



**ACT**  
Government

**Y**OURsay  
Community panel



# YourSay Community Panel

## *Places & Spaces survey*

14 January 2019





**Background:** The ACT Government sought feedback from the community to help in the drafting of an *Urban Tree Strategy Plan* and to inform its work on the *ACT Planning Review*.

**Purpose:** The results of the survey will assist the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) to better understand community attitudes towards urban street trees as it develops the draft *Plan* and undertakes further community consultation in March 2020.

The survey will also provide the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) with a better understanding of what elements of the built and natural environment people like and dislike in their local area, and offer insights into the levels of community engagement with the planning system.

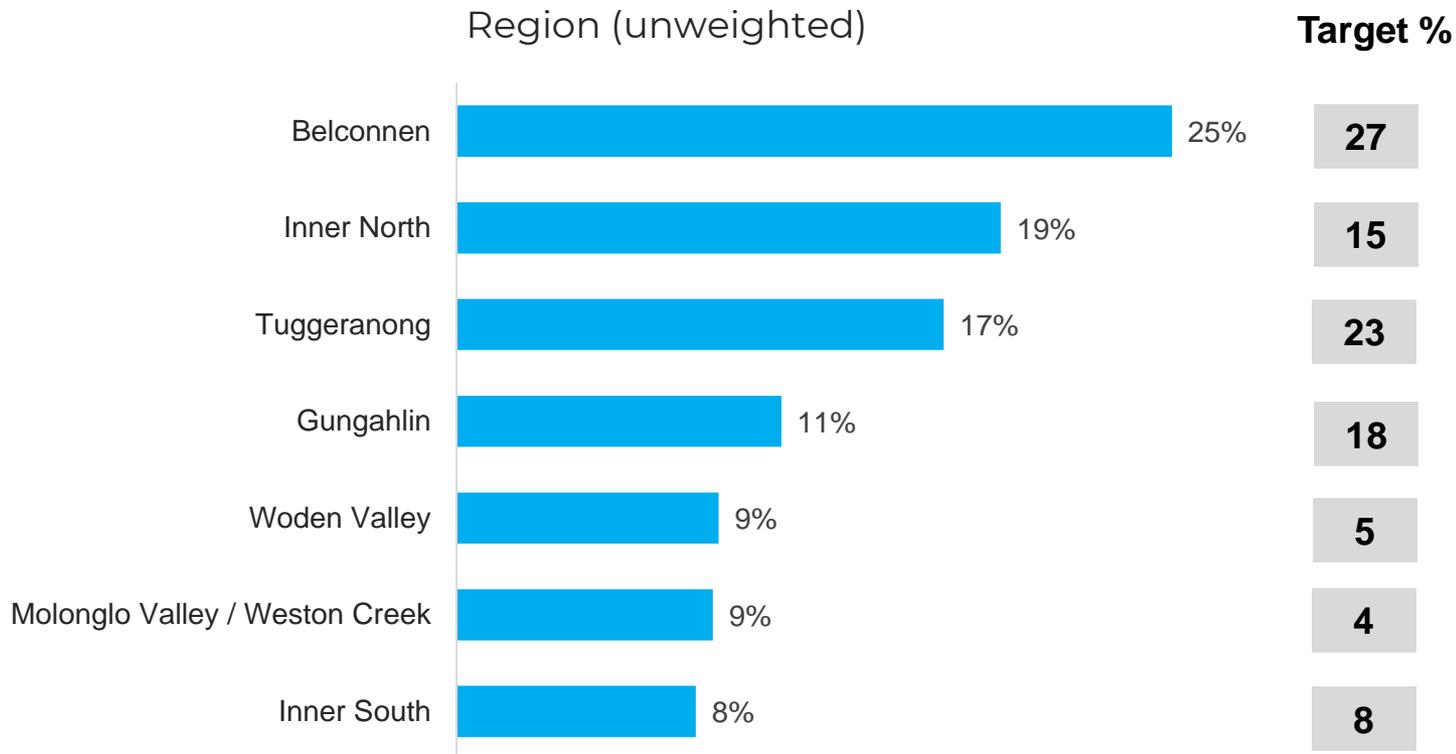
**Timeframe:** The survey opened on **Wednesday 16 October** and closed on **Friday 25 October 2019**.

**Sample:** **994** members of the YourSay Community Panel completed the survey.

**Weighting:** The data has been weighted to reflect relative population proportions.



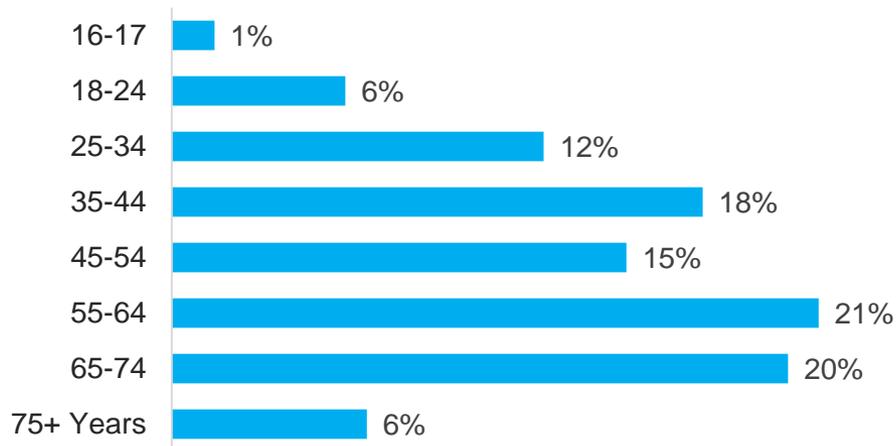
# Demographics





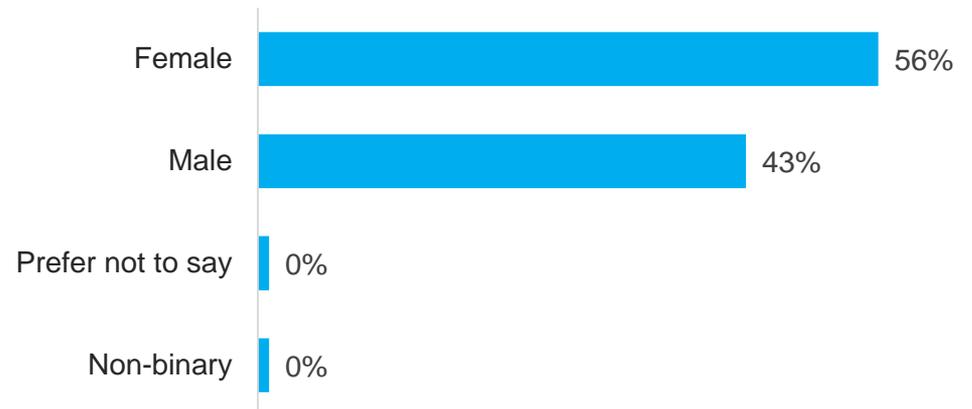
# Demographics

Age (unweighted)\*



\*Figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Gender (unweighted)\*



\*Figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding



## Unique features

**Q.** Thinking about your local area, what features make it unique or different to other areas of Canberra?

Top 10 areas		%
1.	Great local shops	14
2.	Sport and recreation facilities	13
3.	Footpaths / walking tracks	13
4.	A hill or mountain / range	13
5.	Green spaces	12
6.	Parks / parklands	12
7.	Close to nature reserves	12
8.	Space / lots of open space	10
9.	Trees / lots of trees	10
10.	Ponds / lakes / creek / river	8

### Member comments

“Locally owned cafes and shops give it a distinctive character.”

- **Inner South member**

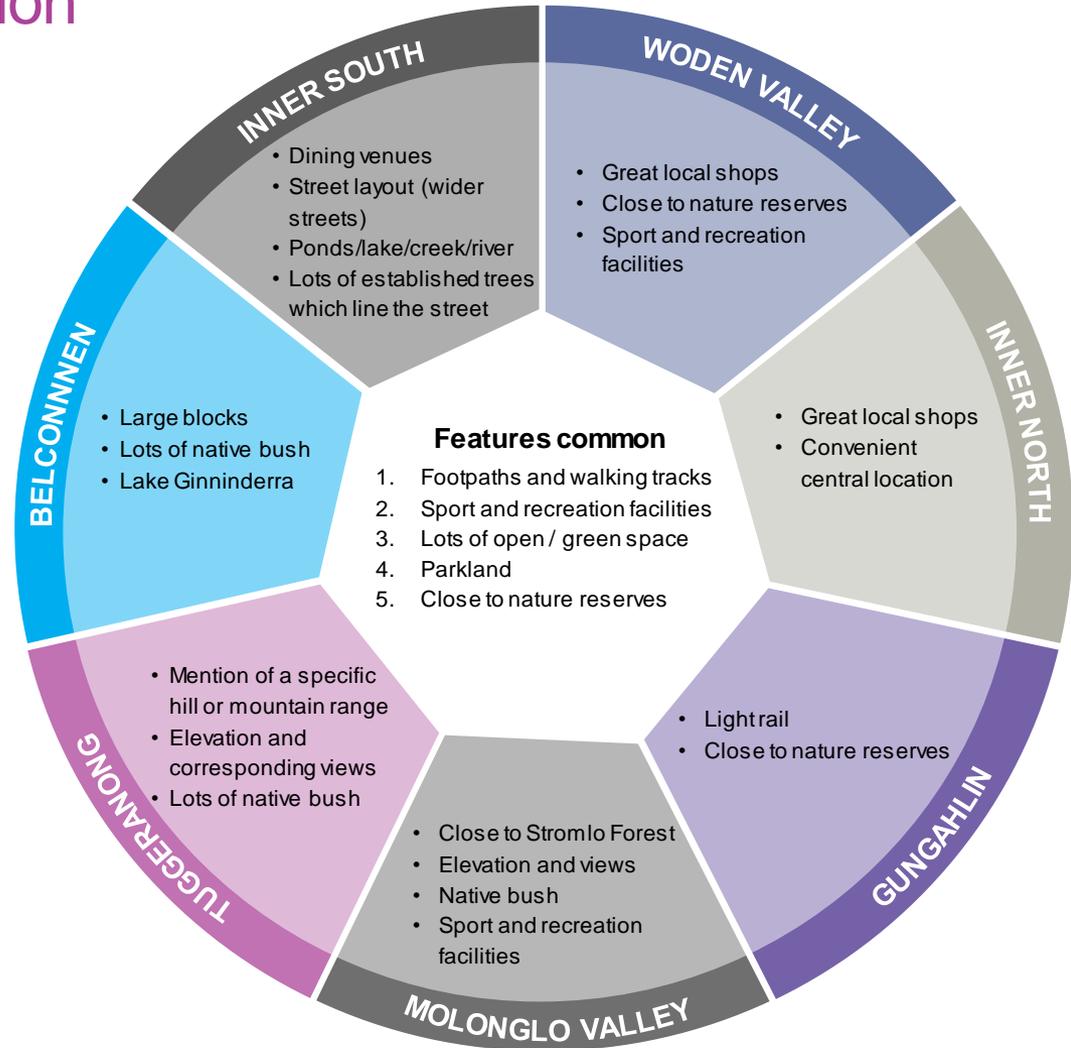
“There are many ovals and walking / bike tracks intertwined around the suburbs which makes overall quality of life better as you can exercise...”

- **Belconnen member**



## Unique features by region

**Q.** Thinking about your local area, what features make it unique or different to other areas of Canberra? *(By region)*





## Buildings and streetscapes

**Q.** Is there anything you like about the look and feel of the buildings and streetscapes in your local area?

Top 10 areas		%
1.	Mostly low rise buildings	20
2.	Lots of space between buildings	15
3.	Gardens	14
4.	Street trees / lined streets	13
5.	The trees	12
6.	Mature / large trees	12
7.	Large block sizes	12
8.	Footpaths / maintenance	9
9.	Variety of building design	9
10.	Plenty of trees	9

### Member comments

“Low rise houses and townhouses, mix of styles, wide setbacks from the road and tree lined streets.”  
- **Inner South member**

“I love the mature trees providing a nice canopy in people’s backyards and the streetscape...”  
- **Belconnen member**



## Buildings and streetscapes

**Q.** Is there anything you dislike about the look and feel of the buildings and streetscapes in your local area?

Top 10 areas		%
1.	Lack of design / architectural features	15
2.	Buildings too close	13
3.	Not enough greenery / trees	9
4.	Lack of maintenance of public realm	8
5.	Lack of maintenance of private properties	7
6.	Unsuitable trees / gum trees	6
7.	Building height / apartments	6
8.	Lack of footpath maintenance	5
9.	Lack of footpaths	5
10.	Neglected town centres / local shops	5

### Member comments

“...house design is too eclectic. Some common architectural features would create a greater sense of aesthetics...”  
- **Woden Valley member**

“Green Spaces require new trees to be planted as older trees are dying. Ideal to have tree replacement happening before these trees die.”  
- **Inner South member**



## Natural environment likes

**Q.** Is there anything you like about the look and feel of the natural environment in your local area?

Top 10 areas		%
1.	Bushland / natural spaces	25
2.	Lots of parks / ovals	19
3.	Trees	13
4.	Native trees	12
5.	Creeks / lakes / ponds	12
6.	Open spaces	12
7.	Plants / greenery	12
8.	Mature / old trees	12
9.	Birds	11
10.	Walking paths / cycleways	10

### Member comments

“I love that there are lots of green corridors through our suburb where we can go to play and relax or enjoy on a walk or ride.”  
- **Inner North member**

“Lots of trees, reserves, open spaces and playing fields.”  
- **Molonglo Valley / Weston Creek member**



## Natural environment dislikes

Q. Is there anything you dislike about the look and feel of the natural environment in your local area?

Top 10 areas		%
1.	Messy unkept areas	16
2.	Lack of trees / greenery	12
3.	Unusable / uninviting spaces	11
4.	Poor design / development	9
5.	Weeds	8
6.	Issues with eucalypt trees	8
7.	Lack of tree pruning	8
8.	Dead / dying trees	7
9.	Rubbish / litter / illegal dumping	7
10.	Being lost / built over	6

### Member comments

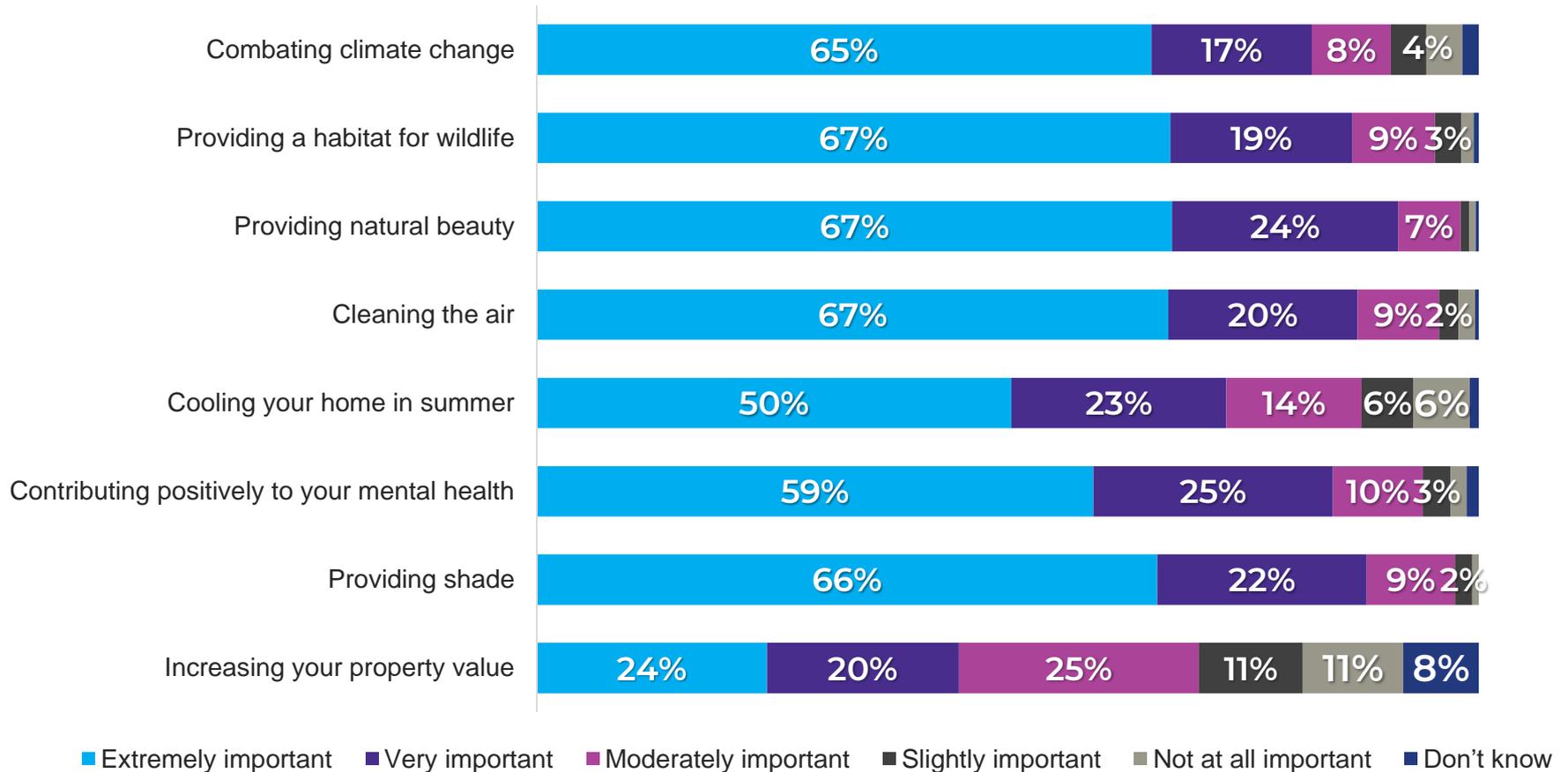
“I don't like to see that neighbours cut trees in the nature strips so they can park their cars and nobody says anything about it.”  
- **Gungahlin member**

“Wasted areas of land with nothing but grass in Lawson. this could be improved by adding more trees and gardens / shrubbery”  
- **Belconnen member**



# Urban trees importance

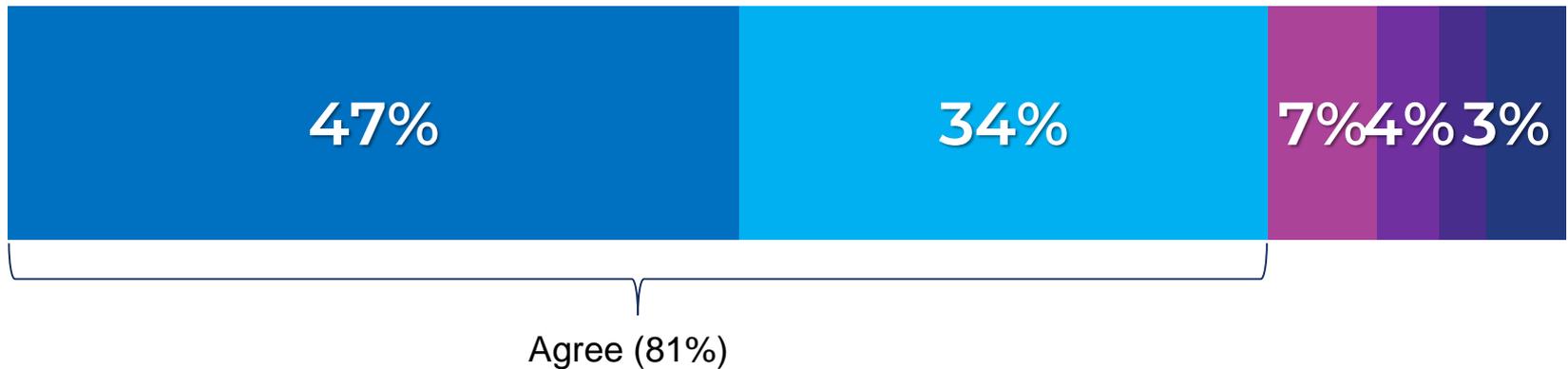
Q. How important are trees for the following:





## Urban trees

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that urban trees contribute to reducing your energy bills during this (summer) time?

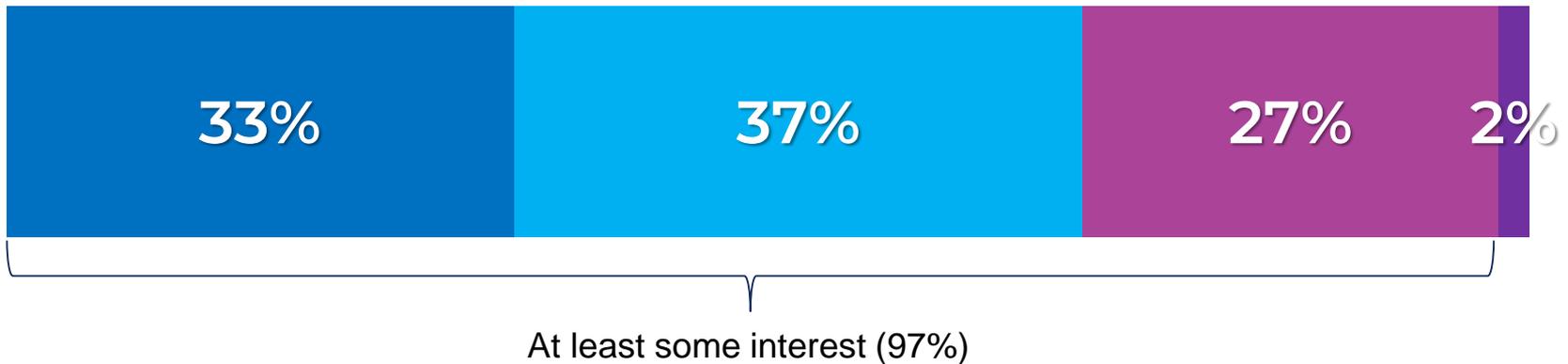


■ Completely agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Completely disagree ■ Disagree ■ Don't know / Can't say



## Interest in planning issues

Q. Overall, how would you describe your level of interest in planning issues in the ACT?



■ A great deal of interest ■ Quite a bit of interest ■ Some interest ■ Very little interest ■ No interest ■ Don't know / Can't say



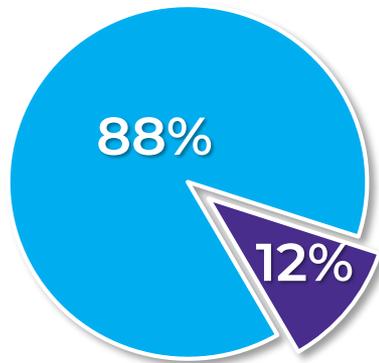
## Interest in planning issues

**898** de-identified comments were provided to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) for analysis and consideration.



## Future engagement

Q. Would you like to be kept informed about the ACT Planning Review as we progress?



■ Yes, I am interested ■ No, I am not interested

Q. Would you be interested in taking part in other engagement activities about planning in the ACT to share your view further?

