

Empowering Communities:

Generating Social Impact Across Regions

Dr Jai Cooper



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

**INSTITUTE
FOR
REGIONAL
FUTURES**



Institute for Regional Futures



Resource Productivity & Efficiency
Energy Technologies & Utilisation
Advanced Materials for Industrial Innovation
Land, Water, Social Impacts & Sustainability



Priority Populations
Healthy Life Course
Healthy Future



Optimising organisations
Planning inspired by fresh thinking
Fostering real connections



Muuya Banggi – Recovering Language
Umuliko Indigenous Higher Education
Purai – Global Indigenous Diaspora Research





SAVE PORT STEPHENS



Funded with the generous support of concerned Local Residents and Businesses

Hunter Insight Series

Events:

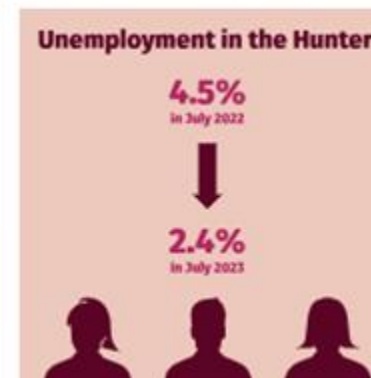
- Regions in transition
- Geography of jobs
- Building a healthy housing market
- Youth Perspectives
- Unlocking the Hunter's Future Workforce



Hunter Insights Dashboard



Economic Update – October 2023




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Regions Matter Research Series


THE HUNTER MATTERS

Regional Insights

NOVEMBER 2023



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 NGM GROUP





Regions Matter Research Series


Hunter Horizons:

Navigating the future of work and workplaces in our region

JUNE 2024



 INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL FUTURES

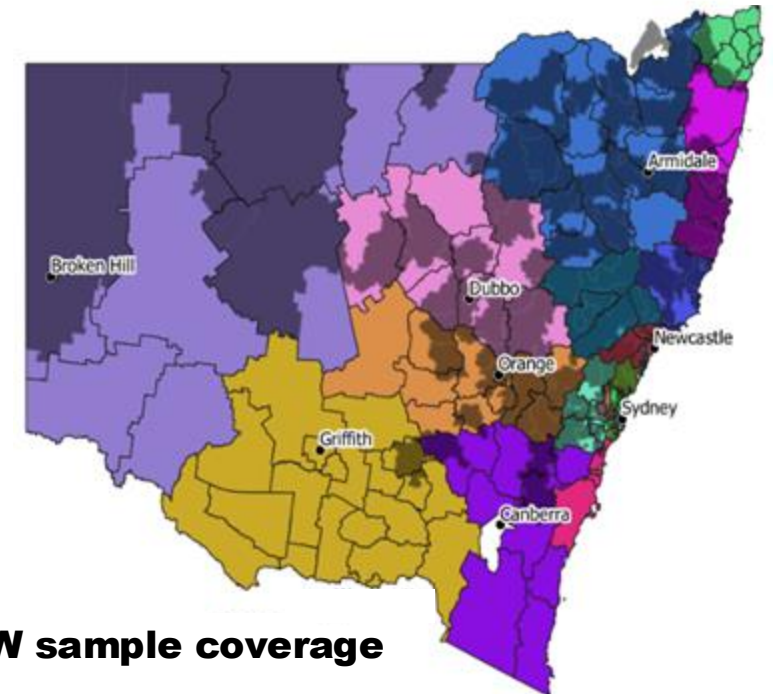
 NGM GROUP



Regions Matter

- Survey of 3,000+ households
- Designed to understand why almost 1 in 3 Australians choose to live and work outside a capital city
- Enhances insights across regions

Australia wide



NSW sample coverage

Institute for Regional Futures

Enhancing impact
across regions



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From 'Regions Matter' to:
'REZs Matter'

Sample:

Central West Orana 248

Dubbo	150
Mid-Western	80
Warrumbungle	18

Illawarra 252

Shellharbour	82
Wollongong	170

Hunter-Central Coast 978

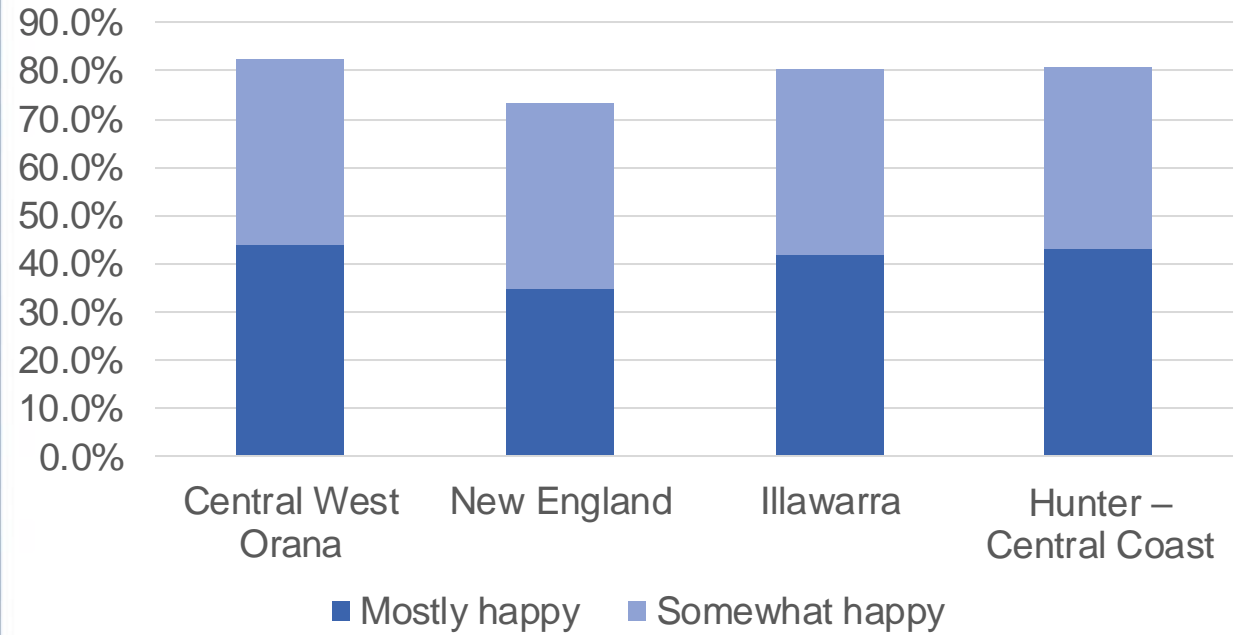
Central Coast	249
Cessnock	67
Dungog	30
Lake Macquarie	190
Maitland	112
Muswellbrook	30
Newcastle	160
Port Stephens	80
Singleton	30
Upper Hunter Shire	30

New England 122

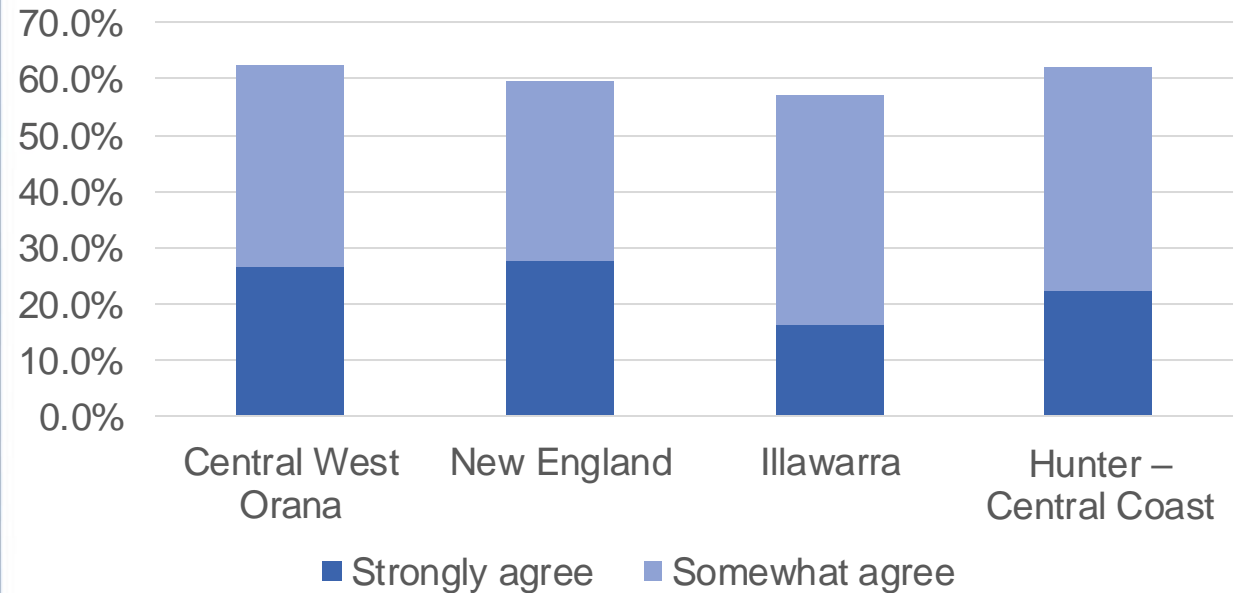
Armidale	90
Glen Innes	32

• **Happy and included**

How happy are you?

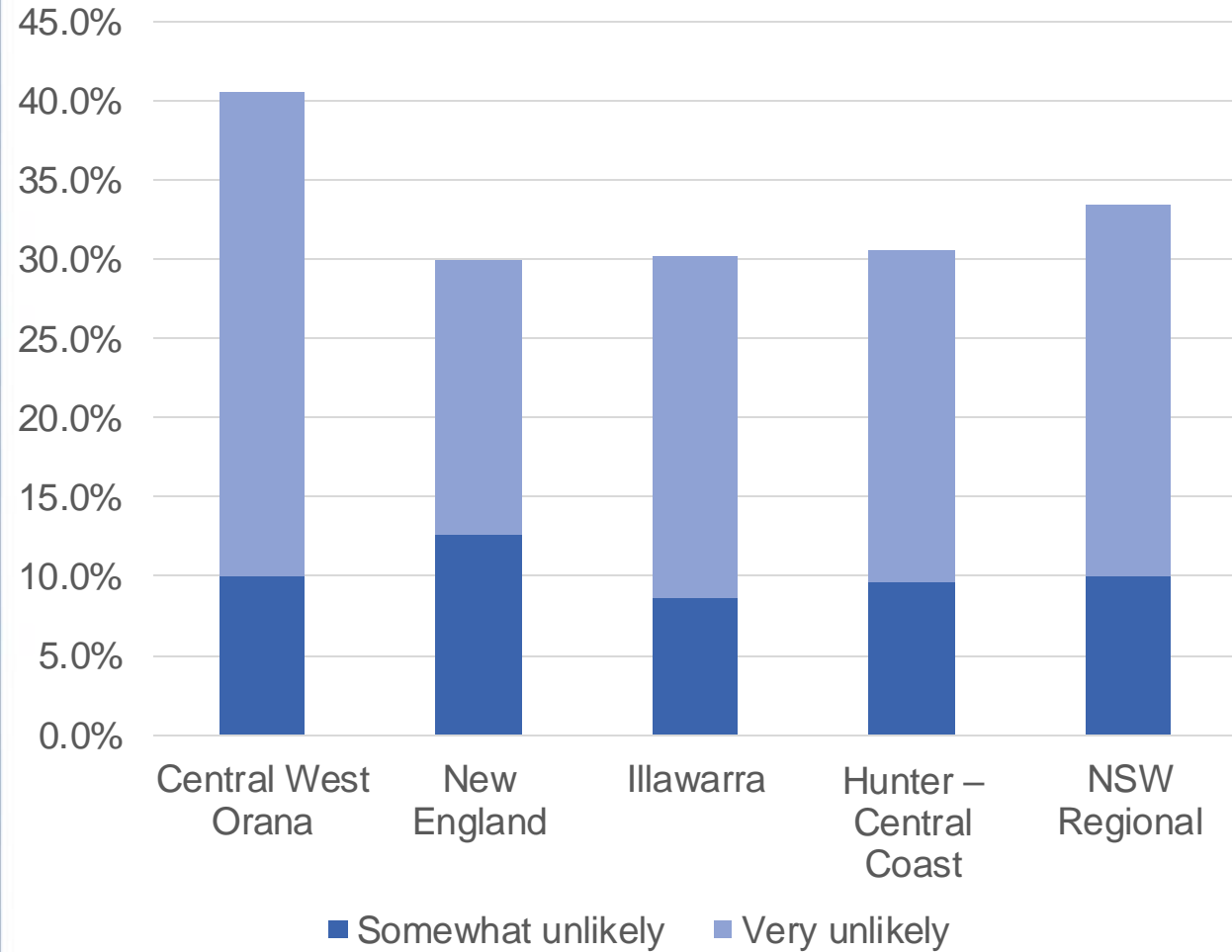


I feel part of my community



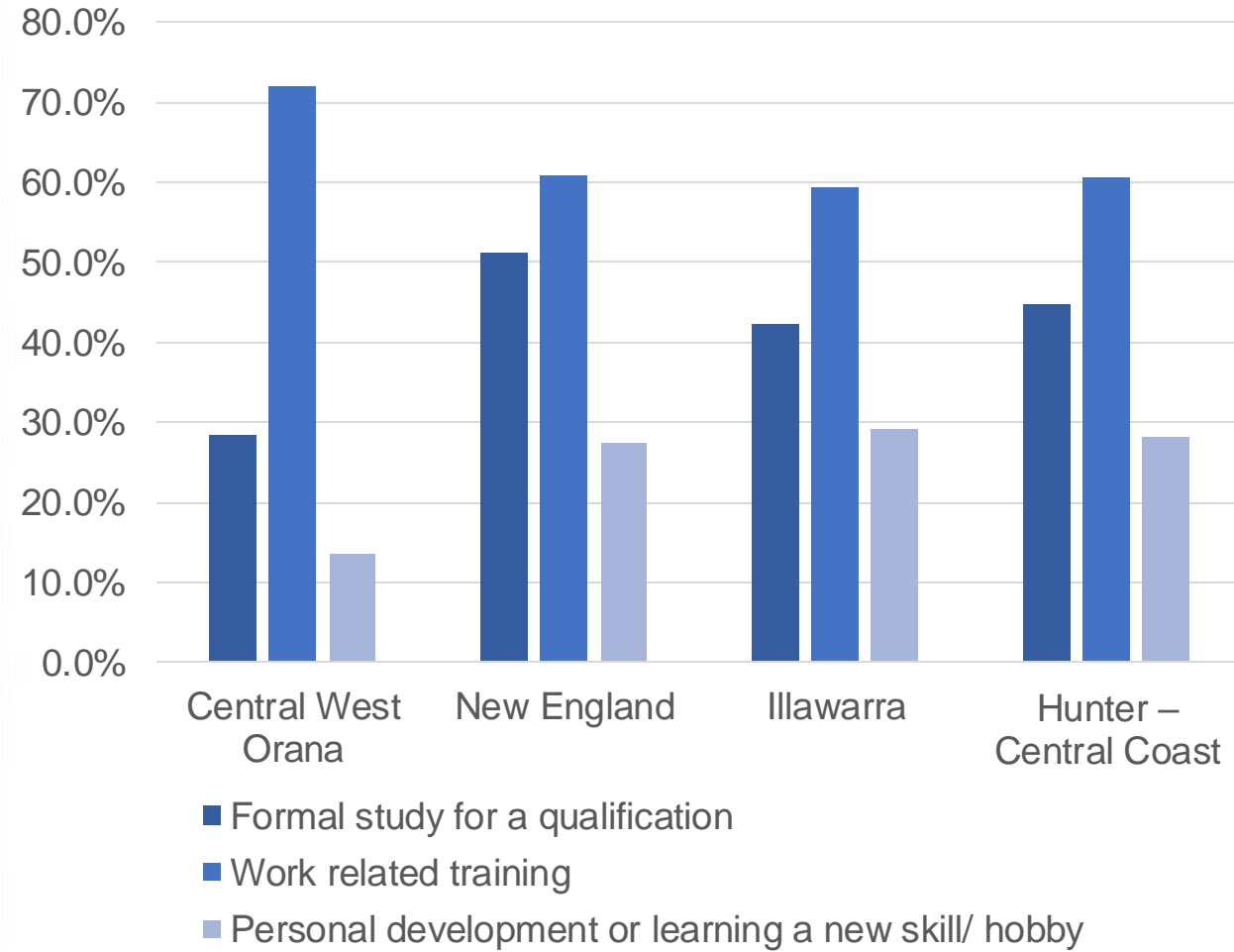
• **Less likely to move**

How likely are you to consider moving to another suburb or region again in the next 5 years?

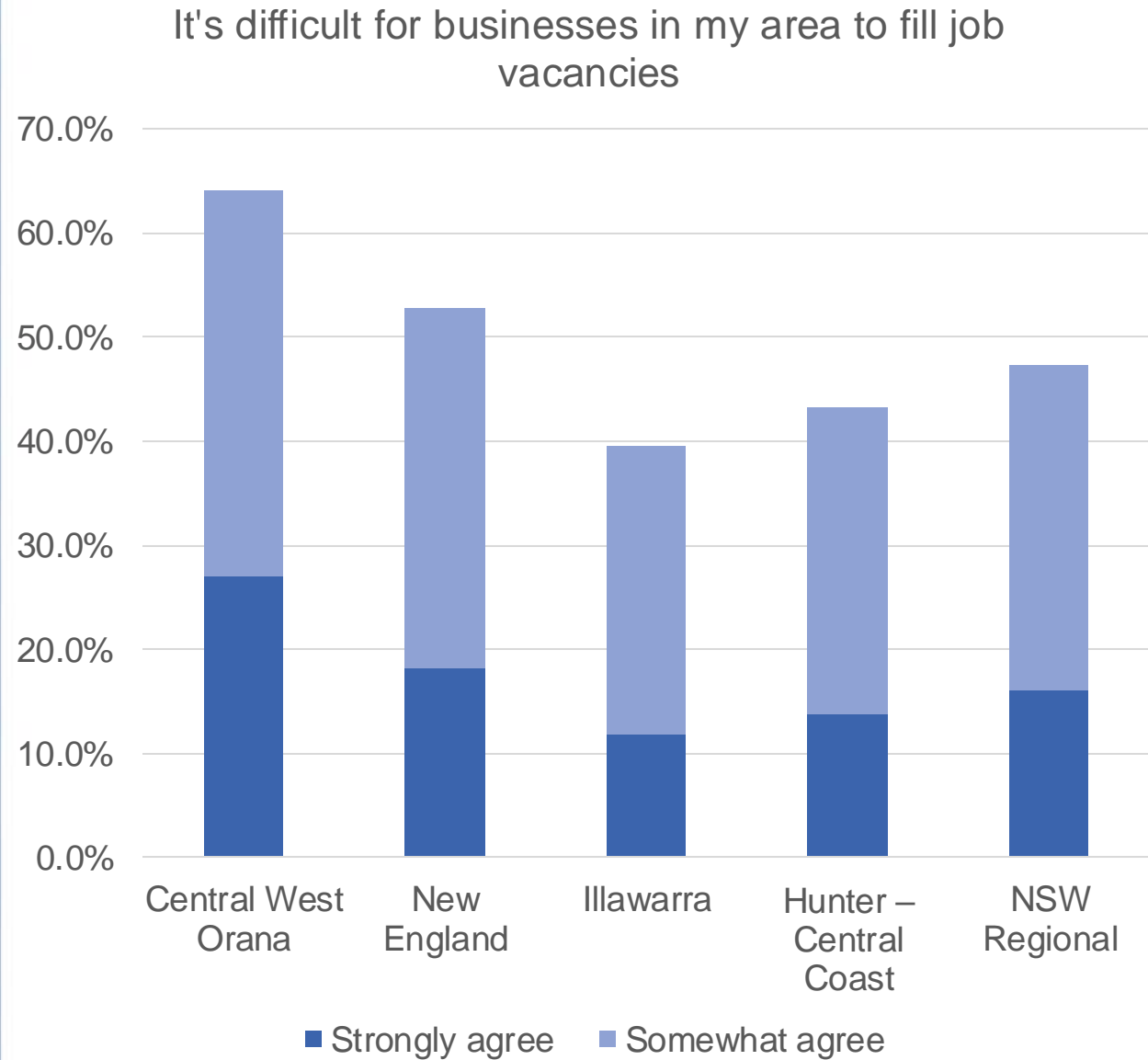


• **Getting
trained at
work**

Participated in education or learning activity in the last 12 months

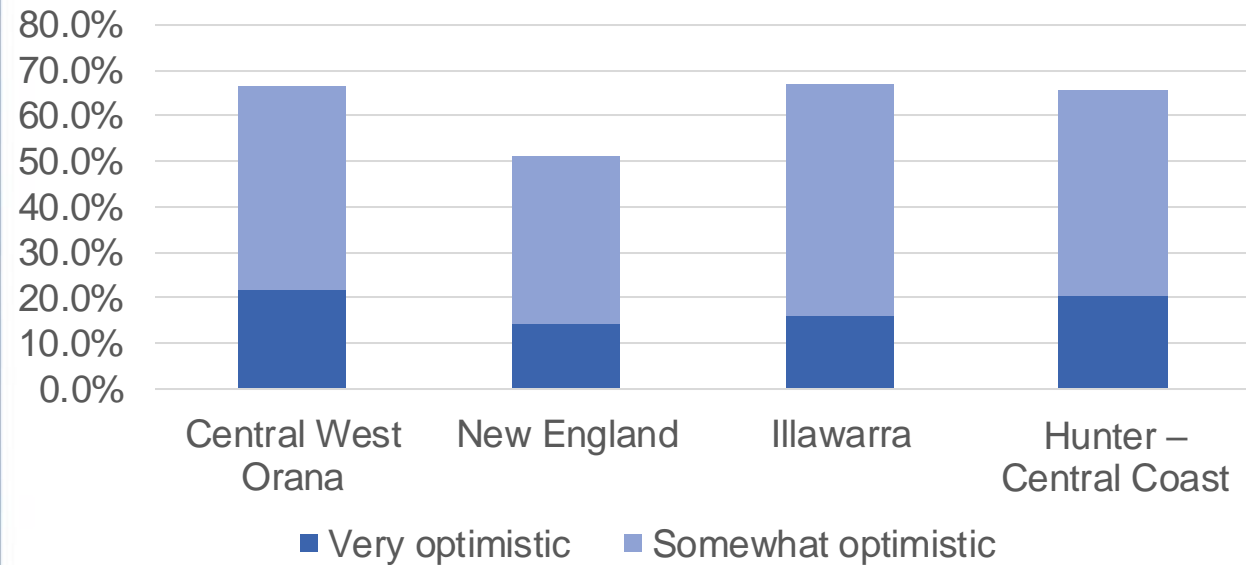


• **A tight jobs market**



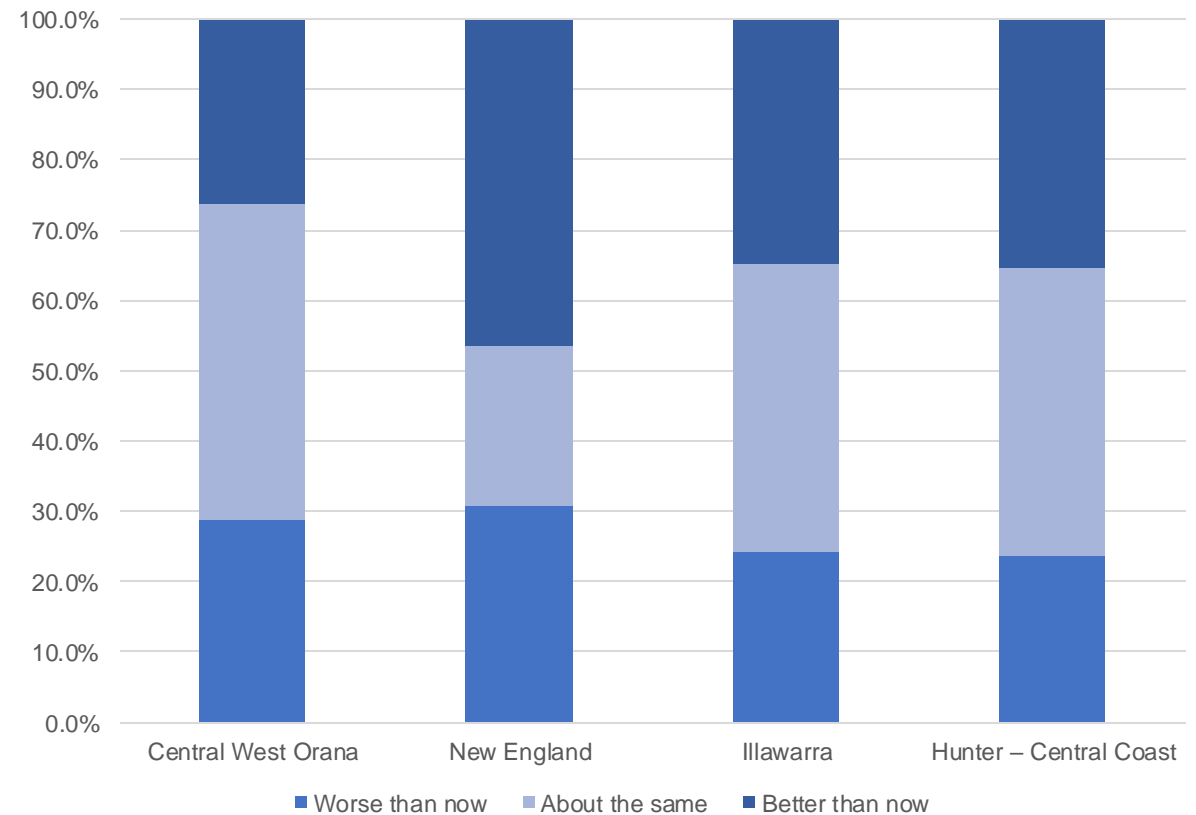
• **Fairly optimistic about the future ...**

How optimistic are you about the future of your region?



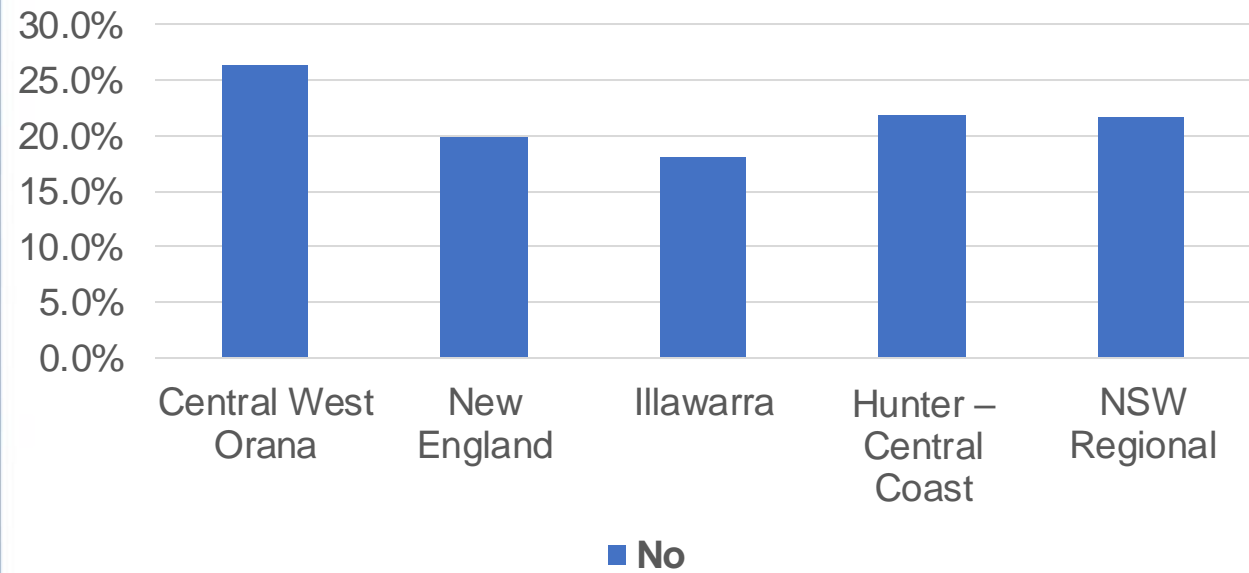
**Because
... status quo?**

In two years, do you think your own standard of living will be...

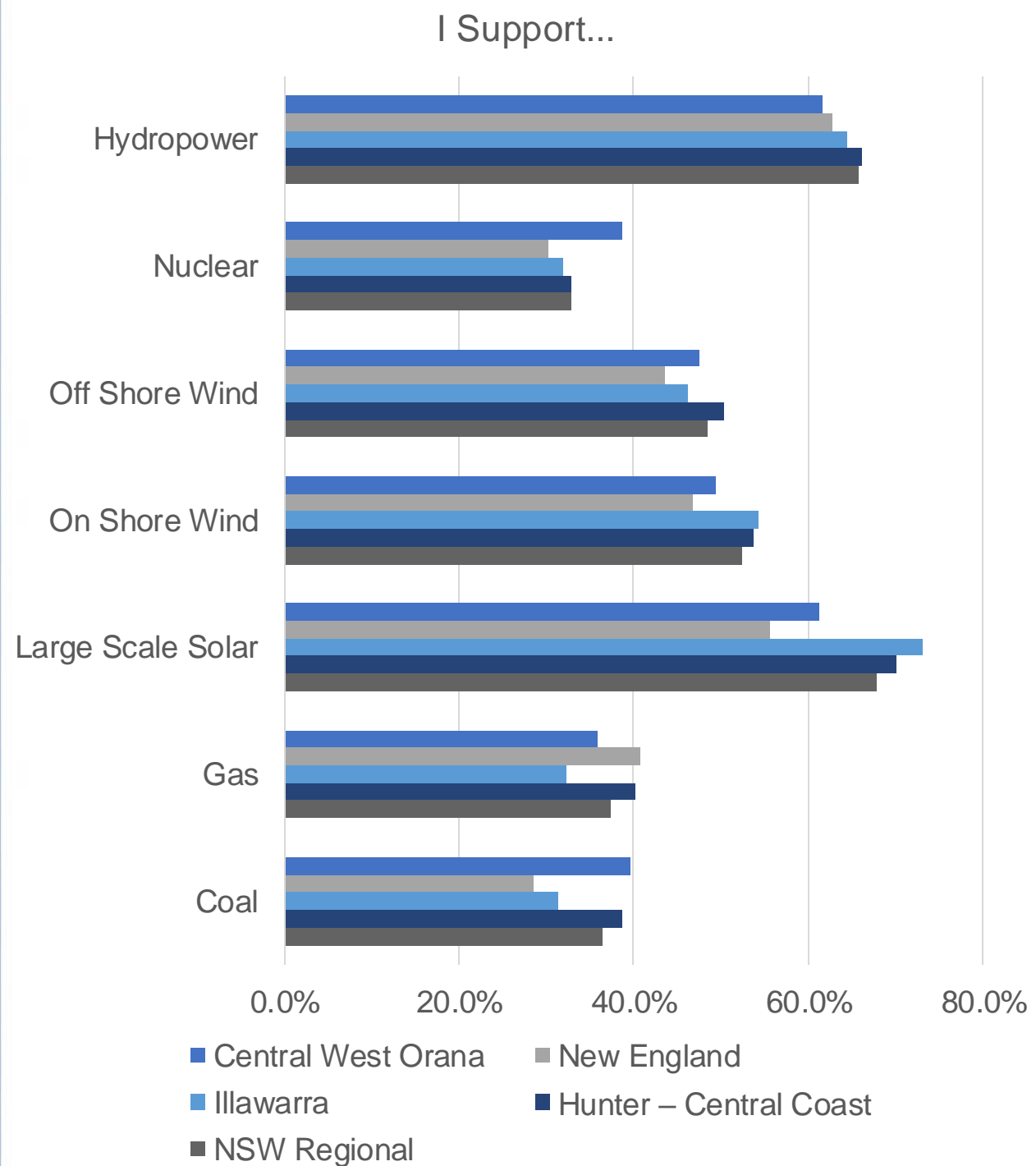


- **Opposition to net-zero targets**

Do you support net-zero emission targets?

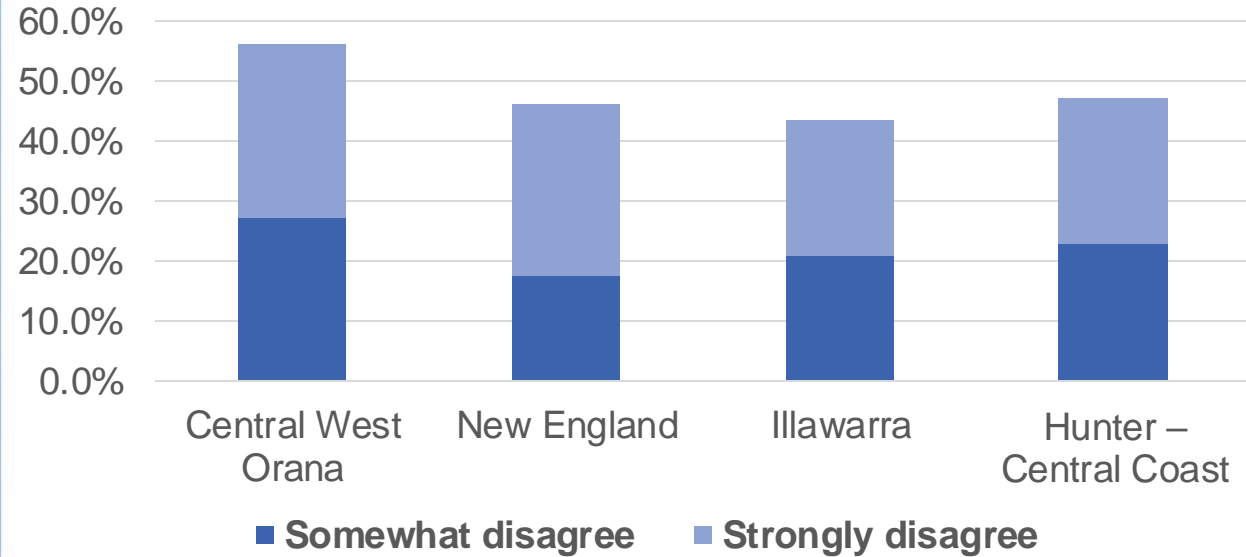


• Support for Energy Sources

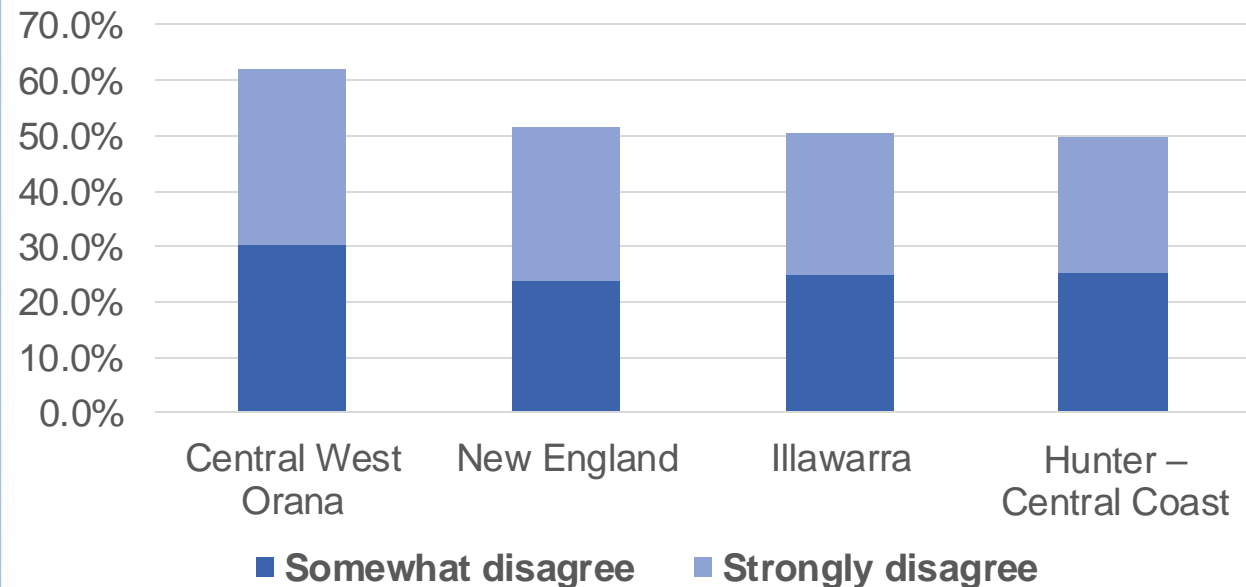


• Distrust of Government

I'm confident that the government has good plans for the future of my region

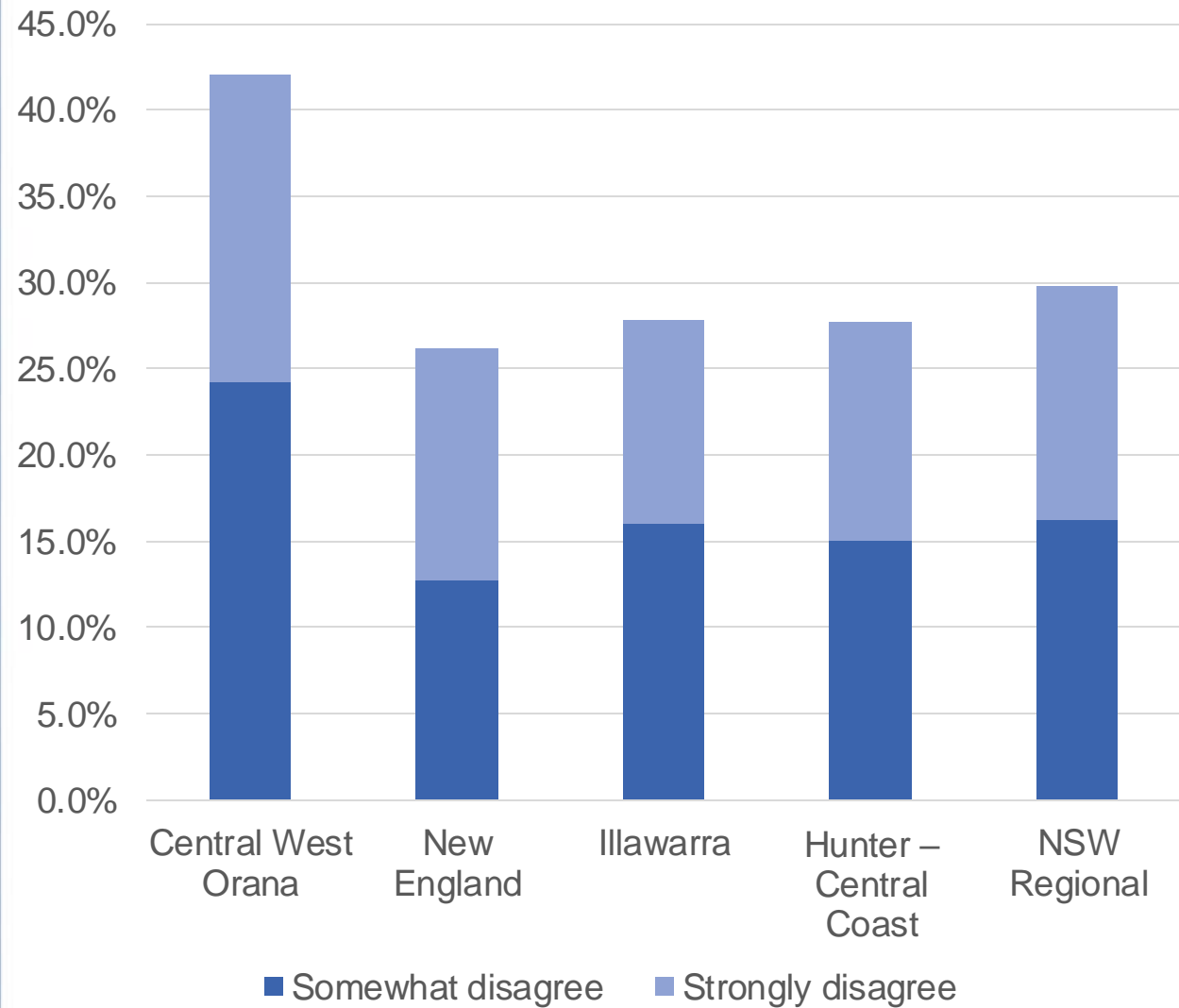


Government does a good job of consulting with communities about issues that affect them

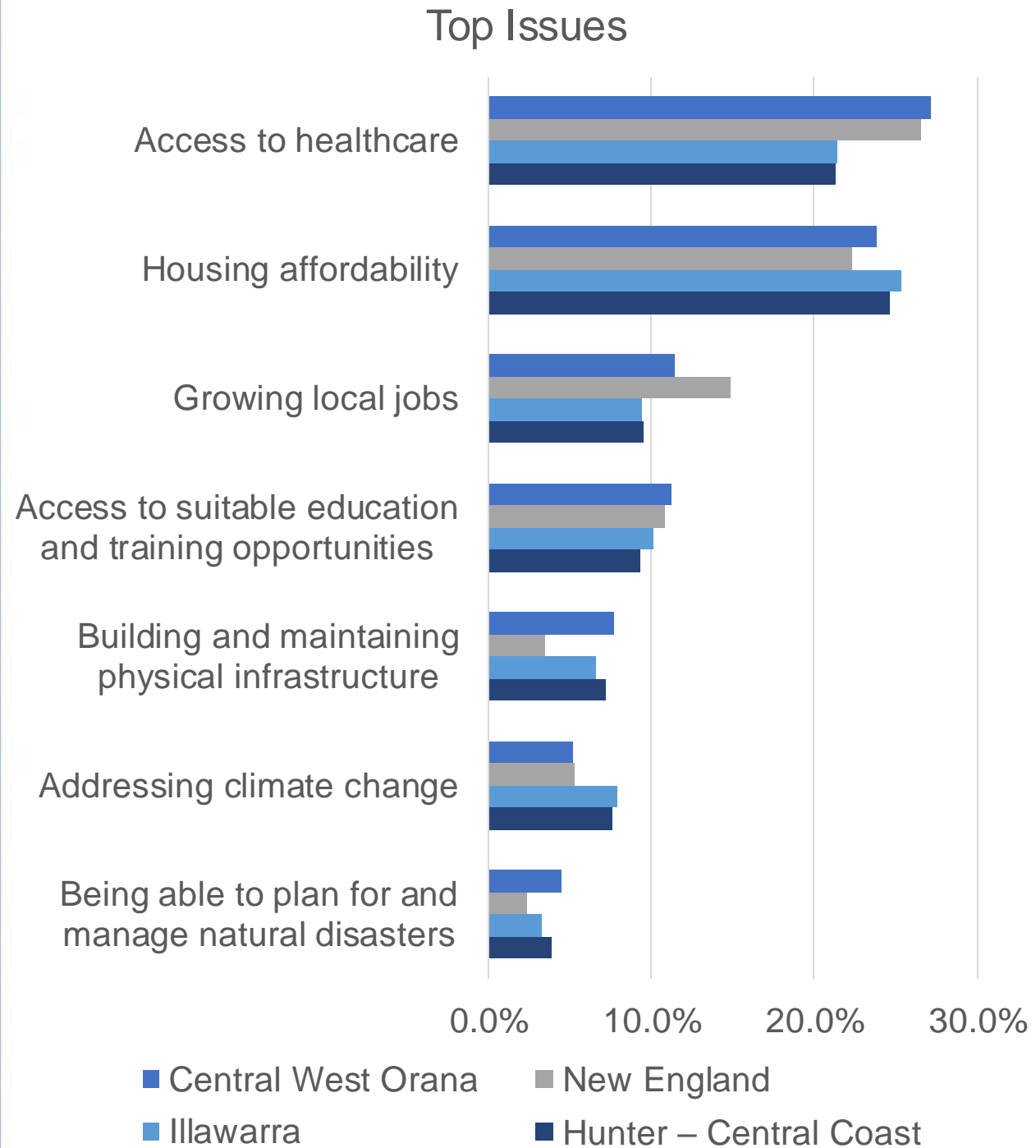


• **Opposition to unequal investment**

It's okay for some regions to get more investment than others



• What matters?



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Hysteresis:

**The Don Quixote
Effect**




Social Licence

French green energy giant Neoen gifts Worlds End Gorge as new SA national park, in Goyder renewable project trade-off

By Daniel Mercer and Rory McClean
Posted Fri 17 Nov 2023 at 10:15am, updated Sat 18 Nov 2023 at 12:12pm

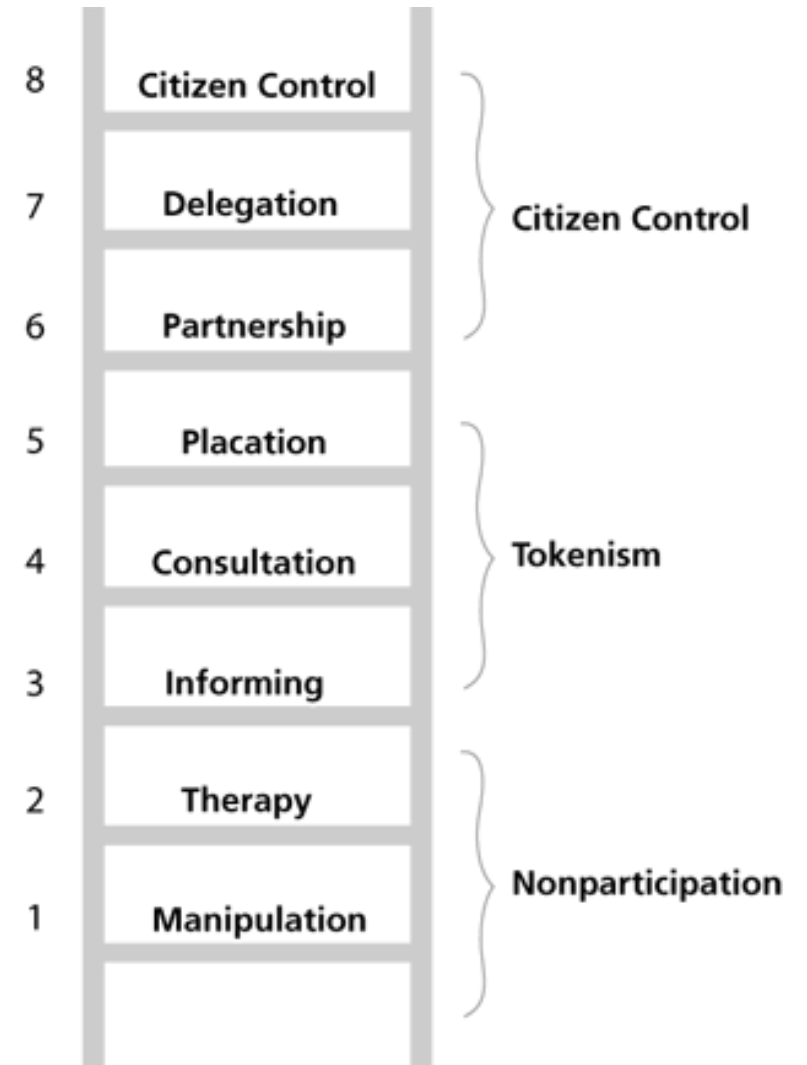
French green energy giant Neoen gifts Worlds End Gorge as new SA national park, in Goyder re



Tom Jenkins
Neoen Australia

Neoen has gifted a section of land to the South Australian government for a new national park.

[abc.net.au/news/french-green-energy-neo...](https://abc.net.au/news/french-green-energy-neo-...) [Copy link](#) [Share article](#)



Arnstein's Ladder (1969)
Degrees of Citizen Participation



Thank you



Survey
results may be shared