

## Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey – Round One results

Yarra Ranges Council launched the Pandemic and Storm Impact Survey in September 2021. Its purpose is to collect the views and experiences of residents on the impacts of the pandemic and the 9 June storm event. The survey is open to all Yarra Ranges community members.

To ensure that Council receives updated and regular feedback as the recovery continues, the survey will be conducted several times a year. Information gathered will be used to monitor and evaluate the recovery of the Yarra Ranges community over the next 12 months and beyond. It will also monitor the impact of recovery programs being undertaken by Council now and over coming years.

### Survey results collected in September/October 2021 – key results

This is a summary of key results collected from the first round of the Pandemic and Storm Impact Survey.

- The survey was open between 13 September - 11 October 2021
- 789 people responded to the survey
- There was a high number of responses from all age groups, except those under the age of 24

Of the people who responded to the survey:

- 22% have not felt socially connected at all during the pandemic
- 29% were not confident in returning to daily community activities with the easing of restrictions
- 21% report that the pandemic has had a major impact on their mental health with the largest impact (24%) occurring in the urban areas of the Yarra Ranges
- Hardship arising from the pandemic was impacting 32%, with the Yarra Valley region reporting the highest hardship rate (48%)
- Difficulties with accessing services among those experiencing hardship was prevalent. This consists of delays in accessing the following services:
  - Financial services (32%)
  - Physical health services (41%)
  - Mental health services (38%)
  - Crisis accommodation services (6%)
- 27% reported that their financial situation was worse at the time they completed the survey, compared with before the pandemic.
- 15% reported they are working fewer hours since the beginning of the pandemic
- 9% reported that they have stopped working since the beginning of the pandemic, with the vast majority of these respondents (88%) attributing their loss of employment to the pandemic.

- Vulnerable groups are experiencing negative impacts stemming from the pandemic at more than twice the rate compared with the general population in the Yarra Ranges<sup>1</sup>
- 88% report being impacted by the 9 June storm event
- A significant proportion were directly impacted by the storm for up to 7 days in terms of power outages (52%), internet outages (53%) and mobile connectivity outages (57%).
- Longer term storm impacts (more than 7 days) included:
  - Trees & branches down in my street (38%)
  - Trees & branches damaged my home (15%)
  - Flooding on my property (3%)
  - Required temporary accommodation (9%)
  - Experienced financial hardship (11%)
  - Experienced mental trauma (35%)
- As of September / October 2021, the reported ongoing impacts from the June storm event included:
  - power outages (5%),
  - internet outages (13%),
  - trees down in my street (24%),
  - dangerous trees on my property (35%),
  - large volumes of green waste (37%),
  - living in temporary accommodation (6%)
  - continuing to experience trauma / anxiety (32%).

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that survey sample sizes for vulnerable cohorts are relatively small and will be subject to a level of statistical error. Vulnerable cohorts in the context of this survey consist of people experiencing family violence, people experiencing homelessness and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders.