

# Polling - Adani

*September 2017*

## Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,421 Australians about Adani's plans to build the Carmichael coal mine and its request for a subsidised loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

- **44% opposed Adani's plans to build the Carmichael coal mine in Queensland, while 30% supported it.**
  - 23% strongly opposed the Adani Carmichael coal mine.
  - Only 8% strongly supported it.
  - Most voting groups showed more opposition than support, including One Nation (33% support, 40% oppose), ALP (25% support, 49% oppose) and Undecided voters (20% support, 37% oppose).
  - Only LNP voters were more likely to support (45% support, 29% oppose).
  - Respondents from Queensland had higher support than other states (39%) but also still higher opposition (42%).
  
- **68% in total opposed the proposed subsidised loan of up to \$1 billion to Adani via the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), which has increased since May.**
  - 40% strongly oppose the NAIF loan.
  - Only 16% support it, 5% strongly so.
  - In May 2017, 64% opposed the proposal, 34% strongly opposed it.<sup>1</sup>
  - Despite Queenslanders being more likely to support the mine, they were also most likely to oppose the NAIF loan (71% oppose).
  - At least two in three voters for most parties opposed the proposal.
  - LNP voters opposed it two to one (54% oppose, 27% support).
  - Even amongst those who support the Carmichael mine, 43% oppose the NAIF loan.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/Polling%20Brief%20-%20May%202017%20-%20Subsidised%20loan%20for%20Adani.pdf>

NAIF is required by its Mandate to “*not act in a way that is likely to cause damage to the Commonwealth Government’s reputation*”.<sup>2</sup> Note that the government has a veto power with NAIF financing, but it has given every indication it will not use it to veto the Adani loan. Indeed, the government recently gave Efic, a similar financing agency, the power to itself fund coal projects. This overturned a pre-existing ban on Efic funding mining projects.

- **58% think offering the NAIF loan would damage the government’s reputation.**
  - 17% think it would have no impact, and 7% say it would improve the government’s reputation.
  - 51% of LNP voters, 59% of LNP voters and 58% of One Nation voters said it would damage the government’s reputation.
  - Even amongst those who support the Carmichael mine, 37% think the NAIF loan to Adani would damage the government’s reputation.
  - Voters in NSW
  
- **51% of respondents support a new rule for NAIF and other agencies to stop them funding mining, so that they focus on other industries.**
  - 20% strongly supported this idea.
  - 24% oppose it.
  - Support was highest in NSW (56%).
  - 47% of LNP voters supported the idea, and 29% opposed it.
  - 55% of ALP voters supported the idea, and 20% opposed it.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 16 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L00654>

## Context - NAIF and the government's reputation

The NAIF is prohibited by its Mandate from acting in a way that would likely damage the Commonwealth government's reputation, or the reputation of State and Territory governments.<sup>3</sup> These results show that approving the NAIF loan would damage the government's reputation in the eyes of most Australians. The strong opposition in Queensland suggests it would damage the reputation of the Queensland government as well, which is "substantially involved" in NAIF assessment and financing.<sup>4</sup>

The NAIF loan to Adani would further damage the reputation of the government in the Pacific region. Numerous Pacific leaders have criticised the Australian government's assistance to the coal industry. The President of the Marshall Islands recently said, speaking at the Australian National University:

"Now is not the time to be debating the science, trashing solar power, or building new coal mines ... I can assure you it does influence the way Australia is viewed in the Pacific."<sup>5</sup>

The Prime Minister of Tuvalu said

"Australia is stuck in the Dark Ages with its reliance on dirty fossil fuels. This is bad news for the Pacific".<sup>6</sup>

## Context - stopping public loans to mining projects

The Australia Institute has recommended implementing a restriction on funding large mining projects with public loans, in its submission to the Senate NAIF Inquiry.<sup>7</sup>

This is based on a similar ban that was in place for Efic, Australia's Export Finance and Insurance Corporation. Efic is doing NAIF's project assessment, but also provides financing to projects. Until this year, it was prohibited from supporting large mining projects in Australia.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 16 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L00654>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.tai.org.au/content/substantially-involved-queensland-government-and-adani%E2%80%99s-naif-loan>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-17/marshall-islands-urge-australia-to-support-climate-change/8533434>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/stuck-in-the-dark-ages-pacific-island-leader-vents-after-australias-emissions-hit-record-high-20170929-gyrbi6.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.tai.org.au/content/not-independent-fund-submission-inquiry-governance-and-operation-northern-australia>

- In 2011, Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten requested a review of Efic from the Productivity Commission.
- In 2012, the PC's review of Efic found serious shortcomings and argued Efic should stop funding mining projects in Australia as there was no economic basis for government support as the financing market was well developed in this area.
- In 2014 Trade Minister Andrew Robb wrote to Efic stating Efic shall not fund mining projects in Australia, and in 2015 Efic agreed.
- In 2016, Efic started assisting the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), including on assessing projects like Adani's coal rail line.
- In 2017 Trade Minister Steve Ciobo overturned Robb's direction, allowing Efic to directly fund mining projects in Australia, and specifically explained this would allow it to fund coal projects.

## Method

Between 17 and 26 September 2017 The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1421 Australians Research Now, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.

Results are shown only for larger eastern states – New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. States were included where the margin of error was 6% or lower.

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 Nick Xenophon Team and Independent/Other.

## Detailed Results

*Adani plans to build the Carmichael coal mine in Queensland. Do you support or oppose the construction of Adani's Carmichael coal mine?*

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
<b>Total support</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Strongly support	8%	12%	3%	14%	4%	1%	8%	7%	5%
Support	23%	27%	18%	31%	20%	8%	25%	18%	15%
Oppose	21%	20%	22%	16%	24%	26%	20%	22%	18%
Strongly oppose	23%	23%	23%	13%	24%	49%	19%	24%	19%
Don't know / not sure	26%	18%	34%	26%	27%	15%	28%	29%	43%

	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65+	NSW	Qld	Vic
<b>Total support</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Strongly support	13%	12%	3%	4%	8%	9%	10%	10%	6%
Support	18%	21%	17%	20%	27%	32%	17%	29%	25%
Oppose	26%	16%	25%	25%	20%	16%	21%	20%	21%
Strongly oppose	18%	17%	25%	20%	29%	26%	24%	22%	23%
Don't know / not sure	25%	33%	30%	31%	16%	17%	28%	18%	25%

***Would you support or oppose taxpayer funding for a subsidised loan of nearly \$1 billion towards infrastructure that would enable the construction and operation of the Adani Carmichael coal mine?***

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
<b>Total support</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>63%</b>
Strongly support	5%	8%	2%	9%	3%	2%	0%	4%	3%
Support	11%	16%	7%	18%	8%	6%	10%	8%	6%
Oppose	27%	26%	29%	27%	29%	21%	32%	25%	28%
Strongly Oppose	40%	41%	39%	27%	44%	63%	40%	44%	35%
Don't know / not sure	16%	10%	22%	18%	16%	8%	17%	19%	28%

	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65+	NSW	Qld	Vic
<b>Total support</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>66%</b>
Strongly support	13%	10%	2%	3%	1%	2%	8%	5%	1%
Support	12%	14%	8%	6%	13%	16%	8%	12%	17%
Oppose	27%	25%	30%	29%	28%	25%	26%	31%	25%
Strongly Oppose	31%	33%	43%	40%	45%	46%	40%	40%	41%
Don't know / not sure	16%	18%	18%	21%	12%	11%	17%	12%	16%

**The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) is considering granting a concessional loan of up to \$1 billion of public money to Adani to help it build a rail line to its large new coal mine.**

**If NAIF offers this loan, what impact do you think this would have on the government's reputation? It would...?**

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Damage the government's reputation	<b>58%</b>	60%	56%	51%	59%	76%	58%	57%	48%
Have no impact on the government's reputation	<b>17%</b>	19%	14%	23%	14%	8%	15%	16%	17%
Improve the government's reputation	<b>7%</b>	8%	5%	9%	7%	4%	4%	5%	3%
Don't know/ not sure	<b>19%</b>	13%	25%	18%	20%	12%	22%	22%	31%

	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65+	NSW	Qld	Vic
Damage the government's reputation	57%	57%	56%	58%	59%	58%	60%	59%	57%
Have no impact on the government's reputation	14%	17%	12%	15%	21%	22%	13%	21%	18%
Improve the government's reputation	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	6%	8%
Don't know/ not sure	23%	20%	25%	20%	14%	12%	21%	14%	17%

***Would you support or oppose a new rule preventing Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and similar agencies from funding mining projects in Australia, so that they focus on supporting other industries?***

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
<b>Total support</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Strongly support	20%	22%	18%	16%	20%	35%	16%	22%	13%
Support	30%	32%	29%	30%	35%	32%	24%	25%	27%
Oppose	19%	22%	15%	22%	16%	10%	22%	20%	14%
Strongly Oppose	5%	7%	4%	6%	4%	7%	5%	5%	6%
Don't know / not sure	26%	18%	33%	25%	26%	17%	34%	28%	41%

	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65+	NSW	Qld	Vic
<b>Total support</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Strongly support	20%	21%	22%	18%	23%	19%	27%	21%	16%
Support	26%	29%	32%	26%	31%	36%	29%	30%	31%
Oppose	20%	19%	13%	20%	18%	21%	16%	21%	20%
Strongly Oppose	6%	2%	3%	5%	7%	8%	4%	6%	7%
Don't know / not sure	27%	29%	30%	30%	20%	17%	23%	22%	27%