City of Casey

Climate Resilient Casey Plan

Community Engagement Summary Report

July 2024

1 Contents

Climate Resilient Casey Plan 0
2 Background 2
2.1 Key findings 2
2.2 Next steps 2
3 Consultation overview 2
3.1 Consultation purpose 2
3.2 Consultation process 2
4 Who we heard from 4
5 Consultation findings 5
5.1 Support for actions 5
5.2 Item-specific feedback 6
5.2.1 Adapt 6
5.2.2 Survive 7
5.2.3 Thrive 8
5.2.4 Embed 8
5.2.5 Comments from respondents who were asked if they had any other comments about Climate Resilient Casey Plan that they'd like Council to consider. 9
5.3 Written submission feedback 9
5.3.1 Written submissions received via Casey Conversations 9
5.3.2 Written submissions received via email 13
6 Consultation evaluation 15
6.1 Casey Conversations project page 15
6.2 Satisfaction with engagement process 15
6.1 Satisfaction with engagement process 15

2 Background

This document provides a summary of community feedback on the draft *Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030*.

Council is committed to supporting a climate ready city through climate change mitigation and adaptation. Acting on climate change is fundamental to achieving our community vision to become a more connected, bold, and resilient community.

The draft *Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030* builds on the foundations laid by our *Council Plan 2021-25* and *Environment Strategy 2021-25*. The plan aims to provide a roadmap for a safer, connected and more resilient Casey, where Council and the community are climate ready and better prepared together.

From 13 June to 11 July 2024, a four-week community engagement process was held to gather community feedback on the plan.

2.1 Key findings

Participants were generally supportive of the draft *Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030*. With a median of 68% supporting the overall plan. Some respondents (42%) have proposed making the action plan more accessible and expressed their concern around the timeline of delivery.

Tree canopy and tree replacement programs were highly regarded actions.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider community feedback and make amendments to the draft plan, in line with the scope detailed in the project engagement plan.

Council is expected to consider the proposed *Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030* for adoption at the August 2024 Council Meeting.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide the community with the opportunity to have their say on the draft *Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030*.

3.2 Consultation process

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders, and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Website news story
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through the Casey Conversations website, including the opportunity to provide feedback via a survey or by uploading a written statement
- Two in person and one online engagement session, with local committees and reference groups.

- Contact email address and phone number of Council Officer provided for interested community members to ask for further information or provide feedback
- Printed information available, as required

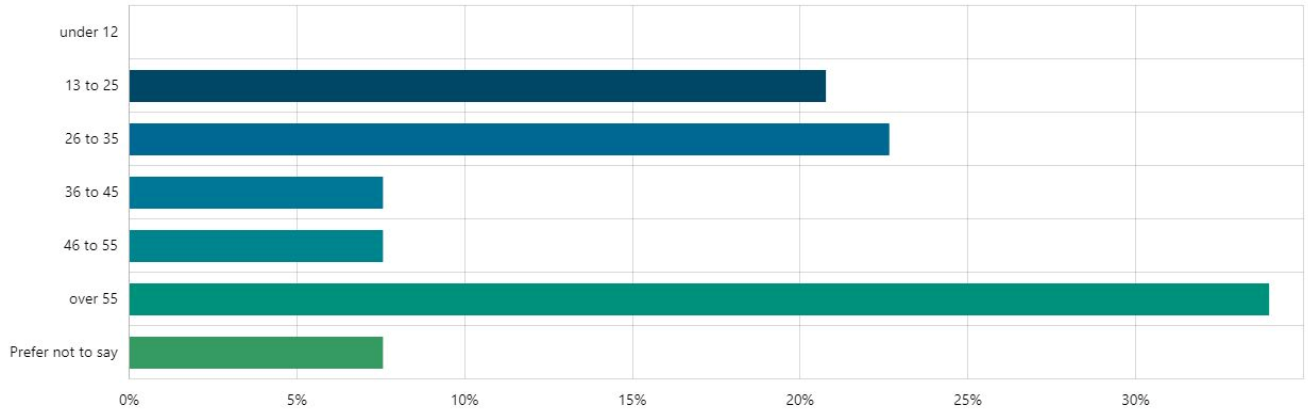
Details	Activity
13 June – 11 July 2024 **1022 visitors** **63 contributions**	**Casey Conversations Website** Project information, online survey, and written submissions hosted on the engagement platform, Casey Conversations. Online survey: 58 responses Written submission: 5 responses
2 July 2024 **14 members**	**Youth Climate Action Committee** Project information and online survey
4 July 2024 **16 participants**	**Multicultural Network Meeting** Project information and online survey
10 July 2024 **24 participants**	**Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers** Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers engagement Project information, paper and online survey and facilitated discussions

4 Who we heard from

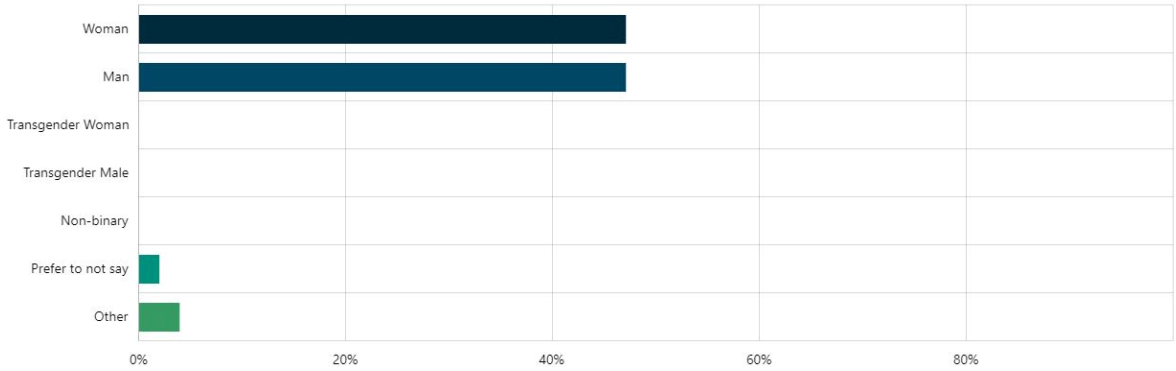
Survey participants had the choice to share their demographics via the questions below:

Which suburb do you live in?

What is your age range?



What is your gender?



5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on the draft Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics.

5.1 Support for actions

Participants were asked via an online survey to provide their feedback on the *draft Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030*. All survey participants were asked if they support specific actions within Adapt, Survive, Thrive, and Embed Actions Areas. A median of 68% of respondents supported the plan actions.

5.2 Item-specific feedback

5.2.1 Adapt

Topic	Community feedback
Develop bushfire management plans for Casey's bushland reserves	52.83% Extremely supportive 24.53% Very supportive 16.98% Somewhat supportive
Support Foreshore Committees to prepare and/or review Coastal and Marine Management Plan	47.17% Extremely supportive 37.74% Very supportive 1.89% Somewhat supportive 5.66% Slightly supportive 7.55% Not at all supportive
Deliver the Solar Savers Heat Resilience Subsidy for Casey's most at-risk community members	47.17% Extremely supportive 26.42% Very supportive 7.55% Somewhat supportive 3.77% Slightly supportive 15.09% Not at all supportive
Continue to ensure that Council undertakes replacement planting for trees removed due to extreme weather events	71.7% Extremely supportive 18.87% Very supportive
Continue to deliver and expand programs, including a focus on providing shelter and water for native wildlife	64.15% Extremely supportive 24.53% Very supportive
Positive sentiment	Supportive towards not seeing greater housing development along the coast (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers).
Wildlife safety and protection	Use of wildlife crossings (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers). Ensure council tree planting is useful for wildlife food and shelter (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers). Biodiversity corridors (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers).

5.2.2 Survive

Topic	Community feedback
Inform the community most at risk to climate hazards about climate resilience	43.4% Extremely supportive 30.19% Very supportive 7.55% Somewhat supportive 1.89% Slightly supportive 16.98% Not at all supportive
Share hazard maps and necessary resources with the community	50.94% Extremely supportive 26.42% Very supportive
Advocate to Government bodies for increased investment and resources	52.83% Extremely supportive 28.3% Very supportive 3.77% Somewhat supportive 3.77% Slightly supportive 11.32% Not at all supportive
Council to review Council-run Emergency Relief Centres to ensure they are planned to incorporate the access and inclusion needs of most at risk community members	50.94% Extremely supportive 33.96% Very supportive 9.43% Somewhat supportive 5.66% Not at all supportive
Parks	Increase cooler spaces in parks as currently there is no shade in most parks (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers). Banjo Park was identified as an example of a park with a water feature which is heavily used on hot days to just dip their feet and get cool (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers).
Bushfire safety	Cannons creek community have established an “unofficial” arrangement with the CFA that if the siren is on, it means to immediately vacate on fire danger days. Suggestion was to have an adopted and agreed alarm system for those who are in areas of high bushfire risk (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers). Suggestions were made to have an action for residents who are in bushfire danger areas to ensure there is clarity on where the evacuation areas are (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers).

5.2.3 Thrive

Topic	Community feedback
Advocate for increased investment and resources	47.17% Extremely supportive 32.08% Very supportive 9.43% Somewhat supportive 11.32% Not at all supportive
Work with community to develop and deliver climate focused programs	49.06% Extremely supportive 28.3% Very supportive 3.77% Somewhat supportive 18.87% Not at all supportive
Work with businesses to develop and deliver climate focused programs	47.17% Extremely supportive 20.75% Very supportive 11.32% Somewhat supportive 1.89% Slightly supportive 18.87% Not at all supportive
Positive sentiment	Supportive of minimum 30% requirement listed in action 44 with the plan (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers).
Building development	Increase the development of community gardens (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers). Consider the use of white or green roofs, lighter road colours and green walls (Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers).

5.2.4 Embed

Participants were asked to share any comments they had regarding the Embed Action Area. Key themes are listed below:

Topic	Community feedback
More accessible and measurable	Actions need to be measurable and use plainer language (3 mentions Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers))

5.2.5 Comments from respondents who were asked if they had any other comments about Climate Resilient Casey Plan that they'd like Council to consider.

Topic	Community feedback
Traditional owners	More traditional owner input that is specific and measurable (2 mentions)
Focus on traditional core Council services	Focus on roads (3 mentions)
Council to work with community	Council needs to work with community groups and committees to deliver actions in the plan (8 mentions and Community Reference Group and Environmental Volunteers)

5.3 Written submission feedback

A total of fourteen (14) written submissions were received regarding the Climate Resilient Casey Plan consultation.

5.3.1 Written submissions received via Casey Conversations

Five (5) written submissions were submitted using Casey Conversations and are included below.

Submission 1:

In reference to:

Upgrade and Integration of Methane Emission Utilisation for Enhanced Energy Production from the existing 8 MW Gas Plant at Narre warren.

Introduction

I am writing to propose a sustainable and economically viable alternative to the current approach of investigating off-grid solar and battery systems for ensuring operational continuity during power blackouts in key Council facilities. Specifically, I suggest upgrading the existing 8 MW gas plant to a larger 24 MW capacity. This upgrade will utilise methane emissions from landfill waste to power the gas plant, incorporate a high-temperature furnace for waste processing, and potentially include hydrogen injection to further enhance efficiency and environmental benefits.

Rationale for the Proposal

1. *Enhanced Energy Production and Efficiency*
    - *Upgrading the gas plant from 8 MW to 24 MW will significantly increase the energy output, providing a more robust solution for operational continuity during power blackouts.*
    - *Utilising methane emissions from landfill waste as a fuel source is a sustainable method of energy production that makes use of existing resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.*
2. *Environmental Benefits*
    - *Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and capturing it from landfills to generate energy helps mitigate its impact on climate change.*

- *Incorporating a high-temperature furnace capable of burning undecomposed landfill waste at over 1000 degrees Celsius will further reduce landfill volume and minimize CO2 emissions.*
- *The potential for hydrogen injection into the furnace can lead to cleaner combustion processes and lower overall emissions.*

3. *Economic Viability and Longevity*
    - *Investing in an upgraded gas plant and methane utilization system offers long-term financial benefits compared to the relatively short lifespan and high replacement costs of battery systems.*
    - *The upgraded gas plant will have a longer operational life, providing continuous energy output and reducing the need for frequent replacements and maintenance associated with battery systems.*

Technical Details

- *Methane Capture and Utilisation*
    - *Install systems for capturing methane emissions from landfill sites.*
    - *Transport the captured methane to the upgraded gas plant for use as fuel.*
- *Gas Plant Upgrade*
    - *Expand the existing 8 MW gas plant to a 24 MW capacity to meet increased energy demands and improve operational reliability.*
- *High-Temperature Furnace Integration*
    - *Integrate a high-temperature furnace capable of burning undecomposed landfill waste at over 1000 degrees Celsius, minimizing CO2 emissions and reducing landfill waste volume.*
- *Hydrogen Injection System*
    - *Evaluate and implement hydrogen injection into the furnace to enhance combustion efficiency and reduce environmental impact.*

Conclusion

Upgrading the existing gas plant to a 24 MW capacity and incorporating methane emission utilisation, a high-temperature furnace, and hydrogen injection presents a sustainable, efficient, and economically viable alternative to off-grid solar and battery systems. This approach leverages existing resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides long-term operational continuity for key Council facilities.

I urge the City of Casey Council to consider this proposal as a forward-thinking solution that aligns with our commitment to sustainability and economic prudence.

Submission 2:

I'm writing on behalf of the Parents for Climate Casey-Cardinia local group to provide comment on the Climate Resilient Casey Plan. Thank you for this opportunity. Our group was established 2 years ago to engage local parents, carers, grandparents, and families to advocate within their networks and to their political representatives through family friendly, non-partisan actions that ultimately raise the importance for stronger and faster action on climate.

We have three key focus areas:

- *Community outreach - build relationships, family friendly events*

- *Advocacy - MP engagement and campaign support*
- *Amplification of positive stories - local media, social media*

Our group invited Casey residents to a public meet up in Berwick on Friday 6 July to review and together provide feedback on the Climate Resilient Casey Plan, and specifically the Action Plan 2024-2027. I'd like to submit the following feedback collected:

Across these two meetings some more general comments were also raised, for your consideration:

1. Is the Climate Resilient Casey 2024-2030 plan considered to be a subset of the Climate Action Plan 2022-2030 and is Council confident that sufficient staff, budget, and resources have been provided for both plans to be successfully implemented?

2. Including the Council departments responsible for delivering each action in the Action Plan would increase accountability and transparency for the community.

3. There are a significant number of actions that hinge on successful public education, engagement and awareness campaigns and programs for community, businesses and targeted groups. These will all require highly coordinated efforts and consistent messaging (often around complex and emotive topics) and will demand active community outreach and sufficient Council staffing and resources to be effective. Given the planned dollar investment and the risks associated if these related actions are ineffective, the development of a separate co-designed and detailed plan for community engagement is essential and should be included as a prioritized action for Year 1 of this plan.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback about this critical plan. We welcome any future updates and opportunities to engage with Council and Casey families to advocate for more urgent action on climate.

Council Officer notes that submission 2 has additional feedback provided, separate to this document and can be found following this *link*

Submission 3:

Dear City of Casey,

As a resident in the City of Casey for over 50 years, I thank you for accepting my feedback on the draft Climate Resilient Casey Plan.

Nature and Biodiversity:

As the urban heat island effect can raise temperatures by as much as 3°C due to buildings, concrete and asphalt, the need to incorporate green spaces using plants is extremely important and should be a significant consideration in all development within the council's jurisdiction.

Protection and care of Mangroves in the council's coastal areas will ensure natural biodiversity and help mitigate any potential sea level rise.

When zoning for future development it is important to not place farming zones next to urban growth zones. The land around urban growth zones needs to be of benefit to the majority of the community living there. If we may be faced with more extreme high temperature days, land around urban areas should be green space for residence to be able to use to cool off such as garden and treed areas and wetlands.

Council Infrastructure, Assets, and Services:

Maintaining our stormwater system will help greatly in mitigating future flood events and ensuring development of stormwater systems to take any extra water from developments ongoing.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by moving to renewable energy is misleading. The use of solar panels appears to not produce CO2 however the manufacturing of them produces more than they will save. We also then have the issue of what to do with them after their 15-to-20-year lifespan. When it comes to reducing the impact of CO2 emissions from electricity use, we should look to nature. The average tree absorbs 26.5kg of CO2 per year. To offset the 11,000 tonnes of CO2 per year from the council's electricity usage, 450,000 trees will do this. That is about one tree per City of Casey resident.

Use of batteries to ensure power supply during blackouts is expensive not to mention the environmental impacts of battery production. The use of diesel generators is the most cost effective way of having backup power and less damaging environmentally. Again, the use of plants and trees can easily offset any extra CO2 that this may add.

Planning for a Safe Future:

As mentioned in my previous point, stormwater systems can mitigate flooding events. In addition, the incorporation of water storage facilities within the stormwater system may be used for maintaining green spaces for the community.

Roads and public transport are crucial for reducing fuel usage. This is something the City of Casy has failed in greatly in the 50 odd years I have been a resident here. I do recognise that much of the road and transport infrastructure is out of the council's hands, however there is much the council can do and should advocate for. Arterial roads are desperately needed and previous plans for many should have been developed. Arterial roads and the expansion of existing roads should be pushed strongly by the council. The efficient flow of road vehicles is detrimental for reducing fuel consumption. This reduces CO2 emissions and benefits the community economically and its wellbeing. The electric train system must be further developed. The Cranbourne line should extend to Kooweerup. Ideally a train line then from Kooweerup to Pakenham creating a Southeast loop would be most beneficial. The purpose of developing the electric train system is the possibility to run this on electricity with reduced CO2 emissions such as nuclear or hydro power in the future.

Conclusion:

There is little to nothing the Council can do to adjust the weather systems of the world. The responsibility we give the council is to maintain and develop the infrastructure and services it provides the community. This can be done whilst reducing the impact of CO2 emissions it produces by implementing actions laid out here without hindering the economic well-being of the residence within the City of Casey.

I thank you for your consideration.

Submission 4:

I am in general agreement with the key actions outlined in the Plan.

I do have concerns about one item in the action plan, based on observation of what is actually happening in the City of Casey.

"Advocating for improved planning and building standards to account for future climate risks."

In particular, linking this to the objective: "Planning for a Safe Future Shaping neighbourhoods and the built environment to be safe and liveable in a changing climate".

The housing estate developments in "remote" parts of Officer and Clyde, for example, are not conducive to built environments that are safe and liveable in a changing climate. Public transport and facilities are limited. I see a high risk of these areas becoming future urban ghettos.

Town planning is still promoting urban spread. Units are on small blocks with no land. It would be more sensible to allow multi-storey developments, condominium style, with ample land for urban gardens, playgrounds and other facilities etc, around multi-storey units. that encourage community building. This happens in other parts of the world. These need not be high rise.

There is a great reliance on private vehicles. Allowing urban spread without adequate public transport, nearby shops and medical facilities is not going to support climate resilience.

Renewable energy installations could be incorporated (e.g. solar/panels and batteries, servicing all residents in a "block".

Current and future shopping centres should be looking at solar panel shading for car parks.

Council rates could be reduced for developers and individuals who include energy saving/water saving measures on properties.

A survey of established urban areas in the City of Casey would be useful and incorporate new planning into established areas where a range of options can be examined to minimise unnecessary urban spread.

*Financial incentives are always a good way to get action***!**

Submission 5:

The climate resilience plan largely looks pretty solid.

Only a few key points need to be addressed.

Firstly, a lot of actions are deferred to years 3 or later that could be started much earlier, even in year 1.

Secondly, there's a really great point in there about sharing hazard info with the community. If that could be packaged for people trying to buy a home that would be amazing. I bought in Cranbourne north last year and trying to find accurate flood, bushfire and heatwave risk data for even one property was very challenging, let alone every place we seriously considered.

Thirdly we need to consider some protections for canopy on private property.

Fourthly there will need to be adequate resourcing for these actions to be successful. Too many great looking action plans fall over in implementation because the funds aren't allocated to make it happen in the best way possible.

A lot of work has clearly been put into the plan, and overall happy with it

Got my tick of approval.

5.3.2 Written submissions received via email

Nine (9) written submissions were received by the Project Officer via email and are summarised below.

Submission 1:

The submitter mentions that the plan appears to be comprehensive, however believes there is a lack of resourcing, urgency, and community focus to many of the actions listed with in the plan.

Submission 2:

The submitter finds the plan to be well developed, however mentions the need for more funding allocated to the project.

Submission 3:

The submitter mentions the need for more reporting back and involvement with the community on the action listed in the plan. Aswell as the finalised of the Greening Casey plan.

Submission 4,5,6,7,8,9:

Six (6) individual submissions are summarised together. The submitters find the plan comprehensive but very underfunded, with year 2 and 3 actions needing to start sooner. Further suggestions to the plan and implementation are below:

- The Greening Casey Plan requires finalisation and public exhibition
- Little investment in community engagement and lack of mentioning Casey Community Engagement Policy
- No mention of the Environment and Sustainability Community Reference Group, the Council advisory group composed of residents
- Request for annual reporting to the community
- Action 23 of the plan should mention specific projects to be delivered
- Questions were asked whether the findings of the SECCCA Asset Vulnerability Assessment project have been finalised and are the built into this plan?
- The submitters expressed concern over the lack of a separate action similar to Action 38, regarding the need to target the broader community to achieve community awareness
- The City of Casey need to follow the lead of other Victorian Councils and introduce a tree protection local law for trees on private land
- Regarding Action 50, a question was asked about, why limit to just libraries but include community and neighbourhood houses.

The six (6) individual submissions all referred to the lack of community partners within the action plan and asked if Council could include a whole community approach.

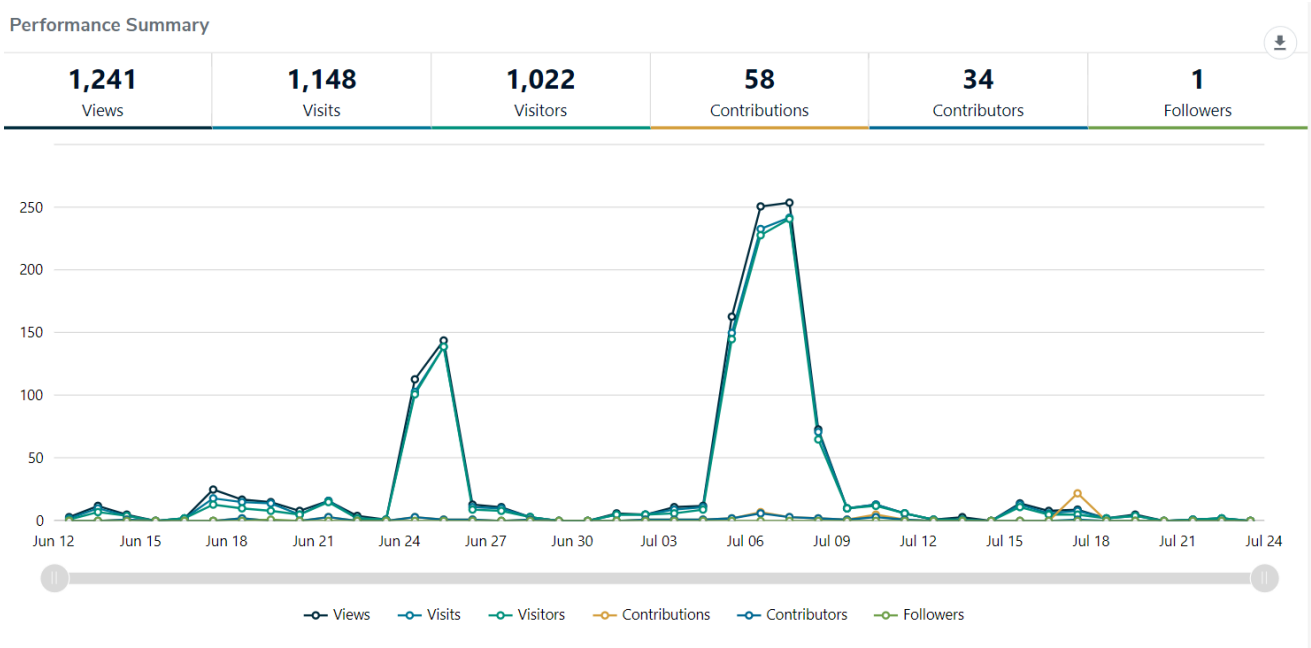
6 Consultation evaluation

This report presents the findings from community feedback gathered during community engagement on the draft *Climate Resilient Casey Plan 2024-2030* from 13 June to 11 July 2024.

The consultation was promoted to key stakeholders. The website news story also ensured the wider Casey community was given the opportunity to provide feedback.

The engagement program received a total of 72 contributions, including 58 online surveys completed via the Casey Conversations website, 5 written submissions uploaded via the Casey Conversations website and 9 written statements received via email correspondence. The Climate Resilient Casey Plan was downloaded 110 times throughout the engagement.

6.1 Casey Conversations project page



6.2 Satisfaction with engagement process

Survey participants were generally satisfied with the consultation process and materials, with a majority of participants selecting they had the required information to participate, and it was very (58%) or mostly (30%) easy to find/understand. It is noted that some participants found the information mostly or very hard (5%) to find/understand or were not sure (7%).

6.1 Satisfaction with engagement process

The engagement plan for this project was published online and is available to view at: https://conversations.casey.vic.gov.au/Climate-Resilient-Casey-Plan/community-