

Insights from the Hobart community on what matters to them in addressing climate change.

Photo: Members of the Hobart Climate Assembly creating recommendations for a climate ready Hobart.



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Executive Summary

In 2023 the City of Hobart embarked on an ambitious program to discover what, why and how people, businesses and communities are preparing for the impacts of climate change in Hobart.

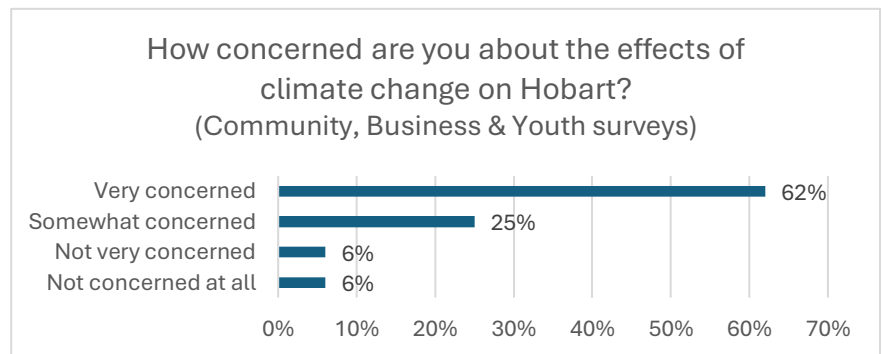
We also wanted to find out what sort of opportunities and hurdles people are facing in their attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The results are startling, sometimes confronting, but also empowering for a community that is taking action to build a Climate Ready Hobart.

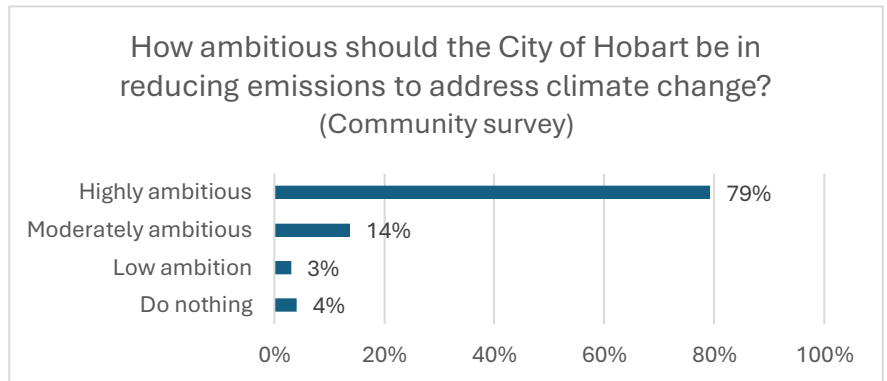
These results will be used as part of a wider process to create an evidence-base and community-informed Climate strategy for City of Hobart and community to response to the climate and biodiversity emergency together by 2040.

1,084 face-to-face conversations	267 people filled out the surveys
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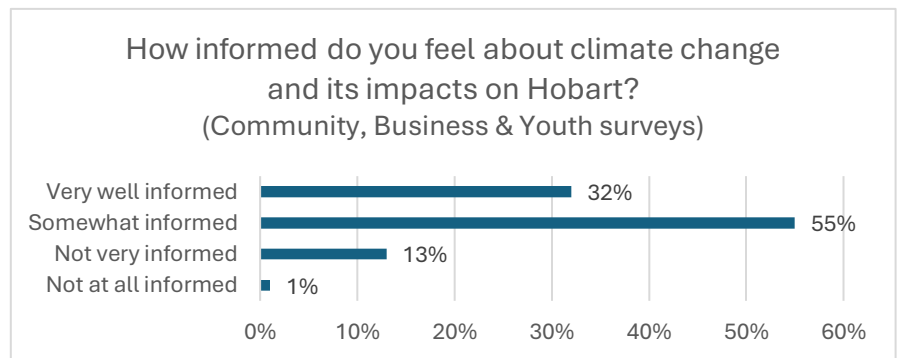
87% of survey respondents were concerned about the effects of climate change on Hobart - 62% very concerned, 25% somewhat concerned.



79% of community respondents **want the City of Hobart to be highly ambitious** in reducing emissions to address climate change.



87% of respondents felt either very or somewhat informed about the effects of climate change on Hobart (32% very well informed, 55% somewhat informed).



What the community wants prioritised in Hobart's Climate strategy

- Moving around the city - active transport, walking, reduce reliance on cars.
- City of Hobart to be a climate leader - policies, zero emissions fleet, advocacy, influencing high emitters.
- Support community - incentives, education, funding, equitable support.
- Green space and nature - more green space, care for nature, wildlife.
- Reduce emissions - solar, electrify, divest.

Note: this report is a summary of what we learnt. It draws out high-level patterns and themes that emerged across our work with the community on this project. You can read the detailed responses at <https://www.hobartcity.com.au> (Screen reader friendly)



Introduction

In May 2023 the City of Hobart began work developing a new climate strategy to guide how we can respond to the global climate and biodiversity emergency and why this is important. Community involvement in developing and implementing the strategy would be central to its success.

A “Climate Ready Hobart” campaign was created to work with the Hobart community in understanding community perspectives and priorities on climate change to inform development of the City’s next climate strategy.



Our approach

Campaign focus

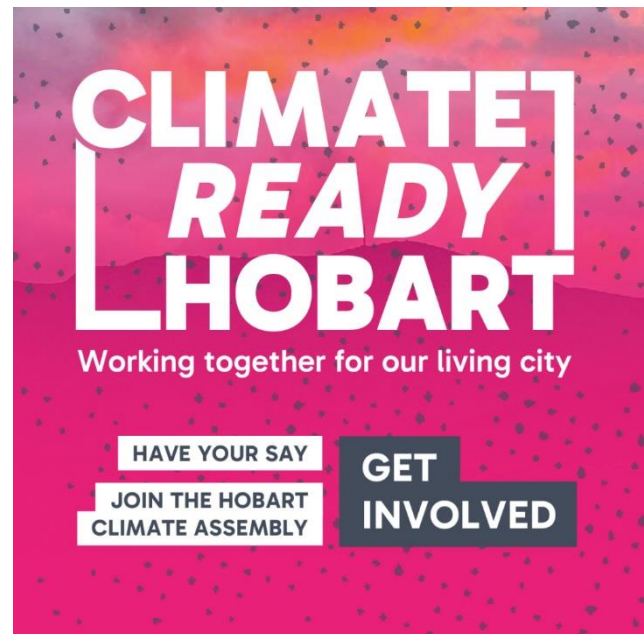
Deliver an evidence-based, community-informed climate strategy for the City of Hobart and community to respond to the global climate and biodiversity emergency together.

Campaign goals

- Understand perspectives and priorities on climate change.
- Mobilise and amplify a citywide network of climate leaders to drive ongoing collaboration and implementation of the climate strategy.
- Engage a representative sample of Hobart community to deliberate on goals, priorities and actions.

To drive this community campaign the City of Hobart established Climate Ready Hobart, a small, dedicated campaign team committed to working with the people of Hobart.

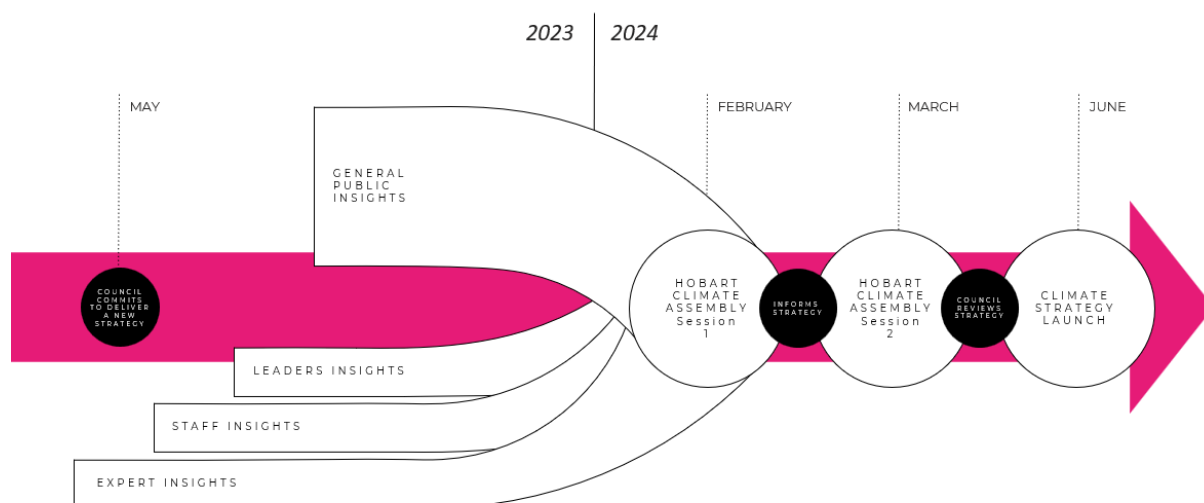
Figure 1 shows how the Climate Ready Hobart campaign was rolled out over three distinct stages.



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Figure 1. Approach to collaboration with the community



Expert insights	Research was commissioned to inform community engagement and the development of the climate strategy around: • understanding emissions reduction pathways • undertaking a climate risk assessment
Staff insights	Workshops were run with City of Hobart staff to tap into existing expertise and create shared understanding of climate change across the organization.
Climate leader insights	Two workshops were held with climate leaders to co-design the principles, priorities and community actions of the Strategy.



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City of HOBART

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Community insights	In November and December 2023 people living, working, studying and playing in Hobart were invited to have their say on climate change.
Hobart Climate Assembly	This Assembly brought together a representative sample of the Hobart community to deliberate on what we learnt throughout the process and deliver a set of community recommendations to inform the new climate strategy.
Hobart Climate Strategy Launch	The new strategy is expected to be launched in the second half of 2024 following consideration by the Hobart City Council.



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City of **HOBART**

City of Hobart Staff

The City of Hobart employs several hundred people working in all sectors of local government. More than 130 staff took part in manager interviews, masterclasses and workshops as well as advisory groups. Engagement with staff aimed to:

- Create shared understanding of climate change across the organisation.
- Tap into organisational expertise so we can move forward together.
- Strengthen how we embed climate change in decision making across the City of Hobart.

Overview of key learnings

- Hobart has a long history of leadership on climate change. We can learn from our palawa community about how to ‘come back to country and be one with the environment’. We have decades of actions and change across our community and more than 20 years of climate leadership by City of Hobart.
- We have a strong foundation to build on with a growing body of examples of impact and change from our climate journey as well as passionate staff, knowledge and expertise and commitment from leadership.
- To respond to climate change, we need a coordinated approach across the entire organisation. We need to shift from “climate change is the responsibility of the climate officer” to a whole-of-organisation approach.
- We will know we are leading on climate change when it is considered in all aspects of our decision-making, risk management, budgeting and planning, and when it is disclosed and reported on regularly.
- We need clear roles and responsibilities to coordinate, deliver and report on climate change across the organisation to reduce risk and leverage opportunities.
- Our efforts need to “stack up”.
- We need to overcome barriers such as short-term thinking, up-front budget implications and we need to understand the cost-benefits across the life of assets.
- We have all the pieces of the puzzle, some sections are just yet to be completed. Others just need to be connected in and gaps filled.



Climate Leaders

Our approach

Our approach began with the recognition that Hobart has a long history of climate action, with a diversity of people and organisations actively working across sectors to build climate readiness. They bring deep knowledge and understanding of the challenges, and are already working on many of the solutions. For the purposes of this work, we have referred to this group as *climate leaders*.

Our intention in working with this group has been:

- To seek input and guidance from climate leaders to inform the Climate strategy; and,
- To build a collaborative network of climate leaders that can support the City to implement strategy and achieve ambitious shared goals together into the future.

To achieve this, we delivered two large format co-design workshops that convened local climate leaders from across the community – representing state and local government, education and research institutions, businesses and community organisations.

The first workshop focused on connecting climate leaders, reflecting on Hobart/nipaluna's longer climate journey, sharing stories of action and change, and developing principles to guide the City's ongoing collaboration with the community on climate action.

The second workshop focused on strengthening strategic priorities, highlighting current initiatives underway across the city, identifying gaps and opportunities, and prioritising key solutions and actions to be supported.

During the co-design process, climate leaders also shared valuable insights into the barriers and enablers for leaders to mobilise and provided feedback on the team's approach to engaging the wider community – helping to shape the Climate Ready Hobart campaign identity and key messaging.

Key insights from this work are summarised here and full reports of the workshops are available via the City of Hobart website.



What we achieved

- Over 5 hours of co-design workshops
- Over 110 participants across workshops
- Participation of climate leaders from across sectors, industries and community groups – including palawa leaders and youth climate leaders
- Climate leaders network and mailing list established
- Principles for collaboration to guide how the City works with climate leaders
- Priorities, goals and solutions to build into strategy development process
- Climate Ready Hobart campaign identity and message testing

Key insights

Principles for collaboration

Through the co-design process, climate leaders were asked to share inspiring examples of action and change, reflect on what is already working well in our community, and to propose principles that can guide the City and its collaborators to effectively work together on climate action. The following principles for collaboration emerged:

- **Acting with urgency**
We reduce emissions to zero as rapidly as possible, focusing on the largest sources first. We act with urgency and invest our resources and energy to meet our commitments.
- **Fostering city-wide collaboration**
We support active involvement from all community members, ensuring diverse voices are heard and valued. We build trust and collaboration across networks and sectors to support shared value and collective action.
- **Amplifying existing solutions**
We build on the deep knowledge, networks, momentum and solutions already in motion across our communities. We draw on best practice and proven solutions old and new, near and far.
- **Celebrating the living city**



We recognise and celebrate our city's deeply interconnected natural and social systems, and the rich layers of life, culture, story and meaning they support. We see the city as evolving, and for us to shape together.

- **Building knowledge & capability**

We enable our community to better understand the risks and realities presented by climate change, and build people's capabilities and confidence to take action, contribute to and benefit from solutions.

- **Sparking innovation & agility**

We are responsive to changing community needs, open to new approaches, and willing to develop new solutions where required. We manage risk and better meet community needs through experimentation and learning.

- **Leading with integrity**

We are transparent and accountable in our work, committed to delivering value for our city and its people. We track and share the progress and impact of our activities, and seek feedback for constant improvement.

- **Investing in long-term wellbeing**

We strive to understand and address the systemic causes of risk and vulnerability, and target the long-term drivers of change to build readiness, resilience and wellbeing across generations.

Priorities and solutions

Through the co-design process, climate leaders were invited to help define a set of emerging priorities and solutions for Hobart, which would eventually form the



foundations for the Climate strategy. In the 'solutions workshop', subject matter experts worked together on specific priority areas to surface key challenges and opportunities, and identify solutions (existing and proposed) needed to achieve climate readiness. These insights are summarised below:

Zero emission Hobart

- Key themes included: Leadership and urgency in emissions reduction; community engagement and education; city planning and infrastructure; policy levers and behaviour change; and community-led innovation.
- Prioritised initiatives included: Community education and capacity building; electric vehicle fleets for City of Hobart; commercial access to waste solutions; widespread electrification across buildings, transportation, and manufacturing; compact city planning and infrastructure; and energy auditing.

Building climate resilience

- Key themes included: Holistic and adaptive approaches, integrating Indigenous perspectives; nature-based solutions; understanding and addressing specific climate risks; community participation and targeted support for vulnerable groups; and education and practical solutions.
- Prioritised initiatives included: Replicating South Hobart Sustainable Community model; community education and capacity building in building resilience to bushfire, flood and extreme heat; and coordinated cross-sector collaboration to predict, plan for, and respond to extreme weather events.

Restoring natural systems

- Key themes included: First Nations leadership and collaborative ecosystem management; community participation, education and capacity building; protection, restoration and damage prevention; measurable goals and targeted solutions; and regulatory alignment and partnering to accelerate solutions.
- Prioritised initiatives included: Aligning regulatory systems to Climate Ready Hobart strategic priorities; elevating expertise, build community knowledge and capability; and innovation in nature-based solutions.

Supporting equitable transitions

- Key themes included: Inclusivity and social justice; community participation and equal access to information, resources and solutions; wellbeing, resilience and



safety; infrastructure and policy to enable climate readiness for all; and support for transition to a low emissions economy.

- Prioritised initiatives included: Government subsidies for households making sustainability improvements; improved access to reliable and electric public transport; and increased neighbourhood connection and support to enable community-led transitions

Mobilising climate leaders

- Key themes included: City-wide participation and collaboration; leadership development and capacity building; promoting climate readiness and targeting high emitters; education, advocacy, and behaviour change; empowerment & safe spaces
- Prioritised initiatives included: Programs to identify, connect and accelerate collaboration amongst climate leaders; programs to build capacity and develop future climate leaders; and City of Hobart becoming a globally recognised climate leader.

Climate leader needs & opportunities

Working with climate leaders to achieve shared goals

Through this work the team has also identified that while there are a number of active and expert climate leaders across Hobart working in research, business, government and community spaces, there are limited opportunities for ongoing cross-sector collaboration, planning, decision-making and investment to guide the city's long-term climate response. Furthermore, key minority voices are typically underrepresented in current collaborative efforts, notably the voices of palawa and youth leaders.

The Climate strategy will therefore consider how the City can enable climate leaders to connect and collaborate to achieve ambitious shared goals.

Mobilising more climate leaders across the community

Work with this group of active climate leaders has also helped us to better understand the needs and opportunities of mobilising new climate leaders into action across our community. While a growing number of people who live, work and play in Hobart acknowledge the need for change, the following factors present barriers to individual action at the household level, across our neighbourhoods, and in our organisations and businesses:



1. There is a wide range of awareness and understanding across the community about the specific risks we face and the benefits of action;
2. There is limited understanding about the actions we can take and solutions we can be involved in to achieve effective change;
3. Many are unable to prioritise action because of more immediate challenges such as the cost of living;
4. There are limited resources available (financial, expert guidance, community networks, etc) to support and make it easier for those who seek to make changes.

The Climate strategy will therefore consider how the City can reduce these barriers and empower more people to become climate leaders in their households, neighbourhoods and businesses.



Hobart Community

Overview of key learnings

Extensive consultation with the Hobart community has delivered many insights that can be incorporated into the Strategy.

- The City of Hobart should localise climate change through comprehensive education about what climate change might look like in Hobart, what we can do to reduce the risk of extreme climate impacts on the city and how we can prepare for climate change.
- The community is concerned about climate change and wants the City of Hobart to be a leader in taking action on climate change.
- Key priorities that should be included in the strategy according to the community are:
 - Getting around the city – make it easier and “greener” to get around Hobart (including advocacy to state government on public transport and improving methods and means of active transport).
 - City of Hobart to be a leader when it comes to taking climate action.
 - Support community – make it easier, more affordable and more accessible for the community to take action on climate change.
 - Green space and nature – increase the amount of green and blue spaces in Hobart.
 - Reduce emissions – City of Hobart to reduce its own emissions and support the community to do the same.
- The City of Hobart needs to keep prioritising working with hardly-reached communities to ensure their needs are considered and met. This includes people with disabilities, older people, people experiencing homelessness, the LGBTIQ+ community, multicultural and multilingual communities, and young people.



Community survey

The community survey was the main online survey conducted for the Climate Ready Hobart campaign and was carried out on the Your Say Hobart website. It was open from the beginning of November until mid-December 2023.

Who we heard from

197 community members filled out the survey. Of these people:

- 60% were women.
- 65% were over 45 years of age, with the most highly represented age group being people aged 65 or older (30%).
- 59% have lived in Hobart for more than 10 years.
- 77% were home owners.
- 9% spoke a language other than English at home - 17 people. The languages they spoke were German, French, Portuguese, Greek, Spanish, Mandarin, Bahasa, Dutch and Swedish.
- 1 person identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Of the 197 people who completed the survey, 139 lived in within the Hobart local government area. We also heard from people in Clarence, Kingborough, Glenorchy, Sorell and Huon Valley.

The suburbs with the top five highest representation are:

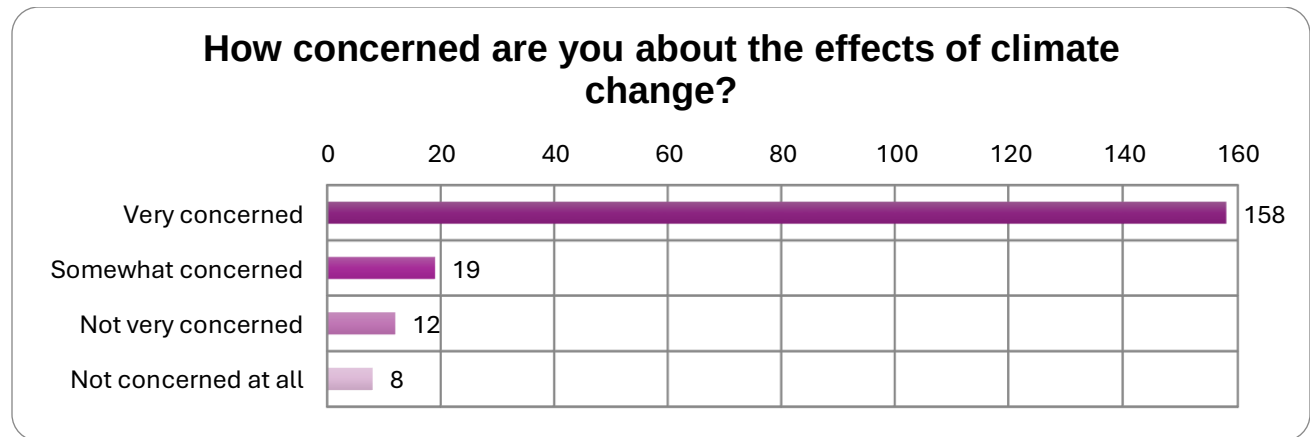
- South Hobart – 27 respondents.
- West Hobart – 20 respondents.
- Sandy Bay and Hobart – 15 respondents.
- New Town – 13 respondents.



What we heard

Attitudes about climate change

90% of community respondents were **very or somewhat concerned about climate change** - 80% were very concerned, 10% were somewhat concerned.



When we asked how concerned respondents feel about the effects of climate change on Hobart, the number dropped to 86% of respondents saying they were very or somewhat concerned - 11% were somewhat concerned, 65% were very concerned.

Respondents became increasingly less concerned about climate change the older they were.

- 100% of respondents under 24 years of age said they were either somewhat or very concerned.
- 93% of respondents aged 25-54 said they were either somewhat or very concerned.
- 85% of people 65 or older said they were somewhat or very concerned.
- 63% of respondents who were not at all concerned or not very concerned were over 55 years of age, 50% were over 65 and 70% of these people were men.

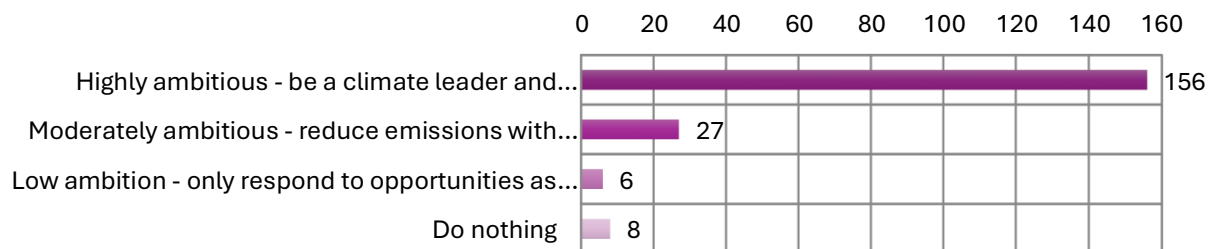


"I feel very worried, but also that if anywhere can succeed in adapting to climate change, Hobart can." (45-54 year old woman)

85% said they feel very or somewhat well-informed about the impacts of climate change on Hobart - 53% were somewhat informed and 32% were very well-informed.

80% of respondents want the City of Hobart to be highly ambitious in reducing emissions to address climate change, 13% want moderate ambition, 3% want low ambition and 4% want the City to do nothing.

How ambitious should the City of Hobart be in reducing emissions to address climate change?



The above results on ambition were echoed throughout all community engagement efforts. This is important - it could be said that someone who takes the time to complete a survey on climate change has strong views on climate change. However, our community pop-up events attracted a more diverse range of respondents - presumably including attitudes on climate change - and well over 90% of people at each pop-up wanted the City of Hobart to "be a climate leader".

"We are small but we can make a big difference. Just because the heat is not as severe here yet, we can't be complacent and we must act now!" (45-54 year old woman)



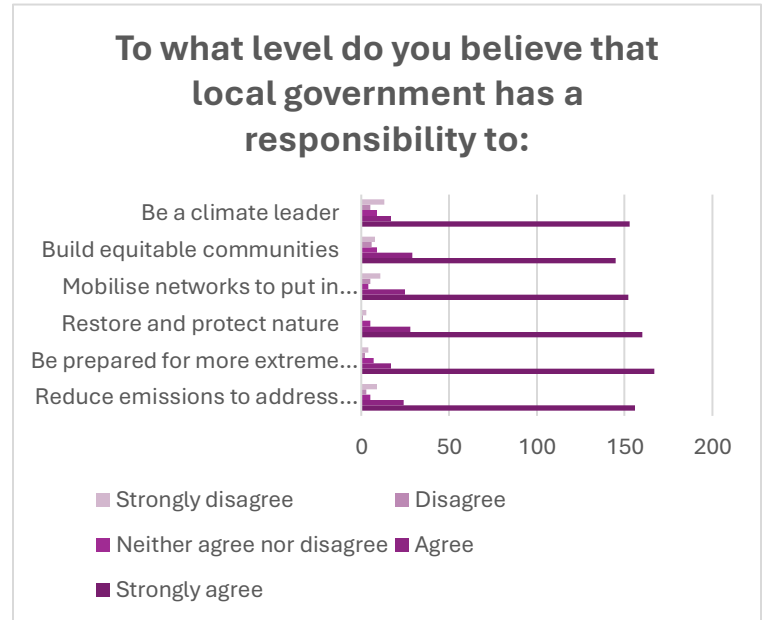
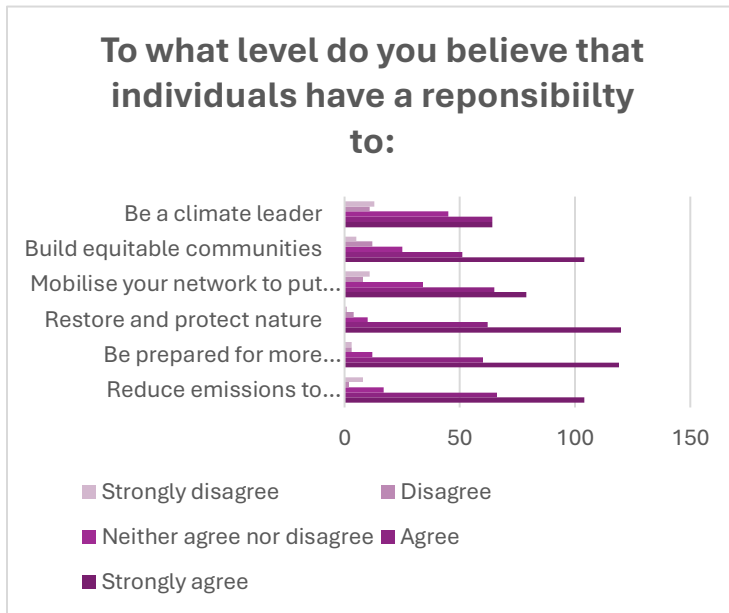
“Hobart is such a special place, socially and geographically. It would be great to be a beacon of leadership in climate solutions to the rest of Australia, and keep our island the clean, wild utopia it is.” (19-24 year old woman)

When we asked the community how much responsibility individuals or local government should have to take certain climate actions, we saw the below patterns:

- Overall, the majority of people said they strongly agree that both local government and individuals have a responsibility to:
 - reduce emissions
 - prepare for more extreme weather
 - restore and protect nature
 - mobilise their networks for climate action
 - build equitable communities
 - be a climate leader.



- However, across the board, more people thought local government has a higher level of responsibility than the community.



Behaviours

We asked the community **what actions to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate they are currently doing**. Their top five responses for each category are below:

Actions to reduce emissions	Actions to adapt to a changing climate
Reduce, reuse and recycle waste - 184 responses.	Have insurance coverage protection against extreme weather-related damage, such as flood insurance or bushfire - 100 responses.
Compost or use FOGO/Green Bin - 165 responses.	Have taken steps to prepare your home and garden for bushfire - 99 responses.



Buy local - 147 responses.	Have a home emergency preparedness plan - 69 responses.
Walk as all or part of your commute to school/study, work or other interests - 114 responses.	Have set aside an emergency fund or savings for unexpected expenses that may arise due to extreme weather events - 57 responses.
Move towards a plant-based diet - 109 responses.	Have taken steps to make your home more resilient to extreme weather (such as back-up power sources, home water tanks) - 53 responses.

It is worth noting that even people who said they were not very or not at all concerned about climate change surveyed highly for:

- reduce, reuse, recycle
- compost or use FOGO/green bins
- buy local.

Younger age groups were most likely to use public transport.



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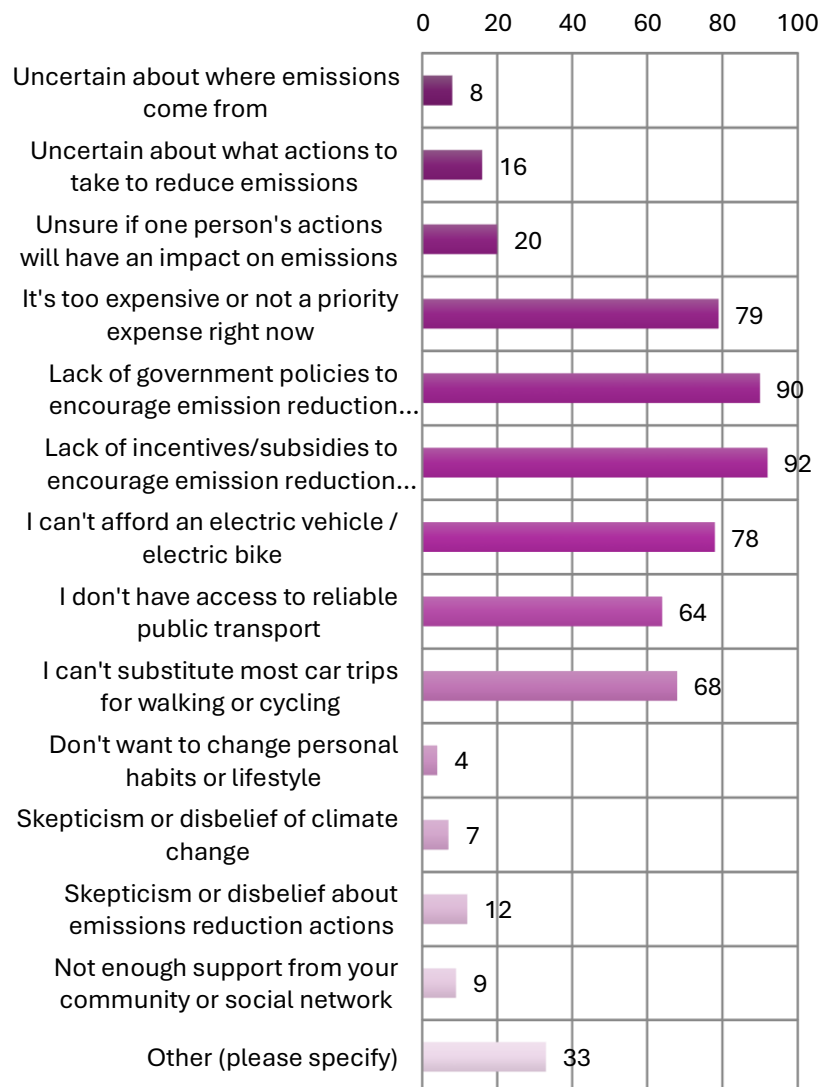
We asked respondents **what actions they might take in the coming year**. Actions we asked about were:

- changing banks
- renovate home for thermal efficiency
- buying an e-bike
- buying an electric vehicle
- installing solar panels
- installing electric appliance.

“Already done” was the most common response for all of the above actions except for buying an e-bike and buying an electric vehicle. However, if respondents hadn’t already completed an action, they more commonly responded they were “not at all likely” or “not likely” to undertake the action in the coming year than they were “likely” or “highly likely” to.

The main **barriers respondents have to taking action** came down to affordability. A lack of incentives, affordable options and government policies to encourage action were the top four reasons people gave to not taking action.

Which of the following barriers prevent you from taking action to reduce emissions? Please select all that apply.



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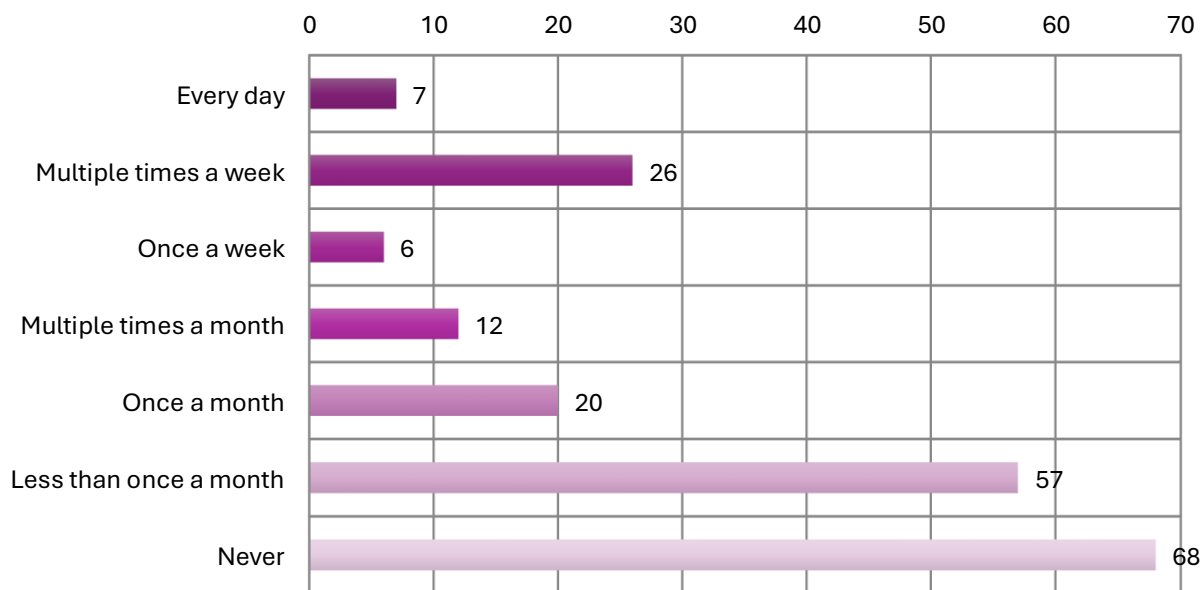
We asked if there were other barriers not listed, and:

- 11 people mentioned public transport being impractical or unsafe
- 10 stated that living in rental properties or retirement villages are the reason they can't take more action.

Finally, we asked how often respondents use public transport.

- 35% never do
- 30% do less than once a month
- 10% do once a month
- 6% do multiple times a month
- 3% do once a week
- 13% do multiple times a week
- 13% do every day.

How often do you use public transport?



Climate strategy priorities

One of the key questions in the survey allowed for an open response.

The question we asked was “**What priorities and actions would you like to see in the climate strategy?**” Overwhelmingly, the most commonly raised priority was better ways to get around the city.

182 people mentioned they want it to be easier, more affordable, and for there to be “greener” options to get around Hobart. We have grouped “getting around the city” as a priority category. It was made up of respondents mentioning things such as active transport (for example bike lanes and e-scooter options), walking, reduce reliance on cars, ferries, better public transport etc.

52 people wanted a bike-friendly city, 51 people mentioned they want better public transport, 30 mentioned they want an EV-friendly city and 25 mentioned they want to reduce reliance on cars.

Given that the most important priority category for respondents was getting around the city, it’s interesting comparing the above data with how infrequently people use public transport (see above).

The top five priority categories mentioned by respondents were:



1. Getting around the city - active transport, walking, reduce reliance on cars – 182 mentions.



2. City of Hobart to be a leader and going green (policies, green fleet, advocacy, partner, influence high emitters – 66 mentions.



3. Support community (provide incentives, education, funding, equitable support) – 65 mentions.



4. Green space and nature (more green space, care for nature, wildlife) – 61 mentions.



5. Reduce emissions (solar, electrify, divest) – 55 mentions.

Hardly reached communities



The City of Hobart actively prioritised the voices and perspectives of vulnerable or hardly reached communities through its Climate Ready Hobart community engagement program.

Every household in the Hobart local government area was made aware of opportunities to engage with our Climate Ready Hobart Campaign through a mailed invitation to the Hobart Climate Assembly. However, we were aware the mail-out would not reach:

- people without a fixed address
- people who cannot read printed materials
- people who do not speak English.

We were also sensitive to the fact that for many vulnerable individuals and groups, if one's basic needs are not being met - such as food and housing security - then completing a survey on climate change is not likely to be a priority. The below actions were taken to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of the project.

People with disabilities

- **Consulted with the Access Advisory Committee.** Coordinated by the City of Hobart this group consists of service providers and people with disabilities. The committee advised us on how to ensure people with disabilities were aware of Climate Ready Hobart and how they could participate.
- **Email out through Disability Voices Tasmania.** Disability Voices Tasmania promoted Climate Ready Hobart and the Hobart Climate Assembly.

Multicultural communities

- **Consulted with the Networking for Harmony working group.** Coordinated by the City of Hobart this group consists of people from multicultural, multilingual and multifaith backgrounds. The group advised us on how to ensure people from multicultural backgrounds were aware of Climate Ready Hobart and how they could participate.
- **Attended a Nepali Society of Tasmania lunch** to meet with community members.



- **Met with a Muslim community leader, who promoted Climate Ready Hobart through the Hobart Mosque.**

Older people

- **Consulted with the Hobart Older People's Reference Group.** Coordinated by the City of Hobart this group consists of people over 55 and service providers. The reference group advised us on how older people were aware of Climate Ready Hobart and could participate. Following these discussions, the City of Hobart:
 - Held a pop-up stall in the Elizabeth Street Mall and with seats available for people to sit down and chat.
 - Placed promotional material (in large text size) at cafes, libraries, nurseries and cinemas around town in places older people frequent.
 - Prioritised accessible communications.
- **Attended lunch at the Italian Day Centre.** Here we met with hundreds of older people who have a cultural connection to Italy, holding one-on-one conversations and seeking survey responses from them.

People experiencing homelessness

- **Consulted with Housing with Dignity working group.** Coordinated by the City of Hobart this group consists of people who are or have experienced homelessness, and service providers. The group advised us on what should be included in the strategy to support people experiencing homelessness.

They would like to see:

- Infrastructure that helps people deal with heatwaves – options for housing and indoor public spaces temporarily opened to provide a cool space.
- Discounts on heating or cooling.



- Work with other local governments to support people living on the bush outskirts who are at risk of bushfires.
- Consider accessible communications –plain English language use, videos/voice messages, radio

Community pop-ups

The City of Hobart held two community pop-up events for Climate Ready Hobart. This is where we set up a stall in a public area and speak to people passing by about their views on climate change.

The events were held at:

- Farmgate Market.
- The Elizabeth Street Mall - before, during and after the Christmas Pageant.

The pop-up events allow us to speak with people who might not be aware of the engagement project, giving us an opportunity to hear from a more diverse range of community members.

We heard from 550 people over the two pop-ups events - 250 at Farmgate Market and 300 at the Christmas Pageant pop-up.

The vast majority of people we heard from at the pop-up events want the City to be a climate leader when it comes to reducing emissions.

The main activity held during the pop-ups was asking people to vote on the question: “How ambitious should the City of Hobart be in reducing emissions to address climate change?”

Passers-by voted by putting a button into one of three jars, each marked with a different sign:



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- Be a climate leader – urgently reduce emissions to zero as quickly as possible. Make sure everyone in Hobart has equal access to solutions.
- Meet the targets by nothing more – reduce emissions to zero with the least degree of cost, risk, intervention and advocacy.
- Business as usual – continue with the current ways of operating. Respond to opportunities and challenges as they present.



During our Christmas Pageant pop-up event we used prizes to draw people into taking part in our vote with the opportunity of winning one of 10 family passes to the Doone Kennedy Aquatic Centre.

This pop-up was targeted at families who are busy and often in a rush. The prizes and stall design with kid-friendly activities worked well in attracting families, giving us an opportunity to involve people we may not have otherwise reached.

More than **90% of voters want the City to be a climate leader**. Almost **10% of voters want the City to meet the climate targets**. Almost **1% of voters want the City to continue with business as usual**.



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Young People

The City of Hobart really wanted to prioritise young people's voices in our community engagement on Climate Ready Hobart.

We have heard through previous City of Hobart projects that the environment and climate change are priorities for young people. This includes projects such as the Children's Lord Mayor program, our open spaces community survey and the Hobart Current arts project.

We also know young people are often at the forefront of climate action. Young people will inherit the impacts of climate change.

We were careful not to ask young people the same questions they have been asked before and instead focused our questions on what young people think and feel about climate change in Hobart.

We were helped to engage with younger people by a range of organisations operating in Hobart:

- Youth Network of Tasmania
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Grassroots Action Network Tasmania
- Nipaluna Climate Collective
- University of Tasmania Environment Society
- Wilderness Society representatives
- City of Hobart's Youth Advisory Squad

Throughout the Climate Ready Hobart community engagement process **we spoke directly with more than 120 young people** at schools, youth groups, drop-in centres and in the community.

48 young people took our online survey. And an additional **8 young people participated in the community survey.**



Overview of key learnings

Our extensive consultation with young people on climate change will allow us to incorporate a number of important themes into our climate strategy.

- Young people care deeply about climate change and want to take action themselves. Their voices should continue to be prioritised and valued by the City of Hobart. This should be all people under 25, including children.
- Young people care about the climate, and want strong climate action.
- Young people take public transport more than any other demographic. Any changes to public transport or active transport will significantly impact young people especially.
- The City of Hobart should prioritise education for young people, especially on:
 - the impacts one person can make
 - what emissions are and where they come from
 - what causes climate change.
- Education is important, particularly around what is climate change, what causes it, what are emissions.



Workshops

Grassroots Action Network workshop

The Grassroots Action Network (GRANT) is a community group that works on social justice issues. While not strictly for young people, many of the people involved are under 25.

The City of Hobart ran a one hour workshop with nine GRANT participants. During this workshop we brainstormed what actions the City of Hobart could do under each of the five (draft) priority areas of the Strategy.



These are the group's insights:

Build climate resilience • community gardens • community groups • flood resistance • be forward-planning. Not reactive • town planning and infrastructure • bushfire education.	Restore nature • connect people with nature • edible gardens and streetscapes • porous surfaces • restoring rivulets • street trees • advocacy to protect native forests.
Mobilise climate leaders • mentoring • meaningful consultation • education for young people.	Zero emissions • public transport • walkable bike infrastructure • prioritise active transport over cars.
Support equitable transitions • public transport • degrowth – can we wind back the idea of being a big city? • consider people with different disabilities • transparency • put people first • make sure the most disadvantaged are supported • education on planning matters	



Youth ARC pop-up

Two City of Hobart officers dropped into Youth ARC one afternoon to chat with the young people using the space. They encouraged young people carry out the online survey and discussed climate change and the role local government can play.

School workshops

We approached all schools in the Hobart local government area asking if students would be interested in speaking with us about climate change.



We heard back from four primary schools, who invited us to run workshops with their classrooms.

- **Fahan School** - private, grade 4.
- **Immaculate Heart of Mary** - private, Environmental Club, primary school aged students.
- **Taroona Primary School** - public, grade 5.
- **Lenah Valley Primary School** - public, grade 6.

We ran a one-hour workshop at each school.



What we heard

After discussing what climate change is, together we brainstormed actions we could take to help adapt to and slow climate change. We then asked students to tell us what actions they are already taking.

This is a summary of what we heard:

- Putting our rubbish in the right place.
- Being ready for extreme weather events, like floods and bushfire.
- Changing how we get to places by walking, riding our bikes, scooters. Having more electric vehicles and taking public transport.
- Changing our food systems by growing more food at home and feeding farm animals with waste food.
- Looking after our environment by protecting forests and natural areas, protecting animals and looking after our oceans and waterways.
- Looking after each other.

Finally, we asked the students to write on a sticky note their dreams for the future. Students used that sticky note to vote how important it is to them that the City of Hobart takes action on climate change.

The vast majority of students care deeply about climate change. They want the City of Hobart to be a leader when it comes to addressing climate change.

Students' dreams for the future include:



“I want to be able to hear lots of birds all day and see many animals in the ocean.”

“Everyone is happy! Everyone is safe.”

“A lot more electric vehicles and ways to get around.”

“Wildlife is protected and abundant. Renewable electricity is plentiful.”

“I wish that Tasmania will be a greener, more foresty place.”

Young people have their say

Our survey for young people was open from the beginning of November until mid-December 2023 - **48 respondents** took part in the survey that targeted people under the age of 25.

The City of Hobart tends to receive fewer survey responses from young people than other age groups. To encourage participation, we:

- Offered survey respondents the chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card.
- Shortened the survey to one page.

In writing the survey, we met with several researchers, youth organisations and academics to hear about their work with young people and climate change in Tasmania. In particular, Charlotte Earl-Jones, a Research Assistant at the University of Tasmania, shared with us research questions written by young people for young people. Charlotte had co-designed these questions with young people to better learn how they feel about climate change. Several of these questions were used in our survey for young people.

A summary of what we heard in the survey for young people is below.



Who we heard from

48 people under the age of 25 filled out our online survey.

54% of the people who completed our survey identified as woman/girl, 35% identified as man/boy, 4% identified as non-binary and 6% of respondents said their gender identity was not listed.

Most survey respondents were 13-16 years old (46%), 30% were 21-25 years old, 21% were 17-20 years old and 4% were under 12 years old.

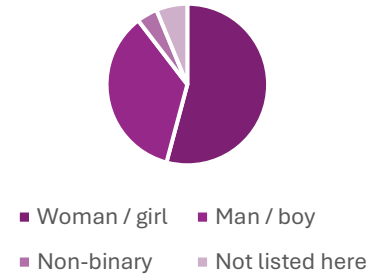
17% of respondents identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 81% did not and 2% preferred not to say. 19% of respondents spoke a language other than English at home, and these languages were Mandarin, Afrikaans, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Spanish and Thai.

What we heard

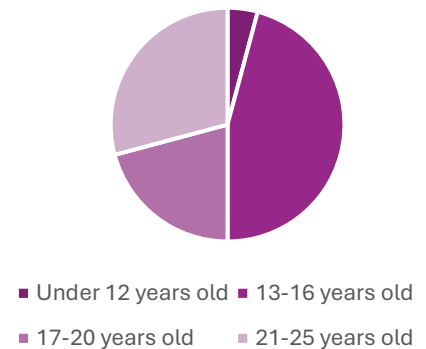
It is clear **young people in Hobart care deeply about climate change**. The results tell that story:

- 94% of respondents are concerned about climate change - 56% of all respondents are very concerned, 38% are a little bit concerned.

What is your gender identity?

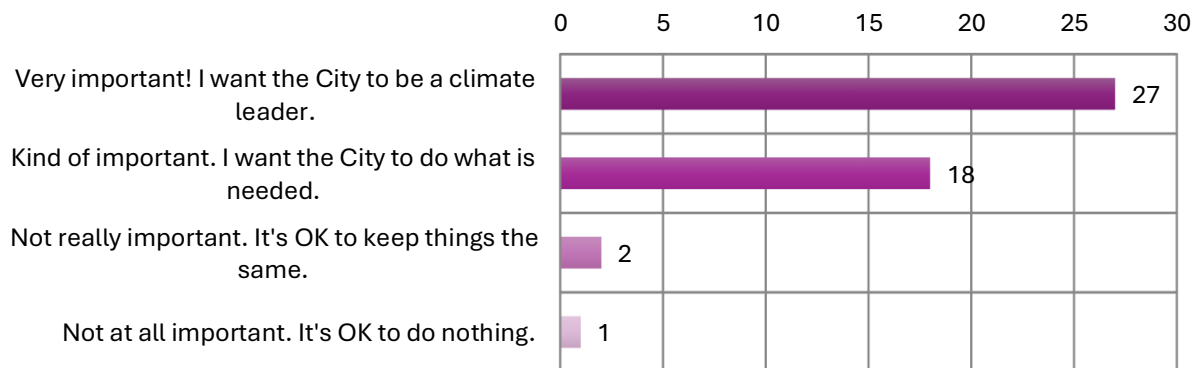


How old are you?



- 94% of respondents feel it is important the City of Hobart takes climate action - 56% of all respondents want the City to be a climate leader, 38% want the City to do what is needed.

How important is it to you that the City of Hobart acts to address climate change?



45% of respondents (22 people) feel they know a lot about climate change. Another 45% feel they know a little bit. The remaining 10% said they don't know very much or know nothing.

79% of respondents think **we all have a part to play in solving climate change**, including government, individuals and businesses/organisations.

The top five climate-friendly actions young people take are:

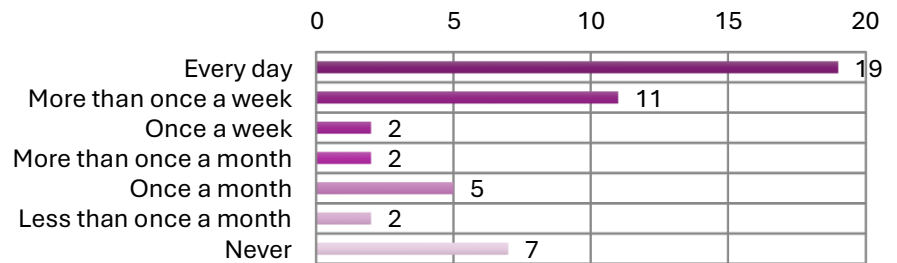


1. Reduce, reuse or recycle waste - 61 responses.
2. Compost or use the FOGO/Green Bin - 41 responses.
3. Walk to school, work, sport or other activities - 40 responses.
4. Take part in community groups and activities, such as school environmental groups - 35 responses.
5. Plant trees - 32 responses.



Young people use **public transport** more regularly than respondents from the community survey - 40% of respondents take public transport every day, and 23% use it more than once a week.

How often do you use public transport?



The top four reasons young people don't take more climate action:

1. They are unsure if one person's actions will have an impact - 40 responses.
2. They are uncertain about what emissions are and where they come from - 36 responses.
3. They rely on a car to get them where they need to go - 34 responses.
4. They are uncertain about what causes climate change - 32 responses.



Businesses and Organisations

Overview of key learnings

Our survey directed at businesses and organisations revealed the following insights, which have been incorporated into the development of the Strategy.

- The majority of businesses are concerned about climate change and want strong climate action.
- The City of Hobart should prioritise the business community as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the strategy. Businesses can have a big impact, but face significant barriers to taking action. Partnerships that prioritise mutual learning would be beneficial.
- The City of Hobart should run education campaigns or initiatives with businesses that include:
 - General climate change knowledge.
 - What actions businesses can take to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
- Affordability and lack of time were the two major barriers for organisations and businesses to taking action. Most businesses would do more if they could. The City of Hobart should consider how incentives and policies can support businesses to take more action.



Businesses and organisations survey

The City of Hobart conducted a separate survey on the Your Say Hobart website to hear from businesses and organisations about climate change. We wanted to learn about business owners' attitudes towards climate change, what actions they were taking and the barriers they face to taking additional actions.

The survey was open from the beginning of November 2023 until the end of March 2024, a significantly longer period of time than the community and young people surveys. This was done to compensate for initially low response rates for the business survey.

We discovered businesses are particularly time poor, and that offering an incentive might help. We offered all respondents the chance to win two weeks of free advertising on the digital screens placed throughout Hobart car parks. Within a week, responses quadrupled, and came from a much more diverse range of businesses.

Below is a summary of the survey.

"Supporting organisations that are leading a transition to more resilient climate future through funding or in-kind support."

"(We) would like more information on disaster response/resilience planning, and plans around impacts on children/families/young people, and how (we) can connect more with planning to contribute where needed."



Who we heard from

During our business engagement we heard from 22 businesses. 20 were private businesses, two were not-for-profits. Most respondents (12) had less than 5 employees. 7 respondents had 5-20 employees, 2 had 21-50 employees and 1 had 51-100 employees.

8 respondents had operated in Hobart for over 20 years, 6 for 11-20 years, 1 for 6-10 years, 5 for 2-5 years and 2 for less than 1 year.

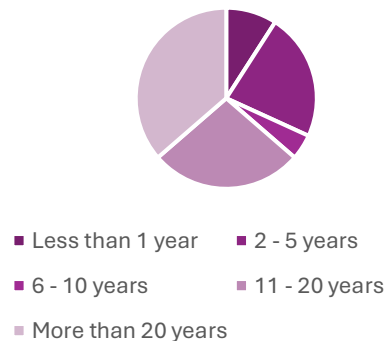
What we heard

Attitudes towards climate change

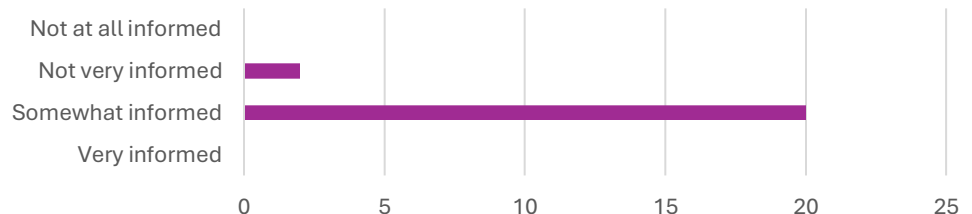
Similar to the broader community, the majority of businesses (91%) were concerned about the effects of climate change. 64% of all business respondents were very concerned, and 27% were somewhat concerned. In alignment with other results, this number dropped slightly when speaking about the effects of climate change on Hobart, where 81% of respondents said they were concerned (45% were very concerned, and 36% were somewhat concerned).

However, businesses felt less well-informed on climate change than the rest of the community, with 90% feeling somewhat informed and 10% feeling not very informed. Nobody said they felt very informed.

How many years has the organisation operated in Hobart?



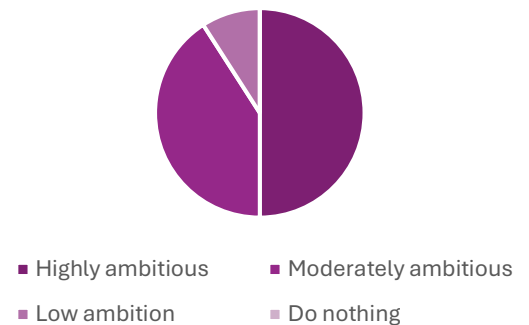
How well-informed do you feel about climate change and its impacts on Hobart?



Also aligned with what we heard from other stakeholders, 96% of respondents want the City of Hobart to have either high or moderate ambition when it comes to reducing emissions to address climate change.

- **50% said highly ambitious** – be a climate leader and urgently reduce emissions to zero as quickly as possible and make sure all people in Hobart have access to solutions.
- **41% said moderately ambitious** – reduce emissions with the least degree of cost, risk, intervention and advocacy.
- **9% said low ambition** – only respond to opportunities as they present.
- Nobody said we should do nothing.

How ambitious should the City of Hobart be in reducing emissions to address climate change?



The fact nobody said we should do nothing should be noted. There were several respondents who expressed skepticism in climate science and also said climate change is not a local government issue to solve. Even these respondents want some form of climate action.

“We want Hobart to lead the way and take all steps possible to support the communities’ transition to renewable energy, and ensure the transition is not only rapid but equitable and accessible.”



“I fear the consequences of climate change on Hobart in the immediate moment due to the high bushfire risk. Our business operates in very close proximity to a highly bushfire-prone area. We are very concerned about the likelihood that we and our community will be impacted by bushfires at some point over the next few years.”

We asked businesses if there was anything they would like to share with us **about how they feel about the effects of climate change on Hobart**. Responses were many and varied. Each respondent had a different concern about certain aspects of climate change and how it might affect their business and way of life. These include:

Better climate education	Incentivise EVs	Make it fair
Fear of bushfires	Skepticism expressed	Manage stormwater
Take action now	Live up to Hobart’s “green reputation”	Not a City of Hobart issue

Businesses and organisations also told us **what priorities or actions they would most like to see included in the Strategy**. Again, responses were many and varied, but the most frequently raised points were:

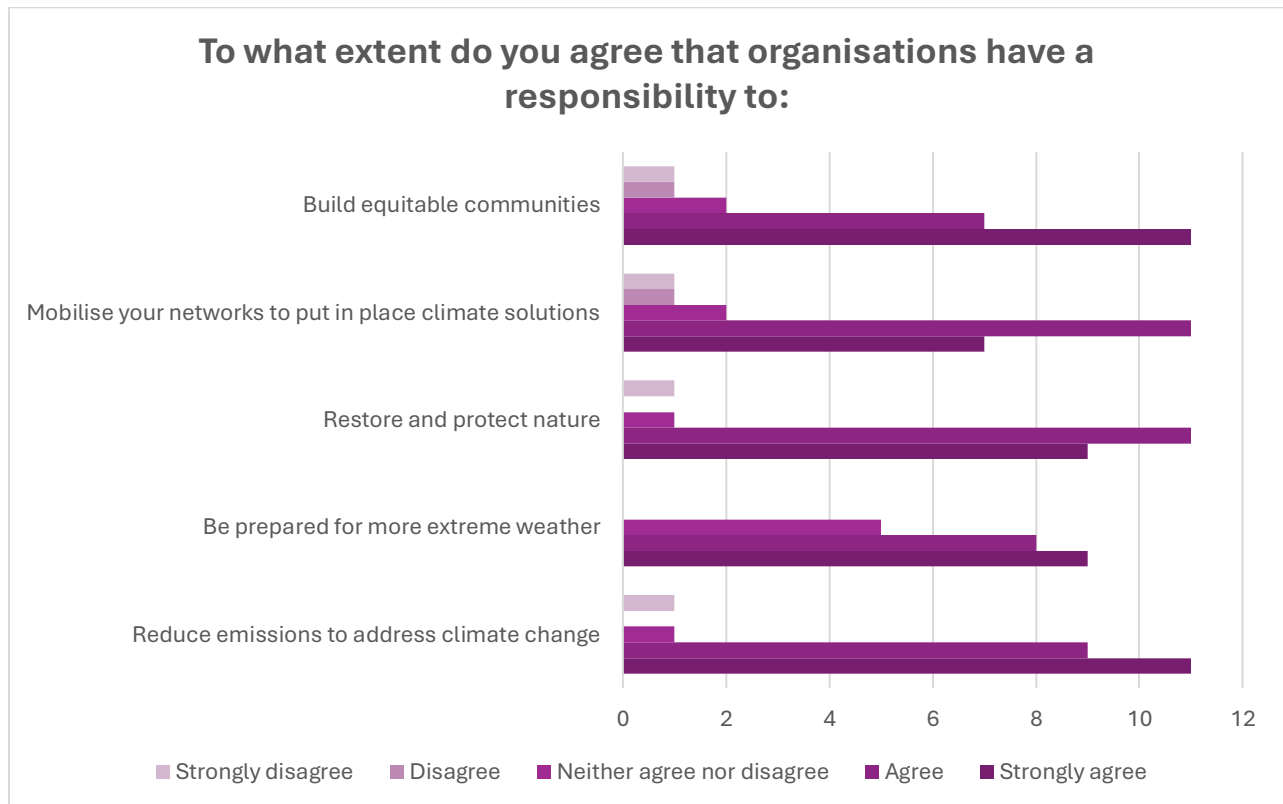
- Support local businesses to adapt – 3 responses.
- Better education on climate change and solutions – 2 responses.
- More bike lanes and active transport – 2 responses.

“Nothing that has a negative effect on businesses. We cop too much already.”



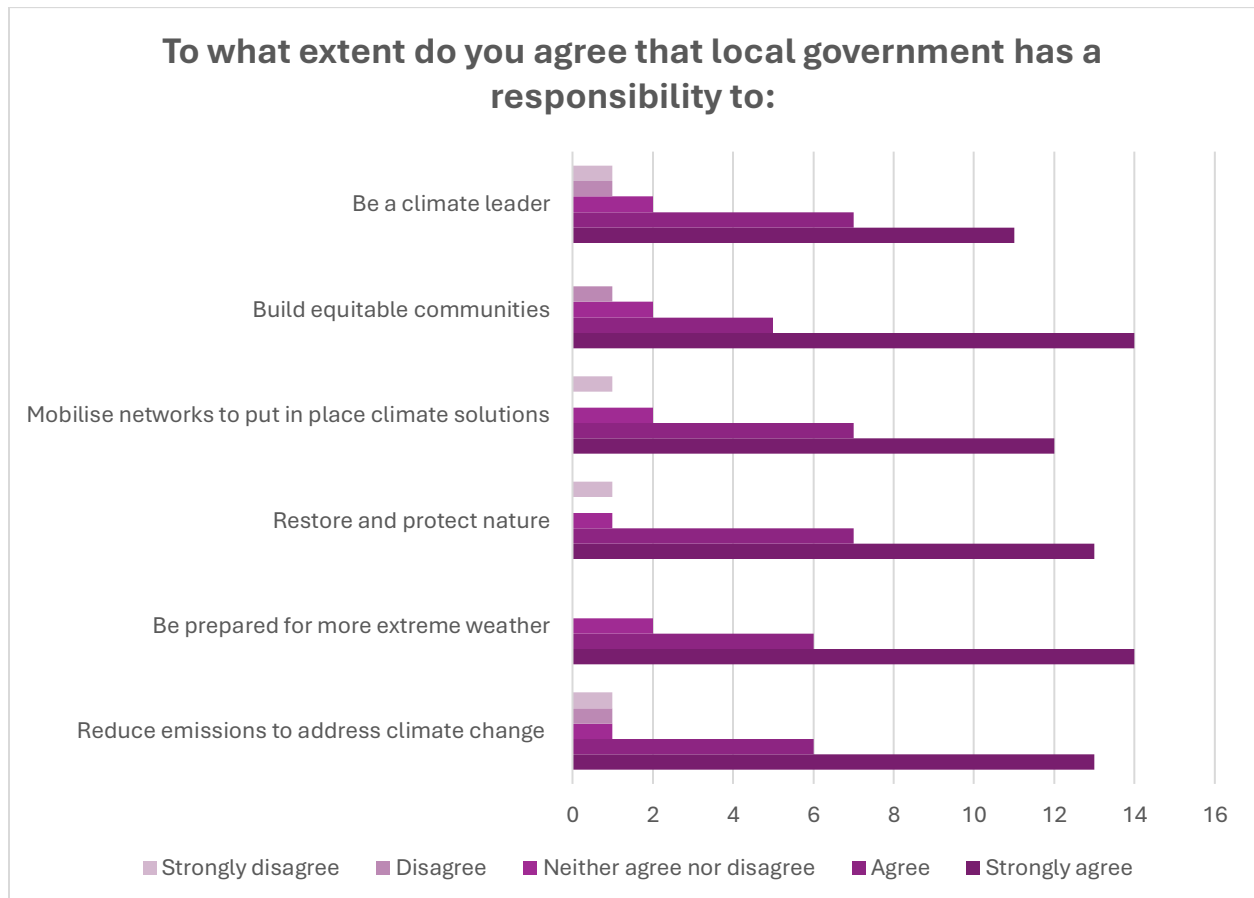
We asked businesses to what extent they believe **organisations have a responsibility** to take certain climate actions. The vast majority of respondents either strongly agree or agree organisations have a responsibility to:

- Build equitable communities - 82% strongly agree or agree.
- Mobilise networks to put in place climate solutions - 82% strongly agree or agree.
- Restore and protect nature - 90% strongly agree or agree.
- Be prepared for more extreme weather - 77% strongly agree or agree.
- Reduce emissions to address climate change - 90% strongly agree or agree.



Regarding **local government's responsibility**, the vast majority of respondents either strongly agree or agree that local government has a responsibility to:

- Be a climate leader - 82% strongly agree or agree.
- Build equitable communities - 86% strongly agree or agree.
- Mobilise networks to put in place climate solutions - 86% strongly agree or agree.
- Restore and protect nature - 90% strongly agree or agree.
- Be prepared for more extreme weather - 90% strongly agree or agree.
- Reduce emissions to address climate change - 86% strongly agree or agree.



Behaviours

While most respondents seem to want climate action, when we asked them what action they had taken, affirmative response rates were much lower. We asked what actions businesses had put in place to:

1. Plan for and respond to climate change.
2. Reduce emissions.
3. Adapt to a changing climate.

Over these three categories, we listed 29 actions that could be taken. Most respondents said the actions listed were either not applicable or not a priority. There were some standouts. In particular, the below actions were being undertaken by the majority of respondents - either in the planning phases, currently being undertaken, or completed:

- Implement waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Upgrade lighting and equipment to energy-efficient options.
- Ensure data backup and recovery.
- Conduct sustainability training and encourage practices to reduce emissions.

The reasons given for not taking more action include:

- “Currently grappling with making changes to the business to address cost of living pressures.”
- “We are a relatively small organisation and we struggle to commit effort beyond our focus of resource recovery.”
- “Limited access to alternative materials made from ‘green’ sources. For example, sustainably-sourced epoxy resin formulations are available, but not locally. Poor availability of sustainable commercial transport is also a significant factor. The availability of biodiesel needs to increase significantly.”
- “Nothing else that adds cost to small businesses. It’s hard enough already.”

Given the majority of respondents care about climate change but face many challenges we also looked at the **barriers** businesses face in taking action. The five top barriers



faced by respondents to taking action across the three categories can be grouped into the below themes:

- Affordability - lack of incentives/subsidies, and financial constraints.
- Lack of government policies to encourage adapting to climate change.
- Uncertain about what actions to take.

Of these businesses, six respondents made a clear commitment to addressing climate change in their mission, values or policies. Twelve said they had, but it wasn't explicitly stated. Four had not made this commitment.

Seven respondents said would be very interested in working with the City of Hobart or other organisations on climate related projects. Seven would be somewhat interested. Eight were not interested.

"Nothing else that adds cost to small businesses. It's hard enough already."

"I have grave doubts about the capacity of our stormwater system to cope with future downpours. There is also a very high level of tree cover in Hobart, which will be difficult to support in hot weather without careful provisioning. The heat island effect is already significant in many parts of town during summer."

Hobart Climate Assembly

The Hobart Climate Assembly was the pinnacle of the City of Hobart's collaboration with the Hobart community in understanding what matters to them in a climate strategy. The



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assembly was convened by the City of Hobart on 17 to 18 February and 16 to 17 March 2024.

The Hobart Climate Assembly brought together 33 members who were representative of Hobart's diversity. The assembly participated over four days to provide a clear set of community priorities to address climate change.

The assembly provided advice on how the City of Hobart and the community can respond to our climate and biodiversity emergency together to inform a new climate change strategy.

It was independently facilitated by Max Hardly Consulting, in partnership with consultants Rikki Mawad (Hobart-based), Nivek Thompson (Deliberately Engaging) and Michelle Weston.

A full report on the Hobart Climate Assembly, prepared by Max Hardly Consulting, and can be accessed at: <https://www.hobartcity.com.au/>.



[hobartcity.com.au/climate-ready](https://www.hobartcity.com.au/climate-ready)



City of HOBART

CLIMATE READY HOBART

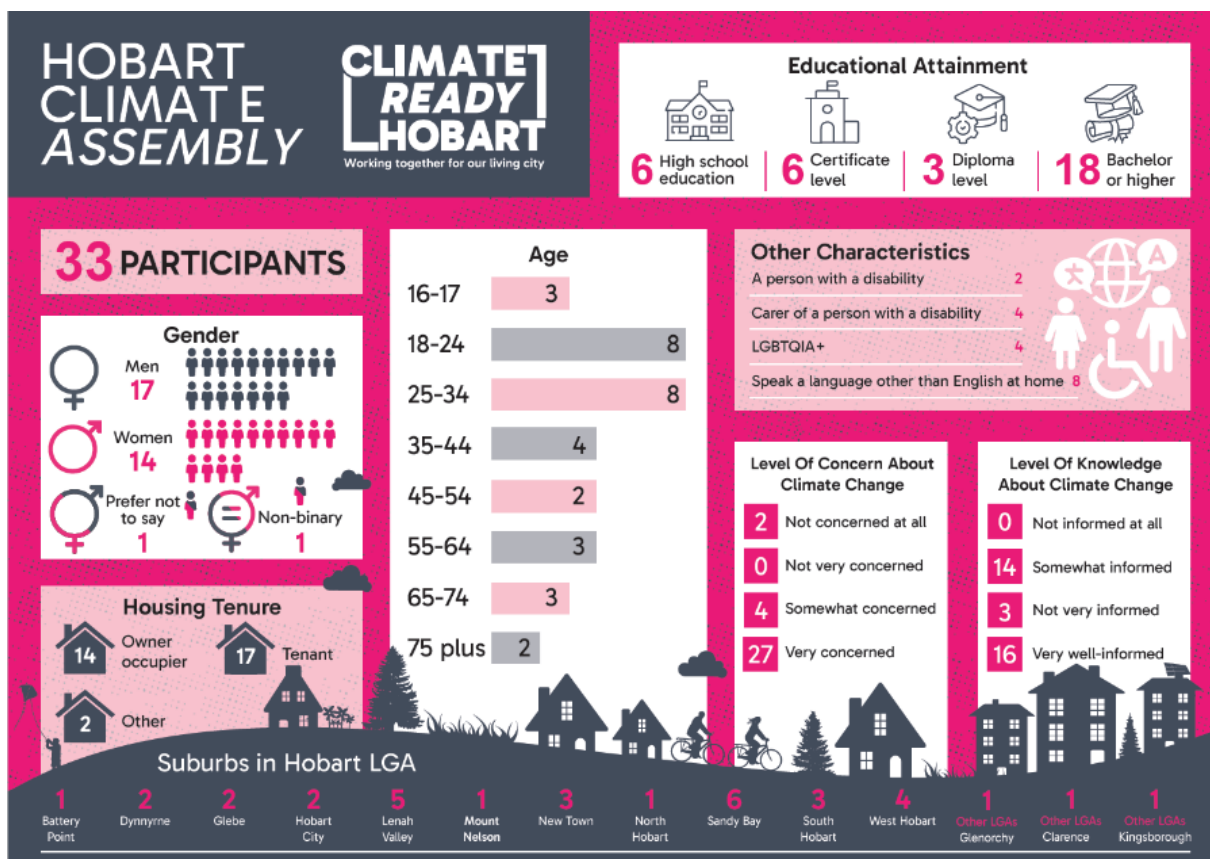
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Who we heard from

In early 2024, 12,545 households in the Hobart local government area received an invitation in the mail to apply to be a part of the Hobart Climate Assembly. Invitations also went out to 1000 households in Kingborough, Glenorchy and Clarence.

Recruitment was handled independently by Deliberately Engaging. Deliberately Engaging worked to ensure the participant make-up of the Hobart Climate Assembly represented the diversity of Hobart's demographics.

The below infographic shows the make-up of the Hobart Climate Assembly.



hobartcity.com.au/climate-ready



City of HOBART

Deliberation process

Each of the two weekends had a different focus.

First weekend's focus: What advice do you have to help develop Hobart's climate strategy?

- How ambitious should the community and the City of Hobart be in addressing climate change?
- What elements are most important to the community?



Second weekend's focus: What action is required to achieve the vision?

- How should the City of Hobart prioritise its resources to implement the plan?
- Which elements are most important and should be acted up within three years – for the City of Hobart and the community?
- What role can the community play to implement actions and how might a fund for community initiatives be spent?



CLIMATE READY HOBART

Working together for our living city



Over four days participants heard from climate experts, City of Hobart staff and were given time to for discussion.

They were also given an overview of what the broader community thought and felt about climate change. In essence, Hobart Climate Assembly members were presented with a summarised version of this report.



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City of **HOBART**

What we heard

While views among assembly participants varied, overall, there was a strong desire for the City of Hobart to be highly ambitious in what it sets out to achieve through the Strategy.

Key recommendations

The Hobart Climate Assembly worked through an intensive and deliberative process to develop the following 10 key recommendations for the City of Hobart to consider in the climate strategy:

1. Develop a network of connected and safe walkways and cycleways to encourage active transport - including footpaths, upgrades, pathways, trails and cycleways.
2. Develop a network of green corridors throughout the city to increase tree cover, cool the city, improve liveability and movement.
3. Stop selling offsets and giving someone else permission to pollute.
4. Phase out fossil fuels from City of Hobart operations, including through assets, supply chains and investments.
5. Develop a network of waterways, wetlands and blue corridors to improve irrigation and manage runoff from heavy rainfalls, reduce pollution/flooding.
6. Implement fire management programs that improve biodiversity and bushland health.
7. Develop a zero emissions public transport system that encourages usage through increased availability and better user experience.
8. Provide safe and inclusive publicly accessible spaces for extreme climate-related events for priority communities and those who require support.
9. Use planning, legislation and regulatory controls to reduce risk.

Equal 10. Provide support and financial incentives to households, businesses and neighbourhoods to electrify and retrofit.

Equal 10. Assess and improve critical infrastructure across the city to be climate ready.



Next steps

The City of Hobart has worked extensively with the community on what our community wants to see in the Strategy. While we engaged with a broad range of stakeholders and community groups, and responses were many and varied, several key themes emerged:

- The Hobart community is concerned about climate change, and wants the City of Hobart to take strong action on climate change.
- Many in the Hobart community are already taking actions to mitigate and adapt to climate action. Actions that are particularly commonplace are initiatives government has implemented and encouraged. Such as:
 - Reduce, reuse, recycle.
 - FOGO/compost.
- The biggest barriers to taking action to mitigate and adapt to climate change are to do with:
 - Affordability.
 - Lack of information.
- Priorities the community wants included in the climate strategy are:
 - Getting around the city – make it easier and “greener” to move about Hobart, including public transport and active transport.
 - City of Hobart being a leader in this space, and “going green” ourselves.
 - Increasing blue and green spaces throughout Hobart.
 - Providing support to the community to adapt to a changing climate and reduce emissions.

The City of Hobart has analysed this data. These community insights have informed the development of the Strategy.

The draft Strategy will go to Hobart City Council in the second half of 2024.

