



The interviews showed learning was also an outcome of: participating in short courses; having briefings via committees; reading synthesised material and opinion pieces in the media; and via informal conversations with the CCI Director and senior CCI members. Interviewees also mentioned the value of knowledge being **up to date in a dynamic domain**. This means a key service provided by the CCI is access to the latest findings & new directions in climate research.

*“It was an efficient way to get some insights into the various issues that you guys were holding events on...and also getting insights into the questions that other key actors were thinking about”*

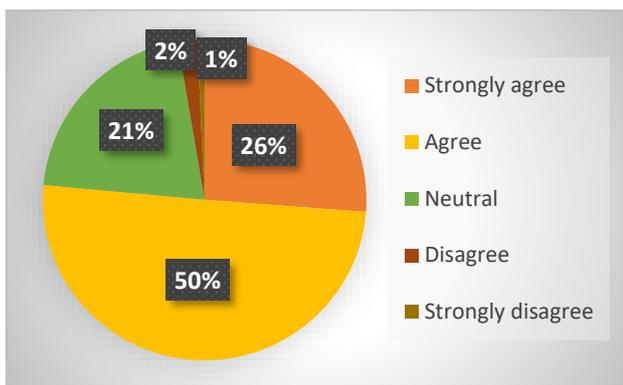
[private sector interviewee]

[in relation to a short course]

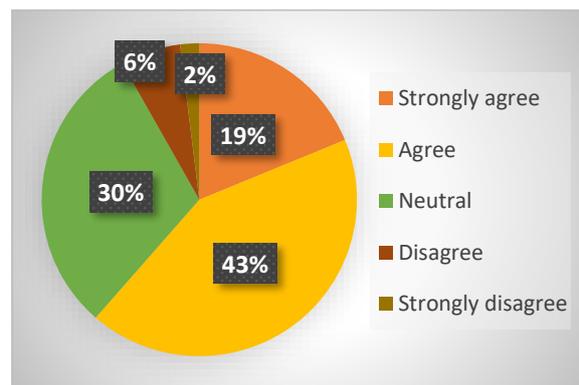
*“It has given me a framework and a lens to look at some of our responses to resilience”* [government sector interviewee]

## 2. CCI activities spark conversations and change behaviour

Greater than 75% of survey respondents said that CCI events had **prompted conversations** about climate change (Fig. 2). This result reinforces those from evaluations of individual public events over the last three years where similar proportions of participants said they *intended* to discuss what they had learned.



**Fig 2: Survey respondents who had conversations about climate change after CCI events.**



**Fig 3: Survey respondents who have changed/intend to change their behaviour.**

Another indicator of individual impact was that > 60% of survey respondents said they had or intended to **change their behaviour** as a result of attending CCI events (Fig. 3). Again, survey results reinforce the intent to change behaviour noted in post-event evaluations.

The fact that CCI events promote discussions about climate change is significant because it means that our reach extends beyond those participating who are generally educated and older (weighted towards those with university degrees who are over 50). It also means that the messenger has shifted from academics talking about their work, to family, friends and colleagues

*“The people that come based on the ones I know, are the leading people in Canberra who are writing letters to the editor, making submissions, attending community events. They are mavens in that sense, people who propagate the message.”*

[government sector interviewee]

discussing what they have learned. Such every day discussions can change attitudes about environmental matters. Event participants may also initiate change because they have a loud or influential voice (see above quote).

Audiences for CCI events also overwhelmingly think climate change is happening and is caused by humans. This contrasts markedly with national surveys (see box). CCI audiences are also more likely to base their attitude on scientific research compared with national surveys. These attitudes seem to have been formed prior to attendance at CCI events with

only just over 15% of survey respondents agreeing that they had changed their opinion about climate change after learning about the latest research. Taken together the results indicate a key impact of CCI events is narrowing the attitude- behaviour gap.

	CCI	Australia <sup>1</sup>
Climate change is happening & is caused by humans	96%	46%
Base views on science	84%	31%

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### 3. CCI builds trust in the ANU as a credible knowledge source

Public science events are social experiences that can build long-term relationships of trust, and trust in researchers is important if research is to be used. Over 50% of survey respondents felt **more trust in ANU research** after attending CCI events. Over half of the interviewees also mentioned the importance of **credible dissemination and discussion** of climate research when describing the value of the Institute. Credibility was linked to being **apolitical** as well as **knowledgeable** and **articulate**.

*“Mark [Howden] brings a wealth of information to that debate in a way that no one else really can I think...very calm and measured, not at the extremes and extremely empirical...” [government sector interviewee]*

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### 4. CCI builds ANU researcher profiles & increases research impact

The exposure ANU researchers receive through CCI events has led to other opportunities to **collaborate** in research, access **funding**, sit on **advisory committees**, give **media** interviews, etc. This means they are more able to influence decision-making. E.g., those on government advisory committees have direct avenues to influence decision-making and specific examples in ACT government were cited in the interviews.

*“The ACT’s policy about not using offsets to reach targets, can fundamentally go back to the council. And I think, Frank [Jotzo] and Will [Steffen], are directly responsible for that. There’s a line right back through them and that policy so that’s a very specific outcome...” [government sector interviewee]*

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1. Leviston, Z., Greenhill, M., & Walker, I. (2015). *Australians attitudes to climate change and adaptation: 2010-2014*. CSIRO, Australia.

## 5. CCI connects researchers & is the focal point for climate at ANU

*"It's the only place on campus where there's any chance of everyone coming together..it fills a real gap for cross campus identification of climate" [academic]*

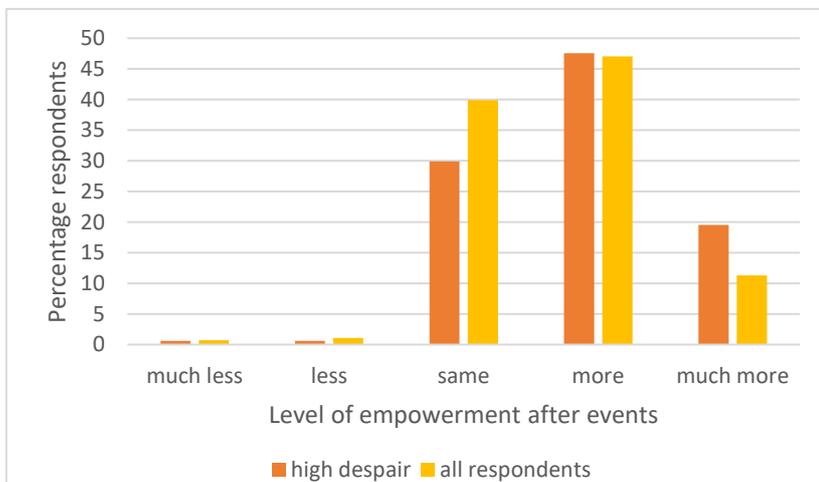
*"CCI is gathering experts from different schools at ANU and different stakeholders from the government. So we have more well-rounded discussions - not only from academia. And as a PhD student I really appreciate that."* [student]

Part of the CCI's mission is to support a collaborative group of climate-related researchers. Academics and students see the CCI as a focal point for climate change at the ANU. It has provided opportunities for **discussions "across silos"** and for new knowledge to emerge. Building networks can be particularly important for students but there are challenges in meeting multiple specific research interests.

## 6. CCI contributes to a more engaged and empowered local community

The CCI has helped create a community more engaged in climate change by creating "3rd spaces" (neutral places outside work environments) for academics to have conversations with policy-makers and the Canberra community about climate change.

*"having the CCI there means the ACT is a richer community...It just helps create that community where these issues are well understood and discussed in a way that I think a community the size of the ACT would normally be unable to maintain"* [government sector interviewee]



**Fig 4: Percentage of survey respondents that were highly motivated by despair to attend who felt more empowered after, compared with overall levels of empowerment after events.**

Around 70% of survey respondents "feel despair about inaction on climate change" and this can contribute to disengagement from the issue. However, a relatively higher proportion of these people felt **more empowered** afterward (Fig. 4) and **more connected** (70% of the despairing vs 50% of total respondents). This may be

empowerment through knowledge as well as through connection with "like-minded people".

### Where to from here?

These results will help inform future strategy for the CCI. We will also use insights to help transition to more online events. ***Thank-you to all who have contributed & participated!***