

Yarra Ranges: Community Views 2025

KEY INSIGHTS

Website: home.id.com.au/community-views

Email: views@id.com.au



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Daniel Evans
Community Views
Service Lead

0407 502 887
dan@id.com.au



Jacquie Norton
Senior Social Research
Consultant

0402 588 600
jacquie@id.com.au



Brigid Quinlan
Senior Social Research
Consultant

0422 463 197
brigid@id.com.au

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



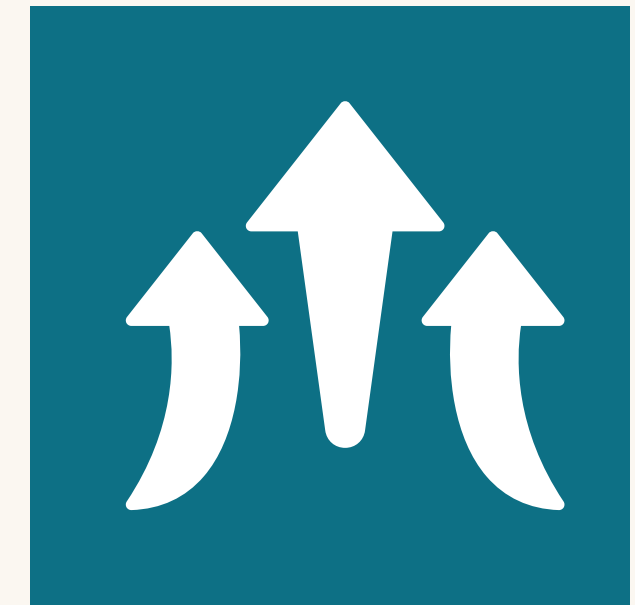
Measure Experiences

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

Detailed Methodology

The survey was conducted between 22nd September to 20th October 2025, returning a total sample of n=1,168 completed surveys. This is the first wave of the study.

Respondents were sourced via a combination of .id's proven social media advertising approach and promotion through Council channels including Council's website.

Upon completion, the survey sample was compared with the population of interest (Yarra Ranges residents 18+) to identify if any responses were skewed relative to their share of the actual population. Taking into consideration the impact of these skews, .id elected to normalise the survey data using age, gender and local area. Data-weighting is a common practice in social research. It aims to improve the representativeness of survey results.

The maximum margin of error is +/-2.9% at the 95% confidence interval. In simple terms, this means that if 50% of survey respondents placed importance on 'reliable and efficient public transport', we can be 95% confident that between 47.1% and 52.9% of the total local adult population place importance on 'reliable and efficient public transport'.



Glossary

Throughout the report, several acronyms are used. The definitions below are provided to ensure these terms are clearly understood:

LGA: Local Government Area

SEIFA: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

IRSAD: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage

OLI: Overall Liveability Index

GR. MEL: Greater Melbourne

AUS: Australia

VIC: Victoria



Local Areas

The Views data is available spatially across four local areas.

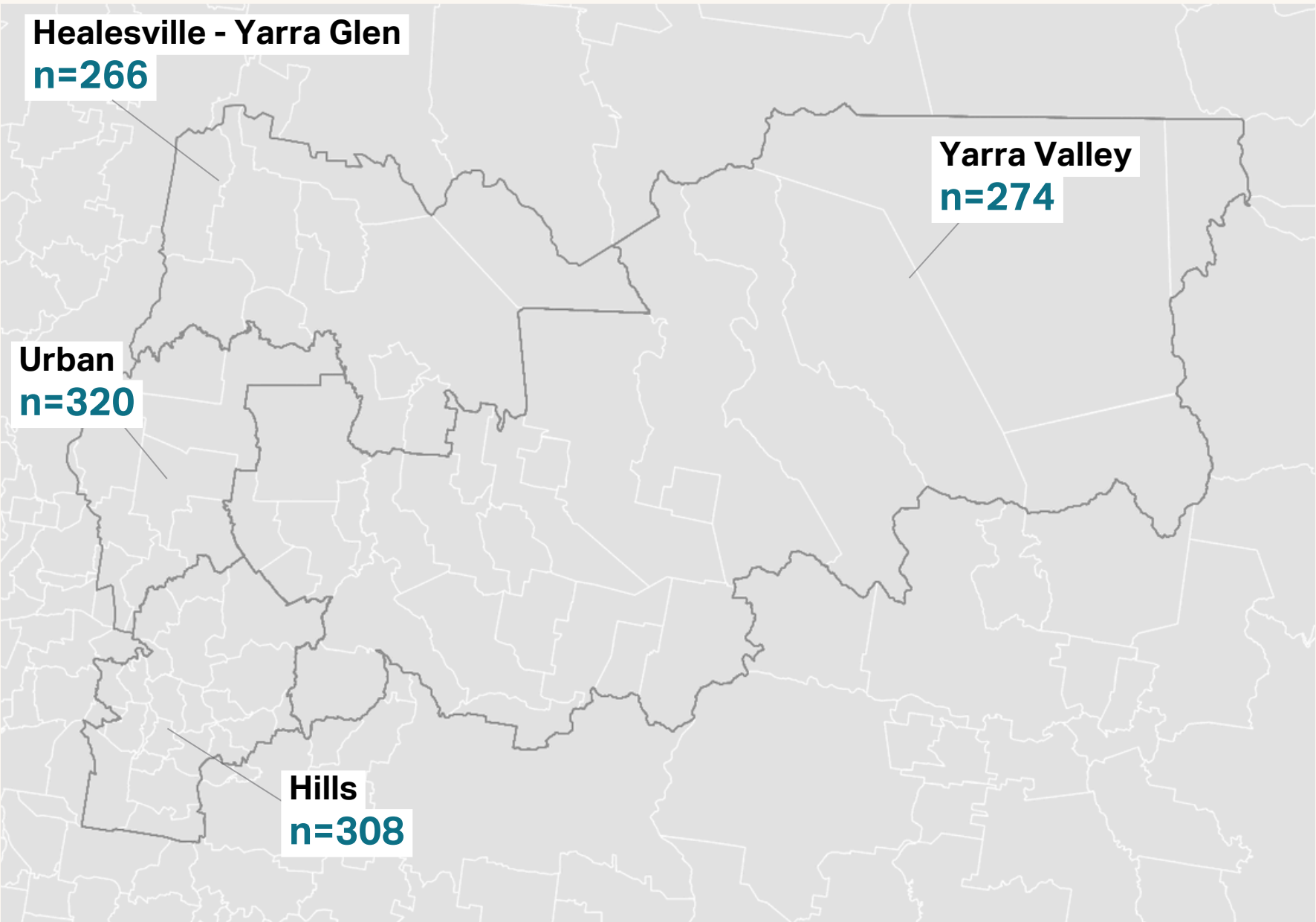
Local area definitions

Healesville - Yarra Glen: Badger Creek, Chum Creek, Dixons Creek, Healesville, Steels Creek, Yarra Glen, and Toolangi.

Hills: Belgrave, Belgrave Heights, Belgrave South, Ferny Creek, Kallista, Kalorama, Macclesfield, Menzies Creek, Monbulk, Mount Dandenong, Narre Warren East, Olinda, Sassafras, Selby, Sherbrooke, Silvan, Tecoma, The Patch, Upper Ferntree Gully, and Upwey.

Urban: Chirnside Park, Coldstream, Kilsyth, Lilydale, Montrose, Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn, and Yering.

Yarra Valley: Beenak, Big Pats Creek, Cambarville, Don Valley, East Warburton, Gilderoy, Gladysdale, Gruyere, Hoddles Creek, Launching Place, McMahon's Creek, Millgrove, Powelltown, Reefton, Seville, Warburton, Seville East, Wesburn, Woori Yallock, Three Bridges, Yarra Junction, Wandin East, Wandin North, and Yellingbo.



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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).



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Key Insights



Overall Liveability in Yarra Ranges

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

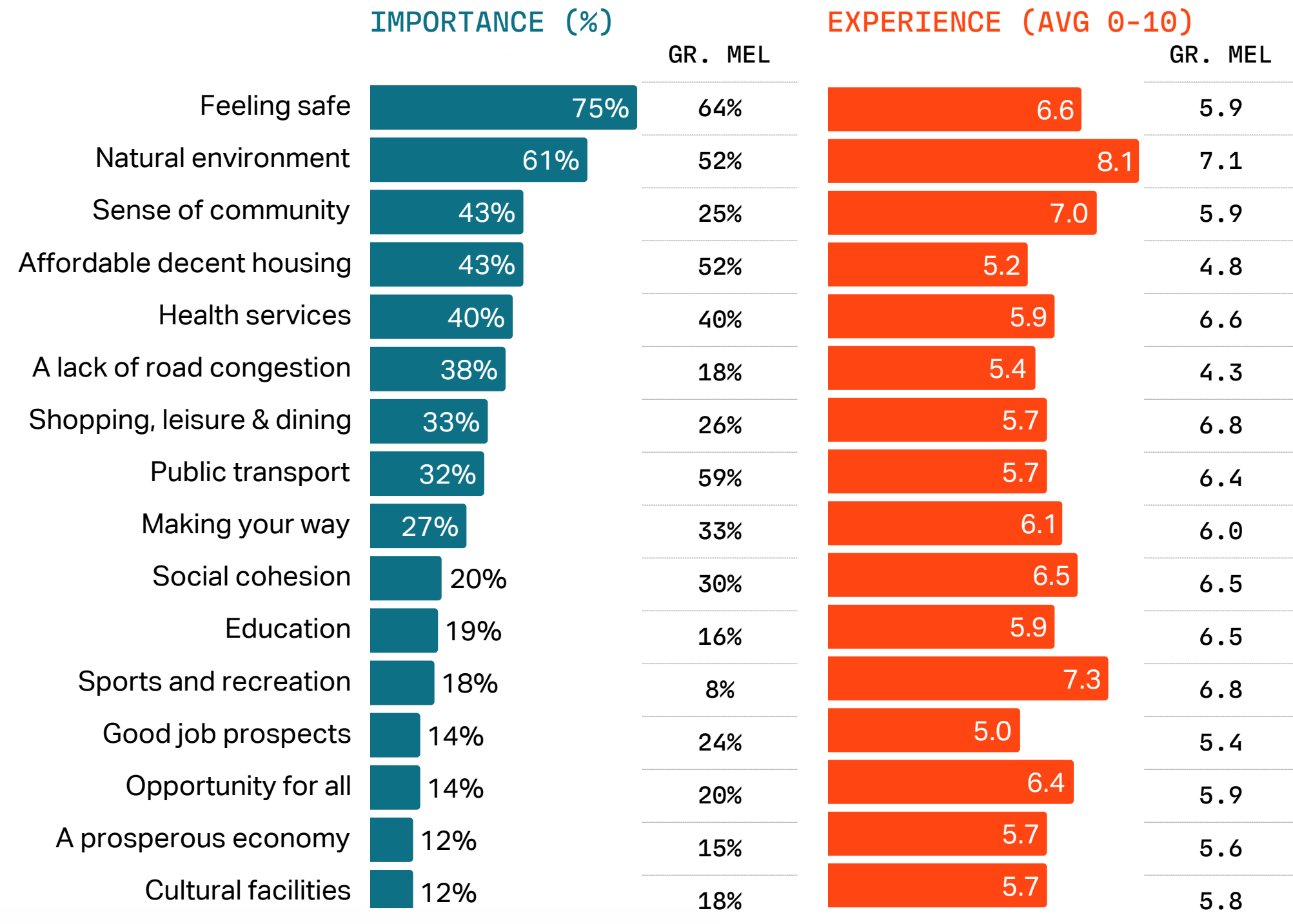
This signals residents see strong positives in their community and are generally satisfied with their quality of life.

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 in Yarra Ranges value safety, connection and stability

Out of 16 liveability attributes, residents in Yarra Ranges identified their top priorities as:

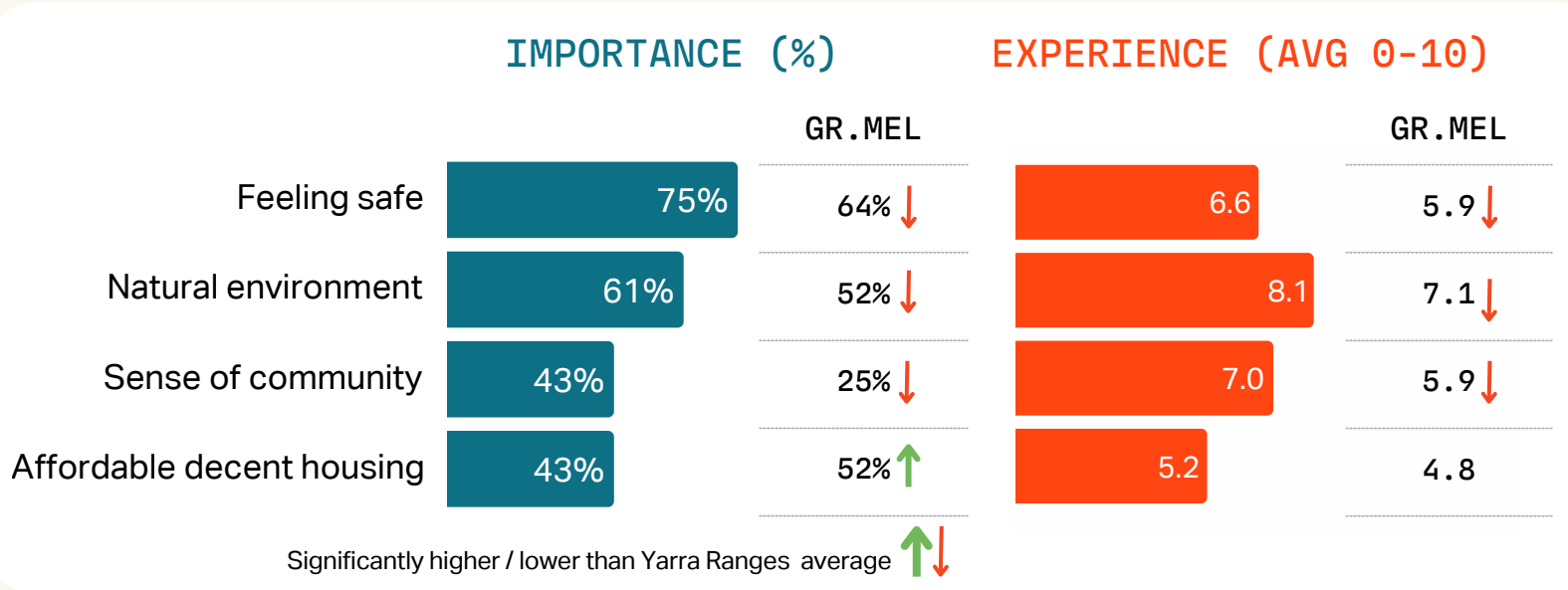
- 1. Feeling safe (75%)
- 2. Access to the natural environment (61%)
- 3. A strong sense of community (43%)
- 4. Affordable decent housing (43%)

These priorities reflect values rooted in wellbeing, stability, and community connection - consistent with the blend of rural and urban character in Yarra Ranges. Residents were significantly more likely than those across Australia, Metropolitan Australia, Victoria, and Greater Melbourne to say that 'feeling safe', 'access to the natural environment', and 'a strong sense of community' is important, and also reported stronger lived experiences for each.

Feeling safe emerged as the single most important attribute for residents (75%), well above the national (65%) and Greater Melbourne (64%) averages. Safety is a universal foundation for liveability and is closely linked to the sense of community - with connected communities often feeling safer and more resilient. This is reflected in the Hills, where 57% of residents prioritise 'a strong sense of community' and experiences are rated a positive 8.0/10, higher than the average for Yarra Ranges.

'Access to the natural environment' is another defining aspect of liveability in Yarra Ranges. With the Dandenong Ranges, Yarra Ranges National Park, and expansive green spaces, residents enjoy a wealth of natural amenities. Younger residents (18-34 years: 69%) value this attribute even more strongly than older groups (35-59 years: 62%, 60+: 53%), highlighting the ongoing importance of environmental access for future generations.

'Affordable decent housing' also ranks as a top local priority. Median house and unit prices have increased faster than the Greater Melbourne average (4.6% and 2.8% per annum respectively, compared with 3.1% and 0.3%), underscoring the need to maintain affordability and expand housing choice as the population grows.



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

Residents in Yarra Ranges reported strong lived experiences across several key aspects, particularly in areas they value most:

- Access to the natural environment: 8.1/10 - significantly higher than Australia (7.6), Metropolitan Australia (7.4), Victoria (7.5), and Greater Melbourne (7.1).
- Ability to view and participate in sport and recreation: 7.3/10 - significantly higher than Australia (6.9), and Metropolitan Australia (6.8).
- A strong sense of community: 7.0/10 – significantly higher than Australia (6.2), Metropolitan Australia (6.0), Victoria (6.1), and Greater Melbourne (5.9).
- Feeling safe: 6.6/10 - significantly higher than Australia, and Metropolitan Australia (6.2 respectively), Victoria (6.1), and Greater Melbourne (5.9).

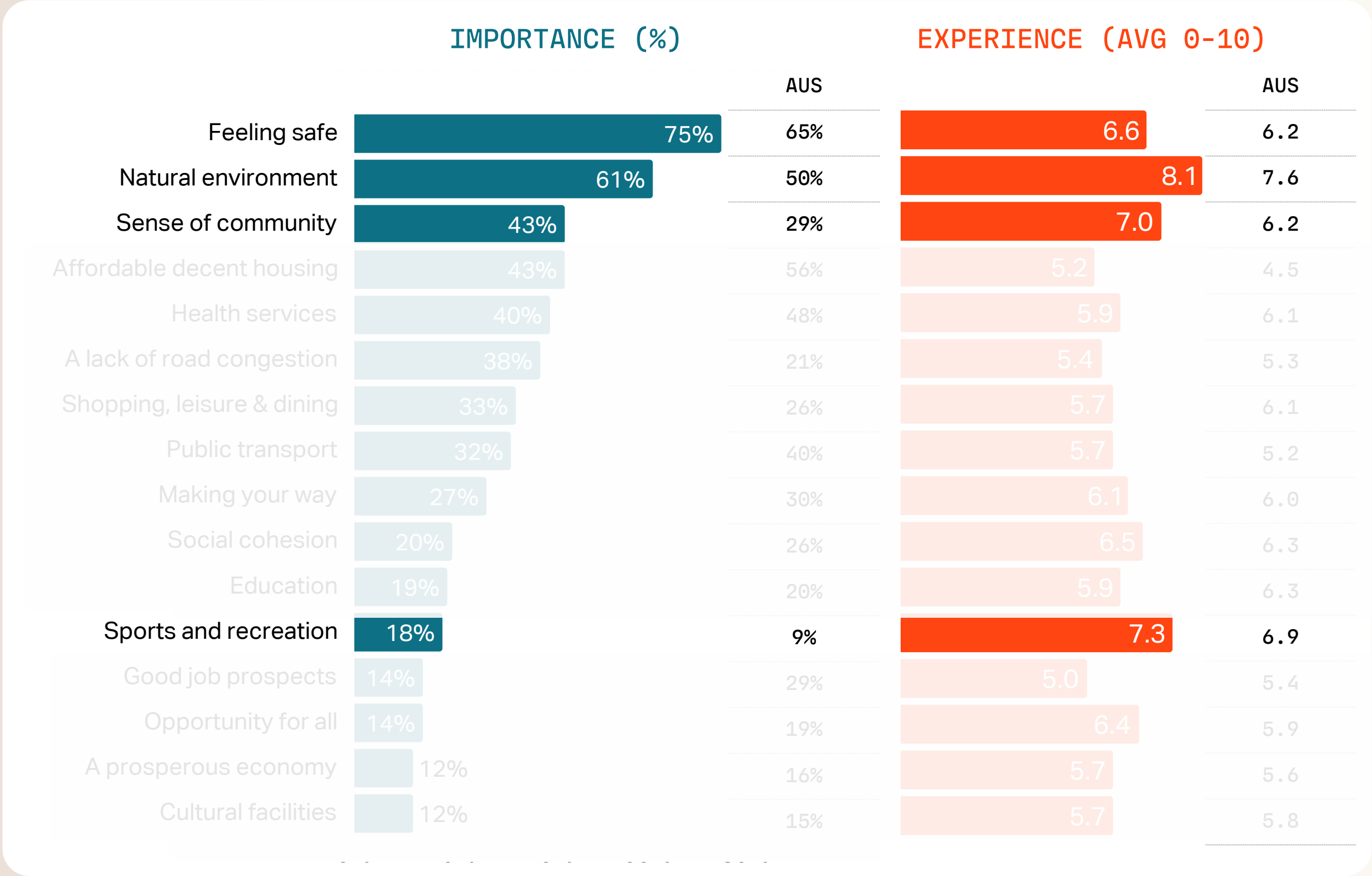
These positive experiences reflect a community that truly enjoys where they live and comparatively are far more satisfied than their counterparts on most key attributes. That residents in Yarra Ranges reported the highest levels of satisfaction with all three of the attributes they said were most important to them ('Feeling safe', 'Access to the natural environment' and, 'A strong sense of community'), signals that their expectations are largely being met on their key priorities.

These results demonstrate that residents are not only aligned on what matters most but are also experiencing high levels of satisfaction in these same areas. 'Access to the natural environment' stands out as a key strength, with resident's having the most positive experience, reflecting the parklands, reserves, and natural features in Yarra Ranges, supporting both wellbeing and social connection.

Strong results for 'feeling safe' and 'a strong sense of community' reinforce how these two values are interdependent - communities with strong social bonds often report higher perceived safety. Similarly, the 'ability to view and participate in sports and recreation' was ranked 2nd for lived experience, which may reflect a community orientated lifestyle in Yarra Ranges, where open spaces and local sports clubs foster both social connection and physical wellbeing.

While overall satisfaction levels are high, lived experience scores vary across local areas, reflecting the geographic diversity of Yarra Ranges. Understanding these localised differences will be important for targeting initiatives that address specific community needs and opportunities.

Yarra Ranges outperforms the national averages on it's top performing attributes: 'Access to the natural environment', 'Ability to view and participate in sport & recreation', 'a strong sense of community', and 'feeling safe'.



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

While overall liveability in Yarra Ranges is strong, resident experiences are comparatively lower for attributes related to infrastructure and employment opportunities:

- A lack of road congestion: 5.4/10 - on par with the national average (5.3), but significantly higher than Metropolitan Australia (4.9) and Greater Melbourne (4.3).
- Affordable decent housing: 5.2/10 - significantly higher than Australia (4.5), Metropolitan Australia (4.6), and Victoria (4.8), but still among the lowest-rated local experiences.
- Good job prospects: 5.0/10 – significantly lower than Australia (5.4) and Metropolitan Australia (5.6).

Despite performing better than the Metropolitan Australian and Greater Melbourne averages, 'a lack of road congestion' remains a local pain point, and was ranked 14th out of 16 for resident experiences. Resident experiences for 'a lack of road congestion' varies across the four local areas. The Urban area (where population density is higher at 468 persons per square km) records the poorest experiences (4.8/10), compared with the Hills (6.2/10), where population density is lower at 162 persons per square km. In Yarra Valley, where there are approximately 15 people per square km, ratings are moderate at 5.2/10. In Yarra Valley planning area, reliance on car to get to work in 2021 was higher (60%), putting greater pressure on road infrastructure.

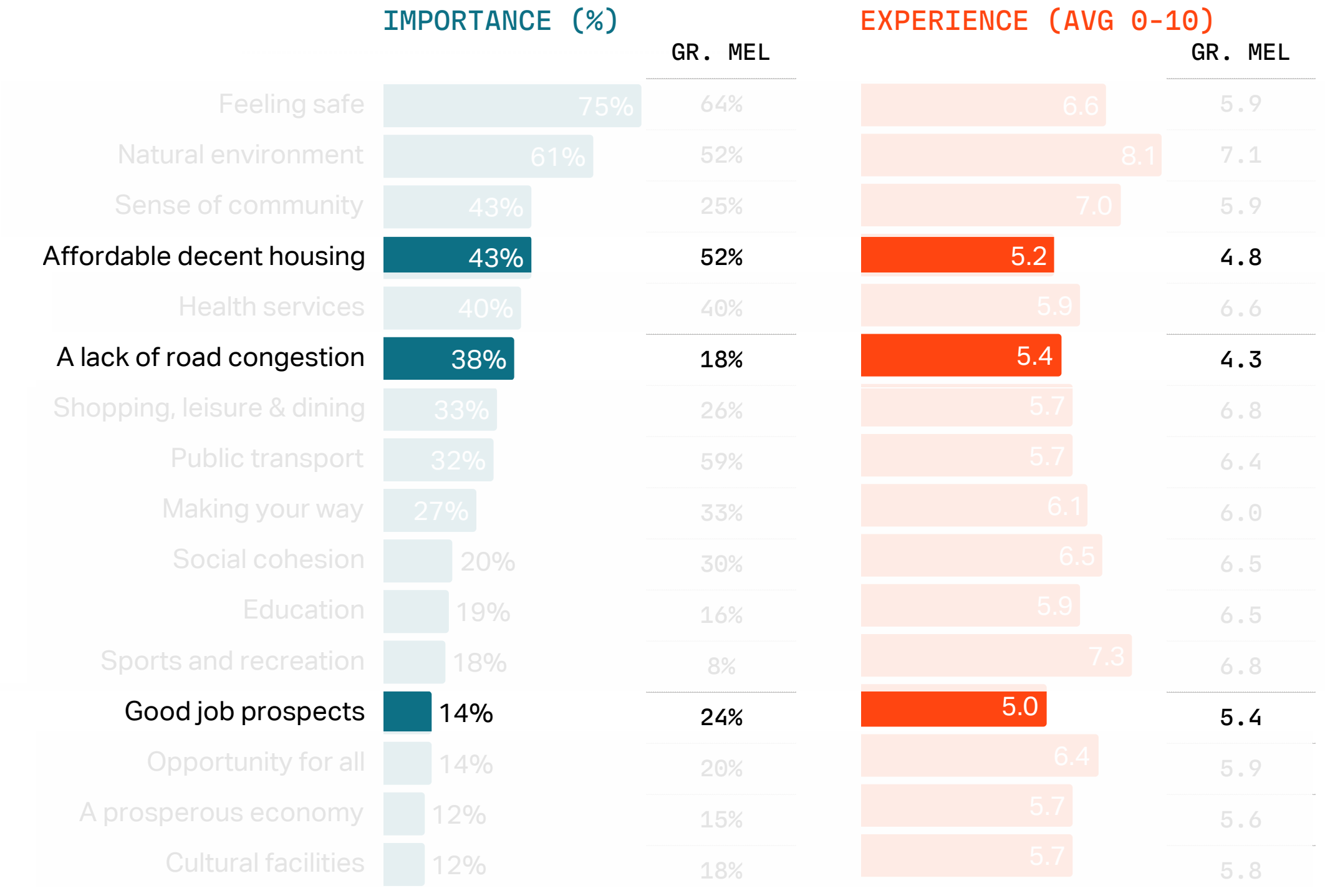
Comments from residents commonly call for improved road maintenance, better access to nearby town centres, and addressing accident-prone areas.

Just as in other places, 'Affordable decent housing' is a pain point in Yarra Ranges. Although it ranks 4th in importance, it is 15th for lived experience, underscoring an affordability gap. Residents frequently highlight mention the need for more diverse and affordable options, including social and rental housing, to address the current housing crisis.

'Good job prospects' also rate lower, though this likely reflects travel patterns - with more than half (56%) of residents commuting outside Yarra Ranges for work. This suggests local employment opportunities are limited, though the region's proximity to Melbourne continues to offer access to broader job markets.



Residents report the lowest lived experiences for attributes related to 'affordable decent housing', 'a lack of road congestion' and 'good job prospects'



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

Several attributes emerge as priorities for enhancing liveability in Yarra Ranges - areas where residents place high importance but report comparatively lower lived experiences. These include:

- Affordable decent housing (43% importance; 5.2/10 experience)
- High quality health services (40%; 5.9/10)
- A lack of road congestion (38%; 5.4/10)
- A diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences (33%; 5.7/10)
- Reliable and efficient public transport (32%; 5.7/10)

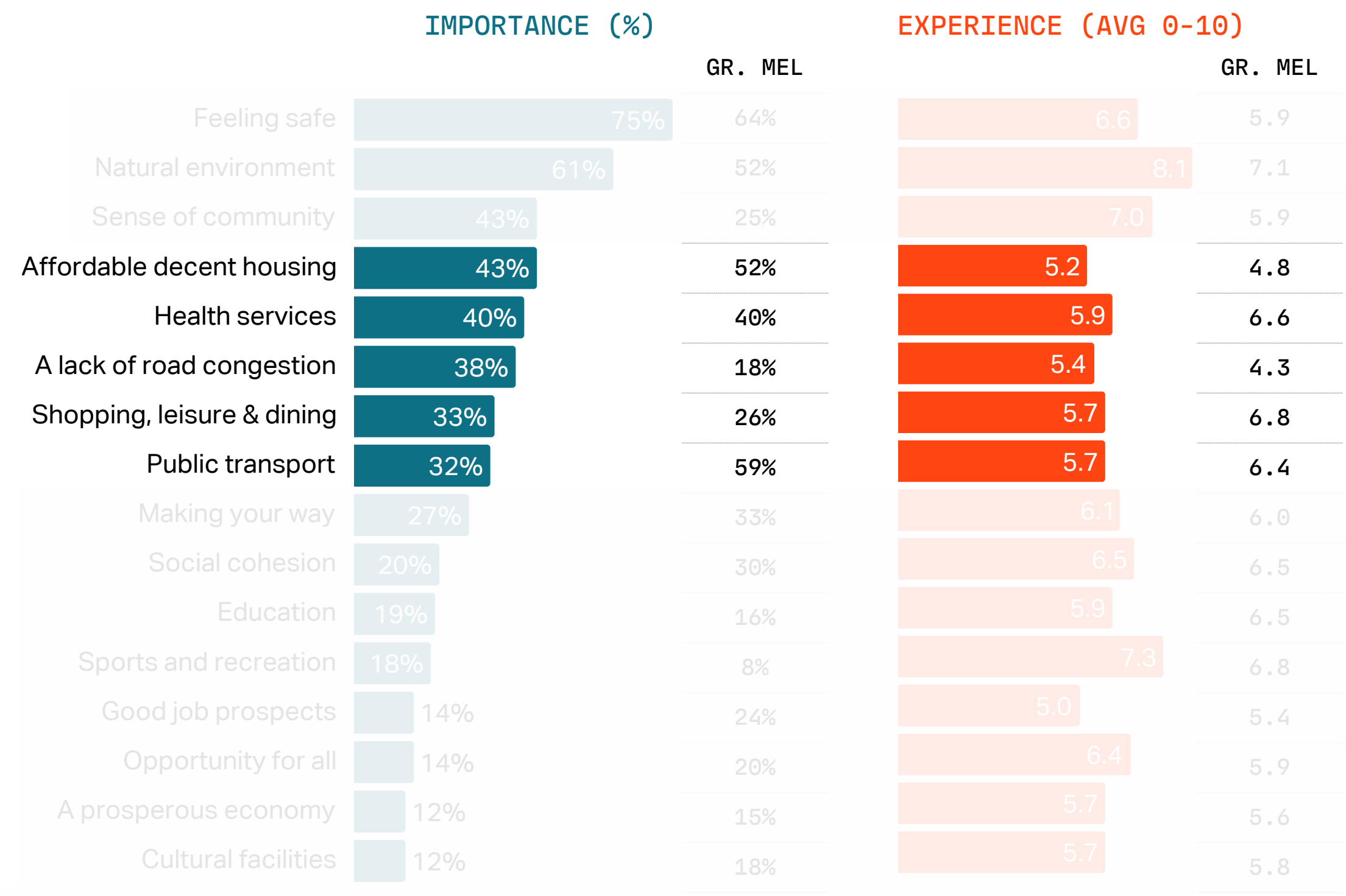
Although population growth in Yarra Ranges (0.92% in 2024) is slower than in Greater Melbourne (2.74%), residents continue to call for stronger service provision and infrastructure investment to sustain liveability across the geographically diverse communities in Yarra Ranges.

'High quality health services' ranks 5th in importance but only 8th in lived experience, highlighting a key area for improvement. Satisfaction varies widely - from 6.6/10 in the Hills (significantly above the average for Yarra Ranges) to 4.4/10 in Yarra Valley (significantly below). This variation reflects the impact of distance, service distribution and accessibility. Encouragingly, investments such as the Angliss Hospital expansion in Upper Ferntree Gully are expected to enhance access to care for residents in coming years.

'A diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences' also show notable spatial differences, with Urban residents reporting significantly higher satisfaction (6.1/10) and Yarra Valley residents significantly lower (4.4/10). Broader comparisons reveal Yarra Ranges trails all major benchmarks - Australia (6.1), Metropolitan Australia (6.6), Victoria (6.2), and Greater Melbourne (6.8). Improving diversity and accessibility of amenities could therefore strengthen both local satisfaction and visitor appeal.

'Reliable and efficient public transport' follows a similar pattern. While it ranks 8th for importance at 32%, experience sits at 12th overall, varying from 6.4/10 in Urban (significantly above the average for Yarra Ranges) to 4.2/10 in Healesville – Yarra Glen (significantly lower than the average). The higher satisfaction in Urban areas likely reflects resident proximity to Lilydale Station and connecting bus services. Although less important to residents overall, lived experience is below metropolitan benchmarks (Metropolitan Australia 6.2, and Greater Melbourne 6.4), suggesting an ongoing need to enhance accessibility and reliability in the local area. Older residents in particular place a high level of importance on having access to reliable and efficient public transport (39% important).

Together, these results highlight that while Yarra Ranges residents value a connected, service-rich lifestyle, accessibility to key services and amenities are uneven across the community.



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

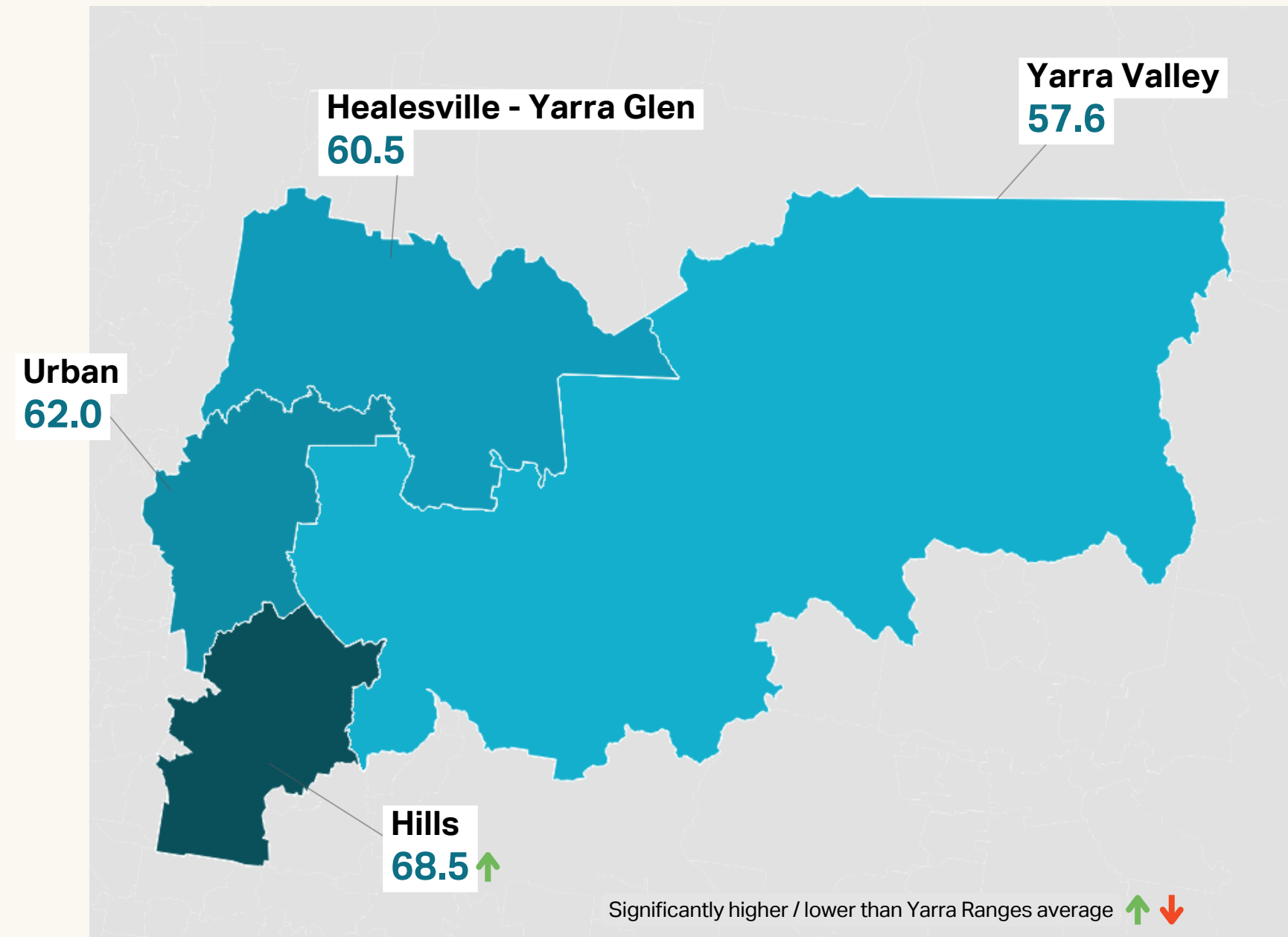
Affordable decent housing
High quality health services
A lack of road congestion
Reliable and efficient public transport
A diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences

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).



How is liveability experienced across Yarra Ranges?

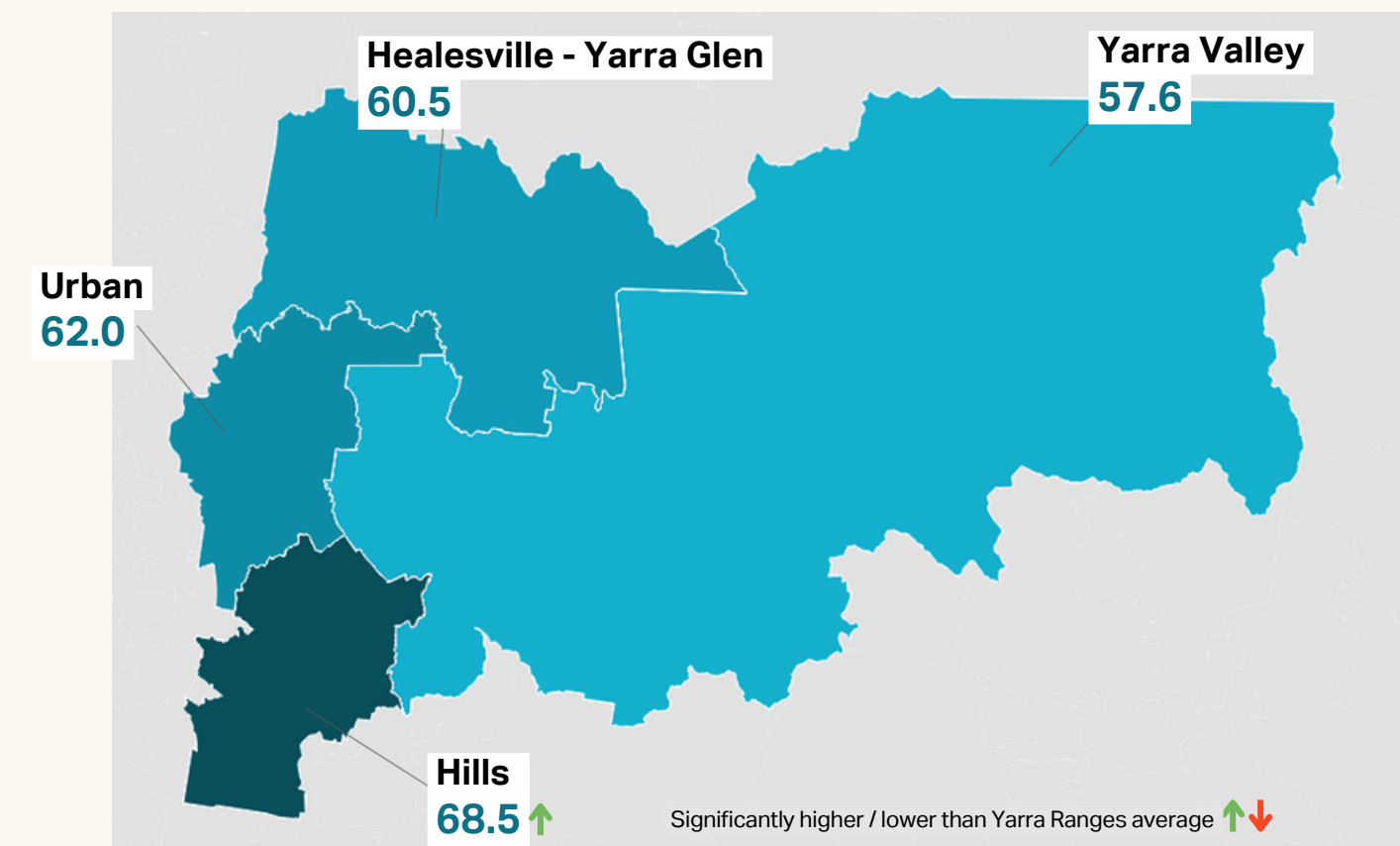
Differences in overall liveability by local area align closely with socio-economic indicators: the Hills have a SEIFA IRSAD score of 1,054 (above Yarra Ranges average of 1,014), while Yarra Valley records 975 - the lowest in Yarra Ranges - alongside lower median household incomes (\$1,626 compared with \$2,189 in the Hills).

In the Hills, residents report strong satisfaction across nearly all attributes, significantly outperforming the average for Yarra Ranges on all three attributes residents valued the most: 'feeling safe' (7.4 vs 6.6), 'access to the natural environment' (8.9 vs 8.1), and 'a strong sense of community' (8.0 vs 7.0). For 12 of 16 attributes, lived experience exceeds the average for Yarra Ranges, underscoring the area's high overall liveability.

Urban residents (OLI 62.0/100) also rate their experiences positively, particularly for 'reliable and efficient public transport' (6.4 vs 5.7). However, 'a strong sense of community' (6.4 vs 7.0) and 'feeling safe' (6.0 vs 6.6) score lower. Since connection and safety are correlated, strengthening community initiatives in Urban areas may improve both perceived safety and belonging.

In Healesville – Yarra Glen (OLI 60.5/100), satisfaction with the two most important attributes – 'feeling safe' (6.0) and 'access to the natural environment' (8.0) - is consistent with the averages for Yarra Ranges. However, experiences of other high importance attributes including 'high quality health services' (5.0 vs 5.9) and 'reliable and efficient public transport' (4.2 vs 5.7) are significantly lower. Residents reported the lowest levels of satisfaction with 'reliable and efficient public transport' compared to the three other local areas, and it was ranked 16th for lived experience.

Yarra Valley, with the lowest OLI (57.6/100), faces the greatest challenges. Resident satisfaction is notably lower than Yarra Ranges averages across several key attributes, including 'high quality health services' (4.4 vs 5.9), 'making your way to and from services with relative ease' (5.3 vs. 6.1), and 'reliable and efficient public transport' (4.7 vs 5.7). Four in ten (42%) Yarra Valley residents report being concerned with healthcare/ hospitals – almost double the average for Yarra Ranges (22%). These results underscore both service gaps and the need for targeted investment to lift liveability outcomes in this area of Yarra Ranges.



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 ↑ ↓

Overall, residents of Yarra Ranges report relatively strong access to amenities and services, however, hospitals stand out as the most inaccessible service, with 28% of residents indicating they or a household member cannot access one within Yarra Ranges. Access challenges are most pronounced in Yarra Valley, where nearly half (48%) of residents report difficulty accessing hospitals, compared with 16% in the Hills. These gaps likely reflect the dispersed geography of Yarra Ranges, and may suggest a reliance on Angliss Hospital, or facilities located outside Yarra Ranges LGA.

Open-text responses further highlight local differences in service barriers. In Healesville-Yarra Glen, residents most frequently cite a lack of public transport, aligning with the area’s low experience score for ‘reliable and efficient public transport’ (4.2/10 vs Yarra Ranges average: 5.7). In contrast, Yarra Valley respondents emphasise distance and limited healthcare availability, consistent with lower satisfaction for ‘high quality health services’.

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

While access to many amenities in Yarra Ranges is strong, addressing healthcare and transport accessibility particularly in outlying areas, will be crucial to improving liveability across Yarra Ranges. Continued advocacy for improved health infrastructure and public transport connectivity will play a central role in achieving this.

Open-text responses also reveal that residents commonly perceive persistent barriers to accessing existing services - most often limited public transport options and the distance to key facilities. While each local area experiences unique challenges, these issues are consistently raised across Yarra Ranges.

By local area:

- Healesville – Yarra Glen: Residents most often identify a lack of public transport and distance to essential services, particularly healthcare. These views reflect the area's low lived experience score for 'reliable and efficient public transport' (4.2/10 vs Yarra Ranges average: 5.7) and challenges with 'high quality health services' (5.0/10 vs 5.9/10).
- Hills: Residents mention limited public transport options and a strong reliance on driving due to distance, as well as road congestion when travelling.
- Urban: Respondents frequently mention limited transport connectivity and the loss of local amenities, such as the demolition of the Kilsyth Pool, which now requires travel outside the area for this type of sport and recreation.
- Yarra Valley: Distance and limited healthcare availability are recurring concerns, consistent with the area's low satisfaction for 'high quality health services' (4.4/10 vs Yarra Ranges average: 5.9).

These responses illustrate how distance and transport limitations shape residents' ability to access essential services and participate fully in community life.

In addition, survey findings show a clear relationship between experiences of road congestion and concerns about population growth. Residents with poor experiences of congestion (rating it 0–3/10) are significantly more likely to be concerned about population or overpopulation - 24%, compared with 9% among those with more favourable congestion experiences (7–10/10).

A similar pattern is observed across local areas: the areas reporting poorer road congestion experiences also record higher concerns about population growth. For example, Urban residents report the highest levels of concern at 22%, while in the Hills, concern is much lower at 9%.

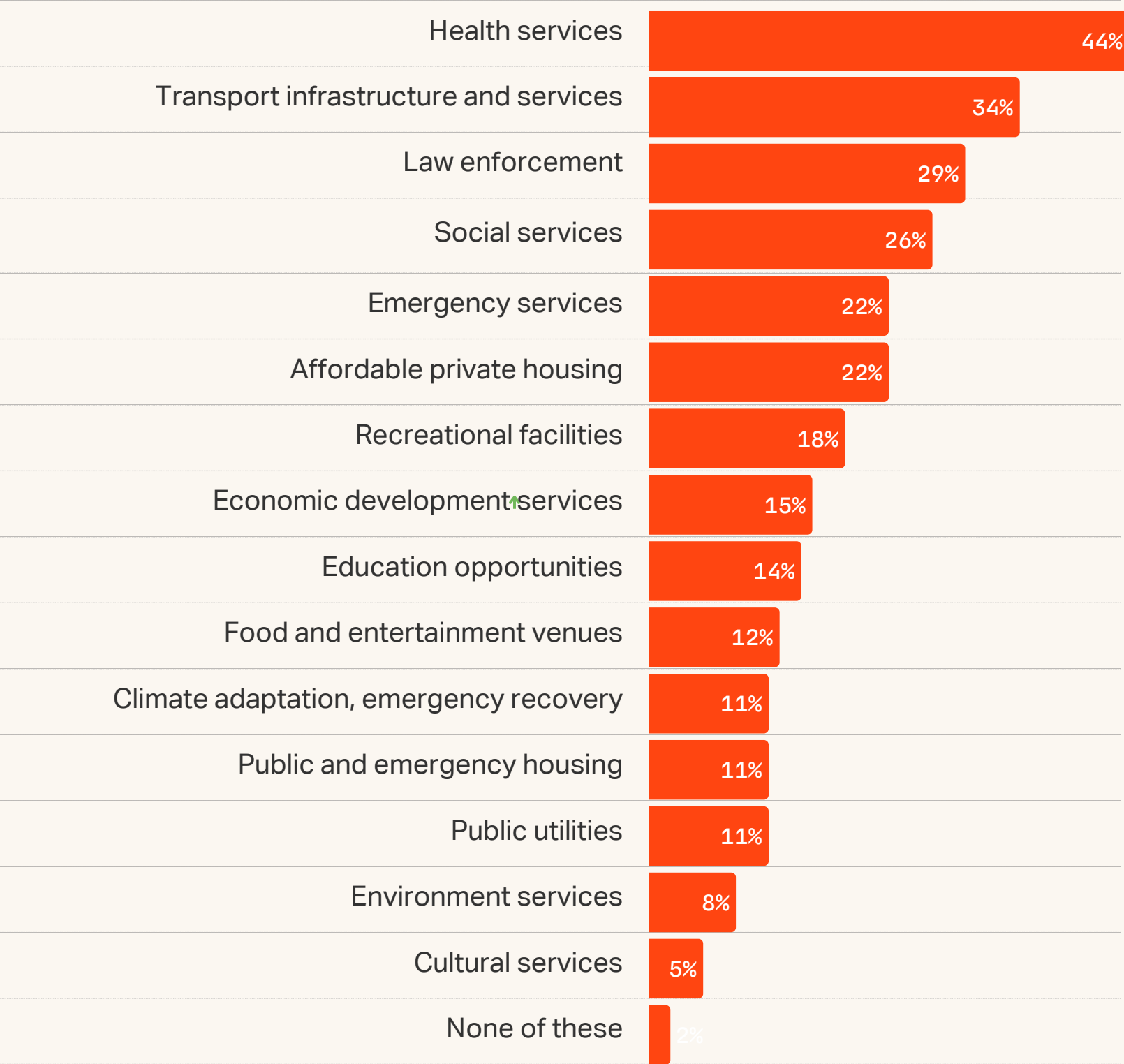
"We've found it impossible a few times now to see a GP urgently in our local area or at all. There are less and less GPs around and some clinics won't take on new patients or see you if you have not attended in 12 months. Online appointments have been an option at times or we have had to travel out of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

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



More than four in ten residents (44%) identified health services as their main advocacy priority

This aligns with earlier findings where ‘high quality health services’ were among the most important liveability attributes, yet varied significantly in resident experience across Yarra Ranges.

Support for stronger health advocacy is highest in Yarra Valley (67%) and Healesville-Yarra Glen (63%).

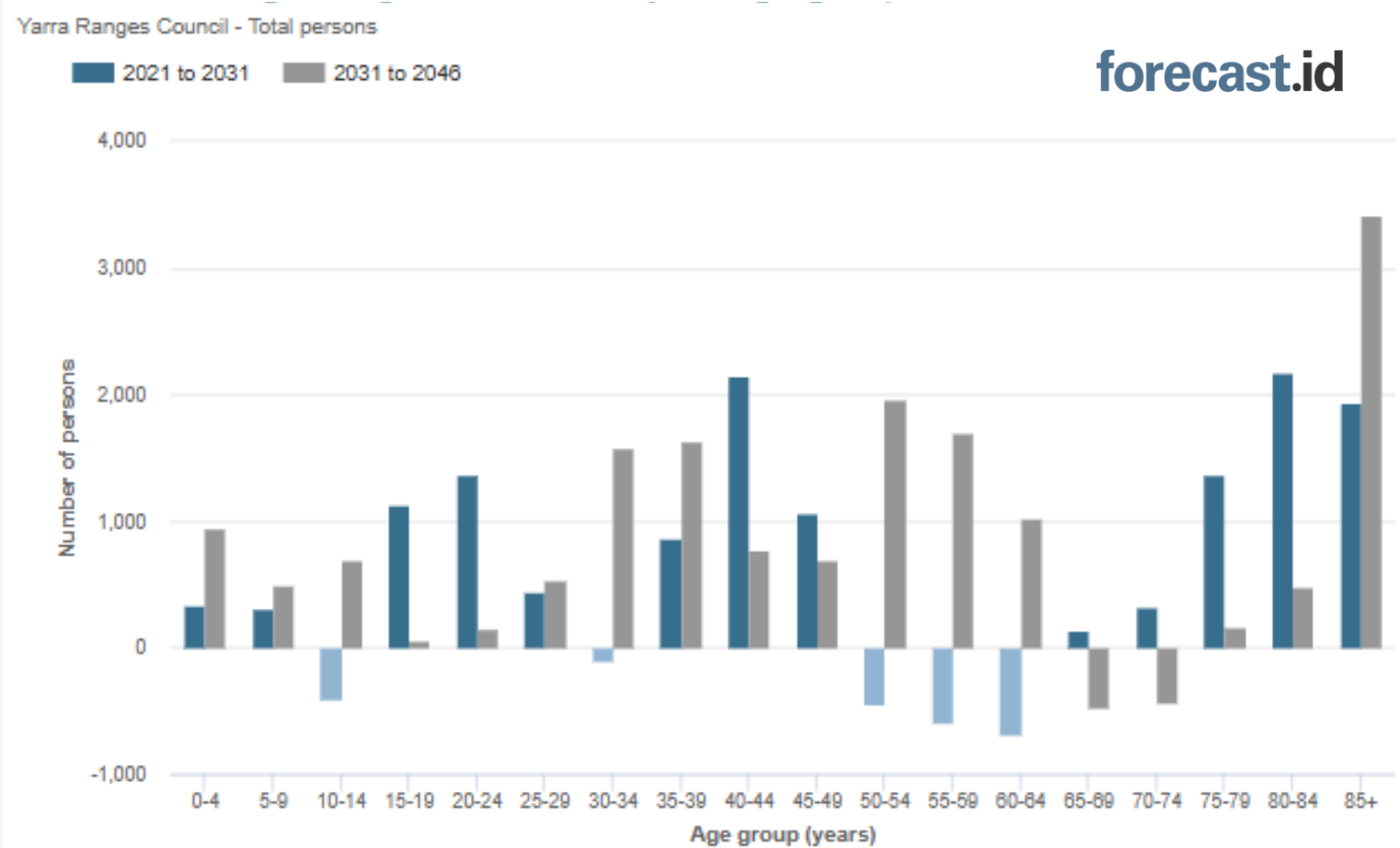
In contrast, fewer residents in Urban (41%) and Hills (31%) areas nominated health services as a key focus. These results reinforce the spatial differences across Yarra Ranges and highlight the need to advocate for improved health service access, particularly as Council moves towards its vision for the future.

With a median age of 40 years, higher than Greater Melbourne (37), Victoria, and Australia (38 respectively), and a high proportion of the population expected to be aged 85+ between 2031-2046, the need for enhanced healthcare access will continue to grow. Council’s advocacy in this area will be essential to meeting future community needs.

The second most frequently mentioned priority was ‘transport infrastructure and services’ (34%), reflecting community concern about mobility and accessibility. This aligns closely with identified opportunities to improve ‘reliable and efficient public transport’ and provide ‘a lack of road congestion’ to advance quality of life among Yarra Ranges residents.

Other key services residents would like Council to focus on include law enforcement (29%), social services (26%), emergency services (22%), and affordable private housing (22%). These results suggest residents would like to see better services in these key areas as Council plans for the future.

FORECAST CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE - 5 YEAR AGE GROUPS



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

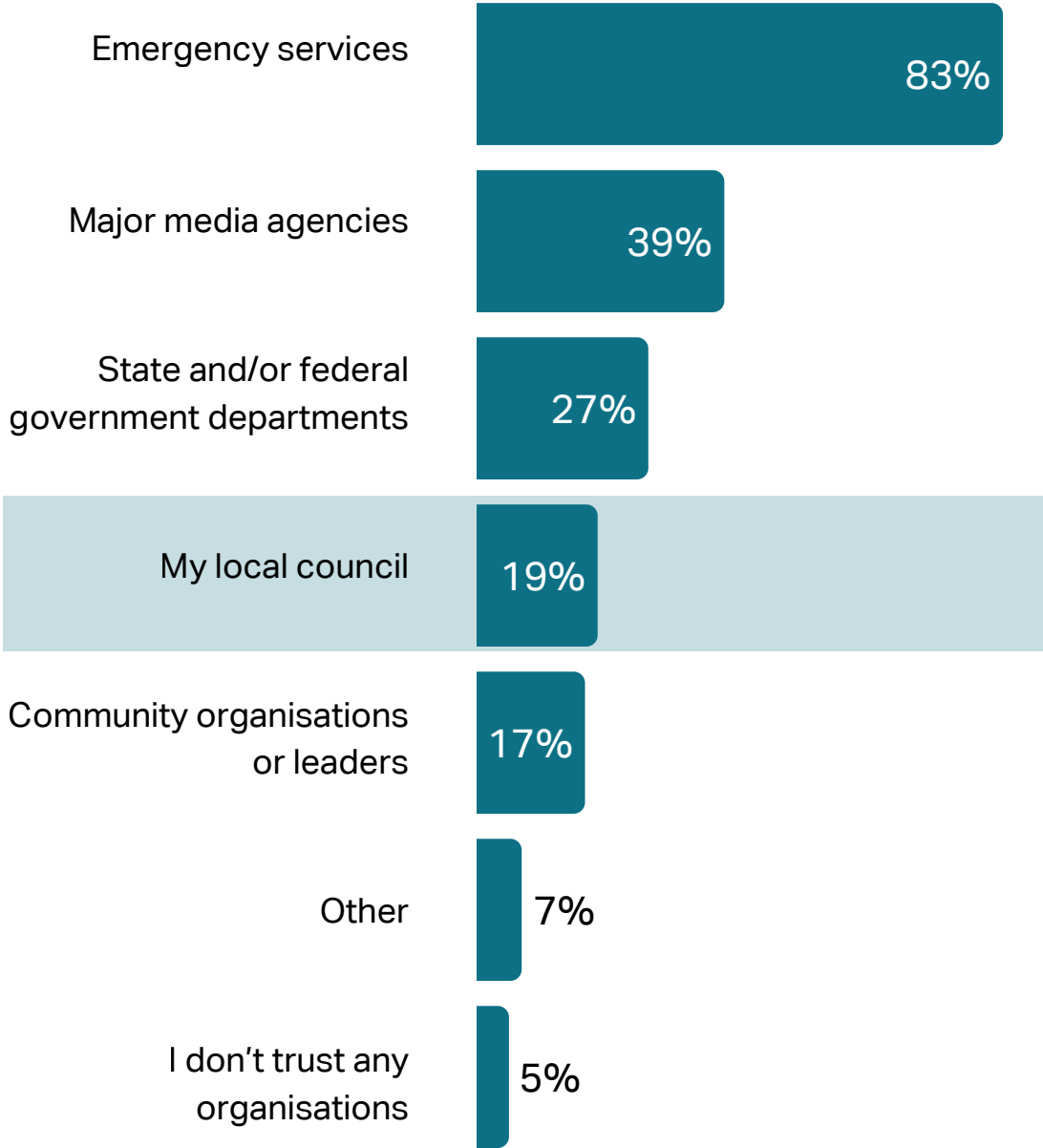
Residents' strong trust in emergency services highlights an opportunity for Council to partner with them - especially when communicating about emergencies, service disruptions, and major decisions.

When seeking critical or time-sensitive information, such as during emergencies, service disruptions, or major decisions, most residents said they trust emergency services (83%). This was followed by major media agencies (39%), government sources such as state or federal departments (27%), and Council (19%). Community organisations and local leaders (17%) were also cited as trusted sources by some residents.

Across Yarra Ranges, trust in organisations varies, but the pattern remains consistent: emergency services are by far the most trusted. Although trust in Council is lower, it presents a clear opportunity to strengthen local communication channels and transparency. Interestingly, younger residents (18–34 years) are more likely than other age groups to trust a range of authorities, including Council (26%).

Building on residents' strong trust in emergency services, there is an opportunity for Council to enhance collaboration with these trusted authorities, particularly when communicating during emergencies, major infrastructure works, and health or transport initiatives.

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?

Belief in climate change is widespread across Yarra Ranges, with nine in ten residents (90%) believing it is happening in some way. This is consistent with national (90%) and Victorian (89%) averages, though slightly lower than Greater Melbourne (93%).

Residents in Yarra Ranges are more likely than these comparable benchmarks to believe that climate change is occurring mostly or entirely due to natural causes, indicating a higher level of uncertainty around the extent of human influence compared with other areas.

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 are the perceived impacts of climate change on residents themselves?

Among those who believed in climate change, **85%** felt climate change is or will be affecting them personally.

- 42% said they are feeling the effects personally now, significantly fewer than the national (47%), and Victorian (47%) averages
- 43% expected to feel it personally within their lifetime, significantly higher than the national (37%), and Victorian (38%) averages
- Only 16% said they did not expect to feel any effects personally

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

Among residents who believed climate change is affecting them personally, the most commonly perceived challenges were associated with high costs of living, and threatening existing infrastructure

Top perceived effects of climate change:

-  1. Increased household running costs - energy, water, insurance (88%), significantly higher than the national (77%), Victorian (76%), and Greater Melbourne (74%) averages
-  2. Food production, harder and more expensive to get food items (60%)
-  3. Essential infrastructure vulnerability, e.g. power, water, sanitation (45%), significantly higher than the national (40%), Victorian (40%), and Greater Melbourne (39%) averages
-  4. Loss or damage to home/property (43%), significantly higher than, significantly higher than the national (29%), Victorian (24%), and Greater Melbourne (20%) averages

Base: Believe the climate is changing and affecting them personally, n=892

74% believed climate change would reduce their quality of life

- 52% "somewhat", 22% "a lot"

Base: Believe the climate is changing and affecting them personally, n=892

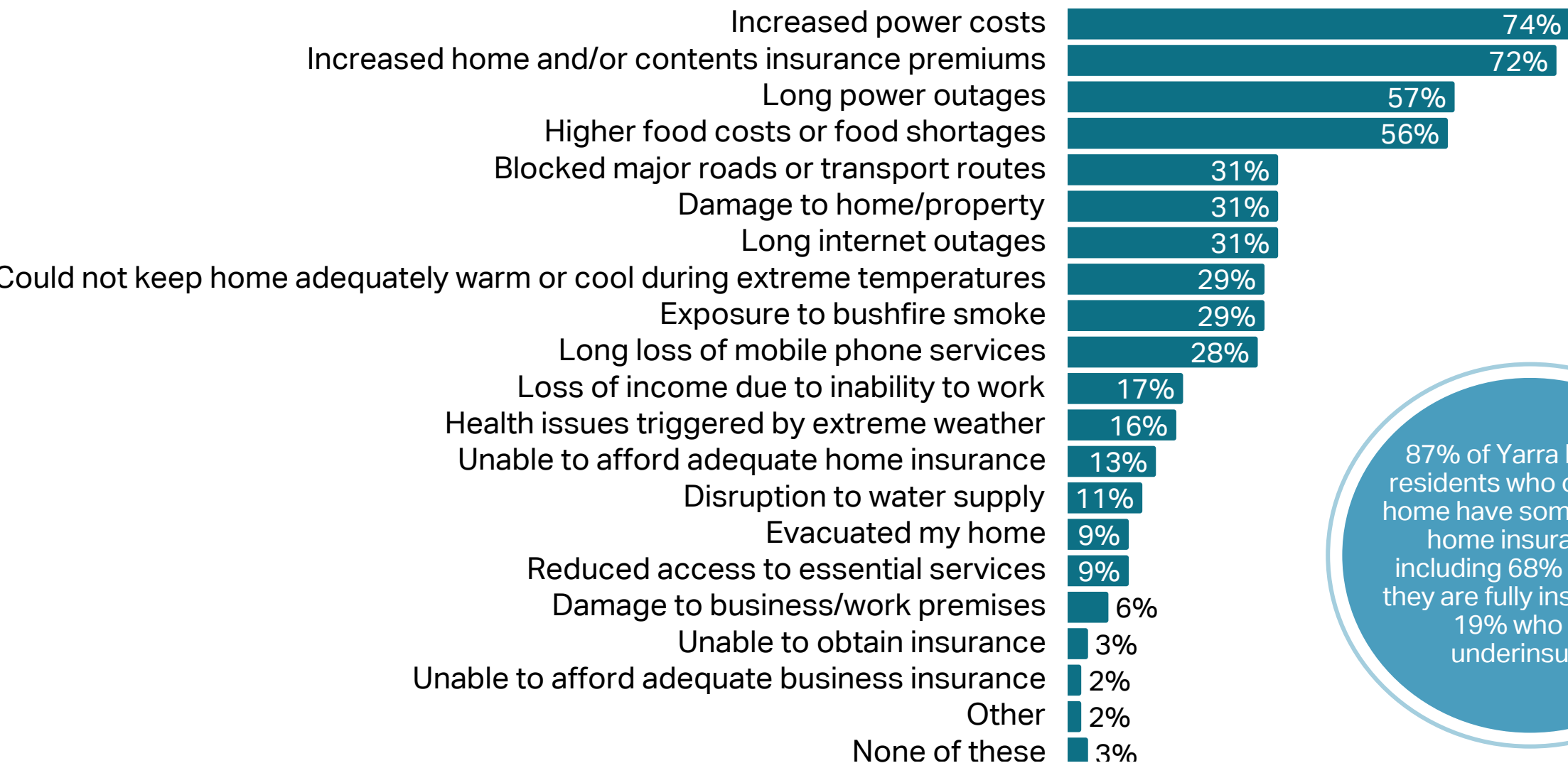
What impacts of extreme weather have residents experienced?

The majority of Yarra Ranges residents have experienced at least one impact of extreme weather or natural disasters in the past five years, most commonly increased power costs (74%) and higher home and/or contents insurance premiums (72%). These financial pressures highlight the growing economic burden of climate-related events on households.

More than half (57%) reported long power outages, and a similar proportion (56%) noted higher food costs or shortages.

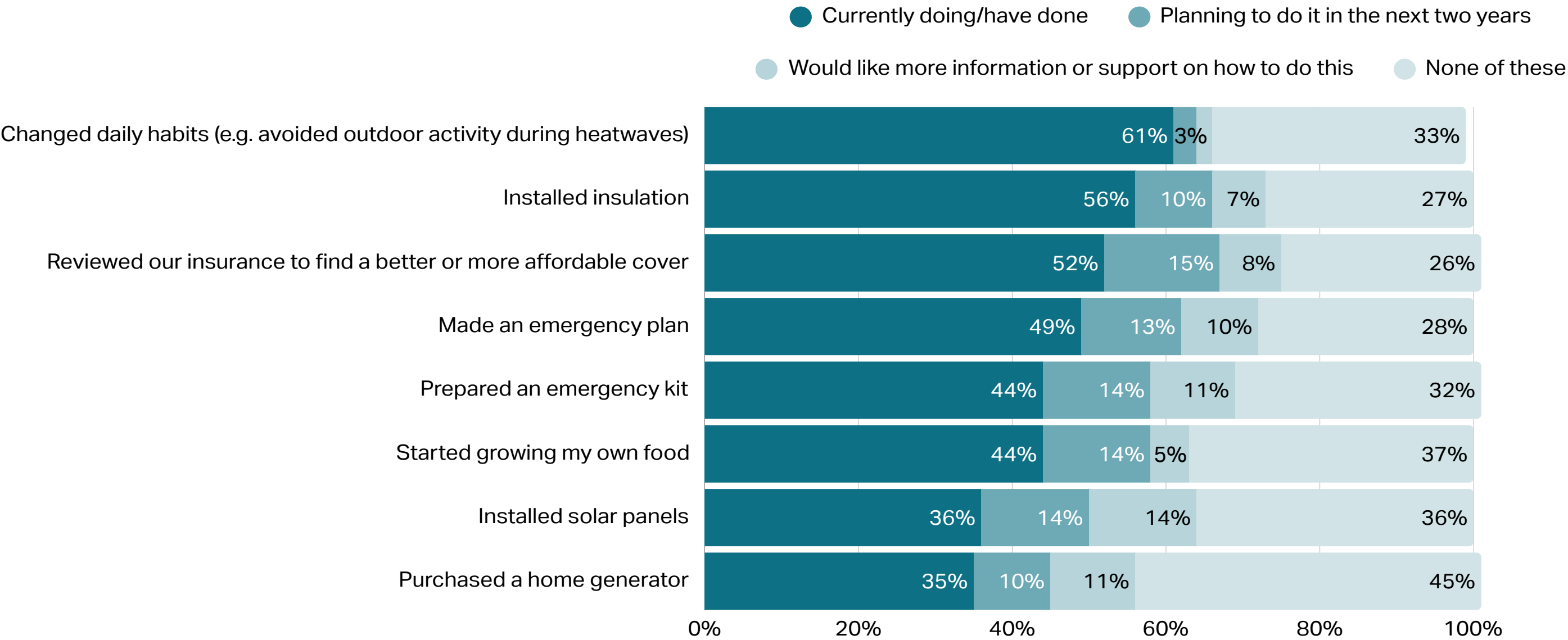
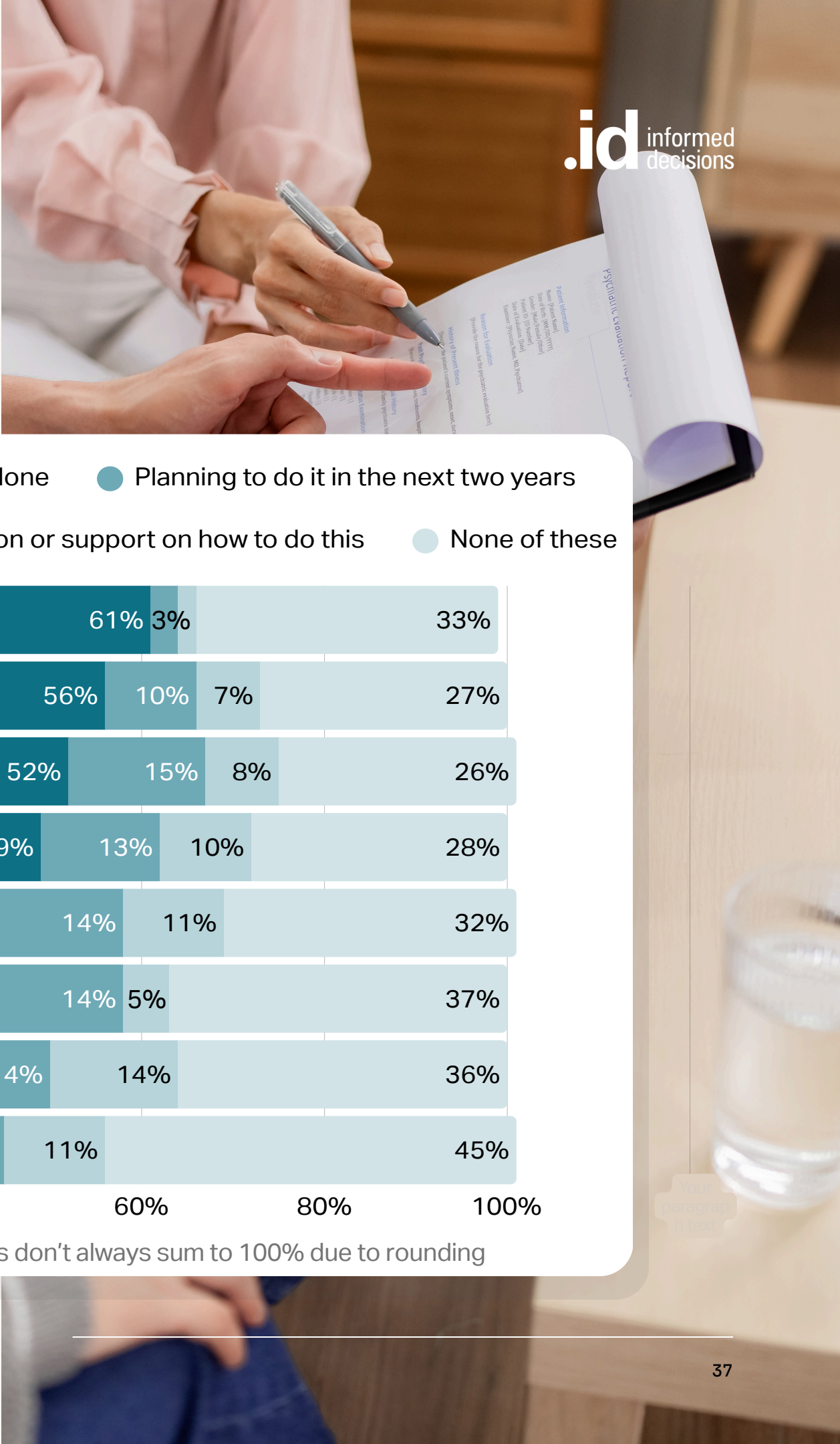
Residents in the Hills were the most likely to report experiencing impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters, and were significantly more likely than the average for Yarra Ranges to have faced a number of impacts, including increased home and/ or contents insurance premiums (78%), and long power outages (73%).

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



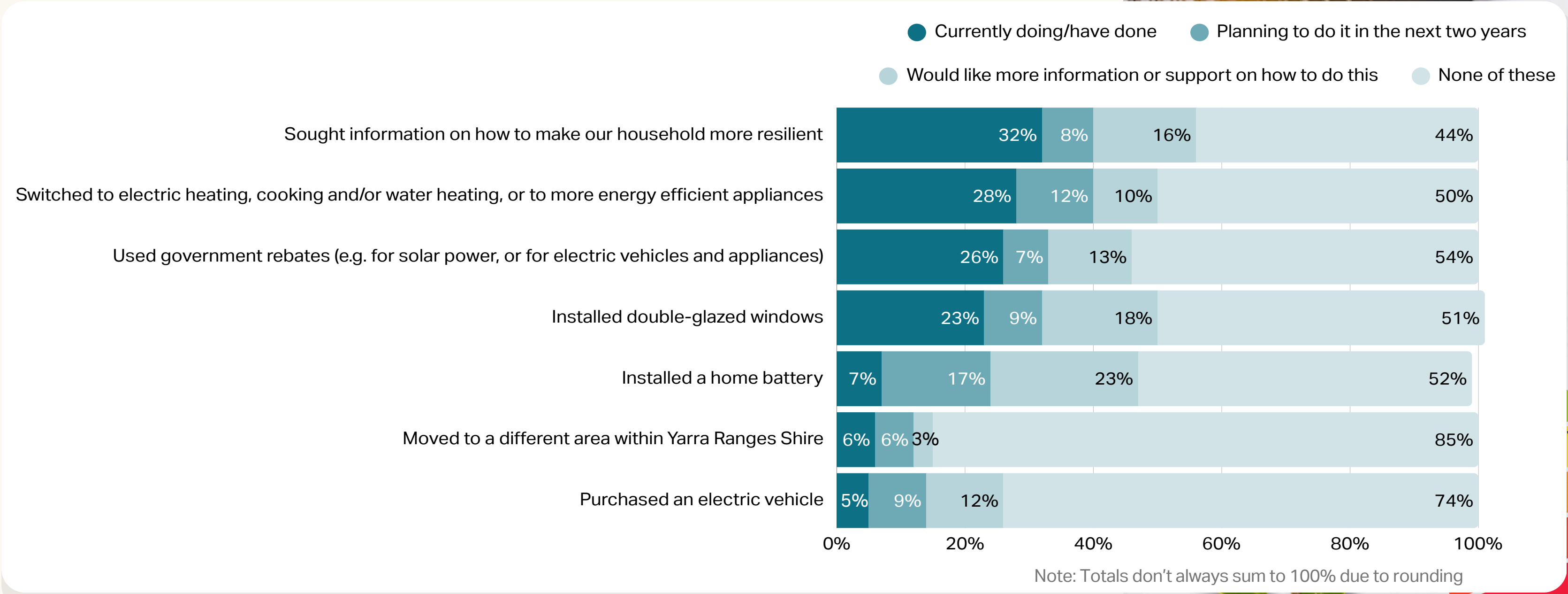
87% of Yarra Ranges residents who own their home have some form of home insurance - including 68% who say they are fully insured and 19% who are underinsured

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



Note: Totals don't always sum to 100% due to rounding

What steps are residents less commonly engaging in?

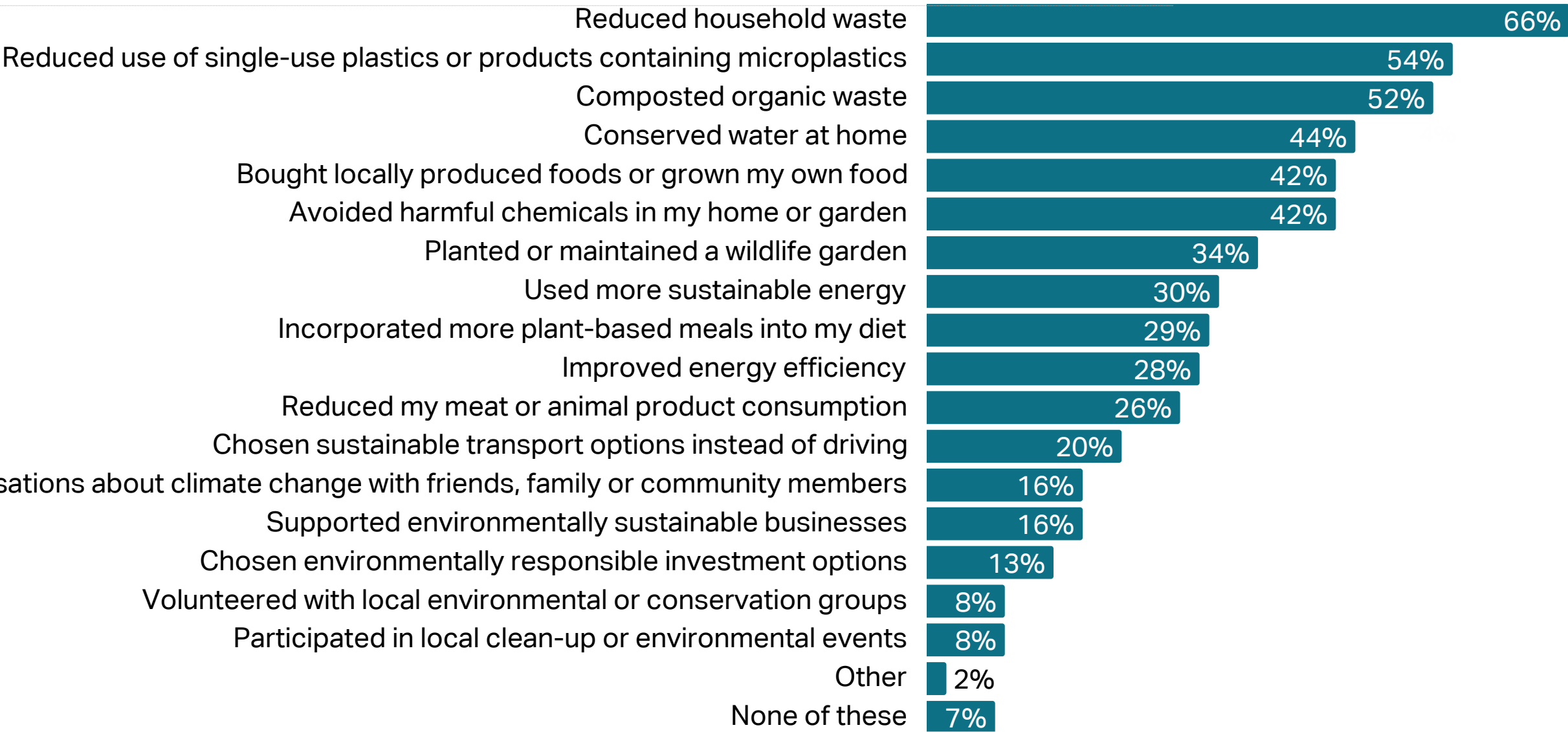


Less efficient

What sustainable behaviours have residents taken to protect the environment in the past year?

THINKING ABOUT THE PAST YEAR, WHAT ACTIONS HAVE YOU TAKEN TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

Sustainability is a part of everyday life in Yarra Ranges, with most (93%) residents engaging in sustainable behaviours in the past year



The Community Views results give Yarra Ranges:

1

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

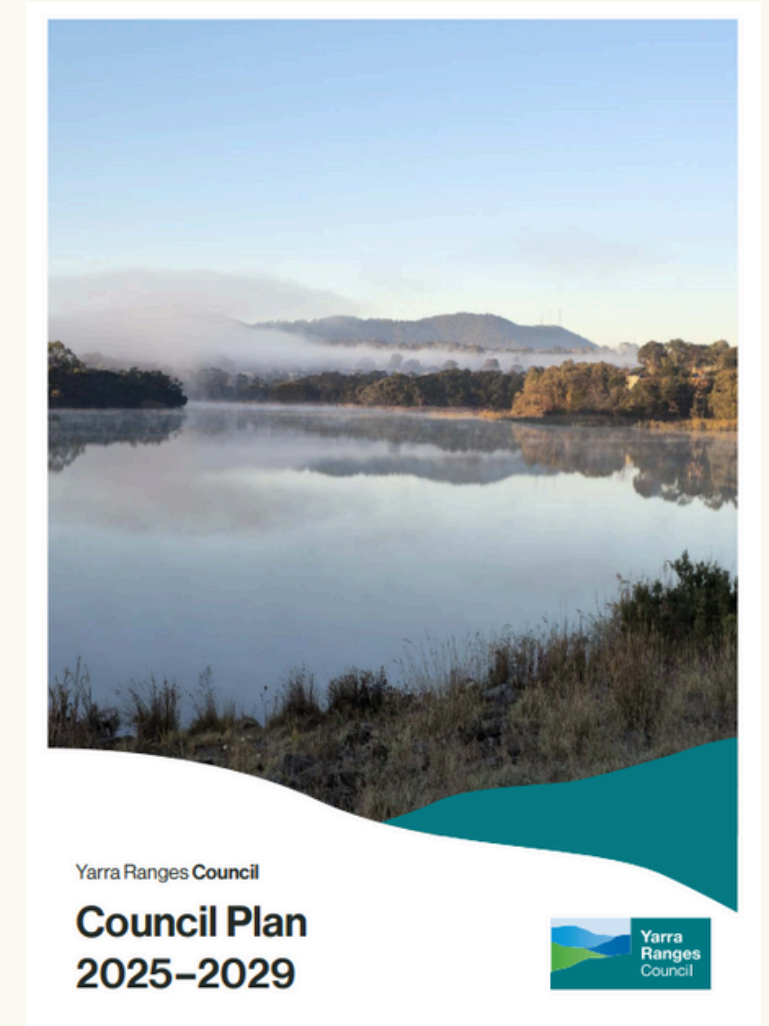
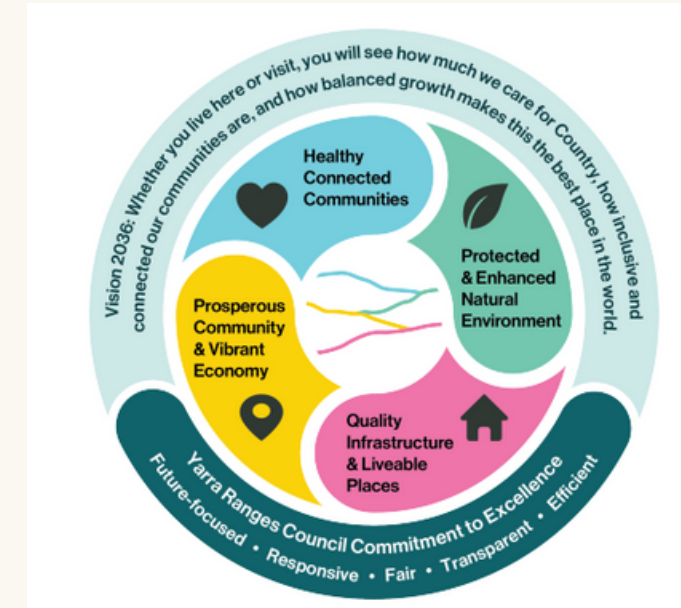
2

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

04

Resources



Further resources



views.id allows you to interact with the data, apply filters and run your own analysis. Unlimited users, public or private.



Appendix

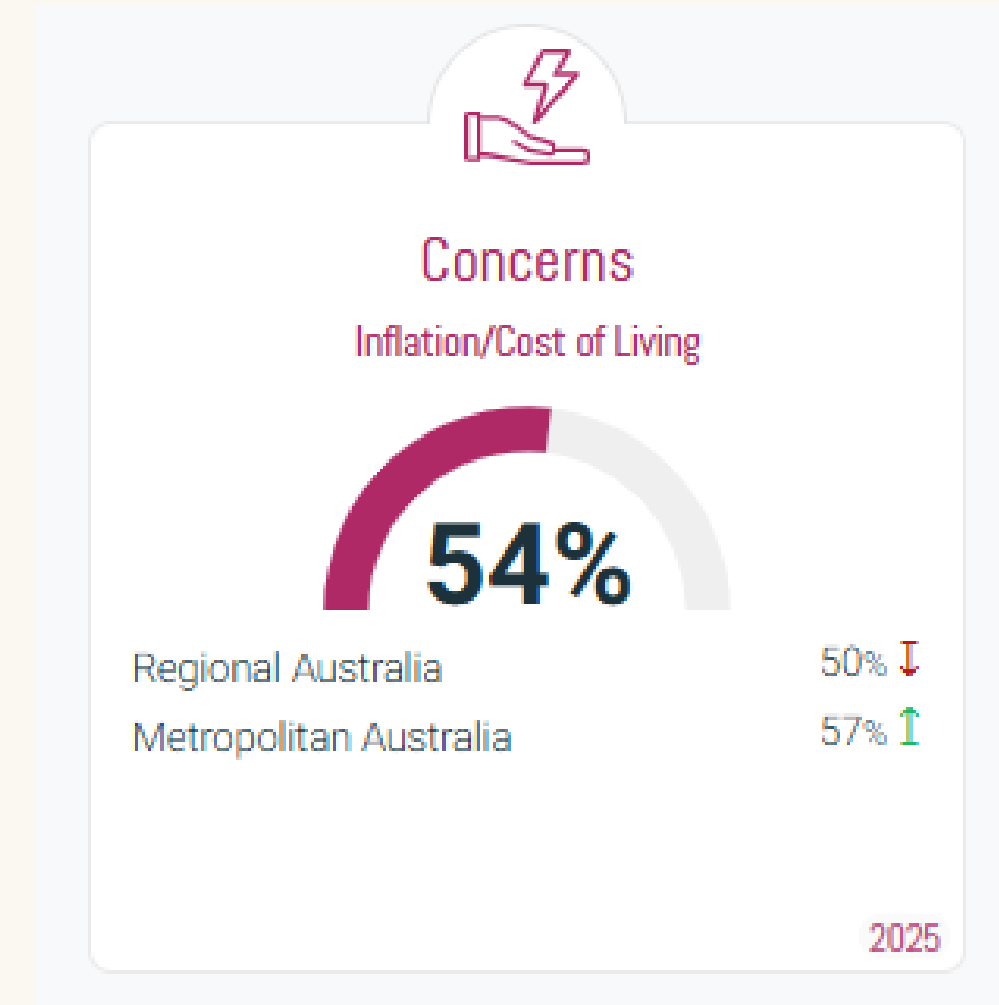


Significance Testing

To understand whether differences in survey results between two cohorts (e.g. 18-34 year olds versus others) or compared to benchmarks are meaningful, statistical tests have been conducted to determine 'significance'. This is illustrated on the Views platform using up (green) and down (red) arrows.

This allows us to judge whether two observed results are statistically different, that is, these differences are likely to be observed for the population as a whole, not just within our sample. If they are not deemed 'significant', they fall within the margin of error and represent a difference that could be attributed to chance alone. Significance testing is conducted at the $p < 0.05$ level.

It is important to remember that statistical significance doesn't necessarily mean that the difference is important or meaningful in real life. It just means that there's a very good chance that the difference isn't just due to random chance. Please use your judgment and knowledge of the subject matter and place to decide if the difference is really that important, or not.

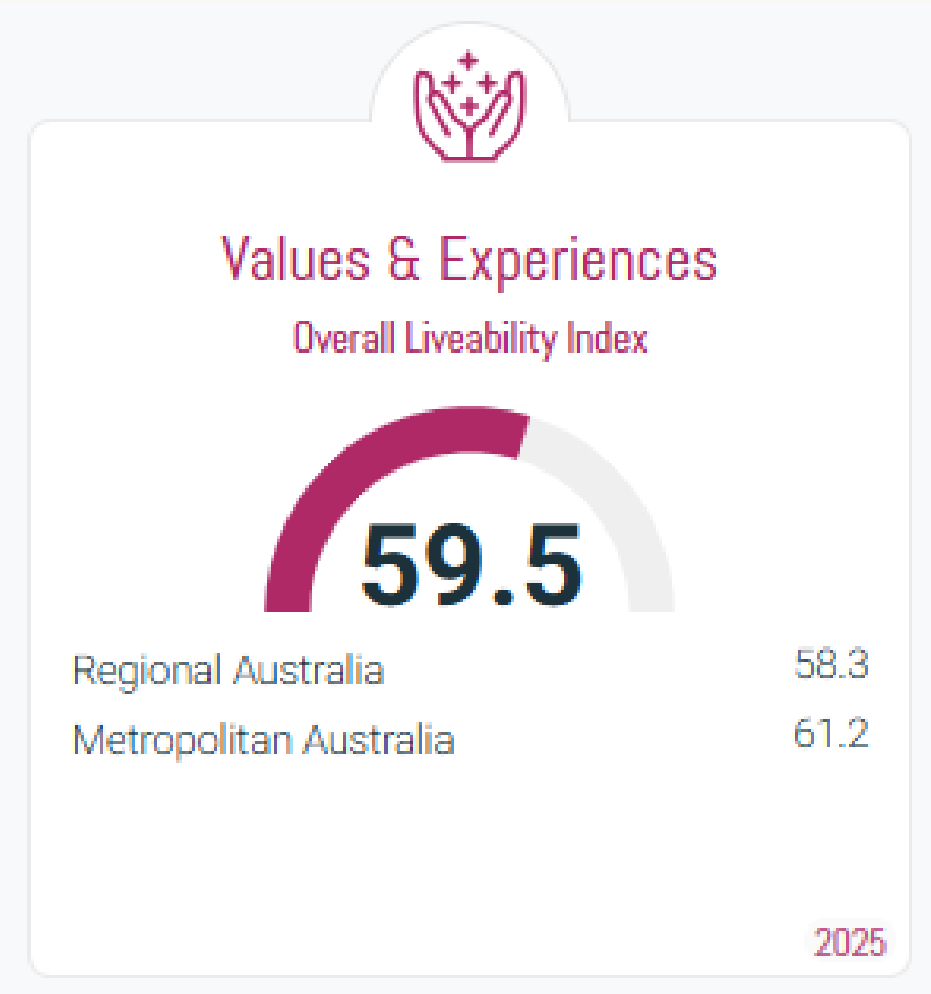


Overall Liveability Index Calculation

The Overall Liveability Index (OLI) is a product of two measures:

- The values residents place on each of the 16 attributes of liveability (% of respondents that nominated each in their top five)
- The local area experiences of residents for each of the 16 attributes (mean score based on ratings from 0-10)

For each attribute, the values % is multiplied by the average experience score, and the total sum is multiplied by two to get a score out of 100 for each local area.



Liveability across the 4 local areas

Local area definitions

Healesville - Yarra Glen: Badger Creek, Chum Creek, Dixons Creek, Healesville, Steels Creek, Yarra Glen, and Toolangi.

Hills: Belgrave, Belgrave Heights, Belgrave South, Ferny Creek, Kallista, Kalorama, Macclesfield, Menzies Creek, Monbulk, Mount Dandenong, Narre Warren East, Olinda, Sassafras, Selby, Sherbrooke, Silvan, Tecoma, The Patch, Upper Ferntree Gully, and Upwey.

Urban: Chirnside Park, Coldstream, Kilsyth, Lilydale, Montrose, Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn, and Yering.

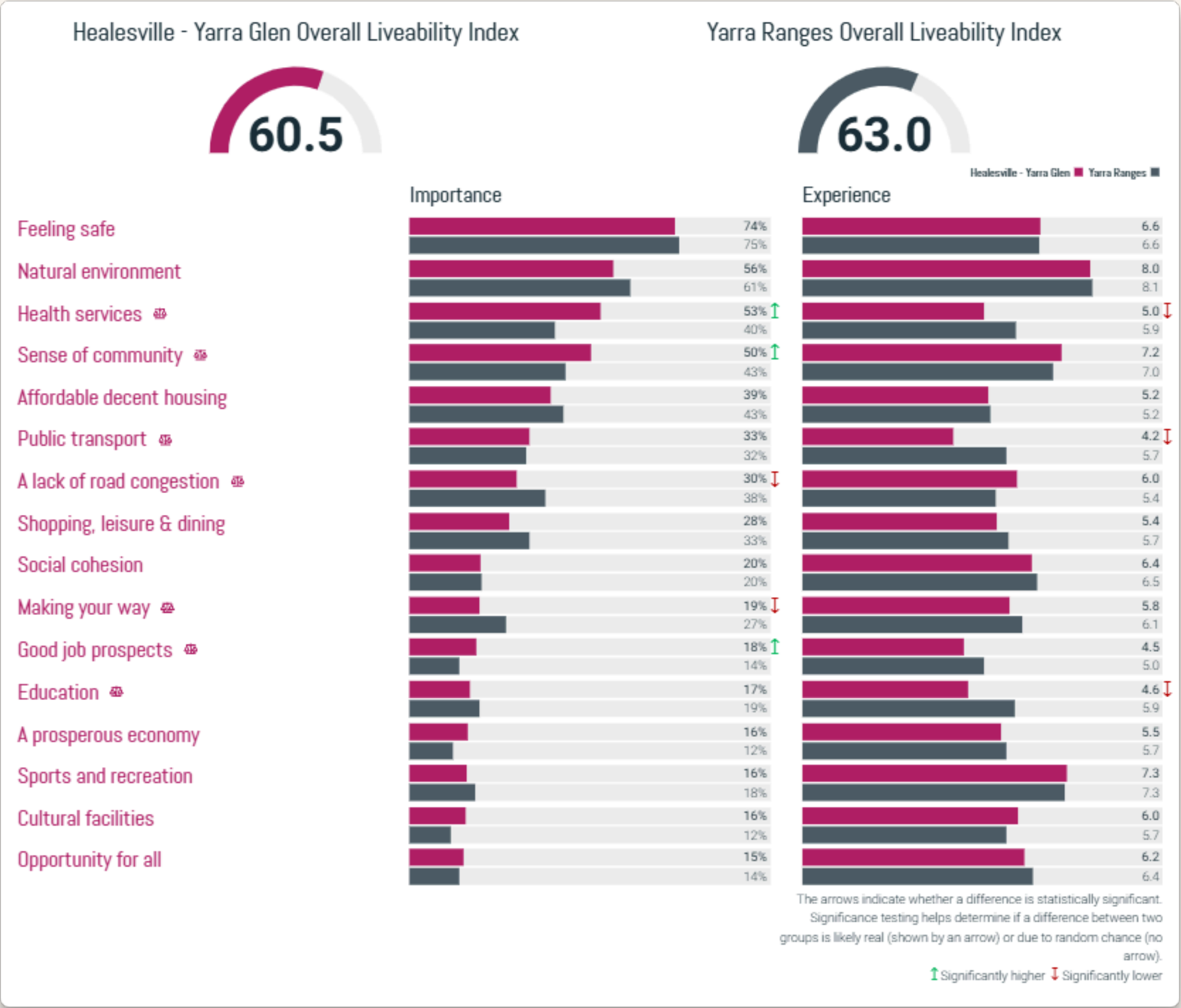
Yarra Valley: Beenak, Big Pats Creek, Cambarville, Don Valley, East Warburton, Gilderoy, Gladysdale, Gruyere, Hoddles Creek, Launching Place, McMahon's Creek, Millgrove, Powelltown, Reefton, Seville, Warburton, Seville East, Wesburn, Woori Yallock, Three Bridges, Yarra Junction, Wandin East, Wandin North, and Yellingbo.



Healesville - Yarra Glen

Healesville - Yarra Glen is made up of Badger Creek, Chum Creek, Dixons Creek, Healesville, Steels Creek, Yarra Glen, and Toolangi.

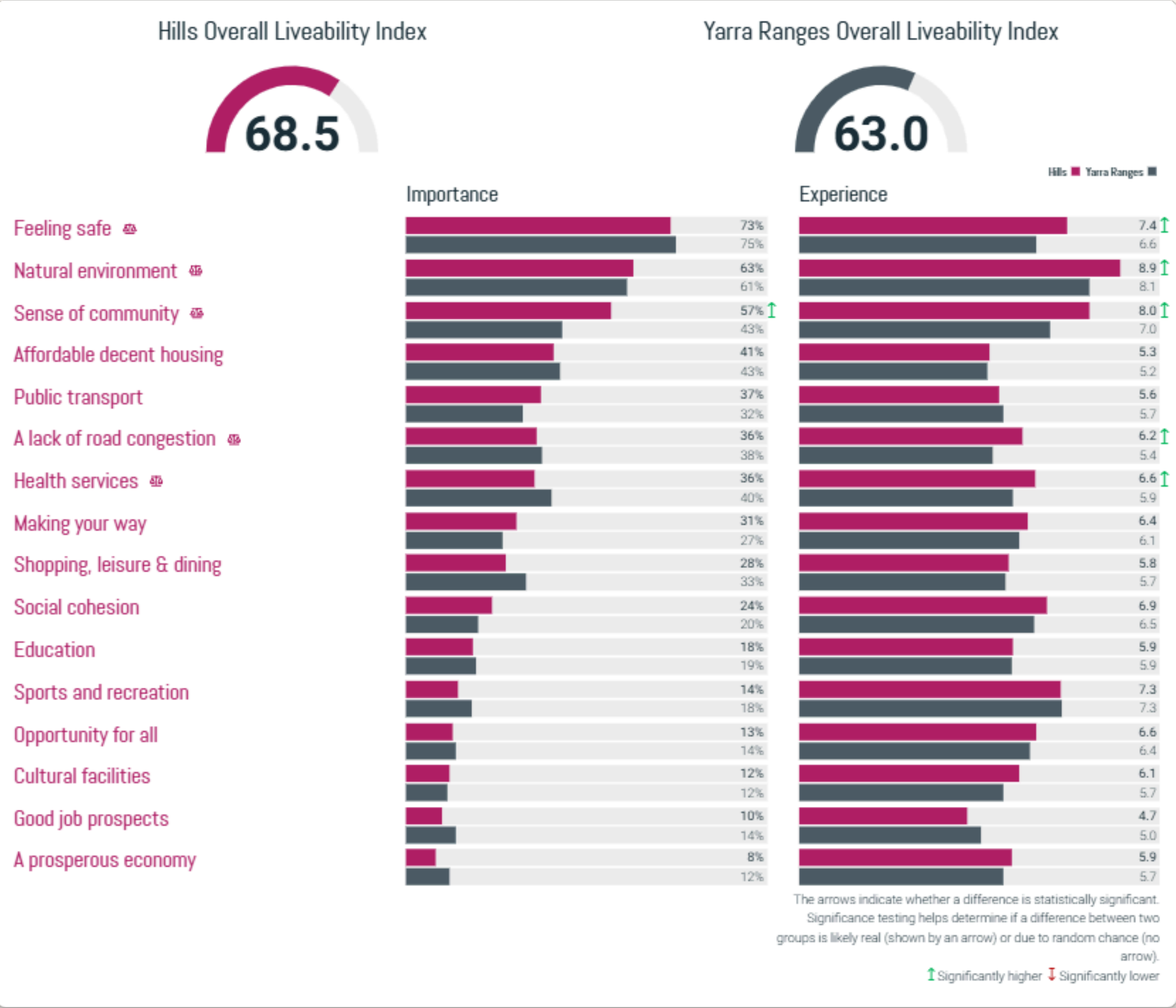
A total of 266 residents from this local area completed the survey, with a margin of error of +/-6.0%.



Hills

Hills is made up of Belgrave, Belgrave Heights, Belgrave South, Ferny Creek, Kallista, Kalorama, Macclesfield, Menzies Creek, Monbulk, Mount Dandenong, Narre Warren East, Olinda, Sassafras, Selby, Sherbrooke, Silvan, Tecoma, The Patch, Upper Ferntree Gully, and Upwey.

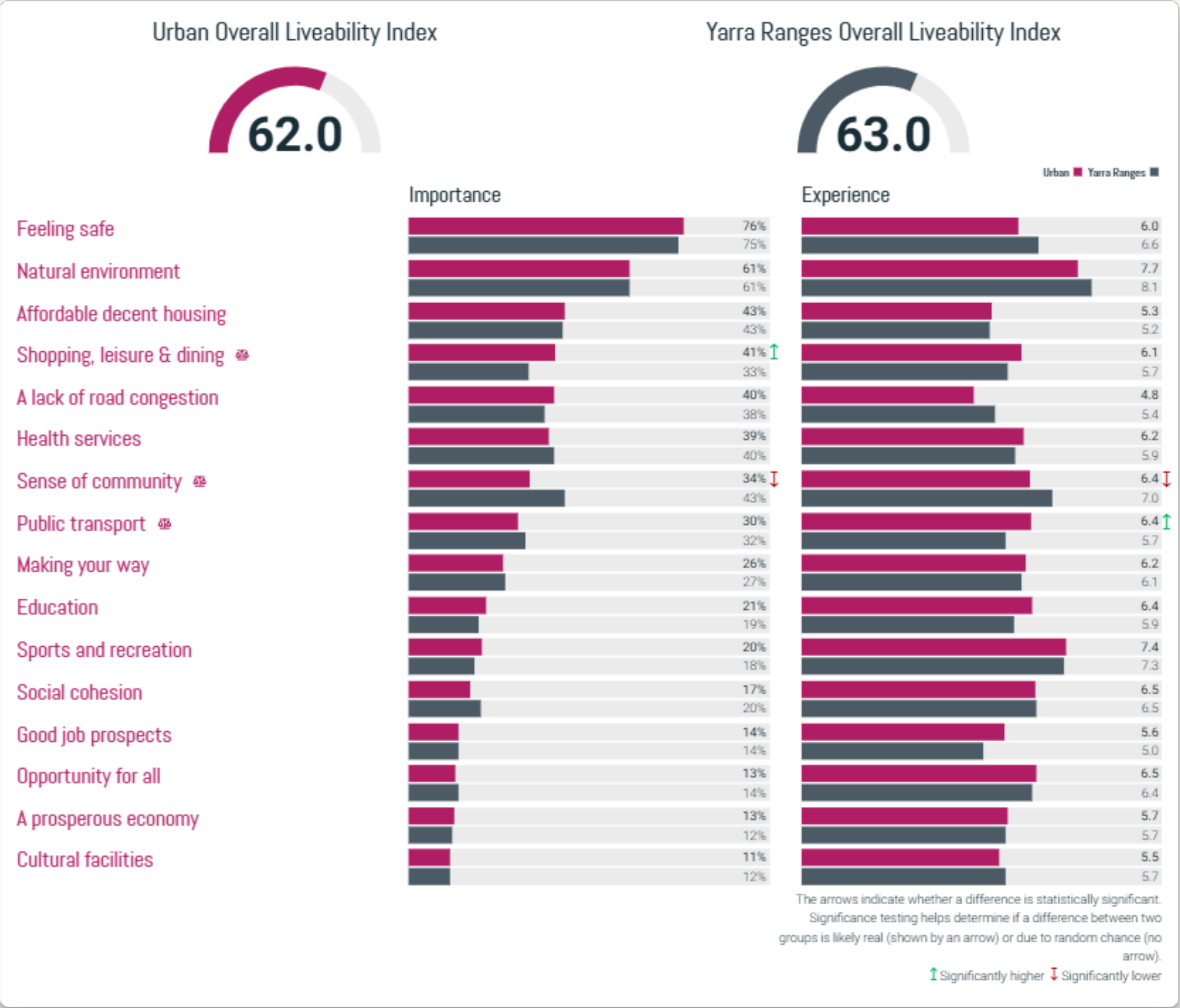
A total of 308 residents from this local area completed the survey, with a margin of error of +/-5.6%.



Urban

Urban is made up of Chirnside Park, Coldstream, Kilsyth, Lilydale, Montrose, Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn, and Yering.

A total of 320 residents from this local area completed the survey, with a margin of error of +/-5.5%.



Yarra Valley

Yarra Valley is made up of Beenak, Big Pats Creek, Cambarville, Don Valley, East Warburton, Gilderoy, Gladysdale, Gruyere, Hoddles Creek, Launching Place, McMahons Creek, Millgrove, Powelltown, Reefton, Seville, Warburton, Seville East, Wesburn, Woori Yallock, Three Bridges, Yarra Junction, Wandin East, Wandin North, and Yellingbo.

A total of 274 residents from this local area completed the survey, with a margin of error of +/-5.9%.

