

Polling - Great Barrier Reef

July 2021

Key results

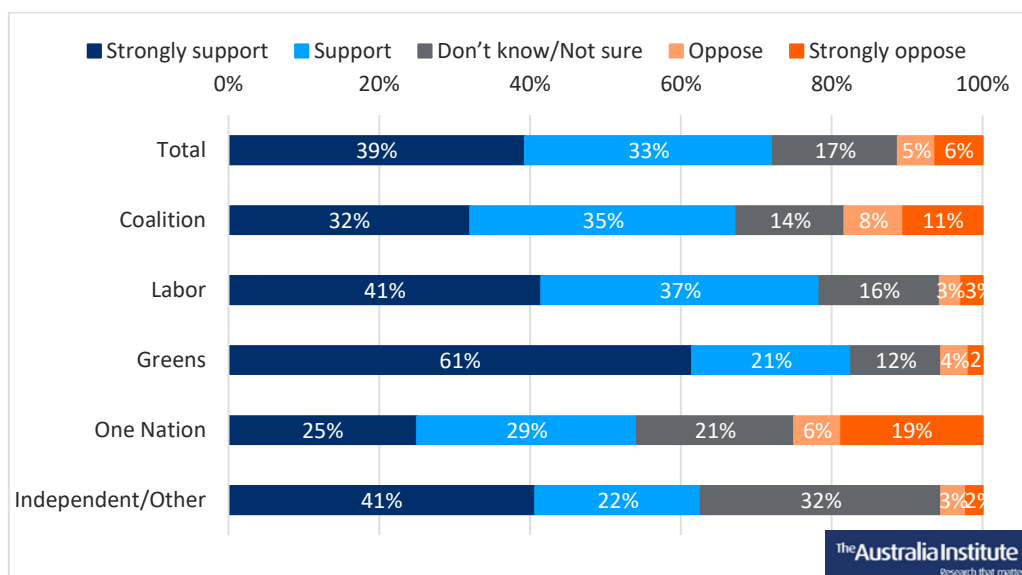
The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,007 Australians about their views on the health and ‘in danger’ listing of the Great Barrier Reef.

Respondents were asked whether they support or oppose UNESCO’s recommendation to add the Great Barrier Reef to the World Heritage ‘in-danger’ list.

The results show that

- Seven in ten (72%) Australians support UNESCO’s recommendation to add the Great Barrier Reef as ‘in danger’, 11% oppose.
- Across every voting intention, the majority of Australians support UNESCO’s recommendation to add the Great Barrier Reef to the ‘in danger’ list.
 - 83% of Greens, 78% of Labor, 67% of Coalition, 63% of Independent and 54% of One Nation voters support the recommendation to add the Great Barrier Reef as ‘in danger’.

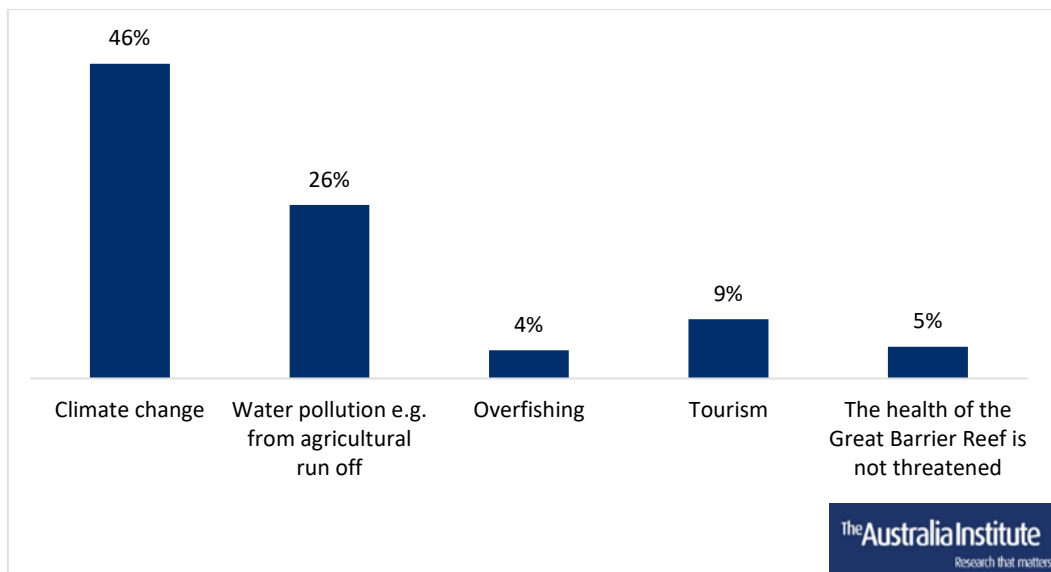
Figure 1: Attitudes towards adding the Great Barrier Reef to the World Heritage in danger List – by voting intention



Respondents were also asked about the largest threat to the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

- Almost one in two Australians (46%) think that climate change is the greatest threat to the reef's health.
 - More people chose climate change than any other option.
 - One in four Australians (26%) think that water pollution, for example from agricultural run-off, is the largest threat.
- 5% of Australians think that the health of the reef is not threatened.

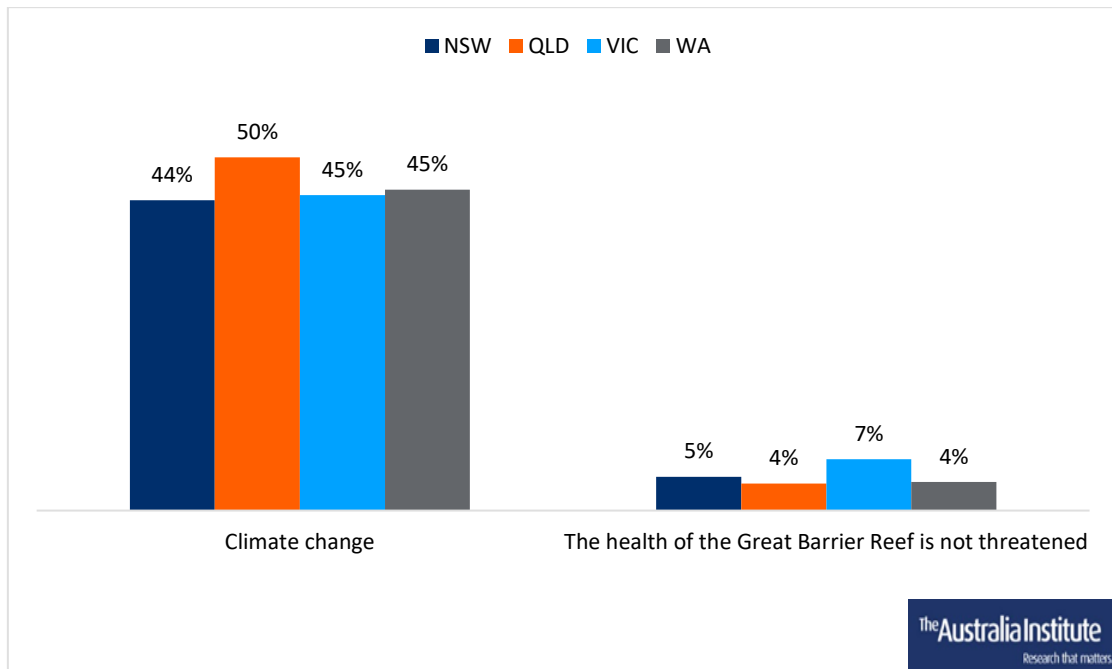
Figure 2: The largest threat to the health of the Great Barrier Reef



Across the four largest states more people think climate change is the largest threat to the Greater Barrier Reef than any other option.

- Queensland residents (50%) are most likely to think that climate change is the largest threat to the Great Barrier Reef.
- Queensland and Western Australian residents (both 4%) are least likely to think that the health of the Great Barrier Reef is not threatened.

Figure 3: The largest threat to the health of the Great Barrier Reef – by state



Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,007 people on 30 June and 1 July 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.

Detailed results

What do you think is the largest threat to the health of the Great Barrier Reef?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Climate change	46%	50%	44%	44%	50%	45%	45%
Water pollution e.g. from agricultural run off	26%	26%	26%	28%	26%	24%	25%
Overfishing	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	6%
Tourism	9%	7%	10%	9%	7%	9%	7%
The health of the Great Barrier Reef is not threatened	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	7%	4%
Don't know/Not sure	10%	9%	12%	9%	9%	11%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	Coalition	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Climate change	46%	36%	57%	63%	19%	37%
Water pollution e.g. from agricultural run off	26%	33%	21%	19%	25%	25%
Overfishing	4%	6%	3%	2%	0%	8%
Tourism	9%	9%	7%	6%	25%	8%
The health of the GBR is not threatened	5%	7%	2%	3%	21%	2%
Don't know/Not sure	10%	9%	10%	7%	10%	20%

Do you support or oppose UNESCO's recommendation to add the Great Barrier Reef to the 'List of World Heritage in Danger'?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
Strongly support	39%	39%	40%	41%	37%	37%	38%
Support	33%	34%	31%	32%	31%	36%	36%
Oppose	5%	6%	4%	6%	6%	4%	4%
Strongly oppose	6%	9%	4%	7%	7%	7%	3%
Don't know/Not sure	17%	13%	20%	14%	19%	16%	18%

	<i>Total</i>	Coalition	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Strongly support	39%	32%	41%	61%	25%	41%
Support	33%	35%	37%	21%	29%	22%
Oppose	5%	8%	3%	4%	6%	3%
Strongly oppose	6%	11%	3%	2%	19%	2%
Don't know/Not sure	17%	14%	16%	12%	21%	32%