

Budget Estimates

Portfolio Committee No 1 – Premier and Finance

TREASURY

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice

QoN #	Transcript Page	QUESTION
1	14	<p>The Hon. MARK LATHAM: In the last budget there were 145 policy change measures. Do you know how many of those were actual expenditure reductions?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take that on notice, Mr Latham.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The list being referred to relates to incremental measures agreed by the Government in the four months between the 2020-21 Half-Yearly Review (February 2011) and the 2021-22 Budget (June 2021).</p> <p>While the NSW Government did not introduce additional savings measures during this window, agencies are implementing a significant savings process announced in each of the three previous budgets. Measures introduced in this term of Government include wages restraint, an uplift in existing efficiency dividends, election commitment savings and procurement savings. Detail can be found in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018-19 Budget, Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Statement, Chapter 6 – Expenditure, pages 2, 4 and Measures Statement (Chapter 6, page 19) • 2019-20 Budget, Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Statement, Chapter 5 – Expenditure, pages 3-5 and Measures Statement (Chapter 5, page 19) • 2020-21 Budget, Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Statement, Chapter 5 - Expenditure, page 8-9, and Appendix A5 (Measures Statement), page 7.
2	14	<p>The Hon. MARK LATHAM: If I can take you to <i>Budget Paper No. 2</i>, page 9 - 6, it has got a 2021-22 outlays forecast of an expenditure reduction of 2.5 per cent. Is that something you are intending to persevere with?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have the budget paper in front of me but I am very happy to take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>The Hon. MARK LATHAM: But when you say you have got a fiscal recovery plan, is that the sort of expenditure restraint that you have got in mind—a cut of 2.5 per cent, as set out in this budget paper from the June budget?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take that on notice, but obviously we are looking at options to improve the State's financial position in a way that supports the economy.</p>

		RESPONSE
		Section 5.2 in Budget Paper 1 provides analysis on the expenditure profile over the budget year and forward estimates. The projection for 2022-23 is an annual expense reduction of 3.8%. The predominant driver of this change is a reduction in 'other operating expenses' as temporary stimulus and support measures are phased out.
3	18	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Rest assured, as a result of your answer, I will taking it up with SIRA as to why last week they denied getting it. Treasurer, did you or icare share that with the Premier's office?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: The valuation?</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Yes.</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: No, I have not seen the valuation.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: But has anyone from your office shared it with the Premier's office?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: Not to my knowledge. I am happy to take that on notice for you.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Could you? Anyone from Treasury?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Not to my knowledge either, Mr Mookhey, no.</p>
		RESPONSE
		No.
4	19	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you. Treasurer, given that we now know that you are getting—or at least someone is getting—regular reports, can you tell us what the underwriting result for the Nominal Insurer was for the financial year 2020-21?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I cannot tell you that off the top of my head. We are happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Does Mr Pratt have it, or does Mr Harding have it?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Mr Harding should have that.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The underwriting result was a loss of \$1.417 billion for 30 June 2021.

5	20	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you. One of the more notorious of icare contracts was with the IVE Group. This is, of course, a group that was run by the former president of the NSW Liberal Party—still is. They got a \$21 million contract from icare without tender. Are you aware of that? It was prominently reported last year.</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I have read the great work that you have done with Adele Ferguson and whatnot, and obviously—</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Good, so you have some familiarity with what I am talking about.</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I do not think anyone is sitting here condoning the poor practice when it came to procurement of icare, and that is exactly what McDougall has sought to stamp out. The Government should give full effect to those recommendations. That is what we intend to do.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: The reason I am asking you about this specific contract with the IVE Group, as run by the former president of the NSW Liberal Party, which got \$20 million worth of work without tender, is because it turns out they have picked up another \$3 million contract without tender. How can you honestly be saying anything is changing there? I provided you the contract, so you have it. How can you honestly be saying that anything is changing at icare when you are making the same mistakes again with the same people?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: It is not good enough. I do not accept it, and we are not going to allow this to happen. We are currently consulting on the legislation, on the recommendations of McDougall. I am happy to take that issue on notice, but I am not going to comment on things that I have not seen. I am not going to have your surprise attacks—</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: No, it is not a surprise.</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: —for your TikTok videos and things like that. Ms Jackson—I was hoping she would be here to whip one up for me.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Treasurer, this is a serious matter, right? Again, the same procurement practice is being repeated. I appreciate you are going to take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I accept the premise of your question. It is not good enough, and I will come back to you with how we will deal with issues like that so the public can have confidence that money going to the public insurer is going to where it is intended, and that is supporting injured workers and getting them back to work.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Mr Mookhey referred to the IVE Group having, “picked up another \$3 million contract without tender”, to argue that improvements are not being made at icare. I am advised that the \$3 million contract was executed prior to the McDougall Review.</p>
6	25	<p>Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Minister, Mr Harding says that has been put in place. Between August last year and now, despite that, the four-week return-to-work rate has deteriorated even further—from 69 per cent, it is now at 63 per cent. Were you aware that, despite Mr Harding’s statements to that effect, things had got dramatically worse in the past 12 months?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: No, I was not. But I appreciate you raising these issues and they are going to be top of mind in finding out how we are going to address it. The four-week return-to-work rate is appalling and needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed faster than we are currently seeing it done. So I will come back to you on that, Mr Shoebridge, about what we are going to do.</p>

		RESPONSE
		<p>icare is focused on improving Return to Work at four weeks and later durations by way of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing caseloads at EML (from 72 in January 2020 to 59 in July 2020 to 53 by October 2021) and additional (80) FTE managing claims over that period. Lower caseloads will be maintained through 2022 to continue to focus on uplift of return to work performance and maintain current strong service levels. • Deploying 22 additional case management coaches across EML to provide support to uplift capability of case managers. Over 900 coaching sessions are being delivered on average every month. • Hiring/ onboarding 14 additional mobile claims managers to support injured workers return to the workplace (373 face to face interactions occurred with customers in October 2021, with in-person visits recommencing as COVID restrictions ease). Mobile case managers are located in regional locations such as Port Macquarie and Goulburn as well as metropolitan areas. There will be an expansion of mobile case management and geographical coverage in regional NSW in 2022. • Investing in professional development of case managers with onboarding programs for case managers and claims advisors including technical training, “diamond support” development of specialist team and leader roles, PIAWE capability uplift training and tailored whole person impairment training. <p>The proportion of EML staff with more than two years tenure has increased from 20% at the start of 2020 to 44% at October 2021.</p> <p>icare’s oversight comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly governance and performance meetings with all Claims Service Providers, focused on return to work and other performance indicators. This includes a specific focus on the four-week measure. • Performance Management Registers to track progress against agreed improvement actions to be taken by Claims Service Providers as a term of their contract. • icare claims specialists regular reviews of targeted claim cohorts which are considered at risk, particularly where there is a recognised risk of delayed return to work. Over 11,000 claim reviews have been undertaken with recommendations for action provided to Claims Service Providers.

		Recent reviews have focused on early intervention, with a focus on the first four weeks of claims management. These reviews are aimed at improving injury management planning, return to work capacity, early intervention rehabilitation services, workplace assessments, return to work plans, medical case conferences, early treatment, building capacity and stakeholder contacts.
7	36	<p>Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Forestry Corporation's hardwood sector is financially marginal at best. It made a substantial loss, in fact, over the past decade. As Treasurer and shareholder Minister, and given the huge economic value of forests as carbon stores, as recreational areas, as well as the ecological values, what will you do and will you get to Treasury to look at the business case for maintaining a native part of the forestry sector in New South Wales versus a transition out of that type of logging?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will take that on notice. Obviously, there are a number of considerations when it comes to Forestry Corporation and the timber industry and the impact that will have on local economies. There are a number of local communities that rely heavily on the hardwood timber industry. We need to balance the needs of the environment with the needs of those communities who rely on those jobs and those opportunities. It is a very difficult area of public policy, Mr Field. But I think you will see that in my other role as the Minister for Energy and Environment we try to make decisions that get that balance as right as possible. We will work through that process. I will work through that with the Deputy Premier.</p> <p>Mr JUSTIN FIELD: If you could take on notice, Minister, any modelling or research that Treasury has done with regard to a potential transition? I know there were some considerations around the privatisation discussion. Any modelling that has been done around transition of native forest logging would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I, obviously, care deeply about the environment and these forests. But we should not be doing things that are going to leave workers or industries or communities worse off. That is my commitment. So we need to work through these processes and be very sympathetic to those people that harvest timber, that resource, for the benefit of themselves, their communities and our economy. We need to make sure that we protect them, and that is what I will be focused on as the Treasurer.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Treasury has not completed any modelling or business case on the transition away from native forestry. Forestry policy matters are principally a matter for the Department of Regional NSW. Treasury continues to work with the Department of Regional NSW, Forestry Corporation of NSW and other stakeholders to understand the environmental, economic and other impacts of native forestry.</p>
8	42	<p>The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Thank you, Treasurer. Last Easter, a blues festival was cancelled as a result of COVID and the public health order. The previous Treasurer announced that weekend that the State Government was developing a scheme for major events so they are not left out-of-pocket if the event is cancelled. My understanding is that there has been industry consultation and there has been a declared intention to create the fund, but nothing has actually happened. What is happening in relation to this?</p>

		<p>Mr MATT KEAN: As part of the Economic Recovery Package, we identified this problem and have allocated some funds to be able to deal with it. I might hand over to Mr Midha to talk you through exactly what that looks like, if that is okay?</p> <p>The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: I can take that up with Mr Midha this afternoon. Can you tell us how much it is, please?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: With regard to—so we have a number of things to support the performing arts—</p> <p>The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: No, that is not what I am asking. This is a very specific commitment which was a program that would basically help support our large festivals so that they would not be left out-of-pocket as a result of public health orders?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: Can I take that on notice? The number has not been made public. But I will take that on notice and provide you with those details, Ms Sharpe.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The Event Saver fund was announced as part of the NSW COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy in October 2021 and provides immediate financial support to event organisers.</p> <p>Event Saver commits the NSW Government to contribute a portion of eligible sunk costs to cover financial losses as a result of an Eligible Major Event being cancelled or severely disrupted as a result of COVID-19 related public health orders. It is not intended to compensate event organisers for loss of revenue.</p> <p>Create NSW is responsible for administering the program and the scheme is expected to launch shortly.</p>
9	42	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Treasurer, is the Government making any further contributions to the NSW Generations Fund this financial year?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: Could I just—we have got the festivals industry relaunch package. I am not sure whether that deals with it. I will get Mr Midha to address it this afternoon, but I will come back to you on that. Sorry, Mr Mookhey.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The NSW Government will temporarily suspend contributions from State-Owned Corporation distributions and mining royalties to the NSW Generations Fund pending a review.</p>
10	43	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: At the previous online estimates hearing evidence was given about the cash surplus being deposited into the NGF. I presume we no longer have a cash surplus. Is that correct?</p>

		<p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Mr Mookhey, we will update this at the half year and you will get the full information at the moment. But, broadly speaking, we are operating in cash operating deficit at this point in time.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The State’s cash operating position was in deficit at June 2021. COVID-19 and the Winter lockdown have significantly impacted Government receipts and payments during FY2021-22 so far. An update to the general Government cash operating position will be provided at the Half-Yearly Review.</p>
11	45	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we perhaps just get to the question, Treasurer? If you do not know who is going to do it and what are its terms of reference, when do you expect it to report to you and will it be public?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: We will make all those things available to you and the public when we are ready to do so.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Currently TCorp, very helpfully—and I do want to say thank you to Mr Deverall for being thorough in answers—in response to our previous budget estimates hearing said that the only countries from which we are barred from investing are countries which are subject to Commonwealth sanctions. I could not find a list of countries that are subject to Commonwealth sanctions. On notice, will you provide us with a list of countries that are subject to Commonwealth sanctions for which the NGF is barred from investing?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I am sure Mr Deverall will be able to provide that answer. Ultimately, our investment strategy is a matter for TCorp and the people with the appropriate expertise.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>TCorp funds are barred from investing in entities and persons associated with regimes sanctioned by the Australian Government. A list of these entities and persons can be found here: https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/regulation8_consolidated.xls.</p>
12	47	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What specifically did the Auditor-General flag with you that is a technical issue with the accounting treatment of the Transport Asset Holding Entity?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: Nothing specifically, Mr Mookhey. However, I received a letter from the Auditor-General advising that she was still considering the treatment of TAHE.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you. When did you receive that letter?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I think—I will take that on notice. I suspect last Friday, was it, Mr Pratt?</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You do not have to give me an exact date. Do you have a time range? Was it last week?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: About a week ago.</p>

		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: About a week ago? Mr MATT KEAN: About a week ago. We can come back to you on that.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Please refer to the answer provided on page 55 of the uncorrected transcript.</p>
13	47	<p>Mr MATT KEAN: Can you just clarify the question? Where are you going to here? The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Well, is the Transport Asset Holding Entity charging Sydney Trains and NSW Trains enough to access its assets? Mr MATT KEAN: Well, Treasury advised me that the return on those assets is appropriate at this stage. The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I am not asking for a return. It is a separate concept. I am asking about the charging. Are they charging enough—not the return, charging, the operational charges that they are applying under the Rail Access Undertaking agreements they entered into with those two organisations. Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>I am advised:</p> <p>TAHE sets its prices in accordance with the NSW Rail Access Undertaking, which includes a method for establishing floor and ceiling price levels. The Undertaking allows for TAHE to recover its efficient costs from access seekers.</p>
14	48	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Have you completed the strategic business plan or intent under the Treasury commercial framework that you are required to enter into with the Transport Asset Holding Entity for the next year? Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take that on notice. Perhaps the secretary is best placed to answer that. The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Well, Mr Midha might be that person, or Mr Gardner, given that they are a State-owned corporation [SOC]. Have we completed the Statement of Business Intent or not? Mr MIDHA: The SOC team would have received that. We have got a Statement of Corporate Intent. Sorry. Yes, we have received that. Mr GARDNER: That is correct. We have received it. The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: When are you intending to enter into your next shareholder agreement with the Transport Asset Holding Entity, Mr Kean? Mr MATT KEAN: I will take advice on that, Mr Mookhey.</p>

		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Have you entered into it for all the State-owned corporations for next year?</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: That is the shareholder agreement, Mr Mookhey.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Yeah. I am aware that they are described as two different ways, depending on policy. But the Statement of Corporate Intent is the shareholder agreement for all certainty purposes. Do you accept that?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: Again, I will take advice on this issue and come back to you. I am very happy to.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Incidentally, for all the State-owned corporations, when you intending to complete your shareholder agreements and Statements of Corporate Intent?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take advice on that.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The annual performance agreement between Shareholders and SOCs is referred to as the Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI) under the State Owned Corporations Act 1989 (SOC Act).</p> <p>The 2021-22 SCIs for all NSW SOCs have been considered by the Shareholding Ministers and were tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24 November 2021 as per Subsection 26(1)(d) of the SOC Act.</p>
15	49	<p>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Treasurer. Are you aware that your Government is proposing to hand out quite a large volume of floodplain harvesting entitlements and that the proposed handing out of those entitlements, the way in which they are going to be licensed, means that those licenses will be compensable?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I am not specifically aware of that, no.</p> <p>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: And that it could be hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars, of compensation for those floodplain harvesting licence holders?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: I will have to take that on notice and get across that issue, Ms Faehrmann.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>This question should be referred to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing.</p>
16	52	<p>The Hon. MARK LATHAM: As Treasurer, what is the costing on this exemption of fees, charges or tariffs that passed the Parliament with your approval after a crossbench member asked for it at the crossbench briefing? As Treasurer, what is the costing on it?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: What is the costing of that specific policy?</p> <p>The Hon. MARK LATHAM: On this measure in The Greens amendment to 192A, subclause (c)?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: We are very happy to come back to you, Mr Latham. I do not have those documents to hand at the moment.</p>

		<p>The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Did you have a costing before you approved it?</p> <p>Mr MATT KEAN: We could definitely come back to you, Mr Latham, on that issue.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The amendment agreed to by the Legislative Council enables, but does not require, regulation to exempt community-scale batteries from fees, charges, or tariffs. The current regulation does not exempt community-scale batteries from fees, charges, or tariffs.</p>
17	55	<p>Mr MATT KEAN: Actually, two, with regard to a series of questions around icare remuneration and procurement processes. It is fair to say that they are important issues. I am concerned about a number of the propositions that were put to me; however, they require due consideration and advice. I therefore propose to take those two broad issues on notice and make clear my position on those matters through that process.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p><u>Remuneration</u></p> <p>The issue of icare’s remuneration was reviewed at length by Mr McDougall, who found that icare’s senior executive packages are ‘far below those for private sector insurance companies and some Commonwealth government entities’ and that ‘when one considers the size and purpose of icare and its responsibilities, icare’s executive remuneration packages sit appropriately within the range of other public and private sector organisations.’</p> <p>icare also commissioned PwC to carry out an external benchmarking exercise for its executive remuneration, which found that for Group Executive roles, the variable reward opportunity is below market.</p> <p>Ernst & Young also undertook a detailed review of icare’s remuneration policy, remuneration framework and Annual Performance Payment in Feb 2021, which found that while icare’s variable reward opportunity is ‘generally aligned to market, particularly for government organisations’, it is ‘lower than many insurance sector competitors’. Short-term variable reward opportunities for other icare executives is not only below market, but in the bottom quartile.</p> <p>As part of icare’s Improvement Program following the McDougall and other external reviews, icare is improving its remuneration and performance management frameworks with specific focus on transparency, accountability and reporting.</p> <p><u>Procurement</u></p>

		<p>It is acknowledged that some of icare’s past procurement and probity practices have been inconsistent, and in some cases deficient, leading to decisions that were inconsistent with icare’s obligations as a public sector agency.</p> <p>icare has undertaken a comprehensive review to align its policies and processes in relation to procurement, information disclosure, and the management of conflicts of interest, gifts and benefits and public interest disclosures, with NSW Government requirements and expectations.</p> <p>A substantial number of actions are already complete including new Board-approved policies that align icare’s procurement framework with the NSW Procurement Policy Framework. The icare Board has also limited icare’s use of the Nominal Insurer exemption under the 1987 Act. The exemption may no longer be utilised to procure goods and services unless the express authorisation of the Board is obtained, and only in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Benefits and Travel Policies and reporting have also been updated to align with Government policy. icare has also re-designed its process for receiving, handling and resolving Protected Interest Disclosures and similar matters in a timely and confidential manner that appropriately protects disclosers.</p> <p>icare’s GIPA Act Remediation Program is now complete with the public disclosure of 848 contracts or standing offer arrangements either not previously disclosed or, for new contracts since April 2020, disclosed within required timelines.</p> <p>All contracts are now disclosed within GIPA compliance standards. In addition, all but one of the 14 recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commission following its 2020 audit of icare’s GIPA Act compliance have been completed. The final recommendation - being an internal review of the newly implemented processes – will be completed by December 2021.</p> <p>I understand that in September 2021, the IPC wrote to the then Treasurer, the Secretary of Treasury and the CEO of icare advising that it was formally concluding its monitoring of the implementation of recommendations and that no further action was required.</p>
18	56	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I know you do not but I am asking regardless because I am interested in how many—what was the competitive tension in this bid? Now that the bid is completed and the assets have been sold, I am interested in knowing how many people registered so that we can then make an assessment as to whether there was sufficient competitive tension in this. That is the reason, for what it is worth—nothing more.</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: To address that issue I will have to take specific numbers that participated in that expression of interest [EOI] process on notice, Mr Mookhey.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>

		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.
19	56	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I do not doubt that, Mr Gardner, and I would not dare suggest that Treasury would not have run a rigorous process of sufficient robustness. I take it as given, therefore, that you did. Therefore, it is not an unreasonable question: How many people registered as potential or responded to the EOI? I am not asking you to identify them; I am asking the number.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Mr Mookhey, could we—</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: I do not have that information with me.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Could you take it on notice? Does anybody else from Treasury have this?</p>
		RESPONSE
		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.
20	57	<p>Mr PRATT: I appreciate where you are going and these are reasonable questions. What I am really concerned about is market sensitivity. I am not trying to be playing games with you, but could I take those sorts of questions on notice and if I can come back to you with the answers, I will.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Mr Secretary, I cannot stop you from taking questions on notice, but when you say "market sensitivity", this transaction has been done; it settled last week. What market sensitivity are you referring to that would preclude the opportunity or cause caution from being able to answer these questions?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: For example, other bidders in the process, even though the transaction is completed, may not want it known that they were party to that process.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I assure you that I am not going to ask you to identify a single bidder whatsoever—other than the people who won, obviously—because I respect that, Treasury Secretary. I am just asking a really basic question: How many people responded to the expression of interest and registered as having an interest in potentially bidding? I am not even asking you how many people bid; I am asking how many people registered. Do we have that information, or we do not wish to provide it or are you taking it on notice?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: No, we do have that information, but I am very happy to take it on notice and we will come back.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.

21	58	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Secretary, could I just indicate strongly my support for my colleague's view. We are after the transaction and acres of newsprint have been spilt about this transaction. I understand there may be sensitivities and the Opposition certainly has not speculated—</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Not once!</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: —about bidders in the process up until now. To not tell the public afterwards how many people were in the process of the various stages, in my view, would be extraordinary.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I acknowledge what you have both said and I will definitely, as I have indicated, take it on notice and come back to you if I am able.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.
22	58	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I am sure you will have to take this on notice, consistent with your previous practices, but I am going to ask: Did we get more than one final bid?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: I will have to take that on notice.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.
23	58	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I believe you, Mr Pratt. There has been media speculation, and I will put this to you and give you the opportunity to clear it up. The <i>Australian Financial Review</i> and others have reported that only one bid was received. Was only one bid received?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I will take it on notice.</p>
		RESPONSE

		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.
24	58	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Okay, so let us go back to scenario one or scenario two. Are we inferring? Do you wish to respond or do you need to take this on notice as well, potentially?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: No, because we will obviously get back to where we were, Mr Mookhey, so I will take it on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You see where I am going with this, don't you?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Absolutely, and you have every right to. I just would like to get advice on that and come back to you.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The number of participating bidders and bids received are confidential and commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed by the Government.
25	60	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Secretary, one of the issues that has been raised and one of the concerns the Opposition has had is under the WestConnex contract the question about how much drivers are contributing in tolls over the life of the contract. There is an estimate of that, as officials have conceded before in the data room. They have argued previously, while the transaction was ongoing, that that was commercial in confidence. Now the transaction has concluded, now this is under contract until 2060, will you release that single figure? How much was estimated as the contribution in tolls from drivers over the life of this contract?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I cannot see why we would not, but again I will take that on notice because I am not sure. Again, if I can, I will get that for you.</p>
		RESPONSE
		WestConnex is now 100% owned by Sydney Transport Partners, a private sector entity. The estimate of tolls paid by drivers over the life of the concession is confidential and commercially sensitive to Sydney Transport Partners, and will not be disclosed by the Government.
26	61	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: And I presume that that will be listed with the Crown finance reports?</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: I would have to check. I will take that on notice.</p>

		RESPONSE																																							
		RR IPL's annual report is included in the 'Crown Related Entities' annual report																																							
27	71	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Ms Bansal, I 100 per cent appreciate that. I am not disputing you. I might clean this up and make this a lot simpler for both of us. If I list you the three asset types that are always listed in your valuation reports. One says "Investments", the other one says "Outstanding claims recoveries" and the other says "Other assets". Perhaps on notice can you provide us with an update as to what that figure is? That just might be better.</p> <p>Ms BANSAL: Sure.</p>																																							
		RESPONSE																																							
		<p>"Other Assets" consists of the consolidation of the yellow highlighted lines below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Dec-20</th> <th colspan="2">Jun-21</th> <th rowspan="2">Movement</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Balance Sheet</th> <th>YTD</th> <th>Balance Sheet</th> <th>Full Year Actual</th> </tr> <tr> <th><i>\$'million</i></th> <th></th> <th><i>\$'million</i></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="5">Assets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provision for Recoveries</td> <td>312.5</td> <td>Provision for Recoveries</td> <td>313.8</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investments</td> <td>17,609.3</td> <td>Investments</td> <td>17,528.2</td> <td>(81.0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Assets:</td> <td></td> <td>Other Assets:</td> <td></td> <td>Other Assets:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>531.9</td> <td>Cash</td> <td>669.9</td> <td>(138.0)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Dec-20		Jun-21		Movement	Balance Sheet	YTD	Balance Sheet	Full Year Actual	<i>\$'million</i>		<i>\$'million</i>			Assets					Provision for Recoveries	312.5	Provision for Recoveries	313.8	1.4	Investments	17,609.3	Investments	17,528.2	(81.0)	Other Assets:		Other Assets:		Other Assets:		531.9	Cash	669.9	(138.0)
Dec-20		Jun-21		Movement																																					
Balance Sheet	YTD	Balance Sheet	Full Year Actual																																						
<i>\$'million</i>		<i>\$'million</i>																																							
Assets																																									
Provision for Recoveries	312.5	Provision for Recoveries	313.8	1.4																																					
Investments	17,609.3	Investments	17,528.2	(81.0)																																					
Other Assets:		Other Assets:		Other Assets:																																					
	531.9	Cash	669.9	(138.0)																																					

		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can you also provide the medical benefits for both categories? Ms BANSAL: Yes, happy to do that.</p>
		RESPONSE
		At 30 June 2021, the outstanding claims liability for medical benefits was \$7,967 million on an undiscounted basis and \$5,399 million on a discounted basis.
30	73	<p>Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: So you were expecting a 63 per cent return-to-work rate? That was what you had already planned for? Mr HARDING: No, that is not correct. What I have said to you is there is a small impact as a result of the four-week rate deterioration. But the 13 and 26 weeks have been stable, and they are in line with expectations of that valuation. There is unlikely to be a significant cost but let me come back to you. I am happy to take it on notice and come back to you with a specific answer.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The Nominal Insurer Return to Work targets are operational metrics that it aspires to achieve based on SIRA's work status code method. The Nominal Insurer valuation at June 2021 had shown no further deterioration on weekly benefits.
31	75	<p>Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But, Mr Harding, that is not within scope of the question I asked you. Mr Harding, in 2017 psychological claims made up 5 per cent of all claims. That is when there were return-to-work rates of 76 per cent. The latest data shows that they are at 8.1 per cent of claims. That is nothing like a 250 per cent increase and goes nowhere near explaining the dramatic reduction in return to work, does it? Mr HARDING: The analysis that we have had done by Finity, looking at the causes of the falls in the four-week rate, definitely point to a significant increase—a 250 per cent increase—in that time period that I just quoted. Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Well, Mr Harding, perhaps I invite you to share with us, if you can right now, the Finity report. Mr HARDING: I will take that on notice, Mr Shoebridge. I am happy to share with you, I just think we need to have a look at some of the commercial-in-confidence issues of supplying it.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The Finity document is commercial-in-confidence. Public release of the document could undermine icare's ability to negotiate commercially competitive arrangements with prospective claims service providers for the benefit of injured workers and employers, which is contrary to the public interest.

32	76	<p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Of course. Sorry—whoever this is best directed to. I asked a question on notice, or rather a question was taken on notice, during the last estimates session in September. The response was that the Reserve Bank of Australia [RBA] holds nearly \$11.4 billion of TCorp debt as at 31 July 2021. I want to know what percentage of the total debt on issue that represents and how that RBA ownership has changed over time— how its holdings have changed over time—of total TCorp debt.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The RBA’s holdings of TCorp liabilities as at 31 July 2021 represented 9.8% of total TCorp liabilities.</p> <p>The rise in the RBA’s holdings of TCorp liabilities since 2020 coincided with its COVID-related bond purchasing programmes. The Following are the RBA’s holdings of TCorp liabilities every financial year since 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 June 2017: \$496mn or 0.8% of TCorp liabilities • 30 June 2018: \$471mn or 0.7% of TCorp liabilities • 30 June 2019: \$440mn or 0.6% of TCorp liabilities • 30 June 2020: \$3,151mn or 3.2% of TCorp liabilities <p>The RBA’s holdings of TCorp liabilities was sourced from the RBA’s website. The RBA’s holdings are measured by face value. To provide a reflection of the current value of those securities the face value has been converted to an equivalent market value using the closing price for the relevant security on Bloomberg.</p>
33	76	<p>Mr DEVERALL: Thank you for the question. The numbers you quoted there were \$10 billion held by the Reserve Bank. Is that what you said?</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: It was \$11.4 billion of TCorp debt held by the RBA.</p> <p>Mr DEVERALL: That is slightly less than 10 per cent, probably around 8 per cent of outstanding debt.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Has that changed markedly over time or does it stay around that, say, over the last four years?</p> <p>Mr DEVERALL: I would have to take the question on notice but with the RBA's quantitative easing program, which has involved buying both Commonwealth and semi-government [inaudible] over the last couple of years or so, I imagine that that number would have grown but I do not have the exact figures to hand.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: If you could take that on notice, that would be very useful. If the RBA is holding just less than 10 per cent, are they the major debt holder of all TCorp debt?</p> <p>Mr DEVERALL: The other significant holders of TCorp debt would be the big four banks here in Australia, but I do not have the exact figures in front of me.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Is that something you could take on notice?</p> <p>Mr DEVERALL: I certainly can.</p>

		RESPONSE
		<p>The big four banks are significant holders of TCorp liabilities. However, TCorp does not have the authority to release the information pertaining to the investments of third parties in TCorp bonds.</p> <p>APRA publishes anonymised aggregates of Authorised Deposit-taking Institution's (ADI) reported holdings of bonds on a quarterly basis. The "Quarterly authorised deposit-taking institution performance" statistics for June 2021 released by APRA on the 7th of September reflect that the four major banks held \$146.6 billion of securities issued by all the States and Territories as at the end of June 2021.</p>
34	78	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What targets has Treasury set for icare in its statement of corporate intent, Mr Gardner, for the coming year?</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: We do not have the governance of the Nominal Insurer, Mr Mookhey, as you well know.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I did not ask about the Nominal Insurer; I asked about icare.</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: I would probably have to take that on notice.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>Treasury does not set targets for icare, as the Statement of Business Intent (SBI) is an agreement between icare and the Treasurer. Questions about icare's business performance targets should be addressed to icare</p>
35	79	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we confirm that the New South Wales Government offered Qantas a commitment of \$50 million over four years?</p> <p>Ms CURTAIN: I will have to take that on notice. We have not finalised the details, so we have not—</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>The agreement between the NSW Government and Qantas is Commercial-in-Confidence and Cabinet-in-Confidence as the negotiations are ongoing.</p>
36	81	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Just to get that clear; there is nothing else. Net debt we can assume also will go down by \$11 billion, is that correct?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Over a period of time it will have the same impact, yes, of course.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How much interest are we going to save?</p>

		<p>Mr MIDHA: I will have to take that on notice. Again, it will vary based on—it is a bit complicated because clearly 11 billion over two years, you can work that out based on interest rates, that is 2 per cent approximately. But it will depend on when we do it, and we have to hold the cash in some way before we pay down. It is in the NGF, but it is sitting in cash. We cannot invest it because we have to pay down debt.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You have to be liquid.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Based on current assumptions and the plan, we could come back to you with a view on that. It will not be an exact science, Mr Mookhey, but we can give you a number.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Based on the Budget 21-22 interest rate projections, it is estimated that using the WestConnex proceeds to reduce borrowings would lower the Government's interest expense by around \$840m over the forward estimates.</p> <p>Net debt has improved as a result of the cash received through the sale of WestConnex.</p> <p>Repaying borrowings is not expected to improve the net debt position further, as repaying debt commensurately reduces the amount cash held also.</p>
37	82	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Can I turn to questions, Secretary, about the State infrastructure five-year plan. This was last published in the 2017-18 budget. It was chapter 4 of that budget and it was run through quite extensively. It has not been published since. What has happened to the five-year State Infrastructure Plan?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: It is still as it is in the budget papers, Mr Graham. The Government is continuing to—you know, the \$108.5 billion is still the Government's plan. I would expect—and we will be updating this in the half-year—a fair degree of underspend in capex over these last 12 months particularly.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I might just stop you there, Secretary. In 2017-18 a specific chapter of the budget was dedicated to the State Infrastructure Plan. It ran through things as required by the Infrastructure NSW Act 2011 in quite a lot of detail. That no longer exists. The expenditure you are talking about does in this budget.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: That chapter 4 has vanished off the face of the earth.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Sorry, so you are talking about the budget paper itself?</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I am talking about the five-year State Infrastructure Plan. It appeared every year, year on year, as is required under the Infrastructure NSW Act, until 2017-18. It has not been sighted since. What has happened to it?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Let me check that for you. Sorry, I misunderstood your question.</p>

		<p>Mr MIDHA: The State Infrastructure Strategy delivered by Infrastructure NSW [INSW] happens every five years. I think it is due next year.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Yes. I am clear.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will check to see why that chapter has been dropped, but it tends to reflect that. I will come back to you on why that chapter is not in the budget.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I know, though, Mr Graham, that INSW are now working on a five-year refresh of that.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: That is understood. I will give you some background because I have asked Mr Draper from INSW about this. More than a year ago, he said: We have been considering in 2019-20 whether we publish this in a different format. The idea that we are proposing is that we will publish it in an online format and allow it to be updated progressively, so as decisions of government are made we update the plan. It might be forthcoming in a month or two but nothing has happened. It has disappeared but there is an obligation in the Act to publish this every year. It was published with every budget up until 2017-18. One of my questions is: Is it of concern to Treasury that this plan no longer exists?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: It exists, but let me assure you that there was no deliberate plan by Treasury not to publish it—certainly not that I am aware of. Can I take this on notice?</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Certainly.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Infrastructure NSW is responsible for publishing the state infrastructure plan. Please refer to the response provided by Mr Draper, CEO Infrastructure NSW during the Premier’s Budget Estimates hearing on 4 November 2021.</p>
38	82	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: It is required to be reviewed every year. That is an obligation under the law—reviewed every year, provided to the Premier and published. The Premier has to agree or disagree with that. In my view, that requirement of the Act has not been satisfied since 2017-18. The law has just been disregarded. That is how it appears on the face of it, so I would also like you to take on notice whether, in your view, the Infrastructure NSW Act is being complied with.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Certainly, I will take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Infrastructure NSW is responsible for publishing the state infrastructure plan. Please refer to the response provided by Mr Draper, CEO Infrastructure NSW during the Premier’s Budget Estimates hearing on 4 November 2021.</p>

39	83	<p>a) The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Okay, fair enough. I am not sure I can take that any further. On notice, can we get some more information as to what the Government's and Treasury's intentions are, and any further information you can provide to us about that particular part? Mr PRATT: Mr Mookhey, my expectations are—and I think this probably goes to your broader set of questions—that this will be developed by the half-year budget.</p> <p>b) The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do we have a date for that, by the way? Mr PRATT: We do. Mr MIDHA: It is 16 December, I think. I am not sure it has been announced. Mr PRATT: I think it is the third week of December. The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: It is usually is. Mr PRATT: Do not hold me to a date but, yes. The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: So around 16 December. It is not an exact science. Mr PRATT: We do have a date and I can take it on notice and come back to. You will be pleased to know we do have a date, yes.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>(a) The review of women's participation in the workforce will be looking at current barriers to participation and opportunities for NSW government to address these.</p> <p>(b) The 2021-22 Half Yearly Review will be published on Thursday 16 December 2021.</p>
40	83 - 84	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: That is good to know. Let us talk about the Faster Payment Terms Policy, which Mr Gardner had to endure my questioning about the other day. Do we have any further information and clarity about who precisely is doing the Faster Payment Terms Policy review? The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Well, congratulations. Can we also on notice get what you expect the terms of reference will be, when it will be and whether it will be public? Mr GARDNER: I will take that on notice.</p>

		RESPONSE
		These questions should be referred to the Minister for Finance and Small Business.
41	84	<p>Mr MIDHA: That is with Minister Harwin, so he will be developing the terms of reference for that.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: We also have a reference, which is relatively amorphous—those are my words; you do not have to agree—which says there is a commitment to reducing red tape to make it easier to run a business in New South Wales. What does that actually mean?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I think this is a space that might—it is about reducing red tape, so looking at current existing regulation and to look at business support. I do not have any—again, the terms of reference for all of these are under development so I cannot give you anything further on them.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Look, it is just a dot point in this strategy, which I presume someone put in for a reason. On page 10, it says:</p> <p>Reducing red tape to make it easier to run a business in NSW while ensuring customers are protected.</p> <p>Is that a reference to a Better Regulation process?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I think Ms Wilkie might have some more information around this.</p> <p>Ms WILKIE: No, I am sorry, I do not.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, can we get some more information as to what that might mean, if that is possible?</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy highlights that ‘Making it easier to do business’ will be an important aspect for securing economic recovery. The Strategy includes measures to restore confidence for businesses and secure a strong rebound. The Strategy notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of planning red tape reduction reforms to support the reactivation of the economy will be introduced. These include streamlining approval processes for certain types of hospitality businesses, filming and temporary events on public land; making consistent hours of operation for business and industrial zones in NSW; permanently easing regulations to permit daylight alcohol consumption in parks and reserves managed by Placemaking NSW. • Implementing the NSW Planning Reform Action Plan which includes a suite of planning reforms aimed at maximising the productivity and flexibility of our employment lands and reducing assessment times.

		<p>In addition, the Government has extended temporary COVID-19 regulatory reforms for 12 months, to allow evaluation. Those shown to have a net public benefits will be retained. Key changes being considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing paper processes to be handled digitally and meetings to occur remotely; • Allowing lower risk licenced venues to sell takeaway and home delivery alcohol with a meal, subject to quantity limits; • Providing greater flexibility in how long service leave may be accessed; • A range of measures that provide greater flexibility for retail and hospitality businesses and support the 24-hour economy, including extended operating hours and more flexible operation for food trucks and dark kitchens; • Providing greater flexibility for home business operation. <p>At its core, retaining these changes is about allowing the people of New South Wales to respond, adapt and innovate. This dynamism will help businesses and consumers to thrive as we continue to recover from the pandemic and is a key part of our COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.</p>
42	84	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Victoria recovered 255,000 jobs within nine months of its second lockdown. Will you take on notice whether any comparison was undertaken between Victoria's recovery, for want of a better term, and the target that has been set here and whether you think there is any meaningful variance or difference between the Victorian experience and the New South Wales experience which would give Treasury reasons to distinguish why it requires 14 months and not nine?</p> <p>Mr STEPHEN WALTERS: I can do that, Mr Mookhey. Sure.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>In the NSW Government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy released in October, the NSW Government noted that "it will aspire to recover all jobs lost by September quarter 2022 and create an additional 25,000 by December quarter 2022."</p> <p>This aspirational target was based off the experience of NSW from the first outbreak (where it took 13 months for employment to return to its level prior to the onset of the initial outbreak, and 10 months from the trough in employment). An assessment of how long it would take to then return to pre-outbreak forecasts for employment was then utilised.</p> <p>When compiling this target, the experience of other jurisdictions, such as Victoria (where it took 8 months to fully recover the jobs lost through the outbreak and 10 months to recover 258K jobs), was considered. However, differences between jurisdictions were noted:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW arguably is more adversely impacted by international border closures than other states. This has significantly slowed the pace of growth in the civilian adult population and with it the pool of potential available workers. The Commonwealth government holds the levers on international border settings. Current Commonwealth assumptions assume net overseas migration will remain constrained through 2022. • Reports of labour shortages may constrain the rebound in recorded employment once the jobs lost during the outbreak (and perhaps even before this) are recovered; • The Victorian rebound in employment was aided by the Commonwealth's JobKeeper program, which continued well after lockdowns finished. This is not the case now with current Commonwealth support.
43	85	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Secretary, I might turn to the community fund within the NSW Generations Fund, which officials have previously advised has been discontinued. When, precisely, was it discontinued?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I have to check a date, Mr Graham, but what I can say to you is there was one round of grant allocation and then it was ceased after that first round.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: On notice, can you provide the date?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I will come back to you. Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: How much was invested in the fund for that single round? It was really slightly under 25.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: It was slightly under 25. If you want the actual expense, thought, it would have been below that.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: How much below?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: We can come back on that too. I will take that on notice if you wish.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Was it \$19.7 million that was actually paid out in the end?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I cannot confirm that, but I am happy to take that away.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, that is right. It was about 19. It was just under 20 and there was a million or so of expenditure to run the whole process, and that was it. Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Can you answer now, or take on notice, how many projects were actually funded in the end? So expenditure was less; 248 projects were announced. But were they all then subsequently funded?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will take that on notice.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>The then-Treasurer announced the discontinuation of the My Community Project on 3 September 2020.</p> <p>248 funding deeds were allocated for a total value of \$24,563,095. One project subsequently withdrew.</p>

		\$22,243,321 has been disbursed so far. Disbursements have not been finalised as some projects are still ongoing.
44	85	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: What can you tell me about how many votes happened during the innovative voting process that occurred during this?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I am sorry; I am going to have to take that on notice. What I can say to you is that there was overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community on that process. A significant amount of work went into the voting process and the objective was to largely replicate what voters are used to in voting politicians. That is what we did. It was very successful and the allocation was seen as very fair. All the feedback I have had has been extremely positive, Mr Graham.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Perhaps you can take on notice the number of votes, and the number of votes for each of the administrative areas.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Yes, okay. We will do that.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>The total number of votes submitted for the My Community Project program was 61,437 while the average number of votes submitted per electorate was 661.</p> <p>Eligible voters were able to select three to five projects as part of their vote. They were required to rank these projects in order of preference. Projects in each electorate were ranked in order of total points received based on preferences. Details of the voting process can be found in https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/My-Community-Project-2019-Program-Guidelines-Accessible.pdf</p> <p>Please refer to Supporting document- QoN 44 MCP Voting participation by electorate for details of votes submitted per electorate.</p>
45	86	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: This was originally announced when the Treasurer introduced the bill for the NGF. He said that up to half of the investment returns will enable the new My Community Dividend Program, so we are clearly well short of that original aspiration in the bill. It is just a fraction of the billions.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Yes. My understanding with the bill is there was discretion for the Government to apply what it saw as an appropriate amount. You are quite right; that is the way the bill was written.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: We are now orders of magnitude away from that original aspiration.</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Correct. Yes, we are.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: It sounds like you do have a range of informed views about it. Has Treasury conducted a review or assessment?</p>

		<p>Mr PRATT: Yes, we have.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Could you make that available to the Committee?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Could I take that on notice? I do not see why not. That was done through Premier and Cabinet so I will take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Please refer Supporting Document- QoN 45 for details, which is the <i>MY COMMUNITY PROJECT USER EVALUATION REPORT</i>, which sought user feedback on the My Community Project program.</p>
46	90	<p>Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: When were you made aware that a complaint had been made about your conduct in relation to the posting on social media, Mr Pratt?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I have to take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Secretary was made aware of the complaint on or about April 2021 following the review by senior members of the NSW Treasury HR team and legal team and a response had been provided to the complainant.</p>
47	90	<p>Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Who made the decision and on what basis did they make the decision to dismiss the complaint, Mr Pratt?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I do not know.</p> <p>Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Will you provide that on notice?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Yes, I can do that.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Treasury Human Resources and Office of General Counsel reviewed the complaint and determined that the complaint could not be further investigated by NSW Treasury as the alleged comments made by the Secretary were in his private capacity on a private matter and not in his capacity as Secretary.</p>

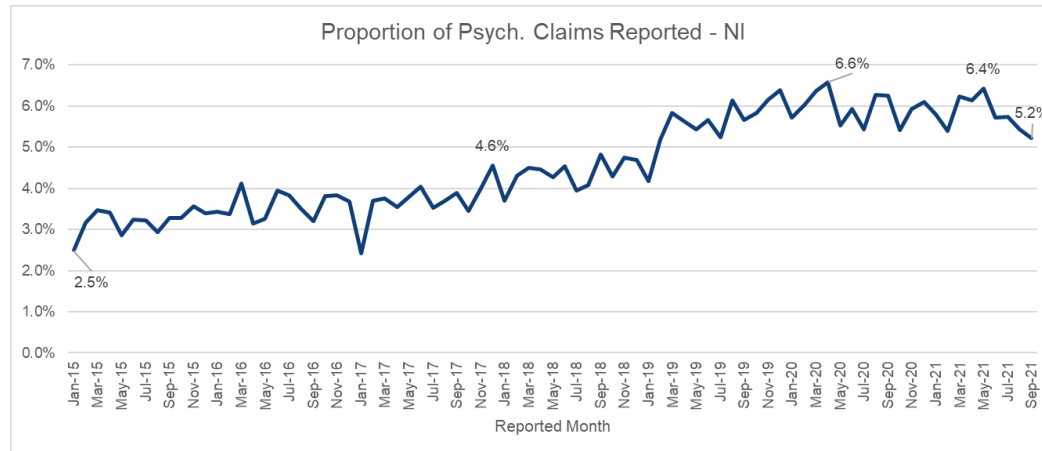
48

90

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do you know what the proportion of psychological injury claims are for the Nominal Insurer at the moment?
Mr HARDING: I would have to take that on notice.
Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The SIRA dashboard says it is 5 per cent. Are you aware of that?
Mr HARDING: I will have to take it on notice, Mr Shoebridge. I do not have the number off the top of my head.
Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Can I ask you to take on notice a review of your evidence that there had been a 250 per cent increase in psychological injury claims since 2015 for the Nominal Insurer, and give me the data from 2015 to date on that?
Mr HARDING: I have already said to you I will have a look at whether we can provide you with the Finity analysis. I am happy to do that.
Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am happy to get the Finity notice, but can you also provide me with the data of the proportion of psychological injury claims from 2015 to now for the Nominal Insurer?
Mr HARDING: Sure.

RESPONSE

The proportion of psychological claims have been increasing in the NI portfolio since 2015, from about 2.5% in January 2015 to 5.2% in September 2021 (shown in the chart below)



49

91

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you. Just a couple of very quick follow-up questions to some earlier questions, Mr Pratt. One of the McDougall recommendations was for SIRA and Treasury to stress test the assumptions on icare's FY21 business plan for icare to verify their veracity, are you aware?
Mr PRATT: Yes, I am.
The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Who did that?

		<p>Mr PRATT: Mr Gardner and the team did that, and we can talk to that if you wish us to.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: No, that is okay. On notice, can we get an update as to what the outcome of that review was?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Sure. It has been completed though.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we get the review tabled?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Yes. I will take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>This document was tabled in Parliament on 3 November 2021 under Order for Papers - Administration of Insurance and Care NSW (icare) – Further order (20 October 2021)</p>
50		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you very much. Ms Curtain, I was asking you some questions about the Qantas grant. I think we had established that there will be various payments made according to milestones. Can we get on notice when those payments are expected and what the criteria are for each of them to be paid?</p> <p>Ms CURTAIN: Can I take that on notice until it is completed and has gone to Cabinet?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Once it is completed, yes.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The agreement between the NSW Government and Qantas is Commercial-in-Confidence and Cabinet-in-Confidence as the negotiations are ongoing.</p>
51	92	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Who is paying us all these extra dividends?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will have to take that on notice to come back and give you more details on that particular line. There will be a number of items in there and there should be a little bit more detail in the revenue—</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: There is a little bit more detail, which we probably will get to in the budget, but where it says "Other dividends and distributions", that includes capital returns, correct?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: So is it dividends or is it capital returns that we are recovering from the State-owned corporations?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: They should all be dividends. I do not think capital returns are in that line. I can check with Stewart Walters—he is also on the line—our chief financial officer.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Okay, put Mr Walters on.</p> <p>Mr STEWART WALTERS: I will take that on notice, but I believe that the distributions from other entities sit in the line above dividends and income tax equivalents from other sectors. But we will come back to you on those.</p>

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: This is why I am confused. It is reported in two separate lines: dividends and income tax equivalents from other sectors. I understand income tax equivalents under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements scheme and then it says "Other dividends and distributions", but it is a huge search. Do we have any idea where all this extra money is coming from that is not accounted for in the earlier line?

Mr MIDHA: We will take that on notice and come back, Mr Mookhey.

RESPONSE

“Dividends and income tax equivalents from other sectors” includes the dividends and income tax equivalents paid by State-owned corporations who provide a commercially appropriate return on government investment. This does not include capital returns paid by State Owned Corporations.

Table 7.1 of Budget Paper 1 (see below) gives further detail on dividends and tax equivalents received by government. The revenue increase in 2024-25 is driven by a forecast increase in dividends from Sydney Water and TCorp, resulting from capital structure optimisation and other initiatives.

Table 7.1: Dividends and tax equivalent payments from the PNFC and PFC sectors

	2020-21 Projection	2021-22 Budget	2022-23	2023-24 Forward Estimates	2024-25
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Electricity	27	69	48	83	129
Water	868	427	401	426	947
Property and Resources	22	11	58	99	365
Ports	19	23	56	54	61
Transport	0	8	42	84	118
Public Financial Corporations	131	144	159	173	401
Total Dividends and Tax Equivalent Payments	1,066	682	763	919	2,021

“Other dividends and distributions” are received from entities other than State-owned corporations. The two main components of this line include forecast distributions from the Government’s retained interest in Ausgrid and Endeavour Energy as well as distributions received through government investment funds, e.g. the NSW Generations Fund (NGF), Treasury Managed Fund, NSW Infrastructure Investment Fund, Social Housing Affordability Fund and Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

Other dividends and distributions are forecast to grow from \$2,278 million in 2021-22 to \$4,859 million mainly due to higher expected returns, due in part to additional contributions into the NGF as well as higher than previously expected fund balances.

52	93	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On that basis, you see the forward estimates and the land tax line item?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: It says 163 and this year's budget and going to 394 in next year's budget, or the forward estimates for 2022-23, and then 741 for 23-24, and then 877 for 24-25. Do you see that?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Why is it doubling and then doubling again over the next two years?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Again, I will take that on notice. There is a brief explanation on the following page.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Land tax surcharge compliance. It is good that we are improving Revenue NSW' IT. We legitimately think that improving their IT is going to double our land tax takings?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: It looks like eventually. But, again, I will take that on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Not eventually, Mr Midha, in 2022-23.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I do not have the previous years at this stage, so I cannot compare it.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Can we just be explicit about what facilitating improved compliance will mean. If you could really spell that out when you come back on notice?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: We will take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Table 4.2 of Budget Paper 1 shows the parameter changes to land tax forecasts since the 2020-21 Half-Yearly Review (HYR). The land tax forecasts are shown in Table 4.4 of Budget Paper 1 and were revised upwards in the 2021-22 Budget, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,767 million in 2021-22 (\$163 million higher than 2020-21 HYR) • \$5,051 million in 2022-23 (\$394 million higher than HYR) • \$5,418 million in 2023-24 in 2023-24 (\$741 million higher than HYR) • \$5,702 million in 2024-25 (\$877 million higher than HYR) <p>This profile of upgrades to the land tax forecasts reflects that the taxable value is based on a three year average. This results in the forecast increase in land tax due to expectations for higher average land values than previously forecast being smoothed out over the coming years.</p> <p>The land tax surcharge compliance measure shown in Table 4.3 of Budget Paper 1 was expected to increase land tax revenue by \$194 million over the four years to 2024-25. In relation to this measure, improved compliance refers to more taxpayers correctly managing their surcharge land tax obligations, such that surcharge land tax is higher than it would be otherwise, all other things being equal.</p>

53		<p>Mr MIDHA: I was going to clarify table 4.1, you asked a question on other dividends and distributions. The top line, the first line is the soft dividends and tax equivalents from SOC entities. The second line is from investment returns and that includes the NGF, the SAS and the other funds that we have.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: The NGF is in the government sector, correct?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: And this is revenue, correct?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: That is correct.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, can you provide how much it is at the time it was expected to be coming from the NGF?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, the last breakup is all due to the NGF, mostly, but we can give you the correct figure.</p>
	96	
		RESPONSE
		<p>Investment returns (revenue) expected to be coming from the NGF, as of the 21-22 Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY22: \$1,135,865,000 • FY23: \$1,613,393,000 • FY24: \$2,069,010,000 • FY25: \$2,655,639,000
54		<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I just indicate we would still expect on notice the answer to the question about why the numbers are jumping up, if that is the SOC number.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, sure.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: While we mention Mr Deverall, does Mr Deverall have any information or can he take on notice which countries are currently subject to Commonwealth sanctions that would bar him from making investments in them in any fund?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: We will check that now, if you like.</p> <p>Mr DEVERALL: I will take that on notice. I do not have the answer in front of me, sorry.</p>
	96	
		RESPONSE
		<p>TCorp funds are barred from investing in entities and persons associated with regimes sanctioned by the Australian Government. A list of these entities and persons can be found here: https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/regulation8_consolidated.xls.</p>
55		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How much are you expecting TAFEs' revenue to go down by?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I do not have that number at hand. We can take that on notice and comes back to you.</p>
	97	

		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You have identified the specific reasons you say is why it is going down. If on notice you can provide us the level of decline in each of the years of the forward estimates that was listed as of that budget, is that okay?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p>																								
		<p>RESPONSE</p>																								
		<p>The following table calculates the difference in budgeted revenue from FY21 budget to FY22 budget</p> <p>TAFE NSW</p> <p>Budgeted Revenue</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Revenue (\$'000)</th> <th>2020-21</th> <th>2021-22</th> <th>2022-23</th> <th>2023-24</th> <th>2024-25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020-21 Budget</td> <td>303,714</td> <td>504,505</td> <td>478,709</td> <td>517,092</td> <td>547,866</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22 Budget</td> <td></td> <td>332,133</td> <td>349,266</td> <td>366,557</td> <td>385,171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difference</td> <td>-</td> <td>- 172,372</td> <td>- 129,443</td> <td>- 150,535</td> <td>- 162,696</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Note: the revenue amounts in the above table only include revenue derived from external (non-NSW Government) sources</i></p>	Revenue (\$'000)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2020-21 Budget	303,714	504,505	478,709	517,092	547,866	2021-22 Budget		332,133	349,266	366,557	385,171	Difference	-	- 172,372	- 129,443	- 150,535	- 162,696
Revenue (\$'000)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25																					
2020-21 Budget	303,714	504,505	478,709	517,092	547,866																					
2021-22 Budget		332,133	349,266	366,557	385,171																					
Difference	-	- 172,372	- 129,443	- 150,535	- 162,696																					
56	97	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do you have any figures as to what the farebox revenue is currently as a result of the lockdown? Has Treasury been advised as to what the effect is?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: There was an impact and that was reflected in last year's budget for the first lockdown. The second impact for this current lockdown I think the numbers will come through, the forecast will come through the half year. It should be indexed in the next—</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we also get a breakdown on notice of the specific mention of the farebox revenue and the fee for service line item by each year in the forward estimates? What your forecasts are?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: One of the issues that arose in the yesterday's estimates for Transport was where precisely is the money that was left unspent from the passenger service levy, which is circa about \$100 million. Are you aware that there is about \$100 million that was unspent from the passenger service levy?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I do not have the exact number in mind but that sounds about right.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Apparently it is sitting in a Treasury bank account. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: No, I was not aware of that.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Or it is sitting in some form of consolidated funding, and Mr Walters might have this information. What is happening with that money right now?</p>																								

		<p>Mr MIDHA: Again I will take that on notice. We might be able to get an answer today. I will come back to you otherwise.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: And equally, what happens to the interest that is earned by that money? It has been there for years. This program closed, from memory, in 2018-19 or 2019-20 and it was unspent as a result of criteria, to be fair, which was set by Transport, not Treasury. But you are the custodian of the money. It is sitting somewhere and something is happening to it. There is a particular concern as to who actually is entitled to the interest it would have earned, or the other forms of earnings that it may have earned, and specifically whether that is going to be returned to the taxi industry as per the Government's intention. Do we have any information on that?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: No, we can check on the policy and it depends where the fund is sitting—if it is in a separate account or it is just part of the overall Con Fund.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Just to be clear. It is the \$100 million remaining out of the \$142 million assistance fund of which \$42 million was spent. It is that specific fund which we have been advised is under the control of the Treasury agency.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Okay.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Will you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, I will take that on notice.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Farebox and Fee for Service Revenue</p> <p>Fee for service revenue forecasts are provided in 2021-22 NSW Budget Paper No.1 (Budget Statement) Chapter 4, in Table 4.9</p> <p>Transport for NSW (TfNSW) delivers some projects on behalf of the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE). These projects are accounted for under a fee for service arrangement. TfNSW recognises both expense and revenue for these works in accordance with accounting standards. This transaction is budget neutral for the General Government sector. The projected reduction in fee for service revenue between 2021-22 to 2024-25 aligns with the completion of major TAHE capital projects including More Trains More Services, the Transport Access Program, Commuter Car Parks, the New Intercity Fleet, and Automatic Train Protection.</p> <p>Farebox revenue forecasts</p> <p>Farebox revenue was \$861 million in 2020-21. This compares to farebox revenue of \$1.29 billion in 2019-20 (which includes a COVID-19 impact between March 2020 and June 2020).</p>

		<p>\$65 million in farebox revenue was collected between July 2021 and September 2021.</p> <p>The State will update its farebox forecasts as part of the 2021-22 Half Year Review process.</p> <p>Point to Point Levy Underspend / Interest Treatment</p> <p>Following the 2015 point to point industry reforms, the NSW Government announced a \$250 million financial assistance package for the sector. This package was funded upfront via appropriation from the Consolidated Fund to TfNSW.</p> <p>The Passenger Service Levy was subsequently introduced in 2018 to indirectly fund this industry assistance package. The levy is collected by Revenue NSW, and is intended to offset the impact of the \$250 million industry assistance package over the medium-term. As at 1 October 2021, the levy has collected \$222.3 million. The Passenger Service Levy is collected by Revenue NSW and remitted into the Consolidated Fund managed by NSW Treasury. The overall balance of the Consolidated Fund earns interest for the benefit of the State. There is not a direct linkage of interest revenue on balances within the Consolidated Fund to specific Passenger Service Levy balances.</p> <p>Transport for NSW has paid more than \$145 million in assistance to the point to point industry. Approximately \$100 million from the original \$250 million industry assistance package, that was budgeted to be allocated to Transport for NSW, is unspent. The NSW Government has committed to providing further assistance to taxi licence owners as part of its response to the 2020 Independent Review of Point to Point Transport.</p>
57	98	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: It states: Sales of goods and services revenue is forecast to decline by 2.6 per cent, on average, over the four years to 2024-25. This is primarily due to the profile of the fee for service account line, which includes movements due to the change of the overall delivery schedule of new Transport Asset Holdings (TAHE) Corporation ... projects, including the New Intercity Fleet, Regional Fast Fleet and Commuter Car Park Program. What does that mean? Mr MIDHA: I will need to get back to you because accounting treatment of TAHE and some of the Transport is quite complex on how the money flows out of Treasury into Transport.</p>
		RESPONSE
		The current 2024-25 budget includes current decisions announced by government resulting from projects being brought forward.

58	98	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: There were two categories of delay. The first is relatively well-known as a result of deployment issues to do with the actual Intercity Fleet. Is it possible that that is a reference to those delays?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I am not sure.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Will you take that on notice and come back to us?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes. Just to clarify the fee for service account, this is the fee that goes generally from the government sector to TAHE because these are the Transport services that are provided to TAHE. Just to clarify that line.</p>
		RESPONSE
		See response to question 56 outlining Transport for NSW and TAHE fee for service arrangements.
59	99	<p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: And, again, this dividend bounces very high. It doubles in 2024-25. Can you just inform us on notice any assumptions that lie behind that dramatic increase?</p> <p>Mr GARDNER: I will take that on notice, yep.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>The assumptions on which the increase in dividends for FY24-25 are based include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Water's 2021-22 Statement of Corporate Intent and Business Plan financial forecast • The forecast IPART determination for FY24 onwards • Sydney Water's forward capital program • Sydney Water targeting an investment grade credit rating.
60	100	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: We had a lengthy conversation about this yesterday in which we were quite insistent and, arguably in the eyes of some, belligerent, about where precisely this money is. There was no dispute, right? They said, "You have the money". The money is with Treasury. The unspent money is with Treasury. There is absolutely no ambiguity in their position.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: We can take this up with Transport and come back to you on notice exactly where it is.</p>
		RESPONSE
		See response to question 56 outlining the status of the Passenger Service Levy.

61	100	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Have you undertaken any modelling as to potential royalties that can be earned by uranium mining in New South Wales?</p> <p>Ms WILKIE: Not to my knowledge, but I can take on notice whether we have done that.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>Treasury has no record of any such modelling being undertaken.</p>
62	101	<p>a)</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Is just that the net worth of the State has fallen in absolute terms and as a proportion of GSP. When is it projected to reach the 2019-20 levels as a percentage of GSP—that is, 37.9?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will have to take that on notice and have a look at how far that profile goes.</p> <p>b)</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Great. Thank you. Could you go to 1-11?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: The fifth dot point down talks about a \$14.2 million cost-of-living program and campaign to increase public awareness of New South Wales Government support. How much of that \$14.2 million is the program and how much is the campaign?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Again, I will take that on notice. I suggest the campaign would be a pretty small part of it, but I can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Yes. Thank you. Could you tell us which Government agencies are involved in that particular line item?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yep, sure.</p> <p>c)</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Turning to 2-5, chart 2.3, this is the New South Wales tourism trade deficit. I found these figures very concerning and, really, at odds with Destination NSW's view about how New South Wales tourism is performing. Could you supply on notice the actual figures that lie behind that chart?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: We will take that on notice, unless Mr Walters has any further numbers. Otherwise, we would take that on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I am really looking for the year-by-year figures—</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I think that might be best done on notice. At 2-14 these gross State income per capita figures show how gross State income per capita has really slowed up our time. These are usefully grouped by cohorts of years up to 2018-19. Could you give us the annual figures from 2018-19 until now for each of the aspects of that graph?</p>

Mr MIDHA: Right.
The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I think there are four figures that are graphed there. Could you give us—
Mr MIDHA: If that is available, I will take that on notice to provide that.

RESPONSE

a) Over the forward estimates, Net Worth is forecast to increase from \$238.7 billion at June 2020 to \$275.9 billion by June 2025 driven by a strong cash operating position and investment in infrastructure as part of the Government’s record program.

As a percentage of GSP net worth does not return to pre-Covid levels (June 2020) over the forward estimates.

b) Of the \$14.2 million allocated to the program, \$6.6 million relates to an advertising campaign and the balance relates to the program cost. The Program is delivered by Service NSW through its network and provides support and advice to customers on accessing over 70 rebates and savings that are available.

c)

Request for figures from chart 2-3:

Note that the figures requested are for international travel only and fail to pick up the broader economic benefits of tourism.

Tourism (other personal travel)	Exports	Imports	Net trade
Jun-99	3,011	3,209	-198
Jun-00	3,417	3,256	161
Jun-01	4,529	4,116	413
Jun-02	4,053	3,824	229
Jun-03	3,960	3,914	46
Jun-04	3,950	4,776	-826
Jun-05	4,551	5,584	-1,033
Jun-06	4,653	5,762	-1,109
Jun-07	4,933	6,442	-1,509
Jun-08	4,841	7,480	-2,639

Jun-09	5,137	8,113	-2,976
Jun-10	4,858	8,573	-3,715
Jun-11	5,163	9,236	-4,073
Jun-12	4,721	9,769	-5,048
Jun-13	4,781	10,316	-5,535
Jun-14	5,714	11,066	-5,352
Jun-15	5,903	11,148	-5,245
Jun-16	6,872	12,269	-5,397
Jun-17	7,238	13,026	-5,788
Jun-18	7,292	14,513	-7,221
Jun-19	7,715	15,467	-7,752
Jun-20	5,394	10,943	-5,549

Request for figures from chart 2.16 – Gross State Income per capita

	2019/20	2020/21
Labour productivity	0.4	1.3
Participation	-2.2	-0.3
Terms of trade	-0.8	0.2
Real Gross State Income per Capita	-2.6	1.2

63

101

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: While we are both trying to find it, you managed, obviously, the NGF and you do the Social and Affordable Housing Fund, do you not?
Mr MIDHA: Yes. All the funds are managed by TCorp, but we do report them.
The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we get an update on notice on their investment or their return to date, the current balance outflows from the previous year and projected outflows for the current year, or the forecast year? Is that possible?

		Mr MIDHA: Yes.															
		RESPONSE															
		<p>Since inception to 30 June 2021, the Social and Affordable Housing Fund has averaged returns of 8.7% p.a., generating a total of \$417.9m.</p> <p>Column (a) below shows total payments made to proponents in each financial year (NB: FY22 is an estimate).</p> <p>Column (b) shows how much has been redeemed from the investment fund to make the payments in column (a).</p> <p>The difference arises due to payments being made out of cash held in the SAHF's bank account in the first instance and only redeeming from the fund when SAHF bank balances run low.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="405 751 945 1142"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total project payments (\$m)</th> <th>Total Fund redemptions (\$m)</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(a)</td> <td>(b)</td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FY20</td> <td>20.8</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY21</td> <td>38.3</td> <td>20.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY22</td> <td>69.5</td> <td>62.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total project payments (\$m)	Total Fund redemptions (\$m)		(a)	(b)	FY20	20.8	0	FY21	38.3	20.0	FY22	69.5	62.8
Year	Total project payments (\$m)	Total Fund redemptions (\$m)															
	(a)	(b)															
FY20	20.8	0															
FY21	38.3	20.0															
FY22	69.5	62.8															
64	103	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we get that broken down by, firstly, how much of that is going to NSW Trains and how much of that is going to Sydney Trains, on notice?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, I can have a look at that.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do we have it now?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will try to get that for you, yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can we equally then get it broken down by the two categories that you just mentioned?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes.</p>															

		<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice or now?</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: For what purpose, yes.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do you maintain projections of that number over the forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, we do.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: It is not listed anywhere else in the budget paper. So on notice can we get the forecast as to what the grants will be in respect to those two categories over the same period of the forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: For each year.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>The funding was allocated to Transport for NSW.</p> <p>At the time of the Budget it was understood an 80/20 split of access fees would be provided to both Sydney Trains and NSW Trains respectively once commercial contracts were in place.</p> <p>The amount for both access and licence fees in the 2021-22 Budget was \$680m, increasing over the forward estimates to \$867m as new projects are commissioned.</p>
65	104	<p>(a) The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Yes, okay. Can you tell me—and again perhaps on notice, I would be very happy with that—what aspects are in that other operating expenses line item? What has been included in there that is being cut?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I can come back to you with the detail but I can say it will be components of all the stimulus spend over those two lines, and just depending upon what the stimulus is or what the support was that went out, whether it was JobSaver, et cetera, that will be in those two items.</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: So I am asking two things: first, what is being cut; second, what are the aspects of that line item?</p> <p>(b) At 4-9, on the payroll tax receipts, this is a total of \$4.4 million payroll tax. In 2024-25 that is projected to be \$11.33 billion. Is that the highest ever receipt for payroll tax for New South Wales?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I do not know, but I will take that on notice. I suspect so, but—</p>
		<p>(a) Other operating expenses mainly represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in the delivery of government services and programs. Key line items in Other operating expenses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contractor expenses • insurance expenses

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health related expenses (including medical and surgical supplies, pharmaceutical supplies and other health related costs) • expenses paid to deliver public transport services including bus, ferry, metro and light rail services • repairs and maintenance expenses. <p>Other operating expenses are projected to be \$26.3 billion in 2021-22, or 25.6 per cent of total expenses. They are projected to decline from 2022-23 as temporary COVID-19 response and recovery measures ease off.</p> <p>(b) The 2021-22 Budget forecast of \$11.33 billion in payroll tax revenue, for the financial year 2024-25 would, if this were to eventuate, be higher than the accrued payroll tax receipts in any previous financial year.</p>
66	104	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Mr Secretary—I do not know who to direct this question to; it is not necessarily about our tour through the budget paper, which we will get back to. The operational costs and implementation costs of Dine & Discover total \$14.4 million, I think. Is that about correct?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: I do not have it in front of me, Mr Mookhey, but we could check that.</p>
		RESPONSE
		As at 31 August 2021 the total operational costs and implementation costs of Dine & Discover totalled \$14,386,592
67	104	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do the costs of administration sit within the \$500 million headline program budget or is there a separate pool to pay for the additional expenses?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: No. I will check this with Mr Midha, but my understanding was it was included within the overall budget.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, some were included and some were given additional expenses. A lot of it was about setting up the system, so they might have got something extra on top of that, but I can check and come back with the detail.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I am just wondering whether or not the \$500 million went entirely to the Dine & Discover or whether it was \$500 million minus \$14.4 million.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will check on that and come back to you.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Is that common for all programs in which Treasury retained Service NSW to deliver—that it comes from within the margin of the actual program?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: No, it is not. There will be different arrangements for different parts of the grants, but we will come back specifically on that too.</p>

		RESPONSE
		Operational costs for Dine & Discover were initially met from within program budget. Where operational costs exceed a reasonable amount, further costs are met centrally.
68	104	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Fourteen point four was part of the 500, thank you. Can you give us the same issue in respect to the accommodation support grant?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: I will take that on notice. I do not have that here.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Then the Dine & Discover, which you just did. I think the other one that you have is the Export Assistance Grant application and NSW JobSaver, the Return to Work grant, Small Business COVID-19 Support Grant, Small Business COVID-19 Northern Beaches Hardship Grant, the Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate for 2021 COVID-19 business grants, and the Southern Border Small Business Support Grant. Can you just check whether each of the costs of administration is coming from within the project budget or, if there is a separate source, where precisely that is identified or what it is? Is that possible?</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes. We will take it on notice.</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>Operational costs for the following programs have been initially met from within program budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Beaches • SBFC • Southern Border • Dine & Discover <p>Where operational costs exceed a reasonable amount, further costs are met centrally.</p> <p>The costs of the following programs have been met centrally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export Assistance Grant • Return to Work Grant • Small Business Support Grant • Small Business Recovery Grant

		<p>For the programs approved as part of the government’s Delta Response, the government will meet program delivery costs from within program budget up to a reasonable amount. Where costs fall outside of what is considered to be reasonable then Treasury will work with Department of Customer Service to identify an appropriate funding source. These Delta Response programs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation Support Grant • JobSaver • 2021 COVID-19 Business Grant
69	105	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: There is no specific definition of this term in that guide. There is in the Victorian budget as well. Can you tell us either now—or again, for the second time, on notice—what exactly is the definition, as NSW Treasury understands it, that is "Net Cash Flows from Investments in Financial Assets for Liquidity Purposes"?</p> <p>Mr PRATT: Stewart Walters might have this.</p> <p>Mr STEWART WALTERS: Mr Mookhey, I will take it on notice. But to try and assist in the meantime, I think the guidelines for the Treasury budget [audio malfunction] to the budget result, which is typically the content that you will see referred to and published. Below that are a series of lines that are more required, as you said, by the ABS and that meet their requirements for government's financial statistics. They are more delivering to those requirements under 1049 as they are to the pure budget result that the Treasurer will hand down.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Got it.</p> <p>Mr STEWART WALTERS: But we will take it on notice and give you some detail with the precise lines that make up the ABS requirements.</p>
		<p>RESPONSE</p>
		<p>According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Government Sector Finance (GSF) manual, “Net Cash flows from Investments in Financial Assets for Liquidity Purposes” is defined as:</p> <p><i>Cash flows from investments in financial assets for liquidity management purposes (ETF 24) refers to cash receipts from liquidation or repayment of investments in financial assets for liquidity management purposes less cash payments for such investments. Investment for liquidity management purposes means making funds available to others with no policy intent and with the aim of earning a commercial rate of return. Where the assets are acquired for the purposes of managing the government’s cash reserves (e.g. investment in shares with the aim of maximising returns), then the acquisition is considered as arising for liquidity management purposes. (Ch. 12, paragraph 12.43)</i></p>

		These line items capture financial investment activity, either receipts from selling financial assets or cash outflows from purchasing them. Beyond initial purchases, this line also includes the purchase of investment arising from the reinvestment of distributions received by the various funds.
70	106	<p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: This is the whole point which we were asking you about before, which is if I compare this table to the last table, which was in last year's budget, it shows that over the four years we are buying, in net terms, an additional \$21 billion worth of financial assets.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Yes, right.</p> <p>The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: So it does. That is literally the arithmetic—if I take the same numbers from last year's budget and deduct it. I have just lost my time. I might have to put the question on notice, Mr Midha.</p> <p>Mr MIDHA: Sure, I can come back to you. So you want that plain English explanation of what is in there and what is happening?</p>
		RESPONSE
		<p>Across the three comparable years of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Budgets (i.e. FY22, FY23 and FY24), there is an increase in financial asset purchases of \$6.4bn relative to the 2020-21 Budget.</p> <p>In part this includes additional contributions into the NGF as outlined in the 2021-22 Budget and an increase in reinvested fund distributions given better than expected fund performance.</p>

Advertisement

[Scrolling now for the 2022 year 3 Bush School](#)



Read Today's Paper

Tributes

12:12pm Friday, August 20th, 2021

Rewards

Sydney Today 9° / 23°



The Daily Telegraph

Hi, Eva



My News

Local

NSW

National

World

Opinion

Business

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Sport



News > NSW

NSW Budget: Savings task force formed as treasurer stares down recession

John Howard enlisted Max “the Axe” Moore-Wilton to slash public sector spending in the mid-1990s, now Treasurer Dominic Perrottet has appointed another “axeman” to cut through state government waste.

Linda Silmalis

2 min read September 3, 2020 - 9:32AM The Sunday Telegraph

20 comments

Going back to previous rates of JobSeeker could have a devastating impact for thousands of Aussies, according to a new report by The Australia Institute.

- [Contaminated face masks leave nurses gagging](#)
- [What the 2020 recession means for your money](#)

The state government has formed a secret task force to review the spending of every department as it moves to plug a multi-billion dollar deficit in the upcoming State Budget.

Government-funded programs and initiatives that do not drive jobs, productivity or economic growth will face the chop and precious dollars redirected to those that do.

But, in his first interview about the State Budget — due to be handed down in November — Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the message of 2020 would be of “smarter” government spending than one of cuts and contraction.



NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the message of the 2020 State Budget would be of “smarter” government spending. Picture: NCA NewsWire/Bianca De Marchi

While the John Howard enlisted Max “the Axe” Moore-Wilton to find savings in the public sector in the mid-1990s, The Sunday Telegraph can reveal Mr Perrottet has brought on leading economist, Professor Percy Allan, to contribute to his own review.

And one of the first programs to face the chop will be one of his own, the NSW Generations Fund “My Community Project”.

GET MORE CONNECTED:

[What you get as a subscriber to The Daily Telegraph](#)

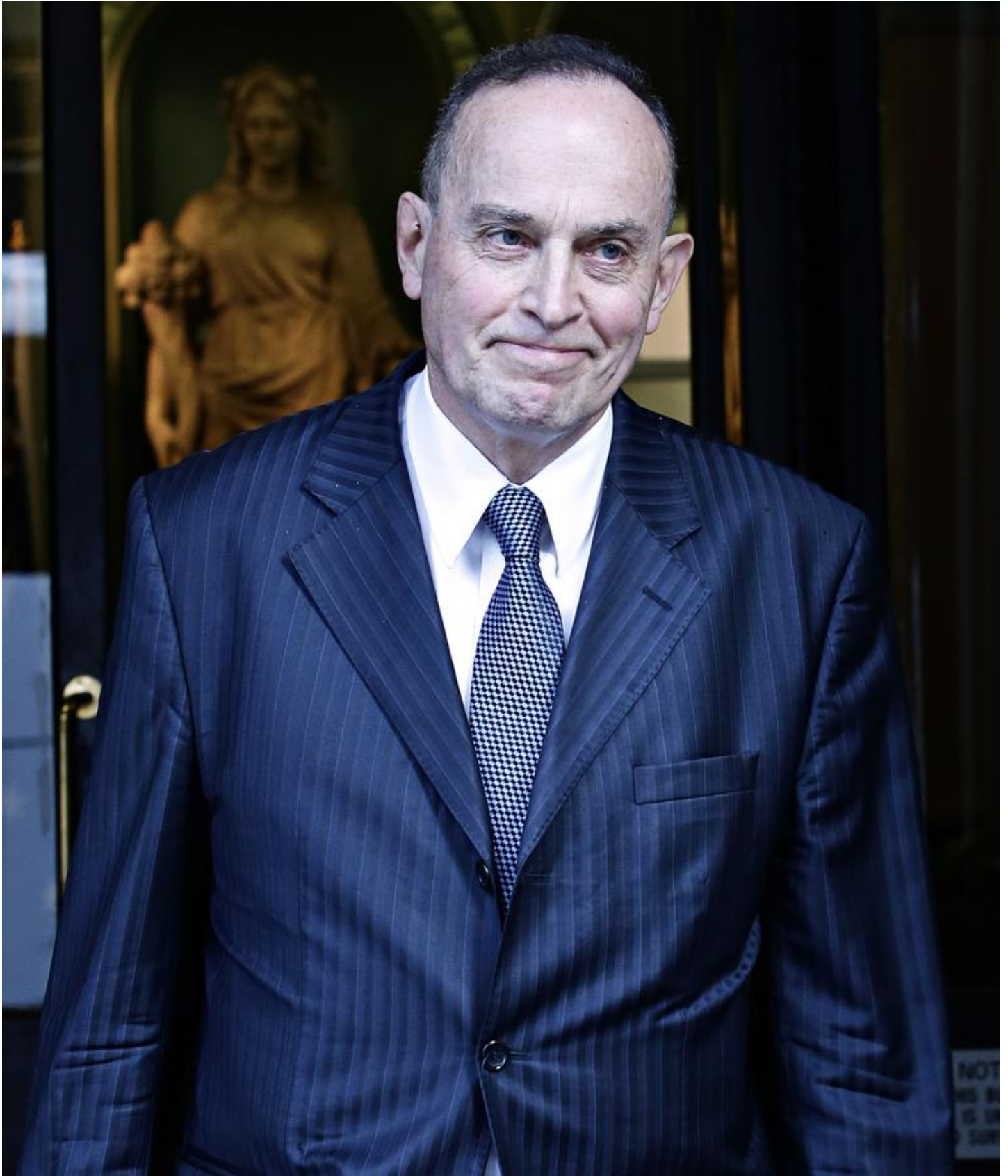
[Download our app and stay up to date anywhere, anytime](#)

[Sign up to our newsletter](#)

FROM OUR PARTNERS [↗](#)

Watch new American Horror Stories on BINGE **New customers get a 14 day trial**

The scheme, which allowed the community to vote on local projects that make their area more “liveable, cultural, accessible, safe, revitalised and healthy”, had invested more than \$25 million in 248 projects through grants of \$20,000 to \$200,000.





Leading economist Professor Percy Allan will conduct a review to find savings in the public sector. Adam Yip

Mr Perrottet said Mr Allan, who served as NSW Treasury Secretary and chairman of the NSW Treasury Corporation, would be scrutinising spending, discretionary grants and procurement as part of a steering committee of Treasury official, which will also include the Secretaries of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The review will scrutinise government spending over the medium-term to advise if programs are operating efficiently and effectively.

The move follows confirmation last week that Australia had officially entered a recession for the first time since 1990-91, with GDP collapsing by 7 per cent in the June quarter, and by around 6.3 per cent over the past year.

In NSW, state final demand fell 8.6 per cent in the last quarter with a 13.3 per cent plunge in household spending.

“This is going to be a tough period and there are going to have to be tough decisions,” he said.

“Every single dollar is now precious. My Community Project was one of mine, but I’m axing it. This is about smart government and making sure every single dollar of our over \$80 billion budget is focused on jobs, productivity and economic growth. Everything will now have to be viewed through that lens.





Australia has officially entered a recession for the first time since 1990-91, with GDP collapsing by 7 per cent in the June quarter. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Damian Shaw

“But this is not about cutting — it’s about reallocating. There will be more spending in this budget than any other budget, but it will be spending in the areas that matter.”

Prior to the pandemic, Mr Perrottet was again looking at delivering a surplus, although smaller due to the drought and bushfire relief spending.

“I’ve handed down big surpluses and there was an expectation the budget this year would have a modest surplus off the back of investment in droughts and bushfires,” he said.

“I am now going to hand down potentially the biggest budget deficit we have ever had.”

The November Budget will be one of three “linked” financial statements to be handed down in the next six months with a half-year report to be released in February followed by another State Budget in June next year.

Join the conversation (20 comments)

Good Afternoon Eva Recommended based on what you've read



- Grafton **Daily Catch-Up: August 20, 2021**
 - Business **New Lismore restaurant ‘a dream’ for excited owners**
 - Community News **Push to record mass deaths still going undetected**
- 0

Promoted Content

How to give a 'medical miracle'

Trending now

Most commented



MY COMMUNITY PROJECT USER EVALUATION REPORT

Quantitative research report prepared for
the Department of Planning, Industry and
Environment

NOVEMBER 2019 – UPDATED VERSION (4)

NGR1910002

REPORT PREPARED FOR

**Nicole Cook | Manager, My Community Project
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**

REPORT PREPARED BY

Heather Jones | Director

David Stolper | Senior Director

Kate Toner | Research Executive

DISCLAIMER

In preparing this report we have presented and interpreted information that we believe to be relevant for completing the agreed task in a professional manner. It is important to understand that we have sought to ensure the accuracy of all the information incorporated into this report.

Where we have made assumptions as a part of interpreting the data in this report, we have sought to make those assumptions clear. Similarly, we have sought to make clear where we are expressing our professional opinion rather than reporting findings. Please ensure that you take these assumptions into account when using this report as the basis for any decision-making.

The qualitative research findings included throughout this report should not be considered statistically representative and cannot be extrapolated to the general population.

For the quantitative research results, the base (number and type of respondents asked each question) and the actual survey questions are shown at the bottom of each page. Results may not always total 100% due to rounding errors.

*This project was conducted in accordance with AS: ISO20252:2012 guidelines, to which Newgate Research is accredited.
Project reference number: NGR 1910002.*

This document is commercial-in-confidence; the recipient agrees to hold all information presented within as confidential and agrees not to use or disclose, or allow the use or disclosure of the said information to unauthorised parties, directly or indirectly, without prior written consent. Our methodology is copyright to Newgate Research, 2019.



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Executive Summary	4
Introduction: Background, Objectives And Methodology	10
Perceptions of MCP Application Process	15
Perceptions of MCP Voting Process	31

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MY COMMUNITY PROJECT – OVERALL FINDINGS IN SUM

These findings were obtained from a 10-minute online survey of people who had some involvement in My Community Project (MCP), either making a project application or voting for a project.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 30th October and 8th November 2019. All contact details for respondents were provided by the MCP team.

A total sample of n=4,288 was obtained, which was a response rate of 7.9%, which is a good rate for an unsolicited survey, almost double the rate that might be expected. The total sample broke down as follows. There was a significant level of overlap between the groups:

VOTERS: People who submitted a vote	4,126
NON-VOTERS: People who registered to vote but who did not submit their vote (>90% of this group were involved in an unsuccessful application)	61
All at least starting the voting process	4,187
APPLICANTS: People who submitted a project application	629
NON-APPLICANTS: People who started an application process, but did not submit it (>80% of this group were Voters)	56
All at least starting the application process	685

KEY FINDINGS AT A TOTAL SAMPLE LEVEL

Strong levels of agreement with the following aspects of MCP:

82% agree, in principle, that MCP is a **worthwhile initiative** for government to run.

80% agree **MCP contributes to well-being of individuals and local communities.**

53% rate their **overall satisfaction with MCP** as 7 or higher out of 10 (a score of 10 means respondents are Very Satisfied). 19% gave an overall satisfaction rating of 10.

84% said they **would definitely or probably vote if MCP ran again.**
29% said they **would definitely or probably make a project application.**

71% said they were positive about community project funding decisions being made solely by community members (39% were very positive)

The biggest driver of satisfaction with the voting process and with the application process is the **perception of how straightforward the process is.**

- ◆ This driver alone explains at least 40% of the variation seen in satisfaction with the voting process and with the application process (i.e. is a major driver).
- ◆ Only a minority strongly agree either process is straightforward - a key opportunity to improve the MCP experience for both voters and applicants.

Other areas for improvement include:

- ◆ Simplification of the **Voter Identification verification** process.
- ◆ **Greater transparency** around how successful projects are selected. Some believe projects were not selected on merit alone.
- ◆ **Greater engagement with regional areas.** A sense from some in regional areas that they were overlooked by the process. Some believe that low voter numbers in their area meant their project was unsuccessful.
- ◆ The **information available** about MCP overall and on how to apply are key areas for focus for applicants.

KEY APPLICANT FINDINGS – COMMENTARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

These findings were obtained from a 10-minute online survey of n=629 people who submitted an application for a My Community Project (MCP) and had a project application ID (Applicants) and n=56 people who started but did not submit an application (Non-Applicants). Fieldwork was undertaken between 30th October and 8th November 2019. All contact details for respondents were provided by the MCP team.

- ◆ 69% of Applicants and 66% of Non-Applicants **agree MCP is a worthwhile initiative for the government to run** and the same proportion agree that **MCP contributes to the well-being of individuals and local communities**.
- ◆ 54% of those starting an application rated their satisfaction with the application process as 7 or more out of 10 (with 10 meaning Very Satisfied). Satisfaction is significantly higher among those with a **successful application**.
- ◆ **Most of those starting an application stated that they found the application process as easy or easier** than they expected (although it did fail to meet expectation for a third).
- ◆ **Non-Applicants found things more difficult:** Generally, Non-Applicants are less likely than Applicants to agree that MCP information is easy to find, that it is easy to find a project sponsor and that the application process is straightforward.
- ◆ **50% of applicants are positive about the funding model** and a similar proportion agreed that MCP was a **good way to distribute the benefits of the NSW Generations fund** to the community.
- ◆ **Simplification of the application process is needed:** By far the biggest driver of satisfaction with the application process is the perception that it is straightforward. Only 27% of those starting the application process strongly agreed that this is the case, making it a high priority to improve. The next biggest priority is ease of understanding information about the MCP, with only 28% agreeing that it is easy to understand.
- ◆ **Improvements to voting process suggested:** Surprisingly, when asked to feedback on improvements they would like to see about the application process, many of the Applicants' comments related to a need to improve the voting process and voter identity verification process.
- ◆ **Need for greater transparency:** Additional feedback related to the need to make the allocation of funding to projects more transparent, due to perceptions that the voting process was unclear and potentially not fair (24% of those who started an application held this perception and 46% of those providing a low overall satisfaction rating for MCP gave this as a reason).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF MCP

- ◆ Most Applicants and Non-Applicants view MCP as worthwhile and as having benefits for individuals and communities – these aspects should be promoted for any future roll-out.
- ◆ The application process, voting process and the voter identity verification process are key areas to improve.
- ◆ Beyond this, information about MCP should more clearly state how projects are selected and the funding model used, as opinions around the transparency of the selection process and the funding model were mixed.

KEY FINDINGS BY APPLICANT SEGMENT

	ALL SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION			NON-APPLICANT
	TOTAL	SPONSOR	NON-SPONSOR	
Sample: n =	629	335	294	56
Overall satisfaction with MCP*	24%	24%	24%	34%
Satisfaction with application process*	54%	52%	55%	52%
% finding application process meets/ exceeds expectation	70%	67%	73%	66%
% who know MCP is funded through NSW Generations Fund	14%	13%	16%	4%
% positive about funding model	50%	47%	52%	66%
MCP Net Promoter Score**	-29	-31	-27	0
% who would definitely/ probably apply again	55%	57%	55%	55%
Top 3 reasons for high overall MCP satisfaction (From a randomly selected sample of n=74 who started application process, have a project application ID and who rated overall MCP satisfaction as 7+ out of 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy application process (27%) • Good initiative, great that funding is available (16%) • The funding went to well-deserving projects (12%) 			
Top 3 reasons for lower overall MCP satisfaction (From a randomly selected sample of n=270 who started application process, have a project application ID and who rated overall MCP satisfaction as 0-6 out of 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voting process was difficult (57%) • Projects were not selected on merit (46%) • The online process was unfair to those without a computer (21%) 			
Top 3 improvements suggested for the application process (n=637 who have a project application ID and who at least started the application process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the voting process fairer (24%) • Make the voting process simpler (19%) • Make the voter identity verification process easier (13%) 			

*Performance score shown (the % of respondents rating satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10)

**Net Promoter Score: % rating likelihood to recommend MCP to friends/family as 9 or 10, minus those rating 0-6

KEY VOTER FINDINGS – COMMENTARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

These findings were obtained from a 10-minute online survey of n=4,187 people who started the voting process for My Community Project (MCP). This comprised n=4,126 people who submitted a vote (Voters) and n=61 people who started the voting process but did not complete it (Non-Voters). Almost all Non-Voters had made an unsuccessful project application. Fieldwork was undertaken between 30th October and 8th November 2019. All contact details for respondents were provided by the MCP team.

- ◆ 81% of Voters and 67% of Non-Voters **agree MCP is a worthwhile initiative** for the government to run and 78% of Voters and 72% of Non-Voters agree that MCP contributes to the well-being of individuals and local communities.
- ◆ 72% of Voters and 56% of Non-Voters are **positive about the funding model** used for project decisions.
- ◆ **54% of Voters gave MCP a satisfaction rating of 7 or more out of 10** (where 10 is Very Satisfied). Non-Voters were significantly less satisfied overall, with only 21% rating satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10.
- ◆ Similar levels of satisfaction were seen with the voting process itself. However, it met the expectations of the majority.
- ◆ By far the biggest driver of satisfaction with the voting process was the perception that it is **straightforward with an appropriate number of steps to follow**. However, only 35% of Voters strongly agreed that this was the case, highlighting a key opportunity to improve the voting experience.
- ◆ The **identity verification process was also identified as a key area** for focus, with only 31% of Voters strongly agreeing that the process and the amount of personal information required was appropriate.

- ◆ In addition to the need to improve the voting process, feedback from voters rating their MCP satisfaction as less than 7 (lower) indicated a need for:
 - **Greater transparency in how projects were selected** (31% gave this feedback); and
 - Addressing perceptions of **smaller communities being disadvantaged** by the process (27% felt smaller communities were disadvantaged).
- ◆ **Voters in regional areas were significantly less likely** than those in metro areas to say they would definitely vote in MCP going forward. It appears there is an opportunity to engage those in regional areas more strongly with MCP.
- ◆ Non-Voters were significantly less likely than Voters to agree that the information about MCP was easy to understand (56% versus 74% of voters) and that voting information provided was useful (44% versus 72% of voters). Opinions about the helpfulness and responsiveness of support provided during the process were also mixed, indicating an opportunity to **optimise support and information provision for any further roll-outs**.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF MCP

- ◆ Most view MCP as a worthwhile initiative with benefits for individuals and communities – these aspects should be promoted for any future roll-out, particularly in regional areas of NSW.
- ◆ The number of steps in the voting process and the voter identity verification process are key areas to improve, in terms of making them more straightforward.
- ◆ Beyond this, information about MCP should more clearly state how successful projects are selected, as opinions around the transparency of the selection process were mixed.

KEY VOTER FINDINGS – DASHBOARD

	ALL STARTING THE VOTING PROCESS		
	TOTAL	VOTERS (Submitted vote)	NON-VOTERS (Did not submit vote)
Sample: n =	4,187	4,126	61
Overall satisfaction with MCP*	54%	54%	21%
Satisfaction with voting*	57%	58%	16%
% finding voting meets/ exceeds expectation	62%	62%	34%
% who know MCP is funded through NSW Generations Fund	6%	6%	8%
% positive about funding model	72%	72%	56%
MCP Net Promoter Score**	+17	+20	-50
% who would definitely/ probably vote again	85%	85%	57%
Characteristics of those significantly more likely to say they would definitely vote in MCP again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in metro areas • Aged under 50 • From a CALD background • Had voted for a successful project this time 		
Top 3 reasons for high overall MCP satisfaction (From a randomly selected sample of n=439 who started voting process and rated satisfaction as 7+ out of 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to complete the voting process (28%) • Well-deserving projects were selected for funding (20%) • It was good to get the community involved/get involved (18%) 		
Top 3 reasons for lower overall MCP satisfaction (From a randomly selected sample of n=519 who started voting process and rated satisfaction as 0-6 out of 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voting process was hard and confusing (42%) • Projects were not selected on merit/ selection process not transparent (31%) • Small communities were disadvantaged by the process (27%) 		
Top 3 improvements suggested for the voting process (From a randomly selected sample of n=1,098 who started the voting process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the process less time-consuming/easier (24%) • More information or publicity about MCP (11%) • Provision of other voting options (not online) (8%) 		

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

My Community Project (MCP) is a NSW Government initiative to give the community more of a say in community projects.

It is made possible by the NSW Generations Fund, which ensures the benefits of its returns are shared with the people of NSW, by funding community projects.

My Community Project was launched in April 2019. Individuals and community groups were able to submit an application for a project until May 2019 (with appropriate sponsorship).

After the projects were selected, members of the general public were allowed to vote for their favourite projects from a shortlist of projects proposed for their electorate. Voting closed in August 2019, with the successful projects announced in September 2019.

61,437 people voted for their favourite projects and 248 projects were selected for funding.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

A program of project evaluation is now underway to assess the opinions of members of the public who interacted with My Community Project – either as Voters, Applicants or Sponsors – to input into this process. Specifically this research aims to:

- ◆ Establish satisfaction with My Community Project overall and with the voting and application processes specifically;
- ◆ Establish perceptions of the voting and application processes, including perceptions of ease and level of agreement with statements about key steps;
- ◆ Establish likelihood to apply, vote and recommend the Project to family and friends should My Community Project run again; and
- ◆ Identify areas for improvement of My Community Project going forward.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

An online survey with My Community Project voters, applicants and sponsors

A 10-minute online survey was conducted with people across NSW who were identified as My Community Project (MCP) Voters, Applicants and/or Sponsors. Fieldwork was conducted between 30th October and 8th November 2019. The survey was programmed and hosted by CanvasU. All contact details for participants were provided by the client team. All contacts had consented to follow-up.

Overall, the research achieved a response rate of almost 8%. This is a good response rate for an unsolicited survey, which would typically lie around the 4-5% mark. A breakdown of the sample database and the types of respondent in the sample are provided below:

		TOTAL CONTACTS PROVIDED	TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE OBTAINED	HIT RATE
VOTERS	All submitting a vote	52,195	4,126	7.9%
NON-VOTERS	All who registered to vote but did not submit it <i>(Almost all Non-Voters had made an unsuccessful project application)</i>	-	61	-
APPLICANTS	All submitting an application*	3,378	629	19%
	All sponsoring an application	1,692	335	20%
	All applicants <u>not</u> sponsoring	1,686	294	17%
NON-APPLICANTS	All starting but not submitting an application	-	56	-
TOTAL NUMBER OF UNIQUE CONTACTS/ COMPLETED SURVEYS		54,141	4,288	7.9%

**All respondents with a project application identification number associated with their contact details, who can definitively be said to be applicants*

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ALL INVOLVED IN APPLYING

A mix of Applicants and Non-Applicants from a range of backgrounds were represented in the sample. Please note, no demographic quotas were set on participation

		ALL SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION (AND HAVE PROJECT APPLICATION ID CODE)			NON- APPLICANTS <i>(Started, but did not submit)</i>
		ALL	SPONSORS	NON- SPONSORS	
<i>Sample: n =</i>		629	335	294	56
LOCATION	Metro	51%	53%	50%	43%
	Regional	49%	47%	50%	57%
GENDER	Identify as male	40%	42%	37%	57%
	Identify as female	58%	56%	60%	38%
AGE	Under 50	40%	38%	42%	27%
	50-64	33%	35%	30%	48%
	65+	24%	25%	24%	18%
ATSI	Identify as Aboriginal	3%	3%	3%	2%
CALD	Speak a language other than English at home	6%	6%	6%	14%
RESULT OF PROJECT APPLICATION?	Awarded funding	15%	16%	15%	
	Not awarded funding	77%	79%	74%	
	Not included in vote	7%	5%	9%	
HOW APPLICATION MADE	As individual	13%	7%	20%	29%
	As group representative	85%	90%	79%	54%

Q3. What was the result of your application? Q4. Did you apply as an individual or as a representative of a community group?

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ALL INVOLVED IN VOTING

A mix of people from different backgrounds and locations were represented in the voter sample. Please note, no demographic quotas were set on participation

		TOTAL (All involved in voting)	VOTERS (Submitted vote)	NON-VOTERS (Registered but did not submit vote)
Sample: n =		4,187	4,126	61
LOCATION	Metro	60%	60%	69%
	Regional	40%	40%	31%
GENDER	Identify as male	42%	42%	49%
	Identify as female	56%	56%	49%
AGE	Under 50	35%	35%	31%
	50-64	33%	33%	38%
	65+	30%	30%	30%
ATSI	Identify as Aboriginal	2%	2%	3%
CALD	Speak a language other than English at home	6%	6%	7%
VOTED (OR STARTED TO VOTE) FOR A PROJECT THAT RECEIVED FUNDING	Yes	47%	47%	13%

CLOSING DEMOGRAPHICS Q19-23

Q5. Were any of the projects you voted on selected to receive MCP Funding?

Base: All answering the questions (bases on chart)

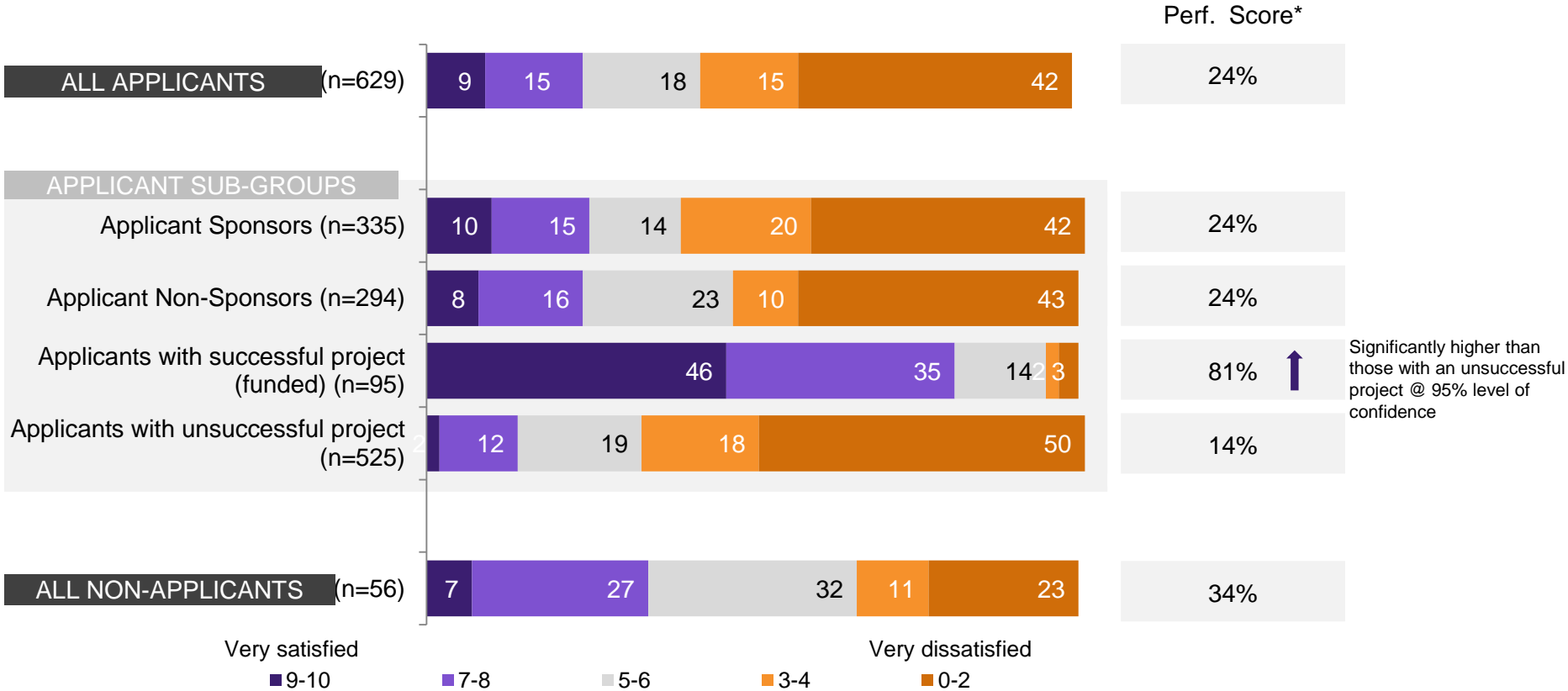
PERCEPTIONS OF MCP APPLICATION PROCESS

This section reports the experiences of those who submitted an application (Applicants), Applicants who sponsored an application (Applicant Sponsors) and those who started an application but did not submit it (Non-Applicants)

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH MY COMMUNITY PROJECT

Overall satisfaction with MCP was mixed. 24% of Applicants rated their satisfaction as 7 or higher out of 10. Similar levels of dissatisfaction were seen across all groups, apart from those with a successful project who were significantly more satisfied

Satisfaction With MCP Overall (%)



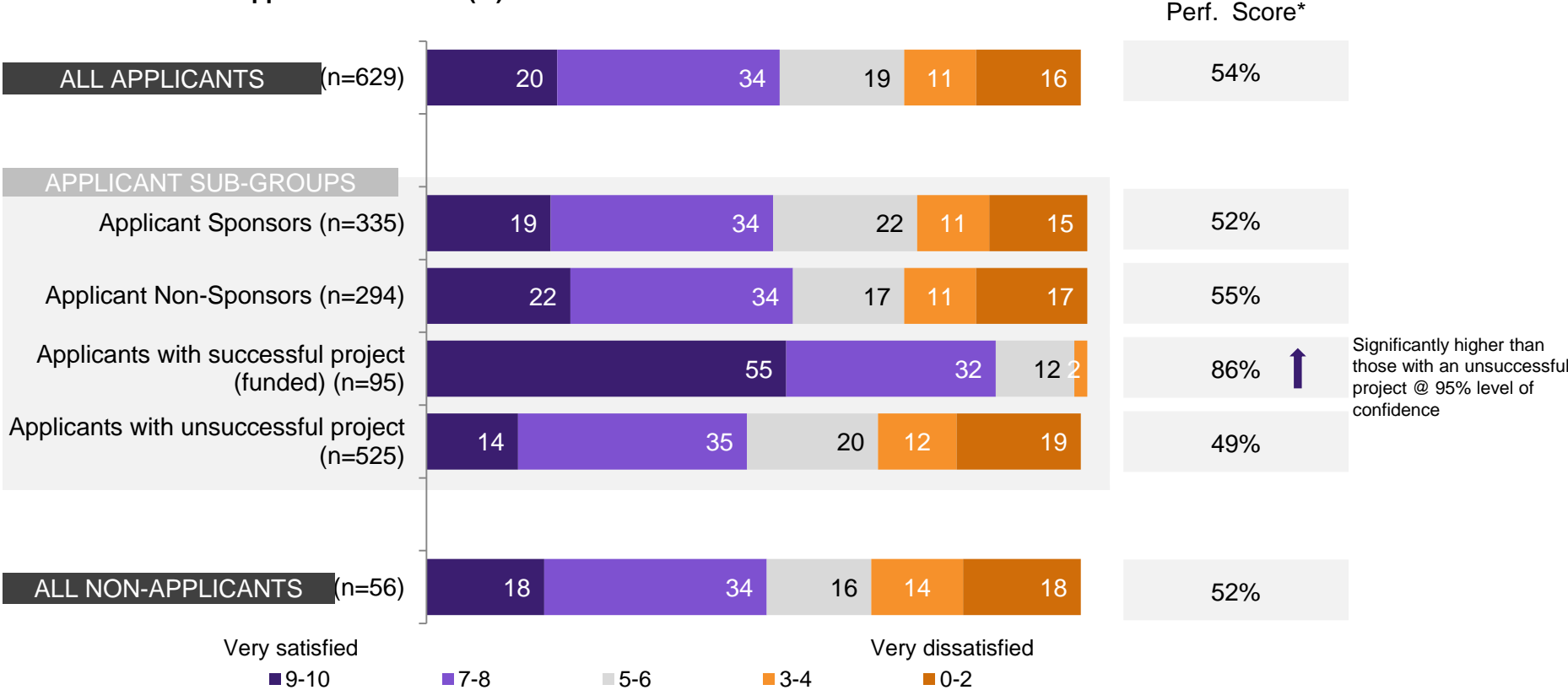
Q6. Taking all your experiences into account, overall, how satisfied were you with My Community Project? Please use the following scale, where 0 is VERY DISSATISFIED and 10 is VERY SATISFIED. Bases: (on chart)

*Performance score = All providing a rating of 7 or more out of 10

SATISFACTION WITH MCP APPLICATION PROCESS

Satisfaction with the application process was higher than for the project overall, with around half rating their satisfaction as 7 or higher out of 10. Again, satisfaction was significantly higher among those with a successful project

Satisfaction With MCP Application Process (%)



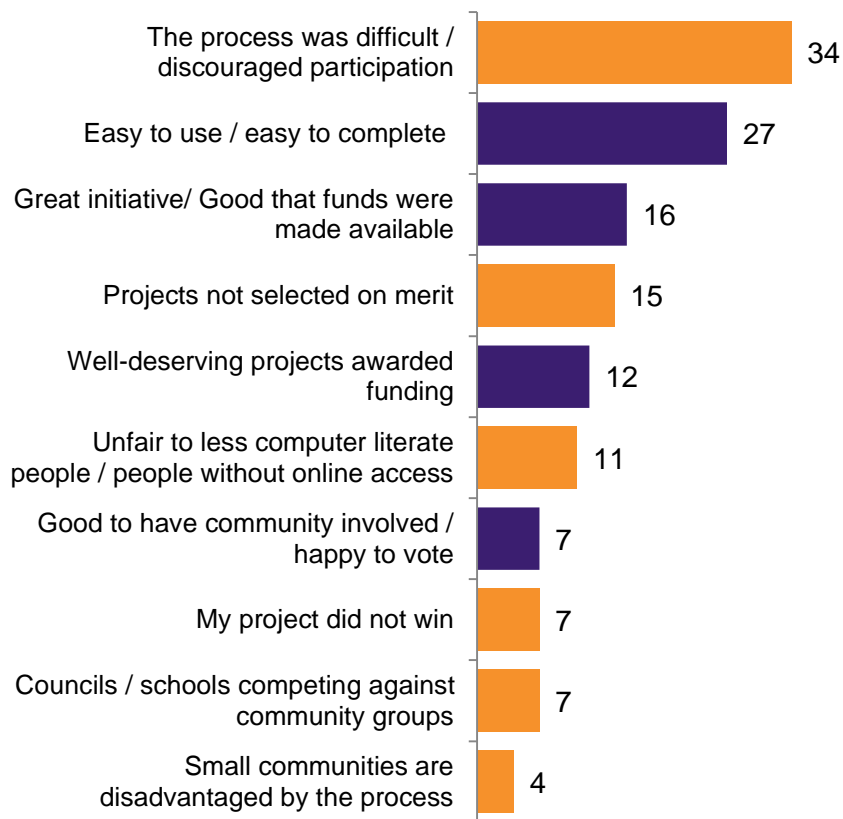
Q10. Regardless of how far you got with the application process, how satisfied were you with the My Community Project application process? Please use the following scale, where 0 is VERY DISSATISFIED and 10 is VERY SATISFIED. Base: (on chart)

*Performance score = All providing a rating of 7 or more out of 10

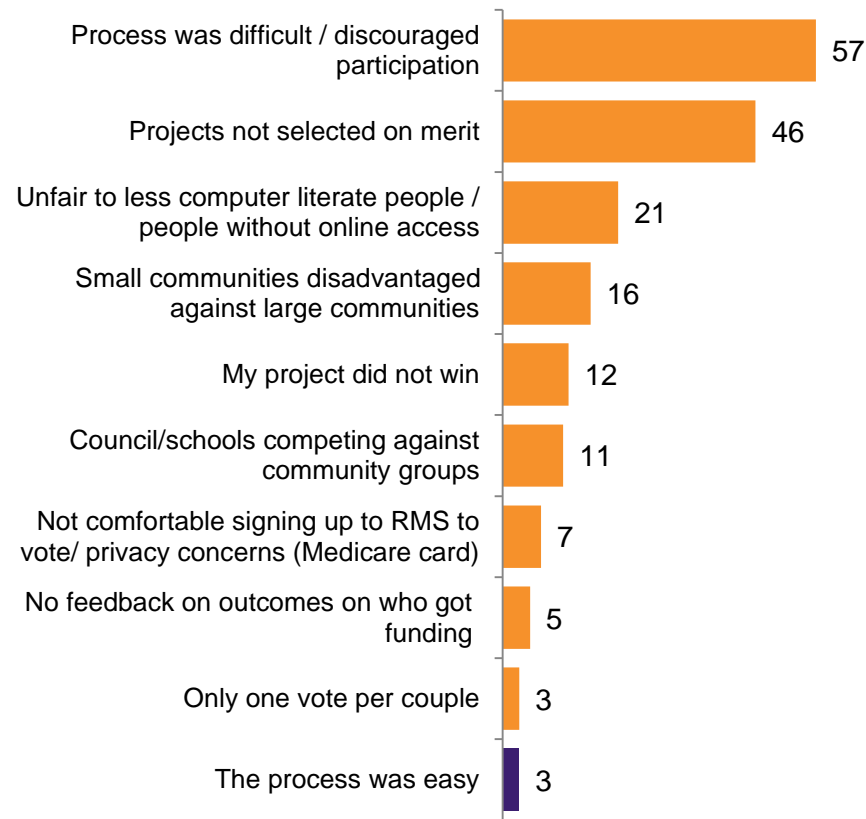
REASONS FOR OVERALL PROJECT SATISFACTION LEVEL

As for voters, the biggest reasons for dissatisfaction with MCP was the process being difficult and concerns about how projects were selected

Main Reasons for Higher Satisfaction (7-10) (CODED) (%)



Main Reasons for Lower Satisfaction (0-6) (CODED) (%)



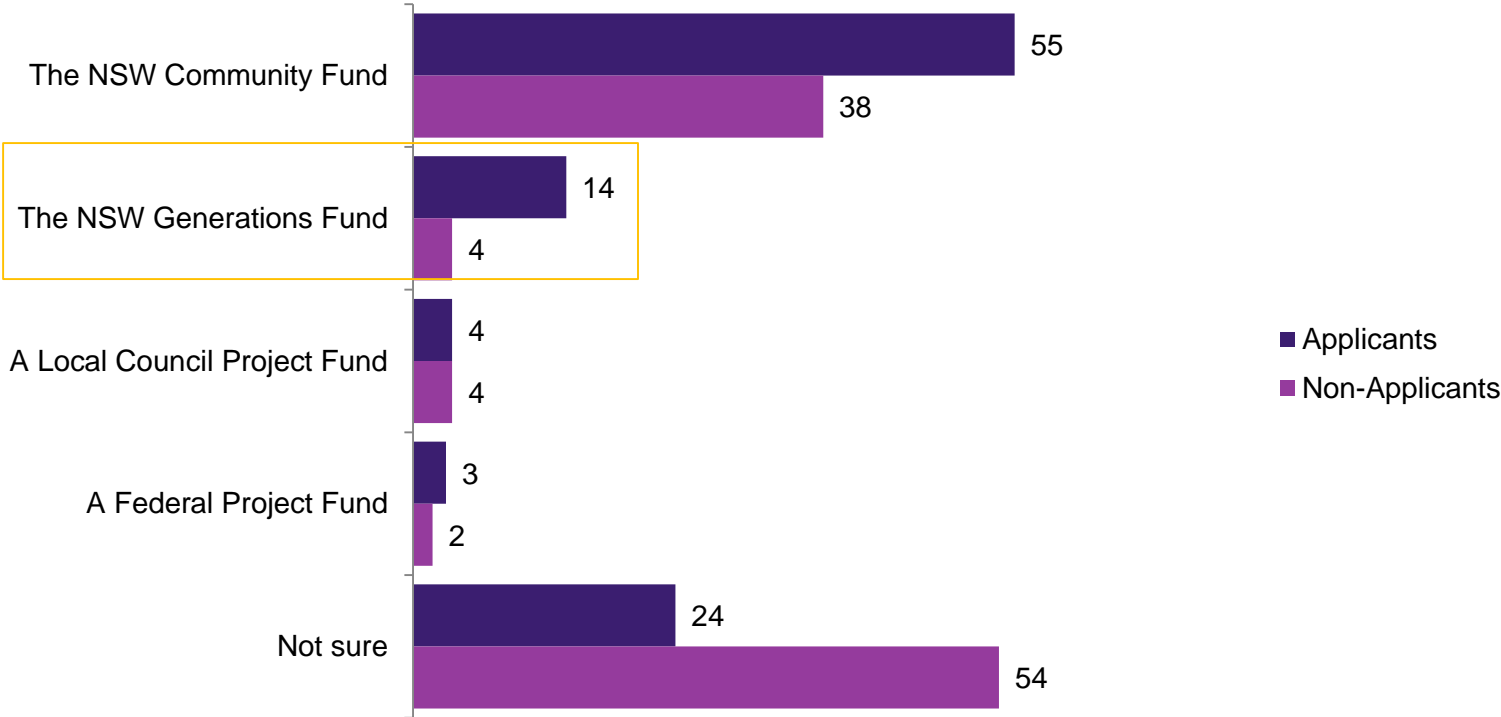
Q7. Why did you rate your overall satisfaction as a X out of 10? PLEASE NOTE, ONLY A RANDOM SAMPLE OF n=344 APPLICANT RESPONSES WERE CODED

Base: All rating their overall satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10 (n=74). All rating their overall satisfaction as 6 or less out of 10 (n=270).

KNOWLEDGE OF HOW MCP WAS FUNDED

Awareness of how the MCP was funded was reasonably poor among both Applicants and Non-Applicants. Most thought it was funded by a “NSW Community Fund” or were not sure

Awareness Of The Fund Used For MCP (%)

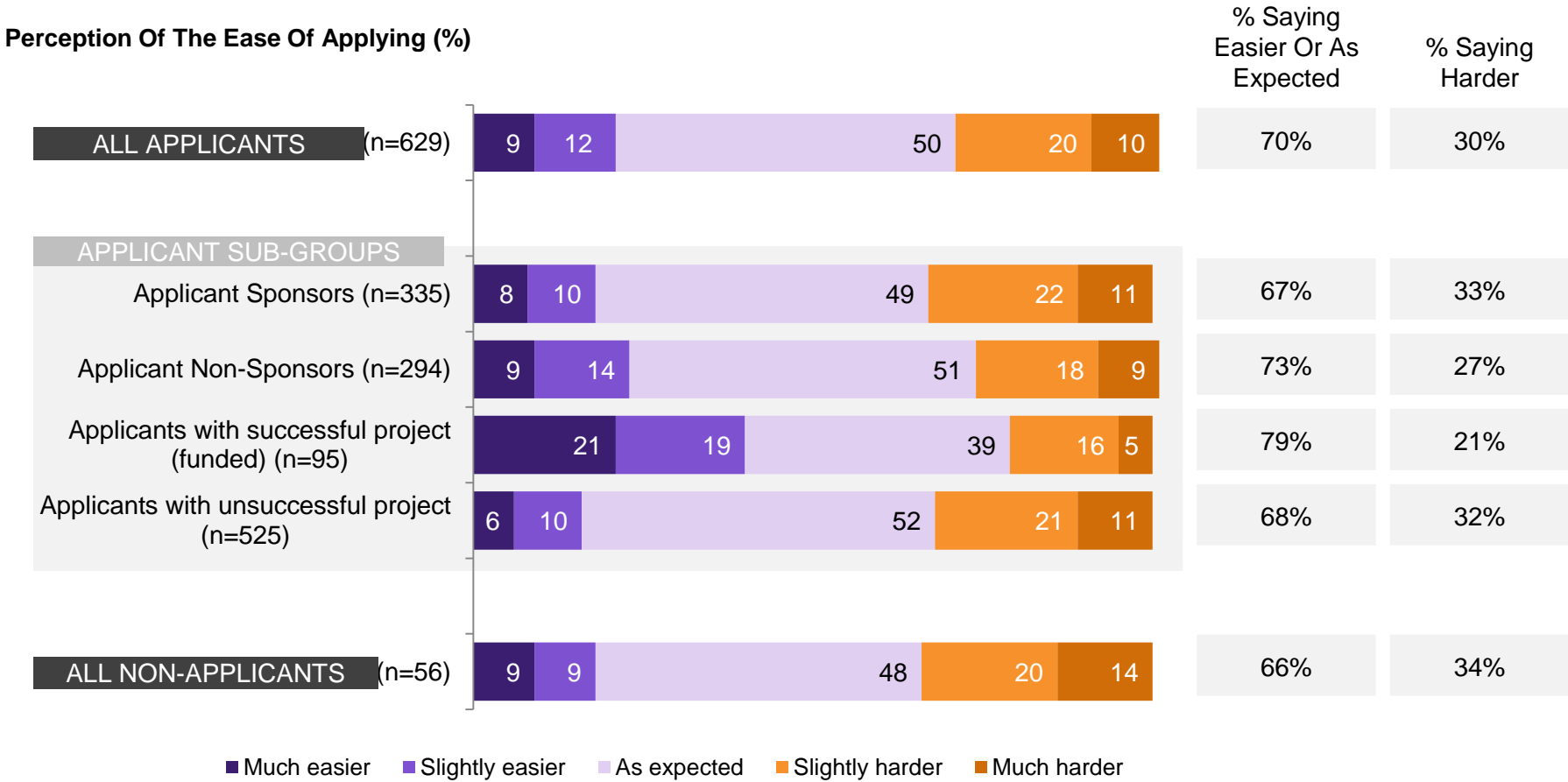


Q8. Which of the following funds was used to make the My Community Project possible?

Base: Applicants (n=629), Non-Applicants (n=56).

EASE OF MCP APPLICATION PROCESS

The majority of Applicants and Non-Applicants found the application process at least as easy as they expected it to be



Q11. How was the My Community Project application process? Bases: (on chart)

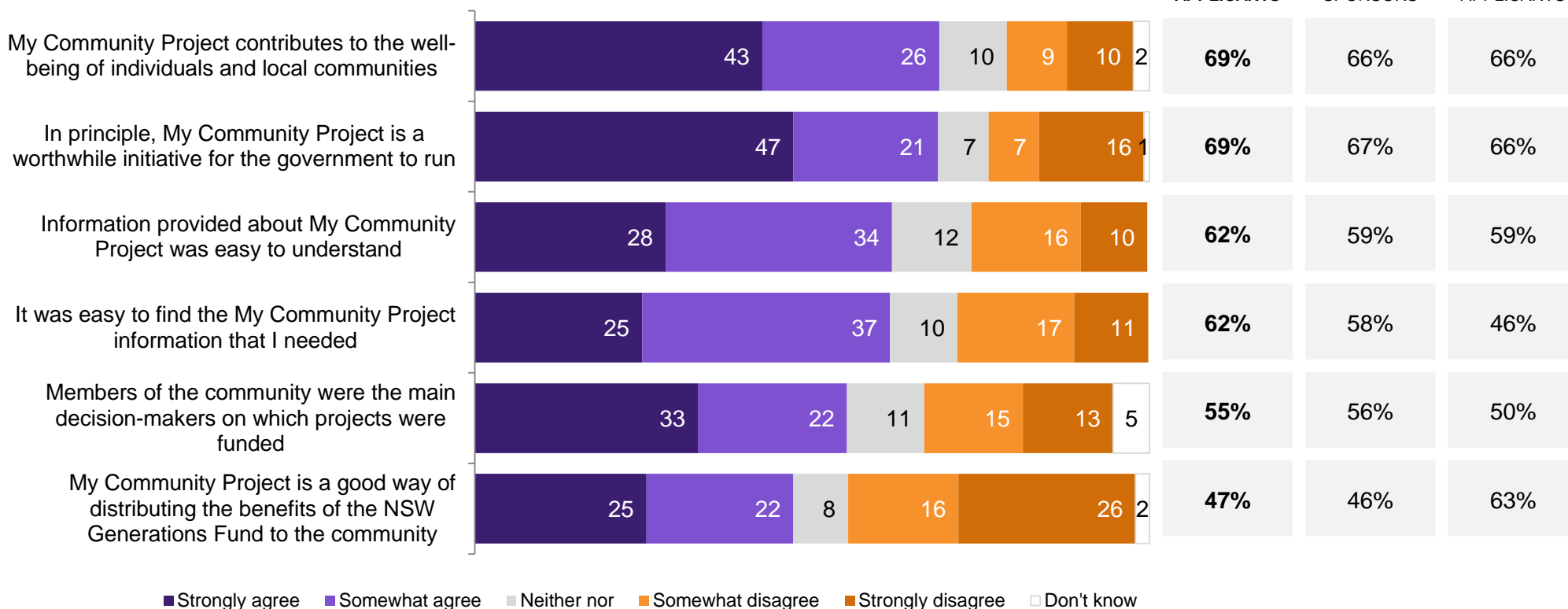
AGREEMENT WITH SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE MCP OVERALL

Most agree MCP contributes to individual and community well-being and is a worthwhile initiative. Opinion is more mixed around whether decisions were made by the community and whether the project is a good way to distribute the funds

% STATING AGREE

APPLICANTS APPLICANT - SPONSORS NON-APPLICANTS

Agreement Level – Overall Project Attributes: All Applicants (%)

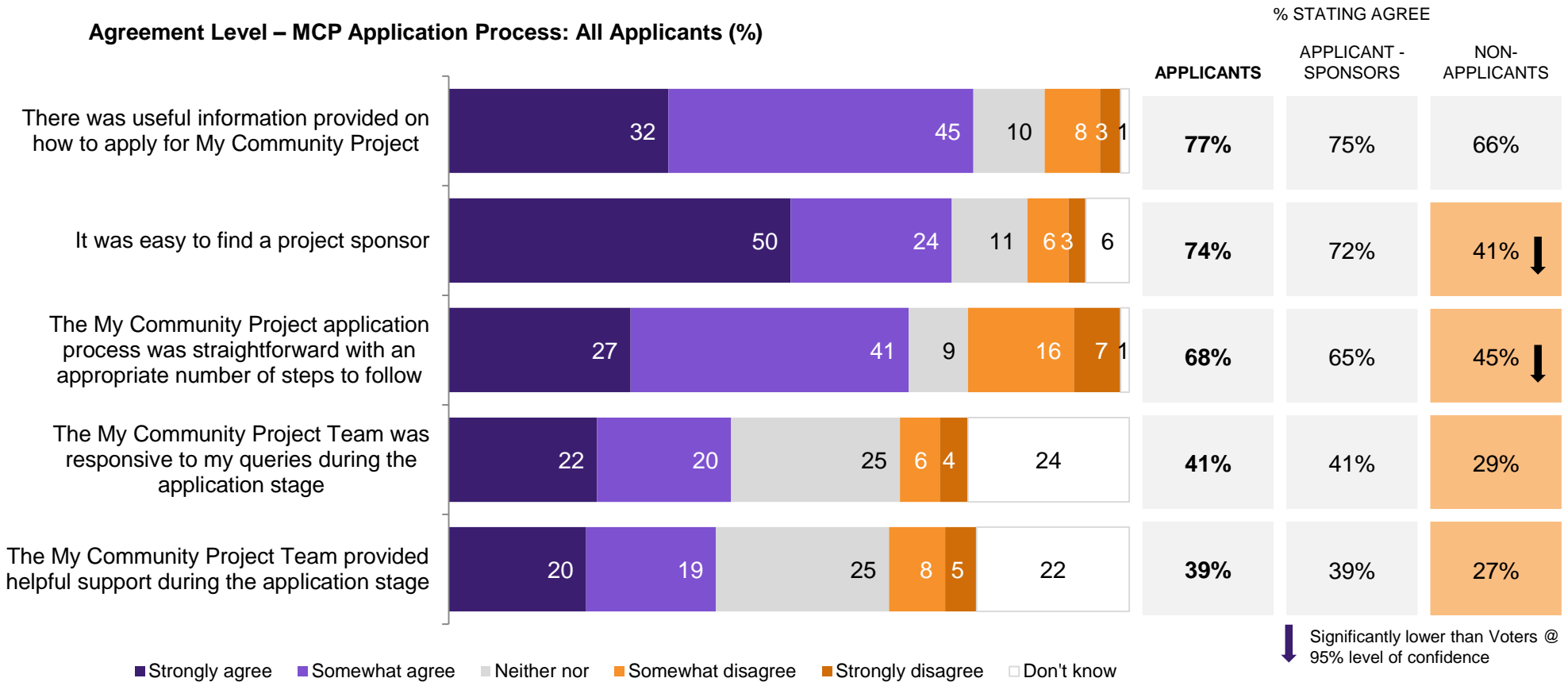


Q9. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about My Community Project? Base: All Applicants (n=629). All Applicant-Sponsors (n=335). All Non-Applicants (n= 56)

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH SPECIFIC APPLICATION ASPECTS

Most applicants agree that useful information was provided about MCP, it was easy to find a sponsor and the process was straightforward. Opinion was more mixed around support provided. Non-Applicants struggled to find a sponsor and found the process challenging

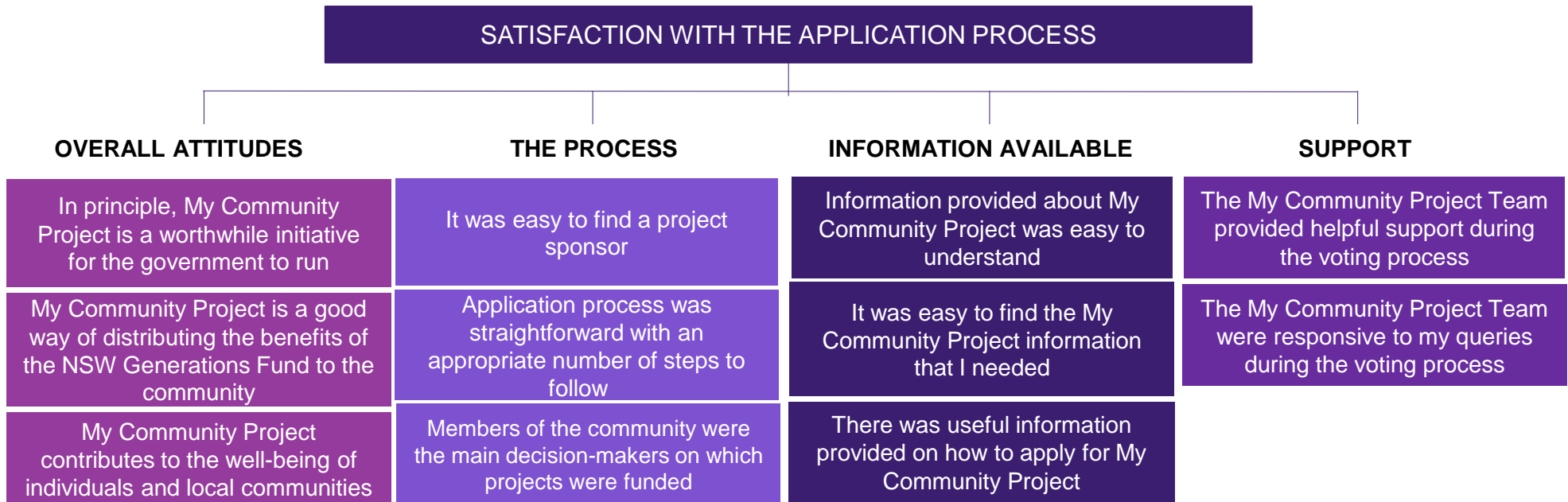
Agreement Level – MCP Application Process: All Applicants (%)



Q12. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about My Community Project application process? Base: All Applicants (n=629). All Applicant-Sponsors (n=335). All Non-Applicants (n= 56)

IDENTIFYING KEY DRIVERS OF APPLICANT SATISFACTION

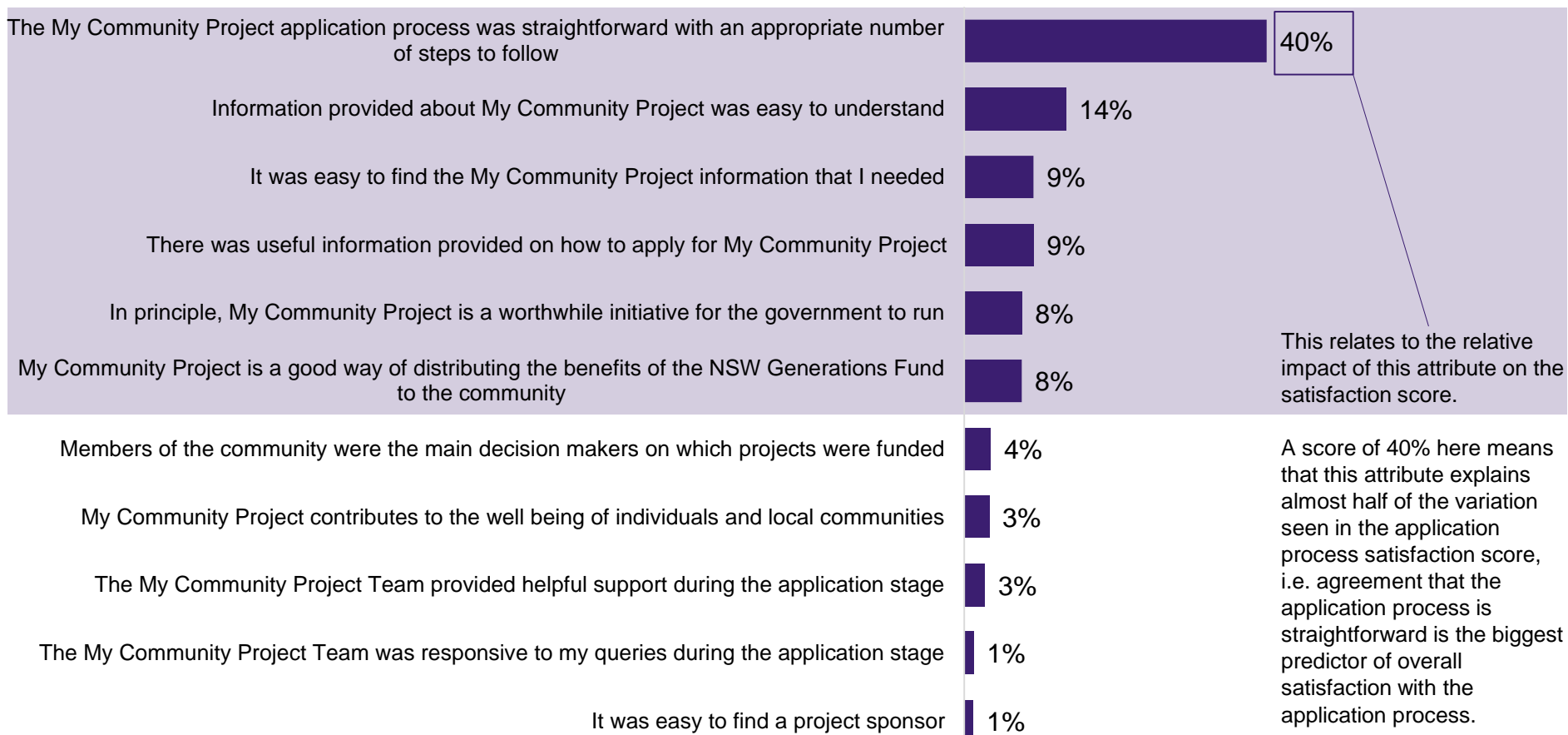
The NewREP statistical model looked at eleven attributes to identify the impact each has on satisfaction with the MCP application process, to help to prioritise improvements



RELATIVE ATTRIBUTE IMPACT ON APPLICATION SATISFACTION

By far the main driver of satisfaction with the application process was how straightforward respondents perceived it to be, followed by the provision of information

Relative impact of attributes on satisfaction with the MCP application process



PRIORITY MATRIX – IMPACT AND PERFORMANCE (APPLICATION)

While MCP should be promoted as a worthwhile initiative, key areas for improvement relate to the ease of the application process and the provision of information on applying for MCP

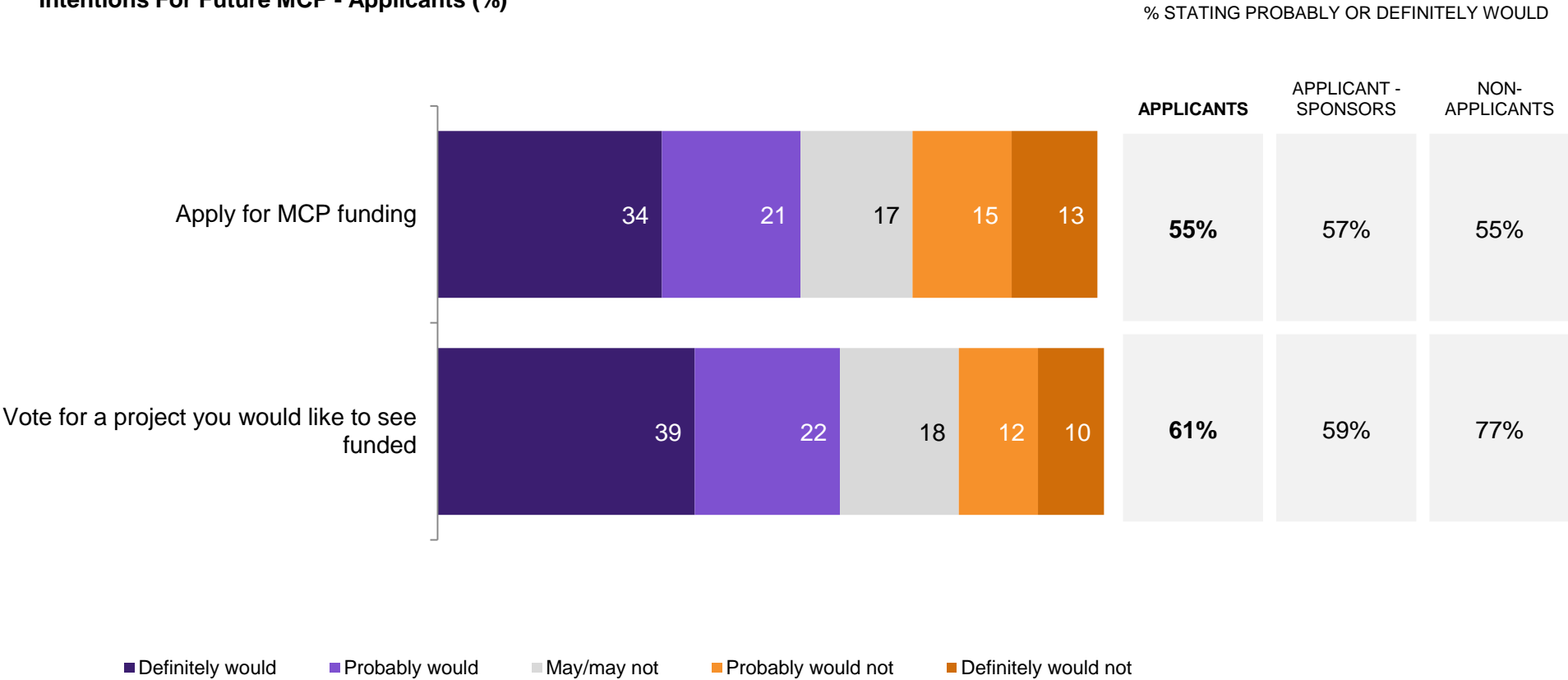
The table below presents the results from NewREP© modelling, showing the relative impact of each attribute on satisfaction with the application process, as well as the performance of My Community Project on each attribute.

APPLICATION MODEL ATTRIBUTES	IMPACT ON SATISFACTION WITH APPLICATION	PERFORMANCE SCORE (ALL IN STRONG AGREEMENT)	ACTION PRIORITY
The My Community Project application process was straightforward with an appropriate number of steps to follow	40	27	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
Information provided about My Community Project was easy to understand	14	29	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
There was useful information provided on how to apply for My Community Project	9	33	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
It was easy to find the My Community Project information that I needed	9	25	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
In principle, My Community Project is a worthwhile initiative for the government to run	8	47	KEY STRENGTH TO BUILD
My Community Project is a good way of distributing the benefits of the NSW Generations Fund to the community	8	26	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
Members of the community were the main decision makers on which projects were funded	4	35	SECONDARY PRIORITY
My Community Project contributes to the well being of individuals and local communities	3	44	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
The My Community Project Team provided helpful support during the application stage	3	26	SECONDARY PRIORITY
It was easy to find a project sponsor	1	53	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
The My Community Project Team was responsive to my queries during the application stage	1	28	SECONDARY PRIORITY

FUTURE MCP INTENTIONS

Around half of Applicants and Non-Applicants said they would probably or definitely apply for MCP funding if the project were to run again. Slightly more said they would vote

Intentions For Future MCP - Applicants (%)

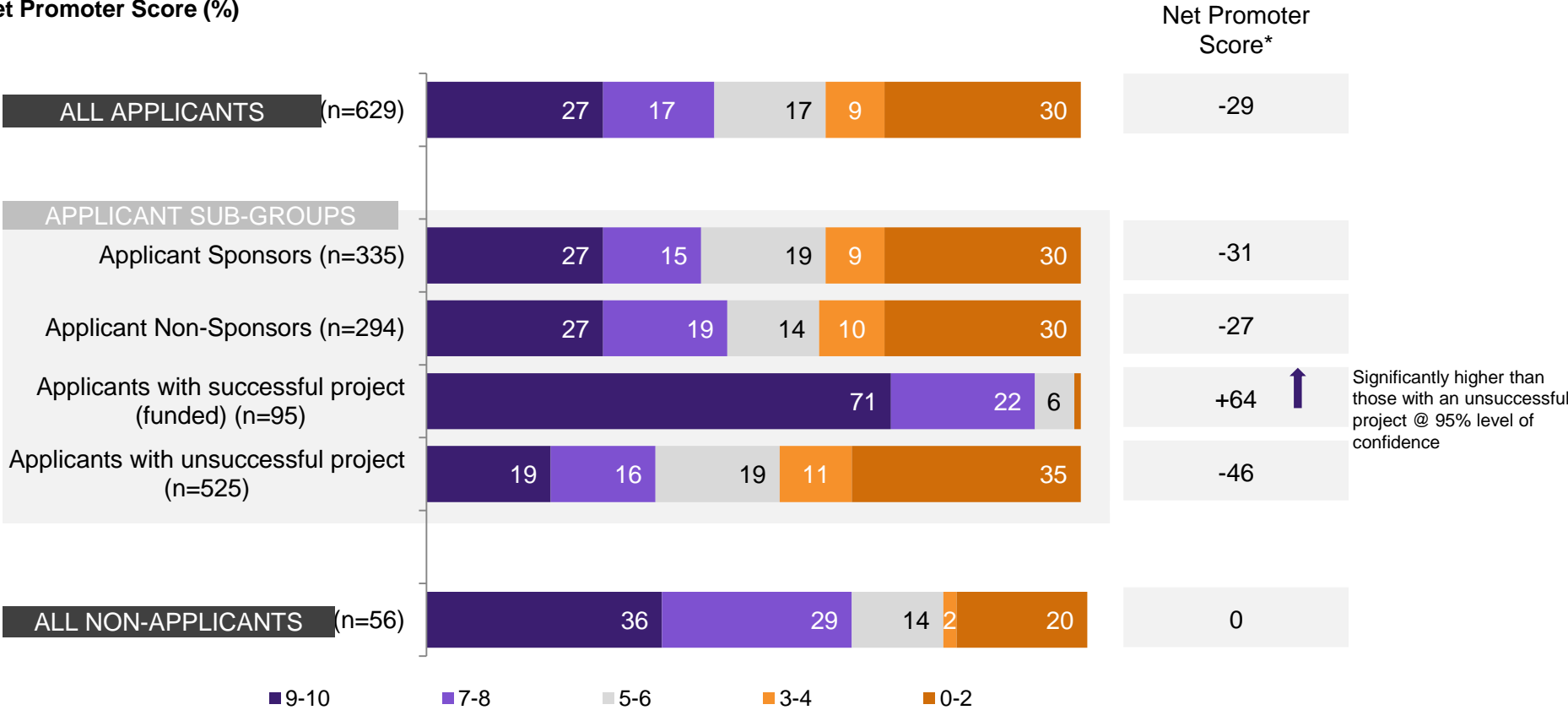


Q18. If My Community Project was to run again in the future, how likely would you be to...?
 Base: All Applicants (n=629). All Applicant-Sponsors (n=335). All Non-Applicants (n= 56)

MCP RECOMMENDATION – NET PROMOTER SCORE

Opinion is mixed in terms of how likely those involved with an application would be to recommend MCP. Those with a successful project were significantly more likely to be a promoter of the program

Net Promoter Score (%)



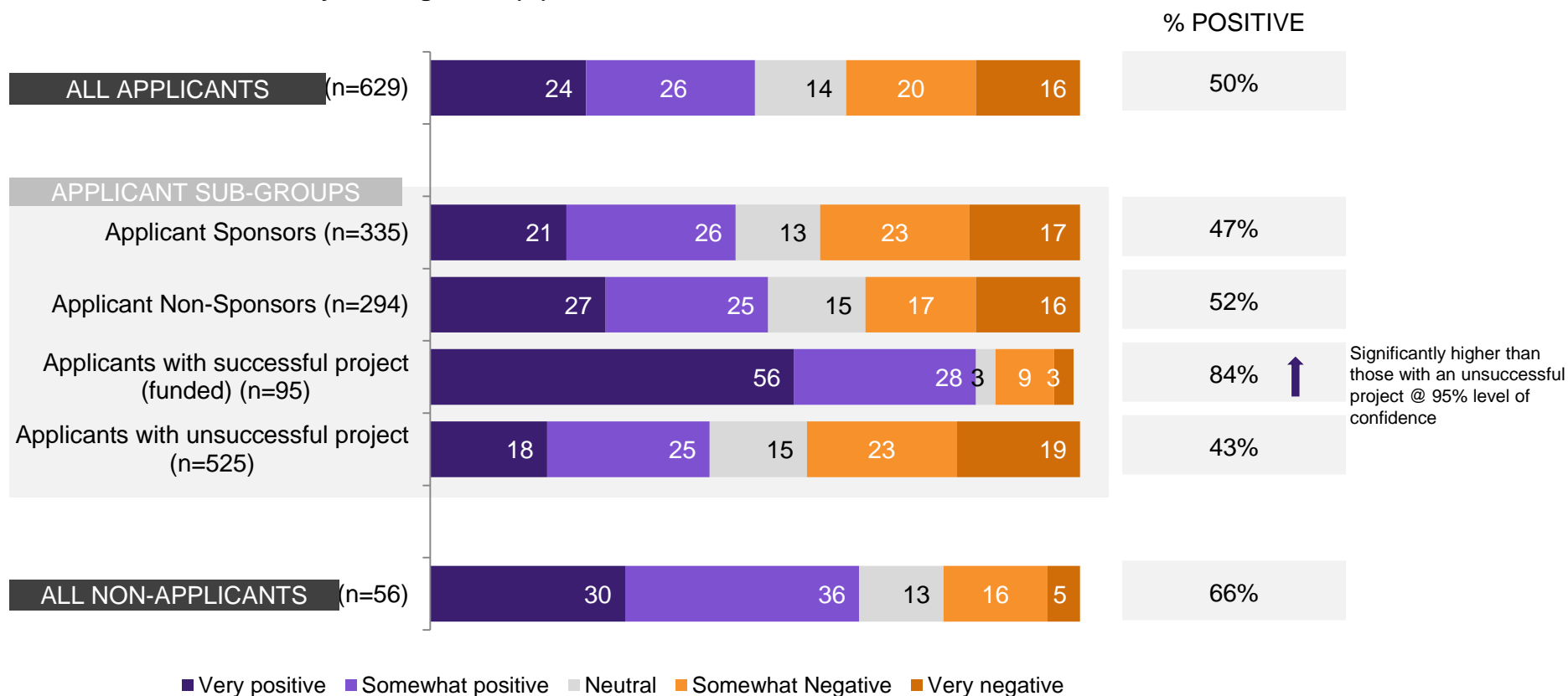
Q19. If My Community Project ran again, overall, how likely would you be to recommend MCP to your friends or family?

Bases: (on chart) *Net Promoter Score: All providing a rating of 9 or 10 minus all providing a rating of 0-6

SENTIMENT TOWARDS THE MCP VOTER FUNDING MODEL

Opinion is mixed on the voter funding model, with successful Applicants and Non-Applicants most positive

Sentiment Towards Community Funding Model (%)



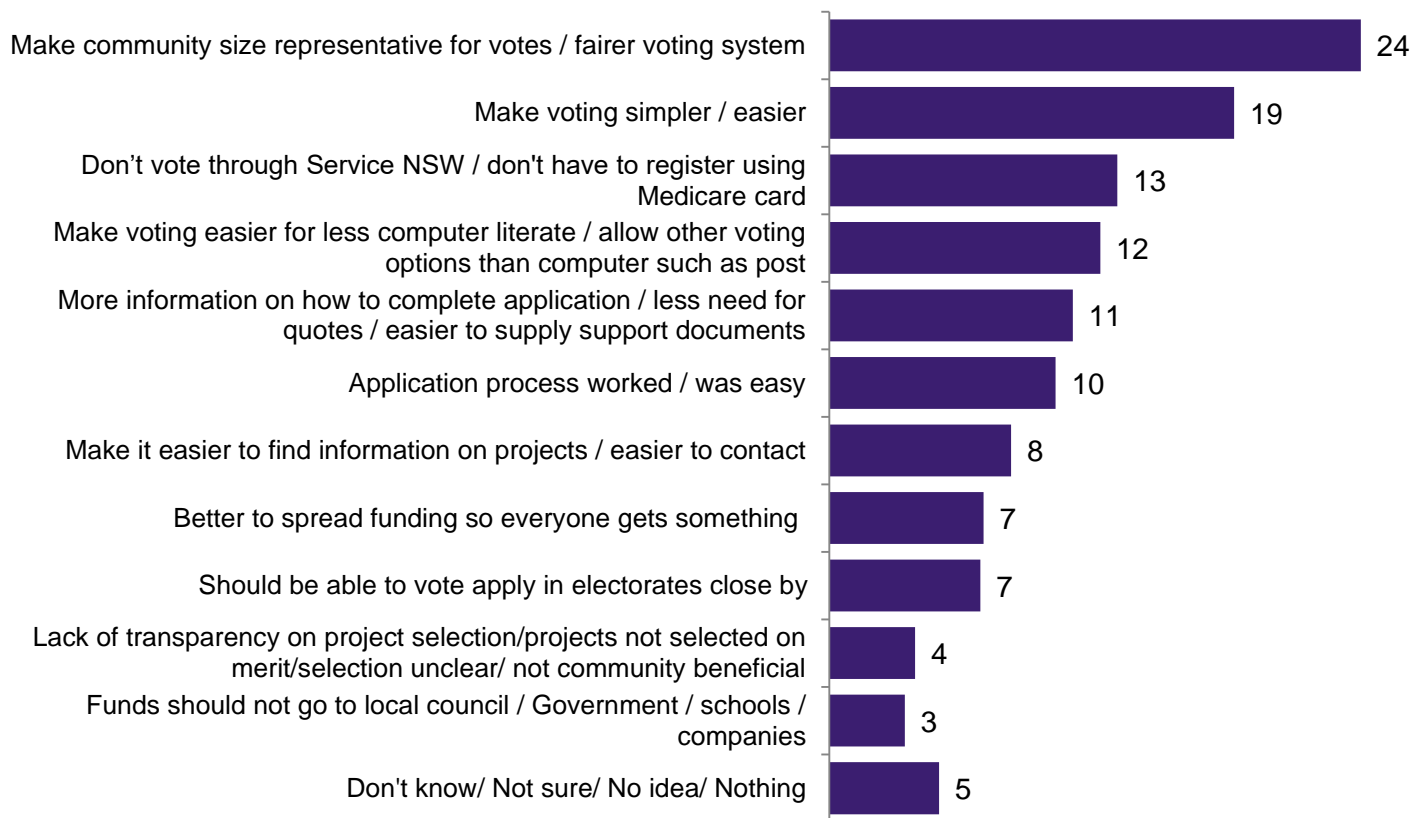
Q20. Thinking more generally, how do you feel about community project funding decisions being made solely by community members?

Bases: (on chart)

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF APPLICATION PROCESS

Many suggestions for improvement focused on the voting process, with a fairer project selection system and simpler verification and voting key areas mentioned

Suggested Improvements To Application Process (CODED) (%)



Q13. What improvements would you suggest making to the My Community Project application process?

Base: Coded responses from all at least starting the application process and with application ID (n=637).

OVERALL FEEDBACK ON MY COMMUNITY PROJECT

A snapshot of applicant feedback in their words

“The concept is good - but is open to bigger voices in larger communities rallying for votes when there are equally valuable projects in smaller communities, where a cash injection would be a windfall, that should be considered.”

“Please collaborate with the people who work in the community before someone’s idea on how to distribute government money gets traction - its too hard to get grants as it is.”

“Some people told me they did not vote; they backed out of the voting system when they realised they had to enter their Medicare number.”

“Although my project did not win, I would like to apply again. I was surprised at how few total votes there were for our local area, not just our project, considering the total population size.”

“Too many people reported difficulty with the voting process itself. It relies heavily on us being able to successfully network with people to convince them to make the effort to vote. Too many needy projects in the first place – more funding needed!!”

“This is a great way to input into communities. Provides a sense of agency for community groups. A bit challenging voting system with barriers for those with English as second language or limited IT skills/familiarity.”

“Distribute the funds by LGA rather than by electorate so small communities have a chance.”

“I believe it is a great initiative and empowers the community.”

“We were extremely excited to take part in this but were totally deflated at the end. We put in countless hours getting our application together and our Sponsor was very hard to work with, so we did the majority of the work for them too. We think that the need for the project should also be taken into account. In our case, a wealthy area got another fantastic \$200,000 park. All we wanted was some new pot plants so our town centre doesn't look so awful. Doesn't seem fair to me.”

Q26. Is there anything further you would like to feedback about the My Community Project?

Base: All respondents who at least started the application process and who had a project application ID (n=637)

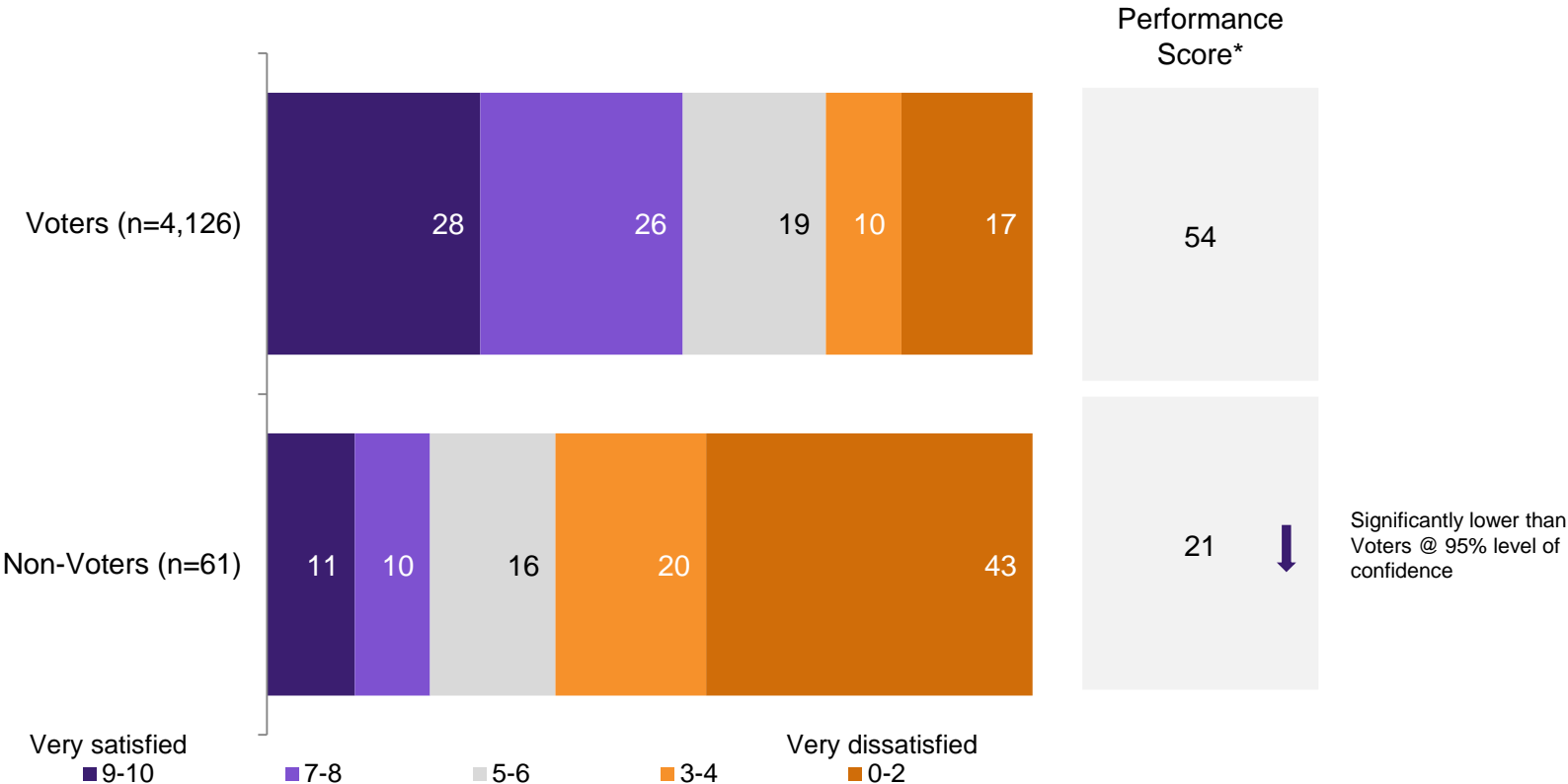
PERCEPTIONS OF MY COMMUNITY PROJECT (MCP) VOTING PROCESS

This section reports the experiences of those who submitted a vote (Voters) and those who registered, but did not end up submitting a vote (Non-Voters)

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH MY COMMUNITY PROJECT

Voter satisfaction with the My Community Project was reasonably mixed and Non-Voters are significantly less satisfied than Voters

Satisfaction With MCP Overall (%)



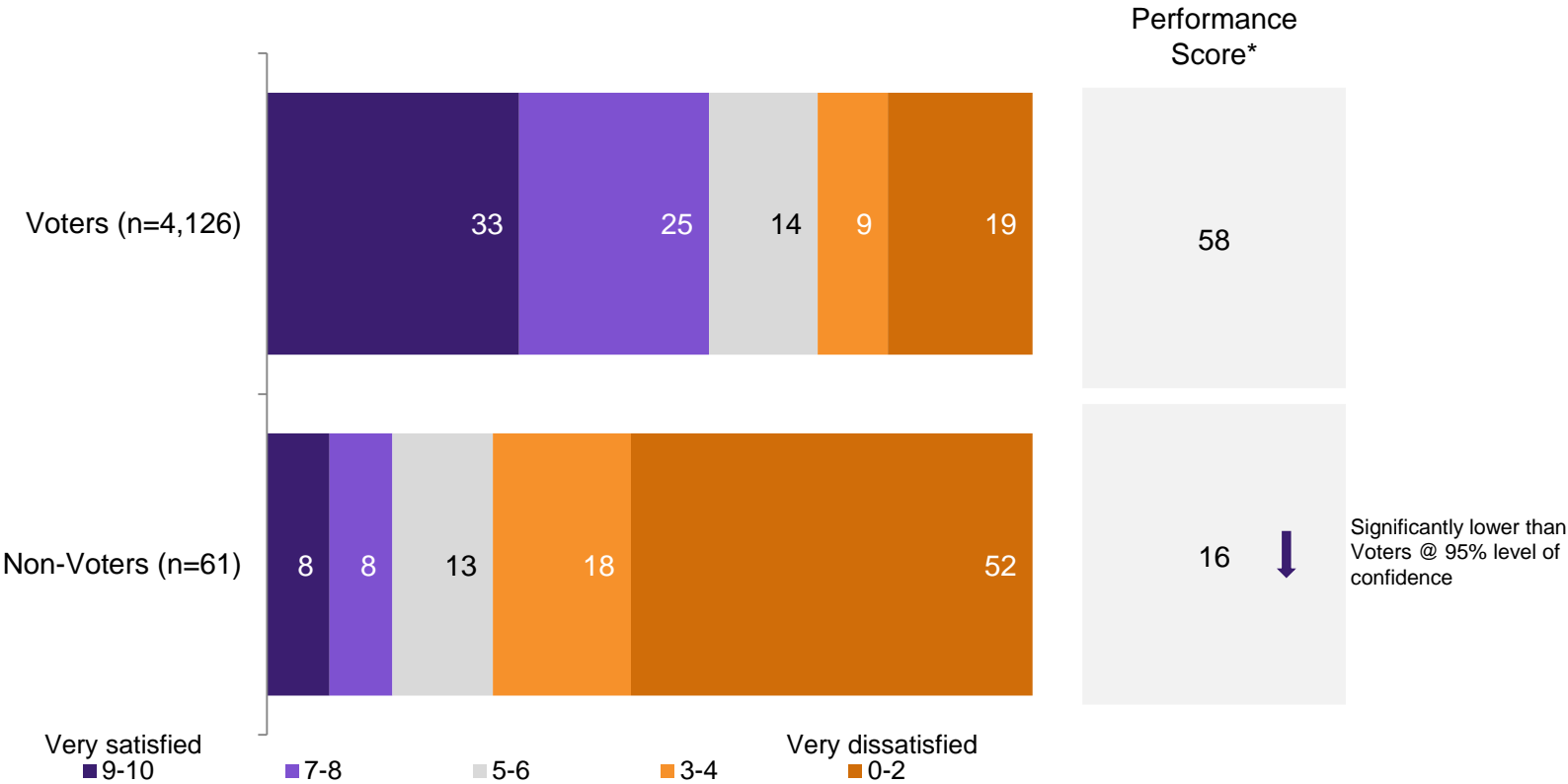
Q6. Taking all your experiences into account, overall, how satisfied were you with My Community Project? Please use the following scale, where 0 is VERY DISSATISFIED and 10 is VERY SATISFIED. Bases: (on chart)

*Performance score = All providing a rating of 7 or more out of 10

SATISFACTION WITH MCP VOTING PROCESS

Satisfaction with the voting process specifically was mixed and Non-Voters were significantly less satisfied than Voters

Satisfaction With Voting Process (%)



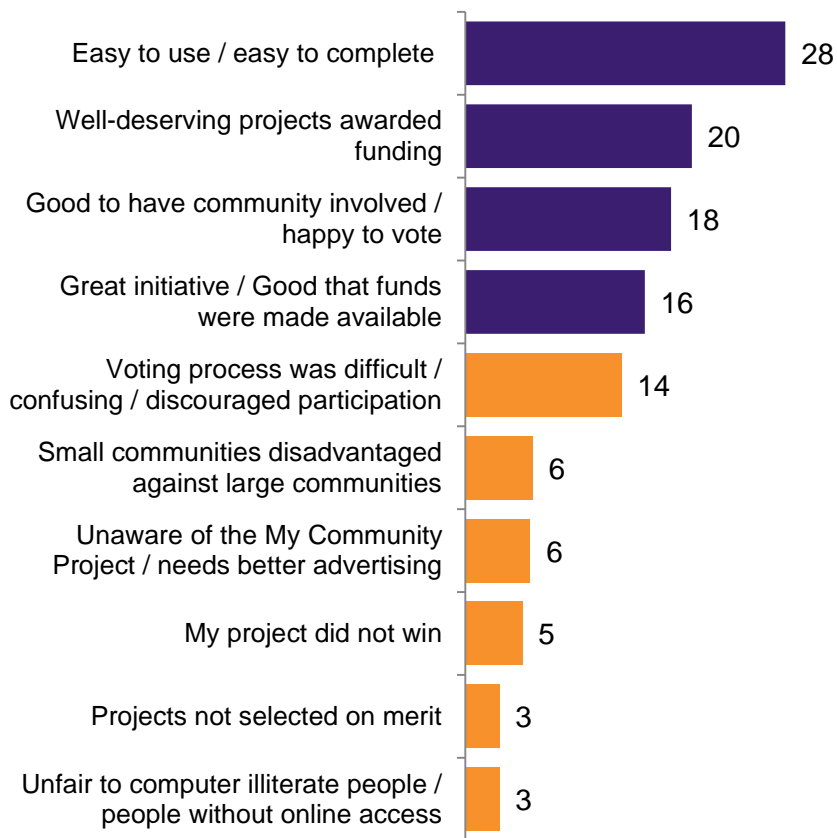
Q14. Regardless of how far you got with voting, how satisfied were you with the My Community Project voting process? Please use the following scale, where 0 is VERY DISSATISFIED and 10 is VERY SATISFIED. Base: All at least starting the voting process (on chart)

*Performance score = All providing a rating of 7 or more out of 10

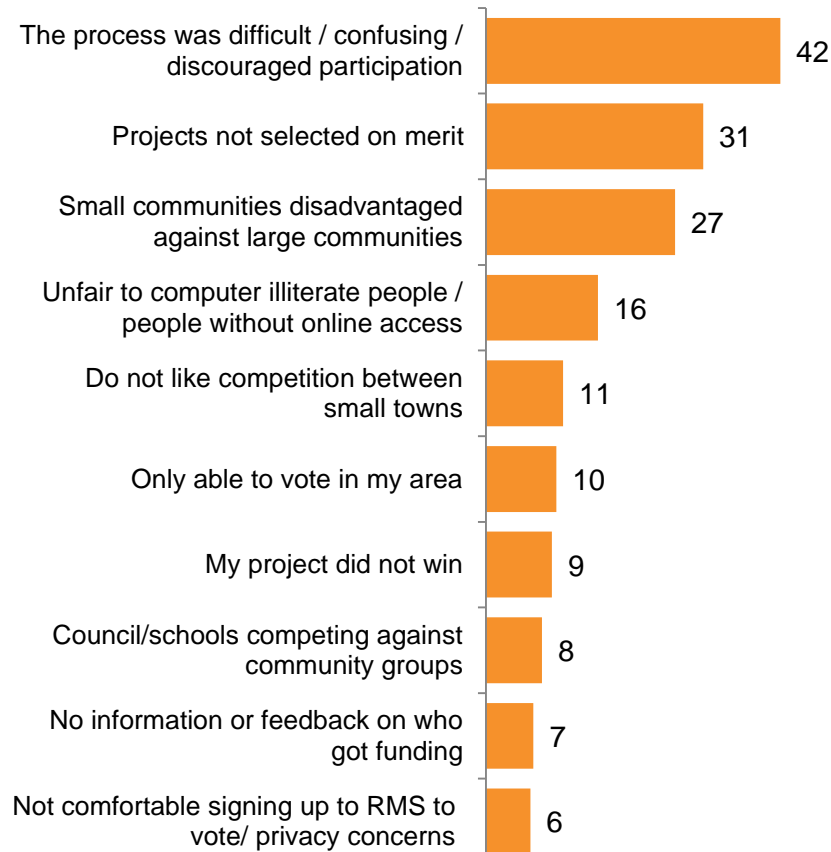
TOP 10 REASONS FOR OVERALL MCP SATISFACTION LEVEL

Ease of voting, how successful projects were selected, and the extent of community involvement were the main aspects impacting satisfaction and opinions were mixed about them. Even those providing higher ratings mentioned issues

Main Reasons for Higher Satisfaction (7-10) (CODED) (%)



Main Reasons for Lower Satisfaction (0-6) (CODED) (%)



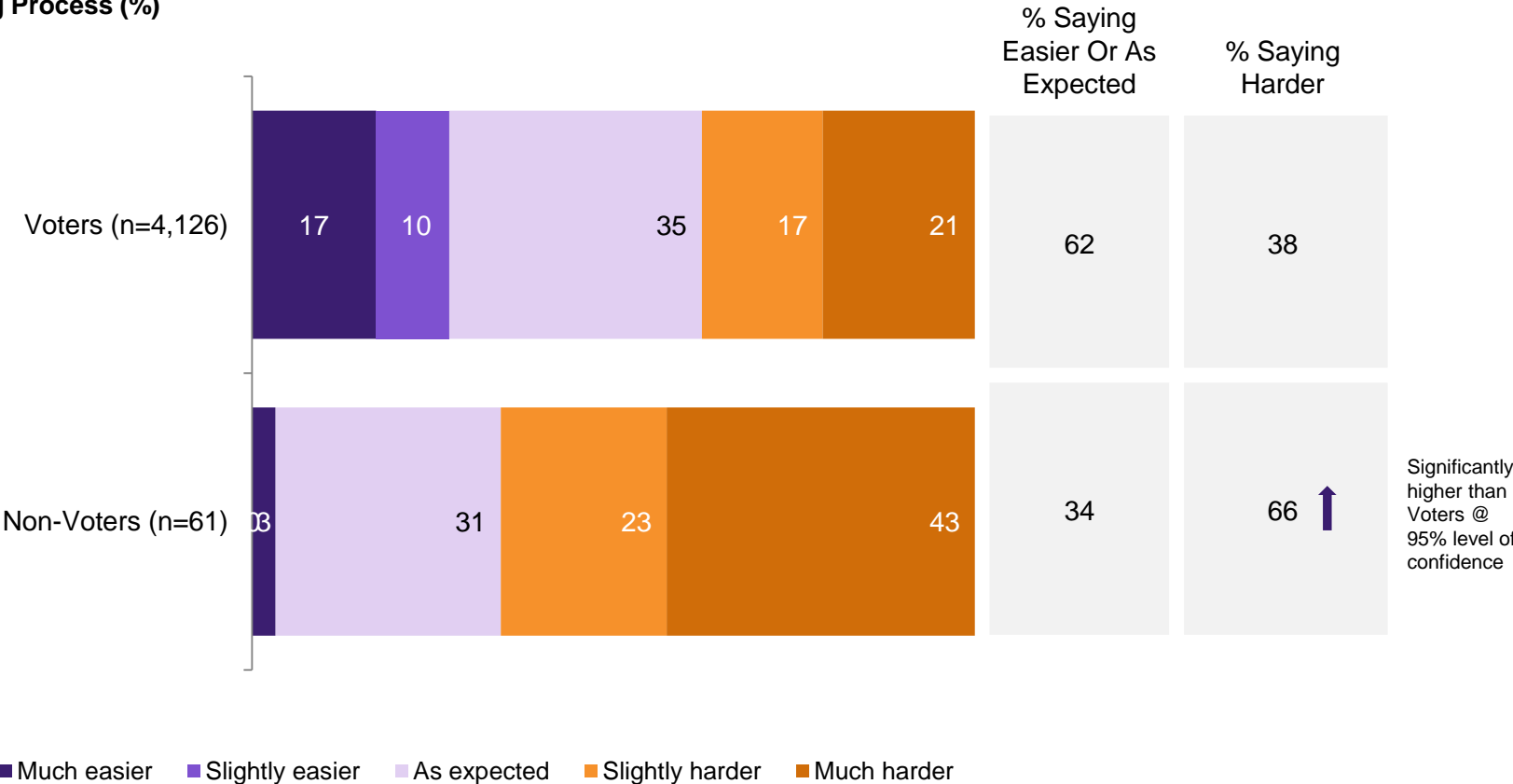
Q7. Why did you rate your overall satisfaction as a X out of 10? PLEASE NOTE, ONLY A RANDOM SAMPLE OF n=958 VOTER RESPONSES WERE CODED

Base: All rating their overall satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10 (n=439). All rating their overall satisfaction as 6 or less out of 10 (n=519).

EASE OF MCP VOTING PROCESS

While most Voters considered the voting process to be at least as they expected, Non-Voters were significantly more likely than Voters to agree that the process was harder

Ease Of MCP Voting Process (%)



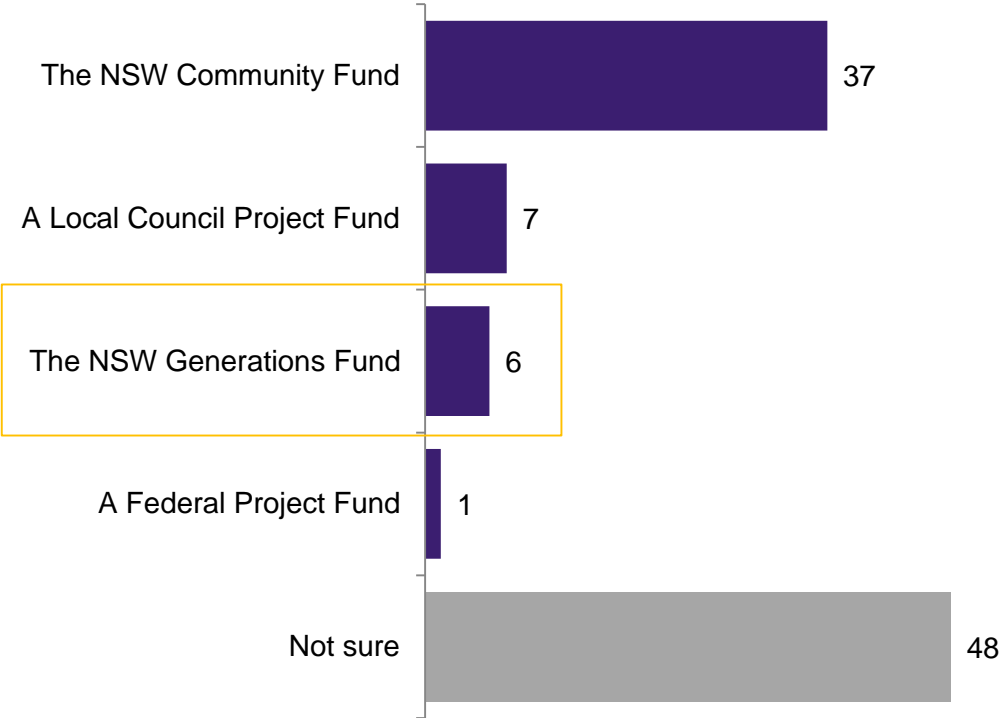
Q15. How was the My Community Project voting process? Please use the following scale, where 0 is VERY DISSATISFIED and 10 is VERY SATISFIED.

Base: All at least starting the voting process (on chart)

KNOWLEDGE OF HOW MCP WAS FUNDED

Only 6% were correctly aware that the NSW Generations Fund is used to fund My Community Project, with just under half (48%) saying they were 'Not sure', or misattributing the source of funds to come from the "NSW Community Fund"

Awareness Of Fund Used For MCP (%)



Q8. Which of the following funds was used to make the My Community Project possible?

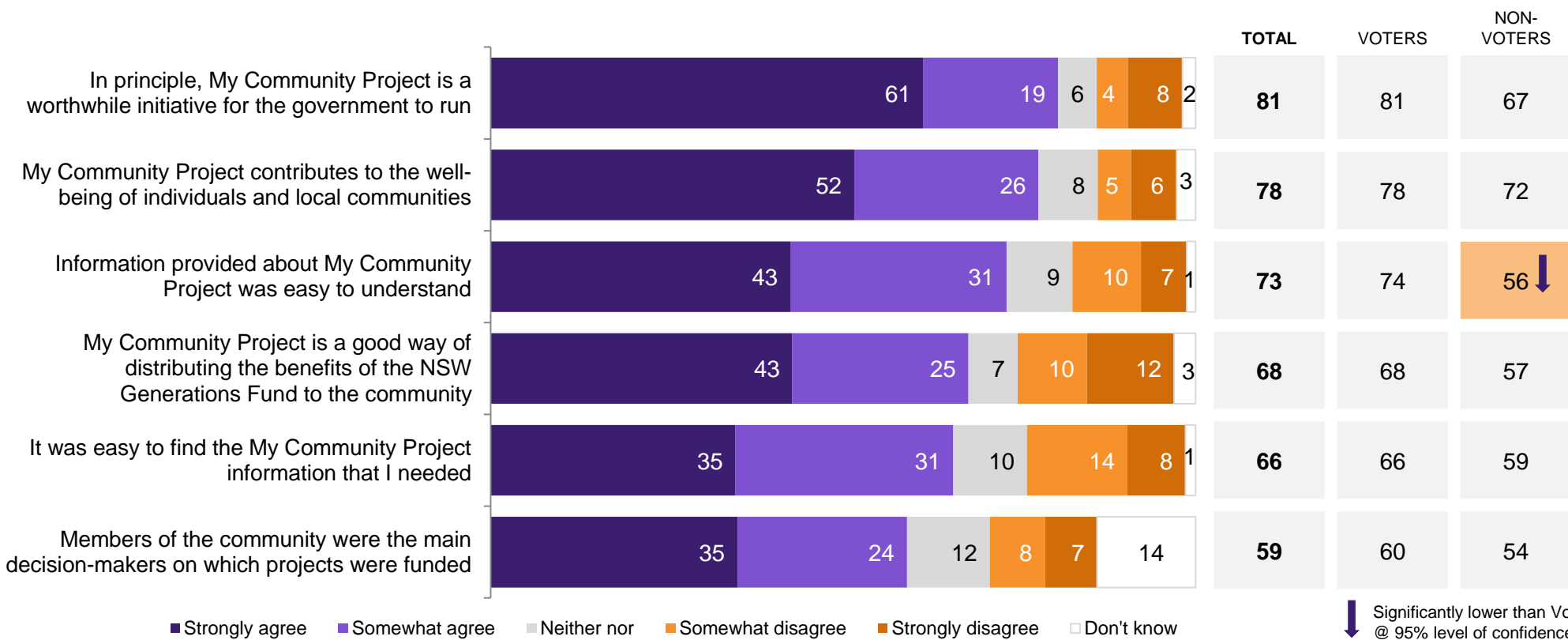
Base: All at least starting the voting process (n=4,187).

AGREEMENT WITH ASPECTS OF THE MCP OVERALL

The vast majority of those involved in voting agreed that MCP is worthwhile and contributes to the well-being of individuals and communities. Most agreed the information was easy to find and understand, and agreed with the funding model

Agreement Level – Overall Project Attributes (%)

% STATING AGREE



Q9. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about My Community Project? Base: All respondents at least starting the voting process (n=4,187). All Voters (n=4,126). All Non-Voters (n=61)

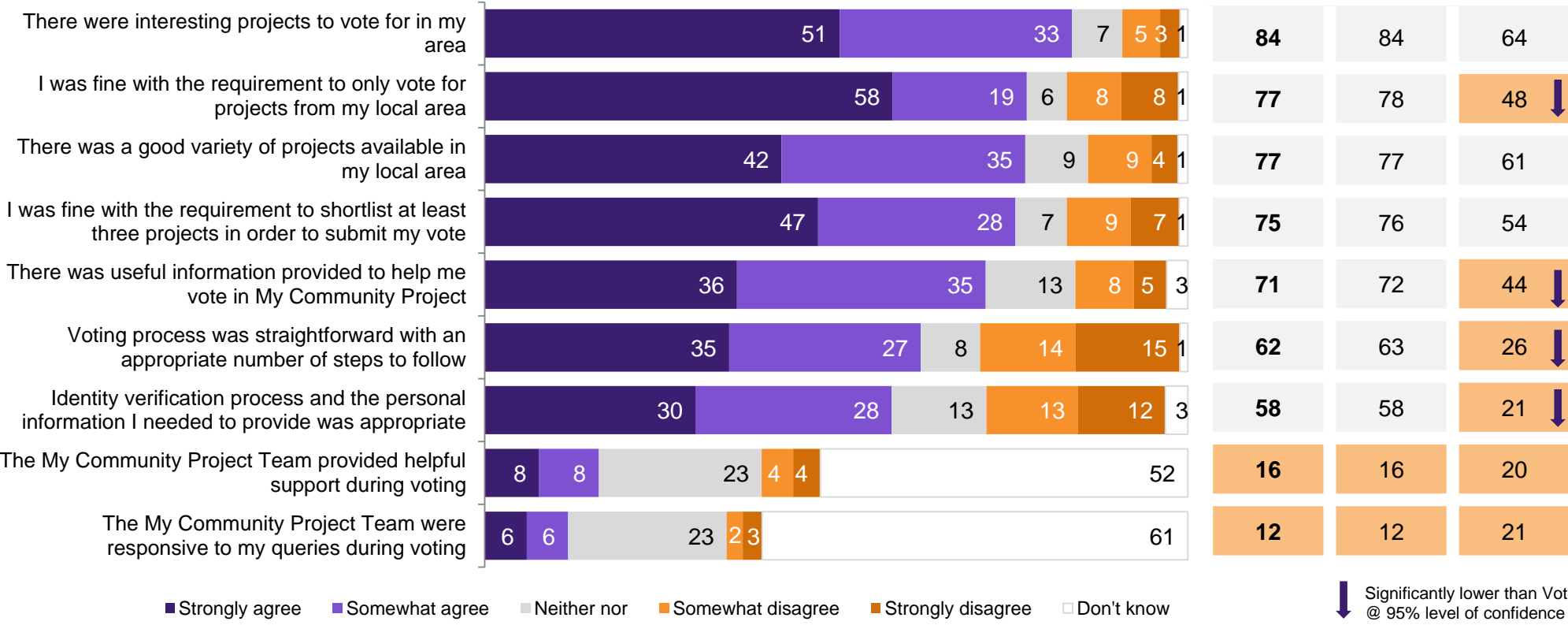
The areas of lowest agreement

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH ASPECTS OF THE VOTING PROCESS

Most agreed that projects were interesting and varied and were happy to only vote for projects in their local area. However, opinion was more mixed on the ease of the process and support provided, particularly among Non-Voters

% STATING AGREE

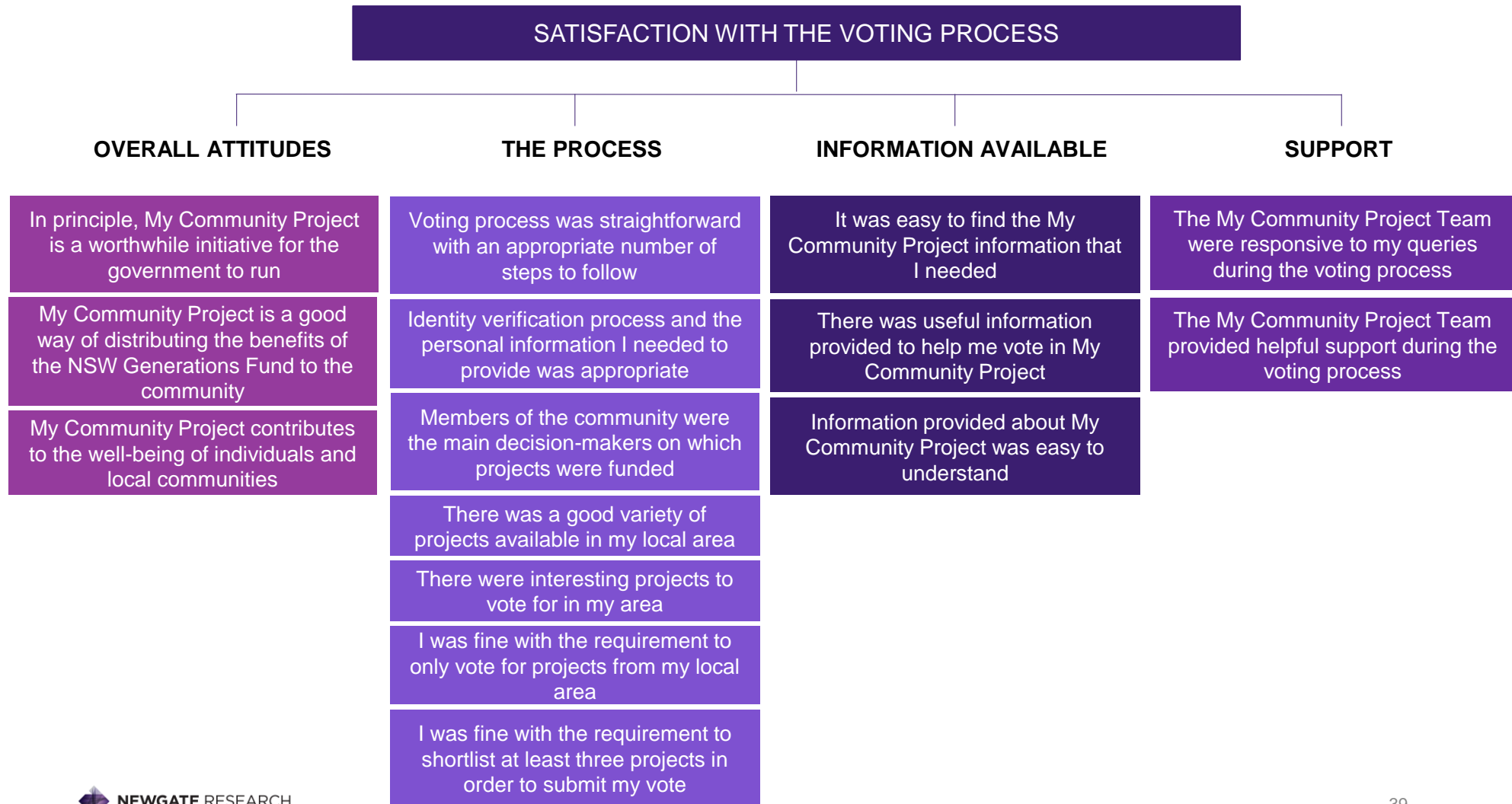
Agreement Level – MCP Voting Process (%)



Q16. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about My Community Project application process? Base: All respondents at least starting the voting process (n=4,187). All Voters (n=4,126). All Non-Voters (n=61)

IDENTIFYING THE KEY DRIVERS OF VOTING SATISFACTION

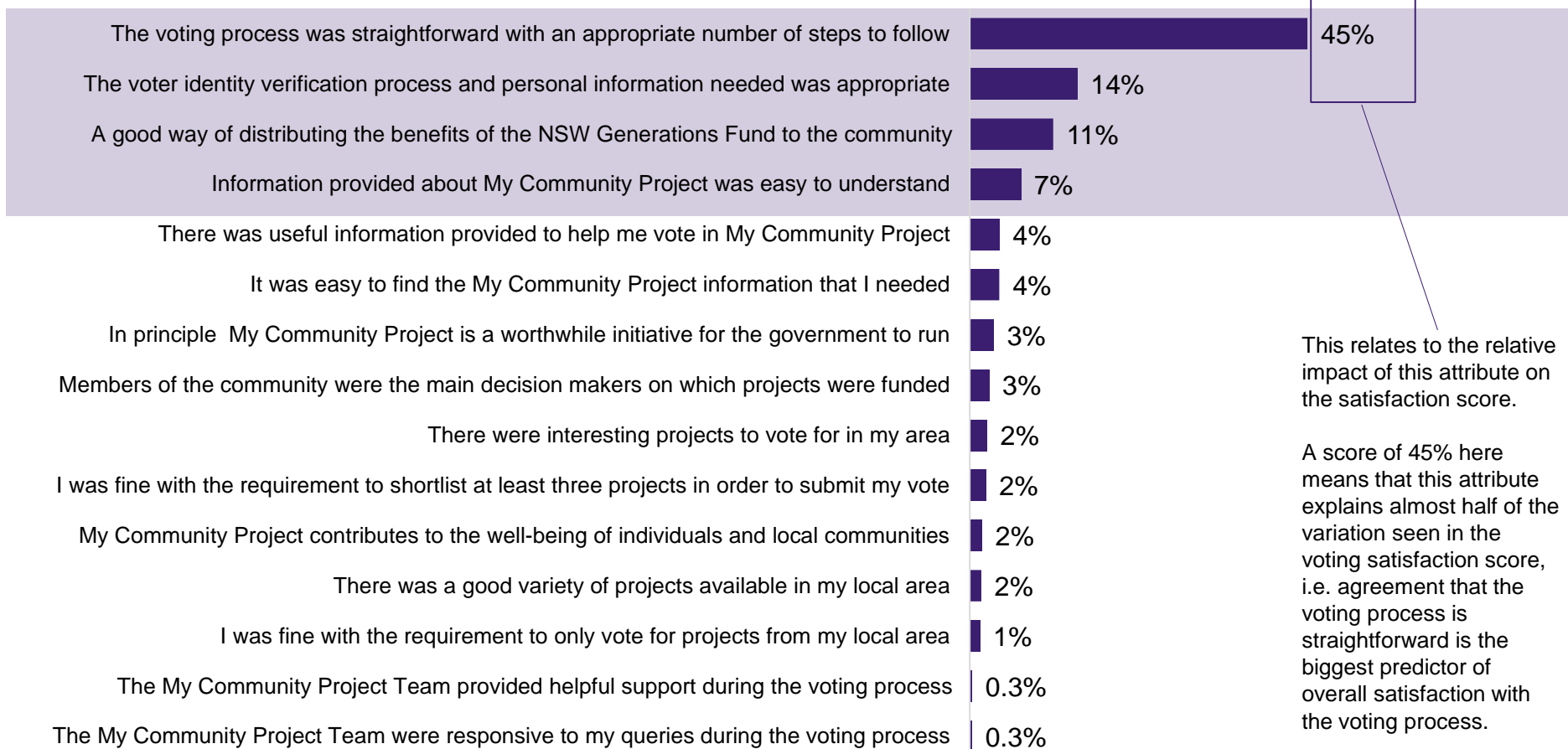
The NewREP statistical model looked at fifteen attributes to identify the impact each has on satisfaction with voting. This will help to prioritise MCP improvements



RELATIVE ATTRIBUTE IMPACT ON VOTING SATISFACTION

How straightforward the voting process was had the biggest impact on voting satisfaction, followed by the identity verification process, perceptions of MCP as a good way to distribute the funds and the ease of understanding the information provided

Relative impact of attributes on satisfaction with the MCP voting process



45%

This relates to the relative impact of this attribute on the satisfaction score.

A score of 45% here means that this attribute explains almost half of the variation seen in the voting satisfaction score, i.e. agreement that the voting process is straightforward is the biggest predictor of overall satisfaction with the voting process.

PRIORITY MATRIX – IMPACT AND PERFORMANCE (VOTING)

While good information about MCP was provided and it is considered a good way to distribute the funding, the voting process steps and verification are key improvement areas

The table below presents the results from NewREP[©] modelling, showing the relative impact of each attribute on satisfaction with the voting process, as well as the performance of My Community Project on each attribute.

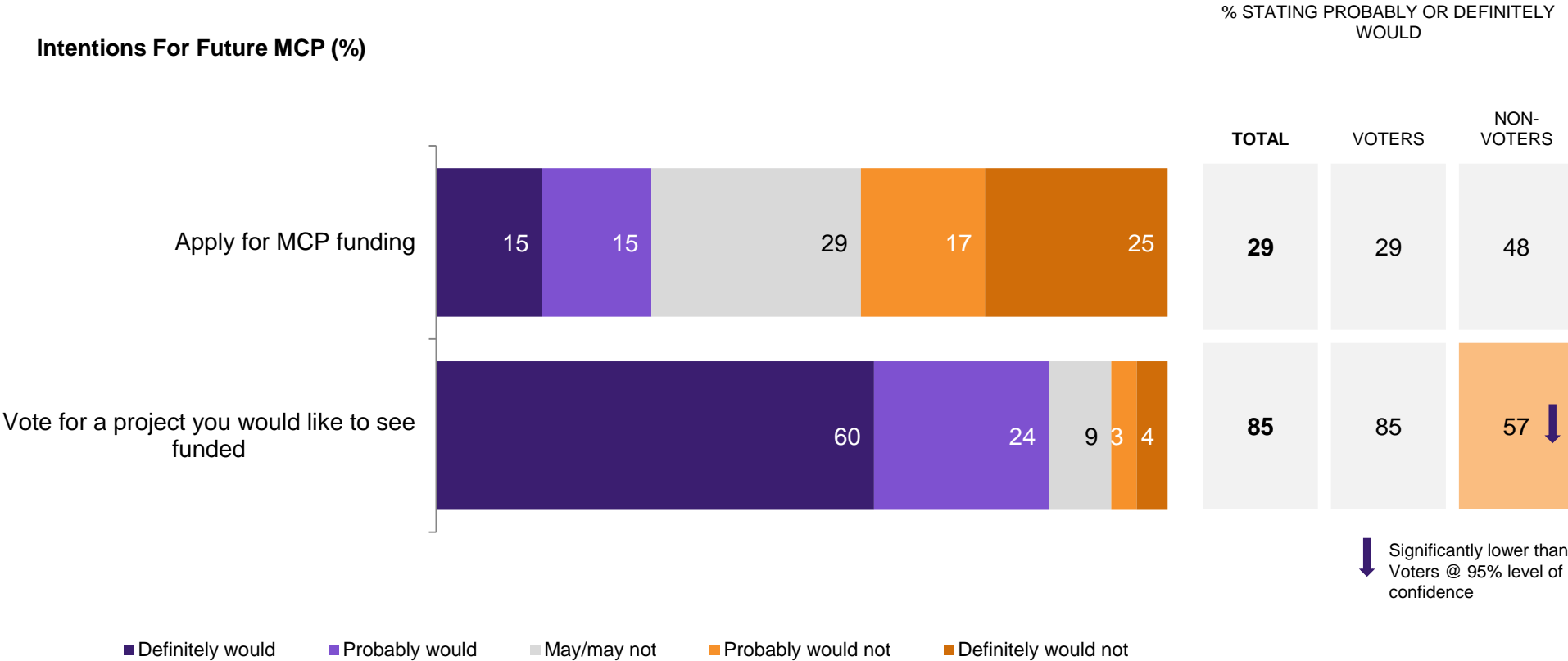
VOTING MODEL ATTRIBUTES	IMPACT ON SATISFACTION WITH VOTING	PERFORMANCE SCORE (ALL IN STRONG AGREEMENT)	ACTION PRIORITY
The My Community Project voting process was straightforward with an appropriate number of steps to follow	45	35	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
The voter identity verification process and the amount of personal information I needed to provide was appropriate	14	31	HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVE
My Community Project is a good way of distributing the benefits of the NSW Generations Fund to the community	11	45	KEY STRENGTH TO BUILD
Information provided about My Community Project was easy to understand	7	43	KEY STRENGTH TO BUILD
There was useful information provided to help me vote in My Community Project	4	37	SECONDARY PRIORITY
It was easy to find the My Community Project information that I needed	4	35	SECONDARY PRIORITY
In principle My Community Project is a worthwhile initiative for the government to run	3	63	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
Members of the community were the main decision makers on which projects were funded	3	41	SECONDARY PRIORITY
There were interesting projects to vote for in my area	2	51	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
I was fine with the requirement to shortlist at least three projects in order to submit my vote	2	48	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
My Community Project contributes to the well being of individuals and local communities	2	53	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
There was a good variety of projects available in my local area	2	43	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN
I was fine with the requirement to only vote for projects from my local area	1	59	STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN

Base: All at least starting the voting process (n=4,187). R-Value = 0.67

FUTURE MCP INTENTIONS

Most of those involved in voting this time would vote again in the future and 29% would consider applying for funding. Non-Voters were significantly less likely to say they would vote next time

Intentions For Future MCP (%)



Q18. If My Community Project was to run again in the future, how likely would you be to...?
 Base: All at least starting the voting (n=4,187). All Voters (n=4,126). All Non-Voters (n=61)

PROFILING OF VOTING INTENTION

Those in metro areas, aged under 50, from a CALD background, as well as those who had voted for a successful project said they would definitely vote again

	All at least starting the voting process	LOCATION		Q21. GENDER		Q22. AGE			Q23 ATSI		Q25. CALD		Q5. SUCCESSFUL PROJECT		
		Metro	Regions	Male	Female	UNDER 50	50-64	65 AND OVER	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Not sure
Sample: n =	4187	2516	1671	1744	2354	1469	1376	1243	68	3803	264	3792	1955	1432	800
Definitely would	61	62	59	60	62	64	58	61	59	62	67	61	71	49	56
Probably would	24	25	22	24	23	23	25	24	18	24	23	24	22	24	28
May or may not	8	7	10	8	8	8	8	8	16	7	3	8	4	12	10
Probably not	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4	4	4	2	7	4
Definitely not	3	2	5	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	2	3	1	7	2
WOULD VOTE AGAIN - NET	85	87	81	85	85	86	83	85	76	86	91	85	93	73	85
WOULD NOT VOTE AGAIN - NET	7	6	9	8	7	6	9	7	7	7	6	7	3	14	6

Q18. If My Community Project was to run again in the future, how likely would you be to...? Base: All at least starting the voting (n=4,187)

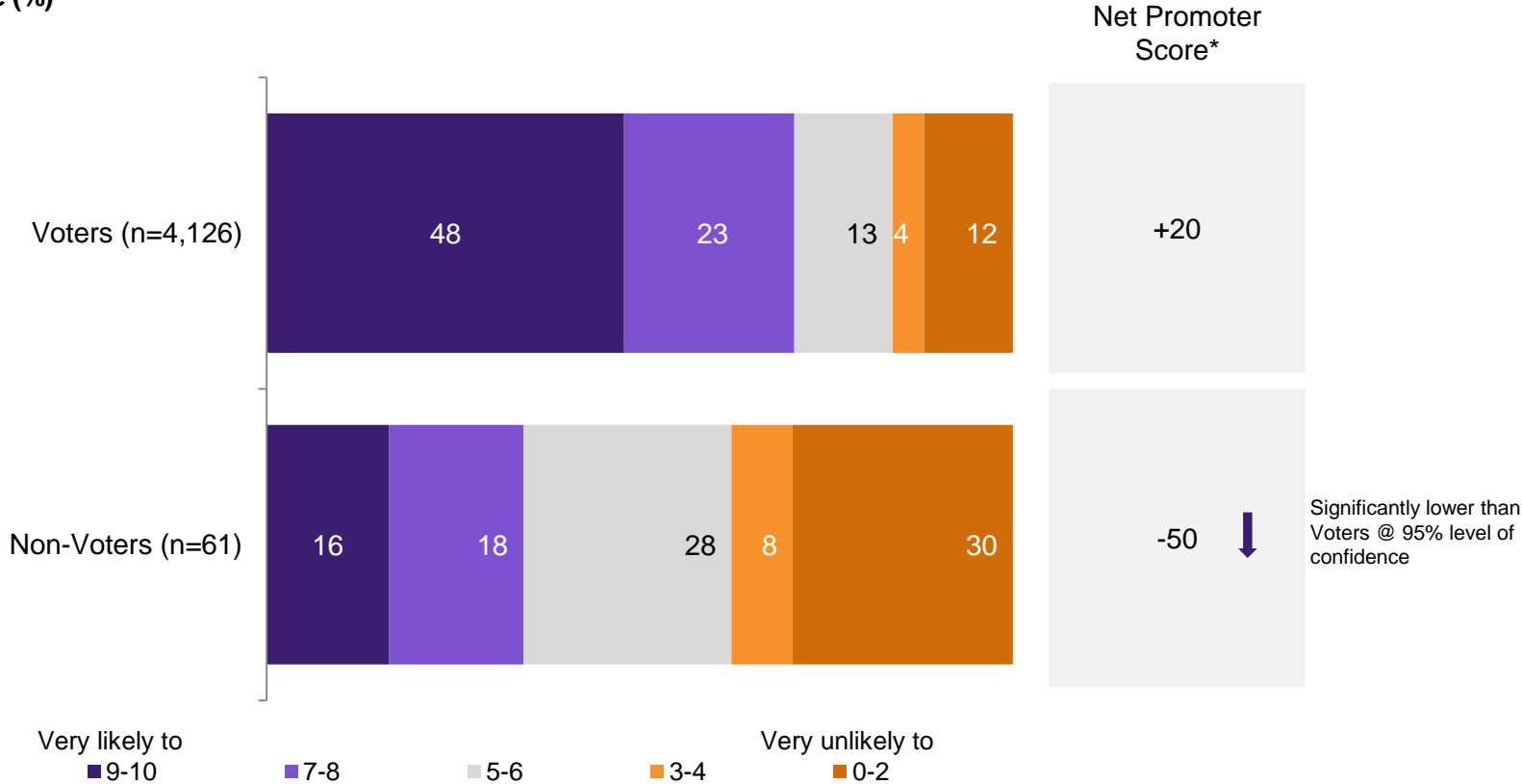
Significantly higher than the other sub-groups @ 95% level of confidence

Significantly lower than the other sub-groups @ 95% level of confidence

MCP RECOMMENDATION – NET PROMOTER SCORE

Almost half of Voters said that they would be very likely to recommend the My Community Project to friends or family. Non-Voters were significantly less likely to

Net Promoter Score (%)



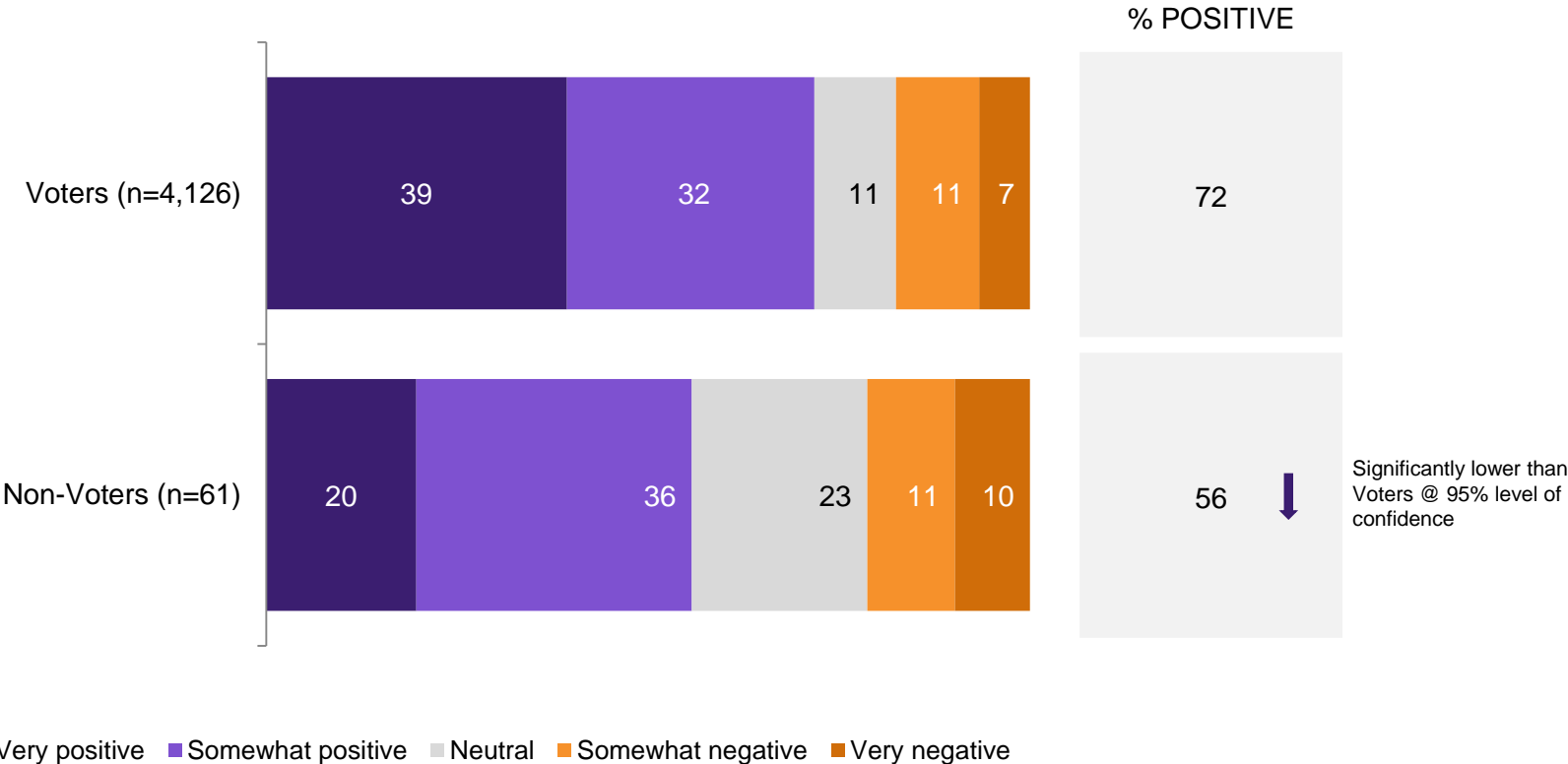
Q19. If My Community Project ran again, overall, how likely would you be to recommend MCP to your friends or family?

Bases: (on chart) *Net Promoter Score: All providing a rating of 9 or 10 minus all providing a rating of 0-6

SENTIMENT TOWARDS THE MCP VOTER FUNDING MODEL

Almost three-quarters (72%) of Voters and over half (56%) of Non-Voters reported that they feel positively about funding decisions being made by community members

Sentiment Towards Funding Model (%)



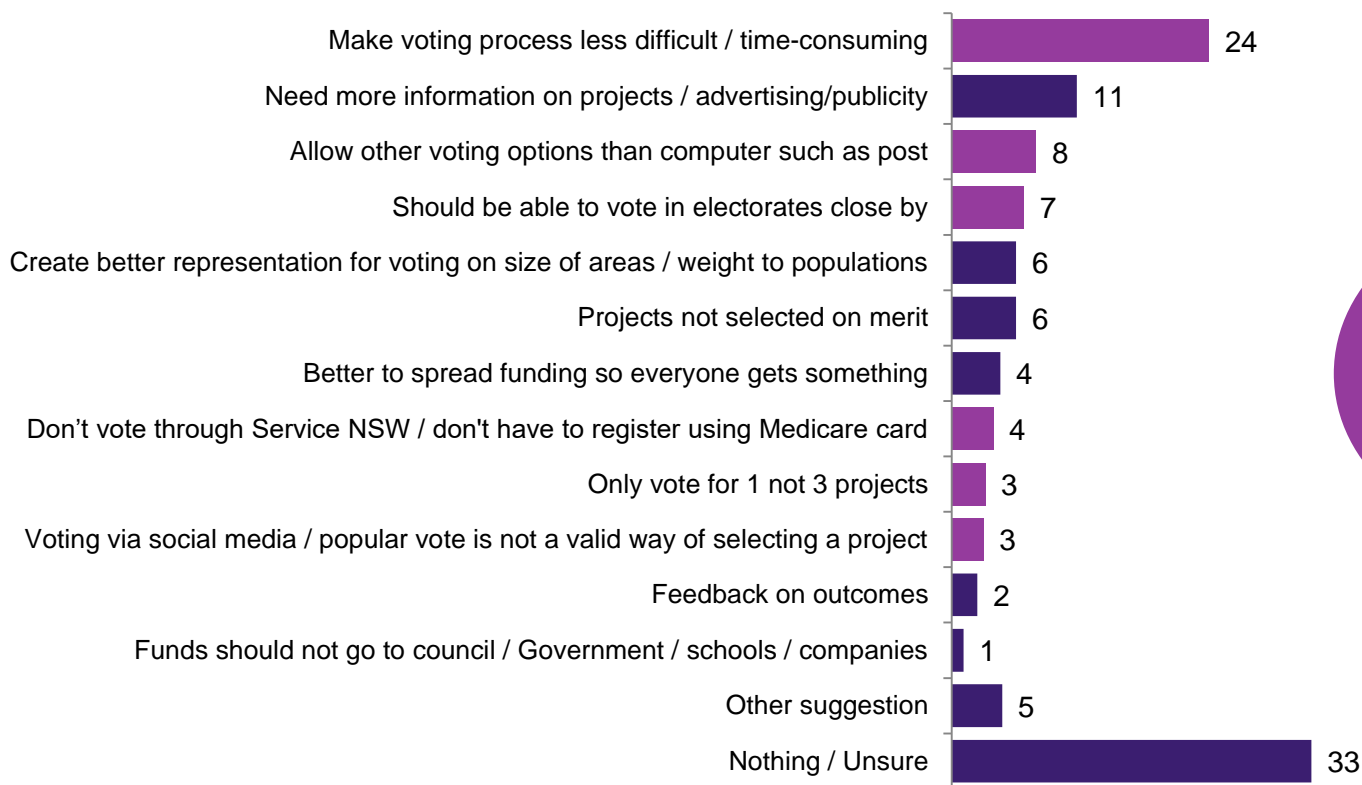
Q20. Thinking more generally, how do you feel about community project funding decisions being made solely by community members?

Bases: (on chart)

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF VOTING PROCESS

One-in-three suggestions for improvement focused on the voting process, particularly in terms of making it less difficult and time consuming

Suggested Improvements To Voting Process (CODED) (%)



36%
of feedback
related to
improving the
voting
process

Q17. What improvements would you suggest making to the My Community Project voting process? PLEASE NOTE, ONLY A RANDOMISED SAMPLE OF n=1098 VOTERS HAD RESPONSES CODED. Base: Coded responses from all at least starting the voting process (n=1,098).

OVERALL FEEDBACK ON MY COMMUNITY PROJECT

In their words

“As a whole I think the concept is a great idea because if enough local people have the enthusiasm to develop a project that directly benefits their own community it gives them the power to make it happen.”

Waste of time as it ended up being a popularity contest between schools / clubs. Was sad that only one recipient got funding as they had asked for the whole amount.

“A great idea, just needs to be streamlined in the voting area to make it easier.”

“I don't think it's the ideal way to allocate funding to community groups/ projects but it has its place in allocating government funding and it should help all levels of government to understand what the community thinks is important. Having said that less "sexy" projects would probably often miss out even though they may be just as worthy or perhaps more so to be given funding.”

“Leaving voting to groups with vested interests surely means admirable projects go unfunded.”

“I would only vote again if it benefited my interests.”

“Great concept! Keep going if you can. I think when communities see money being given towards local community projects they care about, they look after their communities even more. And the majority of these projects were really 'connection-orientated' which is what we should all be about!”

“It would be really cool to get an update on how the project went and see how the funds were used.”

“It needs a wide review to ensure that project funding is able to be distributed equitably across the electorate and council projects should not be eligible.”

“My only concern is that some really worthwhile projects may not get up because of demographics - i.e. people who are literate, well-connected and well-resourced may find it easier to mobilise people to go online and vote. Some projects for lower demographic areas may have greater need for the funding but not attract the necessary level of support.”

Q26. Is there anything further you would like to feedback about the My Community Project?

Base: All respondents who at least started the voting process (n=4,187)

THANK YOU

Sydney

+61 2 9232 9550
Level 18, 167 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Canberra

+61 2 9232 9500
John McEwen House
7 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

Perth

191 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6831

Melbourne

+61 3 9611 1850
Level 10, 120 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Brisbane

+61 7 3009 9000
Level 13, 1 Eagle Street
Brisbane QLD 4000



NEWGATE
RESEARCH