

## Environmental Volunteering Survey Summary of Key Findings

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is exploring options to improve support, build capacity and better coordinate environmental volunteering whilst exploring opportunities to expand environmental volunteering across Victoria.

As part of the community consultation for this project, an online Environmental Volunteering Survey was conducted between 1 to 19 June 2018. The survey aimed to identify barriers and challenges for environmental volunteers, road test ideas and solutions and determine ways to expand environmental volunteer participation.

We would like to thank you very much for your participation in this survey.

### Target Audience

The survey was distributed to a broad range of groups and networks including Friends' groups, Landcare, Coastcare, CMAs and others. It is estimated that the survey was distributed to more than 10,000 individuals. A wide range of DELWP channels were also used to promote the survey. This included social media, regional posts and staff encouraging family and friends to respond.

In total, 1602 individual responses were received demonstrating a great willingness to provide input into options and to comment on what's happening in their sphere. While the survey design and distribution were broad in nature, the results are insightful, and are assisting us to identify key volunteering requirements and trends.

### Locations of respondents



56% Melbourne Metro



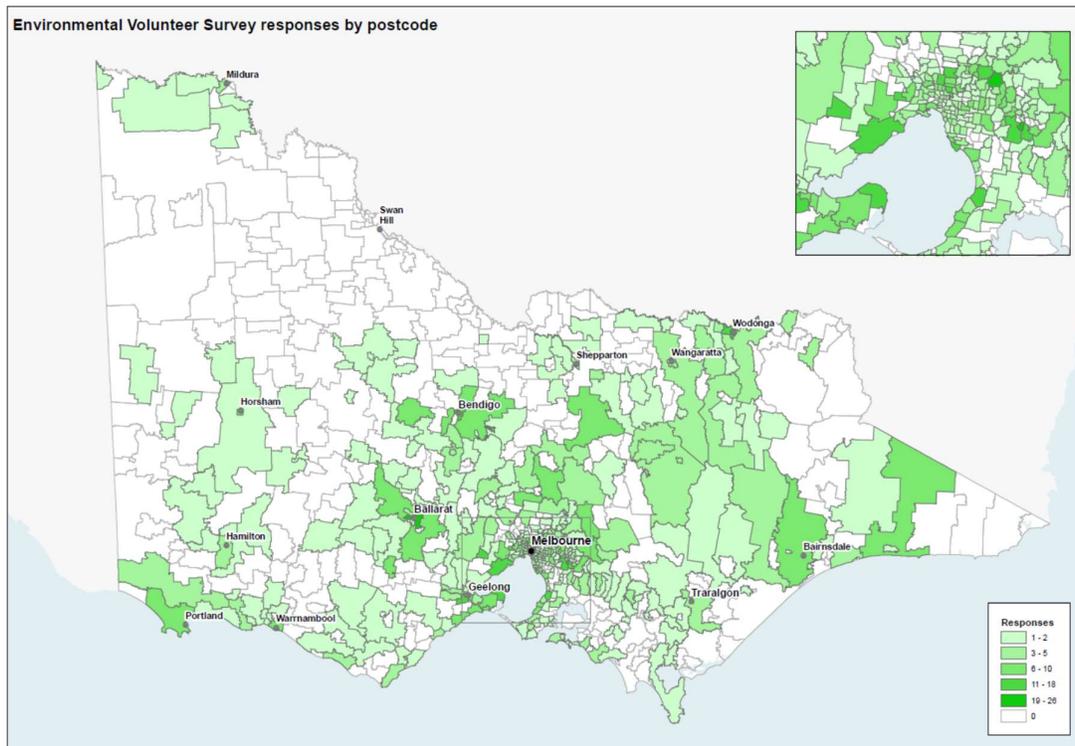
19% rural or semi-rural



14% smaller regional town

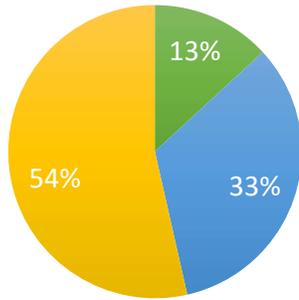


11% Major Regional town

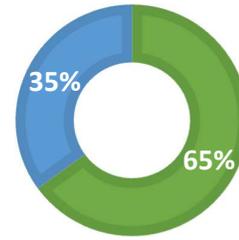


### Age Distribution

■ Under 35 ■ 35 - 54 ■ 55 and over



### Currently involved in Environmental Volunteering



■ Yes ■ No

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## Current Environmental Volunteers – where we are at now

Bulk of the current Environmental Volunteers were involved with:

- Friend's groups
- Landcare
- Citizen Science
- Clean-up Activities.

The main benefit of environmental volunteering experienced by 88 % of respondents was their ability to help the environment and animals.

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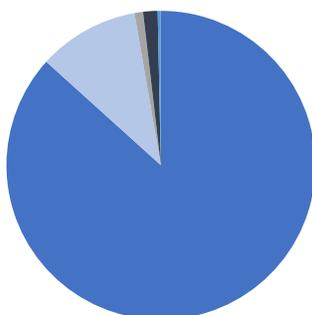
### Length of Involvement YEARS



50% of respondents are active at least once a week.

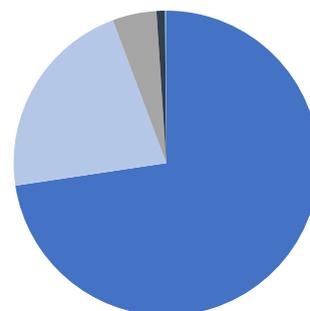
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### Likely to Continue



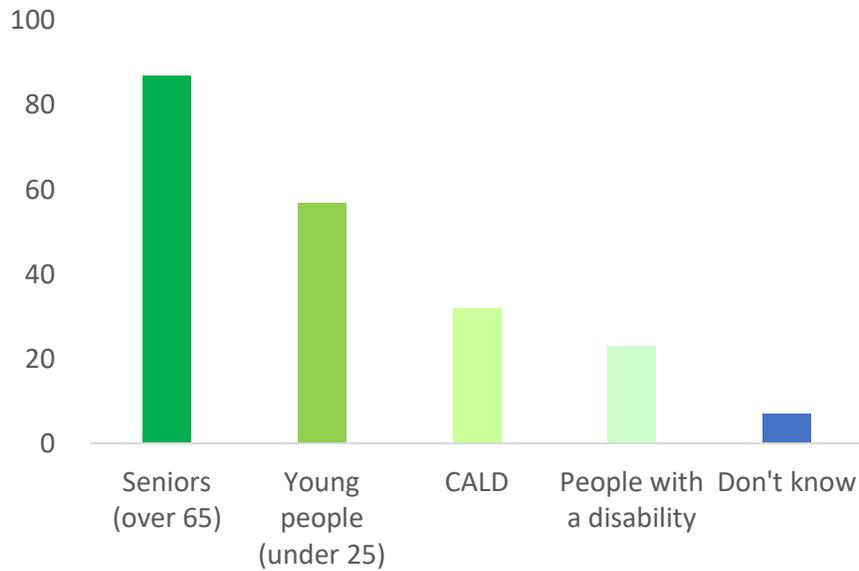
Response	Percentage
Very Likely	87%
Likely	11%
Neither likely nor unlikely	1%
Unlikely	1%

### Likely to Recommend to friends



Response	Percentage
Very Likely	73%
Likely	22%
Neither likely nor unlikely	4%
Unlikely	1%

## Diversity – Does your group include.....



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## Environmental Volunteers – How we can help and better support

### What would help you most:

- Introduce a strategy to target young people for involvement
- Additional resources – e.g. materials and equipment
- Info packages for Councils/real estate agents to provide to new residents
- Assistance with recruitment
- Paid volunteer manager/facilitator.
- Seminars and guest speakers on relevant environmental topics
- Improved administrative processes
- A calendar of events for each region

### What would best support you in your work:

- 50% of respondents wanted training days on technical or scientific information (e.g. plant id. training)
- 28% streamlined administration processes
- 26% mentor program/collaboration with other groups
- 26% Marketing and communication assistance
- 26% Assistance with developing spontaneous/event-based activities

## Non-Environmental Volunteers – how to expand and attract new volunteers

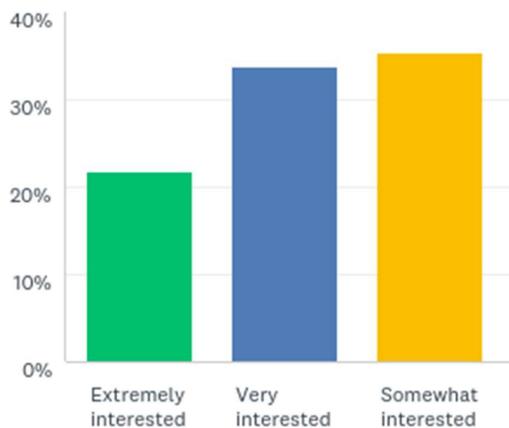
### What's stopping you from volunteering?

- No time – too busy with work/family
- Involved in other community organisations
- Don't know what is available

### What do you need to know?

- The types of activities and projects available
- The types of volunteers or help wanted/how to use my skills
- When activities or projects are happening
- How to find the nearest group

### How interested are you in becoming involved in Environmental Volunteering?



### What would you like to do?

- 79% Interested in on-ground/outdoor activities
- 42% Citizen science and monitoring
- 44% One off and event-based activities
- 41% Clean-up activities

### Next Steps

The survey findings have highlighted some important areas for consideration for future design of programs, opportunities and engagement.

We are now looking into a number of options and potential projects to be undertaken to assist with the issues that were brought up in the survey and through other consultation.

Thank you again for your participation.

***“The reason that I am involved in environmental volunteering is because of a deep commitment to improving habitat for wildlife. I find I meet people who are like-minded and deeply passionate as I am. People who aren't committed don't tend to last long.***

***All of the above is a follow-on of that commitment. We just hope those in appropriate positions are willing to support us in doing the work that we do”.***