The Essential Report

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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:

your source

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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 8th to 11th February 2018 and is based on 1,026 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on party leaders, taxation and the Adani coal mine

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 14.

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

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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	2 weeks ago 30/1/18	4 weeks ago 16/1/18	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	33%	32%	34%	
National	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	**36%**	**35%**	**37%**	**42.0%**
Labor	**37%**	**36%**	**38%**	**34.7%**
Greens	10%	10%	9%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	4%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	6%	8%	6%	
Other/Independent	7%	8%	7%	13.1%
2 party preferred				
Liberal National	**46%**	**46%**	**47%**	**50.4%**
Labor	**54%**	**54%**	**53%**	**49.6%**

NB. 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.

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Malcolm Turnbull

Q   Do you approve or disapprove of the job Malcolm Turnbull is doing as Prime Minister?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other	Jan 2018	Dec 2017	Sep 2017	June 2017	Mar 2017	Dec 2016	June 2016	Dec 2015
Total Approve	**39%**	**23%**	**73%**	**24%**	**27%**	**38%**	**41%**	**41%**	**36%**	**33%**	**34%**	**38%**	**56%**
Total Disapprove	**42%**	**60%**	**16%**	**54%**	**62%**	**45%**	**44%**	**46%**	**45%**	**50%**	**46%**	**40%**	**23%**
Strongly approve	7%	4%	16%	3%	3%	7%	8%	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%	13%
Approve	32%	19%	57%	21%	24%	31%	33%	34%	31%	28%	29%	32%	43%
Disapprove	26%	33%	14%	32%	37%	25%	27%	28%	28%	30%	30%	24%	16%
Strongly disapprove	16%	27%	2%	22%	25%	20%	17%	18%	17%	20%	16%	16%	7%
Don't know	19%	18%	12%	22%	11%	18%	15%	14%	19%	18%	20%	21%	21%

39% approved of the job Malcolm Turnbull is doing as Prime Minister (up 1% from last month), and 42% disapproved (down 3%) – a change in net approval rating from -7 to -3.

73% (up 5%) of Liberal/National voters approved of the job Malcolm Turnbull is doing, compared to 23% of ALP voters and 24% of Greens voters.

By gender, men were 39% approve/48% disapprove and women 39% approve/36% disapprove.

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Bill Shorten

Q   Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Shorten is doing as Opposition Leader?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Jan 2018	Dec 2017	Sep 2017	June 2017	Mar 2017	Dec 2016	Dec 2015	Dec 2014
Total Approve	**33%**	**61%**	**17%**	**36%**	**20%**	**32%**	**36%**	**36%**	**34%**	**30%**	**35%**	**27%**	**35%**
Total Disapprove	**46%**	**20%**	**71%**	**42%**	**66%**	**49%**	**45%**	**47%**	**43%**	**49%**	**38%**	**47%**	**39%**
Strongly approve	7%	16%	2%	6%	1%	7%	7%	7%	5%	4%	6%	4%	7%
Approve	26%	45%	15%	30%	19%	25%	29%	29%	29%	26%	29%	23%	28%
Disapprove	25%	16%	31%	31%	37%	26%	23%	25%	28%	26%	21%	26%	23%
Strongly disapprove	21%	4%	40%	11%	29%	23%	22%	22%	15%	23%	17%	21%	16%
Don't know	21%	20%	13%	22%	13%	20%	19%	17%	23%	22%	25%	25%	26%

33% approved of the job Bill Shorten is doing as Opposition Leader (up 1% from last month), and 46% disapproved (down 3%) - a change in net approval rating from -17 to -13.

61% (up 1%) of ALP voters approved of the job Bill Shorten is doing, compared to 36% of Greens voters and 17% of Liberal/National voters.

By gender, men were 36% approve/49% disapprove and women 32% approve/43% disapprove.

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Preferred Prime Minister

Q   Who do you think would make the better Prime Minister out of Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Jan 2018	Dec 2017	Sep 2017	June 2017	Mar 2017	Dec 2016	Jun 2016	Dec 2015
Malcolm Turnbull	**42%**	18%	84%	19%	35%	42%	42%	43%	39%	38%	39%	40%	54%
Bill Shorten	**27%**	55%	6%	35%	22%	25%	28%	29%	26%	26%	28%	29%	15%
Don't know	**31%**	27%	10%	46%	43%	33%	31%	28%	34%	36%	33%	32%	31%

42% thought that Malcolm Turnbull would make the better Prime Minister (no change from last month), and 27% thought Bill Shorten would be better (up 2%). 31% did not know who would make a better Prime Minister.

The results were split by party, with 84% of Liberal/National voters saying that Malcolm Turnbull would be a better Prime Minister, and 55% of Labor voters saying Bill Shorten would.

Greens voters preferred Bill Shorten (35%) to Malcolm Turnbull (19%).

43% of men prefer Malcolm Turnbull and 30% prefer Bill Shorten.

40% of women prefer Malcolm Turnbull and 24% prefer Bill Shorten.

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Economic statements

Q   Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Total agree	Total dis-agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Dis-agree	Strongly dis-agree	Don't know
A corporate tax cut will lead to higher wages	**30%**	**42%**	8%	22%	28%	14%	29%
Cutting penalty rates will encourage employers to hire more workers	**38%**	**46%**	10%	28%	28%	18%	16%
Increasing migration creates economic growth by building demand	**33%**	**50%**	8%	25%	28%	22%	17%
Free trade agreements benefit Australian workers	**45%**	**28%**	10%	35%	19%	9%	28%
Personal income tax cuts will generate economic growth	**65%**	**16%**	16%	49%	12%	4%	19%
Increasing workers' wages will mean fewer jobs	**29%**	**55%**	6%	23%	41%	14%	16%

There was majority agreement (65%) that "Personal income tax cuts will generate economic growth" and majority disagreement that "Increasing workers' wages will mean fewer jobs" (55% disagree) and "Increasing migration creates economic growth by building demand" (50%).

Respondents were more likely to disagree that "A corporate tax cut will lead to higher wages" (42% disagree) and "Cutting penalty rates will encourage employers to hire more workers" (46%).

Full-time workers were more likely to agree that "Personal income tax cuts will generate economic growth " (71%) and part-time workers were more likely to disagree that "Cutting penalty rates will encourage employers to hire more workers" (52%).

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	Total agree	Total dis-agree	Full-time worker agree	Full-time worker dis-agree	Part-time worker agree	Part-time worker dis-agree
A corporate tax cut will lead to higher wages	30%	42%	35%	43%	26%	44%
Cutting penalty rates will encourage employers to hire more workers	38%	46%	37%	48%	35%	52%
Increasing migration creates economic growth by building demand	33%	50%	35%	49%	36%	46%
Free trade agreements benefit Australian workers	45%	28%	45%	32%	41%	27%
Personal income tax cuts will generate economic growth	65%	16%	71%	15%	60%	18%
Increasing workers' wages will mean fewer jobs	29%	55%	29%	58%	29%	58%

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Company tax cut

Q   Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Cutting the company tax rate will bring Australia's tax base into line with other nations, attract investment and create more jobs and higher wages	**32%**	24%	53%	19%	28%
Cutting the company tax rate will simply deliver business $50 billion more in profits – it won't result in higher wages.	**38%**	48%	24%	52%	49%
Not sure	**30%**	28%	23%	29%	22%

Respondents were divided over these statements. 38% agreed more that "Cutting the company tax rate will simply deliver business $50 billion more in profits . . . " and 32% agreed more that "Cutting the company tax rate will bring Australia's tax base into line with other nations . . . ". 30% were not sure.

Those more likely to agree that "Cutting the company tax rate will simply deliver business $50 billion more in profits . . . " were Labor voters (48%), Greens voters (52%) and other voters (49%).

Those more likely to agree that "Cutting the company tax rate will bring Australia's tax base into line with other nations . . . ". were LNP voters (53%) and workers on incomes over $2,000pw. (41%).

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Company tax cuts and wages

Q   Would you approve or disapprove of forcing businesses to pass on a certain proportion of their tax cuts as pay rises for their workers?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	**72%**	**79%**	**73%**	**72%**	**71%**
Total disapprove	**10%**	**6%**	**15%**	**3%**	**14%**
Strongly approve	28%	38%	22%	30%	26%
Approve	44%	41%	51%	42%	45%
Disapprove	8%	5%	13%	2%	9%
Strongly disapprove	2%	1%	2%	1%	5%
Don't know	18%	15%	12%	25%	15%

72% approve of forcing businesses to pass on a certain proportion of their tax cuts as pay rises for their workers and only 10% disapprove. There were only small differences across voter groups – and over 70% of each voter group approved.

74% of full-time workers and 71% of part-time workers approved.

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Statements about Adani coal mine

Q Indian mining company Adani wants to build a new coal mine in Queensland which would produce coal to be exported back to India. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Total agree	Total dis-agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Dis-agree	Strongly dis-agree	Don't know	Qld. agree	Qld dis-agree
The mine will create jobs that Queensland badly needs	**58%**	**25%**	15%	43%	13%	12%	18%	72%	19%
The mine will undermine jobs in Queensland tourism by contributing to damage to the great Barrier Reef	**53%**	**22%**	26%	27%	16%	6%	24%	42%	39%
The mine will divert investment that would better be spent on developing the renewable industry	**51%**	**25%**	23%	28%	18%	7%	24%	47%	33%
The mine will undermine attempts to act on climate change	**52%**	**26%**	24%	28%	17%	9%	21%	48%	37%

A majority agreed with each statement with around one quarter disagreeing.

However, Queensland respondents were more likely to agree that the mine will create jobs that Queensland badly needs, and somewhat less likely to agree with the other statements.

The views of Labor voters were similar to the average while LNP voters were more likely to agree that the mine will create jobs that Queensland badly needs (70%) and more likely to disagree with the other statements.

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Opinion of new coal mines

Q   If it goes ahead, the Adani mine would be the first of nine coal mines in the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Allow all mines to go ahead subject to environmental approvals	**13%**	13%	17%	11%	9%
Independently assess each mine proposal on its economic and environmental merit	**48%**	50%	58%	25%	49%
Ban expansion of coal mines in the Galilee Basin altogether	**22%**	25%	15%	46%	30%
Don't know	**16%**	12%	10%	18%	12%

48% think that any new mine should be assessed on its economic and environmental merit, 22% think coal mining in the Galilee basin should be banned and 13% think all mines should go ahead subject to environmental approvals.

Those most likely to favour assessment of each proposal were LNP voters (58%) and Queenslanders (54%).

Those most likely to favour banning expansion of coal mines were Greens voters (46%) and other voters (30%).

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Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct opinion polling since November 2007.

Every two weeks, the team at Essential considers 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 current media and social issues.

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 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. 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.

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