

# Polling - Great Australian Bight

*November 2019*

## Key Results

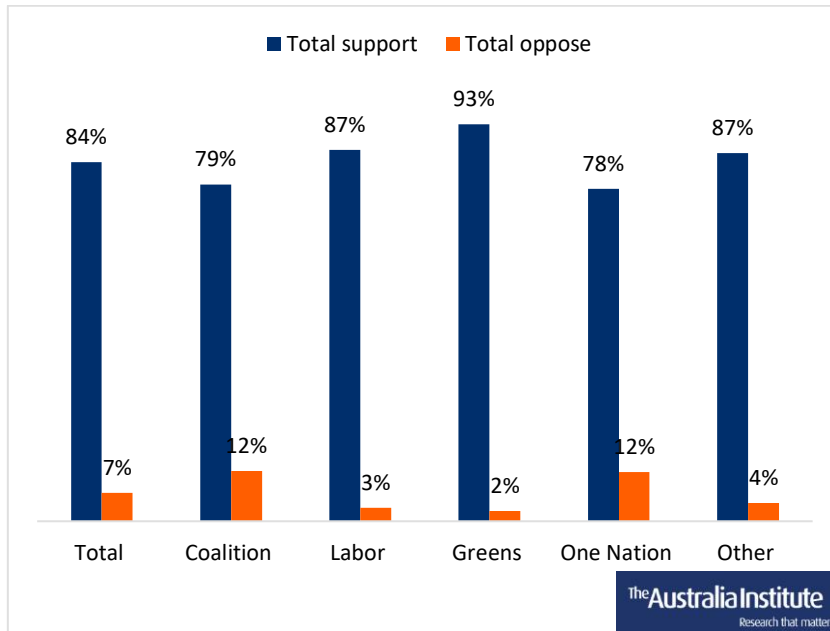
The Australia Institute surveyed a state representative sample of 503 South Australians about oil and gas extraction in the Great Australian Bight.

Results show that South Australians support World Heritage protection for the Bight and think that the Bight would be a more productive asset as a World Heritage listed marine park than as an oil field. If oil drilling does occur, South Australians think that the South Australian people should receive the majority of any resulting profits.

Respondents were first asked whether they support or oppose World Heritage protection for the Bight.

- 84% of South Australians support World Heritage protection, including 53% who strongly support it.
  - Only 7% oppose or strongly oppose World Heritage protection.
- World Heritage protection is supported by at least three-quarters of men and women, each voting intention, all age groups and all household incomes.

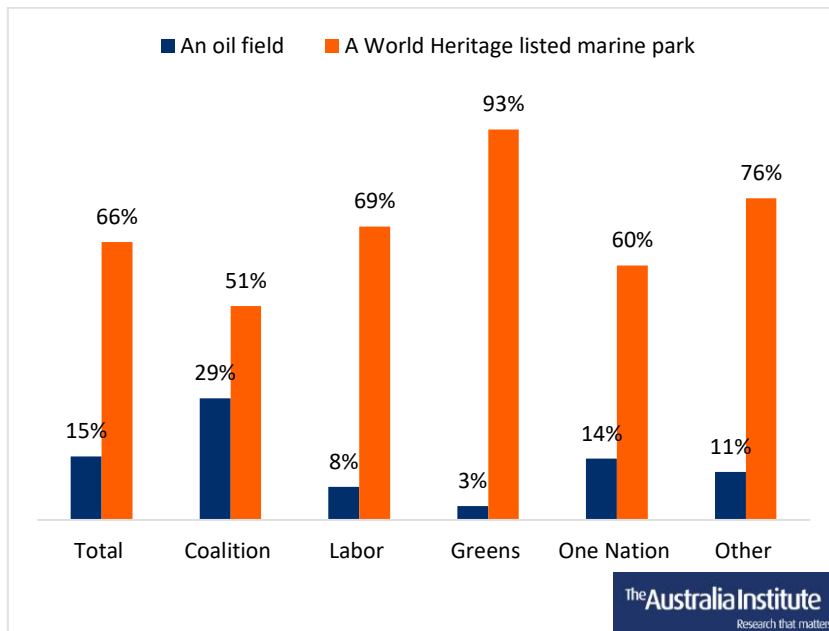
**Figure 1: Support for World Heritage protection for the Bight**



Respondents were also asked if they thought that the Bight would be a more productive asset for South Australia as an oil field or as a World Heritage listed marine park.

- Two in three South Australians (66%) say the Bight would be a more productive asset as a World Heritage listed marine park
  - 15% say the Bight would be a more productive asset as an oil field
- A majority of South Australians of each voting intention say the Bight would be more productive as a World Heritage listed marine park.

**Figure 2: Bight more productive as oil field or World Heritage listed marine park**



Respondents were then asked who should receive the majority of any resulting profits, if companies were allowed to drill for oil in the Bight.

- Three in five South Australians (60%) say that the South Australian people should receive the majority of any resulting profits
  - 17% say that the Australian people should receive the majority of any resulting profits.
  - Only 8% say that shareholders of the companies doing the drilling should receive the majority of any resulting profits.

Australia Institute research shows that, according to modelling commissioned by the oil and gas industry, shareholders of the companies doing the drilling will receive the majority of any resulting profits. The South Australian people will receive 1/40<sup>th</sup> of what company shareholders will receive.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In present value terms. See SA payroll tax in Table 1 (\$0.3 billion) and Equinor profits after tax and after PRRT in Table 3 (\$12.1 billion). Campbell and Shields (2019) *Norwegian cheque*, <https://www.tai.org.au/content/south-australia-short-changed-norway-makes-bank-bight>

## Method

The Australia Institute conducted a survey of 503 South Australians between 1 and 13 November 2019, online through Dynata, post-weighted to reflect social demographics by age and gender in South Australia.

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, Jacqui Lambie Network and Independent/Other.

## Detailed results

The following questions concern the Great Australian Bight marine area off South Australia

Do you support or oppose World Heritage protection for the Bight?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
<b>Strongly Support</b>	53%	48%	58%
<b>Support</b>	31%	31%	32%
<b>Oppose</b>	5%	10%	1%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	1%	3%	0%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	9%	9%	9%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Strongly Support</b>	53%	39%	59%	79%	52%	54%
<b>Support</b>	31%	40%	28%	14%	26%	32%
<b>Oppose</b>	5%	10%	2%	2%	9%	3%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	9%	9%	9%	4%	10%	9%

Would the Great Australian Bight be a more productive asset for South Australia as an oil field or as a World Heritage listed marine park?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
<b>An oil field</b>	15%	24%	7%
<b>A World Heritage listed marine park</b>	66%	60%	71%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	19%	16%	22%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>An oil field</b>	15%	29%	8%	3%	14%	11%
<b>A World Heritage listed marine park</b>	66%	51%	69%	93%	60%	76%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	19%	21%	23%	4%	25%	12%

If companies are allowed to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight, who should receive the majority of any resulting profits?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Shareholders of the companies doing the drilling, including foreign governments	8%	6%	9%
The South Australian people, via state taxes and royalties	60%	64%	56%
The Australian people, via federal taxes and royalties	17%	18%	16%
None of these	6%	4%	7%
Don't know / Not sure	10%	6%	13%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Shareholders of the companies doing the drilling, including foreign governments	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	6%
The South Australian people, via state taxes and royalties	60%	65%	58%	57%	60%	56%
The Australian people, via federal taxes and royalties	17%	15%	19%	21%	13%	17%
None of these	6%	6%	4%	5%	5%	9%
Don't know / Not sure	10%	5%	12%	9%	14%	12%