

Concern About the Effects of Climate Change

South Australians are particularly concerned about the effects of climate change. Concern about drought has increased significantly since 2018, likely fuelled by the exceptionally dry conditions experienced by South Australia in the past year.

- South Australians are the most likely to be 'very concerned' about water shortages in cities due to climate change, 51% compared to a national average of 44%.
- South Australians are the most likely to be 'very concerned' about extreme weather events such as floods and cyclones, 43% compared to a national average of 38%.
- South Australians are increasingly 'very concerned' about more droughts and floods affecting crop production and food supply. There has been an 11 percentage point increase in those 'very concerned' about climate-induced droughts and floods in South Australia (47%, up from 36% in 2018), placing South Australians second only to NSW in high concern.

Support for the Phase Out of Coal Fired Power

South Australians support the transition away from coal fired power and towards renewable energy.

- South Australians are the most likely to agree that Government should plan for the orderly phase out of coal so that workers and communities can prepare, 73% compared to the national average of 69%.
- South Australians are the most likely to 'strongly oppose' government putting public funds into infrastructure to subsidise the expansion of coal, oil and gas industries, 28% compared to the national average of 23%. (45% of Australians either strongly oppose or oppose, compared to 36% that strongly support or support)
- When asked to rank their most preferred energy sources, 4 in 5 South Australian's rank solar power in their top 3, making it by far the most popular choice (79%, compared to the national average of 76%). 57% of South Australians rank wind in their top 3, followed by power storage (batteries) (36%) and Hydro (31%).

Federal Government Responsibility

The absence of a federal climate and energy strategy, despite a federal minister responsible for both energy and emissions reduction portfolios, is of particular frustration to South Australians.

- 52% of South Australians blame Federal Government policy uncertainty or poor policy making for the increasing electricity prices, the highest level in the country (compared to the national average of 43%).
- South Australians are least likely to think Australian governments' response to climate change is adequate, with just 14% saying that governments are doing enough compared to the national average of 20%.

Awareness of and Support for International Action

South Australians are more aware of the Paris Agreement than most Australians, and largely supportive of implementing domestic action to reach the Paris Agreement goals.

- South Australians are the most likely to be aware of the Paris Agreement, 64% compared to the national average of 59%.
- Two thirds (67%) of South Australians agree that Australia should set targets and implement domestic action to help limit global warming to 1.5-2°C and achieve net zero emissions (compared to the national average of 66%).

FIGURE 1: ORDERLY PHASE-OUT OF COAL

Government Should Plan for the Orderly Phase Out of Coal so Workers and Communities can Prepare

South Australia

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

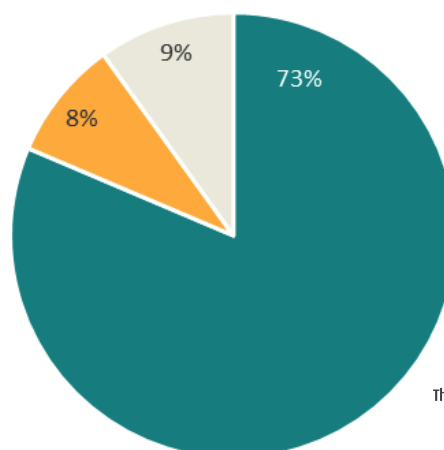


FIGURE 2:
SA TOP 3 MOST PREFERRED ENERGY SOURCES COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE

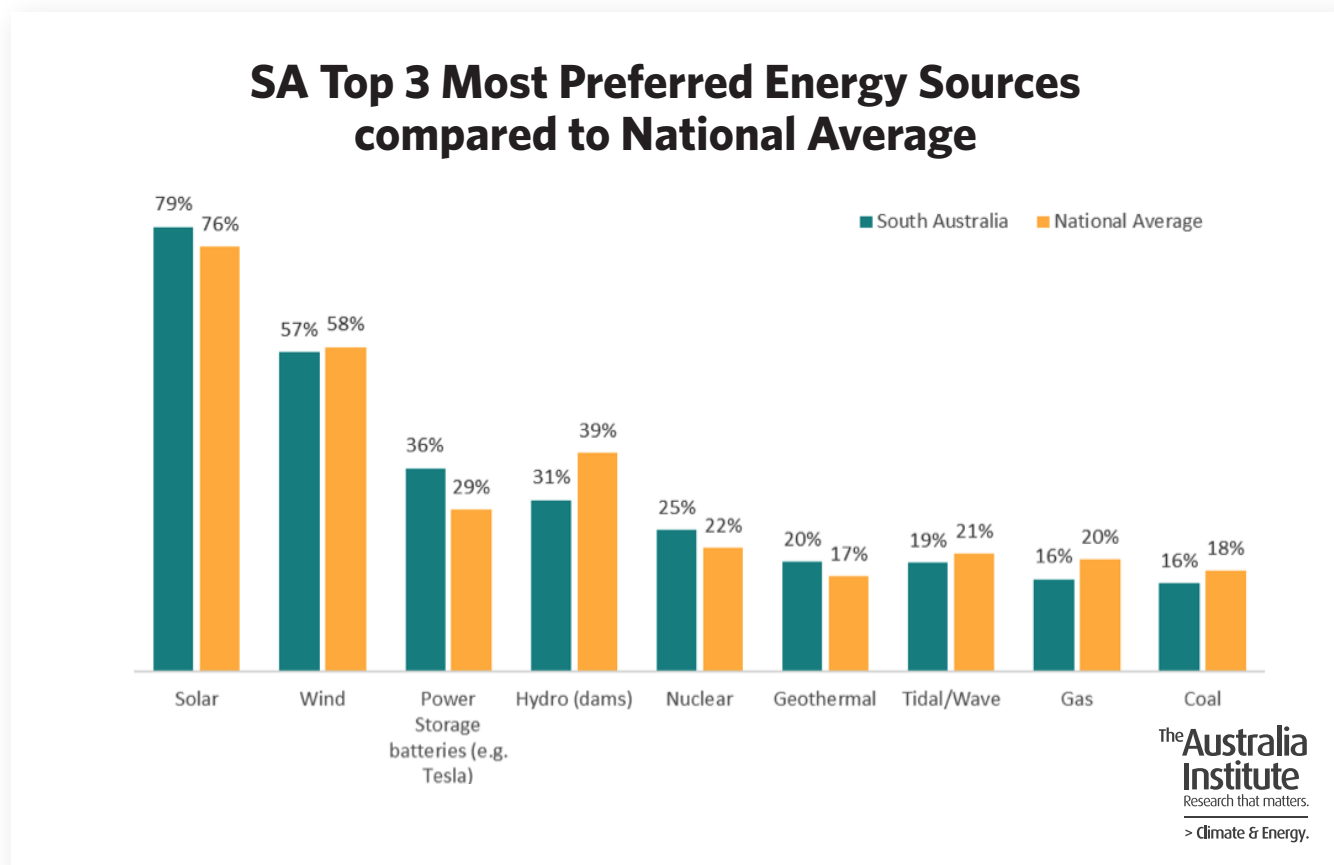


FIGURE 3:
CONCERN FOR WATER SHORTAGES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

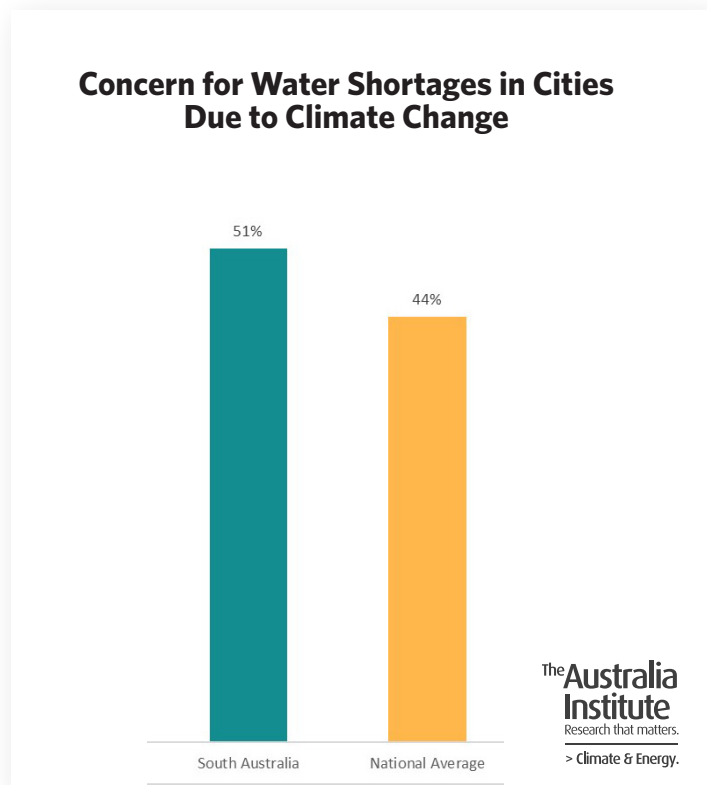


FIGURE 4:
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY TO BLAME FOR ELECTRICITY PRICES

