



**MARCH
2023**

PROPERTY CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SURVEY RESULTS

NORTHERN TERRITORY DIVISION

*Prepared by Ruth Palmer | Executive Director, Property Council of
Australia NT Division*



ABOUT THE PROPERTY COUNCIL

The Property Council of Australia is the peak body representing the property industry in the Northern Territory.

The Property Council of Australia champions the industry that employs more than 14,200 Territorians and pays \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries across the Territory.

The Property Council of Australia champions the industry that employs 1.4 million Australians and shapes the future of our communities and cities.

Property Council members invest in, design, build and manage places that matter to Australians:

Our homes, retirement villages, shopping centres, office buildings, industrial areas, education, research and health precincts, tourism and hospitality venues and more.

On behalf of our members, we provide the research and thought leadership to help decision-makers create vibrant communities, great cities and strong economies.

We support smarter planning, better infrastructure, sustainability, and globally competitive investment and tax settings which underpin the contribution our members make to the economic prosperity and social well-being of Australians.

As an industry, we not only have a keen interest, but also a financial investment in the future development of the Northern Territory.

Executive Director
Property Council of Australia - NT Division

Property Crime and anti-social behaviour: Its impacts on life in the Northern Territory.



NORTHERN TERRITORY DIVISION

REPORT METHODOLOGY

SURVEY GENERATOR	DURATION	PREPARED BY
Survey Monkey email link. 18 Questions	Start 21/02/2023 - End 07/03/2022	Property Council of Australia - NT Division

WHY DID THE PROPERTY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA'S NT DIVISION LAUNCH A SURVEY?

We have witnessed over recent times the increase in Commercial Property Crime in the Northern Territory. We know that Territorians are feeling the impact this has on business and the wider community. The December 2022 statistics show that Commercial break-ins have increased across every jurisdiction year on year.

The NT Police December statistics reveal:

- **148% increase in Katherine**
- **48% increase in Darwin**
- **47% increase in Alice Springs**
- **40% increase in Tennant Creek**
- **16% increase in Nhulunbuy**
- **14% increase in Palmerston**

We know this is affecting the place we call home and where we operate our businesses, and that is why we conducted a survey to understand better the effects of property crime and its impact on the lives of those living in the NT.

This has allowed us to gain greater insight into the issue that will assist in the development of appropriate solutions to reduce property crime and antisocial behaviour across the whole of the NT. The survey was anonymous and sent to Property Council members and business across the Territory. We asked that one member of the business complete the survey as to not alter the data, we aimed to keep the data as accurate and clean as possible to avoid any misrepresentation.

Property Crime and anti-social behaviour: Its impacts on life in the Northern Territory.



NORTHERN TERRITORY DIVISION

KEY FINDINGS

Earlier this month, the Property Council of Australia - NT Division conducted a sentiment survey on the impacts of property crime and antisocial behaviour. The survey revealed that property crime, vehicle theft, and violent and threatening behaviour significantly impact businesses in the Northern Territory, with the impacts experienced by businesses and residents. Costs have been incurred through repairs and security measures. The survey was conducted anonymously and sent to Property Council members and businesses across the Territory.

Key findings from the survey indicate that 95% of respondents believe social issues and crime have worsened in the last 12 months, and 53% are considering leaving due to rising property crime. Moreover, 94% of respondents believe that crime impacts population growth, and 96% believe it affects tourism markets. A whopping 75% of respondents had been a victim of property crime, and 39% had a vehicle stolen from the premises. 70% of respondents reported that crime and antisocial behaviour had impacted their decisions to invest in property or acquire new properties.

The finding highlighted the prevalence of antisocial interaction, with 73% of businesses reporting that they were impacted by public drunkenness. Respondents commented on the types of antisocial behaviour they had experienced, including domestic violence, drug smoking, and public indecency.

The survey found 86% of respondents felt that there were not enough police resources to deal with this level of crime, with a staggering 69% of Territorians answering that they do not feel safe.

In response to the survey results, the Property Council presented a 41-page report to the Chief Minister, highlighting the need for collaborative advocacy to identify actions for improved community safety and to protect the Territory's population growth and tourism markets.

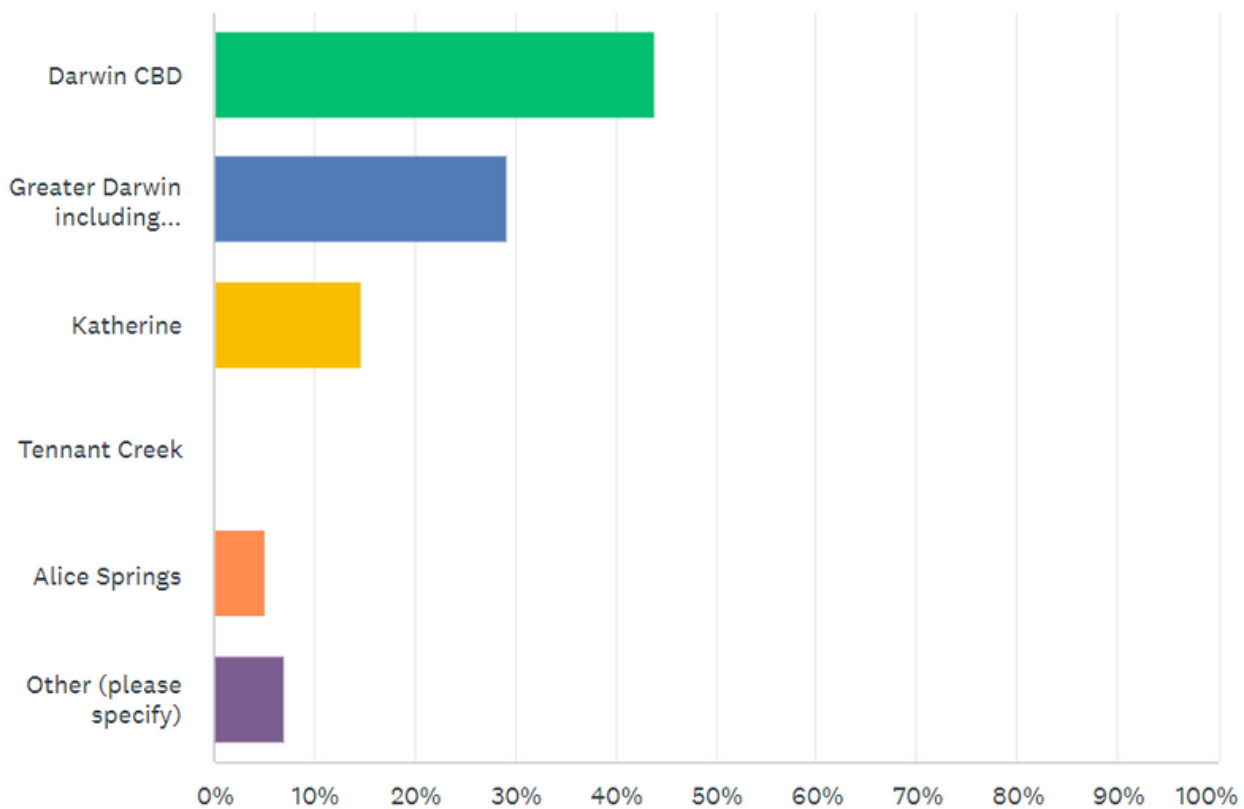
The Chief Minister acknowledged the report and advised that she would go through the data and comments with her colleagues. The findings of the survey highlight the urgent need for the government to take appropriate measures to reduce property crime and antisocial behaviour across the Northern Territory.

Thank you to the many respondents who took the time to participate in our survey. Your valuable insights will help us address the issue of property crime and antisocial behaviour in the Northern Territory. We appreciate your contribution to this important cause, and encourage you to continue to reach out with your stories, and ideas to help support this important advocacy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ruth Palmer'.

Executive Director

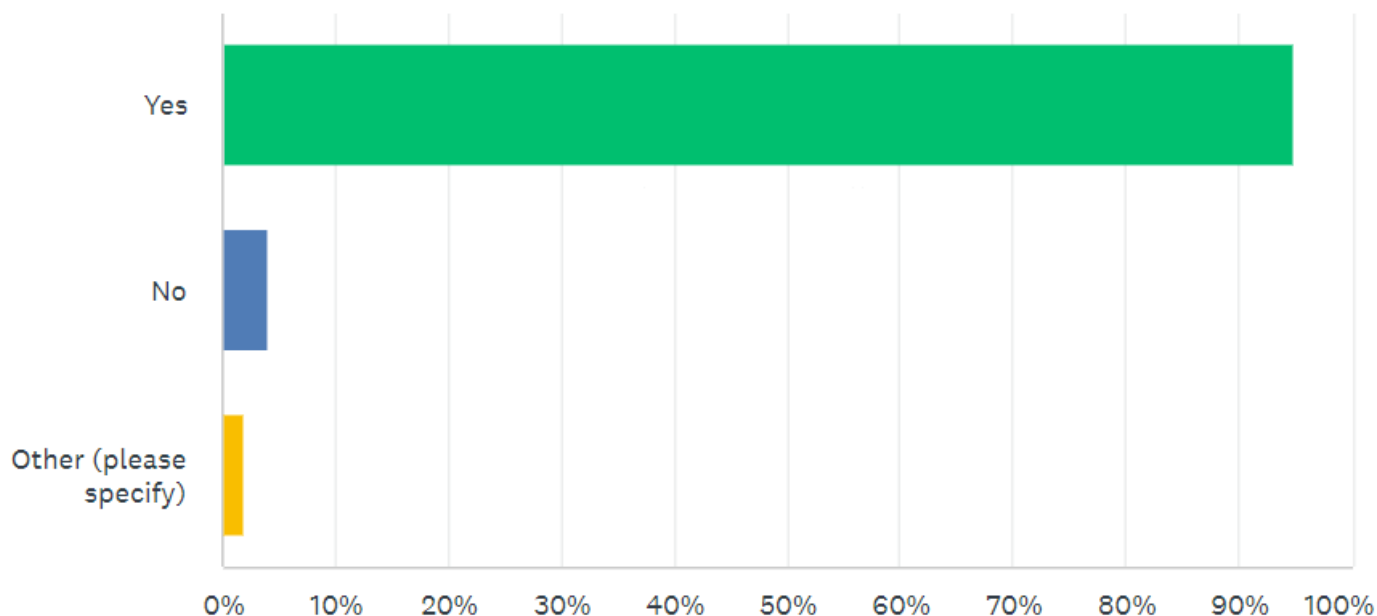
WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS OR PLACE OF WORK LOCATED IN THE TERRITORY?



OTHER

- Northern Suburbs
- Jabiru
- Pine Creek
- Harts Range
- Aboriginal Community
- Jabiru
- Entire NT
- Kalkarindji
- Palmerston CBD
- Casuarina Square and Surrounds
- Multiple businesses, Darwin and Palmerston
- one in each location
- Woolner

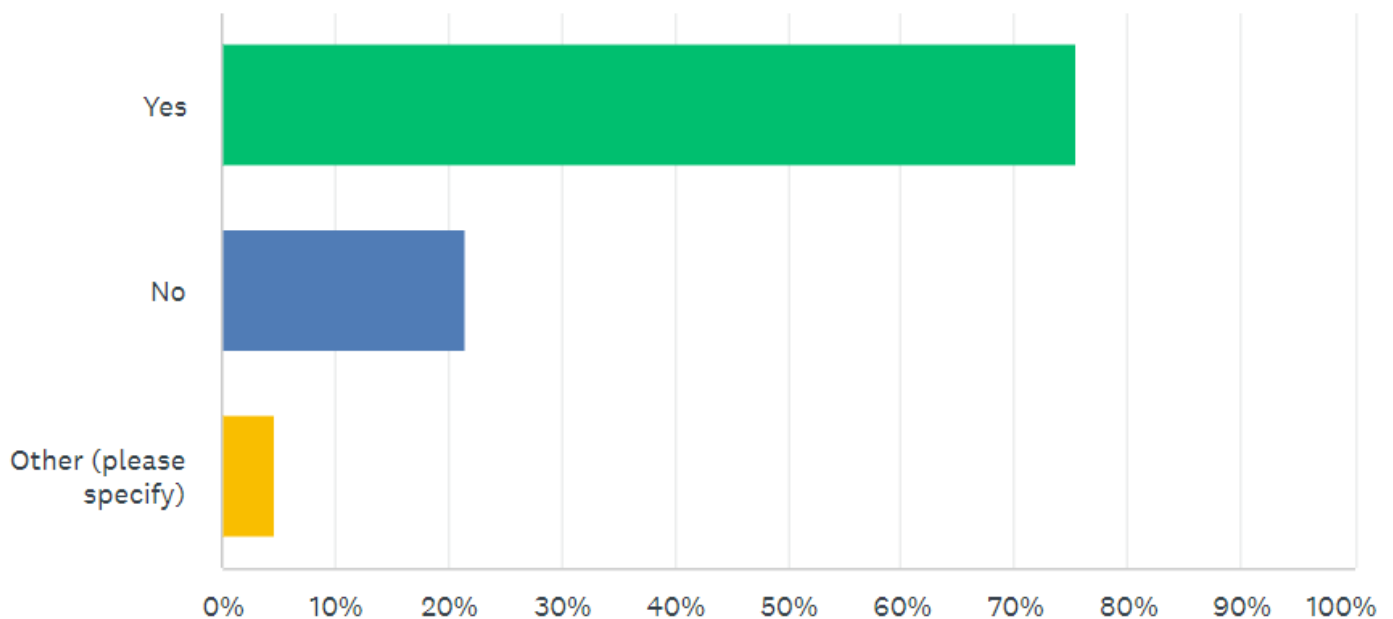
DO YOU BELIEVE SOCIAL ISSUES AND CRIME HAVE WORSENERD OVER THE LAST 6-12 MONTHS?



OTHER

- Media reports. Have not personally experienced crime, although a friend was bag snatched recently in Katherine.
- As bad as 6-12 months ago
- It's increased to the point beyond return. It's too late, the only way is to leave the NT and let it self destruct
- Unsure

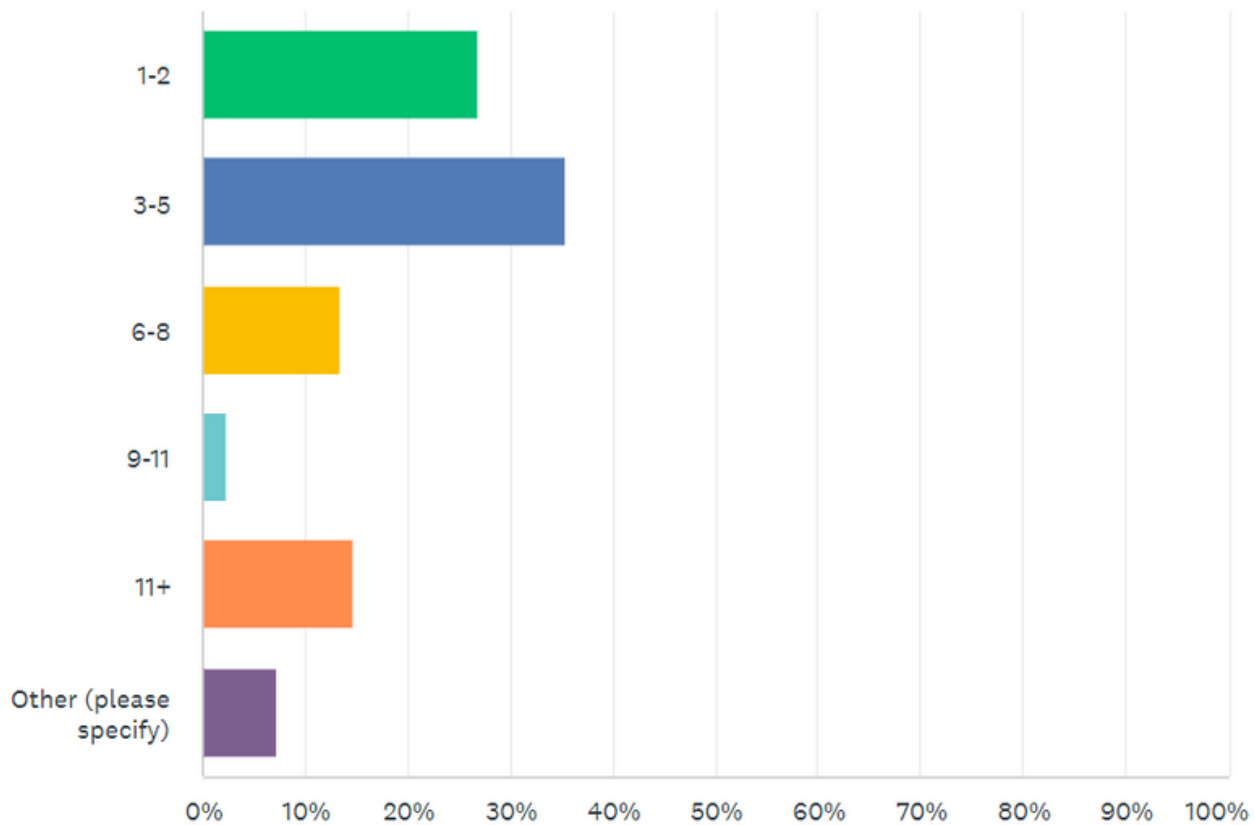
HAS YOUR BUSINESS OR WORK PREMISES BEEN A VICTIM OF PROPERTY CRIME?



OTHER

- Properties I manage are being impacted more frequently
- Golf club has many times
- not crime, just lots of rubbish and people using the area for toilet
- Merchandise theft
- Theft and physical assault
- not that I'm aware of
- Home
- Not crime, but an increase in antisocial behaviours - especially with those individuals experiencing mental health issues.
- No property damage has occurred but staff have been impacted by drunk people coming into the reception area which is both threatening and disruptive to our staff. We also have issues similar people congregating in our car parks which makes people also feel unsafe.

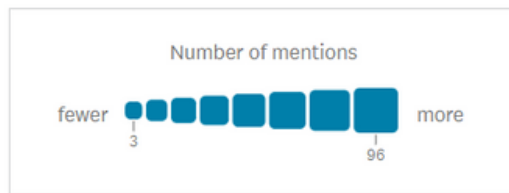
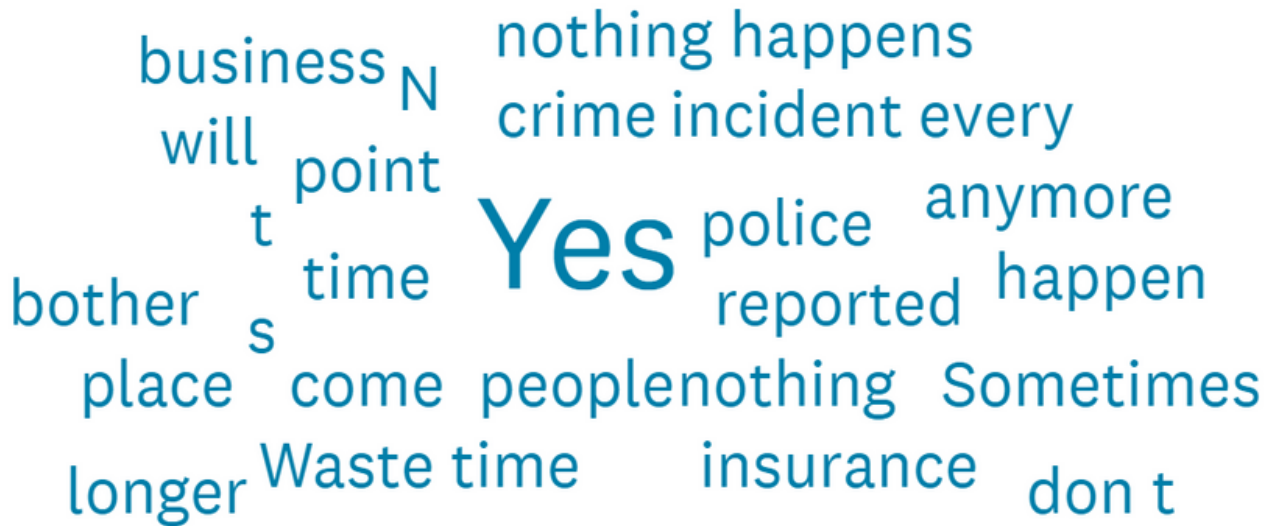
IF YES, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED?



OTHER

- Casuarina Square - every day.
- Small acts weekly, larger acts monthly
- My family's homes in Alice springs. Work places here
- regular vandalism
- Not property crime, but certainly personal crime inflicted on my staff
- too many to list

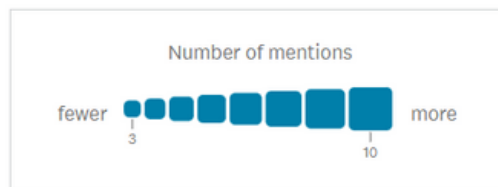
ARE YOU REPORTING THE CRIME? IF NO, WHY?



OTHER

Contact the Property Council NT Division for a full breakdown of the answers to this question

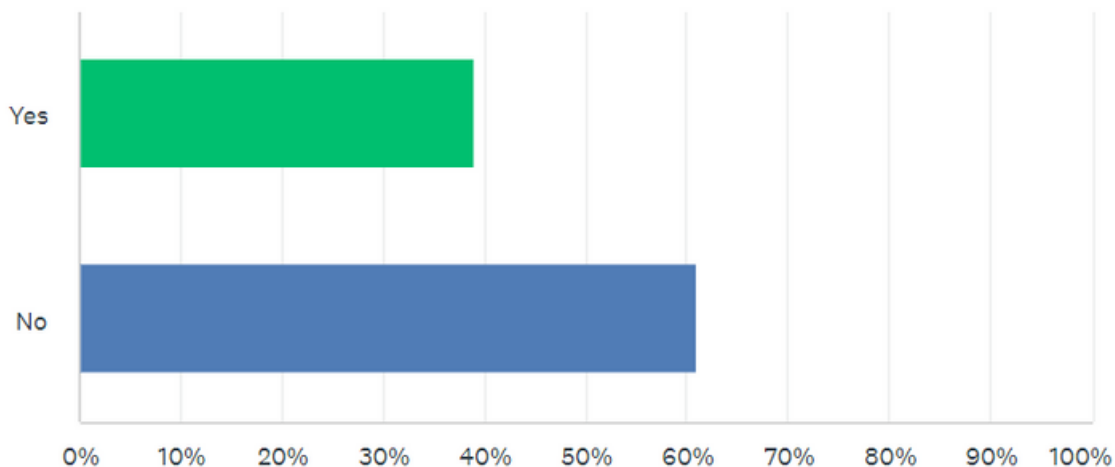
HOW MUCH (APPROX) HAVE YOU SPENT ON REPAIRS OR DAMAGES?



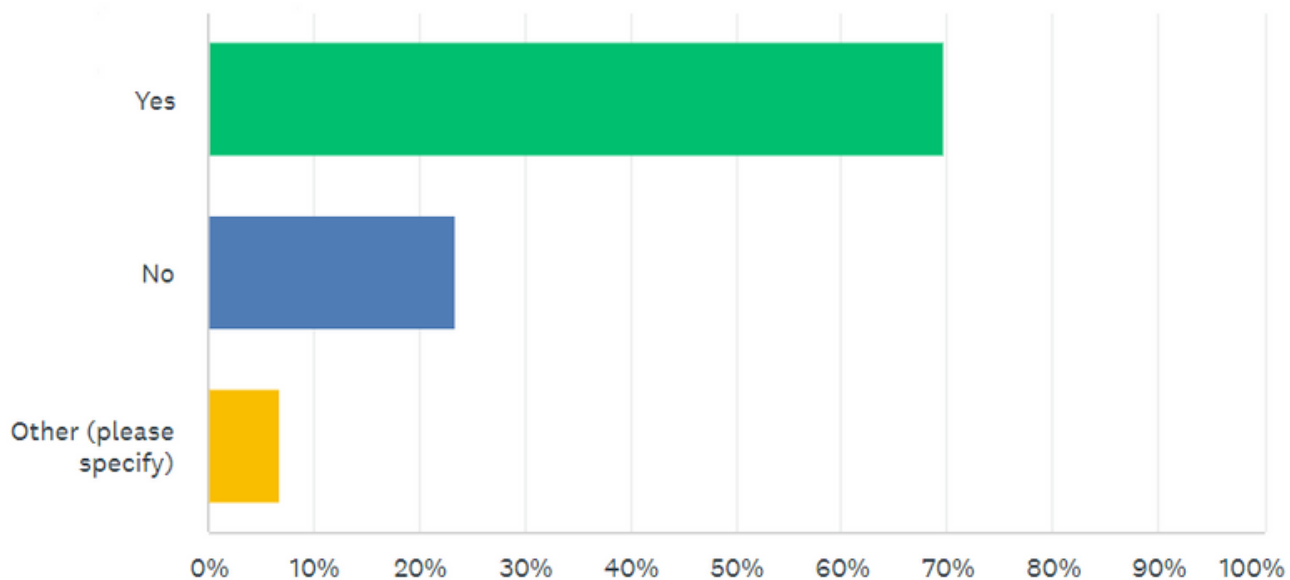
OTHER

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HAVE YOU HAD A VEHICLE STOLEN OR DAMAGED FROM YOUR BUSINESS PREMISES?



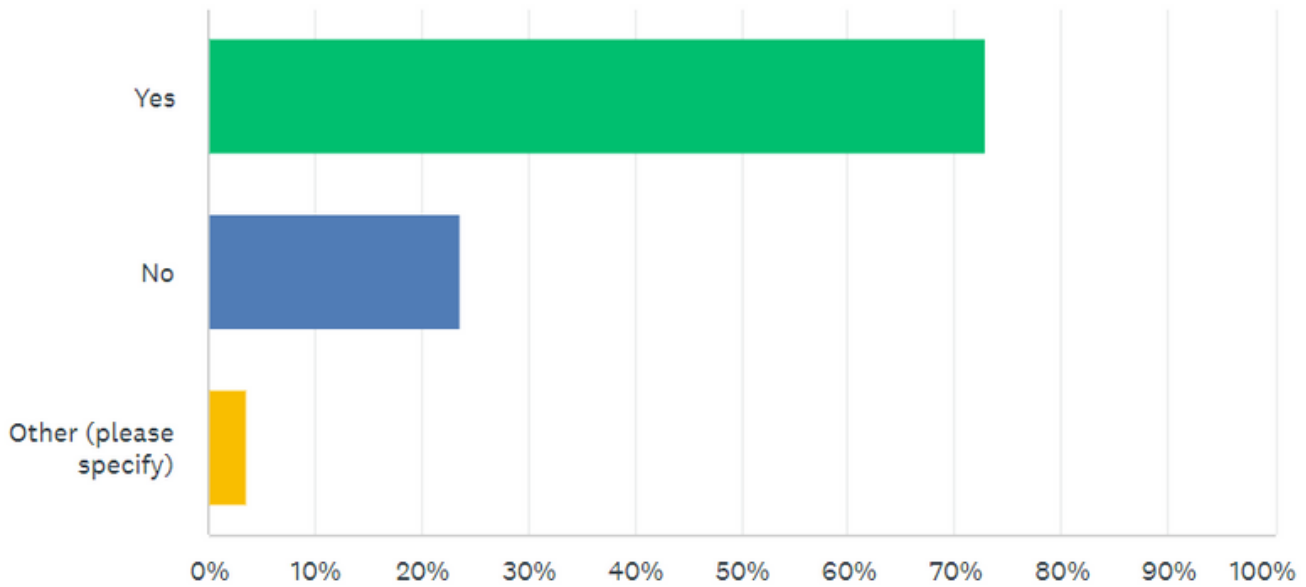
HAS CRIME / ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IMPACTED ON YOUR COMMERCIAL DECISIONS TO FURTHER INVEST IN YOUR PROPERTY (OR ACQUIRE NEW PROPERTIES) OR YOUR TENANCY?



OTHER

- It directly impacts our ability to attract brands to the NT.
- Discourages tenants from leasing in CDB & Casuarina
- I've had to invest more to keep it secure
- No but it's a pending thought
- Increase fencing at home in Pine Creek
- As under Town Council not me personally but hard for National Trust NT and Alice Springs Town Council to keep doing this.
- Makes me unsure of my future in Darwin CBD
- Too scared to renew the lease I have to lock the doors of my florist to protect myself.

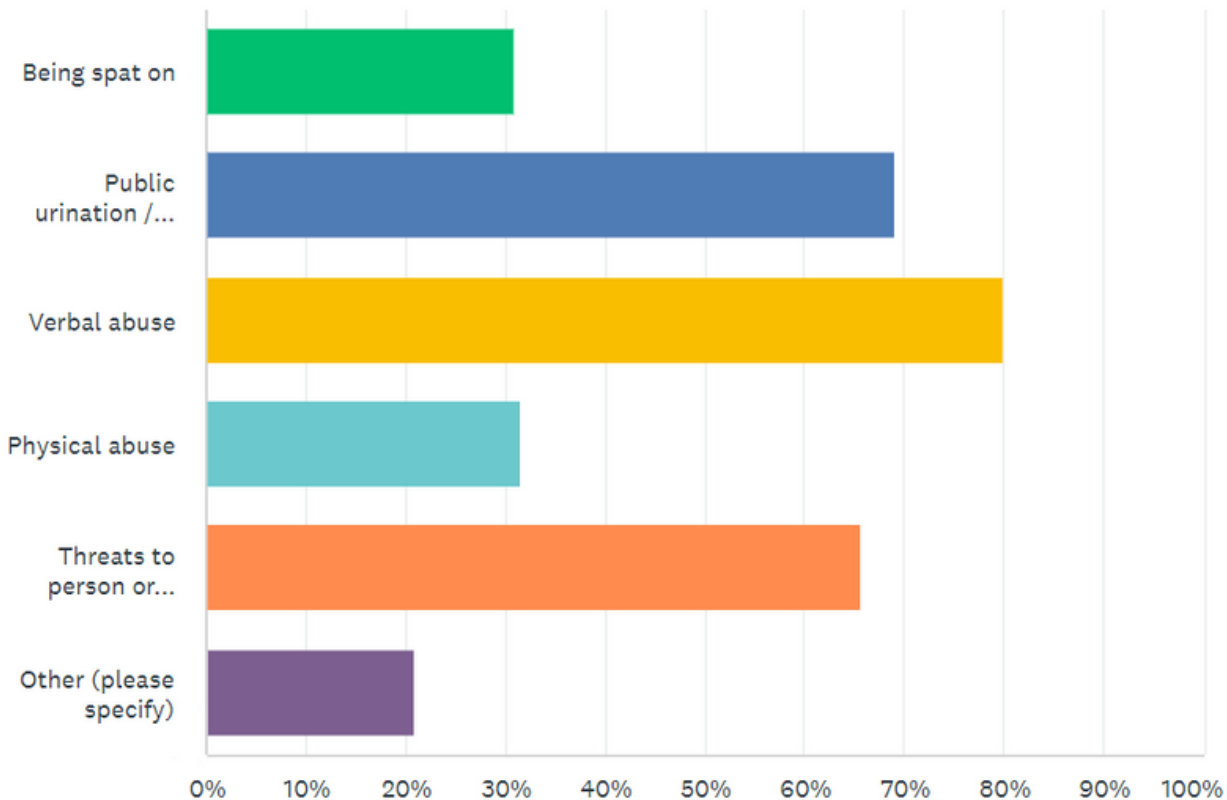
HAS YOUR BUILDING(S) OR YOUR TENANTS' BUSINESSES BEEN COMMERCIALY IMPACTED DUE TO PUBLIC DRINKING AND/OR INTOXICATION?



OTHER

- Don't have a commercial space - the paths & streets are our business space
- Not a commercial property but have been impacted by drunks
- Empty bottles cleaned up almost every day around our premises
- Everyday morning and all day

IF YOU ANSWERED YES, WHAT TYPE OF BEHAVIOUR OCCURRED? YOU MAY CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE OPTION



OTHER

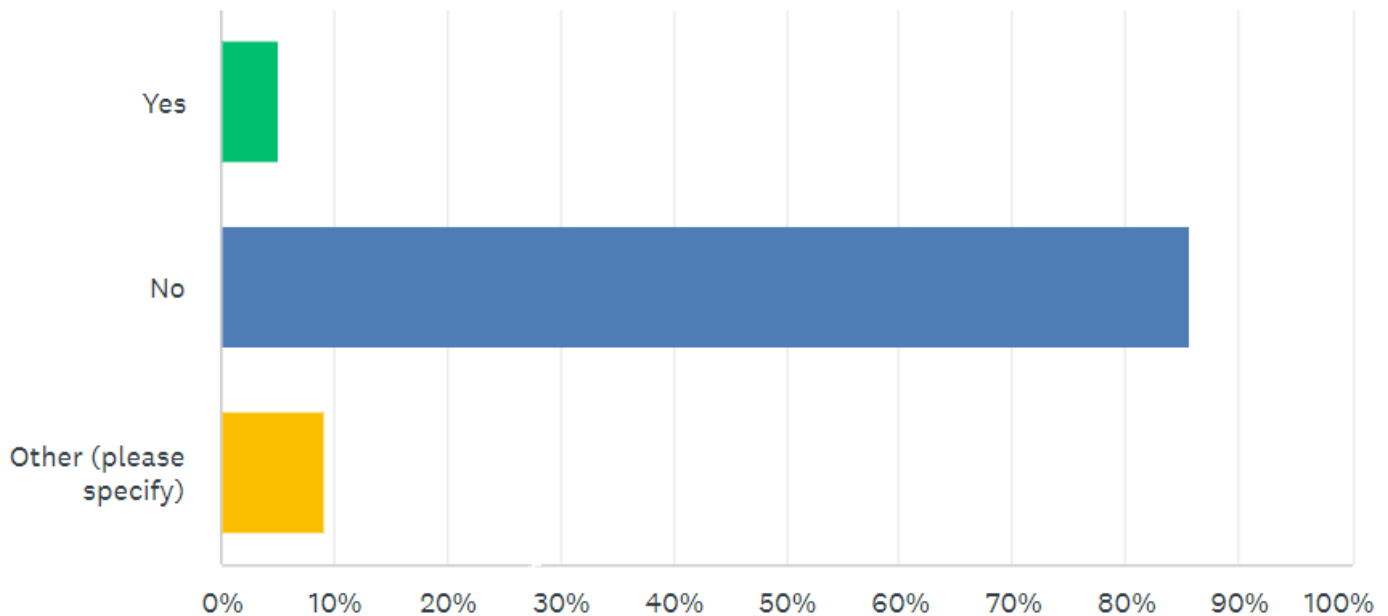
- Anti social behaviour whilst hanging around our premises which makes it highly unpleasant for our customers to be subjected to this in order to gain access to our staff and premises
- Sitting in access doorways to premises
- Theft
- Smoking weed and excessive drinking to the point where they argue and fight
- Threats, drunkenness, aggression, abuse, violence and walking around with edged or other weapons
- damage to property
- Litter, rotten food, maggots
- Groups of children as young as 7-15 roam around our business, sleeping rough nearby & come into our shop asking for food and water - Have reported this many times. Groups of drunken adults walk past and come into the shop asking for food and money, they hang around our shop and fight, they curse at us when we ask them to leave. They leave rubbish all over the place that we have to clean up. They like to set up camp near our business, we never feel safe leaving to go home and have to get someone to walk us to our cars. So far I have had to lock myself, staff and customers in the shop 8 times now, to protect ourselves from groups of adults & kids that are either fighting each other or because they have threatened us directly.

OTHER CONTINUED...

- Food taken from customers plates. Customer harassment. Refusal to leave the premises.
- Broken front windows, unlawful entry into property on many occasions, intimidation towards staff, theft from reception desk, untidy rubbish including alcohol bottles and food left outside premises most days
- public masturbation
- I had a threat on my life - douse me in fuel and set alight
- coming in & sleeping on the floor, repeatedly kicking out sandwich board to the curb & damaging it.
- Lots of abusive writing on the walls including F the police.
- Litter
- Alcohol on the streets
- vandalism
- Fights, property damage, theft
- intimidating behaviour not necessarily targeted at me
- Graffiti, public intoxication
- Graffiti
- Being racially abused with obscene language
- Rough sleepers and drinkers.
- Racial taunts
- rubbish from squatting and drinking on the land and leaving rubbish and broken glass behind almost daily
- Our staff feel are impacted because it's quite confronting and emotionally conflicting for them. On the one hand our team tend to be progressive in their social views but increasingly it impacts how they live their life day to day and their work life. Also the incidents that they have witnessed which involve public violence often against women is traumatic,
- Sleeping on external entrances to premises, nudity, public sex acts, rubbish, broken wine bottles.
- Employee's cars ransacked

sleeping rubbish
White customers fight public
damage premises theft
food staff us leave walk
life Groups property
day

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE ARE ENOUGH POLICE OFFICERS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO DEAL WITH HIGH LEVELS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIME?



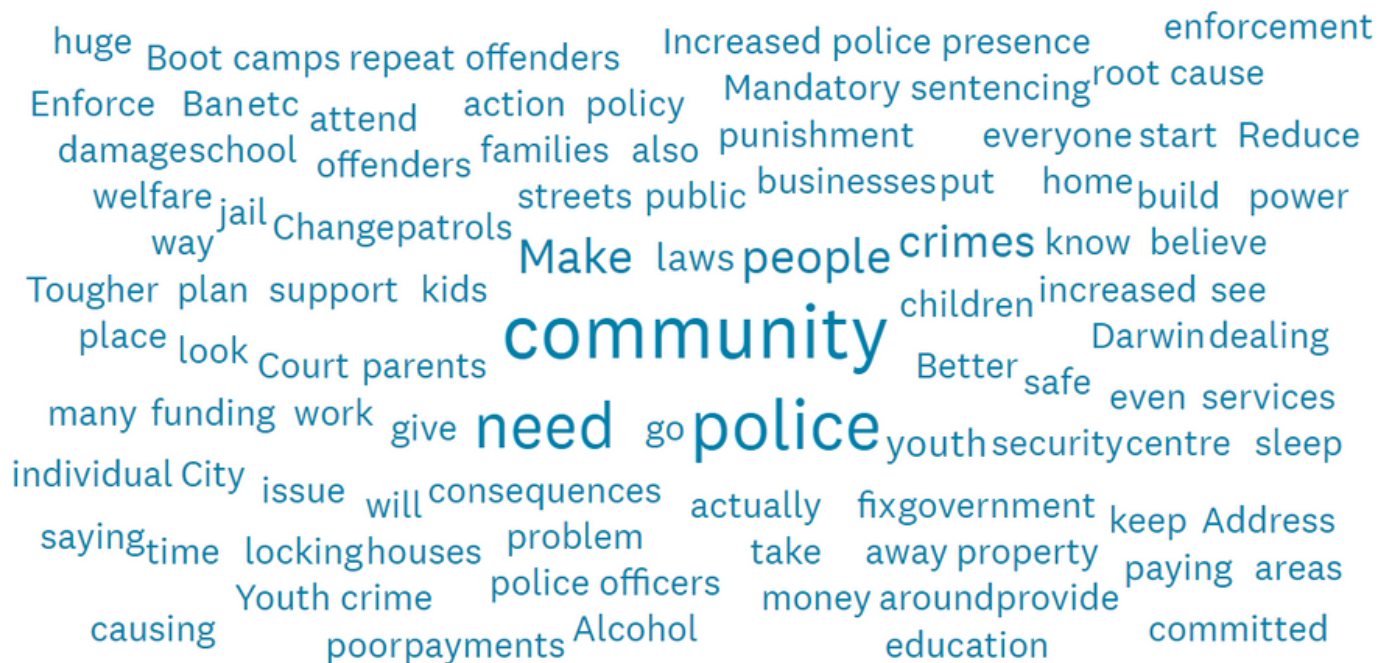
OTHER

- Adopting a systematic approach to identify opportunities for restorative justice. In my experience police don't know of/think of this approach unless requested by the 'victim'.
- I do not have enough information to make an educated answer.
- it is very hard for police to try and manage all of this
- The police need to be allowed to deal with the problem and sentencing them.
- My son is a copper, he's nearly burnt out at 37 yrs old.
- Even if there is, they are not doing enough from preventing the crimes from happening again and again.
- No but why would people want to join the police force to be thrown under a BUS for doing their jobs
- Not sure of total numbers where they are based or their roles being front line or administrative
- By the time they are reported and police arrive, they are usually gone from the area
- More police needed but only if the law makers support the law enforcers
- Yes I do. I just wish they were patrolling on foot more and actually showing their presence. What ever happened to cops patrolling a beat?
- The police are limited in their powers
- Its not a police problem its a social problem

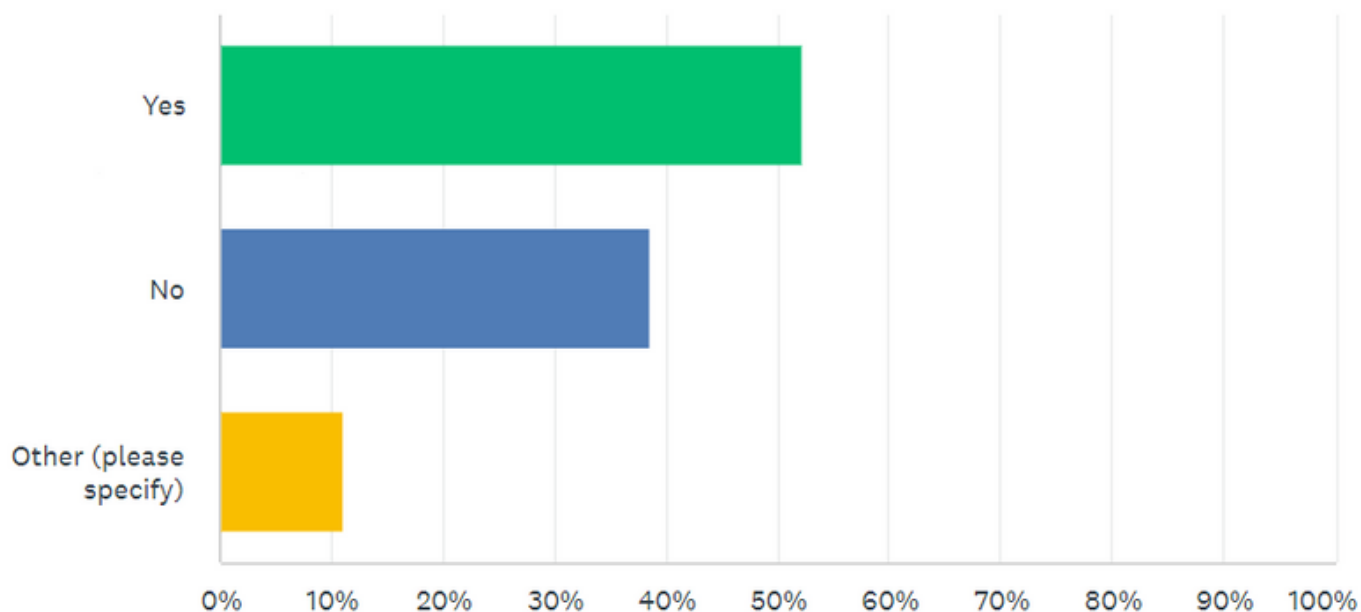
WHAT MEASURES DO YOU BELIEVE THE NTG SHOULD TAKE TO REDUCE THE CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR?

178 RESPONSES WERE PROVIDED

Contact the Property Council NT Division for a full breakdown of the answers to this question



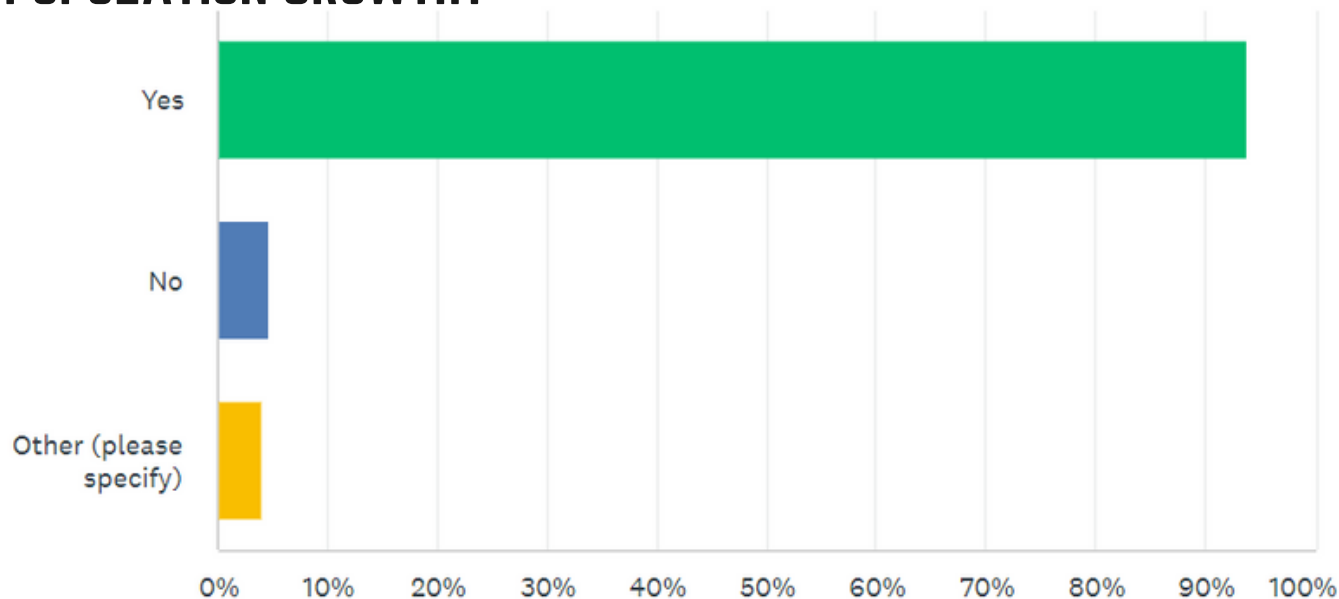
ARE YOU CONSIDERING LEAVING THE NORTHERN TERRITORY DUE TO RISING PROPERTY CRIME?



OTHER

- I consider it
- It's a thought
- Have been looking at it to be honest
- Not yet
- Cannot due to business commitments
- No but other staff are and is an issue when talking to potential new staff
- From time to time
- Maybe, but most of my family live here & grew up here.
- If our kids relocate we will as well
- Stuck here because of business investments
- Already made plans to leave in 2 weeks time, having pioneered health service here for the past 6 years.
- Not in a position to move permanently. Would definitely consider it under different circumstances
- This is my home
- I'm not but at least 50% of staff who are here on visa's have advised that they are planning on leaving or have left due to the increased crime in town
- not immediately but this may be a factor in the future as I have small children
- yes. I want to feel a lot safer then I do
- essential public service, cannot leave
- Perhaps, at the moment i am neutral
- In the process of getting organised to sell & leave
- not quite but if it continues or gets worse it is probable. it is not just the damage it is the stress of receiving phone calls from security monitoring in the middle of night and having to leave phone on to receive those calls.
- Sometimes I think about leaving as I feel scared a lot and I am very worried about raising my children here.
- We want our freedom back

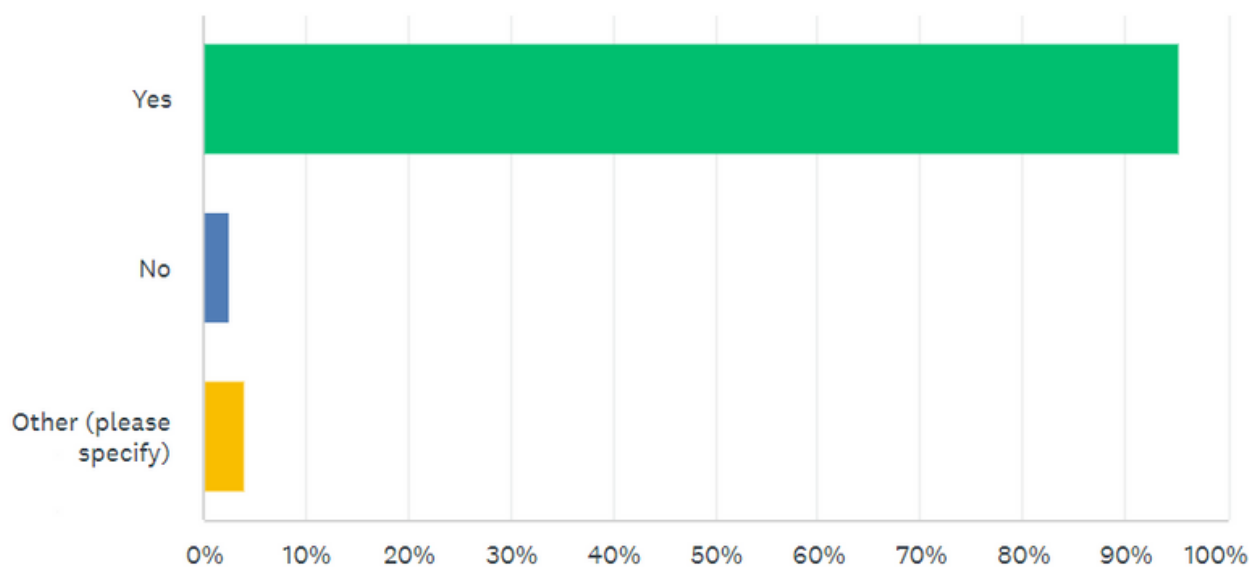
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CRIME IS HAVING AN IMPACT ON OUR POPULATION GROWTH?



OTHER

- I believe it is the number one impediment to livability, which directly impacts population retention and growth.
- Yes, especially specialists in health and education. We can only attract young nurses and doctors. Who would want to bring their kids up in this environment. It's disgusting. The hospital is like a drop in clinic for drinks and our education system is too busy being woke half the kids come out and can barely read and certainly can't think for themselves.
- Not qualified to comment.
- Because you keep it in the public eye, rather than be part of the solution
- Because of social media
- Why would people want to come to the NT where you just see drunks everywhere.

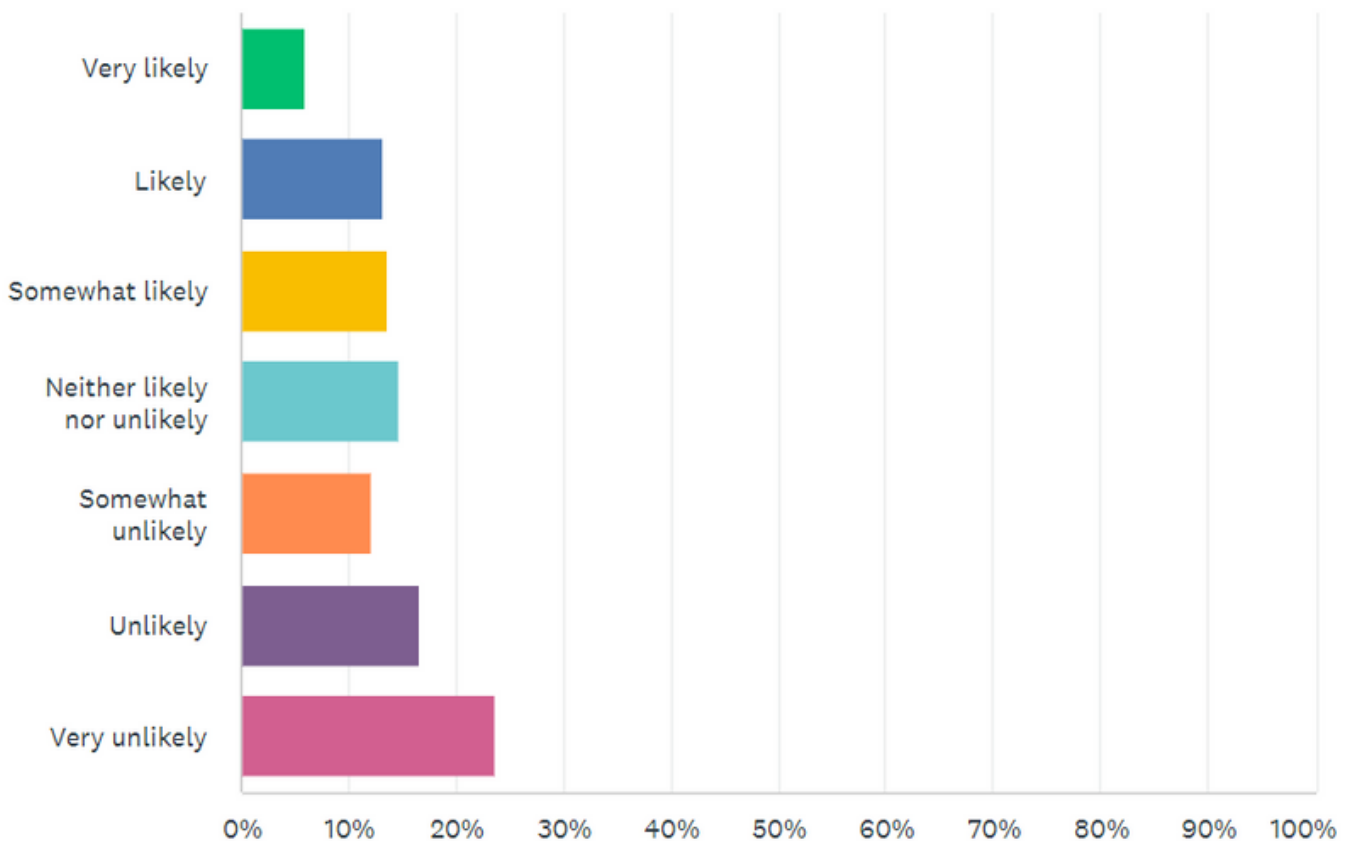
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CRIME IS HAVING AN IMPACT ON OUR TOURISM MARKETS?



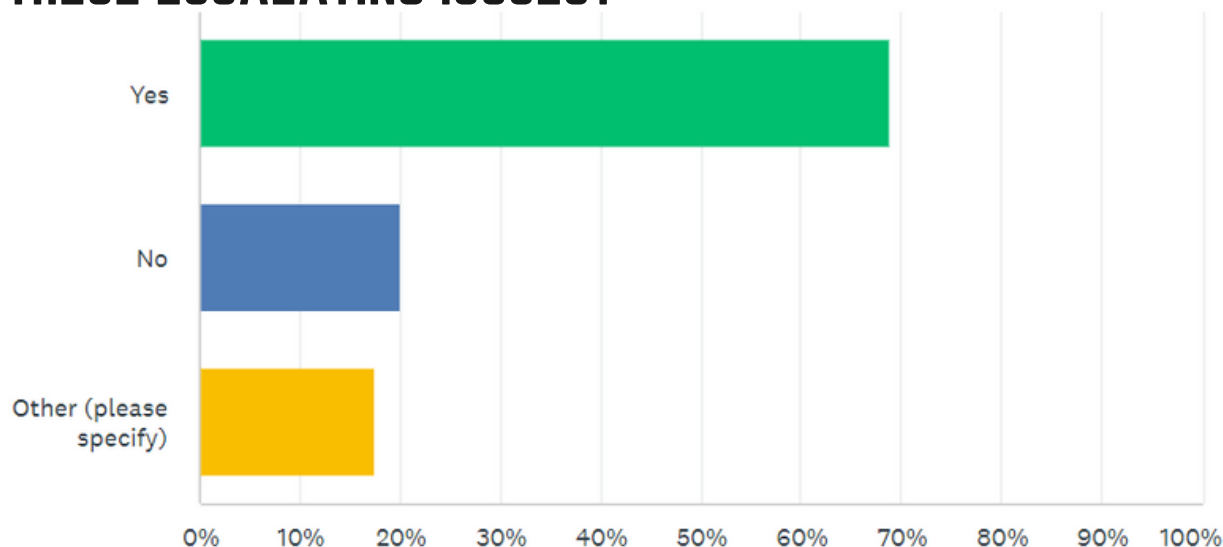
OTHER

- As businesses, we need to be part of the solution, not demonize our communities and the children who are hurting
- Does not appear to be so.
- Yes tourists avoid our shops when they see mobs of people hanging around, esp when intoxicated.
- I believe it will have a negative impact for the 2023 dry season
- Because of social media
- That will be towed with this coming tourist season. I have friends at the bottom of Tasmania and they say they heard on the grapevine “give the NT a miss and at least Alice Springs”
- Tourists are disgusted and avoid these areas
- In the towns

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND THE TERRITORY TO FRIENDS, FAMILY OR COLLEAGUES FROM DOWN-SOUTH?



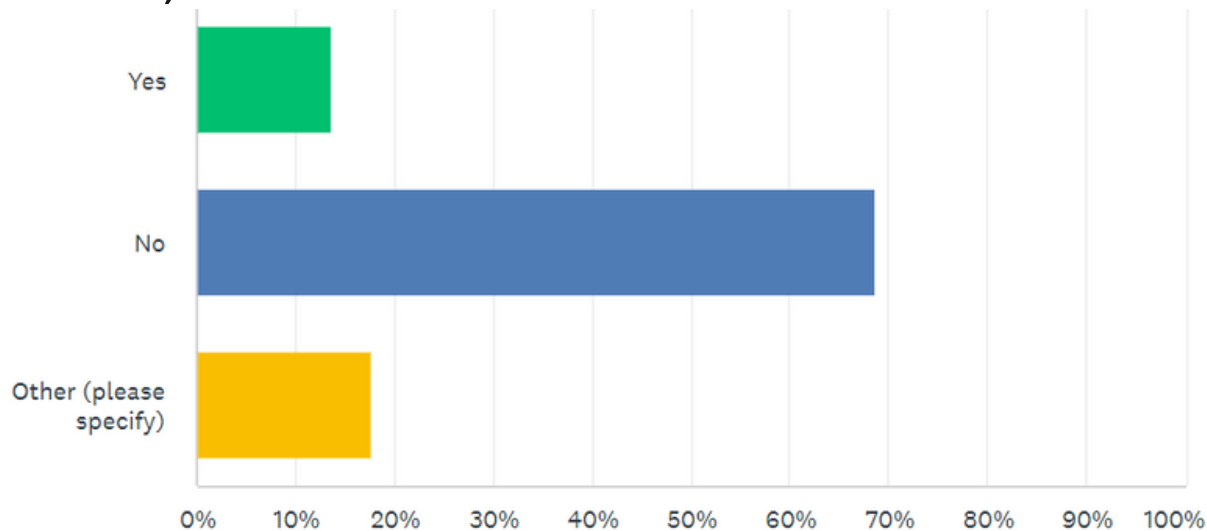
TERRITORIANS ARE PROUD AND LOVE THE TERRITORY, DO YOU CURRENTLY BELIEVE THERE CAN BE A TURNING POINT TO CORRECT THESE ESCALATING ISSUES?



OTHER

- Federal intervention.
- Yes, but Only if intervention is immediate and effective otherwise, no there may not anything left to save.
- Without harsh and strict policy it will get worse.
- I can't see the light
- Honestly, we are past that point. We almost need marshal law to govern the streets. But until the laws change or the federal step in, nothing seems to change.
- I live in hope.
- We need to work together to create solutions, not demonize people.
- Only if the government and the court take firmer action. Reduce the age of criminal responsibility. Automatic jail time for certain crimes irrespective of age. Breach of bail automatic jail time.
- Not under the current government
- Not while Labor are being dictators
- The VOICE will decide even more accreditation of organisations receiving the dollars \$'s is a good start stop with the high paid CEO and vehicles etc waste of resources
- It's too far gone
- Not without intensive intervention
- Absolutely - but we need strong assertive government
- no not unless there is a significant change to policy
- It well be difficult to turn it around
- Actually yes - but currently we can't see that turning point. The NTG are too busy talking and not doing as far as Katherine is concerned.
- The current policies / actions of the government are not working. Tired of Hearing the CM saying " my government has done more than previous governments...". If things are worse then that claim means nothing.
- Unsure if it's gone to far, generational patterns being followed
- Not with this Labor government
- Law Court sentencing needs attention
- Not at this point. There isn't a light at the end of the tunnel
- not without a no tolerance stand.
- Not unless there are some big changes in the Youth Crime Act and anti social behavior
- No Because the ruling class and most common people do not know the solutions
- Only because things have gotten so bad that the gov will be forced to make changes

LASTLY, DO YOU CURRENTLY FEEL SAFE?



OTHER

- Mostly
- I was attacked from behind in the city by a drunk indigenous male
- Not in shopping centres and walking at night
- Currently yes but too often not
- Not always
- Always aware of surroundings and locking doors and security doors when home alone.
- Reasonably
- I personally feel safe, but I am very concerned about the security of my business
- Most times, but keep awareness out when in Alice Springs. Have to change my behaviour when going out compared to a couple of years ago i.e. parking, where I go at night, no longer go out on walking trails without company. Very frustrating.
- I know where not to go - I know where I feel safe
- Not at all times. Not in particular areas
- Only in the past 6 months I do not feel safe at all
- Obviously not , and now they know who I am.
- Depends. I am more mindful of where we go
- Locked in my own home after dark is not living
- Depends on where I am -- I also do not attend casuarina shopping centre. Will move bank because it is in the shopping centre
- Not at all the elderly and most vulnerable are sick of it no one feels safe
- In the past few months I have started locking my car doors when I am driving
- No I feel very unsafe and worry also for clients coming into my shop
- Because I attended a personal safety course. I feel as safe as it is possible to be considering the crimes bring perpetrated
- I have dog's
- There are times when you feel unsafe, but generally yes. My wife was confronted by a group in the basement carpark of our building only last week.
- Personally yes, my car/house/belongings no
- I do, but my wife doesn't if I'm away she locks gate and has little sleep
- Only because I live in the rural area. People in many other parts of the territory are being terrorised
- Not unsafe but less safe than 10 years ago
- no, the type of crime and the risk of violence if you see and confront has escalated dramatically. A sharp word used to discourage, not anymore
- Yes I feel safe because I am a male. If I was a female I would not feel safe at all. However, even as a bloke I feel a bit confronted when I groups of people who are clearly drunk and yelling and screaming at each other and random people. Just a few weeks ago I walked into a restaurant in Darwin CBD in early evening and still light and a person followed me from my car to the door of the venue swearing
- not completely. I wouldn't have my kids alone at a playground or shops

**THANK YOU TO
THOSE WHO
PARTICIPATED**

**PROPERTY
COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIA
- NT
DIVISION**

Contact us at rpalmer@propertycouncil.com.au