

Polling - Climate change risk and adaptation

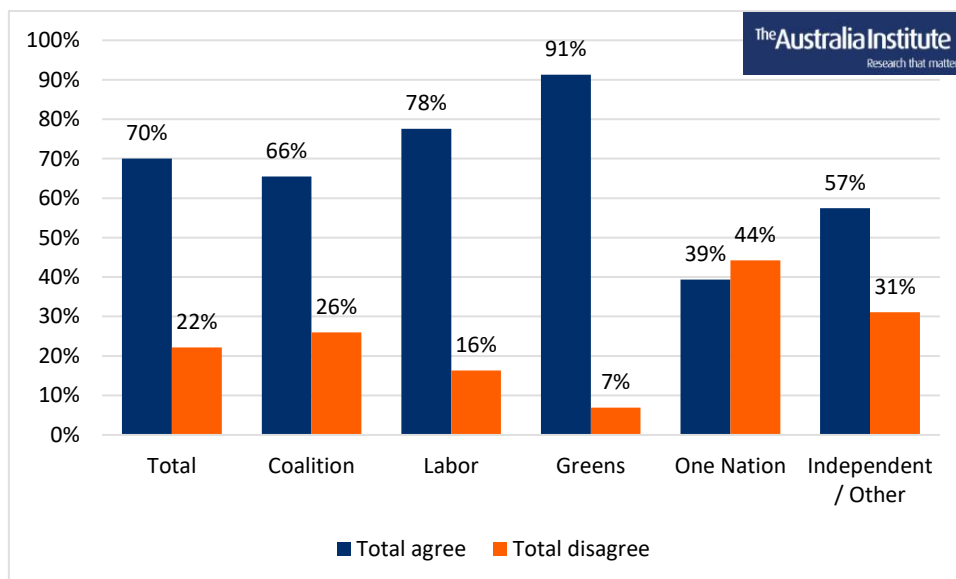
March 2022

Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,001 Australians about the role of climate change in natural disasters such as floods and bushfires, the Federal government’s level of preparedness for the impacts of climate change, and the introduction of a National Climate Disaster Fund, paid for by a levy on fossil fuel exports.

- Seven in ten Australians (70%) agree that climate change is contributing to more frequent and more extreme weather events like floods and bushfires, compared with less than a quarter (23%) who disagree. Regardless of voting intention, the majority of Australians agree this is the case, the exception being One Nation voters (44%).

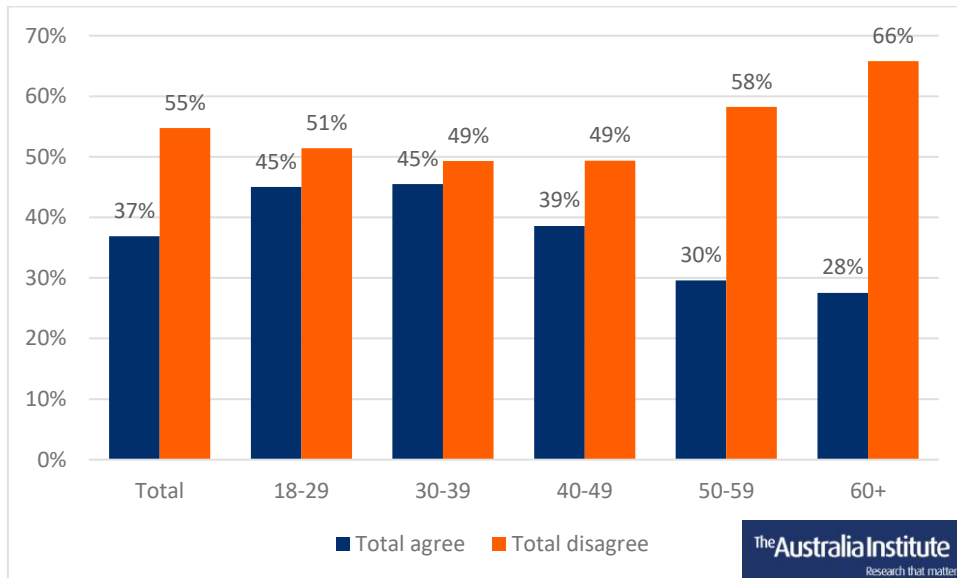
Figure 1: Agreement that climate change is contributing to more frequent and more extreme weather events, by voting intention



- Over half of Australians (55%) disagree that the Commonwealth government has done enough to prepare for the impacts of climate change, compared to

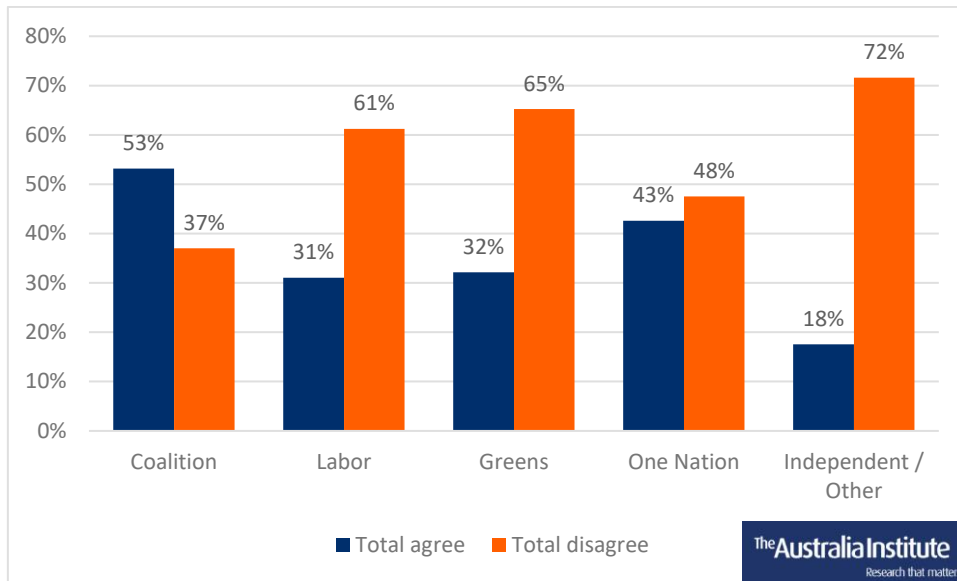
37% who agree. There are no significant differences between genders or states. Across age groups, older Australians are more like to disagree that the government had done enough to prepare (66% amongst those aged 60+, compared to a low of 49% among those aged 30-39 and 40-49).

Figure 2: Agreement that the Federal government has done enough to prepare for the impacts of climate change, by age



- Coalition voters are the only group sorted by voting intention in which a majority (53%) indicated that they agree the Federal government has done enough to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Less than one in five (18%) of those indicating an intention to vote independent or other agree with this statement.

Figure 3: Agreement that the Federal government has done enough to prepare for the impacts of climate change, by voting intention



Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree that the Australian government should undertake a national risk assessment to establish how vulnerable the country is to climate change, what locations will be most impacted, and how those impacts will be felt.

- 72% of Australians agree that the Commonwealth government should undertake a national risk assessment, compared to 21% of Australians who disagree.
- Greens voters are most supportive of a national risk assessment, with over four in five (83%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing that the government should undertake one. This is followed by almost four in five Labor voters (79%), and almost seven in ten Coalition voters (67%).
- There are no significant differences between genders or states. Across age groups, younger voters are more likely to agree with this proposal, with almost four in five of those aged 18-29 (79%) in support.

Figure 4: Agreement that the Federal government should undertake a National Risk Assessment on climate, by voting intention

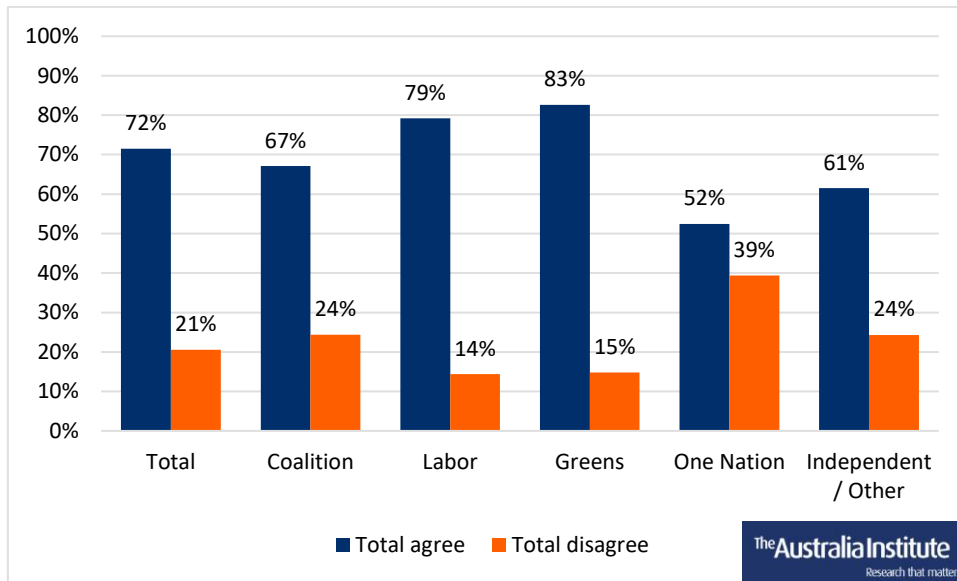
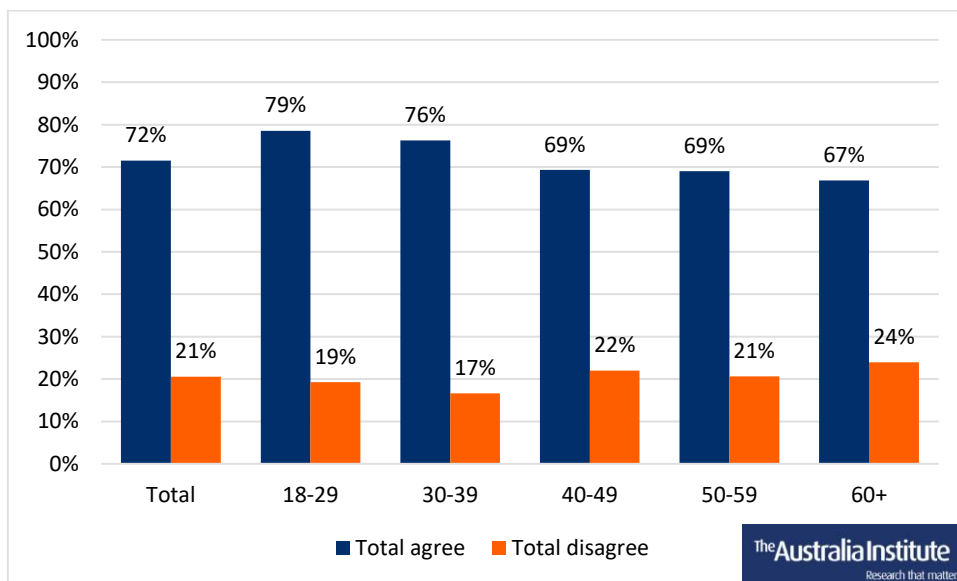


Figure 5: Agreement that the Federal government should undertake a National Risk Assessment on climate, by age



Respondents were asked whether they support the creation of a National Climate Disaster Fund to support communities affected by flood and bushfires, paid for by a levy on fossil fuel exports.

- Almost seven in ten Australians (67%) support the creation of such a fund. 13% of Australians would oppose the introduction of such a fund.
- Among the largest states, support for the introduction of a fund is highest in NSW (70%). It was lowest in Victoria, where six out of ten Victorians support the introduction of a National Climate Disaster Fund.

- Regardless of voting intention, a majority of voters support the introduction of a fund – with the exception of Independent/Other voters. Almost four in five Greens voters support the introduction of a fund (79%), followed by 72% of Labor voters, 66% of Coalition voters, 56% of One Nation voters, and 49% of Independent/Other voters.

Figure 6: Support for the creation of a National Climate Disaster Fund, by state

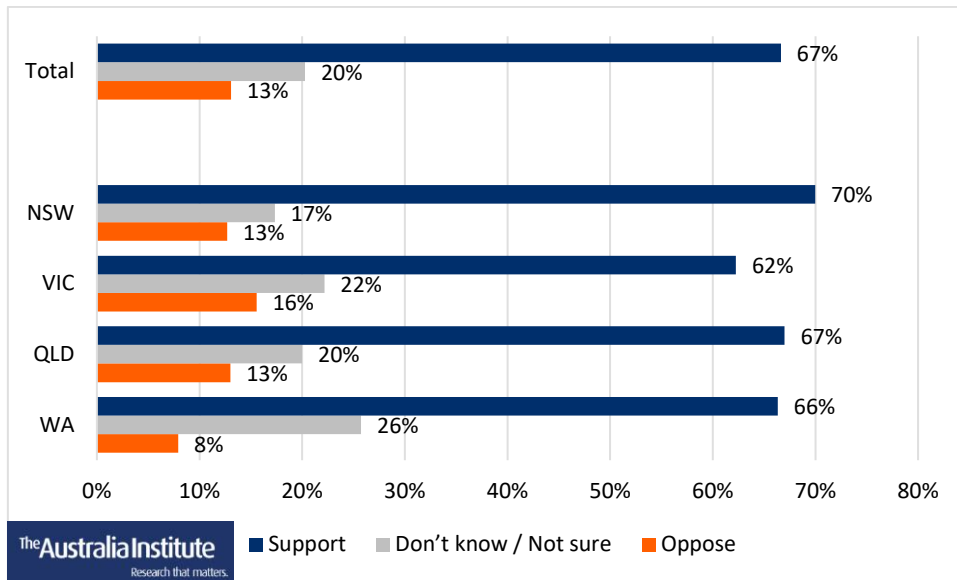
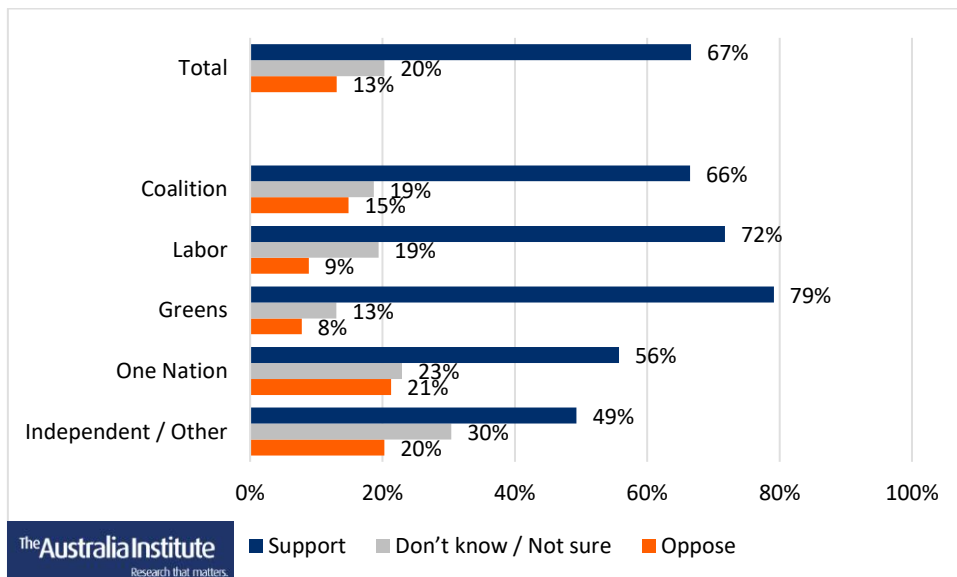


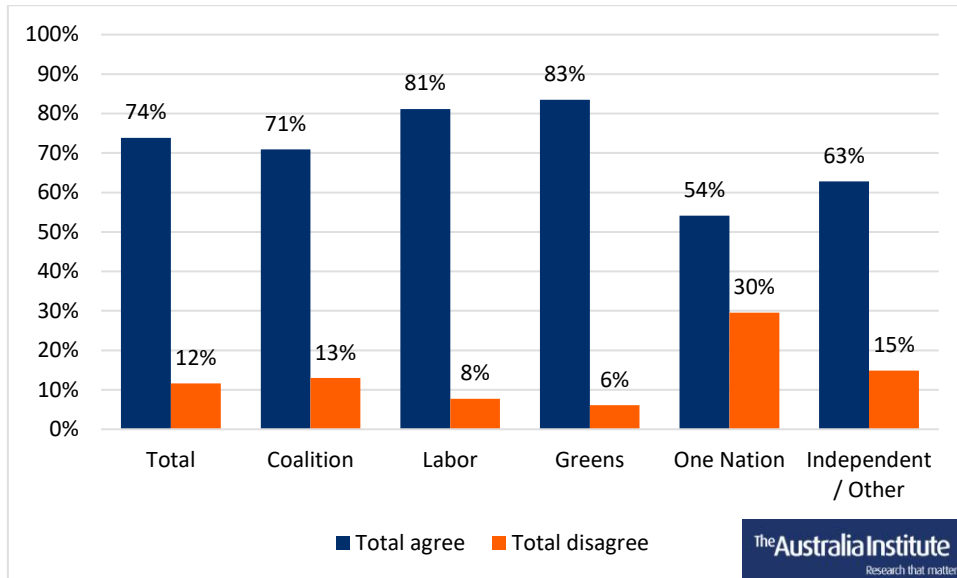
Figure 7: Support for the creation of a National Climate Disaster Fund, by voting intention



Respondents were advised that a National Adaptation Plan would seek to identify and reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, both nationally, and to particular areas, and that Australia had not developed one. Almost three quarters (74%) of Australians agree with the statement, “The federal government should develop a

National Adaptation Plan.” 12% of Australians disagree. There is considerable variation by voting intention: over four in five Greens voters (83%) and Labor voters (81%) favour the development of such a plan, followed by seven in ten Coalition voters (71%), 63% of Independent/Other voters, and 54% of One Nation voters.

Figure 8: Support for the creation of a National Adaptation Plan, by voting intention



Method

Between 8 March and 11 March 2022, The Australia Institute surveyed 1001 adults living in Australia, online through Dynata’s panel, with nationally representative samples by gender, age group and state/territory.

The research is compliant with the [Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards](#). This is the long methodology disclosure statement.

Long disclosure statement

The results were weighted by three variables (gender, age group, state/territory) based on Australian Bureau of Statistics [“National, state and territory population”](#) data, using the raking method. This resulted in an effective sample size of 989.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the national results is 3%.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting intention questions appeared just after the initial demographic questions, before policy questions. Respondents who answered “Don’t know / Not sure” for voting intention were then asked a leaning question; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. “Coalition” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” refers to Independent/Other.



**Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark**

Detailed results

No preceding questions in the poll are expected to have influenced the results of the questions published here.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The federal government has done enough to prepare for and respond to extreme weather events like floods and bushfires.

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Strongly agree	11%	12%	9%	13%	9%	10%	12%
Agree	26%	25%	27%	26%	31%	26%	21%
Disagree	30%	29%	30%	28%	31%	33%	26%
Strongly disagree	25%	26%	24%	24%	24%	23%	32%
Don't know / Not sure	8%	7%	10%	10%	6%	8%	10%

	Total	Coalition	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other
Strongly agree	11%	15%	7%	13%	16%	6%
Agree	26%	38%	24%	19%	26%	11%
Disagree	30%	27%	31%	30%	23%	36%
Strongly disagree	25%	10%	30%	36%	25%	36%
Don't know / Not sure	8%	10%	8%	3%	10%	11%

Climate change is contributing to more frequent and more extreme weather events, like floods and bushfires.

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Strongly agree	33%	33%	33%	37%	32%	32%	33%
Agree	37%	35%	39%	34%	34%	39%	43%
Disagree	13%	14%	11%	11%	13%	15%	10%
Strongly disagree	10%	11%	8%	9%	14%	8%	7%
Don't know / Not sure	8%	6%	9%	10%	8%	6%	8%

	Total	Coalition	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other
Strongly agree	33%	27%	39%	51%	15%	26%
Agree	37%	39%	39%	40%	25%	31%
Disagree	13%	15%	11%	4%	18%	16%
Strongly disagree	10%	11%	5%	3%	26%	16%
Don't know / Not sure	8%	9%	6%	2%	16%	11%

The Australian government should undertake a national risk assessment to establish how vulnerable the country is to climate change, what locations will be most impacted, and how those impacts will be felt.

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Strongly agree	33%	32%	34%	36%	31%	34%	30%
Agree	38%	38%	39%	36%	43%	36%	43%
Disagree	12%	14%	11%	11%	12%	15%	10%
Strongly disagree	8%	10%	7%	8%	12%	6%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	8%	6%	10%	9%	4%	8%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly agree	33%	28%	38%	48%	18%	28%
Agree	38%	40%	41%	35%	34%	33%
Disagree	12%	14%	10%	10%	23%	12%
Strongly disagree	8%	11%	4%	5%	16%	12%
Don't know / Not sure	8%	9%	6%	3%	8%	14%

Would you support or oppose the creation of a National Climate Disaster Fund to support communities affected by flood and bushfires, paid for by a levy on fossil fuel exports?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>WA</i>
Support	67%	67%	66%	70%	67%	62%	66%
Oppose	13%	17%	10%	13%	13%	16%	8%
Don't know / Not sure	20%	16%	24%	17%	20%	22%	26%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Support	67%	66%	72%	79%	56%	49%
Oppose	13%	15%	9%	8%	21%	20%
Don't know / Not sure	20%	19%	19%	13%	23%	30%

The Australian Government has not developed a National Adaptation Plan. A National Adaptation Plan would seek to identify and reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, both nationally, and to particular areas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The federal government should develop a National Adaptation Plan."

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly agree	33%	33%	33%	37%	29%	29%	36%
Agree	41%	40%	41%	42%	39%	44%	40%
Disagree	7%	9%	5%	7%	8%	7%	8%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	4%	2%	7%	7%	1%
Don't know / Not sure	15%	12%	17%	11%	18%	14%	16%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly agree	33%	29%	36%	49%	16%	28%
Agree	41%	41%	45%	35%	38%	35%
Disagree	7%	8%	6%	4%	13%	6%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	1%	2%	16%	9%
Don't know / Not sure	15%	16%	11%	10%	16%	22%