

PEEL REGIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY - SURVEY ANALYSIS REPORT

1. Purpose

The purpose of the recent survey in the Peel Region was to gain an understanding of current trends in trail use, trail user groups, individuals trail preferences and feedback on what are considered to be prospective trail locations. The information gathered is informing the MCA currently underway, the results presented here provide a quick snap shot of survey responses.

2. Approach and distribution

The survey period was for three weeks 03/05/2018 – 27/05/2018. The survey was promoted through a variety of mediums including; websites, social media, newsletters, newspaper and word of mouth.

Table 1 Number of responses to the survey over 3 week period

Week 1 responses	595
Week 2 responses	124
Week 3 responses	42
Total responses	761

3. Community Profile

The region of Peel encompasses Local Government areas: City of Mandurah, Shire of Boddington, Shire of Murray, Shire of Serpentine and Jarrahdale, and Shire of Waroona. The percentage of respondents that lived in the Peel Region was 44.6% off all surveyed individuals.

The largest response was from the age group 35-44yrs (212), followed closely by 45-54yrs (191), and 25-34yrs (141)

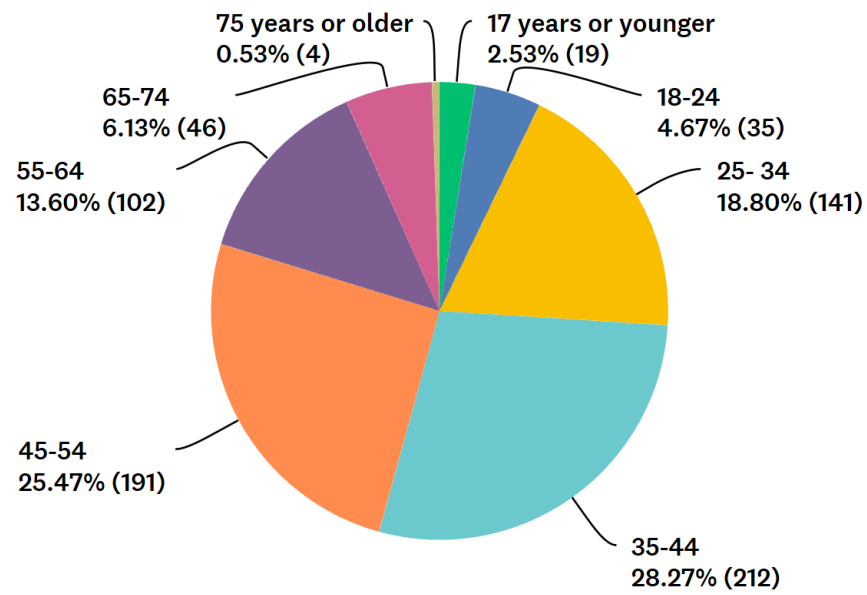


Figure 1 How old are you?

Respondents were asked how they explored the trails of the Peel Region. The predominant method of exploration is on foot; walking and hiking (318). Trail Bike riding is the second most popular method of exploring the trails (303), and both 4WD and Mountain Biking indicated 259 of the 761 individuals participated in trail exploration by these means.

Respondents could select multiple methods of exploring trails, providing a clear indication that the cohort are multiple disciplinary users.

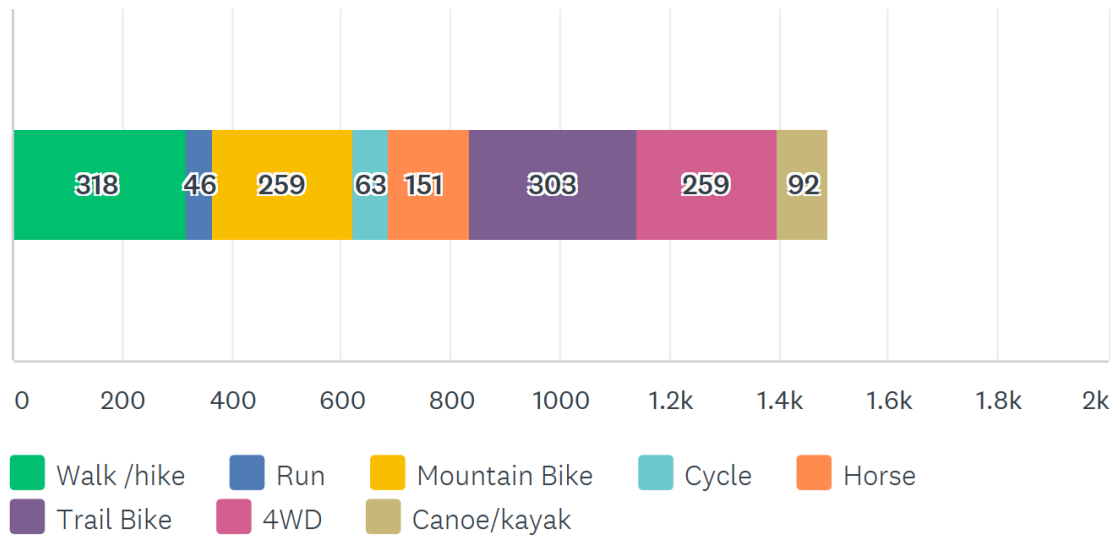


Figure 2 How do you explore trails in the Peel Region?

Trail Bike riding was a clear preferred recreation type from the sample group (38.75%). Followed by Mountain Biking (19.84%), Horse Riding (18.91%), Walk/Hiking (15.98%) and 4WD (15.45%). These statistics indicate that although walking is a popular pastime for the participants as indicated in Figure 2, it may not be the favoured method of recreating. Walking and hiking trails may be a more accessible method of recreation than other trail types.

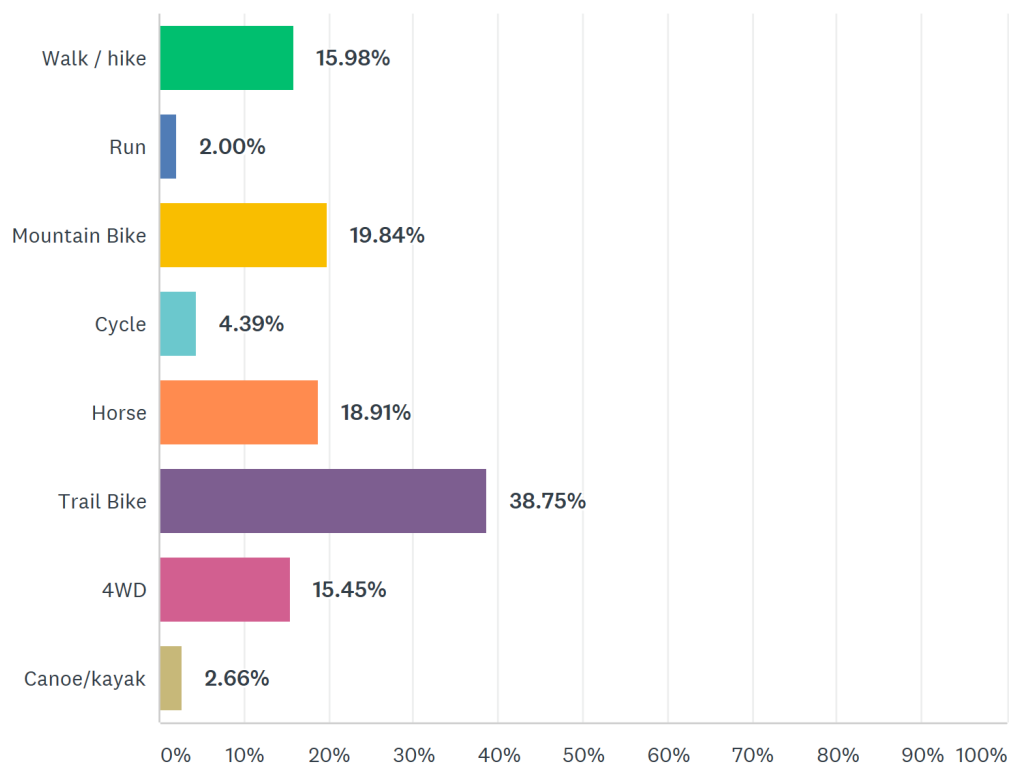


Figure 3 What is your preferred recreation type?

Of the respondents 6% rated their ability at their preferred recreation type as Beginner, 44% rated their ability as Intermediate and 50% rated their ability as Advanced.

Table 2 Percentage of respondents from the Peel Region per activity

	Total Response	No. from Peel Region	%
Walk/Hike	120	79	66 %
Run	15	6	40 %
MTB	149	60	40.3 %
Cycle	31	15	48.4 %
Horse	140	98	70 %
Trail Bike	289	91	31 %
4WD	115	34	30 %
Canoe/Kayak	20	9	45 %

With the ability to make multiple selections, the majority of the group (57%) explored the trails in small groups (less than 6 people). Another common method of exploring the trails was with a friend or partner (54%). Solo use was common with 32%, organised club or social groups 23%, larger groups (over 6 people) 15%, and less than 1% accessed trails via an organised tour. 38 additional comments were left, with the predominant key words “Family” and “Kids/Children”.

A significant volume of people were associated with a trail group or club. 35% were members of an official club or association, 38% were part of a social media trails group and 39% were not a member of a group associated with trails. 3 individuals skipped the question, therefore almost 60% of people were a member of a group or club associated with trails.

Over 60% of the sample group selected word of mouth as the most common method of finding out about trails, 44% follow a trail related social media page or group, and a high proportion of the sample group utilise the Trails WA website.

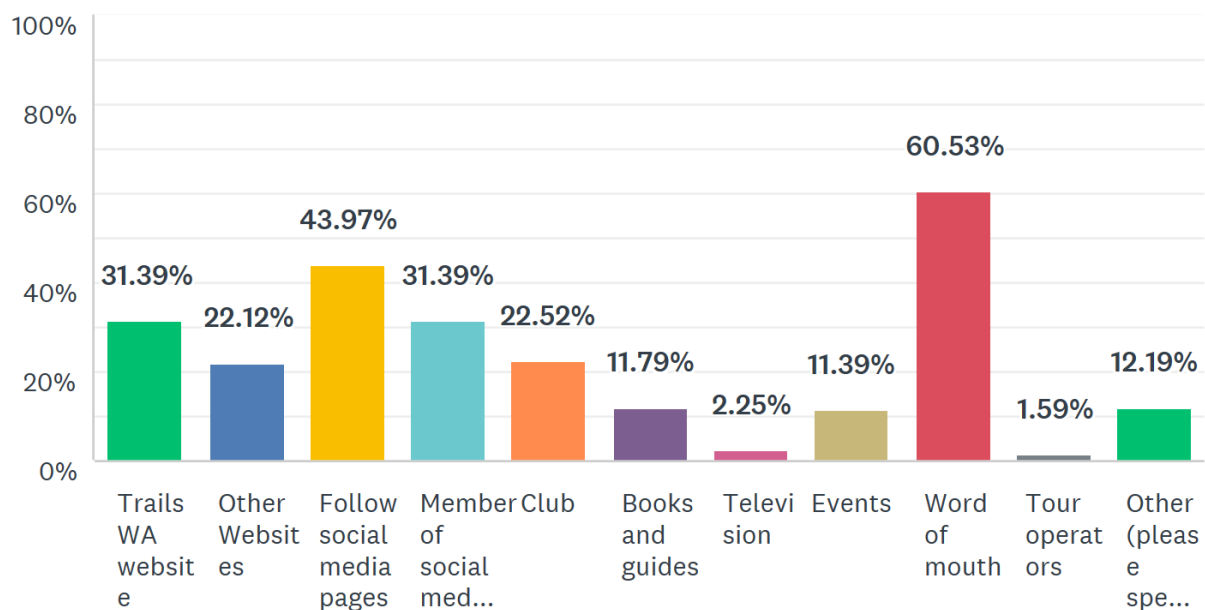


Figure 4 How do you find out about trails, facilities and events?

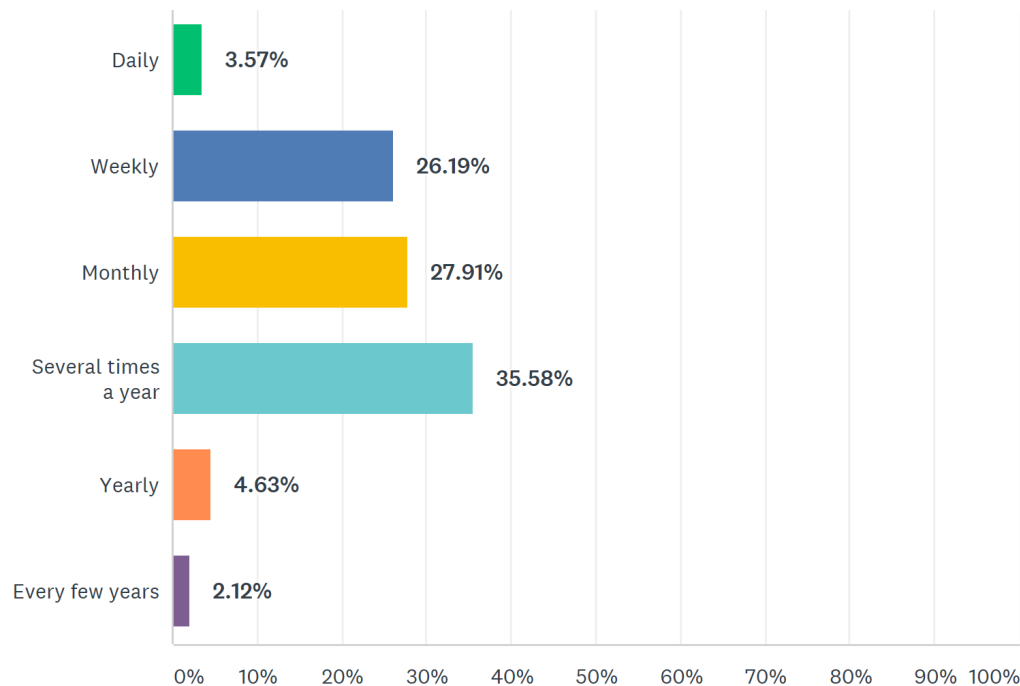


Figure 5 In any year, on average, how often do you visit the trails in the Peel Region?

The majority of people access trails in the Peel Region several times a year, monthly and weekly. A small percentage of people access the trails daily (27 people, 3.57%), and a small percentage access them yearly or every few years.

47% of people spend between 2-4 hrs on the trail that they are utilising, whereas 33% spend the whole day on the trail (>4hrs). 13% spend less than 2hrs, and in contrast 5% will stay overnight on a trail. 3% specified they like to go on multiple day trips on the trails.

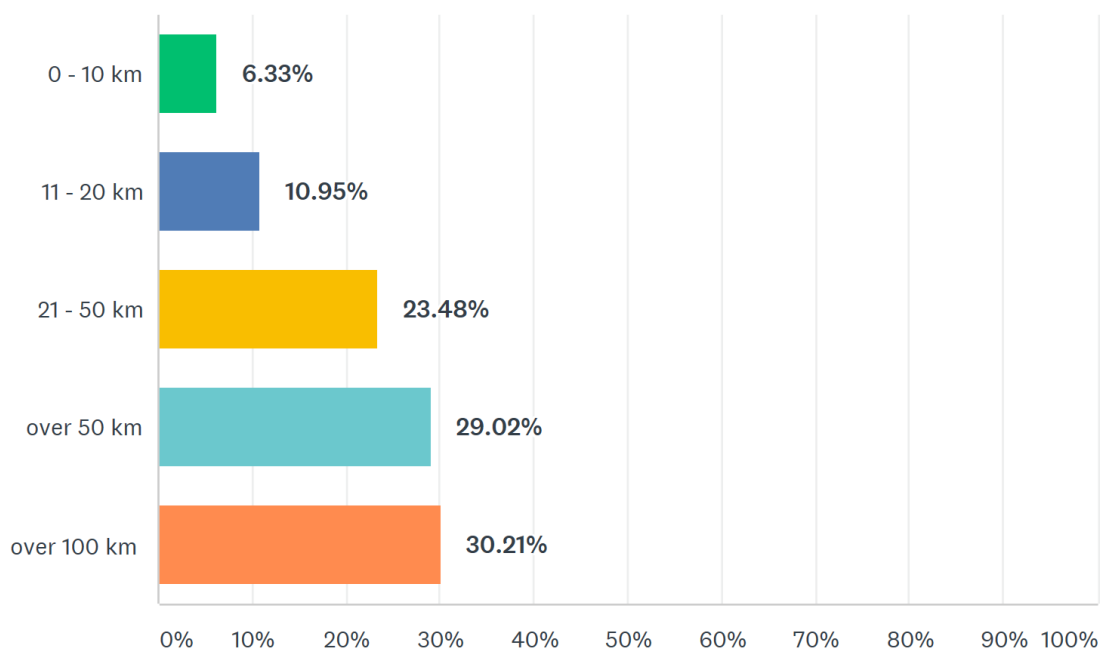



Figure 6 How far would you travel to access a trail or reserve/park?

131 people specified that they would not be willing to travel more than 20km to access a trail or reserve, but 627 people are willing to travel over 20km, with over 30% of the sample group willing to travel over 100km.

Table 3 If staying overnight, what type of accommodation options do you prefer to use?(Please select top 3)

Most Preferred  Least Preferred	Defined basic camp site (toilet, tables, fire pits)
	Wild, undeveloped camping (no facilities)
	Formal camping ground (with toilet/showers, camp kitchen, BBQs)
	Basic roofed accommodation (with toilet, e.g. Bibbulmun Track Shelters)
	Basic cabin accommodation
	Town based accommodation (e.g. hotel, motel, B&B, self-contained)
	Luxury trail based accommodation
	Other (responses: friends property, horse float friendly, do not stay overnight)
	Town based accommodation (Backpackers)

The 3 main reasons for spending time on the trails in the Peel Region were Exercise/fitness, Time with friends and family and Being in nature.

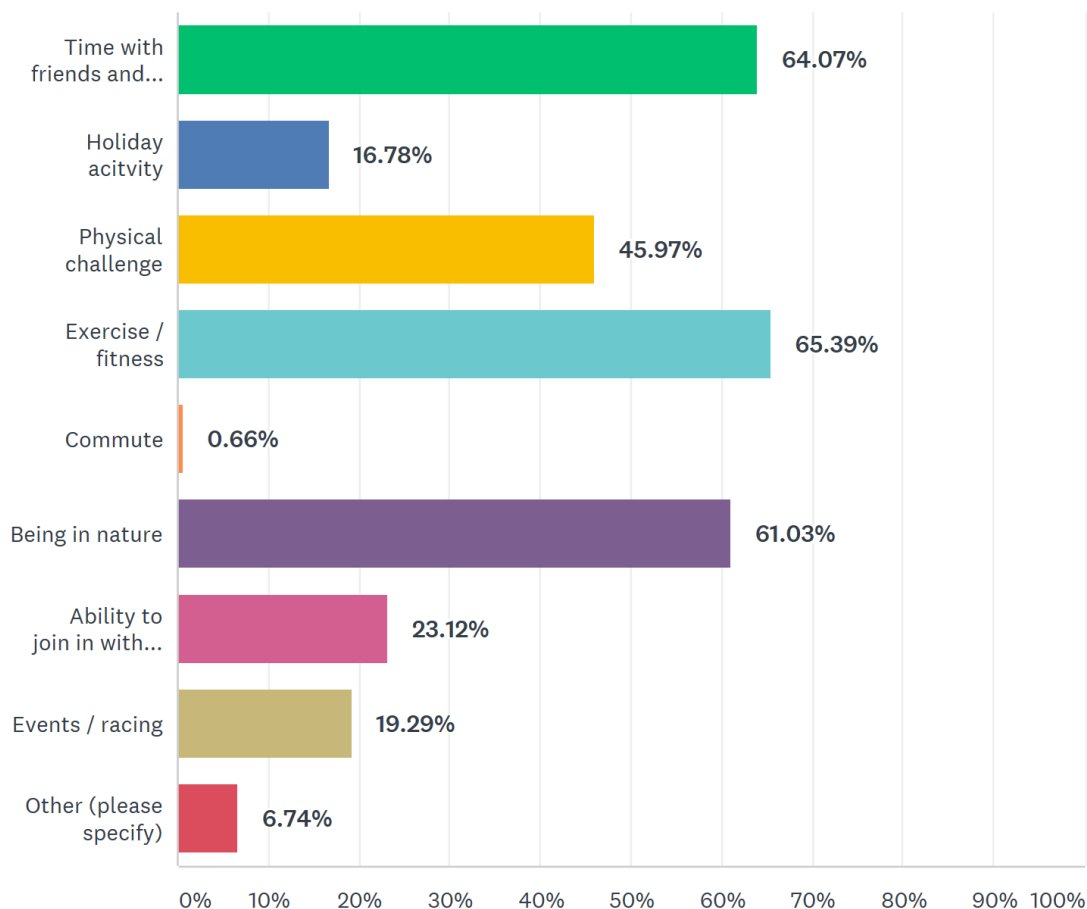


Figure 7 What are the main reasons you use trails ?(Please select top 3)

There was a very distinct preference in trail experience with over 95% of trail users seeking a Forest/Bush experience.

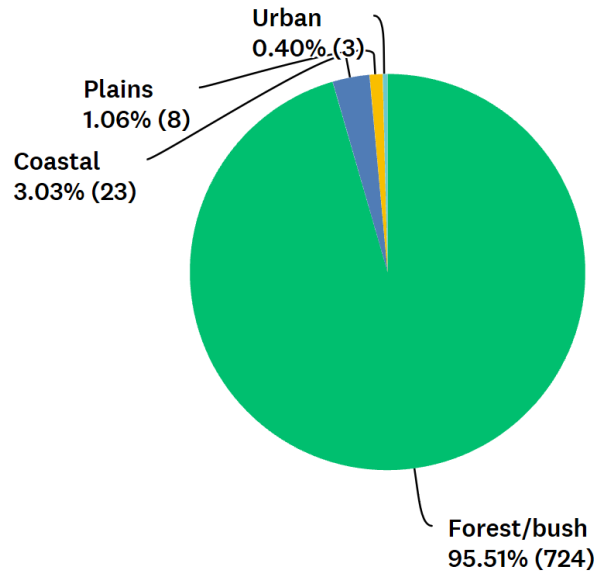


Figure 8 What trail experience are you seeking ?(Please select only one)

When asked to name the top 3 trails/areas that the respondents used most the top 3 responses were:

- 1. Dwellingup**
- 2. Jarrahdale**
- 3. Serpentine**

There were also a large amount of responses panning the region. Through a text analysis the prominent words used were:

Forest Point Waroona North Dandalup Serpentine Blue Rock
 Langford Park Nanga Track Byford Turner Hill
 Pinjarra Jarrahdale Mandurah Dwellingup
 Boddington Trail Gorge Darling Downs Metro Road
 Marrinup Thicket Munda Biddi Lane Poole Reserve Harvey
 Scarp Road Jarradale

4. Key feedback on existing facilities:

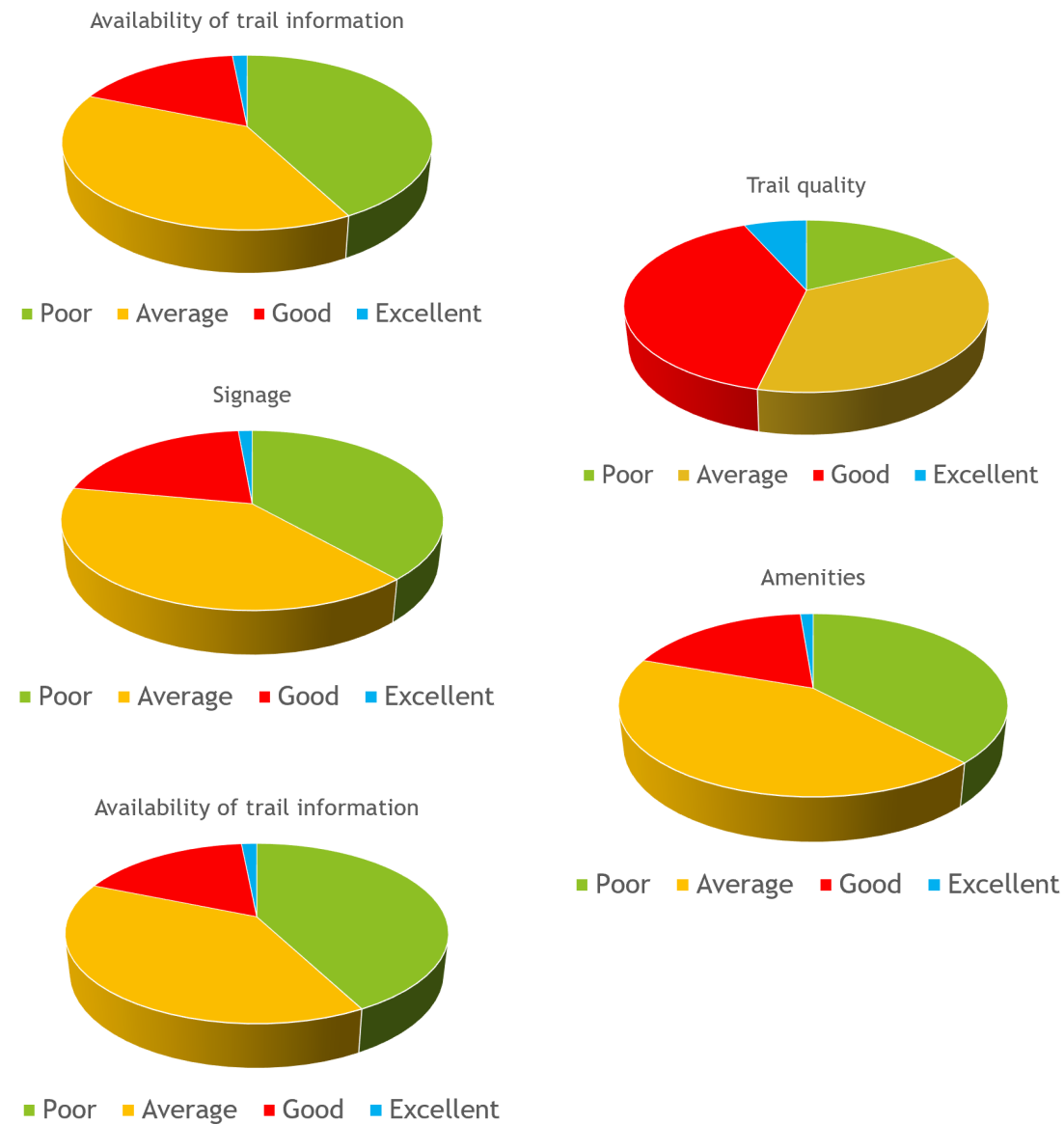


Figure 9 How do you rate the quality of trail related facilities in the Peel Region ?

The survey results show that very few respondents believe that the trail facilities in Peel are excellent. The majority of respondents believe that the trail facilities in the Peel Region are average.

Table 4 How do you rate the quality of trail related facilities in the Peel Region ?

	POOR	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Trail quality	17.96% 130	35.64% 258	39.78% 288	6.63% 48
Parking	24.96% 176	43.40% 306	28.23% 199	3.40% 24
Signage	38.48% 274	39.47% 281	20.65% 147	1.40% 10
Amenities	38.03% 270	42.39% 301	18.31% 130	1.27% 9
Availability of trail information	42.30% 302	38.94% 278	17.23% 123	1.54% 11

5. General comments

There were 409 written responses when asked if the survey group had any general comments on the trails or facilities in the Peel Region.

The responses included a lot of informative information about individual's specific preferences for the Peel Region. There were common themes around linking existing facilities, security, access to water catchments, more signage, more online information, increased parking for horse floats, inclusion of cycle lanes on roads, increased camping facilities for larger groups (school groups), and the most common request was for more trails.

When asked if the respondents would like to be kept informed on the outcomes of the Peel Regional Trails Strategy, 269 individuals provided an email address.