

Key findings: State of Sustainability Report 2023

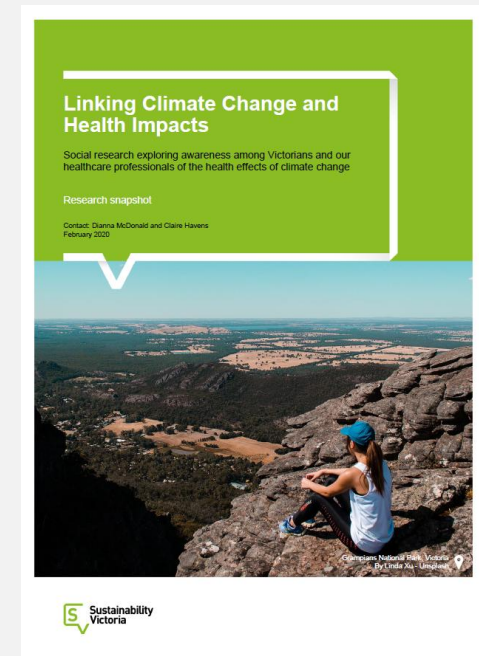
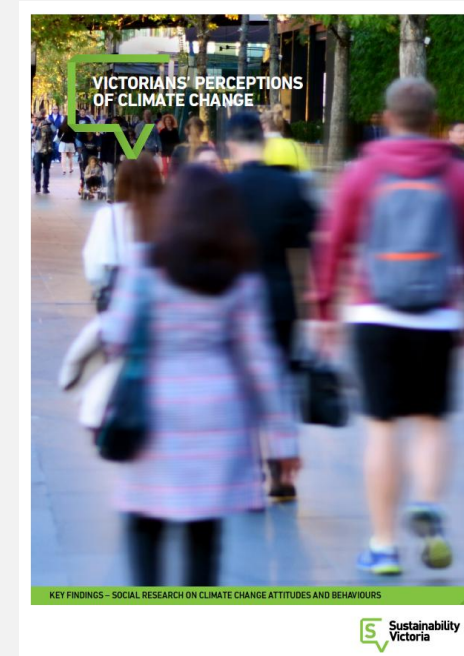
Are Victorians living sustainably?

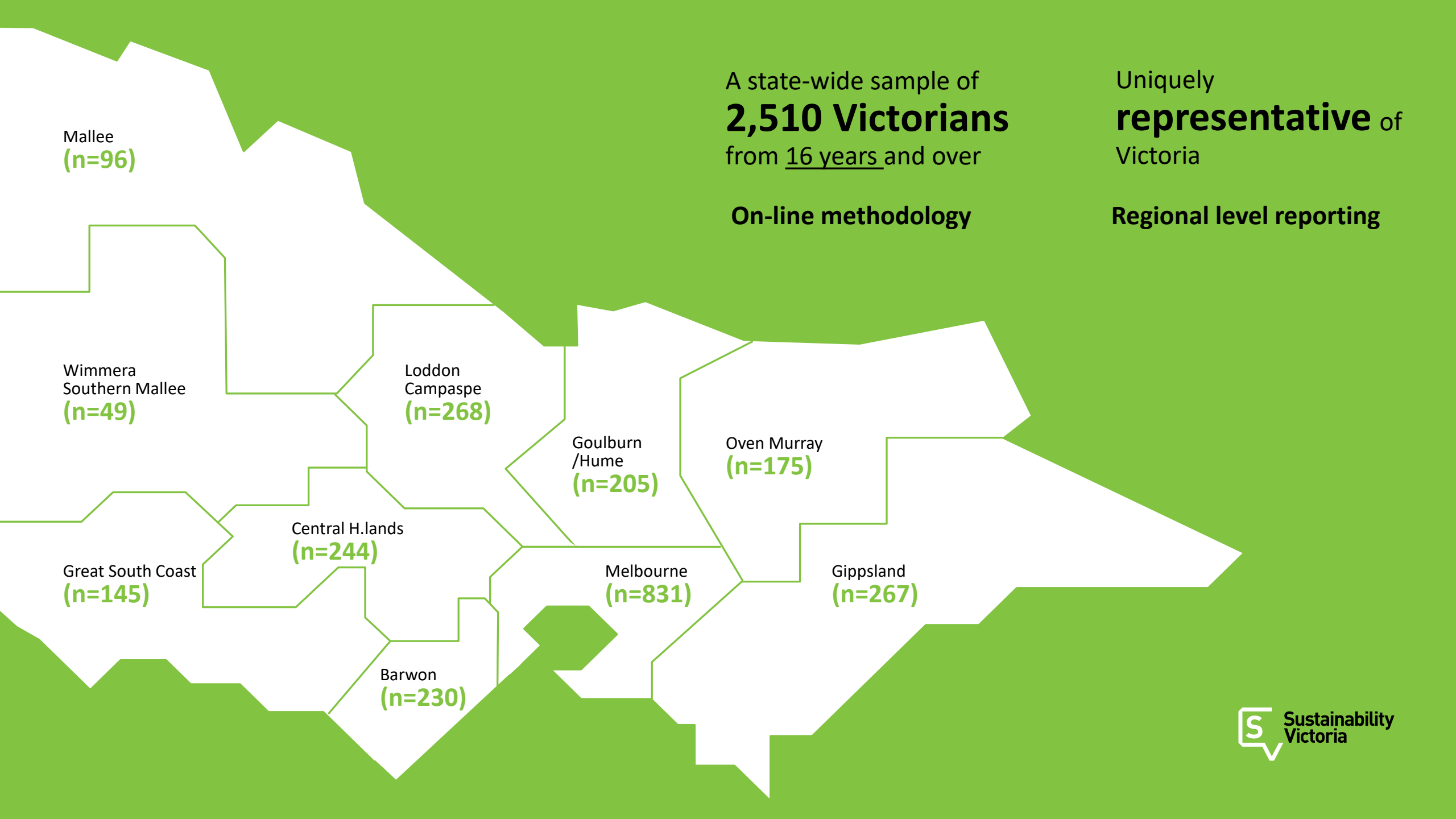


Sustainability Victoria's latest social research – building on earlier studies

Providing data to help identify policy, education and behaviour change opportunities for:

sustainable living





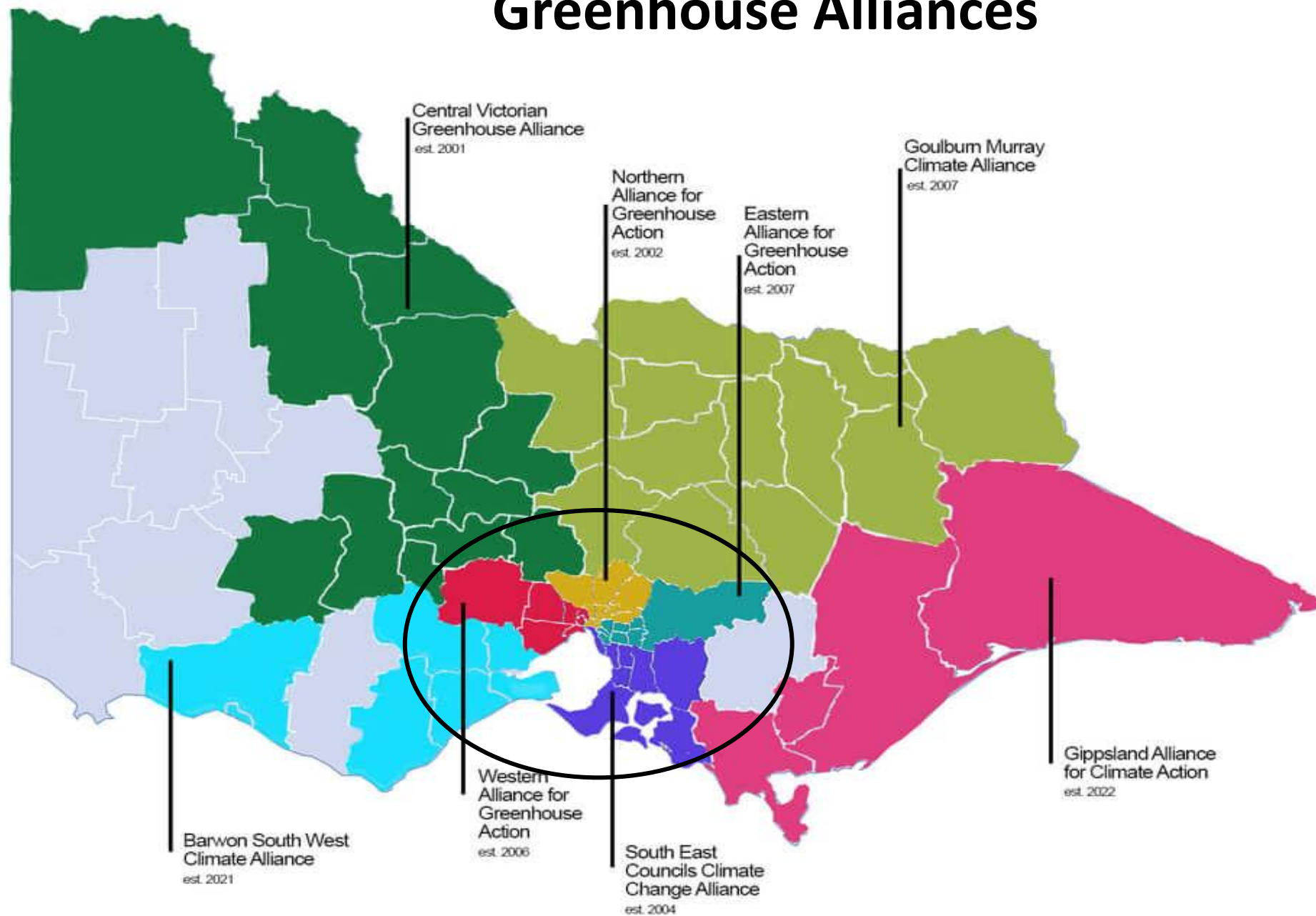
A state-wide sample of
2,510 Victorians
from 16 years and over

Uniquely
representative of
Victoria

On-line methodology

Regional level reporting

Greenhouse Alliances



Greater Melbourne - 4 Greenhouse Alliances



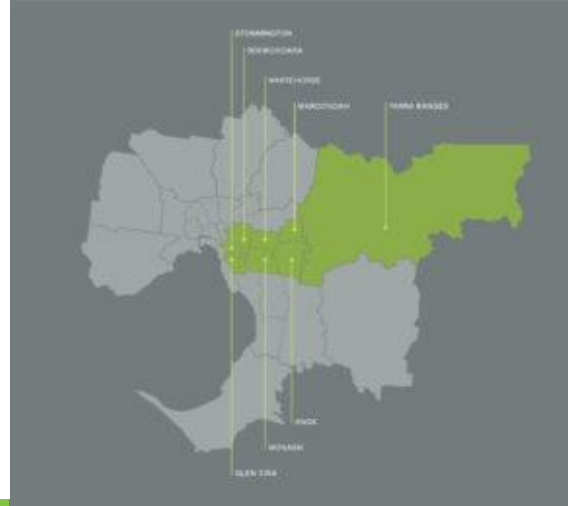
WAGA

Moorabool
Melton
Brimbank
Moonee Valley
Maribyrnong
Hobsons Bay
Wyndham



NAGA

Banyule
Darebin
Hume
Manningham
City of Melbourne
Merri-bek
Nillumbik Shire
City of Whittlesea
City of Yarra



EAGA

Boroondara
Glen Eira
Knox City
Maroondah
Monash City Council
Stonnington
Whitehorse
Yarra Ranges Council



SECCCA

Bass Coast
Bayside City Council
Cardinia
Mornington Peninsula
Frankston City
Greater Dandenong
City of Casey
City of Kingston
Port Phillip

Survey topics

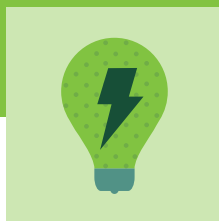


Climate
change

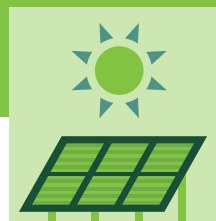
Climate
change and
health



Housing



Gas usage v
electric



Renewable
energy



Individual
behaviours
and circular
economy



Renovators
and new
home builders



Expectations
of government
& awareness of
gov. programs

Climate change

Attitudes and perceived impacts

Climate change remains high up on agenda for action

Ranked 4th

most important issue for Victorians



1 cost-of-living



2 Healthcare



3 Housing affordability



4 Climate change

26%

believed it is

one of the top three issues of importance

30%

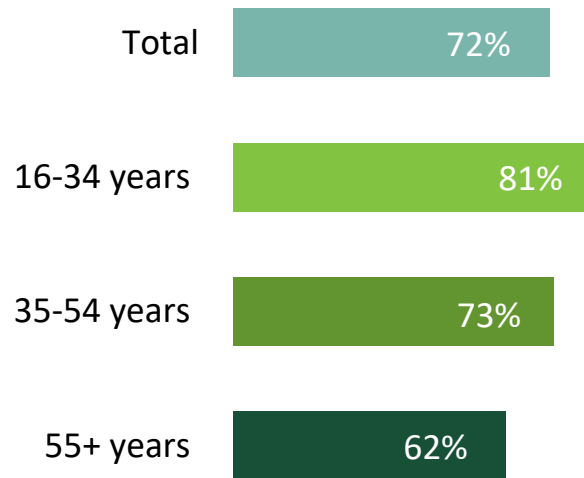
for those aged

16 to 24 years

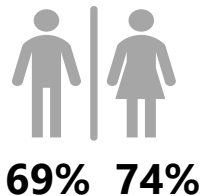
For many, climate change has become increasingly worrying

Concern about climate change

(fairly or very concerned)



Concern higher among females



Say that their concern has increased over the last year:



Reasons for increasing concern:



Catastrophic climate events



More evidence about the impacts



Changing weather patterns



More media coverage



Lack of government action

The community recognises a broad range of climate change impacts

Cost of living

Higher costs

Cost of living, 60%

Affordability and availability of food, 53%

Higher insurance costs for property, 34%

More extreme weather events

Environmental changes

More extreme weather events, 60%

Damage to nature/ loss of plants and animals / biodiversity, 47%

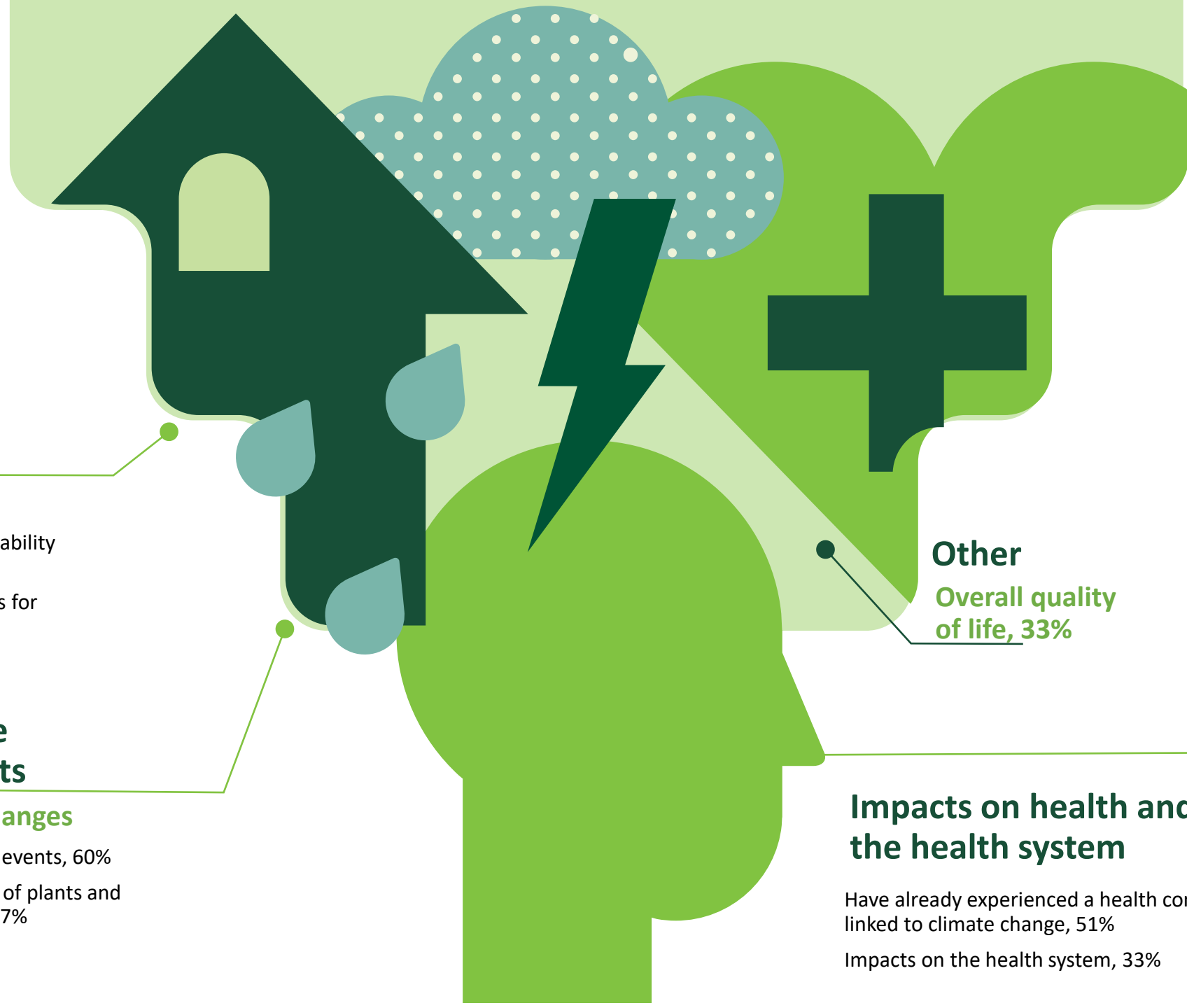
Other

Overall quality of life, 33%

Impacts on health and the health system

Have already experienced a health condition linked to climate change, 51%

Impacts on the health system, 33%



Different groups recognise different climate change impacts

Extra slide showing demographic differences

Cost of living

Cost of living, 60%

- No sig differences

Affordability and availability of food, 53%

Females feel this more

- (59% v 47% male)

So do those in the regions

- 60% v 51% metro

Higher insurance costs for property, 34%

- Older age groups are feeling this impact
- (42% for 55+ yrs; 25% of 16-34 yrs)

More extreme weather events

Environmental changes

More extreme weather events, 60%

- No sig differences

Damage to nature/ loss of plants and animals / biodiversity, 47%

- Higher in the regions - 53% v 45% Melb.

Overall quality of life, 33%

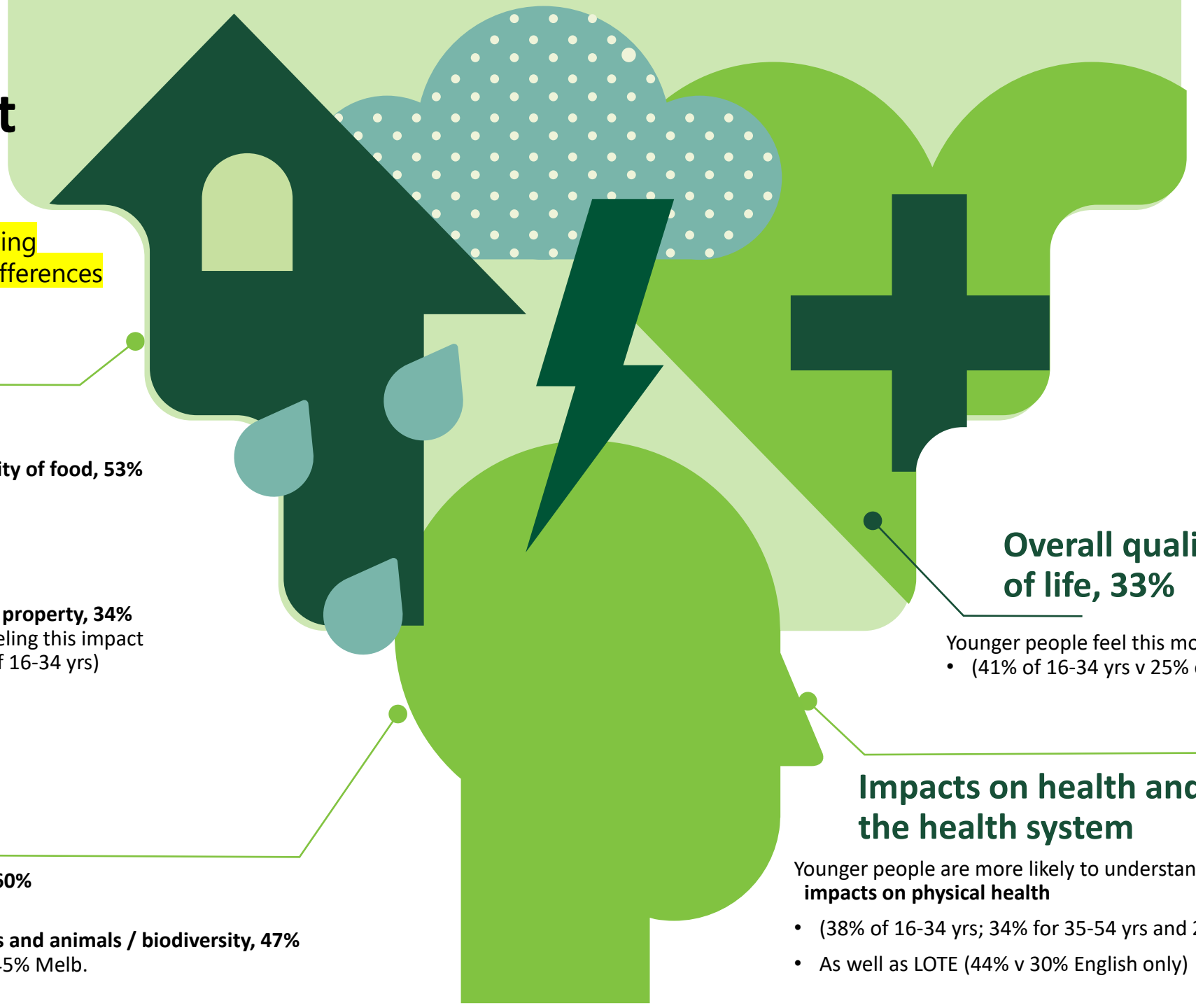
Younger people feel this more

- (41% of 16-34 yrs v 25% of 55+ yrs)

Impacts on health and the health system

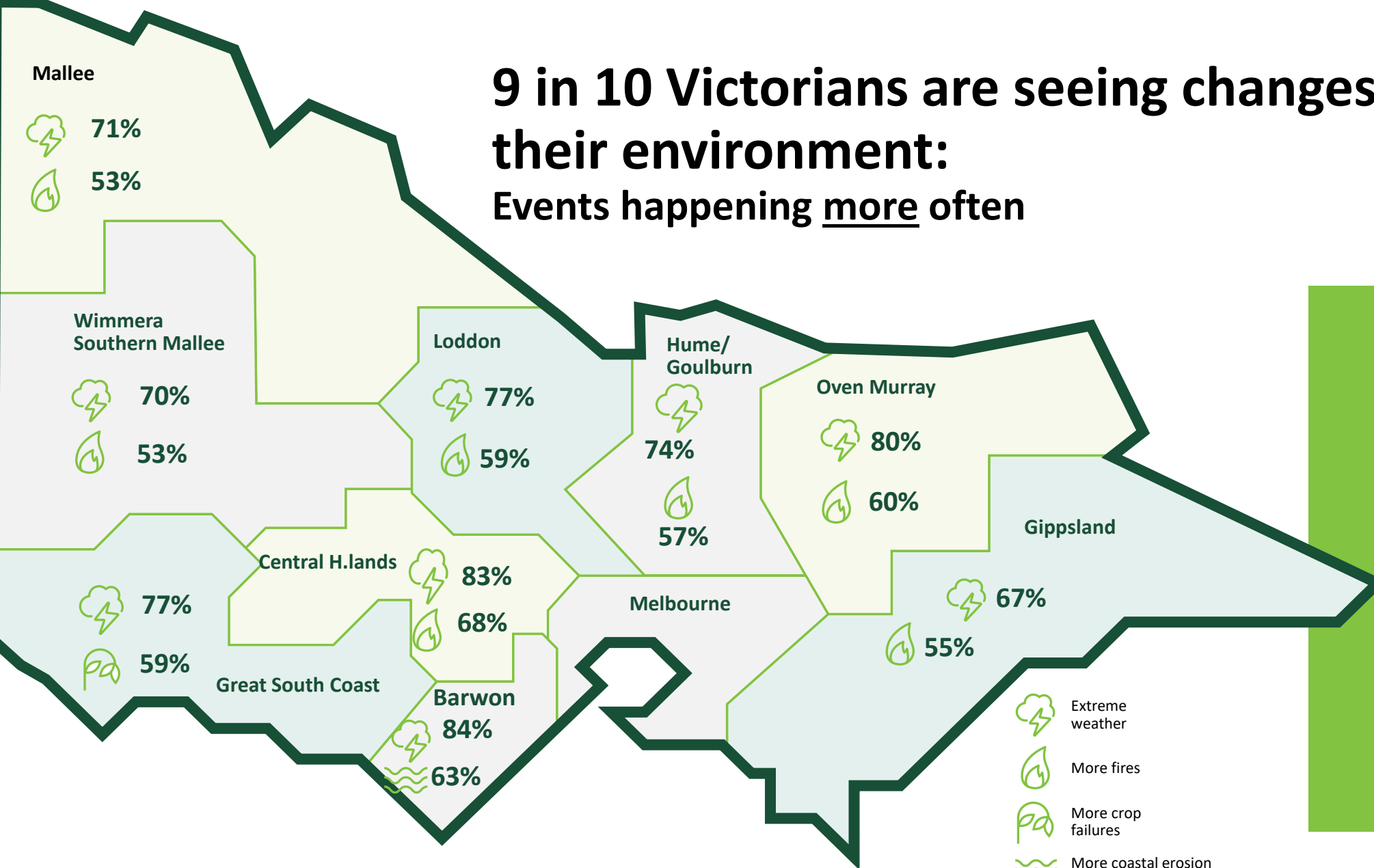
Younger people are more likely to understand impacts on physical health

- (38% of 16-34 yrs; 34% for 35-54 yrs and 24% of 55+)
- As well as LOTE (44% v 30% English only)



9 in 10 Victorians are seeing changes in their environment:

Events happening more often



86%
see changes in
the natural
environment

More extreme
weather events

72% Victorians

More bushfires

59% Victorians

-  Extreme weather
-  More fires
-  More crop failures
-  More coastal erosion / sea level change

Extra health slide

Level of climate change knowledge

The health impacts of climate change

36% know a lot
38% know a little
27% know not much/nothing

72% want to know more on actions you can take that will benefit health, and reduce climate change at the same time



The causes of climate change

40% know a lot
43% know a little
16% know not much/nothing

Actions to take to help prevent climate change getting worse

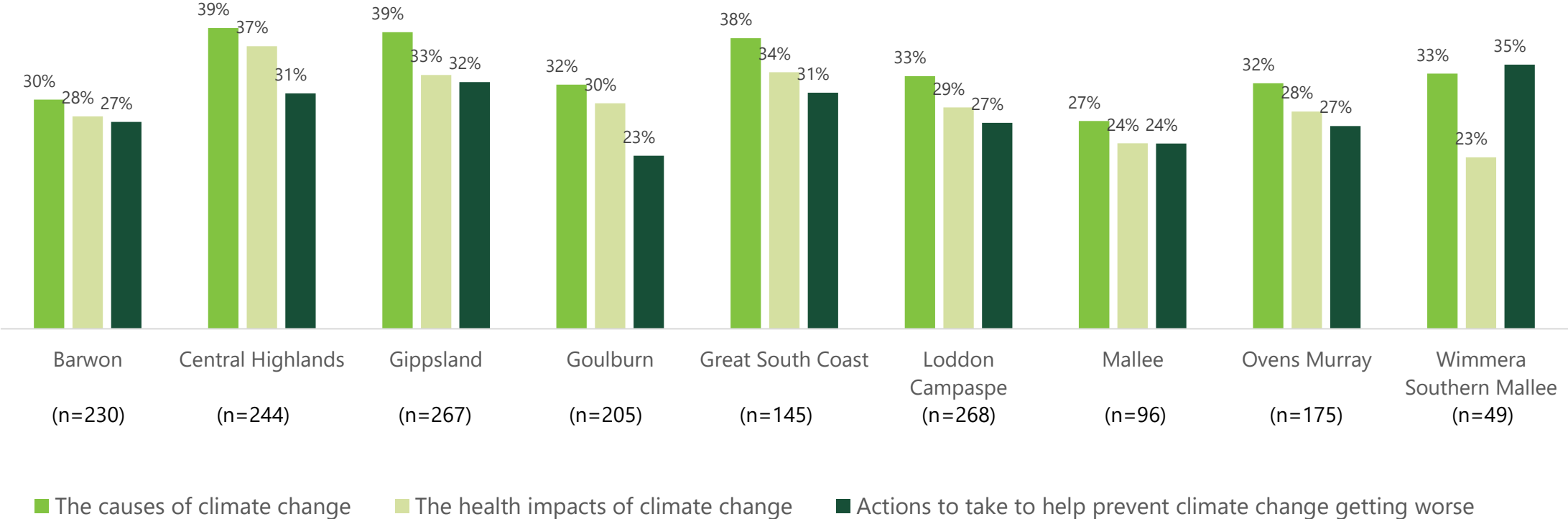
32% know a lot
46% know a little
21% know not much/nothing

74% would like more information on the things they could do to help stop climate change getting worse

Level of climate change knowledge, by region

Extra slide

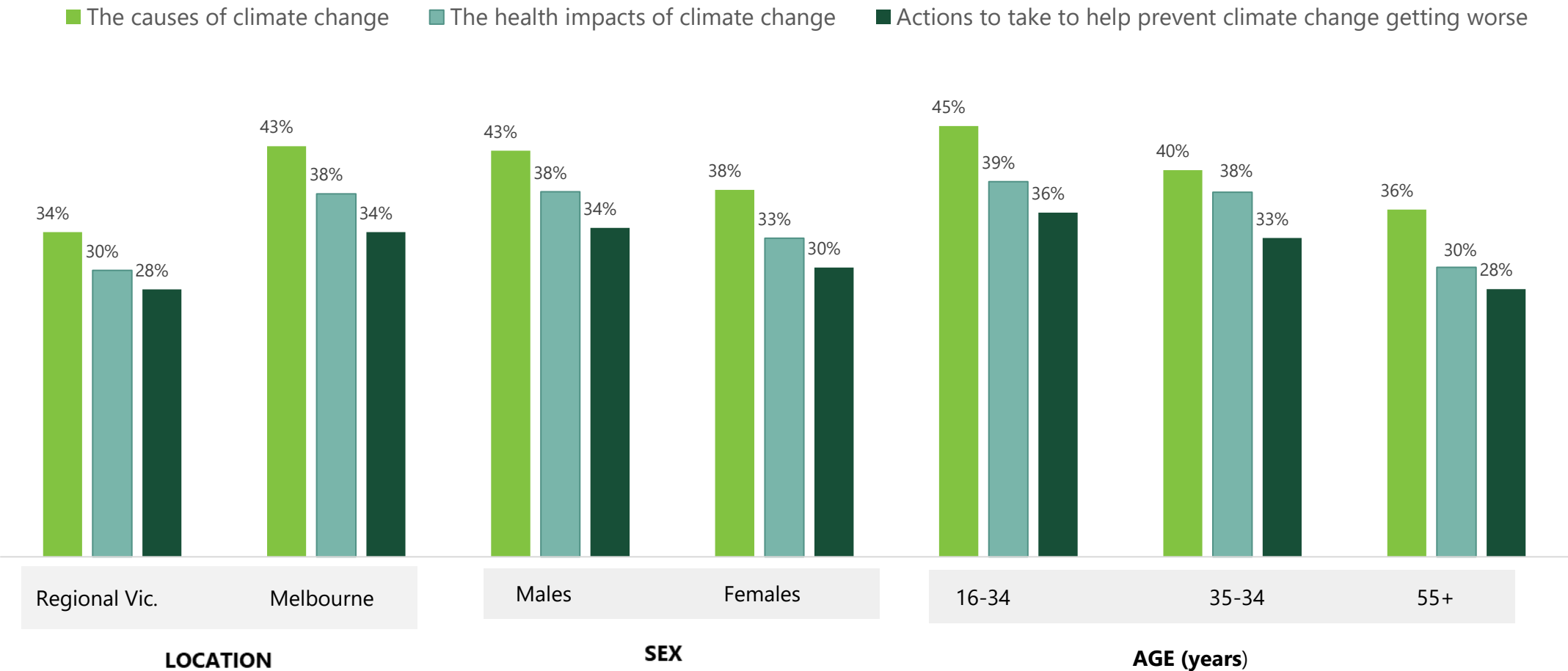
Self-rated knowledge on climate change - the proportion who "know a lot" by region



Level of climate change knowledge, by sub-group

Extra slide

Self-rated knowledge on climate change - the proportion who "know a lot" by location, sex and age

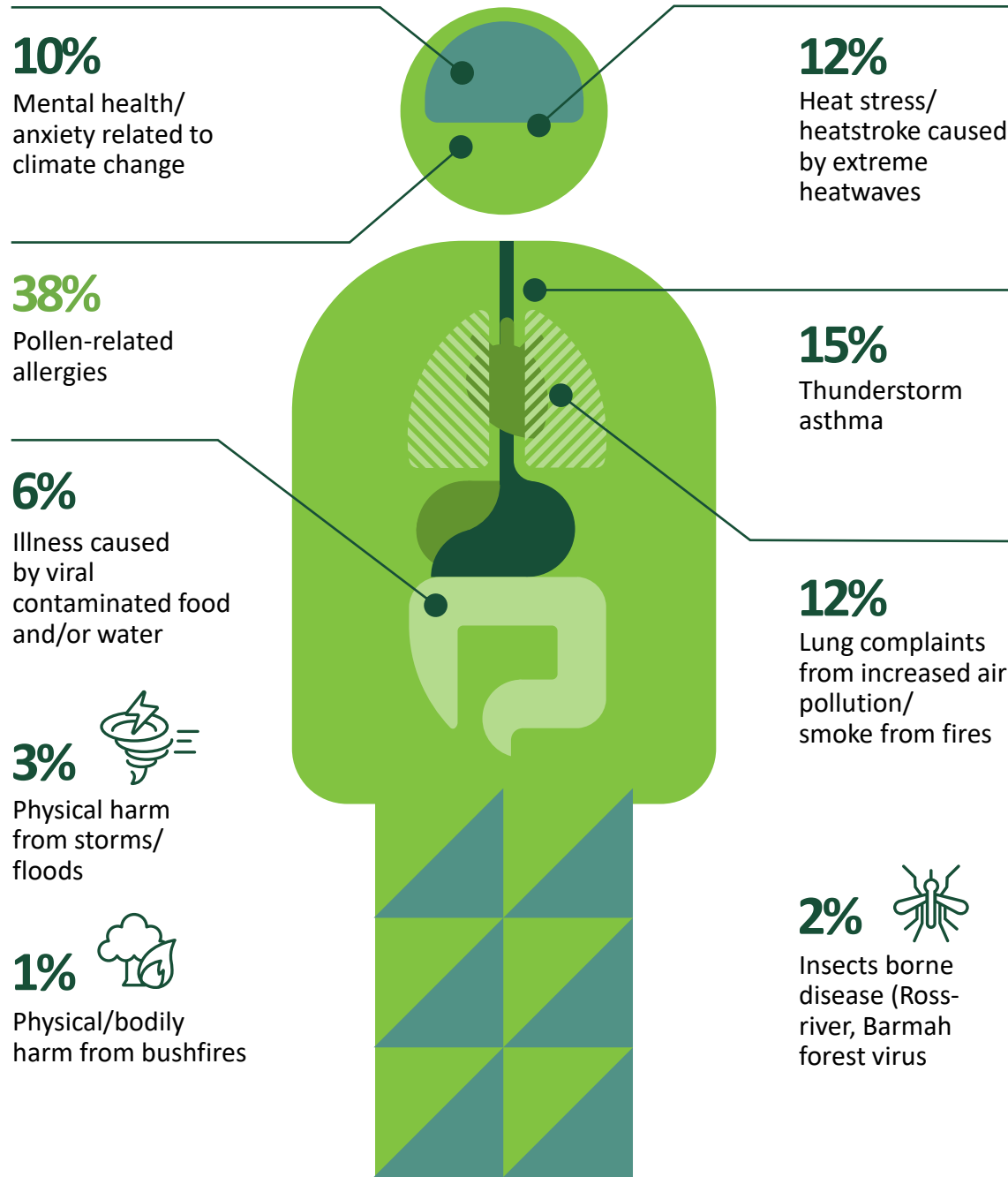


Over half of Victorians have experienced a health condition linked to climate change

Self or family member has had health condition linked to climate change

Total 51%

(Experienced at least 1 condition)

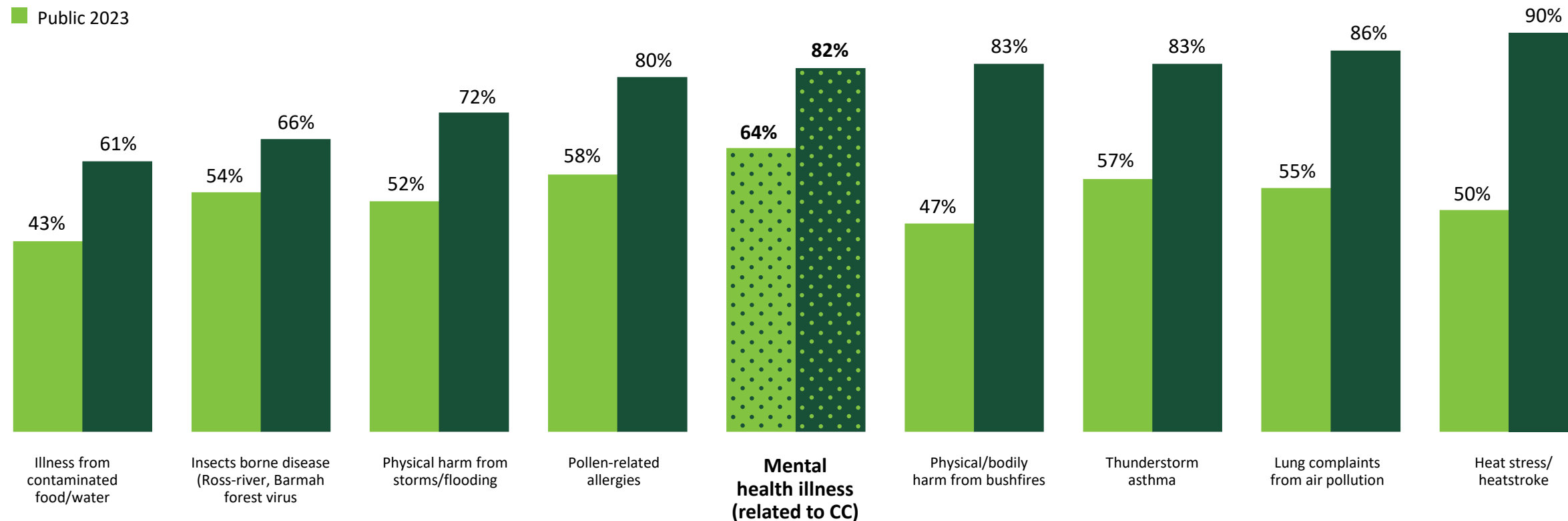


There are gaps in awareness of climate related health conditions

Awareness of climate related health conditions

■ Health care professionals 2019*

■ Public 2023



* As part of SV's "Linking health and climate change" research we surveyed over 600 healthcare professionals in 2019

Climate and health - information sources

Extra health
slide

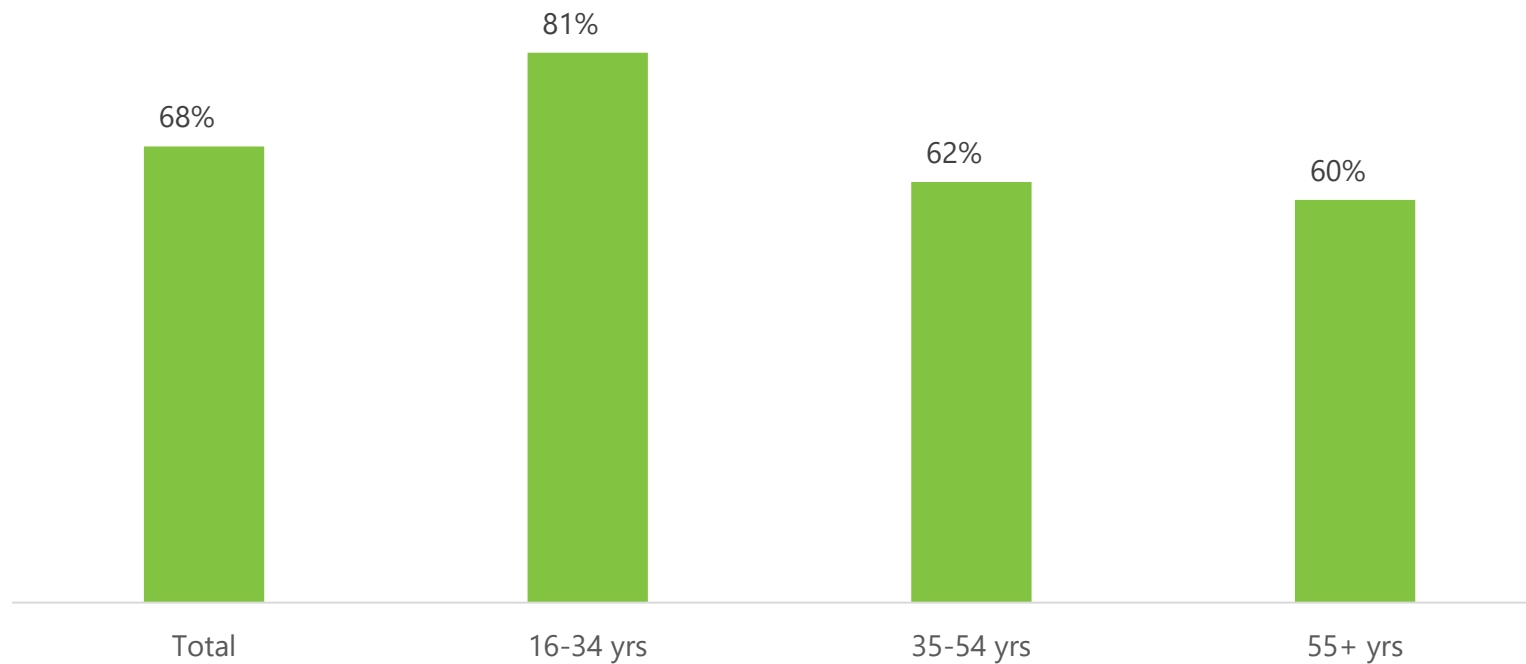
K2. In the last 12 months, did you actively search for information related to climate change and health?	
	%
Yes	22%
No	71%
Not sure	7%

K4. To what extent has this information changed your habits or behaviours to benefit your health and/or mitigate against climate change?	
	%
Not a lot (0 - 3)	6%
To some extent / moderately (4-6)	28%
A fair bit/ a lot (7-10)	65%
Don't know	1%

K3. In the last year, where did you go to find information on climate change and health?	
	%
Social media sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	37%
Sustainability Victoria	36%
Vic Emergency app/website	34%
Victorian Department of Health website – Health.vic (www.health.vic.gov.au)	28%
Newspaper/online news site	25%
Television	21%
Local council website	20%
Better Health Channel	16%
Local council office	14%
DELWP website (www.climatechange.vic.gov.au)	10%
Local GP clinic	9%
Radio	8%
Other health professional clinic	4%
Other (please specify)	8%
Can't remember	5%

Most are interested in knowing more about health conditions

68% want more information on how to protect health as climate change impacts increase



Extra slide



Most Victorians experience negative emotions in relation to climate change

All Victorians:
19%
feel a high level of fear

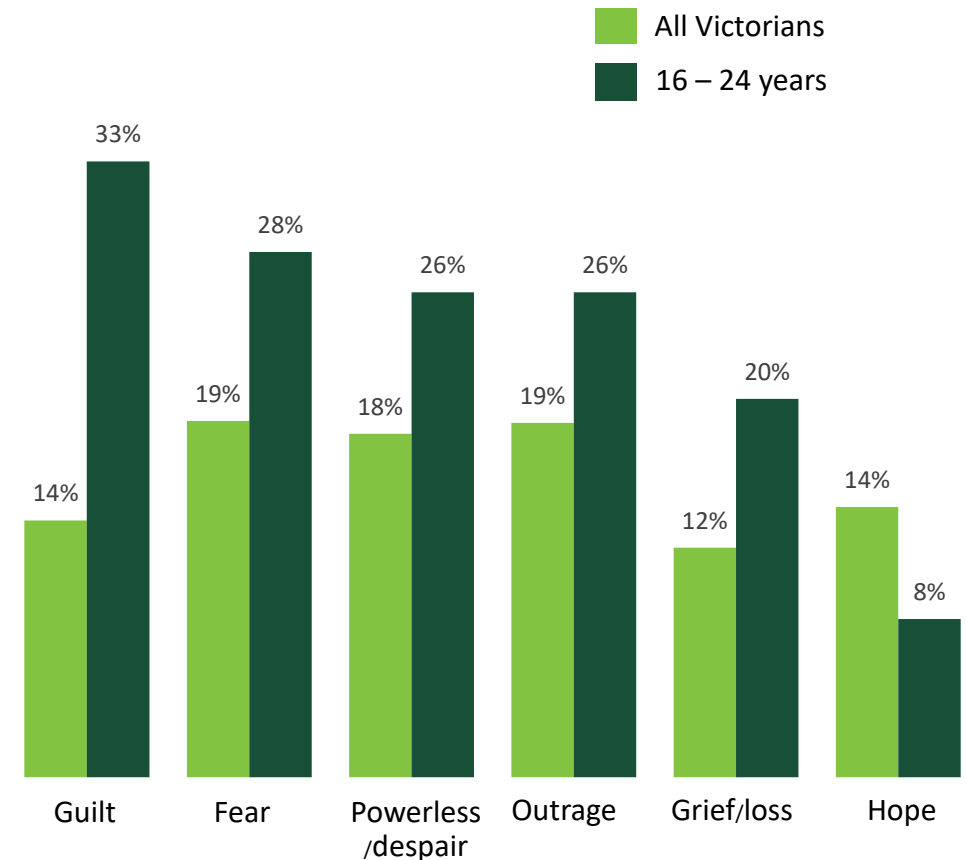
The youngest feel the negative emotions most strongly, and hold the least hope

16-24 years:
33%
Strong or overwhelming feelings of guilt

8%
Strong or overwhelming feelings of hope

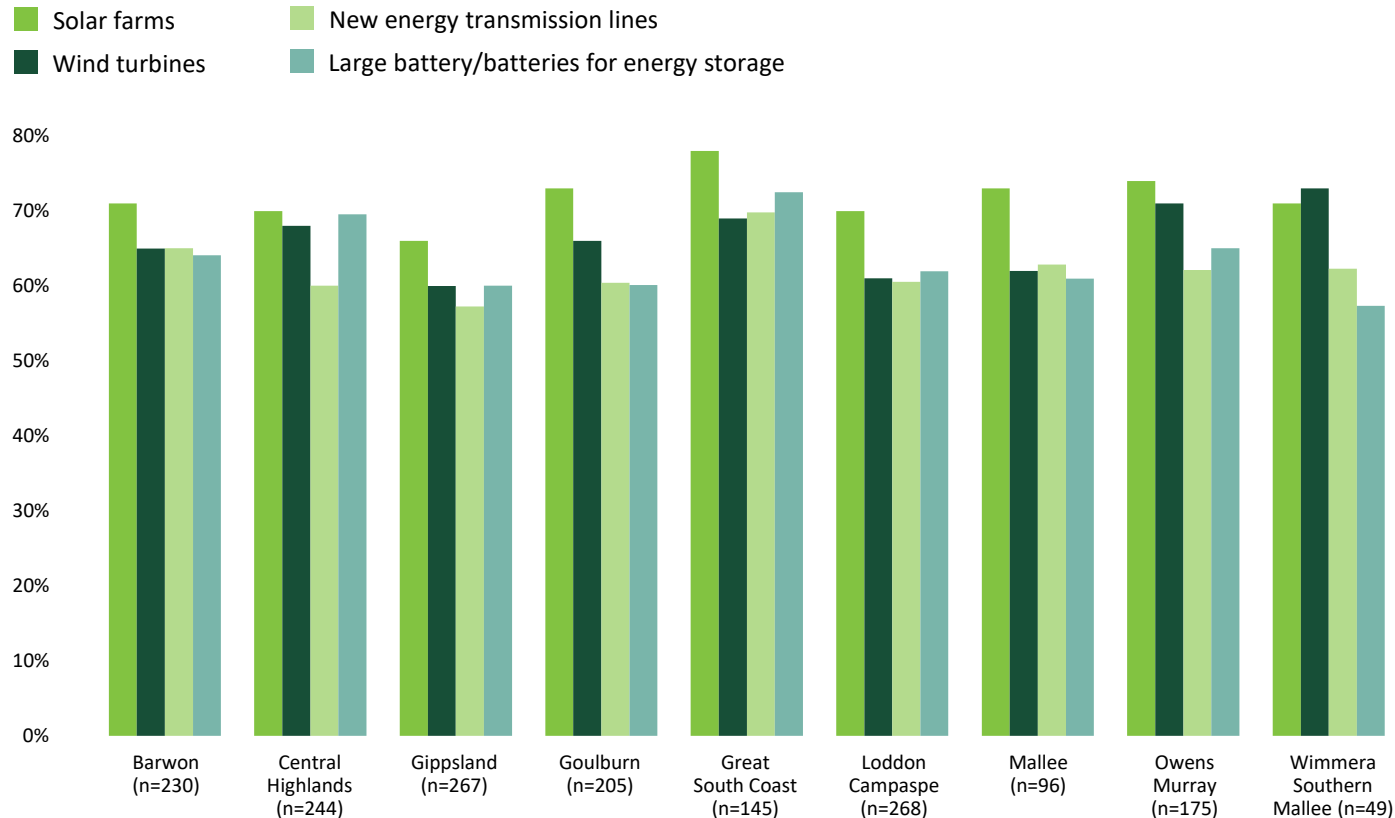


Feels these emotions
a lot or at over-whelming level



Clear 'social licence' and community support for climate action

Support renewable energy infrastructure in local area



Attitudes that underpin the Social licence:

69%

It's cheaper to act on climate now than pay the price later

65%

Victorians need to shift away from fossil fuels

67%

Climate change requires urgent action now

68%

Tackling climate change in Victoria creates new job and investment opportunities in clean energy



Housing

Thermal quality, energy efficiency and energy source are all key to sustainable living.

Our homes make up 22% of Australia's carbon footprint

Thermal quality of the home is critical to sustainable living



62%

Classified as acceptable
(good or moderate)

14% Good

Has **ALL** of these:

- Insulation in roof/floor/walls
- Double glazing &/or window covers
- Draught proofing

48% Moderate

Has insulation in roof **PLUS** two or three
of these:

- Double glazing &/or window covers
- Draught proofing
- Other insulation



38%

Classified as poor / very
poor/extremely poor

11% Poor

Has **ONE** insulation type:

Insulation in roof or floor or walls

And one of these:

- Double glazing or window covers
- Draught proofing

18% Very poor

Has **ONE ONLY** of these:

- Insulation in roof/floor/walls
- Double glazing %/or window covers
- Draught proofing

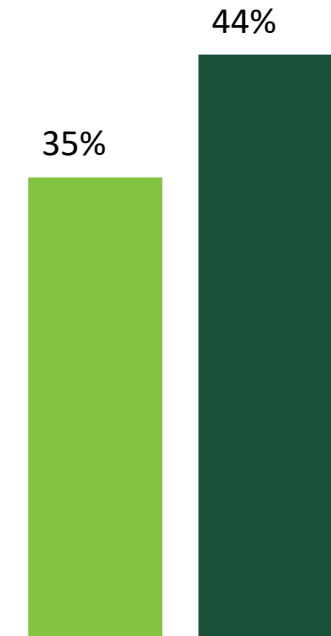
10% Extremely poor

Has **NONE** of these features

Thermal classification x reported thermal comfort

Thermal quality and reported thermal comfort

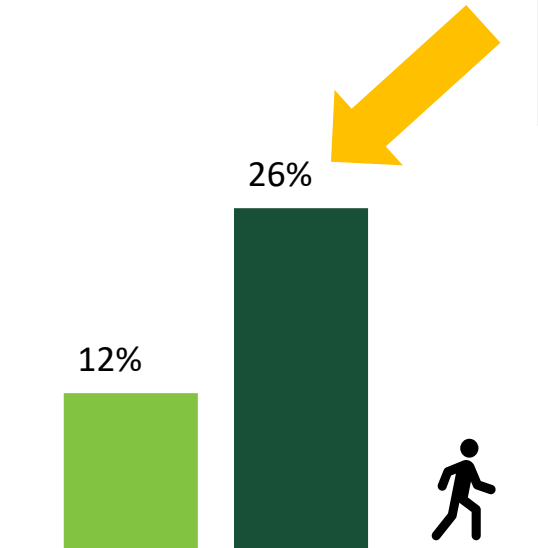
- Acceptable thermal quality (good/moderate)
- Poor thermal quality (poor/ very/extremely)



Home got too hot



Home got too cold



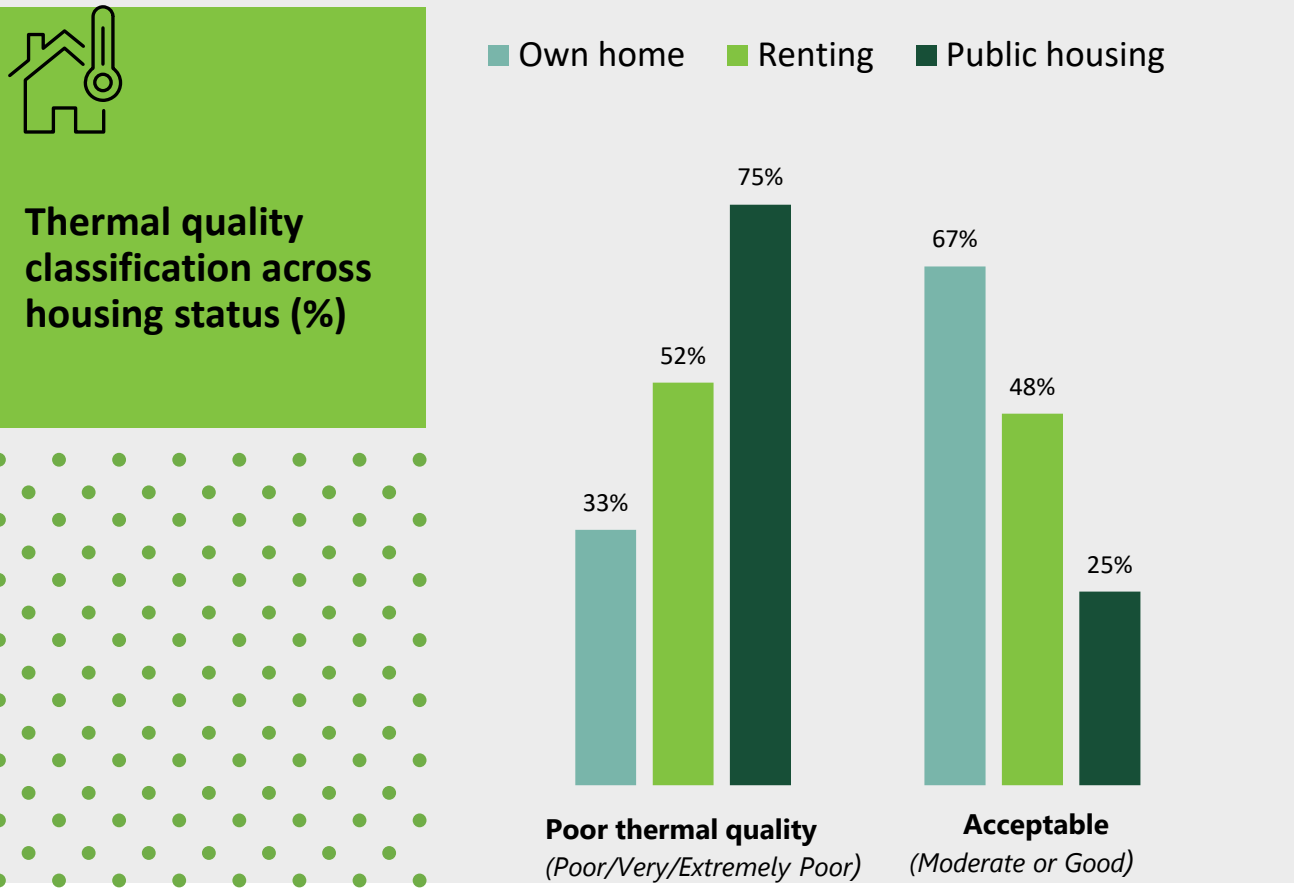
I had to leave my home for a while because it was too hot or cold to stay comfortable



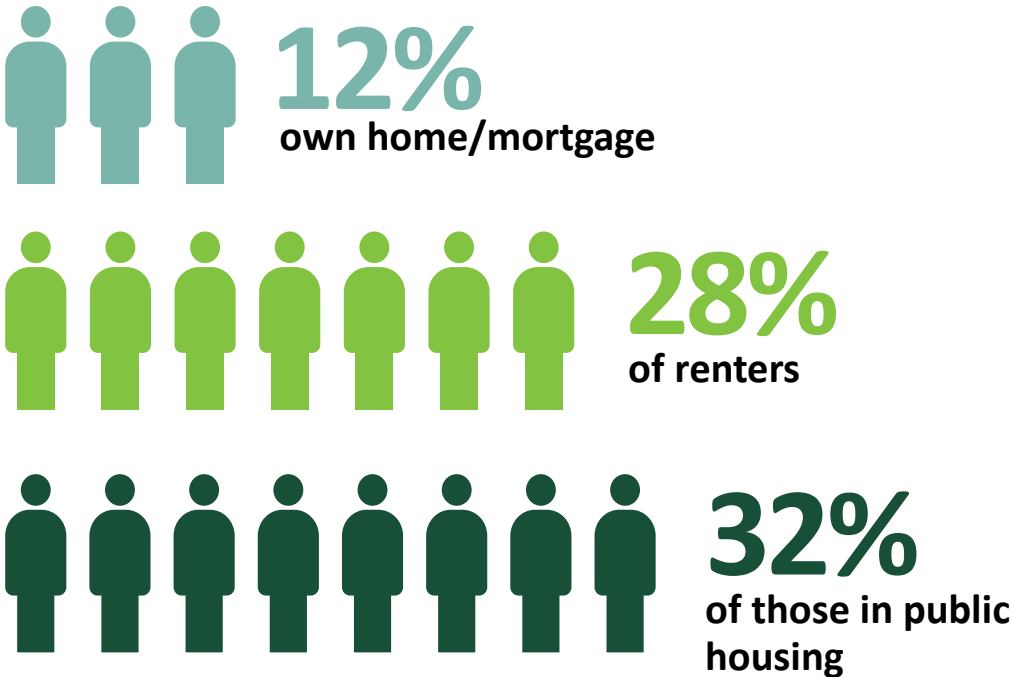
Those with lower thermal quality reported lower thermal comfort and were twice as likely to have leave when temperatures were extreme



Renters and those in public housing have lower thermal quality and higher thermal discomfort



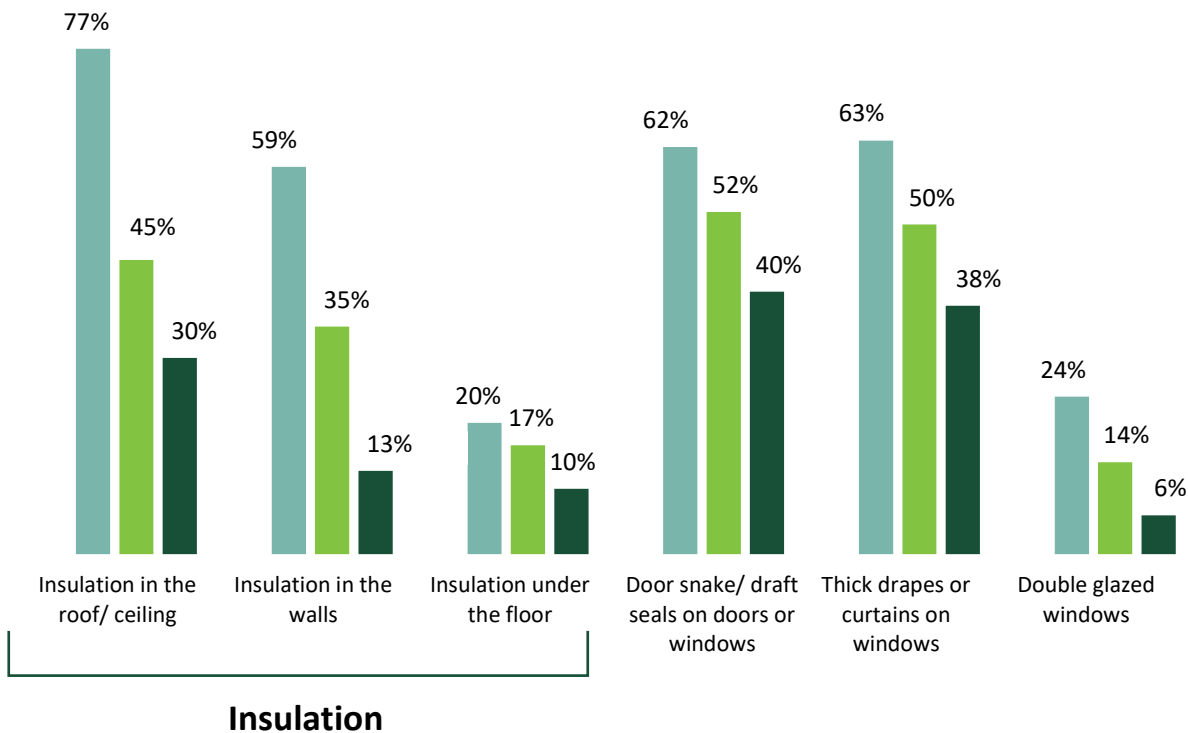
Percentage of people having to leave their house due to it being **too hot or too cold to stay**:



Renters and those in public housing have lower uptake of thermal features

Thermal features in the home

■ Owners ■ Renters ■ Rent public housing

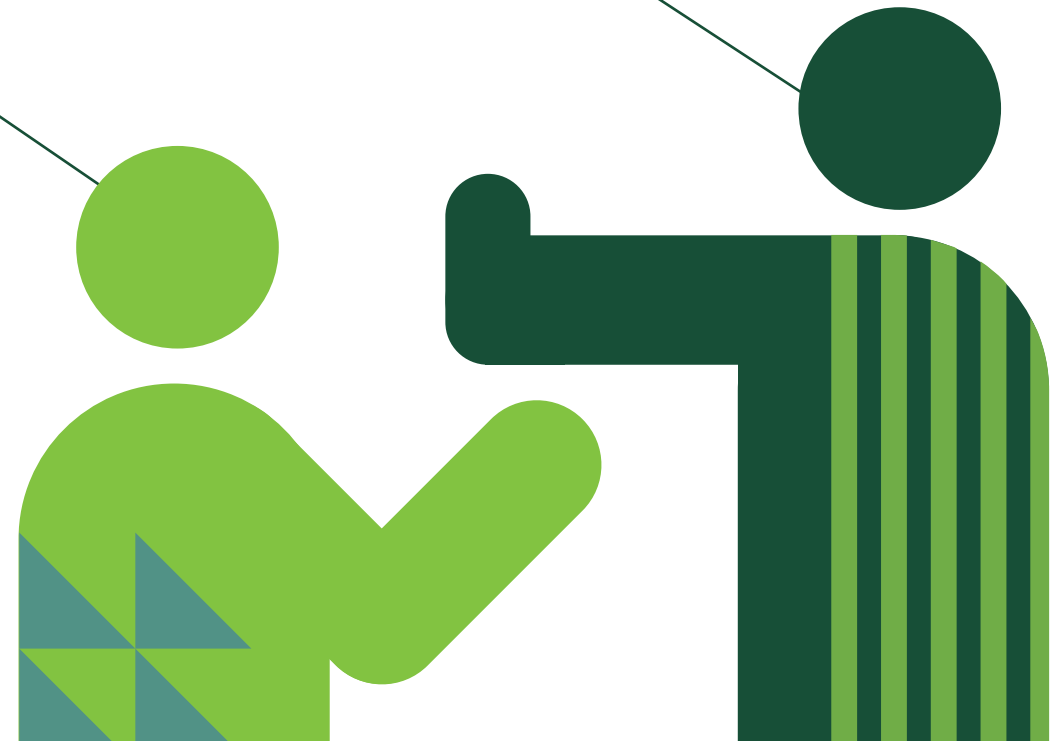


27%

of renters asked landlord
for **changes to improve
energy efficiency**

15%

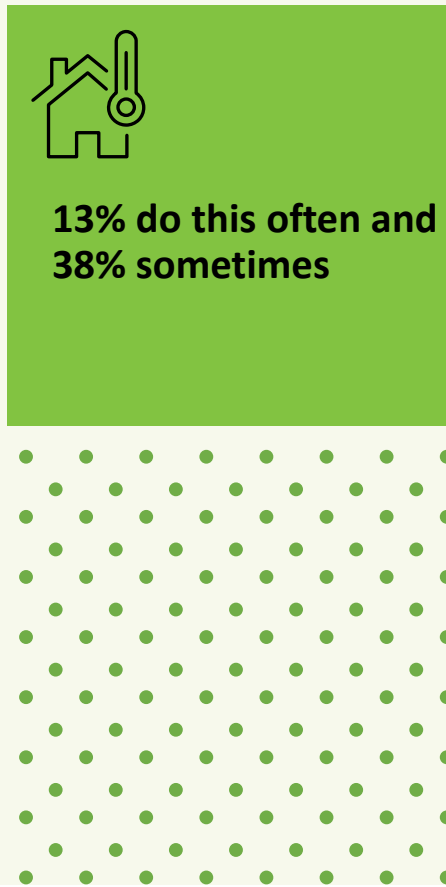
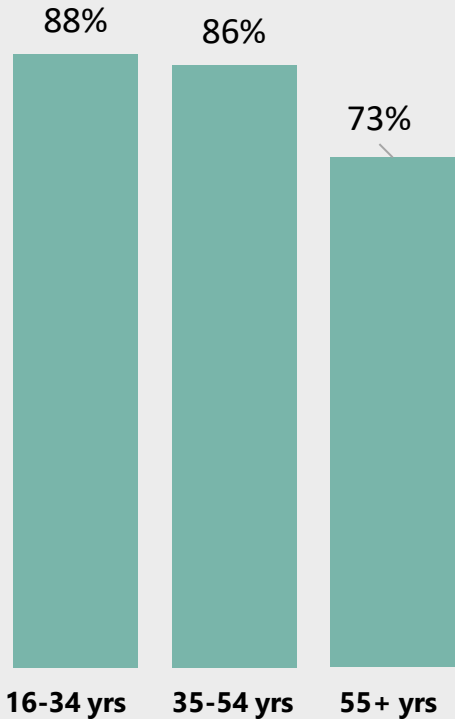
More than half of
landlords said **no**



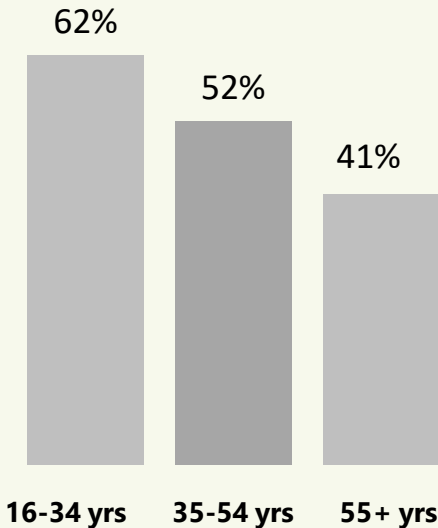
Over one-third 37% 'often' do not use heating or cooling because of cost



'Often' or 'sometimes' choose not to use heating/cooling due to cost



'Often' or 'sometimes' choose not to use heating/cooling due to GHG emissions



Energy efficiency:

Our homes account for one-fifth of Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions

Two main
systems use
most of the
homes energy:
heating and
hot water

60%
of home
energy

Heating
43% of energy costs

Hot water system
17% of energy costs



Poor energy performance impacts:



The wider
economy



Less healthy
to live in



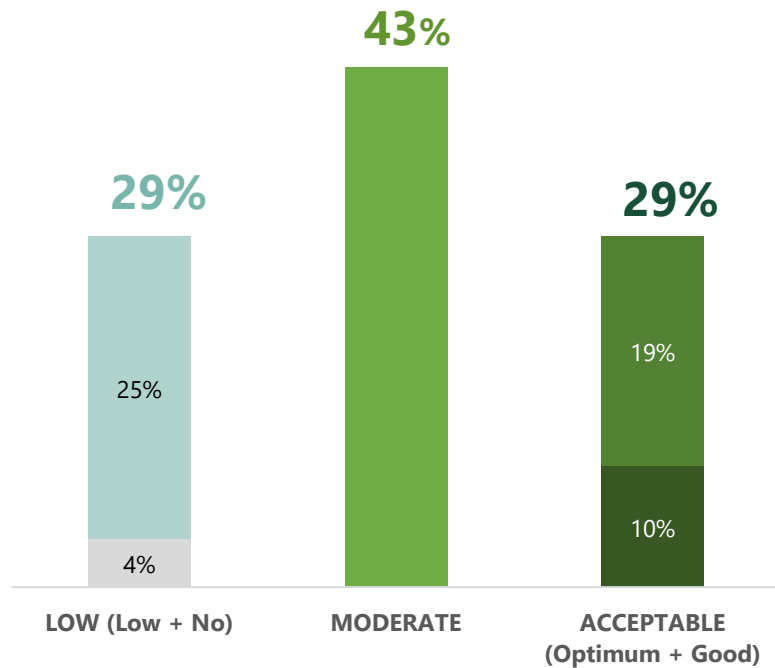
The energy
grid



Cost more to
heat and cool

Over one-quarter of homes have no or low energy efficiency

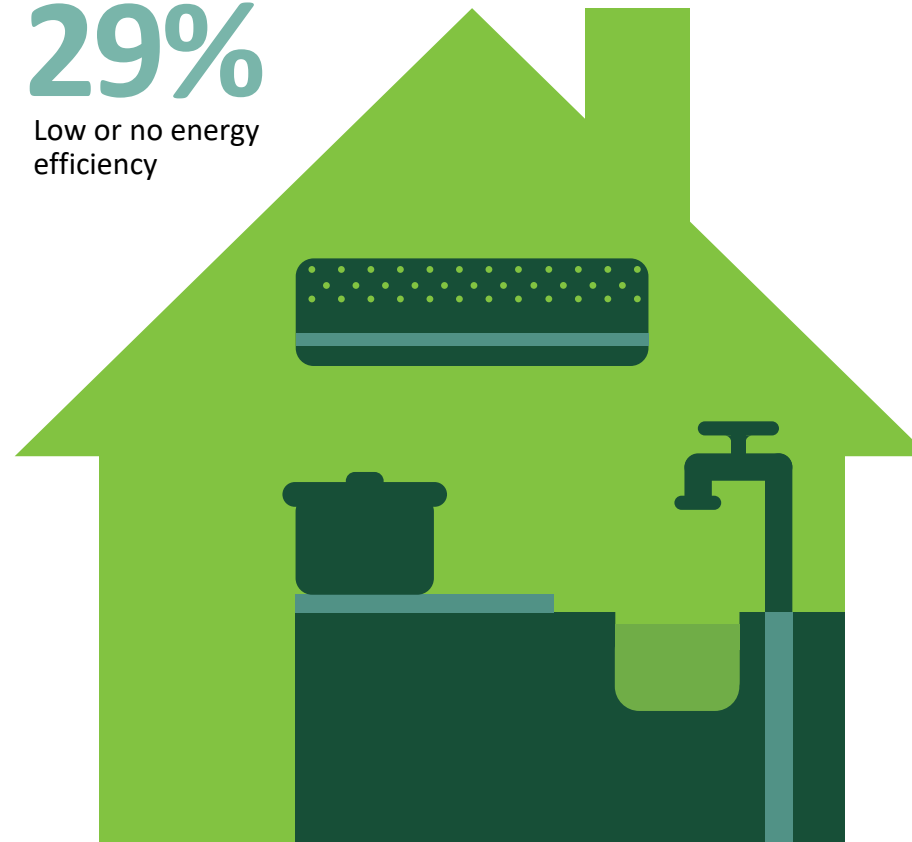
The energy efficiency levels of
Victorian homes



- No - No main appliance is energy efficient
- Low - ONLY cooking is energy efficient
- Moderate - heating OR hotwater is energy efficient
- Good - heating AND hotwater both energy efficient
- Optimum - heating, hot water and cooking ALL energy efficient

29%

Low or no energy
efficiency



Key appliances:

29%

of homes have heating
and hot water rated as
energy efficient

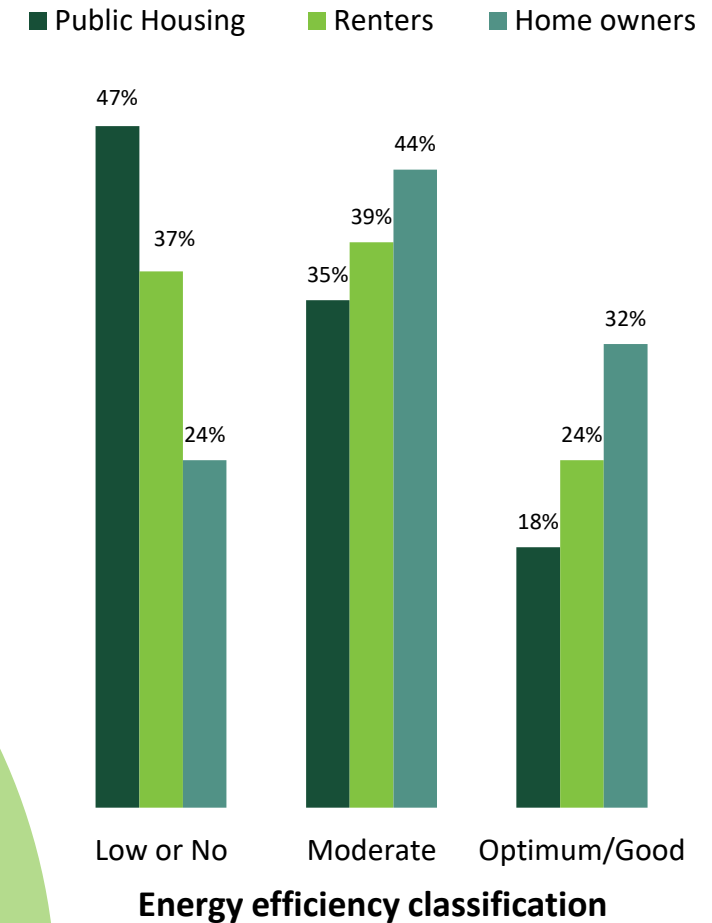
71%

Of homes need
improvements to energy
efficiency

Renters and those in public housing have lower energy efficient appliances

Energy efficiency appliances	Energy efficiency Heating	Energy efficiency water
Homeowners	59%	44%
Renters	42%	29%
Public housing	39%	18%

Energy efficiency classification, by housing status



Gas v electric

Switching from gas to electricity is critical
to Victoria net zero emission targets:
75-80 per cent by 2035 and net-zero by 2045

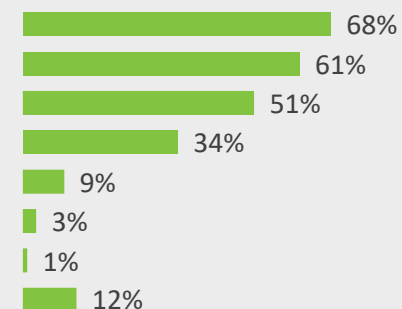
Victoria is the state with the highest gas usage – 88% home have gas appliances

Most households have more than one gas appliance in use

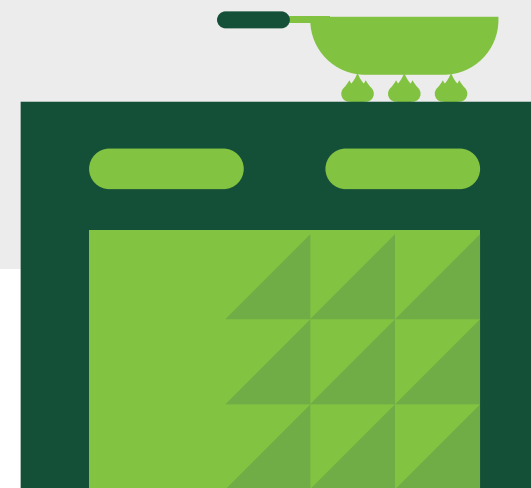
40% All gas or mostly gas

Category	Description	% of homes
All gas	All gas appliances	14%
	• Gas heating	
	• Gas hot water	
	• Gas cook top	
	• Gas oven	
Mostly gas	Heating AND hot water is gas	26%
Partly gas	Heating OR hot water is gas	34%
Low level gas	Only cooking is gas	14%
No gas in use	No gas appliances in use	12%

Appliances in use



Gas cook top
Gas hot water system
Gas heating
Gas oven
Gas (fixed gas piping) for BBQ
Gas for pool pump
Other gas feature
No gas in use at all



Meeting GHG emissions targets requires moving from fossil fuels (gas) to renewable electric



Attitudes are
positive,
conceptually

65%

agree it's important to
move away from fossil
fuels like gas

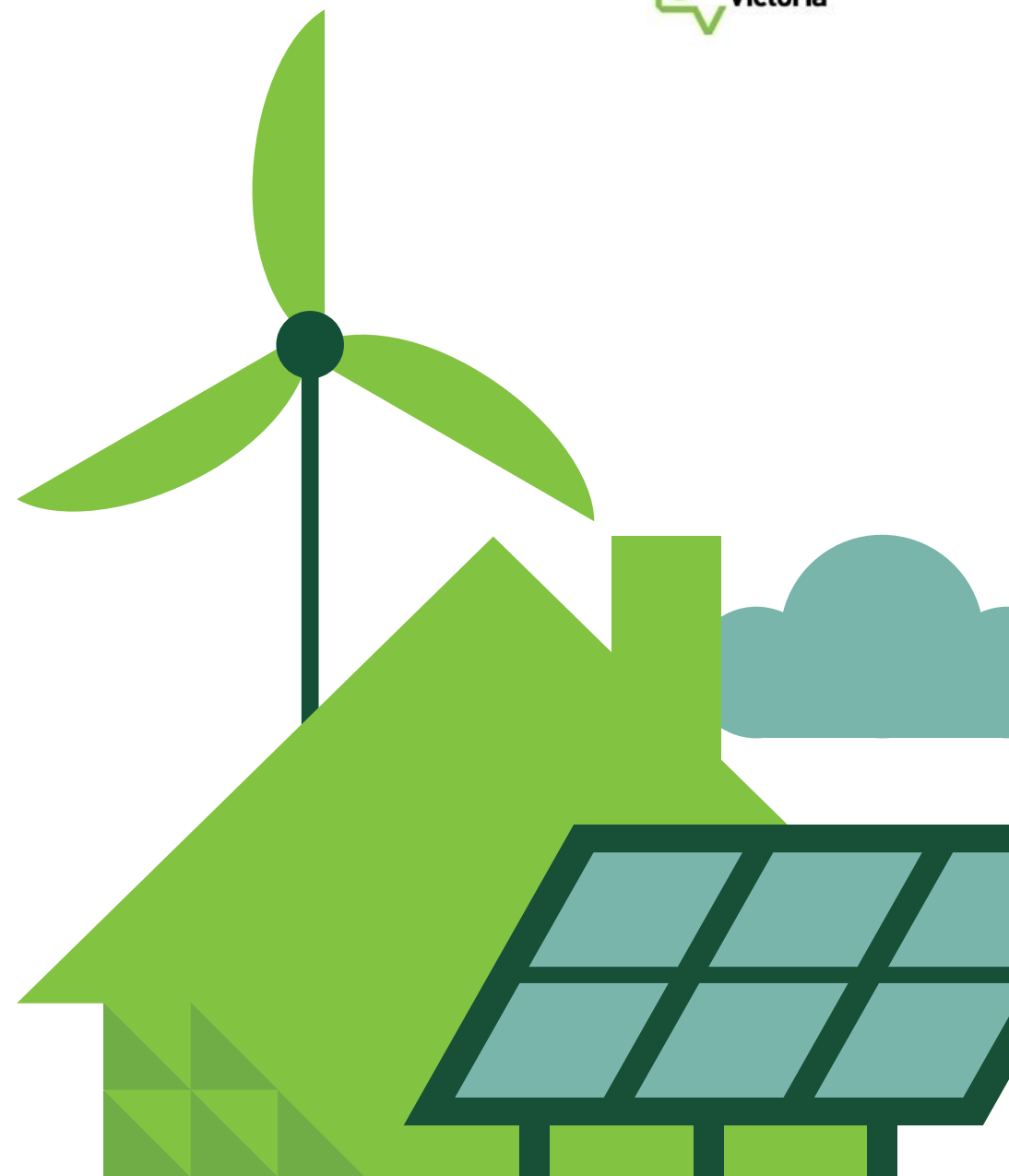
Practicalities are less
straight-forward

Over
90%

gas users indicated they
would consider switching a
specific appliance or two

47%

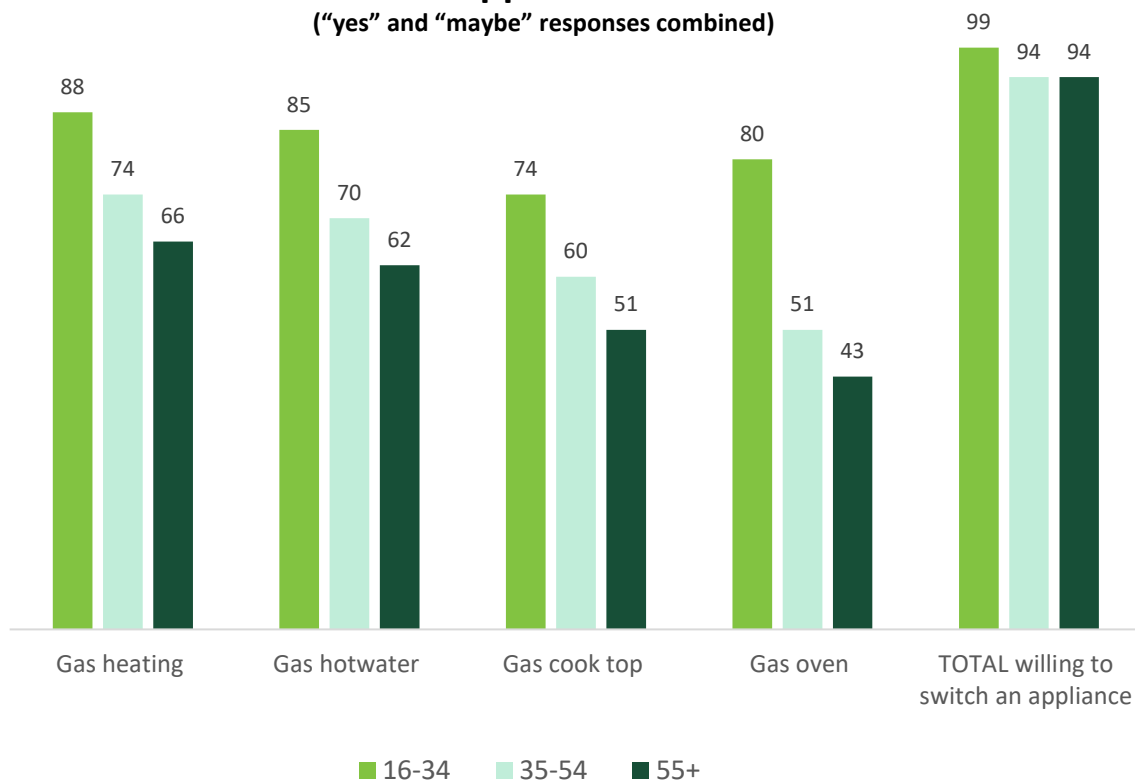
say no to disconnecting
from gas completely



Propensity to switch from gas to electric varies between age groups

Would consider switching from gas to electric, by appliance

("yes" and "maybe" responses combined)

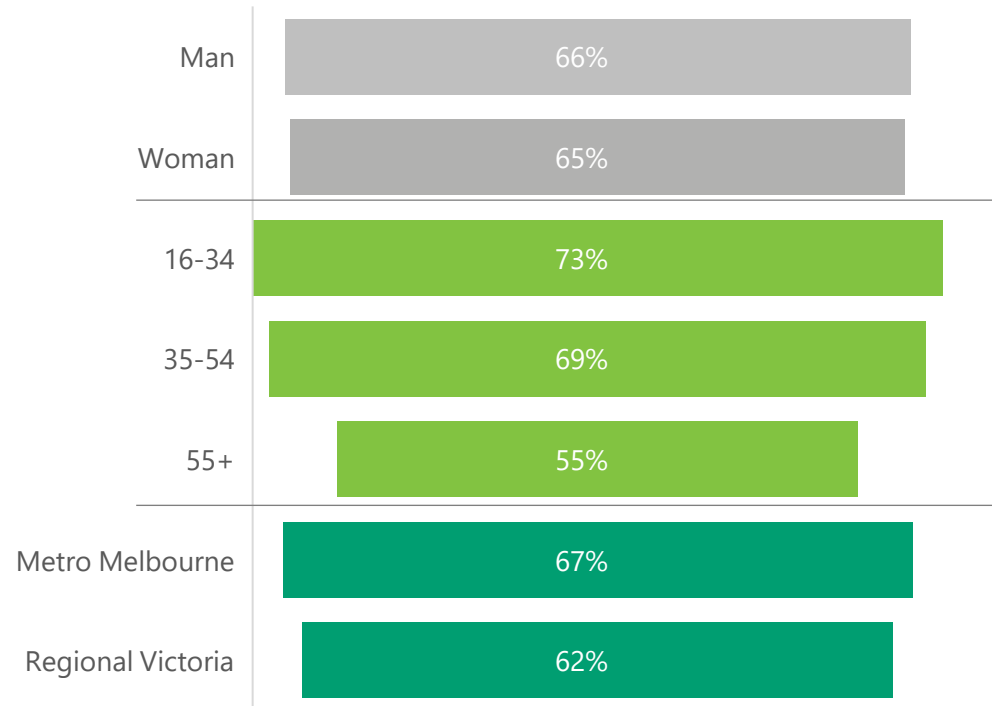


Younger people
are more willing



Over 55's
are less willing, and
they have higher
incidence of gas
appliances

Agree it's important to move away from fossil fuels like gas – younger people most likely to agree



Younger people
are more likely to agree

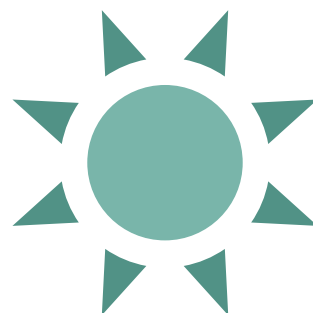


Over 55's
are less likely, but
over half still agree

Renewable energy

Promoting renewable energy and a suite of applications holds immense potential

41% of Victorian homes use renewable energy



31%

have solar panels

17%

buy renewable energy
from energy provider

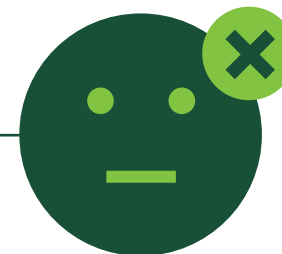
7% + 10%

Have solar
panels

Do NOT have
solar panels

31%

SVP



**Less likely
to have solar:**

Renters

13%

Lowest and highest
SEIFA quintile

24%, 25%



**More likely
to have solar:**

Over 55 years

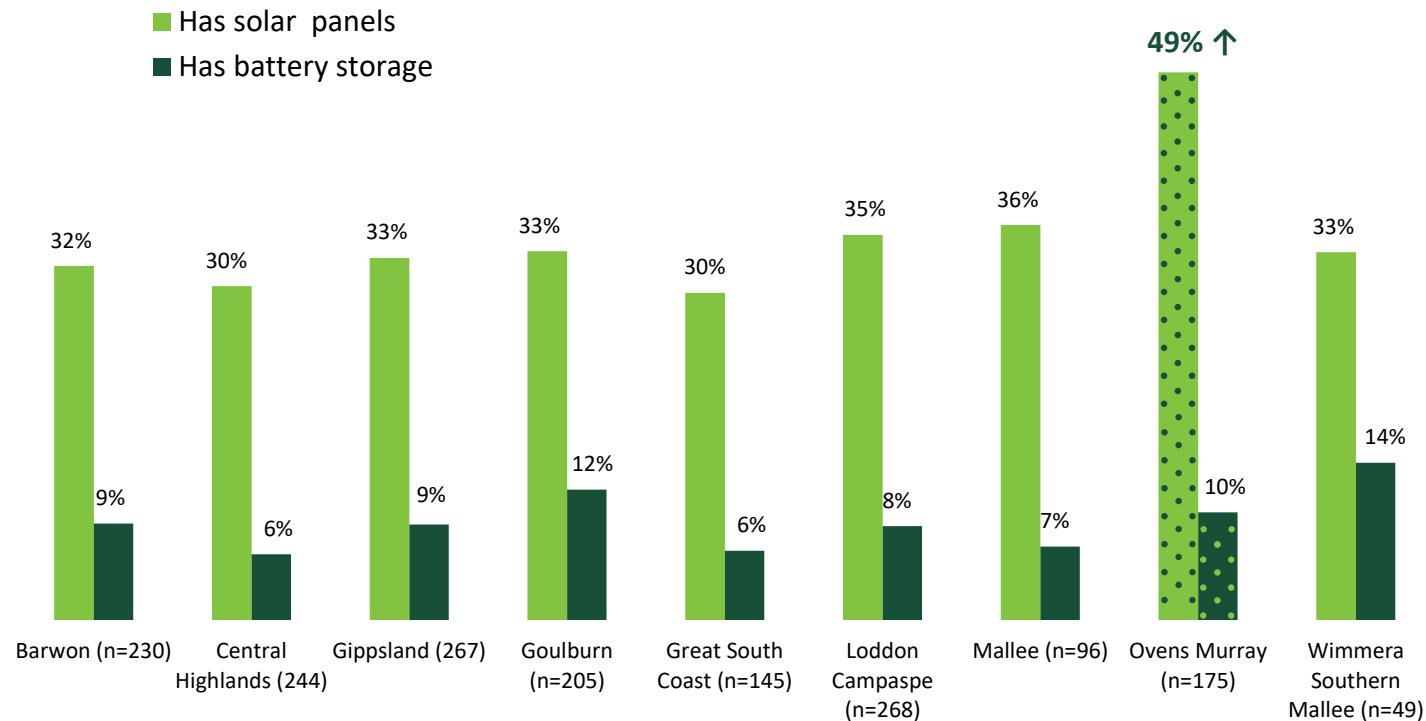
37%

Living in a
standalone house

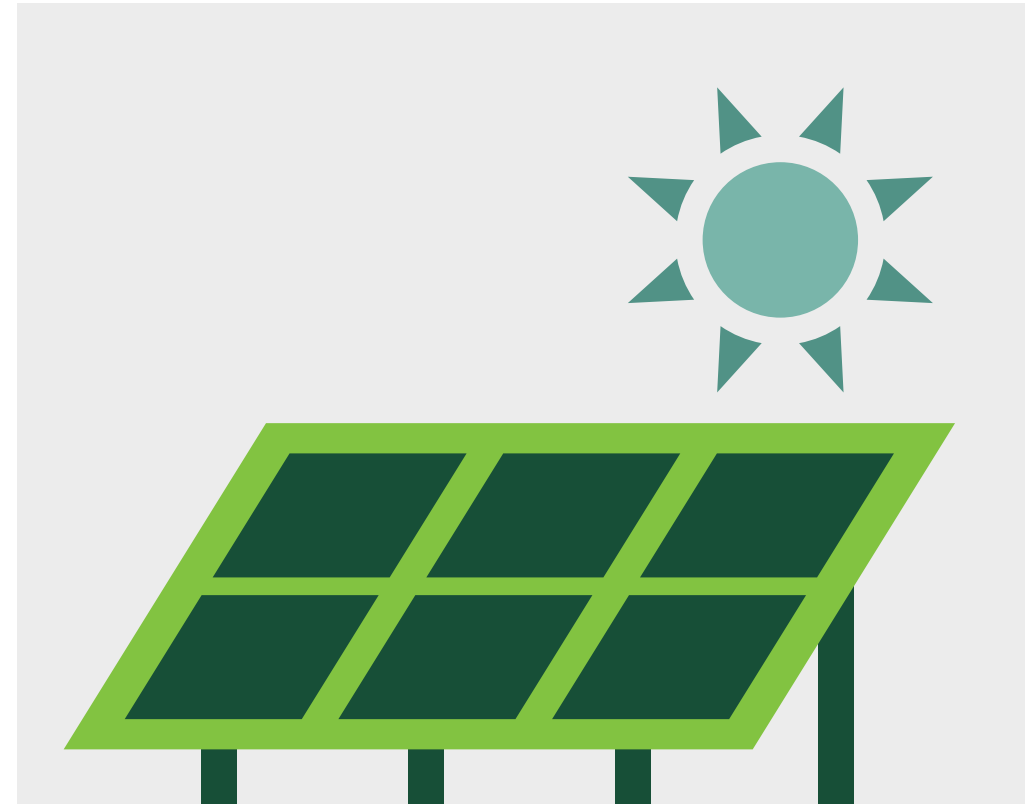
36%

Take up is fairly even across regions, with Ovens Murray leading the way

Solar take-up across regions



Melbourne is on par with the regions:
31% solar, 10% battery



Commuting and EV ownership

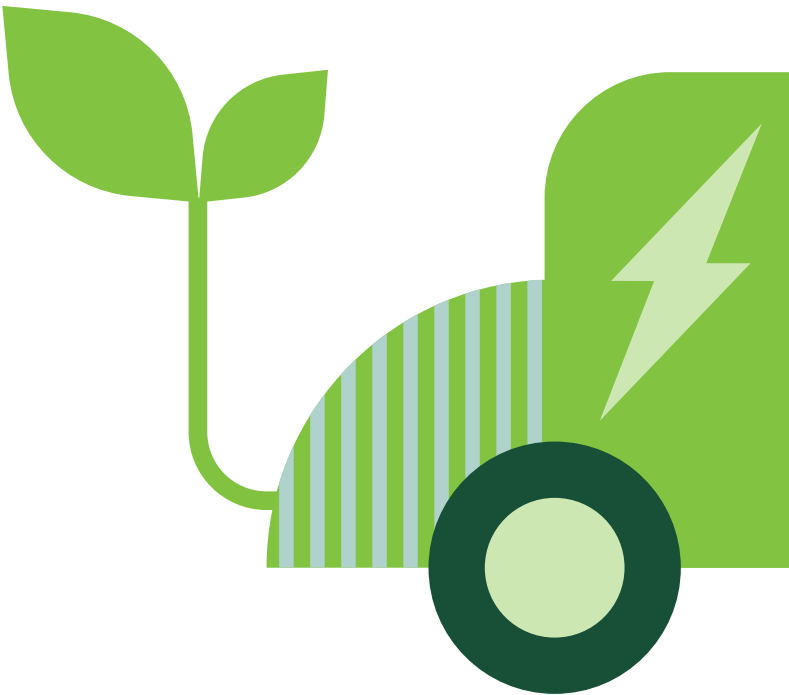
Row %	Already have	Plan to get this in next 1-2 years	Would consider
An electric vehicle (fully electric)	3%	9%	35%
A home charger/charging station for the electric car	4%	7%	27%
A hybrid electric vehicle (runs on petrol and electric)	5%	10%	37%
An electric bike/or scooter	8%	6%	19%

The daily commute/traveling to work or study

67% 
Drive or are driven
72% for 55+ yrs

19% 
Take public transport
24% of 16-34 yrs
13% aged 55+yrs

13% 
Take active transport
walk, cycle or scoot



Individual mindset and circular economy behaviours

Positive attitude is consistently held across
demographic groups and regions

Consistently positive attitude across the state that living sustainably is important



70%
believe that living
sustainably is
important

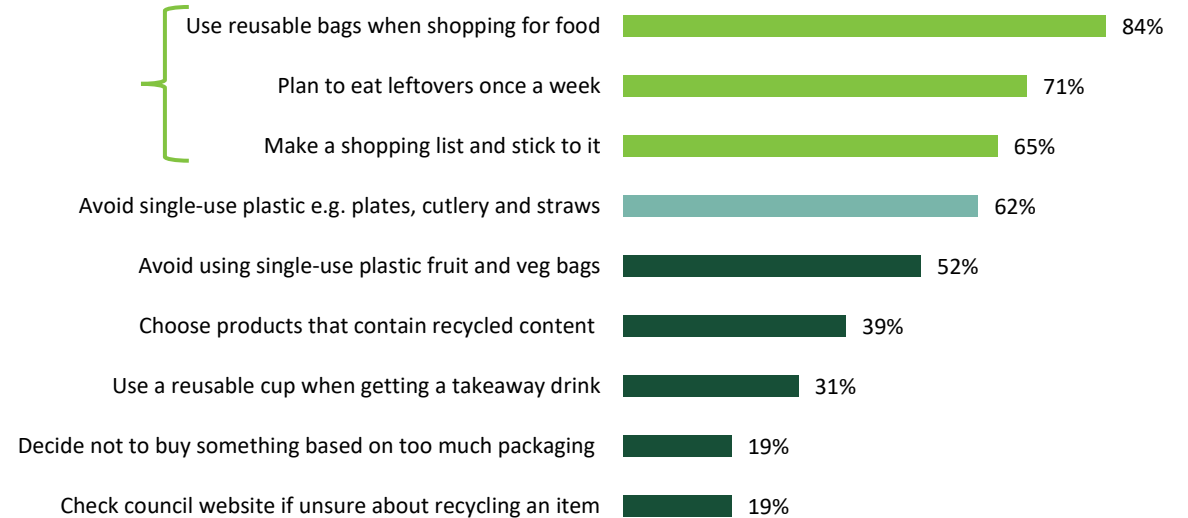


56%
are thinking more
about how best to
do this

Always or mostly do these

■ SV campaigns over
the past 2 years

■ Needs more work



Consistently positive attitude across the state that living sustainably is important

Extra slide



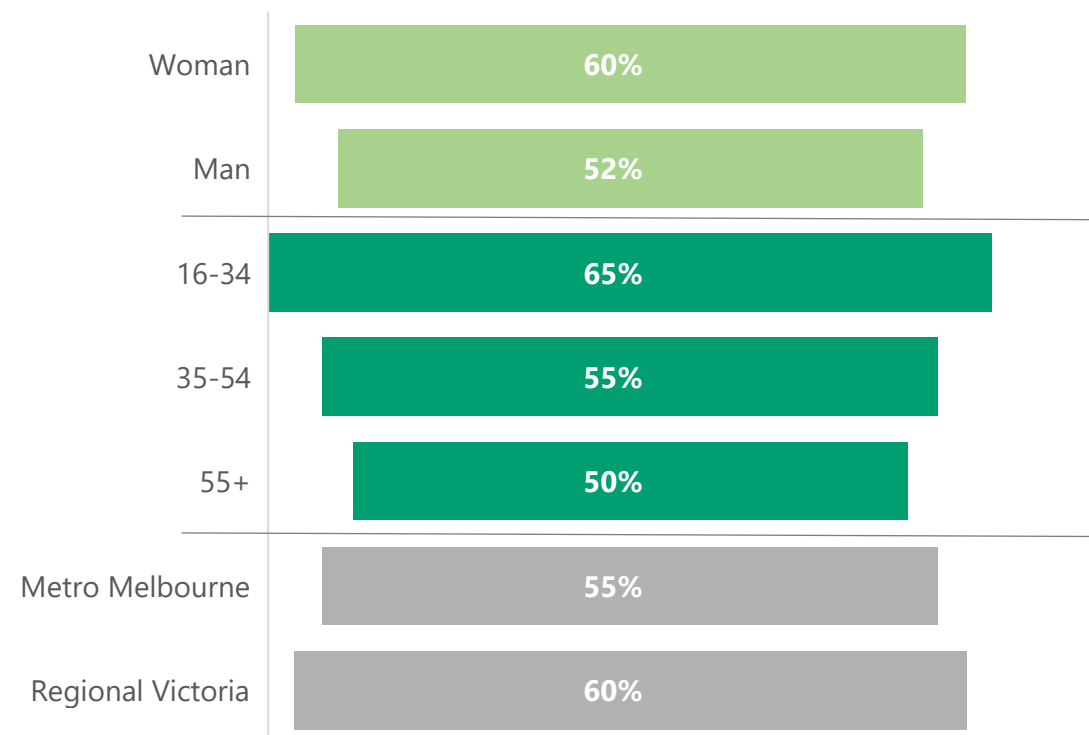
70%

believe that living sustainably is important and

56%

are thinking more about how best to do this

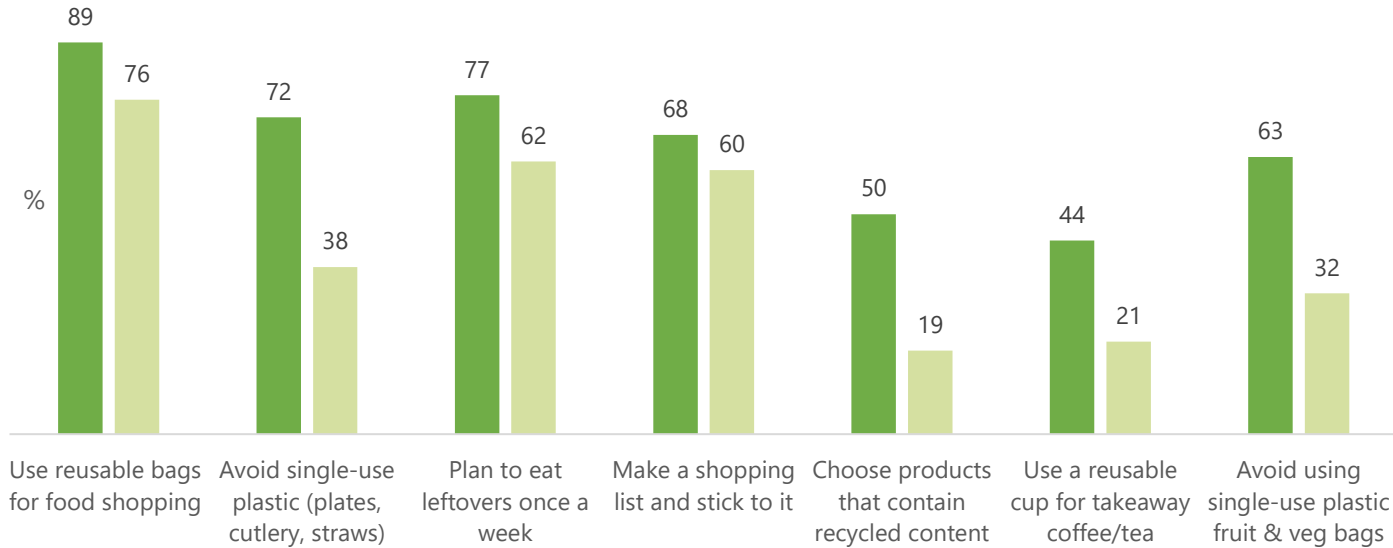
Thinking more about how to live sustainably



Believing its importance is positively correlated with pro-environmental behaviours

Household behaviours by attitude to living sustainably

■ Rate sustainable living as important ■ Do not rate as important



People are not particularly familiar with the term circular economy

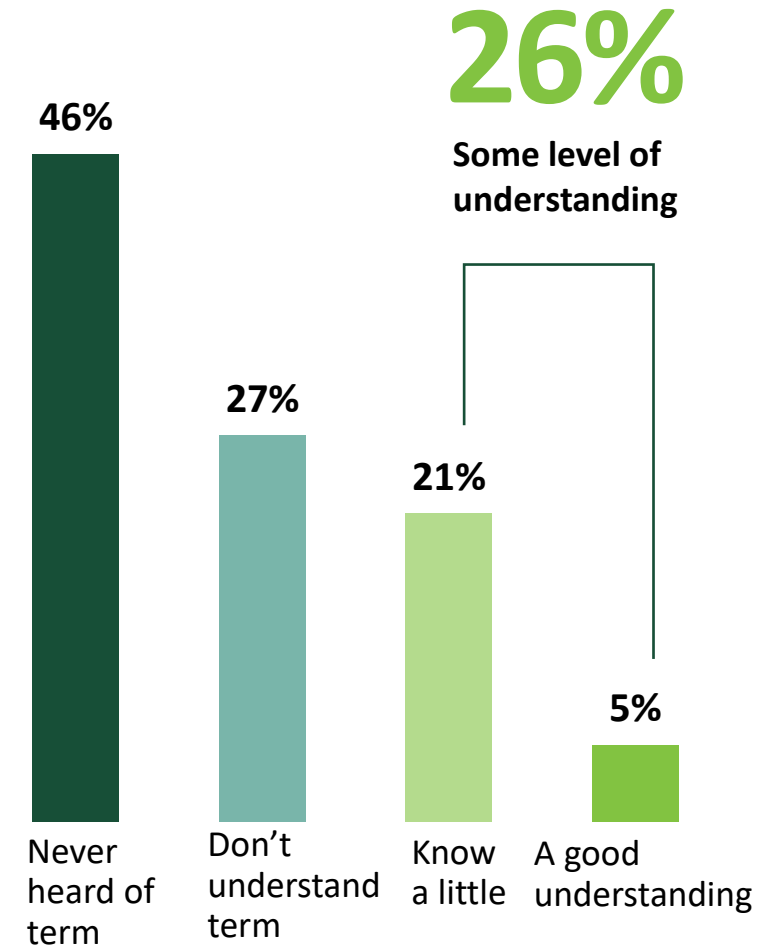


Don't understand the term



Have a good understanding

"CIRCULAR ECONOMY"



Some 'circular' behaviours are embedded, others need more support and education

Buying/selling second-hand
is well embedded

69%

Had bought from op shop

60%

Had bought/sold used
items online

Is this behaviour
replacing buying
new?



Repairing, servicing, leasing or
hiring – a new norm is needed

24%

Used repair services

Approx

10%

Used borrowing, leasing, or
hiring services

(tool libraries; car chare; toy library other
baby /children items etc.)

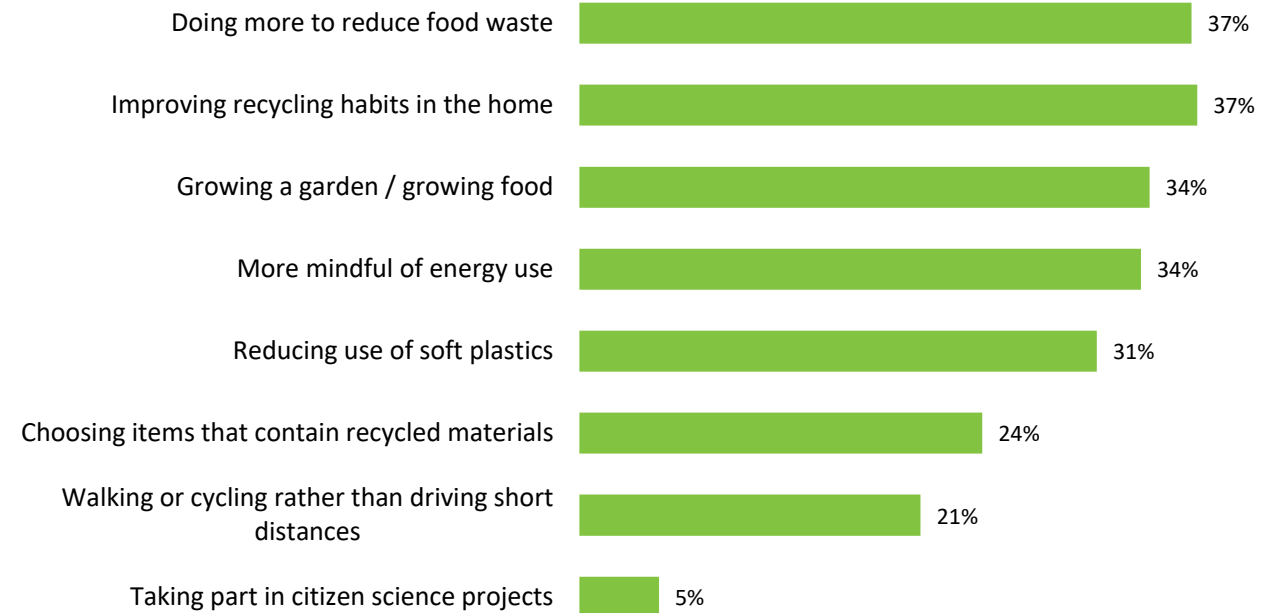
School kids are positively influencing sustainable behaviours in the home

70%

households with school-aged children say their child's learning from school has influenced the take-up of sustainable behaviours in the home



Behaviours in the home influenced by child's learnings from school



Expectations of government

Our community expects more supporting actions
from the government

People would like help from the State government to live more sustainably



Victorian want government action in three key areas:

32%

More education and advice on tackling climate change

32%

More urgent acceleration to renewable energy

27%

Support to transition to more energy efficient homes, especially for lower income earners



Policy to drive energy efficiency:

58%

Support mandatory disclosure of energy running costs at the point of sale or rental



Ways to better support the transition:

- More subsidies/more incentives/grants
- Lower costs/more help for low income
- improving waste collection
- Improve soft plastics recycling
- Improve recycling centres



Householder education required:

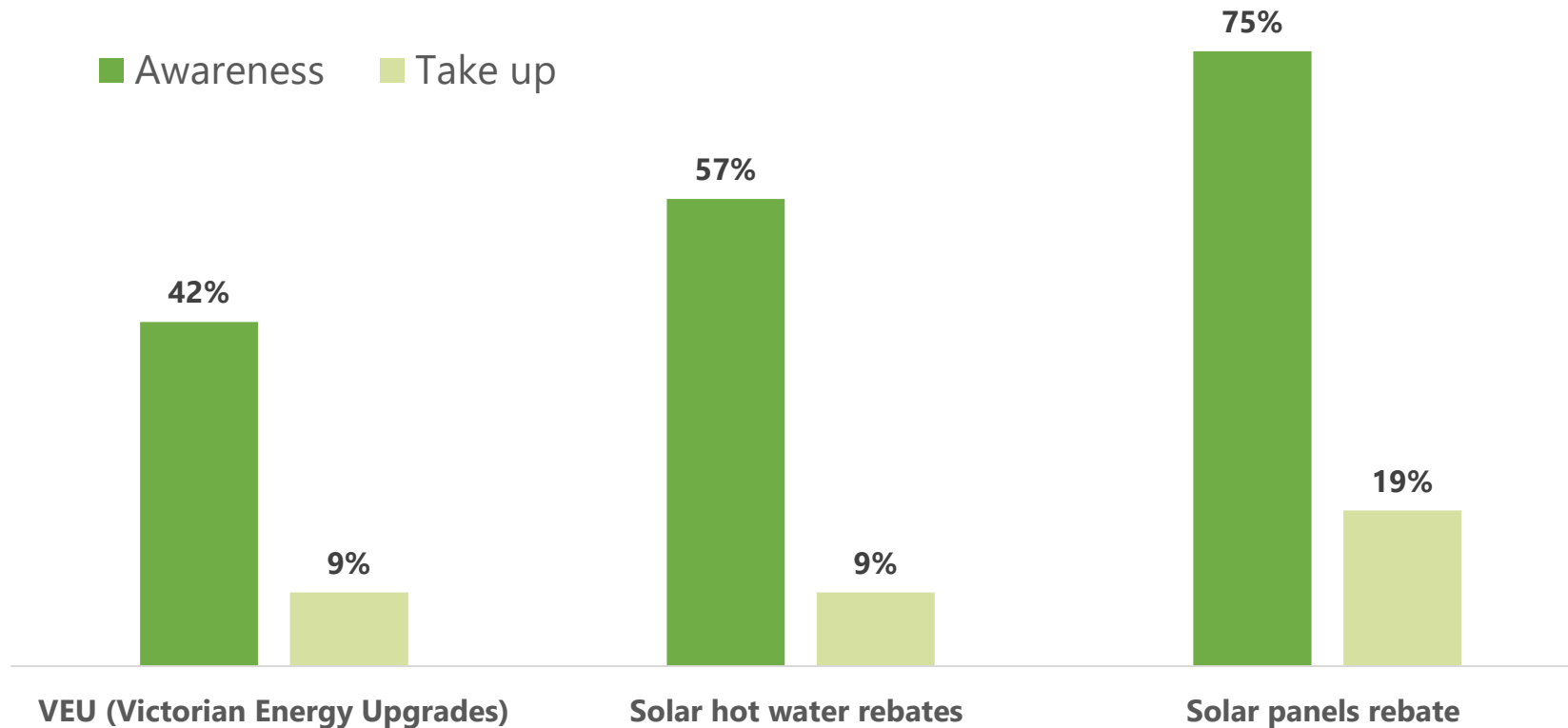
85%

Didn't know the energy efficiency rating of their own home

75%

Didn't know how to get a rating

Awareness and take-up of Victorian energy programs



For all programs awareness was higher among home-owners

- VEU – 50%
- Solar hot water – 65%
- Solar panels – 78%

Solar panel rebates take up was higher among:

- Those aged 65-74 yrs – 28%
- Home-owners – 26%

Lower among:

- Quintile 1 residents – 14%
- Most disadvantaged (IRSAD)

Awareness of SV and SV programs



13%

**Small Act Big Impact
(SABI)**

- **29% for 16-34 yrs**
- 13% English speaking and 13% CALD
- 14% Metro, regions, 10%



19%

**Detox your Home
(DyH)**

- 24% for 55+ yrs
- 20% English speaking and 10% CALD
- Metro 19%, regions, 19%

30% have attended

- 38% for men, 22% women
- 51% for 16-34 years
- 31% for English speaking and 18% CALD
- Metro 35%, regions, 16%



46%

Have heard of SV

- Consistent across all subgroups

THANK YOU!

Download the summary report here:

Renovators and new home builders

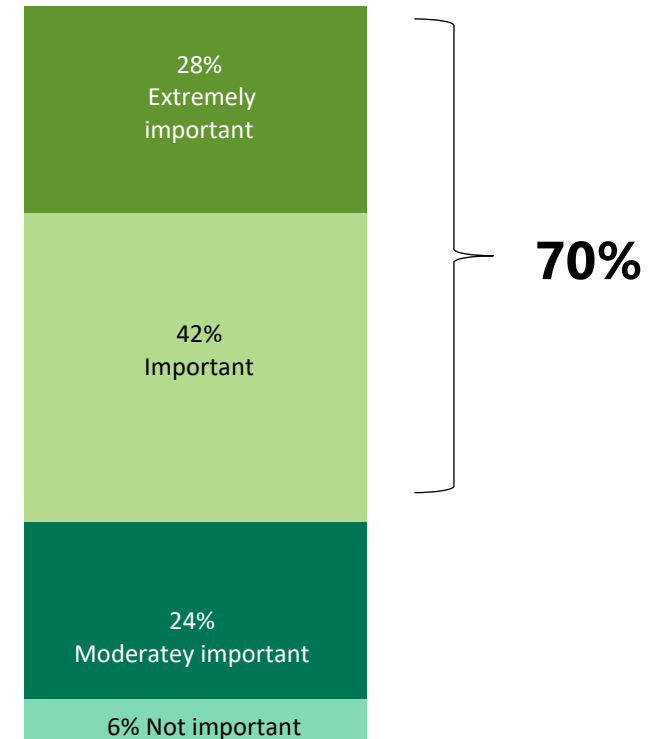
The sub-group of respondents (n=627) had recently (or were planning to) renovate or build a new home.

When building or renovating - energy efficiency is an important factor in decision making

75% Have or will look for ways to make their new home/renovations more energy efficient



70% Rate energy efficient as an **important or extremely important** when making decisions about their new home or renovation.

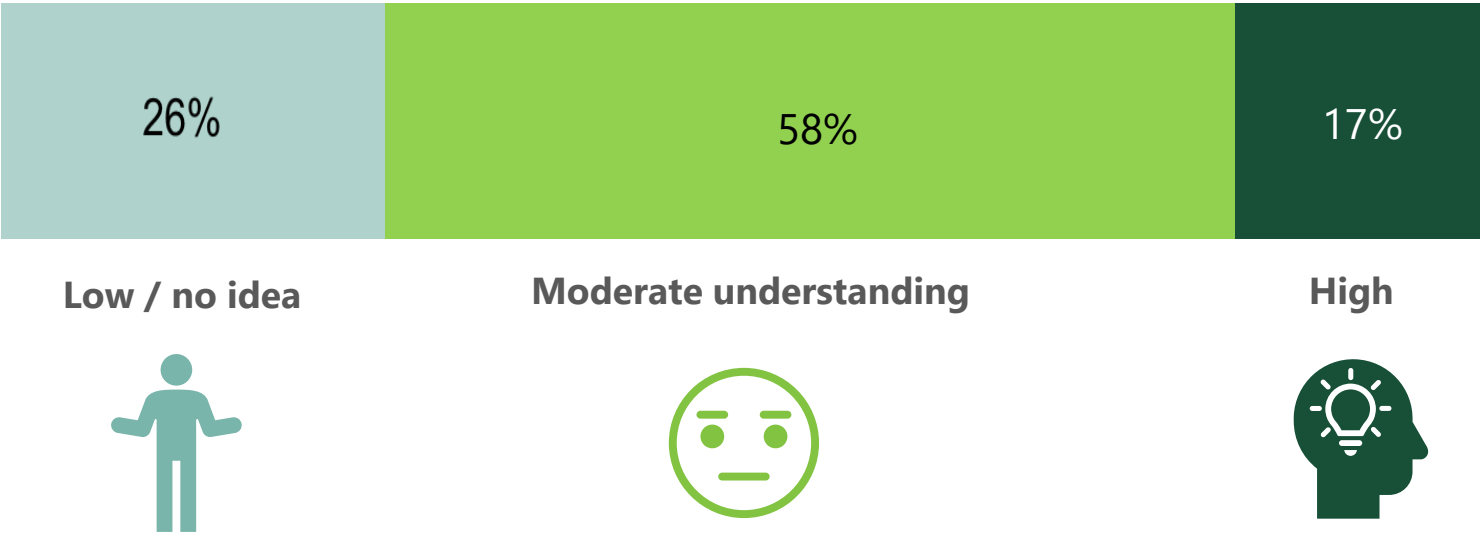


Overall how important is/was energy efficiency when making decisions about your new home or renovations? (n=658)

Education and literacy-building around energy efficiency is needed to inform best decision over long term



Rate your understanding of the features in a house that are important for maximising the home's energy use



Up-front costs a barrier despite clear understanding of long-term value



This suggests there is value in profiling the upfront benefits and the most cost-effective options available, as part of the building process.

80%

AGREE

Agree that the more energy efficient my home is, the lower my energy bills will be

72%

AGREE

Although upfront cost can be higher, in the long run a sustainable home will save energy and money

48%

AGREE

The upfront cost of a sustainable design home is too expensive for me to consider

\$



Some factors would help make choosing sustainable design easier

**Lower cost of
sustainability
features**



66%

**More accessible
information**



- Easier comparison of future costs savings on energy use

51%

- Tradies /builders to be better informed on the subject



44%

**Greater availability
of sustainable
materials**

50%

(Half had explored the use of recycled / reclaimed materials.)

