

Securing the socioeconomic wellbeing of regional Australia



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Projects

- Economic aspects – Kim Houghton
- Demographic aspects – Dean Carson
- Community decisions – Jen Cleary
- **Social aspects – Anthony Hogan & Rob Tanton**
- Environmental data – Paula Jones
- **Choice modelling – Anthony Hogan and Instinct & Reason**

Key research questions

- examine the social aspects of adaptive capacity and wellbeing
- map the structure of the main economic and demographic flows in the three study areas
- develop and test a decision support tool which communities can use to assess the likely impacts of further changes to the socio-economic basis of their community.



sample profile

sample profile



N=2196		%
Tamworth		48
Tamworth incl Walcha		24
Gunnedah Warrumbungles		8
Liverpool Plains		4
Narrabri		6
Walgett		2
St George		30
St George		23
Outside of St George		7*
Wagga		24



*An error in sample management to note that 157 people were surveyed just outside the St George area.

health and wellbeing

Satisfaction

Namoi

- more likely to satisfied about their future security (56%)

St George

- more likely to satisfied about their personal safety (86%)
- more likely feeling as part of the community (72%)
- more likely to feel they are achieving in life currently (81%)
- more likely to satisfied about their future security (57%)

Waikerie

- more likely to satisfied on safety (84%)

health

There has no significant different between areas.

difficult or stressful things

Compared to other areas, Respondents in St George are more likely to have experienced natural disaster (77%) and to have been in a fire or explosion (6%)

community efficacy

- more likely to agree that Water allocation should change so enough water is available for the natural environment (52% strongly agree/ agree)
- less likely to agree that our community has all the professional expertise that we need (50% strongly disagree/ disagree)

Namoi

St George

- more likely to agree that
 - The people in this community can work together even when it requires more effort than normal (32% strongly agree)
 - The farmers I know care for the environment (41% strongly agree)
 - Community has all the professional expertise that we need (29% agree)

- more likely to agree that
 - Water allocation should change so enough water is available for the natural environment (55% strongly agree/ agree)
 - Climate change poses a risk to our community (53% strongly agree/ agree)
 - Community has all the professional expertise that we need (51% strongly agree/ agree)
 - How this community thinks about problems determines what we do about them (16% strongly agree)

Waikerie

decision-making process

Respondents in St George are more likely to agree that there are a broad variety of groups involved in decision making in this area (43% agree) and anyone can easily participate in decision making in this area if they want to (40% agree)

Namoi

- more likely to agree that
- If I could not drive, I would be able to get to the nearest major regional centre using other means (42% agree)
- Coal seam gas exploration and extraction is increasing the likelihood that I would leave my community (14% strongly agree)^{**}

St George

- more likely to agree that
- I feel safe walking down my street after dark (76% strongly agree/ agree)
- This community accepts people from different cultures and backgrounds (57% agree)
- I always feel I am an important part of this community (54% agree)
- If I could not drive, I would be able to get to the nearest major regional centre using other means (42% agree)

Waikerie

- more likely to agree that
- This community accepts people from different cultures and backgrounds (83% strongly agree/ agree)
- Most people in this community can be trusted (54% agree)
- I always feel I am an important part of this community (53% agree)
- I feel safe walking down my street after dark (41% agree)

^{**}Note: The statement 'Coal seam gas exploration and extraction is increasing the likelihood that I would leave my community' was added during the field period. This statement has asked n=138 respondents in Namoi and n=428 respondents in St George.



St George

- more likely than total average to agree that
 - It is important to protect and manage the remaining wetlands in the region (76% agree)
 - The quality and quantity of groundwater available to me is sufficient for all my needs (71% agree)
 - Provision of water for the environment is equally as important as provision of water for agriculture, towns and industry (68% agree)
 - Our community and industry rely on access to groundwater (67% agree)

Namoi

- more likely than total average to agree that
 - Our community and industry rely on access to groundwater (61% agree)
 - The quality and quantity of groundwater available to me is sufficient for all my needs (75% agree)
 - There are enough shrubs and grasslands in the region to support native birds, animals and plants (73% agree)
 - Provision of water for the environment is equally as important as provision of water for agriculture, towns and industry (70% agree)

Waikeria

- more likely than total average to agree that
 - There are too many areas in our region which do not have enough groundcover (26% agree)



financial wellbeing

Respondents in St George are more likely than Namoi community to agree that financial wellbeing has been adversely affected by drought (46%) and flooding (42%)

Respondents in Walkerie are more likely than Namoi community to agree that financial wellbeing has been adversely affected by drought (43%)

emotional wellbeing

Respondents in St George are more likely than Namoi community to agree that emotional wellbeing has been adversely affected by drought (38%) and flooding (39%)

Respondents in Walkerie are more likely than Namoi community to agree that emotional wellbeing has been adversely affected by drought (32%)

employment and financial hardship

income earning...

Respondents in St George are more likely to be positive about their ability to continue earning

(67% very positive/positive) and respondents in Walkerie are more negative (14% very negative/negative)

What would you do if lost your job?

Compared to other areas, more likely..

36% retire in Namoi
35% get another job locally in St George
12% leave Walkerie to get a job in

Confidence in income...

Respondents are more likely to lack confidence on their ability to find an income 29% in Namoi and 37% in St George.

Respondents are more likely to be confident to find an income in Walkerie - 13% very confident/confident

Job Security

Respondents in St George are more likely agree that they have good job security 67% , compared to 61% in Namoi and 55% in Walkerie.



choice model

glossary

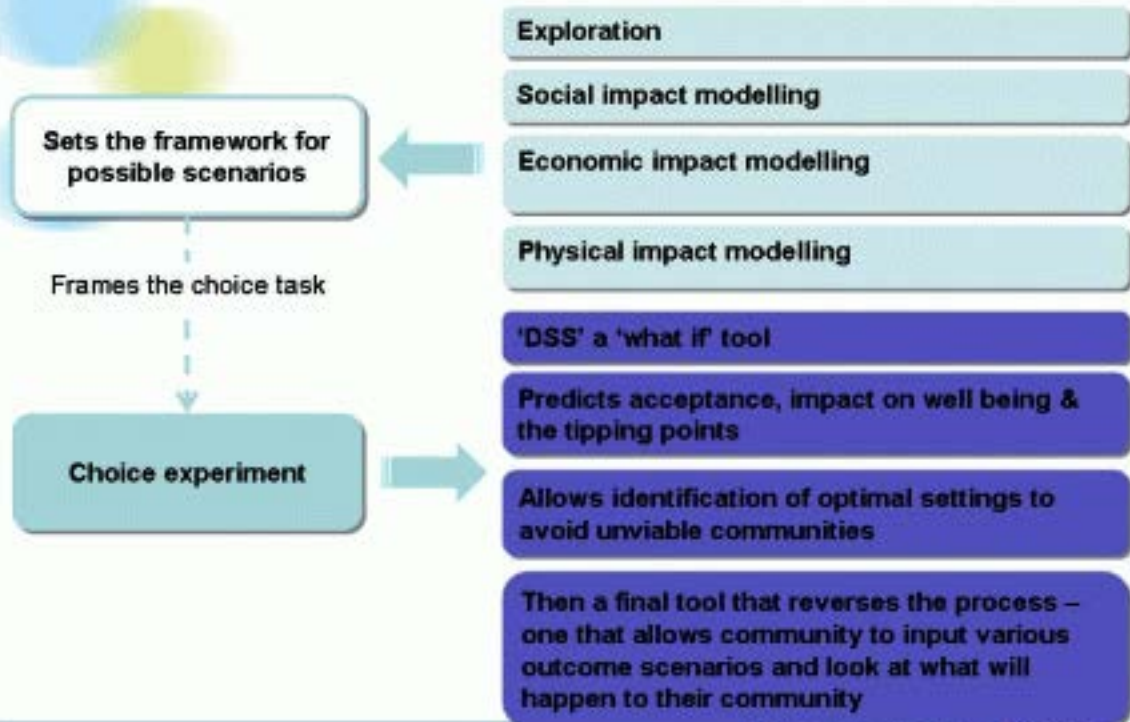
Community descriptions	Description
1. Full time work	Whether full time work opportunities are increasing, decreasing or staying the same
2. Part time work	Whether part time work opportunities are increasing, decreasing or staying the same
3. Number of young people	Whether there is a good level of young people present
4. The number of women	Whether there is enough women in the community (both young and old)
5. Family and friends	Whether family and friends are staying or leaving and whether the proportion leaving is increasing
6. Population change	Changes to the overall population of the community
7. Community and social life	Whether the clubs (sporting and community) are healthy and active, or not
8. Education services	The presence of local schools (primary and high school)
9. Health services	The presence of health services of various kinds
10. Aged care	The presence of aged care services
11. Local businesses and employment	The success of local business as seen by the opening or closing of shops etc
12. Tourism	Whether tourism to the community is increasing, decreasing or staying the same
13. Environment	Whether the environment is improving, being maintained or in decline. The evidence is things like more trees and groundcover for local habitat and improving biodiversity

Attributes	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1. Full time work	Levels of full time work are increased	Levels of full time work remains about the same	Levels of full time work are reduced
2. Part time work	Levels of part time work are increased	Levels of part time work remains about the same	Levels of part time work are reduced
3. Young people leaving	The proportion of young people and families remains the same	There is an increase in the number of young people leaving the community	Most young people leave the community and do not return.
4. The numbers of women (young and old)	The numbers of younger and older women remains the same	The numbers of younger women declines while the numbers of older women remains the same	There are fewer younger and older women in the community
5. Family and friends	Most family and friends remain in the community	Some family and friends have moved away	Most family and friends have moved away
6. Population change	Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)	Population declines as few new people come	
7. Community and social life	Local sporting teams and local community groups continue as they are today	The local sporting teams can no longer continue	Local community groups can no longer continue
8. Education services	The local schools remain as they are	The high school closes and children have to be travel	The primary school closes and children have to travel
9. Health services	The current level of health services and doctors and for nurses in the community remains the same	The local hospital closes	There is no local GP or community health service
10. Aged care	There is an increase in aged care services and facilities	The level of aged care services is maintained	There is a decline in the aged care services and facilities
11. Local businesses and employment	Some businesses and shops close but new and/or different businesses open	Some businesses, hotels (pubs) and the post office close but everything else is maintained	There are large numbers of closed shops and businesses
12. Tourism	Tourism increases	Tourism remains about the same	Tourism declines
13. Local Environment	The natural environment is improving	The natural environment is being maintained	The natural environment is being degraded

Q: If you were faced with the following situation in your community would you remain or consider leaving?

Features		
Full time work		Levels of full time work are increased
Part time work		Levels of part time work are reduced
Young people leaving		There is an increase in the number of young people leaving the community
The numbers of women (young and old)		The numbers of younger and older women remains the same
Family and friends		Some family and friends have moved away
Population change		Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)
Community and social life		The local sporting teams can no longer continue
Education services		The primary school closes and children have to travel
Health services		The current level of health services and doctors and/or nurses in the community remains the same
Aged care		There is a decline in the aged care services and facilities
Local businesses and employment		Some businesses, hotels (pubs) and the post office close but everything else is maintained
Tourism		Tourism remains about the same
Local Environment		The natural environment is being degraded
Which would you choose?	I'm likely to stay	I'm likely to go
	☐	☐

Where the choice experiment fits in



what features were tested in the experiment?

1. Full time work
2. Part time work
3. Young people leaving
4. The numbers of women (young and old)
5. Family and friends
6. Population change
7. Community and social life
8. Education services
9. Health services
10. Aged care
11. Local businesses and employment
12. Tourism
13. Local Environment

A total of 13 features were tested

how do people
choose?

what did they choose?

remain the same as now...

If the situation remain the same as now (basic level), 82% of the market would think staying the community.

	Stay	Go
Full time work	Levels of full time work remain about the same	
Part time work	Levels of part time work remain about the same	
Young people leaving	The proportion of young people and families remains the same	
The numbers of women (young and old)	The numbers of younger and older women remains the same	
Family and friends	Most family and friends remain in the community	
Population change	Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)	
Community and social life	Local sporting teams and local community groups continue as they are today	
Education services	The local schools remain as they are	
Health services	The current level of health services and doctors and/or nurses in the community remains the same	
Aged care	The level of aged care services is maintained	
Local businesses and employment	Some businesses and shops close but new and/or different businesses open	
Tourism	Tourism remains about the same	
Local Environment	The natural environment is being maintained	

N=740

Would stay

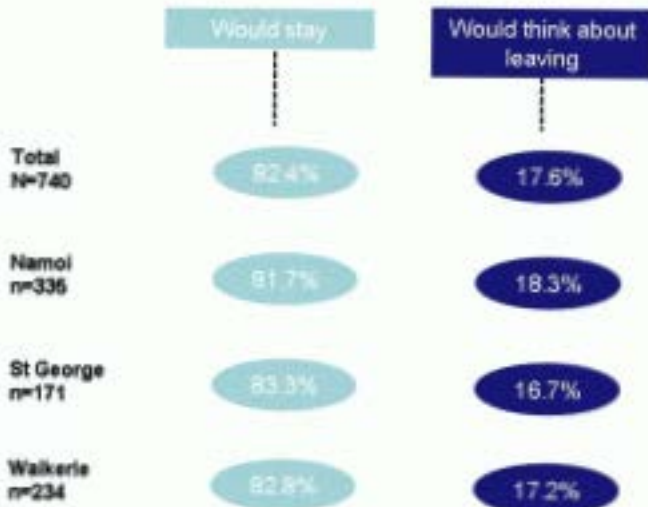
82.4%

Would think about leaving

17.6%

what did they choose in areas?

remain the same as now...



what did they choose?

By setting all attributes to their optimal level, there is a prediction of 83% would stay in the community.

optimal solution for the total community...

	Stay	Go
Full time work	Levels of full time work are increased	
Part time work	Levels of part time work are increased	
Young people leaving	The proportion of young people and families remains the same	
The numbers of women (young and old)	The numbers of younger women declines while the numbers of older women remains the same	
Family and friends	Most family and friends remain in the community	
Population change	Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)	
Community and social life	Local sporting teams and local community groups continue as they are today	
Education services	The local schools remain as they are	
Health services	The current level of health services and doctors and/or nurses in the community remains the same	
Aged care	There is an increase in aged care services and facilities	
Local businesses and employment	Some businesses and shops close but new and/or different businesses open	
Taxation	Taxation increases	
Local Environment	The natural environment is improving	

N=740

Would stay

83.3%

Would think about leaving

16.7%

what did they choose?

By setting all attributes to their optimal level, there is a prediction of 83% would stay in Namoi.

optimal solution for Namoi...

	Stay	Go
Full time work	Levels of full time work are increased	
Part time work	Levels of part time work are increased	
Young people leaving	The proportion of young people and families remains the same	
The numbers of women (young and old)	The numbers of younger women declines while the numbers of older women remains the same	
Family and friends	Most family and friends remain in the community	
Population change	Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)	
Community and social life	Local sporting teams and local community groups continue as they are today	
Education services	The local schools remain as they are	
Health services	The current level of health services and doctors and/or nurses in the community remains the same	
Aged care	There is an increase in aged care services and facilities	
Local businesses and employment	Some businesses and shops close but new and/or different businesses open	
Tourism	Tourism increases	
Local Environment	The natural environment is improving	

n=336

Would stay

82.7%

Would think about leaving

17.3%

what did they choose?

optimal solution for St George...

By setting all attributes to their optimal level, there is a prediction of 84% would stay in St George

	Stay	Go
Full time work	Levels of full time work are increased	
Part time work	Levels of part time work are increased	
Young people leaving	The proportion of young people and families remains the same	
The numbers of women (young and old)	The numbers of younger and older women remains the same	
Family and friends	Most family and friends remain in the community	
Population change	Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)	
Community and social life	Local sporting teams and local community groups continue as they are today	
Education services	The local schools remain as they are	
Health services	The current level of health services and doctors and/or nurses in the community remains the same	
Aged care	There is an increase in aged care services and facilities	
Local businesses and employment	Some businesses and shops close but new and/or different businesses open	
Tourism	Tourism increases	
Local Environment	The natural environment is improving	

n=171

Would stay

84.4%

Would think about leaving

15.6%

what did they choose?

optimal solution for Waikeria...

By setting all attributes to their optimal level, there is a prediction of 84% would stay in Waikeria

Stay	Go
Full time work	Levels of full time work are increased
Part time work	Levels of part time work are increased
Young people leaving	The proportion of young people and families remains the same
The numbers of women (young and old)	The numbers of younger and older women remains the same
Family and friends	Most family and friends remain in the community
Population change	Population remains as about the same (newcomers replace those who leave)
Community and social life	Local sporting teams and local community groups continue as they are today
Education services	The local schools remain as they are
Health services	The current level of health services and doctors and/or nurses in the community remains the same
Aged care	There is an increase in aged care services and facilities
Local businesses and employment	Some businesses and shops close but new and/or different businesses open
Tourism	Tourism increases
Local Environment	The natural environment is improving

n=234

Would stay

83.6%

Would think about leaving

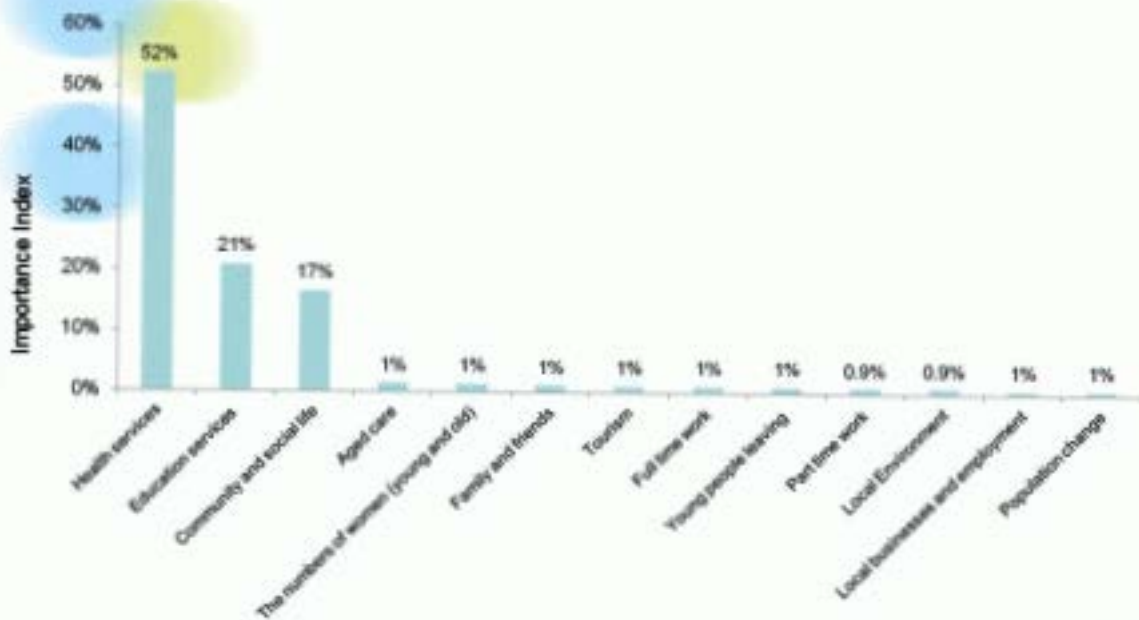
16.5%

what is important
in community
choice?

key drivers of consideration



how important are the attributes in the choice?



how important are the attributes in the choice? by areas

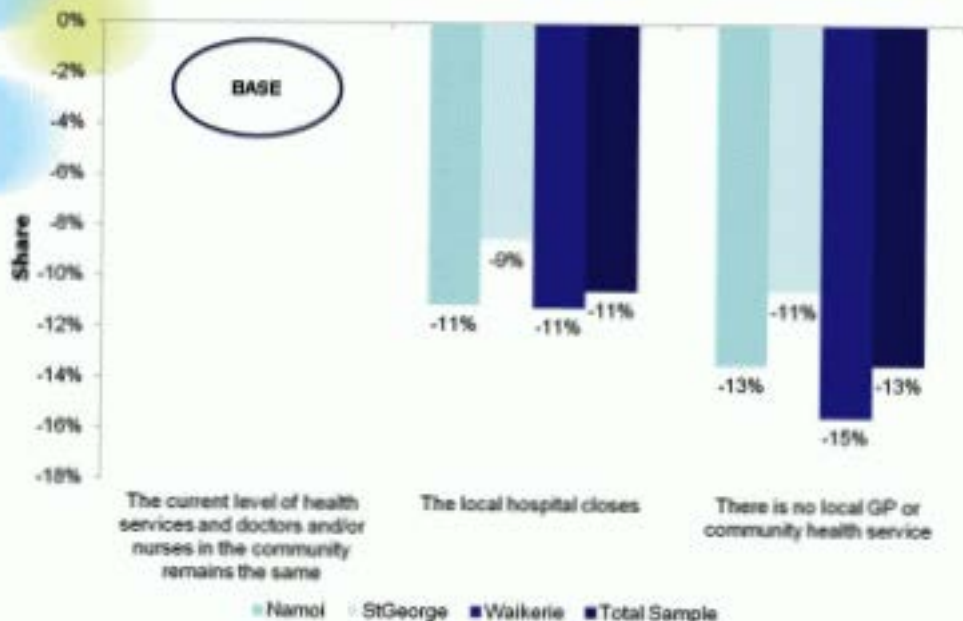
	Total Sample	Naomi	St George	Waverley
Health services	52%	54%	40%	59%
Education services	21%	20%	29%	16%
Community and social life	17%	16%	17%	17%
Aged care	1%	0%	3%	2%
The numbers of women (young and old)	1%	3%	1%	1%
Family and friends	1%	1%	2%	1%
Tourism	1%	1%	1%	2%
Full time work	1%	1%	2%	1%
Young people leaving	1%	2%	1%	0%
Part time work	1%	1%	1%	1%
Local Environment	1%	1%	2%	1%
Local businesses and employment	1%	1%	1%	0%
Population change	1%	1%	1%	0%

Base: total sample (n=740), Naomi (n=335), St George (n=171), Waverley (n=234)

what will happen when we change the levels?

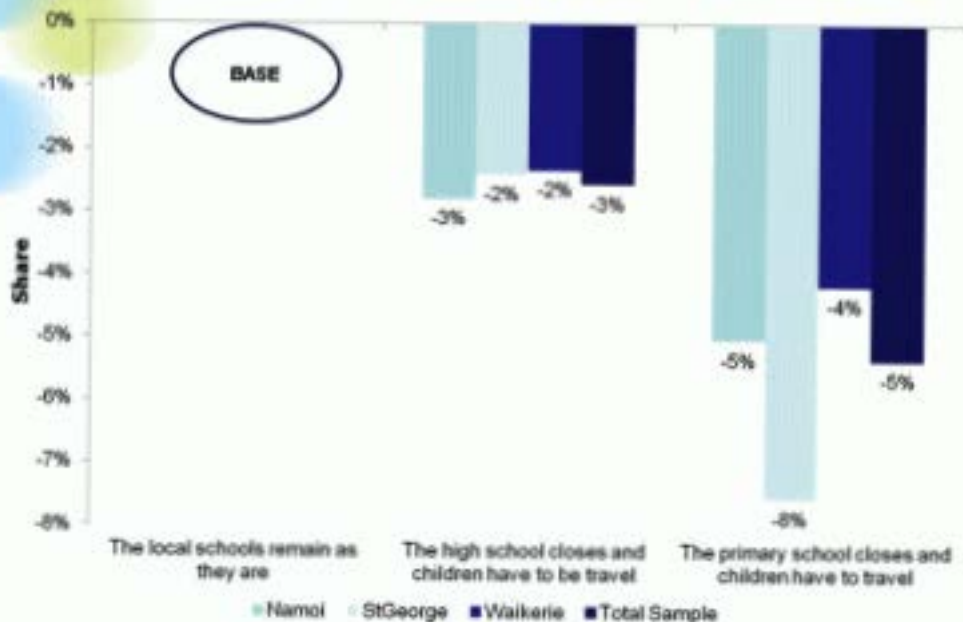
how much more or less likely if the
situation was...

how will the community react to health services?



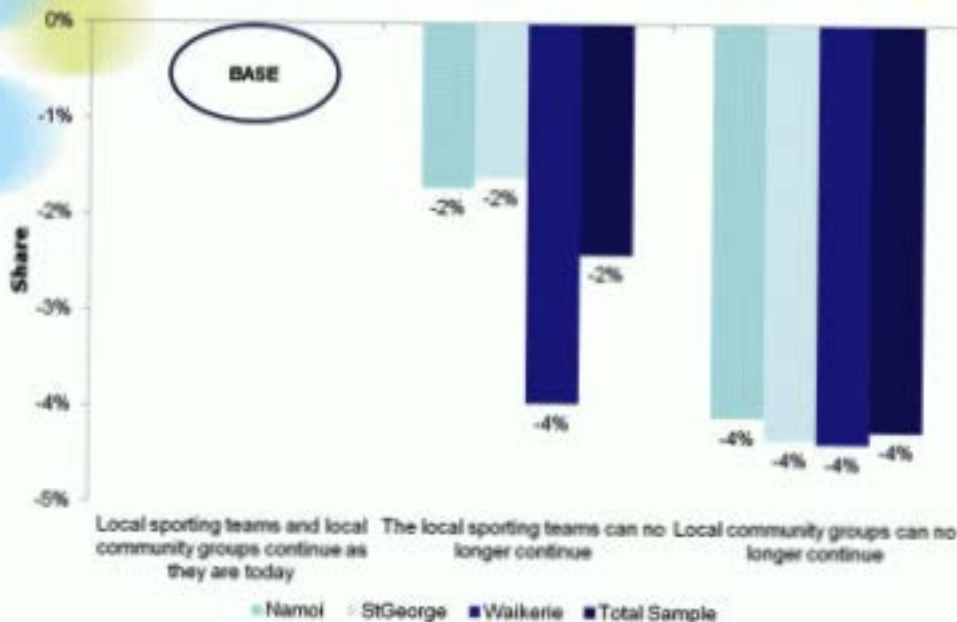
Base: total sample (n=740), Namoi (n=335), StGeorge (n=171), Walkerie (n=234)

how will the community react to education services?

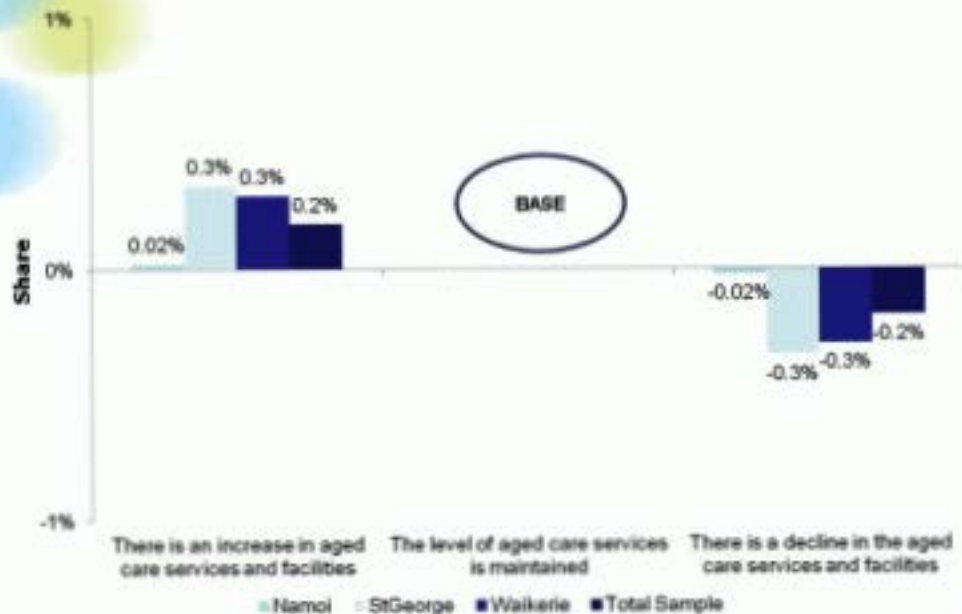


Base: total sample (n=740), Namoi (n=335), St George (n=171), Walkerie (n=234)

how will the community react to community and social life?



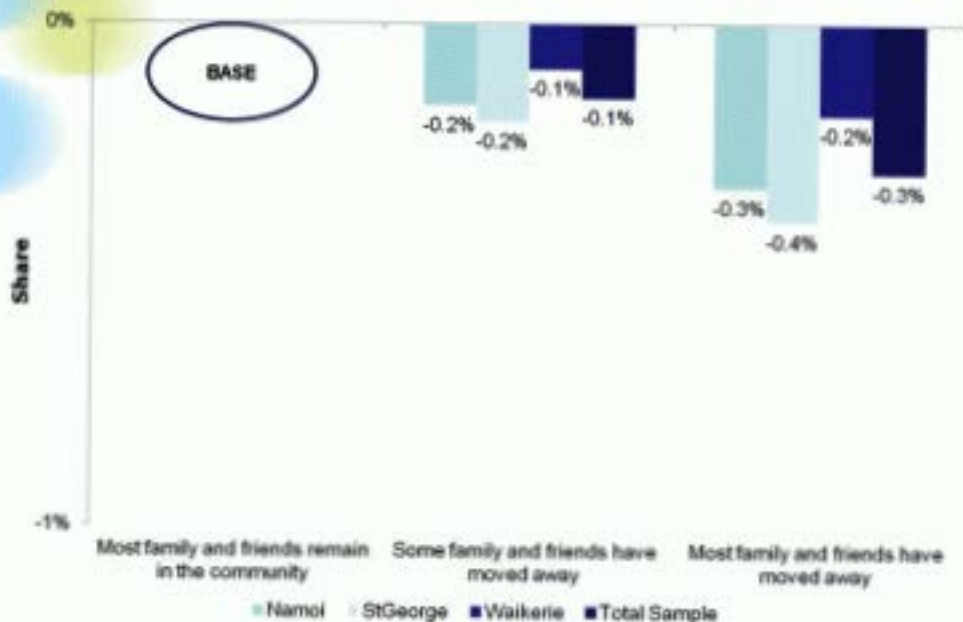
how will the community react to aged care?



How will the community react to the numbers of women (young and old)?

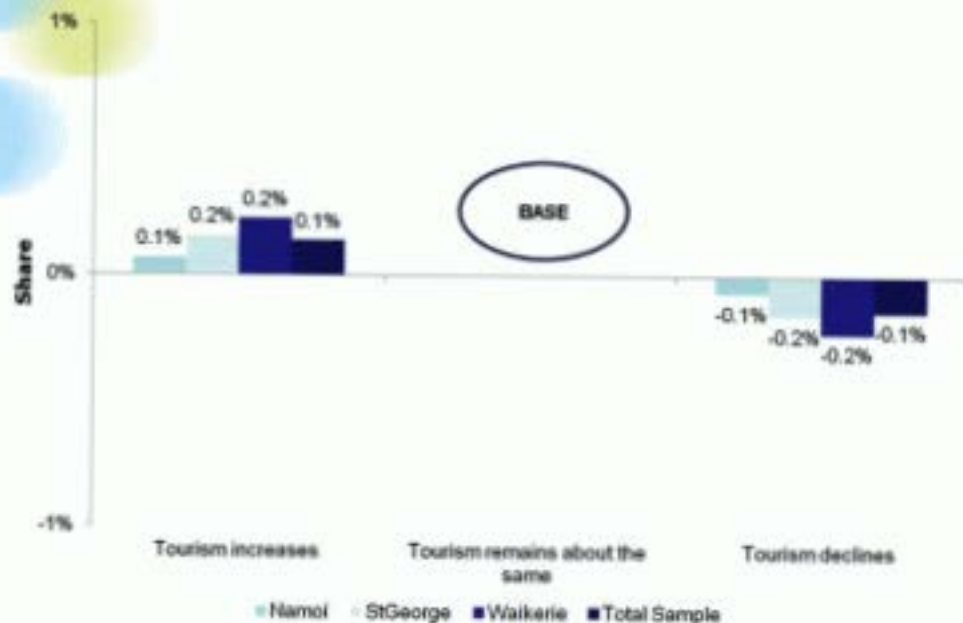


how will the community react to family and friends?



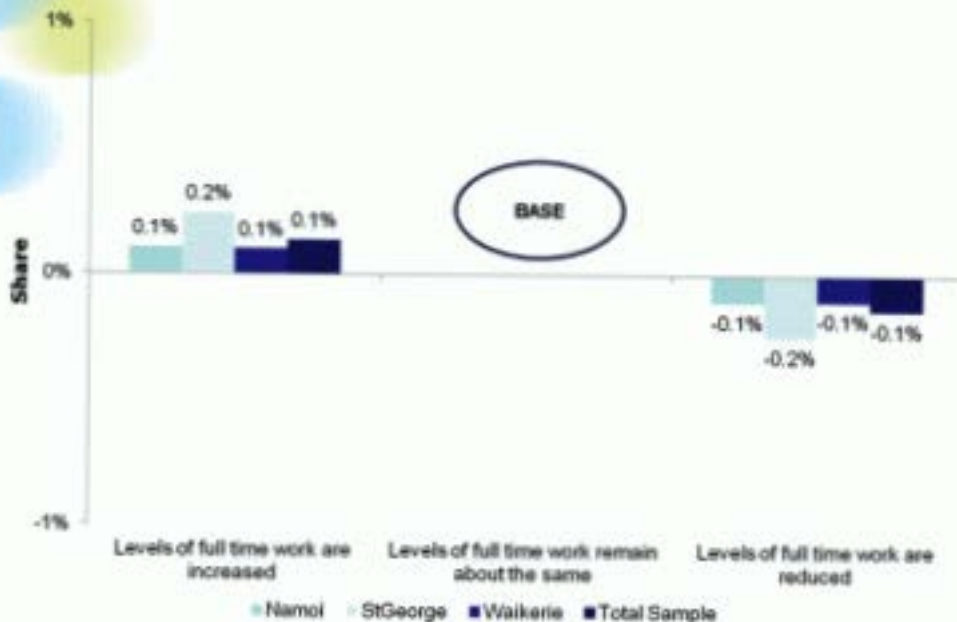
Base: total sample (n=740), Namoi (n=335), StGeorge (n=171), Waikerie (n=234)

how will the community react to tourism?



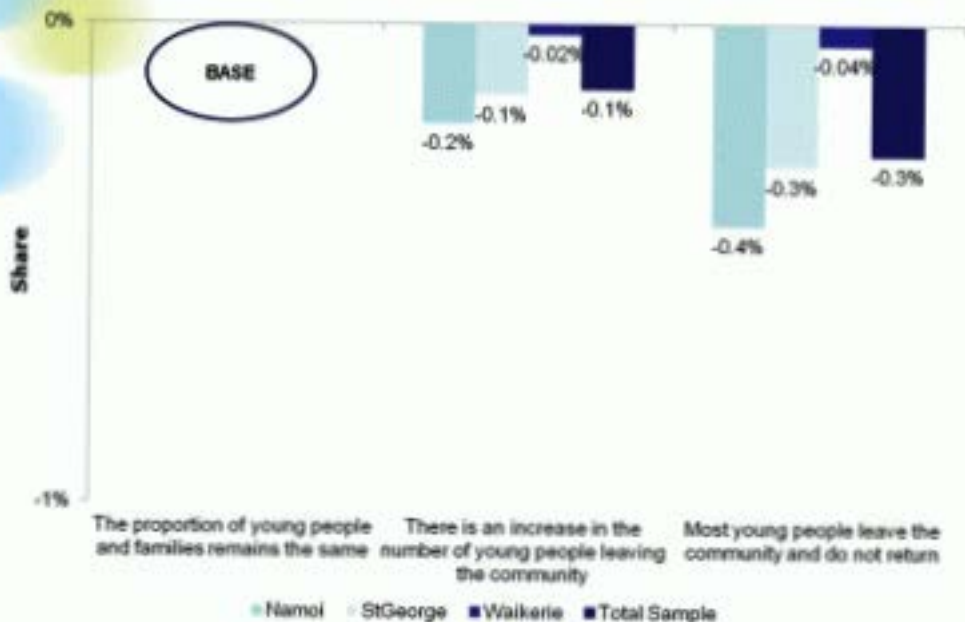
Base: total sample (n=740), Namoi (n=335), StGeorge (n=171), Walkerie (n=234)

how will the community react to full time work?

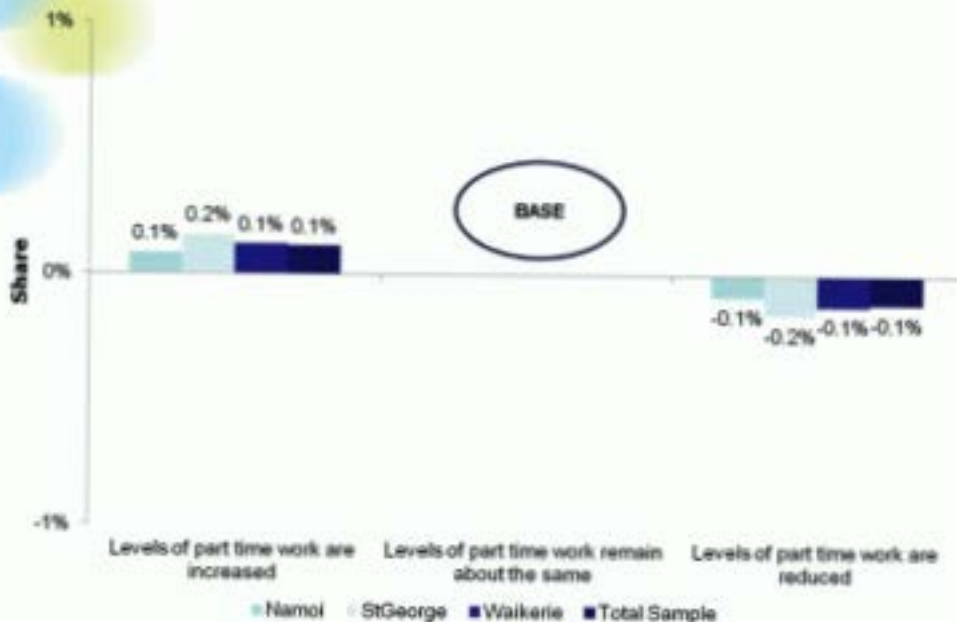


Base: total sample (n=740), Namoi (n=335), StGeorge (n=171), Walkerie (n=234)

how will the community react to young people leaving?

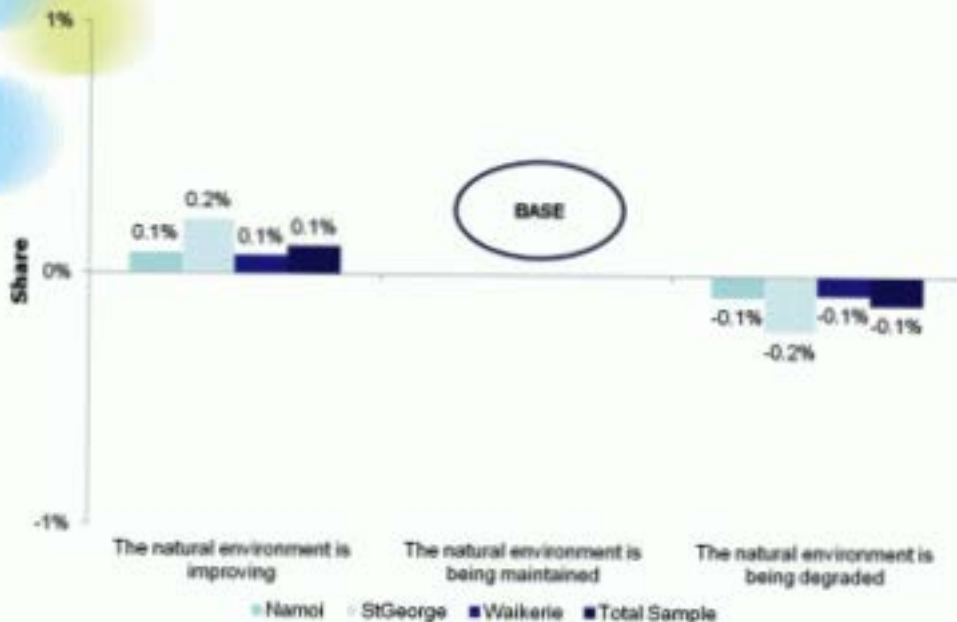


how will the community react to part time work?



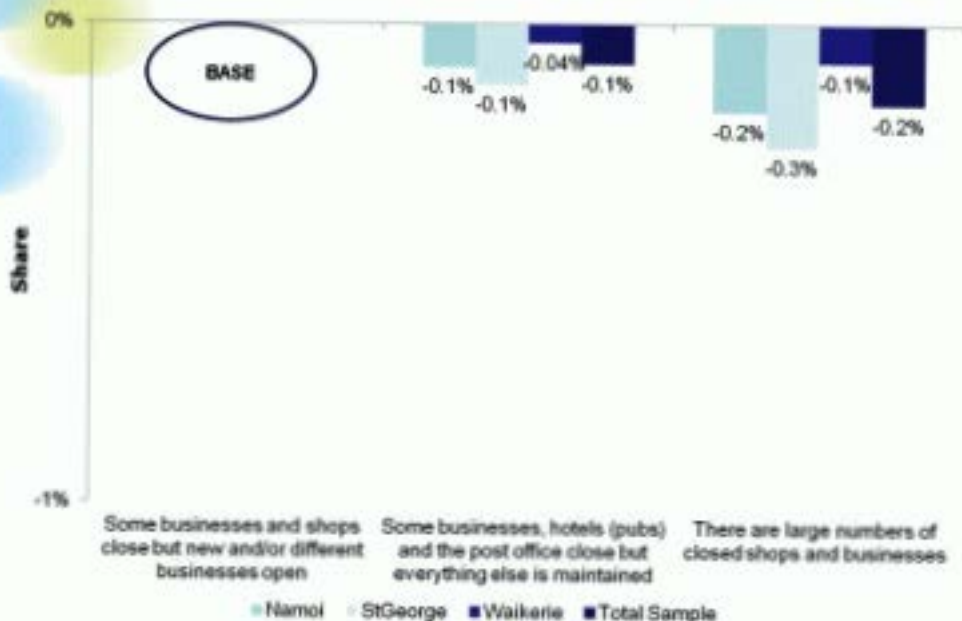
Base: total sample (n=740), Naomai (n=335), StGeorge (n=171), Walkerie (n=234)

how will the community react to local environment?

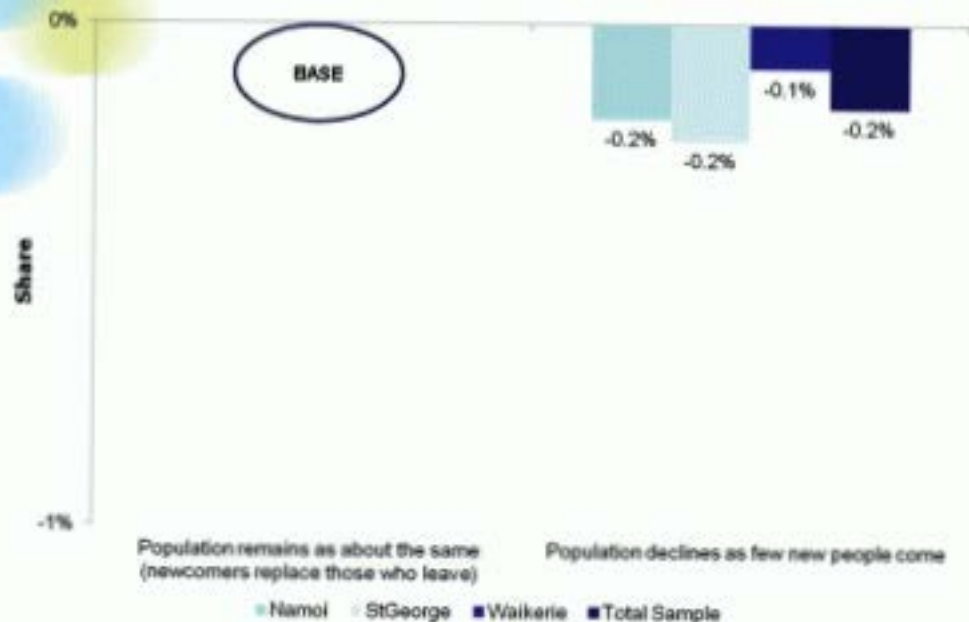


Base: total sample (n=740), Namoi (n=325), StGeorge (n=171), Walakerie (n=234)

how will the community react to local businesses and employment?



how will the community react to population change?



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