

# The Essential Report

11 November 2019



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**Prepared By:** Essential Research

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**Data Supplied by:**



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**AMSRS** 

Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.



## About this poll

This report summarises the results of a fortnightly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Qualtrics. The survey was conducted online from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and is based on 1,075 respondents.

This week's report includes questions about Leader approval ratings, who makes the better Prime Minister and attitudes towards right to protest.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix at the end of the report.

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



## Performance of Scott Morrison

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the job Scott Morrison is doing as Prime Minister?

	Nov'19	Oct'19	Sep'19	Aug'19	Jul'19	Jun'19
NET: Approve	<b>45%</b>	<b>47%</b>	49%	48%	48%	48%
NET: Disapprove	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>	36%	37%	34%	36%
Don't know	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	15%	16%	18%	18%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,088</b>	1,093	1,096	1,091	1,099

	Total	Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Strongly approve	<b>12%</b>	4%	27%	2%	3%
Approve	<b>33%</b>	22%	56%	13%	31%
Disapprove	<b>21%</b>	32%	10%	28%	27%
Strongly disapprove	<b>20%</b>	32%	2%	43%	27%
Don't know	<b>13%</b>	11%	5%	15%	12%
<b>NET: Approve</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>NET: Disapprove</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	325	377	107	155



- There is a slight drop in the approval rating of the Prime Minister this month, with the 45% of participants approving of the job, down from 47% last month and 49% in September.
- The vast majority of Coalition voters approve of Morrison's performance as PM, with 83% approval (on par with 84% approval last month), compared to just 11% of Coalition voters who disapprove.
- The main drivers of the decline in the PMs approval rating are men (approval now at 47%, down from 53% in October), Queensland residents (40%, down from 47% last month) and residents aged 18-34 (41%, down from 50% last month).



## Performance of Anthony Albanese

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the job Anthony Albanese is doing as Opposition Leader?

	Nov'19	Oct'19	Sep'19	Aug'19	Jul'19	Jun'19
NET: Approve	<b>37%</b>	40%	36%	38%	39%	35%
NET: Disapprove	<b>34%</b>	29%	31%	29%	24%	25%
Don't know	<b>29%</b>	31%	33%	33%	37%	39%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	1,088	1,093	1,096	1,091	1,099

	Total	Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Strongly approve	<b>6%</b>	12%	3%	6%	3%
Approve	<b>31%</b>	45%	32%	25%	16%
Disapprove	<b>24%</b>	19%	28%	30%	32%
Strongly disapprove	<b>9%</b>	2%	14%	7%	18%
Don't know	<b>29%</b>	23%	22%	32%	31%
<b>NET: Approve</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>NET: Disapprove</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>50%</b>
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	325	377	107	155



- Anthony Albanese has 37% approval as Opposition Leader, but just under one third (29%) don't know how to rate his performance. More respondents are able to provide a rating on Albanese's performance now, than when he first took over the position in June, when 39% recorded a response of don't know.
- Approval with Albanese's performance is driven by Labor party voters (57%), participants with a university education (47%) and males (43%).



## Preferred Prime Minister

Q Who do you think would makes the better Prime Minister out of Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese?

	Nov'19	Oct'19	Sep'19	Aug'19	Jul'19	Jun'19
Scott Morrison	<b>44%</b>	<b>43%</b>	46%	44%	44%	43%
Anthony Albanese	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	25%	28%	26%	25%
Don't know	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>	29%	28%	31%	32%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,088</b>	1,093	1,096	1,091	1,099

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Scott Morrison	<b>44%</b>	47%	41%	38%	40%	52%
Anthony Albanese	<b>28%</b>	30%	25%	33%	25%	26%
Don't know	<b>29%</b>	23%	34%	29%	35%	22%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	526	549	327	371	377

- More than two-fifths of participants think that Scott Morrison makes the better PM (44%), which is on par with previous months from mid-2019 (between 43% and 46% since June).
- 29% don't know who would make the better PM between Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese.





## Protest Activity

Q Have you personally ever taken part in any of the following...?

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Signed an online petition	<b>44%</b>	39%	48%	45%	44%	42%
Signed a written petition	<b>39%</b>	37%	41%	33%	34%	50%
Attended a march or rally	<b>17%</b>	18%	16%	24%	12%	16%
Gone on strike from work	<b>13%</b>	18%	8%	13%	10%	14%
Signed up to an online political campaign	<b>10%</b>	11%	10%	16%	9%	7%
None of these	<b>37%</b>	39%	35%	31%	41%	39%
NET: Any of these	<b>63%</b>	61%	65%	69%	59%	61%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	526	549	327	371	377

- Almost two-thirds (63%) of people have ever participated in a protest activity – either attending a strike or rally, or signing up to a petition or campaign.
- Signing online and written petitions are the most popular forms of protest (44% and 39% respectively have done this). Less than a fifth have ever a march or rally (17%) and 13% have been on strike.
- Women are more likely than men to have signed petitions (48% to 39% for online petitions and 41% to 37% for written petitions), while men are more likely to have been on strike (18% to 8%).
- People aged 18-34 are more likely than other to have attended a protest or rally (24% compared to 14% of those aged 35+).



	Total	Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Signed an online petition	<b>44%</b>	43%	37%	71%	59%
Signed a written petition	<b>39%</b>	37%	39%	51%	50%
Attended a march or rally	<b>17%</b>	16%	13%	43%	21%
Gone on strike from work	<b>13%</b>	17%	10%	12%	12%
Signed up to an online political campaign	<b>10%</b>	11%	9%	18%	13%
None of these	<b>37%</b>	38%	39%	18%	31%
NET: Any of these	<b>63%</b>	62%	61%	82%	69%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	325	377	107	155

- Greens voters are most likely to have participated in any activity (82%), with signing online petitions (71%), written petitions (51%) and attending marches or rallies (43%) being most popular.
- Those with a university education are more likely to have participated in protest activities are (69% to 60% of all others). They are more likely to have attended a march or rally (24% to 14%), gone on strike (18% to 10%) and signed up to an online campaign (16% to 8%).



## Support for Right to Protest laws

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the right to protest in Australia?

	NET: Agree	NET: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of a democratic society	<b>82%</b>	<b>10%</b>	51%	31%	7%	3%	9%
Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it disrupts businesses	<b>58%</b>	<b>31%</b>	26%	32%	17%	15%	11%
Protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines	<b>53%</b>	<b>33%</b>	23%	30%	18%	15%	14%
Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it is contrary to the national interest	<b>47%</b>	<b>41%</b>	20%	28%	22%	19%	12%

- A large majority of people agree that the right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of a democratic society (82%), with half (51%) strongly agreeing.
- 58% agree that the Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it disrupts businesses (31% disagree), and 53% agree that protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines (33% disagree).
- Agreement was split for the statement 'Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it is contrary to the national interest' with 47% agreeing, and 41% disagreeing.



## Support for Right to Protest laws

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the right to protest in Australia?

NET: AGREE	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of a democratic society	<b>82%</b>	84%	79%	75%	83%	86%
Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it disrupts businesses	<b>58%</b>	60%	56%	54%	58%	62%
Protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines	<b>53%</b>	54%	52%	60%	52%	48%
Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it is contrary to the national interest	<b>47%</b>	50%	45%	41%	48%	52%
Base (n)	<b>1,075</b>	526	549	327	371	377

- Older respondents (those aged over 55) were more likely than younger people (18-34) to agree that the right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of a democratic society (86% to 75%), that the Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it disrupts businesses (62% to 54%), and that the Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it is contrary to the national interest (52% to 41%).
- Over 55s are less likely to agree that protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines (60% to 48%).



	NET: AGREE	Total	Voting Intention				Protest Activity	
			Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other	Participated in protest activity	Not participated in protest activity
The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of a democratic society	<b>82%</b>		84%	86%	89%	85%	87%	72%
Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it disrupts businesses	<b>58%</b>		48%	78%	33%	61%	58%	59%
Protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines	<b>53%</b>		60%	47%	80%	49%	60%	41%
Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it is contrary to the national interest	<b>47%</b>		39%	65%	22%	49%	47%	49%
		<b>1,075</b>	325	377	107	155	682	393

- Coalition voters were most likely to agree that the Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it disrupts businesses (78%) and that the Government has the right to limit citizen protests when it is contrary to the national interest (65%). However they were least likely to agree that protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines (47%).
- Those who have participated in a protest activity are more likely than those who have not to agree with the statements 'The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental part of a democratic society' (87% to 72%) and 'Protestors should have the right to pressure banks not to invest in companies that are building coal mines oppose the proposed changes' (46% to 27%).



## Support for Right to Protest laws

Q Scott Morrison has flagged changing the law to stop environmental and other civil society groups or consumers campaigning against big resource projects. This change could make consumer or environmental boycotts illegal.

Based on what you understand, to what extent do you support or oppose the Prime Minister’s proposal?

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly support	14%	18%	11%	12%	11%	19%
Somewhat support	19%	20%	18%	23%	16%	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	28%	24%	31%	29%	33%	22%
Somewhat oppose	15%	13%	17%	12%	18%	15%
Strongly oppose	24%	25%	23%	24%	22%	26%
<b>NET: Support</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>NET: Oppose</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>41%</b>
Base (n)	1,075	526	549	327	371	377

- Overall, there was more opposition to support for the Government’s proposals stop environmental and other civil society groups or consumers campaigning against big resource projects (39% to 33%). 28% neither support nor oppose the proposals.
- Support was highest among men (38%) and those aged 55+ (37%).



	Total	Labor	Voting Intention			Protest Activity	
			Coalition	Greens	NET: Other	Participated in protest activity	Not participated in protest activity
Strongly support	14%	9%	26%	1%	11%	15%	13%
Somewhat support	19%	15%	30%	11%	13%	16%	23%
Neither support, nor oppose	28%	27%	24%	13%	30%	22%	37%
Somewhat oppose	15%	17%	12%	18%	18%	16%	14%
Strongly oppose	24%	32%	8%	57%	29%	31%	13%
<b>NET: Support</b>	<b>33%</b>	24%	56%	12%	23%	31%	36%
<b>NET: Oppose</b>	<b>39%</b>	49%	20%	76%	47%	46%	27%
Base (n)	1,075	325	377	107	155	682	393

- Just over half of Coalition voters support the Government’s proposals (56%). The proposal receives lower support among Labor (24%), Greens (12%), and minor party/independent voters (23%).
- Those who have participated in a protest activity are more likely than those who have not to oppose the proposed changes (46% to 27%).



## Appendix: Household income definitions\*

NET: Lower Income	Up to \$51,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
NET: Mid Income	\$52,000 to \$103,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
NET: High Income	More than \$104,000 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)

## Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus conducted by Qualtrics.

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.

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 online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants. 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 staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.

