



# Central Queensland Community Survey

**Climate change and the future of the regional economy**



**LOCK THE GATE**

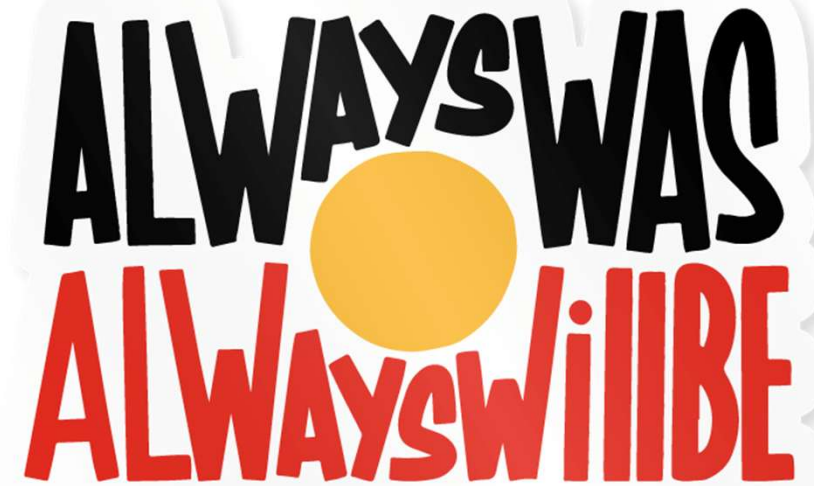
# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Darumbal people and pay our respects to elders past and present.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the First Nations Countries of Ngaro, Gia, Yuwibara and Darumbal where this survey took place.

Sovereignty has never been ceded.  
It always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We recognize the unique knowledge, insight and struggle of First Nations Australians in dealing with the impacts of climate change on country, cultural heritage and community.  
We acknowledge their leadership in the fight to protect country.



**ALWAYS WAS**  
**ALWAYS WILL BE**

## Why we did it:

- We know central Queensland is vulnerable to the effects of climate change
- We also know central Queensland economy is very vulnerable to decarbonisation
- We suspected that ordinary people do not support the coal industry as much as the coal industry, and some politicians, would have us believe
- Doorknocking provides a unique way to make genuine connections with people that we don't ordinarily meet



“I've been an activist in the climate change area and I think most people who are activists in this area are just ordinary Australians who love nature and who care about future generations.” - Andi from Yeppoon



“I'm just a local born and bred person with a passion for the environment, but also a worry about the impact of climate change. I think this project was just a good opportunity to get down on the ground and have these one-on-one conversations with people because otherwise you never really know what people are thinking.” - Tyson from Mackay

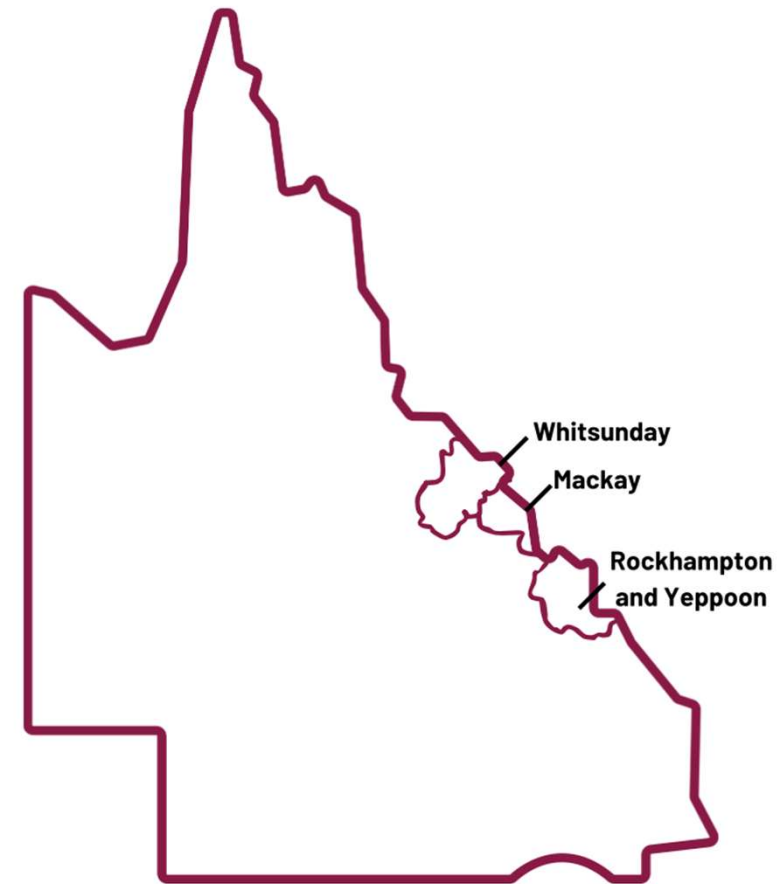


“It was awesome that Mackay Conservation Group got to collaborate with Lock the Gate and Whitsunday Conservation Council. It's awesome that the central Queensland climate and conservation groups got to work together to build a survey and do some good community building.” - J from Mackay



## What we did:

- Knocked on over 1400 doors
  - randomly selected locations in Mackay, Yeppoon (Cooee Bay, Lammermoor, Rosslyn, Taranganba), Rockhampton (Frenchville, Wandall, Norman Gardens) and Whitsundays (Cannonvale, and Jubilee Pocket)
  - range of days of week/time of day
- Market stalls (Fig Tree, Emu Park) and other public places, where volunteers approached members of the public
- Several community events



## What we did:

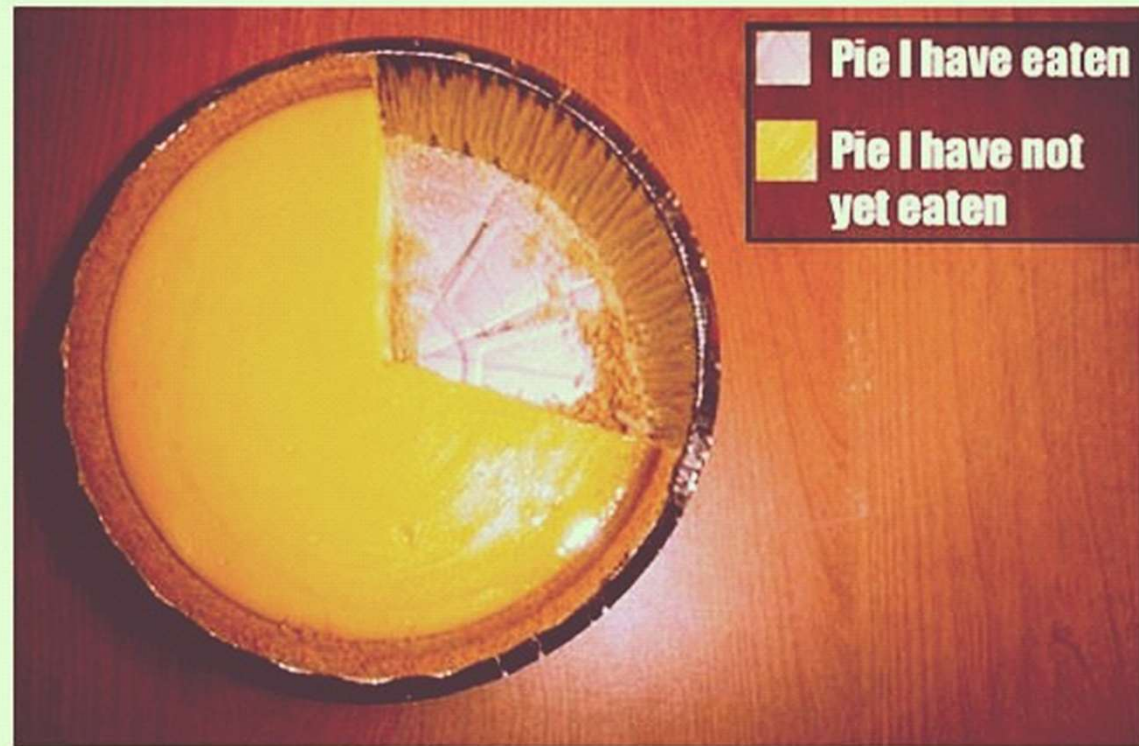
Location	Number of Surveys
All	513
Mackay	199
Yeppoon & Rockhampton	229
Whitsunday	85



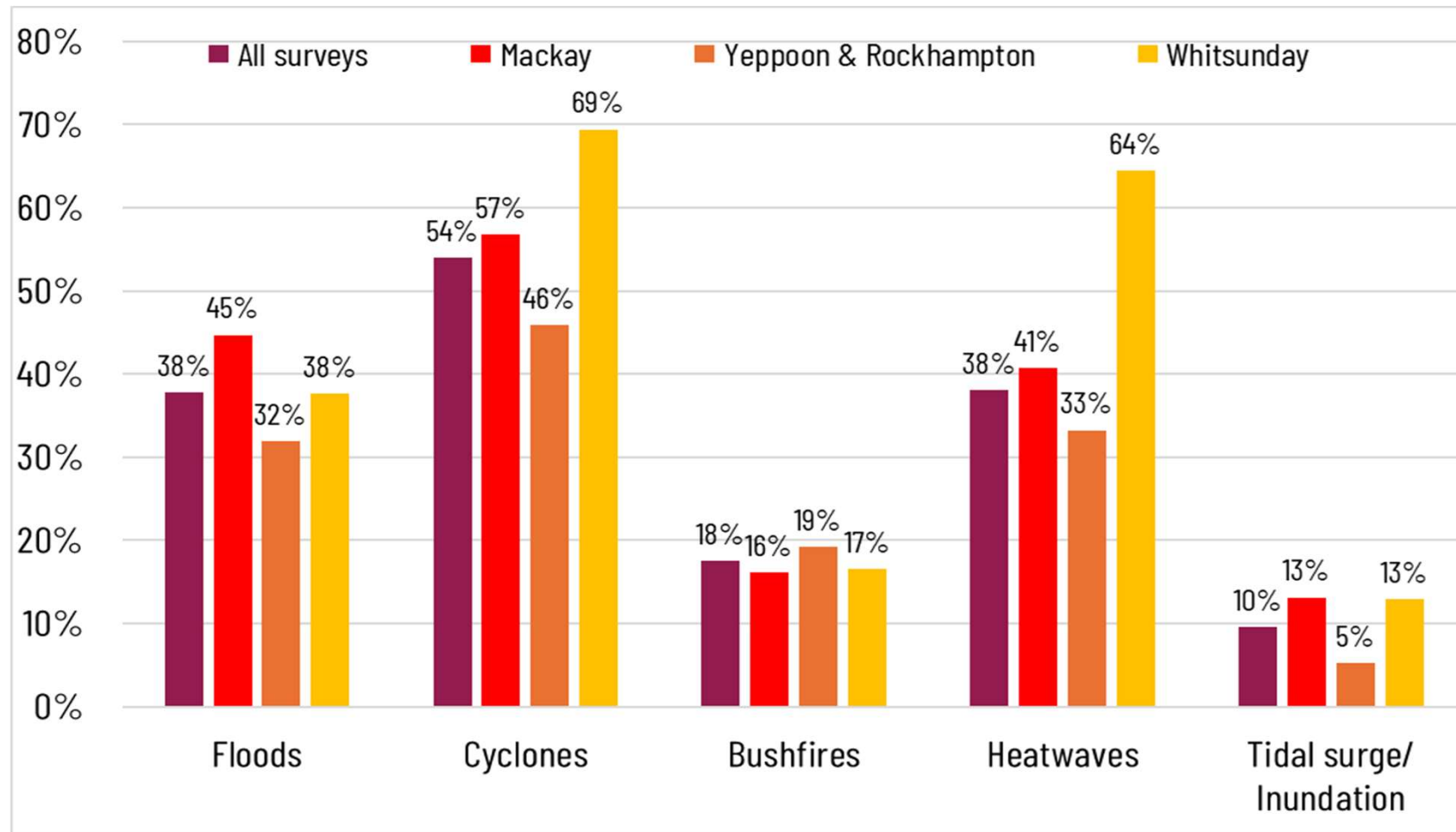
All done by an awesome team of volunteers

Data analysis:  
Highly accurate pie  
chart presentation  
method selected

## World's Most Accurate Pie Chart

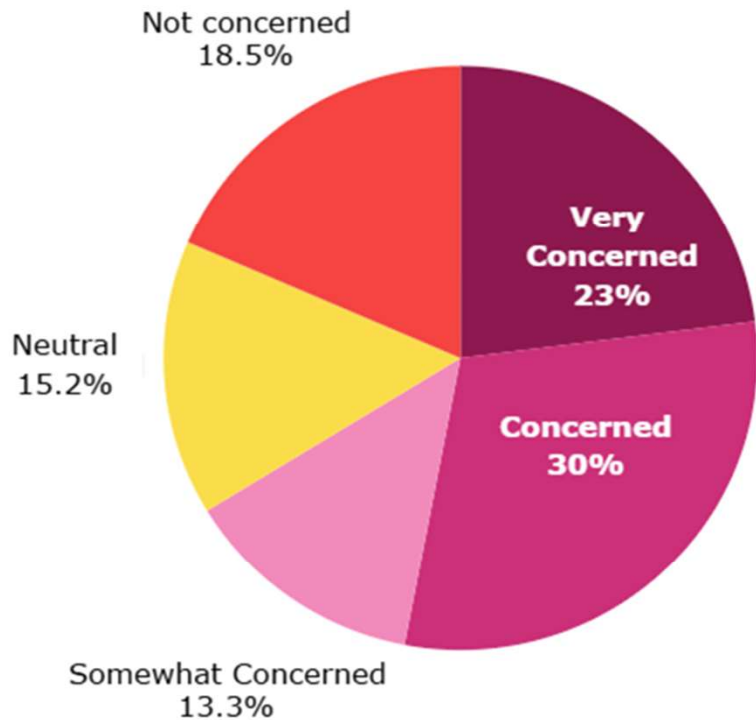


## Q1: Which of these, if any, have you been impacted by:

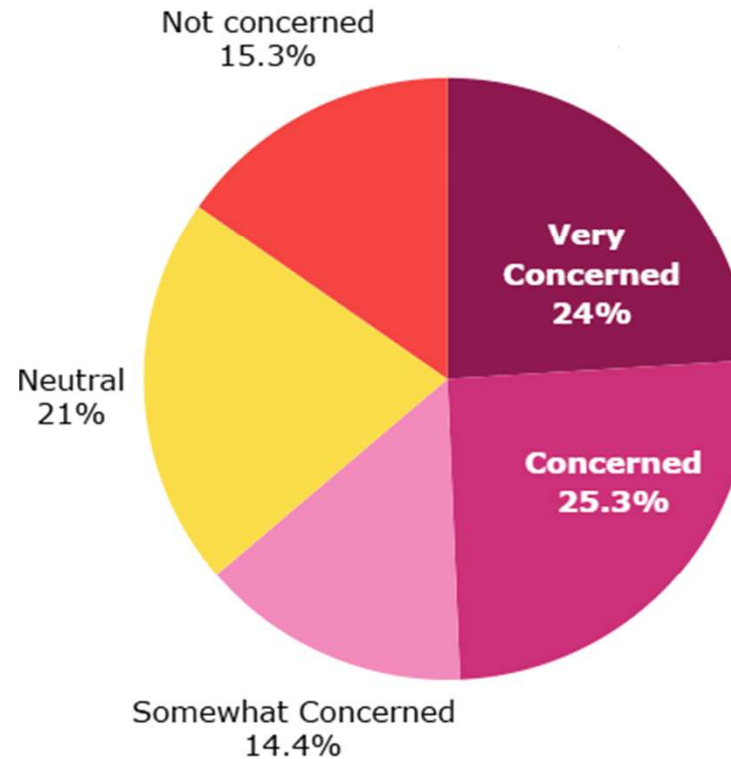


## Q2: Are you concerned about how you would manage and recover from heat waves, floods, fires or other extreme weather disasters in the future?

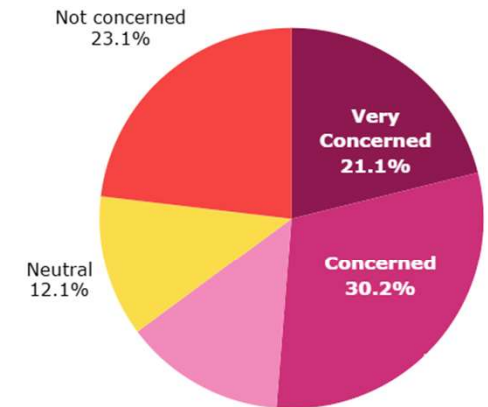
### ALL SURVEYS



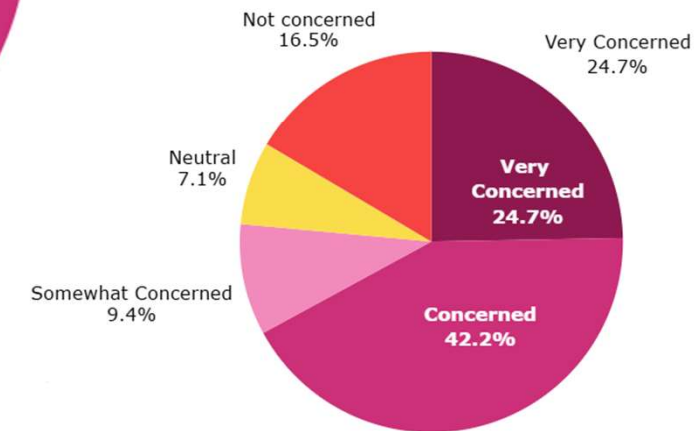
### YEPPOON & ROCKHAMPTON



### MACKAY



### WHITSUNDAYS

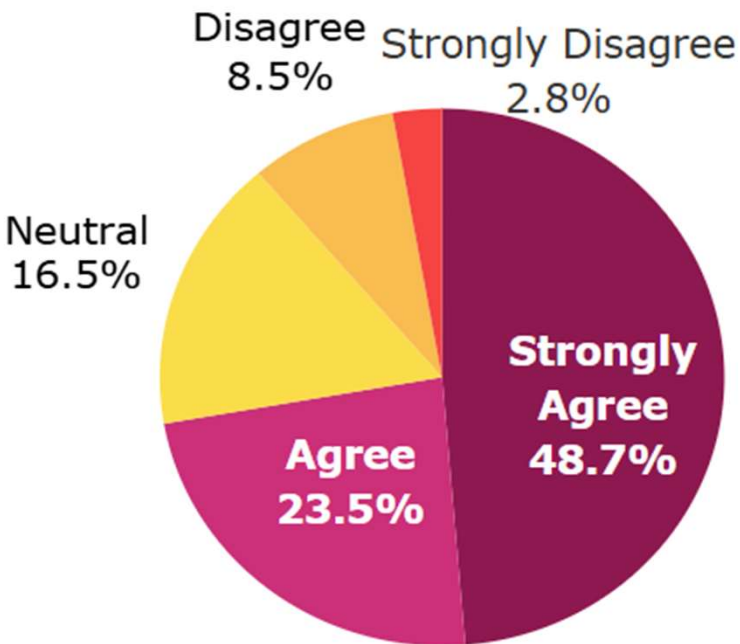


Q2:Are you concerned about how you would manage and recover from heat waves, floods, fires or other extreme weather disasters in the future?

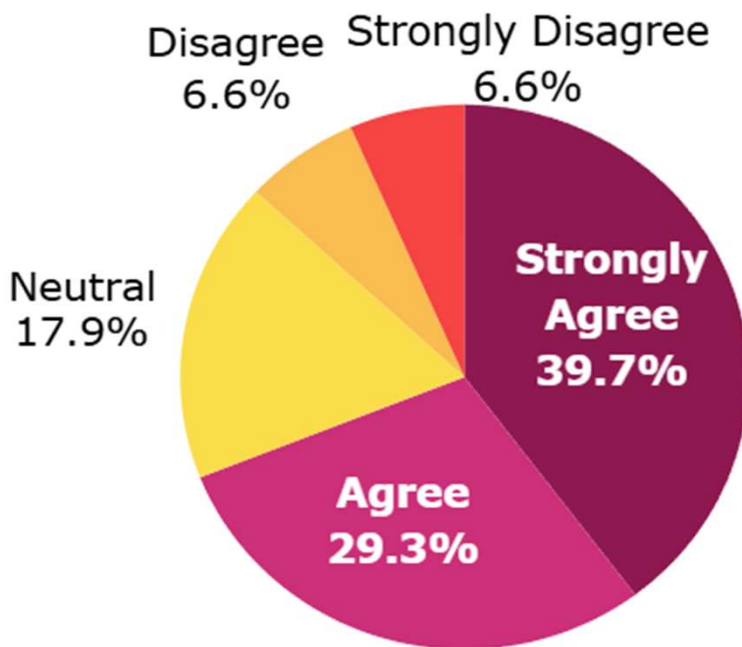
- Slightly lower levels of concern than shown in national surveys
- Tendency to complacency!
  - “I’ve got aircon, I’ll be ok”
  - “We’re resilient up here”
- Also some fatalism
  - “We’ll just have to cope with whatever happens”

# Q3: Do you think our Government should do more to make polluters cut climate pollution to protect our communities from worsening impacts?

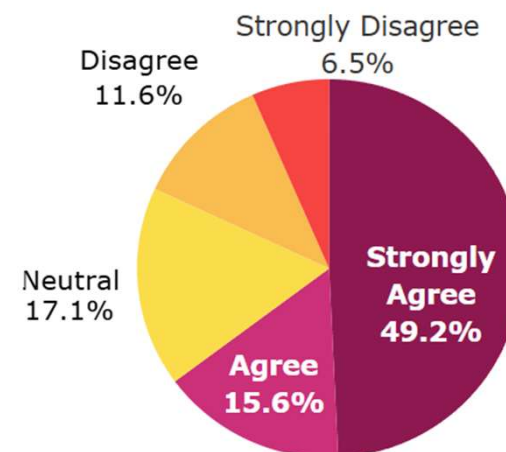
### ALL SURVEYS



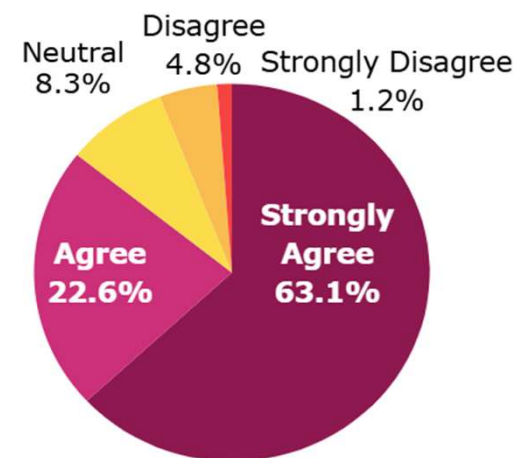
### YEPPOON & ROCKHAMPTON



### MACKAY



### WHITSUNDAYS



Q3: Do you think our Government should do more to make polluters cut climate pollution to protect our communities from worsening impacts?

Strong support nationally:

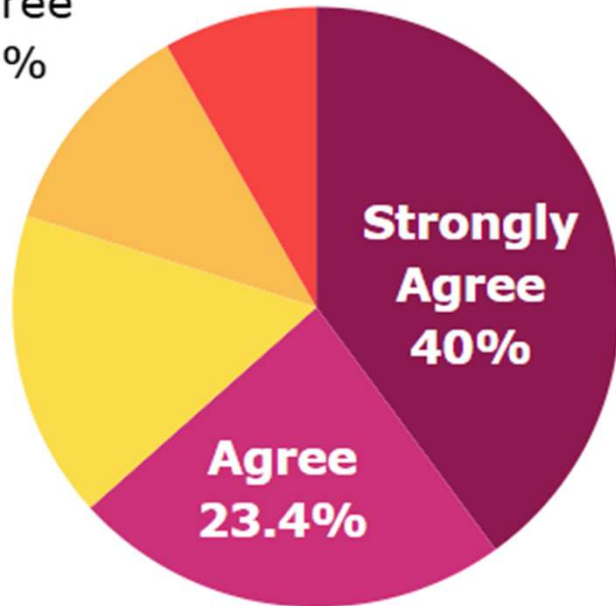
- 72% of Australians support a more ambitious national emissions reduction target (Lowy Institute, 2024)
- 83.3% of Australians support government action on climate change (Andre et. al. 2024)

# Q4: Do you think it's time for governments to step in and prevent further coal expansions in Queensland to protect our land, water and climate?

## ALL SURVEYS

Strongly Disagree  
8.2%

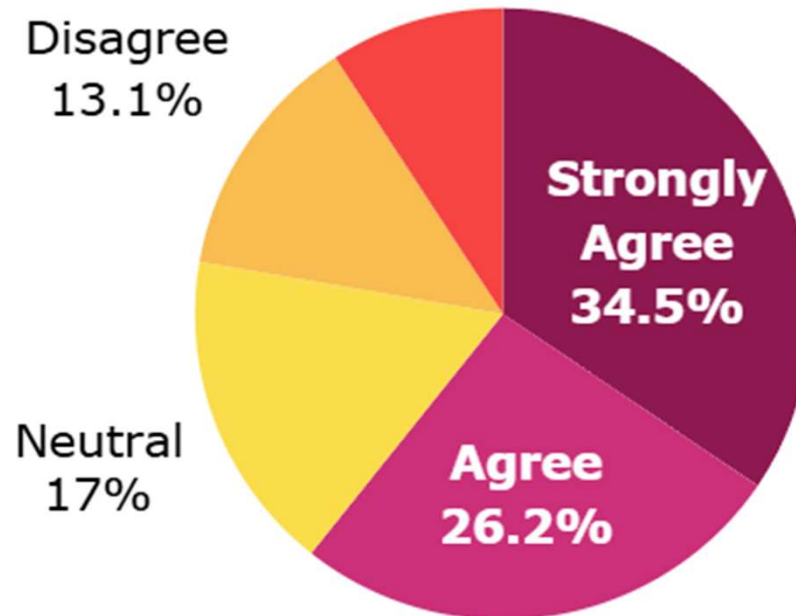
Disagree  
11.9%



## YEPPOON & ROCKHAMPTON

Strongly Disagree  
9.2%

Disagree  
13.1%

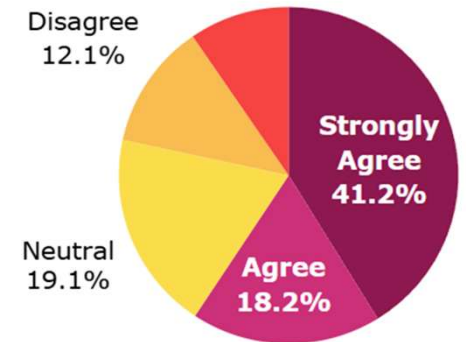


## MACKAY

Strongly Disagree  
9.5%

Disagree  
12.1%

Neutral  
19.1%

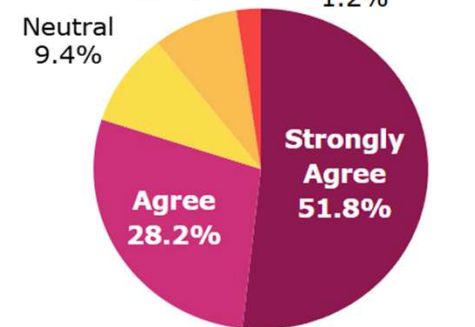


## WHITSUNDAYS

Disagree  
8.2%

Strongly Disagree  
1.2%

Neutral  
9.4%



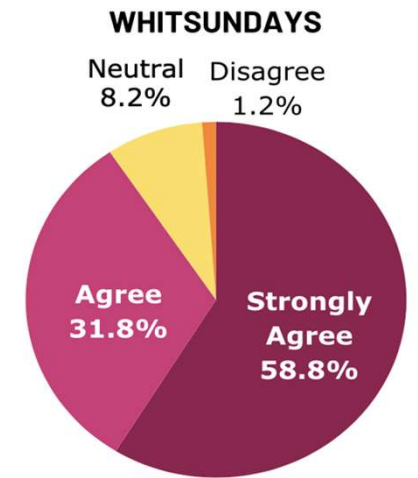
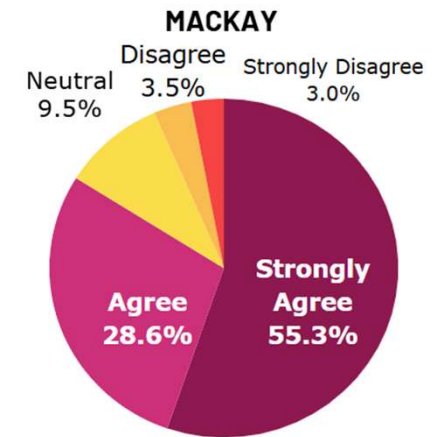
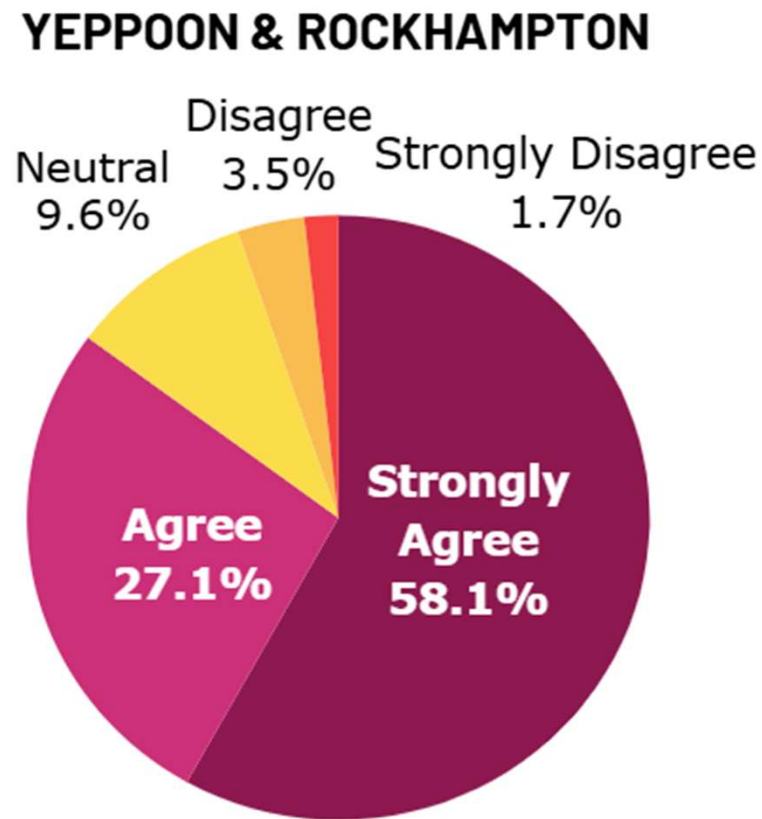
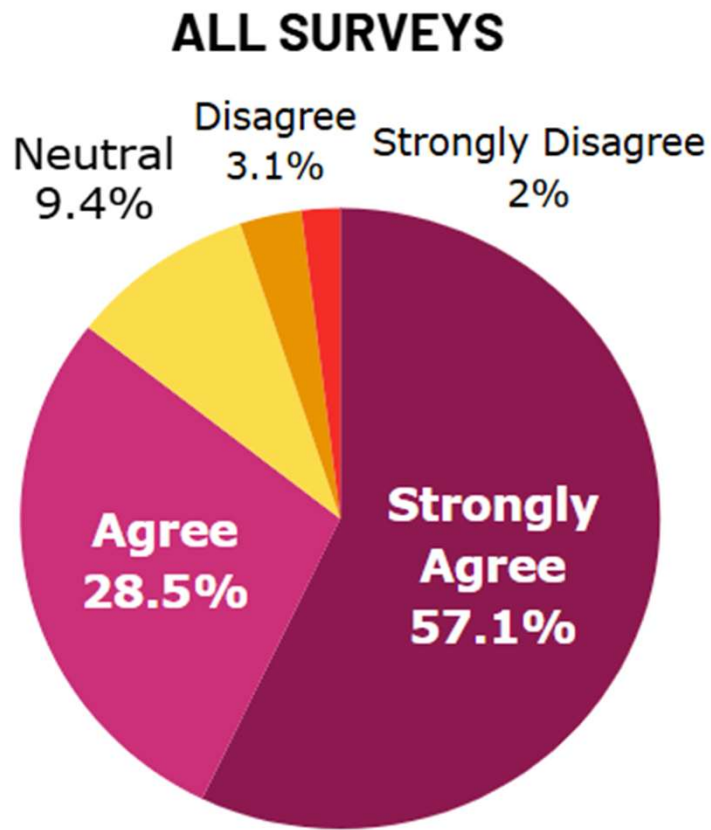
## Q4: Do you think it's time for governments to step in and prevent further coal expansions in Queensland to protect our land, water and climate?

Many respondents hesitant because of the dominance of coal in CQ

Nationally:

- 50% of the population support a moratorium on new coal mines in Australia
  - 24% oppose
  - (the rest “don’t know”)
  - (the Australia Institute - 2024 Climate of the Nation)
- 54% of Australians support no new coal mines (Lowy Institute 2025).

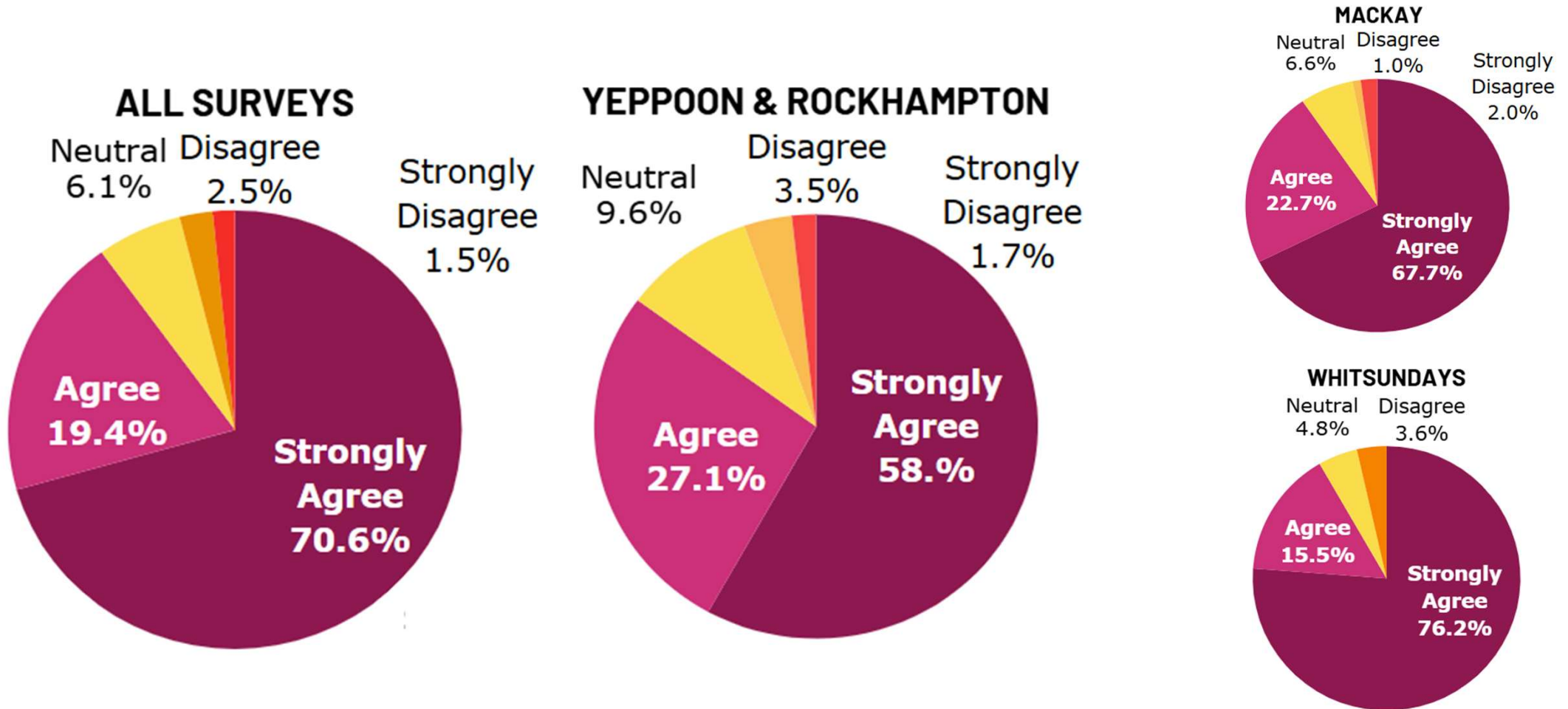
# Q5: Do you think we need a plan to support workers and build a more diverse and secure economy in Central Queensland?



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- Amazing level of support for this
- Respondents mentioned issues with coal mining, including FIFO arrangements and lack of job security
  - Central Queenslanders care about secure jobs, not coal jobs!
- Respondents wanted more leadership from government – all levels
- Nationally, 87% of Australians and 85% of Queenslanders support a moderate or high level of transition to renewable energy (CSIRO)
- Transition plans in place for many other coal intensive regions including Gladstone and Hunter Valley.

Q6: Do you think that mining companies should put more of their huge profits back into regional Queensland communities?



## Q6: Do you think that mining companies should put more of their huge profits back into regional Queensland communities?

- Abso-bloody-lutely!
- Strong sense that coal mining companies take more than they give
- Nationally (Australia Institute 2024)
  - 70% of Australians want polluters to pay for their pollution
  - 47% of Australians think the Fed government should collect more money from fossil fuel companies
    - only 8% think that the government should collect less money
- Recent ICJ ruling indicates that polluters can be held accountable for damage to climate.

## What next?

- Many questions around the future of the coal industry in CQ
  - Steady decline in export
  - Recent closures and bankruptcies
- CQ is uniquely vulnerable to mine closure
  - 10-12% of the local workforce is DIDO
  - Small businesses also rely on coal mining
- Other coal-exposed regions have transition plans
  - <https://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/Business/Economy/Economic-Transition>
  - <https://hunterjobsalliance.org.au/>
- Who needs to be part of the transition conversation?