

# Central Coast Council

## Climate Change Policy Community Consultation

### Stage 2 – Diagnostic Feedback:

- Community Workshops
- Online Guided Submissions
- Additional Submissions

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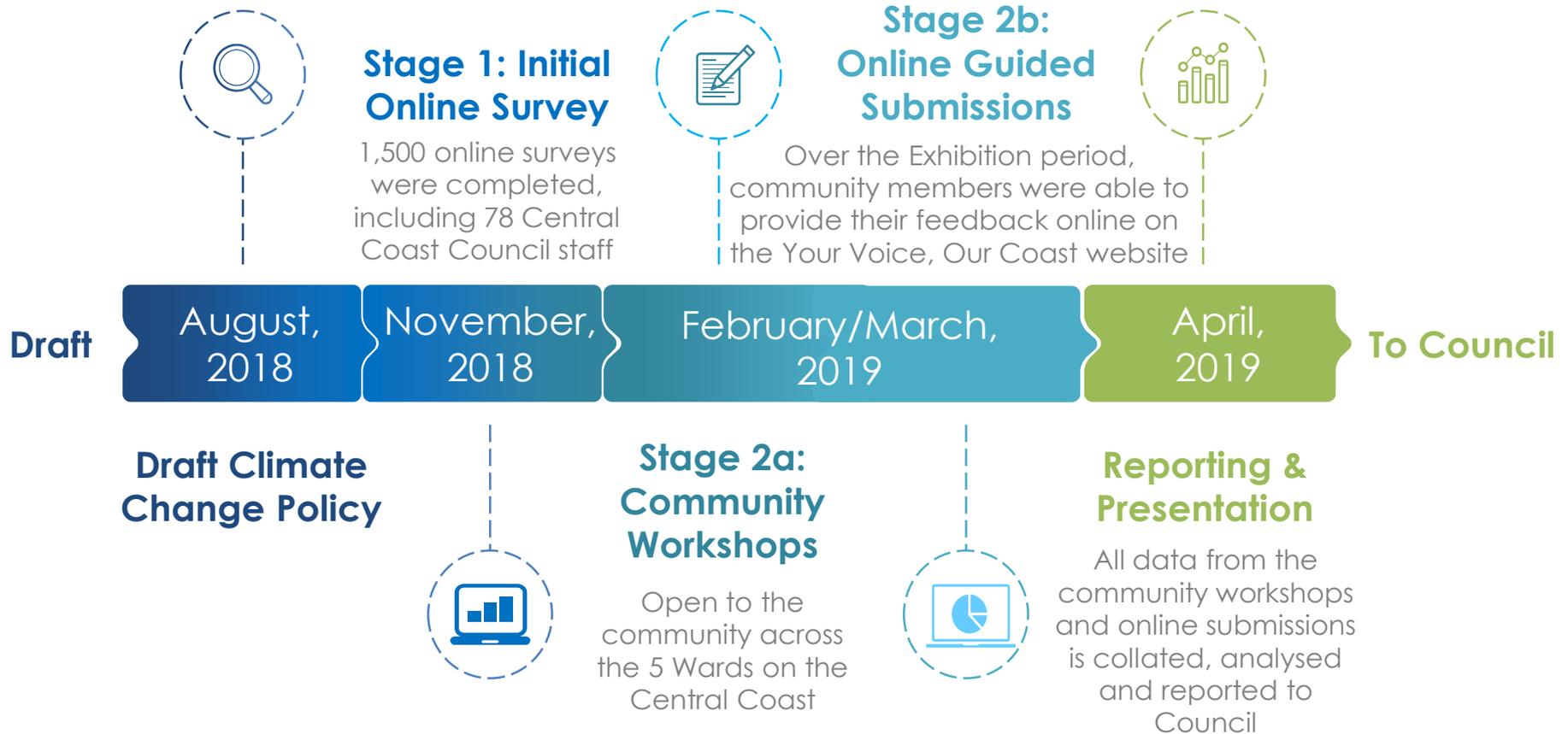


This Report has been prepared for Central Coast Council by Micromex Research for the purposes of summarising the primarily qualitative/diagnostic community feedback to Council's Draft Climate Change Policy, via five Community Workshops, 141 Online Guided Submissions, and 195 Additional Submissions (mostly mail or email).

# Background



# Project Timeline



# Project Stages

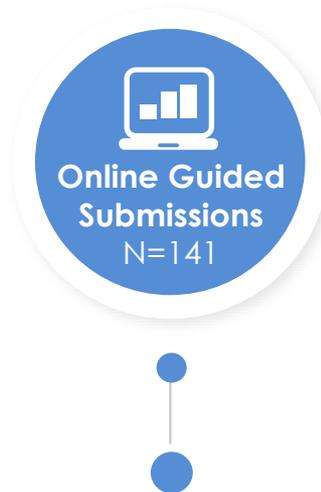
In November/December 2018 a quantitative online survey was conducted with Central Coast LGA residents (and some Council Staff) to acquire their awareness, feedback and understanding of Central Coast Council's Draft Climate Change Policy – see separate report for this Stage 1 research.

Following the Online Survey, the Draft Climate Change Policy was put on exhibition and over a 5 week period residents of the Central Coast were able to have their say by; attending one of 5 workshops, submitting an online submission and/or sending in a written submission – this Report summarises the key findings from this Stage 2.



During the months of February and March, 5 community workshops were conducted across the Central Coast in order to gauge the community's level of interest, support and feedback towards the Draft Climate Change Policy.

From the 372 residents who attended the community workshops, we received just under 1,200 comments across the 22 Policy Commitment Statements.



Online Guided Submissions(N=141) were open to the public on the 'Your Voice Our Coast' website during the entire exhibition period. The online component aimed to reach those who were unable to attend the workshops.

The Online Guided Submissions consisted of determining the level of support and provided the opportunity for comments on the Policy Purpose, Strategic Principles and the 22 Draft Policy Commitment Statements.



During the exhibition period Council received an additional 195 submissions sent in primarily via email and post. These submissions ranged from short, simple statements stating resident support, views and concerns to full length documents providing detailed suggested changes and amendments to the Policy.

70 of the 195 were a form letter, signed by 72 different residents of St Huberts. Some of these submissions were from those who attended a workshop and wanted to provide further feedback. 5

# Further Details

## Community Workshops:

One workshop was conducted in each of Council's five Wards: February 20<sup>th</sup> – The Entrance Ward – Mingara; February 26<sup>th</sup> – Gosford East Ward – Erina; February 27<sup>th</sup> – Gosford West Ward – Ettalong; March 7<sup>th</sup> – Budgewoi Ward – San Remo; and March 13<sup>th</sup> – Wyong Ward – Wyong. Participants were recruited by Central Coast Council through Council's website 'Your Voice Our Coast'.

A total of 568 residents registered to attend the workshops, with 372 actually attending. Demographics were primarily over 50 years old and a relatively even distribution of males and females (see Appendix 4 for attendance details).

The following groups of Policy Commitment Statements were explored during these workshops (see Appendix 7 for the Draft Policy):

- Corporate Response
- Property and Services
- Sea Level Rise and Adaption
- Disaster Management and Coastal Hazards
- Biodiversity, and
- General.



# Summary



# Key Findings

Throughout all 3 community engagement methods, it was evident that there are some in the community who Council are unlikely to ever convince of the need for a climate change policy. A lot of those that indicated they were not supportive of the Draft Policy strongly believed that climate change does not exist. These attendees believe there is minimal evidence to support this Policy and that this is essentially not Council's responsibility and should be left solely to the State and Federal Government to address.

For instance, one gentleman said "Do you really mean 'global warming'? What proof is there that human activity can change the climate?" and another said "don't get sidetracked by thinking that man can affect climate change... let's not take the blame for it and if we think we can change it, we're deluding ourselves".

Others stated that they had not seen the sea level rise in their area for almost 50 years and do not understand why Council is planning for this now (and potentially placing financial hardship on residents today) when it may not happen for many years, if at all.

On the other hand, there were others (possibly the majority) who see the need for what Council has done and in some cases believe Council should do more.

Indeed, in several of the workshops comments were made that Council needed to better engage with youth (who were under-represented in the workshop sample) as the Draft Policy will ultimately influence and impact their future the most.

One young lady at the Ettalong Workshop spoke about the disbelief expressed by others that climate change exists and that Council should not be taking action on this matter. "I keep hearing about 'when I was growing up there was no sea level rise, there was no bush fires, there was no this, etc.' But for me growing up, every other week on the news there's another natural disaster, there's hundreds of people dying from cyclones and from this and that. There's not enough planning in place to protect these people. So for you growing up, yes, maybe it wasn't a big part of your life, but for me growing up, it's a weekly thing".

Other attendees who were in support of the Draft Policy mentioned that action plans should have been taken sooner and targets such as the emissions targets should be much higher and exceeding State and Federal targets.



# Key Findings

Overall, looking at the feedback on the Draft Policy from all methods of engagement – including from those who support the notion of a climate change policy – we can identify six broad themes that Council should take into consideration when re-drafting the Policy:

## ● Revise some wording



Community members would like to see the wording of the Policy revised to be more reflective of what the Council wishes to achieve in a simplified format that the general community can understand.

## ● Community Involvement



There was a strong desire for more community involvement in the decision making, consultation and planning around climate change issues. Some of those community members that are unsupportive of the Draft Policy feel they have not been consulted with on this Policy and thus will be greatly impacted with no prior warning.

## ● Information/Education



More information needs to be supplied with the Draft Policy, in particular, flood mapping of effected areas. By providing more information on Policy specific details, educating the community on the effects of climate change and what is happening now, we may see a shift in support levels.

## ● Financial Implications



Many community members across all methods of engagement strongly expressed their concern about the potential financial implications that may arise as a result of the Draft Policy. Particularly, the decrease in house values, increased insurance and the relocation costs if a planned retreat were to go ahead. Would Council assist with these costs, provide reduced rates or incentives to become more sustainable?

There was also mentions from some Participants that they do not believe Council should be investing in this and should rather focus on other core services.



# Key Findings

Ultimately, statement D10 (Sea Level Rise) received the most attention and was the most controversial statement with much debate, particularly for the mention of a planned retreat and the RCP level.

## Planned Retreat



The planned retreat appears to be the leading driver of those that are unsupportive of the Draft Policy overall.

A number of residents suggested the removal of a 'planned retreat' from the Draft Policy – this possible action could be further explored during the action planning stage when it could be better supported/justified with additional details.

Participants questioned why this option is needed as Council should be focusing on mitigation and preventative options rather than pushing such a large financial burden on residents. More information on a planned retreat would need to be provided if Council were to keep this option within the Draft Policy – and more emphasis should be placed on highlighting that it is only one of six options to be considered in a worst case scenario.

## RCP

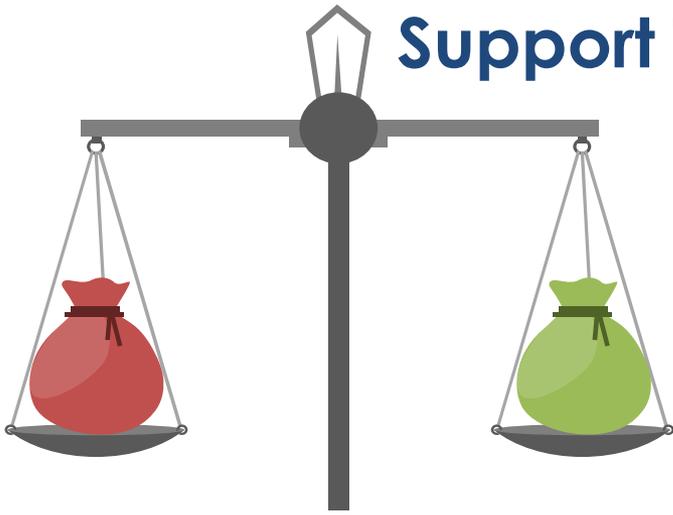


Much debate was had over the specification and need for an RCP 8.5. Those in support of the RCP 8.5 believe this is the best option and needed as final outcomes could actually be worse so the community needs to be prepared. Whilst those that were unsupportive believe that Council does not need to adopt such an extreme measure that current residents will ultimately face the financial burden of.

There was also discussion, like the planned retreat, that there should not be any reference to the RCP in the Draft Policy as this may 'scare' members of the community, lower support levels and will potentially change over time. The RCP 8.5 could also be further explored at a later stage i.e. action plan, and allow the community to make a more informed decision after more time and more information on the subject.



# Support Towards the Draft Policy



## In Support of the Draft Policy

Overall, although issues and concerns were raised, residents were highly supportive of the Draft Policy during the Workshops.

Residents appeared to be supportive of the fact that Council is taking a lead role on climate change and are exploring ways to make the Central Coast a more sustainable region. Upon investigation of the specific statements, attendees identified that Council should already be addressing a lot of these issues/actions regardless of climate change.

Although high levels of support were recorded for all statements in the workshops, more communication, education and consultation may see levels of support strengthen.

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## Against the Draft Policy

Some workshop participants remained strongly opposed to the Draft Policy, largely driven by the disbelief that climate change exists and also that this is not a Council issue at all and Council should not be focusing their time and resources on this matter.

Online submissions tended to be more negative than the workshops. In addition to the concerns mentioned above, other negatives raised in the Online submissions (and workshops) included:

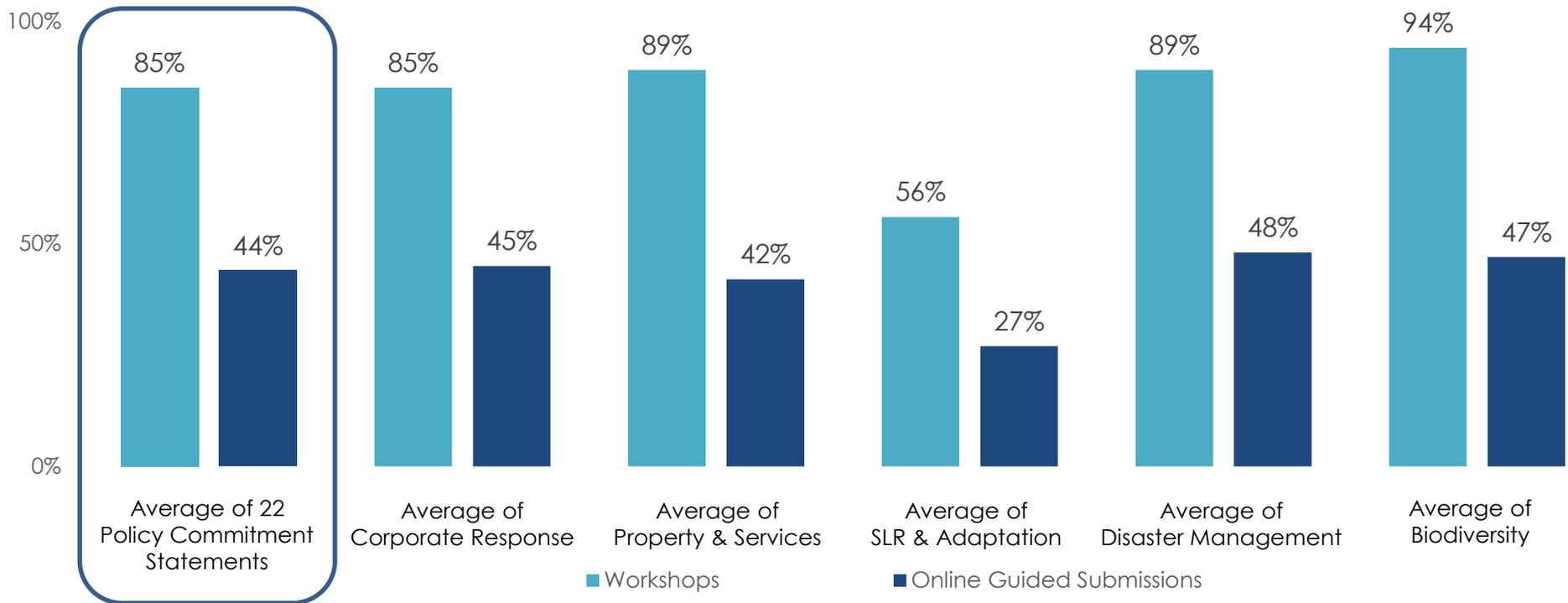
- Remove the planned retreat
- Financial concerns
- The need for mapping of affected areas
- Lack of trust in Council
- Not in the best interests of the community

Our sense from the workshops is that some residents will never accept the need for a climate change policy. However, the myth buster section at the beginning of the Workshop and the ability for participants to discuss concerns with Council staff directly seemed to allay some other resident concerns – thus, a greater level of consultation with the community may potentially shift the community's views and understanding on this matter.



# Summary of Support – Category Averages

Average level of support  
– Workshops vs Online  
Guided Submissions

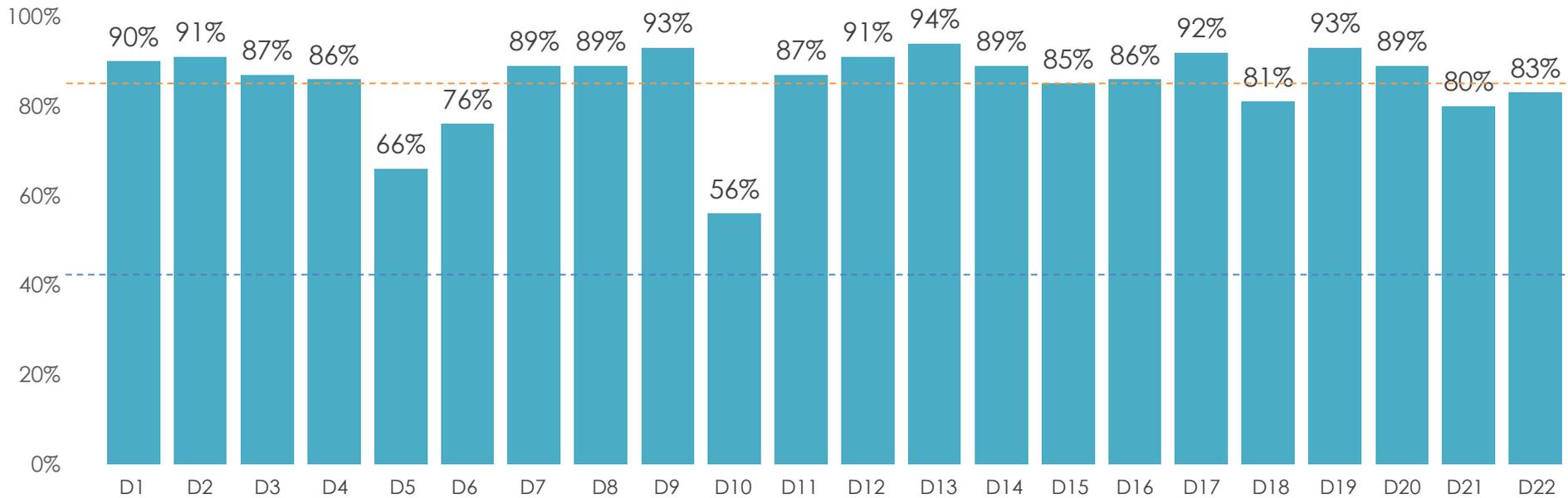


The average level of support across all 22 clauses from those attending the Workshops was 85%. Support was generally more negative on the Online Guided Submissions, with an average level of support of 44% for the 22 Draft Policy Commitment Statements.

# Summary of Support from the Workshops



% of those supportive from the workshops



----- Average Online Guided Submissions Support

----- Average Workshop Support

Results were fairly consistent in the workshops, with 16 of the 22 clauses generating between 85% - 94% support scores.

The lowest level of support was for statement D10 (sea level rise) with a relatively low 56% in support of this statement. D5 (Paris commitment) received the second lowest levels of support (66%).

# Summary of Support from the Online Guided Submissions



% of those supportive from the Online Submissions



The profile of responses from the Online Guided Submissions is a little different, with Clause D17 (continual improvement of Council’s energy efficiency) clearly the most supported clause. However, consistent with the earlier workshop findings, Clause D10 (sea level rise) was also clearly the least supported clause.

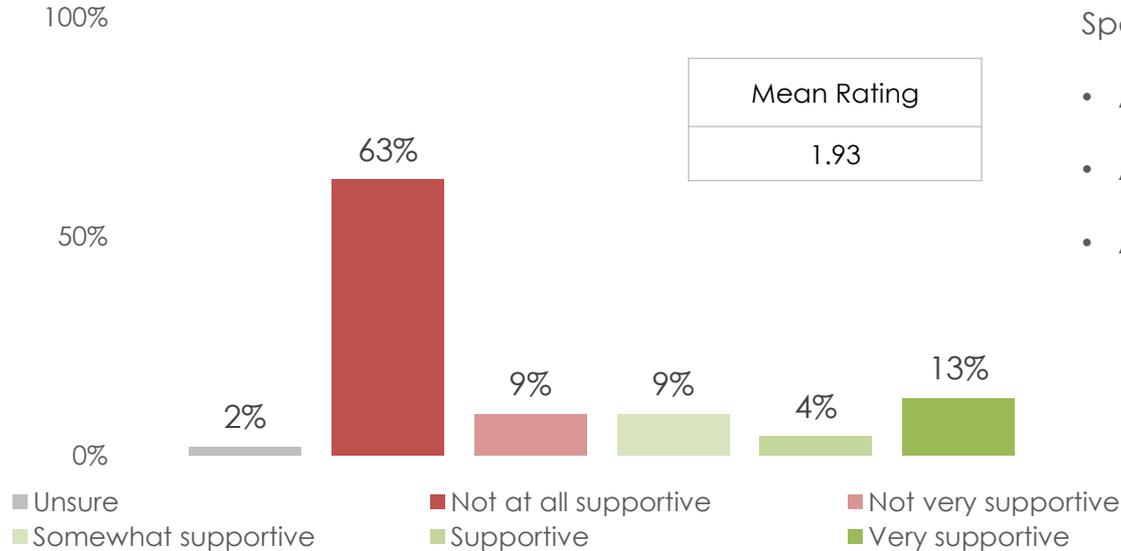
*Findings in Detail:*  
*1. Policy Summary*



# Policy Summary

The Online Guided Submission Form asked the community for their level of support and to provide comments on the 'Policy Summary' section at the start of the Draft Policy (Clauses: A1-A3).

Overall, 72% of Online Guided Submission responses were not at all/not very supportive of the Policy Summary section. However, it should be noted that although the question asked specifically about the Policy Summary section, the open-ended comments provided suggest that (as this was the first question to be asked) many respondents may have been thinking about the Policy overall rather than just clauses A1-A3. Open-ended comments specifically about Clauses A1-A3 are provided below – the more numerous general comments about the Policy triggered by the Policy Summary section are provided on the next two slides.



Specific comments on the Policy Summary:

- A1: "The wellbeing of Council is not relevant"
- A1: "I fully support this aim"
- A2: "Sounds too political"

"The very first clause of the Policy Summary highlights the self-interest and lack of investment in a duty of care for the residents and ratepayers of the region"

"A1 – fully support this aim"

"A2 - this sounds political, rather than making a stand for what is right"

Base: N = 141

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

Note: unsure responses are not included in the mean



# Policy Summary



More general comments generated by the Policy Summary (that were not necessarily clause specific) included:

- Against the Draft Policy:

"I find the policy commitment statements exceptionally wide ranging, however while they talk extensively of meeting aspirational goals to mitigate climate change they fail to make any commitments to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the businesses and residents of the central coast. I believe that the draft policy should be rejected and a series of more focussed policies be developed"

"I am 100% against this and as a resident in the area feel this is totally unsupported"

"I do not support this policy, it will have a negative effect on many property values, insurance premiums, building costs, DA application costs etc."

- Need more evidence/based only on forecasts and projections:

"The policy is being based on forecasts and projections which are well known to be inaccurate at best"

"Why has your data changed by 31% in just 10 years? everyone in your document including the NSW government has disclaimers against their data"

"The Council has not provided sufficient information for the community to make a valid/informed submission"

- Remove the planned retreat:

"The main reason for not supporting the policy is "retreat". I have no problem with climate change if it is done supporting the community not destroying it"

"I am totally against any policy that includes planned retreat"

"Would like to see 'planned' retreat removed as an option"

A full list of summarised themes can be found in Appendix 1.



# Policy Summary



- Detrimental to the community/discriminatory to certain residents:

“There is concern about some of the policies, the meaning of council intention and the effect of the policies on resident's lives and the community”

“I am a supporter of climate change action but this is discriminatory and unjust”

“The key words for me are "support community". It should be imperative that any adopted policy does not permit any punitive measures to be implemented over existing development controls.

Ensuring the "central coast region's resilience to climate change", must not allow members of our community to be unfairly disadvantaged by any subsequent plans or associated policies”

- Financial concerns:

“I am concerned about this policy impacting the cost of owning my property. This policy can only increase costs to the council which will be passed on to the rate payers”

“It is an absolute affront to suggest the possibility of a home owner not only losing their home but to shoulder the burden of demolition and revegetation costs”

“It is not councils job to interfere with nor lead the way in policies to do with the falsity that is climate change hysteria and in so doing, cause financial loss of its constituents”

- Insufficient mapping of affected areas:

“There is information missing including mapping showing what houses and businesses will be affected and the proposed sea level heights they propose to adopt”

“While it is appropriate for council to have a policy regarding climate change asking residents to review and agree/disagree without providing a map showing how clause D10 impacts them is dishonest and irresponsible”

“Insufficient mapping at this stage”

A full list of summarised themes can be found in Appendix 1.



# Policy Summary



Whilst feedback was not specifically sought about the Policy Summary section in the Workshops, some attendees raised concerns about the Draft Policy as a whole during the Q&A sessions, specifically details of Draft Policy timelines, commitments, feedback and working with the community:

"The first line of the policy says that the intention is to maximise economic, social and environmental wellbeing and in Anu's address she addressed the council's risk and on page 21 it says in choosing the options you will need to consider potential costs and regulators. Now for the scenarios on page 19 the costs are indicated so costing must have been done. Have these costs been completed and if they have, have they taken into account not only the cost of Council but also the economic and social costs to residents and why is the cost not mentioned in the Draft Policy?"

"With the State Government, does that influence you as to which direction you go into, does this change your mind or goals if they turn around and say otherwise?"

"If council would be able to have something to give us a sense of the state of the shire? I find it a bit hard to find out about greenhouse gases in our shire"

"With all the changes occurring in climate change, is there a planned time when this would be reviewed and when will it be programmed in?"

"The overarching theme of the whole thing is that it's an involvement of everybody within council to be aware of the environment and everything that they do. The strategic planning for the implementation of that process, to what level is Council creating training for everybody in council. So that when they see something come across their desk or in their daily job, the first thing they think of is the environment"

"It's all good to have a policy but how do we know anything will be implemented?"

"Does the decision rest with the Councillors or with the Government?"

"Being able to see what the project plan represents and the timeframes. As ratepayers we are unsure as to what is happening. How are we going to be able to access information on how this project is progressing and what Council's milestones really are? When can we anticipate these milestones will be met?"



# *Findings in Detail:*

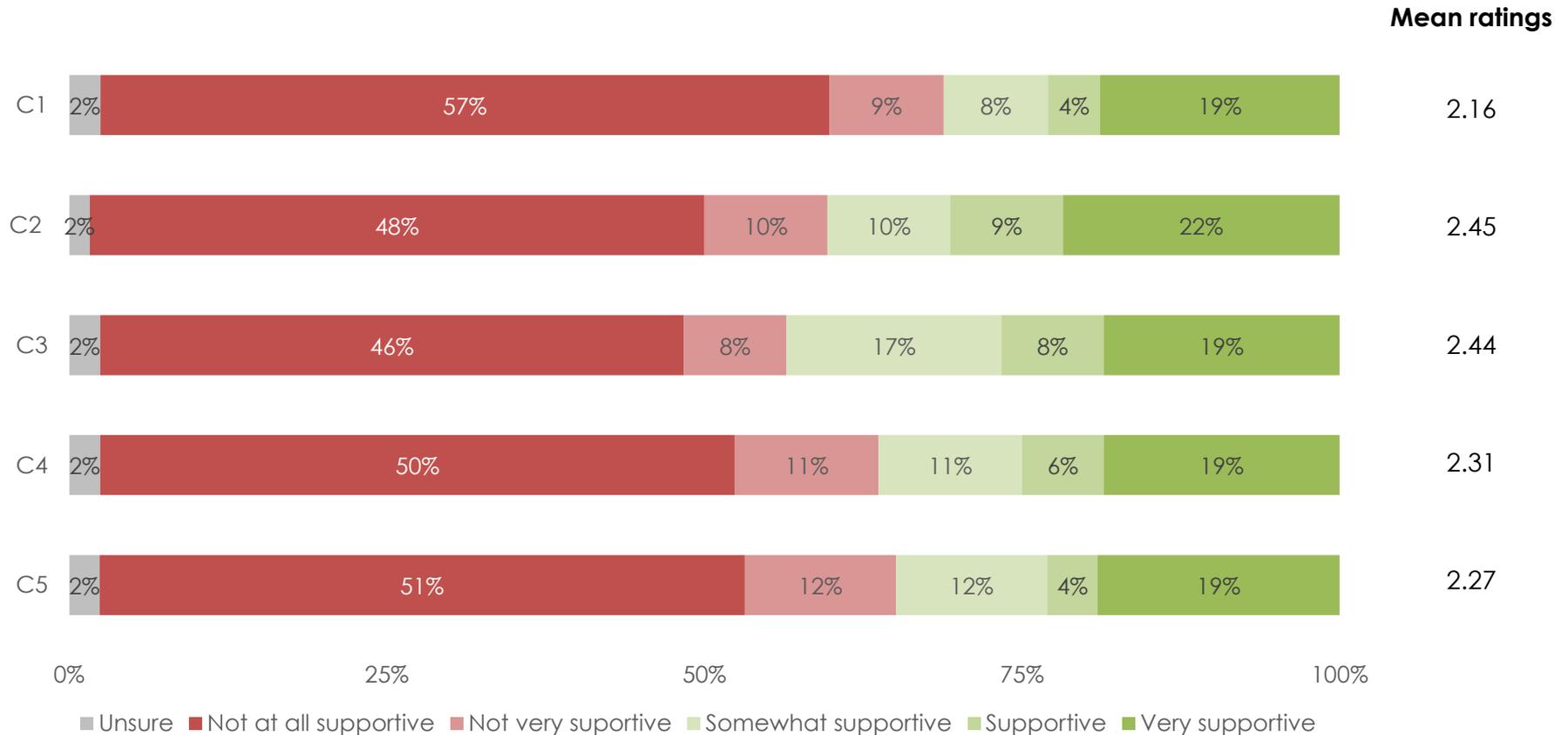
## *2. Policy Purpose*



# Policy Purpose

The Online Guided Submissions specifically sought feedback on the 'Purpose' section – although some of the Additional Submissions also provided feedback on the section – and they provided a mix of clause-specific feedback along with more general comments about the Draft Policy initiated by the Purpose section.

The chart below summarises support levels from the Online Guided Submissions for each of the five clauses. Whilst C2 and C3 received higher levels of support and C1 received the lowest level of support from the Online Guided Submissions, overall results were generally not supportive.



Base: N = 119-123

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

Note: unsure responses are not included in the mean

# Policy Purpose

Clause-specific comments from the Additional Submissions include:

- C1 – “The reference to Council being a leader could be ambiguous and negatively misinterpreted, consider rewording”
- C3 – “The notion of embedding (climate change in decision-making) is only weakly captured in the Draft Policy”

On the Online Guided Submissions, comments were also made about the need for Council to be ‘a climate change leader’ (Clause C1) and about ‘sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures’ (Clause C5):

“Making Central Coast Council a “climate change leader” is not what you were voted in for. fix our curb and guttering, roads and infrastructure as promised”

“why does the central coast need to be a climate leader? this is the role of the state and federal government...the central coast council we believe should only supply the mapping to identify the risks and explain the impact”

“The meaning of ‘sustainable adaption and mitigation measures’ is deceptively unclear. As I live in Empire Bay, I have grave concerns regarding planned retreat, how it may affect my property, my insurance, my house value and my receipt of respect as a CCC ratepayer. There are tens of thousands of homes that could be affected by the possible actions hidden behind these words”

Other themes identified from the Online Guided Submissions are summarised below/overleaf:

- Do not believe in climate change/sea level rise:

“the policy purpose is just to follow the rest of the political sheep flock into believing in a problem that only exists in some alternate universe for the purposes of being seen to be doing something about a problem that doesn't really exist so that those in council will be applauded by the mindless masses who believe the dross that the left dish out to us”

“policy decisions need to be based on fact not on unsubstantiated hypotheses. every prediction for climate change has been proven to be incorrect”



# Policy Purpose



Online Guided Submission Summarised responses continued:

- Climate change takes time so should focus on mitigating/minimising impacts to the community:

“Policy should be about mitigation/adaption. Take a look around the world, maybe Holland would be a good start”

“Council is not going to change climate change one iota ...it should focus on managing tasks on a reasonable basis, not using scare mongering, worst case scenarios”

- Not in the best interests of the community/will devastate community:

“The focus is in the wrong areas, with no thought given to the impact”

- Wording of the statement could be improved e.g. too vague, too wordy and unsure what it means:

“Council seems more interested in themselves than the community. Some of the Policy wording is contradictory and quite frankly, not correct. While supportive of the need for action, the Purpose wording is about self-interest”

“I don't like the way it is worded, to ambiguous”

“Again, good hiding words. Though, without giving examples, it is hard to judge the interpretations of Council and staff. Specifics and actual plans inform debate and eventually an agreement”

A full list of summarised themes can be found in Appendix 1.



# Policy Purpose



Although the Policy Purpose was not specifically addressed during the Workshops, during Q&A discussion some attendees made reference the Policy Purpose:

“What does the Council see as its role in terms of leadership on the Central Coast, is it just about the Council becoming better at managing climate change or is it the Councillors leading the community to be better at managing climate change. In regards to that, what I don't find in any of the statements is any vision or goal.

What does the Council want? Is there an aspirational goal? These are the types of things that would lead and drive the community's enthusiasm and engagement. The words are very thorough but they are impenetrable, they are not going to motivate anyone, because are not going to be able to get to grips with them”

“Concern is what's happening now and having a policy for the future is really important, but how do we get involved now?”

“What impact do you think you will achieve by adopting anything to do with climate change? Are there any other alternatives out there that we can compare if it has been a success or a failure?”

“The overarching theme of the whole thing is that it's an involvement of everybody within council to be aware of the environment and everything that they do. The strategic planning for the implementation of that process, to what level is Council creating training for everybody in council. So that when they see something come across their desk or in their daily job, the first thing they think of is the environment”



*Findings in Detail:*  
*3. Strategic Principles*



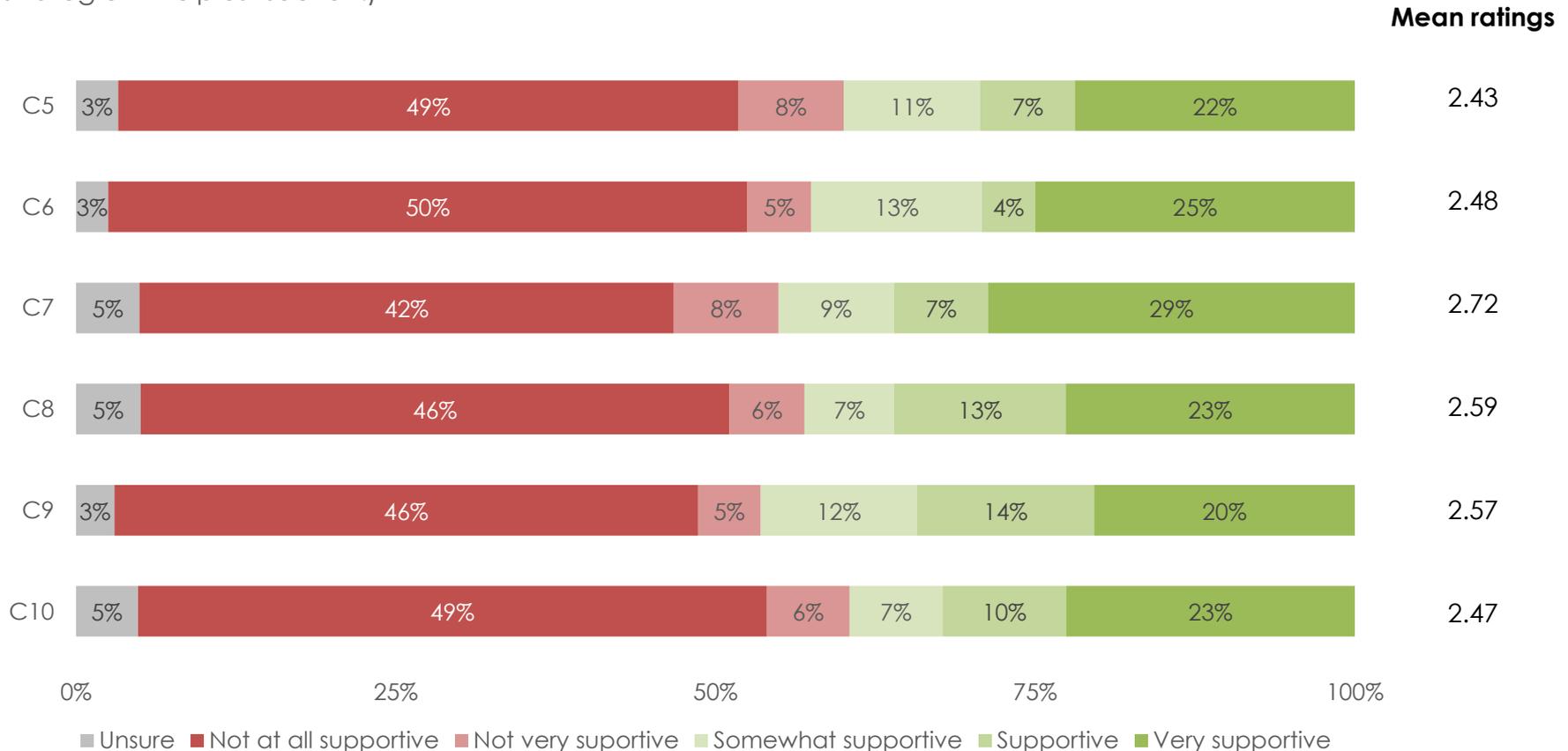
# Strategic Principles



Again, only the Online Guided Submissions specifically asked about the 'Strategic Principles' section, although feedback was also received via the Additional Submissions.

Based on the chart below, support levels for Clauses C5-C10\*\* were low amongst the Online Guided Submissions – although marginally more polarised than they were for the 'Policy Purpose' section – that is, marginally lower 'not at all supportive' scores and marginally higher 'very supportive' scores).

(\*\*It should be noted that the Draft Policy has two clauses labelled 'C5', one in the 'Policy Purpose' section and again within the 'Strategic Principles' section.)



Base: N = 114-119

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

Note: unsure responses are not included in the mean

# Strategic Principles

Clause specific comments from the Additional Submissions include:

- C5 – “Change the heading to *Ecologically Sustainable Development*”
- C6 – “Difficult to interpret, seems at odds with ‘Holistic Approach’ contained in F5”
- C7 – Suggest to change the wording to ‘...based on decision making *to manage and mitigate the impact of changing circumstances*’
- C8 – “The focus should be on partnership with community, business and other stakeholders”.

Only one response from the Online Guided Submissions was clause specific, this was “C9 - the ability to be proactive and adopt is essential. The problem with the Policy is that it is all based on worst case scenario”.

Other Online Guided Submission comments were more general concerns, these include (see below and overleaf):

- Provision of information/community consultation and involvement:

“Council needs to involve the community in all aspects of this Policy, including working parties, so that information can be disseminated to the community. The community needs to be informed in a language that can be understood”

“A place based approach cannot be adopted until Council sets out in detail how this Policy will effect residents and business holders. This needs to be shared for consultation and indicate clearly how each area of the coast will be impacted”

“Good principals are a good start. Though appreciating that people will need specifics and a say in those specific measures is essential if management wish to overcome a community sceptical of the process. Informed democratic debate in the Chamber would be a good thing, not based around party positions but by informed community discussion”



# Strategic Principles



Online Guided Submission summarised responses continued:

- Do not believe in climate change:

"I'm not at all supportive of any of these issues because I have a very clear understanding...that all normal scientific assumptions and methodologies are being ignored in the desire for scientists to continue to obtain funding for their projects by going along with the consensus "

"Stop! There is no climate change"

- Not Council's responsibility:

"This is not at all a local council issue. Deal with local issues - State and Federal Governments manage climate issues"

"It is not Council's job to interfere with, nor lead the way in policies to do with the falsity that is climate change hysteria and in so doing, cause financial loss of its constituents"

- Wording of the statement could be improved e.g. too vague, too wordy and unsure what it means:

"All these statements are so vague with absolutely no information on how these statements will be taken by Council and implemented in Policy"

"The statements, I am unsure about, are too vague and ambiguous to commit to any other option"

"Too much jargon.. sounds like an undergraduate essay needs to be put into plain English"

A full list of summarised themes can be found in Appendix 1.





*Findings in Detail:*  
*4. Policy Commitment Statements*

# Introduction

The 'Policy Commitment Statements' section of the Draft Policy consists of 22 individual statements/clauses.

Council grouped the 22 clauses into five categories so that respondents could see the interrelationship between clauses. A sixth category ('General') was also provided – it was to allow for feedback that didn't specifically match the 22 clauses/five categories based on the Draft Policy.

Feedback was sought to the 22 clauses in the following ways:

- Workshops: Each clause was shown on A0 boards around the room and participants were asked to use sticky dots to indicate whether they were Supportive, Unsupportive, or Unsure of each one – and they were encouraged to write comments on post-its and place the post-its next to the clauses as well. So we obtained both evaluative and diagnostic data at the individual clause level. (Note that participants may not have placed sticky dots on all 22 clauses, so base sizes will vary by clause)
- Online Guided Submissions: Respondents were asked to rate each clause on a five-point support scale (so similar to the sticky dot exercise used by the workshop participants) and then they had the opportunity to provide open-ended comments per category (not specifically per clause). (Note that participants may not have provided a rating for all 22 clauses, so base sizes will vary by clause. On summary slides, the five-point scale has been converted to match level of support as per the workshops for direct comparison e.g. 'unsupportive' = not at all supportive/not very supportive and 'supportive' = somewhat supportive/supportive/very supportive)
- Additional Submissions: As these were unstructured, participants were able to address specific clauses if they wished to do so.

The following sections summarise the feedback received for each clause – and the clauses are grouped into the five categories (plus the sixth 'Other category') defined by Council.



*Findings in Detail:*

## *4. Policy Commitment Statements*

### *4.1 Corporate Response*



# Policy Commitment Statements Within Corporate Response

<p><b>D1.</b> Acknowledge the importance of shared responsibility across all levels of Council, community and business in addressing climate change and transitioning towards a Net Zero Emission Central Coast Region.</p>	<p><b>D16.</b> Establish an energy efficient and renewable energy guideline for the creation and renewal of Council's energy using assets as well as stimulate private sector investment in climate actions such as renewable energy initiatives.</p>
<p><b>D2.</b> Establish a Corporate Governance Framework to lead a whole of Council approach when dealing with emergency risks including those associated with climate change within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and the Central Coast Council Community Strategic Plan.</p>	<p><b>D17.</b> Commit to continually improving Council's energy efficiency and productivity.</p>
<p><b>D3.</b> Establish a holistic and systemic approach to monitor and understand the climate change risks and their impact on ecological, social, economic and physical built forms systems.</p>	<p><b>D18.</b> Conduct an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory including direct (scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) emissions utilising National Greenhouses and Energy Reporting Act 2007.</p>
<p><b>D4.</b> Recognise the need for an effective and progressive response to the threat of climate change risks with the best available scientific knowledge.</p>	<p><b>D19.</b> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the production, use and disposal of goods and services through Council procurement processes as well as influence Community efforts through partnerships.</p>
<p><b>D5.</b> Align Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction target with the Australian Government's Paris commitment to reduce emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2030 and the NSW Government's aspirational objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.</p>	<p><b>D20.</b> Identify and keep abreast of opportunities to finance climate change initiatives and investing savings from climate actions towards advancing sustainable development goals for Central Coast.</p>
<p><b>D6.</b> Develop a Central Coast greenhouse gas emissions inventory using regional data and establish baselines for an incremental pathway to meet a net zero emissions target for Council as basis for the Climate Change Action Plan (i.e. 2025, 2030 and 2050).</p>	<p><b>D21.</b> Create accountability and confidence by supporting the carbon neutral supply chain through implementation of the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standards and Carbon Neutral Certification requirements.</p>
<p><b>D7.</b> Establish a Climate Change Action Plan for Council that outlines mitigation and adaptation management actions across Council business that are consistent with the principles of ecological sustainable development.</p>	<p><b>D22.</b> Establish climate partnerships between Council and the business community to identify and develop private investment opportunities for economic stability and growth.</p>
<p><b>D8.</b> Involve the community and stakeholders using a place-based approach in the decision making process for the development of a Climate Change Action Plan encompassing climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.</p>	

# Corporate Response

**D1** Shared Responsibility

**D7-8 & 22**

Develop Climate Actions  
with the Community

**D2** Governance Framework

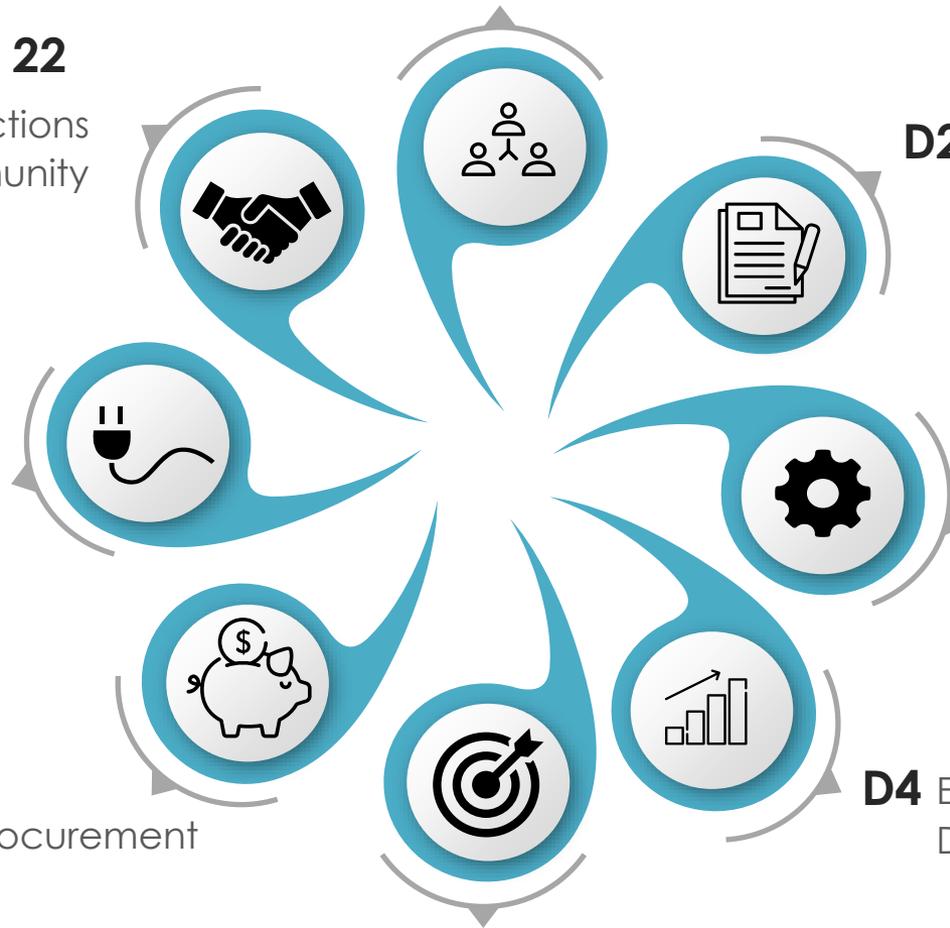
**D16-18** Energy

**D3** Systems & Climate  
Risks Tools

**D19-21** Finance & Procurement

**D4** Evidence Based  
Decision Making

**D5-6** Emissions Inventory & Targets



# Corporate Response Overview

Common themes emerged across all statements within 'Corporate Response' from both the Workshops and the Online Guided Submissions. In summary, Online Guided Submissions were primarily more negative and less supportive with a greater focus on disagreeing with the Policy as a whole rather than with the specifics of the Corporate Response section. On the other hand, Workshop attendees were much more supportive (as they were with all five categories) – whilst this may reflect different respondent profiles to the two engagement channels, it may also reflect in part that workshop attendees had more opportunities for discussion and clarification on the statements during the break-out sessions.

Across the Workshops, D19 received the most support within Corporate Response, whilst D17 received the highest from the Online Guided Submissions.

Common themes that emerged from the Workshops and the Online Guided Submissions include:

## Reasons for support:

- Acknowledging that all levels of Government have a responsibility in addressing climate change and the need for Council to take leadership
- Council should aim higher than the State and Federal targets
- Everyone to work together and cooperate i.e. Council, State and Federal Government as well as working with the community
- Learn from other Councils

## Reasons for being unsure/against:

- Confusion around the wording of the statements and what the statements really mean. There was a sense that the statements were too wordy or vague
- Against coal mines, gas and oil exploration
- Need for evidence-based knowledge and scientific facts



# Corporate Response Overview

Of the Online Guided Submissions that were supportive of the Corporate Response section, mention was made that Council should exceed the State and Federal targets, and that Council needs to take a leadership role and support for an adaptation model.

"Council should endeavour to go beyond the targets set by state and federal governments regarding greenhouse gas emissions"

"Particularly support D5 and D6. In general I believe that this Climate Change Policy will reflect well on council and region, and Council is to be complemented for the detail contained in it. Implementation of this Policy may prove challenging and Council may have to prioritise actions. I recommend that community be engaged in this process"

The Online Guided Submissions also raised concerns as they believe Council is pushing a political agenda and to focus on the basics, the Draft Policy has a lack of detail provided, the targets are unachievable and the data is inaccurate and based on assumptions. Concerns were also raised that this needs to be a commitment to preserving the assets of ratepayers, concern for a reduction in services available and focus on what Council can do for residents and businesses alike.

"I would be open to all of this but believe the information presented is inaccurate hence everything that is developed from this information is therefore based on incorrect assumptions that will be to the detriment of the Central Coast"

"Even though I agree that Council should be energy efficient and consider how it performs irate activities in an environmentally manner however linking local Council activities to worldwide emissions agreements is beyond the remit of Council who should be looking in to run its business and take care of its local community as a priority. This is what Council should be focussing on, not taking emission readings."

Online Guided Submissions also highlighted the need for more information/consultation, mapping of affected areas, and improve the wording of the statements.

Please see Appendix 3 for the full list of summarised Online Guided Submissions

On the next slide we will explore the 'Corporate Response' statements in more detail...

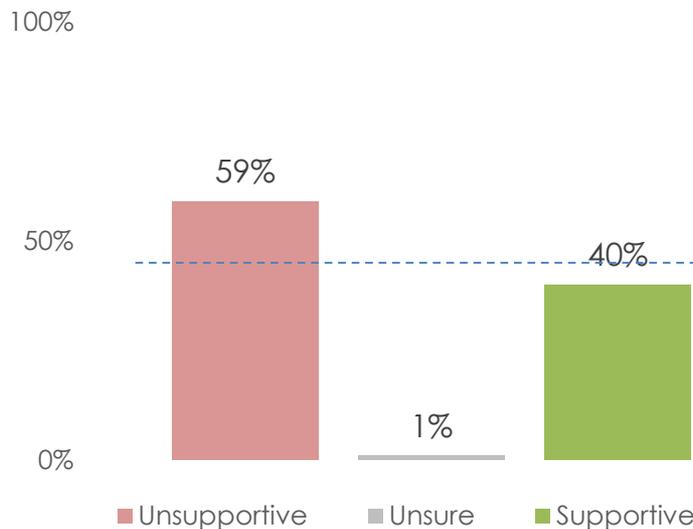
# Support for D1 – Online vs Workshop

**D1.** Acknowledge the importance of shared responsibility across all levels of Council, community and business in addressing climate change and transitioning towards a Net Zero Emission Central Coast Region.

As noted earlier, support was much lower for all statements from the Online Guided Submissions and much higher from those that attended the Workshops. D1 was supported by 90% of the Workshop attendees (slightly above their average) and only 40% of the Online Guided Submissions (slightly below their average).

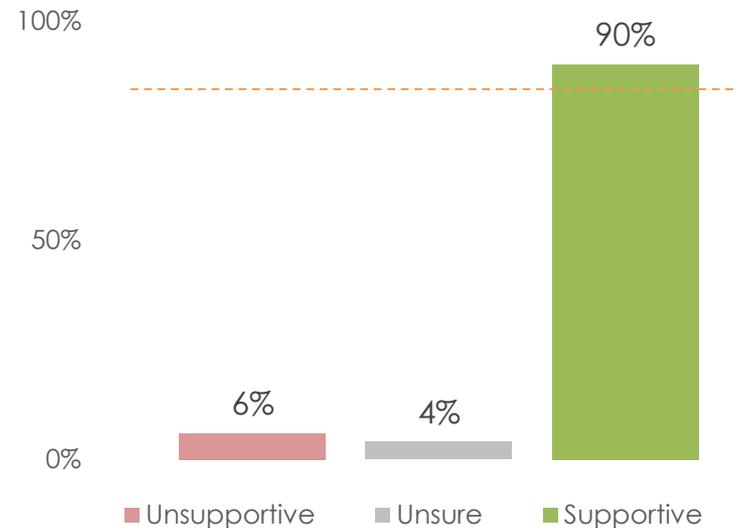
One of the Additional Submissions suggested a slight change to the wording of the statement to read "...addressing climate change *impacts*..."

## Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 126  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 221  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D1 Shared Responsibility – Workshops

Themes that were identified across all five Workshops include:

- The support and need for Council to take a leadership role in this issue and to lead by example by transitioning work vehicles to electric cars, stop investments in fossil fuels and encourage/transition local businesses and industries to renewable technologies and sustainable practices.
- Attendees also highlighted the importance of working with all levels of government, local businesses and the local community. Working with all levels of government provides a strong stance in the action against climate change to provide robust policies, commitments, education tools and initiatives that can then be communicated to the community for full transparency and cooperation.
- Another concern that was identified was if Central Coast Council was to be transitioning towards a net zero emission Central Coast, then why are there still coal mines (e.g. Wallarah 2 Coal Mine) and seismic testing off the coast?
- Other concerns regarded having a realistic target as some attendees believe a net zero emission target is unachievable.



# D1 Workshop Comments

## Theme 1: Council taking a leadership role

"We should be leaders and inspire others to follow us"

Ettalong

"Council vehicles to switch to D1 Electric as example to all"

Erina

"Council needs to adopt a leadership role amongst other Government bodies on how to deal with Climate Change"

Mingara

"Can the council encourage investment in renewable technologies/businesses?"

Ettalong

## Theme 2: Working together

"Give incentives for businesses to use alternative energy and give incentives for families to implement domestic energy use to alternative power"

Wyong

"Nothing will happen without all levels co-operating"

San Remo

"All levels of business need to take responsibility"

Ettalong

"...There needs to be better education targeting the younger generation..."

Mingara

## Theme 3: Stop the gas/oil explorations

"This should mean no coal mines on the whole Central Coast and no seismic testing off our coast for 'Natural Gas'"

Erina

"Why are explorations for oil and gas reserves going ahead off the central coast?"

Ettalong

"No Wallarah 2 coal mine"

Erina

"Why is the Wallarah coal mine going ahead to hasten further global warming?"

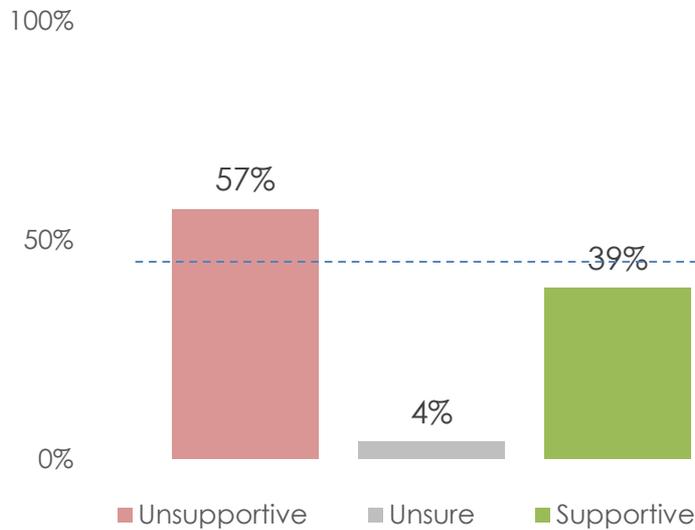
Ettalong

# Support for D2 – Online vs Workshop

**D2.** Establish a Corporate Governance Framework to lead a whole of Council approach when dealing with emergency risks including those associated with climate change within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and the Central Coast Council Community Strategic Plan.

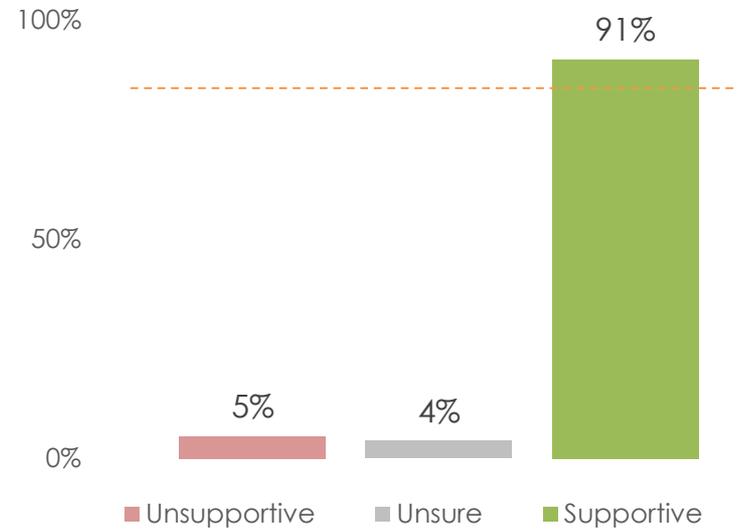
The vast majority of Workshop attendees were supportive of clause D2, whilst support was much lower amongst the Online Guided Submissions with 39% stating they were supportive.

### Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 126  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 187  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D2 Governance Framework - Workshops

Although 91% of attendees were supportive of D2, one key theme was identified, and this was that attendees found the statement to be too difficult to understand and they couldn't establish what the statement was trying to address with too much jargon.

Other points raised included:

- It is not Council's responsibility
- Council must be working with all levels of government and have all Councillors involved
- Council should be working with the community, particularly with students (youth)

"Council alone cannot tackle climate change. State and Fed GOVT need to acknowledge, support & endorse those policies - All of Australia needs to take action for this to be effective"

Ettalong

"Should not be councils position but Federal or State responsibility"

Erina

"What on Earth does this mean? Jargon?"

Erina

"Important that the Councillors are part of this, i.e. don't accept DA's of powerful developers when access, roads etc. can't cope with more traffic & evacuation access"

Ettalong

"What is this in plain English?"

San Remo

"Too much JARGON! What is Corporate Governance Framework?"

Wyong

"Collaborate with university student involvement mentorships"

Ettalong

"Not specific enough? Statement too open to interpretation"

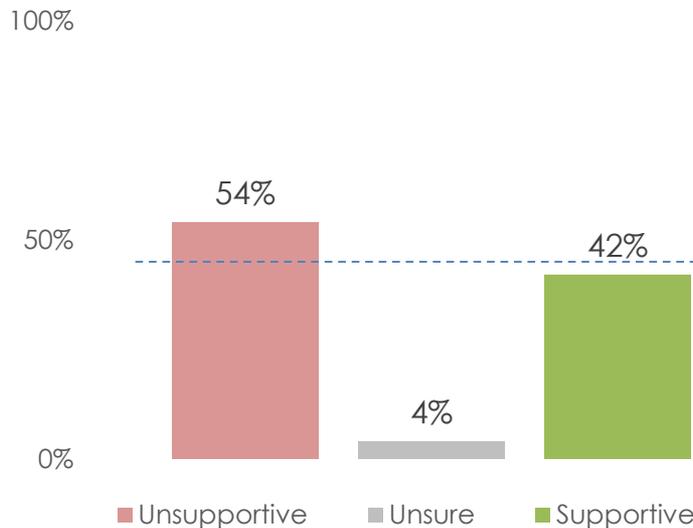
Erina

# Support for D3 – Online vs Workshop

**D3.** Establish a holistic and systemic approach to monitor and understand the climate change risks and their impact on ecological, social, economic and physical built forms systems.

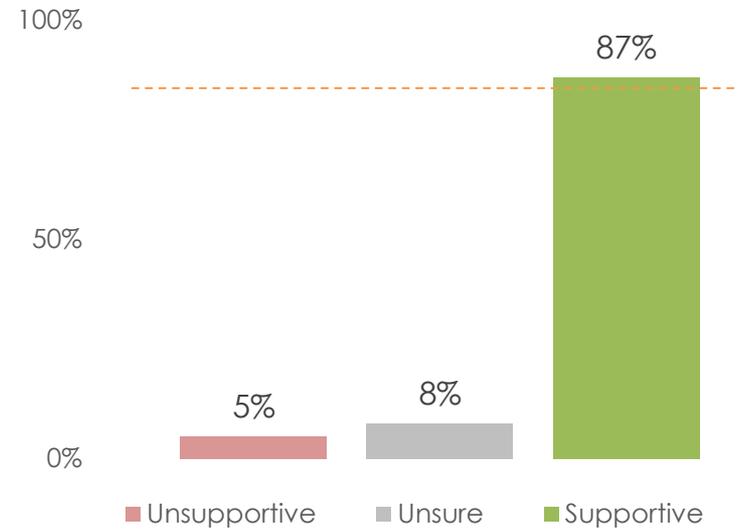
Clause D3 was supported by 42% of the Online Guided Submissions and 87% of the Workshop attendees. Results are relatively on par with the overall average level of support.

## Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 125  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 174  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D3 Systems & Climate Risks Tools – Workshops

There were no strong themes surrounding this statement, just general comments or suggestions e.g. the sense that this statement is important and that Council should be working more with State and Federal Government to maintain this.

One attendee pointed out that this should not be based on the IPCC and should be solely based on factual evidence. Whilst another had difficulty understanding exactly what this statement meant.

"This is a task, that in practical terms, is beyond LOCAL govt. But it could and should contribute to state and national initiatives"

Mingara

"Triple bottom line strategies need support. If ccc is serious they need to lead the way"

Ettalong

"...Farming is no longer sustainable. More laboratory food production is required"

Mingara

"Needs to be based on climate facts, not climate consensus IPCC"

Mingara

"Does this mean monitor, keep data, use evidence?"

Erina

"Federal & state government policies are grossly inadequate. Council needs to make its opposition to Core Mining & destruction of the water courses known consistently"

Wyong



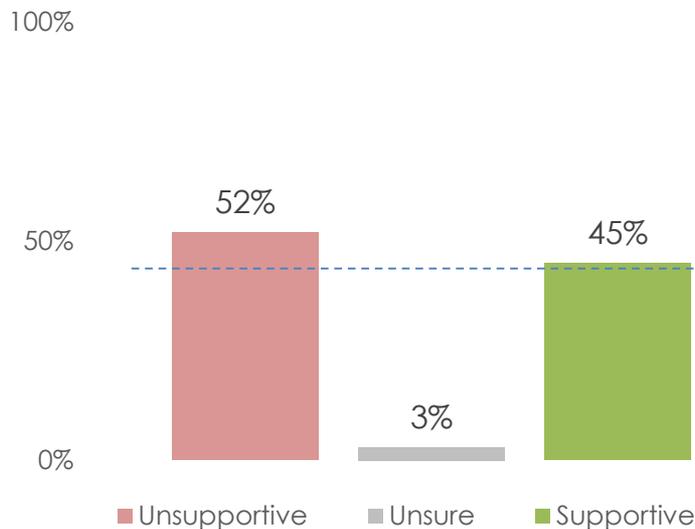
# Support for D4 – Online vs Workshop

**D4.** Recognise the need for an effective and progressive response to the threat of climate change risks with the best available scientific knowledge.

86% of Workshop attendees were supportive of D4, whilst just 45% of the Online Guided Submissions indicated they were supportive.

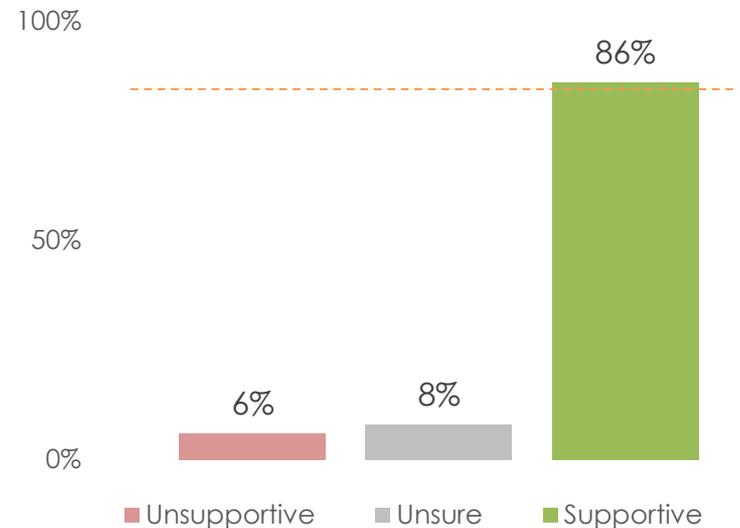
One of the Online Guided Submissions stated they were supportive of clause D4 as they believe this is an urgent matter to be addressed.

## Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 124  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 199  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D4 Evidence Based Decision Making - Workshops

86% of attendees were supportive of D4.

Comments regarding statement D4 centred strongly around the wording of the statement, particularly the vagueness and use of the word 'progressive', and the need for evidence, place-based knowledge and strong scientific knowledge.

"Place emphasis on progressive strategies. As a young person, my future needs bold action to ensure safety and stability long term"

Wyong

"Evidenced based decisions please"

Wyong

"Oppose the use of 'recognise' after 40 years of discussion"

Ettalong

"The progressive element should mean "gradual" and "adaptive" based on evidence, and not expensive action to try solve imagined/predicted impacts 100 years from now. Evidence based knowledge!! Please!! Model predictions/outputs do not equate to 'best available scientific knowledge"

Mingara

"Follow the science not the politics 26%-28% reduction over 2005 is not enough"

Erina

"Best available scientific knowledge. Why then the precautionary principle see F10 of policy: If science isn't certain, go ahead anyway!"

Erina

"Holistic - needs definition..."

Erina



# Support for D5 – Online vs Workshop

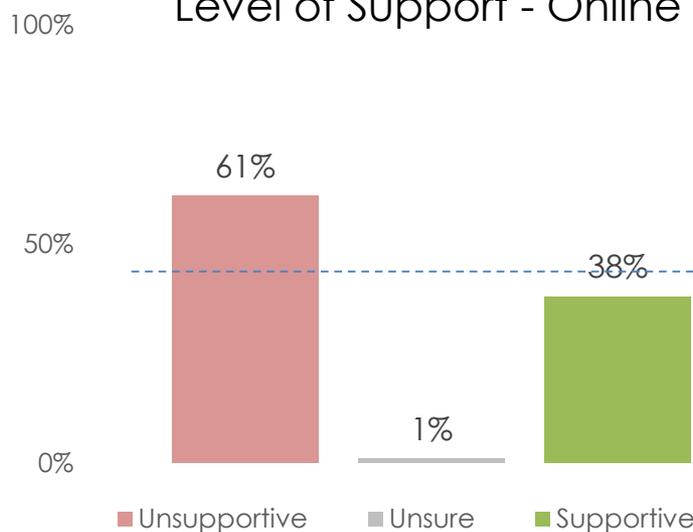
**D5.** *Align Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction target with the Australian Government's Paris commitment to reduce emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2030 and the NSW Government's aspirational objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.*

Clause D5 received the second highest proportion of Online Guided Submissions stating they were unsupportive (61%), and the second lowest level of support (66%) across the Workshop attendees.

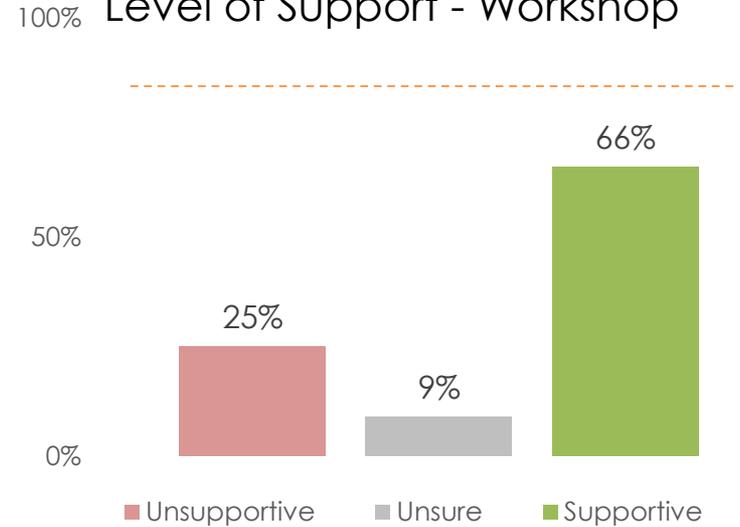
Comments from the Online Guided Submissions addressed the Paris Agreement (i.e. "the Paris Agreement is inadequate" and "the Paris commitment is political and inadequate"), the belief that our targets should be higher/more ambitious and this statement is "not compatible with other statements about being a leader based on best scientific advice".

The Additional Submissions also addressed the need for targets to be more ambitious and one Submission suggested rewording the statement to "Council pursue actions to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions commensurate with the Australian Government's Paris commitment to reduce emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2030 and the NSW Government's aspirational objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050".

Level of Support - Online



Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 125  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 189  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D5 Emission Targets – Workshops

This level of support appears to be driven not by the action of the statement but rather the targets listed e.g. attendees are not supportive of this statement as they believe Council should be a leader and take a more ambitious approach and exceed government targets as they believe the targets provided are much too low and suggested that the targets should be 50%-100%.

Other comments include:

- Reducing the timeline of targets (i.e. much earlier)
- Not being involved in the Paris Agreement
- Suggestions for ways to reduce emissions, e.g. no cars, invest in renewables, increase tree cover and offering discounts on rates for households with solar

One attendee from the Ettalong Workshop believes D5 goes against the principles of C1 and C7; “If this is science or evidence based, why do you have a politics-based target and one for State and Federal government when in all probability won't be here in a few months?”



# D5 Emissions Targets Comments

## Have more ambitious targets

"Nowhere near enough. Let's be leaders and be far more aggressive"

Erina

"This seems to be a minimalist approach. Why not set a standard & lead by example"

Mingara

"Why not aim to better those targets?"

Wyong

"CCC should be taking a greater stand on reducing emissions. The projected reductions is a nonsense - we need council to do more"

Ettalong

"Council should take stronger targets - 50% to 100% by 2030  
Be a leader"

San Remo

"26% - 28% target is not enough. Follow the science, not the politics"

Erina

"26% - 28% reductions is insufficient to meet 2degrees warming targets in accordance with Paris agreements. Scientific consensus is that a min 45% reduction by 2030 is required"

Ettalong

"Needs to be more aggressive targets. Also nervous of the word 'aspirational' - There needs to be accountability"

Erina



# D5 Emissions Targets Comments

## Other comments:

"There's little on  
FACTS about the  
cost of theory  
unproven"

Erina

"Without this the  
policy is lost This  
is essential"

Wyong

"Aligning to  
political rather  
than evidence  
based targets  
goes against the  
stated Policy &  
Principle"

Ettalong

"Plant more trees  
& free to  
household to  
plant"

Wyong

"Australia should get  
out of the Paris  
Accord. The people  
were not advised of  
or given a chance to  
vote on this accord  
which will adversely  
affect our prosperity"

Wyong

"Invest in  
renewables. Aim  
to reduce  
impact. No to  
coal"

Wyong

"We need more  
than the  
renewable energy  
target - how would  
this be achieved?"

Wyong

"How is it  
measured?"

Ettalong

"To move towards  
zero emission,  
Council should offer  
rates discounts for  
household that  
have installed solar"

Mingara

"No! Paris  
Agreement is a  
sham. We  
should get out  
of Paris now"

San Remo



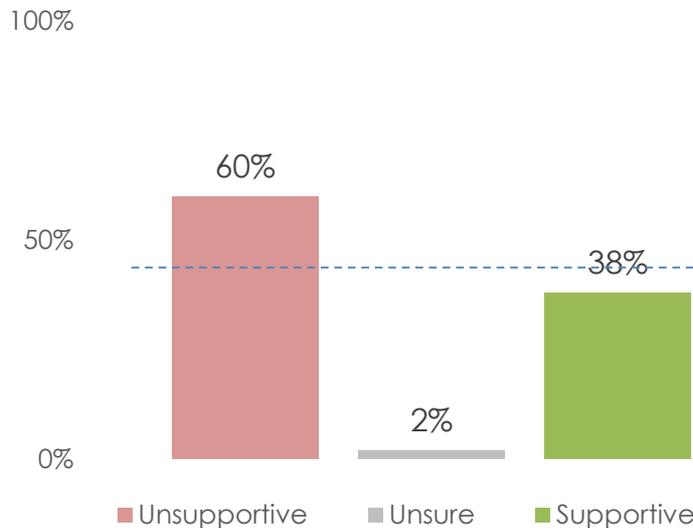
# Support for D6 – Online vs Workshop

**D6.** Develop a Central Coast greenhouse gas emissions inventory using regional data and establish baselines for an incremental pathway to meet a net zero emissions target for Council as basis for the Climate Change Action Plan (i.e. 2025, 2030 and 2050).

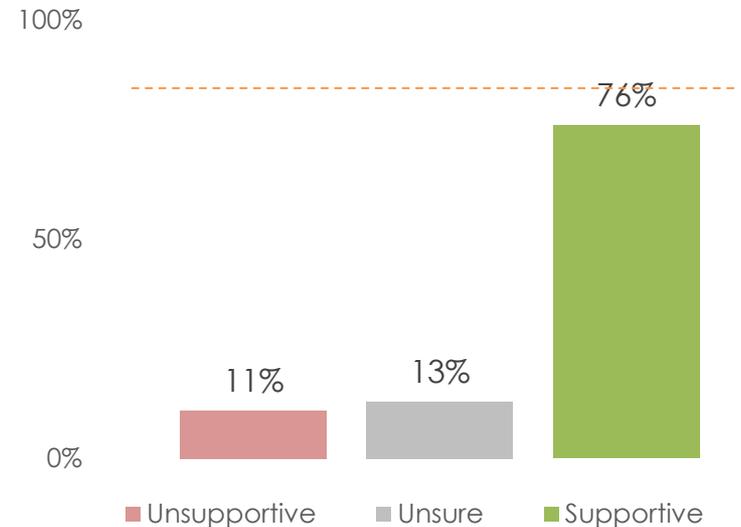
Clause D6 was supported by 38% of the Online Guided Submissions and 76% of the Workshop attendees, both below the average overall level of support.

One Additional Submission suggested to remove any reference to the regional emissions inventory from the statement to ensure that it is clear that the baseline emissions relates to Council's own activities.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 121  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 166  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D6 Emission Inventory – Workshops

A few comments from D6 revolved around the wording e.g. too much jargon, necessity of the statement and lack of clarity for action. Others were supportive of this commitment but pointed out how current practices such as the allowance of coal mines and developments contradict this statement.

“should follow the Newcastle University ‘Zero Emissions Plan’ Emissions reduction target more than Paris target”

Ettalong

“Where is the date for Central Coast Greenhouse Gas emissions?”

San Remo

“Great initiative it’s so important to have progressive targets over time rather than some aspirational net zero target in the never never”

Wyong

“Energy Emissions Reduction provide support for Electric vehicles, like fast charging stations. Give incentives to rate payers to install and upgrade solar panels and backup batteries, as this reduces energy demand in the Council area and increases resilience and power outages caused by storms”

Mingara

“Regional emissions inventory lacks purpose; is costly; & complex. Drop this (just do D18 - corp. inventory)”

Erina

“Stop seismic testing off our coast - we are supposed to be cutting emissions”

Ettalong

“Why allow so much development and population increase if we aim for zero emissions?”

Erina

“No Wallarah 2 Coal Mine. Move to renewables ASAP”

Erina

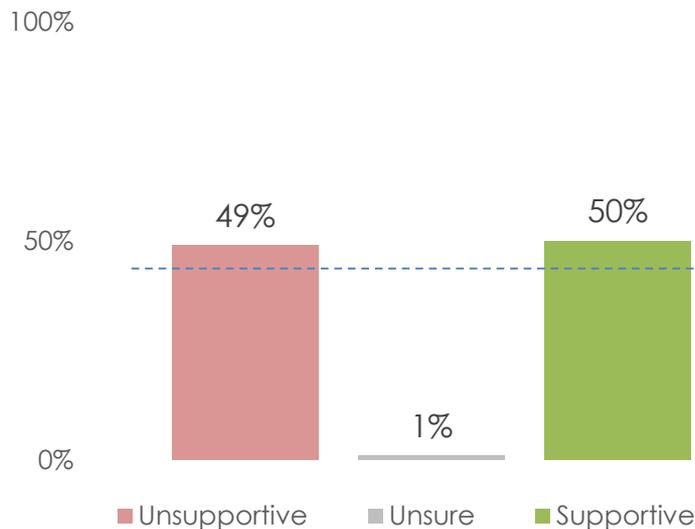


# Support for D19 – Online vs Workshop

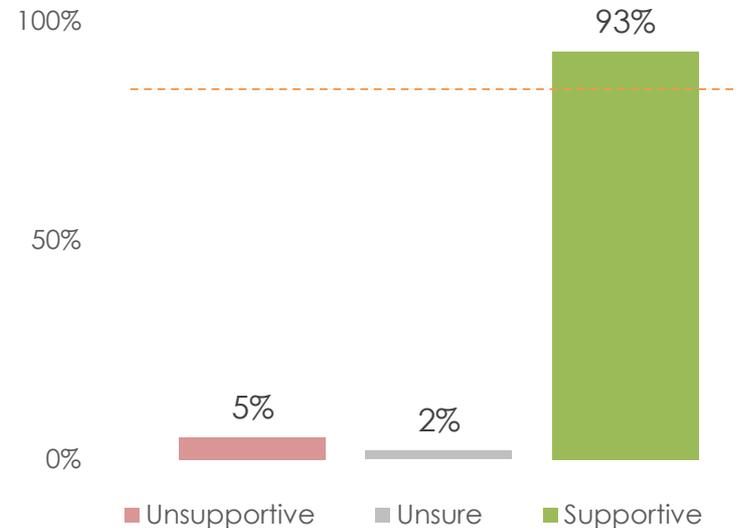
**D19.** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the production, use and disposal of goods and services through Council procurement processes as well as influence Community efforts through partnerships.

There was a 50/50 split of support for D19 across the Online Guided Submissions, whilst 93% of the Workshop attendees indicated they were supportive. Support from the Online Guided Submissions and the Workshops were above the overall average level of support.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 121  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 202  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D19 Council Procurement Processes - Workshops

Attendees were strongly supportive of D19 (93% support), with comments largely around ways in which Council and the community can work together to reduce emissions, energy consumption and waste disposal.

"Community solar"

San Remo

"Do more to prevent waste than just recycling"

Ettalong

"Co2 is an important gas - why are we diminishing it?"

San Remo

"Plant more trees"

Ettalong

"Landfill management to reduce gas in the first place"

Ettalong

"Will the council oppose the government in its plans to avoid oil & gas exploration along our coast? If we want to stop or slow climate change we need to quit our use on these destructive energy's"

Ettalong

"Incentive for schools to reduce energy consumption"

San Remo

"Central Coast Council to be responsible for food waste disposal and pick up. Their responsibility to divert these resources from landfill"

Wyong

"Springboard from other local councils (e.g. Darebin) who are already at implementation phase for procurement"

Erina

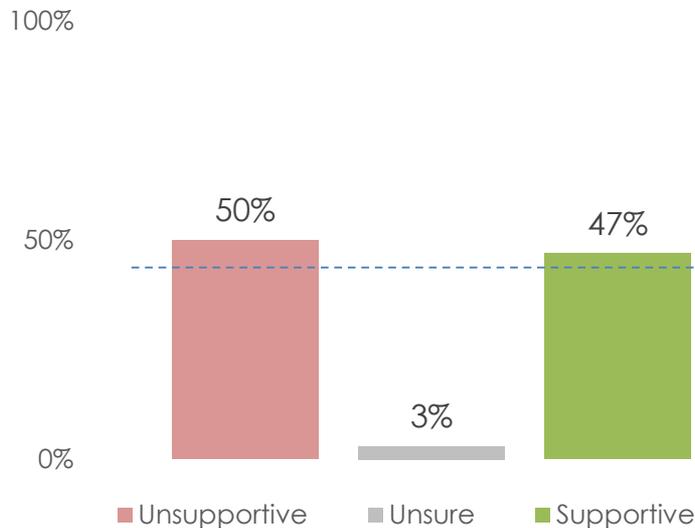


# Support for D20 – Online vs Workshop

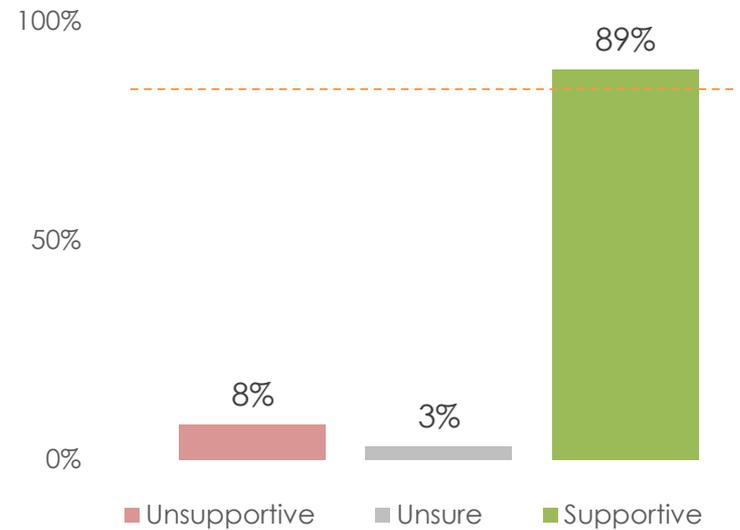
**D20.** Identify and keep abreast of opportunities to finance climate change initiatives and investing savings from climate actions towards advancing sustainable development goals for Central Coast.

Again, results were above the overall average and there was almost an even split for level of support across the Online Guided Submissions, whilst 89% of the Workshop attendees indicated they were supportive of D20.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 120  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 202  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D20 Finance Climate Change Initiatives - Workshops

Workshop attendees provided various comments relating to investing only in sustainable practices, projects and companies. Particularly no more investment in coal mines and unsustainable businesses and looking at reinventing old sites into renewable resources.

"Can Council provide incentives for households to cut down on energy costs by grants for cooling/heating"

Wyong

"Corporations have huge investment in the wellbeing of the Central Coast. They must therefore have a huge responsibility to address climate change"

Ettalong

"Are we also going to talk about punishment, taxes, sanction for those making negative impacts?"

Wyong

"No investment in coal please"

Erina

"Move council money into funds & banks that do not fund fossil fuel projects. Invest in those financial renewables"

Erina

"No new coal mines and a transition to renewable"

Erina

"Old coal fire station at San Remo (near Koala Park) has the potential to be renewable energy site"

San Remo



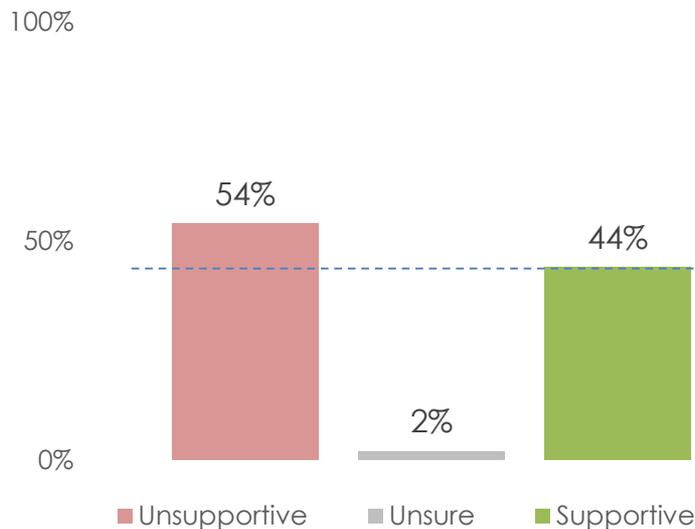
# Support for D21 – Online vs Workshop

**D21.** Create accountability and confidence by supporting the carbon neutral supply chain through implementation of the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standards and Carbon Neutral Certification requirements.

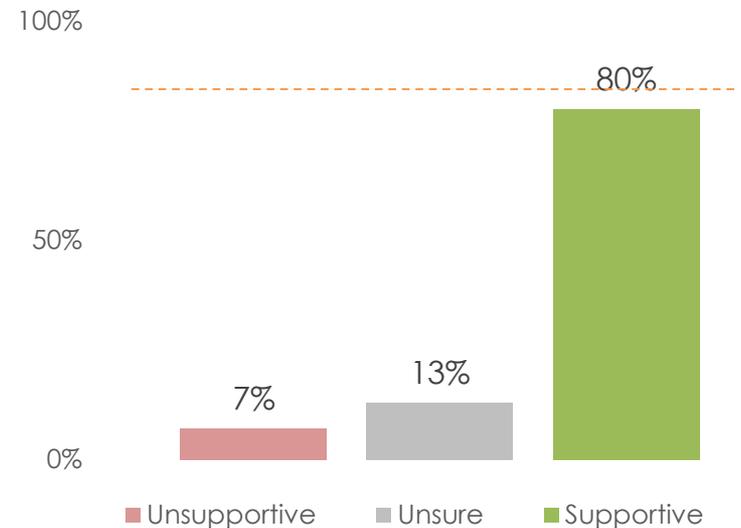
Just under half (44%) of the Online Guided Submissions and 80% of the Workshop attendees indicated they were supportive of D21.

One of the Additional Submissions suggested statement D21 either be deleted or reworded as they found the statement difficult to understand exactly what D21 is trying to achieve and believe it is quite similar to the actions of D19. Whilst one of the Online Guided Submissions stated “these standards and certification requirements are not sufficient”.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 123  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 163  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D21 Create Accountability and Confidence - Workshops

80% of attendees were supportive of D21, however, there is a sense for the need for more information or clarification of what exactly this statement entails and the effectiveness of this.

Other comments suggested ways Council can encourage the community to get on board such as subsidies and more charging stations.



"Make sure GOVT is following their own requirements for sustainability and not letting politicians continue damaging the industry"

Ettalong

"Too much jargon"

San Remo

"Not familiar with these offset standards. So don't know if I will agree"

Erina

"How effective are these carbon offsets?"

San Remo

"Disagree that Co2 is a problem - it is a blessing! We need more of it"

San Remo

"Co2 is not a greenhouse gas"

Wyong

"There needs to be openness and transparency"

Wyong

"Encourage/ provide more electric vehicle charging points"

Erina

"Not sure what this means? How to make them accountable and responsible"

Erina



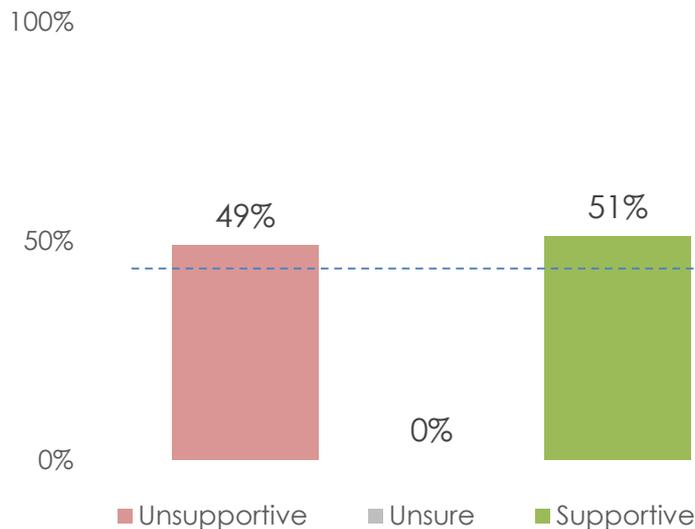
# Support for D16 – Online vs Workshop

**D16.** Establish an energy efficient and renewable energy guideline for the creation and renewal of Council's energy using assets as well as stimulate private sector investment in climate actions such as renewable energy initiatives.

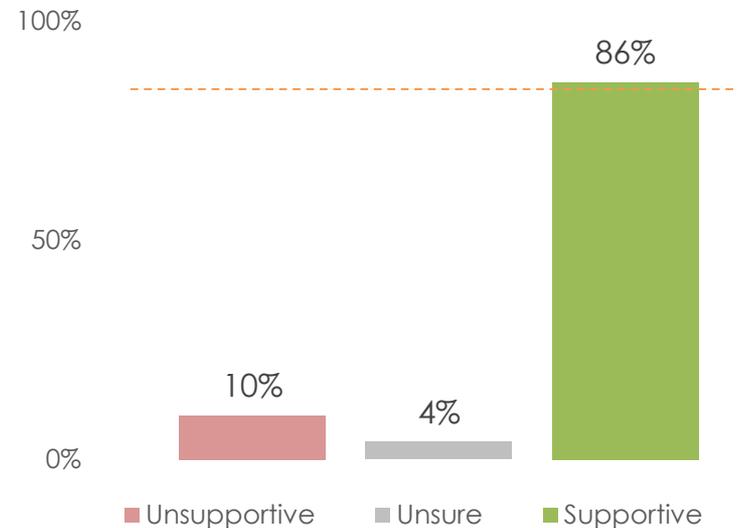
Support from the Online Guided Submissions for D16 was divided with 49% unsupportive and 51% supportive, however, support is higher than the average level of support overall.

Workshop attendees were largely supportive with 86% in support.

### Level of Support - Online



### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 123  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 135  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D16 Energy Guidelines

86% of attendees were supportive of Council establishing an energy efficient and renewable energy guideline.

Comments on D16 primarily focused on different ways for Council to consider to make the Central Coast more energy efficient.

Minimal concerns were raised with this statement. Concerns that were raised include:

- What would be the cost to ratepayers?
- This is not Councils responsibility
- Lack of trust that Council will do something in regards to this issue
- Will this include properties that low income earners rely on?
- Solar and wind generators are no substitute for base load power



# D16 Energy Guidelines Comments

## Suggestions for renewable practices

"A positive Council initiative would be to install rapid chargers for electric vehicles at key places"

Wyong

"Abolish coal mining and gas tracking in Council land"

Wyong

"Should support HELE Power stations. Solar & wind are unreliable for major energy supply at \$\$ that are not heavily subsidised"

San Remo

"Ensure energy and efficiency includes embedded carbon cost and all of life cost including manufacture, install, operate and dispose etc."

Ettalong

"Invest in renewables!  
No coal!"

Erina

"All new houses and housing developments should have to have compulsory solar, water tanks"

Ettalong

"More street-scape trees need to be planted along road sides"

Ettalong

"Ensure renewable heat is considered in renewable energy"

Ettalong

"Joint projects Council-Community e.g. Community energy projects"

Ettalong

"Would the council consider investing in a power supply system like wind turbine or solar panels to provide power for our local area?"

Erina

"Increase rebates for production of solar energy"

Ettalong

"Narara Ecovillage has built an embedded power network which generates more electricity than the community consumes - other communities could follow this approach"

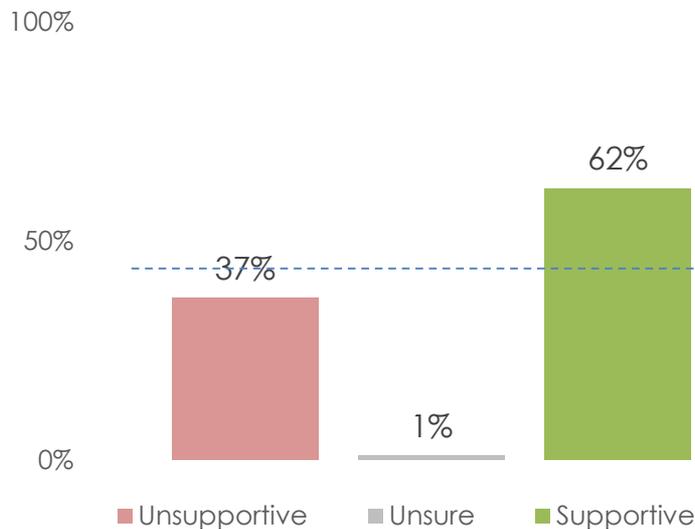
Wyong

# Support for D17 – Online vs Workshop

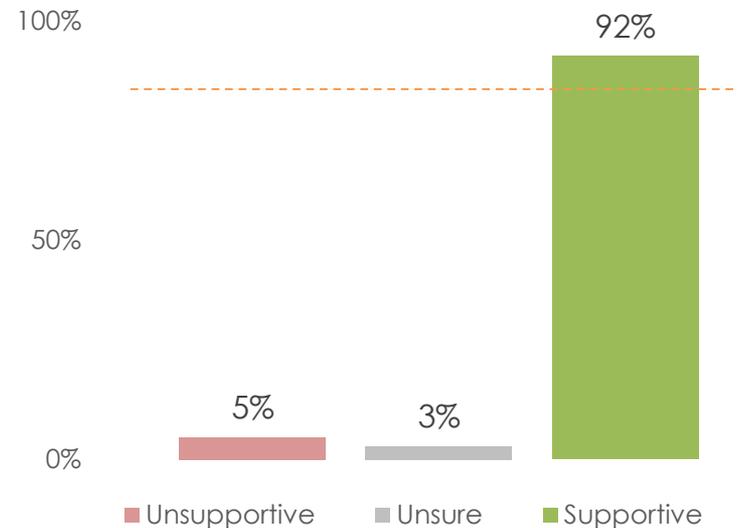
**D17.** Commit to continually improving Council's energy efficiency and productivity.

D17 received the highest level of support from the Online Guided Submissions, with 62% stating they were supportive of this statement (well above the average). Workshop attendees also indicated their strong level of support with 92% indicating they were supportive Council's commitment to continually improving Council's energy efficiency and productivity.

### Level of Support - Online



### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 125  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

----- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
----- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 152  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D17 Improving Energy Efficiency and Productivity – Workshops

Some attendees could not identify the difference between statements D17 and D16 and stated that this statement in particular is very much a ‘motherhood statement’.

Other comments made reference to Council’s energy efficiency within Council buildings and suggested other ways that Council could lead by example.

“All new council building to be carbon neutral - solar panels to supply all energy needs”

Wyong

“Stop Wallarah 2 coal mine and transition to renewables”

Erina

“Who replaces street lighting? Council plans to replace halogen with LED - significant \$ savings? If replacing - will they be low light pollution designs?”

Wyong

“How is D17 different to D16?”

Ettalong

“Very broad motherhood, very similar to D16”

San Remo

“Energy audit on all council buildings”

Erina

“Yes - support this BUT what about also building capacity of residents to do this too?”

Ettalong

“Sewage treatment requires much energy - should utilize more natural methods - more research needed”

Wyong

“Need to implement proven technology in floating solar panels on water storage”

San Remo

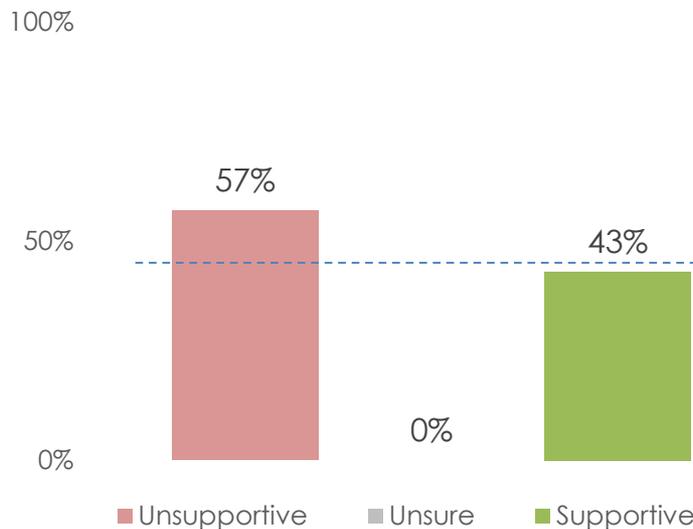
# Support for D18 – Online vs Workshop

**D18.** Conduct an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory including direct (scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) emissions utilising National Greenhouses and Energy Reporting Act 2007.

81% of Workshop attendees were supportive of Council conducting an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory, whilst 43% of the Online Guided Submissions indicated they were supportive of this statement.

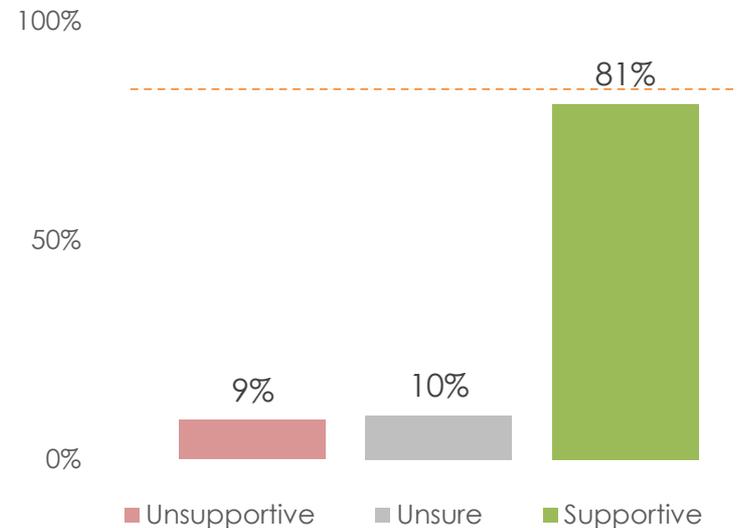
One of the Additional Submissions suggested to reword the statement to “conduct an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory associated with the operations of Council, including...”.

### Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 124  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 158  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D18 Annual Emissions Inventory – Workshops

81% of attendees were supportive of Council conducting an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Comments regarding D18 varied, with references to the need to include scope 3 and the concern over using figures/actions from 2007.

“Need scope 3 emissions too!  
Give all employees public transport passes”

Erina

“Use later figures than 2007 please”

Erina

“Need more Co2”

San Remo

“Too much jargon”

San Remo

“Co2 is not a greenhouse gas”

Wyong

“Reporting of progress expressed as % of total effort ”

Mingara

“Is the 2007 Act the best method for monitoring emissions? Does it align with current state measurements?”

Ettalong

“Need to include scope 3 to cover all aspects”

Ettalong

“Needs to be transparent on methodology and independently audited”

Ettalong

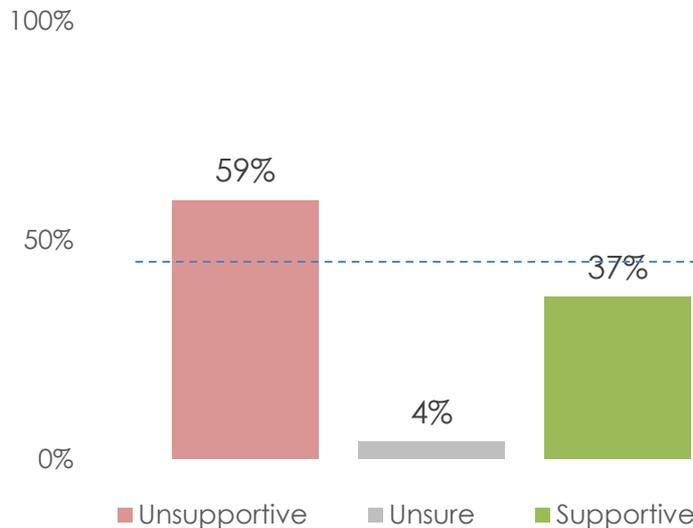


# Support for D7 – Online vs Workshop

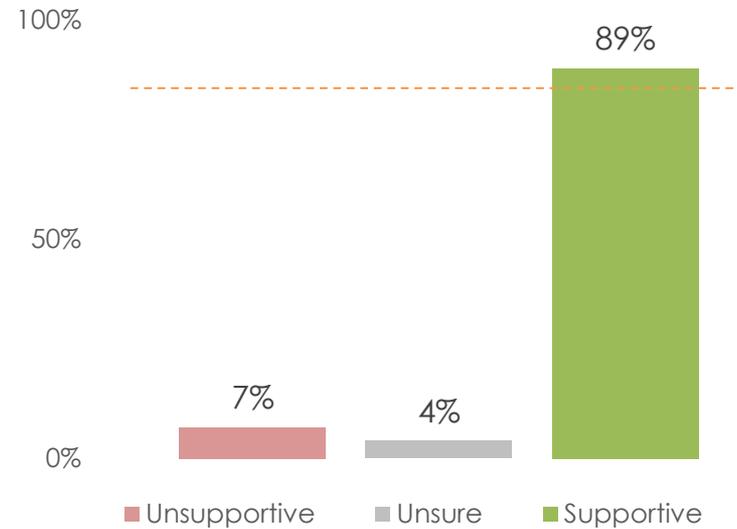
**D7.** Establish a Climate Change Action Plan for Council that outlines mitigation and adaptation management actions across Council business that are consistent with the principles of ecological sustainable development.

Almost 60% of Online Guided Submissions were not supportive of Council establishing a climate change action plan for Council, whilst 89% of Workshop attendees were supportive (higher than the overall average).

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 123  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 147  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D7 Climate Change Action Plan - Workshops

89% support a climate change action plan that outlines mitigation and adaptation management actions.

Concerns were expressed that the action plan must be based on factual evidence and the frequency of review. Other comments included suggestions towards Councils mitigation and adaptation actions.

"Some of your community centres waste energy by leaving computers and printers on all night. Lead by example "

San Remo

"Too much jargon"

San Remo

"Needs to be based on fact!! Not hypothesis"

Mingara

"Promote electric vehicles e.g. Council Fleet vehicles"

Erina

"Great idea. The science is in!"

Mingara

"Action plan critical to progress - do it soon"

Erina

"I would also like to see 'climate restoration' in the policy not just adaptation & mitigation"

Erina

"Action plan must be developed not only in consultation with community but based on evidence & best practice (consultation with other local government)"

Mingara

"How often will the policy/action plan be reviewed to incorporate new evidence & social need?"

Wyong



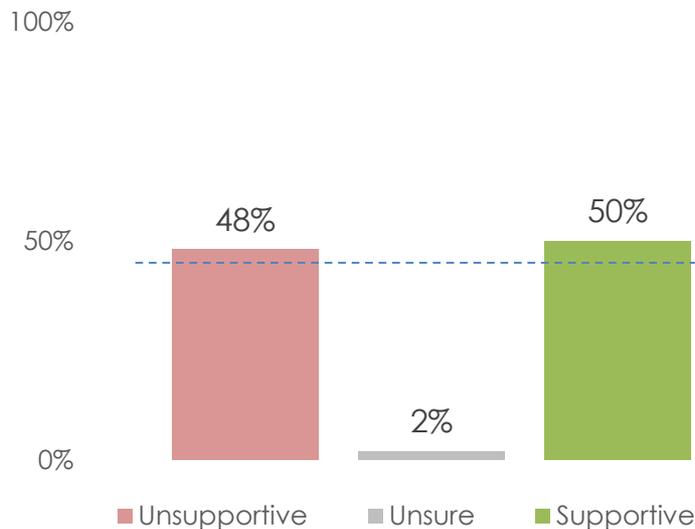
# Support for D8 – Online vs Workshop

**D8.** *Involve the community and stakeholders using a place-based approach in the decision making process for the development of a Climate Change Action Plan encompassing climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.*

50% of Online Guided Submissions were supportive of Council involving the community and stakeholders using a place-based approach in the decision making, whilst support was much greater for the Workshop attendees with 89% supportive (both methods higher than the overall average level of support).

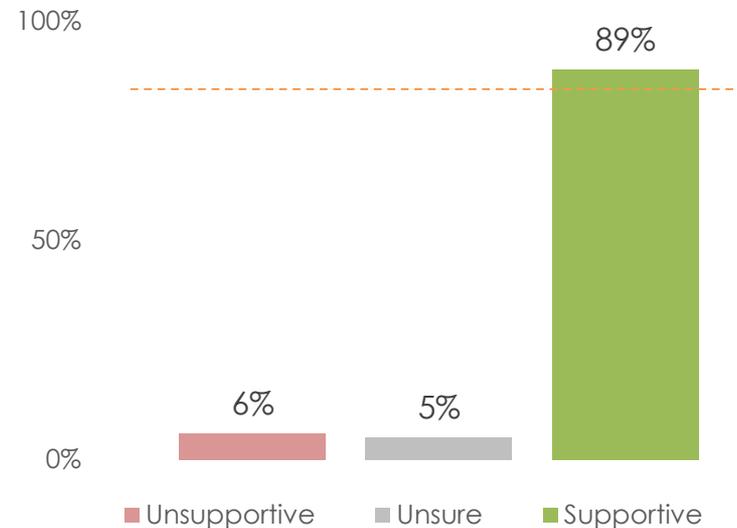
One of the Online Guided Submissions believe Council should “report scope 3 emissions for a more realistic sum of climate impacts of Council and the region”.

### Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 122  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 148  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D8 Place-Based Approach – Workshops

There was a small level of uncertainty around what exactly statement D8 means, with a need for more detail. One attendee suggested that D8 not be a stand-alone statement but a subsection to D7.

Attendees believe place-based approaches are critical in all action plans and allow for greater understanding and participation from the local community. However, this approach should not just focus on businesses and developers and must ensure adequate reach so the voices of the community are heard, including other interest groups such as cultural (Indigenous) and religious groups.

### Theme 1: Changes to the statement/more information

“What is climate mitigation, adaptation Action Plan?? Need more detail”

Erina

“Unclear what this means”

Mingara

“A subsection of how D7 is to be actioned”

San Remo

“Why is this in the corporate section? Plenty of other groups (cultural, religious interest based) that would have helpful/input stakes.”

Wyong

# D8 Workshop Comments

## Theme 2: Importance of involving the community

"Make sure policy is not 'weighted' towards business & developers on the Coast. Community needs to have more power"

Erina

"Place based approaches are critical in educating and involving community"

Ettalong

"Community energy programmes"

Ettalong

"Only if true community input - not just businesses"

Wyong

"Include indigenous voices give them a greater platform = place-base and culture"

Wyong

## Other comments

"Councillors Listen to the people on this. Don't do a Tony Abbot & promote own views instead of views of people he represented"

Mingara

"All stationary energy body to be transitioned to renewable by 2030"

Ettalong

"Deploy BZE's zero carbon communities scheme to help get community emissions down"

Erina

"The peninsular is being over developed. Council allow hard surfaces on whole block, no trees etc. How about looking at development controls"

Ettalong

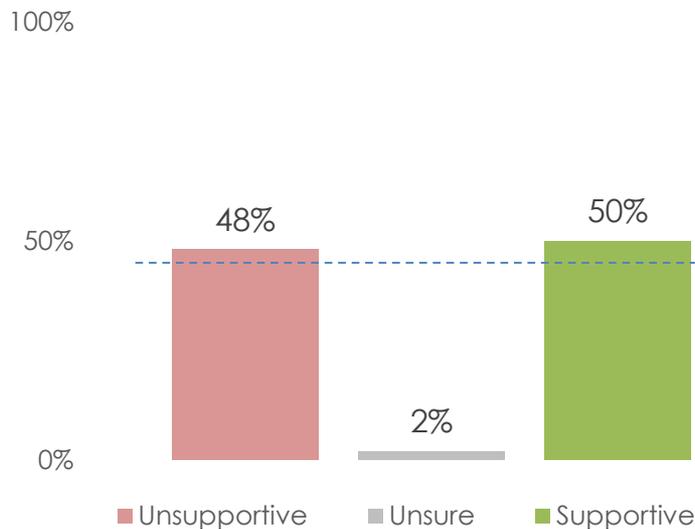


# Support for D22 – Online vs Workshop

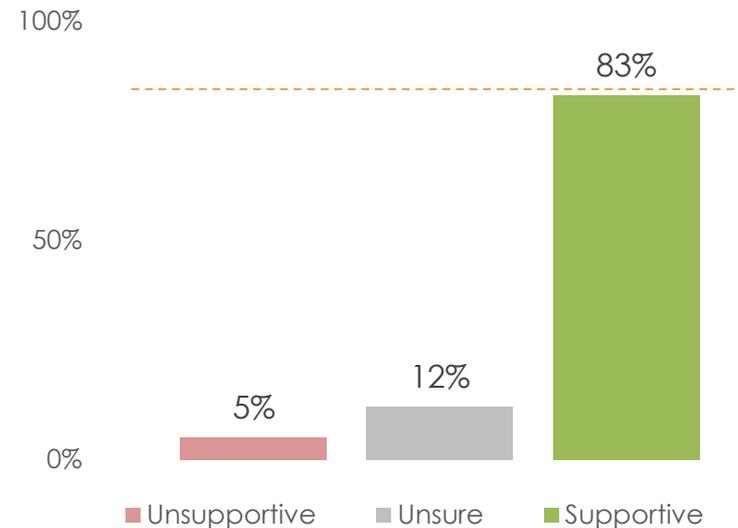
**D22.** Establish climate partnerships between Council and the business community to identify and develop private investment opportunities for economic stability and growth.

83% of Workshop attendees are supportive of climate partnerships between Council and the business community and some believe that this should already be happening irrespective of climate change. Whilst just 50% of the Online Guided Submissions indicated they were supportive, although higher than the overall average.

### Level of Support - Online



### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 121  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 199  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D22 Climate Partnerships – Workshops

Along with the sense that attendees believe Council should already be establishing partnerships to assist with economic stability and growth, there was some concern over how this will be effectively implemented and the need to involve all sectors e.g. community, public, private and NGO.

"Involve NGO and community sector. Commercial sectors should contribute \$\$\$"

Ettalong

"This should happen anyway - nothing to do with climate change"

San Remo

"Private sector must be involved"

Ettalong

"What will this platform be? How will you get the younger generation involved?"

Wyong

"Seek corporate partnership re actual recycling vs landfill"

Ettalong

"Stick to RRR - Rates, Rubbish (Recycling), Roads"

Wyong

"How about Climate Change desk in Council where public/rate payers can input into Climate partnerships?"

Wyong

"I think council should also engage with the workforce of Central coast. Do they see their future? Skills they have and how they can adapt"

San Remo

"Council should buy/support recycled products i.e. full circle business"

Ettalong



# Findings in Detail:

## 4. Policy Commitment Statements

### 4.2 Property and Services

**D9.** Consider climate change risks in Council's strategic planning process, namely; urban growth and development and land use zoning including the development of planning controls and guidelines to facilitate local investments.

**D14.** Invest in climate resilience opportunities through advancing technology, innovation and continuous improvement in the planning and management of existing built and natural assets, infrastructure renewal projects and renewable resources.

**D15.** Consider climate change risks and opportunities in the asset life cycle analysis for all new and existing infrastructure assets through adaptation and mitigation strategies.

# Property & Services Overview

Efficient and effective planning for development were top of mind for both the Workshop attendees and Online Guided Submissions with a strong emphasis on protecting and maintaining current infrastructure, protection of natural assets and ensuring there is adequate basic infrastructure such as drainage and guttering to support new developments.

Common themes from the Workshops include:

## Reasons for support:

- Recognition that this is also about natural assets protection and not just about the built infrastructure
- Protection of and investment in basic infrastructure/services
- Alternative technologies e.g. renewables energies and alternative transport options
- Council is taking a leading role

## Reasons for being unsure/against:

- Consideration and planning of developments/stricter planning controls e.g. no overdevelopment, environmental protection/replacement, adequate infrastructure planning with new developments

Policy specific concerns also emerged with the desire to simplify the wording and to provide more specific and factual information. (Comments below from the Online Guided Submissions)

“When this goes out again you can write it in plain English”

“Providing information to any affected residents is key to the success of any policy of this nature”

“There are no development goals outlined and no real information or substance. This is an overview, not a policy.”

Please see Appendix 3 for the full list of summarised Online Guided Submissions



# Property & Services Overview

Comments from the Online Guided Submissions tended to push back on Council with concerns that this is not Council's responsibility, this is a waste of time and resources, Council should focus on other tasks as this is not in the best interests of the community. Some also believe that Council is pushing a political agenda and that they have a lack of trust in Council.

"I don't believe the council has any qualified staff and you cannot have staff with green values. This sort of decision should be made by scientist through the commonwealth government and if necessary the property's bought back at market value"

"This Council is inefficient and unable to properly manage the needs of the central coast LGA. to now propose to take on further responsibilities that actually lie with the Federal and State government will be an unnecessary significant cost that will be levied to ratepayers with no benefit achieved"

"This Policy is terrible and will devastate communities and Central Coast Council and its officers should be ashamed of themselves. There is no need for this Policy, it is just divisive and pushing a political agenda"

"It is important to understand change but the policy put forward jumps to conclusions that are to the detriment of the central coast both short and long term"

The Online Guided Submissions also raised the need to protect assets and implement better adaptation processes including stricter development controls and natural assets protection during planning and development stages.

"Enhancing and advancing natural infrastructure should be at the top of all planning instruments"

"Making mitigation and protection of assets a priority over redevelopment or removal should be paramount"

"Natural infrastructure will be critical to the liveability to the central coast going forward...any old trees or shady spaces are disappearing at an alarming rate because Council isn't keeping up with post-build inspections"

"Solar panels should be mandatory for all new buildings in the shire, including industrial and commercial properties. Battery charging stations should be increased to assist the adaptation of electric cars"

"I think council should be more responsible for mitigating foreshore risk and allocate more funds where it is needed"

Please see Appendix 3 for the full list of summarised Online Guided Submissions

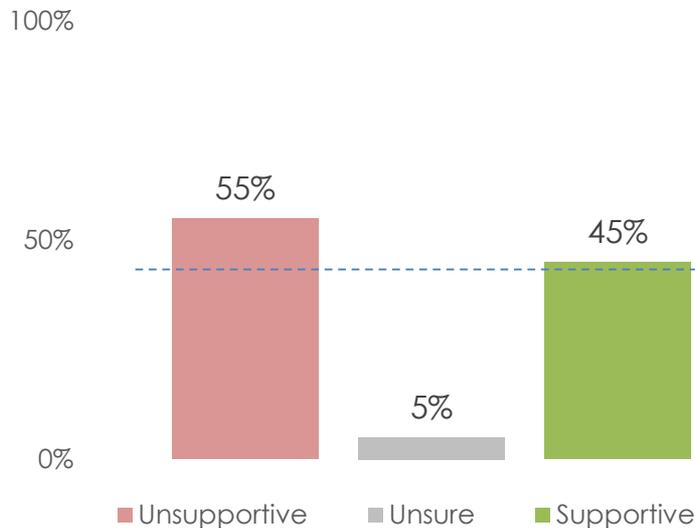


# Support for D9 – Online vs Workshop

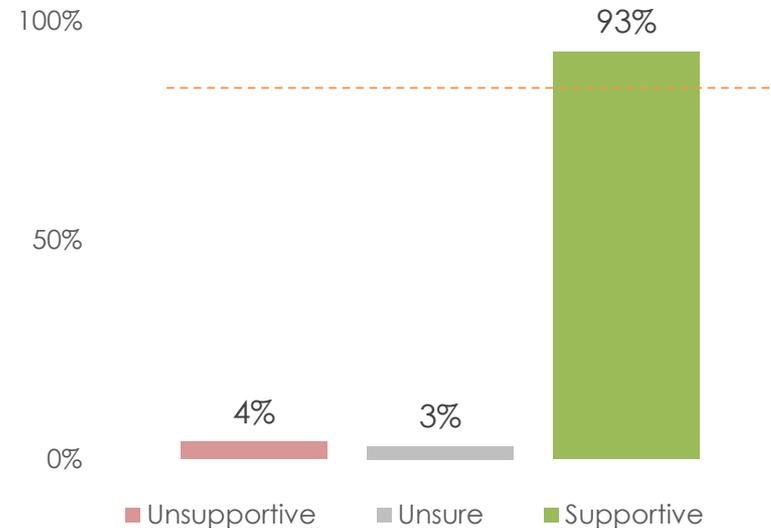
**D9.** Consider climate change risks in Council's strategic planning process, namely; urban growth and development and land use zoning including the development of planning controls and guidelines to facilitate local investments.

93% of Workshop attendees were supportive of Council considering climate change risks in the strategic planning process, compared to 45% of Online Guided Submissions being supportive. Support for clause D9 was greater for the Erina and Ettalong Workshops.

### Level of Support - Online



### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 125  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 187  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward



## D9 Council's Strategic Planning Process - Workshop

Some attendees indicated confusion over the wording of this statement, particularly the generalization of the statement without specific examples or actions i.e. a motherhood statement.

Themes that were identified across all five Workshops include:

- Development (see next slide for direct quotes):
  - Consideration and caution with new developments and overdevelopment, particularly in regards to biodiversity protection
  - Areas such as the Peninsula were identified as areas that attendees believe are becoming overdeveloped without long term consideration e.g. lack of footpaths and drainage, limiting population growth and the removal of mature trees for developments
- Information provided is not factual
- Some Participants believe that it is great to see Council is taking a lead role in climate change and this is critical to reduce future losses
- Other concerns raised include the wording of the statement needs to be more specific, the closure of coal fired power plants and what preventative measures is Council taking?



Picture from the Ettalong workshop

"Statements are too general to be useful"

San Remo

"Statement is realistic but it reads as a 'motherhood' statement unless examples are provided"

Wyong

"The position presented in the info pack is not factual and not referenced"

Mingara

"How is Council managing the closure of coal fired power plants & why aren't Council accelerating approval of the proposed AGL solar farm?"

Mingara

"Adaptive is much cheaper than direct action"

Wyong

"This should be mandatory"

Mingara

# D9 Workshop Comments

## Comments on developments

"Zoning for smaller footprint housing in R2. Adopt & encourage medium density housing. Reduced private car need supporting shared car systems"

Mingara

"We need to be careful with overdeveloping. How do we make that sustainable and not just profitable?"

Erina

"How will you be able to place sufficiently robust control over developments that harm the local environment, overshadowing, creating heat spots, increasing the density of vehicles in already congested areas? Past and present Council do not control this currently"

Erina

"Energy & Emissions reduction provide financial incentives to businesses to provide local jobs, thereby saving on the environmental cost of transporting workers out of the area each day to work"

Mingara

"Ensure strategic planning (housing development) protect biodiversity"

San Remo

"Don't allow developers to clear land of all growth especially trees before they build"

San Remo

"Consider building new developments while keeping tree and wildlife in situ"

Wyong

"Absolutely critical to reduce the future losses under the impacts of climate change"

Mingara

"Stop destruction of bushland & lakes system by developments"

San Remo

"Councils current/perceived ad hoc policies on allowing developments without thinking long-term. Getting as many people in as possible. Temperatures increase & Peninsula's directly related to removal of old, established trees to make way for building not built to environment"

Ettalong

"We need to be careful with overdeveloping. How do we make that sustainable and not just profitable"

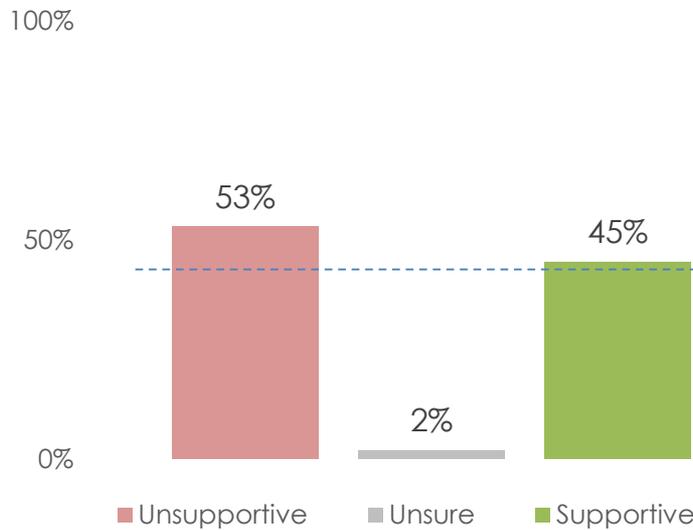
Erina

# Support for D14 – Online vs Workshop

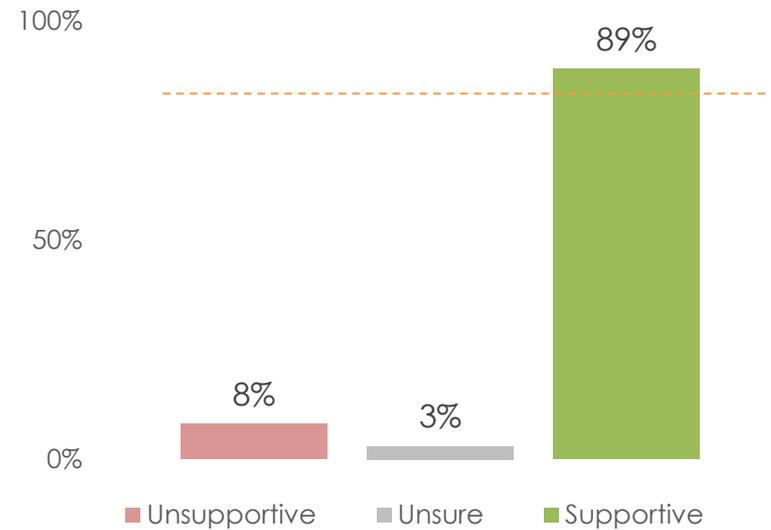
**D14.** Invest in climate resilience opportunities through advancing technology, innovation and continuous improvement in the planning and management of existing built and natural assets, infrastructure renewal projects and renewable resources.

There was almost an even split of support for D14 from the Online Guided Submissions, whilst Workshop attendees displayed strong support with 89% stating they were supportive.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 126  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 238  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D14 Invest in Climate Resilience Opportunities - Workshop

Council's investment in climate resilience opportunities was supported by 89% of the workshop attendees. There was support that Council is taking a lead role on this issue and comments strongly centered around the need for sustainable developments/design and stricter controls with consideration to planning and development approvals. Like many other development concerns, the need for environmental protection when approving developments was top of mind when thinking about the planning and management of assets.

Attendees highlighted the need for Council to primarily focus on providing and maintaining basic infrastructure such as kerbs, guttering and adequate drainage before putting in more developments.

Access issues were also raised, in particular the provision of public transport to access jobs in the mountain and community shuttle buses for multi-unit dwellings to reduce the need for carparks and use of cars. Attendees during the San Remo Workshop highlighted the need to not repeat past mistakes with access issues of having only one road in and one road out. Attendees believe these access issues should also be considered in the planning and management of assets.

### Theme 1: Sustainable developments

"Developments need to be sustainable, require solar, water tanks, shade cover/designs for climate not for profit"

Erina

"All new buildings/development to have solar panels and water tanks"

Mingara

"Improve building design; crossflow ventilation. Consider the impact on the surrounding"

Ettalong

"All new buildings to have solar power requirements so that there is no further requirement for fossil fuels"

Wyong

# D14 Workshop Comments

## Theme 2: Management & planning

"Stop exemplar development in flood prone and bushfire areas"

Ettalong

"Adequate infrastructure must be ahead of housing development not behind it"

Wyong

"Where are all the kerbs & gutter to remove flood waters? Back to basics please!"

Ettalong

"Will policy also look at planning controls that have been ignored (retrospectively)"

Erina

## Theme 3: Access Issues

"Lots of jobs in the mountain area but no transport for people to get there"

Mingara

"Public transport for smaller units...fewer cars therefore lower emissions"

San Remo

"More promotion Kulnura.  
\* Public transport  
\* Infrastructure  
\* Development constrained lands "

Mingara

"Several residential communities have single road access in an emergency"

San Remo

"A bus service D14 similar to B1 on Northern Beaches, limited stops to prevent traffic on M1 in business hours from building up. Many people commute to the city"

Erina



# D14 Workshop Comments



## Other comments

"Does this mean established but at risk areas will become second class areas in terms of infrastructure renewal?"

Ettalong

"Don't reinvent the wheel. Look at other organisations e.g. Darebin Council"

Erina

"Green infrastructure is vital to combat climate change. D14 emphasis should turn away from fossil fuels to renewables"

Erina

"Build HELE (high efficiency low emission) coal fired power stations or go nuclear"

Mingara

"Recycling initiative. London example: separate recycling at source. Separate bins & collection days for paper, glass, plastics and organic food waste"

Erina

"Electric vehicle recharge points in all car parks and required in all DA's for high density buildings"

Erina

"I support investment but is this a local council initiative or CSIRO etc.?"

Ettalong

"Renewable electricity that can run independently off large grids in emergency situations"

Ettalong

"Create a think space room, whereby residents can collaborate and brainstorm ideas all in a virtual environment using smart screen technology"

Mingara

"Aim to reduce impact, invest in -solar -wind - alternate power NO new coal NO seismic testing"

Wyong

"This would be something the council should do anyway!"

Erina

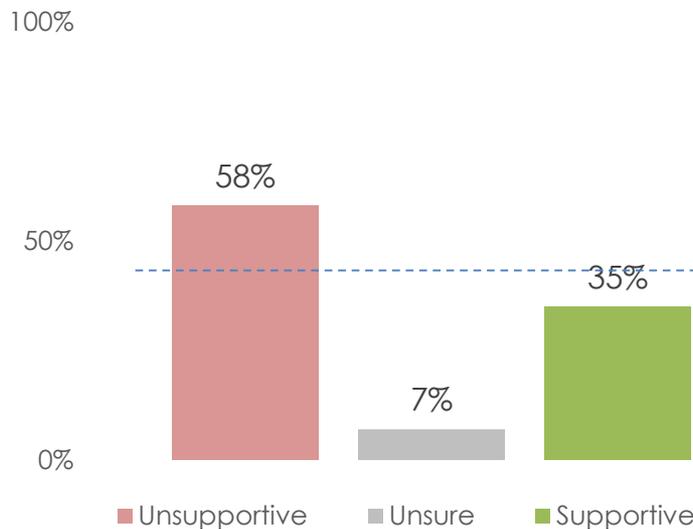
# Support for D15 – Online vs Workshop

**D15.** Consider climate change risks and opportunities in the asset life cycle analysis for all new and existing infrastructure assets through adaptation and mitigation strategies.

85% of Workshop attendees were supportive of Council's consideration of climate change risks and opportunities in the asset life cycle analysis, whilst just 35% of the Online Guided Submissions were supportive (much lower than the overall average level of support).

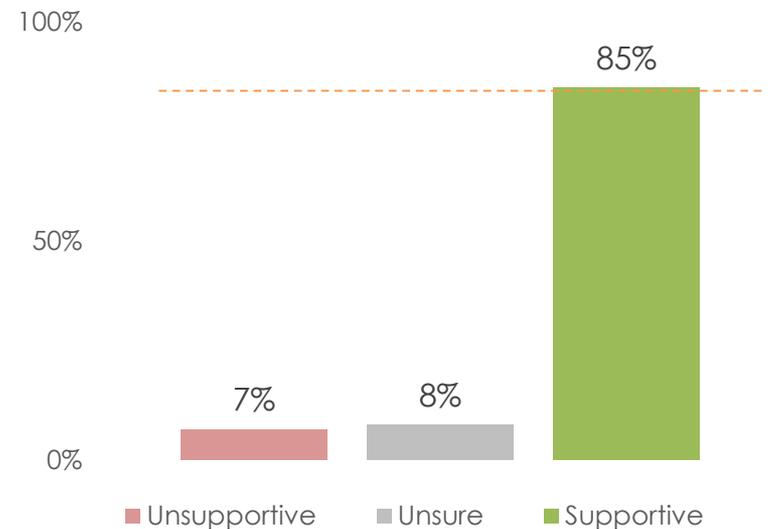
Across the Online Guided Submissions, the proportion of those stating they were at somewhat supportive of D15 was the second lowest overall after clause D10.

### Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 126  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

### Level of Support - Workshop



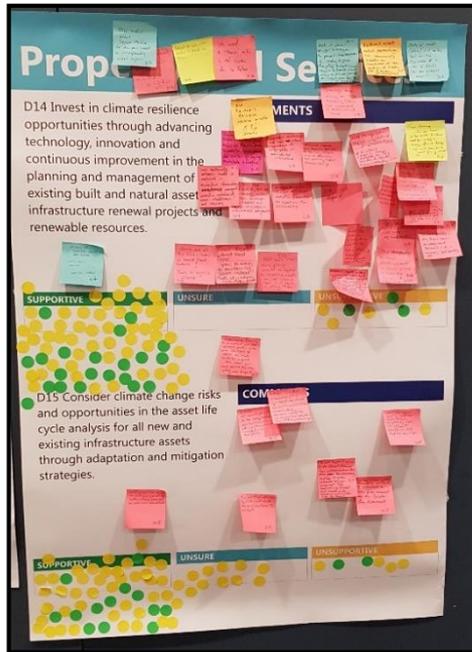
Base: Workshop N = 211  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward



## D15 Asset Lifestyle Analysis - Workshop

4 key themes were identified within the workshop comments for this statement. These include:

- **Policy/statement specific concerns:** Attendees believe the statement is vague and provides a lack of specific information.
- **Development:** Ensuring that future developments and asset renewals are sustainable and durable and provide the opportunity for new sustainable and more efficient practices.
- **Provision and maintenance of current infrastructure:** Managing and planning for potential climate change related impacts on current local infrastructure and ensuring adequate infrastructure is available to meet current and projected demand.
- **Waste management:** Effective waste management was mentioned various times with particular reference to waste management facilities and the prevention of run offs. Suggestions were also made in regards to minimizing the amount of waste that goes to landfill through education and recycle, re-use and compost initiatives.



Picture from the Ettalong workshop

# D15 Workshop Comments

## Theme 1: Policy concerns

"Govt already address a lot of risks. Is the extra effort worth it when it is already regulated. Cost benefit?"

Mingara

"Draft report seems to be council focused. Has cost estimation been done from the scenarios on page 19 of the climate change snapshot. The economics social cost needs to be considered not just the cost to council. Will the billions of dollars received by all levels of government be taken into account in the Polluter Pay Assessment?"

Ettalong

"Statement is too vague"

San Remo

"Grey area? Are you referring to 'personal assets' e.g. owners property?"

Erina

"Should state that it refers to Council assets"

San Remo

## Theme 2: Development

"Council to Pilot Tidal power scheme as in CC with UNI CSRIO. Council could build PV arrays to all council assets, lead by example"

Erina

"Asset renewal that raises the standard to future-proof and allow for climate change - not just replacement"

Mingara

"Green/ biodiversity roofs and water sensitive urban design as mandatory for larger developments"

Erina

"Transport infrastructure by state must abide by local biodiversity controls"

Ettalong



# D15 Asset Lifestyle Analysis Comments

## Theme 3: Provision and maintenance of current infrastructure

"Council have not spent a cent on Davistown and the effects of erosion are very clear to see"

Erina

"Start planning to protect waterfront that could be affected with D15. Retaining walls - like Yattalunga. Start now"

Erina

"Not sure how this policy would be applied to existing assets - do we close a road if it floods in king tides?"

Ettalong

"Incorporate a greater sense of upgrading & securing prime infrastructure - water, sewerage etc."

Erina

## Theme 4: Waste management

"Waste storage supply must be absolutely, completely free of runoff of waste disposal facilities"

Ettalong

"Use landfill gas to power sewerage works e.g. at Kincumber tip & sewerage works nearby"

Erina

"Reduce waste to landfill a priority. E.g. organise waste to composting, soft plastic recycling"

Erina

"Council to inform and enforce soil contamination, use of pesticides. We need proper green waste, recycling, soft plastics system in place, local food growing systems, council to provide initiatives for locals, nature strips & common areas"

Erina



# *Findings in Detail:*

## *4. Policy Commitment Statements*

### *4.3 Sea Level Rise and Adaptation*

***D10.** Review and update the sea level rise planning levels and coastal hazards based on Representative Concentration Pathway Scenarios 8.5 and latest scientific research adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for planning in coastal areas and developing appropriate plans and strategies that recognise the long term need to protect, redesign, rebuild, elevate, relocate or retreat as sea levels rise.*

# Sea Level Rise & Adaptation Overview

Sea Level Rise and Adaptation appears to be a driving factor that determines many respondents level of support for the Draft Policy overall. Across all Workshops, Online Guided and Additional Submissions it is evident that the element of a planned retreat and reliance on the RCP 8.5 has received a lot of negative attention – primarily due to concerns of why is Council focusing on an issue that may not happen and will have a detrimental effect on the community by greatly impacting the financial and social wellbeing of residents.

A lack of information and the provision of flood mapping was also a driving factor that limits the amount of support received, as residents feel they are unable to make an informed decision with such limited information provided. This was strongly highlighted amongst the Additional Submissions with 119 references to the planned retreat, 112 references to the availability of mapping and many other comments in relation to extending the exhibition period once adequate information is available, sea level rise has not been seen locally, more evidence is needed and there is no need for a worst case scenario.

Online Guided Submissions were quite similar to the Additional Submissions with many stating the sea level has not risen, a strong concern for the effect on residents if the planned retreat were to go ahead and the need for more preventative measures.

Key reasons for residents level of support:

## Reasons for support:



- Support for RCP 8.5 and the planned retreat
- Support for long-term planning and being proactive with assets and infrastructure
- Some participants believe the sea level rise will be higher

## Reasons for being unsure/against:



- Remove the last part of the statement
- Against the planned retreat
- Concerns for financial impacts on residents/insurance premiums
- Lower the RCP/do not reference the RCP at all
- Do not believe the sea level is rising
- Need more information, evidence and maps
- Leave it for State and Federal Government

# Sea Level Rise & Adaptation Overview

Looking at the responses from the Online Guided Submissions in more detail, comments gravitated negatively towards the lack of support for this statement on the basis of no sea level rise, against the planned retreat and the impact on residents.

"I have lived in Davistown for 20 years and seen no change in sea levels. I do not believe there is any data to suggest this is occurring and to the contrary it may support no change"

"Councils current review process is using global sea level rises instead of looking at what is happening locally. RCP 8.5 is the most extreme level and this is not the level that should be used. the state government has also confirmed that it does not include retreat as one of its options for dealing with innate change and neither should Council"

"Lose the word retreat. There is no State or Federal Government policy on retreat, even the State opposition does not have a clear policy. Literature recognises this is an emotive subject and must be detailed for the community to understand potential consequences of this Policy"

"In the 11 years I have lived on the coast I have seen the sea levels get lower not rise"

"I think it is important to plan for a high level of change as progress towards emissions reduction is very slow. Consider the impact of sea level rise on the vulnerable community - low income, people with disability and seniors may be most affected. Council has an obligation to consider these groups and it should be reflected in the Policy"

Other Online Guided Submissions questioned the need for a planned retreat, and mentioned preventative measures and more information and consultation with the community.

"D10 should go to the top of council's list of must-do as soon as possible"

"Sea walls should be your 1st thoughts as these would be much cheaper than knocking our houses down"

"Would be more than happy with protect, redesign, rebuild and elevate if that can be done with reasonable requirements that work with the community not against it. I don't see how relocating or retreating can help anyone or how that will change sea level rise"

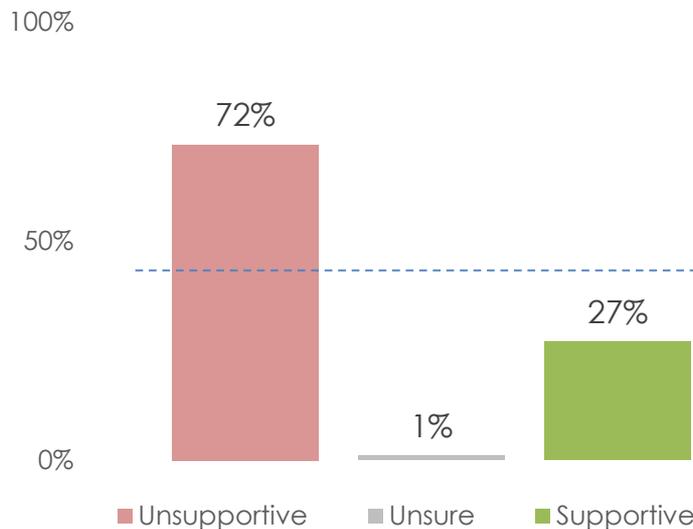
"I believe that adaption by good planning policies is essential. The policies should be strong and enforceable given there are many climate change doubters who have difficulty accepting the science and reality of sea level rise. Retreat must be ultimately considered where necessary because the costs of protecting expensive property or infrastructure is prohibitive and ultimately may be futile. It is essential that potential buyers of property should be fully aware of future risk before purchase"

# Support for D10 – Online vs Workshop

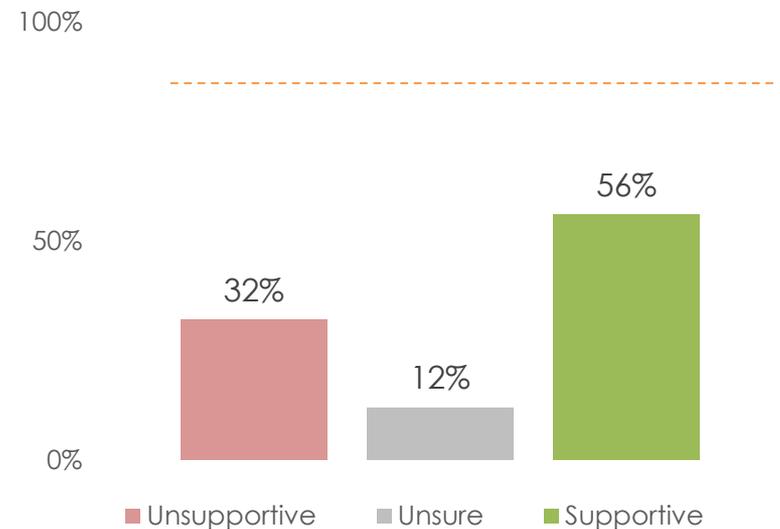
**D10.** Review and update the sea level rise planning levels and coastal hazards based on Representative Concentration Pathway Scenarios 8.5 and latest scientific research adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for planning in coastal areas and developing appropriate plans and strategies that recognise the long term need to protect, redesign, rebuild, elevate, relocate or retreat as sea levels rise.

Unsurprisingly, D10 received the lowest level of support across both the Online Guided Submissions and the Workshops, with 27% of Online Guided Submissions supportive and 56% of Workshop attendees supportive of Council reviewing and updating the sea level rise planning levels and coastal hazards.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 128  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 341  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward



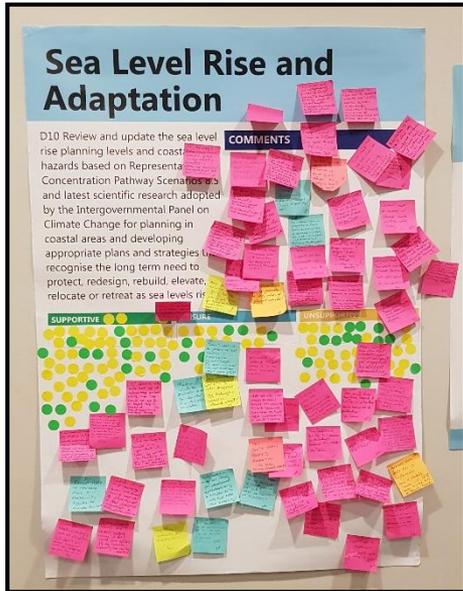


## D10 Sea Level Rise Planning Levels - Workshops

The sea level rise and adaptation statement was the most controversial across all Workshops. However, some attendees were supportive of the fact that Council is attempting and considering long-term planning and adaptation and others believe this should have been happening years ago.

Common themes were identified across all five Workshops, these include:

- Focus on the 'planned retreat':** Although we cannot quantify this at all, our sense is that during the Workshops there initially was strong opposition to the planned retreat option (particularly from those attending the Erina and Ettalong Workshops) – however, as the participants became more informed of the range of options opposition softened for some. Participants were unsure as to why the planned retreat is mentioned in this stage, as they view this to be an action/strategy and there was a desire for more information on this topic. Participants believe Council needs to proactively prepare and focus on positive adaptation actions like protect, redesign, rebuild and elevate to avoid the need to consider options such as relocate and retreat. Conversely, some participants were in support of a planned retreat, in a sense that it should be considered as a last resort and that it is essential.
- Financial concerns:** Following on from the focus on the planned retreat, participants expressed concerns regarding the financial impact on residents e.g. the value of their homes, relocation costs, insurance hikes, reimbursement or buy-back schemes. Participants believe the Policy only addresses the risks of Council and not the financial implications on home owners if the planned retreat were to be put in effect. Some participants do not want their rates allocated to protecting a few coastal homes and believe that private owners should contribute to building sea walls or if they don't accept a retreat then they should not expect taxpayer funded protection.



Picture from the Ettalong workshop

## D10 Sea Level Rise Planning Levels - Workshops

Common themes continued:

- **Wording of the statement:** Attendees questioned the meaning of some of the words within the statement and made various comments about the end part of the statement. Particularly, the removal of the 'scary words' and suggestions of dropping off the last couple of lines from the statement all together and look at those later in the adaptation/actions rather than the Policy.
- **RCP 8.5:** Attendees provided mixed responses and support to RCP 8.5. There was discussion that mentioning the RCP sounds pessimistic and Council should be optimistic and encouraging residents to lower their emissions. Some attendees showed their support for RCP 8.5, whilst others suggested exploring different RCPs and removing any reference of it in the Policy as the specification is not needed and may need to change over time.
- **Disbelief:** There was debate amongst the community members as to whether or not sea level rise is happening, with some attendees stating that it is not happening as there is no evidence to support this, whilst others believe the sea level rise will be higher than predicted.
- **More information/notification:** Many attendees expressed the need for more information, particularly on the planned retreat, RCP 8.5, maps and area specific details such as flood mapping and what houses will be affected and will properties be given messages of section 149 (5).

Please see Appendix 1 for other concerns/suggestions/themes

# D10 Workshop Comments

## Theme 1: Planned retreat

"Protect, rebuild? But No planned retreat EVER"

Erina

"Planned retreat is an essential option for any policy"

Ettalong

"Why not planned retreat for bushfire?"

Ettalong

"As a resident of Davistown for many years I am against planned retreat at any cost. It would cause proposed devaluations, high insurance premiums and the end of the building/renovations"

Erina

## Theme 2: Financial concerns

"Any private owner who won't accept retreat should not expect tax payer funded protection in the long term"

Erina

"Cost of insurance for flood zones"

Wyong

"Who pays for planned retreat?"

Ettalong

"Retreat should be last resort. If necessary are home owners reimbursed the cost of their home"

Mingara



# D10 Workshop Comments

## Theme 3: Wording of the statement

"Should finish at the word "strategies". The last 3 lines should not be in Policy. They are an ACTION PLAN and (perhaps not the best one)"

Mingara

"Keep the scary words out of the policy"

Mingara

"Statement is not policy but an action statement"

Mingara

"Why does the policy provide no definition of planned retreat?"

Ettalong

## Theme 4: RCP

"Need to commit to achieving RCP 6.5 at a minimum and not just focus on RCP 8.5"

Mingara

"Needs to factor in actual temperatures & GHG emissions in the IPCC advice to gauge the most likely scenario - RCP 8.5 or higher or lower"

Mingara

"Adoption of scenario 8.5 will place burden on residents and sea level may not rise"

Wyong

"We are tracking worse than RCP 8.5 right now!"

Erina



# D10 Workshop Comments

## Theme 5: Disbelief

"There is no evidence of sea level rise"

Wyong

"Load of garbage"

Mingara

"You are assuming everyone believes in climate change, there is more scientific evidence to prove otherwise"

Erina

"No one knows what is going to happen in the future and I do not want something that may not happen to be included in 149 zoning Certificates which can have such a disastrous effect on your properties resale and insurance!"

Ettalong

## Theme 6: Need for more information

"Provide case studies on the effects of adaptive action on the property values and living standards of rate payers"

Mingara

"What is representation concentration Pathway scenarios 8.5? How does this affect me?"

Erina

"Why no maps? How can we make an informed submission without knowing how many houses are affected?"

Erina

"Actual sea level rise needs to be declared and shared publicly so that potential buyers are informed and can't claim ignorance if or when inundation occurs"

Erina



# *Findings in Detail:*

## *4. Policy Commitment Statements*

### *4.4 Disaster Management and Coastal Hazards*

***D11.** Support initiatives and education programs to enhance the Central Coast community's understanding and resilience to climate change risks; and provide directions for sustainable climate change mitigation and adaption activities.*

***D12.** Identify and develop systems and relevant planning mechanisms to consider Council's corporate climate change risks, ongoing disaster response and recovery activities.*

# Disaster Management & Coastal Hazards Overview

Overall the Disaster Management and Coastal Hazards section was highly supported by Workshop attendees and received mixed reviews during the Online Guided Submissions. The Online Guided Submission tended to focus on the Policy overall and less so on the specific clauses.

An overview of reasons across both methods of respondents being for or against the disaster Management and Coastal Hazards section are summarised below:

## Reasons for support:

- Helping the community help themselves through education and planning
- Working with the community and providing factual and detailed information in a way that the community can easily understand and engage with
- Emphasising the preventative measures and becoming more resilient

## Reasons for being unsure/against:

- Participants found the wording of the statements difficult to understand/overwhelming and vague
- Concern for access and connectivity during emergencies e.g. avoid past mistakes such as 'one road in, one road out' (particularly San Remo and the Peninsular) and mobile coverage
- Do not believe the Policy is in the best interests of the community and believe that Council will not be able to effectively manage this

## General comments from the Online Guided Submissions:

"I am not at all supportive because the Policy ignores the mundane and prudent actions that council could take to focus on this supposed disaster scenario of climate change"

"Disaster response and climate change control. Council has no capacity to complete these actions"

"This Policy is terrible and will devastate communities and Central Coast Council...it is just divisive and pushing a political agenda"

"Major disasters are usually covered by State or Federal agencies. I would love for Council to plan ahead but have no confidence it being able to do so"

# Support for D11 – Online vs Workshop

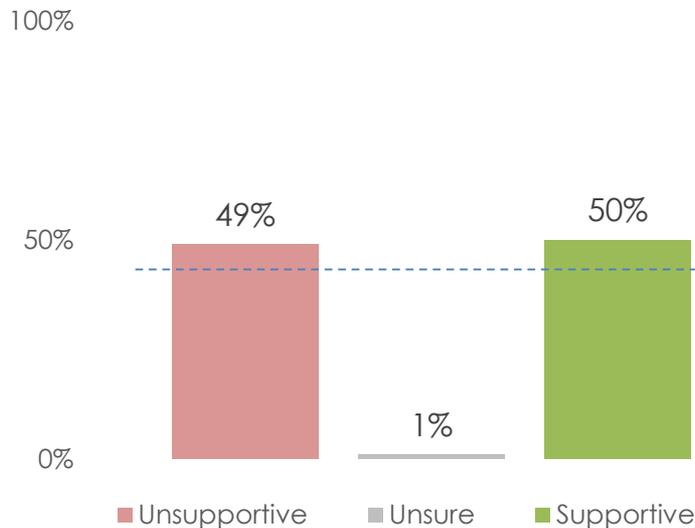
**D11.** Support initiatives and education programs to enhance the Central Coast community's understanding and resilience to climate change risks; and provide directions for sustainable climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

The Online Guided Submissions displayed a 50/50 for support and 87% of Workshop attendees were in support of Council initiatives and education programs to enhance the Central Coast community's understanding and resilience to climate change risks.

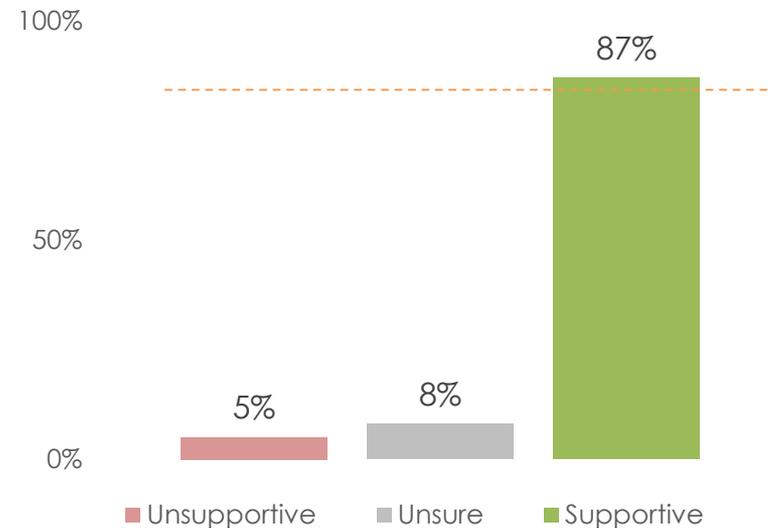
One Online Guided Submission stated that they would like to see the inclusion of a research component in D11, which informs the adoption of resilience measures and initiatives.

Many themes, specific to D11, were identified during the 5 Workshops and will be explored in further detail over the next slides.

## Level of Support - Online



## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Online N = 126  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

Base: Workshop N = 266  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





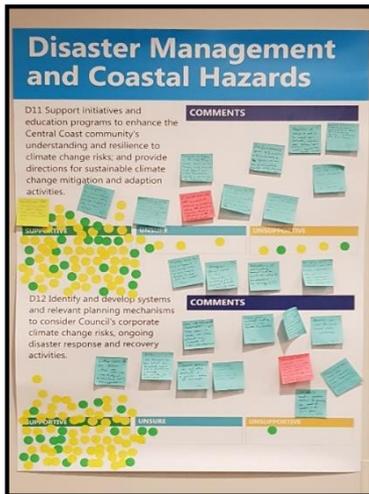
## D11 Initiatives and Education Programs - Workshop

87% of Workshop attendees were in support of Council initiatives and education programs to enhance the Central Coast community's understanding and resilience to climate change risks.

Two strong themes emerged from the comments regarding statement D11, these being:

- **Education:** The importance and effectiveness of education, particularly for preventative measures and understanding the potential risks involved. There was also the need to reach all demographics, especially the youth as this will ultimately be their future so it is imperative the youth of today understand the impacts and consequences of tomorrow.
- **Wording of the statement:** A few attendees were also unsure about some of the wording used within the Policy and what it could mean as the statement and explanation lacks specific information. Some suggestions included changes to specific words and splitting D11 into two separate statements.

Other concerns raised include reducing development on 'high or at risk' areas, effective waste management, disbelief and lack of evidence that climate change is creating these issues and suggestions regarding ways to prevent disasters and become more resilient.



Picture from the Ettalong workshop



# D11 Workshop Comments



## Theme 1: Education

"Lots of school based programs & support youth climate actions"

Wyong

"How will the education program be carried out? How will the more doubtful members of the community be reached?"

Erina

"Start with school and youth programs to cover climate change risks and the creation of sustainable climate change. Knowledge creates change"

Mingara

"Yes, lots of education. Please not just SLR but fires etc. "

Wyong

"Facts, figures, initiatives and appreciation of the environment and it's climate need to be a focus in education. Future generations need to be prepared for what the will encounter"

Ettalong

"Education is critical. It would be great to have sections of the draft plan in CCC's info page in the newspaper & also the info from the introductory PowerPoint presentation"

Erina

"Education needs to be site based and from local council"

Erina

"Education is very important to mobilise people to act and explain the impact of climate destruction"

Erina

"Educating community as to 'why' policy is important first"

Erina



# D11 Workshop Comments

## Theme 2: Wording of the statement

"D11 should be split into 2 statements at the ';"

Mingara

"I would also like to see 'climate restoration' in the policy not just adaptation & mitigation"

Erina

"Open beach - what does that mean? Why not just beaches?"

Ettalong

"Depends on what policies - very open statement"

Erina

"As well as looking at climate history of the last 100 years, what is history, records & documentation telling us about climate change through the ages & how is this being incorporated into local policy?"

Erina

## Theme 3: Development

"Discourage building on areas prone to flooding"

Erina

"No new development in 'at risk' areas???"

Erina

"Rock walls are not the answer at the beachfronts. They cause severe erosion as the waves hit, not a soft landing as in dunes. Development of houses is too close, the dunes are necessary for the replenishment of sand"

Erina

"Allow Council to reject development in dangerous or high risk areas"

Erina



# D11 Workshop Comments

## Theme 4: Waste management

"Separate waste streams for recycling goods not co-mingling"

Mingara

"Action to minimise & eliminate the use of rubbish fires on private land which contribute to both air pollution & bushfire risk"

Mingara

"Open pile burning: consider burning of leaves, bark, branches immediately after rain"

Mingara

"Yellow bins should be collected weekly and the red bins fortnightly"

Mingara

## Other comments

"Council is trying to do one thing and behind our backs big business and GOVT are letting destructive industry continue to destroy"

Ettalong

"Illustrate the council assets & services at risk = i.e. how it affect Mr & Mrs Citizen. Then show plan to avoid it"

Ettalong

"Give priority to low socio economic areas. Provide support & money to help adapt"

Ettalong

"Identify heat and flood emergency places in heat wave conditions for people without AC"

Ettalong



# Support for D12 – Online vs Workshop

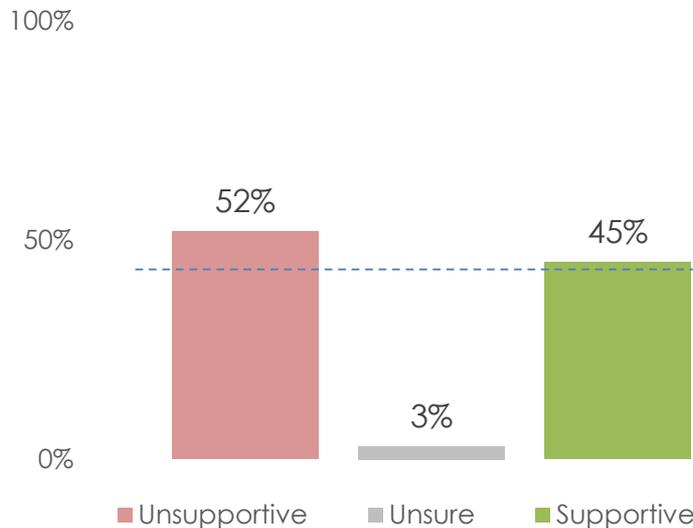
**D12.** Identify and develop systems and relevant planning mechanisms to consider Council's corporate climate change risks, ongoing disaster response and recovery activities.

Again, Online Guided Submissions were less supportive with almost equal levels of support (52% unsupportive, 45% supportive). Those that attended the Workshops expressed much greater levels of support, with 91% supportive of D12.

As the Online Guided Submissions were asked to provide comments on Disaster Management and Coastal Hazards as a whole, there were minimal comments that specifically referenced D12. These comments stated that they found D12 to be unclear and would like to see commitment to community involvement in the process and education of a broader sector.

On the next slide we will explore the comments from the Workshops in detail.

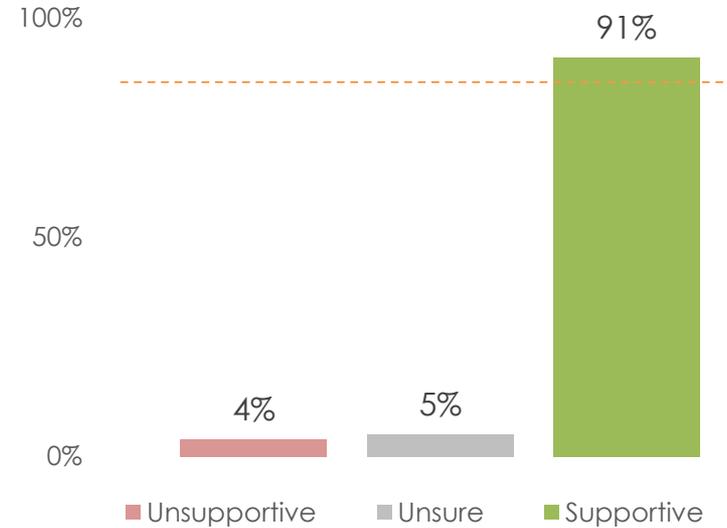
## Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 126  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

--- Average Online Guided Submissions Support  
--- Average Workshop Support

## Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 232  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward





## D12 Disaster Response and Recovery Activities - Workshops

Council's planning mechanisms for disaster response and recovery activities was supported by 91% of attendees.

Key themes that were identified during the 5 Workshops include:

- **Restricting development in high risk areas:** Attendees would like to see Council putting more restriction on the developments that are currently being approved in high risk areas and educating developers on/enforcing sustainable and resilient planning for all new developments.
- **Lack of information in the statement:** A sense of 'what does this really mean?' was present, with attendees requesting more information and clarification on what the specific plans would be and the potential impacts on the public.
- **Protection and resilience planning of natural and built assets:** Opportunities are present to better protect natural and built assets and prevent detrimental effects from climate change, particularly for coastal areas.
- **Connectivity during emergency events:** The provision of network systems, e.g. mobile coverage, for the community to stay connected and aware during emergencies and extreme weather events.

Other points raised include support for Warnervale Airport to be used as a basis for emergency aircrafts, concerns regarding extreme weather events, accessibility/evacuation, food and water supply.



## Theme 1: Restricting development in high risk areas

"Resilience planning must be compulsory to all new developments"

Ettalong

"Counsellor needs to consider access & capacity of roads etc. for evacuation & road safety. Before they pass DA's which will increase crowding on roads"

Ettalong

"Don't develop in dangerous/ risky area"

Erina

"Council are currently allowing developers to put our community at risk with inappropriate developments that increase flood risk"

Ettalong

## Theme 2: Lack of information

"Depends to systems ?? Very open ended/ grey statement"

Erina

"What does disaster response mean?  
Takeaway people's homes?  
Devastate their lives?"

Erina

"The policy sets a framework under which no clear information is being given on how these statements will be interpreted & then implemented"

Ettalong

"Local residents need a policy that gives them some say in managing fuel hazards, time management, Electromagnetic radiation management"

Mingara



## Theme 3: Protecting natural and built assets

“Opportunistic approach to improve infrastructure following disasters rather than rebuild as was e.g. more powerlines underground following significant storm damage”

Mingara

“Plant more mangroves around still tidal waterways to mitigate flooding”

Erina

“No effort has been made at Green Point waterfront to prevent the reserve gradually disappearing out into the bay”

Erina

“Resilience planning using natural “barriers””

Mingara

## Theme 4: Connectivity

“Redundancy of mobile phone towers must be built into network for disasters e.g. 2015 ECL”

Ettalong

“As ratepayers we are not informed on an ongoing basis of relevant issues affecting our community. Put us all on an email database”

Mingara

“Mobile phone coverage must be 100% in all residential areas.”

Ettalong

“The Peninsular has been cut off from the outside world due to bushfire & storms. How will this be addressed?”

Ettalong



## Other comments

"Support local Warnervale Airport for: - 1. Fire Fighting aircraft 2. Emergency Evacuation Aircraft 3. Emergency provision of supplies to assist with building resilience to disasters like bushfires"

Mingara

"Local food growth policy to develop unused Council land"

Erina

"Support Warnervale Airport as assets for fire-fighting aircraft and for air ambulance services and for emergency relief supplies if roads are cut"

Mingara

"Strict DCP - embed in LEP. Resource plans for disaster impact"

Ettalong

"Current short comings in RFS staffing need addressing"

San Remo

"Very important to practice clear, direct communication to communities who are at risk and reduce and chance of fear mongering or hyperbole that cause confusion"

Wyong

"What analysis is being done to calculate cost of disaster response to protect private assets built in highly vulnerable locations"

Erina

"Some resident areas have only one escape route"

San Remo

"It's better to invest in innovative industries to minimise the extent of disasters in the first place"

Ettalong

"There are instances of flooding at present that are ignored and have no warning systems. So what happens when there is more frequent flooding?"

San Remo

*Findings in Detail:*

## *4. Policy Commitment Statements*

### *4.5 Biodiversity*

**D13.** *Address the impacts of climate change in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management planning, wildlife connectivity and reduce ecosystem degradation across the Central Coast region.*

# Biodiversity Overview

Similar to Disaster Management, Biodiversity received very high levels of support from the Workshop attendees and mixed levels of support for the Online Guided Submissions.

Notably however, respondents from both Online Guided Submissions and at the Workshops believe that biodiversity is important and Council should already be addressing these issues.

Below is a summary of themes from the Workshops:

## Reasons for support:



- Support for Coastal Open Space Scheme
- Support for urban tree retention and protecting the environment/wildlife
- Citizen science based projects
- Community education
- This is an area that Council should be addressing regardless of climate change

## Reasons for being unsure/against:



- No seismic testing, gas and oil exploration
- Wording of the statement e.g. use simpler terms
- Stop overdevelopment/land clearing
- More need for Council involvement e.g. managing compliance not only with developers but also the local community with litter and animal management

On the next slide, we will look at some of the Online Guided Submission responses more closely...



# Biodiversity Overview

Some Online Guided Submissions were supportive as they believe too much degradation has occurred, however, there were some comments that they do not believe in climate change, this is not Council's responsibility, Council is not able to manage/adhere to the Policy and that the Draft Policy will limit growth by potentially hindering development, farmlands, local jobs and the economy.

"You allow these to happen by allowing the building of rail maintenance sites, not checking on the sediment control of any building site the lack of upkeep on sediment traps around the area just to name a few failings"

"I doubt Council once again has the ability to handle this. yes let's get back to basics of what everyone wants from Council – yes, decent roads"

"This is just another attempt by Central Coast Council to close down farmland and other forms of commercial activity in the Hinterland so that it can turn everything west of Somersby into a wilderness area of no commercial or food value"

"We can see how Council and our mayor plans to use biodiversity to damage the ability of Council to provide land for future residential development on the Central Coast by the current exhibition of the Lake Munmorah structure plan. This is how Council intends to use biodiversity as a weapon to smash future development, jobs and our local economy. This is an entirely biased approach and does not equally address the quadruple bottom line"

Other Online Guided Submissions stated that Council needs to simplify the wording of D13, consider more concrete targets and supportive of adaptation models and the retention/enhancement of COSS.

"Biodiversity and protection of existing vegetation including COSS land is a necessity. The role of green spaces as a buffer to effects of climate change and heat bowl effects are well documented and cannot be ignored. The COSS lands meet this need and should be more effectively protected by better zoning. Council needs to take a far more aggressive stance to protect existing vegetation where building applications are concerned so that loss of trees in our suburbs is stopped before it is too late"

"There is increasing evidence of local extinctions and the potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Council could consider including or referencing more concrete targets or strategy in D13"

"This is most important. Too much degradation has occurred, too many trees cut down which disturbs tree lives. The environment must be preserved at all costs"

"D13 - support retention of existing and enhancement of COSS, and development of strategies and implementation plans for weed management. Environmental weeds in public and private areas are out of control"

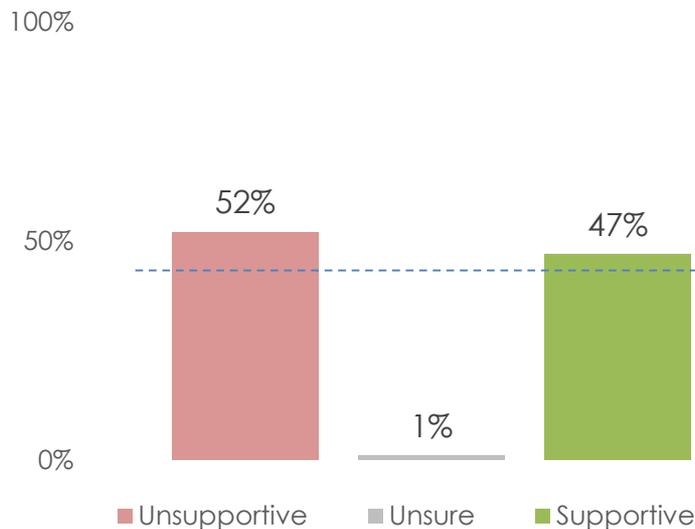
# Support for D13 – Online vs Workshop

**D13.** Address the impacts of climate change in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management planning, wildlife connectivity and reduce ecosystem degradation across the Central Coast region.

Statement D13 received the highest level of support overall from the Workshops, with 94% stating they were supportive. This appears to be largely driven by the idea that Council should already be addressing this and protecting the natural environment on the Central Coast is vital.

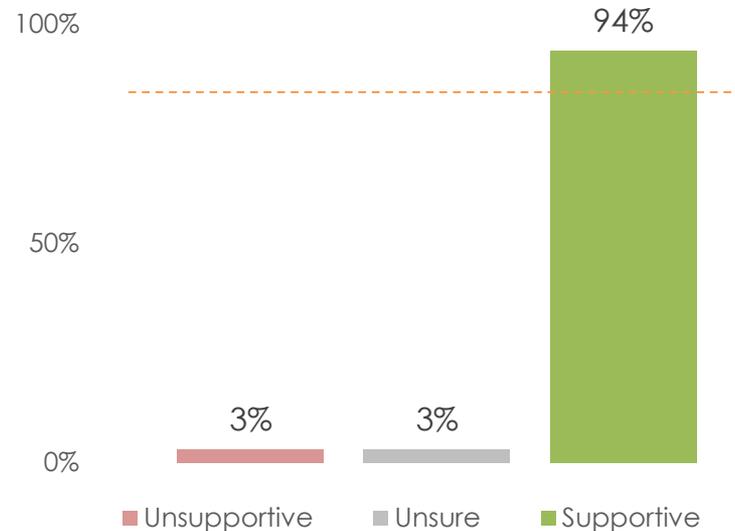
Support for D13 was much lower for Online Guided Submissions, with 47% stating they were supportive (yet, higher than the overall average level of support).

### Level of Support - Online



Base: Online N = 129  
Please see Appendix 2 for detailed level of support

### Level of Support - Workshop



Base: Workshop N = 279  
Please see Appendix 2 for support by Ward



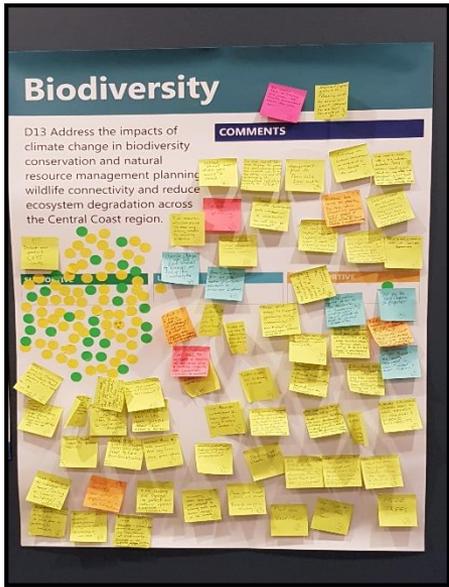


## D13 Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management



Common themes were identified across all five Workshops, these include:

- **Urban tree retention:** The protection and regeneration of trees was a popular topic across all Wards, with the need for the protection of existing trees in urban areas and on private land and replanting trees once they have been removed for developments. There was also mention of the need for more qualified arborists, the need for specific policies and penalties to protect trees, a draft tree development control plan and clear indications of who can authorise the removal of trees. Participants believe trees are vital to reduce the effects of urban hotspots with Council mitigating and addressing urban heat issues by providing shelter and shade through trees.



- **Support for the Coast Open Space System (COSS):** Community members were supportive of the COSS as this provides protection and promotion of urban green corridors, community and wildlife gardens, nature strips and provides recreation areas for the community.
- **Development and environmental protection:** Attendees expressed the need for effective ecologically sustainable development at the strategic planning stage with the inclusion of adequate trees, drainage, less concrete and so on. Attendees also believe that Council needs to stop letting the big industries and corporations dictate what happens to prevent overdevelopment and land clearing, including developments on wetlands.

Picture from the Ettalong workshop

Please see Appendix 1 for other concerns/suggestions/themes



# D13 Workshop Comments

## Theme 1: Urban tree retention

"Lack of trees heating up the Peninsula around town centres"

Ettalong

"Develop stronger planning policies to protect & replace trees"

Erina

"Stop tree removal if within 10m of homes"

San Remo

"Plant two trees for everyone one cut down! Co-ordinate with local groups - community gardens"

Wyong

## Theme 2: Coastal Open Space System

"Wyong should have COSS scheme. Gosford has the most extensive green areas is NSW per capita. COSS needs to be spent on western COSS"

Mingara

"COSS needs to be fully protected from development (threat from State GOVT planning)"

San Remo

"As vegetation will both support biodiversity and ameliorate C.C what will happen to existing COSS and will this be extended"

Erina

"Protect COSS land!! E2 zone not enough - a previous vital asset"

Erina

## Theme 3: Development and environmental protection

"Many problems are due to the removal of all habitat by developers with no proper control e.g. removal of 100 year old trees and moving soil around. Killing wildlife and conserving diversity. Council needs to press State/Federal Government to produce much greater regulation and also acquire sufficient funds through sect 96 from developers to monitor developers actions and enforce the law"

Wyong

"No more rezoning land from protection for biodiversity to development - aka Glenning Valley"

Erina

"Promote sustainable living. Solar, wind and going off grid. Using tank water for lots more than laundry and toilets"

San Remo

"Concern for threatened species - but also for lizards, kooka's bees etc. Concreting over land"

Erina

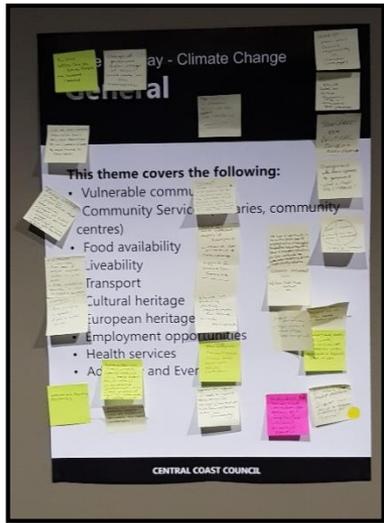
*Findings in Detail:*

## *4. Policy Commitment Statements*

### *4.6 General Issues*



# General Issues Overview - Workshops



Picture from the Mingara workshop



Picture from the Ettalong workshop

An initial online community survey conducted by Council in late 2018 identified a number of 'General issues' that were not included in the Draft Policy – workshop participants were encouraged to provide feedback on these 'other' issues.

Many concerns were raised during the Workshops that attendees believe have not been adequately considered or covered in the Draft Policy:

- **Transport:** Increased public transport, more innovative forms of transport, climate impacts on transport, security and connectivity
- **Consult/educate the community:** Educating the community (i.e. future generations) to be more sustainable and resilient, raise awareness of climate change. Increased consultation with all members of the community including consideration of cultural and heritage aspects i.e. inclusion of the indigenous community.
- **Employment:** Opportunities to increase employment opportunities with the developments of new technologies and alternative industries. Also concerns raised for loss of employment in existing industries if they were to diminish, e.g. power stations.
- **Vulnerable communities:** Concerns for those living in substandard conditions and members of the community who can't afford to be more resilient, is there consideration and initiatives to assist these people? Also concern for the elderly and disabled who are less mobile during emergencies.
- **Health risks:** Working with local health authorities to plan for potential risks, diseases and infections. Also the need for more consideration of mental health and social wellbeing impacts particularly with financial stresses.
- Other concerns include: food availability and security, liveability, adequate resources and response, waste reduction/reduce consumerism and renewable resources.

# General Issues Workshop Comments

## Theme 1: Transport

"Need to improve bus transport for locals - more often, smaller buses, later services"

San Remo

"Improve transport especially for commuters and parking at stations on Peninsula"

Ettalong

"Investigate electric trains that run on trackless routes as in WA and China"

Erina

"Where are the charging/ infrastructure for electric vehicles? Electric bus services"

Erina

## Theme 2: Consultation/ Education

"Ongoing workshops at each stage of the process would be very good & important for ongoing community education"

San Remo

"Cross cultural engagement across Indigenous communities"

Erina

"Education for future generations. Consultation: listen to community, especially young people & Indigenous"

Wyong

"Local Aboriginal culture representation on climate change"

Ettalong

## Theme 3: Employment

"Incentive schemes for industries to develop & roll out renewable technologies on the Coast >more employment opportunity"

Wyong

"Address employment loss e.g. Coal fired power stations etc."

Mingara

"We have an opportunity to be on the front foot re: employment - encouraging innovative industries with a focus on renewables"

Mingara

"Local jobs could be created in helping renting and low income households with energy efficiency. Can council help (with State GOVT grant)?"

Ettalong

# General Issues Workshop Comments

## Theme 4: Vulnerable communities

"Address split incentives for low income households"

Ettalong

"How to engage the most vulnerable in climate change interest and how it might impact all, when they just get by day by day"

Erina

"substandard housing is more susceptible to elements & insecure housing"

Wyong

"What if disadvantaged people can't afford to be resilient?"

Wyong

## Theme 5: Health risks

"Health risks considered?"

Wyong

"Water borne diseases >increase?"

Wyong

"Health Risks - Dengue Fever/ Heat Stress. Look to adopt NSW Health note work"

Ettalong

"Update health care, not enough palliative or aged care for aging population"

Erina

## Other comments

"Liveability - more trees to mitigate temperature increase in urban areas"

Mingara

"On very hot days Council's buildings need to be opened for extended hours and have back-up power to provide refuge for people suffering from the heat rise"

Wyong

"Food availability & local produce"

Erina

"Climate change is a social issue too"

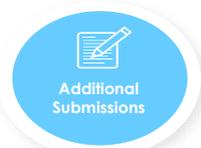
Ettalong

# Findings in Detail:

## 5. Additional Submissions



# Additional Submissions



Many of the Additional Submissions were from those that had attended the Workshops and wished to provide further detail, feedback and information on their concerns or reason for support. Additional Submissions were also received from concerned residents in specific areas that feel they will be directly impacted from this Draft Policy, i.e. 70 identical submissions were received expressing the concerns of residents on St Huberts Island. Other submissions were from the general community, community groups (e.g. Community Environment Network, Northern Lakes Disability Tourism Precinct and Bouddi Peninsula Senior Citizens Association) and local businesses such as building and development companies, Australian Conservation Foundation and Central Coast Local Health District.

A wide range of key themes emerged from the Additional Submissions, with many very similar to those identified during the community workshops. A tabulation and summary of themes is provided below:

Theme	Count
No planned retreat	119
Maps	112
Extend the closing date of the exhibition period	83
Not Councils responsibility (State and Federal issue)	80
More communication & consultation with community	78
Use Lake Macquarie approach	71
More information needed	30
Financial/social impacts for community	22
Council should stick to the basics (roads, rates, rubbish, etc.)	15
Sea level rise not seen locally	13
No worst case scenario	12
More evidence needed	11
Discredited information (draft based on biased/incorrect/irrelevant info)	6

# Additional Submissions – Policy Specific



There were a couple of Additional Submissions that more focused on the DCP rather than the Draft CCP and identified the need for the CCP to be created before the DCP as they believe the DCP relies heavily upon information that does not exist yet or is currently being explored in the Draft CCP.

Other Additional Submissions included specific comments and amendments to the Policy, as summary has been provided below:

Clause/Area	Suggestion/Comment
A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should reference not only Council, but the entire community</li> <li>• Scrambles the State Climate Change Policy Framework and omits reference to the emissions reduction objective.</li> </ul>
A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is poorly drafted and lacks clarity</li> </ul>
Policy Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition to the Policy Background – 'It is now widely held by Australian regulators that entities need to address legal liability for and disclosure of climate risks'</li> <li>• Change title to 'Policy Context'</li> </ul>
B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base this clause on the most recent IPCC Assessment report (AR5 - 2014)</li> </ul>
B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should use the term 'objective' not 'target'</li> <li>• Reword suggestion: "The NSW objectives are to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and for NSW to be more resilient to a changing climate"</li> </ul>
B5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policy needs to only refer to those hazards which are climate connected</li> </ul>
B7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest that this include Council's commitment to the UN's 2030 agenda for sustainable development</li> </ul>
C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reference to Council being a leader could be ambiguous and negatively misinterpreted, consider rewording</li> </ul>
C3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The notion of embedding (climate change in decision-making) is only weakly captured in the draft Policy</li> </ul>
C5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C5 is mentioned twice, once within the Purpose and again in Strategic Principles</li> <li>• Change heading to 'Ecologically Sustainable Development'</li> </ul>
C6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to interpret - seems at odds with 'Holistic Approach' contained in F5</li> </ul>
C7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reword suggestion: '...based on decision making to manage and mitigate the impact of changing circumstances'</li> <li>• Reword suggestion: "Ability to apply the best available science and facts when Council makes decisions on implementation of climate change response"</li> </ul>
C8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus should be on partnership with community, business and other stakeholders</li> </ul>

# Additional Submissions – Policy Specific



Clause/Area	Suggestion/Comment
D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reword suggestion: "...addressing climate change impacts..."</li> </ul>
D5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be more ambitious</li> <li>Reword suggestion: "Council pursue actions to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions commensurate with the Australian Government's Paris commitment to reduce emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2030 and the NSW Government's aspirational objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050"</li> </ul>
D6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delete reference to regional emissions inventory</li> </ul>
D8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear why reference is made in this clause to place-based approach</li> </ul>
D9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development plans should adapt to climate change goals</li> <li>Address dual objectives of climate risks and emissions reduction in planning and development. E.g. "Consider climate change risks and emissions reductions as part of Council's strategic planning process for urban growth..."</li> </ul>
D10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All options should be considered</li> <li>Support RCP 8.5</li> <li>D10 cannot be committed to until C2, C5, C7, D1, D2, D7, D8 and D9 have all been addressed and enacted</li> <li>This clause delves into a level of implementation detail not present in other clauses. Consider deleting this clause as it can developed further in the DCP, a Sea Level Rise Policy or Coastal Zone Management Plan.</li> </ul>
D13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reword suggestion: 'Impacts of climate change' should be changed to 'climate change risk'</li> <li>More protection from development</li> </ul>
D15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should use more specific language e.g. 'full' life cycle</li> <li>Reword suggestion: "Consider adaptation to climate change risks and emissions reductions opportunities in the asset life cycle analysis for all new and existing infrastructure assets of Council"</li> </ul>
D18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reword suggestion: "Conduct an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory associated with the operations of Council, including..."</li> </ul>
D21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficult to understand what D21 is trying to achieve, very similar to D19. Could be deleted or reworded so this intent is clear</li> </ul>

# Additional Submissions – Policy Specific



Clause/Area	Suggestion/Comment
Policy Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the title to 'Policy Application' as these clauses show how it will apply within Council</li> </ul>
F10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of 'wherever practicable' weakens the policy</li> <li>• Is a long description needed in a definition?</li> </ul>
F11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reword suggestion: Change 'generation' to 'generations'</li> </ul>
F13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To also include the ability for Council to use satellite based mapping</li> </ul>
F2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I reject this definition as climate change is here and now</li> </ul>
F3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend F3 and delete F8 as both of these refer to climate mitigation</li> </ul>
F6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusing and vague. Place-based approach has already been defined in C10</li> </ul>
New section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a new section called 'Policy Implementation' which summarises the next steps e.g. dates and details of developing a Climate Change Action Plan and measures to be addressed such as A Coastal Management Plan, A Sea Level Rise Policy, etc.</li> <li>• Policy Review' to state this policy will be reviewed in X years to reflect the state framework, Updated IPCC and advancing technology</li> </ul>
Additional Policy Commitment Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in Council's corporate reporting framework an assessment of material climate risks – financial, legal, physical, social and environmental (this clause gives implementation effect to C4)</li> <li>• Apply in Council's financial reports the recommended voluntary accounting practices set out in the Australian Accounting Standards Board Practice Statement 2 dealing with climate-related and other emerging risks disclosure</li> <li>• Add another commitment statement that acknowledges the vision to research both international and national community sustainability projects to inform both social and economic approaches</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept of 'shared responsibility' to be included in definitions</li> </ul>

# Appendix 1: Policy Summary, Purpose and Strategic Principles Themes



# Policy Summary



Summary of Online Guided comment themes about the Policy Summary:

- Against the Policy
- Need more evidence/based only on forecasts and projections
- Remove the planned retreat
- Detrimental to the community/discriminatory to certain residents
- Financial concerns
- Insufficient mapping of affected areas
- Not a Council issue/it is a Federal or State Government issue
- The sea level has not risen/do not believe it will rise
- Supportive of minimising/mitigating Climate Change
- Provision of more information/community consultation
- More time should be given to respond
- Supportive of the need for a climate change policy
- Waste of time and resources
- Do not believe in climate change
- Policy is unrealistic/exaggerated/"overkill"
- Policy is too political/largely influenced by activists
- Not in the best interests of the community/not needed
- Policy is vague/too broad

# Policy Summary



Summary of Online Guided comment themes about the Policy Summary (continued):

- Policy should outline strategy actions
- Policy should be more upfront/transparent with planned retreat
- Should be protecting our environment, not making room for more development
- Policy needs to go further/have stronger targets
- Focus on basic services
- Should cooperate with residents/ratepayers/all levels of government
- Should have more awareness of the policy
- Leave the policy as is
- Council should not be able to make decisions about properties
- Council's wellbeing should not be considered in policy
- Do not punish existing development controls
- Will be a challenge to implement the policy
- The policy is too aggressive
- Policy is a chance for Council to impose anything they desire
- Obvious the decision has been made regardless of public feedback
- Council should be implementing cleaner/greener actions without the requiring a policy
- We were advised we had 1 year to undertake the survey but the policy will be under adoption in June
- The policy adequately covers aspects of climate change

# Policy Purpose



Summary of Online Guided comment themes about the Policy Purpose:

- Not Council's responsibility
- Do not believe in climate change/sea level rise
- Climate change takes time so should focus on mitigating/minimising impacts to the community
- Not in the best interests of the community/will devastate community
- Wording of the statement could be improved e.g. too vague, too wordy, unsure of what it means
- Remove the planned retreat
- Against the Policy/not at all supportive
- Council should focus on basic services
- Financial concerns
- Council does not have the expertise to deal with the complexities of climate change
- Would like to see action/follow through on promises
- Waste of time and resources
- Council are looking after their own interests
- Mapping of regions affected by sea level rise
- Council is pushing a political agenda
- Provision of more information/community consultation
- Support for Adaptation Model
- The proposed policy does not address the directions in CCRP 2036
- Purpose of this policy is tokenism

# Policy Purpose



Summary of Online Guided comment themes about the Policy Purpose (continued):

- Do not trust Council
- Focus is in the wrong area
- Asset-based community development should be considered
- We need non-partisan approach/everyone on board
- What is the timeline for these targets?
- Supportive of policy statements
- Money should not be spent helping businesses/residents that have chosen inappropriate locations
- Council should contact each resident/business that will be affected by the policy
- More time should be given to respond
- Costs associated with changed development controls should not be given to one individual/section of society
- Burden of climate change to be recognise equally across society
- Build a coal fired power station
- Policy is going in the right direction
- Ensure the community is involved at every step of the way
- Purpose is to ensure that strategic decision making is made properly
- Policy statements do not reference impacts of climate change on the community
- Mayor shouldn't be involved as there is a conflict of interest
- Policy is a means to get further funding
- Policy is too focused on long term solutions and there is no immediate action

# Strategic Principles



Summary of Online Guided comment themes about the Strategic Principles:

- Provision of information/community consultation and involvement
- Do not believe in climate change
- Not Council's responsibility
- Wording of the statement could be improved e.g. too vague, too wordy, unsure of what it means
- Council should focus on basic services
- Financial concerns e.g. cost of insurance
- Policy is not in the best interests of the community/will devastate community
- Against the policy/not supportive of this Policy
- Strategic principles are good
- Council are looking after their own interests
- Development and environmental protection/ecological diversity
- Council is pushing a political agenda
- Mapping of regions affected by sea level rise
- Needs to be based on fact/science
- Support for place-based approach (including abiding by C10 and preservation of COSS)
- Waste of time and resources
- Against these principles
- Support for Adaptation Model rather than planned retreat
- Opposition to Planned Retreat

# Strategic Principles



Summary of Online Guided comment themes about the Strategic Principles (continued):

- Too many empty motherhood statements
- Precautionary principles/intergenerational equity
- Addition of a "fair implementation" strategy
- Do not support UN Agenda 21 and it's intended goals or Council's proposals towards it
- Ensure policy does not impact on safety and preservation of property of life by removal of any hazard reduction processes required for rural areas
- Council is not capable of implementing policies
- Focus on the issue of overpopulation and the heat island effect

# Appendix 2: Support of Policy Commitment Statements in Further Detail



# Level of Support by Ward – Workshops



Statement	Overall	Erina	Ettalong	Mingara	San Remo	Wyong
<b>D1</b>						
Support	90%	91%	93%	84%	80%	88%
Unsure	4%	8%	2%	4%	0%	0%
Unsupportive	6%	1%	5%	12%	20%	12%
Base	221	72	83	26	15	25
<b>D2</b>						
Support	90%	88%	95%	90%	84%	86%
Unsure	4%	10%	1%	0%	8%	0%
Unsupportive	5%	2%	4%	10%	8%	14%
Base	187	62	71	20	13	21
<b>D3</b>						
Support	87%	88%	89%	86%	69%	86%
Unsure	8%	12%	8%	0%	23%	0%
Unsupportive	5%	0%	3%	14%	8%	14%
Base	174	51	66	22	13	22
<b>D4</b>						
Support	86%	84%	87%	91%	88%	88%
Unsure	8%	13%	8%	0%	6%	0%
Unsupportive	6%	3%	5%	9%	6%	12%
Base	199	61	74	23	16	25
<b>D5</b>						
Support	66%	65%	63%	78%	44%	77%
Unsure	10%	10%	13%	0%	19%	0%
Unsupportive	25%	25%	24%	22%	38%	23%
Base	189	60	68	23	16	22
<b>D6</b>						
Support	76%	72%	73%	86%	67%	89%
Unsure	13%	23%	15%	0%	0%	0%
Unsupportive	11%	6%	12%	14%	33%	11%
Base	166	53	60	22	12	19

# Level of Support by Ward – Workshops



Statement	Overall	Erina	Ettalong	Mingara	San Remo	Wyong
<b>D7</b>						
Support	89%	93%	95%	90%	58%	82%
Unsure	3%	7%	0%	0%	17%	0%
Unsupportive	7%	0%	5%	10%	25%	18%
Base	147	42	55	21	12	17
<b>D8</b>						
Support	89%	100%	90%	94%	71%	67%
Unsure	5%	0%	5%	0%	7%	20%
Unsupportive	6%	0%	5%	6%	21%	13%
Base	148	41	62	16	14	15
<b>D9</b>						
Support	93%	93%	97%	88%	0%	86%
Unsure	3%	4%	2%	0%	0%	7%
Unsupportive	4%	4%	1%	12%	0%	7%
Base	187	54	81	24	0	28
<b>D10</b>						
Support	57%	53%	51%	68%	59%	80%
Unsure	12%	12%	13%	9%	23%	0%
Unsupportive	32%	35%	36%	24%	18%	20%
Base	341	129	126	34	22	30
<b>D11</b>						
Support	87%	85%	89%	89%	85%	88%
Unsure	8%	13%	5%	3%	15%	0%
Unsupportive	5%	2%	5%	8%	0%	13%
Base	266	93	91	37	13	32

# Level of Support by Ward – Workshops



Statement	Overall	Erina	Ettalong	Mingara	San Remo	Wyong
<b>D12</b>						
Support	91%	89%	95%	93%	91%	89%
Unsure	5%	9%	4%	0%	9%	0%
Unsupportive	3%	2%	1%	7%	0%	11%
Base	232	88	78	27	11	28
<b>D13</b>						
Support	94%	95%	98%	88%	86%	93%
Unsure	3%	5%	1%	3%	10%	0%
Unsupportive	3%	0%	1%	9%	5%	7%
Base	279	88	95	34	21	41
<b>D14</b>						
Support	89%	96%	91%	73%	81%	89%
Unsure	3%	0%	0%	19%	0%	0%
Unsupportive	8%	4%	9%	8%	19%	11%
Base	238	76	81	37	16	28
<b>D15</b>						
Support	85%	98%	76%	85%	59%	90%
Unsure	8%	1%	15%	4%	24%	0%
Unsupportive	7%	1%	8%	12%	18%	10%
Base	211	75	72	26	17	21
<b>D16</b>						
Support	86%	98%	65%	76%	80%	86%
Unsure	4%	2%	6%	14%	7%	0%
Unsupportive	10%	0%	29%	10%	13%	14%
Base	135	53	17	21	15	29

# Level of Support by Ward – Workshops

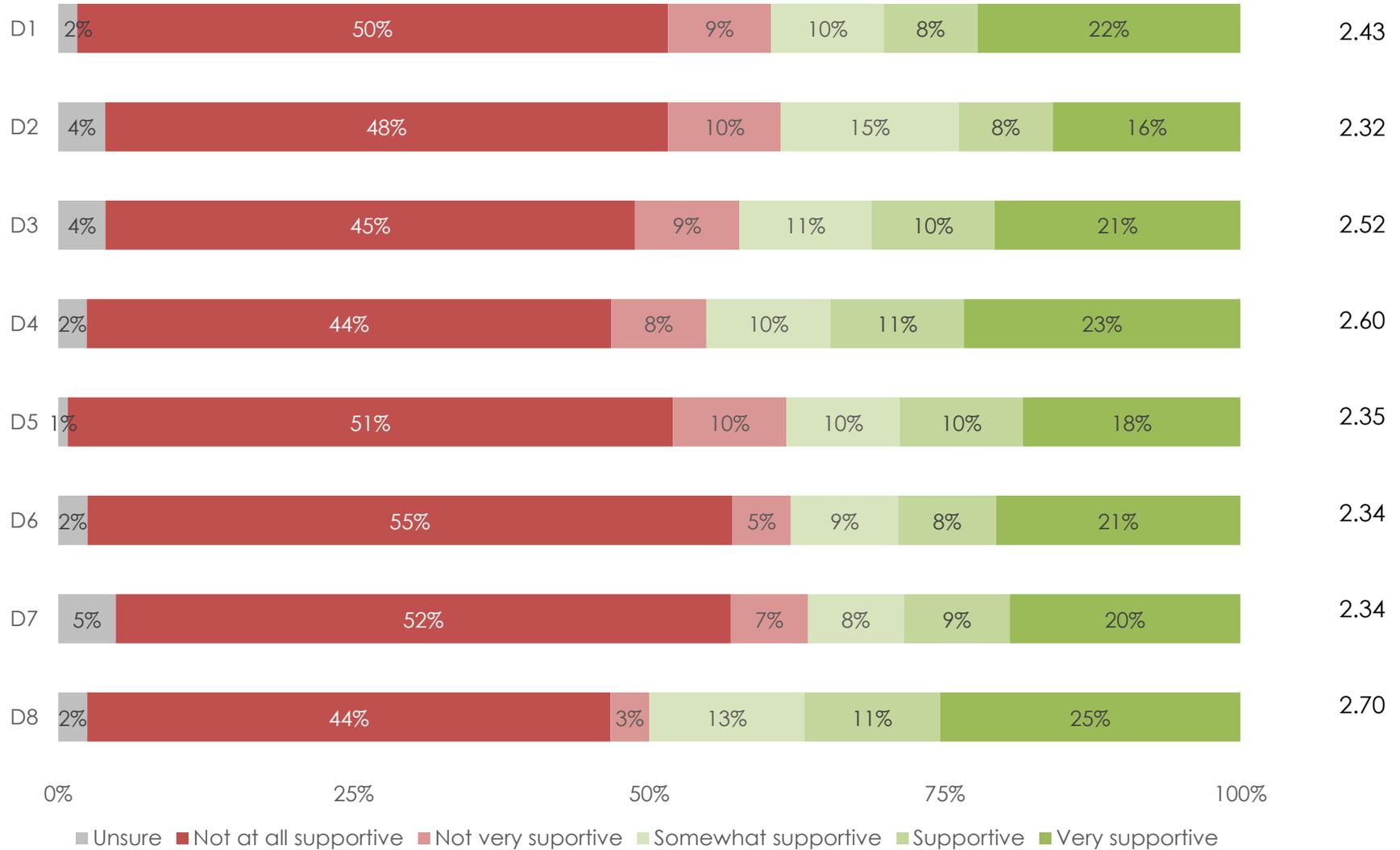


Statement	Overall	Erina	Ettalong	Mingara	San Remo	Wyong
<b>D17</b>						
Support	91%	100%	97%	76%	73%	87%
Unsure	3%	0%	0%	14%	18%	0%
Unsupportive	5%	0%	3%	10%	9%	13%
Base	152	36	61	21	11	23
<b>D18</b>						
Support	81%	91%	77%	85%	54%	84%
Unsure	10%	9%	11%	0%	38%	0%
Unsupportive	9%	0%	11%	15%	8%	16%
Base	158	45	61	20	13	19
<b>D19</b>						
Support	93%	95%	94%	96%	77%	91%
Unsure	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Unsupportive	5%	0%	6%	4%	23%	4%
Base	202	62	77	27	13	23
<b>D20</b>						
Support	89%	94%	89%	89%	81%	83%
Unsure	3%	4%	1%	0%	6%	9%
Unsupportive	8%	2%	9%	11%	13%	9%
Base	182	50	74	19	16	23
<b>D21</b>						
Support	80%	70%	89%	88%	64%	82%
Unsure	13%	30%	6%	0%	7%	6%
Unsupportive	7%	0%	5%	12%	29%	12%
Base	163	53	62	17	14	17
<b>D22</b>						
Support	83%	76%	86%	92%	89%	84%
Unsure	12%	24%	8%	0%	0%	5%
Unsupportive	5%	0%	6%	8%	11%	11%
Base	199	66	72	24	18	19

# Detailed Level of Support – Online Guided Submissions



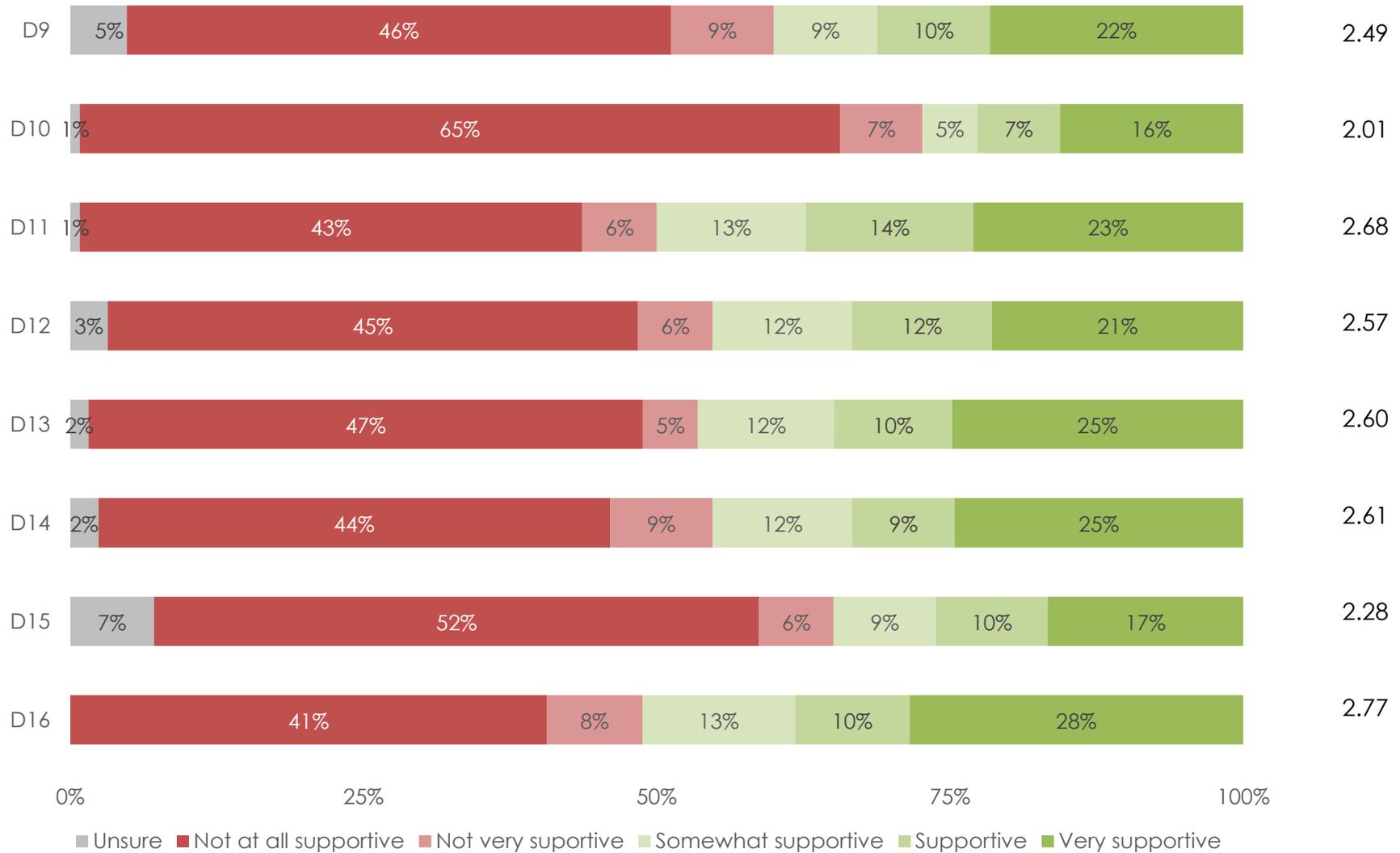
Mean ratings



# Detailed Level of Support – Online Guided Submissions



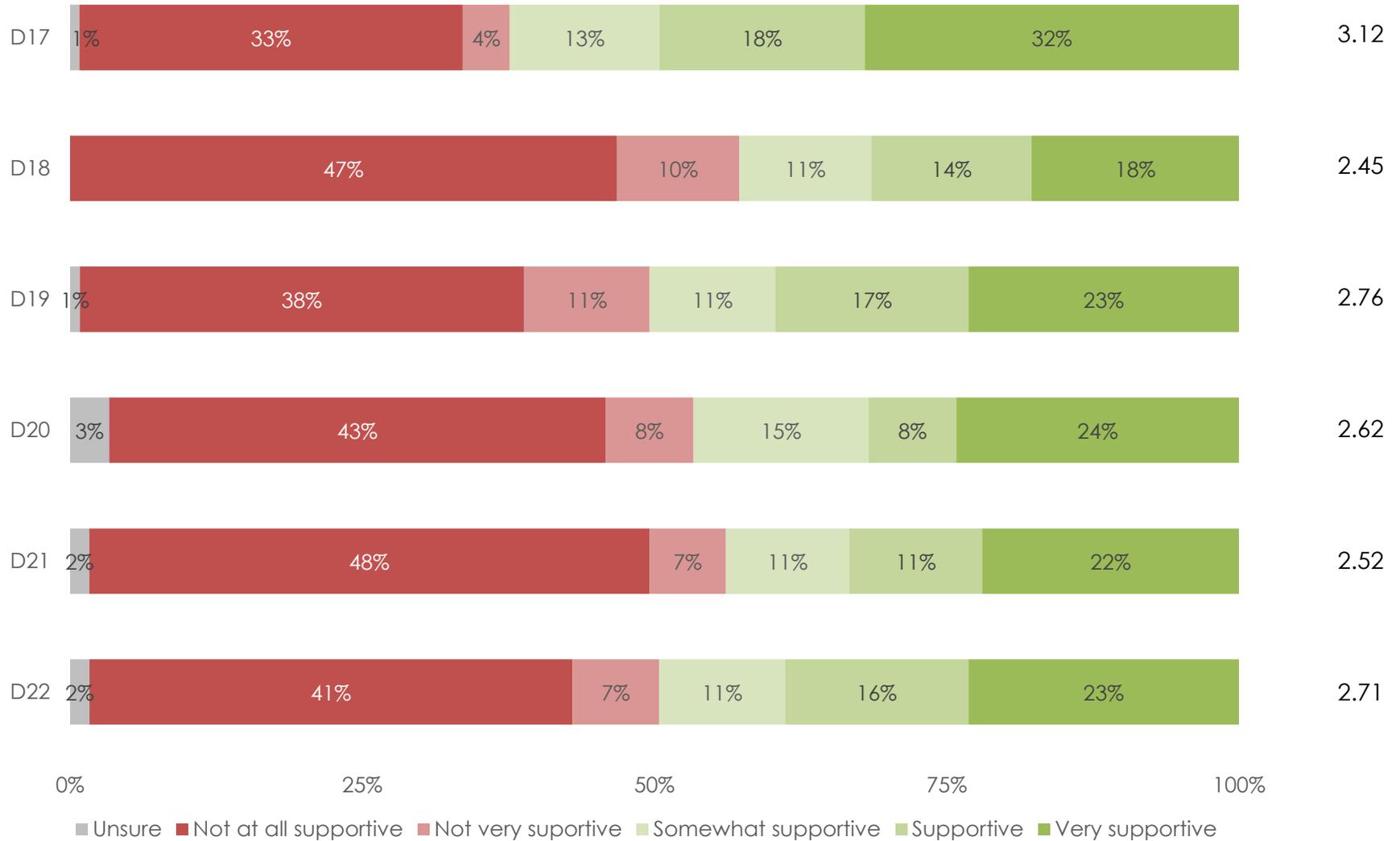
Mean ratings



# Detailed Level of Support – Online Guided Submissions



Mean ratings



Note: unsure responses have not been included in the mean

# Appendix 3: Further Themes by Commitment Statement



# Corporate Response – Online Guided Submissions Comments



Summary of online comment themes about Corporate Response:

- Focus on basic services/other areas
- Against the Policy/not at all supportive
- Do not believe in climate change/role of carbon dioxide in climate change
- Not Council's responsibility
- Council should aim higher than State and Federal targets
- Financial concerns
- Wording of the statement could be improved e.g. too vague, too wordy, unsure of what it means
- Targets are unachievable/Policy is exaggerated
- Remove the planned retreat
- Needs to be a commitment to preserving the assets of ratepayers/concern for value of homes
- Policy will devastate communities/not in the best interest of community
- Reduction of emissions on the Central Coast will make no impact globally
- Limits growth/stricter regulations
- Provision of more information/community consultation and involvement

# Corporate Response – Online Guided Submissions Comments



Summary of online comment themes about Corporate Response:

- Council is pushing a political agenda
- Mapping of regions affected by sea level rise
- Need for Council to take a leadership role in this issue
- Supportive of the Policy
- Lack of detail in Policy
- Incentives to recycle/Council should recycle more waste
- The most up to date scientific data needs to be used
- Support for use of nuclear power
- How will savings be reinvested?
- Concern for reduction in services
- Inaccurate information/based on assumptions
- Support for Adaptation Model
- Does corporate response mean residents have a say or just their decisions are final?
- Council has not followed its own previous guidelines
- Focus on what Council can do for residents and businesses of the Central Coast

Summary of online comment themes about Property and Services:

- Insufficient information provided to the community
- Against the Policy/not at all supportive
- Not Council's responsibility/Council staff are not qualified
- Remove planned retreat from the Policy
- Waste of time and resources
- Do not believe in climate change
- Council should focus on other basics e.g. guttering
- Policy is not in best interests of community/detrimental to residents
- Council is pushing a political agenda
- Enhancing/maintaining natural infrastructure as part of planning/building proposals
- Protecting current assets
- Concern for property values and home security
- Do not get involved in climate change
- No trust in Council
- Supportive of the Policy
- Council should adopt planned retreat policy to its own facilities
- Simplify wording of the Policy
- Extends Council's control over property management and investment in the area
- Enforcing stricter housing controls and renewable technologies
- Council should be more responsible for mitigating foreshore risk
- Policy does not address infrastructure



# D10 Sea Level Rise Planning Levels

Other summary of concerns/suggestions/themes from the Workshops:

- Concerns for impact on local infrastructure in flood prone areas e.g. sewerage system, drainage, roads and rail
- Council should look at other adaptation models from other Councils such as Lake Macquarie
- Support for the filling of lands to avoid the consideration of a retreat and suggestions to plan for open space and protection of wet lands in low lying areas
- The approval of developments in low lying areas should not be allowed
- Whether or not insurance companies consider possible future flooding when looking into current insurance premiums – will insurance increase and property value decrease?
- This isn't a Council issue at all and should be left to the State and Federal Government
- Planning should be made off current data not projected
- Be proactive not reactive

“Effectiveness/success of policies will be partly dependant on national policy (domestic & foreign). What mechanisms are built into strategies to address SLR greater than expected?”

“Too early to adopt specific strategies. Important to review evidence on continuous basis. That is a prospective not immediate threat. Costly to overanalyse too early. Monitor 'risk'”

“We are a young couple looking to by our first home in the future. This is a major concern for us & our generation & and a huge deciding factor”

“Inundation of the rail line say Gosford to Hawkesbury River could cut northern NSW from the South. Need a new inland rail”

“I think we need to be careful of allocating large amounts of funds to protecting personal property. This money would be far better spent on protecting and preparing the whole region”

“D10 Refers to the latest scientific research. C7 refers to 'science of evidence based' yet C5 refers to 'precautionary principles' which means F10. 'if science doesn't agree, still implement policy regardless’”

# D10 – Online Guided Submissions Comments



Summary of Online Guided Submissions comment themes about D10:

- The sea level has not risen/do not believe it will rise
- Preventative measures e.g. sea walls/mitigating effects of inundations etc.
- Detrimental to the community/discriminatory to certain residents
- Against the Policy/not at all supportive
- Remove the planned retreat
- Need to provide mapping of regions affected by sea level rise
- Provision of more information/community consultation
- Financial concerns
- Should protect/redesign/rebuild e.g. revetment walls etc.
- Needs to be based on accurate, scientific and up-to-date information
- Not Council's responsibility
- Supportive of the Policy/planned retreat/should be enforced
- Wording of the statement
- Need for more community involvement in the process/increase education and awareness

# D10 – Online Guided Submissions Comments



Summary of Online Guided Submissions comment themes about D10 (continued):

- Focus on basic services
- Lack of Council commitment to protecting homes
- RCP 8.5 is unnecessary/too extreme
- Should be implemented as soon as possible
- Lack of consideration regarding details of relocation and who would pay the cost of retreat
- Council providing false information e.g. suggesting planned retreat is in the NSW State Government Coastal Manual
- Leave Policy as is
- Should react gradually to sea level rise as it is a gradual process
- Plan to relocate and retreat will be difficult to implement
- Supportive of RCP 8.5
- Must start measuring key Central Coast waterways for rises and not just tidal information
- Assumptions based on RCP 8.5 are wrong
- Fails to mention the 2036 regional plan's direction

# Disaster Management – Online Guided Submissions Comments



Summary of Online Guided Submissions comment themes about Disaster Management:

- Wording of the statement could be improved e.g. too vague, too wordy, unsure of what it means
- Against the Policy/not at all supportive
- Do not believe in climate change/sea-level rise
- Policy is not in the best interests of the community
- Council is incompetent in managing such a Policy/disaster management/cannot manage current assets and services
- Provision of more information/community education
- Emphasis on preventative work such as physical barriers/sea walls/estuary protections from water rising, tidal surges etc.
- Focus on basic services
- Council is pushing a political agenda
- Remove planned retreat from the Policy

# Disaster Management – Online Guided Submissions Comments



Summary of Online Guided Submissions comment themes about Disaster Management (continued):

- Not Council's responsibility
- Protect current assets
- Focus on food security
- Concern for property values and home security
- Impacts of climate change will be minimal
- Ensure staff are educated and trained
- Policy sounds reasonable
- This is written in a way that focuses on council mitigating their own economic exposure which is extremely short sighted
- I worry about the evacuation route on the Woy Woy Peninsula, with only two road exits of which one will be blocked by high waters at Tascott
- Quantifying potential disasters e.g. what could happen to the Central Coast if we do not act or take measures to become more resilient?



## D13 Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management



Other summary of concerns/suggestions/themes from the Workshops:

- No seismic testing, gas or oil exploration
- Animal control, including responsible pet ownership and managing feral animals in bushland areas
- The retention of native vegetation. Council could consider providing free plants to residents to encourage biodiversity in nature strips
- Support for community involvement through citizen science monitoring
- Community education programs on the importance of biodiversity conservation. This could include providing advice and information on local flora and fauna, citizen science programs that take members of the community into natural areas to understand exactly what occurs and the associated impacts
- Protection of waterways to reduce pollution, improve the health and water quality of estuaries, beaches and rivers
- Bush care programs and bush fire management e.g. the removal of lantana
- Confusion over words within the statement/description e.g. 'riparian'

"Council to consider own practices & aim for less destructive methods & more environmentally constructive options for resource management e.g.: roads, drainage, waste"

"Bio-conservation can only be ensured if mapping of sea level rise & coastal impacts are completed"

"We need to stop letting big industries dictate. Stop seismic blasting and sand mining and degrading our land so it can better cope with climate change"

"Policy should include offshore areas and set a Council resolution against oil & gas drilling which adds GHG and impacts visiting marine life"

"Advice and access to the right information about plants and flora to plant to support biodiversity"

"Riparian - too jargonistic please provide 'plain English' alternative term"

"Educate & encourage recognition of the importance of biodiversity"

# D13 – Online Guided Submission Comments



Summary of Online Guided Submissions comment themes about D13:

- Biodiversity conservation is very important/too much degradation has occurred
- Do not believe in climate change/sea-level rise
- Not Council's responsibility
- Development and environmental protection
- Against the Policy/not at all supportive
- Agree if 'planned retreat' was removed
- Council is unable to manage/adhere to the policy/not qualified
- Detrimental to the community
- Supportive of the Policy
- Policy will limit growth by potentially hindering development, farmland, jobs and the local economy
- Lack of trust in Council

# D13 – Online Guided Submission Comments



Summary of Online Guided Submission comment themes about D13 (continued):

- Focus on the basics
- Mapping of regions affected by sea level rise
- Simplify wording of the policy
- Council is pushing a political agenda
- Make Central Coast plastic free through businesses not supplying takeaway cups, cutlery, straws, plastic bags etc.
- Consider including or referencing more concrete targets in D13
- Provision of more information/community consultation
- Support for Adaptation Model
- Support retention and enhancement of COSS. Development of strategies and implementation of plans for weed management. Environmental weeds in public and private areas are out of control.
- No actual plan or any substance
- Council should be doing this anyway
- Consider the impact of decisions before hastily going ahead

# Appendix 4: Attendance and Agenda



# Workshop Attendance



Workshop details	Attended	Registered
Workshop 1: Wednesday 20 February Mingara Recreation Club	62	81
Workshop 2: Tuesday 26 February Erina Centre, Erina Fair	123	175
Workshop 3: Wednesday 27 February Mantra Ettalong	128	200
Workshop 4: Thursday 7 March Camp Breakaway (San Remo)	22	37
Workshop 5: Wednesday 13 March Wyong Civic Centre	37	75



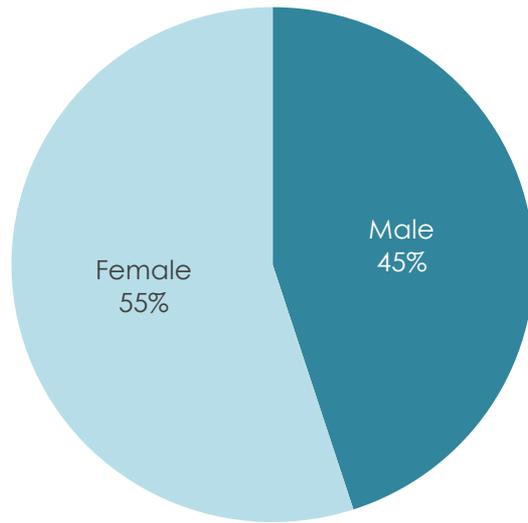
# Workshop Attendance



Based on the feedback forms provided to Council, we are able to determine a snapshot demographic profile of the Workshop attendees. Please note, not all attendees submitted a feedback form and not all feedback forms had completed demographic information.

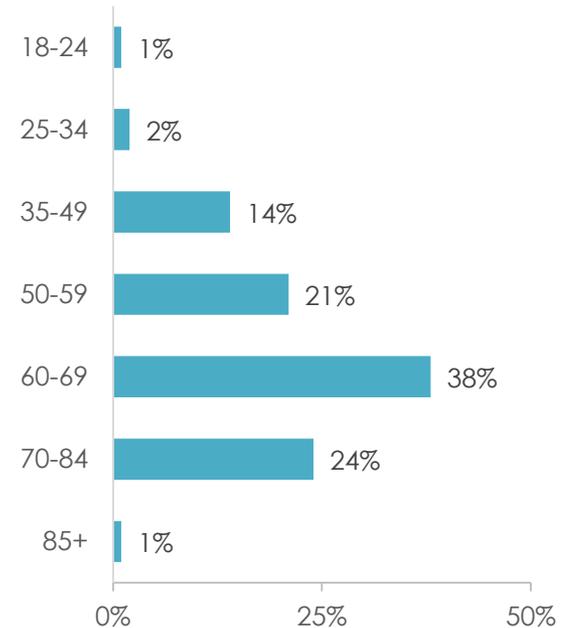
The demographics of the workshops were skewed towards residents aged 60+ years, with a slight female skew.

Gender



Base: N = 174

Age



Base: N = 176



# Workshop Attendance



Suburb	N = 178	Suburb	N = 178	Suburb	N = 178
Davistown	7%	Buff Point	1%	Matcham	1%
Empire Bay	7%	Canton Beach	1%	Niagara Park	1%
Bateau Bay	5%	Chain Valley Bay	1%	Norah Head	1%
Terrigal	4%	Charmhaven	1%	Noraville	1%
Woy Woy	4%	Chittaway Bay	1%	North Avoca	1%
Bensville	3%	Chittaway Point	1%	Point Clare	1%
Ettalong	3%	East Gosford	1%	Point Frederick	1%
Green Point	3%	Forresters Beach	1%	Pretty Beach	1%
Narara	3%	Gosford	1%	San Remo	1%
Saratoga	3%	Jilliby	1%	Somersby	1%
Wamberal	3%	Kanwal	1%	Springfield	1%
Copacabana	2%	Kariong	1%	Tacoma	1%
Ettalong Beach	2%	Killarney Vale	1%	Taree	1%
Glennings Valley	2%	Killcare	1%	The Entrance	1%
Kincumber	2%	Koolewong	1%	The Entrance North	1%
Long Jetty	2%	Kulnura	1%	Toukley	1%
St Huberts Island	2%	Lake Haven	1%	Tumbi Umbi	1%
Wyoming	2%	Lake Munmorah	1%	Umina	1%
Avoca	1%	Lisarow	1%	Umina Beach	1%
Avoca Beach	1%	Macmasters Beach	1%	Wadalba	1%
Berkeley Vale	1%	Mangrove Mountain	1%	Wagstaffe	1%
Blackwall	1%	Mannering Park	1%		
Booker Bay	1%	Mardi	1%		



# Workshop Agenda



Item	Time	Presenter
Introduction	10 minutes	Facilitator
Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The straight story</li><li>• Climate change overview</li><li>• What is a policy and why it's needed</li><li>• Draft Climate Change Policy overview</li><li>• Key high level themes identified in initial survey</li></ul>	15-20 minutes	Council officers
Workshop format	10 minutes	Facilitator
Workshop breakout	45 minutes	All participants
Workshop summary – what you said	20 minutes	All and Council officers
Q&A session	20 minutes	All
Close and next steps	10 minutes	Facilitator



# Appendix 5: Additional Submissions – Additional Themes



# Additional Submissions



Theme	Count
Policy is hard to follow	3
Support for biodiversity	3
Against the Policy (no specific statements)	2
Climate change issues to be considered with all DAs	2
Policy is too vague	2
Support for the Policy	2
There are other solutions	2
Council should not rush and look at the evidence	1
Development restrictions on potentially affected areas	1
Discussion of other plans that don't consider climate change	1
Identify and define climate change risks in the Draft Climate Change Policy	1
Increased housing	1
Let property owners make their own decisions	1
Lobby for more government subsidies	1
More leadership	1
Outline implication of RCP 8.5 to the building industry	1
Outline plans to cover the basic services (taking into account climate change)	1
Plant more trees	1
Plan should more fully state how commitments should be met	1
Prepare for temperature hazards also	1
Stakeholder consultation for planned retreat	1
Sustainable development	1
Unachievable goals	1

# Appendix 6: Questions from the Floor



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



Wyong Workshop:

- D2 – what does corporate governance framework mean?
- If this policy will not impact on rates, how will it be paid for? Where does the money come from?
- What's the Council's attitude towards replacing the street lighting with LED street lighting?
- When you're talking about energy efficient buildings, when I go home about 9pm I drive past the Gosford Council building and all the lights are on. who will be paying for that when Council runs it inefficiently? What carbon foot print does that produce?
- When are we going to see some real hands on action with waste management? Look at Penrith Council
- First, I'd like to commend the Council. I think what you have put together is really quite a thorough document. What does the council see as its role in terms of leadership on the Central Coast, is it just about the Council becoming better at managing climate change or is it the Councillors leading the community to be better at managing climate change. In regards to that, what I don't find in any of the statements is any vision or goal. What does the Council want? Is there an aspirational goal? These are the types of things that would lead and drive the community's enthusiasm and engagement. The words are very thorough but they are impenetrable, they are not going to motivate anyone, because are not going to be able to get to grips with them. When we talk about something tangible like the mattresses, people get excited and there needs to be something like that (goal/aspirational statement) in the policy.
- Concern is what's happening now and having a policy for the future is really important, but how do we get involved now?
- Being able to see what the project plan represents and the timeframes. As ratepayers we are unsure as to what is happening. How are we going to be able to access information on how this project is progressing and what Council's milestones really are? When can we anticipate these milestones will be met?



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



Wyong Workshop (continued):

- One worry I've got is that Council wants to develop a climate policy that may be ahead of the others, but in a way, you could be overruled by the State or Federal Government. You are in some ways at the mercy of getting grants from State and Federal Government - would it not be strengthened by joining with other council's? such as joining with Newcastle and so on in a push for getting money? It could be a bit more flexible.
- Climate change. It's been changing since the world was formed. Don't get side tracked by thinking that man can affect climate change. We can't stop the ice age, we can't stop the world from warming up and you get bogged down by all these side issues of burning fossil fuels that's causing global warming. Let's not take the blame for it and if we think we can change it, we're diluting ourselves.
- Tree cover – Noticed a development, called the Glades, that appeared like a desert storm. What is Council's philosophy of clearing for developments?
- I think the policy's presented here are admirable, but where does the funding come from? Can you give us guarantee that this policy is not a mechanism by which additional levy's and costs can be added to our system? Just want to know how the policy is going to be funded? Where is the money going to come from? Is this not a means by stealth that Council introduces some form of carbon tax or carbon emissions reduction levy. Is this budgeted?
- As the council are the caretakers of land, how can the residents be sure that it will not be sold off, especially E2 and E3. How can we be sure that this will never happen again?
- Trees are a big concern. Can Council give free trees to residents?
- In times of major crisis, how can we ensure the Central Coast has enough food to eat so we are not dependant on transport?



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



San Remo Workshop:

- It's all good to have a policy but how do we know anything will be implemented?
- I would like to know where our Ward Councillors are tonight and our MPs.
- I haven't heard anybody talking about the man-made environmental issues that are impact climate change, we have power stations, coal mines, we have a whole heap of environmental issues and not one word was mentioned tonight about it. The other issue is that I would love to spread around Australia that Central Coast Council has the best climate change plan, no matter how many boxes you tick this document (State Government document) overrides everything... We have State Government Bureaucrats making decisions and we didn't even have a say of where of our capital is. I didn't have a say and I'm a ratepayer.
- The overarching theme of the whole thing is that it's an involvement of everybody within council to be aware of the environment and everything that they do. The strategic planning for the implementation of that process, to what level is Council creating training for everybody in council. So that when they see something come across their desk or in their daily job, the first thing they think of is the environment.
- If council would be able to have something to give us a sense of the state of the shire? I find it a bit hard to find out about greenhouse gases in our shire.
- As a ratepayer how much is this going to cost is there going to be special rate levy's? or what do you intend on doing?
- With all the changes occurring in climate change, is there a planned time when this would be reviewed and when will it be programmed in?
- With the State Government, does that influence you as to which direction you go into, does this change your mind or goals if they turn around and say otherwise?
- Does the decision rest with the Councillors or with the Government?



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



## Ettalong Workshop:

- The world is very dynamic it has tactile plates that move it lava and all sorts of things moving the world around in many different ways – how can we go around and measure that the water level is rising and lowering when it can be moving from other factors such as underground pressures, volcanoes, etc.
- With potential measure and gas exploration happening outside our coast – what is the planning and the response of disaster management in terms of a major incident happening as close as at the end of the year? Has the Council started planning for this? What are the resources?
- Will the feedback from all seminars be available publicly and in time for our submissions?
- What has been the sea level change in Brisbane waters over the last 50 years?
- D5 – That to me is against the principle C1 and C7 – if this is science or evidence based, why do you have a politics-based target and one for State and Federal government when in all probability won't be here in a few months?
- Can you give us an indication on timing for developing, not just the policy, but all subsequent action plans and so on?
- Where do we stand with the Wallarah coal mine and it being built near the central coast water supply – what risks are there with it contaminating our water supply?
- Having trouble with policy background item B1 – it's wrong – no survey conducted so this is deceptive
- Where are you going to put all the solar panels?



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



Ettalong Workshop (continued):

- The first line of the policy says that the intention is to maximise economic, social and environmental wellbeing and in Anu's address she addressed the council's risk and on page 21 it says in choosing the options you will need to consider potential costs and regulators. Now for the scenarios on page 19 the costs are indicated so costing must have been done. Have these costs been completed and if they have, have they taken into account not only the cost of Council but also the economic and social costs to residents and why is the cost not mentioned in the draft policy?
- Will there be a corporate restructure that will align the new council with the new direction for climate change?
- Every council in NSW is going to adopt a different sea level rise policy – how can every council adopt a different policy? – CCC has chosen to adopt the highest-level policy – how can you guarantee that this isn't going to happen and impact 20,000 people?
- Do you really mean 'global warming' – what proof is there that human activity can change the climate?
- There's not a lot difference between Lake Macquarie and Gosford. In their great wisdom our councillors adopted 50% probability – we shouldn't be so focused on sea level rise marks and we should be more focused on adaptation. It has been emphasized that this isn't a focus on planned retreat, why is there such a focus on that and not on bush fires why is there is no focus on bushfires retreat. Bush fires under that scenario are a far higher risk.



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



Erina Workshop:

- Do we have a population goal for the central coast?
- No maps to tell us to what extent this will affect us. We've got no idea how this will affect all the policies. You're saying there's no retreat policy but it's up on the overhead several times. We need more information – you've got to tell us.
- You said it's a natural disaster, it's not. Why aren't you working with these communities, you've had the chance for 10 years to work with them and try to come up with an adaptation plan. Why aren't you talking about what they're doing at lake Macquarie. Your roles as the council is to look after the community. You should be taking our issues to state and federal government. You are passing the buck.
- I want to thank council for recognising that there is an intergenerational equity issue here. What is council doing to get submissions on this plan from people who are too young to vote today and will be affected?
- Where is the evidenced gained for the predicted sea level rises?
- Do we have the right style of policy? It's a bit 'bare bones' maybe something a bit more fleshed out – more of a narrative, something that could explain it more for understanding.
- What communities have you communicated with? Because it's not us? (Davistown)
- You say that Council has to or is advised to follow the climate science and yet in the policy you are adopting precautionary principles? If the science doesn't agree with what council finds, do you forget the science and do what you want?



# Questions From the Floor – Workshops



Mingara Workshop:

- What impact do you think you will achieve by adopting anything to do with climate change? Are there any other alternatives out there that we can compare if it has been a success or a failure? Industrial actions are not coming close to achieving their targets. Climate change is a real cost to people if there is one penny spent by tax payers then it should cease immediately.
- Evaluation of actions that will be taken – what if you do something and it doesn't work?
- Are there any whispers around Council chambers of any restrictions for floor level heights being altered in flood zones. Is anything like that going to come into this?
- Concern about the cost and when will they know how much it will cost.
- What happens to our feedback? Will it just go to Councillors and they vote over our feedback?



# Appendix 7: Draft Policy



## A. POLICY SUMMARY

- A1 The Central Coast Council Climate Change Policy (The Policy) sets out Council's position relating to climate change with a view to maximising the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Council and guides the planning and development of the Central Coast Region's resilience to climate change.
- A2 The Policy enables council to align its operational and strategic planning with NSW State policy setting and actions.
- A3 The Policy is a whole of Council commitment as well as support community initiatives to deal with climate change.

## B. POLICY BACKGROUND

- B1 There is 97% of global scientific consensus that the acceleration of climate change beyond the earlier predictions is exacerbated by anthropogenic activities.
- B2 In 2015, 195 countries agreed on the United Nations Paris Agreement on climate change. The key objective was to limit the increase in global temperatures to well below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees. The commitment is to achieve net-zero emissions globally by the second half of the century.
- B3 In 2016, the Australian Government ratified the Paris Agreement. The current targets for Australia are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2030. Australia's policy agrees to meet international commitments on greenhouse gas emission reduction while maintaining energy security and affordability.
- B4 In 2016, the NSW Government endorsed the Paris Agreement and took action consistent with the level of effort to achieve Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement through implementation of the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework. The current targets for NSW are to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- B5 In 2016, the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036* set a goal to protect the natural environment. Direction 14 of the Regional Plan requires the management of climate change related risks and the improvement of the region's resilience to hazards such as flooding, coastal erosion, bushfire, mine subsidence and land contamination.
- B6 On 12 May 2016, the former Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils amalgamated forming the Central Coast Council. This Policy aligns with the Council's Corporate Vision to build a vibrant and sustainable Central Coast.
- B7 The Community Strategic Plan outlines the community's objectives and climate change expectations when delivering Council's goods and services to the community. This Policy will be implemented in accordance with the Community Strategic Plan.
- B8 Approximately \$US23 trillion worth of private investments are required globally for net zero emissions target by 2050 and new industries are crucial to realise this goal.

## C. THE POLICY

### Purpose

- C1 To empower Central Coast Council as a climate leader and enabler for change.
- C2 To ensure the risks associated with the changing climate on the environment and the community are recognised, understood and where practical managed by Council.
- C3 To inform core functions of the Central Coast Council, including Council's response to strategic decision making, planning processes and operations.
- C4 To provide direction on Climate Change for Council and the Central Coast region and strengthen the quadruple bottom line reporting framework (governance, environment, social and economic).
- C5 To commit Council to the strategic principles and policy statements to manage climate change risks for natural and built systems within the Central Coast Local Government Area, and Council business using a combination of sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures.

### Strategic Principles

- C5 **Ecological Sustainable Development:** Ability to effectively integrate social, economic and environmental consideration in decision making through the implementation of the four principles a) precautionary principles, b) inter-generational equity, c) conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity and d) improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanism.
- C6 **Holistic approach:** Ability to identify and understand the complex interacting and interdependent components that builds capacity to anticipate and adapt to change.
- C7 **Science or Evidence based:** Ability to facilitate evidence based decision making to deal with the changing circumstances.
- C8 **Collective decision making:** Ability to collaborate with the key internal and external stakeholders to generate diversity and flexibility in adaptation options through learning and shared responsibility.
- C9 **Proactivity and continuity:** Ability to be proactive and establish an on-going process for learning and adaptation to deal with the complex challenges posed by the changing climate.
- C10 **Place-based approach:** Ability to enhance Council and community capacity for climate resilience that is context specific, knowledge based and collaborative.

## D. POLICY COMMITMENT STATEMENTS

- D1 Acknowledge the importance of shared responsibility across all levels of Council, community and business in addressing climate change and transitioning towards a Net Zero Emission Central Coast Region.
- D2 Establish a Corporate Governance Framework to lead a whole of Council approach when dealing with emergency risks including those associated with climate change within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and the Central Coast Council Community Strategic Plan.
- D3 Establish a holistic and systemic approach to monitor and understand the climate change risks and their impact on ecological, social, economic and physical built forms systems.
- D4 Recognise the need for an effective and progressive response to the threat of climate change risks with the best available scientific knowledge.

- D5 Align Councils corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction target with the Australian Government's Paris commitment to reduce emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2030 and the NSW Government's aspirational objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- D6 Develop a Central Coast greenhouse gas emissions inventory using regional data and establish baselines for an incremental pathway to meet a net zero emissions target for Council as basis for the Climate Change Action Plan (i.e. 2025, 2030 and 2050).
- D7 Establish a Climate Change Action Plan for Council that outlines mitigation and adaptation management actions across Council business that are consistent with the principles of ecological sustainable development.
- D8 Involve the community and stakeholders using a place-based approach in the decision making process for the development of a Climate Change Action Plan encompassing climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
- D9 Consider climate change risks in Council's strategic planning process, namely; urban growth and development and land use zoning including the development of planning controls and guidelines to facilitate local investments.
- D10 Review and update the sea level rise planning levels and coastal hazards based on Representative Concentration Pathway Scenarios 8.5 and latest scientific research adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for planning in coastal areas and developing appropriate plans and strategies that recognise the long term need to protect, redesign, rebuild, elevate, relocate or retreat as sea levels rise.
- D11 Support initiatives and education programs to enhance the Central Coast community's understanding and resilience to climate change risks; and provide directions for sustainable climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.
- D12 Identify and develop systems and relevant planning mechanisms to consider Council's corporate climate change risks, ongoing disaster response and recovery activities.
- D13 Address the impacts of climate change in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management planning, wildlife connectivity and reduce ecosystem degradation across the Central Coast region.
- D14 Invest in climate resilience opportunities through advancing technology, innovation and continuous improvement in the planning and management of existing built and natural assets, infrastructure renewal projects and renewable resources.
- D15 Consider climate change risks and opportunities in the asset life cycle analysis for all new and existing infrastructure assets through adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- D16 Establish an energy efficient and renewable energy guideline for the creation and renewal of Council's energy using assets as well as stimulate private sector investment in climate actions such as renewable energy initiatives.
- D17 Commit to continually improving Council's energy efficiency and productivity.
- D18 Conduct an annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory including direct (scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) emissions utilising *National Greenhouses and Energy Reporting Act 2007*.
- D19 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the production, use and disposal of goods and services through Council procurement processes as well as influence Community efforts through partnerships.

- D20 Identify and keep abreast of opportunities to finance climate change initiatives and investing savings from climate actions towards advancing sustainable development goals for Central Coast.
- D21 Create accountability and confidence by supporting the carbon neutral supply chain through implementation of the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standards and Carbon Neutral Certification requirements.
- D22 Establish climate partnerships between Council and the business community to identify and develop private investment opportunities for economic stability and growth.

## **E. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

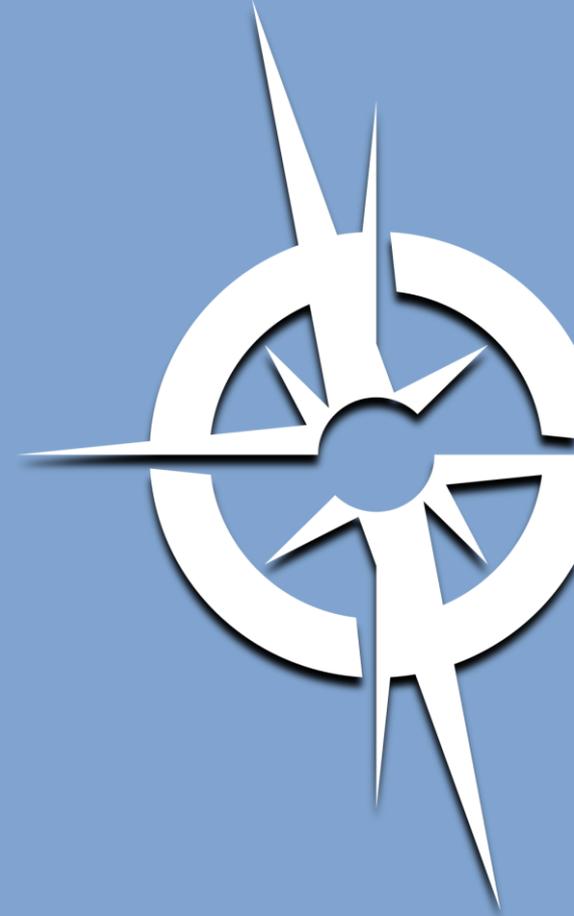
- E1 This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities and all activities of the Council.
- E2 This policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the Chief Executive Officer.
- E3 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Central Coast Council Code of Conduct.
- E4 It is the personal responsibility of all Council employees and agents thereof to have knowledge of, and to ensure compliance with this policy.

## **F. DEFINITIONS**

- F1 **Council** means Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies.
- F2 **Climate change** means a change of climate over an extended period, typically decades or longer, which is caused by human activity or natural climate variability that have direct and indirect impact on the environment, community and Council business.
- F3 **Climate resilience** means building capacity to cope with climate change, to recover from the impacts of these climatic changes and to adapt using a combination of sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures.
- F4 **Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)** means emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride, a hydrofluorocarbon gas, a perfluorocarbon gas or any other gas prescribed by legislation for the purposes of this definition.
- F5 **Holistic approach** means consideration of all the systems, processes and the interdependencies that influence the environment, Council and Community capacity to adapt and mitigate change on an on-going basis.
- F6 **Place-based approach** means consideration of a context specific approach to plan for places for people by involving the people in the decision making process to maximise their connectivity to the place.
- F7 **Climate adaptation** means consideration of the actions on an on-going basis for preparation in dealing with the impacts of climate change.
- F8 **Climate mitigation** means consideration of the actions to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- F9 **Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)** means the concentration of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere that equate to global mean temperature rise. Four different scenarios for global warming were projected (RCP2.6, RCP4.5, RCP6, and RCP8.5) and this information is translated to

indicate the possible future sea level rise. The RCP2.6 low emission scenario indicates high investment in active removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere from the baseline years. While this translates to insignificant sea level rise, this scenario increases the risk of failure by 85% such as in infrastructure planning. On the contrary RCP8.5 indicates the high scenario i.e. high concentration level of GHGs and higher sea level rise. Hence, planning for the high risk scenarios is precautionary and reduces the risk of failure to only 15%.

- F10 **Precautionary principle** means that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. Hence, decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage. In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:
- (i) careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment, and
  - (ii) an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.
- F11 **Inter-generational equity** means that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generation.
- F12 **Conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity** means that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.
- F13 **Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanism** means that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, such as:
- (i) polluter pays that is, those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement, and
  - (ii) the users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle of costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste, and
  - (iii) environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, that enable those best placed to maximise benefits or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.



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