

# Gas Transition Survey

FINAL REPORT  
17 February 2022





ACT  
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YOUR SAY  
PANEL

## Background

As part of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025, a pathway to enable the ACT to transition from gas to electricity is being developed.

To inform this pathway, the YourSay Panel has been engaged to understand current behaviours and perspectives in relation to household energy use. The research will be used to help determine consumer impact analysis being conducted as part of this work.

### Methodological notes:

- All Panel members were invited to take part (n=5,873)
- The results have been weighted to reflect relative population proportions based on the ABS Census
- Significance testing applied at a 95% confidence level
- In single choice questions, results may not add up to 100% due to rounding
- The methodology is biased towards those with internet and computer literacy
- Non-response bias may influence results, with those more interested in the topic choosing to take part



How many?

**1,892**

Who?

**Panel members  
16+**

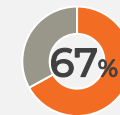
When?

**3 – 8 Feb 2022**

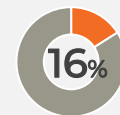
## In summary: key findings

- By and large, the majority of respondents are cognisant of the environmental impacts of gas and consider electricity as a better energy source for the environment
- Two-thirds (67%) of respondents currently report use of mains gas in their household, predominantly for water heating (73%), cooktops (66%), and home heating (57%)
- Around one in six (16%) say they have switched from a gas to electric appliance in the last few years, with environmental factors a prime driver of this transition
- A further six in ten (59%) currently with gas in the household say they have considered transitioning
- For those still with gas, financial considerations emerge as the biggest factor both driving and impeding transition (e.g. cost of change v potential cost savings)
- Situational factors also play a role (e.g. renting, dwelling type), with over a third of respondents (37%) indicating they have little say or influence in energy source used
- Around half of respondents are aware of plans and activities to support gas transition in the ACT, with loans and gas-free suburbs the most commonly mentioned

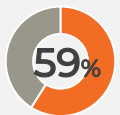
### Household situation



CURRENTLY  
HAVE GAS IN  
HOUSEHOLD

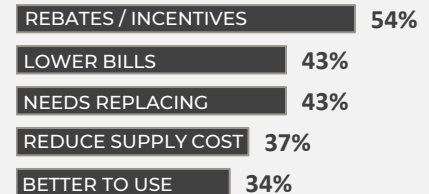


HAVE  
TRANSITIONED  
TO ELECTRICITY

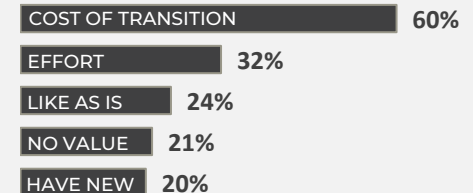


WITH GAS  
CONSIDERED  
TRANSITIONING

### Top motivators



### Main barriers



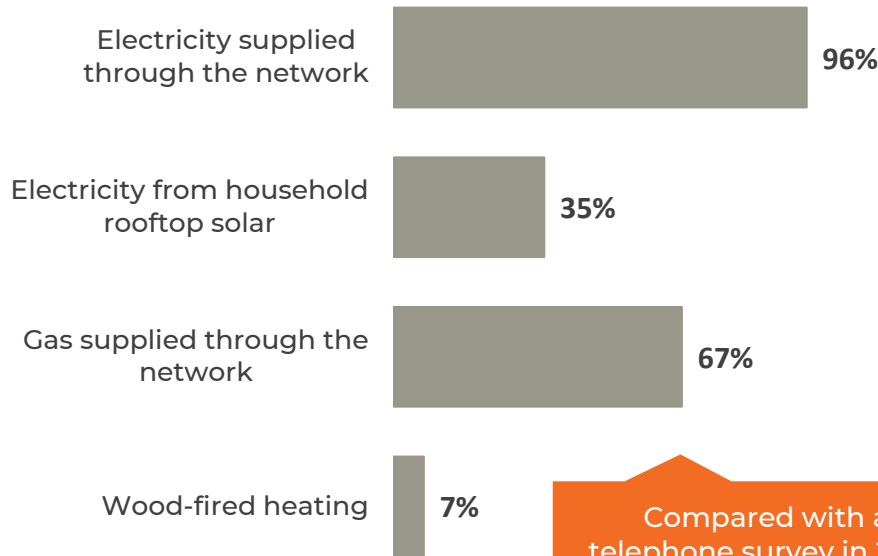
# Current household energy use

# Gas from the network is reportedly used in two-thirds of households, a decrease from 2019

*Q. First off, which of the following energy sources do you use in your household?*



	DETACHED	SEMI-DETACHED / TOWNHOUSE	UNIT / APARTMENT
Electricity supplied through the network	95%	98%	98%
Electricity from household rooftop solar	46%	28%	5%
Gas supplied through the network	74%	63%	50%
Wood-fired heating	10%	1%	1%

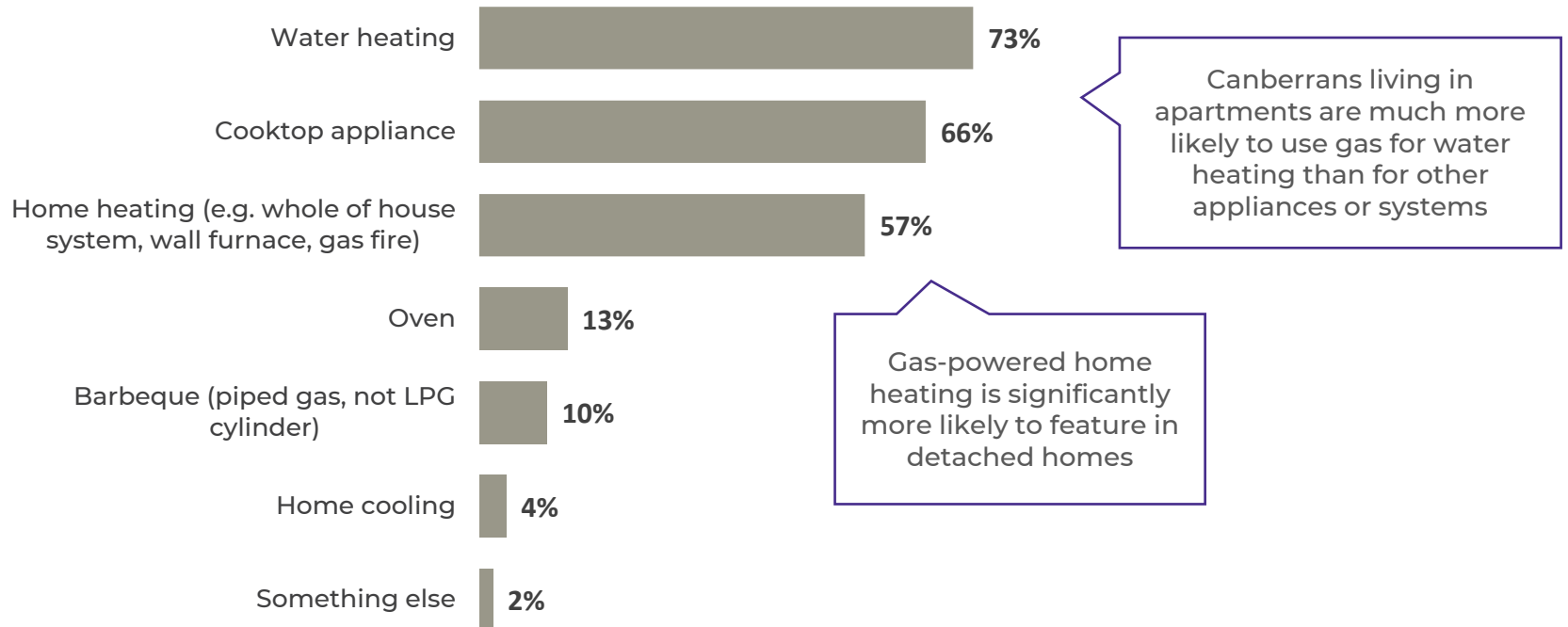


Compared with a telephone survey in 2019, the prevalence of gas in households has decreased from 77% to 67%



# Gas is most commonly used for water heating, followed by cooktop appliances and home heating

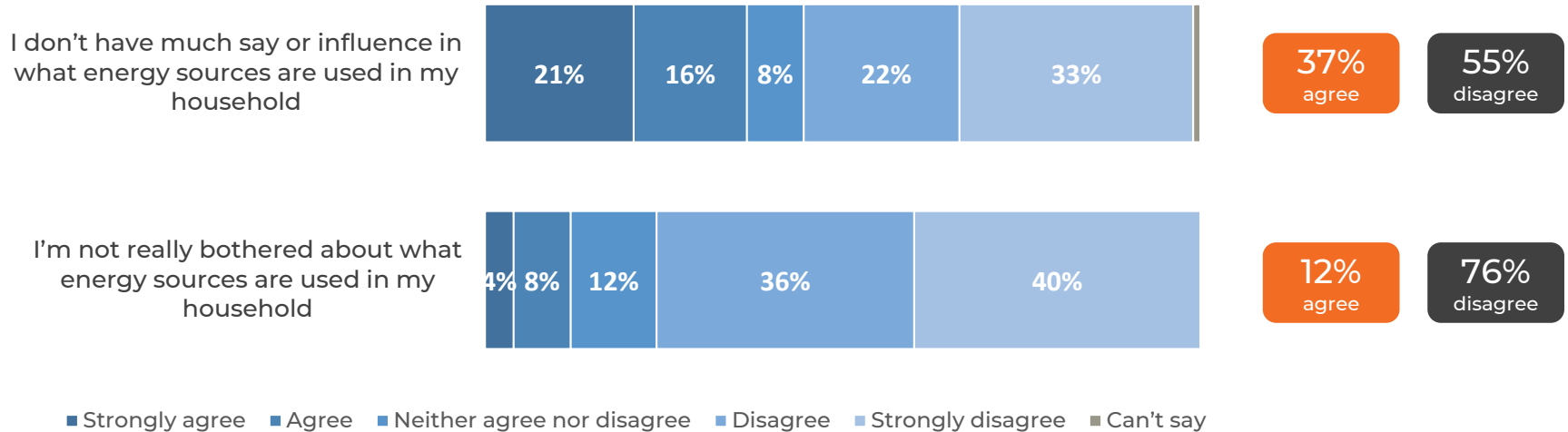
Q. Which appliances in your home use gas?





# More than a third of respondents feel they don't have much agency in terms of the energy sources they use

Q. And how much do you agree or disagree with the following?



Influence and agency in energy choices is consistently lower among renters and apartment-dwellers, as well as those on lower incomes

This tends to be reflected among population groups more likely to be in these situations – i.e. younger, living alone or in group homes

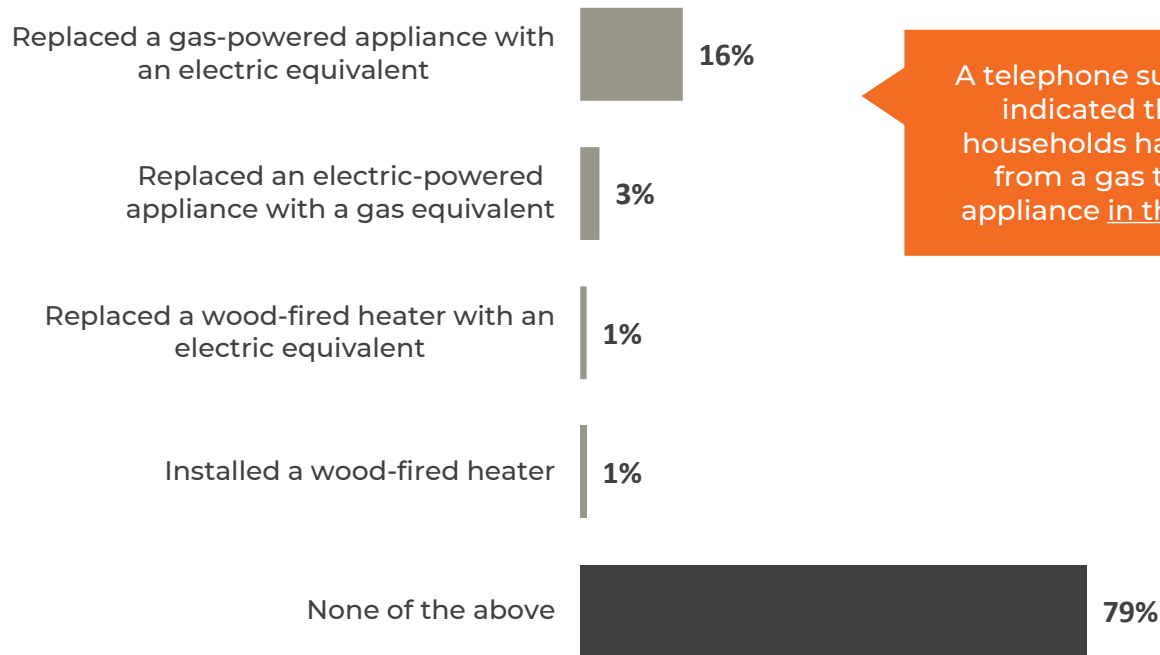
# Transitioning from gas to electricity





# Eight in ten households have not made any transition from gas to electricity in the past few years

*Q. In the last 2-3 years have you done any of the following in your home?*

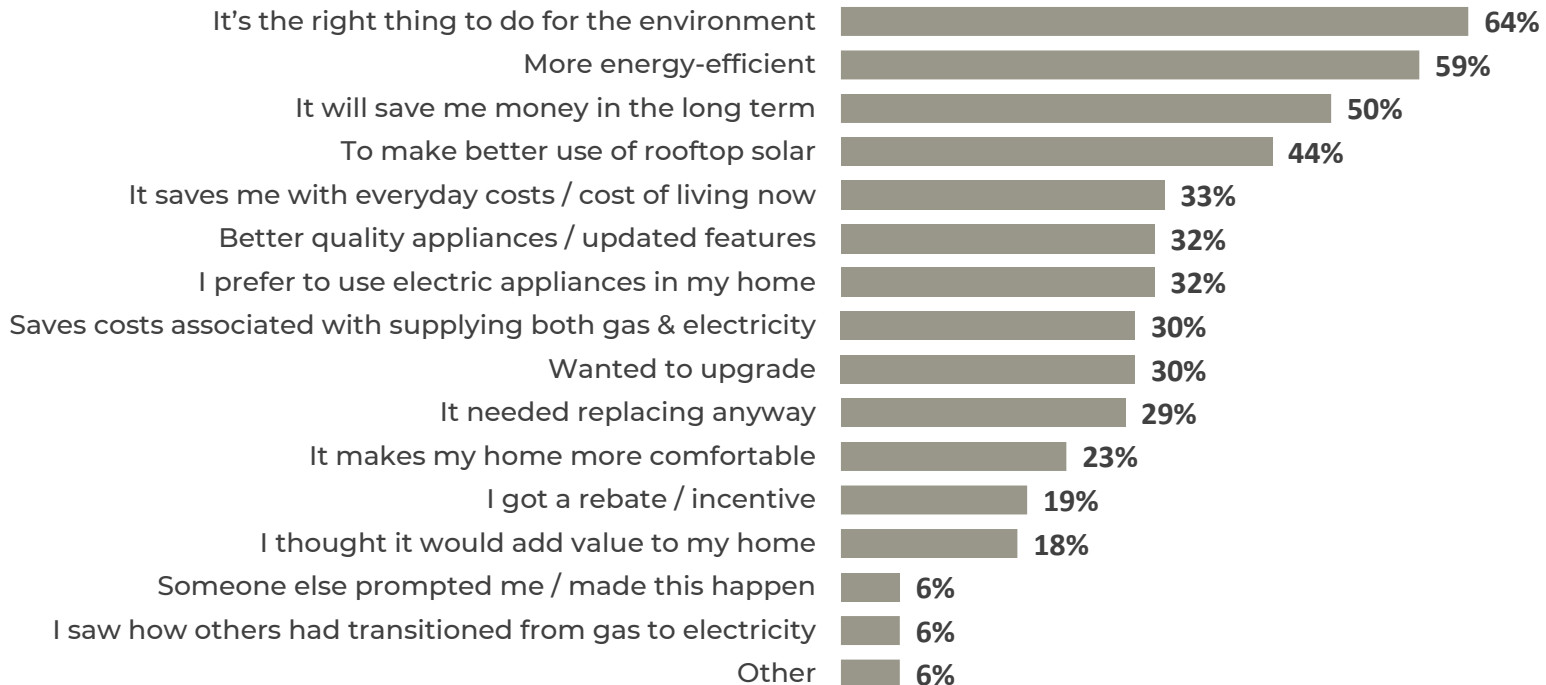


A telephone survey in 2019 indicated that 6% of households had switched from a gas to electric appliance in the past year

Again, dwelling type is a factor in determining likely transition – highest in detached homes and lowest in apartments

# Environmental consideration is the prime driver for having already transitioned from gas to electricity

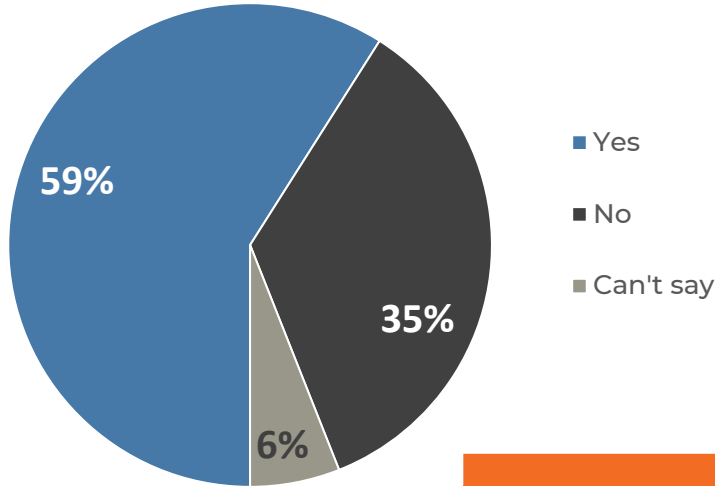
*Q. What prompted you to switch from gas to electric appliance/s?*





## Of those still with gas in the household, six in ten have considered switching to electricity

*Q. Have you considered switching from gas to electricity in your home?*



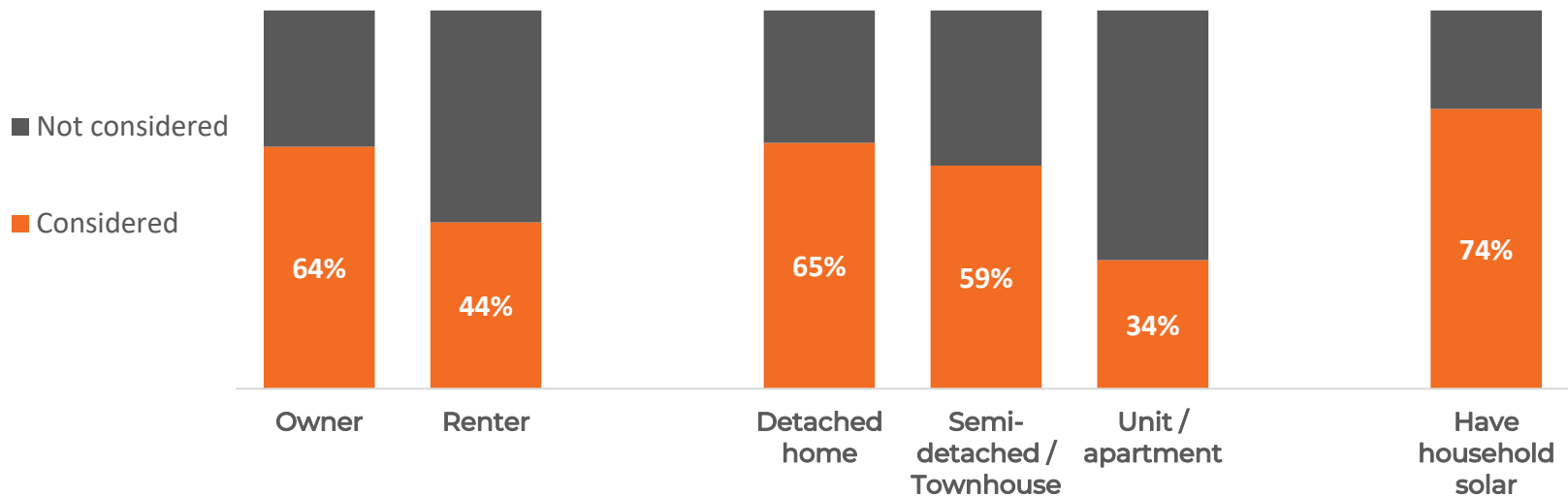
### Why not considered?

- Little choice / control – i.e. renting, in apartment block
- Much prefer cooking with gas
- Everything works well, no need
- Cost and effort of changing things
- Don't see any benefit / incentive to do so

Research on the YourSay Panel in late 2020 indicated that 53% of homeowners had considered switching



## Consideration to switch is often related to the nature of dwelling and home ownership

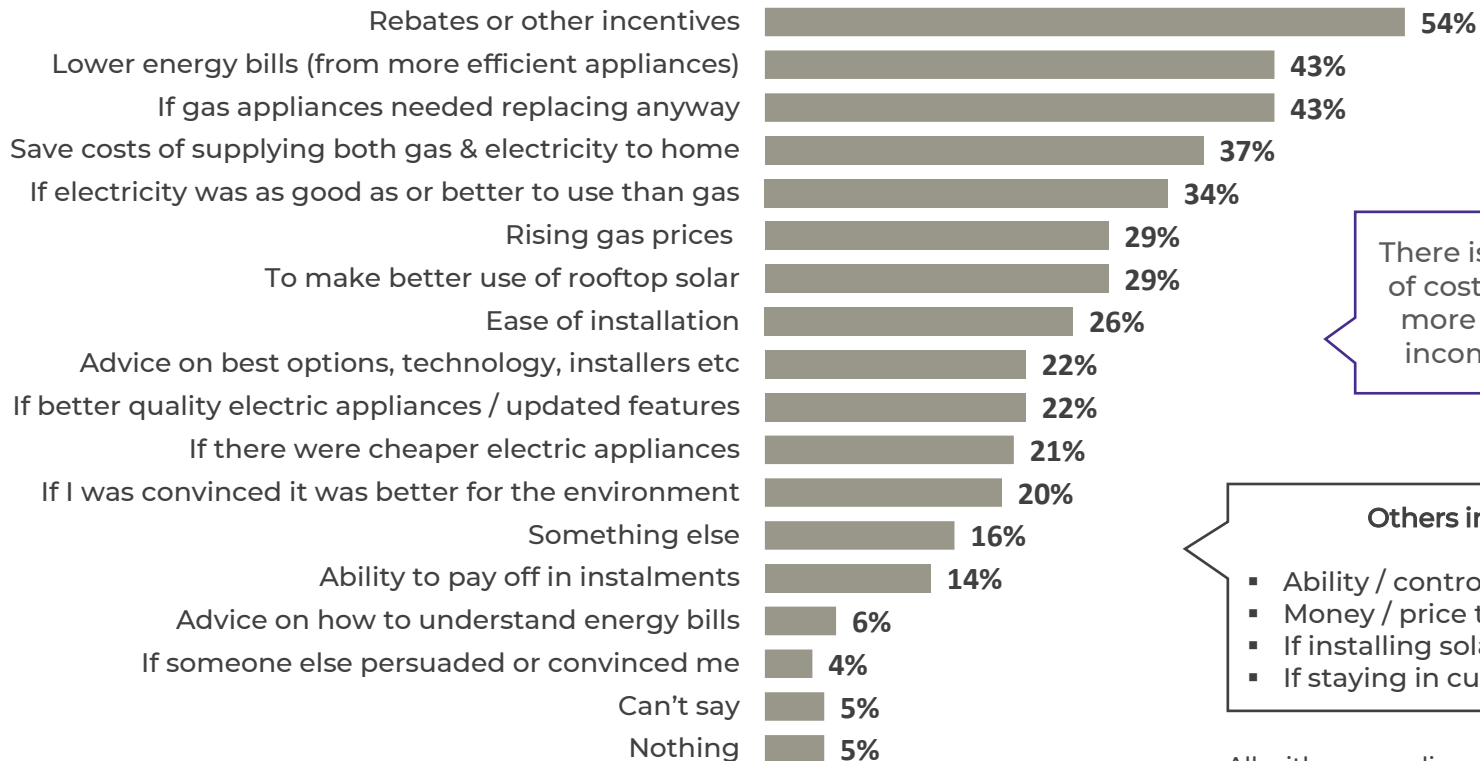


Correspondingly, younger  
Canberrans tend to be  
less likely to have  
considered switching



# Financial drivers appear the most resonant in motivating consideration to switch from gas to electricity

*Q. What, if anything, would encourage you to convert your gas appliances to electric?*



There is a slight trend of cost factors being more influential as income decreases

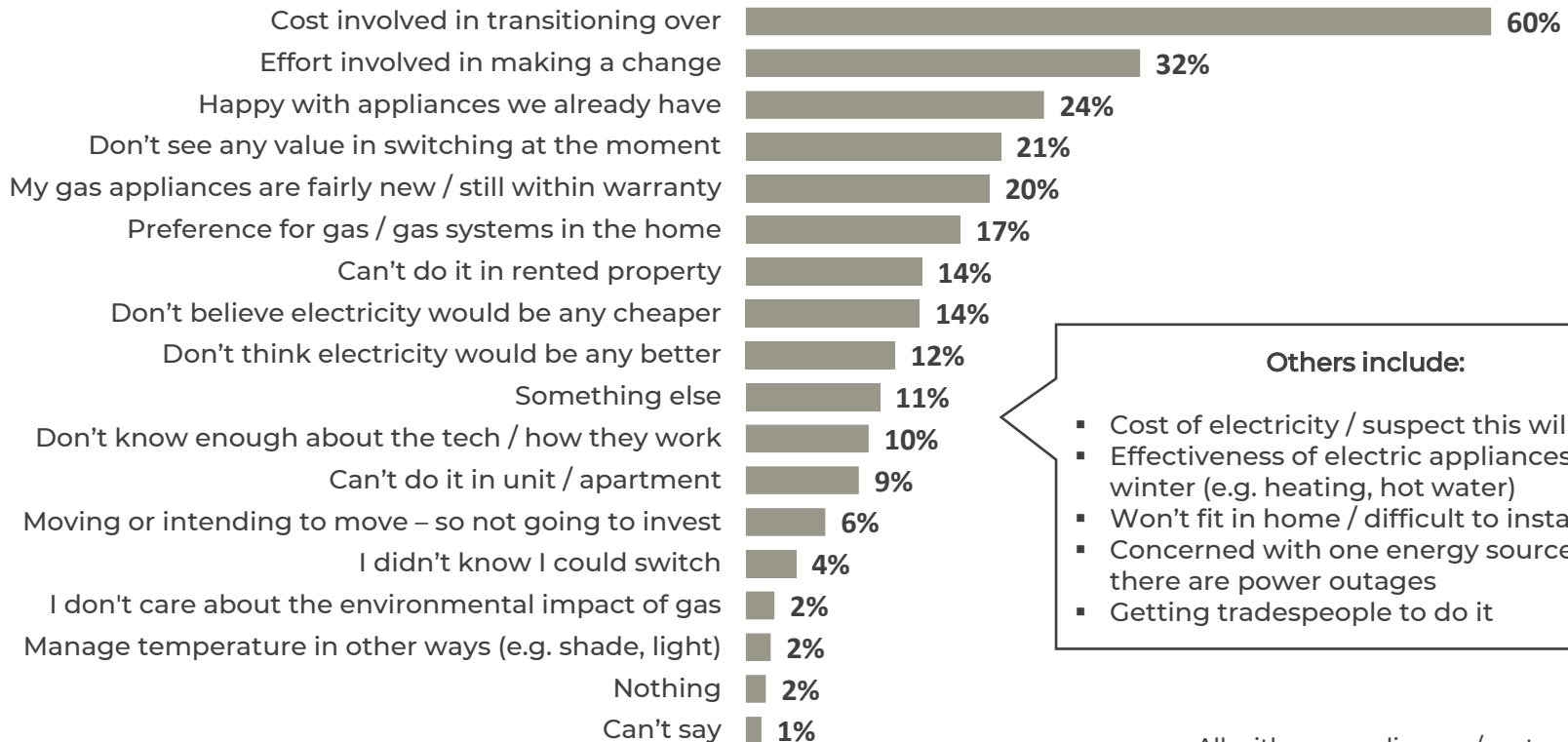
- Others include:**
- Ability / control / permission
  - Money / price to do it
  - If installing solar
  - If staying in current home

All with gas appliances / systems n=1275



# And perceived cost outlay emerges as the largest barrier to householders making the switch

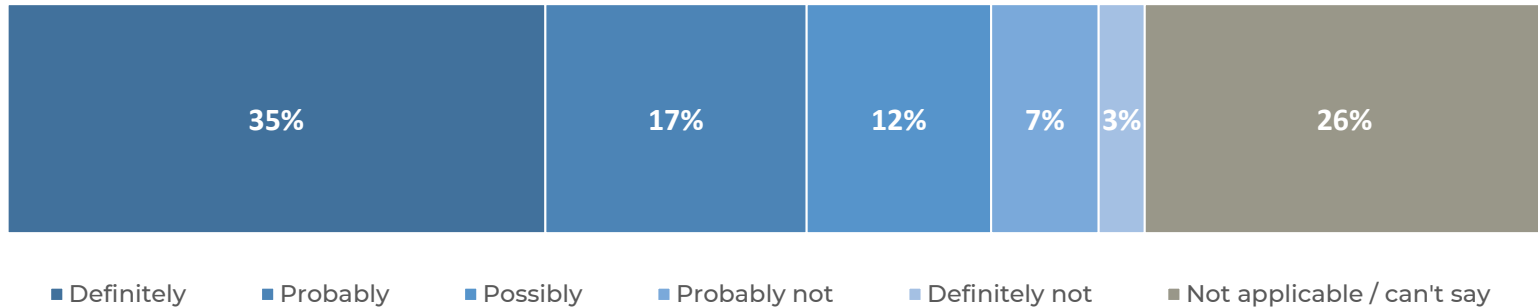
*Q. And what, if anything, would make it difficult for you to convert your gas appliances to electric?*





## Around one in ten would likely rule out moving to a home with electricity as the only energy source

Q. *Would you consider buying or moving to a home that only has electricity as an energy source?*



Excluding not applicable responses, the proportion who say they would definitely or probably consider this is 70% - this compares with 49% in 2019 research

Canberrans aged between 25-44 are the most likely to definitely consider this option in the future

Common reasons not to consider this are a preference for cooking with gas, desire for multiple energy options and more important priorities in housing choice

# Attitudes and awareness of gas transition



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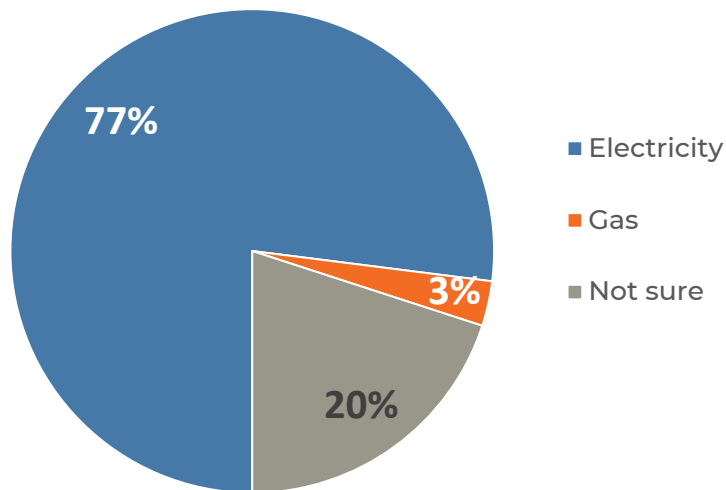
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## Around three-quarters of respondents consider electricity as the better energy source for the environment

Q. Which do you think is better for the environment as an energy source?



A telephone survey in 2019 showed a less conclusive picture, with 23% saying gas was better for the environment

Those who have not considered switching from gas to electricity are more likely to report uncertainty around which is the better energy source for the environment (34%)



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The provision of electricity via renewable sources is the main reason this is perceived as better for the environment

### Why is electricity better?

Can be generated from renewable sources

Can harness rooftop solar

Gas is a finite resource

Drawing on ACT renewable generation / offsets

Cleaner, less pollution

The experts say so

### Why unsure?

Depends on the electricity source

Both have pros and cons

Whole lifecycle impacts (e.g. exploration, construction)

Mixed messaging from governments

Genuinely don't know / not thought about it

### Why is gas better?

Better than coal

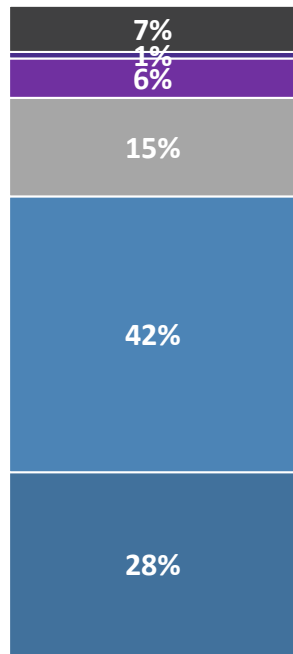
It's natural / abundant

The 'least worse' option

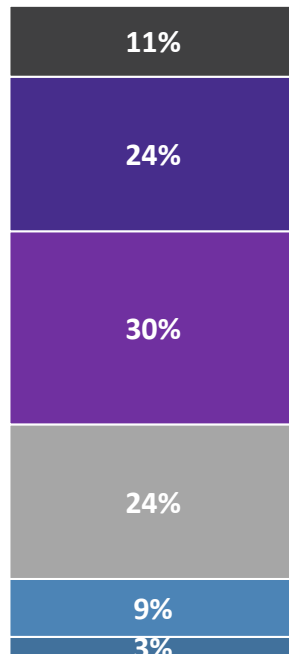


# Large majority view gas as a significant source of emissions as opposed to a clean transition fuel

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?



Gas is a significant source of emissions



Gas is a clean transition fuel

- Can't say
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

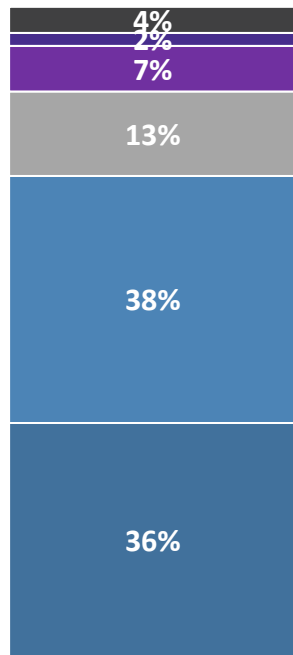
**70%**  
Agree gas is a significant source of emissions

**12%**  
Agree gas is a clean transition fuel

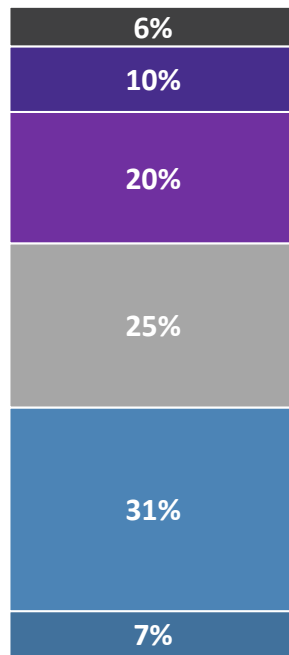


# Majority view that gas will become redundant in future but still plays a role in meeting current energy needs

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?



Gas will become increasingly redundant in the future



Gas plays an important role in meeting energy needs

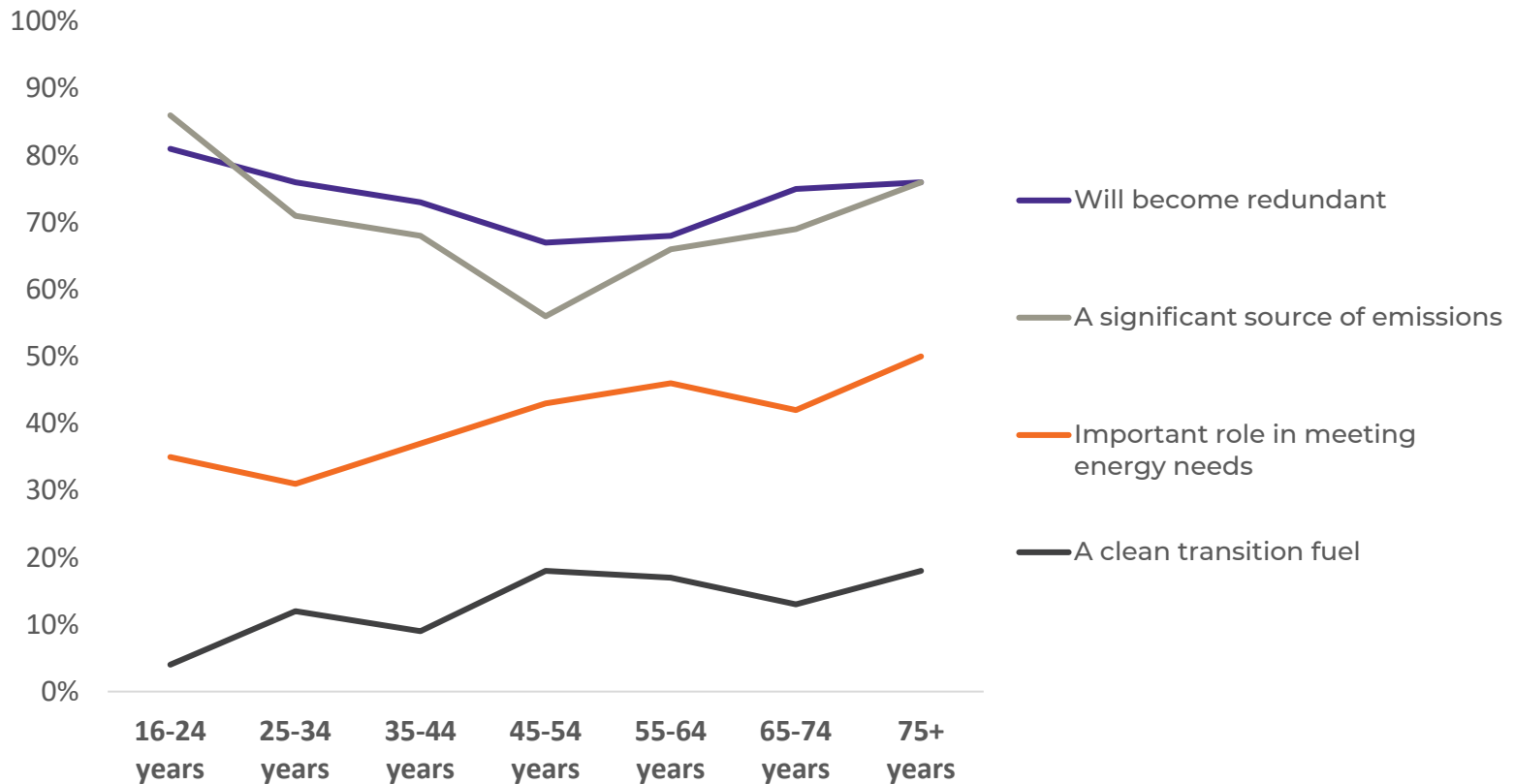
- Can't say
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

**74%**  
Agree gas will become  
redundant in future

**38%**  
Agree gas plays an  
important role in  
meeting energy needs



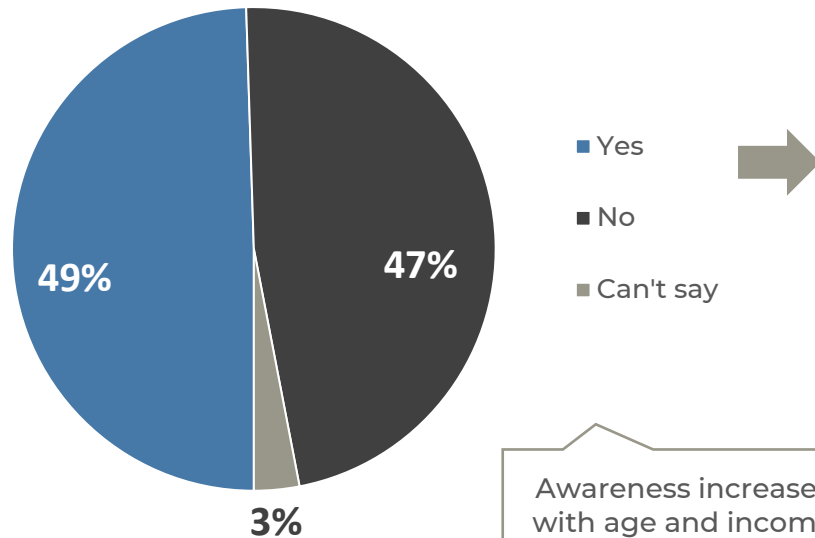
## Perspectives on the role and impact of gas vary by age





## Half of respondents are aware of activities to encourage transition from gas, including loans and gas-free suburbs

*Q. Before today, were you aware of any activities or plans to encourage Canberrans to switch from gas to electricity?*



Awareness increases with age and income and is higher among home owners than renters

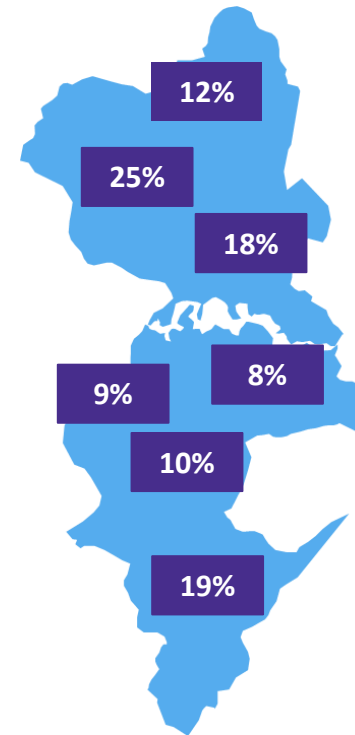
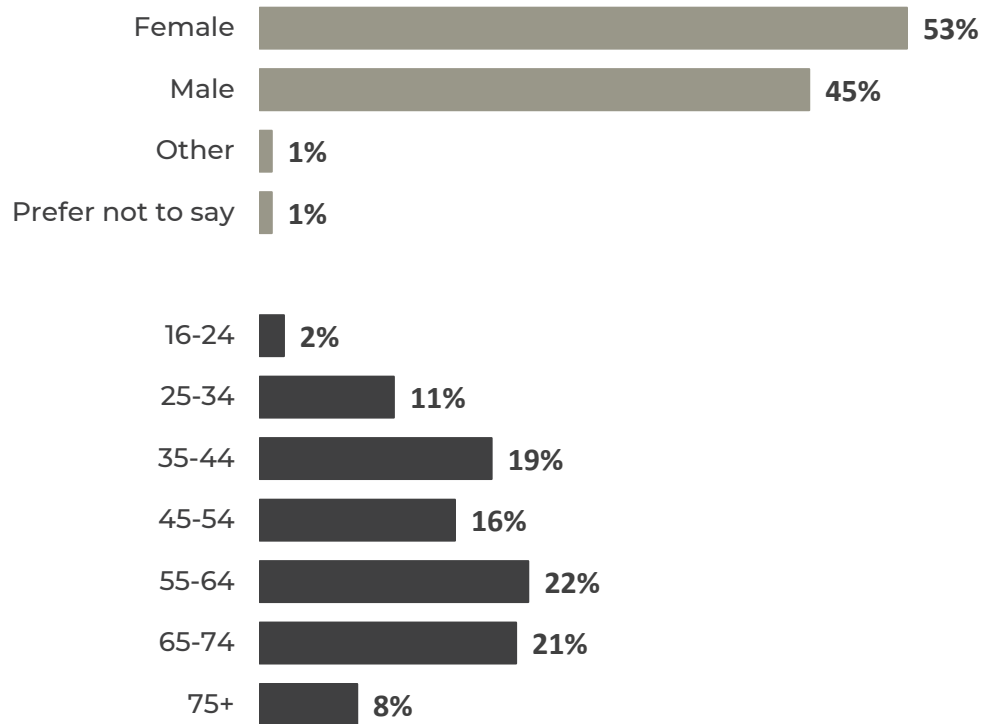
### What aware of?

- Rebates / grants / incentives in general
- Interest-free loans scheme
- New suburbs without gas
- Energy efficiency programs
- Solar panel schemes
- ACTEWAGL rebate
- Gas phase out / plan to be gas free

# Appendix



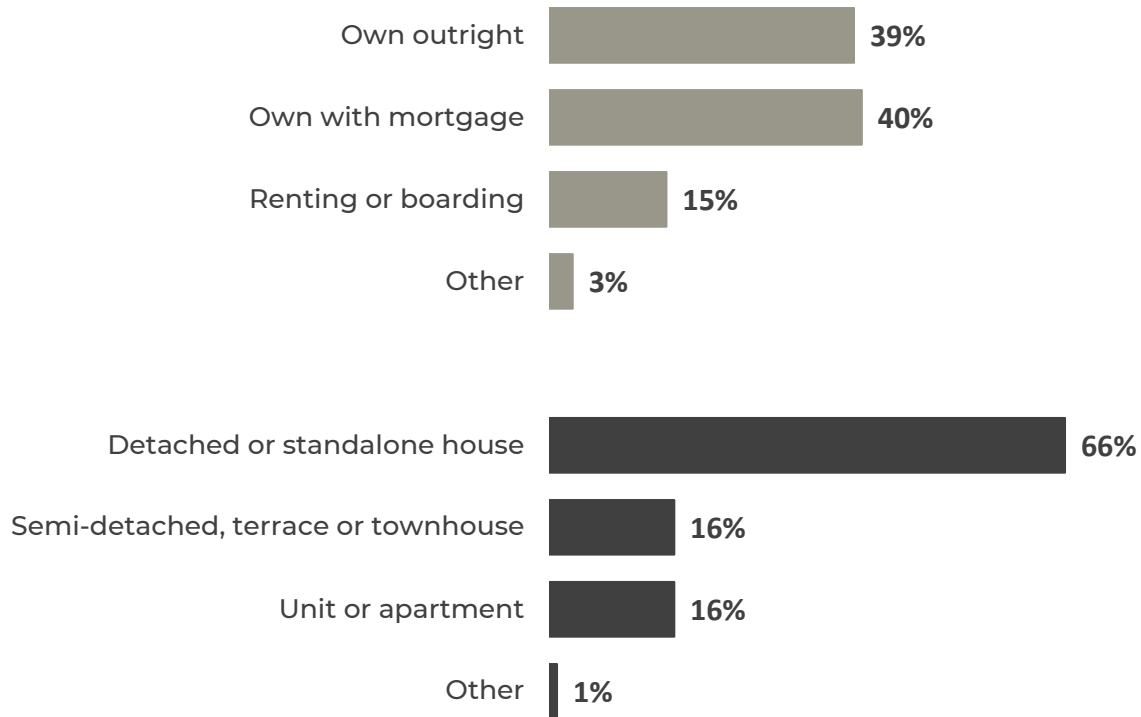
## Survey sample profile (unweighted)







## Housing situation (unweighted)





## About the YourSay Panel

- Around **6,000** Panel members have signed up to have their say through the YourSay Community Panel
- The Panel captures the pulse of the community at a given point in time through regular online surveys about a range of topics
- Panellists are recruited through a mix of online and offline channels but must have internet access and an email account to take part
- The Panel closely resembles the overall ACT population by age, gender, region as well as a range of other demographic characteristics
- Members are invited to take part in approximately two activities per month and participation is completely voluntary
- The membership base is highly active with around 4 in 10 members completing each survey on average
- Regular checks are made to ensure results are accurate by comparing them to other independent survey research

**5,873**

Current members

**40%**

Survey response rate

**88%**

Active in past 12 months

**40+**

Major surveys completed



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