

Climate of the Nation 2024

Method

Short disclosure statement

Panel provider	YouGov Galaxy Pty Ltd
Research company	The Australia Institute
Client commissioning the research	NA
Fieldwork dates	3 July 2024 to 12 July 2024
Mode of data collection	YouGov Online Omnibus
Target population	Australian adults aged 18+
Sample size	2,095
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
Voting intention published	No
Long disclosure statement	See below

Long disclosure statement

Effective sample size after weighting applied	1,940
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	±2.2%
Variables used in weighting	Age x gender x location, Age x education, past vote (of those eligible)
Gender identity categorisation	Those who answered the gender identity question as “Non-binary”, “I use a different term”, or “Prefer not to answer” had their responses excluded for the purpose of reporting, due to constraints from census data availability
Weighting method used	Rim method
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below
Source of online sample	YouGov Online Omnibus
Positioning of voting intention questions in questionnaire	Immediately after demographics, before policy questions
How were undecided voters handled?	NA
Method of calculating 2PP	NA
Voting intention categorisation	Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives. “Coalition” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” refers to Independent/Other, and minor parties in cases where they were included in the voting intention but represent too small a sample to be reported separately in the crosstabs
Location results	Results are shown for all states and territories

Detailed results

No preceding questions in the poll are expected to have influenced the results of the questions published here.

Thinking now about federal politics. If a federal election for the House of Representatives was held tomorrow, which one of the following would you vote for?

Response options were presented in random order, except “Don’t know/none”.

- Labor
- The Liberal Party
- The Nationals
- The LNP
- The Greens
- One Nation
- Independents
- Other
- Don't know/none

How concerned are you about climate change?

- Very concerned
- Fairly concerned
- Not very concerned
- Not at all concerned
- Don’t know/none

How concerned are you that climate change will result in the following outcomes?

Statement options were presented in random order.

	Very concerned	Fairly concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know
Water shortages in our cities and towns					
Rising sea levels threatening our coastal communities					
Bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef					
Melting of the polar ice caps					

More droughts and flooding affecting crop production and food supply and prices					
More extreme weather events like floods and cyclones					
More bushfires					
Animal and plant extinctions					
More heatwaves and extremely hot days					
More refugees and displaced peoples					
Impacts on health, e.g. illness related to: water scarcity or quality, heat, mosquito-borne viruses					
Disruptions to supply chains making it hard to buy necessities like food and clothing					
More expensive insurance premiums					

How concerned are you that climate change is already causing these impacts in Australia and if not, how likely or unlikely do you think global warming is to cause these impacts in the future?

Statement options were presented in random order.

	Global warming is already causing	Global warming is likely to cause	Global warming is unlikely to cause	Global warming will not cause	Don't know
Water shortages in our cities and towns					
Rising sea levels threatening our coastal communities					
Bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef					
Melting of the polar ice caps					
More droughts and flooding affecting crop					

production and food supply and prices					
More extreme weather events like floods and cyclones					
More bushfires					
Animal and plant species becoming extinct					
More heatwaves and extremely hot days					
More refugees and displaced peoples					
Impacts on health, e.g. illness related to: water scarcity or quality, heat, mosquito-borne viruses					
Disruptions to supply chains making it hard to buy necessities like food and clothing					
More expensive insurance premiums					

Have you heard the term ‘climate risk’?

Response options presented in rotated order, except “Don’t know/Not sure”.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/Not sure

[If “Yes” to previous question] Please select the best definition of climate risk from the options below:

Response options were presented in random order, except “Don’t know/not sure”.

- 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
- Don't know/not sure

Are you aware of any actions the federal government is taking to manage or reduce the negative impacts of climate change?

Response options presented in rotated order, except “Don’t know/Not sure”.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/Not sure

Thinking about how the federal government is preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change, do you think it is...?

- Not doing enough
- Doing enough
- Doing too much
- Don't know/not sure

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The Environment Minister should be required to consider climate change impacts when approving coal or gas projects (e.g. new mines or industrial plants).

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know/not sure

When do you think that Australia should completely end coal fired power generation?

- By 2030
- By 2040
- By 2050
- Coal fired power should never be completely phased out

A moratorium on new coal mines would mean Australia would stop building new coal mines and stop expanding existing ones. However, existing mines would continue to operate under their current approvals.

Do you support or oppose a moratorium on new coal mines?

- Support
- Oppose
- Don’t know/none

Do you support or oppose the government using taxpayer funds to subsidise the expansion of the coal, oil and gas industries?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know/not sure

To the best of your knowledge..?

Statement options presented in rotated order.

	20% or more	10%-19.9%	5%-9.9%	1%-4.9%	Less than 1%	Don't know
What proportion of Australia's workforce is employed directly by coal mining						
What proportion of Australia's GDP is generated directly by coal mining						

To the best of your knowledge...?

Statement options presented in rotated order.

	20% or more	10%-19.9%	5%-9.9%	1%-4.9%	Less than 1%	Don't know
What proportion of Australia's workforce is employed directly by oil and gas						
What proportion of Australia's GDP is generated directly by oil and gas						

What do you believe is to blame for the increasing electricity prices of recent years?

Respondents could select any number of responses. Response options were presented in random order, except "Don't know/None".

- Coal is closing and we have no clear plan about how to replace it
- Renewable energy is expensive
- Excessive gas exports have made domestic gas expensive
- State restrictions on gas supply have made gas expensive
- The privatisation of electricity generation and supply
- Federal government policy uncertainty and poor policy making

- Climate impacts (e.g. increased electricity demand or reduced energy production due to extreme weather such as flooding and heatwaves)
- Excessive profit margins of electricity companies
- The war in Ukraine
- Don't know/None

Please rank the following energy sources for Australia to use from your most preferred to your least preferred with your most preferred at the top and your least preferred at the bottom.

Response options were presented in random order, except "Don't know/none".

- Coal
- Gas
- Wind
- Nuclear
- Hydro (dams)
- Geothermal
- Tidal/Wave
- Solar
- Power Storage batteries (e.g. Tesla)
- Don't know/none

Which do you think will ultimately cost Australians more?

Statement options were presented in rotated order, except "Don't know".

- Invest in the transition to renewable energy now, to avoid exacerbating climate change impacts and associated costs
- Invest in the transition to renewable energy later, after impacts and costs from climate change have increased
- Don't know

Thinking about the challenge that climate change presents to our world, do you feel positive or negative about the future?

- Overwhelmingly positive
- Fairly positive
- Neutral
- Fairly negative
- Overwhelmingly negative

Due to the rising cost of insurance, have you downsized your coverage or opted out of insurance?

- Downsized

- Opted out
- I cannot get insured
- I have not changed my insurance cover
- Don't know/not sure

Who should primarily pay the costs of preparing for, adapting to, and responding to environmental and climate damage from climate change?

Response options were presented in random order, except "Others" and "Don't know".

- Taxpayers
- People facing climate change impacts (e.g. coastal communities, those in bushfire or flood-prone areas)
- Insurance companies
- Fossil fuel producers (i.e. coal, gas and oil companies)
- Others
- Don't know

The polluter pays principle says that those who produce pollution should be responsible for the costs of the damage caused by pollution.

Many experts have suggested ways to make fossil fuel companies contribute to public revenue and the costs of environmental damage.

Which, if any, of the following mechanisms would you support to collect revenue?

Respondents could select any number of responses. Response options were presented in random order, except "Other", "None of these" and "Don't know/Not sure".

- A compulsory set price penalty on corporations that must be paid for every tonne of pollution emitted regardless of what industry it comes from.
- A levy imposed on particular polluting industries for each tonne of carbon pollution they produce or import into Australia.
- Polluters do not pay the government but are required to buy carbon offsets from private commercial carbon offset developers.
- Higher company tax for fossil fuel companies who plan to open new gas and coal projects.
- Other
- None of these
- Don't know/Not sure

To what extent would you support or oppose the following specific policies to collect more revenue from fossil fuel companies?

Policy options presented in rotated order.

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly support	Don't know/not sure
Charging fossil fuel companies a levy (based on international standards) for each tonne of carbon pollution they extract in Australia or import into Australia.					
A levy on Australia's fossil fuel exports with the revenue specifically allocated to help fund local government actions to prepare for, and protect from, the consequences of climate change					
A windfall profits tax, which is an additional or higher rate of tax levied on the oil and gas industry when economic conditions result in unexpected profits					

The Petroleum Resources Rent Tax (PRRT) is a Commonwealth government tax on profits from oil and gas exploration and mining.

Approximately what percentage of the Commonwealth Budget revenue do you think was generated by the PRRT last year?

- 20% or more
- 10%-19.9%
- 5%-9.9%
- 1%-4.9%
- Less than 1%
- Don't know/not sure

Should the Government collect more, the same amount, or less money from fossil fuel companies than it does currently?

- More
- The same amount
- Less
- Don't know/Not sure

When a house is being built, the builder has to pay for the bricks to build with, as well as pay tax on income from the profits they make from building the house.

Do you think that gas companies should have to pay for Australian gas they extract, as well as paying tax on their profits?

Response options presented in rotated order, except “Don’t know/Not sure”.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/Not sure

At the 2023 UN Climate Conference, Australia signed an agreement to phase out fossil fuels. Australia wants to host a UN Climate Conference in 2026. By 2026, do you think the Government should...

Respondents could select any number of responses, except “The Government does not need to take any actions to phase out fossil fuels by 2026” and “Don’t know/not sure” which were exclusive. All other response options were presented in random order.

- Stop subsidising fossil fuels
- Announce it will not approve any new gas or coal projects
- Introduce a polluter pays scheme for fossil fuel companies
- Commit to phasing out coal fired power stations by 2030 in line with the United Nations Acceleration Agenda
- The Government does not need to take any actions to phase out fossil fuels by 2026.
- Don’t know/not sure

Australia’s fossil fuel exports contribute to climate change affecting countries in the Pacific region. If Australia keeps exporting fossil fuels, do you think Australia should:

- Increase financial support for Pacific countries to deal with the impacts of climate change
- Keep its financial support the same for Pacific countries dealing with climate change impacts
- Decrease financial support for Pacific countries dealing with climate change impacts
- Don’t know/not sure

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Statement options were presented in random order.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don’t know/not sure
Australia needs to help vulnerable peoples and developing countries adapt to the negative						

impacts of climate change						
Australia should ignore the emissions impact of its gas and coal exports						
Continued inaction on climate change will hurt Australia's international reputation						
It is more important to consider the energy security of Australia's trading partners than the domestic impacts of new fossil fuel projects						
Australia should spend at least the same amount on international climate finance as it does on subsidising fossil fuels						

Corporations are increasingly investing in 'carbon offsets'. How confident are you that you know what a carbon offset is?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't know/not sure

**[If respondent selected "Very confident" or "Somewhat confident" to the previous question]
Which of the following do you think is the best definition of an offset?**

Response options were presented in random order, except "Don't know/Not sure".

- Paying someone else to reduce or avoid putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere
- Promising to not cut down trees
- Storing carbon emissions underground
- Don't know/Not sure

When a business claims it has offset its emissions, which of the following do you think is true:

- There are now more emissions in the atmosphere
- The amount of emissions in the atmosphere is the same

- There are now fewer emissions in the atmosphere
- Don't know/Not sure

Which of the following do you think is the best definition of carbon neutral?

This question was asked of half of the respondents. Response options were presented in random order, except "Don't know/Not sure".

- No carbon emissions are released
- Companies are reducing carbon emissions in some parts of their business
- Companies pay a tax on their carbon emissions
- Carbon emissions are released but are cancelled out by other activities like buying offsets
- Companies don't mind if they release carbon emissions
- Don't know/Not sure

Which of the following do you think is the best definition of net zero?

This question was asked of the other half of the respondents. Response options were presented in random order, except "Don't know/Not sure".

- No greenhouse gas emissions are released
- Companies are reducing greenhouse gas emissions in some parts of their business
- Companies pay a tax on their greenhouse gas emissions
- Greenhouse gas emissions are released but are cancelled out by other activities like buying offsets
- Companies have to show how they are reducing their greenhouse gas emissions
- Don't know/Not sure

Some companies claim they are committed to achieving 'net zero emissions' or that their products are 'carbon neutral'.

Who do you think should be responsible for checking the accuracy of these claims?

Response options were presented in random order, except "Don't know/not sure".

- Customers
- Governments
- Independent regulator
- Companies that are making the claims
- No one
- Don't know/not sure

Should companies that have or plan to increase their carbon emissions be allowed to market themselves as carbon neutral or net zero?

Response options presented in rotated order, except “Don’t know/Not sure”.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/not sure

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Statement options were presented in random order.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don’t know/Not sure
Climate policy should be based on best-practice climate science.					
Members of the independent agencies advising the government on climate policy should not be also employed by companies or organisations that could be affected by their advice.					
It is appropriate for the fossil fuel industry to have influence over the climate policies and regulations that affect them					
Business interests are more important than science					