

Environment Summary

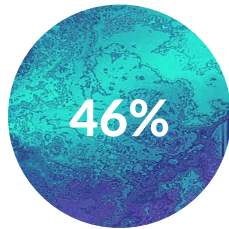


Young people's Experience of the Environment:

In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. The project gave young people (aged 15-24) with the opportunity to voice their experiences, views on how services need to be improved and provide opportunities for them to inform policy.



Young People participated in Your Voice



of participants said the environment was an issue.



of participants had ideas about policy changes involving the environment.



of participants said both mental health and the environment were issues.

What young people told us about the Environment:

I would first like them to look at what is happening with our environment and the science behind climate change. I would like them to know that all of this, bushfires, floods, extreme heat etc. is only going to get worse. It's their children, grandchildren, and so on that will be affected to a point that we will be unable to live anymore because there will be so much insecurity in the world.

Young people told us that they are concerned about climate change and its impact on their lives, now and into the future.

We urgently need to make changes to save the planet from global warming, pollution and saving animals that are slowly going extinct from human causes.

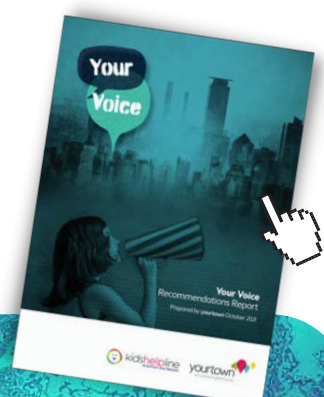
We need to start acting on it. We are currently killing our planet and future. The cost is high to turn green, but the cost of not doing something is higher.

We need to act faster against climate change. Us young people are the ones who will have to deal with everyone's mistakes. We need to ban single use plastics, such as plastic bags and straws, so we stop polluting the oceans.

You can't separate the mental health of young people from our social and environmental contexts. We grew up knowing that our world is dying and no amount of counselling will stop the anxiety and depression that this causes.

A main excuse for the lack of change that I often hear in the media from the government is the negative economic impact that will come as a result of closing down industries such as mining. However, when you consider the long-term economic impact that will be caused by remaining how we are currently, it is much more destructive to people's careers. By keeping coal mines in business now, a lot of people will remain employed, however, in the long-term, the damage this does to our environment, and therefore the tourism industry (which is a far greater industry) will be far more destructive. Australia has the resources, science and land to make a positive impact in relation to the environment, yet we appear to be lagging behind the rest of the world.

READ THE FULL YOUR VOICE REPORT





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I'd like to tell them that yes, they're doing some, but some is not enough. We're a generation who is not looking forward to the fact that the problems in our current world are going to be 10 times worse by the time they're up to us to deal with, that's why we're trying to take action now. Mental health is on the decline and we've been growing tired for years, and I know so many people who panic over climate change, and the fear of what the world is, and the fact that not enough is being done and stuff that has been done, it's gonna be done too late and it worries us.

Young people told us of a sense of hopelessness and helplessness when talking about action, or lack of action, on climate change from the Government.



Climate change needs to be addressed immediately and cannot wait any longer. It is rarely addressed and is often skimmed over.

Basically, we shouldn't have to protect and fight against you (Federal Parliament and/or members) for our voices to be heard about protecting our environment and saving our planet. Most people in parliament are old and don't care about climate change, however, this is our future, we don't want to die, or let our world die because of climate change.

I would like to tell them that they should be doing more for the world in preparation for young generations like myself to take over, instead of creating a mass of problems for us to deal with. I would tell them that the Adani Coal Mine should be stopped and that renewable energy should be implemented into every household.

Take our environmental impact into consideration when making big decisions and keep in mind that young people have valid opinions.

I think Australia's response to climate change is a key reason so many young people are disillusioned with politics as a whole.

You're not listening. We could scream our problems and issues from the top of the tallest tower and no one would listen. We just want to be heard and respected. Our environment is dying, people are dying, we are getting shut down and ignored. We have problems too, please help us fix them.

I feel like the whole issue with the environment in this country is that it is a topic that has been overly politicised by the Government. Reform or legislation have been exploited in misinformation campaigns as a way of installing such fear in the public from wanting to support change.

We are people who are less privileged positions than you, who are relying on you to help us live our best lives. This has not been happening. We feel unheard and undervalued. There is no denying that climate change exists and is a huge issue the youth of today are going to directly face in the future. Taking action now is essential in ensuring we will be around in the future.

Environment, it's one of the most important ones that no one is taking seriously. Everywhere, there are not a lot of trees, just concrete and buildings (and I live in a country town, imagine what the city's like).

People believe that the state of our global environment is over-emphasised. But while we can become intrigued by other issues occurring, we forget about the deforestation, fires, floods, earthquakes, bleaching of the coral caused by the rising temperatures and man-inflicted pollution and damage done to our climate. We need to do more as a united country to help save our world.

The lack of positive change we are making towards preserving the environment is astounding.

Supporting mining and coal institutions may be lucrative in the short-term but investing in renewable energy will have high long-term rewards, as well as being able to set an example for the rest of the world as a first world nation.

Take climate change seriously, because right now, I have no reason to believe the federal Government has the capacity, let alone the power, to do anything about it.