

Southern Adelaide Business Energy Survey – Summary

The Southern Energy Working Group surveyed businesses on a range of energy issues during January and February 2019.

Approximately 10,000 southern Adelaide businesses were invited to participate, and 78 businesses responded to the survey.

Below is a summary of the responses:

Business Profile

- 83% are small businesses with less than 20 employees and 70% have less than 5 employees
- 64% have a turn-over of less than \$500,000 per year and 35% less than \$75,000 per year
- 60% operate during normal business hours (8am – 5pm) while 17% operate 24/7
- A wide variety of industry sectors were represented, with manufacturing (22%), professional, scientific and technical services (20%), and financial and insurance services (9%) being the most prevalent

Energy Use and Experiences

- Almost all businesses use mains electricity, 68% of respondents use gas, and 33% have solar power
- 71% spend less than \$10,000 per year on electricity
- 12% use more than 160,000 kWh of electricity per year
- 48% had experienced a disruption in energy services during the last 18 months
- Respondents indicated an expectation of rising electricity prices over the next 2-5 years (72%) compared to stable or falling prices (28%)
- When asked about current experiences with energy retailers, just over half were positive (53%), around 23% were negative about their experiences and the remainder were neutral.

Opportunities

- 13% (i.e. 10) respondents had recently undergone an energy audit or assessment.
- Barriers to energy-efficient solutions in businesses included renting not owning premises, access to finance, perceptions of low returns on investment (ROI) and access to expertise, skills and experience.
- Some respondents were able to identify sources of financial assistance for energy efficiency upgrades but 80% were not aware of any.
- A majority of respondents were interested in more information on bulk purchase initiatives (58%) and four businesses stated that they were currently involved in an initiative (5%).
- When asked what aspects of energy use they would like more information on, the results were quite diverse. Lighting (24%), Insulation (27%), Refrigeration (24%), Solar Hot Water (24%), Power Factor Correction (18%), Solar and Batteries were the more common themes.