



COUNCIL ELECTION SURVEY

MAREEBA

COMPASS RESEARCH
PO Box 2148
CAIRNS Qld 4870

phones
07 4031 2821
0477 056 455

email
admin@compassresearch.net.au

ABN: 99 734 489 175

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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 Mareeba Shire to ascertain voting intention for the mayoralty and other issues in the forthcoming Council elections to be held on 9th November 2013.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

Telephone interviews were carried out using a set questionnaire of a random sample of 200 households with fixed telephone lines in the Mareeba Shire area.

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

Respondents were asked which three of a list of seven issues that could affect the Mareeba area were most important to them, and then any other issues important to them.

They were then asked their voting intention for the mayoralty.

They were then asked how they had voted in the de-amalgamation referendum earlier in the year and whether they would still vote the same way.

Age and gender were recorded.

Final results were weighted by age group appropriate to the area.

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 200, that survey results can be expected to lie within ± 6.9 percentage points of the true position.

1.4 TIMING

The surveys were carried out over the period Thursday 31st October 2013 to Sunday 3rd November 2013, between 5PM and 8PM on week nights, 9AM to 5PM on Saturdays and 10AM to 5PM on Sundays.



2. MAREEBA

2.1 VOTING INTENTIONS

Table #1: Q3 – Vote on Mayoralty

| | % of sample | (% of sample excluding don't know) |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| M Borzi | 42% | (53%) |
| T Gilmore | 37% | (47%) |
| Not sure/Don't know | 21% | - |
| Total | 100% | (100%) |

Table #2: Q3 x Q7 – Vote on Mayoralty by Gender

| | Male | | Female | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| | % of sample | (% of sample excluding don't know) | % of sample | (% of sample excluding don't know) |
| M Borzi | 48% | (56%) | 36% | (49%) |
| T Gilmore | 37% | (44%) | 36% | (51%) |
| Not sure/Don't know | 15% | - | 28% | - |
| Total | 100% | (100%) | 100% | (100%) |

Table #3: Q3 x Q6 – Vote on Mayoralty by Age Group

| | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| M Borzi | 39% | 45% | 41% | 37% | 44% |
| T Gilmore | 39% | 35% | 38% | 35% | 36% |
| Not sure/Don't know | 32% | 20% | 21% | 28% | 20% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| (Excluding don't know) | | | | | |
| M Borzi | (50%) | (56%) | (52%) | (52%) | (55%) |
| T Gilmore | (50%) | (44%) | (48%) | (48%) | (45%) |
| Total | (100%) | (100%) | (100%) | (100%) | (100%) |

Table #4: Q3 x Q4 – Vote on Mayoralty by Way Voted in Referendum

| | For | Against |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| M Borzi | 61% | 18% |
| T Gilmore | 19% | 62% |
| Not sure/Don't know | 20% | 20% |
| Total | 100% | 100% |

Table #5: Q3 x Q1 – Vote on Mayoralty by Area

| | Mareeba | Kuranda/Speewah | Other |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| M Borzi | 47% | 13% | 48% |
| T Gilmore | 35% | 63% | 22% |
| Not sure/Don't know | 18% | 24% | 30% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Given the substantial 'don't know' factor (21%) and the limitations of the sample size, the results are too close to be certain as to which mayoral candidate will receive the most votes.

However excluding those who don't know, the figures indicate that Mick Borzi is ahead overall, 53% to 47%, and is ahead or equal in all age groups, ahead among males but slightly behind in females, ahead in Mareeba and the rest of the Shire except Kuranda/Speewah.

The figures indicate that those who voted for de-amalgamation are strongly in favour of Mick Borzi and those who voted against, are strongly in favour of Tom Gilmore.

3. IMPORTANT ISSUES

Respondents were asked, “I’m going to read out a list of issues that could be important for the Mareeba Shire area during the term of the next Council. Which are the three most important issues for you?”

The following table gives responses.

Table #6: Q2a – Three Most Important Issues

| | 1 st most important | 2 nd most important | 3rd most important | Total |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Maintaining infrastructure roads, parks, town services | 70 | 48 | 38 | 156 |
| Development & economic opportunities | 12 | 32 | 26 | 70 |
| Forward regional planning | 13 | 24 | 40 | 77 |
| Water & resources | 13 | 30 | 25 | 68 |
| Protection of the environment | 14 | 13 | 14 | 41 |
| Rates/financial stability | 68 | 35 | 30 | 133 |
| Youth/sporting facilities | 7 | 10 | 15 | 32 |
| No response | 3 | 8 | 12 | 23 |

The most important in first ranking and in total were “Maintaining infrastructure roads, parks, town services” and “Rates/financial stability”.

“Other” important issues mentioned are given in [Appendix 2](#).

4. DE-AMALGAMATION VOTE

Respondents were asked, “Which way did you vote in the de-amalgamation referendum held earlier this year?”

They were then asked, “If the referendum were being held today, would you vote the same way?”

The following table gives responses.

Table #7: Q4 x Q5 – Voted For or Against De-amalgamation by Whether Still Vote that Way

| | Vote Same Way | | | Total |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | Yes | No | Not sure/ don't know | |
| For de-amalgamation | 99 | 6 | 5 | 108 |
| Against de-amalgamation | 87 | 2 | 2 | 85 |
| Didn't vote | 1 | - | 6 | 7 |
| Total | 179 (90%) | 8 (4%) | 12 (6%) | 200 (100%) |

The actual vote in the referendum was, for de-amalgamation 58%, against de-amalgamation 42%.

The sample interviewed in this survey recorded 56% who had voted in favour of de-amalgamation (ie. almost the same results as the actual referendum).

Only a small proportion (4%) definitely indicated they would change their vote with some among those who voted “for de-amalgamation” and some of those who voted “against”.

While there is a small ‘don’t know’ factor of 6%, and there are limitations in potential accuracy due to the limited sample size, the indication from the figures is that if the referendum had been held today, there would still be a majority in favour of de-amalgamation but by a slightly reduced margin.

COUNCIL ELECTION SURVEY MAREEBA

Appendices

- Questionnaire
- Q2b - Details Other Responses



Appendix 1



Regional Council Elections
Ref: J2728
Nov 2013
Mareeba Shire



Hello my name is from Compass Research Cairns. We are doing a short survey of peoples opinions about important issues in the Mareeba Shire Council elections to be held on 9th November. It will take just a few minutes, we don't ask your name. Could I speak to the youngest person in the household?

Q1. First, could I just check what part of the Mareeba Council 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 Molloy | <input type="radio"/> | Wrotham | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gunnawarra | <input type="radio"/> | Other | <input type="text"/> | | <input type="radio"/> |

Q2a. I'm going to read out a list of issues that could be important for the Mareeba area during the term of the next council. Which are the 3 most important issues for you?

(Read out & rotate) First the most important...then second... and then third?

| Issue | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.Maintaining infrastructure: roads, parks, town services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2.Development / economics opportunities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3.Forward regional planning | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4.Water & resources | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.Protection of the environment | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6.Rates / financial stability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7.Youth / sporting facilities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q2b. Are there any other issues that are important to you?

Q3. There are 2 candidates nominated for the position of Mayor. If the election was being held today, which one of the following would you most likely vote for?

(Read out 1 to 2 & rotate) (who are you leaning towards?)

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Mick Borzi | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tom Gilmore | <input type="radio"/> |
| Not sure | <input type="radio"/> |
| Don't know | <input type="radio"/> |

Q4. Which way did you vote in the deamalgamation referendum earlier this year?

(Read out 1 to 2 & rotate)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| For deamalgamtion | <input type="radio"/> |
| Against deamalgamtion | <input type="radio"/> |
| Not sure / don't know | <input type="radio"/> |

Q5. If the referendum were being held today would you vote the same way?

(Read out 1 to 2 & rotate)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | <input type="radio"/> |
| No | <input type="radio"/> |
| Not sure / don't know | <input type="radio"/> |

Q6. Finally, which age group do you fall into?

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 18-24 years | <input type="radio"/> |
| 25-29 years | <input type="radio"/> |
| 30-34 years | <input type="radio"/> |
| 35-44 years | <input type="radio"/> |
| 45-54 years | <input type="radio"/> |
| 55-64 years | <input type="radio"/> |
| 65+ years | <input type="radio"/> |

Q7. Record Gender:

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Male | <input type="radio"/> |
| Female | <input type="radio"/> |

General Comments Box.

We appreciate your help. Your individual comments are confidential. My name is _____ from Compass Research. For your record our office number is 4031 2888. Thank you for your time & have a great day.

Phone Number:



Compass Research | T: 61 (0)7 40312888 | M: 0418 871 011 | F: 61 (0)7 40311108
www.compassresearch.net.au | admin@compassresearch.net.au
38 Grafton St, PO. Box 2148, Cairns, QLD, 4870, abn: 99734 489 175, © copyright 2013



Appendix 2

Q2b - Details Other Responses

- Maintain roads
- Stupid wind turbines, filthy things.
- All are important
- All of them
- All the above are important.
- Attract tourists
- Beyond the area for parks
- Community security concerns
- Concerned equipment, machinery and funds given to Atherton Shire in amalgamation will not be returned
- Councillors do not see their constituents at all
- Does not mayoral teams
- Council is not addressing erosion issue
- Economics of the place,, how business will cope and their future.
- Electricity has become very expensive
- Existing infrastructure and facilities for children require urgent repairs
- Farming should be protected more to keep local produce going in this country
- Fuel, licences, transport costs
- Getting back to looking after Mareeba and Kuranda.
- Getting business back on track.
- Getting the shire back on track. They are all really important.
- Needs more family friendly policy events etc
- Health and aged care. That we have a united council that will work well with surrounding councils, not them and us. Don't spend until we have consolidated what we have - take a conservative approach. Water - looking forward to the future/dam. Transport by-pass. Sewage needs attention.
- Health care,
- Street crossing for pedestrians in Mareeba is dangerous - children not visible until too late By-pass for large vehicles – ie. trucks etc
- I live on a property and receive no services but have to pay rates.
- I think they should make sure Kuranda get a voice.
- Improving a by-pass by around the main area and up-grading the airport.
- Infrastructure. Marketing for our produce. We are forgotten.
- Maintain medical services for seniors,
- Maintaining infrastructure
- Mareeba sewerage plant and structure requires urgent attention, Airport requires upgrading - barely operational
- Dimbulah is forgotten.
- Mobile service to area - non at present
- More business and more people
- More cultural activities, council transparency
- More facilities for elderly people. No bus for those who can no longer drive due to age
- Most important that we go back to divisional
- No bulk billing Doctors in Mareeba, Hospital visits take one week to see a doctor

- Not very happy with the sugar coming through from Mareeba, every seven minutes
- Rates, Rates, Rates.
- Recycling
- Recycling community facilities
- Road access to property
- Road to cemetery needs another lane for Dimbulah
- Roads in our area, necessary road changes, Rifle Creek Bridge at Mount Molloy and the flooding every year at Bushy Creek.
- Rubbish disposal
- Security in township is very poor - delinquents run rampant after 7pm , community needs to become involved
- Sewerage plant
- Sewerage works!
- So much money is spent on Mareeba , Kuranda is forgotten
- Sub division of rural blocks
- Supporting local businesses
- They are all important.
- They don't do much for us where we live,
- Town kept clean. Litter is an ongoing problem.
- Traffic is a problem.
- Trying to make the town bigger and better, more facilities so you don't have to leave town.
- Upgrade the local hospital, they say they have space but no staff or equipment
- Water issue is very important
- We are being badly done by the Tablelands Regional Council at this stage
- We need to do something about recycling in the area, and we need to do some work with the indigenous people in the area
- We need to look after Mareeba
- We need to look ahead
- Why can't the Councillors be independent instead of being in a team