

Polling - Price on Pollution

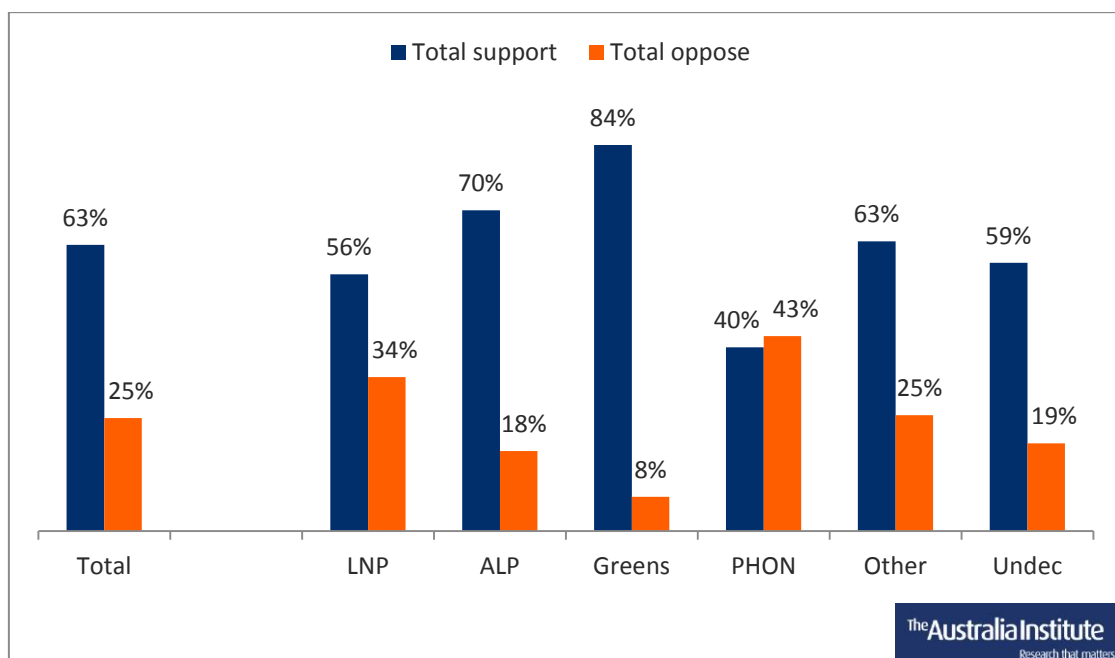
November 2018

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,459 Australians about putting a price on pollution and Tony Abbott's decision to remove the previous price on pollution.

- Two thirds of respondents (63%) supported a price on pollution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- One in five (21%) strongly supported it.
- A quarter (25%) opposed, including one in ten (10%) strongly opposed.

Figure 1: Do you support or oppose putting a price on pollution to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions?



Most voters for most parties supported a price on pollution.

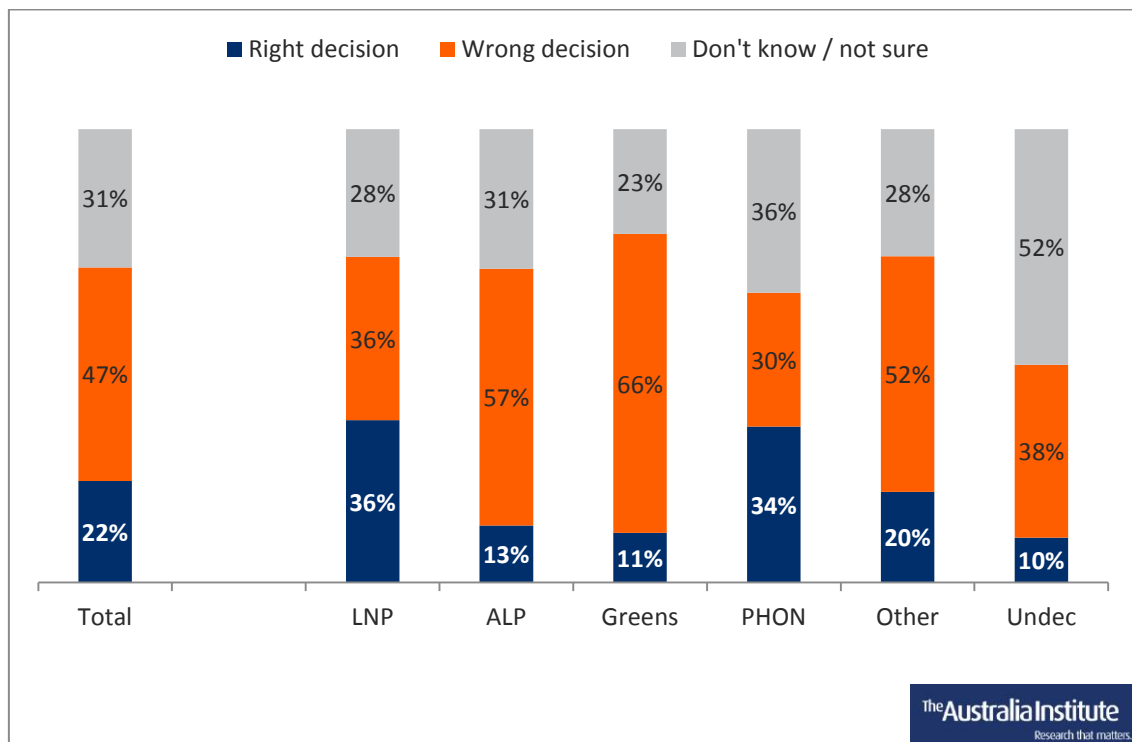
- Most LNP voters supported a price on pollution (56%) while a third opposed (34%).
- Most undecided voters supported a price on pollution (59%).

- Nearly three in four ALP voters supported a price on pollution (70%), two thirds of Other voters (63%) and nearly all Greens voters (84%).
- One Nation voters were about as likely to oppose (43%) as support (40%).

Respondents were then asked if they thought Tony Abbott made the right or wrong decision to get rid of the price on pollution.

- About half said he made the wrong decision (47%).
- About one in five said he made the right decision (22%).
- Around a third said they did not know (31%).
 - The difference in results here is driven by more people saying they did not know.

Figure 2: Do you think Tony Abbott made the right or wrong decision to get rid of Australia's price on pollution?



There was some interesting variance by voting intention.

- Only a third of LNP voters (36%) and One Nation voters (34%) said he made the right decision. Similar numbers said he made the wrong decision (36% LNP, 30% PHON).
- A majority said he made the wrong decision amongst Other voters (52%), ALP voters (57%) and Greens voters (66%).

- Those saying they did not know were more likely to be Undecided (52%), One Nation voters (36%) or ALP voters (31%).

Respondents were finally asked to respond to a statement:

Given what has happened to energy in Australia in recent years, Australia would have been better off if Tony Abbott had kept the price of pollution instead of getting rid of it.

Results were similar to the previous question.

- About half agreed (49%).
- About one in five disagreed (18%).

The prompt to think about what happened in energy recently had little impact on responses. There could be many reasons for this; it might have been already in mind when thinking about Abbott's decision, or it might not have been that significant to respondents. This is a question for further research.

Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,459 people 26 October and 6 November 2018, online through Research Now, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory.

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

Do you support or oppose putting a price on pollution to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Qld	Vic
Total support	63%	63%	62%	63%	58%	64%
Total oppose	25%	28%	22%	25%	30%	24%
Strongly support	21%	23%	19%	20%	20%	25%
Support	42%	41%	43%	43%	38%	40%
Oppose	15%	16%	14%	15%	18%	14%
Strongly oppose	10%	11%	8%	10%	12%	10%
Don't know / not sure	13%	9%	16%	13%	12%	12%

	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Total support	56%	70%	84%	40%	63%	59%
Total oppose	34%	18%	8%	43%	25%	19%
Strongly support	13%	25%	39%	11%	23%	15%
Support	43%	46%	45%	30%	41%	43%
Oppose	20%	12%	4%	23%	15%	14%
Strongly oppose	13%	5%	3%	20%	11%	6%
Don't know / not sure	10%	12%	8%	17%	11%	22%

Do you think Tony Abbott made the right or wrong decision to get rid of Australia's price on pollution?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Qld	Vic
Right decision	22%	30%	15%	23%	25%	21%
Wrong decision	47%	49%	45%	48%	45%	47%
Don't know / not sure	31%	21%	40%	29%	30%	32%

	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Right decision	36%	13%	11%	34%	20%	10%
Wrong decision	36%	57%	66%	30%	52%	38%
Don't know / not sure	28%	31%	23%	36%	28%	52%

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

Given what has happened to energy in Australia in recent years, Australia would have been better off if Tony Abbott had kept the price of pollution instead of getting rid of it.

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Qld	Vic
Total support	49%	52%	46%	49%	47%	53%
Total oppose	18%	23%	14%	19%	21%	17%
Strongly agree	16%	19%	13%	15%	13%	21%
Agree	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	32%
Disagree	13%	15%	10%	12%	13%	12%
Strongly disagree	6%	8%	4%	7%	8%	5%
Don't know / not sure	33%	25%	41%	33%	33%	30%

	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Total support	38%	57%	71%	41%	52%	35%
Total oppose	30%	12%	3%	23%	18%	10%
Strongly agree	9%	19%	34%	9%	17%	6%
Agree	29%	38%	37%	32%	35%	29%
Disagree	20%	10%	1%	16%	11%	7%
Strongly disagree	10%	2%	2%	7%	7%	3%
Don't know / not sure	32%	31%	27%	36%	30%	55%