

Polling Brief - Renewable Energy

March 2017

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed 1420 Australians about renewable energy policy.

- 67% said Australia was moving into renewable energy too slowly, including 35% saying much too slowly. Only 9% said Australia was moving too fast.
 - A majority from all states and of voters for all parties said Australia was moving too slowly.
- 77% of Australians support a state renewable energy target to provide extra renewable energy in their state, including 35% strongly supporting.
 - There was over 70% support in all gender, state and voting categories.
 - Despite ongoing government criticism of state based renewable targets over the last year, the level of support has remained unchanged. In early March 2016, The Australia Institute ran a poll using the same methodology and asked the same question; it found 76% support for state renewable targets.
- 52% supported increasing the current federal Renewable Energy Target for 2020; 26% said they would keep it at the current level of 23.5%. 9% wanted to reduce it.
 - Women were less likely to want to reduce the target.
 - Support for increasing it was similar in all states.
 - 60% of ALP voters wanted to increase the target, 23% to keep it.
 - More than two in five voters for One Nation and Ind / Other supported increasing it, while around one in five supported keeping it the same.
- 73% supported setting a new renewable energy target for 2030.
 - Support was highest in Queensland (80%).
 - 69% of Coalition voters and 66% of One Nation voters supported a higher 2030 target.
- 45% think getting rid of the Renewable Energy Target would lead to higher power prices. 13% said power prices would stay the same, and only 19% said they would decrease.
- 55% rate Turnbull as poor on renewable energy and climate change.
 - This included 39% of Coalition voters, 59% of One Nation voters and 58% of Other/ Independent voters.

Method

From 17 March to 24 March 2017, The Australia Institute conducted a national poll of 1420 people through Research Now using representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.

Results are presented in detail below with crosstabs by gender, larger states and voting intention in the House of Representatives.

Undecided voters were asked which way they were 'leaning', and these leanings are included in the party voting intention crosstabs. Results for undecided voters are also shown separately as 'Undec'. 'LNP' combines separate responses for Liberals and Nationals. 'Ind/Other' combines responses for Independent / Other and for the Nick Xenophon Team.

Detailed Results

Do you think Australia is moving into renewable energy too slowly or too fast?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Total Too Slowly	67%	65%	68%	67%	61%	70%	69%	64%
Total Too Fast	9%	13%	6%	8%	13%	8%	6%	15%
Much too slowly	35%	37%	34%	35%	31%	39%	36%	40%
A little too slowly	31%	28%	34%	31%	30%	32%	33%	25%
About right	16%	17%	16%	17%	19%	15%	18%	15%
A little too fast	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	5%	3%	8%
Much too fast	5%	8%	2%	4%	8%	3%	3%	7%
Don't know / not sure	8%	4%	11%	9%	7%	7%	8%	6%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Ind/ Oth	Undec
Total Too Slowly	55%	72%	88%	62%	64%	62%
Total Too Fast	17%	4%	3%	15%	9%	5%
Much too slowly	22%	40%	62%	30%	38%	31%
A little too slowly	34%	32%	26%	32%	26%	31%
About right	24%	17%	4%	11%	11%	13%
A little too fast	8%	2%	3%	6%	5%	2%
Much too fast	9%	2%	0%	9%	4%	2%
Don't know/ not sure	4%	7%	5%	11%	16%	21%

State governments can create their own renewable energy targets to drive extra renewable energy in their own state. Do you support or oppose an increased renewable energy target in your own state?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Total Support	77%	77%	77%	78%	74%	80%	78%	78%
Total Oppose	10%	15%	6%	8%	14%	10%	8%	11%
Strongly support	35%	36%	33%	36%	32%	37%	31%	35%
Support	43%	41%	44%	42%	42%	44%	46%	44%
Oppose	6%	9%	4%	5%	8%	7%	8%	6%
Strongly oppose	4%	6%	2%	3%	6%	3%	1%	5%
Don't know / not sure	12%	8%	17%	13%	12%	10%	14%	11%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Ind/ Oth	Undec
Total Support	72%	81%	94%	67%	76%	66%
Total Oppose	17%	6%	2%	16%	6%	6%
Strongly support	24%	39%	64%	26%	33%	23%
Support	48%	43%	30%	41%	43%	43%
Oppose	11%	5%	2%	6%	4%	4%
Strongly oppose	6%	1%	0%	9%	2%	2%
Don't know / not sure	11%	13%	4%	17%	18%	28%

Results from March 2016, same question

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Total Support	76%	76%	76%	76%	75%	76%	82%	71%
Total Oppose	7%	10%	3%	7%	6%	5%	6%	12%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	Other
Total Support	74%	80%	84%	64%
Total Oppose	9%	3%	3%	12%

The current federal Renewable Energy Target is for around 23.5% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Do you think the government should keep, increase or reduce the 2020 Target?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Keep the current target	26%	28%	25%	27%	24%	27%	30%	26%
Increase the target	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	51%	54%	50%
Reduce the target	9%	13%	5%	8%	12%	11%	4%	9%
Don't know / Not sure	13%	7%	18%	13%	12%	11%	12%	16%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Ind/ Oth	Undec
Keep the current target	38%	23%	11%	25%	22%	24%
Increase the target	39%	60%	79%	43%	45%	43%
Reduce the target	13%	5%	2%	17%	9%	4%
Don't know / not sure	9%	12%	8%	14%	24%	29%

The current target stops supporting new renewable energy in 2020. Do you think the federal government should set a higher Renewable Energy Target for 2030 to keep building new renewable energy sources?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Yes	73%	71%	75%	72%	70%	79%	71%	66%
No	12%	16%	8%	12%	14%	8%	9%	14%
Don't know/ not sure	16%	13%	18%	15%	16%	13%	20%	20%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Ind/ Oth	Undec
Yes	69%	76%	87%	68%	66%	61%
No	17%	8%	5%	17%	9%	7%
Don't know / not sure	14%	17%	8%	15%	24%	32%

What do you think would happen to power prices if the government removed the Renewable Energy Target?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
They would increase	45%	44%	46%	46%	41%	49%	43%	48%
They would decrease	19%	23%	15%	21%	23%	15%	15%	14%
They would stay the same	13%	14%	11%	12%	11%	14%	13%	14%
Don't know / not sure	24%	19%	28%	21%	24%	22%	28%	25%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Ind/ Oth	Undec
They would increase	41%	51%	45%	43%	40%	40%
They would decrease	23%	17%	16%	22%	14%	11%
They would stay the same	15%	12%	14%	11%	9%	11%
Don't know / not sure	22%	20%	25%	24%	38%	38%

How would you rate Malcolm Turnbull's performance on renewable energy and climate change?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA
Total Good	25%	29%	21%	26%	27%	24%	23%	23%
Total Poor	55%	59%	52%	56%	53%	57%	50%	62%
Very good	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%	7%	3%	2%
Good	21%	23%	18%	22%	23%	18%	20%	21%
Poor	32%	33%	31%	34%	29%	36%	32%	28%
Very poor	23%	26%	21%	21%	24%	22%	17%	35%
Don't know/ not sure	20%	12%	27%	19%	20%	18%	27%	15%

	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Ind/ Oth	Undec
Total Good	45%	19%	11%	16%	14%	11%
Total Poor	39%	63%	72%	59%	58%	50%
Very good	9%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Good	36%	16%	9%	16%	12%	9%
Poor	31%	33%	30%	33%	34%	35%
Very poor	8%	30%	42%	26%	24%	15%
Don't know/ not sure	17%	18%	18%	25%	28%	39%