

Polling - SA Borders and COVID

February 2022

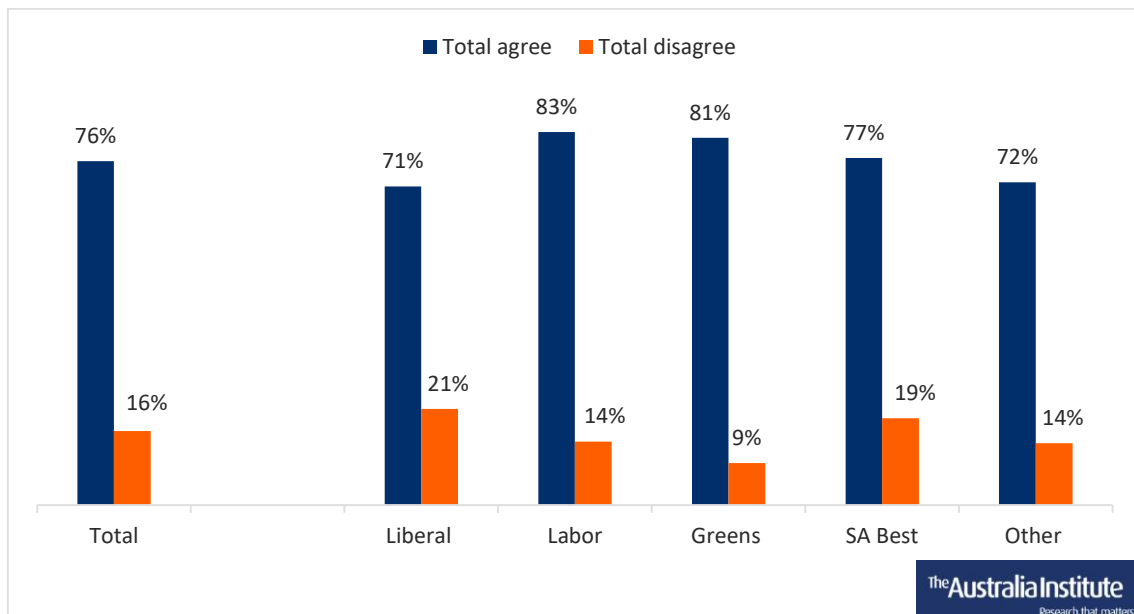
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a representative sample of 602 South Australians about the State Government's handling of COVID-19 and the opening of the state borders on November 23, 2021.

The results show that

- One in two South Australians (51%) disagree with the State Government's decision to open the borders in November.
 - Two in five (42%) agree that the State Government made the right decision.
- Three in four South Australians (76%) agree that the State Government should have done more to prepare the state before the borders were opened.
 - This includes 71% of Liberal voters, 83% of Labor voters and 81% of Greens voters.

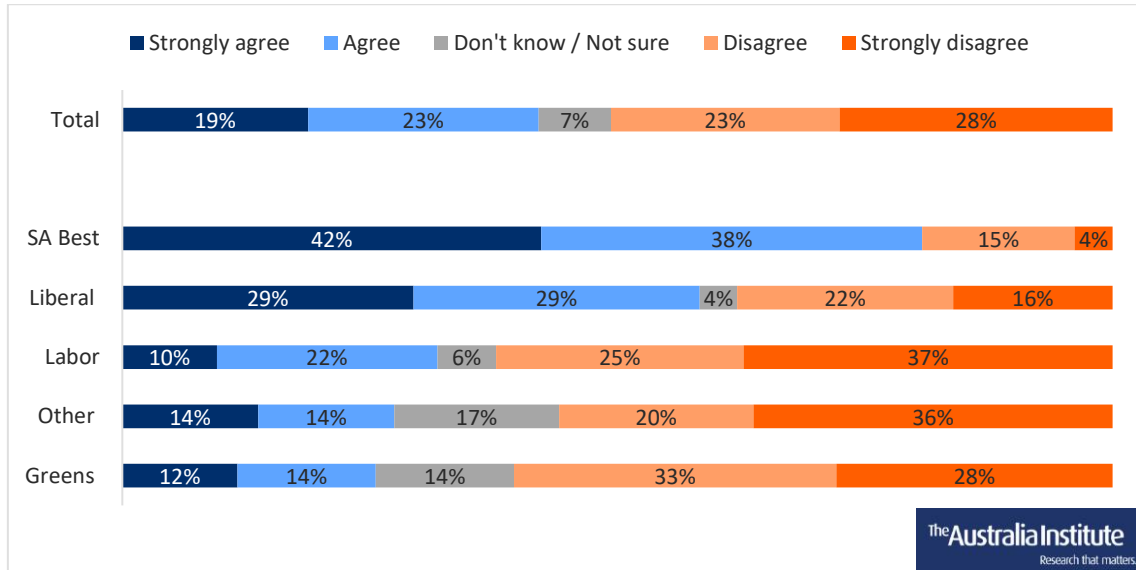
Figure 1: Government should have done more to prepare SA before borders opened



Across voting intention, there is considerable variation in response to the question regarding the the State Government’s decision to open the state borders in November.

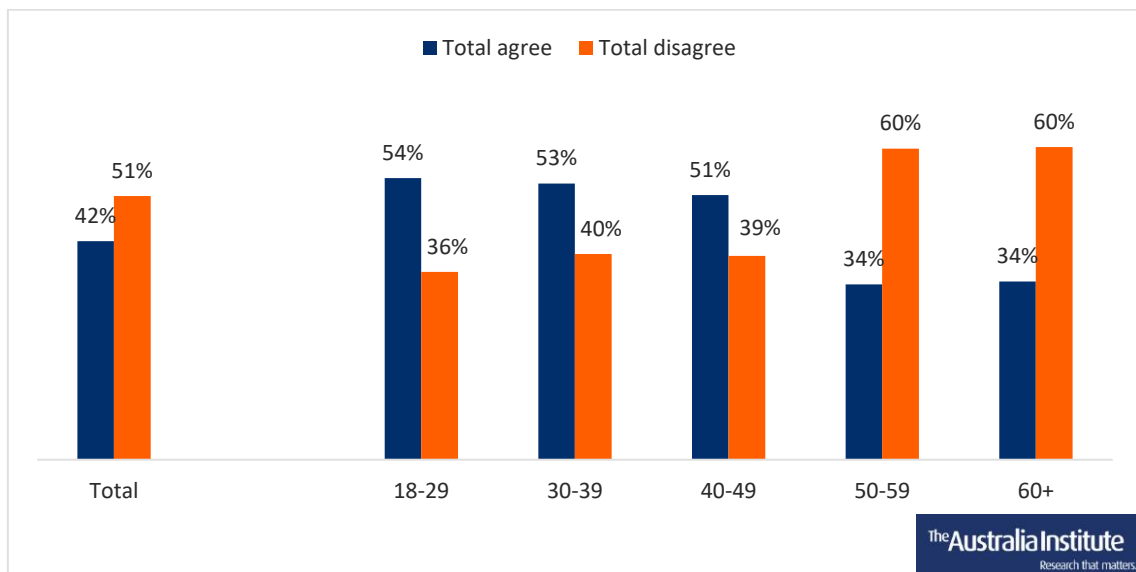
- A majority of SA Best voters (81%) and Liberal voters (58%) agree that the State Government made the right decision.
- A majority of Labor voters (62%), Independent/Other voters (56%) and Greens voters (60%) disagree with the decision.

Figure 2: Government made the right decision when it opened the state border



- South Australians aged 18-29 are the most likely to agree with the decision to open the border (54%) while those aged 50 and over were the most likely to disagree with the decision (60%).

Figure 3: Government made the right decision when it opened the state border



Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 602 adults living in South Australia between the 1st and 14th of February 2022, online through Dynata's panel, with representative samples by gender and age.

The results were weighted by two variables (gender x age group) based on the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data, using the raking method. This resulted in an effective sample size of 535.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the results is 4%.

Voting intention questions appeared just after the initial demographic questions, before policy questions. Lower house voting intention was asked first, followed by upper house voting intention.

Respondents who answered "Don't know / Not sure" for voting intention questions were then asked a leaning question.

Detailed results

No preceding questions in the poll are expected to have influenced the results of the questions on COVID-19 and border management.

The following questions relate to the South Australian State Government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Government removed quarantine and testing requirements for interstate arrivals to South Australia on November 23, 2021. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? ‘The State Government made the right decision when it opened the state border in November’

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Strongly agree	19%	24%	14%	23%	28%	33%	10%	11%
Agree	23%	26%	21%	31%	25%	18%	24%	23%
Disagree	23%	20%	26%	20%	15%	15%	14%	34%
Strongly disagree	28%	24%	31%	16%	25%	24%	46%	26%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	6%	8%	10%	7%	10%	7%	6%

	<i>Total</i>	Liberal	Labor	Greens	SA Best	Other
Strongly agree	19%	29%	10%	12%	42%	14%
Agree	23%	29%	22%	14%	38%	14%
Disagree	23%	22%	25%	33%	15%	20%
Strongly disagree	28%	16%	37%	28%	4%	36%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	4%	6%	14%	0%	17%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? ‘The State Government should have done more to prepare SA before opening the borders’

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Strongly agree	43%	44%	41%	33%	44%	58%	49%	35%
Agree	34%	28%	39%	41%	40%	27%	25%	37%
Disagree	12%	15%	10%	13%	5%	8%	15%	15%
Strongly disagree	4%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%	5%	5%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	8%	6%	11%	7%	5%	5%	8%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>SA Best</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly agree	43%	37%	47%	49%	42%	42%
Agree	34%	34%	36%	33%	35%	29%
Disagree	12%	16%	10%	7%	19%	9%
Strongly disagree	4%	6%	4%	2%	0%	5%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	8%	3%	9%	4%	15%