

Polling - What is 'clean hydrogen'?

May 2022

Key results

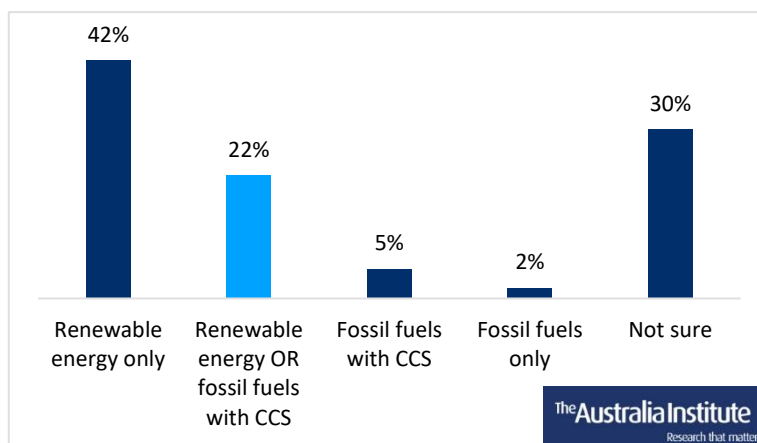
The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,007 Australians about their understanding of the term 'clean hydrogen'.

The government defines 'clean hydrogen' as "hydrogen produced using renewable energy or using fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage."¹ To test Australian's understanding of the term, the survey asked, "what do you think the term 'clean hydrogen' refers to?"

The results show that only one in five (22%) Australians understand the term 'clean hydrogen' in the same way as the government.

- Three in ten (30%) Australians don't know or are not sure what the term 'clean hydrogen' refers to.
- Two in five (42%) Australians think that the term 'clean hydrogen' refers to hydrogen produced using only renewable energy.
- Fewer than one in ten (7%) Australians think that the term 'clean hydrogen' includes hydrogen made with fossil fuels only.

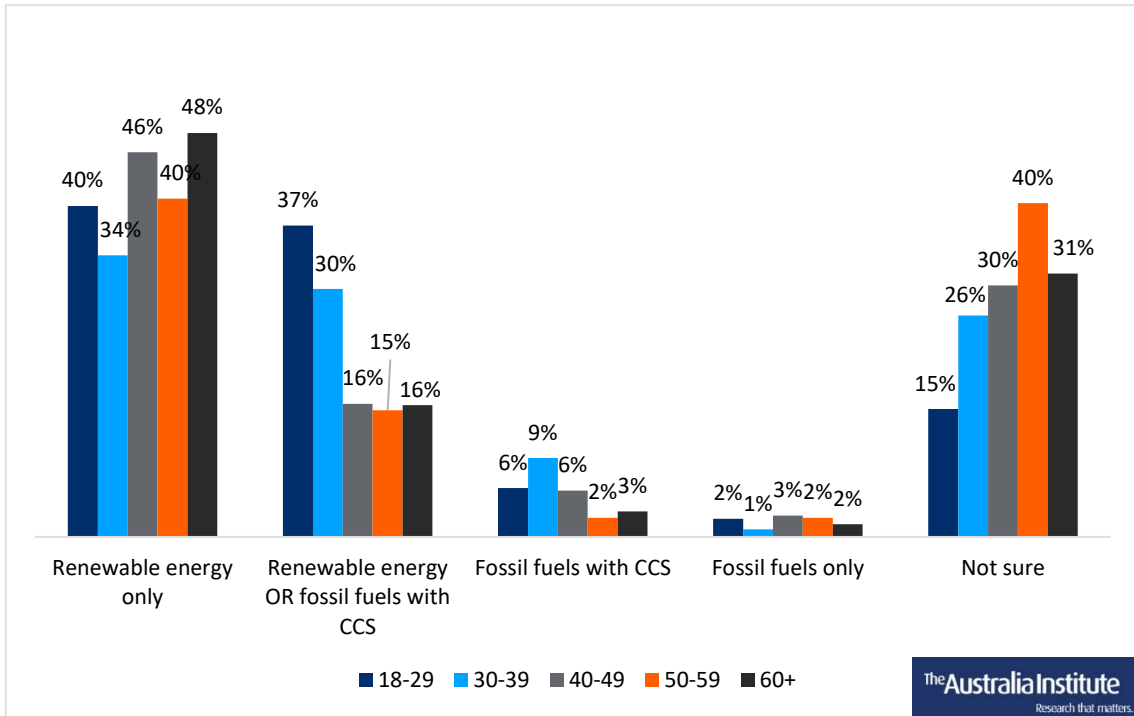
Figure 1: Overall understanding of the term 'clean hydrogen' (government definition highlighted)



¹ COAG Energy Council (2019) *Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy*, <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/australias-national-hydrogen-strategy>

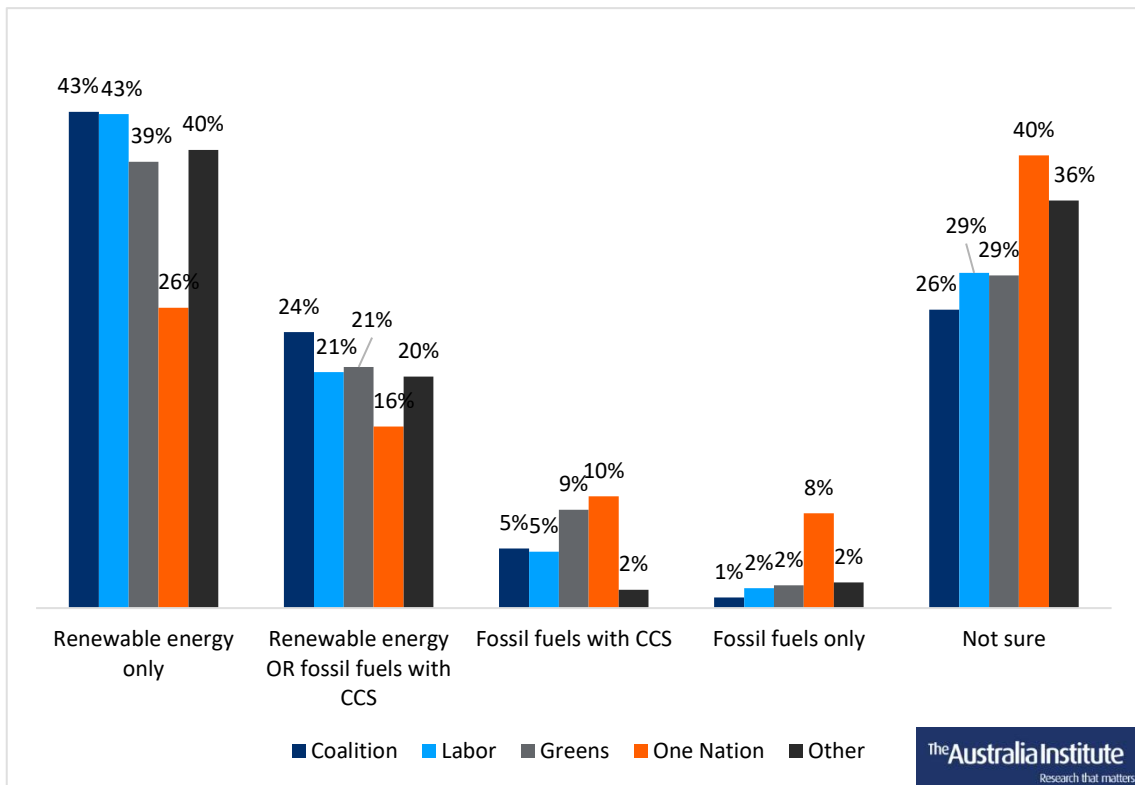
- Australians aged 18-29 are more likely (37%) to understand the term ‘clean hydrogen’ in the same way as the government than any other age group. However, even among this age group more think that it means renewable energy only (40%).

Figure 2: Understanding of the term ‘clean hydrogen’, by age group



- Thinking 'clean hydrogen' is hydrogen produced with renewable energy only is the most popular understanding across all voting intentions: Coalition (43%), Labor (43%), Greens (39%), One Nation (26%) and Independent/Other voters (40%).

Figure 3: Understanding of the term 'clean hydrogen', by voting intention



Method

Between 22 March and 25 March 2022, The Australia Institute surveyed 1007 adults living in Australia, online through Dynata’s panel, with nationally representative samples by gender, age group and state/territory.

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.

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

Long disclosure statement

The results were weighted by three variables (gender, age group and state or 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 985.

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.



Detailed results

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

What do you think the term ‘clean hydrogen’ refers to?

The order of responses (other than “Don’t know/Not sure”) was randomised for each respondent.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Hydrogen produced using only renewable energy	42%	48%	36%	44%	39%	37%	48%
Hydrogen produced using renewable energy OR fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage	22%	21%	22%	22%	23%	28%	11%
Hydrogen produced using only fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage	5%	5%	5%	5%	7%	4%	3%
Hydrogen produced using only fossil fuels	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%
Don’t know / Not sure	30%	24%	35%	28%	29%	27%	37%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Other</i>
Hydrogen produced using only renewable energy	42%	43%	43%	39%	26%	40%
Hydrogen produced using renewable energy OR fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage	22%	24%	21%	21%	16%	20%
Hydrogen produced using only fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage	5%	5%	5%	9%	10%	2%
Hydrogen produced using only fossil fuels	2%	1%	2%	2%	8%	2%
Don’t know / Not sure	30%	26%	29%	29%	40%	36%

	<i>Total</i>	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Hydrogen produced using only renewable energy	42%	40%	34%	46%	40%	48%
Hydrogen produced using renewable energy OR fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage	22%	37%	30%	16%	15%	16%
Hydrogen produced using only fossil fuels with substantial carbon capture and storage	5%	6%	9%	6%	2%	3%
Hydrogen produced using only fossil fuels	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	15%	26%	30%	40%	31%