

Community-Driven
**Climate Action
Plan**

Our World

Our Voice

Our Destiny



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Abbreviations & Terms

ACA/ Council	Arab Council Australia Ltd	CAP	Community Action Plan
AI	Appreciative Inquiry	CCAP	Community Climate Action Project (Tabiea-Masiruna Project)
ABCD	Asset Based Community Development	LGA	Local Government Area
ASB	Arabic Speaking Background	SW Sydney	South West Sydney
ASC	Arabic Speaking Community	'The Project'	Tabiea – Masiruna Project./Community Climate Action Project (CCAP)
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse	Timeframe (CAP)	Short (6-11 months), Medium (1-2 years) Long term (over 2 years - 5 years)

Acknowledgement of Country



Arab Council Australia acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We honour their deep spiritual and cultural connection to protect the land, waters, skies, and natural resources, and commit to walking with them in the spirit of care for our environment and for our shared future.

Our Commitment to Climate Action

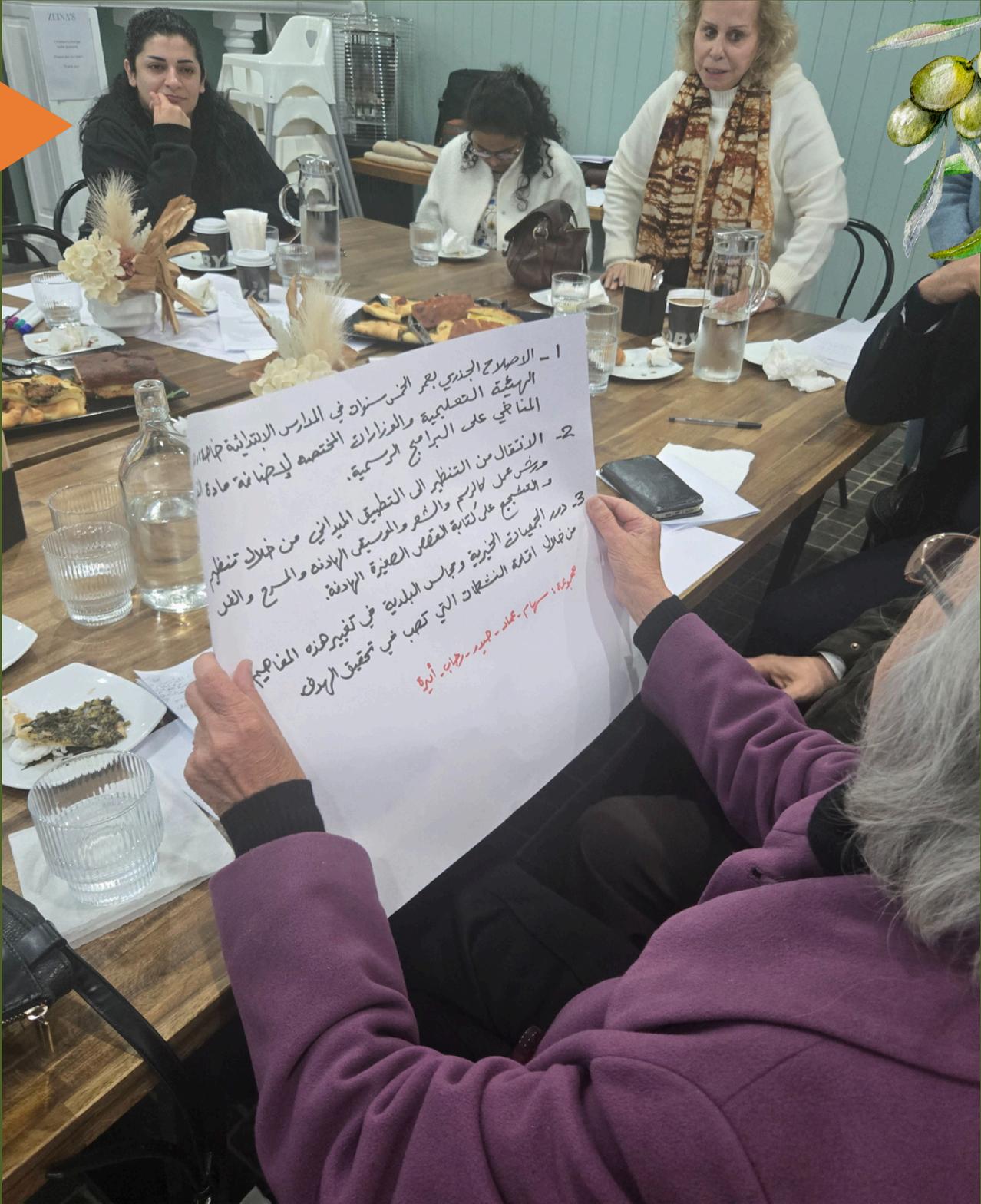
Arab Council Australia Ltd is aware that we can always do more to address climate change. We recognise that all communities and regions are affected by climate injustice within diverse contexts.

For climate action to be impactful and sustainable it needs to be inclusive, reflecting and respectively acknowledging the distinct cultural, political and social spheres that dominate the lives of ASB communities.

We know that most Arabic speaking Australians care about the climate, nature and the environment and we are dedicated to finding ways we can align values and what matters to the ASB communities to achieve and sustain climate justice in our local communities and beyond.

We are talking about climate action and working on solutions, 'our way', that connect and resonate with our way of life and lived experiences.





“Individual work to group work helps students (children and young people) exchange ideas and gain new experiences from their peers about climate change and actions needed.”

Group presentation in community conversation session on education and raising awareness

Guiding Vision

Australian Arabic speaking communities care about the climate and are committed to actions to strengthen the broader climate movement in Australia and beyond.



A message from the CEO

The past two years have been a challenging period for our organisation and the communities we serve. At a time when many within our Arabic-speaking communities have been grappling with wars and humanitarian crises in their ancestral homelands—alongside domestic challenges such as rising living costs, housing insecurity, and racism—we have also witnessed a growing commitment to environmental and climate action initiatives.

Through collaboration, innovation, and collective dedication, we have continued to advance meaningful climate action. Our **Tabiea Climate Action Campaign**, delivered in partnership with the Nature Conservation Council NSW, continues to grow and foster deeper engagement across Arabic-speaking communities. The campaign has inspired greater awareness, education, and participation in sustainability and environmental protection activities.

Building on this partnership, over the past few months we have been consulting with our community to co-design a Climate Community Action Plan. Funded by Boundless Earth, this project has provided a platform for community voices to shape local climate priorities and identify culturally relevant solutions to environmental challenges.

This Climate Community Action Plan, known as **Tabiea – Masiruna (Nature – Our Destiny)**, will enable our communities to take ownership of their environmental future through clear, community-led actions. It will guide our efforts toward long-term sustainability, strengthen environmental resilience, and ensure that our collective response to climate change reflects the values, heritage, and aspirations of our community.

Hassan Moussa
CEO
Arab Council Australia

Acknowledgements

Arab Council Australia Ltd (ACA) is the lead organisation in execution of the **Tabiea – Masiruna** Project. ACA would like to acknowledge the key partners, stakeholders, facilitators and ACA staff who made this project possible.

A huge thank you to Boundless Earth for funding this project. Boundless Earth funded the 18 month project under the Hearts and Minds Epic initiative. We would also like to acknowledge the support and assistance of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Multicultural Leadership Initiative.

The **Tabiea-Masiruna** project was managed by ACA staff members Hala Al-Duleimi and coordinated by Bud Moses, who also leads the ongoing Tabiea Campaign. Hala also played a key role in facilitating three sessions in Arabic, as well as interpreting during sessions conducted in English.

For the Community Engagement segment that included the co-design workshops, community conversation sessions and the Community Forum we engaged Zizi Charida from Zahia Pty Ltd. Zizi facilitated these sessions, with assistance from her colleague William Hamzey.

Special thanks to the passionate community members and organisations who gave so generously of their time, wisdom, experience and energy in the workshops and forum.



Introduction



Our Community Action Plan

This Climate Action Plan is a vital roadmap for our community's response to the challenges of climate change. It focuses on solutions that reflect our shared values and the rich cultural heritage of the Australian Arabic-speaking community.

Led by Arab Council Australia Ltd (ACA) under the **Tabiea – Masiruna** initiative, the Plan represents our collective commitment to building a more resilient, sustainable, and healthy community. More importantly, it ensures that our voices are heard — that we are at the table, shaping climate action our way by sharing our concerns, ideas, and aspirations.

Through the **Tabiea – Masiruna** Project, ACA engaged the community in a series of workshops and forums designed to explore perceptions of climate change — an issue that demands our urgent attention and action. These sessions highlighted the deep value our community places on sustainability and environmental protection, inspired by the principles of stewardship and responsible living embedded in our traditions.

This document is more than just a Climate Action Plan. It also provides a comprehensive overview of the **Tabiea – Masiruna** Project, which seeks to engage Arabic-speaking communities across Western and South West Sydney in meaningful dialogue and co-design of community-driven climate solutions. Encouraging these conversations were not without challenges, as climate change often competes with other pressing priorities in people's lives. However, this report captures how we successfully brought the issue to the forefront of community discussion.

The **Tabiea – Masiruna** Project, also known as the Community Climate Action Project (CCAP), began in February 2025. It involved a series of impactful engagement sessions that adopted an asset-based, participatory community development approach — fostering collaboration, co-design, and locally grounded climate action. The methods and outcomes of this participatory process are detailed in the sections that follow.

Funded by Boundless Earth, this project marks ACA's second major climate-focused initiative. It builds upon the success of the Tabiea Climate Action Campaign, delivered in partnership with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, which launched a climate awareness campaign tailored for Arabic-speaking communities in Western and South West Sydney.

Finally, emerging from this Plan are a set of Broad Policy Recommendations that outline key steps to enhance community engagement and strengthen the participation of Arabic-speaking Australians in the broader climate action movement.

Towards Sustainable Change



The **Tabiea – Masiruna** Project has been a vital step in bringing climate change to the forefront for Arabic-speaking background (ASB) communities, highlighting that environmental, social, and climate justice are deeply interconnected. It reinforces that the issues our communities care about—human rights, equity, and wellbeing—are inseparable from the fight for climate justice.

The resulting Community Action Plan (CAP) reflects the ideas, aspirations, and values gathered through community forums, workshops, and previous campaigns, offering a culturally relevant and inclusive pathway toward a more sustainable future. This work marks the beginning of a powerful journey toward greater ASB community engagement in climate action, aiming to inform policy, inspire collaboration, and co-create a hopeful future grounded in practical, community-driven solutions for real and lasting change.



Project Overview

Developing the Community Action Plan

Developing a Community Action Plan was a key part of the Community Climate Action Project (Tabiea-Masiruna), which aims to empower Arabic-speaking communities in Western Sydney to lead climate action.

The **Tabiea-Masiruna** project entailed the facilitation of surveys, co-design sessions and community conversations. In September 2025 ACA hosted a forum to gather ideas from the community on topics that emerged from previous sessions, such as education, leadership, communication and using culture and faith for climate action.

The community engagement sessions and workshops, including the forum, informed the CAP, which included actions community can implement directly as well as important actions that require resources and support from external sources.

*A total of 448 people from Arabic Speaking Background were engaged in different parts of **Tabiea-Masiruna** project.*



What We Learnt and Achieved

- We learnt how diverse Arab cultural values, practices, political viewpoints, social-political movements and religious beliefs can intersect and strengthen the broader climate action movement.
- We discovered that to a great extent cultural identity plays a critical role in climate justice and shapes the way activists engage with climate issues.
- We discovered that some people feel excluded from the mainstream climate movement as it does not take into account other cultural perspectives and often values environmentalism that aligns with Western and colonial standards. The language and terms used can further marginalise CALD communities.
- We documented insights, perceptions, attitudes and priority of issues (and priority fatigue) as it relates to climate impact and change, as well as the issues and challenges that impact ASB communities in participating in climate action.

We are pleased to have achieved the following project outcomes:

- ✓ ACA deepened its understanding of the attitudes, beliefs, and concerns of Arabic-speaking background (ASB) community members regarding climate change and potential solutions. Many of these insights validated ACA's previous assumptions about existing barriers and challenges, which have been comprehensively documented by the Council.
- ✓ Participants also demonstrated an increased understanding of key climate issues, possible solutions, and ways to contribute to positive change. Comparing survey findings with outcomes from workshops and forums revealed a clear shift in perceptions — showing that creating spaces for open conversation, storytelling, and idea-sharing is essential for fostering meaningful change in mindset and engagement.
- ✓ The result is a strong, community-driven Climate Action Plan that outlines tangible actions and innovative, practical ideas rooted in the lived experiences and values of ASB communities, championing inclusive and culturally relevant climate action.



Arabic Speaking Communities in Western & South West Sydney

In Australia, Arabic is the third most common language spoken other than English (OTE) at home, after Mandarin and Vietnamese. In New South Wales, Arabic is the second most spoken language, after Mandarin (OTE).

The Arabic speaking communities in Australia are diverse and include people from 22 countries. The 'Arab World' is where Arabic is either an official language or it is spoken by a significant portion of the population.

The Arabic speaking community in Australia is heavily concentrated in Western and South West Sydney, and this was the main cohort we engaged in the **Tabiea – Masiruna** Project.

Whilst the surveys (initial phase of Tabiea-Masiruna project) provided valuable insights and information, the face to face sessions, both co-design workshops and community conversations, provide a more in-depth understanding and appreciation of the ASB communities experience, wisdom, compassion and care for others and the natural world.

Sessions were conducted in areas across South West and Western Sydney that have a high concentration of ASB communities.

Communities in these LGA's have the potential to wield large amounts of power and have many marginal seats that politicians value.

The ASB community's vision and aspirations matter and their participation and voice are hugely impactful.

Whilst the project focused on engaging the Arabic speaking cohort in these LGA's, people from these communities have their own unique gifts, perceptions and life experiences. This is not a homogenous group and the diversity can in no way be reflected in this document. Culture, religion and shared historical and political events only form one part of their choices, identity and lifestyle.



طبيعة مصيرنا
tabiea masiruna
[nature - our destiny]

Community-Driven Climate Action Forum

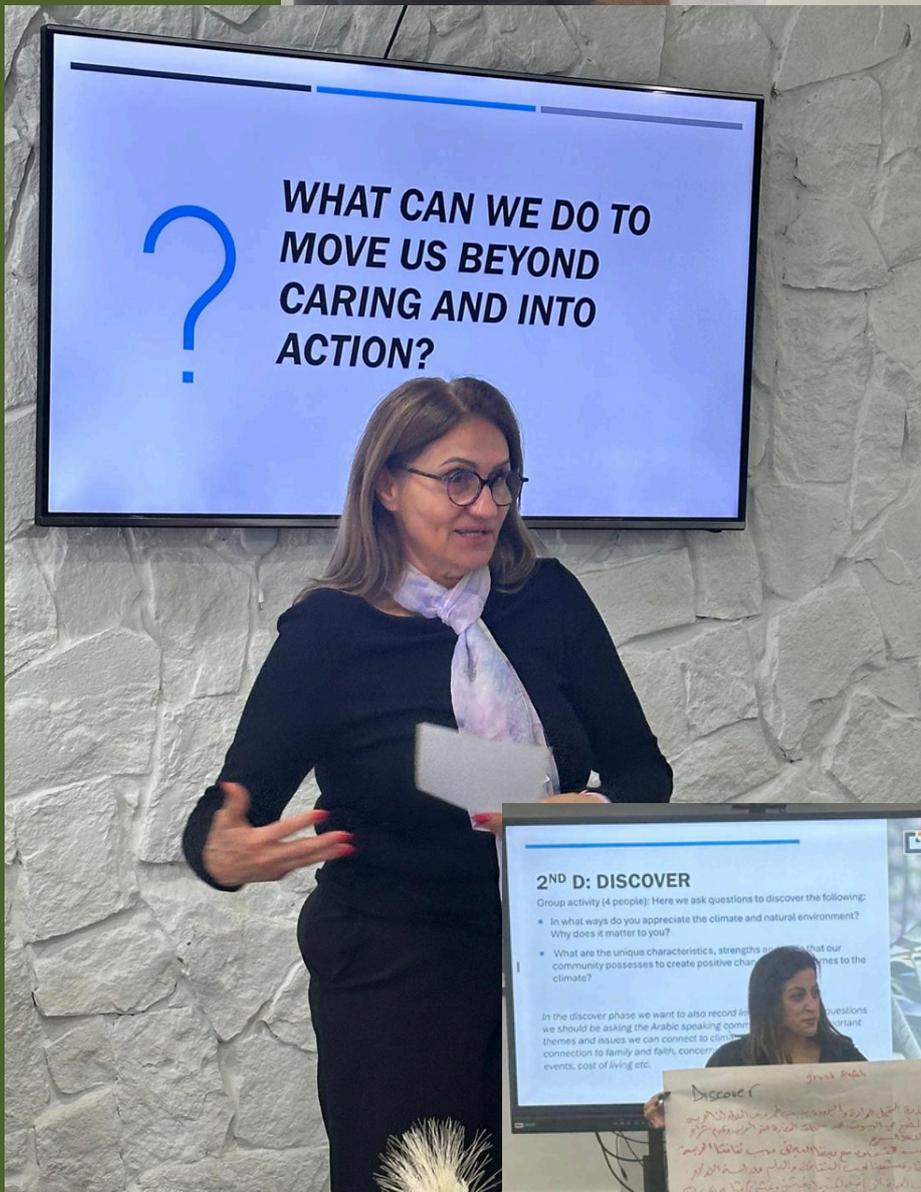
We've been working closely with communities from Arabic-speaking backgrounds to build valuable insights into climate change - what it means for us, and how we can take meaningful action together.

Now, it's time to turn those insights into action!

🌱 Want to help shape how our community responds to climate change? Join us in designing action that reflects our voices, values, and vision for a sustainable future.

CLIMATE ACTION - OUR WAY





“I want action. We need to look at ‘what is happening’ and what is ‘needed to happen’. What needs our immediate attention moving forward?”
(workshop participant)



Our Path to a Community-Driven Climate Action Plan

Overview of the 5 Project Phases of Community Engagement & Co-Design Sessions Leading to the Community Forum & CAP Launch



February-March 2025

April-May 2025

01

Surveys & Individual Conversations

Surveys and conversations conducted with ASB individuals to gather baseline insights

02

Co-Design Sessions

Workshops with ASB participants to design community conversations and forums.

June -August 2025

03

Community Conversations

Discussions exploring ASB attitudes, beliefs, and climate-related concerns.

September-October 2025

04

Community Forum & Scoping

Community-Driven CAP developed, guided by project findings.

November 2025

05

Community Action Plan Launch

Promote the CAP and advocate for inclusive and community-driven climate action.



Surveys & Individual Conversations

A survey was developed to record responses and capture key insights. Surveys formed the basis of the conversations, which were conducted by ACA staff in a broad range of community settings to ensure there was a good mix of demographic representation.

294
Respondents

Surveys aimed to:

- Gather individual insights from the Arabic speaking background (ASB) community
- Use the information to gain a better understanding of their knowledge, attitudes, and priorities in relation to climate change
- Understand their motivation, inhibitors, enablers and appeals to climate action

We exceeded our 100 minimum quota, with 294 respondents filling out the survey or participating in face to face conversations.

Over half of the respondents were aged between 35 and 54. Two-thirds were female and almost 80% preferred to complete the survey in Arabic.

Only 9% (27) of respondents were aware of any local environment campaigns focused on the Arabic speaking community. Fifty percent would attend events or be interested in receiving information on climate action, and a further 39% would consider doing so.

Table 1: Summary of Tabeia-Masurina survey findings

View of Climate Change	More than 75% of respondents see Climate Change as either a very or somewhat serious issue. Only 13% stated that it isn't a significant issue for them.
Visible Effects of Climate Change	Bushfires, extreme heat waves, floods and droughts are seen as the most visible effects of Climate Change, compared to rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns and change in food prices and availability.
Prioritising Community Issues	Housing, cost of living, jobs and employment, and healthcare are the most important community issues. Climate action was ranked the least important.
Importance of Climate Change	26% indicated it was extremely important and a further 55% claimed it was somewhat important. Only 2% said it wasn't important.
Motivation for Climate Action	The two main motivators for taking action on Climate Change are protecting the future for their children and family, and protecting nature and the environment. Improving health and air quality, reducing energy bills and faith/moral duty fared lower as a motivator.
Inhibitors of Climate Action	Financial costs, other life priorities, and feeling that individual actions won't make a difference are the main reasons preventing respondents from taking climate action. 10% indicated that they do not have enough education or information on what to do
Enablers of Climate Action	Majority of respondents indicated more information in Arabic language (27%) and more information, generally (26%) would make it easier to take action on climate action.
Appealing Climate Actions	Using solar energy at home (39%) and Recycling & Reducing Waste (25%) were the most appealing climate actions. Advocacy and joining groups were the least appealing.
Vote influence on Climate Change	Almost 60% of respondents indicated that climate change would not influence their decision on who to vote for. 1/3 respondents said it "may" influence their decision, 13% saying it would.

Co-Design Sessions

Arab Council Australia (ACA) conducted 5 co-design workshops with ASB participants to design community conversations and forums. Co-design sessions entailed meaningful discussions with participants to gather insights about their climate-related concerns, awareness and attitudes toward climate solutions, and barriers to engagement.

42
Participants

Methodology

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach was the most effective tool to engage participants in a collaborative process to move the discussion from concerns and fears and get participants to identify existing strengths and community assets that can be leveraged for change. This framework ensured that we had a solution-focused dialogue to co-create a desired future reflecting the values and aspirations of the ASB communities.

We applied the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) 5D Model, a great tool for actively engaging stakeholders and participants in a collaborative process. This model is a radical departure from the problem or deficit focused model which focuses on problems or weaknesses or “what’s wrong” in a community. 5D process allows us to “co-create” solutions by leveraging what’s already working well within a community, even when it seems like a community is unengaged or appear apathetic towards important community issues like climate change.

In the 5D Process it is important to determine the topic of inquiry (Affirmative Topic Choice), which is referred to as the “Define” phase which sets the tone for the following four D’s. The positive topic of inquiry was:

“The Australian Arabic Speaking Community Care about the Climate and Will Commit Actions towards the Broader Climate Movement”

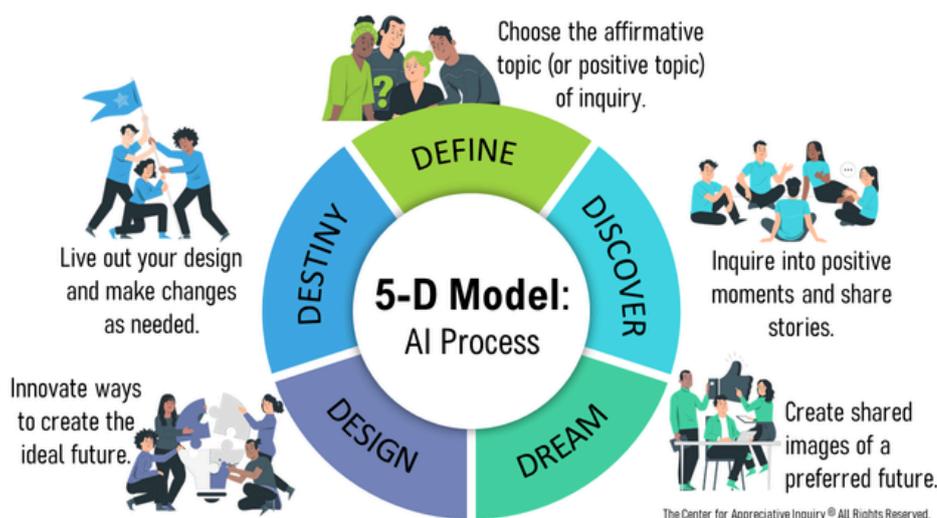


Diagram 1: 5D Process of Appreciative Inquiry

The specific Appreciative Inquiry tool used for co-design sessions was the AI 5D Process. A great tool that provides a structured approach to change and improvement that focuses on strengths and positive aspects of a situation, moving people away from blame, hopelessness and into a future where they're feeling hopeful and their contribution is invited and valued.

Co-Design Sessions

Co-design of questions and approach to be used for community conversations and forum were based on the following general themes as identified by participants in the co-design sessions. These themes factor in cultural context and other considerations in developing questions and a format that invites community members in co-creating change that resonates with them.

Table 2: Themes & Issues identified in Co-design sessions

Issues	What we Discovered	Opportunities
Climate Apathy & Priority Fatigue	<p>Global, political matters dominate the current concerns and attention of ASB communities.</p> <p>Providing for their loved ones, both in Australia and overseas and cost of living are also high on list of priorities.</p> <p>Mental health and other challenges have led to increased apathy and priority fatigue.</p>	<p>We can draw on the intersection of local and global matters – i.e. social justice and climate justice are not separate issues.</p> <p>Connecting issues like health, economic stability and children’s future to climate change and the impact it has on those areas is key to get buy-in from ASB communities.</p>
Culture & Faith	<p>ASB communities have an appreciation for nature and natural settings.</p> <p>Perceived benefits of the natural environment as being “precious” ‘God-Given’.</p> <p>Arabic cultures belong to collective societies. Collectivism and community are a significant part of the society and culture, so caring for the climate is perceived as a collective duty.</p> <p>Religious and Faith Based institutions have significant influence and ‘power’</p> <p>All faiths – belief in the power and will of God in all matters.</p>	<p>Demonstrate a direct connection of the impact of climate change on cultural and social practices, such as enjoyment of outdoor gatherings in nature etc.</p> <p>Being a collective culture allows for broad action movements to happen successfully if there is wide education around climate action</p> <p>Protecting cultural/faith traditions that are intrinsically linked to environmental sustainability will resonate with ASB community.</p> <p>Focus on grassroots initiatives, community-led projects, and integrating climate change awareness campaigns within existing cultural frameworks.</p> <p>Engage faith leaders/groups to link climate care and action to faith-based values.</p>
Family	<p>Big focus on family values and a high priority on the future of their children and grandchildren.</p> <p>The concept of safeguarding the planet for succeeding generations is a powerful motivator for climate action.</p>	<p>Getting Arabic speaking people to think about the growing impact of climate change in both the near and distant future (on their children, grandchildren) is an important topic to raise to get buy-in and people committed to action.</p>
Language & References	<p>The Power of Language and Words to engage and mobilise community.</p> <p>How questions are framed, terminology and description of challenges can affect how communities respond to challenges like climate change</p>	<p>Language is critical in our attempts to get interest from Arabic speaking communities –it can exclude and further marginalise people.</p> <p>Use alternative terms for example rather than “Climate Change”, we can say in Arabic “Hifaz al Tabie’a” which means “Nurturing/Looking after Nature”.</p>



Community Conversations

Total 69 people from Arabic Speaking Backgrounds (ASB) participated in the community conversation workshops. In total six community conversations were held in locations across Fairfield, Liverpool and Canterbury-Bankstown.

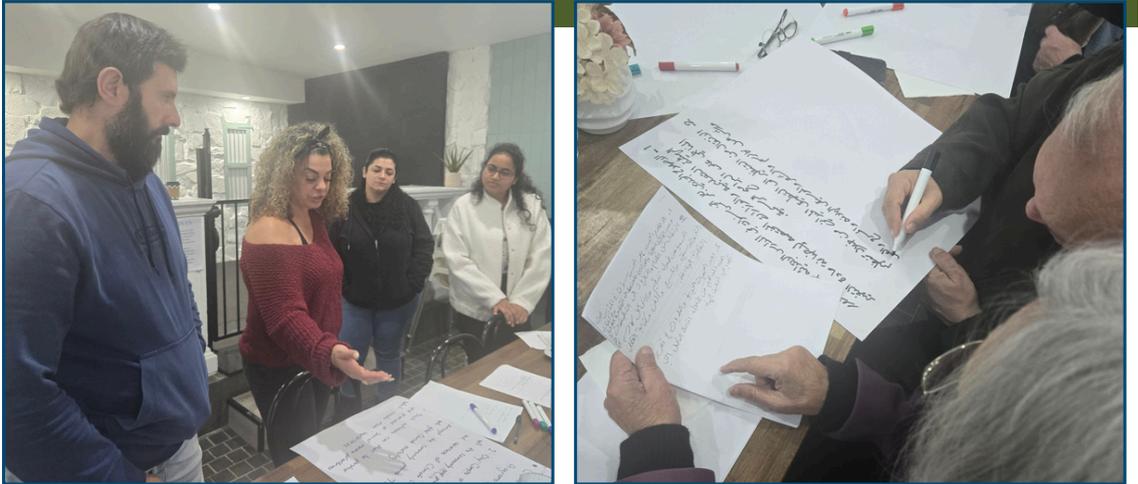
69
Participants

Methodology

The methodology used for these sessions were an effective community conversation tool called Open Space Technology. Open Space Technology (OST) is a meeting and conference method where participants self-organise around a central theme to create their own agenda, fostering deep engagement, creativity, and ownership by empowering individuals to lead discussions on issues they care about.

The discussions that took place in these sessions confirmed the concerns and aspirations of community members raised in the previously conducted community surveys and co-design sessions.

Open Space General Topic
Nature, the environment, and changes in climate matters to the Arabic Speaking Community.
What can we do to move us beyond caring and into action?



Some participants openly expressed their lack of knowledge and understanding of climate change and its impact (on a micro and macro level). Most participants in workshops have in one way or another been affected by war and conflict in their country of origin (particularly Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Sudan). As this is an experience that resonates with most ASB community groups, it was important to note the effects of war on land and how it can contaminate soil and the vegetation, affecting our food, plant, and biodiversity (ecocide).

Community-Led Solutions

Some great ideas and proposed solutions emerged from the Community Conversation sessions. Most of them can practically and easily be executed in the next 6-12 months, while some require considerable funding and longer term planning.

The community conversations strengthened the community's voice, as well as acknowledging and valuing their perceptions and insights, which helped them feel included in shaping climate solutions. It also highlighted the importance of building trust between Arabic-speaking communities and climate organisations and groups through use of culturally appropriate language, resources and marketing collateral, interpreters, engaged ASB community leaders and partnerships with trusted groups like ACA.



Community Forum

ACA hosted a community-driven Climate Action Forum in September 2025, bringing together members of the Arabic Speaking Background (ASB) community to co-design a climate action plan.

Each table in the 'cafe' style set-up covered a theme, as follows:

- Education & Awareness
- Strengthened Community Voice and Participation
- Community Leadership & Capacity Building
- Communication & Language
- Integrating Climate Action with Cultural & Religious Values & Practice

43
Participants

A 6th table was set up to look specifically at leveraging groups, organisations, networks and events for engagement of ASB communities in climate action.

Attendees expressed excitement about sharing their thoughts and ideas in a positive and open environment, contributing valuable suggestions for the community's plan. The themes are connected and overlap, so in the CAP you will see how themes such as cultural values and resonance are interwoven throughout strategies and actions articulated across other themes such as 'Community Participation'.

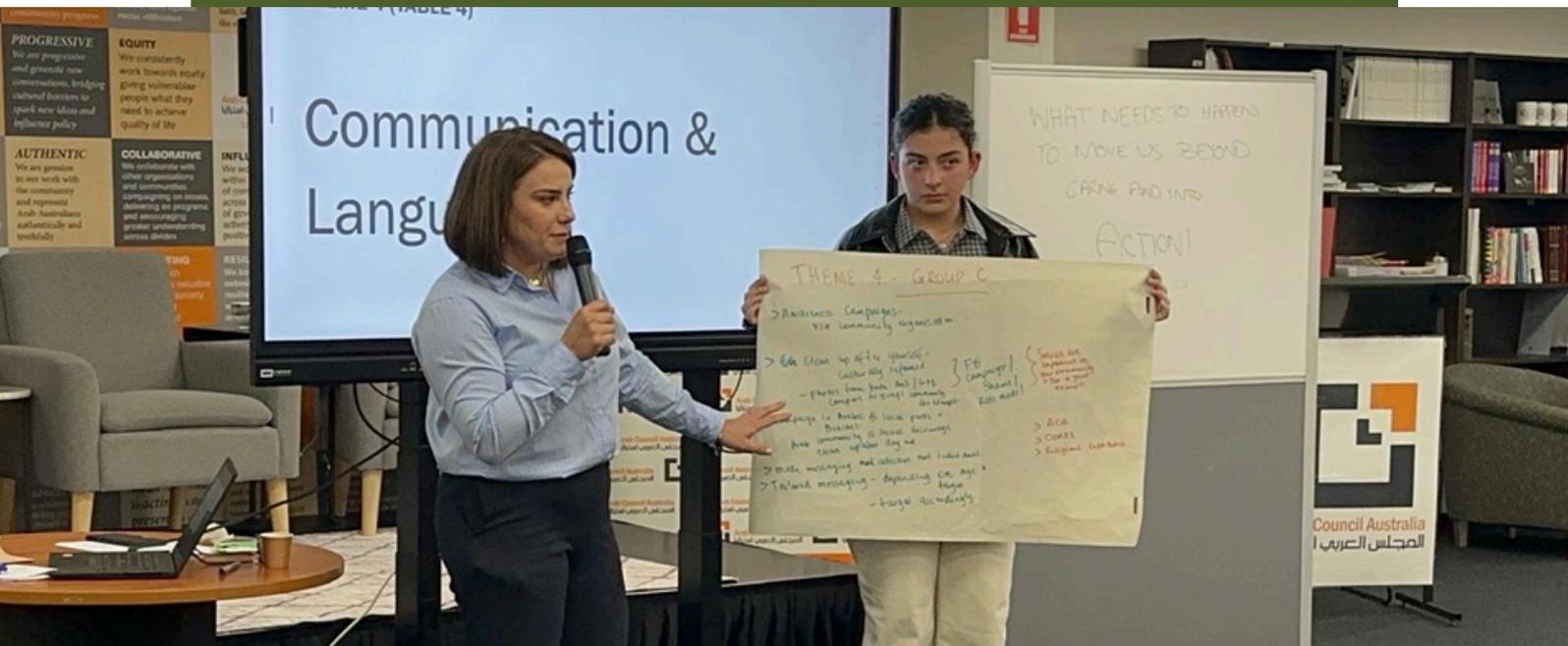
Methodology

World Café methodology was chosen for this forum as it is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. World cafe makes use of an informal cafe setting for participants to explore an issue by discussing it in small table groups. Discussions were held in 3 rounds of 20 minutes, with the cafe ambiance intended to allow for more relaxed and open conversations to take place. All participants, except the table host and scribe, were part of 3 separate discussions that covered 3 of the 6 themes.

World Café Session Conversation Topic

Nature, the Environment and Changes in Climate Matter to the Arabic Speaking Community.

What needs to happen to move us beyond caring and into action?



Our Assets

The following 5 asset categories focus on the inherent strengths and resources within a community identified by participants in community workshops and forum.

CULTURE, VALUES & STORIES

- ASB community in Australia is culturally diverse and rich with Arabic speakers in Australia (born in or heritage) from 22 Arab countries (mainly from Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq and Jordan).
- Strong heritage of respecting and cultivating the land and nurturing nature (as native to that land) as opposed to the capitalist/modern industrial agenda of high production (producing high waste, pollution, emissions)
- 'Our people' are in touch with the world around them and although they are driven by the material world, they care about their land and environment as it impacts them and their families.
- We love community gatherings around food in nature (parks, beaches, reserves, rivers etc)
- Arabic speaking communities come from collective societies and thrive working in the spirit of solidarity on important issues.
- The seasons and nature nurture us. They give us fruit, vegetables, herbs and oxygen.

- "We enjoy planting organic patch for our own personal use at home." (participant)
- We recognise the importance of clean air, water, and preserving natural resources for our health.
- We value nature, agriculture, and growing our own food (homegrown and organic) as sources of physical and mental health wellbeing.
- We see tourism and outdoor activities as essential to our psychological health.
- We enjoy sharing and preparing food for cultural and social connection.
- We value love, harmony, respect and unity (among different faith and cultural groups) strengthening our community.
- We are curious, open to learning, and want to know the facts about climate, health, and sustainability.
- We value collaboration with schools, faith leaders, and local organisations to increase awareness and action.

"We love life, we love nature and appreciate these God-given gifts"
(Forum participant)

ECONOMIC

- Shopping Centres/Malls
- Business precincts
- Arab speaking businesses/companies
- Green Climate Fund
- Climate Finance
- AMP Program (Arrearage Management Program)
- Australian Arab Business Council
- Boundless Earth

- Community fundraising events
- Government Grants (Local, State, Federal)
- Philanthropic Grants
- Donations
- Sponsorship programs



Our Assets

PEOPLE

- Community minded citizens
- Local/State MP's
- Social influencers
- Faith Leaders
- Community Leaders & Advocates
- CEO's/High Level Managers from ASB backgrounds
- People of Influence
- Social Justice/Climate justice advocates and changemakers
- Skilled & knowledgeable Arabic Speaking professionals
- Workers & volunteers in climate change space
- Children and Young people/leaders
- Community Elders
- Community volunteers
- Nature lovers
- Environmentalists
- Educators/Teachers
- Gardeners/homegrowers

- Citizen Climate Lobby
- Community Radio
- Lighthorse Park Environment Group
- Women's only and Men's only Groups
- Hobby & Social Clubs
- Youth groups and committees
- Western Sydney University ('Yalla' Students Group)
- Parent Groups
- School Community Hubs
- Community Language Schools
- Social Media (X, Tik Tok, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- Faith-based groups and places of worship

INSTITUTIONS

- Boundless Earth
- Arab Council Australia Ltd
- Multicultural Leadership Initiative
- Bankstown Women's Health Centre
- Lebanese Muslim Association (access community data)
- Casula Powerhouse
- Local TAFE (Technical & Further Education)
- Colleges (English language, vocational training)
- Primary & High Schools
- Private Schools & Colleges
- Climate Council
- Political Parties
- Media (Arabic, Multicultural, Mainstream, Independent)
- Refugee Settlement Services
- Migrant Resource Centres
- Australian Conservation Fund
- UNESCO
- State and Local Government
- Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
- Climate Change, Net Zero, and Emissions Reduction (Munro) Group
- Renew Australia For All
- Sydney Alliance
- Nature Conservation Council NSW
- Local Government

SOCIAL NETWORKS, GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Community Gardens
- Health & Recreation clubs
- Local Volunteer groups



Community Action Plan

Our Strategies & Actions:



**Education
& Awareness**

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**Strengthened
Community Voice
& Participation**

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**Community
Leadership
& Capacity Building**

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**Communication
& Language**

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**Cultural,
Religious Values
& Practice**

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**Leveraging
Groups, Events
& Initiatives**

Page 31



**World Cafe @ Arab
Council Australia
(Community Room)**

Community education and awareness about climate change empower people with knowledge to understand its impacts, foster a sense of responsibility, and encourage behavioural change towards sustainable actions and climate-resilient communities

ASB communities value knowledge and education. This theme will look at effective education and awareness strategies that build knowledge and inspire action



Guiding Principles & Values

Teachers/Educators revered and respected Social Responsibility Knowledge is Power Enlightenment

Theme/Initiative	Actions & Timeframe	Resources/Org's
<p>1.1 Educating/ Raising Awareness (Children & Young People)</p>	<p>Engaging Children in School Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands on learning, e.g. Compost and garden in schools. • Educate children about energy consumption related to their real-world experiences. Set up fun interactive experiences and experiments in school. • Hands on recycling /upcycling projects - and incentivising children's involvement like cans recycling incentive scheme. (short-medium term) • Build on current education alongside instilling important values related to caring for environment from kindergarten and throughout schooling years - the effects of neglect, greed, overconsumption etc. (medium-long term) <p>General Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach children about stewardship and responsibility to look after our planet (adult mentors, teachers, community workers, parents). (short term) • Educate parents, not one-offs, but ongoing education to inspire action (community hubs, community groups) to educate their children (informal conversations). (short-medium term) • Educate young to educate adults (cross-generational learning) and get adults/seniors to share stories about nature, farming, gardening, importance of climate and looking after our environment. (medium-long term) <p>Young People (12-24 years old):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High schools to have more activities and events that raise awareness and promote environmental stewardship. (immediate, short term) • Engage young people through online networks and youth-specific programs. (short-medium term) • Empowering/educating youth through student-led initiatives and campaigns. (medium-long term) • Create educational materials that are dynamic and visual, such as interactive apps, games and puzzles. (medium-long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Schools • Community Hubs • Schools as Community Hubs (SACHs) • Secondary Schools • Student Representative Committees (SRC) • Universities & Colleges • Community organisations like Arab Council Australia • Arabic language media: radio, newspapers, TV channels, YouTube, TikTok etc • Youth based organisations and groups • SM influencers • Community Networks • Gov & Philanthropic funding • Start up/social enterprise funding



Education & Awareness

Theme/Initiative	Actions & Timeframe	Resources/Org's
1.2 Awareness Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using culturally relevant channels: includes communal places, diverse mediums (digital and paper-based) Arabic media, social media pages etc. (immediate, short term) Promoting sustainable practices like reducing waste and conserving energy, and encouraging community-based projects. Highlight environment and other benefits .e.g. cost-saving ideas (economic benefits). (immediate, short term) Org's, media and climate action groups to share real-life case studies and stories (climate change impact through the lens of ASC). (short term) Awareness campaigns in Arabic language, using images that resonate with ASC. (medium-long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Organisations Social/Community Services Arabic Specific Services Media (mainstream & Arabic language media) Climate Action groups (Mainstream & CALD) Community/Faith based leaders Diverse funding sources Political parties Universities, such as WSU
1.3 Cultural & Religious Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity of faith-based and cultural 'ambassadors'. to spread awareness and promote community-driven climate action. (short term) Create narrative based content for public consumption that reflects cultural and religious values and principles. (short-medium term) Awareness campaigns are run alongside cultural and religious institutions. (medium-long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community/Faith based leaders Diverse funding sources Mosques, churches, places of worship Arab organisations, charities, such as Arab Council Australia Cultural/Folkloric associations
1.4 Bilingual & Culturally Relevant Awareness & Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop bilingual and culturally relevant resources, that translate key information into Arabic, using culturally resonant terminology to explain climate change concepts. (short-medium term) Develop and distribute materials such as fact sheets, videos and informal workshops on climate change, energy efficiency, and health impacts (like asthma triggered by air pollution) in Arabic and/or English. (short-medium term) Develop materials and workshop content that is culturally appealing and that uses resonant terminology (language and concepts) reflecting the community's cultural values and faith practices, such as the religious concept of stewardship of the Earth, and general Arabic words like 'Tabiea' (nature), effective when appealing to different sects and faiths. (short-medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community/Faith based leaders and organisations Diverse funding sources Arab specific organisations/charities Cultural/Folkloric associations Multimedia platforms/resources Translators/Interpreters Diversity/Multicultural government and philanthropic funding



Strengthened Community Voice and Participation

Theme Two



Community involvement ensures climate actions are more effective, just, and accepted by the communities they affect.

Guiding Principles & Values

Stewardship Accountability Communal Solidarity Divine Trust Social Responsibility

Theme/Initiative	Actions & Timeframe	Resources/Org's
<p>2.1 Community at the Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community 'Bumping' Spaces: "go to the people"- accessing informal community spaces to raise awareness and gain input and insights about climate change and action from where the community gathers or meets. (immediate, ongoing) Leverage multiple channels to engage a wider range of ASB community members who may not participate through traditional methods. (short-medium term) "Connections Before Content" - listen and learn from ASB communities before "getting them involved". Implement community conversation tools using an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach "Access Community Wisdom"- through effective tools such as asset mapping (ABCD tool) and Appreciative Inquiry 'interviews' acknowledging and identifying important knowledge, assets, aspirations important in shaping plans and actions around climate change. (short term, medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community networks Community directories (places, organisations) Community Asset Mapping tools CALD & Mainstream community organisations Media & multimedia platforms Social media (pages, groups etc) Government funding Community volunteers
<p>2.2 Stewardship and Responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate faith and culture: Highlight the connection between faith-based teachings (e.g., the concept of Amanah or divine trust to care for the Earth) and environmental responsibility, potentially through sermons or bilingual educational materials. (short-medium term) Emphasise importance of not wasting precious resources, natural gifts from Allah (God). Water for example is viewed as sacred, the 'essence' of life. Campaign to highlight waste minimisation. (short-medium term) Responsibility of safeguarding this earth for future generations. Highlight value of family and protecting them from 'harm'. (short-medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith leaders/clergy (Mosque, Church, places of worship) Media & multimedia platforms Social media (pages, groups etc) Government funding Community volunteers
<p>2.3 Aligning Climate Justice with other Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the effects of climate change on costs and further entrenchment of economic disadvantage, through podcasts, campaigns, presentations etc. (short term) Intertwine climate justice with social justice and human rights, allowing ASB community to understand the connectedness of these important causes that need our immediate attention. (medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Justice advocates Climate Action Movements Arabic Media (all mediums) Bilingual printed and electronic materials Pro-Palestine activists Social Media influencers



Strengthened Community Voice and Participation

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources/Org's
<p>2.4 Host Inclusive Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct community forums and workshops in both Arabic and English: Host more events like the 'Tabiea Masiruna' community-driven climate action forum to facilitate dialogue, gather ideas, and co-design action plans. (short-term and ongoing) • Conduct regular (quarterly, half yearly, etc) surveys, 'Community Conversations' and forums- a mix of ASB specific and some mixed with other cultural groups. (short term) • Organise informal sessions in Arabic to discuss the causes and impacts of climate change, and provide information on sustainable practices and local resources. (short-medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Councils (events and campaigns) • Arab Council Australia • Arabic Workers Network (ACA) • Social media (pages, groups etc) • Government funding • Community volunteers • School Community Hubs • Community organisations (general and Arabic orgs)
<p>2.5 Promote Sustainable practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through talks, fact-sheets and popular mediums encourage community members to adopt energy-saving habits at home, such as washing clothes in cold water, LED bulbs etc. • Encourage the use of reusable bags, water bottles, and coffee cups. Promote recycling and composting initiatives within the community. • Circulate more information, videos and other materials for community to adopt sustainable transport such as walking and carpooling to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. • Practical and fun workshops catered for different demographics on how to "reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle" to minimise resource and energy waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Gardens • Climate Action/Environmental Organisations • Arabic Media (all mediums) • Bilingual printed and electronic materials • Government funding (for resource development & workshops) • Local community services • Community events
<p>2.6 Engaging Young People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement campaigns can be connected to other "causes" that young people are passionate about, such as matters related to anti-apartheid/genocide etc. (immediate and ongoing) • Build connections with young people and encourage their participation in climate action workshops and co-design sessions. Promote benefits of their involvement, as well as instil responsibility as custodians. (short term) • Offer young people training/capacity building opportunities to build their skills, knowledge and confidence to participate in climate action initiatives. • Set up a Climate Action Ambassadorship or Committee - Young people leading campaigns and spreading awareness. (medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Groups & networks • University Student Groups • Youth organisations, such as MYAN NSW • Social media & popular podcasts • Youth-based government funding and climate action funding opportunities • Active Youth volunteers



Community Leadership & Capacity Building

Theme Three



Community leadership and capacity building are crucial for the Arabic-speaking community in Australia to engage in climate action because it empowers them to develop culturally relevant solutions, fosters trust through authentic engagement, and ensures diverse perspectives are included in policy and action plans.

Guiding Principles & Values

Wise leadership (Hikma) Solidarity (Tadāmun) Inclusive action Stewardship Serving Community

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources & Org's
3.1 Local Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations to play a support role in helping communities lead community-based projects like local renewable energy initiatives and urban greening. (immediate) Identify leaders to lead engagement as stakeholders. (immediate, short term) Empower community members through informal training, knowledge sharing and resources to lead climate action initiatives, building on existing local knowledge and relationships. Creating local projects and groups that initiate climate care and climate action lead by locals will entice community members to participate. (short term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arabic Workers Network (ACA) Tabiea Ambassadorship program (ACA) Australian Arab Business Council Arabic specific and multicultural based services/organisations Not for Profit Boards & Committees Community volunteers and 'connectors'
3.2 Training & Skill Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer training on climate science, local climate impacts, and adaptation strategies to provide a strong knowledge base with both community leaders, community development practitioners, community volunteers etc. (medium term) Equip community members with knowledge and skills to act as bilingual educators or "Tabiea" Ambassadors, leading workshops and discussions. (medium term) Equip workers and volunteers with effective communication techniques to convey complex information clearly and compellingly to ASB audiences. (medium-long term). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action presenters and speakers Bilingual printed and electronic educational materials Government funding (for training resource development & workshops) Community Organisations like ACA, SSI etc.
3.3 Youth Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve youth in climate action, creating opportunities for them to voice their perspectives and engage with elders and leaders. Have minimum quota of youth involved in community initiatives. (short-medium term) Empower young people through mentoring and training to develop leadership qualities to advocate and spread awareness within their social groups and networks. (short-medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Groups & networks University Student Groups Youth organisations Social media & popular podcasts Youth-focused funding opportunities Youth volunteers



3

Community Leadership & Capacity Building

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources & Org's
<p>3.4 Community Project Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a group in the short term (3 months) to invite input and to discuss project aims and objectives of engagement, connection, and education. (short term) • Form alliances and collaborate with other community-based groups working on climate action. (short-medium term) • Groups can fundraise locally to support initiatives on an ongoing basis. (short-medium term, ongoing) • Leverage leading organisations like WSU and TAFE as reference groups to empower and inspire with a project delivery ongoing over 5 years. (short-long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action/Environmental Organisations • High Schools, Universities, Colleges • Community and Business Networks • Community groups and associations • Arabic and generalist community services/ organisations
<p>3.5 Community-Led Initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support and funding of community organisations like Arab Council Australia (ACA) that are already working within Arabic-speaking communities to build climate knowledge and action plans. • Climate action network to create a dedicated group within the Arabic community. (short term) • Funded organisations to conduct regular co-design sessions, alongside methods like Appreciative Inquiry 5D model to ensure solutions are informed, created and led by community. (short-medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Association and Groups • Youth based groups and networks • Parent & Citizen Associations (P&C) • Public advocates (people who attend demonstrations, rallies) • Funding programs
<p>3.6 Advocating for policy changes with local, state and federal governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local advocacy: Encourage community members to communicate with their local and federal MPs to advocate for stronger climate policies and targets. • Invite political leaders and independents to actively get involved with community. • Engage experienced campaigners in community projects and to lead climate action in communities when needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Conservation Council of NSW • Relevant State & Federal Ministers and their departments • NSW Minister's Office- Climate Change and Energy • Arab Council Australia • Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) • Australia Palestine Advocacy Network

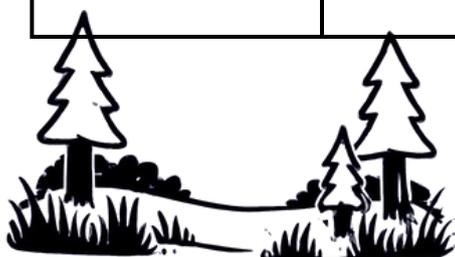


This theme covers bilingual communication, information resources, messages, as well use of culturally appropriate and resonant language, words, terms and references. Taking into consideration context, cultural relevance and an understanding of values and priorities of the ASB community is key to engaging them effectively in climate change discussions and actions.

Guiding Principles & Values

Strong oral communication tradition Holistic framing of nature Cultural References/Resonance

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources & Org's
<p>4.1 Culturally Relevant Communication & Terminology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a culturally informed approach to all communication mediums, messaging and content. (immediate) Create targeted, Arabic-language content. This includes multilingual materials, fact sheets, videos, and social media posts, to ensure information is accessible. Use clear, effective Arabic and translate technical environmental terms. (short term, ongoing) Use alternate wording: Terms like 'Climate Change' may not resonate with ASB communities. For example, instead of saying "Climate Change", we can say in Arabic "Hifaz al Tabi'aah" which means "Nurturing or Looking after Nature". (immediate, short-medium term) Ensure projects and campaigns resonate with community. Climate change messages are most effective when communicated in both English and Arabic, using terms that are meaningful within an Arab cultural context. For example, the community initiative "Tabiea Masiruna" uses the Arabic word <i>Tabiea</i> for "Nature," and Arabic word <i>Masiruna</i> for "our future" which is a familiar and relevant concept to Arabic speakers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Council Australia Community organisations & groups Arab & general Media platforms, SM
<p>4.2 Promote actionable, solution-oriented messaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overly negative or complex climate information can cause worry among ASB community, particularly when they are thinking about tragic events overseas. Develop effective communication that focuses on solutions, showcases successful actions, and uses real-life examples to demonstrate that sustainable development is achievable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab & general Media platforms, SM Climate Awareness Videos Documentaries & Podcasts



الارض حديقة الله
"The earth is God's garden."
 This phrase emphasises the sacredness of nature and the need to care for it.



4

Communication & Language

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources & Org's
<p>4.3 Communication channels/mediums</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information through diverse and popular mediums accessed by ASB communities and ensuring all cultural groups are reached (all faiths, denominations, minority groups). • Create a podcast channel for ASB audiences where discussions can cover climate action and environmental protection in the context of Arabic cultural values and worldviews. • YouTube Arabic campaign, documentaries and pictures/videos of climate destruction – “this is the war we are all waging!” • Social media campaign with key messages such as “If not now, then when?” Nature is not ours, we are just guests here!” • Facebook campaign to shame people and businesses doing harm to climate/environment and showcase role models who are great examples of custodianship or climate activism. • Access to online resource available in Arabic and English. • Arabic language Radio is still popular, use radio to broadcast messages and interview people to raise awareness. • Create pamphlets, flyers, posters in Arabic and English and distribute to different community centres, shopping centres, libraries and other public places frequented by ASB communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media/Arabic social media pages, WhatsApp groups • Websites • Arabic language media, radio, newspapers, news channels etc • Climate Action Network • Green Climate Fund • E-Newsletters • Community billboards, posters, banners • Government & philanthropic funding • Volunteers with Media & Communication knowledge • Events, fundraisers, festivals
<p>4.4 Public/Outdoor Campaigns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During warmer seasons, campaign in Arabic at local parks, beaches, picnic areas and popular places like Georges River. (short-medium term) • ASB communities are social and enjoy being in nature, outdoors. Encourage clean up after day out and communicate other important messages without it looking like ‘policing.’ (short-medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Emergency Service • Volunteer Groups • Government & philanthropic funding • Environmental/Climate action groups

Cultural, Religious Values & Practice

Theme Five



This theme explores how we can integrate and connect climate action alongside cultural & faith-based principles, values & practice (Arabic Speaking Community)

An assumption we make broadly about ASC is that they value faith, family and resources that nourish and sustain us. We can build on these values for implementing actions to address climate change and environmental degradation.

Guiding Principles & Values

Stewardship Moderation and avoiding waste Amanah (Trust) Collectivism/Solidarity Family Preserving Resources

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources & Org's
5.1 General Cultural Values	<p>Ensure that campaigns and workshops take into consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General cultural values in ASB communities, irrespective of religion, such as family, community, and respect for elders can influence climate action through family-based initiatives and intergenerational care. 2. Diverse perspectives: specific beliefs about climate change vary, with some interpretations linking it to human causes like economic systems, others viewing it through a spiritual lens, and some expressing scepticism about climate science as a Western construct. 3. Arab cultures tend to emphasise collectivism and the welfare of the community. This value can foster a sense of collective obligation to engage in climate action. (short-medium & long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith based leaders and associations • Arab specific organisations/charities • Arabic Cultural/Folkloric associations • Diverse media platforms/resources • Diversity/Multicultural funding (government and philanthropic)
5.2 Religious values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support diverse faith clergy and leaders who acknowledge anthropogenic climate change and would like to be more active in addressing it. (immediate, short term) • Engage faith in dialogue and discussions, community involvement and exploring teachings and narratives that address climate action based on religious obligations to care for climate and environment. (short-medium term) • Support faith-based and religious groups through provision of resources/materials that communicate integration of faith-based teachings with climate change evidence and responsibilities for climate action. (short-medium term) • Communicate key messages to those who adhere to a prescribed faith, to avoid practices that harm the earth and to recognise their responsibility as a protector of God's creation. (medium term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith based leaders and associations • Interfaith groups • Places of worship • Arabic/faith-based radio stations • Government & philanthropic funding



5

Cultural, Religious Values & Practice

Theme/Initiative	Strategies & Actions	Resources & Org's
5.3 Avoidance of wastefulness	<p>In campaigns highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how food over consumption and wastage goes against cultural and religious values. Waste often perceived as forbidden. • not be 'greedy' and not to buy or consume more than needed. • encourage children (people in general) to eat leftovers. (short-medium term) <p>Campaigns to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote household energy efficiency and waste reduction for example, use less water, cook more homemade healthy meals, composting etc. • connect climate action to cultural values and practices (e.g., water is considered 'sacred'), which can be a powerful motivator for involvement. (immediate) • promote hands on activities in local communities such as composting, healthy cooking classes etc. (short term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed and online information • Labels on food packaging • Cultural and Religious associations • Arabic specific services • Arab Businesses
5.4 Gardening & Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardening - teach people how to plant their own foods and through places like community gardens the social connection will also be good for people feeling isolated. (immediate, short term) • Promote more ethical cooking practices, cooking less and composting food waste. • Promote homemade meals, getting less takeaway/unhealthy food - more education about ideas, cooking on a budget and making healthier choices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Gardens • Local Council Community funding • School Community Hubs • Video Platforms (YouTube etc) • Community services/centres
5.5 Cultural Activities & Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community BBQs and communal food gatherings to raise awareness around waste reduction and impacts of climate change on our lives/lifestyles. (short term) • Community talks and workshops as part of other events and gatherings to teach and educate about climate change. (short term) • Event stalls, interactive stations and community 'pop up's' to raise awareness and encourage input and action. (medium term) 	<p>See theme 6</p>
5.6 Climate & Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw on overseas conflicts and war (such as the genocide in Palestine) to provide context that resonates with ASB communities. The environmental damage caused by conflicts (ecocide) exacerbates existing threats to human security, leading to further displacement and reliance on dwindling resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All social Media platforms • Human Rights Groups • Palestinian Advocacy /Action groups • Arabic radio and print

Leveraging Groups, Events & Initiatives

Theme Six



Leveraging & building on existing community initiatives, events and platforms, as well as accessing, partnering with and engaging diverse community groups, organisations and networks to raise awareness and for improved climate action participation

Guiding Principles & Values

Moderation and avoiding waste Amanah (Trust) Collectivism/Solidarity Family Preserving Resources

Theme/Initiative	Resources & Org's
<p>6.1 Events, Initiatives & Platforms</p>	<p>Raise awareness about climate change and promote actions and habits in connection to caring and protecting the climate and environment through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events and festivities, such as Lent, Ramadan, Christmas, Eid etc. • Initiatives like Tabiea Climate Action Campaign and the Tabiea-Masiruna project (both Arab Council Australia initiatives) • Park or Beach Clean Up days • Community Garden activities • Social Media (popular in ASC) • Tree planting days involving community • Awareness campaigns filtered through community organisations (newsletters, noticeboards, SM groups, websites)
<p>6.2 Groups, networks and organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Organisation. Supporters, and or Collaborators • Citizen Climate Lobby • Community Radio • Shopping Centres, Malls and Business precincts • Australian Conservation Fund • Casula Power House • Lighthorse Park Environment Group • Multicultural Leadership Initiative (org focused on multicultural climate leadership) • Arab Council Australia • Local and State Government Councils • Faith Groups and Faith based Charities • Women's Groups, Men's Groups • Hobby Clubs - cooking, exercise, walking, pilates, knitting • Youth groups and organisations, like MYAN, Youth Action NSW • Western Sydney University - Yalla Students Group • Colleges, TAFE Language classes • Parent Groups • School Community Hubs • Green Climate Fund

More groups, networks, organisations including community assets & resources can be found in the 'Our Assets' section in this document.



Broad Policy Recommendations

Engagement and participation	<p>Create safe spaces: Through community engagement tools like Open Space Technology and World Cafe style forums, foster a welcoming and respectful environment for dialogue, ensuring community members feel comfortable sharing their ideas and concerns without fear. Physical spaces known or familiar to target group are more conducive to open discussions and building trust.</p> <p>Ensure two-way communication: Promote genuine dialogue and provide clear feedback on how community input influences decisions, demonstrating that their participation matters.</p> <p>Showcase positive action: Highlight existing positive climate behaviours and initiatives within the community to normalise these practices and encourage broader participation. Sharing “stories of success” (an Appreciative Inquiry focus, where we highlight “what works well”) alongside cultural or faith-based values will encourage interest and buy-in.</p>
Communication and access	<p>Develop and translate resources: Create and provide all climate change information in accessible formats and the Arabic language, ensuring key terms are translated in a culturally resonant way. Cultural diversity within the ASB communities and cultural nuances need to be taken into consideration in developing resources and messages.</p> <p>Use diverse communication methods: Employ a variety of communication channels, such as social media, workshops, and videos, to reach people with different preferences and overcome barriers to participation. Powerful visuals and simple messages can often be more effective than elaborate information suitable for all literacy levels and regardless of language proficiency.</p> <p>Establish culturally relevant narratives: Frame climate action in ways that connect with the community's cultural and religious values, fostering a deeper sense of connection and shared purpose.</p>

Broad Policy Recommendations

Community leadership and capacity building	<p>Empower local leadership: Support the development of local climate leaders from within the Arabic Speaking community who can then help lead and advocate for climate action.</p> <p>Integrate with existing groups: Leverage and partner with existing community groups, initiatives, and events to build on established networks and reach a wider audience.</p> <p>Co-design solutions: “Continue the conversation”. Build on initiatives like <i>Tabiea-Masiruna</i> providing an opportunity and platform for community members to come together and be part of the planning and implementation of climate projects.</p>
Partnerships and resources	<p>Build strategic partnerships: Foster strong, trusting partnerships between Arabic-speaking community organisations and environmental agencies and climate action groups to improve project delivery and resource sharing.</p> <p>Provide resources to community groups: Offer training for community organisation workers, provide access to environmental expertise, and support them in becoming more sustainable themselves.</p>

Moving from Plan to Action

Sustaining Momentum

The **Tabiea-Masiruna** project successfully improved ASB community buy-in, engagement, and contribution to climate action by increasing their understanding of climate issues and solutions. This enhanced knowledge, fostered through the project, has empowered community members to contribute positively to climate change initiatives and builds a foundation for continued local solutions and environmental stewardship.

As demonstrated in the community engagement sessions and the Community Action Plan, community members are showing an enhanced sense of contribution and interest in participating in positive change. This can be seen in a growing willingness to adopt sustainable practices and support local climate initiatives.

The positive momentum and heightened awareness generated by the **Tabiea-Masiruna** project provide a strong foundation for continuing and expanding the community's climate action efforts. The project has not only addressed immediate concerns but has also cultivated a culture of environmental stewardship that is crucial for long-term success.

Ultimately, this Community Action Plan (CAP) serves as a critical framework for strengthening the capacity of the community, multicultural sector, and broader climate movement. Its successful implementation will ensure the genuine engagement of Arabic Speaking communities in South West and Western Sydney as active participants and effective advocates in community-driven climate action.

To build on the momentum, the conversation requires continued support through resources and investment in local, Arabic-speaking led grassroots movements. The goal is to shift from general environmental care to direct action and commitment from community members, harnessing their local and cultural wisdom to lead climate action and renew hope for a cleaner future. This involves supporting them not just as participants, but as leaders in transforming their communities through direct action and local commitments.



إذا أهملت شيئاً فسيعود ضرره عليك

**"If you abandon something,
it will come back to you."**

This proverb can be interpreted as emphasising the consequences of neglecting the environment.





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