
Climate of the Nation 2024

Tracking Australia's attitudes
towards climate change and energy

Research report
Elizabeth Morison
Polly Hemming
Adam Gottschalk
Yasmine Wright Gittins



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The Australia Institute publishes research that contributes to a more just, sustainable and peaceful society. Our goal is to gather, interpret and communicate evidence in order to both diagnose the problems we face and propose new solutions to tackle them.

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Level 1, Endeavour House

1 Franklin Street

Canberra, ACT 2601

Tel: 02 6130 0530

Email: mail@australiainstitute.org.au

Website: australiainstitute.org.au

ISSN: 1836-9014

Acknowledgements

Climate of the Nation is the longest continuous survey of community attitudes to climate change in the country. The Australia Institute acknowledges the dedicated work of the Climate Institute, which produced the report from 2007-2017.

The Australia Institute is delighted to publish this benchmark report for the seventh year. We wish to thank the following people and foundations for their support:

- Mark Wootton
- Eve Kantor
- McKinnon Family Foundation
- ACME Foundation
- PMF Foundation
- The Graeme Wood Foundation
- Pademelon Fund
- The Hackett Foundation
- The Social Justice Fund
(a sub fund of the Australian Communities Foundation)
- Ann Miller AM
- Brian Snape AM
- Caroline Le Couteur
- Australia Institute monthly donors

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Contents

2	Key Findings
3	Foreword
6	Highlights by Voting Intention
14	Introduction
15	Australia's Climate Leadership
28	Climate Integrity
37	The Cost of Climate Change
44	Holding Polluters Accountable
57	Conclusion
59	Appendix I : Aim and Approach
60	Appendix II : Demographic Snapshot

Key Findings

50%

of Australians think the Australian Government is not doing enough to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change

3x

more than 3x as many Australians (57%) agree than disagree (16%) that continued inaction on climate change will hurt Australia's international reputation

39%

only 39% of Australians have heard of the term 'climate risk'

60%

of Australians either aren't sure or are not aware of any actions the Federal Government is taking to manage or reduce the negative impacts of climate change

64%

of Australians think the Federal Government should take some form of action to transition away from fossil fuels by 2026 if Australia is to host a UN Climate Change Conference

70%

of Australians support implementing some form of polluter-pays mechanism in Australia to make industry more accountable for its environmental impact

75%

of Australians agree that climate policy should be based on best-practice science

75%

of Australians agree that members of the independent agencies advising the Government on climate policy should not also be employed by organisations that could be affected by their advice

65%

of Australians think business interests are less important than science

21%

of Australians say they do not know what 'carbon neutral' or 'net zero' means

70%

say gas companies should have to pay royalties on the gas they extract and sell

73%

believe governments or regulators should be responsible for verifying claims of 'net zero emissions' and 'carbon neutrality'

55x

Australians think the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) collects 55x more revenue than it does

52%

of Australians oppose subsidies for the expansion of the coal, oil and gas industries

Foreword

The Australia Institute's annual *Climate of the Nation* report provides an insight into Australians' understanding of, and attitudes towards, climate change and Australia's current and proposed climate policies.

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that Australians are not only concerned about the climate crisis, they feel negative about the future in the context of climate change and that their government is not doing enough about it. This is especially true of younger Australians.

While a majority of Australians across all age groups are concerned about climate change, younger Australians tend to be the most concerned. Of those aged 18–24, 83% are concerned about climate change, compared to 60% of those aged over 65. More younger Australians feel negative about the future compared to older Australians too, with more than half of Australians aged 18–24 feel negative about the future (51%).

When asked about the challenge to our world presented by climate change, only three in ten (30%) Australians feel positive about the future, while 37% feel negative.

While half of Australians across all ages think the Australian Government is not doing enough to address climate change or adapt to its impacts, again, Australians aged 18–24 feel more strongly about this than their older counterparts. Of those aged 18–24, 65% think the Australian Government is not doing enough, compared to 44% of Australians aged over 65.

Australians are not only unconvinced by the claims being made by government and industry when it comes to their climate action, they believe that continued inaction will harm Australia's reputation internationally.

When asked if they were aware of any actions the federal government is taking to manage or reduce the negative impacts of climate change, 60% of Australians either aren't sure or are not aware of any actions.

Despite the apparent despondency throughout the community, the Australian public still holds high expectations for Australia's climate leadership, both domestically and internationally.

If the Australian Government is to host the UN Climate Change Conference in 2026 in partnership with Pacific Island countries (COP31), almost two-thirds (64%) of Australians expect this event to be preceded by the government taking credible action to address Australia's fossil fuel production (in line with the commitment it made at COP28 in 2023 to transition away from fossil fuels).

Half of Australians (52%) agree that Australia needs to help vulnerable peoples and developing countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, and 42% agree that Australia should spend at least the same amount on international climate finance as it does on subsidising fossil fuels.

On the domestic front, Australians understand the continuing threat of climate change despite the ongoing day-to-day pressures placed on them as Australia's inequality and cost of living increases. They are already feeling the physical and financial effects of climate change, and continue to worry about these effects worsening.

Accordingly, Australians want to see more accountability by the private sector, particularly when it comes to taking responsibility for environmental damage and making a fair economic contribution to Australia. Seven in ten Australians (70%) support the implementation of a polluter-pays mechanism to make industry more accountable for the environmental damage it causes.

Around half of all Australians want the government to stop subsidising fossil fuels (52%) and collect more money for the Australian public from fossil fuel companies (47%).

These expectations exist despite the value Australians think the fossil fuel industry brings to the country's economy. That is, Australians dramatically overestimate the revenue and jobs created by the gas and coal industry and still think these industries should be held more accountable and contribute more to public revenue. Australians think the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) contributes 55 times more to Australia's revenue than it does. Australians overestimate the size of gas and oil industry employment by a factor of 62, believing it employs 9.8% of the total workforce. In reality, oil and gas employment make up only 0.1% of the workforce. Australians also overestimate the economic value of the gas industry, believing it accounts for 11.8% of GDP, when the actual figure is around 3.7%.

Climate of the Nation 2024 highlights the fact that Australians are being failed by both government and industry when it comes to communicating the consequences of the climate crisis and the actions they are taking to address it.

While the concept of "climate risk" forms the basis of government and private sector policies, it remains poorly defined and poorly understood by the community. Only 39% of Australians heard the term "climate risk". Similarly, most Australians (60%) say they either "aren't sure" or are "not aware" of any actions the federal government is taking to manage or reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

These results raise significant concerns about whether Australians are aware of the extent to which climate change might affect their lives, despite the fact that the Australian Government has previously officially recognised "that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific" in the Boe Declaration.¹

Terms frequently used by government and industry such as "net zero", "carbon neutral" and "carbon offset" are also poorly understood, indicating these concepts are not well defined or communicated by those using them, or well-regulated by government. This apparent confusion

¹ Pacific Islands Forum (2018) *Boe Declaration Action Plan*, p 6 <https://forumsec.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/BOE-document-Action-Plan.pdf>

also suggests that Australians may not be making informed choices even when these claims influence their investment, purchasing or voting decisions.

Many Australians say they don't know what "net zero" or "carbon neutral" means, or appear uncertain about what an organisation has done to achieve these things (and whether there are more or less greenhouse gas emissions as a result). Despite the widespread use of carbon offsets by corporations to make climate claims, only about half (46%) of Australians say they are at least somewhat confident they know what a carbon offset is. One in four Australians (37%) are not at all confident.

Australians not only want the claims of the private sector to be better regulated by government, they also expect the Australian Government's own climate policies to be free from industry influence and based on science. Three in four Australians (75%) agree that climate policy should be based on best-practice climate science. Fewer than one in 10 (8%) disagree with this statement.

Australians not only want the claims of the private sector to be better regulated by government, they also expect the Australian Government's own climate policies to be independent and based on science. However, conflicts of interest in public agencies, along with a failure of leadership to address political interference, continues to facilitate greenwashing and delay an adequate response to the climate and biodiversity crisis in Australia.

Australia Institute research has consistently highlighted the damage to Australia's policies (and democracy more broadly) when accountability, independence and transparency in governance is not upheld. Accordingly, a majority (75%) of Australians agree that individuals appointed to advise government on climate policy should not also be employed by organisations that stand to benefit from their advice. Australians across all voting intentions agree with this sentiment.

An overwhelming majority (75%) of Australians agree that climate policy should be based on best practice climate science. Fewer than one in 10 (8%) disagree with this statement. A majority of Australians across all voting intentions also say that science is more important than business interests, despite industry and successive Australian governments using the "economic burden" as an excuse to delay effective climate policy.

Climate of the Nation 2024 brings into focus not just how Australians *feel* about climate change, but also what they expect their leaders to do in response to it. This year's survey shows that, while Australians continue to be underwhelmed by a lack of tangible action by the Australian Government to prevent and adapt to the worst impacts of climate change, they have not abandoned the expectation that government policies should protect the community, not industry profits.

Polly Hemming
Climate & Energy Program Director
The Australia Institute

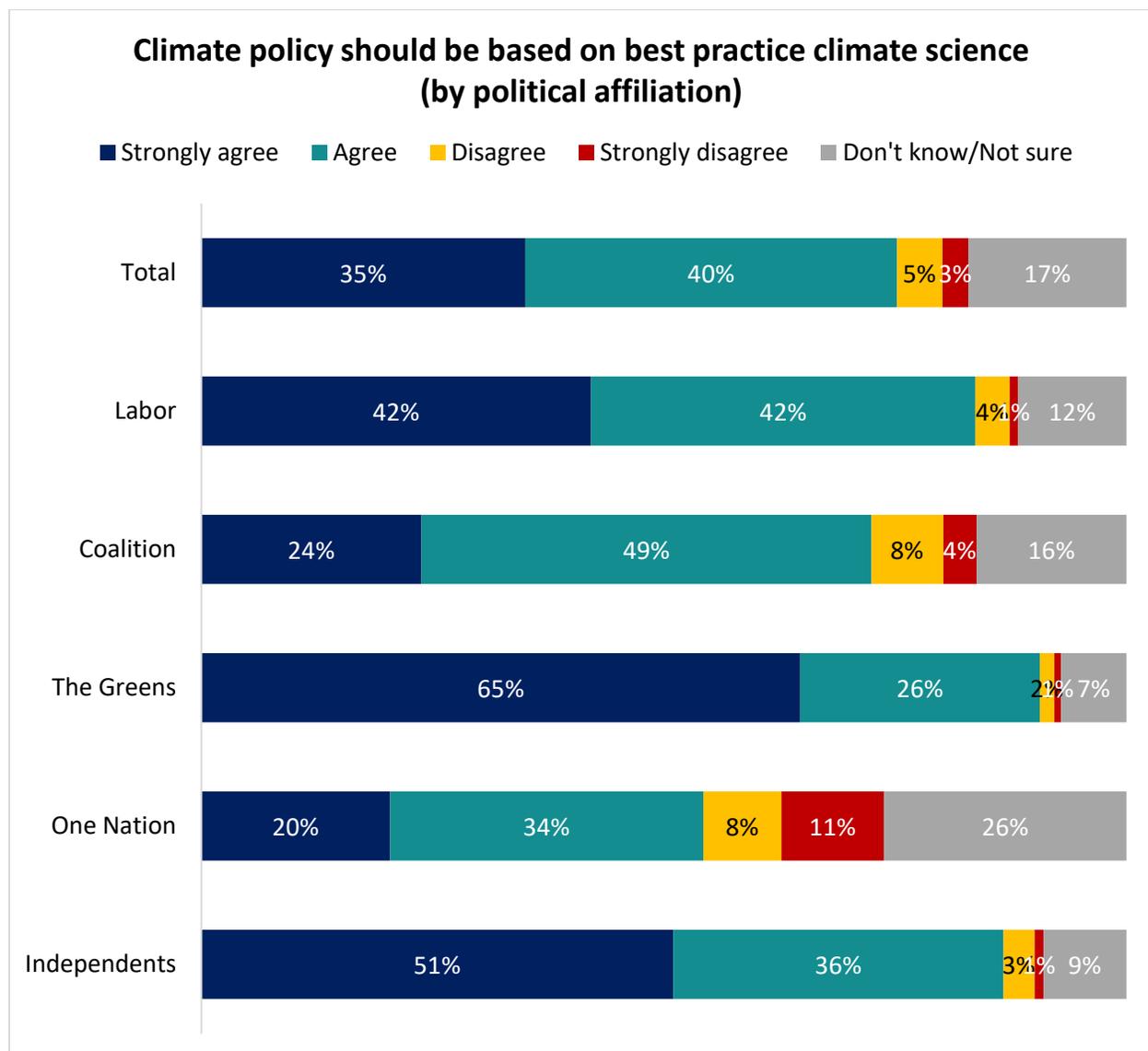
Highlights by voting intention

Ahead of a federal election, the attitudes of Australians to climate policy according to voting intention are likely to be of interest to the community and policymakers.

Climate policy should be based on climate science

Australians across all voting intentions agree that Australia’s climate policies should be based on science. Agreement is strongest among Greens voters, nine in ten (91%) of whom agree (2% disagree), followed by Labor voters, 84% of whom agree (5% disagree). Seven in ten (72%) Coalition and 54% of One Nation voters agree.

FIGURE 1: CLIMATE POLICY SHOULD BE BASED ON BEST PRACTICE CLIMATE SCIENCE (BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION)



Climate policy should be independent

Integrity in climate policy is dependent on the integrity of Australia's policymakers and governance structures.

Three in four Australians (75%) agree that members of the independent agencies advising the government on climate policy should not also be employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice.

Australians across all voting intentions agree with this sentiment.

- 79% and 77% of Labor and Coalition voters respectively agree that those advising government should not be simultaneously employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice. 83% of Greens voters, 86% of those voting Independent and 65% of One Nation Voters also agree.

A majority of Australians across all voting intentions also say that science is more important than business interests, despite industry and successive Australian governments using the cost of emissions reduction as a means to delay effective climate policy.

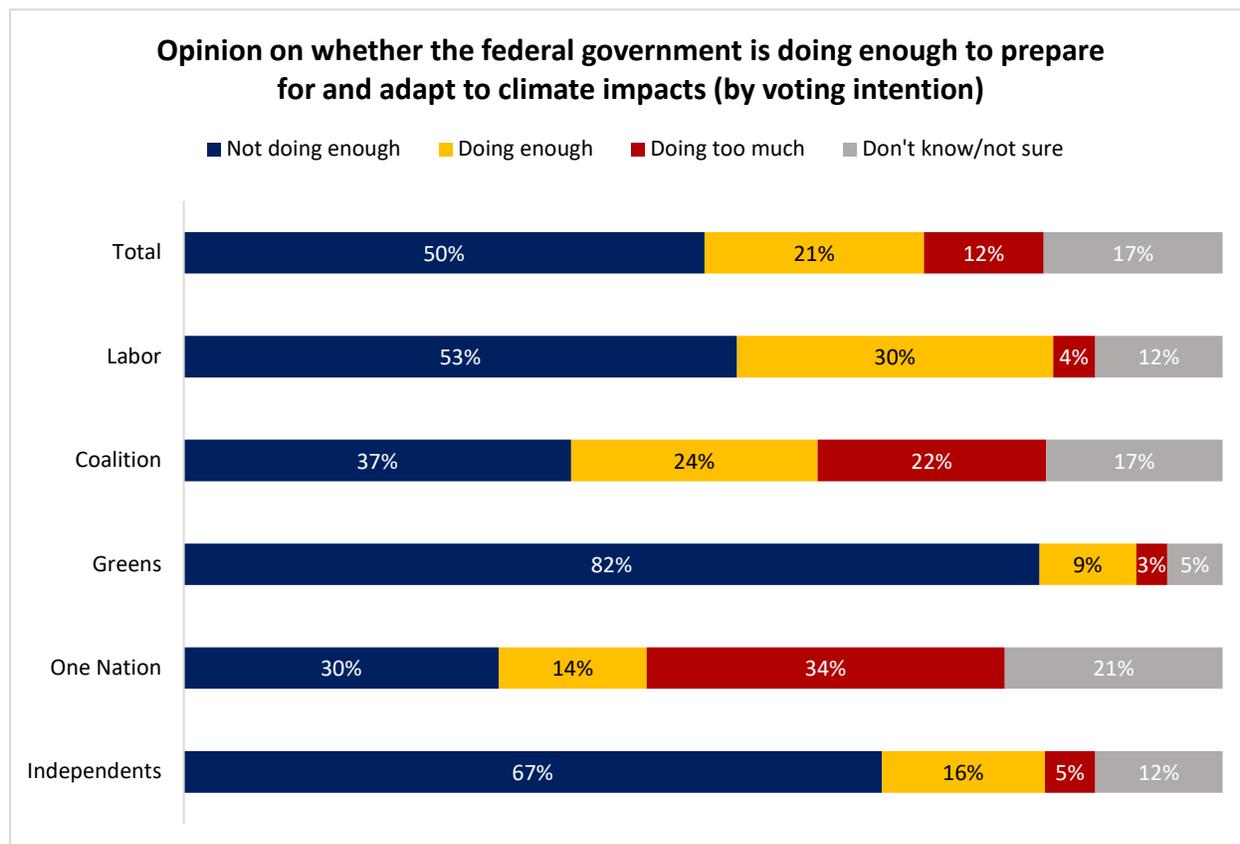
The Australian Government should do more to address climate change

Greens and Independent voters are overwhelmingly critical of the Australian Government's actions to address the climate crisis, with 82% and 67% respectively, thinking the government is not doing enough.

Over half (53%) of Labor voters do not think the Australian Government is doing enough to address climate change, while 30% think it is.

Over a third (37%) of Coalition voters think the Australian Government is not doing enough to address climate change, while 46% think it is, including 22% that think it is doing too much (down from 60% in 2023, including 22% that thought it was doing too much).

FIGURE 2: OPINION ON WHETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS DOING ENOUGH TO PREPARE FOR AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE IMPACTS (BY VOTING INTENTION)



Australia’s commitment to transition away from fossil fuels

At the 2023 United Nations (UN) climate conference, COP28, parties to the Paris Agreement, including Australia, signed an agreement to “transition away” from fossil fuels.²

The Australian Government has made a bid to host a future UN climate conference in partnership with Pacific Island countries. If successful in its bid, Australia would host COP31 in 2026.

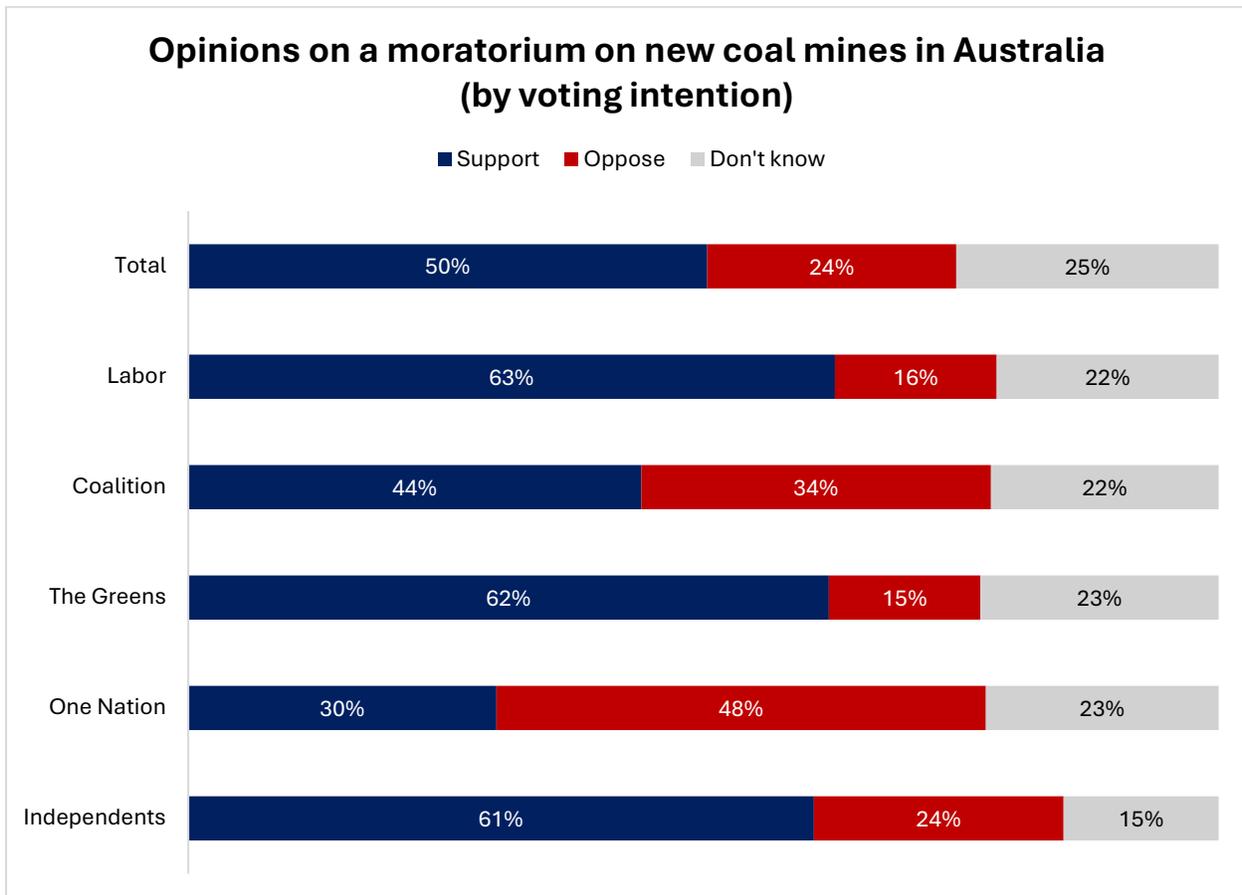
A majority of voters for Labor (78%), the Greens (90%), the Coalition (48%) and Independents (74%) think the Australian Government needs to take at least one of the following kinds of actions to reduce the use of fossil fuels by 2026 if Australia is to host a United Nations climate conference: introduce a polluter-pays scheme for fossil fuel companies, commit to phasing out coal fired power stations, stop subsidies for fossil fuels by 2030 or announce it will not approve any new gas or coal projects.

² United Framework Convention on Climate Change (2023) *Outcome of the first global stocktake*, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_L17_adv.pdf p 5

Moratorium on coal mines

Support for a moratorium on new coal mines in Australia varies with voting intention. Three in five Labor voters (63%), Greens voters (62%) and Independent voters (61%) support a moratorium, followed by 44% of Coalition voters. One Nation is the only party with more voters who oppose (48%) than support (30%) a moratorium.

FIGURE 3: OPINIONS ON A MORATORIUM ON NEW COAL MINES IN AUSTRALIA (BY VOTING INTENTION)



An end to coal-fired power in Australia

Experts have warned that to keep global warming within 1.5°C, wealthy members of the OECD, like Australia, should phase out coal before 2030.³

One in three Australians (34%) want coal-fired power generation completely ended by 2030. Seven in ten (68%) Greens voters believe coal-fired power generation should end by 2030. Just under half (45%) of Independent voters, two in five (42%) Labor voters think coal-fired power

³ Climate Analytics (2019) *Global and regional coal phase-out requirements of the Paris Agreement: Insights from the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C*, <https://climateanalytics.org/publications/2019/coal-phase-out-insights-from-the-ipcc-special-report-on-15c-and-global-trends-since-2015/>

should end by 2030. One in five (22%) One Nation voters and one in six (17%) Coalition voters think coal-fired power should end by 2030.

Even though the share of One Nation voters who think coal should be phased out by 2030 jumped from 8% in 2023 to 22% in 2024, more One Nation voters (66%) think that coal-fired power should never be completely phased out than do voters for any other party.

Climate change should be considered when approving fossil fuel projects

Agreement is strong across most voting intentions that Australia's Environment Minister should be required to consider climate change impacts when approving coal or gas projects.

Greens (97%), Labor (90%), Independents (83%) and Coalition (61%) voters all overwhelmingly agree that climate change should be a consideration when approving fossil fuel projects. 43% of One Nation voters agree, but 46% disagree—the largest disagreement of any political affiliation.

Australia's financial support for Pacific Island countries to deal with climate change

As one of the world's largest fossil fuel exporters, Australia's fossil fuel exports contribute to climate change, worsening the impacts faced by vulnerable nations including Pacific Island states. *Climate of the Nation 2024* asked whether, if Australia continues to export fossil fuels, the Australian government should provide additional support for countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

One in three (33%) Australians think that Australia should increase financial support for Pacific Island countries to deal with the impacts of climate change if Australia continues to export fossil fuels. Two in three (64%) of Greens voters support an increase. Independent voters are more than twice as likely (45%) to support an increase than Coalition voters (20%). Two in five (41%) of Labor voters support an increase.

Support for a polluter-pays mechanism in Australia

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that 70% of Australians support the Australian Government implementing mechanisms to make industries more accountable for their pollution.

- Seven in ten (70%) Australians support at least one mechanism that involves the government collecting money from polluting industries for public revenue, including an economy-wide price on pollution, a levy on carbon extracted on pollution and increased company tax for fossil fuel companies planning to open new gas and coal projects.

- There are high levels of support across the political spectrum for polluter-pays mechanisms. Four in five (79%) Labor voters support at least one polluter-pays mechanism, as do two in three (66%) Coalition voters. Six in seven Greens (84%) and Independent (85%) voters support at least one mechanism.
- Only one in six (16%) Australians would support a polluter-pays mechanism whereby polluters do *not* pay the government but are required to buy carbon offsets, with the revenue going to private commercial carbon offset developers (this is the current arrangement under the Australian Government’s Safeguard Mechanism).

The government should collect more revenue from fossil fuel companies

Almost half of Australians (47%) say the Australian Government should collect more money than it currently does from fossil fuel companies.

Across all voting intentions, more Australians think the government should collect more money than less from fossil fuel companies.

Over half of Labor voters (57%) think the government should collect more money from fossil fuel companies, compared to fewer than one in 20 (4%) who think the government should collect less.

Twice as many Coalition (35%) and One Nation (32%) voters think the government should collect more money than those who think the government should collect less (12% and 16% respectively).

Seven in 10 (70%) Greens voters think the government should collect more money from fossil fuel companies, the most of any voting intention, closely followed by Independent voters (68%).

Policies to collect more revenue from fossil fuel companies

Respondents were presented with three different policies that could collect revenue from polluting industries:

- Charging fossil fuel companies a levy for each tonne of carbon pollution extracted in Australia or imported into Australia;
- a levy charged on Australia's fossil fuel exports to help fund local government actions to prepare for, and protect from, the consequences of climate change and;
- a windfall profits tax—an additional or higher rate of tax levied on a company or industry when economic conditions result in unexpected profits—on the oil and gas industry.

A levy charged on every tonne of carbon pollution extracted in Australia or imported into Australia:

Across all voting intentions, more Australians support than oppose charging a levy for every tonne of carbon pollution extracted in Australia or imported into Australia.

- Labor voters prefer this policy the most out of all the suggested policies, with four in five (81%) voters expressing support (5% oppose).
- This policy also has significant support from Independent (79% support, 8% oppose) and Greens voters (87% support, 4% oppose).
- More than three times as many Coalition voters support (61%) than oppose (19%) such a levy. While fewer than half of One Nation voters support this policy (40%), they still express more support than opposition (35%).

A levy charged on Australia's fossil fuel exports to help fund local government actions to prepare for, and protect from, the consequences of climate change.

Across all voting intentions, more Australians support than oppose this policy.

Support for the levy is broad across political affiliations, with the exception of One Nation voters.

- Nearly four in five Labor voters (78%) and three in five Coalition (60%) voters support a levy with the revenue specifically allocated to help fund climate resilience.
- Support is highest among Greens voters, nearly nine in ten (88%) of whom support the levy, and lowest among One Nation voters, one in three (35%) of whom oppose such a levy (42% support).

A windfall profits tax—an additional or higher rate of tax levied on a company or industry when economic conditions result in unexpected profits—on the oil and gas industry.

- Across all voting intentions, more Australians support than oppose a windfall profits tax on the gas industry, with the highest support seen among Labor (72%), Independent (75%) and Greens (76%) voters.

Gas companies should have to pay royalties on the gas they extract

Royalties are payments made to governments for the use of resources owned by the Australian public. In every other industry, companies pay for their materials, from builders buying the bricks they use to build houses to high-tech companies paying for semiconductors.

However, at present, 56% of Australia’s gas export capacity is not currently subject to royalties at either state or federal levels. Essentially this gas is given away for free, and a significant amount of potential revenue is being lost as a result.⁴

This year’s survey asked Australians whether gas companies should have to pay for the Australian gas they extract, in the same way that builders have to pay for the bricks they use to build houses.

- 70% of Australians answered yes, compared to just 13% who answered no (17% were not sure).
- This result was high across voting intentions: 76% of Labor voters responded yes, as did 64% of Coalition voters. 85% of Greens voters, 88% of Independent voters and 61% of One Nation voters also said yes.

Opposition to fossil fuel subsidies

Respondents were also asked about the subsidies that Australia provides to fossil fuel companies. In the year 2023–24 the Australian Government spent almost \$12 billion in fossil fuel subsidies and tax breaks.⁵ This is four times the amount the federal government has committed to global climate finance over five years (\$3 billion from 2020–2025).⁶

More than half (52%) of all Australians oppose the government using taxpayer funds to subsidise the expansion of the coal, oil and gas industries, compared to just over three in ten (31%) who support this practice.

Public opposition to fossil fuel subsidies has increased significantly from 44% in 2023 and support has decreased from 38% in 2023.

Opposition to fossil fuel subsidies is highest among Greens (76%) and Independent voters (69%). Half of Labor voters (54%) and One Nation voters (51%) oppose fossil fuel subsidies. Coalition voters are the only voting intention with more support for subsidies than opposition (46% support while 43% oppose).

⁴ Ogge, Campbell & Verstegan (2024) *Australia’s great gas giveaway*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/australias-great-gas-giveaway/>

⁵ Campbell et al. (2024) *Fossil fuel subsidies in Australia 2024*, australiainstitute.org.au/report/fossil-fuel-subsidies-in-australia-2024/

⁶ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (n.d.) *Delivering on our climate finance commitments*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/supporting-indo-pacific-tackle-climate-change/delivering-our-climate-commitments>

Introduction

Climate of the Nation has been tracking community attitudes to climate change in since 2007, and is Australia's longest continuous survey of its kind.

The scientific, technological and political landscape has evolved significantly in the last 17 years, as has Australians' lived experience of climate change. Accordingly, and to better reflect the policy implications of community attitudes to climate change, The Australia Institute has made some changes to the way *Climate of the Nation* is presented in 2024.

Notably, in previous years, *Climate of the Nation* has asked respondents whether they believe in climate change. While the issues of climate denial and its causes are undoubtedly an important sociological discussion, The Australia Institute is a public policy think tank. This question has been retired in 2024 in an acknowledgment that the science of climate change has been publicly accepted by government and industry, with policy being developed on that basis (whether it is credible or effective policy is another matter).

Climate of the Nation 2024 has been developed on the assumption that climate change is happening, the world has already warmed by 1.1°C and Australians are already feeling the impacts.⁷ Leaving the door open to ongoing doubt about the existence of climate change invites distraction from the policy discussions that need to be had in Australia to adequately address and adapt to changing temperatures, supply chain disruption and health impacts of the climate crisis.

The data collected in *Climate of the Nation* 2024 has been analysed, compiled and reported thematically across four areas relevant to the current policy context:

- Australia's domestic and international climate leadership
- The integrity of Australian climate policies and claims by government and industry
- The material and psychological cost of climate change
- Accountability mechanisms for Australia's biggest polluters.

The work of The Australia Institute is designed to be as accessible, practical and as useful as possible to the Australian community and decision-makers alike. *Climate of the Nation* will continue to evolve and adapt to ensure that it is no exception.

⁷ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021) *Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying*, <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>

Australia's climate leadership

In the Australian Government's inaugural Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament, Minister for Climate and Energy Chris Bowen made the claim that Australia was returning to "full international engagement and leadership in climate".⁸

In the statement, delivered in November 2023, he said, "[The Labor party] came into government with a big agenda ... to turn our country's climate policy from an international embarrassment into a means of international engagement."⁹

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that the government's instincts are correct.

- More than three times as many Australians agree (57%) than disagree (16%) that continued inaction on climate change will hurt Australia's international reputation.
- Three in four Australians aged 18–24 (74%) agree that continued inaction on climate change will hurt Australia's international reputation compared with half of those aged 50-64 (52%).
- Across voting intentions, nine in ten (87%) Greens voters agree that continued inaction on climate change will hurt Australia's international reputation, as do over two in three (70%) Labor voters, three in four (74%) Independent voters, and two in five (42%) Coalition voters.

Regional leadership and global action

Australia is not doing enough on climate change

Ahead of the 2022 so-called "Greenslide" federal election,¹⁰ *Climate of the Nation 2021* found that 55% of Australians thought governments were not doing enough to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that Australians still feel strongly that their leaders are not doing enough on climate change.

⁸ Bowen (2022) *First Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament*, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230303114909/https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/bowen/speeches/annual-climate-change-statement-parliament>

⁹ Bowen (2023) *Second Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament*, <https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/bowen/speeches/annual-climate-change-statement-parliament-0>

¹⁰ Cassidy & Hinchliffe (2022) "Australian Greens hail 'best result ever' with dramatic gains in lower house and Senate", *Guardian Australia*, <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/may/22/australian-greens-hails-best-result-ever-with-dramatic-gains-in-lower-house-and-senate>

- Half of Australians (50%) think the Australian Government is not doing enough to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, up from 47% in 2023.
- One in three (33%) think the Australian Government is doing enough, down from 41% in 2023.
- Only 12% think the Australian Government is doing too much on climate change, down from 15% in 2023.
- More than half of Labor voters (53%) think the Australian Government is not doing enough on climate change; 34% think it is doing enough, including 4% who think it is doing too much.
- Just over a third (37%) of Coalition voters think the Australian Government is not doing enough, while 46% think it is doing enough, including 22% that think the government is doing too much. In 2023, 60% of Coalition voters thought the government was doing enough, including 22% who thought it was doing too much.
- Four in five (82%) Greens voters think the Australian Government is not doing enough on climate change; just 12% think it is doing enough, including 3% who think it is doing too much.

Most Australians want a moratorium on new coal mines

The International Energy Agency (IEA) pathway to net zero by 2050 requires that no new fossil fuel projects be approved to avoid “the worst effects of climate change” by limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C.¹¹

The Australian Government has approved seven new coal mine projects since the 2022 election. At least 25 projects more are currently seeking approval.¹²

Climate of the Nation 2024 asked respondents about the idea of “a moratorium on new coal mines whereby Australia would stop building new coal mines and stop expanding existing ones, but allow existing mines to continue to operate under their current approvals”.

- Half of Australians (50%) are supportive of a moratorium on new coal mines.
- One in four (24%) oppose a moratorium on new coal mines.

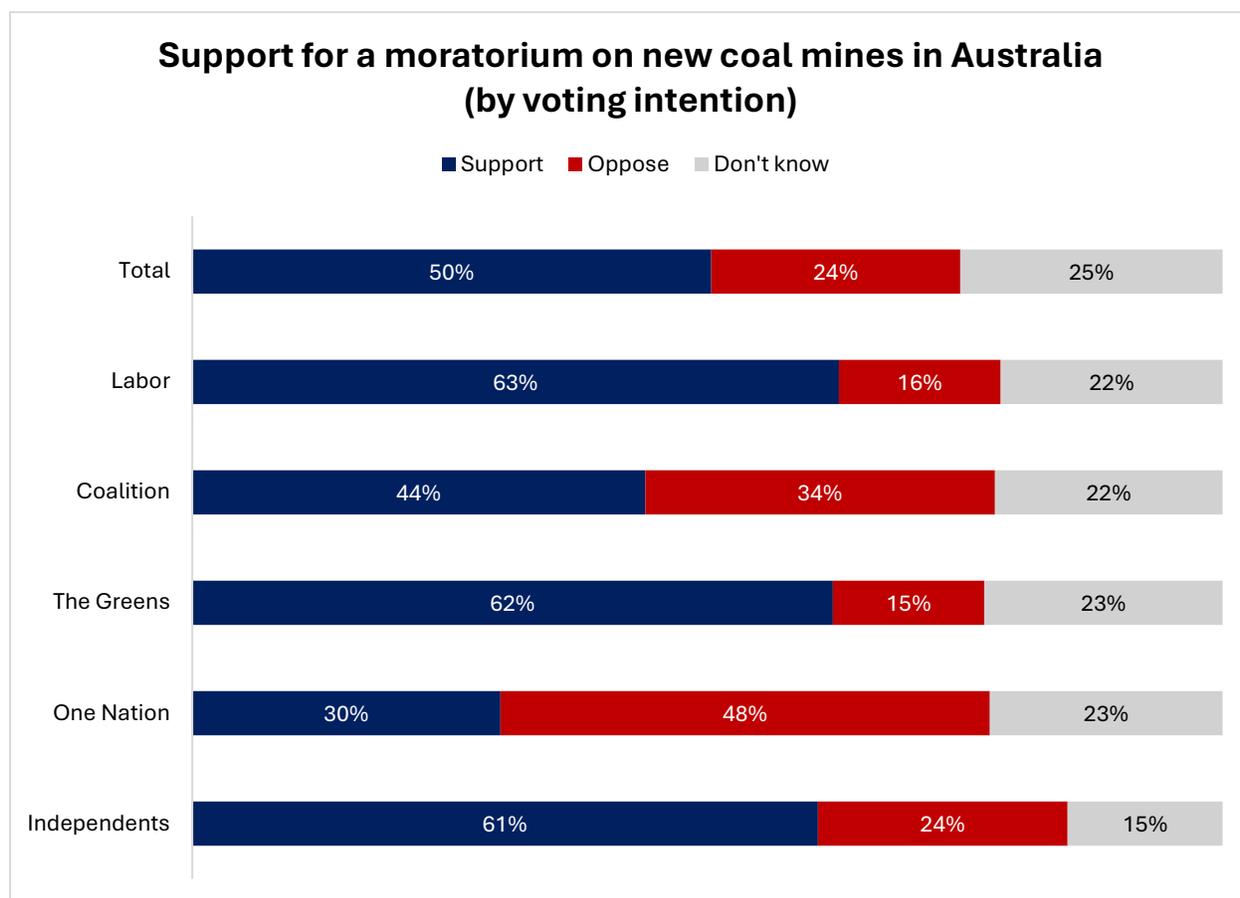
Support for a moratorium on new coal mines in Australia varies with voting intention.

¹¹ International Energy Agency (2021) *Net Zero by 2050*, <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

¹² The Australia Institute (2024) *Coal Mine Tracker*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/initiative/coal-mine-tracker/>; Campbell et al. (2023) *New fossil fuel projects in Australia 2023*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/new-fossil-fuel-projects-in-australia-2023/>

- Three in five Labor voters (63%) support a moratorium, the highest of any voting intention.
- Three in five Greens voters (62%) and Independent voters (61%) support a moratorium.
- Nearly half (44%) of Coalition voters also support the idea.
- No party’s voters express majority opposition to a moratorium on new coal mines. One Nation is the only party with more voters who oppose (48%) than support (30%) a moratorium.

FIGURE 4: SUPPORT FOR A MORATORIUM ON NEW COAL MINES IN AUSTRALIA (BY VOTING INTENTION)



Australia should act to phase out fossil fuels by 2026

At the 2023 United Nations (UN) climate conference, COP28, parties to the Paris Agreement, including Australia, signed an agreement to “transition away” from fossil fuels.¹³ The Australian

¹³ United Framework Convention on Climate Change (2023) *Outcome of the first global stocktake*, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_L17_adv.pdf p 5

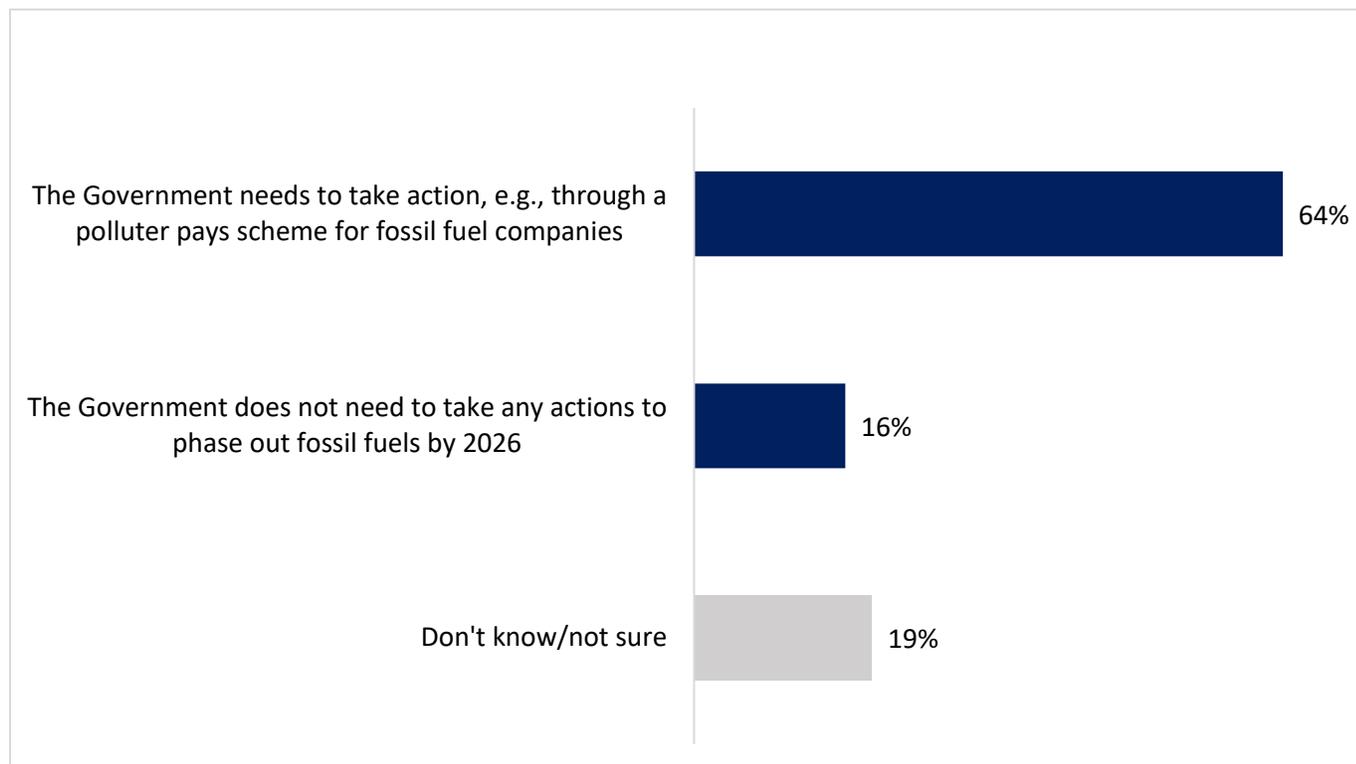
Government has made a bid to host a future UN climate conference in partnership with Pacific Island countries.¹⁴ If successful in its bid, Australia would host COP31 in 2026.

Climate of the Nation 2024 asked Australians what demonstrable action to phase out fossil fuels the Australian Government should take by 2026 if it wants to host a UN Climate Change Conference.

- 64% of Australians think the Australian Government should take some form of action to transition away from fossil fuels by 2026 if Australia is to host a UN Climate Change Conference.
- Nearly half of Australians (45%) support the introduction of a polluter-pays scheme for fossil fuel companies by 2026.
- Over half (51%) of Australians aged 18–24 agree that Australia should introduce a polluter-pays scheme for fossil fuel companies by 2026.
- Two in five (41%) Australians think that by 2026 Australia should have announced a 2030 deadline to phase out coal fired power stations in line with the United Nations Acceleration Agenda.
- Just over one in three (37%) Australians think that Australia should stop subsidising fossil fuels by 2026 and that the Australian Government should announce by 2026 that it will not approve any new gas or coal projects (34%).
- 16% of Australians think the government does not need to take any actions to phase out fossil fuels by 2026.

¹⁴ Hemming & Hawking (2023) *A Fair COP31*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/a-fair-cop31/>

FIGURE 5: OPINION ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS BEFORE COP31



Australia should assist developing nations to adapt to climate change

Australia is one of the world’s largest fossil fuel exporters and therefore a significant contributor to climate change. Australia supported the establishment of the global Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) in 2023, but only recently, at COP29 in 2024, committed to contribute \$50 million to the fund.¹⁵

In the year 2023–24 the Australian Government spent almost \$12 billion in fossil fuel subsidies.¹⁶ This is four times the amount the federal government has committed to global climate finance over *five* years (\$3 billion from 2020 to 2025).¹⁷ It is 236 times the \$50 million Australia committed to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

¹⁵ Wong et al. (2024) *Australia contributes \$50 million for loss and damage from climate change*, <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/australia-contributes-50-million-loss-and-damage-climate-change>

¹⁶ Campbell et al (2024) *Fossil fuel subsidies in Australia 2024*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/fossil-fuel-subsidies-in-australia-2024/>

¹⁷ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (n.d.) *Delivering on our climate finance commitments*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/supporting-indo-pacific-tackle-climate-change/delivering-our-climate-commitments>

- Two in five (42%) Australians agree that Australia should spend at least the same amount on international climate finance as it does on subsidising fossil fuels.
- One in five Australians (18%) disagree.
- Three times more Australians agree (52%) than disagree (18%) that Australia needs to help vulnerable peoples and developing countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

Climate of the Nation 2024 asked respondents whether, if Australia keeps exporting fossil fuels, it should increase the financial support it provides to countries that are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise such as Pacific Island nations to deal with the impacts of climate change accordingly.

- One in three (33%) Australians think Australia should increase financial support for Pacific Island countries to deal with the impacts of climate change if fossil fuel exports continue.
- Two in three (64%) Greens voters support increased financial support for Pacific Island countries to deal with the impacts of climate change if fossil fuel exports continue.
- Two in five (41%) Labor voters support increased financial support for Pacific Island countries to deal with the impacts of climate change if fossil fuel exports continue.
- Independent voters are more than twice as likely (45%) to support an increase than Coalition voters (20%).
- Only 13% of Australians overall support decreasing financial support for Pacific Island countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

Domestic leadership

The impacts of fossil fuel projects in Australia should be a priority over other countries' energy needs

While the Albanese Government has maintained its support for fossil fuel production and expansion since 2022, its justifications for doing so appear to have evolved. The increasing rhetoric by government and industry is that Australia must continue to produce and export fossil fuels as part of its obligation to support the “energy security” of its trading partners.¹⁸

¹⁸ King (2024) *Australia's Future Gas Strategy*, <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/king/media-releases/australias-future-gas-strategy>

As the vast majority of Australia’s gas and coal is exported and not used to meet Australia’s energy demands,¹⁹ the implication is that if Australian governments were to stop approving gas and coal projects in Australia it would have a destabilising effect on the countries buying these products.

However, most Australians do not appear convinced by this argument. When asked what was more important when approving new fossil fuel projects—the energy security of Australia’s trading partners or the domestic impacts of new fossil fuel projects—only 29% of Australians agreed that it was more important to consider the energy security of trading partners than the domestic impacts of new fossil fuel projects. One in three (33%) think it is more important to consider the domestic impacts of new fossil fuel projects, while 38% are unsure.

Climate should be considered in environmental approvals

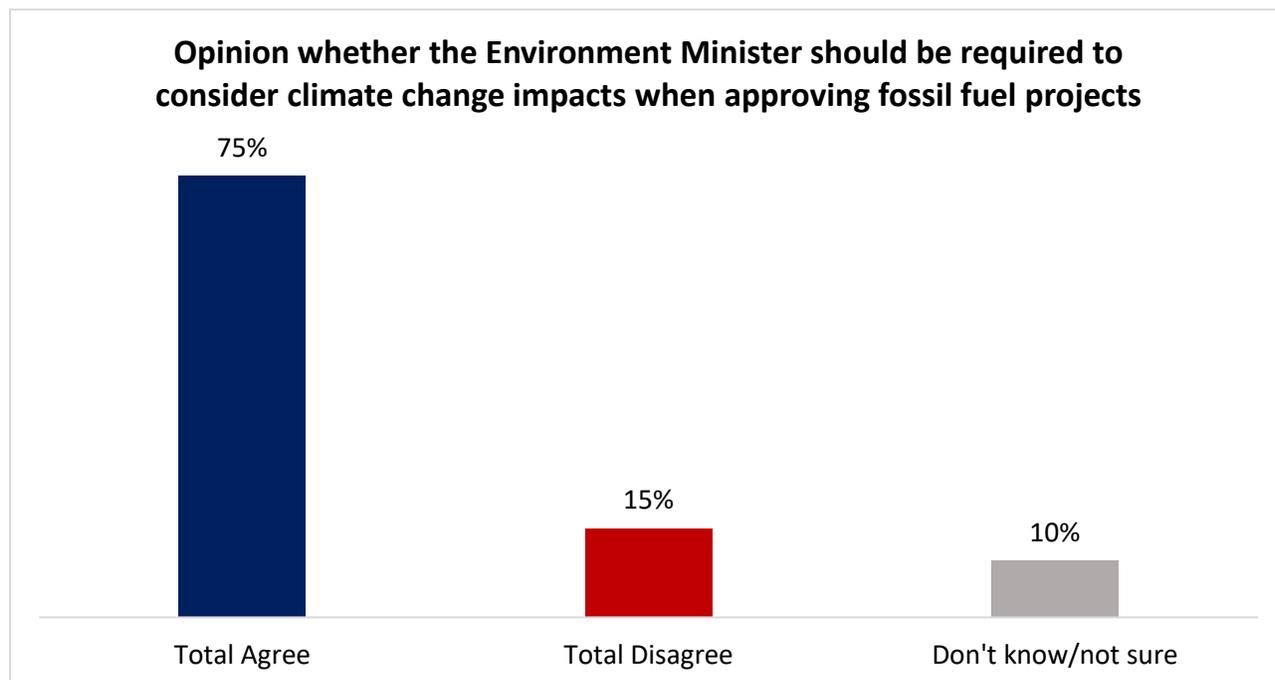
Australia’s environmental protection laws include provisions that require the Environment Minister to consider the potential environmental impacts of major mining and infrastructure projects before approving them. While the laws require the Minister to consider “matters of national environmental significance”, there are no explicit requirements to consider the individual or cumulative climate impacts of major projects.²⁰

- Three in four Australians (75%) agree that the Environment Minister should be required to consider climate change impacts when approving coal or gas projects, including 42% who strongly agree. Just 15% of Australians disagree.
- Agreement is strong across most political affiliations, including Greens (97%), Labor (90%), Independents (83%) and Coalition (61%) voters.
- Almost half (43%) of One Nation voters agree, but 46% disagree—the largest disagreement from any political affiliation.

¹⁹ The Australia Institute (2024) *Gas: The facts*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/initiative/gas-the-facts/>

²⁰ Australian Government (2013) *Matters of National Environmental Significance*, https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nes-guidelines_1.pdf

FIGURE 6: OPINION ON WHETHER THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS WHEN APPROVING FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS



Coal power should be phased out within the decade

Experts have warned that to keep global warming within 1.5°C, wealthy members of the OECD, like Australia, should phase out coal before 2030.²¹ Australians support this timeline for phasing out coal.

- One in three Australians (34%) want coal-fired power generation completely ended by 2030. This was the most popular response, and the result is unchanged from 2023.
- One in five (21%) Australians want coal-fired generation ended by 2040.
- One in ten (11%) want it phased out by 2050.
- Just over one in three Australians (34%) of Australians say coal-fired power should never be completely phased out.

Support for the closure of coal-fired power stations by 2030 tends to be strongest in states that are currently less reliant on coal-fired power generation for electricity: 43% of respondents in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT, and 37% of Western Australians support ending coal-fired power generation by 2030. This is compared to 33% of Queenslanders and 31% of respondents in NSW.

²¹ Climate Analytics (2019) *Global and regional coal phase-out requirements of the Paris Agreement: Insights from the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C*, <https://climateanalytics.org/publications/2019/coal-phase-out-insights-from-the-ipcc-special-report-on-15c-and-global-trends-since-2015/>

Energy sources

Solar and wind remain Australians’ preferred energy sources

Previous *Climate of the Nation* surveys have consistently shown that solar power is Australians’ preferred source of energy, and this year’s survey confirms that this preference remains unchanged.

This year, respondents were asked to rank nine energy sources for Australia from most to least preferred.

- Solar was selected as the number-one choice by 39% of Australians.
- This was the case regardless of age, state and political affiliation—with the exception of Coalition and One Nation voters, whose favourite energy source is nuclear (38% and 31% respectively) followed by solar (24% and 18% respectively).
- This represents a slight decrease from 2023, when 42% of Australians selected solar as their number one choice.

Overall, Australians prefer renewable energy sources to any other energy source:

- Two in three Australians (66%) ranked solar in their top three choices, followed by about half (48%) choosing wind and two in five (40%) choosing hydro.

TABLE 1: PREFERRED ENERGY SOURCES (PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS RANKING THAT ENERGY SOURCE IN THEIR TOP THREE PREFERENCES)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Solar	66%	68%	76%	79%	79%	76%
Wind	48%	51%	60%	63%	62%	58%
Hydro	40%	39%	40%	37%	39%	39%
Gas	28%	28%	21%	19%	19%	20%
Nuclear	27%	27%	22%	20%	21%	22%
Coal	23%	23%	17%	15%	14%	18%
Power Storage	21%	28%	30%	31%	29%	29%
Tidal/Wave	16%	19%	21%	20%	22%	21%
Geothermal	13%	17%	14%	16%	16%	17%

Coal and gas are unpopular

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that gas power remains unpopular: just 7% of Australians rank gas first (28% rank gas in their top three—the same result as 2023).

Nevertheless, the Australian Government's *Future Gas Strategy* commits Australia to gas production "to 2050 and beyond"²², and in July 2024, the federal government opened areas of Commonwealth waters off the coasts of South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania for offshore gas exploration.²³

Coal is also unpopular, with only 8% ranking it as their most preferred energy source (23% rank coal in their top three—again, the same result as 2023).

Nuclear energy remains unpopular

The Coalition recently announced plans to initiate a taxpayer-funded nuclear energy industry in Australia by building seven nuclear plants at the sites of former coal plants.²⁴

A small proportion of Australians have a strong preference for nuclear, while most other Australians do not support it, and a significant number of Australians strongly oppose it.

A small minority (16%) of Australians name nuclear as their most-preferred energy source.

- Many Australians (32%) ranked nuclear last.
- Only 27% of Australians ranked nuclear energy in their top three, less than the number who ranked solar, wind, hydro and gas in their top three.
- Support for nuclear was highest among Coalition and One Nation voters (31% ranked it first for each group).
- Only 7% of Labor voters, 5% of Greens voters and 11% of Independent voters ranked nuclear energy first.

Price gouging and policy failure are leading causes of high electricity prices

In *Climate of the Nation 2024*, Australians were asked to identify the cause of the rising cost of electricity and gas.

- Most Australians blamed increasing electricity prices on the excessive profit margins of electricity companies (55%).

²² Australian Government (2024) *Future Gas Strategy*, p 4

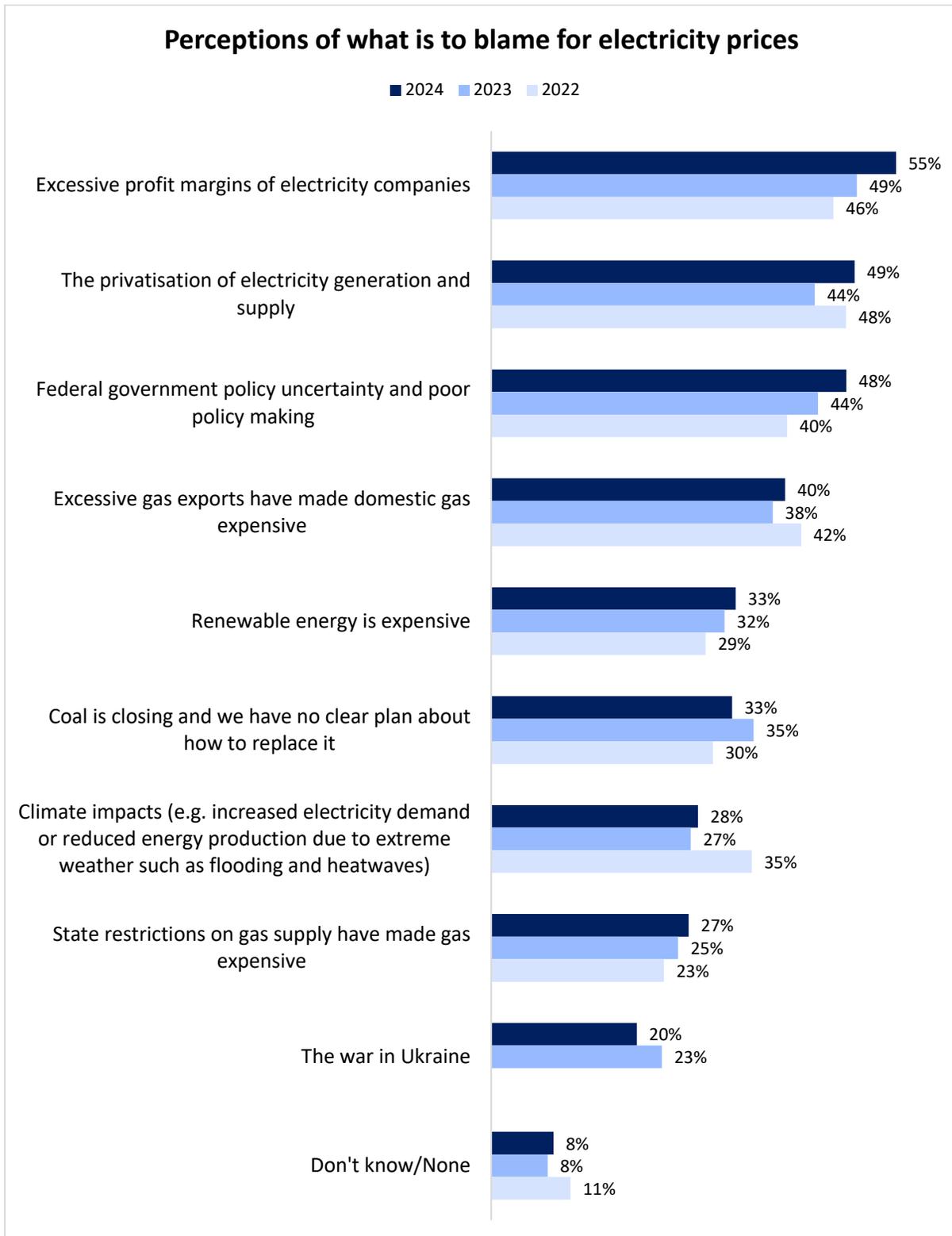
<https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/future-gas-strategy.pdf>

²³ Clarke (2024) "Federal government approves gas exploration permits in waters off Victoria and Tasmania", *ABC*, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-23/government-approves-more-gas-exploration-permits/104131464?cid=f47609a56fa717a09bcaacdbca5bcc7c>

²⁴ Foley (2024) "Dutton reveals locations for seven nuclear power plants under Coalition plan", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/dutton-reveals-locations-for-seven-nuclear-power-plants-under-coalition-plan-20240619-p5jmyp.html>

- The privatisation of energy generation and supply (49%) was the next most common choice, followed by 48% selecting federal government policy uncertainty or poor policy making.
- Two in five (40%) Australians blamed excessive gas exports for high energy prices.
- One in three Australians (33%) blame renewable energy for increasing energy costs.
- A majority of Australians in all age groups except 25–34 blamed excessive profit margins for electricity companies.
- Most Australians aged 50–64 and 65 or over (54% and 58% respectively) also attributed blame to the privatisation of electricity generation and supply.

FIGURE 7: PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT IS TO BLAME FOR ELECTRICITY PRICES



Climate integrity

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that Australians want climate policy that is independent and based on science.

It also shows that Australians are not being adequately informed about the climate issues and concepts that affect them. These include concepts such as “carbon offsetting”, “carbon neutrality” and “net zero” emissions, which are used by government and industry to promote their commitment to climate action.

Overwhelmingly, Australians want to be assured of the independence of the agencies advising the government on climate. They want net zero and carbon neutral claims to be regulated better.

Integrity in climate policy

Climate policy should be based on science

Three in four (75%) Australians agree that climate policy should be based on best practice climate science.

- Fewer than one in 10 (8%) disagree with this statement.
- This view is shared by the majority of voters across the political spectrum.
- Agreement is strongest among Greens voters, nine in ten (91%) of whom agree (2% disagree), followed by Labor voters, 84% of whom agree (5% disagree).
- Seven in ten (72%) Coalition voters agree, but with a higher proportion of disagreement, at 11%.

Climate policy should be independent

Integrity in climate policy is dependent on the integrity of Australia’s policymakers and governance structures.

Research by the Australia Institute has revealed the significant influence commercial interests have on Australia’s climate policies—and on the agency legislated to advise the government on its climate targets.²⁵

²⁵ Hemming et al. (2022) *Come Clean*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/come-clean-how-the-emissions-reduction-fund-came-to-include-carbon-capture-and-storage/>; Hemming & Campbell (2022) *Integrity and the Climate Change Authority*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/integrity-and-the-climate-change-authority/>

Three in four (75%) Australians agree that members of the independent agencies advising the government on climate policy should not also be employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice.

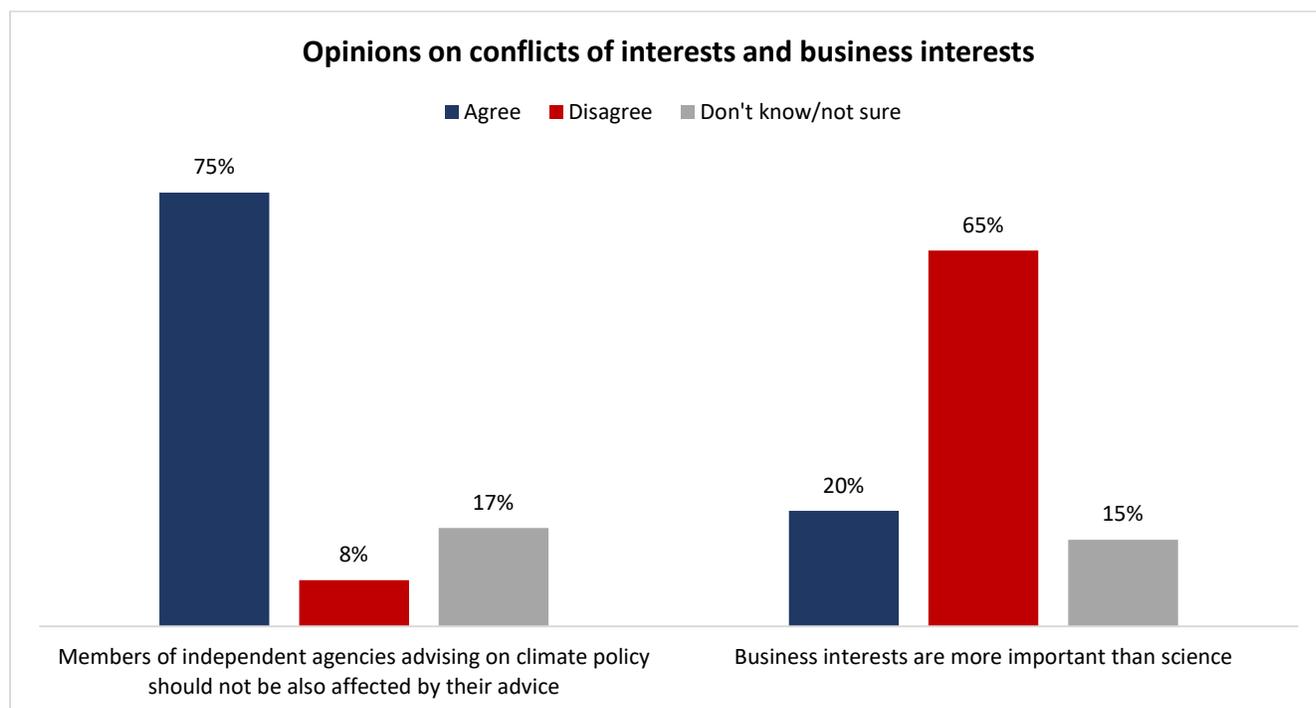
- Australians across all voting intentions agree with this sentiment. 79% and 77% of Labor and Coalition voters respectively agree that those advising government should not be simultaneously employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice. 83% of Greens voters, 86% of those voting Independent and 65% of One Nation Voters also agree.
- Less than one in 10 (8%) disagree that members of the independent agencies advising the government on climate policy should not also be employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice, while 17% are unsure.
- 45% of Australians think that it is inappropriate for the fossil fuel industry to have influence over the climate policies and regulations that affect it. Less than two in five (37%) Australians think that it *is* appropriate for the fossil fuel industry to have influence over the climate policies and regulations that affect them.

Science is more important than business interests

Governments and industry have long relied on the argument that taking action on climate change is expensive and economically fraught. *Climate of the Nation 2024* shows that Australians are not convinced by this argument.

- A clear majority of Australians (65%) disagree with the statement “business interests are more important than science”, indicating that Australians think science should be considered before business interests.
- A majority of Australians across all voting intentions think that science is more important than business interests.
- In 2023, 30% of Australians agreed that business interests are more important than climate science; this proportion dropped 10 percentage points in a year, and now only 20% of Australians think business interests are more important than science.
- Men are considerably more likely (26%) than women (15%) to think that business interests are more important than climate science.

FIGURE 8: OPINION ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND BUSINESS INTERESTS



Greenwashing and misleading jargon

As public concern about climate change has grown, so have the claims being made by government and industry to leverage that concern for commercial or political gain.

Business and government often use claims of “net zero” and “carbon neutrality” to imply some form of climate ambition, even if they have taken no action to reduce their climate impacts or are actively increasing their impact. *Climate of the Nation 2024* shows that these terms are poorly understood by Australians, suggesting that they are not adequately defined, communicated or regulated in Australia.

Confusion around these concepts also suggests that people are possibly being misled if these claims influence their investment, purchasing or voting decisions.²⁶

²⁶ To assess Australians’ understanding of such claims, the survey sample for *Climate of the Nation 2024* was split in two. Half of the respondents were asked to identify the best definition of “carbon neutral” from a list of five responses, while the other half were asked to identify the best definition of “net zero”. In addition to the five possible responses, both subsets were given the option to answer that they didn’t know or weren’t sure.

“Carbon neutral”

A “carbon neutral” claim implies that a business has “neutralised” their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and therefore has a “neutral” impact on the climate. This claim is usually made on the basis of purchasing carbon offsets, not because the business has reduced its own greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate of the Nation 2024 presented respondents with a range of possible definitions for “carbon neutral”. The range of responses show that there is confusion among Australians on what carbon neutrality means.

- Two in five Australians (42%) think that an entity being “carbon neutral” means that it releases emissions, which are then cancelled out by other activities like buying offsets.
- One in five (21%) Australians say they do not know what “carbon neutral” means.
- 37% of Australians said that carbon neutrality means one of the following:
 - No carbon emissions are released at all
 - Companies are reducing carbon emissions in some parts of their business
 - Companies pay a tax on their carbon emissions
 - Companies don’t mind if they release carbon emissions.

“Net zero”

“Net zero” is another concept used widely by both government and the private sector to demonstrate a commitment to climate action.

Climate of the Nation 2024 presented respondents with a range of possible definitions for “zero”. The range of responses show that there is widespread confusion among Australians on what “net zero” means.

- 29% of Australians think that “net zero” means *no* greenhouse gas emissions are released at all.
- One in five Australians (21%) said that they do not know what “net zero” means.
- One in four Australians (28%) think that “net zero” means greenhouse gas emissions are released but are cancelled out by other activities such as buying offsets.
- One in five Australians (23%) said that “net zero” means one of the following:
 - Companies are reducing greenhouse gas emissions in some parts of their business

- Companies pay a tax on their greenhouse gas emissions
- Companies have to show how they are reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

Carbon offsets

Carbon offsets are often purchased by businesses to make a claim of “carbon neutrality” or “net zero” emissions.

A carbon offset is a tradable certificate that represents a tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent *not* being put into the atmosphere. Legally, Australian carbon offsets are financial products under the Corporations Act.²⁷

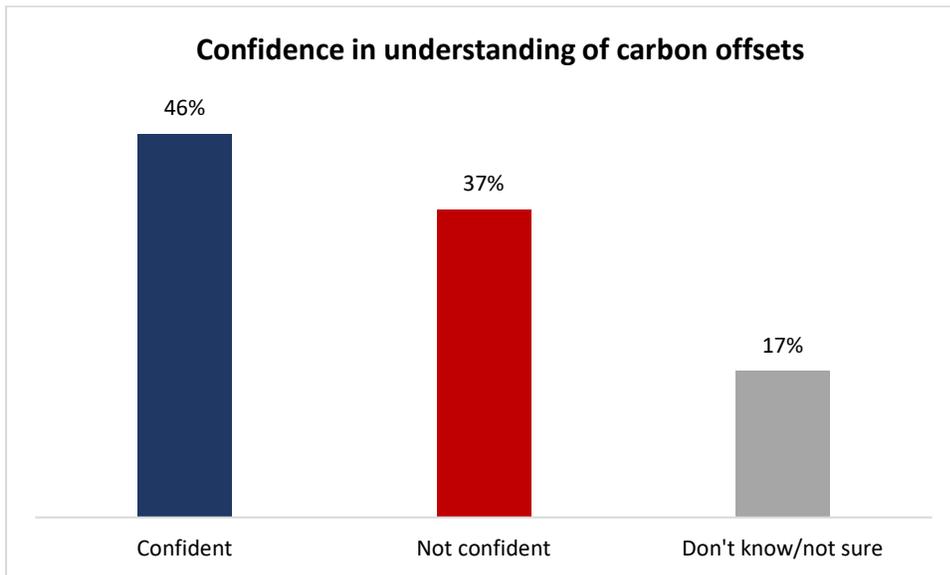
The premise of carbon offsetting is that Organisation 1 can continue to put greenhouse gases into the atmosphere because they have bought the certificate representing Organisation 2’s reduction. Organisation 2’s reduction theoretically “offsets” Organisation’s 1 climate impact.

As with the terms “carbon neutral” and “net zero”, Australians have a mixed understanding of carbon offsetting, suggesting that they may be making decisions as voters, consumers or investors on the basis of incorrect information.

- 37% of Australians say they are not at all confident they know what a carbon offset is.
- Less than half (46%) of Australians said they felt confident they knew what a carbon offset is.
 - The respondents who said they were confident they knew what a carbon offset is attributed various definitions to the concept. Carbon offsetting was identified as one of the following:
 - Paying someone else to reduce or avoid putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere
 - Promising to not cut down trees
 - Storing carbon emissions underground.

²⁷ Clean Energy Regulator (2024) *Carbon credits*, <https://cer.gov.au/markets/carbon-credits>

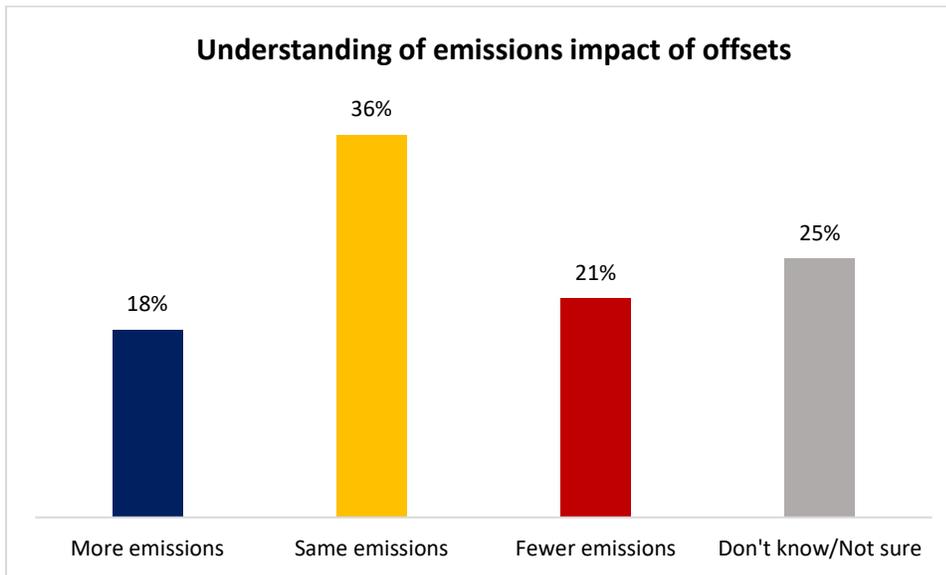
FIGURE 9: CONFIDENCE IN UNDERSTANDING OF CARBON OFFSETS



Australians also have mixed understanding of what the overall climate impact of carbon offsetting is.

- 25% of Australians say they don't know or are not sure what has been achieved when a business claims it has offset its emissions.
- 21% of Australians think that, when a business claims to have offset its emissions, there are *fewer* emissions in the atmosphere as a result.
- 18% of Australians think there are *more* emissions in the atmosphere when a business claims to have offset its emissions.
- 36% of Australians think the amount of emissions in the atmosphere is the *same* when a business claims to have offset its emissions.

FIGURE 10: UNDERSTANDING OF EMISSIONS IMPACT OF OFFSETS



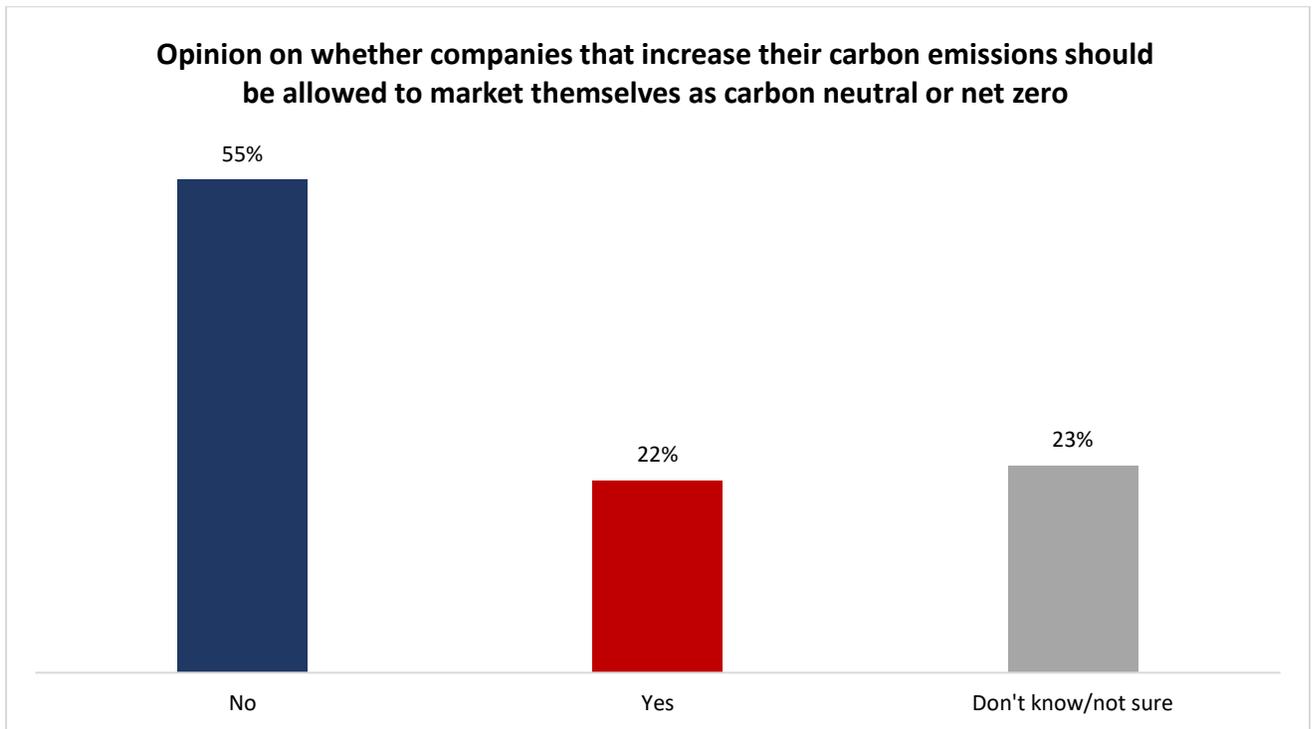
Companies planning to increase emissions should not claim carbon neutrality

Many organisations use claims of “carbon neutrality” and “net zero” to promote their climate action and gain a commercial advantage. However, these concepts do not necessarily mean a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or reduced climate impact.

The accepted emissions accounting relating to “carbon neutrality” and “net zero” means that many businesses and organisations in Australia can and are making these claims even if they have only offset a portion of their activities or while their overall greenhouse gas emissions *increase*.

- More than half of Australians (55%) think that companies that have increased or plan to increase their carbon emissions should not be allowed to market themselves as “carbon neutral” or “net zero”.
- This was the case for a majority of voters for all parties except One Nation and The Nationals.
- Only one in five (22%) think that companies should be allowed to market themselves as “carbon neutral” or “net zero” while increasing or planning to increase their carbon emissions.
- 23% of Australians are unsure whether companies should be allowed to market themselves as “carbon neutral” or “net zero” while increasing or planning to increase their carbon emissions.

FIGURE 11: OPINION ON WHETHER COMPANIES THAT INCREASE THEIR CARBON EMISSIONS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MARKET THEMSELVES AS CARBON NEUTRAL OR NET ZERO



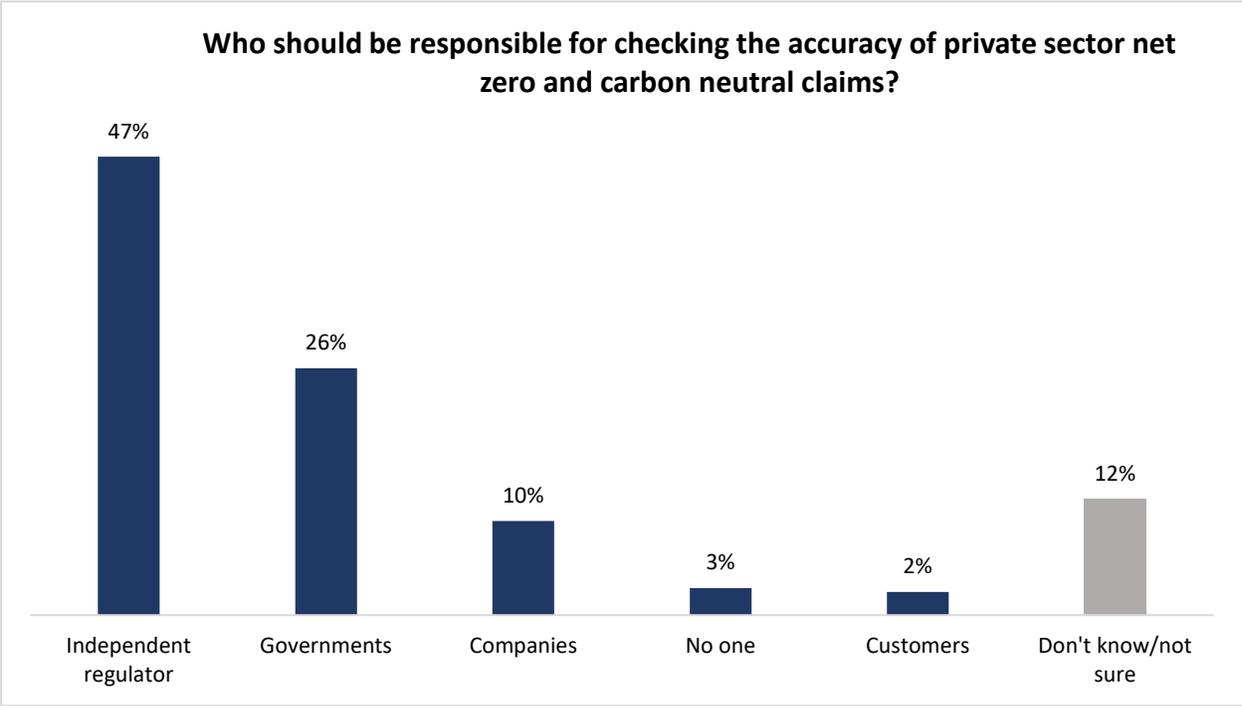
Australians want the government to provide—and enforce—clarity

Given the confusion around terms like “carbon neutral” and “net zero”, and also the nature of carbon offsets, it is unsurprising that Australians want more clarity on these topics.

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that Australians think it is the role of government to verify and regulate climate claims made by the private sector.

- Three in four Australians (73%) believe it is the responsibility of governments or regulators to verify company claims of “net zero emissions” and “carbon neutrality”.
- Half of Australians (47%) feel that an independent regulator should be responsible for checking the accuracy of such claims.
- Only one in fifty (2%) of Australians believe that customers should be responsible for verifying such claims themselves.

FIGURE 12: WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THE ACCURACY OF PRIVATE SECTOR NET ZERO AND CARBON NEUTRAL CLAIMS?



The cost of climate change

The cost of climate change is not being adequately communicated to those affected by it

The United Nations has described the climate emergency as “the biggest economic, social, and environmental threat facing the planet and humanity”.²⁸

The effects of global warming are manifesting in fires, floods, and interruptions to supply chains and businesses. These phenomena pose material risks to Australians’ communities, homes and livelihoods. This is the concept of “climate risk”.

Ideally, climate risk would be both easy to understand and easy to quantify, providing an agreed-upon way for people, companies and the government to determine the extent to which climate change might affect their lives.

However, while this concept is often referenced by the government and private sector, it remains poorly defined and poorly understood, raising concerns about how well the threat of climate change is being communicated and interpreted.

- More than half of Australians (61%) say they have not heard, or are not sure if they have heard, the term “climate risk”.
- Only two in five Australians (39%) say they have heard of the term “climate risk”.
- Respondents who had heard of climate risk are either not sure what it means or attribute it to one of the following definitions:
 - When individuals decide to take personal risks during natural disasters
 - The extent to which people, infrastructure, the economy and landscapes are exposed and vulnerable to climate change now and in the future
 - Investing in more gas and coal infrastructure to ensure these resources are fully depleted before moving on to other sources of energy
 - The costs to businesses and governments in moving to a low carbon economy.

When asked if they were aware of any actions the federal government is taking to manage or reduce the negative impacts of climate change, 59% of Australians either aren’t sure or are not aware of any actions. 40% of Australians say they are aware of actions the federal government is taking to manage or reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

²⁸ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (n.d.) *Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction*, <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/drr-focus-areas/climate-action-and-disaster-risk-reduction>

The mental cost of climate change

Climate of the Nation 2024 asked respondents whether, when thinking about the challenge to our world presented by climate change, they feel positive or negative about the future.

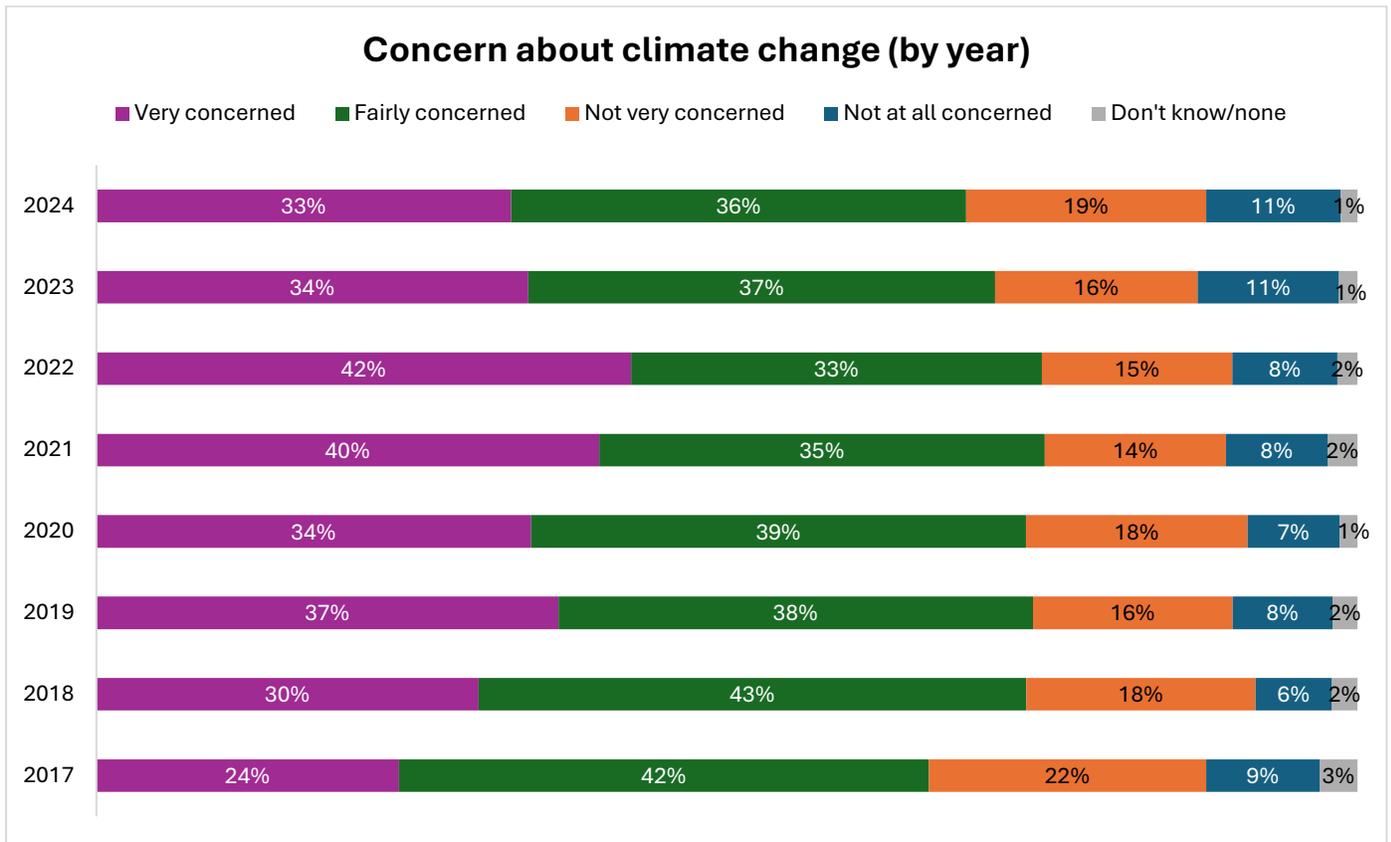
- Only three in 10 (30%) Australians feel positive about the future, while 36% feel negative. The remaining one third of Australians (34%) feel neutral about the future.
- More young Australians feel negative about the future than older Australians. More than half of Australians aged 18–24 feel negative about the future (51%), more than any other age group.
- Only one in four (24%) Australians aged 18–24 feel positive about the future. This is less than any other age group, although other age groups also registered low numbers of feeling positive about the future.
- Between a quarter and a third of Australians across all other age groups say that they feel positive about the future.

Australians are worried about food supply, bushfires and extreme weather

Even against a backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis and international crises that are dominating the news cycle, concern about climate change remains high.

- Seven in ten (69%) Australians are concerned about climate change in 2024. This is less than previous years but remains within the margin of error and is just shy of 71% concern recorded in 2023.
- Just three in ten Australians (30%) are not concerned about climate change, including 19% who are not very concerned and 11% who are not at all concerned.
- As in previous years, younger respondents tend to be more concerned about climate change than older respondents. Of Australians aged 18–24, 83% are concerned about climate change, compared to 60% of those aged over 65. This pattern of concern declining with age may reflect that young people will have to live with the impacts of climate change longest.

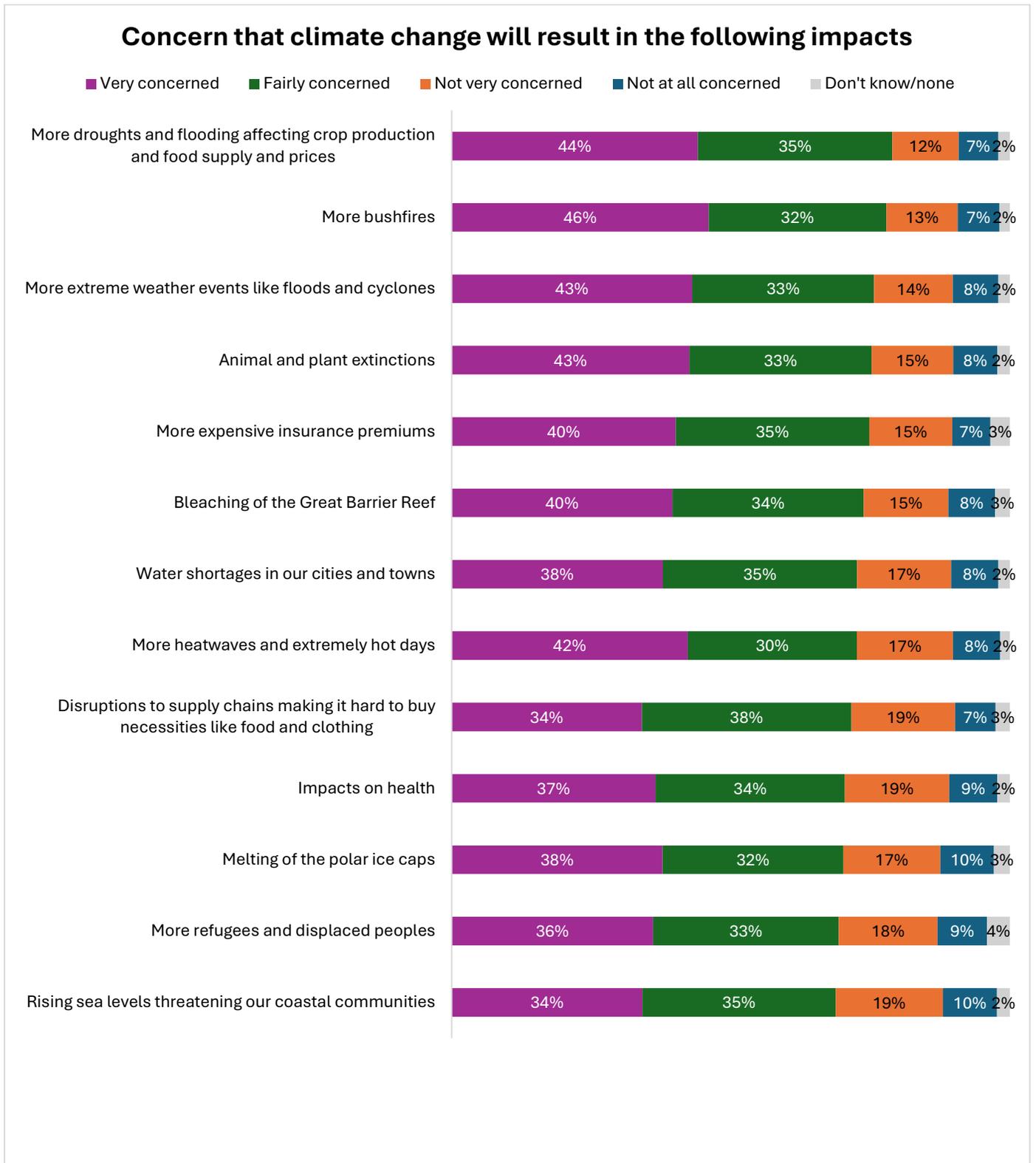
FIGURE 13: CONCERN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE (BY YEAR)



Australians are deeply concerned about the wide-ranging impacts of climate change, including on the cost of living, health, and the environment.

- Australians are most concerned that climate change will result in more droughts and flooding affecting crop production and food supply and prices (79%, including 44% who are very concerned). This was the top concern in last year’s *Climate of the Nation*.
- The next-most concerning outcome of climate change for Australians are more bushfires (78%), and more extreme weather events like floods and cyclones (76%).
- Other climate impacts related to the cost-of-living rank highly in Australians’ top concerns. Three in four Australians are concerned that climate change will result in more expensive insurance premiums (75%, including 40% who are very concerned).
- Seven in ten Australians (72%, including 34% who are very concerned) are also worried that climate change will result in supply chain disruptions making it harder to buy necessities like food and clothing.

FIGURE 14: CONCERN THAT CLIMATE CHANGE WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING IMPACTS



The impacts of climate change are already being felt

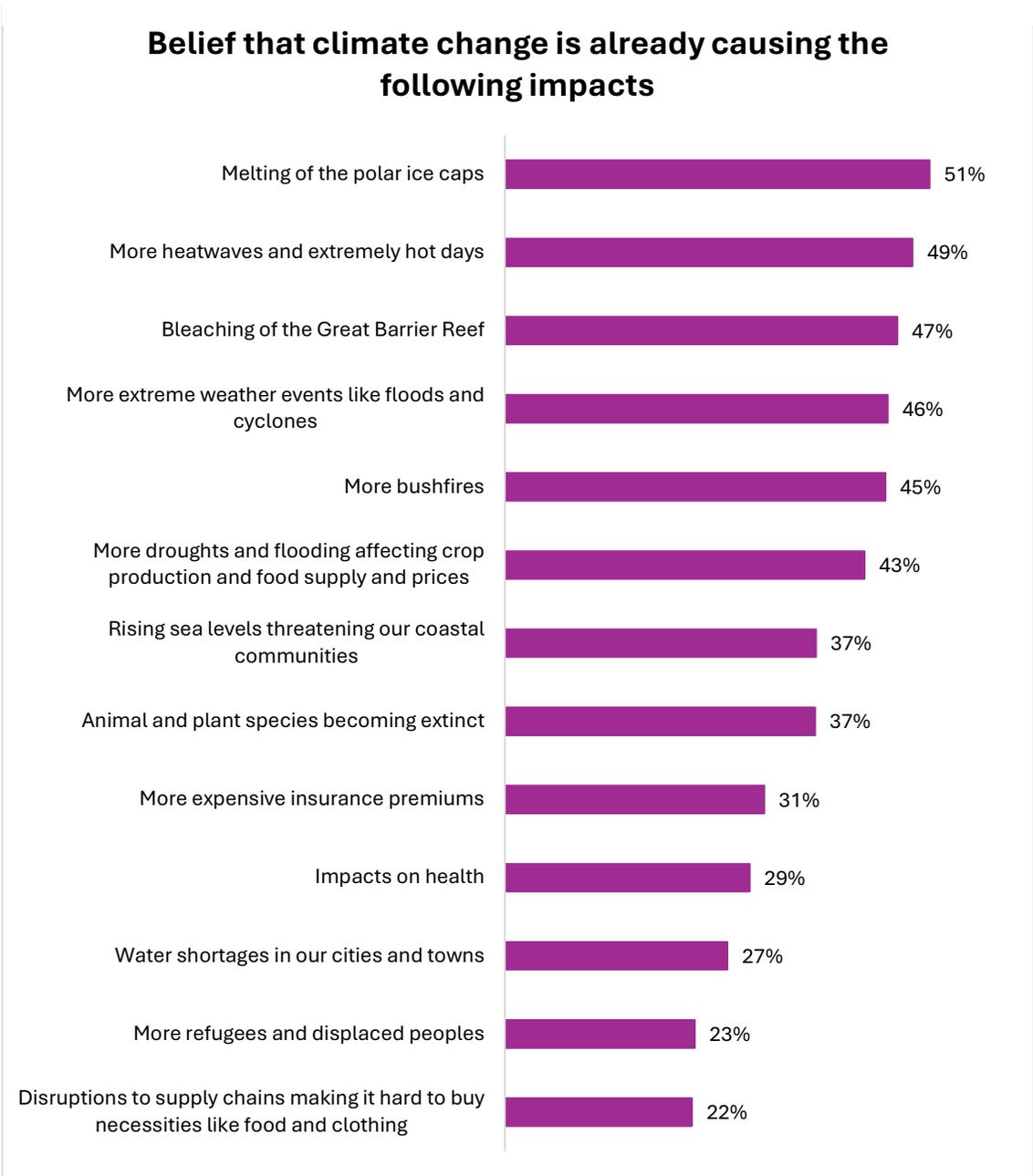
Australians are already witnessing and feeling the impacts of climate change.

Around half of Australians are concerned that global warming is already causing melting of the polar ice caps (51%), more heatwaves and extremely hot days (49%), and bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef (47%).

Just under a third (31%) of Australians say global warming is already causing more expensive insurance premiums, and 22% feel climate change is already disrupting supply chains for necessities like food and clothing.

When asked about the rising cost of insurance, 19% of Australians said that they had downsized their coverage, and 13% said they had opted out entirely. Half of Australians (52%) have not changed their insurance cover, and 5% cannot get insured.

FIGURE 15: BELIEF THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY CAUSING THE FOLLOWING IMPACTS



Who should bear the cost of climate change?

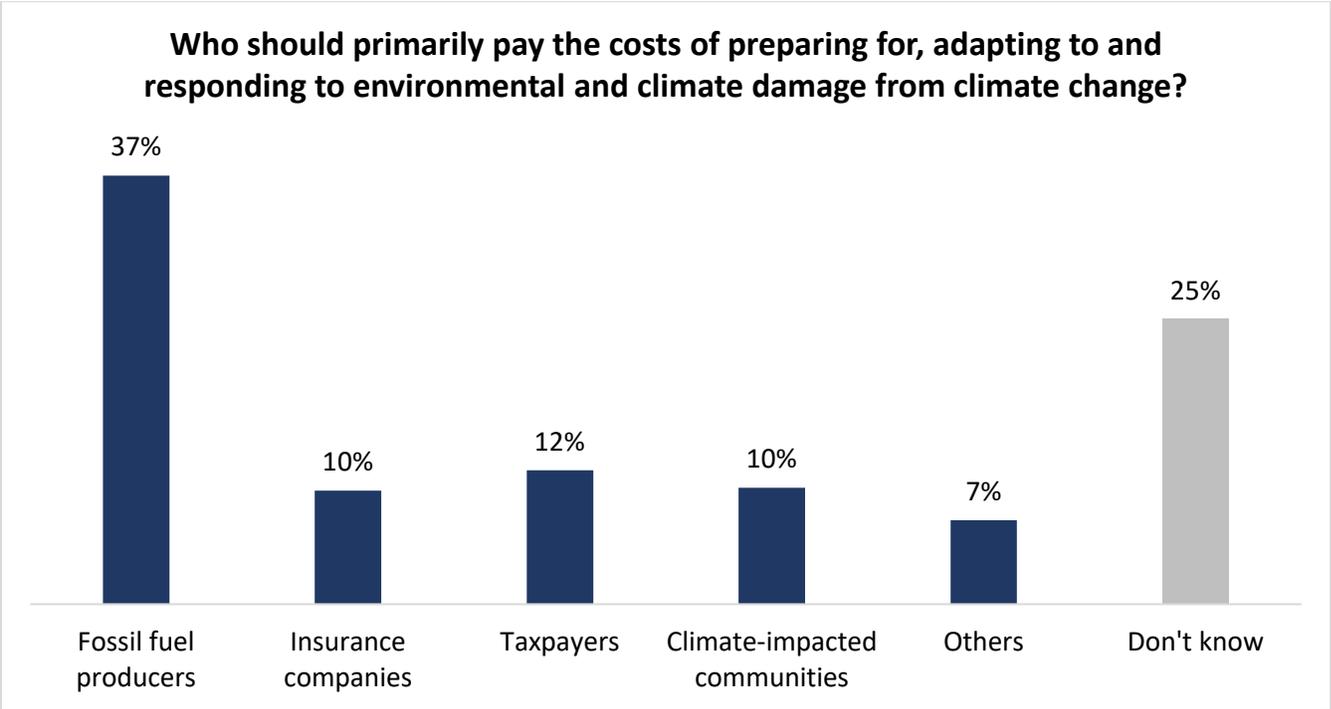
Currently, the growing costs of climate change–fuelled extreme weather events are borne by the Australian public. These costs manifest through property loss, supply chain disruptions, loss of income, higher taxes and increased insurance premiums, as well as through impacts on physical and mental health.

When asked who should primarily pay for the costs of preparing for, adapting to and responding to environmental and climate damage from climate change:

- Over a third (37%) of Australians say that fossil fuel producers should pay the costs of preparing for, adapting to and responding to climate change.
- 2024 was the first year that respondents were asked whether insurance companies should pay; 10% of Australians chose this response.
- A quarter (25%) of Australians don't know who should bear the costs of climate change.
- Just over one in ten Australians (12%)—the same proportion as in 2023—say that taxpayers should bear the costs of preparing for, adapting to and responding to the effects of global warming.

One in ten (10%) say the burden should fall on people facing climate change impacts (such as coastal communities or those in bushfire or flood prone areas). This is a significant decline from the 15% of Australians who thought impacted communities should pay the costs of responding to climate change in 2023.

FIGURE 16: WHO SHOULD PRIMARILY PAY THE COSTS OF PREPARING FOR, ADAPTING TO AND RESPONDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE DAMAGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE?



Holding polluters accountable

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that Australians want fossil fuel companies to pay more tax; to pay for the resources they use; and to pay for the environmental damage they cause. It also shows that this sentiment exists despite the value that Australians think the fossil fuel industry brings to the Australian economy. That is, even though Australians overestimate the revenue and employment generated by the fossil fuel industry, they still want to see more accountability and contributions to the public purse.

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that there is support for a variety of policies and mechanisms for increasing the accountability and contribution of polluting industries in Australia.

Polluters should have to pay for the damage they cause

The polluter-pays principle is a concept of environmental law that makes the party responsible for producing pollution responsible for bearing the costs of the damage caused by that pollution.

Australians are strongly supportive of a range of “polluter-pays” mechanisms.

- Four in five (79%) Labor voters support at least one polluter-pays mechanism, as do two in three (66%) Coalition voters.
- Six in seven Greens (84%) and Independent (85%) voters support at least one mechanism.
- Seven in ten (70%) Australians support at least one mechanism that involves the government collecting money from polluting industries for public revenue, including an economy-wide price on pollution, a levy on carbon extracted on pollution and increased company tax for fossil fuel companies planning to open new gas and coal projects.
- Only one in six (16%) Australians would support a polluter-pays mechanism whereby polluters do *not* pay the government but are required to buy carbon offsets, with the revenue going to private commercial carbon offset developers (this is the current arrangement under the Australian Government’s Safeguard Mechanism).
- Fewer than one in ten Australians (7%) think that none of the suggested mechanisms for a polluter-pays tax are appropriate.

- Just under one in five Australians (18%) said they did not know whether they support any of the suggested polluter-pays mechanisms.

FIGURE 17: SUPPORT FOR POLLUTER-PAYS MECHANISMS

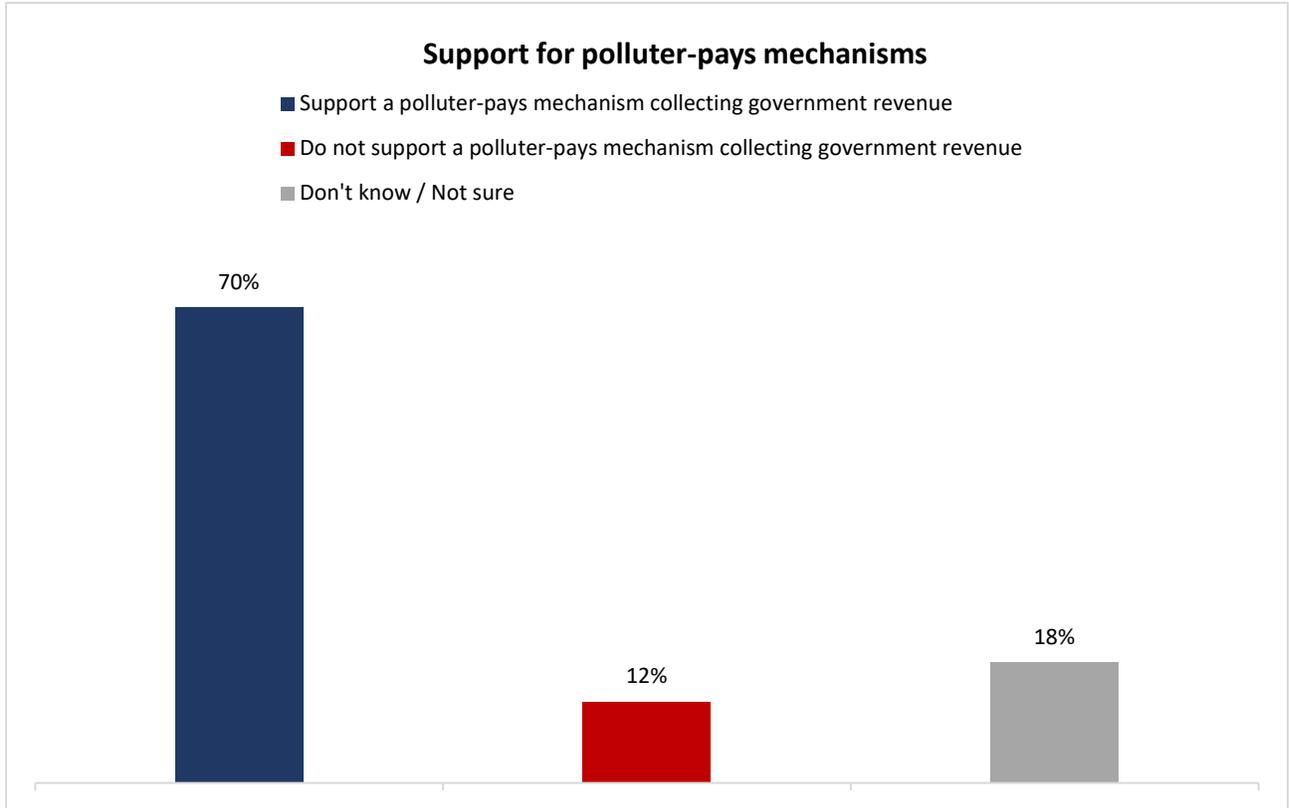
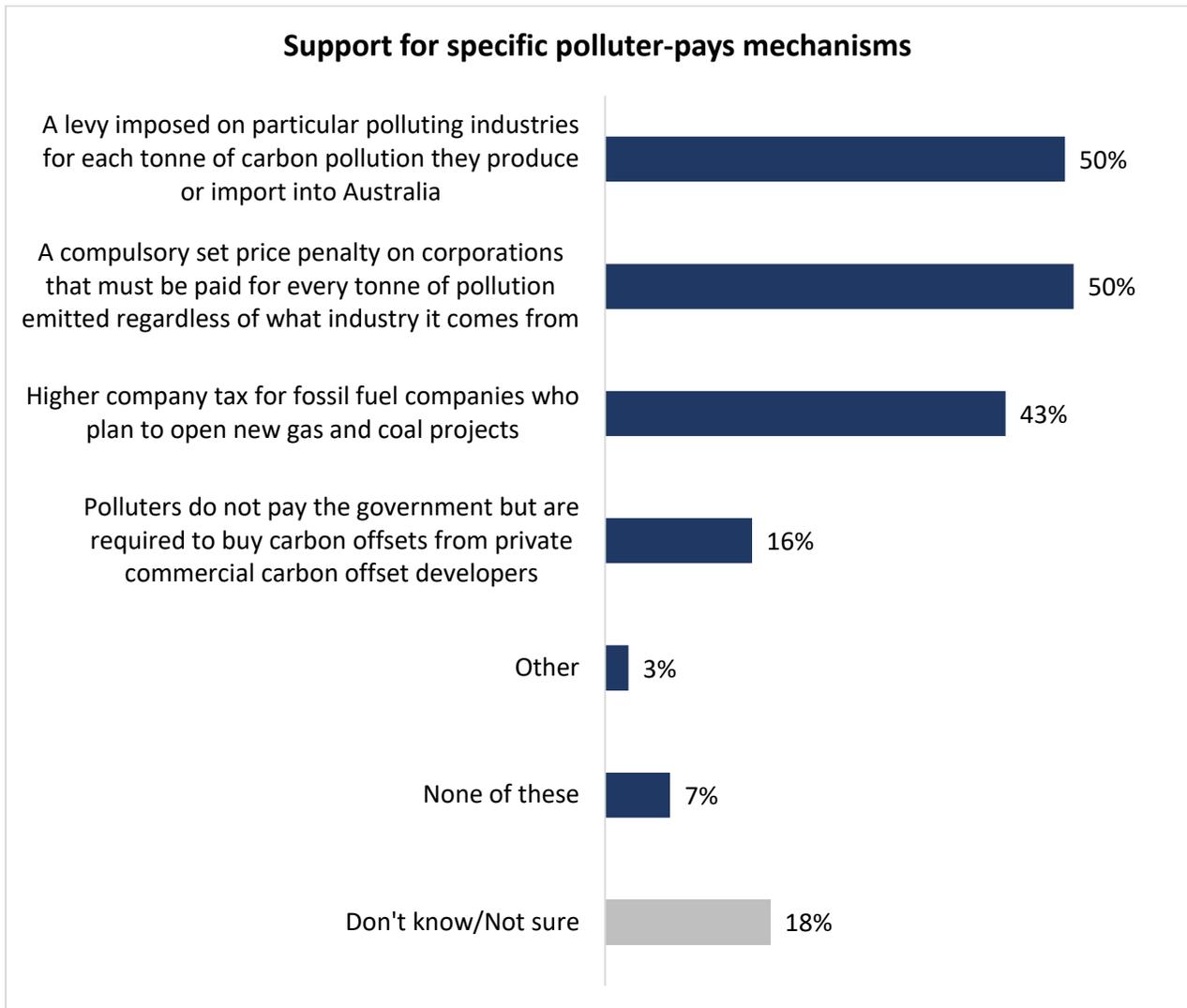


FIGURE 18: SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC POLLUTER-PAYS MECHANISMS



Overestimation of the fossil fuel industry's economic contribution

Australians overestimate the size and economic value of the coal and gas industries

Climate of the Nation 2024 reveals that the public continues to overestimate the fossil fuel industry's contributions to the Australian economy.

- Australians think that gas and oil extraction employs 62 times more people than it does.
- Australians think that coal mining 34 times more people than it does.

- Excluding the 41% who answered “don’t know” when asked to estimate these figures, respondents think that on average the coal mining industry makes up 9.9% of Australia’s total workforce.
- One in four (25%) Australians think that coal mining employs at least one in ten Australian workers. In reality, coal mining employs around 42,000— just 0.3% of Australia’s workforce.²⁹
- Again, excluding the 42% who answered “don’t know”, Australians estimate that on average the oil and gas industry employs 9.8% of the Australian workforce. In fact, oil and gas extraction employs around 22,900 workers — 0.2% of Australia’s workforce.³⁰

Australians also overestimate the contributions of these industries to Australia’s GDP.

- Excluding the 45% of respondents who selected “don’t know”, respondents think that on average the coal industry accounts for 13% of GDP. The actual figure is around 4%.³¹
- Similarly, excluding the “don’t know” cohort, Australians think the oil and gas industry contributes 11.8% to Australia’s GDP. In reality, oil and gas extraction accounts for just 3.7% of Australia’s GDP.³²

²⁹ ABS (2024) *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, October 2024, Table 06*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/oct-2024>

³⁰ ABS (2024) *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, October 2024, Table 06*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/oct-2024>

³¹ *Australian System of National Accounts, 2023–24, Table 5*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-system-national-accounts/2023-24#data-downloads>

³² *Australian System of National Accounts, 2023–24, Table 5*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-system-national-accounts/2023-24#data-downloads>

FIGURE 19: INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT: PERCEPTION VS REALITY

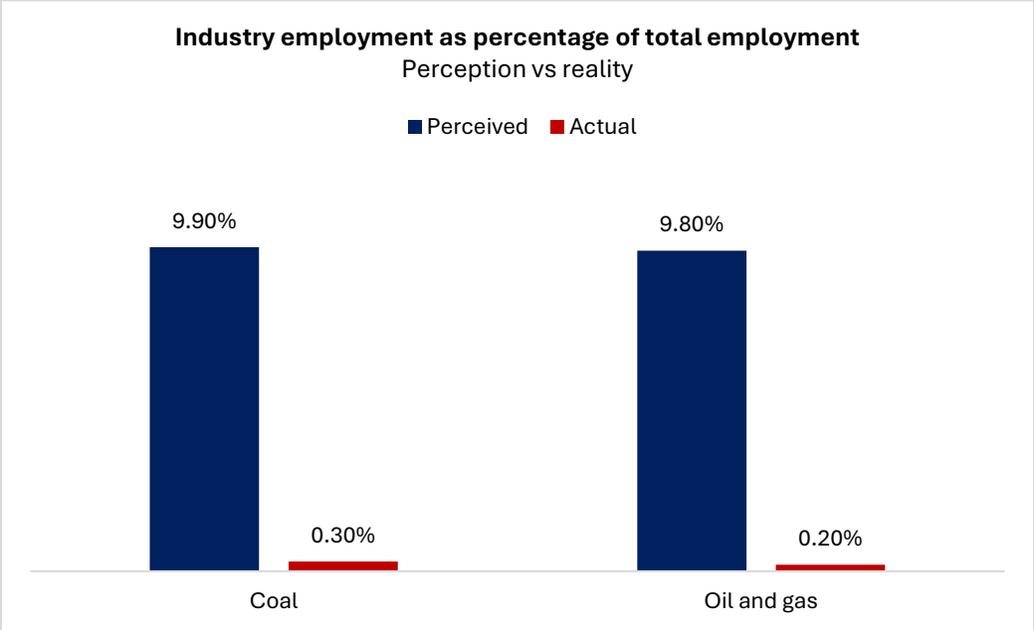
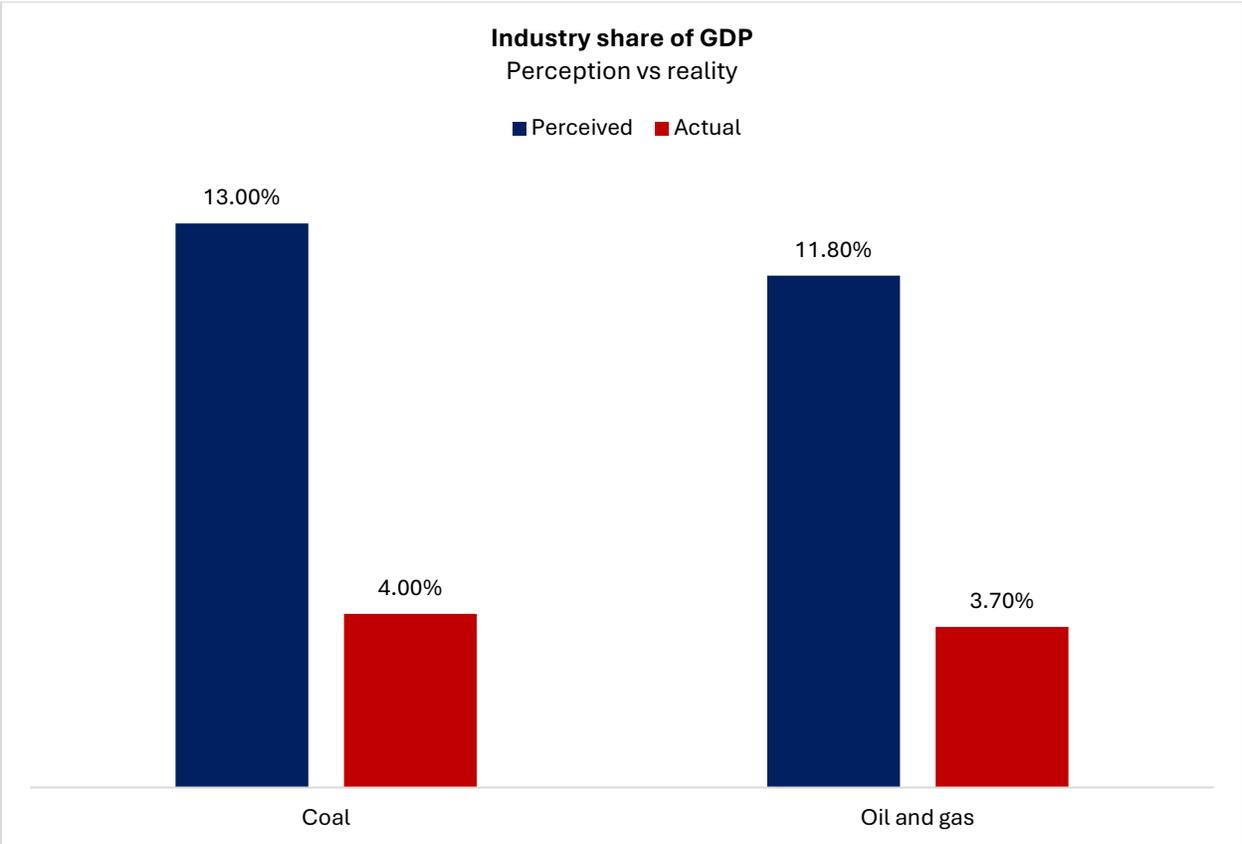


FIGURE 20: INDUSTRY SHARE OF GDP: PERCEPTION VS REALITY

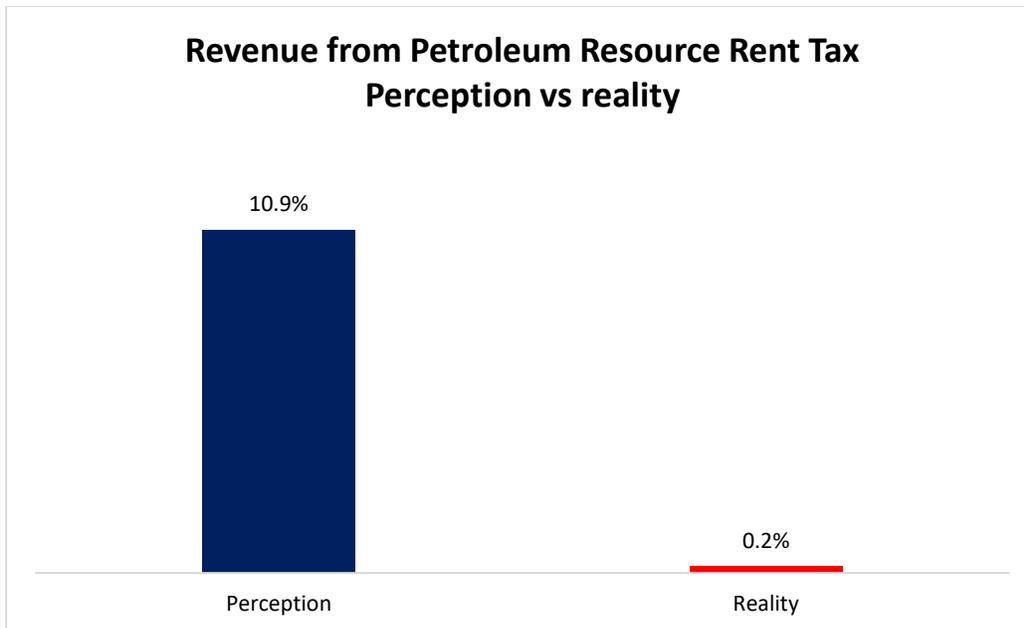


Australians think the PRRT collects 64 times more revenue than it does

In a similar vein, *Climate of the Nation 2024* also shows that, as in previous years, there is a considerable gap between the public perception of the amount of revenue collected through the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) and the actual amount collected.³³

- Nearly half (47%) of respondents say they “don’t know” how much revenue the PRRT raises.
- On average, the remaining 53% believe that the PRRT contributed 10.9% to the federal budget last year, with one in ten Australians (11%) thinking it contributed 20% or more. In reality, the PRRT contributed only 0.2% to total tax revenue in the federal budget in 2023–24.
- In other words, respondents think the oil and gas industry contributes over 55 times more to Australian Government revenue through the PRRT than it does.

FIGURE 21: REVENUE FROM PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT TAX: PERCEPTION VS REALITY



³³ In this context, the PRRT was described to respondents as “a Commonwealth government tax on profits from oil and gas exploration and mining”.

Collecting more revenue from fossil fuel companies

While Australians believe that the gas and coal industries make a valuable contribution to Australia's economy (consistently overestimating the revenue and employment they generate), many in the community think these industries should be contributing more.

- Almost half of Australians (47%) say the Australian Government should collect more money than it currently does from fossil fuel companies.
- One in four (24%) think that the government should collect the same amount of money it does currently.
- Fewer than one in 10 Australians (8%) think the government should collect less money than it does currently from fossil fuel companies.
- Across all voting intentions, more Australians think the government should collect more money than less from fossil fuel companies.
- Over half of Labor voters (57%) think the government should collect more money from fossil fuel companies, compared to fewer than one in 20 (4%) who think the government should collect less.
- Twice as many Coalition (35%) and One Nation (32%) voters think the government should collect more money than those who think the government should collect less (12% and 16% respectively).
- Seven in 10 (70%) Greens voters think the government should collect more money from fossil fuel companies, the most of any voting intention, closely followed by Independent voters (68%).

Policies to collect public money from polluting industries

Climate of the Nation 2024 asked Australians about different mechanisms to collect revenue from polluting industries.

The specific policies polled included:

- a levy charged on every tonne of carbon pollution extracted in Australia or imported into Australia
- a levy charged on Australia's fossil fuel exports to help fund local government actions to prepare for, and protect from, the consequences of climate change and

- a windfall profits tax—an additional or higher rate of tax levied on a company or industry when economic conditions result in unexpected profits—on the oil and gas industry.

A levy charged on every tonne of carbon pollution extracted in Australia or imported into Australia

- Seven in 10 Australians (69%) support charging fossil fuel companies a levy (based on international standards) for each tonne of carbon pollution they extract in Australia or import into Australia.
- Over five times more Australians support than oppose this levy (12% oppose).
- Across all voting intentions, more Australians support than oppose such a levy. Labor voters prefer this policy the most of all the suggested policies, with four in five (81%) voters expressing support (5% oppose).
- This policy also has significant support from Independent voters (79% support, 8% oppose) and Greens voters (87% support, 4% oppose).
- More than three times as many Coalition voters support (61%) than oppose (19%) a levy such as the Carbon Solutions Levy. While fewer than half of One Nation voters support this policy (40%), they still express more support than opposition (35%).

A levy charged on Australia's fossil fuel exports to specifically fund local government actions to prepare for, and protect from, the consequences of climate change

Damage from natural disasters currently costs the Australian economy \$38 billion a year and is estimated to increase to \$73 billion by 2060.³⁴ The Australia Institute has previously recommended a National Climate Disaster Fund, to be funded by a levy on fossil fuel exports. This would ensure that those profiting from the main cause of climate change—fossil fuels—contribute to the costs of mitigating the resulting damages, rather than leaving disaster-stricken communities to bear the brunt of these costs alone.³⁵

- The idea of a levy on fossil fuel exports is popular. Two in three Australians (67%), up from 59% in 2023, support the introduction of a levy on Australia's fossil fuel exports to help fund local government actions to prepare for, and protect from, the consequences of climate change.
- Fewer than one in five Australians (14%) oppose this levy. Opposition has declined significantly from the 24% of Australians who opposed this levy in 2023.

³⁴ This includes all natural disasters. Insurance Australia Group (2022) *Natural Disasters estimated to cost Australia \$73 billion per year by 2060*, <https://www.iag.com.au/newsroom/community/natural-disasters-estimated-cost-australia-73-billion-year-2060>

³⁵ The Australia Institute (2020) *The National Climate Disaster Fund*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/initiative/the-national-climate-disaster-fund/>

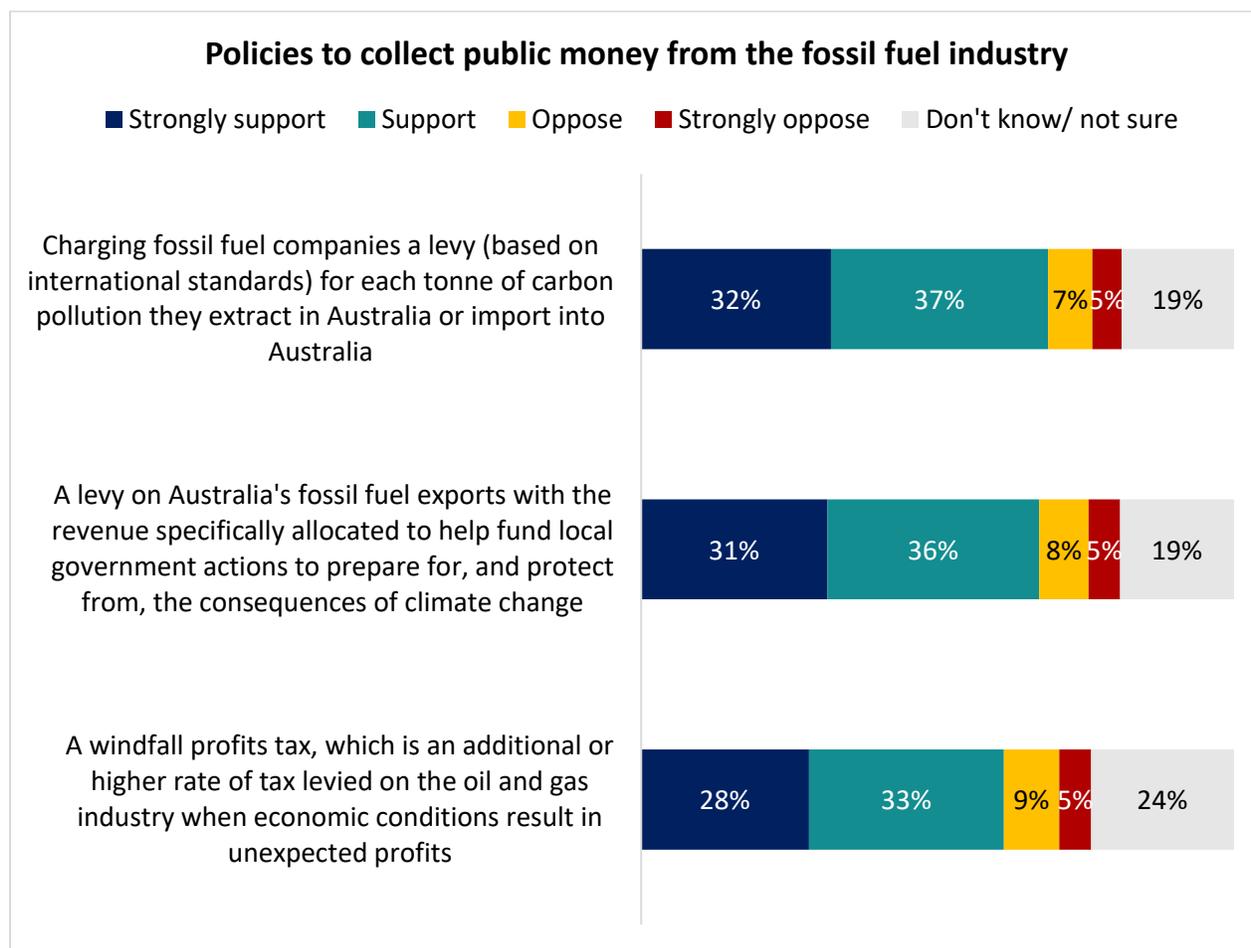
- Support for the levy is broad across genders, age groups, states, and voting intentions, with the exception of One Nation voters. Nearly four in five Labor voters (78%) and three in five Coalition (60%) voters support a levy with the revenue specifically allocated to help fund climate resilience. Support is highest among Greens voters, nearly nine in ten (88%) of whom support the levy, and lowest among One Nation voters, one in three (35%) of whom oppose such a levy (42% support). Across all voting intentions, however, more Australians support than oppose this policy.

A windfall profits tax—an additional or higher rate of tax levied on a company or industry when economic conditions result in unexpected profits—on the oil and gas industry

Skyrocketing energy prices, sparked by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, have been a hallmark of previous years and of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis in Australia. Australia’s gas companies have benefited from the increased value of their LNG exports, leading to windfall profits for those companies.

- More than three in five Australians (61%) support a windfall profits tax—an additional or higher rate of tax levied on a company or industry when economic conditions result in unexpected profits—on the oil and gas industry.
- While support for a windfall profits tax has decreased by five percentage points, from 66% in 2023, over four times as many Australians still support than oppose such a tax (15%).
- Across all political affiliations more Australians support than oppose a windfall profits tax on the gas industry, with the highest support seen among Labor (72%), Independent (75%) and Greens (76%) voters.

FIGURE 22: POLICIES TO COLLECT PUBLIC MONEY FROM THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY



Gas companies should have to pay royalties on the gas they use

Royalties are payments made to governments for the use of resources owned by the Australian public. In every other industry, companies pay for their materials, from builders buying the bricks they use to build houses to high-tech companies paying for semiconductors.

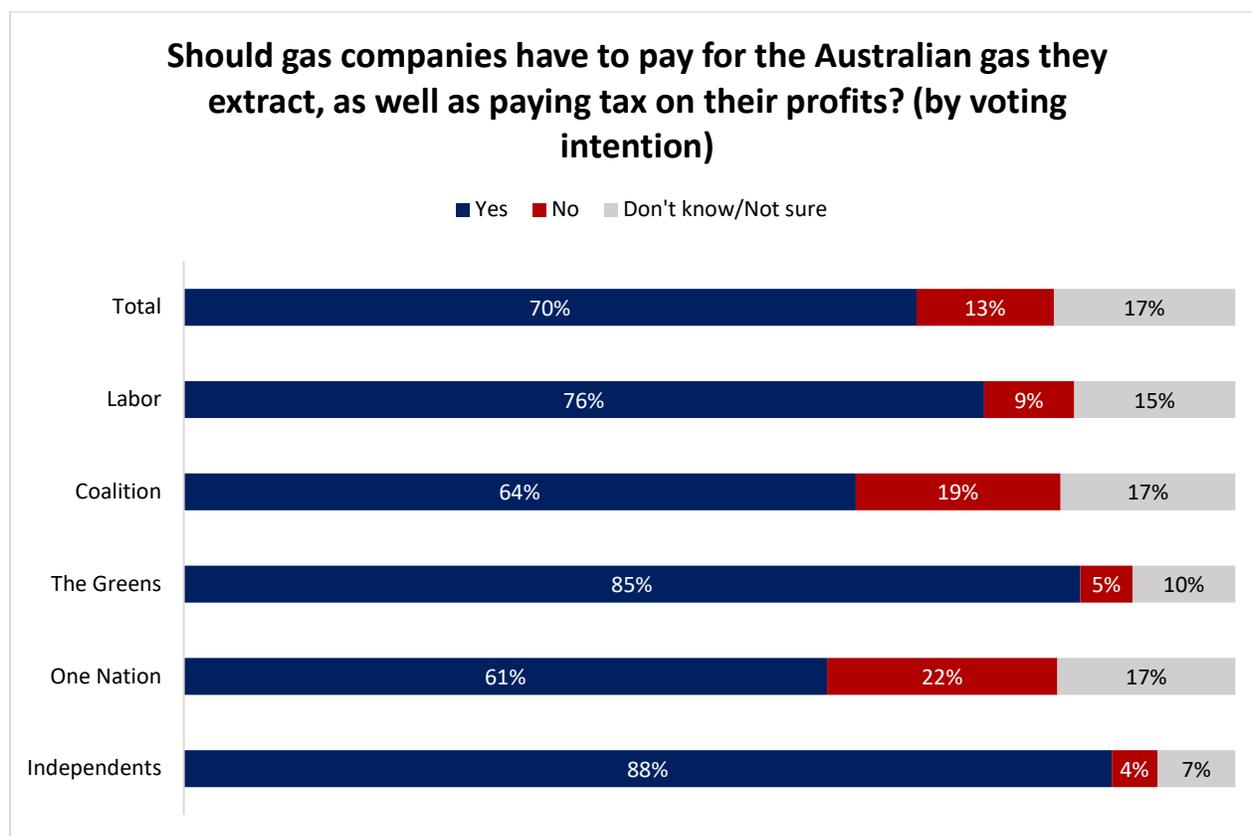
However, at present, 56% of Australia’s gas export capacity is not currently subject to royalties at either state or federal levels. Essentially this gas is given away for free, and a significant amount of potential revenue is being lost as a result.³⁶

This year’s survey asked Australians whether gas companies should have to pay for the Australian gas they extract, in the same way that builders have to pay for the bricks they use to build houses.

³⁶ Ogge, Campbell & Verstegan (2024) *Australia’s great gas giveaway*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/australias-great-gas-giveaway/>

- 70% of Australians agree that gas companies should have to pay for the Australian gas they extract, compared to just 13% who think they shouldn't have to pay (17% are not sure).
- This result was consistent across voting intentions. 76% of Labor voters agree that gas companies should pay for the Australian gas they extract, as do 64% of Coalition voters. 85% of Greens voters, 88% of Independent voters and 61% of One Nation voters also agree.

FIGURE 23: SHOULD GAS COMPANIES HAVE TO PAY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GAS THEY EXTRACT, AS WELL AS PAYING TAX ON THEIR PROFITS? (BY VOTING INTENTION)



Most Australians oppose fossil fuel subsidies

In 2009, along with other major economies that make up the G20, Australia promised to phase out “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies”.³⁷ However, state and federal governments continue to subsidise and provide tax incentives to fossil fuel users and producers. In 2023–24, the total value of subsidies committed to fossil fuel industries from federal, state and territory

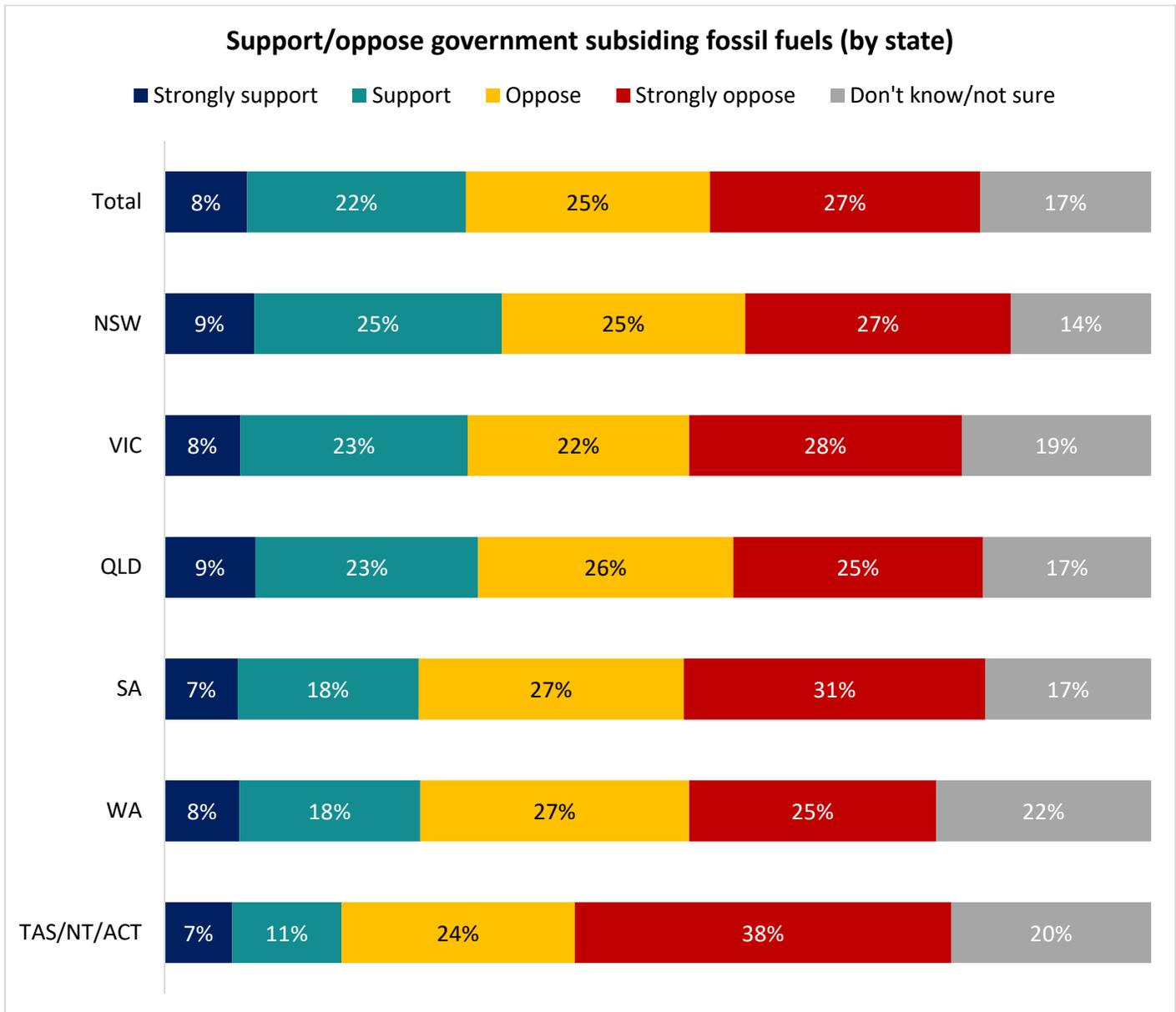
³⁷ G20 Research Group (2009) *G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit*, <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

governments was \$14.5 billion, up 31% from the \$11.1 billion in 2022–23.³⁸ *Climate of the Nation 2024* shows that the social licence for fossil fuel subsidies continues to decline.

- More than half (52%) oppose the government using taxpayer funds to subsidise the expansion of the coal, oil and gas industries, compared to just over three in ten (31%) who support this practice.
- Public opposition to fossil fuel subsidies has increased significantly from 44% in 2023 and support has decreased from 32% in 2023.
- Opposition to fossil fuel subsidies is highest among Greens voters (76%) and Independent voters (69%). Half of Labor voters (54%) and One Nation voters (51%) also oppose fossil fuel subsidies. Coalition voters are the only voters for whom support for subsidies are higher than opposition (45% support while 40% oppose).
- Opposition to fossil fuel subsidies varies between states. Support for fossil fuel subsidies has decreased in fossil fuel-producing states, including NSW (from 47% in 2023 to 34% this year) and in WA (from 37% in 2023 to 26% this year).
- While opposition to fossil fuel subsidies is similar between men (51%) and women (53%), men are more likely to support fossil fuel subsidies (38%) than women (23%).

³⁸ Campbell et al. (2024) *Fossil fuel subsidies in Australia 2024*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/fossil-fuel-subsidies-in-australia-2024/>

FIGURE 24: SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISING FOSSIL FUELS (BY STATE)



Conclusion

Climate of the Nation has been tracking community attitudes to climate change for 17 years.

Ahead of the 2022 so-called “Greenslide” federal election, *Climate of the Nation* 2021 found that around half of Australians thought the Australian Government was not doing enough to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that half of Australians still feel that their leaders are not doing enough on climate change. It also highlights the fact that Australians are being failed by both government and industry when it comes to communicating the consequences of the climate crisis and demonstrating the actions they are taking to address it.

Australians across all voting intentions expect independence and integrity from their leaders and public agencies. They want accountability in government and in industry, and express support for policies that protect people and the environment, not corporate profits.

The Australia Institute has been at the forefront of exposing the reality that Australians are paying more to live while fossil fuel companies’ profits are soaring, prompting national discussions about taxing fossil fuels fairly.

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that Australians want fossil fuel companies to pay more tax; to pay for the resources they use; and to pay for the environmental damage they cause. It also shows that this sentiment exists despite the value that Australians think the fossil fuel industry brings to the Australian economy.

A majority of Australians support implementing some form of polluter-pays mechanism in Australia to make industry more accountable for its environmental impact. There are similarly high levels of support across the political spectrum for polluter-pays mechanisms to collect revenue from the fossil fuel industry.

Climate of the Nation 2024 comes just months ahead of the 2025 federal election. The last election was characterised by issues of climate and integrity. *Climate of the Nation* 2024 should serve as a reminder to leaders that Australians are still deeply concerned about these issues, and they support policies that raise more revenue from the fossil fuel industry to tackle the dual climate and cost-of-living crises.

Appendix I: Aim and approach

Who

The Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program engaged leading market research firm YouGov to conduct the quantitative and qualitative surveys for *Climate of the Nation 2024*.

Polling

The quantitative online survey was conducted on the YouGov Galaxy Online Omnibus between 3 and 12 July 2024. The sample comprises 2,095 Australians aged 18 years and older distributed throughout Australia, as follows:

State	Sample size	Margin of error
NSW	617	±3.95%
VIC	563	±4.13%
QLD	439	±4.68%
SA	161	±7.72%
WA	215	±6.68%
TAS, NT, ACT	100	±9.80%

Age, gender and location quotas were applied to the sample, and post-survey data was weighted by age, gender and location to reflect the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population estimates.

Respondents were classified as residents of either capital cities or regional areas. In this context, the term “capital cities” refers to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra.

Respondents were also classified as either culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) or not culturally and linguistically diverse (non-CALD). The CALD group includes those who identify as having ancestry that is not white Australian or European, those who speak a language other than English at home, and those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

The overall margin of error is ±2.14%. Readers should consider that the true opinions of all Australians could be within 2.14% of the reported answer, and that shifts in opinion since last year, within the margin of error, are not statistically significant.

Appendix II: Demographic snapshot

Attitudes to climate change and support for climate action differ between genders, age groups, states, urban and regional residents, and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Gender

Climate of the Nation 2024 shows that concern about climate change is similarly strong irrespective of gender; 70% of women and 68% of men are concerned about climate change. Women are also more likely to believe that the federal government is “not doing enough” to prepare for and adapt to climate change (53%) compared to men (47%), which may reflect a higher expectation of government action on climate change or a more critical view of government among women. More women feel negatively about the future than men (40% compared to 33%) and less women feel positively about the future (22% compared to 38%). Results also reveal a gap in understanding of climate jargon between genders. Fewer than two in five (37%) women are confident that they know what a carbon offset is, compared to 55% of men. Men were more likely to select the correct definition of “carbon neutral” (47%) and “net zero” (33%) than women (37% and 22% respectively).

In addition, women are more likely than men to respond “don’t know” to questions—a phenomenon that is again consistent with other survey research.³⁹ For example, while men are more likely to think it is appropriate for the fossil fuel industry to have influence over climate policy compared to women (42% compared to 32%), men are also more likely to think it is inappropriate compared to women (48% compared to 42%). This pattern (where men are both more supportive of a proposition than women and also more opposed to it) is common throughout the responses to *Climate of the Nation 2024*.

However, there are some climate policies for which women show higher support compared to men. Women are less likely to think that those affected by climate disasters should primarily pay the costs of responding to them (8% of women compared to 13% of men).

Age

Attitudes towards climate change differ between age groups. Concern about climate change is higher among younger age cohorts (83% of those aged 18–24, 75% of those aged 25–34 and 71% of those aged 35–49 are concerned) than in older age cohorts (64% of those aged 50–64 and 60% of those aged over 65 are concerned). This is consistent with patterns seen in previous years.

³⁹ Bump (2014) *Are women more likely to say ‘I don’t know’ to poll questions? It appears so*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2014/05/16/are-women-more-likely-to-say-i-dont-know-to-poll-questions-it-appears-so/>

Those aged 18–24 generally have a more negative view of fossil fuels than their older compatriots. Almost half (46%) of Australians aged 18–24 support a phase-out of coal-fired power stations by 2030, compared to only 23% of those aged 65 years and older. There is strong support among those aged 18–24 (88%) and 25–34 (84%) for climate impacts to be considered during environmental approvals of fossil fuel projects (compared to 75% nationally), and Australians aged 18–24 are more likely than any other age cohort to believe that fossil fuel producers should pay for climate impacts (46% compared to 37% nationally).

Australians aged 35–49 in 2024 showed a slight decline in concern about climate change (71%, down from 77% in 2023 and 81% in 2022), as did those aged 50–64 (64%, down from 67% in 2023 and 69% in 2022). Those aged over 65 are similarly concerned about climate change this year compared with last year (60% compared to 58% in 2023, down from 66% in 2022).

Older Australians are more likely to agree that members of the independent agencies advising the government on climate policy should not also be employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice. Five in six Australians (83%) aged 65 or over think that independent regulators or governments should be responsible for checking the carbon neutral and net zero claims of companies, compared to 73% nationally.

State

Across the states, Australians differ in their perception of the current effects of climate change. Residents from Tasmania, NT and ACT are more likely than residents from other states to think that global warming is already causing serious impacts. Residents from Tasmania, NT and ACT think that global warming is already causing melting of the polar ice caps (62%), more heatwaves and extremely hot days (59%), more extreme weather (57%), and bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef (55%). Most residents from South Australia think global warming is already causing melting of the polar ice caps (55%) and the bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef (50%). Victorians and residents from New South Wales are feeling the impacts of extreme weather events (48% and 49% respectively) and more heatwaves and extremely hot days (48% and 51% respectively). Queenslanders are the least likely to think that global warming is already causing impacts but are noticing that global warming is causing more heatwaves and extremely hot days (45%), and to a lesser extent more extreme weather events like floods and cyclones (35%). Concern about future climate impacts also differs between states. Residents in NSW, Western Australia, and (taken together) Tasmania, the NT and the ACT typically registered the highest levels of concern for different climate impacts.

- Western Australians are the most concerned about more extreme weather events like floods and cyclones (79%) and water shortages (76%).
- Residents in NSW are the most concerned about climate change bleaching the Great Barrier Reef (77%). Interestingly, Queenslanders are the least concerned (70%).

- Residents in NSW are the most concerned about more droughts and flooding affecting crop production and food supply and prices (82%), followed by Western Australians (81%).
- Residents in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT are the most concerned about more bushfires (83%) followed by residents in NSW (81%). These states are also the most concerned about animal and plant extinctions (both 78%), more heatwaves and extremely hot days (76% in NSW and 75% in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT), and more refugees and displaced peoples (75% in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT and 73% in NSW).
- Western Australians, Victorians and residents in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT are most concerned about rising sea levels (all 72%).
- More expensive insurance premiums are of most concern to residents in NSW (77%) and Western Australia (75%).

Residents in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT are the most likely to think fossil fuel producers should pay for preparing for, adapting to, and responding to damages from climate change (42%), followed by Western Australians (40%). Residents in the same two states/state-groupings are most supportive of a moratorium on new coal mines (63% in Tasmania, the NT and the ACT, and 53% in Western Australia). A majority of residents in NSW and Victoria also support a moratorium (50% and 52% respectively). Residents of Tasmania, the NT and the ACT are also most likely to agree that the Environment Minister should be required to consider climate impacts when approving fossil fuel projects (83%), followed by Western Australia (81%).

Urban and regional

Australians living in inner metropolitan areas are more concerned about climate change (80%) than those in outer metropolitan, provincial and rural areas (62%, 63% and 63% respectively). Inner metropolitan Australians are slightly more concerned than provincial and rural Australians about water shortages (77% compared to 66% and 70% respectively), and also express greater concern about more droughts and flooding affecting crop production and food supply (85% compared to 74% and 75% respectively).

More inner metropolitan Australians support a moratorium on new coal mines (58%) than those in outer metropolitan (46%), provincial (44%) and rural (48%) areas. Similar proportions of Australians across all region types oppose subsidising fossil fuel expansion (51% in inner metropolitan areas, 52% in outer metropolitan, 57% in provincial and 51% in rural).

Culturally and linguistically diverse

Australians who are culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) are considerably more concerned about climate change (76%) than non-CALD Australians (66%). CALD Australians are also more concerned than non-CALD Australians about climate-related illness caused by water scarcity or quality and mosquito-borne illnesses (78%, including 46% who are very concerned, compared to 67%). For each of the listed impacts, CALD Australians are more likely to think climate change is already causing the impact than non-CALD Australians, including 55% who

think climate change is already causing more heatwaves and extremely hot days (compared to 46% of non-CALD Australians) and 45% who think it is already causing sea level rise threatening our coastal communities (compared to 34% of non-CALD Australians).

An overwhelming majority of CALD Australians (82%) think the Environment Minister should be required to consider climate change impacts when approving fossil fuel projects (72% for non-CALD).

More than three in five CALD Australians (63%) think that continued inaction on climate change will hurt Australia's reputation, compared to 54% of non-CALD Australians. 59% of CALD Australians think Australia needs to help vulnerable peoples and developing countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, compared to 48% of non-CALD. More CALD than non-CALD Australians think that if Australia keeps exporting fossil fuels, it should increase financial support to Pacific Island countries to deal with the impacts of climate change (39% compared to 30%).