

# **COP26 Glasgow Climate Change Conference Poll**

November 2021

# COP26 measures to protect nature and transition to low emission energies resonate strongly with Australians



Most Australians (72%) are concerned about climate change, including almost half (45%) who are extremely or very concerned about it. Overall concern is highest among South Australians.

Most adults (73%) also claim to have read, seen or heard something about the recent COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, including 40% who definitely recall hearing about it.

Around half (52%) claim to know at least a little about COP26 and the outcomes that countries agreed to, but only 10% claim to know a lot about it.

Awareness of COP26 is highest among those aged 55 years and over, and they are also most likely to claim to know a lot about it.

When asked about specific measures discussed or announced at COP26, a majority of adults agree Australia should be undertaking many of them to mitigate the risks and impacts of climate change.

Measures that resonate most strongly with the community centre on nature and clean, low-emission energies, with more than six in ten Australians agreeing we should be:

- protecting and restoring nature, ecosystems and biodiversity (69%);

- developing and deploying technologies (64%) and adopting policies (62%) to transition towards low-emission energies; and
- scaling up deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures (63%).

Agreement with these four measures is significantly higher among those aged 55 years and over, and lower among 18 to 34 year olds.

A majority of adults also agree that Australia should be addressing global warming and carbon emissions by:

- working to limit the average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (57%);
- committing to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 (53%); and reducing them to net-zero by 2050 (55%).

On the latter, 62% claim to know at least a little about the issue of net-zero emissions, but only 12% claim to know a lot about it, higher among men (17%).

A further one in four adults (25%) don't know anything beyond the term itself, while more than one in ten are either unaware of this idea (5%) or say they don't understand it at all (9%).

# There is bare majority support for an Australian commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050

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Despite limited knowledge about the issue of net-zero emissions, 53% of adults support Australia committing to achieve the target of net-zero emissions by the year 2050, including 30% who strongly support this goal.

Notably, support for achieving net-zero emissions is even higher among those who know at least a little about this issue (65%, including 41% strong support).

Knowledge about net-zero emissions is significantly higher among those aged 55 years and over, and lower among 18 to 34 year olds, who are also less likely to support committing to the 2050 target.

This is in line with lower agreement among 18 to 34 year olds that Australia should undertake the COP26 measure of reducing our carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050.

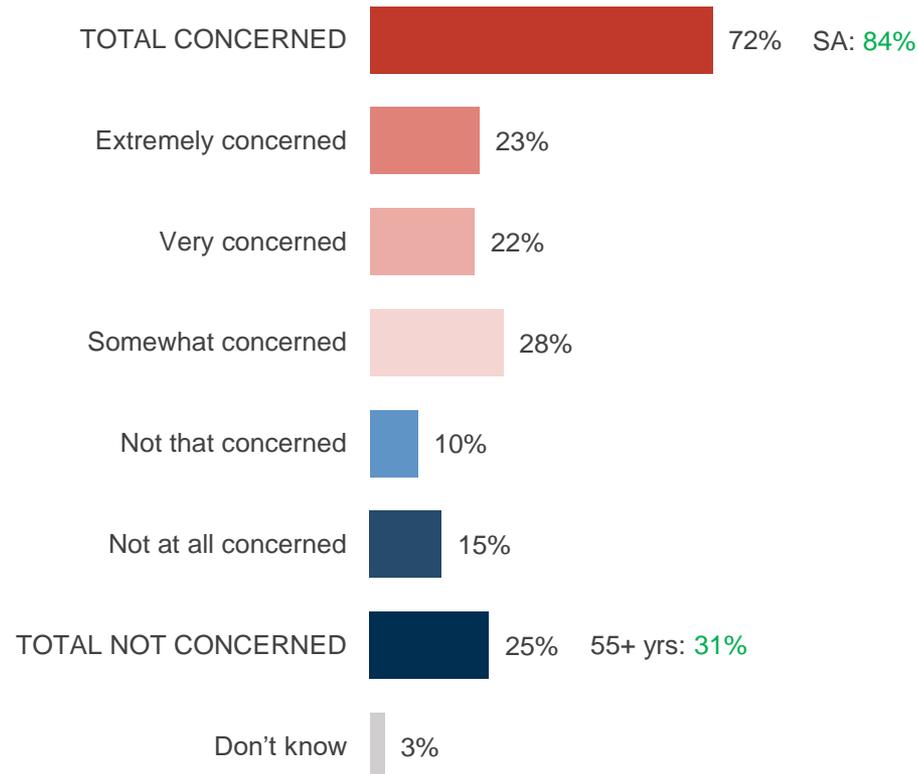
Community opinion is more mixed on measures addressing the future of fossil fuels and no-emission vehicles, with relatively lower agreement that Australia should:

- phase down (51%) or phase out (49%) coal power or phase out fossil fuel subsidies (49%); and
- transition to zero-emission vehicles (50%).

# Most Australians concerned about climate change, higher in SA



## Concern about climate change



Significantly *higher* than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

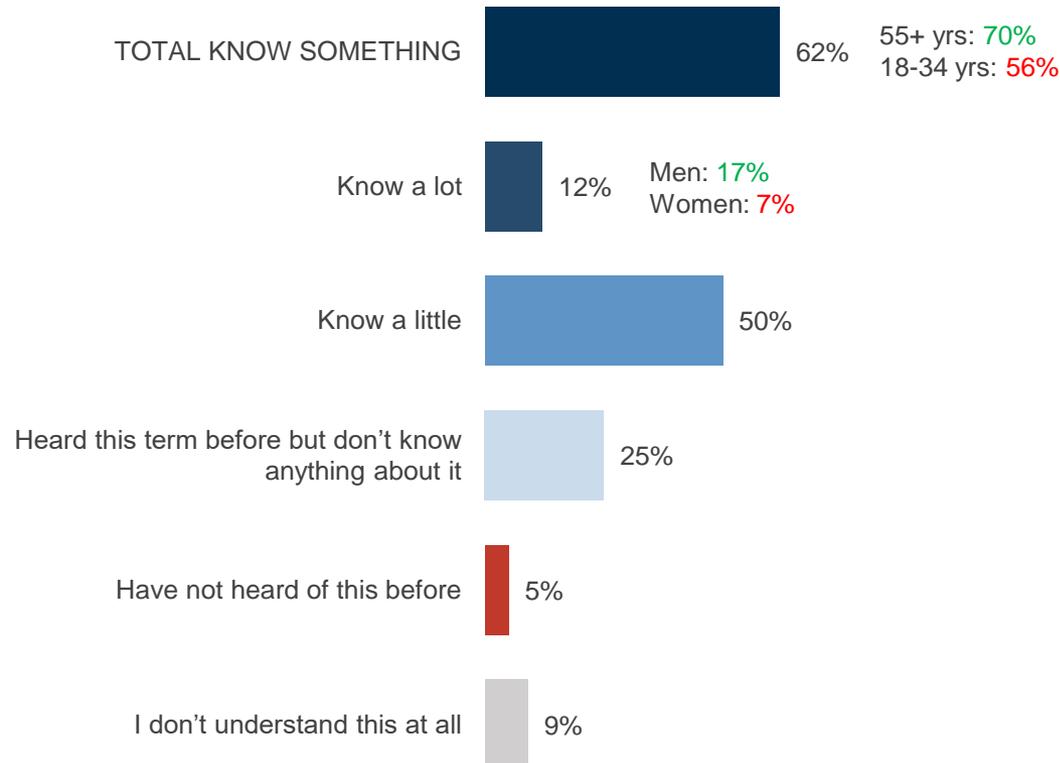
Q. How concerned are you about climate change?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

# Majority of adults aware of net-zero emissions but knowledge is limited, and lower among 18-34s and women



## Knowledge and understanding of net-zero emissions



Significantly **higher** / **lower** than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

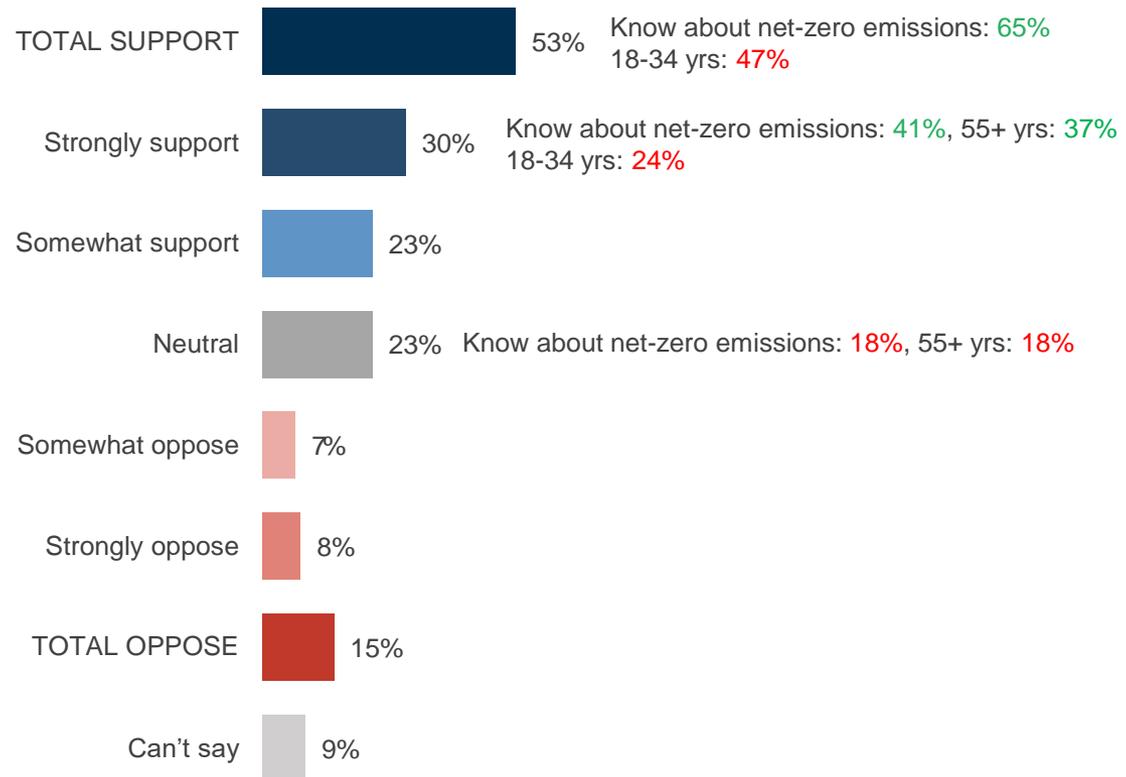
Q. The term *net-zero emissions* refers to achieving an overall balance between the greenhouse gas emissions produced and the greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. Some emissions can still be produced, as long as they are offset by processes that reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, like planting new forests. How much would you say you know and understand about this idea of net-zero emissions?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

# Half support net-zero emissions by 2050, higher among those more informed and lower among 18-34s



## Support for Australia committing to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050



Significantly *higher* / *lower* than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

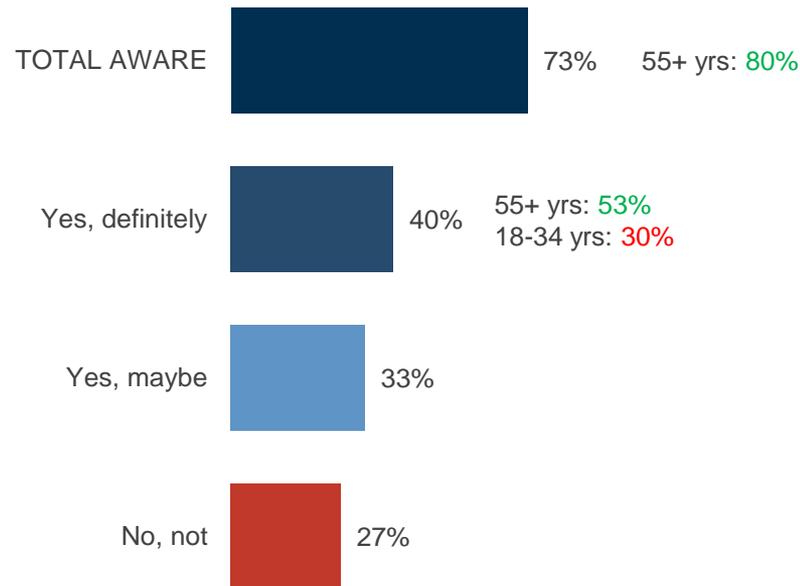
Q. Do you support or oppose Australia committing to achieve net-zero emissions by the year 2050?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

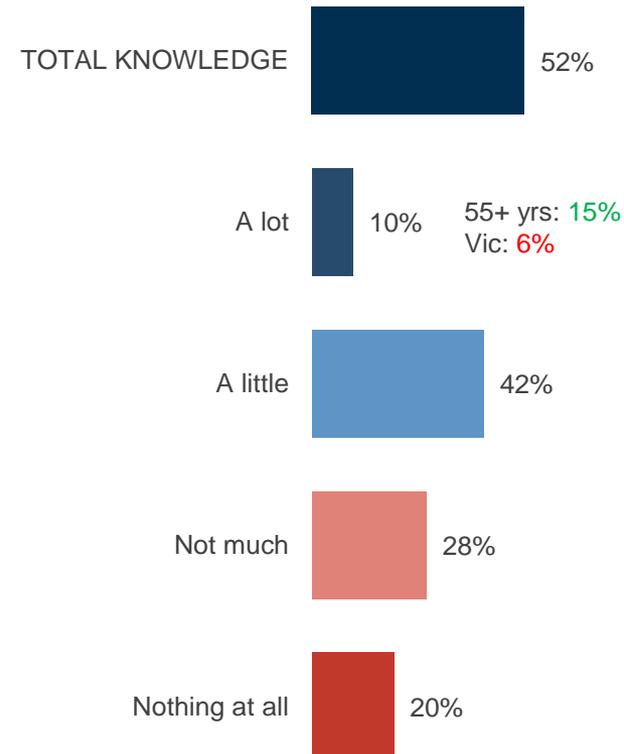


# Many adults aware of COP26 but knowledge of its outcomes is more limited

## Awareness of COP26



## Knowledge of COP26 and its outcomes



Significantly higher / lower than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

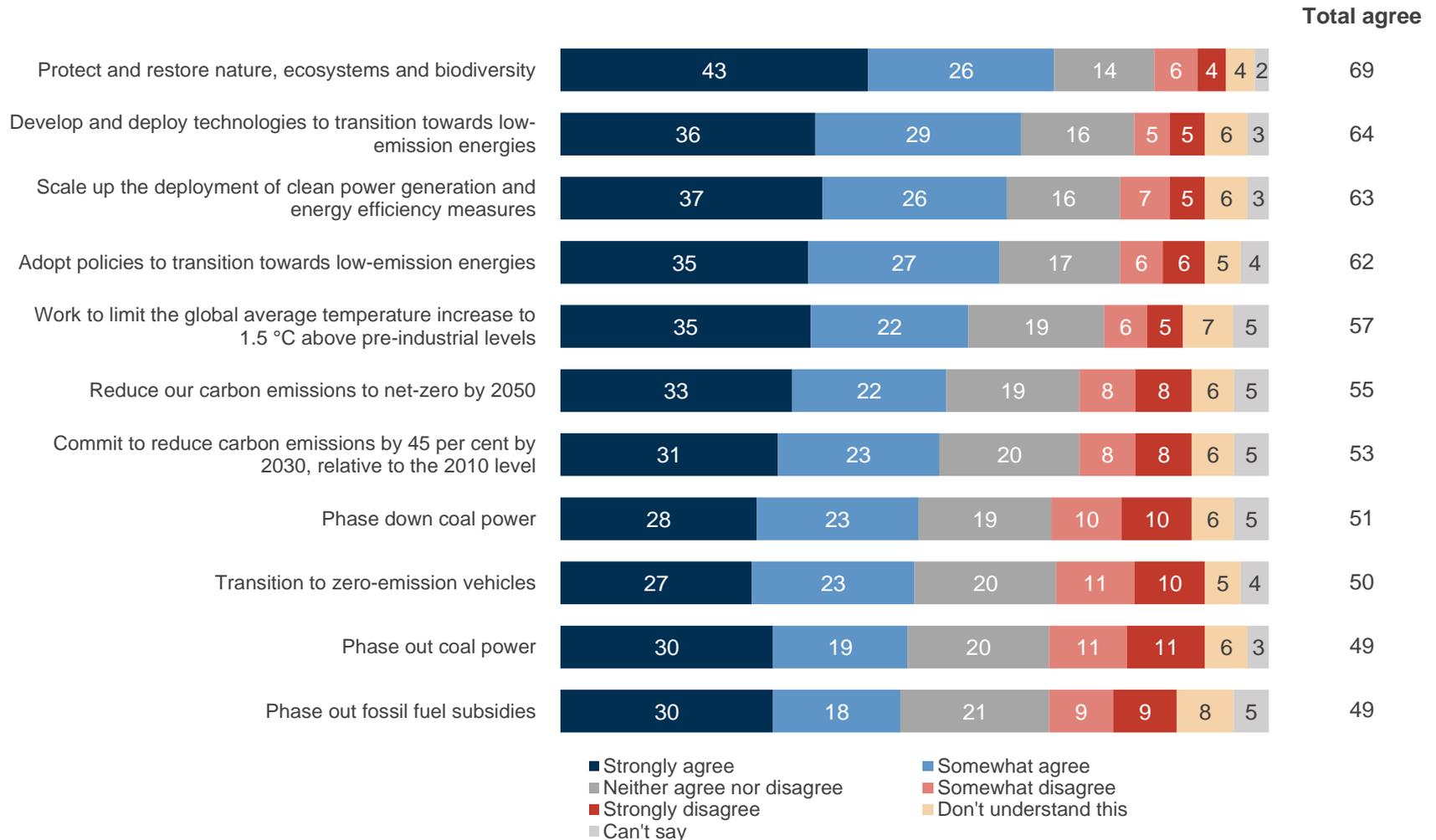
Q. The 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP26, was held in Glasgow, Scotland on 31 October - 13 November 2021. COP26 brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Have you read, seen or heard anything about COP26 recently? / Q. How much would you say you know about the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP26, and the outcomes that countries agreed to in relation to accelerating action on climate change?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

# COP26 measures to protect nature and transition to low-emission energies resonate most strongly with Australians



## Agreement that COP26 measures should be undertaken in Australia (%)



Q. Following are some measures discussed or announced at COP26, to mitigate the risks and impacts of climate change. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree that this is something we should be doing in Australia.  
 Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

# Key COP26 measures resonate most strongly with older adults, less strongly among 18-34s



## Agreement that COP26 measures should be undertaken in Australia (%) (Total 'strongly' + 'somewhat' agree)

	TOTAL	Men	Women	18-34 yrs	35-54 yrs	55+ yrs	Metro	Regions	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Protect and restore nature, ecosystems and biodiversity	69	64	74	56	67	82	67	74	68	64	79	67	71
Develop and deploy technologies to transition towards low-emission energies	64	63	65	55	63	74	64	64	65	59	68	65	68
Scale up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures	63	61	65	52	61	73	61	66	63	59	67	62	70
Adopt policies to transition towards low-emission energies	62	59	64	53	61	70	62	61	61	61	65	64	60
Work to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels	57	56	58	49	56	64	57	58	55	54	61	58	66
Reduce our carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050	55	51	58	47	56	61	55	54	57	53	57	50	58
Commit to reduce carbon emissions by 45 per cent by 2030, relative to the 2010 level	53	51	55	50	53	56	55	51	54	52	49	50	69
Phase down coal power	51	49	52	45	51	55	51	50	47	52	53	49	62
Transition to zero-emission vehicles	50	50	51	45	52	53	53	46	51	49	50	54	55
Phase out fossil fuel subsidies	49	49	49	44	50	51	51	45	48	51	46	47	55
Phase out coal power	49	47	51	44	50	52	49	49	46	49	51	50	58

Significantly *higher* / *lower* than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

Q. Following are some measures discussed or announced at COP26, to mitigate the risks and impacts of climate change. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree that this is something we should be doing in Australia.

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).



## Survey methodology

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### National Online Survey

#### n=1,000 Australian adults

- Conducted Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- Sample quotas on age, gender and location, with post-survey weighting to actual age / gender / location proportions from 2016 Census.
- Maximum margin of error on n=1,000 is +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level.
- Differences of +/-1% for net scores are due to rounding.

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25 MILLION  
PEOPLE  
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*Issued: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021*



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