

Polling - Major Party Energy Policies

April 2019

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of Australians about which major party policies they thought would be better for reducing emissions, lowering electricity prices and energy reliability.

Figures 1-3 below show the total results.

Best policies for ...

Figure 1: reliability

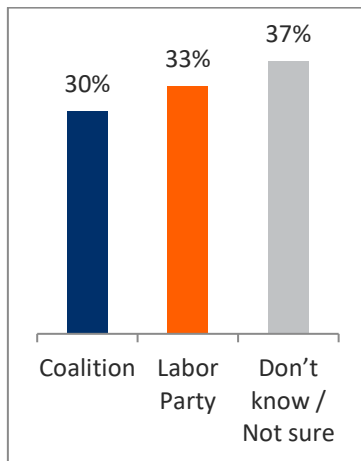


Figure 2: prices

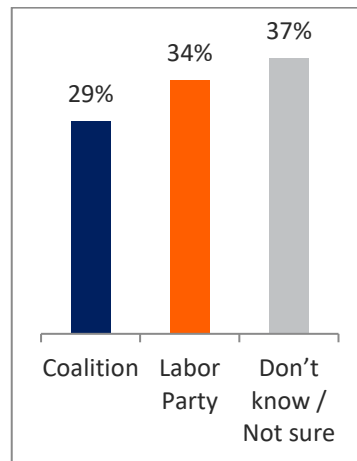
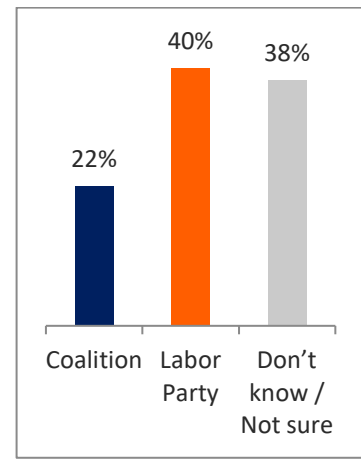


Figure 3: emissions



The results show the Australian public have very mixed views about which of the two major parties has the best energy policies for affordability, reliability and emissions.

- For each of the three categories, Labor policies were slightly preferred.
 - Two in five (40%) thought Labor policies were better for reducing emissions, compared to one in five (22%) who chose the Coalition.

- One in three (34%) respondents thought Labor policies were better for lowering electricity prices. A slightly smaller amount (29%) chose Coalition policies.
- One in three (33%) respondents thought that Labor party policies would be better for energy reliability. A similar figure (30%) thought Coalition policies were better.
- For each category, more than one in three (37-38%) respondents were unsure.
- Coalition and Labor party voters were polarised on partisan lines, being much more likely to choose their favoured major party for each category.
 - However, Labor voters showed more confidence in their party's climate and energy policies than did Coalition voters.
- Coalition voters were also more likely to choose Labor for reducing emissions than vice versa.
 - Two in five (41%) LNP voters thought that the Coalition had the best policies for reducing emissions, while one in five (19%) LNP voters thought that Labor had the best policies.
 - On the best energy policies for reducing emissions, 'Don't know/not sure' responses were highest amongst One Nation voters (54%), followed by two in five (40%) Coalition voters, two in five (39%) Greens voters and one in four (26%) Labor voters.

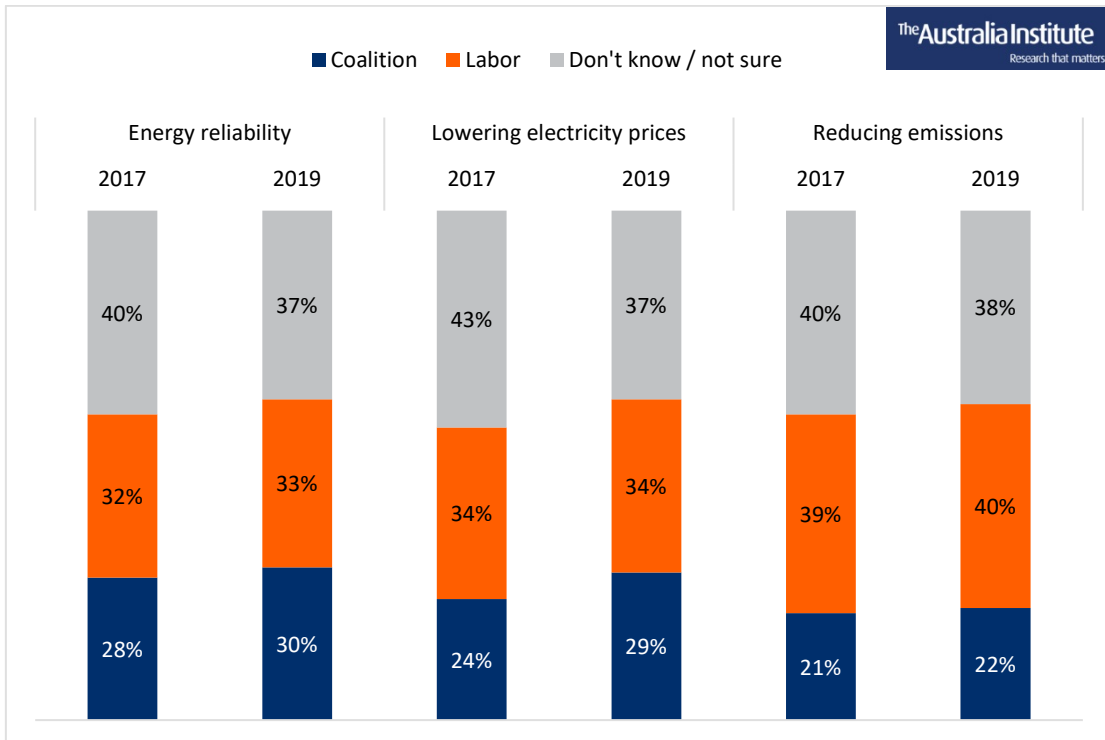
Respondents were then asked which party had the best energy policies overall.

- Two in five respondents (41%) thought that Labor had the best energy policies overall,
- less than one in three (29%) thought the Coalition had the best energy policies,
- And 30% were undecided.

Changes since 2017

The Australia Institute asked the same questions in March 2017. Despite two years of heated political debate about energy policy, results have barely changed.

Figure 4: Best major party energy policies for... - (March 2017 – April 2019)



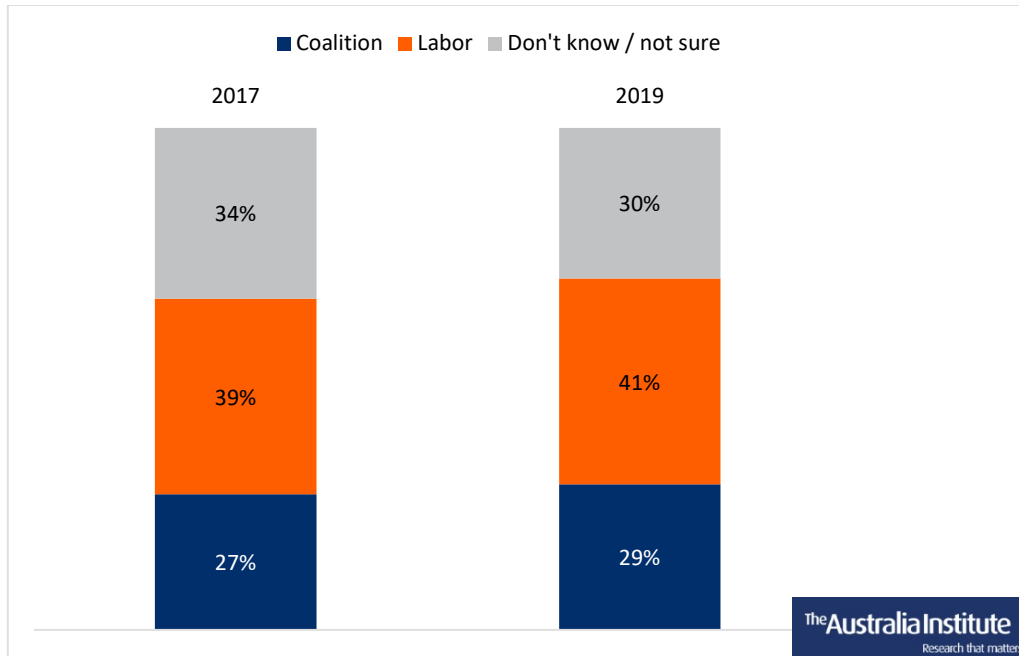
For each element of energy policy, respondents were slightly less likely in 2019 to be unsure compared with in 2017.

The biggest shift was in those who thought the Coalition policies were better for lowering electricity prices (24% in 2017 to 29% in 2019).

Note both ALP and Unsure were more likely to be chosen.

Similarly, compared with 2017, respondents in 2019 were a little less likely to be unsure and more likely to select a party's energy policies as better overall.

Figure 5: Best major party policies for energy overall— change Mar 2017 – April 2019



Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,536 people between 11 April 2019 and 18 April 2019, online through Dynata (formerly Research Now) with nationally representative samples by gender, age, state and territory, and household income.

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.

From 17 March to 24 March 2017, The Australia Institute conducted a national poll of 1420 people through Research Now using representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.

Results are presented in detail below with crosstabs by gender, larger states and voting intention in the House of Representatives.

Undecided voters were asked which way they were ‘leaning’, and these leanings are included in the party voting intention crosstabs. Results for undecided voters are also shown separately as ‘Undec’. ‘LNP’ combines separate responses for Liberals and Nationals. ‘Ind/Other’ combines responses for Independent / Other and for the Nick Xenophon Team.

Detailed results - 2019

Thinking about the energy policies of the major parties, which policies do you think will be better for:

Energy Reliability

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	30%	36%	24%	32%	26%	32%	33%
Labor Party	33%	35%	31%	33%	41%	30%	26%
Don't know / Not sure	37%	29%	45%	35%	34%	39%	41%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	59%	8%	12%	37%	25%	14%
Labor Party	10%	64%	45%	9%	16%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	31%	28%	43%	54%	59%	71%

Lowering electricity prices

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	29%	34%	23%	30%	25%	32%	32%
Labor Party	34%	34%	34%	35%	39%	31%	31%
Don't know / Not sure	37%	32%	43%	35%	36%	38%	37%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	56%	9%	12%	37%	20%	12%
Labor Party	12%	61%	46%	14%	23%	18%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	30%	42%	49%	57%	70%

Reducing Emissions

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	22%	25%	18%	21%	20%	23%	27%
Labor Party	40%	43%	37%	42%	44%	35%	36%
Don't know / Not sure	38%	31%	45%	37%	36%	42%	37%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	41%	7%	12%	27%	14%	9%
Labor Party	19%	67%	49%	19%	28%	20%
Don't know / Not sure	40%	26%	39%	54%	57%	71%

Thinking about the energy policies of the major parties, which do you think is better overall?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	29%	34%	24%	31%	25%	32%	30%
Labor Party	41%	43%	38%	40%	46%	37%	38%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	23%	38%	29%	29%	32%	32%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	63%	4%	10%	41%	19%	12%
Labor Party	10%	78%	59%	12%	24%	18%
Don't know / Not sure	27%	18%	32%	47%	57%	71%

Detailed results - 2017

Thinking about the energy policies of the major parties, which policies do you think will be better for...

Energy reliability

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	28%	35%	20%	26%	26%	33%	24%
Labor	32%	33%	32%	33%	37%	27%	36%
Don't know / not sure	40%	32%	47%	41%	37%	39%	40%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	60%	10%	8%	25%	12%	15%
Labor	10%	58%	44%	20%	29%	16%
Don't know / not sure	30%	32%	48%	55%	59%	69%

Lowering electricity prices

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	24%	30%	17%	24%	23%	26%	23%
Labor	34%	35%	33%	31%	36%	32%	38%
Don't know / not sure	43%	35%	50%	45%	41%	42%	39%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	55%	7%	25%	21%	14%	14%
Labor	9%	60%	20%	23%	19%	16%
Don't know / not sure	36%	33%	55%	56%	67%	71%

Reducing emissions

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	21%	24%	18%	21%	21%	24%	22%
Labor	39%	43%	35%	40%	43%	35%	35%
Don't know / not sure	40%	33%	47%	40%	37%	40%	43%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	47%	9%	12%	4%	9%	11%
Labor	21%	60%	20%	26%	24%	22%
Don't know / not sure	32%	32%	68%	70%	67%	67%

Thinking about the energy policies of the major parties, which do you think is better overall?

	Total	M	F	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	27%	33%	20%	26%	25%	32%	23%
Labor	39%	40%	38%	39%	41%	33%	43%
Don't know / not sure	34%	27%	42%	35%	34%	35%	34%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Coalition	61%	6%	6%	29%	13%	10%
Labor	11%	71%	54%	21%	22%	24%
Don't know / not sure	28%	23%	39%	50%	65%	66%