

Polling - Maugean skate

November 2024

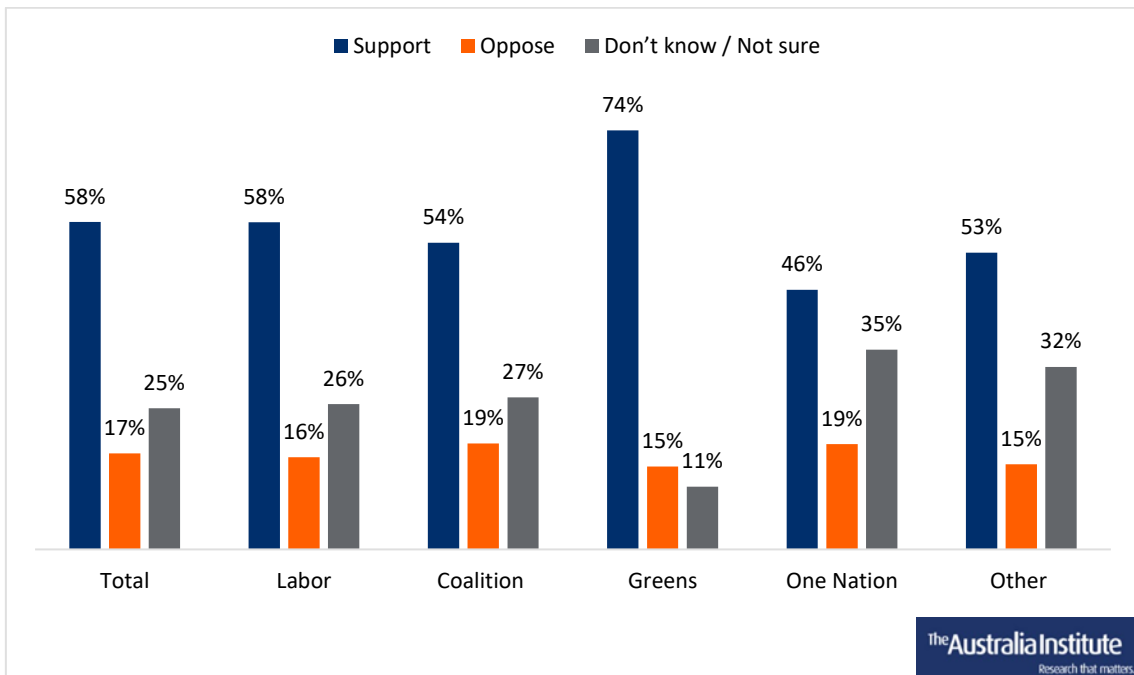
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,009 Australians between 13 and 15 November 2024 about stopping fish farming in Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania’s west coast where it put the endangered Maugean skate, an endangered stingray-like marine species, at risk of extinction.

The results show that:

- Over one in two (58%) Australians support stopping fish farming in areas where it is putting the Maugean skate at risk of extinction, over three times as many as those who oppose the action (17%).
- The majority of Australians across all voting intentions except One Nation voters, support stopping fish farming in areas where it is putting the Maugean skate at risk of extinction. Support is highest among Greens voters (74%), followed by Labor (58%) and Coalition (54%) voters.

Figure 1: Stop fish farming putting the skate at risk of extinction, by voting intention



The Maugean skate is listed as Endangered under both state and federal legislation and is found only in Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast; one third of Macquarie Harbour is within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and the skate is one of the values of the World Heritage Area. Scientific research, including Australian Government Conservation advice, identifies fish farming's draw down of dissolved oxygen levels in Macquarie Harbour as the main threat to the skate. Australia's Threatened Species Scientific Committee has recommended increasing the threat level faced by the skate from endangered to critically endangered.

In 2023, Australia Institute research led to a reconsideration of the original decision under national environmental law that allowed large scale fish farming operations in Macquarie Harbour. Over 12 months later, the federal Environment Minister is still yet to make a decision as to whether fish farming will be removed from Macquarie Harbour to protect the Maugean skate.

Respondents were told:

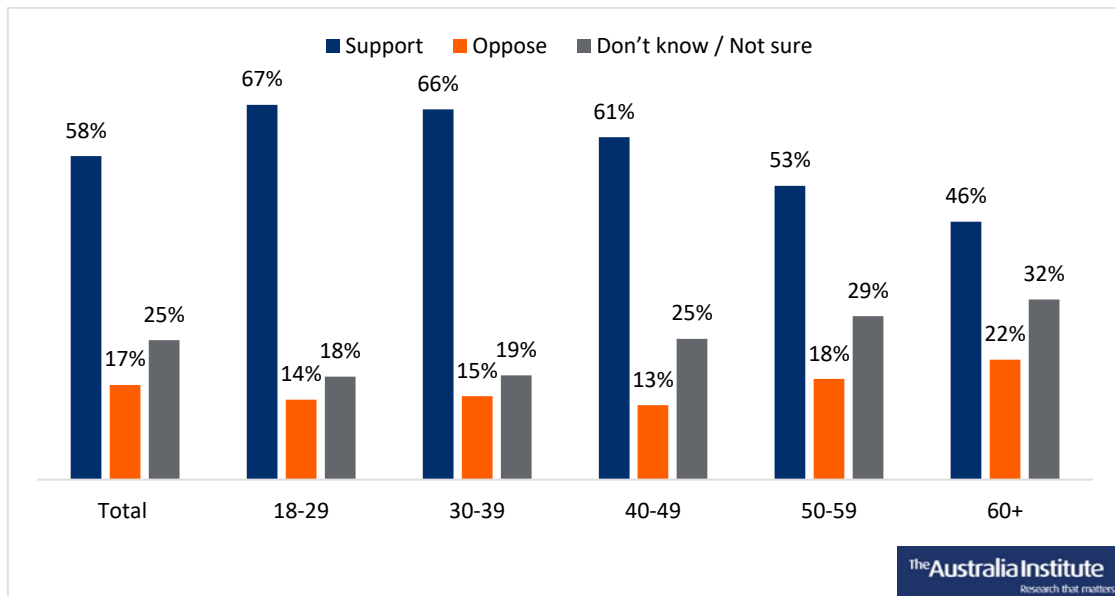
The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area includes part of Macquarie Harbour, the home of the endangered marine species, the Maugean skate.

Respondents were then asked whether they support or oppose stopping fish farming in areas where it is putting the endangered Maugean skate at risk of extinction.

Results by age show that:

- The majority of Australians across all age groups except for those aged 60 or older, support stopping fish farming where it puts the Maugean skate at risk of extinction.
- Support for stopping fish farming where it puts the Maugean skate at risk of extinction is highest among younger Australians, with two in three of those aged 18-29 (67%) and those aged 30-39 (66%) in support.
- Support for stopping fish farming where it puts the Maugean skate at risk of extinction declines as age increase. However, even among those aged 60 and older, twice as many support the measure (46%) as those who oppose (22%).

Figure 2: Stop fish farming putting the skate at risk of extinction, by age



The Australia Institute has polled this question before, in July 2023. There has been little change. Then, 61% supported stopping fish farming in areas where it is putting the Maugean skate at risk of extinction, within the margin of error of the 58% who support stopping fish farming in the most recent poll.

Method - 2024 poll

Short disclosure statement

Panel provider	Dynata
Research company	The Australia Institute
Client commissioning the research	NA
Fieldwork dates	13 November 2024 to 15 November 2024
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from research panel
Target population	Australian adults aged 18+
Sample size	1,009
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
Voting intention published	No
Long disclosure statement	See below

Long disclosure statement

Effective sample size after weighting applied	983
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	±3%
Variables used in weighting	Age, gender and state/territory based on Australian Bureau of Statistics “National, state and territory population” data
Gender identity categorisation	Those who answered the gender identity question as “Non-binary”, “I use a different term”, or “Prefer not to answer” had their responses included with females for the purpose of reporting, due to constraints from weighting data availability
Weighting method used	Raking method
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below
Source of online sample	Dynata’s online panel
Positioning of voting intention questions in questionnaire	Immediately after demographics, before policy questions
How were undecided voters handled?	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
Method of calculating 2PP	NA
Voting intention categorisation	Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives “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
Location results	Results are shown only for larger states



**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.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area includes part of Macquarie Harbour, the home of the endangered marine species, the Maugean skate.

Do you support or oppose stopping fish farming in areas where it is putting the endangered Maugean skate at risk of extinction?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	22%	22%	23%	28%	17%	21%	21%
Support	35%	37%	34%	31%	36%	38%	45%
Oppose	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	10%	8%
Strongly oppose	6%	7%	5%	5%	7%	5%	1%
Don't know/ Not sure	25%	23%	28%	25%	29%	26%	25%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18–29</i>	<i>30–39</i>	<i>40–49</i>	<i>50–59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Strongly support	22%	25%	29%	20%	21%	19%
Support	35%	42%	38%	42%	31%	27%
Oppose	11%	11%	7%	11%	12%	15%
Strongly oppose	6%	4%	8%	3%	6%	7%
Don't know/ Not sure	25%	18%	19%	25%	29%	32%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	22%	23%	17%	38%	16%	24%
Support	35%	35%	38%	36%	30%	29%
Oppose	11%	10%	13%	7%	17%	11%
Strongly oppose	6%	6%	6%	8%	2%	4%
Don't know/ Not sure	25%	26%	27%	11%	35%	32%

Method - 2023 poll

Short disclosure statement

Panel provider	Dynata
Research company	The Australia Institute
Client commissioning the research	NA
Fieldwork dates	4 July 2023 to 7 July 2023
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from research panel
Target population	Australian adults aged 18+
Sample size	1,004
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
Voting intention published	No
Long disclosure statement	See below

Long disclosure statement

Effective sample size after weighting applied	939
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	±3%
Variables used in weighting	Age, gender and state/territory based on Australian Bureau of Statistics “National, state and territory population” data
Gender identity categorisation	Those who answered the gender identity question as “Non-binary”, “I use a different term”, or “Prefer not to answer” had their responses included with females for the purpose of reporting, due to constraints from weighting data availability
Weighting method used	Raking method
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below
Source of online sample	Dynata’s online panel
Positioning of voting intention questions in questionnaire	Immediately after demographics, before policy questions
How were undecided voters handled?	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
Method of calculating 2PP	NA
Voting intention categorisation	Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives “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
Location results	Results are shown only for larger states

Detailed results

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

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area includes part of Macquarie Harbour, the home of the endangered marine species, the Maugean skate.

Would you support or oppose stopping fish farming in areas where it is putting the endangered Maugean skate at risk of extinction?

	<i>Total</i>	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Strongly support	28%	40%	33%	28%	20%	19%
Support	33%	36%	33%	31%	30%	35%
Oppose	12%	7%	10%	15%	14%	12%
Strongly oppose	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	4%
Don't know / Not sure	22%	11%	17%	19%	29%	30%

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
Strongly support	28%	27%	29%	29%	27%	26%	29%
Support	33%	33%	35%	37%	31%	34%	36%
Oppose	12%	14%	9%	11%	10%	13%	12%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	22%	22%	22%	17%	27%	20%	20%

	<i>Total</i>	Labor	Coalition	Greens	PHON	Other
Strongly support	28%	29%	22%	47%	13%	27%
Support	33%	33%	34%	36%	30%	31%
Oppose	12%	11%	15%	2%	15%	12%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	4%	7%	15%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	22%	23%	24%	8%	27%	26%