

# Polling - Renewable energy and farms

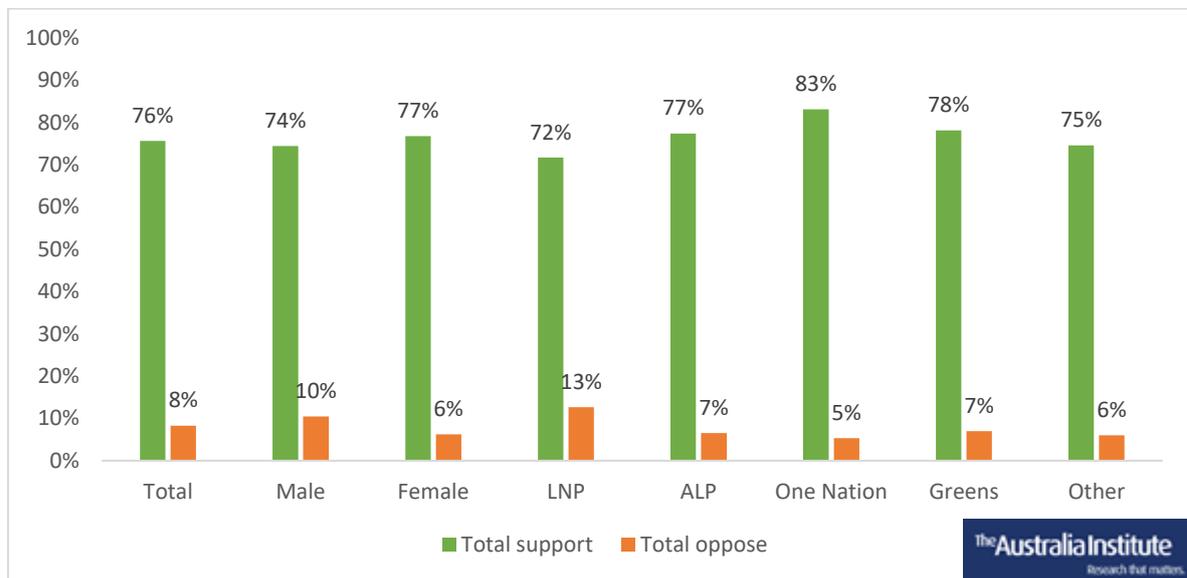
*March 2019*

## Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,536 Australians about a government funded program to assist farmers to harvest solar energy and sell it directly to other landholders in their region.

The survey asked respondents if they support allowing farmers who generate wind or solar power on their farms to sell it directly to other landholders.

**Figure 1: Allowing farmers who generate wind or solar power on their farms to sell it directly to other landholders in their region, rather than selling it to energy companies – support or oppose?**

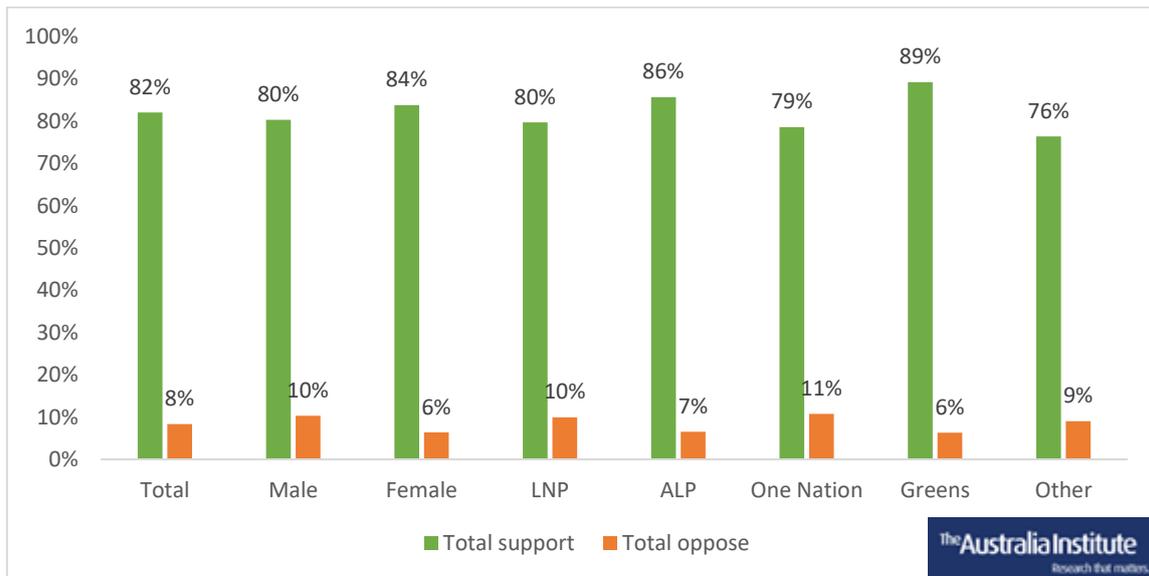


- Three-quarters of respondents (76%) support allowing farmers who generate renewable energy on their land to sell energy directly to their neighbours, including 31% who strongly supported the proposal.
- Less than one in ten respondents (8%) oppose the proposals, including 2% who are strongly opposed.

- PHON voters were most supportive (83%) while LNP voters were least supportive, although with very high support nonetheless (72%).

The survey also asked respondents if they support a government funded program to help farmers install wind and solar power on their farms.

**Figure 2: A government funded program to help farmers install wind and solar power on their farms – support or oppose?**



- Four-fifths (82%) of respondents support a government funded program to help farmers install wind and solar on their farms, with less than one in ten (8%) respondents opposed.
- Voters of all political parties supported the proposal.
- One Nation voters were most likely to oppose the proposal (11%). However, four-fifths of One Nation voters (79%) support the proposal.
- Only one in ten respondents (10%) answered that they did not know or weren't sure.

## Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,536 people between 20 February 2019 and 4 March 2019, online through Dynata (formerly Research Now), with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory, and results further post-weighted by gender.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. “LNP” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” includes Centre Alliance, United Australia Party and Independent/Other.

## Detailed results

*Do you support or oppose the following?*

**1. Allowing farmers who generate wind or solar power on their farms to sell it directly to other landholders in their region, rather than selling it to energy companies.**

|                              | Total      | Male | Female | LNP | ALP | PHON | Greens | Other |
|------------------------------|------------|------|--------|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| <b>Strongly support</b>      | <b>31%</b> | 29%  | 33%    | 27% | 31% | 34%  | 42%    | 30%   |
| <b>Support</b>               | <b>45%</b> | 45%  | 44%    | 45% | 46% | 49%  | 36%    | 44%   |
| <b>Oppose</b>                | <b>6%</b>  | 8%   | 5%     | 9%  | 5%  | 4%   | 7%     | 4%    |
| <b>Strongly oppose</b>       | <b>2%</b>  | 3%   | 1%     | 3%  | 1%  | 1%   | 0%     | 2%    |
| <b>Don't know / not sure</b> | <b>16%</b> | 15%  | 17%    | 16% | 16% | 12%  | 15%    | 19%   |

**2. A government funded program to help farmers install wind and solar power on their farms.**

|                              | Total      | Male | Female | LNP | ALP | PHON | Greens | Other |
|------------------------------|------------|------|--------|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| <b>Strongly support</b>      | <b>38%</b> | 36%  | 41%    | 30% | 42% | 37%  | 53%    | 36%   |
| <b>Support</b>               | <b>44%</b> | 45%  | 43%    | 50% | 43% | 41%  | 36%    | 41%   |
| <b>Oppose</b>                | <b>6%</b>  | 8%   | 5%     | 7%  | 5%  | 7%   | 6%     | 6%    |
| <b>Strongly oppose</b>       | <b>2%</b>  | 3%   | 1%     | 3%  | 2%  | 4%   | 0%     | 3%    |
| <b>Don't know / not sure</b> | <b>10%</b> | 9%   | 10%    | 10% | 8%  | 11%  | 4%     | 15%   |