

AUGUST 2026



Community Engagement Report

Urban Tree Strategy



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Document prepared by the City of Hobart Community Engagement Team.

Last updated: August 2026.

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1. Executive Summary

City of Hobart Engagement Report

URBAN TREE STRATEGY



HOW WE ENGAGED

Public engagement ran from **27 November 2024 to 28 February 2025** including online and in-person surveys, written submissions, in-person conversations, pop-ups, presentations and public events.

502

survey participants



209

People participated in a presentation or focus group

12

Pop-Up sessions held



900+



Trees distributed to residents who participated in the engagement and provided feedback

WHO WE SPOKE TO



56%

Survey participants reside within the Hobart LGA

43%

Survey participants from other nearby LGAs (Glenorchy, Kingborough, Clarence)

25

Industry Stakeholders

22

Individual interviews with Palawa community members through an Aboriginal-led consultation process

85

People from hardly reached groups (Children & Young People, CALD, People with Disabilities, Older people)

WHAT WE HEARD*

**based on survey responses*

96%



of respondents believe the City of Hobart should plant more trees on Council land

89%

of respondents believe it is important for the City of Hobart to support residents to plant more trees on private land

90%

agreed that Hobart needs more tree canopy

ENGAGEMENT METHODS

1,223

Your Say project page views



1K

postcards delivered to local businesses, and broader community

25K+

community members reached through social media



4.6M

The cumulative potential audience reach through Radio + TV + Newspaper



7,884

emails sent to Your Say members



City of HOBART

City of Hobart Engagement Report

URBAN TREE STRATEGY



KEY THEMES

The following key themes were identified from feedback received through the online survey, in-person engagement activities, presentations to industry stakeholders and committees, idea walls, children's drawing activities, pop-ups, written submissions, and email feedback.



1) URBAN COOLING FOR CITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Strong support for increasing tree canopy cover to provide shade, cooling and relief from urban heat
- Trees were seen as enhancing neighbourhood character and contributing to a greener, more liveable city



2) SUPPORT EQUAL ACCESS TO GREENERY

- Strong support for prioritising tree planting and canopy growth in areas with lower existing vegetation and lower socio-economic communities.
- Greening efforts were seen as important for improving amenity, liveability and environmental equity



3) BROADER ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

- Respondents recognised the role of trees in supporting healthy, self-sustaining ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Urban canopy was seen as important for climate mitigation and building Hobart's resilience to future climate impacts.



4) MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

- Respondents raised concerns about tree maintenance, including infrastructure damage, leaf litter and safety risks near homes
- Many felt the City should prioritise addressing these issues through proactive management and maintenance, supported by dedicated funding



5) PLANTING THE RIGHT TREES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

- Respondents emphasised the importance of selecting the right tree species for the right locations
- Many preferred native and locally adapted species along with careful planning

Urban Tree Strategy

QUOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY



"This is such an easy and important thing to do to be able to make us more resilient to climate change not to mention just making the city more beautiful." - **Online survey participant**

"End native forest logging, plant more trees, eradicate invasive environmental weeds...logging should not happen in World Heritage Areas" - **Youth Advisory Squad Member**

"I would love more trees to be planted in the northern suburbs where I live. It's a bit of a concrete wasteland in some areas. Lower socioeconomic areas seem to benefit less from greening programs and I would like to see that change." - **Online survey participant**



"The council needs to consult and understand the impact of huge trees on drains, footpaths, leaf litter, pollen impact." - **Online survey participant**

"I think we should stop cutting down trees. Because trees give us fruit, shelter for animals and shade. Maybe if we cut down a tree we can plant another one in its place." - **Interactive Drawing Activity, Queens Domain Pop Up**

"Urban trees are important because they provide shade, reduce global warming, clean our air, provide shade and support positive mental wellbeing." - **Multicultural Advisory Committee**

"Strategy MUST be adjusted to exclude fire-prone vegetation." - **Online survey participant**



"The main issue in Tas is sunlight is so important in the winter months... poorly situated tall trees can severely affect a neighbour's amenity." - **Online survey participant**

"More trees in cities and unused areas" - **Youth Advisory Squad Member**

"At Mt Nelson... it was heartbreaking to see machinery move in and rip out the trees." - **Online survey participant**

"It is paramount for trees to be planted along the sides and centres of roads within Hobart. It is an efficient way of reducing heat islands and adds significant beauty to our streets." - **Online survey participant**



1.1 What we did

The City of Hobart's Urban Tree Strategy engagement project aimed to actively inform and involve the Hobart community in the creation of a new strategy. It achieved this by encouraging people to reflect on their relationship with urban trees, address emerging issues such as disproportionate tree canopy cover and climate change adaptation, and celebrate the City's progress in implementing its 2017 Street Tree Strategy.

Engagement was undertaken over a nine-week period from 27 November 2024 to 28 February 2025 and included:

- 502 survey participants (in person and online)
- 209 people participated in a presentation or focus group
- Facilitated an Aboriginal-led consultation program with Palawa community members, involving 22 individual interviews.
- 900 trees given away to help people increase Hobart's urban tree canopy cover on private land.

Community engagement included a range of online and in-person opportunities designed to reach a broad cross-section of community members and stakeholders. Engagement activities included online and hard-copy surveys, written submissions, community conversations, focus groups, presentations, public events, and tree giveaway pop-up sessions aimed at supporting increased urban tree canopy cover on private land.

1.2 What we heard

Feedback received from several engagement methods identified consistent themes. Participants demonstrated significant support for increasing Hobart's urban canopy:

- **96%** of survey participants answered 'important' or 'very important' to the question: How important do you think it is for the City to plant more trees on Council land?
- **89%** answered 'important' or 'very important' to the question: How important do you think it is for the City to incentivise and support residents to plant more trees on private land?

The key themes mentioned included:

1. URBAN COOLING FOR CITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

There was broad recognition that trees provide cooling and shade benefits, particularly in less green inner-city areas. Respondents frequently identified increased canopy cover as a way to reduce urban heat and improve comfort, while also enhancing neighbourhood character and contributing to a greener, more liveable city.

2. SUPPORT EQUAL ACCESS TO GREENERY

A significant number of respondents highlighted the importance of increasing canopy cover in lower socio-economic areas of Hobart, noting links between higher-income suburbs and greater tree canopy. Many felt greening efforts should prioritise neighbourhoods with limited existing vegetation to ensure all residents can benefit from increased shade, cooling, amenity and improved livability.

3. BROADER ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

A significant proportion of participants spoke about the broader impact of trees on creating a self-sustaining ecosystem that supports not only humans, but a diverse ecosystem. The connection between urban canopy, climate mitigation and climate resilience for Hobart's future was frequently referenced, as well as the importance of educating the community in the process.

4. MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

Many respondents highlighted issues associated with poorly maintained trees, including root damage to pavements and roads, blocked drains from leaf litter, and safety concerns related to large trees near homes. Some felt addressing these issues should be a City priority, supported by dedicated funding.

5. PLANTING THE RIGHT TREES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

Many comments were noted around: a preference for native and locally adapted species that support biodiversity, tree species that prioritises shade in summer and sunlight in winter, species that minimise conflict with infrastructure and a concern about fire prone native species being planted.

Participants identified opportunities for greater collaboration between the City, schools, community organisations and other stakeholders to support urban greening initiatives. Through partnerships with schools, community organisations and other institutions, the City can help build long-term community understanding and support for urban forestry outcomes.

1.3 Next steps

This engagement report accompanies the draft Urban Tree Strategy, which will be presented to the Hobart Workshop for consideration and endorsement. Subject to endorsement, the draft strategy will be released for public exhibition to seek community feedback before being presented to Council for final consideration and adoption.

2. Project overview

2.1. Project Objectives

The development of the Urban Tree Strategy aims to build on the successes of the 2017 Street Tree Strategy and guide the future management, protection and expansion of Hobart's urban tree canopy. The project seeks to understand community values, priorities and aspirations for urban trees, identify opportunities to increase canopy cover across Hobart, and inform the development of a renewed strategy that reflects contemporary community needs and environmental challenges.

2.2. Engagement Objectives

The City of Hobart's community engagement project for the renewal of its Street Tree Strategy, now our Urban Tree Strategy, aims to:

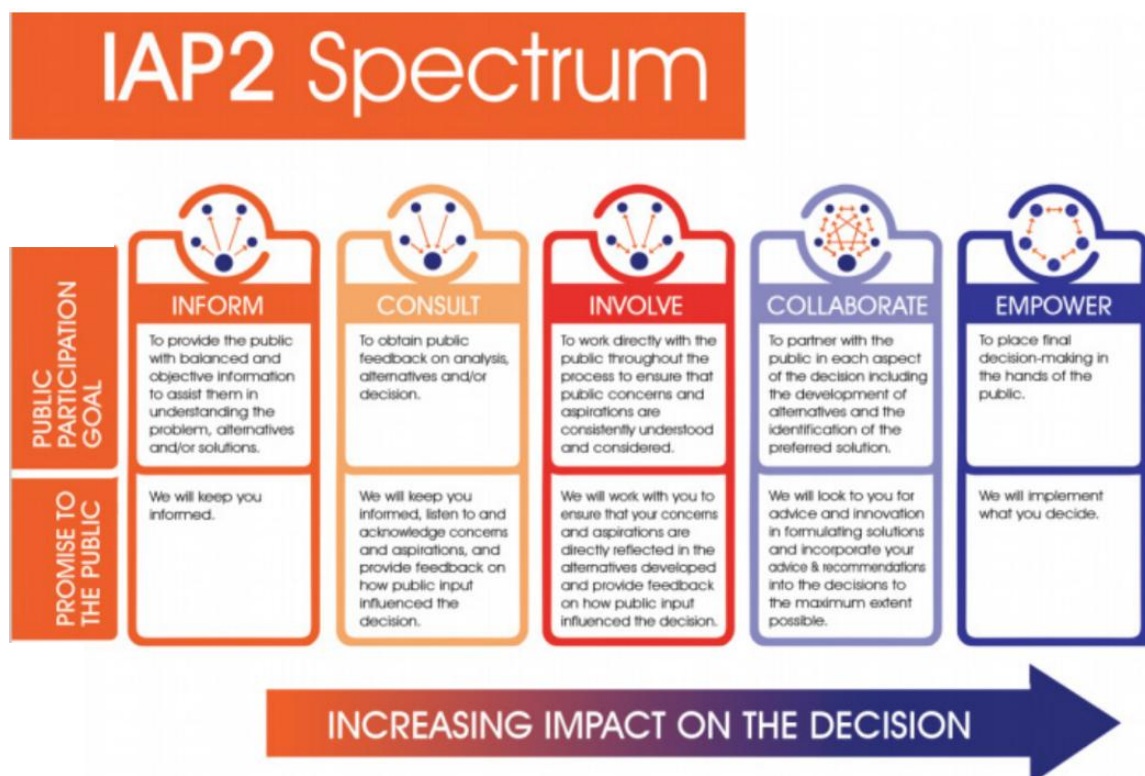
- **Generate opportunities for the Hobart community** to have a say on the new Urban Tree Strategy through creative activities that invite people to reflect on their relationship with the natural environment.
- **Identify new themes and actions** for the next five years to form part of the new Urban Tree Strategy.
- **Focus efforts on emerging issues and opportunities** that have surfaced since 2017. These emerging challenges have been summarised as:
 - Urban tree canopy cover is disproportionate across the Hobart Local Government Area – there has been a loss of tree canopy cover on private land, and some suburbs have a tree canopy cover as low as six per cent).
 - Engagement and education around the need for climate change adaptation - tree canopy cover builds community resilience and community knowledge about the importance of trees.
 - Shifting the focus from 'street trees' to 'urban canopy' – shifting the narrative towards exemplary urban forest management.
- Celebrate the City of Hobart's role in the progress of its Street Tree Strategy as it reaches full implementation.

3. Engagement overview

3.1 Engagement goals

Consistent with the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum, the engagement process sought to inform, consult and collaborate with the community and stakeholders to:

1. **Inform** the community about the development of the Urban Tree Strategy, including the City's vision and target to increase urban canopy cover to 40% by 2046.
2. **Consult** with community members, stakeholders and underrepresented groups to gather feedback on priorities, opportunities and challenges associated with increasing urban tree canopy across Hobart.
3. **Inform and educate** the community on the benefits of urban trees and canopy cover, including lessons and achievements from implementation of the 2017 Street Tree Strategy.
4. **Collaborate** with key stakeholders, including schools, community organisations, businesses and private landowners, to identify opportunities for shared action and long-term support for urban greening initiatives.



3.2 Who we engaged

To understand how the community experiences and values the project area and to gather ideas for its future improvement, the City engaged with a diverse range of community members, stakeholders and interest groups:

- Local Community groups / Associations
- City of Hobart Committees
- Industry stakeholders
- Palawa Community Members
- People from hardly reached communities
- Broader Community

Feedback on the Urban Tree Strategy survey received face-to-face and online was received from **504 participants**.

Approximately **209 people participated in a presentation or focus group** about the strategy, which may have resulted in them completing a survey.

Demographic data was collected from online, intercept and paper survey participants. The results of this data are reflected below. There are some slight discrepancies in data, due to participants skipping questions or errors in data processing.



As numbered, consultation sessions undertaken during engagement period:

- 1) Internal consultation workshop at City of Hobart Council
- 2) TasArb presentation
- 3) Access Advisory Committee meeting,
- 4) Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting
- 5) Survey and tree giveaway John Turnbull Park
- 6) City of Hobart Council conducting intercept survey in Battery Point
- 7) City of Hobart Council undertaking survey at Mathers House
- 8) Ruby Wolfe (Project Lead) facilitating children's activity at the Domain.
- 9) Mini urban Forest, Elizabeth Street

3.3 Engagement methods

Engagement Period: 27 November 2024 – 28 February 2025

Tool	Description
Online survey	The online survey was the main method for gathering feedback on the strategy. It contained six key questions and a number of demographic questions. It was accessible via the Your Say Hobart website. The online survey received 194 responses.
Intercept survey	The intercept survey gathered face-to-face feedback at our 12 in-person engagement activities. It contained the same six key questions and demographic questions as the online survey. The intercept survey received 287 responses.
Paper surveys	Our paper survey provided an opportunity for people to fill in their own answers and receive a free tree. It contained the same six key questions and demographic questions as the online survey. These responses were transcribed. The paper surveys received 21 responses.
Idea walls	Idea walls allow for creative expression. They were set up at: - Virtually (Your Say platform). - YouthARC (City of Hobart's Young Adults Recreation Centre). - Legacy Park, Queens Domain. We received 76 submissions through the idea walls.
Children's drawing activity	Two pop-up survey sessions were held at Legacy Park in the Queens Domain, with our engagement team facilitating idea walls with families and giving children the option of drawing responses to this question: <i>'Imagine what our city canopy will look like in 50-100 years, and who or what benefits from it. Draw your response.'</i> This activity received 27 responses .
Pop-ups	Pop-up sessions were held throughout the engagement period, giving people an opportunity to complete the survey, contribute to an idea wall and receive a complementary tree. We held pop-ups at: - Elizabeth Street Mall, Wednesday 27 November. - Elizabeth Street Mall, Thursday 28 November. - Elizabeth Street Mall, Tuesday 10 December. - Mathers House, Tuesday 14 January. - Domain Hobart Open, Friday 10 January. - Domain Legacy Park, Tuesday 21 January. - Mathers House, Thursday 16 January. - Swan Street Park, North Hobart, Wednesday 22 January. - Elizabeth Street Mall, Thursday 30 January.

	– New Town and Lenah Valley, John Turnbull Park, Wednesday 12 February. – Battery Point, corner of Kelly Street and Hampden Road, Monday 24 February. – YouthARC, Friday 21 February.
	12 pop-ups were held.
Incentivisation	To encourage people to take part in the survey the City of Hobart gave away tubestock trees to: - People completing the survey. - Stakeholder groups were engaged in face-to-face sessions or presentations. - People attending to committee presentations. Approximately 900 trees were given away.
Focus groups	Focus groups were used to consult with key internal groups.
Committee presentations (internal)	Presentations about the Urban Tree Strategy and our public engagement process were given to these City of Hobart committees: - Access Advisory Committee - Council of Hobart Community Associations - Health and Wellbeing Committee - City Economy Portfolio Group - City Transport Committee - 'Networking for Harmony' Multicultural Advisory Committee - Youth Advisory Squad
Presentations (external)	Presentations about the Urban Tree Strategy and our public engagement process were shared with three community organisations: - Paraquad Tasmania - TasArb Organisation - University of the 3rd Age (U3A)
Public events	- Human Rights Day - Urban Forest Community Engagement Launch

4. Communications strategy

4.1 Communication goals

The communication goals for this stage of engagement were to:

- Raise awareness of the Urban Tree Strategy and its vision to grow and maintain a resilient, healthy and connected urban forest that supports liveable, sustainable and attractive communities.
- Build community understanding of the Strategy's purpose, scope and the environmental, social and economic benefits of urban trees and canopy cover.
- Provide transparent and accessible information about the current state of the urban forest, key challenges, opportunities and relevant policies and planning frameworks.
- Promote opportunities for community participation and encourage residents, landowners, community groups and other stakeholders to contribute their views, experiences and local knowledge.
- Support informed participation by ensuring the community has the information needed to provide meaningful feedback on urban forest priorities, targets and management approaches.
- Communicate the importance of community input in identifying local values, priorities, opportunities and concerns relating to trees, canopy cover and urban greening.
- Reinforce how feedback gathered during this engagement will help shape the development and implementation of the Urban Tree Strategy, including future actions, programs and decision-making to support a greener and more resilient city.

4.2 Communication summary

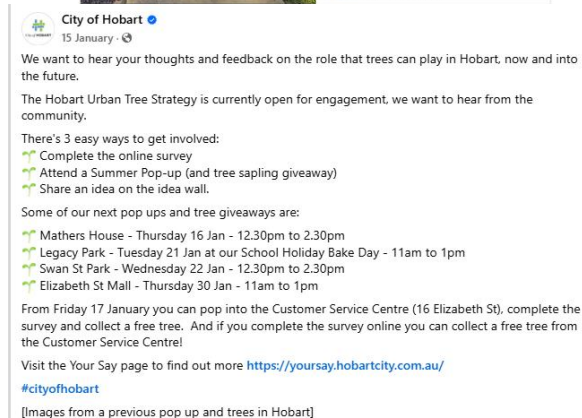
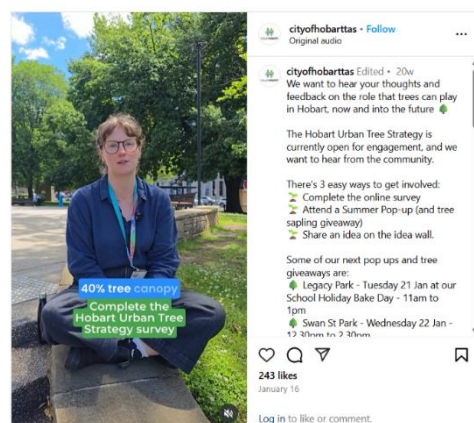
Communication channel	Reach	Engagement
Facebook post – 26 Nov 2024	5K reach	97 engagements 12 link clicks
Facebook post – 27 Nov 2024	3.7K reach	56 engagements
Facebook post – 15 Jan 2025	4.3K reach	58 engagements 11 link clicks
Facebook post – 29 Jan 2025	2.4K reach	83 engagements 5 link clicks
Facebook post – 19 Feb 2025	3.6K reach	64 engagements 9 link clicks
Instagram - 27 Nov 2024	1.5K reach	34 engagements 15 link clicks
Instagram - 16 Jan 2025	5.1K reach	301 engagements

Traditional media – across engagement period (27 Nov 2024 – 28 Feb 2025)	4,610,854 potential accumulative audience	136 mentions – radio most prominent
Your Say Newsletter – Dec 2024	4,078 community members	2,123 clicks (55.9%)
Your Say Newsletter – Jan 2025	3,806 community members	2,017 clicks (53.9%)
Posters		A poster was developed, including a QR code to the survey and web page. This poster was distributed at every pop-up.



Ruby Wolfe, Hobart City Council city greening lead, at the council's pop-up urban forest in the Elizabeth St Mall, where native trees are being given away for free as the city aims to increase its urban tree canopy cover from 29 per cent to 40 per cent by 2046. Picture: Nikki Davis-Jones

Instagram



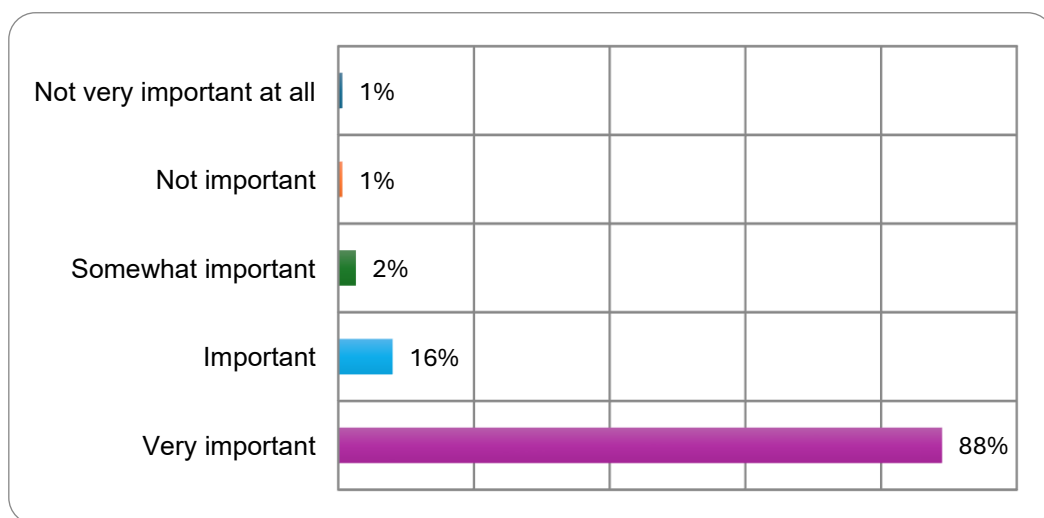
Screenshots of some of the media coverage throughout the engagement period.

5. Engagement results / what we heard

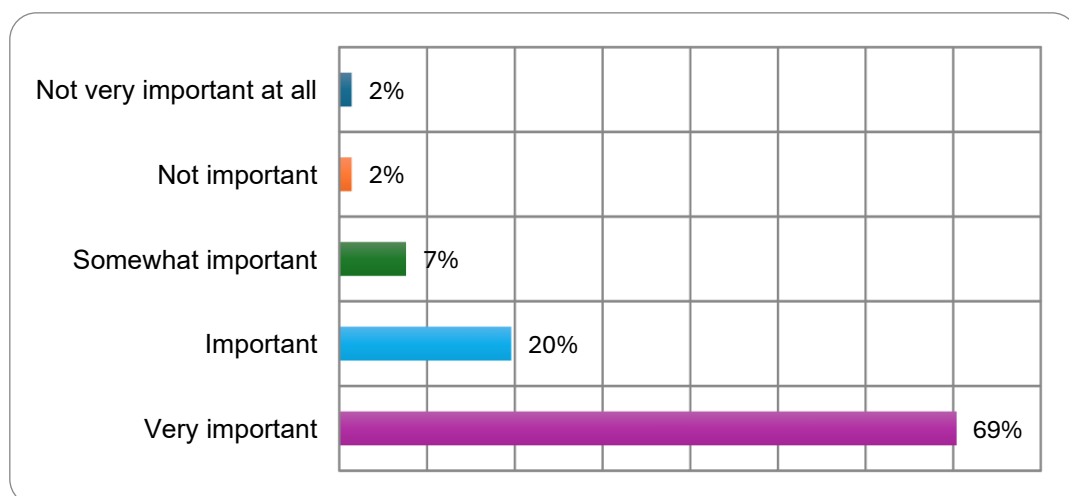
5.1 Support for urban tree canopy growth

Survey participants were asked a series of key questions about urban tree canopy growth in Hobart. The results presented here combine responses from both the in-person (intercept) and online surveys.

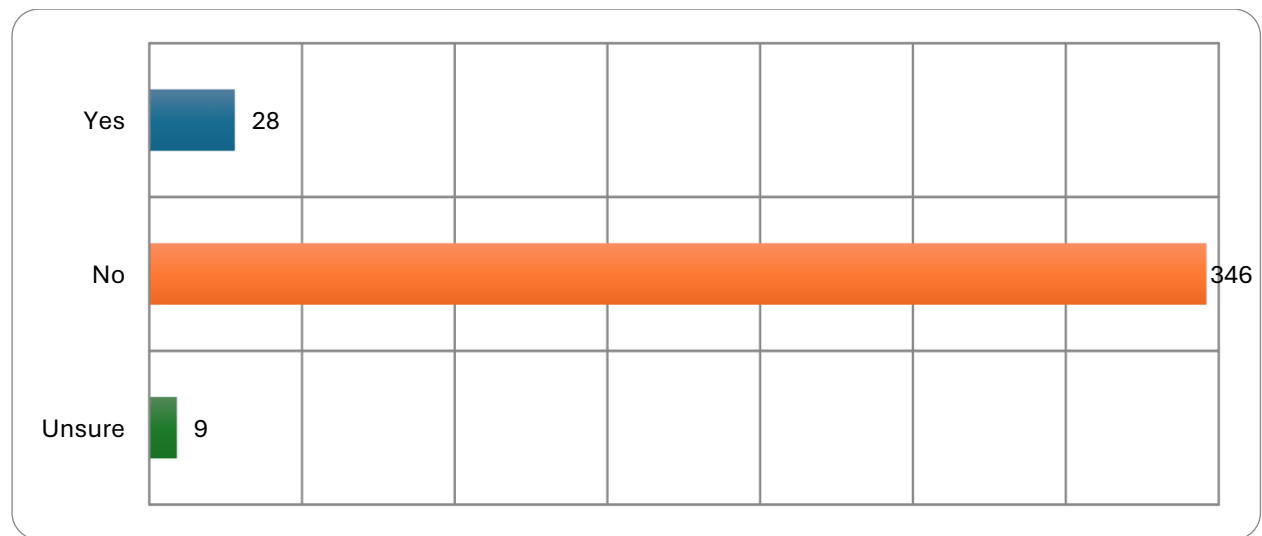
Question 1: The first question asked how important participants thought it was **for the City of Hobart to plant more trees on Council land**. A high majority of participants (96%) answered 'important' or 'very important'.



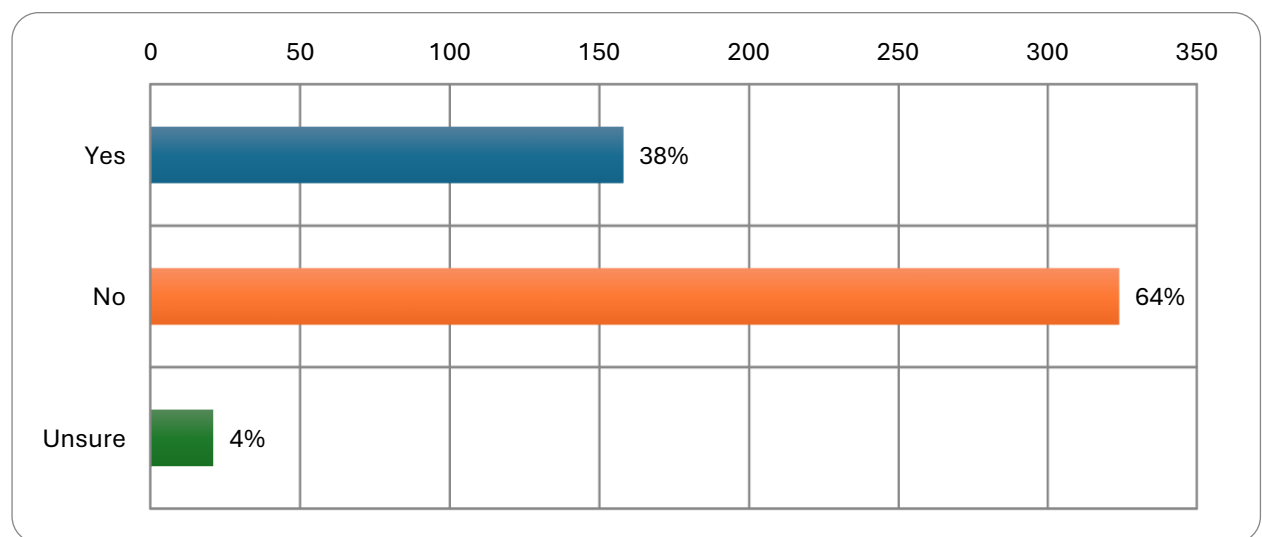
Question 2: The second question asked how important participants thought it was for the City of Hobart to **incentivise and support residents to plant more trees on private land**. A high majority of participants (89%) answered 'important' or 'very important'.



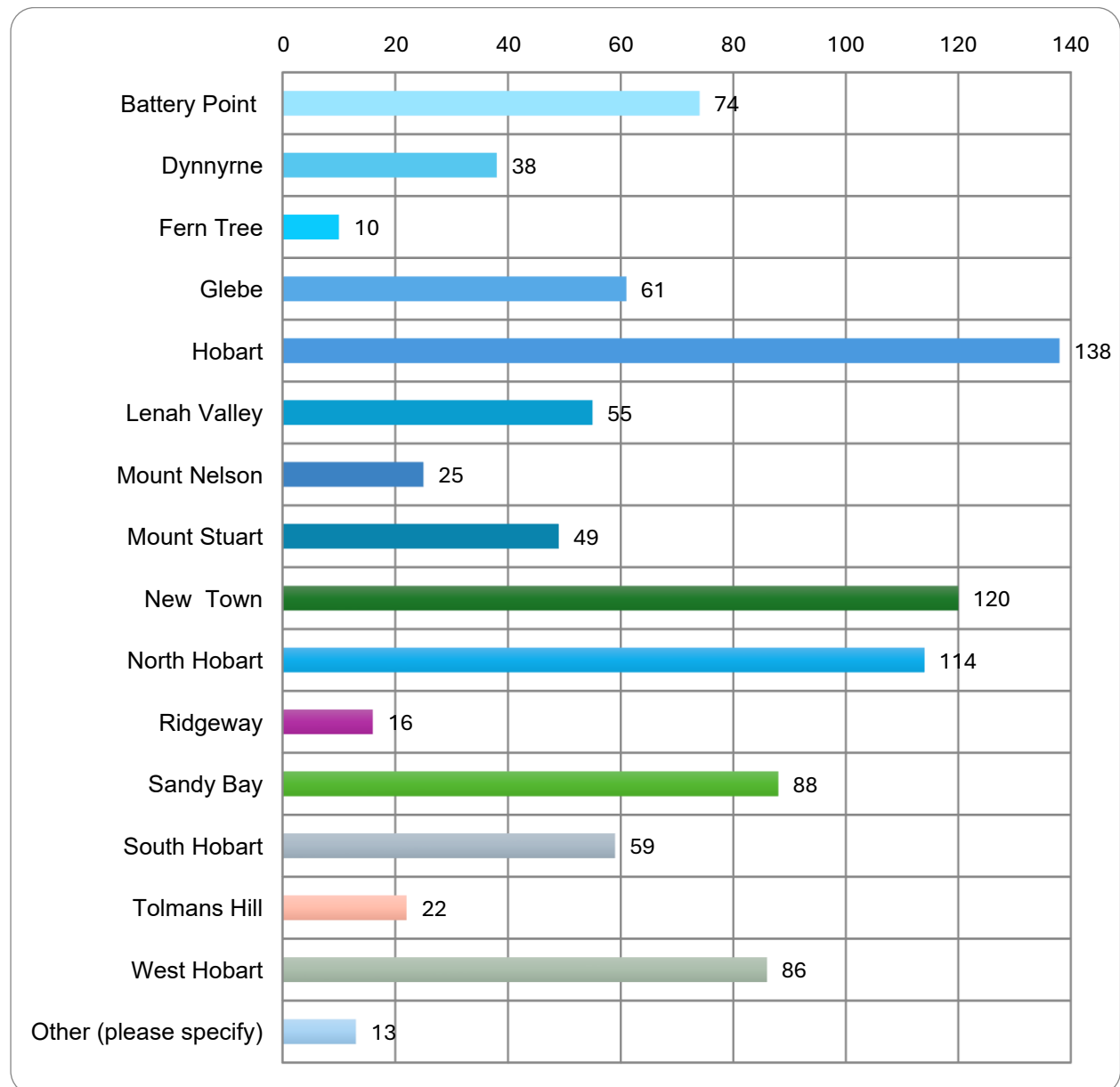
Question 3: The third question asked whether or not participants thought there is **enough tree canopy cover in the City of Hobart**. A high majority (90%) said “no”, 7% (28) answered ‘yes’ and 2% answered ‘unsure’.



Question 4: The fourth question asked whether or not individuals thought there was **enough tree canopy cover in the suburb where they lived**. Half of the survey participants (68%) answered ‘no’ or ‘unsure’ to this question.



Question 5: The fifth question asked in which **suburbs individuals thought there should be more tree canopy cover**. Individuals could select more than one option for this question - 38% of participants selected either Hobart, New Town or North Hobart as suburbs where respondents thought there could be more canopy cover. These were the most selected suburbs. The next most selected suburbs were West Hobart (8%) and Sandy Bay (7%).



5.1.1 Reasons to support tree canopy growth

A sentiment analysis of comments included at the end of the intercept and online surveys indicates support for the strategy.

Themes and comments included:

- **Urban cooling for city neighbourhoods:** There was general recognition trees are needed for their immediate cooling and shade benefit in less green inner city neighbourhoods. The aesthetic experience of living in a 'green city' was frequently mentioned as a supplementary benefit.

'There just needs to be more trees and more regulations for new builds and apartments to create green space.'

'Greening the city is a good community thing to do.'

- **A way to support equal access to greenery:** A high number of people specifically mentioned the importance of increasing canopy growth in lower socio-economic areas in Hobart, mentioning links between high-income suburbs and increased tree canopy.

'My main interest is that I feel quite passionately that green spaces are monopolised by high socio-economic areas but you don't get that in lower socio-economic areas. These initiatives aren't happening in less wealthy spaces.'

'The council should be following through with this ... because it is a massive socio-economic issue ... Need to support lower socio-economic groups to be educated and resourced in this space.'

- **Broader environmental, health and biodiversity benefits:** A significant proportion of participants spoke about the broader impact of trees on creating a self-sustaining ecosystem that supports not only humans, but a diverse ecosystem. The connection between urban canopy, climate mitigation and climate resilience for Hobart's future was frequently referenced, as well as the importance of educating the community in the process.

'Trees are very important for climate change and we need more trees to support [when there is] heavy rainfall.'

5.1.2 Concerns regarding canopy growth

A sentiment analysis of comments included at the end of the intercept and online surveys, as well as pop-ups and workshops, indicates concerns about the strategy.

Emerging themes and comments include:

- **Maintenance challenges are ongoing:** Many respondents emphasised the impacts of existing trees that have not been maintained properly (either by the City of Hobart or residents). There was reference to roots breaking pavement and road surfaces, the accumulation of leaves in drains, and the proximity of older, bigger trees to houses as a potential safety risk. Some community members felt these challenges needed to be addressed as a priority for the City, and that a budget was needed to manage bigger trees and the problems they can cause.

'Issues with the roots on the footpaths present a risk on walking.'

'When council are planting trees near public amenities, anywhere near pedestrians or cyclists. They should choose appropriate trees so that the surface of the land is not affected, and infrastructure is maintained. Don't use cobblestones to support trees as they just get uplifted. Make sure there is enough space for pedestrians to walk near St Davids park for example, along Davey Street.'

- **Perception of 'wrong trees' being planted:** Some members of the community felt that the trees the City of Hobart has planted have increased the fire risk.

'Council needs to be careful with street tree plantings. More deciduous trees, sun in winter, leaves in summer.'

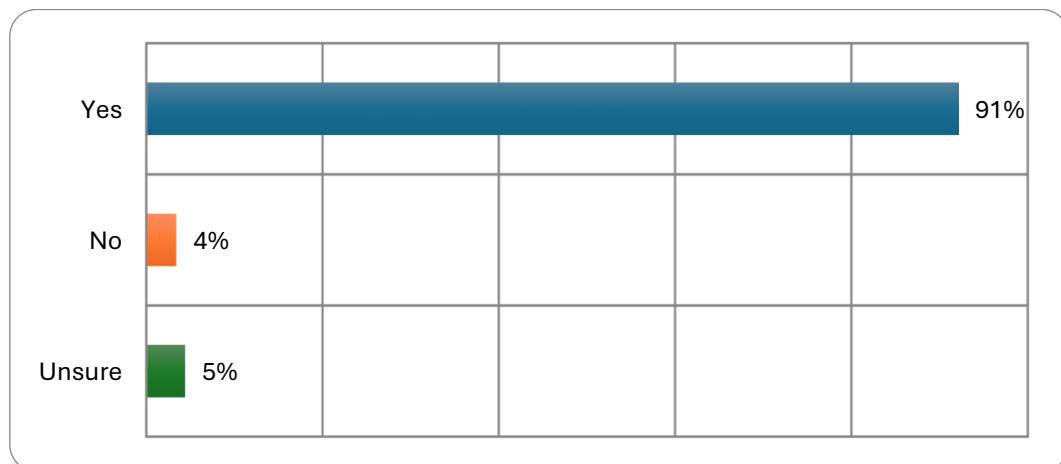
'Council needs to be aware of not planting too many fire prone trees. More food producing trees would be nice. Could be nut trees too.'

5.2 City of Hobart's role

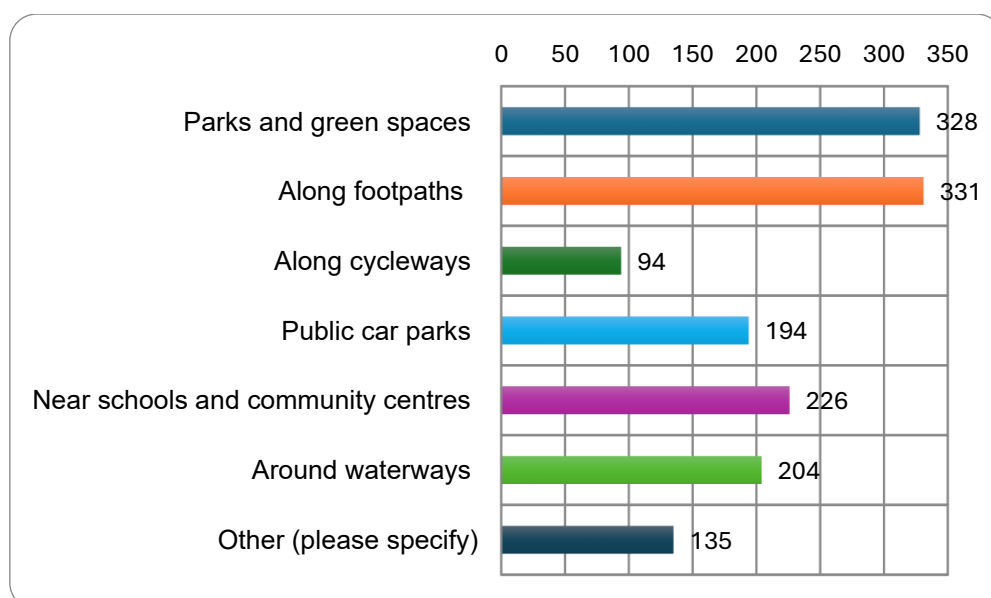
5.2.1 Support tree planting

Question 6: Survey participants were asked key questions around the role the City of Hobart should play in planting and taking care of trees.

One question asked if participants thought **the City should create more community programs or events related to tree planting and urban greening**. A high majority of participants (91%) answered 'yes' to this question, 9% answered 'no' or 'unsure'.

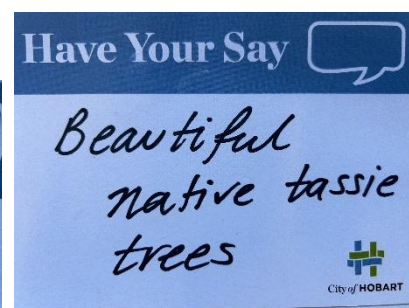
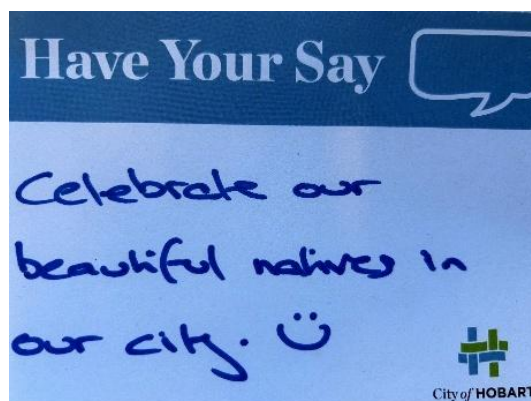
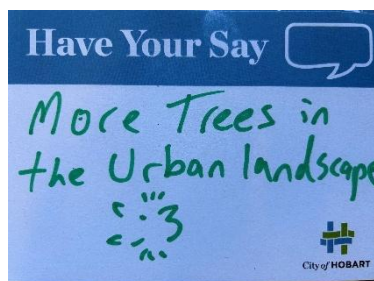
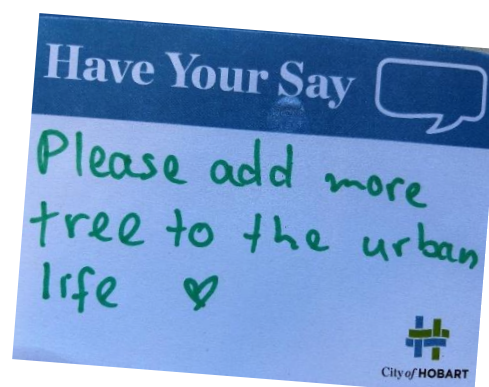
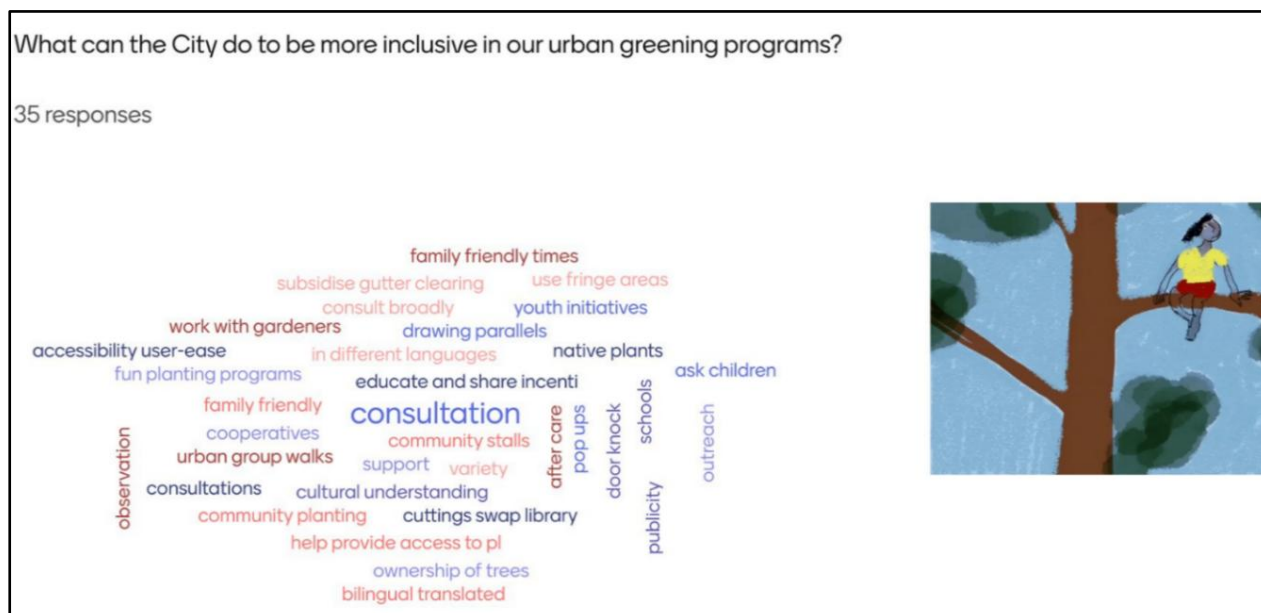


Question 7: Another question asked participants to nominate the public spaces the City of Hobart should focus on planting more trees in. Individuals could select multiple answers. The two most popular responses were 'parks and green spaces' and 'along footpaths' - 43% of all responses. The least popular response was 'along cycleways' (6%).



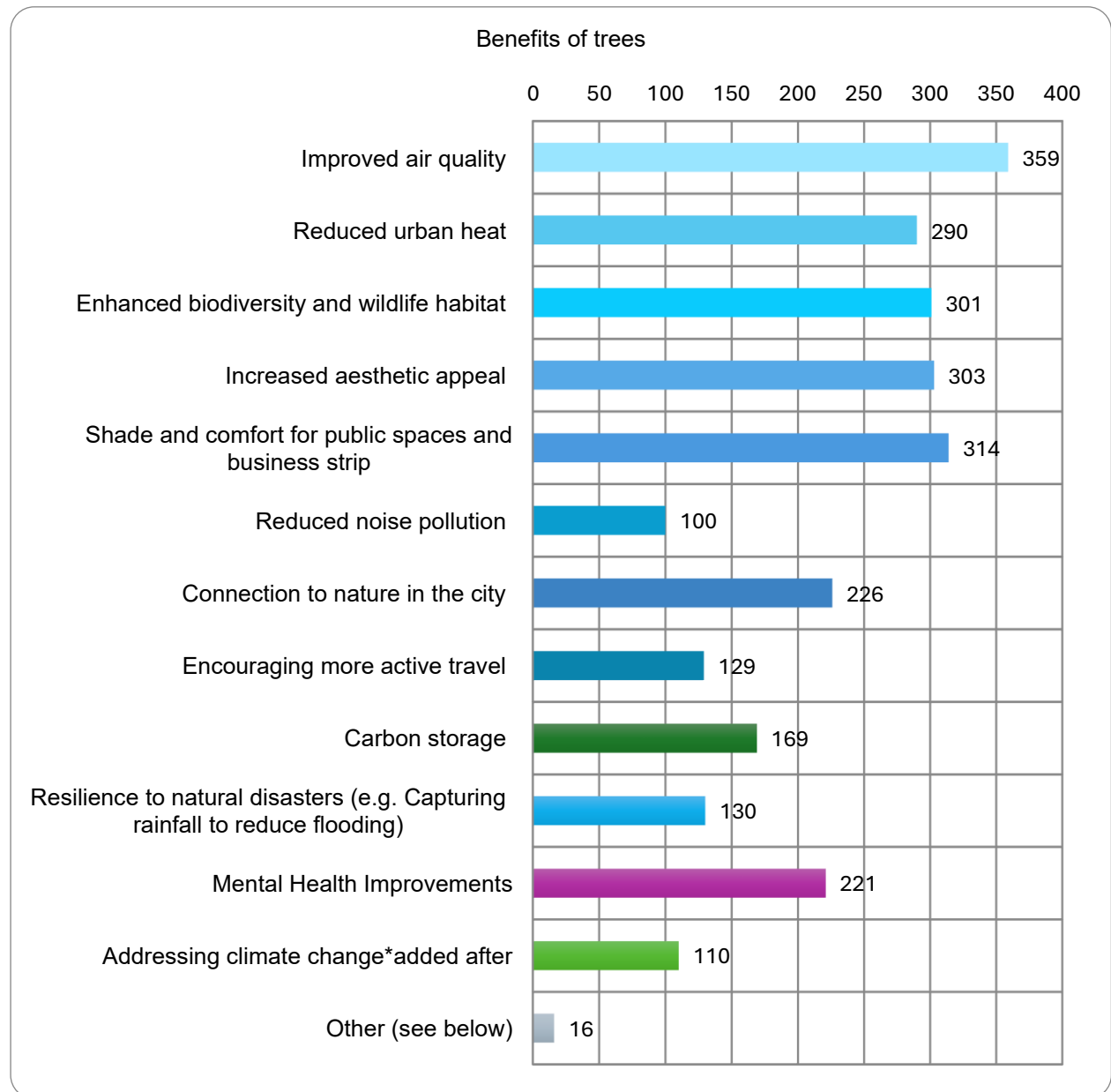
5.2.2 Build in equity and inclusivity

Visual representations show the different ways participants in the Network for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Committee responded to the question ‘What can the City of Hobart do to be more inclusive in our urban greening programs?’



5.3 What community values about trees

Question 8: Survey participants were asked a key question around the **benefits of trees in a city**. Participants could answer with unlimited options. The most selected benefit was 'Improved air quality' (13%) followed closely by 'shade and comfort for public spaces and business trips'. Out of 503 participants, on average individuals selected at least five benefits from the list below.

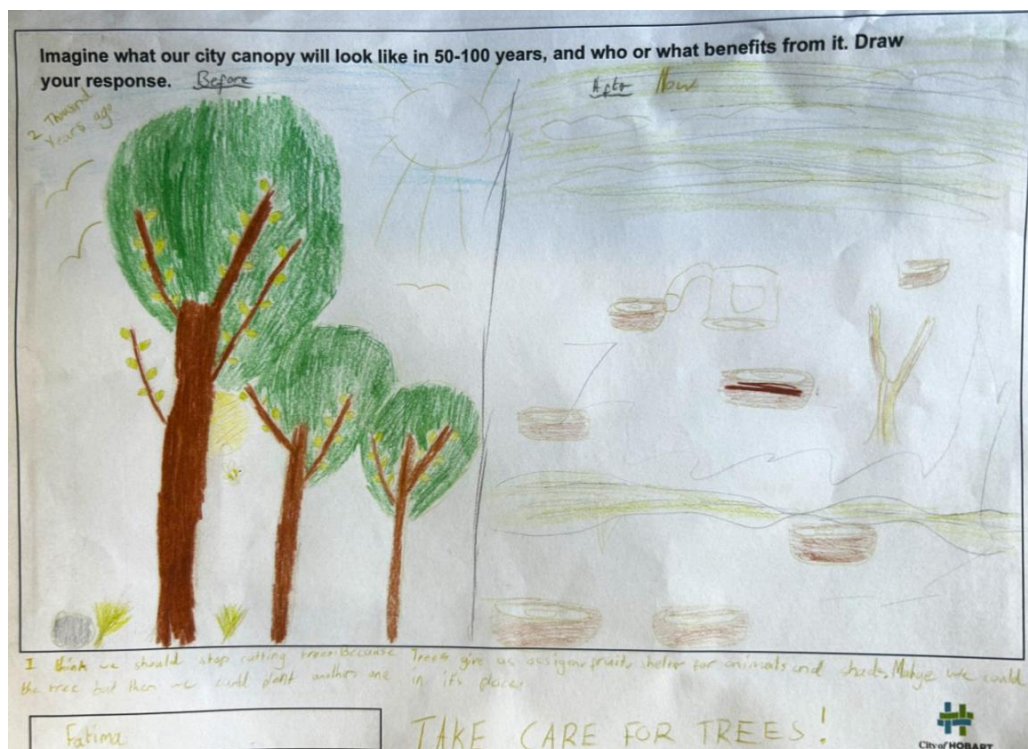
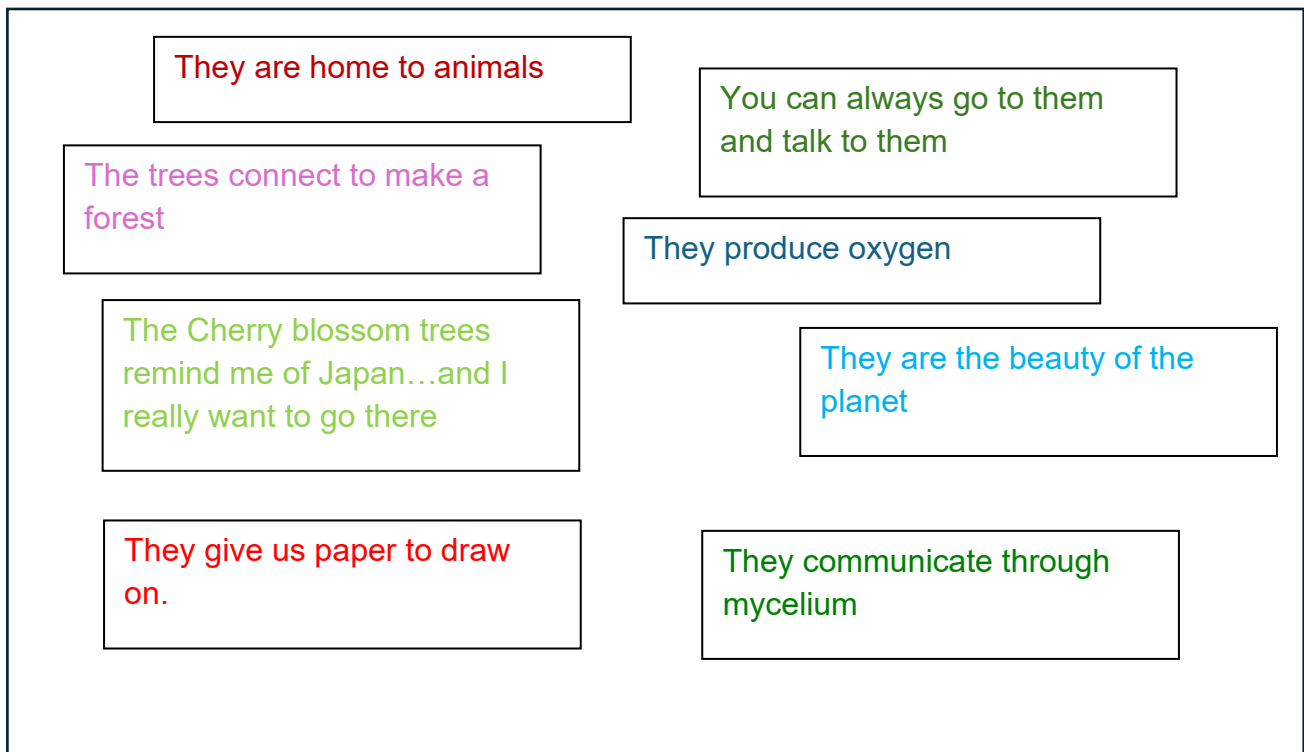


5.3.1 Children and Young People

Children

This word cloud reflects children's responses to the question 'What do you love about trees?'

This activity was conducted at one of the Legacy Park pop-ups in the Queens Domain. Most children were estimated to be between the age of 4 and 10.



Child's drawing as part of a pop-up session in the Queens Domain.

Young People

This word cloud reflects respondents from the Youth Advisory Squad (aged 18-25) and other teenagers. Two engagement sessions were held with this group. The first session focused more on working with young people to co-design an engagement activity, the second session involved a pop-up at the Young Adults Recreation Centre in Hobart, where young people responded to the question 'How should we care for the future of our urban canopy?'

More trees in cities and
unused areas

I think tree cover and natural
spaces are highly important in
cities and contribute to
beautiful, natural
environments

End native forest logging,
plant many more native trees,
eradicate invasive
environmental weeds and
politicians should not be
allowed to let logging happen,
especially in World Heritage
areas

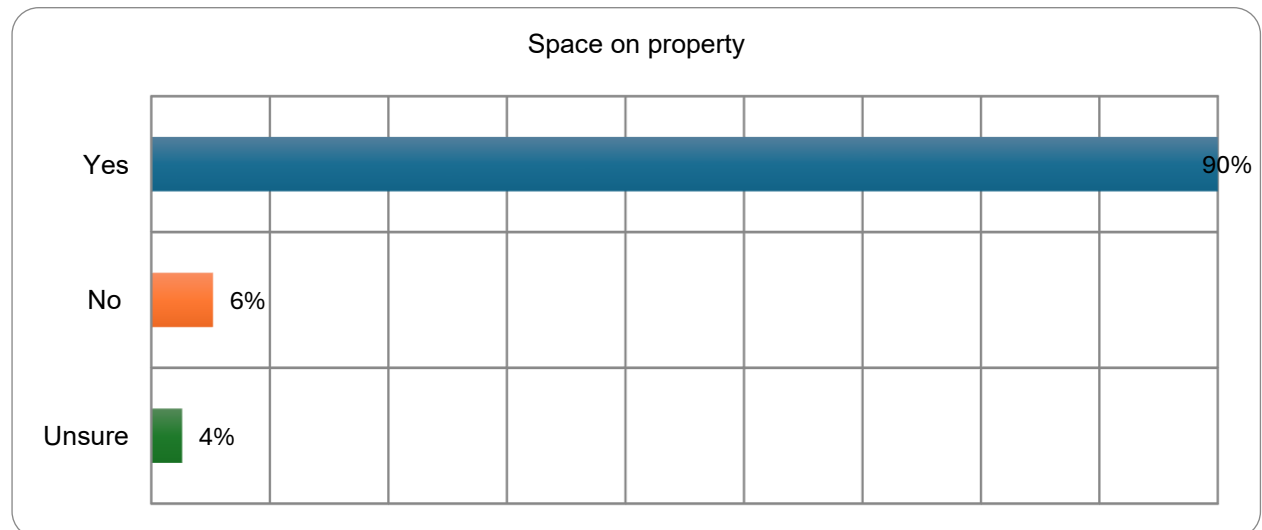
Trees are good for shade...we
need cool trees



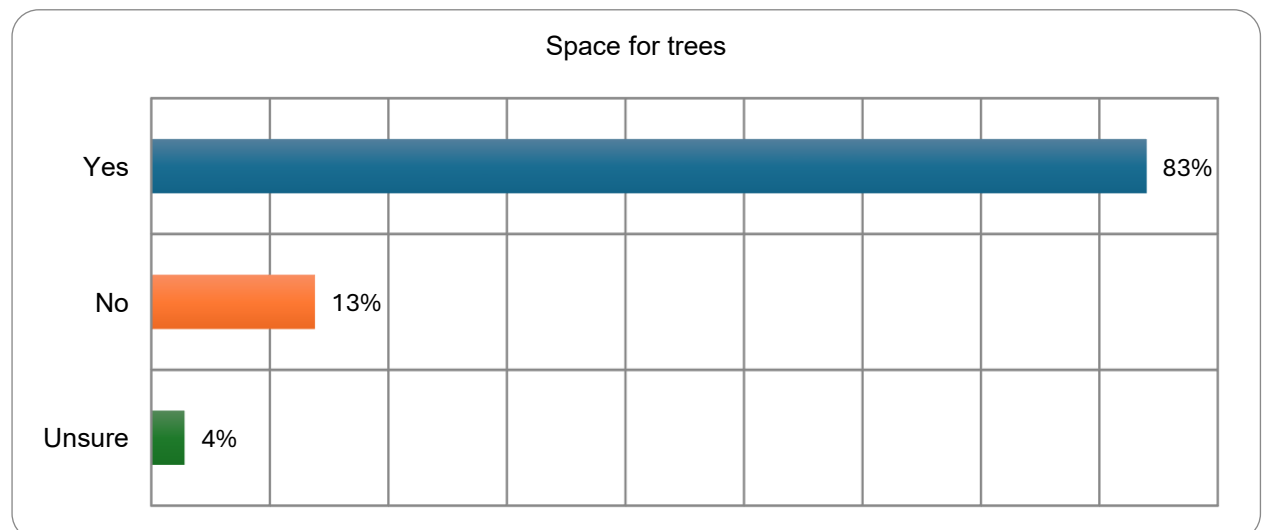
5.4 Trees on private property

5.4.1 Attitudes to planting

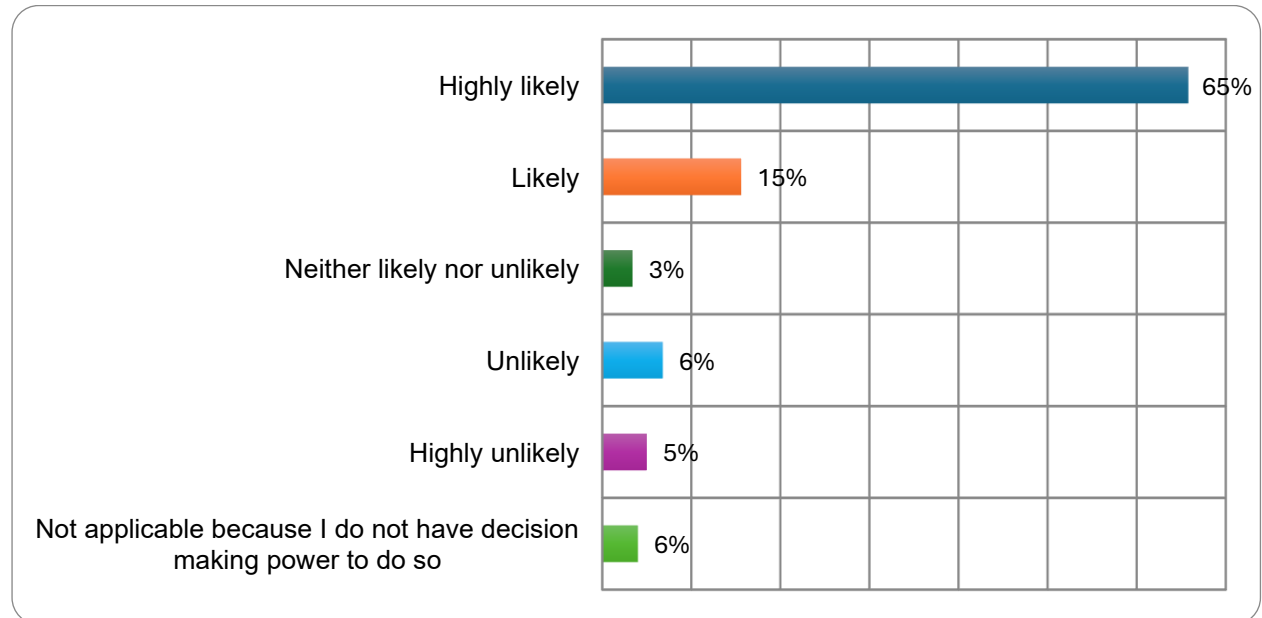
Question 9: The second half of the survey focuses primarily on the attitudes of private property owners to planting and retaining trees. Approximately 90% (450 participants) have open space on their property, and the remaining 10% were either 'unsure' or answered 'no'.



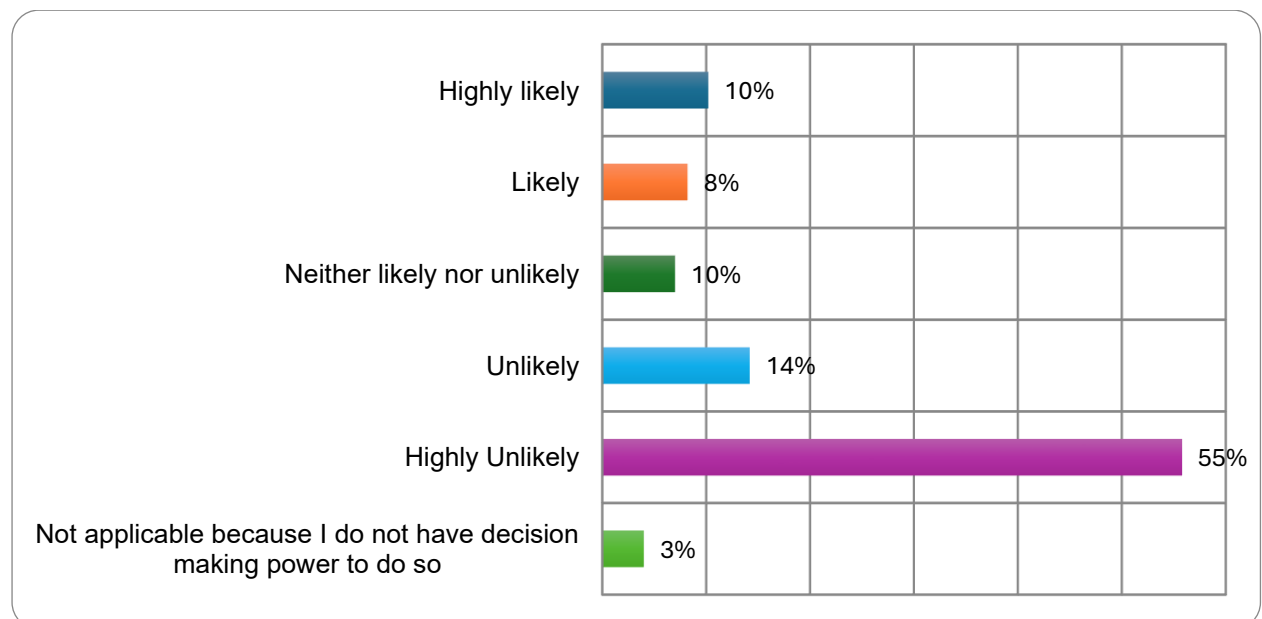
Question 10: Another question gauged whether or not there was space for participants to plant additional trees within the property boundary. Approximately 83% (420) participants said 'yes', the remaining 17% answered either 'no' or 'unsure'.



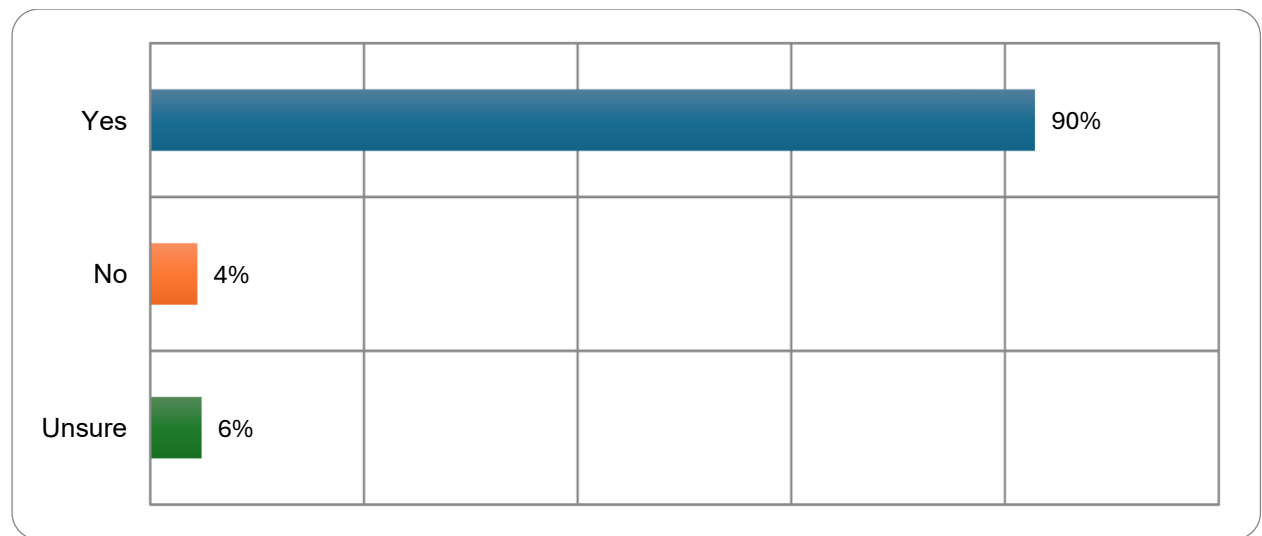
Question 11: The next question established how likely it was for participants to plant a tree on their property in the next three years - 11% (55) of participants answered 'unlikely' or 'highly unlikely', 80% (407) answered 'likely or 'highly likely'. The remaining 9% answered 'neither likely nor unlikely' or 'not applicable because I do not have the decision making power to do so'.



Question 12: This question established how likely it was for participants to remove a tree on their property in the next three years - 18% (92) of participants answered either 'highly likely' or 'likely', 69% (350) answered 'unlikely' or 'highly unlikely'. The remaining 13% answered 'neither likely nor unlikely' or 'not applicable because I do not have the decision making power to do so'.

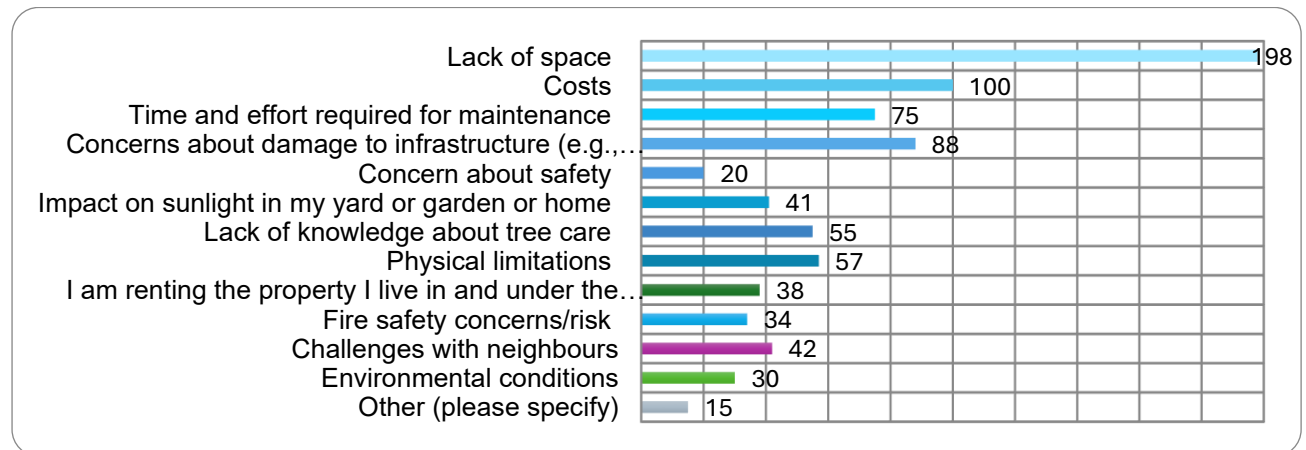


Question 13: For those that answered 'highly likely' or 'likely' to the above question, they were then asked a follow up question regarding replanting another tree - 90% of participants agreed they would plant another tree if they removed one.

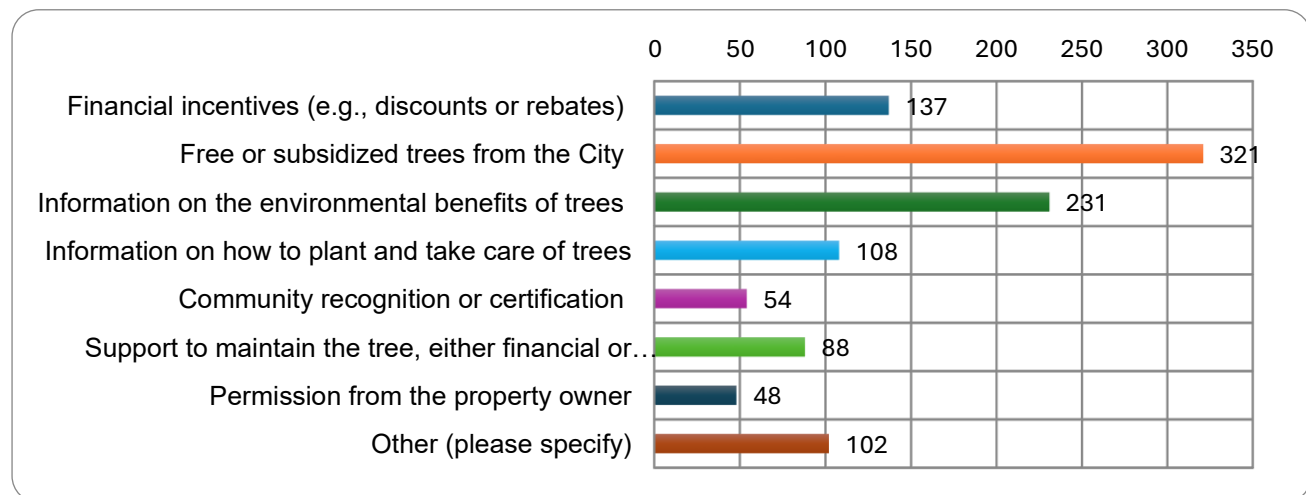


5.4.2 Challenges and incentives

Question 14: The final questions in the survey ask participants to reflect on the challenges and barriers preventing them from planting trees, as well as potential and hypothetical motives that could encourage residents to plant more trees. Participants were able to respond to as many answers as they felt relevant. The most popular response was ‘lack of space’ as a barrier, followed by ‘costs’ barriers and ‘concerns about damage to infrastructure’.



Question 15: When asked about motivation for planting trees on private property, the most common response was ‘Free or subsidised trees from the city’, followed closely by ‘information on the environmental benefits of trees’. Other types of motivation were suggested over 102 comments. The word cloud depicts them below.



Question 16: At the conclusion of the survey, participants were asked “Do you have anything else you’d like to share?” Some of the responses are included below.

Protect trees in St Davids Park, and prioritise trees over development.

There should be greater control on the removal of remnant trees. However, this should be supported through improved identification and recoding of trees of value, and most importantly, assistance with the assessment and care for these trees.

End native forest logging, plant many more native trees, eradicate invasive environmental weeds and politicians should not be allowed to let logging happen, especially in World Heritage areas.

There should be more fruit trees planted on council strips so fruit is available for members of public, give away fruit trees as well as ornamentals.

The council needs to consult and understand the impact or huge trees on drains, footpaths, leaf litter, pollen impact. The response that they don’t need to trim or maintain is unacceptable. Maintenance funds essential. Listen to ratepayers.

Council should not plant trees at the detriment of keeping footpaths clear. Council should offer rates relief for property owners with 60% canopy cover or more - reviewed annually - modern technology could facilitate this.

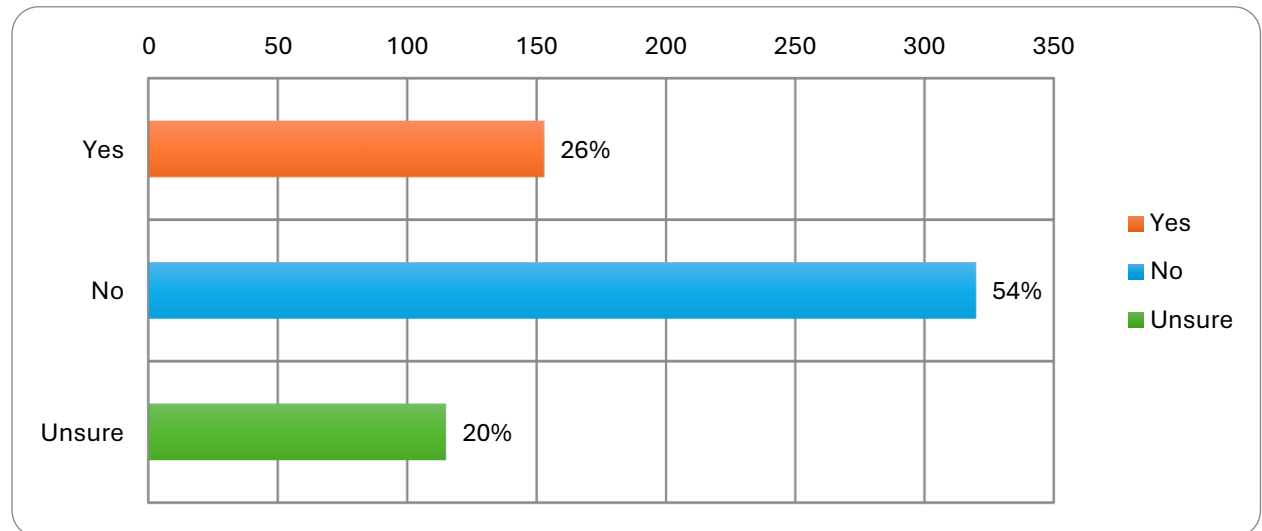
Can there be more transparency on projects where developers have paid to offset tree removal? Where does this money go, what projects is it funding. Is the offset even enough as there’s also any understory plants that aren’t considered.

Great questions, well done. Excellent incentive and I hope it works well. I am a high school teacher who is currently teaching civics and citizenship. Your survey fits very well with what we are teaching about active citizenship. Good luck!

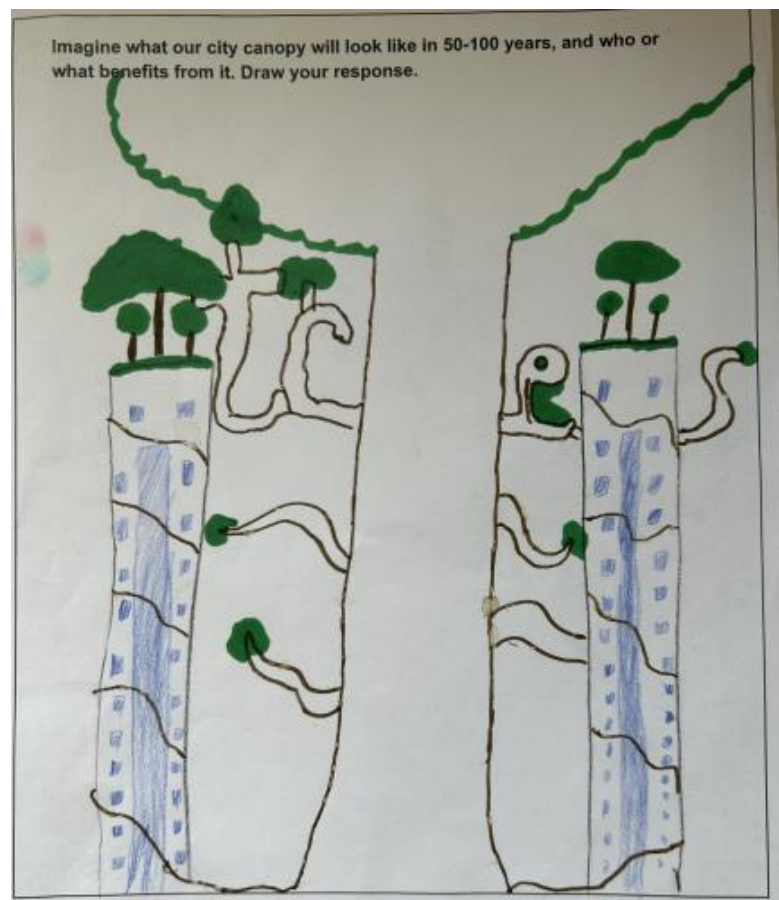
Engaging with Tasmanian Aboriginals to consult on vegetation selection. Selecting plants that are grown close to Hobart so they are more resilient. Embrace that people travel to Tasmania to see nature, so bring more nature into the city.

5.4.3 Regulation for tree protection

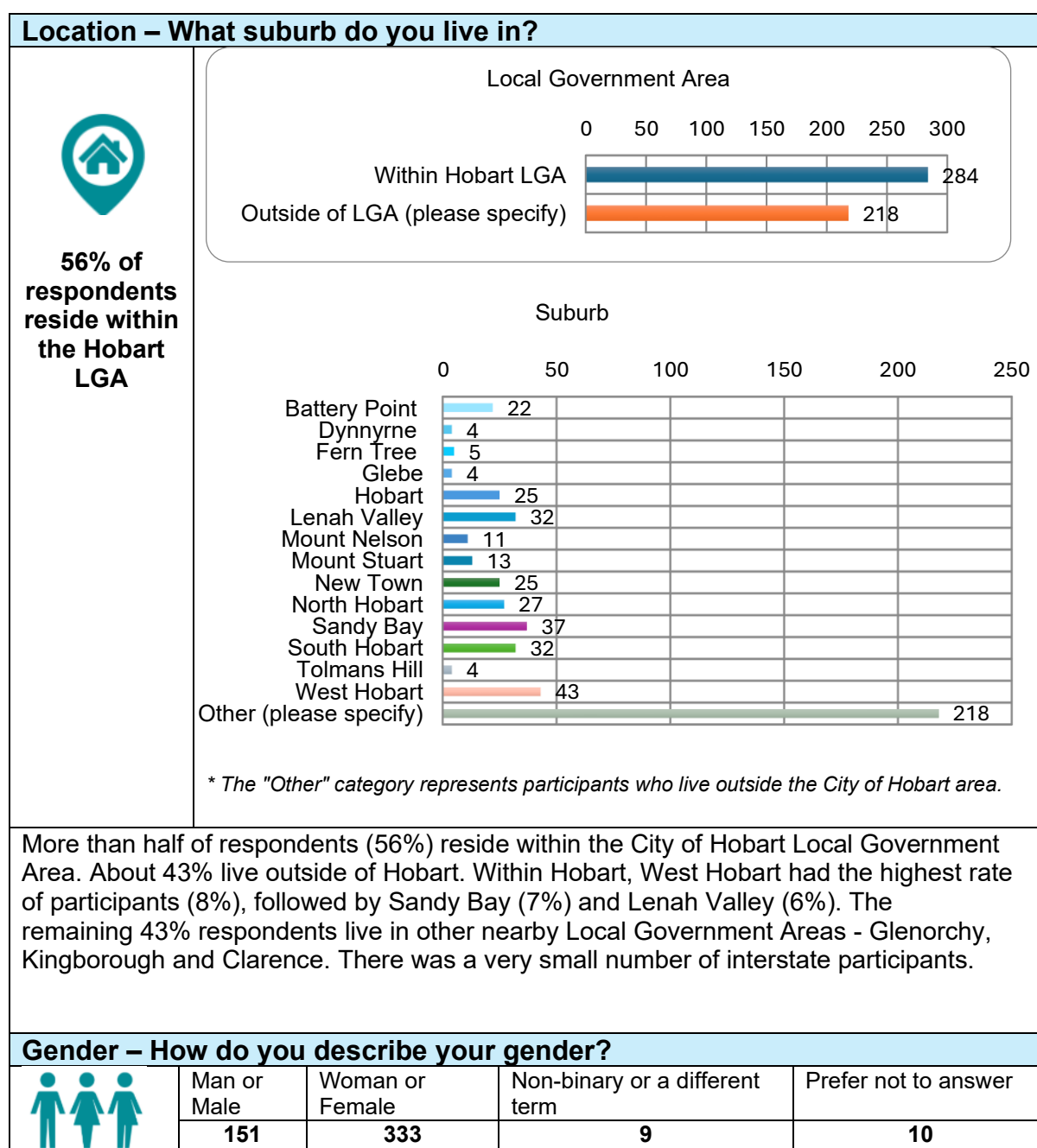
Question 16: The final question was 'Do you think there is sufficient regulation for tree protection on private land?' Of respondents to this question 54% (320 participants) answered 'no', 26% (153 respondents) answered 'yes' and 20% (115 participants) answered 'unsure'.



RIGHT: Drawing from the pop-up at the Domain.



5.5 Participants Demographics



Representation – Do you identify with any of the following?			
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	22	Culturally and linguistically diverse	20
Person with a disability	20	Prefer not to say	15
Older people	30	Children & Young People	15

5.6 Palawa Engagement

An Aboriginal community consultation was undertaken as part of the Urban Tree Strategy engagement program to ensure Aboriginal perspectives informed the development of the strategy. The consultation was delivered through culturally appropriate, face-to-face engagement with Aboriginal people who live, work and spend time in Hobart, resulting in 22 individual interviews.

Participants expressed strong support for the Urban Tree Strategy and its goal of increasing tree canopy cover across the city. Key themes included the importance of retaining and protecting existing trees, prioritising native species for new plantings, creating greener urban environments that support cultural connection and community gathering, and considering opportunities for fruit trees and habitat-enhancing species.

Feedback highlighted the value of integrating Aboriginal perspectives, cultural values and ecological outcomes into future tree planting, protection and urban greening initiatives



Recommendations

As a result of the consultation and feedback the following recommendations have been developed as a reflection of the Aboriginal community view directly related to this project.

These recommendations are specific to this project, the project aims and objectives have formed the basis of the feedback and recommendations.

***Recommendation:** The Aboriginal community supports the continued research and mapping of tree canopy data for the Hobart City urban areas.*

***Recommendation:** Native trees should be the first consideration for new plantings. Non-native trees that support insects / bird life and animals should also be considered for new plantings.*

***Recommendation:** Fruit trees should be considered for planting in accessible spaces for education programs and for the provision of free fruit to members of the public.*

***Recommendation:** Tree planting should be considered in supporting the creation of natural environments that provide gathering spaces for members of the community.*

***Recommendation:** Trees should only be removed if they are unsafe or if they are an invasive species that does more harm than good.*

***Recommendation:** Develop programs or incentives for soil testing and restoration for private landowners with the intended outcome of more trees growing on private land.*

6 Summary of the key findings

Key Findings and Conclusion

Community engagement for the Urban Tree Strategy demonstrated strong support for growing and protecting Hobart's urban forest, with participants recognising trees as essential infrastructure that contributes to a cooler, healthier, more liveable and climate-resilient city. Across all engagement activities, there was a clear preference for increasing tree canopy cover on both public and private land, alongside strong support for Council leadership in urban greening initiatives.

Key findings from the engagement include:

- **Strong support for urban canopy growth**, with 96% of survey participants indicating it is important for the City to plant more trees on Council land and 89% supporting incentives and assistance for planting trees on private property
- **A perceived shortage of tree canopy cover across Hobart**, with 90% of participants believing the city does not have enough canopy cover and many identifying Hobart, New Town and North Hobart as priority areas for additional greening.
- **Recognition of trees as critical for urban cooling and climate adaptation**, particularly in built-up areas where shade, heat reduction and improved comfort were seen as important community benefits.
- **Strong community interest in equitable access to greenery**, with participants emphasising that lower-canopy and lower socio-economic neighbourhoods should be prioritised for future tree planting programs.
- **Broad acknowledgement of environmental, health and biodiversity benefits**, including improved air quality, habitat creation, climate resilience, connection to nature and improved wellbeing.
- **Support for increasing canopy cover on private land**, with most respondents having space to plant additional trees and indicating they would be likely to plant trees if suitable support, incentives and information were available. Free or subsidised trees were identified as the most effective incentive.
- **Strong support for community education and participation**, with 91% of participants wanting more community programs and events related to tree planting and urban greening. Participants also highlighted opportunities to work with schools, community groups and other organisations to build long-term stewardship.
- **Concerns about maintenance and tree selection**, including impacts on infrastructure, safety, bushfire risk, sunlight, views and ongoing maintenance requirements. Participants consistently highlighted the need for planting the right tree in the right place and maintaining existing tree assets effectively.
- **Support for stronger protection of existing trees**, with a majority of respondents believing current regulations for tree protection on private land are insufficient and expressing concern about ongoing canopy loss through development.

- **Strong support from the Palawa community**, with Aboriginal participants emphasising the importance of protecting existing trees, prioritising native species, creating culturally meaningful green spaces, supporting biodiversity and incorporating Aboriginal perspectives into future urban greening initiatives.

Conclusion

Engagement identified broad community support for increasing Hobart's urban canopy cover. While community members expressed practical concerns regarding maintenance, bushfire risk, infrastructure impacts and species selection, there was broad consensus that canopy expansion, protection of mature trees, and equitable access to green spaces should remain key priorities for the City's future urban forest management approach.

7. Next steps

The feedback gathered during Stage 1 engagement has informed the development of the draft Urban Tree Strategy and provided valuable insight into community priorities, opportunities and considerations relating to urban tree canopy growth across Hobart.

The draft Urban Tree Strategy is currently being finalised, informed by feedback received during community and stakeholder engagement. Subject to relevant Council processes and approvals, the draft strategy may be considered by Council and made available for public review and feedback. Any future consultation activities, communications and decision-making processes will be undertaken in accordance with Council requirements and applicable legislative obligations.

Feedback received through any subsequent consultation process will be considered in the ongoing development of the Urban Tree Strategy before it is presented to Council for further consideration.