

Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey - Jan 2022 results

Yarra Ranges Council has conducted two waves of the Pandemic and Storm Impact Survey - the first in September 2021 and the second in January 2022. The purpose of the survey 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 per 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

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

- Survey response numbers: First wave 789, Second wave 425
- Good response numbers across all age groups except aged under 24
- Majority of responses by woman: 70%
- Majority of responses by Yarra Ranges residents: 85%

	UNDER 15	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	TOTAL
Survey 1: Sep 2021	0% 0	1% 4	1% 9	10% 80	21% 166	22% 173	23% 179	17% 136	5% 42	65% 789
Survey 2 Jan 2022	0% 0	0% 0	2% 10	10% 43	18% 75	21% 88	23% 99	20% 83	6% 27	35% 425
Total Respondents	0	4	19	123	241	261	278	219	69	1,214

	WOMAN	MAN	I PREFER NOT TO SAY	SELF-DESCRIBED	TOTAL	
Survey 1: Sep 2021	70% 480	27% 183		3% 18	0% 2	65% 683
Survey 2 Jan 2022	71% 258	26% 94		3% 11	1% 2	35% 365
Total Respondents	738	277	29	4	1,048	

	RESIDENT	LANDOWNER	ENROLLED WITH SCHOOL OR TERTIARY INSTITUTION IN YARRA RANGES	OWNER OF A BUSINESS BASED IN YARRA RANGES	EMPLOYED IN YARRA RANGES	MEMBER OF A GROUP/CLUB LOCATED IN YARRA RANGES	YARRA RANGES COUNCIL EMPLOYEE	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	TOTAL
Survey 1: Sep 2021	85% 586	46% 316	4% 26	9% 59	17% 115	19% 128	12% 83	2% 17	126% 1,330
Survey 2 Jan 2022	84% 309	45% 165	3% 11	6% 22	16% 57	24% 89	10% 38	3% 12	67% 703
Total Respondents	895	481	37	81	172	217	121	29	1,053

Pandemic impact key results

- A reduction in pandemic impacts (figures highlighted in green) can be seen in the community in terms of not feeling socially connected (down -6%), major impact on mental health (down -4%), hardship (down -3%) and loss of employment (down -1%).

- Areas where reported impacts have increased include not being confident in returning to daily activities (up 13%), delays in access to physical health services (up 15%) and delays in access to mental health services (up 10%) among those experiencing hardship.
- It should be noted that while there has been a decrease for some impacts, there are still many situations where a significant proportion of the community are struggling with ongoing ramifications from both the pandemic and the June storm event.

Survey results summary - Pandemic impact	Month survey conducted		
	Sep-21	Jan-22	Change
Measure			
1) % of community that don't feel socially connected during the pandemic	22%	16%	-6%
2) % of community that are not confident in returning to daily community activities with easing of restrictions	29%	42%	13%
3) % of community reporting that pandemic has had a major impact on their mental health	21%	17%	-4%
4) % of community report hardship arising from the pandemic	32%	29%	-3%
5) % experiencing delays in accessing services among those experiencing hardship;	Sep-21	Jan-22	Change
5a) Financial services	30%	32%	2%
5b) Physical health services	38%	53%	15%
5c) Mental health services	36%	46%	10%
5d) Family violence services	4%	7%	3%
5e) Crisis accommodation services	6%	0%	-6%
6) % of the community reporting that their financial situation is worse now compared with before the pandemic	27%	28%	1%
7) % of the community who have stopped working since the pandemic commenced	9%	8%	-1%
8) % of community who attribute their loss of employment to the pandemic	88%	77%	-11%

Storm impact key results

- Impacts from the June storm have improved in terms of a reduction in dangerous trees on private property (down -8%), a reduction in green waste (down -10%), a decrease in people requiring temporary accommodation (down -2%) and a decrease in the community experiencing anxiety or trauma relating to the storm (down -8%).
- Areas where reported impacts have increased are power outages (up 41%), internet outages (up 31%) and trees down in the street (up 18%).
- It should be noted that the significant increase in power and internet outages may be driven by the instability of power and internet networks following the June storm event, as reported in comments captured through the Pandemic and Storm Impact Survey.

Survey results summary - June storm impact	Sep-21	Jan-22	Change
9) % of community impacted by the June storm	88%	85%	-3%
10) % of community reporting ongoing impacts from the June storm event;	Sep-21	Jan-22	Change
10a) Power outages	5%	46%	41%
10b) Internet outages	13%	44%	31%
10c) Trees down in my street	24%	42%	18%
10d) Dangerous trees on my property	35%	27%	-8%
10e) Large volumes of green waste	37%	27%	-10%
10f) Living in temporary accommodation	6%	4%	-2%
10g) Continuing to experience anxiety / trauma related to the storm	32%	24%	-8%