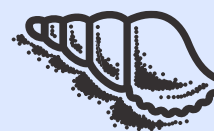


Climate Resilience Plan Framework

Community Engagement Summary



Mornington
Peninsula Shire

Introduction

Earlier this year, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council undertook broad community engagement to inform the development of the **Climate Resilience Plan (CRP) Framework**. This was followed by focused conversations with the newly established **Climate Resilience Community Reference Group (CRG)**.

Together, these engagement activities sought to understand:

- Community and stakeholder visions for a climate-resilient Peninsula
- Perceptions of the draft CRP Framework and its four Strategic Priorities
 - Climate adaptation
 - Hazard impact reduction
 - Biodiversity protection
 - Sustainable infrastructure
- Expectations for the Shire's role, priorities, and leadership in responding to climate risks.

This summary combines insights from **community-wide engagement** and **workshop feedback** from the CRG to provide a broad picture of stakeholder views.

Engagement approach

Community-Wide Engagement (January–March 2026)

Engagement on the draft CRP Framework included:

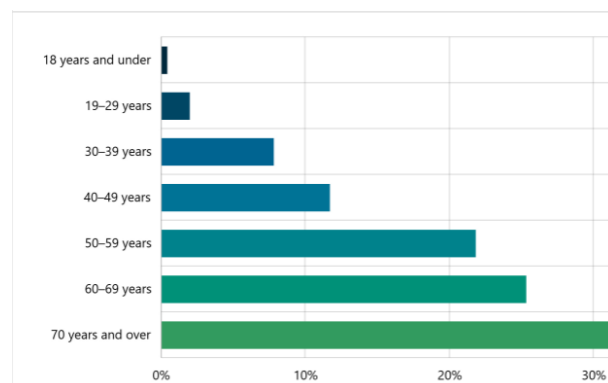
- **Online survey**
- **Social media campaign** directing participants to the Shape Peninsula platform
- **Direct outreach** to key community organisations and stakeholders
- **Email submissions** from community groups.

Participation highlights:

- 100,284 **social media impressions**
- 3,215 **website visits**
- 268 **survey responses**
- 10 **written submissions** from community organisations.

Respondents represented all wards, with most identifying as **Shire residents (94%)**, and a smaller proportion as **workers (8%)** and **business owners (7%)**.

Participation (**54%**) was predominantly with those **aged 60+** and there was a smaller response (**10%**) from those **under 40**, highlighting a gap in the perspectives of younger audiences.



Graph 1. Online survey participation by age group

Community Reference Group Workshop (March 2026)

To ensure the community was represented by a diverse and representative voice, the Climate Resilience Community Reference Group (CRG) was established through a random, representative selection process facilitated by an external provider.

- **10,000 households** were invited to apply
- Members were **randomly selected** to reflect diversity in age, gender and Peninsula location.

The first workshop was held in March 2026 and introduced the draft CRP Framework and strategic priorities through presentations and interactive activities. The **34 participants** then completed a survey where they requested clarity on scope, risks and priorities. Three more workshops are scheduled with this reference group. Engagement will be finalised in August 2026.

Vision for a climate-resilient Peninsula

Across both engagement streams, participants described a climate-resilient Peninsula as one that prioritises:

- **Strong biodiversity and healthy natural systems**
- **Preparedness and adaptation** to climate impacts
- **Reduced emissions and mitigation** efforts
- **Community involvement and shared responsibility.**

Biodiversity protection and nature-based solutions were repeatedly identified as foundational to resilience.

Perceptions of the draft CRP framework

Across both engagement streams, participants were asked to describe their views on the Council adopted CRP Framework.

Community-wide engagement

- 23% agreed the Framework is an appropriate guide
- 54% disagreed
- 23% selected 'other', often citing the CRP Framework as too high-level or lacking action

Community Reference Group

- 87.5% agreed the Framework is appropriate
- 10% disagreed
- 12.5% selected 'other'.

This contrast reflects differences between **initial public consultation** and **deliberative engagement**,

where participants had more time, support, and context to understand the Framework.

These differences also reinforce the value of **multiple engagement methods**.

Shared feedback themes

Across both groups, respondents acknowledged the Framework as a **useful starting point**, while identifying consistent areas for improvement:

Need for greater clarity and detail

- Clear definitions of climate resilience and risk
- Baseline information on current conditions and risk
- Explanation of how success will be measured.

Desire for stronger emissions reduction focus

- Calls for explicit inclusion of mitigation, renewable energy, and community emissions reduction.

Biodiversity as central to resilience

- Strong support for embedding biodiversity protection and nature-based solutions more deeply throughout the framework.

Actionability and accountability

- Strong emphasis on measurable actions, targets, and transparent reporting
- Desire for public sharing of engagement outcomes and progress updates.

Community response to the rescission of the Climate Emergency Plan

In addition to feedback on the draft CRP, the community-wide engagement also identified concern about the perceived **removal of ambition following the rescission of the Climate Emergency Plan in 2025**. Approximately **20% of online survey submissions referenced this decision**, with respondents expressing worry that it signalled a reduced level of urgency or commitment to climate action.

The online survey results showed that only a small minority of respondents questioned Council's role in addressing climate change. **Around 6% expressed the view that climate change is not a Council responsibility**, indicating this perspective was not widely held.

Strategic priorities: is enough being done?

Both engagement streams expressed concern that **current efforts across the four strategic priorities are insufficient**.

- Community survey respondents largely selected **'not at all'** or **'a little'**
- CRG participants also expressed **uncertainty or limited confidence** in existing efforts.

Key reasons included:

- **Lack of visibility** on what Council is already doing
- **Limited understanding of Council's role** versus state and federal responsibilities
- **Concern that risks and vulnerable populations** are not being adequately addressed.

Cross cutting themes

Community Role and Engagement

- **Strong support for active community involvement** in shaping and delivering the CRP
- **Desire for ongoing engagement** with:
 - Community groups
 - Schools and young people
 - Volunteers and local experts.

Education and communication

One of the strongest shared themes was **the need for education**, with participants reporting they felt underprepared to contribute without more information. Suggested actions included:

- **Climate information packs or fact sheets**
- **Clear explanations** of climate risks and resilience pathways
- **Accessible visuals, diagrams and examples.**

Equity and vulnerable communities

Both groups raised concern that climate impacts may disproportionately affect:

- **Renters**
- **Low-income households**
- **Older residents**
- **People exposed to coastal and hazard-prone areas**
- **People with a disability or health concerns.**

There was a clear expectation that **the CRP explicitly consider these groups in risk assessments and actions.**

Indigenous knowledge

Participants emphasised:

- Respect for and integration of **Traditional Owner Knowledge**
- Recognition of **Indigenous land management and stewardship practices.**

Leadership

Participant responses indicated a **strong expectation for Council leadership** in the following areas:

- Leading by example
- Strengthening planning and policy enforcement
- Advocating for stronger state and federal action
- Collaborating across councils.

Property, planning and insurance

Participants raised emerging concerns about:

- **Rising insurance premiums**
- **Transparency** around hazard mapping
- **Long-term planning** and implications for **coastal and exposed areas**
- **Compensation and fairness** for impacted property owners.

Key differences in engagement insights

Community-wide engagement	Community Group	Reference
Expressed frustration and lower trust in adequacy of Framework	More supportive, but still seeking clarity	
Strong push for emissions mitigation	Strong push for understanding, education, and structure	
Higher proportion critical of Council's role	Greater understanding of nuance and acknowledgement of constraints	

How we will use this feedback

We will incorporate the following key points of feedback into the draft Plan:

- **Community should be actively involved** in developing and delivery of the CRP
- A more robust **emissions reduction** focus
- Risk assessments and actions will adopt a community-wide scope, prioritising those **most vulnerable to climate impacts** and **strengthening community capacity** through targeted education and access to resources
- A strengthened focus on **biodiversity protection**
- Actions will be clear, measurable, and evidence based
- Community engagement results will be publicly reported to support **transparency and accountability**.

Future engagement and actions

Planned next steps include:

- **Targeted engagement with:**
 - Key stakeholder groups
 - Young people
 - Traditional Owners

- Priority population groups
- Businesses

- **Public Exhibition of the draft Climate Resilience Plan** to all of community, including in-person engagement
- Ongoing CRG workshops

What's next?

The feedback will be used to inform the development of a **draft Climate Resilience Plan**.

Once completed, the draft CRP will be presented to the community for feedback.

To stay updated, check the project webpage:
mornpen.vic.gov.au/crp