CCAP Mid-Term Review

Engagement Summary Report

Contents

Executive Summary 2

Overview 2

Engagement Activities and Promotion 2

Community Consultation 5

Objectives of Stage 1 Community Consultation 5

Consultation Activities 7

Engagement Findings 10

Who we heard from 14

Conclusion 17

Next steps 17

Appendices 18

Appendix 1 18

Executive Summary

Overview

The Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is a ten-year plan that was developed in 2020. It provides a strategic approach to climate action for both Council and the community, outlining 45 Council actions and 29 community actions across households, businesses and agriculture.

This mid-term review is being undertaken to meet commitments outlined in the plan, check in on progress to date, understand community priorities, emerging opportunities and consider the advancements in science and technology, as well as policy changes.

Community groups and local organisations were central to developing Council's initial CCAP in 2020, and they remain critical as we move into the next phase.

As part of the mid-term review, community members were invited to hear about Council's progress to date in implementing the plan, and share their own progress on climate action, priorities and preferences on emerging opportunities. The aim is to understand what's working, what's not, and where Council can do better—especially when it comes to supporting community and business-led climate actions.

Engagement Activities and Promotion

Council used a variety of activities and channels for its engagement, including online and in-person.

- **73** responses to online survey
- **85** responses to youth survey
- **408** visitors to the Engage Bass Coast project site
- **10** social media posts with total reach of **17,943** and **42,434** views across all platforms
- **2** media releases resulting in **3** newspaper articles
- **6** 'pop up' drop-in sessions held across the shire, with average of **7** attendees per session
- **6** community presentations
- **3** Coastell Newsletters sent to 1,110, 1,159 and 1,147 email addresses
- **90** tickets sold to **Future Council Event**
- **11** attendees at a Deliberative Engagement Workshop at Berninneit
- **1** school incursion to Newhaven College – 14/11/25

Key Findings

- Consensus on the importance of addressing the cost-of-living crisis alongside the climate crisis and the need to engage those not yet aligned with these priorities.
- The importance of targeted assistance for vulnerable households so they are not left behind in the energy transition.
- Strong support from community for establishment of a Community Reference Group.
- Support for work Council is doing to electrify, improve energy efficiency, and power Council operations with renewable energy.
- General agreement that Council resources would be better directed toward supporting adaptation and resilience over investing heavily in carbon neutrality (in the form of consultants, Climate Active certification and carbon offsets).
- Emphasised importance of having a clear narrative about community Net Zero targets - recognising that while the community wants to keep aiming for zero emissions by 2030, Council's role is to support the ambition, not to take responsibility for targets beyond its direct areas of control and influence.
- Acknowledgment of the limits of Council's influence while maintaining ambition and transparency.
- Participants supported the idea of continuing to invest in, and grow investment in, Biolinks and other nature-based solutions that deliver multiple benefits for climate, biodiversity, and community wellbeing.
- Suggestions to explore more opportunities to contract services (like energy auditing) and renewable energy generation locally to keep skills and money in the local community.
- Continuing need to increase the rates of solar on all municipal buildings (including solar car parks if/where viable).
- Mixed feelings around Council's role in supporting public EV charging infrastructure with some people being highly supportive and others feeling this should fall to the private sector.
- The need to advocate for increased funding from state government for town buses (smaller, electric buses with more flexibility)
- A desire for Council to plan for full electrification of Council's fleet including graders and garbage trucks.
- Grantville Landfill is the largest source of Council's emissions. While public waste generation is outside Council's direct control, it was recommended Council focus on opportunities to expand material recovery, raise public awareness, and explore additional waste streams for local processing.
- Council should consider the use of fines or other measures (incentives or disincentives within Council's remit) to reduce contamination in household waste streams.
- Council should build stronger relationships with local farmers to support regenerative farming/agriculture
- Increase awareness and accessibility of the Community Action Portal (The CAP), for example it should be easy to find from Council's main website.
- Increase focus on resilience and adaptation, not just mitigation.

- Strengthening the partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and increasing the opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be involved.
- Stronger support for hearing from young voices and youth-led climate initiatives.



Community Consultation

From September to November 2025, Council engaged community members to have input and share their ideas about climate action. The aim was to understand actions undertaken in the community and re-test community priorities to help shape the second half of the Climate Change Action Plan.

The engagement process was comprehensive, including a mix of online and in-person activities across different areas of the shire. From sessions directly with community groups, online surveys, drop-in sessions and a deliberative workshop, to a school incursion and panel discussions. This multi-channel approach ensured diverse voices were heard and contributed to the consultation process. Outreach was also supported through a dedicated webpage, social media posts and advertisements, media releases in local newspapers, and updates via newsletters such as Coastell.

A rich conversation was generated about the value and importance of young voices for climate and environment action through screening of Future Council, followed by panel Q&A – with young and older community leaders talking through how this applies to Bass Coast.

The community workshop was interactive and allowed participants to provide deeper reflections on individual actions and themes. It created a space for constructive dialogue, in-depth feedback, and collective problem-solving, allowing voices in our community to continue to shape the next phase of the Climate Change Action Plan. Full notes from the day can be found in Appendix 1 – Workshop Notes.

Objectives of Stage 1 Community Consultation

Table 1: objectives of the engagement and measures/actions for success

Objectives	Measures and actions for success
Comply with Local Gov Act 2020 requirements	Ensure all correct processes are followed, Engagement Plan and delivery is thorough and detailed, and engagement approach is inclusive and fair. IAP2 spectrum framework is applied. Approach aligns with Bass Coast Engagement Policy and principles.
Open and transparent community engagement.	Provide community with specific and clear information on what they can and can't influence. Publish a summary report of engagement findings after each stage, outlining what council heard from community and how the feedback was used in the final decision-making.
Ensure a diverse cohort of community members are notified of the consultation opportunity	Ensure stakeholder list is comprehensive and inclusive of all relevant clubs, groups and committees across Council and services. Dedicate time, resources and budget to have multiple forms of communications and engagement channels – online and in-person.

Ensure pop-up events are delivered in a safe, evenly distributed geographically and inclusive for all to participate	Ensure all OHS procedures are followed for all pop-up events. Ensure geographic locations of the pop-up events are evenly distributed across the wards. Ensure tools are in place to allow all members of the public to have meaningful contributions (i.e. conversation boards)
Community groups and organisations have ownership of community-led actions in the plan and are motivated to support its review and actions arising from the review.	High level of response from community groups to surveys and support to share and gather more responses from community during engagement activities. A formal structure (such as a community reference group) is tested and supported to advance community emissions reduction actions in the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan.
Gather the views and priorities of young people for climate action in Bass Coast	High response rate to youth targeted survey, high attendance at youth focused in-person event - at the panel Q&A following screening of Future Council film, rich conversation at the school incursion on climate action in Bass Coast The views and priorities from young people are captured in the mid-term review outputs and considered in targeted actions that emerge from the review.
High participation of local business in plan review	Response rate to progress on business survey
Good representation across all community members from engagement	Engagement data shows a good spread across the Bass Coast community; broad range of stakeholder groups are targeted with support from Council staff (see No. 4).



Consultation Activities

Table 2: details of the communications and engagement methods delivered during the engagement

Communication and Engagement Methods	Details
Engage Bass Coast online survey	Consultation open from September – November 2025 • 73 contributions to the survey and 85 contributions to the youth survey • 409 visitors to the project page • 1 email campaign generated to 1,155 recipients with a 8.23% click-through rate

Pop-up events	48 community members attended in total across the sessions.
	
	Westernport Ward:
	• Grantville – 18/9/25 – 10.30am – 1.30pm
	  ○ 6 attendees
	
	Bunurong Ward:
	• Inverloch – 23/9/25 – 10.30am – 1.30pm
	  ○ 10 attendees
	• Wonthaggi – 1/10/25 12 – 2pm
	  ○ 3 attendees
	• Inverloch – 7/10/25 – 10am – 12.30pm
	  ○ 9 attendees
	
	Island Ward:
	• Cowes – 25/9/25 – 10.30am – 1.30pm
	  ○ 12 attendees
	• Cowes – 9/10/25 – 10.30am – 1.30pm
	  ○ 8 attendees

Targeted communications	Ongoing consultation with Bass Coast Climate Action Network (BCCAN) and the Phillip Island Land Alliance prior to, during and following the review to test ideas, and support meaningful dialogue throughout the engagement progress with community groups invested in the plan. Totally Renewable Phillip Island and Bass Coast Adult Learning were provided with direct presentations and opportunity to share views and perspectives throughout the engagement period.

E-newsletters	Coastell • 25 September 2025 delivered to 1,110 email addresses • 31 October 2025 delivered to 1,159 email addresses • 28 November 2025 delivered to 1,147 email addresses

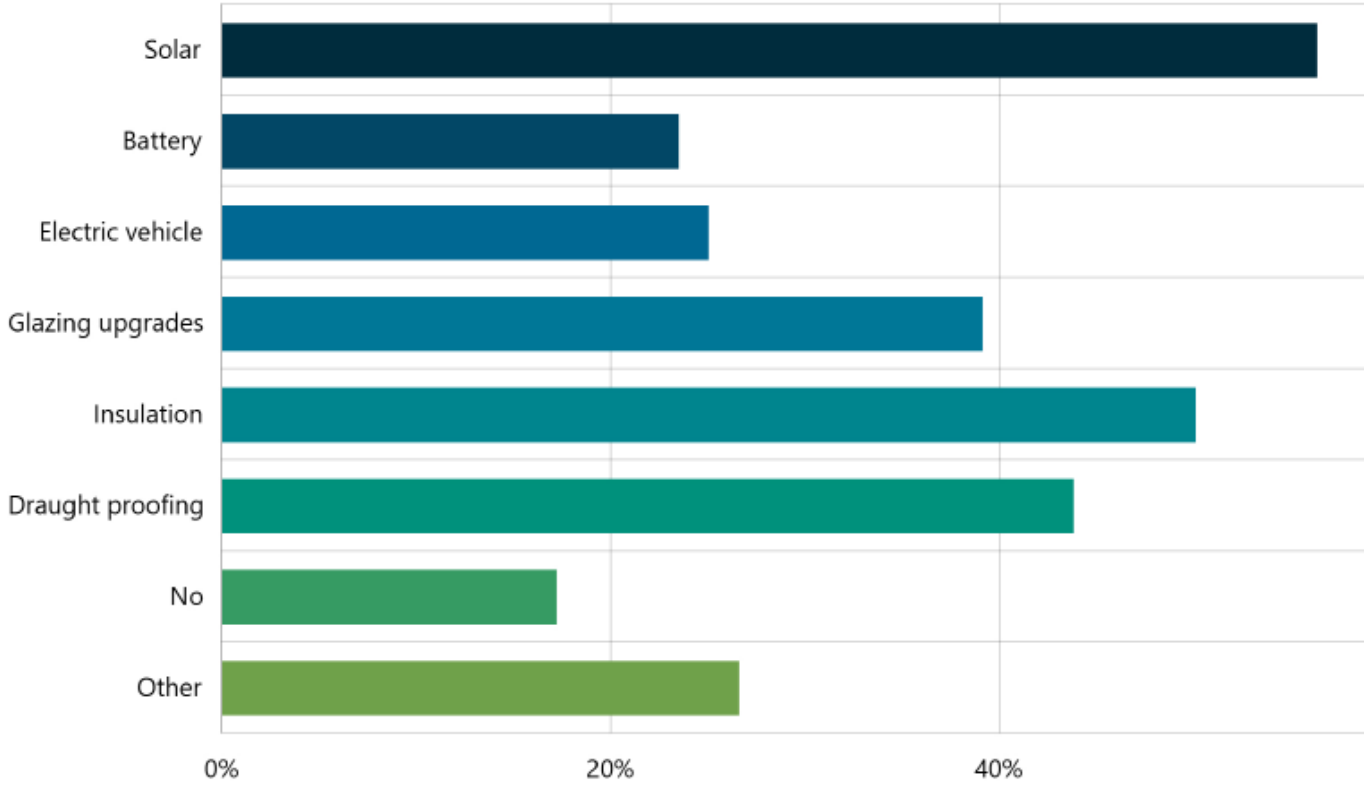
Social media	10 social media posts throughout the engagement period over Facebook and Instagram including ads
	Total reach across all platforms of 17,943 (includes overlap), with 42,434 collective views.
	Organic Posts:
	18 September 2025
	• Facebook
	  ○ Link: ☀ We're now at the halfway point of the... - Bass Coast Shire Council | Facebook
	  ○ Views: 2,377
	  ○ Reach: 1.5k
	• Instagram
	  ○ Link: Instagram
	  ○ Views: 1,199
	  ○ Reach: 543
	23 September 2025
	• Instagram (Stories)
	  ○ Reach: 163
	• Facebook (Stories)
	  ○ Reach: N/A (Estimated 600~)
	3 October 2025
	• Facebook
	  ○ 🌏 Earlier this week our community came... - Bass Coast Shire Council | Facebook
	  ○ Views: 9,534
	  ○ Reach: 5.4K
	• Instagram
	  ○ Link: Instagram
	  ○ Views: 753
	  ○ Reach 294
	Ads:
	CAP Review Workshop
	• 4786 Reach, 13711 Views, 396 link clicks
	Future Council

	• 4657 Reach, 14860 Views, 312 link clicks
Media release	2 media releases with 54 total views on Council website: Building on Climate Action: Bass Coast at the Halfway Mark | Bass Coast Shire media release on 12/09/2025 • 24 views on Council website • Article in the SGST 16 09 2025 Help Shape the Future of Climate Action in Bass Coast | Bass Coast Shire media release on 10/10/2025 • 30 views on Council website • Advertisement in SGST 14 10 2025 • Article in SGST 14 10 2025 • Advertisement in The Phillip Island San Remo Advertiser 15 10 2025 • Article in The Phillip Island San Remo Advertiser 15 10 2025

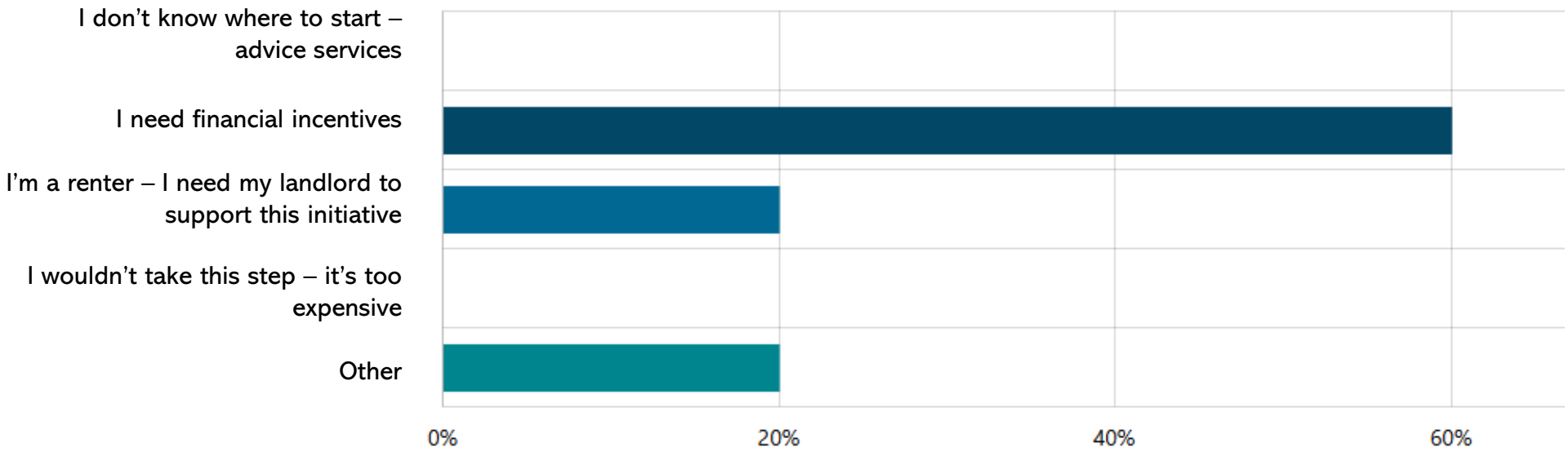


Engagement Findings

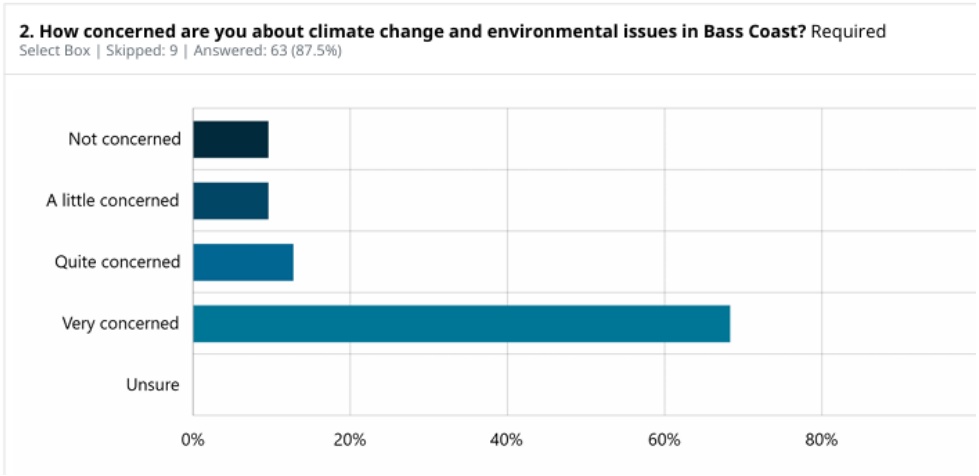
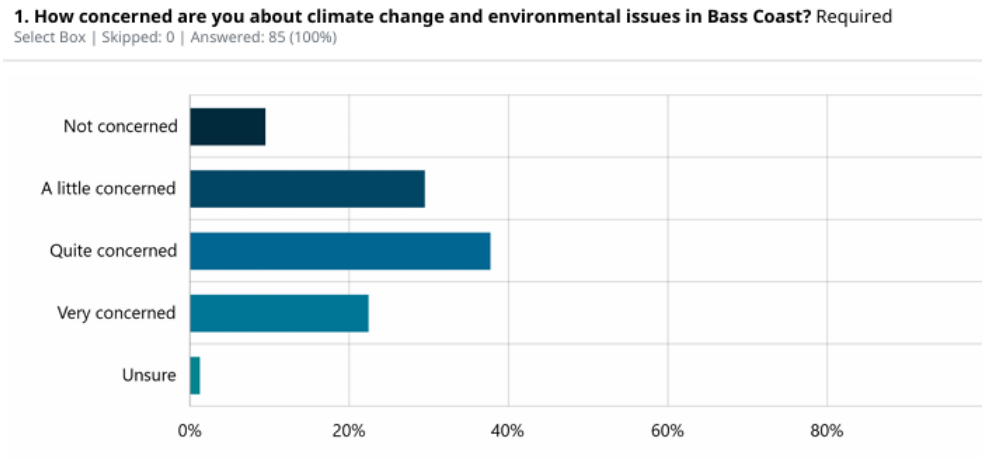
We heard what actions households are undertaking in their homes, what support would assist households to undertake these actions.

Community Action
Have you invested in efficiency measures in your home? 

What measures would support your household to take this step?



We heard the community's concerns and priorities around climate action, and actions they would like Council to undertake.

Main Survey	Youth Survey
	
What environmental or climate issues matter most to you now?	What environmental or climate issues matter most to you now?
	

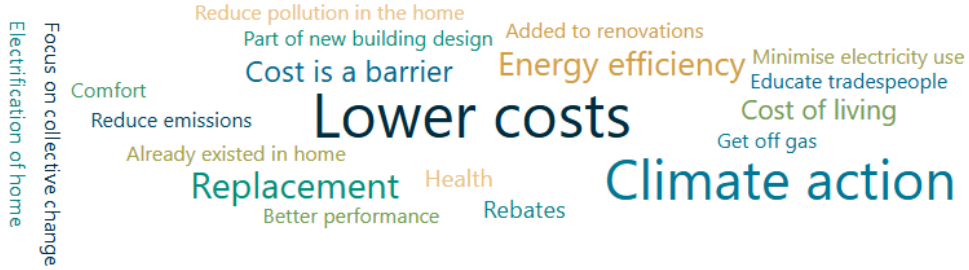
What do you think Bass Coast could do better to protect the environment and respond to climate change?



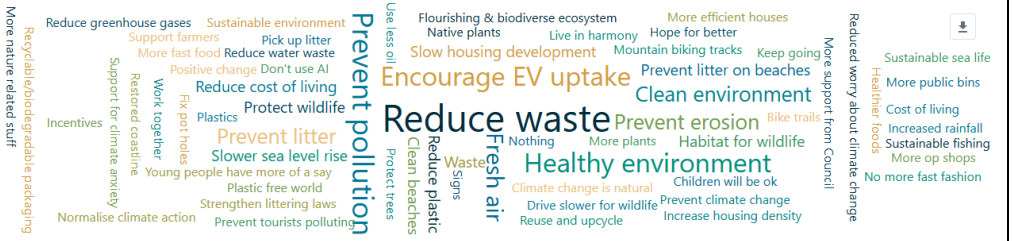
What do you think Bass Coast could do better to protect the environment and respond to climate change?



What motivated you to make certain changes around your home? How could you have been better supported?

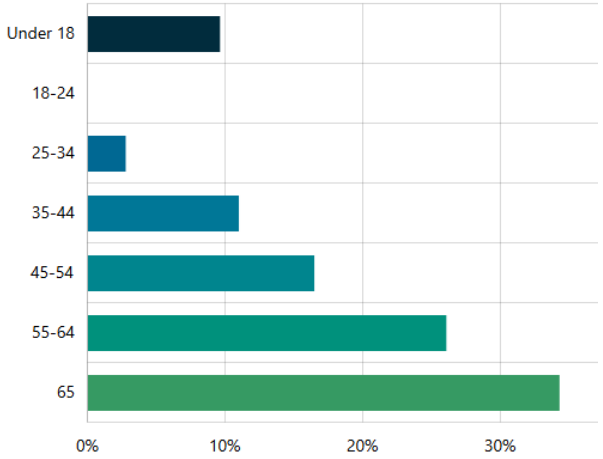
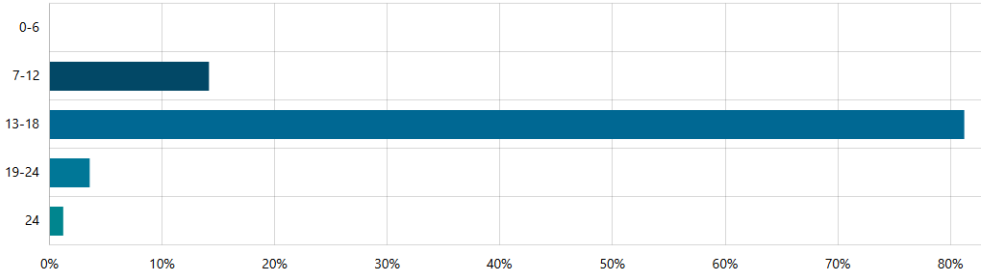


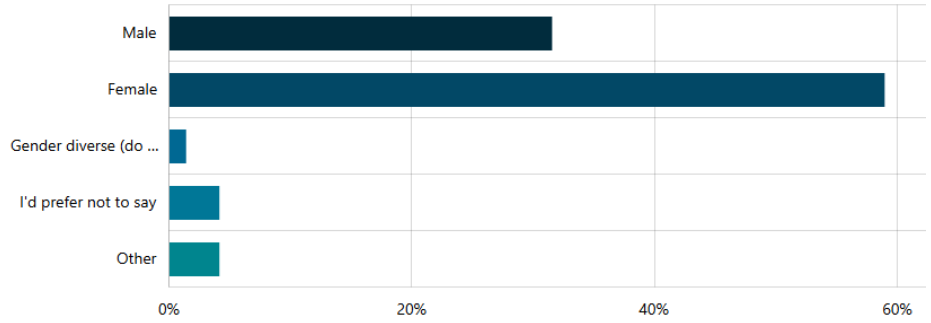
If you could tell Council one thing about your hopes for the future of Bass Coast's environment, what would it be?

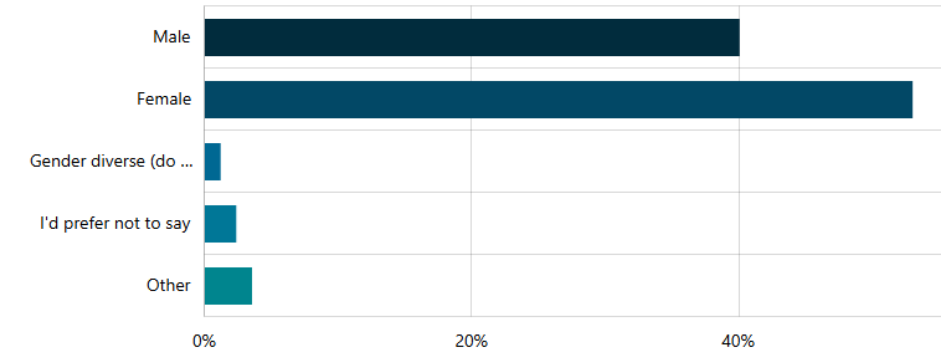


Who we heard from

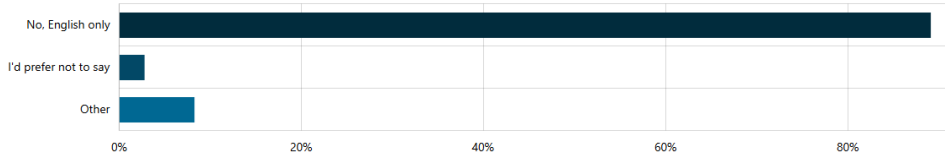
Demographics for online participants of Engage Bass Coast surveys

General Survey	Youth Survey
Age  	Age 
Gender	Gender

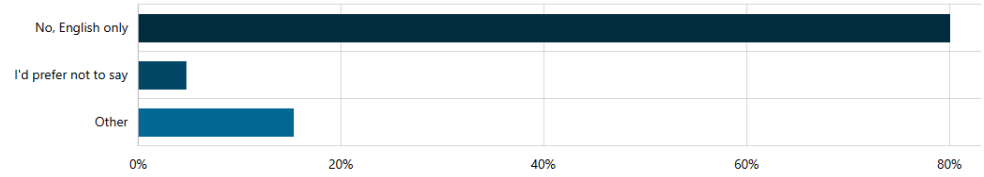




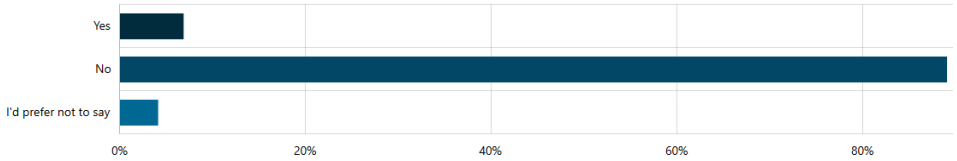
Do you speak a language other than English at home?



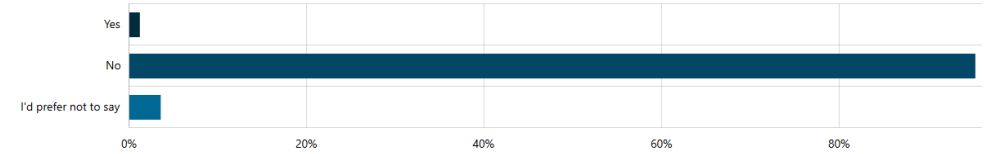
Do you speak a language other than English at home?



Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

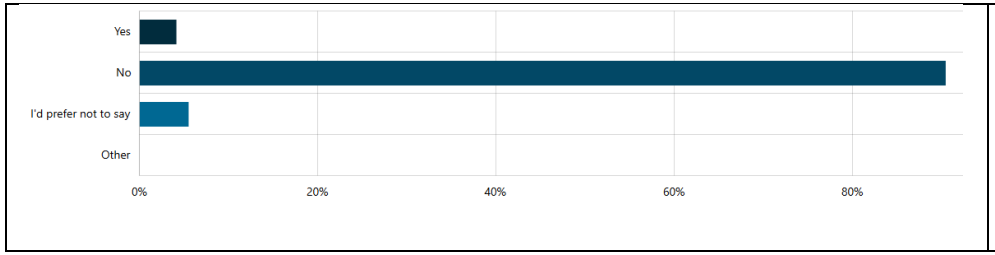


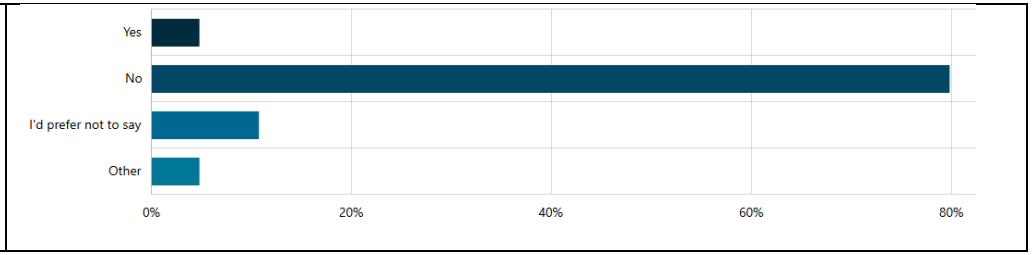
Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?



Do you have a disability and/or do you require support with self-care, mobility, or communication?

Do you have a disability and/or do you require support with self-care, mobility, or communication?


Yes
No
I'd prefer not to say
Other
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%


Yes
No
I'd prefer not to say
Other
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%

Conclusion

Summary

A thorough engagement campaign has been undertaken, regular informal meetings and updates shared with community groups, with in-person pop-up sessions across three wards, surveys on Engage Bass Coast, considered youth engagement, and a workshop allowing community members to provide in-depth feedback.

Thanks all who contributed and participated in the community engagement activities during this consultation period for the Climate Change Action Plan Mid-Term Review. All feedback has been considered, and it will ultimately help shape the outcome of the review and delivery of the second half of the plan.

Next steps

Take report on the review, engagement and draft updated plan to Council briefing in the first half of 2026.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Workshop Notes



Workshop Notes - Community Deep Di