

The Essential Report

24 November 2019



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



AMSRS 

Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.



About this poll

This report summarises the results of a fortnightly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Qualtrics. The survey was conducted online from 21st November 2019 to 24th November 2019 and is based on 1,083 respondents.

This week's report includes questions about climate change, recent bushfires and Medivac laws.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix at the end of the report.

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

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'19	Mar'19	Oct'18	Sep'17	Aug'16
Climate change is happening and is caused by human activity	61%	62%	63%	64%	57%
We are just witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth’s climate	28%	27%	25%	24%	26%
Don't know	11%	12%	13%	12%	17%
Base (n)	1,083	1,089	1,027	1,011	1,022

	Total	Gender		Age			Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Climate change is happening and is caused by human activity	61%	59%	63%	74%	61%	50%	74%	47%	89%	44%
We are just witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth’s climate	28%	32%	25%	18%	25%	41%	16%	43%	1%	48%
Don't know	11%	9%	12%	8%	15%	9%	10%	10%	10%	7%
Base (n)	1,083	527	556	329	369	385	342	373	93	162



- 61% believe that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity. This is consistent with previous results in Mar'19 (62%) and Oct'18 (63%).
- 28% believe that we may just be witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate, no change from earlier in the year (27% in March).
- By age groups, those aged 18-34 were most likely to believe in man-made climate change (74%) and those over 55+ least so (50%).
- Less than half of Coalition votes (47%) believe that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity.



Addressing Climate Change

Q As far as you know, do you think Australia is doing enough, not enough or too much to address climate change?

	Nov'19	Mar'19	Dec'18	Oct'18	Sep'17	Aug'16
Not doing enough	60%	51%	53%	56%	56%	52%
Doing enough	22%	27%	24%	23%	20%	22%
Doing too much	8%	11%	9%	7%	8%	8%
Don't know	10%	12%	14%	13%	16%	18%
Base (n)	1,083	1,089	1,032	1,027	1,011	1,022

	Total	Gender		Age			Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Not doing enough	60%	57%	63%	69%	59%	53%	72%	46%	87%	48%
Doing enough	22%	24%	20%	19%	19%	28%	13%	35%	3%	27%
Doing too much	8%	11%	6%	5%	9%	11%	5%	12%	1%	17%
Don't know	10%	8%	12%	8%	13%	9%	10%	8%	9%	8%
Base (n)	1,083	527	556	329	369	385	342	373	93	162

- 60% now think Australia is not doing enough to address climate change, this has increased from 51% in March 2019.
- Those people most likely to think Australia was not doing enough include young people aged 18-34 (69%), Greens voters (87%) and Labor voters (72%).



Climate change and bushfires

Q Thinking about the bushfires in Queensland and New South Wales, which of the following statements is closest to your view?

	Nov'19	Oct'13
It is likely that the bushfires are linked to climate change and it is appropriate to publicly raise this issue	43%	27%
It is likely that the bushfires are linked to climate change but it is inappropriate to publicly raise this issue at this time	17%	14%
It is unlikely the bushfires are linked to climate change	30%	48%
Don't know	11%	11%
Base (n)	1,083	1,075



	Total	Gender		Age			Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
It is likely that the bushfires are linked to climate change and it is appropriate to publicly raise this issue	43%	39%	46%	54%	41%	35%	53%	31%	73%	30%
It is likely that the bushfires are linked to climate change but it is inappropriate to publicly raise this issue at this this time	17%	22%	12%	22%	17%	13%	19%	20%	7%	13%
It is unlikely the bushfires are linked to climate change	30%	29%	30%	15%	29%	43%	19%	40%	6%	50%
Don't know	11%	9%	12%	9%	13%	9%	9%	9%	13%	7%
Base (n)	1,083	527	556	329	369	385	342	373	93	162

- 43% now think It likely that the bushfires are linked to climate change and it is appropriate to publicly raise this issue. When this question was last asked in 2013, 27% gave this answer.
- The proportion of people who think it is likely that the bushfires are linked to climate change but it is inappropriate to publicly raise this issue at this this time has remained fairly constant. 17% saying this in 2019, and 14% in 2013.
- Those least likely to think bushfires are linked to climate change and it is appropriate to publicly raise this issue are Coalition (31%) and other minor party and independent voters (31%).



Medivac Bill

Q Earlier this year, the Federal Parliament passed legislation to allow doctors, not politicians, more say in determining the appropriate medical treatment offered to people in offshore detention. This may include medical evacuation (Medivac) transfer to Australia if necessary.

Which of the following statements most closely aligns with your views of this legislation?

	Nov'19	Sep'19	Feb'19
This legislation does not go far enough to provide humane treatment for people in offshore detention	25%	23%	16%
This legislation strikes a balance between strong borders and humane treatment for people in offshore detention	37%	41%	38%
This legislation will weaken our borders and result in boats arriving in Australia as they have in the past	22%	20%	30%
Unsure	17%	18%	16%
Base (n)	1,083	1,093	1,085



	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
This legislation does not go far enough to provide humane treatment for people in offshore detention	25%	24%	26%	28%	26%	21%
This legislation strikes a balance between strong borders and humane treatment for people in offshore detention	37%	39%	35%	42%	34%	35%
This legislation will weaken our borders and result in boats arriving in Australia as they have in the past	22%	23%	20%	10%	21%	33%
Unsure	17%	14%	19%	20%	20%	11%
Base (n)	1,083	527	556	329	369	385

	Total	Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
This legislation does not go far enough to provide humane treatment for people in offshore detention	25%	33%	15%	51%	19%
This legislation strikes a balance between strong borders and humane treatment for people in offshore detention	37%	38%	44%	29%	27%
This legislation will weaken our borders and result in boats arriving in Australia as they have in the past	22%	14%	29%	6%	39%
Unsure	17%	15%	12%	15%	15%
Base (n)	1,083	342	373	93	162



- A quarter of people (25%) believe that the Medivac legislation does not go far enough to provide humane treatment for people in offshore detention. This has increased from earlier this year in February, when just 16% believed so.
- 37% believe that the Medivac legislation strikes a balance between strong borders and humane treatment for people in offshore detention – the same level as in Feb'19 (38%).



Appendix: Household income definitions*

NET: Lower Income	Up to \$51,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
NET: Mid Income	\$52,000 to \$103,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
NET: High Income	More than \$104,000 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)

Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus conducted by Qualtrics.

Every two weeks, the team at Essential considers issues that are topical, and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect current media and social issues.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting.

The online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants. Essential Research 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.

All Essential Research staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.

