



ANU Climate Update 08 February 2018

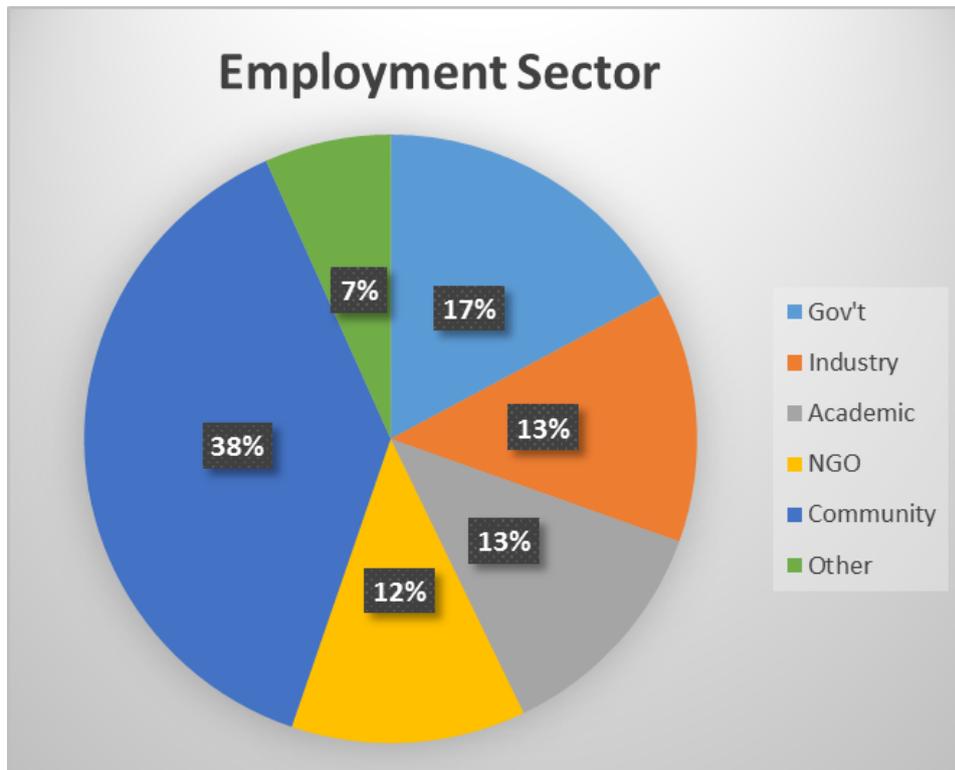
Summary

Methodology

Event participants were asked to fill out a 1 page questionnaire (questionnaire is attached at the end). Sample size was 106 participants (31%) out of a total of approximately 345 who attended.

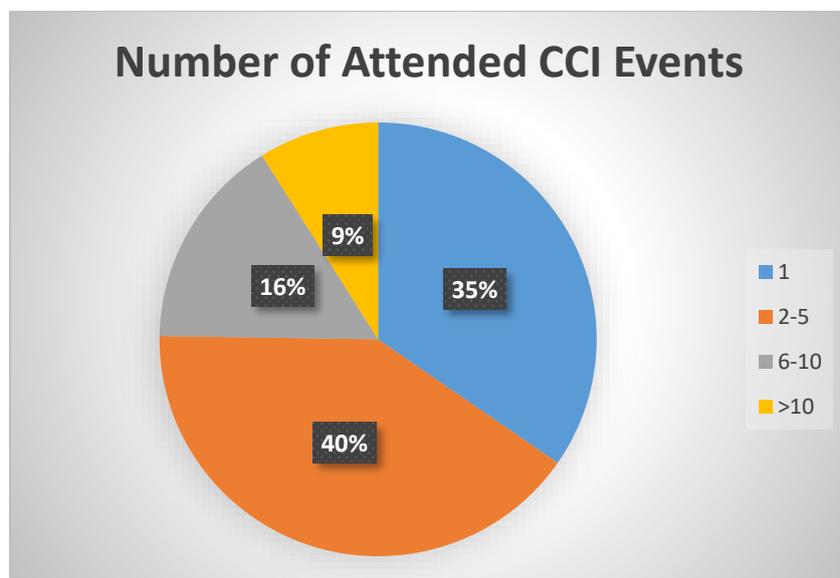
Audience breakdown

The event attracted a diverse mix of people with the community making up over one third of respondents (38%), followed by Government (17%), Industry (13%) and NGO's (12%).



Number of CCI Events attended

For about a third of the respondents (35%) this was their first ANU Climate Change institute event.



Relevance

The large majority of respondents (75%) indicated the event had 'Very high relevance' to them, the remainder all indicated it had 'Some relevance' (25%).

Best Features

Attendees enjoyed many different aspects of the event, with speakers (individuals or on the whole) leading the list (75%) in terms of "quality", "sector" or "topic". The next highly rated feature was the range or quality of the topics (35%) along with the audience Q and A session (14%) and the ease of understanding material (13%). Many people also mentioned the quality of the chairs, the catering and the organisation of the event.

Some specific comments were:

"Exposure to knowledge by experts in the fields"

"Clear explanation by the speakers"

"Participation of academics, politicians, bureaucrats, international perspectives"

"High level of engagement - Howden & Hewson"

"Variety of talks - amazing speakers"

"Some counterintuitive results well explained eg. Frosts"

"Excellent presenters - clear, knowledgeable, interesting."

"Well run Q & A sessions"

"venue, facilities, organisation"

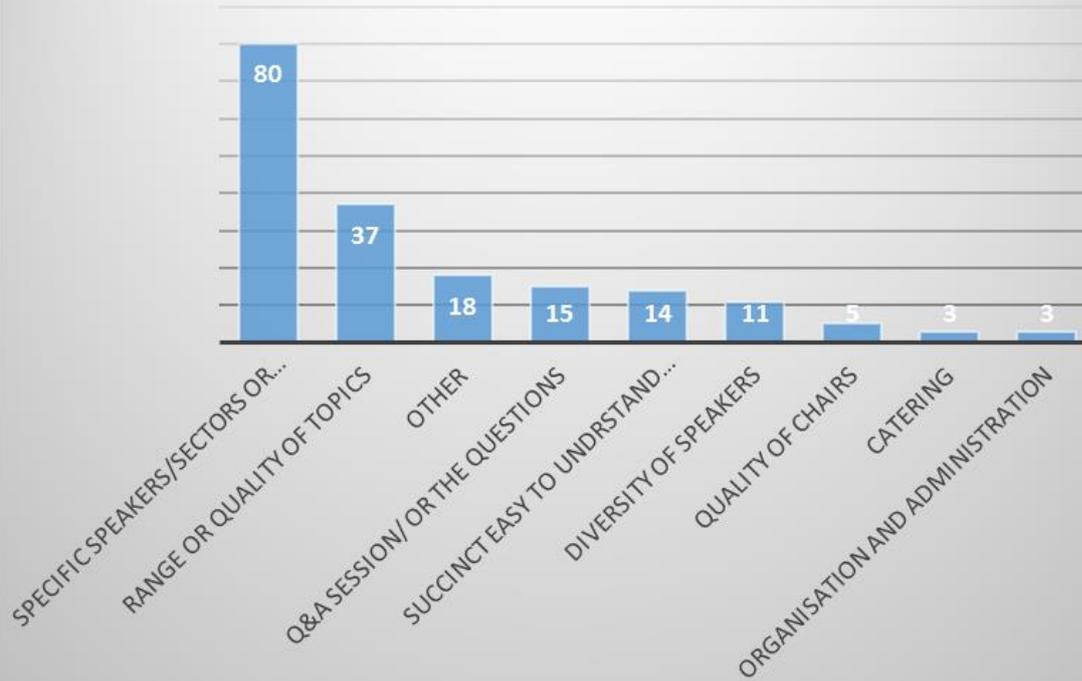
"Good speakers, esp Prof Howden, Prof Hewson & Pauline Vamos"

"Talk on frosts and impact on agriculture - didn't understand this before."

"Dr Sophie Lewis on extreme events"

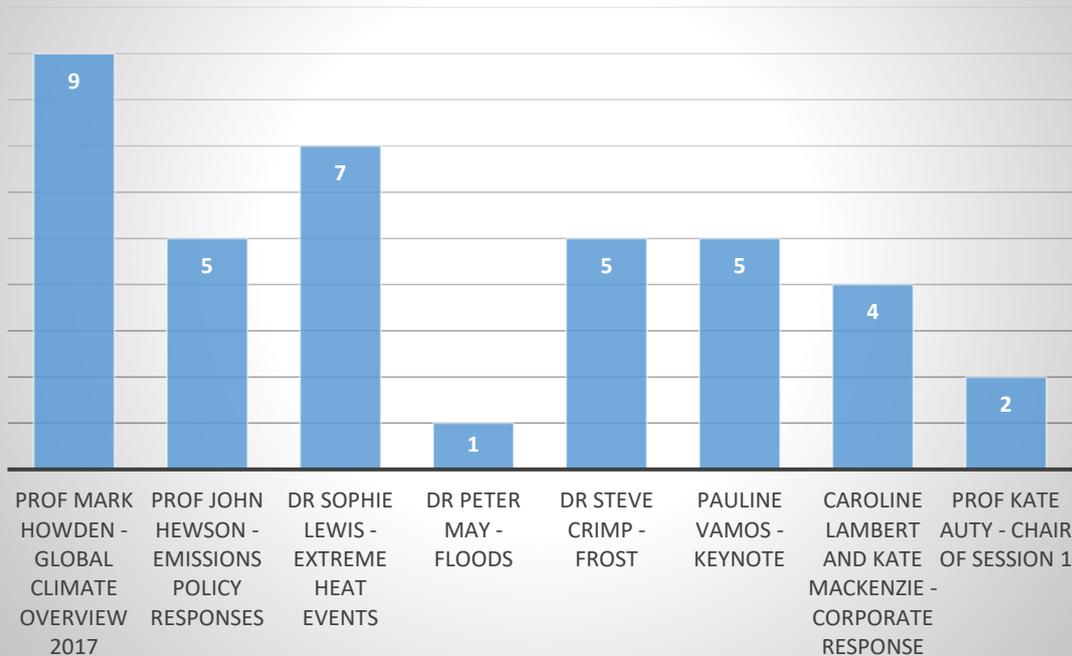
"Thanks to Kate Auty for a gender lens on events! Much appreciated."

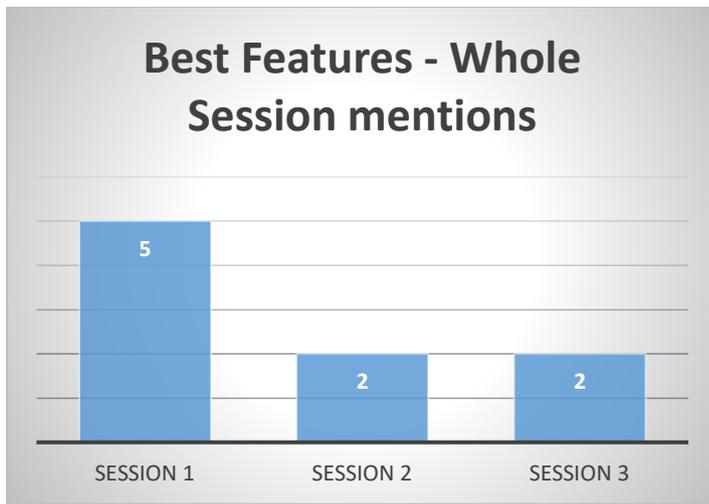
Best features of event



In their comments, respondents mentioned the speakers or whole sessions by name – see charts below.

Best Features - Speakers mentioned by name or title of presentation





What respondents would do differently

The vast majority of respondents (74%) said that they will do things differently after attending the event. Many respondents (36%) mentioned they will look into their superannuation or investment funds, with some citing they will ask about the company's policy on climate change. Other respondents (27%) said they will communicate or discuss what they learned with people they know socially or through work. Many also said they would lobby politicians for (17%). Other actions mentioned were to research the issue further, do more towards sustainability, consider their response to climate change deniers, and so on.

"Inform others. Query financial advisor & press for change"

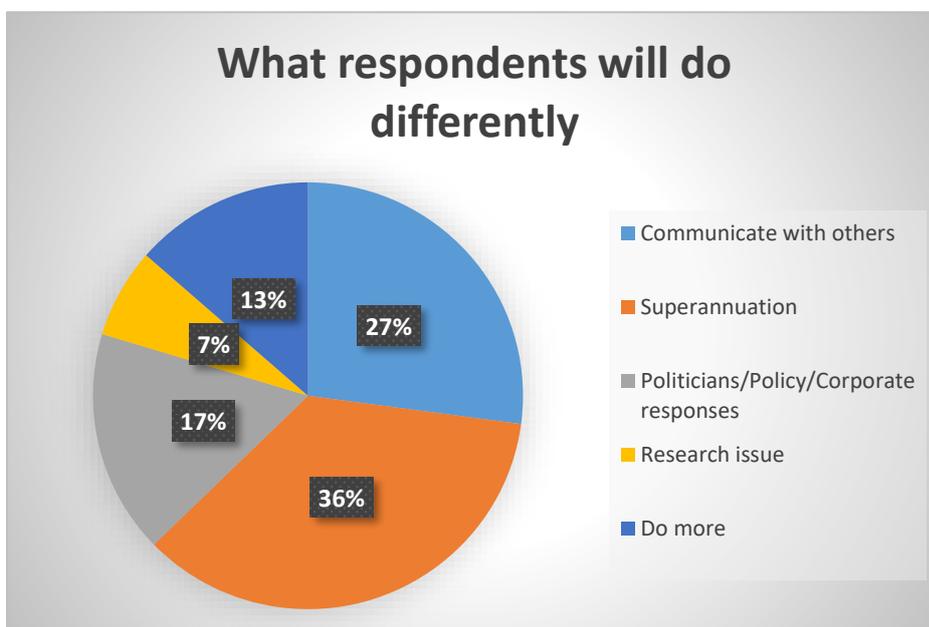
"More directed questions to my superannuation fund. I now have information to tackle the climate sceptics & deniers"

"Lobby my super fund. Change banks. It has sharpened my information base to better inform discussions I have with others."

"Be more environmentally responsible"

"As chair of Canberra Business Chamber Sustainability Taskforce - preparing response to ACT climate change - Zero Net Emissions timetable: Session provided useful insights."

"Super investigation. Was good to be reminded of why I do what I do and also highlighted some gaps/ can apply at work. I may also quit my job!!"



Improvements

17 percent of respondents suggested visibly clearer presentation slides as some didn't have enough contrast, were "too busy", "illegible" or the graphs were difficult to see or understand. Some advised that they were given technical terms without an explanation of meaning. This will be important to highlight in briefing future speakers on events.

Some people felt the deniers should have been prevented from asking questions and yet others felt the opposite. For example:

"Keep deniers from reading out long, prepared questions!"

"Watch out for Climate Deniers! Don't let them have the microphone"

"I understand the difficulty engaging with people of very opposite opinion, but I felt shutting them down didn't always help open up the conversation & work to understand WHY they held certain opinions."

"Indulge climate skeptic questioners - let them finish & then answer respectfully, don't shut them down, thereby acting like "warmest conspirators"

One person suggested having at least one speaker with a contrary view to present "balance"

Other improvement suggestions included having a larger venue, having media representation (as speakers and in coverage), recommending actions that can be taken, more management of Q & A session, summarising the information, not having "all male panel", having policy makers, climate action groups, having audience members stand to ask questions (to hear them better)

A couple of attendees mentioned over-reliance of renewables compared with nuclear, such as "excessive reliance on renewables as an option. Failure to convey the benefits of nuclear energy".

Other improvements included having Indigenous representation, big corporation speakers and younger speakers or audience, for example "attract more youth – the audience demographics was pretty skewed" and "more encouragement for young people to attend, esp. undergrads".

Suggested Topics

Several respondents recommended talking about how individuals can respond or options, such as preparing for bushfires, drought, or "Explanations to ordinary people about impacts of climate change." Or more information on the effects of climate change, such as "climate change refugees" and "food security", "diseases and health impacts", "individual behaviour change", and "If people have to move to escape effects of CC, where are they going to go to? How will plants and animals cop with CC."

Other topics were wide ranging, and included:

"It would be nice to have a less western-centric perspective, so perhaps more presentations and/or discussion from developing and indigenous views."

"What could foresters do to investigate CC? How will real estate be affected by CC?"

"Impact of electric vehicles on emissions & climate change"

"Yes, include respectful discussion of the Milankovich cycle. Did the recent warm cycle (1925-2012) cause false correlations among the research?"

"I want to hear vastly more about efficient near term dispatchable nuclear energy as our alternative to "renewables" its far more sustainable."

"Cci snow not about science. It is about psychology. Need more from people like John Cook."

“Paleo climate and longer term trends. Sea ice. Ocean currents. Atmosphere factors.”

“Include climate action groups - maybe have stands in catering areas, if not as speakers (but would suggest speakers as well) eg AYCC who would also bring perspectives of the young.”

“Aboriginal & Torres St Island Elder & Youth Representatives across remote regional country towns or cities across Australia. 2. Pacific Islander representation from Elder & youth representatives from both Academic Schools/Faculties and local communities. 3. Business(s) which have implementing practical and sustainability mitigation climate change practices & moving to zero CO2 + Greenhouse gas emissions & investing in CO2 & Greenhouse gas capture. 4. Local Gov/State & Territory/Fed Gov: Elected members & advisors & bureaucrats & technocrats across ALL departments presentations on what practical measures they are & will & when doing to move to zero CO2 & Greenhouse gas emissions.”

“Bring back Caroline Lambert. Disaster Mgt & preparedness. David Kandy. Update good to focus on 2017 - It was extreme. Perhaps next year over - globe/ our region/ Aus > needs longer 1st session”

“Federal politicians to discuss climate change”

“Electric vehicles/transport”

“Sophie Lewis is my new personal hero. Can she please teach us how to be scientific communicators with Sass!”

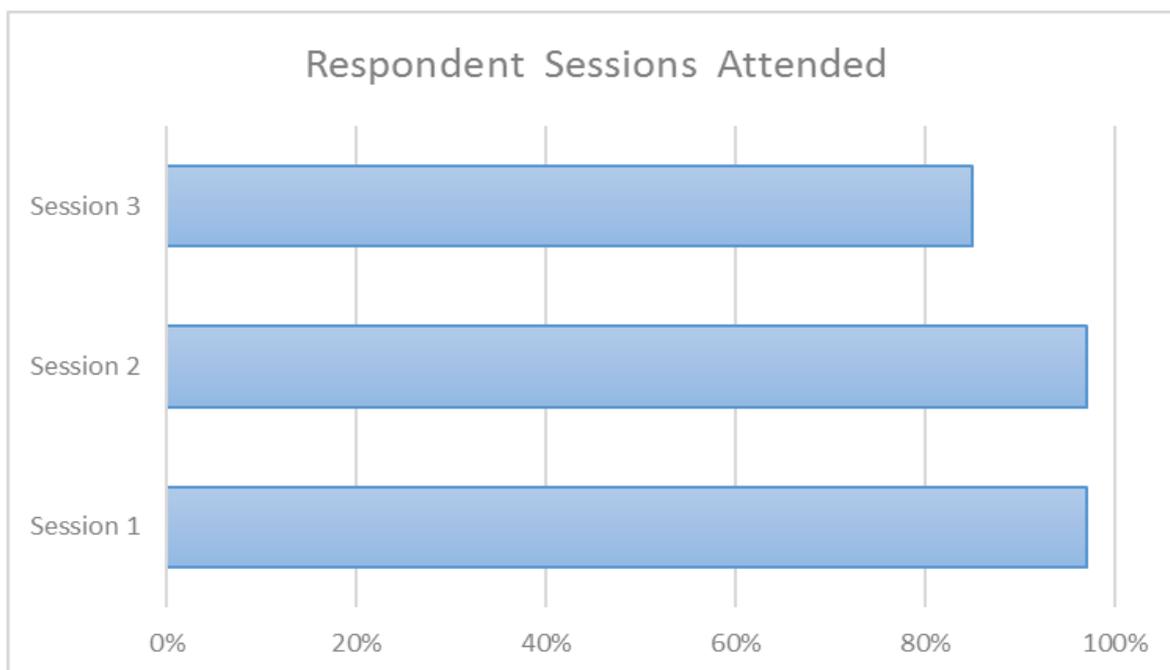
“Maybe more should be said on mitigation & adaptation issues, which was missing.”

“Environmental law & governance”

“There weren't a lot of students so running events during semester would be useful to engage future politician and scientists & others.”

Sessions Attended

Most respondents attended all three sessions, especially the 1st and 2nd session (97%) with sessions 3 less heavily attended (87%).



Additional comments

The additional comments that were worth noting were those on the collateral at the event, such as the coasters that were handed out. Four people were disappointed to not have received one because they had run out. Two people were complimentary about the style and content of the coasters suggesting that they should be more widely distributed. Another person recommended that this information be included in paper form so that it could be more readily available to everyone for wider distribution.



Event evaluation

The ANU Climate Change Institute (CCI) is seeking your feedback on this event. We'd like to learn from you so that we can improve the value of future events for attendees.

By voluntarily completing this evaluation, you provide your informed consent to participate: *I have read and understood the Information Sheet you have given me about the research project, and I have had any questions and concerns about the project addressed to my satisfaction.*

Please complete the questions below, then return to event organisers.

1. What sector are you from? (Please tick the sector which best represents you at this event.)

Government

NGO

Business / industry

Community

Academia / research

Other _____

Student

2. Approximately how many CCI events have you attended prior? ____ or tick if this is the first one:

3. How relevant was this event to you?

No relevance

Some relevance

High relevance

4. What were the best two features of this event?

1. _____
2. _____

5. What are two ways this event could have been improved?

1. _____
2. _____

6. Will you discuss what you've learnt from the event with others?

Yes No Maybe

7. Will you do anything different? Yes No

8. Do you have any suggestions for topics, themes, or speakers you would like included in future ANU Climate Change Institute events?

9. Please provide any additional comments here.

Thank you for participating in today's event, and for taking the time to complete this evaluation. We really appreciate you sharing your perspectives with us. If you haven't left your form at the event, please email to climate@anu.edu.au