ATTACHMENT A

CONSULTATION REPORT

Consultation Report for the public exhibition of Adapting to Climate Change: 15 August – 16 October 2015.

Executive summary:

The City of Sydney's Adapting for Climate Change strategy received a record level of community participation for a environmental strategy. It was on public exhibition from 13 August – 16 October 2015.

Feedback was received from 120 people from a diverse range of ages living and working in the City of Sydney area. Analysis shows significant community interest in climate change adaptation and strong endorsement for the City's approach.

In refining the draft strategy, the project team should consider:

- Incorporating climate change in future decision making, particularly around land use planning, design of open space and infrastructure, and building codes and design;

- Using trees, plants and other natural systems to provide shade and shelter to adapt for extreme heat;

- Increasing education and awareness, including clear and practical actions the community can take to ensure their homes, families and community are prepared for climate change; and

- Working with other stakeholders on adaptation measures, as well as better public transport and reduced dependency on fossil fuels.

Consultation activities

The draft strategy was on public exhibition from 13 August – 16 October 2015 during which time feedback was sought via:

- 2 stakeholder briefings. 1 launch the exhibition on 13 August 2015 to and the other with the **Inclusion Disability Advisory Panel** on 14 October 2014;
- A project page on sydneyyoursay.com.au with the draft strategy, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a short survey;
- Submissions could be mailed or emailed to the engagement coordinator;
- Additional emails and calls to 8 stakeholders inviting them for briefing sessions and/or to make submissions;
- Public notices in the Central and Sydney Morning Herald newspapers;
- Emails to sydneyyoursay subscribers (3, 607 people);
- Social media announcements through twitter and LinkedIn; and
- Exhibition at the One Stop Shop and the City's neighbourhood service centres during the exhibition period.

120 survey responses were received – 94 online and 26 via intercept. Survey outcomes are analysed in this report.

(7 stakeholder submissions were received. They are analysed in Attachment B)

Background, objectives and methodology

The draft strategy was developed via extensive scientific and technical research, checked by our Science Reference Group including the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

We consulted with staff across our organisation, as well as stakeholders from emergency services, utilities, charities, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, business and other levels of government. We consulted with the community via a citizens' jury.

The objective of consultation during the public exhibition was to seek feedback on the City's proposed actions to adapt for a changing climate. These changes include:

- Extreme heat
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Bushfire and decreasing air quality
- Combined risks

The community were asked to assess 18 proposed actions, suggest other actions and indicate those they could take to adapt to climate change.

Participants ranked the actions on a scale of one to five, where one was 'not at all effective', and five was 'very effective'. These questions were compulsory.

Participants could suggest additional adaptation actions. These questions were not compulsory.

The final questions were designed to gauge interest in individual and/or community adaptation actions. These questions were not compulsory.

The survey was hosted online on sydneyyoursay.com.au. Some intercepts were conducted at the City's Share the Path bicycle education sessions.

General support for the City's proposed actions to adapt to climate change

All 18 actions proposed by the City to adapt for climate change received approval from a significant number of participants, with six seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by more than 83% of participants. The lowest ranking action was still seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 63% of participants. No action was seen to be 'not effective' or 'not at all effective' by a significant number of people.

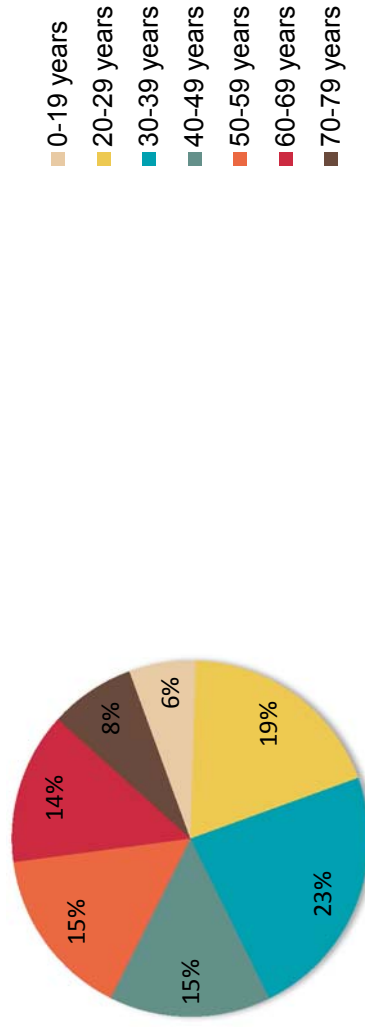The most popular actions were as follows:

- 92% of participants believed using trees, plants and other natural systems to provide shade and shelter would be 'effective' or 'very effective' for adapting for extreme heat

- 88% of participants believed factoring changing rainfall into land-use planning and design of open spaces and infrastructure would be 'effective' or 'very effective' for adapting to changing rainfall;

- 87% of participants believed designing buildings, streets and open space to withstand extreme heat would be 'effective' or 'very effective' for adapting for extreme heat;

- 86% of participants believed incorporating climate change into all future City decision making would be 'effective' or 'very effective' for adapting for the combined risks; and

- 84% of participants believed advocating for revised design and building codes that plan for climate change would be 'effective' or 'very effective' for adapting for the combined risks.

Graphs displaying all results can be found in below.

Survey participant profile:

- 57% of survey participants were residents currently living within the City of Sydney local government area. 56% of people worked in the area, 6% were overseas visitors and 4% were First Nations Peoples;

- 56% identified as female, 42% as male, 1% transgender and 1% preferred not to disclose; and

- A range of ages participated (see chart below) indicating interest in the City's plans across a broad range of demographic groups within the local area.
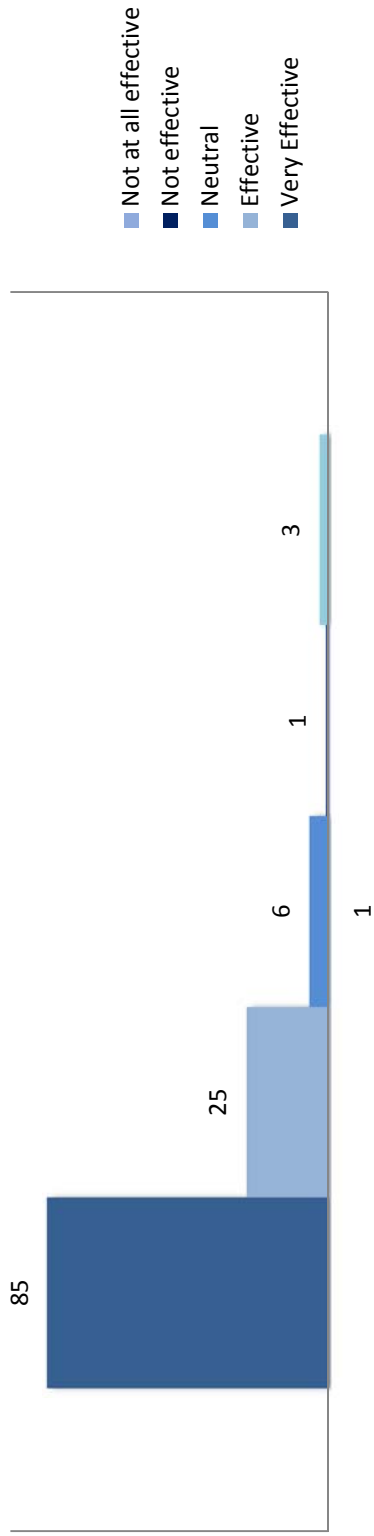
Ages of particpants:

■	0-19 years
■	20-29 years
■	30-39 years
■	40-49 years
■	50-59 years
■	60-69 years
■	70-79 years

Pie chart values: 6%, 19%, 23%, 15%, 15%, 14%, 8%

Extreme heat

The most popular actions for adapting for extreme heat were as follows:

Use trees, plants and other natural systems to provide shade and shelter from the heat

85	
25	
1	
6	
1	
3	

Legend:
- Not at all effective
- Not effective
- Neutral
- Effective
- Very Effective

(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 92% of participants)

Design City buildings, streets and open space to withstand extreme heat

68	
36	
1	
8	
2	
6	

Legend:
- Not at all effective
- Not effective
- Neutral
- Effective
- Very Effective
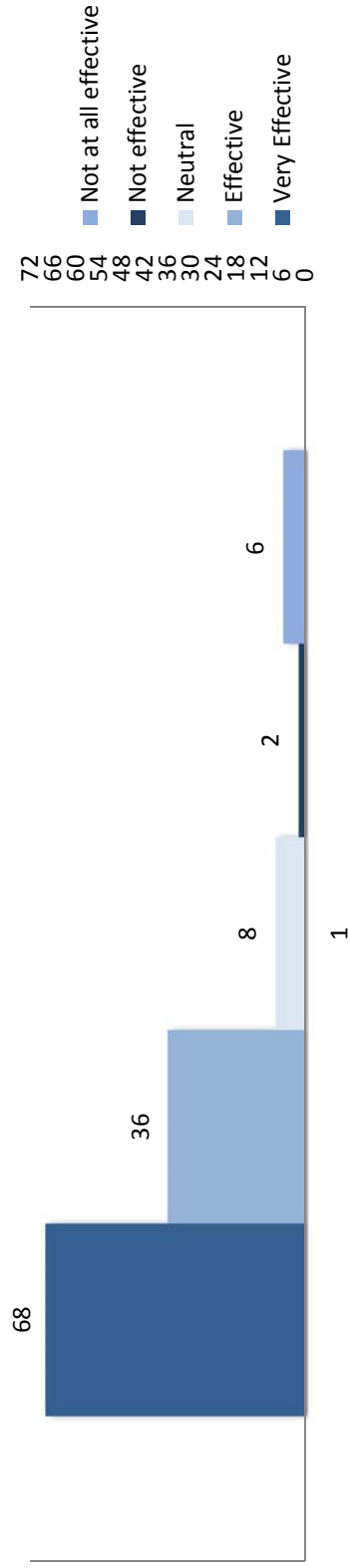
(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 87% of participants)

The three other actions proposed to address extreme heat were ranked as follows:

- 'Work with energy companies to find vulnerabilities in the energy supply system so we can build in resilience' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 81% of participants;
- 'Communicate and raise awareness with the community about how to manage in extreme heat' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 65% of participants; and
- 'Develop a heat wave response plan that aligns with the NSW Heatwave Sub Plan' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 63% of participants.

Other actions to adapt to extreme heat

Participants were given the option of suggesting other actions to adapt to extreme heat. 46 participants made suggestions, some suggested more than one action.

The two most commonly suggested areas for action were education/engagement and improvements to buildings (14 participants each).

Suggested education/engagement actions included:

- More community education;
- Education programs in schools, TAFE, universities and nursing homes; and
- Education around specific issues such as resetting summer air conditioning temperatures to ensure less pressure on the energy grid during extreme heat.

Suggested improvements to buildings included:

- Designing new buildings and retrofitting old buildings to remain cool with awnings, better insulation, pale or green roofs; and
- Making DAs for green retrofits easier to obtain.

Other suggested actions included:

- Green roofs
- More trees and green space
- Switch to green energy to meet power requirements in extreme heat;
- Design public spaces with water elements; and
- More, better and air conditioned public transport with stops providing shade and shelter. This would discourage traffic congestion during extreme heat.

Changing rainfall patterns

The most popular action for adapting for changing rainfall patterns was:

Factor changing rainfall into land-use planning and design of open spaces and infrastructure.
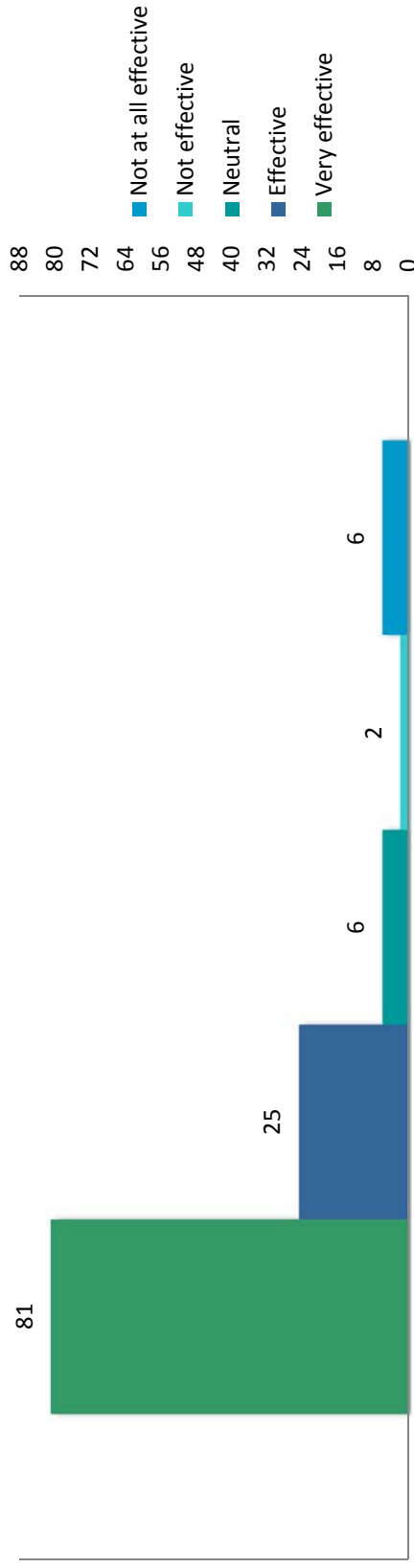
(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 88% of participants)

The other two actions proposed for adapting for changing rainfall patterns were ranked as follows:

- 'Work with emergency services to prioritise and coordinate our response. This includes public awareness and warnings, planning, resourcing and communications systems' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 82% of participants; and
- Continue to manage flooding in our local government area was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by74% of participants.

Other actions to adapt to changing rainfall patterns

33 participants suggested other actions, some suggested more than one action. The most common suggestions were:

- Harvesting water for use during drought (15 participants). Suggestions included rain gardens, more permeable surfaces, installation of residential water tanks and stipulating stormwater capture and reuse within DAs; and

- Flood proofing (10 participants). Suggestions included investigating and upgrading all drainage systems within the LGA.

Bushfire and decreasing air quality:

The most popular action for adapting for bushfire and decreasing air quality was:

Contribute to a coordinated emergency response.
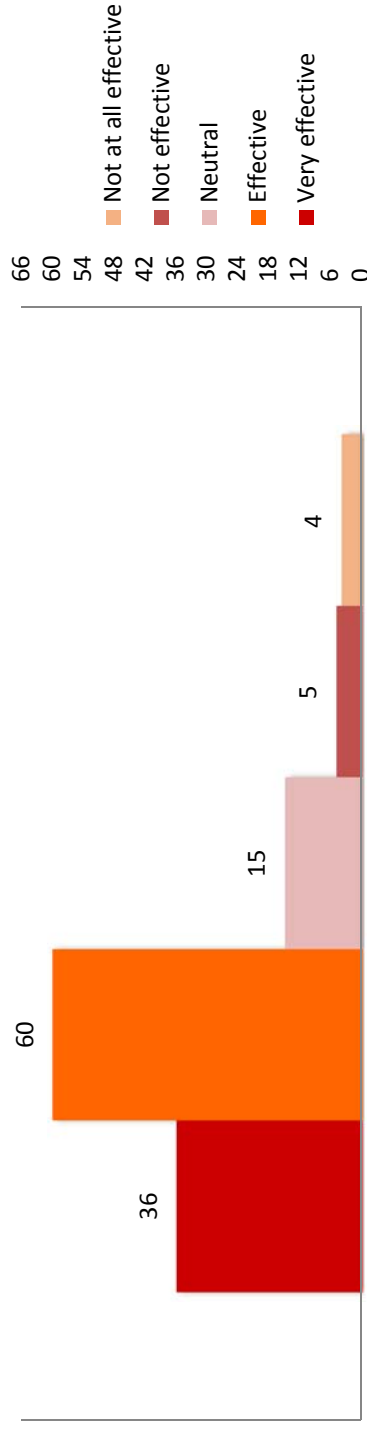
(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 80% of participants)

The other actions were ranked as follows:

- 'Identify vulnerable community members and the places they could seek refuge' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 76% of participants; and
- 'Contribute to community awareness and education on the health risks from smoke and air pollution' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 63% of people.

Other actions to adapt to bushfire and decreasing air quality

Nine participants suggested other actions, some people suggested more than one action. The most commonly suggested actions were for pollution control to minimise our contribution to poor air quality during bushfires and other events (six participants). These suggestions included:

- Free or cheaper public transport on high pollution days to discourage car use;

- More and better public transport; and
- Minimising our use of 'dirty' fuels.

Other suggestions included:

- Ensuring technology supports working from home on high pollution days; and
- Designated shelters with support for vulnerable people.
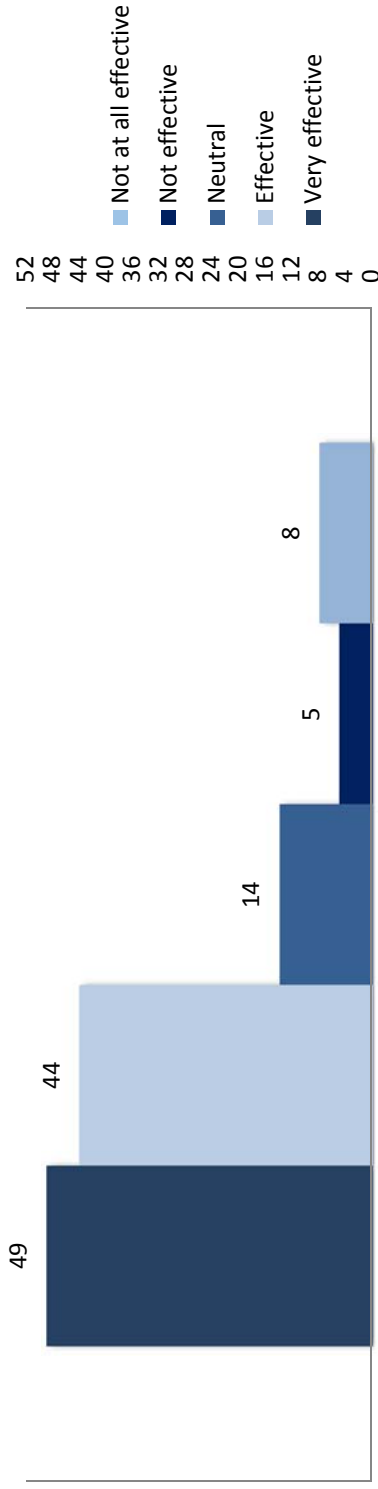
Sea level rise

The most popular actions for adapting for sea level rise were:

Ensure sea level rise is factored into our plans including our Flood Plain Management Plan and Asset Management Strategy
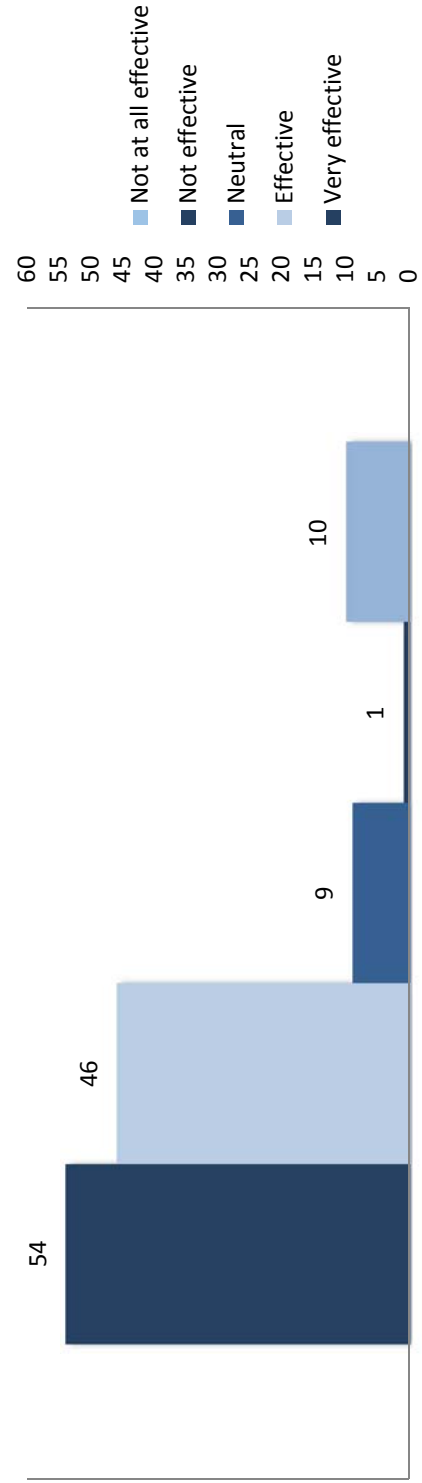
(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 83% of participants)

Advocate to the NSW government for a state planning framework addressing sea level rise and storm surge

Legend:
- Not at all effective
- Not effective
- Neutral
- Effective
- Very effective

(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 77% of participants)

The other actions were ranked as follows:

- 'Identify ways to protect foreshore areas at risk' was seen to be 'effective' or 'very effective' by 77% of participants; and
- 'Develop a sea level rise adaptation action plan' was seen to be 'effective' or 'very effective' by 76% of participants.

Other actions to adapt for sea level rise

14 participants suggested other actions, some suggested more than one action. The most popular suggestions related to planning and development (9 participants) including:

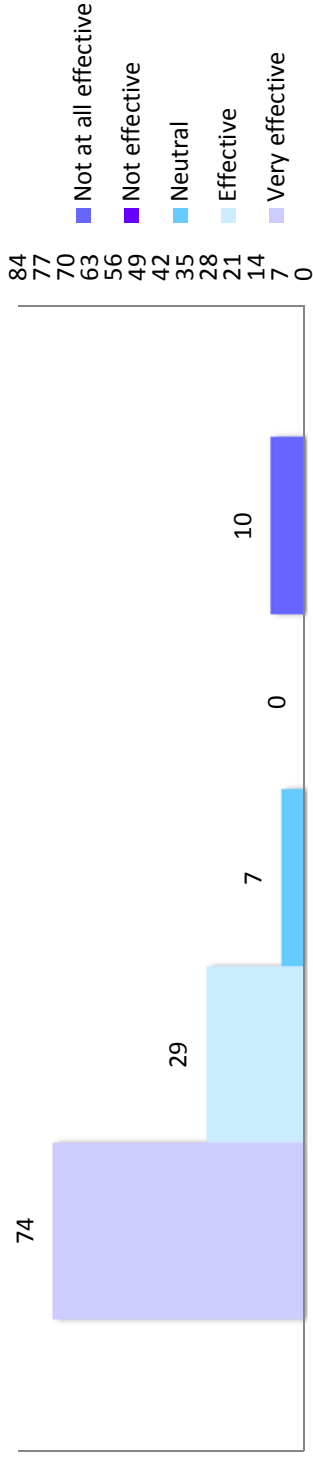- Ensure planning decisions consider risks around building in foreshore areas.

Other suggestions included:

- More education; and
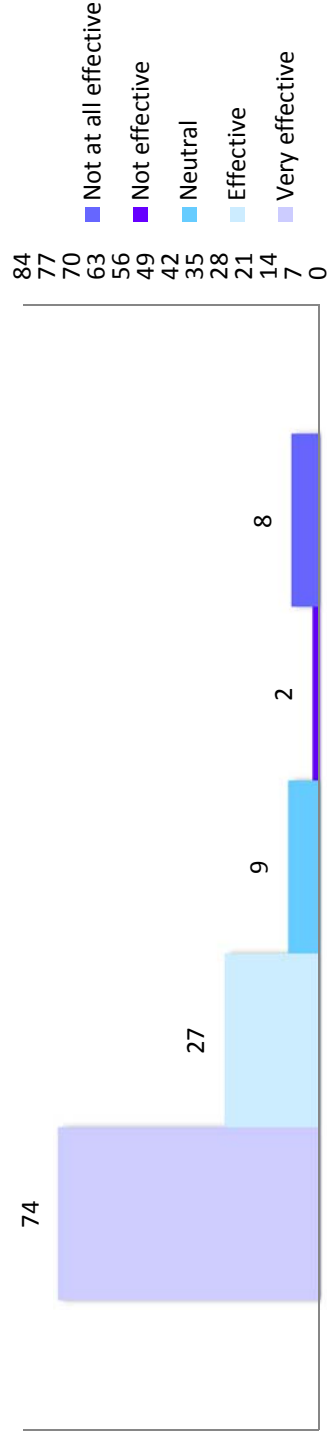- Working with other levels of government to adapt.

Combined risks

The most popular actions for adapting for the combined risks were:

Incorporate climate adaptation into all future City decision making.

Legend:
- Not at all effective
- Not effective
- Neutral
- Effective
- Very effective

Values: 74, 29, 7, 1, 0, 10

Axis: 84 77 70 63 56 49 42 35 28 21 14 7 0

(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 86% of participants)

Advocate for revised design and building codes that plan for climate change

Legend:
- Not at all effective
- Not effective
- Neutral
- Effective
- Very effective

Values: 74, 27, 9, 1, 2, 8

Axis: 84 77 70 63 56 49 42 35 28 21 14 7 0

(Ranked as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 84% of participants)

The other action was ranked as follows:

- 'Establish a panel of experts to help us with ongoing review of climate science, risks and how we should respond' was seen as 'effective' or 'very effective' by 81% of participants.

Other actions to adapt for the combined risks

20 participants suggested other actions, some participants made more than one suggestion.

The most common suggestions related to building codes and design (seven participants). Suggestions included:

- Ensure building codes mandate energy efficient design for our local climate, rather than a 'one size fits all' approach;
- Ensure heritage buildings are liveable in the future; and
- Use high quality building materials for new developments.

Other suggestions included:

- Make sure this strategy includes practical actions for the community. This will empower people who may otherwise feel overwhelmed;
- Advocate to other levels of government for strong action.

Actions for the community

The objective of the final survey question was to gauge community interest in taking direct action to ensure their homes, family, pets, friends and local community are prepared for climate change.

Participants were presented with six actions. Participants were asked if they already undertook any of the actions. If not, they could rate the likelihood they would take each of the actions on a scale of one to five, where one was 'will definitely not do this' and five was 'will definitely do this'.

The question was optional. 120 participants put answers next to three of the actions, 119 participants put answers next to two of the actions and 118 participants put answers next to one action.

The actions most people currently take were:

- 'Do first aid training' (24 people); and
- 'Create a checklist of items you will need in an emergency (first aid kit, emergency hotline numbers, up-to-date insurance)' (16 people).

The actions most people were likely or very likely to take were:

- 'Create a checklist of items you will need in an emergency (first aid kit, emergency hotline numbers, up-to-date insurance)' (62 people)
- 'Prepare a 'go bag' with essential items in case you need to seek shelter' (58 people); and
- 'Volunteer for organisations such as Red Cross, SES, RSPCA, Meals on Wheels' (53 people)

The actions most people were unlikely/would never take are as follows:

- 'Form a group with your neighbours and start planning. Identify skills and resources, where to seek shelter, what to do with pets and how you will communicate in emergencies' (47 people);
- 'Form a group with your neighbours to plan for keeping kids, older people, people living with medical conditions, mental illness or a disability safe in extreme weather. This could include ensuring everyone has the right medication and other supplies' (40 people); and
- 'Prepare a 'go bag' with essential items in case you need to seek shelter' (20 people)

Initial results are positive, with the exception of two actions. Three times more people were likely to take action in the future than the number who were not.

The most popular actions were those that could be taken by individuals. The least popular were those that required collaboration amongst groups of people. Further research is required to understand the reasons for these results.

These outcomes indicate strong community interest in taking direct action to ensure prepare for climate change. The City could consider including practical actions for the community either within Adapting for Climate Change, or in the implementation plan to deliver the strategy. Another option is including community actions in engagement/communication activities to deliver the strategy and action plan.

Recommendations

The exhibition for Adapting for Climate Change has received the highest community participation numbers for the City's green infrastructure plans to date. People from a broad range of age groups living and working in the City of Sydney local government area were engaged. 120 people gave feedback via the survey, all of the City's proposed actions received significant support. These outcomes indicate strong community interest in climate change adaptation and compelling endorsement for the City's approach.

In refining the draft strategy, the project team should consider the following priority areas for the community:

- Using trees, plants and other natural systems to provide shade and shelter to adapt for extreme heat – this was the most popular action of all, and was emphasised within many of the additional actions suggested by the community;

- Incorporating climate change in future decision making, particularly around land use planning, design of open space and infrastructure, and building codes and design. These issues are seen in four of the five most popular actions. They were also the most commonly suggested additional actions to adapt for extreme heat, sea level rise and the combined risks;

- Community education, including clear and practical actions the community can take to ensure their homes, families, pets and community are prepared for climate change. Education was popular as an additional action for extreme heat, as well as bushfire and decreasing air quality. The community indicated a strong appetite for direct action in response to the final survey question about the actions people already undertake, and those they are likely to take in the future; and

- Working with other stakeholders to adapt, as well as better public transport and reduce the dependency on fossil fuels.