

> Life in Sydney

February 2026



Committee
for
Sydney





Delivered in partnership by

Committee for Sydney

- Matt Levinson
- Jeremy Gill

Ipsos Australia

- Stuart Clark
- Adira Wiryoatmojo
- Himanika Agarwal



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of our land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded. This was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

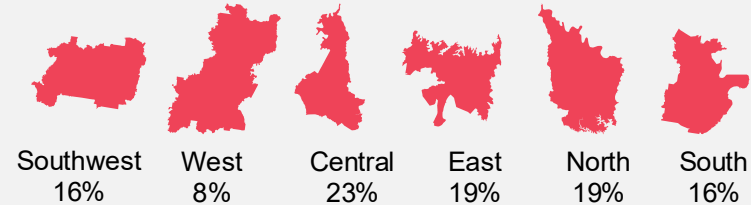


➤ Demographic distribution for 2026

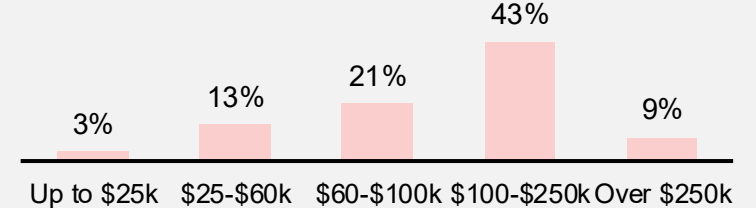
Gender



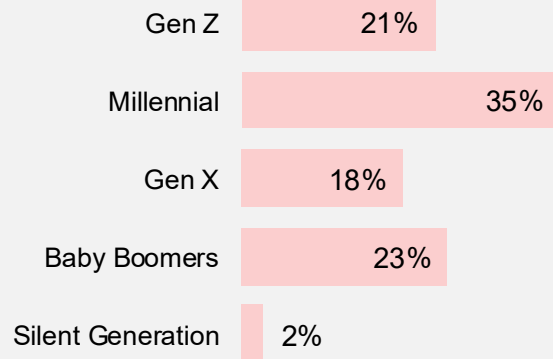
Location



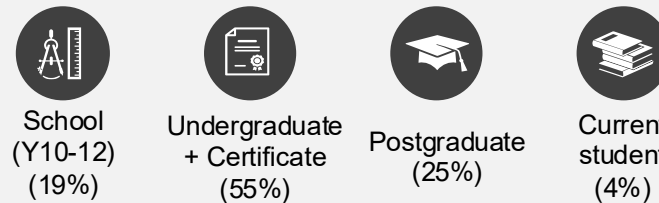
Household income



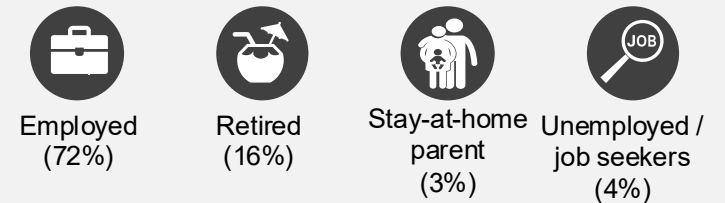
Generation



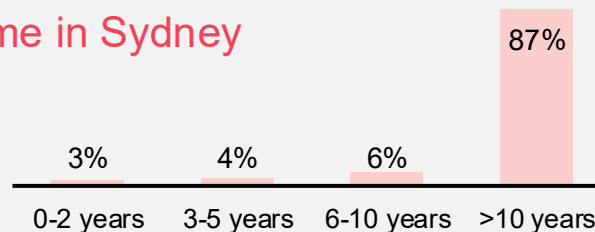
Highest level of education



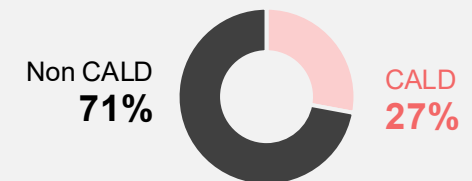
Occupation



Time in Sydney



Cultural and linguistic diverse



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SQ1. What best describes your gender?
SQ2. In which of the following age groups do you fall under?
Q25. Do you or your parents mainly speak a language other than English?

SQ3. And what is the postcode of where you live?
Q29. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
SQ4. How long have you been living in Sydney?

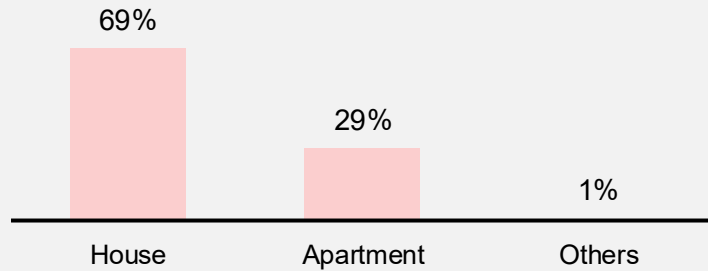
Q28. What is your approximate annual household income before tax?
SQ5. Which of the following best describes you?

Base: All respondents (n=1000)

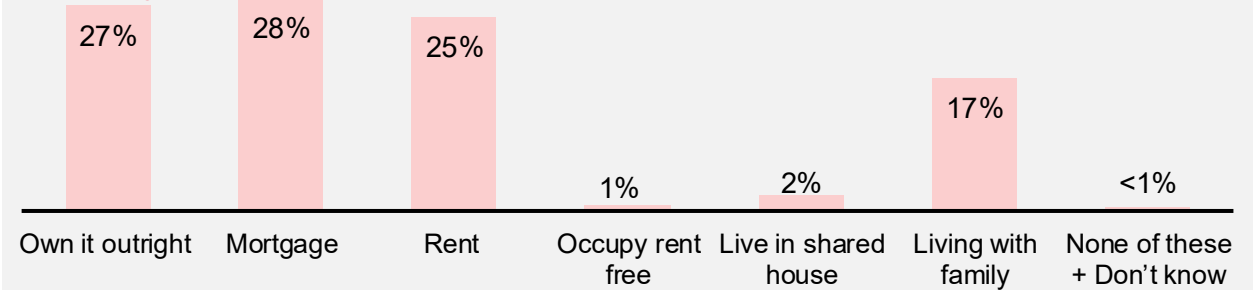


➤ Demographic distribution for 2026

Property type



Property status

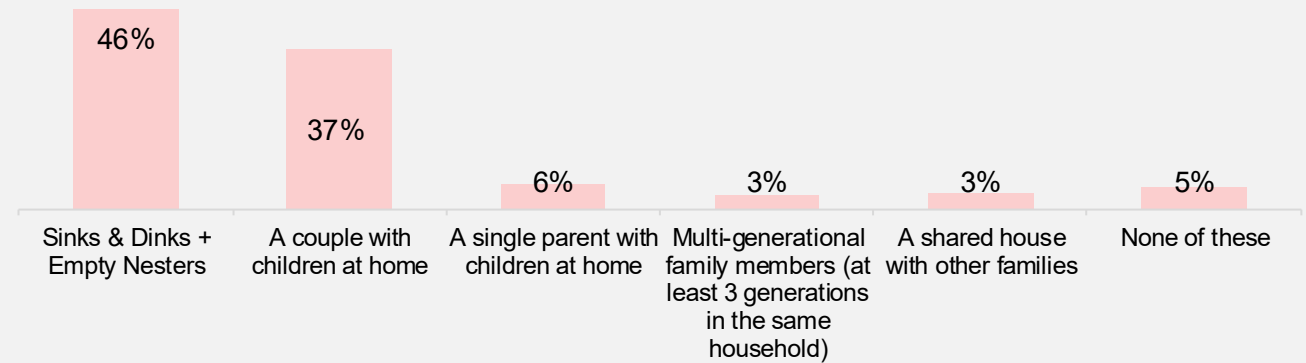


First Nations

Non First Nations
92%



Life stage





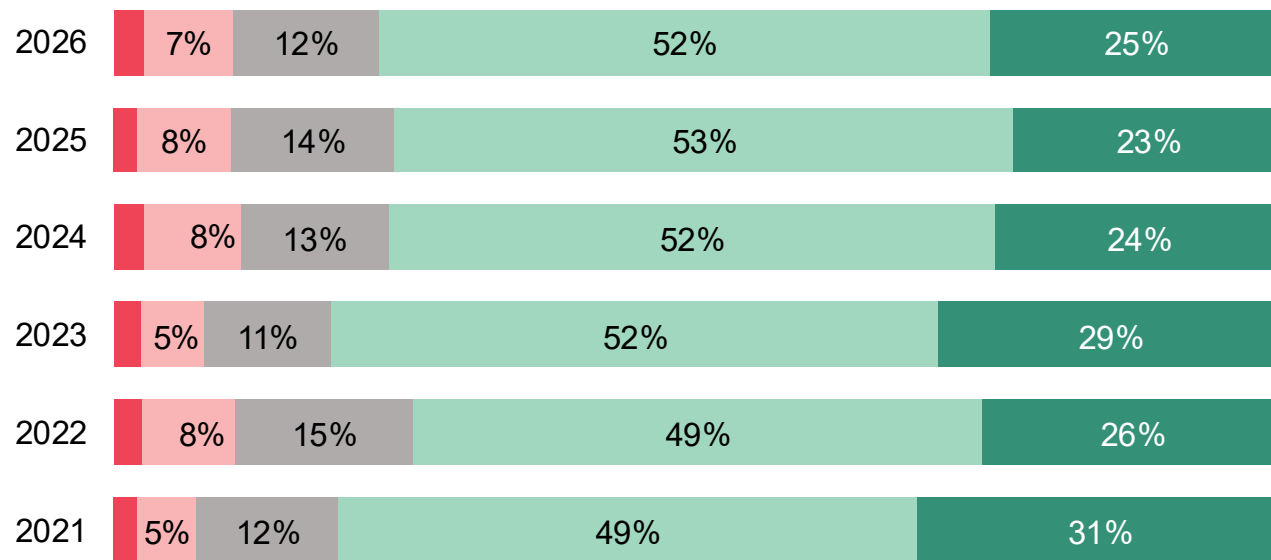
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Quality of life



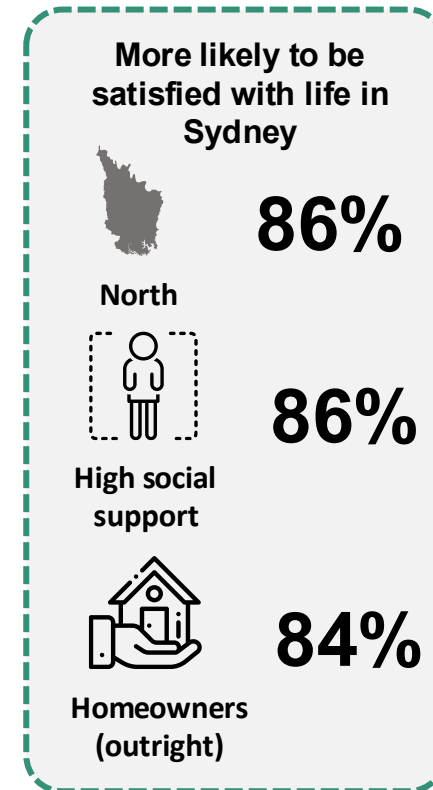
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> How satisfied are you with your quality of life in Sydney?

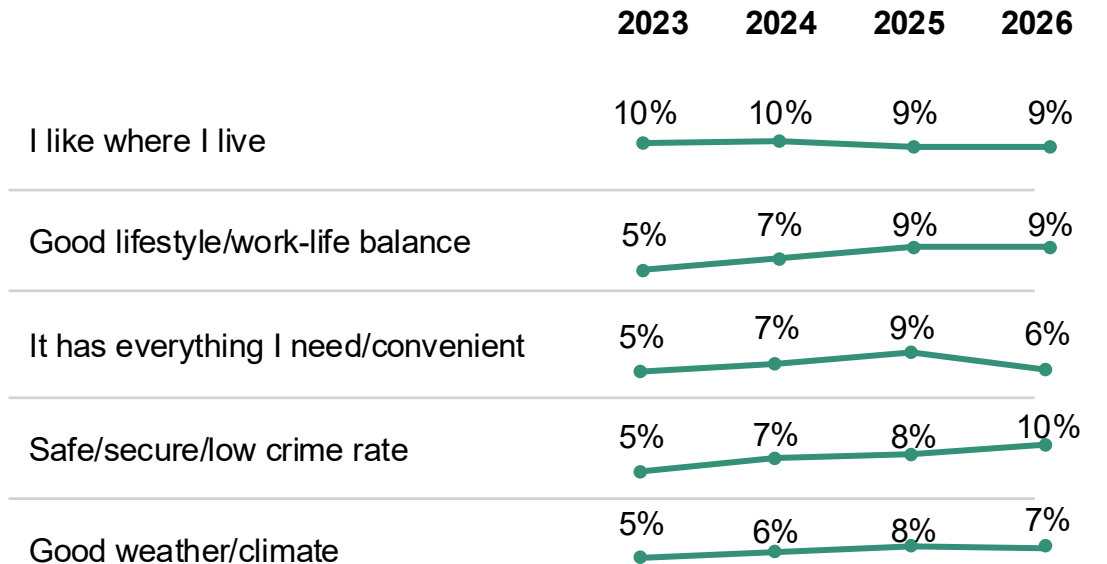
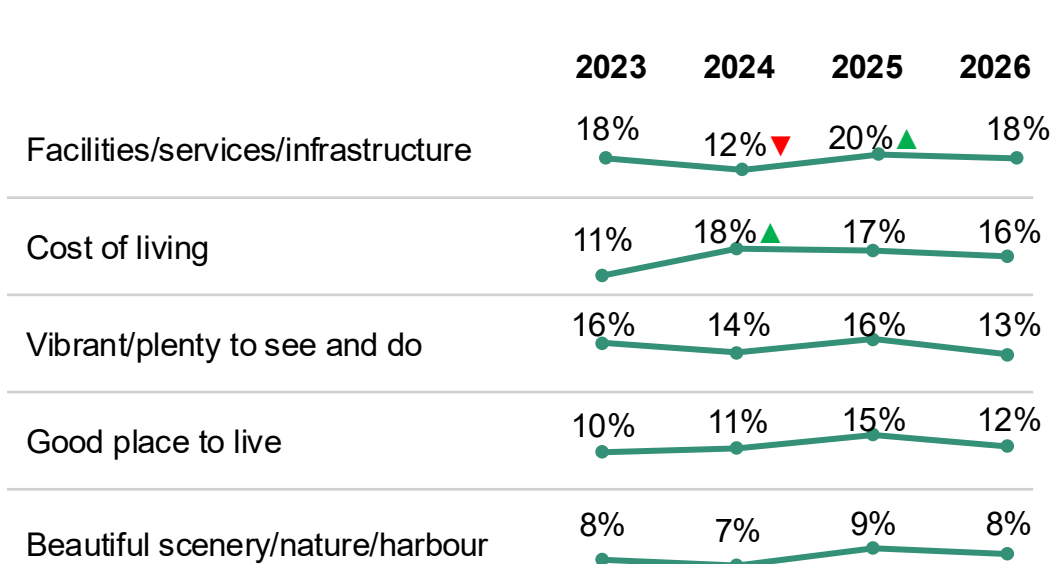


■ Not at all satisfied ■ Fairly dissatisfied ■ Neither ■ Fairly satisfied ■ Very satisfied

Total dissatisfied	Total satisfied
10%	77%
10%	76%
11% ▲	76% ▼
8%	81% ▲
10%	74%
7%	80%



> Why are you satisfied with life in Sydney?



Great city to live in, beautiful with lots of things to do and opportunities, but high cost of living

Live near a local beach and find it easy to commute to city any time with variety of options

There is still things to do around the city. But is too expensive and limits outings now



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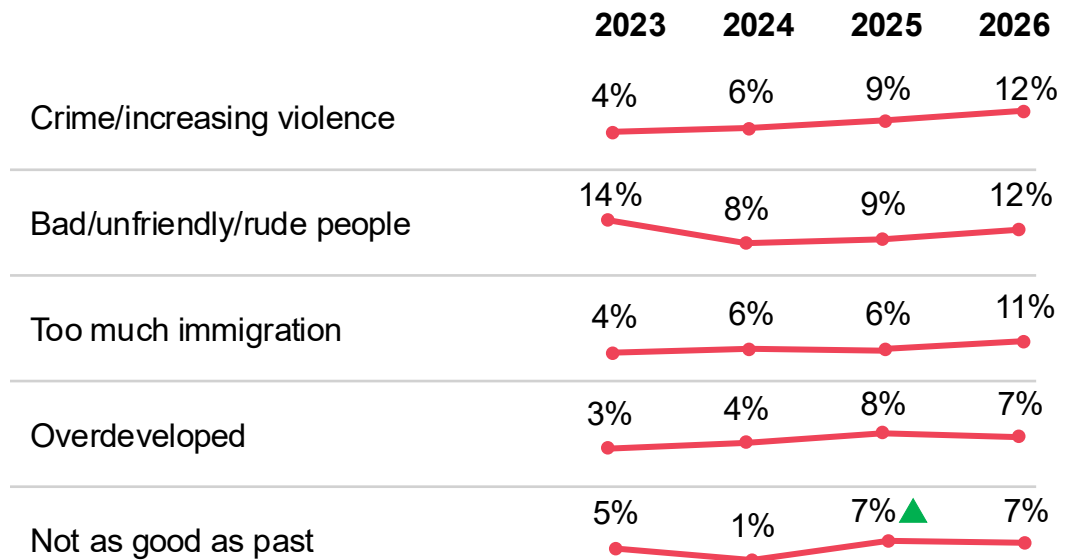
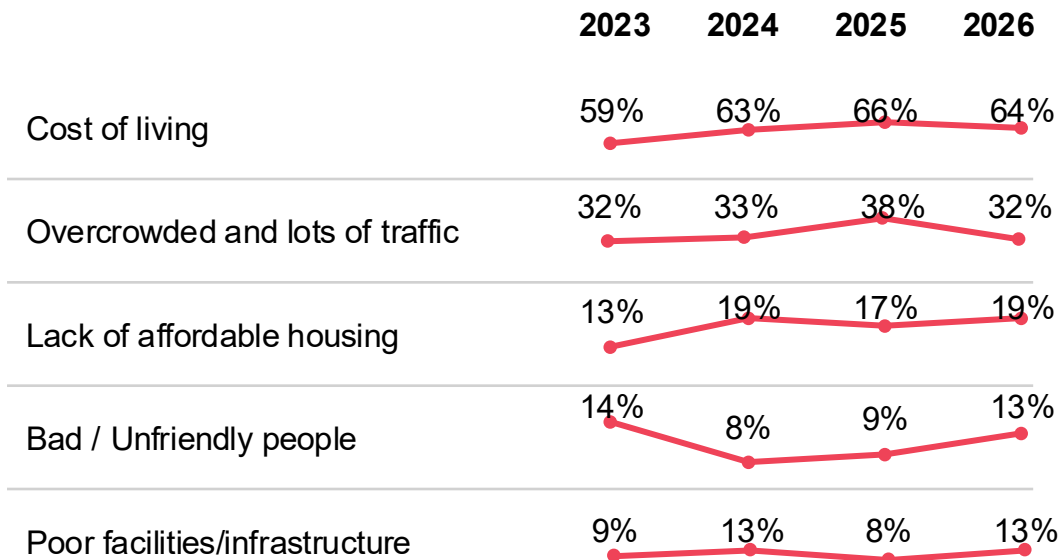
Q2. Why do you say that?

Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years



➤ Why are you dissatisfied with life in Sydney?



The cost of living is too high we can't afford to do anything

Crime is rising, it is getting over-populated and dirtier, cost of living rising

Sydney used to be a really liveable city, but in the last few years, has deteriorated due to many factors including poor infrastructure, lack of government funding in appropriate areas, too much migration, cost of living



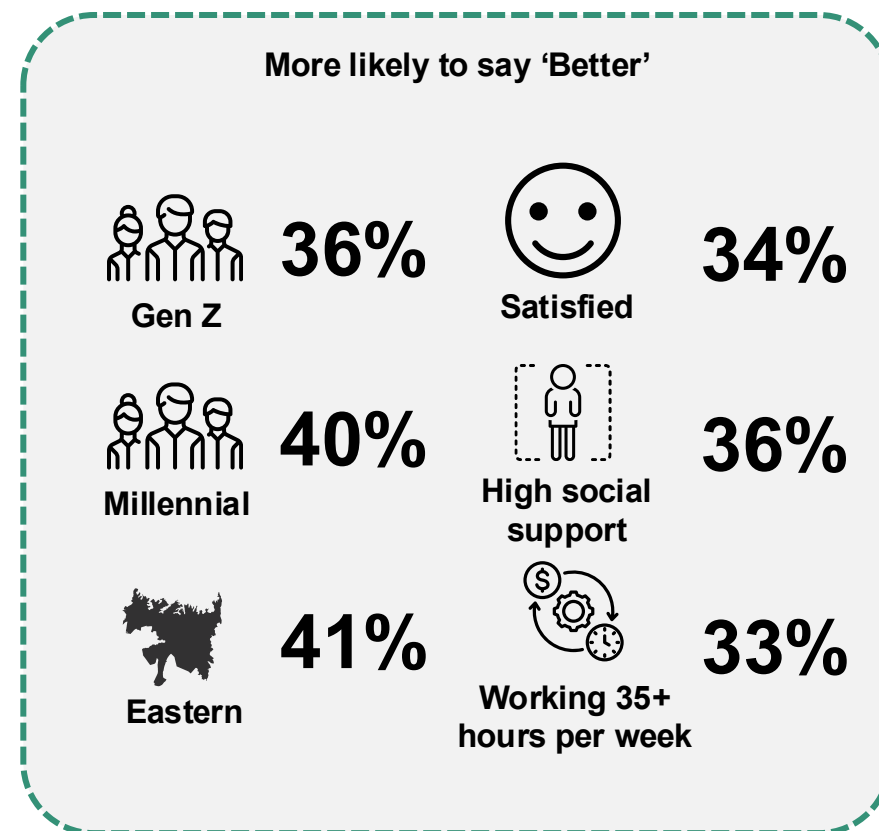
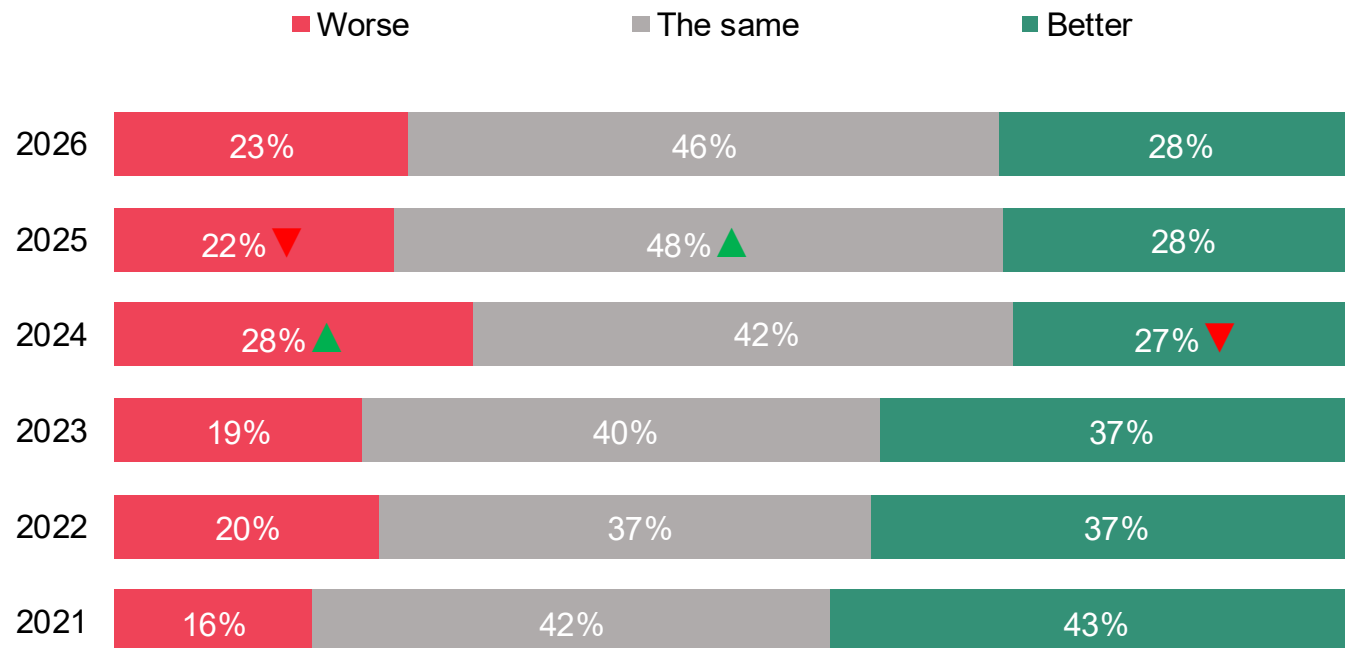
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Q2. Why do you say that?
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)

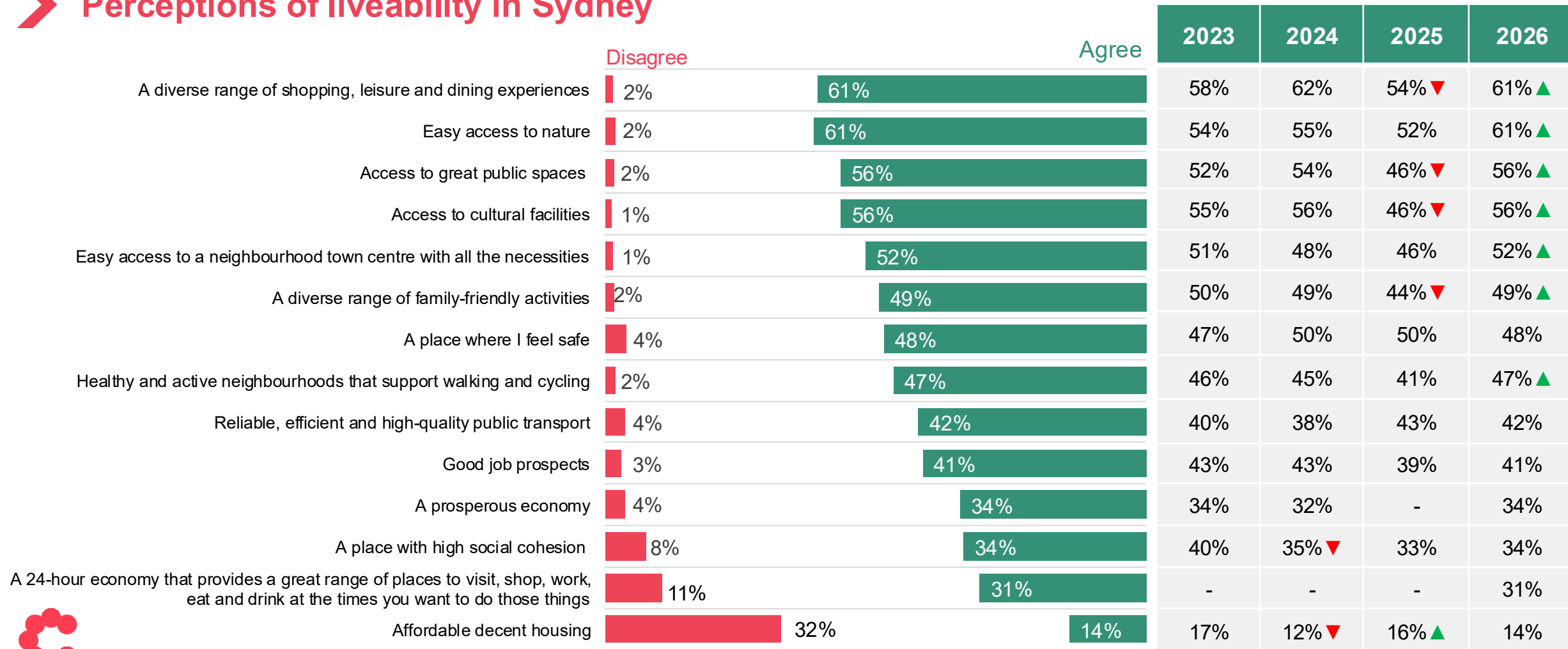
▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years



> Do you expect your quality of life in Sydney to be better or worse 12 months from now?



> Perceptions of liveability in Sydney



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Q5. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Sydney?

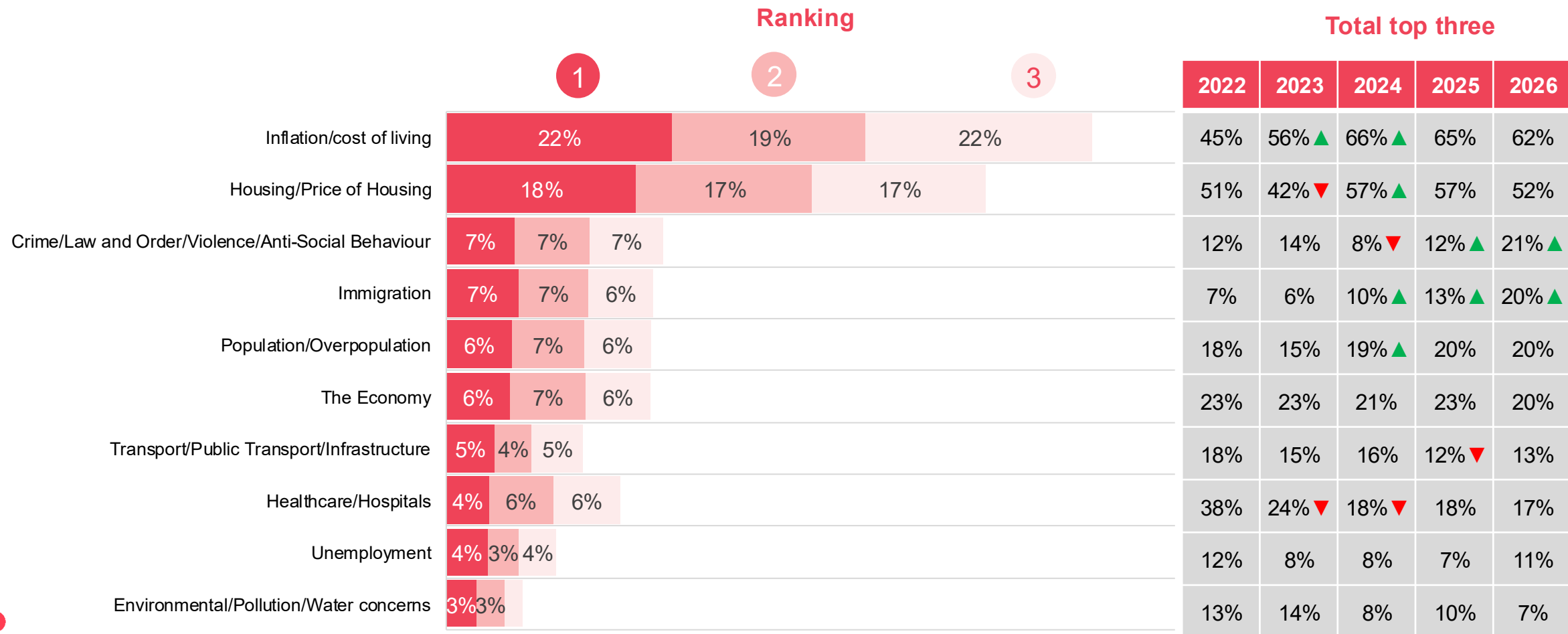
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)

Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes.

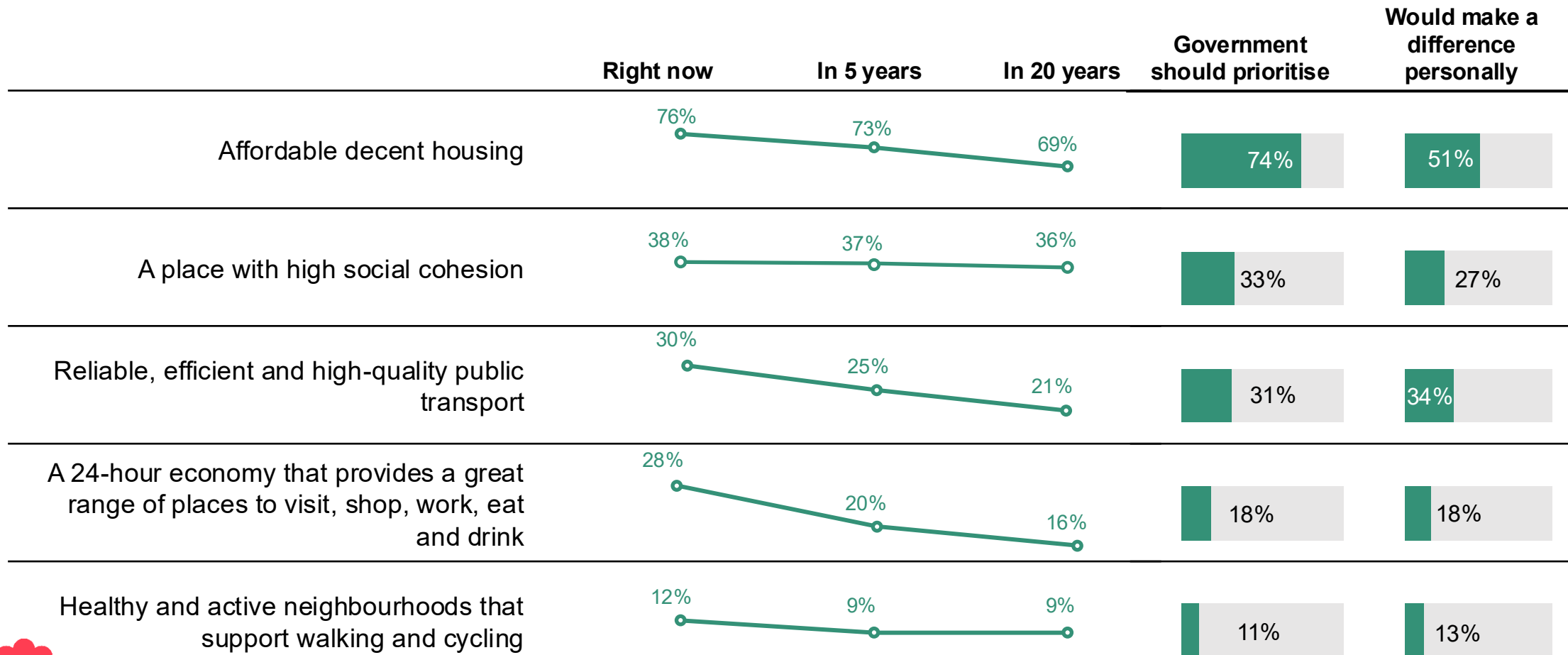
▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years



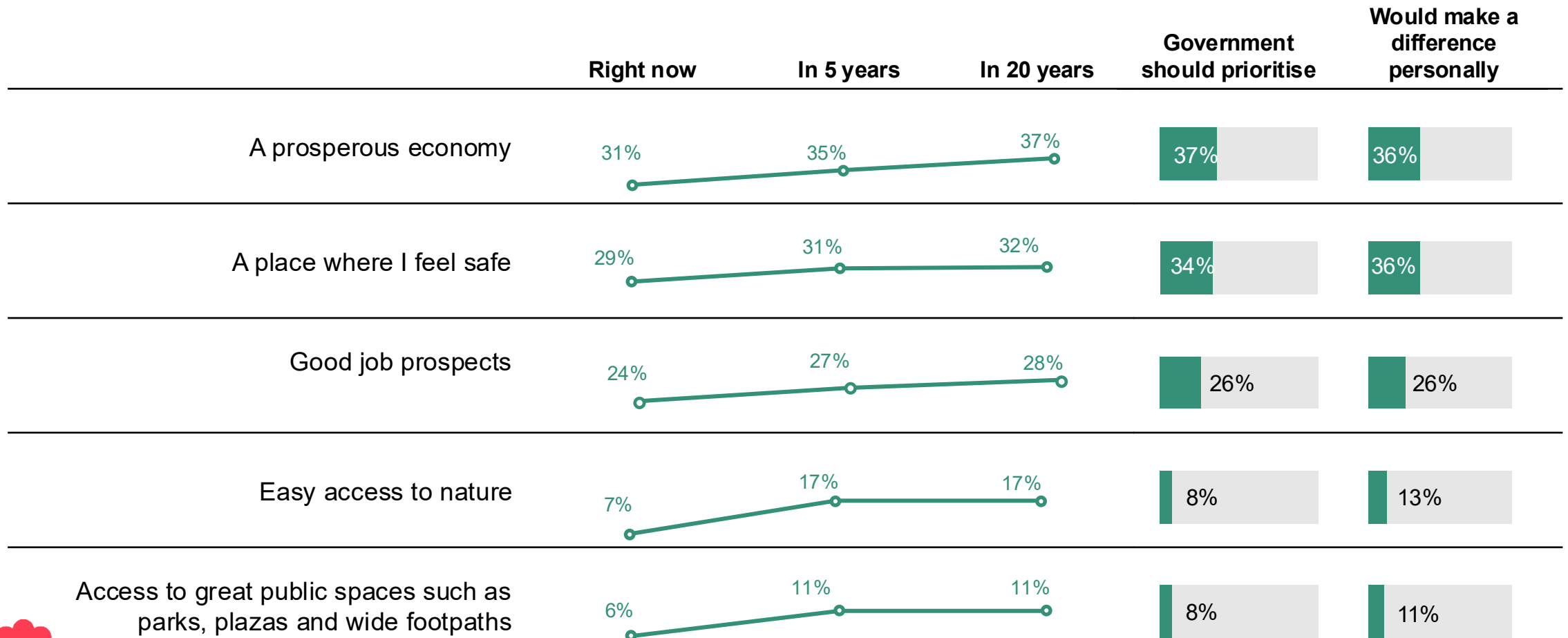
> Three most important issues facing Sydney today (%)



> Biggest challenges for Sydney...



> Biggest challenges for Sydney...

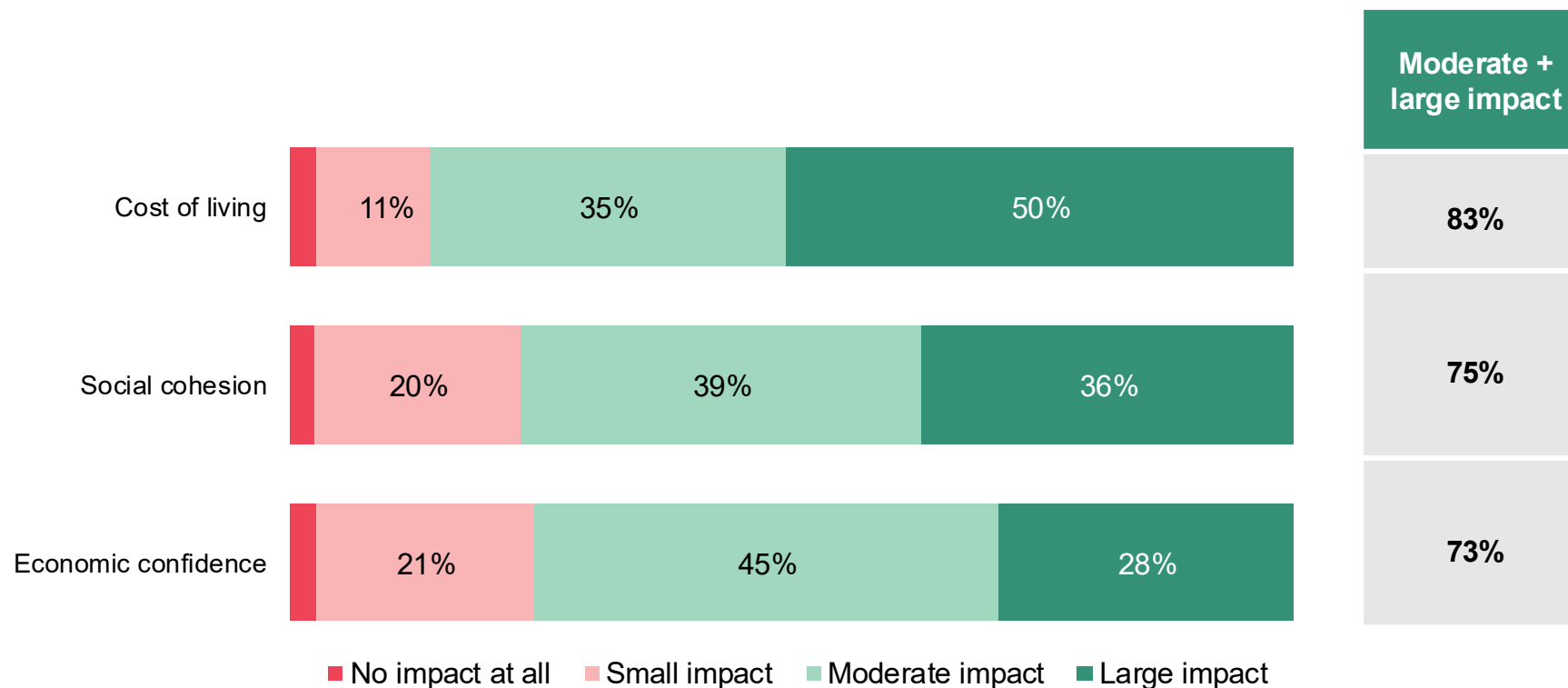


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Q145. Which three of the areas below do you think are the biggest challenges for Sydney right now? Q146. Which three of the areas below do you think will be the biggest challenges for Sydney in 5 years/20 years? Q147. Which three of the areas below do you think our governments should prioritise improving for Sydney? Q148. Which three of the area below would make the biggest difference to you personally if they were improved?

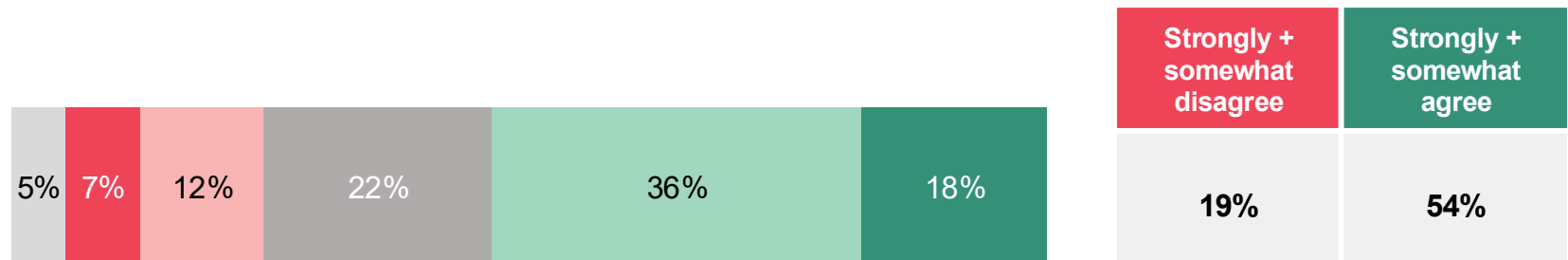
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)

➤ How much do you feel that global instability, for example political and economic disruption, impact the following aspects of life in Sydney?



> Quality of life in Sydney

The quality of life in Sydney is on par with the best cities in the world



■ Don't know

■ Neither agree nor disagree

■ Strongly disagree

■ Somewhat agree

■ Somewhat disagree

■ Strongly agree

More likely to say
somewhat + strongly agree



63%

Satisfied



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Q180. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Data 3% and below not labelled
Note: Question added in 2026.



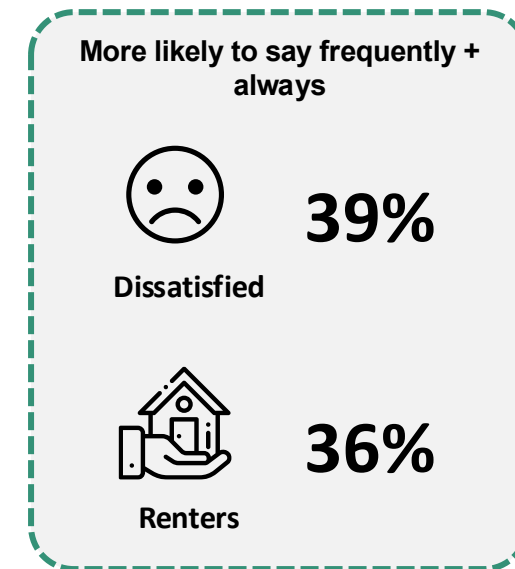
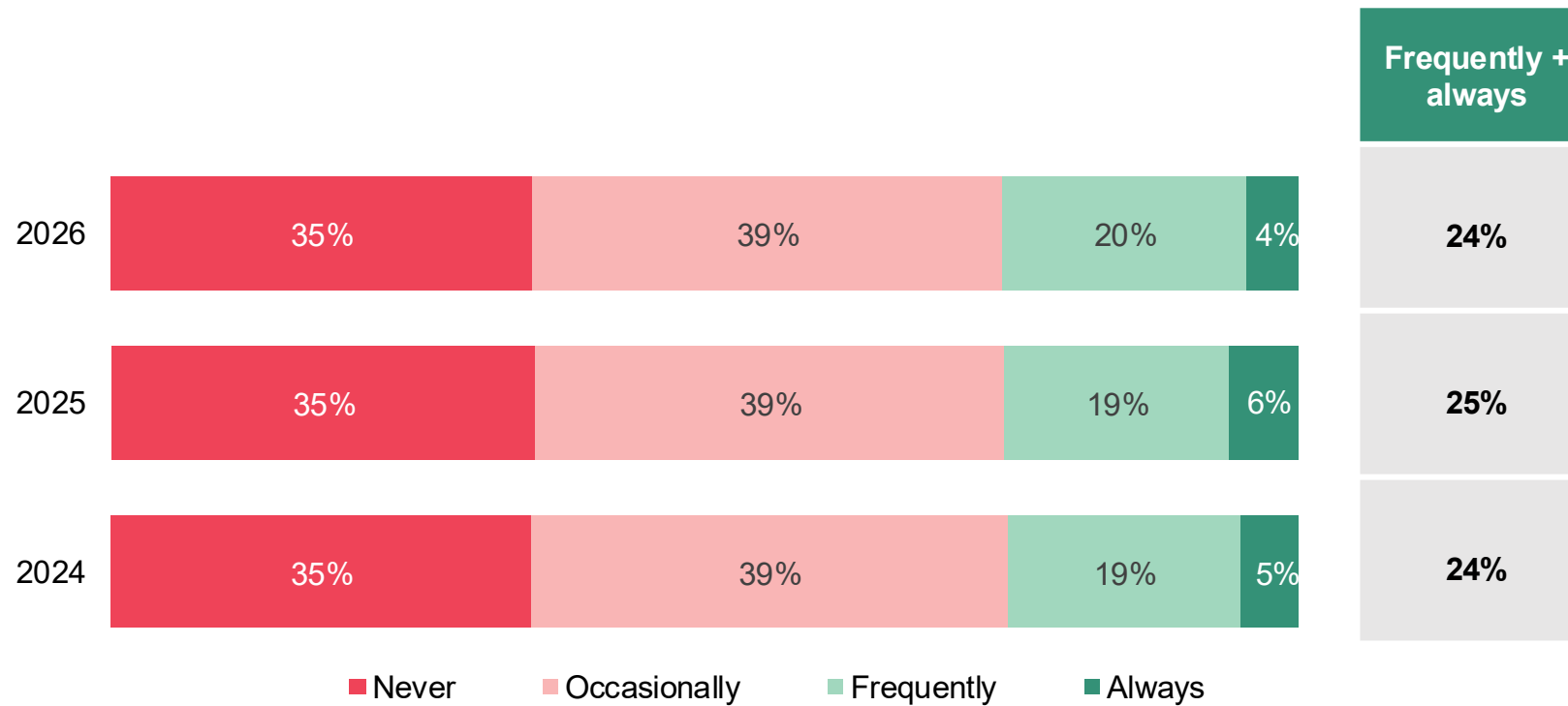
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Cost of living



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➤ How often do you go without essentials

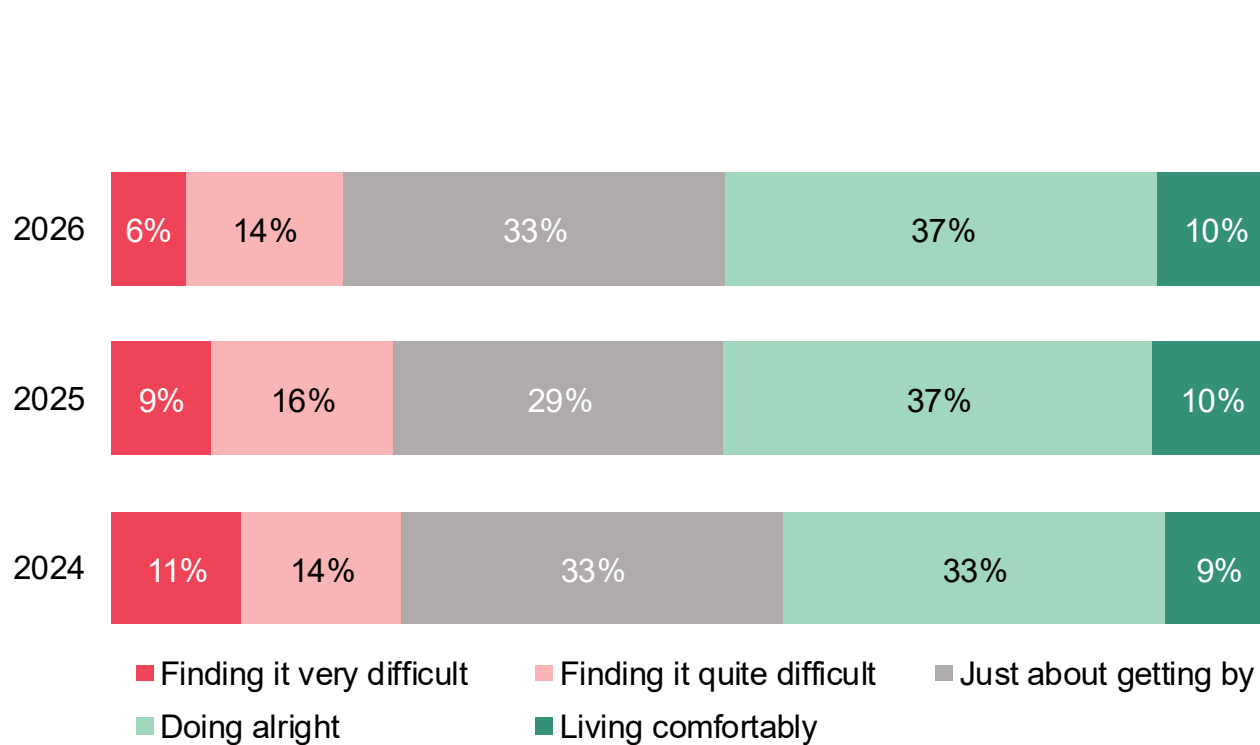


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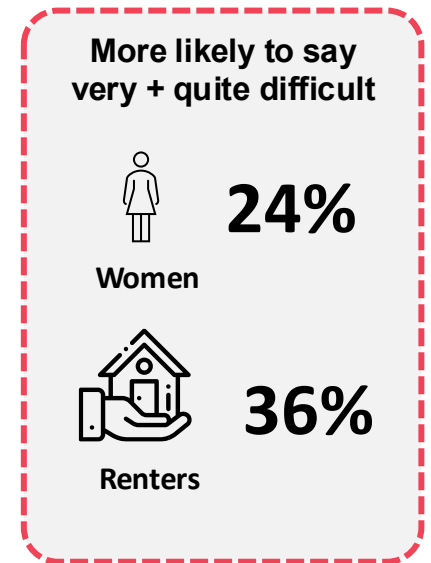
Q44. How often go without essentials
Base: Sydney 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)



> How well would you say you are managing financially these days?



Very + quite difficult	Doing alright + living comfortably
20%	47%
24%	47%
25%	42%

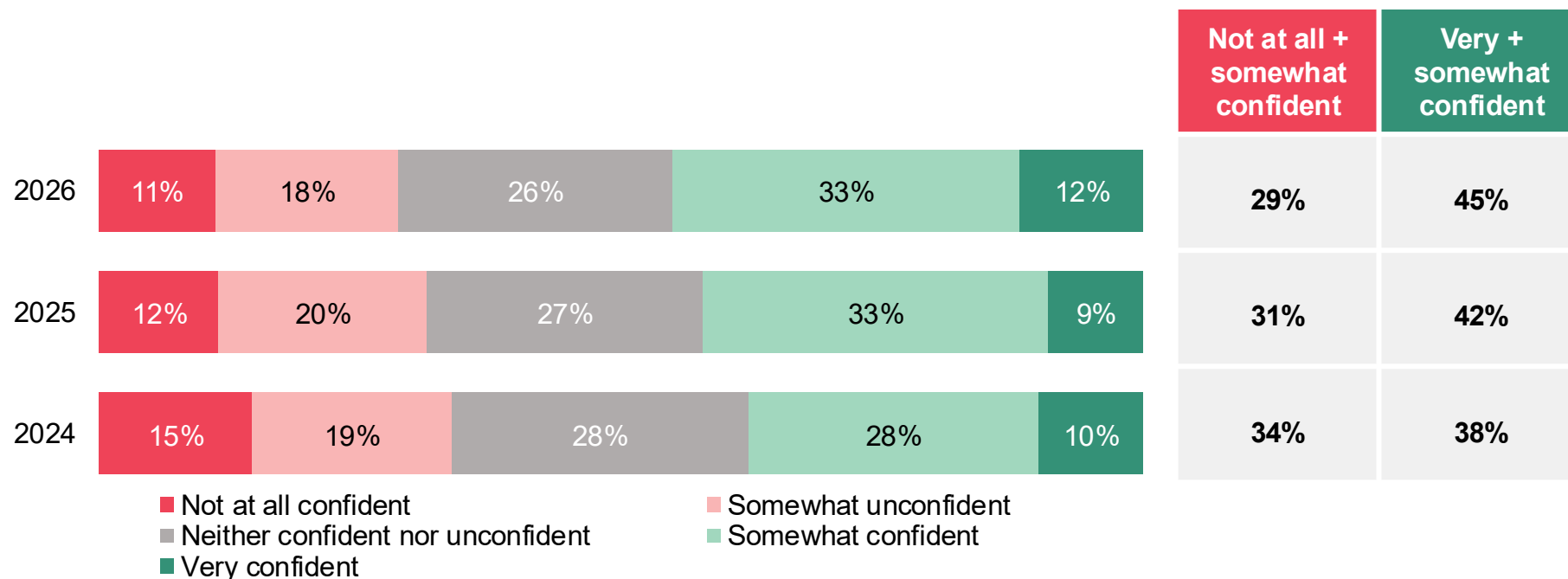


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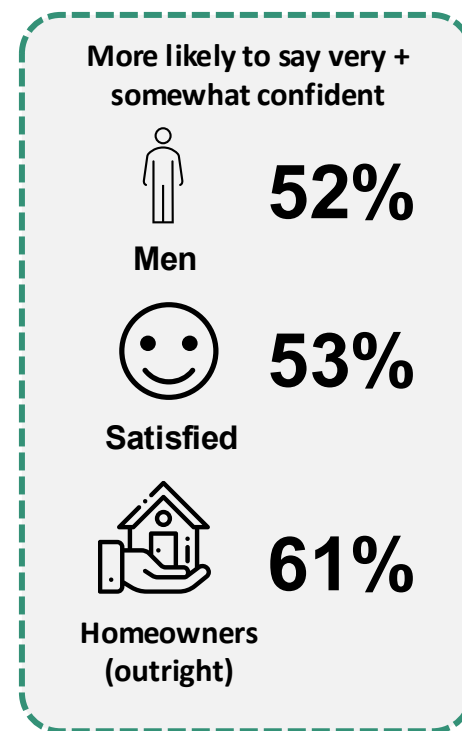
Q107. How well would you say you are managing financially these days?
Base: Sydney 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)



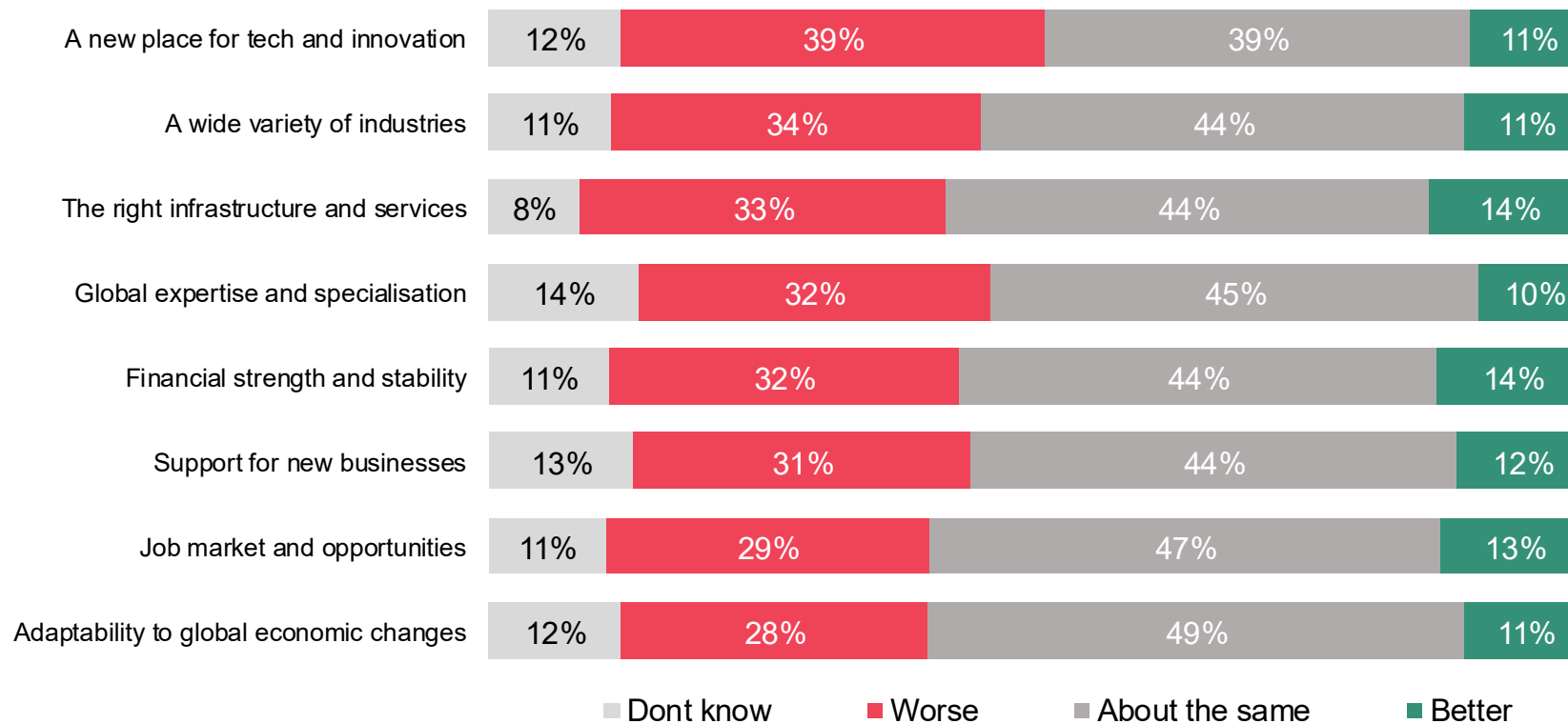
➤ How confident are you that you will have the financial means over the next 20 years to support the lifestyle you want to lead?



Not at all + somewhat confident	Very + somewhat confident
29%	45%
31%	42%
34%	38%



➤ How do you think Sydney's economy compares to other big global cities like New York, London or Singapore in the following areas..





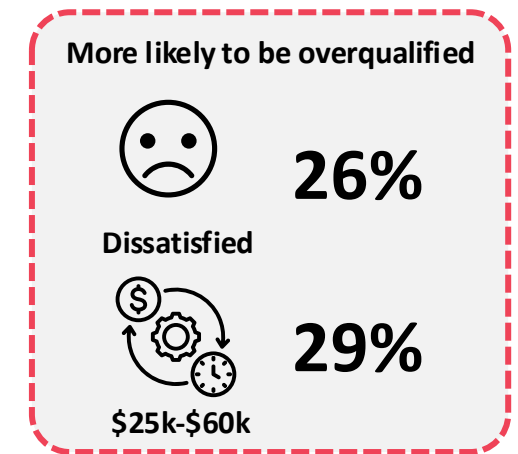
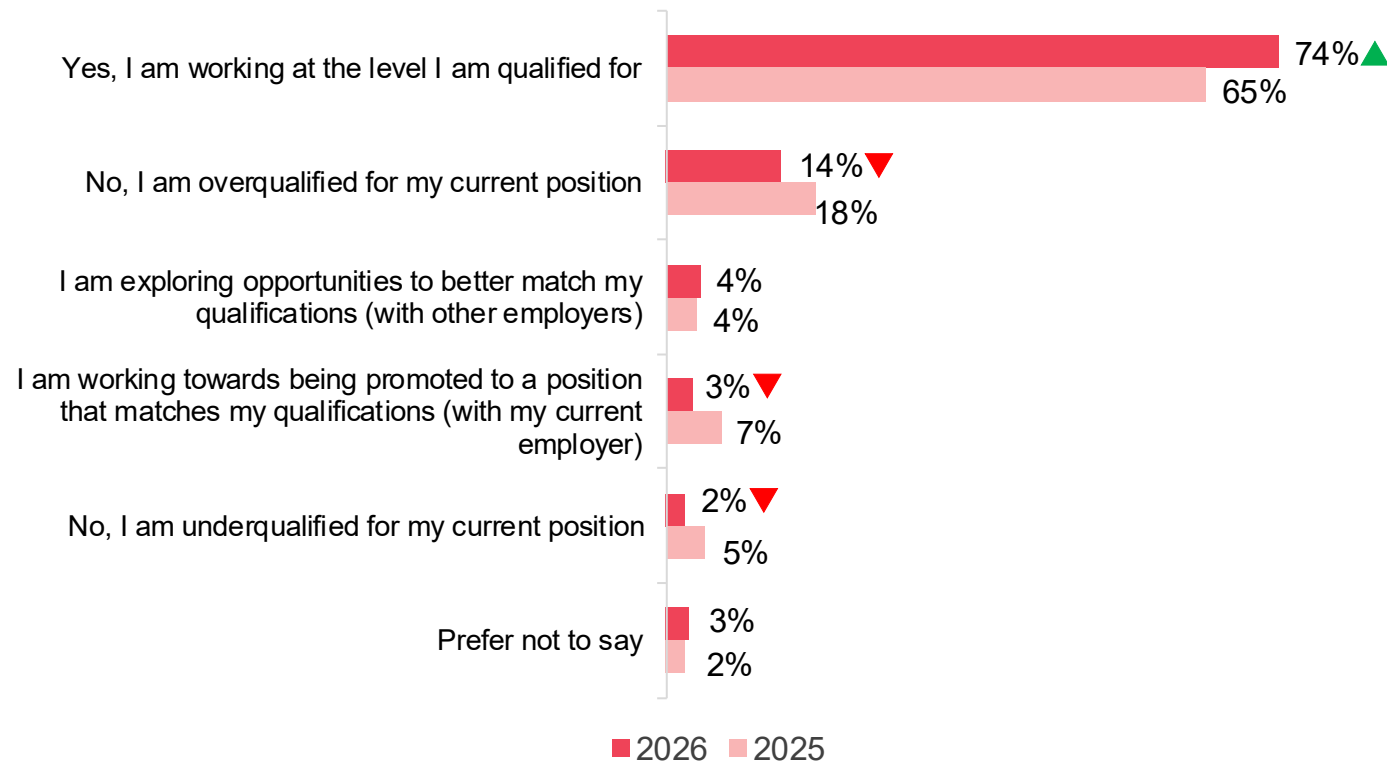
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Underemployment



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> Are you currently working at the level that you are qualified to work at?



➤ Thinking about your career over the next 5 years, how likely are you to do each of the following?

More likely to pursue additional qualifications



CALD



Working 35+ hours per week

33%

64%

More likely to return to study

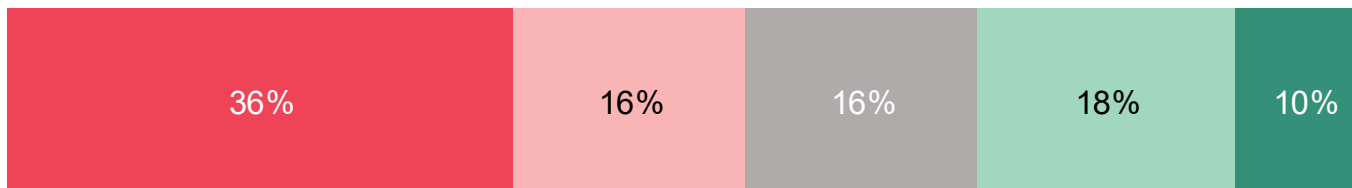
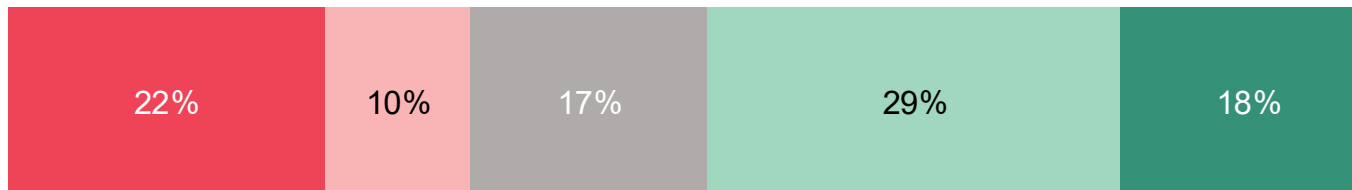


Living with family

26%

Pursue additional skills training or certification

Return to study for a degree or qualification



Very unlikely

Somewhat likely

Somewhat unlikely

Very likely

Neither likely nor unlikely

Very unlikely + somewhat unlikely

33%

Very likely + somewhat likely

47%

52%

28%



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Q152 Thinking about your career over the next 5 years, how likely are you to do each of the following?

Base: Sydney 2026 (n=2026)

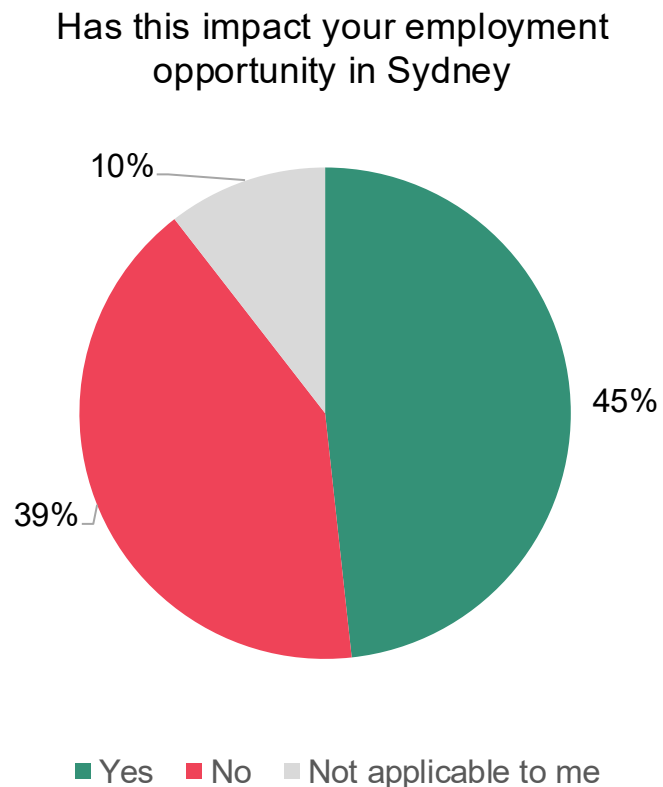
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes. Data under 3% not labelled. Question added in 2026.



> Overseas qualification that hasn't been recognised in Australia and its impact on employment opportunities in Sydney

12%

Claimed to have overseas qualifications that hasn't been recognised in Australia



"I can not get a job that I am interested in and have expertise in, so I end up doing jobs that I don't like for a living."

"Impacted my self-confidence to compete for good jobs."

"I have to go through exams, and I still don't get what I was qualified for."

"Lower pay, menial tasks, repetitive jobs."

"I had to change my qualification to satisfy the existing job requirements."



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Q153 Do you have an overseas qualification, such as diplomas, degrees, or industry qualifications that hasn't been recognised in Australia?

Q154 You mentioned that you have overseas qualification that hasn't been recognised in Australia. Has this impact your employment opportunities in Sydney?

Base: Q153. Sydney 2026 (n=1000), Q154. Sydney 2026 (n=126)





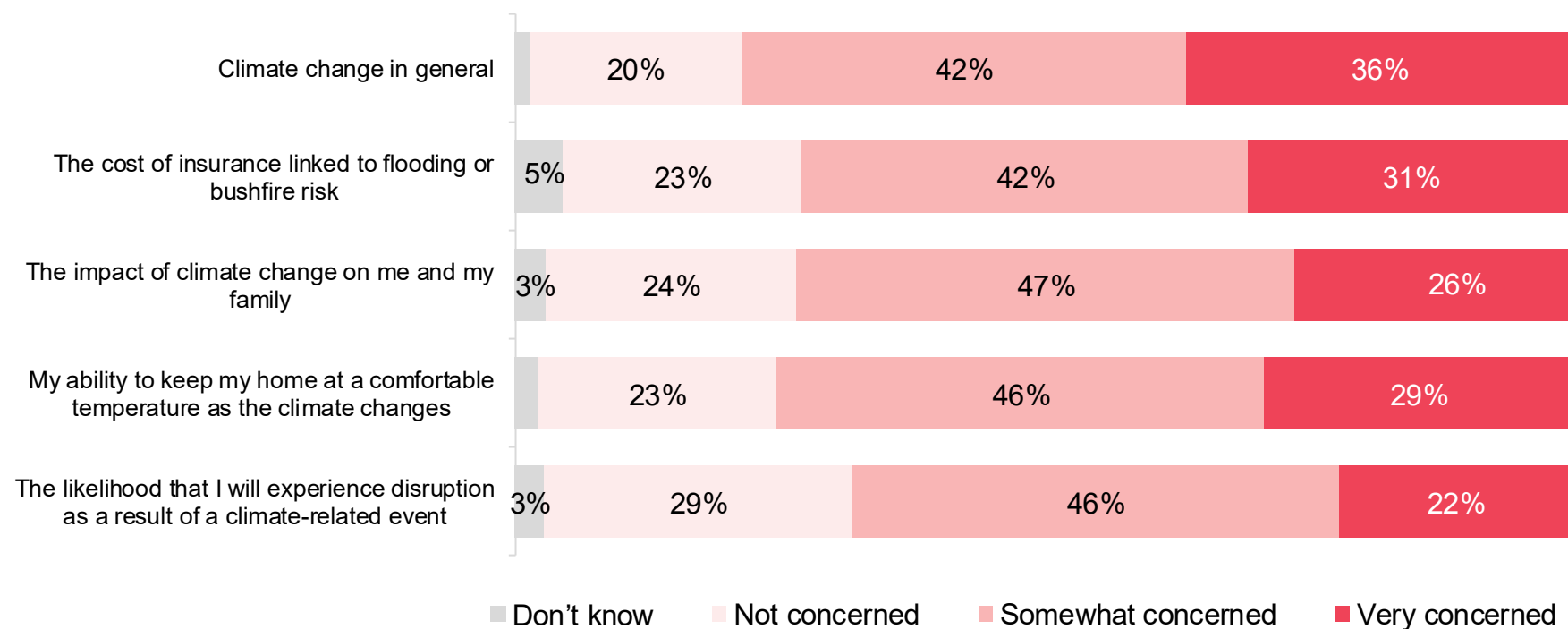
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Climate change and resilience



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> How concerned are you about...?



Somewhat + very concerned

	2024	2025	2026
Climate change in general	76%	75%	79%
The cost of insurance linked to flooding or bushfire risk	-	-	73%
The impact of climate change on me and my family	71%	73%	73%
My ability to keep my home at a comfortable temperature as the climate changes	69%	67%	75%▲
The likelihood that I will experience disruption as a result of a climate-related event	-	-	68%



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CC13. How concerned are you about...? Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled.

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years



➤ How likely do you think it is that each of the following events will directly impact your household in the next 5 years?

More likely to say no/almost no chance + very slight possibility



Baby Boomers

73%
(Floods)

58%
(Bushfires)



it outright

71%
(Floods)

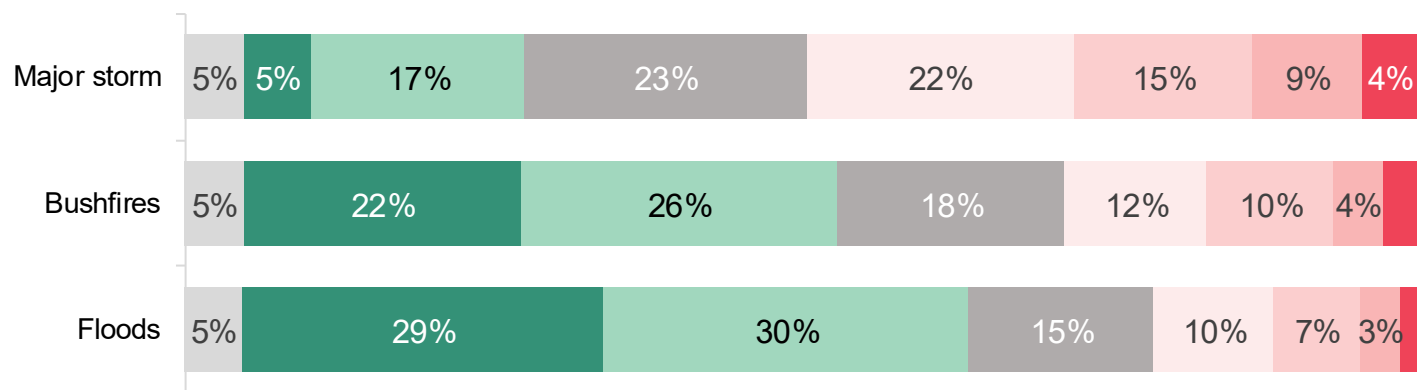
58%
(Bushfires)

More likely to say probable + almost sure + certain



West

42%
(Bushfires)



Don't know

Very slight possibility (1 in 10)

Fairly good possibility (5 in 10)

Almost sure (9 in 10)

No chance, almost no chance (1 in 100)

Some possibility (3 in 10)

Probable (7 in 10)

Certain, practically certain (99 in 100)

No chance + very slight possibility

Probable + almost sure + certain

59%

12%

48%

17%

23%

28%

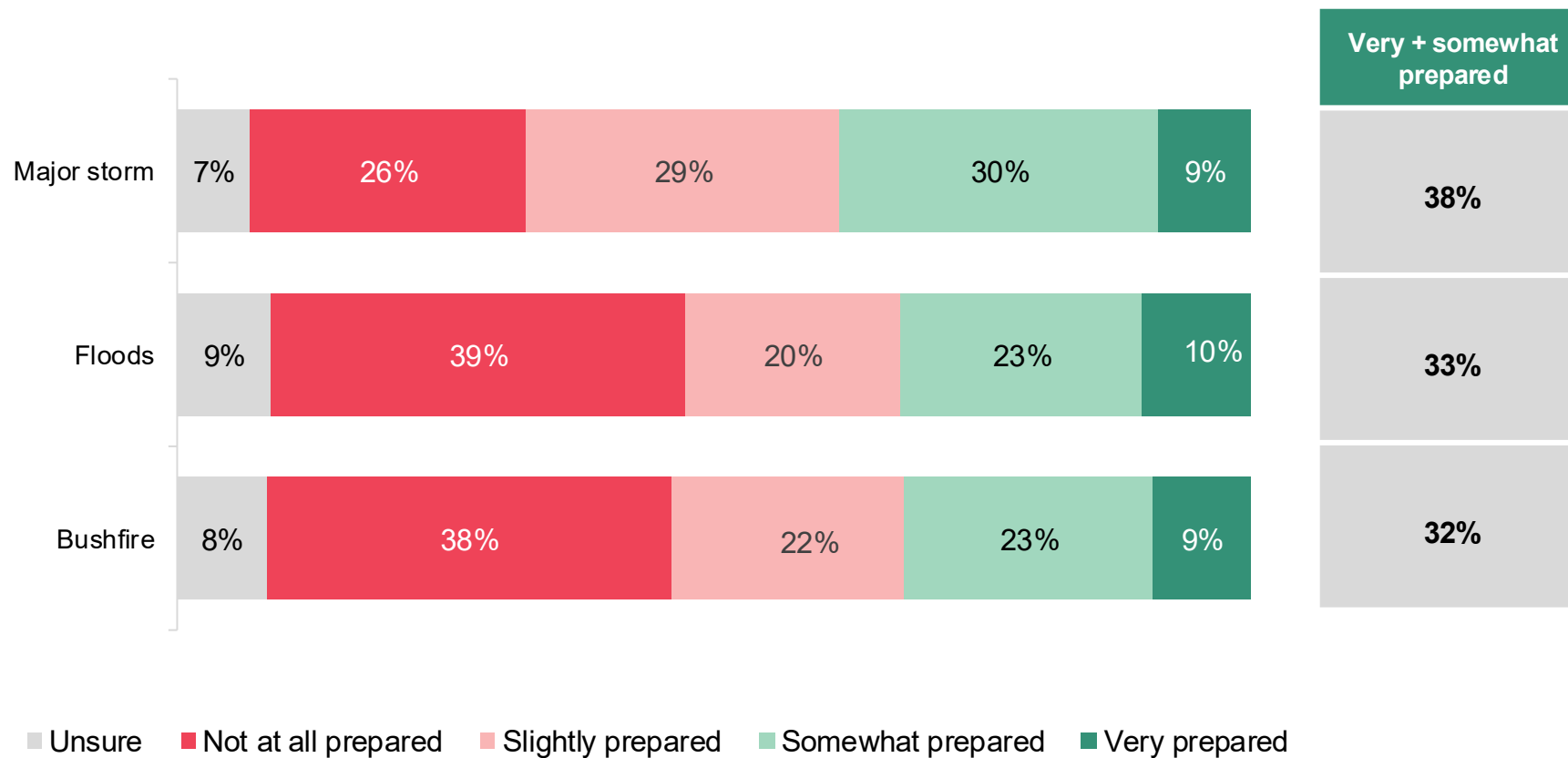
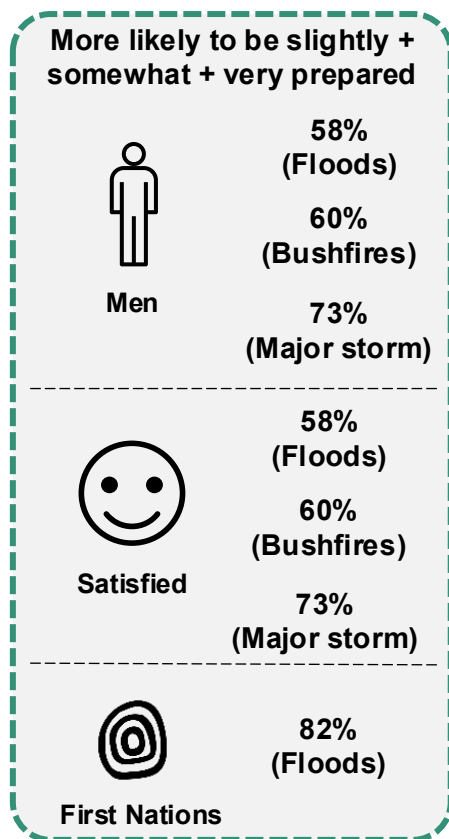


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Q161. How likely do you think it is that each of the following events will directly impact your household in the next 5 years? Data 3% and under not labeled
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled.



> How prepared do you think your household is for a major hazard event such as flood, bushfire or major storm?



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Q162. How prepared do you think your household is for a major hazard event such as flood, bushfire or major storm?
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)





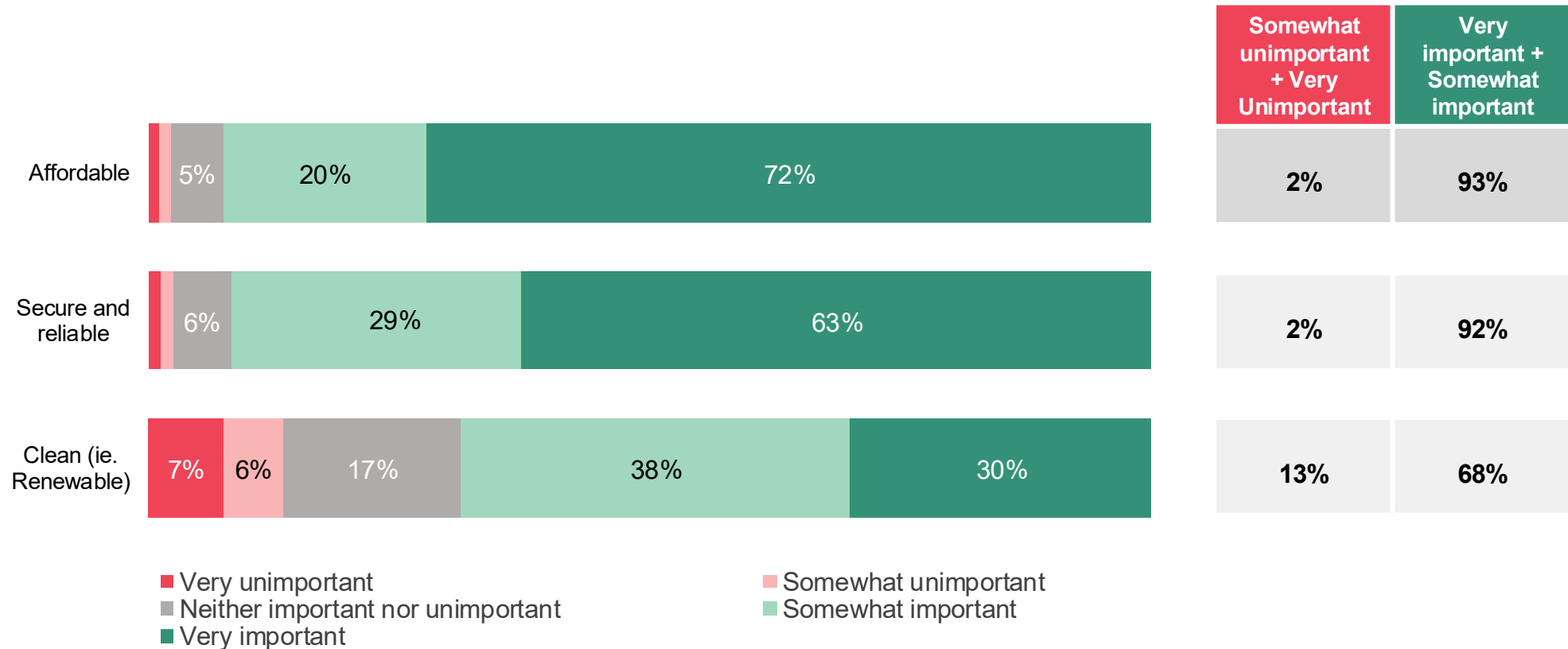
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Energy

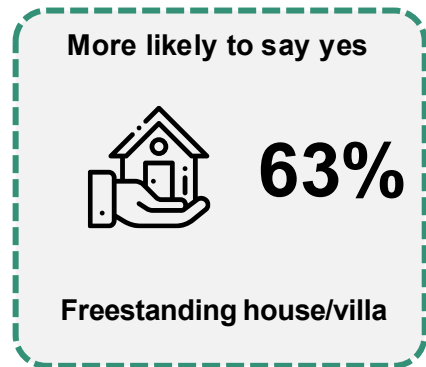


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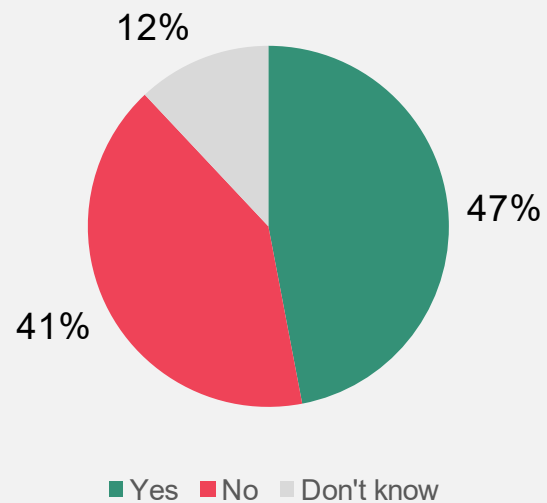
> How important is it to you that your energy is:



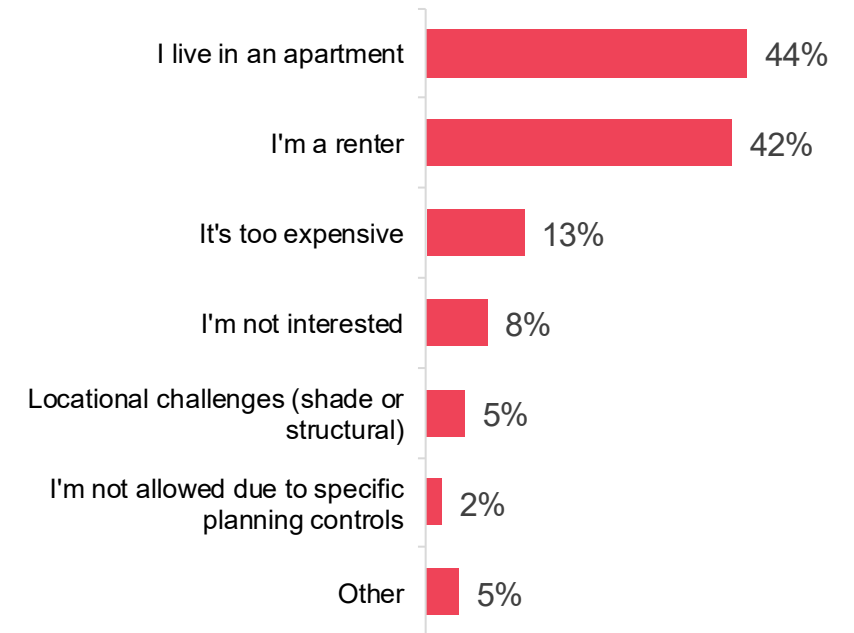
➤ Is it possible for you to install a rooftop solar system at your home (and if not, why not)?



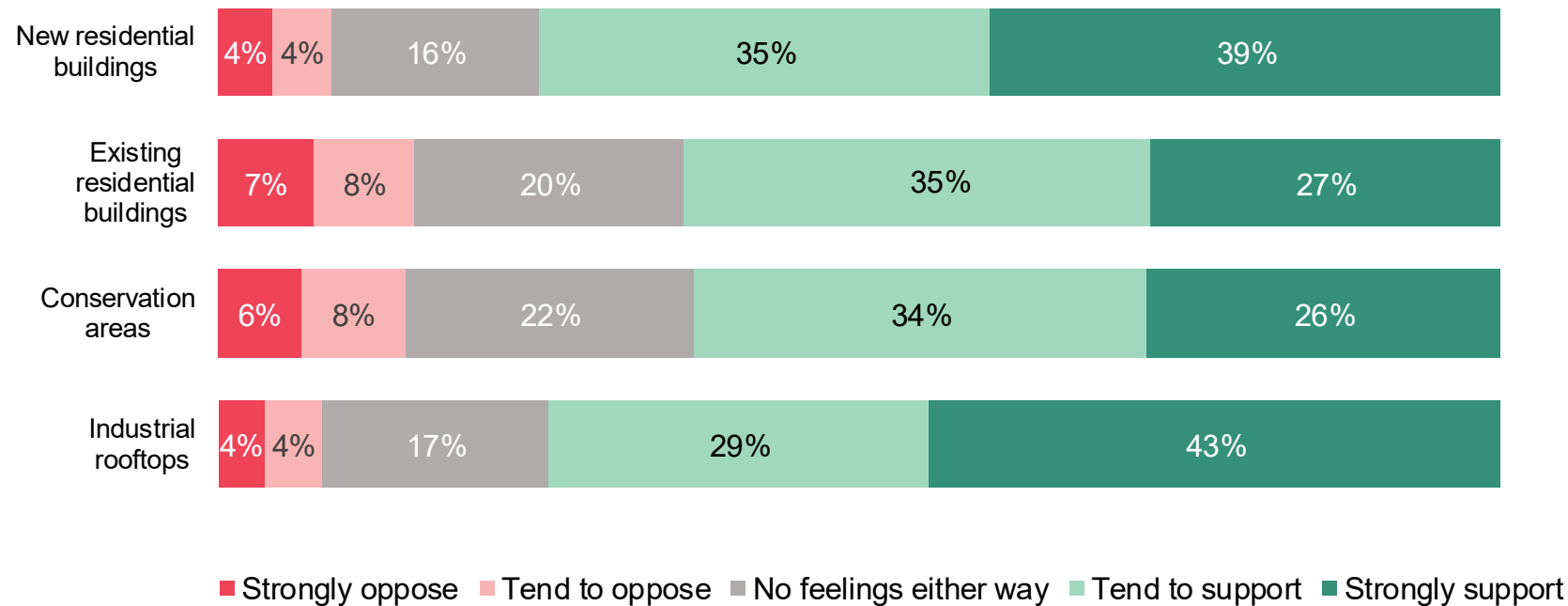
Is it possible for you to install a rooftop solar system at your home?



Why is it not possible for you to install a rooftop solar system at your home?

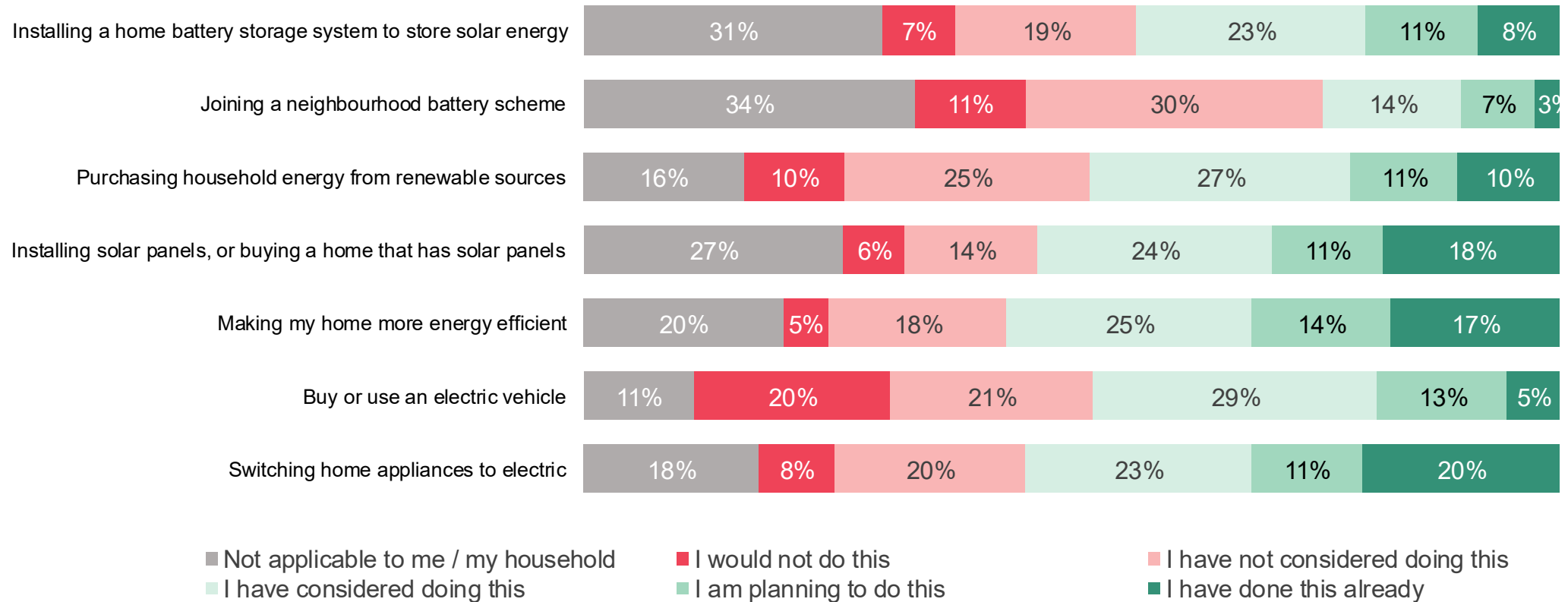


> To what extent would you support or oppose mandating solar panels on the following:

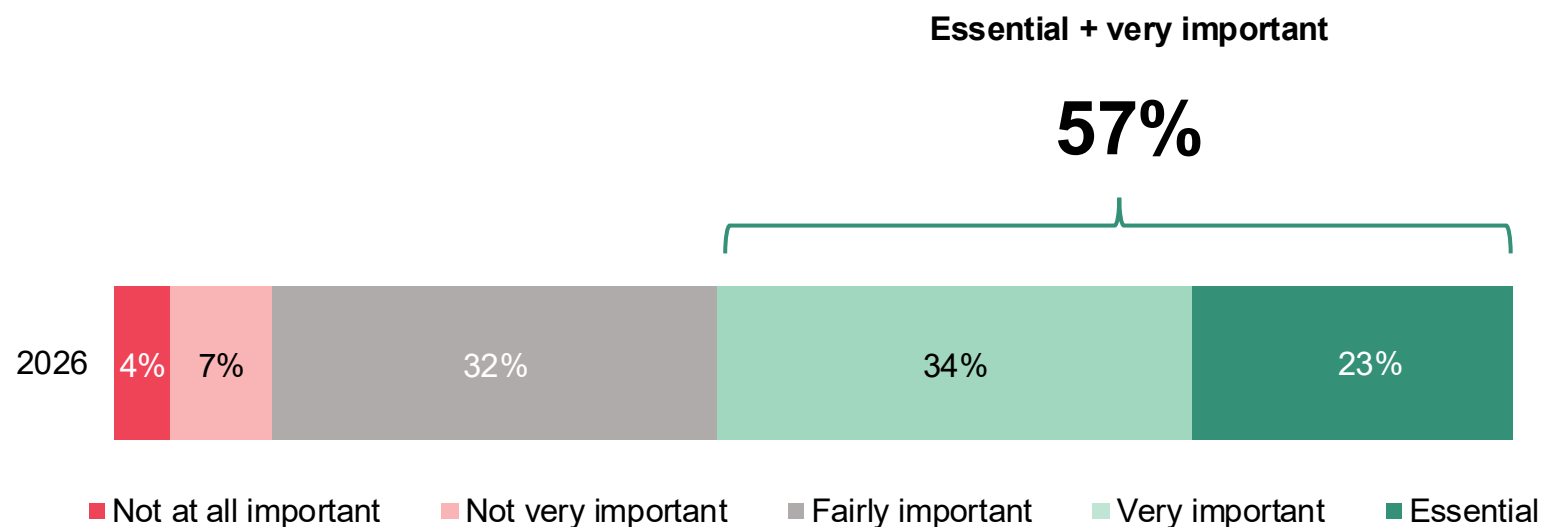


Strongly + tend to oppose	Strongly + Tend to support
9%	73%
15%	62%
14%	60%
8%	72%

Plans for home batteries and larger neighbourhood-scale batteries



➤ How important do you think it is for governments to encourage Sydney households to install renewable energy capacity (e.g. solar panels and batteries) on their homes?



More likely to think it is essential + very important



Millennials

63%



Satisfied

62%



CALD

66%



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Q160. How important do you think it is for governments to encourage Sydney households to install renewable energy capacity (e.g., solar panels and batteries) on their homes?
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)





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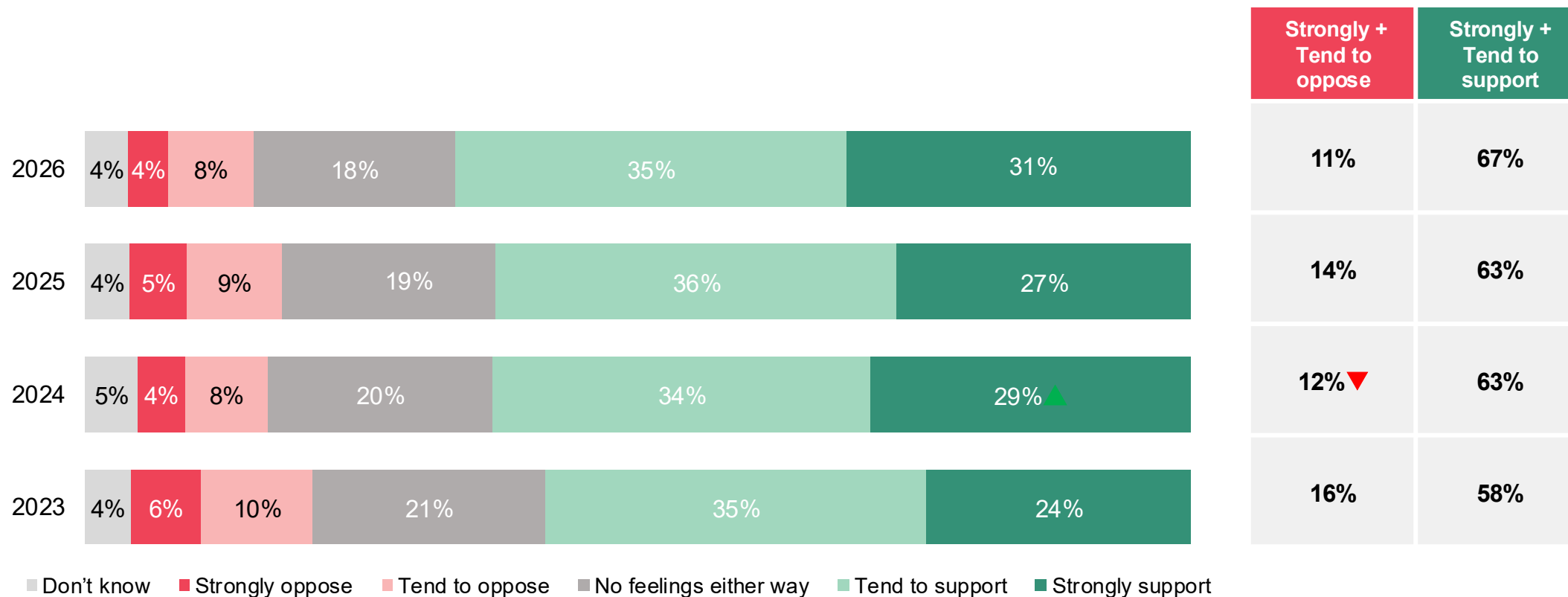
Housing and density



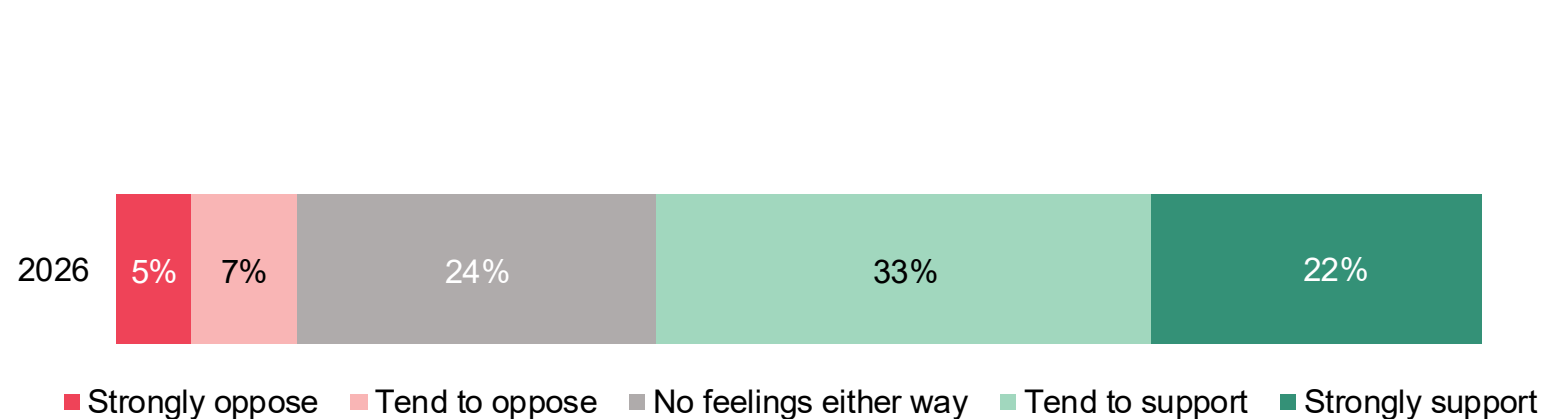
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How much do you support or oppose the building of more homes and apartments to help drive down the cost of housing?



➤ How much do you support the NSW Government buying back flood, bushfire or coastal erosion-affected housing in high-risk areas?



Strongly + Tend to oppose	Strongly + Tend to support
12%	55%

More likely to say strongly + tend to support



62%

First Nations



56%

Gen Z

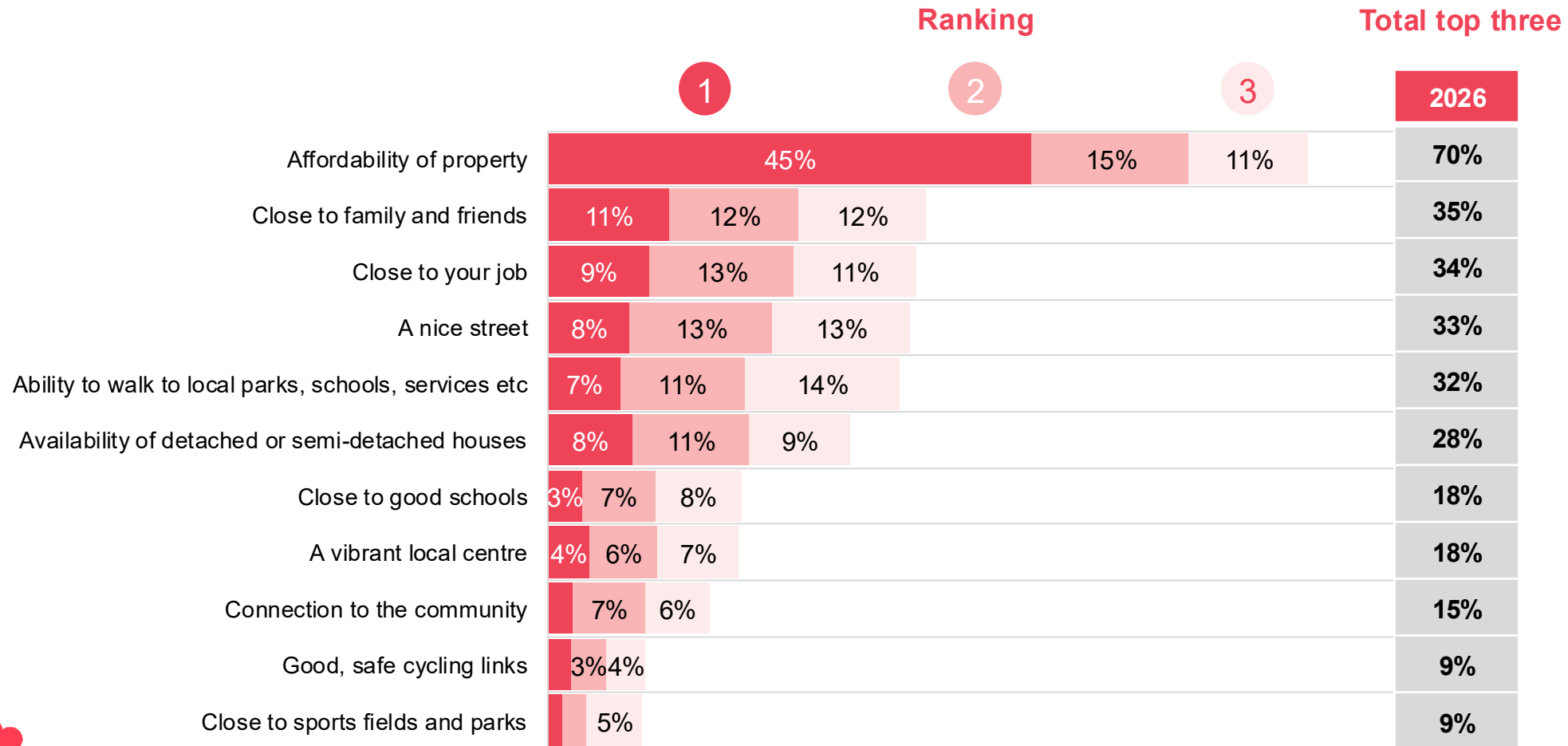


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Q76. How much do you support the NSW Government buying back flood, bushfire or coastal erosion-affected housing in high-risk areas?
 Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
 Note: Question amended in 2026.

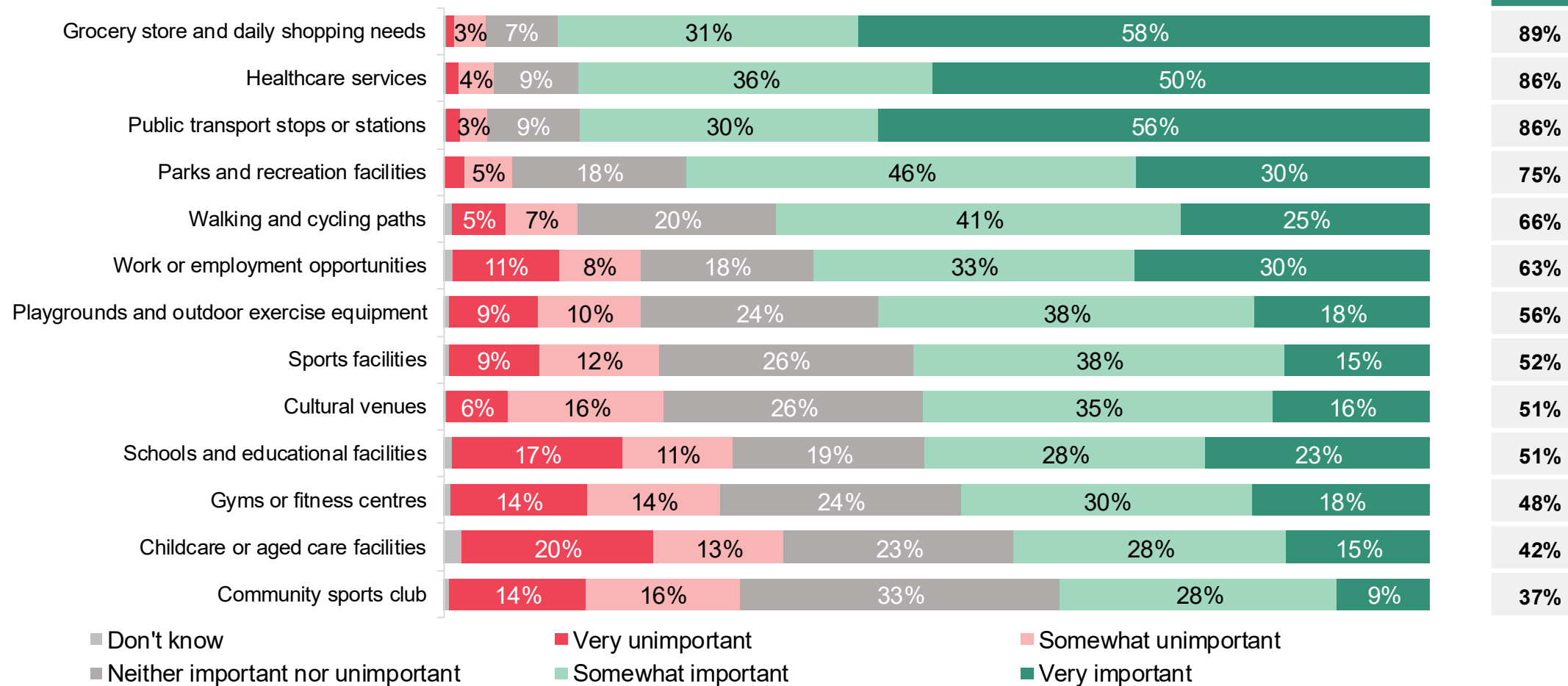


> Neighbourhood preferences

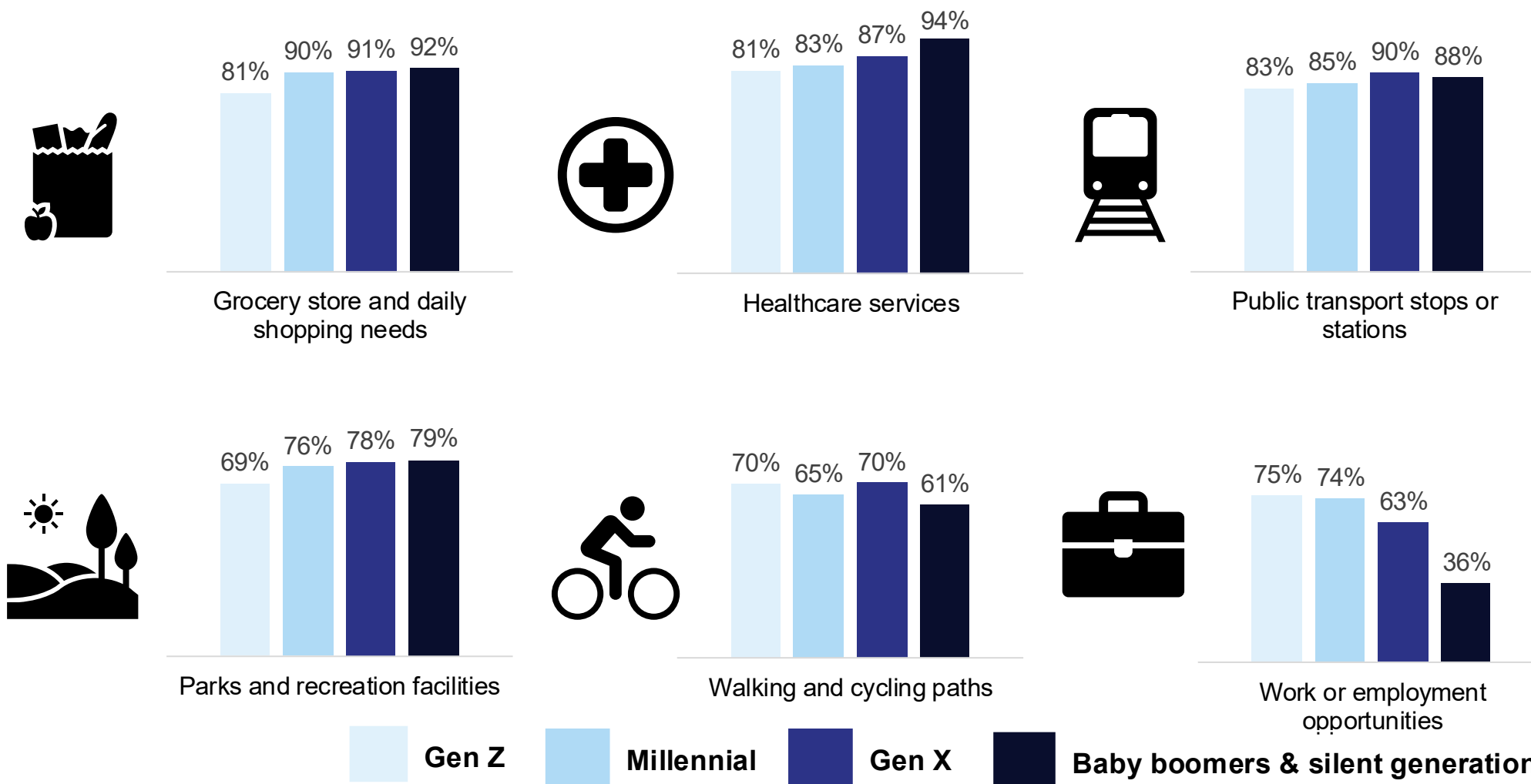


➤ How important is it to you that you can access each of the following within a 15-minute walk or cycle from your home?

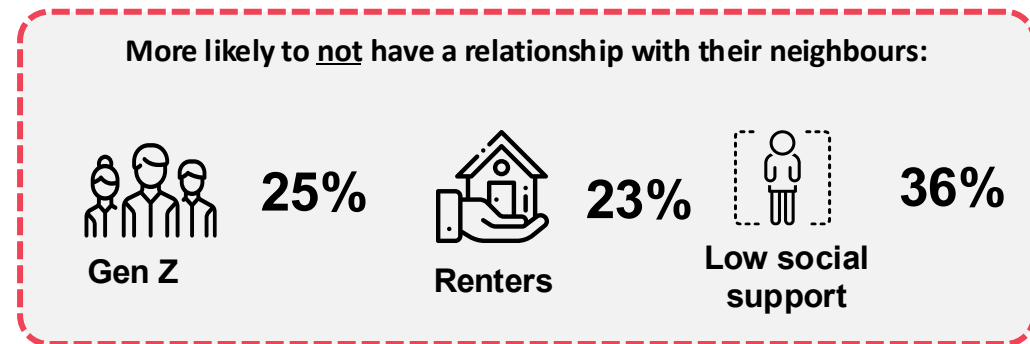
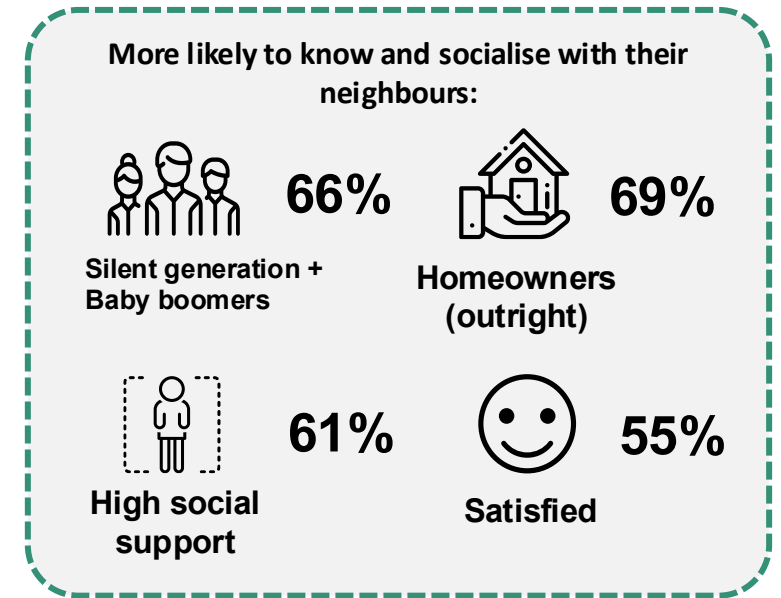
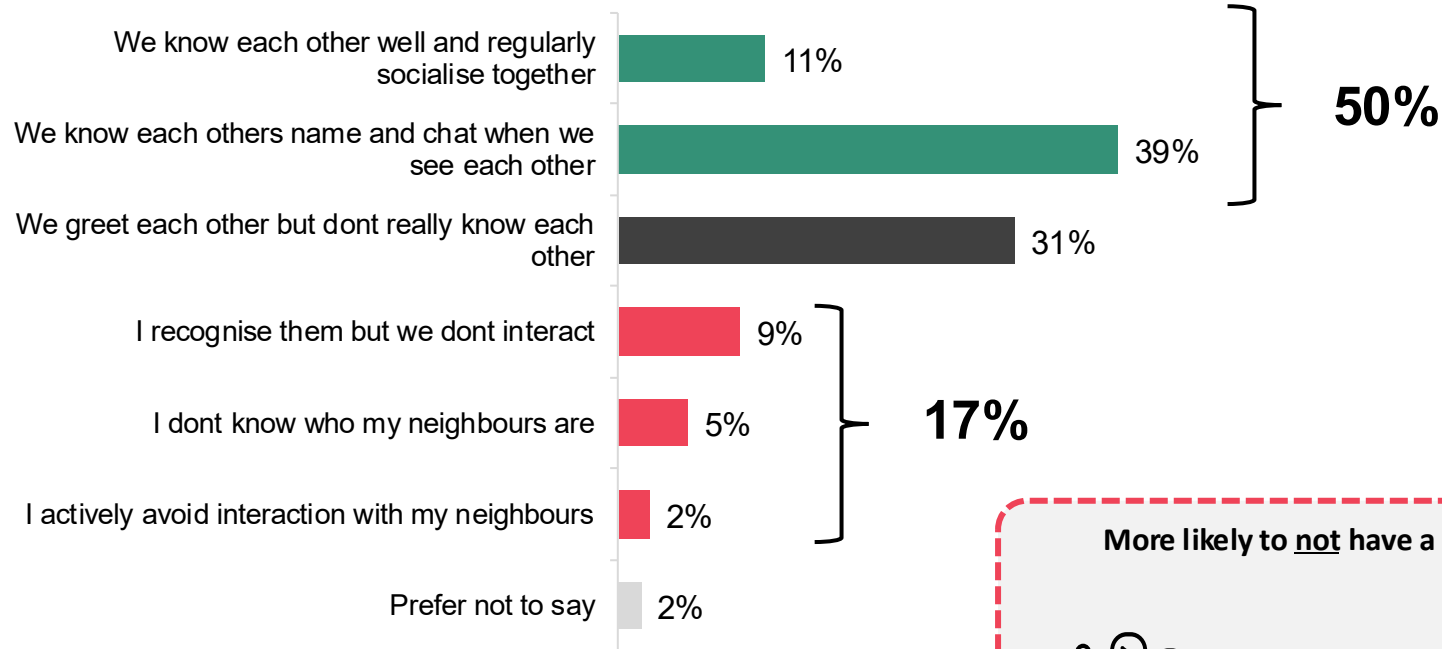
Very + somewhat Important



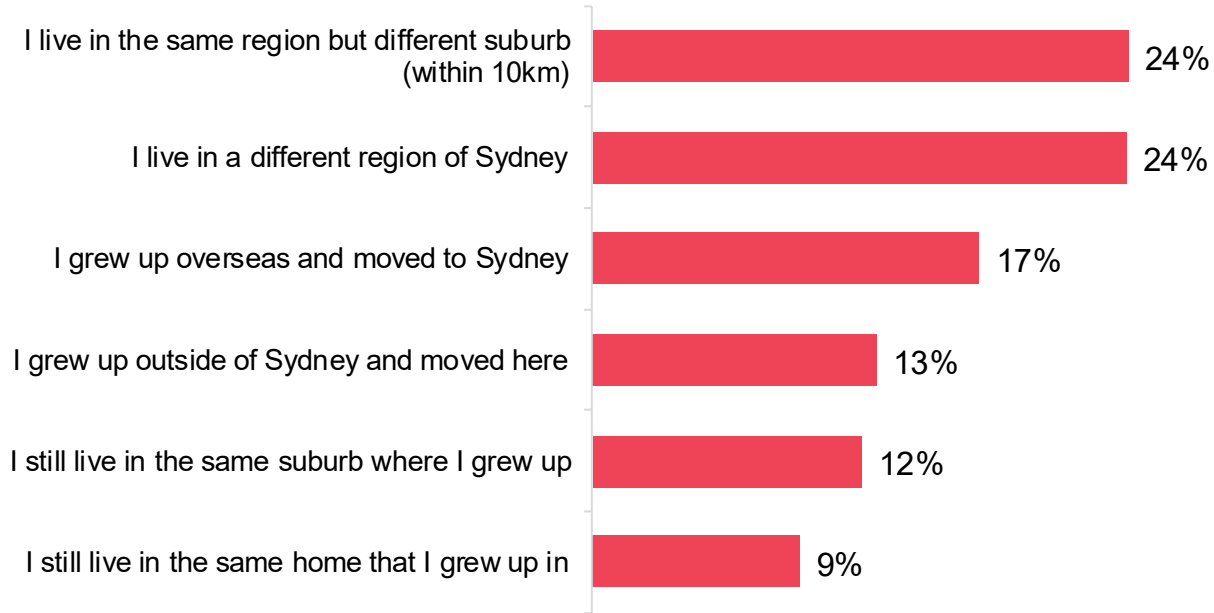
> How important is it to you that you can access each of the following within a 15-minute walk or cycle from your home? By generation



> Which of the following best describes your relationship with your neighbours?



> Which of the following best describes your current living situation, compared to where you grew up?



More likely to live in the same suburb where they grew up



Men

15%



First Nations

25%



Working 35+ hours per week

16%

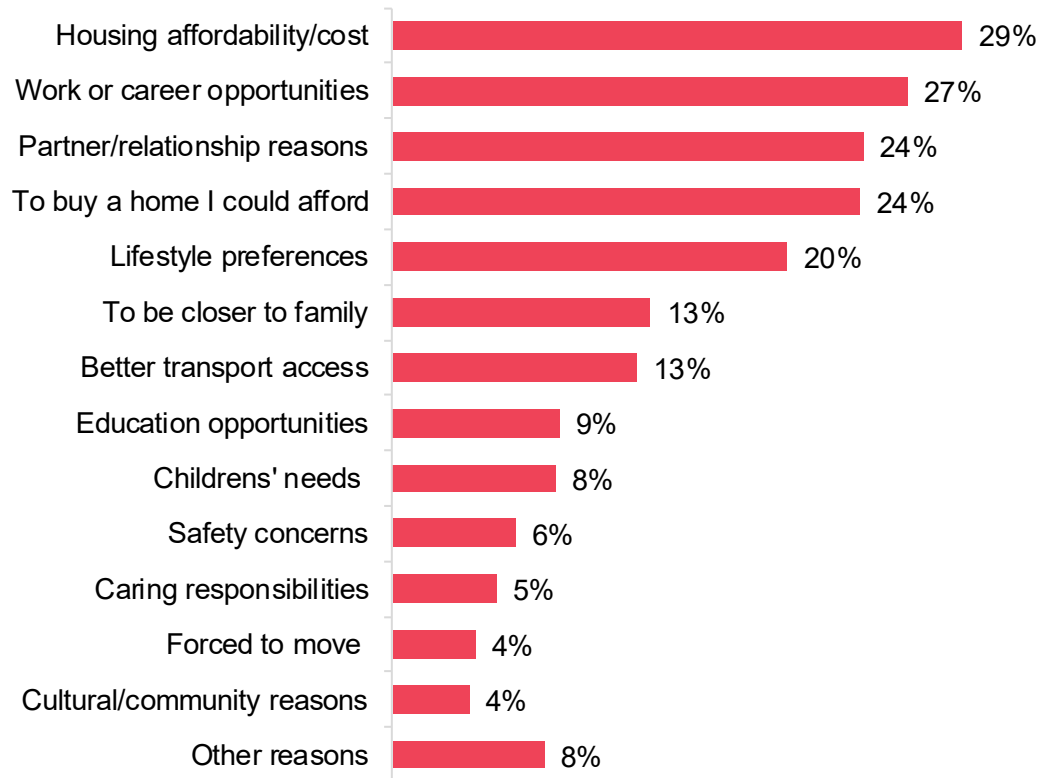


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Q165. Which of the following best describes your current living situation, compared to where you grew up?
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Question added in 2026.

> What were the reasons you moved away from where you grew up?

Among those who have moved away from where they grew up



"For better suburb."

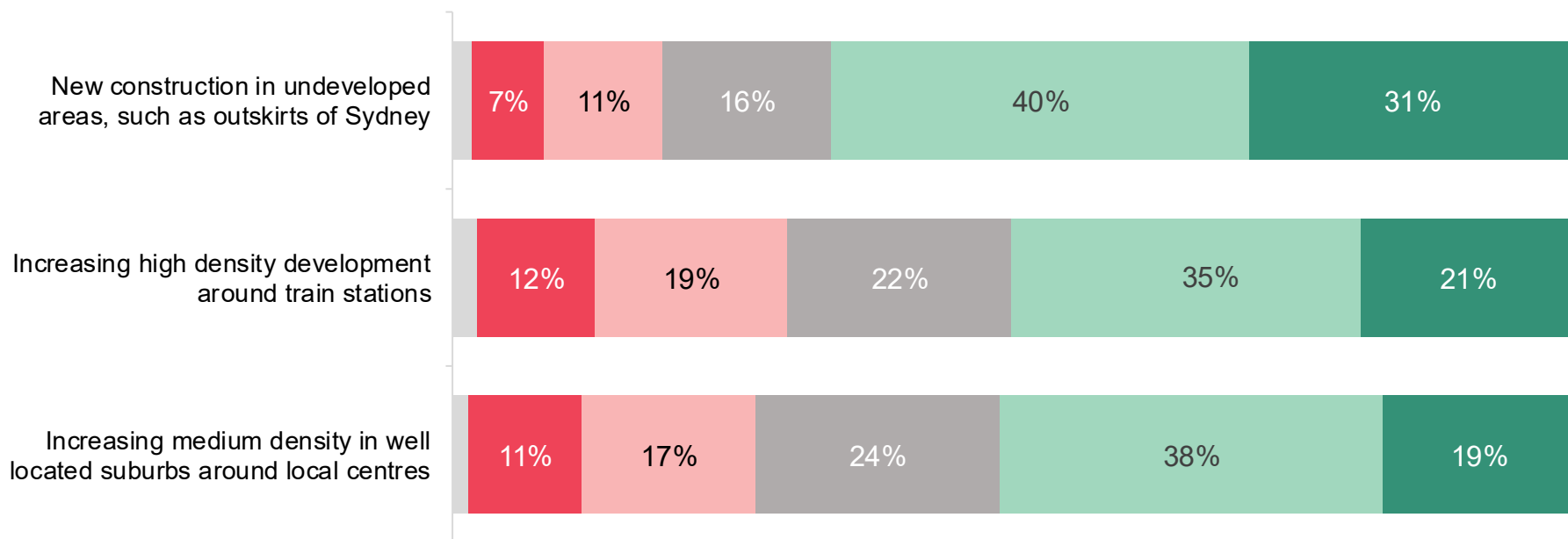
"Parents wanted to move so I moved with them."

"To be near friends and entertainment."

"People were homophobic and racist in [suburb name redacted]."

"To buy a larger house."

> To what extent do you support or oppose each of these development strategies...



Strongly + Somewhat oppose	Strongly + Somewhat support
11%	71%
19%	56%
17%	57%

■ Don't know
■ Strongly oppose
■ Somewhat oppose
■ Neutral
■ Somewhat support
■ Strongly support



Do you support or oppose increasing the density of development in each of the following areas of Sydney over the next 10 years

More likely to strongly + somewhat support



Men

51%
(Sydney CBD)



\$100-250K+
income

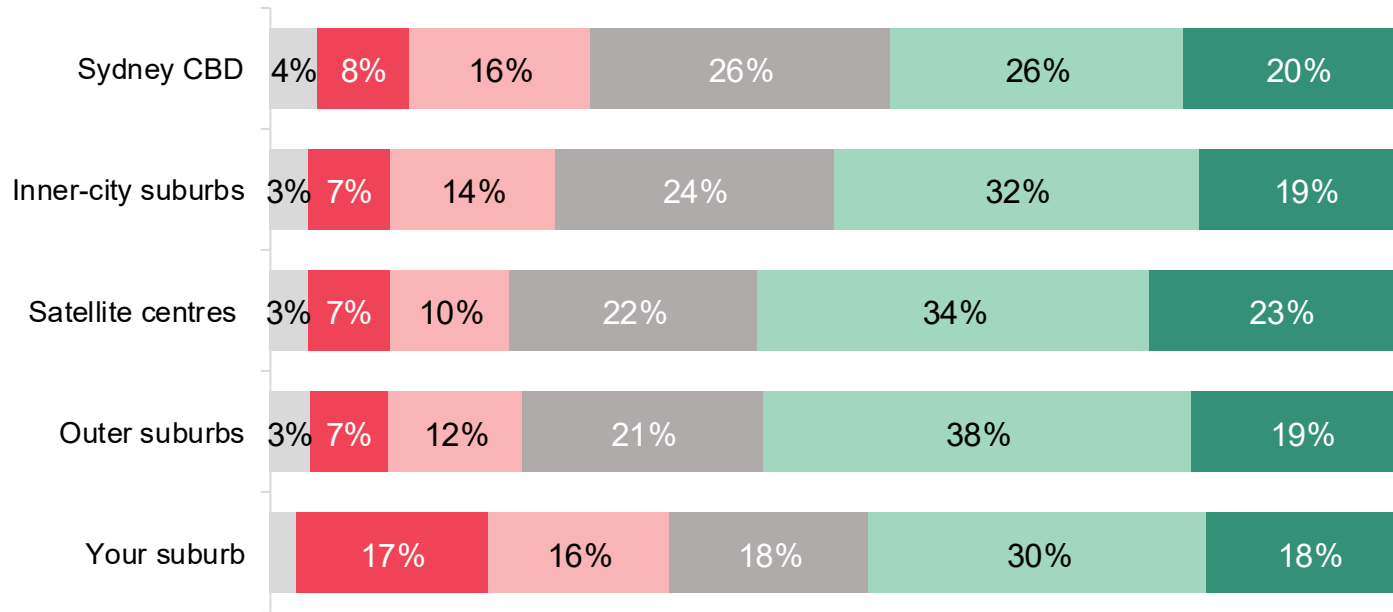
56%
(Inner-city suburbs)

More likely to strongly + somewhat oppose



Women

40%
(Your suburb)



■ Don't know ■ Strongly oppose ■ Tend to oppose
■ No feelings either way ■ Tend to support ■ Strongly support

Tend to + strongly support

2023	2024	2025	2026
39%	46%▲	49%	46%
43%	48%	53%	51%
47%	57%▲	58%	57%
50%	55%	58%	57%
39%	44%	46%	47%

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years



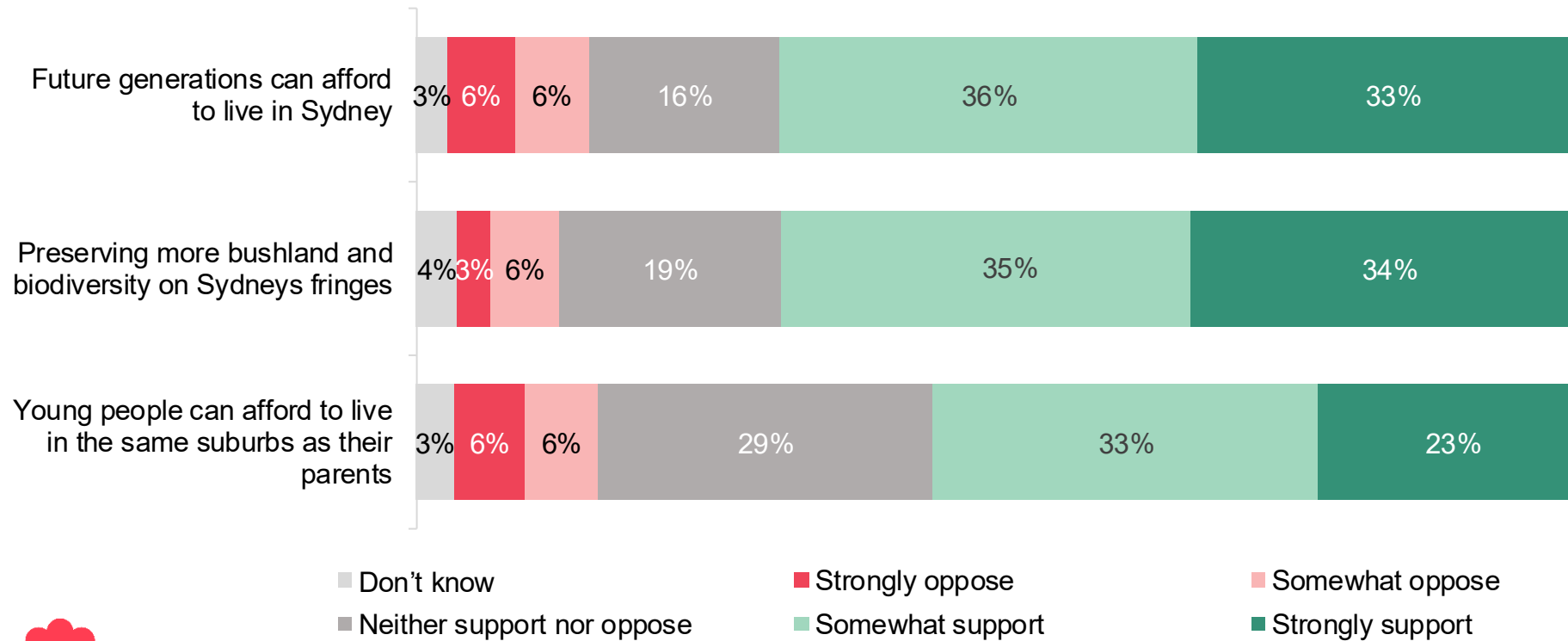
Committee
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Sydney

Q40 To what extent do you support or oppose increasing the density of development in each of the following areas of Sydney over the next 10 years?
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled.





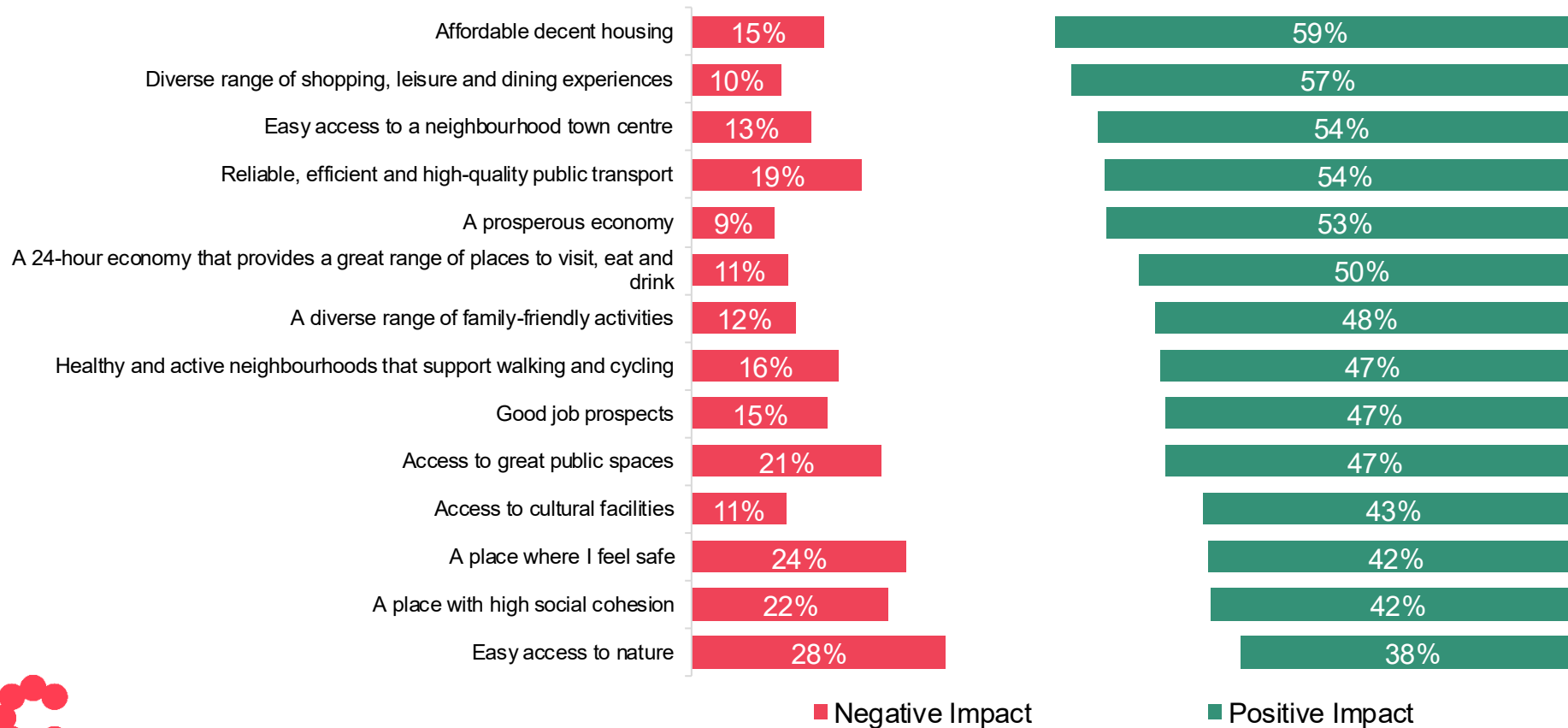
Do you support or oppose increasing density of development in Sydney if...



Strongly + Somewhat oppose	Strongly + Somewhat support
12%	69%
9%	69%
12%	56%



Do you think increasing housing density in existing communities has a positive or negative impact on..



More likely to perceive positive impact



Millennials

41%

(A place where I feel safe)



Eastern

23%

(A 24-hour economy)



Couple with children

42%

(Access to cultural facilities)



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for
Sydney

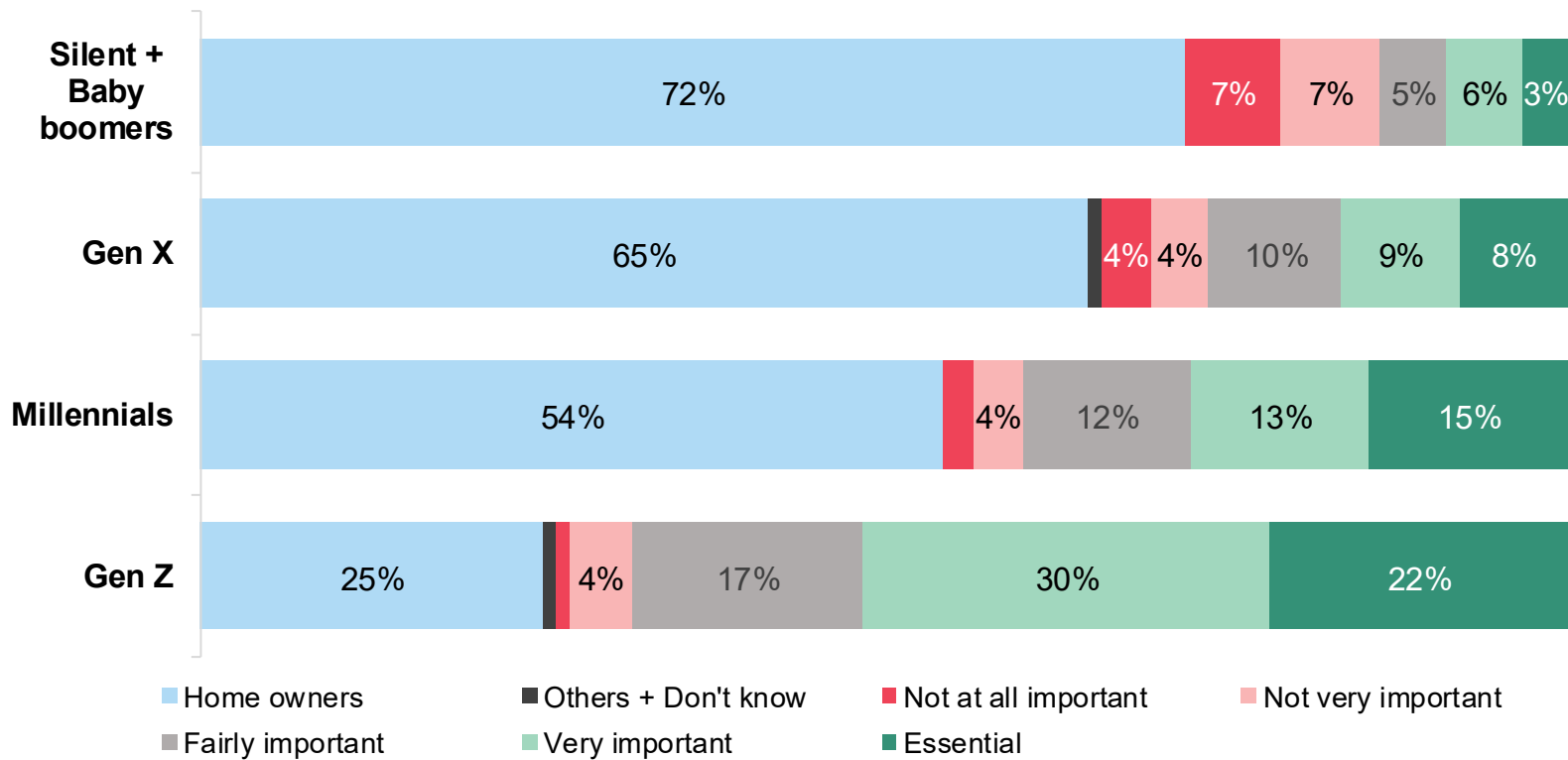
Q167. Do you think increasing housing density in existing communities has a positive or negative impact on each of the following?

Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)

Note: Question added in 2026.



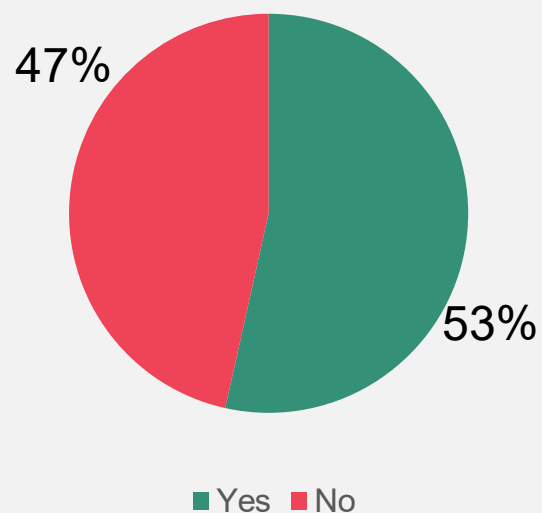
> How important is it to you that you can own your home one day?



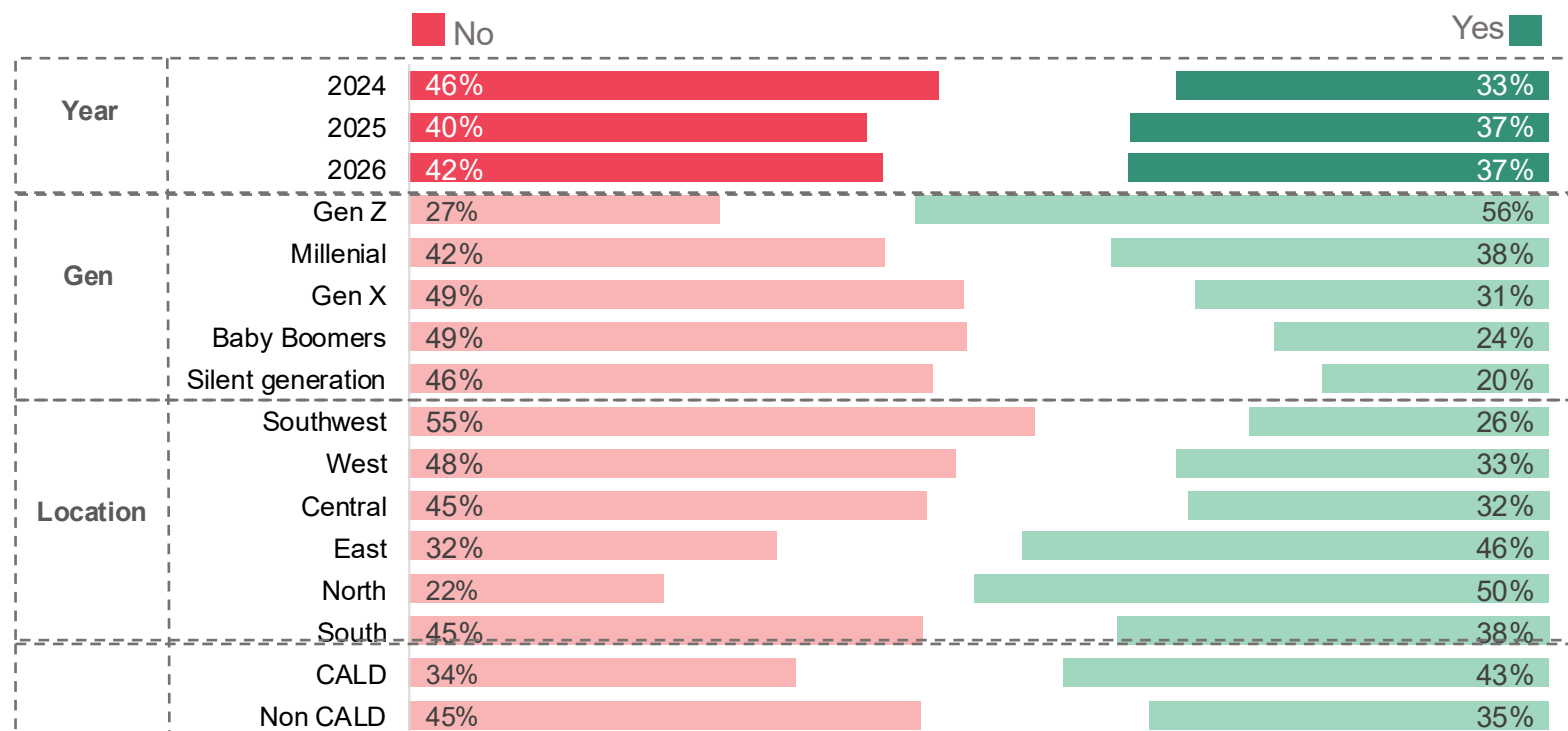
Total Essential + Fairly important + Very important		
2024	2025	2026
12%	9%	14%▲
26%	22%	26%
35%	34%	40%
40%	53%▲	68%▲

> Have you ever lived in apartment and would you consider it in the future

Have you ever lived in an apartment?



Would you consider living in an apartment in the future?



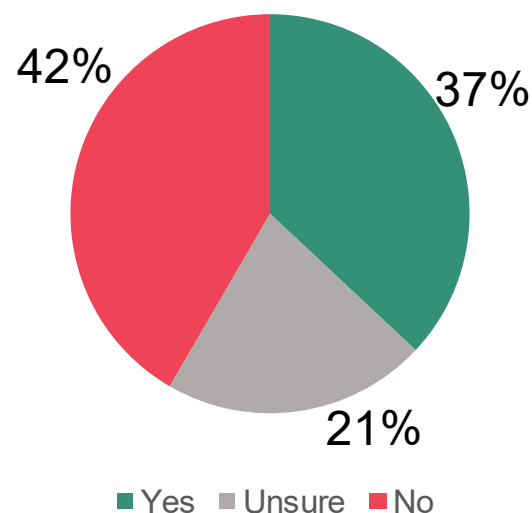
Committee
for
Sydney

Q98. Have you ever lived in an apartment?
Q99. Would you consider living in an apartment in the future? Among those who are not living in apartments
Base: Sydney 2024 (n=712), 2025 (n=718), 2026 (n=713)

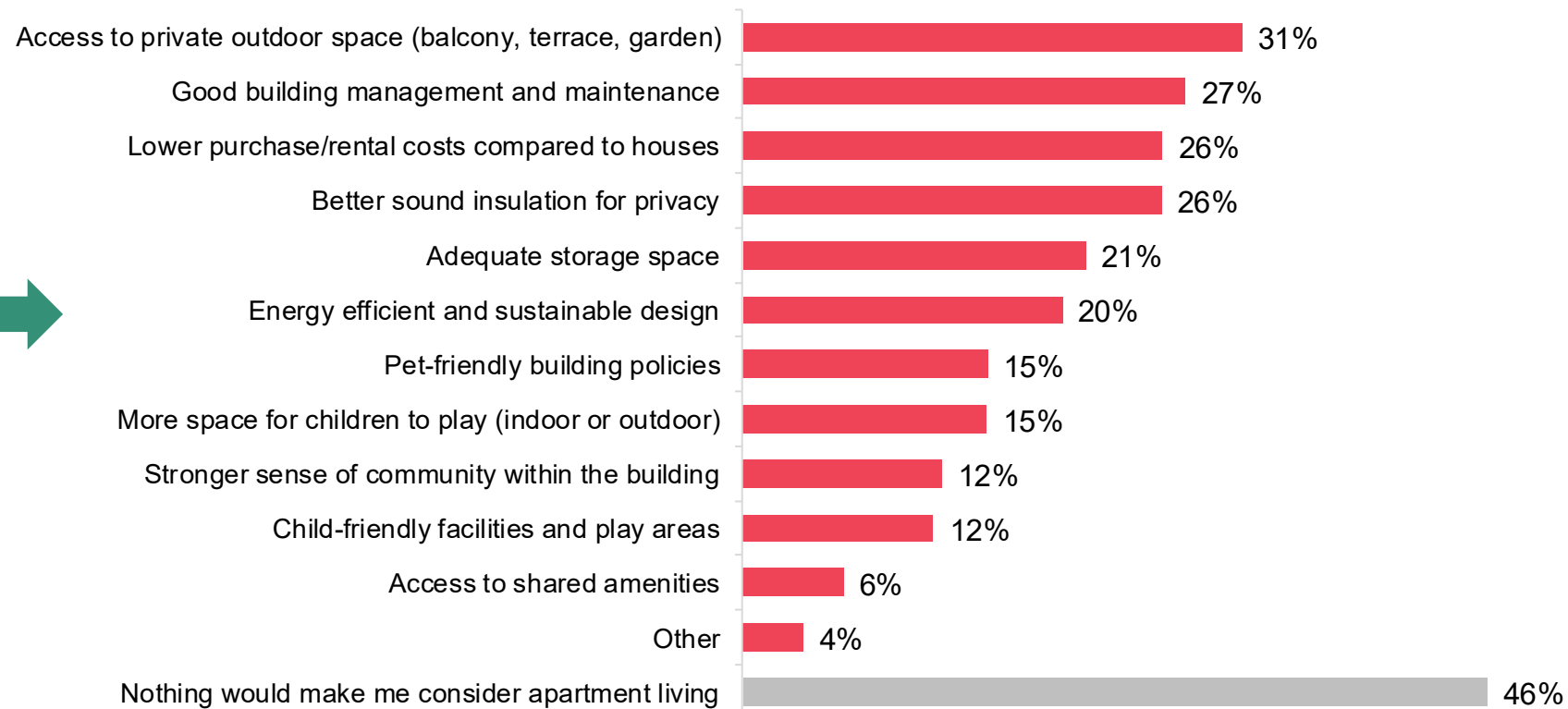


> What would convince you to live in an apartment?

Would you consider living in an apartment in the future?



Among those who would not consider living in an apartment





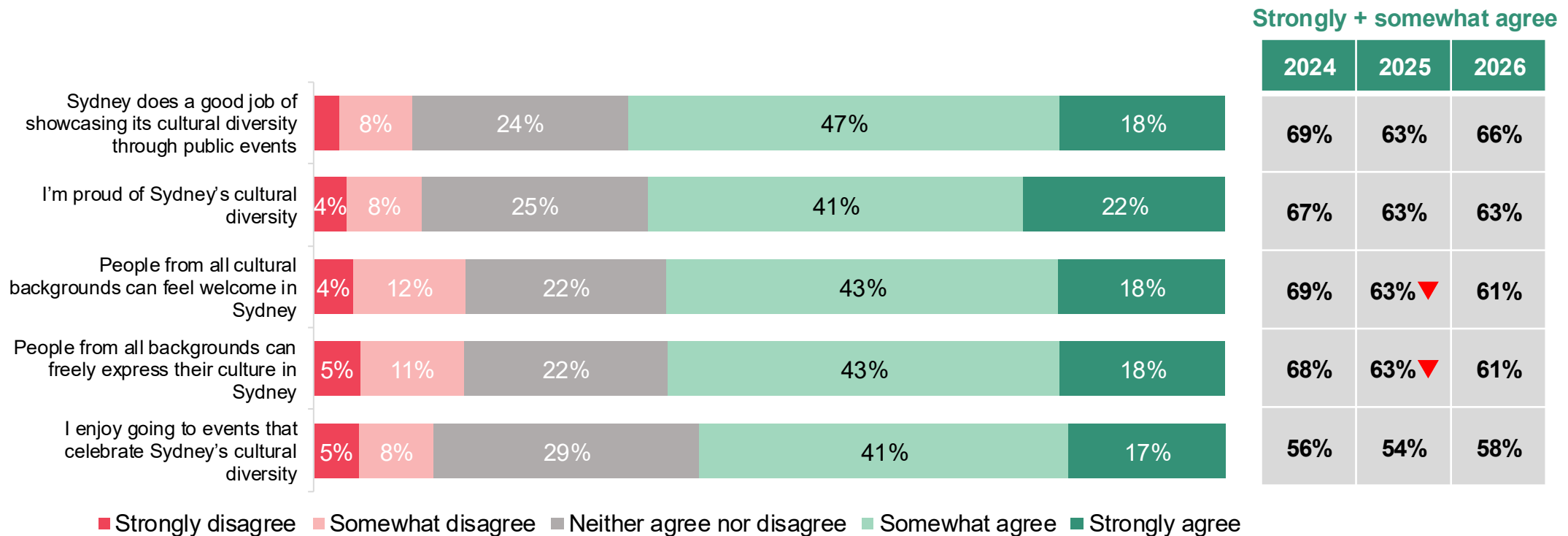
Life in Sydney 2026

Multiculturalism

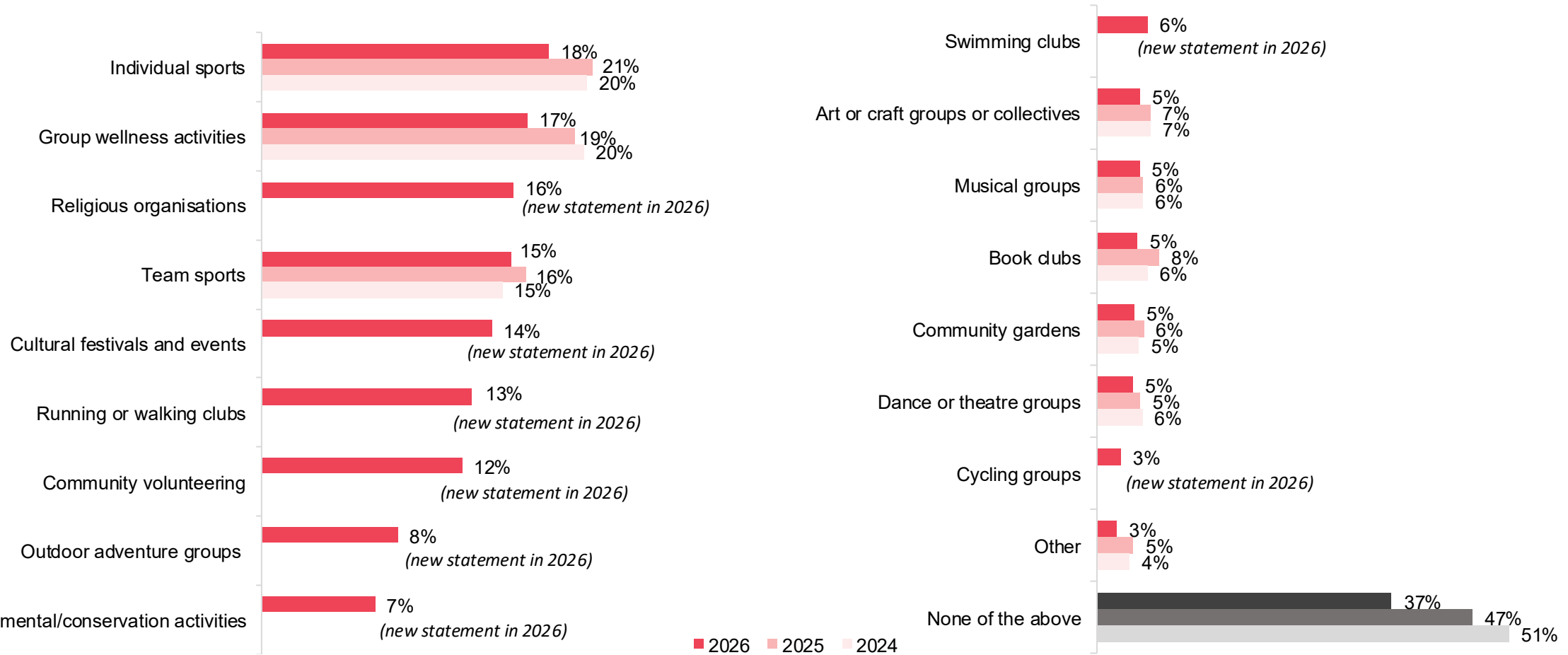


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for
Sydney

> To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements



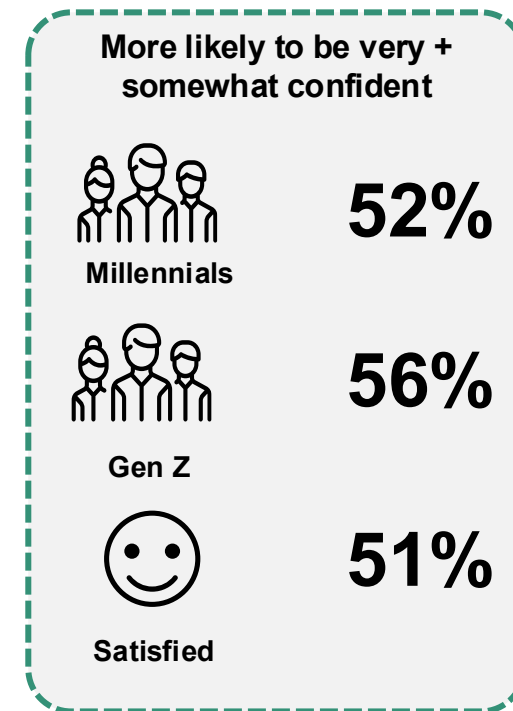
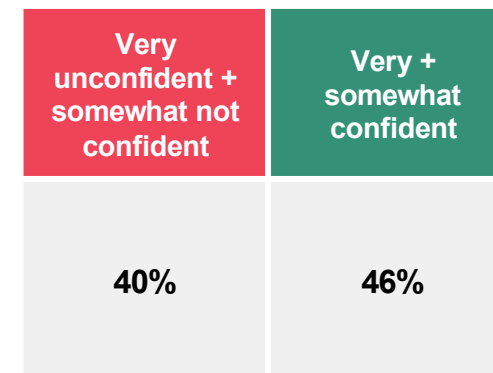
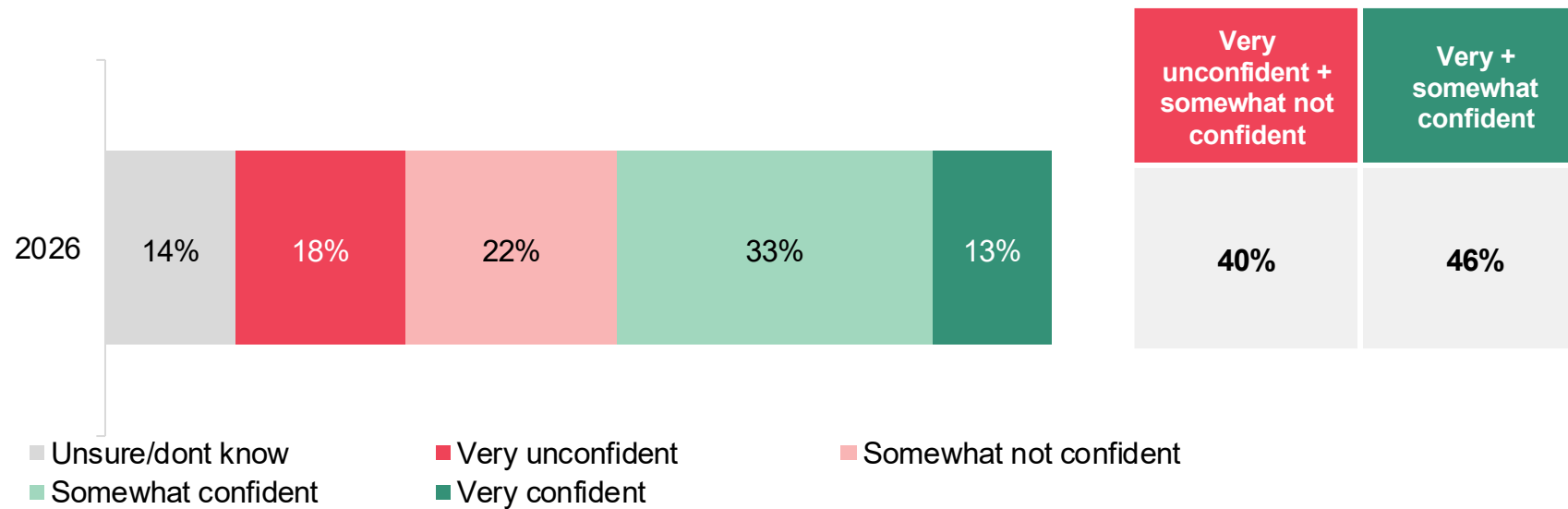
> Do you regularly participate in any of the following?



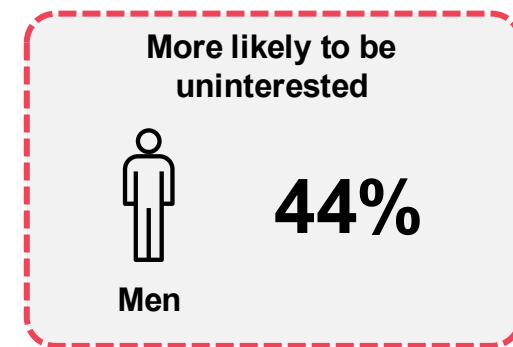
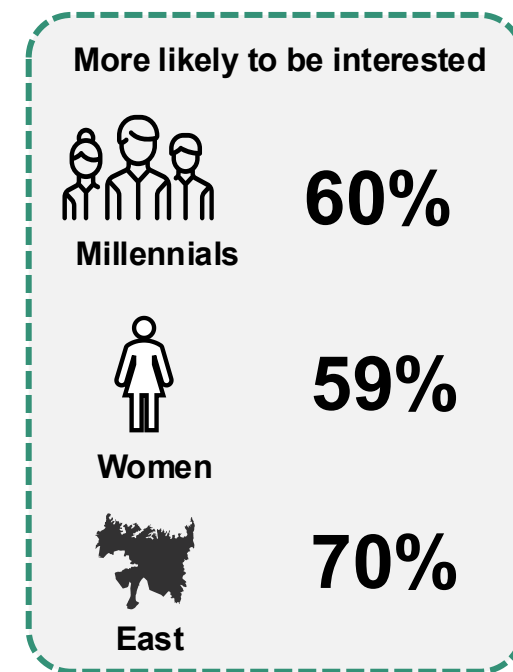
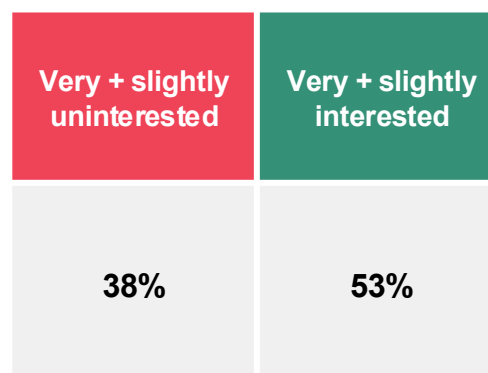
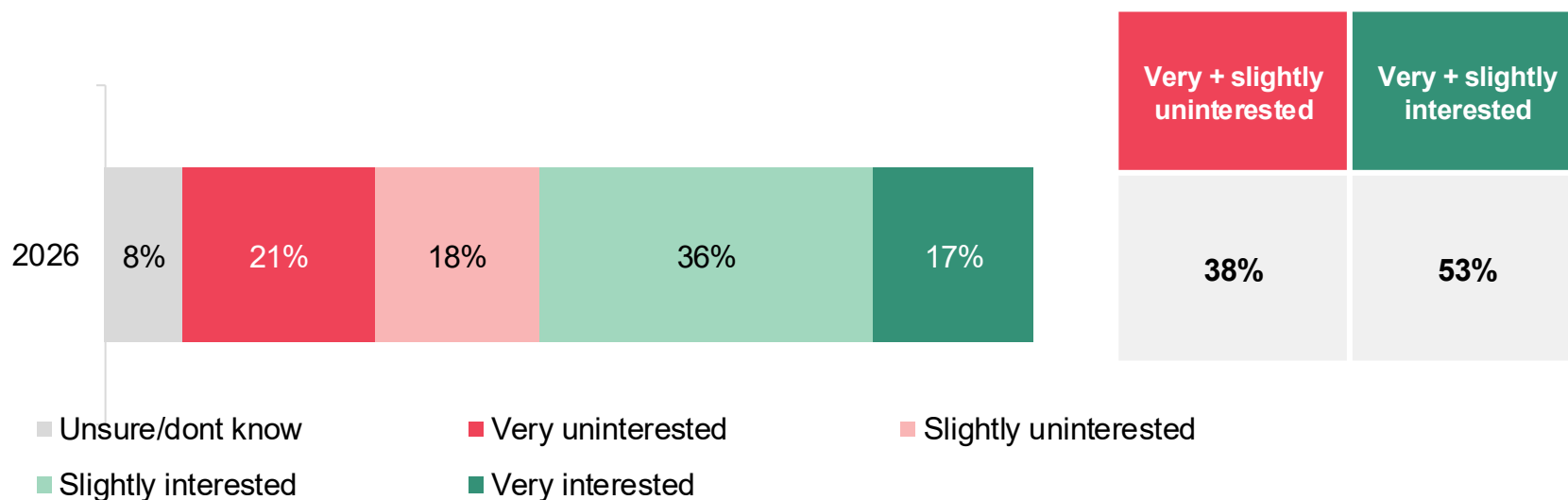
➤ Below is a list of ways some people volunteer in their communities. Looking at the list, which of any of these things do you do?



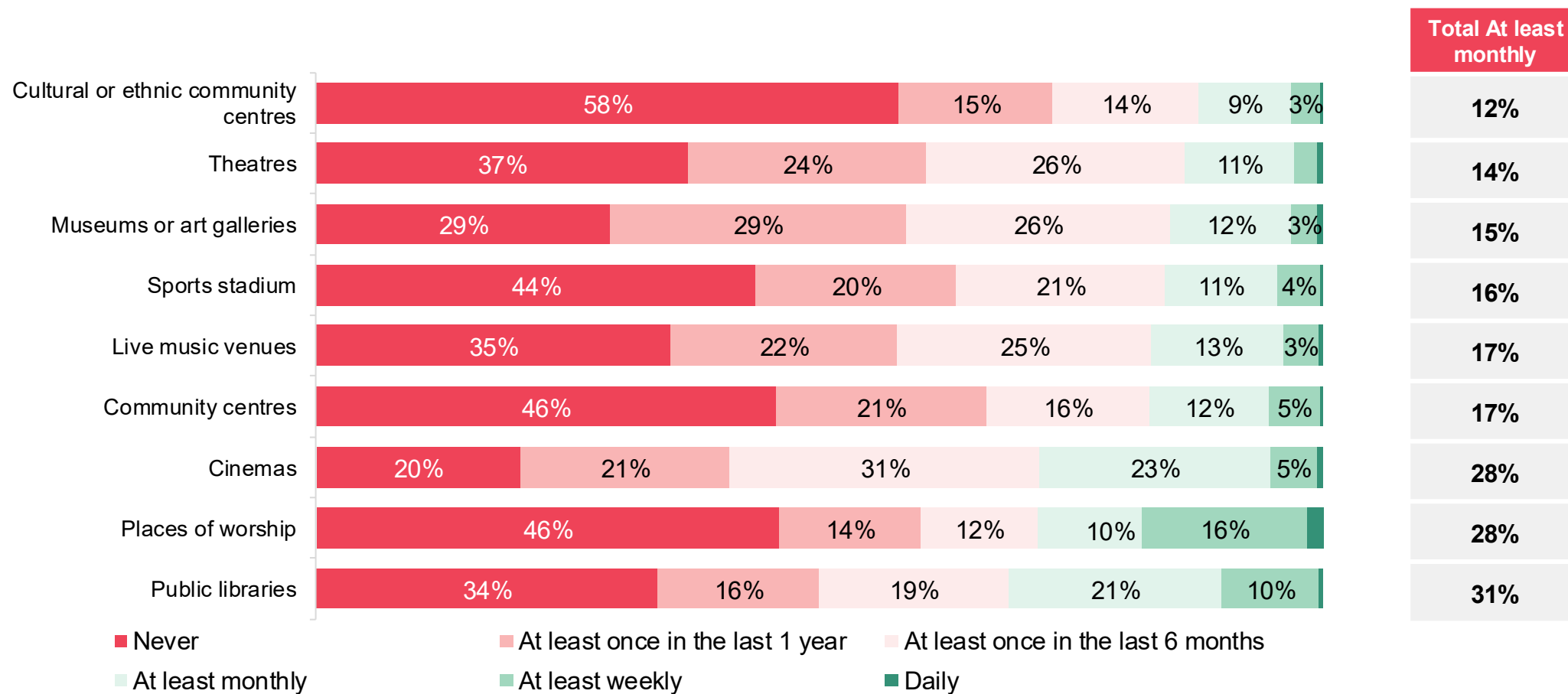
➤ How confident are you that you know about the Traditional Owners where you live (such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country, language group or community)?



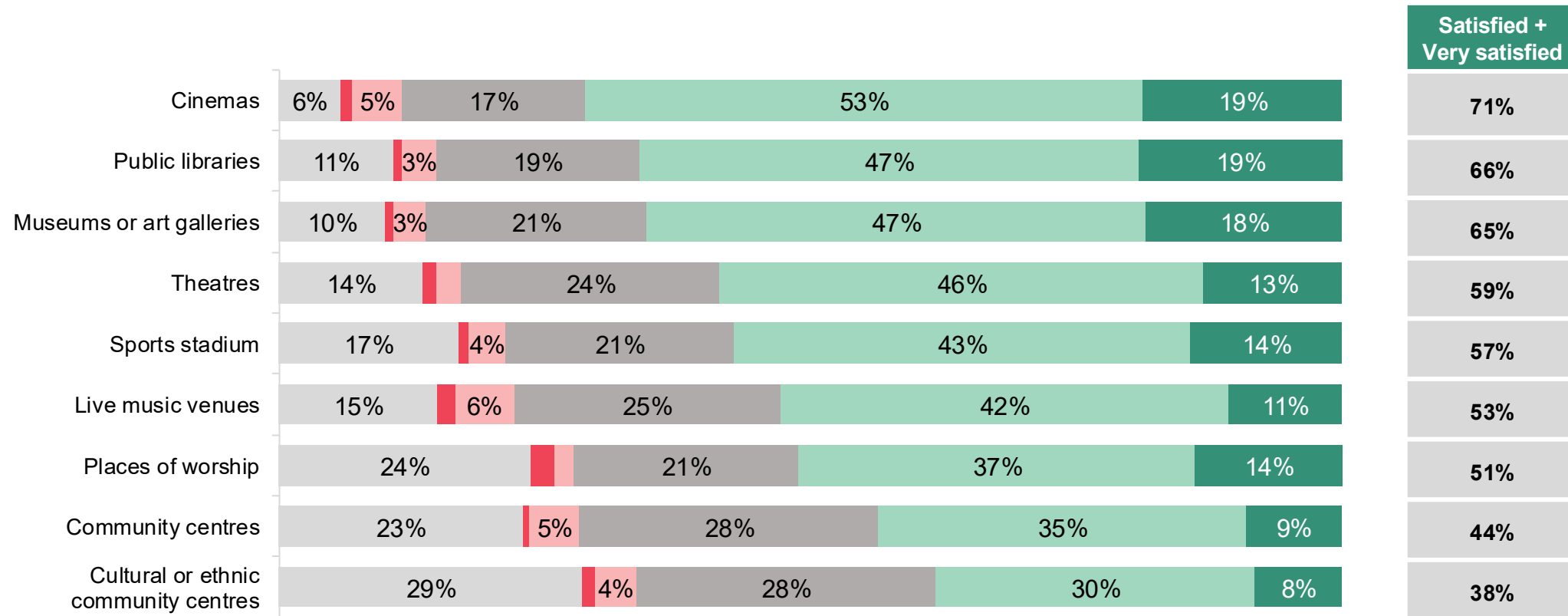
> What is your level of interest in Indigenous issues in Australia?



> In the past 12 months, how often have you visited the following cultural venues in Sydney?



➤ How satisfied are you with the following cultural venues in Sydney?



Committee
for
Sydney

■ Don't know
■ Very unsatisfied
■ Unsatisfied
■ Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
■ Satisfied
■ Very satisfied

Q174 How satisfied are you with the following cultural venues in Sydney?
 Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
 Note: Data under 3% not labelled.





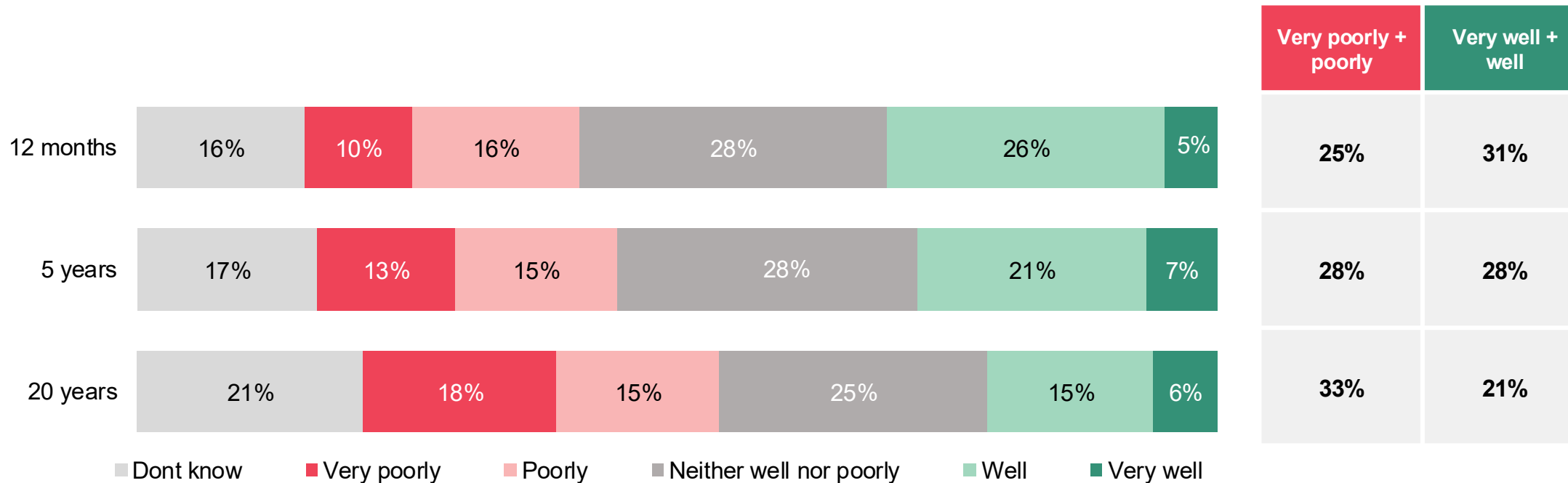
Life in Sydney 2026 Planning



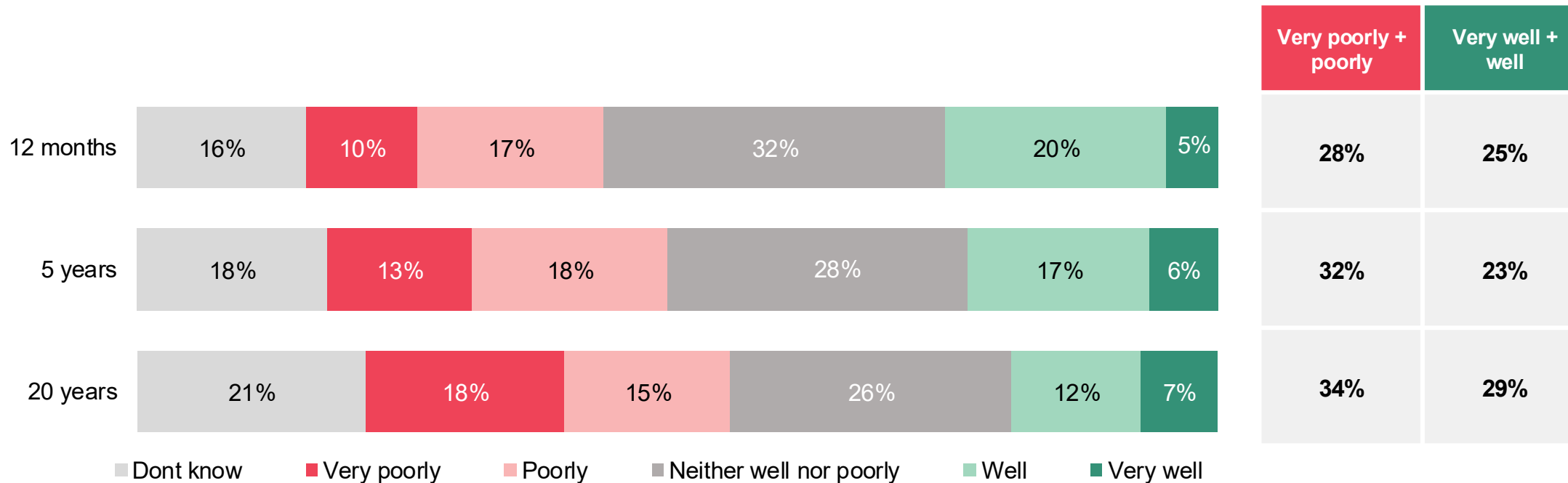
Committee
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Sydney



How well do you understand the plans for how your local area will develop over the next..

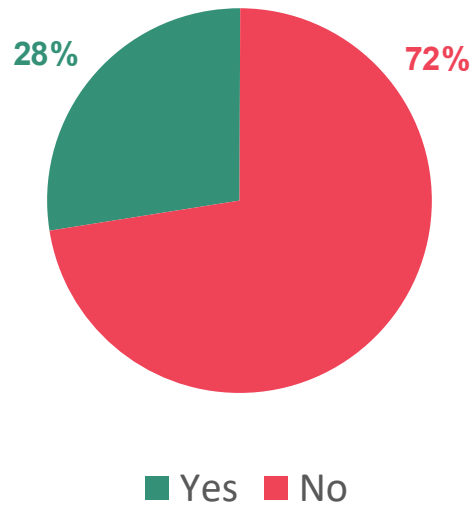


> How well do you understand the plans for how Sydney will develop over the next..



> Having a voice and giving feedback in the community

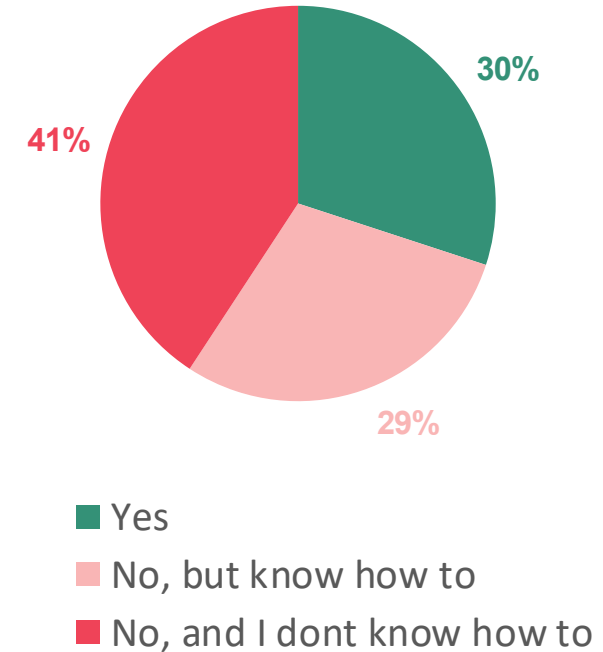
Do you feel that you have a voice in how your local community will develop?



38%

Don't have a voice in the community + Don't know how to provide feedback

Have you ever provided feedback or contributed to community engagement sessions on development issues related to your local area?





How do you feel about the changes you expect to happen in ... over the next 5 years?

More likely to feel negative
"Your local area"



36%

Gen X

"Sydney as a whole"



40%

Gen X



Sydney as a whole



Your local area



■ Strongly negative ■ Slightly negative ■ Neutral ■ Slightly positive ■ Strongly positive



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for
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Q179. How do you feel about the changes you expect to happen in ... over the next 5 years?
Base Sydney 2026 (n=1000)





Life in Sydney 2026

Bold leadership



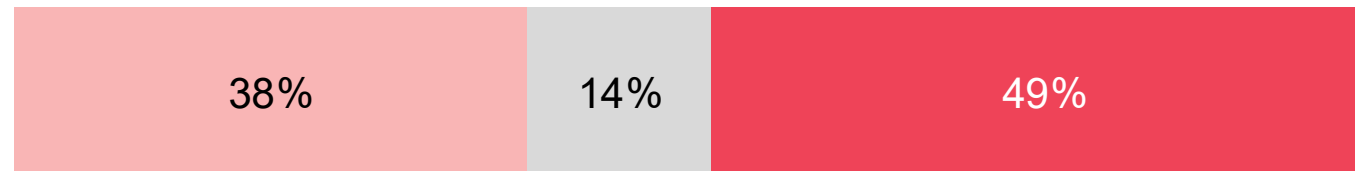
Committee
for
Sydney

> Do you think the government should prioritise...

Solving planning challenges that impact Sydney residents **now**

Don't know

A longer-term view to ensure Sydney is liveable in **20 years**



More likely to agree with solving challenges now



Income under \$60k

48%

More likely to don't know



Highschool graduates

23%



Low social support

25%

More likely to agree with longer term view



Satisfied

52%



Income over \$100k

55%



Committee
for
Sydney

Q181. The following question explores the balance between two options, for each please select which is closer to your opinion, do you think the government should prioritise... :
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Question added in 2026.

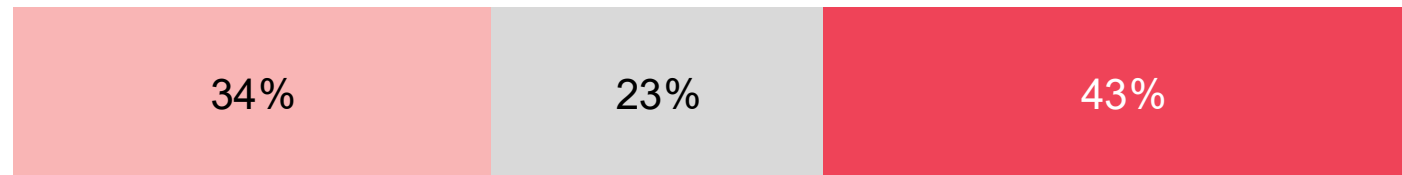


> Do you think the government should prioritise...

Running budget **surpluses** to reduce the amount of government debt

Don't know

Running budget **deficits** to invest in infrastructure for the future



More likely to say 'Don't know/Unsure'



33%

Highschool



33%

Income under \$60k

More likely to agree with budget deficits



52%

Satisfied



51%

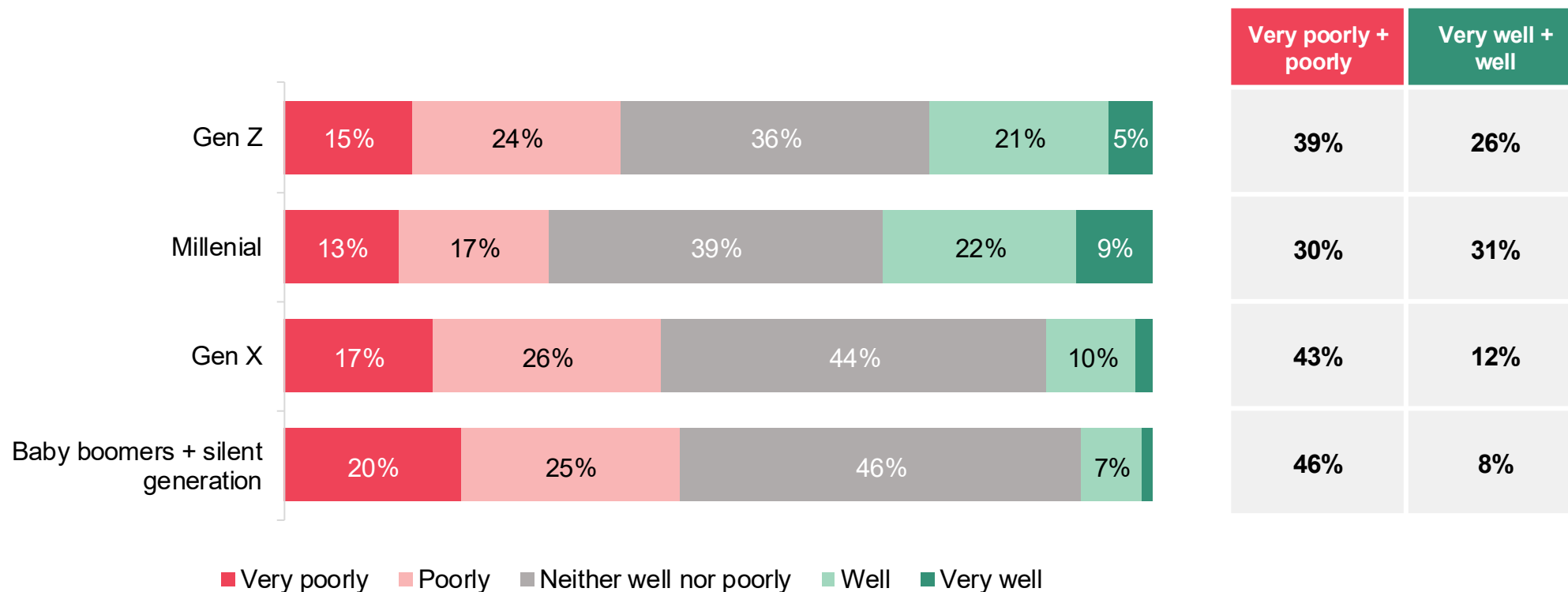
Income over \$100k



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for
Sydney

Q181. The following question explores the balance between two options, for each please select which is closer to your opinion, do you think the government should prioritise... :
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Question added in 2026.

> How well do you feel you understand the plans for how Sydney will change in the next 20 years?





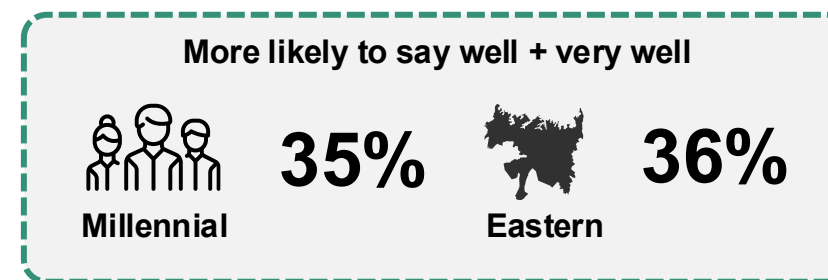
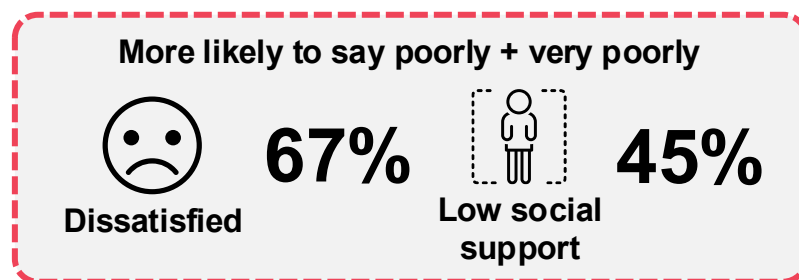
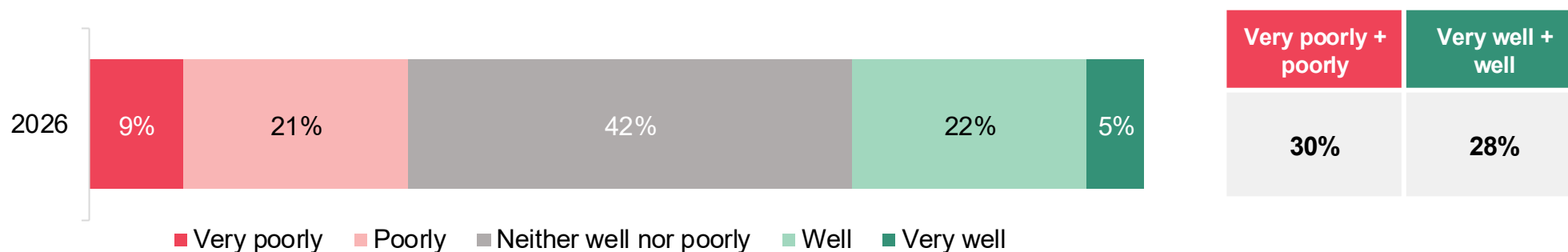
Life in Sydney 2026

Government policy

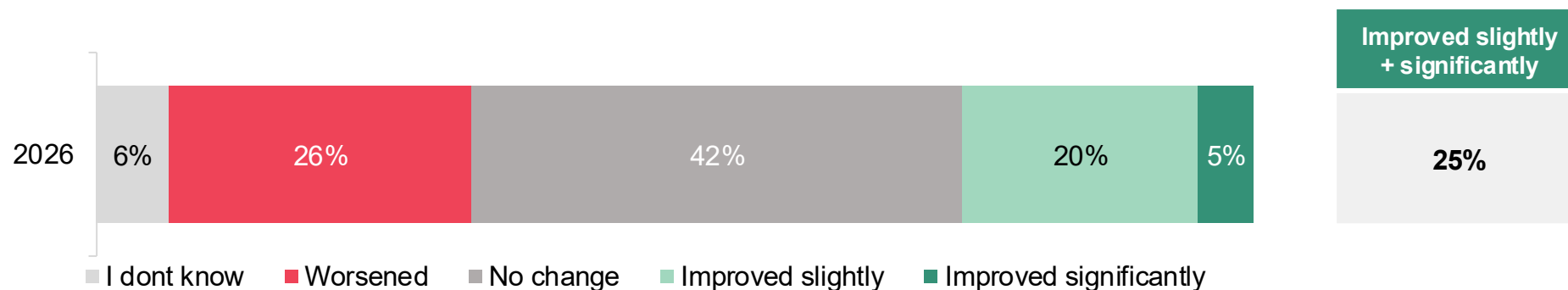


Committee
for
Sydney

> How well do you think the government is addressing the needs of your community/area?



> Has your perception of the government's performance changed in the past year?



More likely to say improved slightly + significantly



Millennial

34%



Men

30%



Eastern

35%



Committee
for
Sydney

Q185. Has your perception of the government's performance changed in the past year?
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)
Note: Question added in 2026.



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