newDEMOCRACY

Penrith Community Panel – profile of participants

Initial recruitment

- From 5,000 invitations sent recruiting potential panellists, positive responses were received from 133 people who were available and willing to commit the meetings required.
- The Penrith Community Panel was set at 35. All selected jurors received confirmation in writing (by email) and each juror was spoken to by telephone prior to commencement. Two panellists have had to drop out of the process unexpectedly, due to extenuating circumstances.

The Jury

- From the pool of available and willing participants, a panel was recruited to broadly match the demographics of the Penrith region.
- Jury members by age group:
 - 18 24 = 325 34 = 835 44 = 545 54 = 655 64 = 665 + = 5
- Jury members by location (Council ward): East = 9 North = 10 South = 14
- Jury members by gender:
 Female = 18
 Male = 15
- Jury members by rate status: Ratepayer = 28 Tenant = 5
- NDF avoids publishing names of panellists as this can expose individual member to lobbying and direct approaches from interested parties which is not part of the process and is an unfair expectation for an everyday citizen. They are not politicians, and we avoid situations that would see them treated the same way as elected representatives would be.
- Individual panellists decide whether to speak to the media or not.
- Panel meetings are open to the public and in addition any member of the community can make a submission to be read by all panellists. Submissions are also published on the Penrith Your Say site so that the broader public can be aware of the material before the Jury.