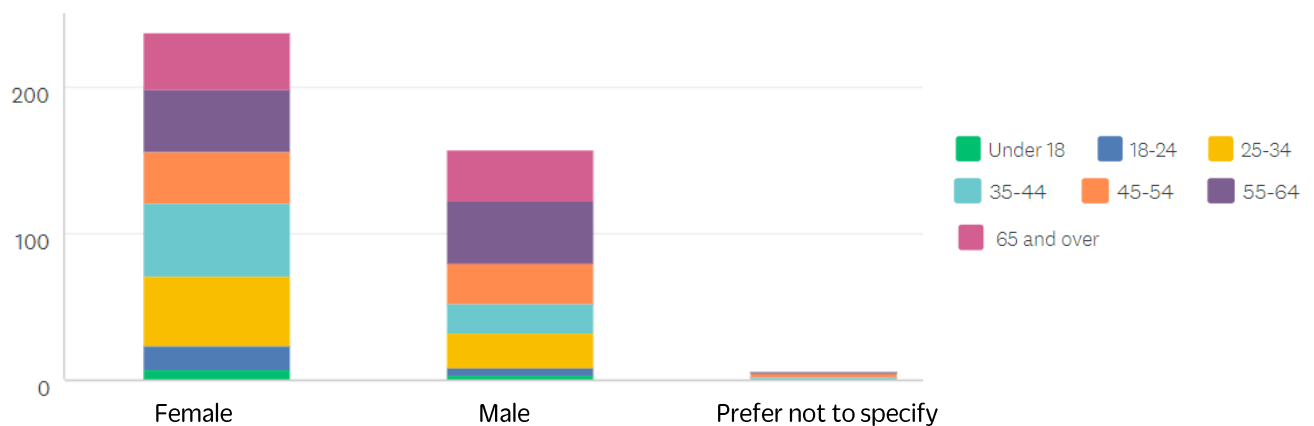


Climate Change Survey Summary

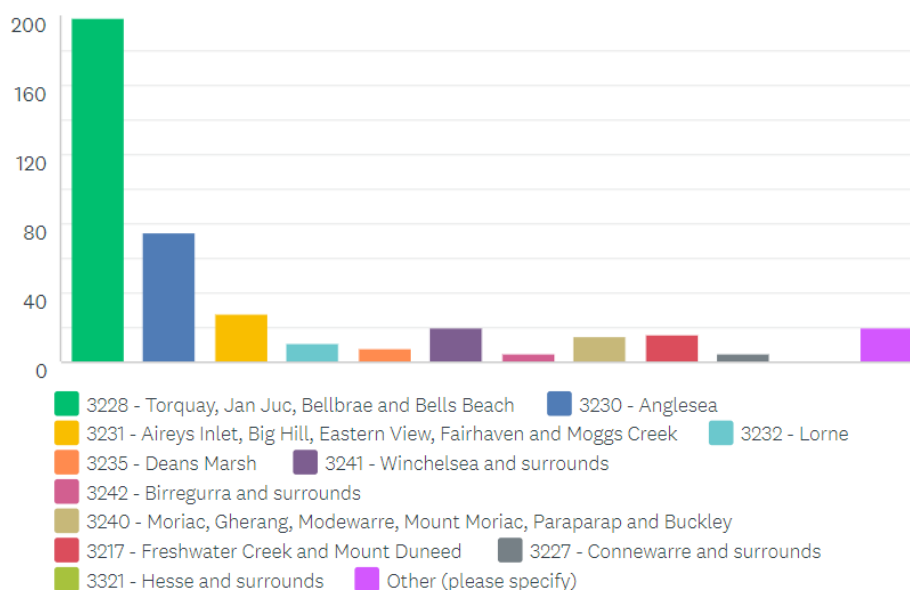
As part of Surf Coast Shire Council's Climate Emergency Declaration this survey was developed to understand climate change experiences, impacts and action in the Surf Coast Shire community. The survey was distributed widely through general and targeted audiences with a total of 402 people completing the survey between November 2020 and January 2021. The survey findings will be drawn on to inform future climate action.

Survey demographics

Age and gender of participants

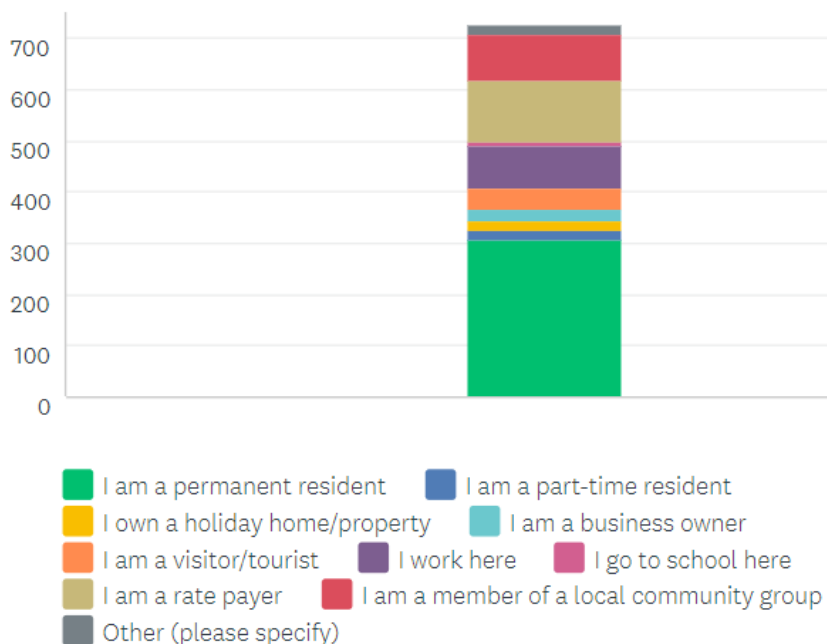


Areas across the Surf Coast Shire represented by participants



Climate Change Survey Summary

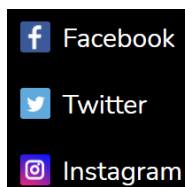
Participants expressed the following connection to the Surf Coast Shire



Preferred ways to receive Climate Emergency updates and information



Electronic updates via email

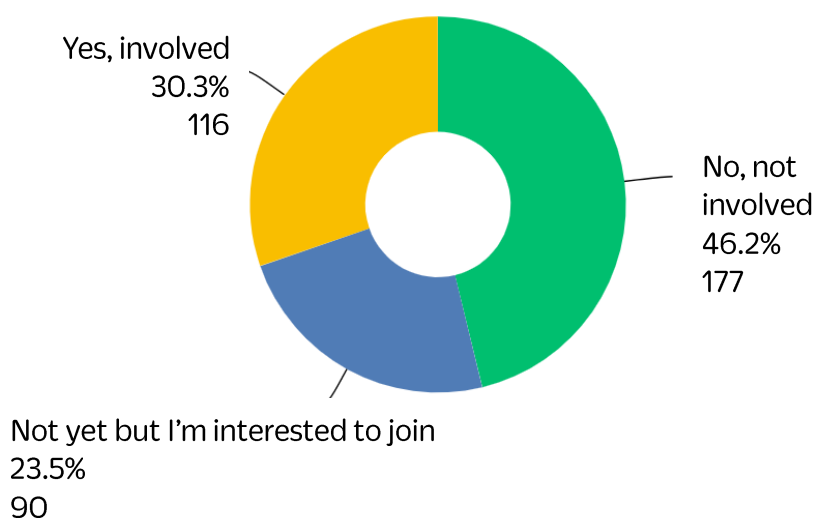


Council's social media channels and website

Surf Coast Times

Surf Coast Times publications

Number of participants involved in a climate or environment group



For those who said yes groups include: Angair, Surfrider, Surf Coast Energy Group, Landcare, School Strike for Climate, Geelong Sustainability, Cleaner Coast, Surfers for Climate, Repair Café and Surf Coast Youth 4 Climate.

Climate Change Survey Summary

Participants love the following about the Surf Coast Shire

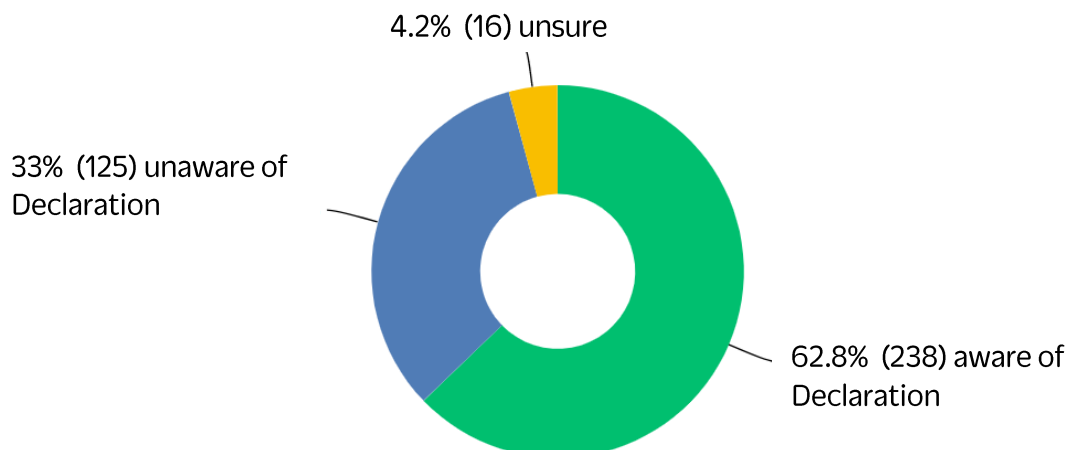
flora fauna range connection protected everything seasons place around
small communities able enjoy air forest every amazing Surf Coast Shire land habitat
Fresh air Anglesea good everyone access vegetation space unique
open spaces work wildlife small natural beauty proximity natural
bushland areas way coast otways lifestyle location people Rural
nature part ocean life environment friendly
community clean beaches many love
native natural environment facilities beautiful
also bush relaxed surf change great sea live family coastline towns
landscape pristine coastal surrounding clean local close active
Surf Coast years walks fact clean air friendly people caring beauty hinterland time
country reserves feel accessible sense community water experience sense quiet
including S us birds love living

"The space, the beautiful surroundings of ocean and native bush, the community and friendly faces, the families and facilities for families, the conscientious views towards sustainability and caring for our land".

"The ability to access and play in a healthy natural environment."

"I love the distant views, and the sense of being connected to and immersed in the natural environment. I love the changing landscape and community experiences through the seasons. I love the open spaces we share with wildlife and the varied fauna. I love being among people who share my values and the hope that I can get others to share at least some of them too."

Number of participants aware of Council's Climate Emergency Declaration



Climate Change Survey Summary

Key survey findings

Q: Are you *already* experiencing climate change?

YES

74.5% (281) are already experiencing climate change

NO

15.1% (57) are not experiencing climate change

NOT SURE

10.3% (39) are not sure

Q: What climate change impacts are you *already* experiencing?



Natural hazards and extreme weather events
93.7%



Threat to species, biodiversity and ecosystems
79.3%



Climate related diseases and health issues
50.2%



Threat to culture and heritage
48%



Water shortage and water supply uncertainty
38.4%



Threat to property and infrastructure
32.1%



Threat to local economy, businesses and agriculture
31%



Impacts to my current lifestyle and recreation activities
31%

Q: What are the most relevant climate change impacts in the *future*?



Natural hazards and extreme weather events
79.4%



Changes to the climate and weather patterns
74.7%



Threat to species, biodiversity and ecosystems
72.5%



Water shortage and water supply uncertainty
55%



Climate related diseases and health issues
53.3%



Threat to culture and heritage
51.7%



Threat to property and infrastructure
41.2%



Financial insecurity
39.6%

Climate Change Survey Summary

Q: What areas in the Surf Coast Shire are most vulnerable to climate change?

storm surges temps will impacted seen one severe prone region surrounding changes
rainfall vulnerable bushfire sea levels high tides local around ocean live housing
Lorne extreme weather events threaten coast line become climate change
flooding events trees also Otway National Park drought bushfire risk
sea level rise much coast home bushfires Bushland fire water
rising sea levels population due place vulnerable
close beaches coastal towns will coastal erosion areas
loss erosion rise increased threat impacts
communities cliffs experience bush sure along likely bushfire
Surfcoast Great Ocean Road extreme weather coastline Forest
coastal natural eroding particularly Anglesea dunes bush fires think
due rising sea general storms make extreme summers roads low lying effects
surf coast coastal areas whole wildlife risk may less dry habitats many well
due increased Jan Juc

"Parts of the Otway Ranges that are vulnerable to bushfire. My fear is that we get an intense fire like last year's that ripped through East Gippsland, Southern NSW coast, destroying so many trees and animals, sterilising the soil and destroying the seed bank."

"All the flora and fauna within the surf coast shire can be impacted in a harmful manner if there is no action towards climate change."

"Winchelsea and surrounds due to less rainfall and hotter temperatures."

"I think the coastal areas are significantly at risk from sea level rise and erosion. I am concerned of the impact this has on important cultural sites, such as midden sites all along the coast. The Great Ocean Road itself, and all it stands for the local communities, economy and tourists is at risk directly and indirectly."

Q: What would help you plan for, and respond to, climate change?

- Projections of future climate change impacts **67.2%**
- Up to date information and mapping of climate change impacts **66.7%**
- Real time data e.g. flood levels, air and water quality, fire danger rating **53.9%**
- Assistance to develop an emergency plan for natural hazards and extreme weather events **50.4%**
- Assistance to prepare building and infrastructure for natural hazards and extreme weather events **42.2%**

Climate Change Survey Summary

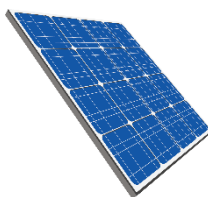
Q: What are you doing personally to respond to climate change?



Being a conscious consumer and avoiding waste
82.8%



Growing fruit and vegetables
70.2%



Purchasing green power or installing renewable energy systems
66.7%



Sharing climate change knowledge with close networks
65.5%



Making energy efficiency and emissions reduction changes to property
59.7%



Planting trees
58.5%



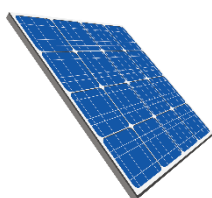
Eating less carbon intensive foods and buying local produce
56.1%



Reducing vehicle travel and pursuing active transport and public transport
50.6%

Q: What are the top three priority areas for whole of community climate action?

1



Renewable energy
Transitioning to 100% renewable energy sources and supporting advancements in battery storage and local grid systems

2



Zero waste
Avoiding and minimising waste in the first instance. Recycling waste into alternative materials resulting in zero waste sent to landfill

3



Net zero greenhouse gas emissions
Reducing all community emissions and pursuing opportunities for further reduction through carbon sequestration projects

Other high ranking priority areas for community climate action included:

Conserving and enhancing the environment and biodiversity, Sustainable agriculture and local food production, Traditional Owner knowledge and sustainable transport

Climate Change Survey Summary

Q: Where do you stand in relation to a community net zero emissions target?

We need to take immediate action and set an ambitious community target of net zero emissions by 2030, or before **75.2%**

We should set a net zero emissions community target that aligns with the Victorian Government's target: net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 **6.8%**

We should set a net zero emissions community target but I am not sure what it should be **5.3%**

We shouldn't have a net zero emissions target for our community **11%**

I don't understand what an emissions target is **1.8%**

Q: How do you think the following should prioritise climate change, compared to current approaches?

| | Much lower priority | Lower priority | No change | Higher priority | Much higher priority |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Local Govt. | 9.5% | 4.1% | 5.3% | 30.5% | 50.6% |
| State Govt. | 6.6% | 3.9% | 5.7% | 25% | 58.9% |
| Federal Govt. | 5% | 1.8% | 6.5% | 7.7% | 79.1% |
| Companies and industry | 5.1% | 1.8% | 5.4% | 21% | 66.9% |
| Sport and rec. bodies | 7.2% | 2.4% | 14% | 35.5% | 40.9% |
| Community groups and organisations | 7.7% | 1.8% | 13.4% | 36% | 41.1% |
| Financial institutions | 7.4% | 2.4% | 5.7% | 16.1% | 68.5% |
| Households and individuals | 3.9% | 1.8% | 8.9% | 29.1% | 56.4% |

Climate Change Survey Summary

Q: What is your big idea to take climate action and how can you contribute?

systems Promote plant gardens also small shire implementing one others Create
increased used water big waste management work solar panels surf coast renewables
climate groups areas buy recycling etc renewable energy maintain
buildings lead energy plant trees new green make future waste
residents think house change plan climate change
programs reduce less people Surf Coast Shire local great
community food need home support part
action improve council want will sustainable contribute set
better plastic help single use plastics encourage see stop knowledge
businesses growth education rates impact initiatives understand streets
environment support communities way provide things well opportunity level
individuals power live cars big idea go take land focus services educate
household

"Electric car charging stations, public transport and safer/ better connected pathways and bike paths."

"Encourage, support, incentivise and use any other levers (e.g. Planning Scheme amendment) to improve the way houses and buildings are built - lower embodied energy, reduced energy usage, increased solar PV generation and improved amenity."

"Providing communities/streets/individuals with responsibility for crown land to convert into useable, green spaces. This could be in the form of planting fruit trees or vegetables or creating green spaces that can be enjoyed by people. If someone said to me - we have a 10mx10m section at the end of the street and I can have responsibility for it (as long as it's green, uses recycled materials, enhances the image and supports the native environment) I'd be keen as mustard to build and maintain the space."

Look at further support and knowledge sharing of regenerative farming.

"It would be great to see more money spent harbouring solar and wind energy for job growth. Supporting indigenous connections and educating the public more on the areas first peoples connections to country."

"Utilising my personal, community and business networks to help educate, inspire and demonstrate how to better connect residents, holiday home owners and visitors to the natural world (of which we are all a part of), and the part we can all play in ensuring a sustainable future for all by better understanding our impacts and living within the limits of the planet."

"Transition to clean renewable energy that utilises the surf coast's wind and sun."