



**DE-AMALGAMATION
SURVEYS
DOUGLAS
&
MAREEBA**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

Compass Research was asked by the Cairns Post to carry out a survey of residents of voting age in the former Douglas and Mareeba Shires to ascertain voting intentions in the forthcoming Referendum to be held on 9th March 2013 on whether the former shires wish to de-amalgamate from the Cairns Regional and Tablelands Regional Councils respectively.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

Telephone interviews were carried out using a set questionnaire of a random sample of 300 households with fixed telephone lines in the former Douglas and Mareeba Shires.

Questionnaire is given as **Appendix 1**. It first asks to confirm that residents live in the former shires, what part and how long.

The question is asked:

Q3. The Deamalgamation Referendum is being held on the 9th of March	
IF the Deamalgamation Referendum were being held today which way would you most likely vote?	
(Read out & rotate) (Which are you leaning towards?)	
For Deamalgamation	<input type="radio"/>
Against Deamalgamation	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know	<input type="radio"/>
None	<input type="radio"/>

Respondents were asked what was the main reason for choosing to vote that way.

Age and gender were recorded.

Final results were weighted by age group and gender appropriate to the relevant areas.

1.3 STATISTICAL ACCURACY

When results are about 50% one way, 50% the other way, it can be expected at a 95% level of certainty for a random sample of 300, that survey results can be expected to lie within ± 5.6 percentage points of the true position.

1.4 TIMING

The surveys were carried out over the period Friday 22nd of February to Sunday 3rd March 2013, between 5PM and 8PM on week nights, 9AM to 5PM on Saturdays and 10AM to 5PM on Sundays.

2. DOUGLAS

2.1 VOTING INTENTIONS

Table #1: Q3 – Vote on De-amalgamation

	% of sample	(% of sample excluding don't know)
For de-amalgamation	53%	(71%)
Against de-amalgamation	22%	(29%)
Don't know	25%	-
Total	100%	(100%)

Table #2: Q3 x Q5 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Gender

	Male		Female	
	% of sample	(% of sample excluding don't know)	% of sample	(% of sample excluding don't know)
For de-amalgamation	62%	(76%)	49%	(68%)
Against de-amalgamation	20%	(24%)	23%	(32%)
Don't know	18%	-	28%	-
Total	100%	(100%)	100%	(100%)

Table #3: Q3 x Q5 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Age Group

	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
For de-amalgamation	43%	52%	48%	55%	62%
Against de-amalgamation	14%	23%	25%	21%	22%
Don't know	43%	25%	27%	24%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Excluding don't know)					
For de-amalgamation	(75%)	(69%)	(66%)	(72%)	(74%)
Against de-amalgamation	(25%)	(31%)	(34%)	(28%)	(26%)
Total	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)

Table #4: Q3 x Q2 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Length of Residence

	1 – 20 yrs	21 – 40 yrs	41 years and over
For de-amalgamation	56%	51%	47%
Against de-amalgamation	16%	27%	37%
Don't know	28%	22%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%

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Table #5: Q3 x Q1 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Area

	Mossman	Port Douglas	Other
For de-amalgamation	41%	72%	50%
Against de-amalgamation	29%	9%	25%
Don't know	30%	19%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The survey indicates that almost certainly, residents of the former Douglas Shire will vote to de-amalgamate by a very strong margin.

Even though there are significant numbers indicating they didn't know which way they would vote, the figures indicate support for de-amalgamation across both males and females, age groups, length of residence and areas.

3. MAREEBA

3.1 VOTING INTENTIONS

Table #6: Q3 – Vote on De-amalgamation

	% of sample	(% of sample excluding don't know)
For de-amalgamation	42%	(54%)
Against de-amalgamation	34%	(46%)
Don't know	24%	-
Total	100%	(100%)

Table #7: Q3 x Q5 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Gender

	Male		Female	
	% of sample	(% of sample excluding don't know)	% of sample	(% of sample excluding don't know)
For de-amalgamation	52%	(60%)	36%	(48%)
Against de-amalgamation	35%	(40%)	39%	(52%)
Don't know	13%	-	25%	-
Total	100%	(100%)	100%	(100%)

Table #8: Q3 x Q5 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Age Group

	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
For de-amalgamation	19%	39%	44%	47%	43%
Against de-amalgamation	38%	44%	40%	35%	34%
Don't know	43%	17%	16%	18%	23%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<u>(Excluding don't know)</u>					
For de-amalgamation	(33%)	(47%)	(52%)	(57%)	(56%)
Against de-amalgamation	(67%)	(53%)	(48%)	(43%)	(44%)
Total	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)

Table #9: Q3 x Q2 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Length of Residence

	1 – 20 yrs	21 – 40 yrs	41 years and over
For de-amalgamation	28%	40%	61%
Against de-amalgamation	49%	41%	20%
Don't know	23%	19%	19%
Total	100%	100%	100%

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Table #10: Q3 x Q1 – Vote on De-amalgamation by Area

	Mareeba	Kuranda	Other
For de-amalgamation	51%	24%	36%
Against de-amalgamation	28%	61%	40%
Don't know	21%	15%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The indications are that a majority of those who have made up their minds are in favour of de-amalgamation. However, given a large 'don't know' factor, potential sample variance at sample size of 300, and potential shifts in intentions between surveying and polling day, likely outcome is uncertain.

The indications are that while males are strongly in favour, females are mildly against but with a large 'don't know' factor.

The indications are that older residents are for de-amalgamation but younger residents against, but there is a very large 'don't know' factor for those under 35 years.

The indications are that residents of Mareeba are strongly for de-amalgamation, Kuranda against, and remainder mildly against, but with a substantial 'don't know' factor.

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**Appendix
Questionnaires**

**DE-AMALGAMATION SURVEYS
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Cairns Post Council Deamalgamation Survey
Douglas
Ref. J2645 Feb 2013



Hello my name is from Compass Research. We are doing a short survey of peoples opinions about important issues for the Douglas Deamalgamation Referendum to be held on the 9th of March. It will take just a few minutes and we don't ask your name.

Note: Only residents and age 18 years and over.

Q1. First, could I just check what part of the former Douglas Shire area you live in?

Mossman	<input type="radio"/>	Daintree	<input type="radio"/>	Mowbray	<input type="radio"/>
Port Douglas	<input type="radio"/>	Dayman Point	<input type="radio"/>	Newell	<input type="radio"/>
Bamboo	<input type="radio"/>	Diwan	<input type="radio"/>	Oak Beach	<input type="radio"/>
Bloomfield	<input type="radio"/>	Finlay Vale	<input type="radio"/>	Shannonvale	<input type="radio"/>
Cape Kimberley	<input type="radio"/>	Four Mile Beach	<input type="radio"/>	Stewart Creek Valley	<input type="radio"/>
Cape Tribulation	<input type="radio"/>	Killaloe	<input type="radio"/>	Thornton Beach	<input type="radio"/>
Cassowary	<input type="radio"/>	Low Isles	<input type="radio"/>	Wangetti	<input type="radio"/>
Cooya Beach	<input type="radio"/>	Miallo	<input type="radio"/>	Whyanbeel	<input type="radio"/>
Cow Bay	<input type="radio"/>	Mossman Gorge	<input type="radio"/>	Wonga	<input type="radio"/>
Craiglie	<input type="radio"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>		<input type="radio"/>

Q2. How long have you been living in the former Douglas shire area? years

Q3. The Deamalgamation Referendum is being held on the 9th of March
IF the Deamalgamation Referendum were being held today which way would you most likely vote?
(Read out & rotate) (Which are you leaning towards?)

For Deamalgamation	<input type="radio"/>
Against Deamalgamation	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know	<input type="radio"/>
None	<input type="radio"/>

Q4. What would be your main reason for voting that way? (Why do you say don't know, none)

Q5. Lastly, which of the following age groups do you fall into?

Age	Male	Female
1.18-24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.25-34	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.35-44	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.45-54	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5.55-64	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.65+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you very much for your time today. We appreciate your help. Your individual comments are confidential. My name is..... from Compass Research and in case you want to check on anything, our office number is 40312821.

INTERVIEWER DECLARATION: This is a true and accurate recording of this interview.

Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	04-03-13
Time:	12:34

Compass Research is a long established Queensland based research company. The survey is an independent survey for the Cairns Post. All responses are confidential and only aggregate responses will be provided to the Cairns Post.



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**Cairns Post Council Deamalgamation Survey
Mareeba**

Ref: J2645 Feb 2013



Compass Research

Hello my name is from Compass Research. We are doing a short survey of peoples opinions about important issues for the Mareeba Deamalgamation Referendum to be held on the 9th of March. It will take just a few minutes and we don't ask your name.

Note: Only residents and age 18 years and over.

Q1. First, could I just check what part of the former Mareeba Shire area you live in?

Almaden	<input type="radio"/>	Highbury	<input type="radio"/>	Mount Mulgrave	<input type="radio"/>
Arriga	<input type="radio"/>	Hurricane	<input type="radio"/>	Mount Mulligan	<input type="radio"/>
Barwidgi	<input type="radio"/>	Irvanbank	<input type="radio"/>	Nychum	<input type="radio"/>
Bellvue	<input type="radio"/>	Julatten	<input type="radio"/>	Paddys Green	<input type="radio"/>
Biboohra	<input type="radio"/>	Koah	<input type="radio"/>	Petford	<input type="radio"/>
Bolwarra	<input type="radio"/>	Kondaparinga	<input type="radio"/>	Silver Vally	<input type="radio"/>
Chewko	<input type="radio"/>	Kuranda	<input type="radio"/>	Southedge	<input type="radio"/>
Chillagoe	<input type="radio"/>	Gamboola	<input type="radio"/>	Southedge	<input type="radio"/>
Crystalbrook	<input type="radio"/>	Mareeba	<input type="radio"/>	Speewah	<input type="radio"/>
Desailly	<input type="radio"/>	Middlebrook	<input type="radio"/>	Springfield	<input type="radio"/>
Dimbulah	<input type="radio"/>	Mona Mona	<input type="radio"/>	Thornborough	<input type="radio"/>
Gamboola	<input type="radio"/>	Mount Carbine	<input type="radio"/>	Watsonville	<input type="radio"/>
Gunnawarra	<input type="radio"/>	Mount Mollooy	<input type="radio"/>	Wrotham	<input type="radio"/>
Gunnawarra	<input type="radio"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>		<input type="radio"/>

Q2. How long have you been living in the Tablelands area? years

Q3. The Deamalgamation Referendum is being held on the 9th of March
IF the Deamalgamation Referendum were being held today which way would you most likely vote?
(Read out & rotate) (Which are you leaning towards?)

For Deamalgamation	<input type="radio"/>
Against Deamalgamation	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know	<input type="radio"/>
None	<input type="radio"/>

Q4. What would be your main reason for voting that way? (Why do you say don't know, none)

Q5. Lastly, which of the following age groups do you fall into?

Age	Male	Female
1. 18-24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. 25-34	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. 35-44	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. 45-54	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. 55-64	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. 65+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you very much for your time today. We appreciate your help. Your individual comments are confidential. My name is..... from Compass Research and in case you want to check on anything, our office number is 40312821.

INTERVIEWER DECLARATION: This is a true and accurate recording of this interview.

Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	04-03-13
Time:	11:53

Compass Research is a long established Queensland based research company. The survey is an independent survey for the Cairns Post. All responses are confidential and only aggregate responses will be provided to the Cairns Post.



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