

# TRACKING PROGRESS:

2022 Snapshot of Council Action on Climate Change



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## Acknowledgment of Country

As a program and network of communities, Cities Power Partnership acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, meet and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise the continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to land, water and Country.

We respect the deep knowledge of Country of First Nations Peoples, which is often highly context specific and provides important biological and ecosystem knowledge. We advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in mitigating and adapting to climate change and we also recognise that the mode of governance we now operate and participate in represents a shift away from indigenous systems.

It is important that our network uses its collective voice to call for more support, capacity building and inclusion of First Nations people.



**This report was produced on the lands of the Wurundjeri people.**

We encourage any feedback regarding how the CPP can Acknowledge Country and elevate the voice of first nations people. Please don't hesitate to get in [contact](#).

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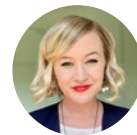
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## Cities Power Partnership

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## Traditional Owners of CPP member council lands

Aboriginal people of the Tweed Bundjalung Nation

Birriah Country

Gia Country

Jangga Country

Juru Country

Ngaro Country

People of the Darug Nation

People of the Kurna Nation

The Arakwal people

The Arrernte people

The Awabakal people

The Badjabarra Yidi people

The Bailai people

The Ballardong Noongar Aboriginal people

The Beeliar Nyungar people

The Bibbulmun people

The Bidawel people

The Bidjigal people

The Bindjareb people

The Birpai people

The Birrabirragal people

The Boon Wurrung/Bunurong people

The Borogegal people

The Bundabarra Yidi people

The Bundjalung people

The Bunurong people

The Burra Burra people

The Butchella people

The Cammeraygal people

The communities of the Yuin-Monaro Nations

The Cookmal people

The Darkinjung people

The Darramuragal people

The Darug people

The Darumbal people

The Dharawal people

The Dharrook people

The Dharug people

The Dhudhuroa people

The Dja Dja Wurrung people

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji people

The Eora people

The Gadigal people

The Garigal people

The Gathang-speaking people from Biripi & Worimi Country

The Gayamaygal people

The Gimuy-walubarra Yidi people

The Gnunawal people

The Gooreng Gooreng people

The Gringai people

The Gulgibarra Yidi people

The Gumbangirr people

The Gumbaynggirr people

The Gunaikurnai people

The Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar

The Gundungurra people

The Gurang people

The Guringai people

The Gweagal Clan

The Indjilandji people

The Jagera people

The Jaithmathang people

The Jerrinja people

The Jinibara people

The Kabi Kabi people

The Kalkadoon people

The Kurna people

The Kupa Kurl Wudjari people

The Koongurrुकun people

The Kulin and Kurnai people

The Lachlan people

The Larrakia people

The Leterrermairrener Clan

The Lyluequonny people

The Mallanbarra Yidi people

The Mandigalpi Yidi people

The Marranunggu people

The Marthudunera people

The Melukerdee people

The Menang Noongar people

The Minjungbal people

The Monero people

The Mulwaree people

The Mumirimina people

The Ngadju people

The Ngadjuri people

The Ngambri people

The Ngarigu people

The Ngarluma people

The Ngarrindjeri people

The Ngunnawal people

The Nyoongar people

The Nyungar people

The Pajong people

The Palawa people

The Palawa-Pakana people

The Pangerang people

The Pannier Clan

The Parramarragoo people

The Peramangk people

The Pibulmen people

The Ramindjeri people

The Taribelang Bunda people

The Tarlo people

The Tasmanian Aboriginal people

The Taungurong people

The Tharawal people

The Therrernotepanner people

The Tubbagah people

The Turrbal people

The Ugarapul people

The Wadandi people

The Wadawurrung people

The Wadjak people

The Wadjanbarra Yidi people

The Wakka Wakka people

The Walbunja people

The Wallumedegal people

The Wanaruah people

The Wandi Wandian people

The Wangal people

The Wardandi Noongar people

The Warray people

The Waywurru people

The Werat people

The Whadjuk Noongar people

The Widjabul/Wiabul people

The Wilyakali people

The Wiradjuri people

The Wodi Wodi people

The Wollondilly people

The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people

The Wonnarua/Wanaruah people

The Woppaburra people

The Worimi people

The Wujnur/Bindabarra Yidi people

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people

The Ya-itma-thang people

The Yaburara people

The Yaegl people

The Yidinji people

The Yindjibarndi people

The Yirrganydji people

The Yorta Yorta people

The Yugambeh people

The Yuggera people

The Yuibera people

The Yuwibara people

# Foreword

In five years, the Cities Power Partnership has become Australia's largest network of local councils leading the way to a thriving, zero emissions future. With over 175 councils on board, we have seen tangible action and huge emissions reductions taking place all across the country.

Every year, we roll out a Reporting and Feedback Survey to our members to gain insights and help inform the future of the program, as well as receive an update on their Cities Power Partnership pledges. This report summarises the results from the 158 councils who completed 2022's survey. It also shows how CPP is supporting councils to take effective climate action, and identifies opportunities to enhance that support.



**Dr Portia Odell**  
Director, Cities Power Partnership

**158**  
councils

## Survey Respondents

**158 councils submitted a response; including councils from every state and territory. Since the analysis was completed, CPP's network has grown to include over 175 councils from all around the country.**



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# Key Findings

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1.

**Local Government continues to raise the bar on ambitious climate action and emission reduction initiatives.** CPP's network has committed to over 755 pledges, an increase on the 711 pledges reported in our previous Tracking Progress Report. In 2022, 92 pledge commitments were reported as either completed or evaluated.



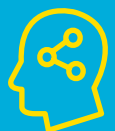
2.

**Councils need more support to implement their climate initiatives.** The most common barriers councils face when implementing emission reduction initiatives is not having enough access to staff resources (83%) and a lack of funds for initiatives (64%). Almost one third of member councils reported to have less than two employees working on sustainability.



3.

**Collaboration and knowledge sharing between councils remains a top priority.** For the third year in a row, the ability for member councils to share learnings and insights has remained the most valuable aspect of CPP membership to council officers.



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**4.**

**Local government has a comprehensive understanding of its community needs when adapting to climate change.** Member councils, on average, said that they strongly agreed that they understand which members in their community are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which actions can be implemented and what their community values most. This local knowledge is a valuable resource that can be leveraged to help design and implement national adaptation policy.



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**5.**

**Communities want their councils to continue to take strong climate action.** 9 in 10 councils said they thought their community was either supportive or strongly supportive of council taking climate action. This highlights the importance of councils being assisted to engage with their communities.



# Overview of Cities Power Partnership

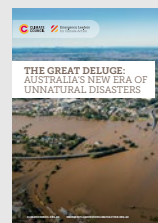
## Introduction

**Towns, cities and shires are at the forefront of climate change impacts and action.** With extreme weather records broken on every continent in the last 12 months ([Climate Council, 2022a](#)), the urgency with which we need to transition to net zero emissions has never been greater. The stakes of this transition continue to be demonstrated in Australia with record-breaking rainfall, floods and bushfires during the last year. The Insurance Council of Australia estimates that the storms and floods that affected Southeast Queensland and coastal New South Wales in February and March 2022 were Australia's costliest floods ever ([ICA, 2022](#)) and now share the title of the costliest extreme weather event in Australia's history with the 1999 Sydney hailstorm.

Local governments play an essential role in protecting their communities from the impacts of climate change, but they must also work hard and fast to reduce the emissions that cause it. With more than 78% of the world's energy and 70% of greenhouse gas emissions owing to cities and towns, they are critical to achieving both national and global climate ambitions ([UN Habitat, 2022](#)). Every fraction of a degree of warming matters, and will be measured in lives, species and ecosystems saved. COP27 highlighted the importance of swifter, stronger action to mitigate emissions. An initiative launched at COP27 called Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) identified the critical role cities and towns play in achieving emissions reduction this decade.

Local governments will be an essential partner in achieving the Australian Federal Government's strengthened emissions reduction target of 43% by 2030. The Climate Change Authority has advised the government to embark on a "new era of Commonwealth, state and territory and local government cooperation [to] support more effective, integrated policy responses" ([CCA, 2022, p4](#)).

This report provides a snapshot of climate action in Australia at the Local Government level. It shines a light on the councils leading the way and identifies key barriers limiting councils from taking further action. The survey results of 158 councils across Australia, detailed in this report highlight that Local Government is well positioned to rapidly increase the pace of change and scale climate action in Australia.



### The Great Deluge: Australia's New Era of Unnatural Disasters

[Read the report](#)



### Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe)

[Read the report](#)



## Member Councils

### Population

As of December 2022, the CPP comprises 178 Local Governments, representing 33% of councils in Australia. Since our last Snapshot Report was released in October 2021, The CPP network has grown to represent 1,277,627 more Australians, equating to 17,746,408 people, or 69% of the nation's population.

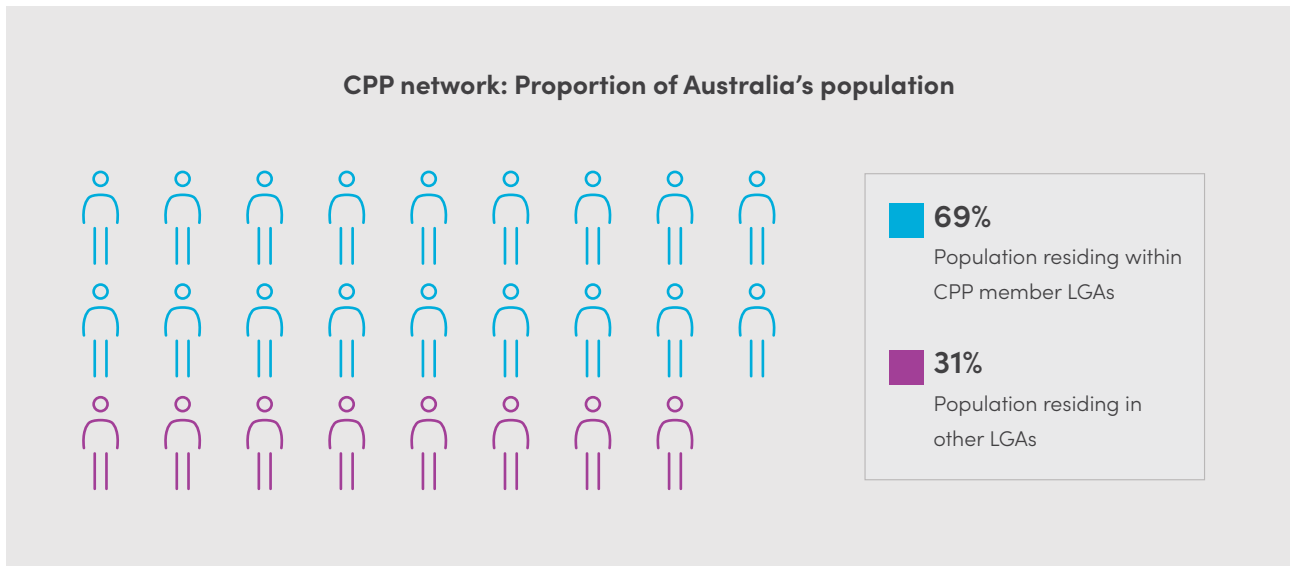


Figure 1

### Recently Joined Councils

As the network expands, so too do the opportunities for collaboration. Over the last 12 months (and as of December 2022), 16 new member councils have joined the network and committed to taking action on climate change, including:

Wagait Shire Council (NT)  
 Goulburn Mulwaree Council (NSW)  
 City of Wanneroo (WA)  
 City of Joondalup (WA)  
 Ballina Shire Council (NSW)  
 City of Greater Bendigo (VIC)  
 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (NSW)  
 Brimbank City Council (VIC)

Burwood Council (NSW)  
 Mount Isa City Council (QLD)  
 Indigo Shire Council (VIC)  
 West Coast Council (TAS)  
 Murrindindi Shire Council (VIC)  
 Alpine Shire Council (VIC)  
 Wollondilly Shire Council (NSW)  
 Sorell Council (TAS)

## Geographic context

Our membership includes local governments from Australia's six states and two territories. New South Wales has the highest proportion of member councils, accounting for 36% (n=64) of the network. Over the last two years the largest growth in membership has

come from Victoria (n=17). The largest opportunity for growth (in terms of population) is in Tasmania and South Australia.

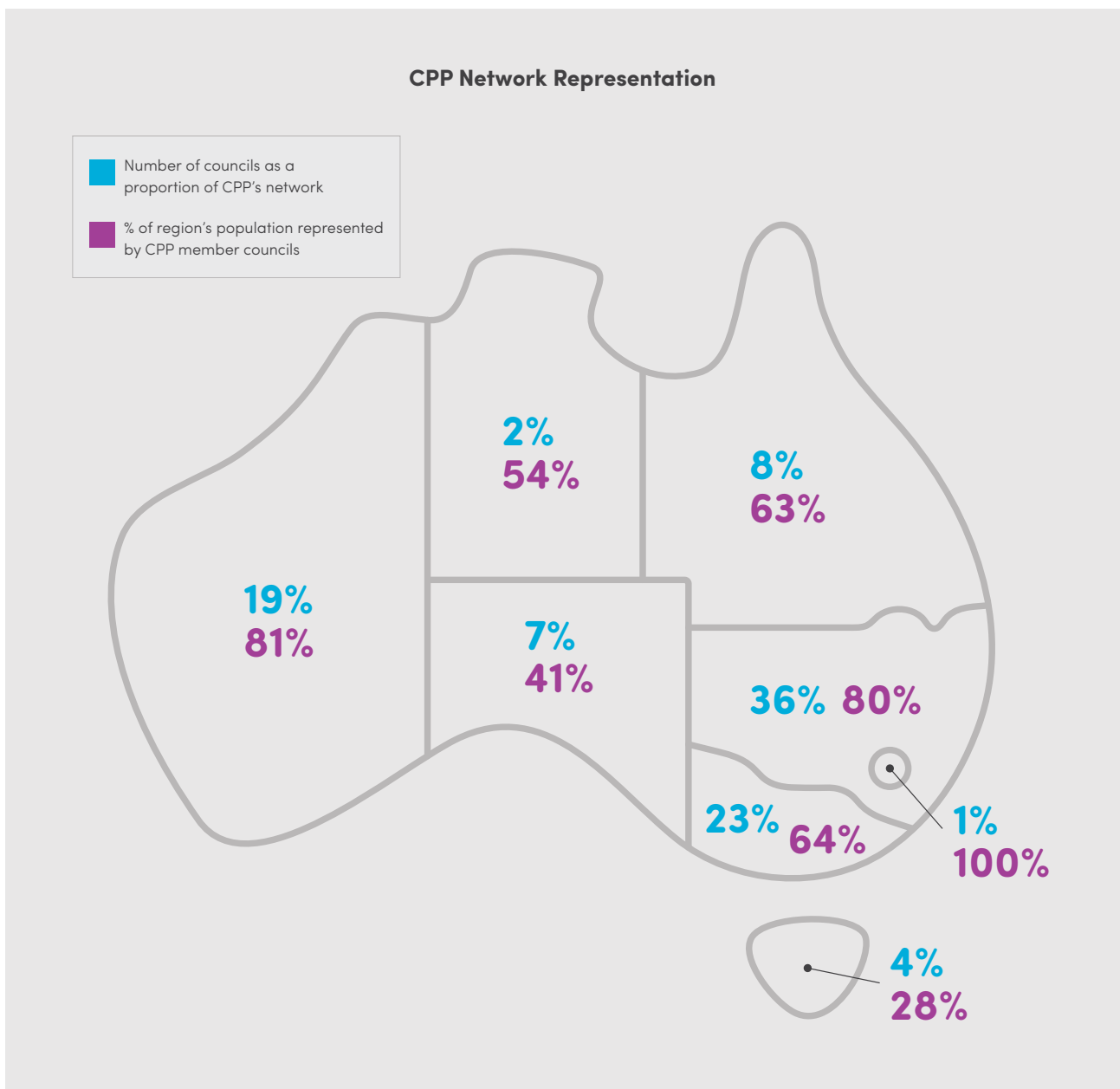


Figure 2

## Classification of Local Governments

The CPP enables councils from every part of Australia to connect, share knowledge and scale-up their climate ambitions. Our membership has remained diverse alongside its growth over the past 12 months, with regional cities and towns representing the greatest share of our member councils and population.

Metropolitan and highly urbanised areas are big contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Where there's people - and in particular, where there's a lot of them - there's more consumption of resources (e.g, energy) and more activities! This is especially true in Australia's Towns and Cities which cover large areas; influencing our behaviour and carbon footprints (e.g, higher rates of car dependency).

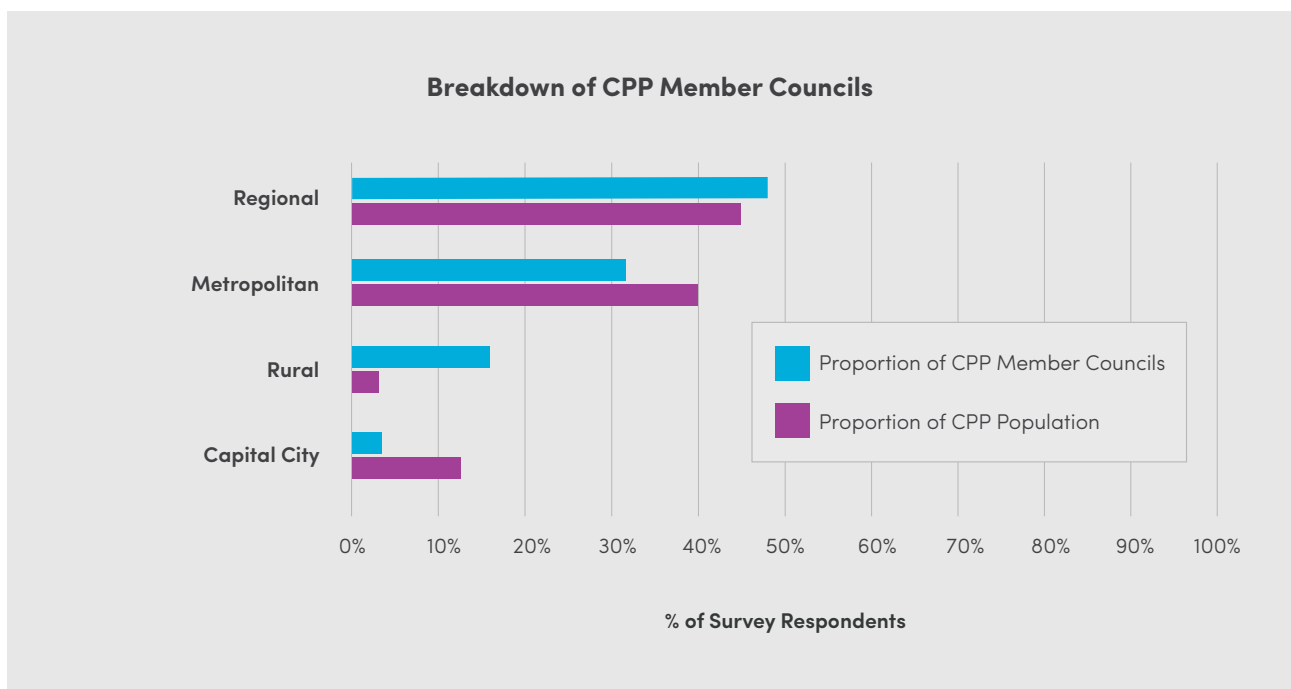
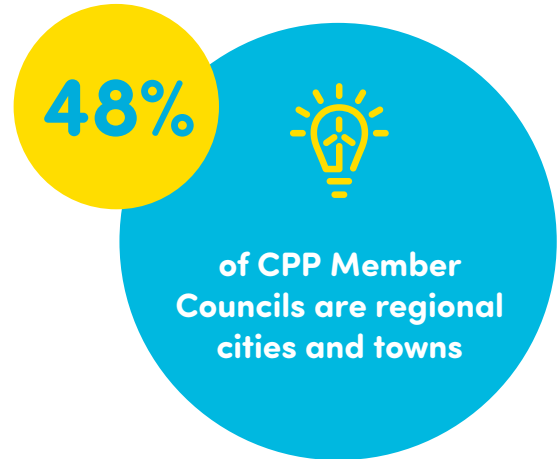


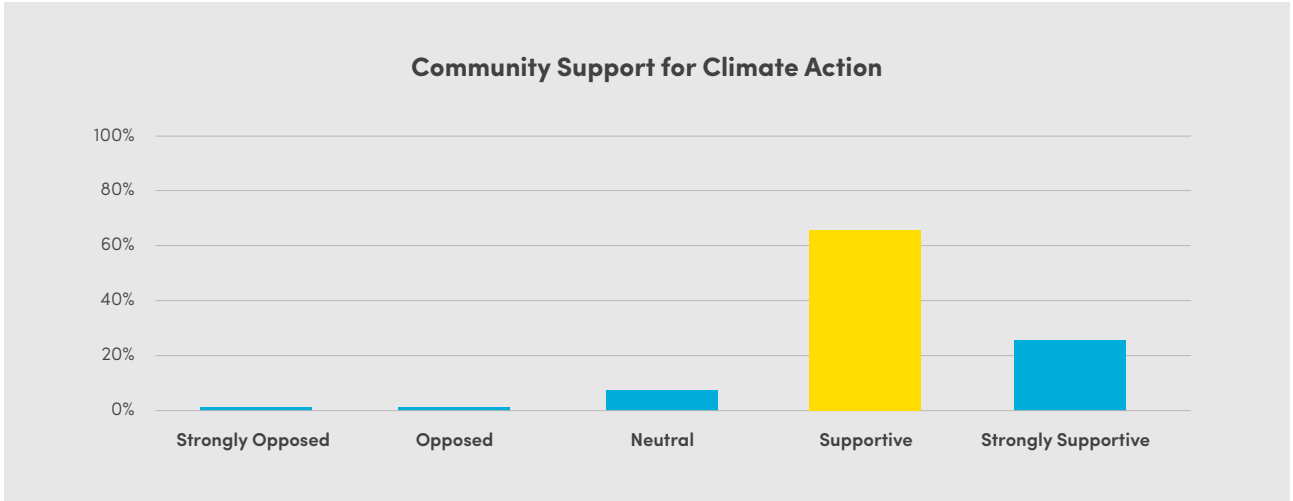
Figure 3: Breakdown of CPP Member Councils.

## Community Support for Climate Action

**The majority of CPP's member councils have community support on climate action.** 90% of survey respondents said they thought their community was either supportive or strongly supportive of council taking climate action. In contrast, only two percent of respondents believed their community was strongly opposed or opposed to taking action on climate change.

**Figure 4:** Attendees listening to a presentation at CPP's Roundtable event at the Town of Victoria Park in 2022 (WA).





**Figure 5:** Councils were asked to rank (from strongly opposed to strongly supportive) how supportive their community is of Council taking action on climate change.

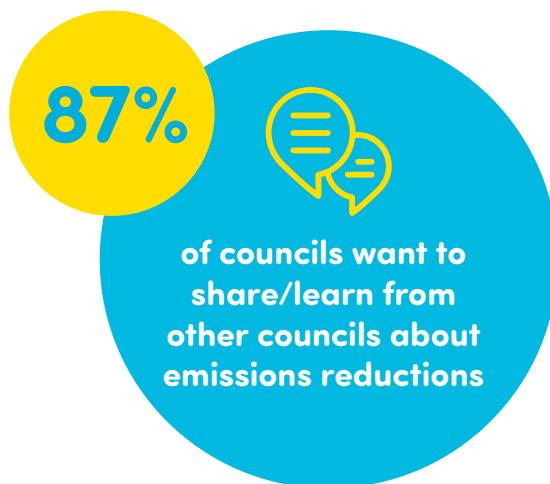
**Figure 6:** City of Yarra community battery launch.



## Member Councils' Priorities

**'Sharing and learning from other councils on emissions reduction successes and challenges' has remained the most important aspect of membership for CPP member councils since 2019.** 'Access to experts on climate change and/or renewable energy' has grown from 69% in 2019 to 77% (n=121) in 2022. In contrast, 'profile our success to local media and community' has reduced from 55% in 2019 to 34% (n=53) in 2022. Exploring joint project opportunities with other CPP member councils has consistently been selected by just over half of each year's respondents across the last three 'Tracking Progress' reports. These findings highlight a strong need to facilitate collaboration between councils and enhance knowledge sharing capabilities. As is shown in Table 3 (page 21), many sustainability officers work in very small sustainability teams at council and in some cases they are the only sustainability officer at council. This emphasises the importance of facilitating collaboration between officers at separate councils.

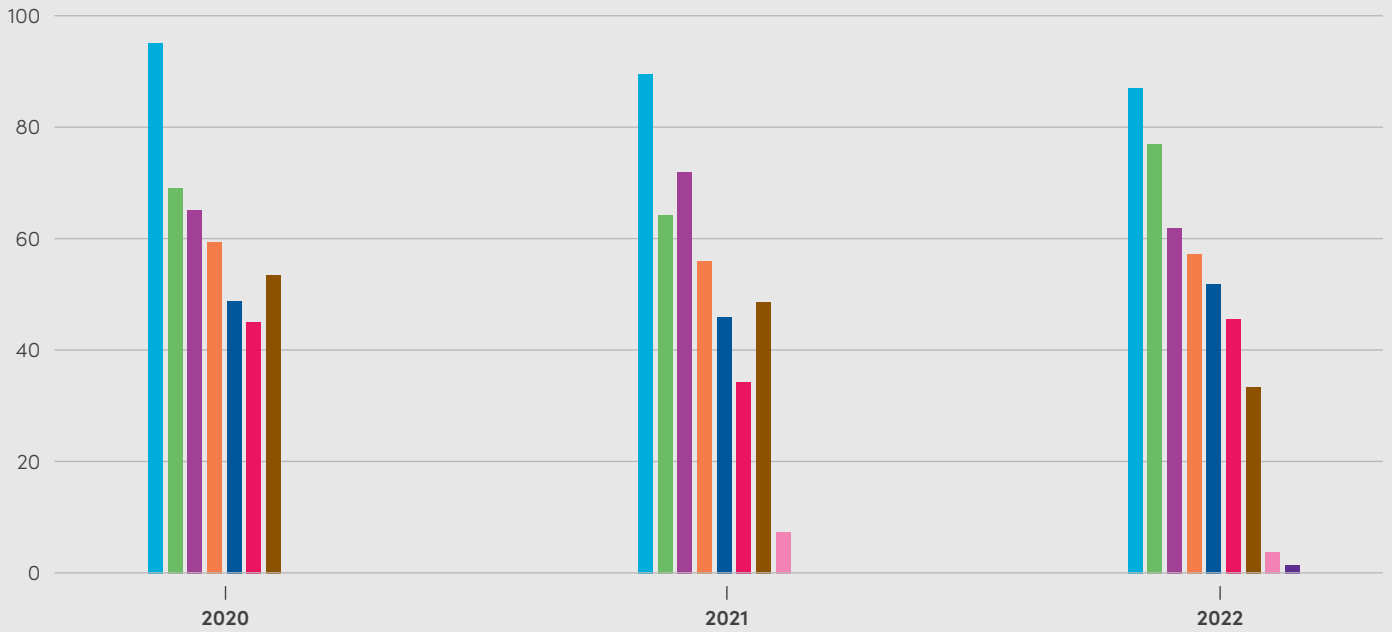
Sharing and learning from other councils' remains the most important benefit of CPP membership for all classifications of local government but rural. Rural councils continue to benefit the most from access to experts on climate change and renewable energy.



**“Local government has an important role to play in acting on climate change and we are proud to have joined the Cities Power Partnership to work alongside councils across Australia in creating a zero emissions future.”**

- Mayor Kenrick Winchester, Queanbeyan–Palerang Regional Council (NSW).

**As a member of the Cities Power Partnership Program, what is most important for your council to get out of its membership?**



- Share/learn from other councils on emissions reduction successes and challenges
- Access experts on climate change and/or renewable energy
- To do more carbon emissions reduction initiatives
- Explore joint project opportunities with other Cities Power Partnership members
- Access the Cities Power Partnership Knowledge Hub for the Resource Library
- See how we compare with other councils
- Profile our success to local media and community
- Other (please specify)
- None of the above

**Figure 7:** Membership priorities as identified by survey respondents across three years of reporting.

## Role of the Cities Power Partnership in Driving Climate Action

In 2021, 83% (n=131) of councils reported at least one benefit of participating in the CPP and the most common benefit reported was increased opportunities to collaborate with other councils on climate and energy initiatives. Building on this, in 2022 we asked councils whether they would recommend this program to another council and 83% (n=131) of respondents said they were likely to.

### Collaboration

CPP provides our member councils with multiple opportunities to connect, collaborate and share knowledge.

- > Similarly to last year, **the most common way councils collaborated was by attending an event and networking with other councils (53%, n =83).**
- > 18% (n=16) of councils said that in the last 12 months they have started a project with another CPP member.

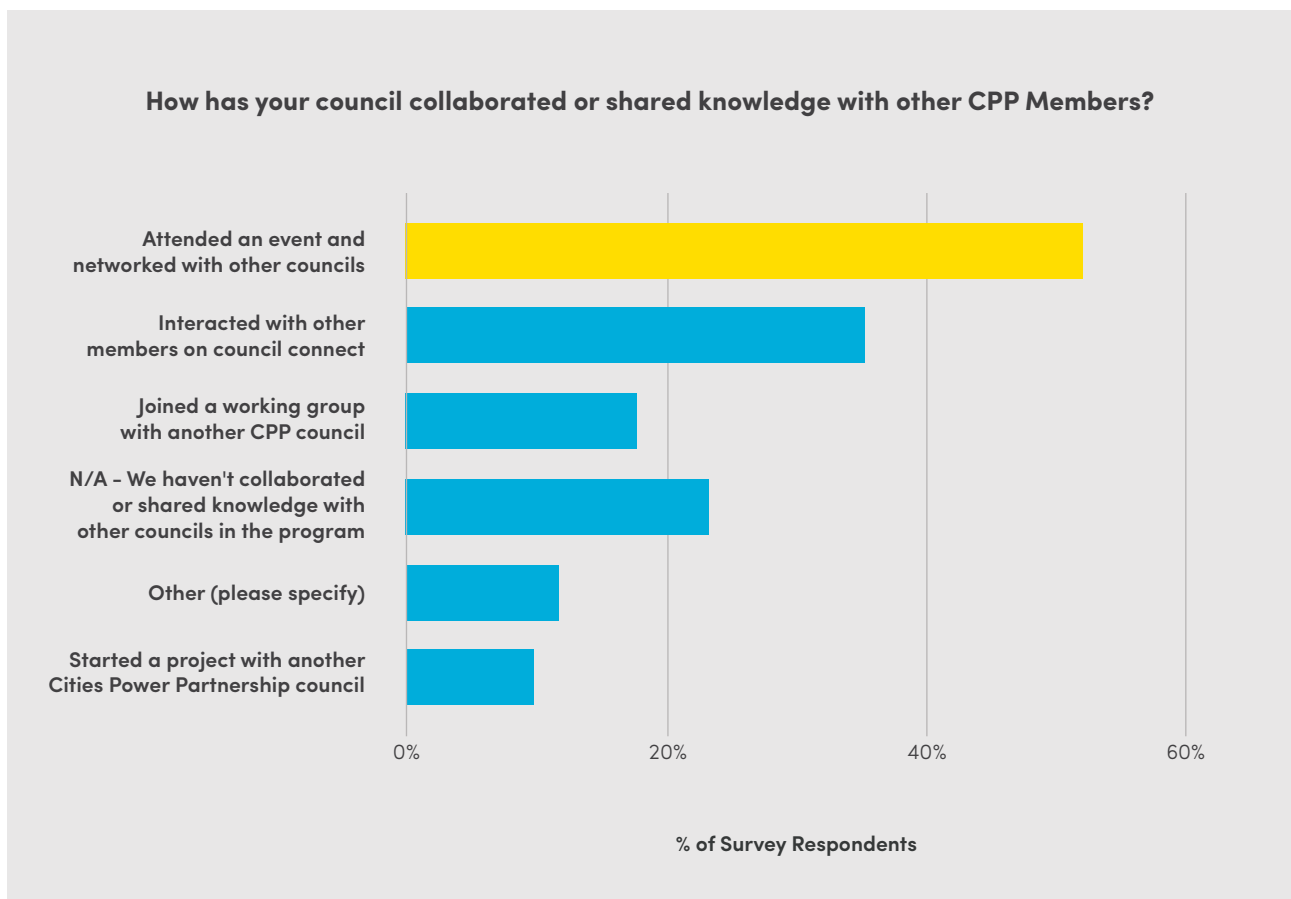


Figure 8: The various ways councils have collaborated or shared knowledge.



## Council Connect

The launch of Council Connect has supercharged collaboration across our network of over 175 local governments. The platform provides council officers with instant connection to other officers across the brains trust of Australia's largest climate network.

- > **47% (n=75) of survey respondents have interacted with other members on Council Connect.**



Figure 9: Engagement with Council Connect.

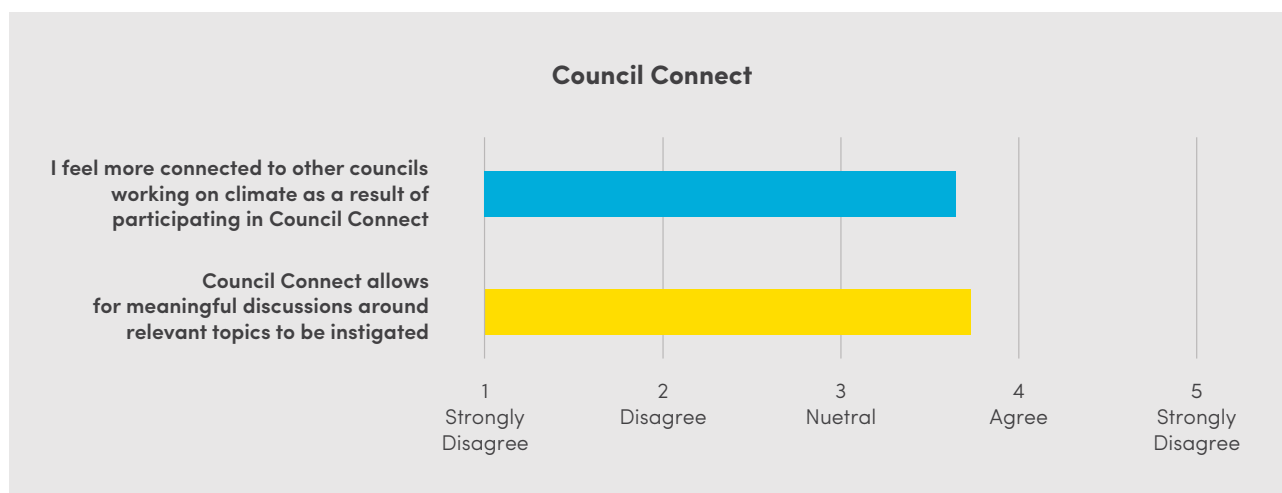
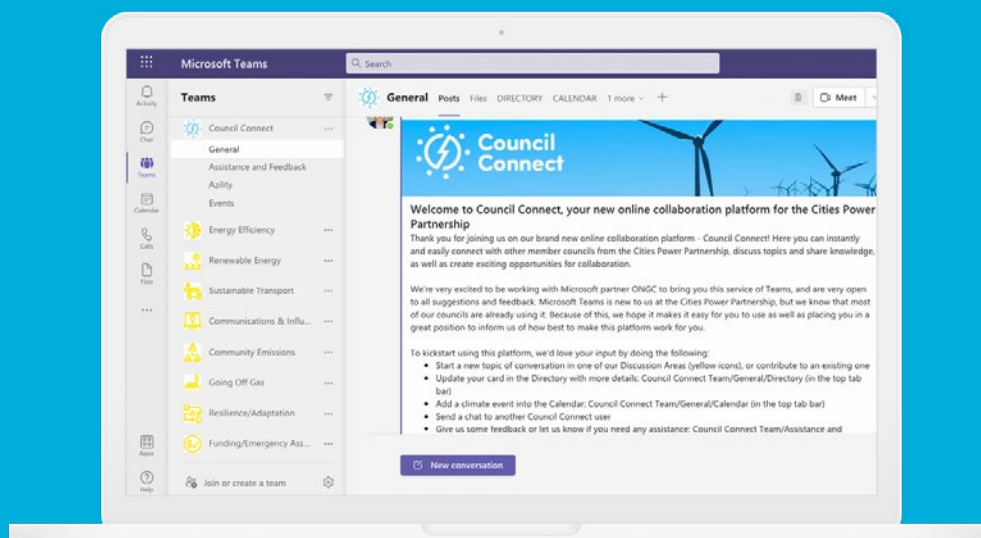


Figure 10: Council Connect Website.



### What opportunities are councils interested in?

In 2022, the top two opportunities councils were most interested in were:

- > Joining a roundtable discussion on climate change (58%, n=92)
- > Media training for elected officials on climate change issues (37%).

These results mirror the top two opportunities selected by respondents in the last reporting survey. Additionally, 'joining a roundtable discussion on climate change' was the most popular response by all classifications of councils; including capital cities, metropolitan, regional and rural councils.

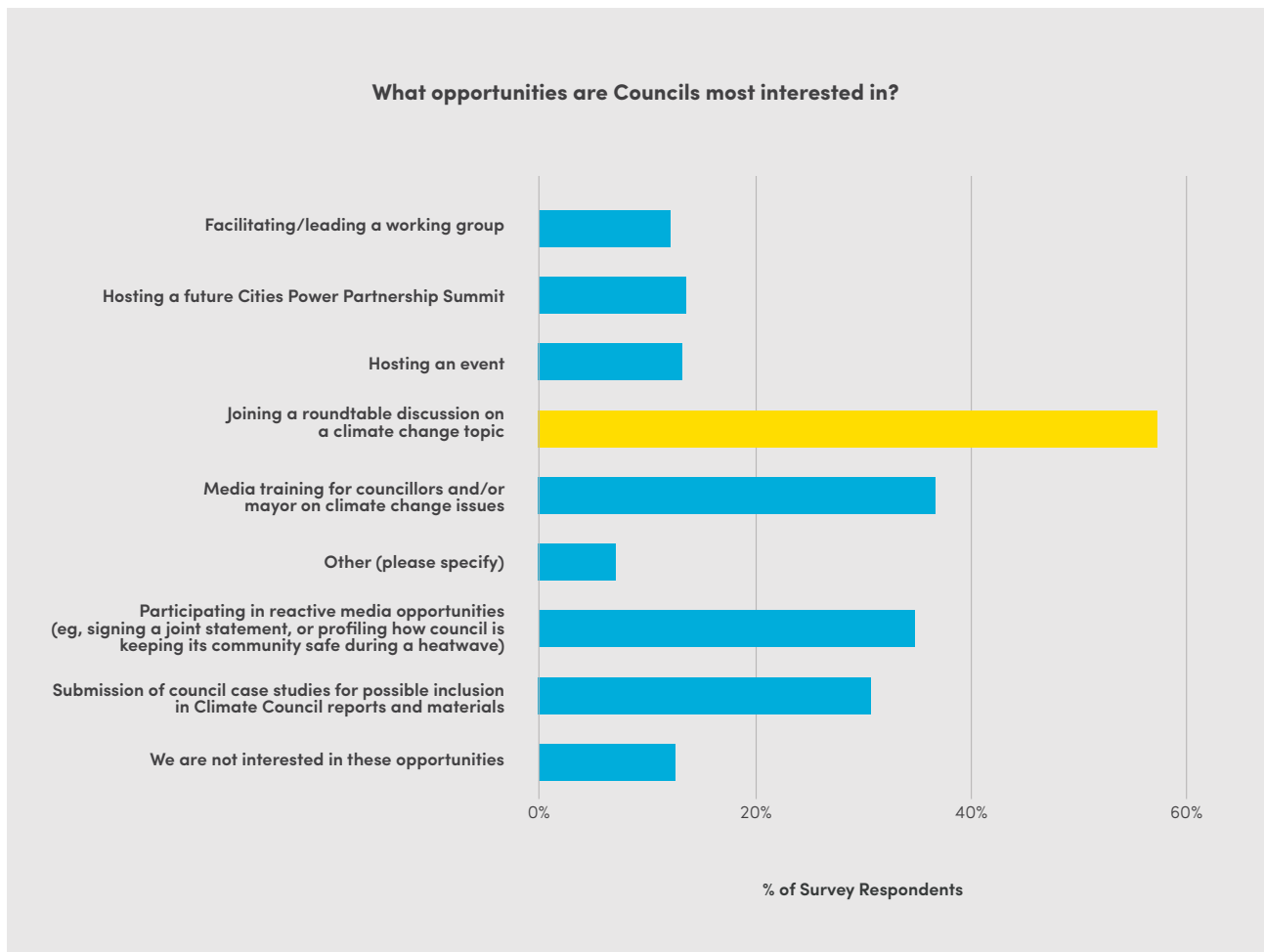


Figure 11

## Providing access to experts and key resources

Across the last three years the CPP network has consistently selected 'Net-Zero community targets & approaches' as the most requested webinar and event topic. In 2022 'Climate Impacts' was only selected as a topic of interest by five percent (n=8) of survey respondents, a significant decline from the 36% (n=49) of respondents who selected it in 2021. This suggests that councils are more interested in taking action and solutions oriented content. 82% (n=128) of respondents rated the webinars as 'good' or 'excellent' and 17% (n=28) said they had not attended a webinar.



## Most popular webinar and/or event topics selected by survey respondents in 2022 (most requested to least requested):

1. Net-Zero community targets & approaches (53%, n=84)
2. Adaptation (50%, n=79)
3. Measuring council and community emissions (44%, n=70)
4. Community energy projects (41%, n=64)
5. Electric vehicles (39%, n=61)
6. Climate communications and messaging (38%, n=60)
7. Building electrification (30%, n=48)
8. Energy storage (30%, n=48)
9. Carbon accounting (27%, n=42)
10. Hydrogen (22%, n=35)
11. Climate risk (22%, n=34)
12. Waste diversion and treatment (20%, n=32)
13. Energy efficiency in the built environment (18%, n =29)
14. Power purchase agreements (9%, n=15)
15. Climate impacts (5%, n=8)

Top Three Webinar/Event Topics Requested Requested by the CPP Network		
2022	2021	2020
Net-Zero community targets & approaches (53%)	Net-Zero community targets & approaches (65%)	Net-zero community targets & approaches (72%)
Adaptation (50%)	Electric vehicles (57%)	Adaptation (64%)
Measuring council and community emissions (45%)	Climate communications and messaging (53%)	Electric vehicles (63%)

**Table 1**

Least Requested Webinar/Event Topics Requested		
2022	2021	2020
Power purchase agreements (9%)	Just transitions (31%)	Just transitions (34%)
Climate impacts (5%)	Clean jobs (18%)	Building electrification (34%)

**Table 2**

# Key Barriers to Climate Action

Councils have a lot on their plate. Local Governments in Australia are responsible for community infrastructure and assets valued at nearly half a trillion dollars, including land, buildings, and 75% of the nation's roads. They are required to deliver a plethora of services to their local communities and with the worsening climate crisis, they are expected to help their communities mitigate and adapt to climate change. This is despite Local Government tax revenue equating to only 3.38% of the \$593.2 billion in total revenues collected by all Australian governments (2020-21). Additionally, Financial Assistance Grants (which are a large source of council income) has declined from 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue to around 0.55% (ALGA, n.d).



## Common Barriers

Of the member councils who have committed to their pledges, **the most common barrier they face when implementing pledges is not enough staff resources (83%)**. This is consistent across every type of council. Rural councils most frequently selected 'lack of funds' as a barrier (80%), followed by regional councils (65%) and metropolitan councils (60%). Unsurprisingly, Capital Cities were the least likely to report lack of funding as an issue (33%). Lack of staff resources and funding were the top two barriers encountered across every state and territory.

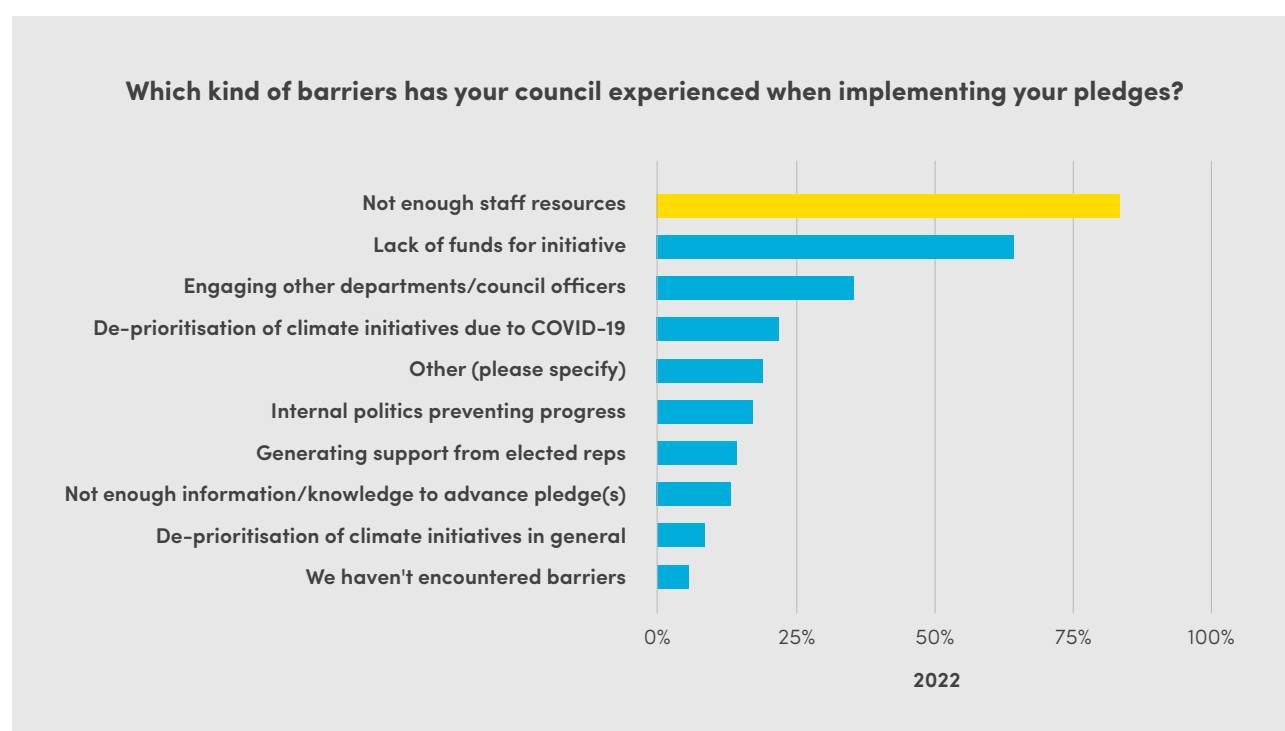


Figure 12

## Most Challenging Barriers

We also asked respondents to rank the barriers they selected in order of most challenging (one) to least challenging to overcome. **Not enough staff resources' was consistently ranked the most challenging barrier to overcome.** This was ahead of the 29% of respondents that ranked a 'lack of funds for initiatives' as the most challenging barrier. Interestingly, 'not enough information/knowledge to advance pledge(s)' was not selected by any council as the most challenging barrier to overcome. Additionally, it was the second least selected barrier.

This might suggest that initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of Local Government should focus on alleviating resourcing and financial issues prior to addressing gaps in knowledge. It may also suggest that member councils are effectively utilising their CPP membership to overcome information barriers.

**Top four barriers in order of most to least challenging:**

1. Not enough staff resources
2. Lack of funds for initiatives
3. Internal politics preventing progress
4. Not enough information/knowledge to advance pledges

\*Councils were asked to select what barriers they have encountered when advancing their pledges. They were then required to rank these in order of most challenging to overcome (1) to least challenging to overcome.

**Survey responses indicate that alleviating resourcing and financial issues at councils should be a top priority when aiming to strengthen local climate action.**

## Sustainability Staff Resourcing

Respondents were asked how many people they have in their sustainability team. On average, CPP member councils reported an average of five and a half staff members in their sustainability team. The median number of sustainability staff was 3, whilst 21 respondents said they did not have a team dedicated to sustainability. However, almost one third of member councils have less than two employees working on sustainability. Despite metropolitan councils having a similar population density to Capital Cities, there is a considerable gap in the number of staff members working in sustainability. This highlights the resource challenge that many sustainability officers are facing in relation to getting climate action embedded throughout council plans.

Regional and rural councils have even less capacity to take action on climate change. One third of regional councils and over a half of the rural councils surveyed reported having less than two staff members in their sustainability team. This highlights an urgent need to improve the capacity of Local Government to deliver vital services, such as the implementation of strong climate policy.

**There's an urgent need to improve the capacity of Local Government to implement strong climate policy.**

	Number of councils (surveyed)	% of councils with a sustainability team	Average number of staff working in sustainability	Councils with less than three sustainability team members
<b>Network</b>	158	86%	5.47	48%
<b>Capital City</b>	6	100%	31.2	17%
<b>Metropolitan</b>	50	94%	6.0	30%
<b>Regional</b>	78	87%	3.7	56%
<b>Rural</b>	24	67%	1.8	81%

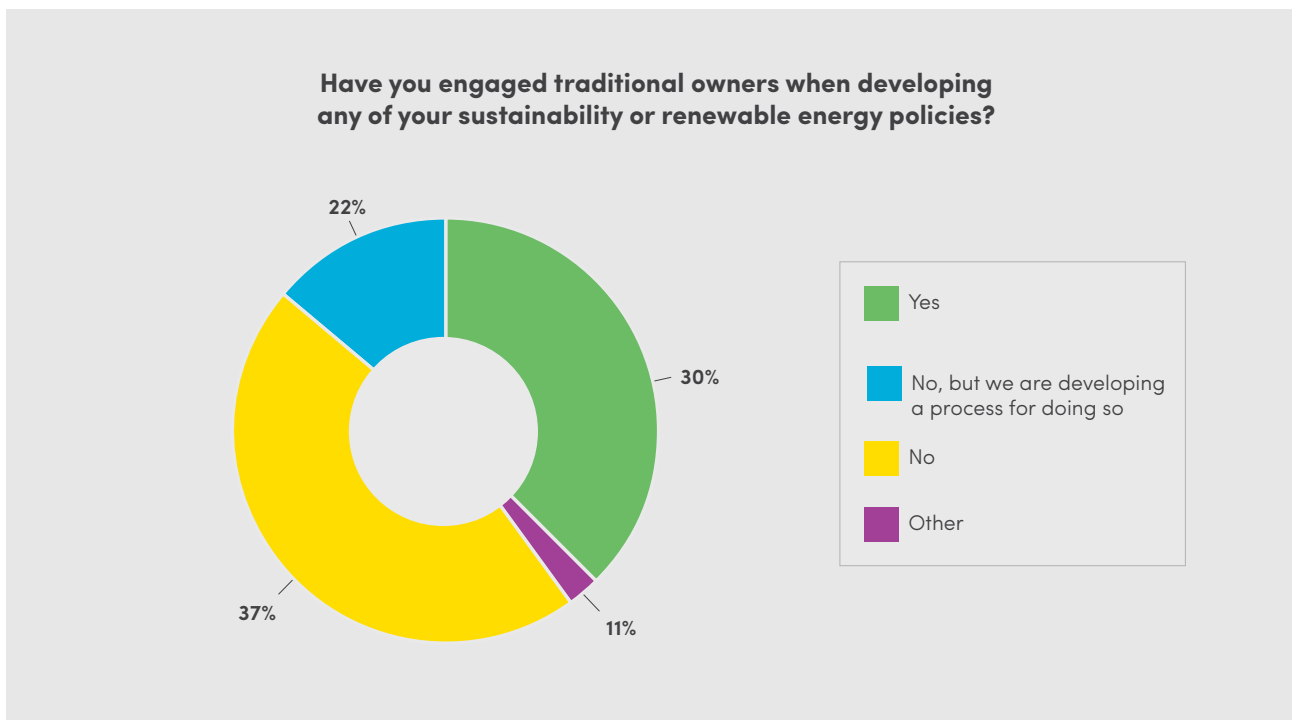
**Table 3:** Sustainability staff resourcing across CPP member councils.

# Local Government Decision Making

## First Nations Engagement and Inclusion

Engaging civil society and local and indigenous communities is critical to ensuring policies are sensitive to local contexts and have people-oriented and place-specific scenarios (IPCC, 2022). In particular, the Paris Agreement outlines the importance of developing adaptation action with the guidance of traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems.

**Currently 30% (n=48) of the network has engaged traditional owners when developing any of their sustainability or climate action plans. 22% (n=35) are currently developing a process for doing so.**



**Figure 13:** Councils were asked if they have engaged traditional owners when developing any of their sustainability or renewable energy policies.





30%

of the network have engaged traditional owners when developing sustainable or climate action plans.

[Watch the video](#) to listen to Uncle Andrew Discuss the Decision to Rename the City of Moreland.

## Case Study 1.1

### Renaming Moreland to Merri-bek

Moreland City Council has changed its name to Merri-bek City Council (VIC) after Elders from the Traditional Owner community and other community representatives asked them to consider renaming the council. Council recognises the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways in the area. They undertook an extensive consultation process to decide on the new name and worked closely with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Three names were proposed and consulted on with the community. In total 6,315 survey responses were received and 59% supported Merri-bek - the Woi-wurrung word for 'rocky country'. Transitioning to a Woi-wurrung name is part of council's commitment to walking together with the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, in reconciliation.

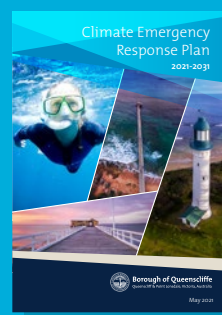
Read more [here](#).

## Case Study 1.2

### Embedding Indigenous Knowledge in Climate Action Plans

The Borough of Queenscliffe (VIC) adopted its final Climate Emergency Response Plan in May 2021. The plan is a community-led initiative that sets out the actions council and the community will take together to make the Borough a zero-carbon community by 2031. The plan was developed via a whole of community approach, including working closely with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. Actions under the plan are grouped according to eight key pillars, including Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values. The Wadawurrung Country pillar was developed to foster a deeper connection, understanding and respect for Wadawurrung Country and to walk together to deliver on shared objectives of protecting and conserving our natural environment in the face of climate emergency. Progress against each of the targets will be reviewed every two years in partnership with the community and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

Read more [here](#).



### Borough of Queenscliffe: Climate Emergency Plan 2021-2031

[Read the report.](#)

## Access to information and resources

A key function of the CPP is to provide local governments with the information they need to take meaningful climate action.

A high proportion (86%, n=136) of CPP member councils agree or strongly agree that they have adequate access to information regarding pathways to reducing their councils' operational emissions. In contrast, only 41% (n=65) of respondents said the same in relation to addressing community emissions.

On average, **respondents ranked 'information about best practice policies' as the most valuable tool to assist local government decision making**, while over a third (33%) identified the need for emissions reporting tools. Access to climate science information was most frequently ranked the least valuable tool.

## Resources Member Councils Find Most Useful for Accelerating Climate Action:

1. Information about best practice policies
2. Emissions reporting tool
3. Access to data
4. Access to other council policies and programs so we can replicate them
5. Case studies about council climate initiatives
6. Carbon accounting learning modules
7. Climate changem communications training
8. Climate science information

Respondents were asked to rank the resources in order of most helpful to least helpful for accelerating climate action. This list is based on the average ranking of each resource.

### Decision Making Frameworks

Improving the capacity of councils to make informed decisions through tools like decision-making frameworks can assist councils to make transparent, thoughtful and deliberate decisions.

When asked how much of a gap decision making frameworks are in relation to deciding which mitigation initiatives to implement, the majority of respondents (72%, n=114) indicated that it is a key gap (ie, between 'a moderate amount' and 'a great deal'). Councils were asked to rank (between 'not at all' and

'a great deal') how much of a gap they perceived the factors in figure 14 to be in their decision-making process, with the majority of respondents (60%, n=95) answering either 'not at all' or 'a little'. This reinforces that a valuable way to enhance the capacity of Local Government is through the provision of resources and tools that enable quick and informed decisions to be made. Information relating to environmental, social and economic outcomes (as a result of an implemented initiative) is a large gap in council decision making processes, with 40% (n=63) of survey respondents answering 'a lot' or 'a great deal'.

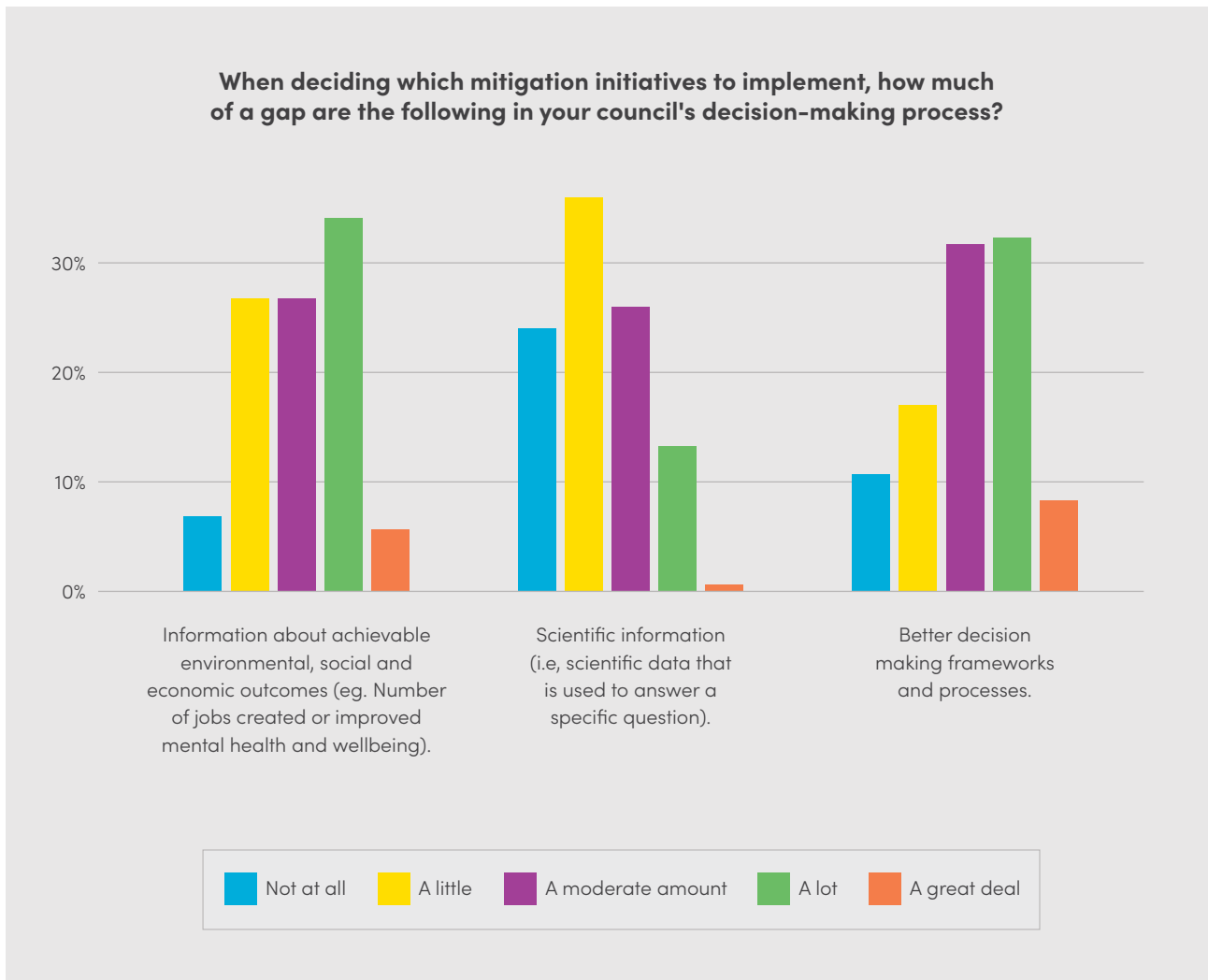


Figure 14

## Integrating Climate Policy throughout Council Operations

Many councils are embedding sustainability and climate change initiatives throughout council operations and decision making. Member councils reported doing this most successfully in transport policy (23%, n=37) and health policy (16%, n=26). Councils were also asked where they encounter the most trouble embedding sustainability and climate change into council operations and decision making, and infrastructure policy (42%, n=67) and land-use policy (29%, n=46) were reported as the most troublesome.

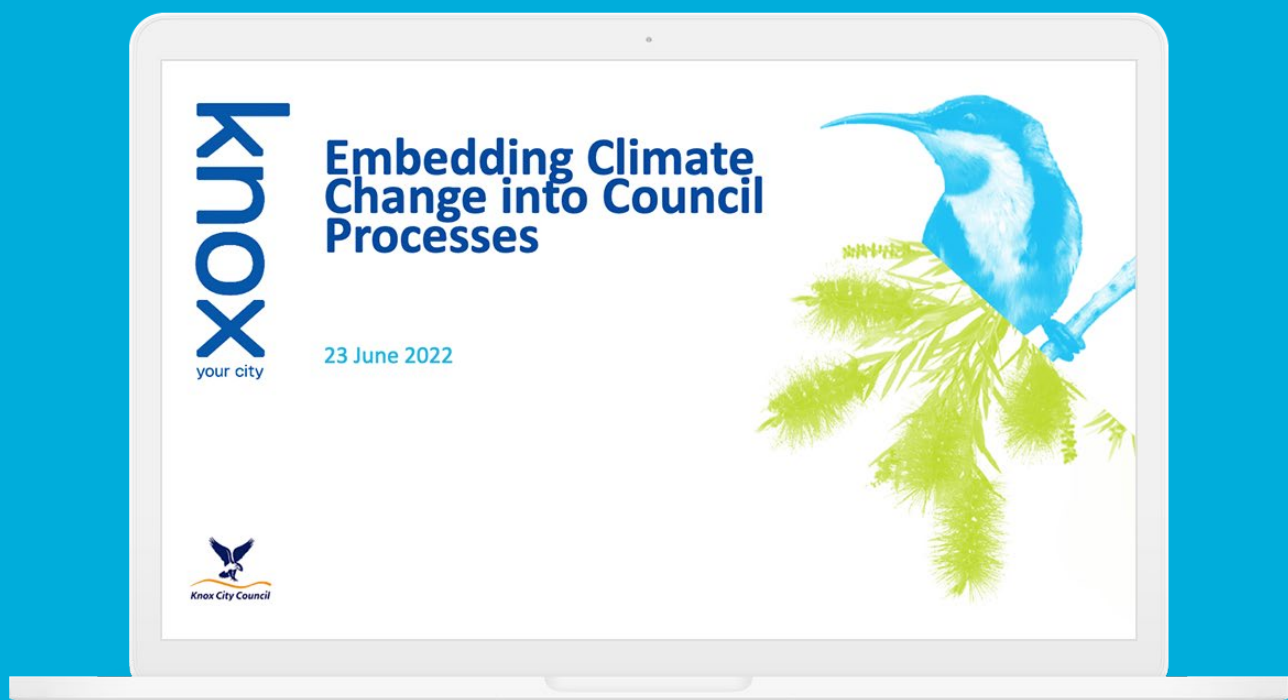
## Case Study 2

### Embedding climate action across council processes.

Knox City Council (VIC) are embedding climate action in processes throughout council. Tracie Armstrong (Senior Project Manager, Knox City Council) presented at a CPP webinar in June 2022 to share the challenges faced and lessons learnt along the way. Watch the recording or view the slide presentation [here](#).

**Listen to Knox City Council (Vic) take us through the journey of embedding climate action into processes across council, the challenges faced and lessons learnt along the way.**

[Click here to view.](#) 



## Prioritising Climate Action at Council

Sustainability officers are required to engage with others at council to place climate action on the agenda and ensure it's prioritised. We asked respondents who at council they have the most difficulty communicating the importance of climate action to. The most common themes were:

### 1. Infrastructure and assets (25%)

**"We find engineering based personnel unwilling to change current processes to support climate change as they are very process driven."**

### 2. Finance (19%)

**"Council currently (and historically) prioritises return on investment over all other factors. Where all other factors are equal, Council will select the option with greater social and environmental benefits, however will not prioritise sustainability over return on investment and other financial considerations. This remains one of our biggest barriers to addressing scope three emissions."**

### 3. Senior management and executives (15%)

**"I have difficulty communicating the urgency of this work with the executive leadership level of council, as well as the councillors themselves. I have insufficient opportunity to speak with them, and suggested training for councillors on climate change has so far not been implemented."**

### 4. Planning (11%)

**"Within the planning system there is no requirement to consider environmental performance of developments. We are having difficulty communicating to developers why they need to build more sustainably."**

## Collaborating and Coordinating Climate Action

Local climate action and policy is not isolated from other levels of government, and effective climate policy requires coordination across multiple councils and/or tiers of government.

**When collaborating between and across levels of government, challenges relating to policy implementation were most commonly referred to by member councils.**

Open-text responses were coded into three categories. Policy goals and agenda setting refers to getting the ‘problem’ on the agenda of key decision makers. Policy goals can involve broad claims about what might occur if the policy is effective. Policy instruments refer to the mechanisms for narrowing down a policy goal and providing a means of achieving it. Policy implementation are the actions to operationalise the instruments and the goals.

Policy Areas That Present Challenges to Councils When Collaborating (with other Governments and Councils)	
Category	Open-text References to the Category
Goals & Agenda Setting	27% (n=31)
Policy Instruments	22% (n=25)
Policy Implementation	51% (n=58)

**Table 4:** The categories were derived from a policy cohesion framework developed by Nilsson et al (2012).

Sub-themes were also identified within each of the three categories listed above (Table 4).

Challenges Specific to Each Policy Category			
Category	Policy Objectives	Policy Instruments	Policy Implementation
Sub-themes	Buy-in at Council (6%)	Regulatory (37%)	Vertical and Horizontal Collaboration & Coordination (37%)
	Competing and differing priorities (77%)	Economic (30%)	Capacity (56%)
	Lack of ownership (13%)	Voluntary & Information Instruments (33%)	Finance (6%)

**Table 5:** The challenges councils identified in their responses were coded into themes to distill insights and identify common answers.

- > **Policy Goals & Agenda Setting:** The most common challenge associated with policy goals and agenda setting was competing and differing priorities (77%) between councils and/or levels of government.
- > **Policy Instruments:** Member councils most commonly cited challenges relating to regulatory instruments (37%) when coordinating between and across levels of government to advance climate policy.
- > **Policy Implementation:** The capacity of councils was the most common implementation issue (56%) when collaborating or coordinating climate action. Over a third (37%) of councils pointed to the need for improved coordination between and across levels of government.

# Summary of Climate Policies

CPP member councils continue to raise the bar on climate action. This is showcased in the uplift of ambitious climate policy in the time since our last Tracking Progress Report was released in 2021.



## 39%

**39% (n=61) of councils have a target to reduce community GHG emissions**, a 12% increase compared to our last Tracking Progress Report.



## 16%

16% (n=25) of councils who completed the survey this year reported to have **achieved 100% renewable energy for council operations**. That's 18 more in the time since our last reporting survey was conducted.



## 73%

**73% (n=115) of councils said that they have an electric or low emissions vehicle in their fleet**. In our last Tracking Progress report, 47% of councils said they have an electric vehicle in their fleet.



## 61%

Across the board, **61% (n=99) of councils said they purchase renewable energy through a Power Purchase Agreement**. This is a significant increase compared to the 35% of councils who last reported to be doing this.



## 59%

It's also promising to see that in 2022 **59% (n=94) of councils said they are pursuing the electrification of Council owned buildings and facilities** and 26% (n=35) said they are pursuing the electrification of non-council owned buildings and facilities.

# Targets and Declarations

## Renewable Energy Targets (RETs)

### Council Operations

- > **16% of councils (n=25) said they have already achieved 100% renewable energy;** 18 more compared to what was reported in last year's tracking progress report ([CPP, 2021](#)).
- > 41% (n=65) of respondents said they have a RET for council operations.
- > 20% (n=32) said they are investigating having one or intend to in the next 12 months.
- > NSW has the most councils with a RET for council operations (n=28).

Council Name	Target	Year
Woollahra Municipal Council (NSW), Willoughby City Council (NSW), City of Randwick (NSW), City of Melville (WA)	100%	2022
Broken Hill City Council (NSW)	100%	2023
Greater Dandenong City Council (VIC), Inner West Council (NSW), Shoalhaven City Council (NSW), City of Ballarat (VIC), City of Canning (WA), City of Fremantle (WA), City of Subiaco (WA)	100%	2025
Warrnambool City Council (VIC)	100%	2026
North Sydney Council (NSW), City of Busselton (WA), City of Stirling (WA), Bellingen Shire Council (NSW), Knox City Council (VIC), Yarra Ranges Council (VIC), City of Cockburn (WA), Coffs Harbour City Council (NSW), Cairns Regional Council (QLD), City of Ryde (NSW), Bega Valley Shire Council (NSW)	100%	2030

**Table 6:** Councils with leading RETs for council operations.

### Leading RETs for Community Consumption

- > **One council (ACT Government) has already achieved 100% community-wide renewable energy.**
- > 15% (n=23) of respondents said they have a community RET.
- > 22% (n=34) said they are investigating having one or intend to in the next 12 months.

Council Name	Target	Year
Hepburn Shire Council (VIC), City of Fremantle (WA)	100%	2025
Alexandrina Council (SA), Broken Hill City Council (NSW)	100%	2030
City of Sydney (NSW)	50%	2030
Warrnambool City Council (VIC), Knox City Council (VIC), Greater Dandenong City Council (VIC)	100%	2040

**Table 7:** Councils with leading RETs for community consumption.



## Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets

### Operational GHG Emissions

- > 60% (n=95) of councils have either a target and/or interim targets for reducing GHG emissions from council operations.
- > **Eight percent (n=12) of councils are already carbon neutral.**
- > 23% (n=36) said they are investigating having a target or intend to have a target in the next 12 months.
- > NSW has the most councils with a GHG emissions target for council operations (n=37).
- > 64% (n=101) of councils have reduced their operational GHG emissions in the past 12 months.
- > The top three actions councils are undertaking to reduce operational emissions are: installing solar PV on council facilities (95%), upgrading lighting in council facilities (85%) and changing residential street lights (68%) (see appendix).

Leading Targets for Operational GHG Emissions Reduction		
Council Name	Target	Year
Hepburn Shire Council (VIC)	Net zero	2022
Alpine Shire Council (VIC)	Net zero	2023
City of Charles Sturt (SA)	Net zero	2024
Byron Shire Council (NSW), Georges River Council (NSW), City of Greater Geelong (VIC), Greater Dandenong City Council (VIC), Campbelltown City Council (SA), Mount Alexander Shire Council (VIC), Inner West Council (NSW), City of Monash (VIC), Kingston City Council (VIC)	Net zero	2025
Warrnambool City Council (VIC), Noosa Shire Council (QLD)	Net zero	2026
North Sydney Council (NSW), Shire of Augusta Margaret River (WA), City of Greater Bendigo (VIC), Burwood Council (NSW), City of Cockburn (WA), Macedon Ranges Shire Council (VIC), Tweed Shire Council (NSW), Nillumbik Shire Council (VIC), Hawkesbury City Council (NSW), Cairns Regional Council (QLD), Randwick City Council (NSW), Greater Shepparton City Council (VIC), Waverley Council (NSW), Town of Victoria Park (WA), City of Vincent (WA), Knox City Council (VIC), City of Stonnington (VIC), City of Melville (WA)	Net zero	2030
Kiama Municipal Council (NSW), Coffs Harbour City Council (NSW)	Net zero	2031

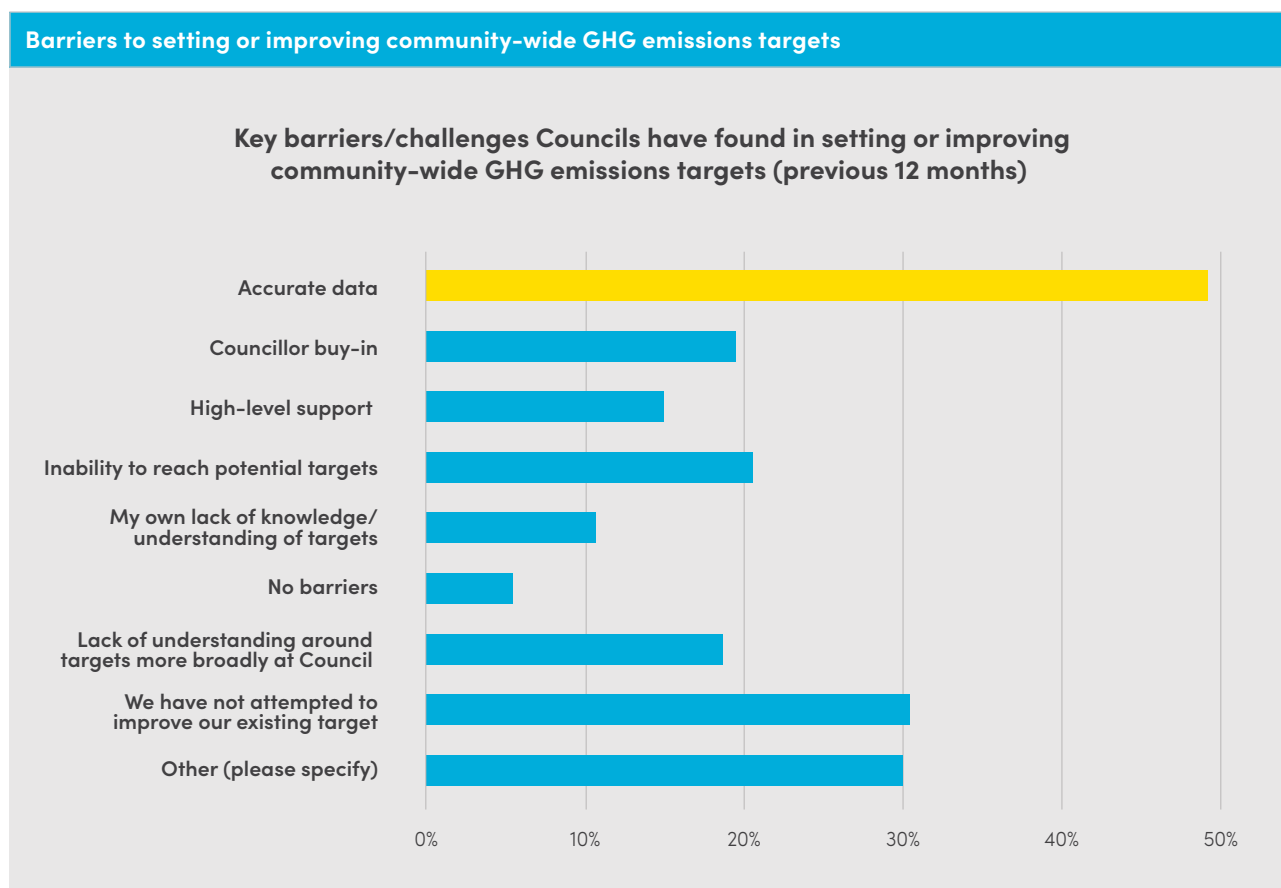
**Table 8:** Councils with leading GHG emission reduction targets for council operations.

### Community GHG Emissions

- > 39% (n=61) of councils either have a target and/or interim targets to reduce community GHG emissions, a 12% increase since our last Tracking Progress Report was released (CPP, 2021).
- > 61% (n=96) of councils do not have a target to reduce community GHG emissions.

Leading Targets for Community GHG Emissions Reduction		
Council Name	Target	Year
City of Adelaide (SA)	Carbon neutral	2025
Noosa Shire Council (QLD)	Net zero	2026
City of Yarra (VIC), Mount Alexander Shire Council (VIC), Shire of Augusta Margaret River (WA), City of Greater Bendigo (VIC), City of Ballarat (VIC), City of Stonnington (VIC), Tweed Shire Council (NSW), Hawkesbury City Council (NSW), Hepburn Shire Council (VIC), Greater Shepparton City Council (VIC), Kingston City Council (VIC)	Net zero	2030
City of Newcastle (NSW)	Net zero (from electricity)	2030
Brimbank City Council (VIC)	Net zero	2040
City of Greater Geelong (VIC), City of Sydney (NSW), Nillumbik Shire Council (VIC), Waverley Council (NSW), Merri-bek Council (VIC), City of Boroondara (VIC)	Net zero	2035
City of Melbourne (VIC), Greater Dandenong City Council (VIC), Brimbank City Council (VIC), Mornington Peninsula Shire (VIC), Knox City Council (VIC) TBCCCCC	Net zero	2040

**Table 9:** Councils with leading GHG emission reduction targets for their community.



**Figure 15**

# Climate Change Mitigation

## Transport

Transport accounted for 18% of Australia's emissions in 2020 (CCA, 2021). Local governments can play several important roles in tackling transport emissions by facilitating public and active transport and the uptake of electric vehicles.

## Active Transport

Active transport is the mix of walking and cycling, integrated with public transport used for commuting and travelling instead of private motorised vehicles. Promoting active transport will play a key role in reducing emissions from the transport sector, which is the third biggest and fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions (Climate Council, 2017).

**Figure 16:** The City of Adelaide has over 50 electric vehicle charging stations across the city and North Adelaide.



## Case Study 3

### The Ride & Stride Program

Merri-bek City Council (VIC) are doing all they can to deliver more footpaths and bike lanes for their communities.

*"We're aiming for 80% of all trips to school to be made by sustainable forms of transport by 2030. We're encouraging this through our Ride & Stride program, where we open streets outside some schools to walking, riding and playing without car traffic during pick up and drop off. We're also offering free e-cargo bike loans to families living further away, so they can get an idea of what a sustainable school drop-off could look like."*

– Mayor Mark Riley, Merri-bek City Council (VIC).

Read more [here](#).

Listen to Zoe McMaster, Merri-bek's Sustainable Communities Officer, discuss how they delivered three of Australia's first Open Streets outside local primary schools, the key outcomes, lessons learned and longer term opportunities for reimagining local streets.

[Watch it here.](#)



Figure 17: Merri-bek City Council Ride & Stride to our Open Street.



### Barriers to delivering streets that promote active transport

The biggest barriers councils face when delivering active transport initiatives (such as bike lanes and shared zones) is a 'lack of funds for initiatives' (56%, n=89) and 'not enough staff resources' (47%, n=75). 'Other' responses frequently referred to challenges in regional and rural councils where there are large distances between centers, and hilly areas that are tough for walkers and cyclists to navigate. Respondents also referenced the influence of vocal residents or traders that are impacted by loss of parking, even when there is support from the rest of the community.

**56%**

**The biggest barrier for delivering active transport is a lack of funds for initiatives**

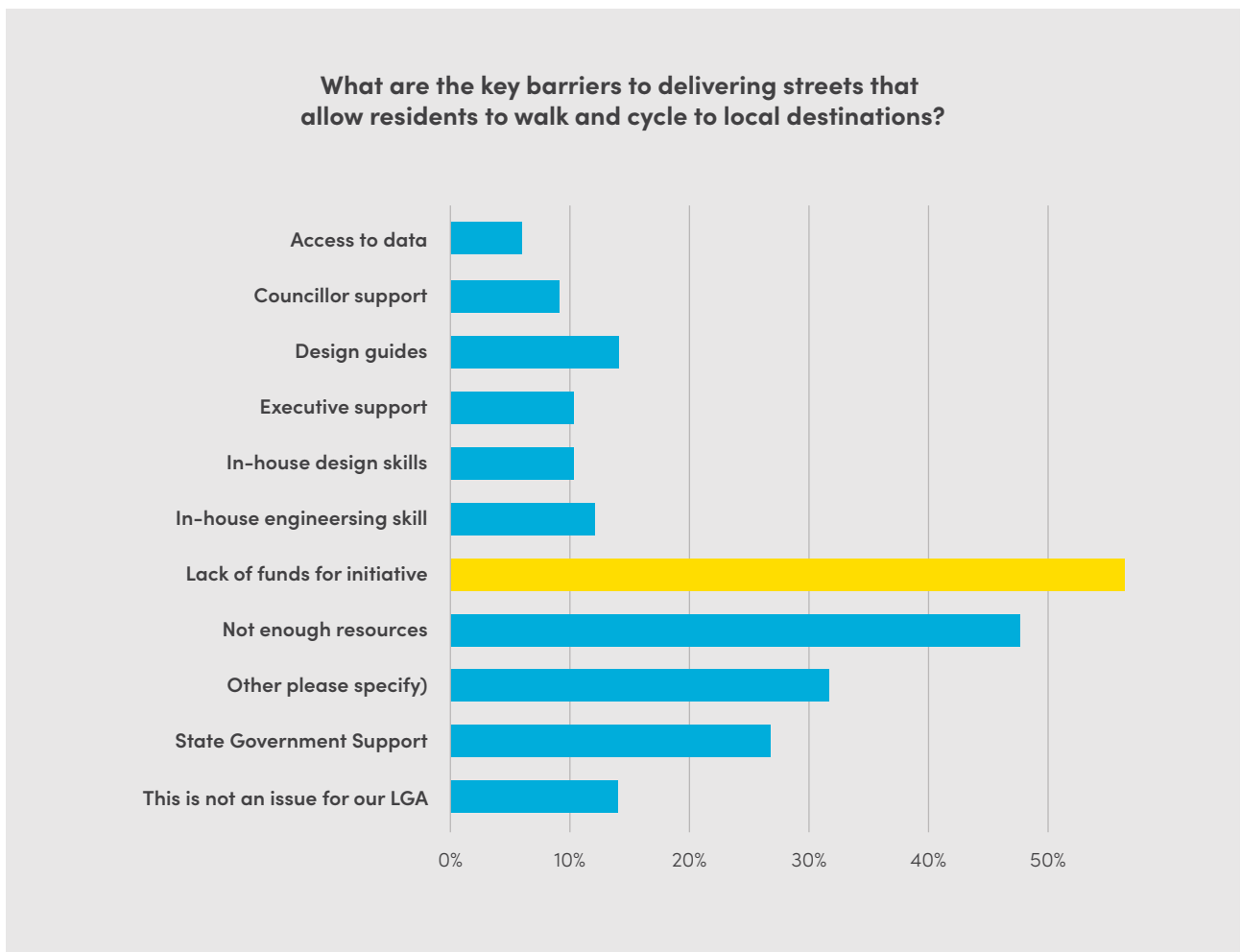


Figure 18

## Low Emission Vehicles

Australia’s personal transport system must shift from the current polluting, car-centric model to a sustainable, zero-emissions framework powered by renewable energy. Whilst many of the levers must be pulled by State and Territory governments ([Climate Council, 2022b](#)), there is still an important role for Local Government to play.

Area of investigation	2020	2021	2022
Government fleet	82%	86%	87%
Community charging infrastructure	66%	68%	78%
Waste fleet	25%	37%	33%
Public transportation	9%	9%	10%
EV incentives for residents	9%	4%	9%

**Table 10:** Areas in relation to low emission vehicles that member councils have shown interest in investigating (across the last three years).

### Electric Vehicles

- > 73% (n=115) of councils have electric or low emission cars in their corporate fleet.
- > Only 11% (n=18) of councils have heavy-duty electric or low emission vehicles, such as the waste fleet (including contracted vehicles).

### Charging Infrastructure

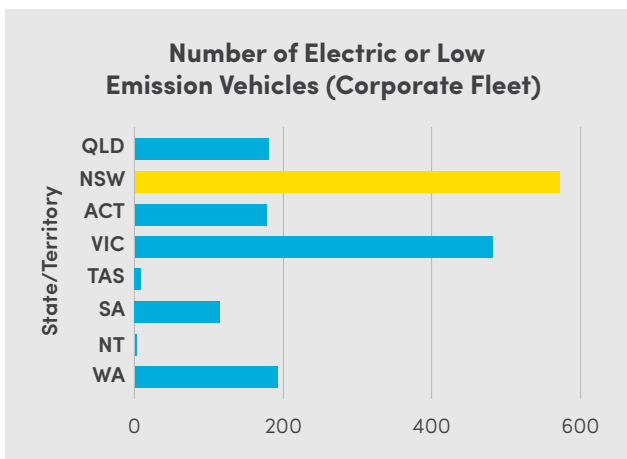
- > 63% (n=100) of councils currently have charging stations for electric or low emission vehicles.
- > This is comprised of 362 publicly accessible charging stations, and 280 charging stations for council staff only.

### Future Interest

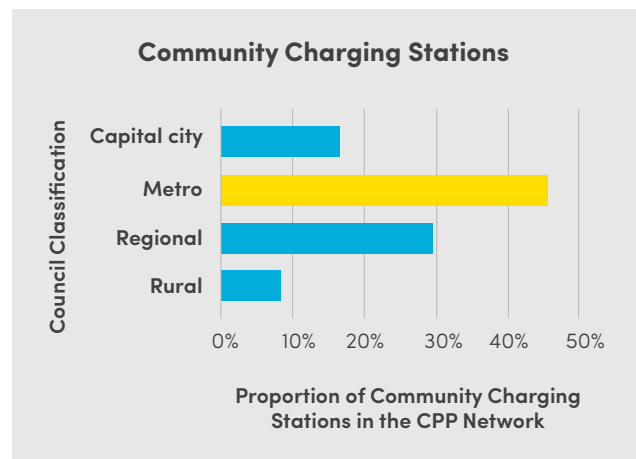
- > Council’s are most interested in transitioning their government fleet to electric vehicles.
- > 78% (n=124) of survey respondents said they are investigating community charging infrastructure, a 12% increase compared to 2020.

Number of low emission vehicles across the CPP network.				
	Hybrid Electric Vehicle	Plug-in Hybrid	Battery Electric Vehicle	Hydrogen Fuel Cell
Corporate Fleet	1,189	122	400	21
Heavy-duty Fleet	84	1	25	2

**Table 11**



**Figure 19**



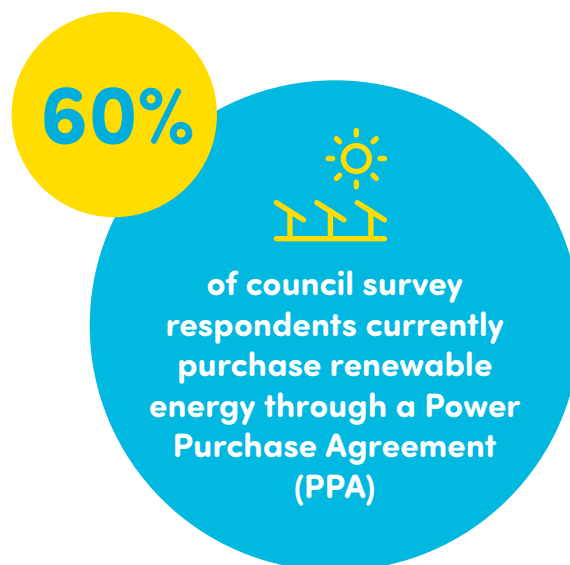
**Figure 20**

Figure 21: Lake Macquarie Council.



## Renewable Energy

Local governments throughout Australia are committed to leading the transition to renewable energy by installing solar panels on their own buildings, purchasing renewable energy through power purchase agreements and facilitating innovative local energy models like virtual power plants, micro grids and neighbourhood-scale batteries. In doing so, councils are reducing their own energy costs, supporting the development of clean industries and increasing the resilience of the energy system.



### Power Purchase Agreements

**60% (n=95) of councils who responded to the survey said they purchase renewable energy through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)**, which is a 35% increase compared to what was reported last year. A further 27% (n=42) of respondents said that they were either actively seeking a PPA or investigating options and feasibility.

The popularity of PPAs continues to rise rapidly. The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) negotiated an agreement that will see over 40 councils (many of which are CPP members) move to 100% renewable energy for their contestable supply (WALGA, 2021). There is also the example of 51 Victorian Councils who collaborated via the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) to source renewable energy.

CPP Members purchasing renewable energy through a PPA				
	2021 (August)		2022 (October)	
LGA Type	Number of PPAs	%	Number of PPAs	%
Capital City	3	50%	3	50%
Metropolitan	28	64%	41	82%
Regional Town / City	12	18%	42	53%
Rural	5	24%	13	54%
Region				
QLD	0	0%	1	7%
NSW	22	39%	28	51%
VIC	14	56%	37	97%
TAS	1	17%	1	17%
SA	1	11%	3	30%
NT	1	50%	0	0%
WA	1	4%	29	91%
ACT	0	0%	0	0%

Table 12



## Community Energy

28% (n=44) of Councils are currently working with community energy groups or projects, 62% (n=98) are not and 10% (n=16) were unsure. The most popular type of community energy project councils are supporting is small-scale solar.

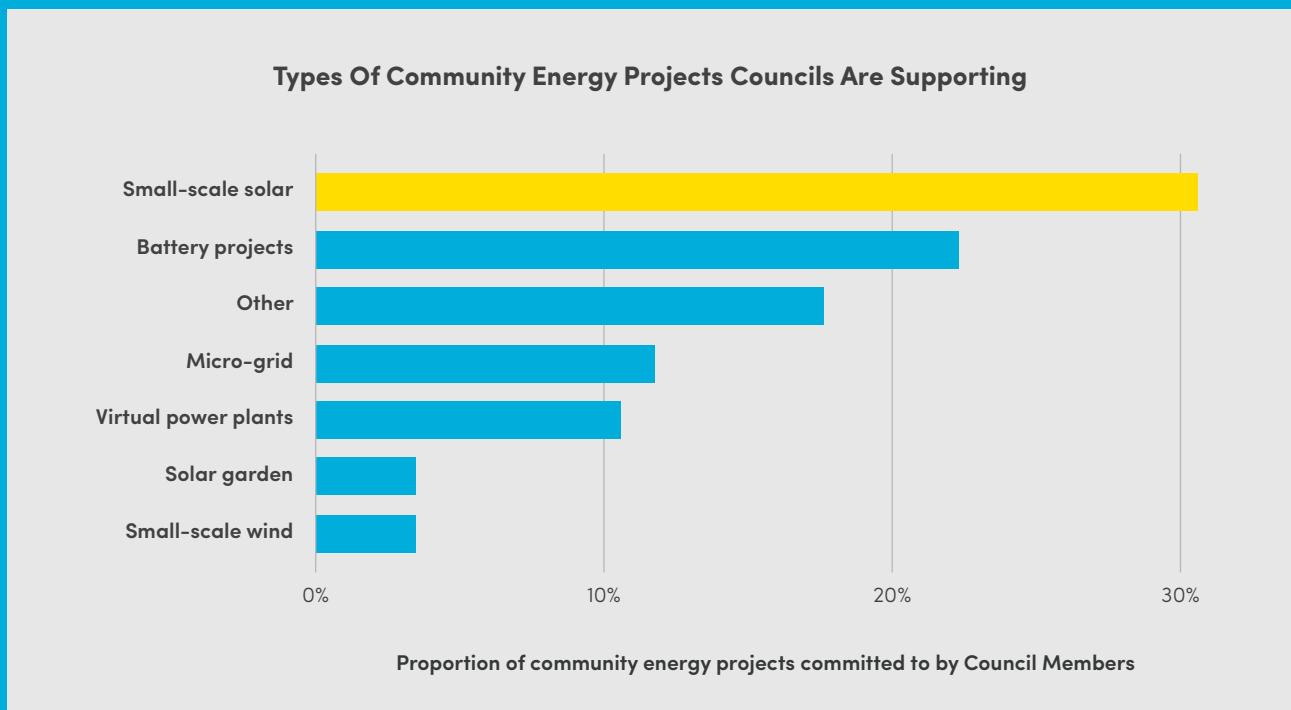


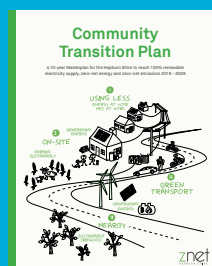
Figure 22

## Case Study 4

### Community Transitions to Net-Zero Emissions

Hepburn Z-NET is a community partnership working to make the Hepburn Shire (VIC) the first zero-net emission shire in Australia. It is a collaborative partnership bringing together community groups, organisations, experts and council.

Read more [here](#).



### Hepburn Shire Community Transition Plan

[Read the report.](#)

## Carbon in the Built Environment

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the buildings and construction sector accounted for 39% of energy and process-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in 2018. Furthermore, in Australia residential buildings are responsible for around 24% of overall electricity use and 12% of total carbon emissions (DCCEEW, n.d). This highlights the need to implement policies which limit operational and embodied carbon in all buildings in a way that addresses whole of life carbon (all carbon generated across the lifecycle of a building).

This year we asked councils if they require “whole of life carbon reporting” (Life Cycle Assessments) as part of their development approval application process. Across the entire CPP network, the City of Vincent (WA) is the only council that answered ‘yes’. Whole of life carbon reporting will provide an opportunity for Australia to rapidly decarbonise and reduce its emissions from the construction industry.

**Out of 158 Councils surveyed, the City of Vincent is the only Council that requires “whole of life carbon” reporting as part of their development approval application process.**

**Figure 23:** Matthew, Katherine and their two children live in this now finished home in NSW and reflect “in our energy efficient home, we use way less energy, meaning lower bills, and have a comfortable temperature year round.”



## Case Study 5.1

### Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)

ESD principles aim to improve the health and comfort of buildings for occupants whilst at the same time reducing negative impacts on the environment.

The City of Vincent's (WA) Built Form Policy is applicable to all developments within the municipality and includes standards for ESD.

Council's planning policy requires assessment of the sustainability performance of a proposed development against benchmark buildings, to comply with applicable Australian/international standards (and be subject to oversight by a certifying body). This allows developers to choose a method for compliance, giving developers the opportunity to incorporate new design elements into their developments moving forward.

The City of Vincent (WA) has been running this process for a number of years and now requires the achievement of certain benchmark thresholds of CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> according to building typology.

Learn more about the policy [here](#).

## Case Study 5.2

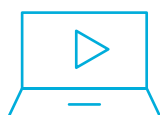
### Banning Black Roofs

The Town of Bassendean (WA) has made lighter-coloured roofs mandatory under its local planning and design approval processes. Their new sustainable development policy also requires new or upgraded dwellings to incorporate photovoltaic solar systems to be fitted with rainwater tanks and be installed with electric vehicle charging points or the capacity for EV charging points to be installed later.

Read more [here](#).



Figure 24



### Whole of Life Carbon in the Built Environment

[Watch it here.](#)

Ross Donaldson – of the Australian Institute of Architects' Climate Action and Sustainability Taskforce – presented at a CPP event about the importance of measuring "Whole of Life Carbon" in the Built Environment.



### Tents to Castles: Building Energy Efficient, Cost-Saving Aussie Homes

[Read the report.](#)

Low energy efficiency standards have left too many Australians living in poorly-made homes equated to "glorified tents", which are stifling during summer and freezing in winter.

## Getting Off Gas

On average, member councils agreed with the statement that they have an important role to play in helping their municipality get off gas.

However, despite increased interest in doing so, respondents were unsure what pathways are available for shifting their community off gas.

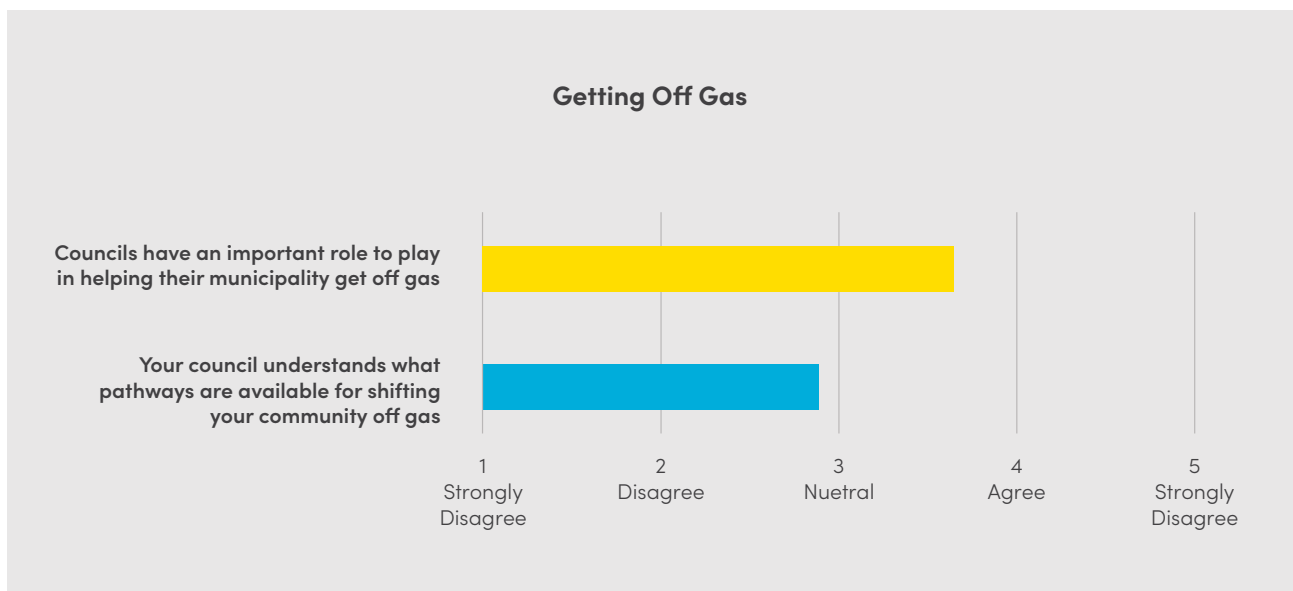


Figure 25



### Switch and Save: how gas is costing households

[Read the report.](#)

This Climate Council report presents analysis on exactly how expensive gas appliances are to run compared to the electrical alternatives, and how much households can save over the long term from switching.

### Gas in Council Owned Facilities

59% (n=94) of Councils indicated that they are pursuing the electrification of council owned buildings and facilities. Additionally, almost a third (29%, n=59) of member councils have already begun to implement initiatives to electrify council owned buildings and facilities. Councils frequently referred to initiatives that involved:

- > Switching gas to electric heat pumps.
- > Excluding gas from new buildings.
- > Replacing all gas equipment and appliances with electric alternatives when they are due for replacement.

### Gas in Non-council Owned Facilities

Whilst the majority of respondents (57%, n=90) are not pursuing the electrification of existing non-council owned buildings & facilities, since the last reporting survey there has been a large increase in the number of councils who are pursuing this (Table 13).

Councils pursuing the electrification of:	2021	2022
Council owned buildings and facilities	27%	59%
Non-council owned buildings and facilities	9%	26%

**Table 13:** Member council interest in the electrification of council and non-council owned facilities.

## Case Study 6

### Electrifying Aquatic Centres

Leisure centres are among the most emissions intensive buildings owned by local governments in Australia. Gas boilers heat huge volumes of water for pools and showers. Meanwhile, heating and cooling large indoor spaces also require a lot of energy. Brimbank City Council has spent the last two years redeveloping their Leisure Centre - which is now open to the public - and showcasing electrification technology powered by renewable energy.

Read more [here](#).

### Electrifying Aquatic Centres, Brimbank City Council (Vic)

**Ross Kingston, Senior Sustainability Officer at Brimbank City Council, presented at a CPP event in 2022 to talk through how they electrified their aquatic centre.**

[Watch it here.](#)



Figure 26: New Brimbank aquatic centre an Aussie-first. Image from Brimbank City Council (Victoria).



# Climate Risk & Adaptation

Climate impacts are felt at the local level, placing local governments and their communities at the forefront of climate change. It's vital that councils and their communities are given the opportunity to identify and manage climate risks.

## Climate Risk

The concept of risk is a key aspect of communicating to decision-makers the potential adverse impacts of - and response options to - climate change ([IPCC, 2020](#)).

Predictably, physical climate risks (those arising from climate change impacts and climate-related hazards) are a major concern for councils (91%). Survey responses indicate that liability risks (ie. when a lack of response to climate change results in liability for failure to assess duty of care) are also a key concern of more than half of survey respondents (55%).

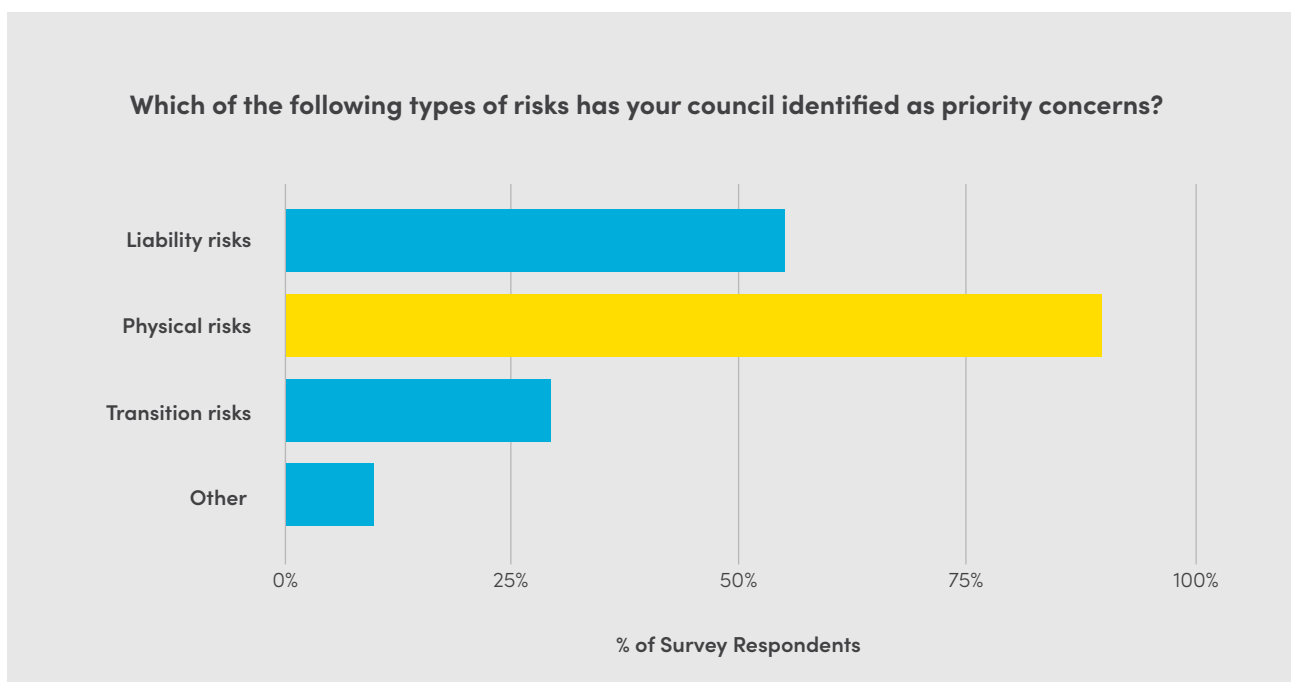


Figure 27

## Building Local Knowledge into Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change means adjusting our behaviour and adapting our infrastructure (e.g. greening of urban areas for water storage) to deal with the changing climate.

Local governments have access to place-based knowledge which can be utilised to support communities adapt to the worsening impacts of climate change. Councils were asked to rank on a scale of one (strongly disagree) to five (strongly agree) the extent to which they agreed with the statements in the table on this page. The responses indicate that council officers have a strong understanding of which members in their community are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, what actions can be implemented and what their community values most.

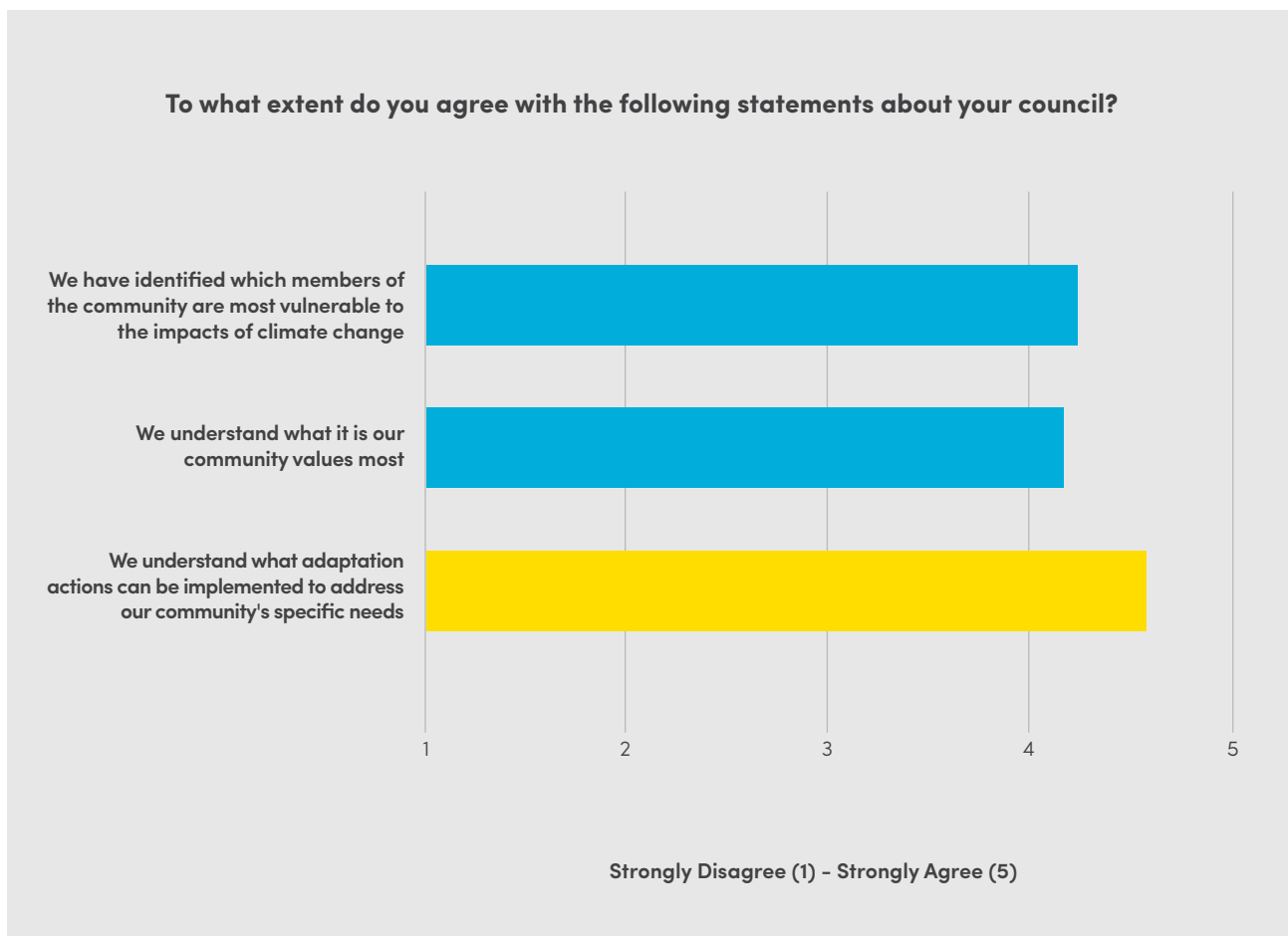


Figure 28



## Supporting Councils with Climate Change Adaptation

**65% of councils identified implementation as the part of the adaptation process that they require most support with.** This further reinforces that it is critical that initiatives from Federal and State/Territory Governments are aimed at increasing the capacity of Local Government.

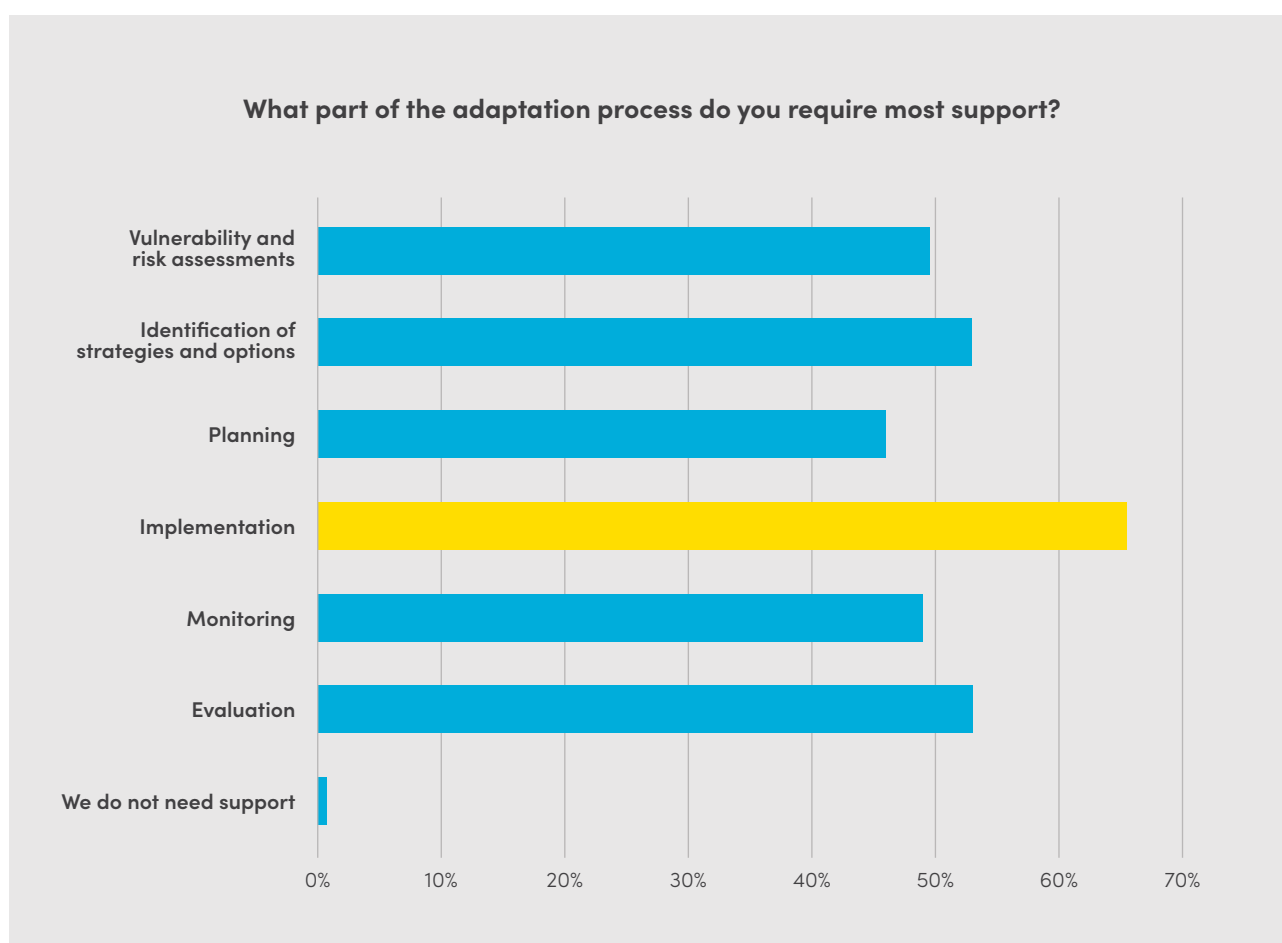


Figure 29

## Heat Shelters

Climate change is making heatwaves hotter, last longer and occur more often. This has widespread impacts, ranging from direct impacts on our health to damage to ecosystems, agriculture and infrastructure (Climate Council, 2014). In particular, urban centres are vulnerable to extreme heat due to urban heat island effect, which can damage infrastructure and impact the health of the community; particularly people most vulnerable to heat, such as low-income earners, the elderly and those with existing health conditions. With this in mind, councils were asked about the availability of heat shelters to their community.

- > 49% (n=76) of councils said they have not considered their need for a cooling centre. The majority of these councils (72%, n=55) are Regional and Rural Councils.
- > 25% (n=40) of councils have considered their need for a cooling centre and also have existing options.
- > 11% (n=17) of councils have considered their need for a cooling centre and don't have any existing options: Including 10 Metropolitan Councils, 6 Regional Towns/Cities and 1 Rural Council.

## Case Study 7

### Cool Routes

The City of Melbourne has launched Cool Routes, a website you can access to plot your journey to any destination across the city via the route that is best protected from the sun and heat.

Read more [here](#).

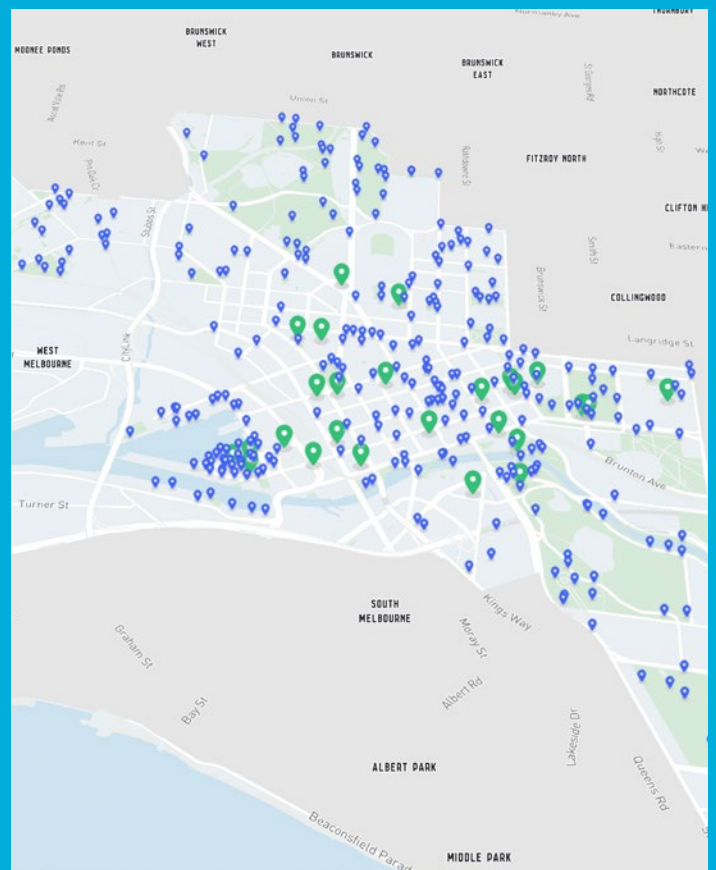


Figure 30: City of Melbourne [www.coolroutes.com.au](http://www.coolroutes.com.au)

## Case Study 8.1

### Heat Smart Western Sydney

The project looks at what processes and structures are needed for the Western Sydney Local Health District to manage heatwave emergencies, with a focus on how support can be provided to the most vulnerable. It has two key components; governance and community resilience.

Heat Smart Western Sydney (NSW) is being delivered in partnership with the Western Sydney Local Health District, and six local councils (Blacktown, Cumberland, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith City Councils).

Read more [here](#).



Figure 31: The summer 2019/20 temperatures in Jordan Springs, near Penrith, an area suffering from the urban heat island effect. Image: Dr Sebastian Pfautsch.

## Case Study 8.2

### Recycled Water Scheme

Parkes Shire Council's (NSW) Recycled Water Scheme (RWS) supplies high quality recycled water for open space irrigation sites around Parkes. The scheme strengthens Parkes' water security by providing an additional source of water for non-potable (non-drinking) use.

Parkes Recycled Water Scheme achieves significant water and energy savings by:

- > reclaiming wastewater discharges
- > substituting potable supply for municipal irrigation
- > reducing energy costs of raw water transfer and treatment
- > incorporating solar PV systems and operational scheduling to reduce energy consumption

The Recycled Water Scheme reclaims 250 mega litres of wastewater a year, avoiding the release of the same volume of effluent to the environment, and saving 185 mega litres drinking water that would otherwise be used for municipal irrigation.

Read more [here](#).

**Read more about the intensification of heatwaves and extreme heat being felt in our streets and homes, and for the million people living in Western Sydney**

[Read more here.](#)



# Pledge Commitments & Progress

## How are councils addressing emissions?

When councils sign up to CPP they have six months to commit to five pledges across the categories of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and working together & influence. The Annual Reporting & Feedback Survey provides an opportunity to track the progress councils are making on these commitments.

In 2022, 89% (n=140) of member councils reported that they had selected their pledges aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In total the CPP network has committed to 755 pledges, with the majority of these in the renewable energy category.

**To improve our ability to connect member councils, benchmark the implementation time for particular initiatives and to ensure program accountability, we introduced more granularity into the pledge reporting process.**

This involved adjusting the status that councils can report a pledge to be at (ie. proposed, planned, being implemented, completed, evaluated and discontinued). Depending on the stage an initiative is reported against, councils may also be required to include a 'start' and 'end' date for each pledge.

The following section showcases the combined status of each pledge as reported by survey respondents. If you are a member council and you want to learn how another council has progressed a pledge, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) and we'll put you in touch!

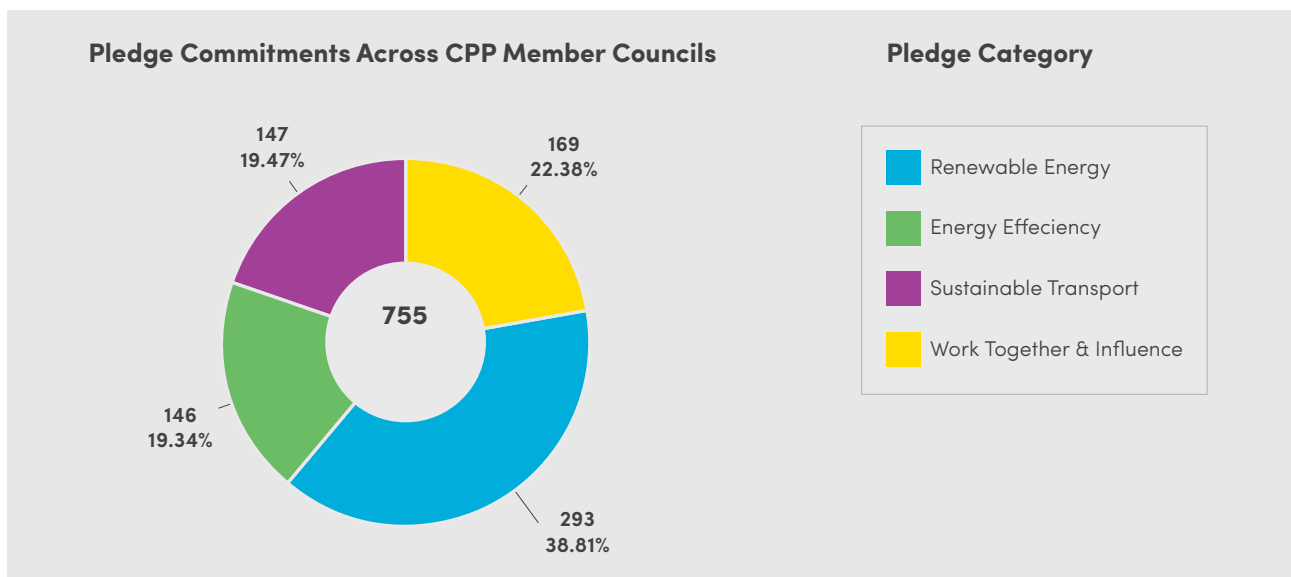


Figure 32

## Pledge Categories & Status

### Renewable Energy

Pledge	Proposed	Planned	Being Implemented	Completed	Evaluated
Develop supportive planning laws to encourage residents and industry to adopt renewable energy	-	2	6	-	-
Use council resources to support the uptake of renewable energy	1	1	12	3	1
Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings	5	2	69	14	5
Support community facilities to access renewable energy through incentives, support or grants	5	1	8	-	-
Power council operations by renewable energy, and set targets to increase the level of renewable power for council operations over time	2	1	33	13	2
Provide incentives and/or remove barriers to encourage local businesses to take up solar power and battery storage	5	-	16	1	1
Support local community renewable energy projects, and encourage investment in community energy	2	-	8	1	-
Opening up unused council managed land for renewable energy	2	2	2	-	-
Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at a low cost	1	-	4	2	1
Set minimum renewable energy benchmarks for new developments	1	-	1	-	-
Electrify public transport systems and fleet vehicles and power these by 100% renewable energy	-	-	-	-	-
Lobby electricity providers and state government to address barriers to local renewable energy uptake	-	-	-	-	-
Identify opportunities to turn organic waste into electricity	2	1	2	-	-
Implement landfill gas methane flaring or capture for electricity generation	1	-	2	3	1
Create a revolving green energy fund to finance renewable energy projects	2	-	3	1	-

**Table 14:** The status and number of Renewable Energy pledge commitments made by the 158 member councils who completed the survey in 2022.

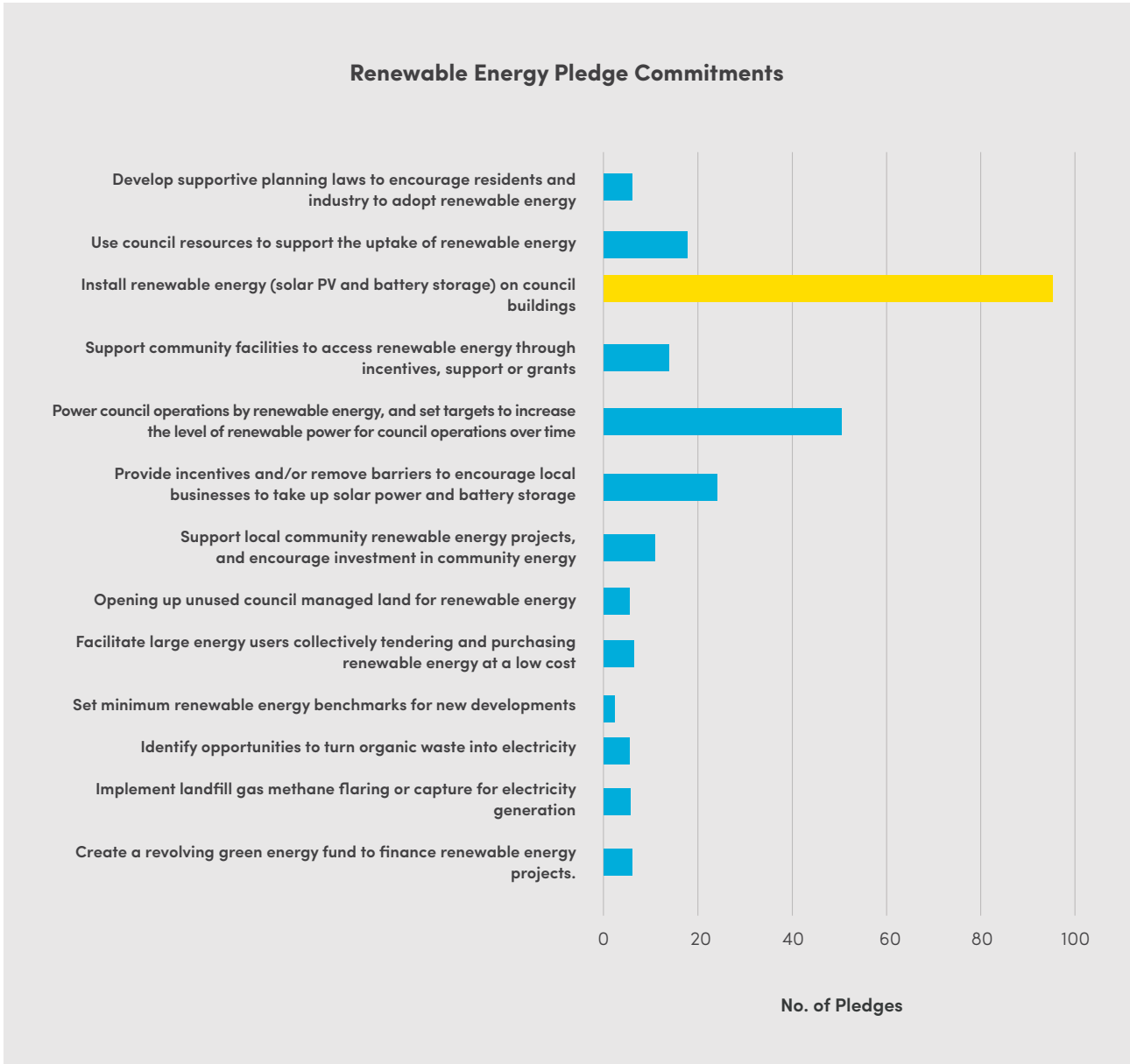
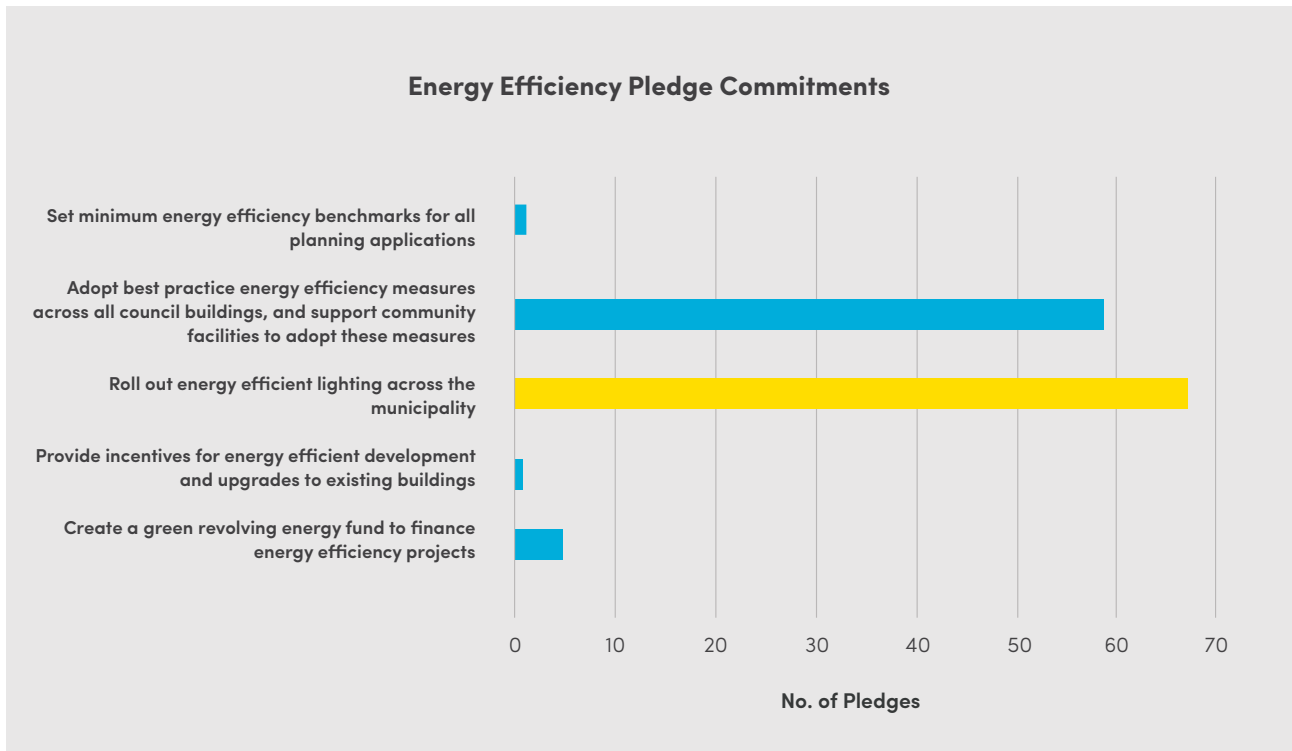


Figure 33: The total number of Renewable Energy pledge commitments made by all member councils.

## Energy Efficiency

Pledge	Proposed	Planned	Being Implemented	Completed	Evaluated
Set minimum energy efficiency benchmarks for all planning applications.	1	-	1	-	-
Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.	9	2	43	2	1
Roll out energy efficient lighting across the municipality.	6	2	52	5	2
Provide incentives for energy efficient developments and upgrades to existing buildings.	-	-	1	-	-
Incentivise use of energy efficient heating and cooling technologies.	-	-	-	-	-
Create a green revolving energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects.	1	1	1	2	-

**Table 15:** The status and number of Energy Efficiency pledge commitments made by the 158 member councils who completed the survey in 2022.

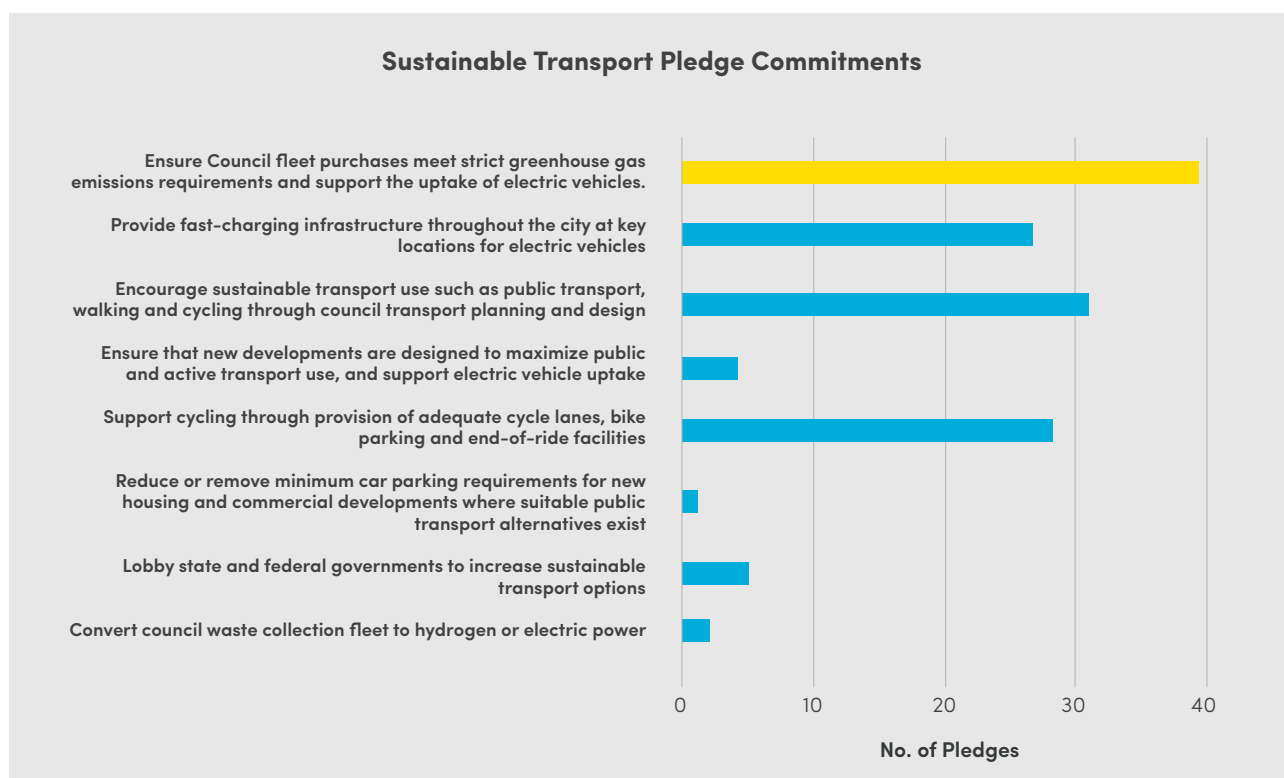


**Figure 34:** The total number of Energy Efficiency pledge commitments made by all member councils.

## Sustainable Transport

Pledge	Being				
	Proposed	Planned	Implemented	Completed	Evaluated
Ensure council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles.	5	5	26	2	1
Provide fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.	6	3	14	3	1
Encourage sustainable transport use such as public transport, walking and cycling through council transport planning and design.	5	4	21	-	-
Ensure that new developments are designed to maximize public and active transport use, and support electric vehicle uptake.	2	-	2	-	-
Support cycling through provision of adequate cycle lanes, bike parking and end-of-ride facilities.	6	3	18	-	-
Reduce or remove minimum car parking requirements for new housing and commercial developments where suitable public transport alternatives exist.	-	-	-	-	-
Lobby state and federal governments to increase sustainable transport options	1	-	3	-	-
Create disincentives for driving high emitting vehicles.	-	-	-	-	-
Convert council waste collection fleet to hydrogen or electric power.	2	-	-	-	-

**Table 16:** The status and number of Sustainable Transport pledge commitments made by the 158 member councils who completed the survey in 2022.



**Figure 35:** The total number of Sustainable Transport pledge commitments made by all member councils.



## Work Together & Influence

Pledge	Proposed	Planned	Being Implemented	Completed	Evaluated
Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets.	8	5	3	16	2
Lobby state and federal government to address barriers to the take up of renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or sustainable transport.	1	-	3	-	-
Set up meetings and attend events to work with other cities on tackling climate change.	2	-	14	-	-
Develop education and behaviour-change programs to support local residents and businesses to tackle climate change through clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.	9	-	31	3	1
Lobby for state and federal support for a just transition away from coal-driven industry for local workers and the community.	-	-	1	-	-
Develop procurement policy to ensure that the practices of contractors and financiers align with council's renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport goals.	4	1	8	-	-
Support the local community to develop capacity and skills to tackle climate change.	6	1	15	-	1
Support local community energy groups with their community energy initiatives.	2	-	6	-	-
Achieve 100% divestment from fossil fuel aligned investments at the earliest possible date.	-	-	1	-	1

**Table 17:** The status and number of Work Together & Influence pledge commitments made by the 158 member councils who completed the survey in 2022.

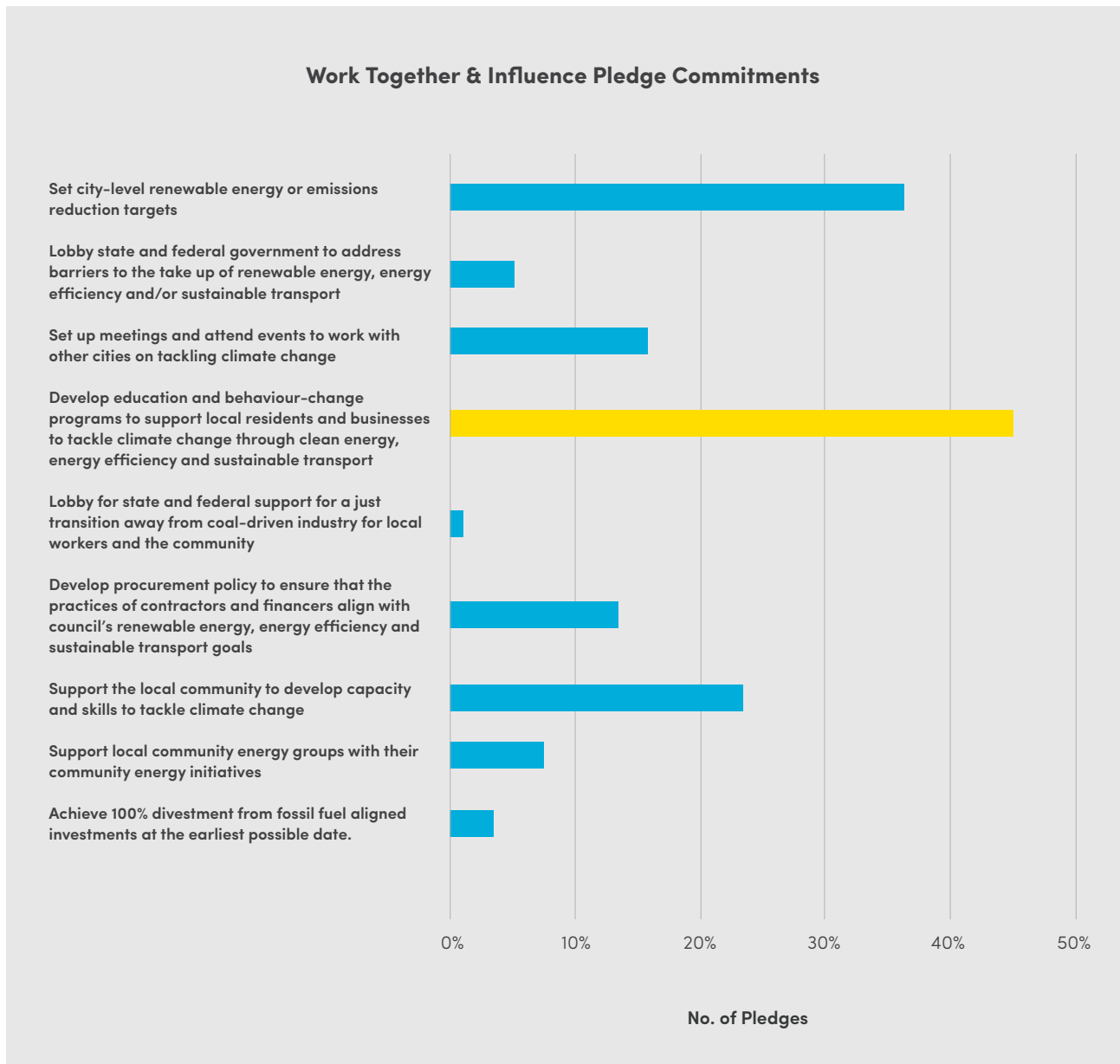


Figure 36: The total number of Work Together & Influence pledge commitments made by all member councils.

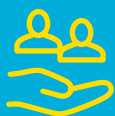
# Going Forward

Cities Power Partnership is committed to adopting a data driven approach to the design and development of our program. The Annual Reporting & Feedback Survey gives us the opportunity to better understand, verify and quantify where councils are positioned. This allows greater clarity when deciding what collaboration, education and advocacy opportunities to pursue. We are committed to continuing this approach to ensure we are best able to address the needs of our members and scale our efforts.

## Going forward, CPP will endeavour to:



Consider how we can help elevate the voices and deep knowledge of Country of First Nations people in Australia, recognising indigenous knowledge as important to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Advocate for more resources and support for all Local Governments.



Improve collaboration and knowledge sharing between councils across the country.



Grow our coalition of elected official Local Leaders to continue to raise local voices on climate change in local and national media.



Promote greater access to valuable data and information required for councils to make more efficient decisions regarding climate policy.



Demonstrate the need for a more collaborative national and state policy framework that provides Local Government more seats at the table, enables more local climate action and preparedness, and recognises the critical role local governments play in creating a sustainable, prosperous future.

# Appendix

Classification	Proportion of CPP Members	Population	% of population represented by CPP member councils	Average Population Density (persons/Km <sup>2</sup> )	Average Land Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Regional</b>	48%	7,959,871	45%	144	3057
<b>Metropolitan</b>	31%	7,157,192	40%	2,793	76
<b>Rural</b>	17%	478,028	3%	8	9,855
<b>Capital City</b>	3%	2,222,852	12%	2,916	649

**Table 18:** Breakdown of CPP Member Councils.

Reducing Operational Emissions		
Have you implemented any of the following actions that councils can undertake to reduce operational emissions?	2021	2022
Install solar PV on council facilities	96%	95%
Upgrade lighting in council facilities	89%	85%
Changeover residential street lights to LED	72%	68%
Undertake energy audits of large facilities	80%	67%
Switch to electric or hybrid vehicles	55%	65%
Power Purchase Agreement	37%	61%
Install energy efficient open space lighting (parks, gardens, sports fields)	65%	56%
Improve or upgrade HVAC (Heating, ventilation, air conditioning) in council facilities	64%	54%
Changeover major road street lights to LED	72%	46%
Divert organic waste from council facilities	54%	46%
Undertake energy audits of small facilities	45%	44%
Introduce composting (or other food waste minimisation) at council facilities	52%	42%
Building retrofits (general energy efficiency) for large facilities	51%	41%
Building retrofits (general energy efficiency) for small facilities	44%	39%
Undertake staff behaviour change on energy efficiency	37%	36%
Purchase Greenpower	24%	33%
Purchase bikes for council staff	38%	30%
Purchase offsets	23%	21%
Undertake staff efficient driving programs	11%	9%
Council owned solar farm	9%	7%
Community battery	5%	6%
Incorporate emissions-reductions KPIs into senior position descriptions	7%	5%
Renewable energy industrial precinct	5%	4%
Virtual power plant	1%	1%
None of the above	0%	1%

**Table 19:** Actions member councils have implemented to reduce operational emissions (across the last two years of reporting).

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