

Polling - Gas industry intervention

November 2022

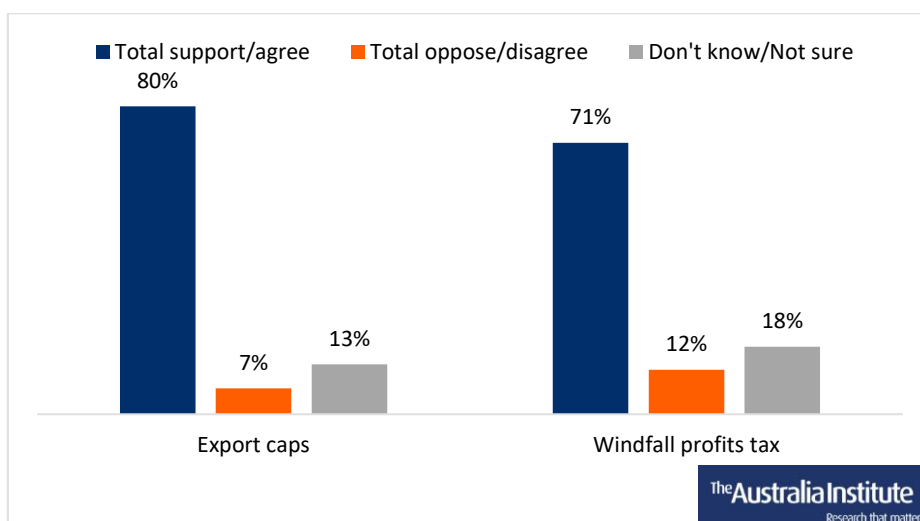
Key results

In November, The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,001 Australians about their views on possible government interventions in the gas industry.

The results show strong support for the government to intervene in the gas industry, either by imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand, or by introducing a windfall profits tax.

- An overwhelming majority of Australians (86%) support a government intervention in the gas industry, either through export controls or a windfall profits tax or both.
- Four in five Australians (80%) support imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand.
 - Only 7% are opposed.
- Nearly three in four Australians (71%) think the Australian government should introduce a windfall profits tax on gas.
 - Only 12% disagree.

Figure 1: Total support for interventions on the gas industry



Imposing export controls on gas exporters

Respondents were presented with the following question text:

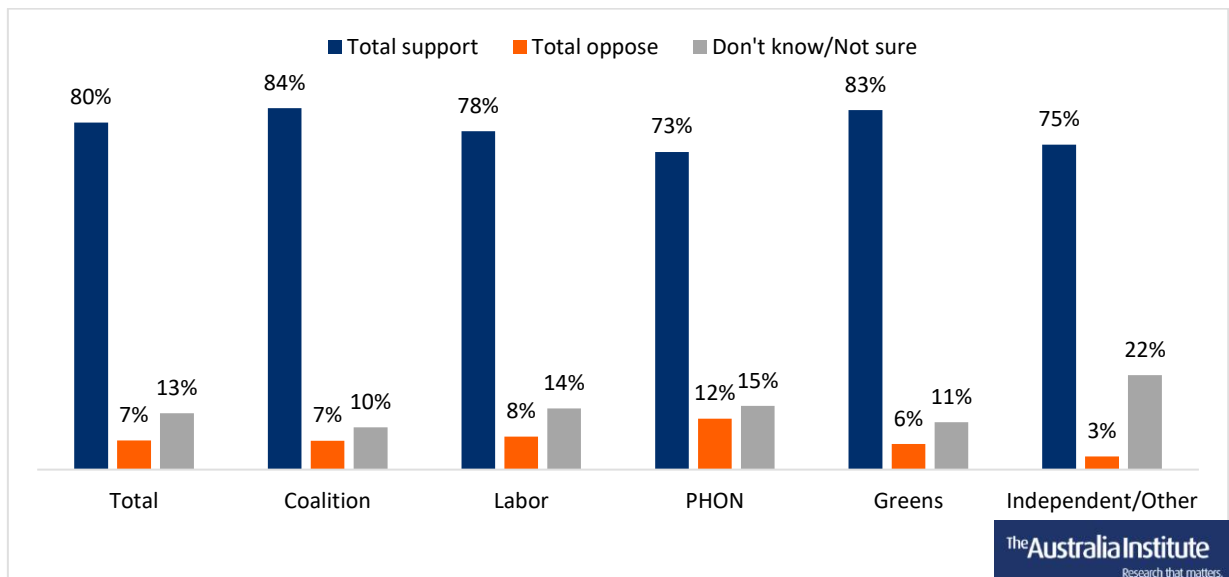
Former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Rod Sims has proposed that the Federal Government should consider capping the amount of gas companies are allowed to export overseas in order to reduce the price for Australian households and businesses.

Would you support or oppose imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand?

Four in five Australians (80%) support imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand.

- Across all voting intentions, most support the government imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand.
- Support for imposing export controls on gas exporters is highest among Coalition (84%) and Greens voters (83%).
- Three in four Labor (78%), Independent/Other (75%) and One Nation voters (73%) support imposing export controls.
- Support for export controls is similar across the four largest states (78% in NSW, 81% in Victoria, 82% in Queensland and 79% in WA).

Figure 2: Support for export controls on gas exporters, by voting intention



Windfall profits tax on gas

Respondents were then presented with the following question text:

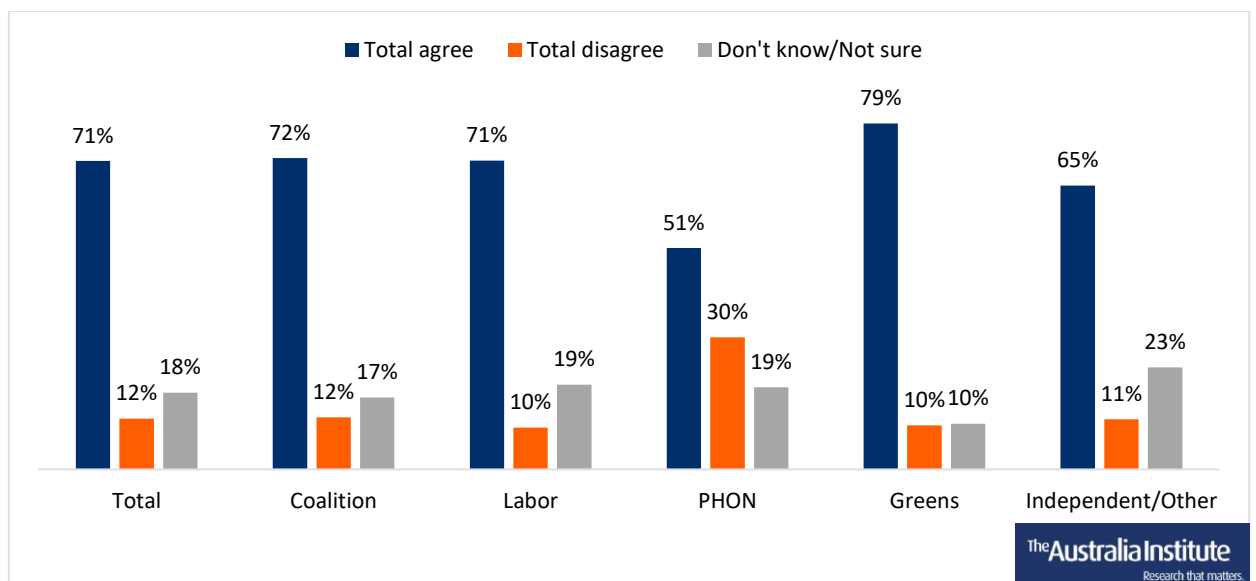
The international price of gas is at record highs due to the war in Ukraine, and companies exporting Australian gas are making windfall profits. A windfall profits tax is a tax levied on a company or industry when economic conditions result in unexpected and excessive profits. The Australian Government could be making at least \$20 billion from a windfall profits tax on gas.

Do you think the Australian Government should introduce a windfall profits tax on gas?

Seven in ten Australians (71%) think the Australian Government should introduce a windfall profits tax on gas.

- Across all voting intentions, most think the government should introduce a windfall profits tax.
- Support for a windfall profits tax on the gas industry is highest among Greens voters, at four in five (79%).
- Half of One Nation voters (51%) think the government should introduce a windfall profits tax, compared to three in 10 (30%) who disagree.
- Two in three Independent/Other voters (65%) think the government should introduce a windfall profits tax.
 - One in four don't know or aren't sure (23%).
- Agreement with a windfall profits tax is similar across the four largest states (73% in NSW, 69% in Victoria, 73% in Queensland and 67% in WA).

Figure 3: Support for a windfall profits tax on gas, by voting intention

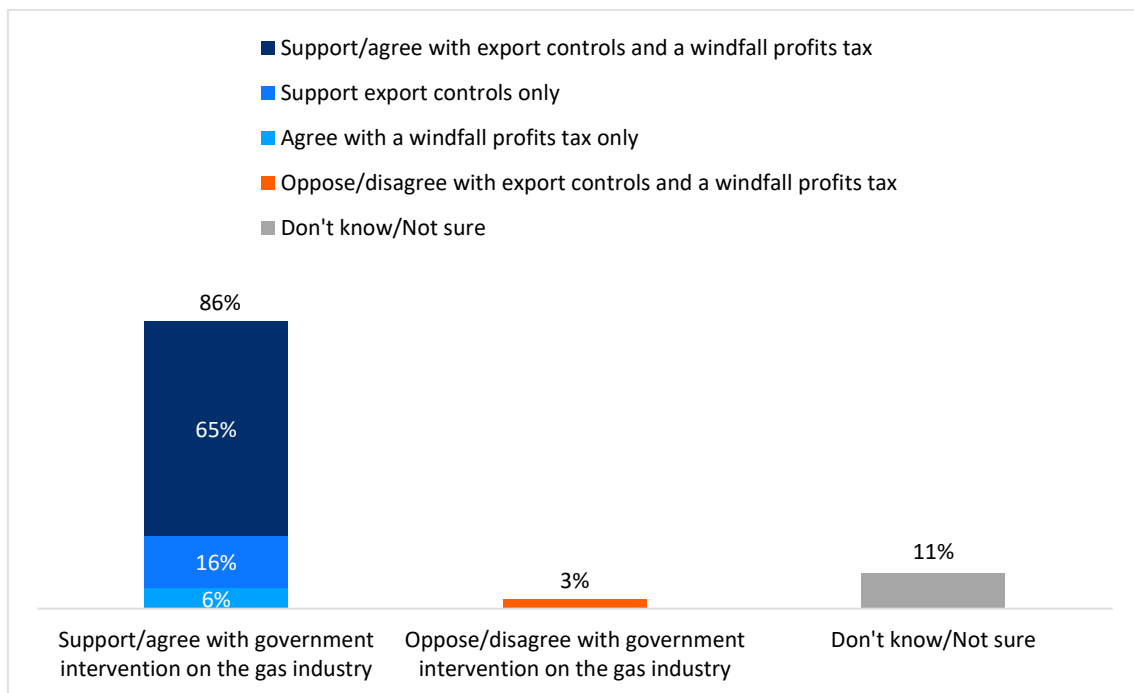


Intervention in the gas market of some kind

Results for the two questions were used to measure how many Australians support an intervention in the gas market of some kind.

- Two in three Australians (65%) both support imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand and agree that the Government should impose a windfall profits tax on gas.
- A further 16% support imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand, but do not agree that the Government should impose a windfall profits tax on gas (they disagree or answer “Don’t know / Not sure”).
- 6% agree that the Government should impose a windfall profits tax on gas but do not support imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand (they oppose or answer “Don’t know / Not sure”).
- Just 3% disagree with or oppose both export controls and a windfall profits tax. A further 11% chose “Don’t know / Not sure” for both options.

Figure 4: Total support for a government intervention in the gas industry



Method

Between 1 and 4 November 2022, The Australia Institute surveyed 1,001 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 943.57.

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, and minor parties in cases where they were included in the voting intention but represent too small a sample to be reported separately in the crosstabs.



**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.

Former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Rod Sims has proposed that the Federal Government should consider capping the amount of gas companies are allowed to export overseas in order to reduce the price for Australian households and businesses.

Would you support or oppose imposing export controls on gas exporters if they do not meet local demand?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	52%	57%	47%	52%	52%	49%	47%
Support	28%	28%	29%	26%	29%	33%	32%
Oppose	5%	5%	5%	3%	6%	6%	6%
Strongly oppose	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Don't know/Not sure	13%	8%	18%	15%	12%	12%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	52%	55%	46%	50%	55%	55%
Support	28%	28%	32%	24%	28%	20%
Oppose	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	2%
Strongly oppose	2%	1%	2%	7%	2%	1%
Don't know/Not sure	13%	10%	14%	15%	11%	22%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Strongly support	52%	44%	48%	53%	47%	62%
Support	28%	35%	33%	22%	25%	27%
Oppose	5%	4%	5%	5%	9%	3%
Strongly oppose	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Don't know/Not sure	13%	14%	11%	18%	18%	8%

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Do you think the Australian Government should introduce a windfall profits tax on gas?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
Strongly agree	39%	46%	33%	43%	36%	35%	38%
Agree	31%	34%	29%	30%	34%	37%	28%
Disagree	7%	6%	8%	5%	9%	7%	7%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Don't know/Not sure	18%	10%	25%	18%	17%	16%	23%

	<i>Total</i>	Coalition	Labor	PHON	Greens	Other
Strongly agree	39%	37%	39%	29%	49%	42%
Agree	31%	35%	32%	22%	31%	23%
Disagree	7%	7%	6%	12%	9%	6%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	4%	19%	1%	6%
Don't know/Not sure	18%	17%	19%	19%	10%	23%

	<i>Total</i>	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Strongly agree	39%	35%	40%	37%	38%	45%
Agree	31%	36%	37%	26%	27%	30%
Disagree	7%	7%	5%	7%	8%	7%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	3%	6%	9%	3%
Don't know/Not sure	18%	18%	15%	23%	18%	16%