

Yarra Ranges: Community Views 2025

KEY INSIGHTS

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01

Introduction





About .id

Spatial intelligence that turns data into confident decisions

For over 25 years, .id has supported all levels of government, utility providers, emergency services, and private sector organisations in understanding their local areas to inform decisions that build better communities from the ground up.

Digital solutions for informed decision making



National datasets to monitor and benchmark local area progress.



Consulting services informed by your needs



How Yarra Ranges accesses the solutions toolkit

Unlock the complete picture of your LGA



About Community Views

Launched in 2021 to better represent residents' values, experiences and future needs in planning and advocacy decisions.

Community Views complements our understanding of local area demographics, population futures and economics to provide clients with a truly integrated understanding of their place and community.

- We ask questions that help decision makers measure policy impacts on society beyond economics.
- We collect large, representative samples to reflect local area needs and demographic differences.
- We analyse and report insights on our leading online platform, [views.id](#), which also hosts reports, presentations, videos and ongoing support.

QUESTIONNAIRE TOPICS

Values and Experiences

Liveability and Future Needs

Health and Wellbeing

Financial Circumstances

Climate Change

Concerns and Ideas

Custom Questions

Demography and Life Stages



How do we understand liveability?

A resident-centric approach informed by 16 critical attributes



**A lack of road
congestion**



**A prosperous
economy**



**High quality
education
opportunities**



**High quality
health
services**



**A strong sense
of community**



**Access to the
natural
environment**



**Making your way
to/from services
with ease**



**Opportunity
for all**



**Affordable
decent housing**



**Cultural facilities
such as museums,
galleries, festivals**



**Reliable and
efficient public
transport**



**Shopping, leisure
and dining
experiences**



Feeling safe



**Good job
prospects**



**Social
cohesion**



**Sports and
recreation**

How do we understand liveability?

A resident-centric approach informed by 16 critical attributes



Understand Values

The top 5 items residents believe contribute most towards making somewhere a good place to live



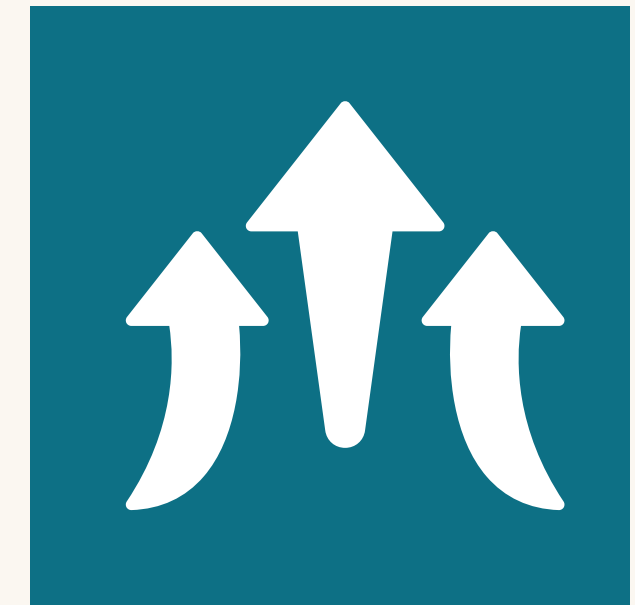
Measure Experiences

How residents experience all 16 items where they live on a scale between 0 & 10



Calculate Liveability

One number between 0 & 100 to monitor collective quality of life



Community Priorities

Attributes related to advancing quality of life to inform planning and advocacy

About the Study



Online survey conducted via social media advertising and Council channels



Total sample size of n=1,168, data weighted by age, gender, and local area



Data available spatially across four local areas

views.id

Insights and data available on the views.id platform.

N=1,168

YARRA RANGES
RESIDENTS

	N
Healesville - Yarra Glen	266
Hills	308
Urban	320
Yarra Valley	274

02

The Local Area



About Yarra Ranges

The Traditional Owners of Yarra Ranges are the Wurundjeri people.

profile.id **forecast.id**

Currently home to >160,100 people, +0.9% on the previous year, and is forecast to grow to 179,263 by 2041. Higher median age than the Greater Melbourne average (40 years old vs 37 years old), and proportion of couples without children (12% vs. 9%).

economy.id

Largest three industries by employment are Health Care & Social Assistance, Construction, and Retail Trade jobs - accounting for around 41% of local workers.

atlas.id **profile.id**

Socio-economic conditions vary across the LGA - Yarra Ranges has an overall SEIFA IRSAD score of 1014 - but there is a spread of scores across the LGA (from 929 in Mount Dandenong – Olinda to 1075 in Yarra Junction – Wesburn – Millgrove).

housing.id **profile.id**

Housing in Yarra Ranges is dominated by separate homes reflecting its suburban and rural character, with significantly less medium and high density housing than Greater Melbourne (6%, compared to 34%). There are also far more mortgage holders (47%) and fewer renters (14%) than the Greater Melbourne averages (36% and 29% respectively).



LGA = Local Government Area
SEIFA = Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
IRSAD = Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage

03

Key Insights



Overall Liveability in Yarra Ranges

The Overall Liveability Index (OLI) score for Yarra Ranges was 63.0 - well above comparable benchmarks, including the Australian average (59.5).

This signals residents see strong positives in their community and are generally satisfied with their quality of life.

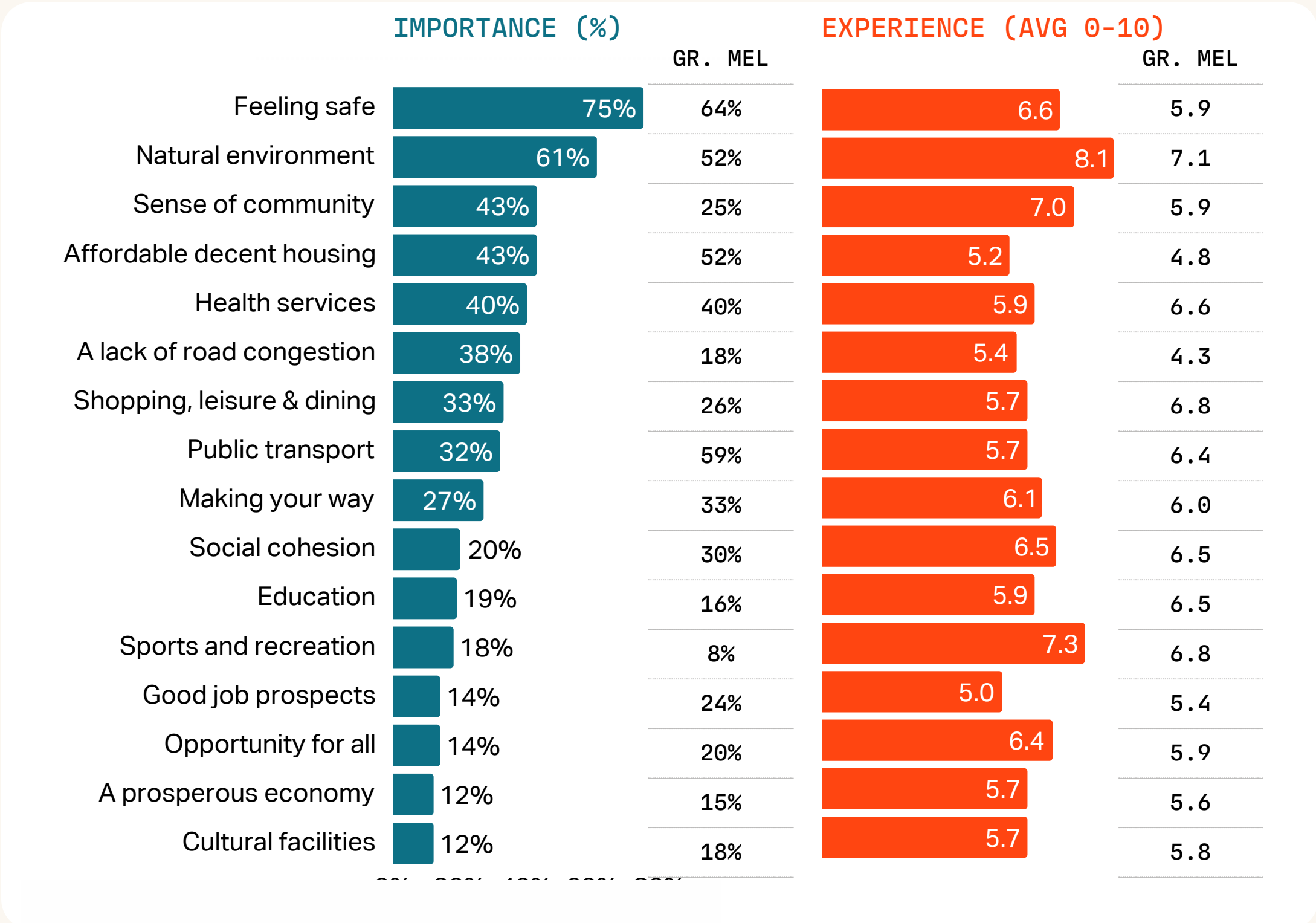
OLI = Overall Liveability Index

Yarra Ranges Overall Liveability Index

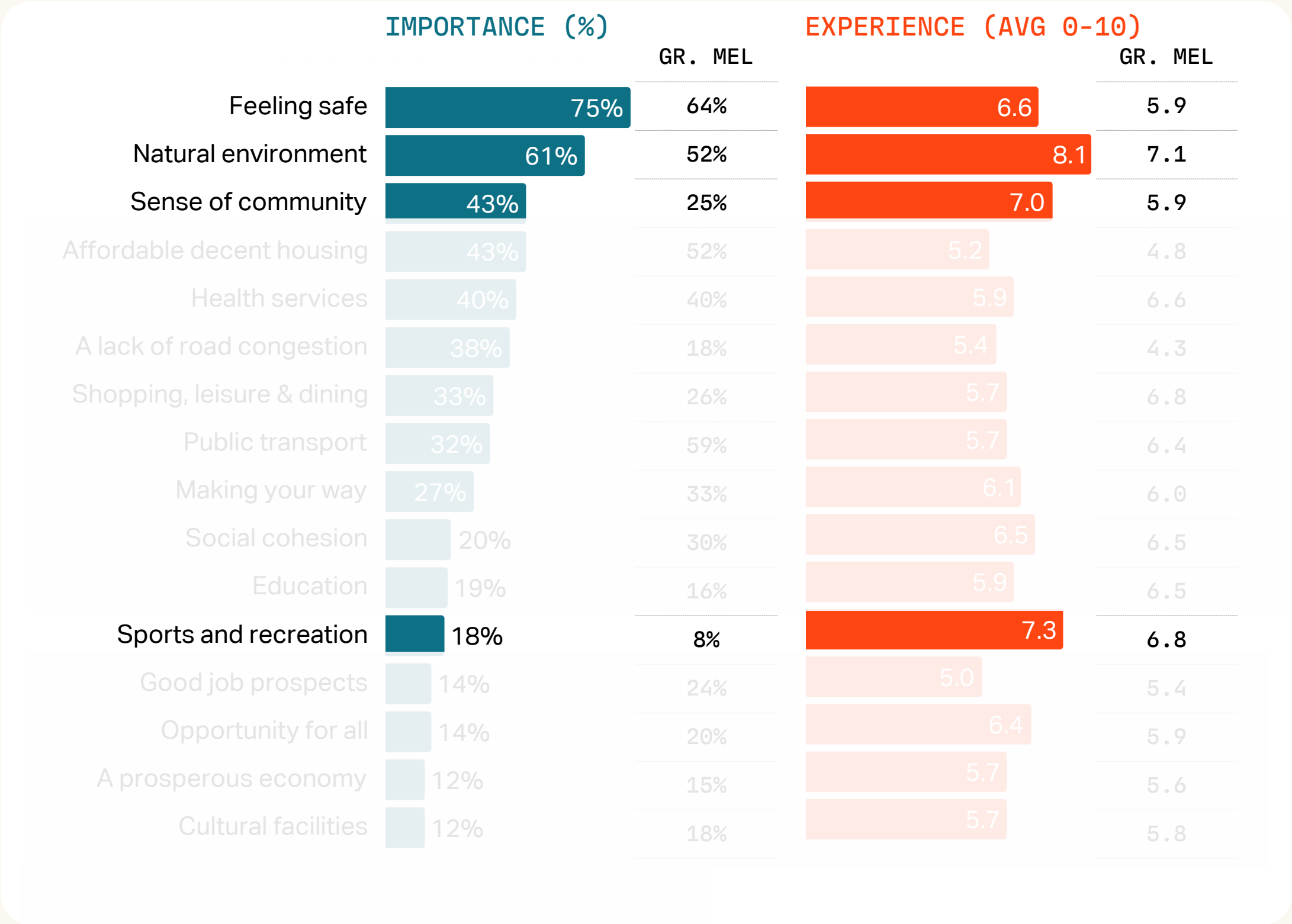


What do residents value in terms of a place to live, and how do they experience those things?

The chart to the right shows the liveability attributes of most importance to residents, and how they experience those same attributes on average (on a scale of 0-10).



Residents are highly satisfied with their access to the natural environment, sports and recreation, and community ties

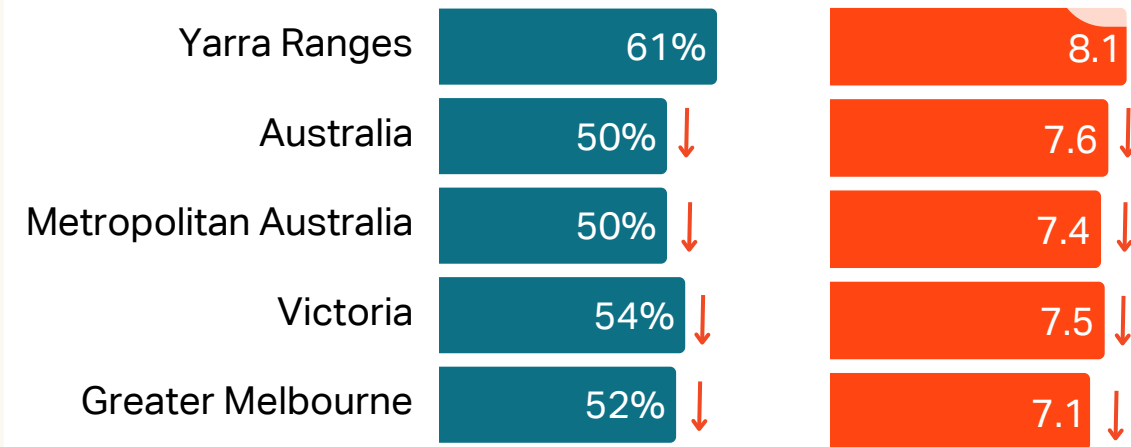


'ACCESS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT' BY BENCHMARKS

Natural environment

IMPORTANCE
2nd

EXPERIENCES
1st



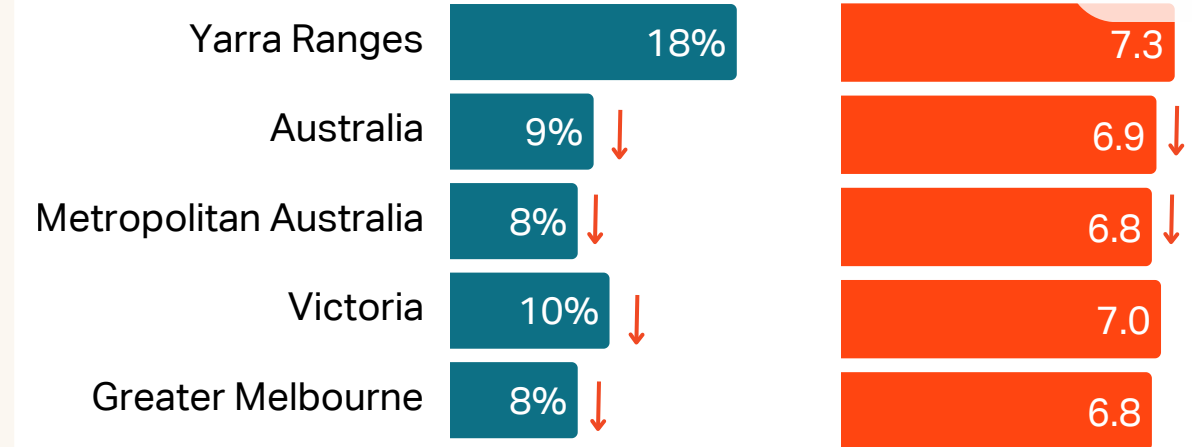
Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑↓

'THE ABILITY TO VIEW AND PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS & RECREATION' BY BENCHMARKS

Sports and recreation

IMPORTANCE
12th

EXPERIENCES
2nd



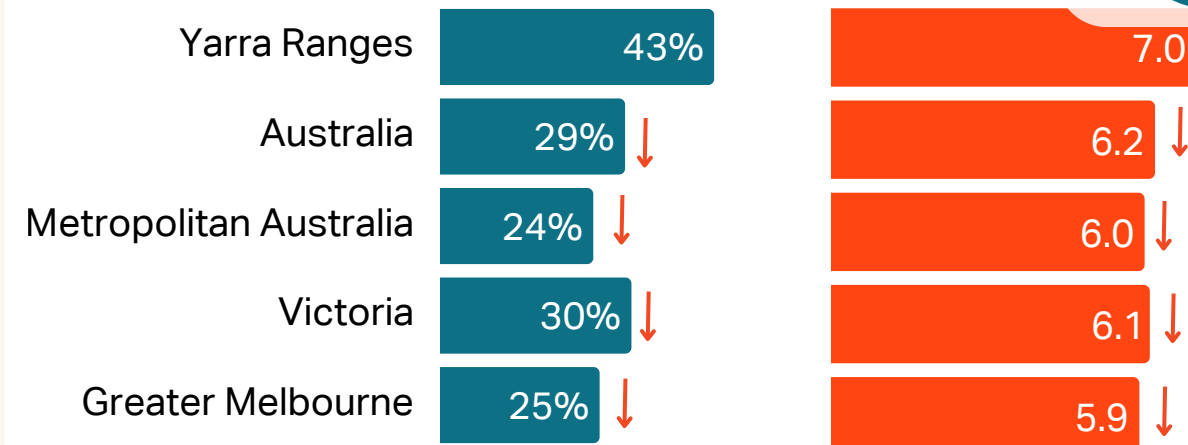
Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑↓

'A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY' BY BENCHMARKS

Sense of community

IMPORTANCE
3rd

EXPERIENCES
3rd



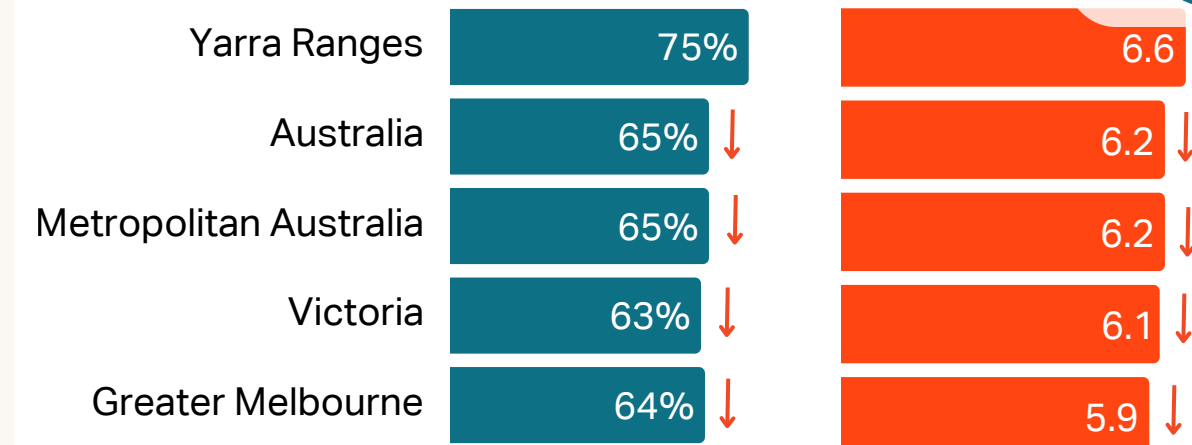
Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑↓

'FEELING SAFE' BY BENCHMARKS

Feeling safe

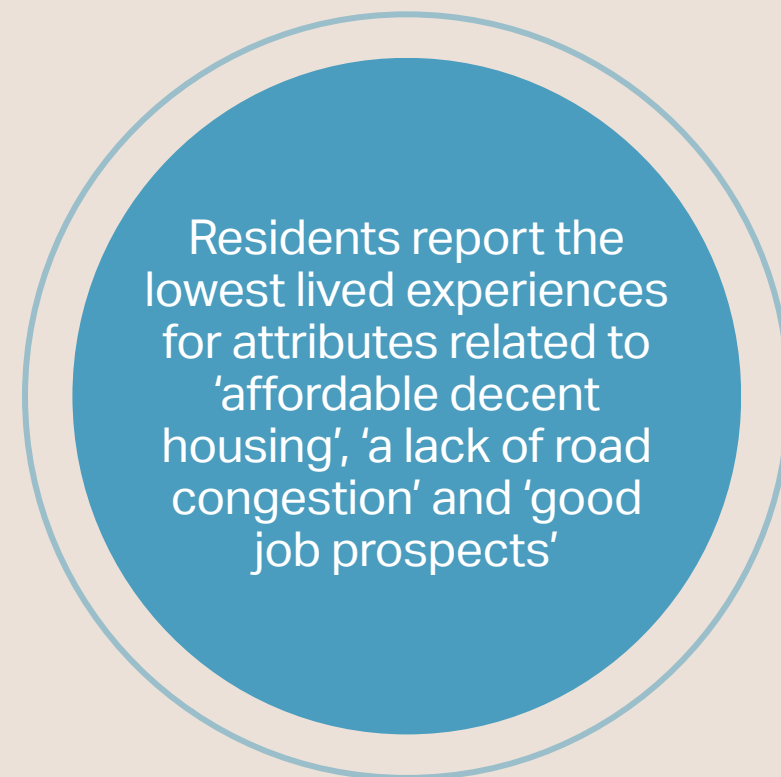
IMPORTANCE
1st

EXPERIENCES
4th



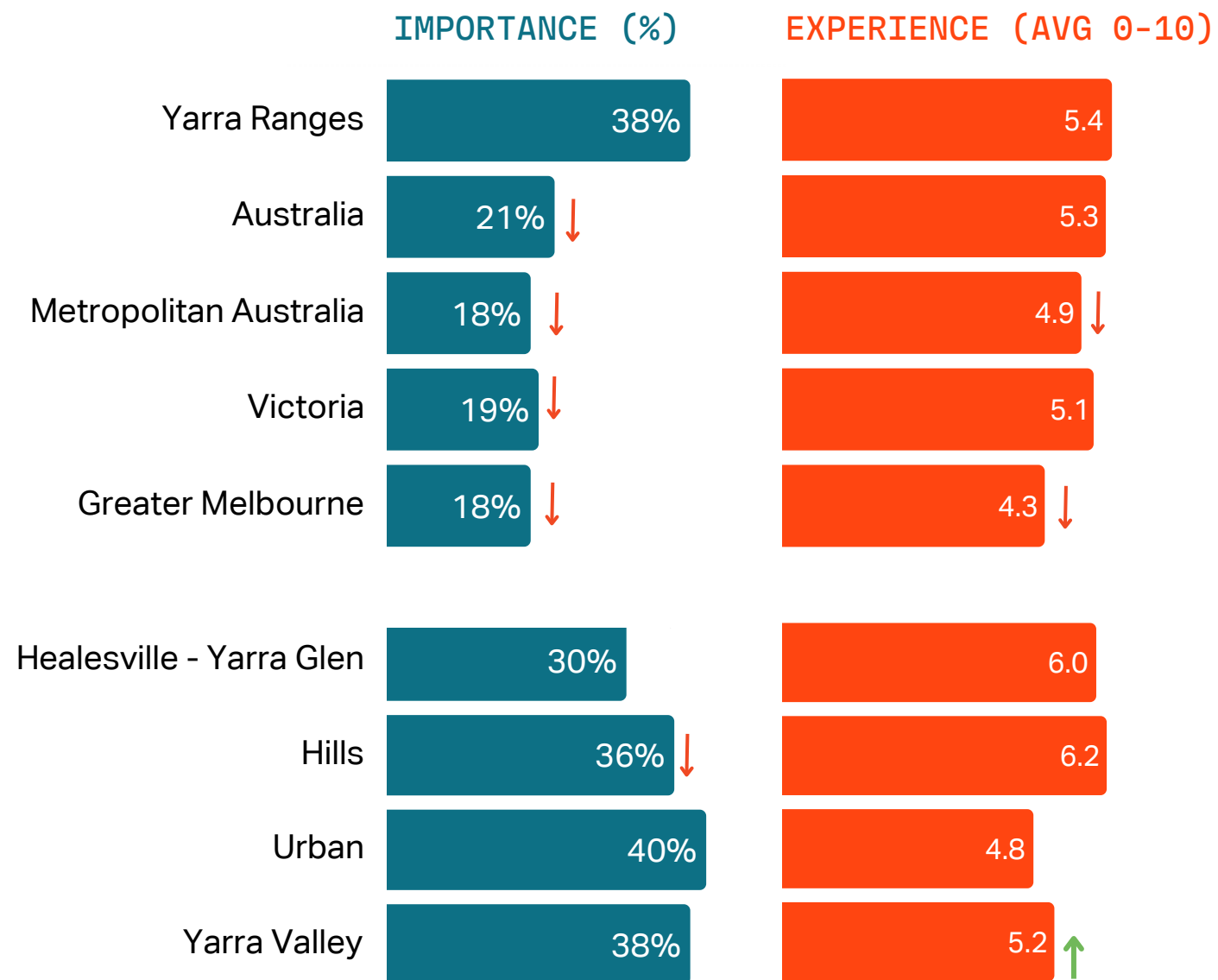
Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑↓

Residents report lower experiences for attributes centred around housing, roads, and employment



	IMPORTANCE (%)	GR. MEL	EXPERIENCE (AVG 0-10)	GR. MEL
Feeling safe	75%	64%	6.6	5.9
Natural environment	61%	52%	8.1	7.1
Sense of community	43%	25%	7.0	5.9
Affordable decent housing	43%	52%	5.2	4.8
Health services	40%	40%	5.9	6.6
A lack of road congestion	38%	18%	5.4	4.3
Shopping, leisure & dining	33%	26%	5.7	6.8
Public transport	32%	59%	5.7	6.4
Making your way	27%	33%	6.1	6.0
Social cohesion	20%	30%	6.5	6.5
Education	19%	16%	5.9	6.5
Sports and recreation	18%	8%	7.3	6.8
Good job prospects	14%	24%	5.0	5.4
Opportunity for all	14%	20%	6.4	5.9
A prosperous economy	12%	15%	5.7	5.6
Cultural facilities	12%	18%	5.7	5.8

'A LACK OF ROAD CONGESTION' BY BENCHMARKS & LOCAL AREAS

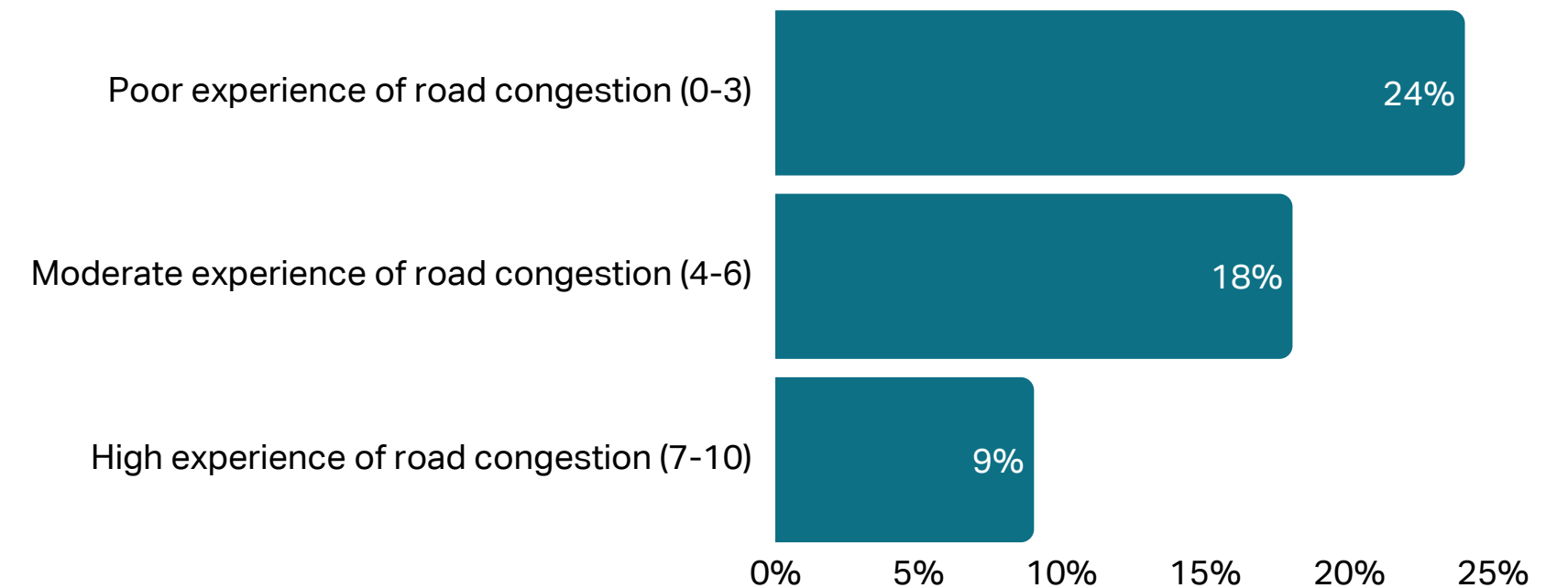


Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑ ↓

'A lack of road congestion'

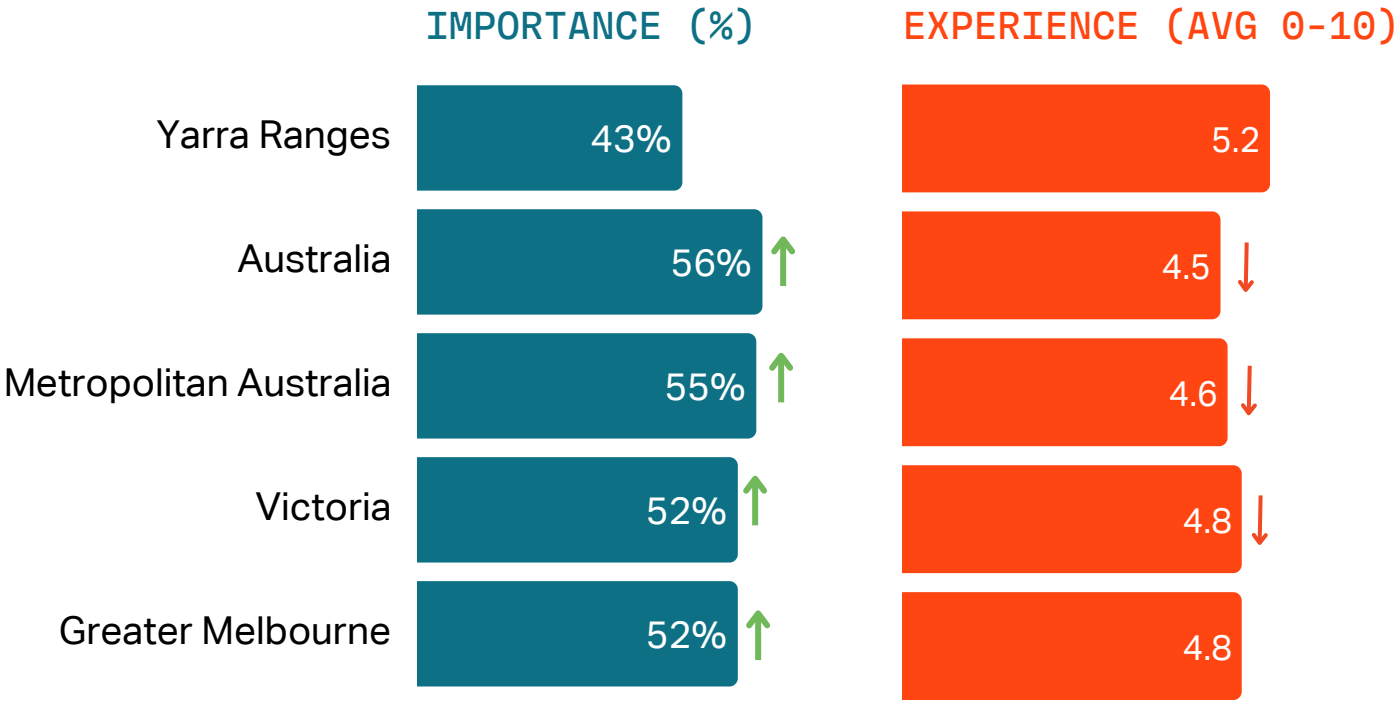


RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXPERIENCE OF ROAD CONGESTION AND CONCERN WITH POPULATION/OVERPOPULATION



Yarra Ranges average concern with Population/Overpopulation: 16%

‘AFFORDABLE DECENT HOUSING’ BY BENCHMARKS

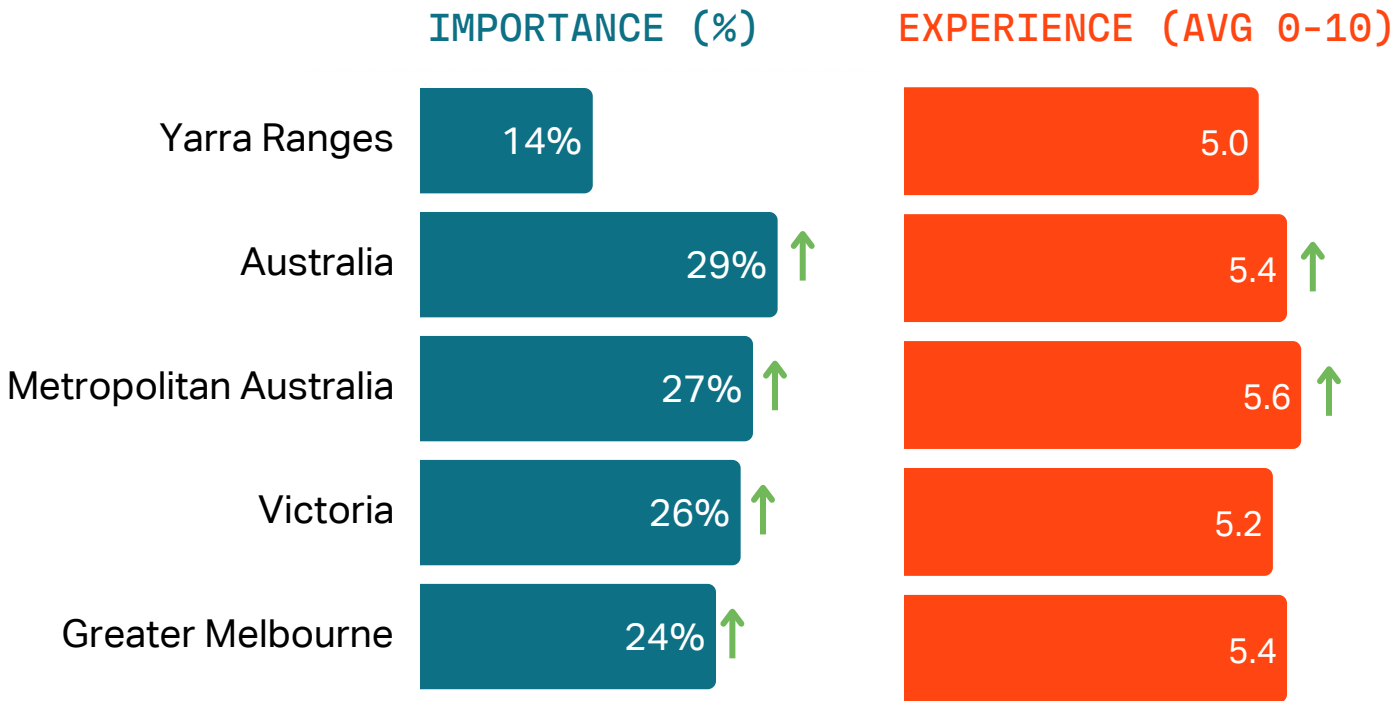


Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑ ↓

Affordable decent housing



‘GOOD JOB PROSPECTS’ BY BENCHMARKS

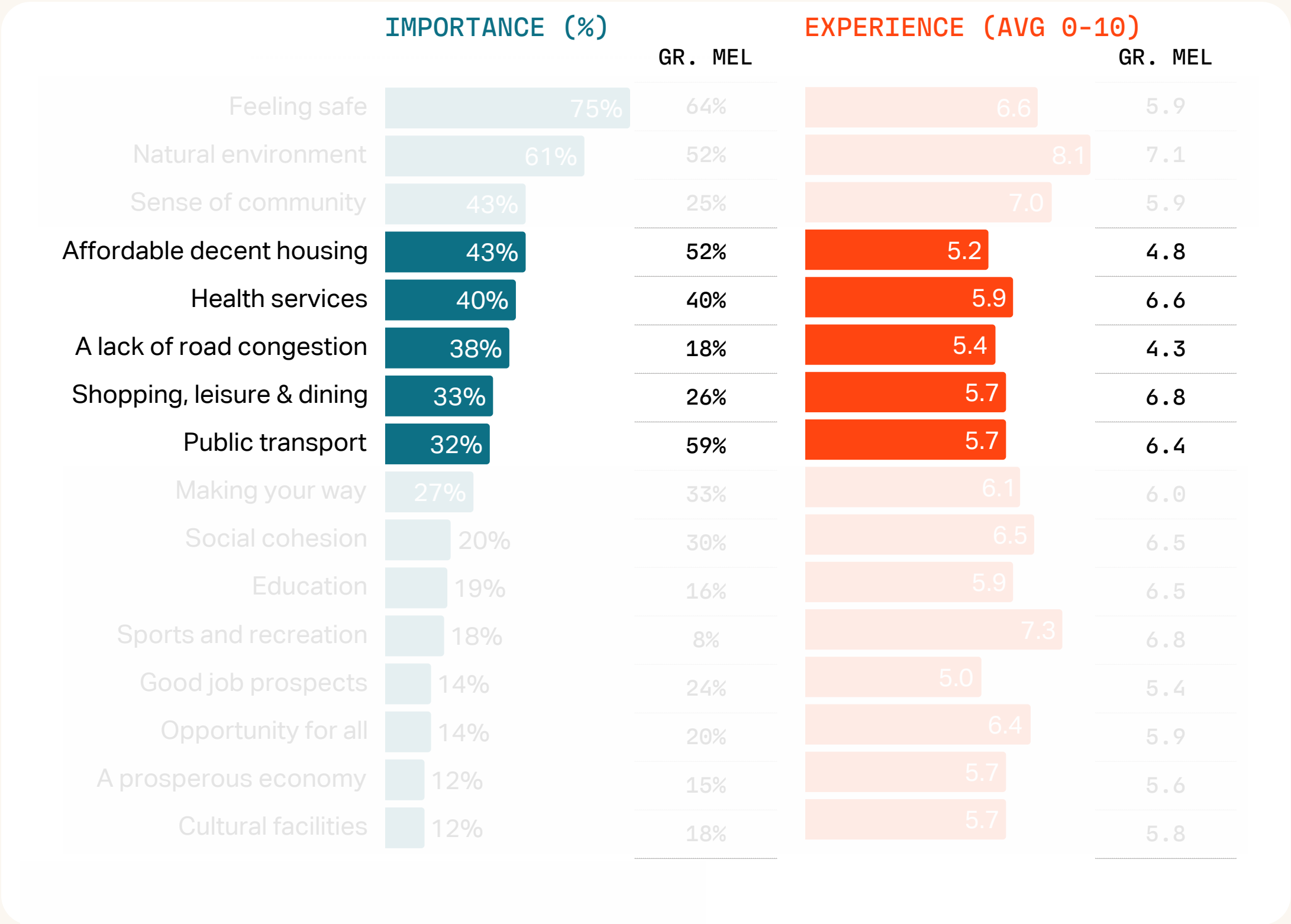


Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑ ↓

Good job prospects



Key opportunities for improvement in Yarra Ranges centre around services and infrastructure



Critical focus areas to improve local area liveability

MAINTAIN
Lower importance, better experiences

The ability to view and participate in sports & recreation
Opportunity for all
Social cohesion

The ability to make your way to and from services with relative ease
High quality education opportunities
Good job prospects
A prosperous economy
Cultural facilities

MONITOR
Lower importance, poorer experiences

SUSTAIN AND CELEBRATE
Greater importance, better experiences

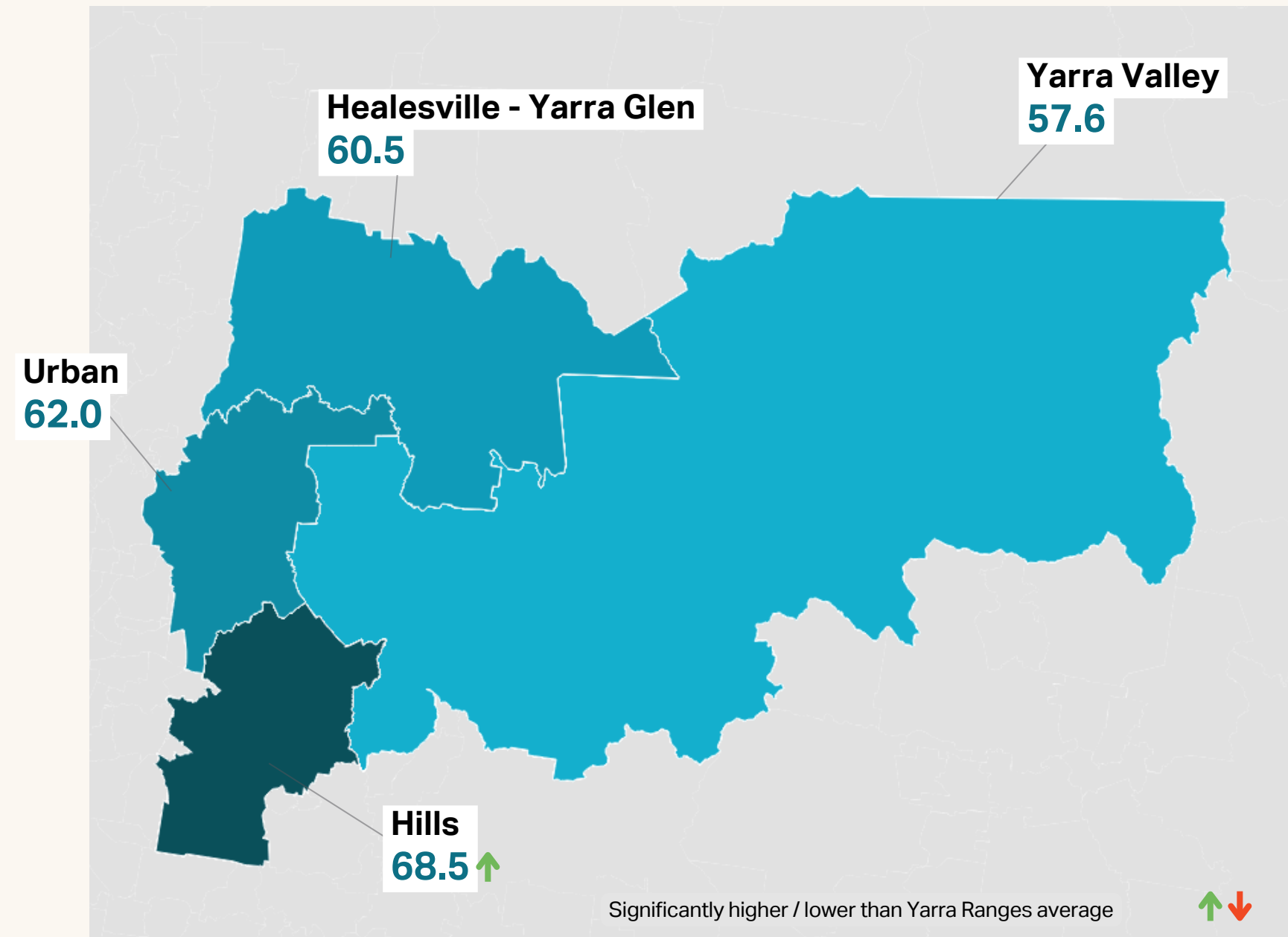
Access to the natural environment
A strong sense of community
Feeling safe

Affordable decent housing
High quality health services
A lack of road congestion
Reliable and efficient public transport
A diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences

FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Greater importance, poorer experiences

How is liveability experienced across Yarra Ranges?

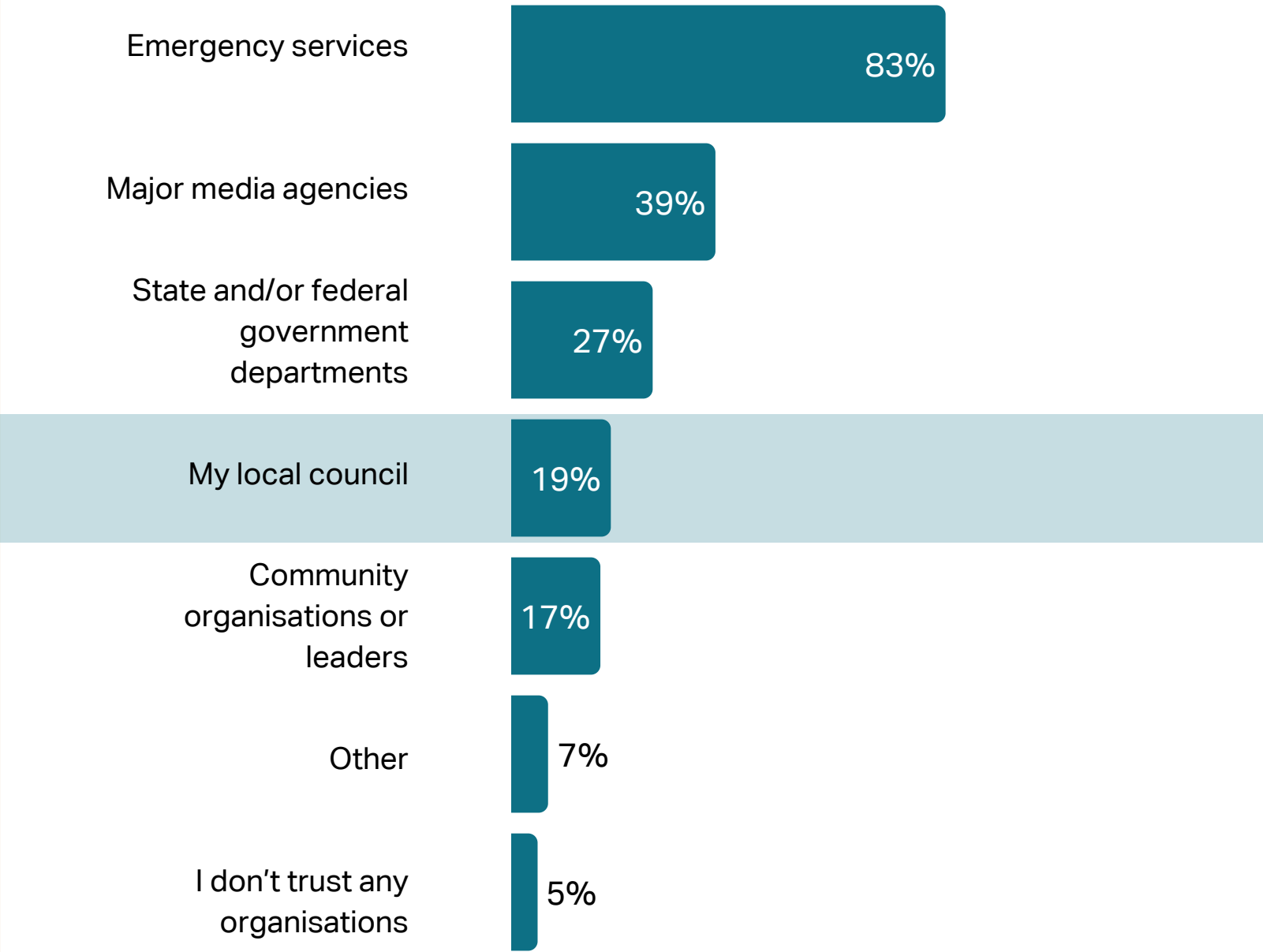
Liveability differs notably across the four local areas in Yarra Ranges, reflecting variations in geography and socio-economic conditions. The Hills achieved the highest Overall Liveability Index (OLI) score (68.5/100), while Yarra Valley recorded the lowest (57.6/100).



Emergency services are the most trusted source of information during emergencies, service disruptions, major decisions

Residents' strong trust in emergency services highlights an opportunity for Council to partner with them - especially when communicating about emergencies, service disruptions, and major decisions.

MOST TRUSTED SOURCES TO PROVIDE ACCURATE AND RELIABLE INFORMATION WHEN NEEDING CRITICAL OR TIME-SENSITIVE INFORMATION (E.G. DURING EMERGENCIES, SERVICE DISRUPTIONS, MAJOR DECISIONS)



What are resident views on climate change and its cause?

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

		AUS	VIC	GR. MEL
It's happening - caused entirely/mostly by human activities	44%	43%	48%	54% ↑
It's happening - caused equally by human activities and natural causes	29%	32%	28%	27%
It's happening - caused entirely/mostly by natural causes	11%	9% ↓	7% ↓	6% ↓
It's happening, but I am not sure what is causing it	6%	6%	6%	6%
I do not believe climate change is happening	10%	11%	10%	8%

Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↓ ↑

What are the perceived impacts of climate change on the local area?

Among those who believed in climate change, **85%** felt climate change is or will be affecting their local area

- **50%** said their local area is feeling the effects now, significantly higher than the Victorian (45%) and Greater Melbourne (40%) averages
- **35%** expected their local area to feel it within their lifetime, far fewer than the Greater Melbourne average (44%)
- Only **15%** said they did not expect their local area to feel any effects

Base: Believe the climate is changing, n=1,048

39% of these same residents were confident in the local ability to adapt to climate change

- Consistent with the national (40%) and Greater Melbourne (41%) averages.

Residents expect to feel climate impacts through bushfires, wind, storms, and heat.

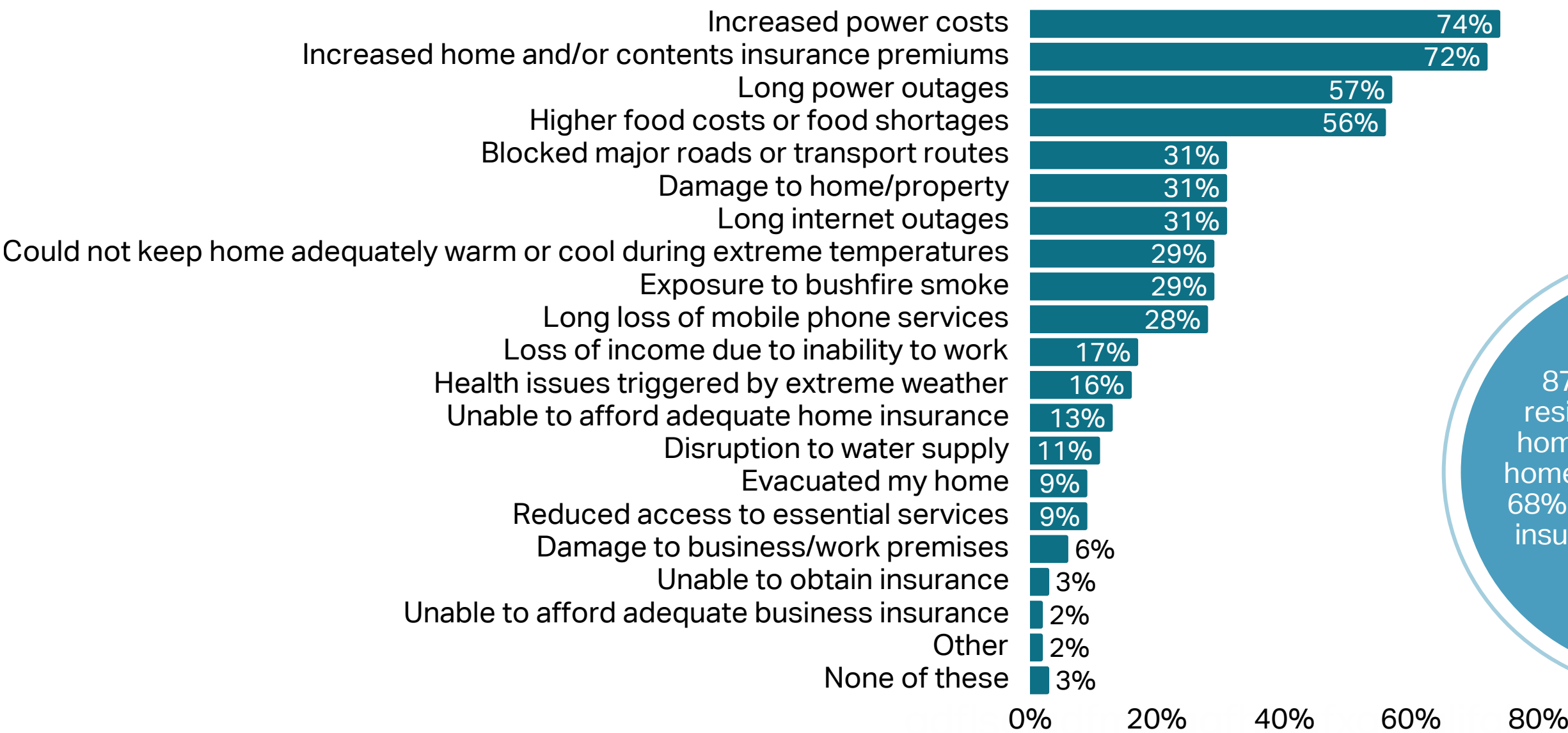
Top expected effects:

-  1. Bushfires (78%), significantly higher than the national (50%), Victorian (52%), and Greater Melbourne (38%) averages
-  2. Severe wind (73%), significantly higher than the national (44%), Victorian (52%), and Greater Melbourne (53%) averages
-  3. Storms (69%), significantly higher than the national (53%), Victorian (45%), and Greater Melbourne (42%) averages
-  4. Extreme heat (64%), significantly lower than the national (74%), Victorian (76%), and Greater Melbourne (82%) averages

Base: Believe the climate is changing and affecting the local area, n=919

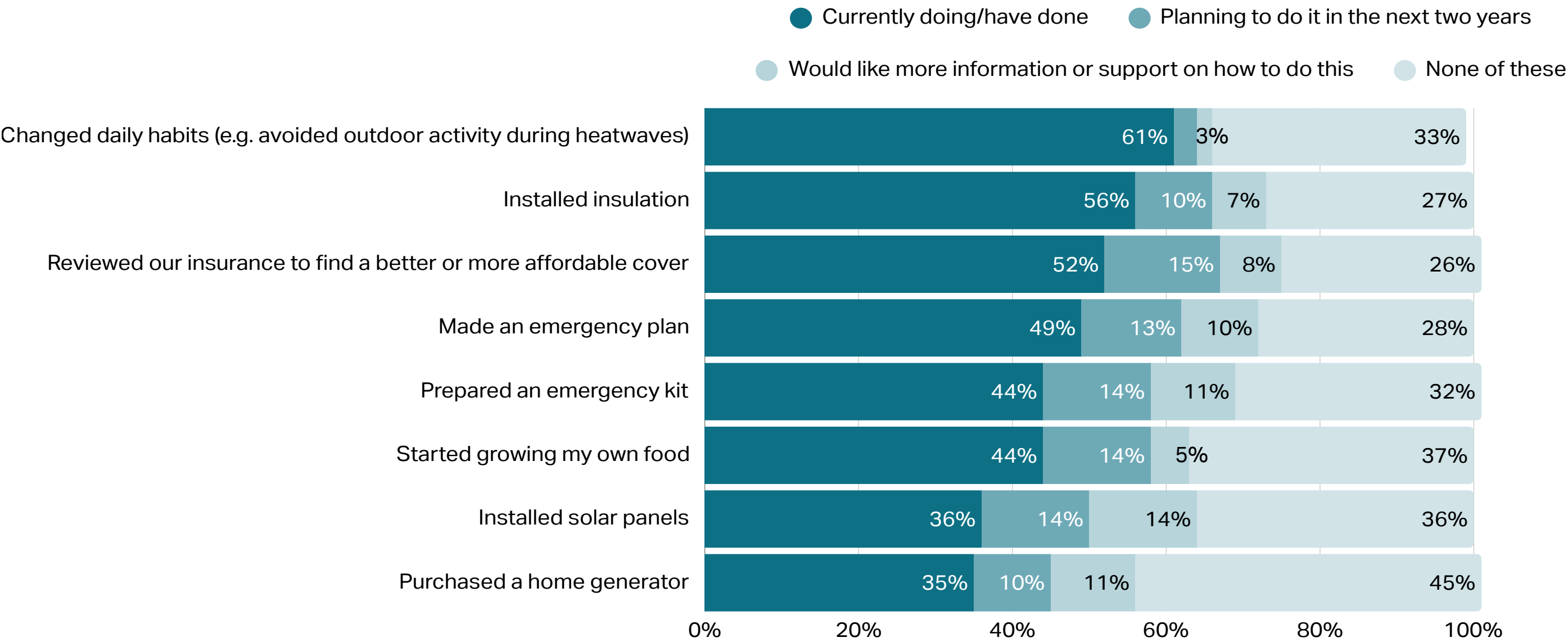
What impacts of extreme weather have residents experienced?

THINKING ABOUT THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WHAT IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER AND/OR NATURAL DISASTERS HAVE YOU PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED?

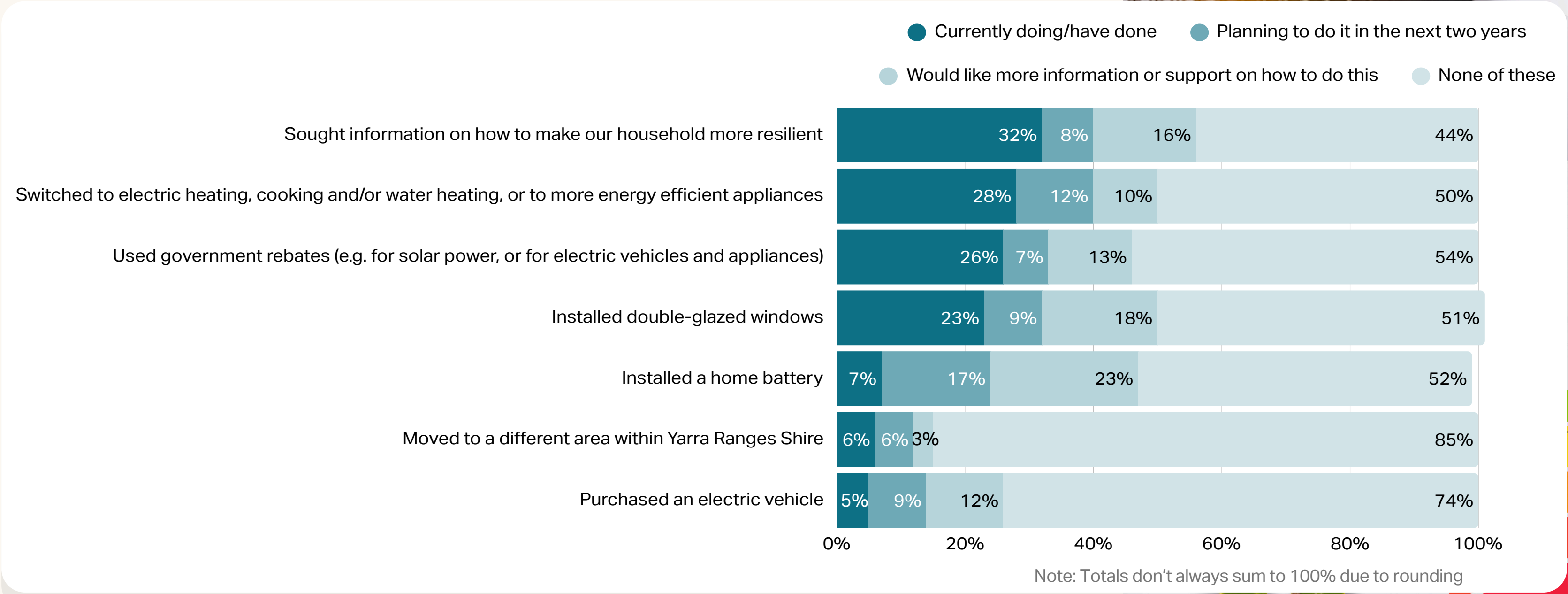


87% of Yarra Ranges residents who own their home have some form of home insurance - including 68% who say they are fully insured and 19% who are underinsured

What steps are residents *most commonly* taking to protect their household against changing weather and natural hazards?



What steps are residents less commonly engaging in?



Access to amenities and services is relatively strong in Yarra Ranges

Residents of Yarra Ranges report relatively strong access to services, but hospitals stands out as the most inaccessible service



SERVICES UNABLE TO ACCESS WITHIN YARRA RANGES (EITHER THEMSELVES OR MEMBER OF HOUSEHOLD) (TOP 10)

		HEALESVILLE - YARRA GLEN	HILLS	URBAN	YARRA VALLEY
Hospitals	28%	42% ↑	16% ↓	26%	48% ↑
Work	19%	18%	22%	18%	20%
Tertiary education	15%	16%	19% ↓	12% ↑	14% ↓
Leisure and recreational facilities	15%	14%	7%	21%	9%
Food and entertainment venues	12%	10%	12%	13%	12%
Arts and cultural experiences	11%	8% ↑	11%	12%	11%
Primary healthcare (e.g., GPs)	10%	11% ↑	9%	10%	13% ↑
Shops	10%	15%	11%	7%	9%
Other community/health services	9%	17%	7%	6%	14%
Parks and open/green spaces	7%	7%	8%	7%	5%

Significantly higher / lower than Yarra Ranges average ↑ ↓

Residents frequently cite limited public transport and distance as barriers to accessing services

"Public transport is limited in some areas, which makes it harder for people without a car to attend appointments or community activities. In addition, some services are located far from residential areas, so accessibility can be difficult."

FEMALE | HEALESVILLE - YARRA GLEN

"Public transport availability needs improving. Belgrave Heights/South buses finish at 7.45pm Monday-Friday. Finish at 12.30pm on Saturdays, start up again on Monday. My children have missed out on opportunities to work, education, sport and social involvement with peers, as I cannot pick them up from these places due to work commitments."

35-59 | FEMALE | HILLS

"The time it takes on public transport or to drive to other places (specifically further toward the city) takes too long. We don't have a well connected community. We don't have anywhere that's fun to go to to socialise here or around us."

18-34 | FEMALE | URBAN

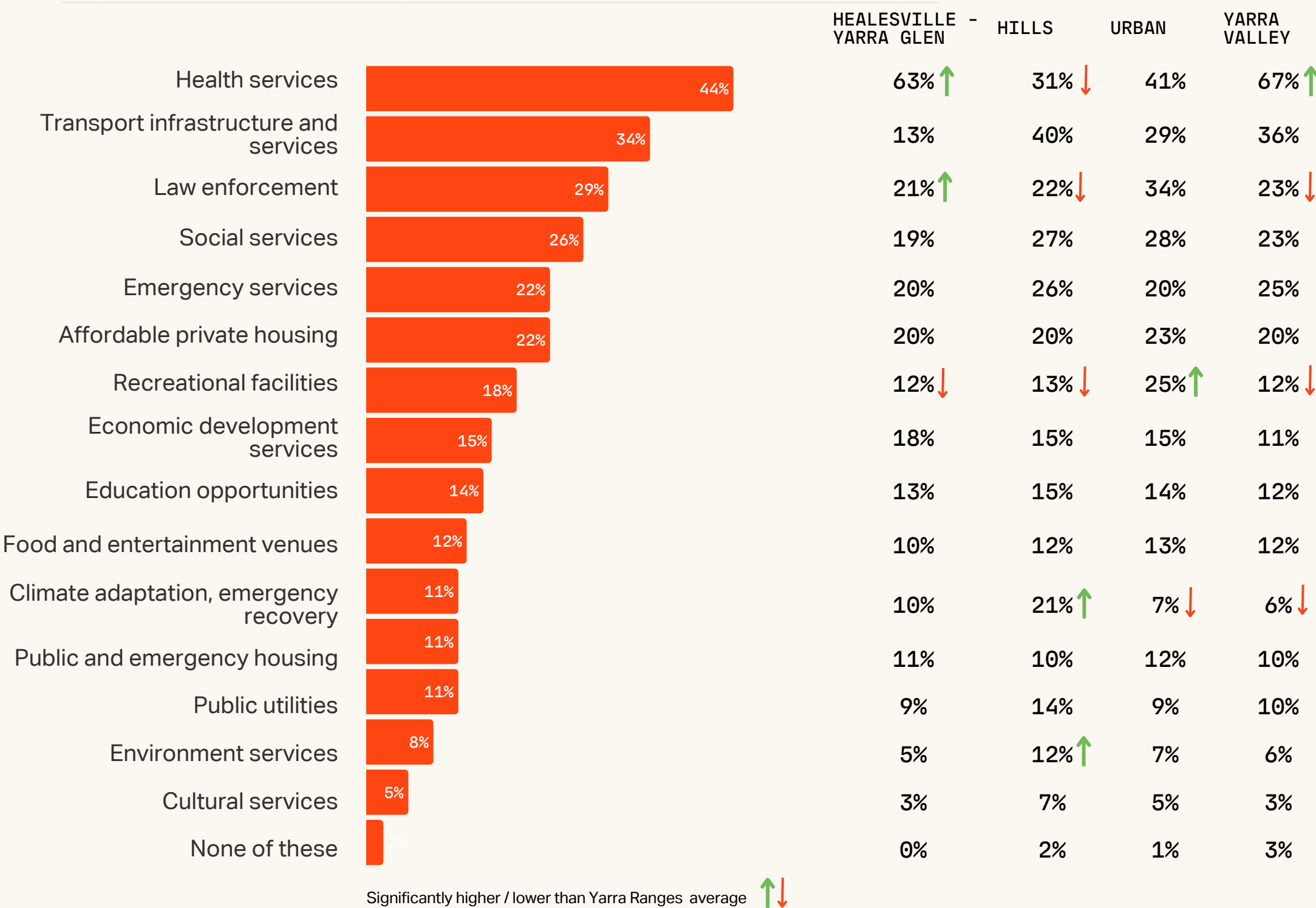
"We've found it impossible a few times now to see a GP urgently in our local area or at all. There are less and less GPs around and some clinics won't take on new patients or see you if you have not attended in 12 months. Online appointments have been an option at times or we have had to travel out of the valley."

35-59 | FEMALE | YARRA VALLEY

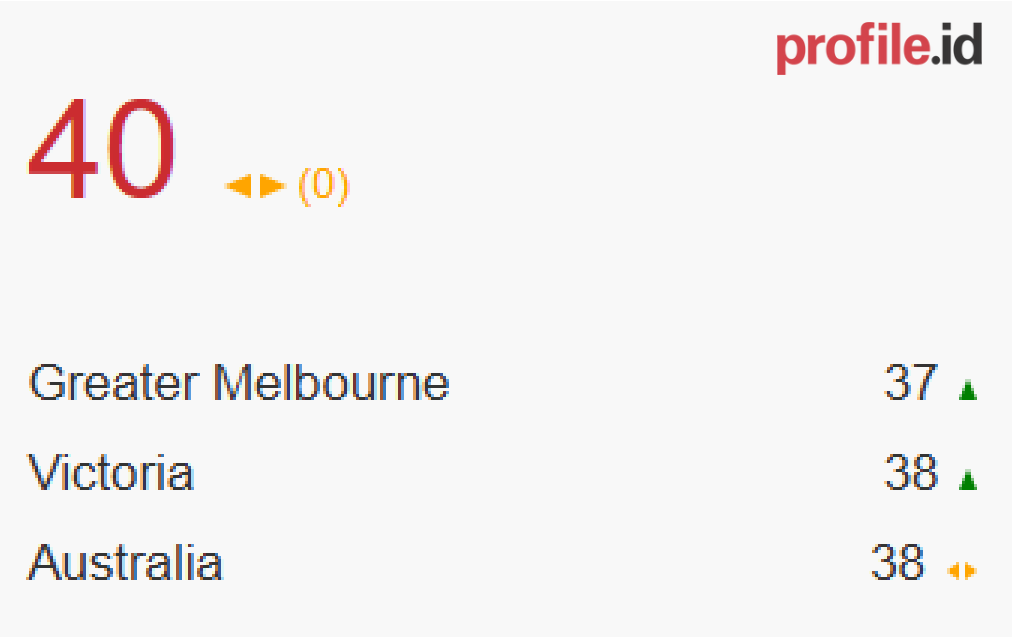
Health services stand out as the top advocacy priority for residents as Council moves towards its future Vision

These results directly link to residents' lived experiences - particularly around high quality health services, and access to hospitals

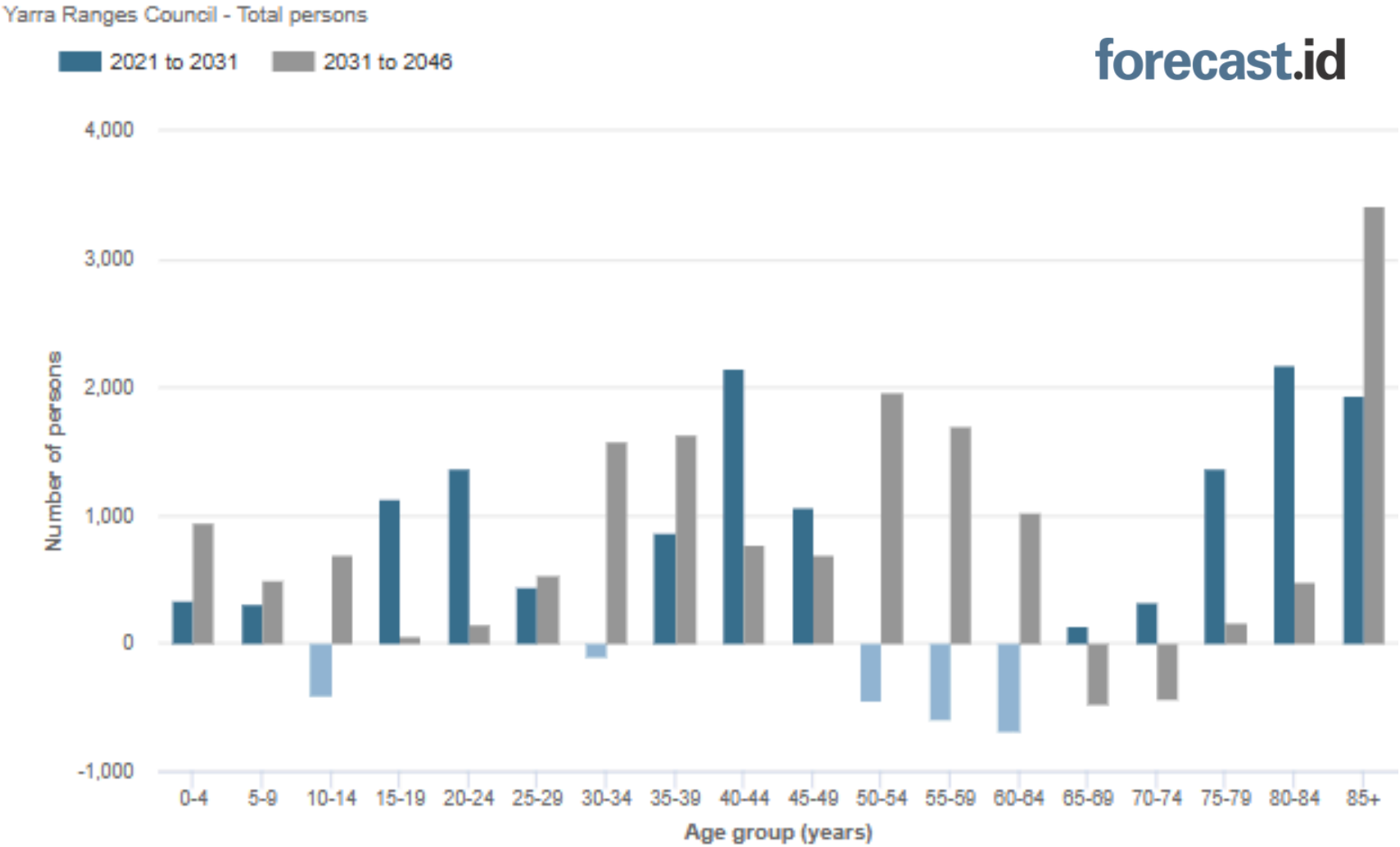
SERVICES RESIDENTS WOULD LIKE YARRA RANGES TO ADVOCATE FOR, TO HELP PROGRESS TOWARDS ITS VISION



MEDIAN AGE - YARRA RANGES



FORECAST CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE - 5 YEAR AGE GROUPS



The Community Views results give Yarra Ranges:

1

A baseline for resident values, experiences and wellbeing across all Council Plan themes

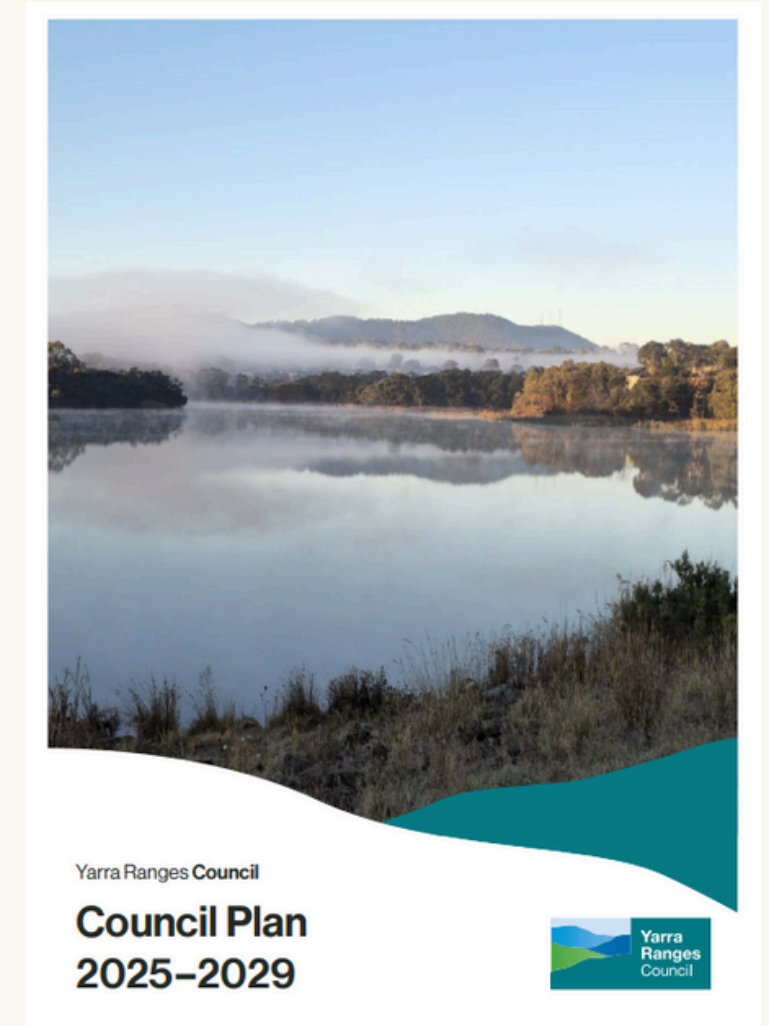
2

Quantifiable metrics to complement infrastructure, environmental, and economic reporting

3

Community-led evidence to guide advocacy, investment, and communication priorities

By repeating this survey periodically, Council can demonstrate progress toward its vision.



Yarra Ranges' Council Plan 2025-2029 targets: 'Healthy Connected Communities'

Indicator	Target (2025-2029)	Result in 2025	Action
1 Access to services and facilities	Residents rate their experience of local high-quality health services at 6.5 or above out of 10.	High-quality health services: 5.9 out of 10	Improve
2 Sense of community	Residents rate their experience of a strong sense of community in their local area at 6.5 or above out of 10.	Strong sense of community: 7.0 out of 10	Maintain
3 Feeling secure	Residents rate their personal financial circumstances at 6 or above out of 10.	Personal financial circumstances: 6.3 out of 10	Maintain
	Residents rate their experience of feeling safe in their local area at 7 or above out of 10.	Feeling safe 6.6 out of 10	Improve
4 Mental health and wellbeing	Residents rate their physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and social wellbeing at 7 or above out of 10.	Physical health 7.1 out of 10 Mental health 7.4 out of 10 Social wellbeing 7.2 out of 10	Maintain