



SUMMARY REPORT

Climate Change Community Survey

Frankston City Council



4 NOVEMBER 2020

Content

Section 1: Executive summary	3—5
Section 2: About the survey	6—7
Section 3: Survey results	8—33
About the survey respondents	8—14
Climate change awareness of respondents	15—17
Key climate change concerns	18—22
Priority areas for climate action	23—33
Section 4: Recommendations & next steps	34—35

SECTION 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive summary

The Frankston Climate Change Community Survey was conducted from 23 July to 2 September 2020. There were 762 online responses to the survey and a total of 610 people completed the survey in full.

Key findings

80% of respondents are 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change

The majority of survey respondents are local residents (80%), female (62%) and are 'quite familiar' (53%) with the topic of climate change. Almost 60% of respondents are aware that Frankston City Council has declared a climate emergency.

When looking at the overall level of concern about climate change, it is notable that a greater proportion of younger respondents are 'extremely concerned' about climate change when compared to older respondents. However the majority of all age groups are either 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned'. None of the youngest cohort (12 to 18 years old) reported they were 'not concerned' about climate change.

While there is generally a high level of concern amongst respondents across all global climate change impacts, survey respondents are mostly concerned about the following **local impacts** of climate change:



Loss of biodiversity / flora & fauna /
vegetation / habitat



Sea level rise and /or
coastal erosion



Harsher and longer fire seasons /
bushfires



Extreme weather events



More hot days and heatwaves /
drought

Executive summary (cont.)

Key priorities for Council

Survey respondents identified the following four areas as the most important for Council to address climate change:



Biodiversity and urban forests



Reducing waste



Renewable energy



Sustainable buildings and homes

The Frankston City community also wants to see direct action from Council by:

83% ...prioritising tree planting in areas that experience increased urban heat and high pedestrian use

76% ...installing energy saving and renewable energy measures (such as solar power) on Council buildings and for public lighting

75% ...developing alternative ways to reduce waste going to landfill and increase the recovery of resources

The local community would like Frankston City Council to support them in addressing the challenges of climate change by:

84% ...providing advice and incentives to help make homes and other buildings more energy efficient

76% ...providing grants for community groups to work on environmental projects that address climate change issues

75% ...advocating on behalf of the community for climate action

SECTION 2

ABOUT THE SURVEY



About the survey

Background and objective of the survey

Frankston City Council (Council) engaged Point Advisory as an external research provider to undertake the 2020 Climate Change Community Survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather community sentiment, ideas, priorities and actions to work together to meet the challenges of climate change at a local level.

The survey was conducted from 23 July to 2 September 2020 and was available on Council's website and through hard copies on request. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, an online survey was the key means of engaging with the community during this time. Although hard copies of the survey were available on request, none were submitted. This may have been influenced by the closure of all Council customer service centres at the time of the survey being conducted. People requiring a hard copy survey would have needed to phone Council to request a copy by mail, which may have been a barrier for some community members.

The survey was promoted via Council's website and social media, Frankston City News (Council's newsletter delivered to households) and Council's e-newsletters, as well as through local media channels. Stakeholder groups from a wide range of sectors were also contacted via email, phone or social media and encouraged to participate in and promote the survey, including health, education, business, emergency services, sports and recreation, charity, seniors, religious and arts groups.

For the purpose of the survey, the Frankston municipality was defined as the areas of Frankston, Carrum Downs, Frankston North, Frankston South, Karingal, Langwarrin, Langwarrin South, Sandhurst, Seaford and Skye.

Survey responses are intended to inform Council's climate emergency response and the update of Council's *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Plan*.

The survey had 18 questions, with some questions being mandatory and others optional. 762 people responded to questions 1 through 7, with 652 of these respondents continuing until question 11. 610 of these respondents went on to complete the full survey.

Note: Due to rounding and/or multiple answer possibilities, percentages in this report may not add up to 100%.

SECTION 3

SURVEY RESULTS



About the survey respondents

Connection to the Frankston municipality (Q1)

The majority of survey respondents (80%) are local residents, followed by people that work in the municipality (26%), noting that respondents were able to select multiple answers to this question.

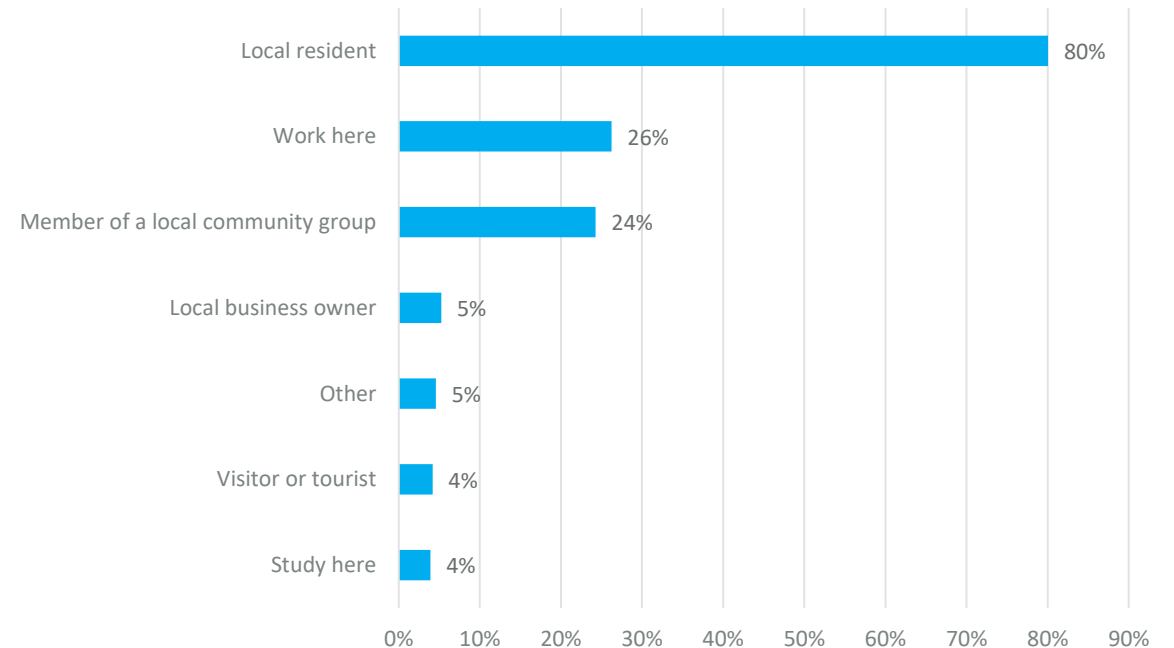
Survey respondents were able to select 'other' and describe their connection to the Frankston municipality if none of the predefined options applied. Most respondents selecting 'other' have an emotional connection to the municipality because they either:

- used to live in the municipality
- own a property in the municipality
- live in a neighbouring municipality
- are regular visitors due to family living in the municipality or volunteer commitments.

With only 5% of respondents stating that they own a business in the Frankston municipality we can conclude that this stakeholder group is underrepresented in this survey. Council could consider targeted engagement with the business community to identify and co-develop business-specific climate priorities and actions.

Note: The Frankston municipality was defined as described in the 'About this survey' section.

Q1: What is your connection to the Frankston municipality? (n=762)

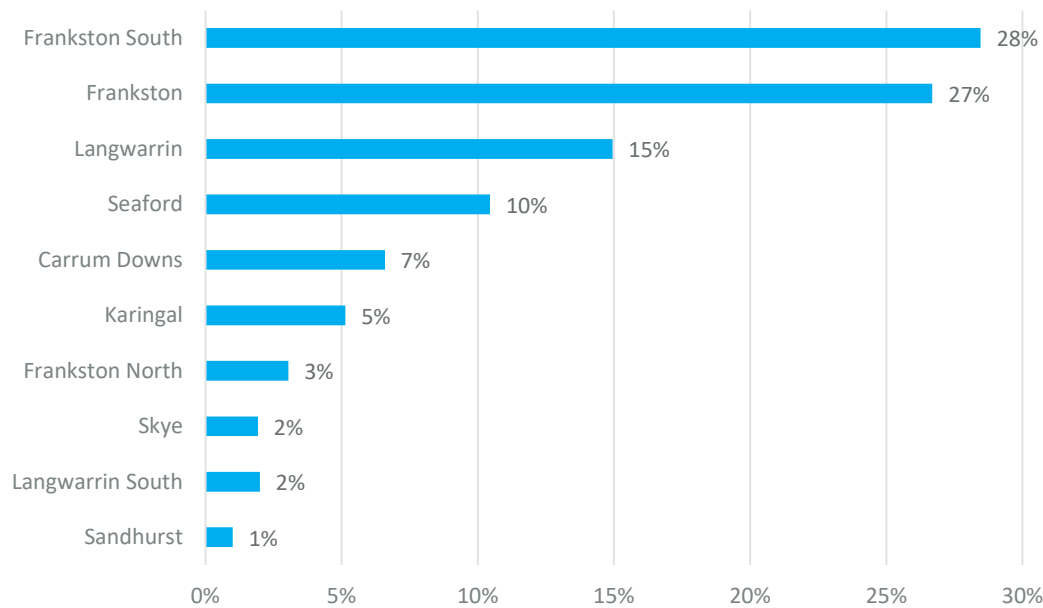


About the survey respondents

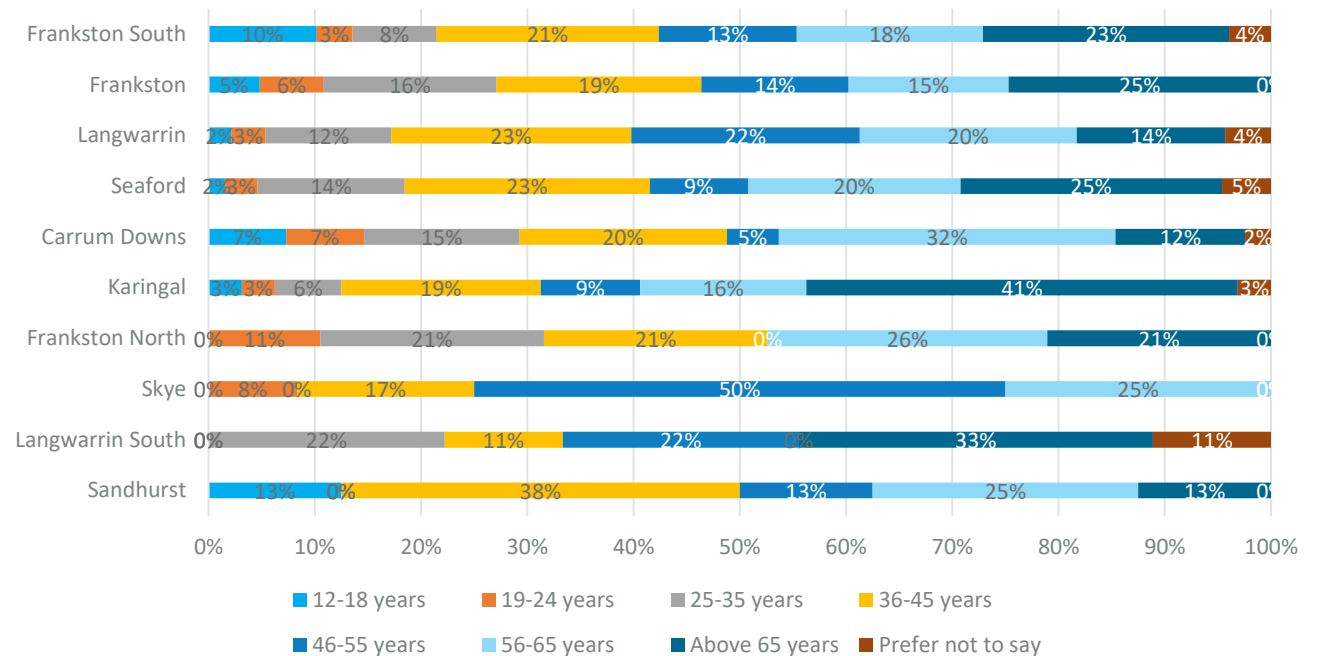
Connection to the Frankston municipality – Local resident (Q2)

From those respondents who identified as 'local residents', **28% live in Frankston South and 27% live in Frankston**. The lowest number of responses came from the areas of Sandhurst (1%), Langwarrin South (2%) and Skye (2%) with only 29 respondents from a total of 622 stating they live in these suburbs. This however reflects the lower population of these suburbs, with all three suburbs only making up 11% of the total population of the Frankston municipality. The graph on the right provides details on the age of respondents split by suburb. Frankston North, Carrum Downs and Frankston accounted for the highest proportion of younger people completing the survey while Karingal and Seaford had the highest proportion of elderly respondents.

Q2: If a 'local resident', tell us which are you live in (n=622)



Age of respondents (Q4) by suburb (Q2)



About the survey respondents

Types of local community groups (Q3)

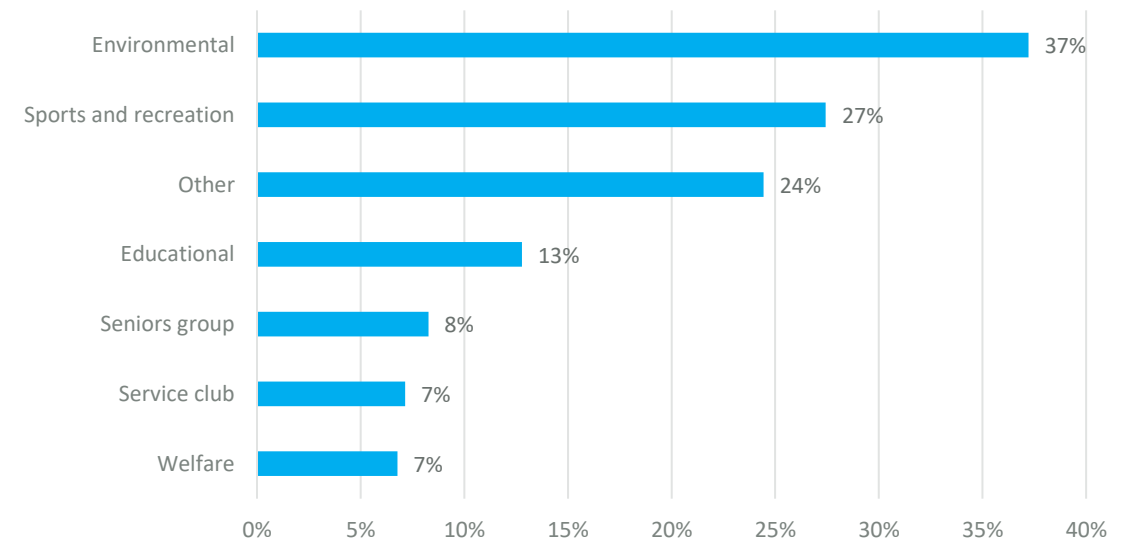
Respondents were asked to specify which type(s) of community group(s) they belong to if they selected 'member of a local community group' for question 1. Of those who responded to this question, a total of **37% of respondents stated they are part of an environmental group and 27% stated they are part of a sports and recreation group.** Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to select 'other' and specify what other community group they are a member of and 65 out of a total of 266 respondents elected to do so. Note that respondents were able to select multiple answers to this question.

Respondents selecting 'other' noted that they were members of the following groups (only main groups selected):

- Community development groups such as the Langwarrin Men's Shed (n=11/65)
- Faith groups/organisations (n=10/65)
- Art and music groups such as the Peninsula Arts Society and Frankston Musical Society (n=10/65)
- Community gardening groups (n=9/65).

Overall, we can conclude that 35% (n=266/762) of respondents are active in the community through various types of groups. Council could harness this engagement by partnering with community groups to take action on climate change.

Q3: If a 'member of a local community group', please select what type(s) of local community group(s) you belong to (n=266)



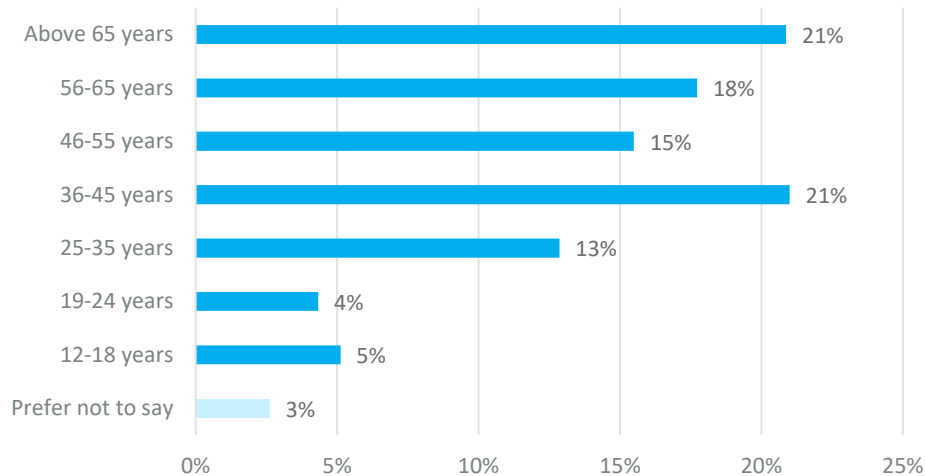
About the survey respondents

Age of respondents (Q4)

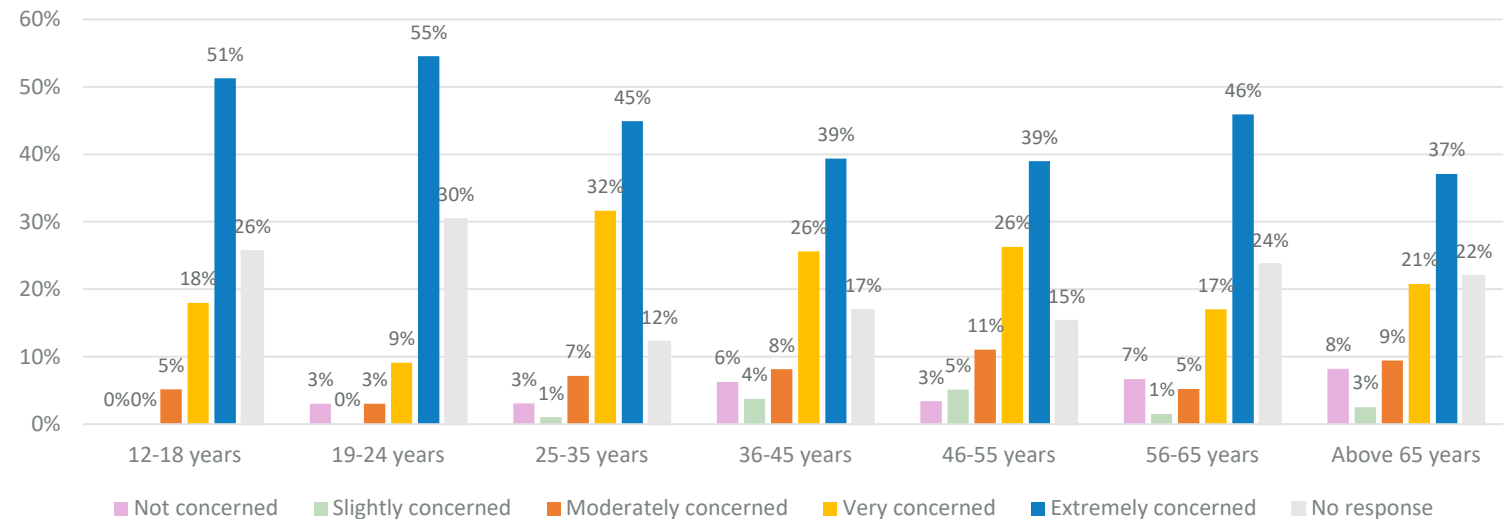
The most common age group of respondents were '36 to 45 years' and 'above 65 years', each accounting for 21% of respondents. Conversely, people aged 19 to 24 years only made up 4% (n=33/762) of respondents and those aged between 12 and 18 years only represent 5% (n=39/762). Council should take this age distribution into account when considering the results of the survey, and be particularly mindful that younger people are somewhat underrepresented in the results.

When looking at the overall level of concern about climate change (Q16) by age group, it is notable that **a greater proportion of younger respondents (aged 12 to 18 years and 19 to 24 years) are extremely concerned about climate change** (51% and 55% respectively) when compared to older respondents. However, the majority of all age groups are either extremely or very concerned (80%). It is also worth noting that none of the youngest respondents (12 to 18 years old) reported that they were 'not concerned' or only 'slightly concerned'.

Q4: What is your age? (n=762)



Age of respondents (Q4) by overall level of concern (Q16)



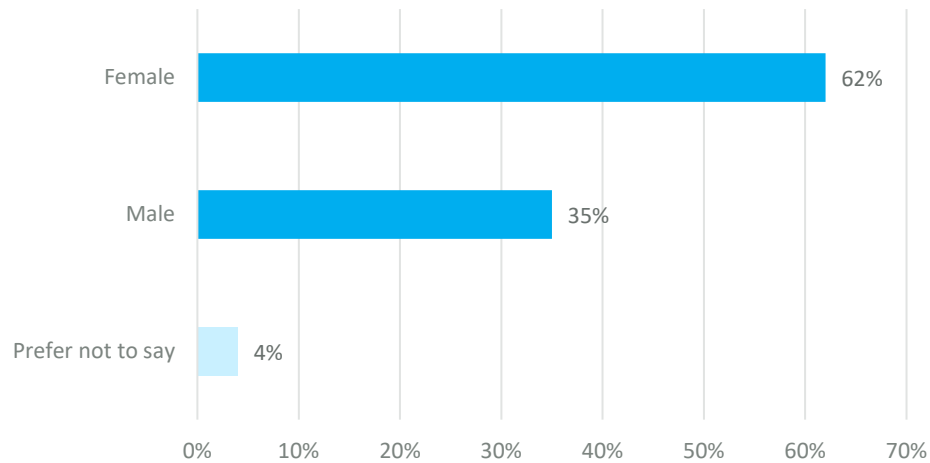
About the survey respondents

Gender of respondents (Q5)

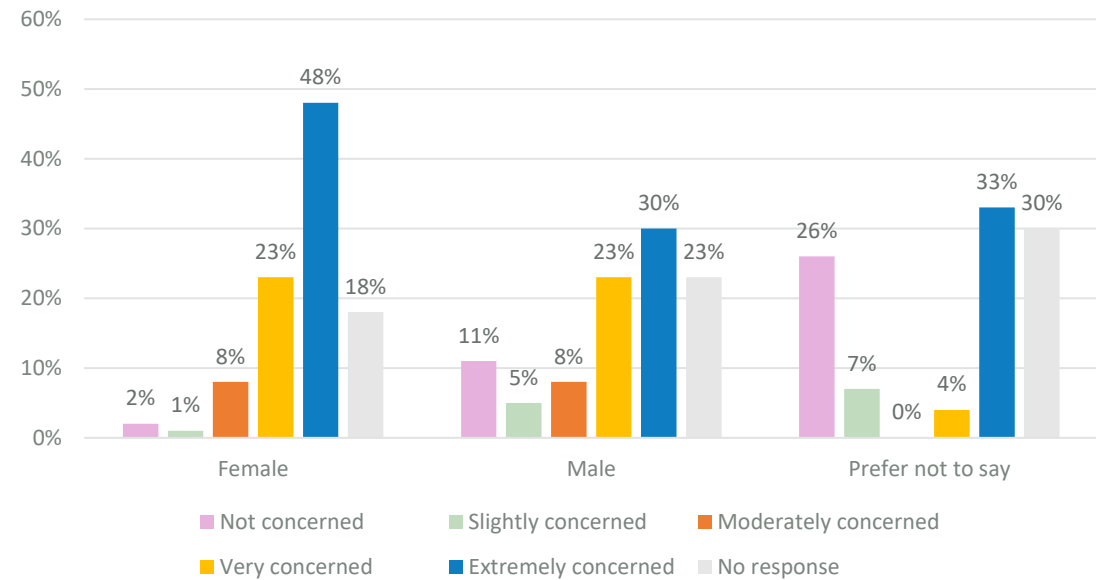
The **majority of respondents (62%) are female** while 35% are male. A small number of respondents (4%) preferred not to disclose their gender and no one chose to self-describe.

When looking at the level of concern about climate change (Q16) by gender, it is notable that significantly more females are extremely concerned (48%) compared to males (30%), whereas males are much more likely to be not concerned (11%) compared to females (2%). This may indicate an opportunity for Council to support and encourage female members of the community to become climate change champions/leaders, but also highlights the importance of designing policies and programs that recognise the lower levels of concern among males.

Q5: What is your gender? (n=762)



Overall level of concern (Q16) & gender of respondents (Q5)



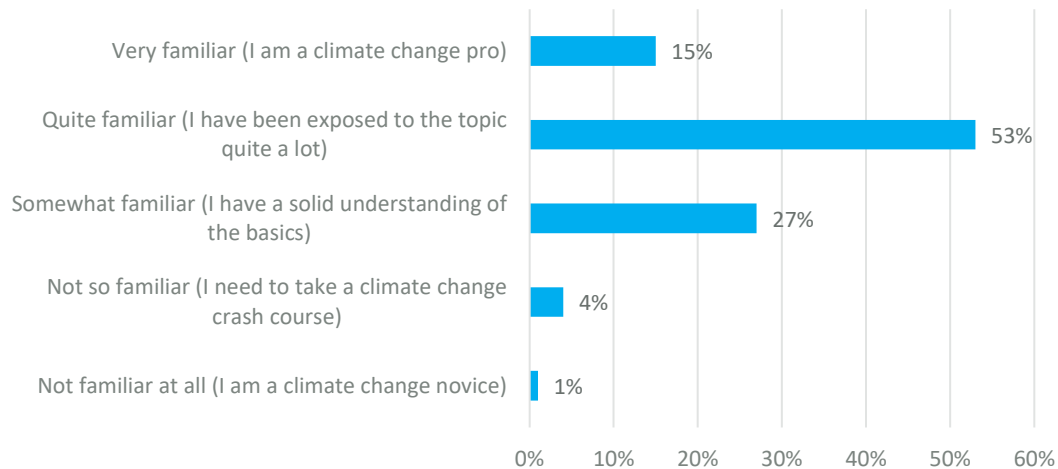
About the survey respondents

Perceived familiarity with the topic (Q6)

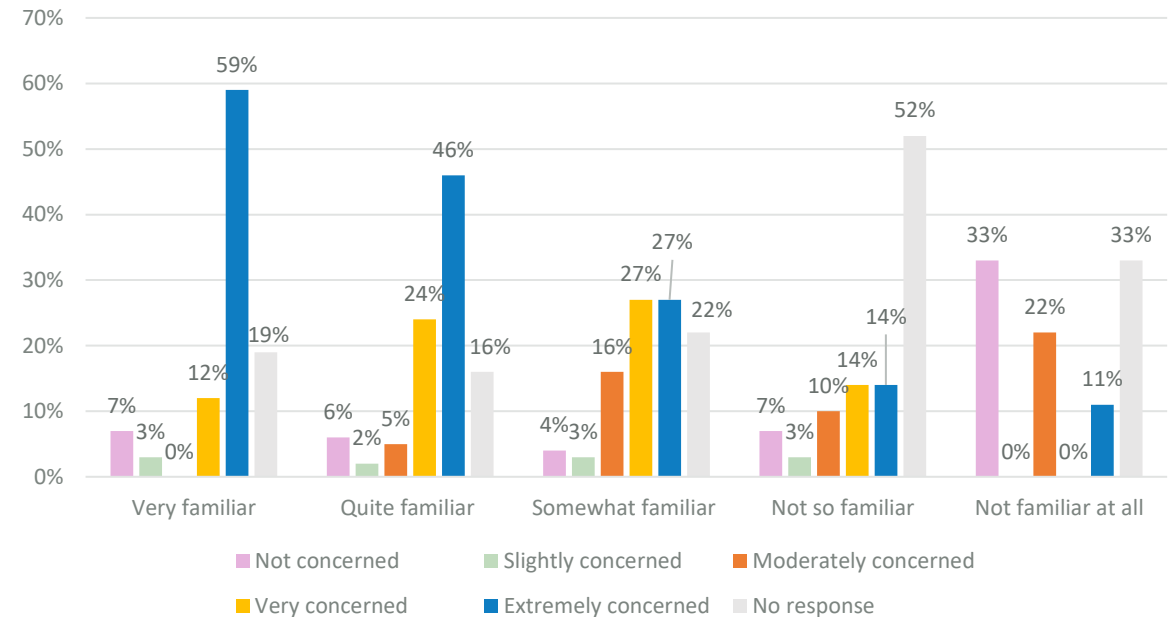
When asked about how familiar respondents think they are with the topic of climate change, **the majority (53%) stated they are 'quite familiar'**. It is important to note that respondents were asked about their *own perception of familiarity* with the topic which may not necessarily reflect their *objective familiarity* with it. Notwithstanding, the responses to this question indicate that Council can assume a reasonable degree of knowledge about climate change when communicating with the community.

As shown in the chart below right, those stating they are unfamiliar with the topic of climate change are least concerned about it (Q16), while those respondents with a higher perceived familiarity expressed a higher level of concern.

Q6: How familiar are you with the topic of climate change?
(n=762)



Familiarity with climate change (Q6) & overall level of concern (Q16)



Climate change awareness

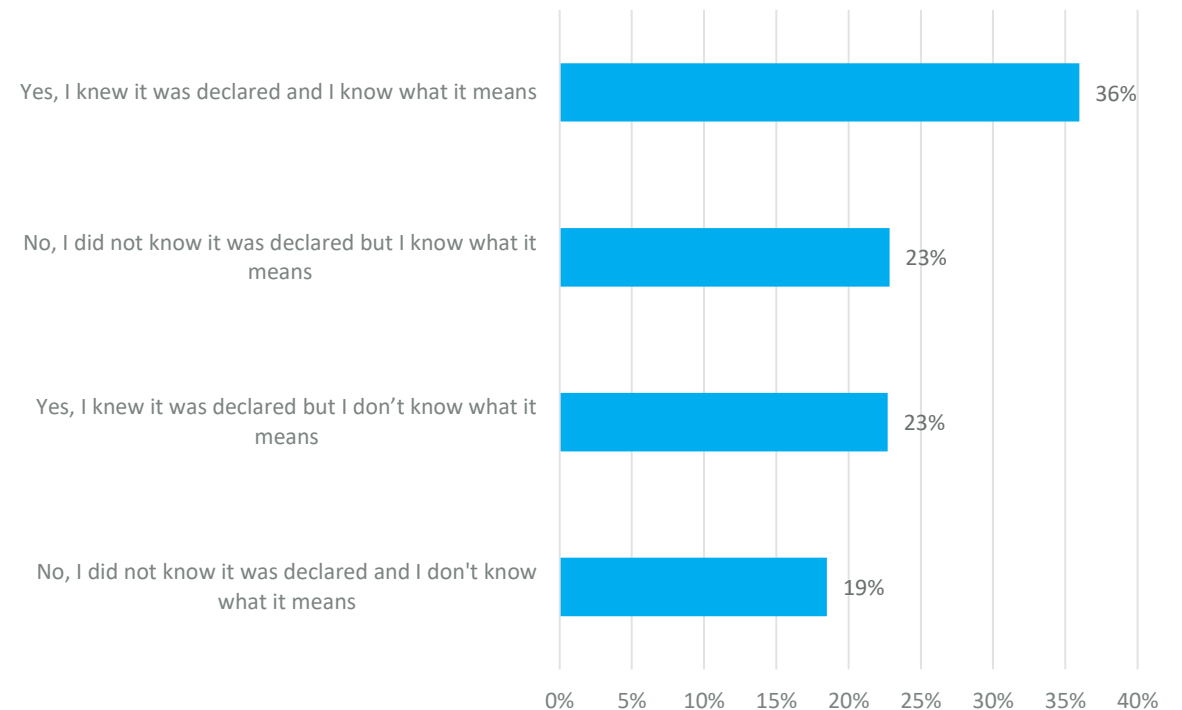
Awareness of Frankston City Council declaring a climate emergency (Q7)

More than half of respondents (59%) know that Council declared a climate emergency in November 2019. However, one third of these respondents (23% overall) don't know what the declaration of a Climate Emergency means.

Of the remaining 42% of respondents who were unaware that Council has declared a Climate Emergency, just under half (19% overall) do not know what a Climate Emergency is. We did not detect any significant trend of awareness across different age groups, however we did note that those with a closer connection to the Frankston municipality (by either being a resident, working in the municipality or being a member of a local community group) tended to have a higher awareness of the climate emergency declaration.

These findings indicate that a significant proportion (over 40%) of the community would benefit from further information on what a Climate Emergency declaration means and how it affects them.

Q7: Did you know that Frankston City Council declared a Climate Emergency on 18 November 2019? (n=762)



Climate change awareness

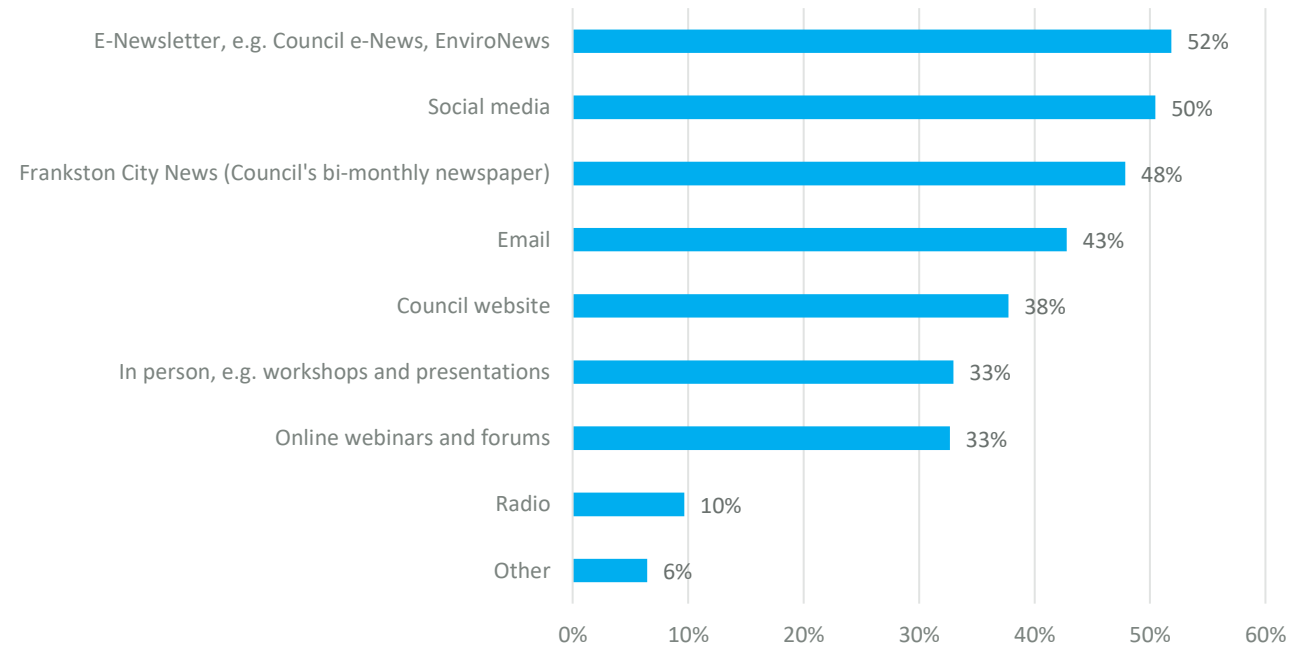
Best ways for Council to connect with community about taking action on climate change (Q11)

Respondents nominated a range of channels through which Council could best connect with them about taking action on climate change. **The top three channels were the e-newsletters (52%), social media (50%) and Frankston City News (48%).** Note that respondents were able to select multiple answers to this question.

The respondents also had the opportunity to select the answer option 'other' and leave an additional comment. There were 42 responses under 'other', some being more general comments while others were related to specific ways Council could connect with the Frankston City community.

Four out of 42 comments related to **providing the community with a space to interact with like-minded people**, for instance in the form of self-help community groups or through "green themed" events that bring the community together on a specific topic. In connection to this, one respondent mentioned establishing localised networks for learning, sharing, encouragement and collaboration on climate change. Additionally, a small number of respondents proposed Council could connect with the community through community groups (e.g. sporting organisations) or local schools.

Q11: What are the best ways Council can connect with you about taking action on climate change?
(n=652)



Climate change awareness

Support of the Frankston City community to become carbon neutral (Q15)

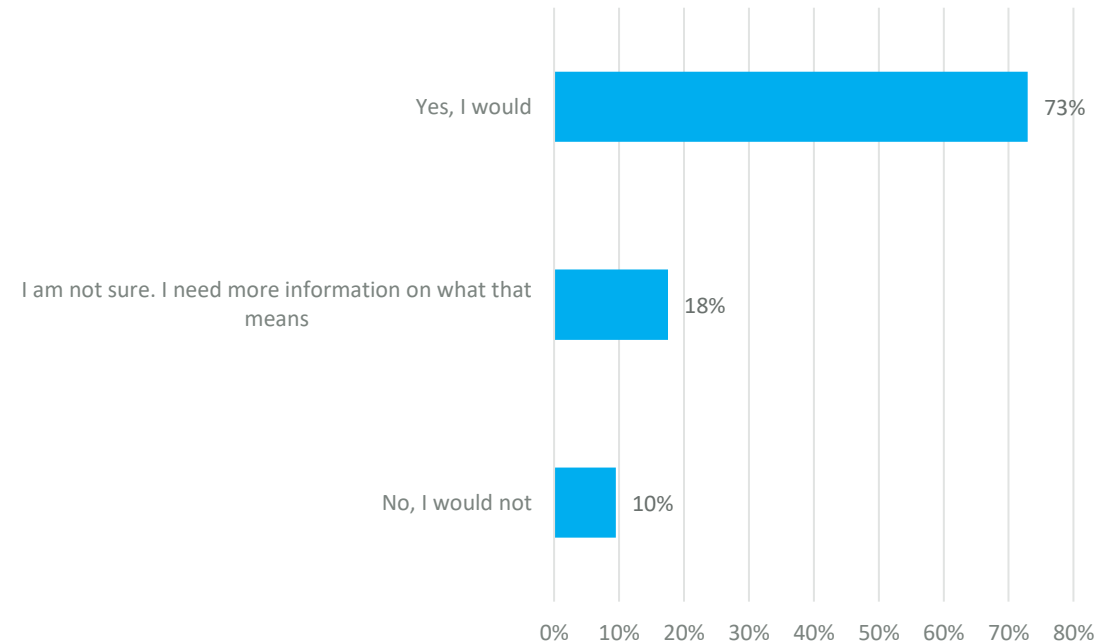
The majority of respondents (73%) stated that they would support a target for the whole Frankston City community to become 'zero carbon' (n=445/610). Only 10% of respondents (n=58) would not support such a target.

Respondents who answered 'I am not sure' or 'no, I would not' had the opportunity to provide an explanation of their response. A total of 89 respondents did so. We grouped these explanations into categories as outlined below:

- **Financial concerns**, for instance around the economic viability of the target and eventual costs to the community (n=25/89)
- Need for **more information**, for instance around what such a target means for the individual or the community (n=18/89)
- **Effectiveness** of the target (e.g. in relation to the influence of Council over the individual's decisions, only "a feel good" target without tangible impact) (n=12/89)
- **Scepticism** of the science of climate change (n=11/89)
- **Feasibility and achievability** of the target (n=8/89)
- Not Council's **responsibility** (n=7/89)
- Concern that such a target will **negatively effect the more disadvantaged in the community** (n=5/89)

Reflecting on the above comments, there is a clear need for the community to understand what a 'zero carbon community' means, what role the community would play and what contributions they would need to make, if Council wishes to pursue such a target.

Q15: Would you support having a target for the whole Frankston City community to become carbon neutral (i.e. become a 'zero carbon community')? (n=610)



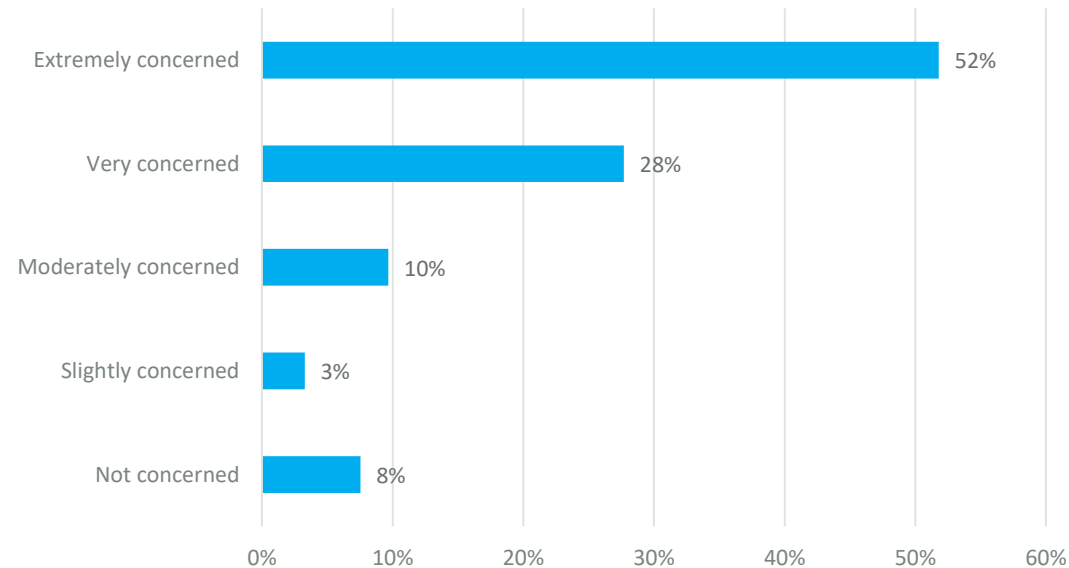
Key climate change concerns

Overall level of concern (Q16)

The **overall level of concern about climate change among survey respondents can be described as high**. A large majority (80%) are either 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change.

In other sections of this report, the overall level of concern has been compared with the age of respondents, the gender of respondents and respondents' familiarity with the topic climate change.

Q16: Overall, having thought about and considered climate change in more detail, how concerned would you say you are about climate change? (n=610)



Key climate change concerns

Overall level of concern about global impacts of climate change (Q8)

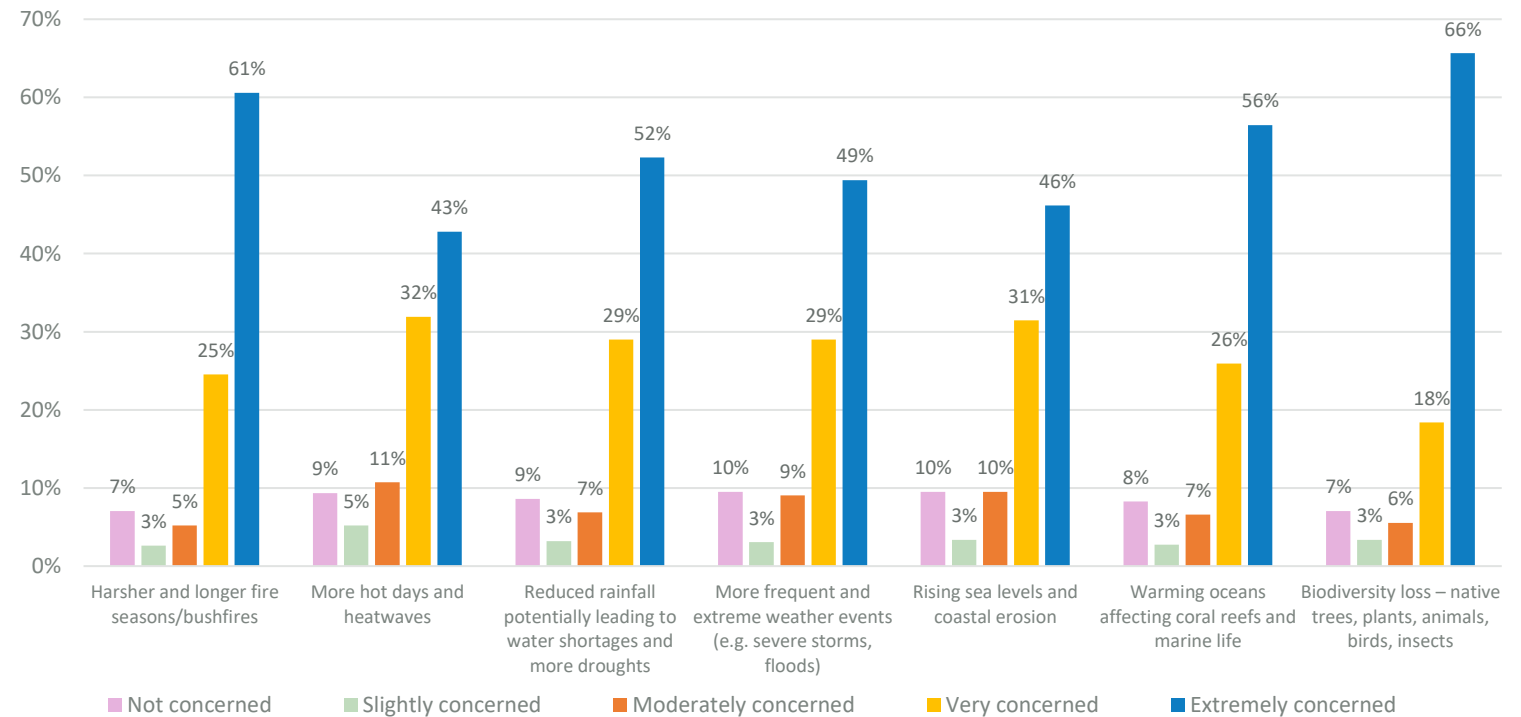
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of concern about specific impacts of climate change. The results are shown in the chart below. **There is generally a high level of concern amongst respondents across all global climate change impacts.**

When examining the results more closely, we noted that **respondents were most concerned about harsher and longer bushfire seasons/bushfires**, with 85% indicating they are 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned' (combined 487 out of 652 responses).

This was then followed by biodiversity loss (84%), warming oceans (82%), reduced rainfall (81%), and more frequent and extreme weather events (78%).

For a seaside community like Frankston, it is perhaps interesting to note that rising sea levels and coastal erosion (77%) and more hot days and heatwaves (75%) are of slightly less concern than other impacts.

Q8: Thinking globally about climate change, how concerned are you about each of the following impacts? (n=652)



Key climate change concerns

Overall level of concern about global impacts of climate change (Q8) – cont.

Respondents were given the opportunity to describe any additional impacts by selecting 'other'. A total of **77 out of 652 respondents left an additional comment**. The most common comments were related to impact on food security (n=15/77), climate injustice (n=8/77), impact on (mental) health (n=8/77) and loss of biodiversity (n=7/77). A selection of comments related to these impacts is provided below.

Other comments covered the lack of awareness and action (n=5/77), the impact of climate change on our economy (n=4/77), the socio-economic impacts of climate change (n=3/77) and environmental degradation (n=3/77).

Note that some respondents (n=8/77) expressed scepticism about the science of climate change and that they are therefore not concerned about global impacts of climate change.

Impact on food security

“Reduced food supply with extreme weather patterns, and a degeneration of soil which consequently will deprive nutrients from our food sources.”

Climate injustice

“Climate change injustice means that people who are already experiencing disadvantage, in Australia, the Pacific and throughout the world, will suffer even greater disadvantage due to climate change.”

Impact on (mental) health

“Effects on mental health caused by all the above. Even mood can be affected by being able to walk under the shade on hot days.”

Loss of biodiversity & trees

“Rate of extinction of flora and fauna in Australia”

“The impact on all nature and living beings in the world, particularly in countries that have limited resources to take action.”

Key climate change concerns

Top three climate change concerns for the local area (Q9)

In this question, respondents were asked about their top three concerns relating to climate change in the local area. Some community members took this opportunity to raise other environmental issues that are not directly related to climate change. We still included these responses in our analysis as they are a reflection of the community's concerns.

As each respondent was able to provide an individual, open-ended response, we grouped the responses in categories of concern (e.g. sea level rise and/or coastal erosion) when analysing the answers. It needs to be highlighted most concerns are highly interconnected and often relate to other concerns. For example, concerns about more hot days and heatwaves are likely to be associated with concerns about harsher and longer fire seasons or bushfires.

Our analysis suggests that the main concern about climate change in the local area is about the loss of biodiversity, flora & fauna, vegetation (including trees) and general habitat. This is followed by a concern about rising sea levels and coastal erosion, then harsher and longer fire seasons and bushfires, extreme weather events and more hot days and heatwaves and drought.

While these findings are largely in line with responses to question 8 (global impacts of climate change), this question drew out a greater indication of concern among the Frankston City community in relation to the local impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion. Council could consider creating an additional priority area (see question 12) that addresses this concern.



1. Loss of biodiversity / flora & fauna /
vegetation / habitat



2. Sea level rise and /or
coastal erosion



3. Harsher and longer fire
seasons / bushfires



4. Extreme weather events



5. More hot days and heatwaves
/ drought

Key climate change concerns

How, if at all, does having children or grandchildren influence respondents thinking about climate change (Q17)

This was an optional question. A total of **335 people provided a response** to this question.

The majority of respondents state that this influences their thinking and that they are concerned about the impacts of climate change on future generations. The overwhelming majority expressed deep concern and the legacy inherited by future generations. A notable proportion of respondents stated that they had chosen not to have children because of climate change, while several responded that they are concerned for all current and future generations, not just their own families. A small minority express scepticism about climate change. A representative sample of responses is shown below.

- *“I have adult children and grandchildren and this definitely influences me in wanting to preserve our city. My father came to live here in the early 1900s and I grew up here. So much has changed and it concerns me that we have lost so much of our coastline and green belts.”*
- *“I have both [children and grandchildren], but it doesn't affect my thinking about climate change - I think strongly about action for climate change for the entire planet, not just in my own backyard.”*
- *“I don't have grandchildren, but the pace of global warming (e.g. melting of the Arctic permafrost) is already such that my children will experience dangerous & unhealthy environmental conditions. It's horrible to think that it's because people in power in my generation refused to listen to 30 years of warning and pleading to reduce CO2 & CH4 emissions, to farm sustainably, to reduce land clearing etc. The people I know with young children are all concerned for the future they face.”*
- *“I don't have children or grandchildren however I am concerned about the environment we will be leaving our future generations.”*
- *“I have children and I can't say I'm too concerned about 'climate change' for future generations. There is too much conflicting data and 'science' to declare a 'climate emergency' in my opinion. I also note there's been many different climate 'campaigns' over the decades and none of the claims have ever come true so it's hard to be 100% on board with a 'climate change emergency'. I'm happy to support greener initiative like reducing waste/landfill, solar panels, etc. but some of these proposals seem a little out of Council's responsibility/reach.”*
- *“I don't have children even though I want them. I'm actually scared to bring them into a world with such imminent threat to life.”*
- *“Greatly. I see their concerns for the future and feel it would be unfair und inexcusable to not take all the action we can now before it is too late.”*

Priority areas for climate action

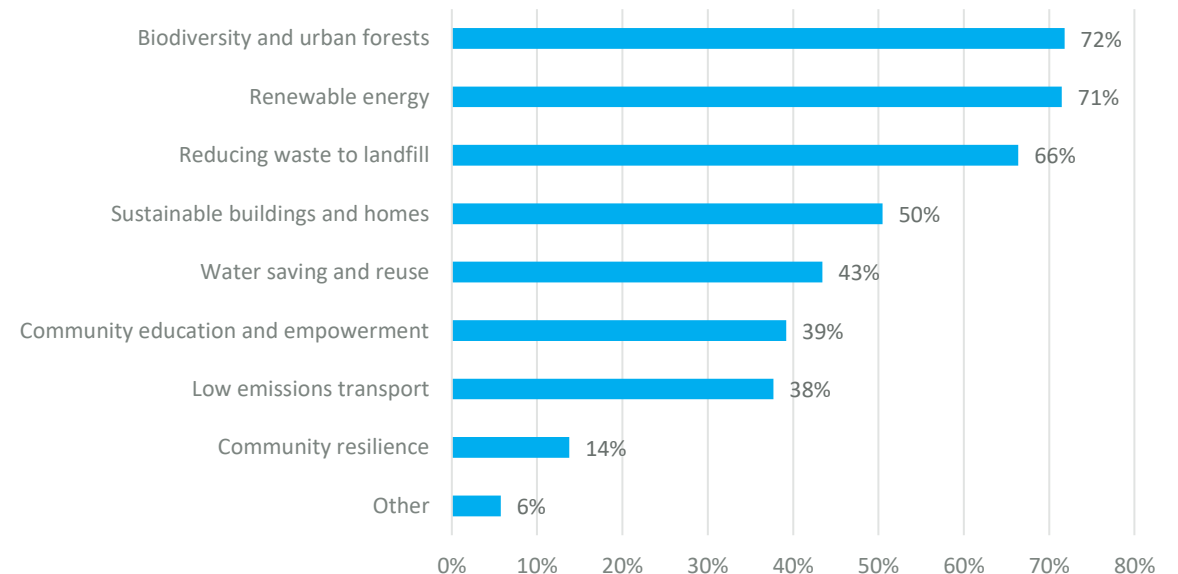
The four most important areas for Council to work in to address climate change (Q12)

Council is planning and working in eight areas to address climate change. Respondents were asked to choose the four areas they think are most important in terms of addressing climate change in the Frankston City community. A total of **610 people responded**. The four areas receiving the most support are listed below.

1. **Biodiversity and urban forests** - planting more trees and creating more local green spaces for city greening and cooling (n=438)
2. **Renewable energy** - looking at ways to accelerate the use of renewable energy (e.g. solar power) to produce electricity for our city and to move away from fossil fuels (n=436)
3. **Waste** - reducing waste to landfill by focusing more on waste avoidance, reducing, reusing and recycling (n=405)
4. **Sustainable buildings and homes** - supporting measures to incorporate energy saving and other sustainable design principles in new and existing buildings (n=308)

Other comments related to a range of topics including encouraging plant-based diets, growing local food security and lobbying state and federal governments for stronger climate action, while a few respondents commented they did not want Council to spend money in this area.

Q12: Most important areas for Council in addressing climate change (n=610)



Priority areas for climate action

Individual action on climate change (Q10)

Respondents were asked to think about their individual actions on climate change and select the actions that they are either already doing, would like to do or are not prepared or able to do. A total of **652 respondents** answered this question.

Top three actions that respondents are **already doing**:

- I am reducing the waste I send to landfill, for example by avoiding excess packaging, reusing, recycling and repairing where possible
- I do my best to reduce my energy usage, for example by using energy efficient lighting and choosing household appliances with a good energy efficiency rating
- I keep food waste out of landfill by using a compost bin, worm farm or having it collected for other uses (reducing methane gas emissions)

Top three actions that respondents **would like to do**:

- I have an electric vehicle or have purchased a more fuel-efficient car
- I have moved my money away from financial institutions that invest in fossil fuels (e.g. banks, superannuation funds)
- I have switched to renewable energy (e.g. solar power) and/or I buy green power for my energy usage

Top three actions that respondents **are not prepared or able to do**:

- I am part of a local environment or climate action group
- I have moved my money away from financial institutions that invest in fossil fuels (e.g. banks, superannuation funds)
- I have an electric vehicle or have purchased a more fuel-efficient car

The responses above provide Council with information enabling you to a) celebrate the actions already being taken; b) encourage or incentivise those actions that the community wish to do; and c) undertake further research to understand the reasons and barriers to actions that the community is not prepared or not able to do. Existing systems such as the 'Greening our Future' community events could support such activities.

Priority areas for climate action

Individual action on climate change (Q10) – cont.

Respondents were given the opportunity to offer any additional comments on the individual actions they are taking. In total, **68 respondents ticked ‘other’ and left an additional comment**. These comments covered a wide range of topics, but broadly mirrored the priorities chosen in the core question.

Respondents stated that they are taking individual action by:

- Recycling, minimising waste and trying to avoid buying items with large amounts of packaging (n=13/68)
- Undertaking energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency improvements on their homes (n=10/68).

Other individual actions included choosing a job that either focused on sustainability and climate change or supported the respondent to live a low carbon lifestyle (n=10/68); growing their own food and planting indigenous and biodiversity-supporting plants at home (n=8/68) and buying less or reusing things they already own (n=4/68).

In addition, some respondents spoke of choosing not to have children or opting to have a small family in order to limit their carbon footprint. Others had either moved their personal investments away from fossil fuels or wanted more information on how to do this.

A selection of quotes from responses is shown below.

Circular economy

“I reuse building materials in renovating my home.”

“Car share and discuss single use plastic at nearly every shopping trip.”

Energy and water

“Solar hot water system, draft sealed and insulated our home and tried to make it as passive as we can cheaply; use grey water to flush toilets and wash clothes.”

Work

“I work in the renewable energy sector”

“Choose to at least work close to home, to avoid a long commute.”

Growing at home

“I grow my own vegetables and help others who want to learn to do the same, I am helping others to compost by participating in Sharewaste.”

Buying less

“I use home made refillable cleaning products and reusable products that reduce single use waste.”

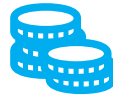
Priority areas for climate action

How can Council best support community climate action? (Q13)

Respondents were asked how Council can best support community climate action. They were provided with five options and were able to leave a comment. Respondents were invited to select as many options as they like. The **three options selected the most** were:



By providing advice and incentives to help people make their homes and other buildings more energy efficient (n=510/610)



By providing grants for community groups to work on environmental projects that address climate change issues, e.g. to reduce emissions, increase vegetation, trees etc. (n=461/610)



By advocating on behalf of the community for climate action (e.g. to the State and Federal Government) (n=455/610)

The other two options respondents were able to select were:

- By providing more information on what climate actions both individual community members and organisations can take (n=400/610)
- By providing (more) information on climate risks in my locality such as flooding, coastal inundation and heat waves and how best to prepare (n=355/610)

Priority areas for climate action

How can Council best support community climate action? (Q13) – cont.

Respondents were given the opportunity to offer any additional comments on how Council can best support climate action. In total, **90 respondents selected ‘other’ and left an additional comment**. These comments covered a wide range of topics, but broadly mirrored the priorities chosen in the core question.

Respondents stated that Council can best support climate action by:

- Setting ambitious targets, providing local government leadership and advocating for stronger action at a state and federal level (n=19/90)
- Providing incentives for community, household and business action (n=14/90).

19 respondents who left an additional comment (n=19/90) expressed scepticism about the science of climate change and voiced their view that Council should not spend money in this area.

Other priorities not otherwise covered included improving land use, planning and building standards to create more sustainable places (n=9/90); protecting and enhancing green spaces and supporting greater tree planting (n=7/90); improving recycling and providing greater opportunities for the community to participate in the circular economy (n=6/90); and working with schools and community groups to share knowledge and ideas (n=7/90).

Greening Frankston

“Preserve existing bushland and regeneration of degraded land.”

Reducing waste

“We need a waste reduction strategy, more comprehensive recycling system and support for local producers and food systems outside of traditional supermarket model.”

Land use & sustainable buildings

“Changing housing and development policy to support more sustainable housing options, i.e. cohousing developments, smaller house sizes.”

Knowledge sharing

“Schools have a tree day, what about a residents’ one with advice on which trees are best.”

Scepticism

“Stop wasting rate payers’ money on this scam.”

Priority areas for climate action

Direct actions that Frankston City Council should focus on to address climate change (Q14)

In addition to priority areas for Council action, respondents were asked about what other direct actions Council should focus on to address climate change. Respondents were able to select multiple actions from 14 predefined actions as well as providing further comments. A total of **610 respondents** answered this question. A selection of comments relating to the most popular actions is shown below.

Actions receiving the **most 'votes'**:

- Prioritising tree planting in areas that experience increased urban heat and high pedestrian use (83%)
- Installing energy saving and renewable energy measures (such as solar power) on Council buildings and for public lighting (76%)
- Developing alternative ways to reduce waste going to landfill and increase the recovery of resources (75%)

Actions receiving the **least 'votes'**:

- Running selected events as carbon neutral (e.g. use 100 per cent renewable energy, limit the use of generators, promote public transport, reduce the amount of red meat in catering and reduce waste, offset remaining emissions) (50%)
- Introducing electric vehicles into Council's fleet (50%)
- Investing in Council buildings to showcase sustainable design (i.e. green buildings) which meet or exceed best practice (48%)



Greening Frankston

"Encourage residents to plant indigenous trees and plants...This will ease the urban heat island effect and provide green corridors for the local flora and fauna."



Council energy measures

"By ensuring Council buildings and operations are carbon neutral as soon as possible, preserving or expanding the green wedge, incorporating green walls and roofs in council buildings."



Reducing waste

"Develop and support repair cafes."
"Introduce recycling refunds for glass and metals."

Priority areas for climate action

Direct actions that Frankston City Council should focus on to address climate change (Q14) – cont.

Respondents were given the opportunity to offer any additional comments on direct actions that Frankston City Council should focus on to address climate change. In total, **75 respondents selected 'other' and left an additional comment**. These comments covered a wide range of topics, but broadly mirrored the priorities chosen in the core question. Other topics included setting strong targets and acting as climate leaders (including divesting from fossil fuels) (n=11/75); greater provision for active travel and public transport (n=8/75); decarbonising energy (n=6/75); providing incentives to businesses, households and community groups to take stronger action (n=5/75) and taking a more sustainable approach to land use planning (n=5/75). A selection of these comments is shown below.

Targets

“Actively commit to beyond zero emissions by 2050 at the latest and with measurable and very ambitious interim targets (i.e. 70% by 2030)”

Transport

“Make it easy & reasonably priced to get around the municipality without using a car would be great. Don't forget to plan for disabled with all of these.”

Energy

“Oppose the AGL gas plant in Westernport Bay and develop a marine sanctuary.”

Land use & sustainable buildings

“Allow for high density development to reduce car usage and increase the mobility of residents to walk/cycle.”

“Protection of foreshore against development and infrastructure encroachment.”

Priority areas for climate action

Additional comments and feedback (Q18)

Q18 offered a chance for respondents to give any final additional comments and feedback. In total, **209 comments were made**. The tone and content varied widely but there were some common topics. The five most common topics were:

1. **Praise** – Respondents praised the survey and Council for conducting it
2. **Strategy** – Respondents shared views on how Council should work with other tiers of Government and what it should focus on
3. **Communication** – Respondents strongly advocated for greater knowledge sharing, innovation and education on climate change
4. **Community** – Many responses called for increased community participation, and more support for community action
5. **Greening Frankston** – Respondents called for more tree planting, revegetation and support for biodiversity



Praise

"I am grateful that Frankston Council is taking such positive action on Climate Change. There is NO Planet B!"



Strategy

"Frankston City Council should lead the way and then push its neighbours to follow suit!"



Communication

"The council needs to think of innovative ways to engage the community."



Community

"Ownership of issues as a community is best achieved through participation in local creative projects."



Greening Frankston

"I really believe that planting more trees on nature strips and making more green corridors for wildlife is hugely important."

Other topics included transport (particularly around improved active travel, public transport and electric vehicle (EV) charging provision); land use; buildings and energy efficiency; the circular economy and waste; and local food.

While most comments were supportive and constructive, only 10 comments expressed scepticism about climate change and/or did not support Council taking any action in this area.

Priority areas for climate action

Ideas brought forward via the 'Big Ideas' forum

Complementing the survey, Council encouraged the generation of 'Big Ideas' from the community via Council's existing 'OurSay' platform. This was intended to capture the community's ideas on how to address climate change in the Frankston municipality. Similarly to the survey, the 'Big Ideas' forum was promoted by Council via Council's website and social media, Frankston City News (Council's newsletter delivered to households) and Council's e-newsletters, as well as through local media channels. Ideas receiving the **most 'votes'** via the public forum are summarised below and on the next page.



Reclaiming bushland around the Langwarrin quarry areas (15 votes)

(Re-)Connect the Langwarrin bushland area and create wildlife corridors by reclaiming (and protecting) areas around the Langwarrin quarry that have not been destroyed already. By doing so, there is the opportunity to create something similar to 'The Australian Garden' in Cranbourne, with connecting boardwalks and educational activities for instance along Boggy Creek, Apple Berry Avenue.

This idea can have positive effects on the health and wellbeing of the community and could facilitate eco-tourism opportunities in Langwarrin.

- Cecilia



Bike-friendly Frankston (11 votes)

Invest in and improve cycling infrastructure across the municipality to increase cyclists' (sense of) safety on Frankston's roads.

Frankston could follow the footsteps of bike-friendly cities like Copenhagen, to reduce CO2 emissions and help Frankston become carbon neutral faster. This will also help improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Frankston's citizens, while simultaneously reducing healthcare costs.

Furthermore, biking could help increase retail spending in our struggling local businesses. Shopping centres could be equipped with bike friendly infrastructure to support this.

- Monica

Priority areas for climate action

Ideas brought forward via the 'Big Ideas' forum (cont.)



Partnering with Compost Revolution (10 votes)

If Frankston City Council partnered with Compost Revolution, it would entitle all Frankston residents to discounted composting equipment, allowing interested households to cut down on food waste going into landfill and provide composters with fertilizer for their gardens.

- Calypso



Bulk Food Store (7 votes)

Invest in a Bulk Food store that provides refilling stations for some staple foods such as rice, flour and cereals. This would reduce the amount of waste in the community's bins, in the streets and would also reduce the amount of plastic used for packaging. The reduction in packaging would result in reduced greenhouse gases from manufacturing and transport. This is the way people used to shop, why can't we go back to it?

- EmC

Other 'big ideas' that were brought forward were the following:

- Promote tree planting and maintenance in public spaces and backyards (6 votes)
- Support urban nature strip gardens which are beneficial for biodiversity, reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce run off and the community's health and wellbeing (5 votes)
- Provide safe & economic (public) transport for people to move about the community freely and safely without the reliance on cars (4 votes)
- Engage the community in fun, creative and inspiring activities on the topic of climate mitigation (3 votes)
- Ban wood burning heaters to reduce pollution (1 vote)
- Educate the community on all things related to climate change and promote collective action (0 votes)
- Develop a circular economy in Carrum Downs (0 votes)
- Invest in a garbage collection machine for lakes (0 votes)

Priority areas for climate action

Ideas brought forward via email

Some community members reached out to provide their ideas and comments via email. **A total of 3 ideas and comments were submitted this way.**

One person commented more broadly on positive ways to take action on climate change, including supporting the use of renewable energy and solar cars.

Another person requested more action on recycling and the reduction of plastic packaging. Similarly, the Committee for Greater Frankston has requested that Council develops a sustainable circular economy in Carrum Downs' advance design and manufacturing sector. As part of this request the Committee submitted a detailed concept. The broader idea is to release degraded green wedge land between the EastLink highway and Frankston Dandenong Road to expand the Carrum Downs industrial precinct to create a 21st century, six-star, ecologically sustainable industrial park with integrated recycled water, energy and transport usage for use by clean, innovative, job-dense and high-tech companies.



Recycling & circular economy



Innovate ideas for climate action

SECTION 4

RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS



Recommendations & next steps

Actionable steps for Council

What?

Develop a detailed plan to tackle priority climate actions

Support individual and community action

Re-survey

How?

- Focus on the community priorities identified in the survey and develop a strategy and action plan to address these
 - Develop actions to respond to the local climate change impacts of greatest concern to the community
 - Consider including feedback from the 'big ideas' submitted by the community in this action plan
 - Consider setting a carbon neutral (zero net emissions) target with the community for the Frankston municipality
-
- Celebrate actions that are already being taken and encourage or incentivise those actions that survey respondents stated they would like to do
 - Provide advice and develop or leverage incentives to help people make their homes and other buildings more energy efficient
 - Provide grants for community groups to work on environmental projects that address climate change issues e.g. to reduce emissions, increase vegetation, invest in renewables, etc.
 - Advocate strongly on behalf of the community for climate action at a state and federal level
 - Partner with community groups and schools for climate action
-
- Use this survey as a baseline and re-run the survey in 3-5 years to test the success of Council's climate change actions, and to understand how community sentiment on this issue is shifting



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