

Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan Engagement Summary



Government of
South Australia



1. Engagement to inform the development of the ReCAP

The Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP) will be a plan for the councils to implement, but progressing regional outcomes will be enhanced and accelerated through partnerships between the councils, their communities, state government agencies and other regional climate partnerships. To explore opportunities to work together and the benefits that this can bring, the following engagement activities were undertaken:

- **Regional staff forum** - to identify how council staff currently contribute to climate action, what more they could do and how they can be supported to deliver these actions. Attended by 65 staff from all four Resilient South councils across all council functional areas.
- **Online survey of businesses** - to raise awareness of climate change in the business sector and understand how businesses could be better supported to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. The survey was followed by interviews with selected survey respondents to further investigate the support businesses need to respond effectively to climate change. 23 businesses participated in the survey and 8 businesses were interviewed.
- **External government agency and partner forum** – to identify opportunities for partnership or support between Resilient South and other groups and agencies and explore what mechanisms are needed to support these opportunities. 14 stakeholders represented 9 partner or agency groups at the forum.
- **Regional youth climate forum** – to identify young people’s priorities for regional climate action and understand how Resilient South can engage with and support young people on climate change. 15 young people attended the forum.
- **Community survey** – to understand how the community would like Resilient South to help them reduce emissions, prepare for or respond to climate change. 615 community members contributed to the community engagement.
- **Regional staff workshops** - to use staff knowledge and expertise to further explore and identify opportunities for regional climate action. Attended by 69 staff from all four Resilient South councils across four themed workshops.
- **Council Member forum** – to present the achievements and plans of the Resilient South partnership to Council Members, share the findings of stakeholder engagement to date, and understand Council Members’ passions and priorities for regional climate action. 17 Council Members from all four councils attended the forum.
- **Blackwood Uniting Church Climate Change Expo** – engagement undertaken with the community at the Blackwood Uniting Church Climate Change Expo to identify community priorities for regional climate action.

Engagement with Kaurna representatives has been postponed while administrative arrangements are finalised. Outcomes of this engagement will be incorporated in the draft ReCAP.



What we heard

Through the range of engagement activities, a number of key themes and opportunities for action were consistently identified in high numbers, and described in the table below.

Although a small number of community members identified coastal adaptation actions through the engagement activities, it was not raised to same extent as the other themes described below. This does not mean it will be excluded from the ReCAP, however suggests that it is not currently top of mind when the community thinks about climate change adaptation and emissions reduction.

Theme and opportunities for action	Council staff	Community	Businesses	Young people	Council Members
Greening including planting more trees and plants on public and private land; protecting existing trees; valuing natural assets; protecting and enhancing our natural places and their biodiversity					
Engaging, educating, connecting and building the capacity of staff, the community and businesses					
Green transport including supporting walkable and rideable suburbs, electric vehicles and charging stations; advocacy for improved public transport					
Waste management including greater support for recycling and green waste; reduction in use of single use products; promoting a circular economy					
Energy generation, storage and use including supporting renewable energy production and storage; electrification; improved energy efficiency					
Land use planning including managing urban infill; building and retrofitting low emission and resilient buildings; addressing climate risks to assets					
Integrated water management to improve water quality, water security and mitigate flood risks					
Sustainable food systems including reducing food waste; growing food locally; supporting edible community gardens; addressing food security					
Hazard management including mapping hazard prone areas; helping communities prepare for sea level rise, storms, drought, bushfire and extreme heat; understanding and mitigating hazard risks					
Engaging with the Kurna community and integrating their knowledge into our climate response					
Demonstrating leadership and best practise and advocating for change at a state and federal level					
Working together to achieve more, including sharing resources, knowledge and projects between councils, their partners and the community; embedding climate action across all council functions; seeking shared funding					



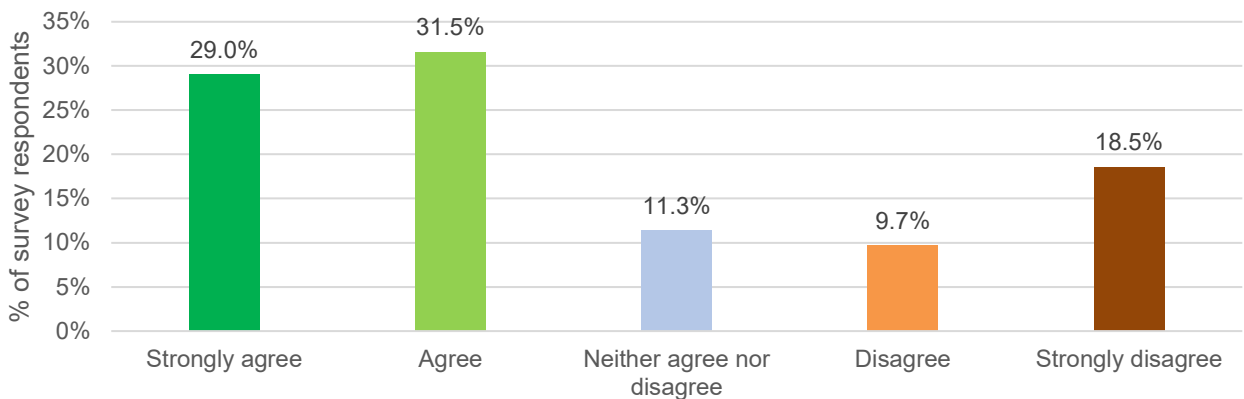
2. Engagement on the draft ReCAP

The draft Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP) was released for public consultation from Friday November 3 to Friday 1 December. Through their relevant engagement platforms, each of the four Resilient South councils invited interested members of the community to participate in a survey seeking their feedback on the draft plan. 240 people responded to the survey that was hosted on Survey Monkey.

34% of survey respondents were from the City of Mitcham, 33% were from the City of Onkaparinga, 22% were from the City of Marion and 11% were from the City of Holdfast Bay. One person was from a different council.

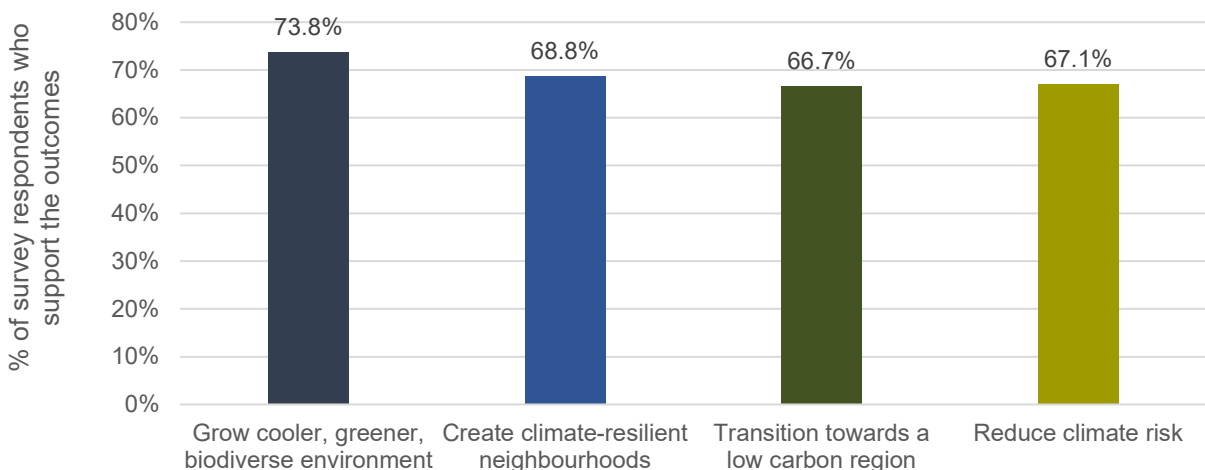
Overall, 61% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the priorities in the draft ReCAP will make a difference to reduce emissions and prepare for climate change in our region. 11% neither agreed or disagreed, and 28% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the draft plan will make a difference.

To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statement: Overall, the priorities listed in the draft plan will make a difference to reduce emissions and prepare for climate change in our region



The majority of survey respondents were supportive or strongly supportive of the draft outcomes under each of the four themes of action for the ReCAP.

% of survey respondents who support the outcomes under each theme



Survey respondents were invited to comment on their level of support or otherwise for the outcomes and the actions in the draft ReCAP.

Several key themes of feedback emerged through the analysis.

Key themes of **supportive** feedback included the following:

- Significant support for climate actions including:
 - Protecting and enhancing green space, native vegetation and biodiversity
 - Promoting climate resilient and low emission development
 - Reducing council and community emissions
 - Educating, engaging and supporting the community
 - Responding to climate risk to protect the community and save on long-term costs
 - Improving sustainability of transport systems.
- Concern that actions are not specific, measurable or time bound.
- Support for strong and timely climate action.
- Acknowledgement of the strong link between acting on climate change and supporting community wellbeing and liveability

Key themes of **unsupportive** feedback included the following:

- Climate denialism.
- Lack of understanding about why councils are acting on climate change.
- Concerns that development is contributing to climate change and a lack of resilience, and that Councils are not doing enough to change this.
- Concern about the impact of the plan on rates or cost of living.