

# The Essential Report

28 January 2020



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**Prepared By:** Essential Research

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**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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and is based on 1,080 respondents.

This week's report includes questions about Australia day, ministerial conduct and policies to address climate change.

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.

## Australia Day

Q Will you personally be doing anything to celebrate Australia Day or do you treat it as just a public holiday?

	Total	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+	Jan'19	Jan '17	Jan '16	Jan '15
Doing something to celebrate Australia Day	<b>34%</b>	32%	32%	37%	40%	34%	38%	40%
Just a public holiday	<b>46%</b>	50%	46%	43%	45%	46%	44%	41%
Working – I don't get the Australia Day holiday	<b>6%</b>	8%	3%	3%	6%	5%	6%	7%
Don't know	<b>14%</b>	9%	14%	17%	9%	15%	12%	12%
Base (n)	<b>1,080</b>	330	374	376	1,652			

- 34% said they will be doing something to celebrate Australia Day, 46% treat Australia Day as just a public holiday and 6% are working because they don't get the Australia Day holiday.
- People aged 18-34 were less likely to be engaging in specific celebrations to mark the National Day compared to last year (32%, down from 45% in 2019).



## National Day

Q It has been suggested that Australia should have a separate national day to recognise Indigenous Australians. Do you...?

	Jan '20	Jan'19	Oct '18
Support a separate day and keep Australia Day	32%	37%	36%
Support a separate day to replace Australia Day	18%	15%	14%
NET: Support a separate day	50%	52%	50%
Do not support a separate day	40%	40%	37%
Don't know	11%	8%	12%
Base (n)	1,080	1,652	

	Total	Labor	Liberal + National	Greens	NET: Other
Support a separate day and keep Australia Day	<b>32%</b>	38%	28%	32%	32%
Support a separate day to replace Australia Day	<b>18%</b>	20%	12%	42%	9%
NET: Support a separate day	<b>50%</b>	58%	40%	73%	42%
Do not support a separate day	<b>40%</b>	29%	54%	15%	53%
Don't know	<b>11%</b>	13%	6%	12%	5%
Base (n)	<b>1,080</b>	351	342	110	156

- Support for a separate day to recognise Indigenous Australians (either in place, or alongside Australia Day) has decreased 2%pts from last year, from 52% to 50%.
- 32% support including a separate national day with a further 18% supporting a replacement of Australia Day.
- Support for a separate day was highest among Greens (73%) and Labor (58%) voters.



	Total	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+
Support a separate day and keep Australia Day	<b>32%</b>	41%	32%	25%
Support a separate day to replace Australia Day	<b>18%</b>	24%	18%	11%
NET: Support a separate day	<b>50%</b>	65%	50%	36%
Do not support a separate day	<b>40%</b>	21%	37%	57%
Don't know	<b>11%</b>	14%	13%	6%
Base (n)	<b>1,080</b>	330	374	376

- Support for a separate day was highest among those aged 18-34, with 65% support. Support was at 50% support among 35-54 year olds and 36% among those aged over 55.

## Ministerial Conduct

- Q Over the past few weeks the Opposition has been raising concern about the conduct of Deputy Nationals leader Bridget McKenzie. It is claimed she allocated \$100million to sporting organisations in marginal seats to favour the Coalition in the 2019 Federal election. Which of the following best describes your perspective on the issue?

	Jan'20	Dec'19 Following Angus Taylor and Sydney Lord Mayor
The Prime Minister should have stood the Minister down from Cabinet	51%	35%
The Prime Minister was right not to stand the Minister down from Cabinet	15%	17%
I have not been following the issue	34%	48%
Base (n)	1,080	1,035



	Total	Federal Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
The Prime Minister should have stood the Minister down from Cabinet	<b>51%</b>	67%	41%	51%	51%
The Prime Minister was right not to stand the Minister down from Cabinet	<b>15%</b>	7%	27%	10%	15%
I have not been following the issue	<b>34%</b>	27%	32%	40%	34%
Base (n)	<b>1,080</b>	351	342	110	156

- One-third (34%) of participants have not been following the issue of Bridget McKenzie and the allocation of Sports grants.
- Half of participants believe the Prime Minister should have stood the Minister down from cabinet over the issue (51%), while just 15% believe Scott Morrison was correct to support his colleague.
- Coalition voters are least likely to say that the PM should have stood the Minister down (41%).



## Federal ICAC

Q To what extent would you support or oppose the establishment of an independent federal corruption body to monitor the behaviour of our politicians and public servants?

	Jan'20	Dec'19	Sep'18
Strongly support	<b>49%</b>	42%	46%
Support	<b>31%</b>	33%	36%
Oppose	<b>5%</b>	7%	4%
Strongly oppose	<b>2%</b>	2%	1%
Unsure	<b>13%</b>	17%	14%
<b>NET: Support</b>	<b>80%</b>	75%	82%
<b>NET: Oppose</b>	<b>7%</b>	8%	5%
Base (n)	<b>1,080</b>	1,035	1,030

	Total	Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Strongly support	<b>49%</b>	56%	42%	53%	56%
Support	<b>31%</b>	29%	38%	28%	20%
Oppose	<b>5%</b>	4%	6%	3%	6%
Strongly oppose	<b>2%</b>	1%	3%	2%	5%
Unsure	<b>13%</b>	9%	11%	14%	13%
<b>NET: Support</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>NET: Oppose</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Base (n)	1,080	351	342	110	156

- 80% of participants support the establishment of an independent federal corruption body to monitor the behaviour of our politicians and public servants.
- Support is higher than late last year when the same question was asked in conjunction with the conduct of Angus Taylor and the use of inflated figures that Mr Taylor's office used to attack the travel record of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore (75% in Dec'19).



## Climate Change Policy Proposals

Q To what extent would you support or oppose the following policy proposals if they were adopted by the Federal Government?

	NET: Support	NET: Oppose	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Accelerate development of new industries and jobs that are powered by renewable energy	<b>81%</b>	<b>19%</b>	41%	40%	12%	7%
Setting a zero-carbon pollution target for 2050	<b>71%</b>	<b>29%</b>	32%	39%	18%	12%
Requiring mining companies to fund bushfire hazard reduction	<b>68%</b>	<b>32%</b>	25%	43%	21%	11%
Remove taxpayer funded subsidies to the fossil fuel industry	<b>68%</b>	<b>32%</b>	30%	38%	22%	11%
Setting a zero-carbon pollution target for 2030	<b>64%</b>	<b>36%</b>	26%	38%	21%	15%
Ban all political donations from fossil fuel companies	<b>62%</b>	<b>38%</b>	28%	34%	25%	13%
Prevention of new coal mines opening in Australia	<b>62%</b>	<b>38%</b>	27%	35%	23%	16%

NET: SUPPORT	Voting Intention				
	Total	Labor	Liberal + National	Greens	NET: Other
Accelerate development of new industries and jobs that are powered by renewable energy	<b>81%</b>	86%	75%	87%	77%
Setting a zero-carbon pollution target for 2050	<b>71%</b>	81%	56%	89%	62%
Requiring mining companies to fund bushfire hazard reduction	<b>68%</b>	78%	54%	76%	68%
Remove taxpayer funded subsidies to the fossil fuel industry	<b>68%</b>	77%	56%	83%	64%
Setting a zero-carbon pollution target for 2030	<b>64%</b>	77%	47%	87%	52%
Ban all political donations from fossil fuel companies	<b>62%</b>	72%	48%	79%	57%
Prevention of new coal mines opening in Australia	<b>62%</b>	70%	48%	84%	51%
Base (n)	<b>1,080</b>	351	342	110	156

- 81% of participants support the accelerated development of new industries and jobs that are powered by renewable energy and 71% support a zero-carbon pollution target to be set for 2050.
- Support for all policies was higher among Labor and greens voters, and lower among Coalition.



## 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.

