



**20 June 2011**



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With data supplied by



## **Executive Summary**

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The survey was conducted online from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and is based on 1041 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on asylum seekers, live cattle exports, the economy and science.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in appendix on page 12.

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

**Federal politics – voting intention**

*Q. If a Federal Election was held today to which party will you probably give your first preference vote? If not sure, which party are you currently leaning toward?*

*Q. If don't know -Well which party are you currently leaning to?*

sample size = 2068

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Liberal		44%	44%	44%	45%
National		3%	2%	3%	3%
<b>Total Lib/Nat</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Greens	11.8	12%	12%	12%	12%
Other/Independent	6.6	8%	8%	8%	9%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	<b>49.9%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Labor	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>45%</b>

NB. The data in the above tables comprise 2-week averages derived the first preference/leaning to voting questions. Respondents who select 'don't know' are not included in the results. The two-party preferred estimate is calculated by distributing the votes of the other parties according to their preferences at the 2010 election.



## Asylum Seeker Plans

*Q. The Government has proposed sending asylum seekers arriving by boat to Malaysia for processing and the Opposition has proposed sending asylum seekers to Nauru. Which of these two options do you favour?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Malaysia	16%	29%	12%	9%
Nauru	34%	18%	55%	12%
Neither	30%	34%	18%	61%
Don't know	20%	20%	14%	18%

34% favoured sending asylum seekers to Nauru and 16% favoured Malaysia, with a further 30% selecting 'neither'.

Labor (34%) and Green voters (61%) were most likely to favour 'neither' – Liberal/National voters were most likely to favour Nauru (55%).

Males (37%) were more likely than females (31%) to favour Nauru. Females were more likely to select Don't Know (25%).

Older respondents were more likely to favour Nauru – 48% of those aged 55+.

Younger respondents were more likely to select 'neither' – 37% of those aged 18-34.

## Live Cattle Export Ban

*Q. Do you support or oppose the Government's recent decision to suspend all live export of cattle to Indonesia?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
<b>Total support</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Strongly support	26%	32%	19%	43%
Support	32%	37%	29%	30%
Oppose	19%	13%	28%	11%
Strongly oppose	9%	4%	14%	3%
Don't know	14%	13%	9%	14%

58% supported the Government's decision to to suspend all live export of cattle to Indonesia and 28% opposed the decision. The decision was most strongly supported by Labor voters (69%) and Greens voters (73%).

62% of women supported the decision compared to 53% of men.

## Compensation for Live Cattle Ban

*Q. Should the Federal Government pay compensation to cattle farmers who are financially affected by the suspension of live cattle exports to Indonesia?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Should pay compensation	61%	57%	68%	55%
Should not pay compensation	21%	26%	17%	23%
Don't know	18%	17%	14%	23%

61% believe that the Federal Government should pay compensation to cattle farmers who are financially affected by the decision and 21% think they should not be compensated. Compensation is favoured by a majority of all voter and demographic groups.

Those most likely to support compensation were Liberal/National voters (68%) and those aged 55+ (66%).

## Position on Live Cattle Exports

*Q. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Australia should not export live cattle to any country at all	22%	26%	18%	30%
Australia should only export live cattle to countries which guarantee they will be treated humanely	58%	57%	59%	56%
Australia should export live cattle to any country that wants them	14%	11%	19%	5%
Don't know	6%	5%	4%	8%

58% believe that Australia should only export live cattle to countries which guarantee they will be treated humanely and 22% think Australia should not export live cattle to any country at all. Only 14% think Australia should export live cattle to any country that wants them.

A majority of all voter and demographic groups think Australia should only export live cattle to countries which guarantee they will be treated humanely.

## Rating of Economy

*Q. Australia is currently experiencing a boom in the mining industry. Apart from mining, how would you rate the rest of Australia's economy?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
<b>Total good</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Total poor</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Very good	4%	6%	2%	8%
Good	27%	38%	19%	41%
Average	40%	42%	43%	34%
Poor	18%	9%	23%	15%
Very poor	8%	3%	12%	2%
Don't know	3%	2%	2%	1%

31% rate the Australian economy (excluding mining) as good and 26% rate it poor. 40% rate it average. Labor voters (44% good/26% poor) and Greens voters (49%/17%) are most positive about the economy. Liberal/National voters rate the economy 21% good/35% poor.

36% of those aged 18-34 rate the economy good compared to 25% of those aged 55+.



## Personal Effect of Mining Boom

*Q. Do you think the current mining boom in Australia has benefited you personally?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Yes	16%	18%	18%	19%
No	69%	67%	69%	72%
Don't know	14%	15%	13%	9%

Only 16% agree that they have personally benefited from the mining boom and 69% think they have not benefited.

There was little difference across voter groups.

Those on higher incomes are a little more likely to say they have benefited - 24% of those earning \$1,600+ per week compared to 13% of those earning less than \$1,000 per week.

## **Credibility of Scientists**

*Q. Do you agree or disagree that the current public campaign against action on climate change in Australia is undermining the credibility of scientists and science research in general?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
<b>Total agree</b>	32%	43%	26%	44%
<b>Total disagree</b>	23%	14%	29%	31%
Strongly agree	12%	15%	10%	22%
Agree	20%	28%	16%	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	30%	29%	33%	19%
Disagree	15%	10%	18%	21%
Strongly disagree	8%	4%	11%	10%
Don't know	15%	13%	12%	6%

32% agree that the current public campaign against action on climate change in Australia is undermining the credibility of scientists and science research in general and 23% disagree. 45% either don't know or neither agree nor disagree.

Those most likely to agree were Labor voters (43%), Greens voters (44%) and those aged 18-34 (39%).

**Attitude to Scientific Evidence for Climate Change**

*Q. Which of the following statements best reflects your attitude to doubts recently expressed by opponents of action on climate change about the science evidence?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Doubts are valid because nothing is certain in science	15%	14%	18%	9%
Doubts are valid because man made climate change has not been proven	29%	15%	43%	11%
Doubts are misleading because the science evidence of man made climate change is overwhelming	21%	33%	14%	36%
Doubts are misleading because the science evidence has been rigorously tested and reviewed	11%	15%	7%	27%
Don't know	23%	24%	17%	17%

Overall, 44% believe doubts about the science evidence for climate change are valid (mainly because man made climate change has not been proven) and 33% think doubts are misleading (mainly because the science evidence of man made climate change is overwhelming).

Those most likely to think the doubts are valid were Liberal/National voters (61%), men (50%), aged 55+ (59%) and incomes under \$600pw (54%).

Those most likely to think doubts are misleading were Greens voters (63%), Labor voters (48%) and those on incomes over \$1,600pw (41%).



## **Appendix One – Methodology**

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership. Senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behavior.

Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week by week basis since November 2007. Each Monday, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical. From there a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated each week (such as political preference and social perspective), while others are unique to each week and reflect prominent media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self-managed consumer online panel of over 100,000 members. The majority of panel members have been recruited using off line methodologies, effectively ruling out concerns associated with online self-selection. Your Source has validation methods in place that prevent panelist over use and ensure member authenticity. Your Source randomly selects 18+ males and females (with the aim of targeting 50/50 males/females) from its Australia wide panel. An invitation is sent out to approximately 7000 – 8000 of their panel members. The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ responses. The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Tuesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points.

EMC uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

