

Wide Bay's Biggest Survey

Conducted throughout the Federal Electorate of Wide Bay in April/May 2009

<u>TRANSPORT and ROADS:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Are you concerned about the condition of state and local roads in your area?	86%	12%	2%
Are you concerned about safety when travelling on the Bruce Highway?	83%	15%	2%
Do you think the Bruce Highway, particularly between Cooroy and Curra, should be upgraded to four lanes?	86%	7%	7%
Do you support the 90km/hr speed limit on the Cooroy to Curra stretch of the Bruce Highway until the road is upgraded?	56%	38%	6%
Do you think that more should be done to increase the availability of public transport in your area?	59%	21%	20%

<u>HOSPITALS and HEALTHCARE:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Are you satisfied with the range of services available from your local hospital?	33%	52%	15%
Should Federal funding for health care be paid direct to local hospitals rather than to State Governments?	81%	6%	13%
Do you support the creation of local hospital boards to manage local hospitals?	76%	10%	14%
Are you readily able to access a general practitioner?	83%	16%	1%
Are you readily able to access medical specialists?	46%	42%	12%
Are you readily able to access dentists, physiotherapists, chiropractors etc?	68%	26%	6%

<u>PENSIONERS and SENIORS:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Should the Age Pension be increased?	78%	11%	11%
Would you support higher taxes to fund higher pension payments?	29%	57%	14%
Do you believe that increases in the Age Pension should be funded from existing revenue sources?	71%	11%	18%
Would you support raising taxes to fund more discounts on government services, for example vehicle registration fees, council rates, etc?	33%	55%	12%
Should self-funded retirees be eligible for more fringe benefits?	69%	17%	14%
Are you satisfied with the level of community services available for seniors?	44%	26%	30%
Would you support payment of bonds for aged high care places if it enabled more places to be provided?	54%	29%	17%

<u>COST of LIVING, ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT:</u>			BETTER OFF	WORSE OFF	THE SAME
Comparing your personal situation now to this time last year, do you feel:			8%	57%	35%
What has had the greatest impact on your personal situation?:					
International factors and the global economy.	40%	Reasons unrelated to government.	21%		
The State Government.	32%	Local Government.	20%		
Changes in asset values.	29%	The previous Federal Government.	12%		
The Federal Government over the last 12 months.	28%	Don't know.	6%		
			VERY WORRIED	WORRIED	NOT WORRIED
In relation to the current economic difficulties and the impact it may have on your quality of life, are you:			19%	59%	22%
			YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you support the Federal Government's decision to borrow money to make bonus payments to pensioners, taxpayers and parents?			27%	62%	11%
Should the Federal Government continue to borrow money to stimulate the economy?			22%	62%	16%
If the Government continues to borrow, what should it spend the borrowings on?:					
Health	73%	Pension increases	38%	Tax cuts	18%
Roads, rail, infrastructure	71%	Environment	20%	More bonus payments	7%
Education	47%	Defence	18%	Don't know	1%
			YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you always try to buy Australian food and groceries?			79%	18%	3%
Have increases in grocery prices made you more likely to buy cheaper imported produce?			50%	46%	4%
Should petrol and diesel excise be reduced by 5 cents per litre?			79%	14%	7%
Are you concerned about your job security?			30%	60%	10%
Should there be more local Work for the Dole programs?			85%	6%	9%
			GOVERNMENT	PRIVATE SECTOR	UNIONS
Which do you believe has the greatest role in creating sustainable and secure jobs?			33%	61%	6%

<u>TAXATION:</u>	TAX CUTS	MORE SERVICES	MORE INFRA-STRUCTURE
Would you prefer the Federal Government to provide:	24%	26%	50%
	TOO HIGH	TOO LOW	ABOUT RIGHT
Do you feel the current level of taxation is:	44%	3%	53%
	FEDERAL Government Debt	STATE Government Debt	LOCAL Government Debt
Are you concerned about the size of:	77%	74%	42%

<u>SOCIAL SECURITY:</u>	TOO GENEROUS	NOT GENEROUS ENOUGH	ABOUT RIGHT
Do you think the welfare system in Australia is:	37%	17%	46%
	TOO HARSH	ABOUT RIGHT	NOT TOUGH ENOUGH
Do you think the conditions placed on those receiving Centrelink benefits are:	11%	43%	46%

<u>LAW and ORDER:</u>			
Which crime prevention strategies do you support?:			
More police on the beat.	74%		
More use of community service penalties (eg building footpaths, boardwalks, eradicating weeds, etc) to rehabilitate offenders.	73%		
Higher penalties and tougher sentencing to deter would-be offenders.	71%		
Require Centrelink or the Tax Office to deduct payments from those who avoid paying fines.	67%		
Place closed circuit television cameras in known problem areas.	62%		
Greater support for intervention programs to deter anti-social behaviour.	57%		
Licence plate recognition technology to identify hooning vehicles.	54%		
	YES	NO	UNSURE
Should Australia become a republic?	35%	50%	15%
Should the Australian Constitution be amended to include a Bill of Rights?	35%	28%	37%
Should property rights be given greater protection?	80%	4%	16%
Thinking of crime generally, do you feel safe in and secure in your local area?	72%	20%	8%

POPULATION:

What is your opinion regarding each of Australia's current immigration categories?:	TOO HIGH	TOO LOW	UNSURE	
Skilled migrants – 115,000 per year	65%	9%	26%	
Humanitarian & Refugee – 13,500 per year	58%	13%	29%	
Family Sponsored & Migrants – 56,500 per year	58%	9%	33%	
	YES	NO	UNSURE	
Should a cap be placed on the population of Australia?	54%	32%	14%	
Do you support increased migrant settlement in Wide Bay?	27%	55%	18%	
Do you think Australia is a racist country?	27%	62%	11%	
Do you think your local area should:	YES	NO	UNSURE	
- grow at the same rate as the rest of Queensland?	50%	39%	11%	
- grow faster than the rest of Queensland?	7%	84%	9%	
- impose a freeze on population growth?	40%	46%	14%	
	TOO HIGH	TOO LOW	ABOUT RIGHT	
What do you think about the level of Australia's foreign aid?	61%	6%	33%	
	TOO HARSH	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO SOFT	UNSURE
Do you think the Federal Government's quarantine and border protection controls are:	2%	43%	50%	5%
	YES	NO	UNSURE	
Should there be more public housing available in your community?	59%	27%	14%	

<u>EMISSIONS TRADING:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you understand the Government's planned carbon pollution reduction scheme?	29%	54%	17%
Do you believe the Australian Government's proposed carbon pollution reduction scheme is the best way to reduce carbon emissions?	7%	49%	44%
Are you concerned that an Australian carbon pollution reduction scheme will lead Australian industry to relocate to countries that do not have an emissions tax?	67%	11%	22%
Should Australia introduce carbon taxes:			
- not until every nation does its part			23%
- not until larger emitters including China, India, Indonesia & Brazil have them			21%
- the same time as other developed countries, including USA, Canada & Japan			19%
- unsure			14%
- immediately			12%
- never			11%
	YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you think carbon tax credits should be given to property owners who participate in carbon sequestration schemes?	54%	13%	33%

<u>ENERGY:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you support nuclear energy as a means to reduce carbon emissions?	39%	40%	21%
Have you installed solar panels or a solar hot water system?	20%	80%	
If not:			
-are you considering installing a solar hot water system?	44%	45%	11%
- are you considering installing solar panels?	40%	47%	13%

ENVIRONMENT:

Which statement best summarises your view about climate change?:

Climate change is part of a natural environmental cycle made worse by humans.	60%
Climate change is part of a natural environmental cycle.	28%
Climate change is caused by humans.	12%

Which of the following should be used to increase water resources?:

Recycling of treated sewerage for industrial purposes.	62%
Water saving schemes.	58%
Piping water from the tropics.	47%
Desalination.	37%
Aquifer storage and recovery.	20%
More dams.	15%
Pump water from Fraser Island.	13%
Recycling of treated sewerage for human consumption.	13%

Do you support:	YES	NO	UNSURE
the State Government's water grid to supply water from our region to Brisbane?	11%	83%	6%
the State Government's proposed Traveston Crossing Dam?	8%	88%	4%
the erection of fences to control dingoes on Fraser Island?	23%	66%	11%
tax and registration concessions to owners of fuel efficient vehicles?	71%	20%	9%
lower vehicle registration fees for small engine cars and higher for large engine cars?	66%	28%	6%
uranium mining?	41%	40%	19%
fluoridation of the water supply?	43%	47%	10%

<u>EDUCATION:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Should school students complete compulsory community service as part of their education?	65%	23%	12%
Should greater emphasis be placed in the school curriculum on basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic?	97%	2%	1%
Should greater emphasis be placed on teaching Australian history at school?	77%	13%	10%
Are you concerned about bullying in schools?	79%	15%	6%
Do you think the Education Revolution promise has been delivered?	4%	71%	25%
Should University education be free to all?	49%	37%	14%
Should details of the performance of schools be made public?	69%	21%	10%
Do you think that teachers should have part of their salary linked to their performance?	57%	31%	12%

<u>COMMUNITY and SOCIAL:</u>	YES	NO	UNSURE
Are you satisfied with the performance of your State Government?	13%	77%	10%
Are you satisfied with the performance of your Federal Government?	27%	58%	15%
Are you satisfied with the performance of your Local Government?	34%	48%	18%
Should Queensland adopt Daylight Saving Time in summer?	32%	64%	4%
Do you think same sex couples should be allowed to marry?	34%	55%	11%
Do you think the State Government's forced amalgamation of your council has improved your community?	6%	82%	12%
Do you think there should be a referendum on whether or not to de-amalgamate your Council?	58%	32%	10%

The most important issues:

The four issues that received the most Number 1 votes:

1. Improving hospitals and healthcare	28%
2. More police and tougher sentences	11%
3. Increased benefits for pensioners and seniors	10%
4. Reducing the cost of living	8%

The four issues that received the most votes over all four numbered positions:

1. Improving hospitals and healthcare	70%
2. More police and tougher sentences	37%
3. Reducing the cost of living	32%
4. Investing in education and training	31%