

Responsibility, performance & leadership

Climate of the Nation 2016 • September 2016

A growing majority of Australians want their nation to be a world leader in climate change solutions.

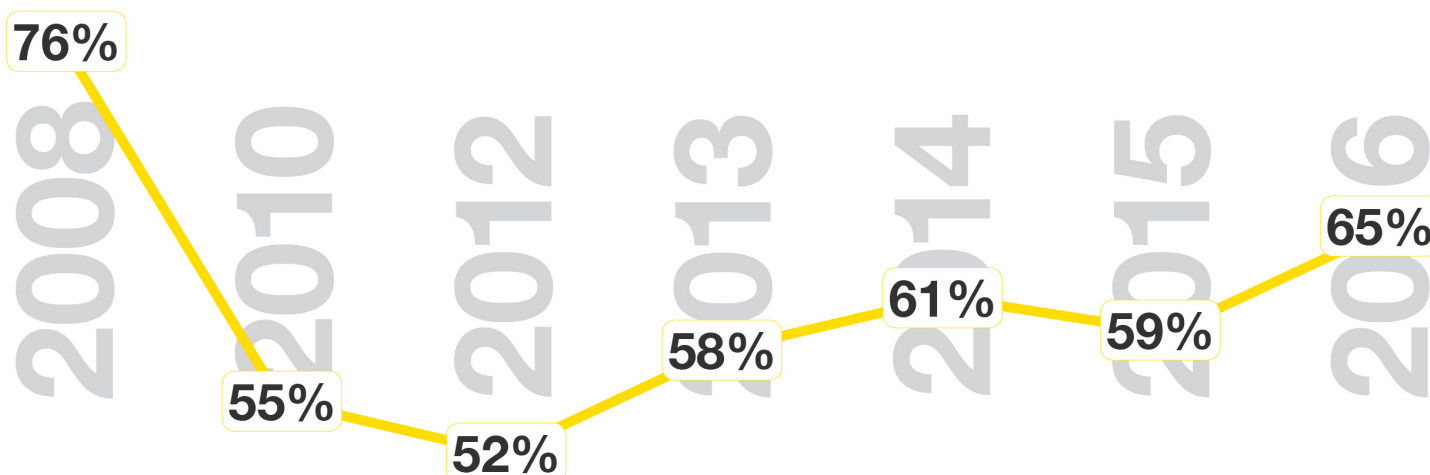
- + This result has been on a rise over the last few years, from 2012 when the carbon price began and the sky didn't fall, to its current highest level since 2008. See *Figure 1*. 65 per cent hold this view, up from 59 per cent in 2015.

Australians ranked the federal government (67 per cent) as having the most responsibility to take a leading role in addressing climate change, up 11 points from 2014.

- + Just 3 per cent think the federal government should take no action on climate change, down from 8 per cent in 2014. 23 per cent think it should play a contributing role.
- + Australians see state and territory government as second most responsible (47 per cent, up 6 per cent on 2014).
- + But while the federal government is seen as most responsible for action, views on its performance are significantly lower. Only 19 per cent say performance is "fairly good or excellent," while 33 per cent say it's "fairly poor or terrible".
- + Business and industry's performance is rated poorly with 36 per cent saying it has been "fairly poor or terrible" Only media scores as badly. See *Figure 2*.

FIGURE 1

Australians who want their nation to be a world leader in climate change solutions.



Awareness of the Paris Agreement are low, with only half of Australians saying they are aware of the Paris Agreement.

- + Older Australians (ages 65+ years) are much more aware (72 per cent) compared to members of Gen X and Millennials (39 per cent each).
- + A third of all – 33 per cent – say that they are not aware of the Paris Agreement and 18 per cent don't know.

Once explained, support for last year's Paris outcomes are strong, agreeing on the need for a serious policy plan to deliver on the commitments it made as part of the historic Paris Climate Agreement to achieve net zero emissions.

- + 67 per cent think this should happen, with 29 per cent in strong agreement.

The clear message from Australians is: don't wait for others to start making changes.

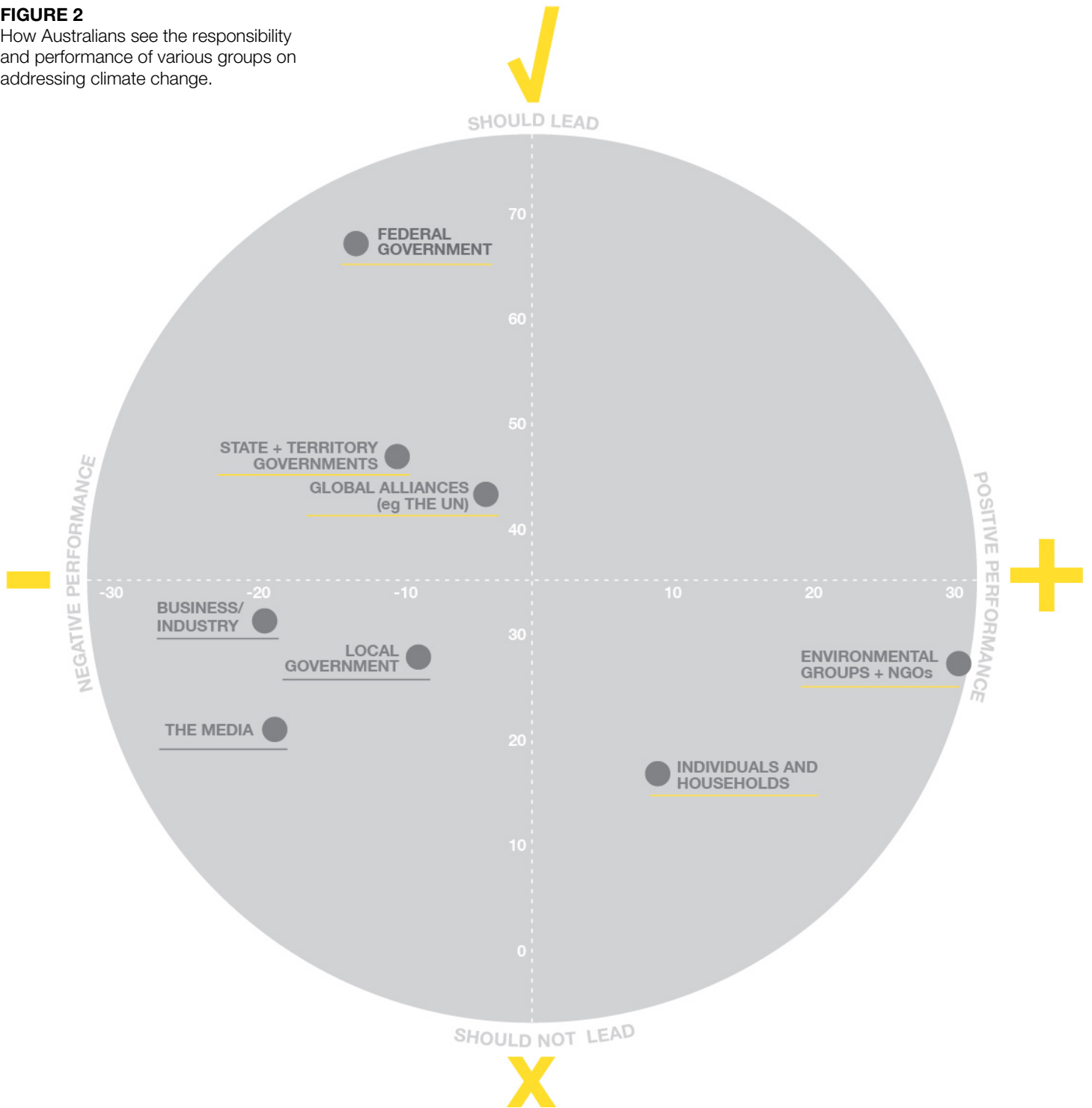
- + 59 per cent disagree (including 25 per cent strongly disagree) that Australia should not act until other emitters like US and China do so.
- + 57 per cent disagree (including 21 per cent strongly disagree) that Australia should wait for other countries before we strengthen our post 2020 emissions reduction target.

Majority of Australians agree with the statement that "Australia needs to help developing countries decrease their carbon emissions and adapt for the impacts of climate change".

- + 55 per cent agree, up from 54 per cent in 2014.

FIGURE 2

How Australians see the responsibility and performance of various groups on addressing climate change.



This year's results are based on a nationally representative online survey conducted by Galaxy Research 29 July – 7 August 2016 among 2,015 Australians aged 18+. The maximum margin of error on a sample of 2015 interviews is +/- 2.9 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level. Margins of error will be larger for sub-samples.

For more information visit:

[www.climateinstitute.org.au/
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