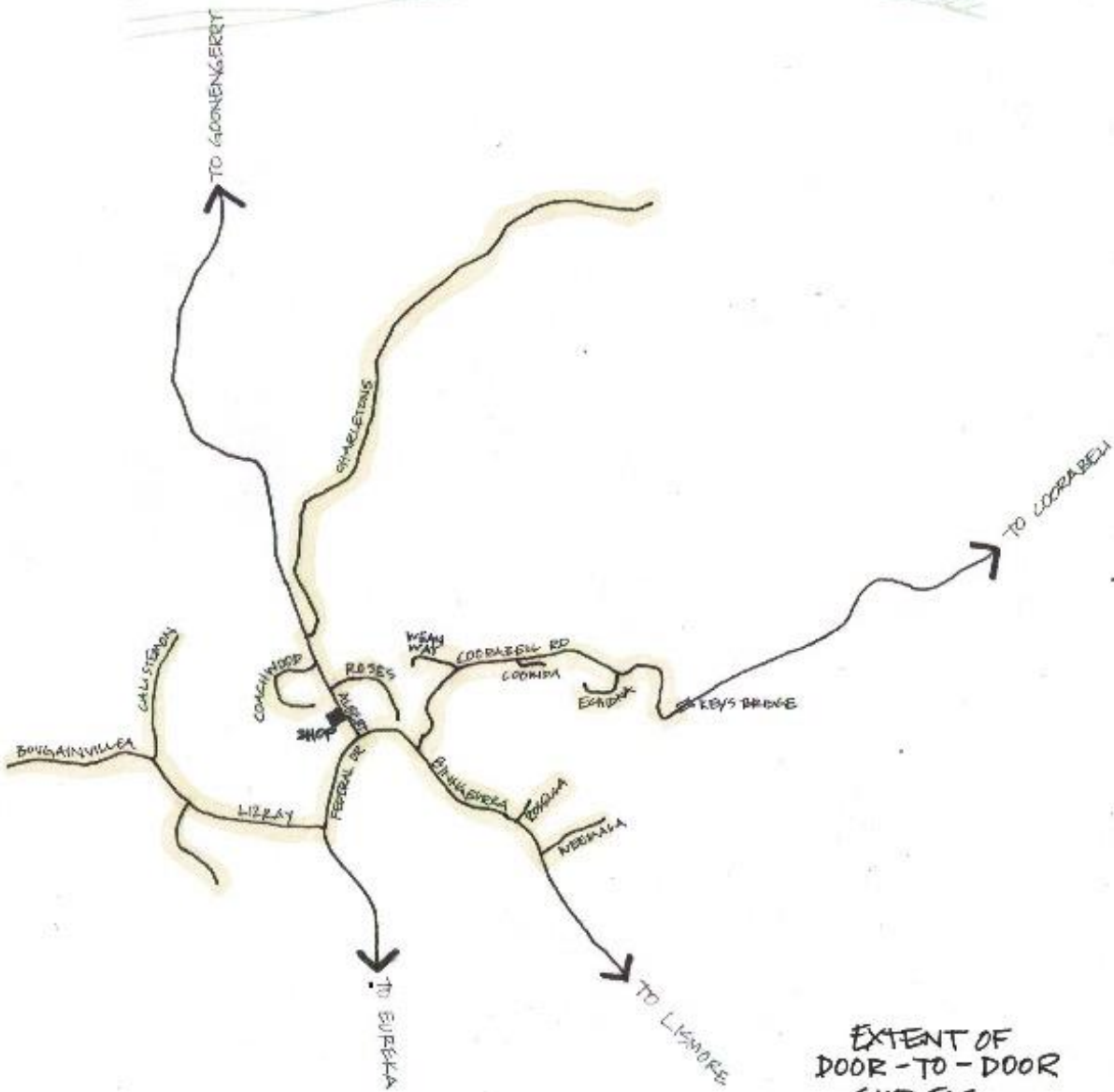
Thanks for volunteering to help out with this survey for the Federal Movement study. As you know, this is vital information needed for our Federal Masterplan process.

- Wear your supplied 'Federal Village Masterplan' badge at all times while surveying.
- Ideally do the survey with a mate - for security reasons. If this is not possible, 'log in' with me when you start by texting me on 0421 250 240, and 'log out' when you've finished.
- Your designated survey area is highlighted on your provided map. You can show this map to the residents if they are interested in the extent of the survey, but keep it with you for your reference.
- Please read the flyer, which explains the Federal Village Masterplan, before you survey your designated area, as it is important that you are able to confidently discuss the survey with the residents.
- Knock on every door in your designated streets, and introduce yourself and the purpose for your visit. Give the resident the flyer.
- If a child answers, ask if an adult is home. Don't continue with the interview if an adult is not there with the child.
- Tell the resident the aim of the survey – **to understand how they and members of their household move around the village of Federal, their preferences in relation to these movements, and any barriers preventing these movement preferences.**
- Tell the resident the survey should take 5-10 minutes depending on how much detail they would like to provide. If they would prefer you could return at a time which suits them better.
- When answering the questions they should think about all members of their household.
- Also tell the resident that the info is anonymous, and that we're not recording any names or house numbers, just street names.
- Don't push people to answer, especially the demographic questions. They can leave some blank.
- Please try to refrain from giving your opinion about any perceived issues or potential outcomes in and for Federal. You are simply collecting data, try to be completely neutral.
- If you've been back to a house a couple of times and still have not had the door answered, you could leave the survey on the doorstep, with one of the notes regarding a possible phone interview. These have been provided to you with your survey kit – simply paper clip the note to the survey, and the flyer, and leave it on the doorstep.
- Also we have asked you for some short feedback below at the end of your survey shift, so will be in touch with you at the end of the weekend regarding picking up this sheet.

Feedback from Interviewers

Now that you've finished your surveys, could you advise how you were received by residents generally?

1. Mostly happy to participate
2. A little guarded at first, then happy
3. Declined to participate – how many households? _____



EXTENT OF
DOOR-TO-DOOR
SURVEY
—
FEBRUARY 2021