



Merri-bek
City Council

Climate Risk Foundational Action Plan 2023 - 2025

Engagement Outcomes Report

Contents

Background and Summary	3
Engagement Objectives and Methods	4
Communications and Analytics	5
Gender and Social Impact Analysis.....	6
Engagement Findings.....	7
Survey Response Results on Feedback on the Action Plan	7
Analysis of Feedback on the Action Plan	8
Survey Response Results on Climate Impacts and Resilience Actions	11
Analysis of Community Experience of Climate Impacts and Resilience Actions.....	14
Appendix: Survey Feedback - Verbatim.....	15

Background and Summary

Following Merri-bek City Council's endorsement of the Climate Risk Strategy in November 2022, Council embarked on developing the Climate Risk Foundational Action Plan (CRFAP or Action Plan) for 2023 – 2025. The Action Plan was drafted with the inputs from different units adopting a whole-of-Council approach under the guidance of the Climate Resilience Integration Board. Following a Councillor Briefing on 5 April 2023, the draft Action Plan went out for community consultation from 6 April 2022 to 15 May 2023.

Many of the actions in the Action Plan as a foundational piece related to internal Council processes, operations, and assessments of service delivery and infrastructure. More actions that would directly impact the community are expected in subsequent action plans. As such, in planning the engagement, Council officers expected that the level of engagement would correspond to the level of impact that the current plan has on the community. The engagement process was then developed largely to inform the broader community of the Action Plan, to consult on what actions the community wants Council to do to support resilience, and as an opportunity to gather information on how the community experiences climate impacts, building on the community engagement conducted between May and July in 2022.

The engagement for the draft Action Plan was also used as an opportunity to engage with different organisations that may have an interest in climate risk, such as other Councils, organisations represented in the Council's Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee, and community service providers. Their inputs on the Action plan were requested by email.

Feedback was sought on the Action Plan mainly through the Conversations Merri-bek page. The website was promoted through various approaches that aimed to maximise reach and make information accessible to different groups. The page had a total of 643 visits from 364 visitors. Of these, the Climate Risk Foundational Action Plan document was downloaded 127 times. The website included a two-part survey that was designed to:

- Obtain feedback on the action plan, and
- Obtain a baseline of how community members experience climate impacts and what people are already doing to cope with climate impacts.

The survey was designed to gather information on risk factors that may affect different groups, including priority groups, differently. A Gender Equity Impact Assessment was also conducted to assess how climate may impact women, men, and gender diverse people differently. This gives Council a baseline of risk factors in the community which can form the basis of targeting of future support as well as developing future iterations of the action plan with community-facing actions. The survey is planned to be run periodically to improve information and to observe future changes.

There were nine contributions to the survey compared with the 50 survey responses to the Climate Risk Strategy in 2022. This may be because many of the actions were focused on council decision making processes, governance, enterprise risk management, corporate financial reporting, and service delivery approaches. Nonetheless, the comments and feedback provided through the survey were thoughtful and the responses are thematically analysed.

Overall, there is general support for the action plan and in delivering tangible benefits to the community, consistent with past engagement results. Some areas where the community would like to see more action are:

- Planting and protecting trees
- Ensuring drainage is clear of debris and cleansing to prevent flooding
- Focus on health and coping with heatwaves
- Working with private sphere such as with land developers and landlords
- Planning controls to avoid new sources of excess heat such as in industrial areas

Engagement Objectives and Methods

The engagement has multiple goals developed based on community and stakeholder analysis:

- To INFORM community members through Conversations Merri-bek page:
 - about climate impacts and risks most relevant to Merri-bek (through user-friendly information, graphics, and maps)
 - actions that Council is already doing to manage climate risks
 - actions that Council is planning through the action plan
- To CONSULT community members through Conversations Merri-bek page draft action plan and survey:
 - About their awareness of climate risks and any impacts already felt
 - Actions that they are already doing to manage climate risk and improve resilience
 - Actions that they want to see Council doing to support the community in managing climate risk and improving resilience
- To CONSULT selected stakeholders and community service providers to:
 - Learn about their awareness of climate risks in Merri-bek and the Greater Melbourne Region and vulnerabilities among their clients and their service
 - Understand climate risk/resilience/adaptation actions that they are already doing and any barriers in undertaking their own risk/resilience/adaptation actions
 - What role they see for Council in supporting their climate risk and resilience work
- To INFORM and CONSULT members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee members to:
 - Ensure their awareness of the action plan
 - Gather information on climate risk, resilience, and adaptation activities done in the broader community
- The outcome of these consultations will be:
 - Inform community and local organisations on the Action Plan
 - Develop a baseline of climate risk management/resilience/adaptation actions in the community
 - Improve the survey instrument that collects information on risk factors, particularly to heatwaves

The website content was developed, including a two-part survey on feedback to the plan and community's experience and coping with climate impacts. The website was promoted through different communication channels.

- Emails to 27 people who follow the page and subscribed to updates
- Social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram)
- EcoNews and Inside Merri-bek newsletter
- Library posters
- Direct communication to 10 community service providers (Northern Health, Merri Health, and others)
- Sustainability and climate networks including Climate Emergency Australia (CEA), Northern Alliance on Greenhouse Action (NAGA), and the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Communications and Analytics

The outreach through social media and communication to stakeholders directed people to the Conversations Merri-bek page.

The communications and promotion activities were successful in increasing page views and awareness of the Climate Risk Foundational Action Plan. The summary below shows the number of page views, showing increases within 1-2 days of posting. The draft action plan document was downloaded 127 times. Further details of page views are in Appendix.



Figure 1. Summary of page views

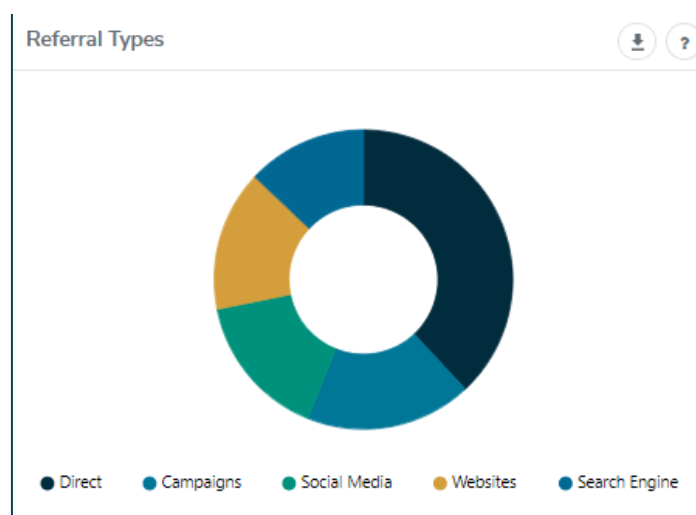


Figure 2. Pathways for accessing the Conversations Merri-bek Climate Risk page

From Figures 1 and 2, it appears that direct accessing of the website through the provided link (38%) resulted in the greatest proportion of views. Social media (16%) did not play a very significant part in contributing to page views. Email campaigns resulted in 18% of the website traffic while link through the Merri-bek website and search engines resulted in 15% and 13% of traffic each.

What this may mean is that people were engaged were those that were directly contacted because of their role or those that directly searched for and accessed this type of information because of their interest. In future iterations of the action plan that has more community facing actions, alternative methods, and approaches to engagement such as in person discussions, translations, engagement with reference groups and community organisations, and other means may be explored to engage harder to reach groups. This is important because the groups that may be disproportionately impacted by climate change such those who do not access digital information, or those that belong to culturally and linguistically diverse groups, need to be informed and consulted.

It could be said that the engagement was more successful on the objective to inform people about the plan. There were 364 people that visited the page and were informed. Of these, 127 downloaded the document. The low response to the survey (8 people) may be because they do not feel that the action plan directly affects them and are more focused towards Council's own processes. Some people may have felt that they have already engaged in the Climate Risk Strategy, that had 50 responses. There were also several engagement processes happening at the same time so timing may also play a factor.

Gender and Social Impact Analysis

Under the Gender Equality Act of 2020, organisations including local governments are required to conduct Gender Impact Assessments. Such assessments allow organisations to think critically about how their policies, programs and services will meet the needs of women, men, and gender diverse people.

In Merri-bek City Council, a Gender Equity Impact Assessment (GEIA) Tool is being trialled. The GEIA analysis was used to assess how climate change may impact women and other groups differently. Physical impacts of climate change such as heatwaves may be greater among certain groups. Their participation and access to support and services may also be different and climate change may exacerbate inequalities and push some groups further into poverty and disadvantage.

Research shows gendered impacts of climate change. Women older than 55 living alone are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change¹ and can be compounded by different factors like social isolation, health issues and frailty, poor nutrition, and poor housing conditions. Heatwaves may result in greater health impacts, including mental health. Data analysis shows that 68% of the people who presented with heat related illnesses in 2009 Victorian heatwaves were women, and more than half of those women were over the age of 75.²

Domestic or intimate partner violence may increase during heatwaves.³ Women with caring responsibilities may spend more time at home, in unsuitable thermal conditions⁴. They may face challenges in caring for themselves in addition to older parents or young children that are more sensitive to the impacts of heatwaves.

Women-led households for example may have challenges in adopting adaptation measures that require traditionally "masculine" skills such as maintaining solar panels^{5,6} and installing home

¹ Windisch, Margareta. 2019. Australian Journal of Emergency Management 4, pp.146 – 153.

² Australian Women's Health Network. 2014. The Impact on Women's Health of Climatic and Economic Disaster. Victoria. Available at: <https://www.genderanddisaster.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Doc-043-Impact-on-Women-Position-Paper.pdf>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Lucas-Healey, K., Ransan-Cooper, H., Temby, H. and Russell, A.W., 2022. Who cares? How care practices uphold the decentralised energy order. Buildings and Cities, 3(1), p.448–463.DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bc.219>.

⁶ Mechlenborg, M. and Gram-Hanssen, K., 2022. Masculine roles and practices in homes with photovoltaic systems. Buildings and Cities, 3(1), p.638–652.DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bc.211>.

improvement options like external window shading⁷. The literature points to gender norms in households as one of the root causes of inequity in emerging technologies for energy saving in homes.

People with disability, with chronic health conditions, and poor mental health may have underlying conditions that make them vulnerable to climate impacts such as heatwaves⁸.

Different groups in the community people such as people with refugee backgrounds, gender diverse people and first nations people may have lower levels access to healthcare, social support and may be in poor housing conditions.

Some groups in the community have more limited access to available subsidies and opportunities. Renters and people in social housing that are often in poor housing conditions are typically not eligible for energy upgrades. Even for homeowners, those with poor housing conditions / lack of upgrades can have limited access to such programs. Where substantial upgrades are required to be made to the building, such as roof works to install solar, electrical switchboard upgrades, asbestos removal and building envelope upgrades, without a contingency to make these upgrades the households then lose out by not being able to continue with having upgrades safely installed.

People with non-English speaking backgrounds, people who do not access information online such as older people, and people with disability may have less access to information such as heatwave and weather warnings and grants and opportunities to support adaptation and resilience outcomes.

The survey instrument developed (Appendix 2) was designed to collect information on factors that influence risk, as well as information on housing conditions and coping strategies to hot weather and storms. This gives Council a baseline of risk factors in the community which can form the basis of targeting of future support as well as developing future iterations of the action plan with community-facing actions. Some examples are potentially expanding the eligibility criteria or amount of subsidies for solar and thermal for at-risk groups, potential prioritisation of areas with social housing for open space or increasing tree canopy. The survey is planned to be run on a periodic basis to improve information and to observe any potential future changes.

Engagement Findings

Survey Response Results on Feedback on the Action Plan

It is important to note that the survey has a small sample size and that not all respondents answer all the questions. The findings are hence very limited and not representative of the community but may still provide an indication of the experience of a small subset of the community. Please refer to the Appendix for further details on the survey responses.

Majority of the respondents (75%) gave 4 or 5 stars in support of the action plan. The reasons for the rating were generally positive, with some mixed sentiments. These talked about the plan being comprehensive, covering the right range of concerns, and that rapid action on climate change is essential. There were also comments on local councils having limited levers to pull for genuine change, questions on the validity of the flood maps, and that more attention on the health impacts of climate change is needed.

Majority of the respondents (75%) also gave ratings of 4 or 5 stars supporting the statement that the action plan will help improve Council services in a changing climate. Comments pointed to the actions helping people manage in a changed environment, liking the emphasis on internal Council education and capacity building. However, there were concerns on the plan being fully implemented, or having tangible benefits and subsequent plans potentially having more impact.

⁷ Bartiaux, F., 2022. Gender roles and domestic power in energy-saving home improvements. *Buildings and Cities*, 3(1), p.824–841.DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bc.232>.

⁸ Department of Health. 2023. Extreme Heat and Heatwaves. Website: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/extreme-heat-and-heatwaves>.

On the question of anything else that people would like to see in the plan that is not currently included, the feedback suggested mention of population health and impacts to different groups such as renters, migrants, and those on a low-income, planting and protection of trees in developments, and allowing for paid citizen participation in the Climate Resilience Integration Board. Others said that it may be worth highlighting areas outside of Council scope, control, and influence regarding climate change actions.

Other general comments on the action plan talked about needing more regulations, policies, and monitoring of thermal efficiency of houses including mandating and enforcing retrofitting on rented properties, feeling despondent about the planning scheme and needing advocacy, and the need to reduce heat island especially for residents living near industrial sites. There's also a recommendation to purchase and repurpose the old Bega site to reinstate the old flood path and connect the bike path.

Analysis of Feedback on the Action Plan

The table below summarises general feedback and suggestions from the community. The comments are gathered from different sources including Facebook comments, survey responses, and written submissions. It should be noted that as strategies/action plans are due for renewal, that a climate risk lens will be applied and feedback such as that below will be form part of input to see what additional actions council can take.

Feedback	How this is currently being addressed in existing strategies, action plans, and operational services	CRFAP Action (either already addressed or new/added as a result of the engagement process)
Subdividing, overdevelopment, and high-density living are contributing to flood risks and heat island effect	Stormwater flow and flood overlays are part of the planning scheme (Special Building Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay) Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and drainage requirements are also mandated in planning applications	Investigate other opportunities to mitigating the impacts of flood and heat in the municipality, including in industrial areas as part of the review of the Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan and the Cooling the Upfield Corridor Action Plan (CRFAP Action 25). Mitigate climate risks in new development through the planning application process (CRFAP Action 33)
Poor drainage maintenance and rubbish on the streets and open spaces	Street cleansing program and operational work of the Street Cleansing Unit	Street cleansing trial (CRFAP Action 23)
Increase of tree canopy and protection of trees especially in dense developments and on pedestrian and cycling routes	Landscape guidelines and landscape requirements in the planning scheme (Amendment C189) Significant tree register Urban Forest Strategy	NEW - Planting of trees and vegetation in areas affected by UHIE (potentially including in pedestrian and cycling routes) (Action 25).

Planting native wildflowers in traffic islands	As part of the Nature Plan we are developing a program in 2023 to support biodiversity planting in nature-strips.	
Prioritisation of health outcomes and partnerships with health and community service providers	Existing networks and regular meetings with community service providers Delivery of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan as integrated with the Council Plan	Climate resilient service delivery in early years and youth and aged and community services (CRFAP Action 26) and (NEW) sharing of outcomes with service providers Continue to inform the community on risks/preparedness and develop targeted climate risk and community resilience communication products (CRFAP Action 32) and (NEW) work with service provider networks
Avoiding use of black bitumen in footpaths that are hot		Review and trial industry standards on climate resilient and sustainable infrastructure and materials (CRFAP Action 22)
Highlighting areas out of control of Council		(NEW) Added in CRFAP in response to comment
Work with private landowners and landlords especially in increasing thermal efficiency of housing	Zero carbon in the planning scheme initiatives and guidelines Advocacy on improving thermal efficiency and comfort standards in public and social housing and to mandate minimum energy efficiency performance standards for rental properties by 2025	Review of solar and thermal subsidy program (potentially including renters) (CRFAP Action 31) (NEW) Continue and look at other opportunities for advocacy especially for energy efficiency for tenants (CRFAP Action 34)
Connecting flood paths, de-culverting and daylighting of Merlynston Creek	Consideration of integrated water management and flow paths in refresh of the Open Space Strategy	
Planning requirements for new developments to include banning of gas and black roofs	ESD recommendations in planning applications already include light coloured roofs in new developments as of 2022	Mitigate climate risks in new development through the planning application process (CRFAP Action 33)
Citizen participation in Climate Resilience Integration Board	As part of Council governance, the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee acts as the advisory body on environmental issues	The implementation stage and further development of the CRFAP will have further engagement with other advisory committees

	including climate-resilience as part of its terms of reference	
Planning controls especially in industrial areas where large concrete sheds are built in already hot areas	ESD recommendations as part of the planning application look at solar reflectance of building components and carparks and vegetation percentages with aim of reducing urban heat island effect	Mitigate climate risks in new development through the planning application process (CRFAP Action 33)
Prioritise the delivery of existing services such as rubbish collection.	Addressed through operational delivery under the Waste Services Unit	
Cooling centres and options for pets	Council offers places for people to stay cool including the Brunswick, Coburg, and Glenroy libraries and the Brunswick and Coburg Customer Services Centre	Council is assessing building vulnerability (including a small sample of community centres, childcare centres, and maternal and child health centres) so these services to people can continue to be delivered out of them during heatwaves (CRFAP Action 17)
Community garden and food swaps	Food systems strategy and support for initiatives like Fawkner Food Bowls	(NEW) Linkage to food systems is now has been added into the CRFAP
Community / library activities like making draft stoppers or having a contest among neighbourhoods to promote resilient measures in households		(NEW) To be considered in community grants and other programs and projects (CRFAP Action 30)

There were also comments and feedback that related to broader Council services:

- Provision of vouchers to recycling such as TerraCycle Australia or Upparel Textile Recyclers
- Customer requests for services including tree replacement in nature strip, and open space maintenance (mowing), laneways and street maintenance
- Cleaning silt off Merri Creek bike paths after flooding
- Greater investment in Fawkner and Hadfield
- Improving signage and monitoring by animal management along Merri Creek to keep dogs on leashes and avoid killing wildlife
- Flood path through industrial North Coburg possibly does not account for old Bega site built across the path
- Regarding going all electric, fully document the processes required, and negotiate with the service providers and energy wholesalers to offer fair rates on the changeover

Many of these topics are being addressed through various Council programs such as [animal management and local laws](#), [Electrify Everything](#) campaigns and programs, further mapping of stormwater flows together with Melbourne Water, and operational open space maintenance and street cleansing programs.

There was also a concern that managing climate risks is the responsibility of the Federal or State government. However we all play a part and under the (State) Climate Change Act of 2017 and the Local Government Act of 2020, local councils are mandated to consider and respond to climate risks.

All in all, the survey responses show high engagement and deep knowledge in the community of climate impacts to Merri-bek and measures to respond. There is a strong desire for tangible benefits in cooling, greening, and sustainability in development planning.

Survey Response Results on Climate Impacts and Resilience Actions

Among those surveyed, 88% were somewhat aware or very aware of climate impacts that are affecting them.

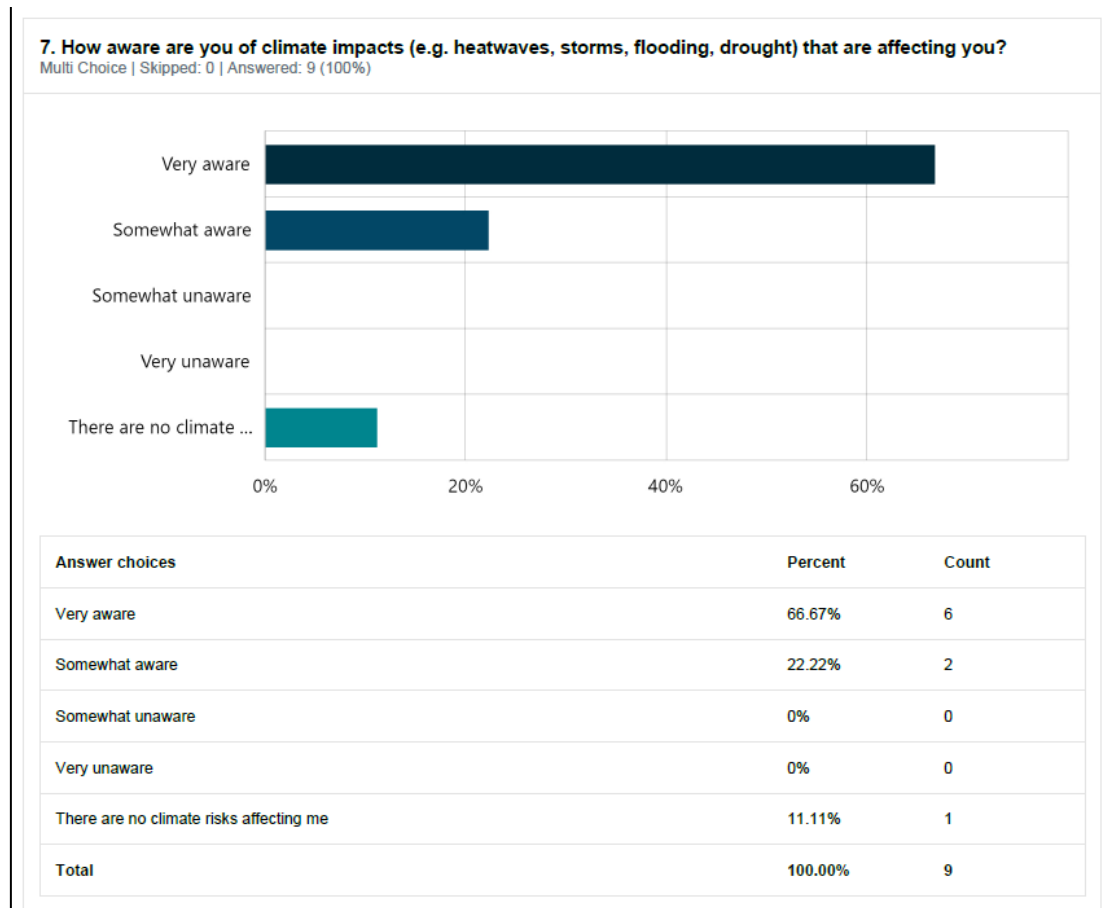


Figure 3. Awareness of climate impacts

Respondents were asked what statements describe them among risk factors and 50% reported mental health challenges while 37.5% reported being born overseas. All those surveyed reported their homes being comfortable through heatwaves or being able to manage even if their homes get really hot.

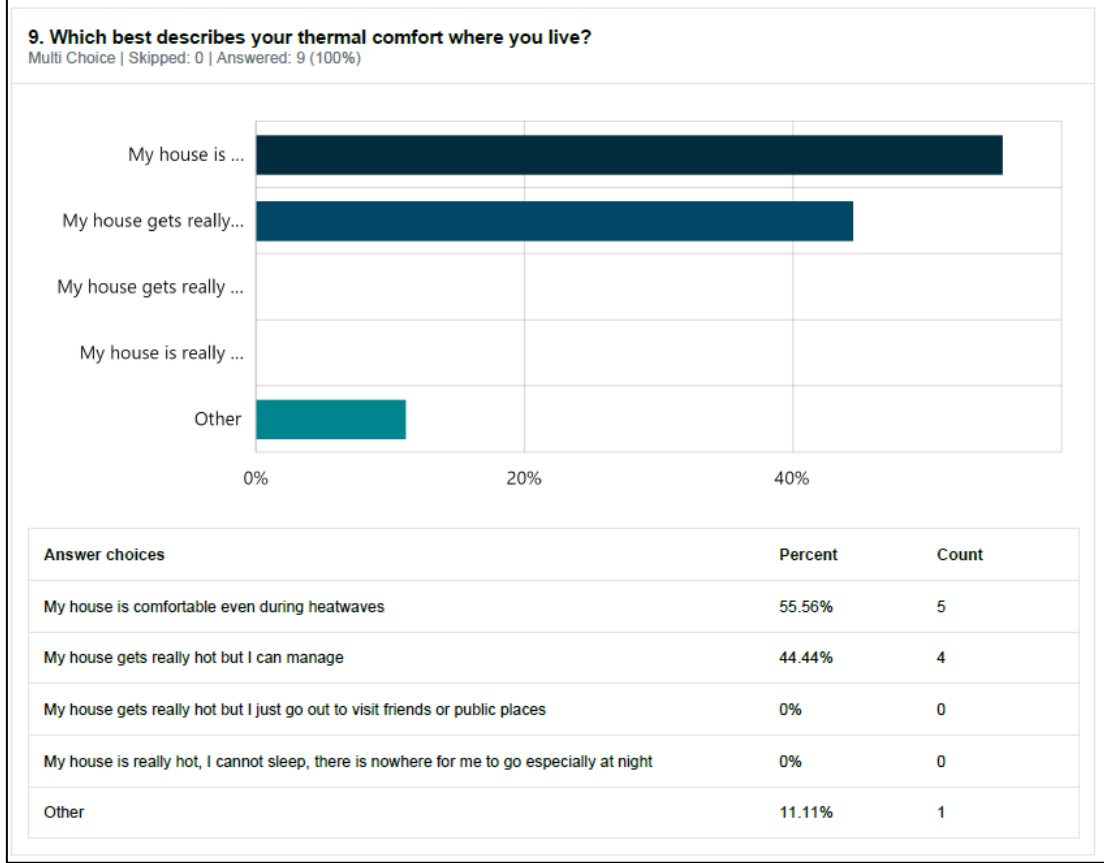


Figure 4. Thermal comfort in homes

All (100%) of those surveyed reported staying home indoors, in addition to other activities like going to the cinema, shopping mall or local pool. None of those surveyed reported visiting a neighbourhood house or senior citizens' centre. Around 70% also reported that they can cope without additional support.

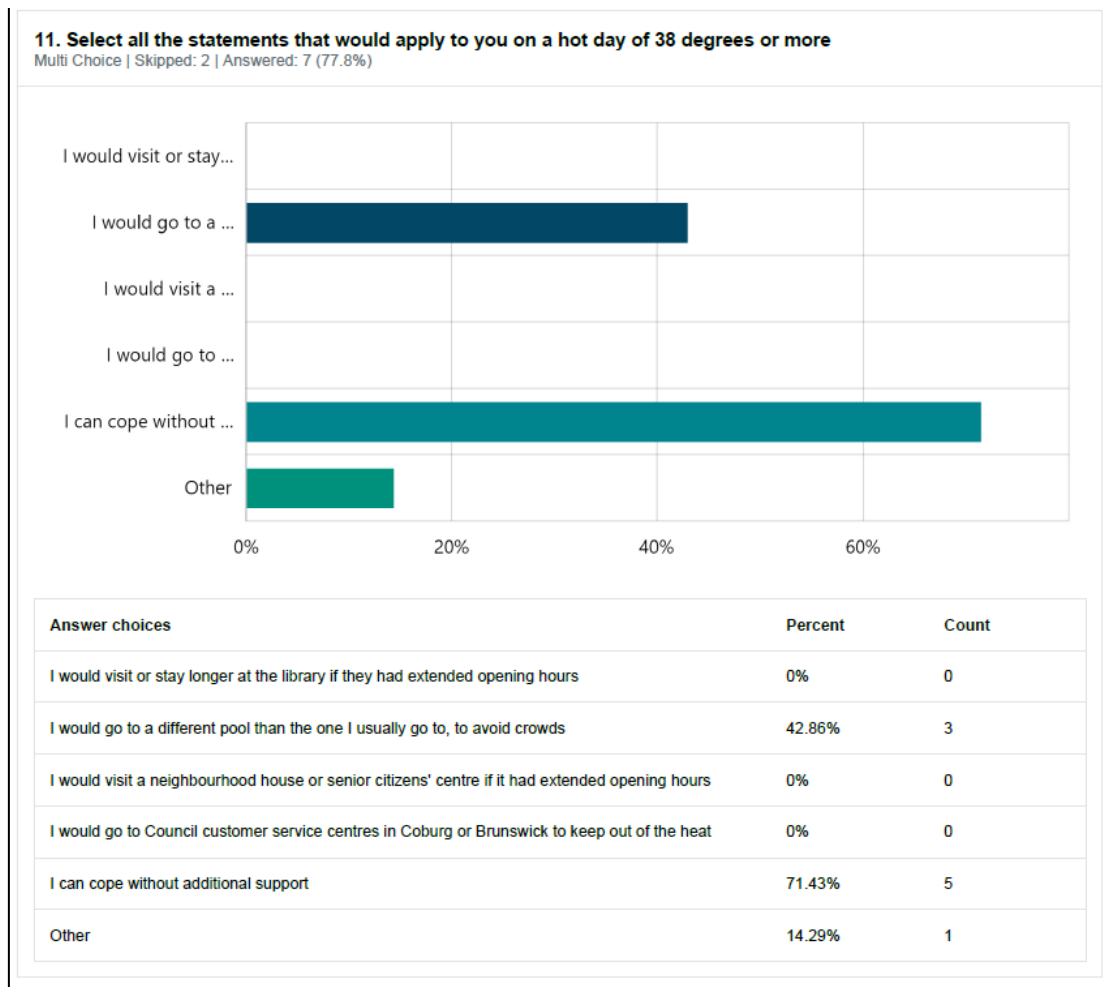


Figure 5. Activities during extreme heat

All respondents said they would use air conditioning and other appliances to keep cool and 90% have other practices such as drawing shades during the day, opening the house at night, and doing outdoor activities like gardening and exercise earlier in the day before it gets hot. Longer term preparations include home retrofits (66%), planting more trees and vegetation (55%), and talking about precautions with family and friends (33%).

The main preparations for forecast storms and potential stormwater flows include cleaning gutters (66%), and maintenance of drainage and trees (44%). Other resilience activities that the respondents practice are growing some of their own food and speaking with and looking after neighbours (75%), and installing solar and rain water tanks (62.5%).

Analysis of Community Experience of Climate Impacts and Resilience Actions

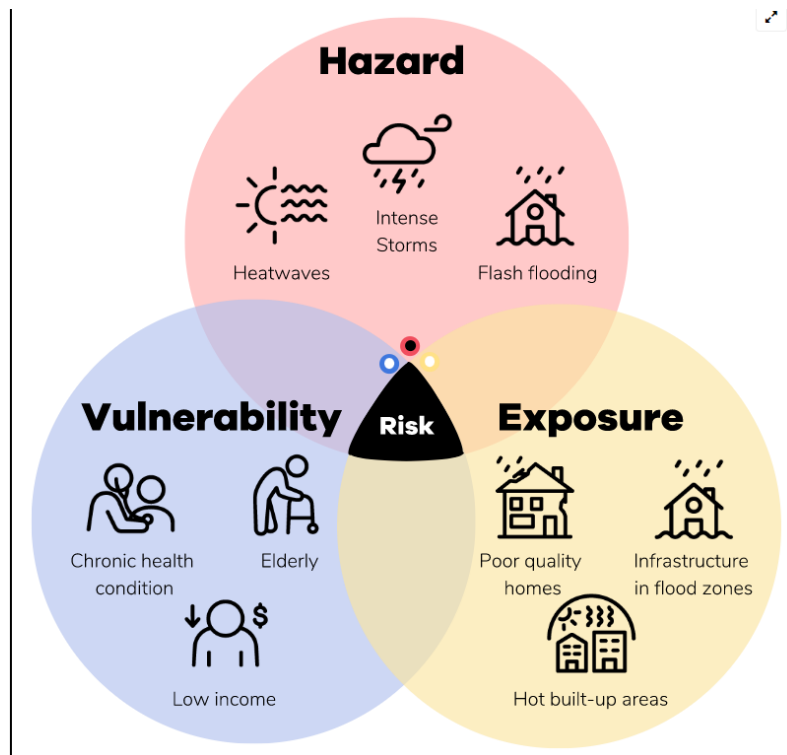


Figure 6. Risk as the intersection of hazard, vulnerability, and exposure

All in all, the respondents reached through the survey face some risk to the impacts of climate change. Risk described by the level of vulnerability, exposure, and hazard experienced. Many of the respondents surveyed face mental health challenges and are born overseas. Some have disabilities, have chronic health issues, and/or belong to the older age group. Few respondents face climate exposure, such as having homes that are impacted by reactive clay soils that expand and contract with extreme rainfall and drought cycles as reported by one respondent or living near a hot industrial area.

Many have comfortable homes during heatwaves. Most have high adaptive capacity as they report that they can cope without additional support and undertake their own resilience actions. Despite this, respondents are still very much concerned about climate impacts such as excess heat near industrial areas, stormwater flow paths, and impacts of extreme rainfall and drought on houses.

Although varied communication channels were used, including posters in libraries with links to translation services and Council newsletters, it is important to note that the survey approach likely did not reach the less at-risk groups in the community such as those with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and/or with limited English, and those who face challenges with technology.

The survey is planned to be run at different times to capture more information about our community and to see any potential changes. Future iterations of the survey may include translations and surveying together with some programs that Council implements or during pop-up events. Some changes to the survey would also be done to better capture other factors such as gender, caring responsibilities, and single parenthood or guardianship. This is based on lessons learned from the solar and thermal subsidy program that Council is currently implementing.

Appendix: Survey Feedback - Verbatim

I support the draft action plan. (Rating 1 to 5 stars) Please let us know why you chose that rating.
Everything written is right. However, climate is more of a health issue than an economic issue as far as impacts on the general population are concerned. Therefore it is vital that the council recognise this and form substantial partnerships with health organisations - both public and community - early on so each side can actively support the other in delivering policies that effectively support the community.
Its very comprehensive
I think the goals are admirable but find it hard to accept when I question the validity of the flood maps.
I feel like it covers the right range of concerns and areas of the community - I feel reassured reading it!
On paper it looks ok
i support council planting a flag in the sand on this, but i worry that local councils have limited levers to pull to generate genuine change
I think rapid action on climate change is essential
I think the actions in the plan will help improve services to the community in a changing climate. Please let us know why you chose that rating.
It's hard to say because there's very little in the way of tangible improvements. I'm sure subsequent plans will have more meat on the bone.
Only if fully implemented
community is at the heart of council's decision making so i think these are important steps
The actions outlined will help us manage in a changed environment, as well as help slow the effects our lives currently have on the environment
I particularly like the emphasis on internal council education and capacity building. We need strong, engaged cross-council work to address climate risk.
It's hard to say because there's very little in the way of tangible improvements. I'm sure subsequent plans will have more meat on the bone.
Is there anything else you would you like to see in the action plan that is not currently included?
yes - mention of population health. This is especially important as the economic lens excludes many people. Those with nothing to protect (renters, migrants, those living below the poverty line etc.) and no financial capacity to make changes to their own situation will not engage with an economic/financial/monetary discourse. Health affects everyone and includes everyone.
I'd like to see a focus on ensuring trees are protected / put in place for developments. Many of the big apartment blocks don't have any space for trees on the footpath, and it adds to the heat sink in summer.
It's hard to tell because the lack of detail on the plan, but it looks as though the flood path through Industrial North Coburg (west of the Upfield line) doesn't account for the old Bega site being built right across the path. I'm sure that would disperse the water around that site?
No
Citizen and expert members should be appointed to the Climate Resilience Integration Board (and be paid)
so much, but in all things the scope that council can impact is smaller than the actions that i want to see
I might have missed it but is it worth highlighting the areas out of your control? I guess I was thinking about the impact of the rail projects and transport partners? Specifically in designing new transport infrastructure - like the Merlynston carpark being a very hot, open, concreted space and the loss of mature canopy there. Plus private land - I see community groups, businesses etc in stakeholders - but how will you influence private land owners?

yes - mention of population health. This is especially important as the economic lens excludes many people. Those with nothing to protect (renters, migrants, those living below the poverty line etc.) and no financial capacity to make changes to their own situation will not engage with an economic/financial/monetary discourse. Health affects everyone and includes everyone.

I'd like to see a focus on ensuring trees are protected / put in place for developments. Many of the big apartment blocks don't have any space for trees on the footpath, and it adds to the heat sink in summer.

Do you have any other comments on the action plan?

The council needs to open the door to regulations, policies and monitoring to ensure all private development meets much higher requirements towards Passive House-style functionality. Mandating and enforcing retro-fitting, especially on rented properties, means the council needs to have regulatory teeth. Otherwise the poorest in our community will be held climate hostages by mendacious landlords, developers, builders and the like.

Would dearly love to see Council reducing heat island in industrial areas. It's really terrible for workers and residents to spend their waking hours in a concrete hell. Partnering with State Gov to purchase and repurpose the old Bega site would serve to reinstate the old flood path and connect the bike path south of Bakers Rd. It would also connect nicely to the Velodrome, and the newly built pump track.

THANK YOU

Its a start

I'm feeling very despondent about the planning scheme at the moment - does it need an advocacy section?

Type your suggestions here.

Investigations into removing gas from whole residential areas, banning black roofs, banning gas in new developments, increase street tree planting, promoting community gardens/food swaps and other group based activities and events that help to manage food scarcity.

Please remember there are residents in Industrial areas, and they are generally less financially secure.

Keep storm water traps clear of litter and detritus. Our street litter can be found on the east coast beaches.

i would love more shady trees everywhere. council's working hard on this, but you sadly can't make trees grow big and shady within weeks

My (mortgaged) house has been falling down. In 2017 I had one side underpinned and was told the other side would probably also start to fall. The engineer said this was as a result of the extreme weather cycles we've had of droughts and heavy rain. The same side of the house has actually continued to shift. From week to week different doors or windows do or do not open and close. We live near the Merri Creek. I don't want to invest in trying to fix all this, as I feel the house probably needs demolishing. I would like to stay in the area but probably can't afford to, so we're living here for as long as the house is inhabitable. I am concerned that wherever I move to will have similar problems. I am a single parent living with two teenagers.

De-culvert and daylight Merlynston Creek. Stronger planning controls on the new industrial area in Coburg North north of bakers road - large concrete sheds going into an area which already very hot. The development should have more trees, green space, passive irrigation and stormwater harvesting.

Stop wasting our rates on this garbage! How about - plants some trees, stop subdividing houses and permitting apartments going up everywhere, and keeping the streets clean of rubbish?