

The Essential Report

24 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 22nd October 2017 and is based on 1,029 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes on same sex marriage and the Government's energy plan.

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.

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 17/10/17	2 weeks ago 10/10/17	4 weeks ago 26/9/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	34%	33%	33%	
National	3%	3%	3%	4%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	37%	36%	37%	42.0%
Labor	36%	36%	38%	37%	34.7%
Greens	9%	9%	10%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	2%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	7%	7%	
Other/Independent	7%	7%	7%	6%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	48%	48%	46%	47%	50.4%
Labor	52%	52%	54%	53%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,859. 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.

Likelihood of voting

Q How likely are you to vote in the national postal vote on same-sex marriage or have you already voted?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other		5 Sep	19 Sep	26 Sep	3 Oct
I have already voted	75%	78%	80%	75%	81%		-	9%	36%	47%
Will definitely vote	8%	9%	7%	13%	4%		62%	62%	45%	33%
Will probably vote	4%	55	5%	7%	1%		16%	12%	8%	6%
Will probably not vote	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%		4%	2%	1%	3%
Will definitely not vote	3%	3%	2%	-	5%		3%	3%	2%	3%
Not sure	4%	1%	2%	1%	4%		10%	8%	5%	5%
I am not enrolled to vote at my current address	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%		4%	5%	3%	3%



	Total	Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+
I have already voted	75%	71%	79%	60%	75%	91%
Will definitely vote	8%	10%	6%	13%	8%	1%
Will probably vote	4%	5%	4%	9%	3%	1%
Will probably not vote	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Will definitely not vote	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	1%
I am not enrolled to vote at my current address	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	2%

75% say they have already voted in the same sex marriage survey and 8% say they will definitely vote. This compares to 47% and 33% respectively 3 weeks ago.

91% of those aged 55+ have already voted compared to 60% of those aged under 35.



Vote in same sex marriage survey

Q Did you answer yes or no to the question “Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry? (Based on those who have already voted)

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	3 Oct
Yes	60%	78%	44%	90%	46%	64%
No	34%	19%	51%	6%	46%	30%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	5%	4%	5%	4%	7%	6%

	Total	Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+
Yes	60%	54%	66%	73%	61%	49%
No	34%	40%	29%	24%	34%	43%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	5%	6%	5%	3%	5%	8%

Of those who have already voted, 60% say they voted yes (down 4% from 3 weeks ago) and 34% no (up 4%).

Those most likely to have voted yes are Greens voters (90%), Labor voters (78%), aged 18-34 (73%) and women (66%).



Intended vote in same sex marriage survey

Q The question in the national postal vote on same-sex marriage is “Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry? Do you intend to vote yes or no? (Based on those who have not yet voted)

	Total	Men	Women	Will definitely vote	Will probably vote	Will not vote		3 Oct
Intend to vote yes	39%	38%	40%	64%	48%	17%		50%
Intend to vote no	33%	35%	31%	31%	39%	36%		36%
Don't know	28%	28%	28%	5%	13%	47%		14%

Of those who have not voted, 39% say they will vote yes and 33% no. However, of those who will definitely vote, 64% will vote yes and 31% no.



National energy plan

Q This week, the Federal Government announced a new national energy plan. From what you have read or heard about it, do you approve or disapprove of the Government’s new plan for energy?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	35%	33%	53%	20%	17%
Total disapprove	18%	22%	9%	29%	26%
Strongly approve	10%	10%	16%	3%	1%
Approve	25%	23%	37%	17%	16%
Disapprove	11%	13%	7%	14%	15%
Strongly disapprove	7%	9%	2%	15%	11%
Don't know	47%	45%	39%	51%	56%

Nearly half (47%) could not give an opinion of the Federal Government’s new national energy plan.

35% approved of the plan and 18% disapproved.

Those more likely to approve were Liberal National voters (53%).



Clean energy target

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the Government's decision not to include a Clean Energy Target (CET) in the new national energy plan?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	35%	28%	48%	20%	23%
Total disapprove	32%	42%	17%	61%	45%
Strongly approve	11%	8%	13%	6%	8%
Approve	24%	20%	35%	14%	15%
Disapprove	20%	24%	13%	29%	31%
Strongly disapprove	12%	18%	4%	32%	14%
Don't know	33%	30%	36%	20%	32%

35% approved of the Government's decision not to include a Clean Energy Target in the new national energy plan and 32% disapproved.

Those more likely to approve were Liberal National voters (48%) and men (43%).

61% of Greens voters and 45% of other voters disapproved.

Subsidising renewable energy

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the Government’s decision to phase out subsidies for renewable energy by 2020?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	32%	24%	47%	19%	23%
Total disapprove	41%	47%	29%	62%	52%
Strongly approve	11%	7%	17%	3%	8%
Approve	21%	17%	30%	16%	15%
Disapprove	23%	26%	22%	23%	25%
Strongly disapprove	18%	21%	7%	39%	27%
Don't know	28%	29%	24%	18%	25%

32% approved of the Government’s decision to phase out subsidies for renewable energy by 2020 and 41% disapproved.

Those more likely to approve were Liberal National voters (47%) and men (40%).

62% of Greens voters and 52% of other voters disapproved.



Impact on prices

Q Do you think that the Government's energy plan will reduce or increase power prices or will it make no difference to prices?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Increase prices	31%	36%	22%	46%	42%
Reduce prices	16%	12%	25%	9%	7%
Make no difference to prices	31%	32%	31%	21%	34%
Don't know	22%	19%	215	25%	17%

Only 16% think that the Government's energy plan will reduce power prices. 31% think the plan will increase prices and 31% think it will make no difference.

Among Liberal National voters, 25% think it will reduce prices, 22% increase prices and 31% make no difference.

48% of those aged 55+ think it will make no difference.

Party trust

Q Which party would you trust more to do the following?

	Liberal	Labor	No difference	Don't know
Reduce power prices	24%	25%	37%	14%
Ensure a reliable power supply	24%	24%	38%	14%
Reduce carbon emissions from power plants	17%	29%	39%	16%
Develop a modern power system that is clean and smart	21%	26%	38%	15%
Encourage investment in renewable energy	20%	30%	34%	16%
Stand up to the big power companies	21%	27%	37%	15%

More than half either think there is no difference between the parties or don't know who they would trust more to handle any of these energy issues.

For those who made a choice, the Labor Party was more trusted to reduce carbon emissions from power plants (+12%), encourage investment in renewable energy (+10%), stand up to the big power companies (+6%) and develop a modern power system that is clean and smart (+5%).

There was no significant difference in preference for either party on reducing power prices or ensuring a reliable power supply.



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.

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