

# The Essential Report

6 June 2017



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**Date:** 6/6/2017

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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 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and is based on 1,013 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on same sex marriage, foreign aid, the Uluru Statement, the Carmichael coal mine and energy policy.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 16.

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 30/5/17	2 weeks ago 23/5/17	4 weeks ago 9/5/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	36%	35%	34%	35%	
National	3%	3%	3%	2%	
<b>Total Liberal/National</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42.0%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>
Greens	10%	11%	10%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	6%	5%	6%	6%	
Other/Independent	6%	7%	6%	6%	13.1%
<b>2 party preferred</b>					
Liberal National	<b>48%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
Labor	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>49.6%</b>

NB. Sample = 1,774. 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.

## Same sex marriage

Q Do you think people of the same sex should or should not be allowed to marry?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other	Oct 2013	Jun 2014	Oct 2015	Mar 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016
Should be allowed to marry	<b>60%</b>	69%	51%	87%	50%	57%	60%	59%	64%	58%	62%
Should not be allowed to marry	<b>26%</b>	18%	36%	6%	38%	31%	28%	30%	26%	28%	27%
Don't know	<b>14%</b>	13%	13%	7%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%	14%	12%

60% thought that people of the same sex should be able to marry (down 2% since August 2016), and 26% thought that they should not (down 1%).

Women (67% support) were more likely than men (53%) to support same sex marriage.

72% of 18-24 year olds supported same sex marriage, compared to 42% of over 65 year olds.



## Decision on same sex marriage

Q Do you think the issue of same sex marriage should be decided by Parliament or should there be a national vote?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Sep 2015	Mar 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Vote "Yes"	Vote "No"
Should be decided by Parliament	<b>27%</b>	33%	27%	36%	24%	21%	23%	25%	25%	31%	22%
Should have a national vote	<b>61%</b>	57%	67%	45%	67%	67%	66%	60%	59%	62%	68%
Don't know	<b>12%</b>	10%	6%	19%	10%	12%	11%	15%	16%	7%	10%

61% thought that same sex marriage should be decided by a national vote, up 2% since August 2016, and 27% thought it should be decided by parliament, up 2% since August 2016.

62% of those who supported same sex marriage would prefer a national vote, as would 68% percent of those who did not support same sex marriage.

Men were more likely to prefer a vote in parliament (32% prefer) than women (21%).



## Voting for same sex marriage

- Q If a political party or candidate supported same-sex marriage would you be more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them or does it make no difference to your vote?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Jun 2015
<b>Total more likely</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Total less likely</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Much more likely	19%	25%	13%	36%	14%	17%
A little more likely	15%	18%	13%	26%	11%	17%
A little less likely	7%	5%	11%	8%	9%	7%
Much less likely	12%	8%	18%	2%	21%	15%
Makes no difference	40%	39%	43%	25%	42%	40%
Don't know	6%	5%	3%	3%	4%	4%

34% said they would be more likely to vote for a party or candidate that supported same sex marriage (unchanged since June 2015), and 19% said they would be less likely (down 3%).

40% said a party or candidate's support for same sex marriage would not make a difference to how likely they were to vote for them.

57% of 18-24 year olds said support for same sex marriage would make them more likely to vote for a party or candidate, and 35% of over 65s said it would make them less likely to vote for a candidate.





## Foreign aid budget

Q As far as you know, about how much of the Federal budget is spent on foreign aid?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Jun 2015	Jul 2011
Less than 1%	<b>10%</b>	10%	9%	20%	10%	13%	7%
About 1%	<b>9%</b>	8%	10%	12%	7%	11%	8%
About 2%	<b>15%</b>	15%	21%	13%	8%	14%	17%
About 5%	<b>10%</b>	10%	12%	5%	12%	10%	11%
More than 5%	<b>12%</b>	12%	11%	8%	26%	9%	16%
Don't know	<b>44%</b>	44%	37%	41%	37%	43%	41%

Only 10% identified the correct amount of aid spending (less than 1% of the budget), a 3% decrease since June 2015. Those most likely to identify the correct amount were Greens voters (20%), those with a University degree (15%) and those earning over \$104k per year (14%).

Overall, 82% of those who provided an answer other than 'don't know' overestimated the amount spent on foreign aid.

## Foreign aid spending

Q Do you think Australia spends too much or too little on foreign aid?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Jun 2015	Jul 2011
Spends too much	<b>41%</b>	36%	46%	13%	66%	44%	42%
Spends too little	<b>16%</b>	18%	12%	46%	11%	16%	16%
Spends about the right amount	<b>19%</b>	19%	26%	13%	11%	21%	21%
Don't know	<b>24%</b>	27%	16%	27%	11%	19%	21%

41% thought we spend too much on foreign aid, 16% thought we spend too little, and 19% thought we spend about the right amount.

Of those who identified the correct amount spent on foreign aid, 47% thought we spend too little, 24% thought we spend too much, and 18% thought we spend the right amount.

Of those who over-estimated the amount spent on foreign aid, 50% thought we spend too much, 18% thought we spend too little, and 27% thought we spend the right amount.

36% of those who said they did not know how much we spend in foreign aid said that we spend too much.

### Additional Table

The following table provides a cross-tabulation of the previous two questions, breaking down attitudes towards foreign aid spending by how much is believed to be spent on foreign aid.

	Total	Under 1% (Correct)	1-5%	Over 5%	Don't know
Spends too much	<b>41%</b>	24%	39%	77%	36%
Spends too little	<b>16%</b>	47%	22%	6%	8%
Spends about the right amount	<b>19%</b>	18%	32%	12%	10%
Don't know	<b>24%</b>	12%	6%	4%	45%

## Importance of foreign aid

Q In your opinion, how important is it that Australia gives foreign aid to the following countries and regions?

	Total very/some what	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know	Jun 2015 (very/somewhat)
Papua New Guinea	<b>59%</b>	17%	42%	16%	12%	13%	65%
Pacific island countries	<b>59%</b>	16%	43%	17%	11%	13%	66%
African countries	<b>46%</b>	11%	35%	22%	19%	12%	50%
South east Asia countries	<b>45%</b>	10%	35%	24%	17%	13%	50%
Indonesia	<b>38%</b>	9%	29%	24%	24%	13%	39%
Middle east countries	<b>31%</b>	8%	23%	26%	30%	13%	26%

59% thought that aid to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island Countries is very or somewhat important.

The proportion who think that aid to each region is very or somewhat important has dropped since June 2015 for each region except for the Middle East, which has gone up 5% to 31%. However, this region was still considered the least important to give foreign aid to.

## Uluru Statement

Q Last week the “Uluru Statement” was released, calling for a number of policy measures relating to Indigenous Australians. Do you support or oppose the following measures?

	TOTAL Support	TOTAL Oppose	Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
Enshrining an Indigenous voice to parliament in the constitution	44%	14%	18%	26%	27%	7%	7%	14%
Negotiating a treaty between the federal government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.	43%	17%	16%	27%	27%	8%	9%	13%
Creating a treaty commission to negotiate treaties between various levels of government and different Indigenous language groups or tribes	39%	19%	15%	24%	28%	11%	8%	14%
Creating a truth and reconciliation commission	39%	18%	14%	25%	30%	10%	8%	13%

Each measure had greater support than opposition, with the most popular being enshrining an Indigenous voice to parliament in the constitution (44% support). Support was greatest for this measure among Greens voters (74% support), ALP voters (51%) and those with a University degree (52%).

More Liberal/National voters opposed than supported each of the four measures.



## Reef versus Coal

- Q Adani's proposed Carmichael Coal Mine is expected to create jobs in central Queensland, but may endanger tourism-related jobs due to potential damage caused to the Great Barrier Reef. Do you believe there is a trade-off between these types of jobs, and which do you think should be prioritised?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other
There is a trade-off and jobs relying on the Great Barrier Reef should be prioritised	<b>41%</b>	47%	35%	60%	49%
There is a trade-off and jobs relying on the coal industry should be prioritised	<b>12%</b>	12%	18%	6%	7%
There is no trade-off between reef jobs and coal jobs	<b>21%</b>	17%	27%	14%	26%
Don't know	<b>25%</b>	25%	20%	20%	18%

41% thought that there was a trade-off between Reef jobs and coal jobs, and that Reef jobs should be prioritised, while 12% thought that there was a trade-off and coal jobs should be prioritised. 21% did not think there was a trade-off.

Of those who thought there was a trade-off between Reef jobs and coal jobs, 77% thought that Reef jobs should be prioritised, and 23% thought that coal jobs should be prioritised.

Queenslanders were more likely than other states to think that there was no trade-off between reef jobs and coal jobs (26%).

## Energy Policy

- Q Government energy policy attempts to minimize costs, ensure reliability and reduce emissions. Do you think one of these should be prioritised over the others?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other
Keeping the cost of energy down should be prioritised	<b>28%</b>	28%	33%	11%	33%
Reducing carbon emissions should be prioritised	<b>21%</b>	21%	15%	49%	16%
Maintaining the reliability of energy supply should be prioritised	<b>19%</b>	19%	22%	8%	28%
We do not need to prioritise – all can be achieved	<b>21%</b>	23%	21%	22%	19%
Don't know	<b>12%</b>	10%	9%	9%	4%

28% thought that keeping the costs of energy down should be prioritised over reducing emissions and maintaining network reliability. This was the most popular option for Liberal/National voters (33%) and ALP voters (28%).

The most popular option among Greens voters was to prioritise the reduction of carbon emissions (49%).

South Australians were more likely than other states to prefer the reliability of energy supply to be prioritised (31%).

## 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.