

Scotland Island and West Pittwater energy reliability project

Community feedback summary

June 2017



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1 Introduction

Ausgrid is exploring options to improve energy reliability to Scotland Island and West Pittwater following extended power outages in 2013 and 2015.

Both Scotland Island and West Pittwater are positioned in a uniquely challenging environment in regards to access and connectivity to the mainland. With ongoing analysis, Ausgrid is now considering improvements to the above ground overhead network in these areas as well as additional supply via cable or other source in the case of electricity outage.

Initially, Ausgrid considered installing an 11,000 Volt cable 'loop' between Scotland Island and Little Lovett Bay. However after further investigation, Ausgrid identified significant challenges that increased risks and costs associated with this option, as well as a better understanding of outages caused by vegetation in both locations. These investigations prompted further analysis to ensure that the final solution would efficiently address both the above ground network outages, which are the cause of the more recent loss of electricity supply, as well as those outages caused by cable damage.

Ausgrid is now considering the latest available technology, relevant environmental and safety standards, and the overall value for our electricity customers as part of the process to prepare viable options for further community input.

Community feedback is an important part of the project planning process and we appreciate and consider all input from the community and all stakeholders. This report includes a summary of our recent community engagement on the proposal including community drop in sessions, meetings and direct feedback.

2. Community engagement overview

Community engagement can:

- help to better plan and deliver a robust project
- effectively identify, assess and plan to minimise project impacts on the community by engaging early enough to be able to incorporate feedback into the planning process
- keep potentially affected community members informed of the proposal and why we need to do the work
- minimise surprises for the community.

Local information is being sought from key stakeholders on:

- areas of local significance
- parks/reserves
- trees/vegetation
- access
- future land use
- current household electrical use
- stakeholder interaction and responses during outages
- other issues/local information.

3. Community engagement summary (January to June 2017)

In 2017, Ausgrid's Community Engagement Team began a series of preliminary engagement activities with both the communities of Scotland Island West Pittwater and other key stakeholders to inform them of the status of the project, as well as the range of potential options being considering. A list of these community engagement activities is provided below:

- Meeting with Rob Stokes, Local Member for Pittwater
- Meetings with Northern Beaches Council
- Meeting with West Pittwater Community Association representatives
- Meeting with Scotland Island Resident Association representatives
- Meeting with Jason Falinski, Member for Mackellar
- Community drop in session held at Church Point
- West Pittwater Community Association Annual General Meeting
- Meeting with local emergency services and National Parks.

Request for community feedback - 12 to 26 March 2017

In addition to these meetings, Ausgrid released a survey to all residents of Scotland Island and West Pittwater on the 10 March 2017. The survey sought to better understand the residents' requirements, including energy reliance needs and willingness of residents to consider alternate energy options.

Community drop in session at Church Point - Friday 17 March 2017

Representatives of the project team were available to answer questions and collect comments from the local community at a drop in session held on 17 March at Church Point. This informal session aimed to answer any questions about the project to date and on the current analysis of options. The session was held to encourage the local community to provide feedback that would assist with the early preparation of options that would be then presented for further feedback.

4. Next steps

The project team continues to analyse a number of options to ensure that the options that will be presented to the community are feasible and consider the impacts to the community and environment, the requirements of the Scotland Island and West Pittwater communities, whilst providing value for our electricity customers.

Comments and questions from this survey are being considered as part of this process and will be included with responses at our upcoming community sessions and online as part of our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). A note will be sent out when these FAQs have been published on the project web page.

Upcoming community sessions

Ausgrid plans to hold community sessions at Scotland Island Church Point and West Pittwater and details of these sessions will be provided at a later date. Member of the project team will present project options, discuss the project need, construction impacts and opportunities, and invite feedback. However Ausgrid encourages feedback at any stage.

The survey responses received from 170 residents (approximately 33% of households) found that:

- The majority of respondents (96.5%) would either support or would consider supporting a renewable energy approach to solve energy reliability problems in the area.
- A majority of respondents (80.5%) would be willing to or would consider housing renewable energy technology on their property.
- A majority of respondents (93%) would be willing to or would consider reducing their energy load during a network outage if this was required as part of the solution put forward by Ausgrid.
- A majority of respondents (93.5%) would be willing to or would consider a shared community solution not involving a new cable.

Distribution and awareness of the survey was supported by Northern Beaches Council, Scotland Island Resident Association and West Pittwater Community Association.

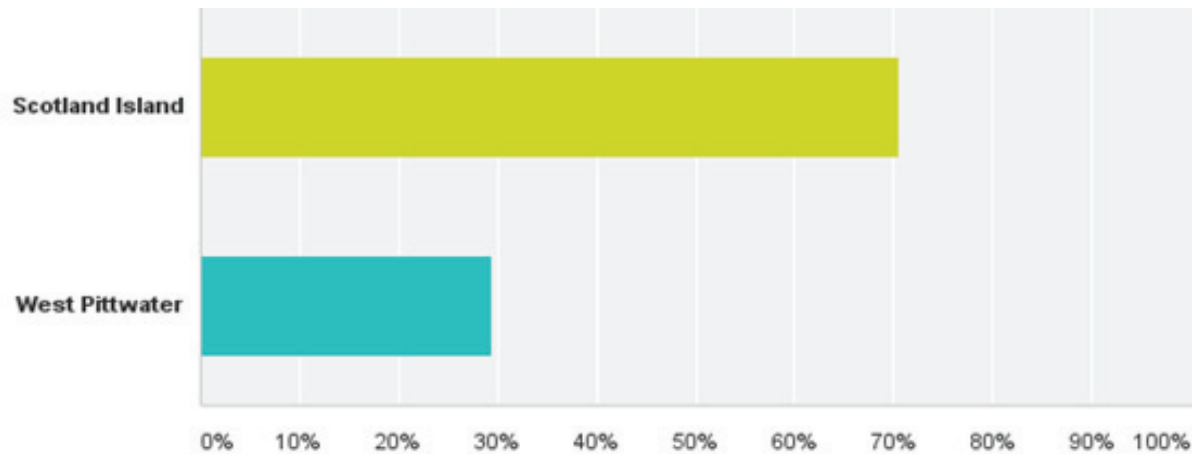
Appendix A - Community survey

Ausgrid would like to thank all residents who have provided feedback. This information has been used as part of the project planning process to prepare options for comment at upcoming community sessions.

See the following pages for a summary of the feedback received from the community survey.

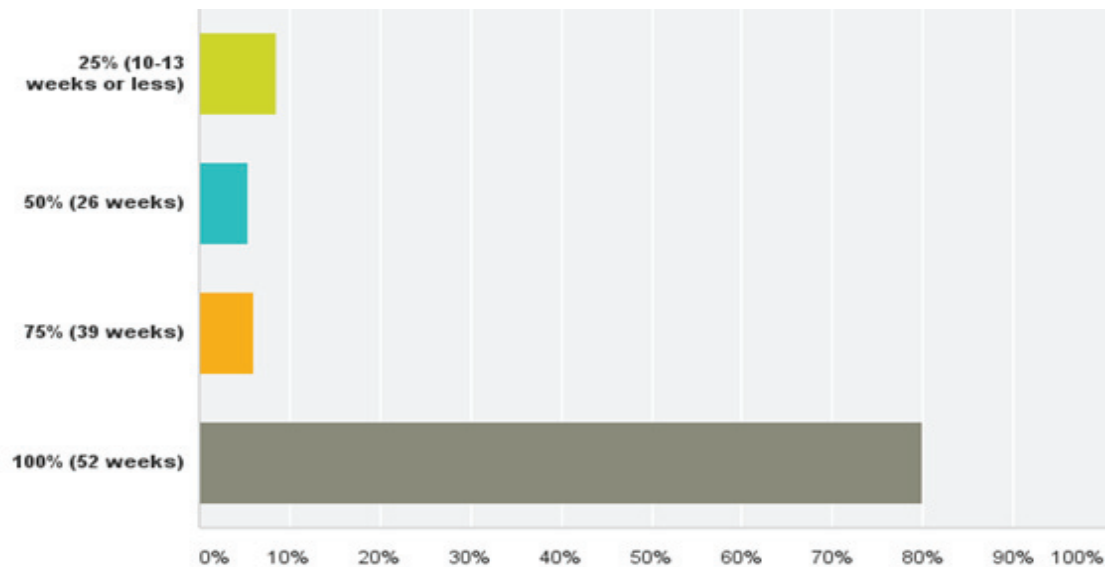
Q1: Where do you live?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 1



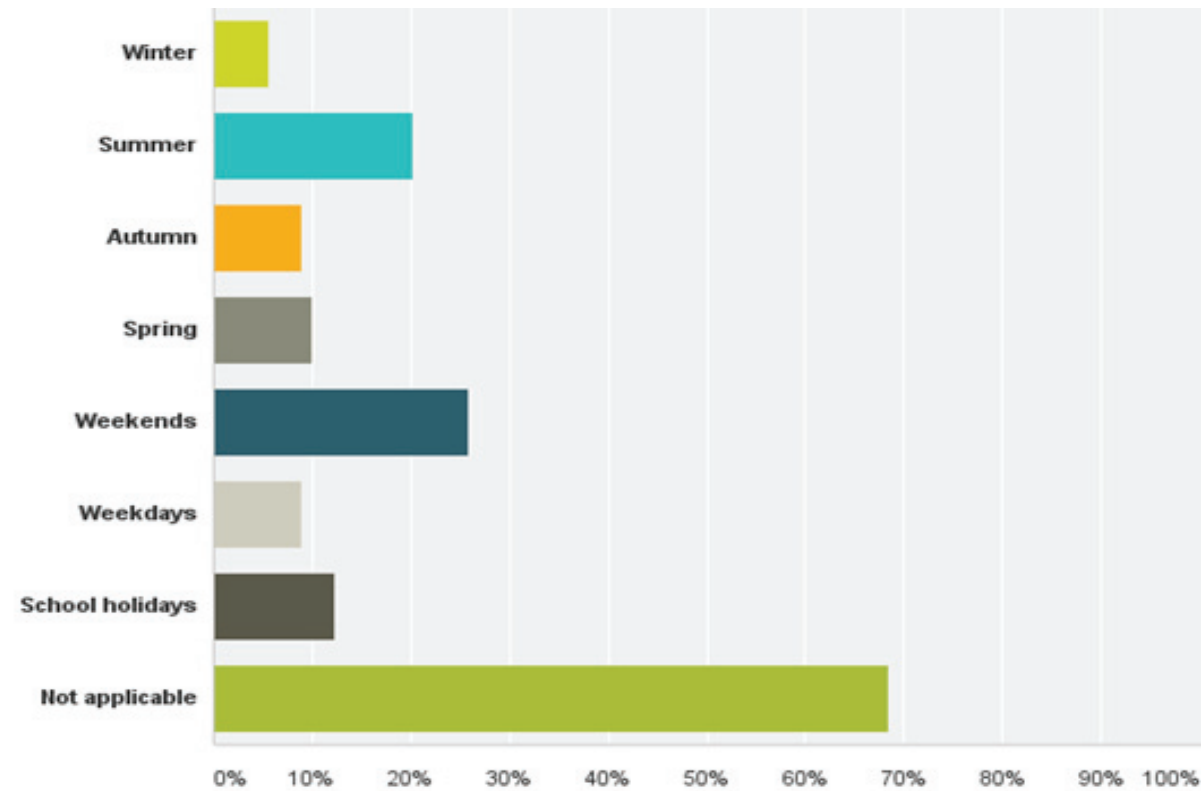
Q2: Approximately what percentage of the year do you spend living on either Scotland Island or at West Pittwater?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 2



Q3: If a non-permanent resident, is there a particular time of year or of the week you generally spend time in this area?

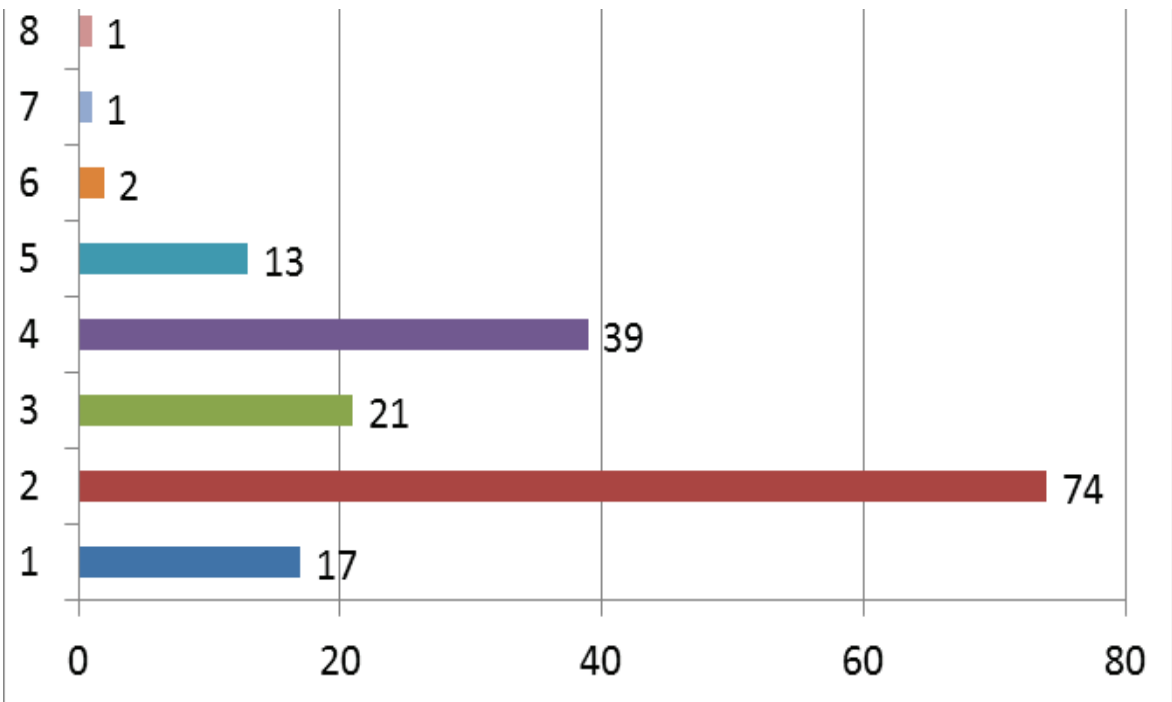
Answered: 92 Skipped: 78



Q4: When occupied, how many people generally live at your property?

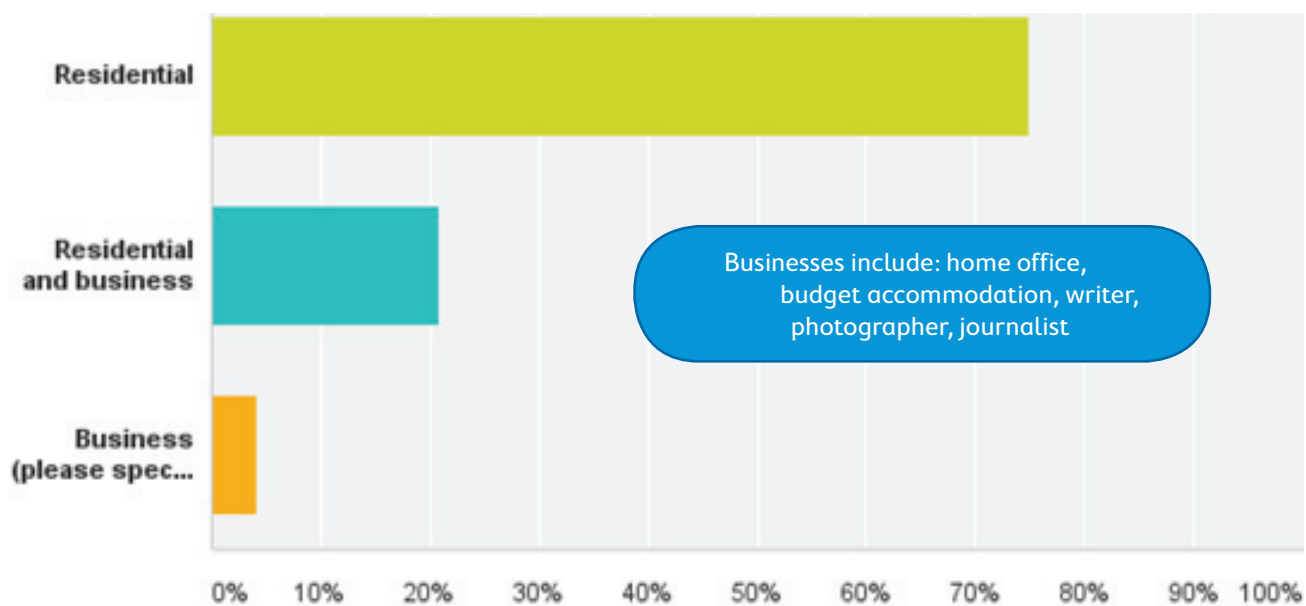
Answered: 168 Skipped: 2

per household



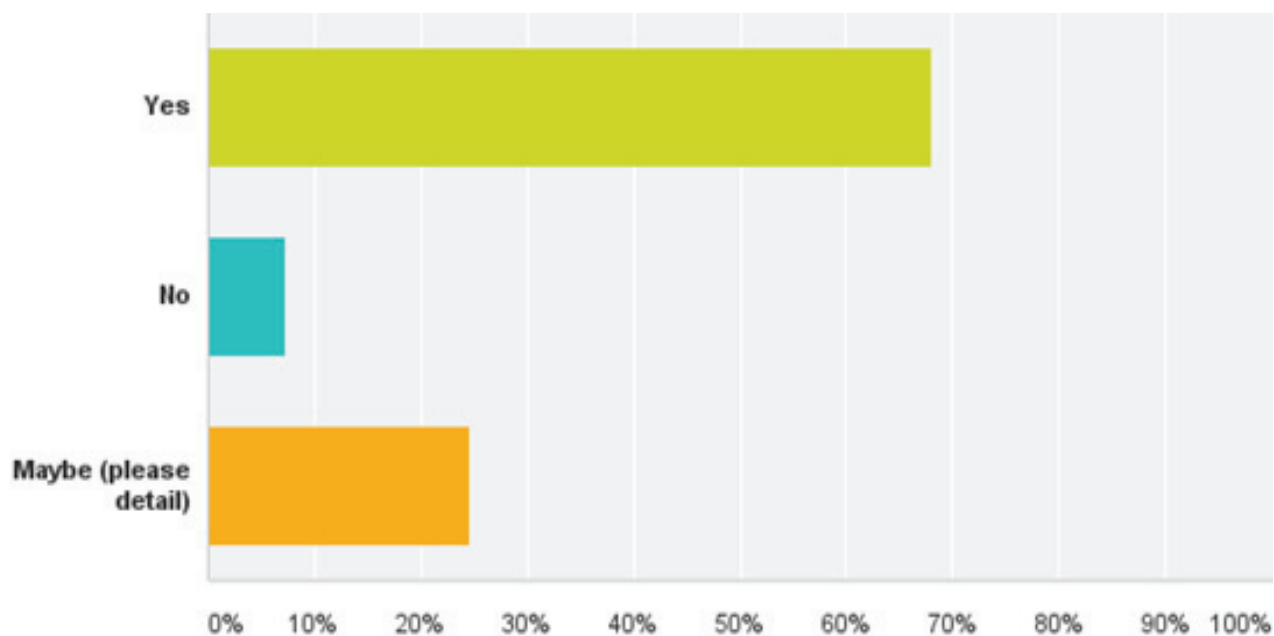
Q5: What best describes your household's energy use?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0



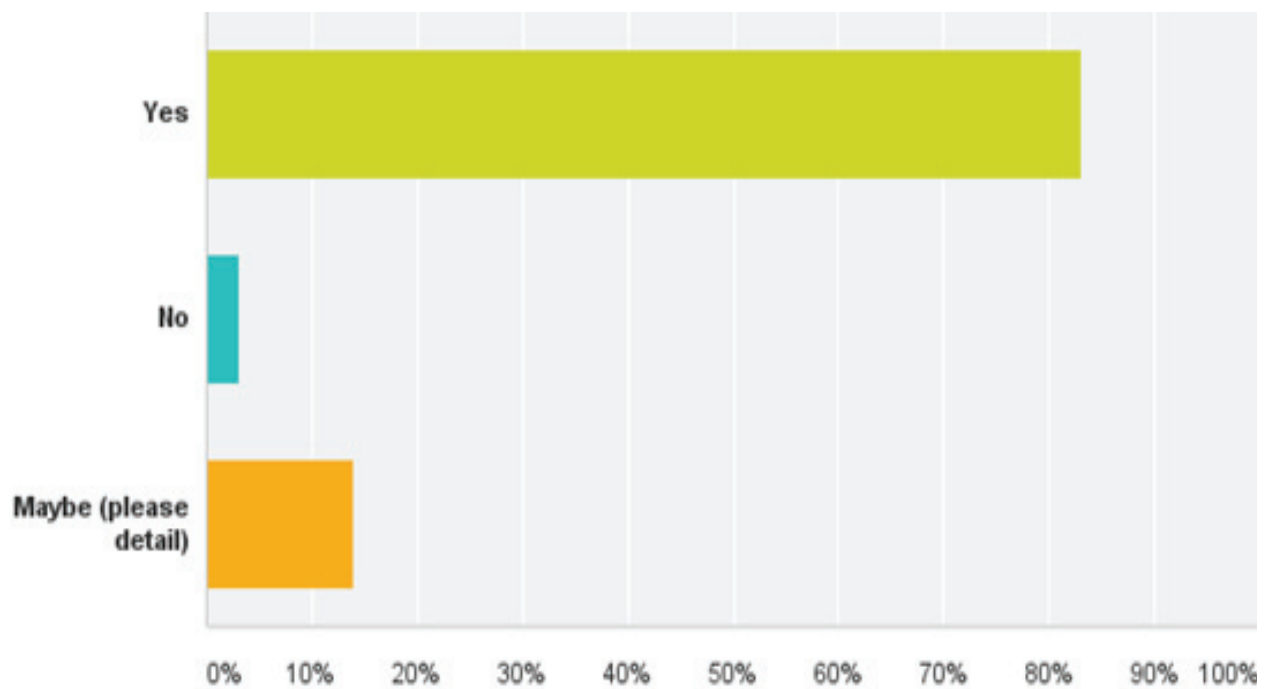
Q6: To ensure continuous supply during an unplanned outage while we work to restore power, would you be willing to reduce your electricity usage?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 1



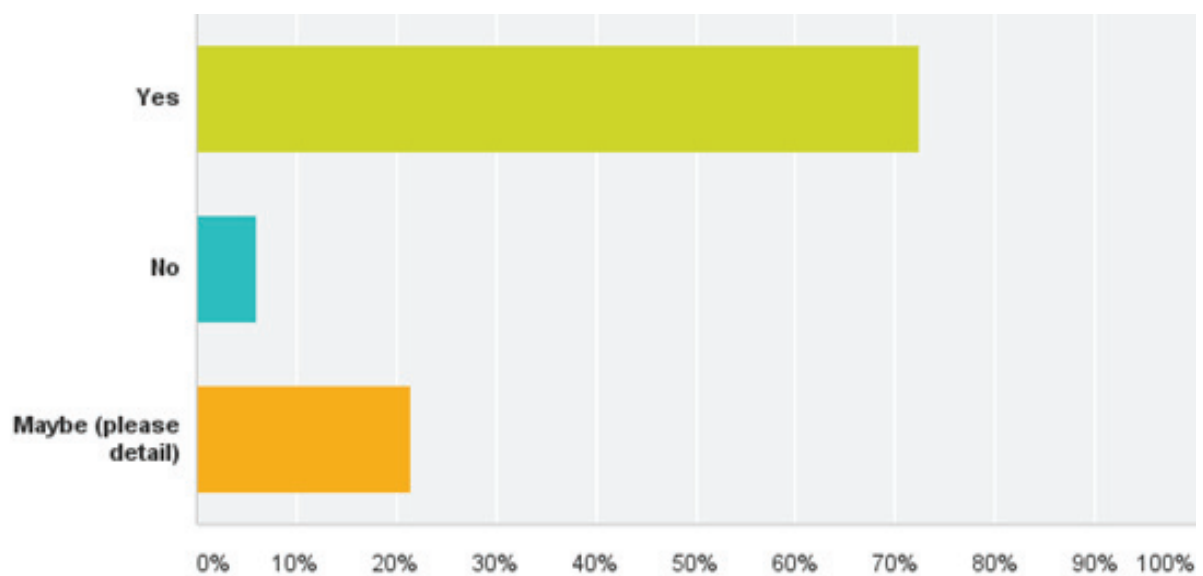
Q7: Are you comfortable with Ausgrid considering alternate energy/battery storage options to provide power during an unplanned outage?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 2



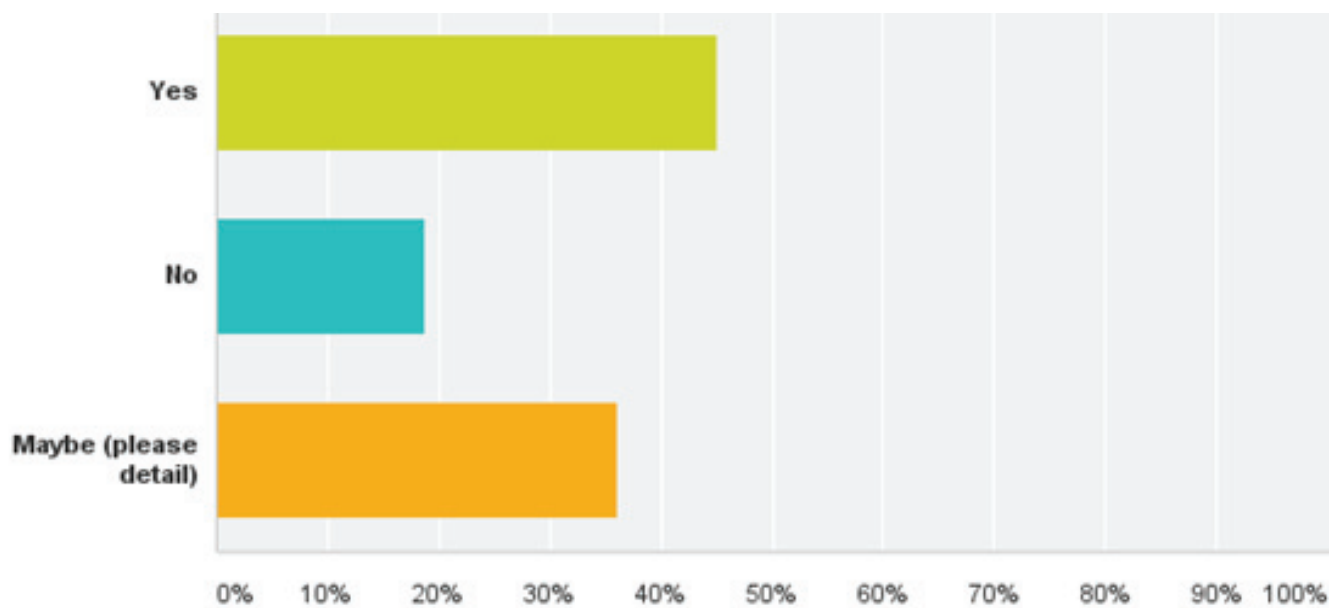
Q8: Would you consider a potential community shared option using alternate energy/battery storage (to provide power during an unplanned outage)?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0



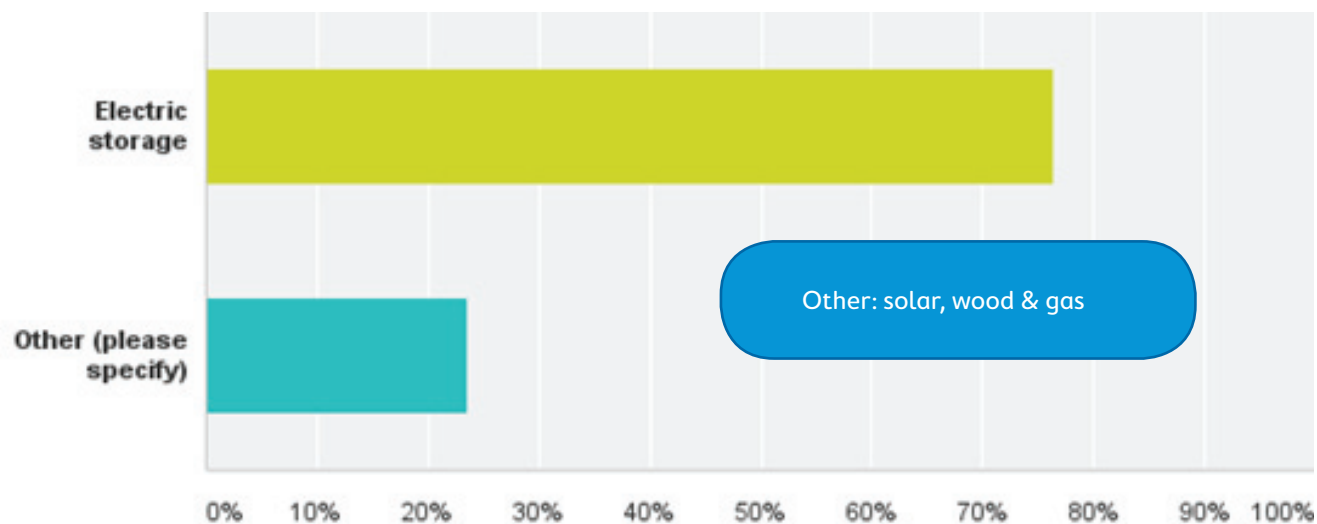
Q8b: If yes, would you consider hosting a community shared option on your property, eg household battery or solar panels?

Answered: 158 Skipped: 12



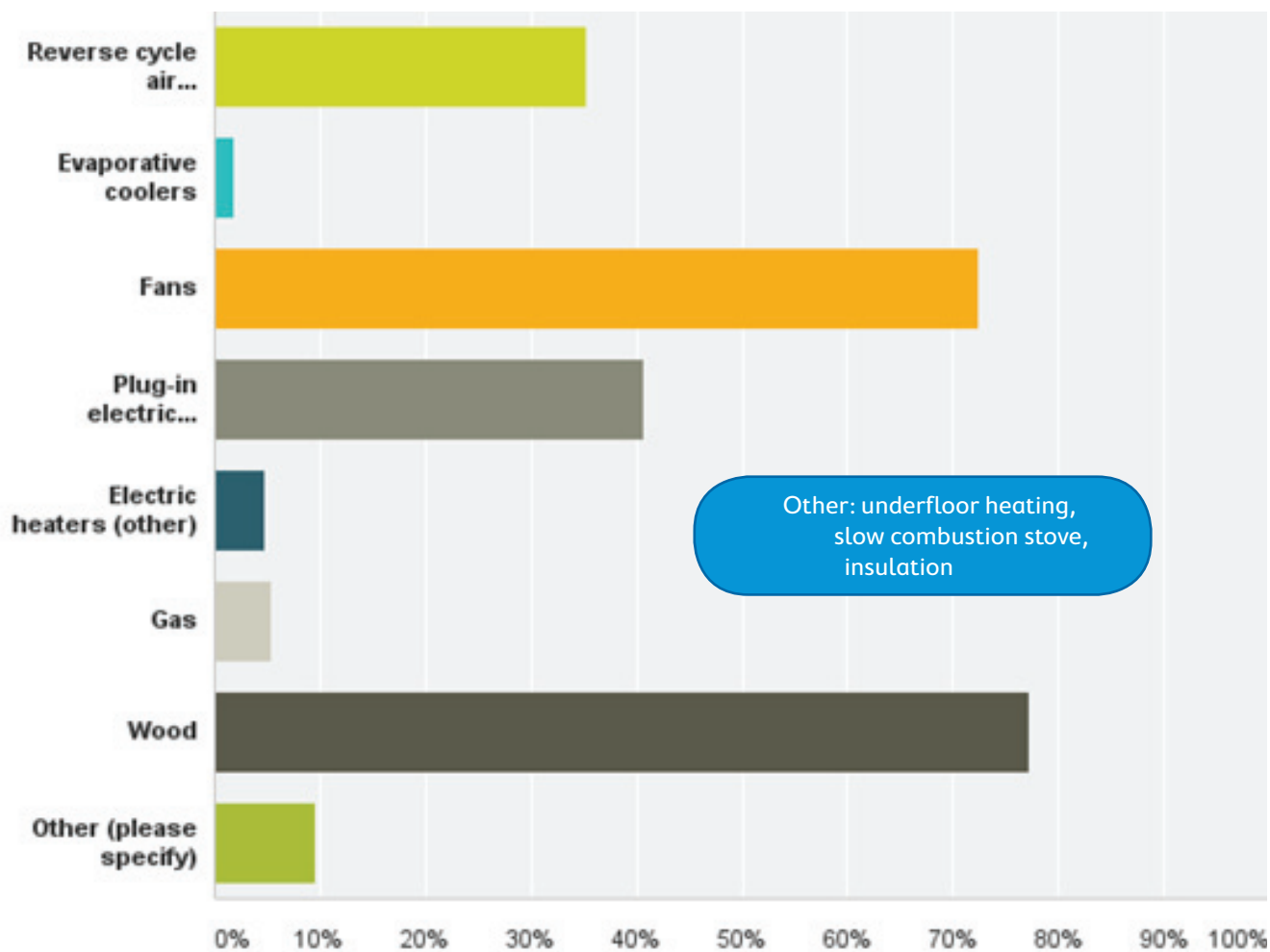
Q9: What is your main type of hot water system?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 2



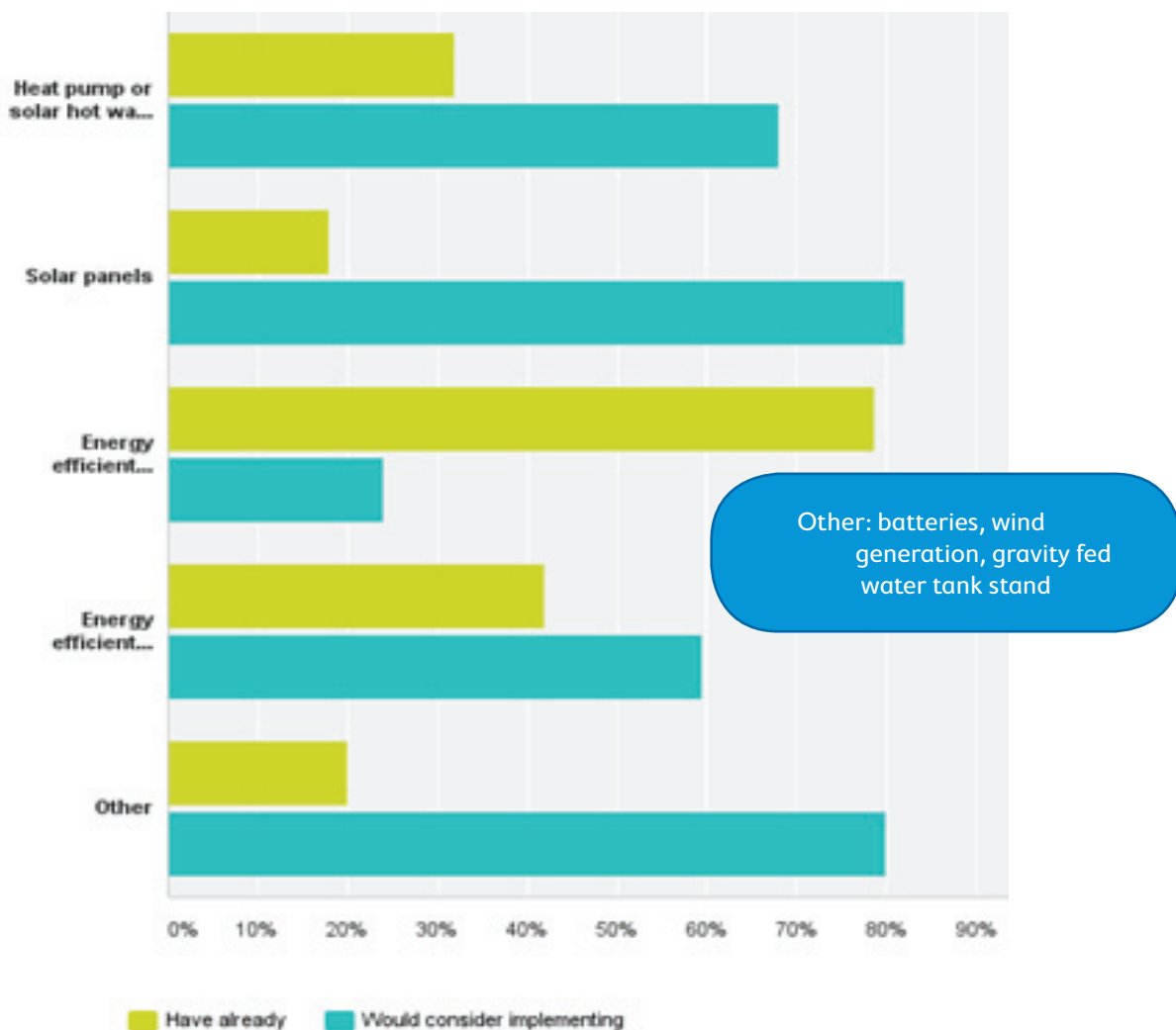
Q10: What type/s of heating/cooling do you use in the home (% of community and type)?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0



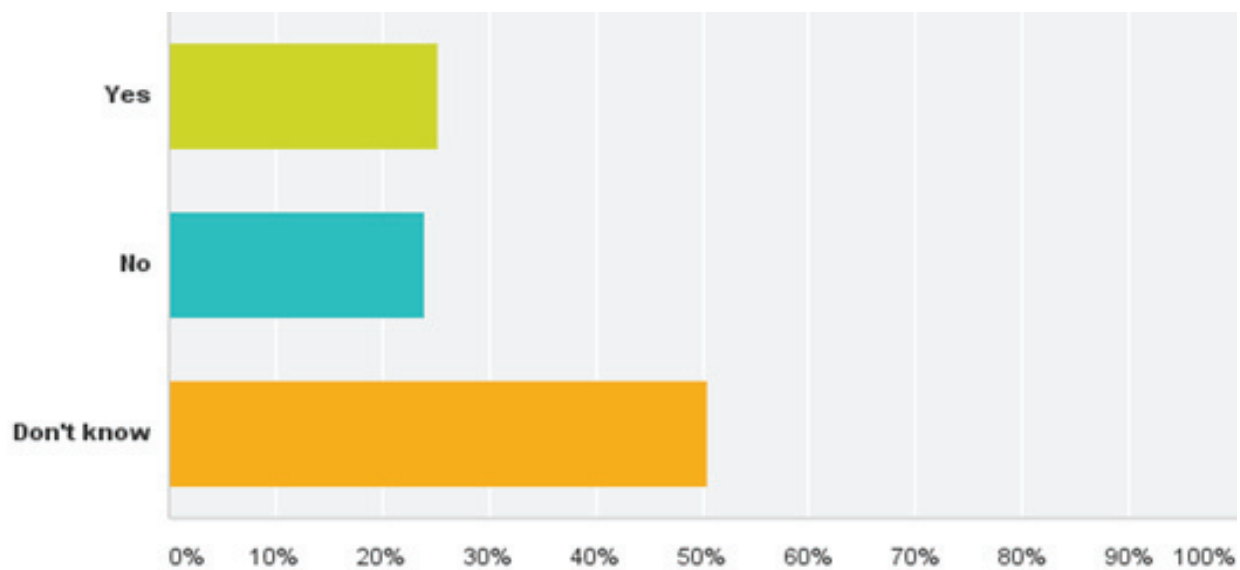
Q11: Do you have, or would you consider implementing any of the following energy saving devices (% - have or would consider)?

Answered: 162 Skipped: 8



Q12: Does your property have a time of use meter?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 1



Q13: Preferred method for communication?

Answered: 165 Skipped: 3

