

# Polling - Electric Vehicle Policies

*March 2021*

## Key results

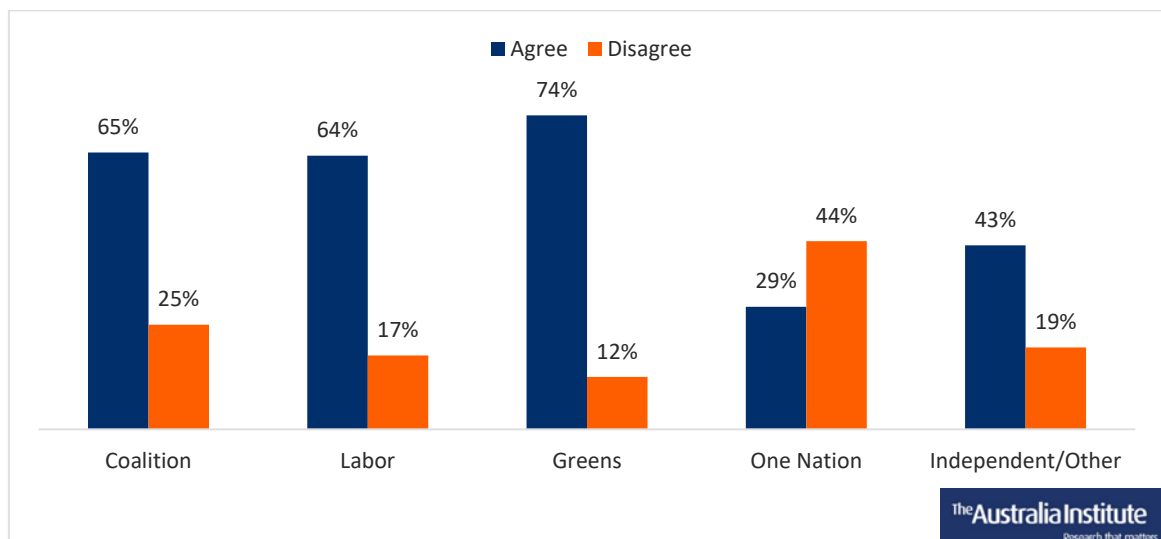
The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of Australians about electric vehicle (EV) policies in January and March of 2021.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that the Australian Government should introduce subsidies and/or tax incentives to reduce the costs of purchasing an EV and whether they support or oppose a policy similar to the United Kingdom’s planned ban on the sale of new fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035.<sup>1</sup>

Most Australians support both the introduction of a subsidy or tax incentive to reduce the cost of purchasing an EV **and** a policy to ban the sale of new conventional fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035.

- Two in three Australians (62%) agree that the government should introduce subsidies or tax incentives for the purchase of EVs.
  - This includes 65% of Coalition voters and 64% of Labor voters.

**Figure 1: Gov should introduce subsidies and/or incentives to reduce the costs of EVs**

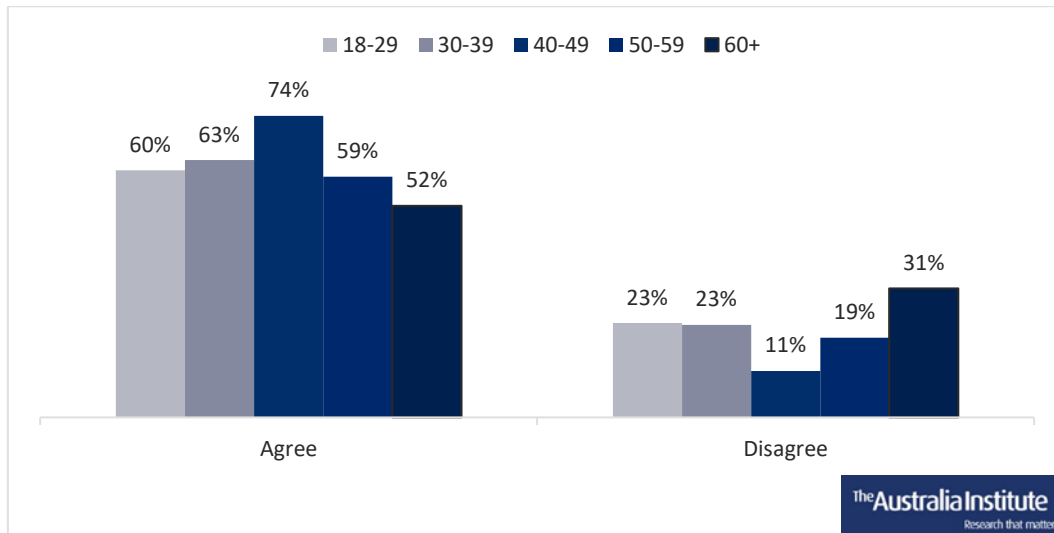


<sup>1</sup> BBC News (2020) *Petrol and diesel car sales ban brought forward to 2035*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-51366123>

In all age groups, support for the government introducing subsidies or tax incentives for the purchase of EVs is significantly higher than opposition.

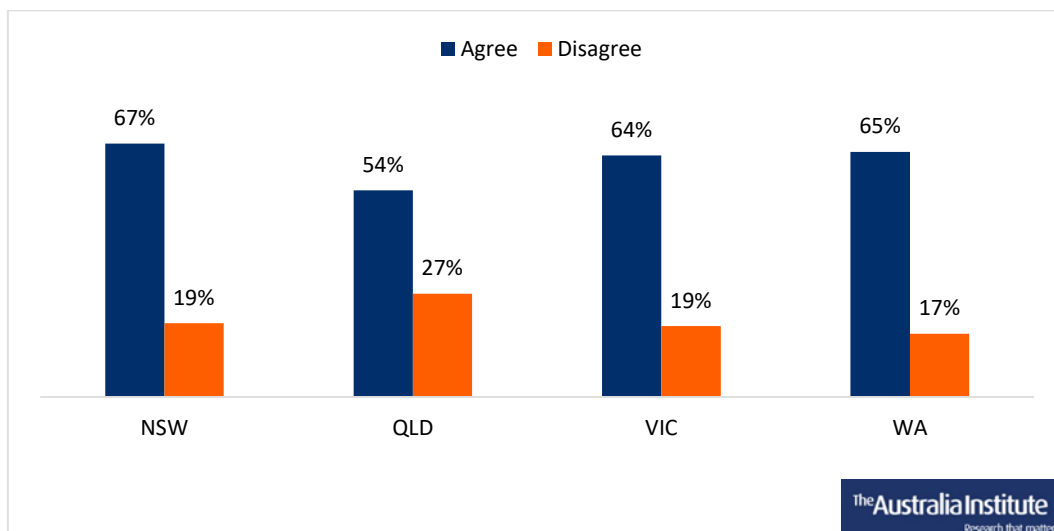
- Support for subsidies is highest among those aged 40–49 (74%) and lowest among those aged 60+ (52%).
- Opposition to subsidies is highest among those aged 60+ (31%) and lowest among those aged 40–49 (11%).

**Figure 2: Gov should introduce subsidies and/or incentives to reduce the costs of EVs**



A majority of Australians in each of the four largest states support subsidies for EVs.

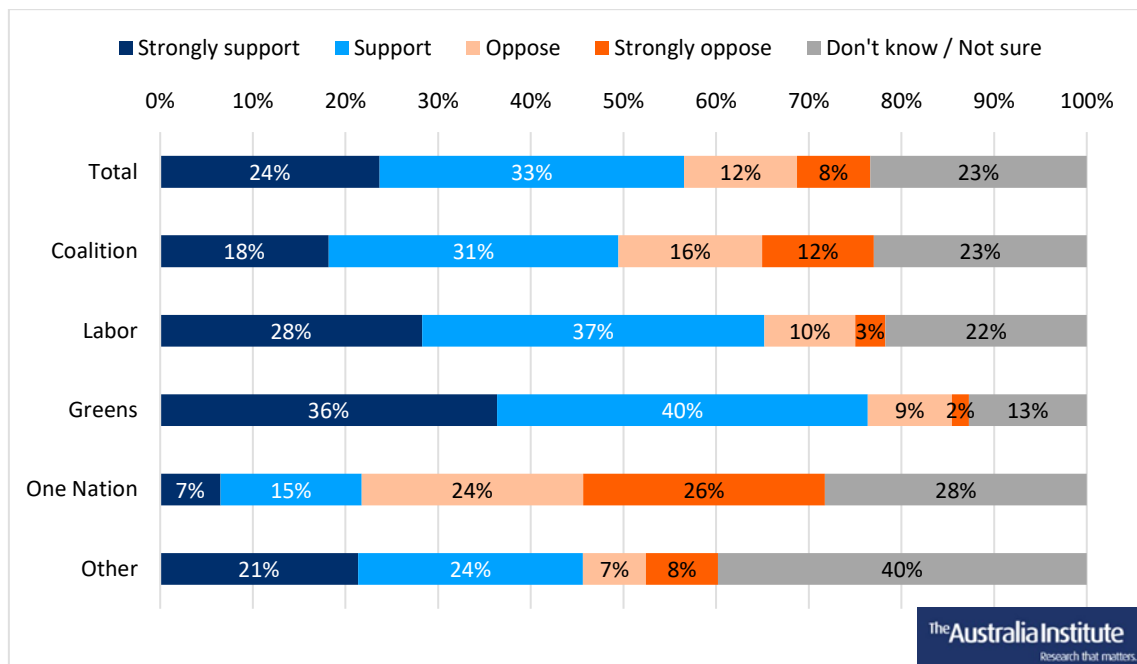
**Figure 3: Gov should introduce subsidies and/or incentives to reduce the costs of EVs**



Three in five Australians (57%) support a ban on the sale of new conventional fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035. Support for the policy exceeds opposition among most voting intentions.

- Half of Coalition voters (49%) support a ban on sales of new fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035, while three in ten (28%) are opposed.
- Two in three Labor voters (65%) and three in four Greens voters (76%) support a ban on sales of new fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035.

**Figure 4: Similar policy to the UK's 2035 ban on sales of new fossil fuelled vehicles**



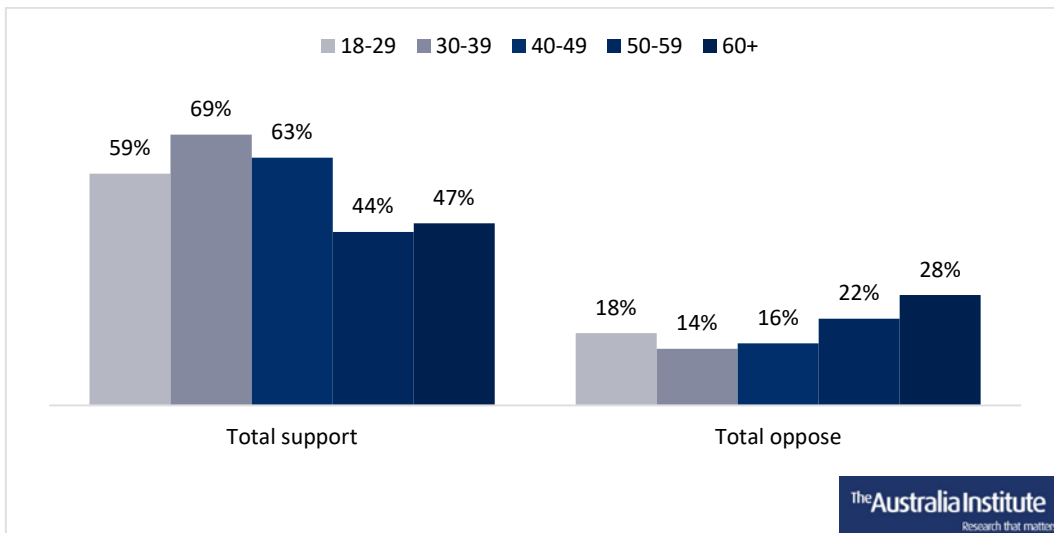
The result comes as car manufacturer General Motors announces that it will stop production of all light-duty petrol and diesel passenger cars by 2035.<sup>2</sup>

In general, support for a ban on sales of new fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035 is higher among younger age groups than it is among older age groups.

- In all age groups, support for a ban is significantly higher than opposition.
- Support for a ban is highest among those aged 30–39 (69%) and lowest among those aged 50–59 (44%).
- Opposition to a ban is highest among those aged 60+ (28%) and lowest among those aged 30–39 (14%).

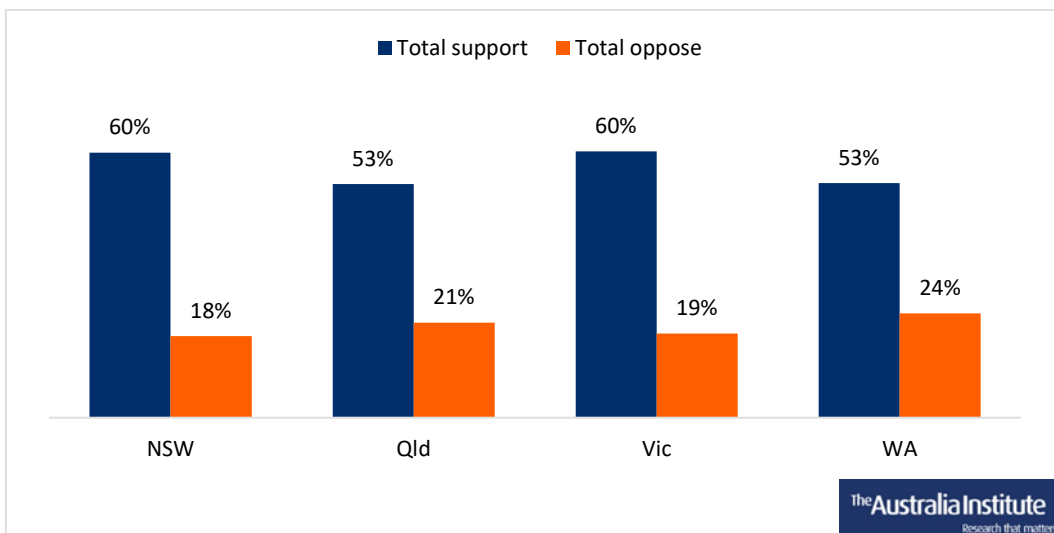
<sup>2</sup> Zachariah (2021) *GM to drop petrol and diesel engines by 2035, but rules out bigger pick-ups*, <https://www.caradvice.com.au/919652/gm-to-drop-petrol-and-diesel-engines-by-2035-but-rules-out-bigger-pick-ups/>

**Figure 5: Similar policy to the UK's 2035 ban on sales of new fossil fuelled vehicles**



A majority of Australians in each of the four largest states support a ban.

**Figure 6: Similar policy to the UK's 2035 ban on sales of new fossil fuelled vehicles**



## Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,001 people on 28–29 January 2021, 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%.

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” refers to Independent/Other.

The Australia Institute conducted a further national survey of 1,000 people between 11 and 12 March 2021, online through Dynata with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the national results is 2.6%.

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 - January

The United Kingdom plans to ban the sale of new conventional fossil fuelled vehicles from 2035.

Would you support or oppose a similar policy for Australia?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
<b>Strongly support</b>	24%	28%	20%	26%	24%	19%	25%
<b>Support</b>	33%	35%	31%	34%	36%	34%	27%
<b>Oppose</b>	12%	13%	12%	12%	13%	12%	12%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	8%	11%	5%	7%	6%	10%	12%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	23%	13%	32%	22%	21%	26%	24%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Strongly support</b>	24%	18%	28%	36%	7%	21%
<b>Support</b>	33%	31%	37%	40%	15%	24%
<b>Oppose</b>	12%	16%	10%	9%	24%	7%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	8%	12%	3%	2%	26%	8%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	23%	23%	22%	13%	28%	40%

	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
<b>Strongly support</b>	27%	24%	30%	17%	20%
<b>Support</b>	32%	45%	34%	27%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	14%	11%	11%	13%	13%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	4%	4%	5%	10%	16%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	22%	16%	21%	34%	25%

## Detailed results - March

Do you agree or disagree that the Australian Government should introduce subsidies and/or tax incentives to reduce the costs of purchasing an electric vehicle?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>WA</i>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	22%	31%	15%	26%	16%	24%	21%
<b>Agree</b>	39%	36%	42%	40%	38%	40%	44%
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	11%	14%	11%	15%	12%	9%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	9%	10%	8%	8%	12%	7%	7%
<b>Don't know/Not sure</b>	17%	12%	22%	14%	18%	18%	19%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	22%	22%	23%	31%	17%	15%
<b>Agree</b>	39%	43%	41%	43%	12%	28%
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	14%	12%	8%	15%	11%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	9%	10%	6%	4%	29%	9%
<b>Don't know/Not sure</b>	17%	10%	18%	14%	27%	38%

	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	14%	22%	35%	25%	12%
<b>Agree</b>	46%	41%	38%	34%	40%
<b>Disagree</b>	15%	15%	6%	12%	15%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	8%	7%	5%	7%	16%
<b>Don't know/Not sure</b>	17%	15%	15%	22%	17%