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Intelligence
Lab.

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AUSTRALASIAN AID CONFERENCE 2022

Development Strategy

Now Next Future

- ➔ **Now:** policy is the art of the **imperfect**.
- ➔ **Next:** it's time for some tough **choices**.
- ➔ **Future:** but no policy will be successful without addressing **known challenges**.

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NOW

**Policy is the art of the
imperfect.**

**Australia's New
Development
Policy**
2023



Best guess involvements

800 **submissions**

30 stakeholder **roundtables**

20+ **bilateral** consultations

+internal **Government
dialogue**

What matters most?

This is what they are hearing...

Climate change and the environment disruptions to food, **water and energy systems**; shifting to clean energy; extreme weather events; increasing humanitarian disasters; biodiversity loss; Geopolitical shifts and China (PRC) presence; development used as a battle for influence; **Australia ceding power** in the region; continued global instabilities; renewed **solidarity** by Pacific Island/ASEAN nations; US-China-Russia relations; China's threat (real or overstated); China and the shift in power from the US to Asia; the rise of automation and manufacturing returned to developed countries; leapfrogging the digital divide; new **technology and entrepreneurial growth** overtaking conventional development cooperation; health; food security; education; early childhood education; **gender**; diversity; **localisation**; increasing disparity between **rich and poor**; development setbacks (schooling for example) due to **COVID**; structural inequalities; Governance and **democratic decline**; changing systems of governance; national governance capacity; democracy or the right of people in countries to express their views politically; the decline in democratic institutions that erodes **transparency**, accountability and good governance; human rights; soft power; people-to-people engagement; **humanitarian assistance**; Myanmar; papua new guinea; southeast asia; maritime southeast asia; what about Africa; NGOs; **managing contractors**; DFAT; we want AusAID back; **corruption**; transparency; better research; decolonisation; young women's rights; youth movements; demographics; nature based solutions; **private sector led development**; partnerships; **more money** for this; more money for that; **civil society**, media freedom:

EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT.

NEXT

**It's time for some tough
choices**

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Pulse Check

2022 Development Strategy.

- ➔ Good policy involves critical choices.
- ➔ There are divergent views amongst us.
- ➔ We not only want to **surface** them, we want to **test** and **prioritise** them too.

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Question Three.

What **Australian interests** (up to five) does the development program best advance?

Here's what we heard...

1. Security and stability interests

This sounded like: security in the region; Australia's own security by cooling tensions in the region; stable and peaceful region; fiscal security.

2. Regional relationships and international influence

This sounded like: trust-based relationships; regional interconnectedness; positive relationships with neighbours; soft diplomacy; encapsulation of collective endeavour in the region.

3. Economic prosperity

This sounded like: growing key trade and strategic partners; economic prosperity and increasing trade potential; broad economic growth.

4. Rules-based order

This sounded like: consensus on following a rules-based order; maintenance of free and open international systems.

5. Open civic space and democracy

This sounded like: Australia's democracy values; democratic governance in the immediate region; open civil society to hold governments to account.

Survey **Part One**

What **Australian interests** (up to five) does the development program best advance?

Survey **Part Two**

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You have 100 points.

Allocate your points according to which national interests the development program **should advance.**

Question Three: What Australian interests does the development program advance?

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1. Open civic space and democracy

Average:
25.53/100
Total: 1430

5. Security interests

Average:
13/100
Total: 742

4. Rules-based order

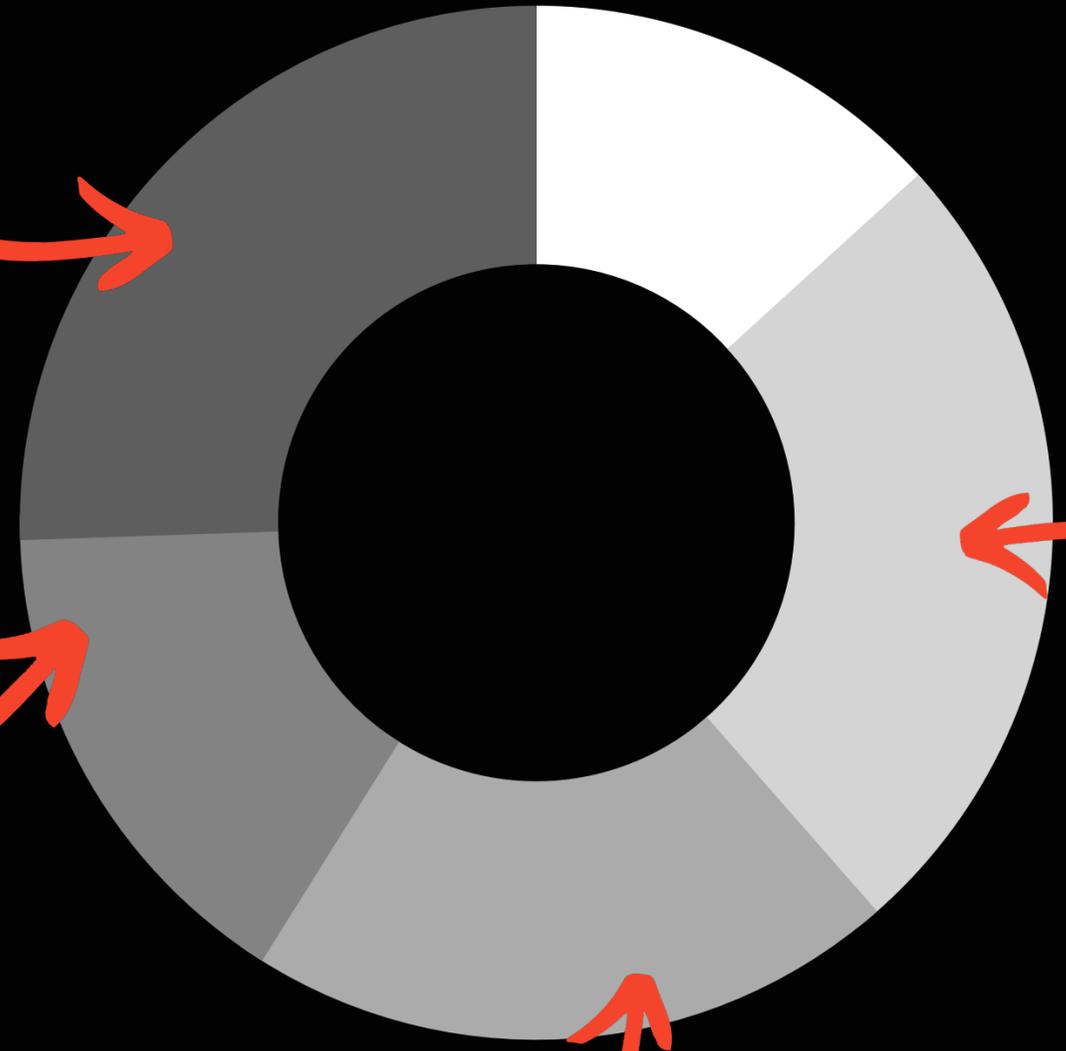
Average:
16/100
Total: 871

2. Regional relationships and international influence

Average:
25.28/100
Total: 1416

3. Economic prosperity

Average:
20/100
Total: 1141



Survey **Part One**

What are the **top five strengths** of Australia's development program?

Survey **Part Two**

You have 100 points.

Allocate your points according to **how you would capitalise** on these strengths.

2. Flexibility

Average:
20/100
Total: 1090

1. Cooperation and connection

Average:
24/100
Total: 1300

3. Gender and diversity focus

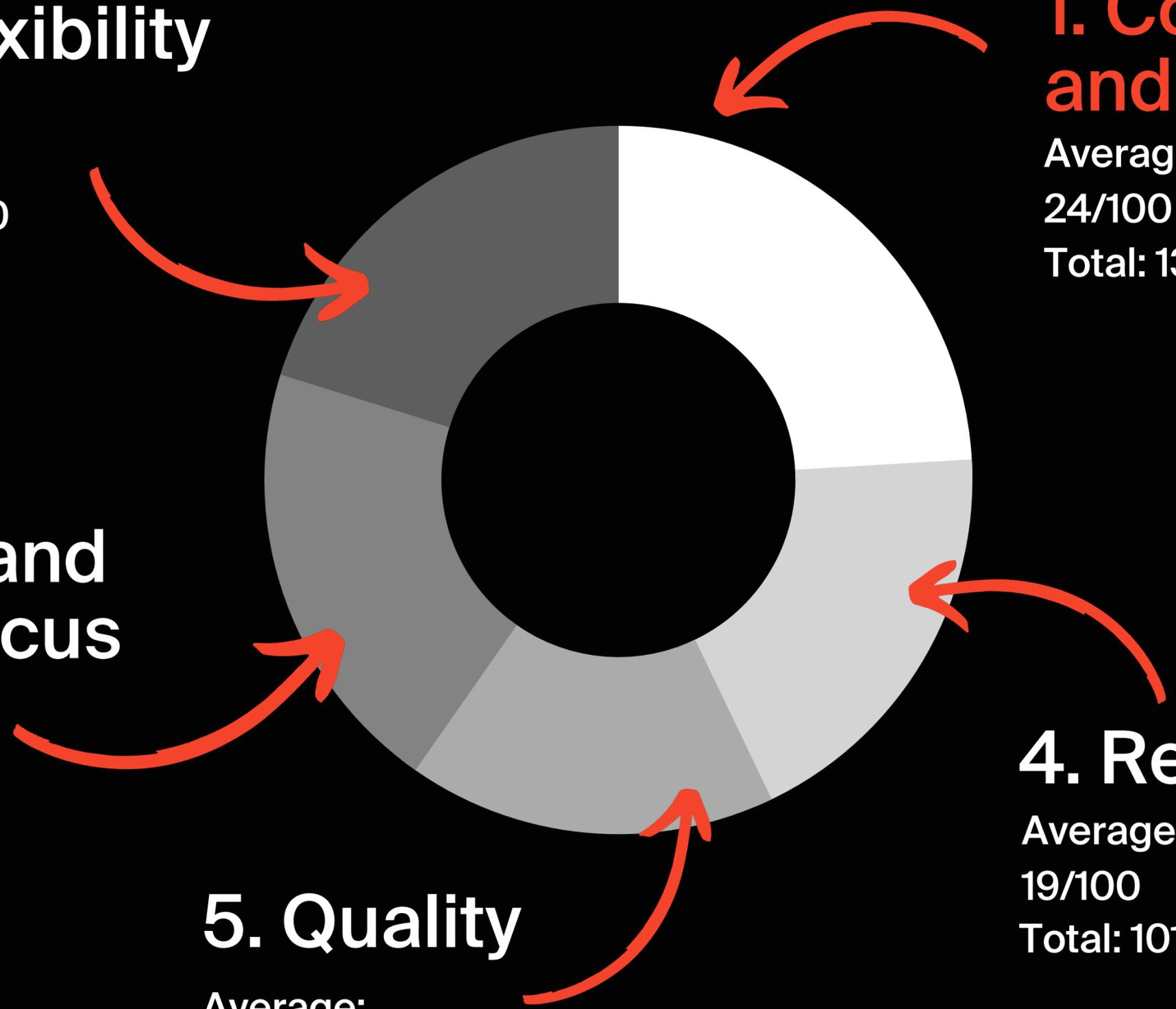
Average:
20/100
Total: 1085

4. Regional focus

Average:
19/100
Total: 1015

5. Quality

Average:
17/100
Total: 910



Survey **Part One**

What three to five things should the development program **stop doing?**

Survey **Part Two**

You have 100 points.

Allocate your points according to what is **most critical** for Australia to stop doing.

2. Poor investment planning

Average:
21/100
Total: 1060

3. Competing with China

Average:
21/100
Total: 1035

1. Not valuing expertise

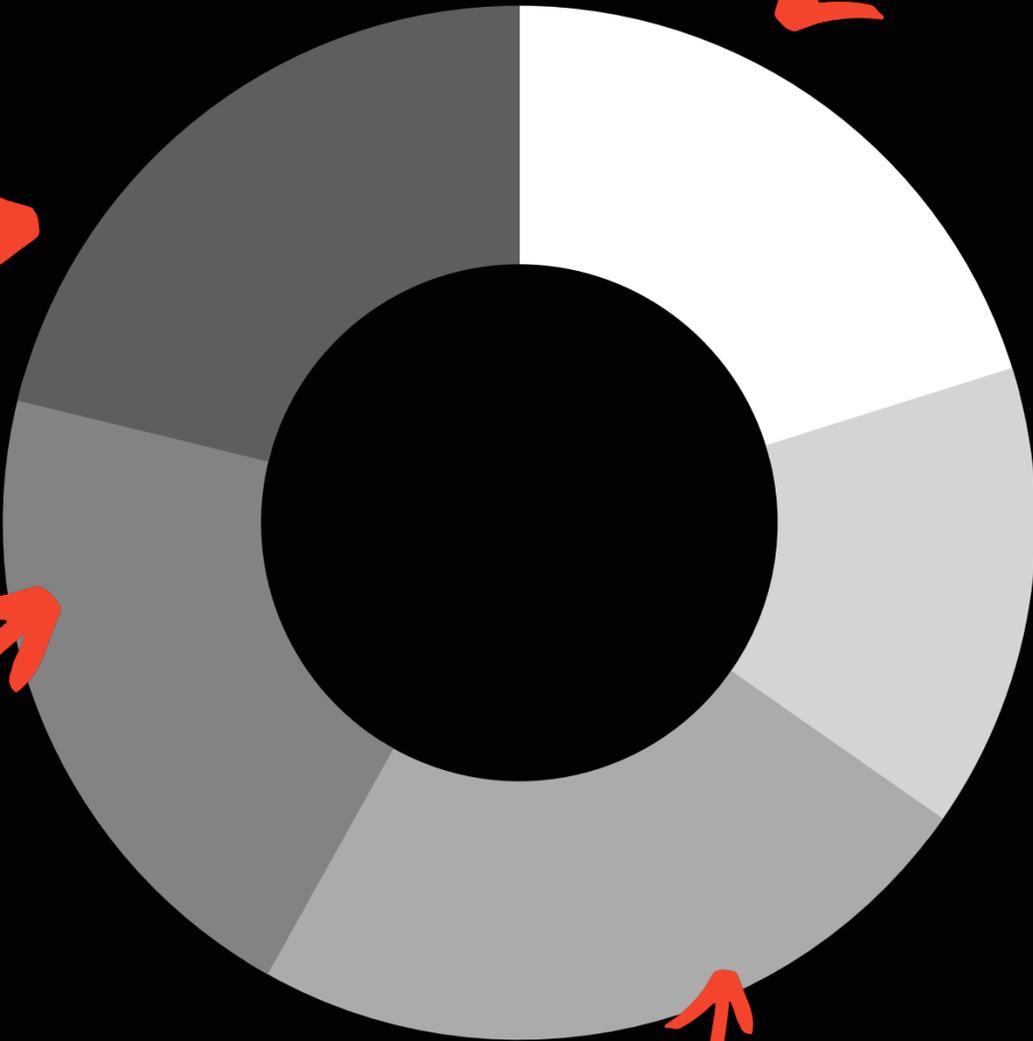
Average:
23/100
Total: 1170

4. Projects that are delinked from strategy

Average:
20/100
Total: 1008

5. Unnecessary outsourcing

Average:
15/100
Total: 727



FUTURE

**But no policy will be
successful without
addressing known
challenges**

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Review of reviews

40 years of independent reviews

- ➔ Naming **motivations** of Aust. development
- ➔ **Focusing** the development program
- ➔ Translating **policy to practice**
- ➔ Capitalising on the **development ecosystem**

Lab credits.

Project leads



Bridi Rice
The Lab



Madeleine Flint
The Lab

Pro bono support from

50+ Indo-Pacific experts
Jope Tarai and Theresa Meki in particular.

50+ Australian experts
The Lab's Richard Moore in particular

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