

# Nowra CBD CCTV Survey 2012

## Introduction

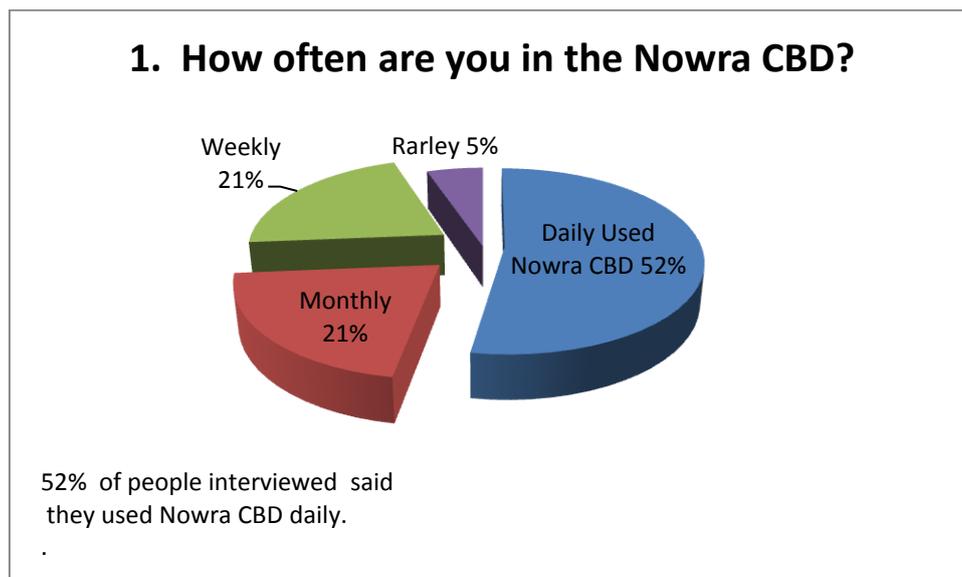
This report is based on the findings of Shoalhaven City Council's CCTV community consultation survey of public perceptions regarding CCTV and safety in the Nowra CBD. The survey was conducted in October and November 2012.

The surveys were conducted through a direct interview approach. 50 surveys were completed with retailers and users of the Nowra CBD.

The survey represents a sample of public awareness and perceptions; indicated in the charts below.

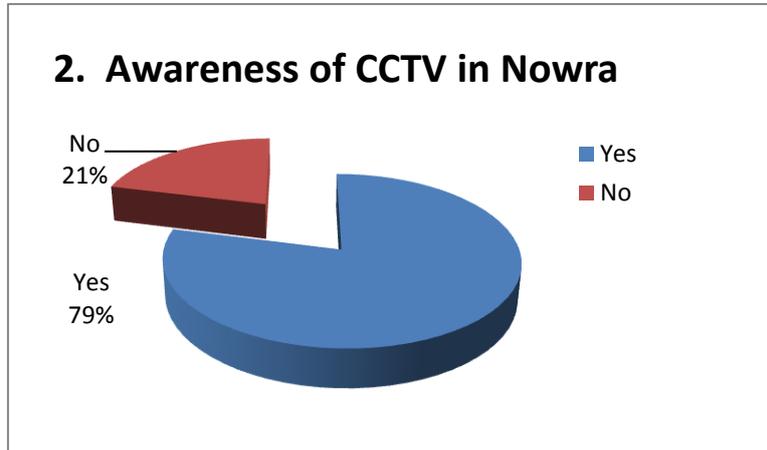
## Public Use of Nowra CBD

Over half of the people surveyed indicated that they use the Nowra CBD to access work, shopping and medical centres on a daily basis.



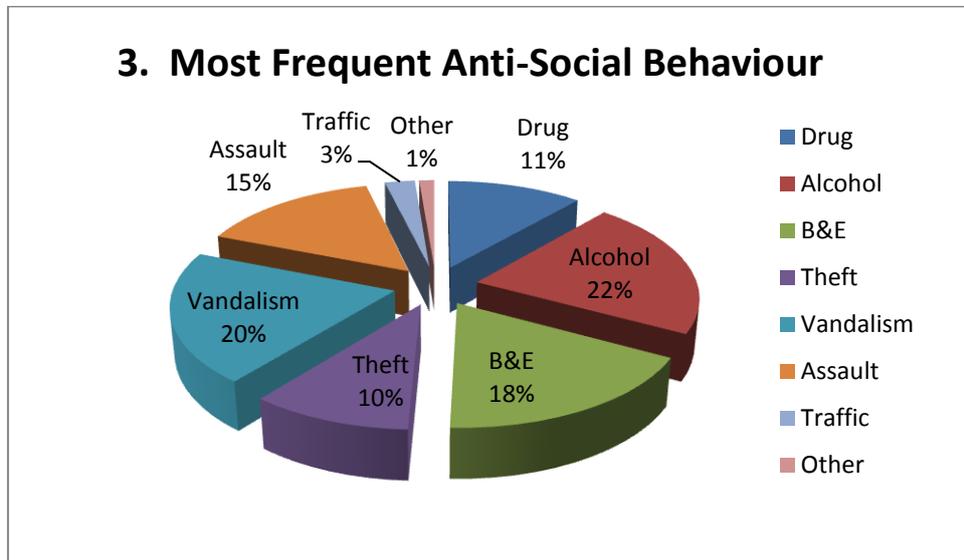
## Public Awareness of CCTV Systems in Nowra CBD

In the survey, most people (79%) were aware of the operation of CCTV cameras. Since the last survey was conducted general public awareness of CCTV and its ability to make people feel safer in the CBD has increased by 50%.



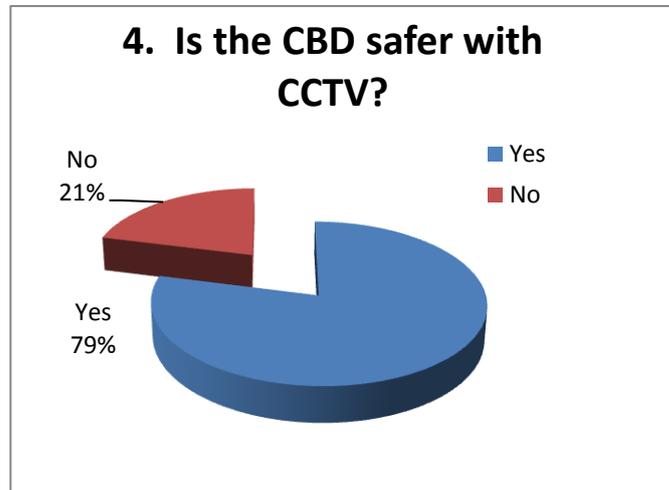
## Most Frequent Anti – Social Behaviour

When asked about the most frequent types of anti social behaviour occurring in the Nowra CBD respondents ranked alcohol related offences as most frequent (22%) followed by vandalism 20%, and break and enter 18%.



## Do You Think CCTV Makes the CBD a Safer Place?

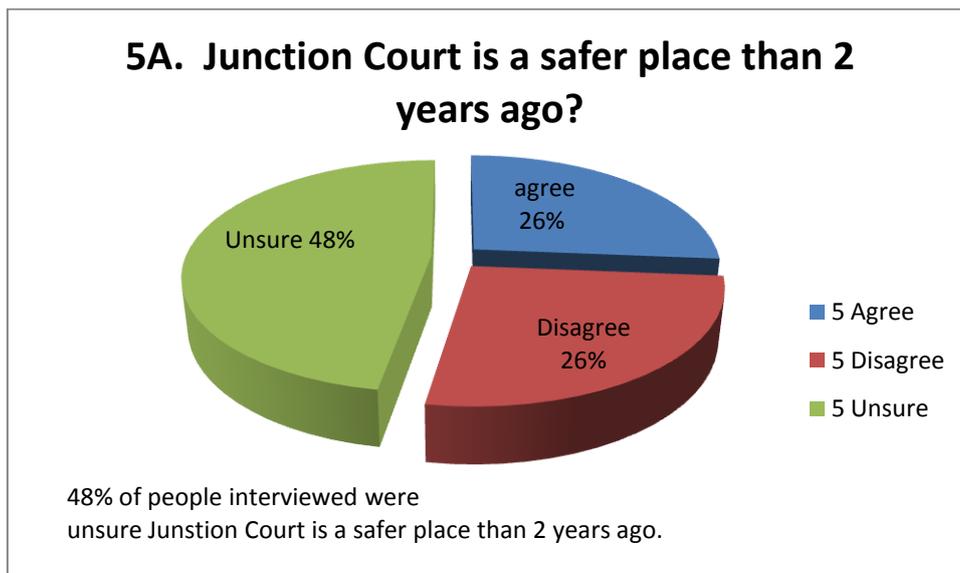
The responses to this question indicate that the installation of CCTV has the benefit of increasing public feelings of safety. 79% of people interviewed said that the Nowra CBD is a safer place since the installation of the CCTV cameras 2 years ago.



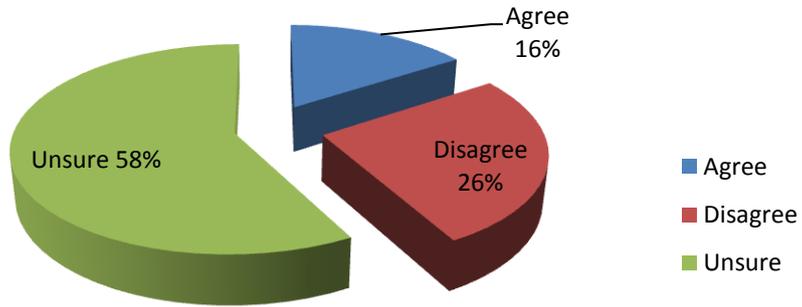
## Perceptions of Safety in Junction Court, Junction Street and Kinghorne Street

Respondents were asked about three locations covered by CCTV in the Nowra CBD and if these locations were safer than they were two years ago.

When asked about safety in Junction Court 26% either agreed or disagreed with the statement while 48% were unsure. A similar pattern emerged about the other two locations. Most people were unsure if locations were any safer now than two years ago.

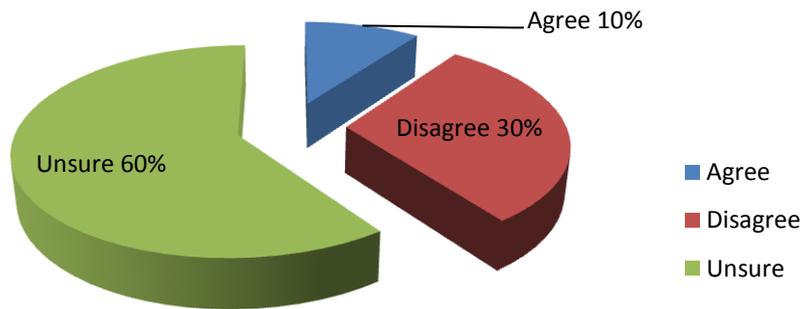


### 5B. Junction Street is a safer place than 2 years ago?



58% of people interviewed were unsure Junction Street is a safer place than 2 years ago

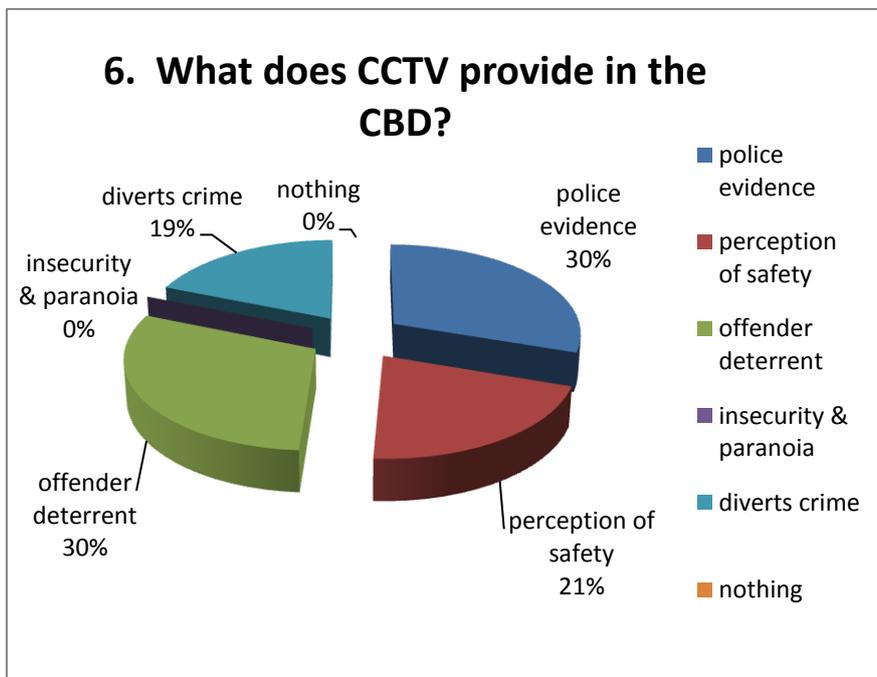
### 5C. Kinghorne Street is a safer place than 2 years ago?



60% of people interviewed identified they were unsure Kinghorne Street is a safer place than 2 years ago.

## What Does CCTV Provide in the Nowra CBD?

The survey also showed that people's awareness of what CCTV provides in the CBD and their awareness of the types of other crime prevention strategies that complement CCTV has also increased.

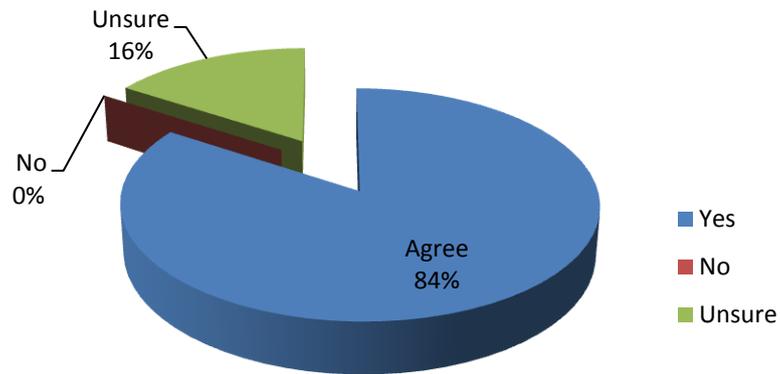


The responses above would appear to point to the installation of CCTV in the Nowra CBD has had the effect of developing public perceptions of safety. People felt that CCTV is useful in providing the Police with evidence in investigating actions as well as deterring potential offenders. There was a perception that CCTV increased safety as well as perhaps diverting crime to other locations.

## Are More Cameras Needed?

Survey responses to question 7 on the survey recommended that more CCTV cameras are needed in Nowra CBD. The majority, 84%, of people agreed more CCTV is needed and 16% were unsure at this point. 0% of people indicated that there was no need for more CCTV cameras in Nowra CBD.

## 7. More CCTV's needed in the Nowra CBD?



84% of people interviewed expressed that there is a need for more CCTV's in the Nowra CBD

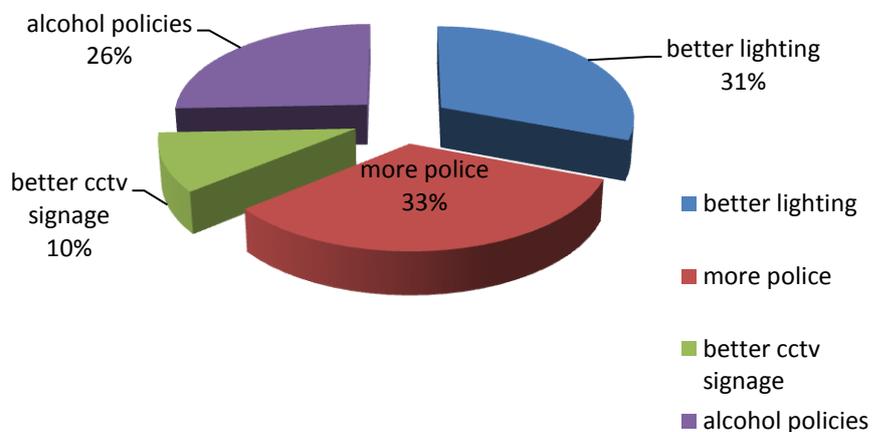
## Are Other Crime Prevention Strategies More Effective than CCTV in the CBD?

When asked this question respondents listed a number of other crime prevention strategies:

- More Police (33%)
- Better lighting (31%)
- Alcohol Policies (26%)
- Better CCTV signage (10%).

It is not certain if respondents answered this question as these strategies being more effective than CCTV or simply as being effective strategies.

## 8. Other Crime Prevention Strategies



This reflects and supports the strategies outlined in the *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*, *Shoalhaven Crime Prevention Plan (2010) Safer By Design Evaluation*, including:

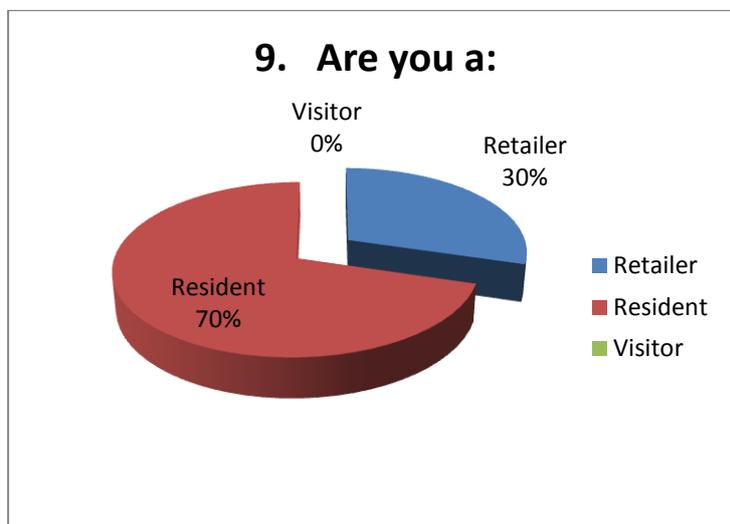
- CCTV can be used to create the perception of a safe community
- CCTV can make a positive contribution to addressing crime and this was reliant on CCTV being used by the police as an integral part of a command and control strategy.
- CCTV assists in building partnerships between council, police, business sector and other community organisations
- CCTV may result in increased reporting

The survey also supported the public awareness of other environmental measures that may have a similar result to CCTV in creating safe environments, such as:

- Better Lighting
- Stronger Alcohol Policies
- More Police
- Increased CCTV Signage

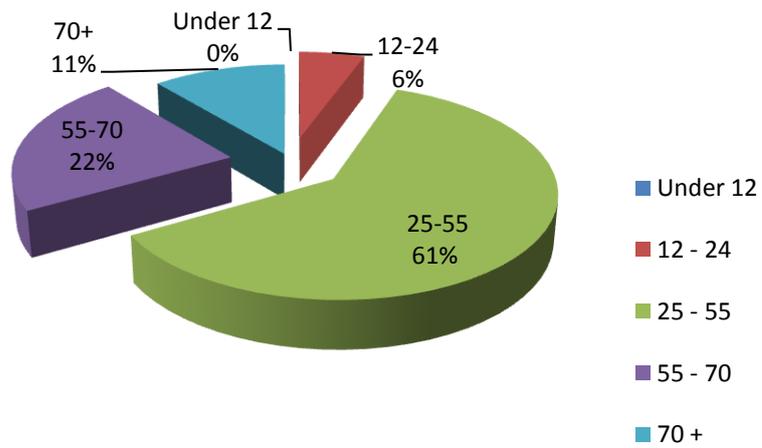
### Who Participated in the Survey?

The following table provides a summary of who participated in the survey and whether they were a resident, retailer or visitor in the Nowra CBD.



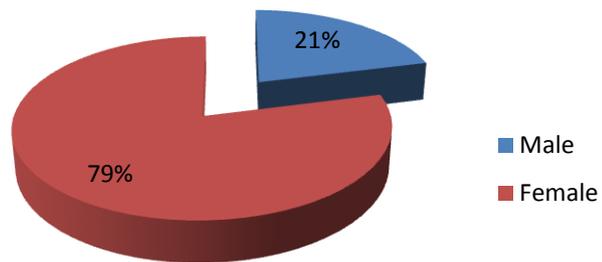
The table below provides an overview of the age group of people that took part in the survey. The majority, 61% of people stated they were in the 25 - 55 year age bracket.

### 10. What is your age group?



Of all the people surveyed, 79% of people were female.

### 11. Gender



## **Gender and Age**

It is clear that in this survey women outnumbered men. This could possibly confirm the sex composition of both the town centre retail labour market and of 'shoppers' more generally.

## **Conclusion**

This report has shown that CCTV can work on a number of different levels across a range of different contexts and also shows how it is unsuccessful in other areas. This report attempts to highlight and discuss the main areas of concern, in an attempt to help Council reach an effective conclusion.

Due to the ongoing nature of the debate on CCTV and mixed research findings in terms of CCTV effectiveness, the debate on the effectiveness of CCTV is amazingly complex. There are dozens of studies done over more than a decade with frequently conflicting positions makes the situation hard to assess. Conversely, as indicated in this report, 79% of people interviewed believed Nowra CBD is a safer place since the installation of CCTV cameras and over half of the people surveyed regularly utilise this space for work and shopping.

Increased citizen safety encourages broad participation and interaction in public spaces, which is effective in improving a community's profile and attracting investment. Moreover, increased stability in a specific area can have advantages for economic revitalization, in which the area will attract more investment internally and externally, leading to an improvement in the social status and quality of life of its residents and a reduction in crime.

Overall, the impact of CCTV has been variable it is important to remember that the suitability of CCTV will depend, at the very least, on the nature of problems, the presence of other measures and the commitment and skills of management and staff to making CCTV work. The belief that CCTV alone can counter complex social problems is unrealistic in the extreme. At best CCTV can work alongside other measures to generate some changes, but it is no easy solution, and there is a lot still to be learnt about how to use it to best effect.