
Tasmanians for Reform

Local Government Research Report

Prepared by



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THE SURVEY

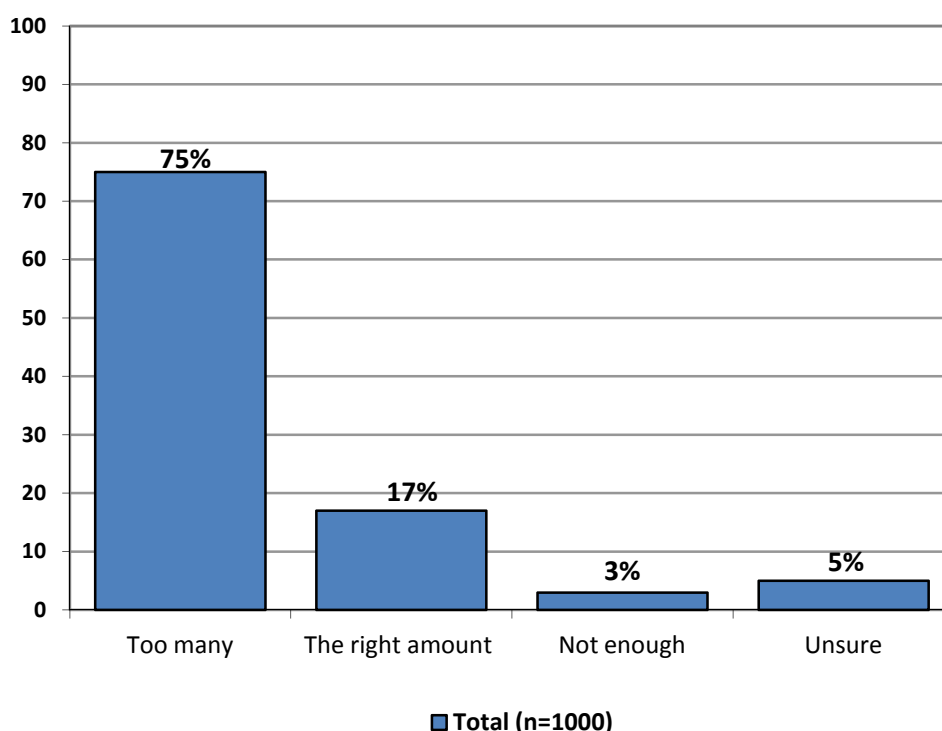
1000 Tasmanian adults were interviewed by telephone between the 16th and 20th November 2011. Of these, 500 were from the South, 280 were from the North and North East and 220 were from the North West and West Coast regions. Responses were weighted to reflect the demographic profile of the Tasmanian adult population.

Number of Councils

The 1000 respondents were asked;

Do you think 29 Councils for a population of 500,000 people is...

**Chart 1 – Number of Councils
(Percentage of respondents)**



Three-quarters (75%) of Tasmanians claimed that the current number of Councils for a population of 500,000 people was “too many” – an increase of 10% since the question was put to Tasmanians in May 2011. A further 17% considered the current number to be “the right amount”.

Only 3% said this was “not enough”, while 5% were “unsure”.

**Table 1 – Number of Councils in May and November 2011
Percentage of each Demographic Group***

	Too Many		The Right Amount		Not Enough		Unsure	
	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011
Total	65	75	22	17	5	3	8	5

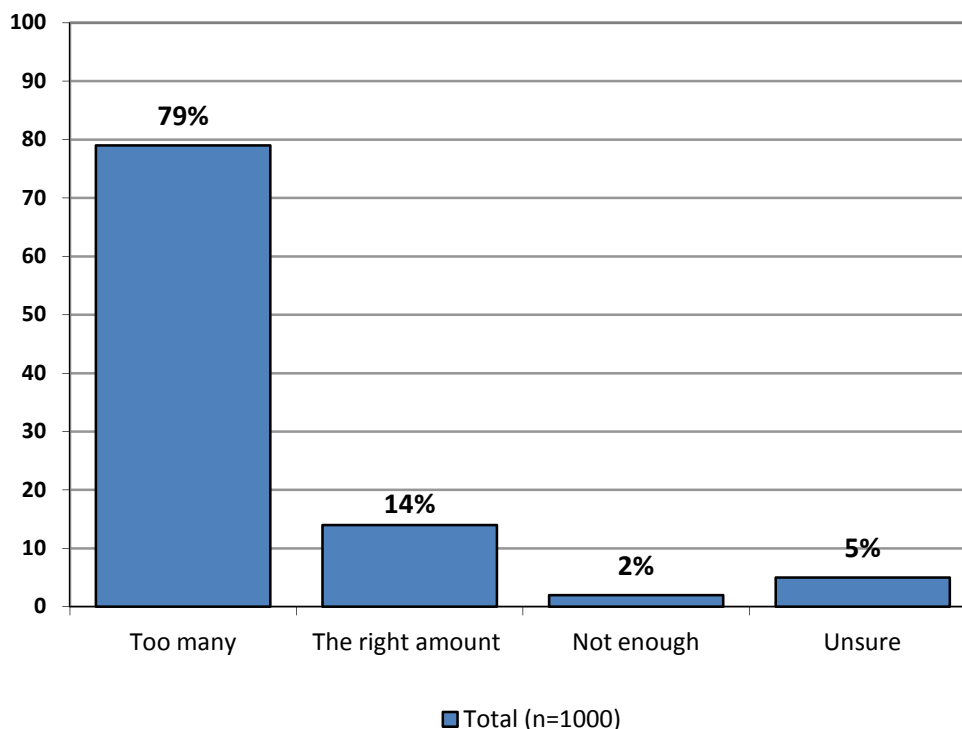
*Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Number of Councillors and Aldermen

All respondents were then asked;

Do you think 281 Councillors and Aldermen for a population of 500,000 people is...

**Chart 2 – Number of Councillors and Aldermen
(Percentage of respondents)**



The majority of Tasmanians (79%) claimed that the number of Councillors and Aldermen mentioned for a population of 500,000 people was “too many”. A further 14% considered the current number to be “the right amount”.

Only 2% said this was “not enough”, while 5% were “unsure”.

**Table 2 – Number of Councillors and Aldermen in May and November 2011
Percentage of each Demographic Group***

	Too Many		The Right Amount		Not Enough		Unsure	
	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011
Total	67	79	20	14	5	2	9	5

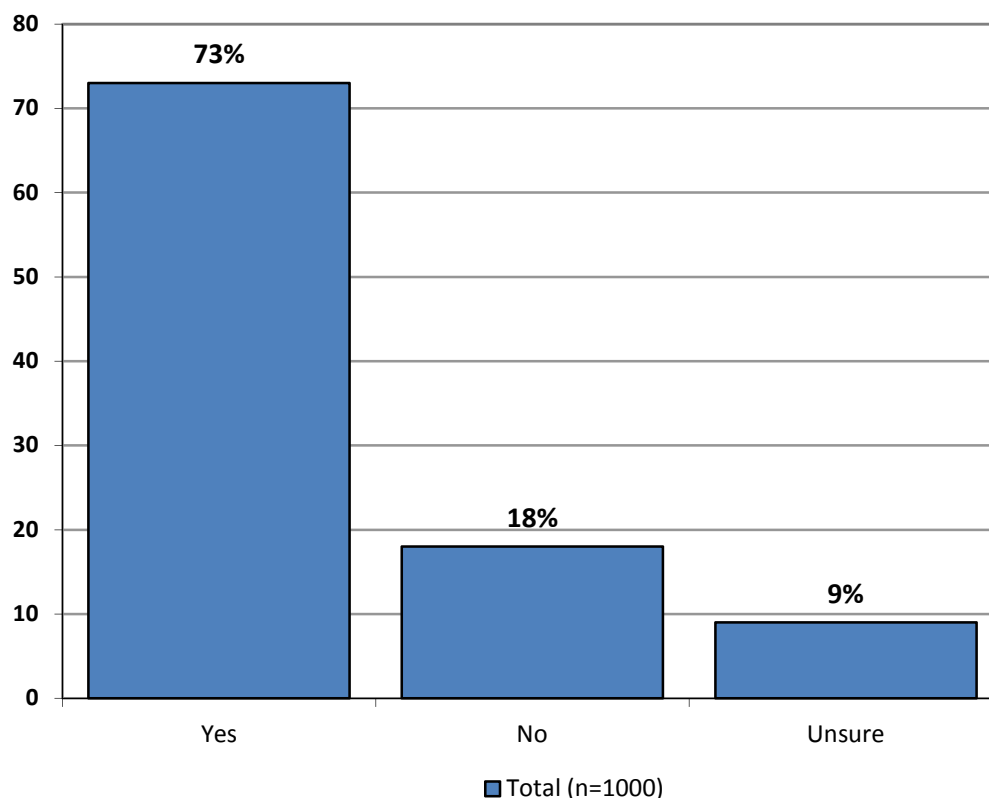
*Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Councils Merging to Save Money

All respondents were then asked;

Do you believe Councils would save money if they were to merge?

**Chart 3 – Savings Provided by Council Mergers
(Percentage of respondents)**



Similar to the previous results in May 2011, almost three-quarters (73%) of all respondents claimed that Councils would save money if they merged. A further 18% felt that Councils would not save money, while 9% were unable to give a definitive response to this question.

**Table 3 – Savings provided by Council Mergers in May and November 2011
Percentage of each Demographic Group***

	Yes		No		Unsure	
	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011
Total	74	73	18	18	9	9

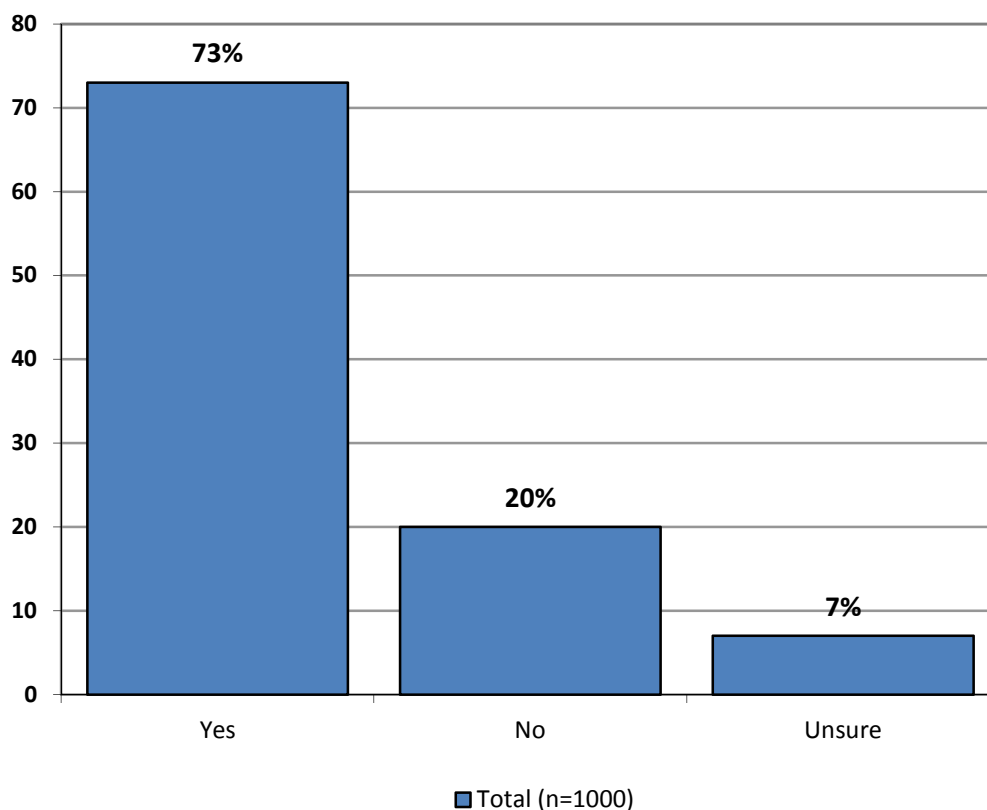
*Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Need for Council Mergers in Tasmania

All respondents were finally asked;

Do you believe there is a need to merge Councils in Tasmania?

**Chart 4 – Need for Council Mergers in Tasmania
(Percentage of respondents)**



Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Tasmanians claimed that there is a need to merge Councils in Tasmania – a 4% increase since May 2011. A further one-fifth (20%) felt there was not a need for Council amalgamation, while 7% were “unsure”.

**Table 4 – Need for Council Mergers in Tasmania in May and November 2011
Percentage of each Demographic Group***

	Yes		No		Unsure	
	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2011
Total	69	73	24	20	7	7

*Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Appendix A – The People Interviewed

**Table 5 – The People Interviewed
(Number and percentage of those in each demographic group)**

Demographic	November 2011	
	Number	Percentage
Gender		
Male	484	48
Female	516	52
Region		
South	500	50
North and North East	280	28
North West and West	220	22
Age		
18-24	62	6
25-34	113	11
35-44	189	19
45-54	221	22
55-69	261	26
70+ years	154	15
Household		
Single - never married	87	9
Couple/no children	59	6
Family with no children over 16	208	21
Family with a child over 16 at home	206	21
Married - children left home	270	27
Widowed	76	8
Sole parent	30	3
Separated or divorced	60	6
Declined to answer	4	0
Employment		
Employed full-time or self-employed	372	37
Employed on a part-time basis	192	19
Engaged in home duties	59	6
Retired or on a pension	312	31
Unemployed	24	2
A student	36	4
Declined to answer	5	1
Annual Household Income		
Under \$20,000	134	13
\$20,000 and under \$40,000	211	21
\$40,000 and under \$60,000	143	14
\$60,000 and under \$80,000	174	17
\$80,000 and under \$100,000	97	10
\$100,000 and over	178	18
Declined to answer	63	6

Appendix B – The Questionnaire

Tasmanians for Reform – Local Government Questions

1. Do you think 29 Councils for a population of 500,000 people is...	1. Too many 2. The right amount 3. Not enough 4. Unsure – DO NOT READ OUT
2. Do you think 281 Councillors and Aldermen for a population of 500,000 people is...	1. Too many 2. The right amount 3. Not enough 4. Unsure – DO NOT READ OUT
3. Do you believe Councils would save money if they were to merge?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Unsure
4. Do you believe there is a need to merge councils in Tasmania?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Unsure