

Polling - Support for climate action across states

April 2019

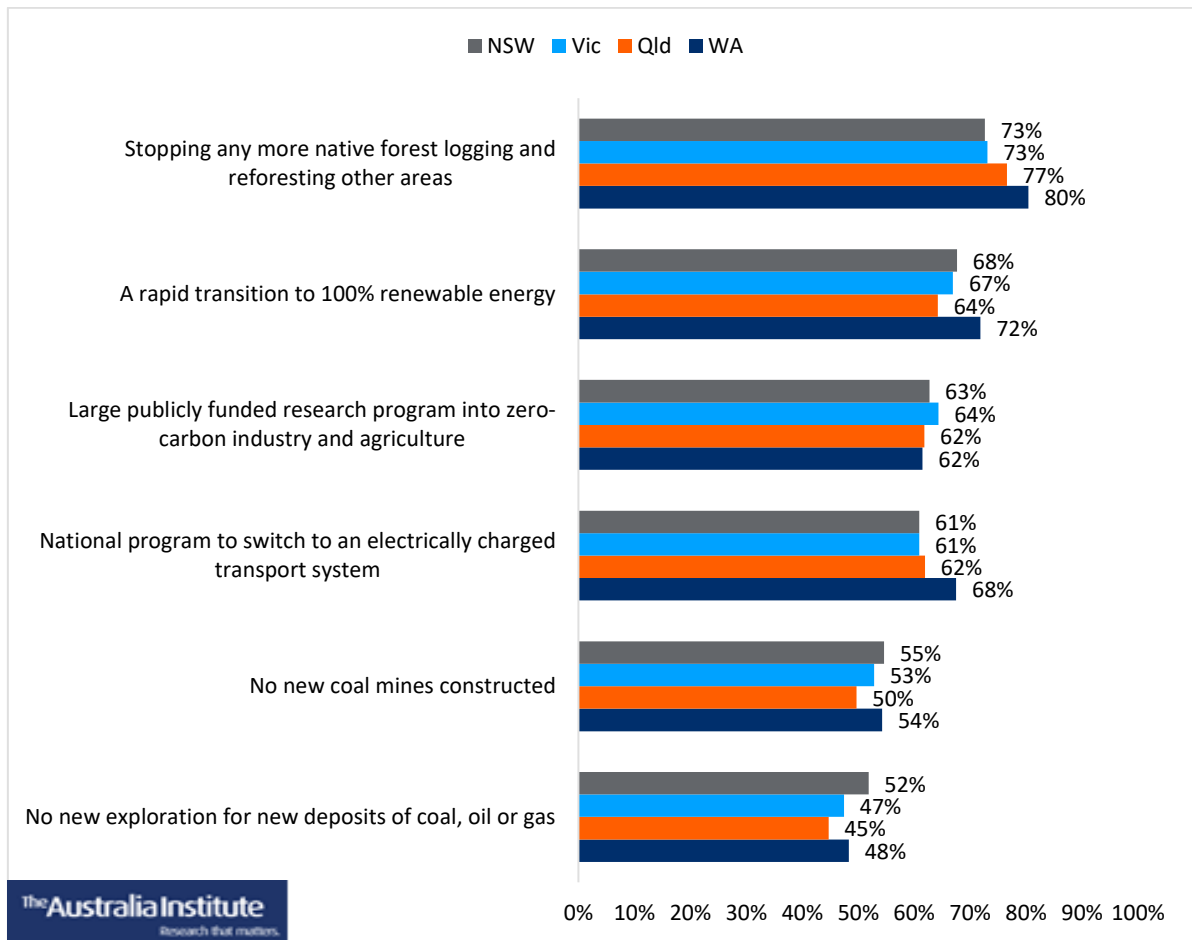
Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,536 Australians about their attitudes to climate change.

Results show support for a wide range of ambitious climate policies and broad agreement that climate change is serious and can and should be addressed. What's more, the support is present across Australia, rather than being focused in particular states.

Respondents were asked whether they support or oppose a variety of ambitious policies to tackle climate change. Results were very similar across the four states for which we have a representative sample – NSW, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia – and those results are close to the overall result for all Australians. Most of the climate policies have majority support, and all of them are supported by more people than they are opposed by.

Figure 1: Support for climate policies by state



- Support was greatest for stopping any more native forest logging and reforesting other areas (74% support, 37% strongly support).
 - Western Australians were most likely to support stopping native forest logging (80%), with people from Queensland the second most likely to support (77%)
 - Support in NSW and Victoria (73% each) was close to the national average (74%)
- Two in three (68%) supported a rapid transition to 100% renewable energy, including a majority of each party's voters
 - Support was highest in Western Australia (72%) and NSW (68%)
 - Support was also high in Victoria (67%) and Queensland (64%)
- Three in five supported a large publicly funded research program into zero-carbon industry and agriculture (63%)
 - Support was similar in each state, with 64% support in Victoria, 63% support in NSW and 62% support in Queensland and Western Australia

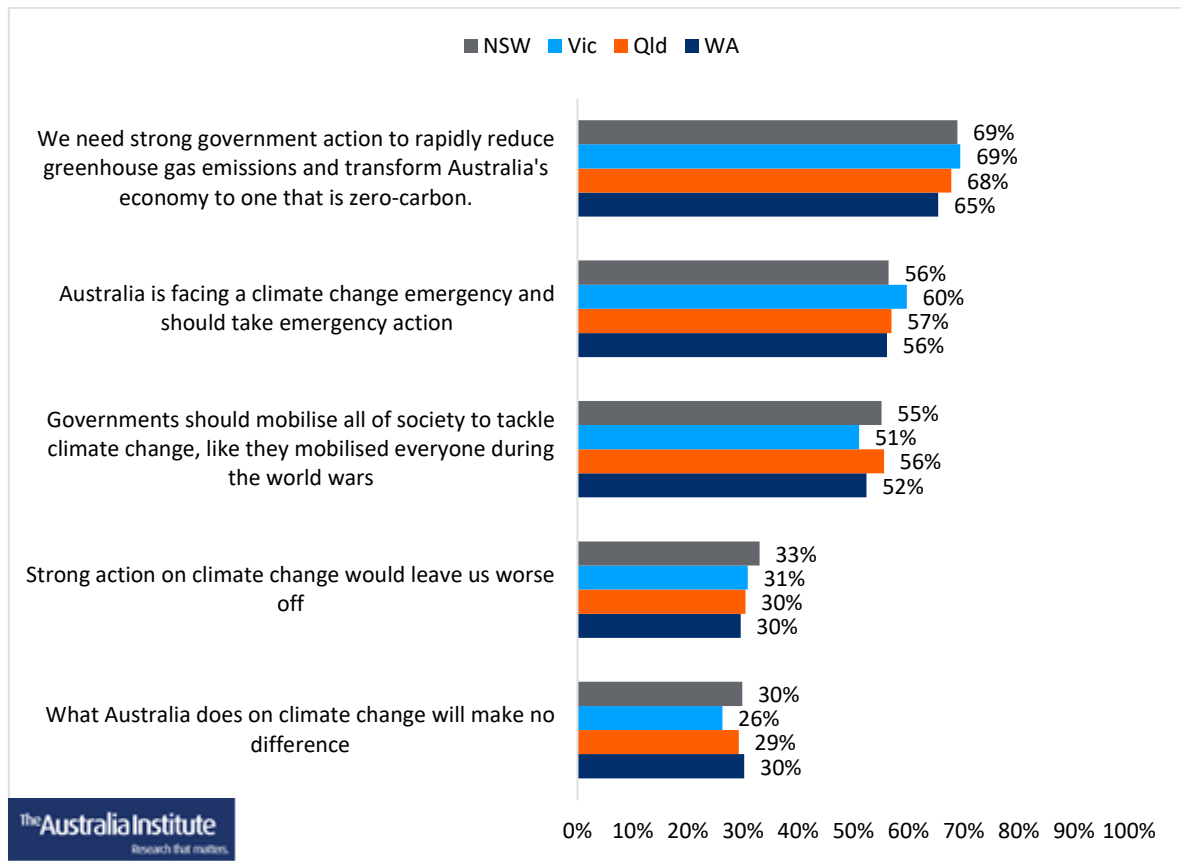
- Three in five supported a national program to switch to an electrically charged transport system (62%)
 - Western Australians were particularly supportive of the switch, at 68%
- Half of Australians supported no new coal mines constructed (53%) and no new exploration for new deposits of coal, oil or gas (49%).
 - Half of Queenslanders (50%) and more than half of Victorians (53%), Western Australia (54%) and NSW (55%) support no new coal mines constructed
 - Support for no new exploration for new deposits of coal, gas or oil is highest in NSW (52%), and somewhat lower in Western Australia (48%), Victoria (47%) and Queensland (45%)

Respondents were then presented with a series of statements relating to climate change.

All statements in support of taking ambitious action on climate change received majority agreement.

All statements opposing ambition on climate change received majority disagreement.

Figure 2: Agreement with statements about climate change



- Seven in ten (69%) respondents agreed that strong government action is needed to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transform Australia's economy to one that is zero-carbon.
 - Only 16% of respondents disagreed.
 - Two in three Western Australians agreed (65%).
 - This is four times higher than the portion from WA who disagreed (14%).
- Almost six in 10 respondents agreed that Australia is facing a climate change emergency and should take emergency action (58%).
 - Victoria had the highest agreement, at 60%.
- Over half of respondents (53%) agreed that governments should mobilise all of society to tackle climate change, like they mobilised everyone during the world wars.
 - Support was highest in Queensland (56%), but there was majority support in NSW, Victoria and WA as well.

Responses were somewhat more mixed when it came to questions about the scale and difficulty of the task of addressing climate change.

- Three in 10 respondents (30%) agreed that strong action on climate change would leave us worse off.
 - Half of respondents (50%) disagreed that strong action on climate change would leave us worse off.
 - Disagreement was highest in Queensland (55%)
- Fewer than three in 10 respondents (28%) agreed that what Australia does on climate change will make no difference
 - Six in 10 respondents (59%) disagreed that what Australia does on climate change will make no difference
 - Disagreement was highest in Queensland (60%) and Victoria (59%)

Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,536 people between 20 February 2019 and 4 March 2019, online through Dynata (formerly Research Now), with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory, and results further post-weighted by gender.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. “LNP” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” includes Centre Alliance, United Australia Party and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

To what extent do you support or oppose the following policies?

A rapid transition to 100% renewable energy

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly support	27%	29%	26%	18%	31%	17%	55%	24%
Support	40%	35%	45%	38%	45%	35%	34%	41%
Oppose	12%	17%	8%	20%	8%	19%	3%	9%
Strongly oppose	7%	10%	4%	13%	1%	15%	1%	6%
Don't know / not sure	14%	9%	18%	12%	14%	13%	7%	19%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly support	27%	28%	28%	23%	27%
Support	40%	39%	39%	41%	44%
Oppose	12%	12%	12%	15%	11%
Strongly oppose	7%	7%	8%	8%	2%
Don't know / not sure	14%	13%	13%	13%	16%

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National program to switch to an electrically charged transport system

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly support	20%	23%	18%	14%	22%	15%	42%	17%
Support	42%	43%	41%	41%	49%	33%	36%	37%
Oppose	11%	13%	9%	15%	7%	16%	8%	11%
Strongly oppose	5%	6%	4%	8%	2%	11%	2%	5%
Don't know / not sure	22%	16%	28%	22%	20%	25%	11%	30%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly support	20%	20%	23%	17%	20%
Support	42%	41%	38%	44%	48%
Oppose	11%	12%	10%	13%	7%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	5%	6%	3%
Don't know / not sure	22%	21%	24%	19%	22%

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No new exploration for new deposits of coal, oil or gas

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly support	20%	20%	20%	11%	20%	16%	50%	18%
Support	29%	28%	31%	28%	35%	19%	23%	29%
Oppose	21%	26%	16%	30%	19%	18%	9%	19%
Strongly oppose	10%	14%	7%	15%	7%	20%	3%	9%
Don't know / not sure	20%	13%	27%	17%	20%	27%	15%	25%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly support	20%	18%	20%	18%	20%
Support	29%	34%	27%	27%	29%
Oppose	21%	20%	20%	26%	23%
Strongly oppose	10%	10%	13%	11%	7%
Don't know / not sure	20%	19%	20%	18%	21%

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No new coal mines constructed

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly support	24%	24%	25%	14%	27%	15%	52%	25%
Support	29%	28%	31%	29%	33%	23%	22%	28%
Oppose	19%	23%	16%	26%	17%	24%	10%	13%
Strongly oppose	10%	14%	6%	16%	5%	20%	6%	8%
Don't know / not sure	17%	11%	23%	15%	17%	18%	10%	25%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly support	24%	22%	26%	23%	22%
Support	29%	33%	26%	27%	32%
Oppose	19%	19%	18%	25%	20%
Strongly oppose	10%	11%	12%	10%	8%
Don't know / not sure	17%	16%	17%	15%	18%

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Large publicly funded research program into zero-carbon industry and agriculture

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly support	24%	25%	23%	15%	28%	17%	44%	22%
Support	39%	38%	40%	40%	42%	24%	38%	38%
Oppose	11%	13%	9%	17%	8%	21%	4%	8%
Strongly oppose	6%	8%	3%	9%	2%	12%	3%	5%
Don't know / not sure	20%	16%	25%	18%	20%	27%	11%	28%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly support	24%	23%	25%	24%	18%
Support	39%	39%	39%	38%	44%
Oppose	11%	11%	10%	14%	14%
Strongly oppose	6%	7%	5%	7%	4%
Don't know / not sure	20%	20%	21%	18%	21%

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Stopping any more native forest logging and reforesting other areas

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly support	37%	34%	39%	25%	40%	30%	61%	38%
Support	38%	38%	37%	43%	38%	37%	30%	32%
Oppose	9%	12%	6%	14%	6%	11%	2%	8%
Strongly oppose	3%	5%	2%	6%	1%	5%	1%	3%
Don't know / not sure	14%	11%	16%	13%	14%	17%	6%	19%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly support	37%	34%	36%	37%	40%
Support	38%	38%	37%	39%	40%
Oppose	9%	10%	9%	9%	8%
Strongly oppose	3%	4%	3%	4%	1%
Don't know / not sure	14%	13%	16%	10%	10%

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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

We need strong government action to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transform Australia's economy to one that is zero-carbon.

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly agree	31%	30%	32%	19%	37%	19%	62%	26%
Agree	38%	36%	40%	41%	41%	38%	25%	36%
Disagree	11%	14%	8%	19%	7%	13%	3%	10%
Strongly disagree	5%	8%	3%	8%	2%	15%	1%	5%
Don't know / not sure	15%	11%	18%	13%	14%	15%	9%	23%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly agree	31%	31%	32%	29%	28%
Agree	38%	38%	38%	39%	37%
Disagree	11%	10%	12%	15%	11%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	7%	5%	3%
Don't know / not sure	15%	15%	12%	12%	20%

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Strong action on climate change would leave us worse off

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly agree	10%	13%	7%	15%	5%	22%	4%	9%
Agree	20%	23%	17%	29%	17%	21%	9%	15%
Disagree	30%	29%	32%	28%	35%	20%	30%	32%
Strongly disagree	20%	21%	20%	8%	27%	13%	44%	17%
Don't know / not sure	19%	14%	24%	19%	15%	25%	13%	27%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly agree	10%	13%	10%	10%	6%
Agree	20%	20%	21%	21%	24%
Disagree	30%	31%	27%	34%	31%
Strongly disagree	20%	18%	22%	21%	17%
Don't know / not sure	19%	19%	21%	15%	22%

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Governments should mobilise all of society to tackle climate change, like they mobilised everyone during the world wars

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly agree	18%	20%	16%	10%	22%	12%	38%	17%
Agree	35%	35%	36%	34%	38%	34%	35%	33%
Disagree	17%	19%	15%	24%	15%	17%	7%	15%
Strongly disagree	8%	10%	6%	12%	4%	15%	1%	8%
Don't know / not sure	22%	16%	28%	20%	22%	22%	19%	27%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly agree	18%	19%	19%	17%	15%
Agree	35%	36%	32%	38%	37%
Disagree	17%	16%	17%	16%	17%
Strongly disagree	8%	8%	9%	8%	7%
Don't know / not sure	22%	21%	24%	20%	24%

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Australia is facing a climate change emergency and should take emergency action

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly agree	23%	23%	24%	15%	25%	13%	57%	20%
Agree	35%	31%	38%	29%	42%	32%	30%	33%
Disagree	18%	21%	16%	27%	15%	19%	6%	17%
Strongly disagree	7%	11%	4%	14%	2%	18%	0%	6%
Don't know / not sure	16%	14%	18%	15%	16%	18%	8%	24%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly agree	23%	22%	24%	23%	16%
Agree	35%	34%	35%	34%	40%
Disagree	18%	22%	14%	21%	19%
Strongly disagree	7%	8%	7%	9%	5%
Don't know / not sure	16%	14%	19%	13%	20%

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What Australia does on climate change will make no difference

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	PHON	GRN	Other
Strongly agree	10%	14%	5%	16%	5%	23%	4%	6%
Agree	18%	22%	15%	28%	15%	22%	8%	14%
Disagree	34%	30%	37%	33%	38%	27%	31%	33%
Strongly disagree	25%	23%	26%	13%	31%	14%	47%	24%
Don't know / not sure	14%	11%	16%	11%	13%	15%	11%	22%

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	Total	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Strongly agree	10%	11%	11%	9%	7%
Agree	18%	19%	15%	21%	24%
Disagree	34%	33%	32%	34%	37%
Strongly disagree	25%	23%	27%	26%	17%
Don't know / not sure	14%	13%	15%	11%	16%

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