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Research Report for:

Remote Area Planning and Development (RAPAD) Board

Community Attitudes to Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining Activities in Central West Queensland

November 2011

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INTRODUCTION

Market Facts was commissioned to conduct market research by RAPAD. This primary quantitative research was focussed on assisting RAPAD better understand community perceptions and attitudes around coal seam gas and mining activities in the Central West local government areas of Queensland.

The research objectives were:

- What are the current levels of community information about coal seam gas activities existing and planned for the area?
- What are the main sources of community knowledge about coal seam gas activities?
- What factors are defining/shaping current attitudes towards coal seam gas activities?
- What are community expectations of coal seam gas and mining activities in general in the future?

Research Methodology

The research comprised a random telephone survey developed by SMEC. A copy of the questionnaire is contained in the Appendix of this report.

A random telephone survey of n=610 comprising quotas from 7 Councils as follows:

- Barcoo: n=30,
- Diamantina: n=30,
- Boulia: n=50,
- Winton; n=50,
- Longreach: n=200,
- Barcaldine: n=150,
- Blackall/Tambo: n=100

A total of 1517 telephone numbers were attempted with 986 connected calls being made to achieve the 610 completed surveys.

Sample Size and Confidence Levels

For the random sample of residents from the seven (7) Council areas, the sample of n=610 provides a maximum Probable Errors $\pm 3.9\%$ at the 95% level of confidence. This is well within the bounds of normal commercial practice. The measurements of key parameters and the comparisons are reasonably reliable, and enable confident conclusions to be made about the results.

Data Processing and Analysis

As a matter of course the telephone survey data, after input, was cleaned and logic-checked to ensure error-free detailed tables. All percentages in the tabular output have been rounded to one decimal point. Significance tests have been applied to identify those differences in response among the various subgroups, which were highly unlikely to have occurred due to chance.

All responses were coded and computer-analysed using the following breaks of:

- Age
- Gender
- Geographic Area (Council Area)

These breaks were established to enable the identification of significant differences in response patterns among the various community sectors represented by the sub-samples. For all analysis of these standard demographic breaks, we have applied significance tests to the differences between the sub-samples and the total sample. These appear in the tables as:

- +++ significantly greater than the sample result at the 99% level of confidence
- ++ significantly greater than the sample result at the 95% level of confidence
- + significantly greater than the sample result at the 90% level of confidence
- - - significantly lower than the sample result at the 99% level of confidence
- - significantly lower than the sample result at the 95% level of confidence
- significantly lower than the sample result at the 90% level of confidence

Data Tables will be included in the Appendix of Research Report.

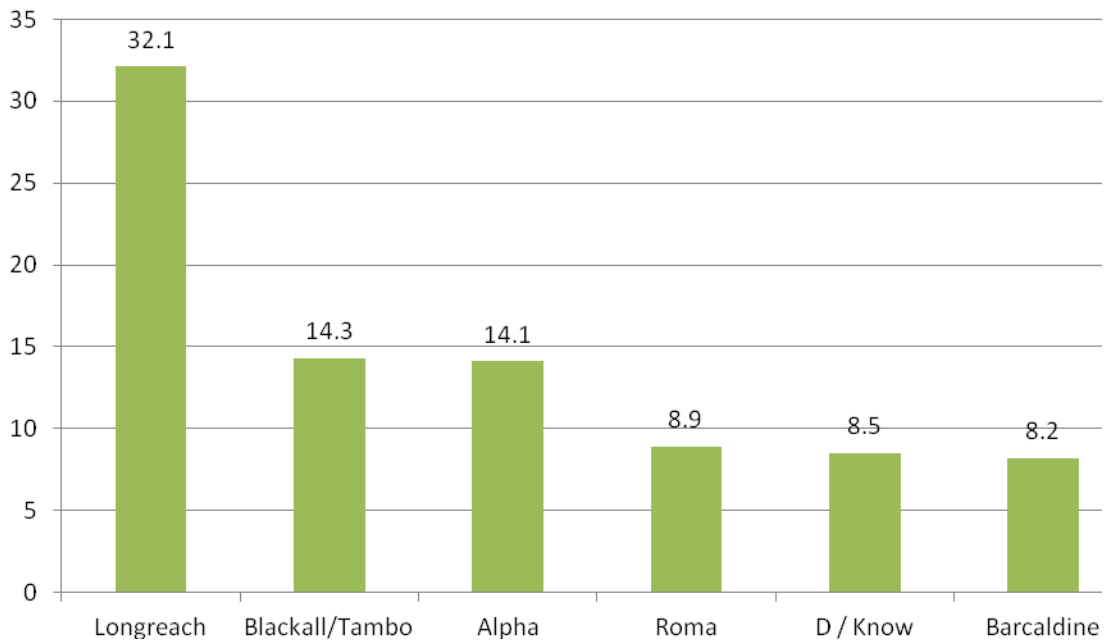
KEY FINDINGS

Awareness & Understanding

1. What is your understanding of the main areas in Central West Queensland where coal seam gas and coal mining activities will be focused?

- 32% of respondents understood coal seam gas and coal mining activities will be focused in Longreach.

Understanding of where coal seam gas /coal mining activities will be focused



There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

43% in Barcoo – Blackall/Tambo

40% in Diamantina – Roma

38% in Boulia – Roma

94% in Longreach – Longreach

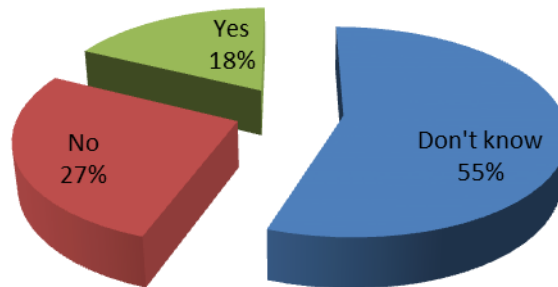
43% in Barcaldine – Alpha

56% in Blackall/Tambo – Blackall/Tambo

2. Do you believe this current, and proposed, level of coal seam gas and coal mining activity in Central West Queensland is sustainable?

- The majority (55%) of respondents 'didn't know' if the current or proposed levels of coal seam or coal mining activities in Central West Queensland were sustainable.

**Current and proposed coal seam gas
and coal mining activities are
sustainable**



*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- 40% in Diamantina – no
- 60% in Boulia – no
- 77% in Longreach – don't know
- 45% in Blackall/Tambo – no

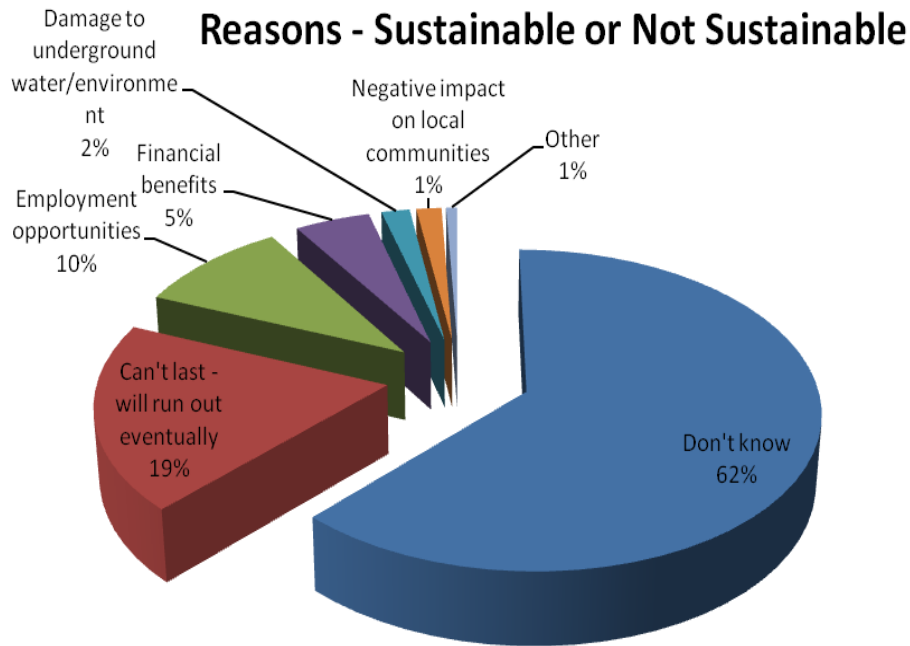
2.a Why/Why not?

62% of respondents 'didn't know' whether the current level of coal seam gas and coal mining activities was sustainable.

For those that did provide reasons, key issues mentioned were:

- 19% of respondents said 'can't last – will run out eventually'
- 10% of respondents said 'employment opportunities'

All reasons are summarised graphically below.

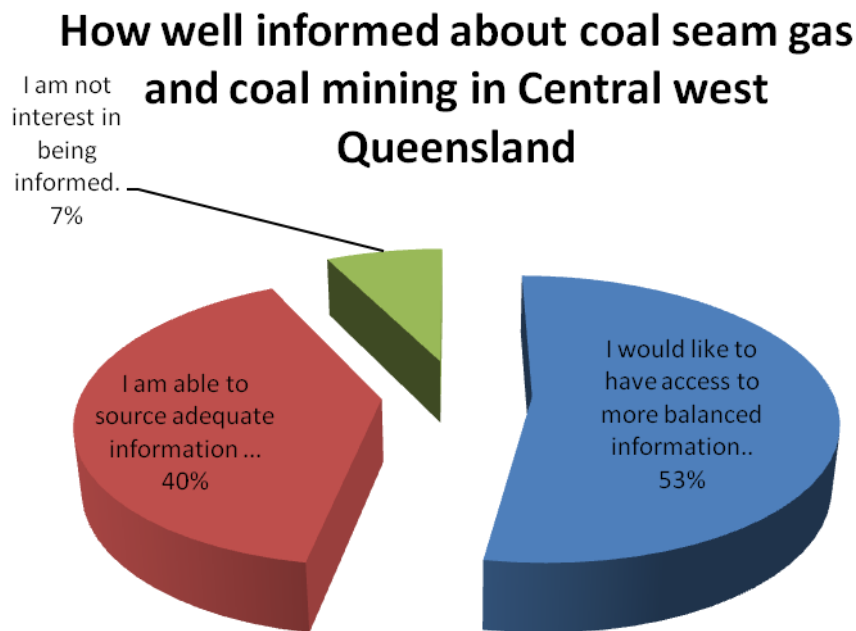


There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

- 33% in Diamantina – 'can't last – will run out eventually'
- 50% in Boulia – 'can't last – will run out eventually'
- 79% in Longreach – 'don't know'
- 16% in Longreach – 'employment opportunities'
- 15% in Barcaldine – 'financial benefits'
- 36% in Blackall/Tambo – 'can't last – will run out eventually'

3. Which statement best describes how well informed do you think you are about Coal seam gas and coal mining sector in Central West Queensland? Would you say ...

- Just over half (53%) of the respondents would like to have access to more balanced information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities.



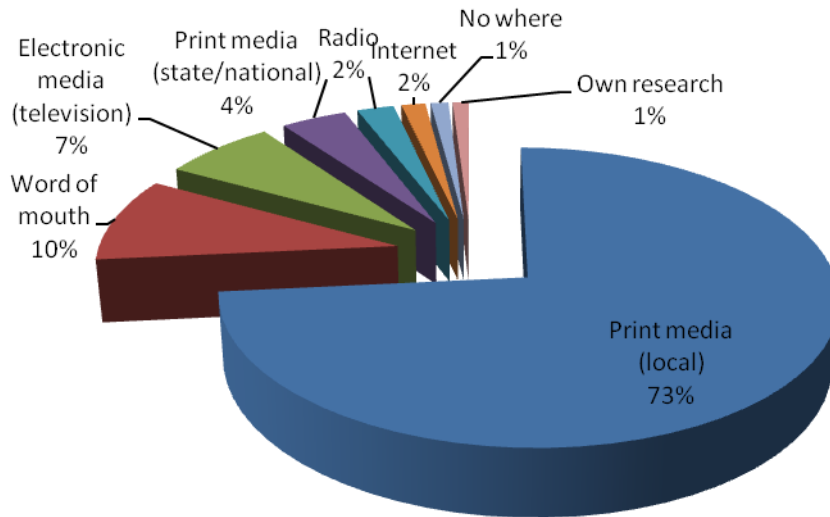
There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

- 86% in Barcoo – more balanced information
- 93% in Diamantina – more balanced information
- 70% in Winton - more balanced information
- 72% in Boulia - more balanced information
- 75% in Longreach – able to source adequate information
- 61% in Barcaldine – more balanced information
- 79% in Blackall/Tambo – more balanced information

4. What are your main sources of information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities?

By far (73%) of respondents, sourced information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities, from the print media.

Sources of information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities



There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

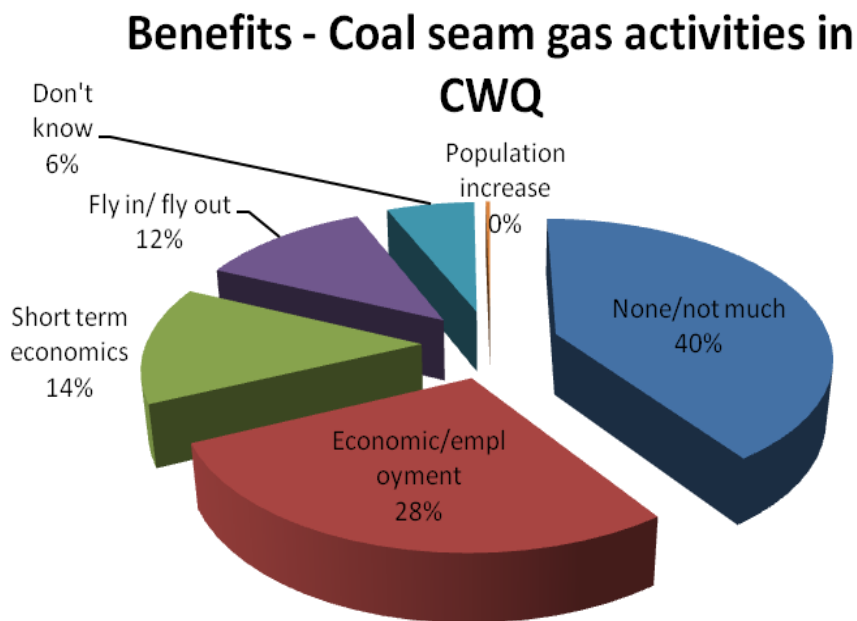
- 90% in Barcoo – print media (local)
- 93% in Diamantina – print media (local)
- 92% in Boulia - print media (local)
- 20% in Winton – word of mouth
- 91% in Longreach – print media (local)
- 26% in Barcaldine – word of mouth
- 88% in Blackall/Tambo – print media (local)

Coal Seam Gas - Benefits & Disadvantages

5. What benefits do you see coal seam gas activities will provide to the Central West Queensland community?

- 40% of respondents did not see any benefits to coal seam gas activities in Central West Queensland.
- Economic/employment benefits (28%) and short term economics were the key benefits identified by respondents.

All responses are summarised graphically.



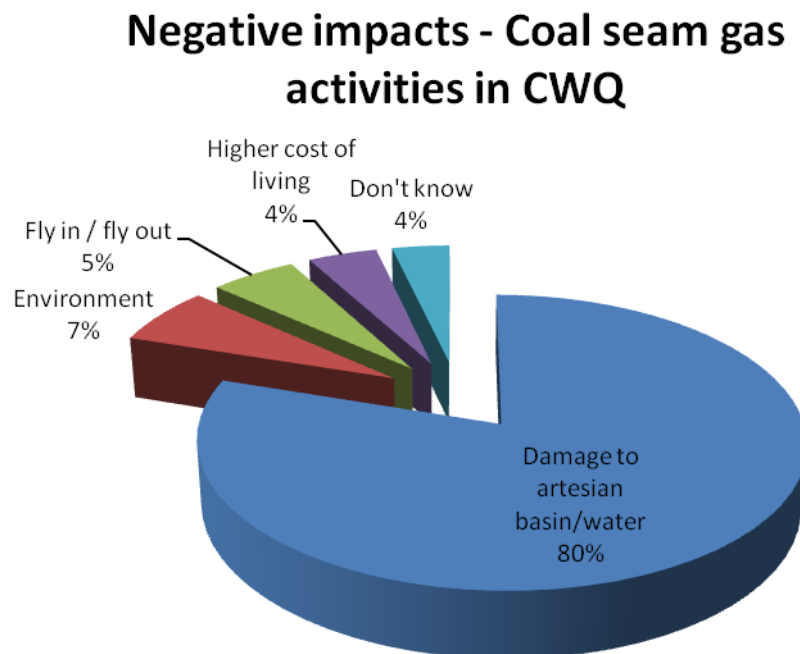
*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- 63% in Barcoo – employment/economic
- 47% in Diamantina – employment/economic
- 40% in Winton – employment/economic
- 64% in Longreach – none/not much
- 52% in Blackall/Tambo – employment/economic

6. What do you believe will be the negative impacts of coal seam gas activities in Central West Queensland?

By far, the main negative impact mentioned by 80% respondents was damage to artesian basin/water impacts.

All responses are summarised graphically below.



*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

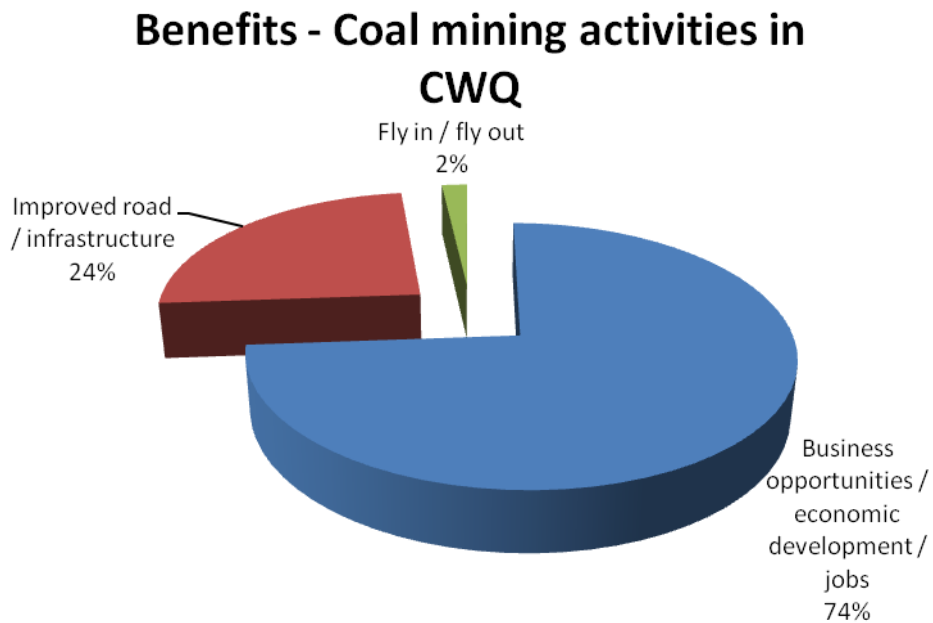
- 26% in Barcoo – environment
- 20% in Diamantina – environment
- 12% in Boulia – fly in/fly out
- 10% in Winton – fly in/fly out
- 96% in Longreach – damage to Artesian basin/water
- 52% in Blackall/Tambo – employment/economic

Coal Mining – Benefits & Disadvantages

7. What benefits do you see coal mining activities will provide to the Central West Queensland community?

Almost three quarters (74%) of respondents said that the main benefits of coal mining activities were business opportunities, economic development and jobs.

All responses are summarised graphically.



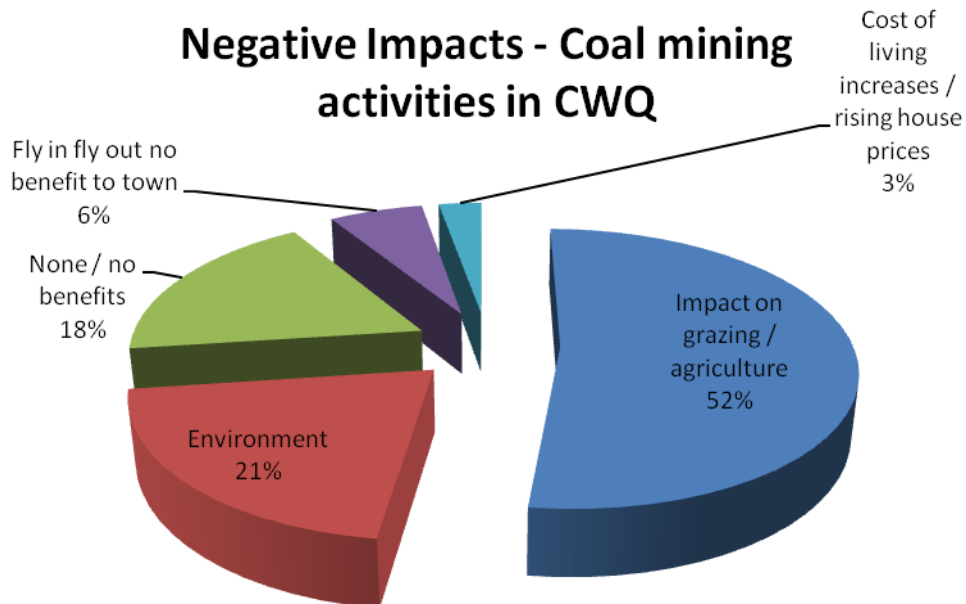
There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

- 47% in Diamantina – employment/economic development/jobs
- 77% in Barcaldine – none
- 43% in Tambo – business opportunities/economic development/jobs

8. What do you believe will be the negative impacts of coal mining activities in Central West Queensland?

Just over half (52%) of the respondents mentioned 'impact on grazing/agriculture' as the main negative impact of coal mining activities.

All responses are summarised below.



*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

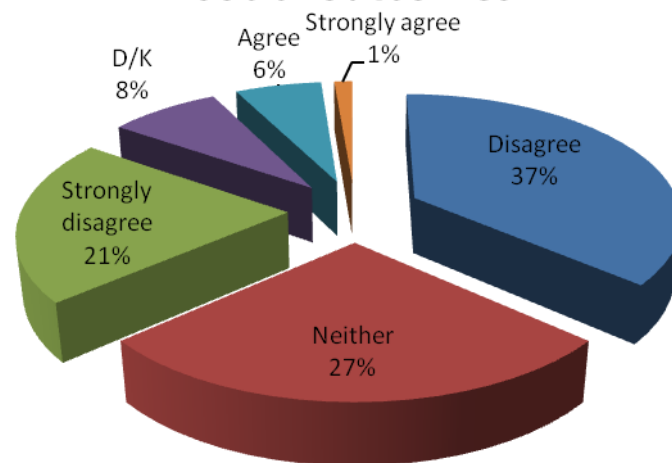
- 34% in Winton – none/no benefits
- 29% in Longreach – environment
- 27% in Barcaldine – none/no benefits
- 31% in Blackall/Tambo - environment

Community Education

9. Coal seam gas and coal mining sector in Central West Queensland will bring with it positive social outcomes. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is Strongly Agree, 4 is Agree, 3 neither Agree/Disagree, 2 is Disagree and 1 Strongly Disagree.

- The majority (58%) of respondents either 'disagreed' (37%) or 'strongly disagreed' (21%) that coal seam gas and coal mining activities will bring positive social outcomes to Central West Queensland.

Coal seam gas and coal mining sector in CWQ will bring with it positive social outcomes

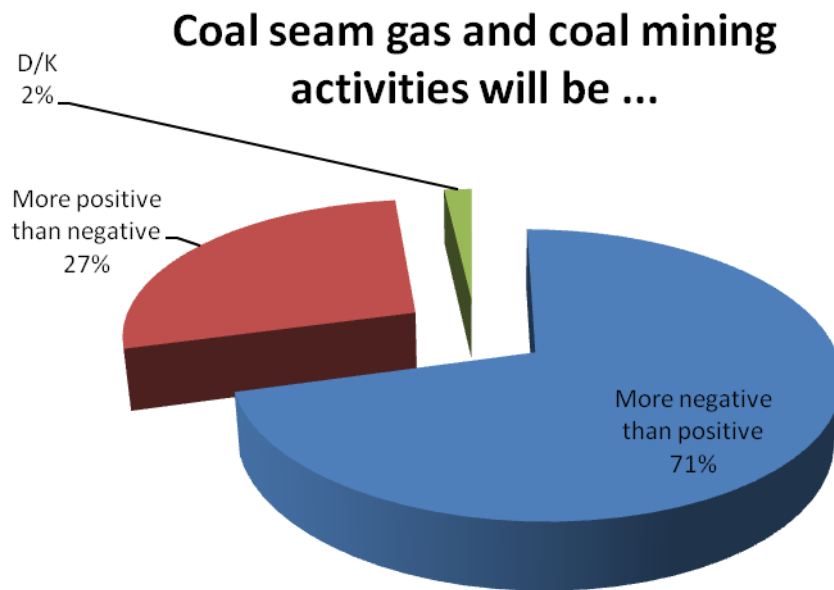


There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

- 43% in Barcoo – strongly disagree
- 86% in Diamantina – disagree
- 86% in Boulia - disagree
- 57% in Longreach – neither
- 32% in Barcaldine – strongly disagree
- 43% in Blackall/Tambo – strongly disagree

10. Taking into account your responses to this survey so far, do you think coal seam gas and coal mining activities will be...

- Almost three quarters (71%) of respondents felt that coal seam gas and coal mining activities will be 'more negative than positive'.



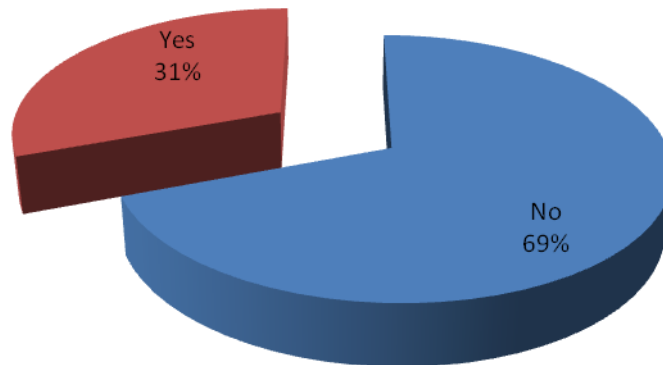
*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- *100% in Barcoo – more negative than positive*
- *94% in Diamantina – more negative than positive*
- *94% in Boulia - more negative than positive*
- *48% in Longreach – more positive than negative*
- *97% in Blackall/Tambo – more negative than positive*

11. Do you think your opinion would change on coal seam gas and coal mining activities if you were provided with balanced formation about these activities?

- Almost a third (31%) of respondents thought that they may change their opinion with more balanced information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities.

Opinion would change with more balanced information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities?



*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- 93% in Barcoo – no
- 46% in Boulia - yes
- 79% in Longreach – no
- 39% in Barcaldine - yes

11.a Which of the following ways would suit you to learn and be provided with more information about coal seam gas and coal mining activities?

- For the 31% of respondents that thought they might change their opinion, their preferred information sources on coal seam gas and coal mining activities was brochures.

| | Total n= | Yes % | No % | Don't Know % |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|--------------------|
| Community Information Sessions | 187 | 90.9 | 7.5 | 1.6 |
| Brochures | 187 | 92.5 | 5.9 | 1.6 |
| Information provided on LG and or RAPAD websites | 187 | 48.7 | 49.7 | 1.6 |
| Information from industry representatives | 187 | 40.1 | 50.3 | 9.6 |

Community Information Sessions

*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- 100% in Barcoo – yes
- 100% in Diamantina – yes
- 100% in Boulia – yes
- 100% in Longreach – yes
- 12% in Barcaldine - no
- 100% in Blackall/Tambo - yes

Brochures

*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- 100% in Barcoo – yes
- 100% in Diamantina – yes
- 100% in Boulia – yes
- 100% in Longreach – yes
- 15% in Barcaldine - no
- 100% in Blackall/Tambo - yes

Information provided on local government and or RAPAD websites

*There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:*

- 100% in Barcoo – no
- 100% in Diamantina – no
- 100% in Boulia – no
- 95% in Longreach – yes
- 60% in Barcaldine - yes
- 100% in Blackall/Tambo - no

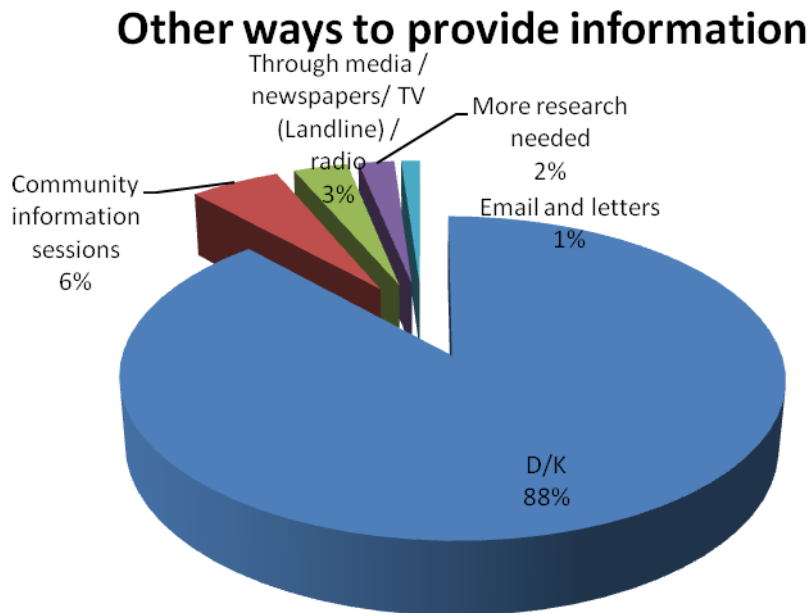
Information from industry representatives

There were significant variances from the sample average by:
Council area:

- 100% in Barcoo – no
- 90% in Diamantina – no
- 100% in Boulia – no
- 63% in Longreach – yes
- 54% in Barcaldine - yes
- 100% in Blackall/Tambo - no

11.c Are there any other ways that you think information on coal seam gas and coal mining activities could be provided to the communities of Central West Queensland?

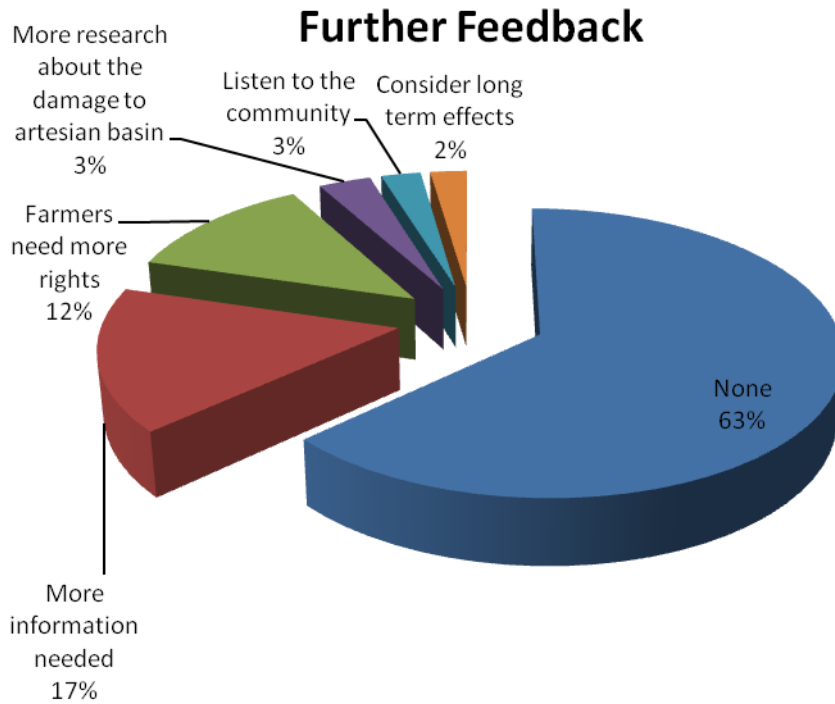
Most respondents were unable to suggest any further ways to provide information to communities. For those that did make a suggestion, they confirmed their preference for community information sessions and workshops and the need to use electronic media mentioned by respondents.



12. And finally, is there any further feedback you would like to provide to RAPAD and Local Governments about coal seam gas and coal mining activities in Central West Queensland?

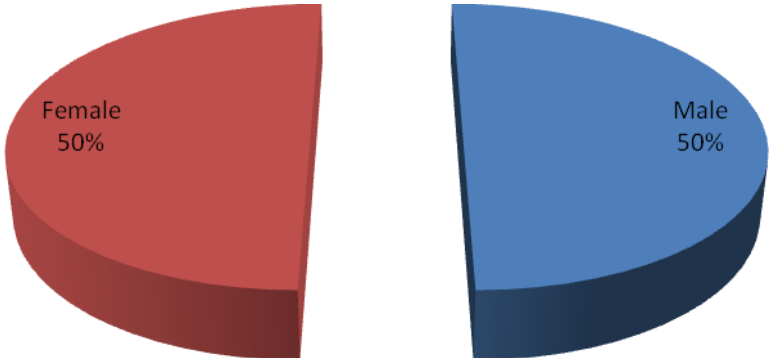
The majority of respondents did not provide any further feedback. However, for those respondents that did provide feedback they confirmed the need to provide further information to local communities and were concerned with protecting and maintaining the rights of farmers with coal mining and coal seam gas activities.

All responses are summarised graphically below,

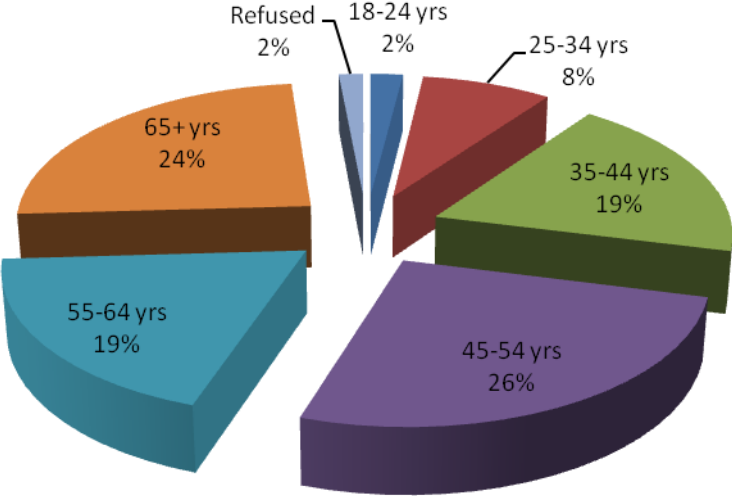


RESPONDENT PROFILE

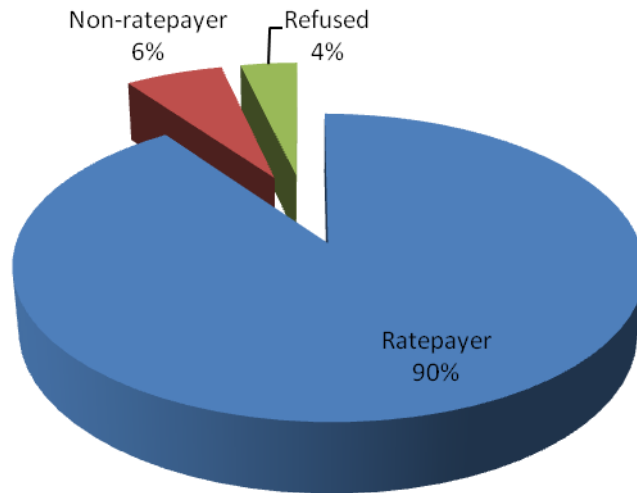
Gender



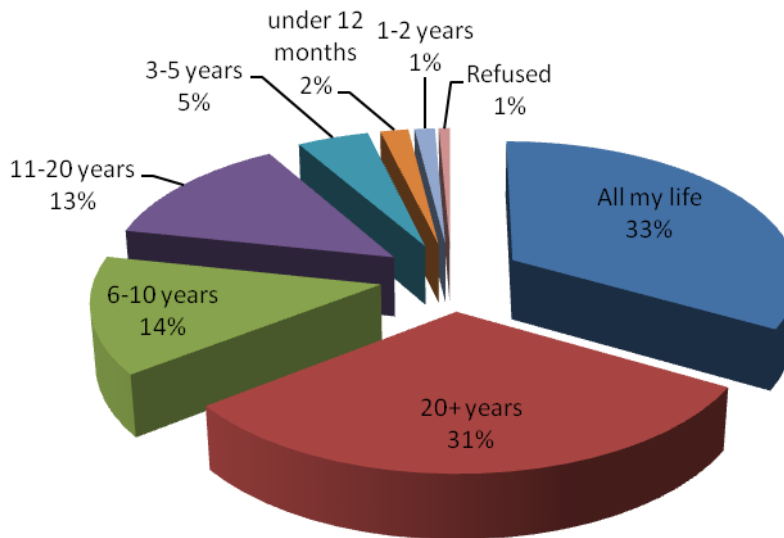
Age Group



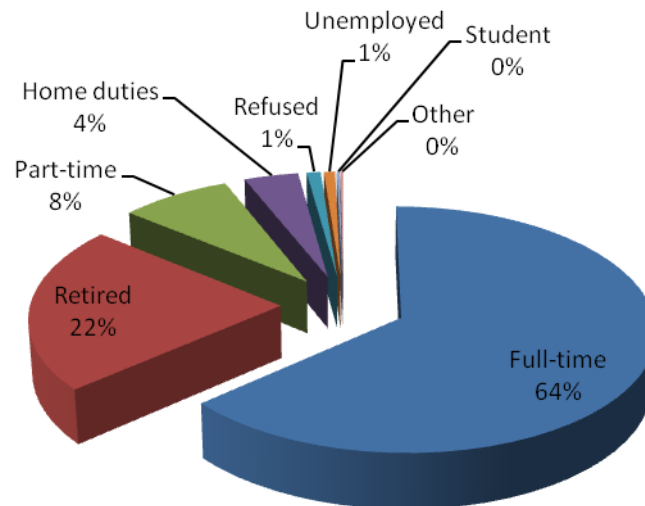
Ratepayer Status



Length of time living in Council area



Current work status



Present occupation of the main income-earner in household

