

# The Essential Report

21 February 2017



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**Prepared By:** Essential Research

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**Data Supplied by:**



Essential Media Communications is a member of the Association of Market and Social Research Organisations



Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.



## About this poll

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The survey was conducted online from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and is based on 1,006 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on climate change, renewable energy, WA election preferences and penalty rates.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 13.

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.



## Federal voting intention

Q If a Federal Election was held today to which party will you probably give your first preference vote? If not sure, which party are you currently leaning toward? If don't know - Well which party are you currently leaning to?

	Total	Last week 14/2/17	2 weeks ago 31/1/17	4 weeks ago 24/1/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	33%	34%	33%	33%	
National	3%	3%	2%	3%	
<b>Total Liberal/National</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>42.0%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>
Greens	10%	9%	8%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	4%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	10%	10%	10%	9%	
Other/Independent	6%	6%	6%	6%	13.1%
<b>2 party preferred</b>					
Liberal National	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
Labor	<b>52%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>49.6%</b>

NB. Sample = 1,803. The data in the above tables comprise 2-week averages derived from the first preference/leaning to voting questions. Respondents who select 'don't know' are not included in the results. The two-party preferred estimate is calculated by distributing the votes of the other parties according to their preferences at the 2016 election.

## Climate change

Q Do you believe that there is fairly conclusive evidence that climate change is happening and caused by human activity or do you believe that the evidence is still not in and we may just be witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate which happens from time to time?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Nov 2009	Dec 2010	Jun 2011	Oct 2012	Oct 2013	Dec 2014	Nov 2015	Aug 2016	Dec 2016
Climate change is happening and is caused by human activity	<b>60%</b>	75%	49%	90%	44%	53%	45%	50%	48%	52%	57%	56%	57%	54%
We are just witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate	<b>25%</b>	14%	37%	3%	41%	34%	36%	39%	39%	36%	29%	32%	26%	27%
Don't know	<b>14%</b>	10%	13%	7%	15%	13%	19%	12%	13%	12%	14%	12%	17%	18%

60% (up 6% since December) agree that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity and 25% (down 2%) believe that we may just be witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate.

By age groups, those aged under 35 split 70%/15% and those aged 55+ split 47%/40%. People with higher education were more likely to think climate change is happening and is caused by human activity - those with university degrees split 72%/19%.



## 50% renewable energy target

Q The Labor Party has committed to a target of 50% renewable energy by 2030. Do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Aug 2015
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Strongly approve	25%	43%	11%	49%	17%	25%
Approve	40%	39%	44%	40%	39%	40%
Disapprove	9%	4%	16%	1%	10%	9%
Strongly disapprove	9%	1%	16%	-	19%	7%
Don't know	16%	13%	13%	10%	15%	19%

65% approve of the Labor Party commitment to a target of 50% renewable energy by 2030 and 18% disapprove. These figures are little changed since the question was asked in 2015.

A very high majority of Labor voters (82%) and Greens voters (89%) approve.

Liberal/National voters were split but more likely to approve (55%) than disapprove (32%).

## Cause of black outs

- Q Some people have said recent power black outs are a result of too much reliance on renewable energy. Others have said they have occurred because of failures in the way the energy market responds to extreme weather events (i.e. storms and high temperatures) or that privatization of services is the problem. Which is closest to your view?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
The power black outs are the result of too much reliance on renewable energy	16%	13%	26%	4%	17%
The power black outs are due mainly to failures of the energy market in responding to extreme weather events	45%	45%	45%	64%	38%
The power black outs are due mainly to the privatization of electricity supply	19%	24%	13%	22%	25%
Don't know	20%	18%	15%	10%	20%

45% believe that recent blackouts are due mainly to failures of the energy market in responding to extreme weather events, 19% think they are mainly due to privatization of electricity supply and 16% think they are a result of too much reliance on renewable energy.

26% of Liberal National voters think they are due to a reliance on renewable energy.

51% of those with university education think they are due mainly to failures of the energy market.

Although a small sample, 36% of South Australians think they are due to privatization.



## Renewable energy

Q Do you think renewable energy is the solution to our future energy needs or is renewable energy a threat to our future energy supply?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Oct 2016
The solution to our energy needs	<b>64%</b>	72%	58%	90%	55%	60%
A threat to future energy supply	<b>14%</b>	10%	20%	6%	20%	16%
Don't know	<b>22%</b>	17%	22%	4%	24%	24%

64% (up 4% since October) agree more that renewable energy is the solution to our future energy needs and 14% (down 2%) think it is a threat to future energy supply.

72% of Labor voters and 90% of Greens voters think it is the solution to future energy needs.

Although a small sample, 51% of South Australians think it is the solution and 19% think it is a threat.





## Doing enough about energy

Q Do you think the Federal Government is doing enough, not enough or too much to ensure affordable, reliable and clean energy for Australian households and businesses?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Doing enough	12%	9%	23%	1%	9%
Not doing enough	71%	78%	62%	92%	76%
Doing too much	3%	1%	4%	3%	3%
Don't know	14%	12%	12%	4%	11%

71% think the Federal Government is not doing enough to ensure affordable, reliable and clean energy for Australian households and businesses and only 12% think they are doing enough. Even 62% of Liberal National voters think they are not doing enough.



## Coal fired power stations

Q Would you support or oppose building new coal fired power stations in Australia?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
<b>Total support</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Strongly support	7%	3%	14%	-	12%
Support	24%	22%	33%	7%	24%
Oppose	25%	25%	24%	31%	25%
Strongly oppose	20%	26%	9%	49%	17%
Don't know	24%	24%	20%	12%	22%

31% support building new coal fired power stations in Australia and 45% oppose.

Those most likely to support new coal fired power stations were Liberal/National voters (47%), men (39%) and aged 65+ (53%).

Those most likely to oppose new coal fired power stations were Greens voters (80%) and Labor voters (51%).

## WA election preferences

Q The WA Liberal Party has said it will direct its preferences for the upper house to Pauline Hanson’s One Nation party in this year’s state election. Do you approve or disapprove of the Liberal Party directing preferences to One Nation?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Liberal	Vote Greens	Vote One Nation
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Strongly approve	11%	8%	13%	1%	37%
Approve	18%	9%	30%	5%	38%
Neither approve nor disapprove	21%	18%	25%	10%	13%
Disapprove	14%	17%	16%	10%	1%
Strongly disapprove	24%	37%	9%	63%	1%
Don’t know	14%	10%	8%	10%	11%

29% approve of the Liberal Party directing preferences to One Nation and 38% disapprove. Among Liberal voters, 43% approve and 25% disapprove. 75% of One Nation voters approve.



## Penalty rates

- Q Do you think people who are required to work outside of normal hours – like night shifts, weekends or public holidays – should receive a higher hourly rate of pay?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Work full time	Work part time	May 2013	Jan 2015	Jul 2015
Yes	<b>82%</b>	87%	79%	84%	83%	81%	88%	81%	81%	81%
No	<b>12%</b>	8%	18%	7%	13%	12%	5%	12%	13%	13%
Don't know	<b>6%</b>	5%	3%	8%	4%	7%	6%	7%	6%	7%

82% think that people who are required to work outside of normal hours should receive a higher hourly rate of pay and 12% think they should not. There has been little change of opinion on this issue since this question was first asked in May 2013.

A large majority of all demographic and voter groups agree that worker should receive higher rates for working outside normal hours – although Labor voters (87%) are more likely to support this than Liberal/National voters (79%). 88% of part-time workers agree compared to 81% of full-time workers.

## Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week-by-week basis since November 2007.

Each week, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self-managed consumer online panel of over 100,000 members. The majority of panel members have been recruited using off line methodologies, effectively ruling out concerns associated with online self-selection.

Your Source has validation methods in place that prevent panelist over use and ensure member authenticity. Your Source randomly selects 18+ males and females (with the aim of targeting 50/50 males/females) from its Australia wide panel. An invitation is sent out to approximately 7000 – 8000 of their panel members.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting. The best guide to a poll's accuracy is to look at the record of the polling company - how have they performed at previous elections or other occasions where their estimates can be compared with known population figures. In the last poll before the 2016 election, the Essential Report estimates of first preference votes averaged less than 1% difference from the election results and the two-party preferred difference was only 0.1%.

The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points. Essential Research uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

All Essential Research and senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Essential Research is a member of the Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO). Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership.

