

The Essential Report

17 October 2017



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



AMSRS 

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 12th to 15th October 2017 and is based on 1,0xx respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes on renewable energy and Tony Abbott.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 10.

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 10/10/17	2 weeks ago 3/10/17	4 weeks ago 19/9/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	33%	33%	34%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	36%	36%	38%	42.0%
Labor	36%	38%	38%	36%	34.7%
Greens	9%	10%	10%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	2%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	7%	7%	8%	
Other/Independent	7%	7%	7%	5%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	48%	46%	46%	48%	50.4%
Labor	52%	54%	54%	52%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,845. 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.

Clean energy target

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the Federal Government setting a Clean Energy Target to speed up transition from coal to cleaner energy sources?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	65%	73%	68%	88%	49%
Total disapprove	15%	9%	16%	2%	29%
Strongly approve	28%	34%	22%	62%	24%
Approve	37%	39%	46%	26%	25%
Disapprove	9%	7%	10%	1%	13%
Strongly disapprove	6%	2%	6%	1%	16%
Don't know	20%	18%	16%	11%	22%

65% approve of the Federal Government setting a Clean Energy Target and 15% disapprove. 20% don't have an opinion.

Those most likely to approve were Greens voters (88%), Labor voters (73%), aged under 35 (74%) and university educated (73%).



Incentives for renewable energy

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the Government continuing to provide incentives for the development of renewable energy production?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	74%	82%	75%	92%	65%
Total disapprove	10%	4%	12%	1%	17%
Strongly approve	29%	33%	24%	61%	24%
Approve	45%	49%	51%	31%	41%
Disapprove	6%	3%	9%	1%	7%
Strongly disapprove	4%	1%	3%	-	10%
Don't know	16%	14%	13%	8%	18%

74% approve of the Federal Government continuing to provide incentives for the development of renewable energy and 10% disapprove. 16% don't have an opinion.

Those most likely to approve were Greens voters (92%), Labor voters (82%) and university educated (82%).



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	Feb 2017
Total approve	62%	82%	52%	80%	53%	65%	65%
Total disapprove	18%	5%	27%	9%	24%	16%	18%
Strongly approve	24%	35%	17%	46%	19%	25%	25%
Approve	38%	47%	35%	34%	34%	40%	40%
Disapprove	10%	4%	17%	7%	7%	9%	9%
Strongly disapprove	8%	1%	10%	2%	17%	7%	9%
Don't know	20%	12%	20%	11%	23%	19%	16%

62% 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 February.

A very high majority of Labor voters (82%) and Greens voters (80%) approve.

Liberal/National voters were split but more likely to approve (52%) than disapprove (27%).



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	Feb 2017
Doing enough	15%	14%	22%	9%	12%	12%
Not doing enough	61%	66%	56%	80%	67%	71%
Doing too much	5%	4%	5%	3%	9%	3%
Don't know	19%	16%	17%	9%	12%	14%

61% (down from 71% in February) think the Federal Government is not doing enough to ensure affordable, reliable and clean energy for Australian households and businesses and only 15% think they are doing enough. 19% (up 5%) don't know.

56% of Liberal National voters think they are not doing enough and 22% think they are doing enough.

Tony Abbott

Q Do you think Tony Abbott should:

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Aug 2016	April 2017
Stay in parliament on the backbench	16%	16%	21%	10%	16%	21%	14%
Stay in parliament and be given a ministry	14%	11%	17%	7%	16%	25%	18%
Resign from parliament	42%	48%	39%	64%	37%	37%	43%
Challenge Malcolm Turnbull for leadership of the Liberal Party	9%	6%	8%	3%	21%	na	na
Don't know	20%	18%	15%	16%	10%	17%	24%

42% think Tony Abbott should resign from parliament (down 1% from April), while 30% think he should stay in parliament in some capacity (down 2%).

Liberal/National voters were more likely to think Tony Abbott should stay in parliament (38%) than Labor voters (27%) and Greens voters (17%).

Since this question was asked in April, the option of “Challenge Malcolm Turnbull for leadership of the Liberal Party” has been added – and attracted 9% support including 8% of Liberal National voters and 21% of other party voters.



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.