

City of Unley  
21ADL-1227  
29 August 2022

# Focus Group Report

City of Unley community focus groups on  
climate change

# City of Unley climate change community focus groups report

29 August 2022

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Group Report

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We acknowledge the Kaurna People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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# SNAPSHOT

## City of Unley Climate Change Community Focus Groups

5

Community Focus Groups  
across all Council wards

43

Participants



95% believe that climate change is happening

98% are concerned about climate change

Higher proportion of belief and concern than National average\*

### How can the community reduce its emissions?

- Retain green spaces and trees and plant more
- Drive less– ride walk, catch public transport instead or use electric vehicles
- Household solar generation and storage
- Create less waste and recycle better
- Build sustainable houses
- Use less energy at home
- Use consumer and citizen influence
- Change attitudes of those around you

### What can Council do to help reduce community emissions?

- Provide additional waste management services
- Educate the community about how to reduce their environmental footprint
- Improve development outcomes through assessment and advocacy for policy reform
- Provide green streets and public spaces
- Advocate to State government for better public transport
- Provide safe and attractive walking and cycling routes
- Advocate for more renewable and affordable energy and vehicles
- Provide grants, incentives and rebates for greening and sustainability improvements
- Support community solar or bulk purchase schemes
- Lead by example with technology adoption

\* Compared to Australians participating in the Climate of the Nation national survey on climate change (The Australia Institute, 2021)

# 1. Why focus groups?

As part of its commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the City of Unley (Council) will need to set a community wide emissions reduction goal.

As a first step, market research was gathered via focus groups to better understand community views on climate change, barriers to community emission reduction and to gather ideas for how Council can support community emission reduction.

Human induced climate change is generally widely accepted. However, it can be a divisive topic with some people passionately in support of or against emissions reduction action.

To help guide any future work on supporting reduction of community emissions, Council wanted to ensure it had a good understanding of the breadth of their community's views on climate change. As such, focus groups were used to support hearing a spectrum of views, rather than just the strong community voices for or against climate change.

## 1.1 How did we recruit participants?

A focus group was promoted for each Council ward to obtain participant representation from across the Council area.

To best support hearing from a diversity of views, the topic of the focus groups was not promoted. Instead, people were invited to attend a focus group on a "topic of community interest".

Invitations (Appendix A) were randomly placed in 400 letterboxes within each of the 6 wards. The invitation directed people to complete an online registration of interest form that captured their contact details and simple demographic information. Double vaccination for COVID-19 was required for participation. To encourage people to register, participants at each focus group would go into the draw to win a Capri Cinema voucher.

The ideal outcome was for small focus groups of 10-15 people with broad demographic characteristics to enable representative discussion. As, the focus groups were a new approach, it was unknown what response would be achieved.

## 1.2 What focus groups were held and who participated?

Five focus groups were held (Table 1). To best manage group size Unley Ward and Unley Park Ward focus groups were combined. A total of 56 people registered their interest and 43 people participated. We anticipated a naturally higher number of apologies due to covid.

The demographic characteristics of those who registered their interest are presented in Table 2.

There was a fairly equal spread of males and females amongst registrants. Most were working or retired and were homeowners.

The focus groups attracted people in the 18-24 through to 85-94 age brackets. Most who registered (72%) were 55 to 74 years of age. However, 11% were in the 18-34 and 12% were in the 45-54 age brackets, which is a great outcome for this kind of activity, which tends to attract older participants.

**Table 1 – Community focus groups held**

Focus Group	Date & time	Location	# Participants	# Registered interest
Fullarton Ward	9 May 2022 6-7.30pm	Fullarton Park Community Centre	7	10
Goodwood Ward	10 May 2022 6-7.30pm	Goodwood Library	11	13
Clarence Park Ward	11 May 2022 5.30-7pm	Clarence Park Community Centre	8	11
Parkside Ward	12 May 2022 6-7.30pm	Fullarton Park Community Centre	8	10
Unley and Unley Park Ward	17 May 2022 6-7.30pm	Unley Park Sports Centre	9	13
<b>Total</b>			<b>43</b>	<b>57</b>

**Table 2 – Demographic characteristics of focus group registrants**

Characteristic	% of people who registered interest	
Gender	Female	54
	Male	44
	Prefer not to say	2
Age (years)	18-24	2
	25-34	2
	34-44	7
	45-54	12
	55-64	35
	65-74	37
	75-84	4
	85-94	2
	95+	0
Earning and learning	Working	46
	Studying	5
	Retired	53
	Volunteer	11
	Unpaid carer	9
Living arrangements	Homeowner	95
	Renting	4
	other	2
Language other than English spoken at home	7	

## 1.3 How did the focus groups run?

Each focus group was run the same. After welcoming participants, introductions, announcing that the topic for discussion was 'climate change' and setting some groups rules for participation, three activities were run:

1. Anonymous polling on climate change beliefs and round table discussion on results. This was before any topic information was presented that could influence results
2. 5-minute presentation on community emissions to enable informed discussion
3. Gathering ideas for how community and Council could reduce community emissions.

### 1.3.1 Polling on climate change beliefs

To understand the spectrum of views on climate change, participants were asked to answer three questions which were sourced from the report "Climate of the Nation 2021 - Tracking Australia's attitudes towards climate change and energy"<sup>1</sup>. This research asked 2600 Australians a series of questions on climate change and the questions were repeated in this engagement to allow comparison between the City of Unley views and the broader Australian perspective. The questions from the Climate of the Nation report asked at the City of Unley focus groups were:

- 1. Do you believe that climate change is occurring?**
  - Climate change is occurring
  - Climate change is not occurring
  - Unsure/don't know.
- 2. Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?**
  - Animal and plant species becoming extinct
  - Destruction of the Great Barrier Reef
  - More extreme weather events like floods and cyclones
  - More heatwaves and extremely hot days
  - Rising sea levels threatening our coastal communities
  - More bushfires
  - Melting of the polar ice caps.
- 3. How concerned about climate change are you?**
  - Very concerned
  - Fairly concerned
  - Not very concerned
  - Not at all concerned
  - Don't know/not sure.

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<sup>1</sup> The Australia Institute 2021, *Climate of the Nation 2021*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/211013-Climate-of-the-Nation-2021-WEB.pdf>

During the focus groups participants answered these questions on their smartphones using the online polling software mentimetre ([www.mentimetre.com.au](http://www.mentimetre.com.au)). Two i-pads were available for any participants without smart phones to ensure inclusion. A group discussion of the results was facilitated amongst participants.

### **1.3.2 Presentation on community emissions**

Following the polling activity, Council's Coordinator Environmental Projects & Strategy presented on Council's commitment to climate change, reducing emissions and a description of what community emissions are. The presentation also broadly described the types of roles local government can play in delivering for the community (eg. funder, educator, infrastructure provider).

### **1.3.3 Ideas for how community and Council can reduce community emissions**

Once participants had a better understanding of what community emissions are and the roles of Council, the final activity explored their ideas for how community emissions could be reduced and what they think Council can do to help.

Each participants wrote their ideas down and then presented back their top one or two ideas to the group. Firstly, for how they think community emissions could be reduced and secondly for what Council can do to help.

## 2. What we heard

This section summarises the results across the 5 focus groups. Individual focus groups results are provided in Appendices B to F.

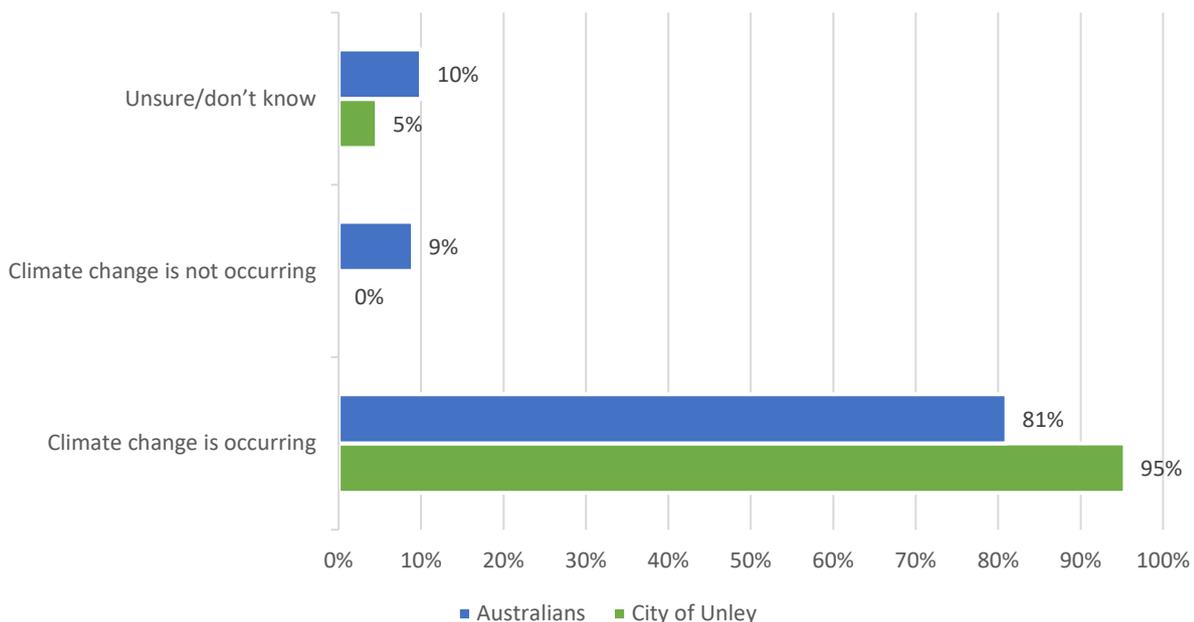
### 2.1 What do participants believe about climate change?

#### 2.1.1 Do you believe that climate change is occurring?

95% of City of Unley focus group participants believe that climate change is occurring (Figure 1). This is higher than Australians participating in the Climate of the Nation national survey on climate change (81%). The most common reasons for focus group participants believing that it is occurring included:

- Changes in the weather and more extreme weather events (heatwaves, floods, drought, bushfires)
- Trusted scientists and extensive evidence showing it exists
- Species extinction and changes in plants and animal distribution
- Decline in polar icecaps and the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

None of the focus group participants did not believe that climate change is occurring. 5% were unsure or didn't know. The main reason for uncertainty was that the participants had an understanding that climate cycles have occurred before (over millions of years), and they questioned whether the current change is human induced or is a part of these natural cycles.

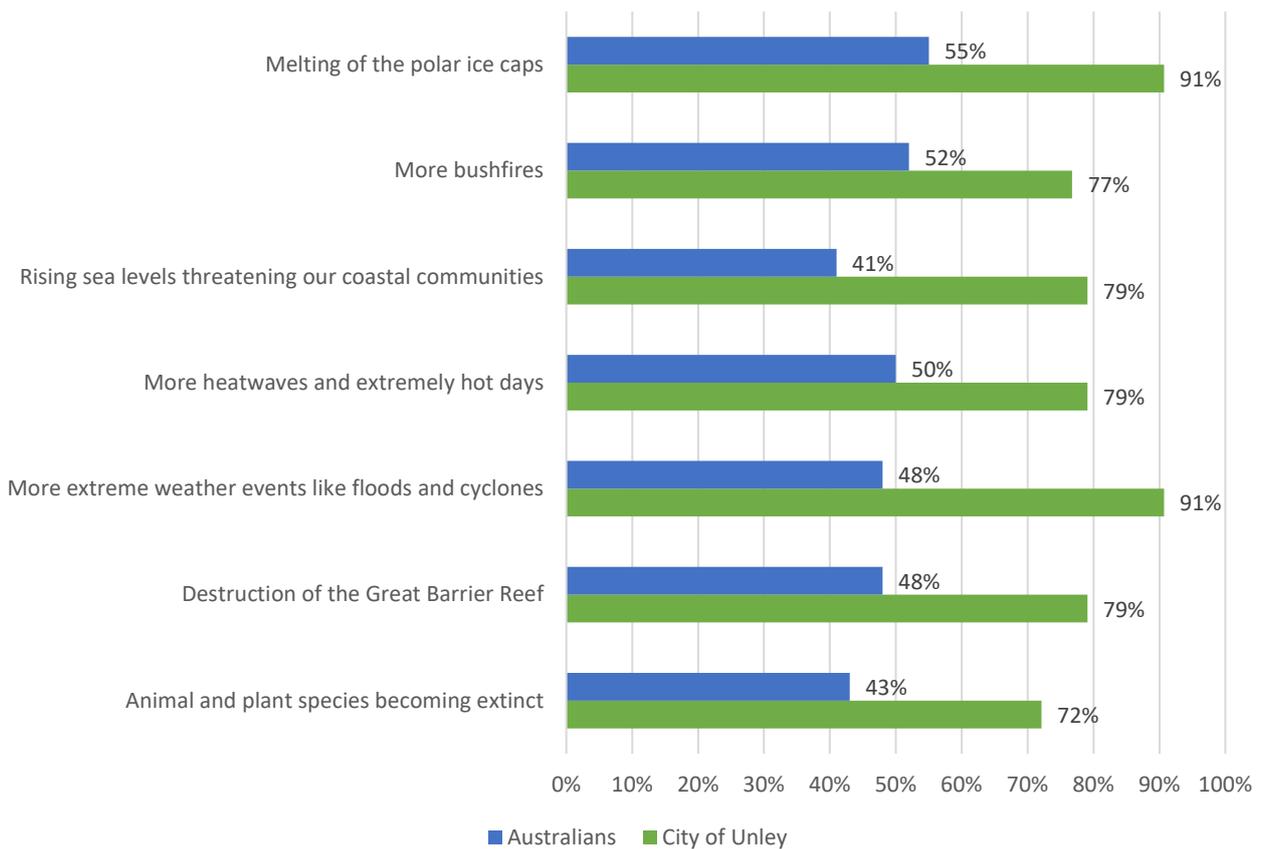


**Figure 1 – Do you believe that climate change is occurring? Proportion of City of Unley focus group participants (n=43) compared to Australians responding to the Climate of the Nation survey (n=6200).**

### 2.1.2 Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?

A significantly larger proportion of City of Unley focus group participants (approximately double) believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts than Australians participating in the Climate of the Nation national survey on climate change (Figure 2). All the impacts presented were identified as already occurring by over 70% of focus group participants. The melting of the polar icecaps and more extreme weather events received the strongest response with 91% of focus group participants believing that climate change is already causing these impacts.

A common reason for respondents not believing climate change was already causing more bushfires, destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, animals and plant species becoming extinct was that these impacts are caused by other human induced impacts, not just climate change. For instance, habitat clearance, water pollution and in the case of bushfires, changing fire management practices such as less controlled burns and prevention of Aboriginal traditional burning practices. For rising sea level impacts, some questioned whether this may be due to long term cycles rather than human induced climate change.



**Figure 2 – Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts? Proportion of City of Unley focus group participants (n=43) compared to Australians responding to the Climate of the Nation survey (n=6200).**

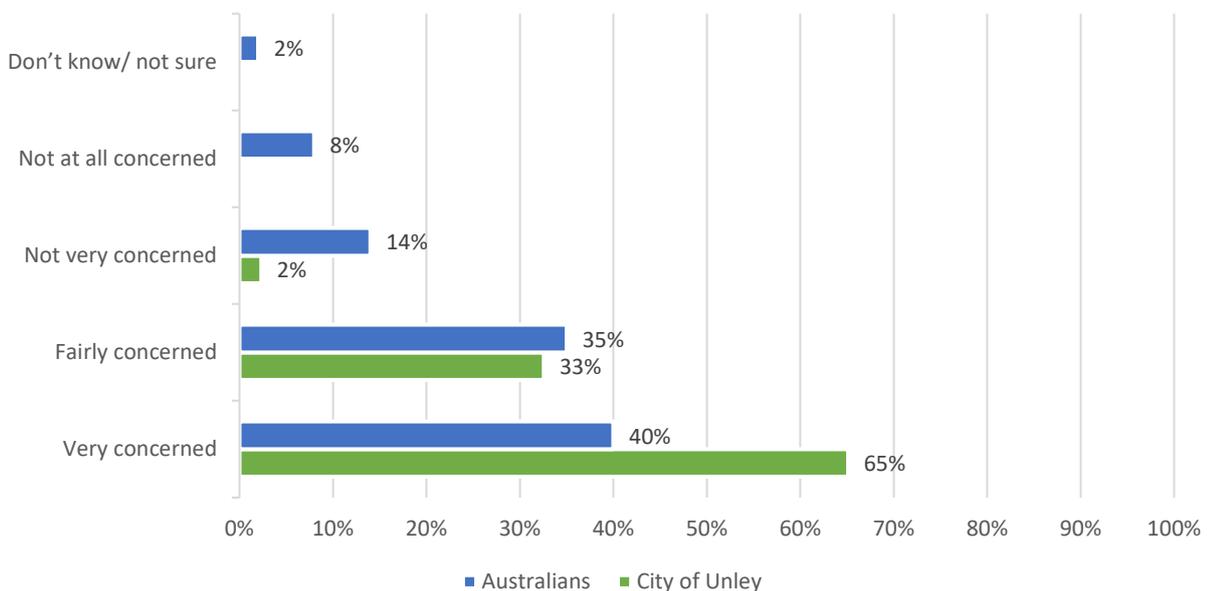
### 2.1.3 How concerned about climate change are you?

City of Unley focus group participants are more concerned about climate than Australians participating in the Climate of the Nation national survey on climate change (Figure 3). Most focus group participants (65%) were 'very concerned' about climate change. The most common reasons for being 'very concerned' included:

- A sense of urgency to 'do our bit'
- Concern at the lack of urgent government action
- The scale and severity of the problem– disasters, degradation
- Concern for what we are leaving the next generation to experience and deal with (our children and grandchildren).

A third of focus groups participants (a similar proportion to Australians participating in the Climate of the Nation national survey on climate change) were 'fairly concerned' about climate change. The most common reasons for being only 'fairly concerned' were:

- The idea that they only have a certain possible maximum of concern and they need to share their concern across other significant issues
- The need to deal with more day to day issues such as providing housing, food, healthcare and paying bills for their families
- The belief and hope that we can 'solve' the climate change challenge.



**Figure 3 – How concerned are you about climate change? Proportion of City of Unley focus group participants (n=43) compared to Australians responding to the Climate of the Nation survey (n=6200).**

## 2.2 How can community emissions be reduced?

Consistent themes were raised across the focus groups about what community members can do to reduce their carbon emissions and what they think Council should do to help reduce community emissions.

### 2.2.1 What can community do?

#### Retain green spaces and trees and plant more

People spoke about the importance of trees and plants to capture carbon but also to provide cooling, shade, and water capture. People spoke about planting more trees, plants and biodiverse gardens but also expressed disappointment at the clearing of trees and gardens for new housing that leaves little space for 'greenery'.

#### Drive less– ride walk, catch public transport instead or use electric vehicles

People suggested making the choice to leave the car at home, especially for short local journeys, and to walk or cycle instead. Public transport was suggested for trips into the city. The cost of public transport versus car parking in the city was seen as a barrier to using public transport. People commented that shaded walking and cycling paths are important, as is footpath and cycle path safety. Purchasing new or second-hand electric cars was also suggested.

#### Household solar generation and battery storage

Installing solar was mentioned by many to reduce emissions. Creating a home that works as a 'system' from the solar was seen as an opportunity. For instance, installing batteries for storage and having all electrical appliances and solar/heat pump hot water. Community renewable energy generation and distribution were also suggested.

#### Create less waste and recycle better

People see a responsibility to manage their waste, be that by recycling better or creating less waste. Suggestions were made to avoid single use products, repair items rather than throwing them away, to buy products with less packaging (or reduce use of highly packaged items), buy products that are good quality (last a long time) and simply to buy less.

#### Build sustainable houses

The construction of poorly designed houses was a frustration to participants. They would like to see homes designed with lots of insulation, eaves, passive heating and cooling and reflective surfaces. House building footprints should also provide for sufficient green space.

#### Use less energy at home

Switching off lights and appliances when not in use and using heating and cooling less, and dressing for the weather were suggested as simple ways to reduce emissions.

#### Use consumer and citizen influence

Interestingly, people spoke of the power they have as consumers and citizens. Buying local produce, eating less meat and purchasing from climate sensitive companies were also suggested as ways to make

change. People also mentioned the importance of voting for politicians that are committed to responding to climate change.

### **Change attitudes of those around you**

People also see a role in change their views and behaviours of those around them. For instance, in changing family attitudes and practices in power and water use, gardening, and transport choices.

#### **2.2.2 How can Council assist?**

##### **Provide additional waste management services**

People suggested that Council could provide additional waste management services to improve convenience for community. Services suggested included: gas bottle recycling, acrylic screen recycling, soft plastics, bottle deposits. Having a single location or hub was put forward. A community repair shop was also suggested as way to encourage repair and reuse rather than disposal.

##### **Educate the community about how to reduce their environmental footprint**

Many saw that Council has an important role to play in educating the community. This includes providing improved education materials about how to recycle properly as well as how the recycling industry works (eg. tours). Suggestions were also made to educate businesses and people about how to reduce carbon emissions. Providing 'qualified' advisers was a particular idea, for instance in home energy efficiency advice. The council's website was identified as an important education tool as was translation of resources into different languages.

##### **Improve development outcomes through assessment and advocacy for policy reform**

The quality of development is a concern for community. They want to see energy efficient buildings and retention of green space and trees. They suggested that accommodation of environmental outcomes needs to be strengthened in the assessment process and want Council to advocate to the State Government to strengthen policy/regulation in the Planning and Design Code and Significant Tree legislation. A specific idea was to have dedicated businesses that can provide environmental advice when plans are submitted to Council.

##### **Green streets and public spaces**

Planting more trees in public places and greening streetscapes and open space was seen as an important role for Council to provide cooling, shade and absorb carbon.

##### **Advocate to State government for better public transport**

Suggestions were made to advocate to the State government to improve public transport to make it a more attractive option than taking a private car, especially to the city.

##### **Provide walking and cycling routes**

People would like to see more attractive walking and cycling routes and infrastructure to encourage active transport over car use, especially for local trips. It was suggested that these need to be safe to encourage use (eg. appropriate width footpaths for walking with young children). Some acknowledged the good work already underway and would like to see the efforts continue.

### **Advocate for more renewable and affordable energy and vehicles**

People see that Council has a role for advocating to State and federal governments to better enable the accessibility/affordability of renewable energy and electric vehicles for City of Unley residents.

### **Provide grants, incentives and rebates for greening and sustainability improvements**

Numerous suggestions were made for Council to provide incentives. Provision of rate rebates for thresholds of canopy cover or environmental performance, incentives for residential sustainable building improvements, providing plants, and grants for sporting and club buildings for sustainable building improvements were all raised.

### **Support community solar or bulk purchase schemes**

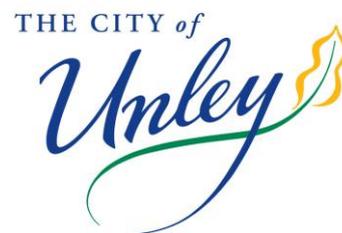
Some people raised the idea of having locally generated and distributed community energy schemes and would like Council to support these. Another idea was for Council to organise bulk procurement of products (eg storage batteries, solar panels, LED globes, trees) and to sell these at a reduced price to community.

### **Lead by example with technology adoption**

Leading by example was seen as important by participants. People would like all Council properties to switch to LED lighting, to use solar and for all service vehicles to be electric. A suggestion was also made for council to adopt emerging technology (eg. alternatives to black bitumen on roads) to encourage broader uptake.

# Appendix A – Invitation

7 April 2022



## **Register for your chance to win - Clarence Park Focus Group**

Dear Resident

The City of Unley invites you to participate in a Clarence Park Focus Group on Wednesday 11 May, 5.30-7pm.

This is one of a number of focus groups to be hosted across the City of Unley in May to engage with local residents on a topic of interest to the Council.

Light refreshments will be provided, and participants on the night will be entered into a draw to win a \$50 Capri Theatre voucher.

### **What will the focus group involve?**

Each focus group will be made up of 12 participants from the local area, aiming to represent a diverse range of ages and backgrounds. Council will provide a facilitator to support the conversations and encourage the sharing of views in a relaxed roundtable setting.

*There is no need to be an expert. We want to understand the views of everyone!*

Feedback from the six focus groups will be used by the Council to inform future directions, and to ensure Council is working to meet the expectations of its community.

### **This is a COVID safe event**

People must have received a recognised COVID-19 vaccine to participate. The event will be undertaken in accordance with SA Health advice.

### **Register Now - [www.surveymonkey.com/r/clarenceparkcfg](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/clarenceparkcfg)**

Complete a short online form using the above website address by the 25 April to register your interest to participate – it only takes a couple of minutes.

You need to be 18 years or older to register. More than one adult may register per household. We will notify all people who have registered their interest of the outcome of the selection process.

If you have any further questions, please contact 8372 5111 and ask to speak to Kat Ryan from the City Design team about the Clarence Park Focus Group.

Yours sincerely

Ben Willsmore  
**Manager, City Design**

# Appendix B - Fullarton Focus Group Results

## POLLING RESULTS

# Do you believe that climate change occurring?



Climate change is occurring

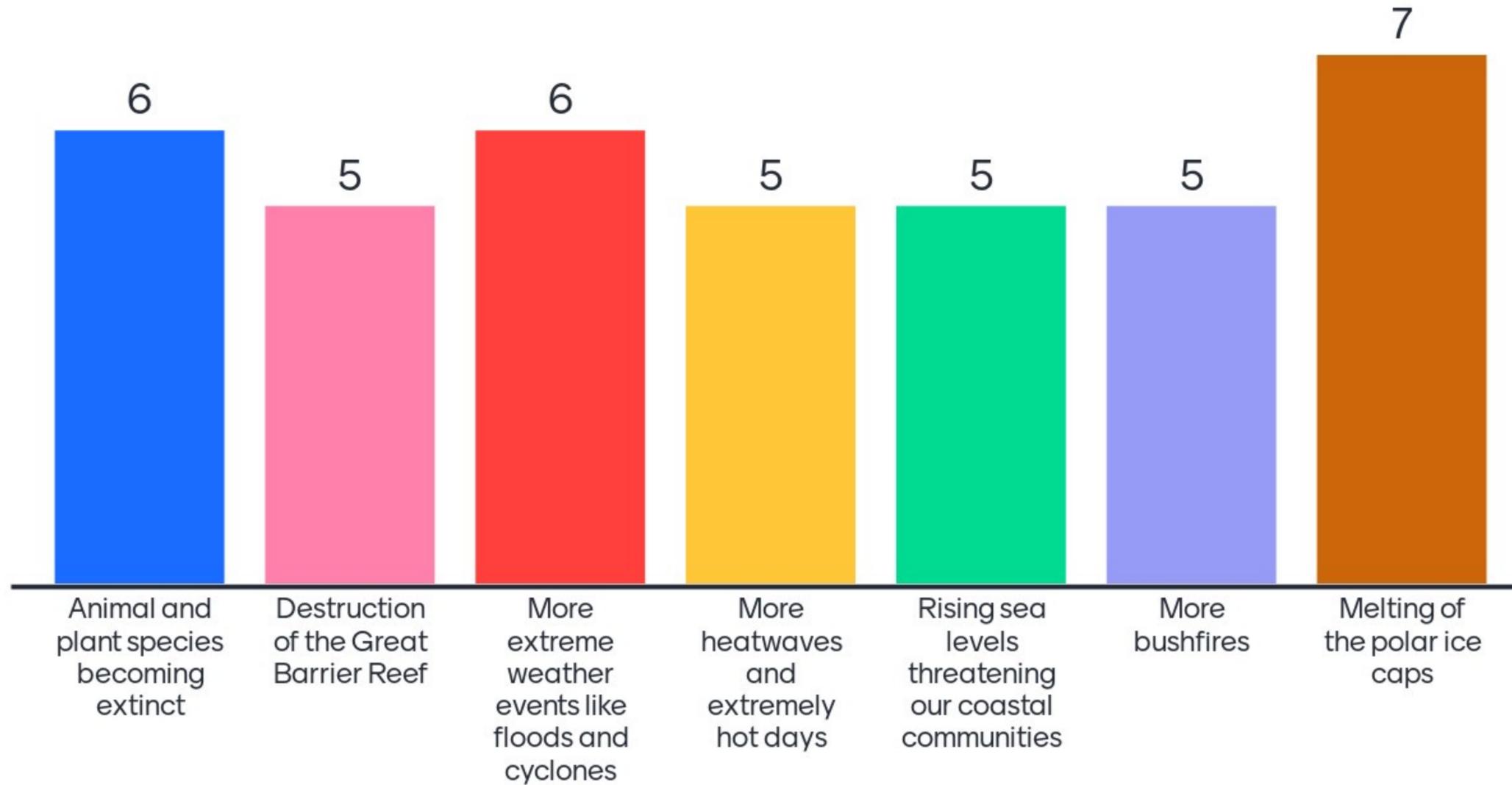
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Climate change is not occurring

0

Unsure/don't know

# Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?



# How concerned about climate change are you?



## NOTES FROM LIVE POLLING DISCUSSION

### Is it occurring?

- More extreme events:
  - Flooding, fires, drought
  - More often 'one after the other'
- Get told it is by scientists, experts, evidence.
- More humid in summer
- More species extinction
- More health issues and mosquito borne diseases

### Is it having impacts?

- Sea level – not permanently up. Is it just weather not climate change?
- Fires – more because of changing land management – not control burning
- Reef – is affected by other factors – things are changing
- Uncertainty about cause and effect. It's a complex system
- Climate change is a given we are contributing.

### How concerned are you?

- Circle of influence – what you can influence
- Can't afford to be 'very concerned about everything'
- All have an ability to influence – everyone needs to do what they can
- Have to do our bit
- Push our efforts up
- Concern fatigue
- Rely too much on Government – need to do ourselves.

## IDEAS TO REDUCE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS

### What can community do?

- Better insulation in houses
- Stop building two-storey houses
- Property rate calculation based on energy efficiency of building
- Trees/median strips more green space – temperature
- Electric cars

- Recycle
- More plants
- Solar
- Encourage installation of solar panel and battery – cost savings as well as decreased CO2 emissions
- Improved public transport
- Waste management – Government legislation to deem all packaging recyclable or compostable, eg no polystyrene
- Recycle properly
- Design buildings energy efficiently – eaves (insulation) etc
- Repurpose more, buy less in the first place
- True cover
- Reduce electricity consumption – increase solar/battery

#### What can community do? Whiteboard Notes

- Sustainable housing design – insulation, eaves, windows, thermal efficiency
- Waste management – soft plastics, contamination:
  - are we doing it right?
  - where does it go?
  - would like rates
- Carbon capture – grow plants
- Stop chopping down trees
- Reduce aircon use
- Install solar panels
- Reduce unnecessary travel – less time in car

#### Top Ideas for What Community can Do

- Minimise waste to landfill
- Reduce amount of air-conditioning use – increase temperature settings – prevent excessive sun heating in houses
- Stop chopping down trees to keep temperatures down by having more shade
- Increase carbon capture

- Sustainable houses/change development rules
- Waste management
- Recycle
- Solar
- More trees! Encourage Michael (Mayor) on tree campaign
- Building design – verandahs, larger eaves, smaller windows
- Recycle properly
- Design buildings energy efficiently
- Reduce unnecessary travel (car, bus)
- Reduce consumer waste – gas bottles, soft plastics – more recycling
- Acrylic screen recycling – COVID19 – banks, corporate, health

#### How can Council help?

- Gas bottle recycling – push back on manufacturers/advocacy
- Acrylic screen recycling – centralised collections/advocacy
- Education – expand reach
- Soft plastics – extend collections
- Party balloons
- Work with traffic management SA- create app to allow commuters to issue alerts in real time
- Increase scooter availability
- Tighten up on regulations
- Put in energy efficiently rules/targets for new builds/extensions
- Educate
- Provide feedback
- Separate bin for glass
- Push State Government to improve rules for building
- Encourage residents to lobby State Parliament member
- By example
- Encourage if not able to recycle
- Educate at the face

- Building design more control over design and check
- Information about what is recyclable
- Dynamic website
- Influence Government re more sustainable house
- Energy ratings for houses
- Leading by example
- Development and enforcing rules for chopping down and then replating trees and plants
- Education about behaviour (domestic) to promote reduction in aircon use
- Educating and informing
- Service provider

#### How can Council help? Whiteboard Notes

- Sustainable housing
- Advocacy to state:
  - Guidelines, building rules/ratings
  - With the community
  - Information about design
  - Rates based on efficiency of home
- Waste
  - Educate and inform
  - Where it goes and what it comes back as
  - More detail about what goes in what bin, eg type in what to recycle
  - Council soft plastic recycle
- Greening/carbon capture
  - 'lead by example' – plant right SPP in Council land
  - If cut down tree – should replace

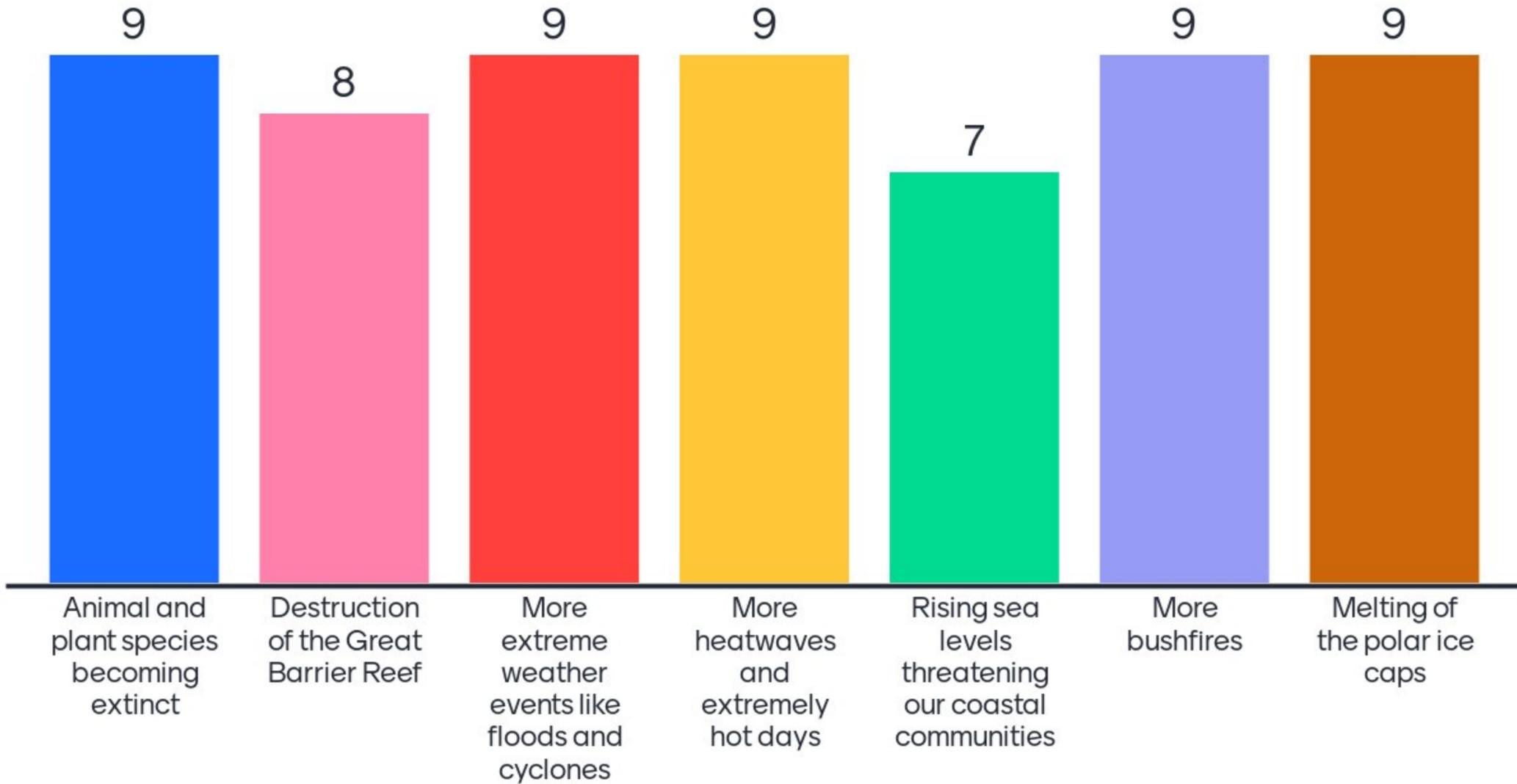
# Appendix C - Goodwood Focus Group Results

## POLLING RESULTS

# Do you believe that climate change occurring?



# Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?



# How concerned about climate change are you?



## NOTES FROM LIVE POLLING DISCUSSION

### Is it occurring?

- Observable
- Evidence
- Scientists talking for years
- Climate change has been occurring for along time but now human induced – FOREVER!
- Weather
  - Storms
  - Droughts
- Is it human induced or natural?
  - We need to adapt
  - Inaction to adapt/react
- Everything is blamed on climate and humans but layers guilt
- Umbrella term that can be unhelpful

### Is it having impacts?

- Sea levels
- Not seeing local in SA
- Insurance premium raising
- Beaches in NSW 'gone'
- West beach erosion
  - Climate triangle?
  - Other factors
- GBR
  - Also affected by run off but still human induced
  - Ad ani tankers
- Also human health impacts 'heat kills more than flu'. Air quality on health/lungs
- Climate refugees

### How concerned are you?

- Great high community awareness
- Fairly concerned – don't want the impression that there is 'no hope'. We can adapt.

## IDEAS TO REDUCE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS

### What can community do?

- Live and work locally
- Grow food
- All public transport to be electric
- Encouraging electric vehicles
- Encourage food cooperatives and sharing
- Stricter building code
- More tree canopy
- Encourage community batteries
- Building codes
- More trees – be more aggressive in filling in gaps on verges, replacing small, useless street trees, filling parks with trees
- Increase tree planting for CO2 sequestration
- More trees
- Recycling food waste
- Consider power usage more
- Encourage tree/shrub planting
- Cycle and walk
- Increase recycling

### Top ideas for what community can do?

- Cooperative
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- More efficient transport
  - Less use of cars
  - Better public transport
- Efficient use of transport – shared
- Replace hard impervious surfaces in public spaces
- Walk/ride rather than drive locally
- Plant more trees (& reduce chopping down)

- Stop cutting down trees
- Plant more trees
- Preserve green spaces
- Large battery storage for individual neighbourhood
- Power usage
  - Efficiency
  - Solar
  - Less gas
- Cycling and walking infrastructure
  - Be bold, proactive and disruptive
  - Change behaviour
  - Care free zones
- Cycle and walk
- Efficient power usage – encourage alternatives
- Lighter colour roof on all houses
- Live sustainably and locally
  - Grow food
  - Recycle

What can community do? Whiteboard notes

- Greening – five ticks
  - Private plant / retain
  - Public
  - Rate rebate
- Walk or ride locally - tick
- Sustainable buildings
- Recycle waste
- Shared energy storage – tick
- Less heating and cooling
- Energy efficiency
- Alternate energy generation - tick

- Solar on clubrooms
- Better public transport
- Cooperatives
- Heat reflective surfaces – tick
  - Paths etc
- Shade in public spaces

#### What can council do?

- Make recycling easy
  - Hubs
  - Stop having to go to different places to recycle different things
- Find ways to work with DPTI to plant along tram corridor
- Replant the bikeway b/w Goodwood Road and Greenhill Road
- Councils to demand revision of the current design code
- Scheme to support community power sharing
- Flexible council 'no' standard answer to stop
- Facilitate tree planting in public space
- Flexible rubbish collection
- Turn green waste into compost for residents
- Use alternatives to hard surfaces in public spaces (some could be living eg grasses for path)
- Council to plan to use E.V fleet of vehicles
- Council to facilitate EV charging stations in Unley
- Incentives/examples of lighter colour roofs
- Showcasing some interesting examples of household mitigation effects
- Incentives for households to plant or retain tree canopy
- Support and encourage the planting of trees
- Council to offer incentives for households and businesses to plant trees and shrubs
- Discount on council rates based on number of trees on property and how green the plot is
- Discount on council rates
- Council to use rates as an incentive to encourage sustainability (\$30 off for every new tree)
- Plant trees and bushes everywhere (for instance the chemist on the corner of Goodwood road and Surrey Street has a large carpark without any greenery)

- Council can actually offer businesses to plant out trees and shrubs (the council digs the garden and plants the trees and shrubs for free)
- Rate reduction if achieve a targeted tree/green cover on your property
- Assistance to retain large trees (rate reduction, pruning cost help)
- Change tree laws to prevent trees near boundaries being removed in new builds
- Fast tracking bike infrastructure
- Better footpaths – user friendly
- Encourage safe cycle/pedestrian paths
- Facilitate shared community assets
  - Batteries
  - Car share schemes
  - Community gardens
- Change the current design code to stop developers building unsustainable buildings
- New building code for new houses (sustainable)
- Return control of building code to COUNCILS
- Reintroduce boundary set back building requirements to reduce heat

#### Top ideas for what Council can do?

- Council to put proper shade in every playground and park space
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Improve public transport
- Increase in bike infrastructure
- Trees planted in all streets
- Grants to sporting and club buildings for solar panels/environmentally friendly adjustments
- Use alternatives to black bitumen on roads, these are emerging but uptake is slow
- Personal responsibility is key to change. Council can help households and businesses to understand the need to reduce c02 emissions
- Increase infrastructure for walking and riding
- More trees and vegetation in private and public areas
- Electric public transport
- Trees, trees and more trees

- Council could help to collect the autumn leaves on a regular basis to go to green compost rather than going out to the ocean when it rains
- Build more dedicated bike lane so people can safely ride bikes everywhere instead of driving
- Incentives to grow and plant trees on own property
- Incentives to build sustainably – see Milan!
- Community awareness – raising about impact on personal individual change (every litre bit of an indiv. input helps)
- Improve safety for walking to assist with less car use (locally)
- Incentives for not for profit organisations for having environmentally friendly buildings
- Council to investigate community batteries or become an electricity supplier to residents
- Council to reconsider building applications to ensure green/garden spaces.
- Planting verges

#### What can council do whiteboard

- Collaborate
  - State
  - Local government
  - Community
- Compost street leaves/green waste
- Greening
  - Rate reduction
  - Private businesses
- Say 'yes' more
  - Public spaces – fill gaps, be aggressive
  - Protect trees on boundary
- Recycle
  - Flexible collection
  - Makes easy
  - Soft plastics
  - Hub
- Incentives
  - Roover

- Show case
  - Story telling resident success
- Fast track cycling infrastructure
  - Be disruptive and bold
- Shared assets
- Lead by example
- Footpaths
- Sustainable building code – return auth to councils

# Appendix D – Clarence Park Focus Group Results

## POLLING RESULTS

# Do you believe that climate change occurring?



Climate change is occurring

0

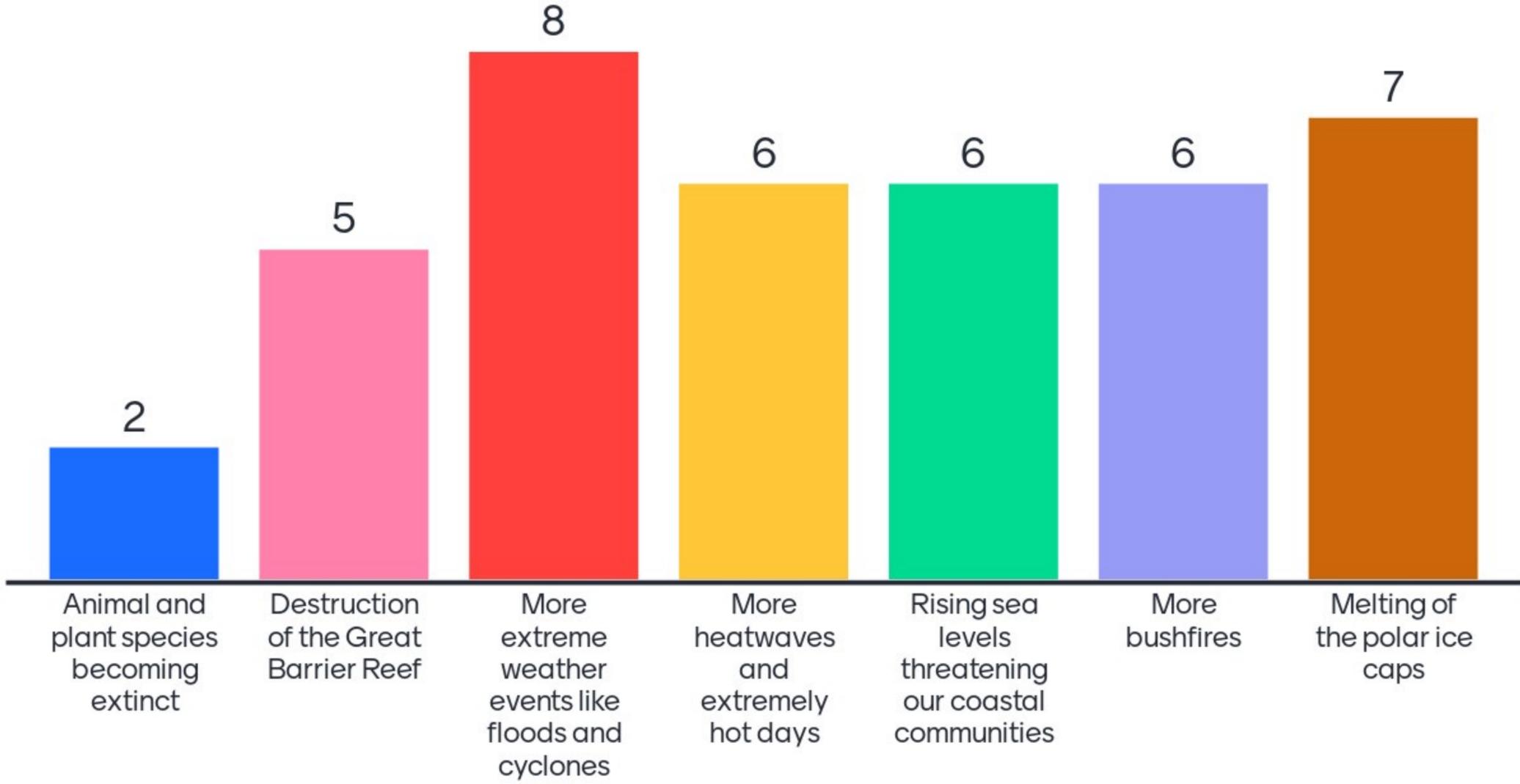
Climate change is not occurring



1

Unsure/don't know

# Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?



# How concerned about climate change are you?



## NOTES FROM LIVE POLLING DISCUSSION

### Is it occurring?

- Violent weather
- Changes to seasons – temp 'climate' rainfall
- Overwhelming science
- Research timeframe only 'goes back so far' – is it natural/man made – topics shift
- Question does not say cause

### Is it having impacts?

- Species extinction – more caused by enviro destruction
- Great Barrier Reef – run off, shipping
- However increased H2O temperature affects species breeding – species distinct.

### How concerned are you?

- Denial of decision makers/politicians makes me concerned – next generation is
- Is a concern but not a 'black and white fix', need solutions that work/don't negatively impact others – need a plan
- Often polarised views/voices
- Being angry is not enough

## IDEAS TO REDUCE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS

### What can community do?

- Imposing and enforcing bans on motorised machinery tools etc, petrol mowers
- Reduced speed and volume of non-resident traffic
- Discount Council rates for those with solar panels/battery storage?
- Use public transport
- Use microwave more for cooking – decrease time
- Ensuring houses are able to be 'sealed' to reduce aircon/heating requirements
- Use public transport
- Provide incentives for increasing vegetation
- Menti.com 9952350
- Convert all lighting to LED

- Greater use of public transport
- Energy saving appliances
- Solar
- Rebates for carbon neutral products

#### Top Ideas for What Community can do

- Leave the car at home, especially if only one person is going to be in it
- Promote use of public transport and bicycling
- Disallow total block clearing for new housing
- Discount Council rates for those with electric vehicles
- Buy local produce (reduce food km)
- Cheaper zoned transport
- Better construction methods
- Improving insulation in homes
- Household battery for solar e-storage
- Solar electricity generation and cycling – more participation
- Banning all wood fired heaters in Council area
- Home solar – generation, storage
- Council to demonstrate in practice its genuine commitment to reducing emissions, eg by using electric vehicles
- Lower emission transport – cycling/scooters
- Insulation – improve insulation residences – ongoing check of insulation
- Mass solar panels on community buildings

#### What can community do? Whiteboard Notes

- Don't drive – e-scooters, decrease \$ public transport, ride
- Insulation.glazing
- Efficient appliances/checks
- Battery
- Mass panels on buildings
- Buy local produce
- Don't clear blocks of vegetation for development

- Retain permeable land
- Ban wood fires/heaters
- Battery and EV – Council rate rebates

#### How can Council help?

- Invest in green space area
- More cycling infrastructure
- Provide/fund the program access insulation needs, install, funding could be for both parties
- Pressure State Government and ACC to make public transport more attractive than cars
- All Council properties to switch to LED lighting
- All service vehicles to be electric
- Ensure regulations uphold re building regs etc
- Provide 'qualified' advisers to assist residents in making positive enviro decisions
- Comprehensive in-home advice re insulation options. There is a huge array at sometimes very expensive prices.
- Incentives for increasing tree cover
- Council organised bulk procurement thereby passing on savings to ratepayers – storage batteries, solar panels, reduce e-losses in homes, plants – trees, LED light globes.
- Advocate for greater State Federal support for EV
- Education for community “how to reduce my emissions”
- Provide plants for residents to grow on their land
- Advocate for building codes, public transport, ie State and Federal Governments
- In-house advice on flooding so we are prepared
- Education on how homes can be improved

#### How can Council help? Whiteboard Notes

- Advocate solar incentives – State/ACC for public transport, support EV's
- In-home advice – insulation/education – new or old
- Incentives not enforcements, eg tree cover, solar
- More greenspace – provide plants, purchase land
- Uphold planning/regs/codes
- Bulk purchase for community use

- LED lighting, EV's
- Education decreased CO2
- Access insulation needs and install – Government/LG/resident co-fund

# Appendix E - Parkside Focus Group Results

## POLLING RESULTS

# Do you believe that climate change occurring?



Climate change is occurring

0

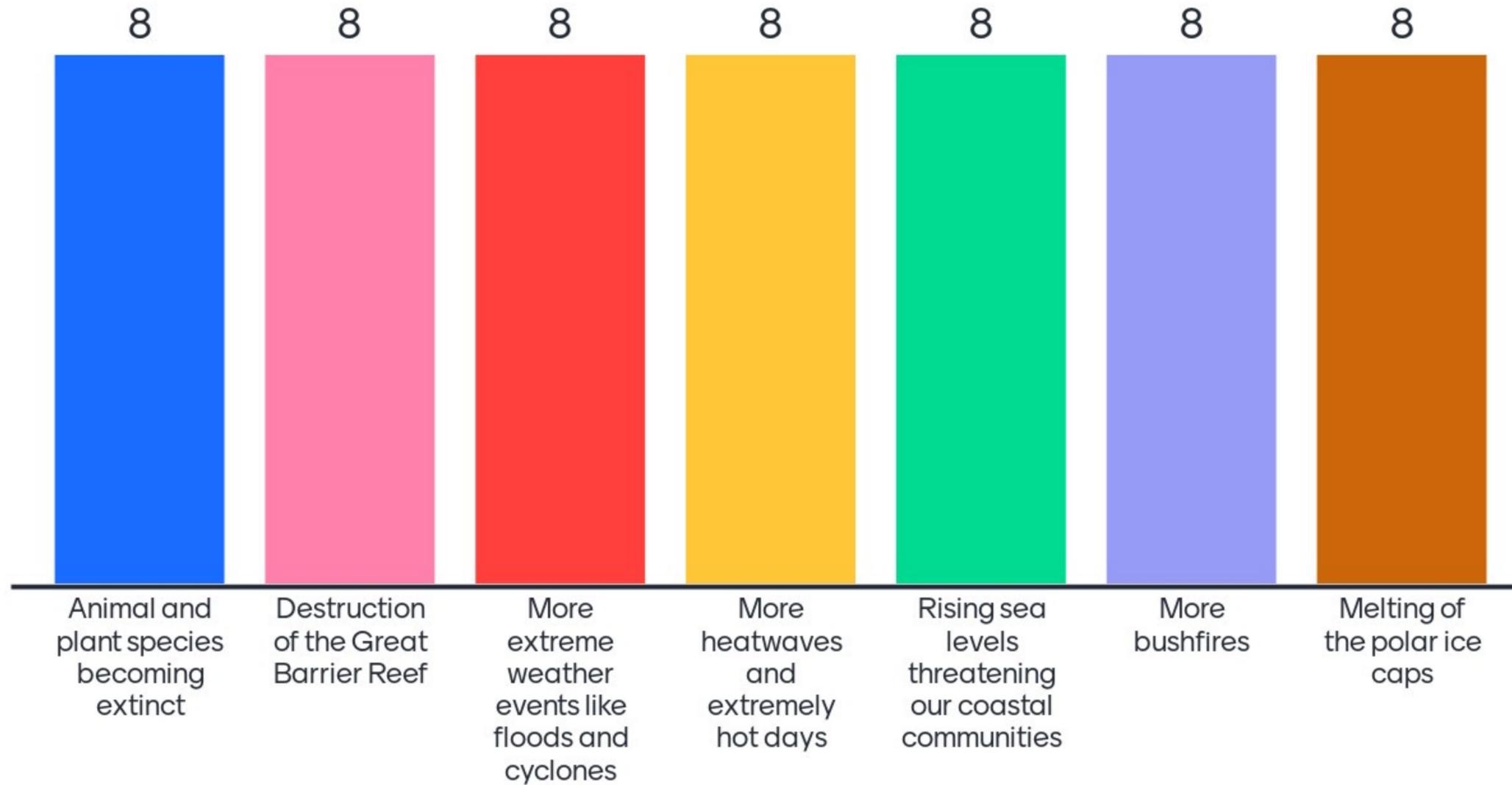
Climate change is not occurring



1

Unsure/don't know

# Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?



# How concerned about climate change are you?



## NOTES FROM LIVE POLLING DISCUSSION

### Is it occurring?

- Weather:
  - Hotter summers
  - Frequent fires, floods
  - Extreme
- Ice caps melting
- Climate always been changing but are we causing it? Want to do something
- Increased published scientific data
- Unsure – like to look at data self and draw conclusion
- Rising sea levels
- Kids talking about G.B.R.
- Ocean warming
- Increase lots of action.

### Is it having impacts?

- Economic impacts
  - Property
  - Insurance
  - Relocate towns
- Social
  - Impacts on poorer communities
  - Mental health
  - 'Climate grief'
  - Disasters
- Positive – leading us to think differently – eves, car shade, innovation

### How concerned are you?

- The scale and severity – disasters, degradation
- Next generation
- Still decimating – where are the leaders? Short term, all talk, brush over.
- How much are we willing to pay/forgo?
- What about big business?

- Good policy – “make healthy choices, easy choices”.

## IDEAS TO REDUCE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS

### What can community do?

- Plant more trees
- Lights only in rooms used
- More active recycling
- Look for better energy deals with providers
- Plant more trees, shrubs, ‘plants’
- Reduce waste
- Off-grid energy (solar and battery) shared with neighbour
- Purchase less stuff
- Change/reduce energy source/consumption
- Change transport mode to bike/walking local shops etc
- Strategies to support individual community action, eg group purchase of solar panels
- Reduce car use – ICE of EV. Increase use of public transport
- Reduce consumption – use of materials – plastics, energy, waste
- Move to electric vehicle
- Install solar panels
- Take public transport
- Reduce the use of aircons/heaters
- Turn lights off throughout the day
- Support Council to reduce emissions
- More walking and bicycles
- Less red meat

### Top Ideas for What Community can Do

- Reduce consumption of plastics and energy
- Purchase goods from companies that are climate sensitive
- Reduce car use – ICE or EV. Increase public transport use
- Reduce driving – walk, ride, bus/tram

- Repair rather than dispose
- Turn off power at power points
- Driving less – current two vehicles in the house mad.
- Eat less red meat
- Role in climate conscious leaders
- Make Unley a micro-grid
- Have a more biodiverse garden
- Using more of solar within the home
- More 'shady' trees. Remove bottle brushes
- Busing electrical vehicles second hand
- Use motor vehicles less

#### What can community do? Whiteboard Notes

- Use motor vehicles less
- Ride, walk, public transport
- Purchase from climate sensitive companies
- Second hand Ev's
- Solar and batteries
- Switch off, less energy
- Vote climate smart
- Microgrid generation
- Less plastic
- East less meat
- Repair/don't dispose
- More trees 'shady'/ biodiverse gardens

#### How can Council help?

- Advocate for more renewable energy sources
- Planting high CO2 absorbent plants in parks and around the community
- Continue good work on bike/pedestrian paths and linear/street end parks
- Make it easier to reuse, repair – space for community makers/workshops

- More education! Diverse cultures
- Have a vision and plan so it can take a strong leadership and education role
- Decrease CO2 – visit assessment at home
- Revise (if it can) planning regs to maximise efficiency in planting, gardens etc – especially native species
- carpark shaded with solar panels
- planting more trees - greener verges
- better recycling understanding – better awareness. BVGVY.
- Provide incentives to business and rate payers
- Have dedicated SME's who offer environmental advice when plans submitted for building
- Continue to increase green spaces and planting
- All vehicles to be electric, ie garbage trucks, buses, cars.
- Increase number of trees in the neighbourhood (absorb greenhouse)

#### How can Council help? Whiteboard Notes

- Advocate more renewable energy
- Electric fleet vehicles
- Plant to absorb CO2 on Council land. Green neighbourhoods protect parkland from development
- Education – other languages
- Dedicated sustainability experts – home assessments
- Bike and pedestrian paths to advise on development plans
- Community repair space
- Plan, vision strong leadership
- Code change – efficiency, retain green, replace trees
- Carpark shade with panels
- Incentives for green initiative
- Recycling awareness/education

# Appendix F – Unley and Unley Park Focus Group Results

## POLLING RESULTS

# Do you believe that climate change occurring?



Climate change is occurring

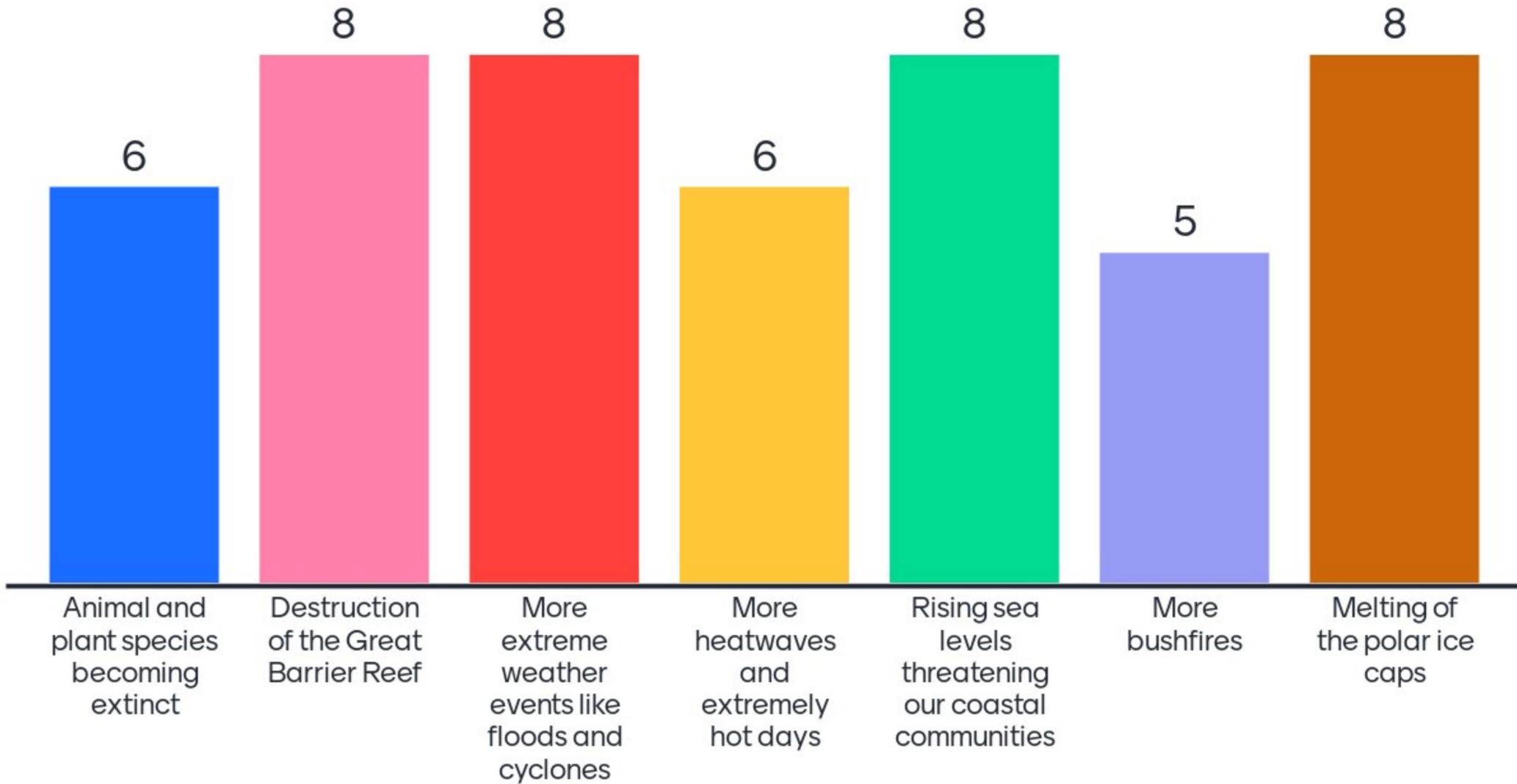
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Climate change is not occurring

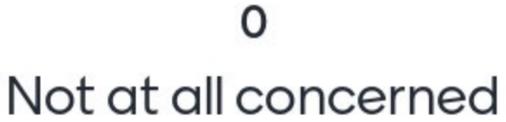
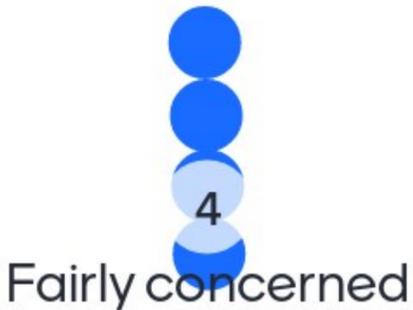
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Unsure/don't know

# Do you believe that climate change is already causing specific impacts?



# How concerned about climate change are you?



## NOTES FROM LIVE POLLING DISCUSSION

### Is it occurring?

- Been spoken as a reality for 40 years – Uni research
- Notice changes in weather – hotter summers, warmer winters/less frost
- Plants responding differently
- Animal movements – bats
- Coastal erosion, eg West Beach
- Always have been cycles/big events (careful not to exaggerate)
- Technology allows us to understand more and take notice

### Is it having impacts?

- Not sure so clicked no
- More bushfires – is it because we live in bush more now? Not control burns? Extending bush fire seasons
- Species extinction – habitat destruction, climate change

### How concerned are you?

- Very concerned – non-response in architecture – low standards.
- Grand children – lag in response, developing countries
- Fairly concerned – concerned about more immediate problems (food, shelter, bills)
- Still not a good enough incentive for people to change if you have limited resources

## IDEAS TO REDUCE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS

### What can community do?

- Water runoff reduced (Council and residents)
- Change family attitudes to environment
- Training in family practices in power, water, gardening, lifestyle (cars)
- Change methods of buildings
- Design homes to use passive solar principles taking into account orientation
- Increase the building code to mandate a much higher level of energy efficiency for housing
- Change gas heating and appliances to electric
- Plant trees to shade the house in summer

- Install a solar generation system and store power in electric car battery to power home at night
- Prevent subdivision of large blocks to preserve trees
- Change all roads to have a light colour to reduce radiant heat, reduces the need to run the air conditioner
- Reduce packaging (or use of highly packaged items)
- Better public transport
- Plant more vegetation
- Fit solar panels and battery
- Buy an EV
- Walk and cycle more
- Recycle more
- Walk not drive to bakery/shops
- Install solar panels and battery
- Incentives for household to plant more trees
- Increase hard rubbish collections per year to prevent rubbish going into landfill
- Avoid single use products
- Consume less – aim for longer lasting products (eg clothing)
- Take less flights
- Buy from companies or countries with good environmental standards
- Reduce meat consumption
- Council take back parts of roads for garden and trees to also help with traffic calming
- Place better insulation in your houses – glazed windows

#### Top Ideas for What Community can do

- Buy from more environmentally friendly companies and government
- Eat food grown locally (or at least in Australia)
- Subsidise EV's as an incentive to purchase them. Increase EV charging stations
- Increase Australian manufacturing
- Install blinds and double glazing on windows (can be retrofitted) to reduce reliance on airconditioners
- Plant garden and trees and don't cut down trees to build big houses/swimming pools
- Smaller houses and larger gardens (green space)

- Encourage solar hot water heating
- Change family attitudes – power, transport, water, greenery
- Co-op of Council-community for change
- Increase the minimum energy efficiency rating for new homes and extensions
- Change gas appliances to electric and disconnect gas metres
- Install solar panels and battery – more recycling
- Install solar panels wherever possible
- Better subsidies for households to install solar panels and batteries
- More walking and cycling rather than drive

#### Whiteboard Notes what can community do

- Purchase from environmentally friendly companies
- Purchase EV's
- EV charging
- Solar panels and batteries
- House as a system working from solar – not gas
- Solar hot water/heat pump
- More recycling (including solar panels)
- Buy locally grown produce
- Buy local manufacturing
- Blinds and awnings (insulation) and double glazing
- Grow own food
- Plant and protect trees, including garden to house ratio
- Walk/cycle
- United effort to change views
- Good architecture – passive design

#### How can Council Help?

- Educate the community on how we can all change behaviour to reduce on footprint
- Educate and provide incentives or reduce Council rates for good household environmental actions/choices, eg growing food, electric car, solar panels
- Seek changes in planning regulations with State Government to be more environmentally friendly

- Lobby State Government to reverse the significant tree legislation that facilitates tree removal
- Housing is becoming a commodity – regulations to encourage homes not money making
- Make it safer to walk/cycle
- Better safer bike ways and more of them
- Building regulation enforced
- Council to provide incentives to plant more trees in resident's homes
- Plant vegetation in community spaces
- Plant trees to provide shade in summer (reduce reliance on airconditioners) and produce oxygen
- Incentivise
- Protection of large trees

#### How can Council Help whiteboard notes

- Education to decrease footprint
- Co-operation between Council/community
- Provide incentives – trees, decrease rates if solar panels etc
- Council and community are on same page – developers are not – advocate for reform and 'give teeth'.  
What can be enforced? Tree removals and sustainable architecture
- Housing not as an economic investment but for living
- Safe cycling and walking routes, eg Arthur Street
- Plant vegetation in community spaces

SHAPING  
GREAT  
COMMUNITIES

