

Findings Report

Results from 'Responding to Climate Change'
community consultation

Document control

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Contents

1. Executive Summary	4
Purpose	4
Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP)	4
Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Adaptation Framework)	4
Engagement Activities	4
Summary of Feedback	5
How this feedback will be used	5
2. Project Overview	6
Background	6
CERP	6
Adaptation Framework	6
3. Engagement Objectives	7
CERP	7
Adaptation Framework	7
4. Engagement Methods	8
Shaping Banyule	9
Public Forums	12
Banyule Advisory Committees	12
Animated Video	12
Eco Festival – Montmorency	13
Social media	14
Internal Stakeholder Engagement Workshops	15
5. Consultation Feedback	16
Shaping Banyule	16
Survey Results	16
6. How this feedback will be used	25
7. Appendix	26
Survey Questions	26

1. Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this community consultation was to support:

- the redevelopment of the **Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan**
- the development of a **Climate Change Adaptation Framework**.

Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP)

The CERP guides Council's efforts to reduce the impact of carbon emissions from our activities, services and facilities. It establishes a target for Council to become a certified carbon neutral organisation by 2028, including actions taken by staff to reduce emissions and embed collaboration across Council departments, the community and with other councils in our region.

Community feedback helped shape the current CERP 2020-23, which is now due to be updated and will identify actions to help us achieve zero net emissions by 2028.

Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Adaptation Framework)

An Adaptation Framework and associated actions are being developed for Banyule City Council. This work will support the organisation and community to adapt to, and build resilience in the face of, current and projected climate change.

Progressing climate adaptation was identified as a priority in Council's *Community Climate Action Plan (CAP)*, including assessing the vulnerability of Banyule and its community to climate change and reviewing and implementing regional actions of the Northern Alliance of Greenhouse Action (NAGA) *Adaptation in the North* report. Banyule's CAP also aims to identify priorities for strengthening Banyule's adaptation response.

Adaptation is changing behaviours, increasing resilience and upgrading assets to better respond to the impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events. Regardless of how successful we are at mitigating climate change, we will continue to experience impacts to which we need to adapt.

Engagement Activities

The **CERP** is undergoing a review as part of the current project. Having been discussed with the community in 2019, it was important to engage with both internal stakeholders and the community in a way that built on previous conversations and the work undertaken since 2019. Through forums, online engagement through Shaping Banyule and targeted outreach to existing networks and stakeholders, awareness was raised about emissions reduction goals and strategies. Feedback was gathered on community priorities, including the consideration of offsets, and input was sought on new actions for emissions reduction.

For the **Adaptation Framework**, engagement aimed at raising awareness of climate change impacts and fostering community collaboration. This is the first time Council is developing an adaptation framework addressing the impacts of climate change, so the starting point is different to the CERP. Through the forums, online surveys and targeted outreach to advisory committees, the community was involved in identifying priorities for adaptation strategies.

Summary of Feedback

CERP

Community feedback on the CERP highlighted a strong awareness of emission reduction goals and a desire for sustainable practices. Suggestions included renewable energy adoption, active transport promotion and waste management improvements. Concerns were raised about climate change impacts and there were calls for decisive action and community involvement in mitigation efforts.

Adaptation Framework

Feedback on the Adaptation Framework emphasised the community's concern for climate change impacts and the need for proactive adaptation measures. Suggestions included infrastructure resilience, biodiversity preservation and sustainable transport initiatives. The feedback reflected a collective desire for effective climate action and community involvement in resilience-building efforts.

How this feedback will be used

Feedback received during this consultation will inform the redevelopment of the CERP and the development of the Adaptation Framework. Recommendations include:

- Incorporate community priorities and input into emissions reduction strategies and adaptation measures.
- Consider community feedback on offsets and emissions reduction actions.
- Strengthen community engagement and awareness initiatives on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.
- Identify vulnerabilities and capability -building actions for resilience.
- Establish a baseline to track progress and ongoing community involvement in climate action initiatives.

2. Project Overview

Background

In 2019, Banyule took a pioneering step by declaring a **climate emergency** and committing to ambitious targets for emission reduction. Our vision includes becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2028 and achieving carbon neutrality for our wider community by 2040. To turn this vision into reality, Council already adopted the **Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan** and the **Community Climate Action Plan** in 2020.

To help with next steps, we're updating our Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and developing Banyule's first Climate Change Adaptation Framework to make sure that Banyule remains the vibrant, green and thriving community we love.

Following this, we will also update the Community Climate Action Plan, demonstrating continuous improvement and commitment to achieving our targets.

CERP

The **CERP** guides Council's efforts to reduce the impact of carbon emissions from our activities, services and facilities. It establishes a target for Council to become a certified carbon neutral organisation by 2028, including actions taken by staff to reduce emissions and embed collaboration across Council departments, the community and with other Councils in our region.

Community feedback helped shape the current CERP 2020-23.

The CERP sets a target for Council to achieve net zero emissions in its operations by 2028, and an aspiration that this be achieved without purchasing offsets. The current CERP 2020-23 contained 30 actions across the following nine priority areas:

- Climate action culture
- Zero net emissions buildings
- Green fleet
- Low carbon lighting
- Electric leisure centres
- Maximise renewable energy
- Develop actions for new priority areas
- Green suppliers
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI).

The CERP is now being updated. We have cut our emissions by 55% at the half-way point to Target28 and identified some potential challenges to overcome. Although the CERP is an internal facing document, the consultation process gave the community an opportunity to increase its understanding of Council's approach, provide feedback on Council's target and the option of offsets to address a shortfall in emissions reduction, and tell us the factors that are important to them if offsets need to be purchased.

Along with input from internal stakeholders, the feedback received from the community will help identify actions to help us achieve zero net emissions by 2028.

Adaptation Framework

Climate adaptation was identified as a priority in Council's Community Climate Action Plan. It includes assessing the vulnerability of Banyule and its communities to climate change, reviewing and implementing regional actions of the *NAGA Adaptation in the North* report and identifying priorities to strengthen Banyule's adaptation response.

We know that no matter how well we respond to climate change, we will continue to experience its impacts and will need to adapt to them. This means we should:

- think about how the weather can affect our choices
- support people who are more likely to suffer from climate change
- be guided by the best scientific evidence
- ask people who are affected by our choices what they think and want
- check back on our actions and be ready to change them if needed.

The **Adaptation Framework** will be the first of its kind for Banyule City Council and is important for identifying priorities and actions to build resilience to climate change.

3. Engagement Objectives

CERP

Table 1 – Objectives of the CERP Engagement

Objective 1	Raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the outcomes and progress of CERP Phase 1 with community members to frame engagement for the new CERP. • Gather information from internal stakeholders to inform the evaluation of CERP Phase 1.
Objective 2	Identify community priorities and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate contemporary practice on corporate emissions reduction. • Share research and best practice to set the scene. • Seek feedback from internal experts on research.
Objective 3	Foster community ownership and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an opportunity for feedback and input on a draft plan. • Increase the understanding of Council's corporate emissions reduction activities among the community.
Objective 4	Seek feedback and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek feedback from community on Council's target and if we should consider offsets to address any shortfall in emissions reduction. • Seek feedback on the factors that are important to the community when selecting the type of offsets purchased.

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Adaptation Framework

Table 2 – Objectives of the Adaptation Framework Engagement

Objective 1	Raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and enhance understanding of climate change, its potential impacts on Banyule and the broader region, and the need to adapt. • Raise awareness of extreme weather events and their relationship to climate change. Make people aware of the relationship between the two. • Engage the community to understand the urgency and seriousness of the issues. Inform residents about what 'adapting' entails and the importance of changing behaviours, increasing resilience, and upgrading assets to respond to climate change impacts.
Objective 2	Identify community priorities and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the community in identifying its priorities and needs concerning climate change adaptation. • Gather input from residents on the actions and measures they believe are most important for adapting to climate change. • Assess the vulnerabilities of Banyule and its residents and seek community input on the adaptation strategies that will be most effective and relevant to the local context.

¹ Ref: Template 2 – Community Engagement Plan – CERP (as prepared with the Community Engagement Team)

Objective 3	Foster community ownership and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, Banyule took a pioneering step by declaring a climate emergency and committing to ambitious targets for emission reduction. Our vision includes becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2028 and achieving carbon neutrality for our wider community by 2040. To turn this vision into reality, we already introduced CERP 2020-23 and the Community Climate Action Plan in 2020.
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4. Engagement Methods

Six engagement methods were used to communicate and capture input from the community and key stakeholders. These methods were supported by a hard copy and digital communications campaign including postcards, posters and social media to reach and engage with a broad audience.

The below results show the level of participation of each method. In addition to the 100 postcards distributed at Eco Festival in March 2024, up to 1,000 people also visited the project marquee. It is worth noting also that while the number of views of the animated video on YouTube is 180, it was also played on screens in customer service areas and at events run by Council in February and March. The reach is therefore expected to be well over 1,000.



² Ref: Template 2 – Community Engagement Plan – Climate Adaptation (as prepared with the Community Engagement Team)

Shaping Banyule

A homepage was created on Shaping Banyule with a pledge to the public to...

...help us shape a sustainable and more resilient tomorrow.

The animation video was showcased at the top of the Shaping Banyule landing page. Supporting text and information was easily accessible, explaining the basis of the two topics – the CERP and the Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Subpages with additional information on each of the documents were also accessible.

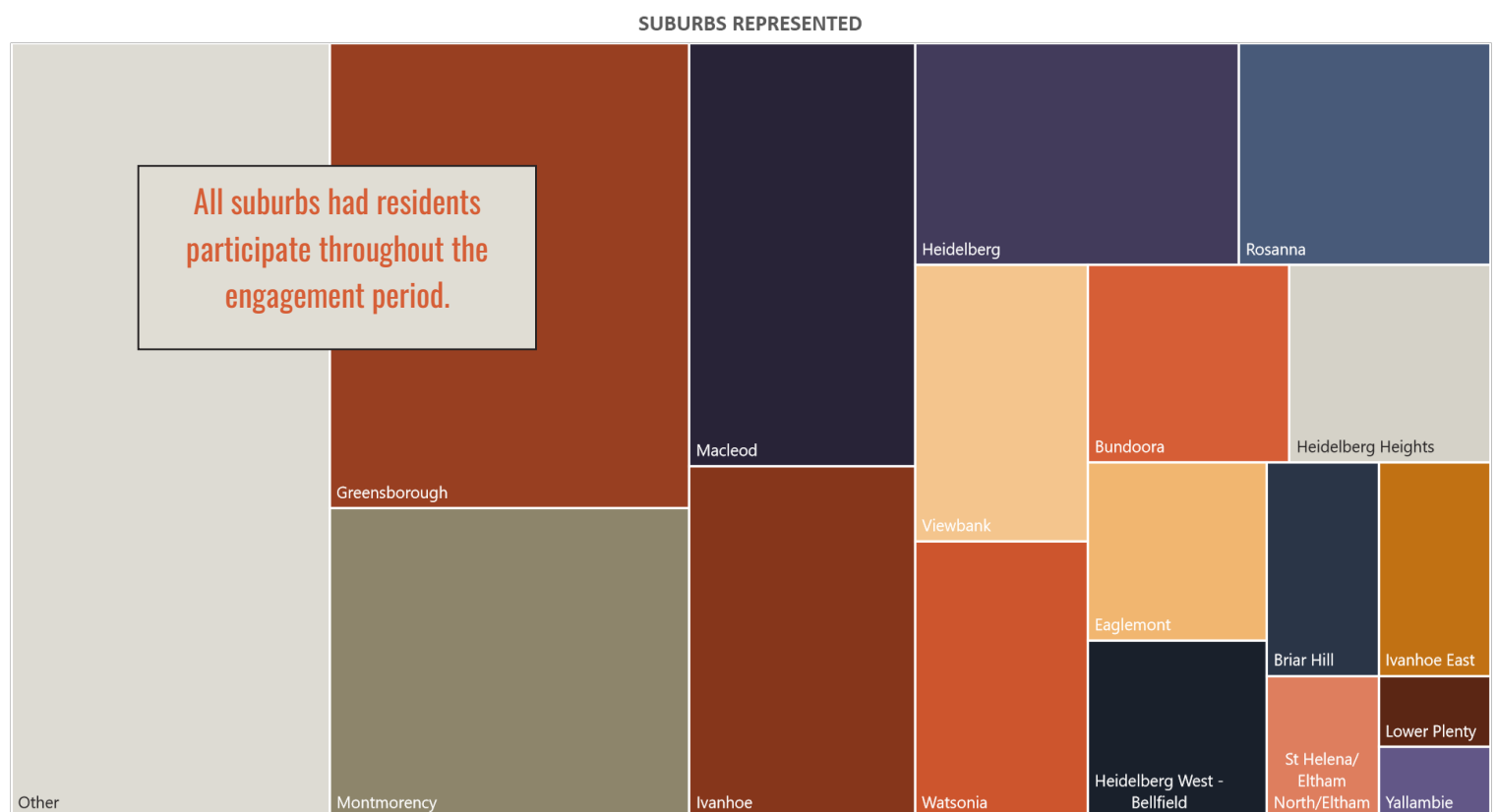
In addition, the document library comprised of the previous version of the CERP and Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) and a fact sheet on climate adaptation in Banyule.

This page contained a survey for the wider community to complete, which helped us get an idea of the community's understanding of climate change as well as their concerns and priorities when it came to dealing with climate change. Participation in the 'Responding to Climate Change' Survey through Shaping Banyule was promoted through a social media campaign. Posters and postcards with a QR code link to the survey were left at Council's offices and at libraries, community centres and handed out at drop-in sessions. Postcards were also distributed to Environmental Friends Groups and Environmental Volunteers to help engage the wider community through their networks.

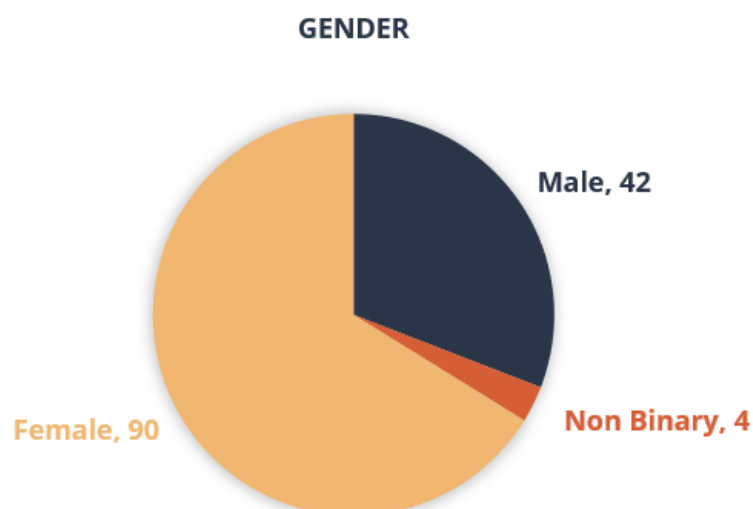
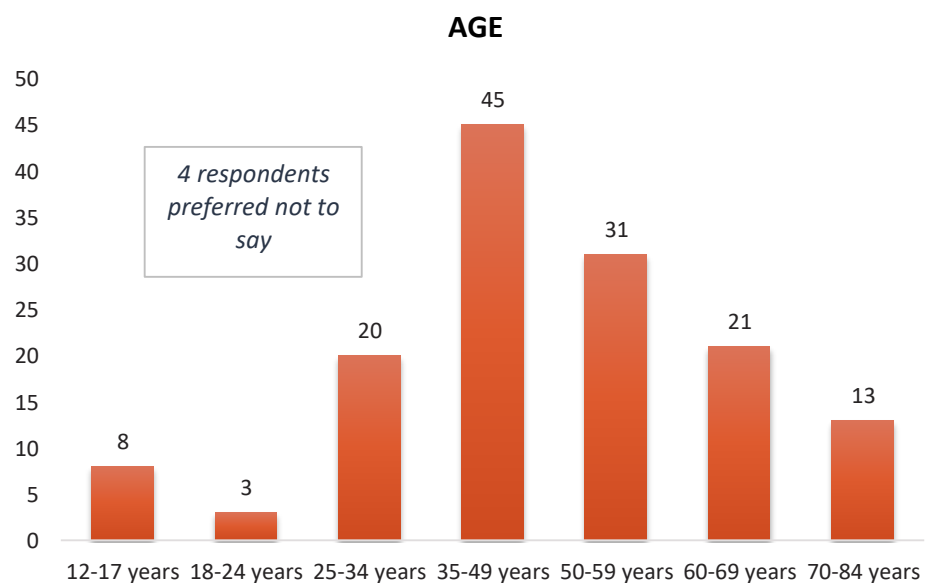
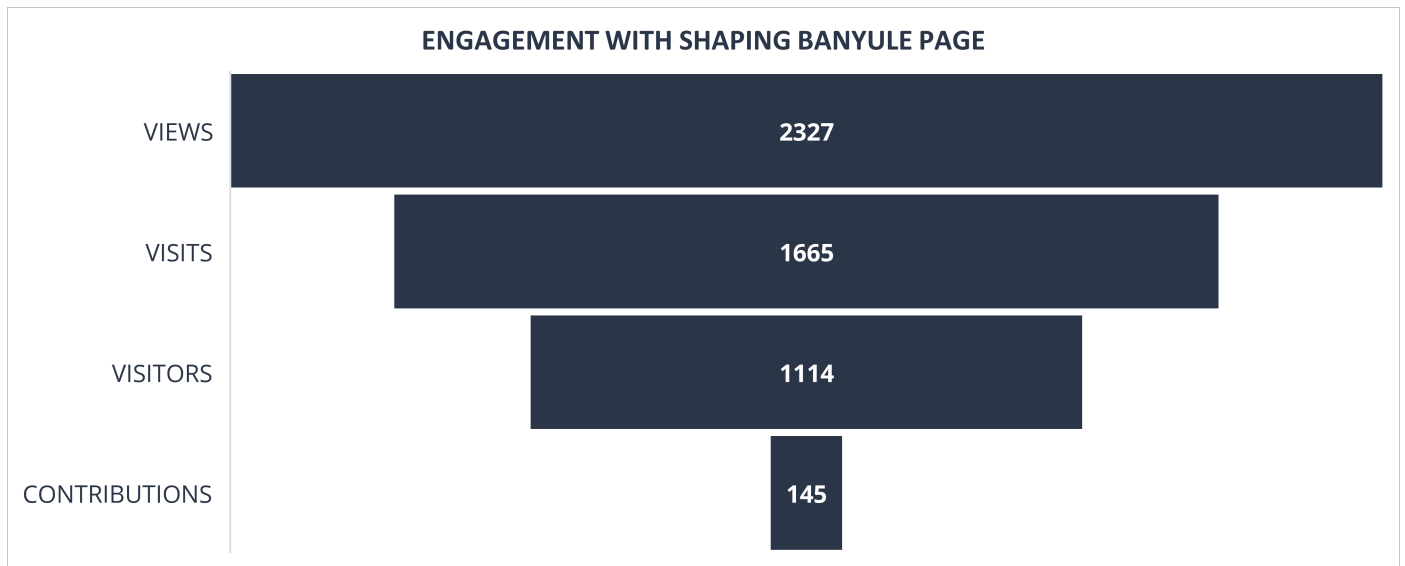
A key message of the Shaping Banyule page summed up the aims of both documents via the message:

While Council strives to reduce emissions, adapting to climate change is equally important.

Council received an enthusiastic and generous response from the community over the consultation period. Demographics collected over the community engagement period are reflected below:



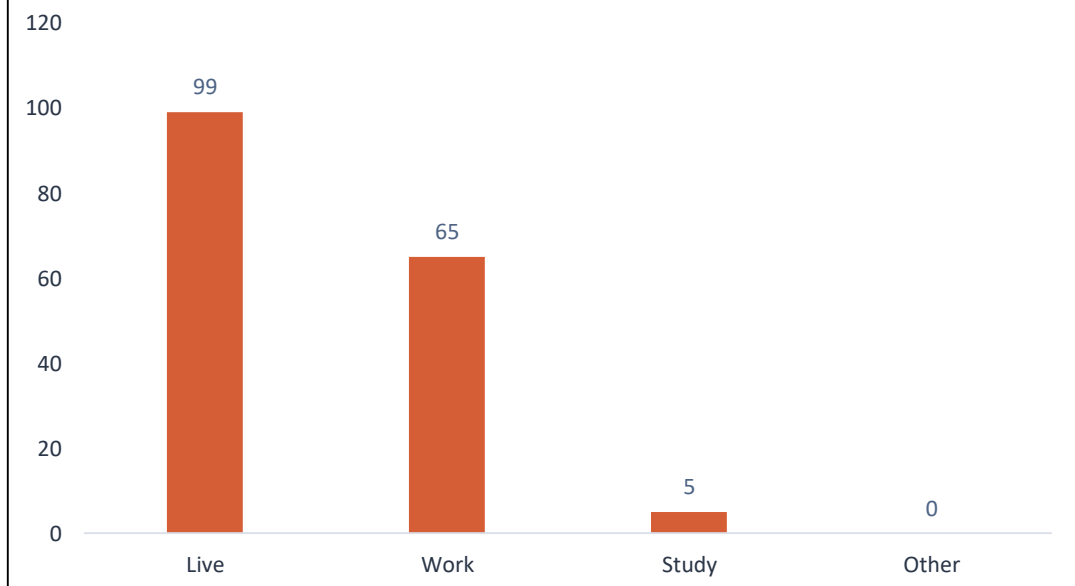
Shaping Banyule



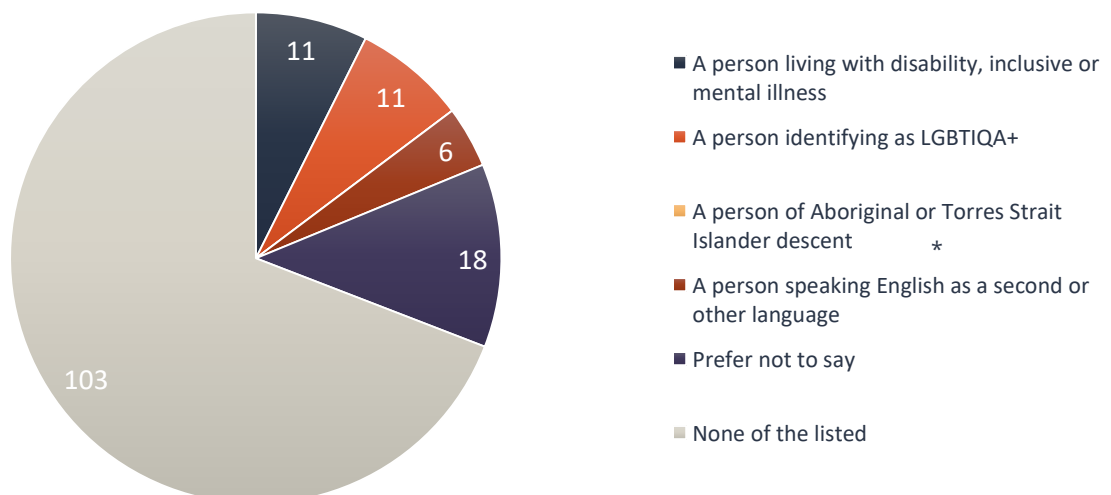
LANGUAGES SPOKEN (where English is not the first language spoken at home)



RELATIONSHIP TO BANYULE



INCLUSIVITY



*While there were no people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who responded to the survey, the team separately met with the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee and its members were consulted

Public Forums

Four community engagement forums were held over the consultation period to provide information to the community on the two plans, and to receive in-person feedback.

These sessions were:

- Forum 1 – Ivanhoe – 3 February 2024
- Forum 2 – Greensborough – 13 February 2024
- Forum 3 – Online – 22 February 2024
- Forum 4 – Young people (Greensborough) – 29 February 2024

The selection of different time slots and locations was intentional to provide broader geographic and time options for the community to participate.

The agenda for the sessions included an explanation of climate change in a global and local context, presentation and discussion of the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and time at the end for questions and completing the survey.

Keeping in mind the importance of the role of young people in combating climate change, a separate forum with young people (ages 12-25) was facilitated in collaboration with the Youth Services team. The younger residents of Banyule were given a chance to express their thoughts in a more relaxed and casual environment with an icebreaker, quiz and an activity that asked them what concerned them the most about Climate Change.

Banyule Advisory Committees

The promotional animation, together with an opportunity for the community to comment via their committee members, was presented to the following committees to seek their feedback:

- Age-Friendly Committee
- Disability and Inclusion Committee
- Banyule Environmental and Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAAC)
- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee
- Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (completed in May 2024).

Animated Video

The Environment Team worked with the Community Engagement team to create an explanatory animated video to convey the message of both the CERP and the Adaptation Framework and to educate, engage and bring the community through to complete the survey. It was anticipated that the community may not have a great understanding of the topics.

The animation was scripted as a joint project of Banyule staff together with an external consultant. Keeping in line with the sustainable procurement guidelines, the consultant is a B Corp agency dedicated to not-for-profits, other B Corps, and organisations such as Councils who want to have a positive impact.

The messages conveyed in the animation were:

1. Demonstrate Banyule's background in addressing climate change
2. Introduce the concepts of emissions reduction and climate change adaptation
3. Highlight the need for Council and community to work together on these issues
4. Talk about Council's role and goals
5. Encourage community members to take action



6. Tell community that to help now, they could complete the survey.

The animation can now be viewed at: https://youtu.be/0JhS1FtL_kY?si=cnXbpPijLJZ3ryWl

Apart from featuring on Shaping Banyule, the video was played during Public Forums and on screens at the customer service area at Council offices in Greensborough, in the Ground Floor/Watermarc foyer at 1 Flintoff Street and at events such as the Twilight Sounds (February) and Eco Festival (March).

Eco Festival – Montmorency

Eco Festival is a major event for the Banyule Arts and Culture team. It is aimed at all ages and abilities and features pet friendly and garden themed interactive workshops and activities, display stalls, giveaways, roving entertainment, sustainability information and food trucks. It is a fun event celebrating the local community, our natural environment and the change of seasons.

The Banyule Environment team held three stands at the festival. These were titled “Community Climate Action”, “Climate Action” and “Biodiversity”, supporting the team’s major work.

One hundred postcards linking to the Shaping Banyule survey were given out at the festival, and at the Community Climate Action stall, a question was posed to visitors:

“What should Banyule Council do to support climate change?”

Results of the on-site survey are presented in Figure 1 below.

Bolder and larger words are representative of the frequency of word use. From this we can deem a pattern of community suggestion that Council should:

- Help the environment
- Involve First Nations People
- Protect animals and plants
- Involve Schools
- Dispose rubbish responsibly
- Ensure food security for Banyule
- Make changes sooner
- Prioritise nature-based play
- Work together with the community
- Educate the community
- And other themes as shown in Figure 1.



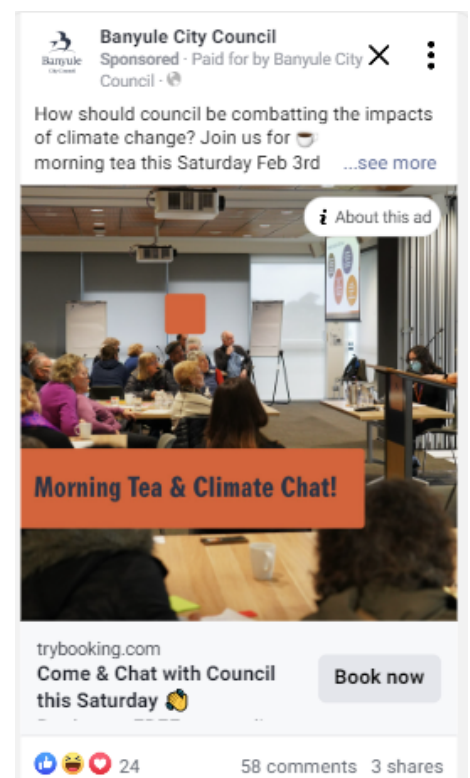
Figure 1 – Word cloud extracted from community feedback collected at Ecofest, March 2024

Social media

The video animation, together with information regarding the community consultation, was posted on Council's Instagram and Facebook pages to encourage the community to provide feedback. A series of paid campaigns were also initiated to direct the community to the Shaping Banyule page, drive registrations to the public forums and encourage survey responses. Council officers also used LinkedIn to expand reach within professional networks.

Some results from the social media campaign included:

- The paid ad campaign on Facebook and Instagram had a reach of more than 15,000 people and generated 1,152 clicks through to the Shaping Banyule page and survey. In addition, there were a total of 106 interactions (reactions, comments and shares) with the campaign.
- The strongest response to the posts was from the 18-34 year olds, however the advertisement for the public forum saw the strongest engagement from people aged 45 years and over.
- Overwhelmingly, the people who interacted with all of the advertisements were female.
- The posts and information shared about the forums on LinkedIn received nearly 3000 impressions.



Internal Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

Running parallel to the community consultation period was internal consultation with Banyule staff and teams who undertake work relevant to the redevelopment of the CERP. Consultation took place and feedback was collected from 13 teams across directorates.

For the Adaptation Framework, all staff were presented with the animation and a staff workshop was held on Monday 22 April at Greensborough.

Feedback from internal sessions has not been included in this report as the intent has been to focus on community feedback. Feedback from the internal Adaptation Framework workshop will be presented separately.

5. Consultation Feedback

Shaping Banyule

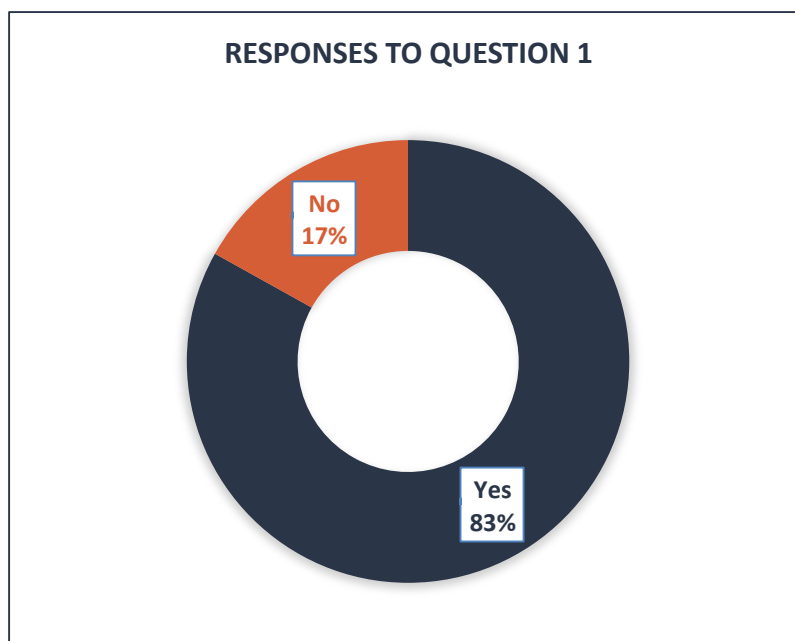
Survey Results

Question 1

Are you aware that Council has a target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2028?

83% of respondents to this question said that they are aware that Council has a target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2028.

This is an excellent response indicating that information published by Council is reaching the community.



Question 2

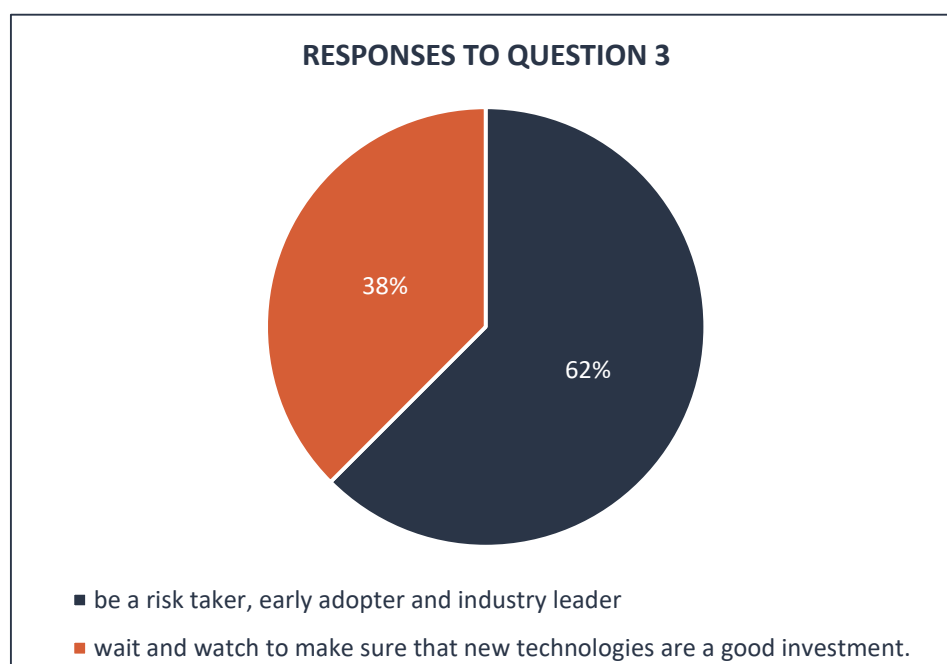
In addition to the actions proposed on Shaping Banyule to reduce carbon emissions, what else could Council do?

A number of suggestions were received from the community for this question and the top five common themes were along the lines of:

1. **Renewable energy adoption** - transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar power, both for council buildings and residential properties.
2. **Active transport promotion** - promoting active transport methods like cycling and walking and infrastructure improvements such as separated bicycle paths and increased bicycle parking.
3. **Improve energy efficiency** - improving insulation in council buildings and promoting greener forms of heating to increase energy efficiency, reduce overall energy consumption and hence associated emissions.
4. **Waste management and recycling** – develop better recycling programs, implement weekly recycling collection, and initiatives to reduce waste going to landfill, as well as using waste as a resource.
5. **Biodiversity and green spaces** - preserve and enhance biodiversity, particularly through tree planting initiatives, further promoting indigenous plant species, and creating green spaces like community gardens, contributing to carbon sequestration, habitat preservation, and overall environmental health.

Question 3

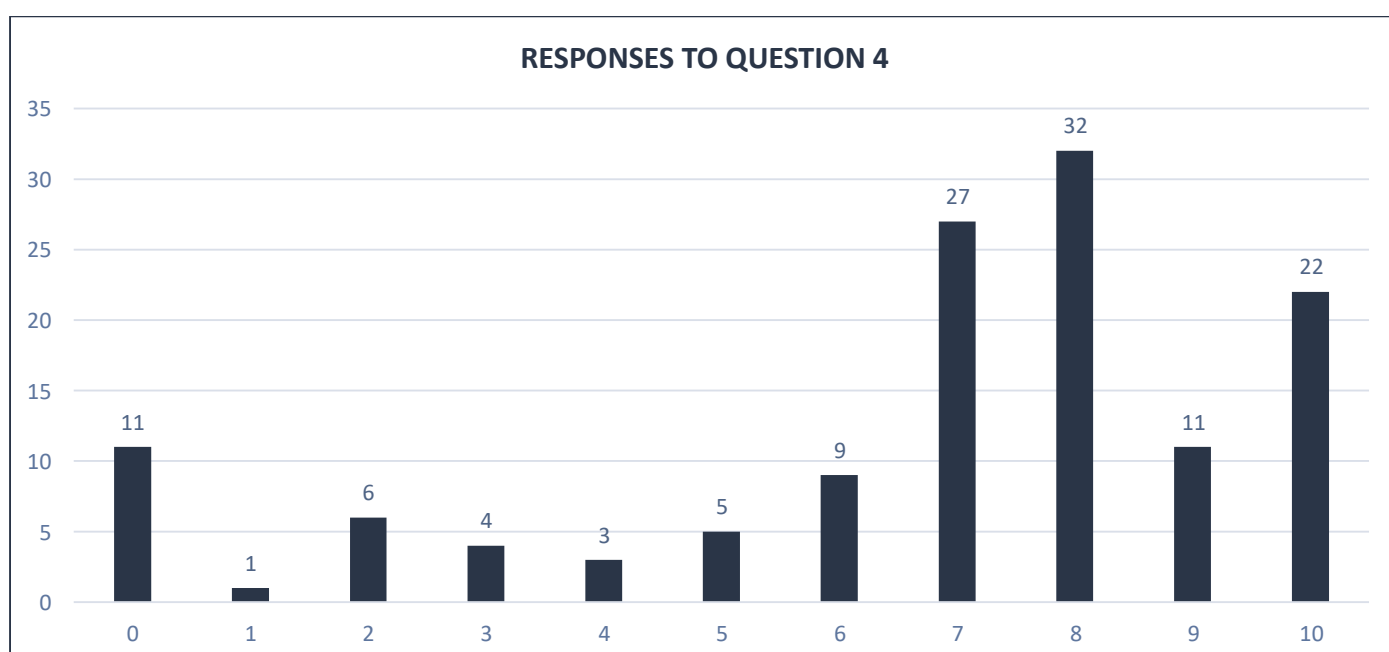
Complete the sentence... When it comes to investing in new technology to reduce emissions, Council should:



Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents to Survey Question 3 responded that, in their view, Council should be “a risk taker, early adopter and industry leader with regard to investing in new technologies to reduce emissions.

Question 4

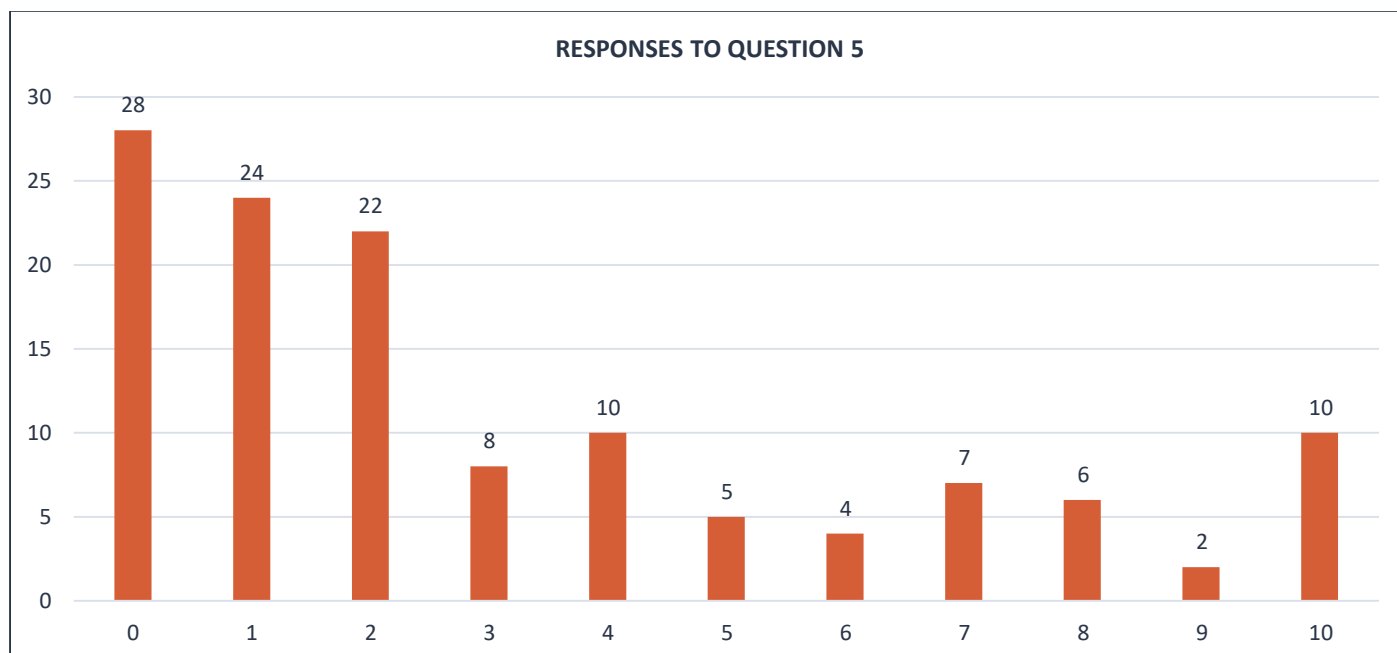
If you had to choose between purchasing offsets with the lowest price and offsets with a local impact that are more expensive, which would you choose?



This question in the Survey, Question 4, was responded to via a ‘sliding scale’, with ‘0’ being primarily to purchase offsets with the lowest price (which may be overseas, or at least, not ‘local’), and 10 being to select offsets with a local impact (but at a higher cost). The majority of respondents answered 7 or 8, and some 9 or 10, indicating their preference was to pay more for offsets which have a local benefit, even if that meant that the cost would be higher.

Question 5

If you had to choose between projects that avoid or reduce emissions, like renewable energy and stopping deforestation, and projects that remove emissions, like planting trees and capturing carbon, what would you choose?

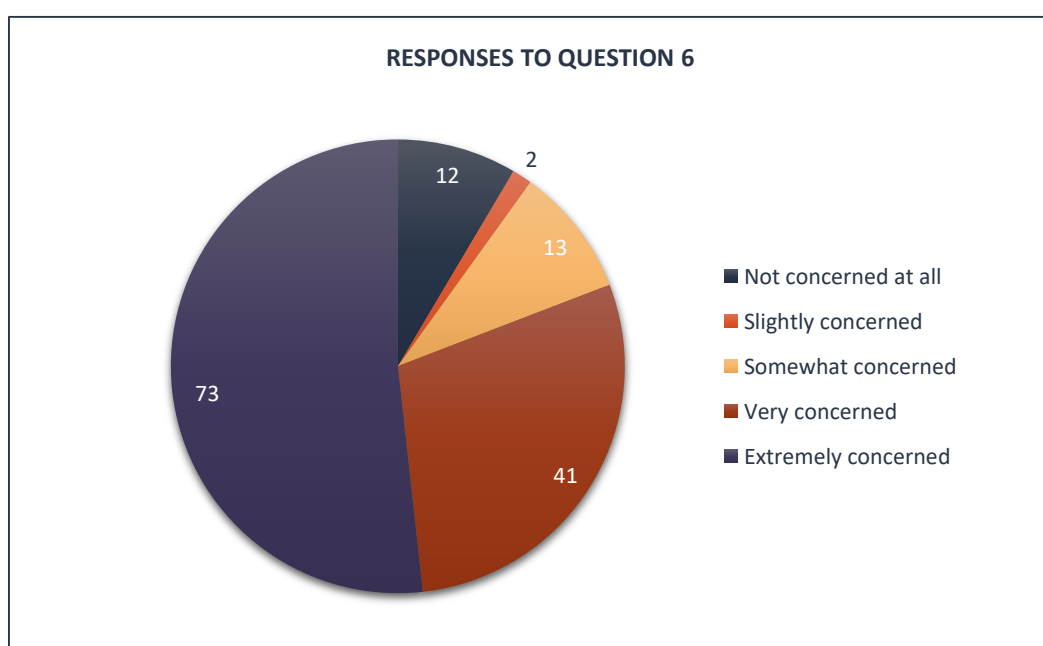


This question in the Survey, Question 5, was responded to via a 'sliding scale', with '0' being primarily to choose projects that avoid or reduce emissions, and 10 being projects that remove already generated emissions from the atmosphere, and asking what the community would prefer Council choose.

Responses were highly weighted at 0, 1 and 2, indicating that the community's preference was to avoid and reduce emissions in the first instance, for example using renewable energy and stopping deforestation. Rather than projects that remove already emitted carbon emissions from the atmosphere, such as planting trees and carbon capture projects.

Question 6

How concerned are you about the possible impacts of climate change?



This question in the Survey, asking the question “How concerned are you (the individual) about the possible impacts of climate change?” indicated that more than half of respondents (52%) are currently “extremely concerned” about the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, 29% are “very concerned”, 9% are “somewhat concerned”, 1% said they are “slightly concerned”, and 9% of the respondents stated they were “not concerned at all”.

Over 80% of respondents are, however, extremely or very concerned.

Question 7

Why did you choose this response?

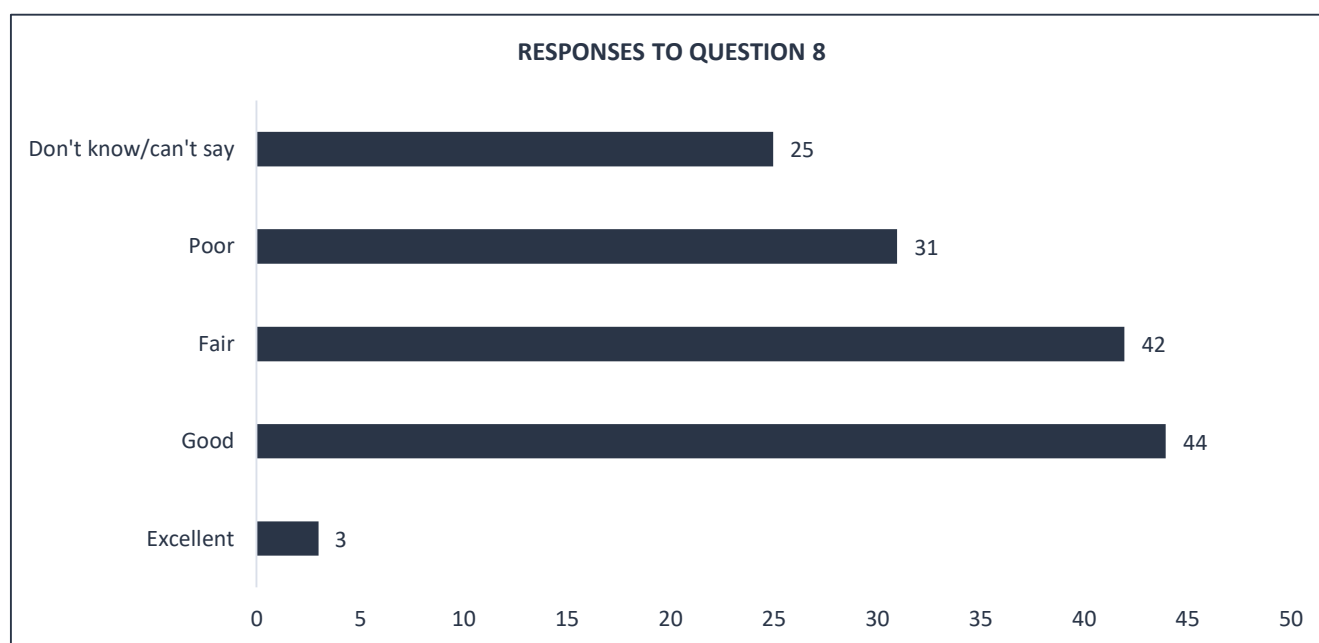
This was an open field question, asking survey respondents to explain the reasoning behind their selection for the previous question ***‘How concerned are you about the possible impacts of climate change?’*** Analysis of the responses received indicated the following trends:

- There was a prevalent sentiment of growing concern and awareness about climate change. The community expressed worry about the future, particularly for their children and future generations. This awareness extends to various age groups, from young individuals who fear the impact on their lives to older individuals who are concerned about the world they're leaving behind.
- Many expressed frustrations with the lack of decisive action from governments and politicians. They felt that state and federal governments are slow to respond, not taking the issue seriously enough, or were prioritizing short-term gains over long-term sustainability.
- The community has already noted observable impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, rising global temperatures, and changes in their environment.
- There's a sense of urgency among respondents, driven by the belief that time is running out to mitigate the impacts of climate change, with some expressing fear that it may already be too late to prevent severe damage.
- There's a recognition that addressing climate change requires collective action on a global scale. While individuals can make efforts to reduce their own emissions, there is a widespread belief that significant change requires leadership from governments and coordinated efforts from communities.
- The community cited scientific evidence and consensus on climate change as a driving force behind their concern. There is trust in the science and climate change is considered an urgent and real threat based on scientific findings and reports.
- A growing number of community members are experiencing eco-anxiety and feelings of despair over the severity of the climate crisis and the perceived lack of effective action being taken.
- The community is aware of global trends indicating the acceleration of climate change impacts, such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea level rise, contributing to their sense of urgency and concern.
- Many recognize the interconnected nature of climate change with other environmental and social issues, such as habitat loss, food supply, and human health, emphasizing the need for holistic approaches to address these challenges.

Overall, the responses reflected a growing understanding of the severity of climate change and a call for immediate action to mitigate its impacts.

Question 8

How would you rate the Banyule community's current level of preparedness to deal with the impacts of climate change?



The majority of respondents (almost 60%) to Survey Question 8 responded that, in their view, the Banyule community's current level of preparedness is "fair to good". Three (3) respondents claimed that the community's level of preparedness is "excellent", while 31 people responded "poor". It can be concluded that the community would like to see Council do more in this space.

Question 9

Why did you choose this response?

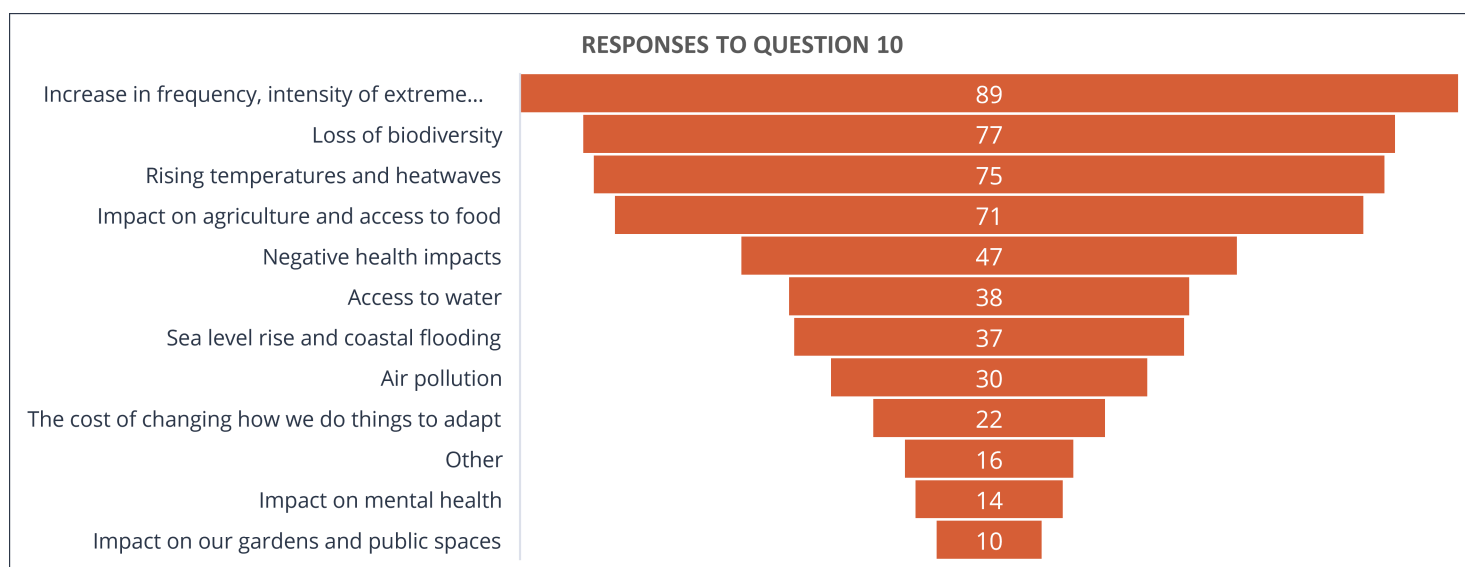
This was an open field question, asking survey respondents to explain the reasoning behind their selection for the previous question. Analysis of the feedback is summarized below:

- Many respondents expressed concern over the lack of preparedness for climate-related challenges, such as storms, floods, and heatwaves. There was a consensus that more needs to be done to address these issues effectively.
- While there was acknowledgement of the current efforts made by the council, there was a prevailing sentiment that more could be done. The feedback reflected a range of opinions on the adequacy and effectiveness of current initiatives.
- Numerous responses emphasized the need for increased action and awareness regarding climate change. Suggestions included better education, increased community involvement, and stronger policies to mitigate environmental impact.
- There were concerns about overdevelopment, loss of green spaces, and the negative impact on biodiversity. There was a desire for more sustainable urban planning and development practices.
- Respondents expressed varying levels of confidence in Council's plans and actions. There was a call for greater transparency, accountability, and community engagement in decision-making processes related to climate change initiatives.

These trends suggest a complex landscape of opinions and concerns surrounding climate change preparedness and response efforts within the community.

Question 10

What are your biggest concerns when it comes to climate change?



The responses to Question 10: "What are your biggest concerns when it comes to climate change?" were a multiple choice, where respondents were requested to select their Top 4.

Responses are summarised in the figure above, in order of the responses received (highest to lowest).

Of most concern to the community is the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, followed closely by loss of biodiversity, rising temperatures and heatwaves, and the impact on agriculture and access to food.

Of lesser concern, but still in the order of 30 to 47 responses were the concerns of negative health impacts, access to water, sea level rises and coastal flooding and air pollution.

Of least concern, were the impact to gardens and public spaces, impact on metal health, and the costs of how we change to climate change / adaptation.

Sixteen (16) respondents gave an answer of 'Other'. The majority of the 'Other' responses did not directly respond to the question, rather they prefer Council not spend any time or budget on matters relating to climate change (9 out of 16).

Question 11

Tell us what you think Council's priorities should be for adapting to climate change?

The responses to survey Question 11: "Tell us what you think Council's priorities should be for adapting to climate change?" were a multiple choice, where respondents were requested to select their Top 4. Their responses are summarised in the figure above.

The community would, as it's top priority, like to see increased tree canopy cover to reduce heat in built up areas. As a second priority, strengthening biodiversity and habitat conservation were next, with both indicators eluding to a community that simply wishes for the natural environment to be a priority,

Rounding off the top 4, the community wishes to see incentives being offered to households and business owners to use renewable energy as well as the use of sustainable transport being encouraged further.

The responses also indicated that having education and training programs to support people to adapt to climate change and increasing the resilience of infrastructure to climate change are also high priorities.

Of the 14 responses that selected 'Other' as an option, the responses ranged from improved recycling options, support for green spaces in planning and housing development, and more diverse uses of council assets to

suggestions that Climate Change should be seen as a political issue beyond the direct capacity of the Council to solve and that Council should only focus on local issues such as roads, rates, and rubbish.

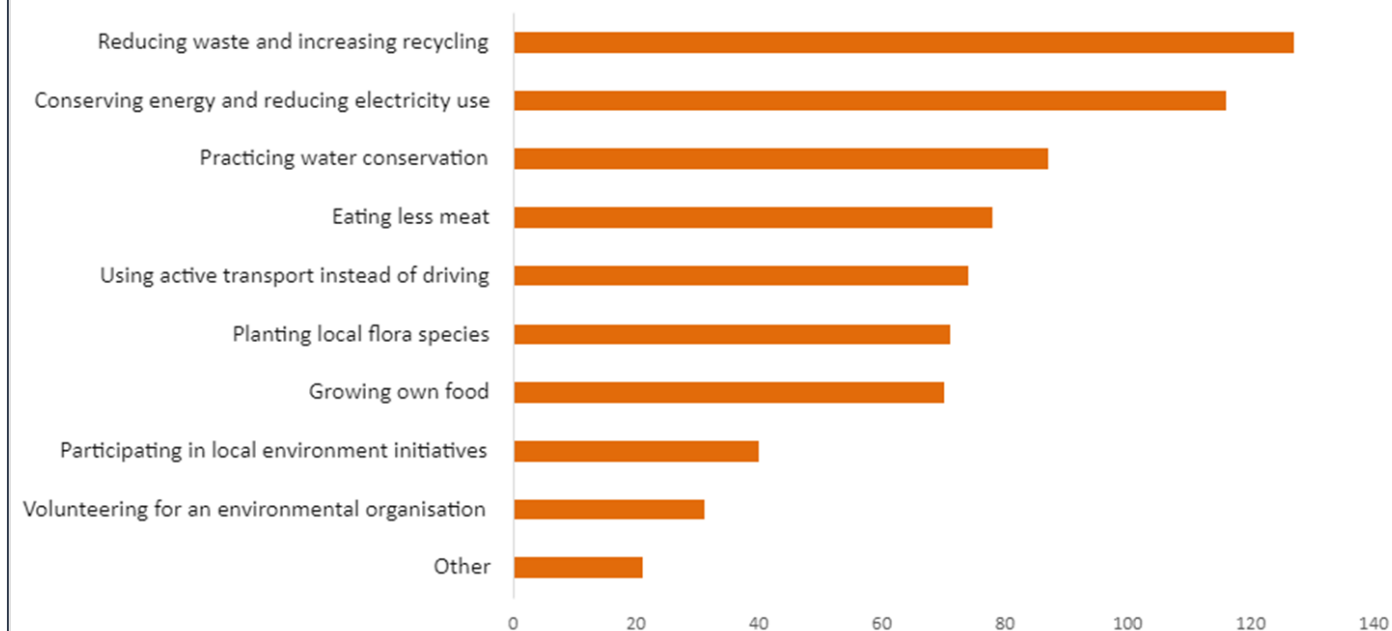
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 11



Question 12

What steps are you or your household currently taking to reduce the impacts of climate change? Select all that apply.

RESPONSES TO QUESTION 12



Among the 'Other' responses, the most common ones included:

- Adoption of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies (solar, batteries, insulation and double glazed windows)
- Lifestyle changes towards sustainability (transitioning to electric vehicles, adopting a vegetarian / vegan diet, using reusable products like nappies)
- Retrofitting and home improvements (installing reverse cycle air conditioning, removing the home gas supply, and using electric appliances)

Question 13

Is there anything Council could do to support you with these efforts?

A number of excellent suggestions were received. These are being reviewed and will be passed onto the relevant team at Councils if they can be actioned. Most of these could be grouped into one of the five categories below:

- **Environmental Conservation and Sustainability:**

Encouraging the removal of non-native plants, providing incentives for water and energy conservation, and advocating for sustainable practices such as solar incentives, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and reducing plastic waste.

- **Community Engagement and Education:**

Increasing awareness and education about environmental issues through community events, volunteering opportunities, and promoting First Nation and indigenous gardening practices. There was also a call for improved communication, more transparency and honesty in council initiatives.

- **Urban Greening and Tree Planting:**

Emphasizing the importance of planting trees, both on public and private property, including nature strips. Suggestions included providing incentives for native plantings, subsidies for tree retention, and promoting community tree planting projects.

- **Sustainable Transportation:**

Supporting initiatives for bike lanes, electric vehicle infrastructure, car-sharing programs, and promoting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use, such as carpooling, working from home and ebikes.

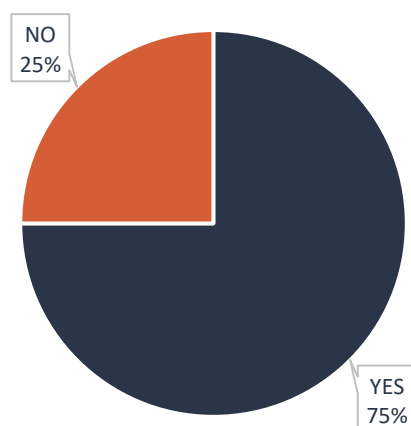
- **Waste Management and Recycling:**

Encouraging initiatives like soft plastic recycling, composting, promoting reuse through programs like tip shops, library of things and repair cafes, and advocating for more accessible recycling options.

Question 14

Are you or your household planning to take any new actions in the next two years to reduce the impacts of climate change?

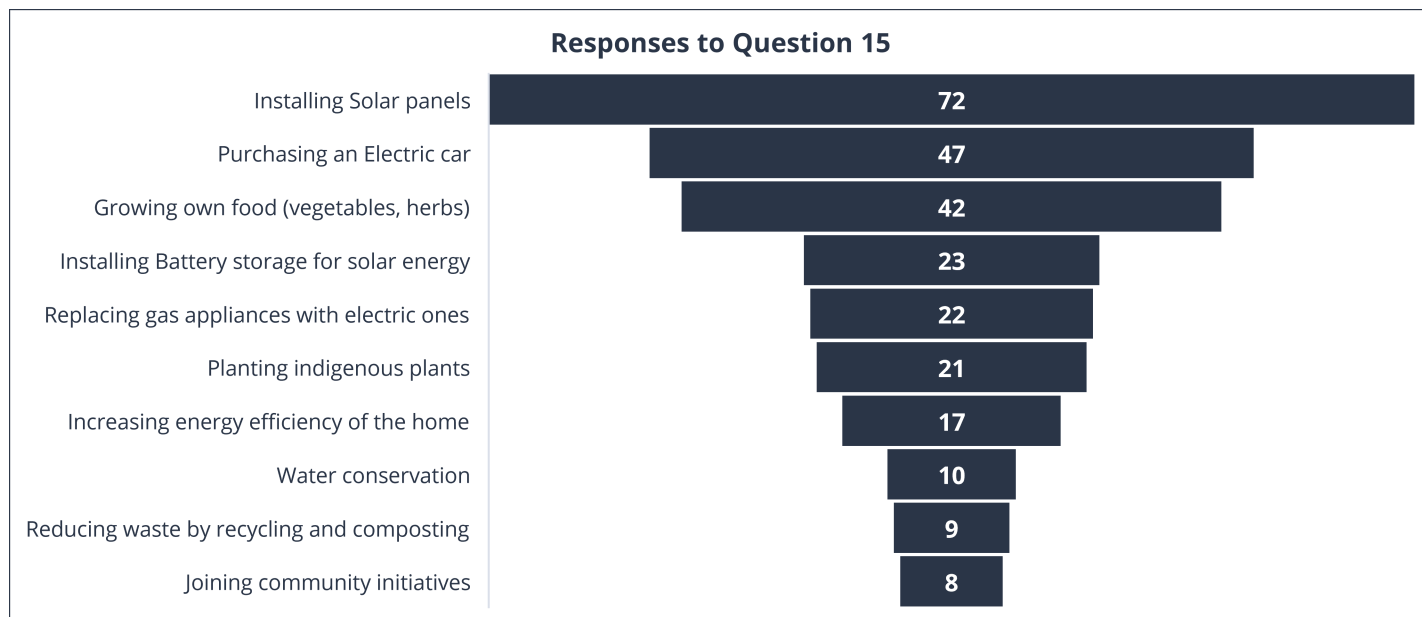
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 14



Three quarters of the community plan to implement new actions in the next two years. The next section goes further into what these actions include.

Question 15

What are they?



The survey responses indicate that there is a sense of growing concern for environmental sustainability. The Banyule community is implementing various eco-friendly practices in their homes and lifestyles. From embracing renewable energy sources like solar panels and batteries to transitioning from gas to electric appliances, the commitment to reducing their carbon footprint is evident. Additionally, initiatives such as planting native flora, planting vegetable gardens, and adopting electric vehicles highlight a widespread dedication to reducing the impacts of climate change.

6. How this feedback will be used

The feedback and findings from this consultation process for the redevelopment of the CERP and the development of the Adaptation Framework have been invaluable to Banyule City Council.

- The feedback will be used to help identify vulnerabilities and identify what is important in the local context to adapt to climate change.
- If offsets are to be considered in order to meet the proposed targets, then the feedback the community has given will be vital in helping Banyule develop an offset strategy.
- The feedback will help establish a baseline, so that we can check back again in the future, we are able to measure our progress.
- The feedback will help identify what the community would like to see their Council doing and help Council to implement this in the short to medium term.
- The feedback will help Council understand the community's current level of preparedness to adapt to climate change and identify capacity building actions that are required from Council to ensure resilience.
- The feedback will assist us with understanding the vulnerability of Banyule and its community to climate change.

7. Appendix

Survey Questions

The Shaping Banyule survey was open from 15 January - 24 March 2024.

The following questions were included in the Shaping Banyule survey:

Table 3 – Questions asked of the community in the Shaping Banyule survey

Question	Responses Permitted
1 Are you aware that Council has a target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2028?	Yes / No
2 In addition to these actions (shown as an image of the 9 priority areas on Shaping Banyule), what else could Council do to reduce its emissions?	Open answer
3 Complete the sentence... When it comes to investing in new technology to reduce emissions, Council should:	Pick one – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a risk taker, early adopter and industry leader. wait and watch to make sure that new technologies are a good investment.
4 If you had to choose between purchasing offsets with the lowest price and offsets with a local impact that are more expensive, which would you choose?	Sliding scale – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 being to purchase offsets at the lowest price and 10 being to purchase offsets with a local impact that are more expensive
5 If you had to choose between projects that avoid or reduce emissions, like renewable energy and stopping deforestation, and projects that remove emissions, like planting trees and capturing carbon, what would you choose?	Sliding scale – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 being projects that avoid or reduce emissions and 10 being projects that remove emissions
6 How concerned are you about the possible impacts of climate change?	Pick one – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not concerned at all Slightly concerned Somewhat concerned Very concerned Extremely concerned
7 Why did you choose this response?	Open answer
8 How would you rate the Banyule community's current level of preparedness to deal with the impacts of climate change?	Pick one – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know / can't say
9 Why did you choose this response?	Open answer
10 What are your biggest concerns when it comes to climate change?	Select your top 4 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events Loss of biodiversity Impact on agriculture and access to food Sea level rise and coastal flooding

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on our gardens and public spaces • Rising temperatures and heatwaves • The cost of changing how we do things to adapt • Impact on mental health • Access to water • Negative health impacts • Air pollution • Other (Open answer)
11	Tell us what you think Council's priorities should be for adapting to climate change?	<p>Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure that is more resilient to climate change • Education and training programs to support people to adapt to climate change • Support local agriculture and provide incentives for organic farming and community gardens • Reduce the use of water through efficient irrigation systems and rainwater harvesting • Strengthen biodiversity and habitat conservation • Encourage sustainable transport, such as cycling lanes and pedestrian walkways • Increase tree canopy cover to reduce heat in built up areas • Strengthen Council's emergency response management and the provision of refuge centres • Strengthen flood management strategies • Offer incentives to households and business owners to use renewable energy • Other (Open answer)
12	What steps are you or your household currently taking to reduce the impacts of climate change?	<p>Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving energy and reducing electricity use • Practicing water conservation • Reducing waste and increasing recycling • Growing own food • Participating in local environment initiatives • Eating less meat • Using public transport, carpooling, walking more or biking instead of driving • Planting local flora species • Volunteering for an environmental organization • Other (Open answer)
13	Is there anything Council could do to support you with these efforts?	Open answer
14	Are you or your household planning to take any new actions in the next two years to reduce the impacts of climate change?	Yes / No
15	What are they?	Open answer