



Views on climate change

2022 Quality of Life survey snapshot

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland

Aucklanders' perceptions of climate change

Almost half (44%) of Auckland respondents to the 2022 Quality of Life survey said they were 'worried' or 'very worried' about the impacts of climate change on the future of Auckland and its residents. One-third (34%) were 'a little worried' and 13 per cent said they were not worried at all.

Younger Aucklanders were more likely than others to state they were worried about climate change – over half (54%) of those aged 18 to 24, compared to 35 per cent of those aged 65 and over.

We asked respondents how many climate actions they had taken on an ongoing basis in the previous year. Managing waste (e.g. reducing food/organic waste going to landfill) and purchasing actions (e.g. buying fewer products, buying less plastics or single use disposable products) were the most commonly chosen options overall, with 56 per cent and 55 per cent respectively stating they had done this on an ongoing basis.

More detail is provided in the following pages.

Auckland Council and climate change

Te Tārūke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan is in response to the climate emergency. The plan sets out a roadmap for achieving a zero-emission, resilient, and healthier region that will be able to thrive amidst the potentially disruptive impacts of climate change. It also includes two bold goals to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, and
- achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Aucklanders (government, businesses, mana whenua, communities, and individuals) must act together in order to facilitate meaningful change. To do this, we all need to better understand Aucklanders' views of climate change and the enablers and barriers of taking action.

Rangahau te Korou o te Ora/The Quality of Life (QoL) survey

The QoL survey is a collaborative local government project initiated 20 years ago, in response to the impacts of urbanisation on the wellbeing of New Zealand residents and communities. It is undertaken every two years.

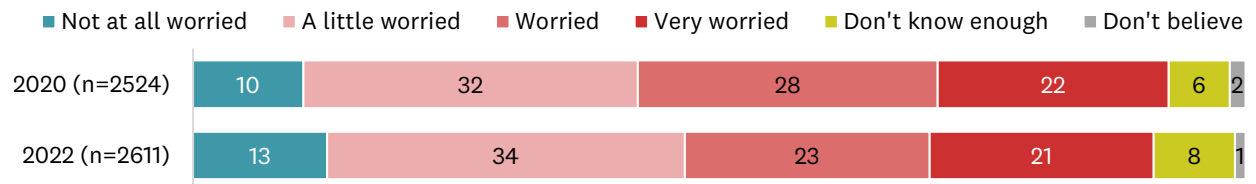
In 2022, 7518 New Zealanders completed the survey, of whom 2612 were Auckland residents. Fieldwork took place from March to June 2022, before the Auckland floods in January 2023 and Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023.

To find out more, go to www.qualityoflife.govt.nz

Almost half of Aucklanders are worried about climate change

44 per cent of Auckland respondents in 2022 said they were worried or very worried about climate change on the future of Auckland and its residents.

This was down from 50 per cent in 2020. The decrease appears to be driven by a smaller proportion of survey participants stating they were 'worried' in 2022, compared to 2020.



A similar proportion (42%) of all Quality of Life respondents in total (across the eight cities) said they were worried or very worried about climate change. There were differences by city:

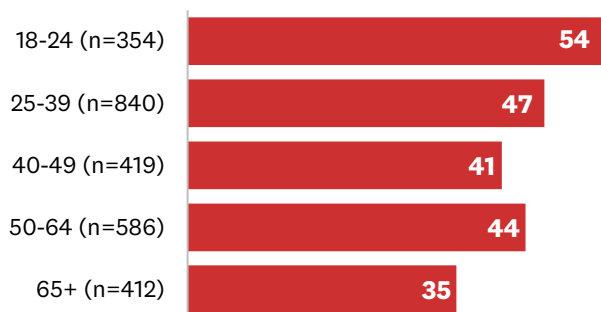
- Wellington respondents were more likely than other cities to feel worried (50% said they were worried or very worried about climate change)
- Those in Hamilton (32%), Tauranga (33%), Dunedin (34%), and Porirua (37%) were less likely to be worried or very worried.

Younger people are most worried

Over half (54%) of Auckland respondents aged 18-24 said they were worried about climate change. A third of those aged 65+ were worried.

Those who used public transport weekly were also more likely to be worried about climate change (55%) compared to those who did not use public transport over the last 12 months (36%).

% of those worried or very worried about climate change, by age group



Some said they did not know enough about climate change

A small proportion (8%) said they did not know enough about climate change to feel worried about it, particularly:

- Those living in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board area (15%)
- Pacific participants (17%)
- People living in social housing (17%)
- People living in Quintile 5 (the most socioeconomically deprived areas) (13%).

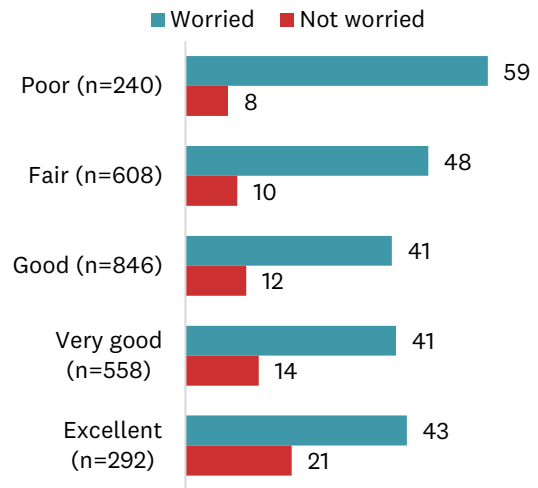
These findings follow similar patterns in the 2020 QoL survey. However, these are small proportions overall of each of these groups who said they did not know enough about climate change.

Those who experienced poor mental health were also more likely to worry about climate change impacts

Over half (59%) of those who rated their mental health as ‘poor’ were worried or very worried about climate change, while only 8 per cent were not worried at all. This correlates with age – younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to rate their mental health as poor.

The same pattern was found regarding respondents’ likelihood to state they had experienced stress that had a serious and negative impact on them in the previous 12 months. Over half (54%) of those who experienced stress ‘always’ or ‘most of the time’ were worried or very worried about climate change, while 15 per cent were not worried.

Mental health - % of those worried/not worried



Almost all Aucklanders had undertaken climate action

Survey participants were asked if they had taken any of the following climate actions on an ongoing basis, for the 12 months prior to the survey. Most had undertaken at least one – only 13 per cent said they had not taken any type of climate action.



56% managed their **waste** (reducing their food/organic waste going to landfill)



43% **talked** about climate change solutions with family and friends



55% changed their **purchasing** habits (buying fewer products, buying fewer single-use products)



34% took **transport** actions (choosing to walk, cycle, or use public transport; flying less; ride-sharing, driving electric vehicles)



48% took **food** actions (eating more plant-based foods, growing food, composting)



23% took **energy** actions (e.g. upgrading their house to reduce energy use)

I've always done these things and more. (Auckland respondent, female, 65+, 'a little worried' about climate change)

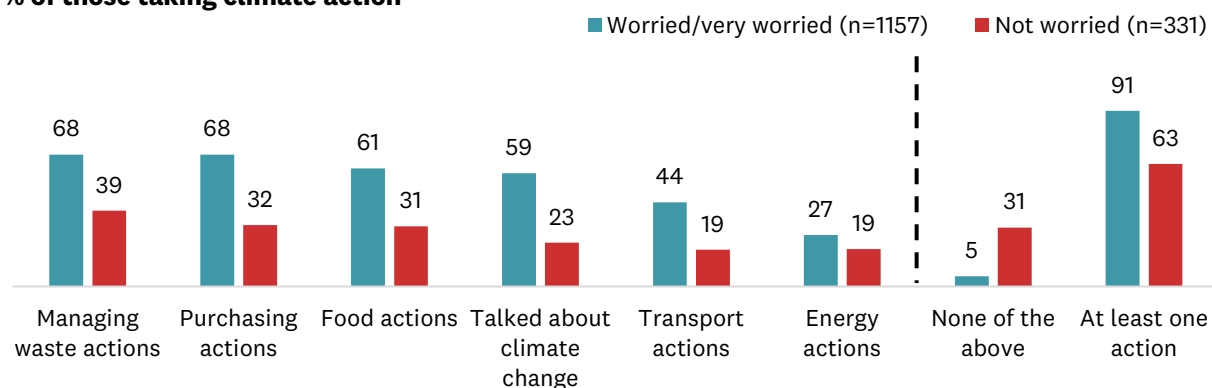
We have installed a rainwater tank to save water due to water shortages in Auckland. (Auckland respondent, male, 40-49, 'very worried')

This is not because I've thought about climate change, it's because I've been thinking of the environment and reducing personal cost. (Auckland respondent, female, 40-49, 'a little worried')

Those who are worried about climate change more likely to take action

Eight in ten (82%) respondents said they took at least one climate action. However, of those who were worried or very worried about climate change, this increased to 91 per cent (with only 5% saying they took no action). Meanwhile, of those who were not at all worried about climate change, 63 per cent said they took at least one action, and 31 per cent said they did not take any.

% of those taking climate action



There are other differences in who is more likely to take action

People who were **more likely to take climate actions** were older, had a higher household income, and lived in more socioeconomically affluent areas of Auckland. In other words, they experienced fewer social and financial barriers, which allowed them to invest their time and resources in climate-friendly actions.

People more likely to take climate action were:

- Aged 50 and over
- New Zealand European
- Female
- Living in a 2-person household
- Living in the **least** socio-economically deprived areas of Auckland (**Quintile 1**)
- Living in a household with high income (usually more than \$200,000)
- Reporting that they have 'more than enough' money to meet their everyday needs.

People who were **less likely to take climate actions** were often younger (even though this group were the most worried about climate change). They were also more likely to live in areas of higher socio-economic need, and, therefore, lacked the financial means and resources to be able to invest time, money, and energy in climate-friendly actions. There was also a small amount of overlap between those less likely to take action and the groups more likely to report they did not know enough about climate change.

People less likely to take climate action were:

- Aged 18-24
- Pacific respondents
- Male
- Living in social housing
- Living in the **most** socio-economically deprived areas of Auckland (**Quintile 5**)
- Reporting that they did not have enough money to meet their everyday needs.

Taken together, these findings raise questions of equity. Those with financial means have the ability to take climate action, while those without the means are less able to do so.



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The 2022 Quality of Life snapshot reports, prepared by Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU), are part of an ongoing series covering a range of topics and demographic groups. Further snapshot reports will be released as they become available.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/>

