



Have Your Say Great Koala National Park

Prepared by Customer Insights and Experience, Department of Customer Service, for
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

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Executive summary

The Department of Customer Service, in collaboration with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, sought feedback from members of the public about their interest in and use of existing estates that compose the proposed Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

The consultation ran from 16 January -1 March 2026 and received 3,963 responses via the NSW Government Have Your Say online engagement platform. The results of this report accurately reflect the responses and views of those who participated in this consultation only.

The consultation revealed deep engagement and strong emotional investment in the landscapes proposed for inclusion in the GKNP. Respondents overwhelmingly recognise the area's ecological significance, particularly for koalas, but diverged on how conservation should coincide with access, recreation, land management, and local livelihoods.

Geographic split

Locals were strongly represented. The report used proximity to frame three groups: **Northern Coast (Locals)** - residents of the three coastal Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) nearest to the GKNP - were 58% of the overall sample, while 36% lived elsewhere in NSW. Interstate residents also participated, but only Queensland (3%) had sufficient sample to analyse.

There were clear differences in use and interest. 75% of Locals were 'frequent' visitors. Locals were more likely to be interested in recreation and less interested in conservation. Locals were also more likely to visit alone, suggesting more habitual usage. 61% of respondents from Rest of NSW were infrequent visitors and a quarter had not visited the area; they had less recreational interest, and higher interest in conservation. (p.11, 14).

State Forest use

Locals' use of forest estates in GKNP was higher than average across all types, but their breadth of State Forest use was much higher. Locals visit an average of seven different State Forests for recreation and other activities, with Wedding Bells, Orara East and Bucca as clear favourites. Nambucca and Kangaroo River were more popular with non-locals.

Activities

Bushwalking was the universal favourite activity among respondents who visit GKNP, the top activity in 73 of the 89 estates surveyed, typically followed by camping and sightseeing. Younger respondents and First Nations respondents were highly active, partaking in a broader range of activities and often at higher rates than other cohorts.

Enthusiasts of four-wheel driving (42%), mountain biking (33%) and motor/trail biking (32%) were strongly represented in the sample. These activities are heavily concentrated in Wedding Bells, Orara, Lower Bucca and Pine Creek State Forests.

Low impact nature activities (walking, birdwatching, sightseeing) cluster in National Parks and Nature Reserves such as Dorrigo, Bellinger River and Sherwood.

When asked what they value about the area and what they hope for the future of GKNP, road and trail access and recreational opportunities are held in similar standing to conservation. For many locals, land management and recreational access is bound to safety, identity, and wellbeing. Few spoke in support of the logging industry, but at least a quarter of respondents did not want their recreational use impacted. Fire and land management capacity will also be a critical trust issue, with many responses expressing concern about heightened fuel load.

Overall, the strong participation shows a high level of public engagement and debate on the future of the area. The GKNP is broadly supported, but implementation details may determine public legitimacy.

Disclaimer: The survey included the names of all the state forests, national parks, state conservation areas, nature reserves and Aboriginal areas within the footprint of the proposed Great Koala National Park. While a map was available as a point of reference, it is possible that some respondents may not have been fully familiar with the names of the locations they visit or the area boundaries. This is acknowledged as a survey limitation. Please note that some recreational activities identified by survey respondents as taking place on a specific reserve, may not be permitted within that national park estate area.

Background and methodology

Background and objectives

The NSW Government has announced the proposed boundary for the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) to help protect endangered koalas and other threatened species in the region.

The park will also create opportunities for better visitor experiences, boost tourism, recreation and local economies.

Since the announcement in September 2025, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has been working with community groups, recreational clubs and others who care about the park to understand what matters most to them.

The Department of Customer Service, in collaboration with NPWS, sought feedback from members of the public who care about the park, via the NSW Government's Have Your Say online consultation platform. The consultation sought to analyse how people visit and enjoy the areas within the proposed park, to balance conservation, culture, and recreational use.



12,331
**Visitors to online
project page**



3,963
**Survey
submissions**

Methodology

The consultation was made available through the NSW Government Have Your Say online engagement platform from 16 January - 1 March 2026.

It consisted of an online survey, consisting of 56 questions and 4 demographic questions.

Data handling and analysis was carried out within the Department of Customer Service using Q Research Software by a Senior Insights Advisor. An LLM (Large Language Model) was utilised to assess open-text responses and suggest groupings of similar responses, which were reviewed manually.

29 responses were determined to be duplicates and were flagged for exclusion from all analysis. An additional 33 responses contained written responses with signs of co-ordination - all but one were excluded from text analysis.

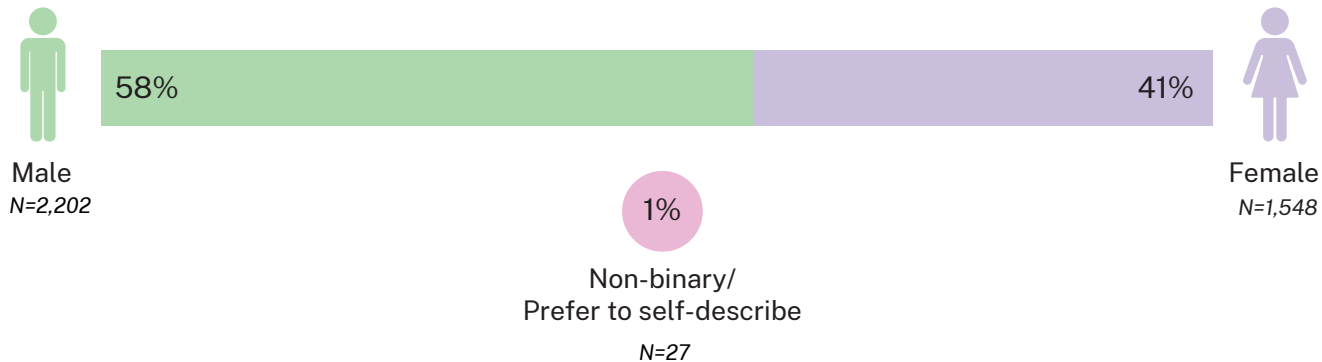
All questions except the first three (the respondents interest, frequency of using the area, social mode of use) and the question capturing residential postcode, were optional to answer. As a result base sizes vary. This report uses "N =" to note the sample size for each question.

Survey respondent profile

Gender

N=3,777

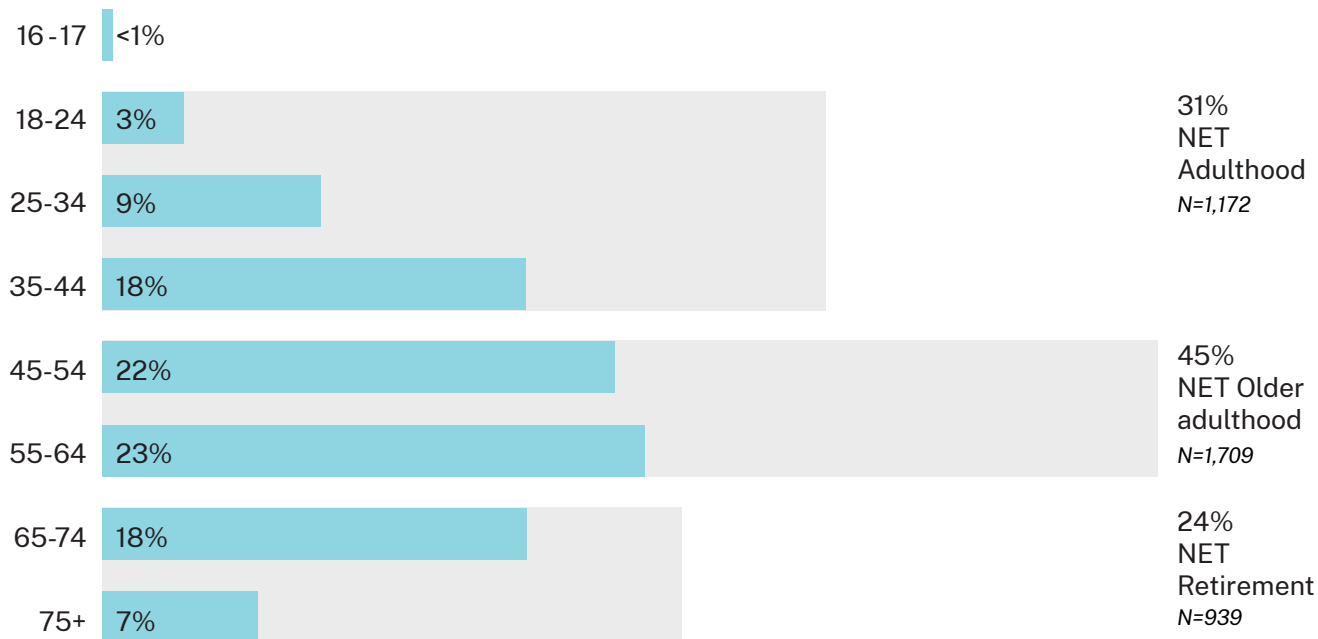
Q. Are you..



Age

N=3,837

Q. What is your age group?



Diversity

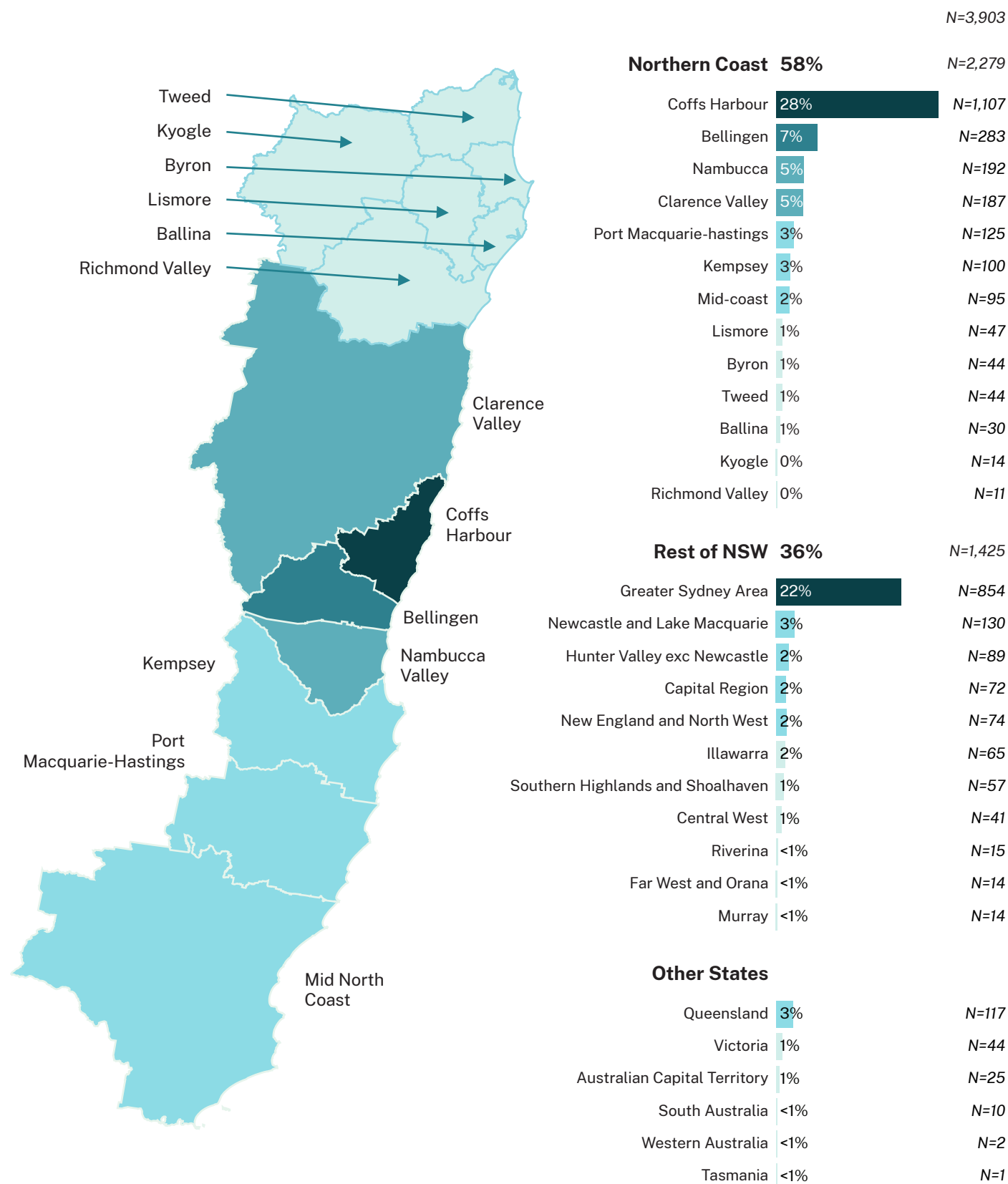
N=3,934

Q. Which of the following apply to you? (select all that apply)

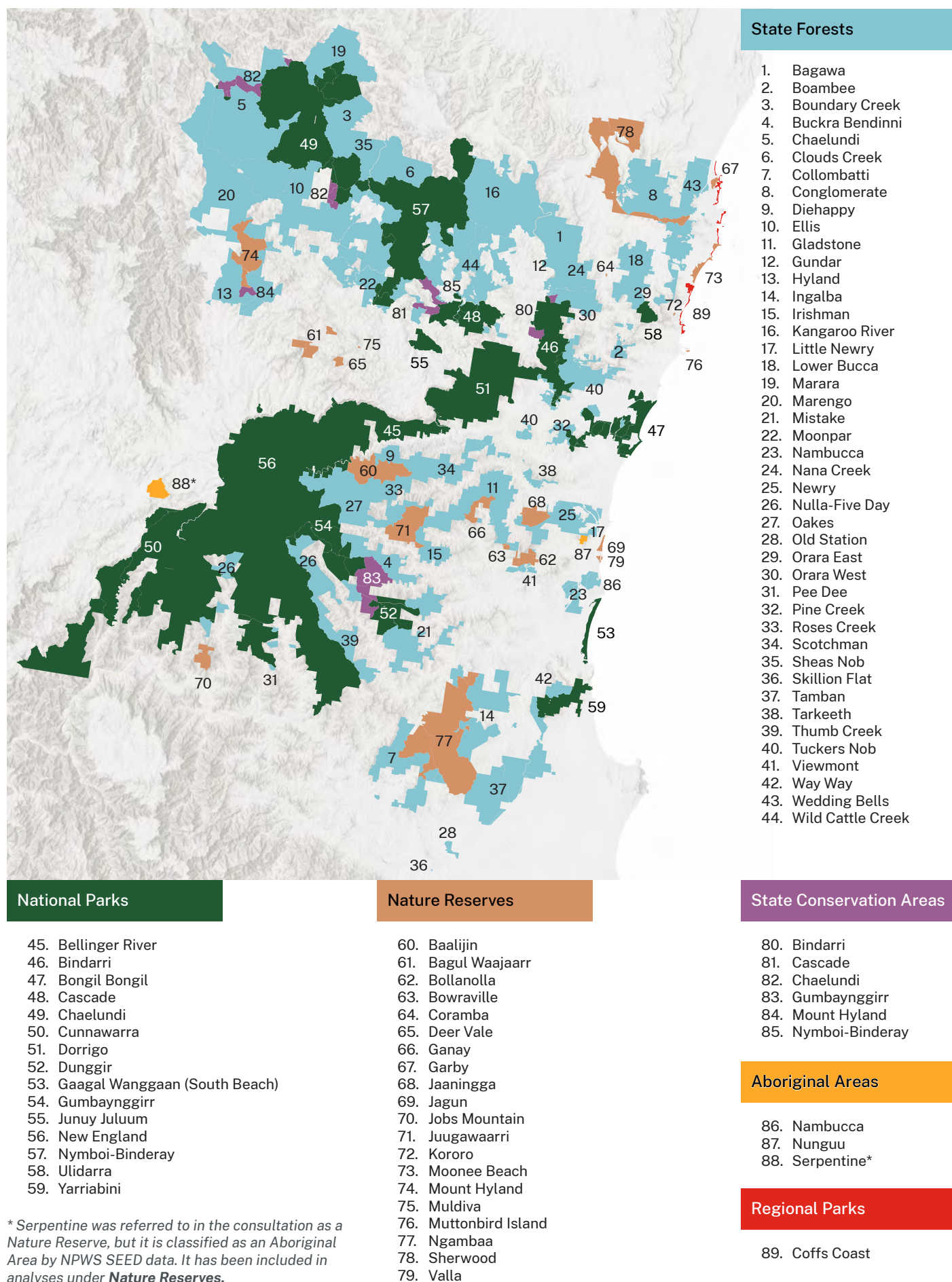


Survey respondent profile

58% of respondents provided residential postcodes from 3 SA4s (Statistical Area Level 4) closest to the proposed Park. These are shown below shaded by LGA (Local Government Area), and will be referred to collectively as “**Northern Coast**” (**Locals** will be used as a shorthand for this group). Remaining SA4s are listed below and will be referred to as “**Rest of NSW**”. The consultation also received responses from other states, Queensland is included where relevant.



Areas referenced in this consultation

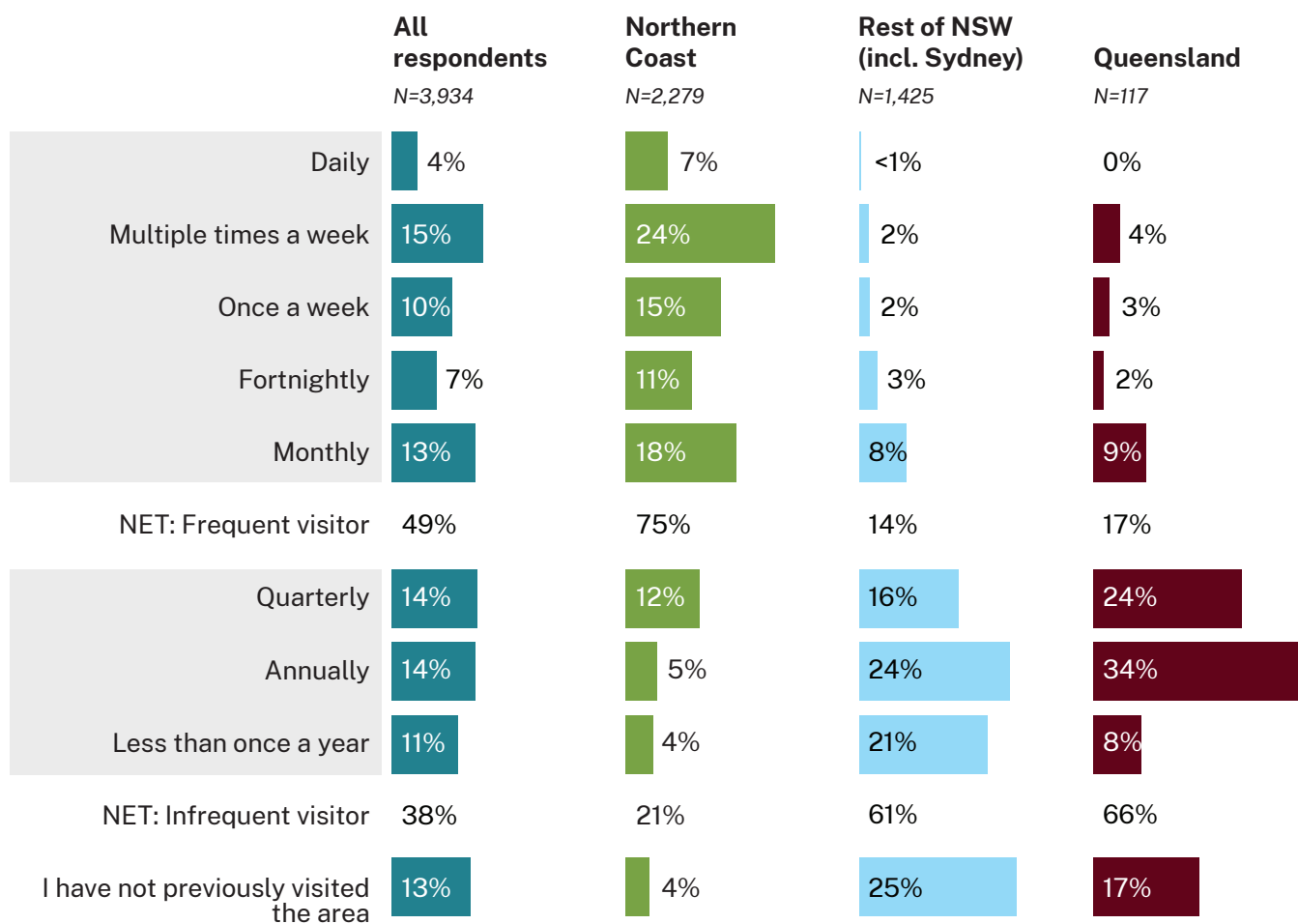


Results

Outside the areas closest to the proposed Park, most respondents visit quarterly or less.

Frequency of visits to the area

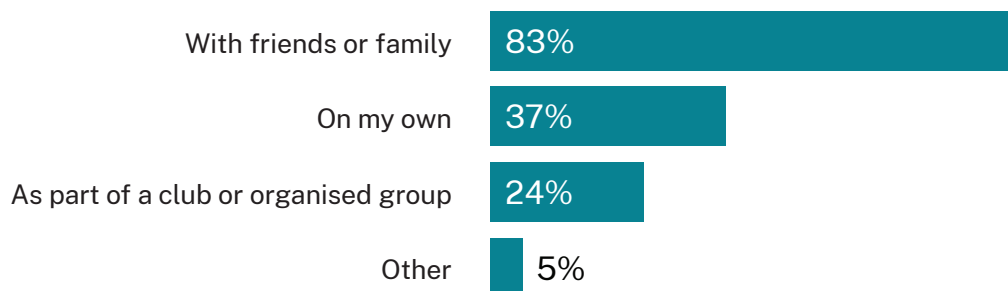
1.1 Visit frequency by residential location. Q. How often have you visited National Parks, State Forests and/or reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park area in the past 2 years? Q. What is your residential postcode?



Social modes of visiting the area

N=3,432

1.2 Modes of interaction. Q. How do you usually visit or interact with this area? (Select all that apply)

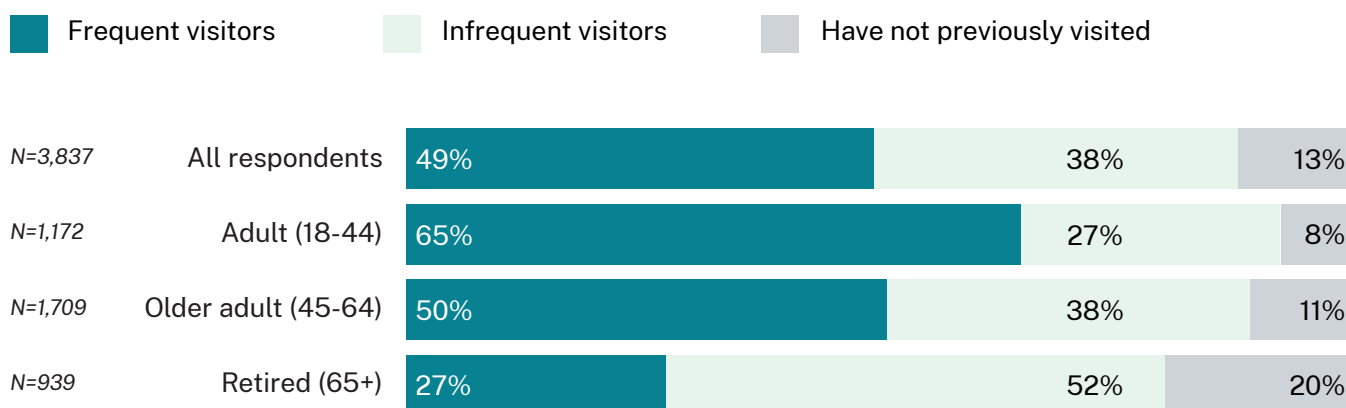


Respondents from the Northern Coast were more likely to interact on their own (45%). Queensland respondents were the most likely to interact as part of a club or group (33%).

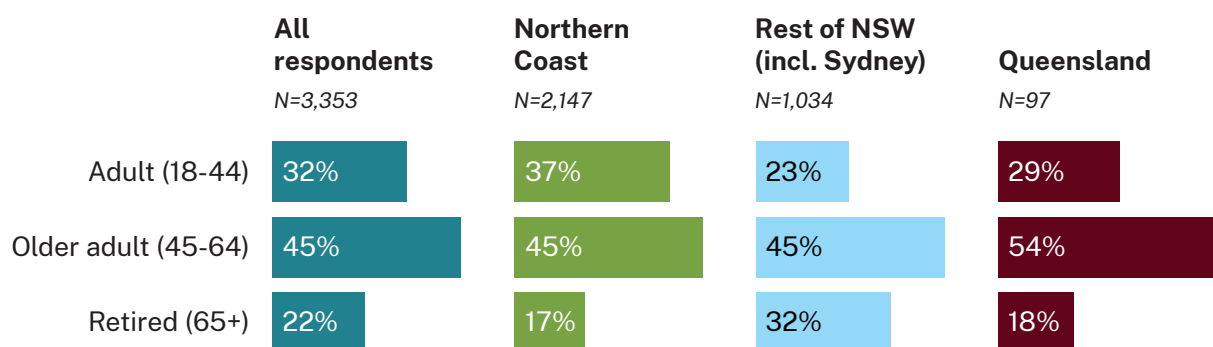
Adults aged 18-44 were the most likely to be frequent visitors. Older visitors were more likely to come from other parts of NSW.

Visit frequency by age

1.3 Visit frequency groups by age. Q. How often have you visited National Parks, State Forests and/or reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park area in the past 2 years? What is your age group?



1.4 Residential location by age, among respondents who have visited: Frequent+Infrequent visitors. Q. What is your residential postcode? What is your age group?



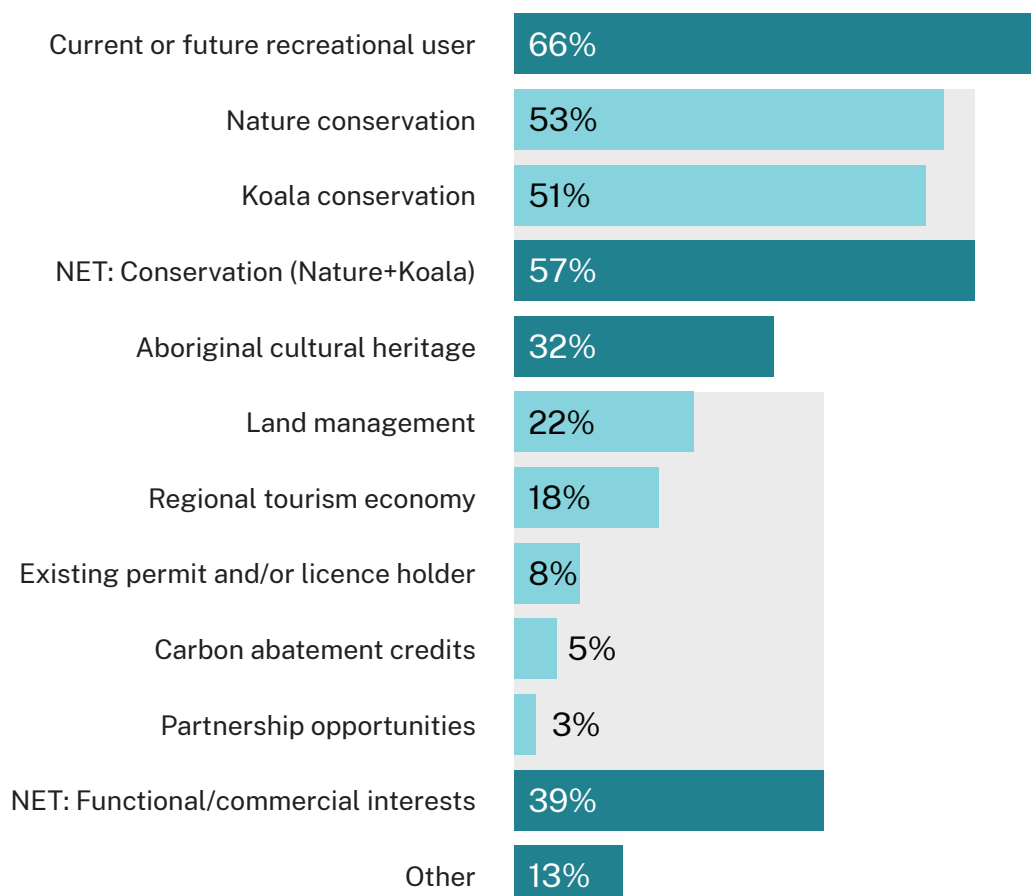
Only 23% of the sample from the Rest of NSW (incl. Sydney) who had visited the area were below the age 44. 1 in 5 respondents aged 65+ had not previously visited the area. Age and low-frequency was associated with higher rates of interest in conservation, see 1.7 (p.14)

Recreation and conservation were the most common interests in the Park.

Interest in the proposed Park

N=3,934

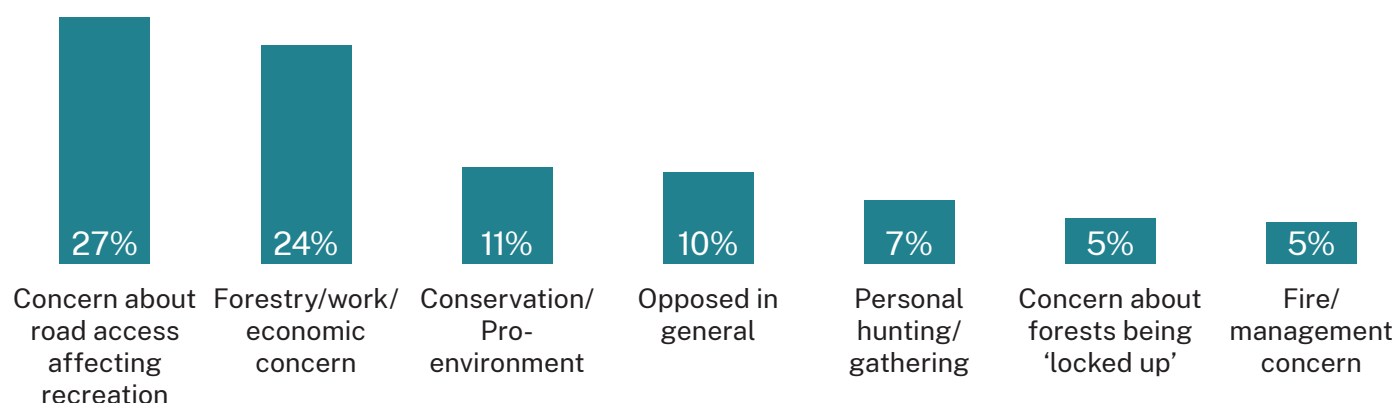
1.5 Interest in GKNP. Q. What is your interest in the proposed Great Koala National Park? (Select all that apply)



Other sentiments

N=498

1.6 Other interests in GKNP. Q. What is your interest in the proposed Great Koala National Park? Other responses

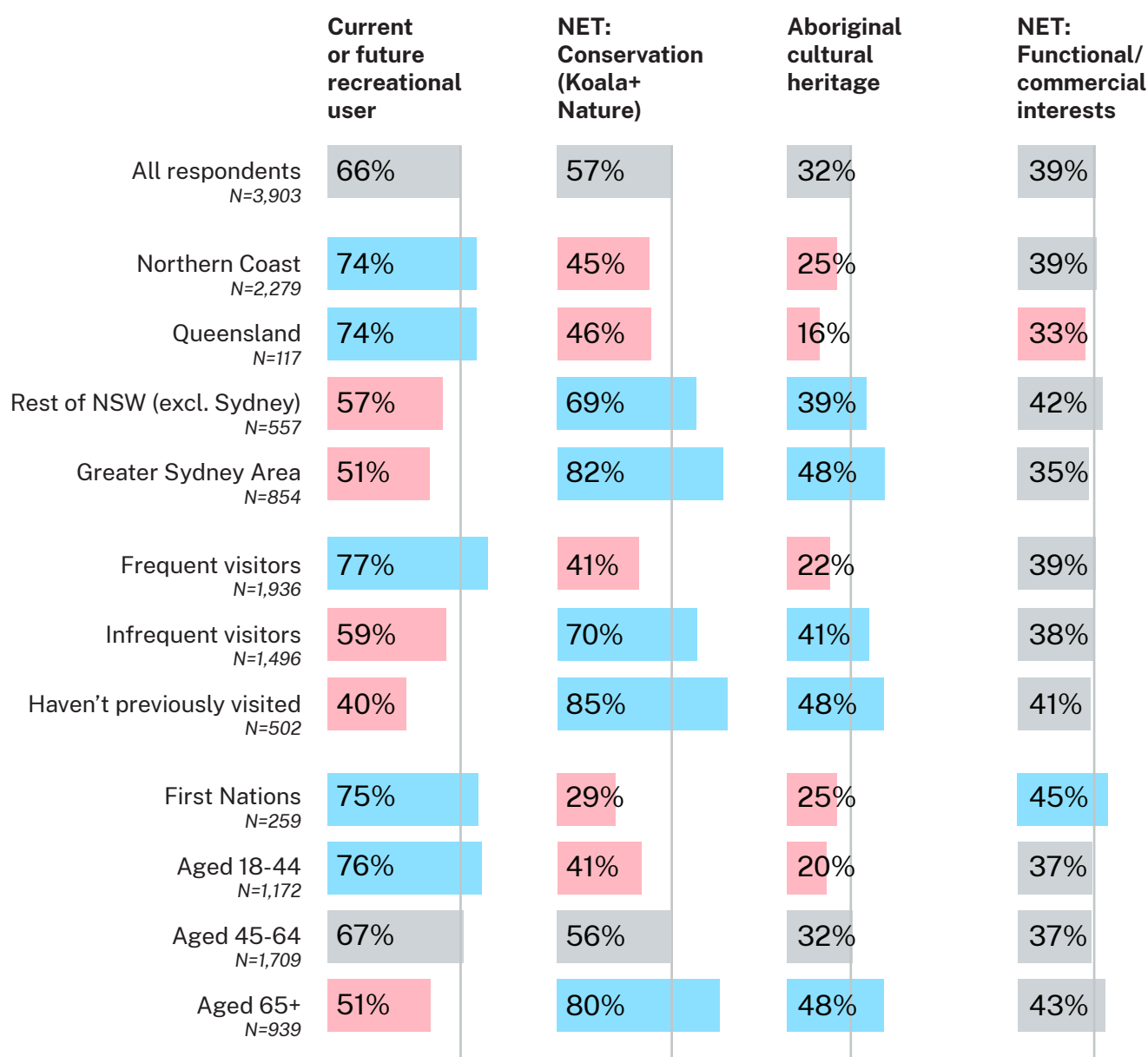


53% of respondents who selected 'Other' selected at least one other option and generally supplemented the response. Responses also pre-empted the next question on activities. Below is a summary of sentiments in the open text responses. This analysis excluded N=62 responses which were determined to be duplicate responses or showed clear signs of co-ordination.

Recreational and functional use of the proposed Park is of primary interest to respondents nearer and visiting more frequently.

Interest in the proposed Park by cohort

1.7 Interest in GKNP by residential location, visit frequency groups, age, and First Nations. Q. What is your interest in the proposed Great Koala National Park? (Select all that apply) Q. What is your residential postcode? Q. What is your age group? Q. How often have you visited National Parks, State Forests and/or reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park area in the past 2 years?



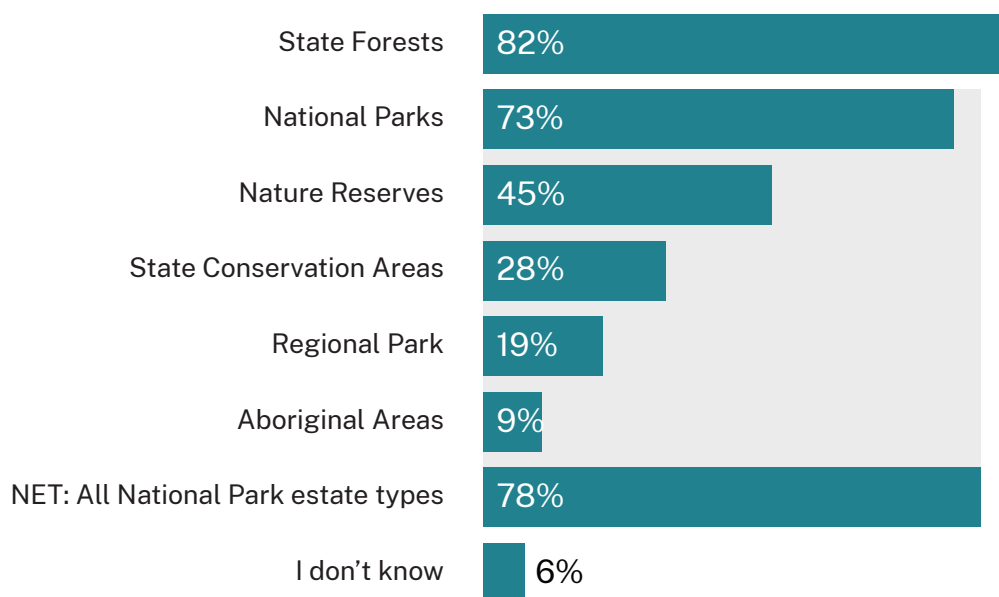
≥5% above average ≥5% below average

Respondents had similar rates of visiting State Forests and the various kinds of National Park estates.

Estate types visited

N=3,381

2.1 Types of estate visited, among Visitors. Q. When you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park, which location/s do you go to? (Select all that apply)



Visitation across all estates involved in the proposed Park.

2.2 Distribution of sample by estates used, among Visitors.

Note on methodology: Respondents were asked their primary estate within each type first, with a followup question asking whether they visited others. If they did, they were asked to indicate which.

Choices for the primary and secondary were merged and normalised against the total base of respondents who have visited the area previously.

State Forests

1. Bagawa	16%
2. Boambee	33%
3. Boundary Creek	18%
4. Buckra Bendinni	14%
5. Chaelundi	21%
6. Clouds Creek	21%
7. Collombatti	19%
8. Conglomerate	20%
9. Diehappy	15%
10. Ellis	12%
11. Gladstone	14%
12. Gundar	10%
13. Hyland	14%
14. Ingalba	12%
15. Irishman	11%
16. Kangaroo River	20%
17. Little Newry	18%
18. Lower Bucca	33%
19. Marara	10%
20. Marengo	13%
21. Mistake	12%
22. Moonpar	16%
23. Nambucca	31%
24. Nana Creek	28%
25. Newry	21%
26. Nulla-Five Day	13%
27. Oakes	11%
28. Old Station	11%
29. Orara East	34%
30. Orara West	31%
31. Pee Dee	9%
32. Pine Creek	29%
33. Roses Creek	11%
34. Scotchman	17%
35. Sheas Nob	12%
36. Skillion Flat	10%
37. Tambar	16%
38. Tarkeeth	12%
39. Thumb Creek	13%
40. Tuckers Nob	26%
41. Viewmont	11%
42. Way Way	15%
43. Wedding Bells	39%
44. Wild Cattle Creek	29%

N=3,192

3%
(N=103)53%
(N=1,704)

National Parks

45. Bellinger River	41%
46. Bindarri	24%
47. Bongil Bongil	32%
48. Cascade	24%
49. Chaelundi	18%
50. Cunawarra	9%
51. Dorrigo	53%
52. Dunggir	11%
53. Gaagal Wanggaan (S Beach)	9%
54. Gumbaynggirr	22%
55. Junuy Juluum	8%
56. New England	39%
57. Nymboi-Binderay	29%
58. Ulidarra	13%
59. Yarriabini	16%

State Conservation Areas

80. Bindarri SCA	15%
81. Cascade SCA	8%
82. Chaelundi SCA	13%
83. Gumbaynggirr SCA	12%
84. Mount Hyland SCA	12%
85. Nymboi-Binderay SCA	10%

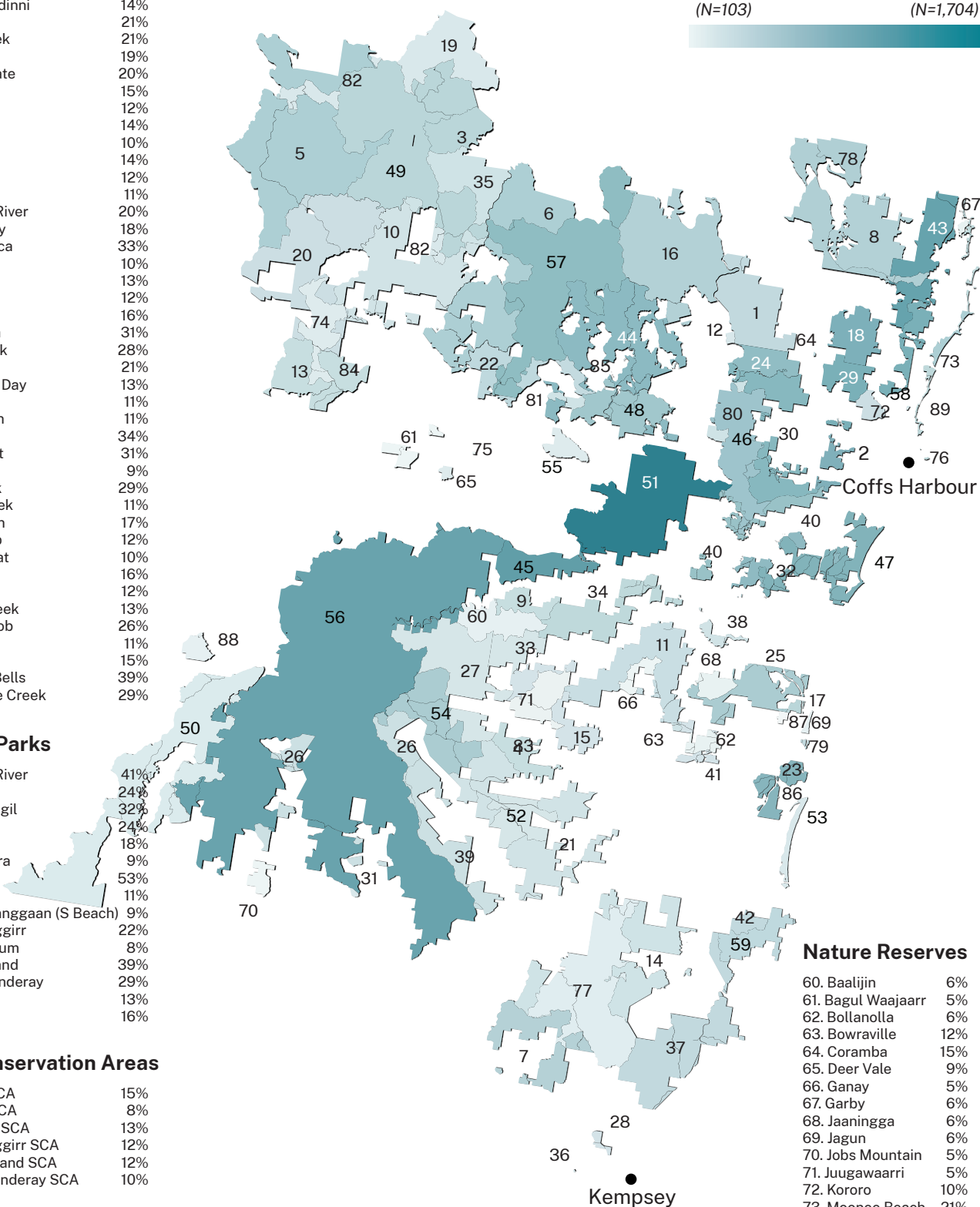
Aboriginal Areas

86. Nunguu Mirral	3%
87. Nambucca	6%

89. Coffs Coast Regional Park	16%
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Nature Reserves

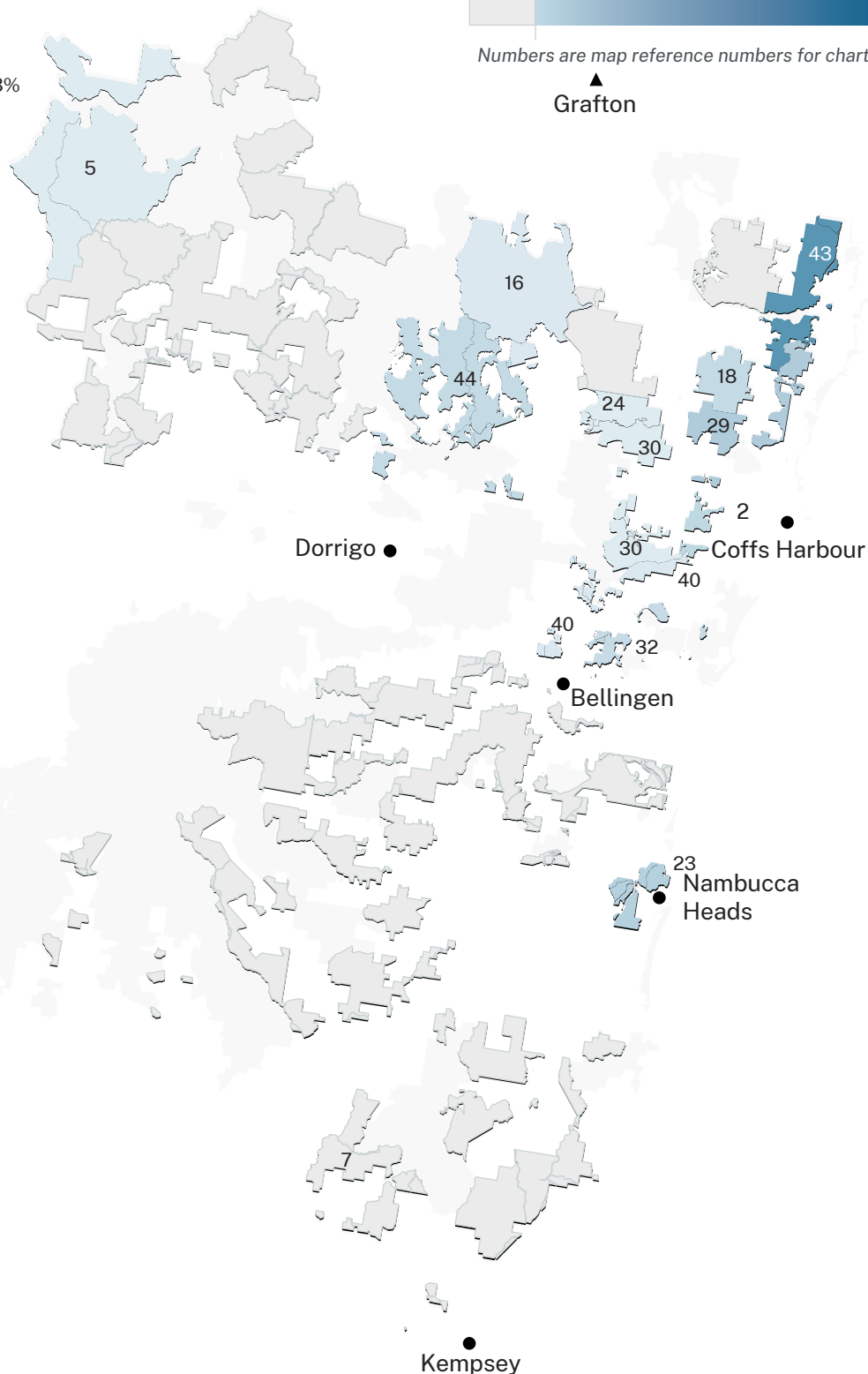
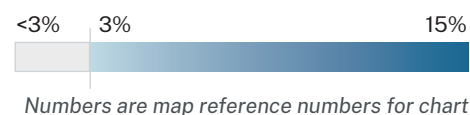
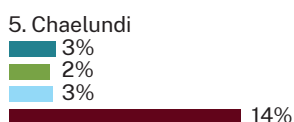
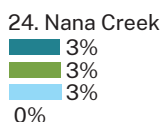
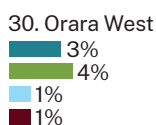
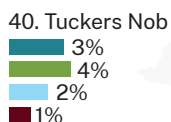
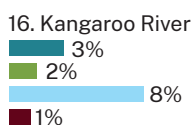
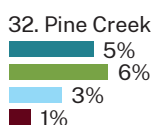
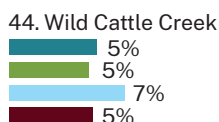
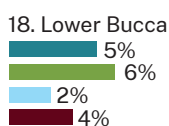
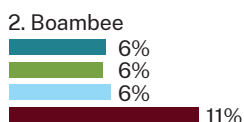
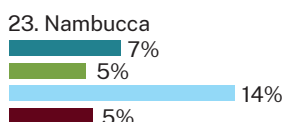
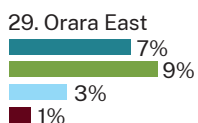
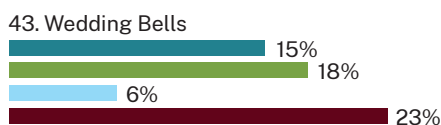
60. Baalijin	6%
61. Bagul Waajaarr	5%
62. Bollanolla	6%
63. Bowraville	12%
64. Coramba	15%
65. Deer Vale	9%
66. Ganay	5%
67. Garby	6%
68. Jaaningga	6%
69. Jagun	6%
70. Jobs Mountain	5%
71. Juugawaarri	5%
72. Kororo	10%
73. Moonee Beach	21%
74. Mount Hyland	9%
75. Muldiva	5%
76. Muttonbird Island	7%
77. Ngambaa	8%
78. Serpentine*	7%
78. Sherwood	20%
79. Valla	15%



Wedding Bells is the main State Forest visited but the spread is broad.

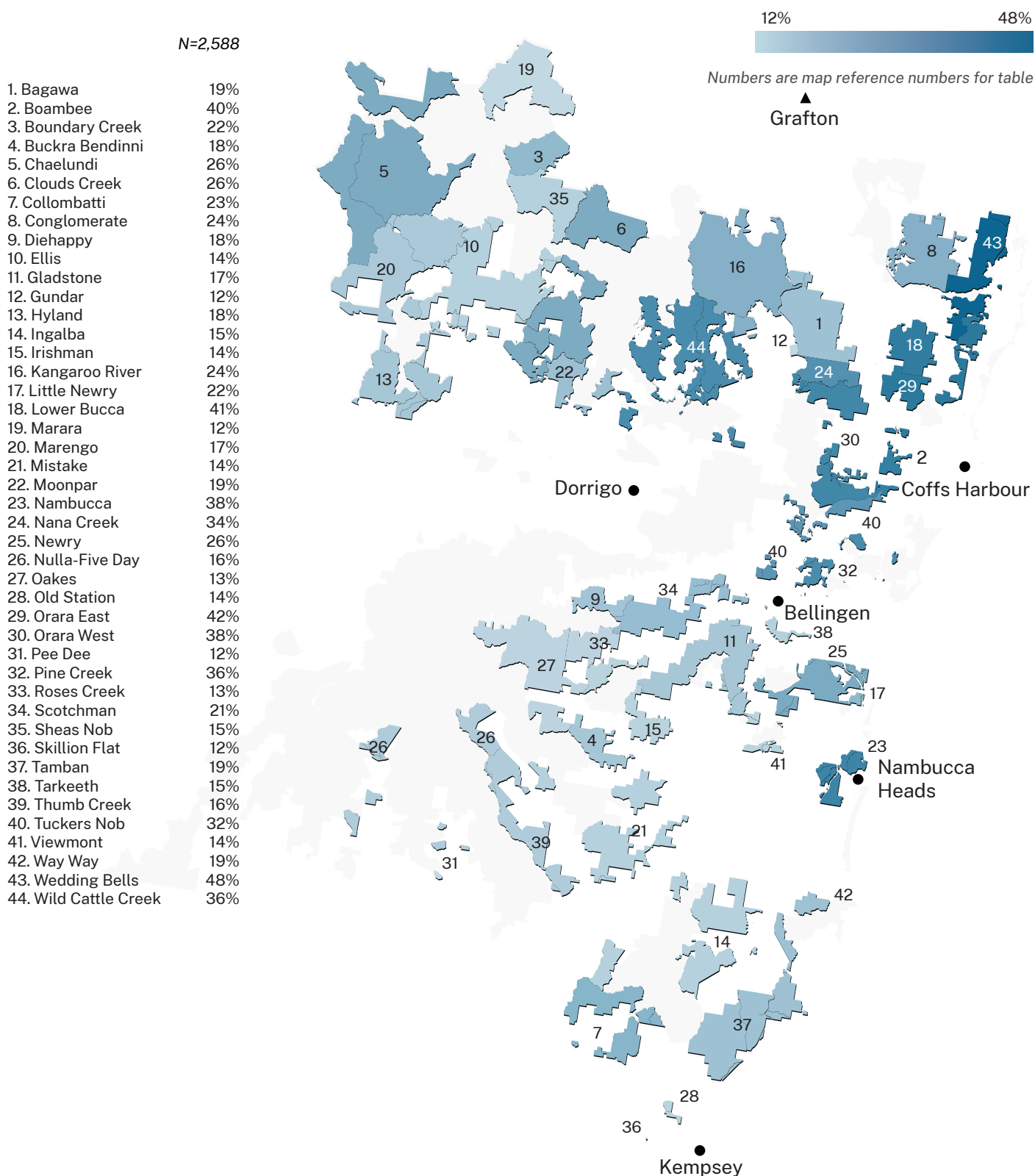
2.3 Main State Forest, by residential location, among Visitors. Q. Which is the main State Forest you visit most often?

■ All respondents N=2,654
 ■ Northern Coast N=1,918
 ■ Rest of NSW (incl. Sydney) N=607
 ■ Queensland N=79



Including other State Forests visited, the interest in eastern and northern forests persists.

2.4 Visiting State Forests, among Visitors. Q. Which is the main State Forest you visit most often? Q. Which State Forests do you go to? (Select all that apply) Merged responses



Nambucca State Forest was notably popular across cohorts.

2.5 Visiting State Forests, among Visitors, by residential location, frequency, and those in clubs/groups. Q. Which State Forests do you go to? (Select all that apply) Note: "Average selected" excludes straight-liners (i.e. respondents who selected every State Forest)

Map legend	State Forest name	All respondents N=2,588	Northern Coast N=1,895	Rest of NSW (incl. Sydney) N=570	Queensland N=76	Frequent visitors N=1,725	Infrequent visitors N=863	As part of a club or group N=716
43	Wedding Bells	48%	54%	28%	54%	57%	29%	64%
29	Orara East	42%	47%	26%	34%	51%	24%	51%
18	Lower Bucca	41%	44%	28%	43%	48%	25%	54%
2	Boambee	40%	43%	30%	41%	47%	27%	49%
23	Nambucca	38%	36%	44%	45%	38%	38%	46%
30	Orara West	38%	43%	22%	32%	46%	21%	48%
44	Wild Cattle Creek	36%	38%	30%	22%	41%	25%	42%
32	Pine Creek	36%	40%	24%	28%	44%	19%	46%
24	Nana Creek	34%	37%	25%	30%	40%	22%	43%
40	Tuckers Nob	32%	36%	22%	26%	39%	20%	38%
25	Newry	26%	26%	24%	25%	29%	21%	35%
6	Clouds Creek	26%	27%	24%	20%	29%	20%	32%
5	Chaelundi	26%	27%	23%	30%	28%	21%	28%
16	Kangaroo River	24%	22%	31%	21%	25%	24%	28%
8	Conglomerate	24%	25%	20%	33%	28%	16%	34%
7	Collombatti	23%	24%	20%	28%	26%	19%	30%
17	Little Newry	22%	22%	22%	24%	25%	17%	31%
3	Boundary Creek	22%	22%	21%	24%	24%	17%	27%
34	Scotchman	21%	22%	16%	17%	25%	12%	27%
22	Moonpar	19%	21%	16%	18%	23%	13%	25%
1	Bagawa	19%	19%	17%	29%	22%	13%	26%
37	Tamban	19%	19%	20%	18%	20%	17%	27%
42	Way Way	19%	19%	18%	21%	21%	15%	24%
9	Diehappy	18%	18%	18%	21%	20%	13%	23%
13	Hyland	18%	18%	17%	20%	20%	12%	23%
4	Buckra Bendinni	18%	18%	17%	22%	20%	13%	23%
11	Gladstone	17%	16%	20%	21%	19%	14%	23%
20	Marengo	17%	16%	19%	20%	18%	13%	20%
39	Thumb Creek	16%	16%	16%	17%	18%	12%	21%
26	Nulla-Five Day	16%	15%	18%	18%	17%	13%	20%
14	Ingalba	15%	15%	15%	20%	17%	11%	20%
35	Sheas Nob	15%	15%	15%	20%	17%	11%	20%
38	Tarkeeth	15%	15%	14%	17%	17%	11%	21%
21	Mistake	14%	14%	15%	18%	16%	11%	19%
10	Ellis	14%	13%	18%	20%	15%	12%	19%
28	Old Station	14%	13%	16%	21%	15%	11%	19%
41	Viewmont	14%	13%	14%	17%	16%	10%	19%
15	Irishman	14%	13%	15%	17%	15%	11%	20%
33	Roses Creek	13%	13%	14%	17%	15%	10%	19%
27	Oakes	13%	12%	16%	18%	14%	11%	18%
36	Skillon Flat	12%	11%	16%	17%	13%	11%	17%
19	Marara	12%	11%	15%	17%	13%	10%	16%
12	Gundar	12%	10%	16%	21%	13%	10%	17%
31	Pee Dee	12%	11%	14%	16%	13%	10%	16%
Average selected		6.5	7.2	4.5	4.9	7.7	4.1	8.1

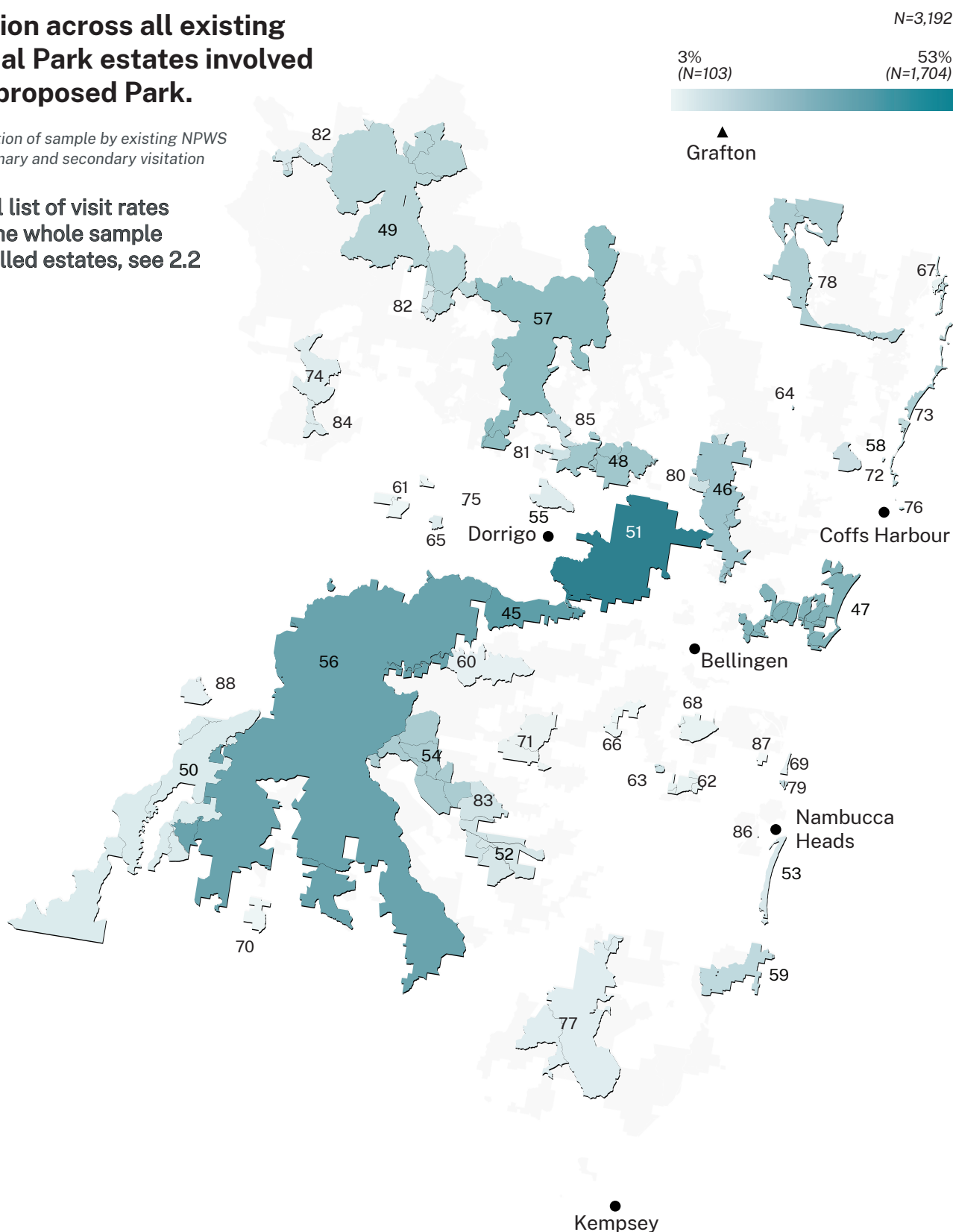
■ ≥5% above average
 ■ ≥5% below average

Across all existing national park estates in the proposed Park, Dorrigo National Park was the most popular.

Visitation across all existing National Park estates involved in the proposed Park.

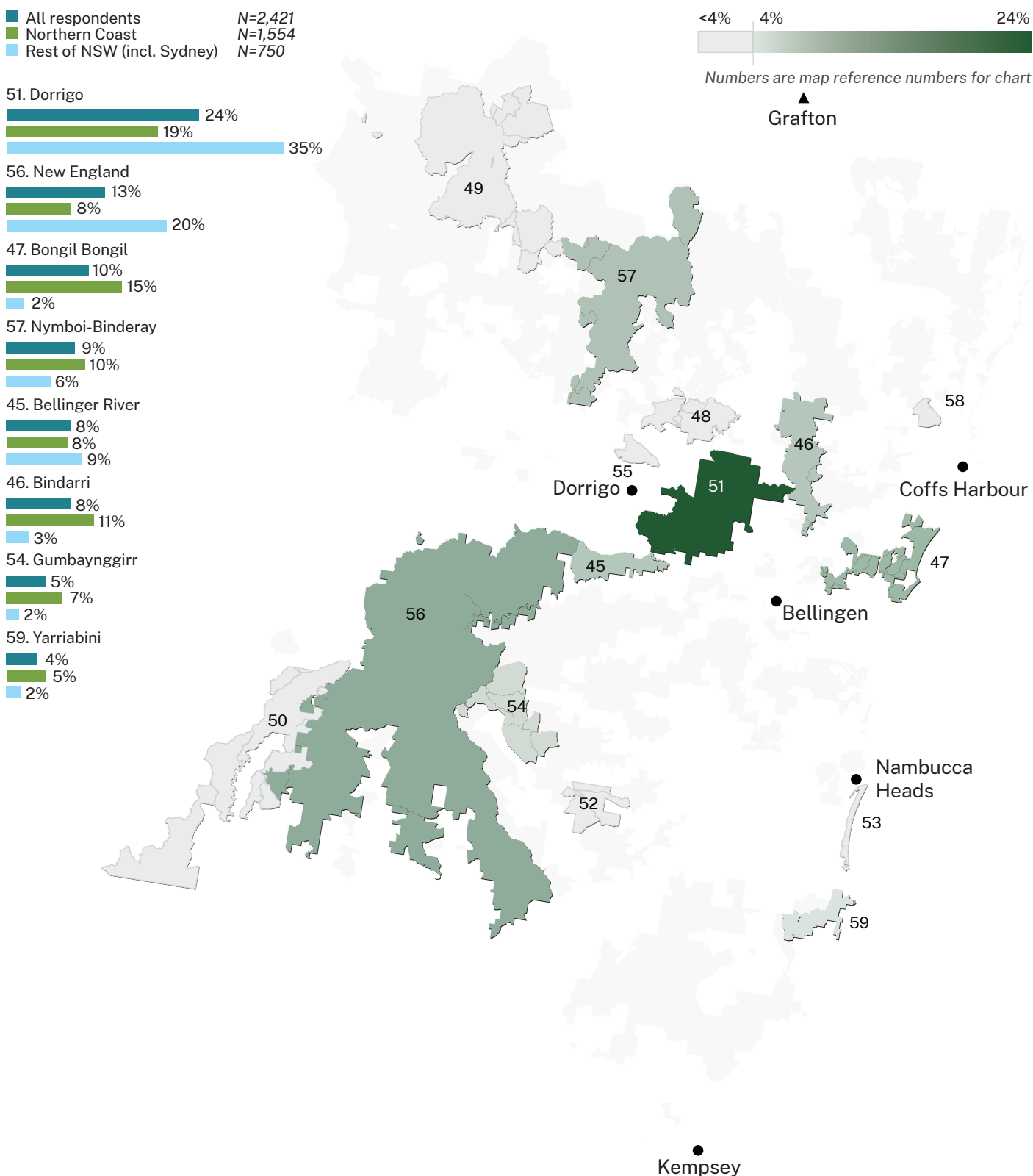
2.6 Distribution of sample by existing NPWS estates, primary and secondary visitation

For a full list of visit rates across the whole sample and labelled estates, see 2.2 (p.16)



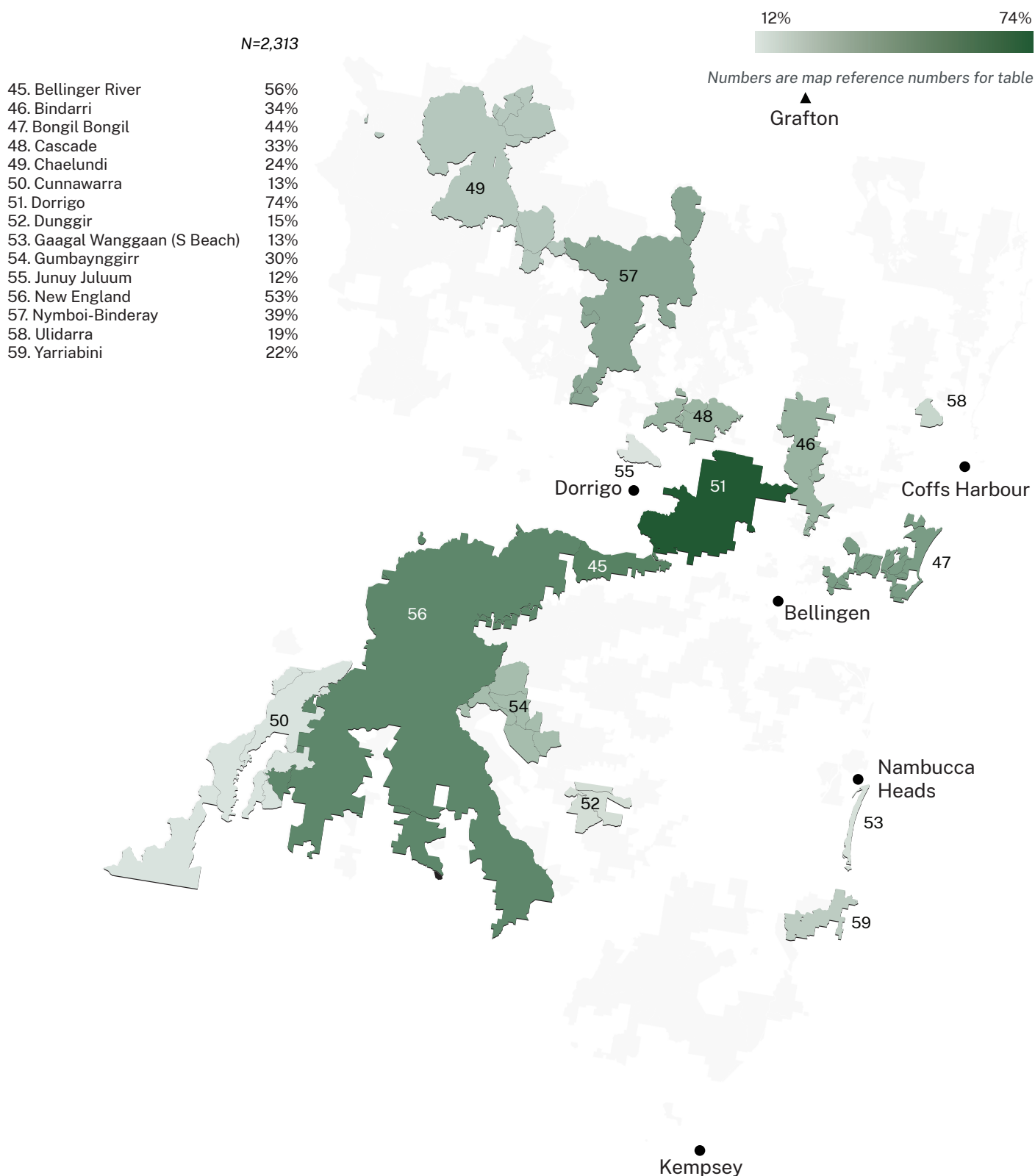
Dorrigo is the most popular National Park for all respondents.

2.6 Main National Park, among Visitors, by residential location. Q. Which is the main National Park you visit most often?



Escarpment parks are the most visited national parks in the proposed GKNP area.

2.7 Visiting National Parks, among Visitors. Q. Which is the main National Park you visit most often? Q. Which National Parks do you go to? (Select all that apply) Merged responses



While Dorrigo-Bellinger-New England are broadly popular, the remainder are “hidden gems” more known to locals.

Among respondents who visited multiple National Parks for their activities, Bellinger River climbs to #2 and Cascade enters the top 6 (#11 among main parks, 2%), suggesting a deeper appeal. Bellinger River may have performed worse in the “main” park rankings due to its position bridging Dorrigo and New England.

Among respondents from the rest of NSW, visitation rates drop by more than 50% beyond the top 3 parks. Locals, frequent visitors and enthusiasts (respondents visiting as part of a club or group) visited the other National Parks at notably higher rates.

Nymboi-Binderay, Chaelundi, Dunggir, Gaagal Wangaan (South Beach), and Junuy Julum are also notably popular among Queensland respondents, but bear in mind the relatively low sample size.

2.8 Visiting National Parks, among Visitors, by residential location, frequency, and membership in a club/group. Q. Which National Park/s do you do these activities at? (Select all that apply)

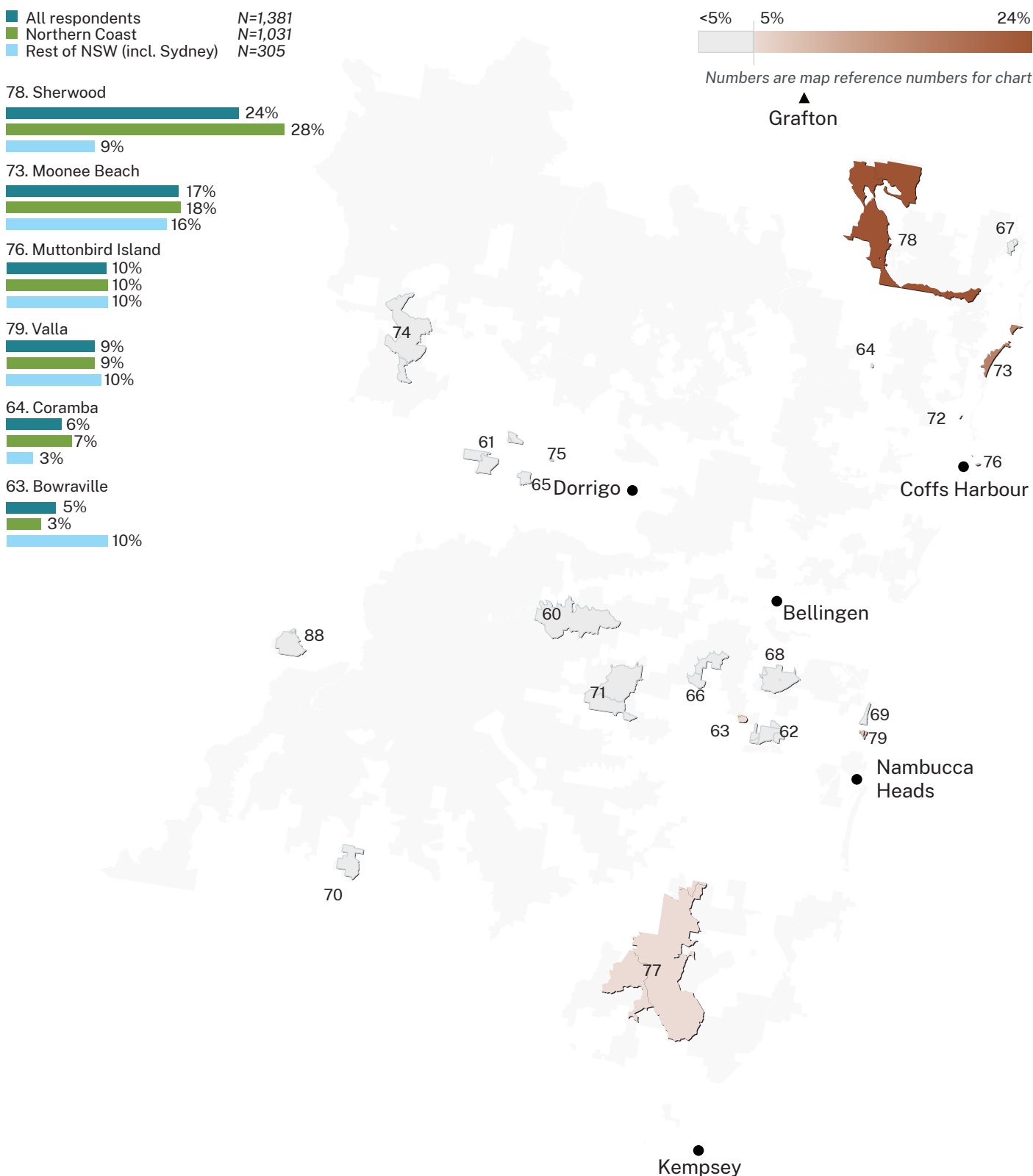
Note: “Average selected” excludes straight-liners (i.e. respondents who selected every National Park)

Map legend	National Park name	All respondents N=2,313	Northern Coast N=1,513	Rest of NSW (incl. Sydney) N=693	Queensland N=61	Frequent visitors N=1,308	Infrequent visitors N=1,005	As part of a club or group N=542
51	Dorrigo	74%	73%	75%	79%	72%	75%	73%
45	Bellinger River	56%	57%	55%	56%	60%	51%	61%
56	New England	53%	52%	56%	69%	53%	53%	54%
47	Bongil Bongil	44%	55%	22%	31%	59%	25%	55%
57	Nymboi-Binderay	39%	46%	25%	56%	48%	29%	48%
48	Cascade	34%	42%	18%	30%	47%	16%	47%
46	Bindarri	33%	38%	25%	30%	43%	21%	43%
54	Gumbaynggirr	30%	36%	16%	21%	39%	17%	40%
49	Chaelundi	24%	28%	16%	31%	30%	16%	32%
59	Yarriabini	22%	25%	16%	20%	28%	15%	31%
58	Ulidarra	19%	21%	13%	20%	25%	10%	29%
52	Dunggir	15%	15%	13%	23%	18%	10%	23%
53	Gaagal Wangaan	13%	13%	13%	20%	16%	10%	19%
50	Cunnawarra	13%	12%	13%	16%	16%	8%	19%
55	Junuy Julum	12%	12%	11%	20%	14%	8%	19%
Average selected		4.0	4.4	3.0	3.5	4.7	3.0	4.6

■ ≥5% above average
 ■ ≥5% below average

Sherwood was the most popular Nature Reserve overall, but Moonee Beach was the favourite among “Rest of NSW”

2.9 Main Nature Reserve, among Visitors, by residential location. Q. Which is the main Nature Reserve you visit most often?



78% of respondents who visit multiple Nature Reserves are locals.

This is the highest rate among park types: for reference, locals (see p.7) are 58% of the overall sample. However they represent 72% of those visiting multiple State Forests in the proposed area, 67% of those visiting multiple National Parks, 68% of those visiting multiple State Conservation Areas.

2.10 Visiting Nature Reserves, among Visitors, by residential location, frequency, and membership in a club/group. . Q. Which Nature Reserve/s do you go to? Select all that apply

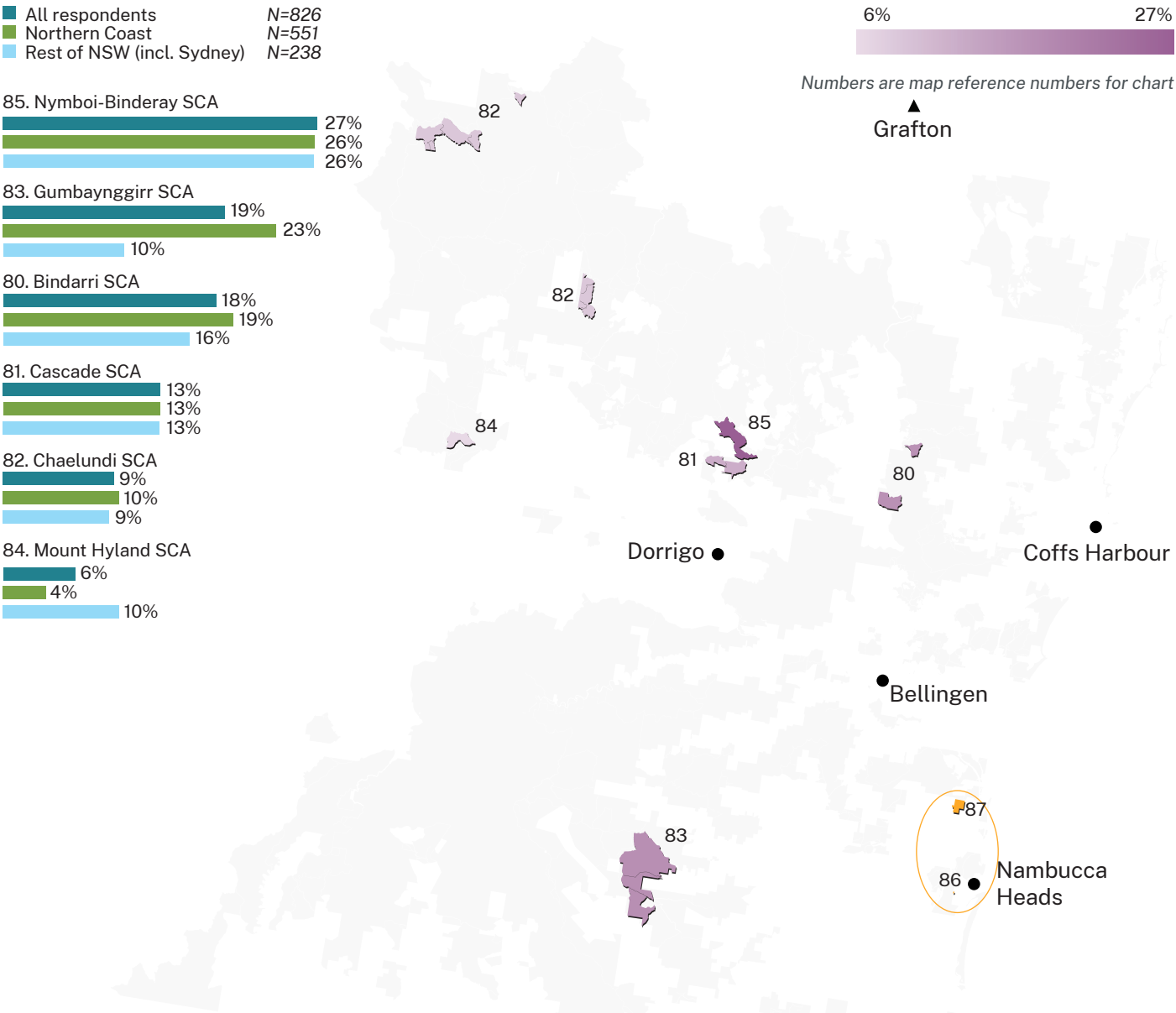
Note: "Average selected" excludes straight-liners (i.e. respondents who selected every National Park)

Map legend	Nature Reserve name	All respondents N=1,339	Northern Coast N=1,017	Rest of NSW (incl. Sydney) N=278	Queensland N=26	Frequent visitors N=909	Infrequent visitors N=430	As part of a club or group N=343
73	Moonee Beach	50%	52%	43%		54%	42%	55%
78	Sherwood	49%	56%	27%		59%	28%	62%
76	Muttonbird Island	40%	44%	26%		45%	29%	46%
79	Valla	37%	38%	30%		38%	33%	41%
64	Coramba	35%	40%	18%		43%	18%	48%
63	Bowraville	29%	28%	32%		30%	27%	36%
72	Kororo	23%	25%	15%		27%	14%	31%
74	Mount Hyland	21%	20%	21%		23%	17%	27%
65	Deer Vale	20%	21%	19%		24%	13%	27%
77	Ngambaa	18%	17%	21%		20%	15%	27%
88	Serpentine	16%	14%	20%		17%	14%	20%
69	Jagun	15%	15%	13%		17%	10%	23%
60	Baalijin	15%	15%	13%		18%	9%	21%
62	Bollanolla	14%	14%	12%		17%	9%	24%
67	Garby	14%	14%	12%		16%	9%	19%
68	Jaanningga	14%	13%	14%		16%	9%	22%
71	Juugawaarri	12%	12%	14%		14%	8%	20%
66	Ganay	12%	11%	12%		14%	6%	18%
70	Jobs Mountain	12%	10%	14%		13%	8%	17%
75	Muldiva	12%	11%	11%		14%	7%	16%
61	Bagul Waajaarr	11%	11%	12%		14%	6%	16%
Average selected		3.3	3.5	2.7		3.7	2.5	4.0

■ ≥5% above average ■ ≥5% below average

More than a quarter of respondents named Nymboi-Binderay State Conservation Area as their primary SCA.

2.11 Main State Conservation Area, among Visitors, by residential location. Q. Which is the main State Conservation Area you visit most often?



2.12 Main Aboriginal Area. Q. Which is the main Aboriginal Area you visit most often?

	N=238
87. Nambucca	65%
86. Nunguu Mirral	18%
Others	17%

Special spots mentioned by respondents showed strong interest in continued road and trail access.

Respondents were invited to mention particular spots of interest for each estate type. 819 respondents offered 1,346 responses across the questions. Besides recommending favourite spots, 19% of responses used these questions to mention specific access points, roads, or tracks they value, 11% mentioned recreational activities they value involving roads or trails, 8% urged maintaining or improving existing access. 18 responses (1%) mentioned concerns for accessing their property or the state forests adjacent to their land. Top ranked areas of interest are presented below for State Forests, National Parks, and Nature Reserves.

Points of interest

2.13 Points of interest, by estate type. Q. If you visit a particular spot in this area and would like to tell us more, please do so below

Note: Data has been cleaned to merge and correct place names. Bases for place names in State Conservation Areas, Aboriginal Areas, and Coffs Coast Regional Park were too low to fairly rank.

State Forests (N=554)	National Parks (N=435)	Nature Reserves (N=189)
1. Wedding Bells MTB 49	1. Platypus Flats 26	1. Scout Falls 16
2. Never Never Creek 26	2. Dorrigo Rainforest Centre 14	2. Emerald Beach 9
3. Dingo Creek Road 21	3. Point Lookout 14	3. Moonee Creek 8
4. General Trail Access 25	4. Horseshoe Road 13	4. Muttonbird Island 7
5. General Road Access 17	5. Bangalore Falls 12	5. Sherwood Creek Trail 7
6. Range Road 13	6. Cod Hole 12	6. Sherwood Road 6
7. Gentle Annie Road 13	7. The Junction 10	7. Cedar Park 5
8. Woolgoolga MTB 12	8. Urumbilum River/Creek 6	8. Oyster Creek 4
9. Jacks Ridge MTB 11	9. Killiecrankie Lookout 5	9. Sherwood Buttress 4
10. Coffs Coast Archery Club 11	10. Nymboida River 5	10. Sherwood Cliffs 4
11. Promised Lands 10	11. Pine Creek 5	11. Look At Me Now Headland 3
12. Cows With Guns MTB 8	12. Tuckers Rocks 4	12. Moonee Beach 3
13. Settles Road 8	13. Bonville Creek 4	13. Woolgoolga Falls 3
14. Stuarts Road (mtb) 7	14. Bellbucca Road 3	14. Valla Beach 3
15. Coffs Harbour Rifle Club 6	15. Swans Road 3	15. Basin Road 2
16. Store Road 5	16. Tower Road 3	16. Brush Trail 2
17. Deep Creek 5	17. Way Way Creek 3	17. Cooks Creek 2
18. Battery Falls 4	18. Bongil Bongil Beach 2	18. Mount Hyland 2
19. Battery Road 4	19. Bundagaree Headland 2	19. Sweet Potato Falls 2
20. Frontage Creek Road 4	20. Cascade Falls 2	20. Syndicate Ridge Track 2

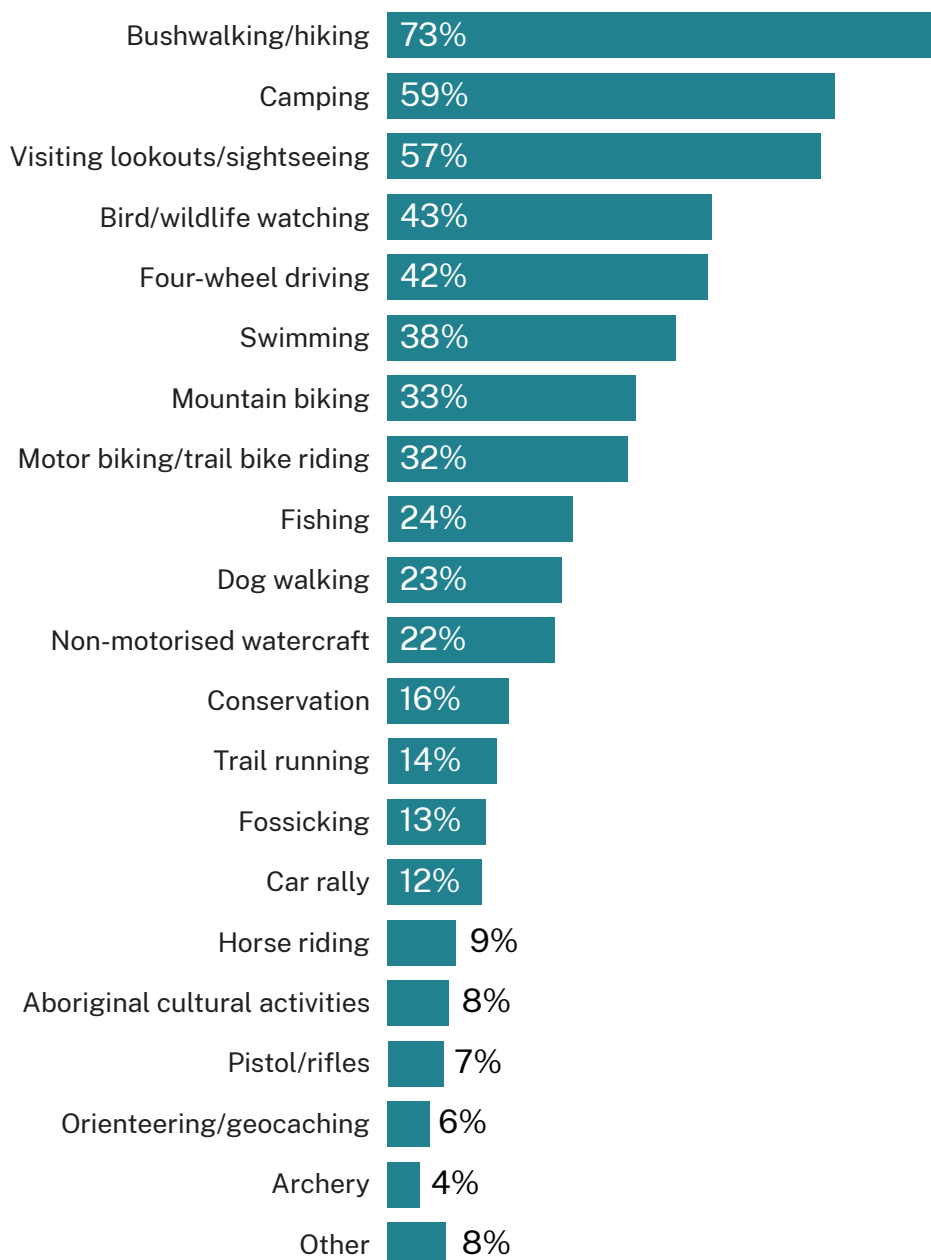
Visitors to the existing estates participate in a broad range of activities. Bushwalking is universally popular.

“Bushwalking/hiking” was the #1 activity across 73 of the 89 estates involved in the GKNP. In order to go deeper, the following section will look at which activities are more popular among different respondent cohorts, and analyse activities separately on the map to form an analysis of where they are popular.

Activities across the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the GKNP

N=3,421

3.1 Overall activity participation, among Visitors Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply



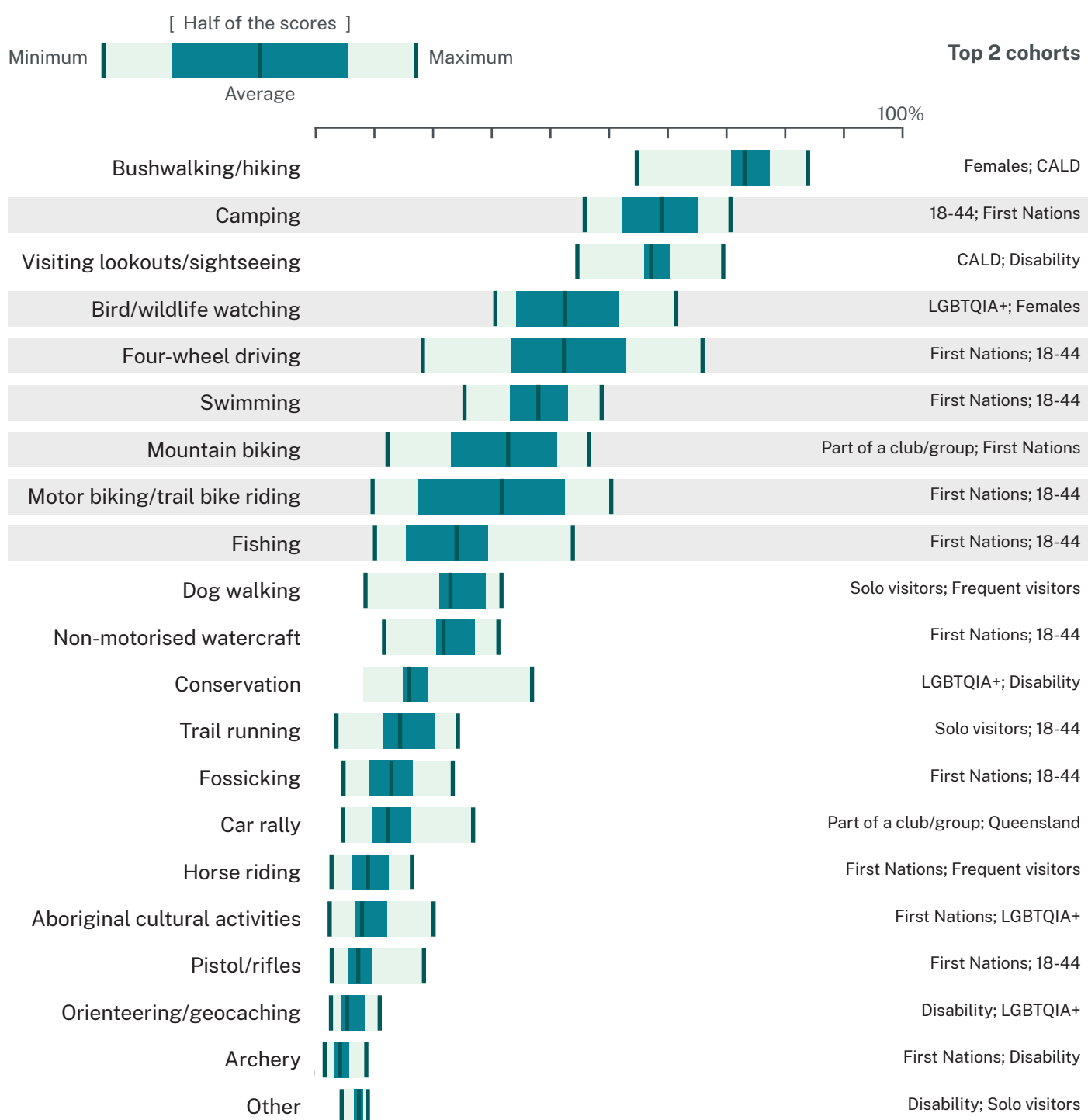
Seven high variation activities were selected for cohort analysis.

The twenty listed activities were analysed by each age group, gender, location, frequency, social mode, and diversity group (cohorts). Thirteen of the activities had an interquartile range (IQR) below 10%, indicating a consistent level of appeal, with narrow clusters of results across cohorts. High-end outliers are summarised here. The seven highlighted activities with a high IQR are presented on the next pages.

Activity variation for included cohorts

3.2 Activity variance by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply

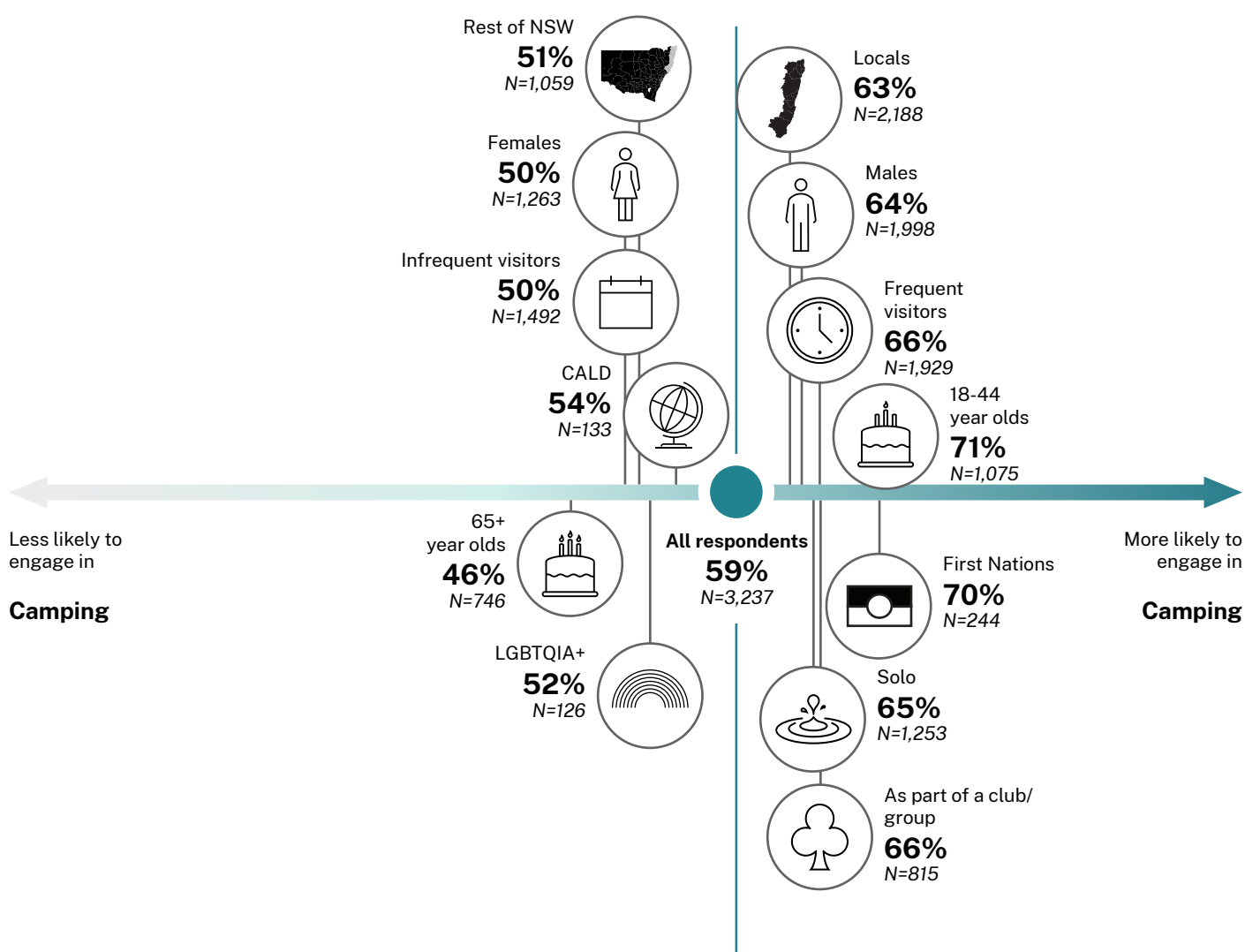
Note: A traditional box-and-whisker plots individual scores on a continuum, here it is used to illustrate variance in participation rates among cohorts. Instead of a median for the middle marker, the mean is used.



Camping was most popular among 18-44 year olds and First Nations respondents.

Camping

3.3 Camping by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply



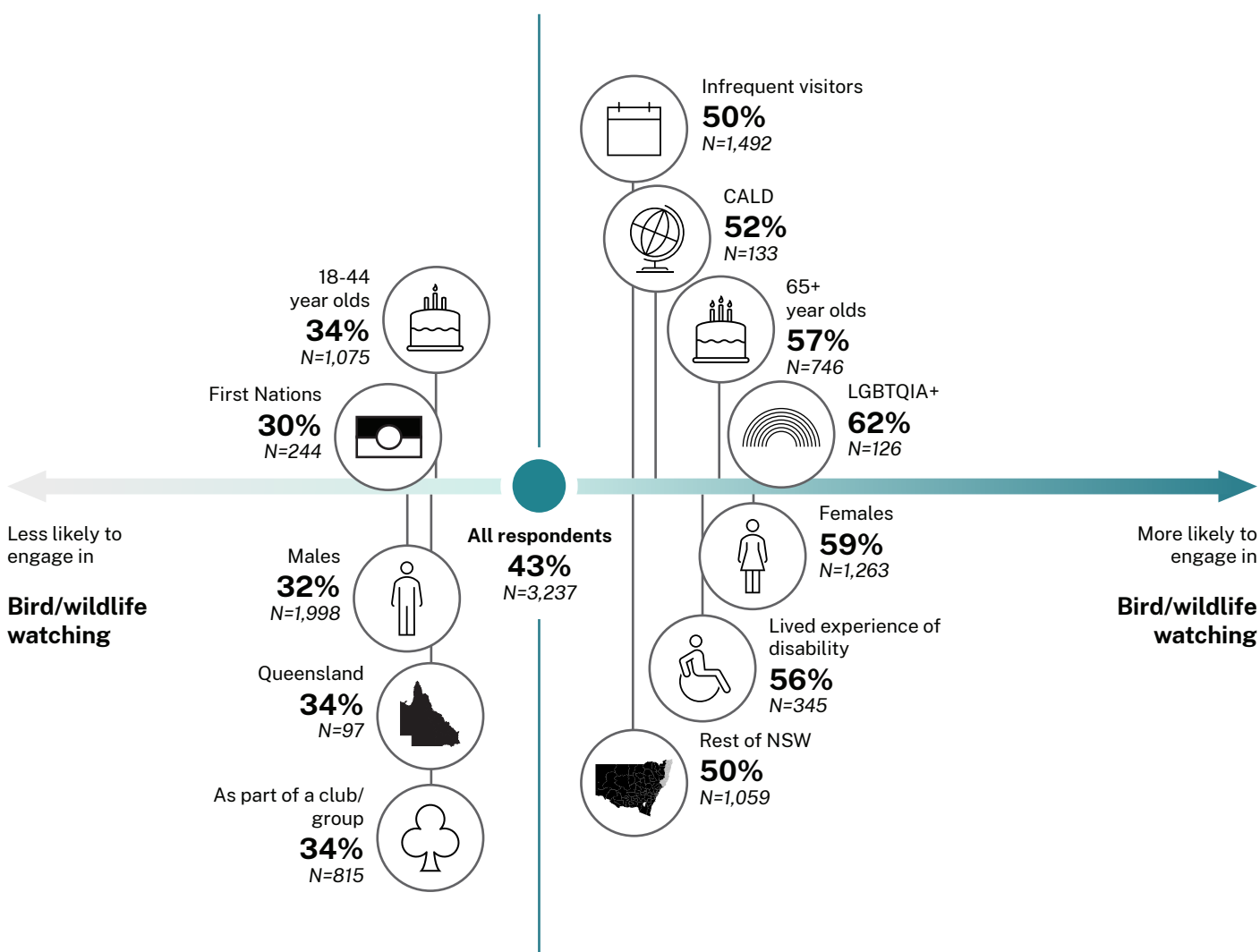
Cohorts with scores within 0.5 standard deviations of the mean are omitted for legibility.

The average respondent selected 5.4 activities. Cohorts higher than the average included Locals (6.0), 18-44 year olds (6.6), Frequent visitors (6.3), those with lived experience of a disability (6.0), and First Nations (7.0), and these cohorts regularly came in above the average. Responses were checked for straight-lining (selecting all choices). N=298 respondents selected double the average number of activities (11+), only N=33 selected triple the average (16+), suggesting only a minor effect.

Bird and wildlife watching was most popular amongst women, respondents identifying as LGBTQIA+ and those of retirement age.

Bird/wildlife watching

3.4 Bird/wildlife watching by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply

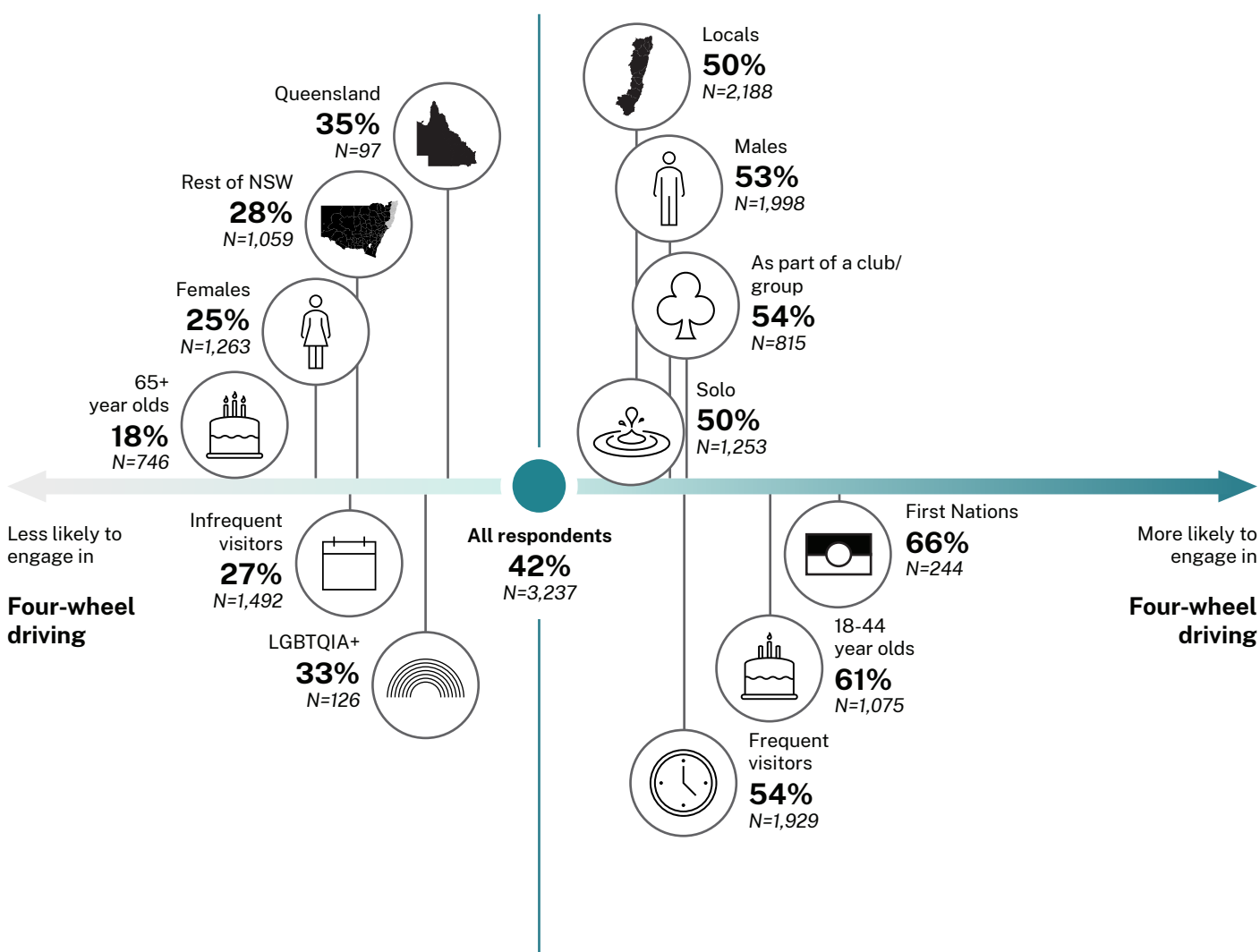


Cohorts with scores within 0.5 standard deviations of the mean are omitted for legibility.

Four-wheel driving was notably popular among First Nations respondents and adults aged 18-44.

Four-wheel driving

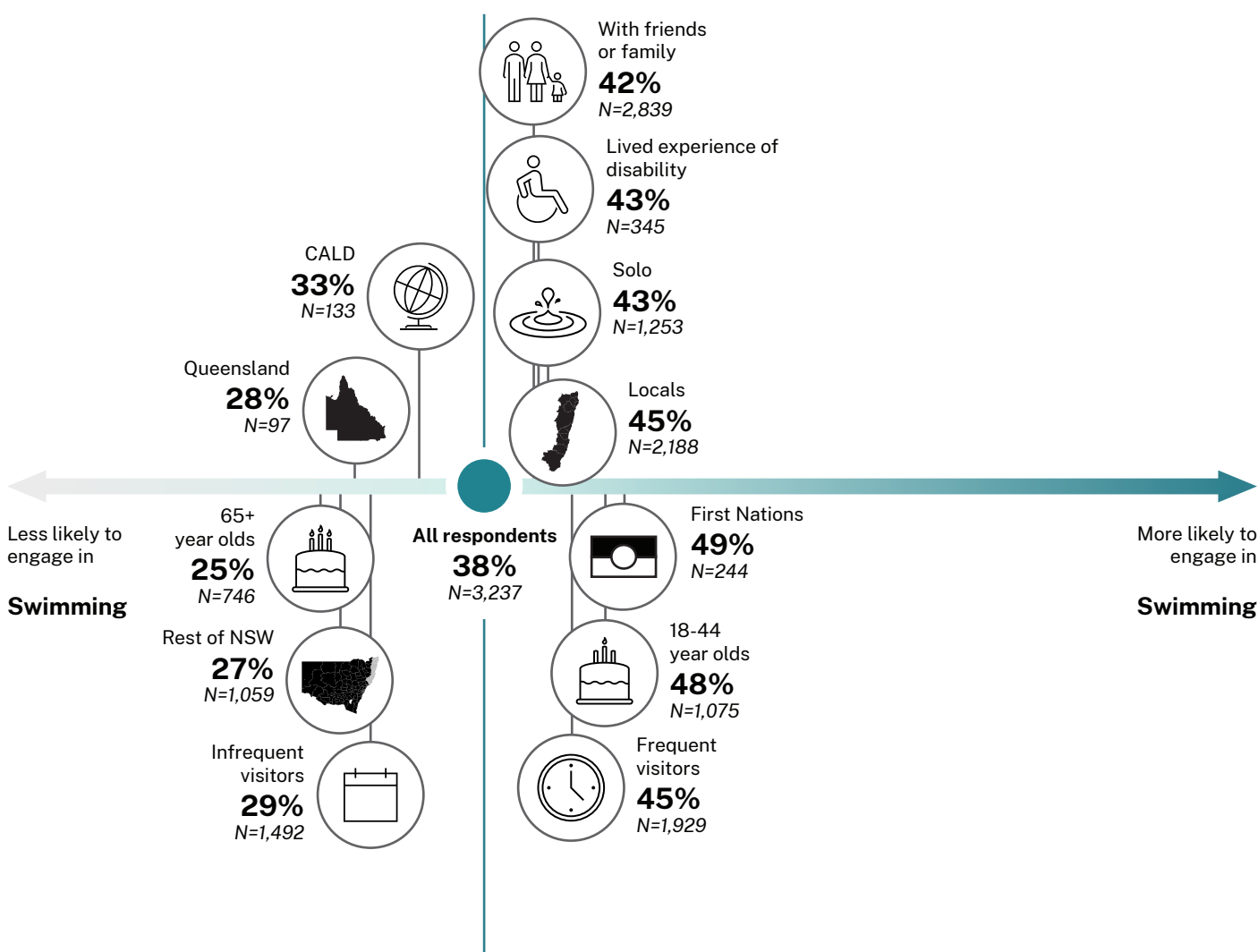
3.5 Four-wheel driving by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply



Swimming was most popular among First Nations respondents, 18-44 year olds and locals.

Swimming

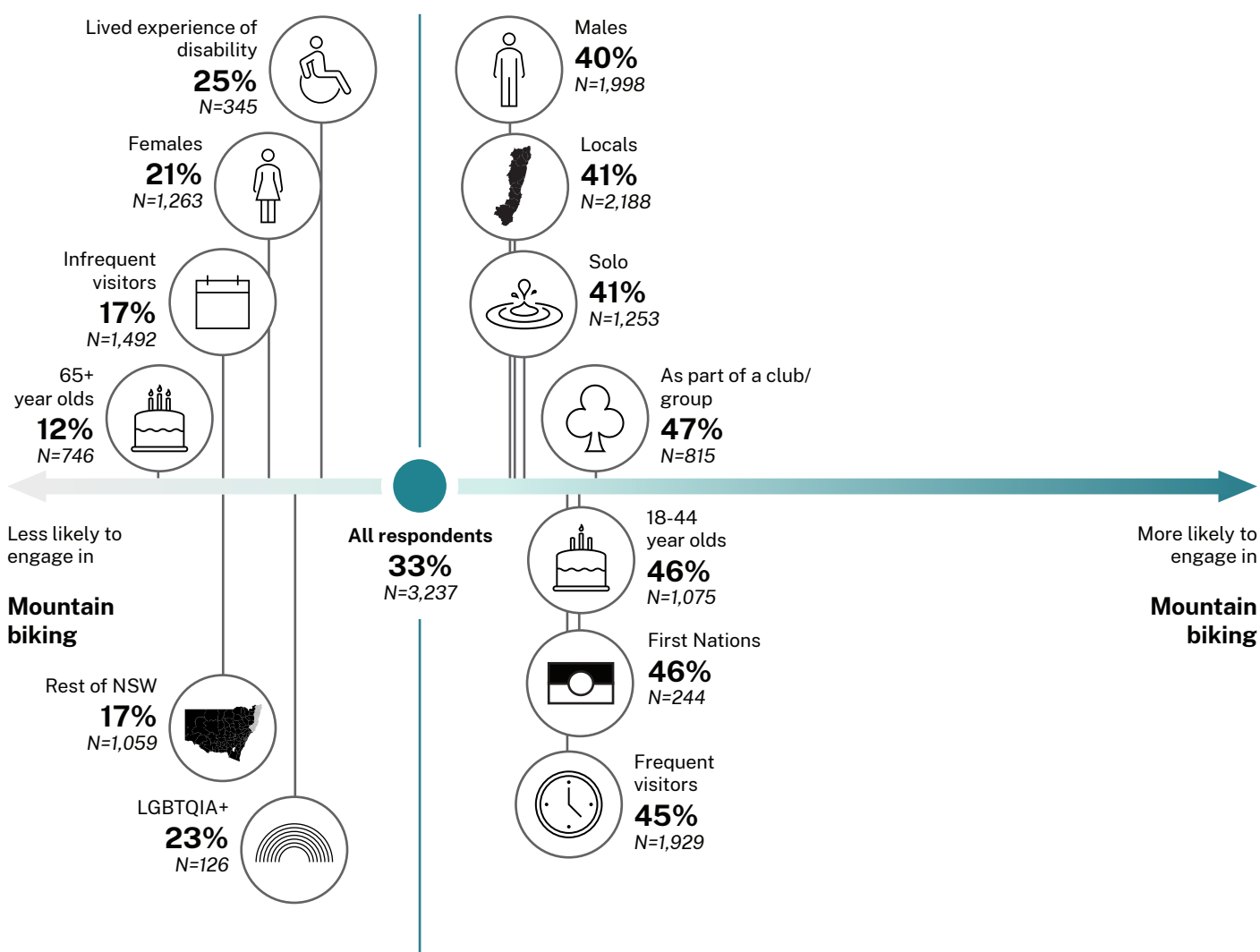
3.6 Swimming by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply



Mountain biking was popular among respondents visiting as part of a club or organised group. It was uncommon among respondents from broader NSW.

Mountain biking

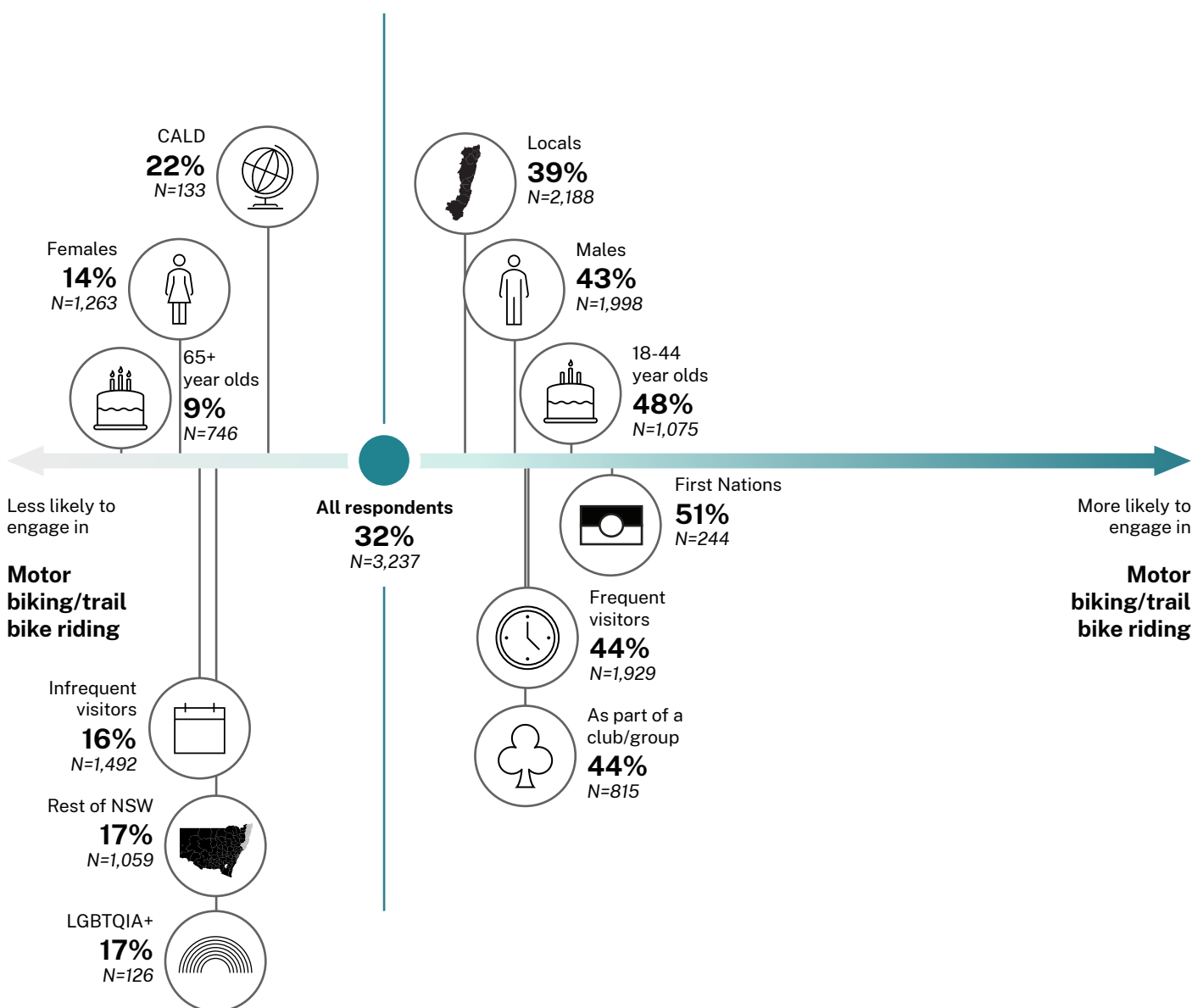
3.7 Mountain biking by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply



Motor biking/trail bike riding had a similar profile to mountain bike riding, an organised activity skewing young, frequent and local.

Motor biking/trail bike riding

3.8 Motor biking/trail bike riding by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply

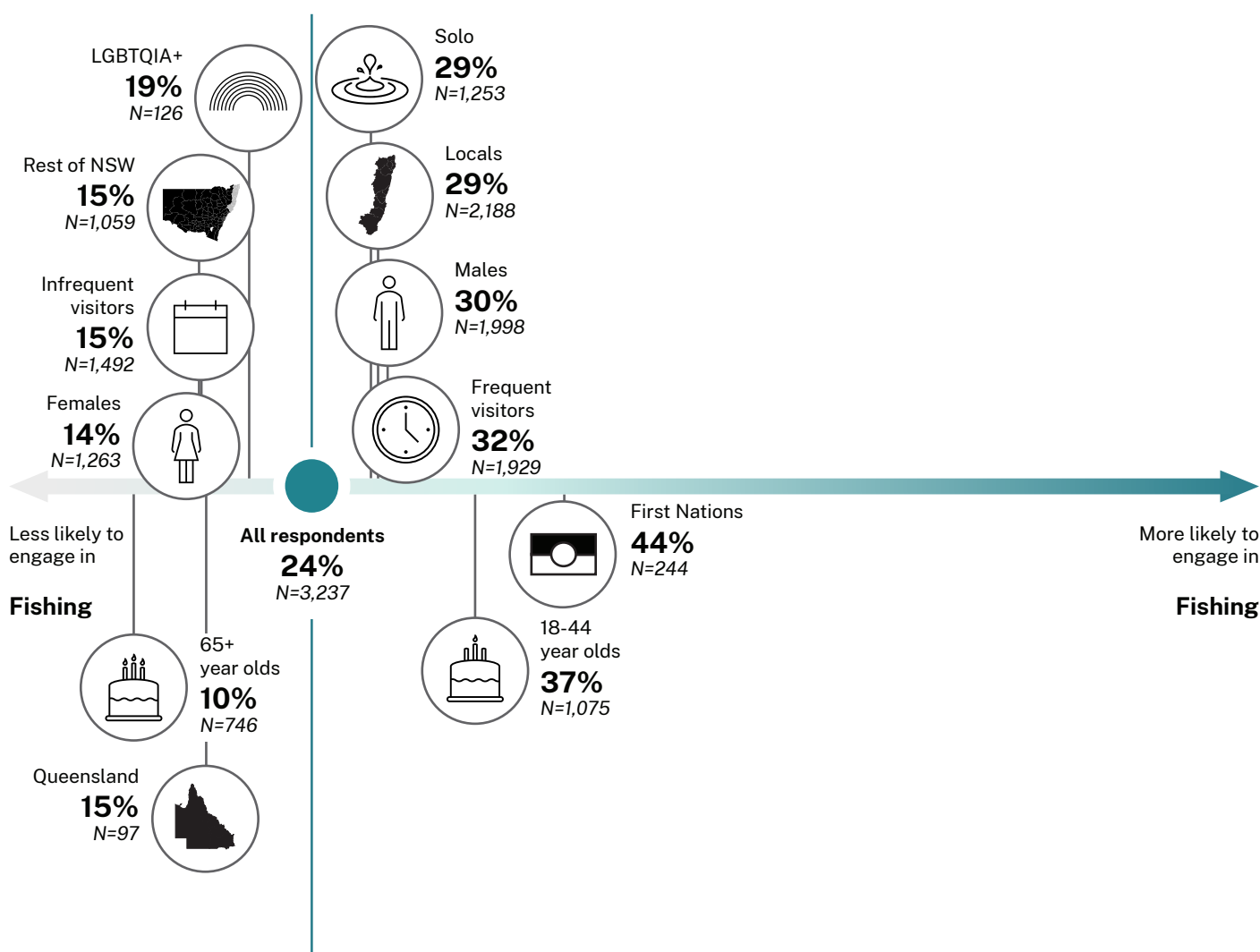


Cohorts with scores within 0.5 standard deviations of the mean are omitted for legibility.

First Nations respondents and respondents aged 18-44 participated in most activities at higher rates than the average, including fishing.

Fishing

3.9 Fishing by cohort, among Visitors. Q. What activities do you participate in when you visit the National Parks, State Forests and/or Reserves within the proposed Great Koala National Park? Select all that apply



Cohorts with scores within 0.5 standard deviations of the mean are omitted for legibility.

18-44 year olds and First Nations respondents were higher than the average for all activities except Bushwalking, visiting lookouts, bird/wildlife watching, and conservation, showing a preference for high-excitement activities. The two cohorts diverged on “Aboriginal cultural activities”, with First Nations the highest cohort at 20%, and 18-44 year olds tied for second lowest at 5%.

Aboriginal cultural activities take place across all estate types, particularly the Aboriginal Areas and National Parks.

4.1 Use of estates for Aboriginal cultural activities, among respondents who visit and engage

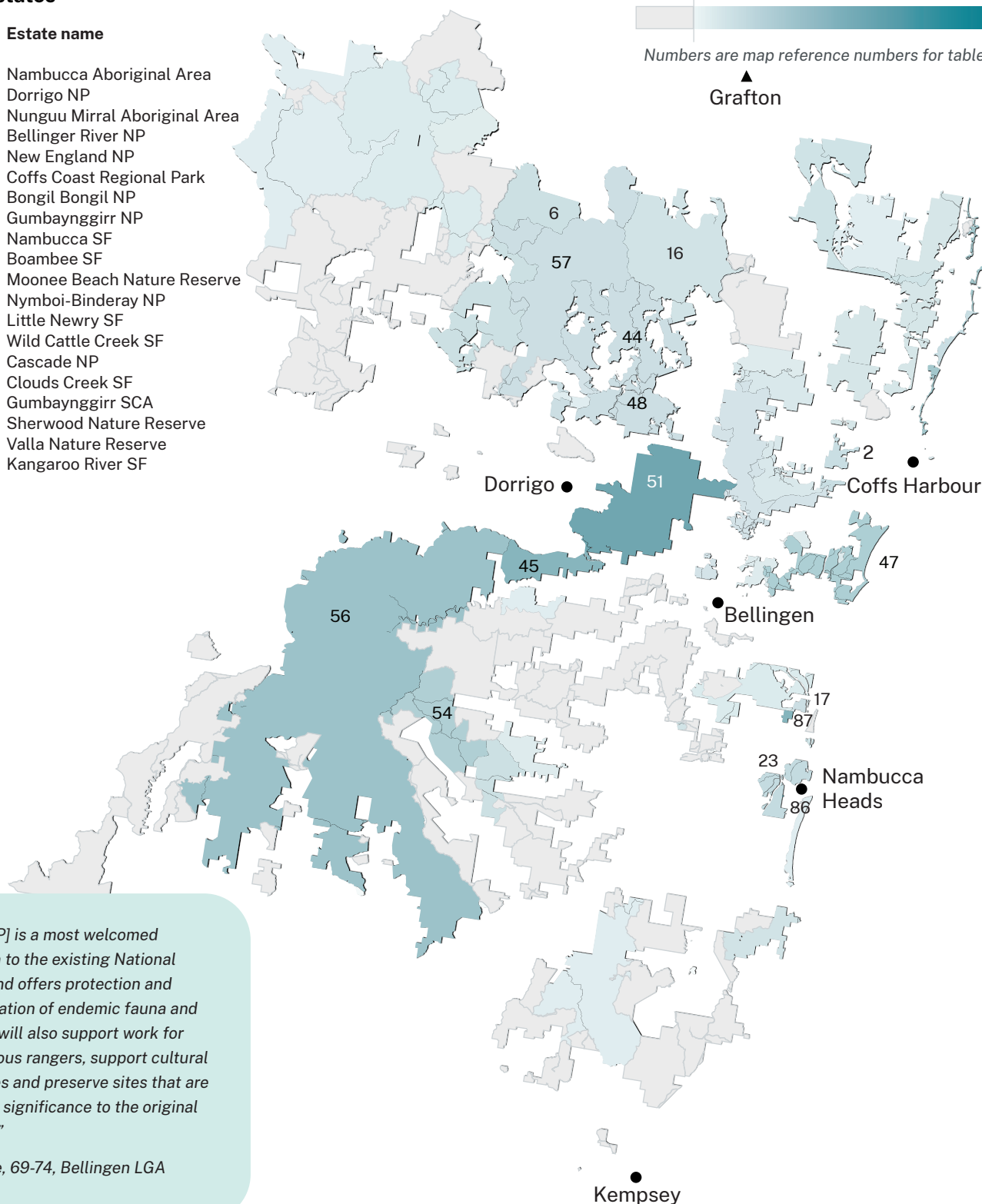
N=244

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
87	43%	Nambucca Aboriginal Area
51	30%	Dorrigo NP
86	26%	Nunguu Mirral Aboriginal Area
45	25%	Bellinger River NP
56	21%	New England NP
89	19%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
47	17%	Bongil Bongil NP
54	16%	Gumbaynggirr NP
23	12%	Nambucca SF
2	11%	Boambee SF
73	11%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
57	11%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
17	11%	Little Newry SF
44	11%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
48	11%	Cascade NP
6	10%	Clouds Creek SF
85	10%	Gumbaynggirr SCA
79	10%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
80	10%	Valla Nature Reserve
16	9%	Kangaroo River SF

<5% 5% 43%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



"[GKNP] is a most welcomed addition to the existing National Parks and offers protection and conservation of endemic fauna and flora. It will also support work for Indigenous rangers, support cultural practices and preserve sites that are of great significance to the original owners."

-Female, 69-74, Bellingen LGA

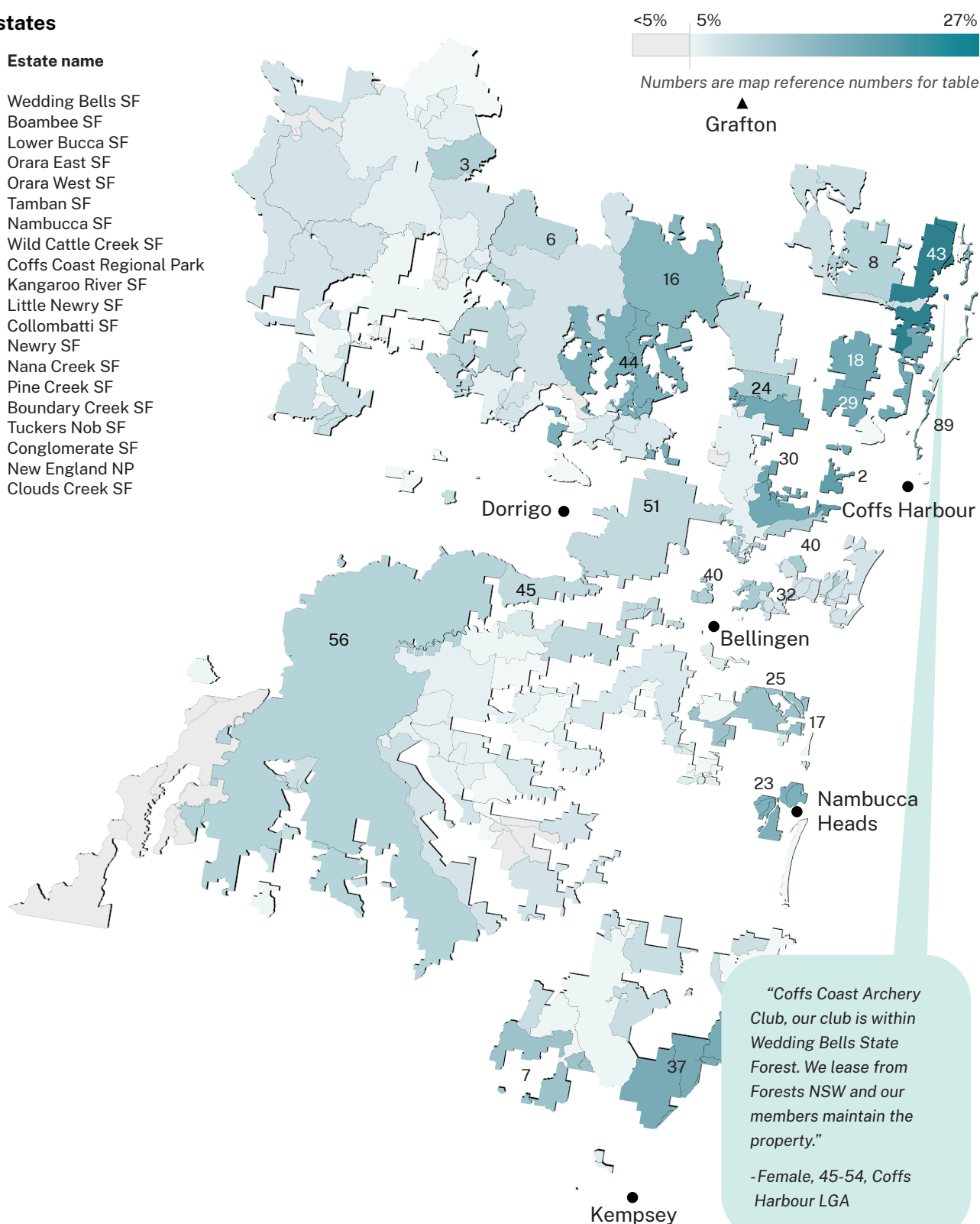
Archery is most common in State Forests, in particular Wedding Bells and Boambee.

4.2 Use of estates for archery, among respondents who visit and engage

N=126

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
43	27%	Wedding Bells SF
2	21%	Boambee SF
18	18%	Lower Bucca SF
29	18%	Orara East SF
30	18%	Orara West SF
37	17%	Tamban SF
23	17%	Nambucca SF
44	17%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
89	17%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
16	16%	Kangaroo River SF
17	13%	Little Newry SF
7	13%	Collombatti SF
25	13%	Newry SF
24	11%	Nana Creek SF
32	11%	Pine Creek SF
3	10%	Boundary Creek SF
40	10%	Tuckers Nob SF
8	10%	Conglomerate SF
56	10%	New England NP
6	9%	Clouds Creek SF



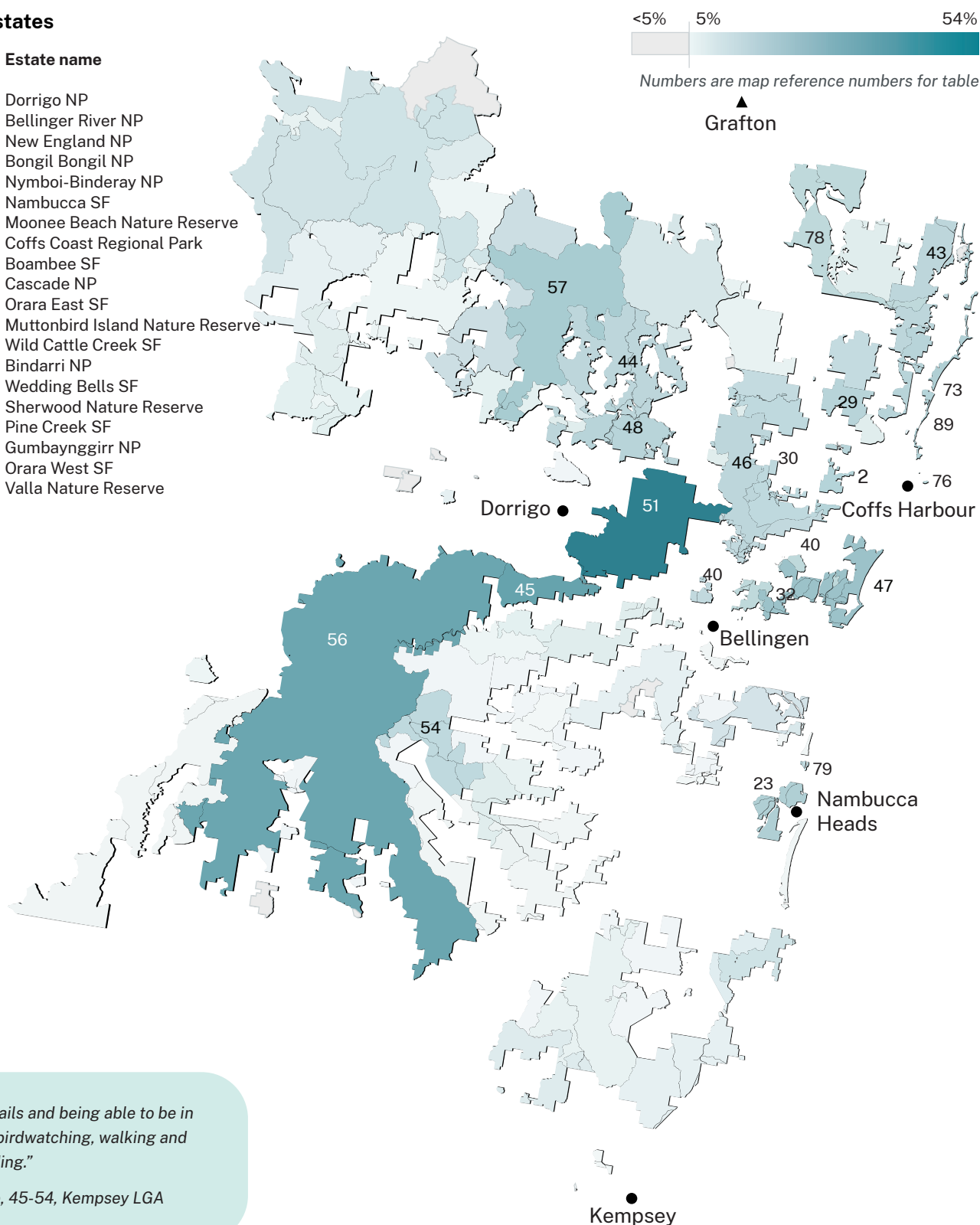
Bird/wildlife watching is most popular within National Parks and Nature Reserves.

4.3 Use of estates for bird/wildlife watching, among respondents who visit and engage

N=1,392

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	54%	Dorrigo NP
45	39%	Bellinger River NP
56	38%	New England NP
47	26%	Bongil Bongil NP
57	22%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
23	20%	Nambucca SF
73	20%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
89	19%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
2	19%	Boambee SF
48	18%	Cascade NP
29	18%	Orara East SF
76	18%	Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve
44	17%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
46	17%	Bindarri NP
43	17%	Wedding Bells SF
78	17%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
32	17%	Pine Creek SF
54	16%	Gumbaynggirr NP
30	16%	Orara West SF
79	16%	Valla Nature Reserve



"The trails and being able to be in nature, birdwatching, walking and horseriding."

-Female, 45-54, Kempsey LGA

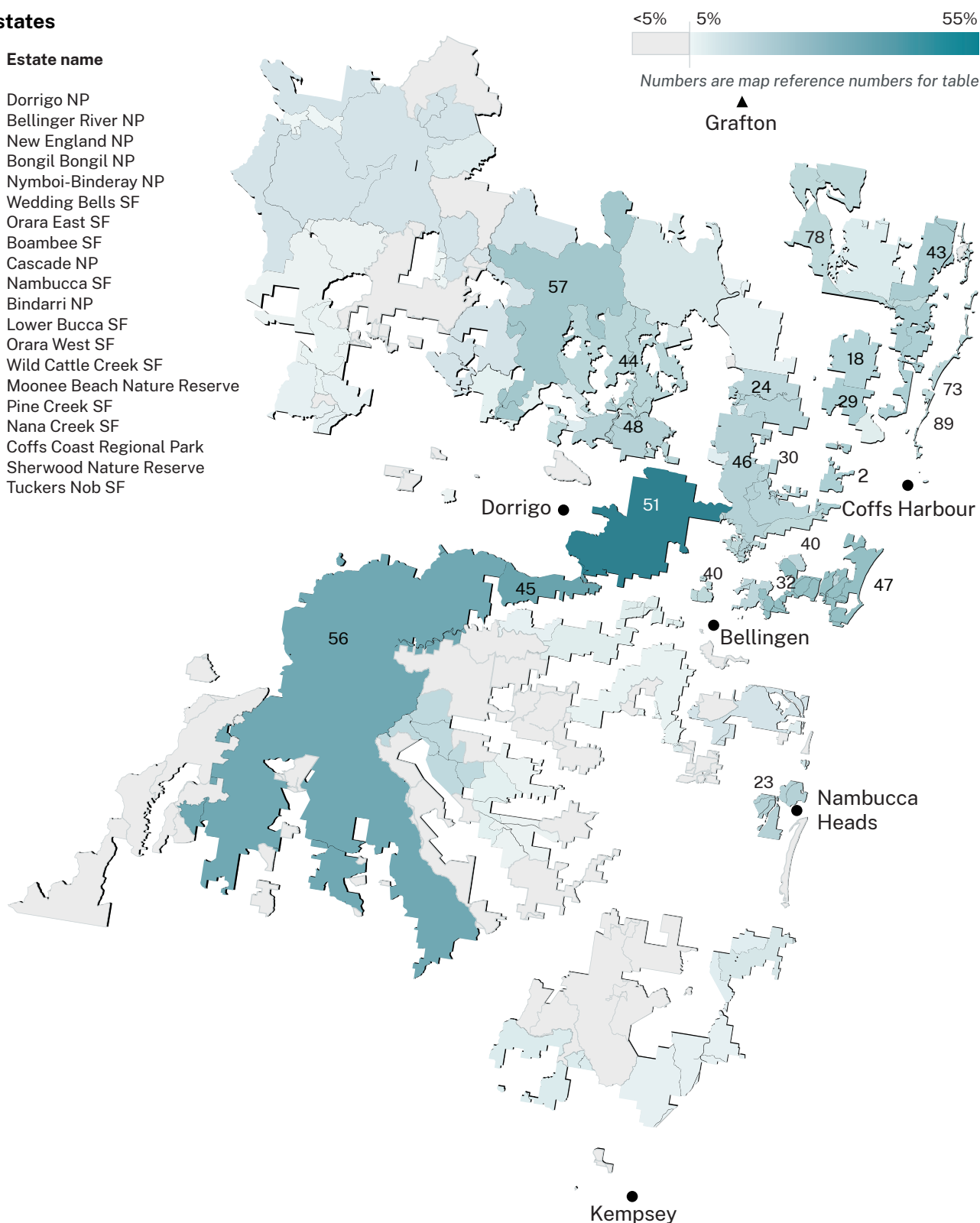
Bushwalking/hiking is broadly popular, particularly in National Parks and State Forests.

4.4 Use of estates for bushwalking/hiking, among respondents who visit and engage

N=2,274

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	55%	Dorrigo NP
45	39%	Bellinger River NP
56	37%	New England NP
47	28%	Bongil Bongil NP
57	24%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
43	22%	Wedding Bells SF
29	21%	Orara East SF
2	21%	Boambee SF
48	20%	Cascade NP
23	20%	Nambucca SF
46	19%	Bindarri NP
18	19%	Lower Bucca SF
30	18%	Orara West SF
44	18%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
73	18%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
32	18%	Pine Creek SF
24	17%	Nana Creek SF
89	17%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
78	17%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
40	17%	Tuckers Nob SF



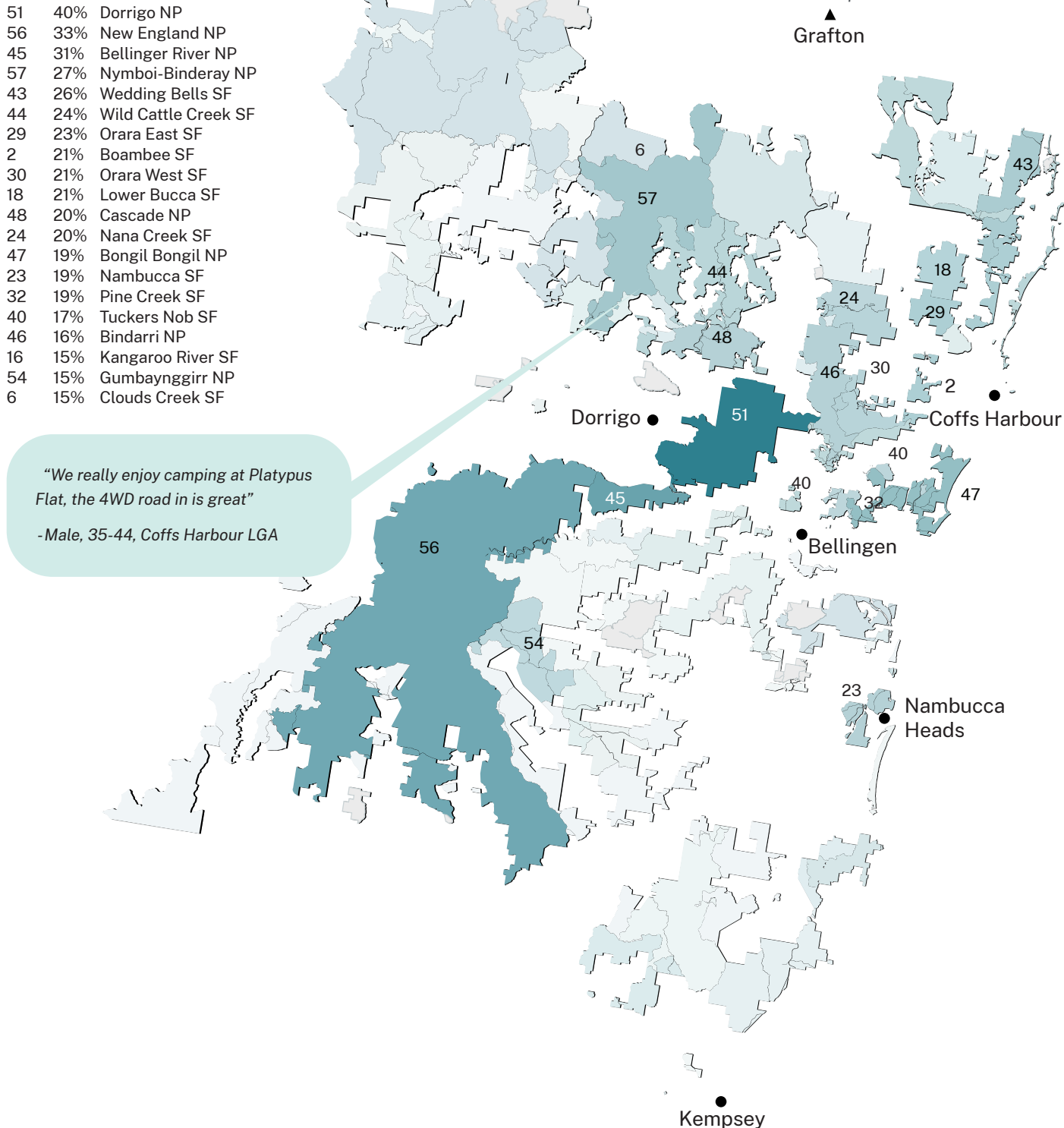
Camping is relatively dispersed across the landscape.

4.5 Use of estates for camping, among respondents who visit and engage

N=1,441

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	40%	Dorrigo NP
56	33%	New England NP
45	31%	Bellinger River NP
57	27%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
43	26%	Wedding Bells SF
44	24%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
29	23%	Orara East SF
2	21%	Boambee SF
30	21%	Orara West SF
18	21%	Lower Bucca SF
48	20%	Cascade NP
24	20%	Nana Creek SF
47	19%	Bongil Bongil NP
23	19%	Nambucca SF
32	19%	Pine Creek SF
40	17%	Tuckers Nob SF
46	16%	Bindarri NP
16	15%	Kangaroo River SF
54	15%	Gumbaynggirr NP
6	15%	Clouds Creek SF



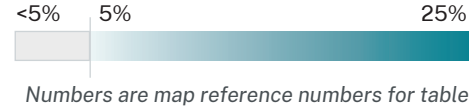
Car rallies are concentrated in Wedding Bells, Lower Bucca and Orara East State Forests.

4.6 Use of estates for car rallies, among respondents who visit and engage (by primary parks)

N=299

Top 5 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
43	25%	Wedding Bells SF
89	15%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
18	11%	Lower Bucca SF
78	10%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
29	7%	Orara East SF

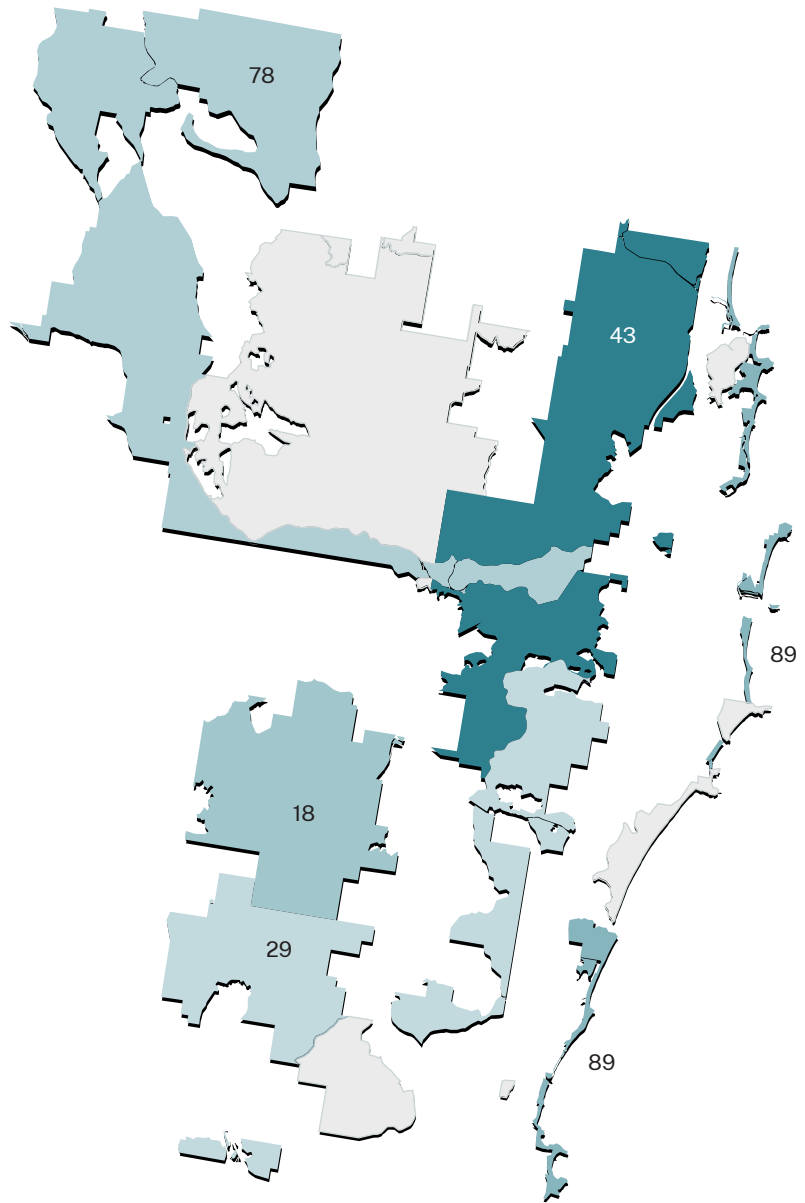


"I value that it has been a key part of history of car rallies in the region for more than 50 years."

- Male, 25-34, Victoria

"Historical significance of roads being used in the GKNP area for motorsport events dating as far back as the late 60's until the recent World Rally Championship events."

- Male, 35-44, Maitland LGA



Coffs Harbour

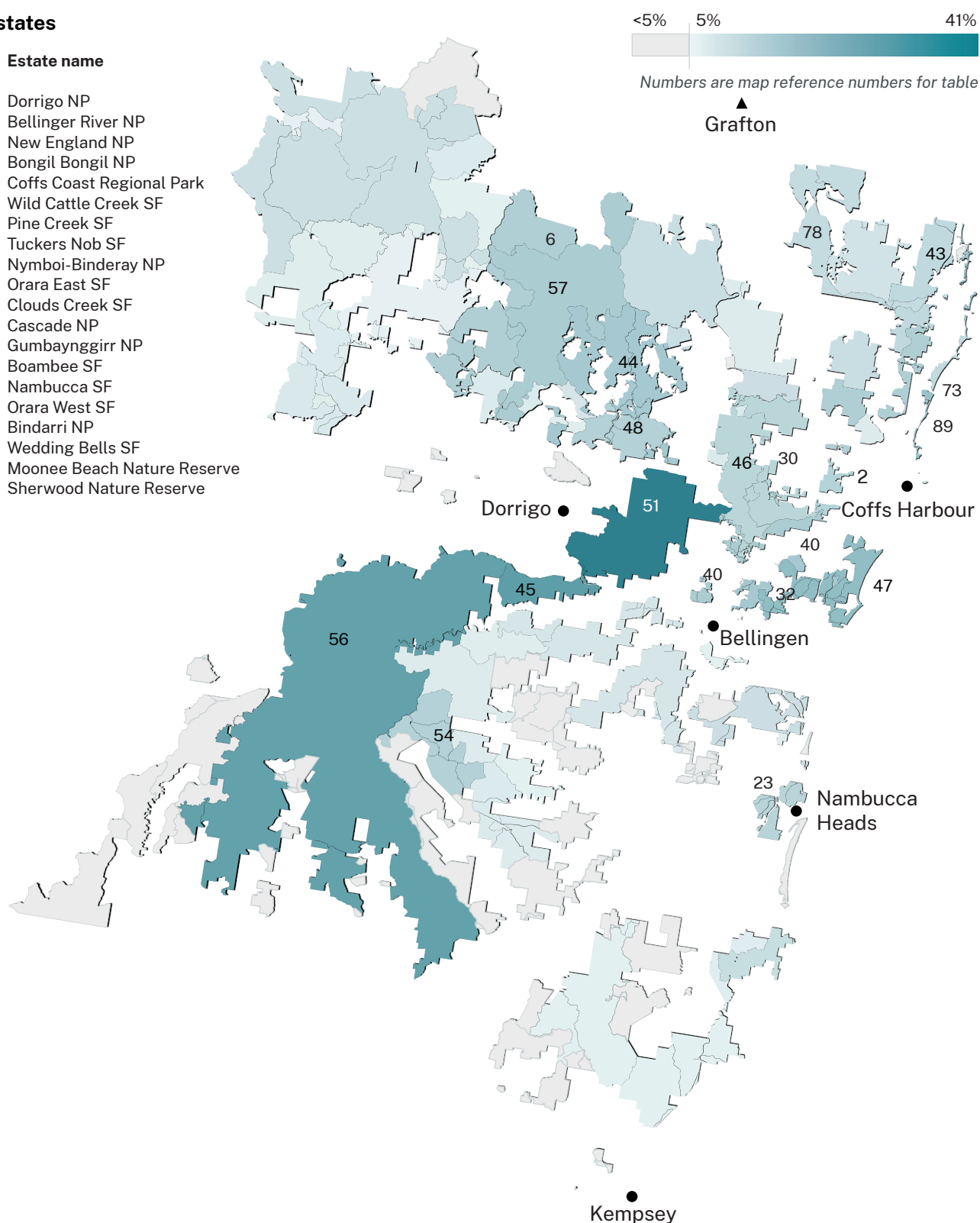
Conservation activities are popular in National Parks and some State Forests.

4.7 Use of estates for conservation, among respondents who visit and engage

N=449

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	41%	Dorrigo NP
45	32%	Bellinger River NP
56	31%	New England NP
47	22%	Bongil Bongil NP
89	20%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
44	17%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
32	17%	Pine Creek SF
40	17%	Tuckers Nob SF
57	17%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
29	16%	Orara East SF
6	16%	Clouds Creek SF
48	15%	Cascade NP
54	15%	Gumbaynggirr NP
2	15%	Boambee SF
23	14%	Nambucca SF
30	14%	Orara West SF
46	14%	Bindarri NP
43	12%	Wedding Bells SF
73	12%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
78	12%	Sherwood Nature Reserve



Dog walking is most popular in the State Forests near Coffs Harbour.

4.8 Use of estates for dog walking, among respondents who visit and engage

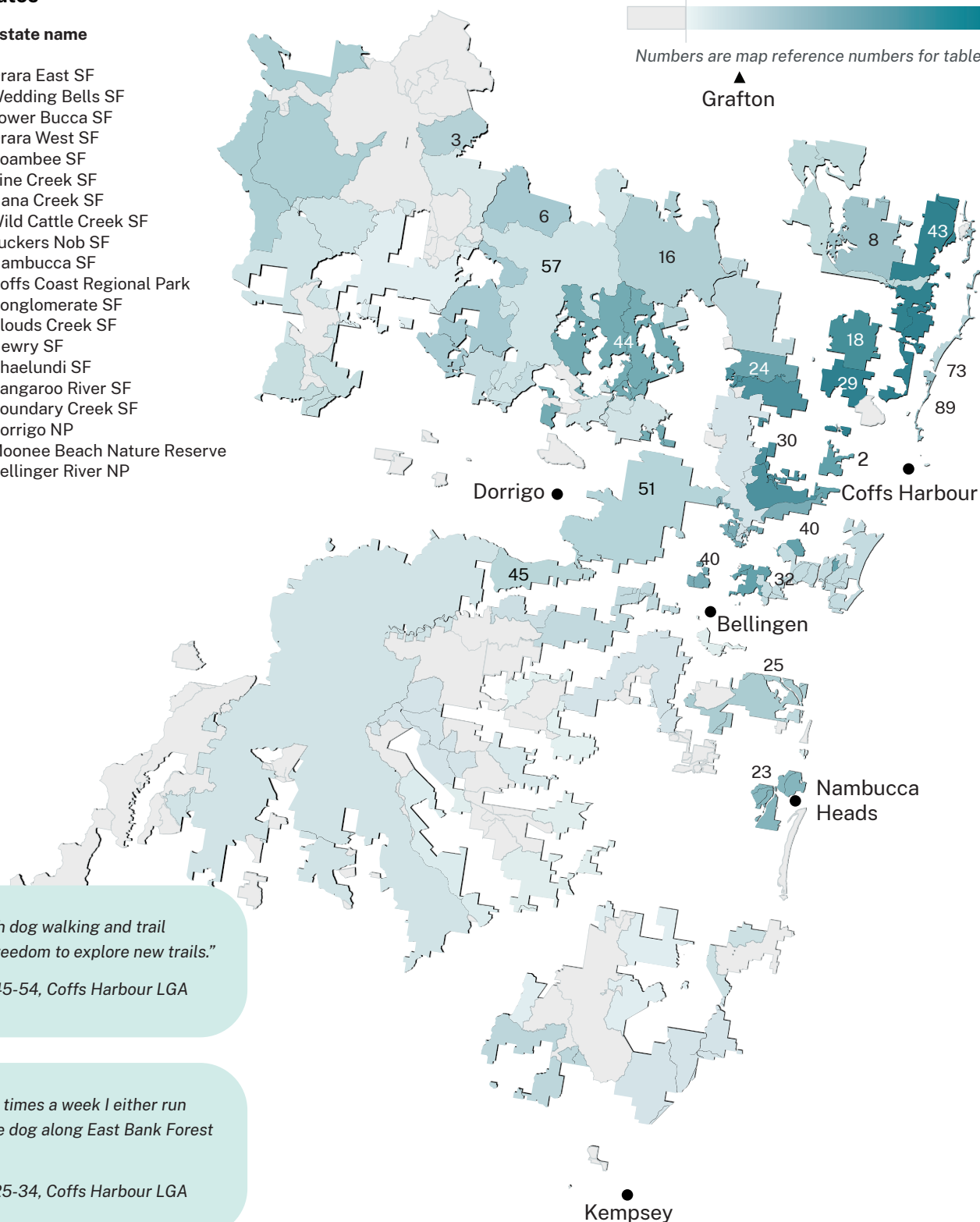
N=680

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
29	38%	Orara East SF
43	37%	Wedding Bells SF
18	34%	Lower Bucca SF
30	33%	Orara West SF
2	28%	Boambee SF
32	28%	Pine Creek SF
24	27%	Nana Creek SF
44	25%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
40	25%	Tuckers Nob SF
23	22%	Nambucca SF
89	19%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
8	18%	Conglomerate SF
6	16%	Clouds Creek SF
25	15%	Newry SF
5	15%	Chaelundi SF
16	14%	Kangaroo River SF
3	14%	Boundary Creek SF
51	13%	Dorrigo NP
73	13%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
45	12%	Bellinger River NP

<5% 5% 38%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



"Off leash dog walking and trail running, freedom to explore new trails."

-Female, 45-54, Coffs Harbour LGA

"Multiple times a week I either run or walk the dog along East Bank Forest Road."

-Female, 25-34, Coffs Harbour LGA

Recreational fishing is broadly popular in the main National Parks, and State Forests.

4.9 Use of estates for fishing, among respondents who visit and engage

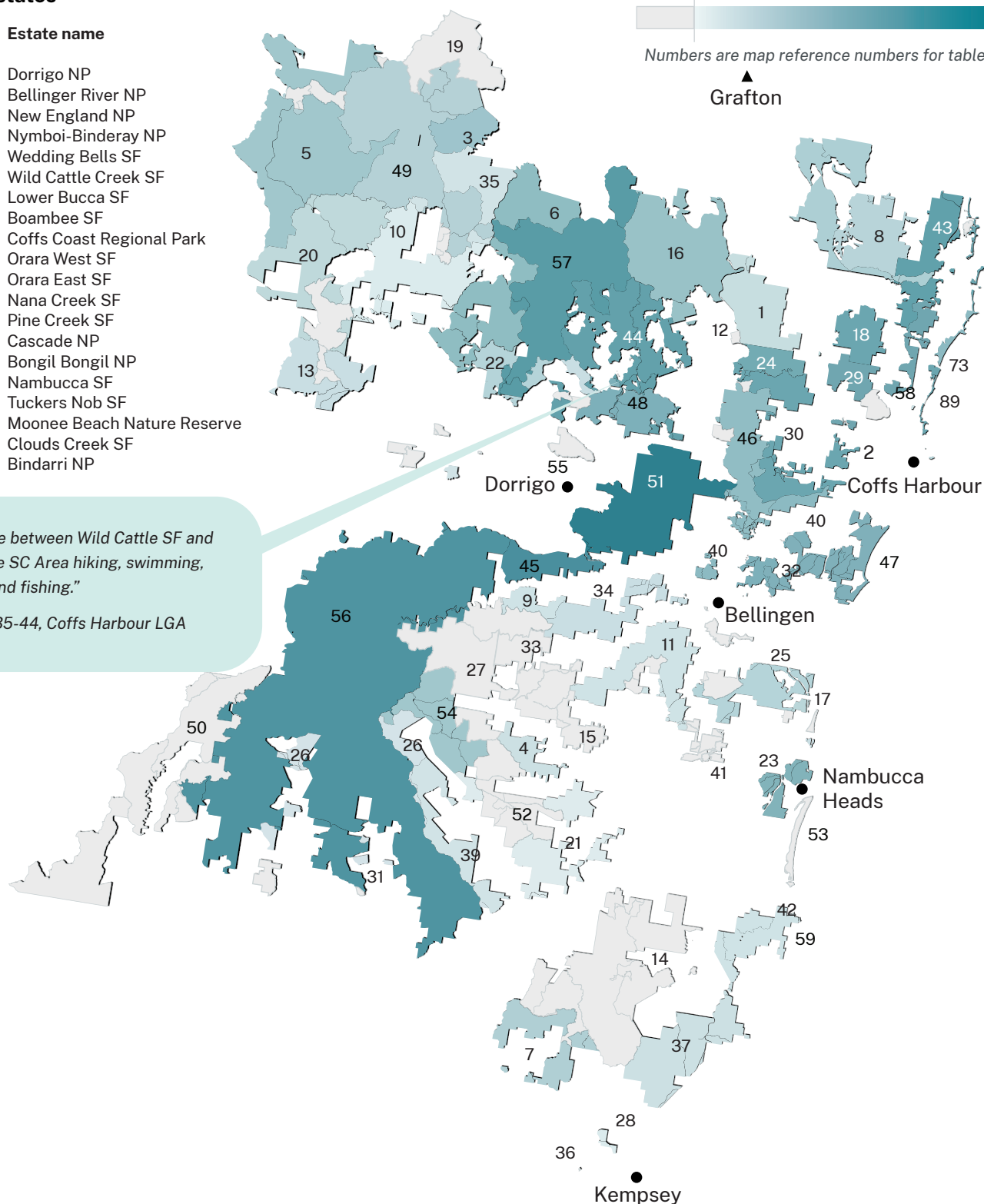
N=638

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	31%	Dorrigo NP
45	27%	Bellinger River NP
56	26%	New England NP
57	24%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
43	23%	Wedding Bells SF
44	23%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
18	22%	Lower Bucca SF
2	22%	Boambee SF
89	22%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
30	21%	Orara West SF
29	21%	Orara East SF
24	21%	Nana Creek SF
32	19%	Pine Creek SF
48	19%	Cascade NP
47	19%	Bongil Bongil NP
23	18%	Nambucca SF
40	17%	Tuckers Nob SF
73	17%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
6	16%	Clouds Creek SF
46	16%	Bindarri NP



"[M]ove between Wild Cattle SF and Cascade SC Area hiking, swimming, kayak and fishing."
-Male, 35-44, Coffs Harbour LGA



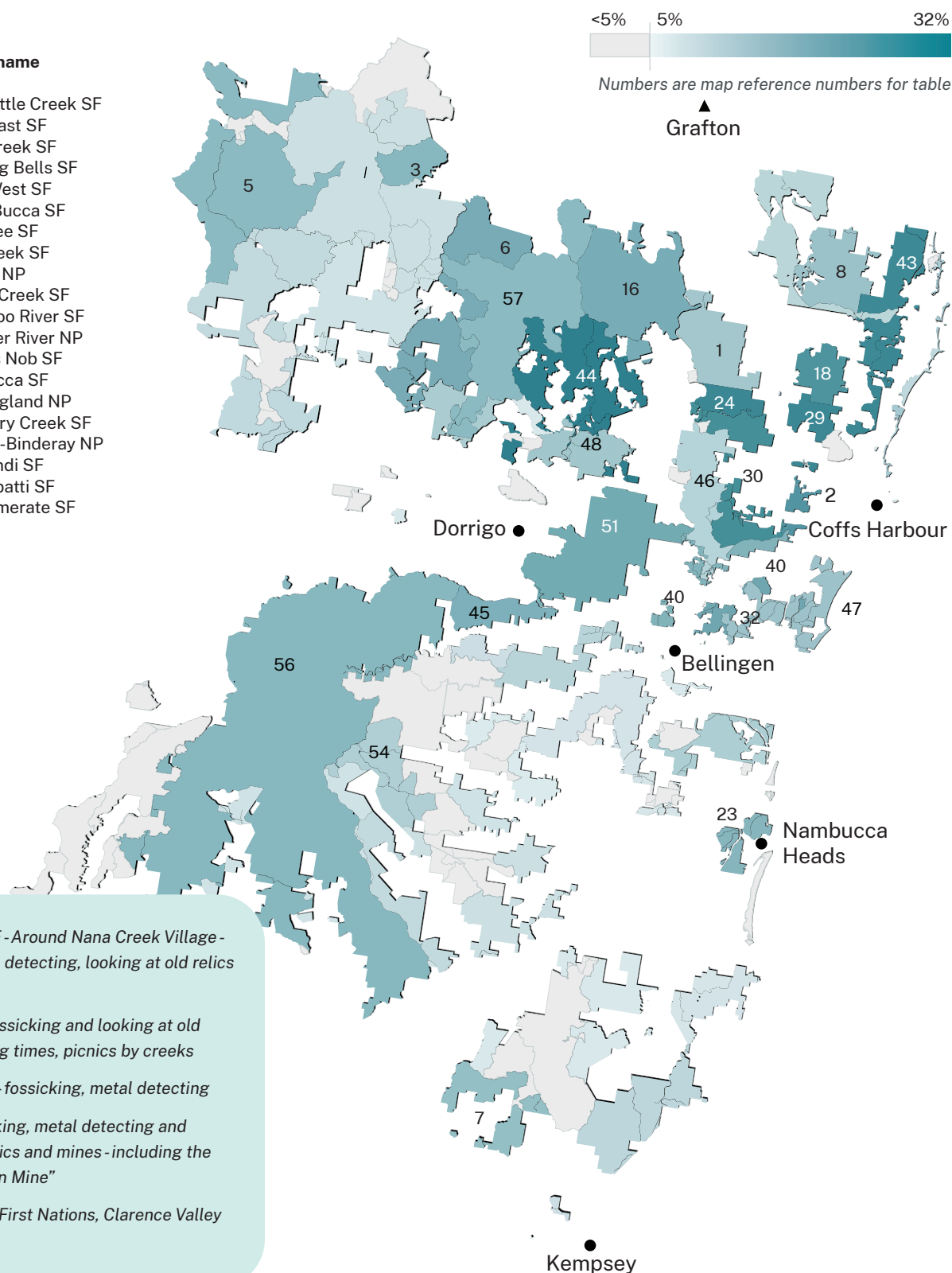
The presence of gold in State Forests to the West of Coffs Harbour make them popular spots for fossicking.

4.10 Use of estates for fossicking, among respondents who visit and engage

N=316

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
44	32%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
29	30%	Orara East SF
24	30%	Nana Creek SF
43	30%	Wedding Bells SF
30	29%	Orara West SF
18	28%	Lower Bucca SF
2	27%	Boambee SF
32	22%	Pine Creek SF
51	22%	Dorrigo NP
6	21%	Clouds Creek SF
16	21%	Kangaroo River SF
45	20%	Bellinger River NP
40	19%	Tuckers Nob SF
23	19%	Nambucca SF
56	18%	New England NP
3	18%	Boundary Creek SF
57	18%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
5	18%	Chaelundi SF
7	16%	Collombatti SF
8	16%	Conglomerate SF



"Nana Creek SF - Around Nana Creek Village - fossicking, metal detecting, looking at old relics and mines"

Chaelundi SF - fossicking and looking at old relics from mining times, picnics by creeks

Lower Bucca SF - fossicking, metal detecting

Orara SF - fossicking, metal detecting and looking at old relics and mines - including the old site of Beacon Mine"

- Female, 45-54, First Nations, Clarence Valley LGA

Four-wheel driving is most popular in Wedding Bells.

4.11 Use of estates for four-wheel driving, among respondents who visit and engage (by primary parks)

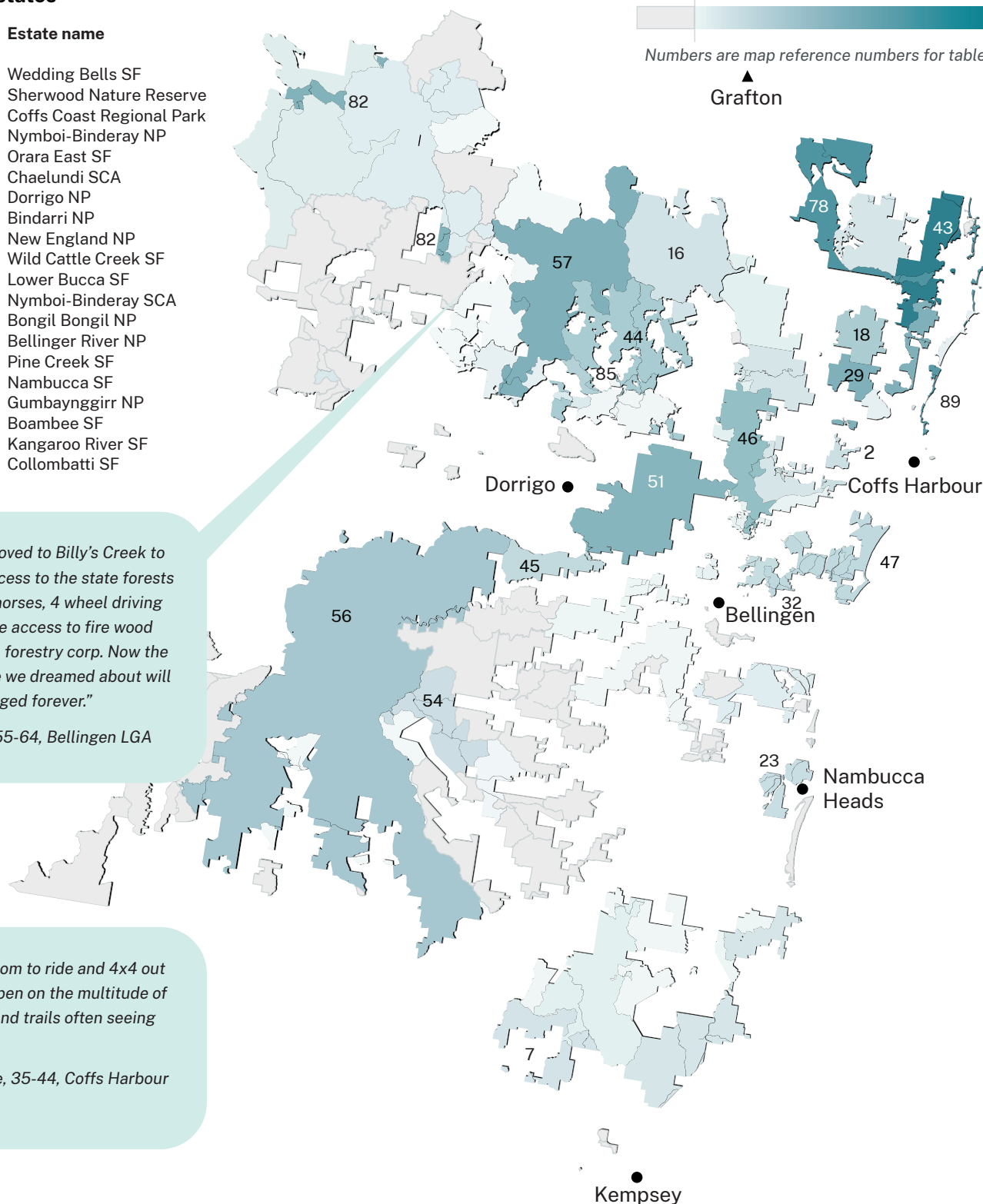
N=1,250

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
43	14%	Wedding Bells SF
78	12%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
89	11%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
57	8%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
29	8%	Orara East SF
82	8%	Chaelundi SCA
51	8%	Dorrigo NP
46	7%	Bindarri NP
56	6%	New England NP
44	6%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
18	6%	Lower Bucca SF
85	5%	Nymboi-Binderay SCA
47	4%	Bongil Bongil NP
45	4%	Bellinger River NP
32	4%	Pine Creek SF
23	4%	Nambucca SF
54	3%	Gumbaynggirr NP
2	3%	Boambee SF
16	3%	Kangaroo River SF
7	3%	Collombatti SF

<1% 1% 14%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



"Freedom to ride and 4x4 out in the open on the multitude of tracks and trails often seeing no one."

-Female, 35-44, Coffs Harbour LGA

Horse riding is most popular in Bucca, Wedding Bells, and the Orara East and West State Forests.

4.12 Use of estates for horse riding, among respondents who visit and engage

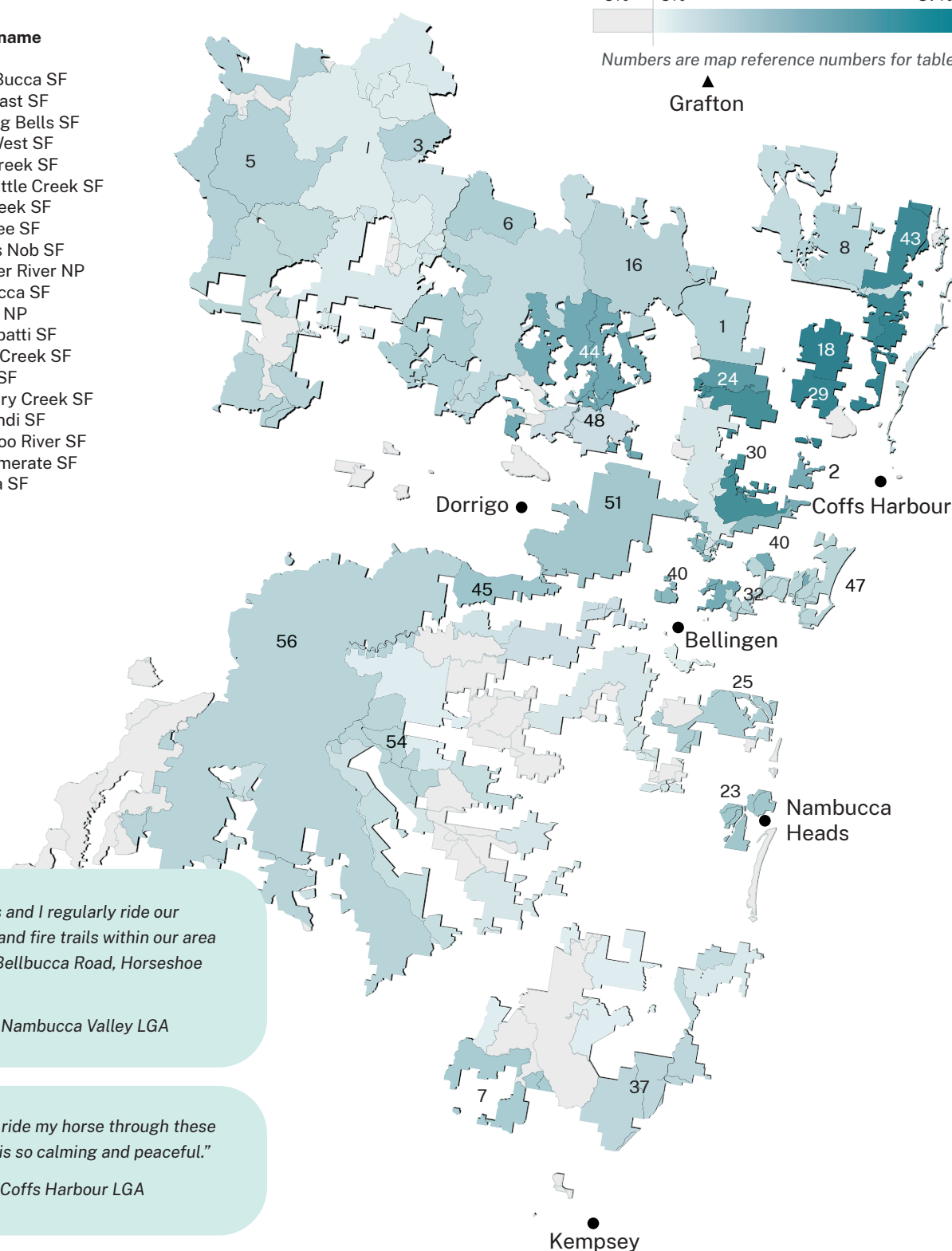
N=270

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
18	37%	Lower Bucca SF
29	36%	Orara East SF
43	34%	Wedding Bells SF
30	33%	Orara West SF
24	29%	Nana Creek SF
44	25%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
32	24%	Pine Creek SF
2	24%	Boambee SF
40	21%	Tuckers Nob SF
45	17%	Bellinger River NP
23	17%	Nambucca SF
51	16%	Dorrigo NP
7	15%	Collombatti SF
6	14%	Clouds Creek SF
25	14%	Newry SF
3	14%	Boundary Creek SF
5	14%	Chaelundi SF
16	13%	Kangaroo River SF
8	13%	Conglomerate SF
1	13%	Bagawa SF

<5% 5% 37%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



"My neighbours and I regularly ride our horses on roads and fire trails within our area eg Kellys Road, Bellbucca Road, Horseshoe Road"

-Female, 65-74, Nambucca Valley LGA

"Being able to ride my horse through these amazing forests is so calming and peaceful."

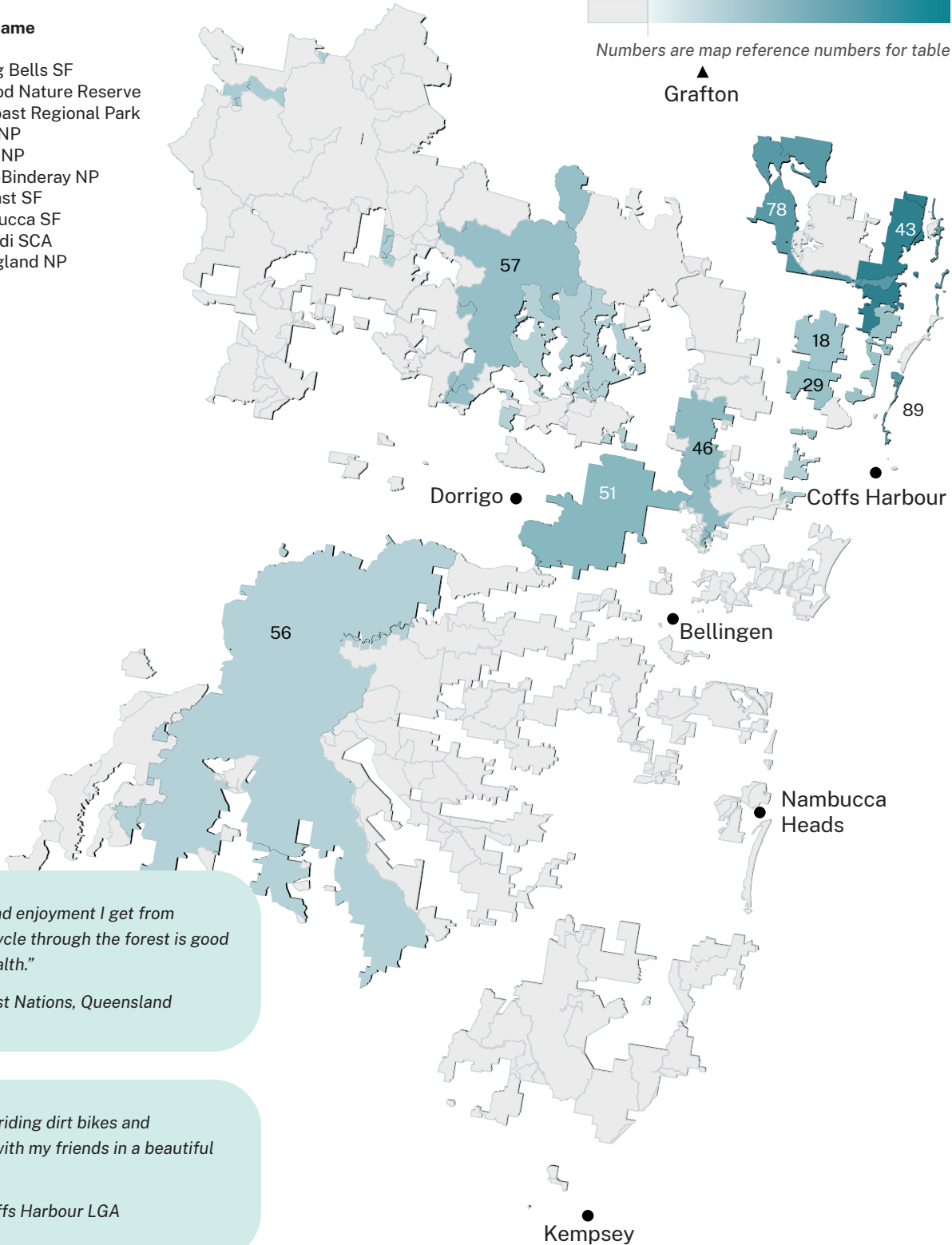
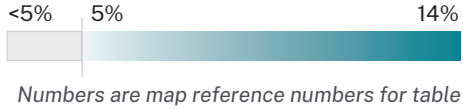
-Female, 55-64, Coffs Harbour LGA

Motor biking/trail bike riding is concentrated in Wedding Bells SF and Sherwood Nature Reserve

4.13 Use of estates for motor biking/trail riding, among respondents who visit and engage (by primary parks) N=959

Top 10 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
43	14%	Wedding Bells SF
78	12%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
89	12%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
51	8%	Dorrigo NP
46	8%	Bindarri NP
57	7%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
29	7%	Orara East SF
18	7%	Lower Bucca SF
86	6%	Chaelundi SCA
56	5%	New England NP



"The freedom and enjoyment I get from riding my motorcycle through the forest is good for my mental health."

-Male, 45-54, First Nations, Queensland

"Spending time riding dirt bikes and adventure bikes with my friends in a beautiful forest."

-Male, 55-64, Coffs Harbour LGA

Mountain biking is heavily concentrated in the State Forests North of Coffs Harbour, particularly Wedding Bells.

4.14 Use of estates for mountain biking, among respondents who visit and engage

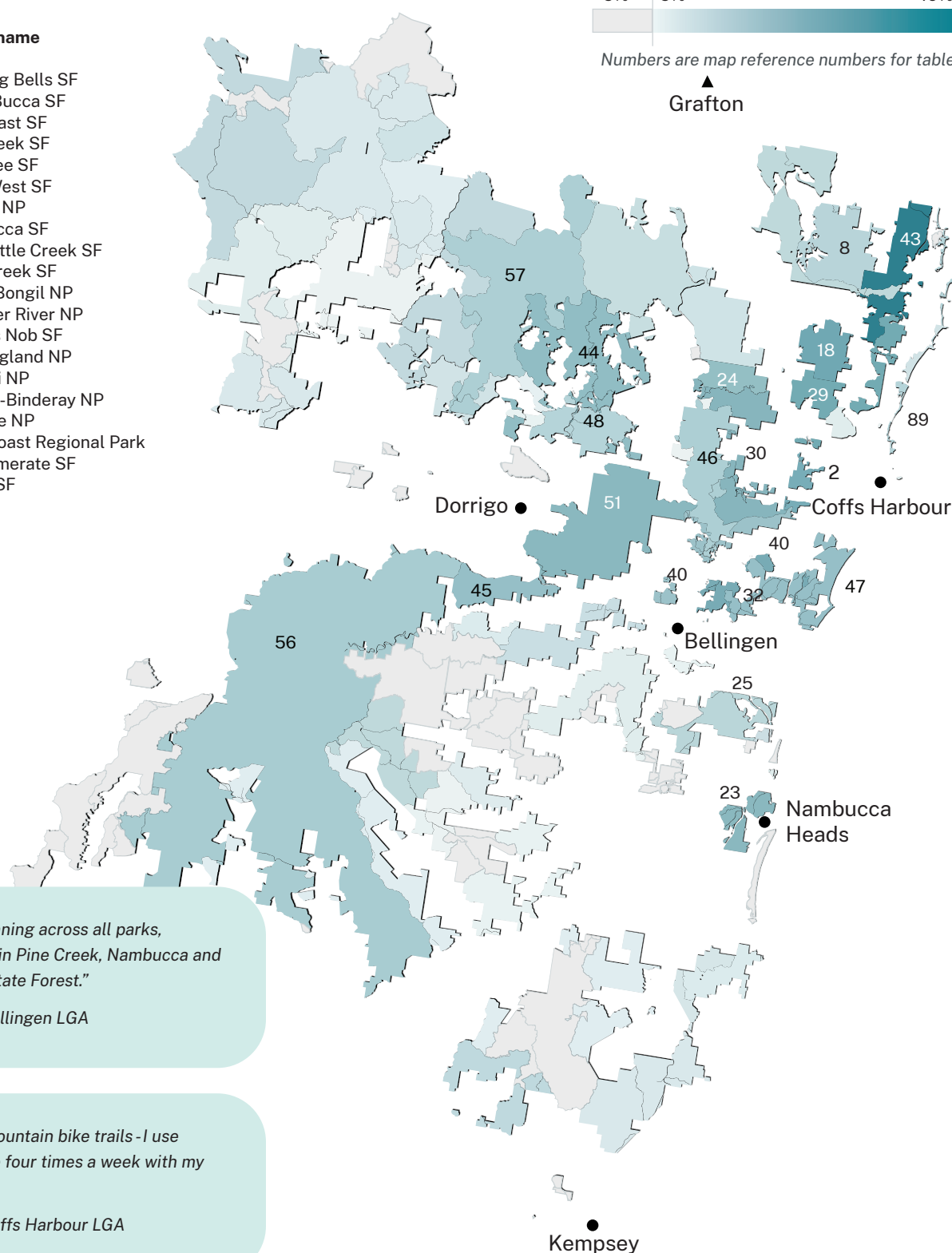
N=938

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
43	49%	Wedding Bells SF
18	33%	Lower Bucca SF
29	33%	Orara East SF
32	32%	Pine Creek SF
2	31%	Boambee SF
30	28%	Orara West SF
51	27%	Dorrigo NP
23	27%	Nambucca SF
44	25%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
24	25%	Nana Creek SF
47	24%	Bongil Bongil NP
45	24%	Bellinger River NP
40	23%	Tuckers Nob SF
56	20%	New England NP
46	19%	Bindarri NP
57	19%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
48	17%	Cascade NP
89	17%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
8	17%	Conglomerate SF
25	16%	Newry SF

<5% 5% 49%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



"I enjoy trail running across all parks, mountain biking in Pine Creek, Nambucca and Wedding Bells State Forest."

- Male, 35-44, Bellingen LGA

"Woolgoolga mountain bike trails - I use these on average four times a week with my family."

- Male, 45-54, Coffs Harbour LGA

Non-motorised watercraft activities are most popular in National Parks, with larger waterways.

4.15 Use of estates for non-motorised watercraft (e.g. kayak, paddleboard), among respondents who visit and engage

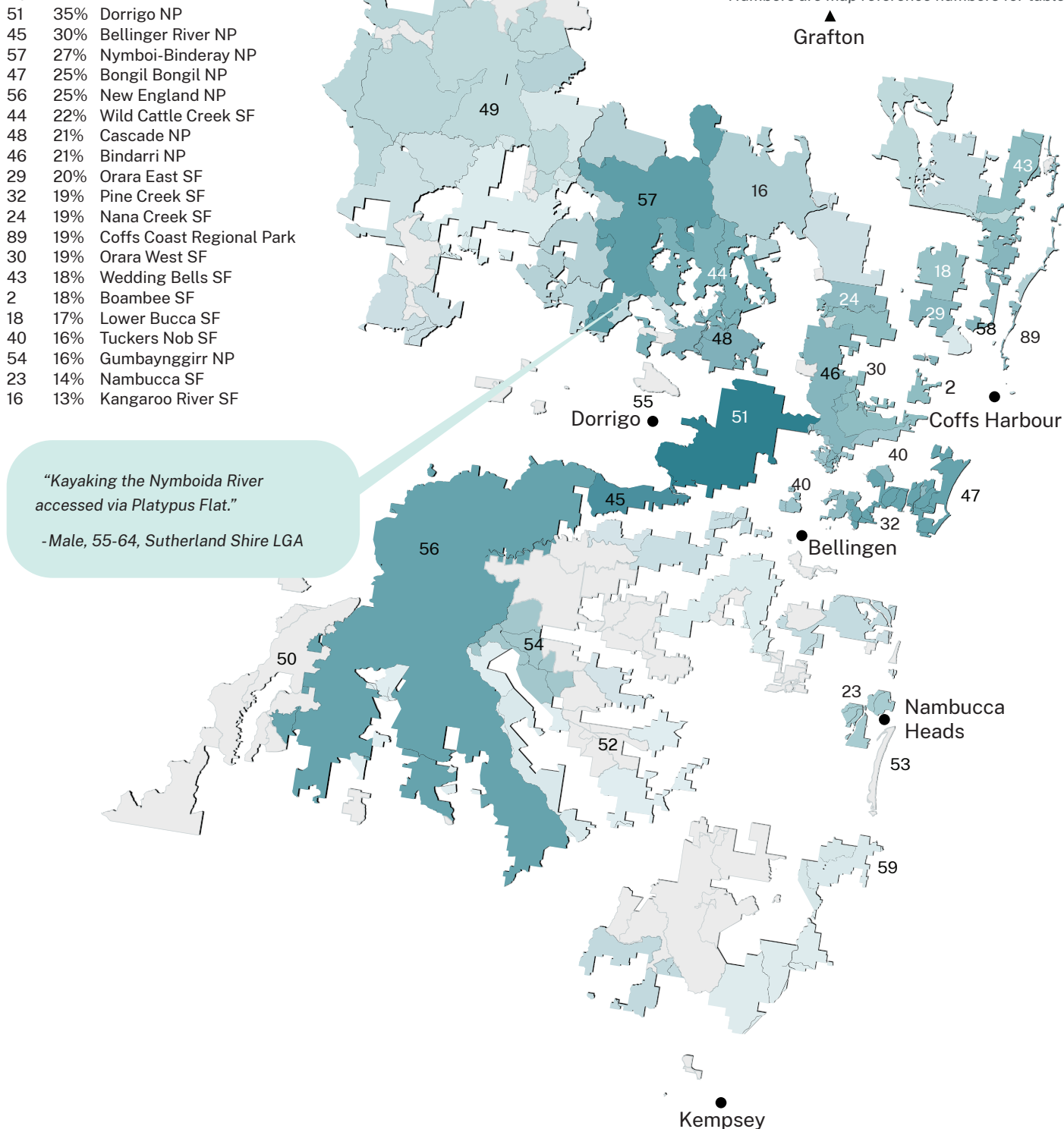
N=456

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	35%	Dorrigo NP
45	30%	Bellinger River NP
57	27%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
47	25%	Bongil Bongil NP
56	25%	New England NP
44	22%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
48	21%	Cascade NP
46	21%	Bindarri NP
29	20%	Orara East SF
32	19%	Pine Creek SF
24	19%	Nana Creek SF
89	19%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
30	19%	Orara West SF
43	18%	Wedding Bells SF
2	18%	Boambee SF
18	17%	Lower Bucca SF
40	16%	Tuckers Nob SF
54	16%	Gumbaynggirr NP
23	14%	Nambucca SF
16	13%	Kangaroo River SF

<5% 5% 35%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



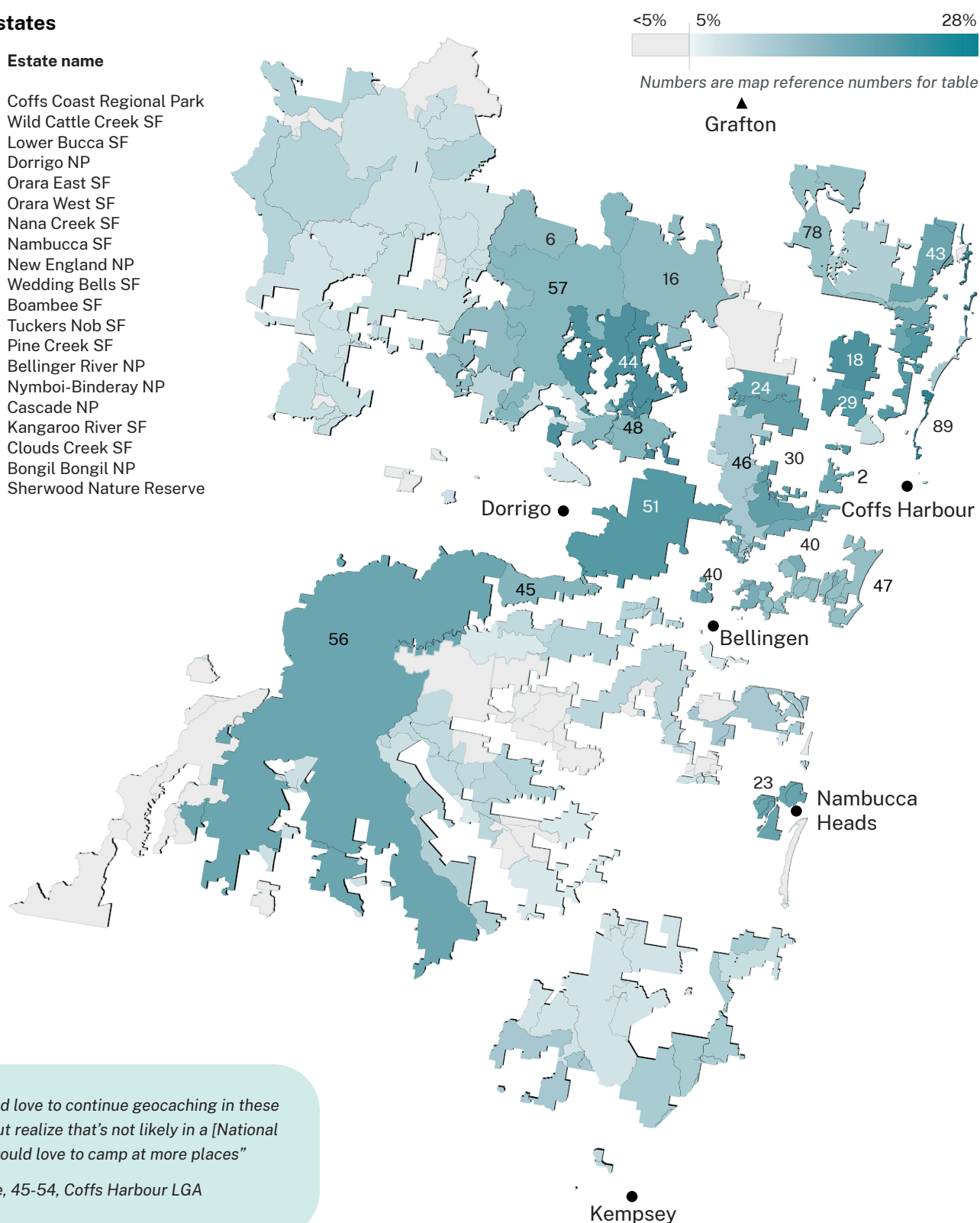
Orienteering/geocaching enthusiasts enjoy a broad spread of estates.

4.16 Use of estates for orienteering/geocaching, among respondents who visit and engage

N=130

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
89	28%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
44	25%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
18	25%	Lower Bucca SF
51	23%	Dorrigo NP
29	23%	Orara East SF
30	22%	Orara West SF
24	21%	Nana Creek SF
23	21%	Nambucca SF
56	20%	New England NP
43	20%	Wedding Bells SF
2	20%	Boambee SF
40	19%	Tuckers Nob SF
32	18%	Pine Creek SF
45	17%	Bellinger River NP
57	16%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
48	16%	Cascade NP
16	15%	Kangaroo River SF
6	15%	Clouds Creek SF
47	15%	Bongil Bongil NP
78	14%	Sherwood Nature Reserve



"I would love to continue geocaching in these areas but realize that's not likely in a [National Park], would love to camp at more places"

-Female, 45-54, Coffs Harbour LGA

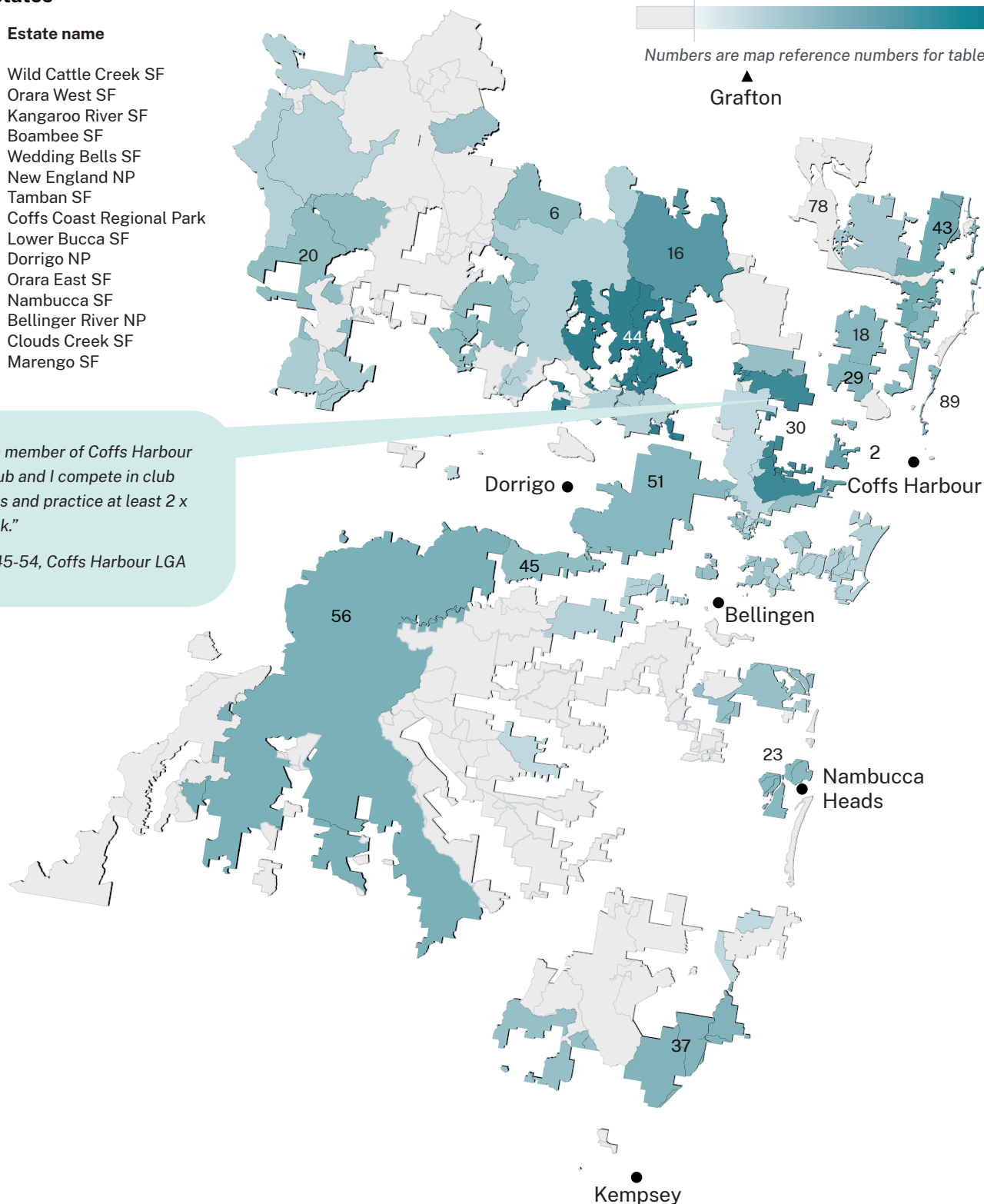
Shooting pistols and rifles is concentrated over a few State Forests.

4.17 Use of estates for pistol/rifle shooting, among respondents who visit and engage

N=168

Top 15 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
44	18%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
30	17%	Orara West SF
16	14%	Kangaroo River SF
2	13%	Boambee SF
43	12%	Wedding Bells SF
56	11%	New England NP
37	11%	Tamban SF
89	10%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
18	10%	Lower Bucca SF
51	10%	Dorrigo NP
29	10%	Orara East SF
23	10%	Nambucca SF
45	10%	Bellinger River NP
6	10%	Clouds Creek SF
20	10%	Marengo SF



"I am a member of Coffs Harbour Rifle Club and I compete in club activities and practice at least 2 x per week."

-Male, 45-54, Coffs Harbour LGA

Swimming is popular across National Parks and State Forests wherever waterways are available.

4.17 Use of estates for swimming, among respondents who visit and engage

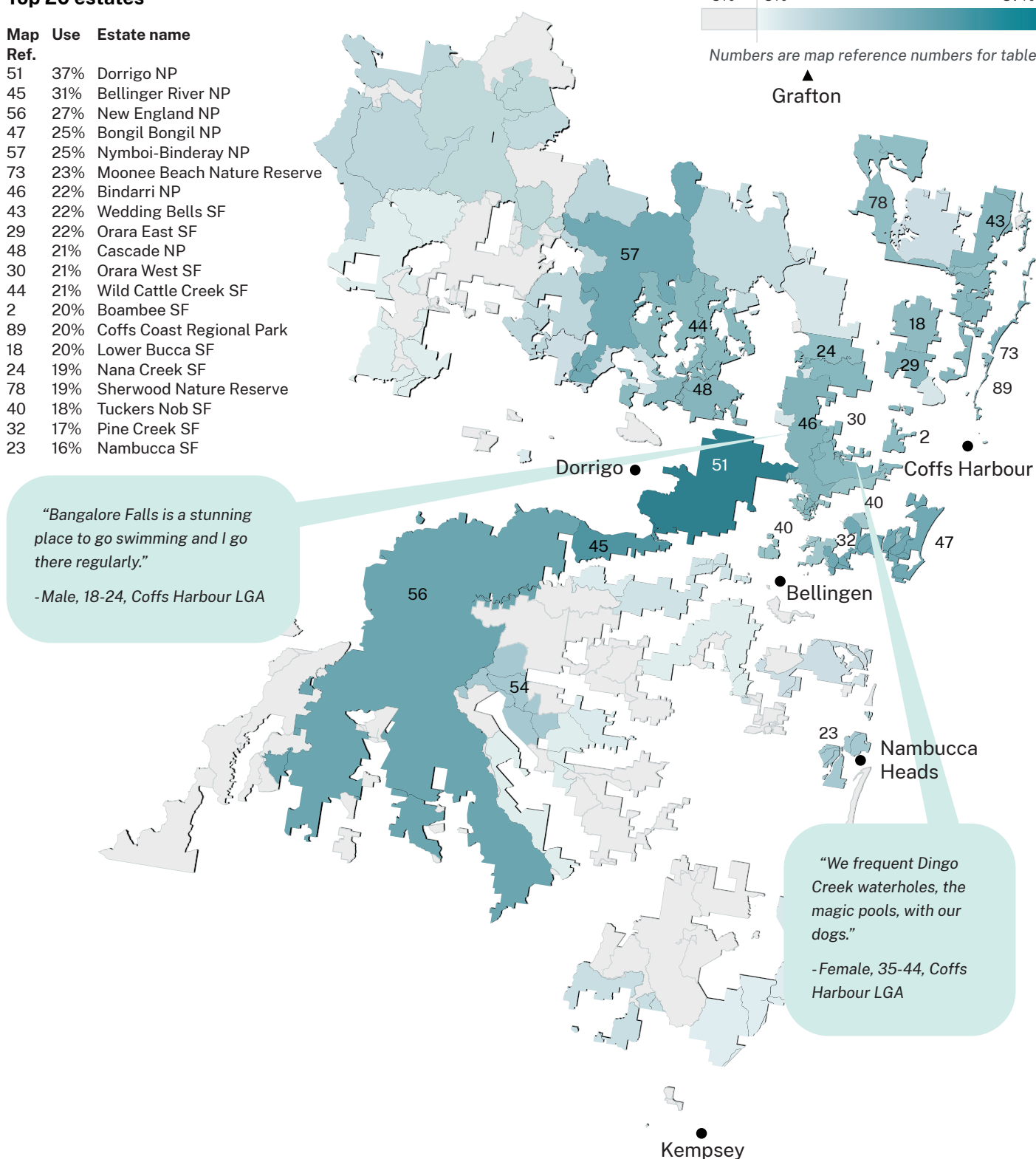
N=1,165

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	37%	Dorrigo NP
45	31%	Bellinger River NP
56	27%	New England NP
47	25%	Bongil Bongil NP
57	25%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
73	23%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
46	22%	Bindarri NP
43	22%	Wedding Bells SF
29	22%	Orara East SF
48	21%	Cascade NP
30	21%	Orara West SF
44	21%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
2	20%	Boambee SF
89	20%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
18	20%	Lower Bucca SF
24	19%	Nana Creek SF
78	19%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
40	18%	Tuckers Nob SF
32	17%	Pine Creek SF
23	16%	Nambucca SF

<5% 5% 37%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



Trail running has a broad spread everywhere besides Conservation Areas and remote Nature Reserves.

4.18 Use of estates for trail running, among respondents who visit and engage

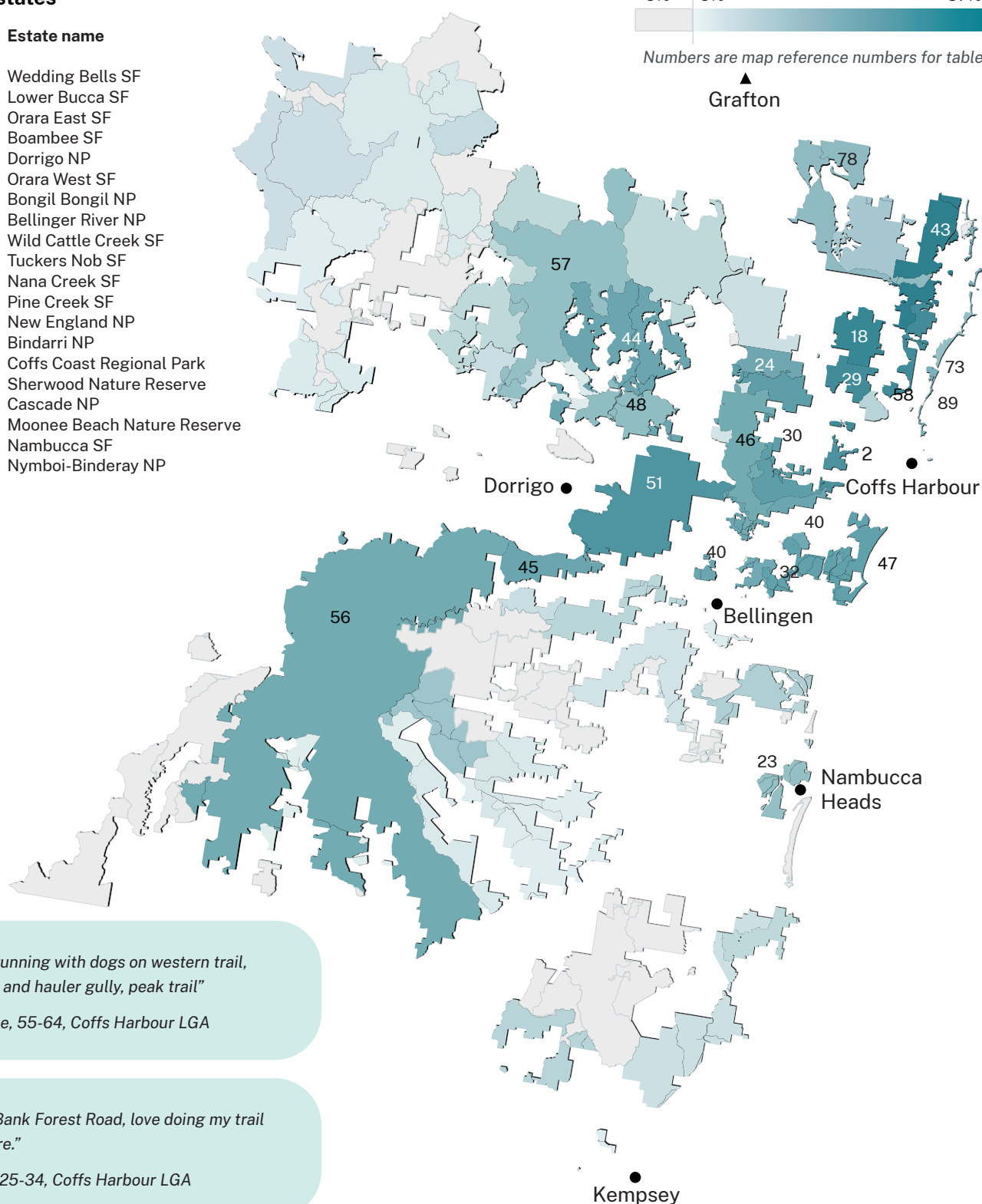
N=448

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
43	37%	Wedding Bells SF
18	35%	Lower Bucca SF
29	33%	Orara East SF
2	32%	Boambee SF
51	31%	Dorrigo NP
30	29%	Orara West SF
47	28%	Bongil Bongil NP
45	26%	Bellinger River NP
44	26%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
40	26%	Tuckers Nob SF
24	25%	Nana Creek SF
32	25%	Pine Creek SF
56	25%	New England NP
46	25%	Bindarri NP
89	23%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
78	20%	Sherwood Nature Reserve
48	20%	Cascade NP
73	19%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
23	19%	Nambucca SF
57	19%	Nymboi-Binderay NP

<5% 5% 37%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



"Trail running with dogs on western trail, Moodys and hauler gully, peak trail"

-Female, 55-64, Coffs Harbour LGA

"East Bank Forest Road, love doing my trail runs here."

-Male, 25-34, Coffs Harbour LGA

Visiting lookouts/sightseeing is most popular among the National Parks.

4.19 Use of estates for visiting lookouts/sightseeing, among respondents who visit and engage

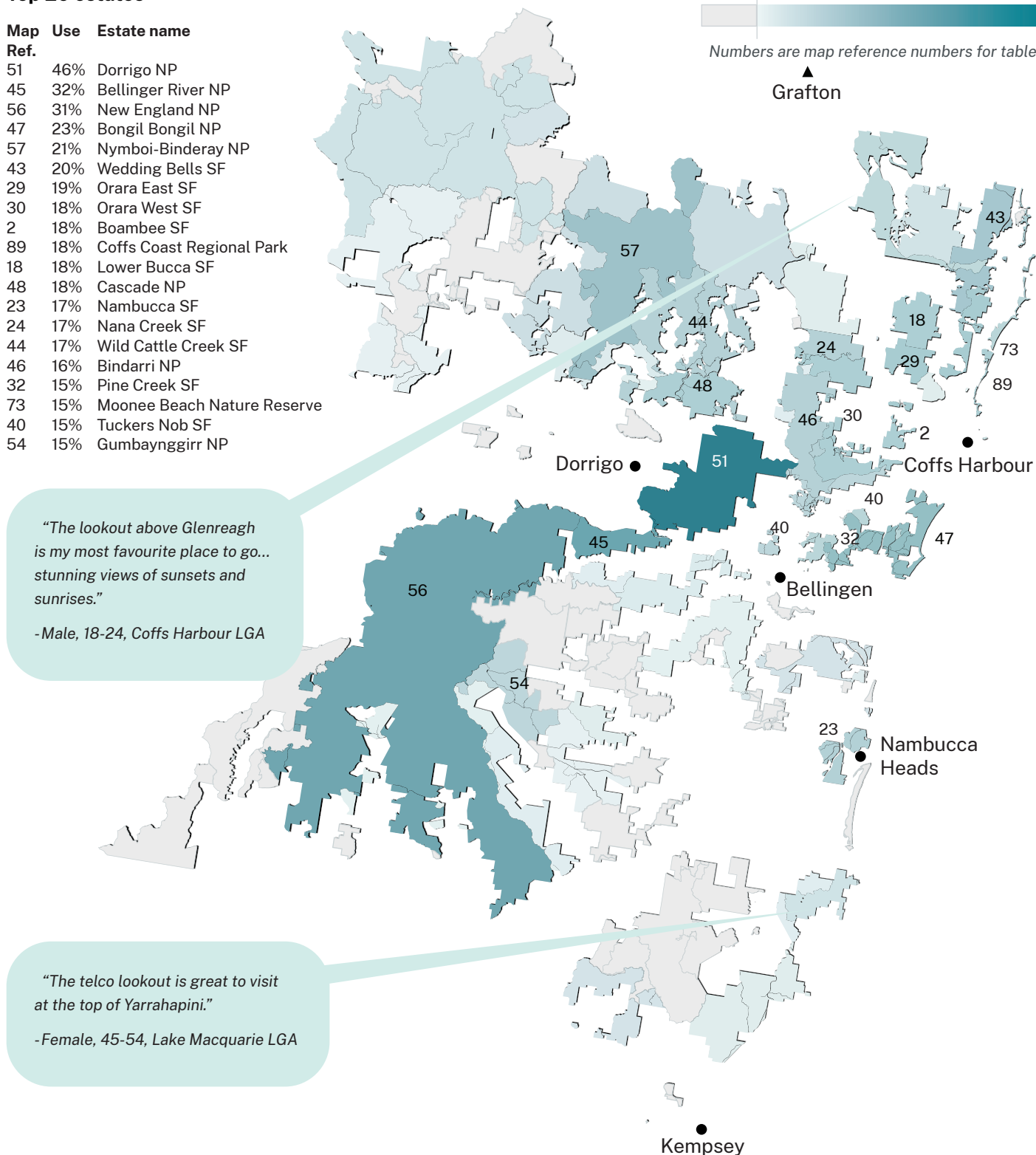
N=1,306

Top 20 estates

Map Ref.	Use	Estate name
51	46%	Dorrigo NP
45	32%	Bellinger River NP
56	31%	New England NP
47	23%	Bongil Bongil NP
57	21%	Nymboi-Binderay NP
43	20%	Wedding Bells SF
29	19%	Orara East SF
30	18%	Orara West SF
2	18%	Boambee SF
89	18%	Coffs Coast Regional Park
18	18%	Lower Bucca SF
48	18%	Cascade NP
23	17%	Nambucca SF
24	17%	Nana Creek SF
44	17%	Wild Cattle Creek SF
46	16%	Bindarri NP
32	15%	Pine Creek SF
73	15%	Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
40	15%	Tuckers Nob SF
54	15%	Gumbaynggirr NP

<5% 5% 46%

Numbers are map reference numbers for table



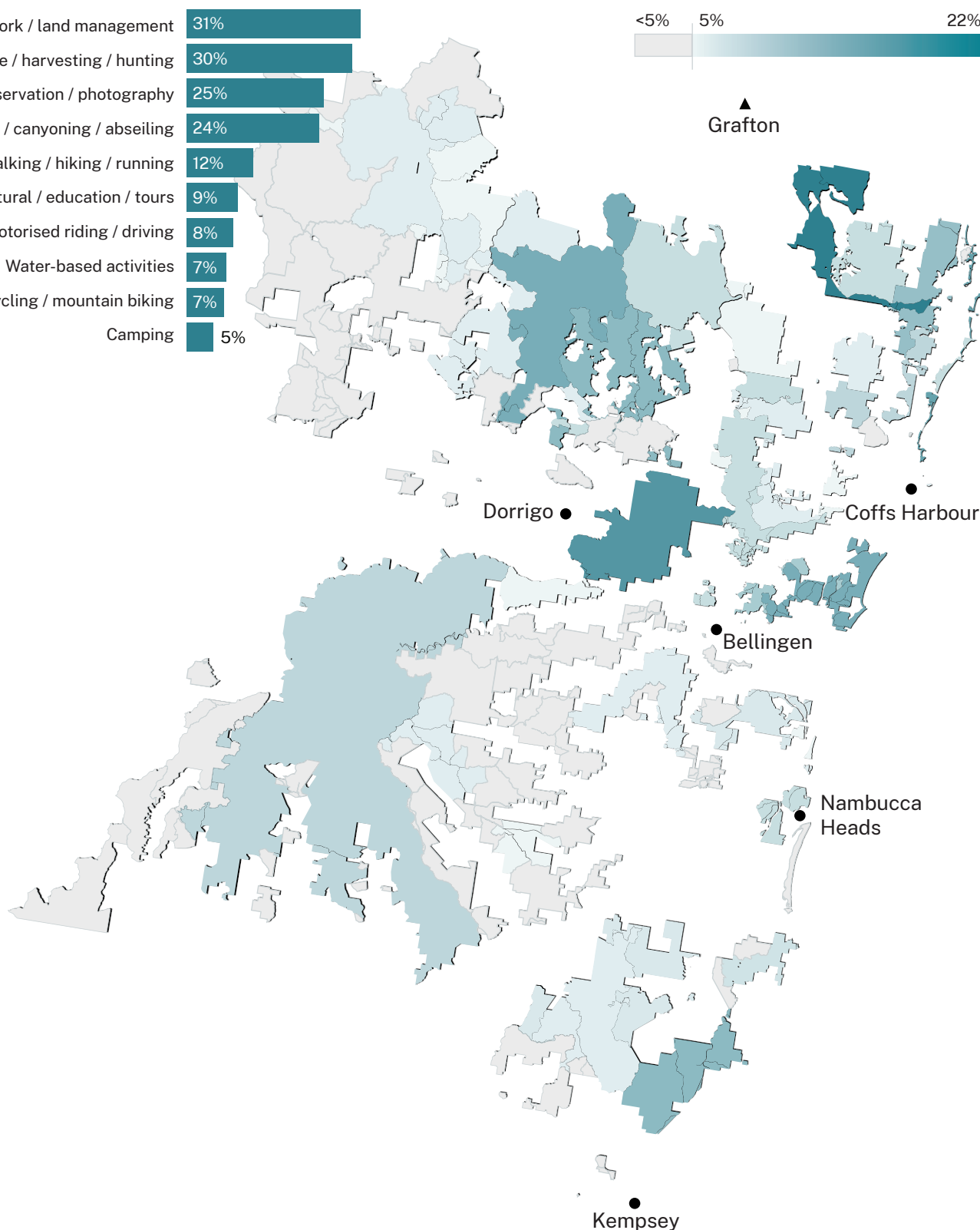
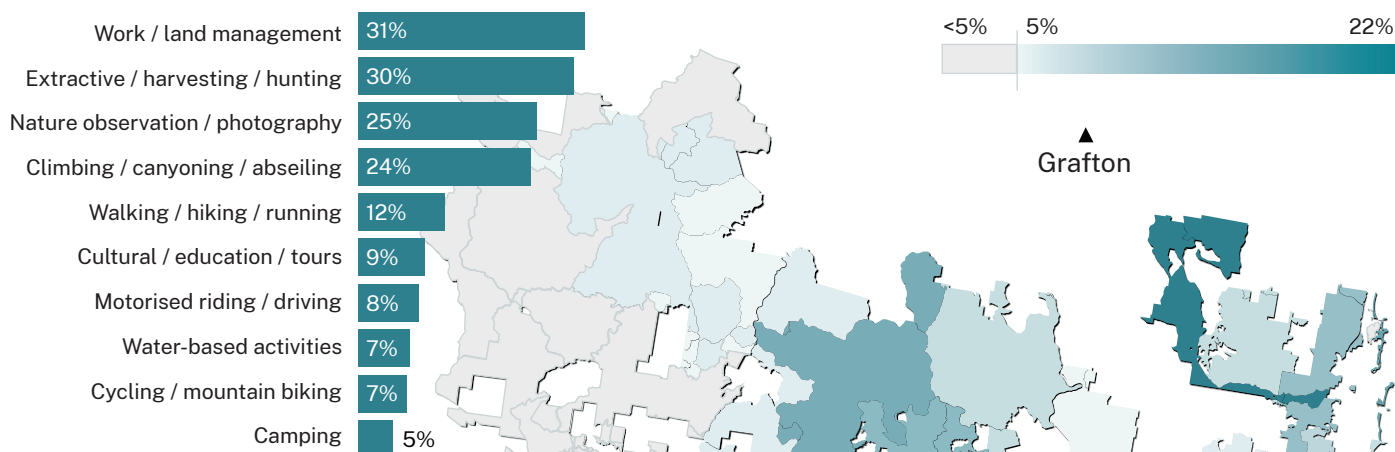
Sherwood Nature Reserve was the most popular spot for other activities.

4.20 Use of estates for visiting other activities, among respondents who visit and engage (by primary parks)

N=251

4.21 Other activities (grouped)

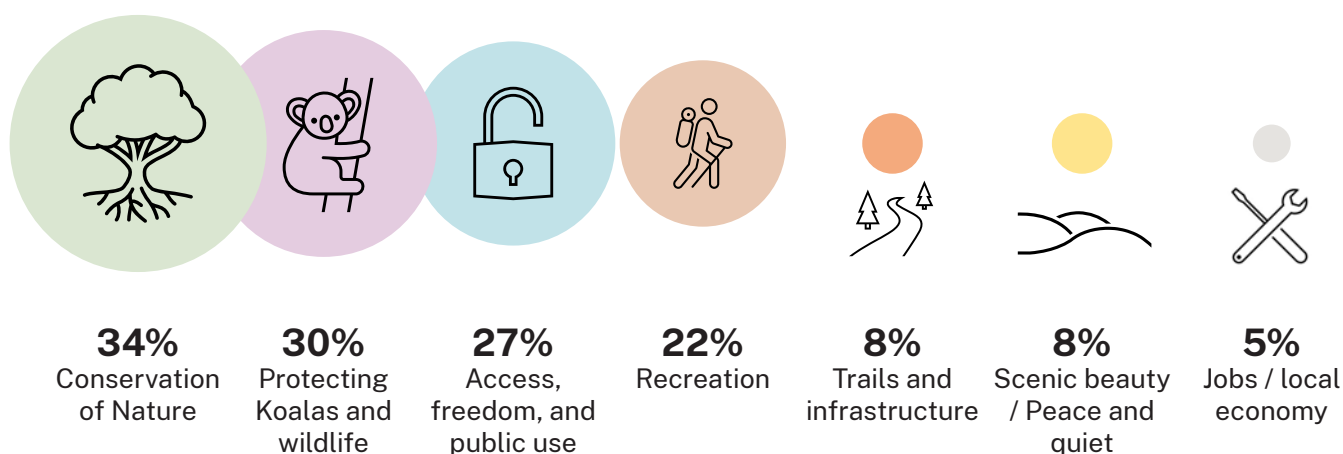
Top other activities



What respondents value about the area diverges over desire for conservation and access: for recreational, domestic and commercial activities.

5.1 What people value about the area Q. What do you value most about the area proposed for the Great Koala National Park?

N=2,305



Responses were not cleanly divided ‘camps’ of conservation vs. access. Responses often contained mixtures of both sentiments, an appreciation for the area’s natural beauty, and expressed strong emotional connections both to their ways of life and to the land. Ecological values are the strongest, with widespread support for conserving habitat and wildlife. Human-use values were also prominent, however. Many respondents see the forest as a cornerstone of their lifestyle, recreation, and wellbeing.

Examples - shaded by theme (continued on next page)

“The opportunity for our invaluable flora, fauna and culture to be protected, preserved and recognised. As a conservationist and ecologist, the creation of this park would do wonders in ensuring our beautiful Country stays connected and allows our species to flourish. [...] There’s no question that green spaces and access to nature is a pivotal aspect in mental health and development, I think the facilitation of this park would bolster health within all communities.”

“[T]he environment and all it contains is valuable beyond our economic system and human consumption, and the willingness to make that a reality not just as an idea but as actual land preserved for its own sake and its own sovereignty.”

“The sense of being in a protected forest environment is very soothing and relieves some of the stress of relentless climate disaster news.”

“The prospect of a maturing old growth forest network with the development of tree hollows to enhance wildlife recovery and restore landscape habitat connectivity. Selfishly I would like to see action taken on rampant weed presence adjacent to my property which abuts Orara East SF.”

“Large natural areas which protect whole catchments are essential for nature to be conserved in the future. Maintaining ecological links between the tablelands and the coast will help this to occur. I am very concerned for the conservation of grey-headed flying-foxes which need their diet plants conserved across large areas.”

“It is incredibly important to have natural areas open to the public free of charge for the people to enjoy. During Covid lockdowns these area were immensely important for the communities mental health. It is also important these areas are accessible and affordable to all.”

5.1 What people value about the GKNP area Q. What do you value most about the area proposed for the Great Koala National Park?

Examples - shaded by theme (continued)

"The ability to enjoy the natural environment and explore your surroundings. Be it in a car, bike, motorbike or on a horse. Access to swimming holes, waterfalls, fishing spots, looks outs, sections of rainforest, old growth forests, and various forest types and forest structures. This helps people connect and appreciate their natural environment around them."

"I most value the hope that this will be a permanent area free from human threat, large enough to be self-sustaining (and allowed to grow), whose sole aim is to protect our native environment and all life forms there, especially those who are endangered, either by human activity or by climate change."

"The trail running opportunities close to Coffs Harbour and the ability to run to them without needing to drive large distances."

"I value the freedom to go exploring on foot and in a car. Being able to fish where I want respectfully catch and release. Being away from people and tourists."

"The ability to source local timber that is harvested ethically and sustainably. I have great fears for the impact on the environment and wildlife when we are forced to find timber in countries that is not necessarily harvested under similar rules that we have here, not to mention the carbon emissions of importation."

"The forest and its wildlife can live without their homes being destroyed. The value of the forests left standing will benefit everyone whether they realise it or not. The carbon sequestered is of real importance for climate mitigation."

"I like the areas are hosts to multiple activities and people. Bike riders trail runners and their dogs, 4WD folks, dirt bikers. We all get out and enjoy activities in nature that is close to our homes."

"Connecting national parks across the landscape and protecting the vegetation from fragmentation between existing national parks."

"The ability to access vast areas of forest with the current forest road system. Please don't shut off public access."

"I love the freedom of State Forests. They feel like true public land, I can see the need for strict National Park rules in accessible areas that have high visitation rates, but it could be relaxed in remote areas. Just put in place rules about rubbish/waste management. I'm sad that these freedoms will be lost when the State Forests are converted to National Park, this actually makes me feel less positive about conservation in general."

"Access to be at one with nature. A quiet spot alone with no close neighbours"

"Protecting our native flora, fauna and Indigenous culture into the future. Having natural protected areas close by large and small towns that people can visit in an environmentally friendly way. That does not involve a lot of travelling and is accessible by different groups of people."

"Outside of the intention for koala and other endangered species conservation, the proximity to regional urban environments makes the potential for a green economy very exciting."

"Diverse coastal and mountain environments with rich cultural heritage. These are productive environments which when actively managed can support a range of cultural, recreational, commercial and environmental values. Access to utilise these environments in a variety of ways is critical for their long term sustainable management."

One third of suggestions were calls to retain access.

This was the only question where access-related responses outnumbered conservation-related responses (21%). A selection of thoughtful suggestions and ideas on facilities, recreation, education, and management are collected below.

5.2 Ideas and suggestions for the GKNP Q. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for improving your experiences in the future Great Koala National Park?

N=1,641

"Maintaining the trails, hopefully removing the large rocks on some of the trails that were being used for logging recently."

"Where locked gates are required, explain why via sign, an opportunity to tell the story (of place, species protection etc)."

"Rest areas with oversized funnels that intensify the sounds of the forest. Nest boxes with window to see inside."

"By linking the areas of the park, multi day hikes could be included. Preservation of local mountain bike trails."

"A visitor information center that is a launching pad for several walks of different scale and length. Rehabilitation Centre/wildlife hospital for animals which includes education and information for visitors."

"More First Nations dual-naming on signage, and First Nations artwork on facilities and infrastructure. Lots of prominent, large-print signage (especially directions for amenities) that are easy for visually impaired visitors to see. Walking paths and footpaths being wide enough for two mobility scooters or prams to pass each other comfortably. More accessible toilets."

"Protect First, Access Second. Prioritise conservation zoning, with sensitive habitat areas protected from heavy visitation. Use elevated boardwalks in high-traffic areas to reduce soil compaction and root damage."

"Wherever you encourage humans to enter wilderness, you are inviting trouble. Humans do not obey the rules especially signage, so when it will say no fire, they will light campfires, they will smoke, they will bring bush bashers that backfire not to mention, all the vehicles the government will use for back burning, road clearing, and building."

"Ongoing employment pathways: Create guaranteed, long-term jobs for [local] displaced timber workers in park management, pest and weed control, fire management, track maintenance, koala monitoring, and rehabilitation work."

"Reduced ability to use dirt bikes within the footprint is likely to increase dirt bikes on roads, which may lead to increases in vehicle collisions or risk to pedestrians in built up areas. Young people of [disadvantaged] demographics may also cause increases in social disruption and potentially, more crime as options available to them for healthy outlets and recreation become decreasingly available."

"it will be incredibly difficult to restrict 4WD access across such a large area and will require more resources that the state government will be able to provide - setting up user areas (similar to marine parks) will ensure that sensitive areas are not degraded by indiscriminate use. A user fees/cost recovery model would be a viable option to manage such a large area."

Respondents' visions for the GKNP emphasise its conservation value, but many remain anxious about continued enjoyment, while a minority emphatically oppose it.

5.3 Visions for the future of the GKNP Q. What is your vision for the future of the Great Koala National Park?

N=2,277



43%

Conservation



25%

Access



25%

Recreation



14%

Opposition



7%

Economy

Examples - shaded by theme (continued on next page)

"The Great Koala National Park should provide a green belt that encompasses significant urban centres along the North Coast allowing greater environment and urban densification."

"As few people as possible, minimal infrastructure, leave it for the flora and fauna of the area who have been there for much longer than us mob."

"Walking tracks, lookout platforms, no noisy destructive trail bikes. A place to experience koalas living and thriving in a safe habitat away from domestic dogs."

"Permanent preservation of these areas with minimal impact from humans. Any camping areas and trails setup to minimise impact on the environment, flora and fauna."

"Ideally a chlamydia-free conservation space to preserve a core population and as a test area for rolling out chlamydia treatment strategies for the greater koala population."

"That it will be an area completely protected from shooting, mining and logging that will enable our precious Koalas to survive and thrive into the future."

"I would like the GKNP to be a renowned area for PASSIVE recreation and increased conservation efforts to protect critically endangered and threatened fauna and flora."

"For the GKNP to become a stronghold of koala populations throughout NSW, and that in time they will no longer be listed as endangered."

"A centre of excellence and leadership in collaborative conservation across regions building knowledge and commitment for the future protection of the park outside of political frameworks or cycles."

5.3 Visions for the future of the GKNP Q. What is your vision for the future of the Great Koala National Park?

Examples - shaded by theme (continued)

"Clean, with open tracks for recreational use by anyone who wants to use it. Fantastic that logging will stop in the area, but hoping that locals aren't the ones who have to give up access to the area."

"To have a park that is open and accessible to everyone for all activities. Driving a car down a track does not scare koalas away. Locking up the bush will only have a negative affect, human presence does not scare koalas away but it does scare off wild dogs, one of the biggest threats to koalas. [...] Please leave the bush open and accessible."

"An area that is free from logging, but not closed gates and free camping. I think national parks can learn from state forests in that sense."

"My vision for the park is for the powers to be to keep an open mind about how all the community clubs use the areas they have been using."

"My ideal vision would be a game park, where hunting, hunting tourism, game management and conservation work hand in hand for the environment and the community."

"Make them interactive and accessible - more camping, glamping, long and short walks, multi-day walks, guided walks, easy access to swimming holes, range of activities, easy access to info about the park / different areas within the park"

"A thriving eco tourism venture that brings pride and income into our community and allows better access and maintenance of existing trails which in turn will allow for more folk to access and connect with country, while also providing a safe and appropriate habitat for the continued growth of a healthy and biodiverse ecosystem."

"A truly unique national park that protects biodiversity as a priority but also allows for low impact recreational activities in a well thought out way that becomes a model for future National Park creation and that flips the narrative that National Parks are reducing access but more about creating ecotourism opportunities."

"For it to not exist and remain a variation of state forest and national parks. In the small time of its inception the financial backlash across communities and industries is unfathomable."

"I must be honest and say that I would have left the area in the hands of State Forests. I was happy with how things were managed by them and obviously the koalas were also thriving under their management."

"To be able to use it as we did when it was a state forest. And be able to collect firewood to aid prevention of bushfires. Being surrounded by national parks is now very scary."

As seen from the beginning of the report, (1.7, p.14), conservation interest appeared most strongly in comments from the rest of NSW (61%), while access and recreation appeared more frequently in local responses (28% and 29%, respectively). Opposition sentiment was also higher among answers from local respondents (17%).

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