

## CONTENTS

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Summary of main findings .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Gender .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Age .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Marital Status .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Caring responsibilities .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Background .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Disability .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Education .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Employment status .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Occupation .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Employment sector .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Gross annual income .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Organisation membership .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Council Service .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Concerns of the public .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Important issues .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>33</b>

## INTRODUCTION

The second survey of elected members in Tasmanian Local Government, conducted in October 2006, attracted a 64% participation rate (2004 = 69%). The data obtained from the census, as presented in this report, will assist LGAT to develop policies and initiate programs that are suited to the profile of elected members in Tasmania.

While the 2006 survey follows a similar format to the 2004 census, some small changes have been made, with the aim of building a broader and more complex picture of elected membership in Tasmania.

Firstly, a number of questions have been added to the 2006 questionnaire regarding issues that are currently important to Local Government in Tasmania. The data obtained from these questions provides a brief insight into the current opinion of elected members.

Secondly, a number of statistics related to gender and council type have been cross referenced to deliver a more comprehensive picture of Tasmanian elected members.

It is envisaged that the census will continue to follow Local Government elections into the future. Over time, it will be possible to monitor trends and undertake a more in depth and extensive analysis. No doubt the questionnaire will be adapted in order to capture the changing face of Local Government.

The Association sincerely thanks the 181 elected members who took the time to participate in the 2006 census.

## SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

- The majority (77%) of respondents were male (2004: 72%)
- The most common age range of respondents was 56-65, 43% (2004: 56-65, 34%)
- The majority of respondents were married or lived in a de facto relationship, 88% (2004: 86%)
- The majority of respondents did not have caring responsibilities, 59% (2004: 64%)
- The majority of respondents were born in Australia, 81% (2004: 85%)
- 0.55% of respondents identified as an aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (2004: 1%)
- English is the first language of 97% of respondents (2004: 99%)
- 9% of respondents reported having a disability (2004: 7%), of those, 82% believe that Council adequately accommodates any disability-related support needs (2004: 100%)
- For 31% of respondents, the highest level of education reached was secondary education (2004: 38%)
- 18% of respondents were in full-time paid employment compared to 74% in 2004; 40% were self-employed; 11% were engaged in part-time work and 24% were retired
- 21% of respondents were primary producers (2004: 23%)
- The majority of respondents were employed in the private sector, 68% (2004: 71%)
- 57% of respondents reported a gross annual income of less than \$56,000, with 9% indicating incomes over \$116,000.
- 85% of respondents belonged to an organisation other than Council. Of those, 40% belonged to a service club, 38% to a sporting club, and 26% to a special interest group
- 25% of respondents have served as an elected member for a period of 4-6 years, 23% have served 10-15 years and 16% were newly elected
- 32% of respondents reported spending over 15 hours on Council activities per week
- From a specific list of issues, 77% identified planning and development as the most important public concern, with 64% identifying roads, 54% rates, and 50% infrastructure
- From a specific list of issues, respondents identified financial sustainability, planning and development and infrastructure as the most important issues for Local Government in Tasmania.

## GENDER

Figure 1 illustrates that over three quarters of respondents were male.

Figure 1 - Gender

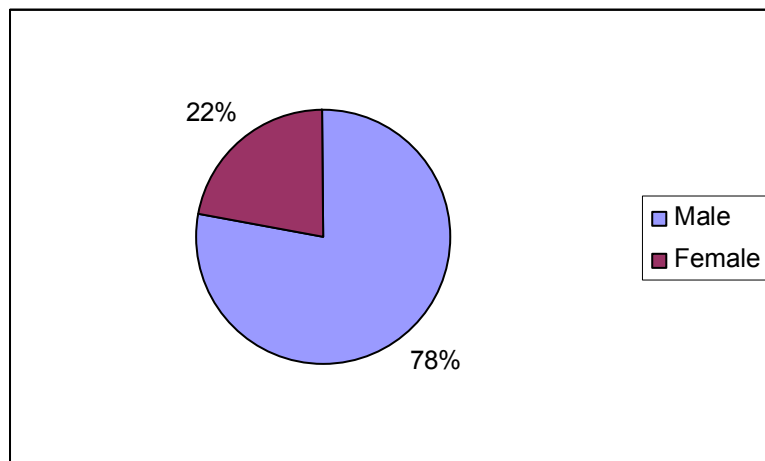


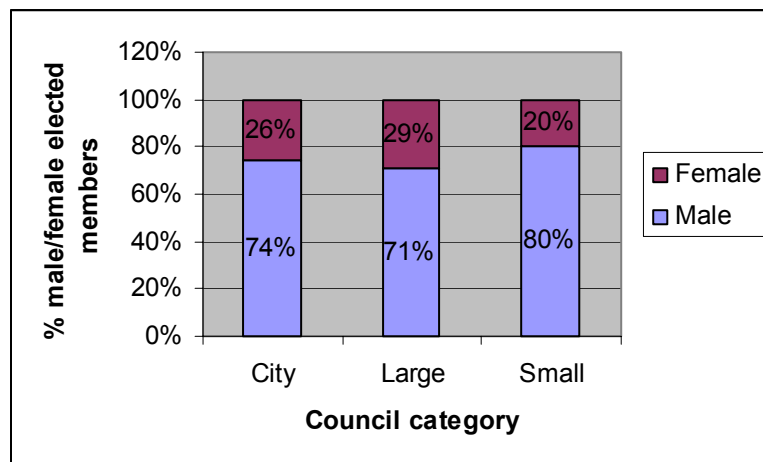
Table 2 details that 77.35% of respondents were male while 22.10% were female.

Table 2 – Gender

Male	140	77.35%
Female	40	22.10%
No response	1	0.55%
Total	181	100%

As illustrated in figure 2, the largest proportion of female respondents (29%) was in large councils. The largest proportion of male respondents (80%) was in small councils.

Figure 2 – Percentages of male/female respondents by council category



## AGE

43% of respondents were aged between 56-65. There were no respondents under the age of 25. Just over 4% of respondents were aged over 76.

Figure 3 – % age of respondents in each age category

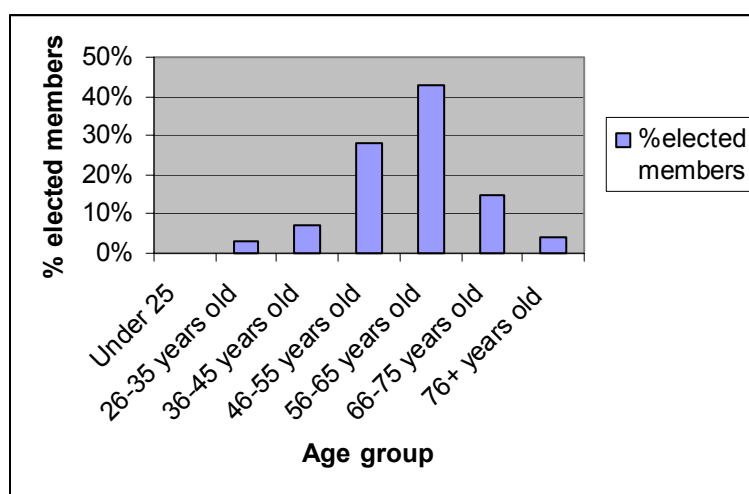


Table 3 – Age of respondents

Below 25 years old	0	0
26-35 years old	5	2.76%
36-45 years old	12	6.62%
46-55 years old	50	27.62%
56-65 years old	78	43.09%
66-75 years old	28	15.47%
Over 76 years old	8	4.42%
Total	181	99.98%

The largest proportion (45%) of male respondents was 56-65 years old. However, the largest proportion (49%) of female respondents were aged 46-55. In fact, the percentage of female respondents was greater than that of male respondents in the age groups 26-35, 36-45 and 46-55, while the percentage of male respondents in the 56-65, 66-75 and over 76 age groups was larger for males than females. All respondents over the age of 76 were male.

Figure 4 – Gender breakdown % respondents in each age category

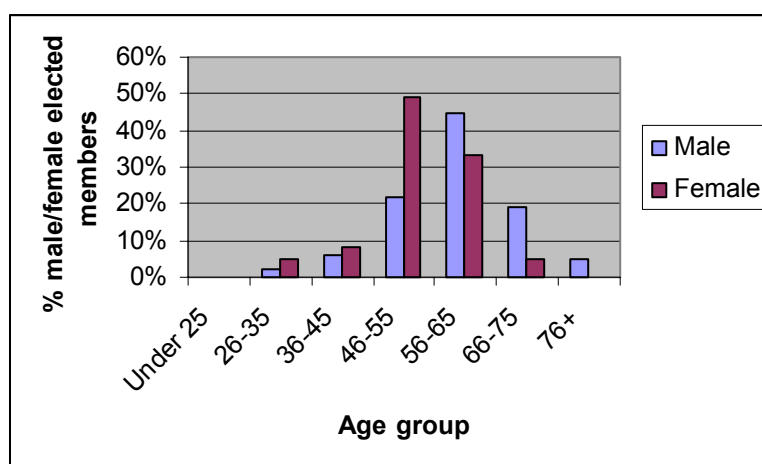


Table 4 – Age of Councillors by gender (%)

Age group	Male	Female
Below 25 years old	0	0
26-35 years old	2.14%	5.13%
36-45 years old	6.43%	7.69%
46-55 years old	22.14%	48.72%
56-65 years old	45%	33.33%
66-75 years old	19.29%	5.13%
Over 76 years old	5%	0
Total	100%	100%

## MARITAL STATUS

Figure 5 indicates that the majority of respondents are married or live in a de facto relationship.

Figure 5 – Marital status of elected members

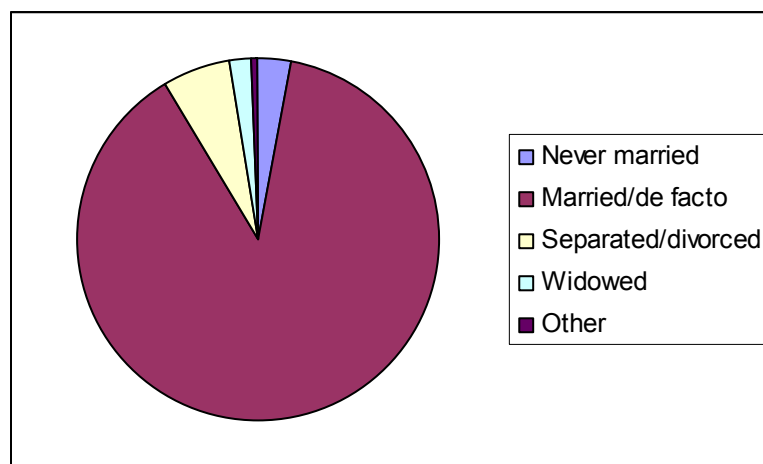


Table 5 details that 88.40% of elected members were married or lived in a de facto relationship.

Table 5 – Marital status of elected members

Never married	5	2.76%
Married/de facto	160	88.40%
Separated/divorced	10	5.52%
Widowed	3	1.66%
Other	1	0.55%
No response	2	1.10%
Total	181	100%



## CARING RESPONSIBILITIES

As indicated in figure 6, the majority of respondents did not have caring responsibilities for dependants or children.

Figure 6 - Caring responsibilities

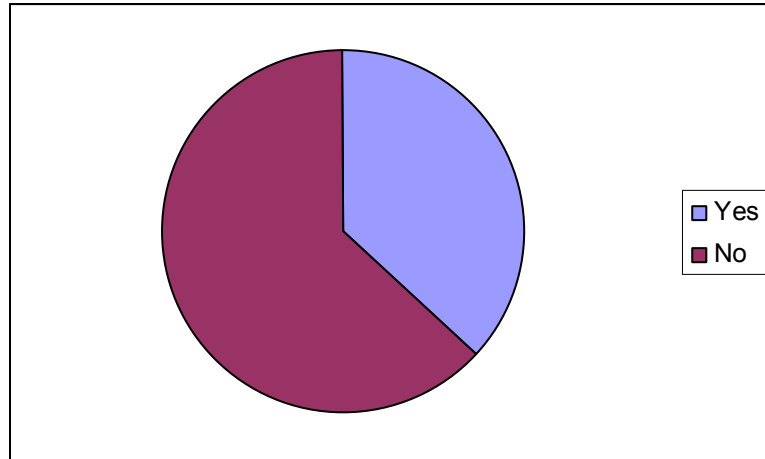


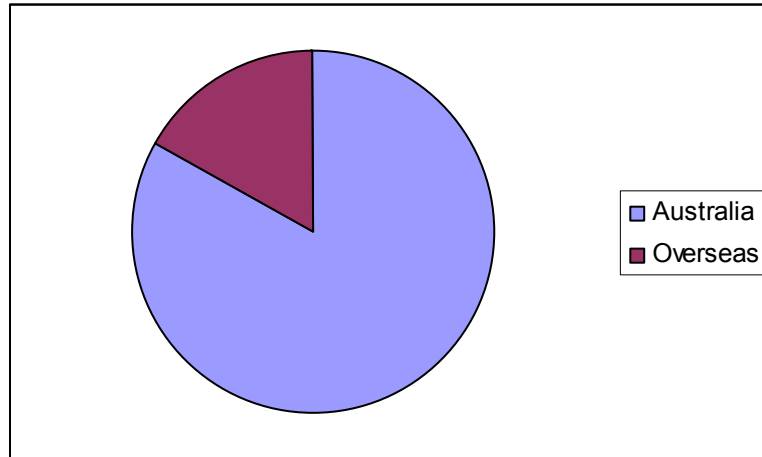
Table 6 - Do you have caring responsibilities?

Yes	63	34.81%
No	107	59.12%
No response	11	6.08%
Total	181	100.01%

## BACKGROUND

Figure 7 illustrates that 19% of respondents were born outside of Australia.

Figure 7 – % respondents born Australia/overseas



As detailed in table 7, of the respondents who were born overseas, the majority were born in the UK. A number of respondents who indicated that they were born overseas did not specify their country of birth.

Table 7 – Origins of migrant respondents

United Kingdom	12	35.29%
Germany	2	5.88%
France	1	2.94%
Netherlands	4	11.76%
Finland	1	2.94%
No response	14	41.18%
Total	34	99.99%

The parents of the majority of respondents were born in Australia. More fathers were born overseas than mothers.

Table 7 – Where were your parents born?

Table 7.1 – Father

Australia	149	82.32%
Overseas	31	17.13%
No response	1	0.55%
Total	181	100%

Table 7.2 – Mother

Australia	154	85.08%
Overseas	26	14.36%
No response	1	0.55%
Total	181	99.99%

Table 8 – Are you an aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes	1	0.55%
No	175	96.68%
No response	5	2.76%
Total	181	99.99%

Table 9 – Is English your first language?

Yes	175	96.68%
No	5*	2.76%
No response	1	0.55%
Total	181	99.99%

\*See appendix A for a list of languages that respondents identified as their first language.

## DISABILITY

Table 10 – Do you have a disability?

Yes	17	9.39%
No	156	86.19%
No response	8	4.42%
Total	181	100%

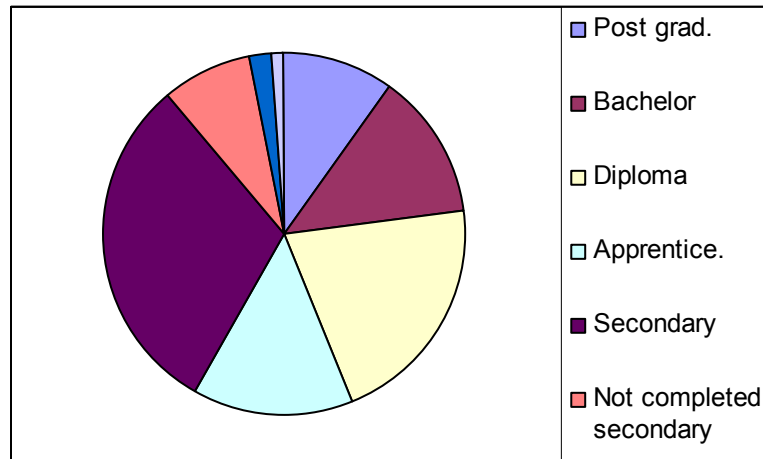
Table 11 – Does your Council adequately accommodate any disability related support needs that you have?

Yes	14	82.35%
No	3	17.65%
Total	17	100%

## EDUCATION

As indicated by figure 8, secondary education is the highest level of education reached by the largest proportion of respondents.

Figure 8 – Highest level of education received



As detailed in table 12, 30.94% of elected members have completed secondary education, a further 21.55% have completed a diploma, and 13.81% an apprenticeship.

Table 12 – What is the highest level of education you have received?

Post graduate degree	18	9.94%
Bachelor degree	23	12.71%
Diploma	39	21.55%
Apprenticeship	25	13.81%
Secondary education	56	30.94%
Did not complete secondary education	14	7.73%
Other	4	2.21%
No response	2	1.10%
Total	181	99.99

Figures 9, 10 and 11 indicate the highest education level reached by respondents by gender. A comparison of figures 9 and 10 show that 5% of female respondents have undertaken an apprenticeship, compared to 16% of males. Furthermore, there were no females who have not finished secondary education compared to 9% of males who hadnot completed secondary education.

Figure 9 – Highest level of education received by male respondents

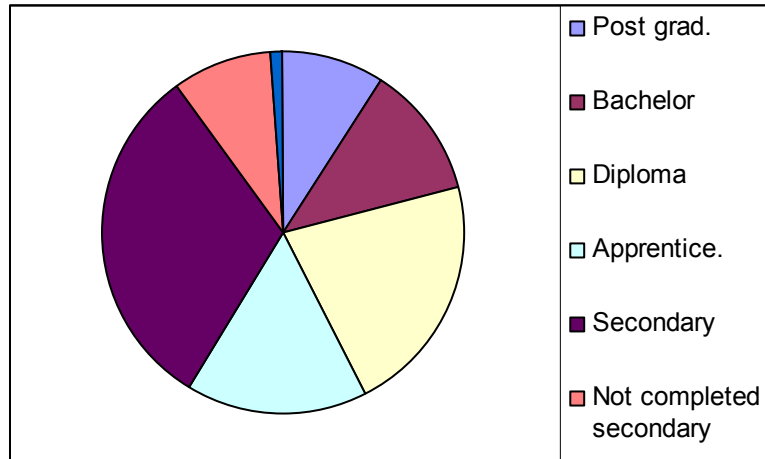


Figure 10 – Highest level of education received by female respondents

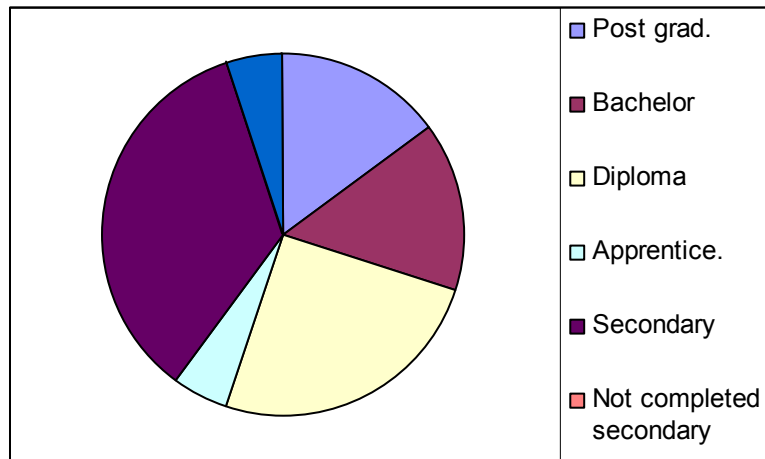


Figure 11 – Education level by gender

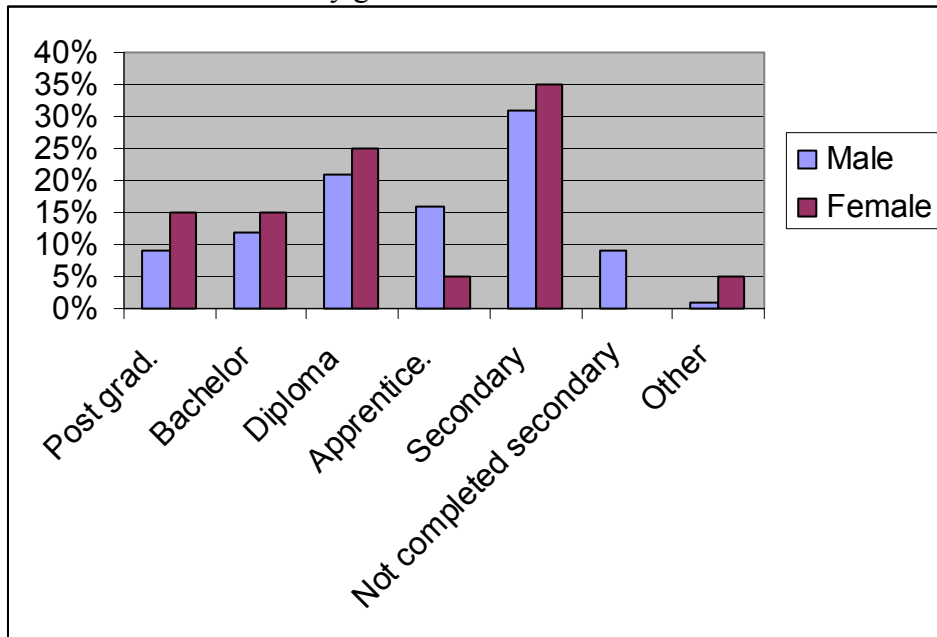


Table 13 shows in greater detail the level of education received by male and female elected members respectively. It indicates that 55% of female respondents, and 41.42% of male respondents, have achieved a diploma, bachelor or a post graduate degree.

Table 13 – Education level by gender.

	Male	Female
Post graduate degree	8.57%	15%
Bachelor degree	12.14%	15%
Diploma	20.71%	25%
Apprenticeship	16.43%	5%
Secondary education	31.43%	35%
Did not complete secondary education	8.57%	0
Other	1.43%	5%
Total	100%	100%

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

As detailed in table 16, 39.67% of respondents were self-employed, a further 23.91% were retired.

Table 16 – What is your current employment status, excluding your work as an elected member?

Full time paid employment	33	17.93%
Part time paid employment	20	10.87%
Self employed	73	39.67%
Unemployed	2	1.09%
Retired	44	23.91%
Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work	6	3.26%
Not in paid work	3	1.63%
In full time education	0	0
Other	1	0.54%
No response	2	1.10%
Total	184*	100%

\*3 respondents indicated that they were in part-time paid employment and self-employed.

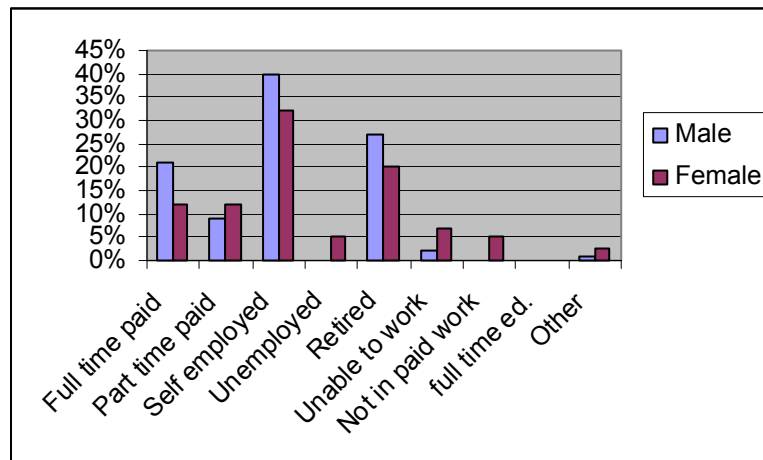


Table 17 and figure 12 indicate the employment status of respondents by gender. Of the males, 40.42% were self-employed, and 26.95% retired. Of the females, 32.5% were self employed and 26.95% retired.

Table 17 – Male/female employment status

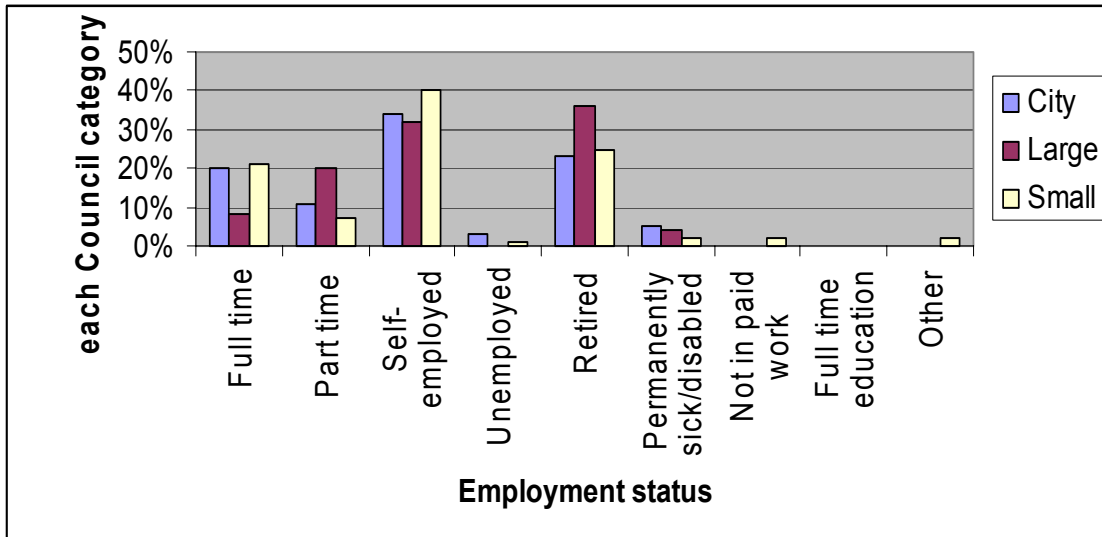
	Male	Female
Full time paid employment	20.57%	12.5%
Part time paid employment	8.51%	12.5%
Self employed	40.42%	32.5%
Unemployed	0	5%
Retired	26.95%	20%
Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work	2.13%	7.5%
Not in paid work	0	5%
In full time education	0	0
Other	1.42%	2.5%
No response	0	2.5%
Total	100%	100%

Figure 12 – Employment status by gender



As illustrated in figure 13, the largest proportion of elected members from both city councils and small councils were self-employed. In large councils, the largest proportion of elected members were retired.

Figure 13 - Employment status of elected members in each council category



As detailed in table 18, 34% of respondents from a city council were self-employed and 23% were retired. Of respondents from large councils, 32% were self-employed, and 36% were retired. Of small councils, 40% of respondents were self-employed, and 25% were retired.

Table 18 - Employment status of respondents against Council population

	City	Greater than 20,000	Less than 20,000
Full time paid employment	20%	8%	20.83%
Part time paid employment	11.43%	20%	6.67%
Self employed	34.29%	32%	40%
Unemployed	2.86%	0	0.83%
Retired	22.86%	36%	25%
Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work	5.71%	4%	2.5%
Not in paid work	0	0	1.67%
In full time education	0	0	0
Other	0	0	2.5%
No response	2.86%	0	0
Total	100.01%	100%	100%

## OCCUPATION

Figure 14 indicates that the largest proportion of respondents (20.67%) were primary producers.

Figure 14 - Occupation of employed respondents (%)

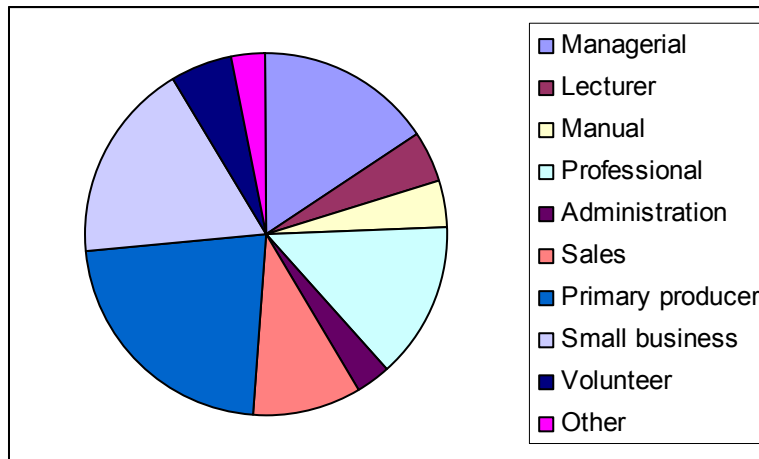


Table 19 shows in greater detail the percentage of the 150 respondents who were employed in each category of employment. 20.67% were primary producers, 16.67% were small business proprietors, and 14.67% were in managerial/executive roles.

Table 19 – Occupation of employed respondents (%)

Managerial/executive	22	14.67%
Lecturer/teacher/researcher	6	4%
Manual/craft/tradesperson	6	4%
Professional/technical	19	12.67%
Administration/clerical/secretarial	4	2.67%
Sales/retail	14	9.33%
Primary producer	31	20.67%
Small business proprietor	25	16.67%
Volunteer (not remunerated)	8	5.33%
Other	4	2.67%
No response	11	7.33%
Total	150	100.01%

As illustrated in figure 15, the greatest proportion of males were primary producers, while the greatest proportion of females were primary producers or small business proprietors.

Figure 15 – Occupation of employed elected members (%) by gender.



Table 20 illustrates that 20% of male and 18.52% of female respondents were primary producers. There were no females in a manual, craft or trade occupation. 17% of males were employed in a managerial/executive position, compared to 11.11% of females.

Table 20 – Occupation of employed respondents by gender (%)

	Male	Female
Managerial/executive	17%	11.11%
Lecturer/teacher/researcher	5%	3.70%
Manual/craft/tradesperson	5%	0
Professional/technical	14%	3.70%
Administration/clerical/secretarial	2%	7.41%
Sales/retail	9%	11.11%
Primary producer	20%	18.52%
Small business proprietor	19%	18.52%
Volunteer (not remunerated)	1%	11.11%
Other	2%	3.70%
No response	6%	11.11%
Total	100%	99.99%

## EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

Figure 17 and table 22 indicate that the majority (67.67%) of respondents who undertook paid work were employed in the private sector.

Figure 17 – Sector of employment for employed elected members (%)

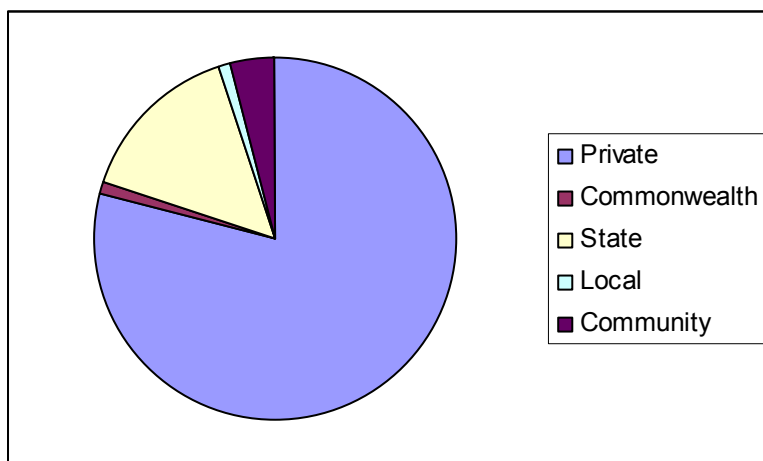


Table 22 - Sector of employment for employed respondents (%)

Private sector	90	67.67%
Commonwealth Government	1	0.75%
State Government	17	12.78%
Local Government	1	0.75%
Community sector	5	3.76%
No response	19	14.29%
Total	133	100%

## GROSS ANNUAL INCOME

Figure 18 and table 23 indicate that 57% of respondents report a gross annual income of less than \$56,000, with 9% indicating incomes over \$116,000.

Figure 18 – Gross annual income of respondents (%)

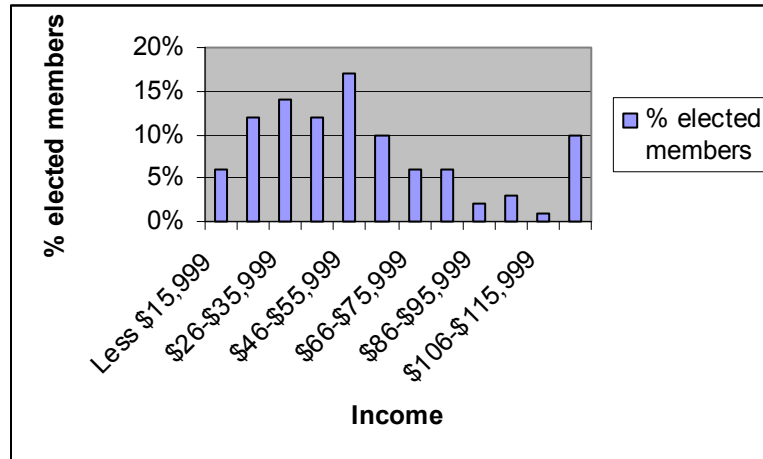


Table 23 - Gross annual income of respondents

Less than \$15,999	10	9.94%
\$16,000 - 25,999	19	10.50%
\$26,000 - 35,999	22	12.15%
\$36,000 - 45,999	19	10.50%
\$46,000 - 55,999	26	14.36%
\$56,000 - 65,999	15	8.29%
\$66,000 - 75,999	9	4.50%
\$76,000 - 85,999	10	9.94%
\$86,000 - 95,999	3	1.66%
\$96,000 - 105,999	4	2.21%
\$106,000 - 115,999	2	1.10%
Over \$116,000	16	8.84%
No response	26	14.36%
Total	181	100%

## ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

Table 24 indicates that 85% of respondents belonged to an organization other than Council.

Table 24 - Are you a member of an organisation other than Council?

Yes	153	84.53%
No	24	13.26%
No response	4	2.21%
Total	181	100%

Figure 19 and table 25 indicate that of those who belonged to another organization, 40% belonged to a service club, 38% to a sporting club, and 26% to a special interest club.

Figure 19 – Membership of organisations other than Council

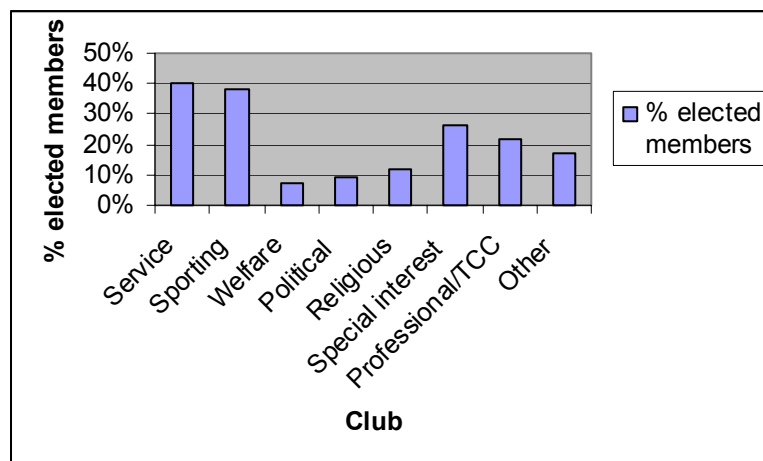


Table 25 – Respondents' membership of organisations other than Council

Service club	72	39.78%
Sporting	68	37.57%
Welfare	13	7.18%
Political	16	8.84%
Religious	22	12.15%
Special interest	47	25.97%
Professional Association/ Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce	39	21.55%
Other*	31	17.13%

\*Refer to Appendix B for a list of organisations to which respondents belong.

## COUNCIL SERVICE

As figure 20 indicates, 25% of respondents had served for a period of 4-6 years. 23% had served 10-15 years, and 16% were newly elected.

Figure 20 – Length of service as an elected member

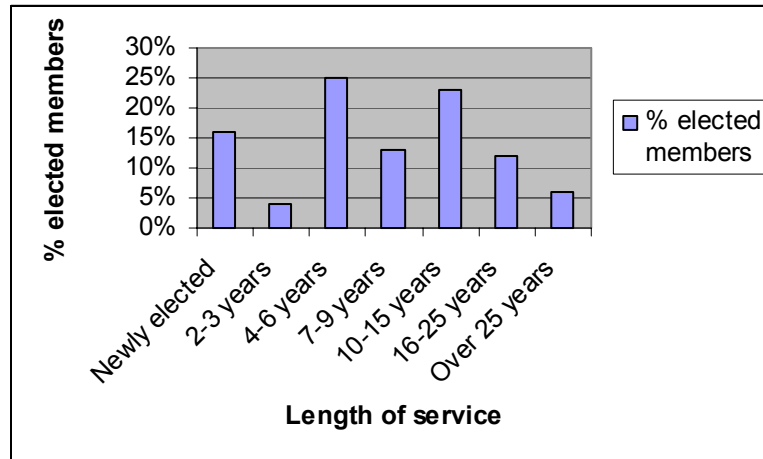


Table 26 - Length of service as an elected member

Newly elected	29	16.02%
2-3 years	7	3.87%
4-6 years	45	24.86%
7-9 years	24	13.26%
10-15 years	41	22.65%
16-25 years	22	12.15%
Over 25 years	10	5.52%
No response	3	1.66%
Total	181	100%



Figure 21 - Length of service of respondents by gender (%)

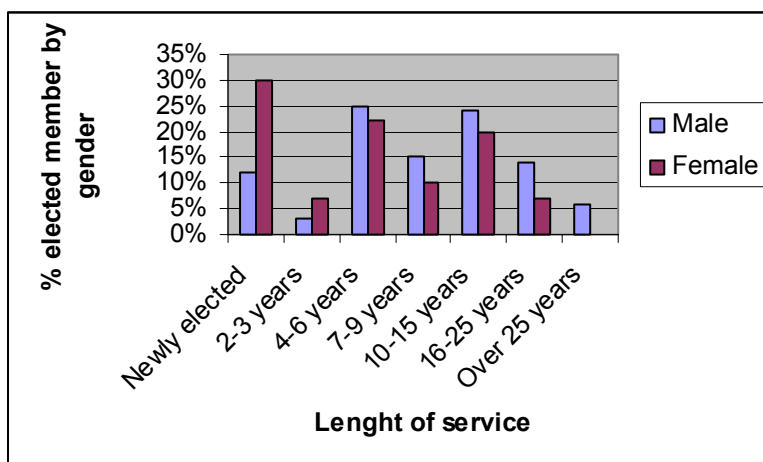


Table 27 – Length of service of respondents by gender (%)

	Male	Female
Newly elected	12.14%	30%
2-3 years	2.86%	7.4%
4-6 years	25%	22.5%
7-9 years	15%	10%
10-15 years	23.57%	20%
16-25 years	13.57%	7.5%
Over 25 years	6.43%	0
No response	1.43%	2.5%
Total	100%	100%

Figure 22 shows the length of service of respondents by Council category.

Figure 22 – Length of service of respondents by council category

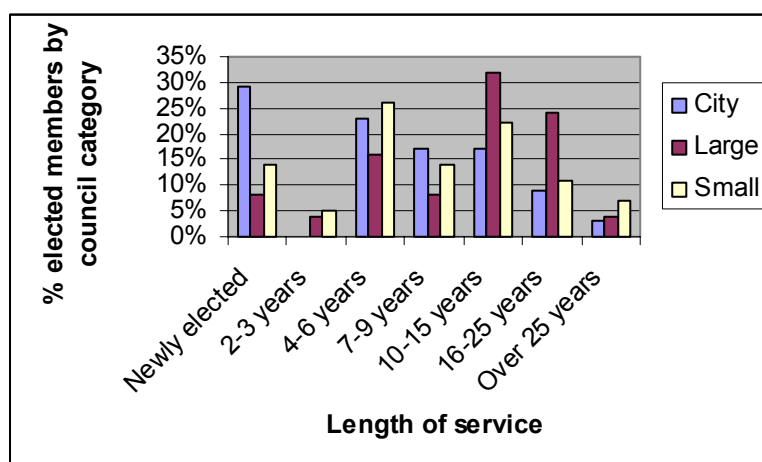


Table 28 shows that 29% of respondents in city councils were newly elected, 32% in large councils had served 10-15 years, and 26% in small councils had served 4-6 years.

Table 28 - Length of service of respondents by council category

	City	Large Councils	Small Councils
Newly elected	28.57%	8%	14.17%
2-3 years	0	4%	5%
4-6 years	22.86%	16%	25.83%
7-9 years	17.14%	8%	14.17%
10-15 years	17.14%	32%	22.5%
16-25 years	8.57%	24%	10.83%
Over 25 years	2.86%	4%	6.67%
No response	2.86%	4%	0.83%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 29 - What is the nature of your service as an elected member?

Continuous	113	75.84%
Broken terms	35	23.49%
No response	1	0.67%
Total	149*	100%

Table 30 - What is the highest position you have held as an elected member?

Councillor/Alderman	76	51.01%
Deputy Mayor	30	20.13%
Mayor	43	28.86%
No response	0	0
Total	149*	100%

\*This figure excludes newly elected members.

The following two tables outline the nature of the campaign period for the 29 newly elected members who responded to the survey.

Table 31 shows how many hours in total were spent on conducting individual election campaigns.

Table 31 - How many hours did you spend on your election campaign?

1-10 hours	3	10.34%
11-20 hours	8	27.59%
21-40 hours	5	17.24%
41-60 hours	6	20.69%
61-100 hours	1	3.45%
101-150 hours	1	3.45%
150+ hours	5	17.24%
No response	0	0
Total	29	100%

Table 32 shows the overall duration in weeks of individual election campaigns.

Table 32 - What was the duration of your electoral campaign period?

0 weeks	0	0
1-4 weeks	15	51.72%
5-6 weeks	8	27.58%
7-12 weeks	4	13.80%
13-50 weeks	2	6.90%
No response	0	0
Total	29	100%

Figure 23 shows that there were a number of factors influencing respondents to stand for election other than those listed. A comprehensive list of these is available in appendix C. Otherwise, the majority of newly elected respondents identified friends and existing councillors as influencing factors.

Figure 23 - Factors influencing newly elected members to stand for election (%)

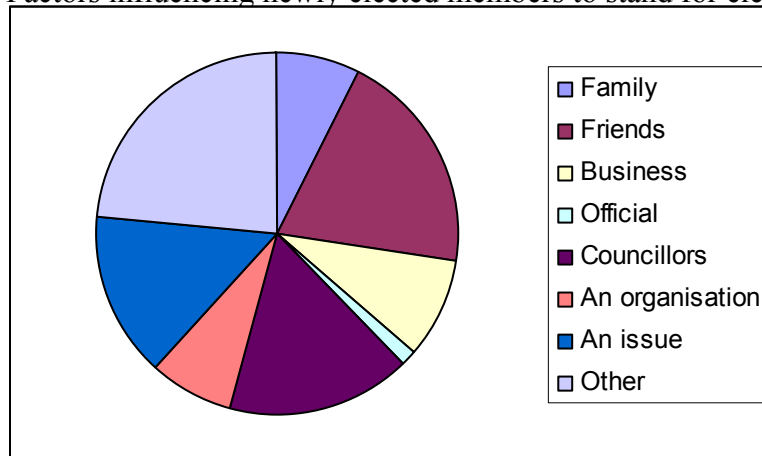


Table 33 - Factors influencing newly elected members to stand for election (%)

Family	4	13.80%
Friends	11	37.93%
Business reasons	5	17.24%
Official recruitment campaign	1	3.45%
Existing councillors	9	31.03%
An organisation*	4	13.80%
A specific issue*	8	27.59%
Other*	13	44.83%

\*Refer to Appendix C for a list of organisations, issues and other reasons that influenced newly elected respondents to stand.

Table 34 indicates that of newly elected respondents, the majority have stood for election on one occasion only.

Table 34 - How many times have you stood for election?

1	23	79.31%
2	6	20.69%
3	0	0
4+	0	0
No response	0	0
Total	29	100%

Figure 24 and table 35 indicate the average level of contact respondents had with individual members of the public per month.

Figure 24 - Average contact per month with individual members of the public

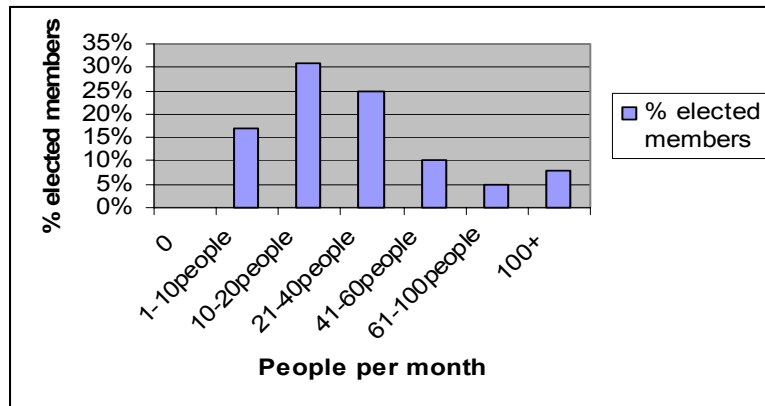


Table 35 – Average contact per month with individual members of the public on average per month

0	0	0
1-10	31	17.13%
11-20	57	31.49%
21-40	45	24.86%
41-60	18	9.94%
61-100	9	4.97%
100+	14	7.73%
No response	7	3.87%
Total	181	99.99%

Figure 25 and table 36 indicate the average hours per week that respondents spent on Council activities.

Figure 25 – Average hours spent on council activities per week

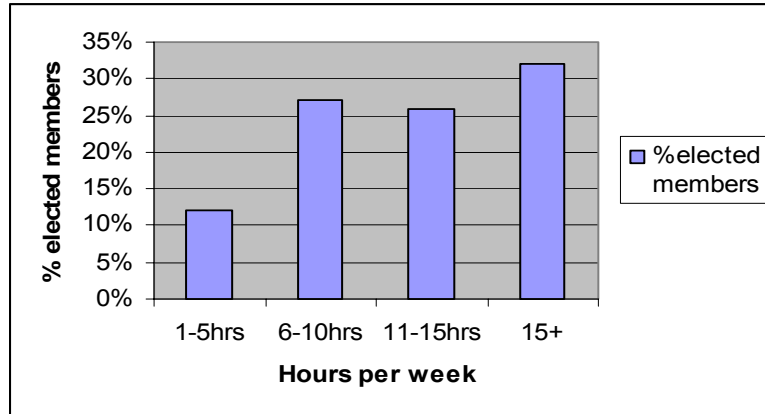


Table 36 - Average hours spent on council activities per week

1-5 hours	21	11.60%
6-10 hours	49	27.07%
11-15 hours	47	25.97%
15+ hours	58	32.04%
No response	6	3.31%
Total	181	99.99%

## CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC

Figure 26 indicates that respondents identified the greatest concerns of the public to be planning and development (77%), roads (64%), rates (54%), and infrastructure (50%).

Figure 26 - Major concerns of the public

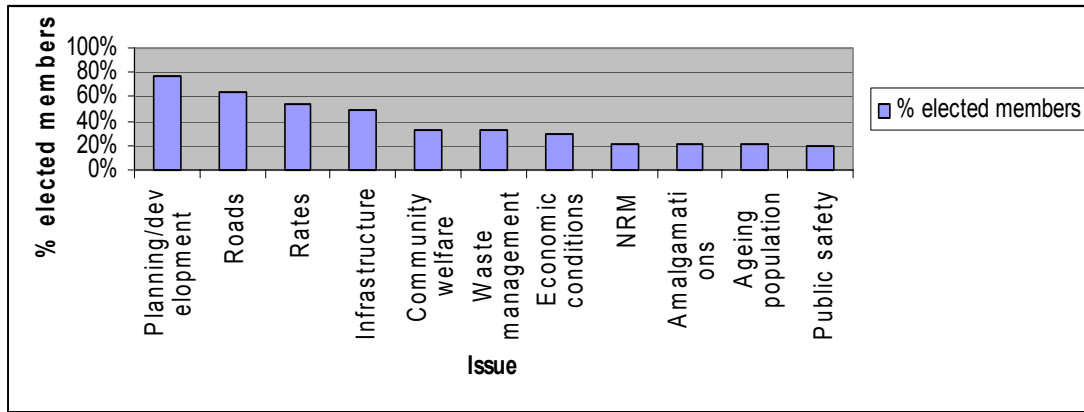


Table 37 - Major concerns of the public

Planning and development	139	76.80%
Roads	116	64.09%
Rates	97	53.60%
Infrastructure	90	49.72%
Community welfare	60	33.15%
Waste management	59	32.60%
Economic conditions	54	29.83%
Natural resource management	40	22.10%
Amalgamations/LG sustainability	40	22.10%
Ageing population	39	21.55%
Public safety	37	20.44%
Other*	25	13.81%

\*Refer to appendix D for a list of other public concerns identified by respondents.

## IMPORTANT ISSUES

Table 38 ranks from 1 to 4 (1 being most important, 4 being least important) issues that are considered by respondents to be of importance to Local Government in Tasmania. Financial sustainability was identified as the most important issue by 72% of respondents. Other issues of importance were identified as planning and development (61%), and infrastructure (50%). Other issues identified as important are contained in appendix C.

Table 38 - Issues that are currently important to Local Government

	1	2	3	4	No Response
Environmental sustainability	39%	44%	8%	1%	8%
Financial sustainability	72%	19%	2%	3%	4%
Waste management	47%	35%	10%	1%	7%
Asset management	30%	51%	10%	3%	6%
Rates	34%	43%	14%	1%	8%
Dog/cat control	10%	34%	36%	11%	9%
Demographic change	10%	35%	33%	10%	12%
Skill shortage	27%	34%	24%	7%	8%
Public safety	29%	44%	13%	6%	8%
Roads	49%	35%	8%	2%	6%
Planning and development	61%	30%	0%	3%	6%
Economic conditions	45%	38%	10%	1%	6%
Infrastructure	50%	39%	3%	2%	6%



## **Appendix A – First languages other than English**

- Dutch
- French
- German

## **Appendix B –Other organisations**

- Show Society
- Tourism Association
- Agricultural Society
- Free Masons
- Landcare
- Crime Stoppers
- Progress Association
- Coast Care
- Resident Action Group
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
- Sister Cities Association
- Fire Service
- Ambulance Service
- Senior Citizens Club
- Municipal Band
- State Emergency Service
- Local Chamber of Commerce

## Appendix C – Factors influencing newly elected members to stand

### Organisations -

- Bridgewater and Gagebrook Urban Renewal program,
- Green Party

### Issues –

- Waste management
- Youth affairs
- Proposed Sullivans Cove tram
- Forestry plantation
- Sustainable development
- Development
- Environmental and social justice

### Other –

- General interest in Local Government
- Freedom
- Desire to improve Council performance
- Contribute to the community
- Previously employed by Council
- Community service

## Appendix D – Concerns of public

### Local Government issues

- Forestry impacts
- Environment
- Community health
- Coastal development
- Good customer service
- Water quality
- Council efficiency/effectiveness
- Public safety
- Public open space ie parks
- Skyline and waterfront
- Council accountability
- Community consultation

### Other issues

- Energy costs
- Health
- Education
- Climate change

## Appendix E – Issues that are currently important to Local Government in Tasmania (1 most important, 4 least important)

- Amalgamations/sustainability
- Statutory requirements
- Forestry impacts
- Ageing population
- Social Wellbeing
- Constitutional recognition
- Protection of Agricultural Land
- Tourism
- Tourism promotion
- Health - rural health
- Partnerships – working together
- Water quantity and quality
- Elected member knowledge
- Key performance indicators
- Cost shifting
- Intergovernmental relations
- Car parking
- Transport
- Road safety
- Poverty
- Weed control
- Land owner's rights
- Biodiversity – other species as well as rare and threatened
- Heritage issues
- Quality of leadership
- Recruitment and timely training of candidates
- Footpaths/bikeways
- Multiuse trails
- Rail networks
- Direct factory outlet
- Transparency in Council
- Consultation and communication