

Polling - Koalas and offsets

August 2026

SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

The NSW Labor Government has proposed to create a “Great Koala National Park”. This park was first promised in 2015 and again at the 2023 election. Four in five Australians (84%) think the NSW Minns Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park.

Four in five Australians overwhelmingly (82%) believe that governments should protect koala habitat, including three in four Liberal (77%) and One Nation (73%) voters.

In late 2025, the Minns Government made creation of the park contingent on being able to sell carbon credits relating to conservation of koala habitat. The Minns Government received the relevant approvals from the Federal Government for its carbon credit method, but this faces a disallowance motion in the Senate.

About three in five (59%) Australians agree that protecting forests is important but should not be used to justify continued fossil fuel pollution, compared to one in four (25%) who disagree.

Premier Minns has announced that no carbon credits from the koala park would be sold to coal and gas companies. Most Australians (57%) support the Minns Government’s decision to ban coal and gas companies from buying carbon offsets from the Great Koala National Park.

Carbon offsets are a central part of Australia’s key climate policy, the Federal Safeguard Mechanism, which is currently being reviewed. The Safeguard Mechanism allows major polluters to increase pollution without limit, in exchange for purchasing of carbon offsets. Most Australians (55%) think that coal and gas projects should not be allowed to use carbon offsets to continue polluting as much as they want.

Polling

The poll of 2,367 Australians was conducted in August 2026. It provides a representative sample of public opinion in Australia and is compliant with the requirements of the Australian Polling Council. Full details of the methodology are provided in the methodology statement,¹ and a comprehensive breakdown of results can be found in the Appendix to this brief.

Respondents were asked the following questions (in order).

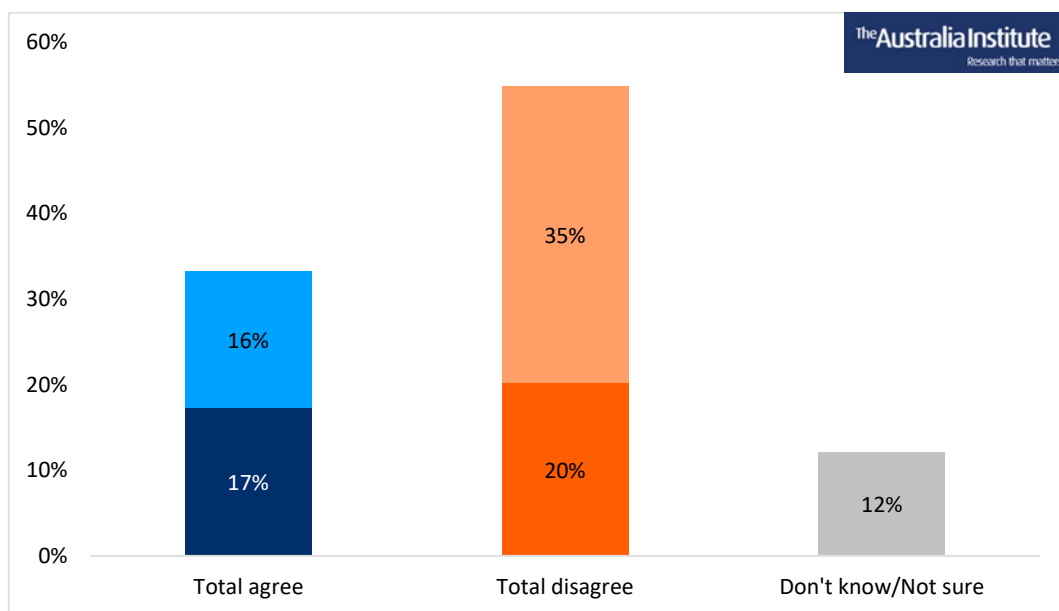
Coal and gas projects and carbon offsets

Coal and gas projects in Australia are required to reduce their carbon emissions over time. They can choose to do this directly by investing in less polluting technologies, or they can keep polluting and buy carbon offsets from, for example, people who commit not to chop down forests.

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

“Coal and gas projects should be able to buy as many carbon offsets as they want to pollute as much as they want.”

Figure 1: Coal and gas projects should be able to buy as many carbon offsets as they want to pollute as much as they want



Most Australians (55%) disagree that coal and gas projects should be able to buy as many carbon offsets as they want to pollute as much as they want, including one in

¹ <https://australiainstitute.org.au/australian-polling-council-long-methodology-disclosure-statements/>

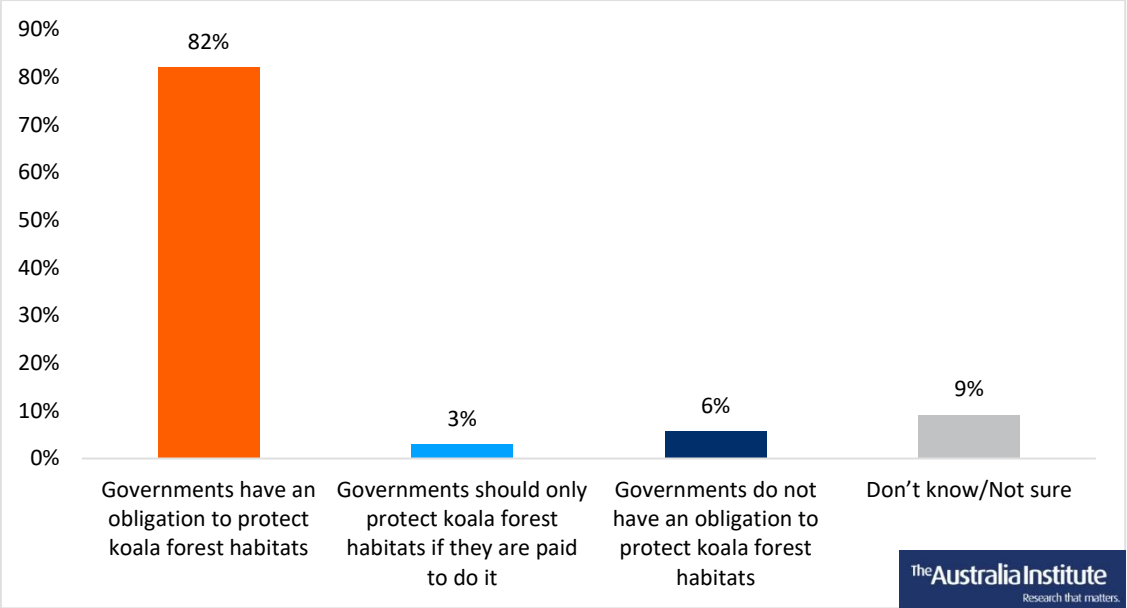
three (35%) who strongly disagree. Meanwhile, only one in three (33%) agree that coal and gas projects should be able to buy as many carbon offsets as they want to pollute as much as they want.

Koala habitats and government obligations

Koalas are at risk of going extinct in the wild.

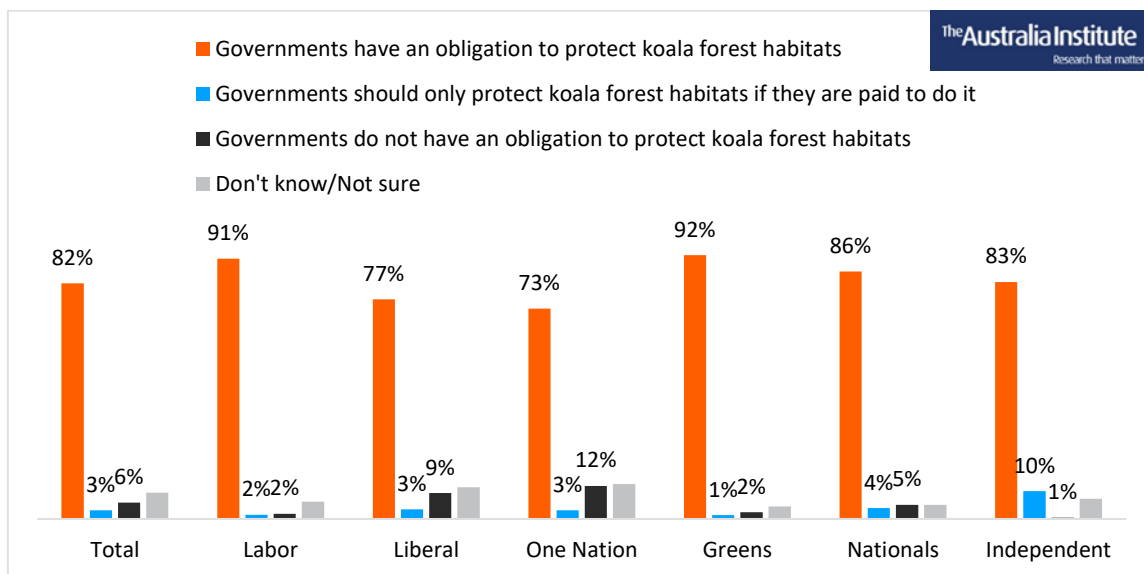
Which of the following is closest to your personal view about Australian governments' obligations to protect koala forest habitats?

Figure 2: Government obligations to protect koala forest habitats



Four in five (82%) Australians think that governments have an obligation to protect koala habitats. Only 6% of Australians think governments do not have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats, while only 3% of Australians think governments should only protect these habitats if they are paid to do so.

Figure 3: Government obligations to protect koala habitats, by voting intention

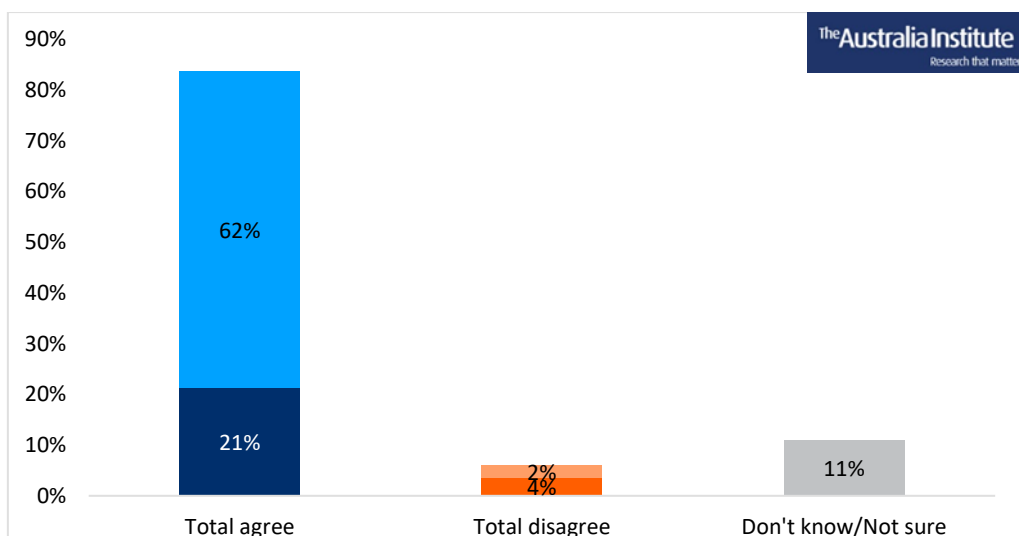


Support is not restricted to voters for progressive parties, three in four Liberal (77%) and One Nation (73%) voters, and four in five Nationals (86%) voters, believe governments have an obligation to protect koala habitats.

Great Koala National Park promise

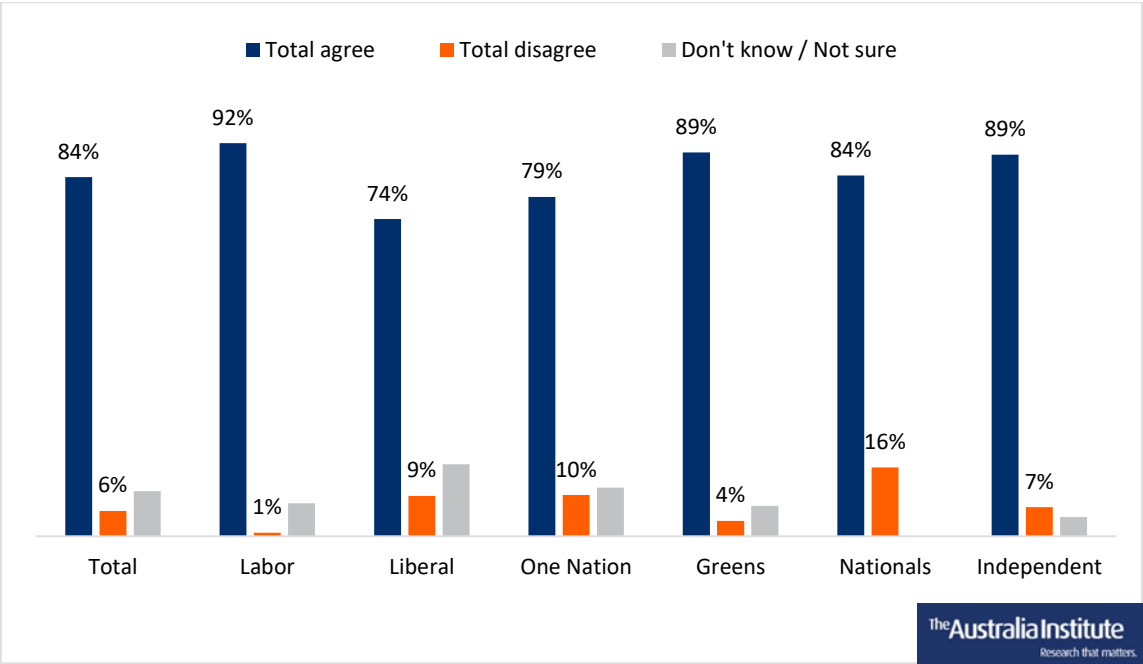
The NSW Minns Government promised to establish 'the Great Koala National Park' to help protect the state's endangered koala population. Do you agree or disagree that the NSW Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park?

Figure 4: NSW Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park



Four in five (84%) Australians agree that the NSW Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park, including three in five (62%) who strongly agree. 6% of Australians disagree.

Figure 5: NSW Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park, by select voting intention



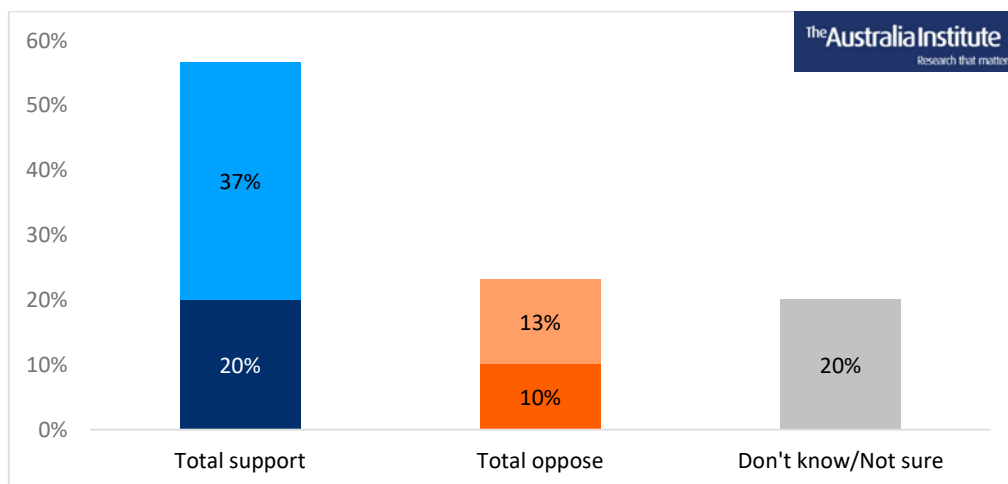
Majorities of voters across the political spectrum agree that the NSW Government should keep this promise, including nine in ten Labor voters (92%), three in four Liberal voters (74%), four in five One Nation voters (79%) and nine in ten Greens voters (89%).

Banning coal and gas from buying koala offsets

Coal and gas companies will not be allowed to buy carbon offsets produced by the Great Koala National Park in NSW under rules announced by the NSW Minns Government.

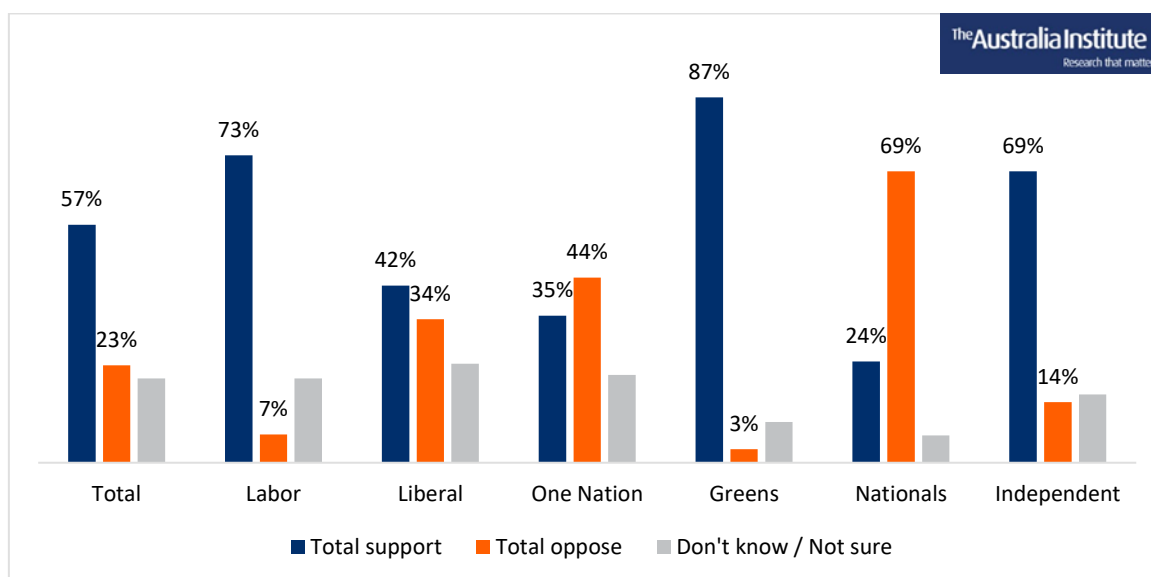
Do you support or oppose this policy?

Figure 6: Stopping coal and gas companies from buying Great Koala National Park carbon offsets



Most (57%) Australians support the Minns Government creating rules meaning that coal and gas companies will not be allowed to buy carbon offsets produced by the Great Koala National Park. Only one in four (23%) of Australians oppose this policy.

Figure 7: Stopping coal and gas companies from buying Great Koala National Park carbon offsets, by select voting intention



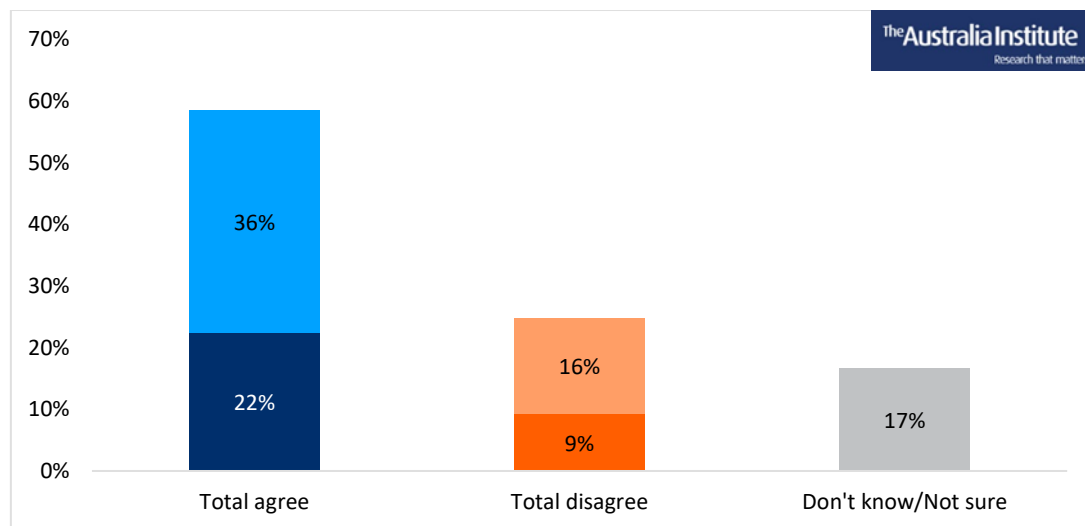
This includes three in four (73%) of Labor voters, over four in five (87%) of Greens voters, and seven in ten (69%) of independent voters.

Even among Liberal voters, more support (42%) this policy than oppose (34%), while among One Nation voters more oppose (44%) than support (34%) this policy.

Forests and fossil fuel pollution

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Protecting forests is important, but it should not be used to justify continued fossil fuel pollution."

Figure 8: Protecting forests is important, but it should not be used to justify continued fossil fuel pollution



About three in five (59%) of Australians agree that protecting forests is important but should not be used to justify continued fossil fuel pollution, including one in three (36%) Australians who strongly agree. Meanwhile, only one in four (25%) Australians disagree with this statement.

CONCLUSION

A significant majority of Australians think governments have an obligation to protect koala habitats and that the NSW Minns Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park. A clear majority of Australians also support the Minns Government's decision to ban coal and gas companies from buying carbon offsets from this park. More broadly, a majority disagree that coal and gas projects should be able to use carbon offsets to pollute as much as they want.

APPENDIX - DETAILED RESULTS

uComms conducted a survey of 2,367 members across Australia on behalf of The Australia Institute during the evening of 10th August 2026 using a self-completed and open-ended automated SMS and Voice polling methodology.

Question 1

Coal and gas projects in Australia are required to reduce their carbon emissions over time. They can choose to do this directly by investing in less polluting technologies, or they can keep polluting and buy carbon offsets from, for example, people who commit not to chop down forests. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Coal and gas projects should be able to buy as many carbon offsets as they want to pollute as much as they want ."

Single Select

	Male	Female	Totals
Strongly agree	19.6%	12.3%	15.9%
Agree	20.3%	14.3%	17.3%
Disagree	19.2%	21.3%	20.2%
Strongly Disagree	30.2%	38.8%	34.6%
Don't know/Not sure	10.7%	13.4%	12.1%

	Labor Party	Liberal / Liberal National Party	One Nation	The Greens	An Independent	The Nationals	Another party or candidate	Undecided	Totals
Strongly agree	8.5%	22.9%	29.8%	1.8%	5.4%	30.9%	15.6%	7.9%	15.9%
Agree	5.9%	32.3%	26.5%	4.7%	11.6%	44.3%	6.0%	9.3%	17.3%
Disagree	25.8%	20.5%	16.1%	14.7%	17.3%	9.9%	17.4%	29.8%	20.2%
Strongly Disagree	49.0%	12.8%	10.6%	73.7%	59.8%	6.2%	33.8%	36.4%	34.6%
Don't know/Not sure	10.8%	11.4%	17.1%	5.1%	6.0%	8.8%	27.2%	16.6%	12.1%

	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	Totals
Strongly agree	15.6%	17.9%	10.8%	20.5%	13.2%	15.9%
Agree	18.8%	21.3%	15.4%	16.2%	12.3%	17.3%
Disagree	22.4%	22.8%	20.7%	16.0%	16.9%	20.2%
Strongly Disagree	31.7%	29.0%	39.5%	33.5%	41.9%	34.6%
Don't know/Not sure	11.5%	9.0%	13.6%	13.8%	15.6%	12.1%

Question 2

Koalas are at risk of going extinct in the wild. Which of the following is closest to your personal view about Australian governments' obligations to protect koala forest habitats?

Single Select

Responses were rotated.

	Male	Female	Totals
Governments have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats	79.7%	84.4%	82.1%
Governments should only protect koala forest habitats if they are paid to do it	4.0%	2.1%	3.0%
Governments do not have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats	7.9%	3.4%	5.7%
Don't know/Not sure	8.3%	10.1%	9.2%

	Labor Party	Liberal / Liberal National Party	One Nation	The Greens	An Independent	The Nationals	Another party or candidate	Undecided	Totals
Governments have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats	90.7%	76.6%	73.3%	92.0%	82.6%	86.3%	83.2%	82.5%	82.1%
Governments should only protect koala forest habitats if they are paid to do it	1.5%	3.4%	3.0%	1.3%	9.7%	3.8%	0%	0.4%	3.0%
Governments do not have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats	1.8%	9.0%	11.5%	2.3%	0.5%	4.9%	0%	3.5%	5.7%
Don't know/Not sure	6.0%	11.1%	12.2%	4.4%	7.2%	4.9%	16.8%	13.7%	9.2%

	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	Totals
Governments have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats	79.7%	87.7%	77.6%	82.1%	83.2%	82.1%
Governments should only protect koala forest habitats if they are paid to do it	3.8%	2.0%	4.8%	3.3%	1.8%	3.0%
Governments do not have an obligation to protect koala forest habitats	7.7%	4.1%	4.0%	5.2%	3.3%	5.7%
Don't know/Not sure	8.9%	6.2%	13.7%	9.5%	11.7%	9.2%

Question 3

The NSW Minns Government promised to establish 'the Great Koala National Park' to help protect the state's endangered koala population. Do you agree or disagree that the NSW Government should keep its promise to establish the Great Koala National Park?

Single Select

	Male	Female	Totals
Strongly agree	57.1%	67.3%	62.3%
Agree	23.1%	19.7%	21.3%
Disagree	4.0%	3.0%	3.5%
Strongly disagree	3.5%	1.3%	2.4%
Don't know/Not sure	12.3%	8.8%	10.5%

	Labor Party	Liberal / Liberal National Party	One Nation	The Greens	An Independent	The Nationals	Another party or candidate	Undecided	Totals
Strongly agree	72.4%	49.7%	52.8%	76.7%	64.7%	74.1%	69.4%	66.1%	62.3%
Agree	19.1%	24.1%	26.2%	12.6%	24.1%	9.9%	7.6%	18.3%	21.3%
Disagree	0.5%	6.3%	5.2%	3.6%	1.6%	11.1%	4.2%	1.8%	3.5%
Strongly disagree	0.3%	3.1%	4.4%	0%	5.2%	4.9%	0%	0.4%	2.4%
Don't know/Not sure	7.7%	16.8%	11.3%	7.1%	4.5%	0%	18.7%	13.4%	10.5%

	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	Totals
Strongly agree	62.5%	65.9%	52.7%	65.1%	60.2%	62.3%
Agree	19.9%	20.0%	32.6%	21.9%	20.3%	21.3%
Disagree	4.4%	4.7%	0.4%	4.0%	1.7%	3.5%
Strongly disagree	4.5%	0.5%	1.0%	1.5%	2.5%	2.4%
Don't know/Not sure	8.7%	9.0%	13.2%	7.5%	15.2%	10.5%

Question 4

Coal and gas companies will not be allowed to buy carbon offsets produced by the Great Koala National Park in NSW under rules announced by the NSW Minns Government. Do you support or oppose this policy?

Single Select

	Male	Female	Totals
Strongly support	37.8%	35.5%	36.6%
Support	16.8%	23.3%	20.1%
Oppose	14.7%	11.6%	13.1%
Strongly oppose	13.1%	7.1%	10.1%
Don't know/Not sure	17.6%	22.5%	20.1%

	Labor Party	Liberal / Liberal National Party	One Nation	The Greens	An Independent	The Nationals	Another party or candidate	Undecided	Totals
Strongly support	52.4%	20.3%	15.0%	71.0%	53.8%	6.5%	35.3%	30.3%	36.6%
Support	20.8%	21.9%	20.0%	16.0%	15.6%	17.6%	16.1%	26.9%	20.1%
Oppose	4.2%	20.2%	22.7%	0.5%	9.1%	56.5%	10.9%	11.5%	13.1%
Strongly oppose	2.5%	14.0%	21.4%	2.7%	5.3%	12.9%	5.8%	3.2%	10.1%
Don't know/Not sure	20.1%	23.6%	20.9%	9.7%	16.3%	6.5%	31.9%	28.1%	20.1%

	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	Totals
Strongly support	35.1%	32.7%	36.3%	37.7%	36.6%	36.6%
Support	22.6%	20.5%	19.6%	21.7%	12.8%	20.1%
Oppose	14.2%	16.2%	17.4%	11.0%	9.1%	13.1%
Strongly oppose	9.2%	10.3%	7.6%	10.4%	13.5%	10.1%
Don't know/Not sure	18.9%	20.3%	19.2%	19.3%	28.0%	20.1%

Question 5

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Protecting forests is important, but it should not be used to justify continued fossil fuel pollution."

Single Select

	Male	Female	Totals
Strongly agree	34.1%	38.0%	36.1%
Agree	22.5%	22.3%	22.4%
Disagree	13.9%	17.0%	15.5%
Strongly disagree	12.8%	5.9%	9.3%
Don't know/Not sure	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%

	Labor Party	Liberal / Liberal National Party	One Nation	The Greens	An Independent	The Nationals	Another party or candidate	Undecided	Totals
Strongly agree	49.8%	20.3%	15.8%	69.1%	47.9%	10.2%	56.6%	33.9%	36.1%
Agree	28.6%	21.6%	18.5%	14.3%	22.8%	15.6%	8.3%	33.8%	22.4%
Disagree	5.1%	29.3%	25.7%	2.5%	4.3%	60.5%	17.8%	9.0%	15.5%
Strongly disagree	2.5%	14.9%	18.1%	3.9%	3.6%	6.9%	2.2%	4.6%	9.3%
Don't know/Not sure	14.1%	13.9%	21.9%	10.2%	21.4%	6.9%	15.1%	18.7%	16.7%

	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	Totals
Strongly agree	36.2%	32.5%	39.3%	39.3%	34.1%	36.1%
Agree	22.6%	20.3%	19.9%	23.8%	23.6%	22.4%
Disagree	16.4%	20.3%	18.5%	13.7%	10.7%	15.5%
Strongly disagree	11.1%	5.7%	8.1%	8.6%	9.1%	9.3%
Don't know/Not sure	13.7%	21.3%	14.2%	14.6%	22.4%	16.7%

Methodology Disclosure - Short

Research conducted by	Yabbr Listens Pty Ltd
Commissioned by	The Australia Institute
End client	The Australia Institute
Fieldwork dates	10th August 2026
Mode of data collection	Automated telephone poll and SMS
Target population	Automated telephone poll and SMS
Sample size	2367
Australian Polling Council (APC) Compliant	Yes
URL of Long Methodology Disclosure Statement	https://australiainstitute.org.au/australian-polling-council-long-methodology-disclosure-statements/
Voter intention published	Yes