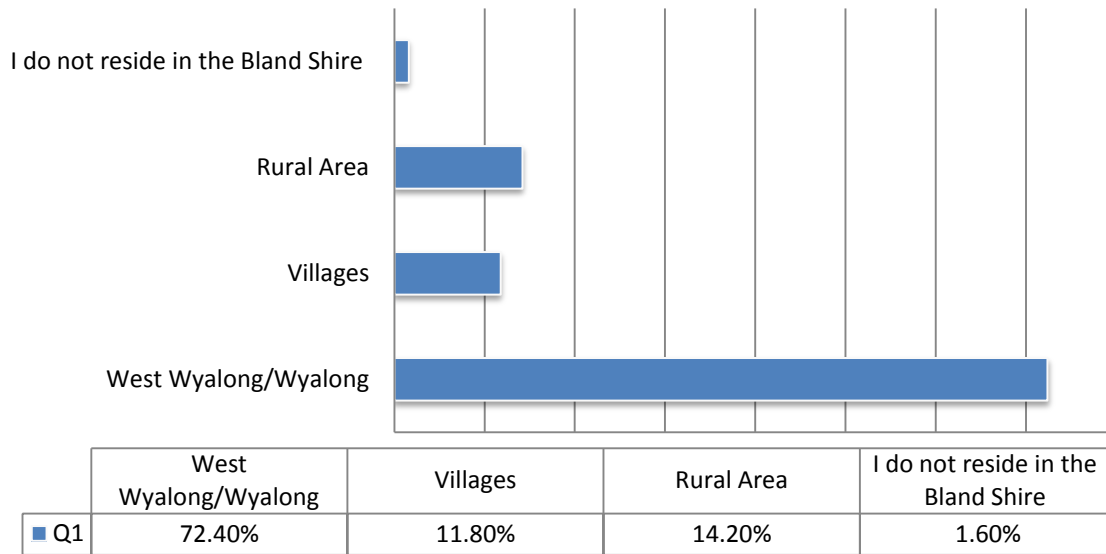


ATTACHMENT 2

Council Reform Survey Results



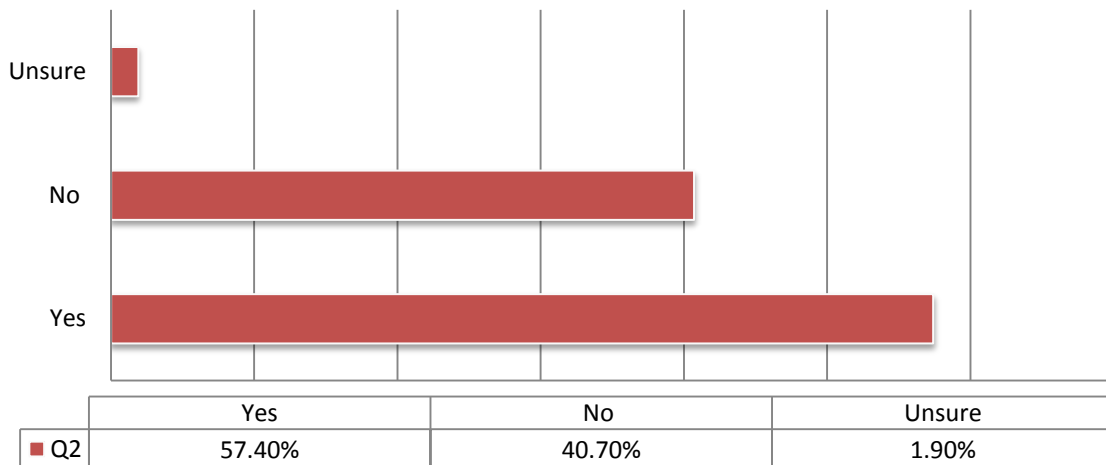
Where do you live in the Bland Shire?



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While the majority of respondents (72.4%) live in West Wyalong or Wyalong, more than a quarter of respondents reside in village or rural communities.

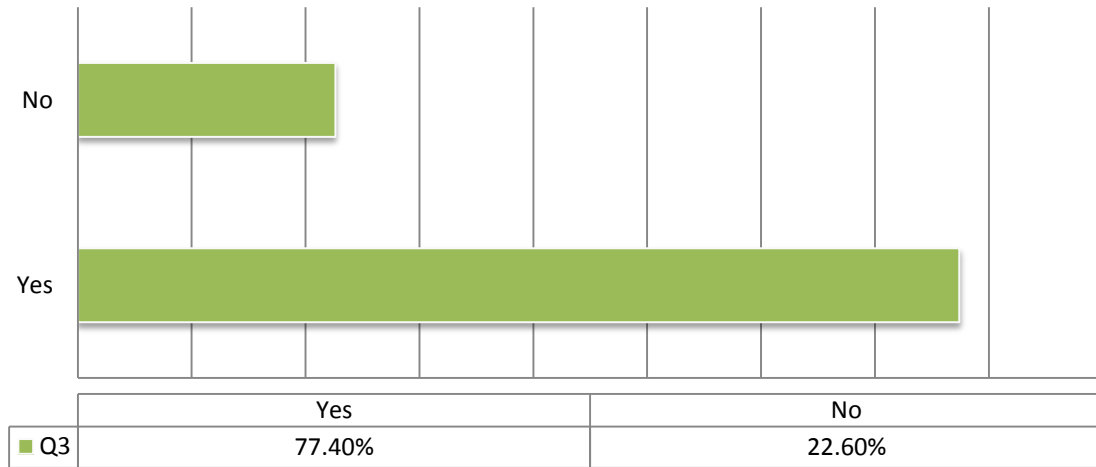
In the past year have you contacted Council, an elected member or the Mayor for other reason than the payment of rates?



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More than half of respondents have had personal contact with Council during the past 12 months.

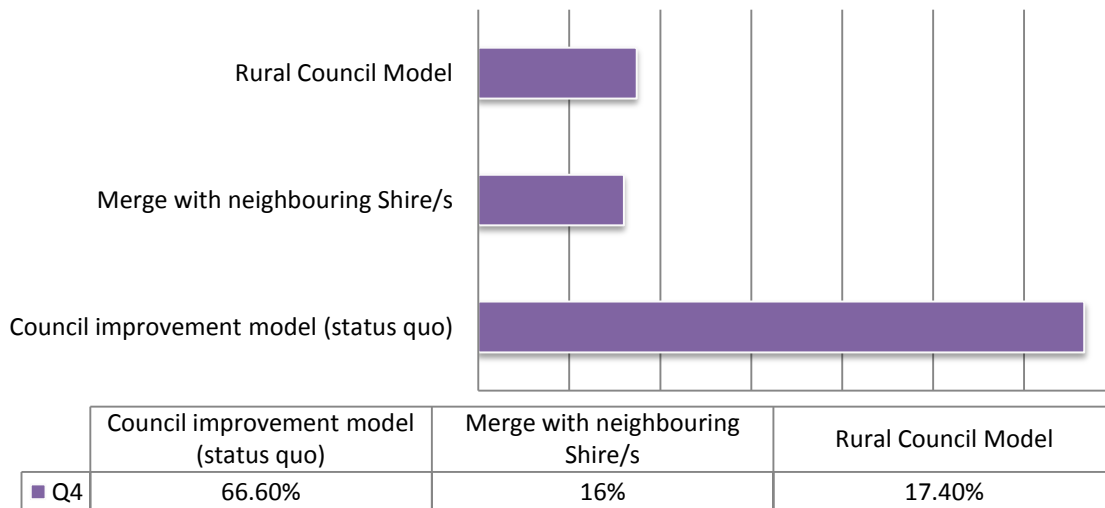
Prior to reading this survey, were you aware of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future reform packages for Local Government?



Skipped: 5

Most of the respondents were aware of the Fit for the Future package prior to reading the survey.

What is your preference for the future of Bland Shire Council



Skipped: 28

A merger with a neighbouring Council/s is opposed by the overwhelming majority of respondents (84%). Two thirds of respondents indicated a preference for the Council improvement model. Some respondents expressed confusion as to what a Rural Council model is.

If Bland Shire was to merge with another Council, what are your preferences (Please rank from 1 to 5) – BEC

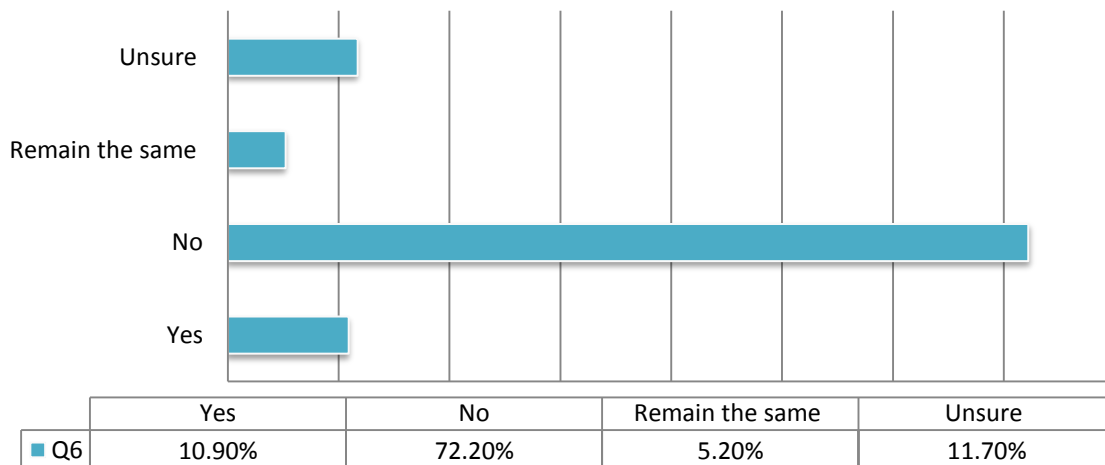
	1	2	3	4	5	Neither	Total
Coolamon	72 18.9%	100 26.2%	49 12.9%	61 16%	65 17.1%	34 8.9%	381
Temora	184 48.3%	58 15.2%	37 9.7%	35 9.2%	54 14.2%	13 3.4%	381
Lachlan	48 12.6%	62 16.3%	97 25.5%	99 26%	41 10.7%	34 8.9%	381
Forbes	32 8.4%	65 17.1%	109 28.6%	99 26%	43 11.3%	33 8.6%	381
Weddin	43 11.3%	63 16.5%	50 13.1%	49 12.9%	138 36.2%	38 10%	381

NB: While it was compulsory to indicate preferences from 1 to 5 on the online survey, some of the respondents to the paper survey only filled in some boxes. The number of boxes which were left blank next to each option are indicated in the table below under "neither". An additional 48 paper survey respondents did not answer this question at all.

Skipped: 48

While survey respondents are overwhelmingly against amalgamation, if forced to merge the majority of respondents identified Temora as the preferred option.

Do you think the Bland Shire merging with a neighbouring Shire will improve the delivery of services to our community

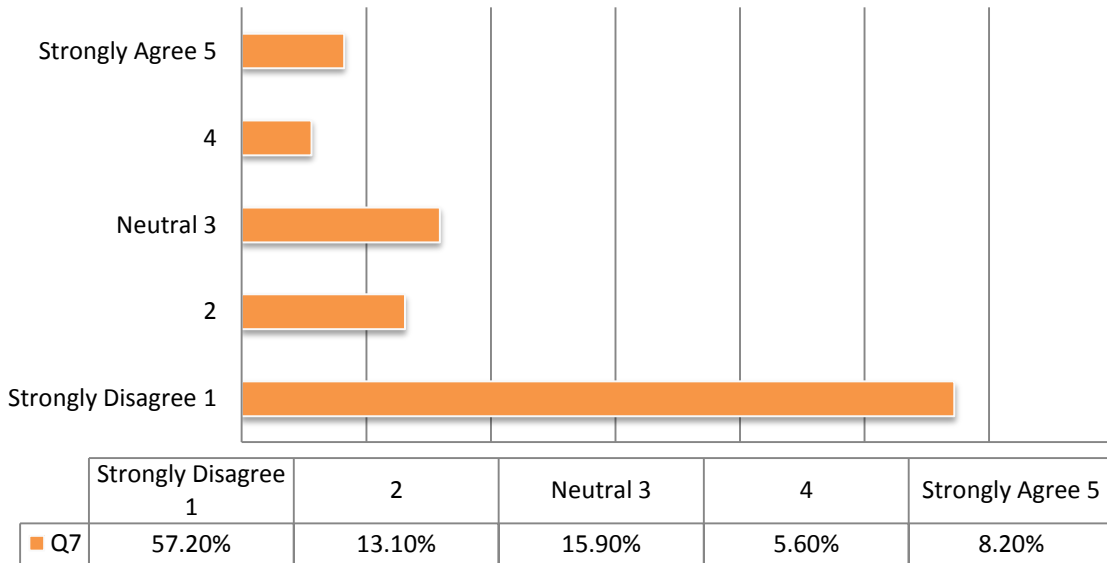


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Only 10.9% of respondents believe a merged Council will improve the delivery of services to the Bland Shire community.

To what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to a new larger council?

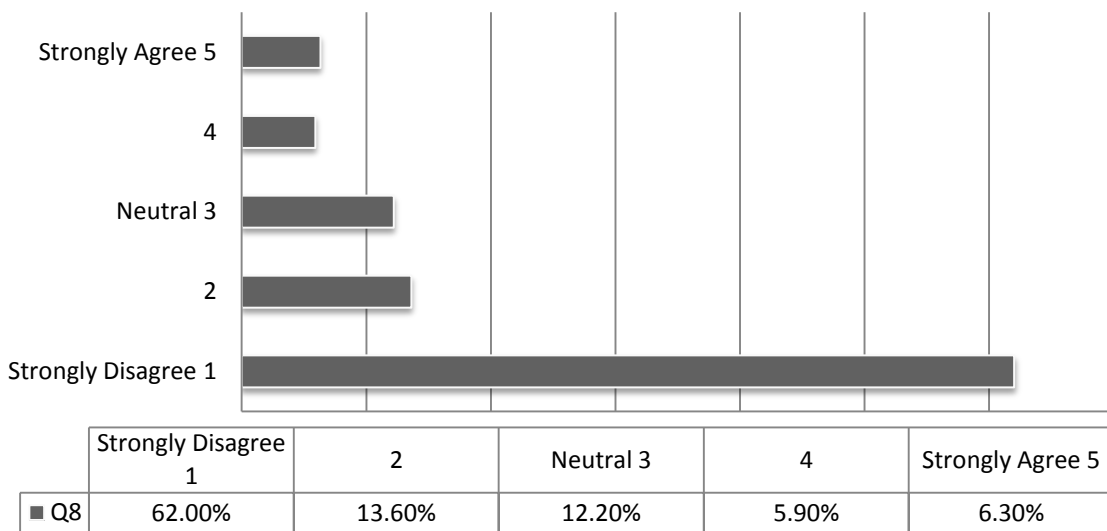
A merged Council will deliver better local infrastructure and services



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Respondents do not believe that a merged Council will deliver better local infrastructure and services.

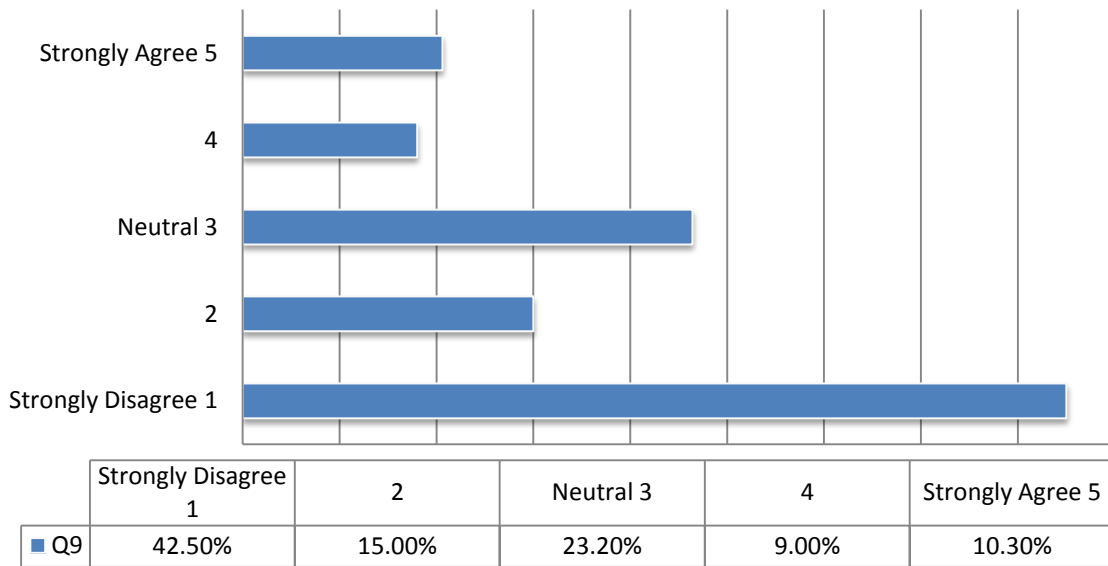
A merged Council will adequately represent local issues and local residents



Skipped: 3

Most respondents fear that a merged Council will not adequately represent local issues and local residents.

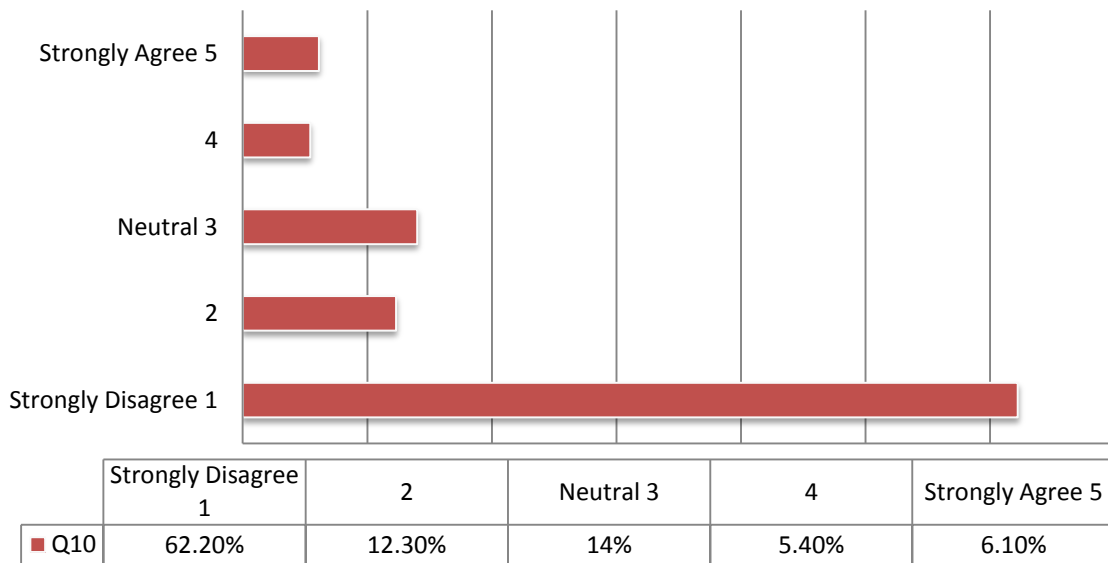
A merged Council will be more financially sustainable



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Survey respondents generally disagree that a merged Council will be more financially sustainable.

A merged Council will reflect the unique character of our local area



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Respondents indicated a widespread concern that a merged Council will not reflect the unique character of the local area.

Do you have any other comments, questions or concerns regarding Local Government reform?

Category	Number of responses
Need for the right representation	15
A merger would be bad for small business	6
Concern over isolation and the size of the Shire and road network should a merger occur	19
In favour of a merger	12
Fear of a loss of services, representation and local jobs should a merger occur	31
The need to align with areas with similar needs, issues and cultural interests should a merger be imminent	5
No merger/mergers don't work	65
Council needs to plan for an inevitable merge	3
A merger will provide financial sustainability	2

The majority of comments received indicated an objection to a Council merger and fears that a merger will lead to a loss of services, local representation and local jobs.