

# ACT Government | Environment and Planning Community Engagement Survey Report 2016



Piazza Research



**ACT**  
Government

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## Background

The Climate Change Policy team of the ACT Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) wished to engage the ACT community regarding the ACT Government's efforts to raise awareness and bring about positive change in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Based on social marketing principles, the concept and approach for the community engagement strategy will be informed by this community survey which will determine community attitudes, knowledge and behaviours towards climate change and energy efficiency.

This study will be used for a variety of important tasks including assessing the effectiveness of current services, rebates and awareness programs, and providing accurate data to track change in attitudes. This survey will also build on the baseline data provided by the first cycle of the survey conducted in 2013. This report provides the results and findings of the quantitative telephone survey of ACT residents 2016.

## Methodology

**Survey design and data collection** – The EPD management team worked with Piazza Research to construct the survey questions. The phone survey was conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The data was collected during July 2016. All data collection staff were supervised and monitored to ensure the highest quality data collection process. Data collection was conducted during weekday evenings and Saturdays.

**Sample Design** – A total of 1208 responses were achieved. For the 95% confidence interval, this sample size provides results accurate to within a +/- 2.8% margin of error for overall results, which is considered highly reliable for this type of research.

Updated industry telephone databases of residential phone numbers (and mobiles where available) were used to sample respondents. Phone numbers were randomised before use to ensure the data selected was unbiased and representative of the community.

**Data processing and analysis** – Piazza Research used its own statistical software, 'Q', and Excel to analyse survey results. The statistical software package 'R' was used for more complex statistical analysis. Software validation and post data-entry checks were conducted to ensure data integrity before analysis.

A descriptive analysis was performed producing graphs, tables and frequency counts. For simplicity of describing results in the written commentary, overall satisfaction trends were described by grouping agree and strongly together (or disagree and strongly disagree) to represent the general opinion.

**Quality assurance system** – This project complies with the ISO 20252 Market, Opinion and Social Research Standard.

**Rounding error** – Percentage results have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent. Percentages in some graphs may total slightly more or less than 100%.

**Multiple choice questions** – Percentages may add to more than 100% for questions where respondents could select more than one option from a list.

**Demographic breakdowns** – Key results were broken down into various demographic groups to provide a more specific understanding of satisfaction among population groups where needed.

**Weighting** – All data was weighed according to the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data for the ACT to ensure results were representative of the population by age and gender demographics.

## Summary of main findings

**Attitudes toward climate change** – The majority of ACT residents (90%) believe that climate change is a genuine problem for the future, with many residents (78%) believing they have noticed some effects of climate change in their own life-time. Most respondents accept that their own life-style choices contribute to climate change (71%) and that they should personally take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (70%). Importantly, most residents (84%) believe that taking action can make a positive difference and they do not believe it is too late to take action. Four out of five residents (79%) also believe they have a good understanding of how climate change affects them, and a similar proportion (77%) believe there is nothing stopping them from taking more action on climate change.

**Perceived urgency of action by the ACT Government to take action** – Eighty percent (80%) of Canberrans believe the ACT Government should act urgently to address climate change, with 71% believing that taking no action would result in unfavourable consequences for their future.

**Support for ACT Government Action** – Four in five (81%) ACT residents want the ACT Government to take a strong leadership role to help ACT residents tackle climate change.

**Resident opinions of affordable additional cost per day per household to contribute to new infrastructure and technologies to reduce carbon emissions** – Approximately one quarter (26%) of all participants were able to provide a dollar value for household contributions to reduce carbon emissions. On average, ACT residents consider \$2.70 per day (per household) an affordable amount to pay to contribute to the cost of new infrastructure and technologies.

**Personal reward by taking climate change action** – Most ACT residents (82%) believe they would feel good knowing the ACT government was taking serious action to tackle climate change, and 83% believe it is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action.

**Influencers** – Two thirds (66%) of residents report that their friends, family or work colleagues would encourage them to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over half (55%) would be more willing to take action if they knew that others were also taking action.

**Awareness of current ACT government activity to reduce carbon emissions** – A majority (58%) of ACT residents believe they are aware of ACT Government plans to reduce carbon emissions. The remainder of residents (42%) felt they were unaware of these plans, suggesting an opportunity to enhance awareness of initiatives.

**Support for ACT Government plans** – Community support for the ACT Government plans to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change was very high with between 70% and 93% of residents supporting each of the 8 plans suggested. Six of the eight plans tested had the support of at least 87% of the ACT community.

**Electric vehicles** – Residents noted that the factors that are most likely to have a strong effect on them in terms of considering electric vehicles are; reduced cost of electric vehicles (55%), a network of fast charging locations in the city (51%) and increasing electric vehicle driving range or distance (32%). Some factors showed high levels of having no effect at all, such as allowing electric vehicles to use transit lanes (45%) and an electric car share service (40%).

### Communications/engagement channels –

The top 5 channels (for all demographic groups together) that respondents viewed as the most preferred in communicating with them about climate change were:

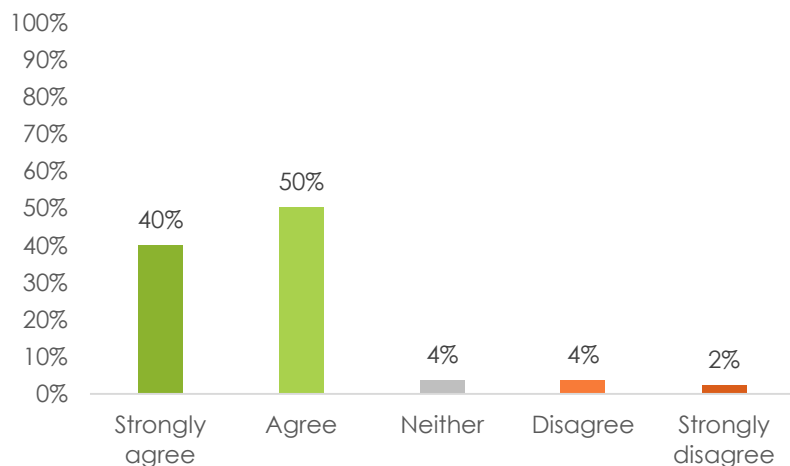
- 1) Information provided with energy bills
- 2) Information provided through schools to students and parents
- 3) Radio
- 4) TV advertising or education campaign
- 5) Social media

## Detailed results

### Attitudes

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

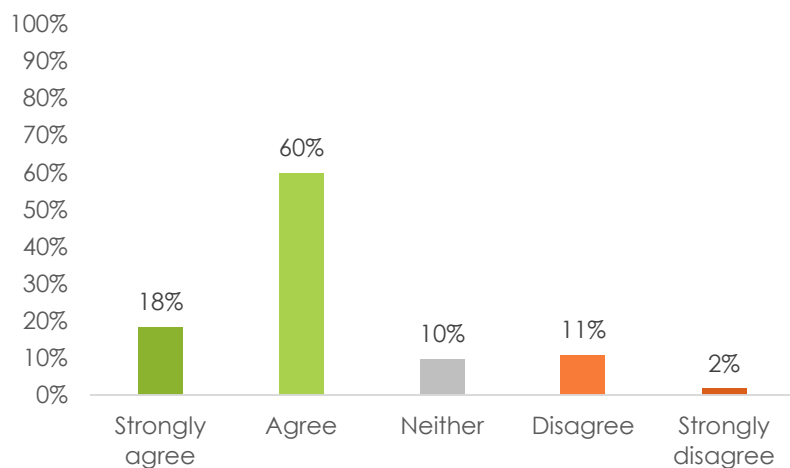
**Q1. Climate change is a genuine problem for the future.**



A very high proportion (90%) of the ACT population agreed that climate change is a problem for the future. Six percent (6%) disagreed.

Base = 1172

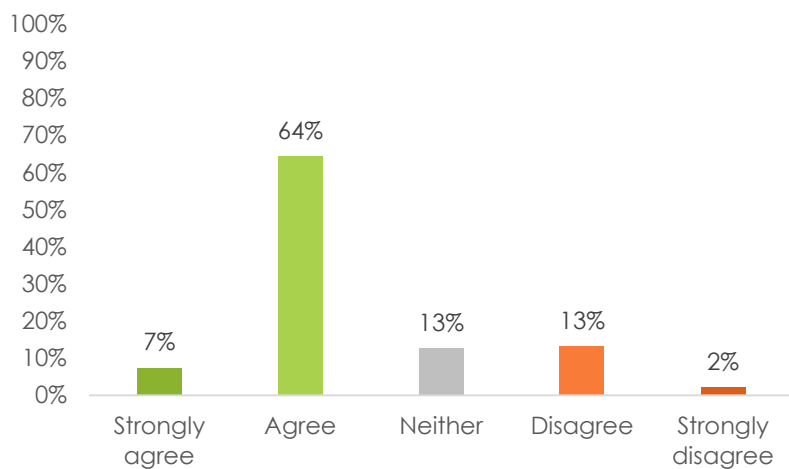
**Q2. I have been able to notice some effects of climate change in my own life-time.**



The majority of ACT residents (78%) believed they have noticed some effects of climate change. Thirteen per cent (13%) did not agree and 10% were not able to provide opinion.

Base = 1174

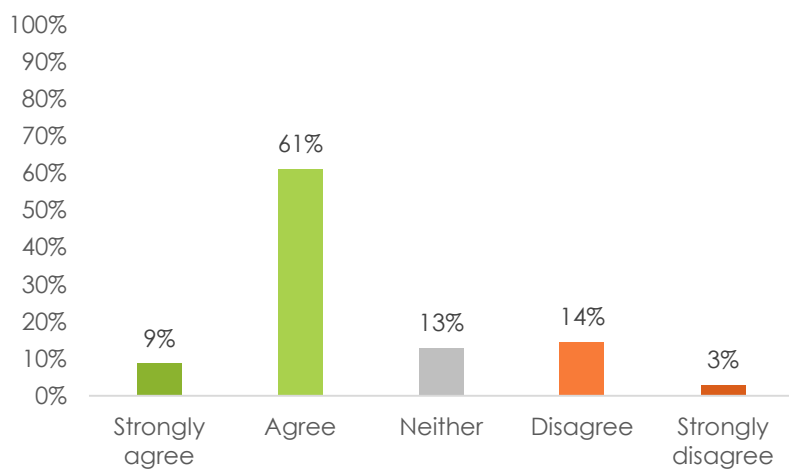
**Q3. My own life-style habits contribute to climate change.**



Almost three quarters (71%) of respondents agreed overall that their own lifestyle habits contribute to climate change. Fifteen percent (15%) disagreed.

Base = 1174

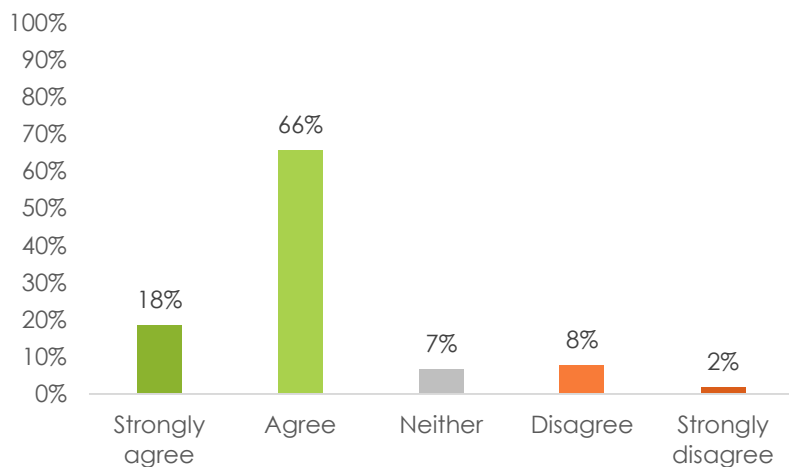
**Q4. I think I should personally take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle climate change.**



Most residents (70%) agreed they should take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle climate change. Seventeen percent (17%) disagreed.

Base = 1171

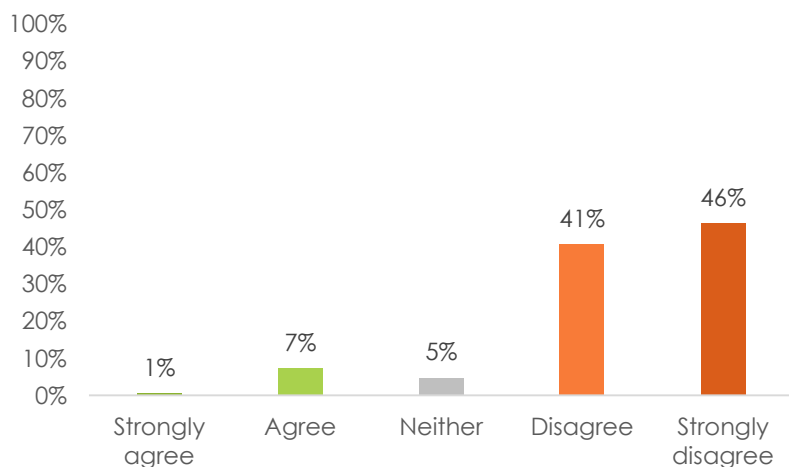
**Q5. Actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change.**



Base = 1178

A high proportion of respondents (84%), believed that actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change. A small proportion of respondents (10%) disagreed.

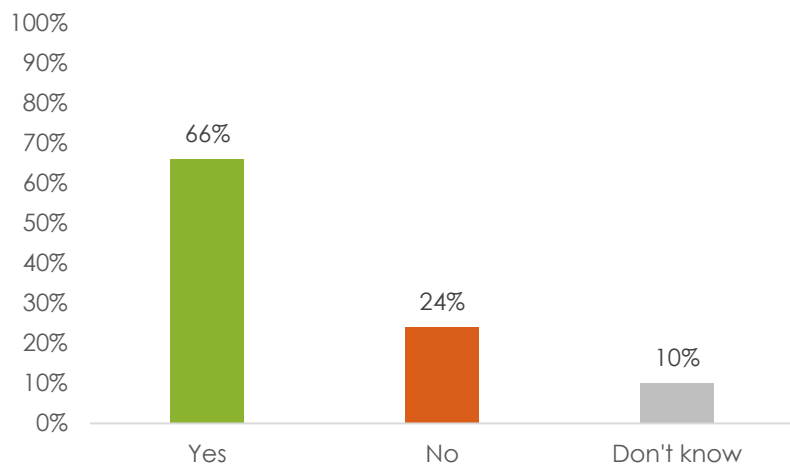
**Q6. It's too late to bother about taking action to tackle climate change.**



Base = 1174

Most respondents (87%) disagreed that it was too late to bother about taking action to tackle climate change. A small proportion (8%) of the population agreed and 5% could not provide an opinion.

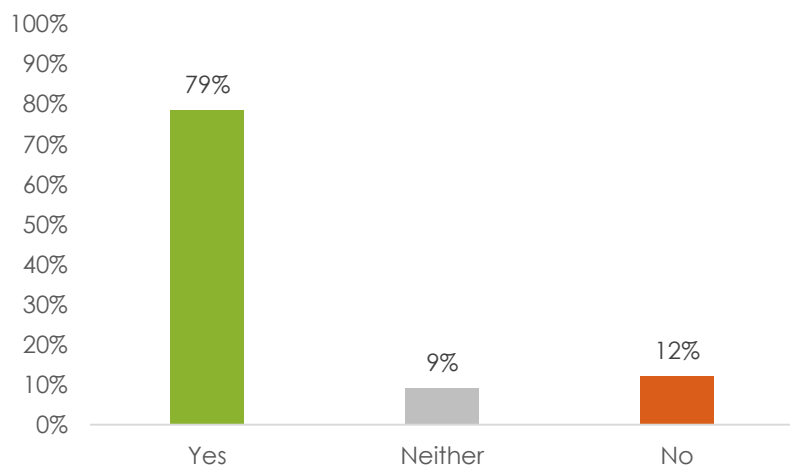
**Q7. Do you have enough information about what you can do to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change?**



Majority of respondents (66%) believed they had enough information about what they can do to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change. However, almost a quarter (24%) disagreed, with a further 10% unsure.

Base = 1171

**Q8. Do you have a good understanding of how climate change could directly affect you?**

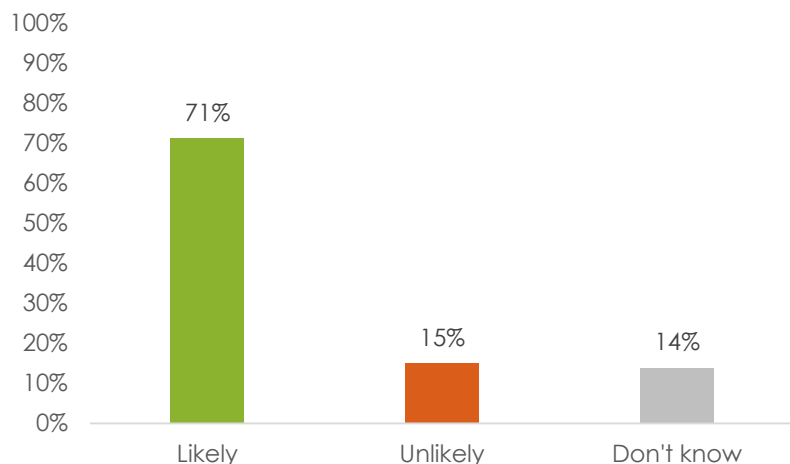


More than three quarters of respondents (79%) believed they had a good understanding of how climate change could directly affect them; 12% disagreed.

Base = 1174



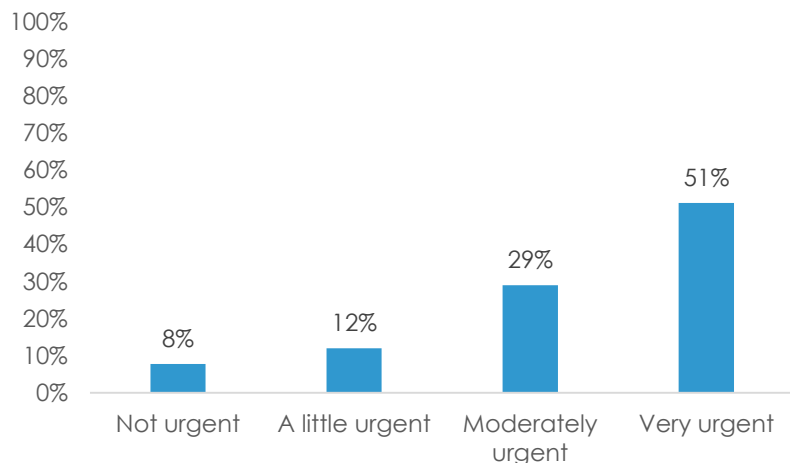
**Q9. If no action was taken to tackle climate change, how likely do you think it is that you will be seriously affected by climate change some time in the future?**



The majority of respondents (71%) agreed that if no action was taken to tackle climate change, they are likely to be seriously affected sometime in the future. Just fifteen percent (15%) thought it unlikely that they would be seriously affected.

Base = 1172

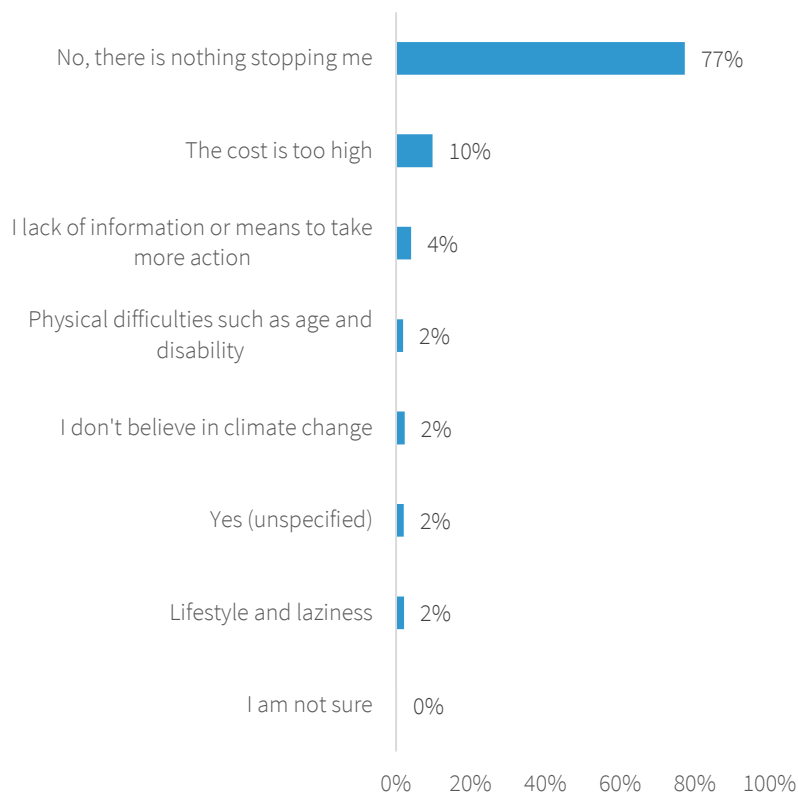
**Q10. How urgent would you say it is for the ACT Government to take action to tackle climate change?**



Eighty percent (80%) of respondents believed that the ACT government should act urgently to address climate change. One fifth (20%) did not view tackling climate change as an urgent matter.

Base = 1175

**Q11. Is there anything stopping you from personally taking more action on climate change?**

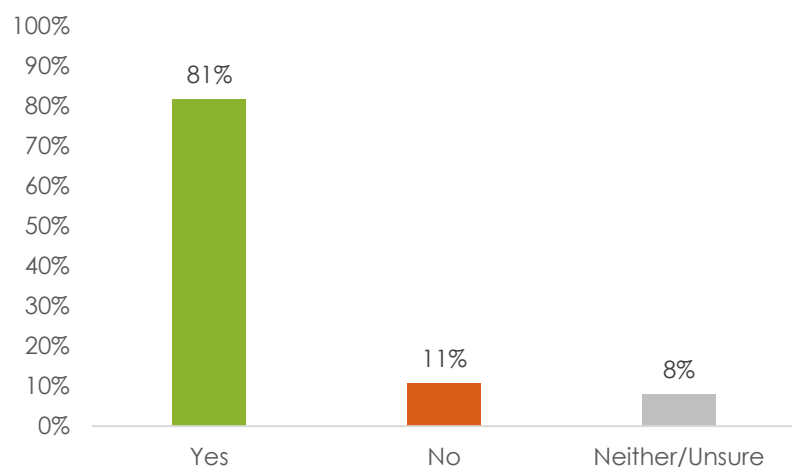


Over three quarters (77%) of respondents believe there is nothing stopping them from personally taking more action on climate change. Respondents who did believe there were factors stopping them from taking more action, high cost (10%) is the most notable reason.

Base = 982

**Support for ACT Government action**

**Q12. Should the ACT Government take a strong leadership role to help ACT residents tackle climate change?**

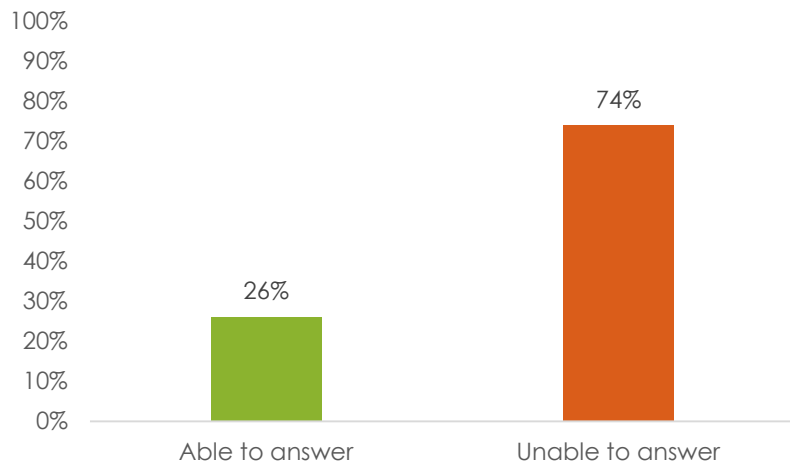


Four in five (81%) of ACT residents believed the ACT government should take a strong leadership role to help ACT residents tackle climate change. A small proportion (11%) disagreed.

Base = 1177

### Perceived value of ACT Government Climate Change Actions

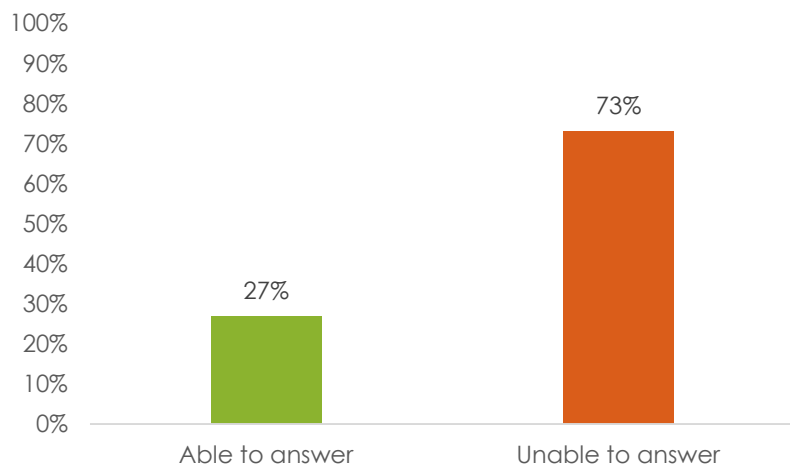
**Q13. If the ACT Government wanted to further reduce the carbon emissions for the ACT it would need to invest in new infrastructure and technologies. About how much would you say is realistically affordable for your household to pay per day to cover these sorts of costs?**



Approximately one quarter (26%) of all participants were able to answer the question with a dollar value. Among 316 answers, the average daily dollar value was \$2.7 dollars.

Base = 1208

**Q14. About how much do you think is realistically affordable for your household to pay per year to cover these sorts of extra costs?**



A little over one quarter (27%) of all respondents were able to answer the question with a dollar value. With 325 answers, the average affordable annual cost was \$659 dollars.

Base = 1208

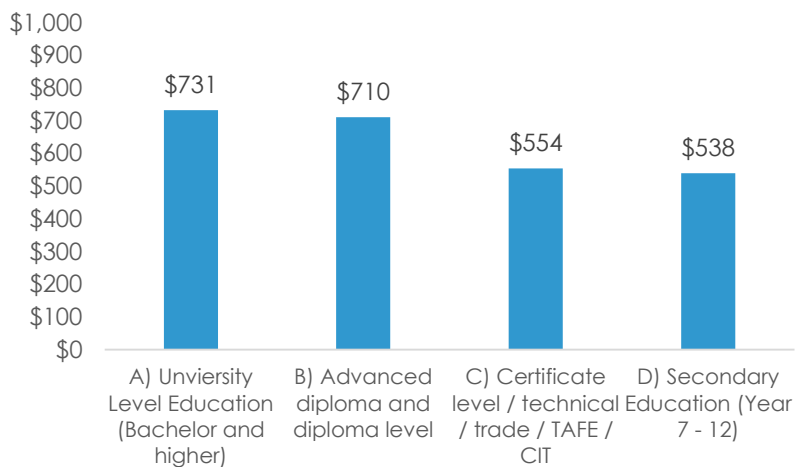
**Q14. Breakdown by age**



People aged 50-65 reported being willing to spend the most with an annual possible payment of \$773. Whereas residents aged 18-34 (\$550) were least willing to pay.

Base = 325

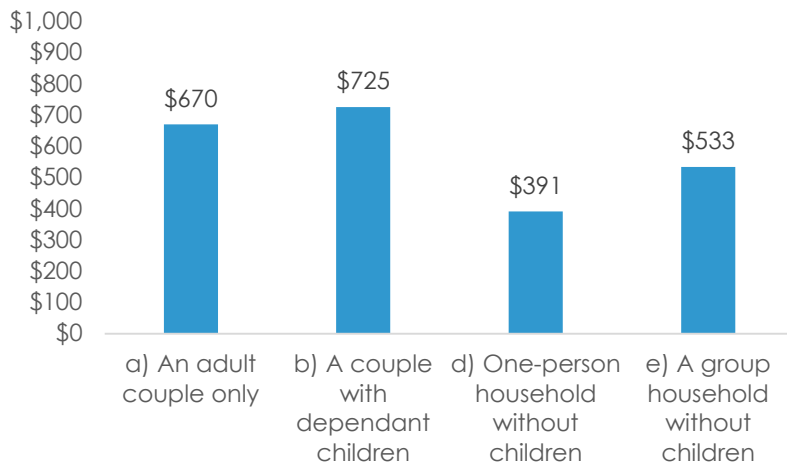
**Q14. Breakdown by education**



The willingness to pay was directly proportional to the education level of respondents. Canberrans with university level education were willing to pay the highest amount at \$731.

Base = 323

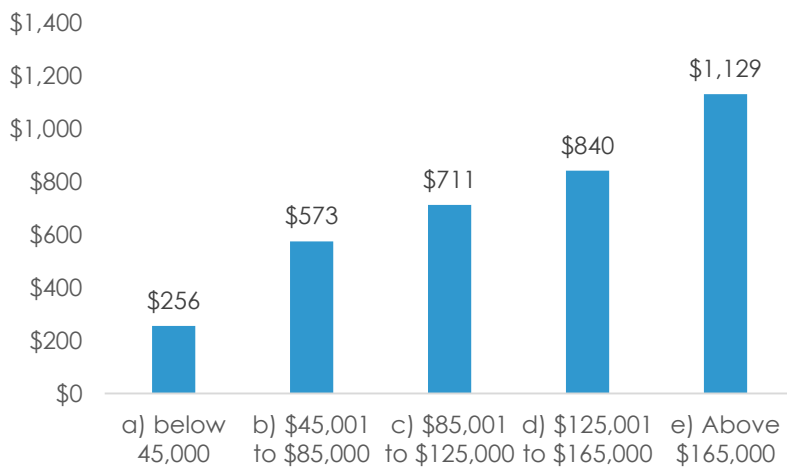
**Q14. Breakdown by household**



A couple with dependent children was willing to pay most (\$725) among all groups tested. However, one-person household without children only wanted to pay on average \$391.

Base = 323

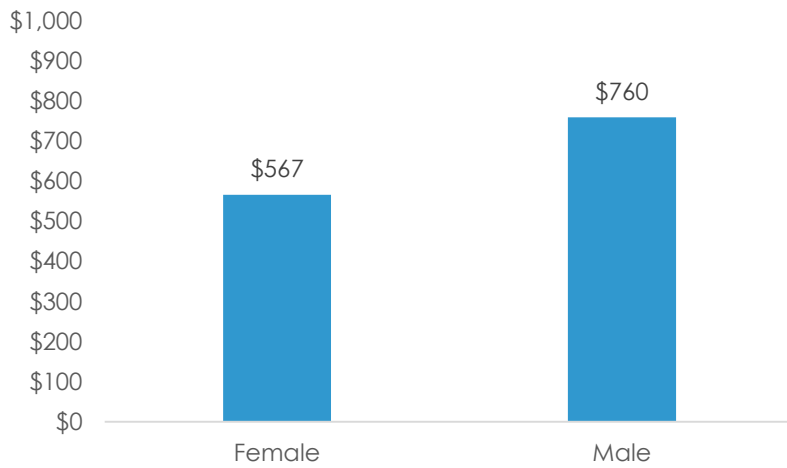
**Q14. Breakdown by income**



The amount affordable was also related to the household income. Households earning more than \$165,000 per year had the ability to pay \$1,129.

Base = 276

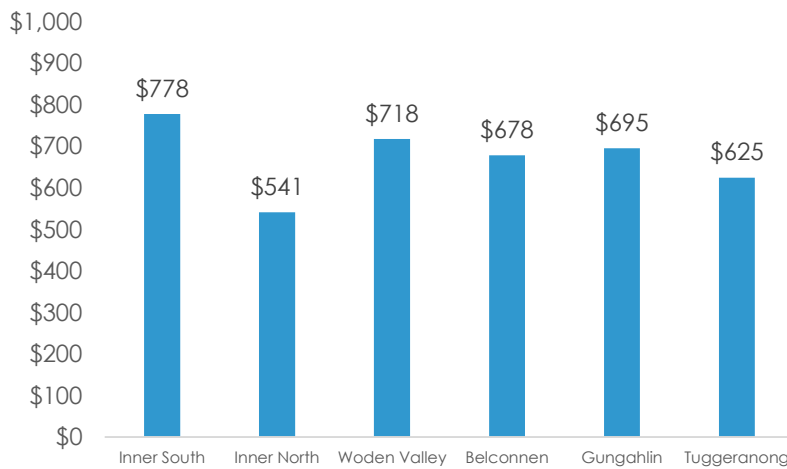
**Q14. Breakdown by gender**



Male respondents were more willing to pay more (\$760) than females (\$567).

Base = 325

**Q14. Breakdown by area**



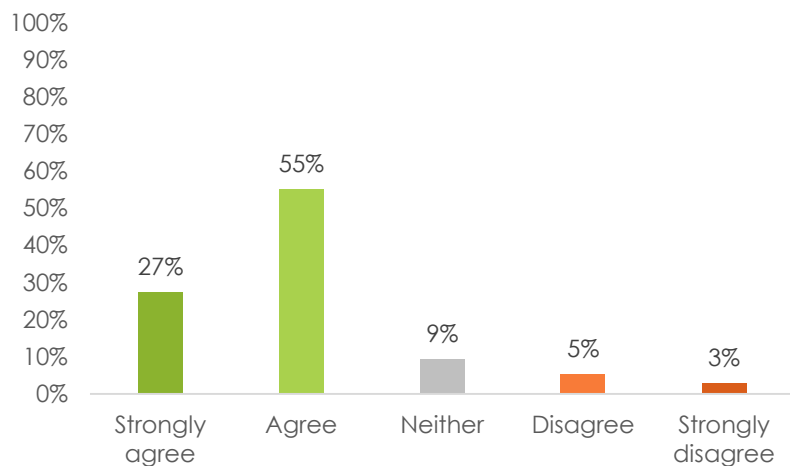
Inner South residents were willing to pay most (\$778), whereas Inner North residents wanted to pay least (\$541).

Base = 325

Personal reward / advantage / incentives

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

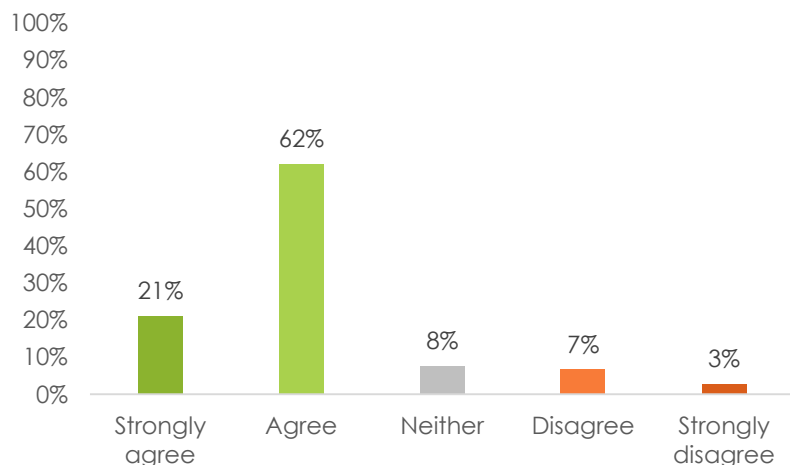
**Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change.**



The majority of respondents (82%) agreed that they would feel good knowing that the ACT government was taking serious action to tackle climate change. A small percentage (8%) of respondents disagreed.

Base = 1177

**Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change.**

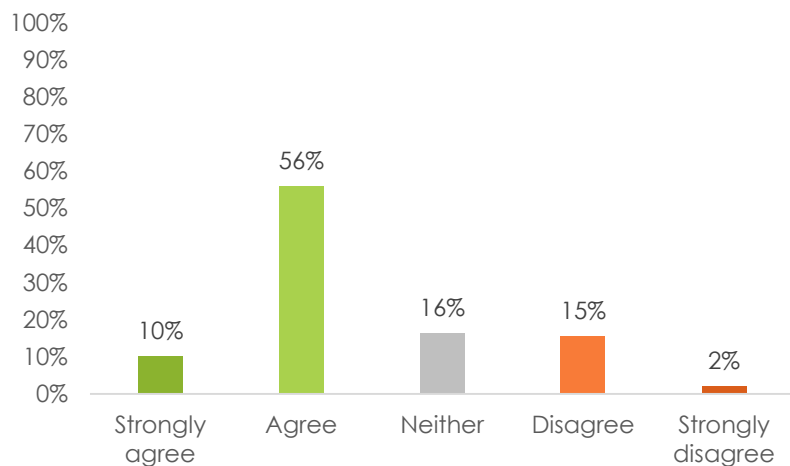


Most respondents (83%) believe that it is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change. Only 10% of respondents disagreed and the remaining 8% neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement.

Base = 1175

**Influencers / subjective norms**

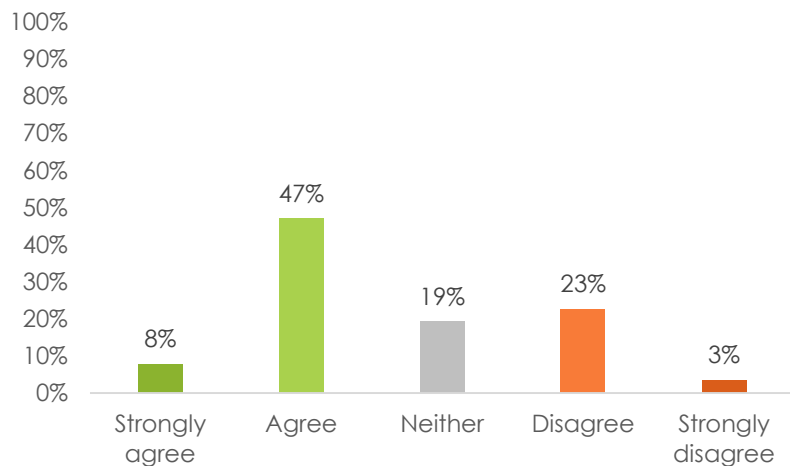
**Q17. I think my friends, family or work colleagues would encourage me to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change**



Two thirds (66%) of respondents agreed that their friends, family or work colleagues would encourage them to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Seventeen percent (17%) disagreed and a further 16% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed.

Base = 1174

**Q18. I would be more willing to take actions on climate change if I knew others were also taking action.**



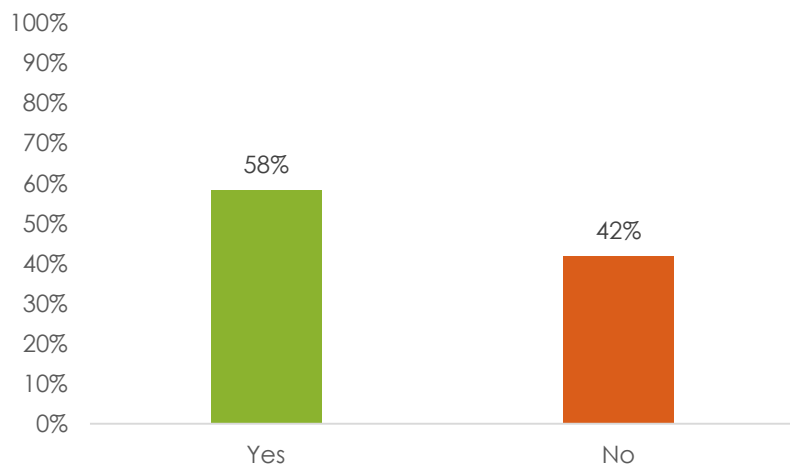
More than half (55%) of respondents agreed that they would be more willing to take actions on climate change if they knew that others were also taking actions. However, more than a quarter (26%) disagreed.

Base = 1175



### Awareness of current government activity

**Q19. Are you aware of the ACT Government's plan to reduce carbon emissions?**

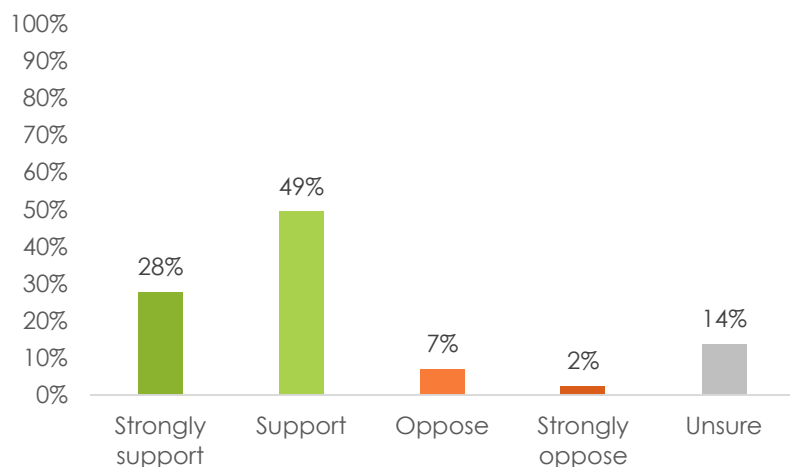


A majority (58%) of ACT residents believe they are aware about the ACT Government's plans to reduce carbon emissions. However, a considerable proportion (42%) were unaware of these plans.

Base = 1176

### Alignment / agreement with ACT Government plans

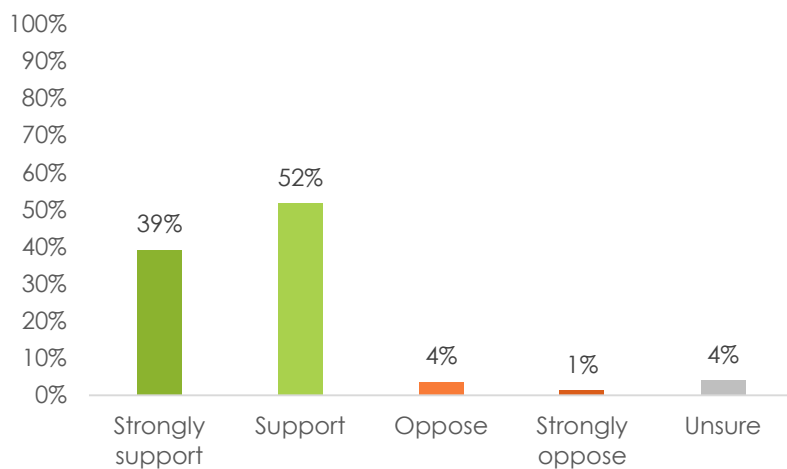
**Q20. Reduce electricity use, because it is the main source of carbon emissions and can save households money.**



Over three quarters of respondents (77%) indicated their support of the government's plan to reduce electricity use, as it is the main source of carbon emissions and can save household money. Only 9% of respondents were opposed.

Base = 1178

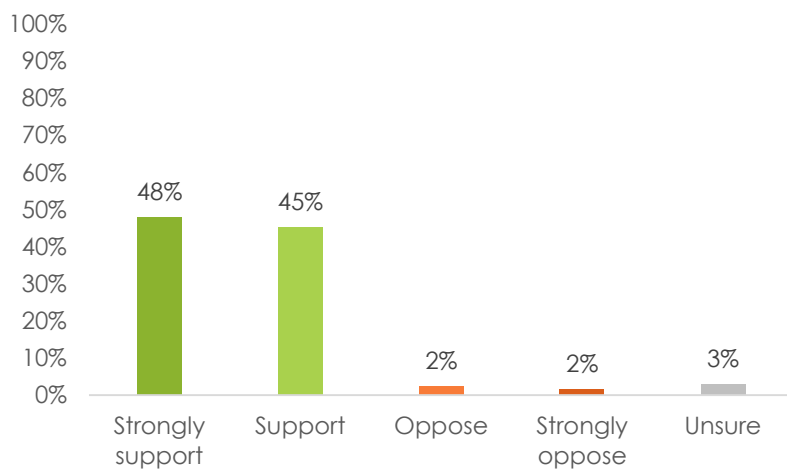
**Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions.**



Most respondents (91%) indicated their support for the government providing information and advice to Canberra's residents on how to reduce their energy emissions. Just 5% of respondents were opposed.

Base = 1173

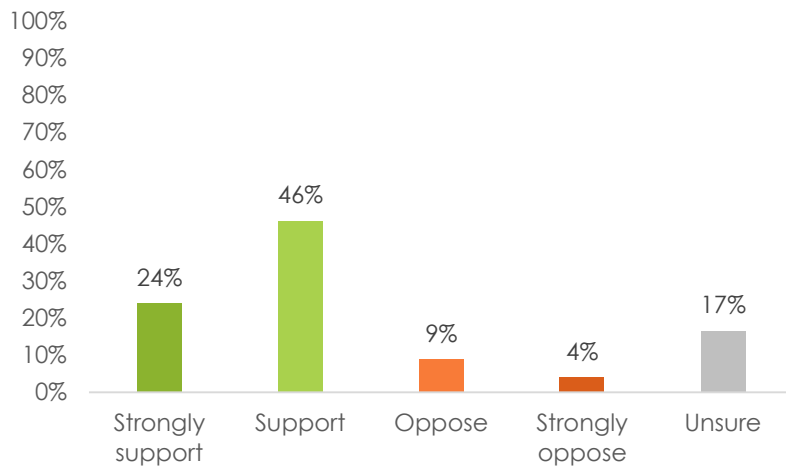
**Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient.**



Almost of all the respondents (93%) indicated their support for the government's plan in helping people make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households). A very small percentage (4%) of respondents were opposed.

Base = 1172

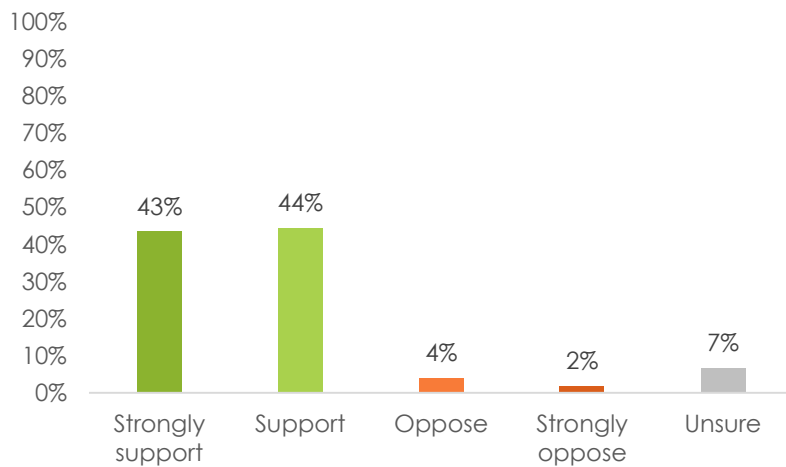
**Q23. Change laws to stop installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment.**



Base = 1173

Seventy per cent (70%) of respondents were supportive of the Government changing laws to stop the installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment. A small proportion (13%) of respondents were opposed and the remaining 17% were unsure.

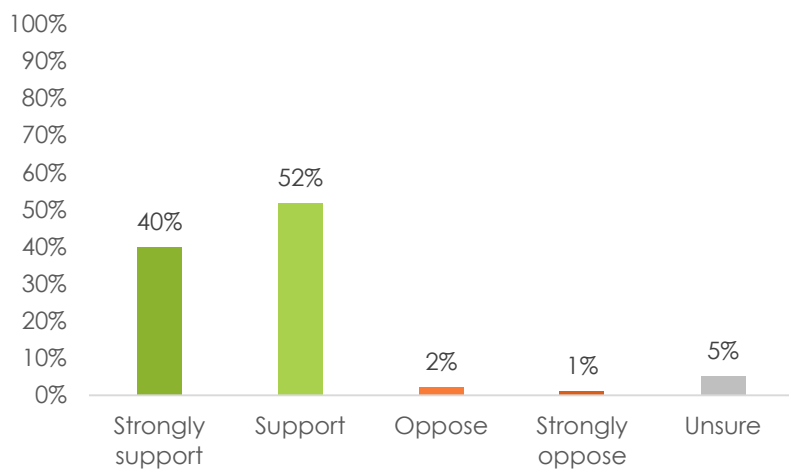
**Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.**



Base = 1170

Most respondents (87%) indicated their support for the ACT government's plan to gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings carbon neutral. Only 6% of respondents were opposed and 7% were unsure.

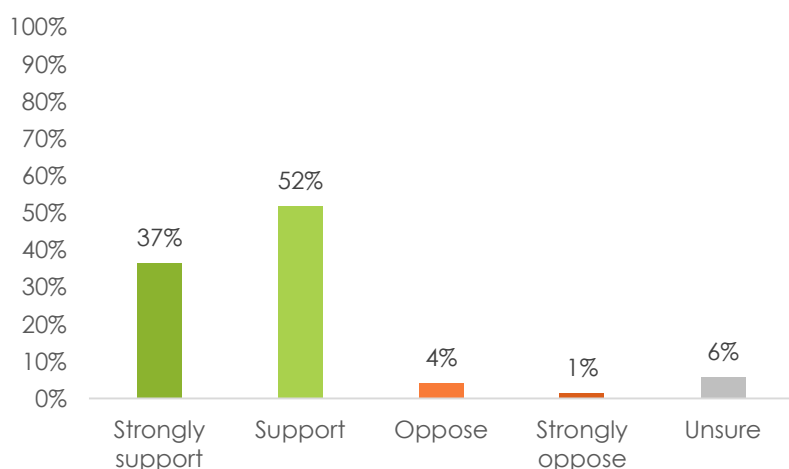
**Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.**



Base = 1176

Almost all respondents (92%) indicated their support of the ACT government's plan to demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology. Just 3% of respondents were opposed and 5% were unsure.

**Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.**

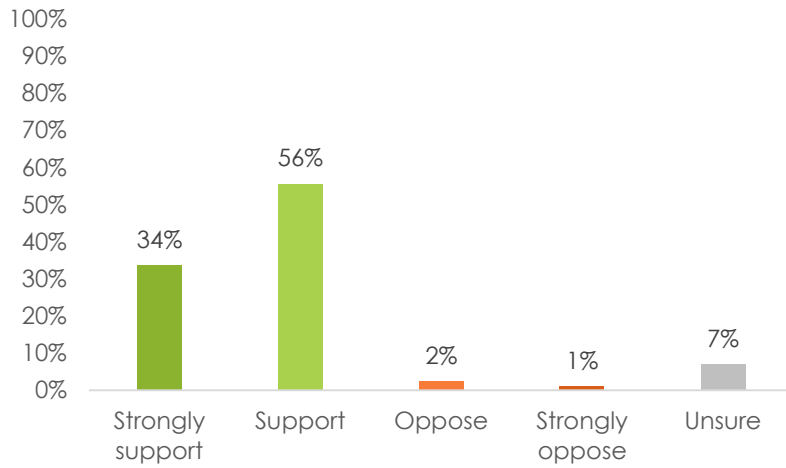


Base = 1173

A high percentage of respondents (89%) indicated their support of the ACT government's potential initiative to improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emissions vehicles. Once again, only a very small percentage of respondents (5%) were opposed.

Adapting to warming climate change

**Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).**

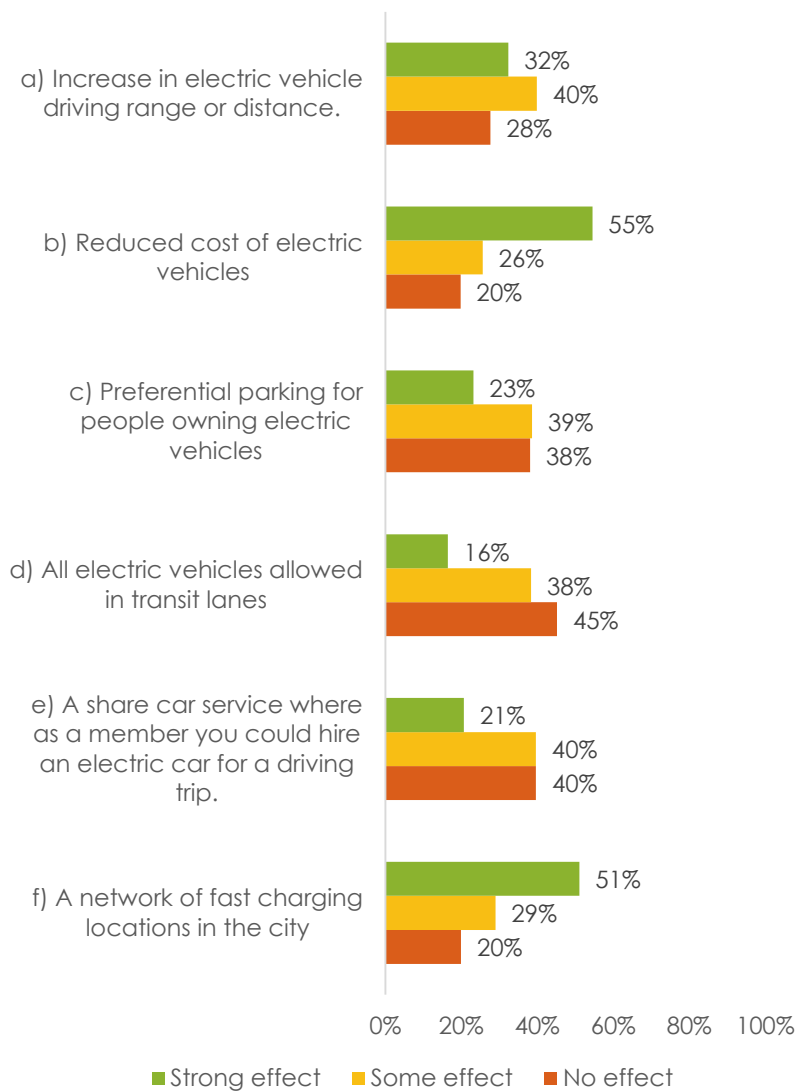


Ninety per cent (90%) of respondents indicated their support of the ACT government's plans to adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built). Just 3% of respondents were opposed.

Base = 1176

**Electric vehicles**

**Q28. The ACT Government would like to consider the use of electric vehicles in the ACT. How much of an effect might each of the following factors have on you in terms of considering purchasing or using an electric vehicle?**



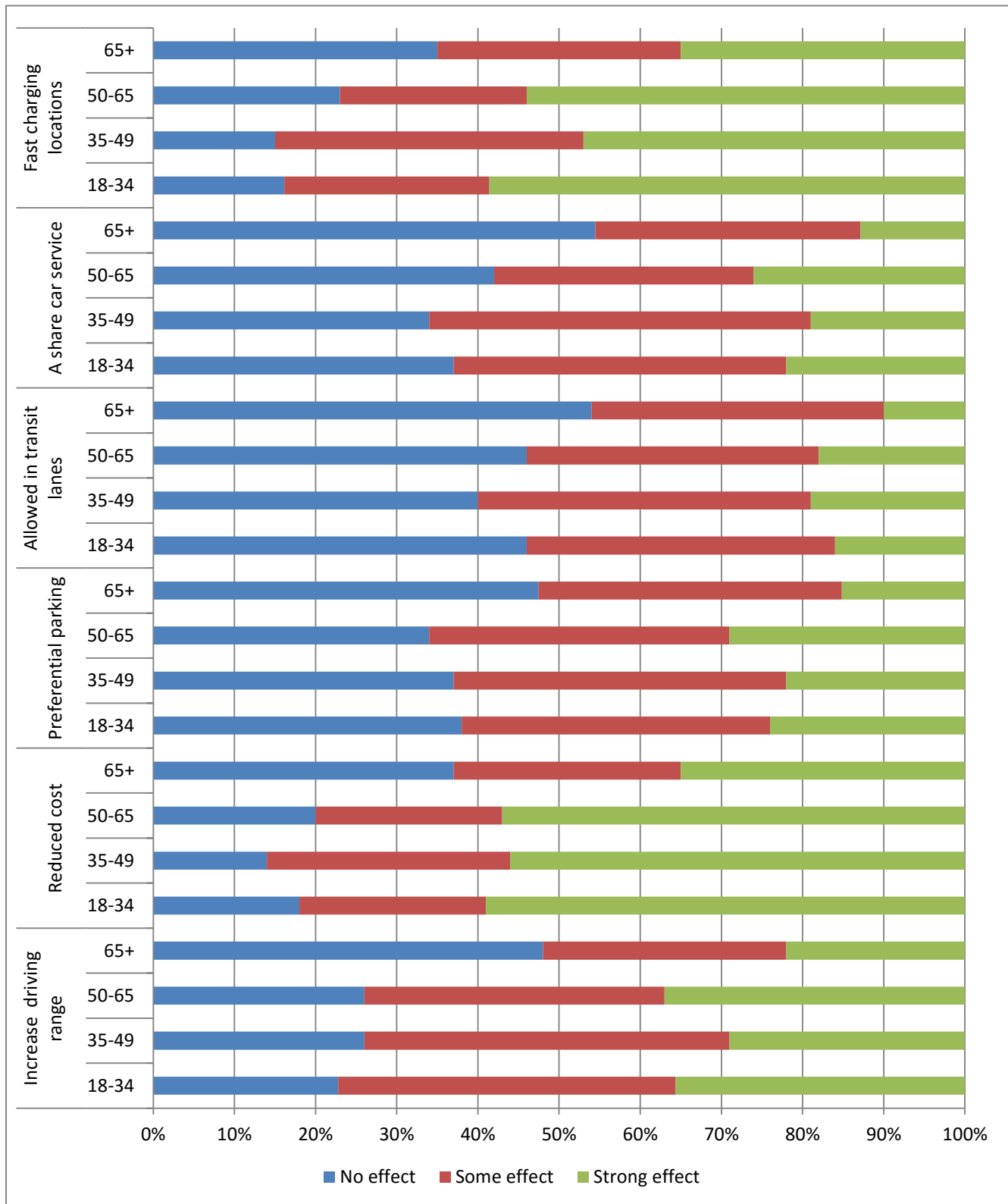
The factors that are most likely to have a strong effect on respondents in terms of considering electric vehicles are; reduced cost of electric vehicles (55%), a network of fast charging locations in the city (51%) and increasing electric vehicle driving range or distance (32%).

Base min = 1173, base max = 1179

**Q28. Breakdown by age**

Question	Age	No effect	Some effect	Strong effect	Total
a) Increase in electric vehicle driving range or distance	18-34	23%	42%	36%	100%
	35-49	26%	45%	29%	100%
	50-65	26%	37%	37%	100%
	65+	48%	30%	22%	100%
b) Reduced cost of electric vehicles	18-34	18%	23%	59%	100%
	35-49	14%	30%	56%	100%
	50-65	20%	23%	57%	100%
	65+	37%	28%	35%	100%
c) Preferential parking for people owning electric vehicles	18-34	38%	38%	24%	100%
	35-49	37%	41%	22%	100%
	50-65	34%	37%	29%	100%
	65+	47%	37%	15%	100%
d) All electric vehicles allowed in transit lanes	18-34	46%	38%	16%	100%
	35-49	40%	41%	19%	100%
	50-65	46%	36%	18%	100%
	65+	54%	36%	10%	100%
e) A share car service where as a member you could hire an electric car for a driving trip	18-34	37%	41%	22%	100%
	35-49	34%	47%	19%	100%
	50-65	42%	32%	26%	100%
	65+	55%	33%	13%	100%
f) A network of fast charging locations in the city	18-34	16%	25%	58%	100%
	35-49	15%	38%	47%	100%
	50-65	23%	23%	54%	100%
	65+	35%	30%	35%	100%

Q28. Graph of breakdown by age

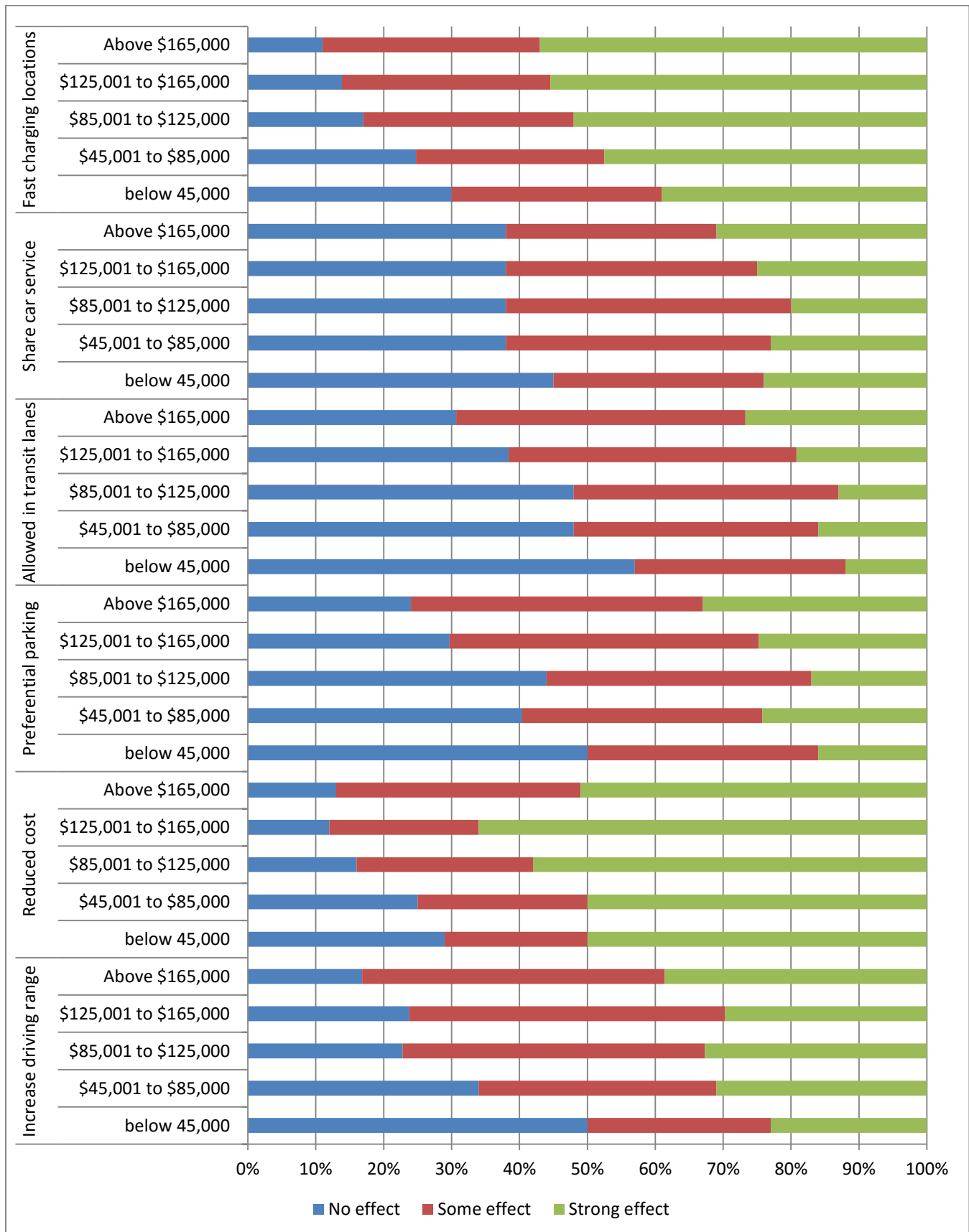




**Q28. Breakdown by income**

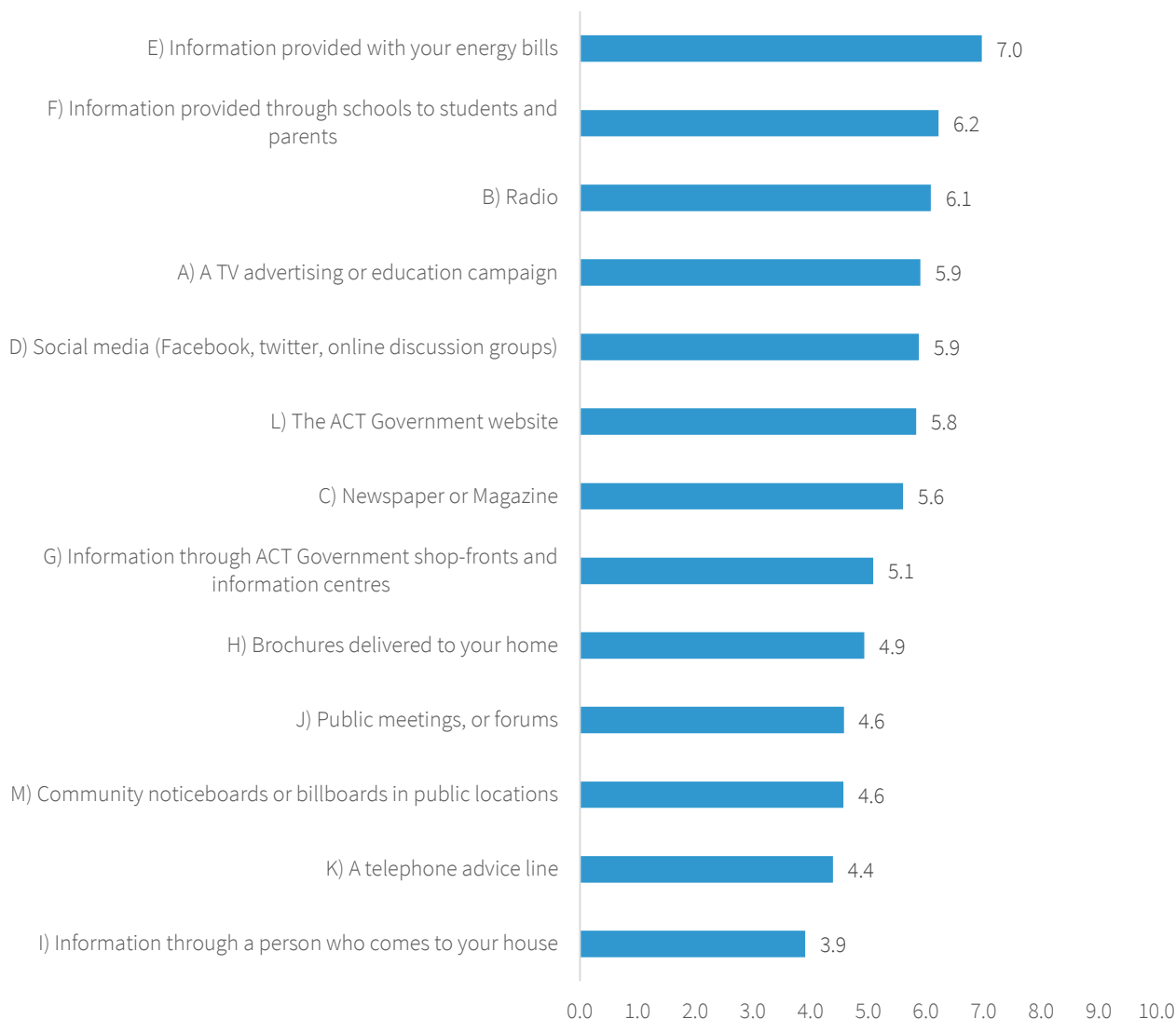
Question	Income	No effect	Some effect	Strong effect	Total
a) Increase in electric vehicle driving range or distance	below 45,000	50%	27%	23%	100%
	\$45,001 to \$85,000	34%	35%	31%	100%
	\$85,001 to \$125,000	23%	45%	33%	100%
	\$125,001 to \$165,000	24%	47%	30%	100%
	Above \$165,000	17%	45%	39%	100%
b) Reduced cost of electric vehicles	below 45,000	29%	21%	50%	100%
	\$45,001 to \$85,000	25%	25%	50%	100%
	\$85,001 to \$125,000	16%	26%	58%	100%
	\$125,001 to \$165,000	12%	22%	66%	100%
	Above \$165,000	13%	36%	51%	100%
c) Preferential parking for people owning electric vehicles	below 45,000	50%	34%	16%	100%
	\$45,001 to \$85,000	40%	35%	24%	100%
	\$85,001 to \$125,000	44%	39%	17%	100%
	\$125,001 to \$165,000	30%	46%	25%	100%
	Above \$165,000	24%	43%	33%	100%
d) All electric vehicles allowed in transit lanes	below 45,000	57%	31%	12%	100%
	\$45,001 to \$85,000	48%	36%	16%	100%
	\$85,001 to \$125,000	48%	39%	13%	100%
	\$125,001 to \$165,000	38%	42%	19%	100%
	Above \$165,000	31%	43%	27%	100%
e) A share car service where as a member you could hire an electric car for a driving trip	below 45,000	45%	31%	24%	100%
	\$45,001 to \$85,000	38%	39%	23%	100%
	\$85,001 to \$125,000	38%	42%	20%	100%
	\$125,001 to \$165,000	38%	37%	25%	100%
	Above \$165,000	38%	31%	31%	100%
f) A network of fast charging locations in the city	below 45,000	30%	31%	39%	100%
	\$45,001 to \$85,000	25%	28%	48%	100%
	\$85,001 to \$125,000	17%	31%	52%	100%
	\$125,001 to \$165,000	14%	31%	56%	100%
	Above \$165,000	11%	32%	57%	100%

Q28. Graph of breakdown by income



**Communications / engagement channels**

**Q29. How do you like to receive information? Please rate each of the following ways on a scale of 0 = not at all preferred to 10 = extremely preferred?**



Base min = 1165, base max = 1177

The top 9 channels (for all demographic groups together) that respondents viewed as the most preferred in communicating with them about climate change were:

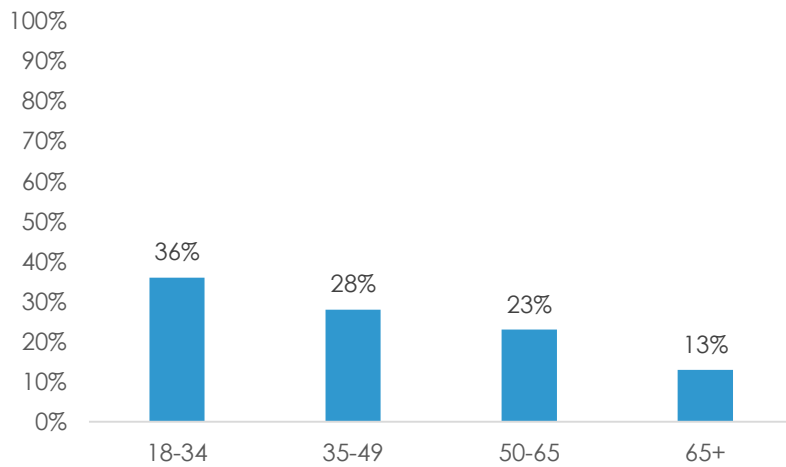
- 1) Information provided with energy bills
- 2) Information provided through schools to students and parents
- 3) Radio
- 4) TV advertising or education campaign
- 5) Social media
- 6) ACT Government website
- 7) Brochures delivered to your home.
- 8) Newspapers or magazines.
- 9) Information through ACT Government shopfronts and information centres

**Q29. Breakdown by age**

Question	18-34	35-49	50-65	65+
A) A TV advertising or education campaign	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.1
B) Radio	6.1	5.8	6.5	6.1
C) Newspaper or Magazine	5.5	5.3	5.8	6.2
D) Social media (Facebook, twitter, online discussion groups)	6.7	6.3	5.4	3.6
E) Information provided with your energy bills	6.8	6.7	7.3	7.4
F) Information provided through schools to students and parents	6.4	6.3	5.8	6.3
G) Information through ACT Government shop-fronts and information centres	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.3
H) Brochures delivered to your home	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.7
I) Information through a person who comes to your house and helps you better understand how to reduce your energy consumption, and save money.	3.3	4.0	4.4	4.5
J) Public meetings, or forums	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4
K) A telephone advice line	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.2
L) The ACT Government website	5.9	6.1	5.8	4.9
M) Community noticeboards or billboards in public locations	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.4

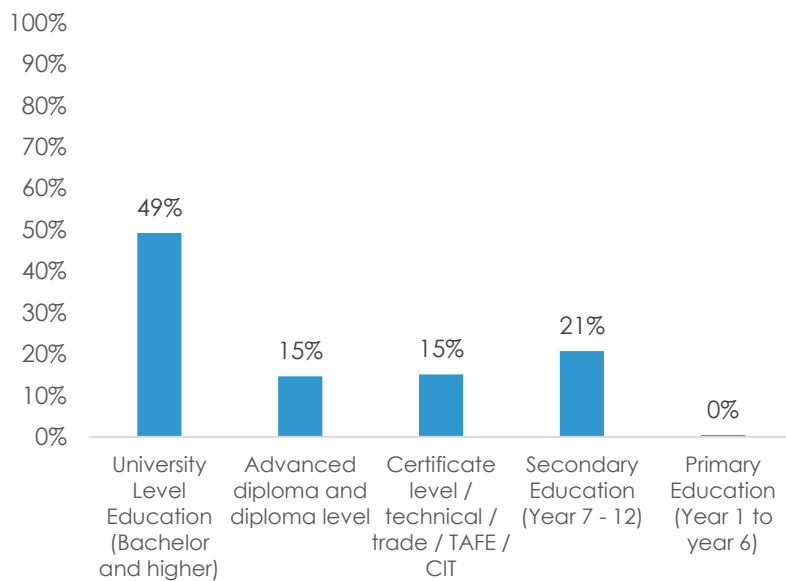
## Demographics

### Q30. Age:



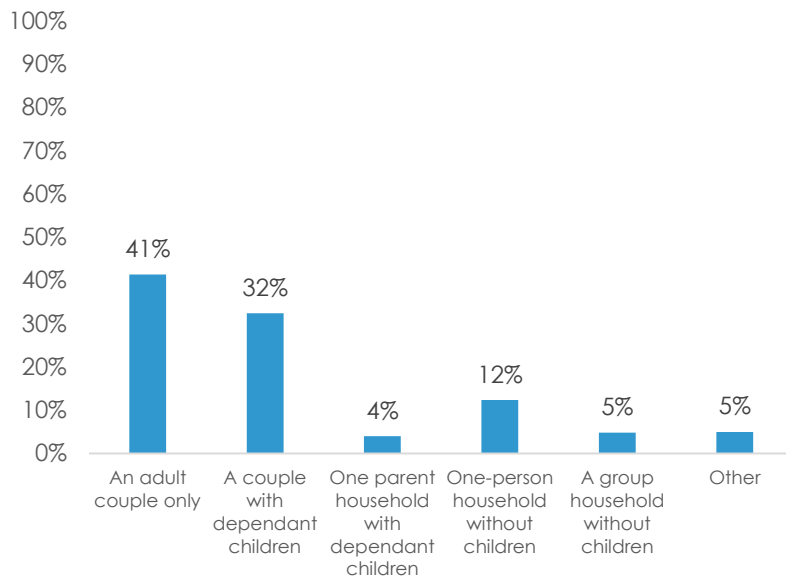
Base = 1180

### Q31. Education level:



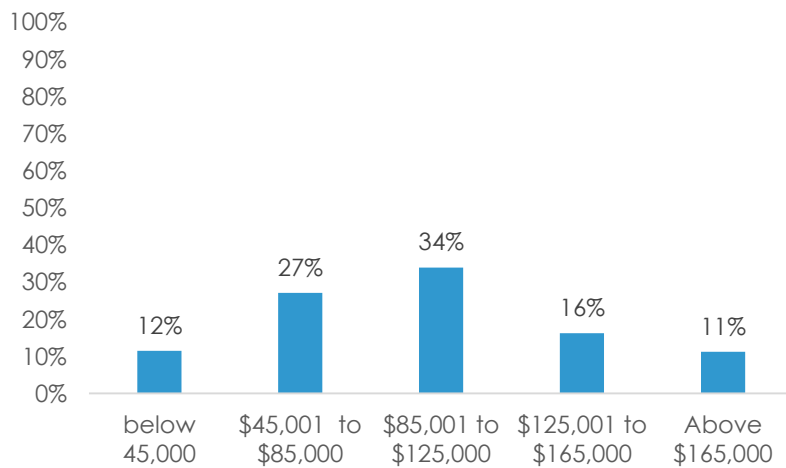
Base = 1173

**Q32. Would you describe this household as:**



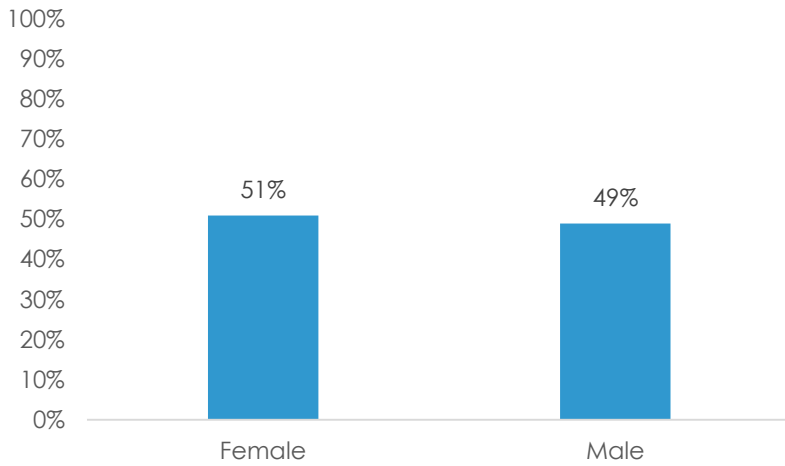
Base = 1169

**Q33. Which of the following income categories does your household fall into?**



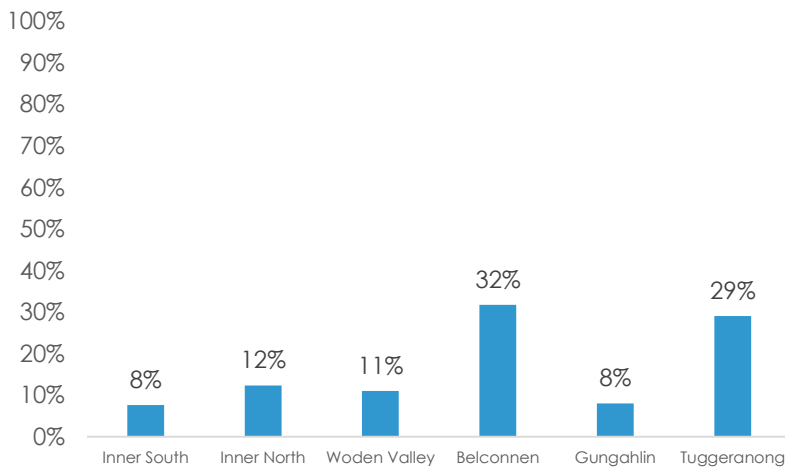
Base = 901

**Q34. Gender:**



Base = 1180

**Q35. Postcode:**



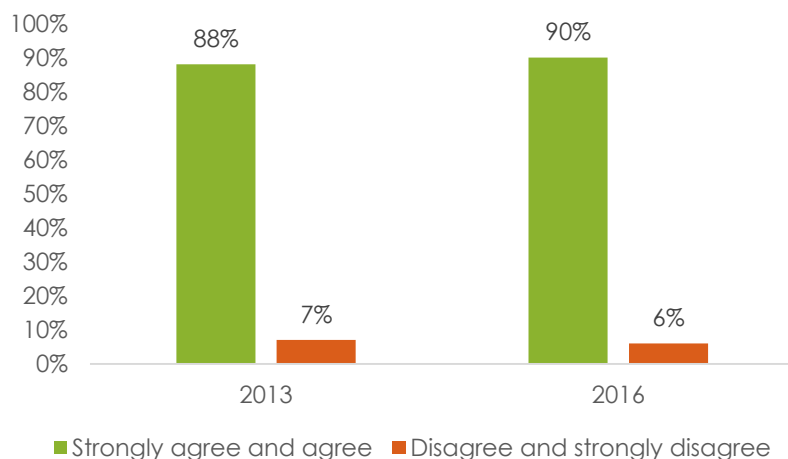
Base = 1169

## Comparison analysis – 2013 / 2016

The following section shows a comparison of the current 2016 survey results with the results of the previous survey conducted in 2013. Please note some questions have been omitted or changed from the 2013 survey to the 2016 survey. This comparison includes only those questions which remained identical across both questionnaires.

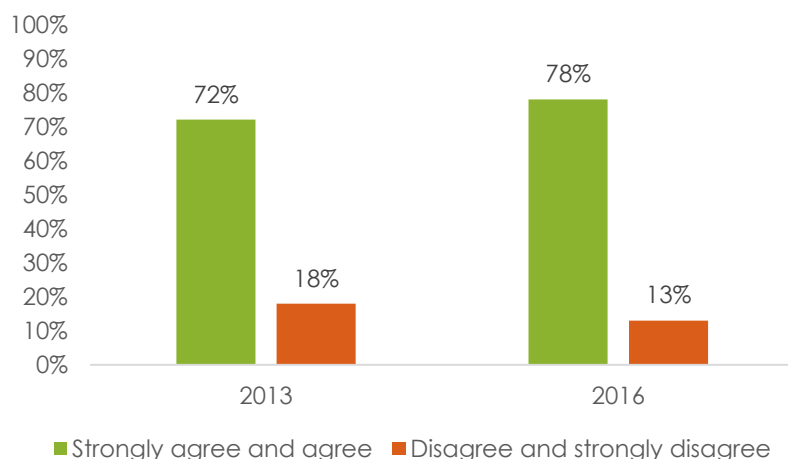
### Attitudes

#### Q1. Climate change is a genuine problem for the future. – Comparison with 2013



A very high proportion of the ACT population agreed that climate change is a problem for the future across both surveys (88% and 90% respectively). Similarly, 6% disagreed in 2016 whilst 7% disagreed in 2013.

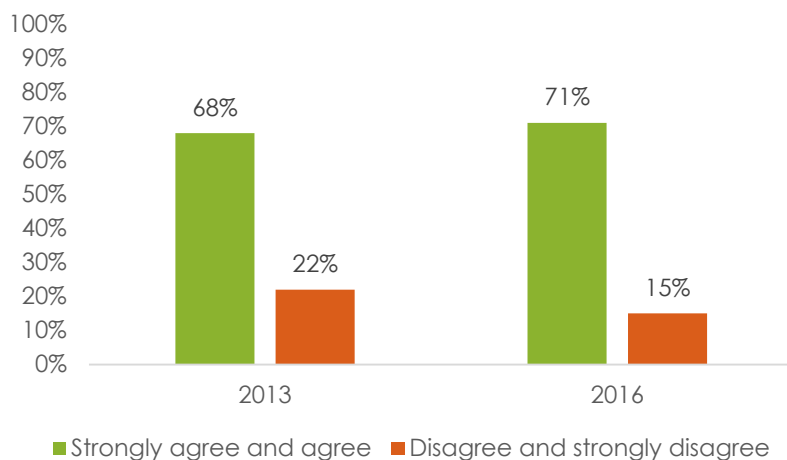
#### Q2. I have been able to notice some effects of climate change in my own life-time. – Comparison with 2013



A higher percentage of the population now believe they have been able to notice some effects of climate change in their own lifetime; 78% in 2016 compared with 72% in 2013.

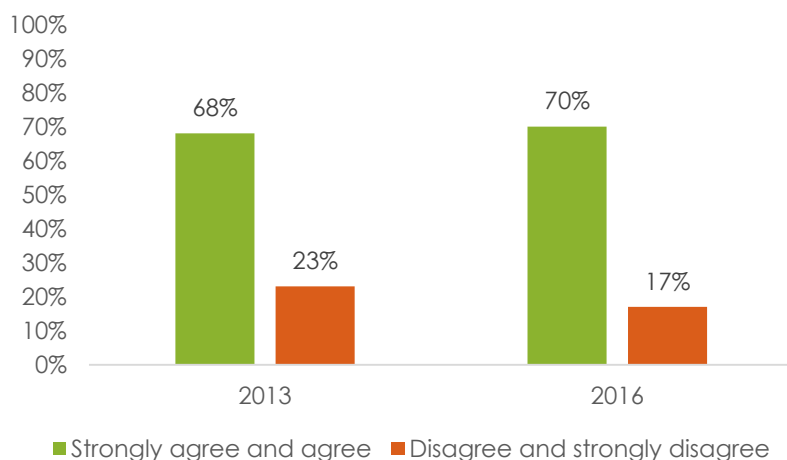


**Q3. My own life-style habits contribute to climate change. – Comparison with 2013**



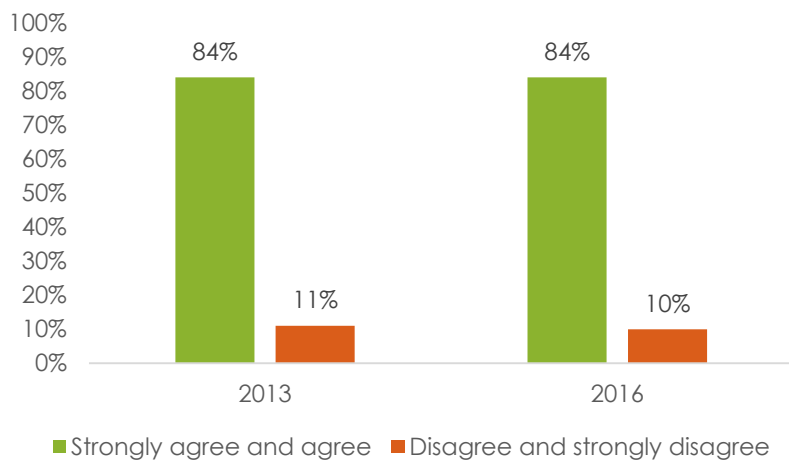
A similar proportion of Canberrans (71%) believe their own lifestyle habits contribute to climate change as compared to 2013 (68%). However, fewer respondents disagree at just 15% in 2016 compared to 22% in 2013.

**Q4. I think I should personally take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle climate change. – Comparison with 2013**



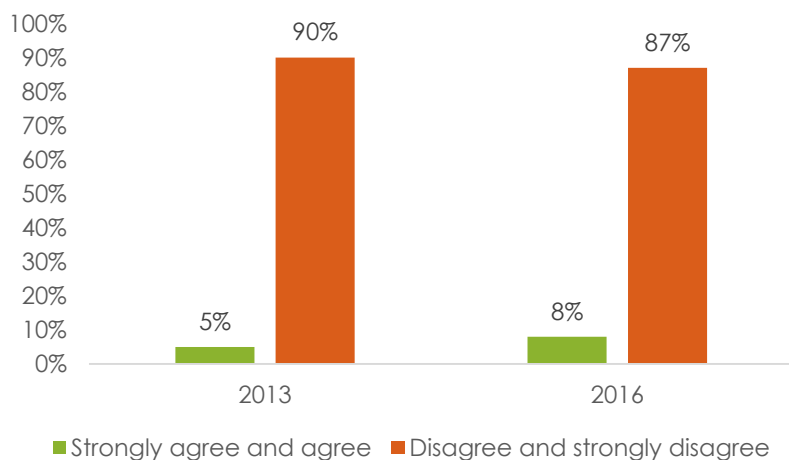
A similar proportion of Canberrans (70%) agreed they should take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas as compared to 2013 (68%). However, fewer respondents disagree at just 17% in 2016 compared to 23% in 2013.

**Q5. Actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change. – Comparison with 2013**



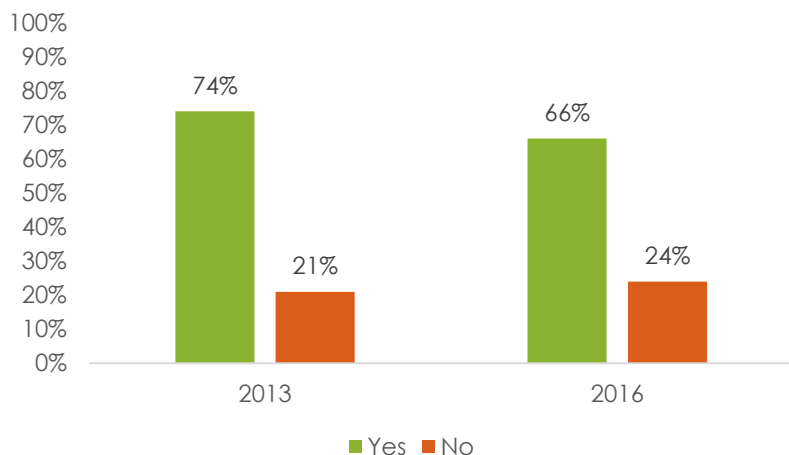
The same proportion of respondents (84%) across both surveys believed that actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change. A small proportion of respondents disagreed (10% and 11% respectively).

**Q6. It's too late to bother about taking action to tackle climate change. – Comparison with 2013**



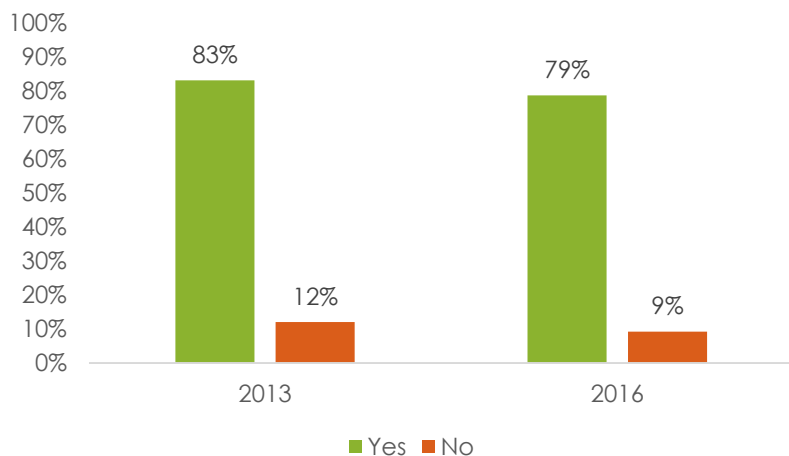
A similar proportion of respondents (87%) disagreed that it was too late to bother about taking action to tackle climate change as compared to 2013 (90%). A small proportion of the population agreed (8% and 5% respectively)

**Q7. Do you have enough information about what you can do to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change? – Comparison with 2013**



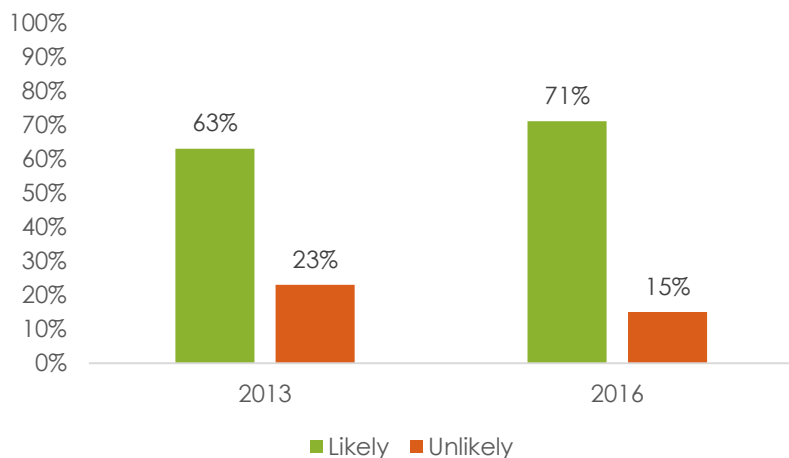
Fewer respondents (66%) believed they had enough information about what they can do to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change in 2016 compared to 74% in 2013. A similar proportion (24%; 21%) disagreed.

**Q8. Do you have a good understanding of how climate change could directly affect you? – Comparison with 2013**



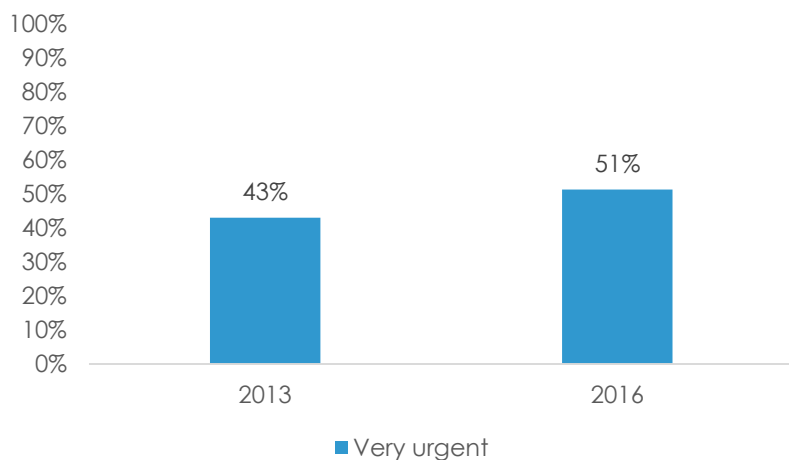
More than three quarters of respondents (79%) in 2016 believed they had a good understanding of how climate change could directly affect them. This is similar to the 83% of respondents in 2013.

**Q9. If no action was taken to tackle climate change, how likely do you think it is that you will be seriously affected by climate change some time in the future? – Comparison with 2013**



Almost three quarters of respondents (71%) in 2016 agreed that if no action was taken to tackle climate change, they are likely to be seriously affected sometime in the future. This is higher than 2013, when 63% of respondents agreed. Just fifteen percent (15%) in 2016 thought it unlikely that they would be seriously affected, 8% less than 2013.

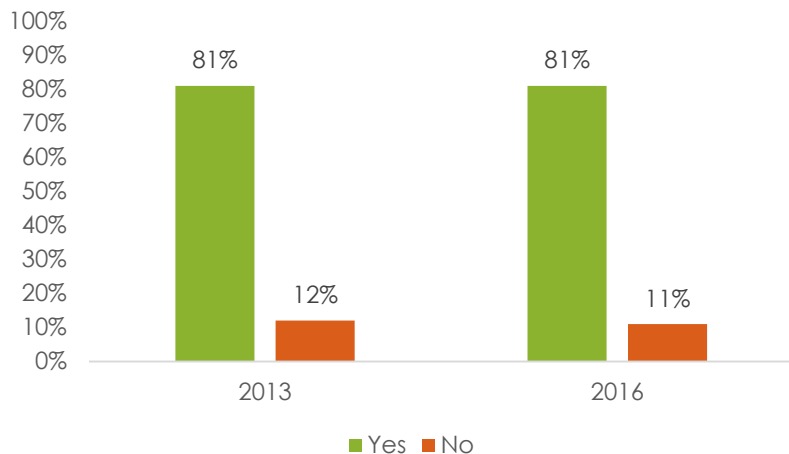
**Q10. How urgent would you say it is for the ACT Government to take action to tackle climate change? – Comparison with 2013**



Fifty one (51%) of respondents believed that the ACT government should act very urgently to address climate change. This is an increase of 8% compared to 2013.

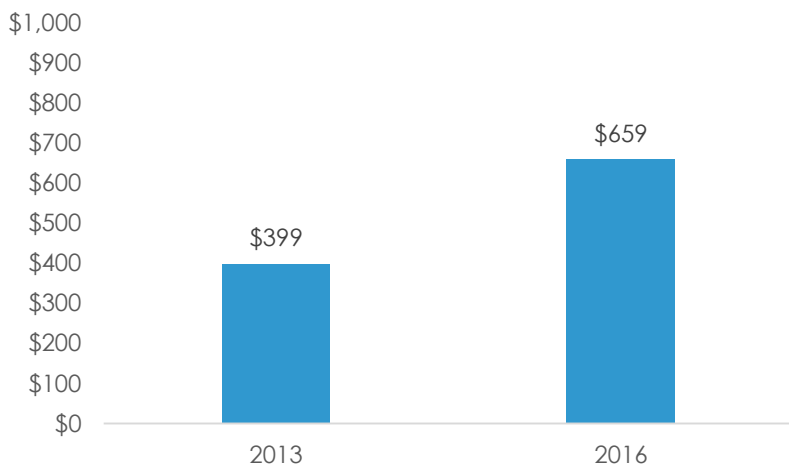
**Support for ACT Government action**

**Q12. Should the ACT Government take a strong leadership role to help ACT residents tackle climate change? – Comparison with 2013**



The same proportion (81%) of residents across both surveys believed the ACT government should take a strong leadership role to help ACT residents tackle climate change. A small proportion disagreed (11% and 12% respectively).

**Q14. About how much do you think is realistically affordable for your household to pay per year to cover these sorts of extra costs? – Comparison with 2013**

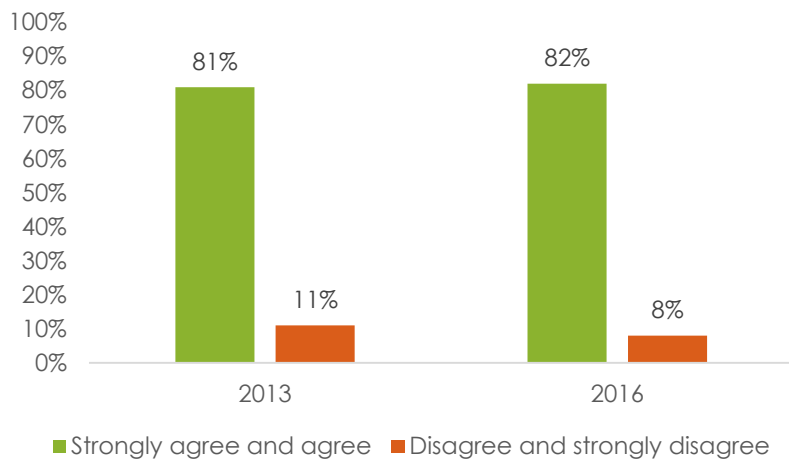


The willingness to pay in 2013 was \$1.6 per day or \$399 per year. The numbers had increased to \$2.7 per day or \$659 per annual in 2016.

Personal reward / advantage / incentives

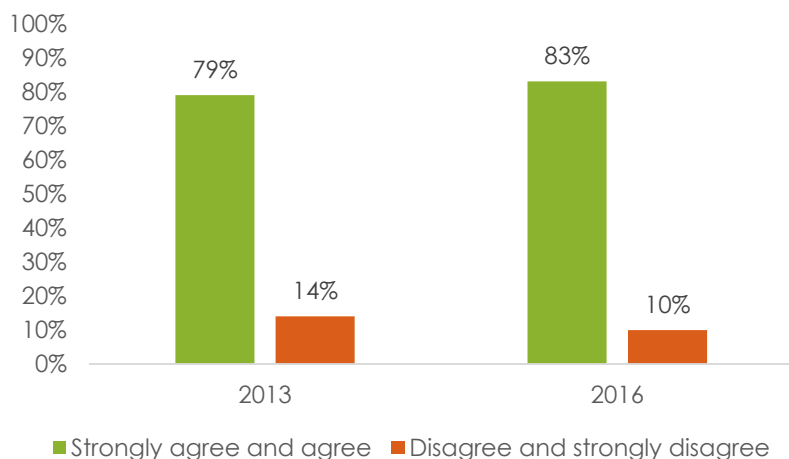
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change. – Comparison with 2013**



A similar proportion of respondents (82%) in 2016 agreed that they would feel good knowing that the ACT government was taking serious action to tackle climate change compared with 81% in 2013.

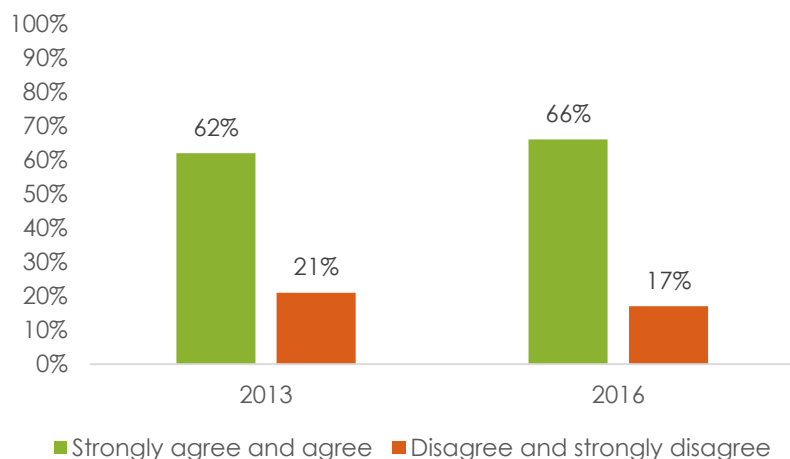
**Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change. – Comparison with 2013**



Eighty three percent (83%) of residents in 2016 believe that it is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change compared with 79% in 2013. Ten percent (10%) in 2016 disagree compared to 14% in 2013.

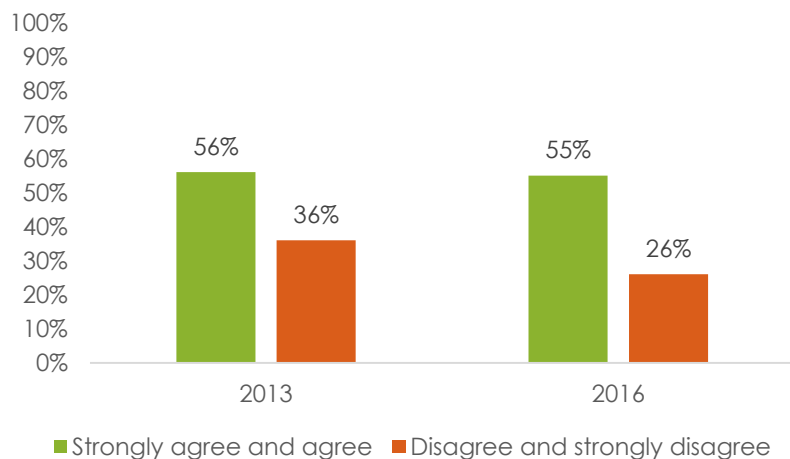
**Influencers / subjective norms**

**Q17. I think my friends, family or work colleagues would encourage me to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change – Comparison with 2013**



Sixty six percent (66%) of respondents in 2016 agreed that their friends, family or work colleagues would encourage them to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared with 62% in 2013. Seventeen percent (17%) disagreed compared with 21% in 2013.

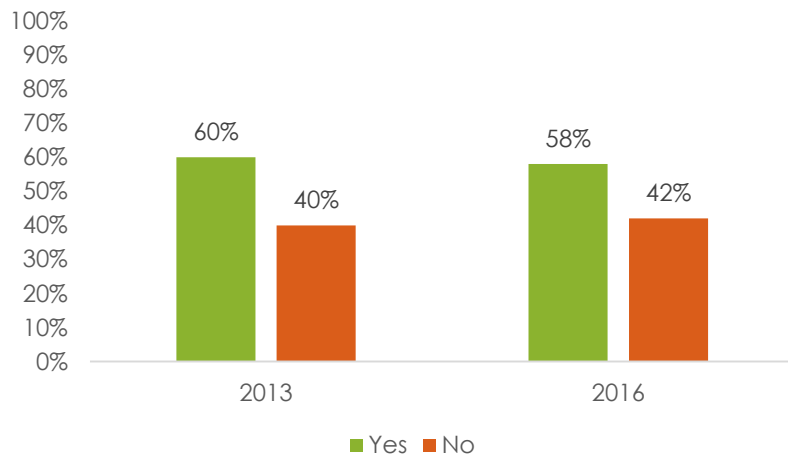
**Q18. I would be more willing to take actions on climate change if I knew others were also taking action. – Comparison with 2013**



Almost the same proportion (55%) of respondents in 2016 agreed that they would be more willing to take actions on climate change if they knew that others were also taking actions compared with 56% in 2013. Twenty six percent (26%) disagreed compared to 36% in 2013.

### Awareness of current government activity

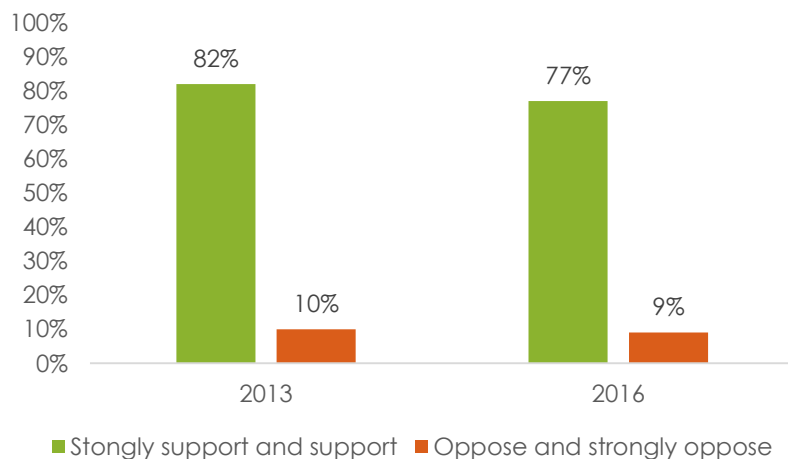
#### Q19. Are you aware of the ACT Government's plan to reduce carbon emissions? - Comparison with 2013



Fifty eight percent (58%) of ACT residents believe they are aware about the ACT Government's plans to reduce carbon emissions, very similar to 60% in 2013. Forty two percent (42%) feel were not aware, similar to 40% in 2013.

### Alignment / agreement with ACT Government plans

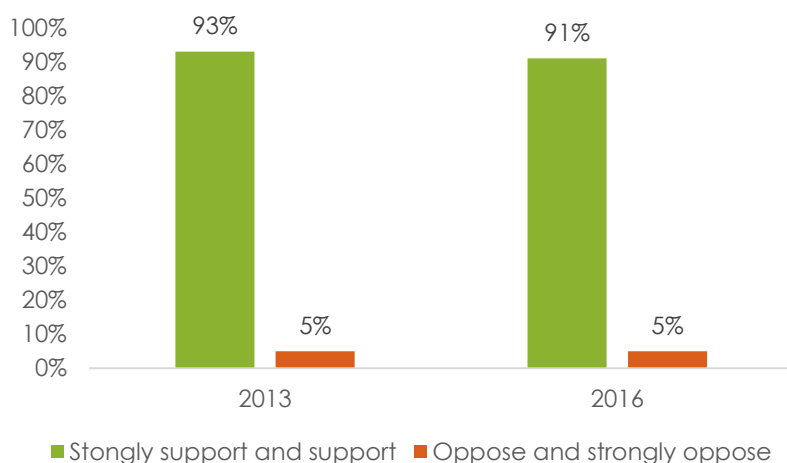
#### Q20. Reduce electricity use, because it is the main source of carbon emissions and can save households money. - Comparison with 2013



Marginally fewer respondents (77%) in 2016 indicated their support of the government's plan to reduce electricity use compared with 82% in 2013. A similar percentage (9%;10%) opposed across both surveys.

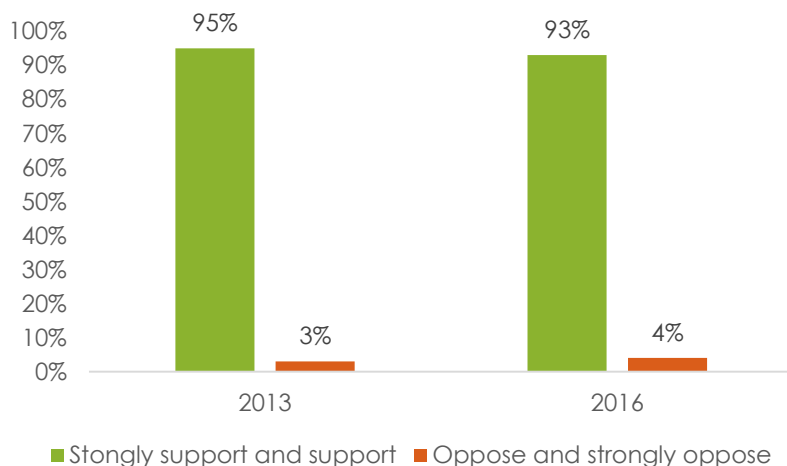


**Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions. – Comparison with 2013**



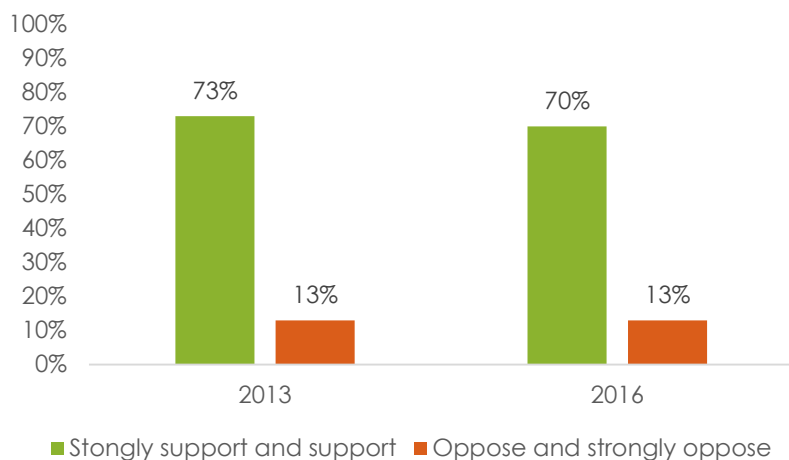
Most respondents (91% and 93% respectively) indicated their support for the government to provide information and advice to Canberra's residents on how to reduce their energy emissions across both surveys. Just 5% of respondents was opposed in both 2013 and 2016.

**Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient. – Comparison with 2013**



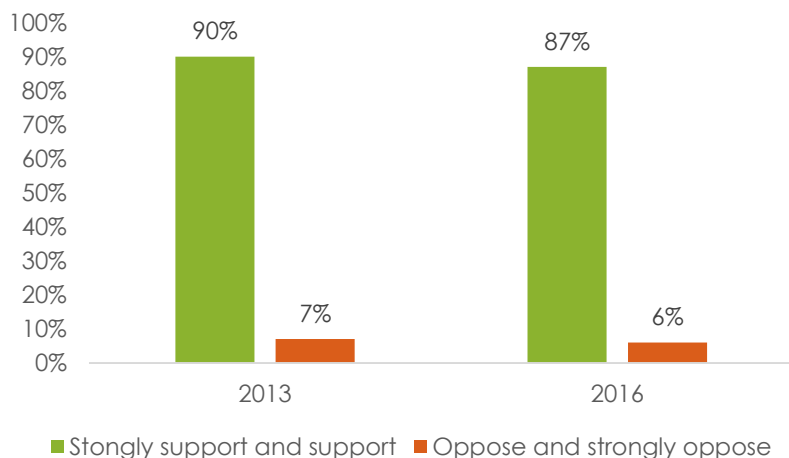
Almost of all the respondents (93% and 95% respectively) indicated their support for the government's plan in helping people make homes more energy-efficient across both surveys. A small percentage (4%) were opposed in 2016 and 3% were opposed in 2013.

**Q23. Change laws to stop installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment. – Comparison with 2013**



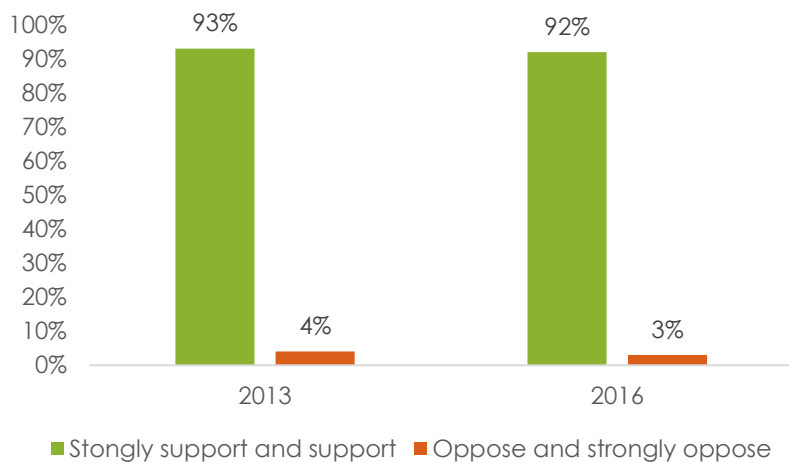
Seventy per cent (70%) of respondents in 2016 were supportive of the Government changing laws to stop the installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment compared with 73% in 2013. A small proportion (13%) of respondents were opposed across both surveys.

**Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral. – Comparison with 2013**



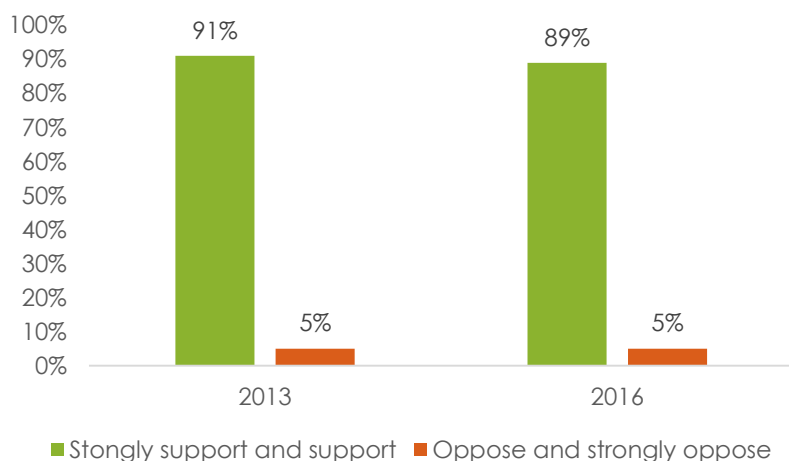
Most respondents (87%) in 2016 indicated their support of the ACT government's plan to gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings carbon neutral compared with 90% in 2013. A similar proportion of respondents were opposed (6% and 7% respectively).

**Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology. – Comparison with 2013**



Most respondents across both surveys (92% and 93% respectively) indicated their support of the ACT government's plan to demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.

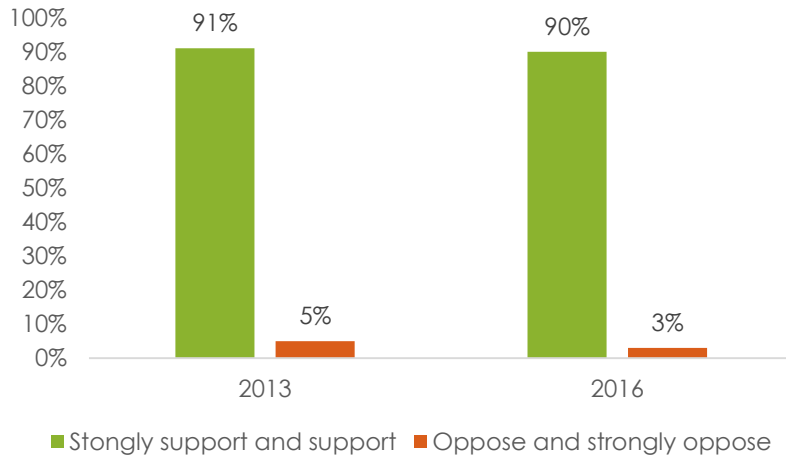
**Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles. – Comparison with 2013**



A high percentage of respondents across both surveys (89% and 91% respectively) indicated their support of the ACT government's potential initiative to improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emissions vehicles. The same proportion (5%) were opposed.

**Adapting to warming climate change**

**Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built). – Comparison with 2013**



Ninety per cent (90%) of respondents in 2016 indicated their support of the ACT government's plans to adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built) compared with 91% in 2013.

## Correlations of Questions

A correlation analysis was performed to examine relationships between variables. Moderate to strong correlations (.400 or higher) were found between the following attitudinal variables. Note: This analysis does not imply a cause-effect relationship. It simply highlights attitudes held which vary together. E.g. (See below) the more strongly a person feels that they can notice effects of climate change, the more likely they are to consider climate change a problem for the future. Or the more a person believes climate change is a genuine problem for the future, the more likely they are to believe that actions by householders can help make a difference.

### **Positive Correlations**

The following items vary together and have a moderate to strong correlation in the same direction (i.e. as the strength of one attitude increases, the strength of the other also increases or as the strength of one decreases, the strength of the other decreases.)

*Those who believe that Climate change is a genuine problem for the future (Q1) also believe;*

- Q2. I have been able to notice some effects of climate change in my own life-time.
- Q3. My own life-style habits contribute to climate change.
- Q4. I think I should personally take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle climate change.
- Q5. Actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change.
- Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change.
- Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change.
- Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions.
- Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.

*Those who have been able to notice some effects of climate change in my own life-time (Q2)" also tend to believe:*

- Q3. My own life-style habits contribute to climate change.
- Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change.
- Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change.

*Those who think their own life-style habits contribute to climate change (Q3) also believe;*

- Q4. I think I should personally take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle climate change.
- Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change.

*Those who think "I should personally take more action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle climate change" (Q4) also believe;*

- Q5. Actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change.
- Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change.
- Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change.

*Those who believe "Q5. Actions by householders in the ACT to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can help make a difference to tackle climate change" also believe;*

- Q15. I would feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change.
- Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change.
- Q20. Reduce electricity use, because it is the main source of carbon emissions and can save households money.
- Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.

*Those who "feel good knowing that the ACT Government was taking serious action to tackle climate change" (Q15) also believe:*

- Q16. There is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change.
- Q17. I think my friends, family or work colleagues would encourage me to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change.
- Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions.
- Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who think "there is a moral duty for the ACT community to take action on climate change" (Q16) tend to believe:*

- Q17. I think my friends, family or work colleagues would encourage me to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change.
- Q20. Reduce electricity use, because it is the main source of carbon emissions and can save households money.
- Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions.

- Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who support reductions in electricity use (Q20) also tend to support:*

- Q21. Provide info and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions.
- Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient.
- Q23. Change laws to stop installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who want the ACT Government to provide information and advice to Canberrans on all the ways to reduce carbon emissions (Q21) also tend to support:*

- Q22. Help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Canberran's who want the ACT Government to help people to make homes more energy-efficient (especially low-income households) with advice and incentives to assist with becoming more efficient (Q22)" also support:*

- Q23. Change laws to stop installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment.
- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who support changing laws to stop installation of high-emissions appliances and equipment (Q23) also support;*

- Q24. Gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral.
- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who support gradually introduce new building regulations to make new buildings be carbon neutral (Q24) tend to support:*

- Q25. Demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology.
- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who want the ACT Government to demonstrate and promote new energy technologies, such as renewable energy technology(Q25) also support:*

- Q26. Improve transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles.
- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).

*Those who support improving transport options such as public transport and cycle paths, and encourage low emission vehicles (Q26) tend to support:*

- Q27. Adapt urban spaces and the environment to climate change (e.g. better rules about how buildings are designed and built).



## Conclusion and recommendations

This community survey is carried out to determine community attitudes, knowledge and behaviours towards climate change and energy efficiency. Importantly, this study has built upon the baseline data provided by the first cycle of the survey conducted in 2013.

Based on the data presented in this report, the following conclusions and recommendations have been identified:

- Attitude towards believing climate change are very strong and the desire for taking action on climate change is strong and increasing over time. All of the attitude measures remained consistently high with most showing slight increases.
- While community acknowledgement and beliefs about climate change are strong, there appears an increasing need for greater information about ways they can tackle climate change with fewer Canberrans believing they have enough information than the previous survey cycle. It is suggested that current communication channels are examined and aligned with the results of the communities preferred channels identified in this report (Q29; p25). Communication messages should also be examined to ensure they resonate with the public and effectively communicate the desired message and messages most likely to trigger action, engagement or behaviour change.
- Support for ACT Government action on climate change remains very high. More than half of the community believe the ACT Government should take action urgently, a notable increase on 2013. Despite this, awareness of specific ACT Government plans to reduce carbon emissions has decreased slightly.
- Residents are prepared to spend money to invest in new infrastructure and technologies to reduce carbon emission, with some residents able to identify a specific dollar value.
- Most Canberrans are influenced by the actions and opinions of others when it comes to taking climate change.
- Overall community support for the ACT Government plans to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change remains very high.
- Canberrans noted several factors likely to affect their decision in considering purchasing or using electric vehicles. The primary factors appeared to centre on electric vehicle range anxiety and vehicle cost. Specifically, factors with the most effect were reduced cost of electric vehicles, a network of fast charging locations in the city, and increasing electric vehicle driving range or distance.
- Information provided on energy bills was the highest rated communication channel for all age groups. Other highly rated channels included information provided through schools and more traditional advertising mediums such as radio and television. Social media was the fifth-most preferred channel.

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