



ETHELO

Lower Hunter Water Security Plan

Dataset: Lower Hunter Community, Participants: 528

Introduction

From November 20, 2020 to January 12, 2021, Hunter Water used an engagement process to gather feedback from Lower Hunter community and key stakeholders, enabling them to indicate their support of each of the suggested portfolios for combatting water insecurity. The purpose was to learn about the priorities of respondents, to help develop a plan to reduce water use and to consider new sources for future use.

Participants were tasked with indicating their support for each of the 7 preliminary portfolios.

Each portfolio aligned with one of the four strategies:

- Making the most of what we've got
- A mix of regional storage and rainfall independence
- Rainfall independence
- Increasing our storage buffer

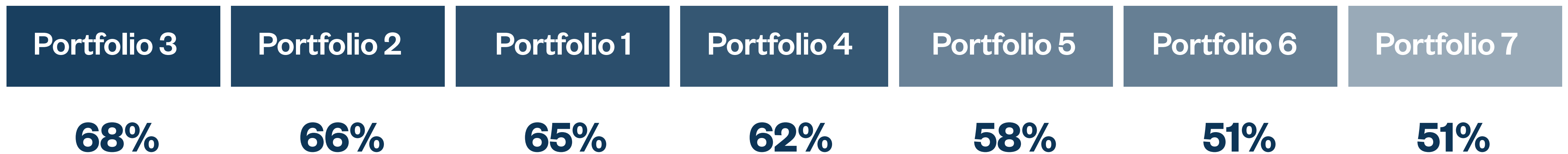
Ethelo used the results to generate a particular set of criteria that are predicted to have the most community support.

Portfolio Overview

Ethelo Score

The Ethelo platform identifies the policy options with the **least polarization**. The platform takes into account not only participant's likes, but also their dislikes, and uses these to identify where there is community consensus and where there is potential conflict.

The Ethelo Score is a measure of the **overall strength of the decision**, considering both **support** (higher is better) and **conflict** (lower is better).



Program Overview

Participants were asked to nominate which of three packages with different levels of investments and therefore cost implications they preferred. Package B was nominated by the highest proportion of participants for both Water Conservation Programs and Recycled Water & Stormwater Harvesting.

Water Conservation Programs
Program B

Ethelo Score: 50%

Recycled Water & Stormwater Harvesting
Program B

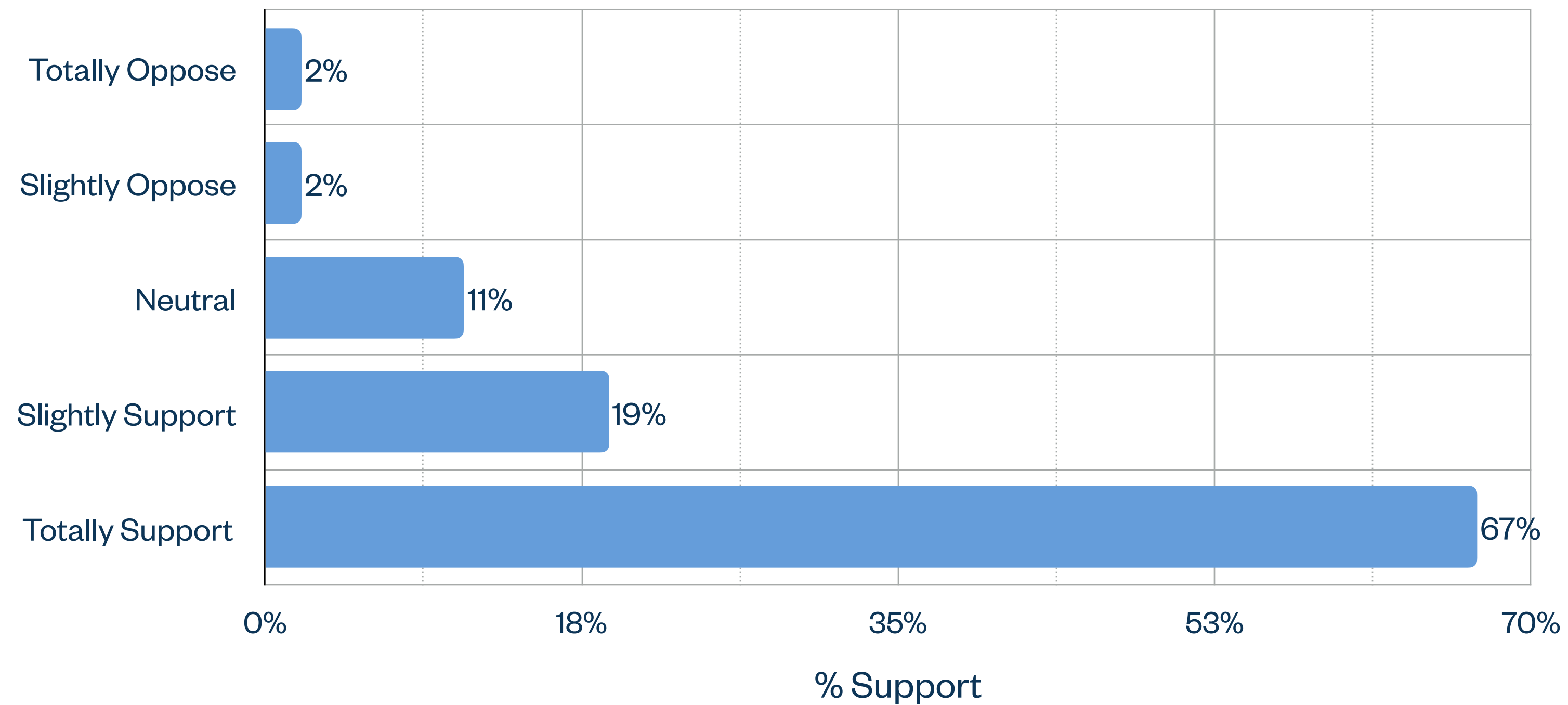
Ethelo Score: 54%



Water Security

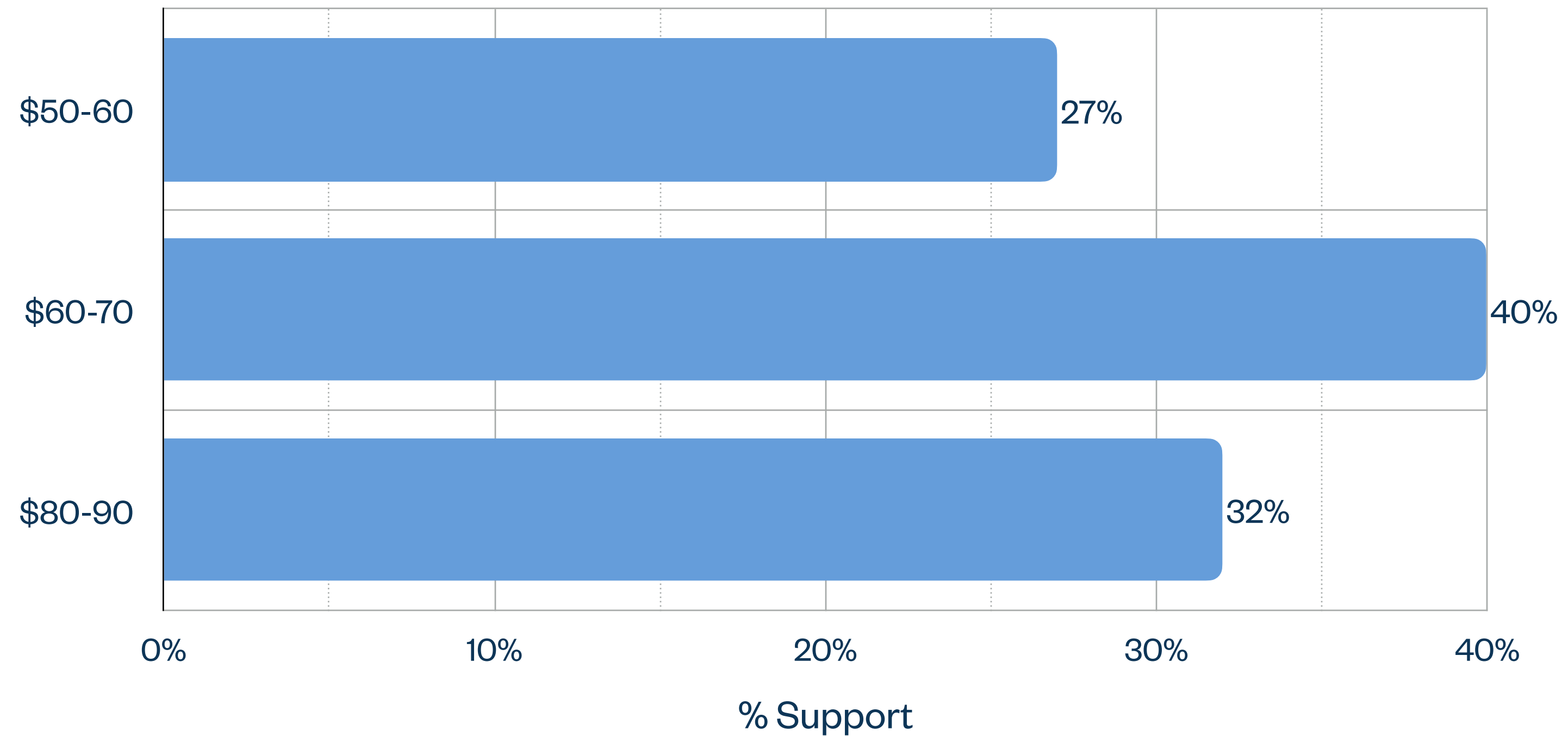
Water Security

How strongly do you support or oppose the need to ensure that we can supply enough water to meet minimum customer demands in a long and severe drought?



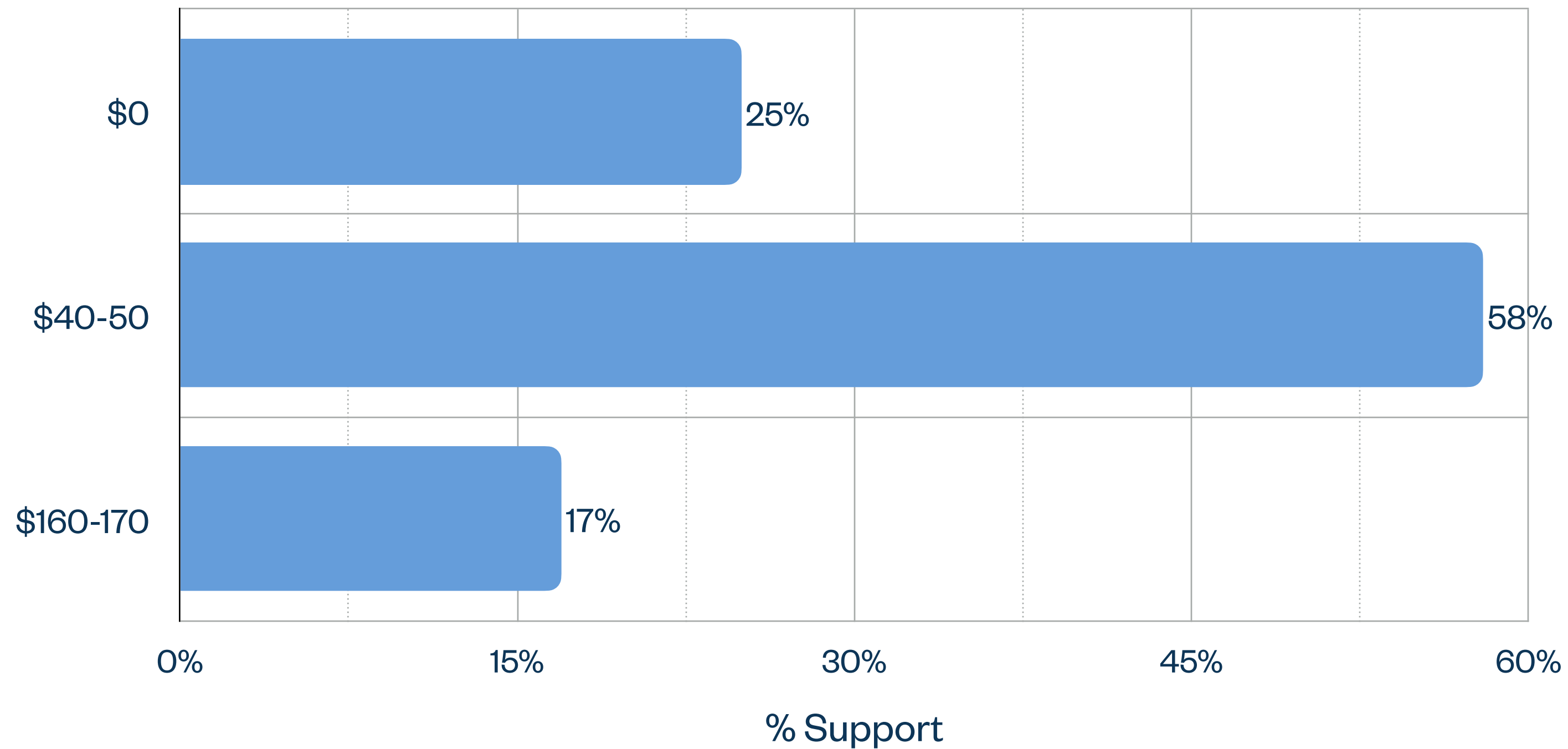
Water Supply in Severe Drought

Please indicate how much you would be willing to pay in addition to your current annual water bill if an emergency drought supply needs to be constructed.



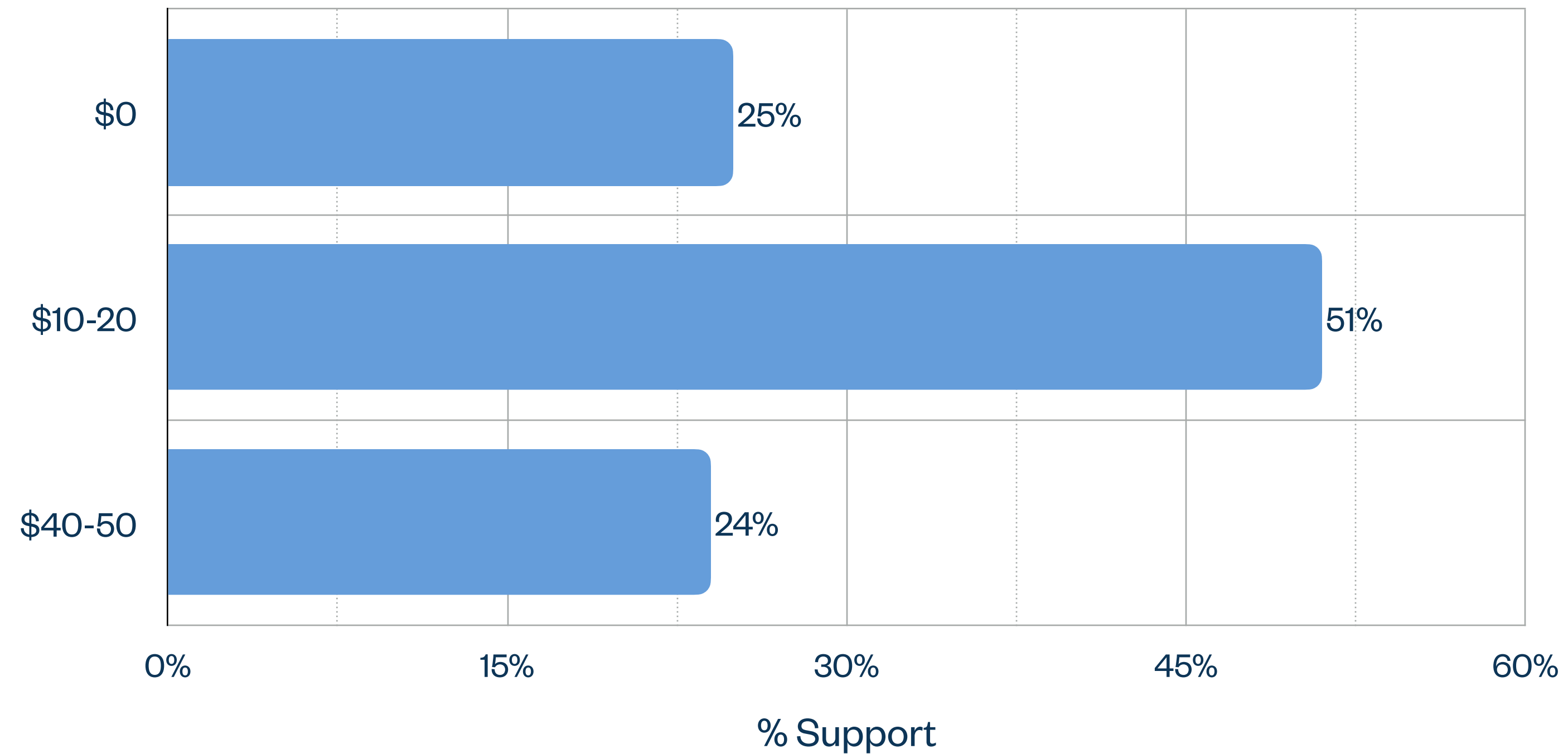
Recycled Water & Stormwater Harvesting

How much are you willing to pay in addition to your current annual water bill for Hunter Water investments in recycled water and stormwater harvesting (non-drinking) programs?



Water Conservation Programs

How much are you willing to pay in addition to your current annual water bills for Hunter Water investments in water conservation programs?



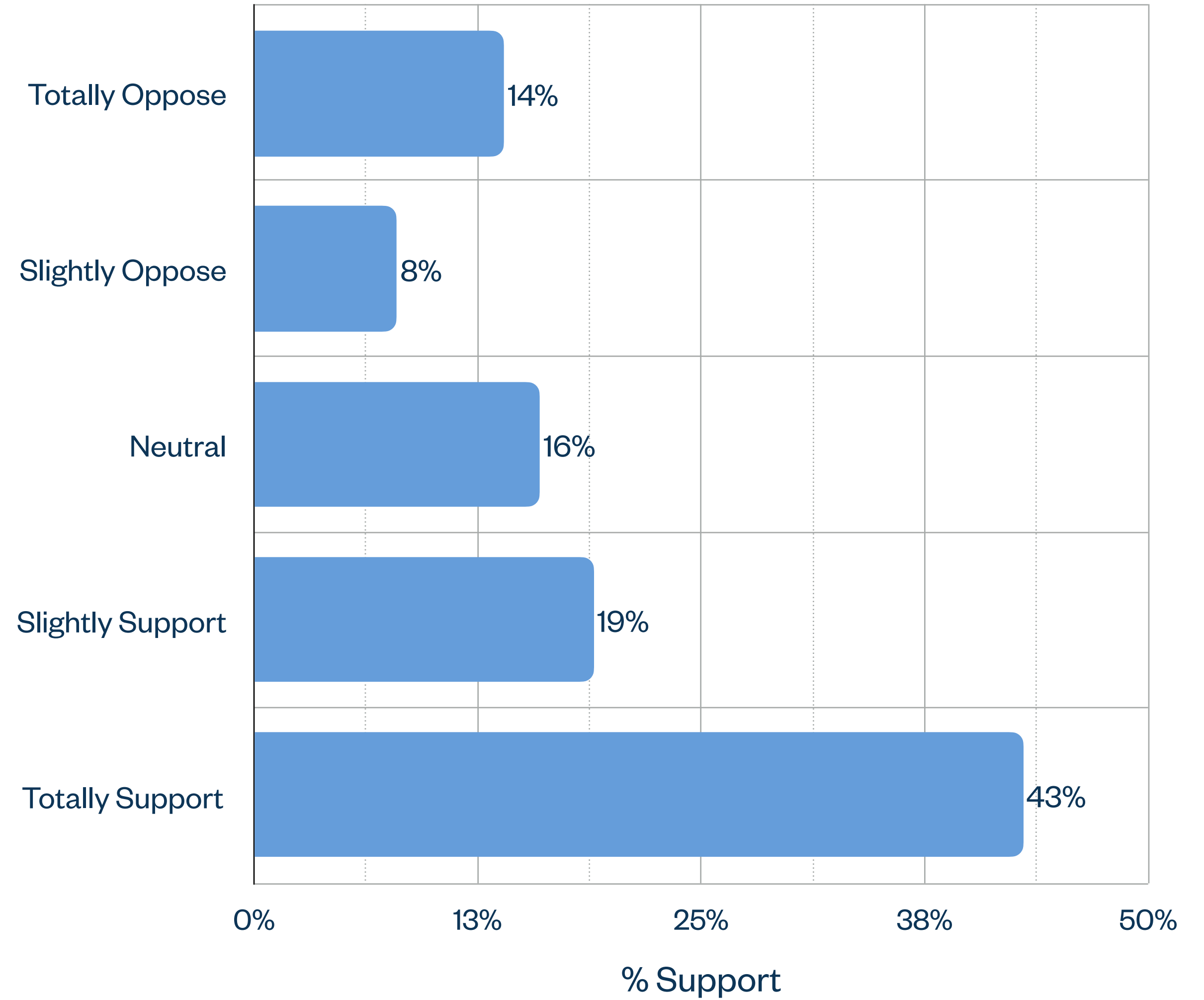


Environmental Goals

Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

How strongly do you support this approach?

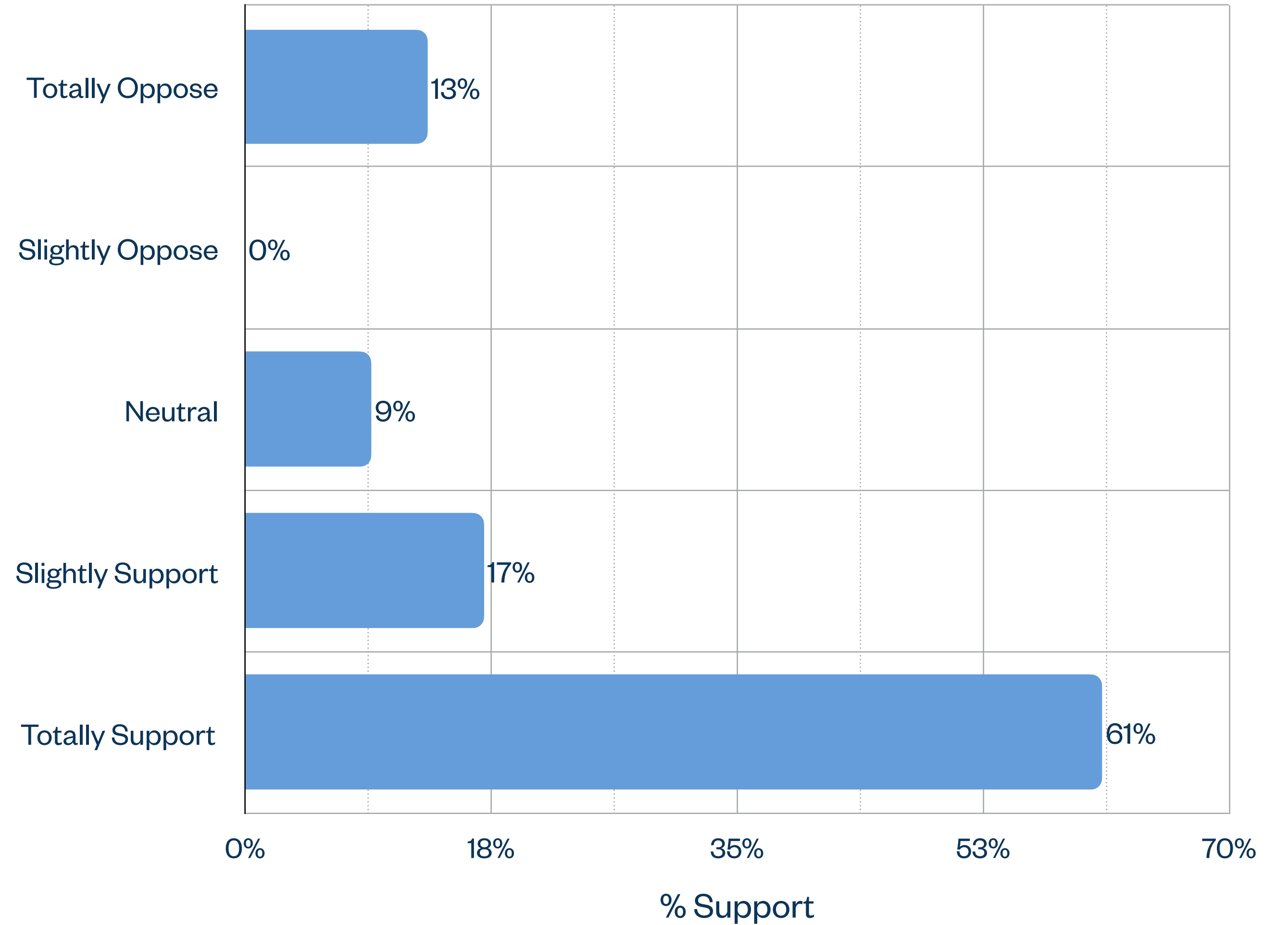
The community has told us that environmental sustainability is important to them. We have therefore included additional biodiversity protection and enhancement measures beyond mandatory requirements under legislation for portfolios that include new dam options. This approach adds up to \$10 to your ongoing annual water bill for portfolios that include new dam options.



Reducing our carbon footprint

How strongly do you support this approach?

The community has told us that environmental sustainability is important to them. We have therefore included measures to reduce the carbon footprint for high energy options such as desalination in our preliminary portfolios through the purchase of renewable energy. This approach adds \$2-5 to your ongoing annual water bill for portfolios that include desalination options.





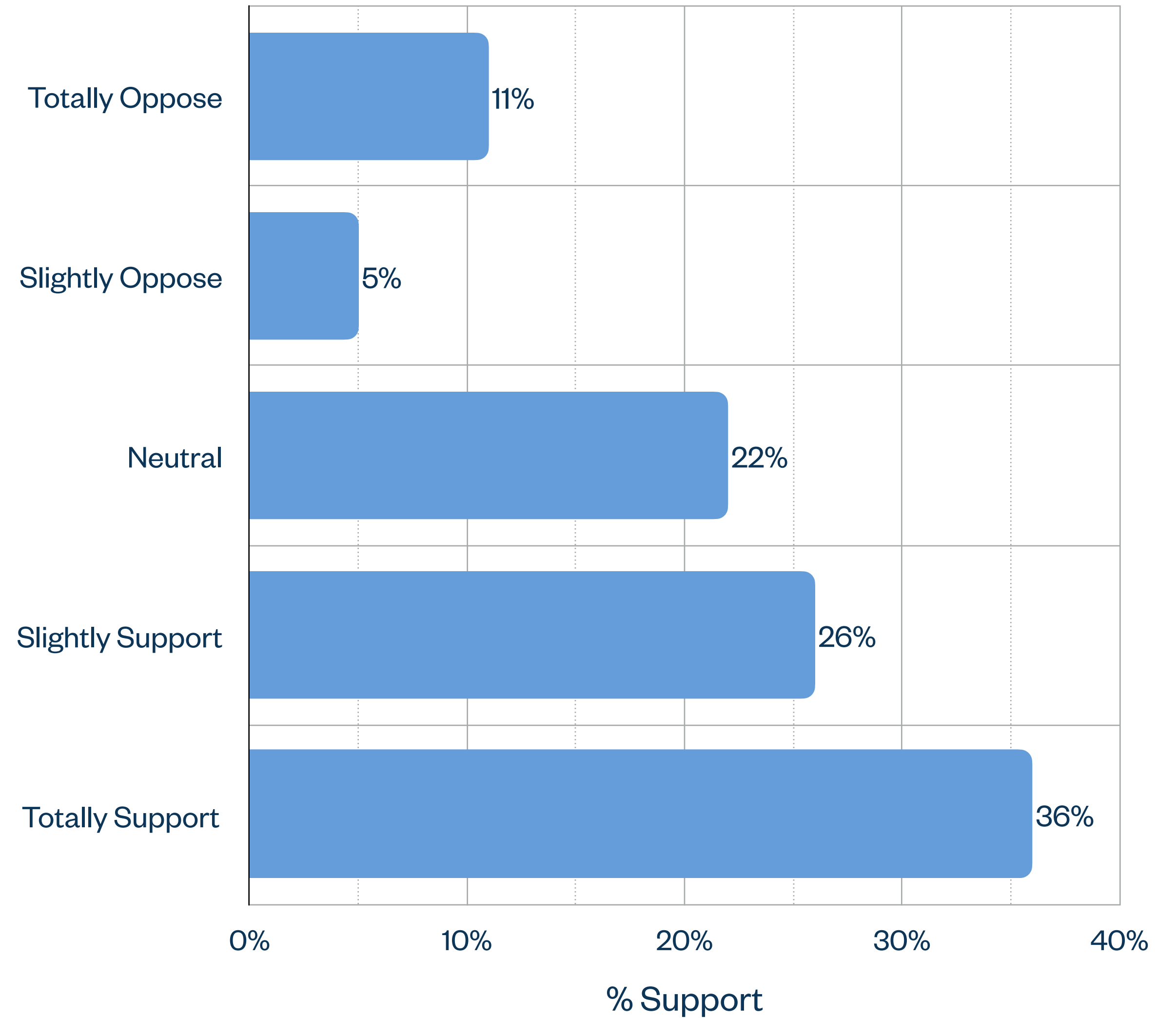
Portfolios

Portfolio 1

Making the most of what we've got

Key actions:

- Deliver the highest investment option for water conservation, and recycled water and stormwater harvesting for non-drinking
- Increase inter-regional water sharing and storage with the Central Coast and Upper Hunter
- Community engagement for future inclusion of Purified Recycled Water for Drinking

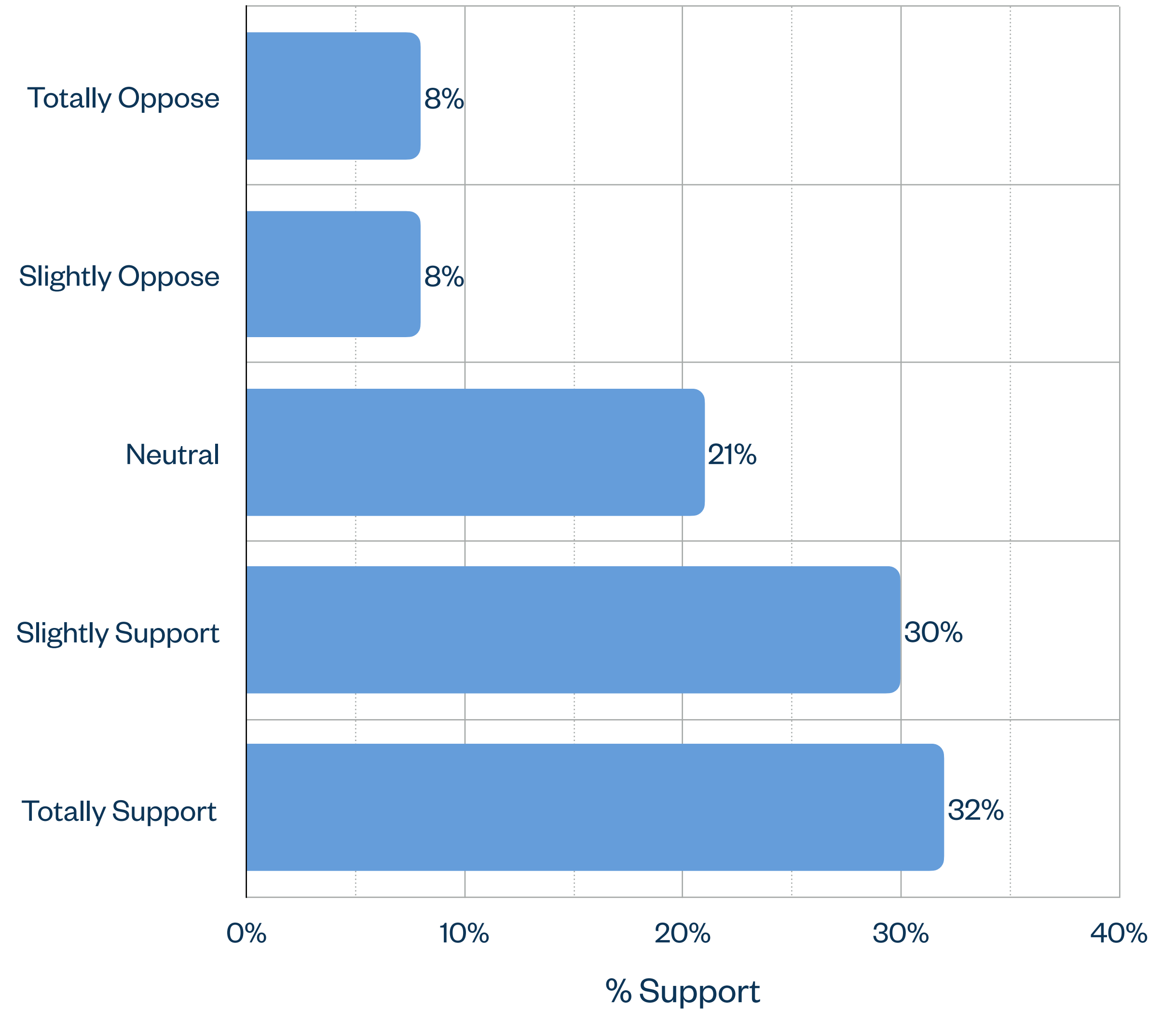


Portfolio 2

Making the most of what we've got

Key actions:

- Deliver the highest investment option for water conservation
- Maintain current levels of recycled water and stormwater
- Increase inter-regional water sharing and storage with the Central Coast and Upper Hunter
- Community engagement for future inclusion of Purified Recycled Water for Drinking

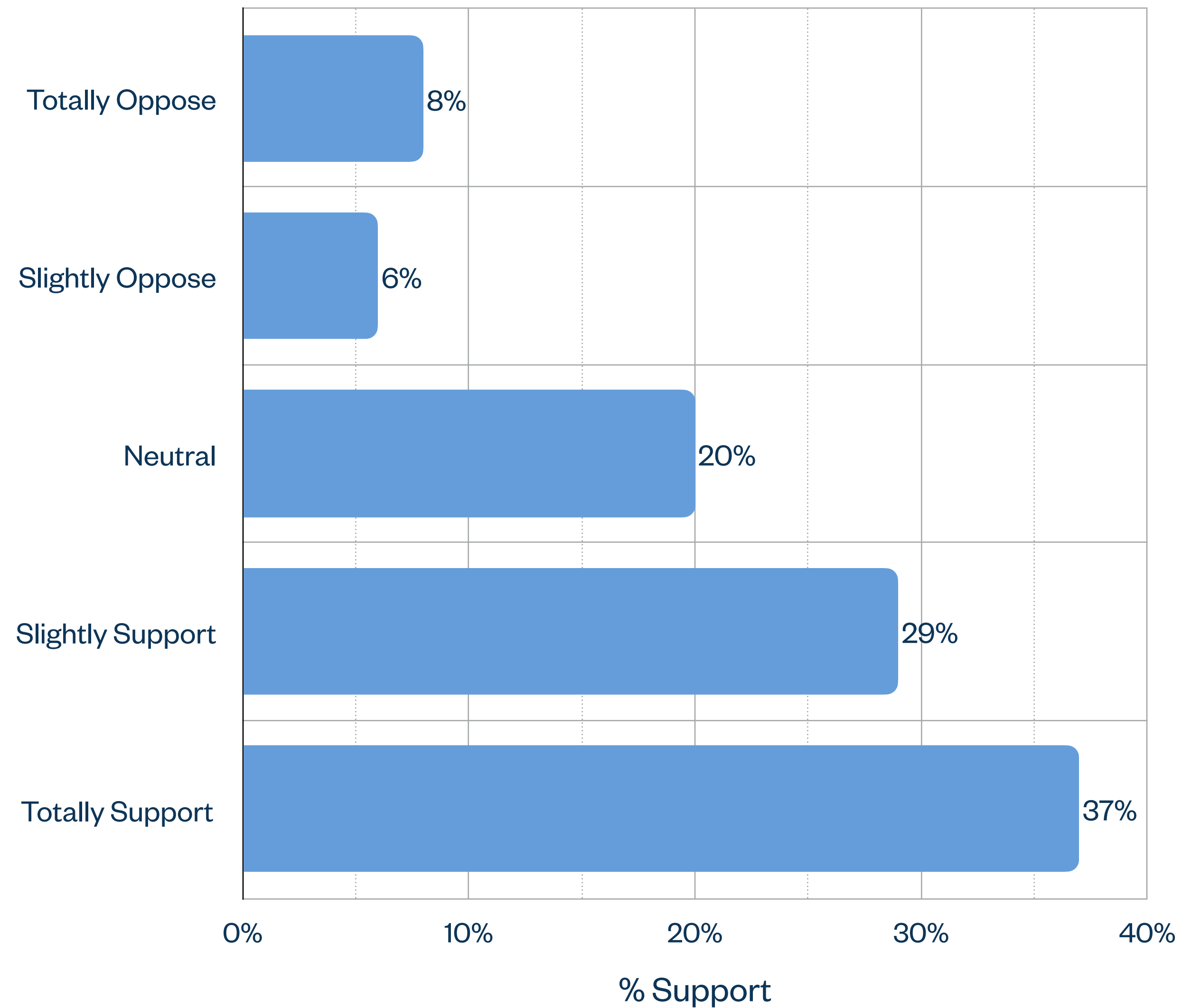


Portfolio 3

Regional water storage and rainfall independence

Key actions:

- Deliver your choices for water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater harvesting for non-drinking
- Increase inter-regional water sharing and storage with the Central Coast and Upper Hunter
- Community engagement for future inclusion of Purified Recycled Water for Drinking

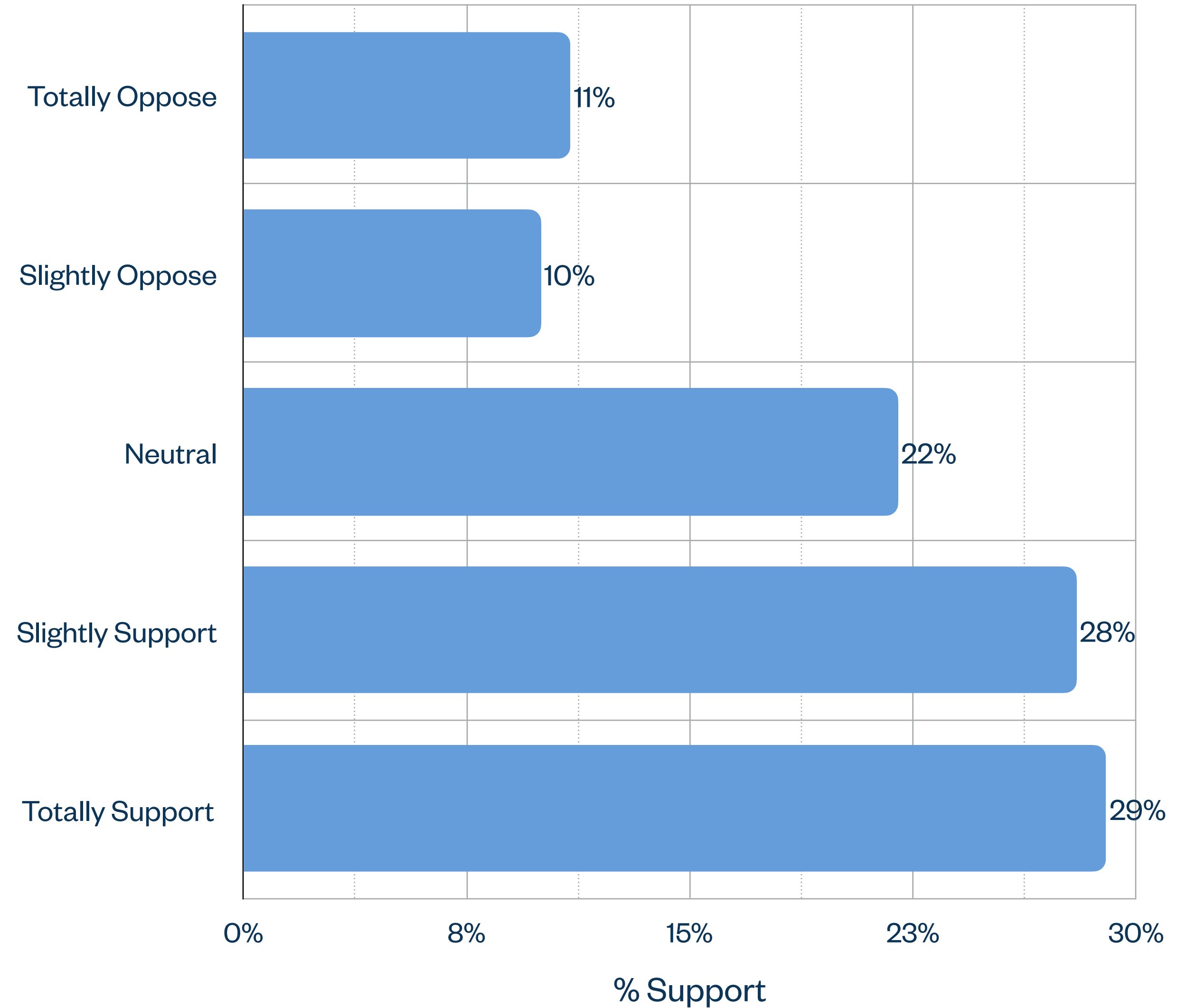


Portfolio 4

Regional water storage and rainfall independence

Key actions:

- Deliver your choices for water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater harvesting for non-drinking
- Increase inter-regional water sharing and storage with the Central Coast and Upper Hunter

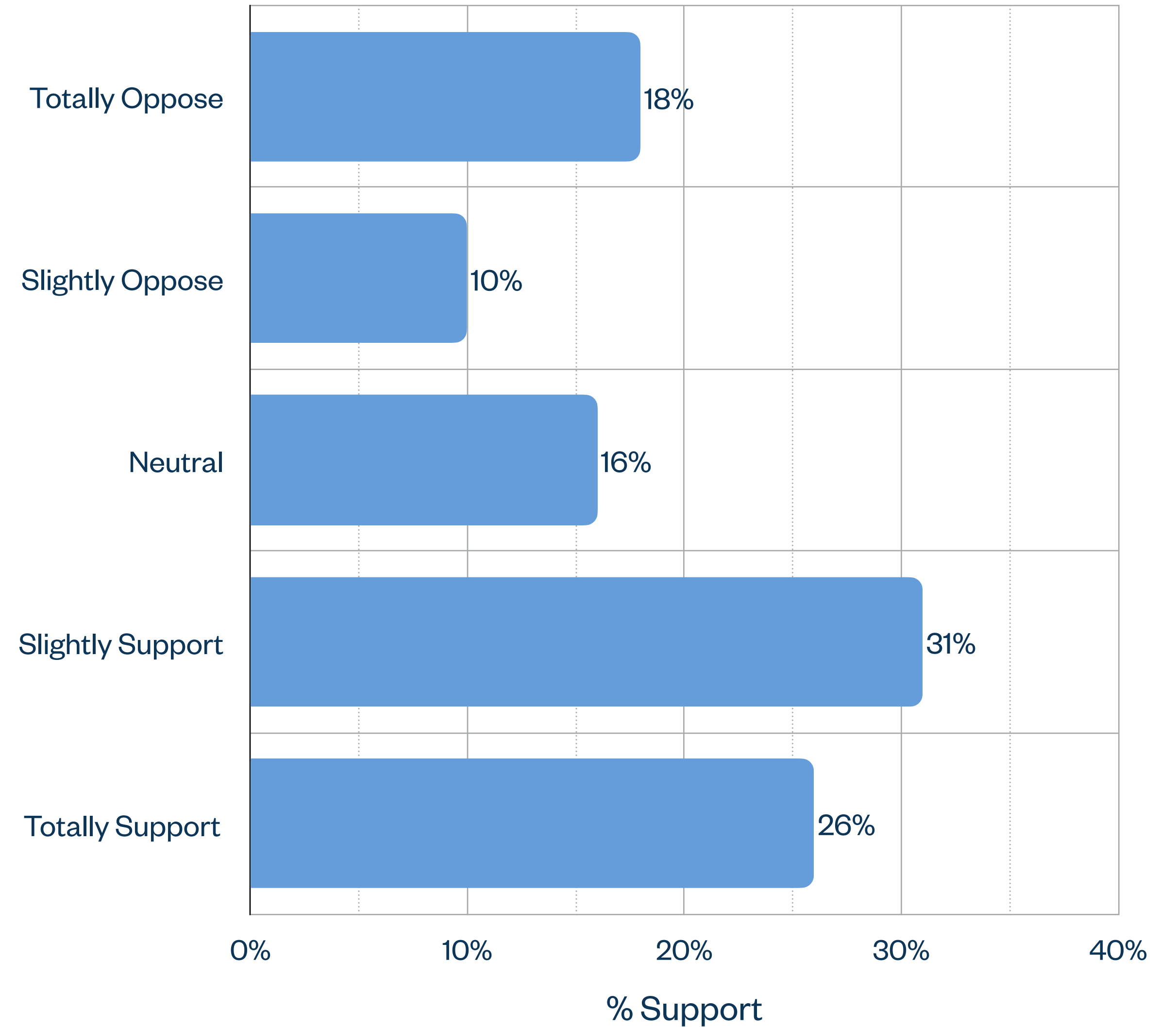


Portfolio 5

Rainfall Independence

Key actions:

- Deliver your choices for water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater harvesting for non-drinking
- Deliver permanent desalination (stage 1) at either Belmont or Walsh Point (on Kooragang Island)

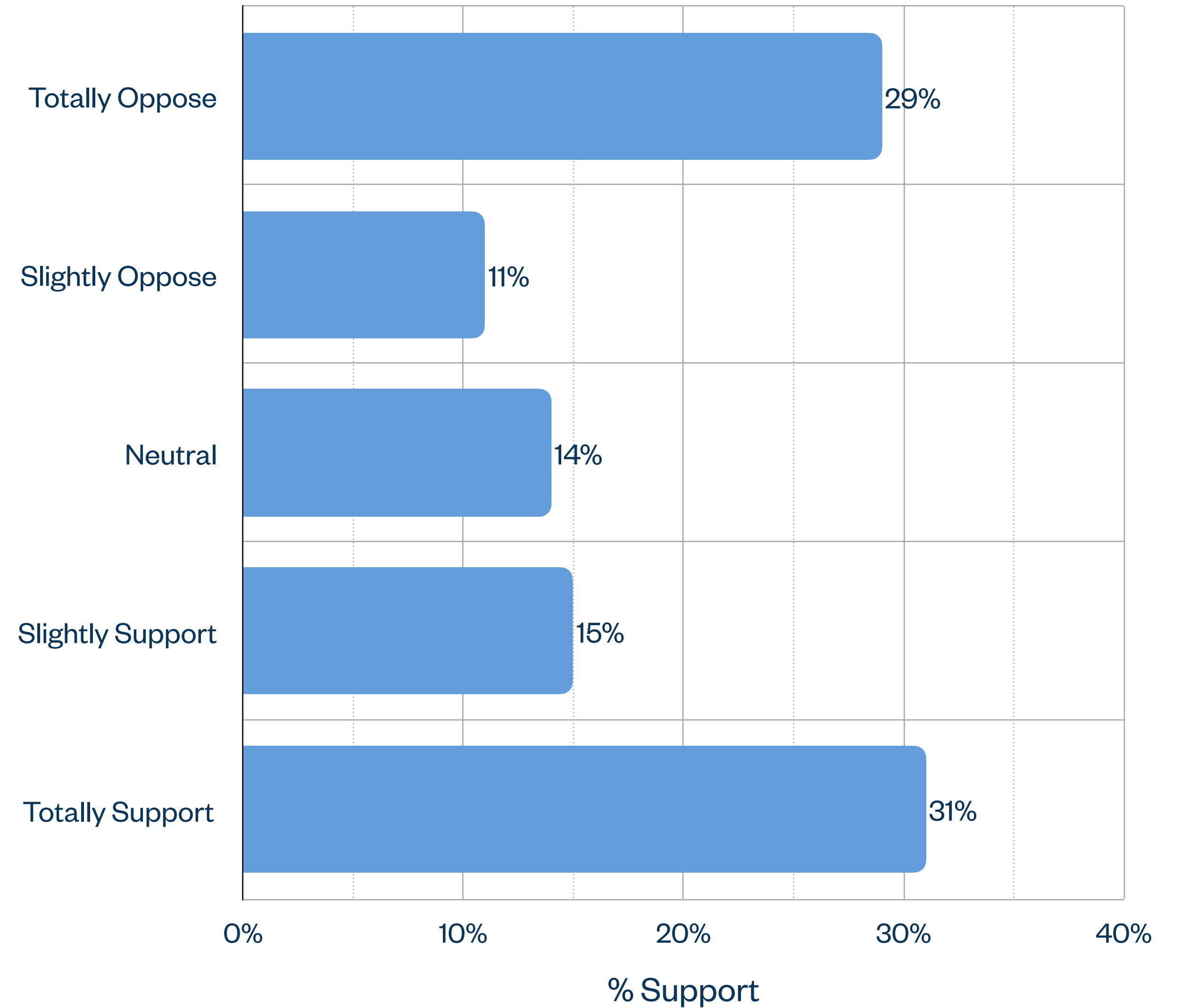


Portfolio 6

Increasing Our Storage Buffer

Key actions:

- Deliver your choices for water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater harvesting for non-drinking
- Build a 230 billion litre on-river dam at Upper Chichester

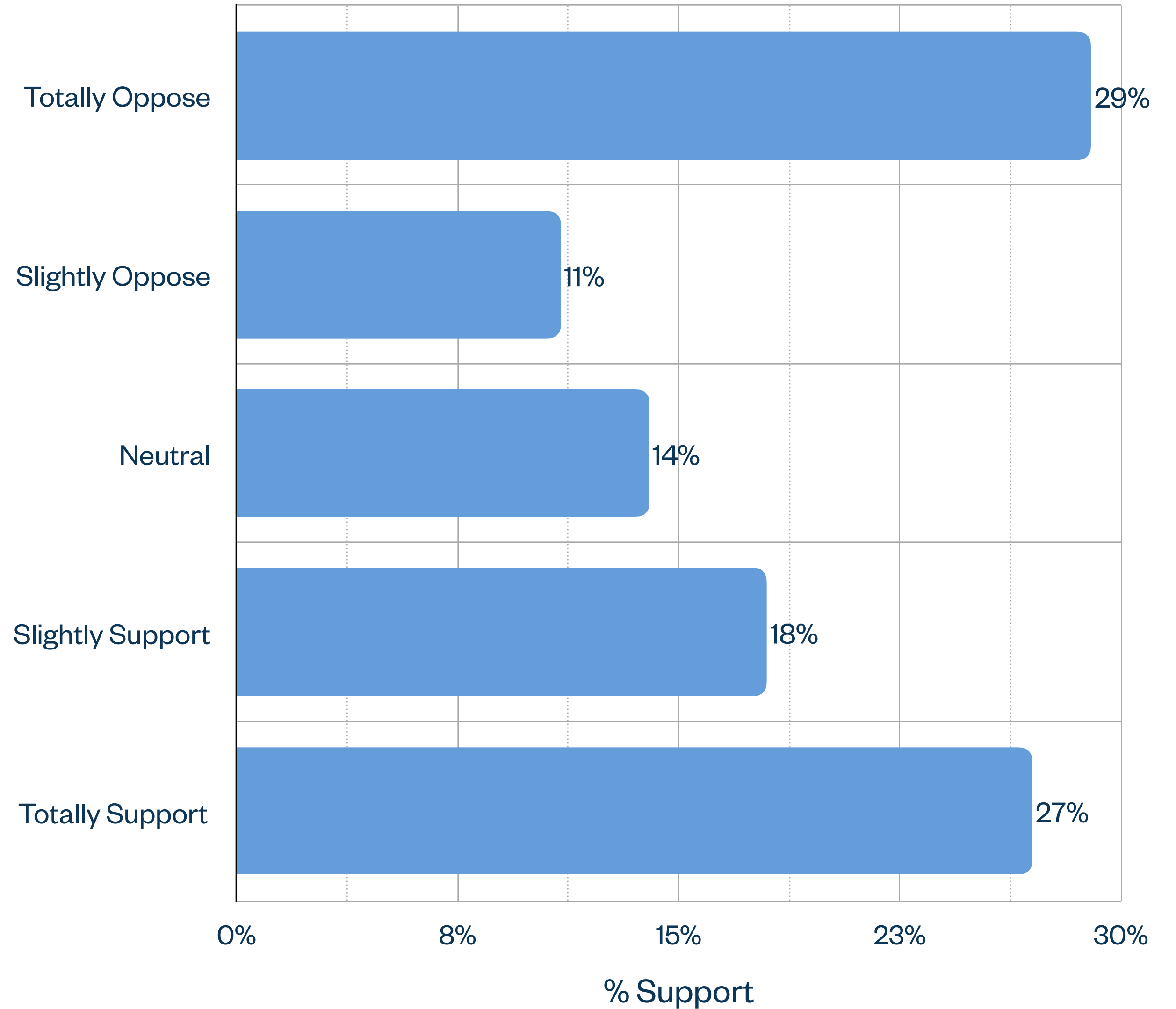


Portfolio 7

Increasing Our Storage Buffer

Key actions:

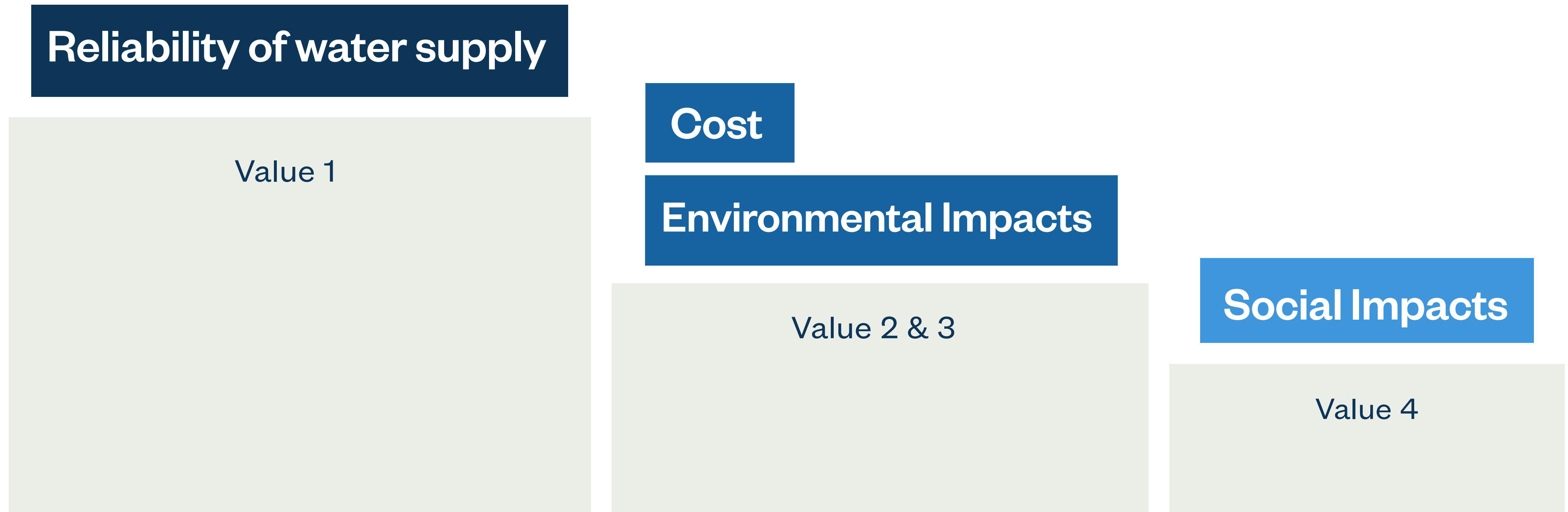
- Deliver your choices for water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater harvesting for non-drinking
- Build a 160 billion litre off-river dam at Limeburners Creek, north of the existing Grahamstown Dam. The off-river dam would be filled with water pumped from the Grahamstown Dam





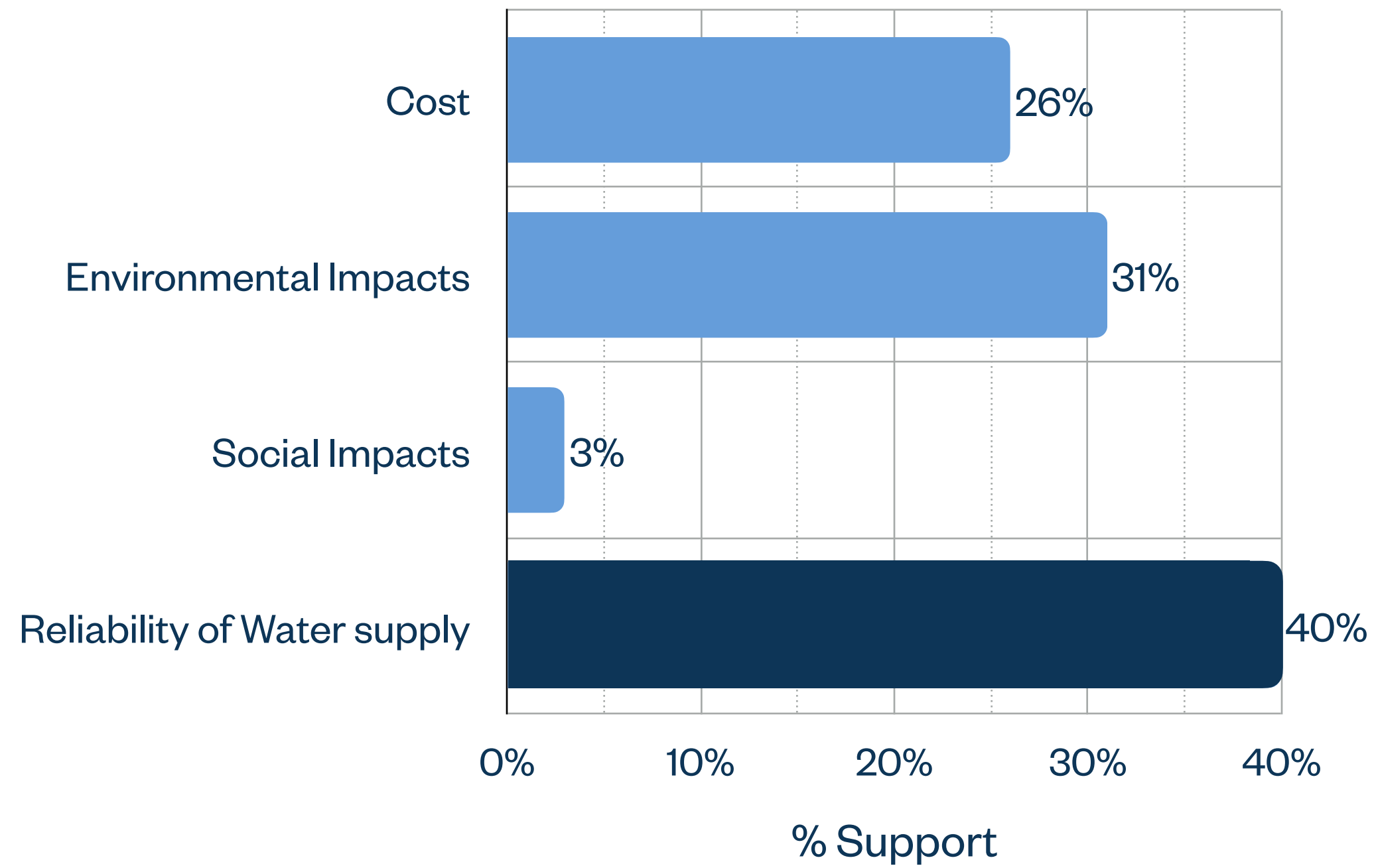
Values

Overview

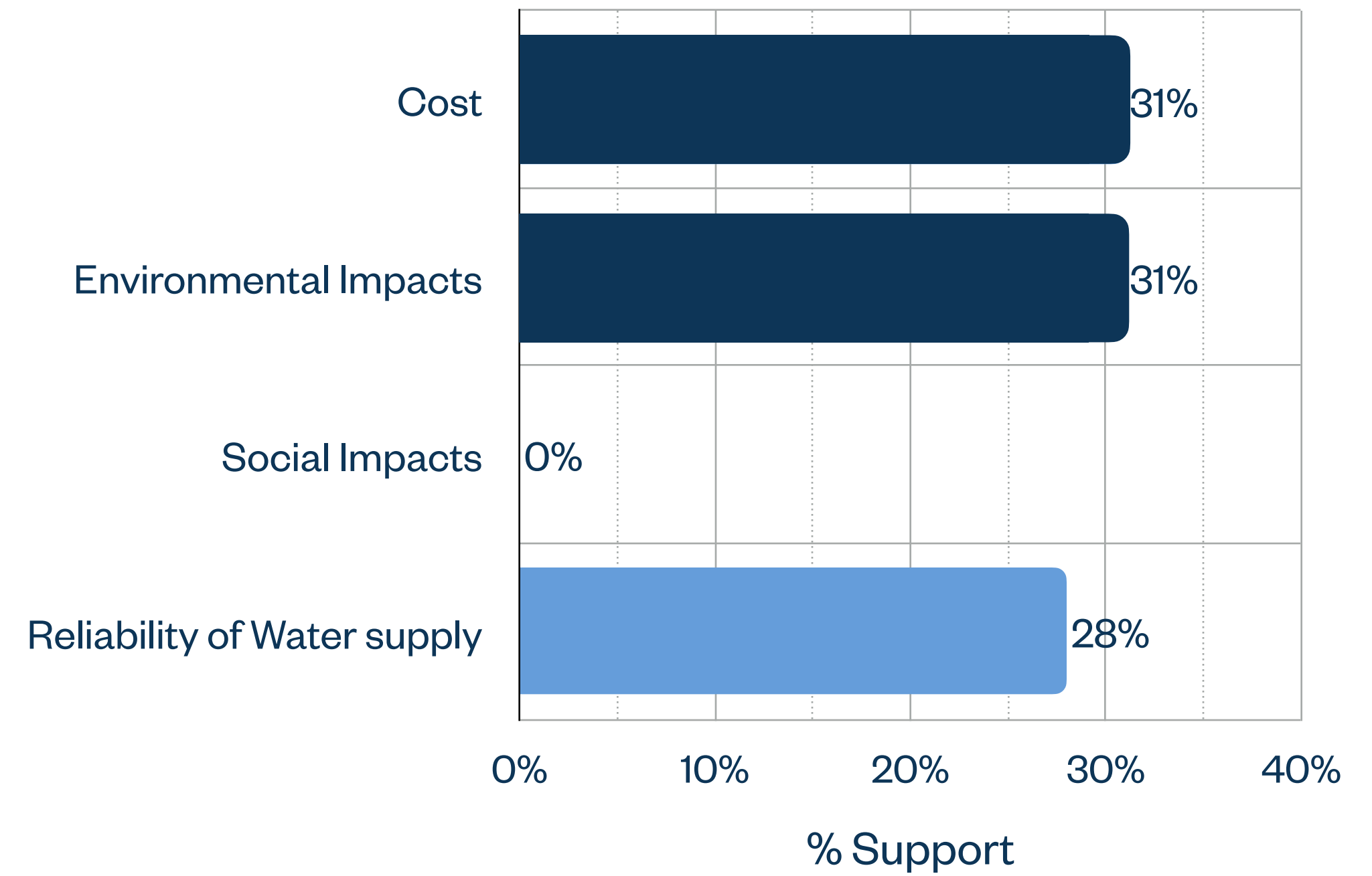


Overview

Value 1

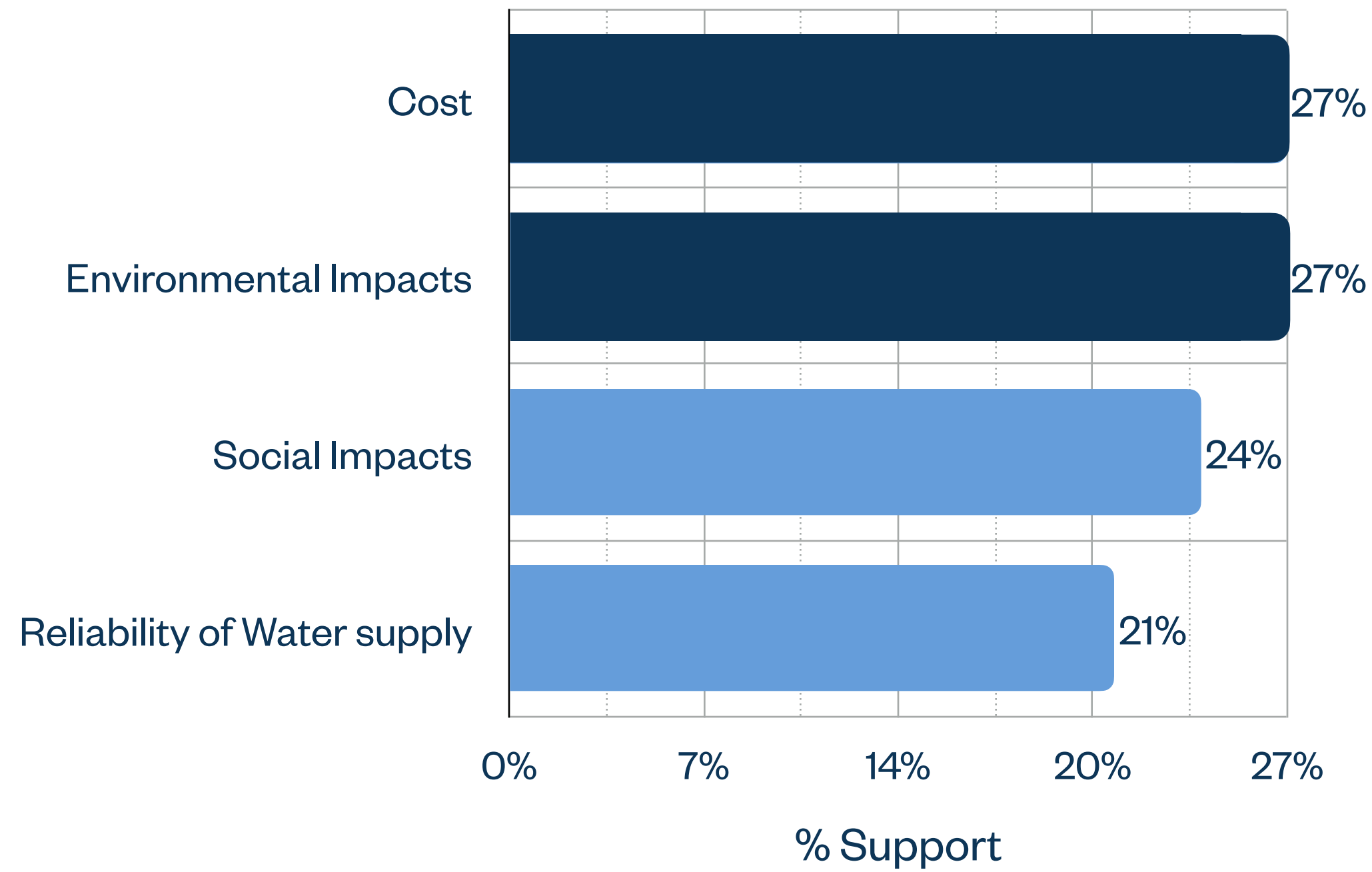


Value 2

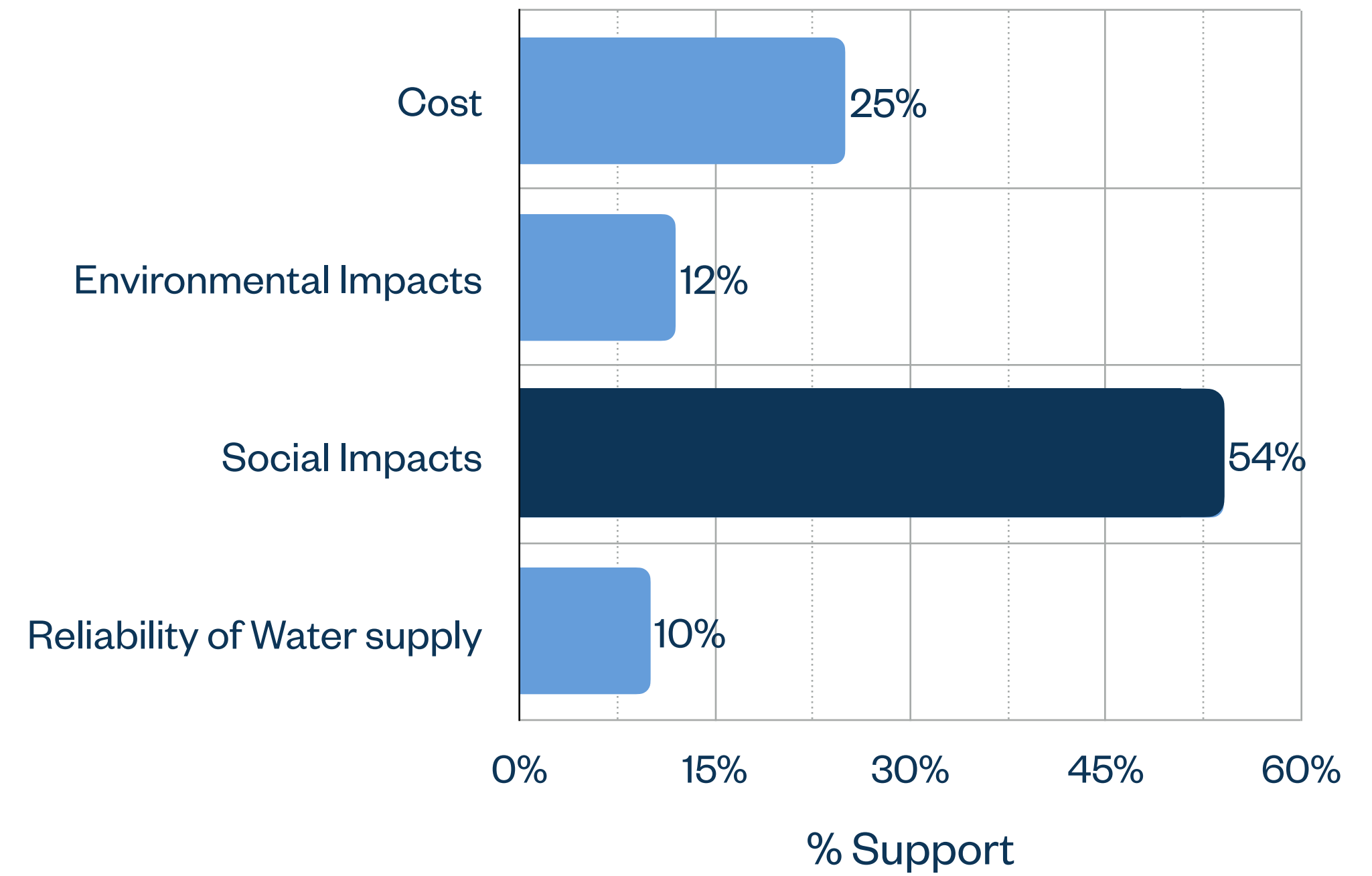


Overview

Value 3



Value 4

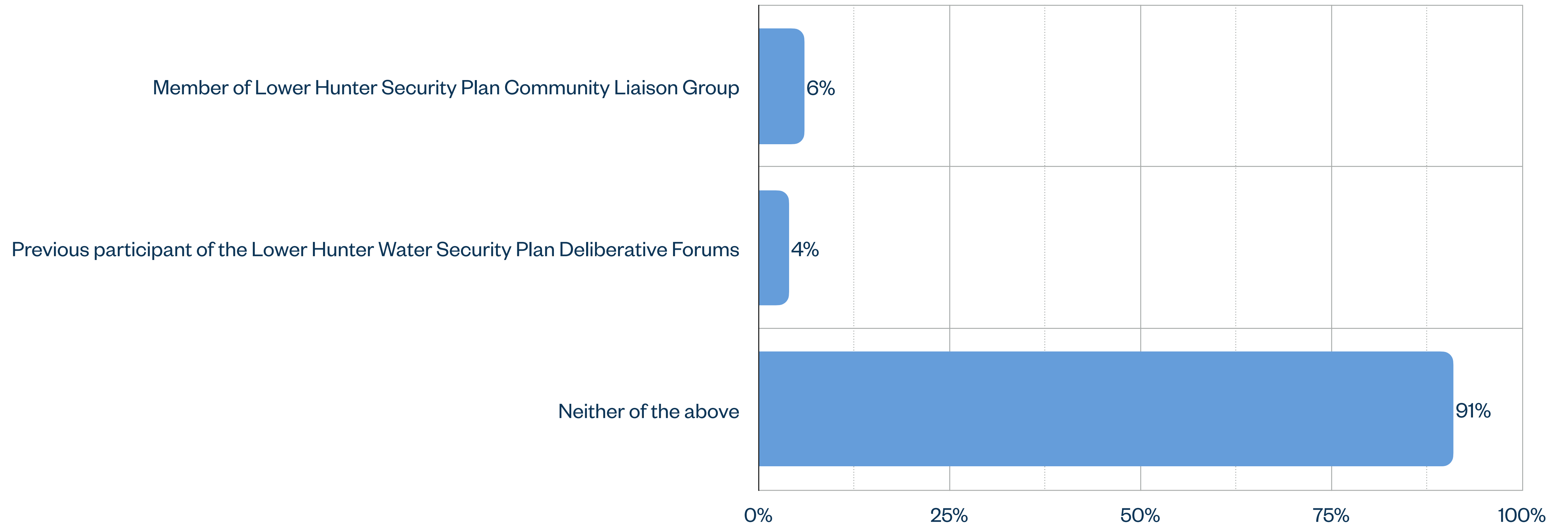




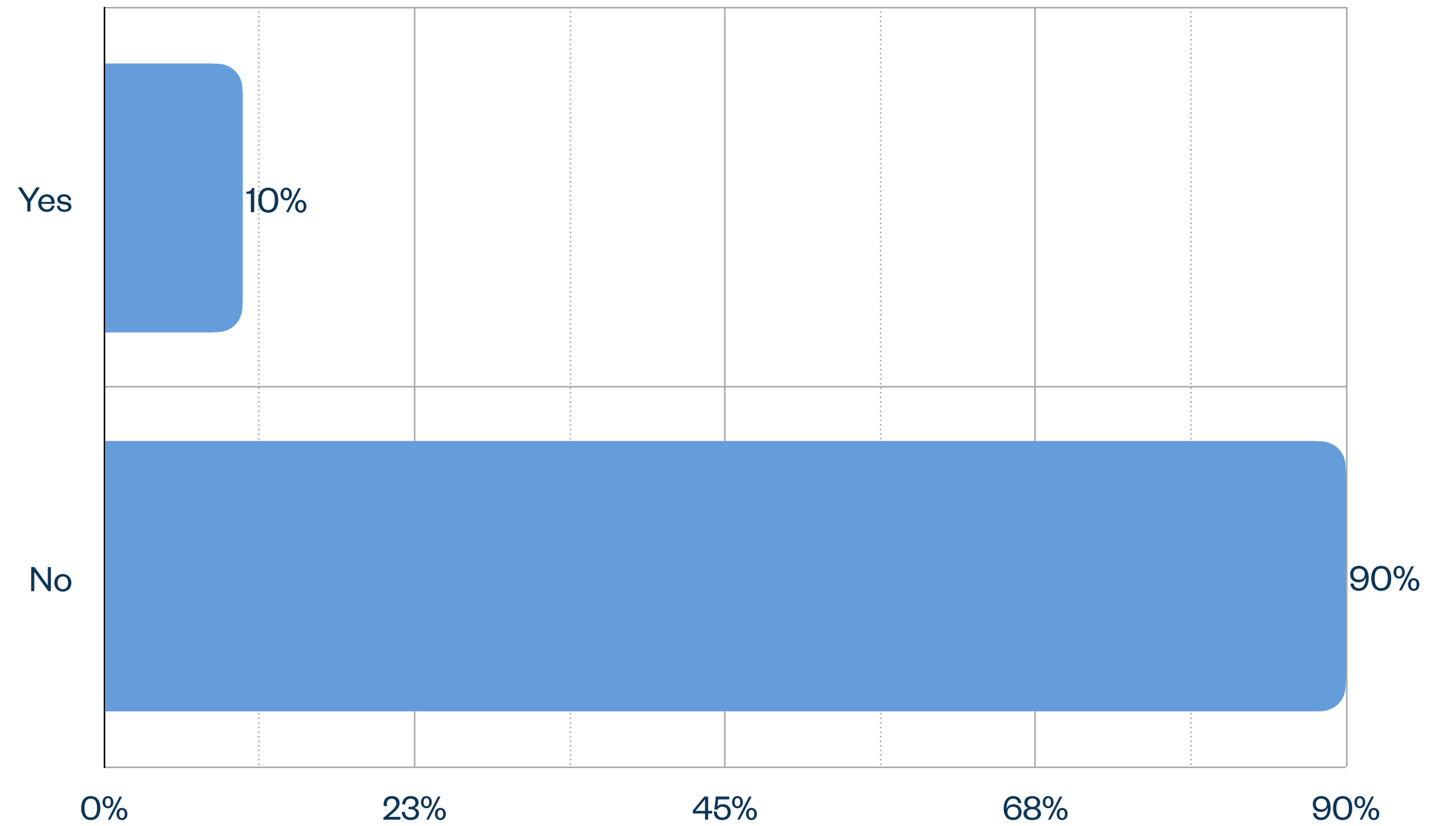
Demographic Questions

Section: Demographic Questions

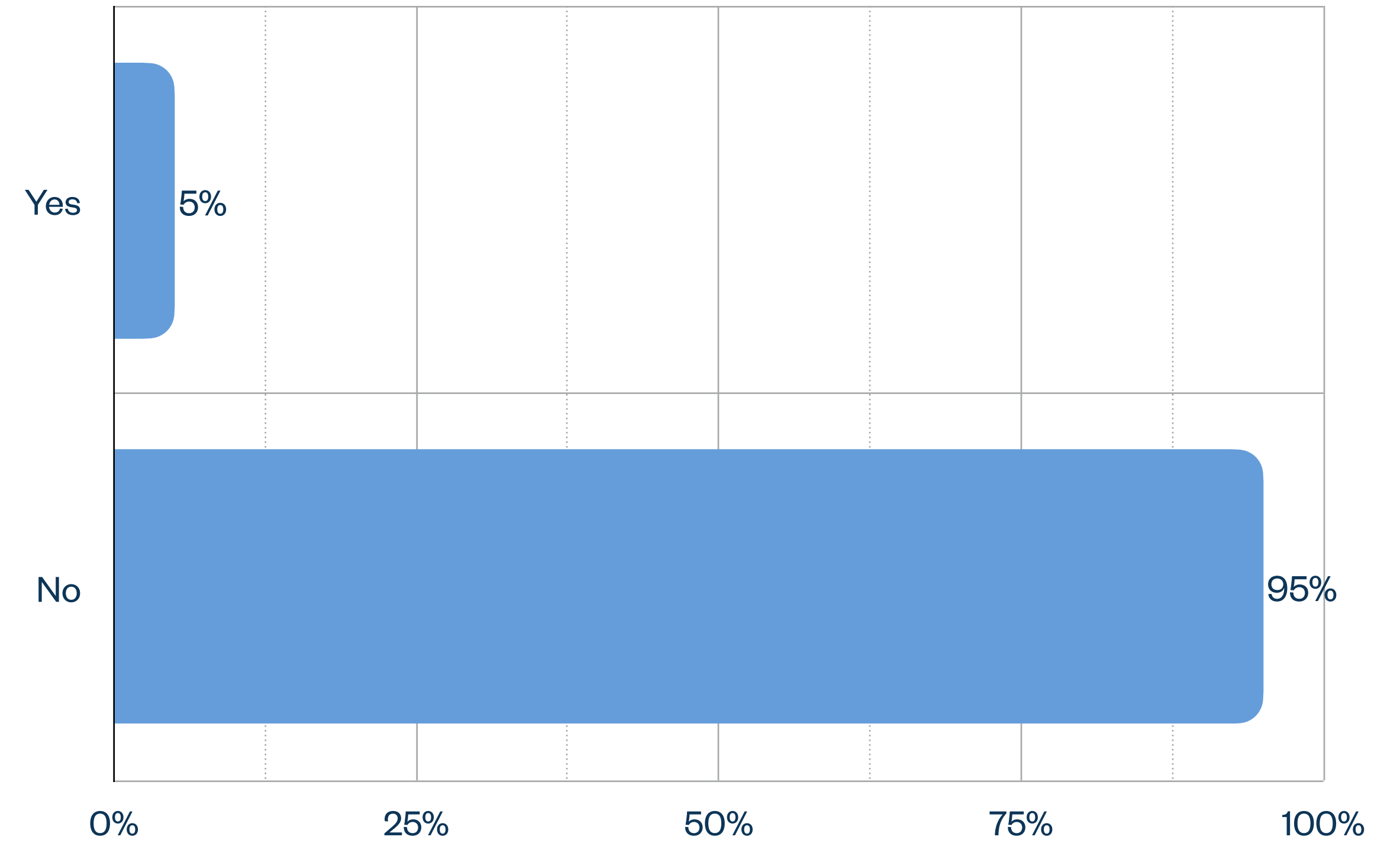
Are you:



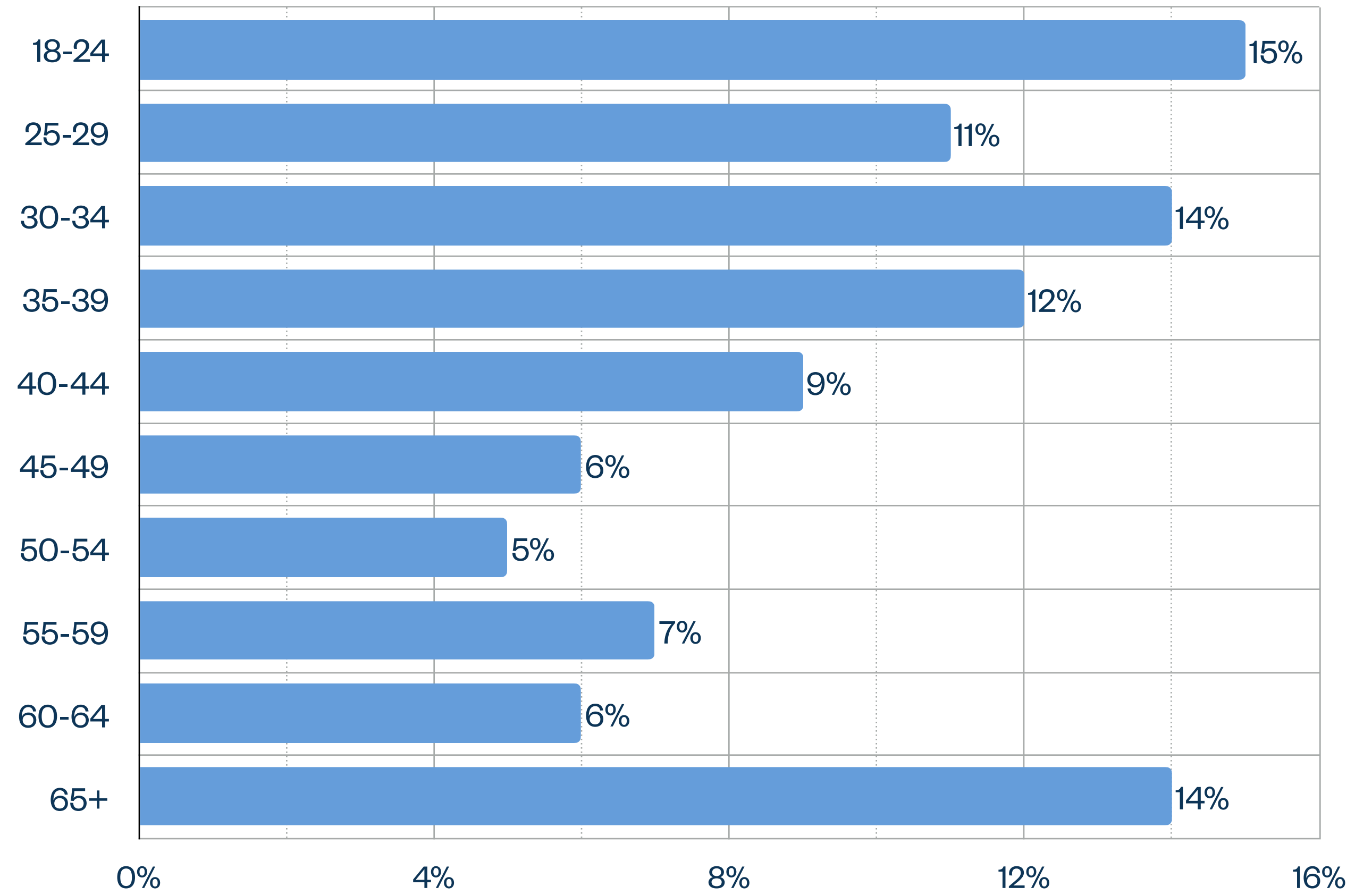
Are you a member of a community group?



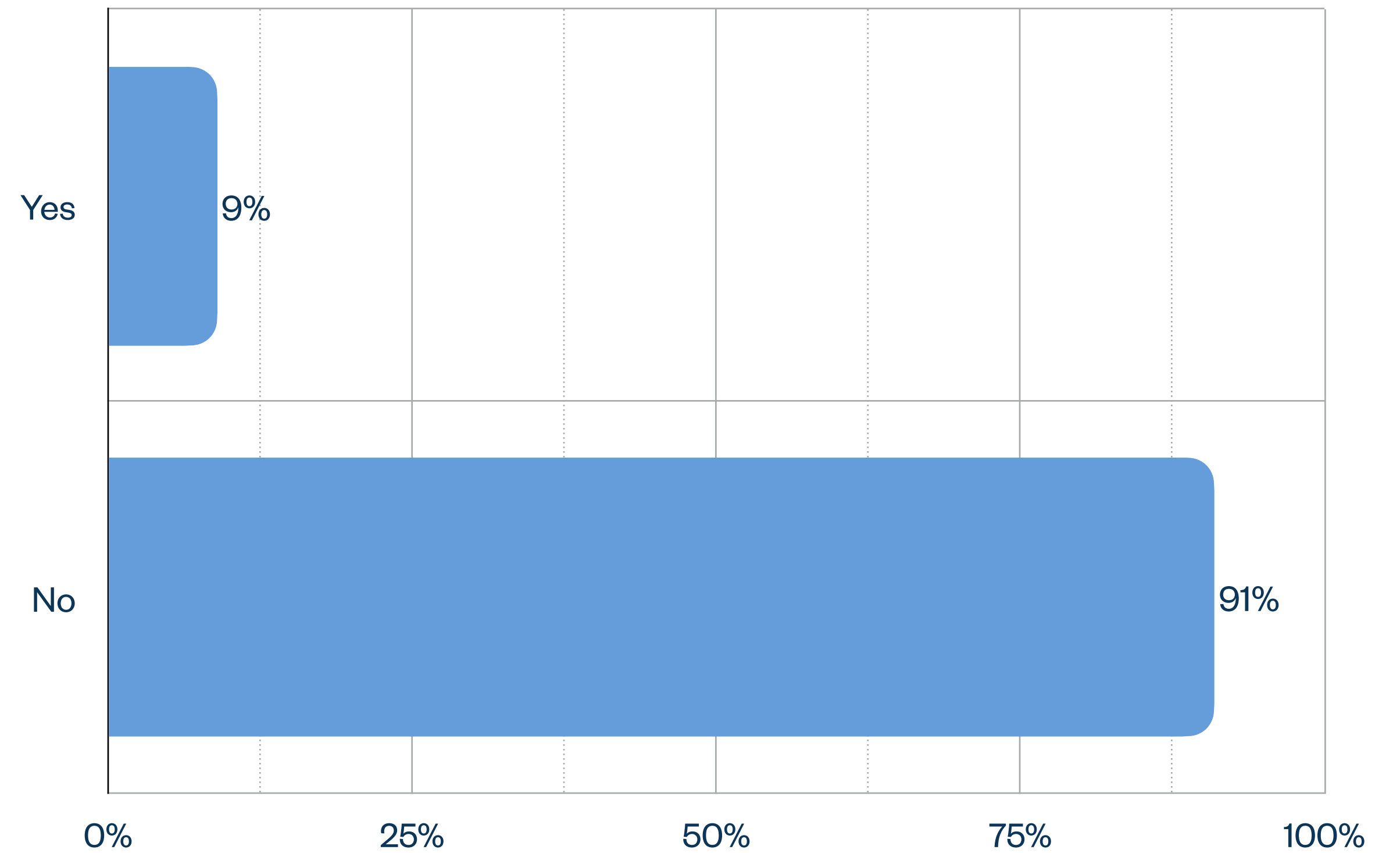
Are you a member of an Industry Association?



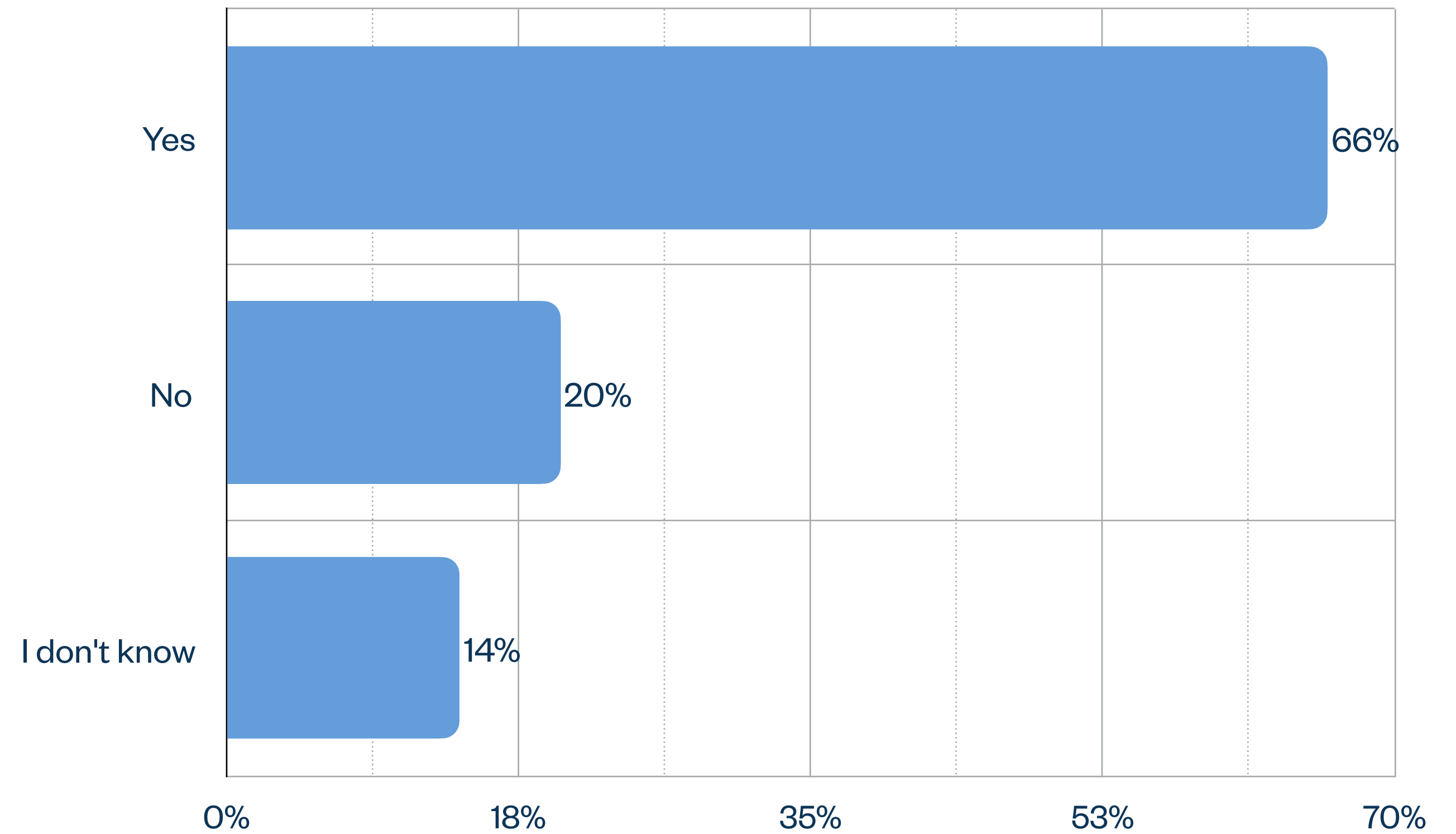
Age range



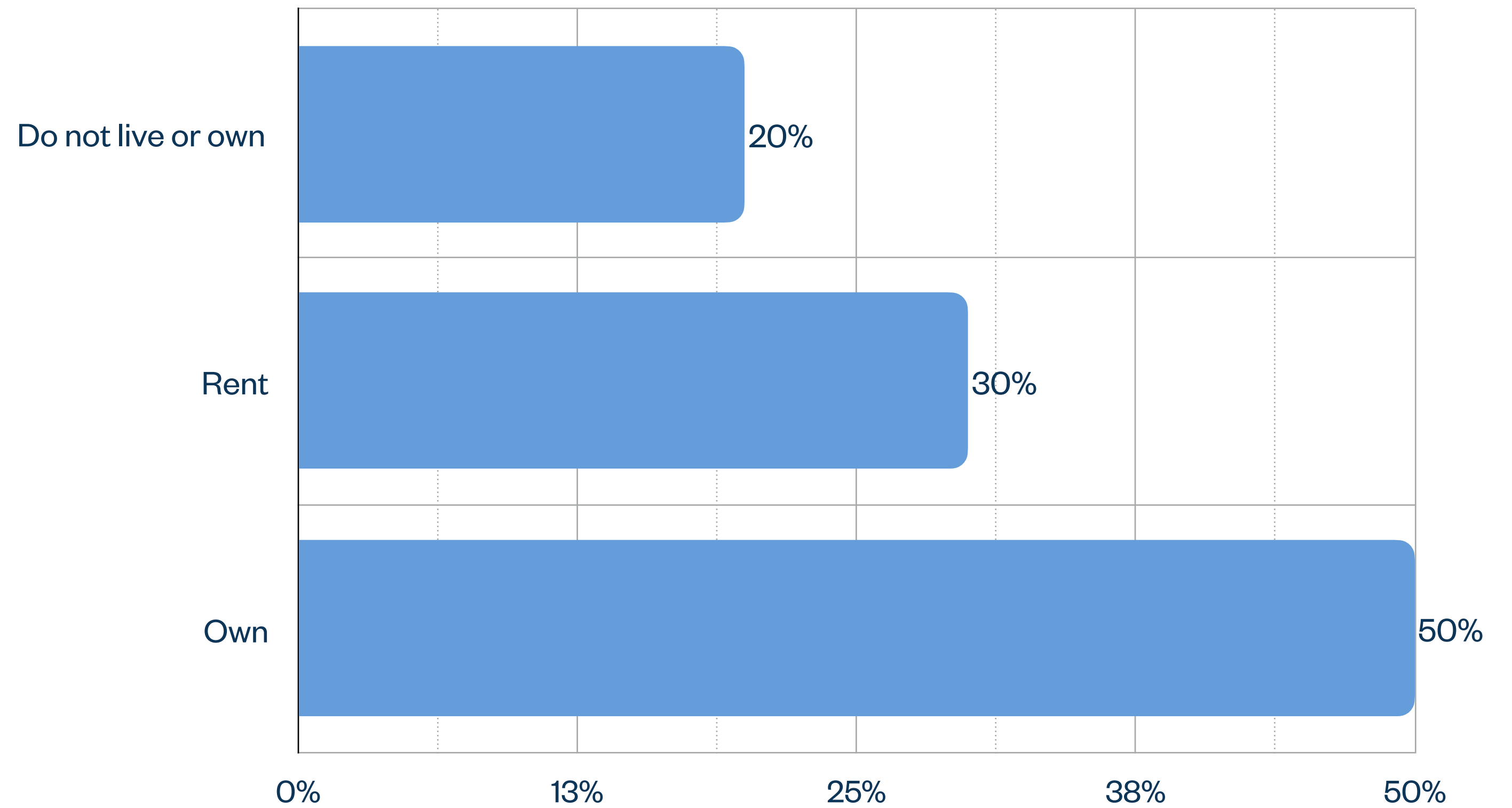
Do you Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?



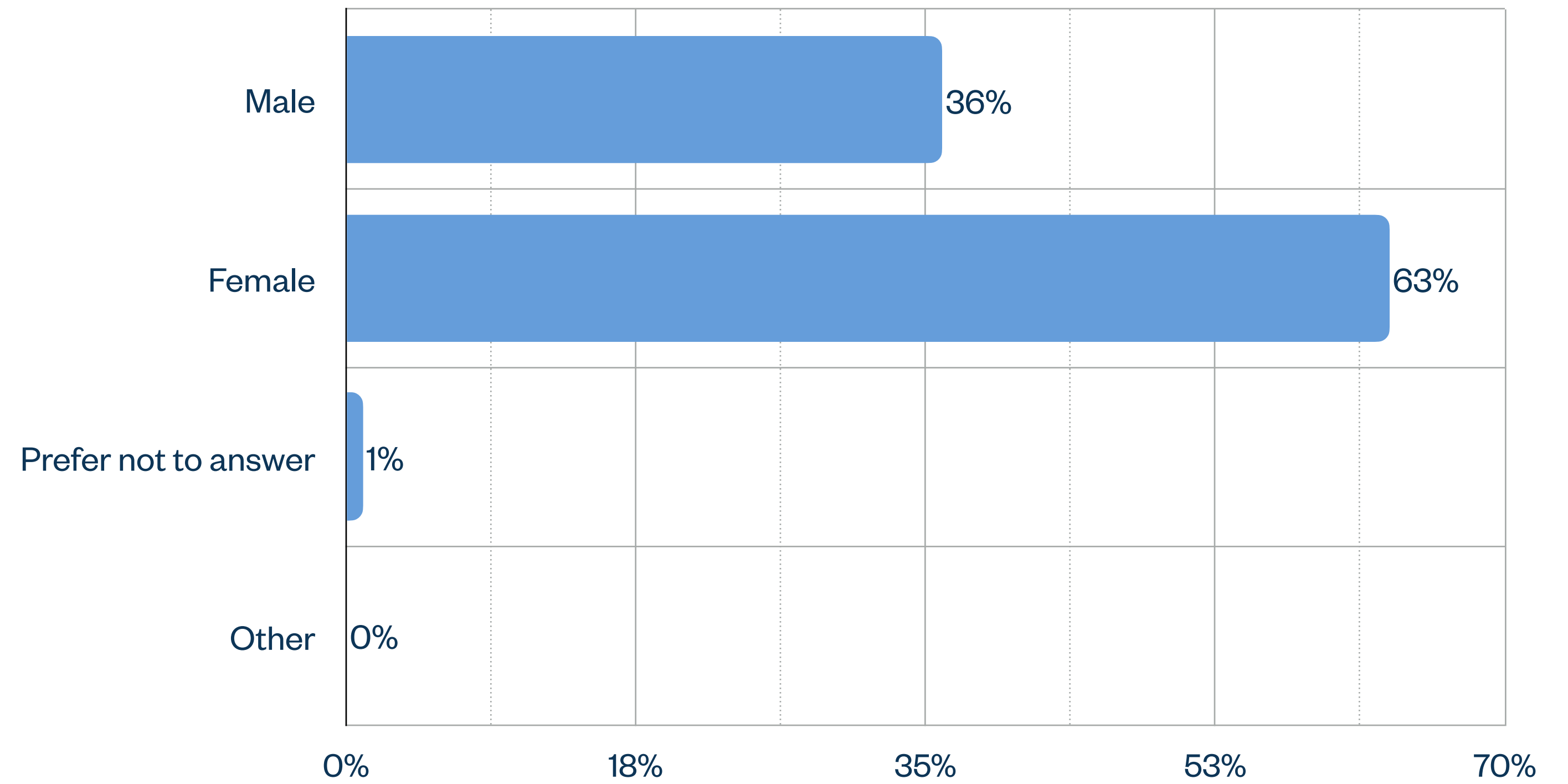
Is your property connected to Hunter Water's water supply system?



Do you rent or own property in the Lower Hunter



What is your gender?





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Thank you!
