

Polling - State border closures due to COVID-19

May 2020

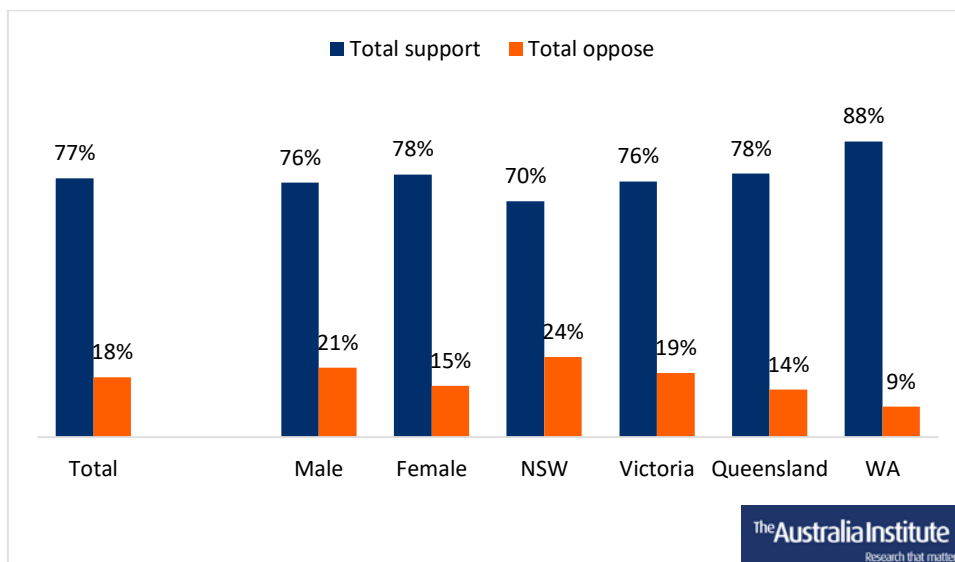
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,005 Australians about their view on states closing their borders to interstate travel.

Most Australians support the state border closures.

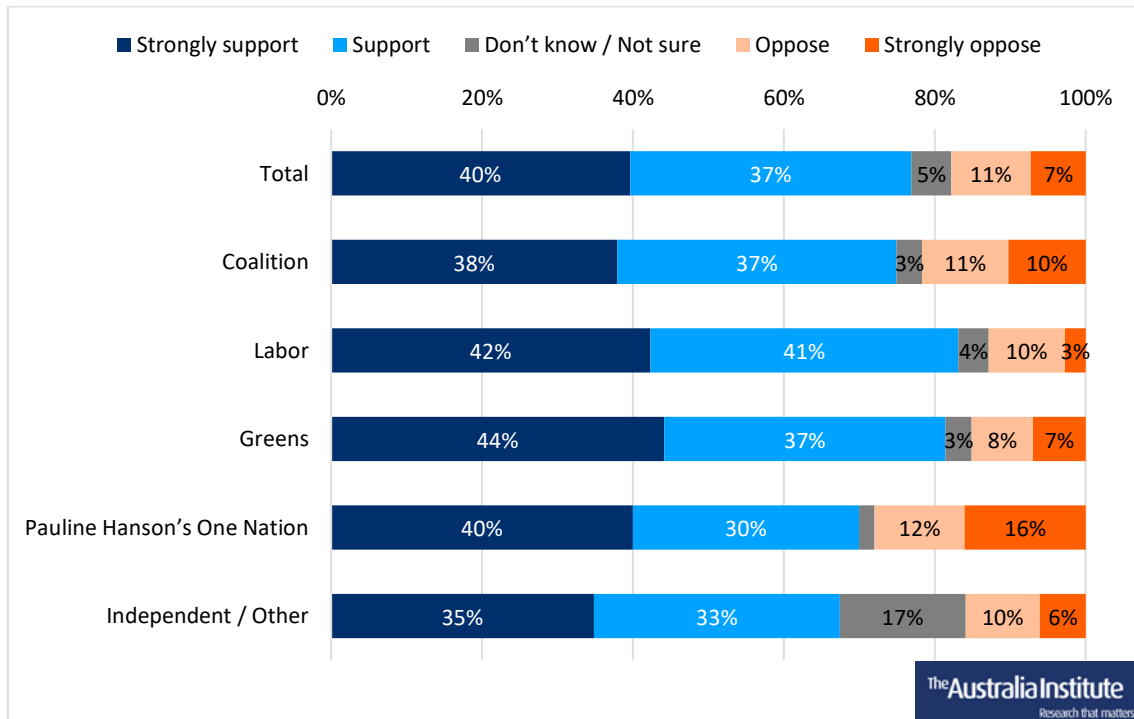
- Three in four Australians (77%) support state border closures, including 40% who strongly support the closures.
 - Only one in five Australians (18%) oppose state border closures.
- Among the four largest states, support for state border closures is highest in Western Australia (88%).
 - Support for state border closures is 78% in Queensland, 76% in Victoria and 70% in New South Wales.
 - 9% of Western Australians and 14% of Queenslanders oppose border closures, compared to 19% of Victorians and 24% of those in NSW.

Figure 1: Do you support or oppose state border closures?



- Four in five Labor (83%) and Greens (81%) voters support state border closures, as do three in four Coalition voters (75%).
 - 70% of One Nation and 67% of Independent/Other voters support state border closures.
- Support is similar among women (78%) and men (76%), but opposition is significantly higher among men (21%) than women (15%).

Figure 2: Do you support or oppose state border closures?

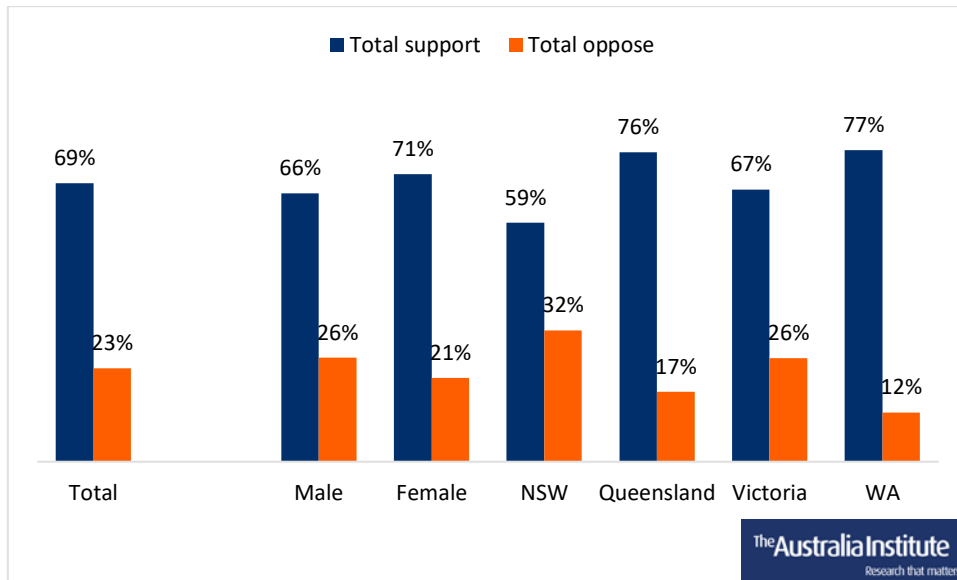


Respondents were then asked specifically about how the Queensland Government has handled that state’s border closures.

Queensland was chosen because its border closure has attracted more comment and criticism than the border closures of other states.

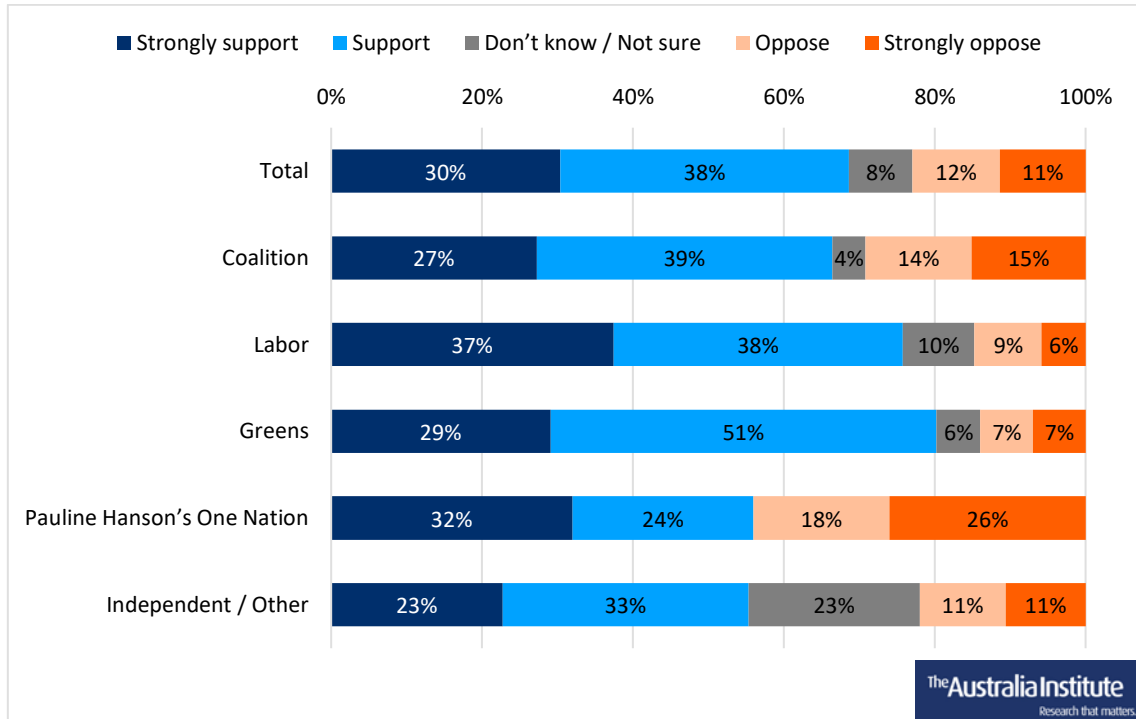
- Seven in 10 Australians (69%) support the Queensland Government’s handling of the border closure.
 - 30% strongly support the Queensland Government’s handling.
 - 23% oppose the Queensland Government’s handling of the border closure, including 11% strongly opposed.
- Support for the Queensland Government’s handling of the border closure is highest in Queensland (76%) and Western Australia (77%).
 - Three in five NSW residents (59%) and two in three Victorians (67%) support the Queensland Government’s handling of the border closure.

Figure 3: Do you support or oppose how Qld Govt has handled their border closure?



- Support for the Queensland Government’s handling of the border closure is highest among Greens (80%), Labor (76%) and Coalition (66%) voters.
 - A majority of One Nation (56%) and Independent/Other voters (55%) also support the Queensland Government’s handling of the border.

Figure 4: Do you support or oppose how Qld Govt has handled their border closure?



Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,005 people on 27–28 May 2020, online through Dynata’s Rapid Results polling, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and region.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the national results is 3.1%.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. “Coalition” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” includes Centre Alliance, Jacqui Lambie Network and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

Some states have temporarily closed their borders to interstate travel in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Do you support or oppose these border closures?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	40%	42%	38%	31%	39%	33%	60%
Support	37%	34%	40%	39%	37%	45%	28%
Oppose	11%	11%	10%	15%	10%	10%	5%
Strongly oppose	7%	9%	5%	9%	9%	5%	4%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	4%	7%	6%	5%	8%	3%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	40%	38%	42%	44%	40%	35%
Support	37%	37%	41%	37%	30%	33%
Oppose	11%	11%	10%	8%	12%	10%
Strongly oppose	7%	10%	3%	7%	16%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	3%	4%	3%	2%	17%

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has said that Queensland’s border with New South Wales could remain closed until September. In the meantime, the decision will be reviewed monthly and the border may open earlier than September or later than September.

Do you support or oppose how the Queensland government has handled their border closure?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Queensland	Victoria	WA
Strongly support	30%	30%	30%	22%	33%	30%	38%
Support	38%	36%	40%	37%	43%	37%	38%
Oppose	12%	12%	11%	17%	9%	12%	7%
Strongly oppose	11%	13%	9%	15%	9%	14%	5%
Don’t know / Not sure	8%	8%	9%	9%	7%	7%	11%

	Total	Coalition	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other
Strongly support	30%	27%	37%	29%	32%	23%
Support	38%	39%	38%	51%	24%	33%
Oppose	12%	14%	9%	7%	18%	11%
Strongly oppose	11%	15%	6%	7%	26%	11%
Don’t know / Not sure	8%	4%	10%	6%	0%	23%