



AUT: Super City?

Public Views Survey

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(1) Introduction

A telephone survey of n=350 randomly selected residents of Auckland was commissioned from Phoenix Research. Age-gender-place quotas were used to structure the data-collection. This has confidence limits of +/- 5%. The data has been weighted to better represent the various parts of Auckland and also ethnic proportions. The main attitude questions were collected on an 11-point Likert scale and this has been reduced to a 3-category scale. Field work was during July 2013.

Questions covered both attitudes to performance of the Auckland Council & effects of the governance reforms and also attitudes re the forthcoming local authority elections. Included among the questions were several indicators specified by the DIA indicators framework:

- Interest in Local Politics, including past and likely future voting
- Attitude to Auckland as place to live, and whether this has changed since amalgamation
- Opinion re Auckland's future growth
- Attitude to Council plans
- Attitude to governance issues in relation to Auckland.

(2) Interest in Local Politics, including past and likely future voting

A solid minority reported a current interest in local politics (37%).

The sample is evenly split between those who say their interest has changed over the last 3 years and those whose interest hadn't changed, but amongst the former a solid minority (40%) say it has increased.

Three-quarters see Auckland as a good place to live.

Nearly two-thirds don't see Auckland as having got better or worse as a place to live, with pro and con evenly balanced at about 1/5th each.

Areas of high satisfaction in relation to Auckland include: library services (83%), Beaches and also Council-run parks & reserves (73% each) and recreational facilities (65%) Public transport was the only area attracting dissatisfaction – but even this only reached one-quarter of respondents. Support for Auckland becoming more of a region was a solid minority at about 40%.

A solid one-half feel that Auckland's growth is too much, with only a sliver saying it is too little.

Nearly two-thirds had heard of the Auckland Council plans and half claimed to be familiar or very familiar with it. Just under one half were neither in support of or against the Plans with the remainder balanced between those against it and for it.

Several areas of Auckland governance attracted solid agreement including opportunity for involvement in the arts (43%); seeing the mayor as an effective leader for the region (37%) and seeing the governance reforms as having benefitted the region as a whole (35%). But there was limited support that the reforms had benefitted local communities or that rates gave value for money.

Although just over half thought the balance of power between Local and Central government was about right, one third thought that local government needs more power and only a sixth thought central power needed to be strengthened.

In relation to the number of Local Boards most (nearly 2/3rds) thought the number about right and of the remainder more (nearly one quarter) would have preferred the number to be fewer.

Half gave some level of support to the Auckland system of local government with one-third being positive and one-sixth negative.

A solid majority (two-thirds) claimed they would definitely vote in the elections. And three-quarters claimed to have voted in 2010.

The relevance for voting of seven issues was asked about and also received high ratings: crime & safety (82%), roading congestion, rates and economy (about 3/4ths); while housing and social issues were seen as crucial to only about two-thirds. In addition, a small number of further issues relevant to the elections was volunteered by respondents, with as many as a third wanting to add to the seven issues covered.

Support for Maori seats was evenly split with a slight tip against. Support for the Independent Maori Statutory Authority has a similar distribution.

(3) Demographics:

The sample is evenly split between men and women and has similar proportions from North and Central Auckland together with a fifth from West Auckland. The sample is well spread across age-ranges and includes reasonable coverage of different ethnic groups. Ownership rate is high and most respondents occupy separate housing.

(4) Tables:

		Count	Column N %
Q2 INTEREST CHANGED SINCE AMALGAMATION INTO SUPERCITY	Yes	118	49.3%
	No	122	50.7%
Q3 INTEREST INCREASED OR DECREASED	More interested, or Same	92	38.9%
	Less interested in Local Government politics	122	52%
		23	9.8%
Q5 AUCKLAND BETTER OR WORSE PLACE TO LIVE SINCE AMALGAMATION	A better place to live	39	16.3%
	A worse place to live	49	20.1%
	About the same/no different	153	63.6%
Q7 OPINION ON GROWTH OF AUCKLAND	Too much	114	49.4%
	About right, or	105	45.6%
	Too little	12	5.0%
Q9A HEARD OF AUCKLAND COUNCIL PLAN AND DIRECTION	Yes	148	61%
	No	94	38.9%
Q9B HOW FAMILIAR WITH AUCKLAND COUNCIL PLAN AND DIRECTION	Very familiar	15	10.3%
	Somewhat familiar	60	40%
	Slightly familiar	55	37.2%
	or not familiar at all	17	15%
Q11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT VS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	Auckland Local Government is too powerful and Central Government needs more power	32	14.4%
	Central Government is too powerful and Auckland Local Government needs more power	71	32.5%
	The balance is about right	117	53.1%
Q14 OPINION ON NUMBER OF LOCAL BOARDS	Too many	48	23.1%
	Too few or	25	12.1%
	About right	134	64.7%
	Definitely	164	67.0%
	Probably	43	17.5%
Q15 LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING IN 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS	Might or might not	16	6.7%
	Probably not	15	6.0%
	Definitely not	7	2.7%
	Don't know	1	0.2%

Q20B ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES RELEVANT	Yes (specify) No	82 155	34.5% 65.5%
Q21 THINK THERE SHOULD BE MAORI SEATS	Should Should not	103 115	47.3% 52.7%
Q22 THINK INDEPENDENT MAORI STATUTORY AUTHORITY IS A GOOD IDEA	Yes Partly No	74 13 98	39.9% 7.2% 52.9%
Q24 VOTE IN 2010 LOCAL ELECTION	Did not vote Yes No	26 176 57	12.6% 75.5% 24.5%

	Disagree	Neither	Agree
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
Q1 LEVEL OF INTEREST IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLITICS	17.4%	45.9%	36.8%
Q4 RATING OF AUCKLAND AS A PLACE TO LIVE	5.9%	20.8%	73.3%
Q9C LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH AUCKLAND COUNCIL PLANS	25.6%	47.6%	26.8%
Q10 LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN AUCKLAND SYSTEM LOCAL GOVERNMENT	17.2%	49.4%	33.3%

Q8 SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF AUCKLAND	Disagree	Neither	Agree
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
- Auckland s beaches	4.0%	23.4%	72.7%
- Council facilities community halls and community centres	4.0%	37.7%	58.3%
- City-wide events	7.1%	39.1%	53.8%
- Library services	0.8%	16.1%	83.2%
- Council run parks and reserves	2.2%	24.7%	73.1%
- Recreational facilities	5.6%	29.7%	64.8%
- Public transport	26.3%	46%	32.0%
- Disposal and treatment of wastewater	14.1%	44.2%	47%
- The amount of council information available to you	12.6%	38.2%	49.2%
- The extent to which Auckland now is a single region compared to having several different councils previously	16.9%	43.8%	39.3%

Q13 LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS ABOUT LIFE AND POLITICS	Disagree	Neither	Agree
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %

- The Auckland governance reforms have benefited the region as a whole	23%	47.2%	35%
- The Auckland governance reforms have benefited your local community	29.6%	50.6%	19.8%
- There are many opportunities for active participation and involvement in the arts	9.6%	47.7%	42.7%
- The mayor is an effective leader for the region	23.4%	39.5%	37.1%
- You have received good value for money from your rates	34.9%	42.9%	22.2%

Q20 RELEVANCE OF TOPIC TO VOTING CHOICE	Disagree	Neither	Agree
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
- Roading congestion	5.9%	17.5%	76.6%
- Public transport	8.6%	19.7%	77%
- The Auckland economy	4.6%	24%	74.0%
- Rates	7.1%	24%	75%
- Housing	7.3%	26.5%	66.2%
- Crime & safety	3.8%	14.0%	82.2%
- Social issues	6.9%	30.3%	62.8%

Social Background Characteristics		Column N %
Q99GEN GENDER	Male	47.0%
	Female	53.0%
Q99AREA AREA	Central	23%
	North	25.2%
	South	26.0%
	East	8.4%
	West	18.1%
	Gulf	1%
	Albert-Eden	5.9%
	Devonport-Takapuna	4.9%
Q99LB LOCAL BOARD	Franklin	4.1%
	Great Barrier	0.0%
	Henderson-Massey	9.9%
	Hibiscus and Bays	5.7%
	Howick	8.4%
	Kaipatiki	5.0%
	Mangere-Otahuhu	3.6%
	Manurewa	4.6%
Maungakiekie - Tamaki	9%	
Orakei	8.2%	

	Otara - Papatoetoe	9.3%
	Papakura	4.3%
	Puketapapa	2.7%
	Rodney	5.5%
	Upper Harbour	4.1%
	Waiheke	1%
	Waitakere Ranges	4.2%
	Waitemata	2.6%
	Whau	3.9%
Q25 AGE	18-19	3.7%
	20-29	10.4%
	30-39	15.5%
	40-49	22.6%
	50-59	18.6%
	60-69	13.9%
	70 years or over	15.4%
Q27 MAIN ETHNICITY	Pakeha/NZ European	57.7%
	Maori	7.6%
	Pacific Islands/Pasifika	7.9%
	Asian	10.8%
	New Zealander	10.3%
	Other 1 (specify Q26OTH1)	5.8%
Q29 NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD 18+	1	15.6%
	2	33.7%
	3	20.4%
	4	19.7%
	5	10.6%
Q30 NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS	0	57.9%
	1	16.8%
	2	19.3%
Q31 COMBINED HOUSEHOLD INCOME	3 or more	6.0%
	Less than \$35,000	20.2%
	\$35,000 or more but less than \$50,000	13.9%
	\$50,000 or more but less than \$100,000	27.1%
	\$100,000 or more but less than \$140,000	20.5%
Q32 RESIDENCE OWNED OR RENTED	\$140,000 or more \$11,700)**	18.3%
	Owned	75.1%
	or Rented	24.7%
	Other e.g. Family Trust** (specify)	0.2%
House	Separate House	85.4%
	Attached	8.0%
	Small group flats	2.5%
	Larger flats	4.0%

Q35 HOW LONG LIVED IN CURRENT RESIDENCE	Up to one year	7.3%
	Up to 2 years	4.9%
	Up to 3 years	6.9%
	Up to 5 years	16.7%
	Up to 10 years	25.1%
	Up to 20 years	23.1%
	More than 20 years	16.0%
Q36 HOW LONG LIVED IN AUCKLAND	Up to one year	0%
	Up to 2 years	0.0%
	Up to 3 years	7%
	Up to 5 years	4.0%
	Up to 10 years	16.1%
	Up to 20 years	19.9%
	More than 20 years	57.3%

Methodological		Column N %
Q37 OFFER OF REPORT	Yes	42.6%
	No	57.4%
Q39 RECONTACT	Yes	82.7%
	No	17.3%
Q41 EMAIL ADDRESS REQUEST	Yes	65.1%
	No/ prefer not	34.9%