Edwardstown Community Battery

Community feedback report August 2023

Executive Summary

Purpose of engagement: **To ascertain the level of support in the local community for the proposal to install a community battery on council owned land in Edwardstown.**

Engagement/communication methods

Engagement was open for 21 days between **27/07/2023** and **17/08/2023**

- 330 letters were distributed to local residents surrounding the proposed battery site by the project team
- Door knocking and delivery of 20 letters to houses in close proximity to the proposed battery site
- As per requirements set out in section 202(2) of the Local Government Act, 1999 a notice was placed in the Advertiser on 24/07/2023
- We received 22 survey responses - it was identified that one respondent completed the survey twice
- Making Marion page with key project documents and community survey



Community battery – Notice in the Advertiser (24/07)

Edwardstown Community Battery – Proposed lease at 48 Dumbarton Avenue, Edwardstown

The City of Marion is undertaking community consultation on the proposed location for a Federally funded renewable energy project seeking to deliver cheaper electricity to social housing residents in Edwardstown.

The project involves the installation of a community battery, inside a small container to be located at a Council-owned property off Dumbarton Avenue, Edwardstown. The battery is being funded through a $500,000 grant through the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar program.

Council have proposed a portion of 48 Dumbarton Avenue (Certificate of Title - Volume 5869 Folio 35) as the location to grant the State Government a 15-year lease with a $1 per annum (peppercorn rent).

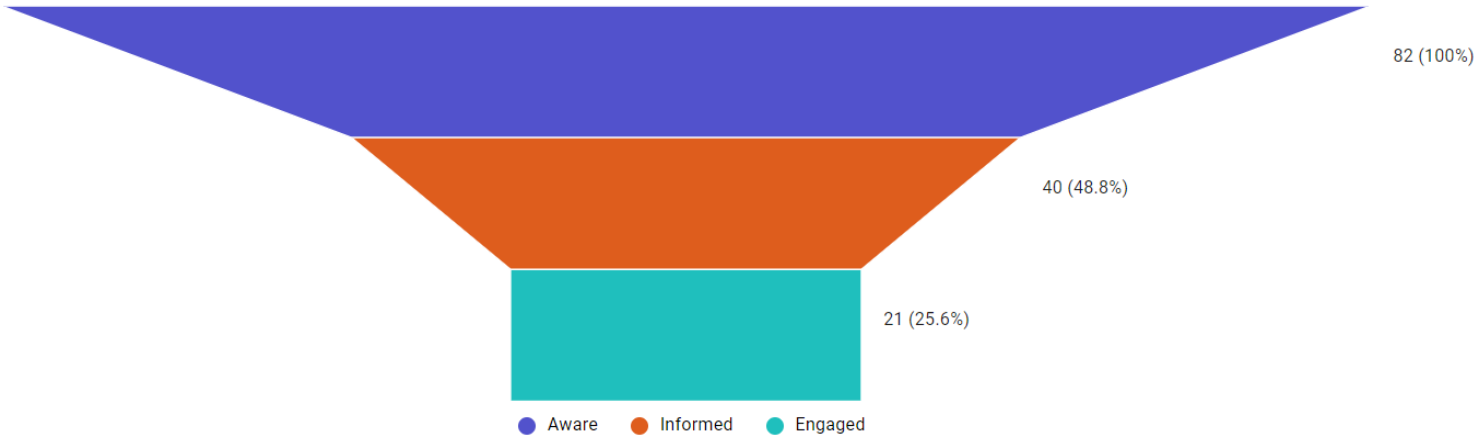
Section 202 (2) of the Local Government Act 1999, requires that Council undertake community consultation on the proposed lease of this community land.

Consultation is open until 5pm, Monday August 14. For more details and to provide your feedback, visit www.makingmarion.com.au/edwardstown-community-battery or visit the Council's Administration Centre on Sturt Road.

For more information, please email **business.marion@marion.sa.gov.au**

Executive Summary

Making Marion – visitor engagement summary



Definitions:

Aware – Community member has made at least one visit to the project page

Informed – Community has accessed some available material on the project

Engaged – Community member has contributed to the project using available tools (i.e., survey)

Community battery- proposed location



CB – Community Battery

PMT - Pole Mount Transformer (SA Power Networks infrastructure)

Direct mail catchment area



- Properties to be door knocked

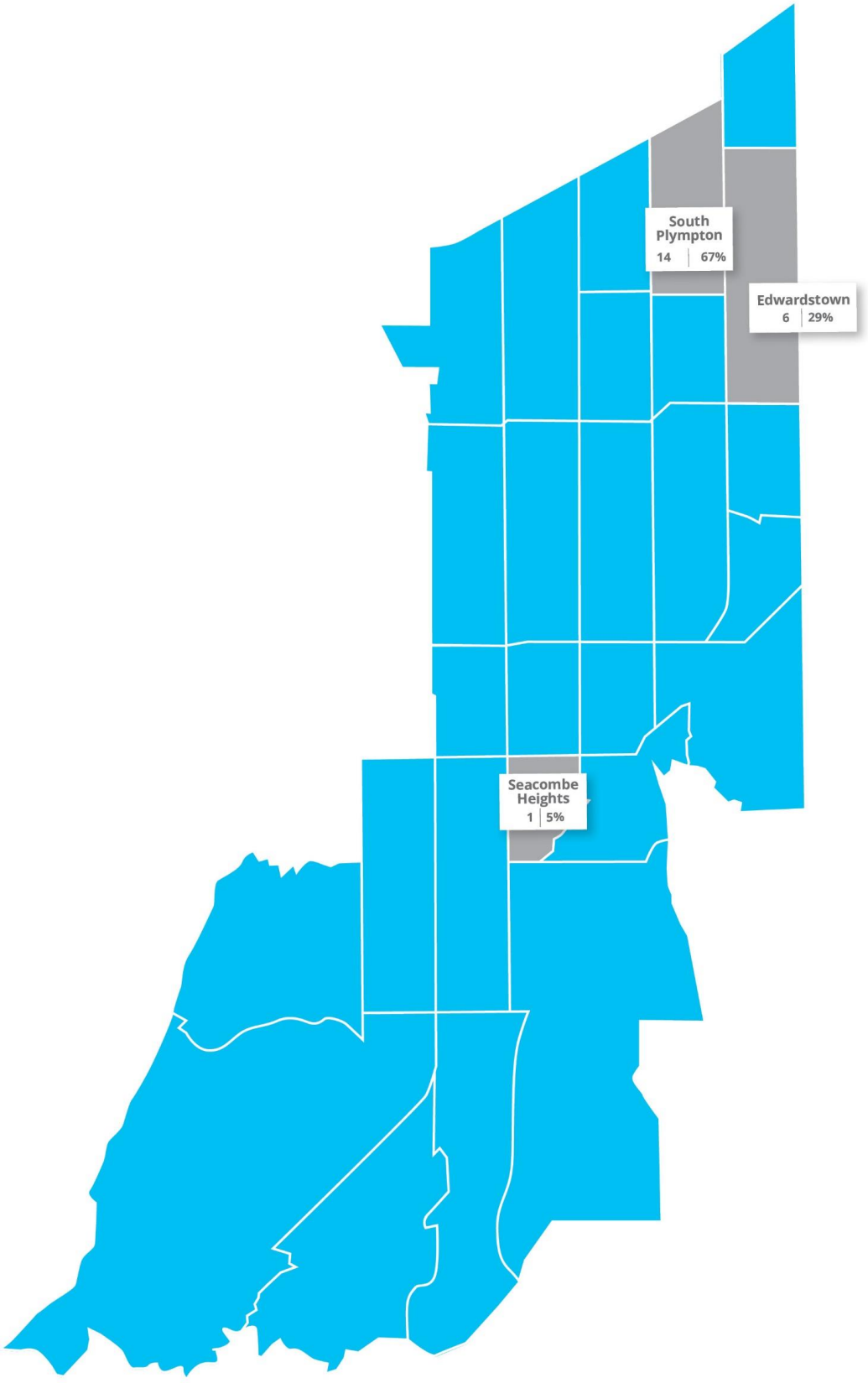
Participant responses

Q1: Street name (21 out of 21 responses)

Street name	No. of responses	Suburb
Aberfeldy Avenue	2	Edwardstown
Alpine Road	1	Seacombe Heights
Dumbarton Avenue	1	Edwardstown
Eastern Avenue	1	South Plympton
Garden Street	1	South Plympton
Raglan Avenue	1	South Plympton
Stuart Road,	5	South Plympton
Taylor Court	4	South Plympton
Thomas street	1	South Plympton
Towers Terrace	1	Edwardstown
Vincent Street	1	South Plympton
Wright Street	2	Edwardstown

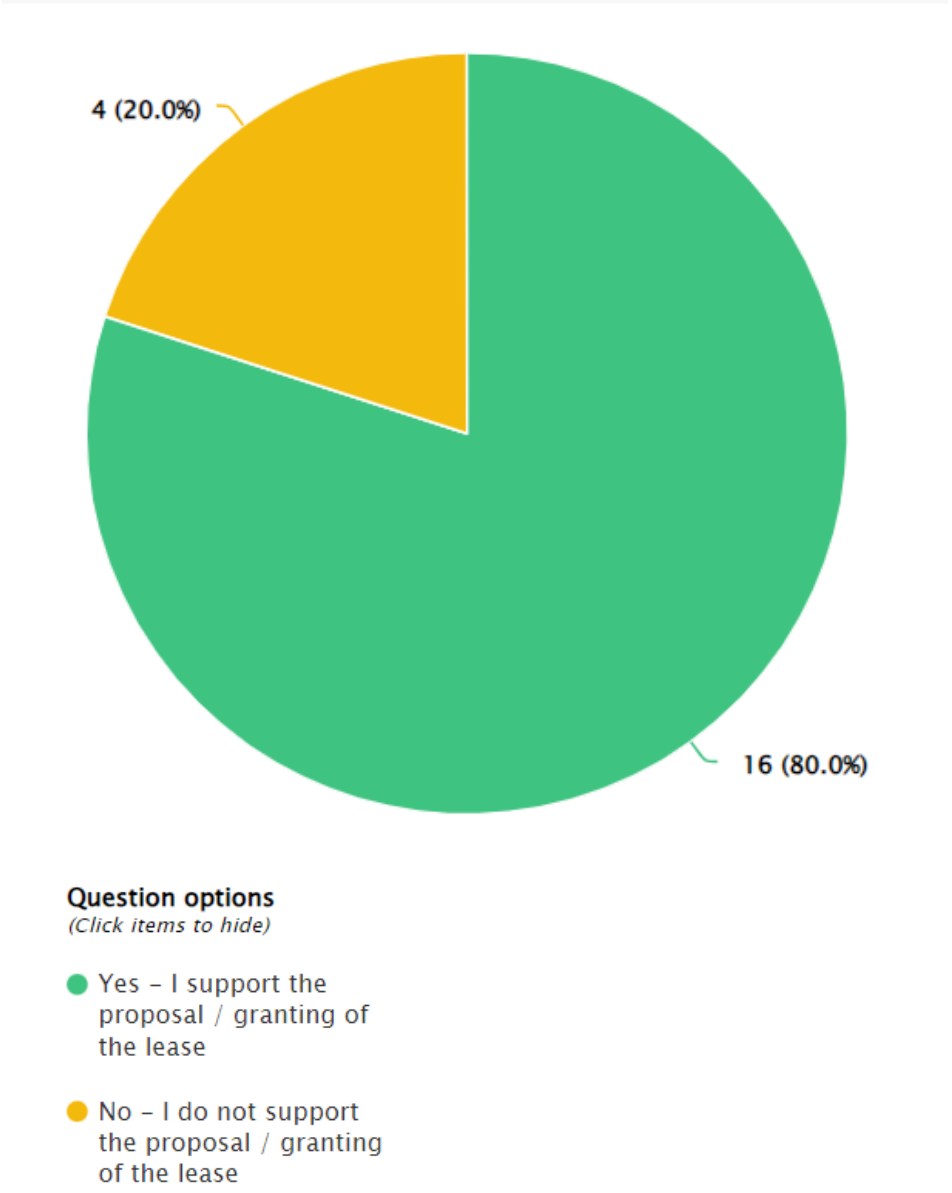
Participant responses

Q2: Suburb (Mandatory 21 out of 21 responses)



Participant responses

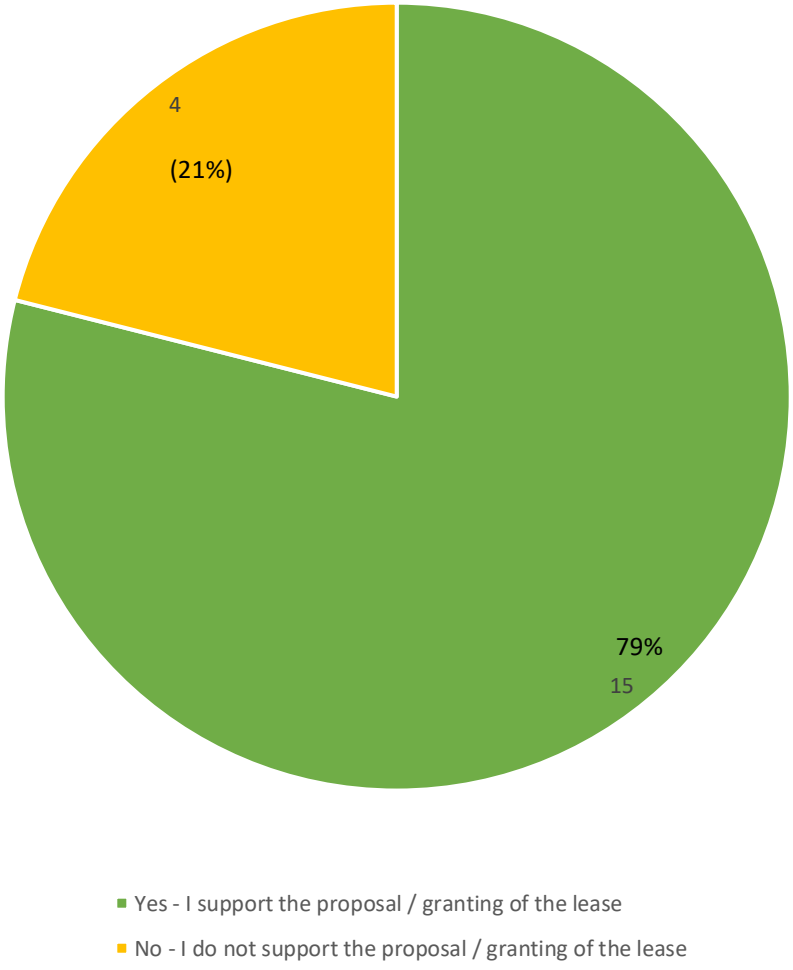
Q3: Do you support the proposal for Council to grant a 15-year Lease on Council owned community land located over a portion of 48 Dumbarton Avenue, Edwardstown, for the installation of a community battery? (20 out of 22 responses)



NB: 2 respondents didn't complete this question. Another respondent entered the survey twice.

Participant responses

Q3: Do you support the proposal for Council to grant a 15-year Lease on Council owned community land located over a portion of 48 Dumbarton Avenue, Edwardstown, for the installation of a community battery? (19 out of 21 responses)



NB: This chart has been amended by removing the multiple respondents' second entry which was in support of the proposal. This has been done to demonstrate the level of community support without the duplicate entry.

Participant responses

Q4: Do you have any other comments? (Optional 15 out of 21 responded)

In support

Good if other residents can use this as a service
What will the battery power and storage capacity be? Will it result in more stable grid voltages? Will SAPN be able to lower the nominal grid voltage into the 230V to 240V range as a result?
Well done council! Thanks for being forward thinking
We have solar panels on the roof at 44 Towers. Even though we do use all of what we generate can we contribute to the battery?
*URL in letterbox flyer/handout is incorrect (missing the 2nd "M" in the URL) which may affect the amount of feedback you receive. Location for battery has limited space for future expansion, expansion with larger battery capacity/access for general residents would be advantageous and well received.
Great idea, can similar batteries be provided in Marion Council area for SA Housing re-development programs?
We need to do power sharing better and smarter and cheaper to encourage supporting our diverse community.
Excellent idea - go for it!
A great initiative by the Council.

Do not support

Would support it if it helped to reduce all the locals energy bills and not just the council houses who already get a lot of subsidies.
Can a site that is not in the middle of a residential area be considered for the location of the battery? There is plenty of unused commercial land around the area that not surrounded by homes that would make a better location.
I'm a single mum and I work full time. I have a mortgage and i've paid for my own solar panels and get absolutely NO support at all from any government departments because I'm not eligible. If my solar panels are contributing to the battery then I should get some benefit from it. I'm really sick of struggling to make ends meet but there's never any support or financial relief available to me.
Little information has been provided. For example, will the stored power be available for those who have contributed to solar energy input into the battery i.e. privately owned solar panels will supply the energy but will they be able to use that energy and will it be to the amount the private owner energies input. Or are only SA Housing Authority tenants have access to solar battery power. What percentage of privately owned solar panel energy produced will go to the battery and what percentage to the grid. Will private solar power owners be paid for the energy supplied to the battery similar to how they are currently paid to supply excess power to the grid? And if yes, will it be paid at the same rate they are currently receiving or will it be less, or more? Until more information is provided I will not support this proposal.

Participant responses

Q4: Do you have any other comments? (Optional 15 out of 21 responded)

Didn’t specify support or do not support

I don't understand why it's only SA Housing are the only houses that benefit from this we are all suffering from high electricity & cost of living cost. We have solar however we also paid to have it installed & need to make our money back plus also benefit with our bill for having them. I am not against the battery but I am not in support of only SA Housing people get the benefits.

Need information on how this will work. Insufficient information in the letter drop to determine either way. I was expecting ths survey to carry more information and questions / opportunities for comments on the specifics of the proposal.

Comment received from respondent who completed the survey twice

Others could join?

*On the 27/07 the letterbox drop was repeated by the project team to ensure that the local community had access to the 21-day consultation period with the correct Making Marion URL. Consultation was extended to the 17/08.