



SOUTH AUSTRALIA



COMMUNITY
CLIMATE
CONVERSATIONS

REPORT
2023



We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the First Nations and peoples of South Australia and recognise them as traditional owners and occupants of our state's land and waters.

Further, we acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal peoples come from their traditional lands and waters, that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance, and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters.

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A Big Thank you!

The Team at DemocracyCo, the SA Conservation Council & South Australians for Climate Action want to extend a huge thanks to the nearly 790 South Australians who contributed to the Community Climate Panel and the Community Climate Conversations and hence this report.

We also want to thank those who encouraged their networks to get involved and promoted the opportunity more generally.

An especially big thank you goes to everyone (individuals and organisations) who took the time to organise and host conversations with others in your community.

We know how busy people's lives are, how many pressures people face, and that many people are already having their lives disrupted by the impacts of climate change (as a consequence of flooding, storm damage, and bushfire). Many in our community are also facing challenges associated with the cost of living. We know that these circumstances are reducing people's capacity to participate.

Given this context, we are extra thankful that you took time out to contribute to this important conversation.

The quality of the information we received through the conversations was extraordinary. The information you provided was well-considered, detailed, and represented a holistic articulation of a complex problem, and the potential solutions. Your conversations were also jam-packed with bright ideas and concern for fellow community members who may be left behind. You carefully considered the viewpoints of all stakeholders and whilst you foresaw the need for big changes, you also sought to balance the need to bring everyone (community and businesses) along on the journey.

Sharing your views through processes such as these is an important contribution to our democracy. Governments need to understand the views of the communities they represent, and conversations about complex issues such as this are an important way to help us as a society move forward in addressing them.

So again – a big thank you to everyone who got involved for all your efforts from us at DemocracyCo, SACA, and The Conservation Council SA.

Foreword



South Australia needs powerful policies and actions that protect our community, economy, and environment from the devastation of climate change. First and foremost, we must reduce our emission and export of greenhouse gases. The question is: how to do this quickly enough, and, just as importantly, how to do this with community support.

South Australia has a track record of bipartisan leadership on climate and energy policy, and we have already proven through our global leading clean energy transition that we have the capability to take bold and decisive action. We have a lot to gain by responding positively and forcefully to the changing climate.

Yet like the rest of the world, we also have a lot to lose if we miss this critical time for action. A 'business as usual' future is no longer possible and the sooner we ramp up our response, building on our strengths, the sooner South Australians can face the future with optimism. The task is both immense and urgent: it requires a whole-of-state response, from government, business, civil society, and the community.

Community support is essential and instructive. It can provide insights for government as it develops its critical leadership. It can assist businesses to respond in productive ways to the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It can inspire individual and collective community action.

During the last half of 2023, hundreds of ordinary South Australian citizens have come together in small groups to discuss their ideas on what needs to be done to reduce emissions, by whom, and what are the major barriers to action.

The results of these many hundreds of hours of discussion, reflection, and insight are set out in this report. The ideas are thoughtful, constructive, and provide a strong foundation for action by South Australia's government, business, and civil society leaders.

Prof Judith Dwyer AM

South Australians for Climate Action

Craig Wilkins

SA Conservation Council



Our climate is changing.

Reaching our emissions reduction targets needs individuals, communities, governments, and industry to pursue lots of different solutions. We need to talk about how we can work together, and what we need to prioritise. This isn't always easy to talk about, but it is not beyond us to do so with respect, care, and hope for our shared future. How do we reach net zero by 2050?

In 2023 750 South Australians from diverse backgrounds, with diverse interests, and from diverse locations got involved and participated in 114 community conversations across the state.

The focus of the conversations: what can South Australians do, what can their communities do, what should government do, and what should industry do to help us achieve net zero emissions by 2050?

This report summarises the feedback and reflections provided through these 114 conversations.

The report is provided to assist the South Australian State Government in understanding the views of the community and to inform the development of strategies for reaching the Government's targets of net zero emissions by 2050.

The process was hosted by the SA Conservation Council and South Australians for Climate Action.

The engagement process was designed, managed, and implemented by independent engagement consultancy democracyCo.

The project was supported, sponsored, and funded by the Department for Environment and Water.

This report was prepared by democracyCo following a thorough analysis of the information received from the 110+ conversations via an online portal.



Summary of findings

Community's Key Messages to Government

The overwhelming takeaway from the Community Conversations was that participants are looking for transformative and holistic change to address what they see as an urgent and pressing challenge – reaching net zero by 2050.

Participants are looking for a comprehensive and cohesive, whole-of-government strategy from the South Australian Government which includes new systems, infrastructure, and policies to enable and promote behaviour change and action by industry and community alike.

It is clear from the participants that there is a readiness and a willingness by many in our community to act, and act urgently, to reduce emissions, but they need to be able to access trusted information and have the infrastructure and systems in place which support that change.

There was a palpable sense of urgency about the transition needed and a sense of feeling overwhelmed by the scale and cost of that transition.

Whilst the community are feeling overwhelmed and disempowered on this issue, they are hoping for urgent government leadership (at all levels) to enable them to take personal action. They identified that this problem and its solutions don't belong to one agency and that all agencies need to see emissions reduction as core business. A collaborative whole-of-government approach is needed. Local Government also identified the need for this collaboration to extend to working in partnership with Councils.

South Australia needs to harness the collective knowledge and skills of our democratic agencies to achieve holistic change.

In all sectors of emissions reduction community members identified that community action is being hampered or restricted by the lack of systems. A simple example to demonstrate this can be seen in the context of one of the biggest emissions challenges – reducing emissions from cars.

"Government has so much ability to make change, and they need to do it, so we can all follow."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP

Participants highlighted the importance of using public and active transport more to reduce the cars on our roads, but to do so they need investment to not only extend the network but to also improve the regularity and reliability of the existing public transport system.

Community's Key Messages to Government (cont)

Participants also highlighted that a lack of information or a lack of trust in the information that is available is hampering action to reduce emissions.

Vastly improved information and communication is needed about the problem, its implications for people across South Australia, and about what people can do to mitigate it. Participants identified the challenges created for action by misinformation and disinformation being perpetrated on this issue. Most obvious and well-known is how misinformation and disinformation have raised questions in people's minds about the extent to which climate change is an issue or a problem, but feedback provided through this process has highlighted what appears to be a new or emerging problem – that being, how misinformation is now creating confusion about the best course of action for addressing the problem. This confusion appears to be creating a form of 'action inertia' – people don't know what action they should take to reduce their emissions and protect the environment – so they don't act at all.

Also concerning was the extent of feedback provided through the Community Conversations regarding perceptions about what is impacting the Government's policies and programs on climate change. An overwhelming number of participants indicated that they felt that excessive influence on Government by lobbyists and some industry sectors is resulting in Government inaction on this issue and that the Government is listening to industry and not to communities.

Lastly, during our work promoting the opportunity to get involved, there was a clear message from those we approached that it is hard for people to engage in prevention when they are reeling from the impacts of successive and compounding climate related disasters. This was particularly the case in regional and remote areas. The challenges are both emotional, as this issue is now a lived experience, and physical, in the sense people just don't have time to talk given the work involved in recovery.

People also told us that cost-of-living challenges are creating similar complications with many people struggling with how they are going to cover immediate costs of living, hampering their capacity to focus on the long term.

It was clear that the challenge faced now is not just addressing climate change – it is addressing climate change urgently whilst as a society we are managing successive and compounding natural disasters at a time when broader economic challenges are biting harder than they have for decades.

This is why participants are frustrated and worried, and they need to see urgent Government action that promotes a speedy behavioral response from both Industry and the Community, whilst supporting those least able to respond.

How is the community feeling about action on climate?

How people feel affects what they know and how they act. Understanding it is critical to consideration of what action to take to shift beliefs and achieve behaviour change.

With this in mind, the Community Climate Conversations process asked participants to reflect on how they are feeling about the challenge of climate change and reducing emissions.

While many groups were feeling optimistic that a conversation about the problems had finally started and that there seems to be a more widespread understanding and acceptance of climate change, many expressed that they are not hopeful about resolving the problem.

They indicated concern that climate change is not being addressed at the scale or speed that is needed. Participants reflected that the problem is urgent, and a critical priority, but that change is too slow and is coming too late.

Community appreciated that they are starting to see action from Government, with it being given a higher priority in Government planning, noting that South Australia has a strong history in renewable energy and battery storage.

They see the opportunities that creating new jobs and skills can bring to our state as our workforce adapts to the new way of doing things.

"There is a lot to be positive about in South Australia. ... We have noticed considerable change in opinions regarding sustainability in the last 10 years, and awareness and action in this space continues to grow."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

In reference to individual or community taking action to address the problem, many are feeling too overwhelmed and disempowered to act, or are unsure where their actions can have the most effect. They would like more science-based information to help them make informed decisions.

Many feel that it is beyond the capacity of individuals to make a difference, however, they would happily act if Government took the lead to drive change.

Several groups mentioned that they are starting to see the community take action, and many are very hopeful that young people are more understanding and accepting of climate change and that they will lead change in the future.

Community sentiment at a glance

Frustration and worry

Frustration that we are not moving fast enough to address a very urgent problem, and a palpable fear about the consequences of not doing so.

Government Leadership

The community wants to see comprehensive and holistic action from the State Government on this issue as a matter of urgency. It was proposed that the Government establish a clear vision, ambitious targets, holistic strategies, and mechanisms that enable behaviour change by community, industry, and government to reduce their emissions.

Community wants to change

The participants recognised that they need to change their behaviours to help achieve net zero, but they need the systems, structures, and policies in place to support that behaviour change.

Improved engagement and communication is needed

Government needs to improve how it communicates with, engages with, and listens to the community on climate. There is a need for improved information and communication about the problem and solutions (what we can do to address the problem). There was overwhelming feedback from the conversations that people are concerned that Government is only listening to big organisation's about this issue. Government action on this issue is being seen through this frame.

Equitable transitions

Extensive focus and consideration is needed on how to make the transition equitable by supporting those least able to afford the transition and those who could also benefit most from using low-cost energy technology.



7 Priority Actions for Government

The below summarises the most important priorities the community have for Government.

Transport

Invest in public and active transport to create an integrated and accessible system. Make it the safe, cheap, and easy option to encourage a shift away from car dependency. Incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles.

Building

Construction Code: Ensure updates to the National Construction Code support electrification and improved energy efficiency measures.

Planning: Create developments with higher density that support better incorporation of green spaces, protection of existing trees and habitat, and integrate with public transport.

Greening: Plant more trees, and protect existing trees and other plants for urban cooling, habitat, biodiversity, aesthetics, and carbon sequestration.

Energy

Move away from fossil fuels. Do not allow the opening of any new coal and gas mining facilities and stop subsidising these operations. Mandate no new gas connections. Support an equitable transition to electrified homes and businesses, including access to solar and batteries.

Agriculture

Provide incentives and education to encourage farmers to shift to lower emissions practices. Use education and pricing mechanisms or subsidies to influence consumer choices and demand for low emissions food products. Support research and development to enable innovation in best practices in agriculture.

Goods & Services

Educate the community about how to choose goods and services that are low emissions. Create incentives for low emissions choices and enable good choices through clear labeling and transparency of emissions information on goods and services. Support business and industry to improve their production processes.

Waste

Reduce overall waste. Develop the systems to support a circular economy for South Australia. Regulate or encourage production processes that ensure capacity for end-of-life repair, reuse or recycling. Require packaging to be compostable or recyclable.

Healthy Country

Collaborate with First Nations people in true partnership to protect, monitor and restore native animals, flora and water resources for healthy communities.



The Process

The process How we got here

In May and June 2023, 53 diverse and broadly representative South Australians came together from across the State to form the Community Climate Panel. Their aim – to kick start a statewide conversation about what we need to do to achieve the State's net zero greenhouse gas emission targets.

The Panel identified six areas that South Australians need to talk about, and the actions we need to take to deliver on these ideas. In this way, the Panel set the agenda for a whole-of-state community conversation.

The Panel's work was brought together with information about the causes of climate change and what it means for the future of South Australia in a Community Conversation Deliberative Guide (the guide). The guide was developed by democracyCo, to assist and support broad community.

"As a society our footprint is too heavy. We have been living beyond our planets current and future capacity to process and survive our impact.

Reaching our emissions reduction targets is going to need individuals, community, governments, and industry to pursue a lot of different solutions."

COMMUNITY CLIMATE PANEL 2023

What is a Community Climate Conversation?

A Community Climate Conversation is a small group of people who get together to talk through how we can reduce our emissions. The setting is up to the group! They might be friends, neighbours, colleagues, sport or faith groups, or anyone who wants to come together to talk.

Community Conversations are a way for everyone to contribute in a setting that is convenient, comfortable, and enjoyable for them. They offer the opportunity for the broadest possible range of South Australians to have open and honest conversations with each other about the things that matter to their communities.

From August 2023 until December 2023, South Australians came together to reflect on the ideas identified by the Panel in the Deliberative Guide and to provide their own ideas through Community Conversations. Anyone in South Australia could host a Community Conversation, and project partners reached out to their diverse networks in the education, faith, arts, multicultural, industry and community sectors to encourage broad take up and participation.

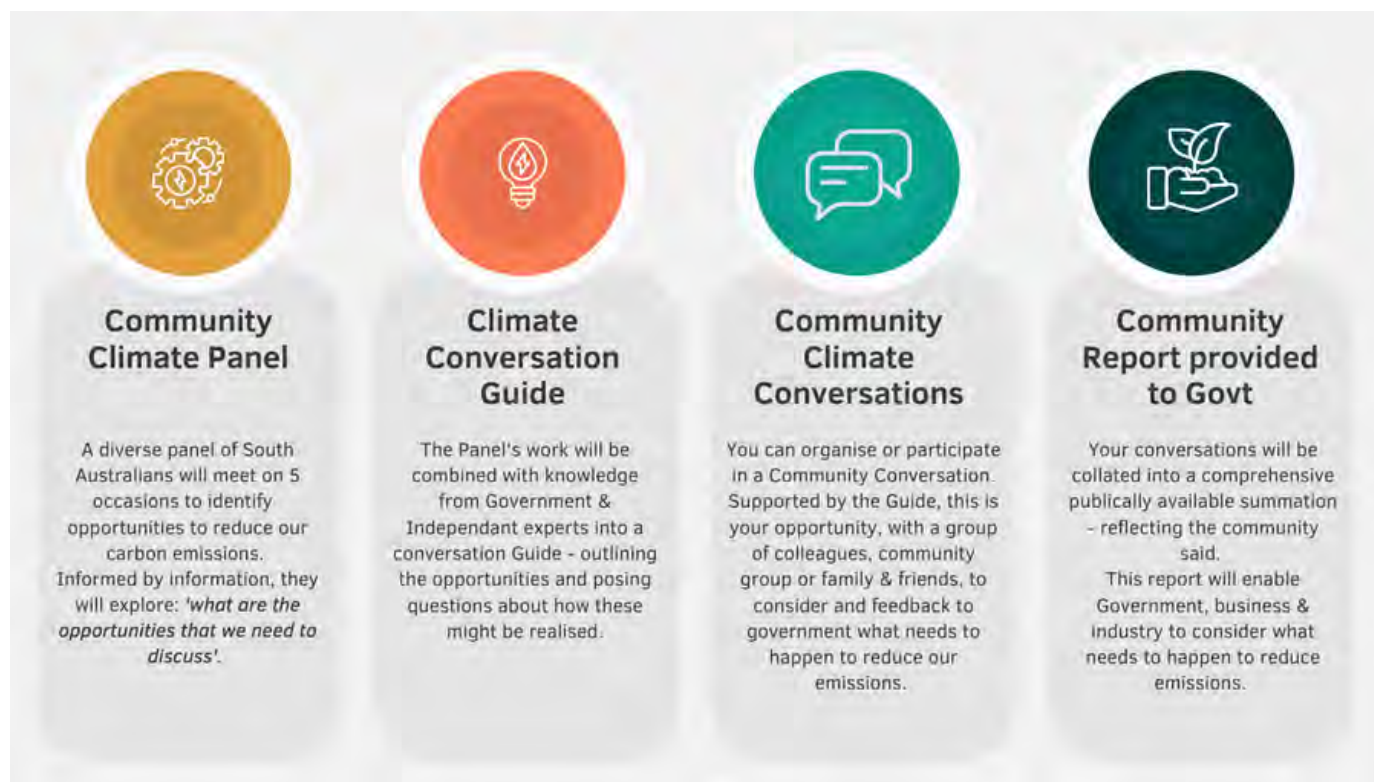
In addition, the project team reached out to Aboriginal groups, youth, and Local Government to organise specific events and processes to raise the voices of these groups.

This report summarises the feedback received through these community conversations.

The process How we got here

A summary of the Net Zero community engagement process is provided below in Figure 1. The methodology can be found in full at Appendix A.

Figure 1 – The Net Zero Community Conversations Engagement approach



About this report

This report was written by independent consultancy democracyCo using feedback from the 114 Community Conversations from across the state - which included conversations with Aboriginal Native Title holder representatives, Local Government, and Youth (and their representatives).

DemocracyCo independently analysed all the feedback. There was no involvement from the project hosts or sponsors in the analysis.

Data Analysis Methodology

Analysis of the conversation data was undertaken using an inductive thematic analysis, where the categories for coding were based on the ideas that were brought up by the community. The frequency of mention (by different conversation groups) was used to prioritise the actions for government, community and industry/business.

How to read this report

The Community Conversations have the following focus areas which are the key sections in this report - Transport, Building, Energy, Agriculture, Goods and Services & Waste

Each section of this report reflects what we asked participants in the Conversations to talk about, namely:

- Challenges - identifying what was hard for communities to act on and why.
- Government priorities - what they would like to see prioritised for action.
- Roles / Actions for
 - Government,
 - Business and industry and
 - Community and individuals.
- Ideas they had along the way.

Each section of this report follows this structure in the main, with some slight differences reflecting the data received by the community.



Throughout the report you will see these speech bubbles, which show the number of conversations that brought up each priority or idea.

It is important to note that the numbers shown for the ideas and challenges throughout the report represents the numbers of conversations. As each conversation had an average of six participants, this means that for each idea or concern, the number of individual people who talked about the issue is on average, 6 times the number shown. For example, if 65 groups are identified as having talked about an issue, you can expect that approximately 390 people supported that view.

Photographs

You will notice photos of groups talking throughout this report – these are the images that the Community Conversation Groups sent us of their conversations.

Community Specific Reports

In addition to these standard Conversations, there were three groups who participated in a slightly different way to ensure that the process met their needs and that their voices were heard adequately.

These were:

- Local Government (1 conversation)
- SA Native Title Service (7 conversations)
- Youth - (7 conversations)

Their responses to the Conversation have been included within the main data, however they also have a summary page included for each group. These reports are found towards the back of this report, under the section called Community Specific Reports and they have a unique layout - to authentically reflect what participants said.

Who took part?

114 CONVERSATIONS
INVOLVING 750 SOUTH
AUSTRALIANS

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPREAD OF PARTICIPATION



REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Of all the conversations held, 63 of them had people from South Australia's regions involved

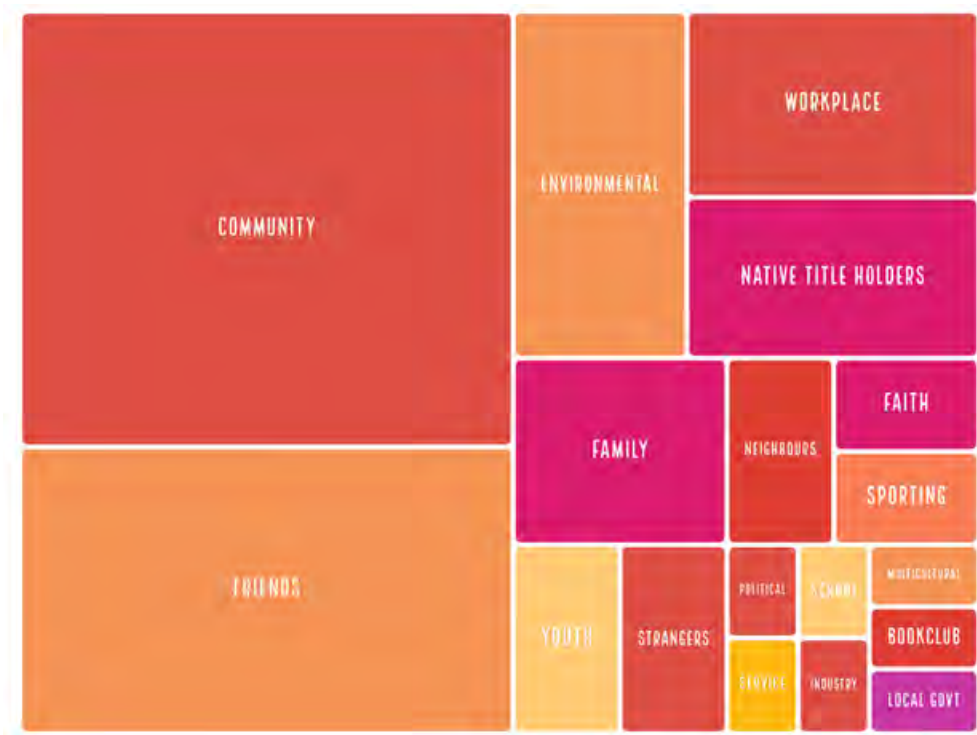


MORE THAN 104
YOUNG PEOPLE
UNDER 18

57,274 MINUTES OF
CONVERSATION ...
THAT'S 955 HOURS!

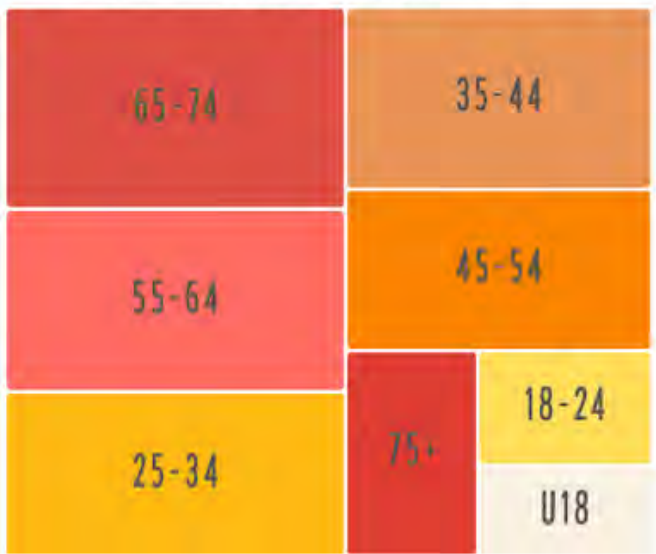
Who took part?

TYPES OF GROUPS THAT HELD CONVERSATIONS

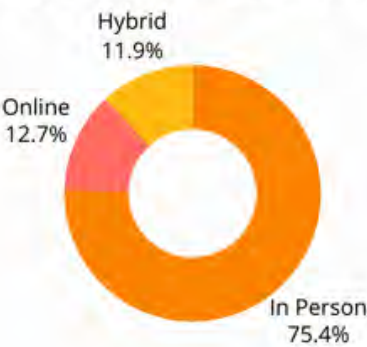


AGE OF PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED

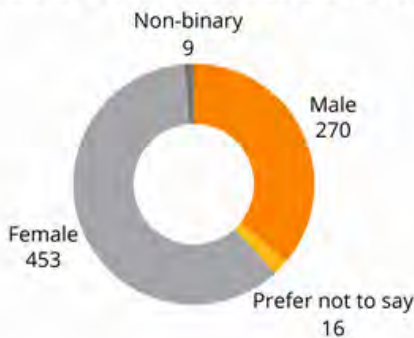
This shows the proportion of conversations which had people of varying age groups in them.



HOW PEOPLE HELD CONVERSATIONS



GENDER OF PEOPLE IN CONVERSATIONS





**How do we
transition to net
zero emissions?**

**Community
Ideas & Priorities**

How? Challenges

Participants reflected on the interconnected and all-encompassing need for action across sectors to reduce emissions. They found it difficult to prioritise emissions reductions areas, with many groups offering more holistic responses to the questions posed, which cut across sectors and considered the problem at a systemic level.

The most commonly talked about challenges were:

21

The cost of change

The cost to act will be immense and many people will be unable to afford to make the required changes without support. Compounding this problem are the current cost of living pressures and high costs of 'doing business'.

20

Urgency

It will take time to get industry and community on board to implement actions and changes, and they felt that we are running out of time.

19

Overwhelm

Feelings of overwhelm, disempowerment or frustration. Many are time poor.

19

Excessive Influence

Perceived excessive influence over government from industry and lobbyists (especially the fossil fuel industry). Strong vested interests conflict with effective action on emissions.

17

Focus on Economics

Participants felt that current economic models do not consider the value of the natural environment or the wellbeing of the community, and instead prioritise economic growth.

16

Information

A lack of knowledge or information on what to do to reduce their emissions.



This icon shows how many conversations mentioned the topic

How? Challenges

In addition, participants identified the following significant system challenges:

- 13 The challenge is **beyond the scope of community** to address. It needs Government and Industry to do the heavy lifting to lead change.
- 12 **Governments have been too slow and reluctant to act.**
- 12 **Size and complexity** of the task. It is a difficult, complicated, and huge transition that needs to take place. Many challenges are interlinked and need concurrent action.
- 11 **There are unequal impacts** from climate change. Those who are most disadvantaged are not in a position to make sustainable choices.
- 9 **Behaviour change** is difficult to achieve, especially when it might mean acting in a way that is less convenient or comfortable.
- 9 **Compounding impacts of climate change.** Many participants are concerned about how increased disaster risks such as sea level rise, stormwater flooding, food and other shortages, displacement of people, loss of arable land, heat waves, and other impacts will actually make acting to reduce emissions even more challenging. [see note]
- 8 **Lack of industry action.** Participants felt that some industries have been reluctant to change.
- 7 **A failure of Government to listen** to the wishes of the community.
- 7 **Time** - people are busy and lack to the time to engage with lowering their emissions.
- 6 **Media and advertising.** Some participants identified the role our media and advertising environment has played in allowing the promotion of misinformation and disinformation on this issue.
- 5 **Coordinating levels of Government is difficult.**
- 4 **Political cycles** are too short to implement and embed sustainable change.
- 4 **Environmental damage** - there is a biodiversity crisis with many species at risk.

DemocracyCo Note – Indeed we (as facilitators and engagement organisers) even found that because communities in the Murraylands and Riverlands have experienced flooding back-to-back with drought, that these communities found it difficult to engage in a conversation on this issue. People are responding to and still reeling from their experiences with climate change, making it understandably difficult on a practical and emotional level to engage with government, especially on this issue.

How? Government's Priorities

Participants wanted to see strong leadership from Government in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They need this leadership to enable them (as individuals and communities) to take action. They thought that regulation is needed, including incentives and disincentives for action along with improved education of community, business and industry about the problem and solutions.

Participants identified that Government should take a holistic, systemic approach to reducing emissions as the only actor with the power, knowledge, and resources to lead change.

Top 3 Government Actions

Education & Communications 71

Be a trusted source of knowledge and information for the community, industry, and businesses to enable them to understand the issues and the actions they can take to reduce their own emissions

Regulation 45

Require emissions reductions through strong legislation and then enforce the regulations.

Leadership 35

Strong leadership, with a clear vision, ambitious targets, strategies and mechanisms that support community, industry and business to take action to reduce their emissions.

"We need a public health type approach to changing unhealthy (emissions) behaviour (though more ambitious and successful!): financial signals, regulation, information campaigns, incentives, support programs & sustained over years."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

How? Government's Role

Education & Communications

Participants expressed the following range of potential actions Government could take to improve information, education, and communications on the need to reduce emissions:

- Educate the community on the climate change emergency and the actions they can take to reduce their emissions, including from the goods and services they buy, growing gardens, recycling correctly, and reducing waste.
- Use multiple different mechanisms to enable education of the general community about climate change and its impacts outside formal education systems, such as
 - Implementing an advertising campaign,
 - Investing in programs and 'docuseries' such as the ABC's War on Waste, but focused on climate action,
 - Community engagement processes that focus on managing the risks of climate change (such as disruption of food chains, impact on beaches/ coastal communities of sea level rise, bushfire management, etc.)
 - Building information and raising awareness through the Government's standard press releases and communications. For example, all government communications about climate extremes and natural disasters (as and when these happen) should make the connection between the event and climate change/global warming, and the future modelling for these events.
- Encourage the community to work together on actions to reduce emissions.
- Educate industry and business on the actions they can take to reduce emissions.
- Give clear, consistent, up-to-date messaging, backed by science to help people choose which actions will make the most difference in the shortest amount of time.
- Provide good quality, reliable information to community, industry, and business.
- Increase the focus on climate change in schools.
- Ensure that courses at all educational levels support the workforce of the future.
- Share good news stories to inspire people and give them hope.



How? Government's Role

Regulation & Legislation

Participants identified the following range of actions for government to use to encourage or require action to address emissions:

- Regulate carbon-intensive products and behaviours, incentivise low-carbon transitions, and use financial tools to ensure low-income/low-asset citizens have the means to participate.
- Create incentives to act through subsidies, taxes, financial signals, support programs, or bans.
- Regulate truth in media and advertising.
- Legislation to improve reuse and recycling.
- Require industries to have an emissions reduction plan.
- Monitor offset programs to ensure their integrity.
- Strengthen environmental legislation.
- Retract legislation on climate protesters.



How? Government's Role

Leadership

Participants expressed the following perspectives on the action government should take to lead a net zero emissions future. (Note: the feedback in this section is very high-level. Greater detail about what this means in terms of individual emissions sectors is provided throughout this report in the relevant section.)

- Be strong and consistent in their commitment and actions to transition to zero emissions. Avoid policy and programs that work against achieving emissions reductions.
- Create a positive vision & narrative of the low emissions future – **“Government to develop a positive vision, based on the best available science, on what SA could look like under a low emissions future. Optimism will encourage action.”**
- Provide the structures to support individual and community action.
- Set ambitious and measurable targets.
- Lead by example by establishing low-emission procurement policies.
- Collaborate and take a whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change.
- Recognise the urgency for action and get on with addressing this issue.
- Make change as easy as possible for individuals by reducing any barriers and supporting improved systems - **“We must make the low emission choices the easy choices.”**

“Government should be a leader advocating and supporting scientific solutions for decarbonisation.”
CONVERSATION QUOTE

“We need a war-like footing to deal with climate change – this is the scale of response needed from government”.

CONVERSATION QUOTE

How? Government's Role

Other roles for Government include:

- 33 **Supporting sustainability initiatives** in communities, business, industry, and local Government.
- 30 **Protect the environment.** Prioritise the natural environment by protecting and regenerating biodiversity and water, and undertaking cost-benefit analysis on all government policies, programs, and developments.
- 29 **Listening to and following community wishes.** In line with this outcome, participants indicated that they wanted members of parliament to listen to constituents' concerns about climate action, listen to the needs and plight of young people, engage the community in conversations about climate action (such as this process), and, through more active forms of democratic engagement such as Citizens Assemblies, listen to Aboriginal people and respect their cultural knowledge.
- 25 **Incentivising community behaviour change,** including financial signals, regulation, information campaigns, support programs, and other incentives (and disincentives).
- 24 **Ensure equity** as we transition to zero emissions. Make sure that disparities between the ability of different groups in our society to act are addressed. Support lower income, culturally and linguistically diverse, and/or disabled community members to access solutions and enable them to make low-emissions choices. Recognise that they are often the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, but the least likely to be able to access solutions.
- 20 **Collaborate** with industry, business, organisations, community, and other levels of government to realise a low-emissions future. These issues will not be solved without working together. Work with other levels of Government to coordinate actions, including advocating to the Federal Government to implement effective policies on emissions reductions. Work with industry to identify 'low hanging' fruit for emissions reduction.

"Initiate education and training for the transition economy. There is a need for a skilled workforce around energy transition and climate change preparedness in all sectors, and involving individuals (from young to old), communities and industry."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

How? Government's Role

Additional roles for Government included:

- 21 **Build Community.** Foster citizen cooperation and capacity to act together.
- 18 **Influence industry** to take responsibility and change their practices through frameworks, incentives, regulation, and education.
- 13 **Use science** to support the prioritising of actions and to create solutions for challenges.
- 13 **Transparency** with publicly available reporting to support accountability and good decision-making.
- 12 **Decouple lobbyists and industry** from having excessive influence over Government. Prioritise community preferences over industry and their lobbyists.
- 11 **Adaptation:** incorporate plans for adaptation and risk and emergency management into emissions reduction plans.
- 10 **Skilled workforce.** Develop the workforce of the future, equipped with the skills for energy transition and climate change preparedness.
- 9 **Utilise taxation** mechanisms to appropriately account for emissions and fund the actions needed to shift to a net zero future.
- 6 **Scope 3 emissions.** Include and report on scope 3 emissions.

"We are not confident that Governments recognise how urgent the situation is. We see possibility of an apocalypse and we think the community needs to be informed and prepared."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

How? Industry & Business Role

Participants wanted to see business and industry:

- 14 **Take responsibility** for the emissions of their operations and work hard to reduce them.
- 4 **Measure and account** for the environmental impacts of their operations.
- 4 **Encourage more work-from-home** and foster flexible workplaces that allow for staff to lower their own emissions.
- 3 **Shift values** to more than just profits.
- 2 **Be transparent** about their activities and emissions.

How? Community & Individual's Role

Participants highlighted important actions for individuals and communities, including:

- 41 **Lobby government for change.** Talk to your local MP, advocate, protest, write letters, and make submissions.
- 29 **Share your knowledge and role model** positive changes you make to your family, friends, and community.
- 24 **Collaborating with community** to share knowledge and stories, work together and keep talking about these issues.
- 23 **Educating yourself** on emissions reductions and climate change.
- 19 **Make changes** in your own behaviour and lifestyle to reduce your emissions.
- 7 **Give Government social license to act.**
- 7 **Use your purchasing power** to advocate for change.
- 5 **Invest (or divest) ethically.**

"Inform oneself and share information about what can be done at the individual and community level to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change. Be visible about your personal climate-conscious lifestyle choices, setting an example for others."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Overarching Ideas



Participants had some specific ideas for actions.

- **Government (working with the opposition) to develop a positive vision, based on the best available science, of what SA could look like under a low emissions future.**
- **Establish a Commissioner for the Future (like in Wales)**
- **Build climate modelling into all decisions of Cabinet.**
- **South Australian-based carbon credits scheme to build community engagement/climate action.**
- **Reward scheme for individuals and industry making a difference and doing the right thing.**
- **Support for councils to develop carbon footprints and energy audits.**
- **Work with Councils to build resilient communities.**



Sector Specific Priorities

Sector Specific Priorities

The community were asked to discuss and rank which areas of emissions reductions they believe need to be prioritised in the next 10 years (Figure 2). Priorities were ranked from highest to lowest priority by each group. The maximum score an area could achieve would be 6.

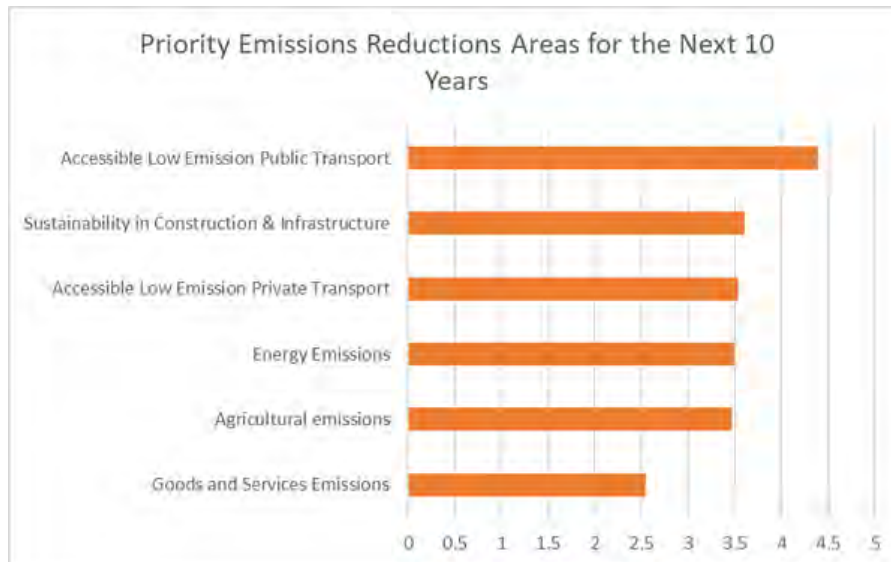


Figure 2

Conversation Groups were also asked to select the two emissions reductions areas which they believe will be the hardest for community to act on (Figure 3). This graph shows the percentage of the total votes that each area received.

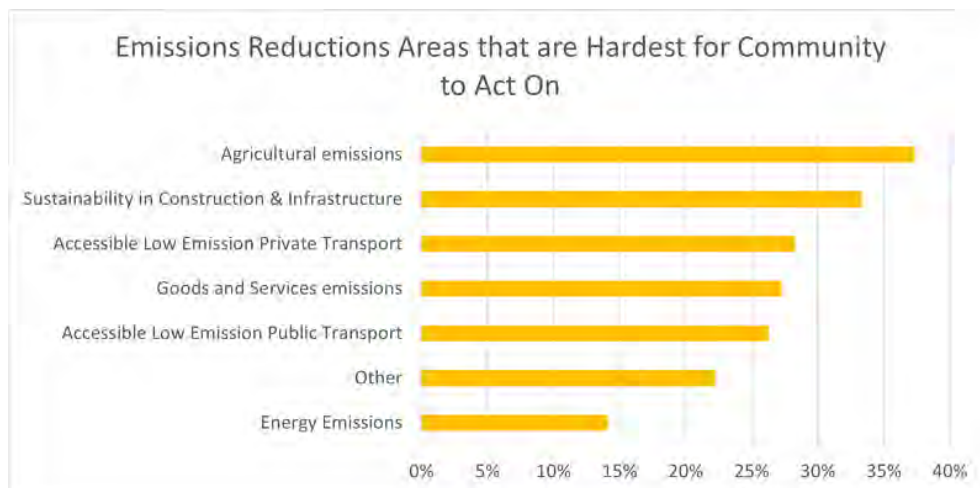


Figure 3

Responses to the option to provide an "Other" suggestion included:

- A community-level climate change adaptation strategy and focusing on long-term resilience.
- Ensuring that vulnerable people are protected.
- Conservation.
- How to change behaviours and habits.
- Air travel.
- Building political will for rapid change.



Transport

Transport Challenges

The most commonly talked about challenges

The most common challenges expressed by the participants for reducing emissions caused by transport included limitations in the public and active transport systems and an ingrained culture of car use. As a society, we have established behaviours that center around private vehicle use and our infrastructure prioritises cars.

Participants talked about the limited availability of public transport, especially in the Adelaide Hills, Regional centers, and outer suburbs, and poor connections between routes and other modes of transport.

For active transport, they felt that there is inadequate infrastructure to enable the safe and comfortable use of active transport options such as walking and cycling.

Shifting our car culture

Many groups observed that as a society we need to look at transport differently, to reduce our emissions. We need to change our attitudes, behaviour, and cultural norms to:

- 1 Reduce our reliance on our private cars and changing our behaviours about the type of car we buy, and how we use them.
- 2 Reconsider our need for travel.
- 3 Change our expectations & what we tell Government about what should be funded and prioritised: more bigger roads vs passages for active transport.
- 4 Explore and embrace other ways to move: walk, cycle, bus, tram.

"The current infrastructure in Adelaide is reliant on cars, even if we wanted to, public transport doesn't traverse across suburban areas, and cycling is still underdeveloped and lacking safety for the general public to feel comfortable using it as a primary mode of transport."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Transport Challenges

Other challenges for the transport sector in reducing emissions include:

Public transport

- 29 **Availability** issues with limited routes creating substantive inconvenience. The dispersed nature of Adelaide suburbs impacts viability.
- 16 **Culture.** There is an embedded car culture here in South Australia, with infrastructure prioritizing cars.
- 10 **Affordability** of use.
- 4 **Regularity** - Not enough availability during peak times.

Freight transport

- 2 **Network limitations.** There is a lack of or limited use of rail systems to move freight within and outside of SA.
- 2 **Delivery** of goods to outer suburbs is inefficient.

Private and Active Transport

- 19 **Affordability.** EVs are unaffordable for many people.
- 19 **Infrastructure constraints.** There is a lack of active transport infrastructure and substantive safety concerns as a consequence.
- 1 **Disability access.** There is no wheelchair-accessible parking for EVs.

"It's hard for individuals and communities to move away from private cars when we don't have good public transport; not everyone can afford an electric car and the necessary infrastructure; cycling is not an option for many people due to restricted infrastructure and connections with public transport, as well as safety concerns."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Transport Government's Priorities

Participants highlighted that in order for us to move away from our car dependency, there needs to be significant investment in public and active transport infrastructure to improve its accessibility, safety, and convenience. They also spoke of the need to shift more freight transport to rail, and to electrify trucks.

Top 3 Government actions

Public Transport

68

Improve public transport route availability, frequency, journey times, reliability, and interconnectivity, and reduce public transport emissions by electrifying the fleet.

Private Transport

50

Enable fast adoption of EVs / low emission private transport options (i.e. provide more subsidies and incentives to buy EVs), actively reduce emissions of the cars on our roads (i.e. reduce speeds, traffic flow & efficiency, legislation) while also decreasing the total number of cars on the road (through disincentives for petrol/diesel cars and improving public and active transport infrastructure options).

Active Transport

42

Invest more in active transport infrastructure to make it safe, more accessible and the easy choice for people to make



Transport Government's Role

Participants identified the following key roles for Government in the transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector:

All Transport

- Introduce vehicle emissions standards and plan for phasing out fossil fuel vehicles.
- Lead by example. Purchase an EV fleet and encourage active and public transport use for employees.
- Reduce speed limits to increase fuel efficiency and improve safety for active transport.
- Decentralise the workforce and encourage more work from home.
- Ensure that city planning incorporates the services that people need close to home so they don't have to rely on their cars.
- Enable and incentivise lower emission transport, and disincentivise high emission transport.
- Reduce focus on road infrastructure and instead invest in active transport infrastructure. Less highways, and more thoroughfares for mixed and active transport.

"There are many commercial and environmental benefits to be gained from making the CBD more walkable, less car dominated and enjoyed as a place for people to live, relax and socialize."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

"For EVs to make a difference, we need sound mechanisms for recycling of batteries, so that lithium and other rare materials are not dumped, as well as a comprehensive network of charging stations."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

"Australia needs fuel emission standards so that it is not a dumping ground for cars that do not meet pollution reduction (and human health) standards in other countries."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Transport Government's Role

Public Transport

44 conversations highlight the need to see significant investment in public transport infrastructure. Specifically they would like to see:

- 23 **Incentivise use** of public transport and disincentivise private transport use. Make public transport a free or much more affordable option to support a change in behaviours and habits.
- 23 **Improve availability & convenience** of public transport by improving service times, routes (including Adelaide Hills and outer South and North metro and cross-suburban travel), reliability, accessibility, safety, comfort (e.g. all-weather stops and greening), and connectivity.
- 10 **Engage with the community.** Work to understand any barriers to public transport use and then undertake targeted action to shift public perceptions.
- 8 **Improved integration with active and private transport**, including park-and-rides, facilities to take bikes on public transport, and end-of-trip services such as bike lockers and showers.
- 6 **Link to developments.** Plan public transport into new developments. (6 conversations)

"Consideration of public transport options where there are new developments and expand the transport route and access to appropriately service the needs of the populations."

CONVERSATION QUOTE



Transport **Government's Role**

Active Transport

Participants would like to see active transport elevated in its priority. They want to see Government:

- 24 Create the infrastructure to support active transport.
- 18 Prioritise safety (including segregated bike lanes, street design for traffic calming, speed limits) and comfort (including greening, shelter, and shade) to maximise uptake.
- 7 Make it easier to buy and use an electric bike.
- 6 Promote the benefits of active transport to the community and excite them with what's possible when they walk/cycle/scoot.
- 4 Support active transport options to seamlessly intersect with public transport options, e.g. bike racks on buses or free bike travel.
- 2 Include in development and city planning

Private Transport

Participants would like to Government to:

- 33 Enable EVs through subsidies or incentives (or disincentives for the use of diesel and petrol cars) and investment in charging infrastructure.
- 18 Reduce overall driving of private vehicles and encourage uptake of public and active transport options.
- 12 Consider legislation around fuel, polluting private vehicles, and vehicle emission standards, and remove subsidies for SUVs.
- 5 Support car-share schemes. Encourage car-pooling & car sharing.
- 4 As the largest purchaser of vehicles in SA, lead by example and shift the SA Government fleet to all electric vehicles. Build the EV charging network to support it.

Freight Transport

Participants would like to Government to:

- 6 Move freight transport to rail where possible and electrify it.
- 3 Plan freight transport at a national level.

Transport Industry & Business' Role

The participants identified the following key roles for business and industry in transport:

Private and Active Transport

- 3 Support people to reduce the need for driving by encouraging work-from-home initiatives.
- 23 Provide facilities to support active transport use such as bike storage and showers.
- 2 Convert fleets to EVs, offer schemes for private purchase, and provide charging at work.

Freight Transport

- 2 Shift vehicles to electric where possible.
- 2 Use rail transport in preference to trucks where possible.

Transport Community & Individual's Role

Participants identified the following opportunities for individuals and the community to contribute to emissions reduction in transport:

Active Transport

- 7 Shift to using more active transport.
- 6 Lobby government for better active transport facilities
- 2 Encourage family and friends to use active transport when they can.

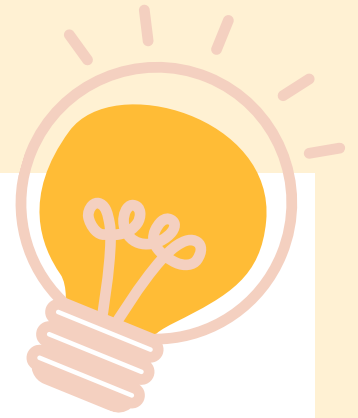
Public Transport

- 15 Use public transport more often.
- 8 Lobby for and support policy for better public transport.
- 3 Encourage your community to use public transport.

Private Transport

- 6 Purchase Evs.
- 5 Drive private vehicles less often.
- 4 Car pool and share car use.

Transport Ideas



Participants had some specific ideas for actions.

- **“Ride to Work”** scheme similar to the UK. Make a bike something you could buy pre-tax.
- A toll, tax, or financial disincentive for private vehicle use within the CBD.
- Host “ car-free” days in the CBD.
- Trial free public transport to encourage behaviour change.
- Charge more for fossil fuel vehicle registration and less for EVs.
- On-demand and minibuses for local travel.
- Ensure that parks with EV chargers are disability accessible.



Building

Building Challenges

Sustainability in construction and infrastructure was identified by the community as the second most important sector for action to get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Buildings and infrastructure have a long life and they need to be ready for an all-electric future, while also being suitable for projected climate changes.

The most commonly talked about challenges

The most common challenges expressed by groups for reducing emissions caused by construction and infrastructure included the cost to build lower emissions buildings, consumer preference for bigger houses and aesthetic priorities, and the clearing of trees.

They identified the following key challenges for the construction and infrastructure sector in reducing emissions:

- 14 **It can cost more** to build lower-emissions buildings, which is challenging for individual consumers and unappealing for developers.
- 7 **Importance of legislation.** It is hard for individuals to act on, as it often requires regulation to change.
- 5 **Consumer preference.** Consumers have demonstrated a preference for bigger homes and prioritizing aesthetics over energy efficiency measures.
- 5 **Sustainable options are often not readily available**, or if they are, they can contradict development rules (e.g. strawbale housing).
- 4 **Existing housing** in South Australia has poor energy efficiency but is difficult to retrofit improvements.
- 4 **Slow to change.** It takes a long time for change to happen in the industry.
- 4 **Tree Clearance.** Development often encroaches on vegetation and it has been too easy to legally remove trees.
- 3 **Embodied energy** in buildings is significant.
- 3 **The huge scale and complexity** of the systemic changes that need to happen.
- 3 **Agency.** Renters are disadvantaged as they have no control over the building they live in.

Building Government's Priorities

Participants saw the role of Government in reducing construction industry emissions as being to regulate through the planning and construction codes, and educate and incentivise low emissions choices.

Top 3 Government actions

Construction Code

40

Ensure updates to the National Construction Code support electrification and improved energy efficiency measures.

Planning

35

Create developments with higher density that support better incorporation of green spaces, protection of existing trees and habitat and integration with public transport.

Greening

32

Plant more trees (and protect existing trees) and other plants for urban cooling, habitat, biodiversity, aesthetics and carbon sequestration.



Building Government's Role

Improved National Construction Code

40 Participants want to see Government focus on the National Construction Code, namely:

- Standards to increase energy efficiency and reduce the need for supplementary heating and cooling.
- Recognition that buildings need to be future- and climate-proof.
- Fully electric homes.
- Incorporate energy-efficient features such as insulation, double glazing, roof colour, EV charging, house/window orientation, air tightness, appropriate ventilation, eaves, and shading.
- Enforcement of standards to ensure that performance matches plans.



Building Government's Role

Planning and developments

35 The planning system should support low-emissions buildings and lifestyles including:

- Stronger regulation around retention and increase in trees and habitat.
- Developments could incorporate communal energy generation and storage, car parks, laundry facilities, and other communal resources.
- Higher density living to allow for more open green space.
- Planning should take a whole-lifecycle approach to assessing any development.
- Public transport planning should be strongly linked to development planning.
- More requirements for private green space and permeable surfaces.
- Increase urban infill to reduce urban sprawl - but do it in a way that also increases tree coverage and green spaces.
- Encourage developers to make their rules more sustainability-friendly.
- Facilitate a shift away from gas connections.
- Plan for housing that is climate-proof for the next 100 years.

"All planning decisions need an environmental impact report / consideration that covers wider areas like impact on agricultural land, habitat and CO2 for its full lifecycle."

CONVERSATION QUOTE



Building Government's Role

In addition to the above, participants identified the following key roles for Government in the transition to a low emissions construction sector:

- 22 **Support sustainability** by encouraging low emissions choices by community, offering subsidies, incentives, and low-cost loans for sustainable upgrades, creating disincentives for high emissions options, and regulating the reuse of materials.
- 15 **Educate industry** on low emission and energy efficiency measures for building.
- 15 **Educate consumers** on sustainable building choices.
- 8 **Social housing.** Ensure that social housing is built or upgraded to be sustainable to lift the quality of life and ensure low ongoing running costs.
- 7 **Dark roofs:** Discourage or ban dark roof colours.
- 7 **Lead by example.** Government building projects to employ sustainable building techniques.
- 6 **Enforcement of standards** to ensure they are being met.
- 5 **Landlords** to incentivise and regulate energy efficiency measures in rental properties.
- 4 **Invest in the sustainability of the big infrastructure** that supports us (e.g. water, sewerage, energy)
- 4 **Support innovation** in the industry to find new solutions.



Building Industry & Business' Role

The participants identified the following key roles for business and industry regarding construction and infrastructure:

- 9 Improve knowledge and skills to create more energy efficient building.
- 3 Advocate for reuse and retrofitting existing buildings.
- 2 Use green steel and reduce emissions from concrete use.

Building Community & Individual's Role

The participants identified the following key roles for individuals and communities regarding construction and infrastructure:

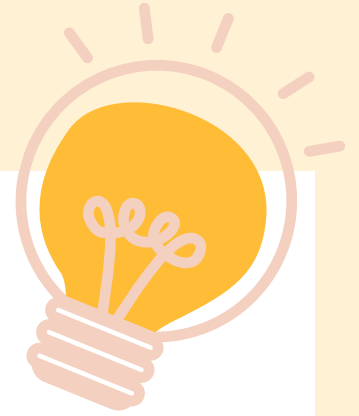
- 14 Make sustainable choices for homes, including passive design, double glazing, shading, solar, batteries, light roof colours, etc.
- 11 Electrify your home.
- 5 Plant biodiverse vegetation, especially native plants and trees, including on nature strips.
- 3 Consider building a smaller home or not undertaking renovations.
- 2 Inform yourself and share your knowledge and successes with your family, neighbours, and community.

"Passive solar design is the cheapest way to get good results. Smaller houses also help.

Have a refuge area in your home rather than the whole home being air conditioned."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Building Ideas



Participants had some specific ideas for actions.

- **Mandatory disclosure of energy ratings to inform buyer or renter choice e.g. Energy Efficiency Rating for selling of homes in Canberra or Residential efficiency scorecard in Victoria.**
- **Low-cost courses for individuals wishing to improve the energy efficiency of their own home or workplace.**
- **Provide free trees and shrubs for every new home.**
- **Repeat developments like- Lochiel Park, Christie Walk and Aldinga Eco Village.**
- **Build shopping centres and car parks underground, with rooftop gardens/green space to offset carbon footprint.**
- **Issue low- or no-interest loans for building or renovating a home to high energy efficiency standards with monies repaid through reduced energy costs.**
- **MBA Houses of the Year should all be energy efficient, as a minimum requirement.**
- **Ensure that parks with EV chargers are disability accessible.**



Energy

Energy Challenges

Energy emissions were ranked as the easiest area for the community to act on (of the six areas), although there are still aspects which require government and industry leadership.

Participants noted that South Australia is already a well-established leader in renewable energy, and they feel hopeful and excited about the future opportunities in this sector.

The main concerns identified by participants were about the continued support for gas extraction by the Government and the rising cost of energy bills.

The most commonly talked about challenges

The vast majority of the feedback received highlighted the importance of making the change to renewable energy with participants trying to work through the challenges that need to be addressed in doing so. However, there was also some limited feedback questioning whether we should invest in transitioning at all given we represent such a small proportion of the overall emissions globally.

Participants identified the following key challenges for the energy sector in reducing emissions:

- 15 **The cost of transition** away from gas. Energy prices are high and many people cannot afford solar and batteries.
- 9 **Influence.** The transition away from gas is being slowed by vested interests. Community have very little influence.
- 7 **Environmental impacts of the transition.** Participants raised several challenges for the environment because of renewables including environmental and ethical issues surrounding the mining of rare minerals, habitat destruction for broad scale installation, management of 'end of life' for batteries and solar panels
- 6 **Scale.** It is a huge task.
- 3 **There is a high and increasing demand** for energy which will be escalated once EVs start to be more common and as we need air conditioners more (to manage with the increasing temperatures)
- 2 **Information availability and reliability,** including regarding whether information about how 'environmentally beneficial' renewable options are.

"As an early step, the Government must mandate no new gas – no exploration, or new use in businesses and homes."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Energy Government Priorities

Participants want the State Government to lead the renewable energy transition to ensure that it happens as quickly as possible and, importantly, that nobody is left behind.

Top 3 Government actions

Move away from fossil fuels

44

Do not allow the opening of any new coal and gas mining facilities and stop subsidising these operations. Electrify homes and businesses and mandate no new gas connections (note whilst an overwhelming number of conversations talked about phasing out gas, a couple of groups identified gas as part of the solution).

Community solar & batteries

19

Ensure equitable access to solar and batteries for communities so they can transition to renewable energy and minimise their household energy bills.

Support household transition

18

Address inequality - Provide subsidies so lower income households can access solar panels.



Energy Government's Role

Participants identified the following additional key roles for Government in the transition to a low emissions energy sector:

- 13 **Invest in renewable energy infrastructure**
- 13 **Fund and build microgrids** and support community to develop local energy generation and storage options, especially in regional and remote areas.
- 8 **Support businesses** to move to low emissions energy sources by providing incentives and disincentives to transition, including for solar and batteries and training workers for jobs in renewables and electrification. Demonstrate to them the economics of moving to renewables.
- 5 **End-of-life planning for solar and batteries.** How do we recycle the materials and clean up sites after use?
- 4 **Keep innovating** to develop better battery and generation systems. Put SA at the forefront of new technologies.
- 3 **Hydrogen and Nuclear** as alternative energy options. (3x positive conversations each, and 1x negative conversation each).
- 3 **Ensuring the reliability** of our energy supply by improving transmission infrastructure, localising generation and improving storage options.
- 2 **Gas** as a transition fuel.



Energy Industry & Business' Role

Participants identified the following key role for business and industry in the transition to a low emissions energy future:

- 3 Move away from the use of fossil fuels by electrifying their operations and investing in renewable energy.

Energy Community & Individual's Role

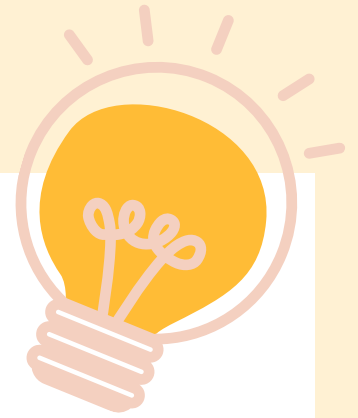
Participants identified the following key roles for individuals and communities regarding energy:

- 11 Electrify their homes.
- 11 Purchase solar and/or batteries.
- 6 Collaborate and coordinate with their communities to create microgrids or solar farms.
- 3 Reduce energy use through switching off appliances, turning down air conditioning, or retrofitting homes for energy efficiency.
- 2 Choose a super fund that doesn't invest in the fossil fuel industry.

"I have solar and batteries for cost savings only, not for environmental reasons – let's be honest – in 15 years my solar panels will end up in a landfill, along with millions of others, creating an environmental nightmare."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Energy Ideas



Participants had some specific ideas for actions.

- **Ban new gas connections.**
- **Nuclear – explore the use of small modular nuclear power stations to assist with reliability of supply. (Note – there was also explicit feedback that nuclear should not be part of our energy mix)**
- **Explore new renewable energy generation and storage options – such as wave energy generation and non-lithium-based storage e.g. Algae batteries.**
- **Enable community solar models where people can gift extra energy generated to others.**
- **Phase out domestic wood smoke.**
- **Use electric cars as batteries.**
- **Create more projects like the Mitcham Community Solar Farm.**



Agriculture

Agriculture Challenges

Agricultural emissions were identified as the hardest for the community to act on. Due to the scale of the industry and the relative disconnect from most community members, respondents highlighted the need for government and industry to take the lead on action in this sector, to enable the community to then make informed choices about the food and materials they purchase.

The most commonly talked about challenges

- 10 Consumer power. Individuals have little understanding or influence over the practices undertaken on farms.
- 10 Consumer demand for meat products is high. We have a cultural attachment to eating meat which is difficult to break. Culture takes time to shift.
- 8 Methane emissions from animals are significant and difficult to measure. We do not currently have the technology or standards to effectively eliminate these emissions.
- 8 Cost of change is immense and would cause an increase in prices.
- 7 Farm machinery relies on the use of diesel and electric machinery is either not available or too expensive.
- 7 Fertilizers are heavily fossil fuel dependent.
- 5 Cost of living pressure is impacting the capacity to make low emissions choices.
- 5 Supply needs. We need food and farmers work hard to service this demand.
- 4 Powerful influencers. Lobbying by industry has historically restricted action in this sector.

Goods, services and agricultural products are mostly in the control of large corporations who wield a lot of power and influence over governments."

CONVERSATION QUOTE



Agriculture Government's Priorities

Top 3 Government actions

Support and incentivise change

34

Provide subsidies or other incentives to encourage farmers to shift to lower emissions farming practices such as reduced fertilizer use, changing cattle feed, incorporating native vegetation, and reduced irrigation. There was a strong preference for 'carrots' to assist farmers over 'sticks' such as penalties, which would force change by farmers. Alternatively, Government could address the problem by looking at the demand side of the equation – i.e., by putting in place incentives or penalties (such as taxes) to make low-carbon products cheaper relative to high-carbon emitting products, encouraging change over time.

Education

14

Support farmers to understand lower emissions agricultural practices and educate the community so they can make informed choices.

Research & Development

9

Undertake and support research and development to support innovation in best practices in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.



Agriculture **Government's Role**

Participants identified the following additional key roles for Government in the transition to a low emissions agricultural sector:

- 5 **Develop standards, certification systems and regulation**, coupled with appropriate support to drive change.
- 5 **Avoid clearing native vegetation** for farmland and incorporate vegetation into existing land.
- 4 **Educate the public** on agricultural processes.
- 3 **Develop local food systems**.
- 3 **Protect agricultural land** from development and takeover by large corporations.
- 3 **Share local, interstate, and international examples** of best practices for the industry.
- 2 **Assistance to help farmers** measure their emissions, storing carbon and the results of any changes they make.
- 2 **Promote SA** as a leader in sustainable agriculture.

"Focus on healthy soils and sustainable agricultural practices and native revegetation incorporated into farming land."

CONVERSATION QUOTE



Agriculture Industry & Business' Role

Participants identified the following key roles for Industry and Business in the transition to a low emissions agricultural sector:

- 16 Establish and expand the use of regenerative agriculture practices and organic farming.
Focus on healthy soils for soil carbon.
- 5 Change the type of crops and focus of our agricultural production (move away from cattle production to other forms of meat production such as goats, camels, etc).
- 4 Protect and regenerate healthy native flora and fauna.

Agriculture Community & Individual's Role

Participants identified the following key roles for community, individuals and organisations in the transition to a low emissions agricultural sector:

- 11 Grow your own food at home or in shared gardens.
- 2 Connect with producers.

Note: Many of the interactions communities have with the products which come from the Agricultural sector are included / reflected in the Goods and Services section of this report.

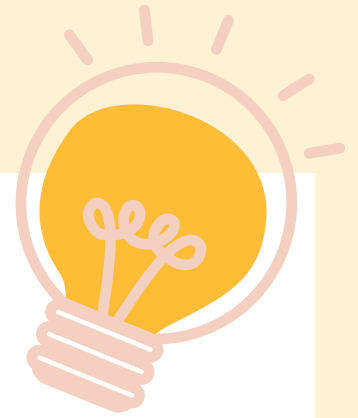
"Whilst agricultural emissions can be avoided by the individual by eating vegan/vegetarian, these options aren't always feasible for many reasons such as cost, health, or culture."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

"We want to see some more traditional extension support – to provide high quality carbon and methane advice to communities. Lots of consultants around offering wonderful deals but how do we know we can trust what they are saying"

CONVERSATION QUOTE

Agriculture Ideas



Participants had some specific ideas for actions.

- **Protect farmland from being used for other purposes (like they do in France).**
- **Develop and apply an 'emissions certification' process for agricultural goods.**
- **Subsidies to farmers for providing food to food banks.**
- **Encourage and enable use of seaweed supplements.**
- **Explore innovative solutions like BioChar, a carbon-negative technology that could contribute to carbon sequestration.**
- **Encourage and promote the establishment of community gardens.**



Goods and Services

Goods & Services Challenges

Although goods and services emissions received the lowest ranking from groups when they were asked to prioritise areas for emissions reductions, many groups highlighted that every area needs to be prioritised and worked on at the same time – that we don't have time to prioritise one area at a time.

The most commonly talked about challenges

15 Trusted Information

- There is a lack of information, making it impossible for people to assess the environmental and ethical impact of their purchases. It is impossible for people to make informed choices.
- Credibility and trust in information is important and lacking. Participants identified that disinformation and misinformation in this space is rife. How do people know what to believe? There is confusion and question marks over the trustworthiness of the information available.

"The misinformation and green-washing makes it even more difficult to support and enable good and positive choices in good and services."

CONVERSATION QUOTE

12 Culture of consumerism. Participants highlighted that we need to look at our culture and reduce how much we buy.

12 Cost of living crisis is impacting people's capacity to pay for more expensive products.

10 Consumer preferences are often in conflict with low emissions choices, e.g. eating meat, cosmetic or aesthetic considerations, larger homes, and cars.

9 Lack of community control over packaging, production processes, large corporations, and supply chains.

8 Packaging and specifically our over-reliance on plastic.

7 Global nature of food system and high emissions from international transport.

5 Vested interests and profit as a motivator.



Goods & Services Government's Priorities

The participants saw the role of Government in reducing goods and services emissions as being to regulate, educate and ensure that the information is available to make low emissions choices.

Top 3 Government Actions

Support and incentivise change

26

Educate the community about how to choose goods and services that are low-emissions, including eating seasonally, buying local, and avoiding carbon-intensive products. Encourage community to make low-emission choices. This may include building in incentives or disincentives.

Emissions labelling

19

Ensure consumers can make low-emissions choices on the things they buy through transparent labeling of carbon impacts.

Regulate Goods & Services

18

Create rules that:

- Make packaging more sustainable.
- Improve labelling laws. Clarify 'environmental branding' to remove ambiguity of what terms like 'sustainability' and 'green' mean.
- Address built-in obsolescence and build in a right of repair' (like the EU).
- Production processes.



Goods & Services **Government's Role**

Participants identified the following other key roles for Government in the transition to low emissions goods and services:

- 12 **Support Local Business to change.** Undertake research and provide information to industry about emissions created through supply chains. Subsidise changed behavior by industry (particularly farmers). Invest in rail to enable low emission freight corridors. Encourage the development of local industry (so we produce more locally)
- 12 **Educate community** on sustainable food systems, the impacts of their purchasing choices, and carbon labeling (if introduced) so they can make low emissions choices.
- 11 **Invest in, support, and promote a circular economy.**
- 8 **Make it affordable.** Consider financial incentives or pricing caps to increase access to low emissions choices.
- 5 **Lead by example** with low emissions procurement policies.

"Frugality needs to become cool; consumerism is NOT good for us or for the climate. We need to understand that everything that we buy has a carbon cost, some large and some small. We should act as if we have a carbon budget, and spend it wisely."

CONVERSATION QUOTE



Goods & Services **Industry & Business' Role**

Participants identified the following key roles for business and industry in the transition to a low emissions agricultural sector:

- 8 Provide clear information to consumers on carbon emissions created in the production of goods.
- 6 Improve processes to be less carbon-intensive.
- 5 Manufacture and process locally.
- 5 Minimise waste and take responsibility for it where it is created.
- 4 Minimise plastic use and phase out single-use plastic. Ensure that packaging is recyclable or compostable and that this information is given to consumers.
- 4 Provide and highlight sustainable choices.
- 2 Allow products to be repaired.

Goods & Services **Community & Individual's Role**

Participants identified the following key roles for community and individuals in the transition to low emissions goods and services:

- 23 Buy less stuff! "Reduce consumerism - a value shift is needed".
- 23 Buy local products and shop 'in season'.
- 20 Choose sustainable, low emissions goods and services, including buying higher quality items so they last longer, paying attention to the end of life of products, and supporting businesses who offer low emissions goods and services.
- 19 Change food consumption to lower emissions choices (especially eating less meat and dairy).
- 13 Reduce waste by repairing, reusing, composting, and not over-consuming.
- 10 Grow your own food at home and with your community.
- 8 Collaborate. Share goods and services with community members. Share produce with your community. Join a "Buy Nothing Group". Support Community Repair Cafes. Help each other understand the problem and how they can be part of the solution.
- 6 Seek out information to make lower carbon choices.
- 5 Don't expect perfection. Buy lower quality, damaged, or deformed fruit and vegetables.
- 4 Recycle more and normalise second hand goods.



Goods & Services Ideas

Participants had some specific ideas for actions:

- **Establish a star rating system like the energy star rating system to help consumers to understand the carbon footprint of the products they are purchasing.**
- **Establish and use Repair Cafes.**
- **Establish Local Exchange Trading Schemes.**
- **Get involved in “Buy Nothing Groups”.**
- **Establish local Tool libraries.**



Waste

Waste Challenges

Waste was not identified by the Community Panel as a priority area for action; however it came out as a strong theme in the Community Conversations. Participants indicated that they would like to see a “circular economy” waste management system, with more reuse and recycling.

The most commonly talked about challenges

- **Soft plastics.** The recycling system is problematic, especially soft plastics.
- **Recycling information.** Suppliers do not provide adequate information on the recycling of packaging.
- **Buying new.** We have a culture of consumerism, which creates a lot of unnecessary waste.
- **Many materials** are unable to be recycled.

Waste Government's Priorities

Top 3 Government actions

Circular economy & recycling

25

Encourage and invest in the creation of a circular economy. Regulate or encourage production processes that ensure capacity for end-of-life repair, reuse or recycling.

Packaging

22

Seek to significantly reduce the amount of non-compostable or recyclable packaging being made by regulating to require packaging to be recyclable or compostable and increasing the bans on single use plastic

Regulation

14

Create rules that reduce waste including around the use of plastic and other non-recyclable or reusable materials, food waste and the reuse of materials.

Waste Government's Role

Participants identified the following other key roles for Government in the transition to reduce emissions from waste:

- 10 Educate the community and businesses on waste management, including green organics disposal and ensure that the information they need to make good choices is readily available.
- 5 Enable and support the development of systems that people can use to recycle packaging including supporting the Red Cycle scheme or similar.
- 4 Support the establishment of industry that will recycle materials (particularly rare earth) in batteries and solar.
- 3 Change regulations on waste collection to allow for less frequent landfill collections.

Waste Industry and Business' Role

Participants identified the following key roles for business and industry in the transition to reduce emissions from waste:

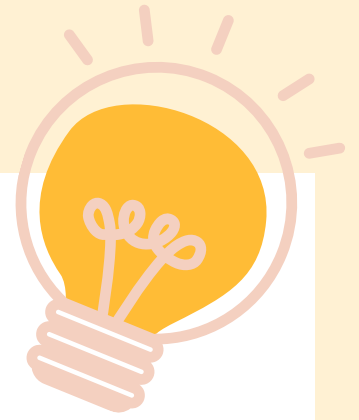
- 5 Generate less waste and improve processes for dealing with waste that is unavoidable.
- 2 Improve products and provide better information about how to recycle or re-use.

Waste Community & Individual's Role

Participants identified the following key roles for community and individuals in improving waste management:

- Seek to use less non recyclable products. Purchase from suppliers that use environmentally friendly and sustainable practices.
- Educate themselves about recycling and minimizing waste
- Collaborate with others through community gardens, Food Swaps, tool libraries and trading systems
- Decrease food waste.
- Use local trading systems to reduce waste (of excess produce and for recycling of unwanted household items).
- Create local sharing systems to reduce the need to purchase new items.

Waste Ideas



Participants had some specific ideas for actions..

- **Ban plastic lined disposable coffee cups.**
- **Make a law (like in France) that requires large food waste generators to find ways to reduce their waste to landfill through prevention, recovery and recycling and agreements with food assistance organisations.**
- **Subsidise farmers to provide waste food to food banks.**



Community Specific Summary Reports

SA Native Title Holder Priorities

A specific workshop was held with more than 35 Native Title Holder representatives from across South Australia.

Key issues discussed by the Native Title Holder representatives were:

- **Cascading pressures & equity.** Our communities don't have the capacity to engage with emissions reductions when they have more pressing problems in terms of meeting the basic needs of their communities due to entrenched poverty, housing issues, and mental health problems. It is unreasonable to ask communities to act when they are struggling to feed their families or have access to appropriate housing.
- **Collaboration & partnerships.** First Nations Peoples would like to work in true partnership, with cultural knowledge and genuine consultation embedded in any plans from the start.
- **Focus on creating a healthy Country** by working to protect, monitor and restore native animals and flora, as well as water.
- **Clean energy transition.** Provide solar and batteries to remote communities, and train First Nations young people in renewable energy and rehabilitation/care of Country.
- **Improve waste management on Country** by providing access to recycling.

The feedback from this conversation has been integrated with the other feedback from the Community Conversations.

The full and standalone report from the Native Title Holder Representatives Workshop can be found at Appendix B.

Young South Australians

The views of youth have been heard by this engagement process in two ways:

- via South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People – providing us with the advice she has received on this issue over the past two years in her engagements, and
- Direct youth involvement in our Community Conversations.

From the Commissioner for Children & Young People

South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, has been talking to youth about climate over recent years. When we approached her to engage young people, in addition to passing on the information about the process to her extensive network, the Commissioner provided us with advice she has received from thousands of young people on this issue over the past year.

Central to the advice received from youth has been:

- **A desire to be heard.** They feel that adults dismiss the concerns of children and young people and take limited or no action to address the issues they see as critical. They want leaders to listen to them and to consider and value their ideas. Children are asking adults to give them more of a voice and to be taken seriously.
- **Equity.** Key to children's interest in the environment is their sense of justice. They recognise that poorer people, remote communities, and indigenous people will be those who are most affected by climate change. children across.
- **Concern about increased disasters due to climate.** South Australians are being exposed to emergency events and disasters at much greater rates than the generations who came before them. They know that disasters are becoming more likely with rising temperatures.
- **Despair.** Many children and young people feel despair and frustration at what they see as a lack of action to protect the environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Hear youth talk about their priorities for action on climate. [Youth Climate Forum: What Climate Action South Australian Young People Want to See - YouTube](#)

You can read more detail about the view of youth provided to the Commissioner in Appendix D

Young South Australians

Youth Perspectives from our Community Conversations

Youth participated alongside other South Australians across the state in the 114 conversations and seven of these conversations were organized for youth only. The results have been integrated in the analysis in this report.

However, we have also analysed the feedback provided by the groups that only had youth participants and the key themes that emerged from these conversations are summarised below:

- **Building and construction:** Most of the youth conversations identified that emissions from building & construction as the hardest and most important area to act on. Youth wanted to see the following actions to address this issue:
 - **Regulation**, which requires industry to build more sustainable housing including the use of repurposed materials and required water tanks.
 - **Support**, including rebates and subsidies for sustainable housing
 - **Training** to improve skills of the workforce.
 - **Educating** the community about the opportunities to save money by changing how we build and what materials we use.
 - **Improved transparency** of decisions by Government on this issue.
- **Waste:** Another significant theme emerging from the youth conversations was the importance of addressing waste. Youth wanted to see the following actions on this issue:
 - **Improved and standardised** waste management infrastructure in schools. A whole school and community approach to waste management enables recycling and composting & green bins for food waste.
 - **Education** about food sustainability, nutrition and food systems in schools / more sustainable food consumption choices.
 - **Community Garden** expansion by Local Government
 - **Regulation** to make all packaging biodegradable
 - **Rewards** including extension/expansion of the 10c recycling scheme.
 - **Consume less**, in particular people need to buy less clothes.



Local Government Conversation

Given the vital role that Local Government plays in helping to achieve net zero emissions in South Australia, a special and tailored community conversation was hosted with Local Government.

We had 14 local government leaders from diverse metropolitan and regional councils across the state meet to talk about the challenges they are facing in reducing emissions and what could be put in place to assist them in making the transition.

The key issues discussed by the Council representatives were

- **A holistic approach.** Adaptation to climate change and reducing carbon emissions needs to be integrated into every decision of Government and Council.
- **Go with the majority.** Stop wasting time responding or being concerned about a small group that ‘doesn’t believe’ – and get on with action. An overwhelming majority of people now accept the problem and want to see action.
- **Councils need state government to lead on climate action.**
- **Collaboration:** State Government and Local Government need to be working together.

The feedback from this conversation has been integrated with the other feedback from the Community Conversations. The full report from the Local Government Workshop can be found at Appendix C.



Conclusion

We asked South Australians How can we achieve net zero by 2050? What should we do?

Their collective response reflects the complexity and scale of the task. Their answer: No one, five, or even 10 actions by Government will suffice. **Government acting alone will not suffice.**

What they said is needed, is a comprehensive, multi-pronged, whole-of-government strategy which enables transformative statewide change at a grand scale.

Transformation involves changing systems, processes, and organisational structures, but ultimately true transformation is always about changing human behaviour and in this instance the behaviour of individuals, industry, and government.

Participants told us, to dramatically reduce our emissions:

- **Individuals** need to change how we move, what we consume and build, and how we live.
- **Industry and business** need to change how they work and what they produce.
- **Government** needs to create the framework to support and promote this behaviour change by putting emissions reduction at the centre of policy and program development. Government also needs to support those in our community and industry least able to afford the costs associated with this transition.

The key to sustained behaviour change is to 'make healthy choices the easy choices.'

Conclusion

Participants identified a suite of measures for promoting Individual and System level change – to enable all three groups to rapidly reduce their emissions – all working in the same direction.



Deloitte's FIRST framework provides a useful structure for summarising what participants identified as being needed and potentially a useful structure for government to consider in the context of it's strategy development.

(Source Deloitte Analysis, deloitte.com/insights)

Fundamentals

Creating a positive vision for the future and creating new social norms in our communities, learning from each other, and being inspired by our leaders. Creating an environment where we have choices and options, and building resilience in our communities.

Relationships

South Australians identified that rapid reduction of emissions requires that we all work together-government, community, and industry. Incorporate community insight and advice into all policies and initiatives by working with community to understand their willingness and capacity to adopt changed behaviours, and importantly what could be in place to amplify that adoption. Support agency by empowering social groups and community collectives to own projects and initiatives. Work with communities in a 'whole of person' way – not portfolio-based.

Stories

Bring people together to tell and share stories of personal experiences – what works. Build trust and collaboration. Create a strong narrative and vision for a positive future. Fund effective marketing and choose messaging that will resonate with where people are at. Defund marketing targeted at promoting behaviours we don't want to see.

Incentives

Increasing the costs of things that create greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. gas cooktops, diesel SUVs, car parking in the city) and reducing the costs of things we do want to promote – (induction cooktops, EVs, public transport). Disincentivise through regulating the things that create emissions enabling uptake of low-emission options.

Tools

Create the new systems and build the new infrastructure we need; for recycling, public transport, and freight systems, just to name a few. Stop investing in infrastructure that drives the behaviours we want to reduce. Incentivise new, best-practice workforces. Ensure there is access to what's needed to implement best practices. Fund evidence-based/no regrets trials and pilots to kick start innovation.

Conclusion

Holistic strategies that centre on behaviour change have been globally successful in addressing smoking and obesity. The principles of achieving change are equally relevant in the context of addressing climate change.

South Australians who participated in this process want change; they want to contribute to change but they know this change requires that we all work in the same direction.

They recognise that not all South Australians agree on the necessary actions to reduce our emissions. One significant example concerns South Australia's car culture, and whether we need to reduce our reliance on cars to reduce our emissions. There are also local issues relating to the construction of renewable energy (such as wind turbines and transmission lines) and the actual or perceived impacts of this on the local environment and economy.

These contentious issues will need a conscious approach to dialogue, engagement, and deliberation which is carefully designed to move the conversation forward. In doing so Government has to be cognisant of the lack of trust and confusion that exists in the community on these issues.

Whilst the problem of climate change is generally well accepted by the vast majority, what is clear from this process is that there is a new frontier of disagreement (there is a lack of credible and balanced information and perpetration of misinformation and disinformation). What should be done about it? There is no doubt that addressing the distrust and improving the communication of credible, balanced information about the best way forward will be critical and central to successful action to reduce emissions.

"it is easier for policy makers to work with individuals through the media or by taxation, but there is a limit to how much can be achieved this way, and there is an urgent need to complement approaches that focus on individuals with projects that target social groups and collectives more explicitly."



Appendices

Appendix A

Engagement & Communications Methodology and Communications Report

The Brief

The South Australian Government are embarking on work to move the state towards Net Zero by 2050 – with a target of 50% by 2030 midway point. This work includes broad industry and community engagement, the development of effective strategies, and legislative reform.

The Department for Environment and Water wanted a roadmap for community engagement (which linked to their industry engagement), to-

- inform the development of strategies for reaching the Net Zero targets,
- Encourage community reflection on what action they could take to reduce emissions,
- Foster broad community support for action on climate change.

The engagement process needed to be cognisant of “where the community is at’ and encourage a diversity of participation including hearing from young people.

Engagement Process

The engagement methodology developed for this process had three key elements:

1. **Community Climate Panel** – demographically diverse South Australians (in line with demographics of the general population), to meet and kick start the conversation by agreeing the key issues that needed discussion.
2. **Conversation Guide (and Host Kit)**
3. **Community Climate Conversations**



Community Climate Panel

The Community Climate Panel was made up of 53 people independently selected to participate in the South Australian Community Climate Panel (the Panel). During March 2023, over 80,000 South Australians received an invitation to register their interest in being a member of the Panel. Participants were selected from the registration of interest using random stratification, to select a group which matches the diversity of the South Australian population in terms of age, gender, location, home ownership, educational attainment, and attitudes towards climate change.

The demographic details of the Panel can be found in Attachment 1.

The Panel met across 6 sessions, involving 23 hours in total to consider the question-

There are many opportunities to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions; some will have more impact than others. Which of the opportunities do South Australians need to discuss?

The Panel prepared a detailed report informed by expert advice, their own research and their own lived experiences and they gained at least an 80% consensus from the group for the content of the report.

The report was written in the understanding that its contents would be used in two different ways –

1. That It would be provided in full and in its entirety to the project sponsors (South Australians for Climate Action, The Conservation Council of SA and the South Australian Department for Environment and Water) to inform the progress towards net zero.

2. To assist in the preparation of a Community Conversation Guide – for the use of community groups across South Australia as they embark on conversations about what we need to do to achieve Net Zero.

There was also a separate report which contained individual submissions from some Community Climate Panel members, who wanted the opportunity to share their detailed thinking with Government.

The Panel's recommended that the community should discuss what needs to be done to address the following key areas for emissions reduction –

1. How we move
 - a. Low emissions public transport
 - b. Personal transport
2. What we build
 - a. Sustainability in construction and infrastructure
3. What we consume
 - a. Carbon emissions of goods and services
 - b. Agricultural emissions
4. How we power ourselves.

For each of these themes, the Panel identified why we need to talk about it, what we need to talk about and explored possible areas of action for government, community and individuals.

The Panels full report can be found at [DemocracyCo's website](#).

Conversation Guide & Host Kit

The Panel's report was used by independent consultants democracyCo to develop a conversation guide – to raise awareness about the facts about climate change and to prompt discussion about the issues we need to discuss (as proposed by the Community Climate Panel).

The Guide can be found at [here](#).

DemocracyCo also developed a short and long guide for people wanting to host a community conversation to support them. The short version of the kit was provided on democracyCo's website, and the long version was provided on request for those who required extra support.

The detailed version of the Host Kit can be found [here](#).

Community Climate Conversations

Community Conversations are a way for everyone to contribute to a discussion on a public policy issue in a setting that is convenient, comfortable, and hopefully enjoyable for them. They offer the opportunity for the broadest possible range of people to have open and honest conversations with each other about the things that matter to their communities.

A Community Conversation is a small group of people, who get together to talk through how we can reduce our emissions. The setting is up to the group.

The group might be friends, neighbours, colleagues, sport or faith groups, or anyone who wants to come together to talk.

110 Conversations were held about how the state should reach net zero were held across South Australia between September and December 2023

Groups identified as being-

- friends,
- book clubs,
- workplaces,
- family,
- church or faith,
- school groups,
- industry groups
- community or service groups
- sporting,
- environmental groups,
- leadership groups,
- cultural,
- youth or
- neighbours.

Groups ranged in size from 2 people to 25, with most groups including about 7 people.

Hosted Conversations and Launch

21 conversations were hosted either by democracyCo, Conservation Council or SACA. These conversations included:

- Conversations at Launch event
- Local Government
- SA Native Title Service representatives

These hosted conversations essentially asked the same questions as the Community Conversations; however, they were tailored to suit the different audiences.

The sessions were organised by democracyCo, SACA or the Conservation Council and the conversations were supported to some extent by a facilitator.

Participants in conversations hosted by the project leads were encouraged in turn to promote the conversations to their networks or to host their own conversations.

Communications & Recruitment

Promotion of the opportunity to get involved in the Community Conversations occurred in the following ways

1. Radio Media
2. Community Outreach
3. Social media

Promotions sent people to one of three websites

1. [SA Government's Your Say](#)
2. [DemocracyCo](#)
3. [South Australians for Climate Action](#)

Your Say

The process was hosted on the Government's YourSay website and was promoted through the Your Say newsletter and social media regularly throughout September – November.

The Your Say page had a total of 1,100 page visits and up to 89 visits per day.

The Your Say Facebook page posts on this topic reached 3,181 people, had 381 engagements (an engagement rate of 11.97% and posts received 294 reactions).

The newsletter was sent to 104,215 people and was opened by 39,729 people.

The Your Say site directed people to the democracyCo website for details.

DemocracyCo

The democracyCo website provided an independent platform for people to access the Discussion Paper and the Host Kit and receive updates / current information about the process.

Radio media

The process was promoted on ABC radio 891 on two occasions-

1. interview with the Minister, Susan Close on the Drive program
2. Interview with the President of the Conservation Council on the Saturday morning program.

Press releases promoted the process on a number of occasions; however, they did not result in other media attention.

Social media

A social media campaign raised awareness about the process and encouraged people to get involved and host or join a conversation.

A total of \$3,472.04 was spent on social media promotion between September and mid November 2023.

The social media advertising campaign reached 40,657 people. 124 people commented on the ads and 118 people shared it. 49 people saved the post and it received 783 'post reactions'. 1108 people clicked the links embedded in the advertisement to learn more.



Process of Outreach

SACA and democracyCo used their respective networks to reach out to over **122 organisations** across community, non-government, industry, education and government sectors, as well as out to over **950 individuals**¹ - to raise awareness about the community conversations and encourage participation.

SACA has 108 organisational signatories from industry, non government, education sectors – these organisations were advised of the community conversations and invited to get involved. In addition, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken of different sectors and communities that should be involved in order to ensure that the community conversations were hearing a diversity of views/ perspectives and offer the broadest possible coverage of the state. In addition to the SACA members, we identified the following organisations for outreach –

Regional organisations

1. Country Women's Association
2. Regional Coordinators (PIRSA)
3. Regional Development Authorities
4. Farmers for Climate Action

Arts Organisations

5. Adelaide Festival (engaging youth in art about climate change)

Industry Groups

6. Adelaide Sustainable Building Network
7. Livestock SA

Community and Sporting Organisations

8. SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance
9. Multicultural Communities Council
10. First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation
11. Royal SA Yacht Squadron

Other organisations & government

12. Local Government Association (and through them all local councils statewide)
13. Zoos SA
14. Commissioner for Children and Young People
15. Don Dunstan Foundation

¹ 80 SACA members, 800 democracyCo contacts & 79 registrations of interest in climate project on demCo website.

16. Governors Leadership Foundation
17. SA Government's Your Say Network (approx.100,000 people)

A full list of SACA members [can be found at their website here.](#)

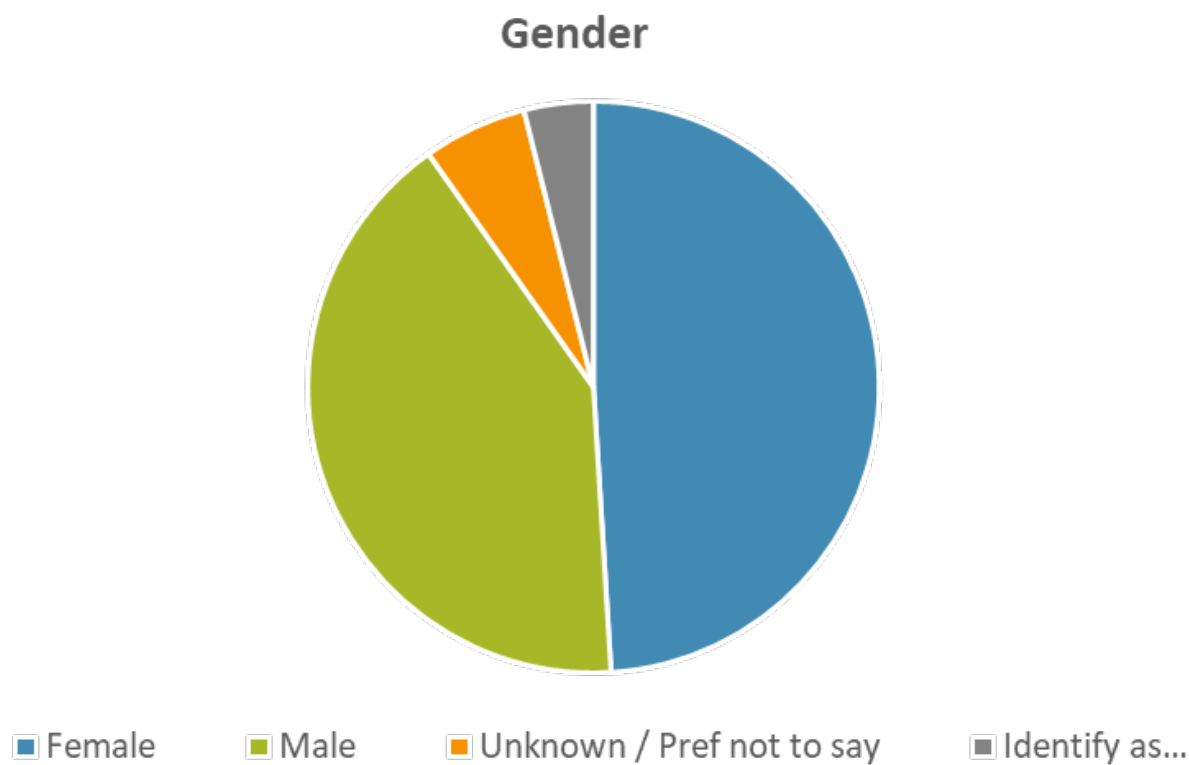
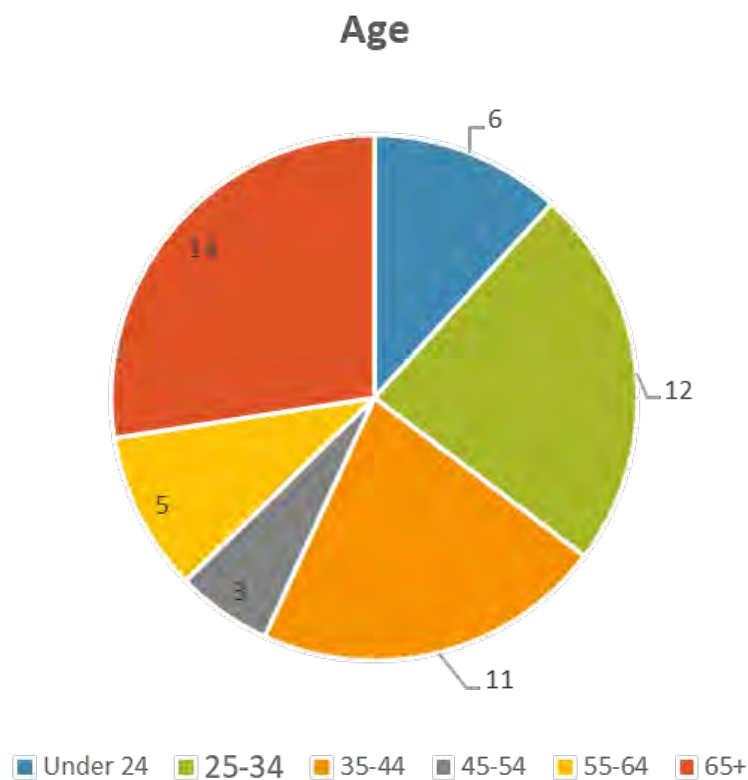
The process of outreach involved –

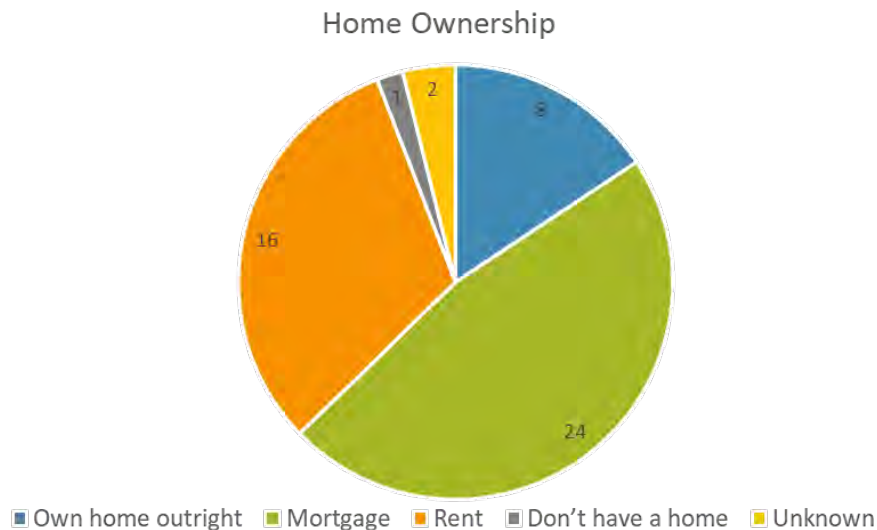
1. Personal emails and follow up phone calls.
2. Mass email distribution and regular follow up/ reminder emails
3. Phone calls to key contacts
4. Cold calls to organisations where we didn't have relationships but were identified as important.
5. Face to face meetings with key groups to encourage participation.
6. Articles in Newsletters
7. Flyers at relevant events

SACA members established a platform for generating email updates and encourage participation. They offered a series of online meetings for information sharing and online conversations for those who wished to participate online, or who simply wanted to experience a conversation before hosting one.

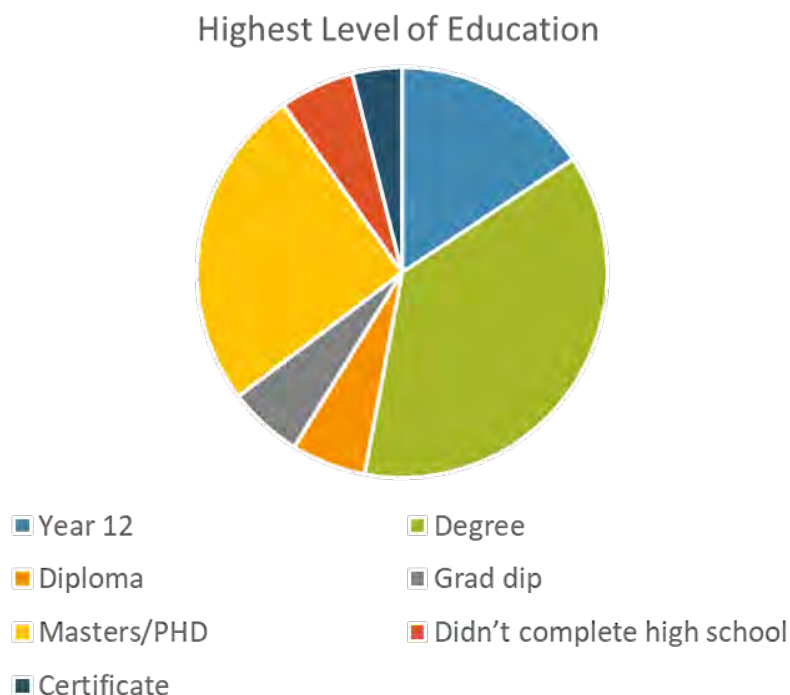
Panel Demographics

The demographics of the Panel participants are summarised by the graphs below.





The demographics of the Panel with regards to gender, age, location and home ownership closely reflect the general population. However, we were more challenged in meeting the demographic average with regards to Educational Attainment, with the group representing a much higher proportion of people with post school qualifications (75%) than the general population (23% in 2021). This was because we had a much higher level of interest and hence registrations from those with post school qualifications. We addressed this as much as possible through the stratification process.



Location

Participants came from all corners of the Adelaide metropolitan area and the Adelaide Hills and from as far away as Beetaloo, Bordertown, Burra, Yarrah, Paringa, Riverglades and Tanunda.

Appendix B

First Nations Priorities for Action

The workshop with Native Title Holder representatives was attended by participants from:

- Adelaide metro eastern suburbs
- Metro Adelaide CBD
- Adelaide metro southern suburbs
- Northern and Yorke
- Eyre Peninsula
- Arid Lands
- Alinytjara Wilurara
- Hills & Fleurieu

There were participants present in all age brackets from 18-24 – 75+, with 24 women and 12 men (36 participants in total).

Challenges

Key challenges that emerged from these conversations included concerns about the communities' capacity to engage with emissions reductions when they have pressing issues around meeting the basic needs of communities due to entrenched poverty, housing issues and mental health problems. It is unreasonable to ask communities to act when they are struggling to feed their families or have access to appropriate housing.

Participants spoke of poor relationships with government, often feeling like their knowledge was used without appropriate compensation and they spoke of the significant harm to the environment from colonisation. They also spoke of problems with programs that were intended to help remote communities, that were instead used as an opportunity for an organisation to make significant money.

Other themes that emerged included:

- The poor condition of much of the housing in remote communities.
- Exclusion from decisions that impacted on their Country.
- The expense of their energy bills and the difficulty in reducing them in remote communities.
- The lack of planning to dispose of or recycle EV batteries.
- Problems with waste and poor access to recycling facilities.
- The impacts on cultural practices due to pollution.
- Poor access to fresh food and supermarkets.

Priorities for Action

Partnership

First Nations Peoples would like to work in true partnership, with cultural knowledge and genuine consultation embedded in any plans from the start. Government and industry should speak with many people, generally through an agreed authority body, rather than seeking side deals and “back door” entry. Government should recognise that First Nations People are smart and able to design their own solutions to their problems, they just need some support to enable them to take action.

It is also important that solutions are tailored to the different contexts of different nations and areas. There should be unique solutions for each place, with a coming together to look at the bigger picture across areas.

They want to see all relevant Acts and processes for consultation adhered to, and appropriate consequences for those who do not adhere to them. If fines are imposed, the revenue should be distributed to First Nations.

Healthy Country

Participants would like to see much more work done to protect, monitor and restore native animals and flora, as well as water. First Nations People were the first conservationists and their customary law for land management should sit above other laws. It is critically important to have healthy land, sky and waters.

They would also like to see:

- Nurseries established to grow trees and plants for revegetation (for cooling and habitat).
- Management of water levels for the future, including water holes.
- Supply of water for community cultural use.
- Rehabilitation of troubled young people, on Country.

Clean Energy Transition

Groups spoke about First Nations People wanting to be part of the clean energy transition, through consultation and partnerships initially, to later being part of the workforce of the future that will create and maintain projects, while also looking after Country.

They were concerned that proper attention should be paid to care for the environment after energy, mining or other projects are completed, including recycling of materials and cleaning up of sites.

They would also like to see:

- Solar and batteries provided to remote communities to ensure they have access to reliable, affordable energy.

- First Nations young people trained in the skills to work in renewable energy and rehabilitation and care of Country.

Other Priorities

- Educate communities on climate change, recycling and waste management.
- Create housing that is climate appropriate and well maintained.
- Provide affordable products with a low energy rating.
- Consider the proper reuse and/or recycling of things like E-Waste, plastics, car tyres, parts and bodies and packaging in the context of remote communities.
- Ensure that products have environmentally friendly packaging.
- Government to fund projects that increase self-sufficiency for community.



Some specific Ideas

Participants had some specific ideas for action ...

1. First Nation Levy for water use by farmers and mining, whether it comes from rivers, sea, bores or creeks. This could offset the cost of water bills.
2. Create a climate taskforce.
3. Taxes to help reduce carbon footprint.
4. Taxing corporations and polluters.
5. Measure and set tidy town goals to reduce pollution.
6. Planting veggie gardens to allow for supply of fresh food.
7. Electric community buses.
8. Collect old cars for scrap metal recycling.
9. Create a camel meat industry to get rid of excess camels.
10. Carbon credits for cultural (cool) burning.

Appendix C

Local Government Climate Conversation

This conversation was held on the 29th September online. Fourteen (14) representatives from councils across the state attended the workshop.

Councils represented were from the following regions:

- Eyre Peninsula – Whyalla, Streaky Bay
- Metropolitan
 - o Western – West Torrens
 - o Eastern – Tea Tree Gully
 - o South - Onkaparinga
- Northern/Yorke – Barossa
- Murraylands and Riverland – Coorong / Tatiara

The workshop took the form of a conversation – where participants discussed insights and shared ideas. This report documents the issues they all raised, as well as highlights specific issues / concerns and ideas from specific council areas.

Summary – key themes

The time for considering things in a siloed way is over. Everything intersects - Climate adaptation, emissions has to be in **all the decisions we make**, across all the portfolios and business areas of government and councils.

We need to understand the **drivers which might effect/bring about the change we need** - energy costs (the driver could be about saving money if you do this, as opposed to a climate change driver). We don't all have to believe in climate change to participate in this. Another example to get people to reduce their use of personal transport might be around parking costs.

We need to move away from the political, emotional reactions and find ways to mobilise with opportunities. We are wasting time while we try and manage peoples reactions - **we need to find ways to get on with it.**

We're waiting on government to make changes, be consistent and move forwards on renewables / new energy sources. **Government has so much ability to make change**, and they need to do it, so we can all follow.

Positively, we know that most people do understand that climate change is happening - and most people are engaged and they do want to see us acting on this. This is hugely important to many people. If government t can help people transition without huge costs, this will be very helpful. We have industries that are making changes, being innovative and government need to help them do this, not get in their

way. In agricultural businesses, there is a willingness to learn about / understand the best way to mitigate risks.

We hope that all the government offices at all levels - who are giving their all to come up with solutions, can have impact and influence on policy. They are trying to do this with a long-term view, and with others. It's encouraging - **we need to work together more.**

What should the priorities be for emission reduction?

The Councils reflected the following in terms of what the priorities should be right now:

- Leadership and clarity of direction
- Having a whole of government focus
- Energy transition & infrastructure
- Home electrification
- Agricultural transition to lower emission forms of production
- Waste
- Public transport (metro)
- Scope 3 emissions - Freight transport, manufacturing, packaging, construction (raised by regional councils)

Priorities by Council area

Council area	Priorities
Tea Tree Gully	Waste – volume and helping people manage their waste
	Public transport - not efficient, not easy for people to move from place to place. Concern for all of us - and one of the easiest to resolve.
West Torrens	Freight Transport matters a lot for West Torrens – the future viability & emissions associated with the aviation sector.
	We are grappling with scope 3 emissions - most councils not setup to track and quantify this. These are the priority - large scale supply chains, which will require whole of community.
	Energy emissions - lots of councils are looking at alternative arrangements (mini power plants / purchasing agreements. We have concerns with rising energy costs - at the same time as we are trying to bring new charging stations in. Problems in grid stability. Overall need for energy infrastructure and planning for energy infrastructure. In SA we have a huge reliance on rooftop solar - moving forward we need to think about how we maintain this into the future, what happens at end of life. Where we struggle as a council is what we can do / vs what we cant control.

Onkaparinga	We have a towards zero roadmap. Our community have told us that they don't want us to rely on offsets to get to net zero. As a result, we are focussed on street lighting, EV's - a priority for us is to think about the long term - and the impacts. Community want to see home electrification happen. Mixed conversations / views about EV's (might restrict people's movement). Money is the issue - and people make choices where they can find savings.
Coorong & Tatiara	We want to see government coordinating across all departments - and not see this as the remit of DEW only. Needs to be a whole of government focus - and all of govt need to be lined up - so we can ensure we have the right instruments in place to enable us to change. Needs funded positions of people who are specifically tasked with this - that should be their core role.
Streaky Bay	Agriculture is a priority for regional councils. We are working with our farmers, they are more than half of our ratepayer base. We would like to see the provision of subsidised support to work with farmers to help them bring down their emissions. All regional councils will have a focus on this - to improve understanding and also support.
	Energy - we have no ability to tap into renewables at all, due to our current infrastructure - we are at the end of the transmission line. We've been working with SAPN on community batteries and to understand what it means to be off grid. At the present time, the Australian Energy Regulator doesn't support whole towns / communities being off grid, as its unknown. Really hard to transition to this when we need it the most.
	Agriculture (supply chains). In recent decades, all our rail infrastructure has been decommissioned, which reduces our ability and our capacity to work to reduce emissions - as we all have to rely on road trains and trucks - so we don't have that flexibility. This is counter to what we are trying to achieve in terms of emission reduction. We are seeing an increase in emissions (and little or no ability to reduce emissions), which is driven by govt choices.

Barossa	Scope 3 emissions. There are already drivers in some sectors (wine industry) which we can leverage and accelerate. We need a focus on policy making and removing barriers which allow this to happen – therefore supporting the private sector to run with it. Energy and goods and services (wine bottling) are important to us. Construction and infrastructure will also be of interest.
Whyalla	Waste is our biggest expense.
	Can we bring nuclear power / hydrogen forward - so we can find some emissions neutral options in regional areas. Fuel (with our prices set internationally) is really killing us..

What's hard to act on? What needs to be done?

Councils told us the following were challenges they are experiencing, which are impacting on their ability to act:

- Beliefs about climate change
- costs of creating climate resilient communities
- access to data (trusted information on which to base decisions)
- coordination, managing risk & leadership.

Beliefs about climate change

Not everyone believes this is a problem - this is one of the main challenges we have, especially with elected members. This means its really hard to get action and change in the chamber. Climate change has to be introduced very carefully (eggshells) so we don't create an environment where we can't get things done. This applies to community / elected members. Its a broader / deeper issue about trust, polarisation, covid & democracy. Councils are the easiest level of government for people to access and it all comes out in a Council chamber, meaning our ability to take bold action is hampered. It's a social licence issue. We are tempering our language (with Councillors and our farmer groups) to try and avoid a polarised political reaction to climate change and emission reduction. It's a challenging conversation with elected members and we have to be patient.

Engaging farmers around carbon / methane - they might not all be on board from a climate perspective - but they are interested in understanding how they can benefit from carbon markets.

What needs to be done – by government / industry

Some people choose to not listen to it. Will take coordination across all layers of government to turn around trust - to try and improve it. Engage better with people so we don't have this trust issue underpinning everything we do.

What can Councils / Local Government do?

New language. When we ask our elected members 'what sort of world they want to leave for their grandchildren' they engage in that productively. Ask questions that open new conversations - what legacy do you want to leave for your grandchildren.

Costs of creating climate resilient communities

All councils undertake detailed asset management planning and we know we can't afford to fund the transition necessary on our own. We know we need to construct climate resilient infrastructure that minimises the risks but this is costly. Making our city climate resilient is very expensive. Are we prepared to pay? Are our constituents prepared to pay? We note the limited funding available now, but it is not well targeted, nor is there enough.

What needs to be done – by government / industry

LG would like to see more grants that we could apply for - we need greater access to funding, a regional approach in how we can build resilience in metro Adelaide and in regional SA. Flood - needs regional approaches, so does fire. Regional approaches / clusters of councils - can be great ways to deploy this funding.

Support for councils to develop carbon footprints and energy audits - we would value some funding to do that work, especially for low income councils with a low rate base.

More funding at the state level demonstrates value and will help us all.

What can Councils / Local Government do?

What we value is what's reflected in our budget - we need to see these things reflected in our budgets / budget decision making and risk management. We need to move beyond just saying its important and embed it. (This applies to government too).

Economic mission has come out through the foresight group - this is about prevention, the more we invest in the prevention, the better it will be overall. We need to be embracing this thinking and reorientating our budgets and workplans accordingly.

Access to data / trusted information on which to make decisions.

Having access to trusted data that helps us make decisions and helps people adjust is so hard to come by. We don't have a central sharable portal where we can access one source of truth across government (at all levels), hence our ability to make sound decisions is hampered. This is also playing out for community and business – they are hearing information / facts from consultants and renewable businesses, but there is not a single source of truth.

What needs to be done – by government / industry

We would like to see some leadership from PIRSA on this front, to collate statewide data on methane / carbon centrally and make it available publicly in a way that we can all access to support our decision making.

For our farming community, we want to see some more traditional extension support - to provide high quality carbon and methane advice to communities. There are lots of consultants around offering wonderful deals but how do farmers know they can trust what they are saying.

Additionally, for farmers we want to see support with carbon audits – undertaking them at a Council level, so we can improve our own carbon footprint, and also understand what's happening in our community.

We need to be able to apply the data we have, and we know what we need to do - and if we had access to resources as listed above, that would help.

Coordination, managing risk / taking responsibility

It feels like we are not pushing into a transformational space – at a time where we need to be. There is no coordination, nobody is taking leadership and coordinating - and this can't be the business of local councils to do. As a state, we're not risk managing or thinking about this as a risk management exercise. This is a huge gap and a huge risk.

What needs to be done – by government / industry

We need coordination and leadership to help us transition. Sounds boring, but it might be that there are legislative inhabitants that block climate change from being addressed... for example, the SA Water upgrade of Mt Bold. They hadn't thought about how climate change might impact the reservoir and our Council had to agitate really hard to get them to think about climate change and then factor that into the upgrade they were doing. This is one of many examples, but we need to be building climate modelling into all decisions and all investments we are making right now.

Climate change is front and centre a risk management exercise - we need to incorporate best modelling into our planning to enable us to manage risk. We need reliable and fact based data - that we can all access. We need knowledge - but access to the knowledge brings responsibility.... if we have knowledge, we need to act on it. We're wondering, is this where we are stuck as a state? Is this holding us back?

Appendix D

“What SA Kids have told us about Climate Change” Report from the South Australian Commissioner for Children & Young People



What SA Kids Have Told Us About Climate Change

Commissioner for
Children & Young People
October 2021

Having clean air, water and food is crucial for children and young people to ensure they can reach developmental goals. They know that the cleaner and healthier the environment is, the healthier and more productive people are. They want urgent action on climate change with more focus on renewable energy and the elimination of fossil fuel dependency.

“ Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.” – UNFCCC Paris Agreement, 2015

Whilst the inclusion of children's rights in the preamble of the Paris Agreement is welcome, this statement is not enough to ensure that progress towards a child rights-based approach to climate action is more broadly adopted.

Australia's current climate policy does not take on a “child-lens” or consider child rights issues and the impacts of climate change on children's rights now and in the future. These elements are totally overlooked. Yet it is children and young people who will face the consequences of the climate crisis and water insecurity, despite being those who are least responsible for it.

Under Article 24 of the UNCRC, children have the right to good quality healthcare, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment to stay healthy. Yet children and young people have said they are worried about pollution and plastics, and about the impact these pollutants are having on the environment and on their own health.



Children's rights must be integrated into climate action, ensuring that climate projects respect, protect, promote, and fulfil children's rights, rather than undermine them.

- “ Push for a sustainable future to help slow the effects of climate change. Push for recycling. More gardens & parks in our city. Reach a zero emissions target.” – 17 year old
- “ Make the switch to renewable energy to stop destroying the environment.” – 17 year old

Children and young people view the world differently to previous generations and have different expectations of leadership. For some time now, children and young people have been vocalising their increasing concern about growing inequality, fragmenting societies, and the impact of climate change, particularly on vulnerable populations around the world. In the 21st century these concerns are emerging as key issues affecting intergenerational trust, particularly when governments and leaders dismiss children and young people's concerns, and take limited or no action to address the issues they see as critical.

They want leaders to listen to them and to consider their ideas. They want a future where their contributions are validated and where the value of their perspectives and the lived experience they bring is reflected in the policies and actions devised. They want their interests, expectations, and ideas to be embraced, and their emerging capacity for leadership to be nurtured.

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As citizens, children have a right to inform the development, design, and implementation of legislation, policies, programs, and services that have a direct or indirect impact on them now, and in the future. Children are asking adults to give them more of a voice and to be taken seriously. They want adults to take a sharper focus on their rights, interests, and wellbeing, and to integrate these into environmental policy.

However, there are few mechanisms to support children and young people's participation in decision-making. This not only undermines their trust and confidence in adult leaders and institutions now; but also on the likelihood of being able to fulfil their hopes and dreams in the future.

Key to children's interest in the environment is their sense of justice. They recognise that poorer people, remote communities, and indigenous people will be those who are most affected by climate change. Conversely, they see that they might also benefit most from the development and introduction of renewable energy technology, reducing and eventually eliminating our need for fossil fuel.

Children are growing up in a time that has been described by scientists as being a global 'climate emergency' and 'climate disaster'. Regardless of where they live, children and young people are regularly exposed to the reality of climate change, either through their lived experience or through various media channels. They read news stories and reports about it every day. They see images and video footage of extreme weather events, air pollution, rising sea levels, and loss of biodiversity occurring in places across the globe.

"If I were the boss of South Australia, I would... actually do something about the environment instead of lying and putting pressure on my generation." – 12 year old

Closer to home children across South Australia are being exposed to emergency events and disasters at much greater rates than the generations who came before them. They know that disasters are becoming more likely with rising temperatures. They expect there to be more heatwaves that will inevitably lead to more droughts and longer bush fire seasons with longer winters and shorter more intense summers featuring more days of extreme weather risk.

These disasters have significant effect on their physical and mental health and wellbeing, and have been declared by the UNCRC as a major child rights issue. South Australian primary aged children worry about the environment more than anything else. Hundreds of children have said climate change, pollution, the ocean, waste, plastics, drought, deforestation, and bushfires make them feel uncertain about the future and contribute to a feeling of hopelessness.

In response to the mountain of scientific evidence highlighting the critical need for urgent climate action, many children and young people feel despair and frustration at what they see is a lack of action to protect the environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Although evidence indicates that some of the significant effects of climate change can be mitigated or reversed with policy redirection and reinvestment, this message, and information about what positive action is already being taken to progress climate action, rarely reaches young people.



Photo by Vince Fleming

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What they currently understand is that we are on the brink of a disaster that will impact on the people, places, and animals they care about and that it's not something happening in far off locations but right on their back doorstep. There is a sense of fear among young people that adults and leaders are leaving it 'too late' to do anything about climate change, and that it has been left to them to bear the brunt of adult inaction and have to 'clean up' the mess left by previous generations of climate change deniers.

“ At this rate, our job in the future will be to live with the impact that past generations have left on our Earth. The government needs to address things such as climate change and realise that it isn't science fiction – it's real life and if we don't do anything about it soon, it will be too late.” – 12 year old

Children say they care very strongly about the environment and that spending time playing outside in nature and with animals is very important to them. They recognise the benefit of green spaces and of building liveable cities. They want access to natural spaces for play and wellbeing, and they want to be involved in community effort focused on protecting these places and spaces for future generations.

Children in South Australia see the degradation of the environment as a huge threat to their future. Many children in regional South Australia are concerned about drought, with many fearing for farmers and their livelihoods, or that the Murray River will run out of water and that there won't be enough to sustain the needs of the state. They are also concerned about bushfires affecting people and animals in their region.

“Not many people listen to us and climate change will be worse for us.” – 12 year old

Children have identified many ways that we can all take better care of the environment and help to address environmental issues.

Their ideas include the following:

- plant more trees
- invest in renewable resources
- manufacture more electric vehicles
- make more non-plastic alternatives
- recycle soft plastic; and
- introduce different recycling systems at school and at home.

Children and young people have said they want to:

- 1. engage on issues they care about**
- 2. express their personal values through the community issues they engage with**
- 3. have the opportunity to use their voice and be heard**
- 4. be supported to achieve; and**
- 5. make an impact now and in the future.**



Photo by Andrew Lancaster

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Children want adults to:

1. Provide children with climate education and green skills, essential for empowering children to protect themselves from climate related threats, and adaptation to and preparation for the effects of climate change.

“ [We need] ...education on how to be environmentally friendly. Without a healthy and clean environment, future generations will not be able to live life to the fullest.” – 14 year old

2. Uphold children's right to be heard and create mechanisms for consultation with children and young people, and include young people in climate-related decision making.

“ The government needs to consider our future, they need to start making positive impacts on the environment, because at this rate, our job in the future will be to live with the impact that past generations have left on our Earth. The government needs to address (address) things such as climate change and realise this isn't science fiction, it's real life & if we don't do anything about it soon, it will be too late.” – 17 year old

3. Invest in the capacity of future generations to address and respond to the climate crisis through investment in green, low-carbon initiatives.

“ I want coal industries to be replaced by renewables so children, especially the poor are not affected by future climate change, so indigenous children can remain on country as the most affected by these industries will be the least privileged (privileged) so it's vital.” – 18 year old

“ Reinstate carbon tax, restriction on the carbon emissions, restriction on cutting trees + growing trees projects.” – 15 year old

“ SA looks very nice now I would like it to stay like that for future. This is very important because when I was little I used to always go to the hills with my family on walks and bike rides. I want others to have the same opportunities as me.” – 16 year old

“ Nature and fresh air – I've always liked going outside, [to] parks, [the] beach, being around everything that's natural and not man made and made of concrete. I like being around the colours. Everything is so bright, everything feels so fresh in your imagination but in real life... it makes me feel like I'm escaping from everything in that moment. Nothing else bothers me. Nothing from the past. It's just the sun and the plants.” – 17 year old

“ I don't like that all the rubbish (rubbish) can pollute (pollute) all the waters in the world.” – 9 year old

“ Renewable energy – if our population grows, we may lose liveability – we need to plan for our future.” – 16 year old

“ More natural playgrounds. Move plants, small waterfalls/ lakes, grassed areas, plant names – It would be good to have natural playgrounds because kids would use their imaginations more as well as learning about the wildlife that lives on earth.” – 16 year old

“ Education on how to be environmentally friendly, without a healthy & clean environment future generations will not be able to live life to the fullest.” – 18 year old

“ The climate – I care about having a safe climate because I want communities to be safe from extreme weather events.” – 19 year old