

Polling - Climate Change Policy

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,417 Australians between 5th and 7th of December 2017 about Australian greenhouse gas emissions and climate change policy.

Emissions have increased now for three years in a row, since the repeal of the carbon price. Energy emissions are now at record highs. Under the Paris Agreement, Australia has pledged an emissions target of 26-28% reduction on 2005 level by 2030, but there are no credible policies to get there. The Paris Agreement also includes a commitment to review and consider increasing ambition. Yet while Australia's government considers subsidising new coal mines and power plants, and a 'National Energy Guarantee' policy touted as a support for coal, other countries – like the UK, Canada, France, Italy and New Zealand - are pledging to phase out coal power by 2030.

- More than two thirds (70%) of respondents said Australia's emissions are staying about the same (36%) or going up (34%).
 - Only 9% said emissions are going down.
- 44% said Australia is not on track to meet its 2030 emissions target, while only 25% said it is on track.
 - 31% said they don't know.
- 58% said Australia should increase its ambition on cutting emissions.
 - 25% said Australia should not increase its ambition.
 - Increased ambition was supported by most voters for ALP (64%), Greens (85%), Other (57%) and undecided voters (51%).
 - Around half of LNP voters supported increase ambition (47%), higher than opposed it (37%). One Nation voters had the lowest support (36%).
- 60% supported Australia joining the Powering Past Coal Alliance to phase out coal power by 2030.
 - Only 22% opposed joining the Alliance.
 - There was majority support from voters for most parties, including LNP (50%), ALP (67%), and Other (56%). The exception was One Nation voters (36%)

Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1417 people between 5th and 7th of December 2017 online through Research Now with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory.

Results are shown only for larger states. Income crosstabs show household income.

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 Nick Xenophon Team and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

To the best of your knowledge, are Australia's greenhouse gas emissions currently going up or down?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Going up	34%	33%	35%	33%	33%	32%
Staying about the same	36%	38%	33%	38%	34%	38%
Going down	9%	11%	8%	8%	10%	10%
Don't know / note sure	21%	18%	24%	21%	23%	20%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Going up	25%	38%	55%	19%	32%	31%
Staying about the same	43%	32%	28%	44%	31%	23%
Going down	15%	6%	4%	15%	7%	6%
Don't know / note sure	18%	23%	13%	21%	30%	40%

Australia currently has a target of cutting emissions by 26-28% on 2005 levels by 2030.

Thinking about current policy settings, do you think Australia is currently on track to meet its emissions targets?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Yes	25%	29%	21%	26%	25%	26%
No	44%	44%	45%	46%	43%	42%
Don't know	31%	28%	34%	29%	32%	32%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Yes	35%	22%	21%	25%	15%	11%
No	33%	48%	60%	34%	52%	38%
Don't know	32%	30%	19%	41%	32%	51%

In the Paris Agreement on climate change, countries agreed to review their targets and consider increasing ambition.

Do you think Australia should increase its ambition on cutting emissions?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Yes	58%	53%	63%	58%	59%	55%
No	25%	32%	18%	26%	21%	29%
Don't know	17%	15%	19%	16%	20%	16%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Yes	47%	64%	85%	36%	57%	51%
No	37%	17%	6%	44%	24%	13%
Don't know	16%	19%	10%	20%	19%	36%

Countries like Canada, France, the UK, Italy and New Zealand have joined an international alliance pledging to phase out coal power in their countries by 2030.

Should Australia join this alliance?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Yes	60%	57%	63%	58%	63%	55%
No	22%	28%	15%	23%	18%	27%
Don't know / now sure	18%	15%	22%	19%	19%	18%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Yes	50%	67%	87%	36%	56%	50%
No	30%	13%	6%	43%	22%	15%
Don't know / now sure	19%	20%	7%	21%	22%	35%