

# **Extract from SaveTheMaryRiver Social Impact Assessment Study**

## ***Appendix 3 Data from Community Values Workshops***

### **SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Following discussions with the consultant appointed by QWIPL to conduct the SIA for the EIS and concerns raised by community members following the initial SIA workshops, the STMRCG wrote to Mr G Newton, CEO of QWIPL on 7<sup>th</sup> June outlining its view of an appropriate process for the SIA .

At the Kandanga workshop convened by the QWI consultant, in response to a direct question, it was apparent that the SIA process was not going to adequately cover assessment of community values that existed prior to the Queensland Government's announcement on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and how those values had been subsequently impacted. In order for the community to have a voice on this very important matter, STMRCG decided to hold a series of community meetings to gather the all important baseline information. Subsequently, public meetings were held in Kenilworth, Imbil, Kandanga, Ridgewood, and Maryborough with an independent facilitator to seek community assistance in compiling the required information.

The information collected at those meetings and information from twenty eight written submissions informed a list of things that the community feels reasonably or very strongly about and the extent to which those beliefs and values existed prior to the announcement (the baseline position) and the extent to which those beliefs and values have been impacted by the decisions and behaviour of Queensland Government politicians and officials.

Table 1 lists the thirty main points and the assessments.

In addition, following the announcement that STMR would conduct the public meetings mentioned above, and prior to and subsequent to those meetings, many people who were unable to attend personally provided input to allow the listing of "Adverse Impacts"

Table 2 lists the thirty two adverse impacts.

What is clear from the information and data provided by the community is that even though the dam is not approved, the Queensland Government's drive to buy up as many properties as possible that are in the footprint and buffer zone of the combined Stages 1 and 2 of the proposed dam has had major consequences for a very significant number of people.

#### **Recommendation:**

The proponent be required to immediately develop and implement strategies that mitigate the adverse impacts already felt and that with broad community involvement investigates mitigation strategies that would be employed if approval to build the dam is given.

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	<b>Table 1 - THE THINGS THE COMMUNITY FEELS REASONABLY OR VERY STRONGLY ABOUT</b>		
1	Freedom to plan for a healthy, sustainable, and enjoyable lifestyle <i>Up until the announcement, this freedom was pretty much "situation normal", now it most certainly is not.</i>	5	3
2	Right to participate in community development and governance <i>Where true consultation is always expected this has not turned out to be the case</i>	4	2
3	Government policies that protect the environment will be proclaimed and implemented	5	2
4	Opportunity to sell a property on the open market <i>Queensland government "standing in the market" is artificially setting prices</i>	5	2
5	If I own or am successfully paying off my property, nobody can take it from me <i>Many people are highly cynical of being able to retain their property and/or receiving fair treatment regarding government acquisition</i>	5	0
6	If my property is compulsorily acquired I will receive compensation that will allow me to replace it on a like for like basis.		2
7	Citizens and governments have rights and responsibilities	4	5
8	Government leaders and senior public officials are trustworthy <i>The treatment of communities by the Queensland Government has destroyed faith in almost any government statement or activity</i>	4	1
9	Strong, honest, democratic and consultative government and government processes are in place	3	1
10	Infrastructure that results in increased flooding risk would not be approved	4	0
11	We do not expect to be bullied, manipulated or disempowered by government	4	0
12	Deceased friends and relatives should be allowed to rest in peace <i>Any consideration of significant changes to a community cemetery before a dam is approved is intolerable to family and friends of deceased</i>	5	5
13	Resilience of the "pre-dam" community (willingness to persevere in the face of adversity) <i>Some have moved away from the area but the fighting spirit of those that remain is stronger than ever</i>	5	3
14	Openness and honesty between community members <i>In many cases, a reduced willingness to discuss personal plans for the future</i>	4	2
15	Self supporting family units and friends <i>Shared workload and resources creating viable rural enterprises. E.g. Cattle work, farm maintenance, etc</i>	4	2
16	Strong friendship networks <i>Enjoyment of social and support aspects of life with long term local friends</i>	4	2
17	Condition, maintenance, appearance and productivity of property	4	2
18	Focus on local community and environment <i>Support for and active participation in local activities e.g. sporting, fund raising, land care, social &amp; family event. The belief is now even stronger for those who remained but overall activity has decreased</i>	5	3
19	Preservation of heritage and historical values <i>Sense of personal identity with and understanding of local community development. "Where I fit in, in the overall scheme of things".</i>	4	5
20	Contentment and well being are more important than large incomes <i>A high proportion of people who live here do so because they choose to for quality of life issues.</i>	5	5

2 1	Safe and friendly community for the benefit of all and in particular children and the aged <i>The changing demographic due to a disproportionate high number of renters has eroded the sense of personal and property safety.</i>	5 3
2 2	Neighbours helping neighbours <i>Fragmentation and upheaval of community has resulted in loss of personal relationships and trust .e.g.Rural support network, Neighbourhood Watch etc.</i>	4 2
2 3	Opportunity to pass property down to future generations	5 2
2 4	Ability to plan for the future with relative confidence <i>For lots of people this is impossible in the current environment</i>	5 0
2 5	Importance of sustainable water resources <i>Critical to ongoing rural pursuits and already over allocated</i>	4 5
2 6	Importance of preservation of natural beauty and habitat for iconic species for the benefit of future generations	4 5
2 7	Prime agricultural land should be reserved for sustainable agricultural production <i>Destruction of nurtured land in the footprint and downstream due to unreliable water supply is devastating to rural people.</i>	4 5
2 8	Degree of certainty about ongoing income prospects	4 2
2 9	Active and passionate caring for river and surrounding environment and iconic species <i>But difficult to invest personal time and resources</i>	3 5
3 0	Sustainability requires caring for and getting the best from the land	3 4

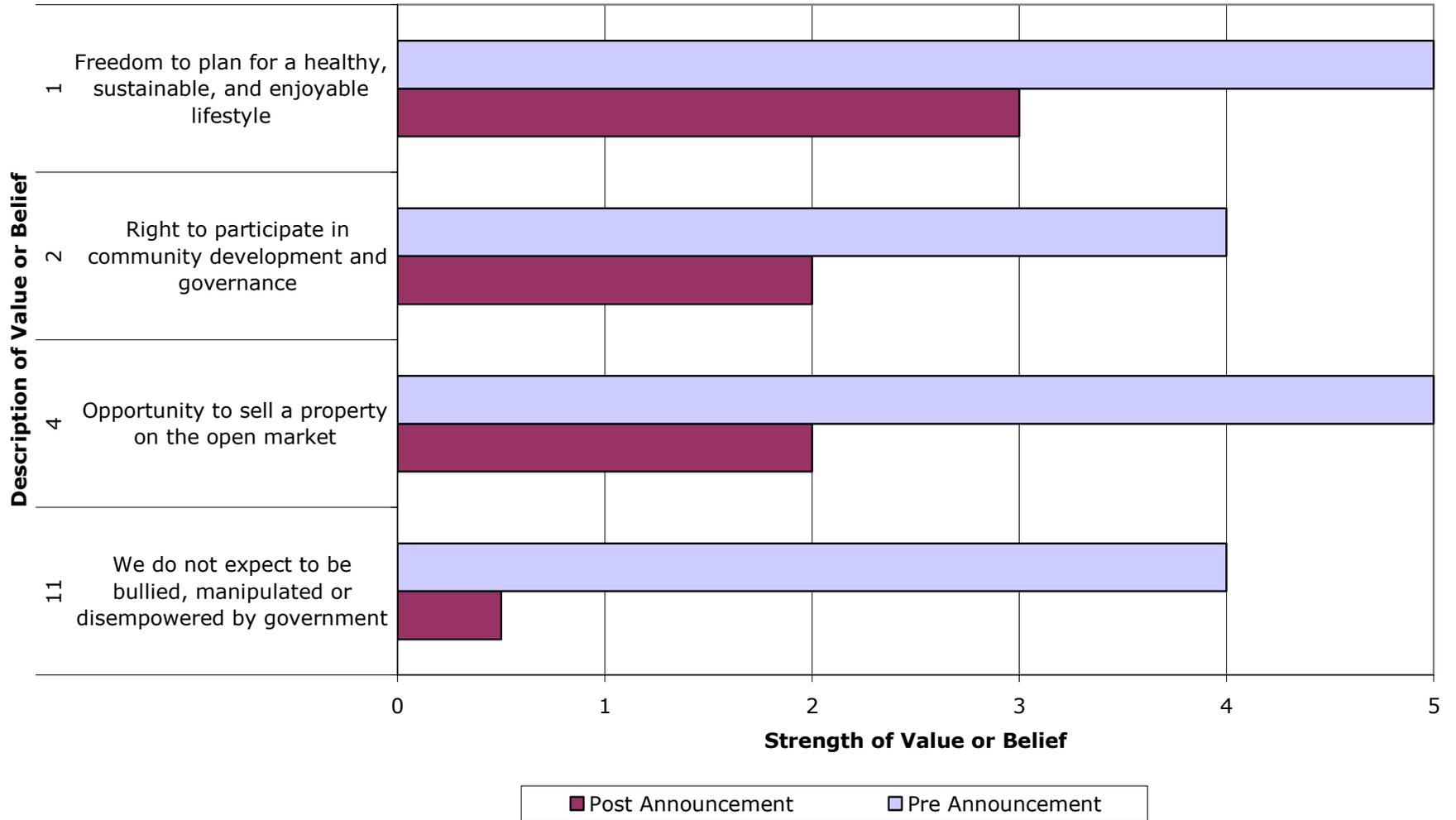
PAS - Pre-Announcement Situation - The extent to which this existed or was likely to have existed prior to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

CS - Current Situation - The extent to which this exists as at August 2007 or is perceived likely to exist in the future.

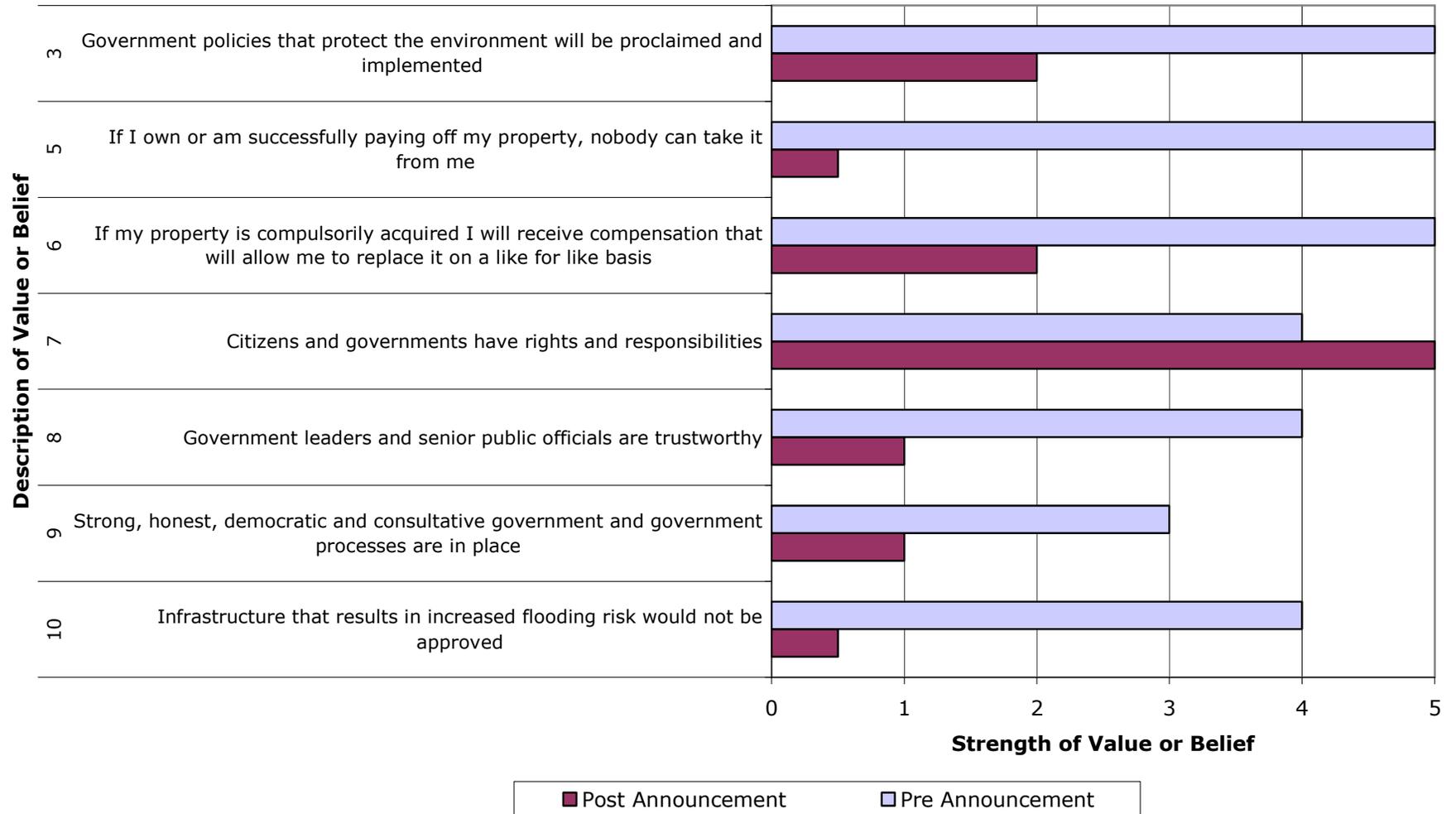
**Table 2 - REPORTED ADVERSE IMPACTS SINCE 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006**

Significantly increased levels of stress, anxiety, depression, sleep loss, loneliness and the need for medication to control
People traumatised by seeing others grief and loss
Loss of sense of safety
Medical practitioners and Lifeline counsellors report substantial increase in depression
Anger due to missing and/or misleading information from government
Social dislocation, damaged & broken relationships, and loss of friendships
Confusion and uncertainty for people outside the dam footprint
Disintegration of social networks
Frustration due to a belief that since the dam is absolutely not viable, “something else is going on”
Frustration that government states that people outside the dam footprint are “not affected”
Fewer owners more renters - long term friendships terminated
Lack of maintenance on empty and rented properties impacting on quality of adjoining farm land
Increased family violence
Declining incomes and increased unemployment
Concerns regarding long term financial position
Property values outside dam footprint are reduced
Concern that “leaseback’ agreements may not be secure.
Loss of opportunity for improvement
Businesses declining and closing and loss of future livelihood opportunities
Sense of disempowerment
Guilty feelings resulting from expressions of anger and hatred from adults and more importantly, children
Deterioration of behaviour at schools resulting from impacts on adults
Decreasing optimism and increasing pessimism
Threat of a dam dominates all conversations and takes its toll on most enjoyment activities
Lack of ambition
Loss of quality of life - recreation, relaxation, ambience, participation
Shattered dreams and uncertainty about the future
Reduced community participation
Fear of flooding leading to isolation and possible death due to lack of access to essential services
Lack of recognition of impacts on upstream and downstream communities
Great uncertainty regarding properties on the “borderline” of the dam footprint - in/out/in/out
Property values preclude replacement of property on a like for like basis

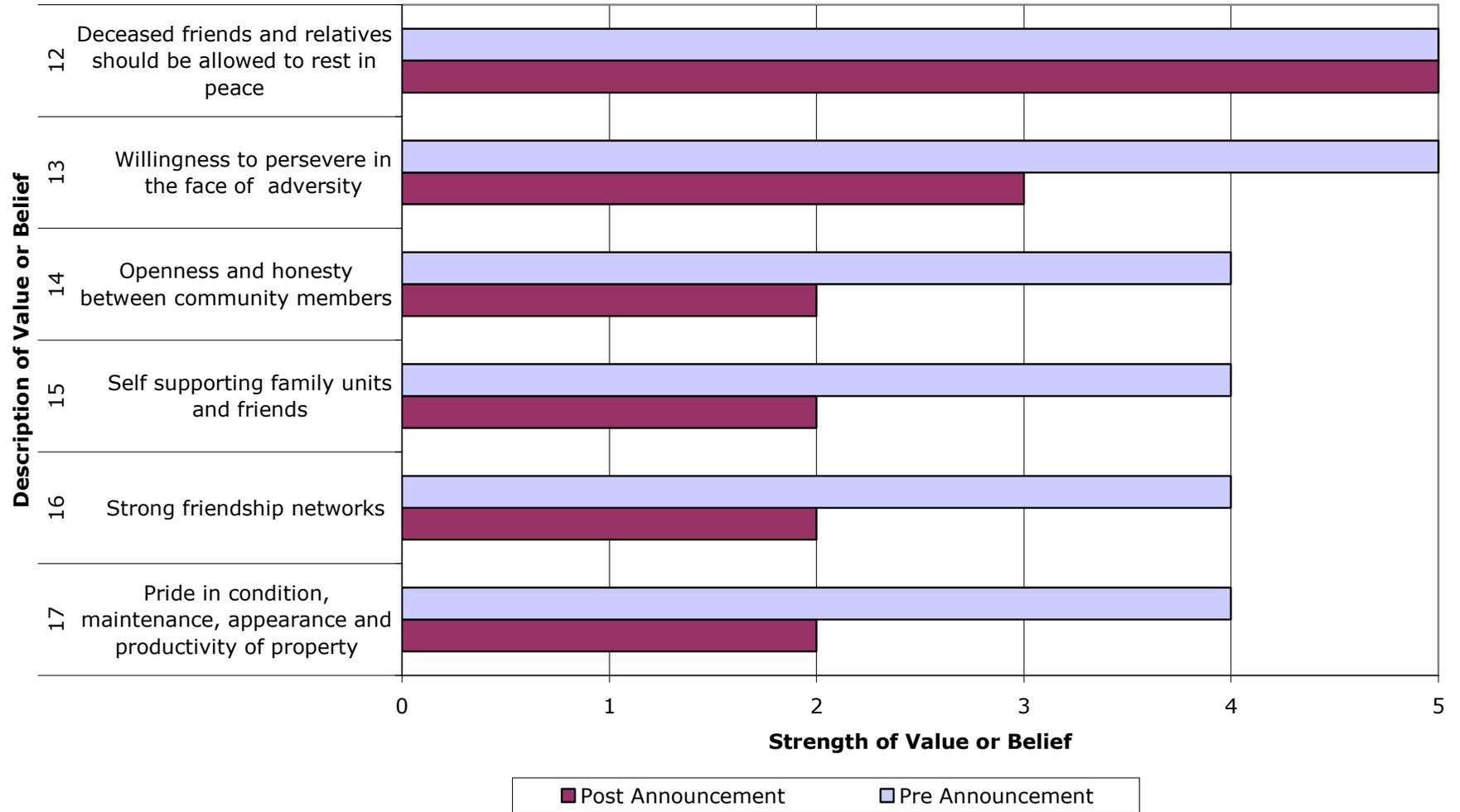
## COMMUNITY VALUES & BELIEFS Democratic Rights



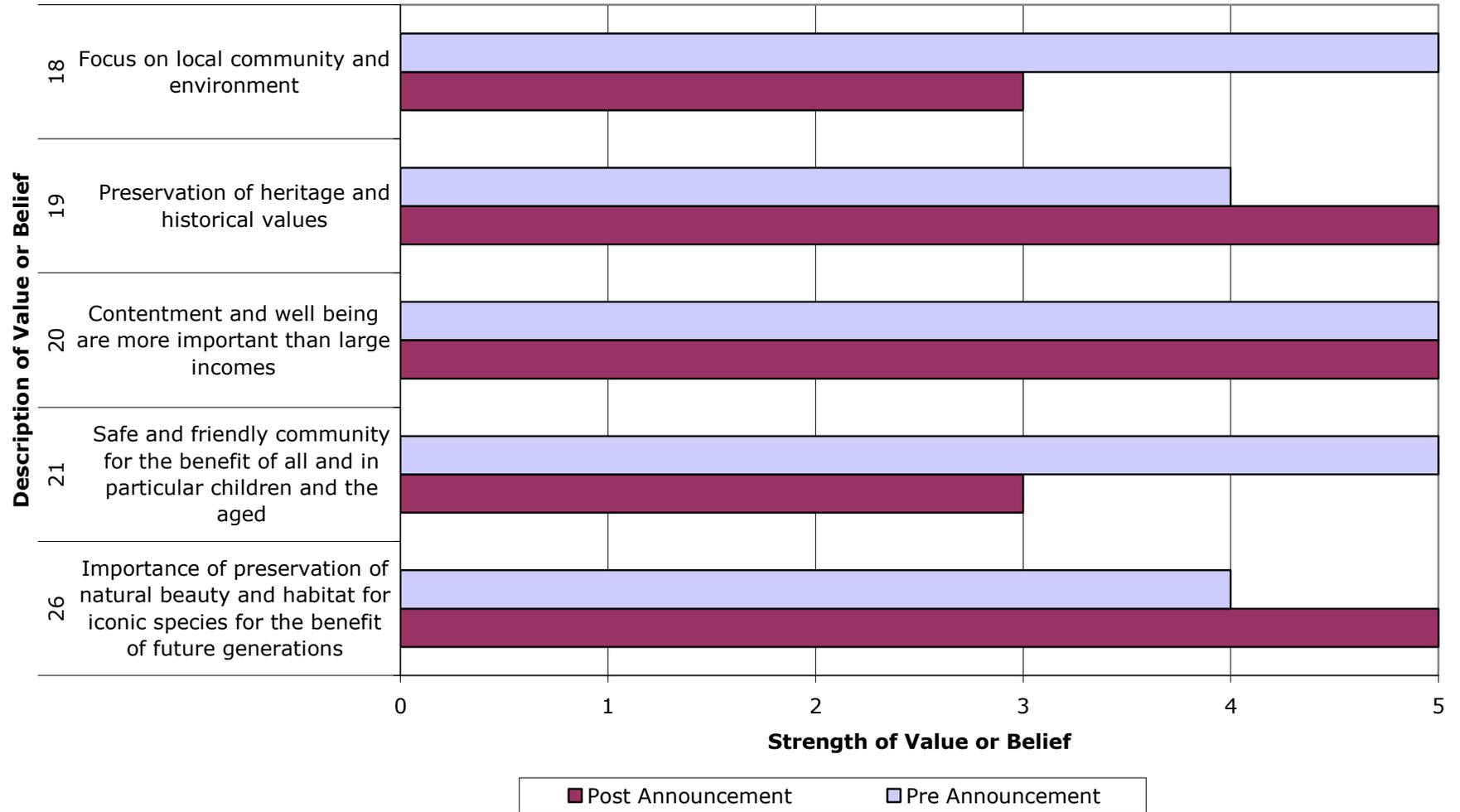
## COMMUNITY VALUES & BELIEFS Trust in Public Sector & Government



**COMMUNITY VALUES & BELIEFS**  
**Individual Values & Social Capital**



**COMMUNITY VALUES & BELIEFS**  
**Lifestyle Characteristics & Community Spirit**



## COMMUNITY VALUES & BELIEFS The Future

