



QUALITY OF LIFE



COLMAR BRUNTON
Social Research Agency

QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY 2016

Built and Natural Environment

Quality of Life Survey 2016

Built and Natural Environment

A joint project between the following New Zealand councils



TABLE OF CONTENTS

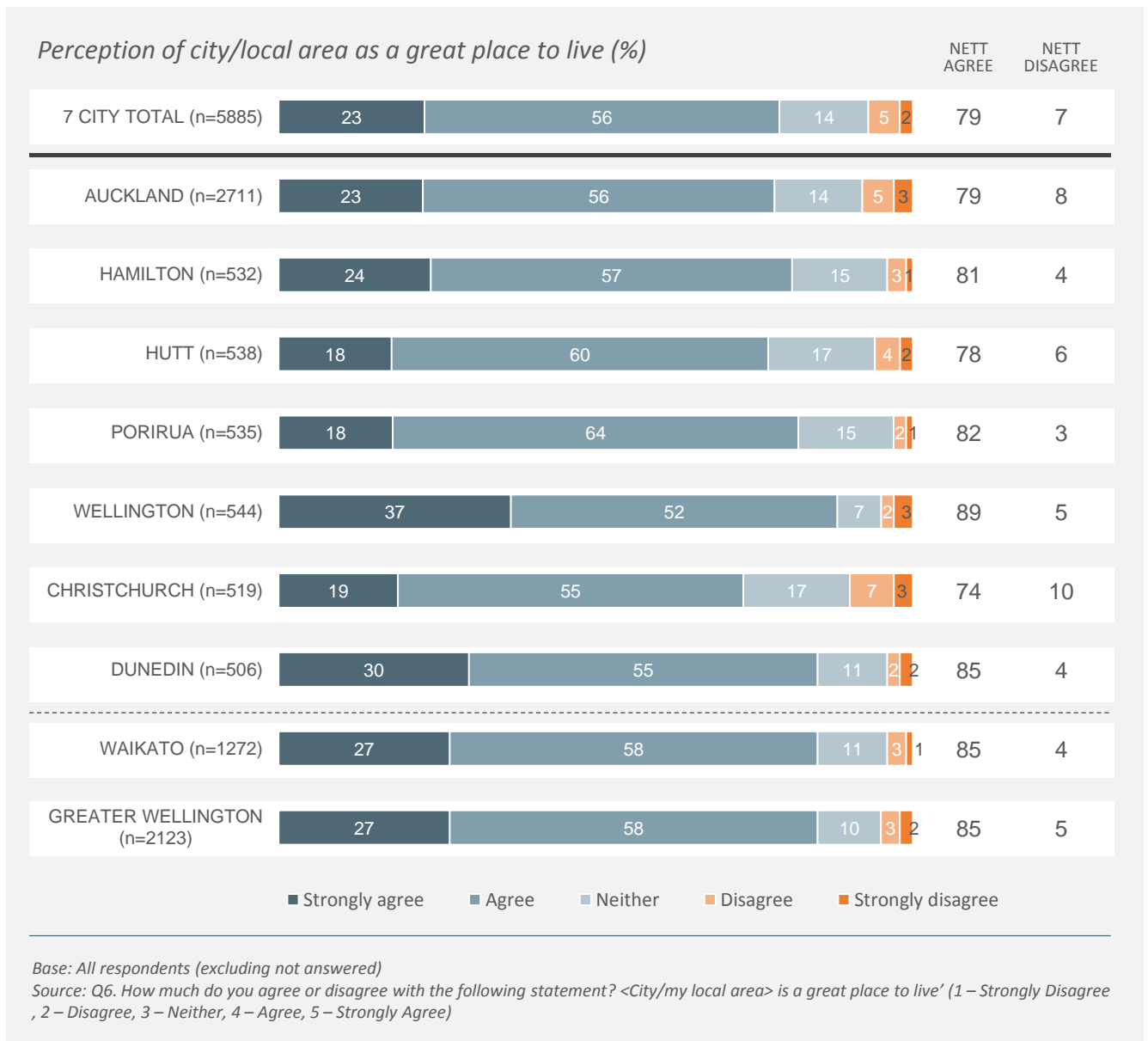
TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
8. BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	2

8. BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This section reports on respondents' perceptions of their city or local area as a place to live, including their sense of pride in their city or local area, and rating of issues in the previous 12 months.

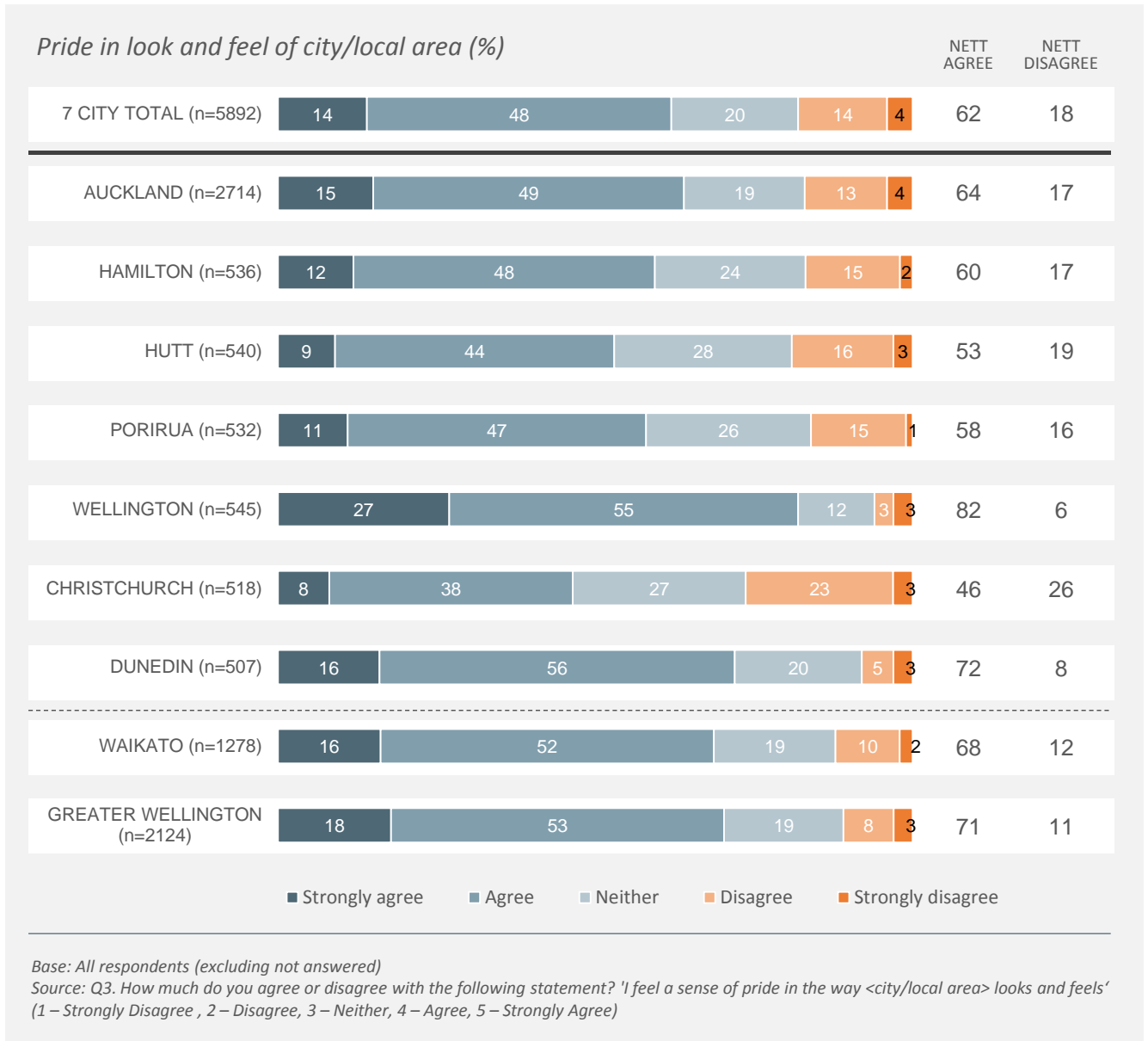
8.1 Perception of city/local area as a great place to live

Eight in ten (79%) respondents in the seven cities agreed their city is a great place to live, with a quarter (23%) who 'strongly agree' and over half (56%) who 'agree'.



8.2 Pride in look and feel of city/local area

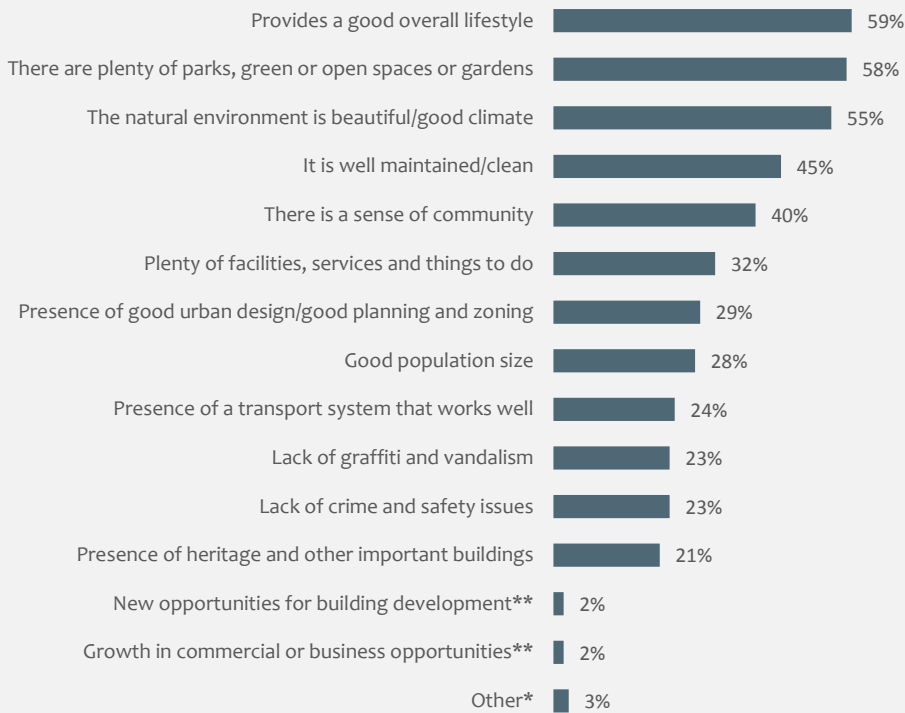
Across the seven city areas, six in ten (62%) respondents agreed they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels.



8.3 Most common reasons for pride in look and feel of city/local area

Respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels were asked to indicate why they felt that way, from a pre-coded list of possible reasons. The most common reasons across the seven cities for having a sense of pride were that their city or local area provides a good lifestyle (59%), there are plenty of parks (58%) and the beautiful natural environment or good climate (55%).

Most common reasons for pride in look and feel of city/local area – 7-city total (%)



**Other includes 'great location/central' (1% of 7-city total), some negative comments (1%), 'friendly people' (less than 0.5%), 'multicultural' (less than 0.5%), 'presence of art' (less than 0.5%), 'quiet/peaceful' (less than 0.5%), and 'presence of opportunities' (less than 0.5%).*

***Asked of Christchurch respondents only.*

Base: Respondents who reported pride in look/feel of their city/local area (n=3537) (excluding not answered)

Source: Q5. Please read through the whole list below before ticking the main reason, or reasons, for feeling a sense of pride in the way <city/local area> looks and feels. Note, percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could provide more than one reason.

The table on the following page shows results by all participating cities.

Most common reasons for pride in look and feel of city/local area (by council)

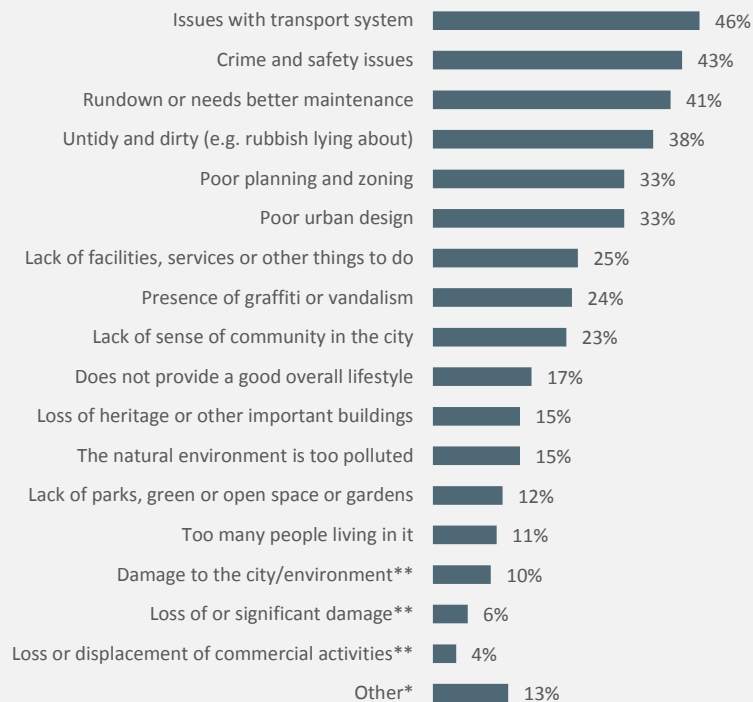
	7 CITY TOTAL (n=3537) %	AUCKLAND (n=1698) %	HAMILTON (n=312) %	HUTT (n=281) %	PORIRUA (n=286) %	WELLINGTON (n=453) %	CHRIST- CHURCH (n=141) %	DUNEDIN (n=366) %	WAIKATO (n=844) %	GREATER WELLINGTON (n=1367) %
Provides a good overall lifestyle	59	57	65	59	58	66	62	66	61	63
There are plenty of parks, green or open spaces or gardens	58	57	72	61	52	52	65	57	52	55
The natural environment is beautiful/good climate	55	54	53	48	68	58	49	62	57	57
It is well maintained/clean	45	51	42	45	40	35	25	26	46	40
There is a sense of community	40	39	32	38	56	43	40	45	45	43
Plenty of facilities, services and things to do	32	32	32	35	35	41	23	28	24	35
Presence of good urban design/good planning and zoning	29	27	32	31	32	36	28	29	20	29
Good population size	28	22	39	33	29	40	34	45	33	35
Presence of a transport system that works well	24	22	36	47	35	30	15	9	17	32
Lack of graffiti and vandalism	23	30	15	19	11	10	4	10	22	14
Lack of crime and safety issues	23	27	11	11	7	16	9	25	16	16
Presence of heritage and other important buildings	21	17	16	15	12	28	16	60	16	21
Other*	3	3	4	1	3	6	2	3	4	4
New opportunities for building development**	2	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	-
Growth in commercial or business opportunities**	2	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-

*Other includes 'great location/central' (1% of 7-city total), some negative comments (1%), 'friendly people' (less than 0.5%), 'multicultural' (less than 0.5%), 'presence of art' (less than 0.5%), 'quiet/peaceful' (less than 0.5%), and 'presence of opportunities' (less than 0.5%). **Asked of Christchurch respondents only. Note, percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could provide more than one reason. Base: All respondents who reported pride in look/feel of their city/local area (excluding not answered). Source: Q5. Please read through the whole list below before ticking the main reason, or reasons, for not feeling a sense of pride in the way <city/local area> looks and feels.

8.4 Most common reasons for lack of pride in look and feel of city/local area

Respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels were asked to indicate why they felt that way, from a pre-coded list of possible reasons. Respondents' most common reasons for lacking a sense of pride in the look and feel of their city or local area were due to issues with the transport system (46%), crime and safety (43%), and feeling that their local area was run down and/or needed better maintenance (41%).

Most common reasons for lack of pride in look and feel of city/local area – 7-city total (%)



**Other includes 'unsavoury characters around' (2% of 7-city total), 'too few people living in it' (2%), 'CBD/city centre rundown/empty shops' (1%), 'too much traffic' (1%), 'problems with parking' (1%), 'happy with where I live' (less than 0.5%), and 'housing is too expensive' (less than 0.5%). **Asked of Christchurch respondents only*

Base: Respondents who reported a lack of pride in look/feel of their city/local area (n=947) (excluding not answered)

Source: Q4. Please read through the whole list below before ticking the main reason, or reasons, for not feeling a sense of pride in the way <city/local area> looks and feels. Note, percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could provide more than one reason.

The tables on the next two pages show results by all participating cities.

Most common reasons for lack of pride in look and feel of city/local area (by council)

	7 CITY TOTAL (n=947) %	AUCKLAND (n=504) %	HAMILTON (n=95) %	HUTT (n=100) %	PORIRUA (n=99) %	WELLINGTON (n=30) %	CHRIST- CHURCH (n=82) %	DUNEDIN (n=37) %	WAIKATO (n=167) %	GREATER WELLINGTON (n=280) %
Issues with transport system	46	50	26	25	25	47	52	28	21	31
Crime and safety issues	43	46	57	46	50	25	23	24	50	42
Rundown or needs better maintenance	41	41	41	41	60	18	38	67	45	40
Untidy and dirty (e.g. Rubbish lying about)	38	43	30	17	39	29	24	47	33	26
Poor planning and zoning	33	34	41	31	32	35	30	32	28	28
Poor urban design	33	33	42	51	48	27	23	28	29	40
Lack of facilities, services or things to do	25	20	34	37	32	27	41	26	34	32
Presence of graffiti or vandalism	24	24	20	29	46	24	25	25	21	32
Lack of sense of community in the city	23	25	24	23	23	16	17	18	17	23
Does not provide a good overall lifestyle	17	17	19	10	16	26	15	14	14	16
Loss of heritage or other important buildings	15	12	20	19	6	16	31	6	11	15
The natural environment is too polluted	15	13	14	10	31	8	26	11	12	16
Lack of parks, green or open space or gardens	12	12	12	17	14	21	7	9	7	13
Too many people living in it	11	16	3	5	2	-	1	6	3	3
Other*	13	11	17	20	14	18	10	36	17	18

Most common reasons for lack of pride in look and feel of city/local area (by council) – continued	7 CITY TOTAL	AUCKLAND	HAMILTON	HUTT	PORIRUA	WELLINGTON	CHRIST-CHURCH	DUNEDIN	WAIKATO	GREATER WELLINGTON
	(n=947)	(n=504)	(n=95)	(n=100)	(n=99)	(n=30)	(n=82)	(n=37)	(n=167)	(n=280)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Damage to the city/environment**	10	-	-	-	-	-	76	-	-	-
Loss of or significant damage**	6	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-
Loss or displacement of commercial activities**	4	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-

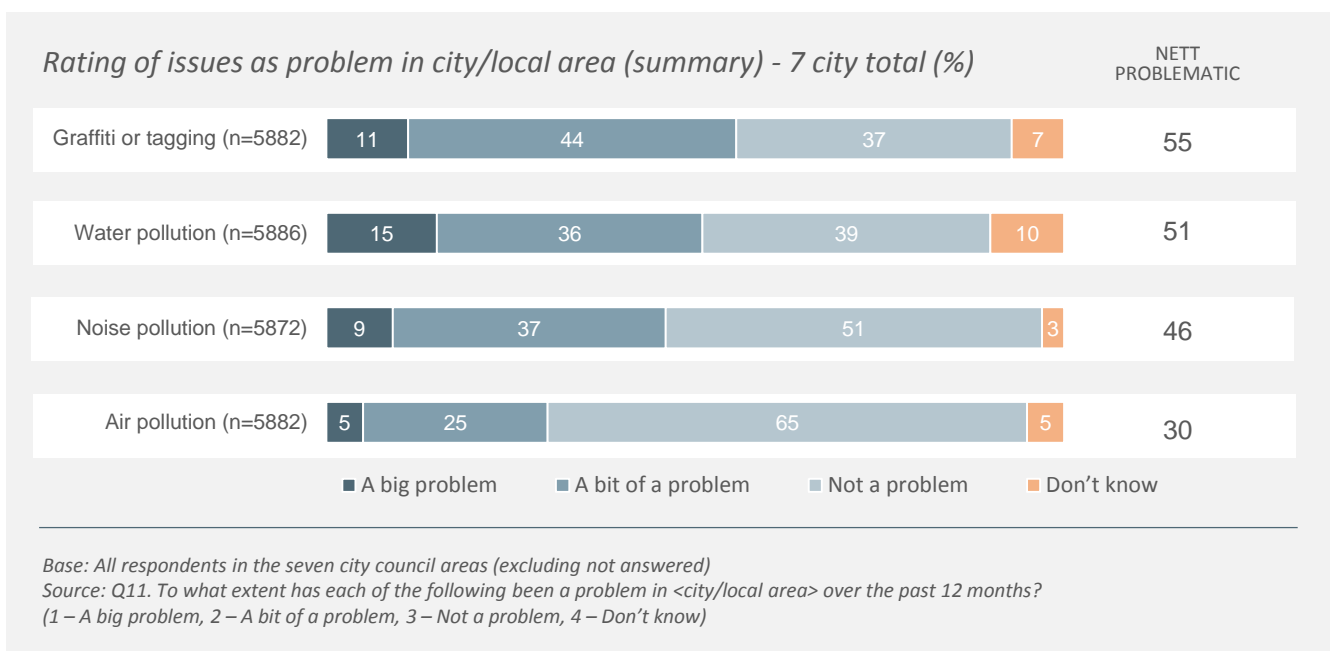
*Other includes 'unsavoury characters around' (2% of 7-city total), 'too few people living in it' (2%), 'CBD/city centre rundown/empty shops' (1%), 'too much traffic' (1%), 'problems with parking' (1%), 'happy with where I live' (less than 0.5%), and 'housing is too expensive' (less than 0.5%). **Asked of Christchurch respondents only. Note, percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could provide more than one reason. Base: All respondents who reported a lack of pride in look/feel of their city/local area (excluding not answered). Source: Q4. Please read through the whole list below before ticking the main reason, or reasons, for not feeling a sense of pride in the way <city/local area> looks and feels.

8.5 Perceived environmental problems in city/local area

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they perceived 10 possible issues had been a problem in their city or local area¹ in the previous 12 months. Results for four issues relating to the general environment are reported here (graffiti or tagging, and air, water, and noise pollution), and results for the other six issues are reported in Section 5.

The table below shows overall results for the seven cities combined.

Across the seven cities, graffiti or tagging is identified as ‘a big problem’ or ‘a bit of a problem’ in their city or local area by more than half of residents (55%). Water and noise pollution are also considered to be a city or local area problem by approximately half of respondents (51% and 46%, respectively), while only a third of respondents in the seven city areas consider air pollution to be an issue (30%).

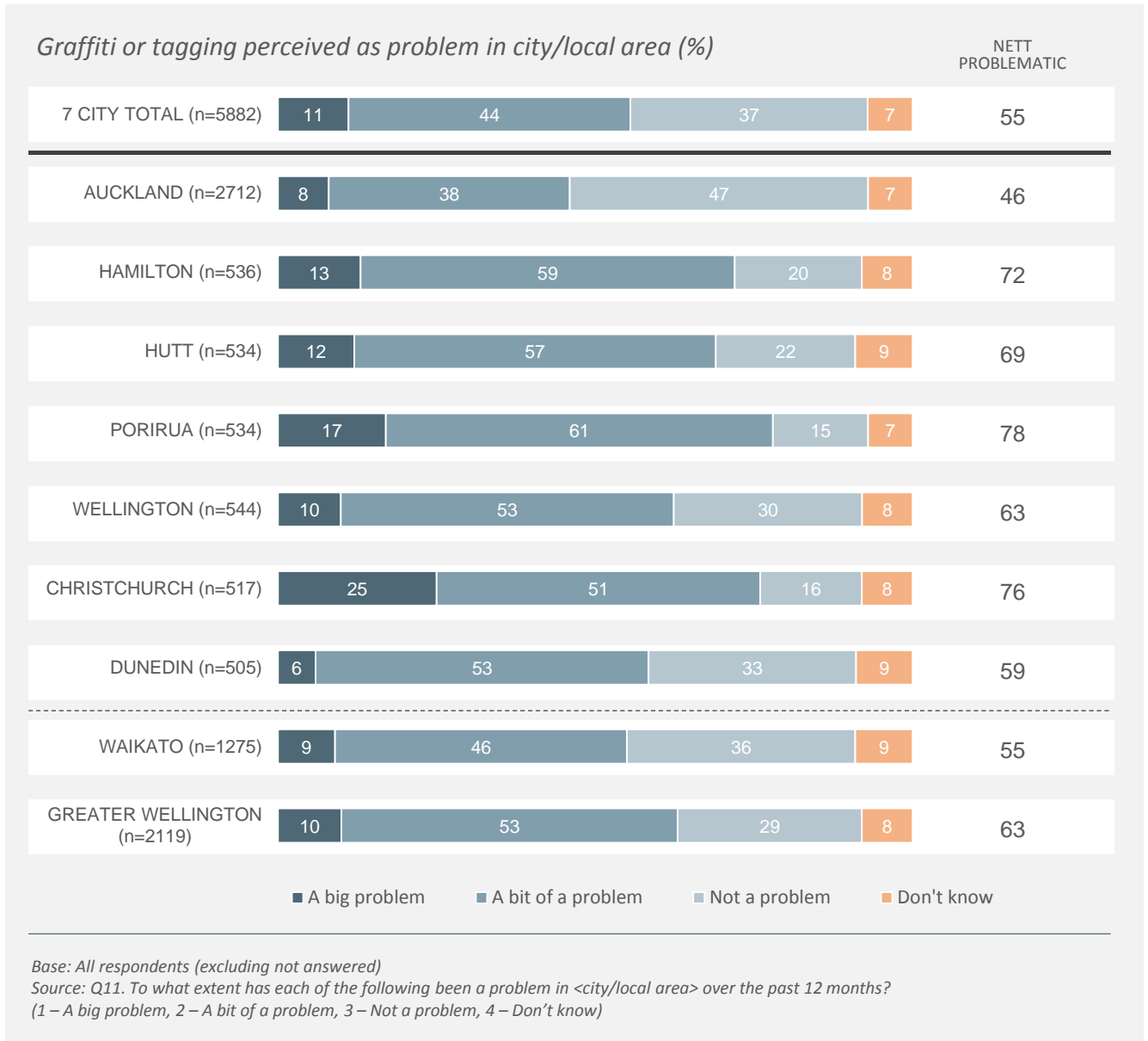


Results across all nine participating councils for each issue are outlined on the following pages.

¹ Auckland, Waikato region and the Greater Wellington region questionnaires referred to ‘your local area’ throughout the survey, whereas other cities’ questionnaires referred to the specific city name (e.g. Hutt City).

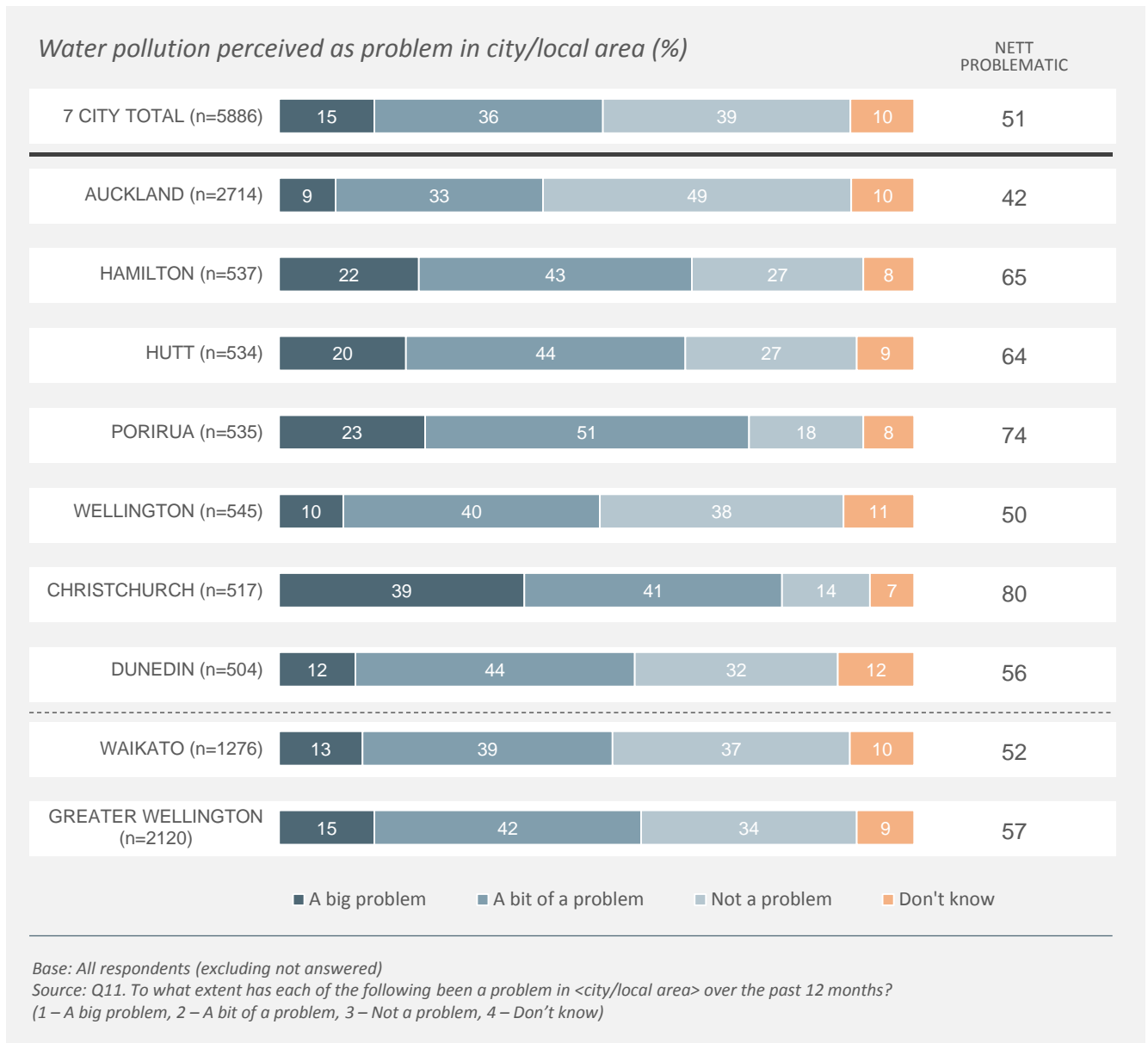
Graffiti or tagging (perceived problem in local area)

More than half (55%) of respondents agreed that graffiti or tagging had been a problem in their city or local area in the previous 12 months.



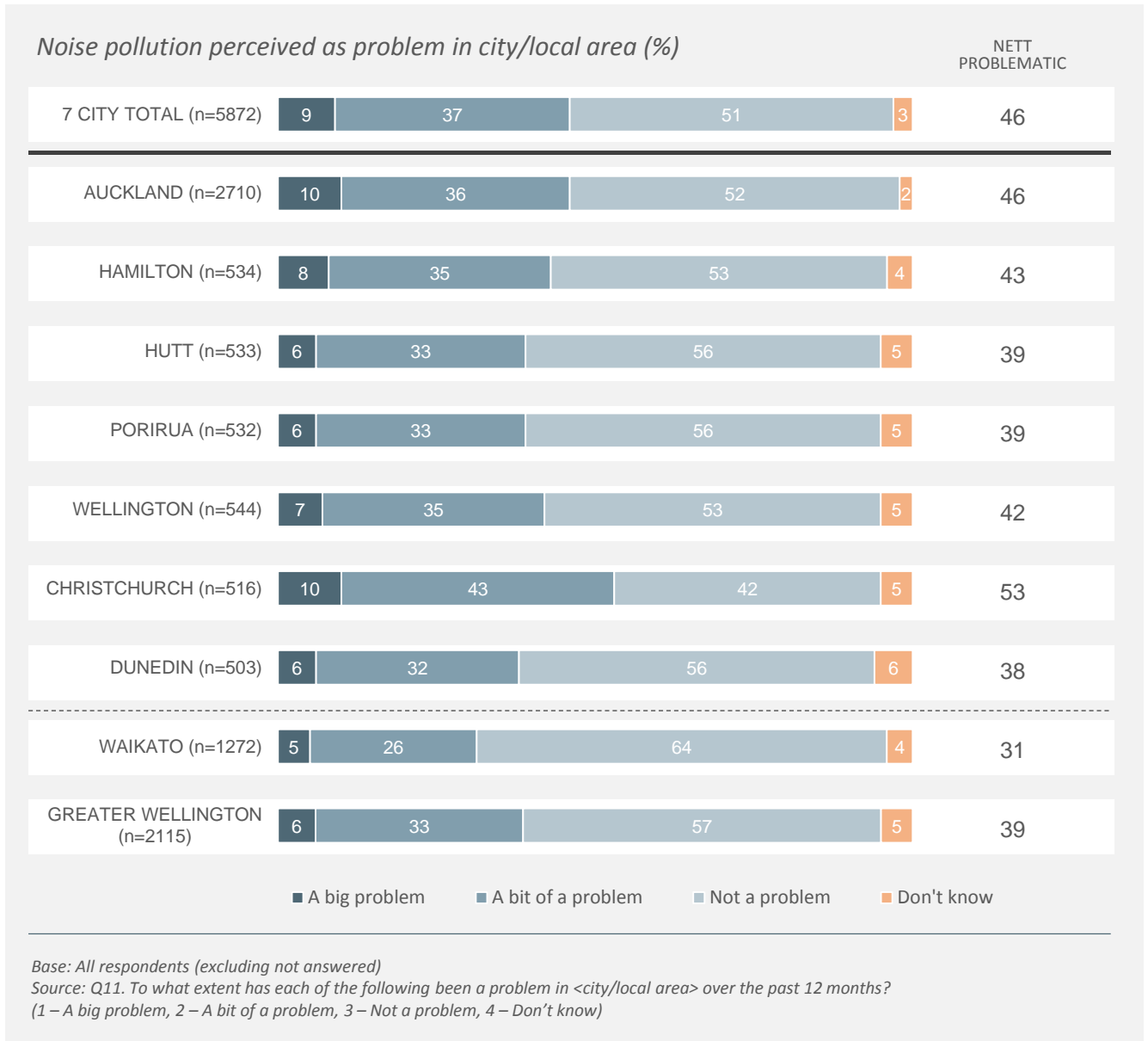
Water pollution (perceived problem in local area)

Just over half (51%) of respondents consider water pollution to have been a problem in their city or local area in the previous 12 months.



Noise pollution (perceived problem in local area)

Close to half (46%) of respondents consider noise pollution to have been a problem in their city or local area in the previous 12 months.



Air pollution (perceived problem in local area)

A third (30%) of respondents considered that air pollution had been a problem in their city or local area in the previous 12 months.

