

Variations of views by gender and age demographics

Climate of the Nation 2016 • September 2016

On certain issues, there is a statistically significant divergence of 5 per cent or more between the number of women and men who hold a certain attitude, and between different age groups – though less so than in previous years. These differences include:

Gender:

- + More women are concerned about climate change: 76 compared to 68 per cent of men. Also, more women think Australia is experiencing “a lot” of the impacts of climate change (37 per cent) than men (29 per cent).
- + More men than women disagree that climate change is occurring (11 vs 6 per cent).
- + More men agree that the seriousness of climate change is exaggerated (32 compared to 22 per cent of women).
- + Women are more concerned about various impacts of climate change than men, including:
 - + More water shortages (77 vs 65 per cent)
 - + More droughts and flooding affecting crop production and food supply (87 vs 76 per cent)
 - + Destruction of the Great Barrier Reef (88 vs 76 per cent)
 - + Rising sea level threats to coastal communities (80 vs 65 per cent)
 - + More bushfires (85 vs 71 per cent)
 - + Impacts on health, e.g. heatwaves, mosquito born viruses (82 vs 70 per cent)
- + 77 per cent of women think that it is inevitable that Australia's current coal-fired generation will need to be replaced, compared to 68 per cent of men.
- + More men disagree with the statement, “State governments shouldn’t act ahead of the federal government on renewable energy (43 per cent) than women (34 per cent).

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% at the 95% confidence level. Margins of error will be larger for sub-samples.

For more information visit: www.climateinstitute.org.au

Younger Australians aged 18 to 34:

- + More agree that climate change is occurring (83 vs 76 per cent of 35 to 54 year olds and 73 per cent of people aged 55 and over).
- + More are concerned about climate change (78 of 18 to 34 year olds compared to 72 per cent of 35 to 54 year olds and 68 per cent of people aged 55 and over).
- + More think climate change is caused by human activity with 41 per cent holding this view compared to only 31 per cent of people aged 35 to 54 and 23 per cent of people aged 55 and over.
- + More trust the science that suggests the climate is changing due to human activities, with 69 per cent saying this compared to 60 per cent of 35 to 54 year olds and 51 per cent of those aged 55 and over.

Australians aged 55 and over:

- + Of the people who agree that climate change is occurring, more think that climate change is due to a mixture of human causes and natural cycles: 58 per cent of those aged 55 and over holding this view compared to 50 per cent of Australians aged between 35 and 54, and 46 per cent of those aged between 18 and 34.
- + More agree that governments need to implement a plan to ensure the orderly closure of old coal-fired power plants and replace them with clean energy: 79 per cent of those aged 55 and over hold this view, compared to 74 per cent those aged 35 to 54 and 71 per cent of those aged 18 to 34.
- + More are aware of the Paris climate change conference (67 per cent), rising to 72 per cent among those aged 65 and over, than people aged 35 to 54 (43 per cent) and those aged 18 to 34 (39 per cent).
- + More think Australia should implement policies that protect vulnerable people and natural systems from unavoidable climate change (75 per cent) than people aged 18 to 34 (66 per cent).