

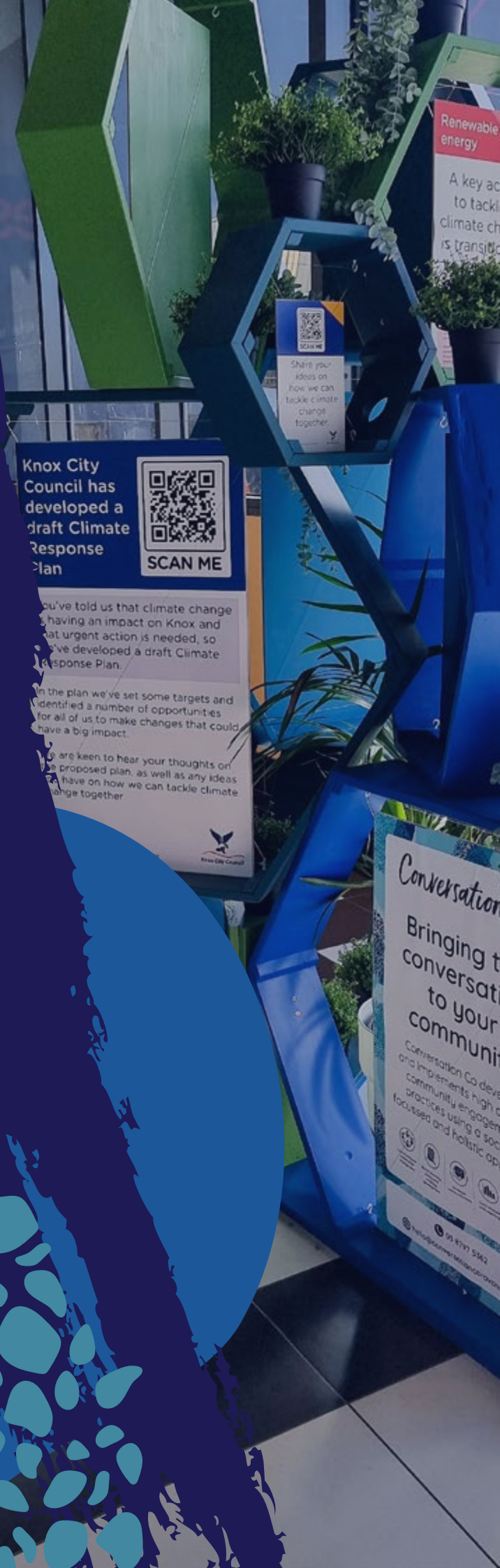


CLIMATE RESPONSE PLAN

Engagement Summary

Prepared by Conversation Caravan
for Knox City Council

August 2021





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INTRODUCTION

Conversation Caravan was engaged by Knox City Council to plan, design and implement the engagement program in the development of a Climate Response Plan (CRP). The CRP aims to deliver a pathway to an emissions neutral Knox City Council by 2030 and an emissions neutral community by 2050. The Plan will also set interim targets towards these goals. This engagement program focused on attracting the wider community in a broad conversation about their priorities and aspirations to tackle climate change and to provide feedback on the Draft Climate Response Plan.

Across May, June and July 2021, Knox City Council conducted a range of face-to-face and online activities. More than 350 people provided feedback through pop-up events, a workshop, survey or other online activity, providing a total of 3,199 comments and votes.

Feedback was sought from local residents, visitors, community partners, local industry, Knox City Council staff and Councillors. This report focuses on feedback received from local residents and visitors to the Knox area.



Definitions

Adaptation	Developing and implementing strategies, programs and projects to minimise the adverse impacts of climate change on communities.
Climate	The long term (usually over 30 years or more) trend of weather in a particular region.
Mitigation	Implementing programs and projects that help reduce carbon emissions from a particular activity.

METHODOLOGY



Conversation Caravan, together with Knox City Council undertook a comprehensive engagement program to meet project objectives. This included a place-based approach in the various wards, online tools, workshops and targeted conversations with Council's advisory committees.

A community engagement and communications plan was prepared to document the agreed scope of the project, the project stakeholders and the key tasks of the information gathering stage (social research and community engagement).

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and state-wide lockdowns that were implemented during the engagement period, not all planned activities were able to go ahead as scheduled. As such, timelines were extended and methodologies adapted to suit the State Government physical distancing requirements and to ensure maximum community participation.

The engagement program ran from May to July 2021 and the Draft Knox Climate Response Plan was used to form the basis of this engagement program.

Engagement Activities

Table 1 lists the community engagement activities conducted by Conversation Caravan and Council, the findings of which have all been included in this report. Table 2 shows engagement activities conducted by Council alone that have not been incorporated into this report.

Table 1: Community engagement activities, findings included in this report

Activity	Purpose
CRP Consultant Summary	Provide community with an accessible snapshot of the Draft CRP
Community pop-up	Engage community using a place-based approach
Community/	Receive targeted feedback general community
Project display/ installation	Engage community using a place-based approach during lockdown periods
Online workshop	Engage community members in conversations during the lockdown period
Online activities, Quick Polls	Provide community with an easy and quick way to engage in the project

Table 2: Community engagement activities, findings NOT included in this report

Activity	Purpose
Business/industry survey	Engage business and industry in the project to identify their needs and aspirations
Focused conversations	Engage sections of the community who might not otherwise engage with the project
Council staff engagement	Obtain feedback from Knox City Council staff

Engagement Questions

Engagement questions focused on the six themes that emanated from the Draft Climate Response Plan:

Community Health

Our Environment

Transportation

**Efficient Buildings
and Infrastructure**

Renewable Energy

**Business and
Industry**

Questions probed participants on what actions could be taken to mitigate the impacts of climate change as well as what actions could be taken by Council, community and businesses to adapt to a changing climate. A full list of questions that were asked in the online survey and replicated at pop-up events are included the extended engagement report. Further observational questions were asked of participants around the perceived effects of climate change.

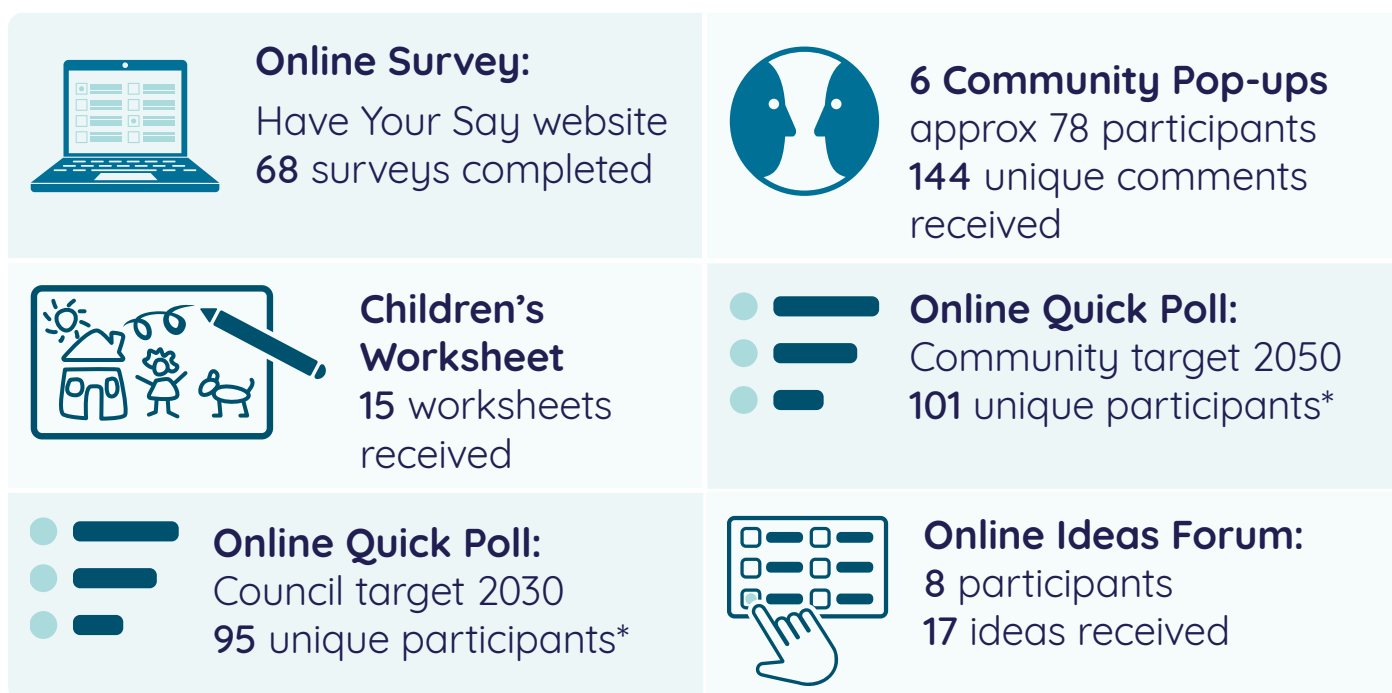


COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



A total of 3,199 comments and votes were received in engagement activities for this project. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of participation and reach across the engagement activities. We can conservatively estimate that 374 people participated in engagement activities across the engagement. There are no means of tracking duplication in participation, for instance, where someone might have attended a pop-up and then also completed an online survey.

Figure 1: Participation and reach across the engagement program



*101 unique participants voted a total of 168 times.

** 95 unique participants voted a total of 159 times.

Limited demographic data was able to be collected at the face-to-face pop-ups, mainly due to time constraints of participants. Overall, the demographic characteristics of the participants can be described as mostly aged 35-49 years, more females than males, mostly living in families with children living at home and mostly resident ratepayers. Figures 2 and 3 show the distribution of age groups and gender where known from engagement activities.

Figure 2: Age profile of participants

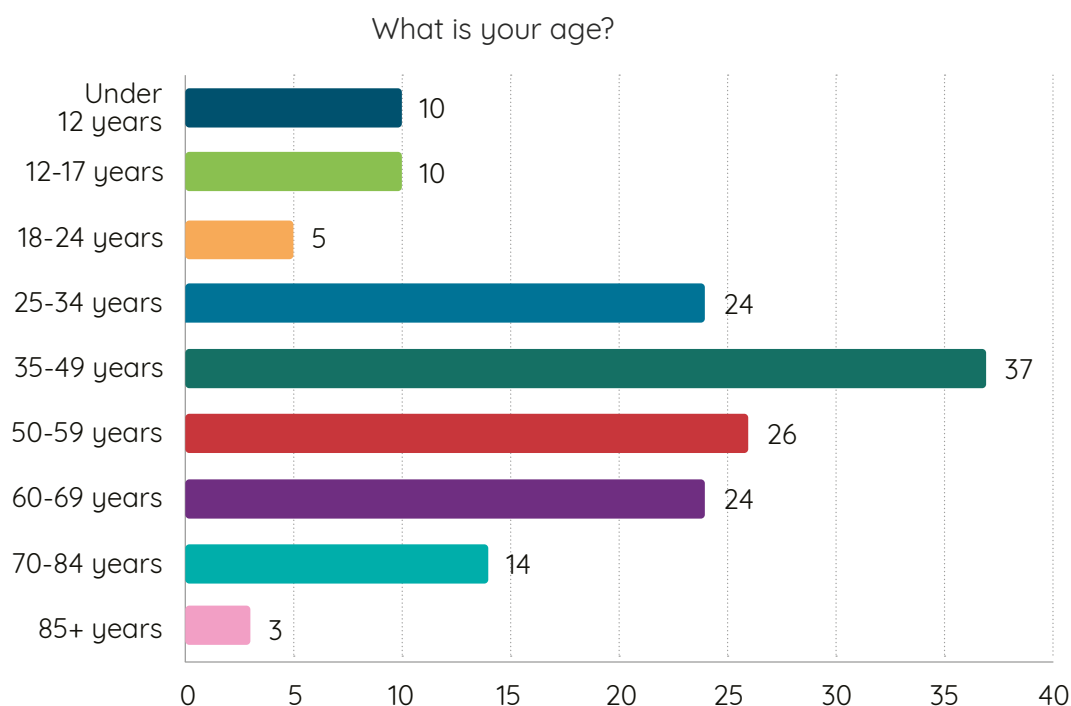
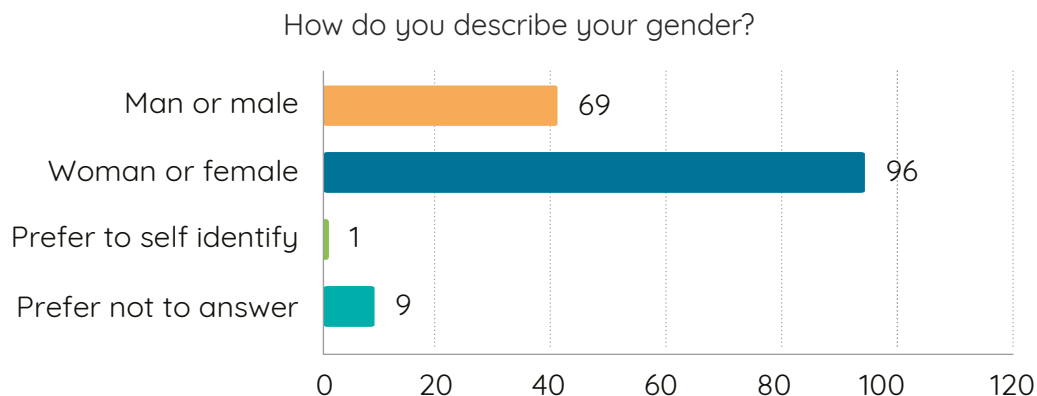


Figure 3: Gender profile of participants



Most participants who completed the online survey or provided feedback at the pop-up events provided their residential postcode (90 of the 146 participants). The majority of these 90 participants (79 or 88%) nominated a postcode located in the Knox local government area. It should be noted that some postcode areas cross local government area boundaries. Other survey respondents lived in Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges local government areas.

Figure 4: Proportional circle map of participants’ residential location



KEY FINDINGS

Key findings have been grouped into the following:

- Community support for emission targets
- Community observations of climate change and its impacts
- Actions that can be taken to tackle climate change

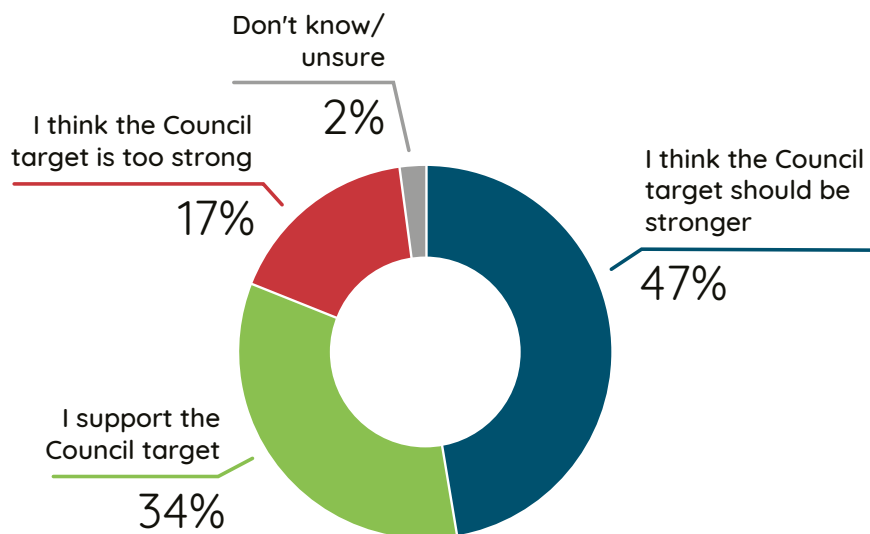
Community Support for Emission Targets

Level of support for proposed Council target of net zero emissions by 2030

Participants were asked to indicate their level of support for the proposed Council target of net zero emissions by 2030. Across the community pop-ups and Knox Have Your Say webpage engagements, 47% (45 votes) of respondents believed the Council target should be stronger, 17% (16 votes) believed the Council target was too strong, while 34% (32 votes) supported the Council target of achieving zero emissions by 2030. A further 2% of voters were unsure.

Figure 5: Level of support for proposed Council target of net zero emissions by 2030

Please indicate your level of support for proposed Council target of net zero emissions by 2030



“Have to act sooner”

- Participant at Knox City Shopping Centre

“Absolute emergency”

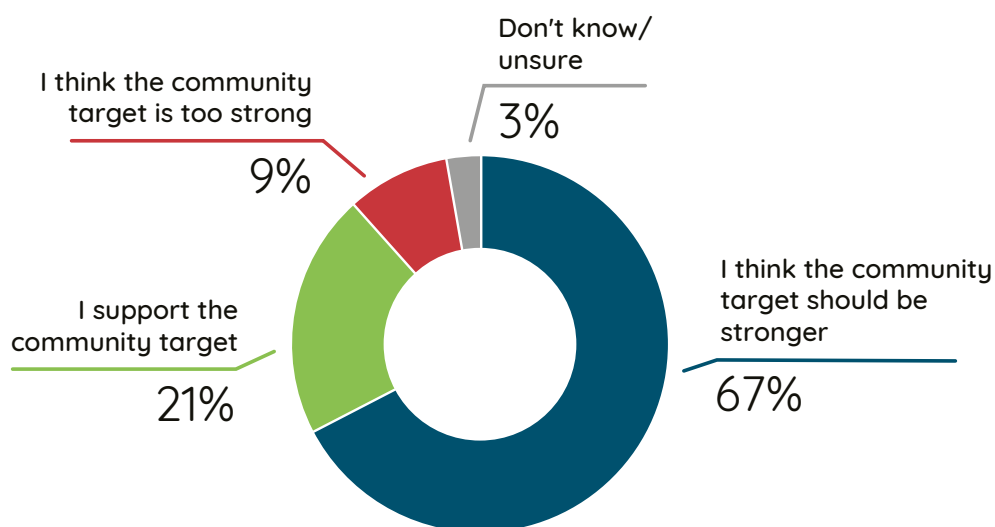
- Participant at Rowville Community Centre

Level of support for proposed community target of net zero emissions by 2050

Of the 181 unique individuals that voted on the community target at pop-ups and online, 67% (122 people) said the community target should be stronger, 21% (38 people) supported the community target, 9% (16 people) said the target was too strong and 3% (5 people) were unsure.

Figure 6: Level of support for proposed community target of net zero emissions by 2050

Please indicate your level of support for proposed community target of net zero emissions by 2050



"It's realistic, you can't change overnight"

- Participant at Knox City Shopping Centre

"Needs to be earlier than that, before 2050. Should be inline with council's target of 2030"

- Participant at Wantirna Farmer's Market



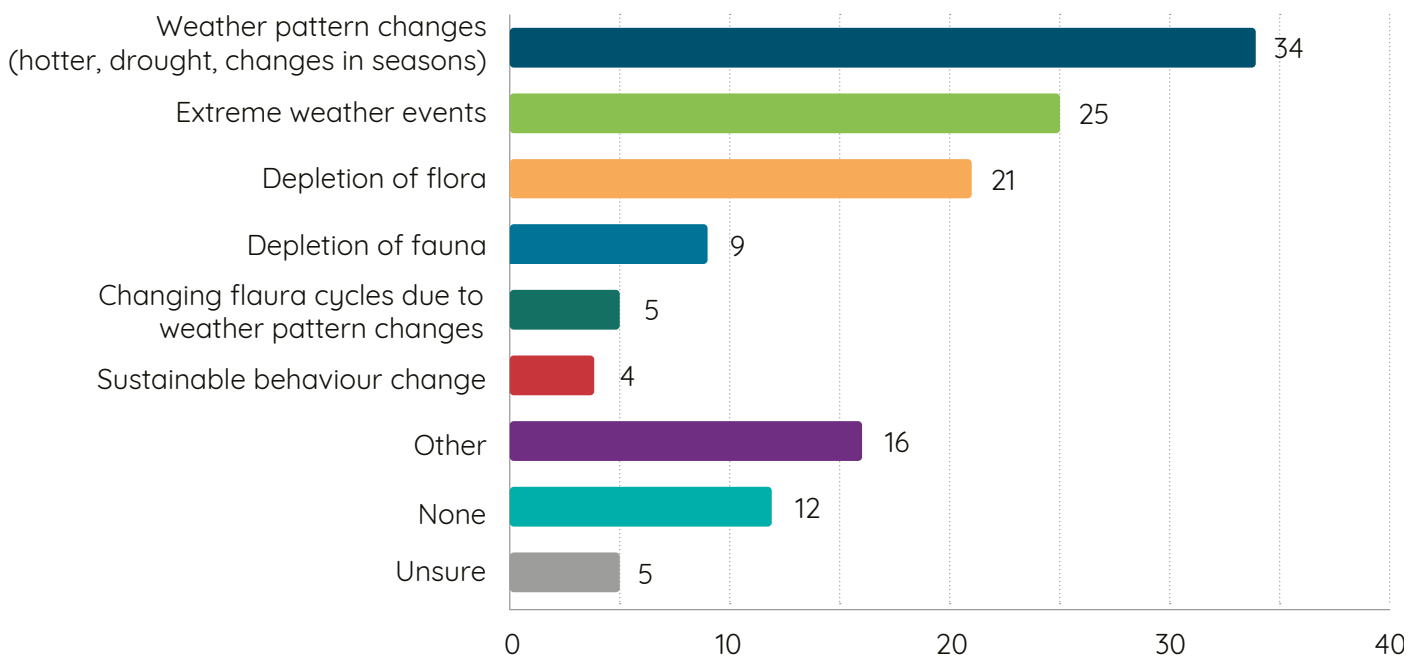
Community Observations of Climate Change and its Impacts

Impacts of climate change in Knox

Community members at both the pop-up events and via the online survey were asked 'Have you noticed the impacts of climate change in Knox? If Yes, what have you noticed?' There were 68 responses to this observational question. Most participants had noticed the impacts (51 participants, 75.0%) whilst 12 participants (17.6%) had not noticed the impacts and 5 (7.4%) were unsure.

Figure 7: Number of comments received to each observed impact of climate change in Knox

Have you noticed the impacts of climate change in Knox? If Yes, what have you noticed?



Number of participants = 68. Multiple issues were mentioned by each participant.

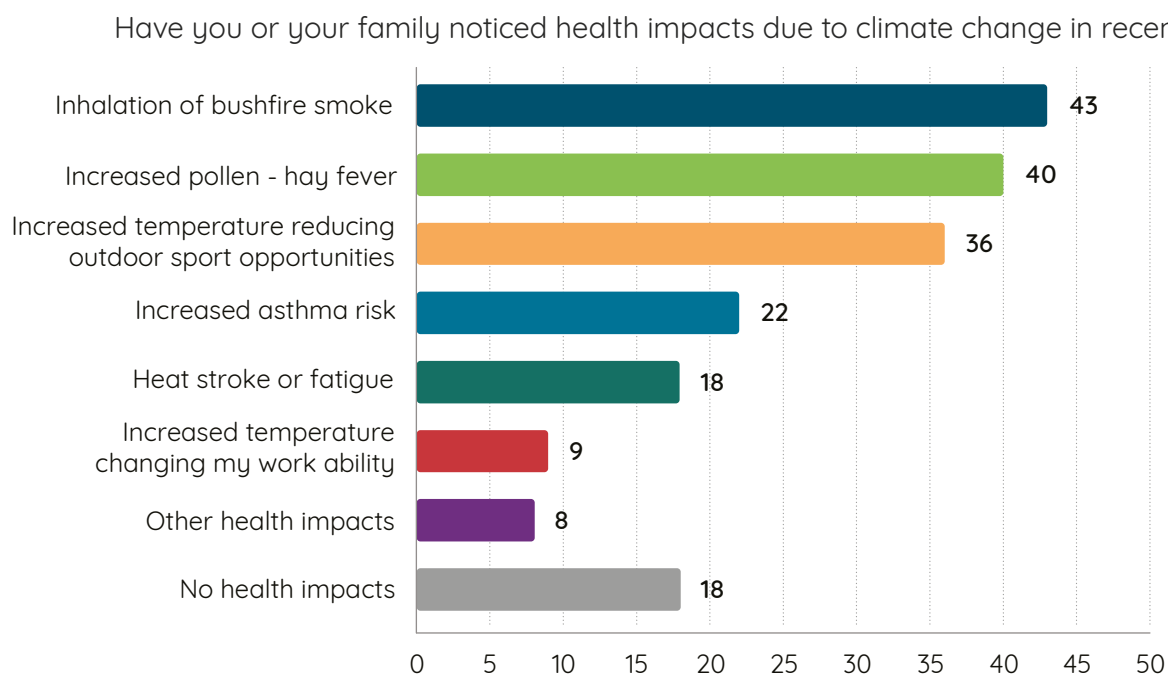


Health Impacts due to climate change

Participants at the pop-ups and survey respondents were asked about any health impacts noticed (due to climate change) in recent years. A list of possible health impacts were listed and there were 194 comments provided by 96 participants.

Most participants (81.2%) noticed one or more health impacts due to climate change, and just under one in five participants (18.8%) did not notice any health impacts due to climate change.

Figure 8: Number of comments received to each observed health impact due to climate change

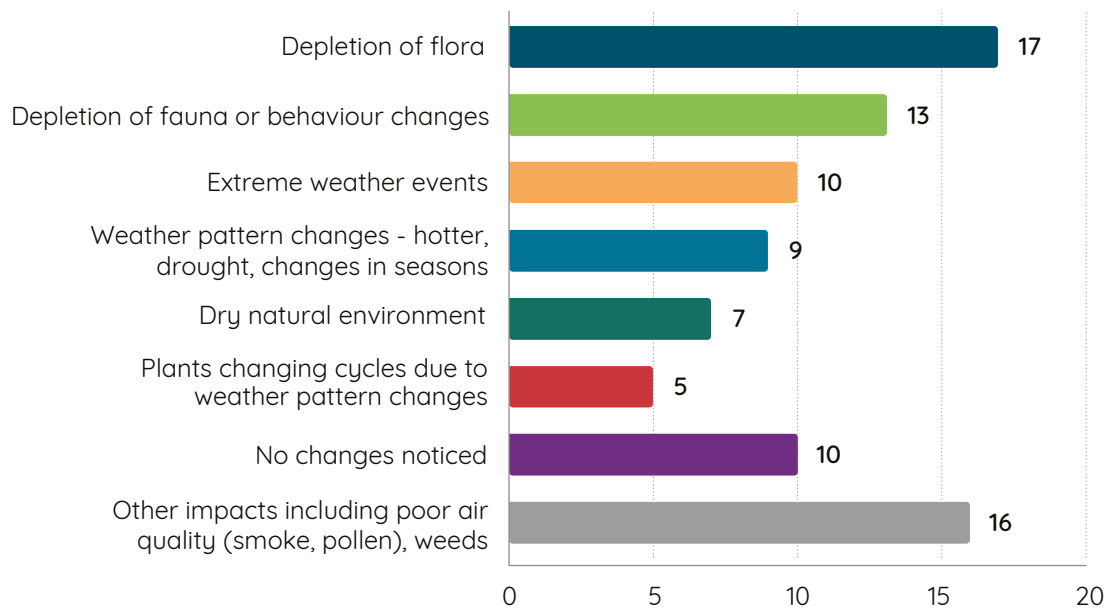


Changes in the local (natural) environment due to climate change

Participants were asked what local environmental changes they had noticed. There were 60 responses to this observational question. Most participants had noticed changes in the local environment (50 participants, 83.3%) whilst 10 participants (16.6%) had not noticed changes.

Figure 9: Number of comments received to each observed change in the local environment

Have you noticed changes in your local environment due to climate change?



Number of participants = 60. Multiple issues were mentioned by each participant.



Actions that can be taken to tackle climate change

Feedback on actions that can be taken to tackle climate change in this report have been arranged by:

- actions **community or individuals** can take to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- actions **Council** can take to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- actions **businesses or industry** can take to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Key actions that have been identified by the community have been outlined in Tables 3, 4 and 5, and are categorised by the owner of the action (community, business or Council).

Table 3: Key community actions identified

Community Actions (838 mentions)	
Adaptation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grow own food• Use non-potable water to water gardens• Install water tanks• Plant native and drought tolerant trees.
Mitigation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade energy efficiency of housing• Keep established trees• Use a car or bike share program• Use public transport more often• Use renewable energy.

Table 4: Key business actions identified

Business Actions (449 mentions)	
Adaptation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use non-potable water where possible.
Mitigation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimise landfill and dispose of waste responsibly• Change menus to match seasonal produce• Source local products.

Table 5: Key Council actions identified

Council Actions (736 mentions)	
Adaptation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase planting and support local food production • Implement health promotion programs. • Provide education programs on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ climate sensitive planting ◦ adapting to the impacts of climate change • minimising the risk of fire and impacts of smoke inhalation. • Protect the flora and fauna in Knox • Advocate to State and Federal Governments for meaningful changes and improved climate response leadership.
Mitigation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sustainable transport options more accessible and appealing, including: • Make sustainable transport options more accessible and appealing, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ enhancing cycle and walking paths ◦ providing better links between transport modes ◦ advocating for more public transport to the region. • Incentivise, subsidise and reward community and businesses for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ renewable energy usage ◦ efficient homes and buildings ◦ individuals and businesses doing the right thing ◦ efficient waste disposal. • Work with developers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ retain trees, parks and green areas ◦ ensure new builds use sustainable materials and are energy efficient. • Advocate to State and Federal Governments for legislative changes that support more sustainable community outcomes. • Provide education to residents and businesses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ retrofitting homes and buildings ◦ available subsidies and accessing renewable energy ◦ responsible waste disposal ◦ benefits of minimising emissions. • Install charging points for electric vehicles. • Divert waste from landfill and find better ways to recycle. • Implement and advocate for changes to legislation for more sustainable new builds that support lower emissions. • Explore options to facilitate bulk purchasing of renewable energy for residents and businesses.

Individuals' Pledges to Tackle Climate Change

Overall, 53 participants (including 15 children) articulated an individual pledge to tackle climate change. Figure 10 shows the adult participants' pledges as a visual representation.

Figure 10: Word map from adult participants' pledge to tackle climate change



"I pledge to use my car less"

- Participant at Mountain High Shopping Centre

"I pledge to eat more fresh fruit"

- Participant at Mountain High Shopping Centre

"I pledge to recycle, plant trees and work from home"

- Participant at Knox Leisureworks

"I pledge to walk more instead of drive"


- Participant at Mountain High Shopping Centre

"I pledge to use fewer disposable coffee cups"

- Participant at Knox Leisureworks

Figure 11: Examples of children participants' pledge to tackle climate change

What's your promise to help tackle Climate Change?




~~coal Mines*~~ ~~Single Use Rubbish~~ ~~Use of green house gasses~~

* stupid



These should be
NO MORE

Name Gabi Age 12 Suburb Wantirna

What's your promise to help tackle Climate Change?




Reduce
The
amount
of rubbish
in the world

Name Olivia Martin Age 9 Suburb Wantirna

What's your promise to help tackle Climate Change?



PERSON: "WOULD YOU LIKE THIS REUSABLE MASK?"

MP: "NO THANKS I'LL USE THIS REUSABLE MASK"

TO USE REUSABLE ITEMS WHENEVER POSSIBLE

OH YEAH, AND STOP WHALING

Name HANNAH Age 11 Suburb WANTIRNA

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the high level of community support, Conversation Caravan recommends the Draft Climate Response Plan is considered for endorsement by Council.

Based on the consultation findings outlined in this report, Conversation Caravan makes the following recommendations to the ongoing process and implementation of this project for consideration by the project team:

Process recommendations:

- Council collates findings from the other engagement methodologies undertaken by Council independently of Conversation Caravan with those in this report, to ensure that the needs of specific stakeholders are accounted for, including businesses, Council staff and communities particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Council reports back to the participants of the engagement program and broader community on the outcomes of this project and measures that Council will take as a result of community feedback received. A new requirement of the Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to share the information that has been collected and inform the community as to how this will shape thinking.
- Council makes this community engagement report or a summary of this report publicly available, to feed back to participants the results of this process, next steps and the likely implementation timeframes.
- Council identifies a way to keep the community informed and updated on its progress and the community informed and updated on its progress and the community's progress towards the community target.



Project recommendations:

- Council considers strengthening the community target of zero emissions and setting the target to be reached significantly sooner than 2050.
- Council focuses on developing an implementation plan for the Climate Response Plan that incorporates community suggestions received during the engagement period, as included in the Executive Summary of this Community Engagement Report.
- Council explores the following community ideas that are not currently included in the Draft Climate Response Plan:
 - a. Providing education programs on:
 - climate sensitive planting
 - adapting to the impacts of climate change
 - minimising the risk of fire and impacts of smoke inhalation
 - retrofitting homes and buildings to ensure high performance
 - available subsidies and accessing renewable energy
 - responsible waste disposal
 - benefits of minimising emissions.
 - b. Making sustainable transport options more accessible and appealing, including:
 - enhancing cycle and walking paths
 - providing better links between transport modes
 - advocating for more efficient public transport to the region.
 - c. Exploring options to better manage waste and divert waste from landfill.
 - d. Extend the solar purchasing scheme to property owners/investors.
- Council continues to raise awareness of the services and incentives available to mitigate and reduce impacts of climate change. Through the consultation it was noticed that most participants were unaware of the support currently available, and suggested improvements that Council was already delivering.