SA Supplement

Climate of the Nation 2020

Tracking Australia's attitudes towards climate change and energy

Bushfires greatest climate concern

Following the devastating Black Summer bushfires, South Australians are increasingly concerned climate change will lead to more bushfires.

- Seven in ten South Australians (72%) are concerned about climate change.
- Four in five South Australians (81%) are concerned global warming will lead to more bushfires, a jump of 4 percentage points from 2019.
- Bushfires are now the greatest climate concern for South Australians, followed closely by droughts and flooding.

Renewables-led recovery preferred to gas-led recovery

The Federal Energy Minister has proposed supporting the gas industry for a 'gas-fired recovery' following the Covid-19 pandemic. This is not a popular proposal. South Australians prefer Australia's economic recovery be powered by investment in renewables, and believe tackling climate change will create opportunities for new jobs and investment.

- Only 13% of South Australians support the Federal Government's gas fired recovery from Covid-19.
- Three in five (59%) would prefer Australia's economic recovery was powered by investment in renewable energy.
- Four in five South Australians (81%) think tackling climate change will create opportunities for new jobs and investment, compared to the national average of 77%.

Support for State climate action and renewables

There is widespread support for State action on climate change and greater investment in renewables.

- Almost three quarters (73%) of South Australians say the State Government should take a leading role in acting on climate change.
- Over three quarters (77%) of South Australians say the State Government should incentivise greater investment in renewable energy.

Fossil fuel producers should pay the cost of climate impacts

South Australians oppose government subsidies for fossil fuel extraction, and believe fossil fuel producers should pay for the impacts of climate change. To help pay the cost of climate impacts, most South Australians support a levy on fossil fuel exports.

- South Australians are more opposed to the government putting subsidies into coal, oil and gas extraction than any other state (60% opposed, compared to the national average of 52%).
- When asked who should pay for the impacts of global warming, 54% of South Australians said fossil fuel producers, a jump of 7 percentage points from 2019 and higher than this year's national average of 50%.
- Two thirds of South Australians (65%) now support the introduction of a levy on Australia's fossil fuel exports to help prepare for and recover from the impacts of global warming, a jump of 8 percentage points from 2019.

Electricity price rises blamed on privatisation

South Australians are more likely than people from any other state to blame rising electricity costs on the privatisation of energy companies

- 69% of South Australians blame electricity price rises on the privatisation of energy companies, compared to the national average of 53%.

FIGURE 1

South Australians Prefer Australia's Economic Recovery to be Primarily Powered by Investment in...

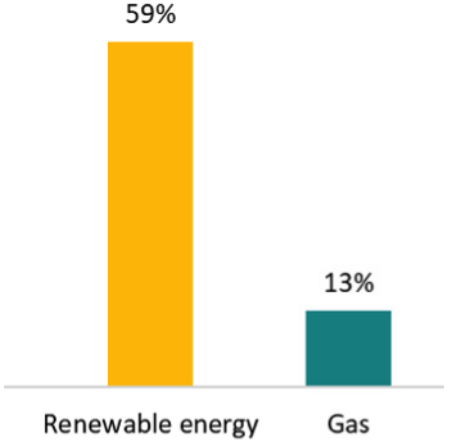

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FIGURE 2

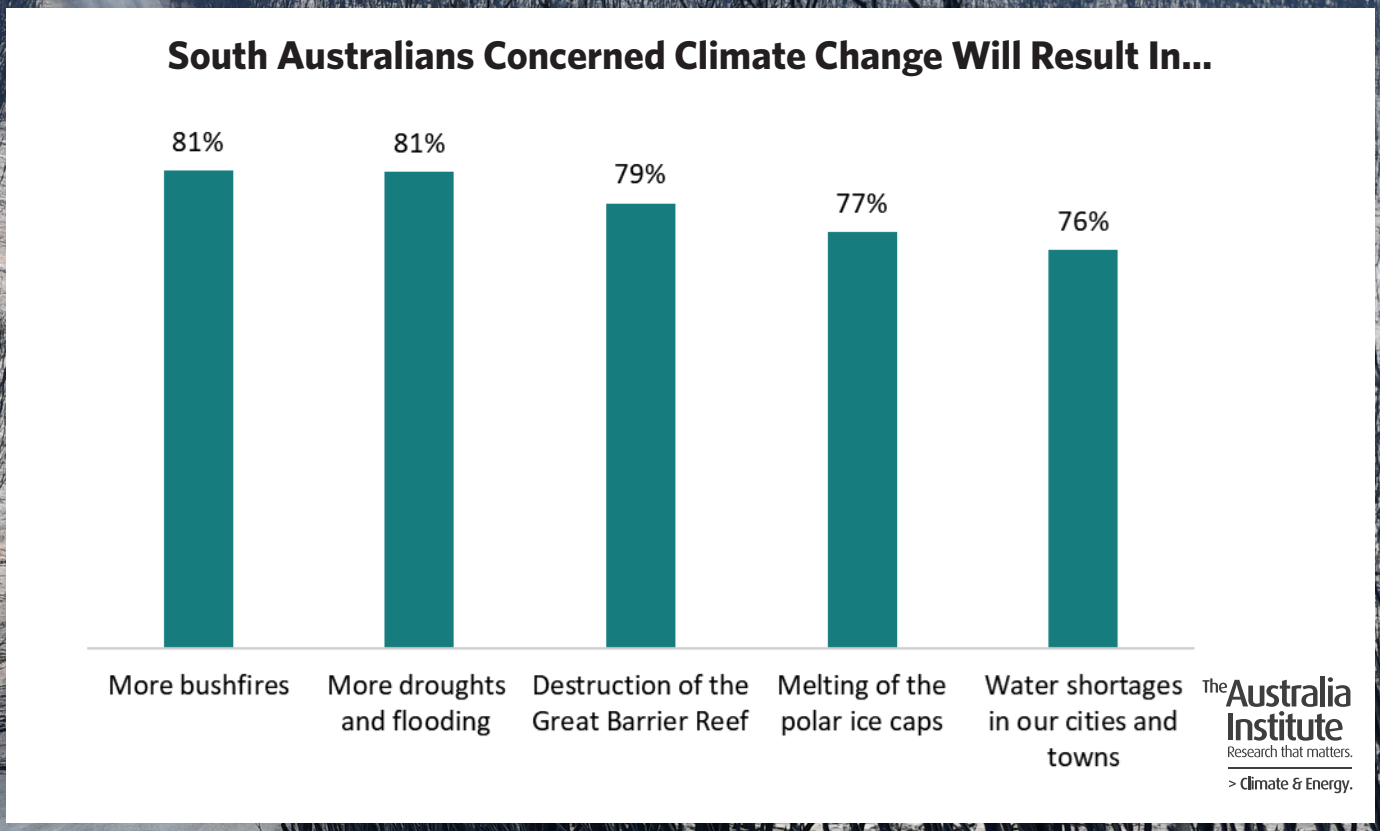
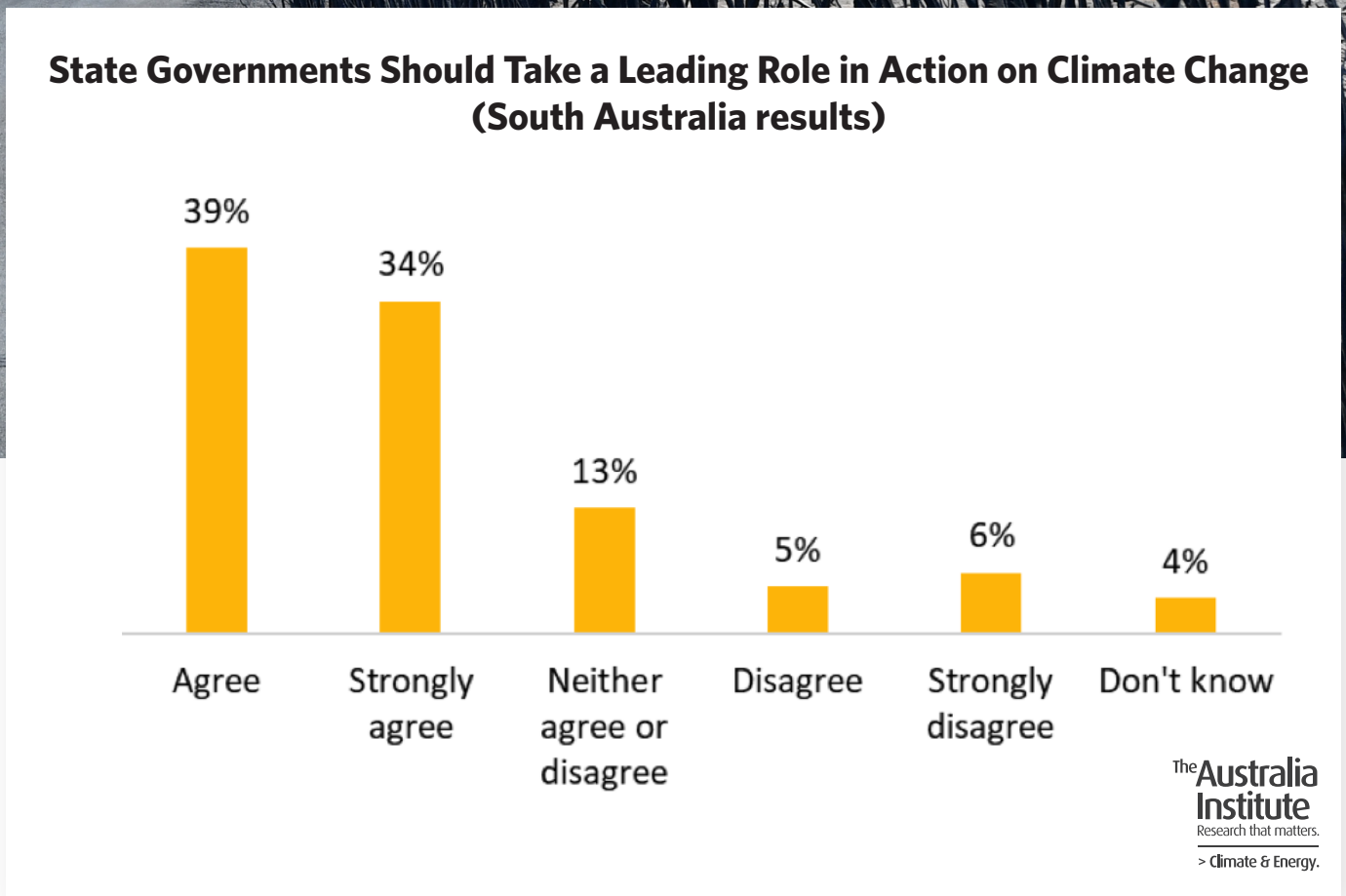
FIGURE 3