Social Risk & Australia's infrastructure sector

What are **social risks?**

Social risks are **threats to individuals' or communities' livelihoods** resulting from **social changes** precipitated by major projects. These risks may be **perceived** (e.g. the threat of a project outcome or possibility of socio-environmental damage) or **actual** (e.g. loss of community amenity or access to locally important areas). Social risk management involves the **identification, assessment** and **mitigation** of these risks.
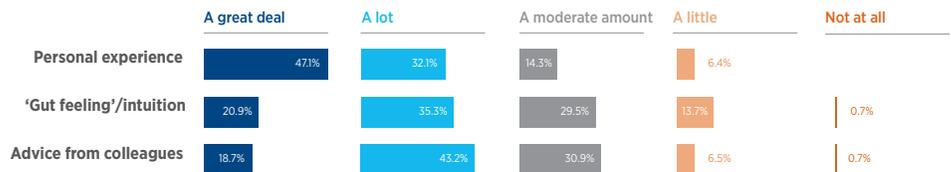
The majority of professionals working in community engagement report that **social risk management plays a major role** in project outcomes

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
15%	15%	12%	20%	38%

The vast majority of community engagement professionals identify and manage social risk using
- **personal experience**
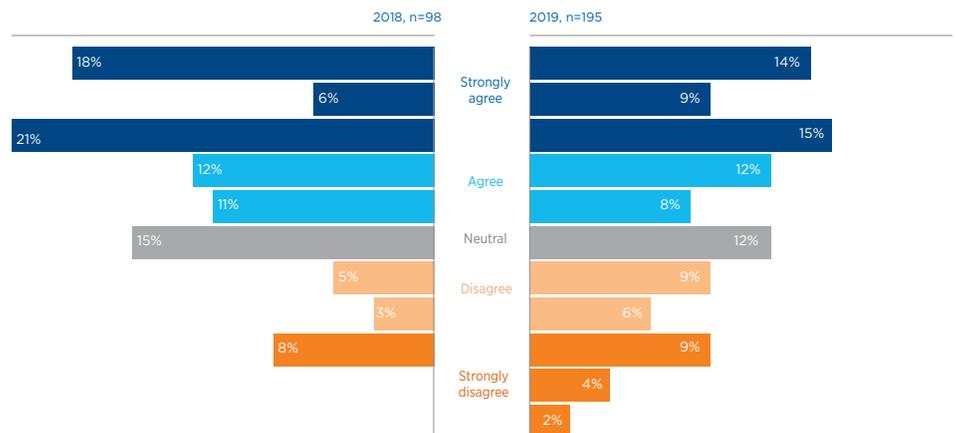- **'gut feel'**
- **advice from colleagues**

Ways of identifying LIKELIHOOD of social risks

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all
Personal experience	47.1%	32.1%	14.3%	6.4%	
'Gut feeling'/intuition	20.9%	35.3%	29.5%	13.7%	0.7%
Advice from colleagues	18.7%	43.2%	30.9%	6.5%	0.7%

In 2019, only **40%** of Community Engagement professionals **agreed** or **strongly agreed** that social risk was understood and managed.

This is up from **34%** in 2018.

Management of social risk played a major role in project outcomes

2018, n=98   2019, n=195

	2018	2019
Strongly agree	18% / 6%	14% / 9%
Agree	21% / 12% / 11%	15% / 12% / 8%
Neutral	15%	12%
Disagree	5% / 3%	9% / 6%
Strongly disagree	8%	9% / 4% / 2%

Improved social risk management presents an important opportunity to **build trust** in the sector and improve community outcomes.

Results of the 3rd Annual ANU I2S State of Infrastructure and Engagement Survey of 189 infrastructure sector professionals

Next Generation Engagement 💧💧

Australian National University
CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

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