



Merricks Beach Resident Survey 2025

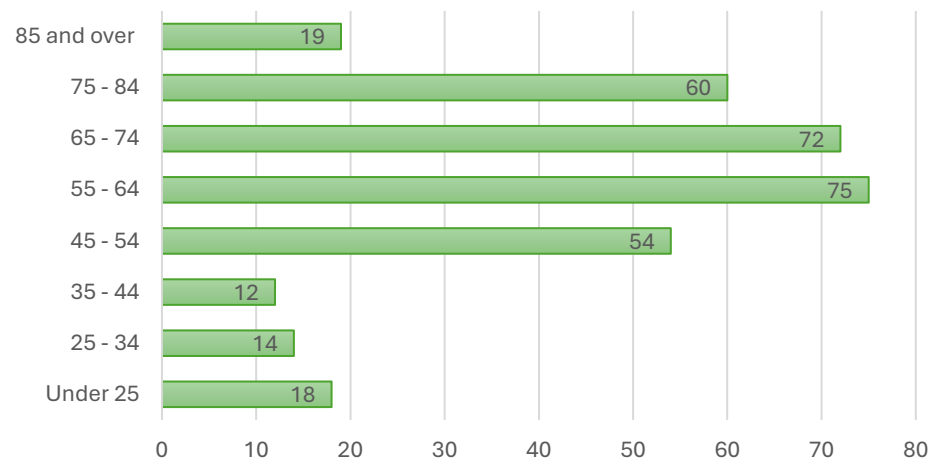


Overall Survey Summary

- The survey was open from 23rd Feb – 8th April 2025 (44 days)
N.B. survey was not accessible for approx. 4 days therefore end date was extended
- The survey was open to all residents of Merricks Beach, not just members of MBRA and allowed for multiple responses per household.
- 324 surveys were completed – 302 via online tool, 22 paper copies (n=92 in the 2015 survey)
- 70% of the survey responders were aged 55 years and above
- The highest number of responders (23%) were aged 55 – 64
- The majority are retired (36%), employed full-time (32%) & self-employed (15%)
- 46% of responders are frequent residents, 32% permanent residents & 20% holiday makers
- Not all non-mandatory questions were answered
- While there is significant appreciation and positive feedback for the committee's efforts, there are also notable concerns and areas for improvement highlighted by the respondents

Demographic Information

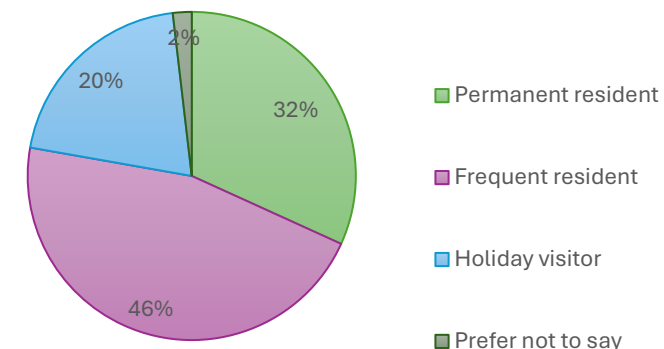
Q1: What is your age?



Q2: What is your employment status?



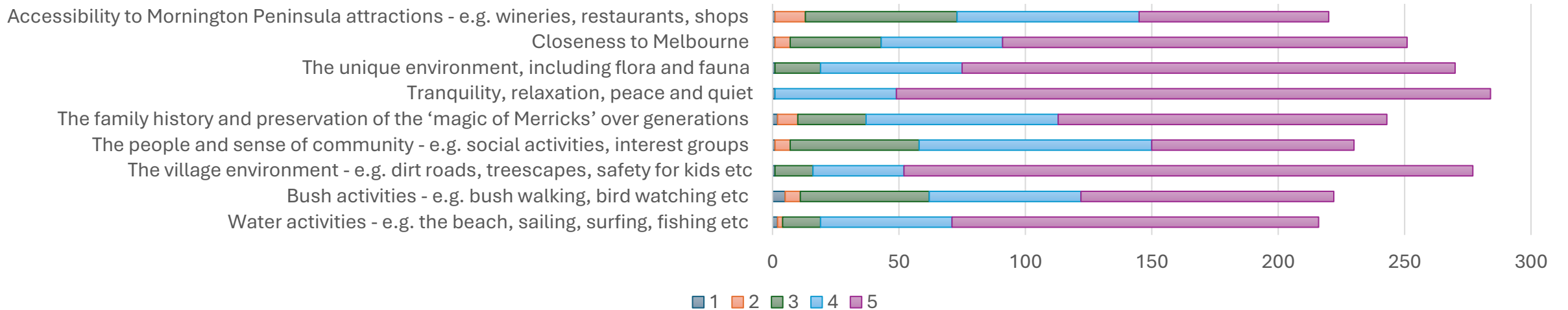
Q3: Are you a permanent, frequent (non-permanent) resident or holiday maker?



- **70%** of the survey responders are **aged above 55 years** compared to **35%*** across Mornington Peninsula shire (*ABS data 2023)
- People **aged 55-64** are the highest proportion of **frequent residents** (61%) and **70%** of them are **working** (either full time or self-employed)
- The highest number of **permanent residents** fall within the **65 – 74 age** bracket with **69%** of them being **retired**

Merricks Beach Residents Association

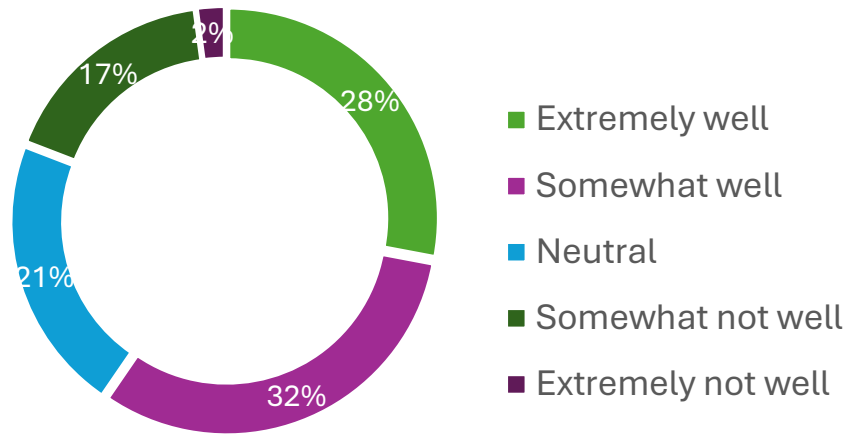
Q4: On a scale from 1 (value least) to 5 (value most), what do you value most about Merricks Beach?



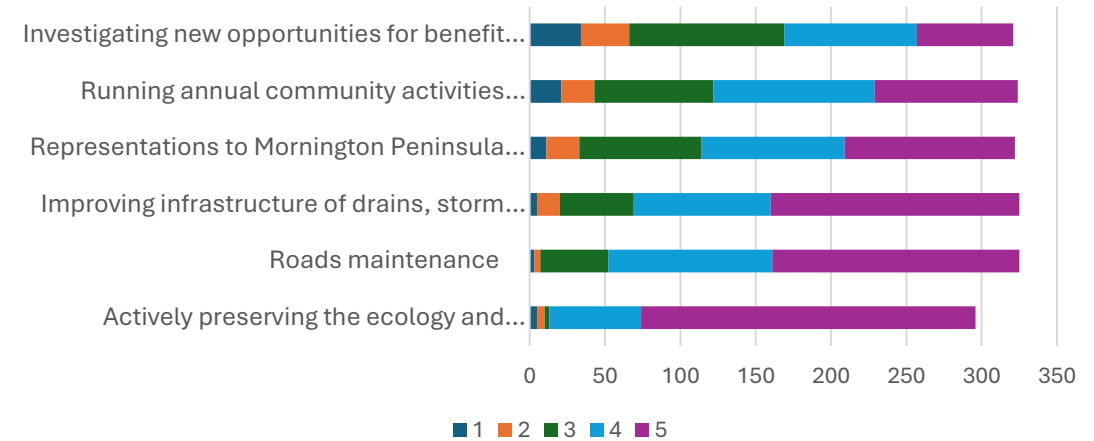
- 'Tranquillity, peace and quiet', 'the village environment' and 'unique flora & fauna' were **valued most** by the respondents (**82%**)
- This has remained consistent since the last survey was completed in 2015, where **78%** also valued these areas most

Merricks Beach Residents Association

Q5: How well do you think the MBRA fulfills its purposes?



Q6: On a scale from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), please rate the aspects that are most important to you for the current MBRA focus areas



- **194** (60%) respondents believe the MBRA fulfils its purpose **somewhat** or **extremely well**. This has decreased since the 2015 survey where the same categories were rated at **79%**
- In 2015, **7%** rated the MBRA as ‘somewhat not well and below’, compared to 61 (**19%**) in 2025
- Actively preserving the ecology and environment of Merricks Beach remains **most important** to the community, as well as road maintenance & improving infrastructure. This has remained consistent across both surveys.

Q7: Are there other focus areas that you think the MBRA should prioritise?

Summary of key themes provided in free text



Speeding and Traffic Safety: Many residents expressed concerns about speeding vehicles and the need for better traffic management, including speed bumps, reduced speed limits, and better enforcement of existing speed limits.



Environmental Preservation: There is a strong emphasis on preserving the natural environment, including protecting native flora and fauna, preventing overdevelopment, and maintaining the unique character of Merricks Beach whilst also reducing bushfire risk and fuel load in the foreshore.



Infrastructure Improvements: Suggestions for improving infrastructure include better road maintenance, installing reticulated water, enhancing drainage systems & improving telecommunications.



Community Engagement and Communication: Residents highlighted the need for better communication and consultation with the community, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.



Recreational Facilities: Opinions were divided on the installation of a basketball ring, with some supporting it for providing additional recreational opportunities and others opposing it due to concerns about noise and environmental impact.



Dog Control & Cat Management: Residents expressed varied opinions on general pet management within the village.

Q8: Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve in any of these areas or any others?

Summary of key themes provided in free text



Speed and Traffic Management:

Suggestions include installing speed bumps, reducing speed limits, and implementing better traffic control measures to ensure pedestrian safety and reduce dust.



Environmental Conservation:

Recommendations for preserving the natural environment, such as planting more native trees, protecting existing vegetation, and educating residents about environmental stewardship.



Infrastructure Enhancements:

Proposals for improving infrastructure, including better road maintenance, installing reticulated water, enhancing drainage systems & improving mobile/internet connection.



Community Engagement and Activities:

Ideas for increasing community involvement and social activities, such as organising educational seminars, community events, and improving communication channels.



Recreational Facilities:

Mixed opinions on the installation of a basketball ring, with some residents suggesting alternative locations or additional recreational facilities like a multi-purpose court instead of 2 tennis courts, bike paths and walking tracks.

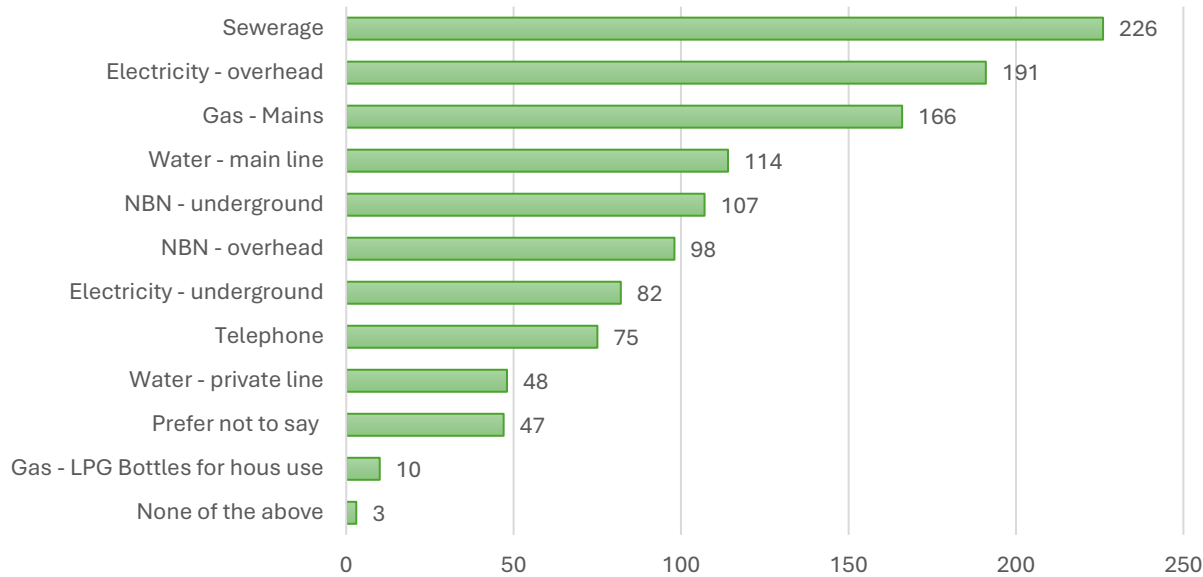


Dog Control & Cat Management:

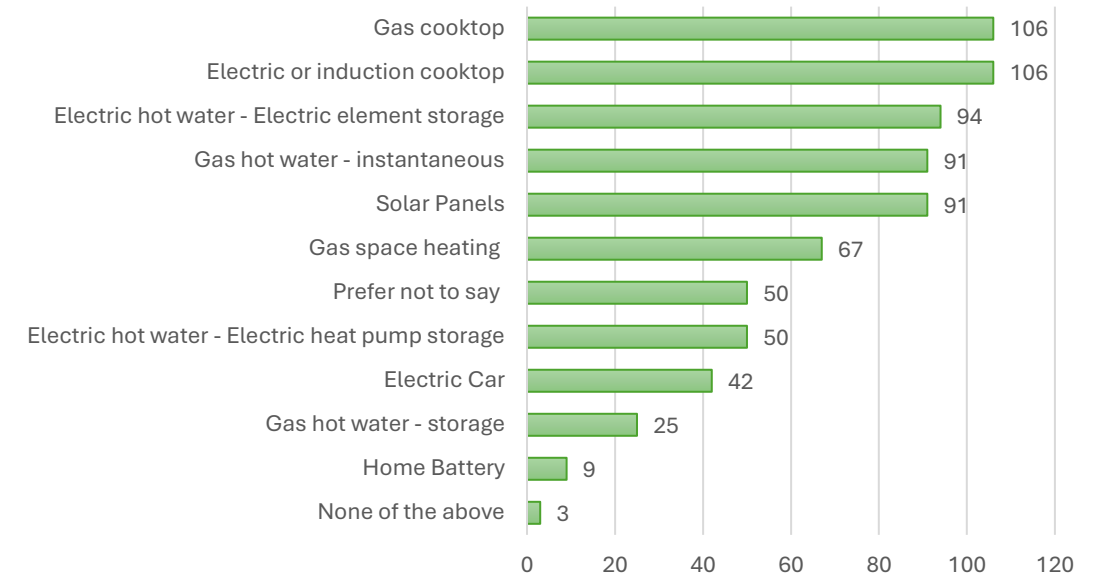
Key points include keeping dogs on leashes, especially at the beach, addressing issues with roaming dogs, considering designated off-leash areas or times, educating residents on keeping cats indoors or contained, and enforcing the Council's cat curfew.

Service Connection

Q9: Which services do you have connected?



Q10: Do you have any of the following?

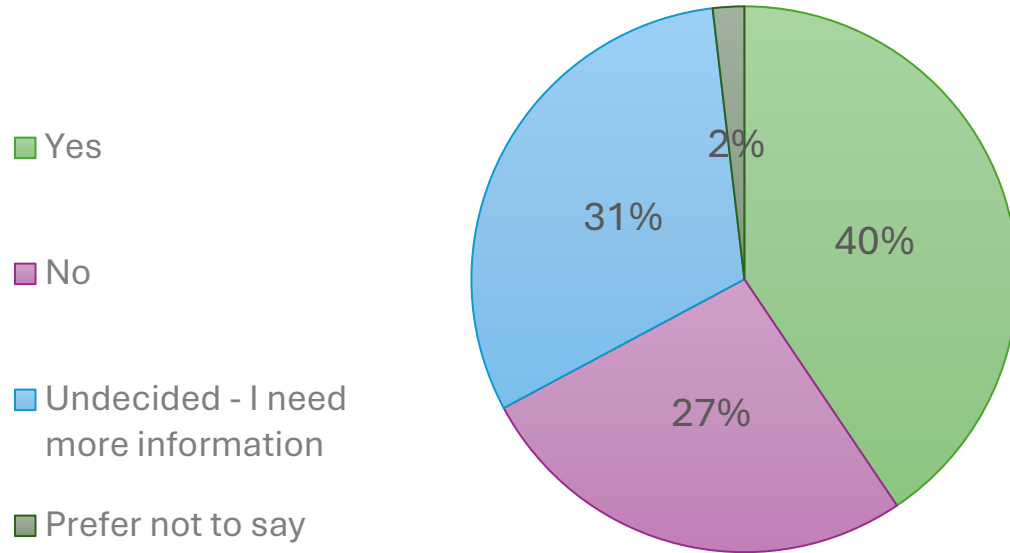


- **Sewerage** is the most connected service (**70%**), followed by **overhead electricity (59%)** and **mains gas (51%)**
- There is an **even split** between those who have **electric** versus **gas cooktops**
- Less than **3%** have a **home battery**, only **13%** own an **electric car** however **28%** have **solar panels**

Views of the Community – Water

40% of respondents think MBRA should provide information on accessing reticulated water

Q11: Do you think the MBRA should play a role in providing information to people wishing to access reticulated water (through South East Water or private lines)?

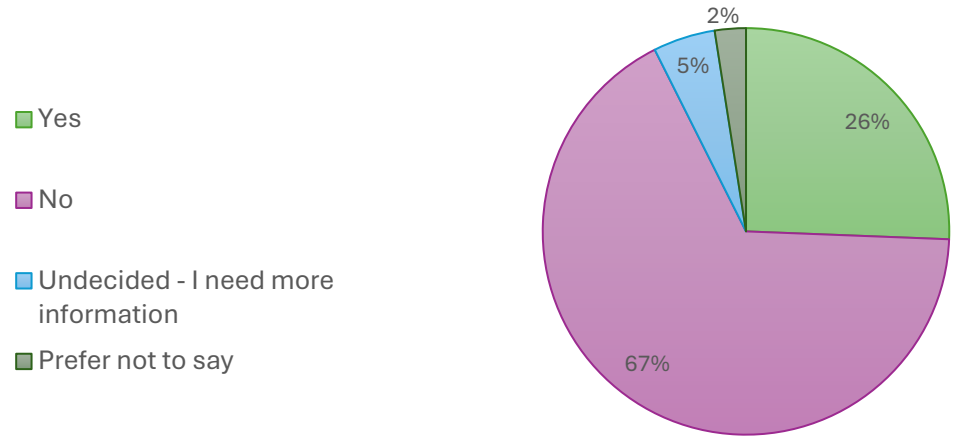


- **131**(40%) respondents thought the MBRA **should** play a role in providing information on access to reticulated water. 70% were aged from 55 to 84, 1/4 in the 55-64 cohort. 48% were frequent residents and 40% permanent residents.
- **100** (31%) were **undecided** and needed more information. 64% were aged 45 to 74, the biggest group were aged 55-64 (25%). The majority (46%) were frequent residents.
- **86** (27%) voted ‘**no**’. 25% were in the 65-74 cohort, followed by 20% in the 55-64 cohort. Almost half (48%) were frequent residents and then an even spread of 26% permanent residents & holiday makers.

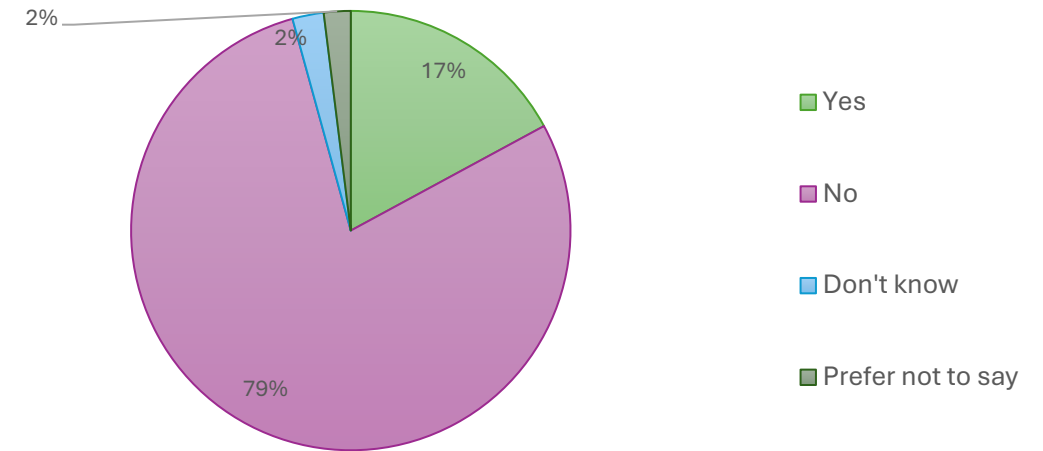
Views of the Community – Basketball ring

67% of survey respondents do not support installation of a basketball ring

Q12: Do you support having a basketball ring installed at the MBRA Recreation Reserve?



Q13: If a basketball ring was installed at that location, do you expect that it would be used by members of your household?



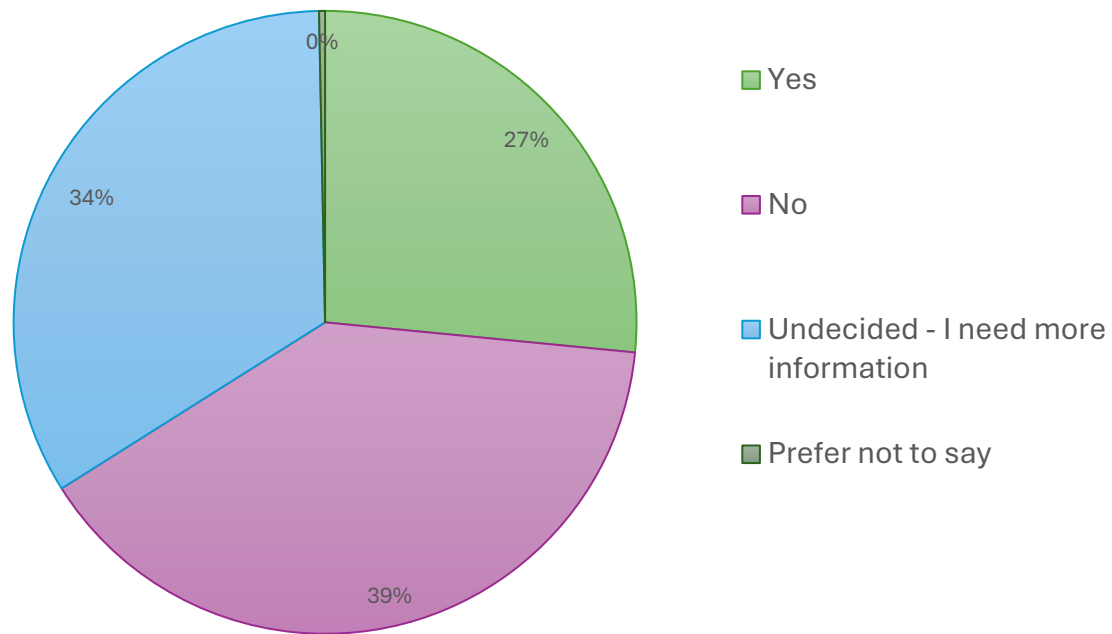
215 (67%) respondents voted ‘**no**’. The majority were aged between 45 - 74. 65-74 years (23%), 55-64 years (20%) & 45-54 years (17%). 16% were aged 34 & under. 43% were frequent residents, 35% permanent residents & 22% holiday makers. Of those who voted ‘no’, 92% expect it would not be used by members of their household, 5% did not know and 2% said it would be used

84 (26%) respondents voted ‘**yes**’. The majority were aged 55-64 years (30%), followed by 65-74 years (21%) & 45-54 years (20%). Only one was aged under 25 and three in the 25-34 years cohort. 25% were permanent residents, 23% frequent residents & 17% holiday makers. Of those who voted ‘yes’, 55% expected it would be used by members of their household, 32% said no & 11% did not know

Views of the Community – Community Battery

More information is needed regarding a community battery as 1/3 ‘undecided’

Q14: Do you support the possibility of installing a community battery in the village?

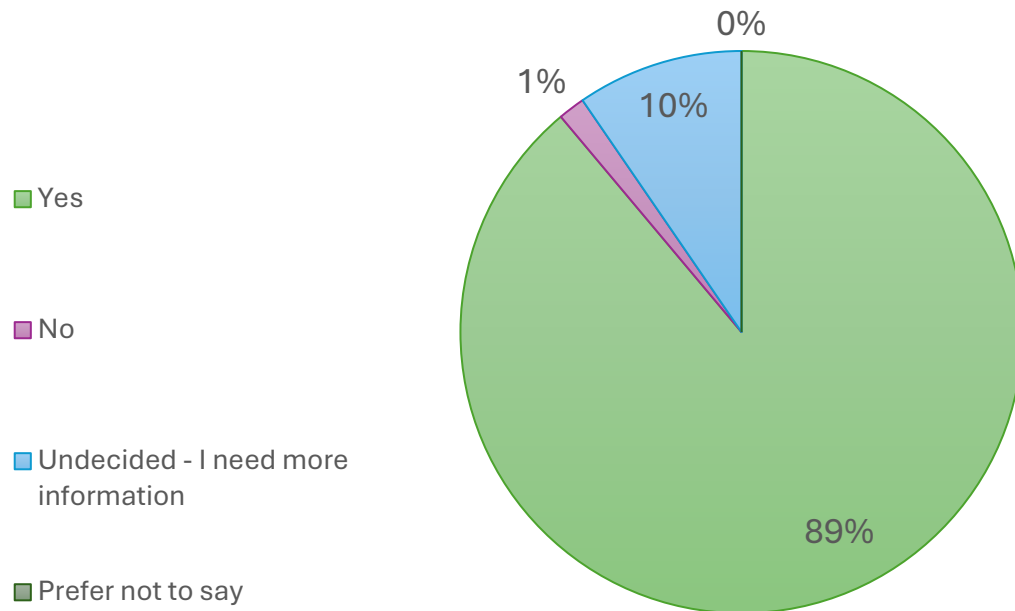


- **128** respondents (39%) **do not** support a community battery with 76% of them being frequent or permanent residents
- **112** (34%) are **‘undecided’**. 70% were frequent or permanent residents
- Of the **85** (27%) who responded **‘yes’**, 89% were frequent or permanent residents

Views of the Community – road safety

90% of the respondents want double lines at the FF & MB road intersection

Q15: Do you support the installation of double lines at the Frankston-Flinders & Merricks Beach Road intersection?

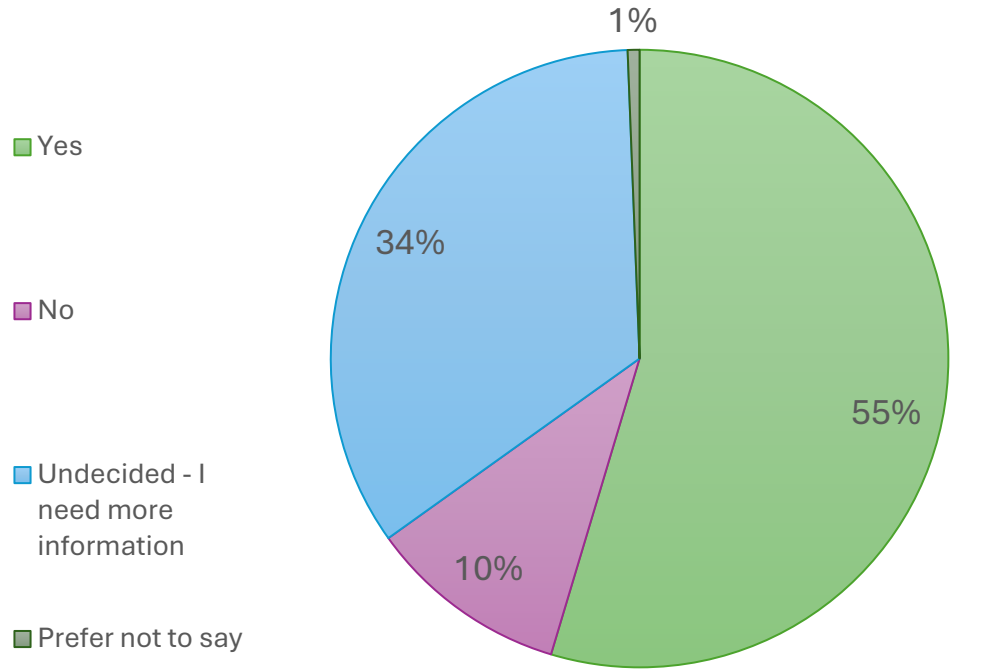


- **288** respondents (89%) voted '**yes**'
- Only **5** people voted '**no**'. Of those, 60% were below 34 years of age
- Of those who were '**undecided**' 38% were frequent residents, 34% holiday makers & 19% permanent residents

Views of the Community – dust suppression

55% of the respondents support dust suppression measures

Q16: Would you support dust suppression measures for the summer season?



- Over half (**55%**) of the respondents **would support** dust suppression measures for the summer season. **81%** of them were permanent or frequent residents
- Of those who voted '**no**', most (57%) were frequent residents
- The majority of people who were '**undecided**' were frequent residents (48%) or holiday visitors (26%)

Views of the Community – accessibility

Two key areas were identified

Q17: If you or one of your household live with a disability, is there anything that would help you access or participate in life at Merricks Beach?

1. Improving beach access:

- Wheelchair/walker access
- Ramps or stair free path
- More handrails on paths
- Shallow steps on paths
- Removal of tripping hazards on paths
- Removal of low hanging tree branches on paths

2. Roads & drains:

- Removal of drain ditches
- More level ground along paths
- Walking paths in the verge along roads