

13. Note on Method

The research used the same questionnaire structure as utilised in the 2010 survey. This was to ensure comparability with earlier results and to enable trends to be inferred. Copies of both the Residents and Business questionnaires are provided with the detailed tables, which are bound in a separate volume. In addition, the opportunity was taken to include additional questions this year on recent issues such as the proposed amalgamation and perceptions of Councillors.

The sample was drawn from Nexus Research's own sampling frames of telephone numbers selected by towns to represent Berrigan Shire. Fieldwork for the residents' survey was undertaken from 8th – 19th January 2015 and businesses from the 14th – 20th January 2015. A total of 350 interviews were conducted with residents and 101 with owners or managers of the business.

All fieldwork and subsequent coding of verbatims, quality control, tabulation and charting were conducted in-house by Nexus Research, along with the analysis and report writing. The CATI system employed was The Survey System, which was also used to process the data. Results were weighted to represent the September 2013 Profile.id total adult population of Berrigan Shire and using ABS business estimates for 2011 as a basis.

For ease of reference, the charts/tables in this report and the detailed tables in the other volume retain the question numbers from the questionnaires.

Whilst the detailed tables essentially estimate population numbers for the Berrigan Shire, the relevant sample sizes are included at the top of each column for reference in inferring the statistical confidence with which to interpret the results. When figures in a column differ materially from those for the population as a whole (usually located in the leftmost column), “+” or “-“signs are included underneath to highlight significant differences.