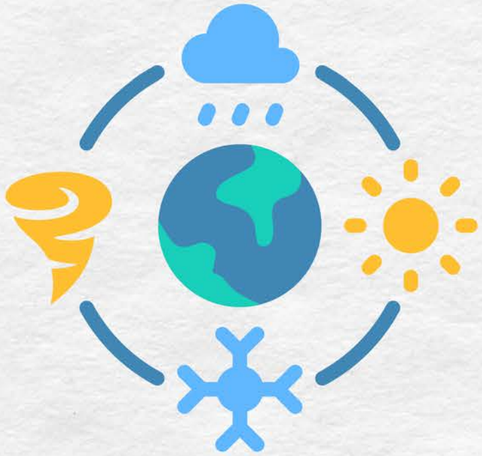
PATHWAYS TO POLITICS X CLIMATE COUNCIL

MARCH 2025

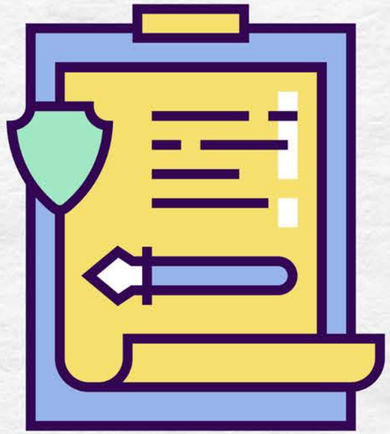
Today’s session

1. Climate science and impacts



2. Global trends

3. Policy



4. Communications

THE LATEST CLIMATE SCIENCE

The climate crisis is all around us.

- 2024 was the hottest year on record, while 2015-2024 are the ten hottest years on record.
- High global temperatures, coupled with record global atmospheric water vapour levels, meant unprecedented heatwaves, fires and heavy rainfall events, causing misery for millions of people.

Recovering from catastophic floods

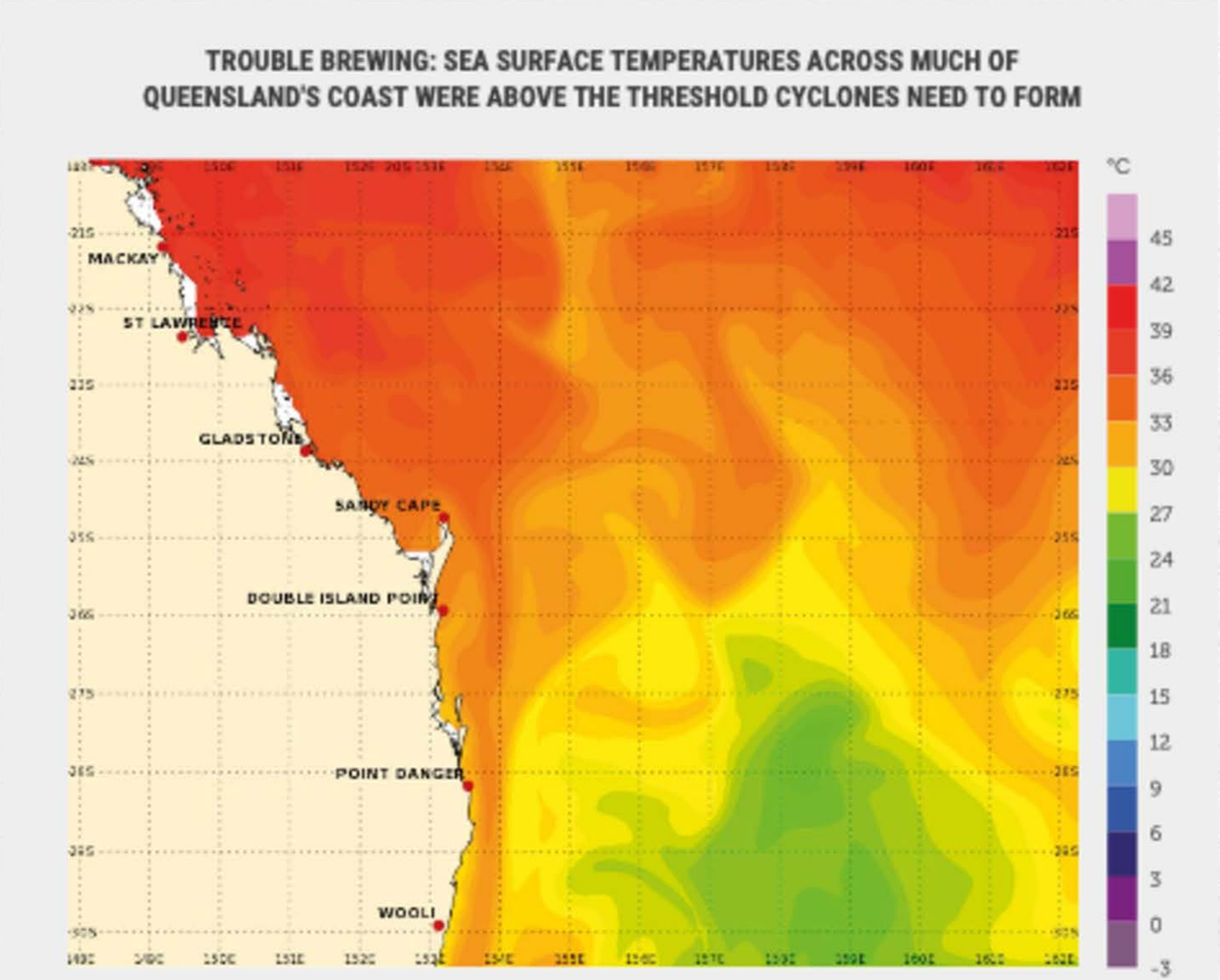
LA winter fires, January 2025

Case study:

Tropical Cyclone Alfred

Case study: Cyclone Alfred

- Cyclones driven by ocean heat and moisture.
- Today, we are putting more than 10 zeta joules of extra heat energy into the ocean each year (equivalent to five Hiroshima bombs every second)
- The Coral Sea, where Cyclone Alfred formed, has experienced record heat.
- Hotter southern ocean temperatures sustained its track south.



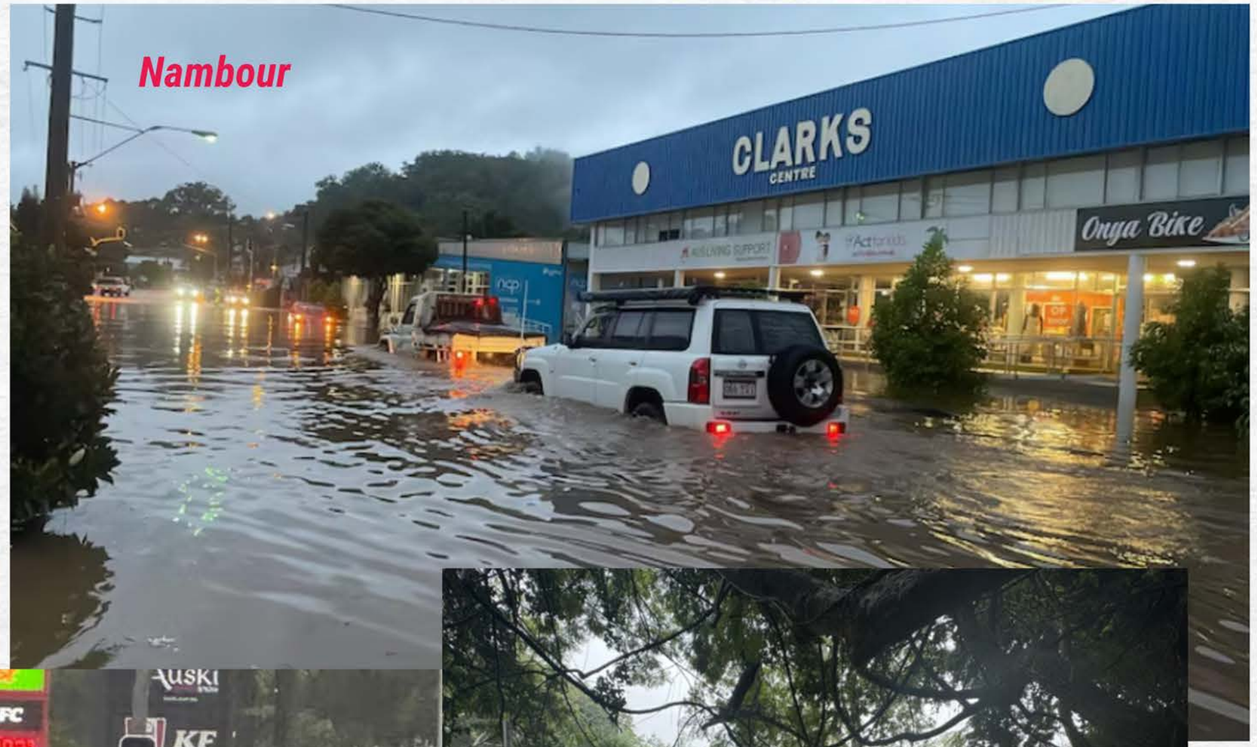
Climate Alfred: rainfall

Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events.

- A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture (7%+ more for every degree of global warming)
- Cyclones are moving more slowly, lingering over one area for longer dumping more rain.

Cyclone Alfred brought extreme rainfall:

- Brisbane: wettest day in 50 years
- Hervey Bay: 100mm in a single hour
- Dorrigo: 893mm in a week.



Nambour

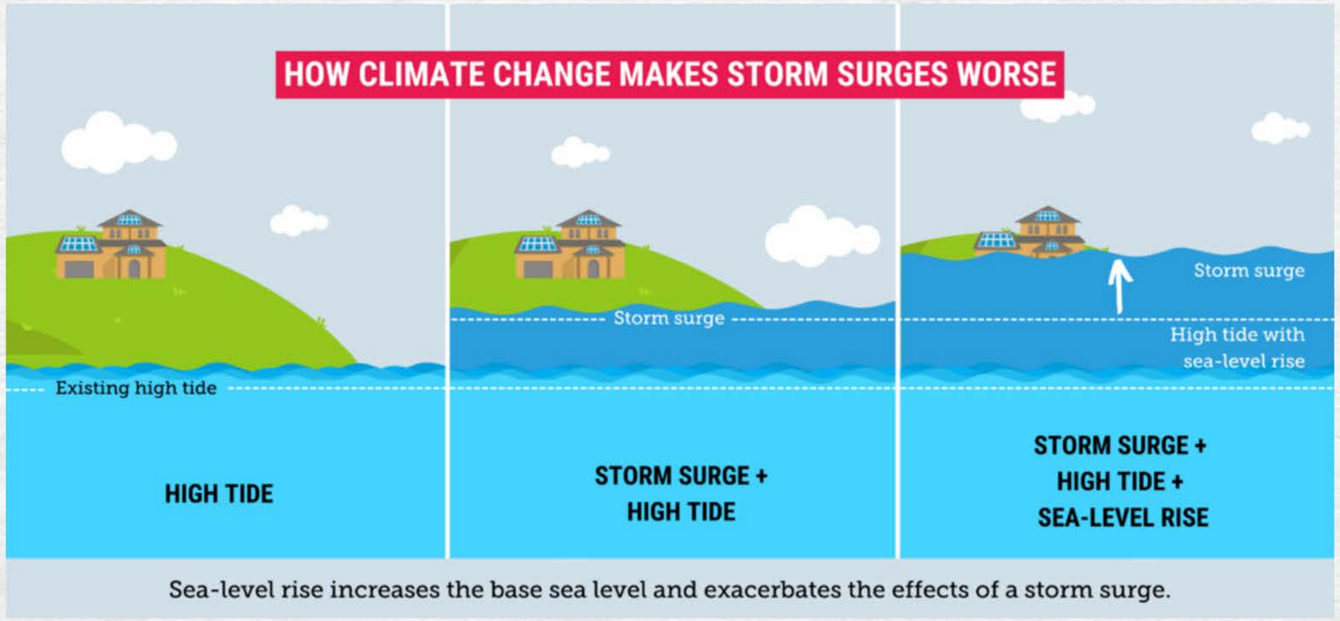

Lismore

Windsor, Brisbane

Climate Alfred: waves

Climate change makes storm surges and swells more destructive.

- Sea levels have risen 20cm.
- Cyclones are moving more slowly meaning the destructive swells last for longer.
- Intense swells from Cyclone Alfred gouged sand off beaches across 500km of coastline.



Gold coast main beach: record waves eroded the iconic beach.

Cyclone Alfred: communities battered again

- The same communities in Southeast Queensland and Northern NSW have repeatedly pummelled by extreme weather.
- In Queensland, every local government area that faced a disaster warning for Alfred also experienced flooding in 2022 and many were affected by Black Summer in 2019/20.
- The cost of extreme weather has doubled in Australia in the last 50 years and the higher frequency of disasters is pushing up insurance premiums.

This is Peter Lake, a cattle farmer near Grafton, NSW.

In 5 years he has been affected by Black Summer, the 2022 flooding and is now recovering from severe flooding from Cyclone Alfred.

His insurance premium increased to $5,000 in 2022 to $19,000 in 2023.

Solution: Cutting climate pollution

- The climate crisis is driven by climate pollution from the burning of coal, oil and gas.
- Australia is the 15th largest polluter globally (of 197 countries).
- Australia is one of the largest exporters of coal and gas.

THE WORLD IN FLUX

Everything is rising (for good and bad!)

- Renewables are forecast to expand from 30% of global electricity in 2023 to 46% in 2030. Exponential growth in storage, EVs and a range of other solutions.

- Global pollution continues climbing but the rate of growth has slowed. It is anticipated nearing peak pollution.

- Global temperature is rising sharply leading to more damaging extreme weather around the world.

POLITICS | **EUROPE**

Trump's 'assault on science': Bad for the US, good for EU?

UK hoping to work with China to counteract Trump's climate-hostile policies

Trump officials decimate climate protections and consider axeing key greenhouse gas finding

The global climate race is all but over — and China is winning

Trump's climate retreat will cost America influence in the Pacific

AUSTRALIA'S OPPORTUNITY

Australia is moving to tackle the climate crisis.

Already 40% of our power comes from the renewables and 4 million Australian families have solar panels on their home.

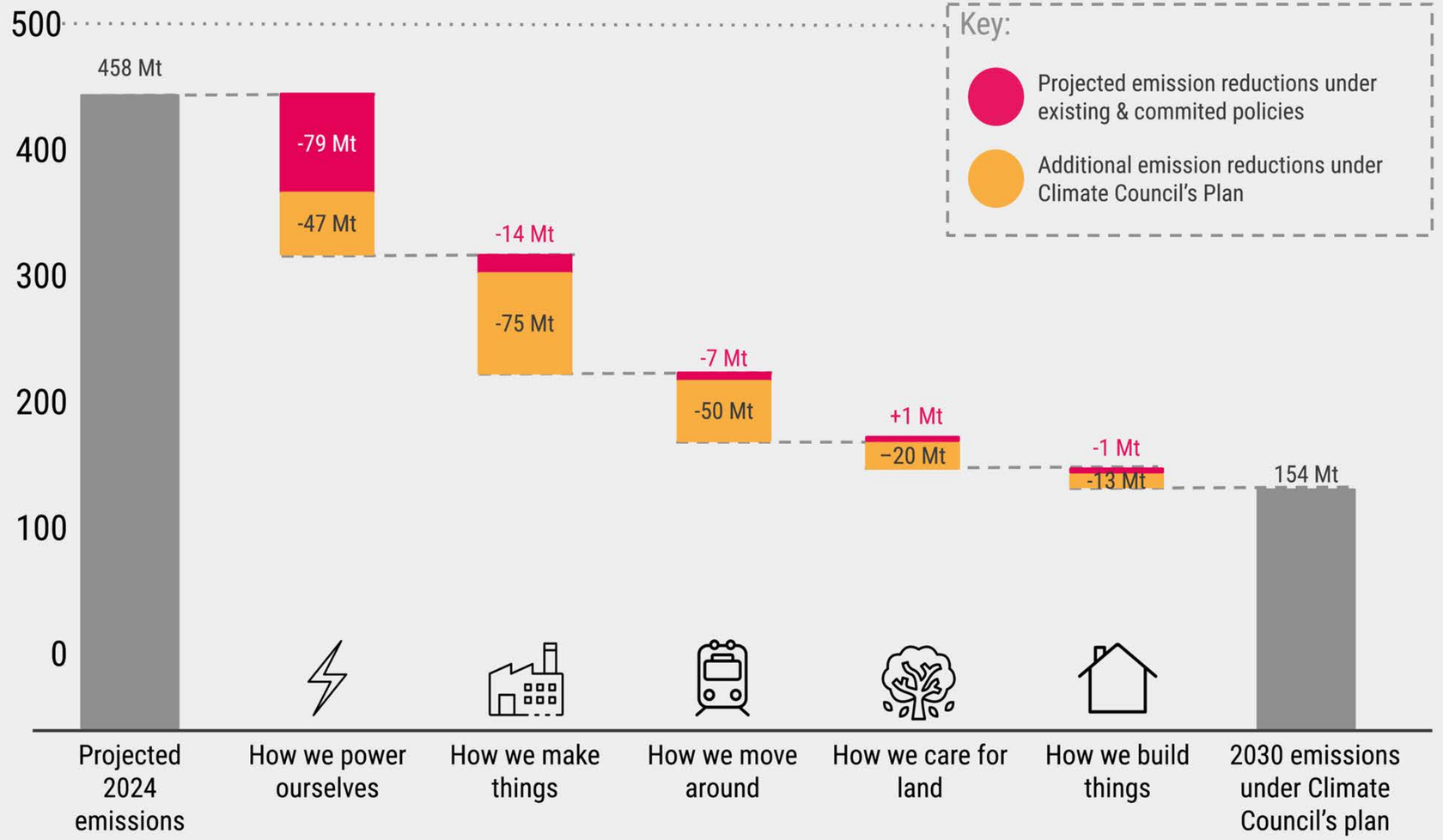
Our aging coal generators will retire in the next 15 years.

Australia has enormous reserves of metals required for the clean energy revolution.

We can make things here using the significant advantage of cheap, clean power.

We can cut climate pollution in all major sectors with technology available today

The path to cutting climate pollution by 75% on 2005 levels by 2030



Clean electricity is the foundation

Electrify everything: powering homes, businesses, transport and industry with renewable energy backed by storage.

4 million more homes with solar PV.

2 million household batteries, alongside nearly 5,000 in communities.

Industry can replace fossil fuels with clean alternatives

Reduce industrial use of coal (41%), oil (86%) and gas (31%) and replace with available renewable energy sources.

Invest in more efficient industrial production processes.

Build the export industries of the future - green steal, aluminium, lithium, iron, hydrogen

More shared, active and electric transport

More trips using shared and active transport.

More electric vehicles.

We need a mix of solutions to get people where they need to go cleanly and affordably.

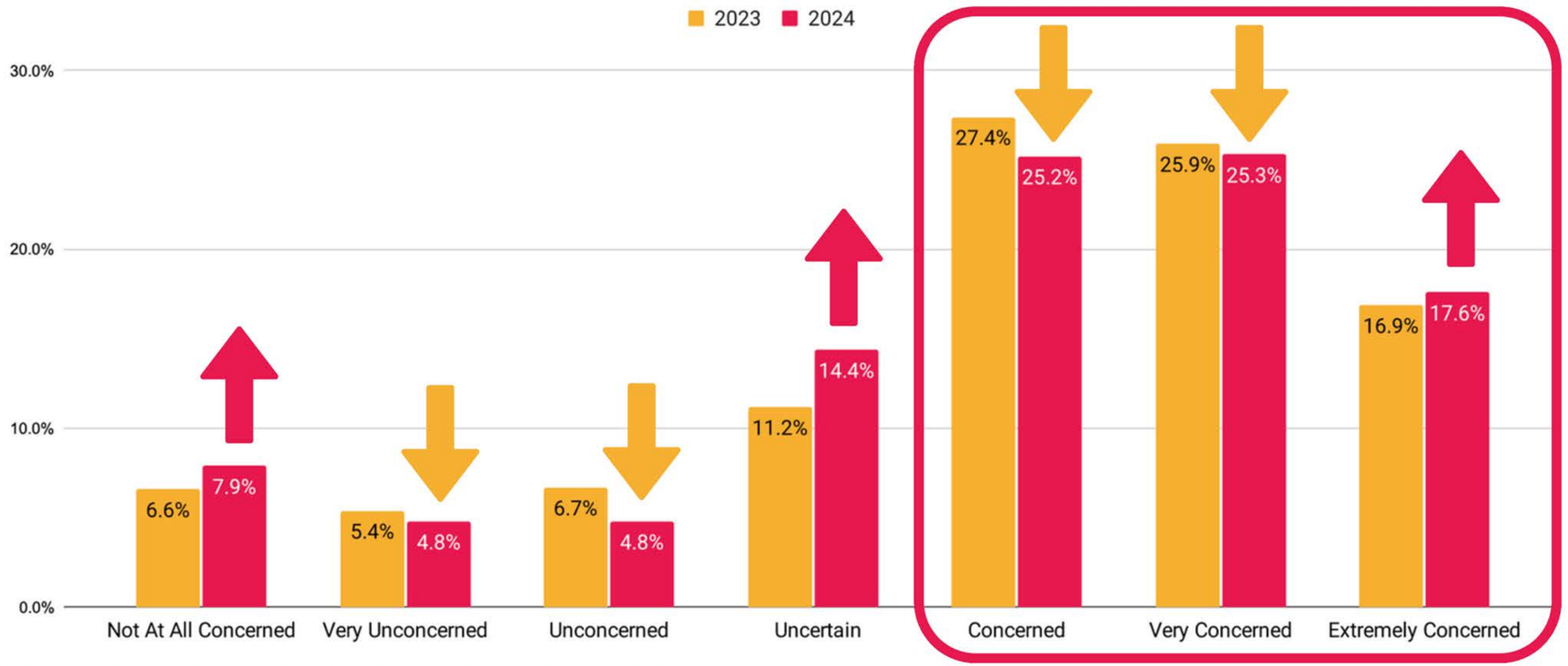
10 Popular Policies

Climate policies that ALSO

- reduce costs for households
- create jobs
- build industries of the future

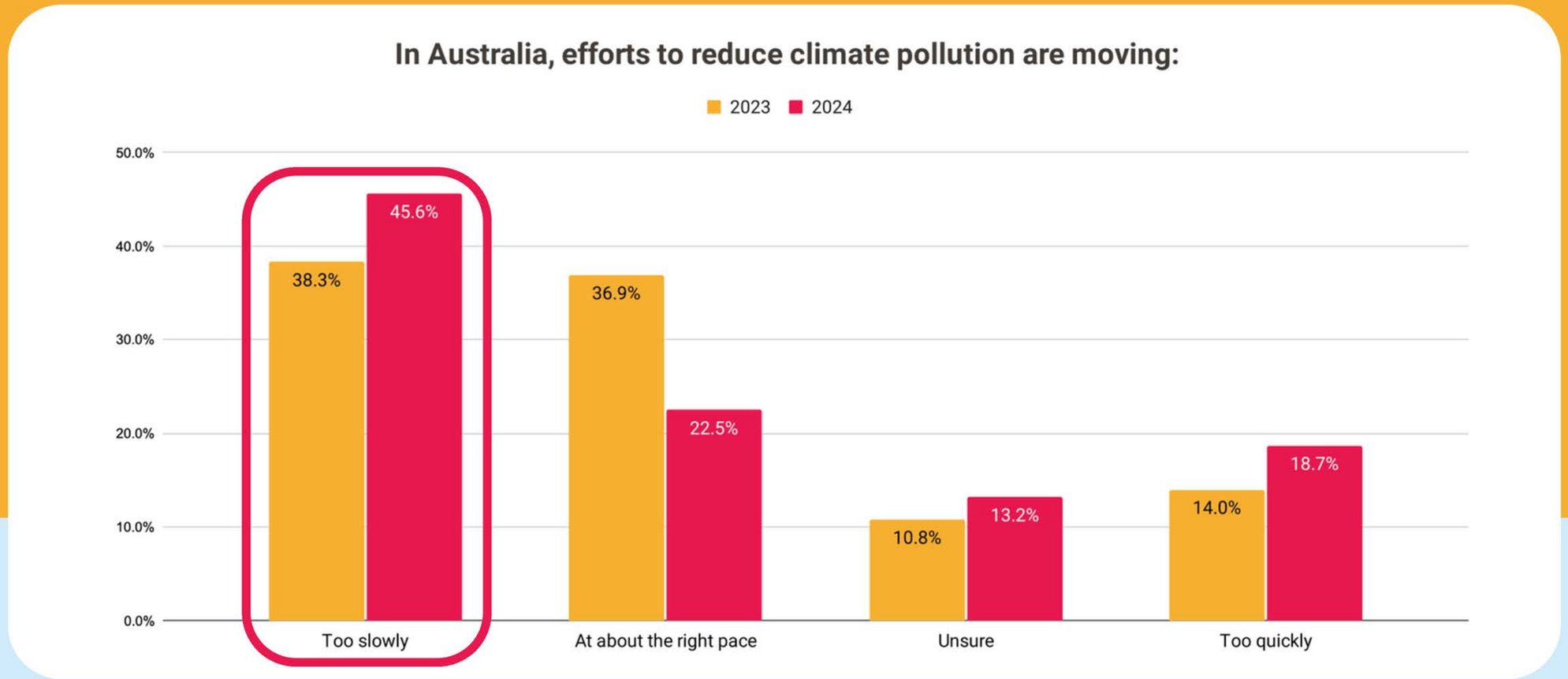
WHAT DO AUSTRALIANS THINK?

Climate change concern 🤔



- **The majority of Australians (68%) are concerned about climate change.**

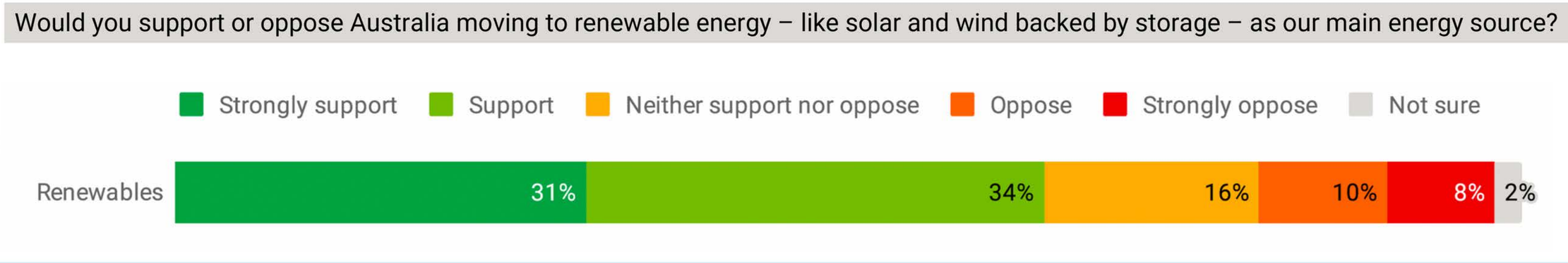
Pace of climate action



- **Almost half of Australians (45.6%) believe our efforts to reduce climate pollution are moving too slowly.**

Renewables are popular

Both suburban and regional Australians are supportive of renewables:

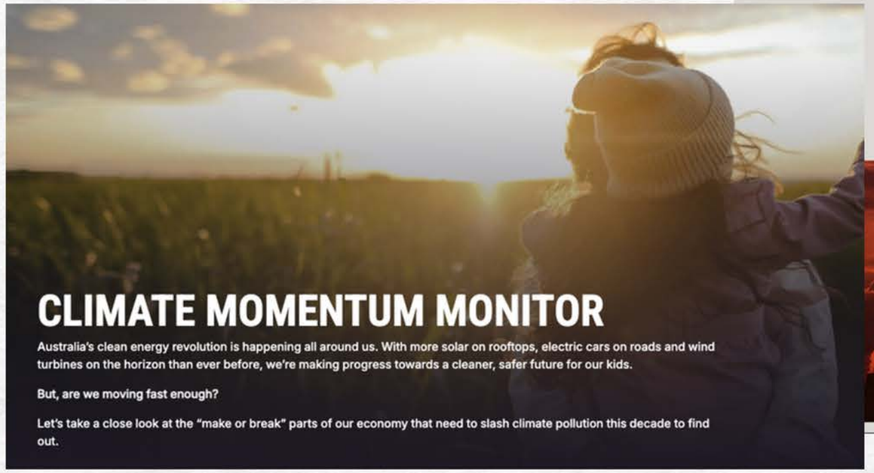


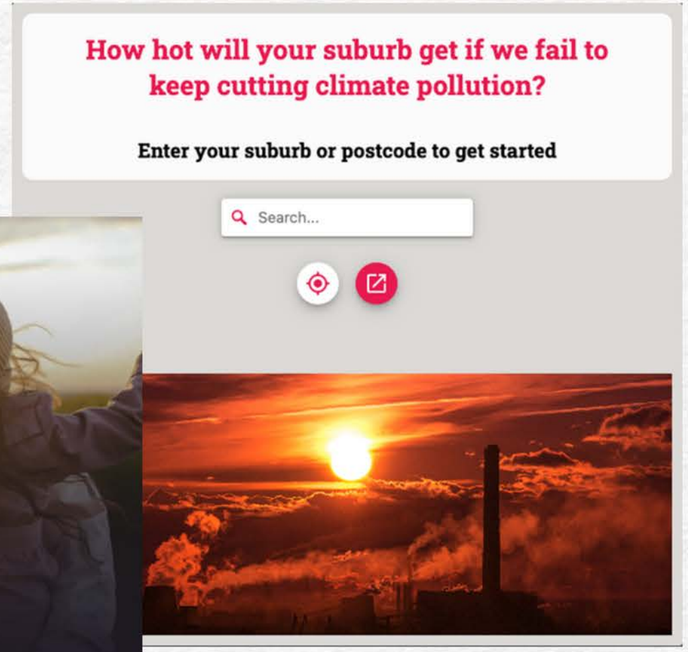
- **65% of voters support moving to renewables, versus 18% oppose.**
  - **Younger people, university educated, on higher incomes and women are more likely to support renewables.**

WHAT CAN THE CLIMATE COUNCIL DO FOR YOU?

Research

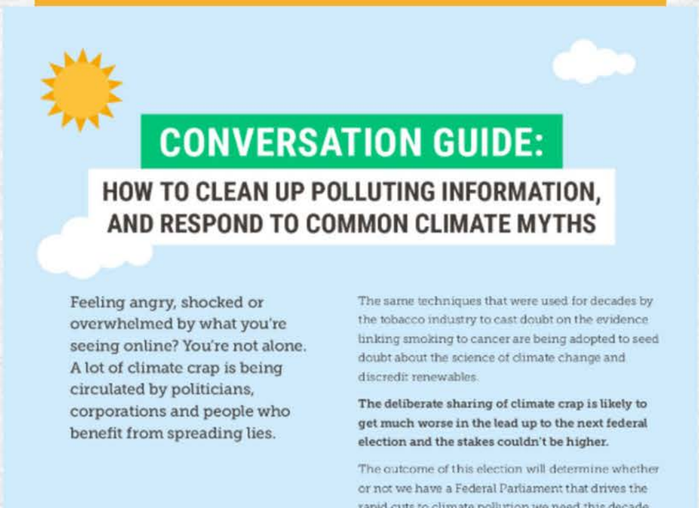
Tools





Policy

Communications



The end