

City of Ipswich

Old Tallegalla School

Community Engagement Report

March 2025



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Disclaimer: Quantitative and qualitative data was collected from participants during the engagement, in accordance with council’s Information Privacy Policy. Quantitative data was downloaded from the various digital platforms and/or transcribed into a master Excel database by project staff. The data was cleaned, de-identified, aggregated and charted in the master database. Open thematic analysis of qualitative comments was carried out using Excel. For the purposes of this report, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, which may result in a total not equal to 100%.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Old Tallegalla School (2 Tallegalla Two Tree Hill Road, Tallegalla) was established in 1879. It is one of the few surviving elements of what was once a larger community. The property features traditional classrooms, a teacher's staff room, and an annex for educational activities. For about 115 years, the school was both an educational institution and a central hub for local gatherings.

In 1998, the Queensland Government granted trusteeship of the property to Ipswich City Council. This means that council is responsible for the management of the property on behalf of Queensland Government. As part of this, the property must be managed in accordance with the Queensland Heritage Register and all statutory influences.

Since taking trusteeship, the property has been used by various community groups and general public for events. Australian Crawl (Goodna) Pty Ltd also held trustee permits from September 2013 to August 2019. After decades of use, the

buildings and facilities need significant rehabilitation and refurbishment to ensure it meets existing standards and maintenance obligations.

Although there have been enquiries to occupy the residence, it fails to meet the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* standards, and the council lack funds for its maintenance.

Council is now considering whether to:

- surrender 2 Tallegalla Two Tree Hill Road to the Queensland Government, or
- rehabilitate the buildings and facilities and enter into a lease with a suitable organisation.

The themes and stakeholder insights identified in this report will help inform whether Old Tallegalla School is retained or surrendered by council.

WHY WE ENGAGED

Engagement for the potential surrender of trusteeship of 2 Tallegalla Two Tree Hill Road, Tallegalla aimed to:

- ensure the community were aware and informed of the potential surrender
- articulate the requirement for council to commit public funds to facility rehabilitation if the property is not surrendered to Queensland Government
- manage and mitigate potential or perceived issues and risks, including misinformation about future use of the property
- understand overall community preference on whether council should surrender or retain Old Tallegalla School.

HOW WE ENGAGED

Engagement channels

Community engagement was undertaken between 3 February 2025 and 3 March 2025. The community was able to contribute their feedback through the channels outlined below.

Shape Your Ipswich

Comments were captured via a survey on the project page, [Old Tallegalla School](#), hosted on Shape Your Ipswich. Survey questions can be seen in Appendix 1.

Hard copy survey

Community members were able to complete a hard copy survey to share their feedback. The questions in the survey replicated the online version on Shape Your Ipswich. These surveys could be picked up at Rosewood Library, Rosewood Resource Recovery Centre and 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich.

Community engagement events

Two community engagement events were held to provide the broader community with general information on the project and capture feedback. The following events were held:

Event	Date	Location
Community pop up	7 February 2025	Rosewood Library
Community pop up	14 February 2025	Rosewood Library

Email

The community was able to email council directly via propertyrequests@ipswich.qld.gov.au or communityengagement@ipswich.qld.gov.au with feedback on this project.

Phone

The community was able to phone council directly via 3810 6666 with feedback on this project.

Marketing channels

To maximise engagement, the following communication channels were used to reach the community and trigger awareness.

Shape Your Ipswich

One email campaign was sent out via Shape Your Ipswich on 3 February 2025. The campaign was sent to Shape Your Ipswich members who had selected any of the following categories of interest:

- Arts, culture and heritage
- City design and planning
- Community
- Tallegalla

This campaign was sent to a total of 1,093 members, of which 518 opened the email (47%).

Email

An email was sent to schools and community organisations within proximity of Old Tallegalla School on 4 February 2025. The email provided an overview of the project and encouraged recipients to share with their communities. Below is a list of the schools and community organisations that were targeted:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Ashwell State School | • Rosewood History Group |
| • Haigslea State School | • Rosewood Scrub Historical Society |
| • Ipswich Heritage Network | • Rosewood State High School |
| • Marburg and District Residents' Association | • Rosewood State School |
| • Marburg Show Society | • St Brigid's Primary School |
| • Marburg State School | • Walloon State School |
| • Mount Marrow State School | |

Letterbox drop

An information pack was posted to property owners who resided within a 5km radius of Old Tallegalla School. The pack included an overview of the project including closing date for feedback and links to the online survey, fact sheet and printed copy of the survey. The pack was distributed on 3 February 2025 and was sent to approximately 1,200 households.

Physical signage

Signage was placed at Rosewood Resource Recovery Centre, Rosewood Library, Rosewood IGA, Spar Express Marburg and 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich for the duration of the engagement period. Signage included a QR code linked to Shape Your Ipswich and encouraged community to share their feedback. The signage design can be seen in Appendix 2.

Media mentions

Throughout the engagement period, there were 15 mentions recorded in the media. The media outlets were:

- Moreton Border News (3 mentions)
- River FM (3 mentions)
- Ipswich News Today (2 mentions)
- Ipswich Tribune (2 mentions)
- Facebook (1 mention)
- Ipswich First (1 mention)
- Local Ipswich News (1 mention)
- X (formerly known as Twitter) (1 mention)

Overall, these engagement and marketing activities led to 1,376 views of the Shape Your Ipswich page and 123 contributions throughout the engagement as outlined in the table below.

Engagement Channel	Contributions ¹
Shape Your Ipswich	52
Hard copy survey	44
Community engagement events	19
Phone	0
Email	7
Letter	1
Total	123

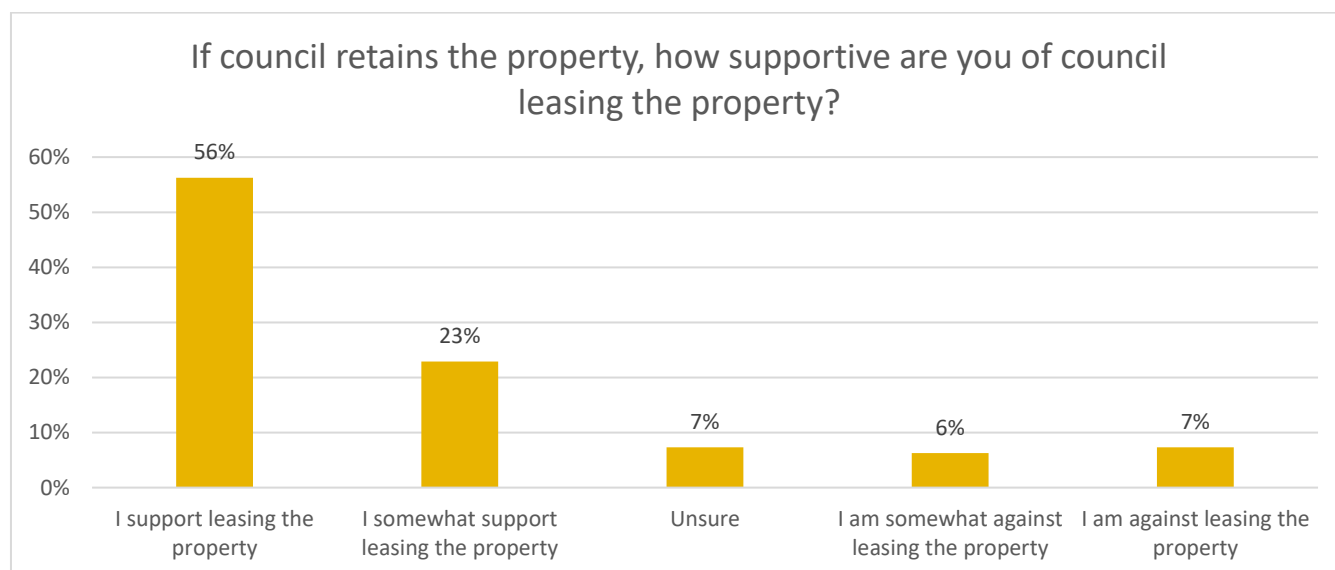
¹ Total number of individuals who submitted feedback per engagement channel. Noting individuals may be counted multiple times if submitting multiple submissions.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

A summary of the feedback received across all channels has been outlined below.

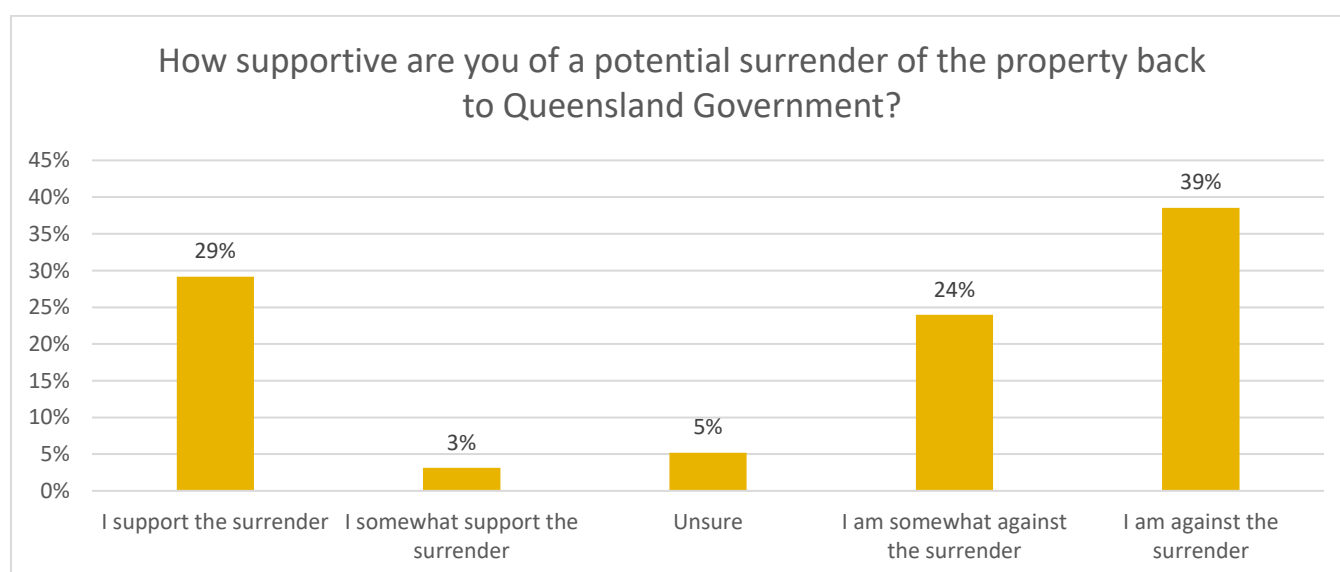
If council retains the property, how supportive are you of council leasing the property?

96 respondents provided an answer to this question. Overall, respondents were generally supportive of this approach, with 56% supportive. An additional 23% were somewhat supportive.



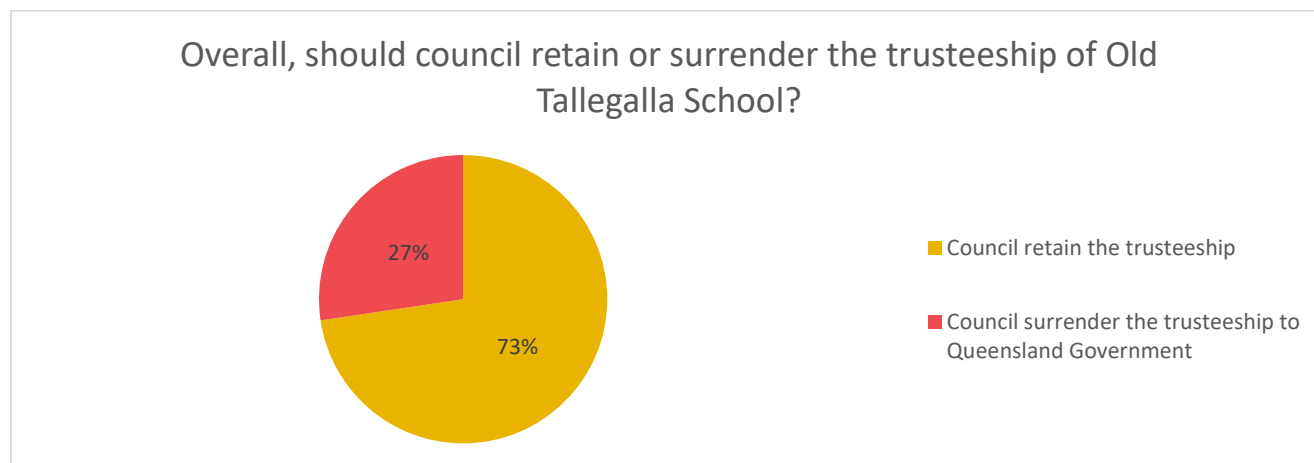
How supportive are you of a potential surrender of the property back to Queensland Government?

96 respondents provided an answer to this question. This proposed approach received much more mixed sentiment. While a reasonable percentage of respondents were either supportive or somewhat supportive (32%), 63% were against or somewhat against the surrender.



Overall, should council retain or surrender the trusteeship of Old Tallegalla School?

117 respondents provided an answer to this question. In alignment with the previous questions, council retaining the trusteeship was the preferred approach, receiving 73% of community votes.



Please share any other comments on the future of Old Tallegalla School

Respondents were provided with the opportunity to share their reasoning behind their preferred approach, as well as share any additional comments on this project. 80 respondents provided an answer to this question. These themes reflect a strong community interest in preserving Old Tallegalla School's heritage while finding sustainable and beneficial uses for the property. Respondents also provided a wide variety of ideas for future uses of the property. It is noted that some suggested future uses of the property are currently considered outside of this project's scope, as they do not meet requirements such as:

- use of the property is required to abide by the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- use of the property must be used for heritage, historical and cultural purposes
- use of the property cannot extend to overnight activities
- the Queensland Government must remain the owner of the property.

A summary of the key themes has been outlined below.

Theme	Detail
Heritage	• many respondents emphasised the importance of preserving the school's historical and cultural heritage • the property is seen as a vital part of local history and part of the community's identity.
Financial	• concerns were raised about whether council had the financial capacity to manage the property • some felt it is council's responsibility to rehabilitate the property, and suggested return on investment could be made by leasing the property to businesses or using the property for various events. Others suggested partnering with trade schools to reduce rehabilitation costs.

Future use	• suggestions included using the property for educational programs, a community space, tourist attraction, environmental activities and various forms of accommodation • some concerns were raised around impact on local infrastructure and safety depending on future use of the property • some were concerned that the property will be allowed to fall into further disrepair or be removed from the area • mixed sentiment was provided regarding whether council or an alternative organisation is better equipped to make future decisions about property use in alignment with community expectations.
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Quotes from respondents included:

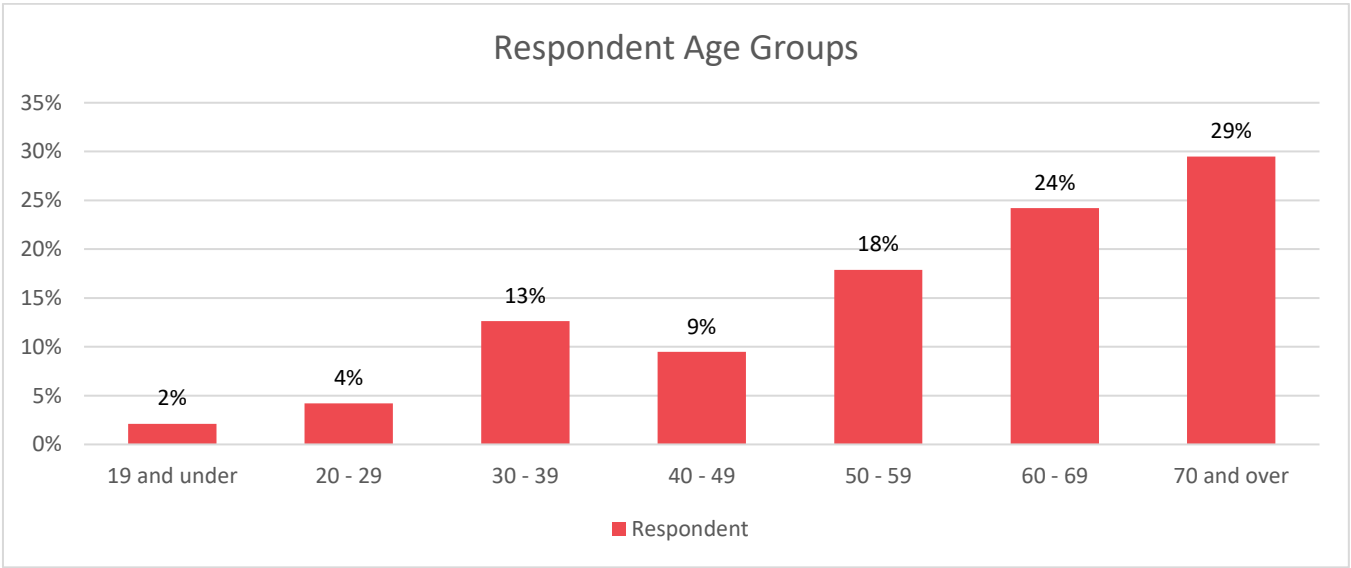
- “I would love to see the old school used for something that would benefit our community. Quite honestly I think there is a better chance of that happening if the school is surrendered back to the Queensland Government. Local council won't even upgrade parks close to this school, such as Marburg, so how on earth is it going to find the funds to do anything useful with the school. Invest the money into your more rural parts of Ipswich, such as Tallegalla, more thoughtfully instead.”
- “We should be retaining and preserving as many historical buildings as we can. One of the reasons why we relocated to Ipswich is because of the historical nature of Ipswich’s buildings and homes. All of which need to be preserved and held in Ipswich by the community where possible. They should not be allowed to be relocated or pulled down for development, but rather preserved.”
- “Really, the question is down to cost and return on investment. If council believes that the site can be remediated and then leased to return a profit, then retain. If this can't be achieved, then relinquish back to State.”
- “Remain in ICC. A training base for Indigenous education, a site for horticulture of native plants and research on medicinal benefits of native flora/fauna. Imagine a property with students from TAFES, Schools and Uni propagating plants developing the grounds into natural bush settings. Use examples of horticulture in the book Dark Emu by Pascoe. Native grasses for flour, soil for native yams, so soft, horses had difficulty traversing, native beehives. Research for future planning initiatives.”
- “Surrendering the property means the trusteeship can be given to an organisation that has the funds and motivation to properly take care of the space, rather than let it continue to fall into further disrepair. Does council commit to spending the funds to fix it if it keeps the trusteeship?”
- “If it goes back to the state, we won’t be heard - it will be too late.”
- “This old building would be an excellent asset for the council and general Tallegalla/Marburg area - could even be a community hall - or leased to a reputable organisation. The expenditure to upgrade and upkeep would be far outweighed by the potential use of the building - and who knows.....with the increasing population in the general area, it may even become a school again. I know I would love my grandkids to attend a small country school.”

WHO ENGAGED

Where reasonable, demographic data was captured as part of engagement activities to understand the diversity of respondents.

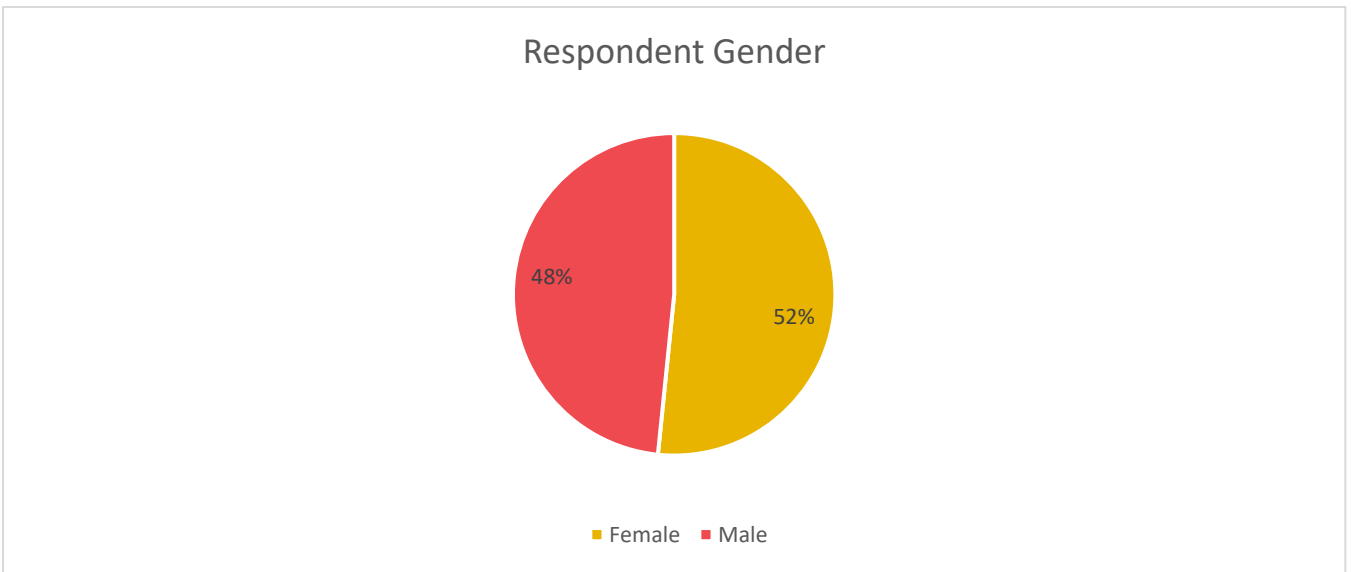
Age

All age groups were represented in this engagement. It is noted that feedback may be more reflective of community members 30 years and older due to limited engagement from younger audiences.



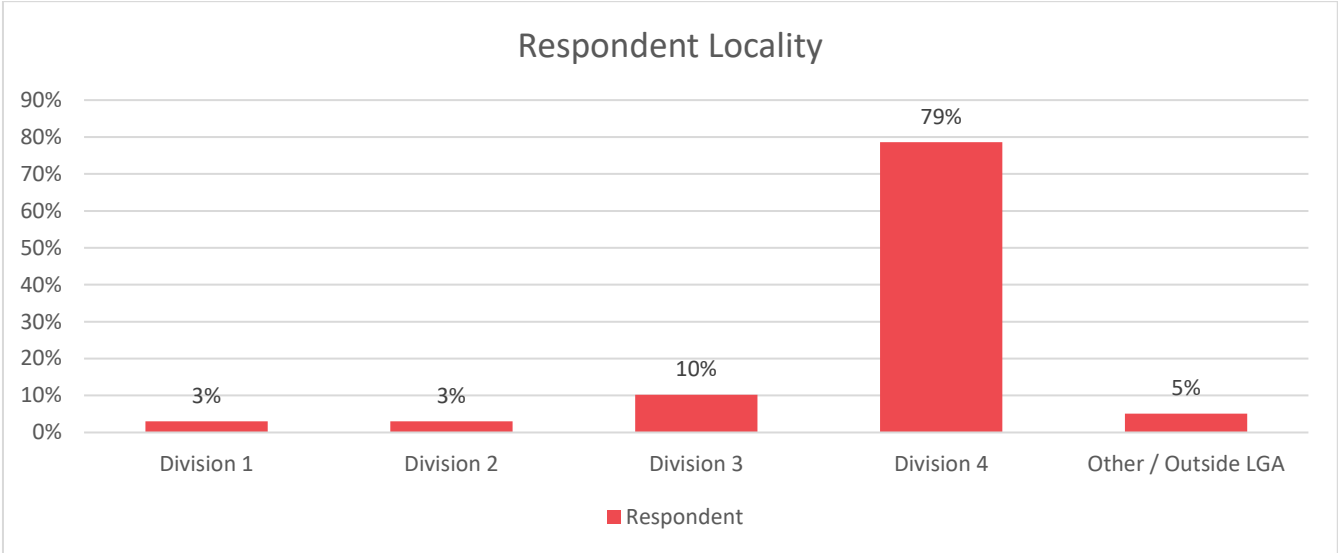
Gender

Respondents were made up of 48% males and 52% females, ensuring feedback is likely to be reflective of both genders.



Locality

Respondents reside across all four divisions of the Ipswich Local Government Area. While the majority (79%) reside in Division 4, these residents are most likely to be impacted as the property is based in this division, and therefore community members residing in this area were primarily targeted for engagement and marketing activities.

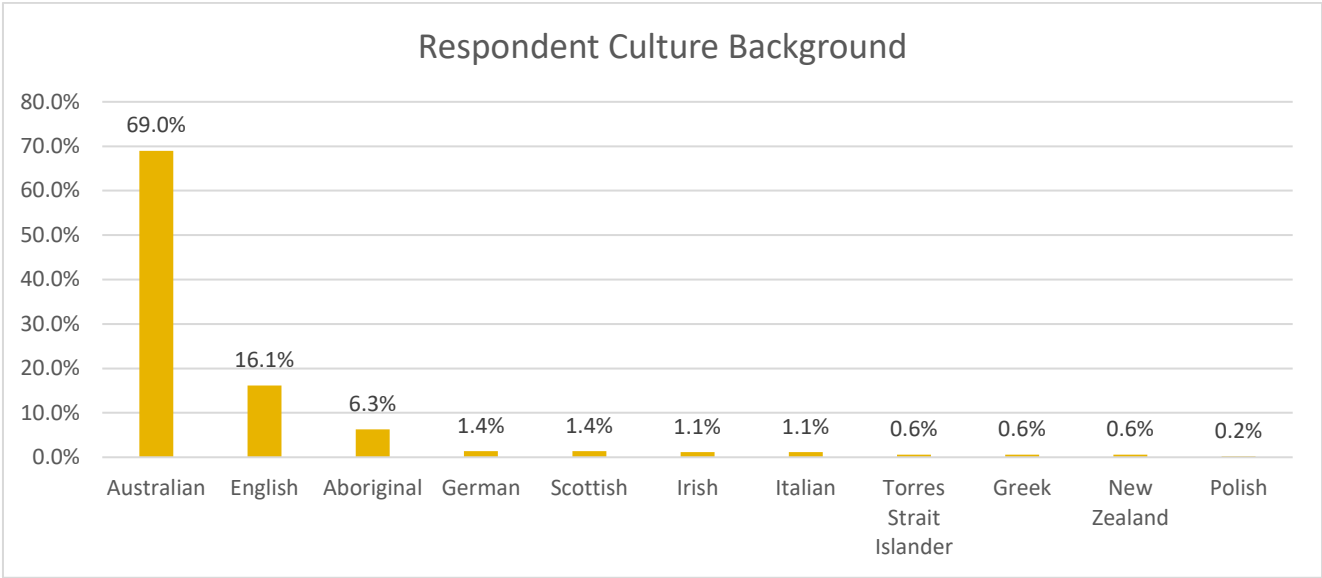


In total, 32 suburbs were represented. This included:

- Ashwell
- Augustine Heights
- Brassall
- Bundamba
- Camira
- Chuwar
- Coalfalls
- Collingwood Park
- Deebing Heights
- East Ipswich
- Haigslea
- Ipswich
- Karana Downs
- Laidley
- Lanefield
- Leichhardt
- Logan
- Lower Mount Walker
- Marburg
- Moggill
- Mount Marrow
- North Booval
- One Mile
- Raceview
- Reedy Creek
- Rosewood
- Springfield
- Tallegalla
- Thagoona
- The Bluff
- Walloon
- Yamanto

Cultural Background

11 cultural backgrounds were represented by respondents. Most (69%) identified as Australian, followed by English (16.1%) and Aboriginal (6.3%). It is noted that when respondents identified multiple cultural backgrounds, their submission was equally weighted across each of the identified cultural backgrounds.



Relationship to Old Tallegalla School

While not explicitly asked as part of the engagement, it is noted that comments were received from numerous respondents who stated they had either attended as a student or worked at the school in the past.

FINDINGS

Review and analysis of the data from all engagement activities identified the following key findings from the community.

Findings as outlined in this report are to be shared publicly via Shape Your Ipswich, along with relevant project updates to show how the community's feedback has shaped this project.

- respondents indicated a preference towards Ipswich City Council retaining Old Tallegalla School (73%)
- key considerations for the decision related to which organisation was perceived best fit to preserve the property's heritage, and who should be responsible for the financial investment of rehabilitating the property
- mixed sentiment was captured regarding which organisation was perceived most likely to use the space in alignment with community preferences
- a variety of suggested futures uses of the property were provided, including educational programs, a community space, tourist attraction, environmental activities and various forms of accommodation.

The information will be used to inform next steps for this project.

APPENDIX

1. SURVEY QUESTIONS

RETAIN THE TRUSTEESHIP

If council retains (does not surrender) the property, council will be responsible for refurbishment costs and ongoing maintenance of Old Tallegalla School. Council has determined that major refurbishment of the buildings and facilities to meet current standards will cost \$120,000, with an additional \$180,000 required for ongoing operational maintenance over the next 10 years. Council will complete a tender process inviting suitable organisations to submit an application to lease the property for the management and operation of the facility.

01. If council retains the property, how supportive are you of council leasing the property? **Required**

On a scale between 0 and 4, and in increments of 1, provide your rating below.

SURRENDER THE TRUSTEESHIP

If the surrender proceeds, the Queensland Government appoints the trusteeship. Typically, a trustee is the local government, but it can also be groups like a showground trust or an incorporated sporting association. If the surrender proceeds, suitable organisations can apply to the Queensland Government for trusteeship of the property. If a suitable organisation is granted trusteeship of the property, the organisation will fund the refurbishment costs and upgrade the facility.

02. How supportive are you of a potential surrender of the property back to Queensland Government? **Required**

On a scale between 0 and 4, and in increments of 1, provide your rating below.

03. Overall, should council retain or surrender the trusteeship of Old Tallegalla School?
Required

Select one answer only

- ☐ Council retain the trusteeship
- ☐ Council surrender the trusteeship to Queensland Government

04. Please share any other comments on the future use of Old Tallegalla School

Maximum of 500 characters

2. SIGNAGE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Ipswich City Council is considering the potential surrender of the land and facilities at 2 Tallegalla Two Tree Hill Road, Tallegalla, currently under its trusteeship from the Queensland Government. Council is conducting community consultation to collect feedback and understand community sentiment about the potential surrender.



**Scan the QR code or visit
[Shapeyouripswich.com.au/
old-tallegalla-school](https://Shapeyouripswich.com.au/old-tallegalla-school)
to learn more and provide your
feedback by 3 March 2025.**

ipswich.qld.gov.au





Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich QLD 4305,
Australia

Phone (07) 3810 6666
council@ipswich.qld.gov.au
ipswich.qld.gov.au

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