



4 March 2013



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With data supplied by



About the Poll

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The survey was conducted online from the 28th February to 3rd March and is based on 1,039 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on the Greens, firmness of vote and the mining tax. The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 10.

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 = 1,894 respondents

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 5/2/13	2 weeks ago 18/2/13	Last week 25/2/13	This week 4/3/13
Liberal		45%	44%	46%	46%
National		3%	3%	3%	3%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	48%	47%	49%	49%
Labor	38.0%	34%	35%	34%	32%
Greens	11.8%	10%	9%	9%	10%
Other/Independent	6.6%	8%	8%	8%	8%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	49.9%	54%	54%	56%	56%
Labor	50.1%	46%	46%	44%	44%

NB. The data in the above tables comprise 2-week averages derived from the first preference/leaning to voting questions. Respondents who select 'don't know' are not included in the results. The two-party preferred estimate is calculated by distributing the votes of the other parties according to their preferences at the 2010 election. These estimates have a confidence interval of approx. plus or minus 2-3%.

Greens Agreement with Labor Government

Q. The Greens have announced an end to their formal arrangement to support Labor in Government. Do you think this decision is good or bad for the Greens and the Labor Party>?

	Total good	Total bad	Very good	Good	Neither good nor bad	Bad	Very bad	Don't know
The Greens	33%	26%	12%	21%	27%	14%	12%	14%
The Labor Party	26%	40%	11%	15%	21%	22%	18%	13%

	Total		Labor voters		Lib/Nat voters		Greens voters	
	Total good	Total bad	Total good	Total bad	Total good	Total bad	Total good	Total bad
The Greens	33%	26%	17%	40%	42%	22%	50%	14%
The Labor Party	26%	40%	43%	27%	20%	49%	16%	58%

33% think that the Greens decision to end to their formal arrangement to support Labor in Government is good for the Greens and 26% think it is bad. 26% think it is good for the Labor Party and 40% think it is bad.

50% of Greens voters think it is good for the Greens and 14% think it is bad.

43% of Labor voters think it is good for the Labor Party and 27% think it is bad.

Among Liberal/National voters, 42% think it is good (and 22% bad) for the Greens while 49% think it is bad (and 20% good) for the Labor Party.

Approval of Christine Milne

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Christine Milne is doing as leader of the Greens?

	7 Nov 12	Total 4 Mar 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total approve	20%	22%	26%	16%	67%
Total disapprove	33%	29%	25%	41%	6%
Strongly approve	2%	3%	4%	1%	16%
Approve	18%	19%	22%	15%	51%
Disapprove	18%	14%	14%	18%	4%
Strongly disapprove	15%	15%	11%	23%	2%
Don't know	47%	48%	50%	44%	27%

22% approve of the job Christine Milne is doing as leader of the Greens and 29% disapprove - nearly half could not give an opinion. This is an improvement since November - from net -13 to -7.

Among Greens voters 67% (down 4%) approve and 6% (up 1%) disapprove.

Performance of the Greens

Q. Do you think the performance of the Greens in Federal Parliament has been good or poor?

	16 Jul 12	7 Nov 12	Total 4 Mar 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total good	17%	16%	17%	21%	8%	62%
Total poor	47%	40%	41%	36%	55%	6%
Very good	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	12%
Good	14%	13%	14%	19%	7%	50%
Neither good nor poor	27%	25%	24%	28%	23%	24%
Poor	19%	18%	18%	23%	20%	6%
Very poor	28%	22%	23%	13%	35%	-
Don't know	10%	19%	18%	15%	13%	8%

17% think the performance of The Greens in Federal Parliament has been good or very good and 41% think it has been poor or very poor. These results are very similar to those of November when this question was last asked.

36% (up 9%) of Labor voters think the Greens' performance has been poor/very poor and 28% (down 4%) neither good nor poor - only 21% (down 1%) think it has been good/very good. 55% (down 6%) of Liberal/National voters think it has been poor/very poor and 62% (down 3%) of Greens voters think it has been good/very good.

Among respondents aged under 35, 22% think The Greens' performance has been good/very good and 27% think it has been poor/very poor.

Greens Policies

Q. Do you think that The Greens' policies are too extreme or do they represent the views of many voters?

	16 Jul 12	7 Nov 12	Total 4 Mar 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Too extreme	53%	47%	52%	48%	68%	7%
Represent the views of many voters	26%	25%	24%	29%	13%	79%
Don't know	21%	28%	24%	23%	19%	15%

52% think The Greens' policies are too extreme and 24% think they represent the views of many voters. Since this question was last asked in November, the percentage thinking they are extreme has increased 5%. This increase is mainly due to more Labor voters thinking the Greens are too extreme, which has increased from 38% to 48%

Those most likely to think The Greens' policies are too extreme were men (61%), aged 55+ (67%) and Liberal/National voters (68%).

Firmness of Vote

Q. Thinking about the Federal election to be held on September 14, which of the following statements best describes you how you will vote?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
I have firmly made up my mind	46%	52%	58%	38%
I am leaning in one direction, but it could change	31%	37%	30%	45%
I haven't made up my mind	16%	9%	7%	16%
Don't know	6%	3%	4%	1%

46% of respondents said they had firmly made up their mind about how they will vote in the September election. 31% say they are leaning in one direction but could change and 22% haven't made up their mind or don't know.

58% of those indicating they would currently vote Liberal/National said they had firmly made up their mind compared to 52% of current Labor voters and only 38% of current Greens voters.

65% of those aged 55+ said they had firmly made up their mind compared to 35% of those aged under 35.

Mining Tax

Q. The Minerals Resource Rent tax (Mining tax) raised \$126 million from the three biggest mining companies in its first six months of operation. Which is closer to your view?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
The mining tax should be dumped	28%	9%	49%	5%
The mining tax should be amended to raise more money	29%	43%	18%	49%
The mining tax should be maintained in its current form	21%	34%	12%	30%
Don't know	21%	14%	21%	15%

Views about what to do with the mining tax were mixed. 29% think it should be amended to raise more money, 21% think it should be maintained in its current form and 28% think it should be dumped.

43% of Labor voters and 49% of Greens voters think it should be amended to raise more money while 49% of Liberal/National voters think it should be dumped. Queensland respondents were more likely to think it should be dumped (35%) while Victorian respondents favoured amending it to raise more money (35%).

Appendix – 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 Wednesday 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.

