

The Essential Report

28 November 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 24th to 27th November 2017 and is based on 1,021 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on economic issues, energy, a Royal Commission into banking, same-sex marriage legislation and the state of the economy.

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 21/11/17	2 weeks ago 14/11/17	4 weeks ago 31/10/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	33%	32%	33%	33%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	36%	35%	36%	36%	42.0%
Labor	38%	38%	38%	37%	34.7%
Greens	9%	9%	9%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	2%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	8%	7%	
Other/Independent	7%	7%	7%	6%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	46%	46%	46%	46%	50.4%
Labor	54%	54%	54%	54%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,805. 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.

Concern about economic issues

Q How concerned are you personally about each of the following economic issues facing Australia today?

	Total concerned	Very concerned	Some-what concerned	Not so concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know
Energy prices	88%	56%	32%	8%	2%	1%
Food prices and inflation generally	83%	44%	39%	12%	3%	2%
Affordability of housing	80%	50%	30%	14%	5%	1%
Petrol prices	76%	39%	37%	16%	6%	2%
Improving wages for low income earners	75%	39%	36%	17%	5%	2%
Jobs going overseas	71%	39%	32%	20%	6%	3%
Excessive executive salaries	69%	39%	30%	21%	6%	3%
The age pension	68%	35%	33%	22%	8%	3%
Unemployment	68%	34%	34%	24%	6%	3%
Personal income tax rates	65%	30%	35%	24%	6%	4%
Not enough superannuation	64%	31%	33%	24%	7%	5%
Not enough regulation of large corporations	61%	30%	31%	28%	6%	4%
Interest rates	61%	28%	33%	26%	9%	4%

Government debt	60%	26%	34%	28%	8%	4%
Not enough regulation of banks	58%	27%	31%	29%	9%	4%
Cuts in penalty rates	57%	28%	29%	26%	11%	5%

Issues most concerned about were energy prices (88% concerned including 56% very concerned), affordability of housing (80%/50%) and food prices and inflation generally (83%/44%).

Issues least concerned about were cuts in penalty rates (57%/28%), regulation of banks (58%/27%) and Government debt (60%/26%).

Major differences by demographics were –

42% of aged 18-34 very concerned about energy prices compared to 65% of those aged 55+.

28% of aged 18-34 very concerned about executive salaries compared to 52% of those aged 55+.

60% of aged 18-34 very concerned about housing affordability compared to 35% of those aged 55+.

50% of women very concerned about food prices compared to 38% of men.

46% of women very concerned about wages of low income earners compared to 33% of men.

40% of women very concerned about unemployment compared to 28% of men.



Top three economic issues

Q And which of these would be your top three concerns?

	Total	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Energy prices	55%	24%	19%	12%
Affordability of housing	37%	15%	12%	10%
Food prices and inflation generally	34%	8%	12%	14%
Petrol prices	29%	11%	11%	7%
Unemployment	20%	7%	7%	6%
The age pension	17%	7%	4%	6%
Improving wages for low income earners	15%	4%	5%	6%
Personal income tax rates	14%	4%	5%	5%
Jobs going overseas	13%	3%	5%	5%
Not enough superannuation	13%	3%	4%	6%
Interest rates	11%	3%	4%	4%
Excessive executive salaries	11%	3%	4%	4%

Government debt	11%	3%	3%	5%
Cuts in penalty rates	6%	2%	1%	3%
Not enough regulation of banks	6%	1%	2%	3%
Not enough regulation of large corporations	6%	1%	2%	3%

Top economic issues were very similar to the rankings of issues of concern.

The main issues mentioned were energy prices (55%), housing affordability (37%) and food prices and inflation generally (34%).



Australia's future energy supply

Q Thinking about Australia's future energy supply, which of the following statements best describes what you think the Federal Government should do?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Provide incentives and subsidies to speed up the transition from fossil fuels to renewables	49%	59%	44%	69%	46%
Let the market and consumers determine speed of transition from fossil fuels to renewables	16%	12%	24%	9%	18%
Take action to slow down the transition from fossil fuels to renewables	12%	8%	12%	6%	23%
Don't know	22%	21%	20%	16%	13%

49% support providing incentives to speed transition to renewables, 16% think the market should determine speed of transition and 12% think transition to renewables should be slowed.

Those most supportive of incentives and subsidies were Labor voters (59%), Greens voters (69%) and university educated (60%).

Royal Commission into banking

Q Would you support or oppose holding a Royal Commission into the banking and financial services industry?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	April 2016	Aug 2016	Feb 2017
Total support	64%	72%	62%	62%	71%	59%	64%	64%
Total oppose	12%	9%	20%	3%	11%	15%	13%	16%
Strongly support	24%	33%	15%	30%	30%	27%	28%	33%
Support	40%	39%	47%	32%	41%	32%	36%	31%
Oppose	9%	8%	16%	2%	5%	11%	9%	11%
Strongly oppose	3%	1%	4%	1%	6%	4%	4%	5%
Don't know	24%	20%	18%	35%	18%	25%	23%	21%

There was majority support for holding a Royal Commission into the banking and financial services sector - 64% supported a Royal Commission and 12% opposed. This is similar to polls over the last 2 years.

A majority of all voter groups supported a Royal Commission. Those most likely to support a Royal Commission into the banking and financial services sector were Labor voters (72%), other voters (71%) and university educated (70%).



Same-sex marriage legislation

Q Do you think the same-sex marriage legislation should include religious protections or should the Government pass the legislation allowing same-sex marriage and address the issue of religious protections in a separate process?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Same-sex marriage legislation should include religious protections	32%	27%	39%	16%	45%
Religious protections should be addressed in a separate process	47%	52%	46%	64%	38%
Don't know	21%	21%	15%	21%	17%

32% think that same-sex marriage legislation should include religious protections and 47% think that religious protections should be addressed in a separate process.

There were no significant differences by age or sex. Liberal/National voters were a little more likely (39%) to support including religious protections in the same-sex marriage legislation while 64% of Greens voters thought it should be addressed in a separate process.



State of the economy

Q Overall, how would you describe the current state of the Australian economy?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Dec 2016	May 2017
Total Good	33%	30%	46%	37%	18%	23%	30%
Total Poor	24%	25%	15%	24%	42%	36%	29%
Very good	3%	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Good	30%	27%	42%	33%	16%	21%	27%
Neither good nor poor	38%	42%	36%	32%	37%	37%	36%
Poor	17%	19%	10%	17%	26%	28%	23%
Very poor	7%	6%	5%	7%	16%	8%	6%
Don't know	5%	3%	2%	7%	2%	4%	5%

Overall, 33% thought that the state of the economy was good (up 3% from May). 24% thought it was bad (down 5%).

46% of Liberal/National voters thought the state of the economy was good, compared to 30% of Labor voters and 18% of other/independent voters.

Direction of the economy

Q From what you have read and heard, do you think the Australian economy is heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Dec 2016	May 2017
The right direction	31%	26%	52%	25%	17%	26%	29%
The wrong direction	39%	41%	29%	44%	60%	45%	41%
Don't know	30%	33%	19%	31%	23%	29%	30%

Overall, 31% thought that the economy is heading in the right direction (up 2% from May), and 39% thought it was heading in the wrong direction (down 2%).

Liberal/National voters were more likely to think the economy is heading in the right direction (52%) than Labor (26%), Greens (25%) and independent/other voters (17%).

Men were more likely to think that the economy was heading in the right direction (35%) than women (28%).

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.