



Drawdown

20 February 2018

Summary

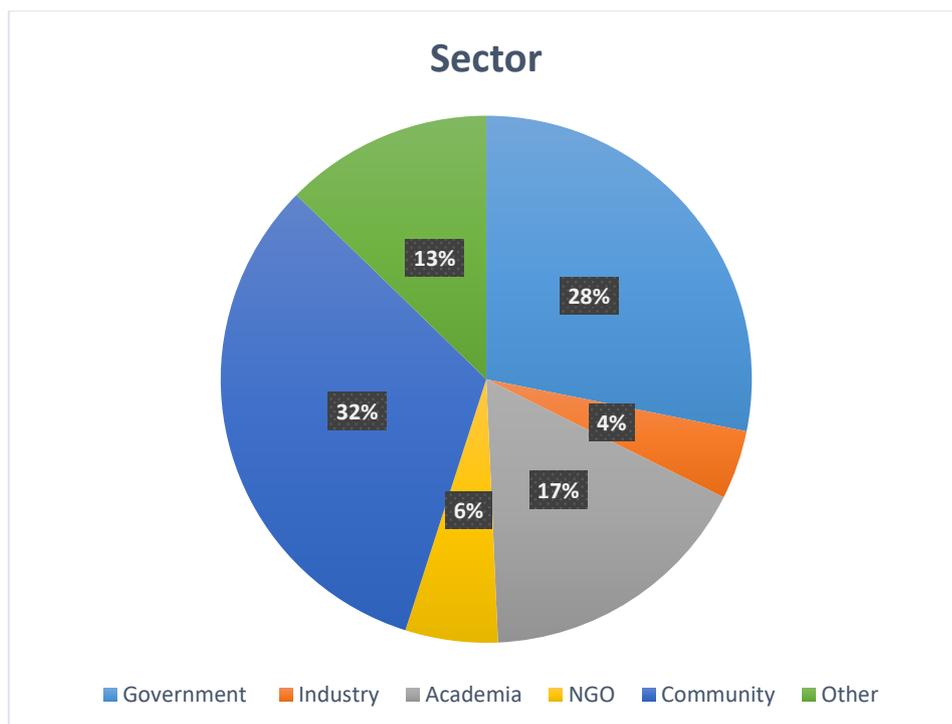
On 20th February 2018, Paul Hawken, Founder of Project Drawdown and Editor of *Drawdown*, was hosted by CCI to discuss the key themes of the book and their implications for how to proceed in reversing global warming. Prof Mark Howden chaired the event which included a panel of experts to discuss their perspectives of the project. The panellists were Prof Justin Borevitz (RSB, ANU), Dr Sarah Milne (Crawford, ANU) and Dr Will Grant (CPAS, ANU). The event closed with an audience Q&A which was followed by refreshments that were sponsored by Bank Australia.

Methodology

Event participants were asked to fill out a 1 page questionnaire (questionnaire is attached at the end). Sample size was 71 participants out of approximately 300 attendees.

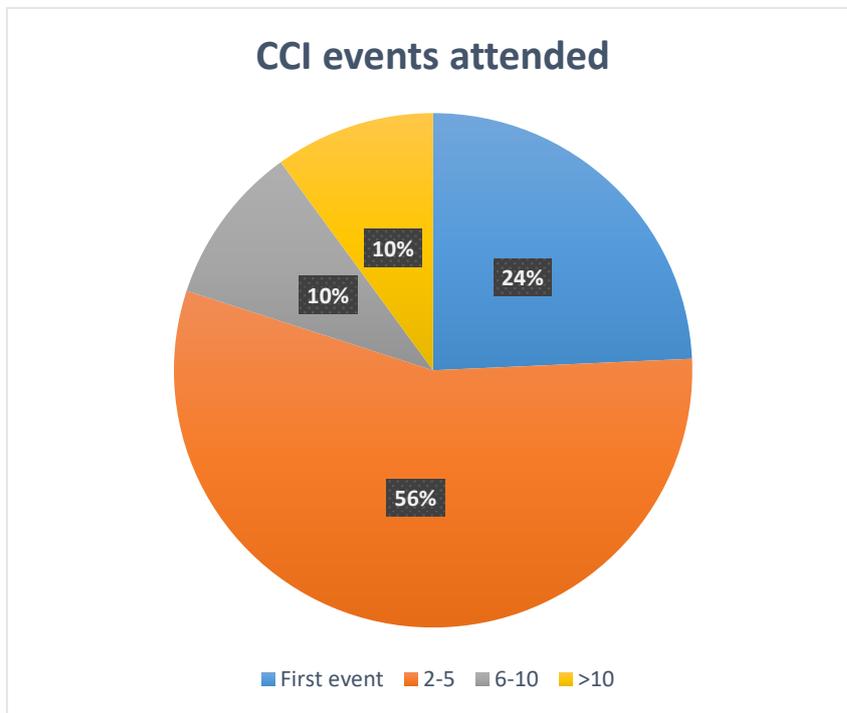
Audience breakdown

The event attracted a diverse mix of people with the community making up almost one third of respondents (32%), followed by Government (28%) and Academia (17%).



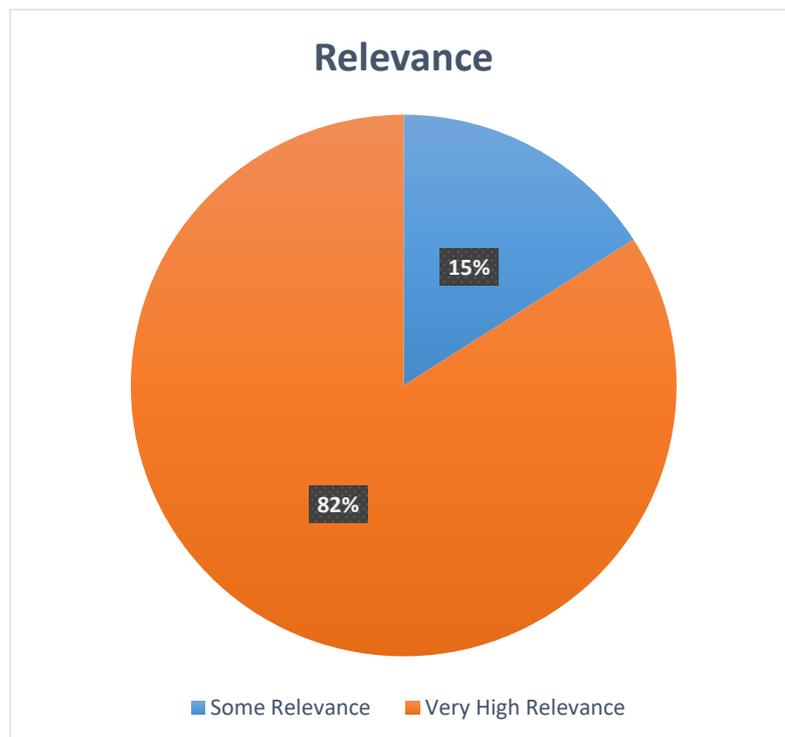
Number of CCI Events attended

For almost a quarter of the respondents (24%) this was their first ANU Climate Change institute event.



Relevance

The large majority of respondents (82%) indicated the event had 'Very high relevance' to them, the remainder all indicated it had 'Some relevance' (15%).



Best Features

Attendees enjoyed many different aspects of the event, with the speaker and panellists (individuals or on the whole) leading the list (52%), the next highly rated feature as the quality of the topic (32%) and a good many appreciated the tone of optimism in the presentation (17%). Respondents were also complimentary on the diversity of speakers (15%) and the solution-based ideas and suggestions. The ease of understanding from the presenters was also mentioned as was the Q&A session and the organisation of the event.

Some specific comments were:

“Novel topic - I didn't know that much about drawdown”

“Paul Hawken - Great to hear from the author”

“The culmination of optimism with reality-based focus on the challenges e.g. political”

“Positive options for the future”

“A positive language to share with friends”

“Paul's presentation and Sarah's presentation”

“Learning about a successful collaboration across many sectors, countries, etc”

“What the idea that lights you up? Linking passion to part of the solution”

“Second speaker, Justin!”

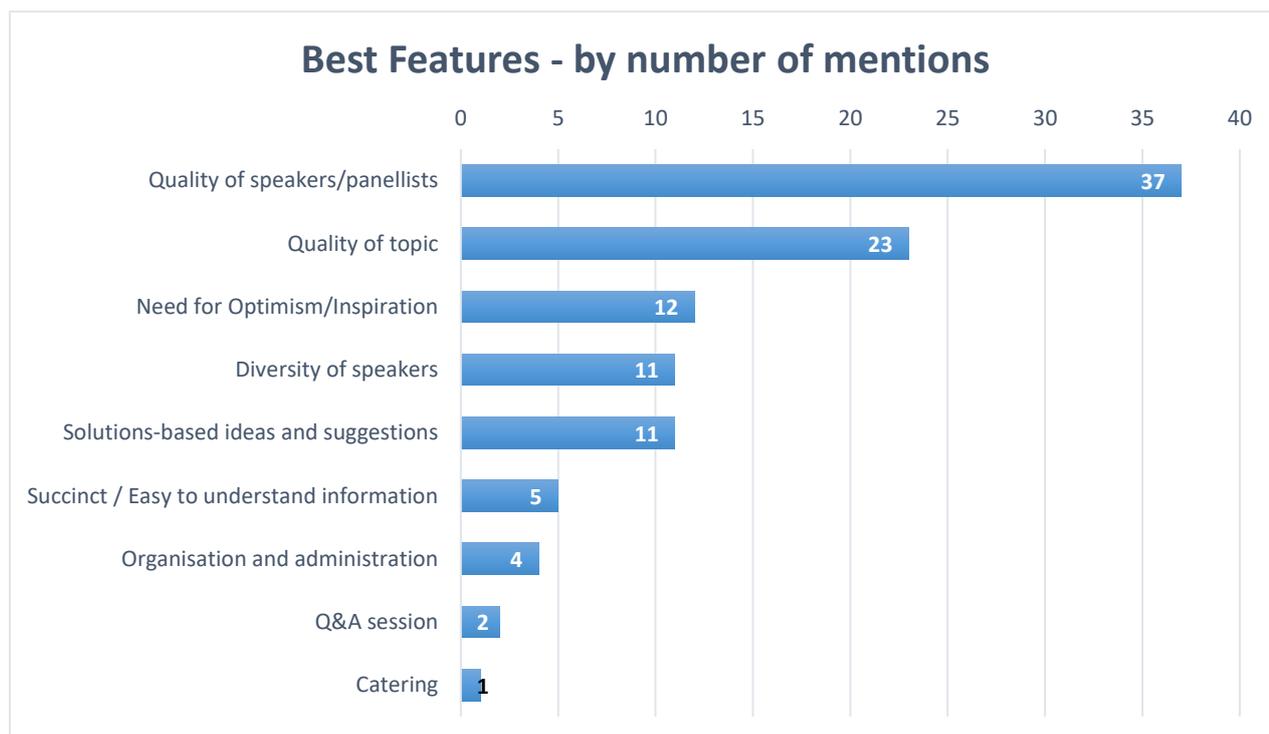
“Optimistic, solutions seemed simple”

“Diverse speakers”

“Paul Hawken”

“Timing after work”

“Openness about the limitations”



What respondents would do differently

Majority of respondents (69%) said that they will do things differently after attending the event with many of them (17%) saying they were planning to do more. Other respondents (13%) said they will buy or read the book and others (13%) said they would improve their communication or language to be more positive when discussing climate change issues. Other actions mentioned were to research the issue further (10%), change their food wastage habitats or diet (10%), communicate the topics with others (8%), change their view on gender inequality (6%), and so on.

See some comments below:

“I'll buy Paul's book”

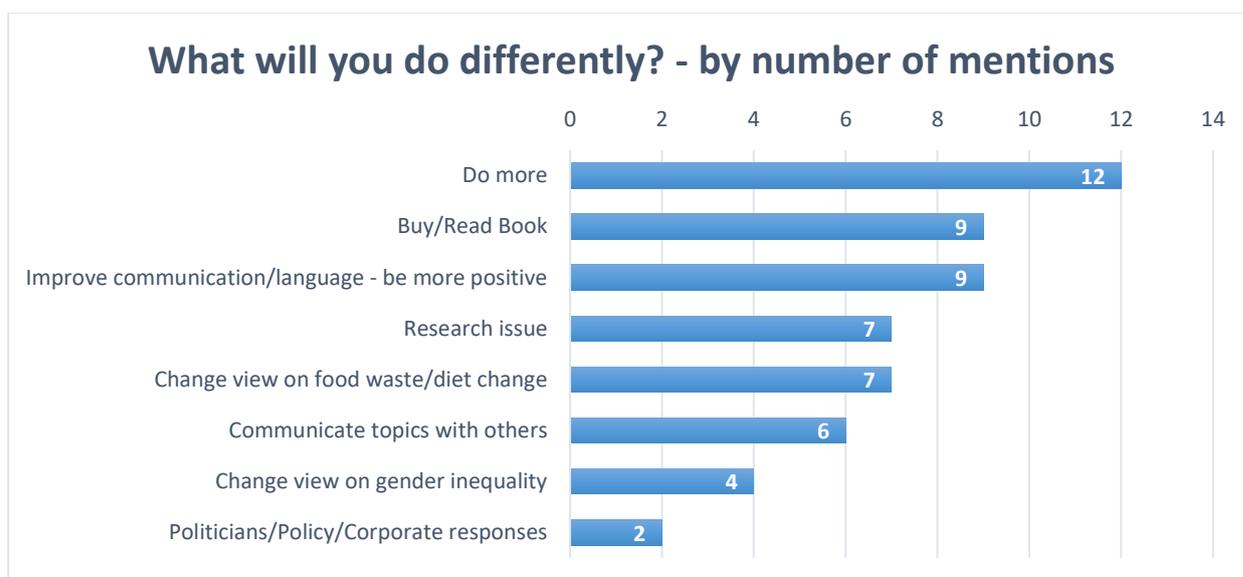
“Perhaps focus on the role of women in my view of climate change issues, also change my language surrounding climate change”

“I shall go forth with increased knowledge. Was unaware of the wide range of options”

“Encourage others to attend info night, support programs focused on educating women”

“Go out and do the thing that really lights me up!”

“Do what lights you up!”



Improvements

The vast majority of respondents (76%) were disappointed with the sound quality or technical issues surrounding the AV system. Others (15%) wished there was more time for the different sessions or felt that the event was quite rushed while others (13%) were not satisfied with some organisational aspects of the event. Others felt that the topic was too restricted (6%) and that there were confusing or unexplained ideas and jargon (6%).

See some comments below:

“Sound systems should be able to work from the beginning and should cater to different voices. The sound system was dreadful.”

“The panellists were quite rushed in their presentation and some of the concepts discussed were not fully explained”

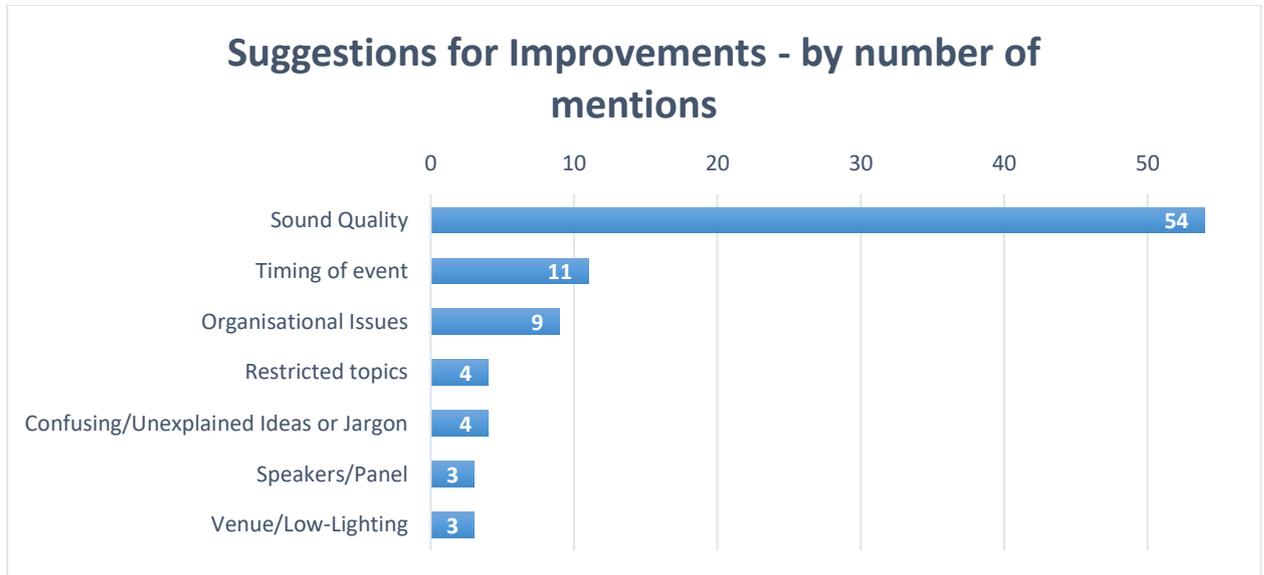
“Not long enough - always want more”

“Audio visual equipment”

“Check sound system in advance”

“Better microphones”

“Extra time for speakers”



Suggested Topics

Many respondents want a follow up event in the future to see the outcomes of Project Drawdown. Others wanted to hear more from Prof Justin Borevitz, some wanted to know more on individual actions for living sustainably and advocating local/federal governments for broader change in society. A couple respondents mentioned that they would like to understand the lack of action on climate change and living sustainably by many in society and the psychology behind it in order to inform future debates or ways to change minds. Other topics mentioned were “transport fuels”, “geo-engineering”, “sustainable forestry”, “population growth and climate change”, “carbon pricing” and “Ross Garnant's vision for a future Australian NEM in 2025-35”.

Additional comments

Majority of the additional comments were saying thanks for the great event and a few mentioned the need for a better sound system. One person said that they had travelled from Brisbane to hear this talk and that it was worth the trip.



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