

>

# Life in Sydney

February 2026



Committee  
for  
Sydney





## Delivered in partnership by

Committee for Sydney

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Ipsos Australia

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- Adira Wiryoatmojo
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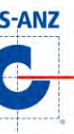
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TRUST MARK MEMBER  
PRIVACY  
QUALITY  
ETHICS



WWW.JAS-ANZ.ORG/REGISTER



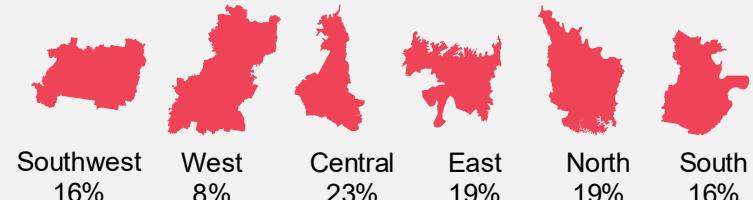
We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of our land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded. This was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

# ➤ Demographic distribution for 2026

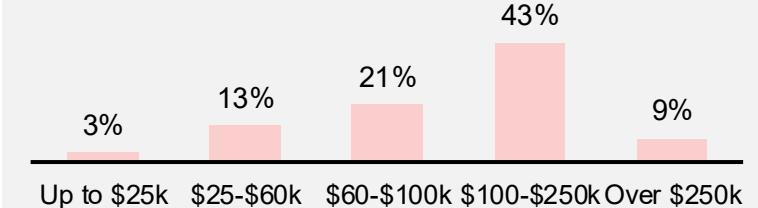
## Gender



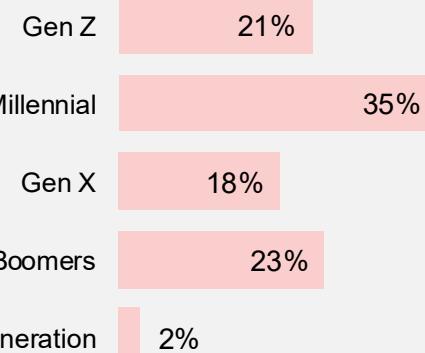
## Location



## Household income



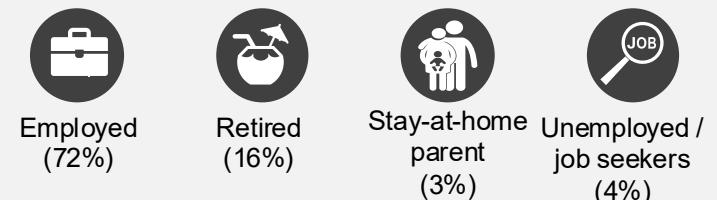
## Generation



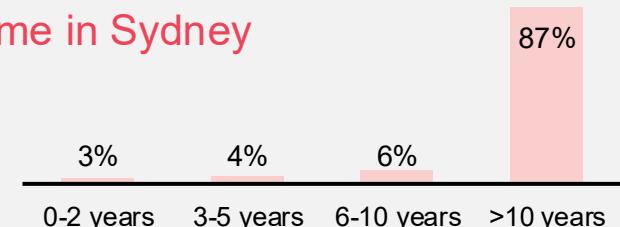
## Highest level of education



## Occupation



## Time in Sydney



## Cultural and linguistic diverse



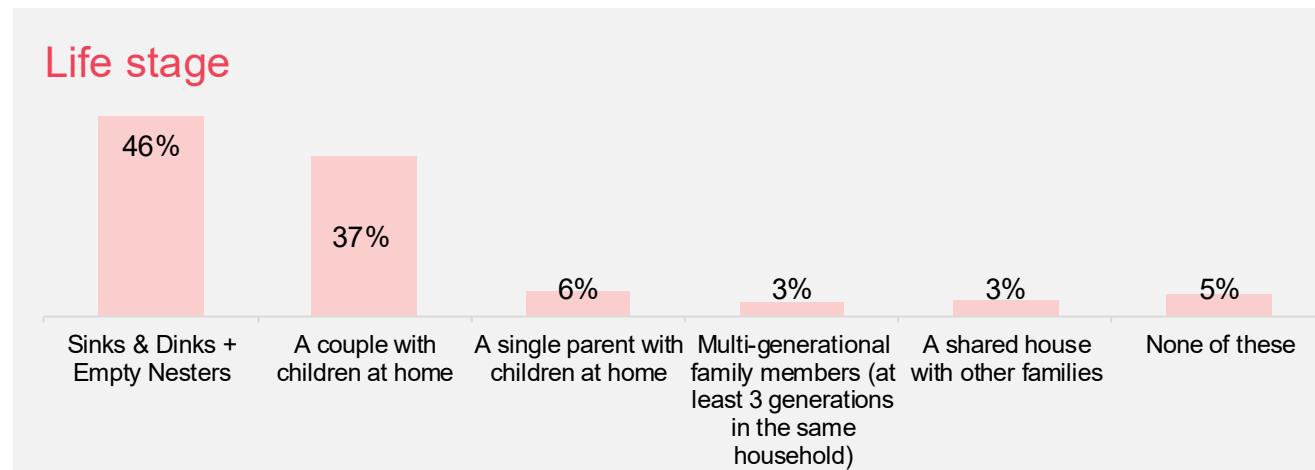
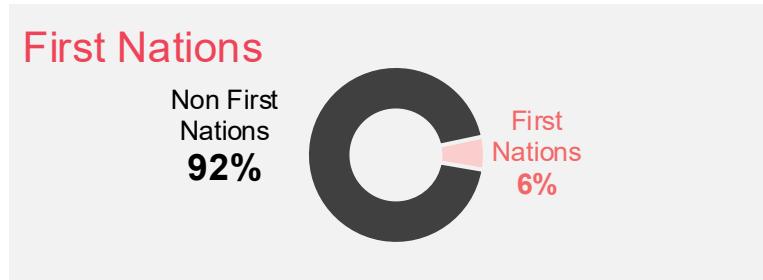
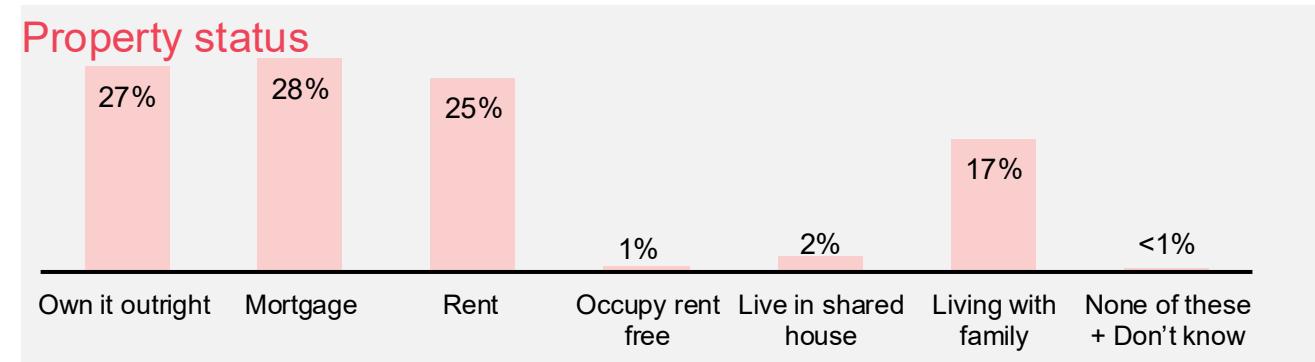
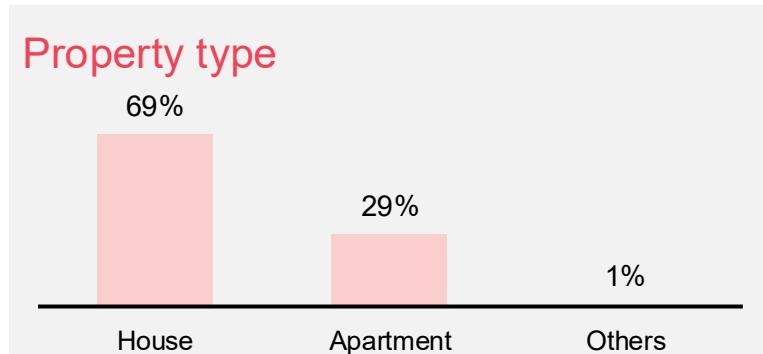
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SQ1. What best describes your gender?  
SQ2. In which of the following age groups do you fall under?  
Q25. Do you or your parents mainly speak a language other than English?

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



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➤

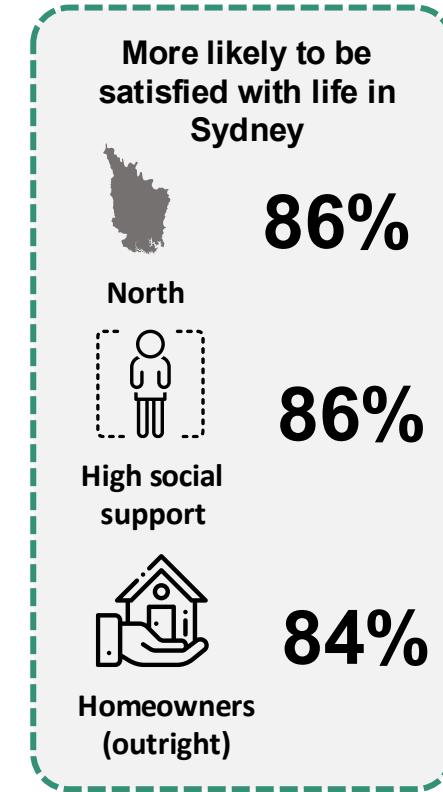
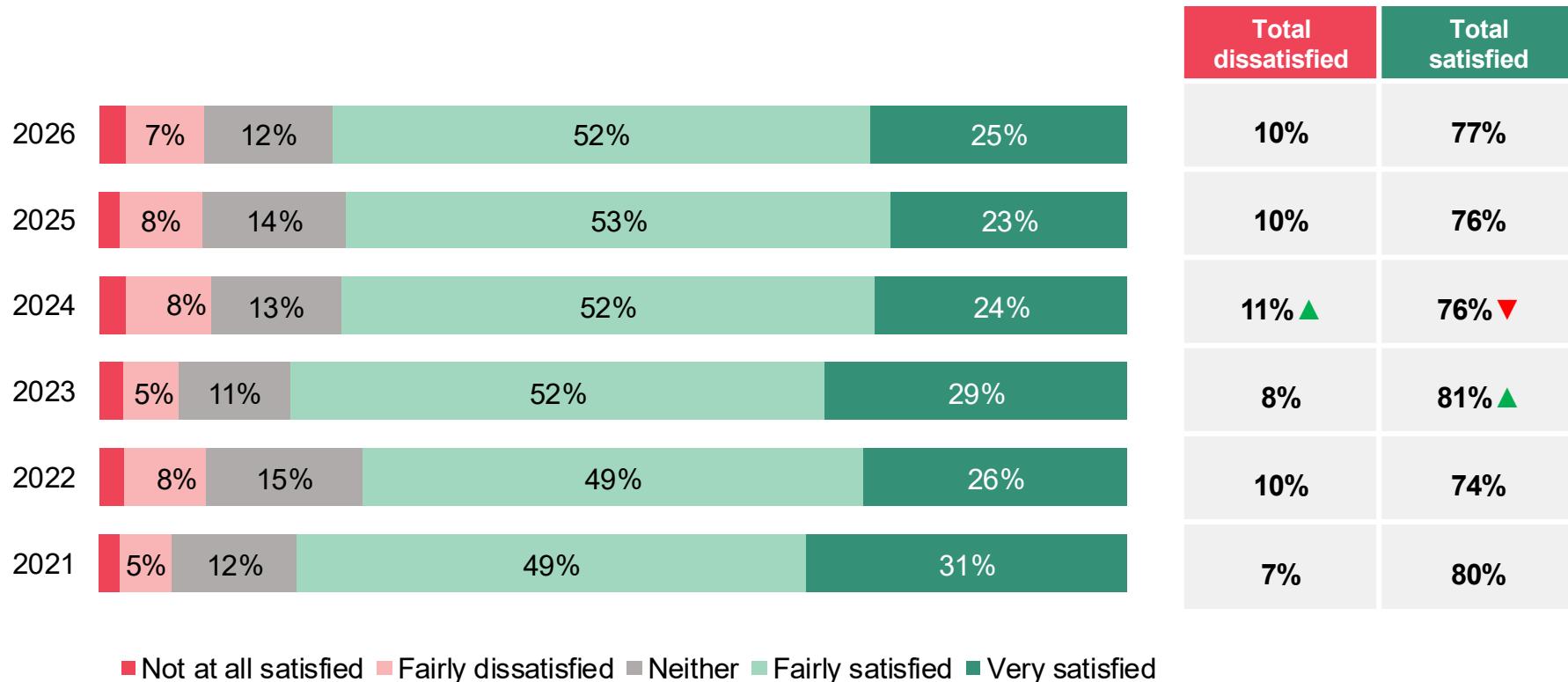
**Life in Sydney 2026**

**Quality of life**

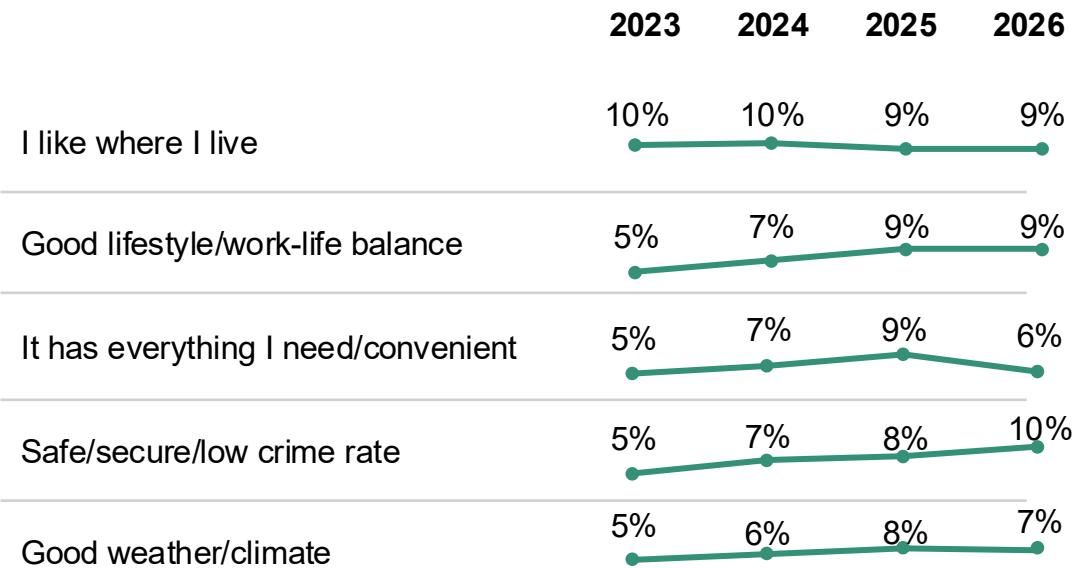
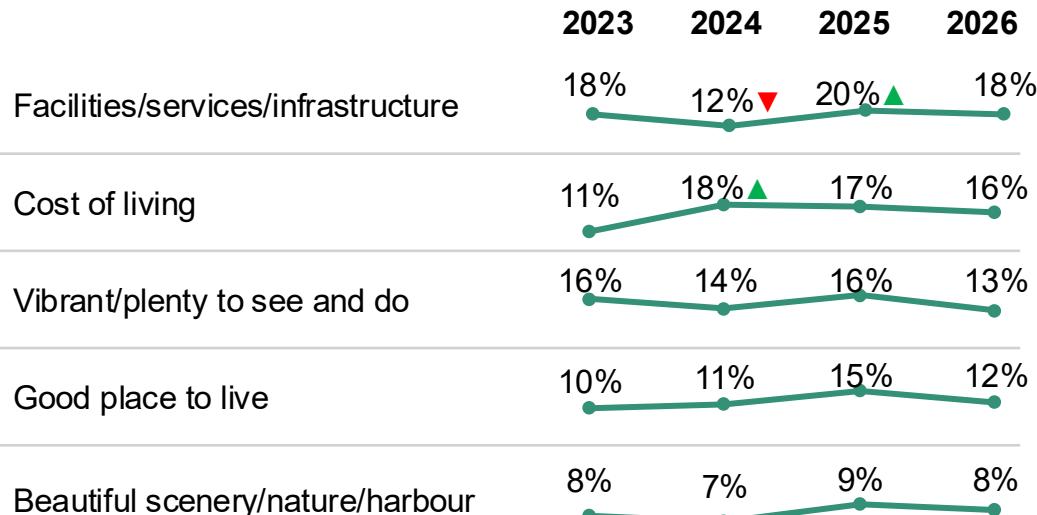


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## ➤ How satisfied are you with your quality of life in Sydney?



## Why are you satisfied with life in Sydney?

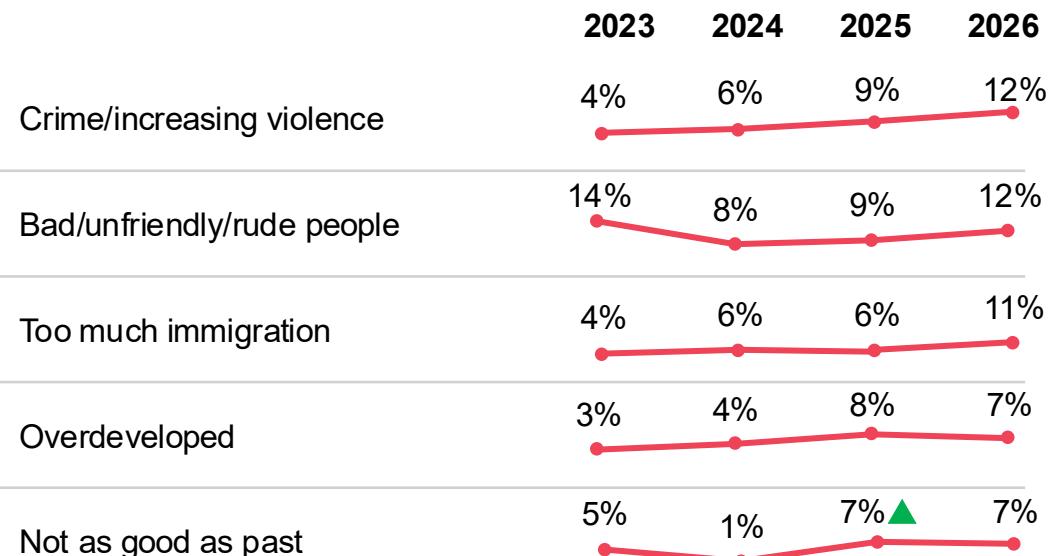
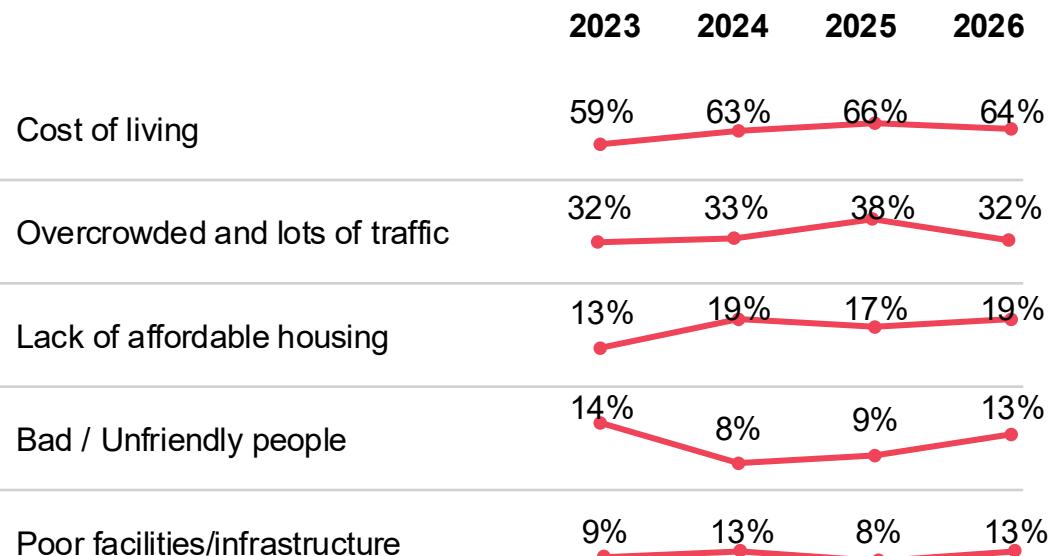


*Great city to live in, beautiful with lots of things to do and opportunities, but high cost of living*

*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*

## ➤ Why are you dissatisfied with life in Sydney?

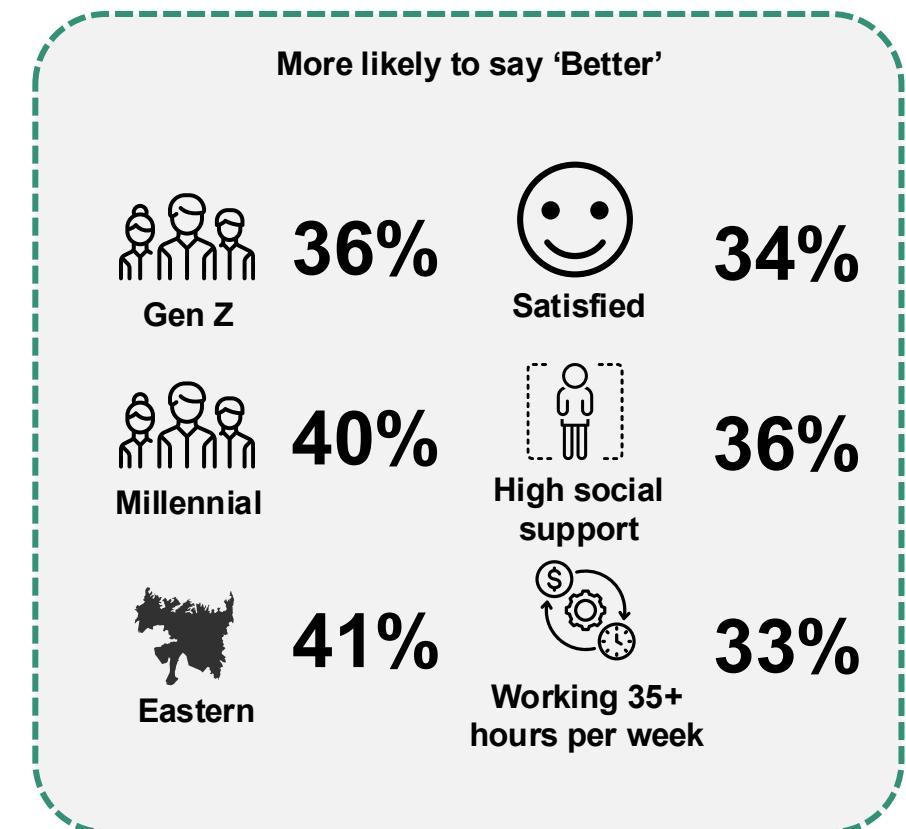
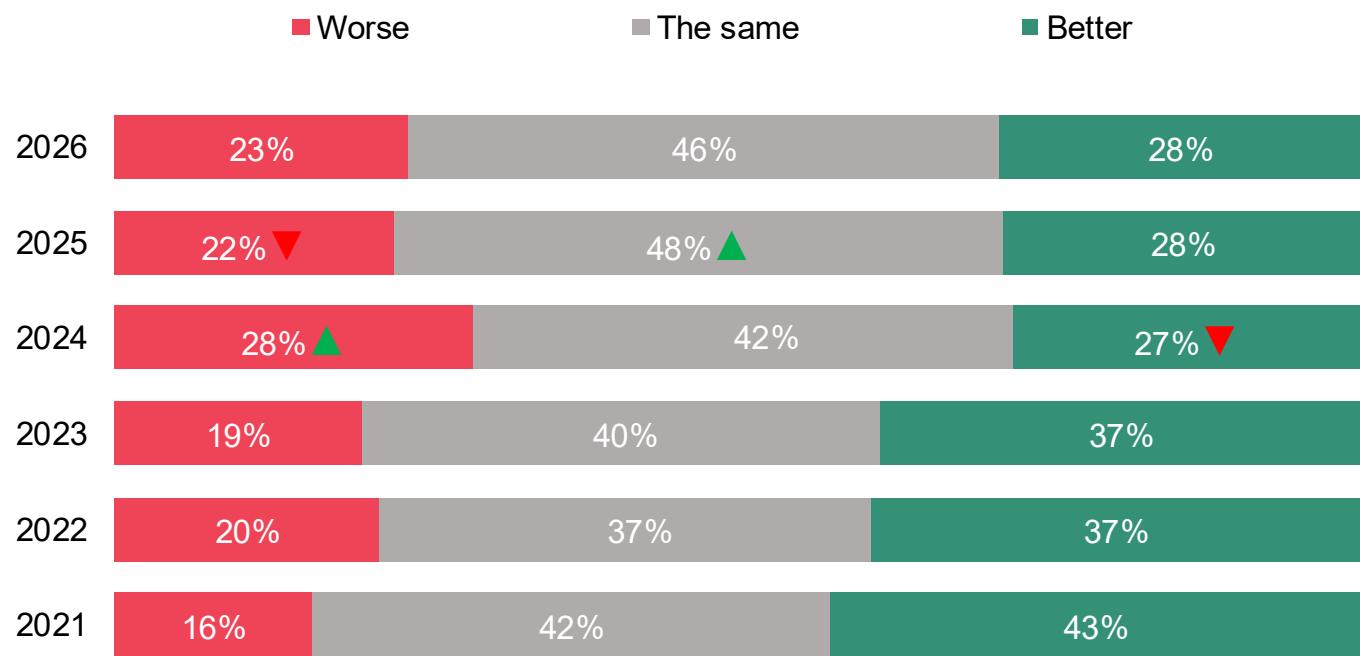


*The cost of living is too high we can't afford to do anything*

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

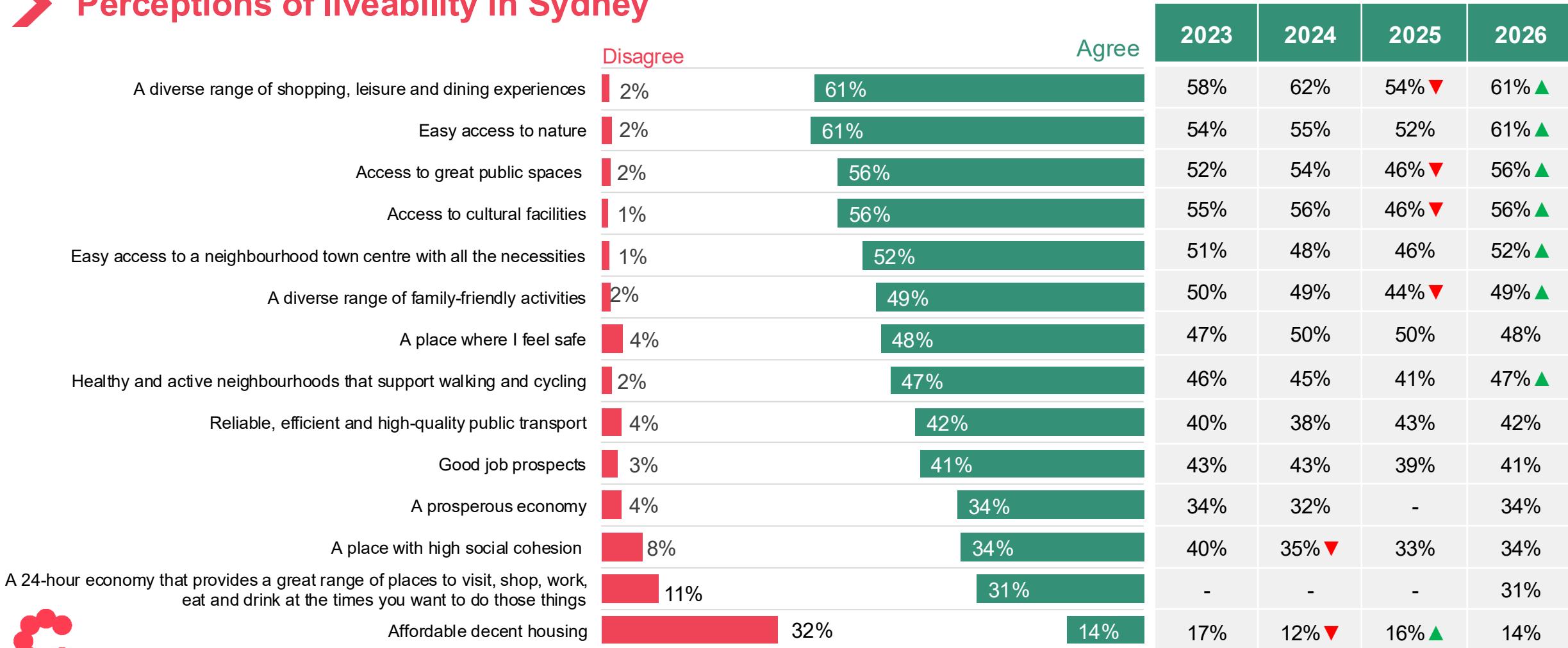
*Sydney used to be a really liveable city, but in the last few years, has deteriorated due to many factors including poor infrastructure, lack of government funding in appropriate areas, too much migration, cost of living*

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



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

## Perceptions of liveability in Sydney



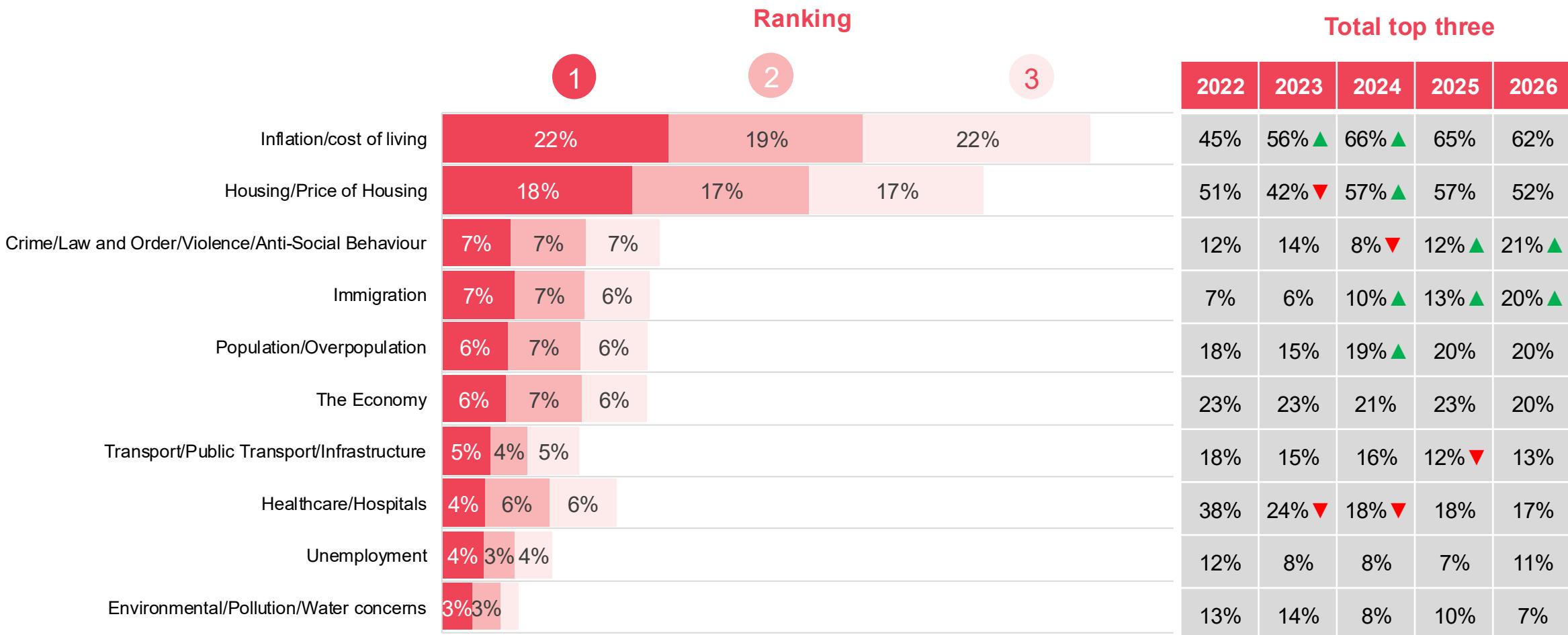
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Q5. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Sydney?  
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)  
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes.

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



## ➤ Three most important issues facing Sydney today (%)



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Q42. What would you say are the three most important issues facing Sydney today?

Base: 2022 (n=1034), 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

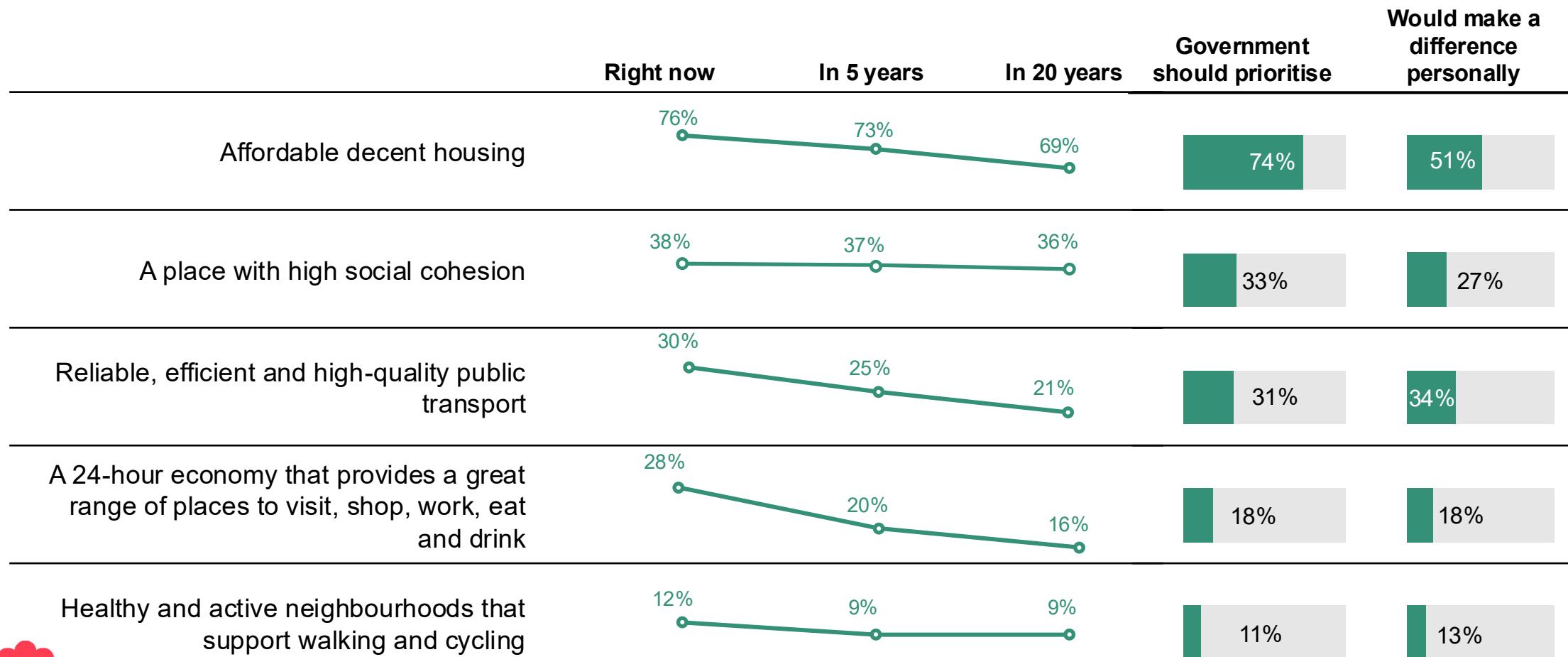
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes. Data under 3% not labelled. Question added in 2022.

▲ Significantly higher than previous years

▼ Significantly lower than previous years



## ➤ Biggest challenges for Sydney...



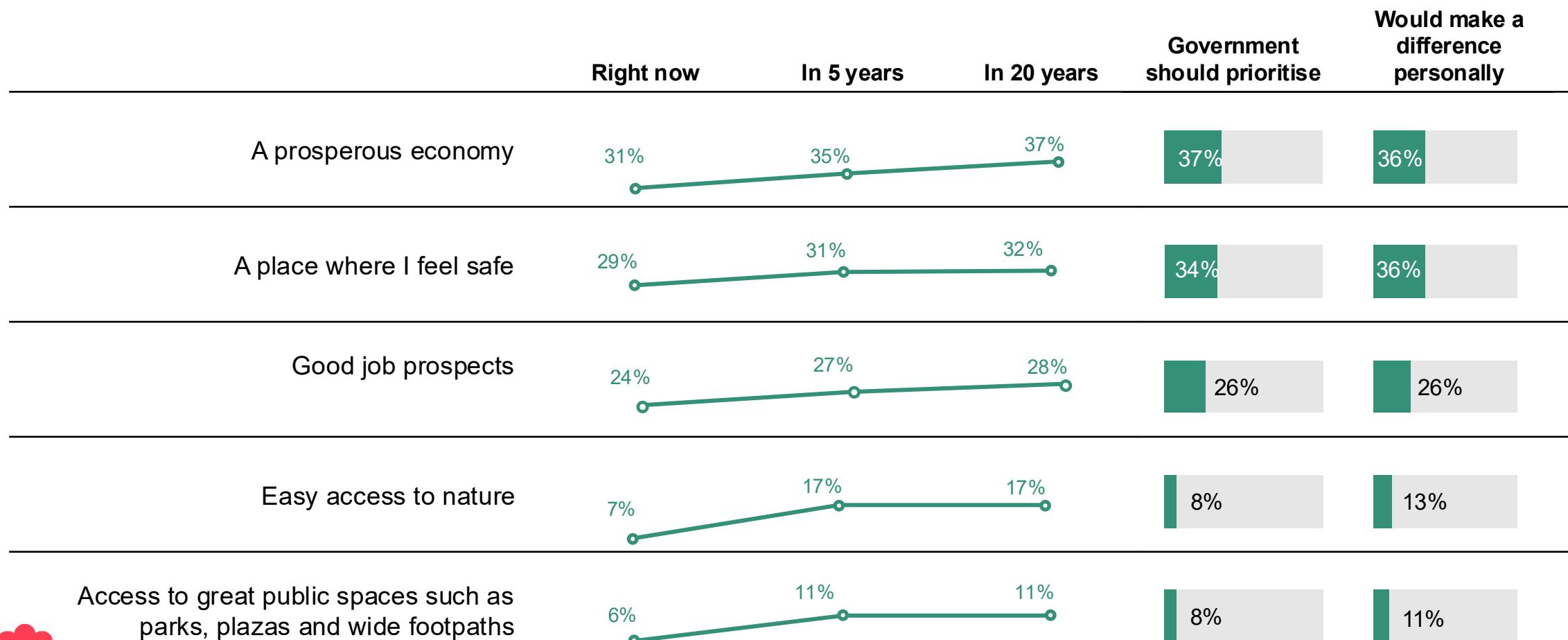
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Q145. Which three of the areas below do you think are the biggest challenges for Sydney right now? Q146. Which three of the areas below do you think will be the biggest challenges for Sydney in 5 years/20 years? Q147. Which three of the areas below 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)



## ➤ Biggest challenges for Sydney...



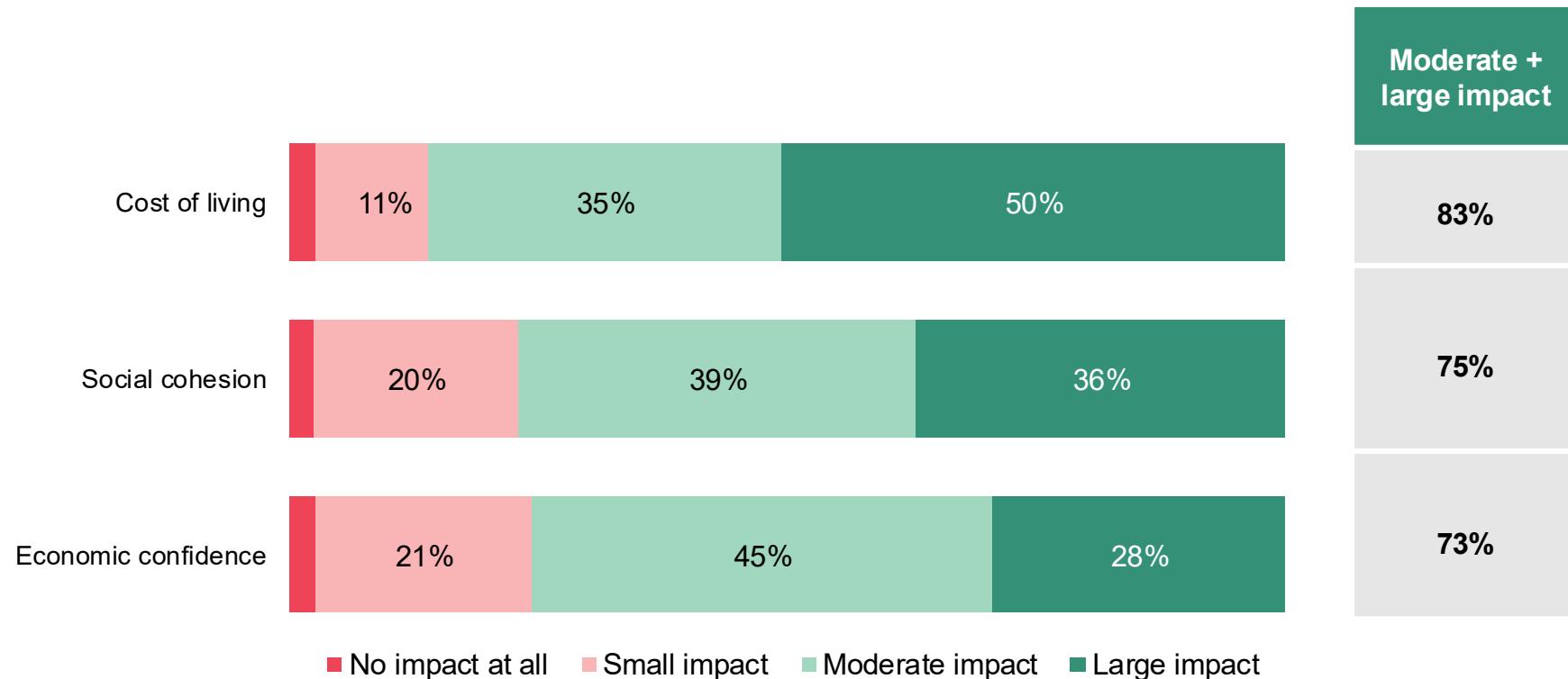
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Q145. Which three of the areas below do you think are the biggest challenges for Sydney right now? Q146. Which three of the areas below do you think will be the biggest challenges for Sydney in 5 years/20 years? Q147. Which three of the areas below 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?

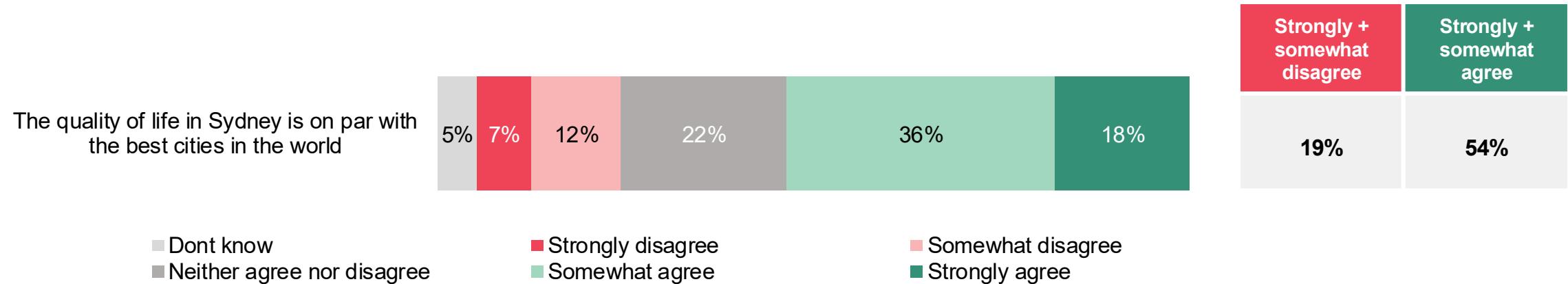
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)



➤ 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



More likely to say somewhat + strongly agree



63%

Satisfied

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➤

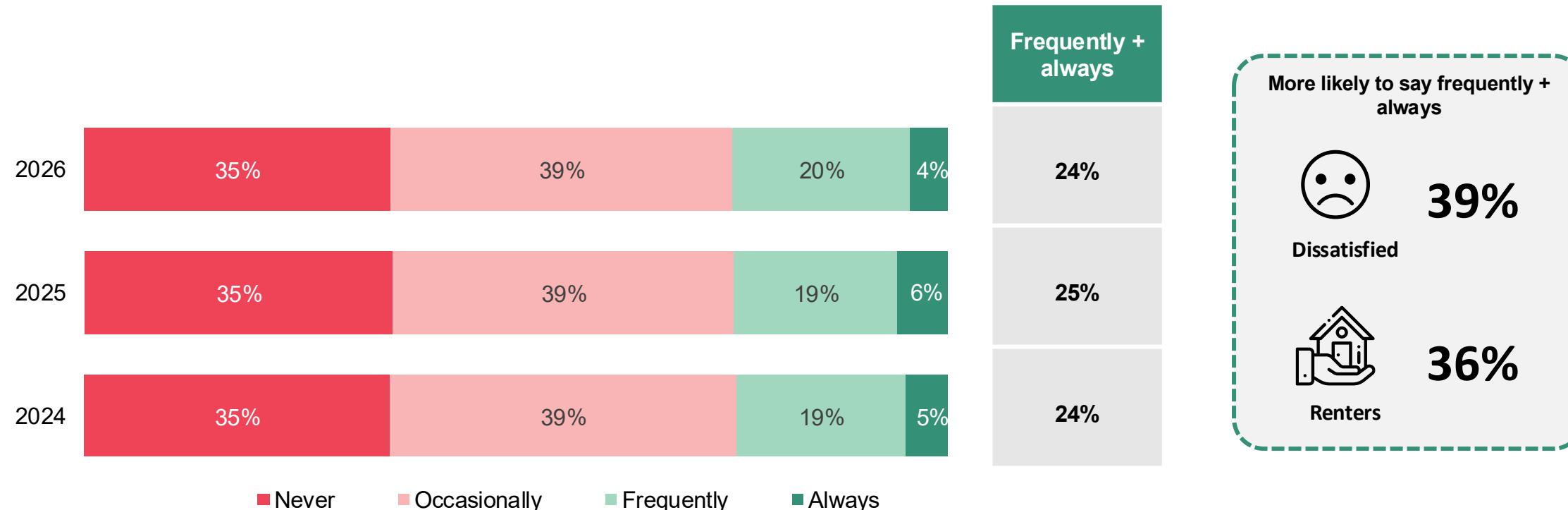
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**Cost of living**

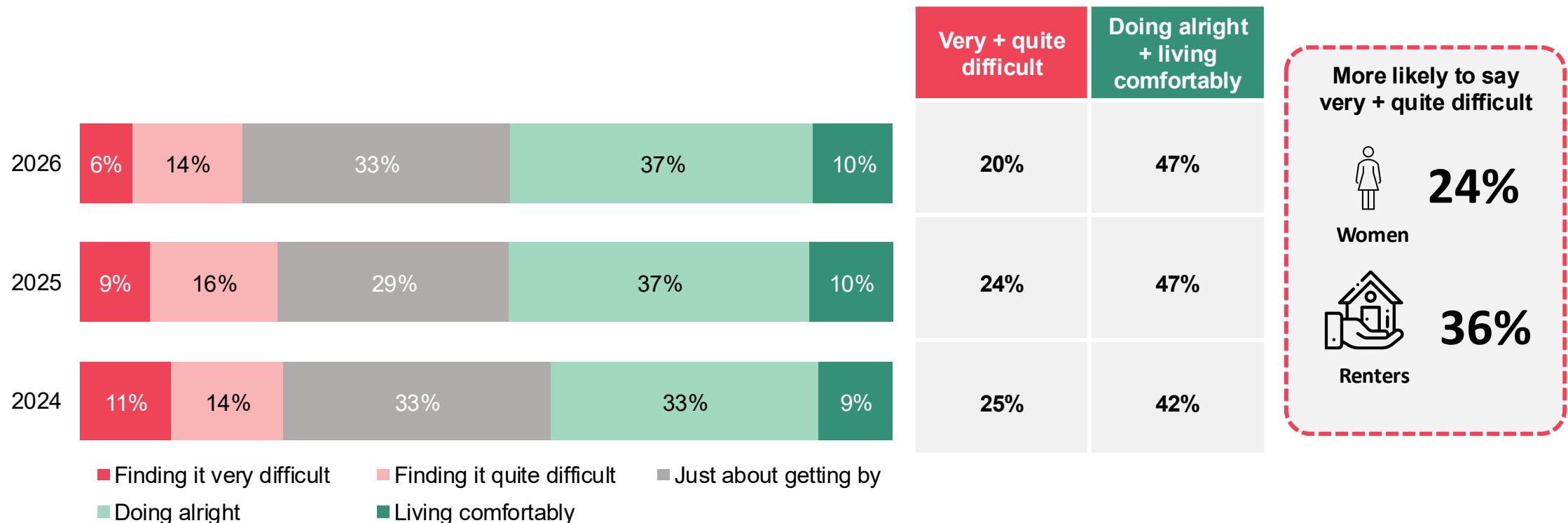


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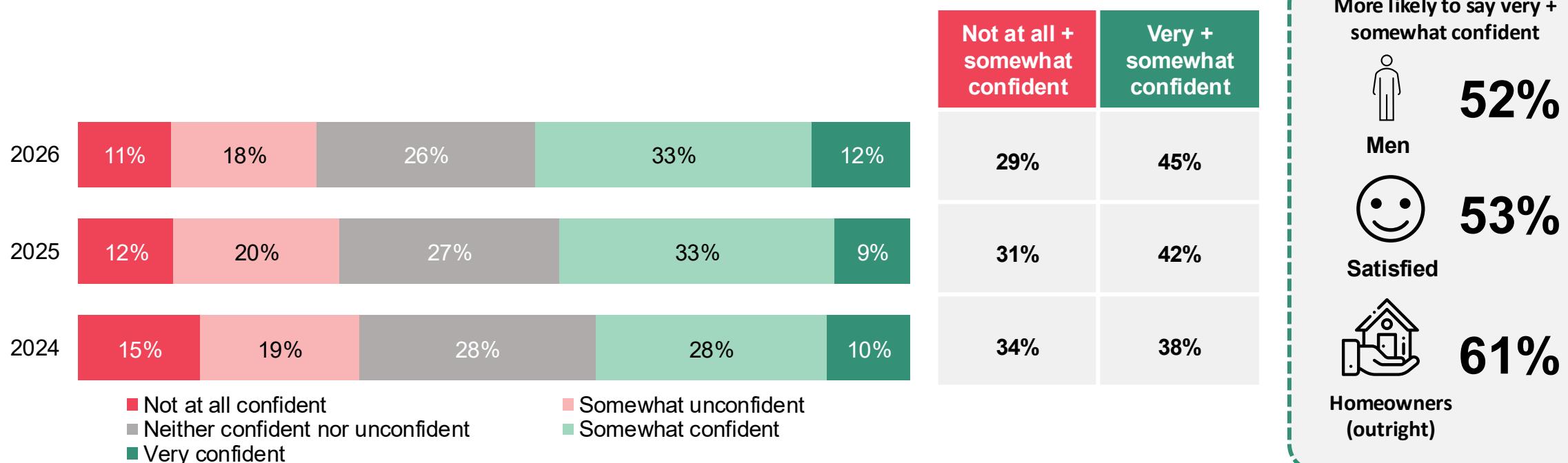
## ➤ How often do you go without essentials



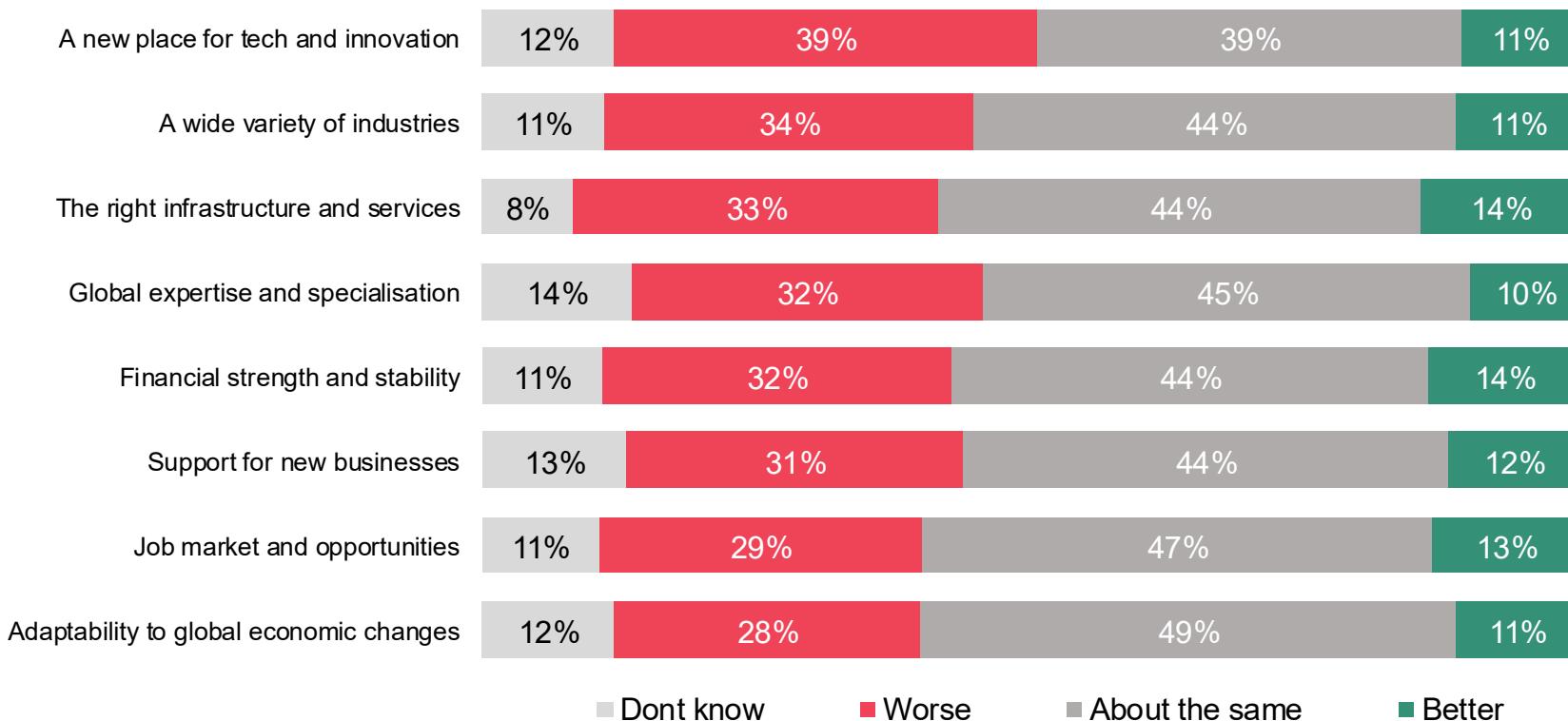
## ➤ How well would you say you are managing financially these days?



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



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





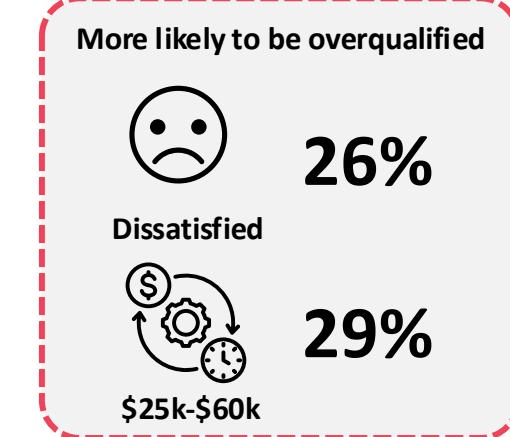
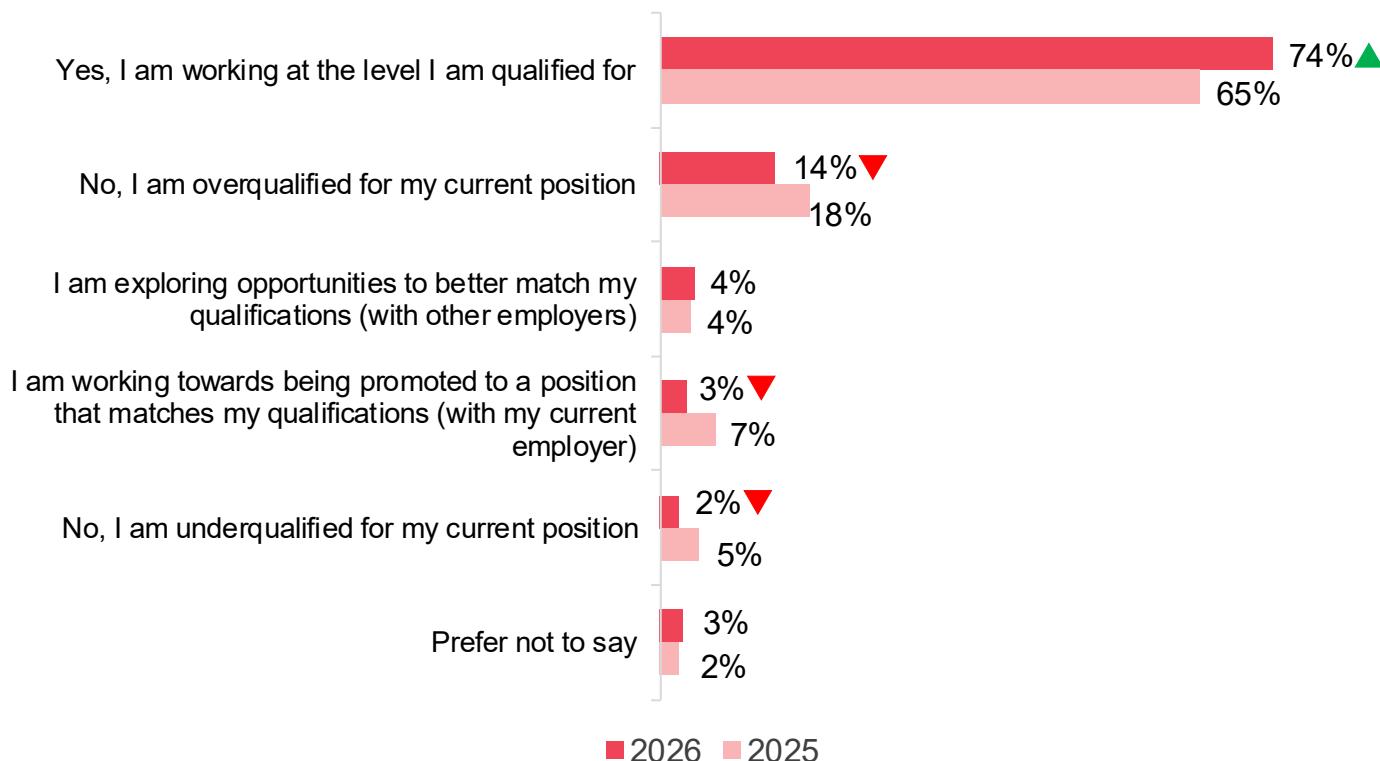
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# Underemployment



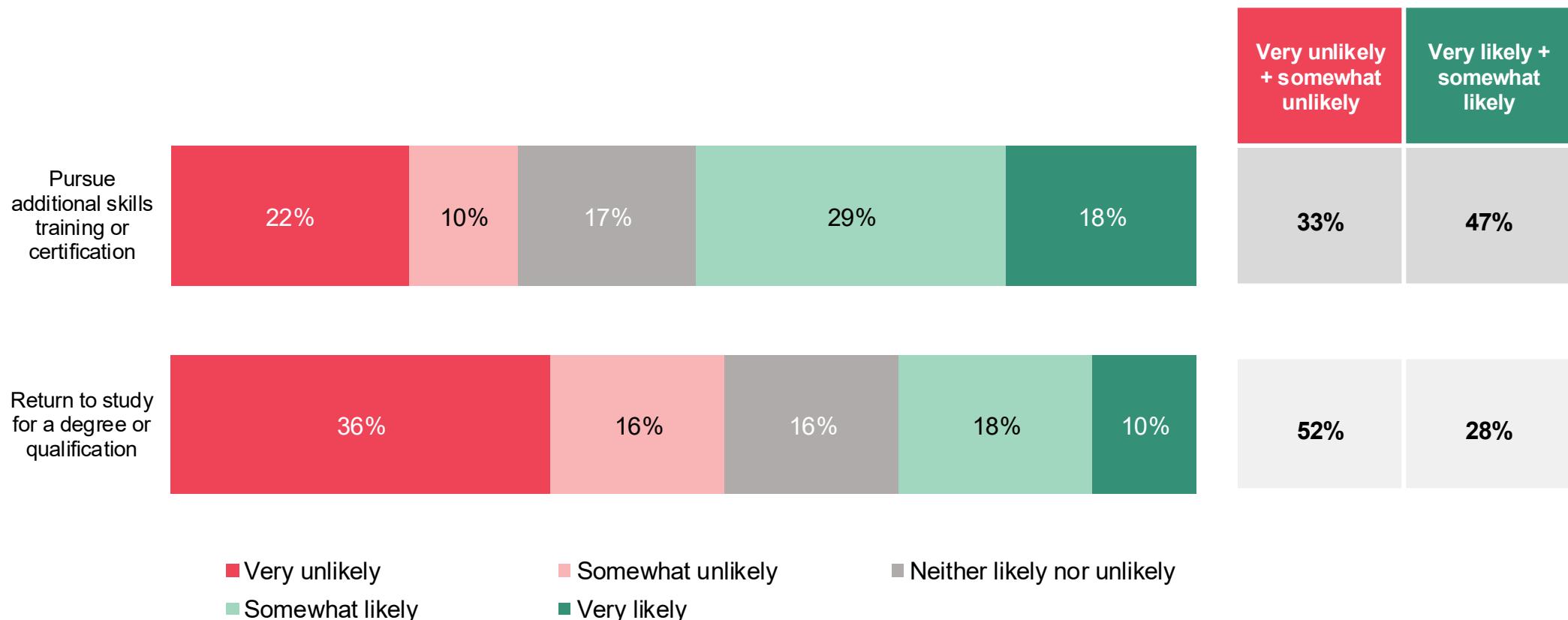
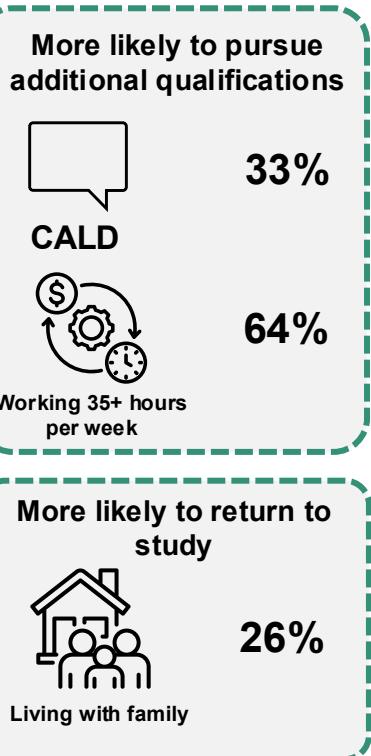
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## Are you currently working at the level that you are qualified to work at?





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



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.

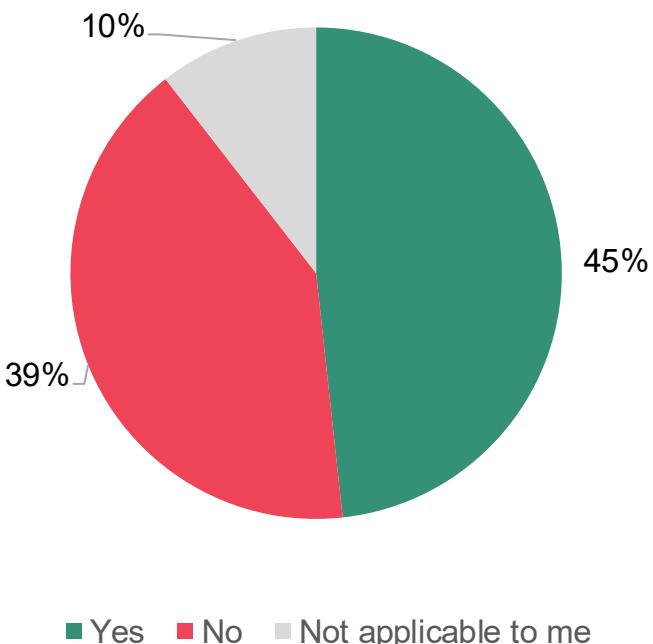
## ➤ Overseas qualification that hasn't been recognised in Australia and its impact on employment opportunities in Sydney

**12%**

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



Has this impact your employment opportunity in Sydney



*"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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➤

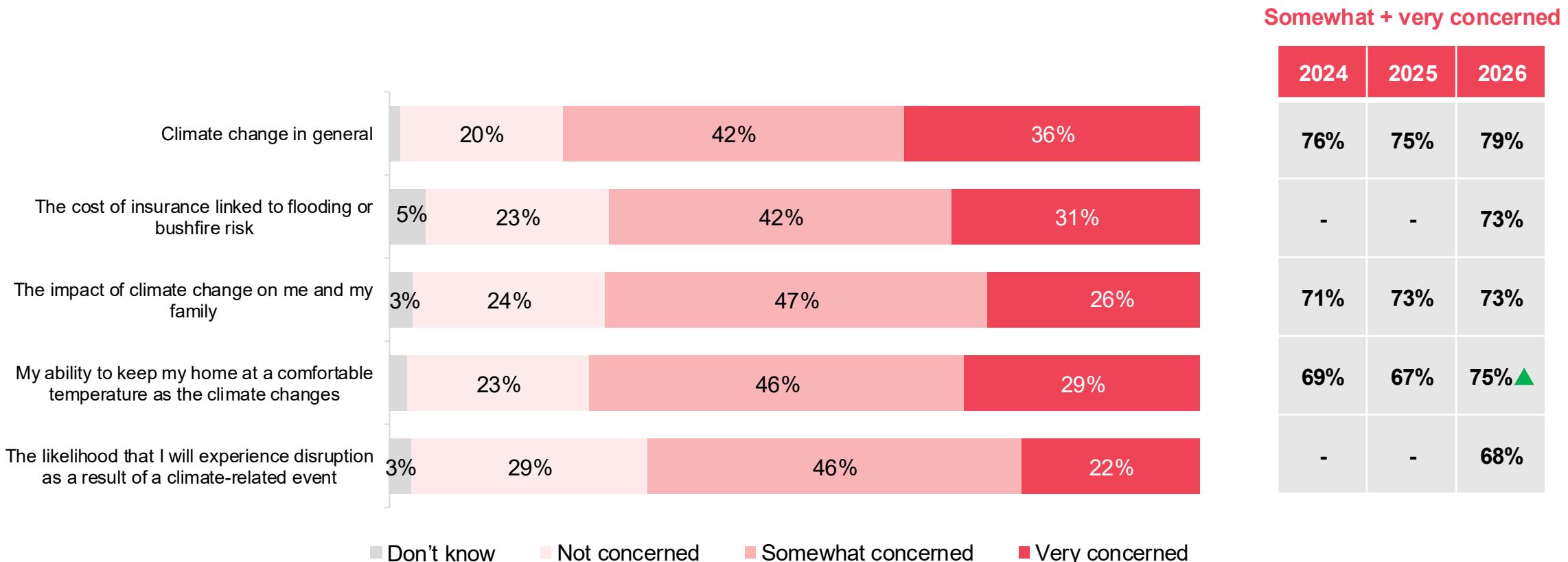
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# Climate change and resilience



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## ➤ How concerned are you about...?



## ➤ 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)

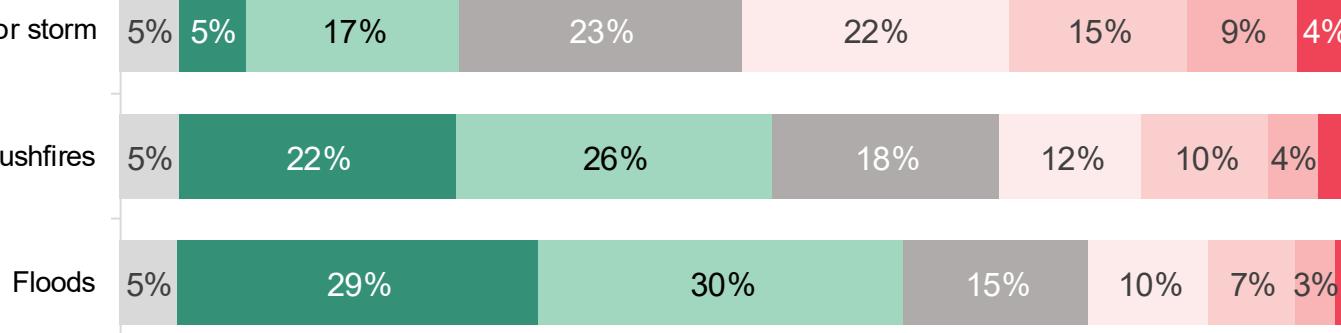
58%  
(Bushfires)

More likely to say probable + almost sure + certain



West

42%  
(Bushfires)



No chance + very slight possibility	Probable + almost sure + certain
59%	12%
48%	17%
23%	28%

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)

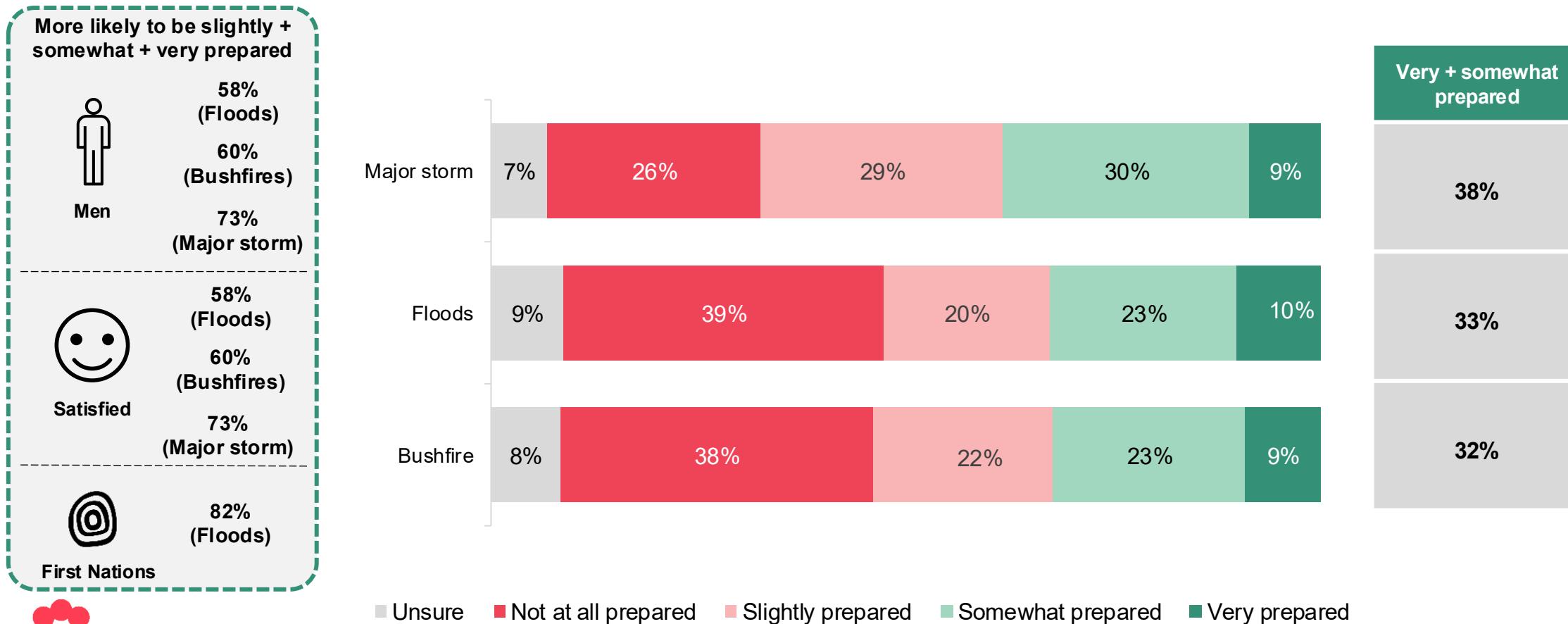


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Q161. How likely do you think it is that each of the following events will directly impact your household in the next 5 years? Data 3% and under not labeled  
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)  
Note: Data under 3% not labelled.



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



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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➤

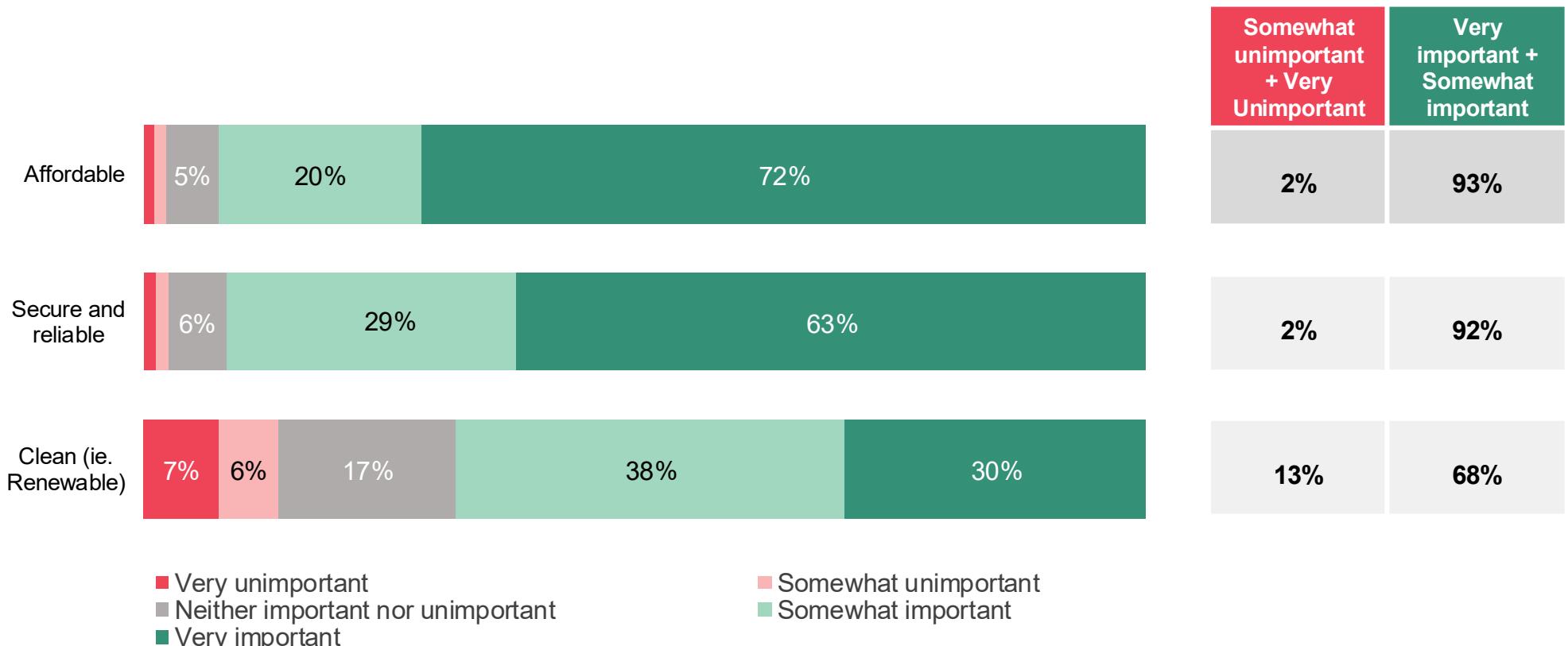
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Energy



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## ➤ How important is it to you that your energy is:

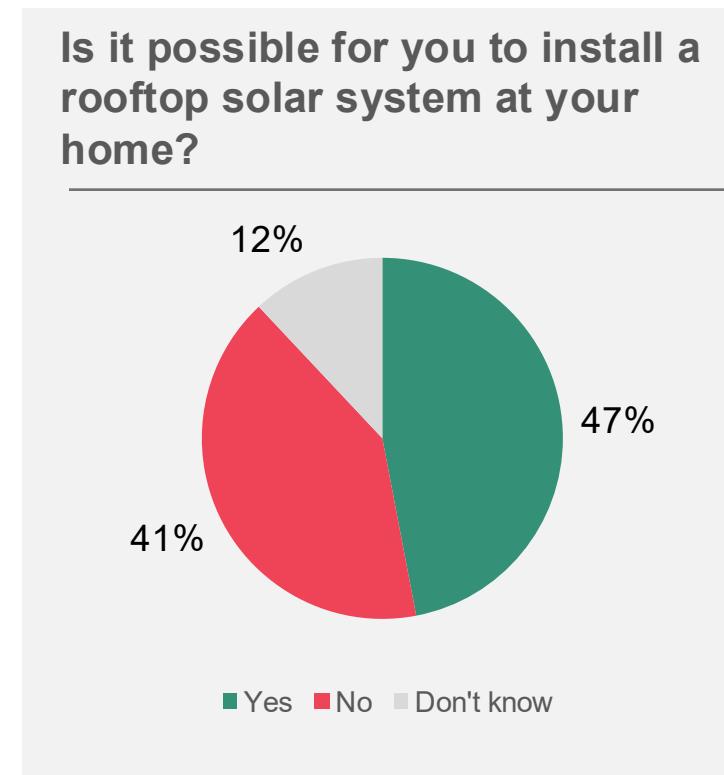
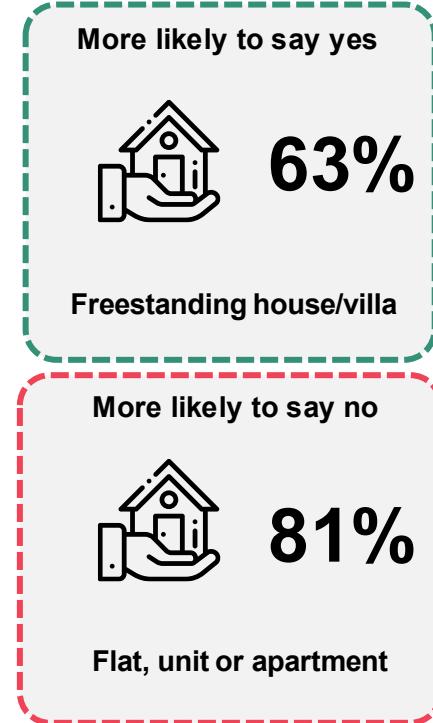


Q156. How important is it to you that your energy is:

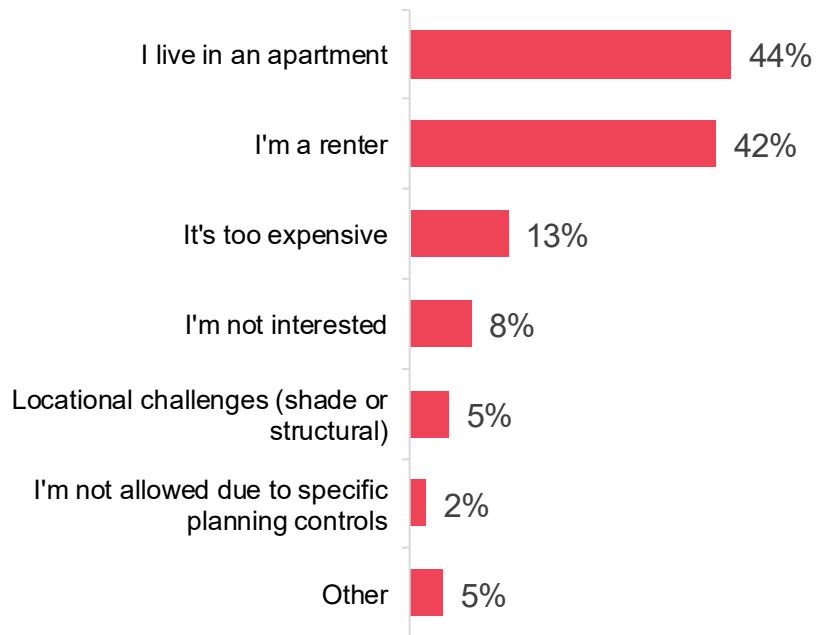
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)

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

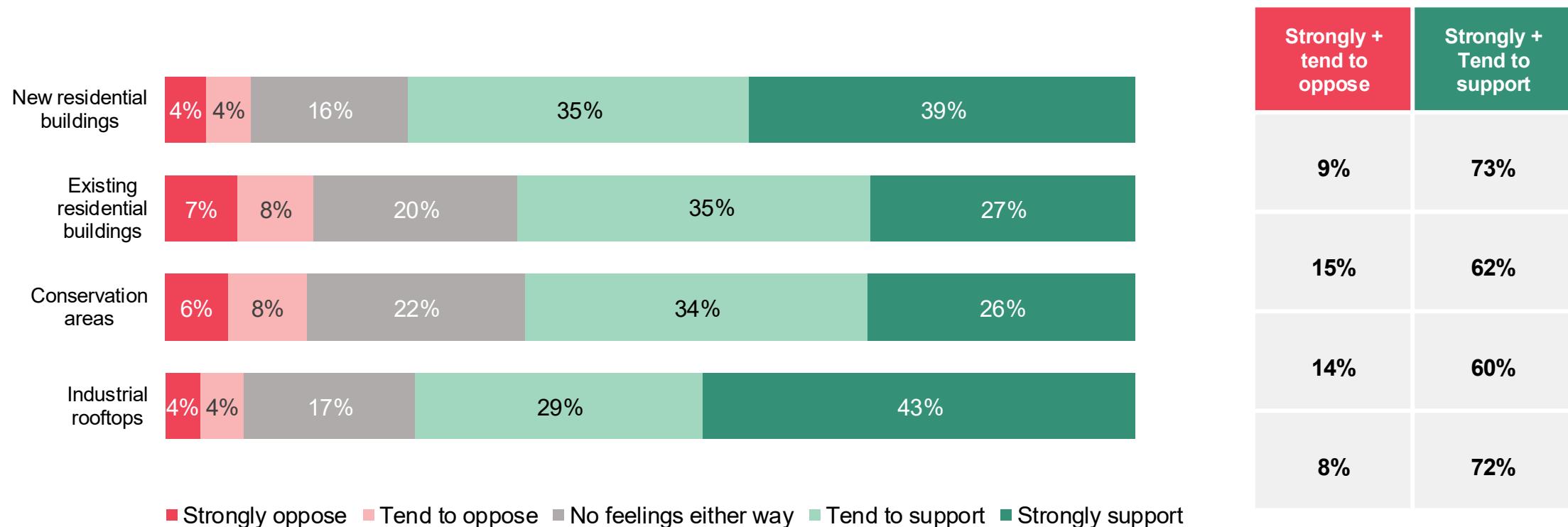
## ➤ Is it possible for you to install a rooftop solar system at your home (and if not, why not)?



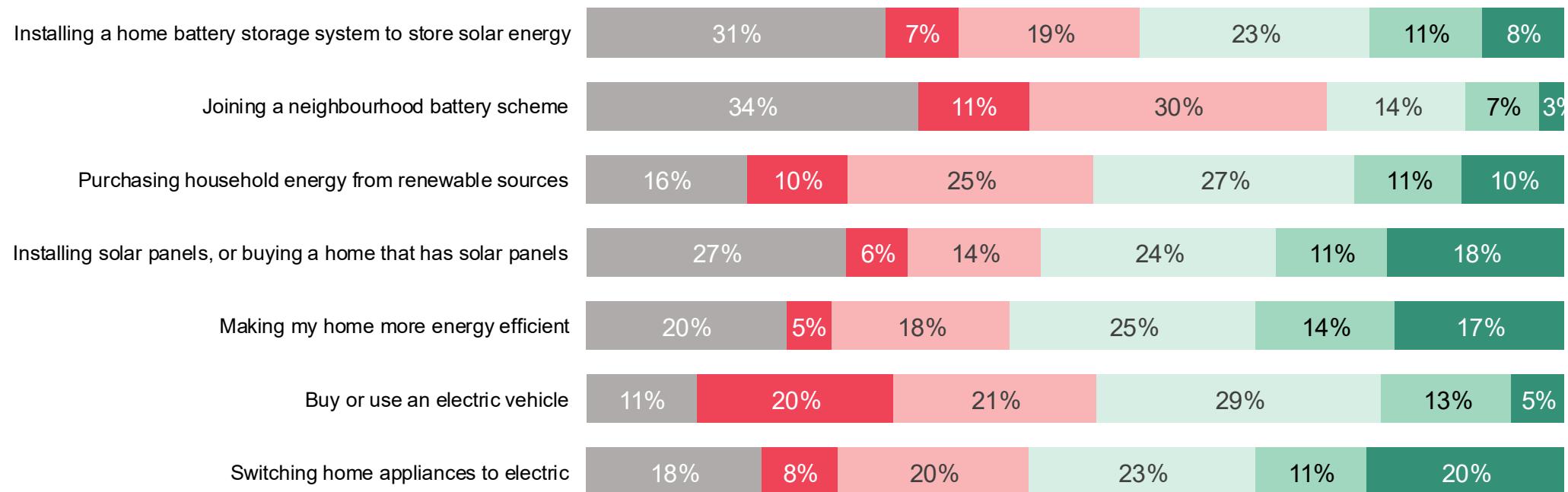
### Why is it not possible for you to install a rooftop solar system at your home?



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



## Plans for home batteries and larger neighbourhood-scale batteries



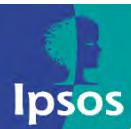
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■ Not applicable to me / my household  
■ I have considered doing this

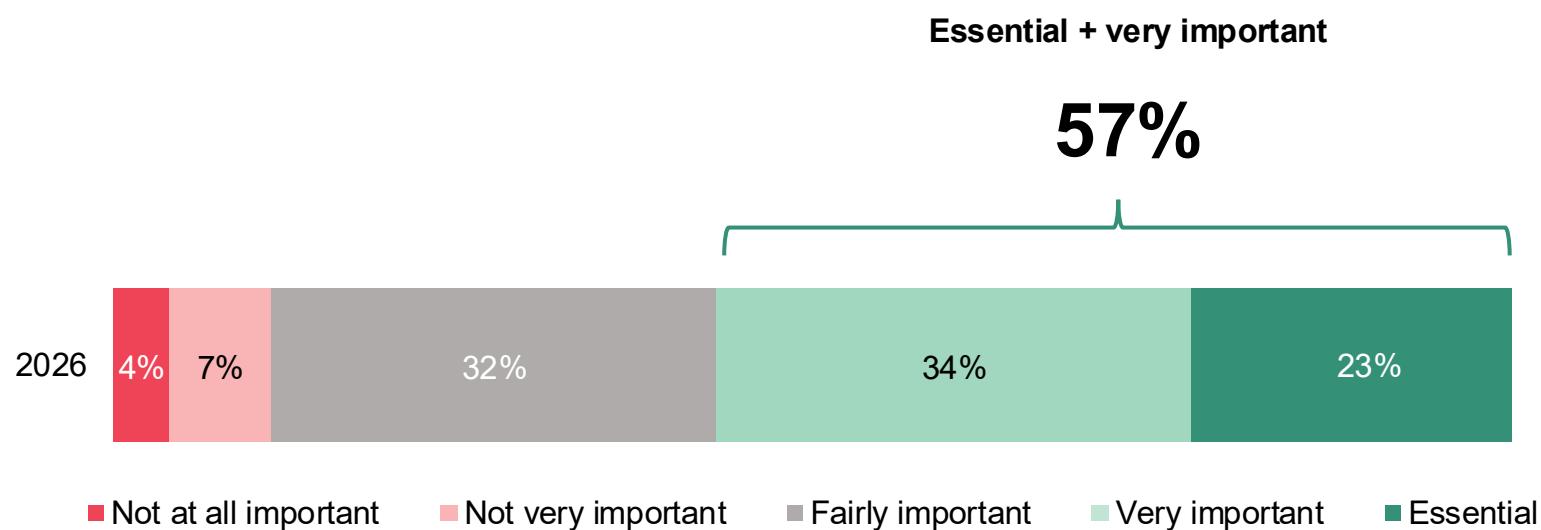
■ I would not do this  
■ I am planning to do this

■ I have not considered doing this  
■ I have done this already

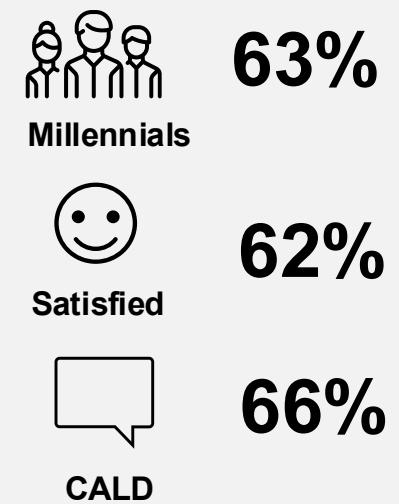
Q73. The Federal government has recently increased its investment into supporting battery storage to store locally generated rooftop solar. This includes home battery schemes and funding larger neighbourhood-scale batteries.  
For each of the following, please indicate if you have already done this, are planning to do this, have considered it, have not considered it or would not do it  
Base: Sydney 2022 (n=1034), 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)  
Note: 'Data under 3% not labelled.'



➤ 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



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➤

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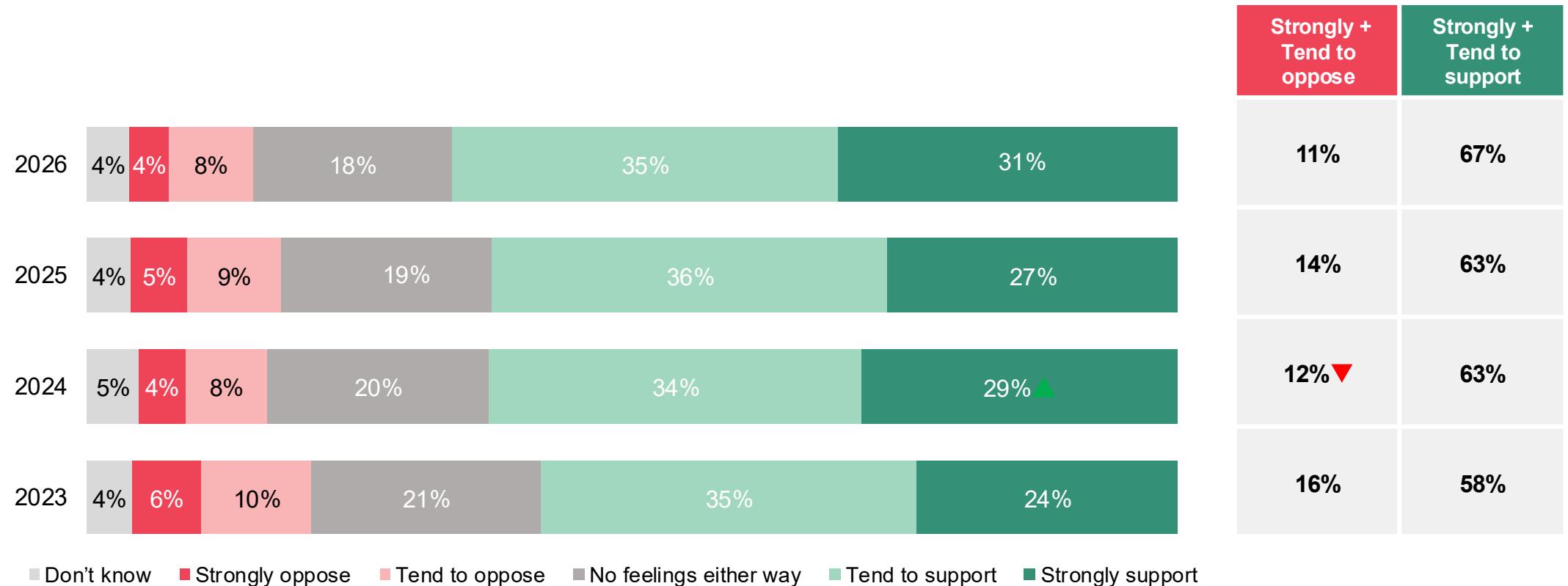
# **Housing and density**



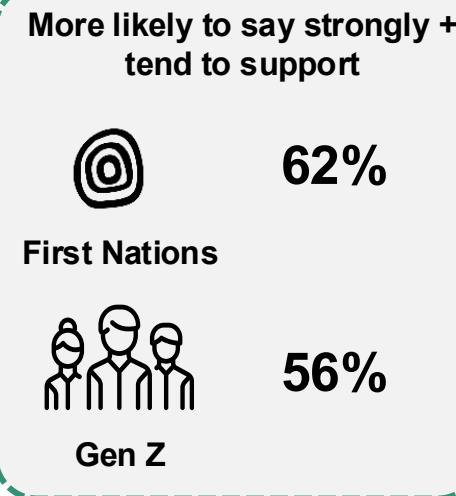
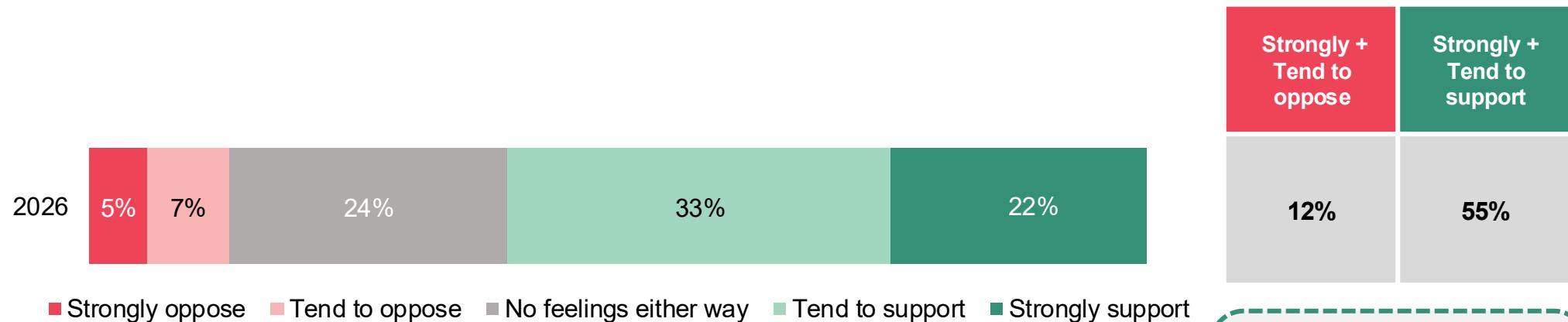
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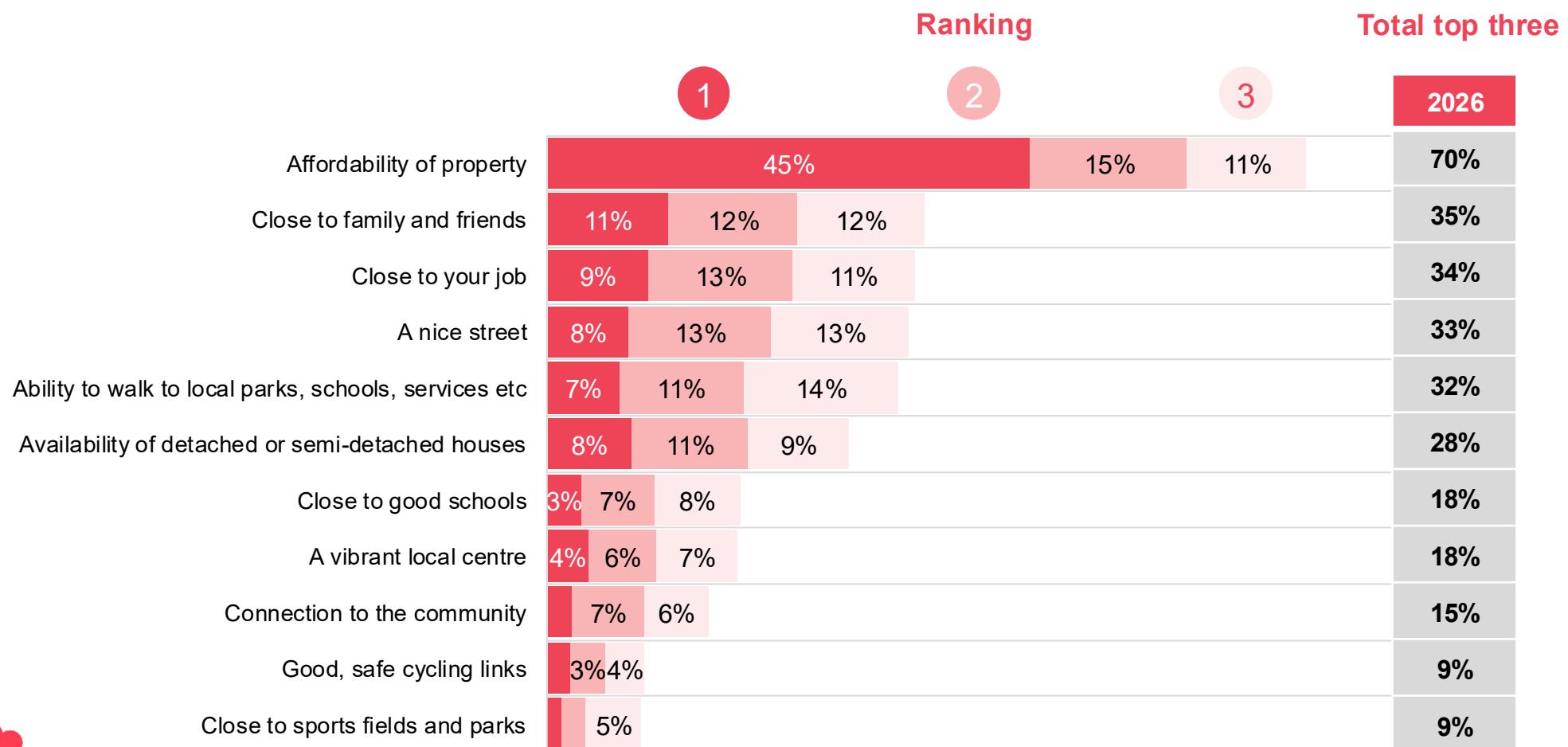
## How much do you support or oppose the building of more homes and apartments to help drive down the cost of housing?



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



## ➤ Neighbourhood preferences

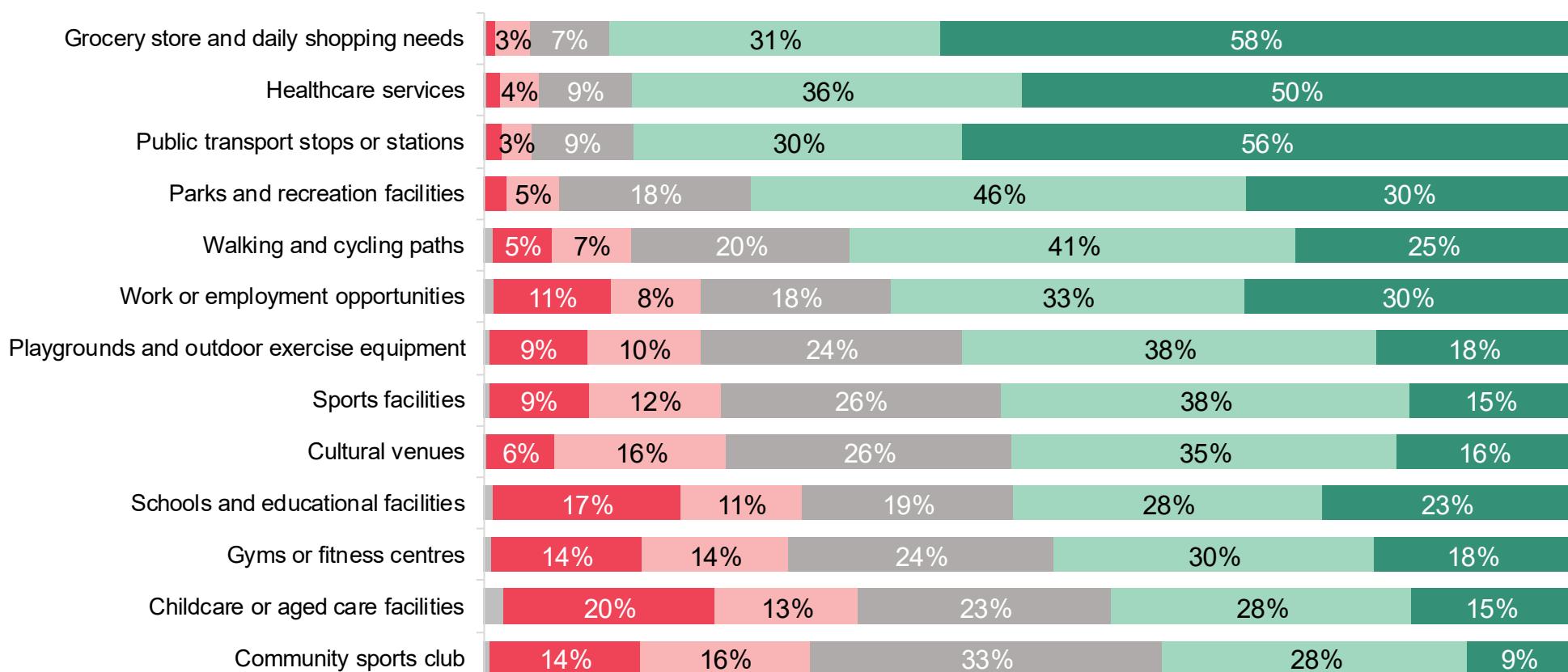




## How important is it to you that you can access each of the following within a 15-minute walk or cycle from your home?

Very + somewhat  
Important

2026



■ Don't know

■ Neither important nor unimportant

■ Very unimportant

■ Somewhat important

■ Somewhat unimportant

■ Very important



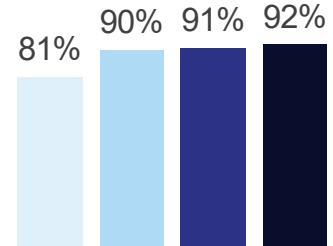
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Q163. How important is it to you that you can access each of the following within a 15-minute walk or cycle from your home?  
Base: Sydney 2026 (n=1000)  
Note: Data under 3% not labelled.

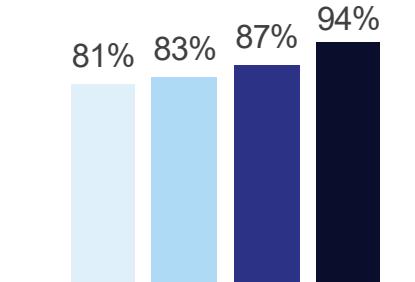




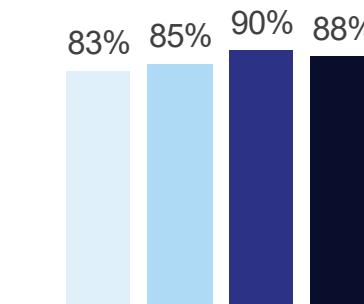
## How important is it to you that you can access each of the following within a 15-minute walk or cycle from your home? By generation



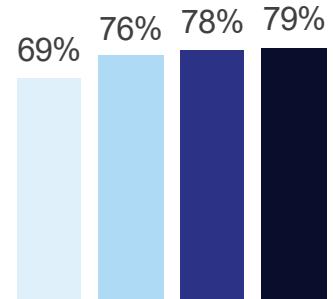
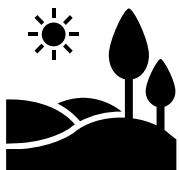
Grocery store and daily shopping needs



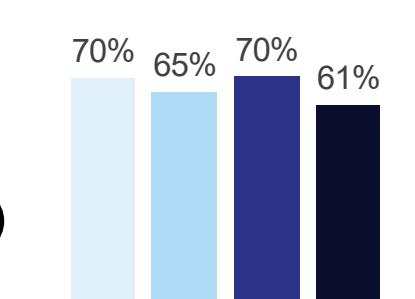
Healthcare services



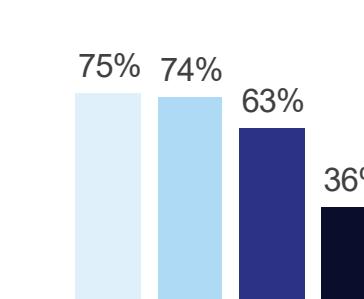
Public transport stops or stations



Parks and recreation facilities

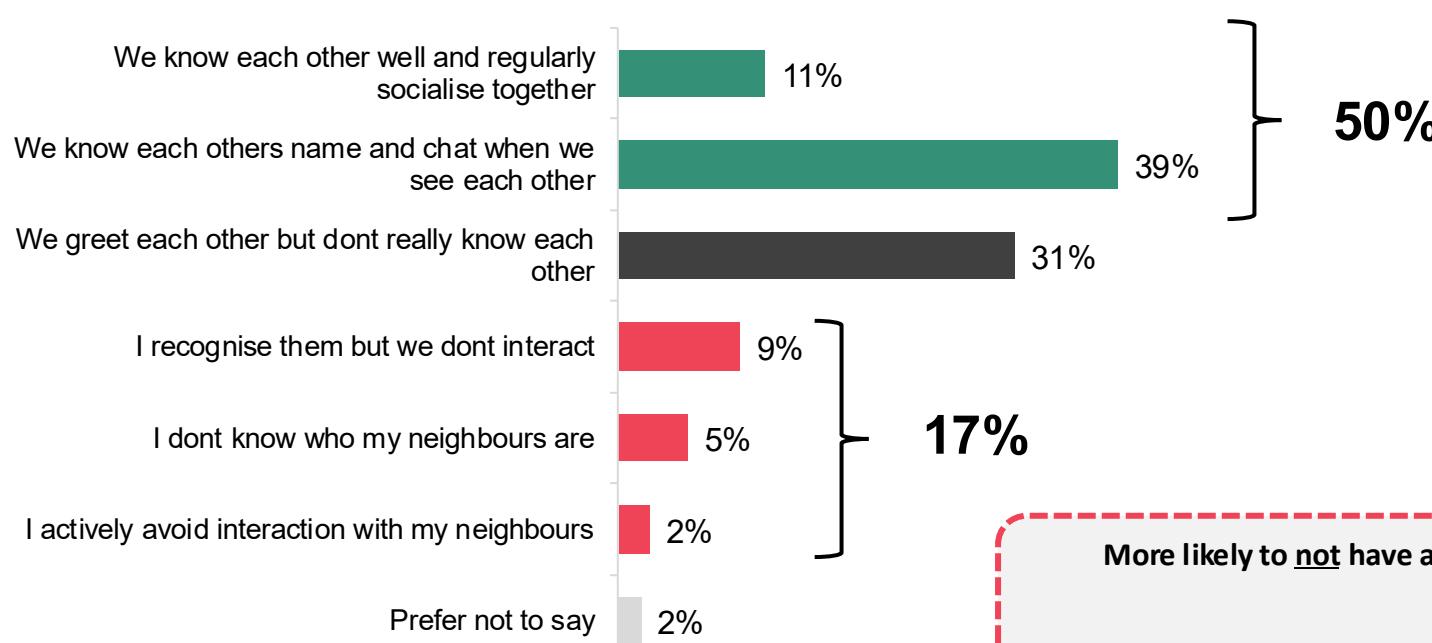


Walking and cycling paths



Work or employment opportunities

## ➤ Which of the following best describes your relationship with your neighbours?



More likely to know and socialise with their neighbours:



Silent generation + Baby boomers  
Homeowners (outright)



High social support  
Satisfied

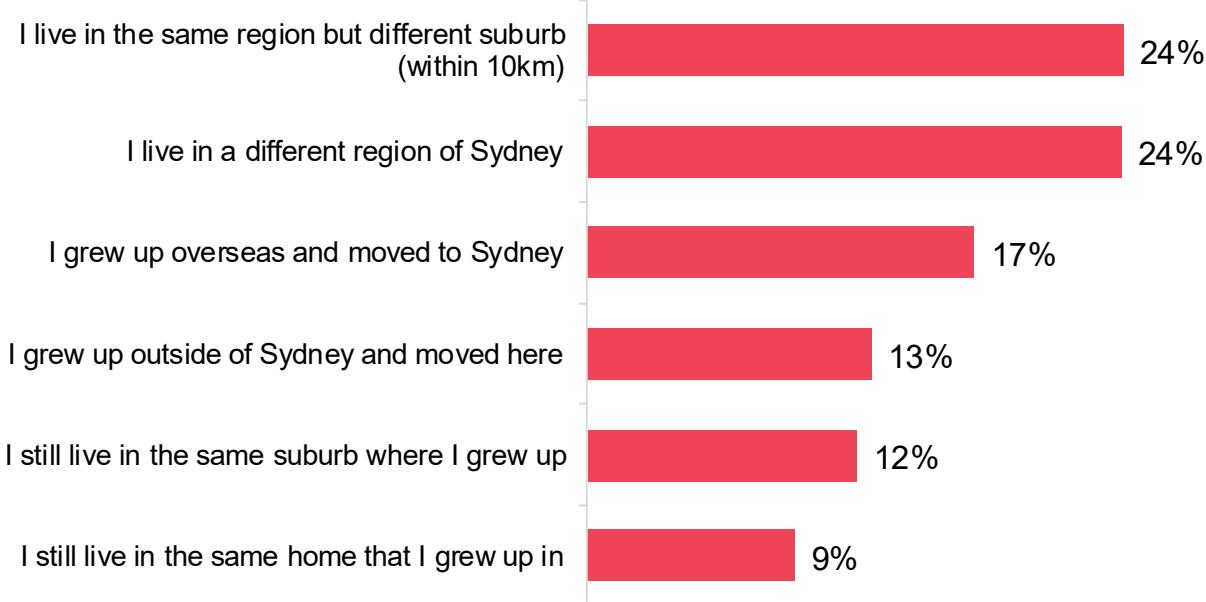
50%

17%

More likely to not have a relationship with their 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



15%



25%

First Nations

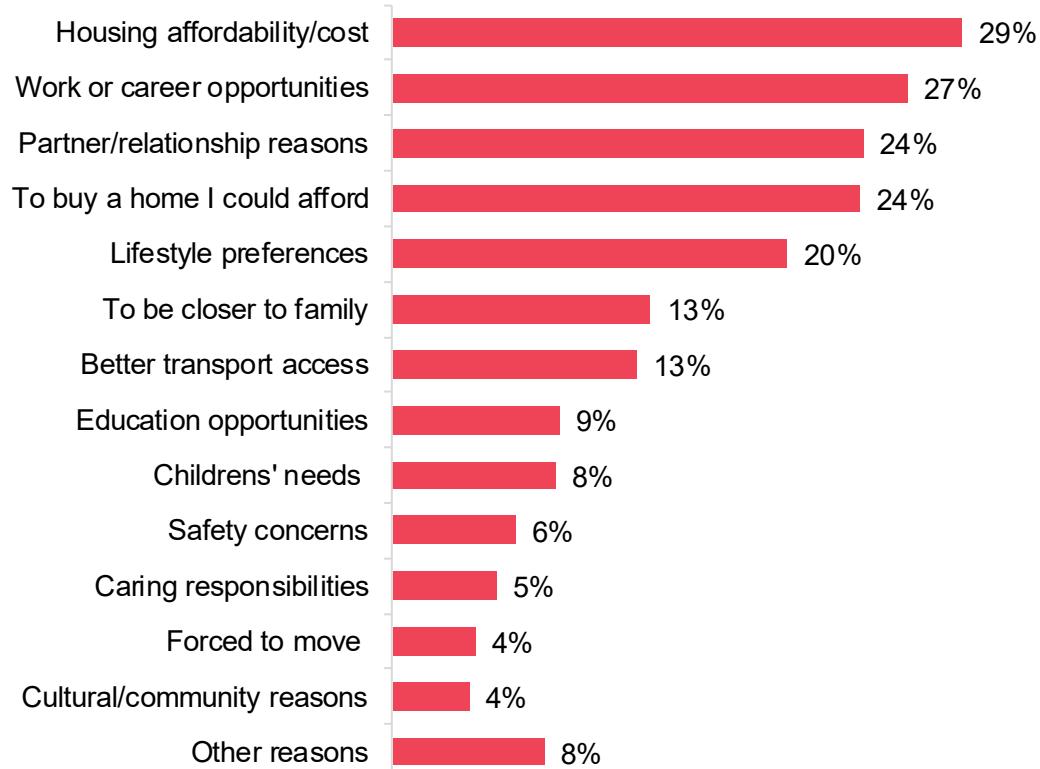


16%

Working 35+ hours per week

## ➤ 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."*

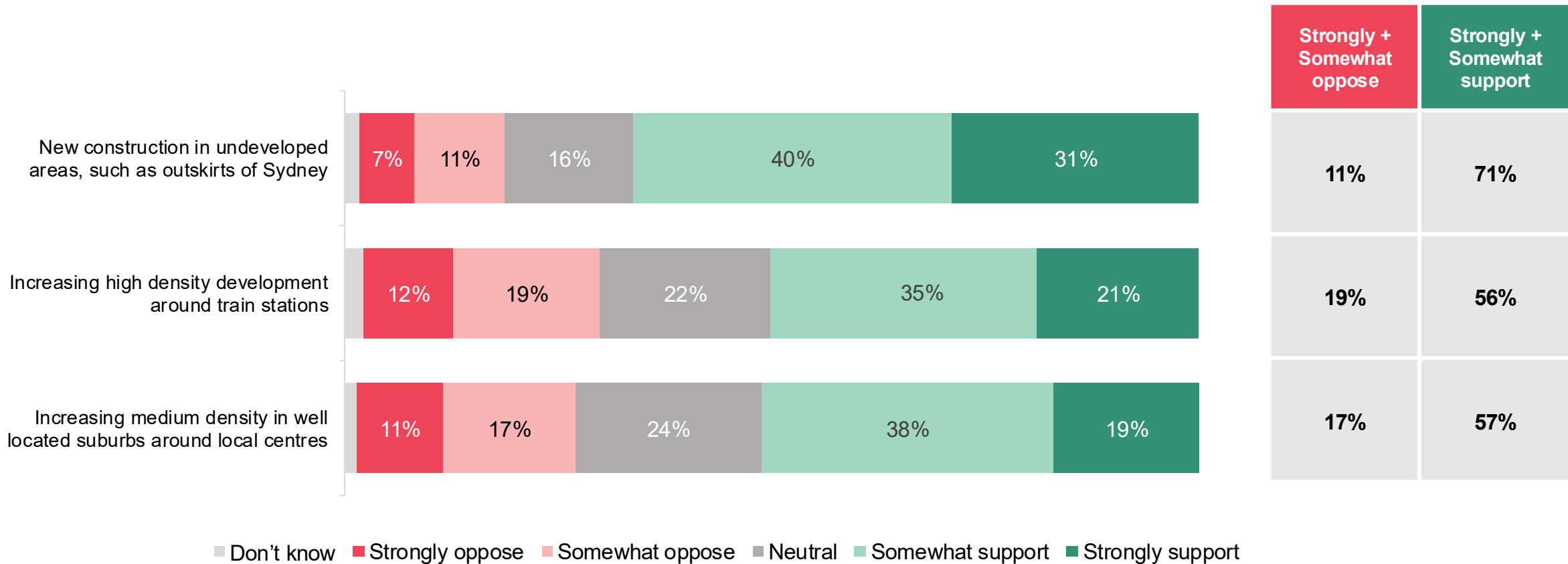
*"Parents wanted to move so I moved with them."*

*"To be near friends and entertainment."*

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

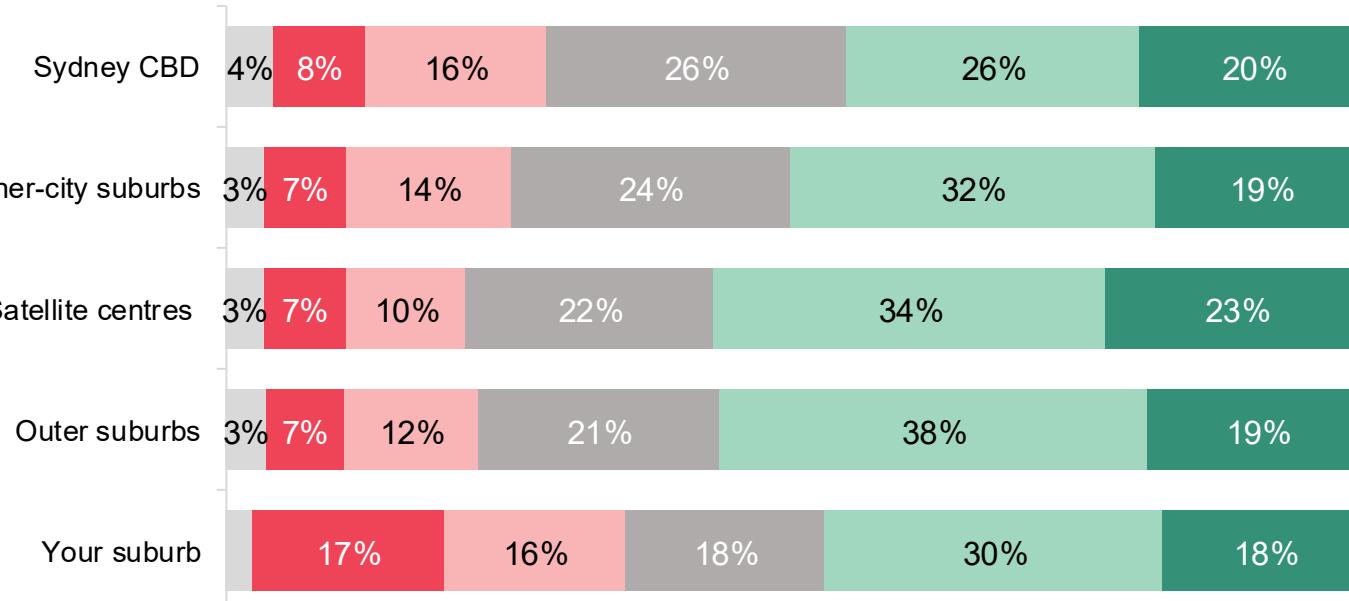
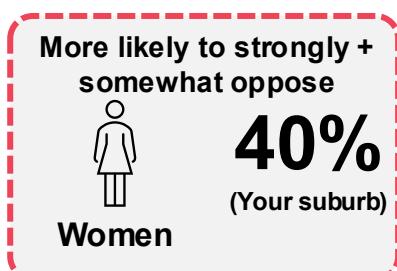
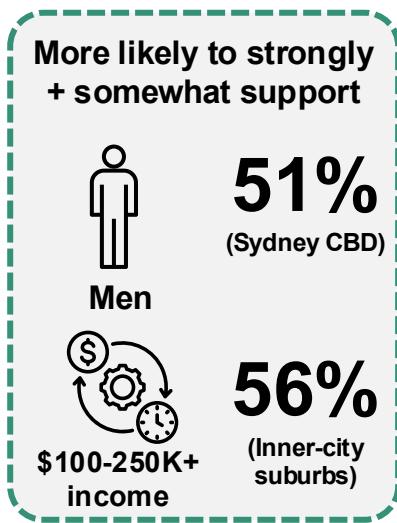
*"To buy a larger house."*

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





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



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

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.

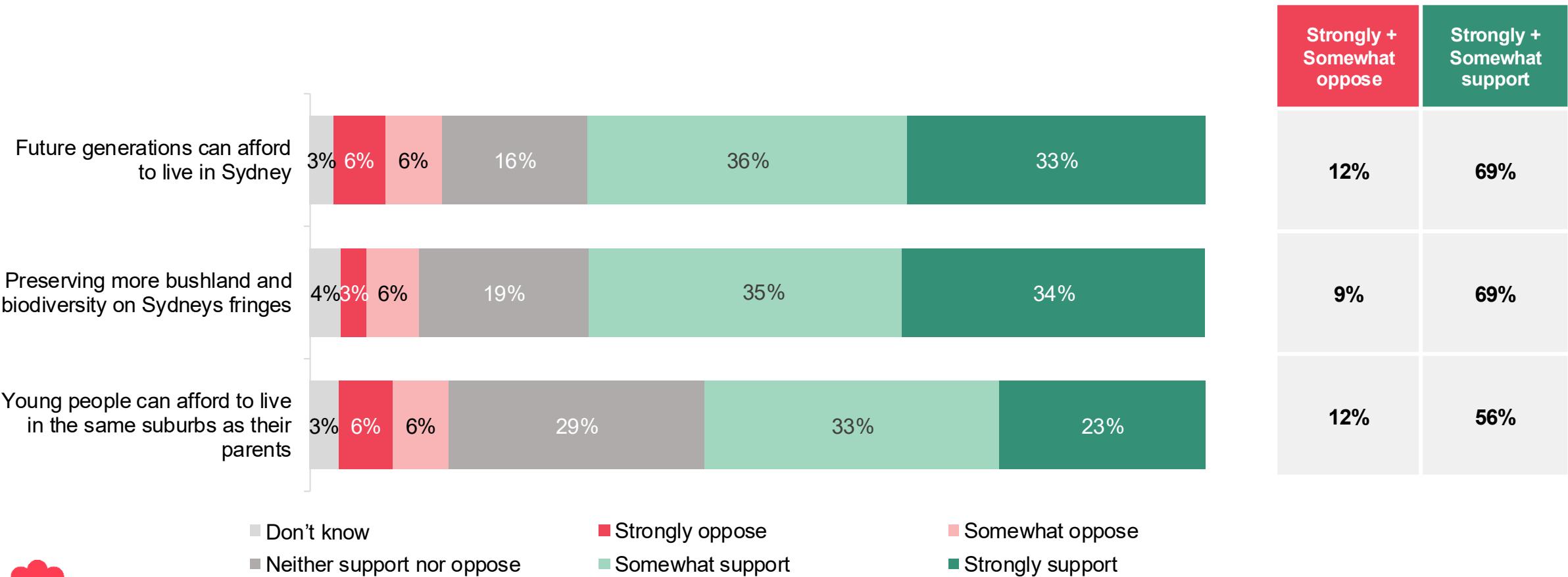
Tend to + strongly support

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

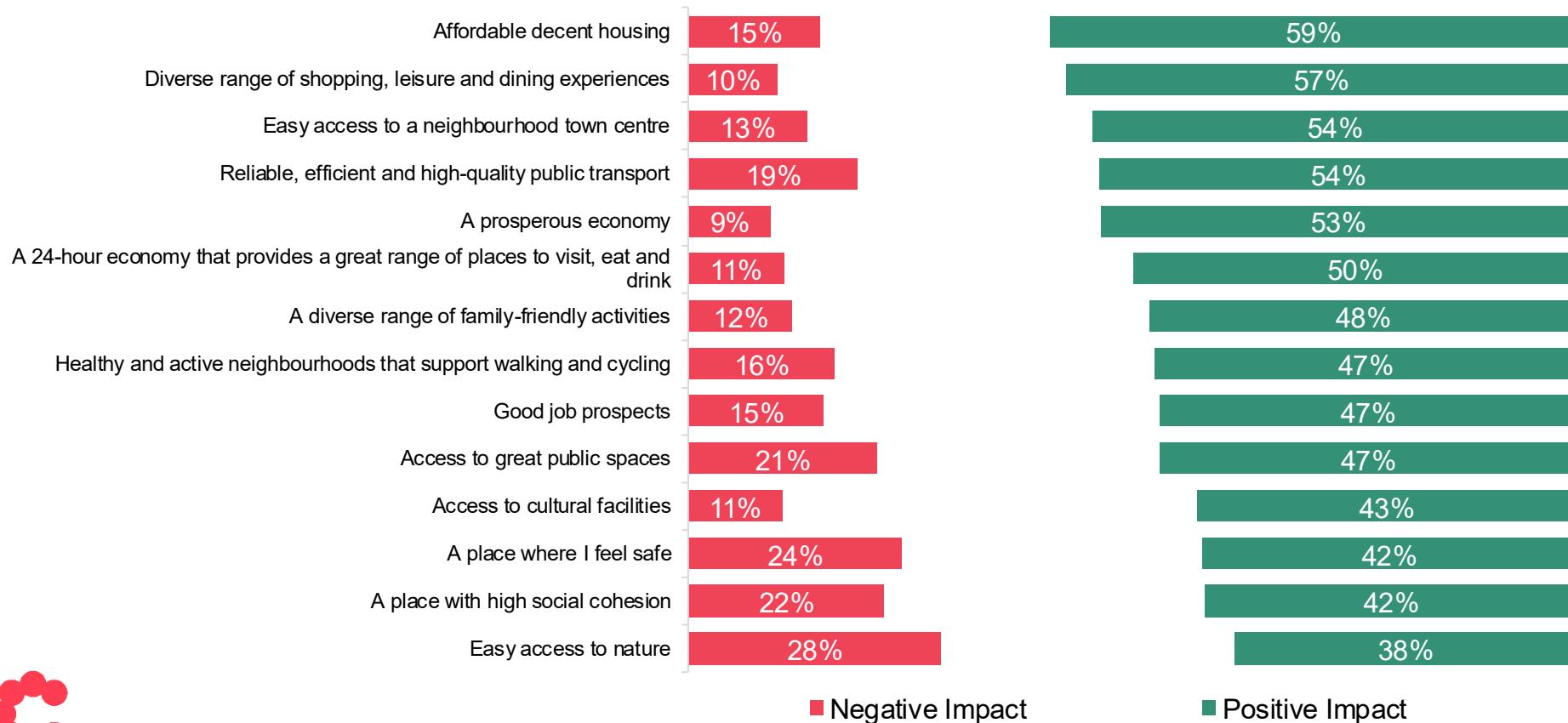
▲ Significantly higher than previous years  
▼ Significantly lower than previous years



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



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



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.

More likely to perceive positive impact



**41%**

(A place where I feel safe)



**23%**

(A 24-hour economy)

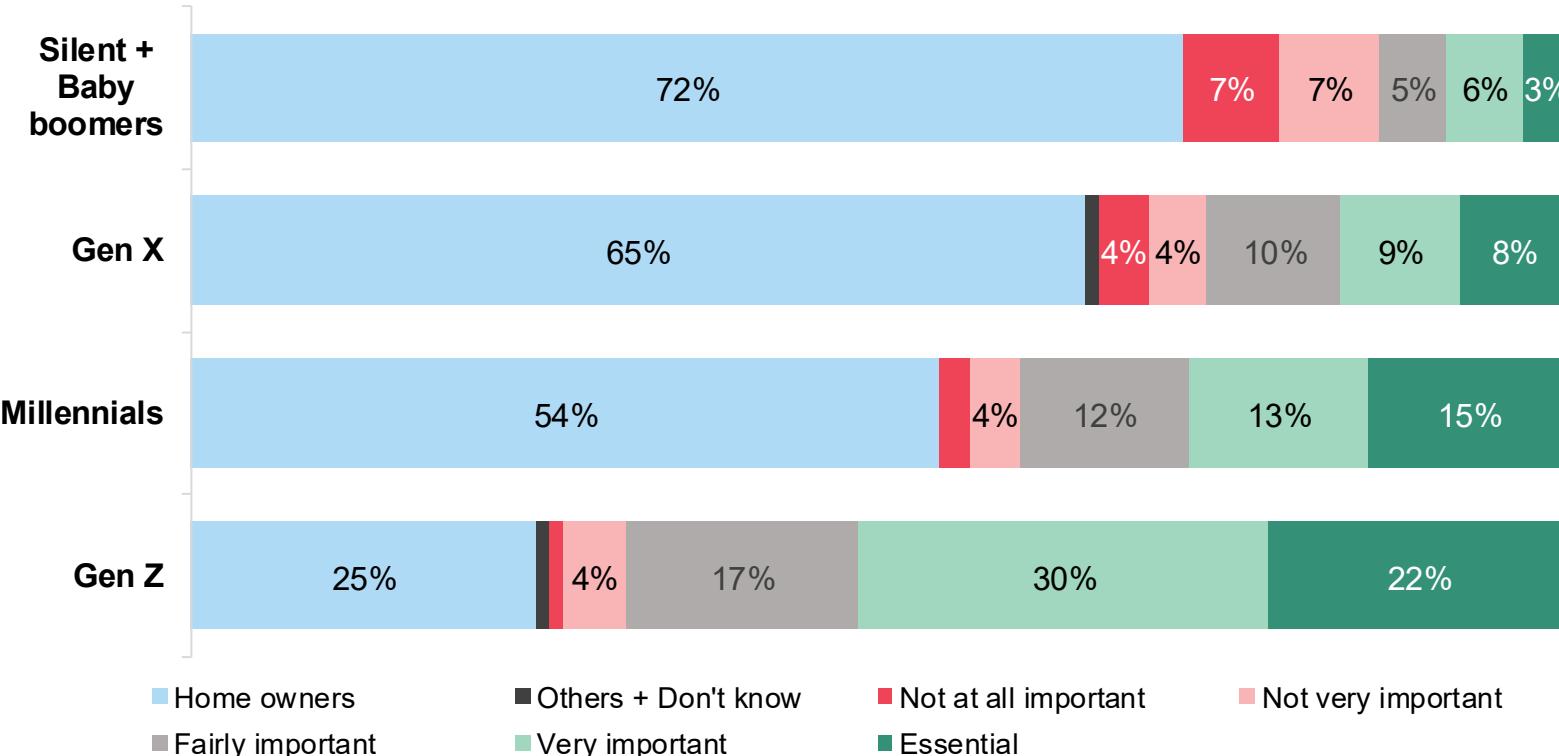


**42%**

(Access to cultural facilities)

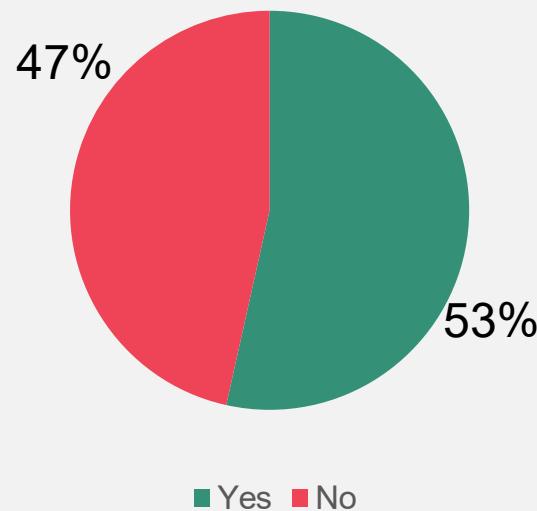


## How important is it to you that you can own your home one day?

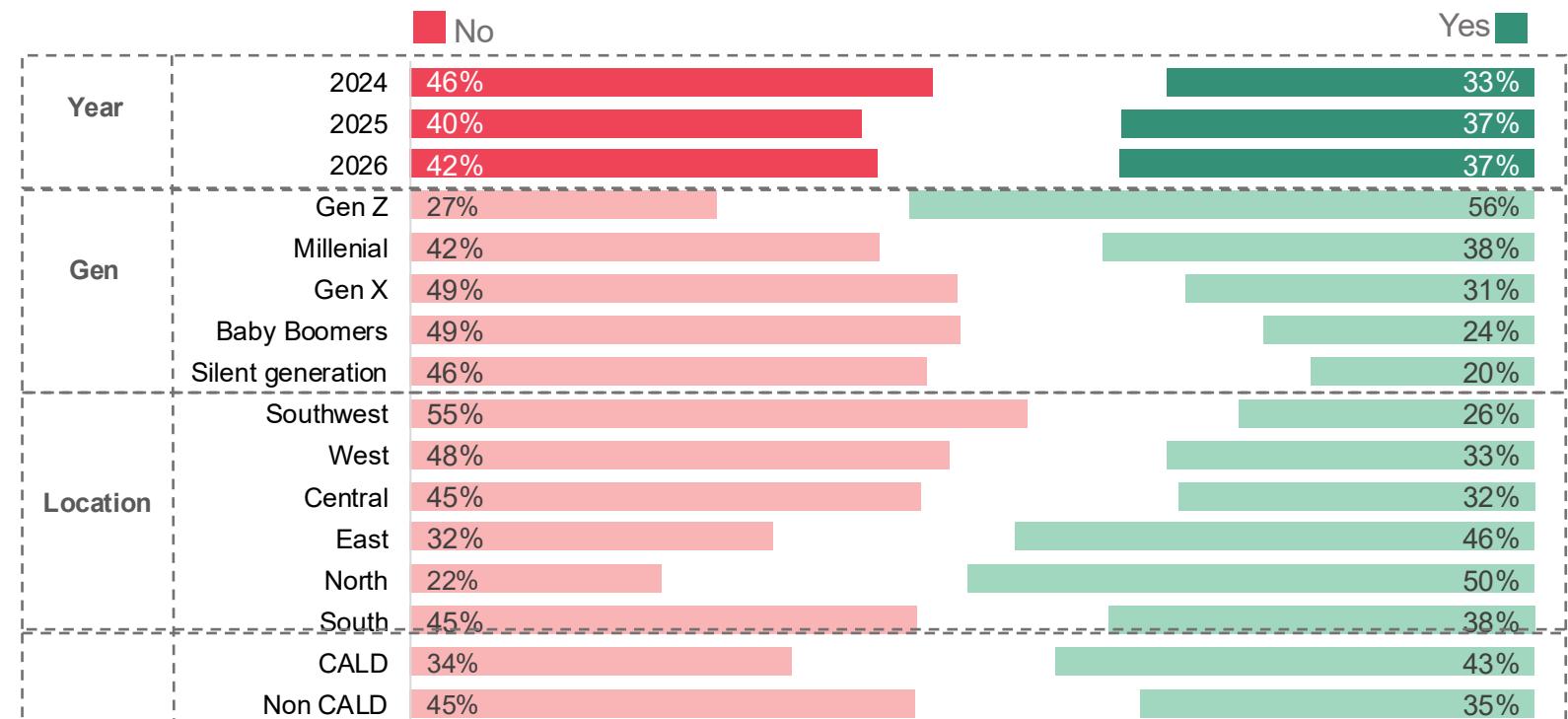


## Have you ever lived in apartment and would you consider it in the future

Have you ever lived  
in an apartment?

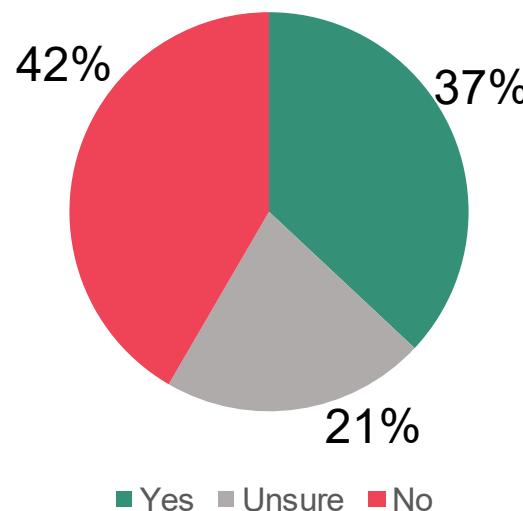


Would you consider living in  
an apartment in the future?

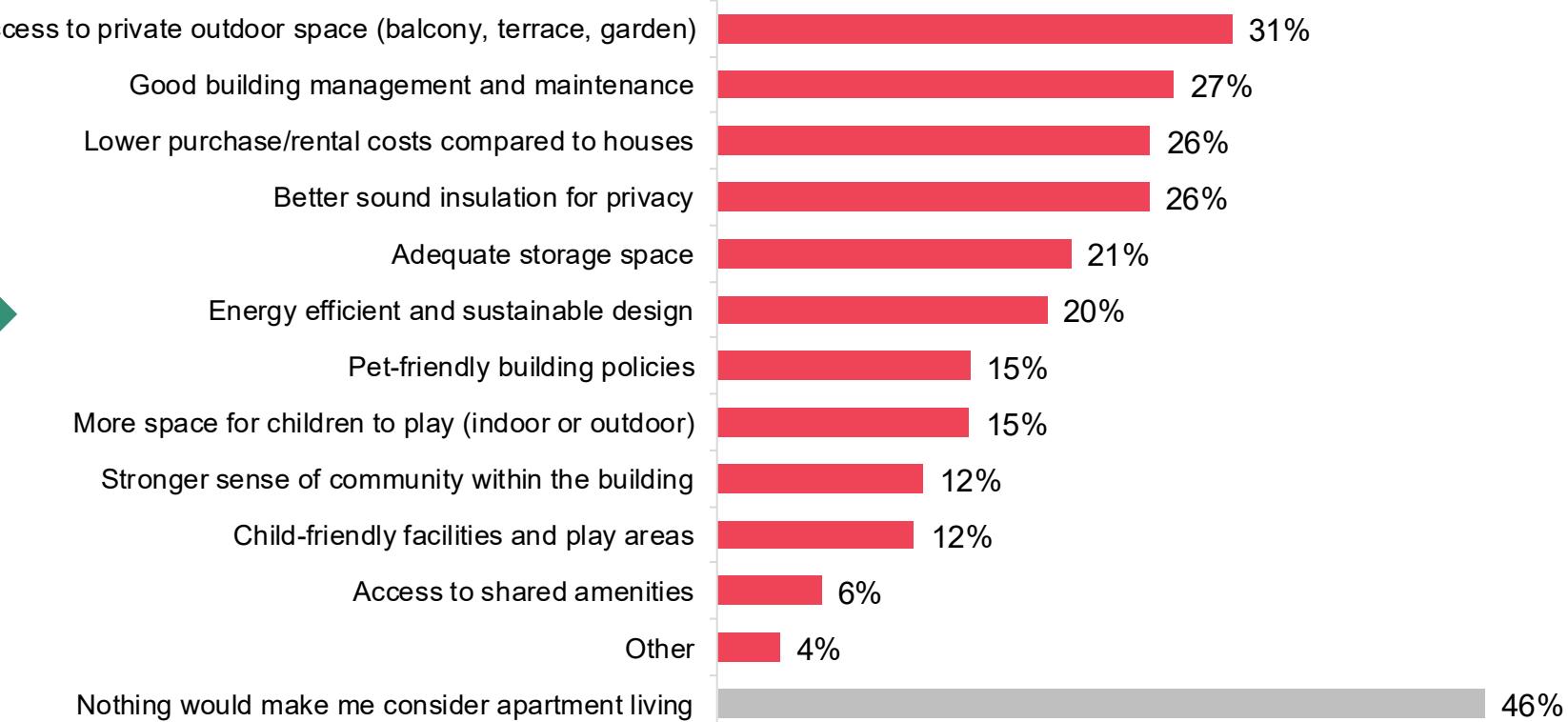


## ➤ What would convince you to live in an apartment?

### Would you consider living in an apartment in the future?



### Among those who would not consider living in an apartment





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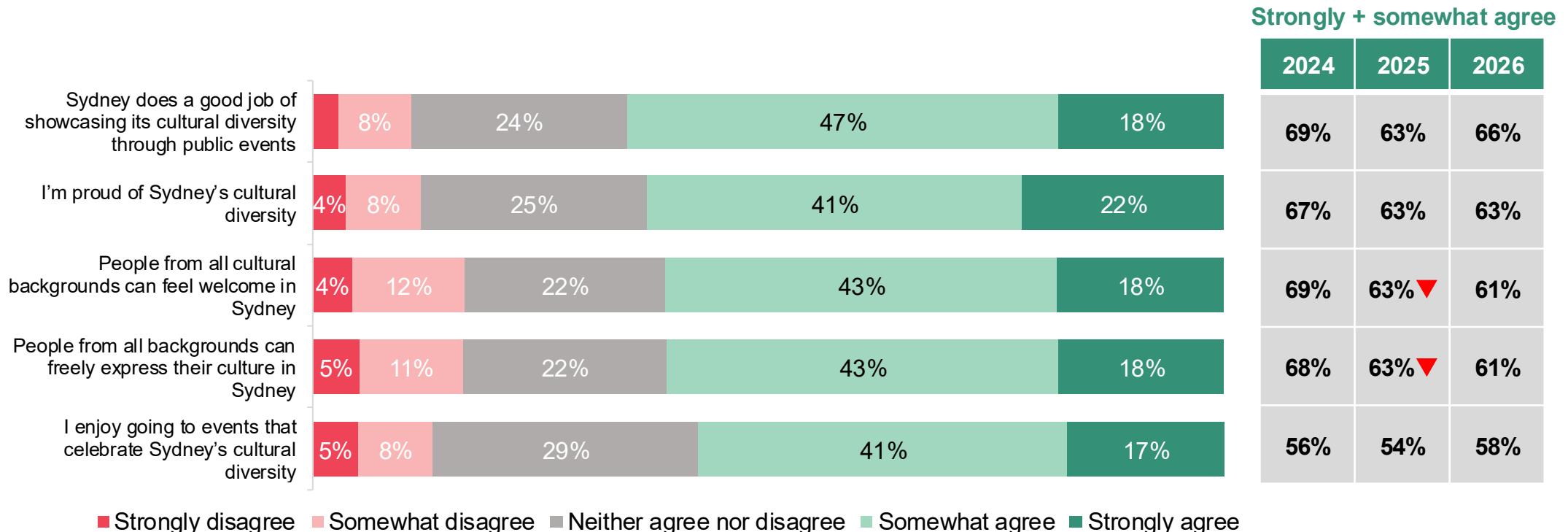
# Life in Sydney 2026

# Multiculturalism

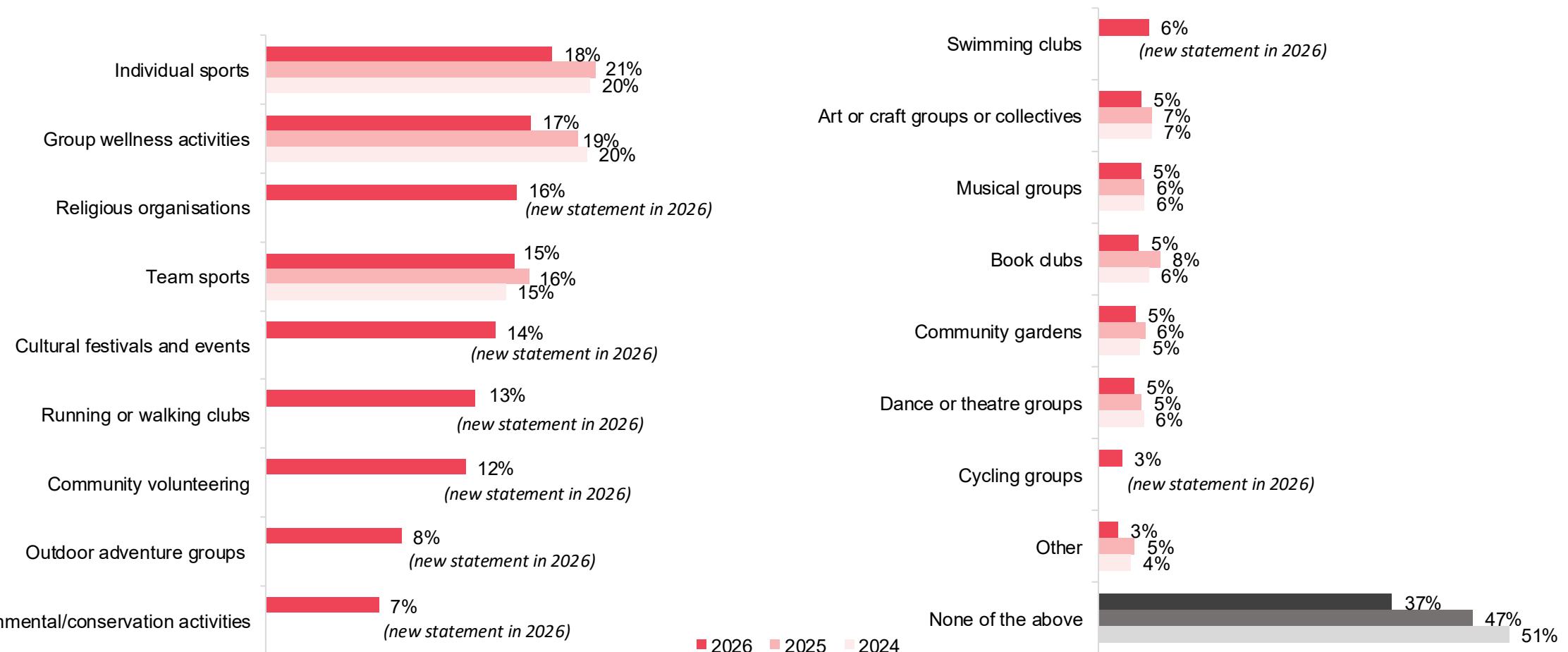


Committee  
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Sydney

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



## Do you regularly participate in any of the following?



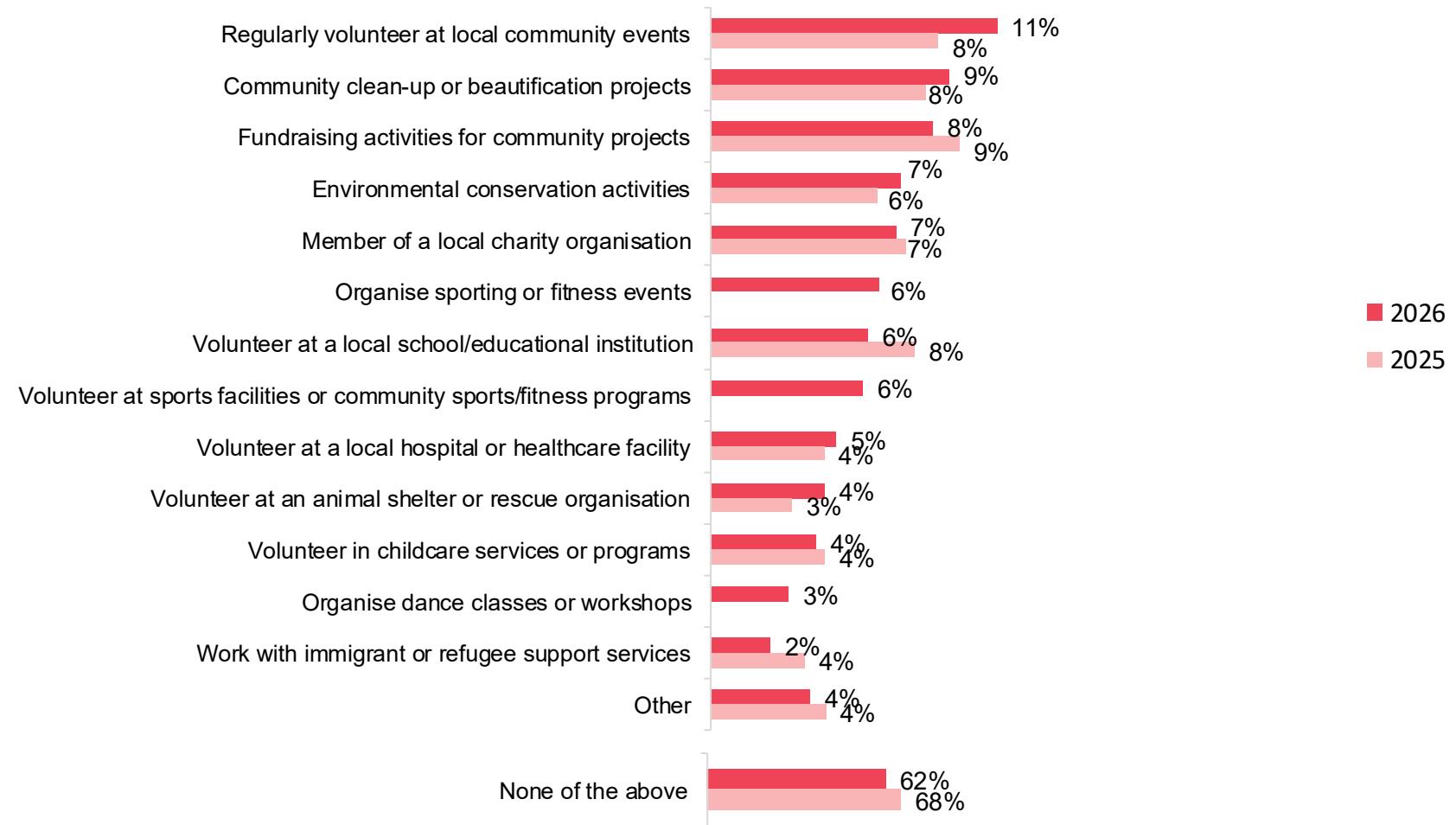
Committee  
for  
Sydney

Q114. Do you regularly participate in any of the following? Select any that apply.  
Base: Sydney 2024 (n=1035) 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)

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



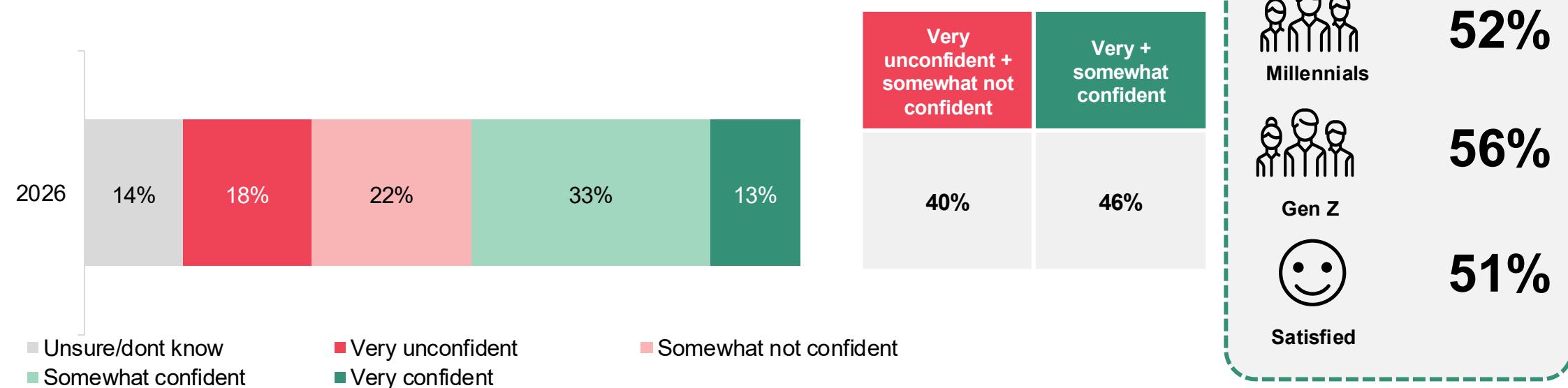
➤ Below is a list of ways some people volunteer in their communities. Looking at the list, which of any of these things do you do?



Q131. 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?

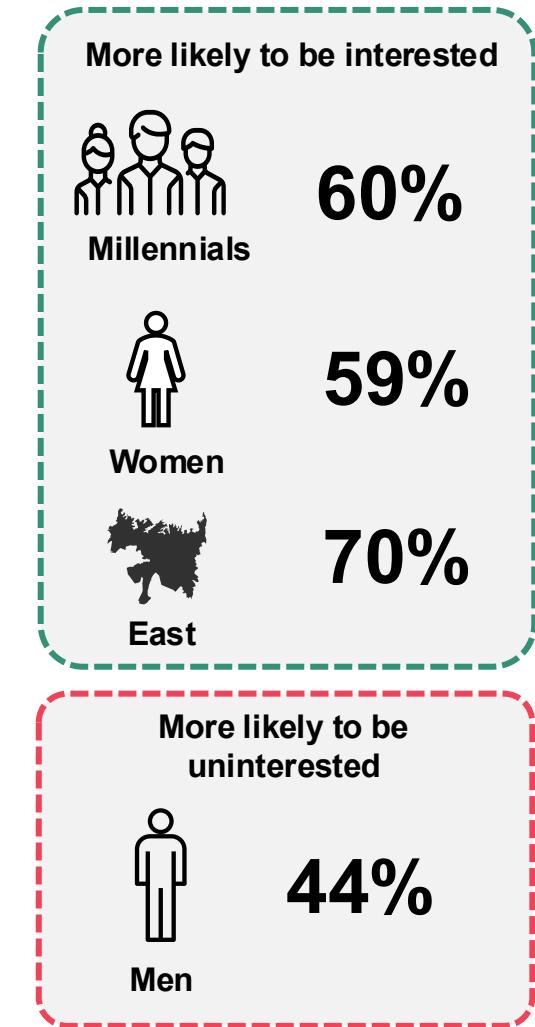
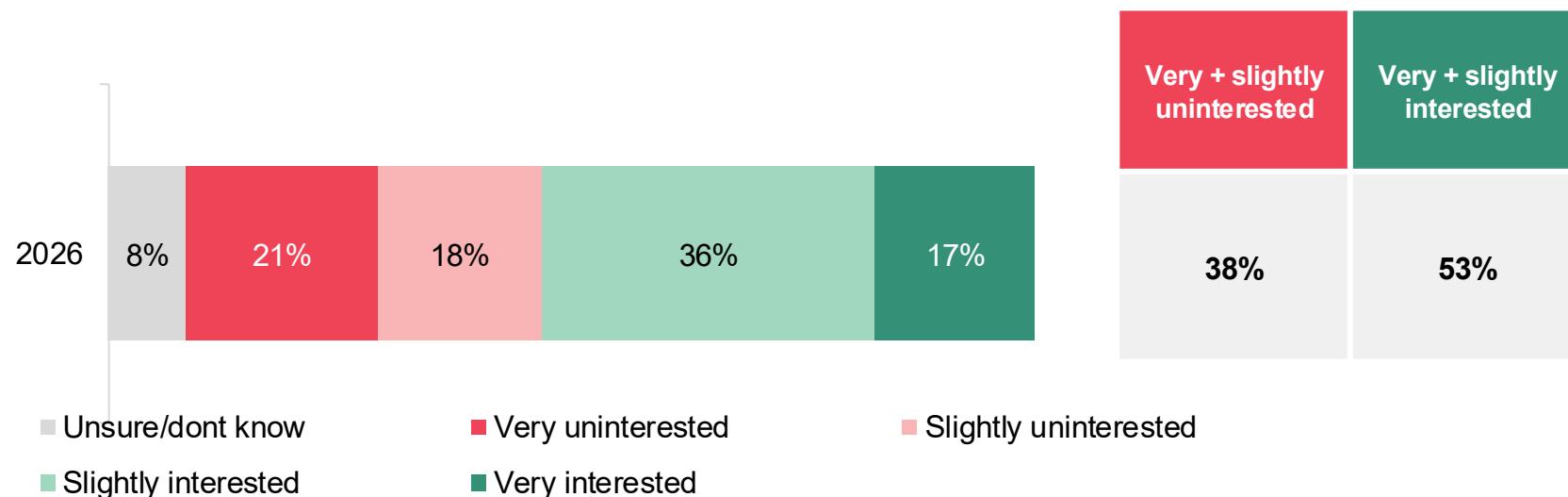
Base: Sydney 2025 (n=1000), 2026 (n=1000)

➤ 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)?

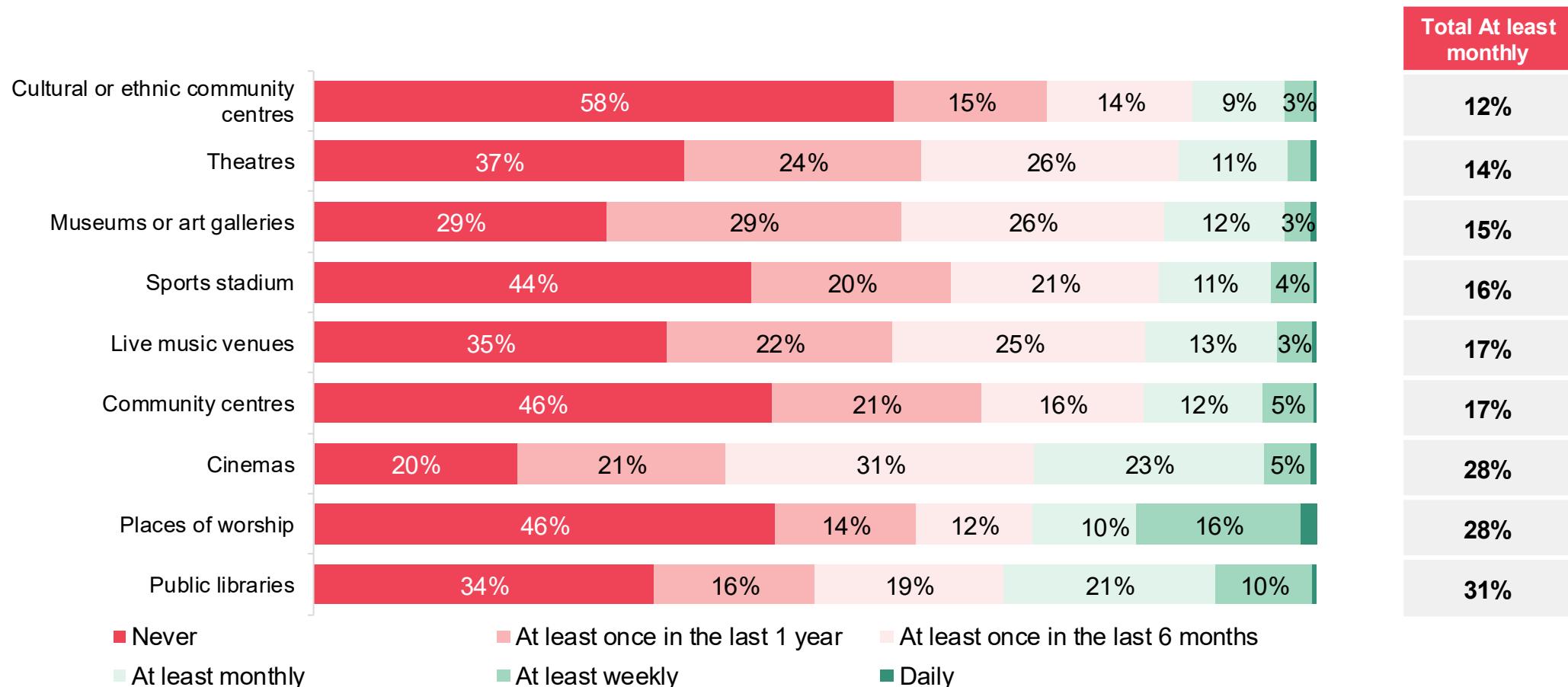




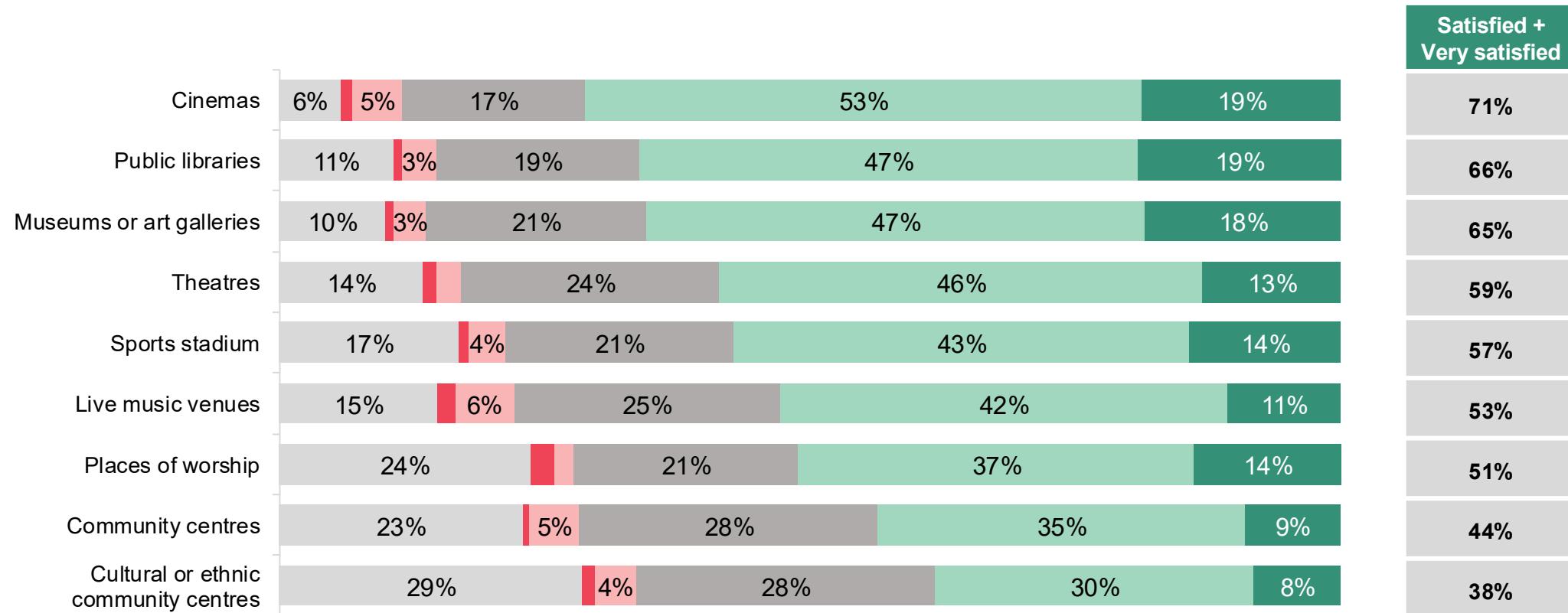
## What is your level of interest in Indigenous issues in Australia?



## ➤ 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?



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

---

➤

# Life in Sydney 2026 Planning



Committee  
for  
Sydney



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



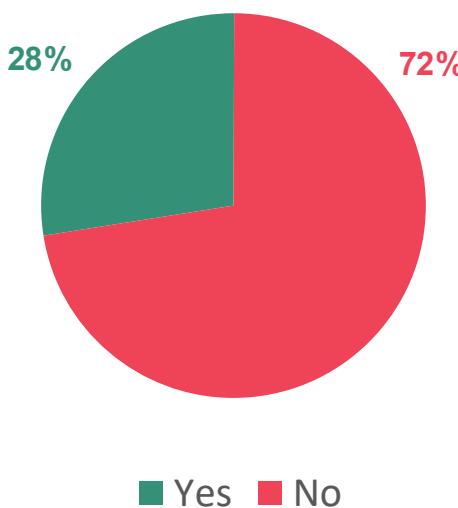


## How well do you understand the plans for how Sydney will develop over the next..



## Having a voice and giving feedback in the community

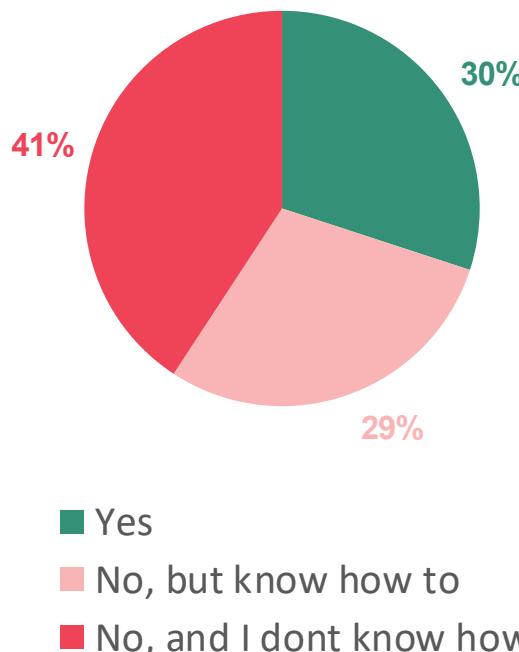
Do you feel that you have a voice in how your local community will develop?



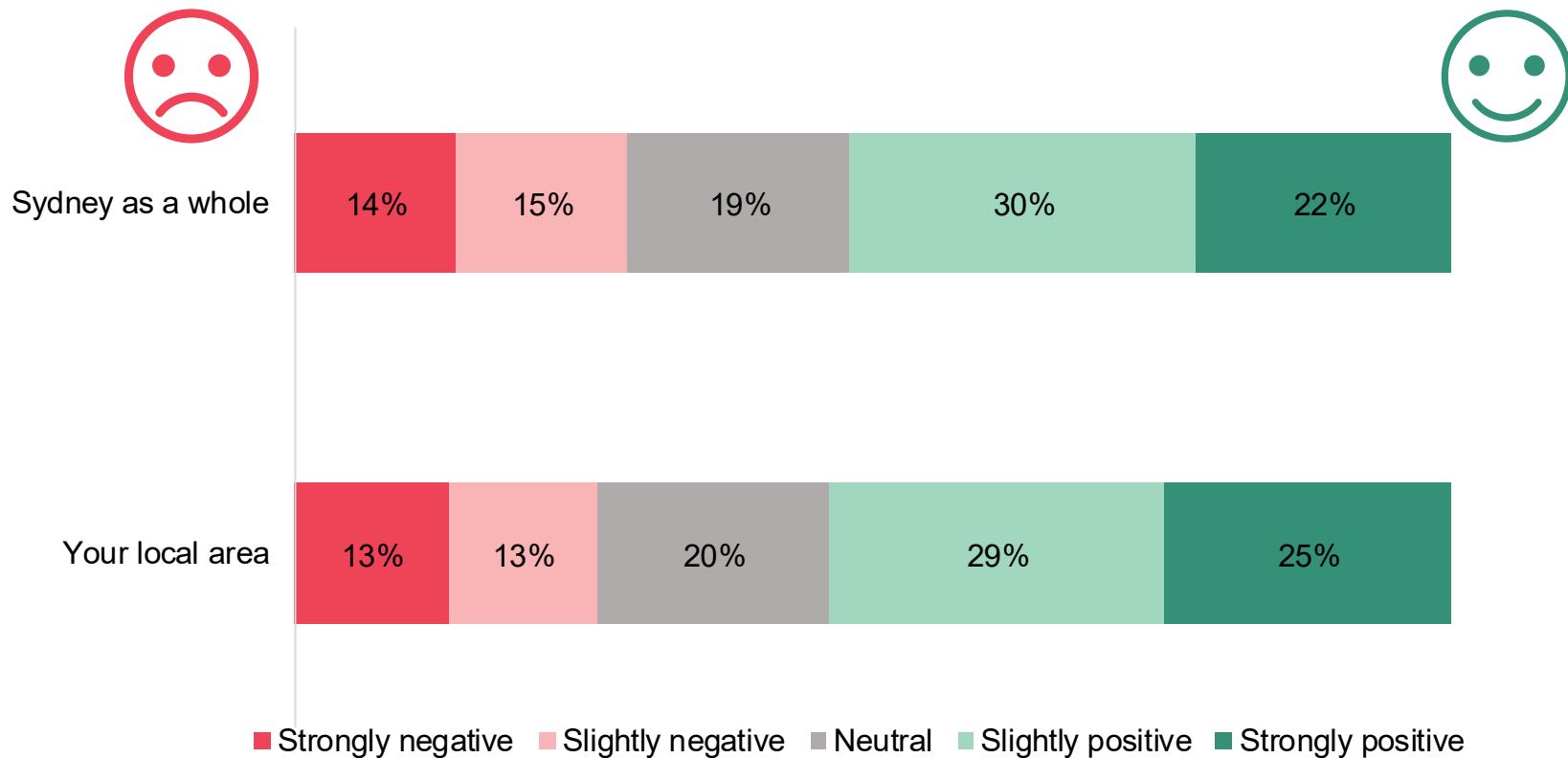
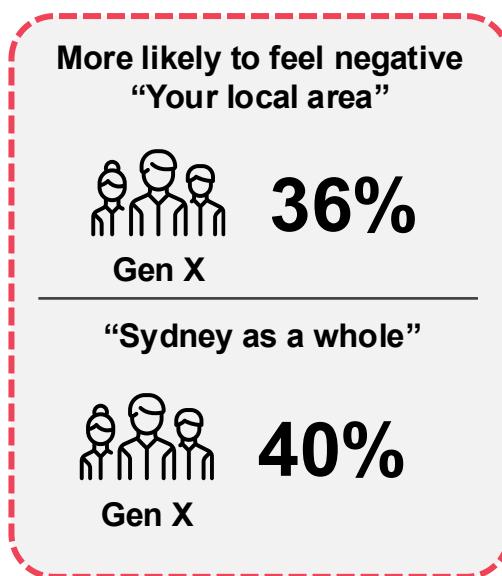
38%

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?



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



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Life in Sydney 2026

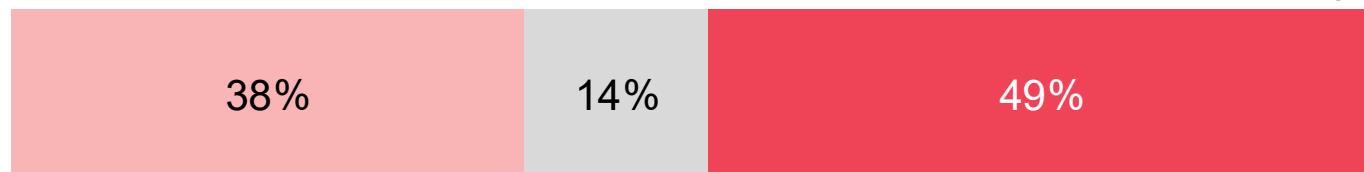
# Bold leadership



Committee  
for  
Sydney

## Do you think the government should prioritise...

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



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

More likely to agree with solving challenges now



**48%**

Income under \$60k

More likely to don't know



Highschool graduates



Low social support

**23%**

**25%**

More likely to agree with longer term view



Satisfied

**52%**

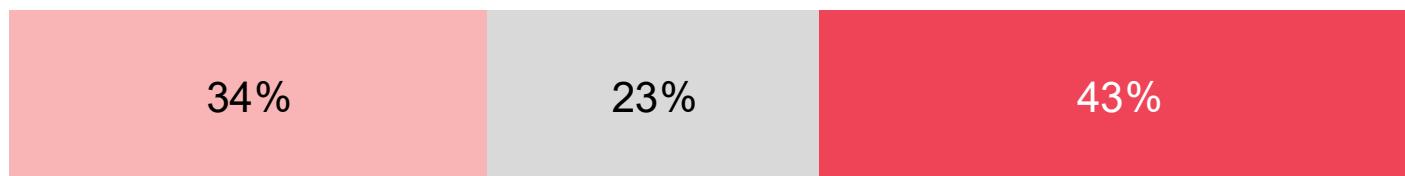


Income over \$100k

**55%**

## 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'



Highschool



Income under  
\$60k

33%

More likely to agree with budget deficits



Satisfied



Income over  
\$100k

52%

51%

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?



Q182 How well do you feel you understand the plans for how Sydney will change in the next 20 years?  
 Base: Sydney (2026 n=1000)  
 Note: Data 3% and below not labelled. Question added in 2026.

---

➤

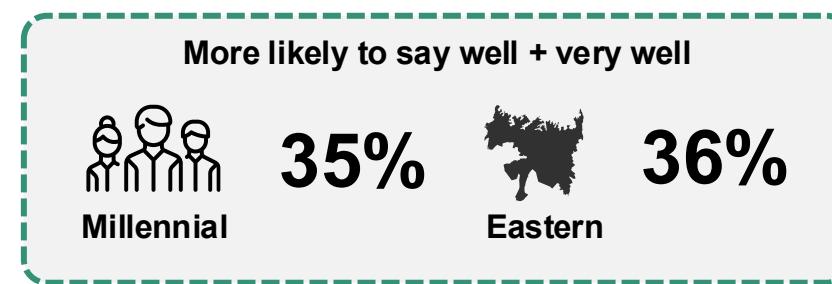
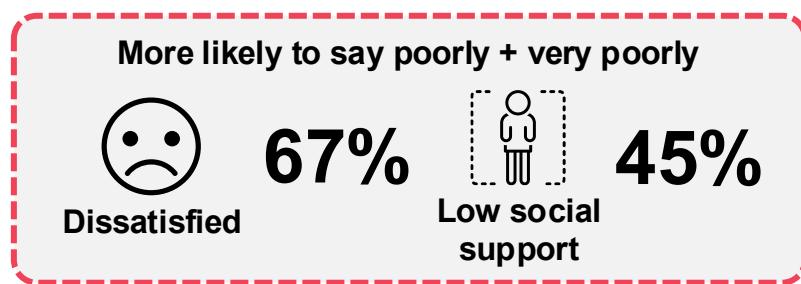
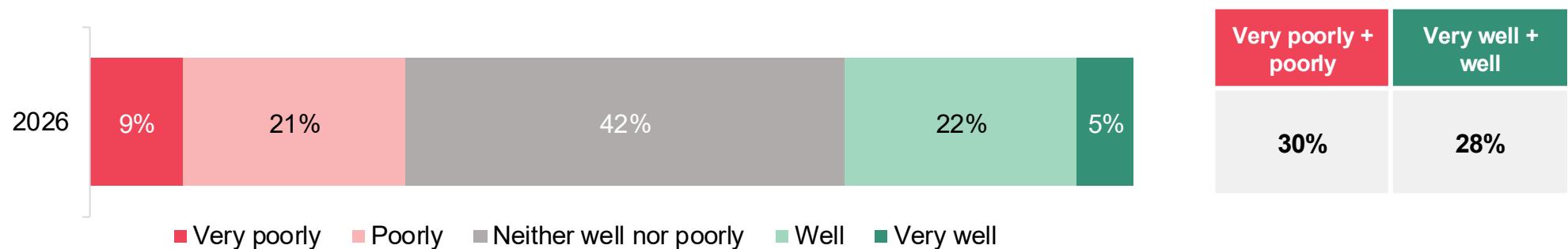
Life in Sydney 2026

# Government policy

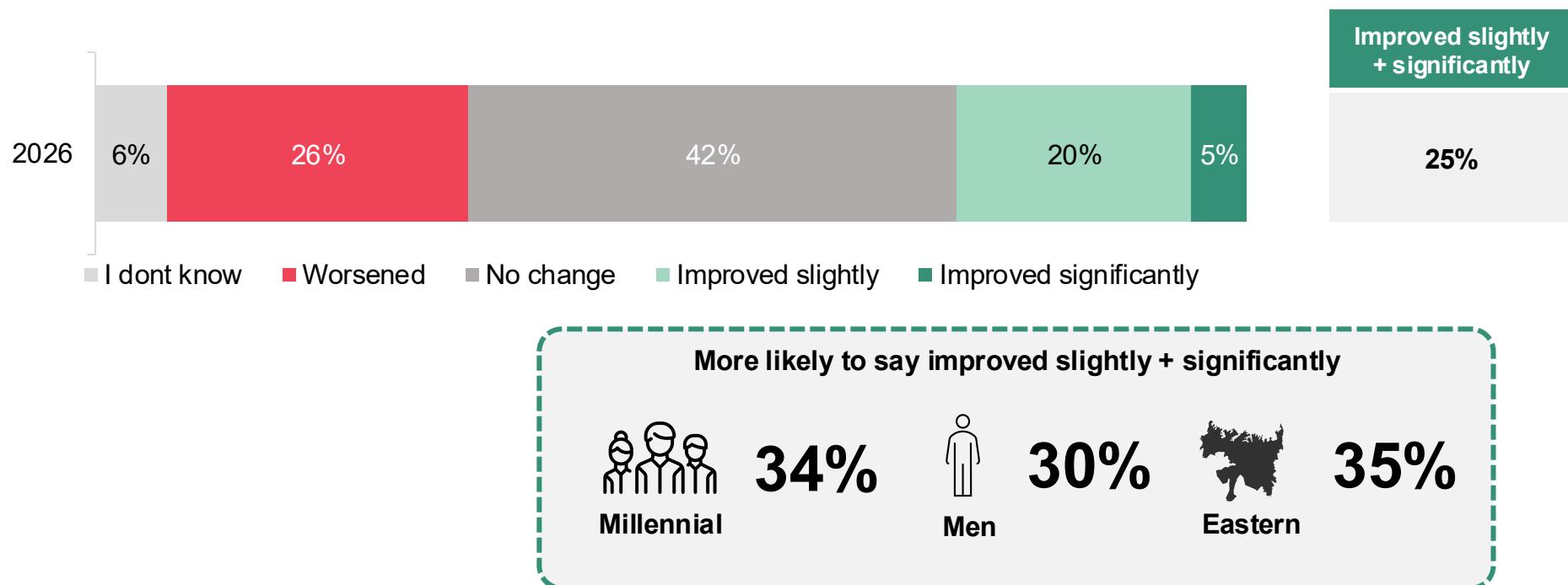


Committee  
for  
Sydney

## ➤ 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?





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to these strong  
supporters of  
our research  
and advocacy.

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