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15 – 31 Pelham Street
Carlton
Victoria 3053
Phone 03 9929 9903
Mobile 0416 121 969

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 23rd to 26th May and is based on 1,045 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on handling the economy, the carbon tax and the mining tax, education reforms and climate change.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 11.

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 = 1,906 respondents

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 29/4/13	2 weeks ago 13/5/13	Last week 20/5/13	This week 27/5/13
Liberal		45%	44%	45%	45%
National		3%	3%	3%	3%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	48%	48%	48%	48%
Labor	38.0%	34%	34%	35%	34%
Greens	11.8%	9%	9%	8%	8%
Other/Independent	6.6%	9%	10%	9%	10%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	49.9%	55%	55%	55%	55%
Labor	50.1%	44%	45%	45%	45%

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%.

Trust to Handle Economy

Q. Who would you trust most to handle Australia's economy - The Treasurer Wayne Swan or the Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey?

	6 May 2013	Total 27 May	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Wayne Swan	32%	28%	64%	7%	39%
Joe Hockey	35%	37%	7%	70%	14%
Don't know	32%	34%	29%	23%	47%

Trust in Joe Hockey to handle the economy has increased since the Federal Budget and trust in Wayne Swan has fallen. 28% (down 4%) trust Wayne Swan more to handle Australia's economy and 37% (up 2%) trust Joe Hockey more.

Those on incomes under \$1,000pw trust Joe Hockey 34%/31% while those earning over \$1,000pw trust Joe Hockey 42%/29%.

Carbon Tax and Mining Tax

Q. In his reply to the budget Tony Abbott said he would dump the carbon tax and the mining tax but still retain the Labor Government's compensation payments to households. If he is elected at the next election what do you think he is most likely to do?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Dump the carbon tax and mining tax and keep the compensation to households	26%	9%	47%	6%
Dump the carbon tax and mining tax but will not keep the compensation to households	29%	35%	27%	35%
He won't dump the carbon tax and mining tax	28%	40%	14%	38%
Don't know	17%	15%	11%	20%

Only 26% think that if Tony Abbott becomes Prime Minister at the next election, he will dump the carbon tax and the mining tax but still retain the Labor Government's compensation payments to households. 29% think he will dump the taxes but will not keep the compensation to households and 28% think he won't dump the taxes.

Only 47% of Liberal/National voters believe he will dump the taxes and keep the compensation.

Dumping the Carbon Tax and Mining Tax

Q. And which option would you most favour?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Dump the carbon tax and mining tax and keep the compensation to households	39%	28%	53%	16%
Dump the carbon tax and mining tax and not keep the compensation to households	20%	6%	34%	12%
Keep the carbon tax and mining tax	27%	53%	6%	62%
Don't know	14%	13%	8%	10%

39% favour dumping the carbon tax and mining tax and keeping the compensation to households, 27% favour keeping the taxes and 20% favour dumping the taxes and not keeping the compensation.

Strongest support for keeping the mining and carbon taxes came from Labor voters (53%), Greens voters (62%) and people on incomes over \$1,600pw (32%).

Strongest support for dumping the taxes and keeping the compensation came from Liberal/National voters (53%) and people on incomes less than \$1,000pw (48%).

Gonski Education Reforms

Q. Tony Abbott has said that, if elected, he will not proceed with the Gonski reforms to education which gives more funds to public schools but he will keep the current system of school funding which he say is working well. Do you think he should implement the Gonski funding reforms or keep the current system?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Implement the Gonski reforms	43%	64%	26%	65%
Keep the current system of school funding	34%	18%	56%	14%
Don't know	22%	18%	18%	22%

43% support implementing the Gonski education funding reforms and 34% support keeping the current system of school funding.

Strongest support for implementing the Gonski reforms came from Labor voters (64%), Greens voters (65%) and people aged 25-44 (49%).

Strongest support for keeping the current system came from Liberal/National voters (56%) and people aged 65+ (55%).

Climate Change

Q. Do you believe that there is fairly conclusive evidence that climate change is happening and caused by human activity or do you believe that the evidence is still not in and we may just be witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate which happens from time to time?

	Nov 09	Dec 10	30 May 11	14 Jun	15 Oct 12	29 Jan 13	Total 27 May	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Climate change is happening and is caused by human activity	53%	45%	52%	50%	48%	51%	51%	68%	38%	83%
We are just witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate	34%	36%	36%	39%	39%	40%	35%	23%	50%	10%
Don't know	13%	19%	12%	12%	13%	9%	14%	9%	12%	8%

51% agree that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity and 35% believe that we may just be witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate. This is a five point decline in those thinking it is just a fluctuation in the earth's climate since this question was previously asked in January.

By age groups, those aged under 35 split 60%/22% and those aged 55+ split 42%/49%. People on higher incomes were more likely to think climate change is happening and is caused by human activity - those earning under \$600pw split 42%/44% while those earning over \$1,600pw split 54%/34%.

Carbon Pricing

Q. Do you support or oppose the Government's carbon pricing scheme which was introduced in July 2012 and requires industries to pay a tax based on the amount of carbon pollution they emit?

	7 Mar 2011	14 June	19 Sep	21 Nov	25 Jun 2012	2 Oct	29 Jan 2013	Total 27 May	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total support	35%	38%	37%	38%	35%	38%	37%	43%	70%	22%	79%
Total oppose	48%	49%	52%	53%	54%	48%	50%	43%	18%	69%	12%
Strongly support	9%	13%	14%	14%	14%	12%	11%	15%	30%	4%	34%
Support	26%	25%	23%	24%	21%	26%	26%	28%	40%	18%	45%
Oppose	19%	19%	17%	17%	19%	22%	22%	20%	12%	28%	5%
Strongly oppose	29%	30%	35%	36%	35%	26%	28%	23%	6%	41%	7%
Don't know	18%	13%	12%	10%	11%	14%	12%	13%	12%	9%	9%

Support for carbon pricing has increased significantly since the last time the question was polled in January. Support is up six points to 43% and opposition down seven points to 43%.

Looking at the results by voting intention, Labor voters (70%) and Greens voters (79%) were the most likely to support carbon pricing, whereas 69% of Coalition voters oppose it.

Younger respondents were more likely to support carbon pricing than older respondents - for those aged under 35, 52% support and 25% oppose while 56% of those aged 55+ oppose and 39% support.

Climate Change Policies

Q. If they win the election the Liberal Party plans to dump the carbon tax and replace it with what they call a “direct action” plan which involves planting trees and paying companies to reduce their carbon pollution. Which approach to climate change would you favour?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
The Government’s tax on the largest polluting companies to encourage them to reduce carbon pollution	39%	67%	20%	63%
The Liberal’s policy to plant trees and pay companies to reduce carbon pollution	29%	9%	49%	15%
Neither	18%	11%	23%	14%
Don’t know	14%	13%	8%	8%

39% favour the Government’s policy on addressing climate change and 29% favour the Liberal Party’s “direct action” plan. 18% do not support either approach.

The Government’s approach had strongest support from Labor voters (67%), Greens voters (63%) and people aged under 35 (44%).

The Liberal Party’s plan had strongest support from Liberal/National voters (49%) and people aged 65+ (45%).

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.

