

NEWACTON /// SOUTH

New Acton South - Electric Vehicle Survey Results

The New Acton South (NAS) Electric Vehicle Survey conducted by the Executive Committee (EC) and an EV Sub-Committee (EVS-C) was a great success, with 124 out of a possible 186 units responding. Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill in the survey, and make further comment, to provide the data that will be critical in allowing the EC to plan for the future.

The report below summarises the results of the survey with some additional comment to elaborate on selected aspects of the results. Some questions drew a lower response rate than the overall survey response rate of 124, noting that not every survey participant was required to answer each question, and that a response to every question was not mandatory.

Q1: Are you in favour of electric vehicle charging capability being installed in the NAS carparking areas?

Ninety-four (76%) of the 124 respondents were in favour of the installation of EV charging capability with just 16 (13%) opposed, and 14 (11%) were undecided.

This suggests that an ordinary resolution at a General Meeting would have a strong chance of success and supports further investigation by the EVS-C into the feasibility and costs of installing the necessary EV charging infrastructure.

Q2: Do you currently have an electric vehicle that you park in the building?

Fourteen respondents indicated that they currently have an EV parked in the building and, given that 3 owners are known to have 2 EVs, there are at least 17 EVs currently parked in NAS.

Q3: Do you have access to charging within New Acton South?

Only those 14 people who currently have EVs responded to this question. Two currently have their own chargers installed, 2 share a charger, and 1 uses a common power point on a repayment basis.

It is clear from the number of people who do have EVs, along with responses to allied questions, that there is some pent-up demand for access to charging within NAS.

Q4: When do you expect that you might obtain an electric vehicle?

There were 110 responses regarding intended EV ownership, noting that the 14 EV owners were excluded. Of those responses, 10% expect to purchase an EV within the next year, 20%

in 2 years time, and 14.5% in 3 years time. When the current EV owners are added to these responses, more than 57% of the total expect to own an EV within the next 3 years. The balance of respondents indicated they had a longer acquisition timeframe, were unsure, or did not intend to purchase an EV.

Overall, the responses indicate that demand for EV charging within NAS is going to substantially increase, and that there will be increased pressure on the EC to offer a solution to that demand.

Q5: If you currently own or intend to obtain an electric vehicle where would you most prefer to charge it?

There were 107 responses to this question, noting that 15 people who never expect to own an EV were excluded. Of the respondents, 79% indicated that their preferred charging location was in their own carpark within NAS. Of the balance, 13% were prepared to use a shared charging station in NAS, while only 8% were prepared to use a public charging station.

This overwhelming response again indicates that there will be increasing pressure on the EC to offer a solution to support EV charging.

Q6: Status of respondents.

Resident owners represented 71% of the 112 respondents, 19% were non-resident owners, and 10% were long-term tenants.

Qs 7 & 8: Funding and contribution towards infrastructure upgrades.

These questions queried respondents' thoughts on how the upgrade of the building infrastructure to support EV charging should be funded.

Of the 113 respondents to Question 7, 36% thought it should be funded through the Owners' Corporation, 29% thought it should be shared between the Owners' Corporation and the individuals who want to install a charger, and 36% thought it should be paid for by those people who want to install a charger.

When asked about how much they would be prepared to contribute to have building-wide infrastructure installed, 40% of the 110 respondents to Question 8 indicated they were prepared to pay the total cost, 7% were prepared to contribute up to \$3,000, 10% were prepared to contribute up to \$2,000, 15% were prepared to pay up to \$1,000, and 27% were not prepared to pay anything.

The responses indicate that there is some confusion about how common property and infrastructure projects in Bodies Corporate are funded. They also indicate that an information campaign will be required to explain how various funding models might be implemented once decisions are made about how the project should progress.

Q 9: How much would you be prepared to pay to have a shared charger located within charging range of your car park?

The majority (53%) of the 112 respondents indicated they were not interested in a shared charger. Of the balance, 19% indicated they were prepared to pay whatever it cost, 3% were prepared to pay up to \$3,000, 6% up to \$2,000, and 20% up to \$1,000.

Q10: How much would you be prepared to pay to have a charger installed in your own car park?

This question related to the cost of installing and connecting an EV charger, which would be an additional personal cost once the common infrastructure was in place, with 46% of 111 respondents indicating they were prepared to pay whatever it cost. Of the balance, 8% said they would pay up to \$3,000, 8% were prepared to pay up to \$2,000 and 8% were prepared to pay up to \$1,000.

The results from both questions 9 and 10 also indicate that an information campaign will be required prior to a vote being taken at a General Meeting.

Q11: Would you be interested in renting one or two of your allocated parking bays within New Acton South to the Owners' Corporation, for the bays to be used as shared charging?

Of the 113 responses, 74% were not interested in this proposition, and 26% indicated they would be interested in renting their parking bay(s) to the Owners' Corporation for shared charging.

While this response indicates it might be feasible to install some shared chargers within the building, the responses to questions 5 and 9 suggest that this would not get the long-term support of most owners but may be an interim solution.

As well as answering the survey several respondents took the time to make additional comments. Some trends were evident in these comments.

Several responders thought the EC should investigate what support might be available from the ACT Government and perhaps even wait until this was clear. They also thought that early implementers would probably pay a premium as the costs involved with upgrading our infrastructure may go down over time as the technology matured.

A contrary position was put by several respondents urging the EC to quickly progress this project.

Some respondents pointed to the potential fire risks of having EVs and charging infrastructure in the building and encouraged liaison with the ACT Government and Fire Authorities.

Several respondents pointed out that it was important for our building to maintain its status as one of the most desirable buildings in Canberra, and EV charging would be considered an essential utility if we are to do that and to maintain the value of our property.

The EC and the EVS-C are already researching and considering all of these issues, and they will form part of a submission to be put forward to owners for discussion and resolution at a General Meeting.

Once again thank you to all of the people who took the opportunity to participate in the survey and provide their views. The EC will continue to keep you updated as this project progresses.

April 2023