



Biodiversity Council



2024 Biodiversity Concerns Survey

September 2024

Image: Nicolas Rakotopare





Overview

1 – Headline findings

2 – Demographic analysis

3 – Political alignment and preferences

2022 and 2023 Surveys



2022 Survey:

- The Biodiversity Council undertook a benchmark study to better gauge current understanding and concern for biodiversity issues among Australians with a representative sample of 4,048 adults

2023 Survey:

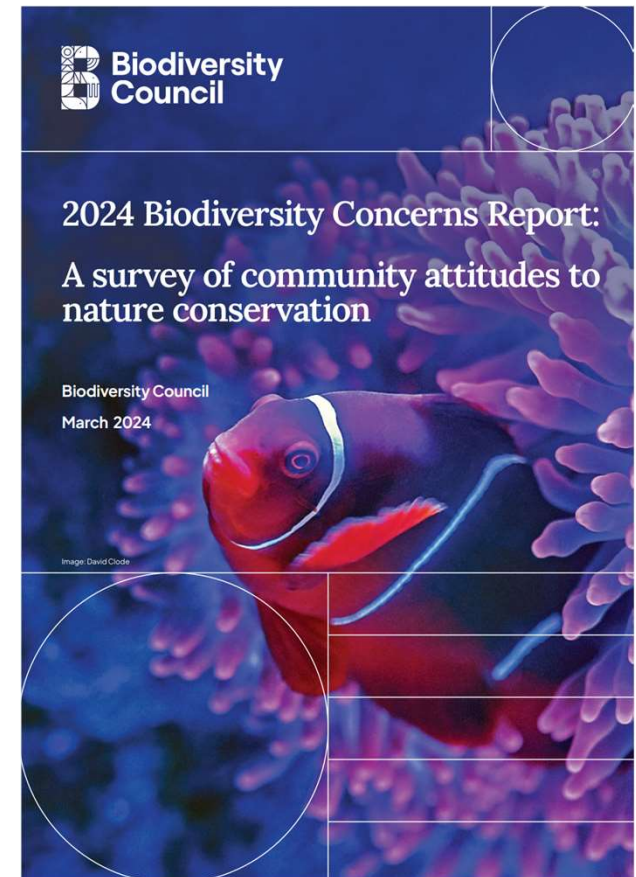
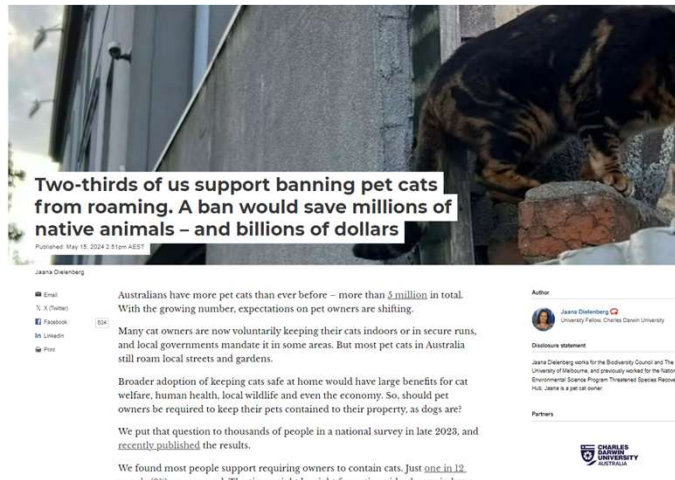
- 3421 Australians completed the survey in November and December 2023. The survey took around 10 minutes to complete on average. The sample was benchmarked against Australian census data for age, gender, and location



Headlines



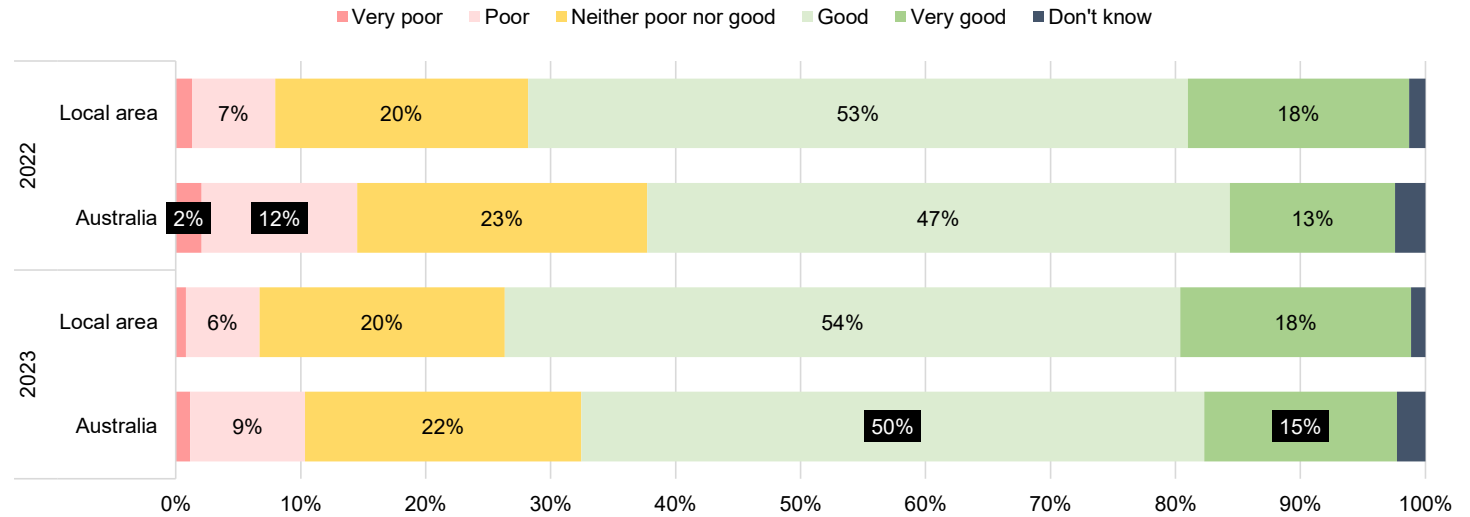
- 97% of Australians want more ‘action’ for nature
- 95% want a better budget for nature
- 73% want stronger national environmental laws
- 66% support banning free roaming cats



Google: ‘Biodiversity Council concerns report’



ENVIRONMENT STATE

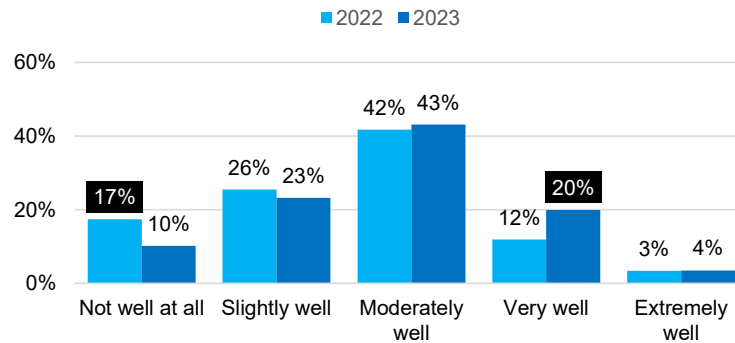


Key insights:

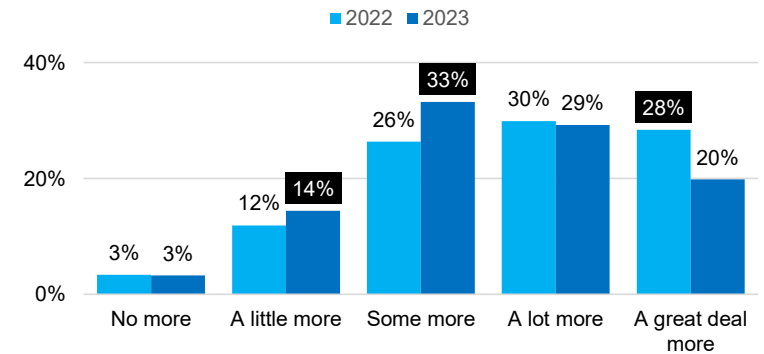
People think:

- the environment nationally is doing better than last year
- Not as much action is needed

HOW WELL HAS THE ENVIRONMENT BEEN LOOKED AFTER?



ACTION NEEDED





How Australians connect with nature

Key insights:

Implicit connection is the biggest driver

Drop in connection metrics (fewer 'strongly agree')

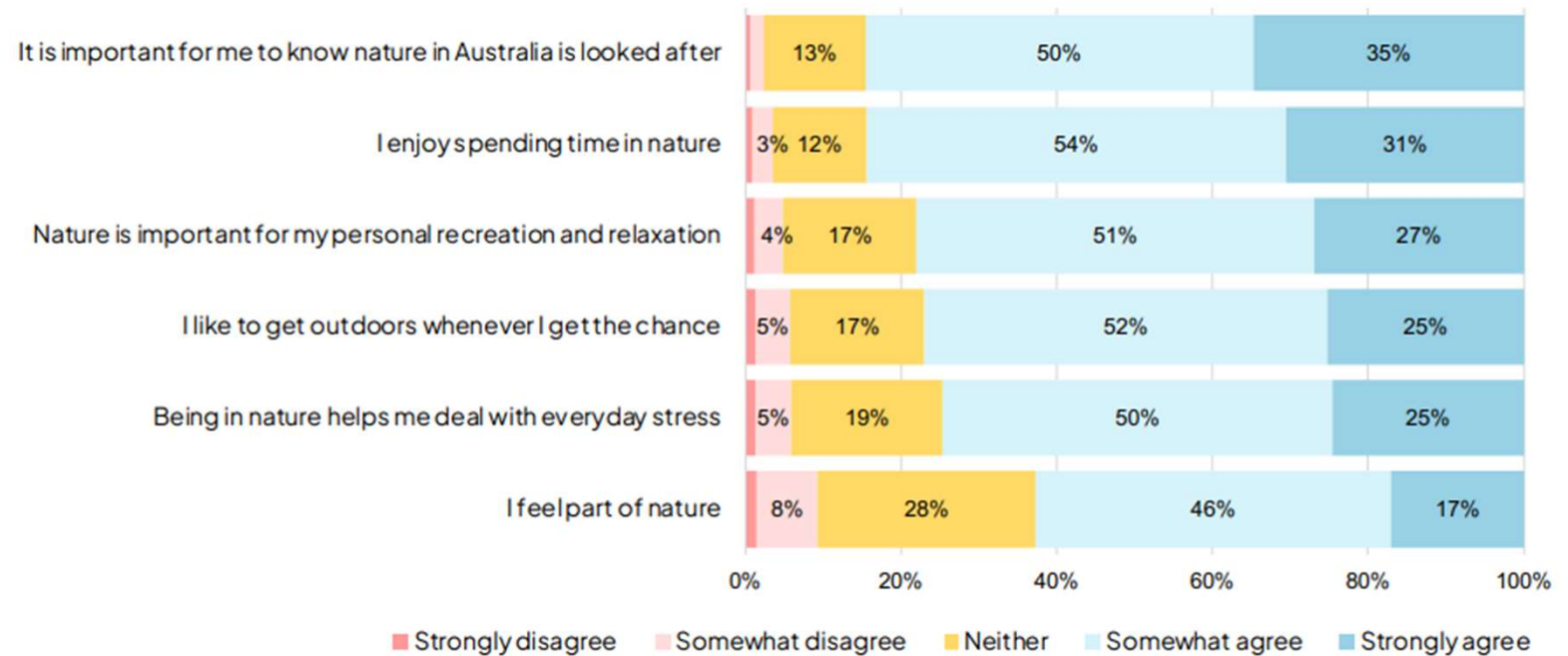


Fig 1. This graph shows how much survey participants agreed with statements about being connected to nature. The results show that the majority of people value and feel connected to nature (blue groups). The proportion of people who do not value or feel connected to nature (red groups) were very small for all statements.



Concern about biodiversity issues

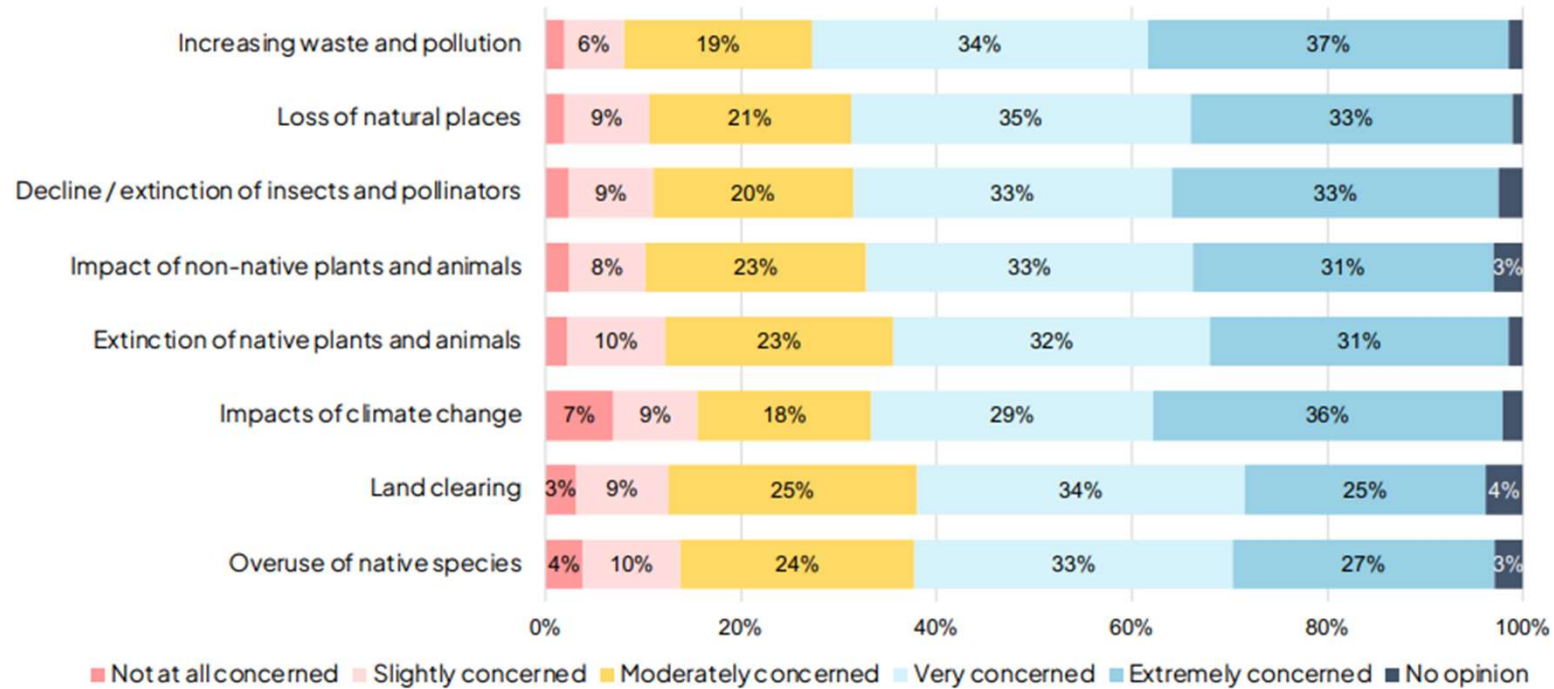
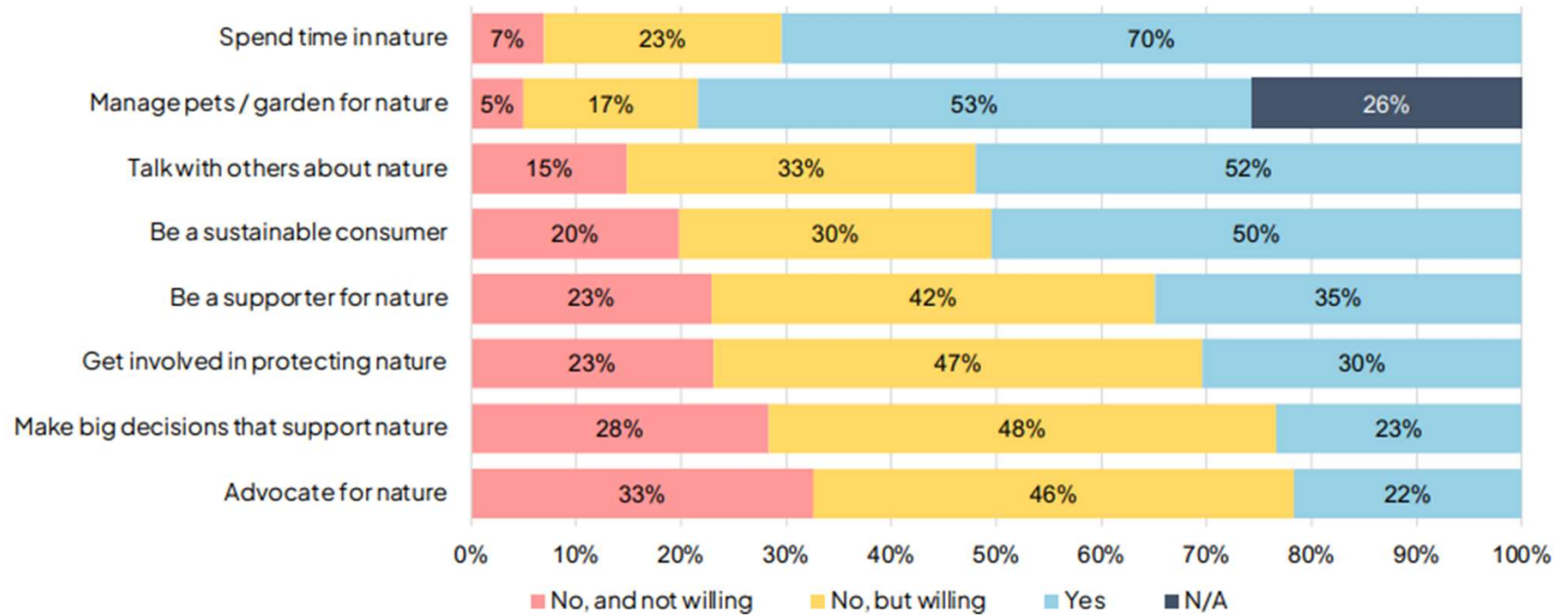


Fig 2. This graph shows how concerned participants were about a range of biodiversity issues. A majority of people were very concerned or extremely concerned (blue groups) about all issues presented.

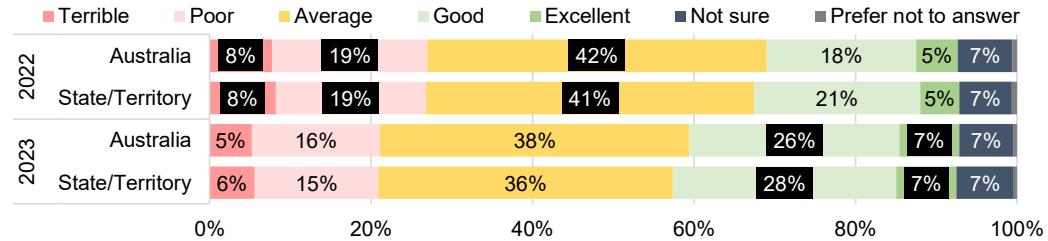


How are Australians acting for nature?





GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

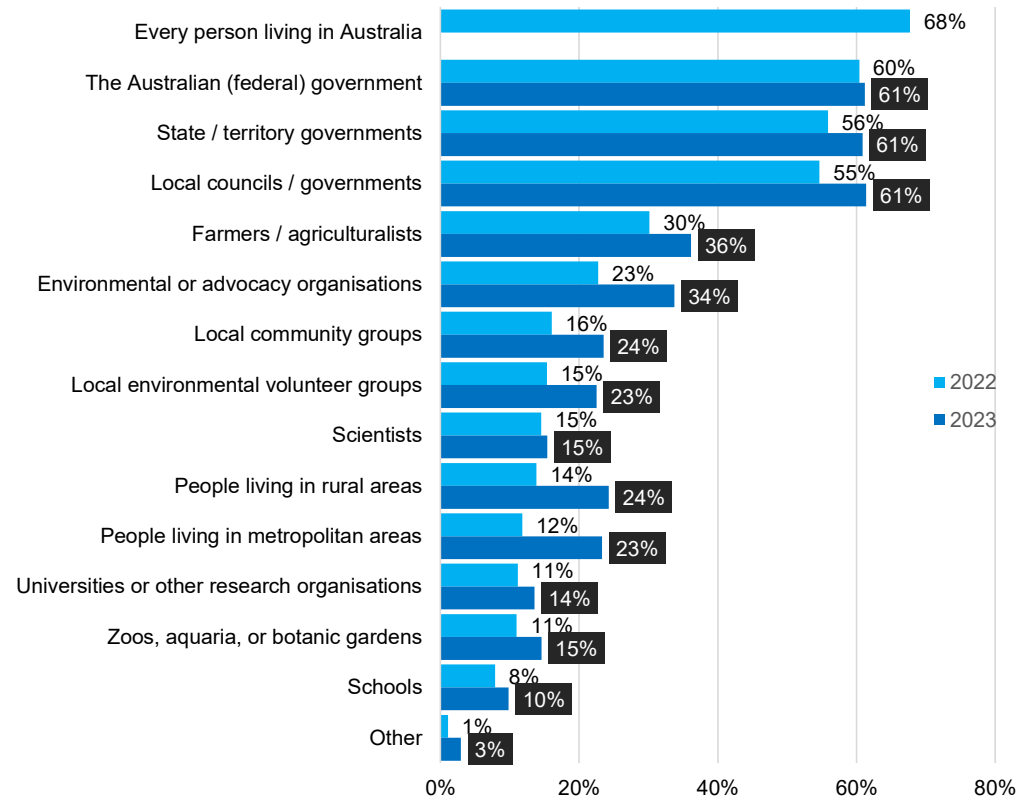


Key insights:

Government performance rated higher in 2023. Decrease in 'average or worse' ratings.

Perceived responsibility increased across almost all scores, (however survey design shifted to eliminate 'Every person' response).

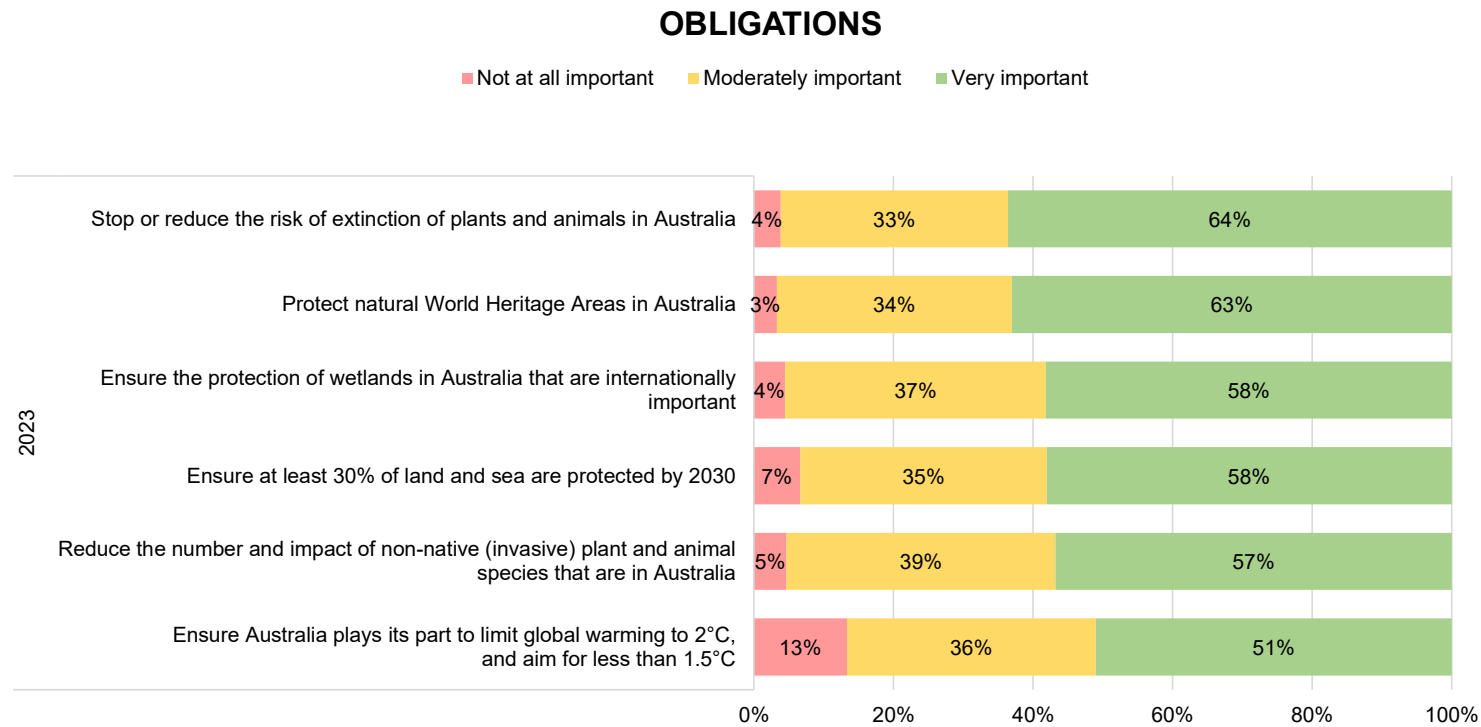
RESPONSIBILITY





UPHOLDING AUSTRALIA'S OBLIGATIONS

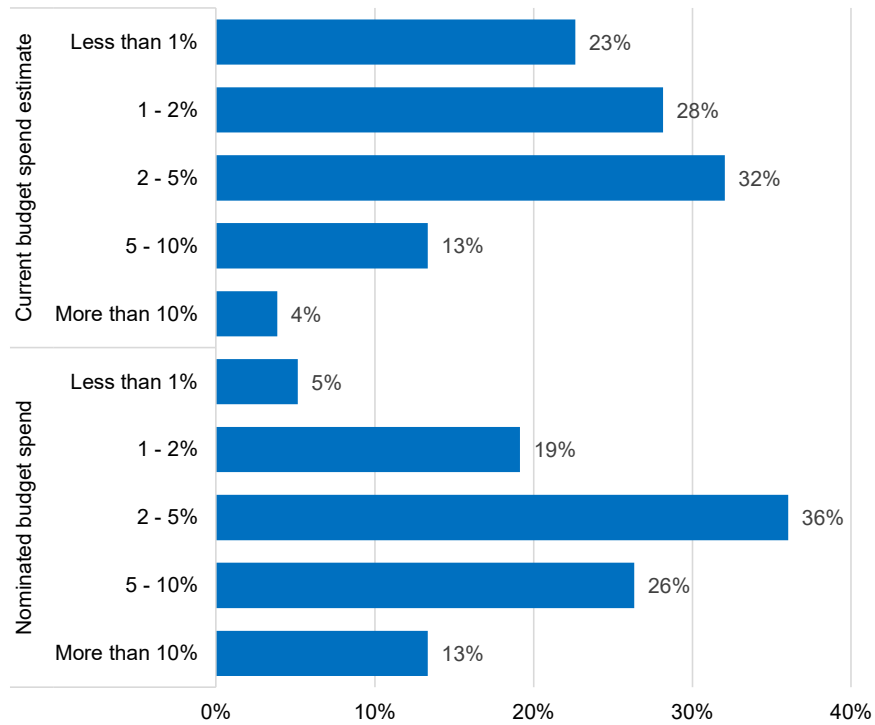
The importance of Australia upholding its international obligations was recognized by the vast majority of respondents. Over 9 in 10 believed the obligations were 'moderately' or 'very' important.



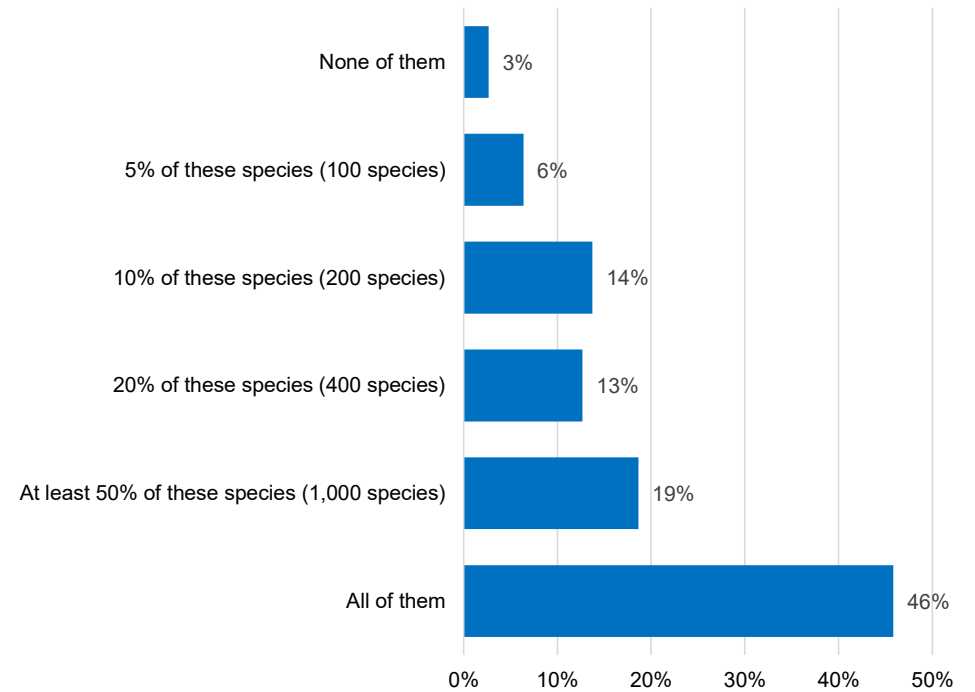
GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATURE PROTECTION



BUDGET FOR NATURE PROTECTION

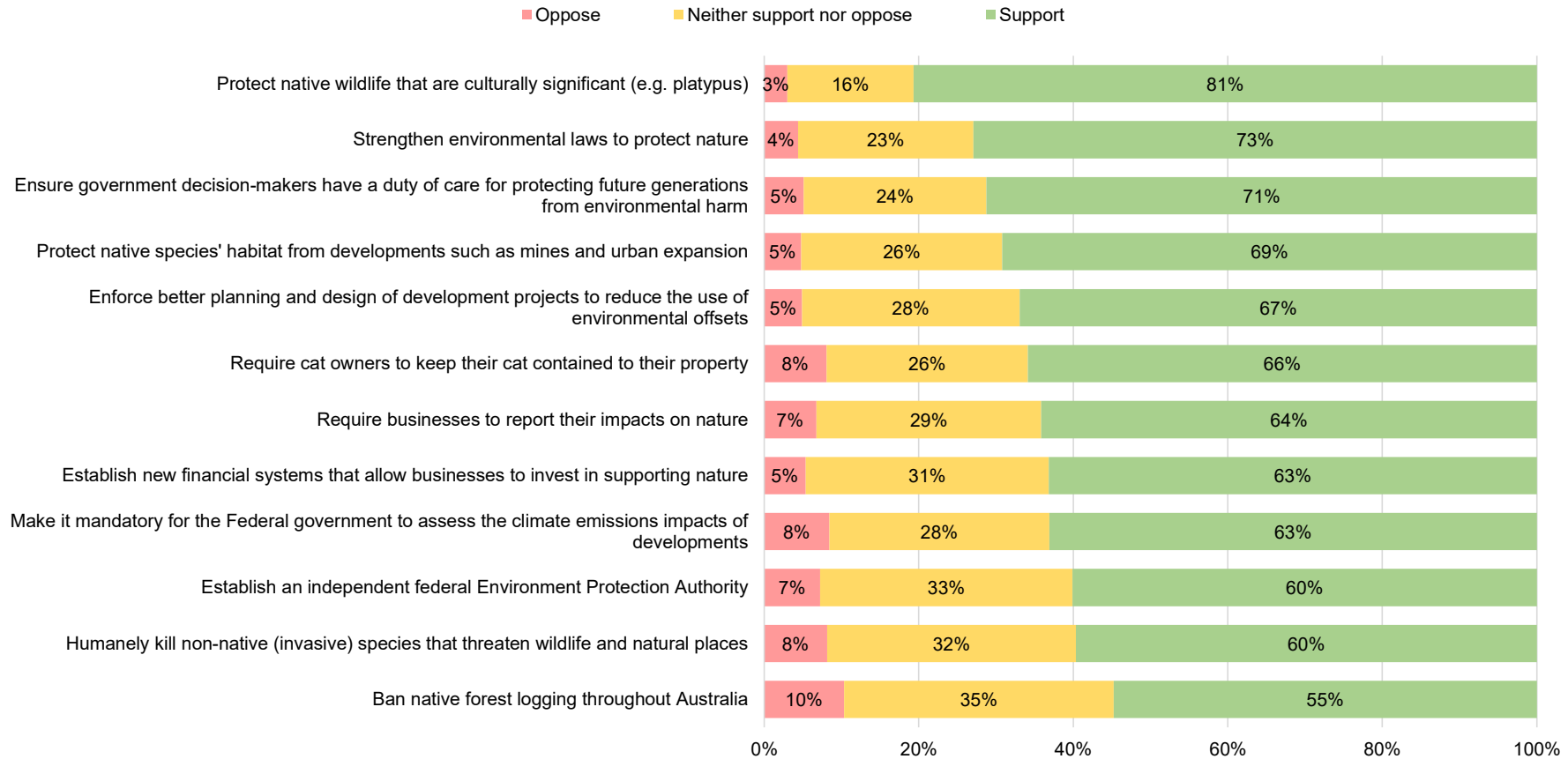


SPECIES PROTECTION & RECOVERY



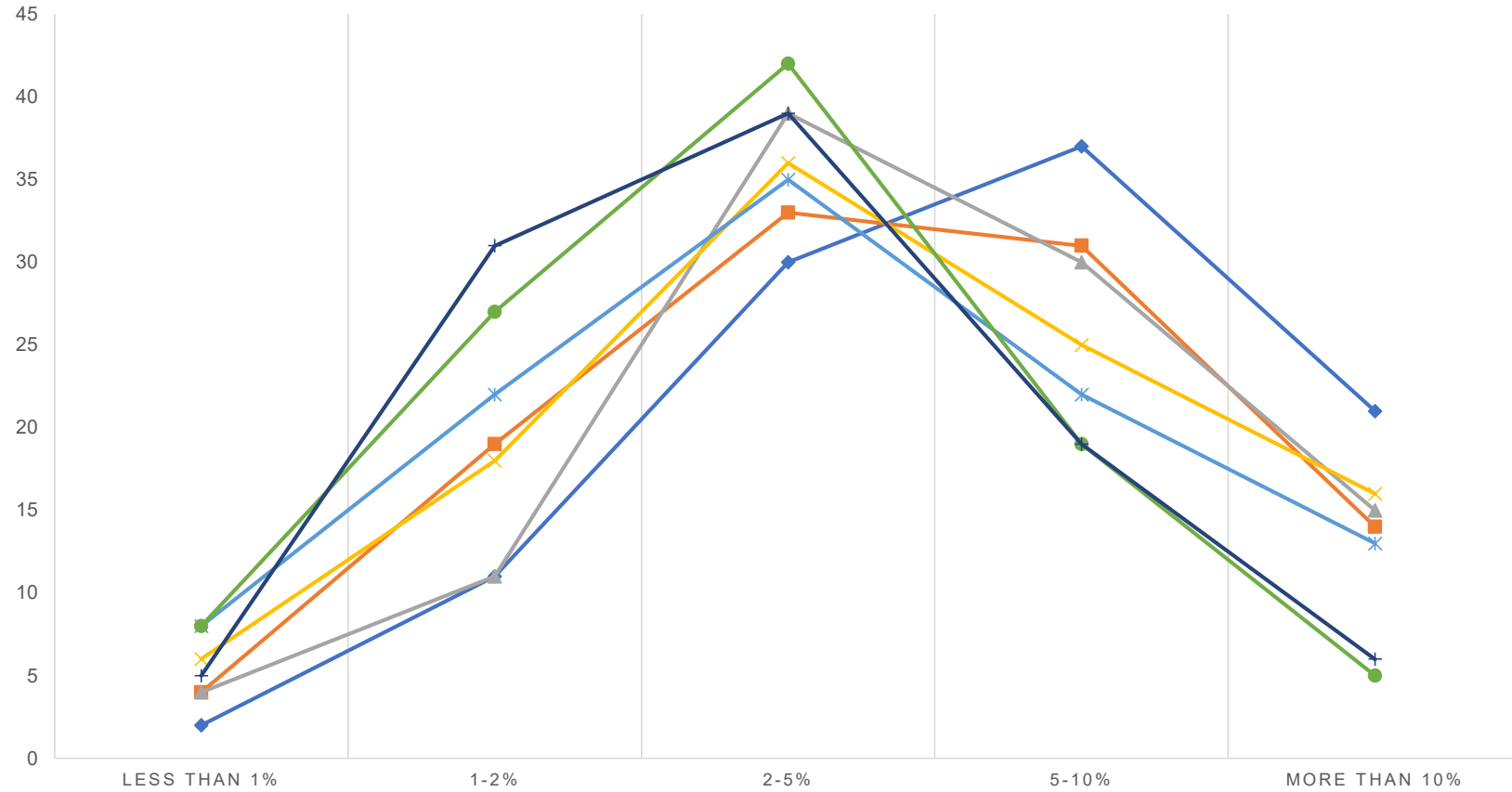


POLICY SUPPORT



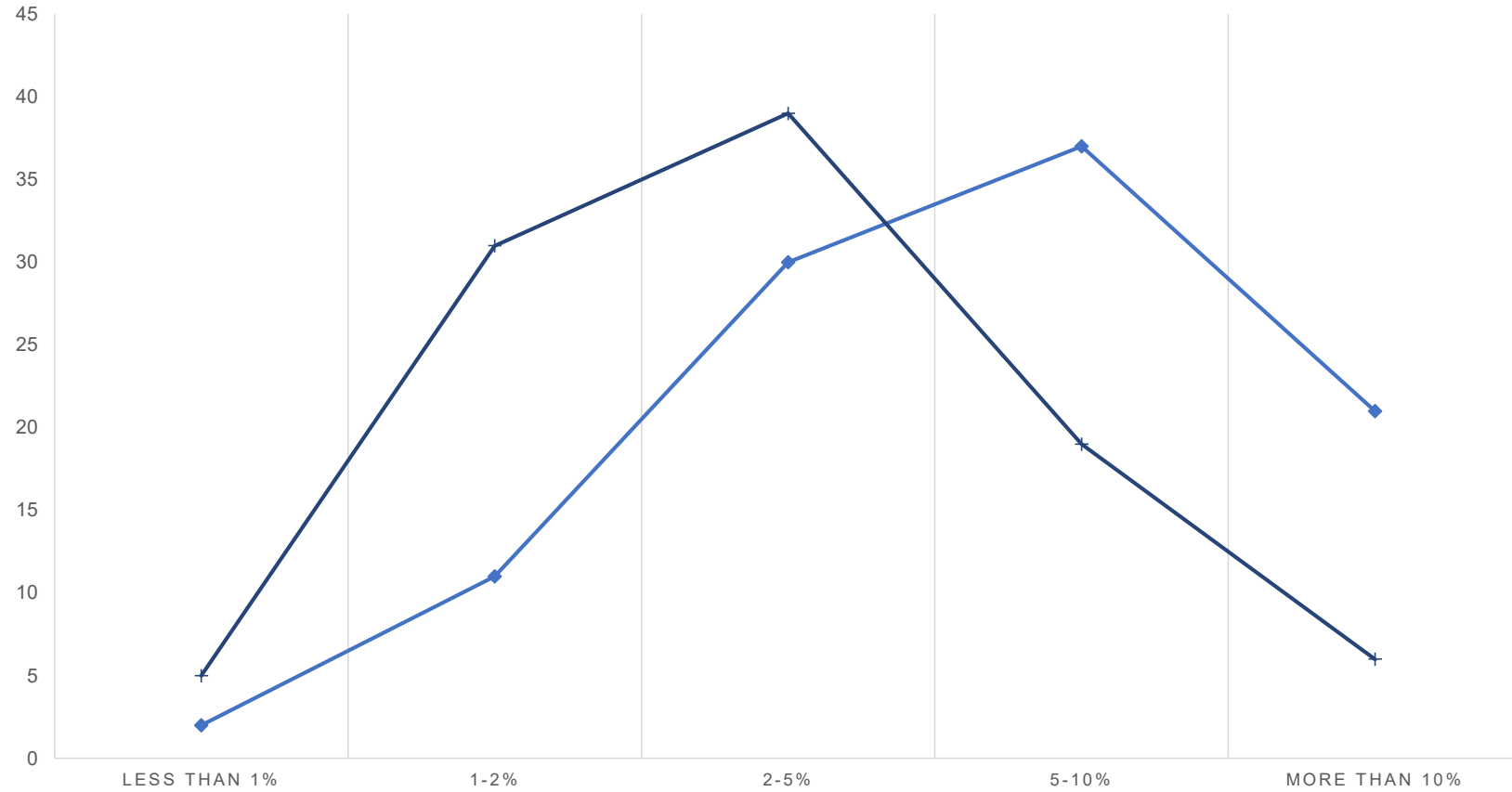
DEMOGRAPHICS SPENDING ON NATURE

18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+

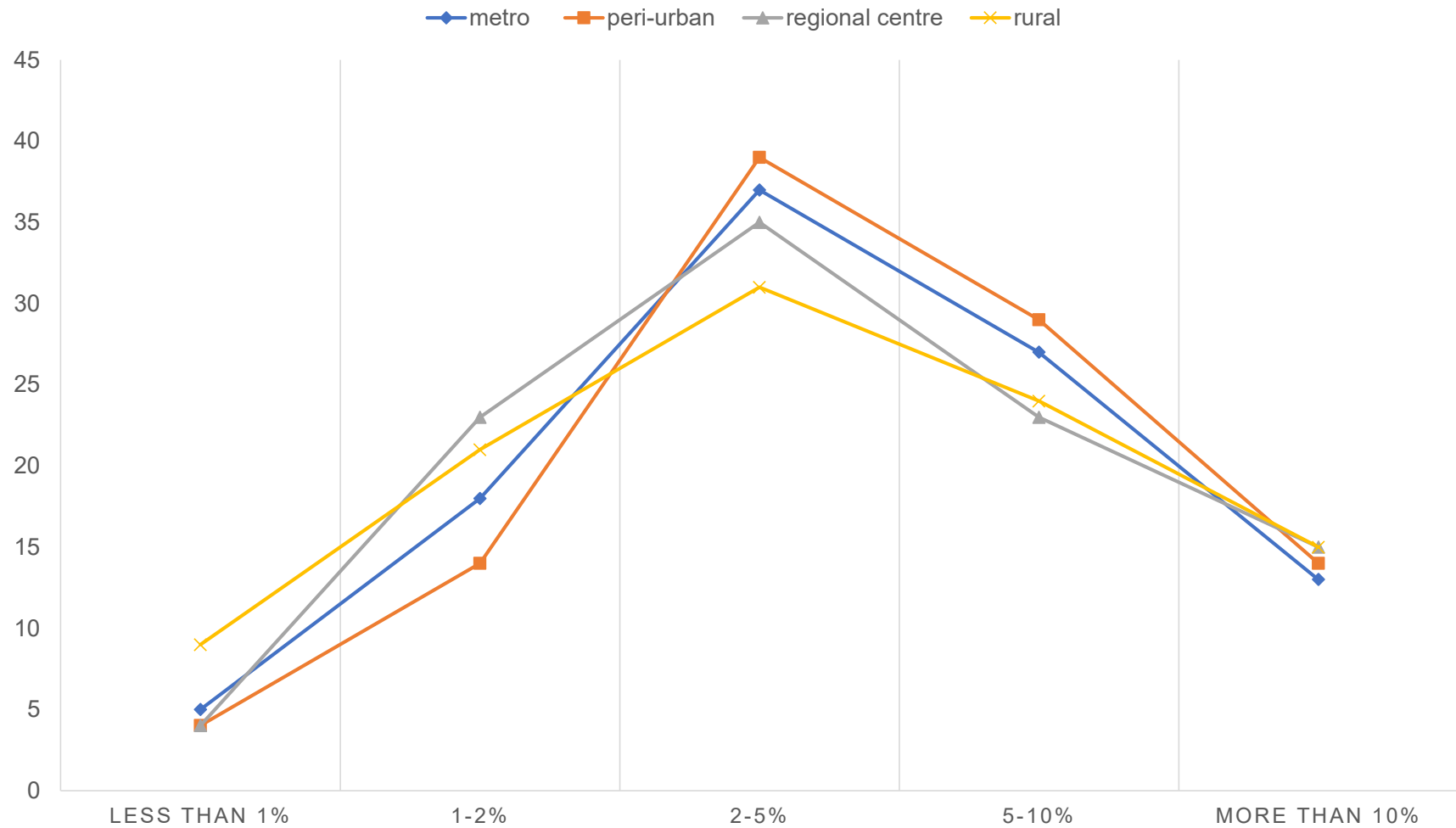


DEMOGRAPHICS SPENDING ON NATURE

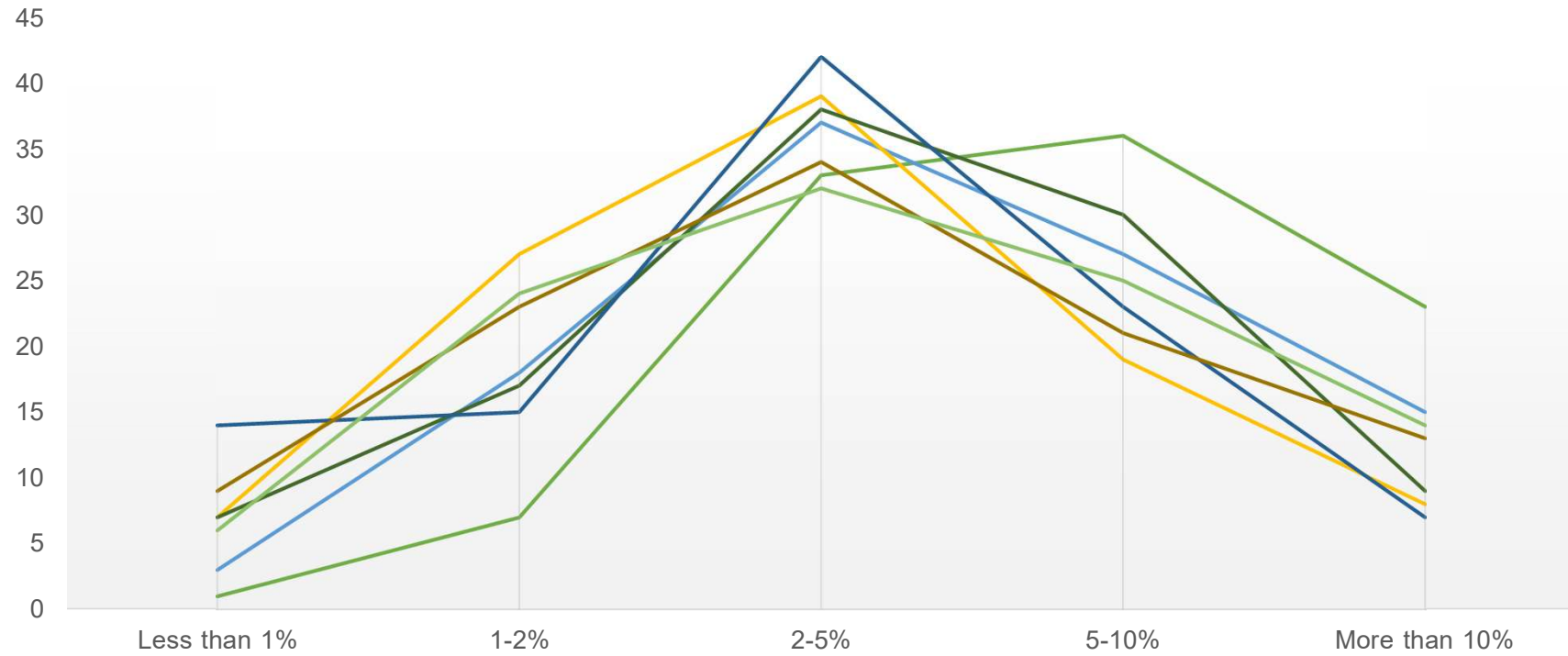
◆ 18-24 + 75+



REGIONALITY SPENDING ON NATURE

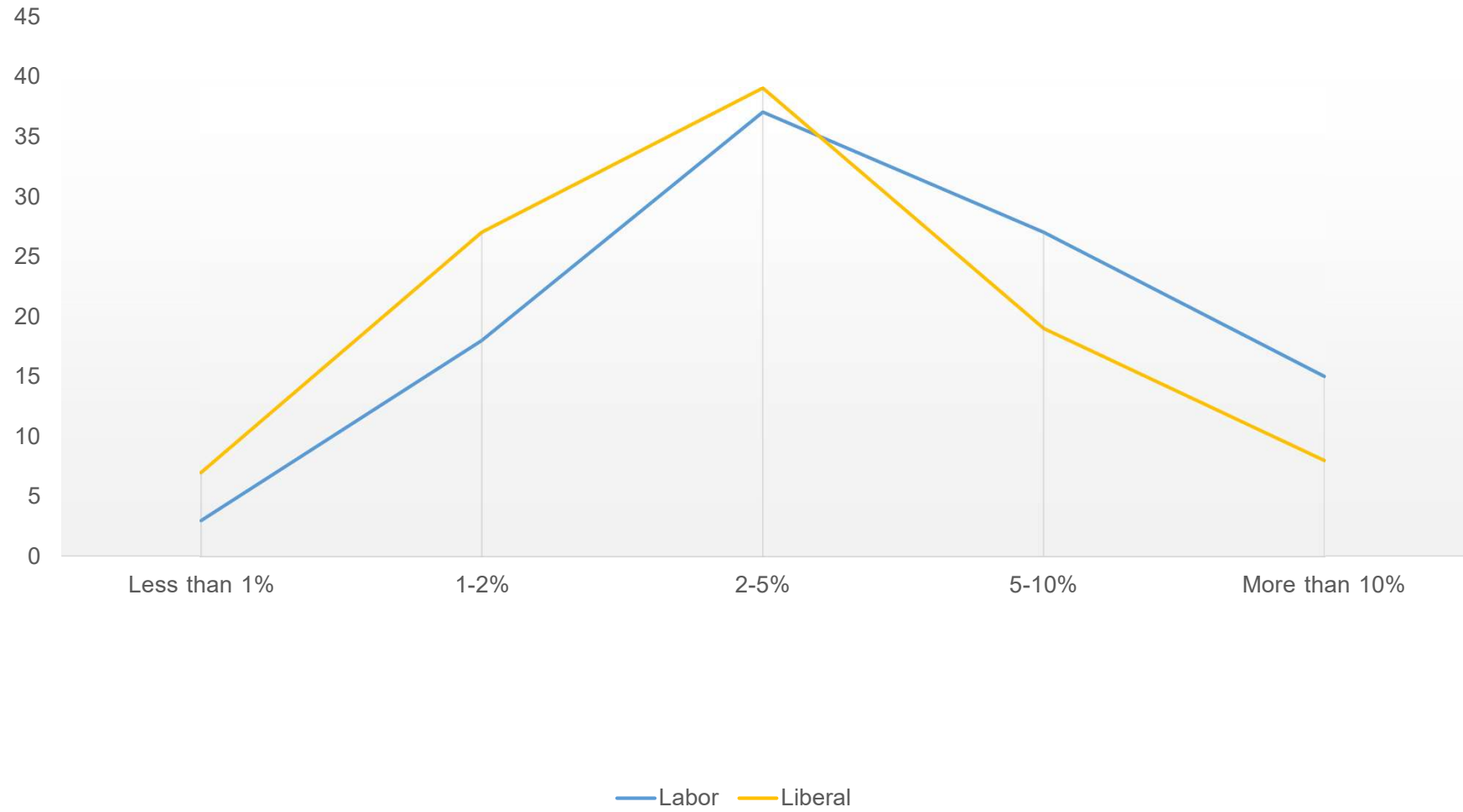


POLITICAL ALIGNMENT SPENDING ON NATURE

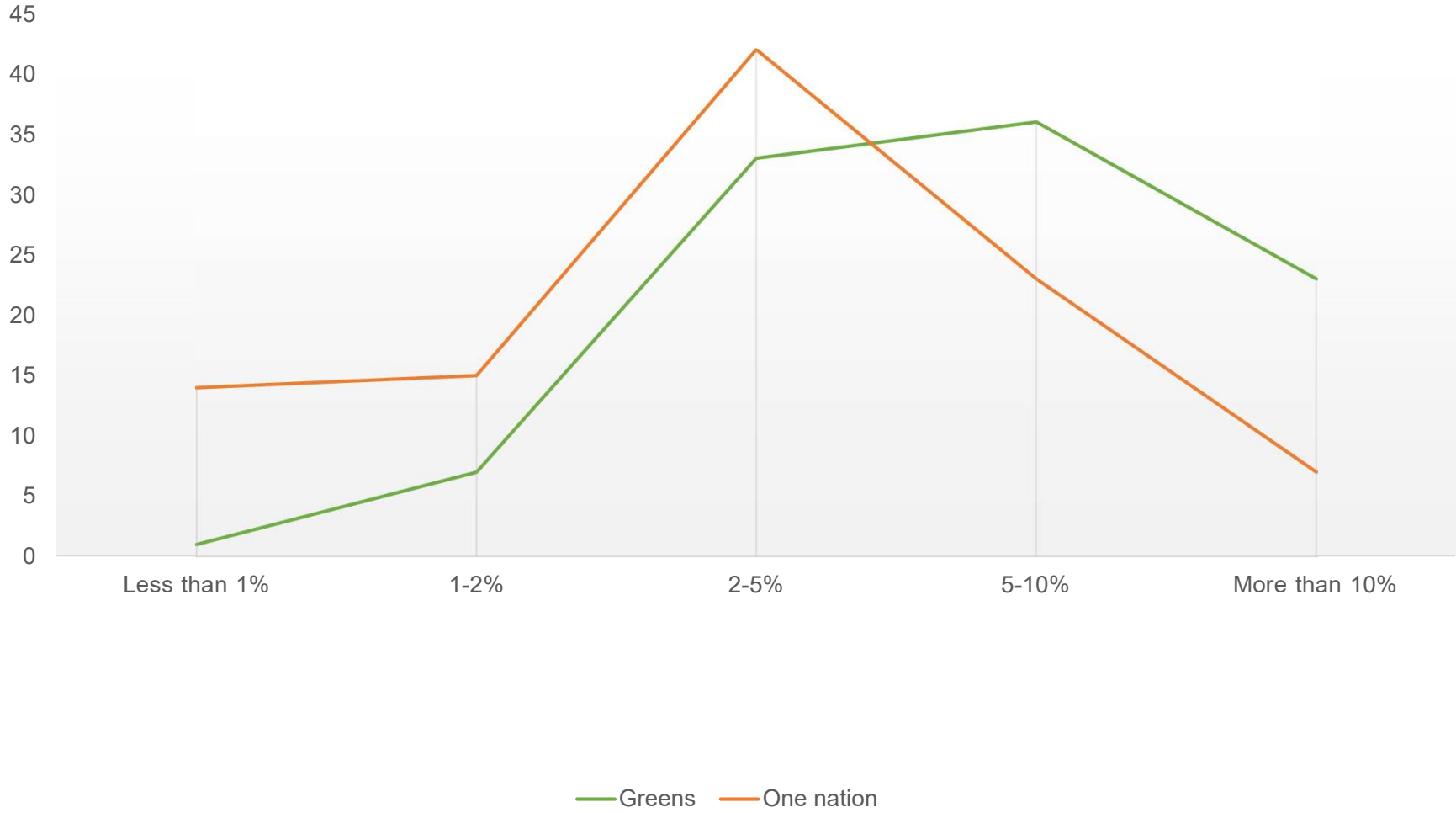


— Greens — Labor — Liberal — Nationals — One nation — Independent — No alignment

POLITICAL ALIGNMENT SPENDING ON NATURE



POLITICAL ALIGNMENT: SPENDING ON NATURE





	Age							Area			
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Metro	Peri-urban	Reg. centre	Rural / remote
Policy support											
Strengthen laws to protect nature	71%	67%	68%	75%	79%	79%	75%	73%	78%	73%	66%
Establish independent federal EPA	57%	57%	60%	63%	61%	63%	60%	61%	58%	62%	49%
Mandatory emissions assessment of developments	65%	62%	64%	65%	62%	63%	61%	65%	65%	59%	56%
Duty of care for protecting future generations	65%	63%	66%	76%	77%	79%	77%	72%	72%	69%	69%
Protect culturally significant wildlife	72%	73%	69%	83%	88%	94%	94%	80%	83%	82%	83%
Ban native forest logging	53%	58%	57%	59%	53%	51%	47%	57%	57%	49%	51%
Humanely kill non-native (invasive) species	45%	47%	54%	60%	68%	79%	75%	59%	57%	64%	62%
Require cat owners keep their cat contained	47%	53%	56%	67%	76%	86%	87%	64%	69%	69%	70%
Protect habitat from developments	65%	66%	67%	73%	74%	72%	67%	70%	69%	67%	67%
Better planning/design of development projects	63%	63%	63%	66%	71%	74%	73%	67%	70%	67%	58%
Require businesses report impacts on nature	56%	62%	64%	66%	68%	68%	63%	65%	64%	63%	58%
Allow businesses to invest in supporting nature	63%	59%	59%	67%	65%	66%	67%	63%	60%	65%	54%



Policy support	Alignment								Swing-voter	
	Australian Greens	ALP	Liberal Party of Australia	National Party of Australia	United Australia Party	One Nation	Independent	No alignment	No	Yes
Strengthen laws to protect nature	81%	82%	67%	54%	52%	64%	80%	73%	73%	72%
Establish independent federal EPA	74%	69%	52%	53%	49%	44%	64%	53%	62%	57%
Mandatory emissions assessment of developments	77%	76%	51%	51%	56%	39%	71%	60%	64%	61%
Duty of care for protecting future generations	79%	79%	68%	51%	53%	60%	84%	70%	72%	70%
Protect culturally significant wildlife	83%	84%	81%	69%	61%	79%	95%	81%	82%	78%
Ban native forest logging	72%	60%	43%	40%	49%	56%	71%	52%	55%	54%
Humanely kill non-native (invasive) species	53%	61%	67%	53%	55%	63%	59%	59%	60%	59%
Require cat owners keep their cat contained	64%	70%	71%	57%	40%	64%	73%	67%	67%	63%
Protect habitat from developments	81%	78%	60%	51%	54%	60%	82%	69%	70%	68%
Better planning/design of development projects	79%	73%	61%	51%	49%	54%	70%	66%	68%	66%
Require businesses report impacts on nature	74%	71%	59%	51%	51%	51%	71%	61%	64%	64%
Allow businesses to invest in supporting nature	75%	68%	59%	47%	53%	52%	68%	60%	64%	62%

Regions:



WA

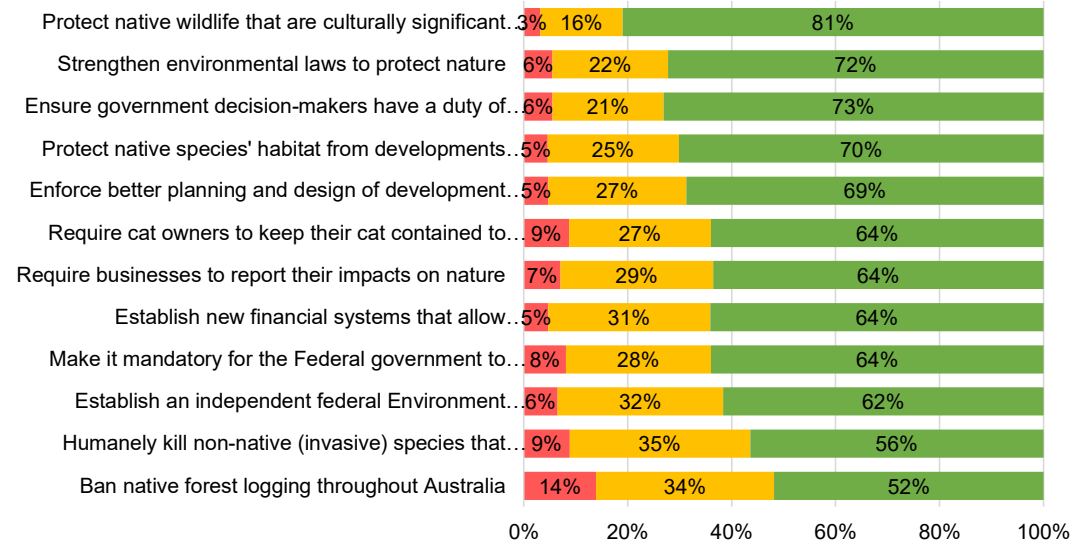
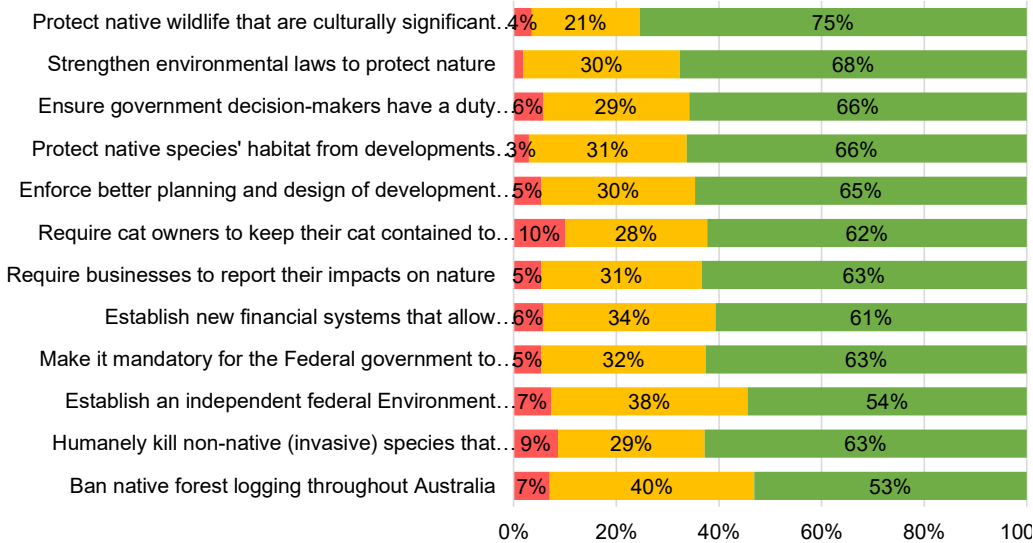
Vic

POLICY SUPPORT

POLICY SUPPORT

■ Oppose

■ Oppose





Reflections:

- Australians intrinsically connect to nature...
- But... people think nature is doing ok
- Advocacy is an important, but high bar ask with strong potential
- There is latent political demand for more government spending on nature
- Different messaging on ramps for different audiences

Thank you

Lead Authors: Kim Borg¹, Melissa Hatty¹, and Liam Smith^{1,5}

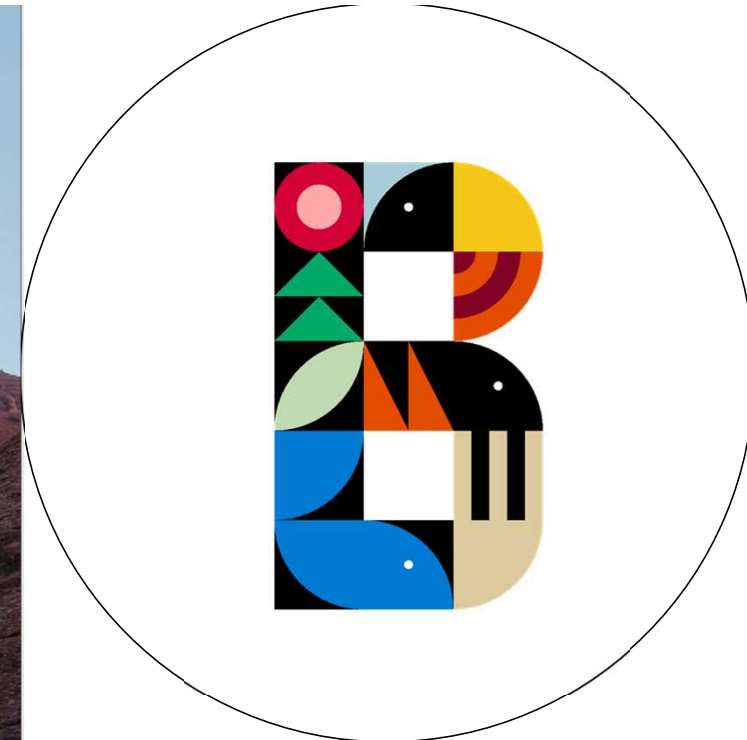
Associate Authors: Angela Dean^{2,5}, Winnifred Louis^{2,5}, Sarah Bekessey^{3,5}, Kathryn Williams^{4,5}, Rachel Morgain^{4,5}, James Trezise⁵, Emily Gregg^{3,5}, Susilo Wibisono², Christoph Klebl², Kelly Fielding²

¹Monash University, ²The University of Queensland, ³RMIT University, ⁴The University of Melbourne, ⁵The Biodiversity Council

Google:

“Biodiversity Council Concerns report” for full report

Image: Nicolas Rakotopare



Our founding partners



Our founding donors

The Ian Potter Foundation, The Ross Trust, Trawalla Foundation, The Rendere Trust, Isaacson Davis Foundation, Coniston Charitable Trust and Angela Whitbread