

# DAREBIN CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Council is developing our new Climate Emergency Strategy that will set out an ambitious pathway to reducing climate emissions by 2030.

To help us understand what our community wants to see we consulted with 1011 people who live, work or play in Darebin between August and October 2022. 467 people completed our survey and we ran 35 in person workshops to reach another 544 people.

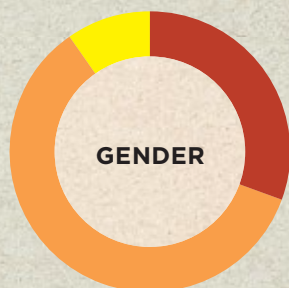
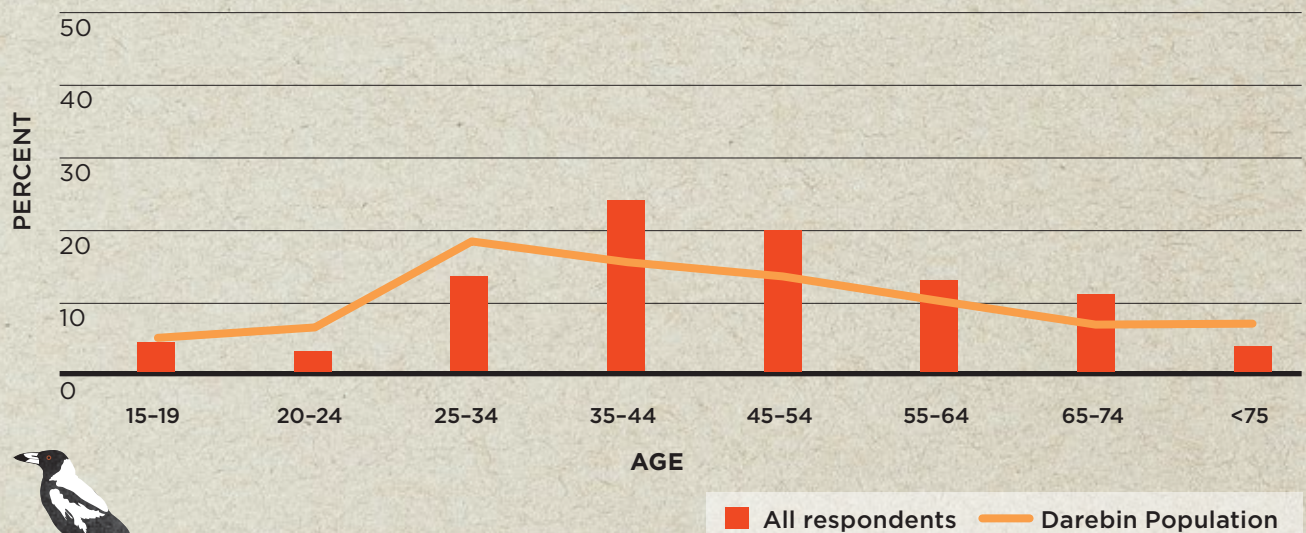
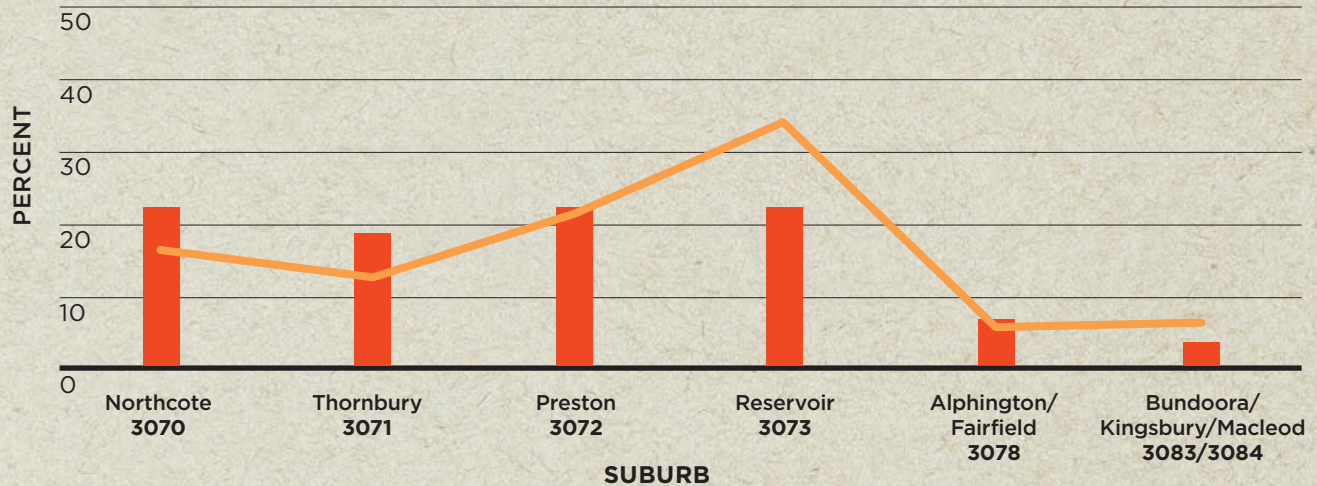
**This is what they told us.**





# Who participated?

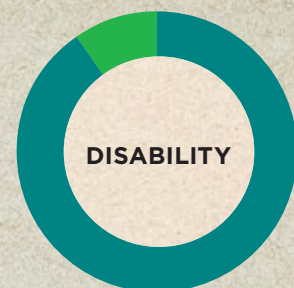
77% of all survey respondents and workshop participants live in Darebin. 23% live in surrounding suburbs such as Coburg, Heidelberg and Clifton Hill but work, visit or play in Darebin.



- **Male (30.6%)**  
Darebin 48.6%
- **Female (59.5%)**  
Darebin 51.4%
- **Other/prefer not to say (9.5%)**  
Darebin N/A



- **English only (75.8%)**  
Darebin 63.3%
- **Other (24.1%)**  
Darebin 32.3%



- **No (82.2%)**
- **Yes (8.9%)**  
Darebin 6.6% identify as needing assistance



## By activity and location

We know that surveys don't work for everyone so we attended 35 workshops and other events to make sure we reached a wide range of people. Therefore workshops and other opportunities to talk about the issues in the survey were prioritised in some areas.



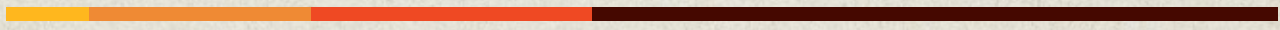
*“I think it's important that valuing and connecting to nature and country are part of the conversation around climate change, so that the focus is not only on technical solutions to reduce emissions but also on valuing and spreading sustainable ways of living in harmony with nature.”*



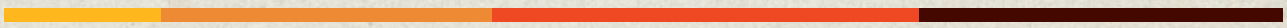
# Experience of climate impacts

Participants are already feeling the impacts of climate change.

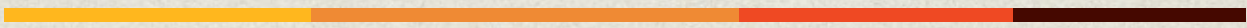
I feel anxious or worried about climate change and how it is affecting my family and friends



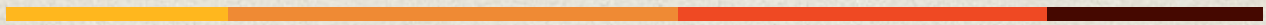
I am more likely to stay at home during hot days or in heatwaves



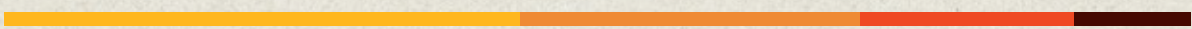
Poor air quality during bushfires, dust storms or thunderstorms affects my health



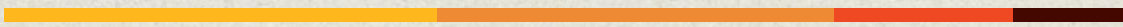
My home is increasingly uncomfortable/unbearable in the heat



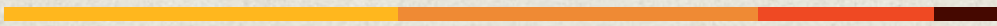
Sometimes I can't work because it is too hot



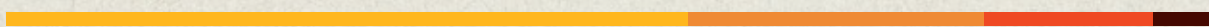
I can't run my air condition because it is too expensive



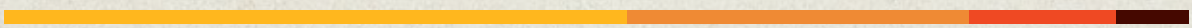
My vegetable garden doesn't produce like it used to



My home has been damaged during a storm



I have to go to a shopping centre or another cool place to escape the heat



● Not affected ● Somewhat affected ● Affected ● Very affected

*“I try not to look too far into the future, it's honestly quite stressful”*

# Climate actions we want to do more of

Sustainable living actions we want to do more of to reduce our climate impact around our homes and businesses

## TOP FIVE ACTIONS

1. Walk, cycle, use public transport
2. Drive an electric vehicle
3. Grow my own food
4. Capture water for garden
5. Move banking/superannuation and insurance to companies that don't invest in fossil fuels

## TOP FIVE BARRIERS TO DOING MORE

1. Cost
2. I don't have the time
3. I don't know where to start
4. I don't know where to get the right information
5. I'm not physically able to

*“More bicycle bells will  
ting throughout the land”*

*“I have a disability and find it financially  
difficult to do all the things that I would  
like to do for the environment”*



# Climate actions we are already taking

Many of us are trying to minimise our waste by recycling, composting or using a green waste bin for our food scraps and purchasing second hand. We are also actively reducing our ecofootprints through our travel and energy choices

## Recycle



## Minimise waste



## Put food scraps in compost, green bin or worm farm



## Make an effort to reduce energy use at home



## Walk, cycle, use public transport



## Use solar or purchase green energy



## Use second hand clothes and furniture



## Banking/superannuation or insurance with companies that do not invest in fossil fuels



## Buy locally produced/shop at farmers markets



## Avoid natural gas or replace gas appliances with electric



## Grow my own food



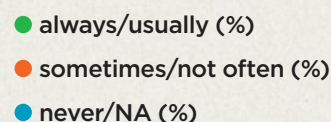
## Participate in local environment groups or attend climate rallies



## Contact elected officials about climate issues



## Drive an electric vehicle



Energy efficiency measures we want to take more of in our homes and businesses

### TOP FIVE ACTIONS

1. Install shading/draught proofing
2. Use energy from a battery (at home or in community)
3. Replace gas appliances
4. Add insulation
5. Use solar energy

### TOP FIVE BARRIERS TO DOING MORE

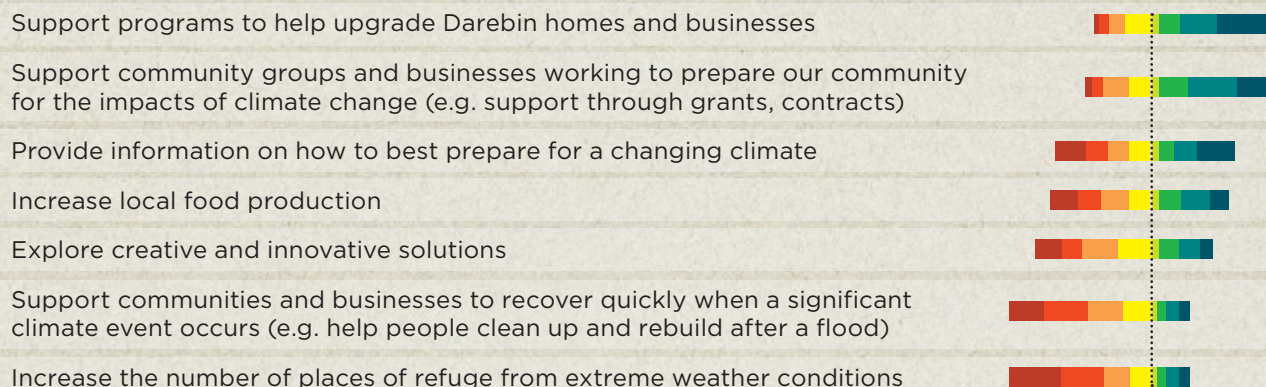
1. Cost
2. I am not the home owner
3. I don't know where to get the right information
4. I don't know where to start
5. I can't make independent changes

“I am interested in climate change but do not have the money to make my life and household completely energy efficient”

“I feel as a renter we get excluded from renewable energy options”

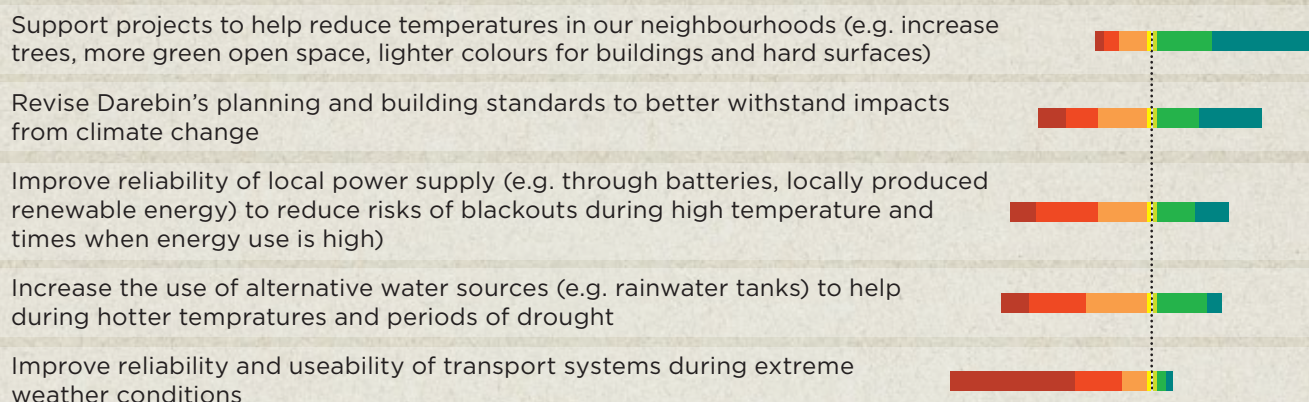


## What programs can Darebin provide to help residents and businesses prepare and respond to a changing climate?



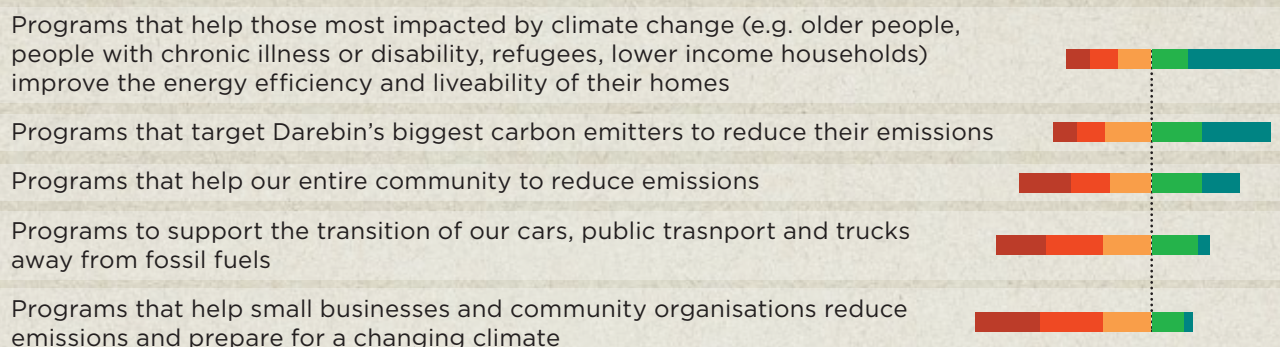
***“All homes are fully electrified, have solar, EV charging. Parks are green oases and provide cooling and trees shelter for kids on playgrounds”***

## How can we prepare buildings and land in Darebin to better respond to a changing climate?



***“I envisage a quieter, cleaner environment because everyone is driving electric vehicles or using electric public transport, and one where there are many more trees and shade and green places to spend time”***

## Who should we be prioritising with programs designed to reduce our communities' emissions?



***“A renewables transition that leaves no one behind”***







## Five things Council should do

We invited participants to identify the top five things they would like to see supported by Council to address the climate emergency.

- 1** Ensure new buildings, extensions and renovations in Darebin are built to be energy efficient
- 2** Invest in renewable energy
- 3** Support businesses and residents to replace gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives
- 4** Support the community to retrofit inefficient homes and small businesses
- 5** Support or invest in community batteries







### How Council is using this community consultation data

This community consultation data is a valuable contribution to Council's development of a new climate emergency strategy. It provides an understanding of the directions and emphases that our community would like to see included in that strategy and related action plans.

Together with other research this information from the community is helping shape the directions and priorities of Darebin's Climate Emergency Strategy 2023-2030.

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin, and that sovereignty has never been ceded.

This acknowledgement and meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community was a significant gap in the first Climate Emergency Plan. We recognise that climate change has impacted and continues to threaten country and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is important indigenous knowledge and experience that needs to be considered to heal country and protect community as we approach the challenge of the climate emergency together.

Council wishes to reaffirm its commitment to working closely with and alongside the Traditional Owners, the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin on the new Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.

#### CITY OF DAREBIN

274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877  
E [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
[darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)



**National Relay Service**  
[relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.



**Speak Your Language**  
T 8470 8470

العربية	Italiano	Soomalii
繁體中文	Македонски	Español
Ελληνικά	नेपाली	اردو
हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt