

Australian views on the Renewable Energy Target and the ideal energy mix

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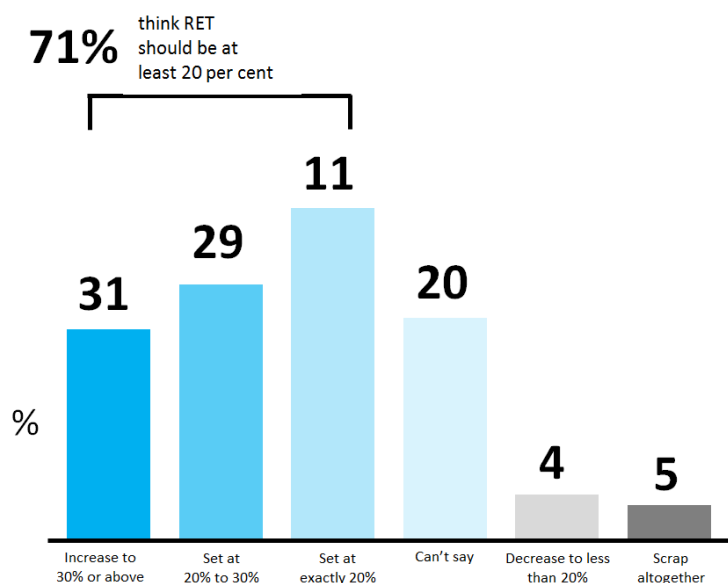
Australians overwhelmingly support the Renewable Energy Target (RET).

Around 6 in 10 Australians believe that the RET should be above 20% by 2020, even when given information that said: “opponents of the scheme say the Renewable Energy Target is a subsidy that drives up electricity bills, while supporters says that it has helped create jobs and has tripled Australia’s wind and solar energy since 2009.”

An additional 1 in 10 Australians agree that the target should be set “at exactly 20%”.

Fewer than 1 in 10 think that the target should be lower than 20% or abolished.

- This is particularly the case among women, only 7% of whom want the RET lowered or abolished.
- There is strong support for a RET greater than 20% across all age groups, with 62% of young voters, 56% of 35-54 year olds and 61% of voters over 55 supporting the RET.



Australians want a cleaner energy sector and women are leading the charge.

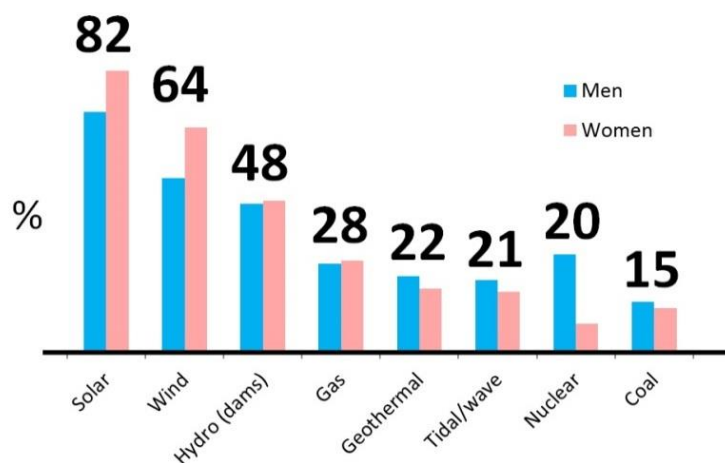
Around 8 in 10 Australians prefer renewable energy sources to coal, gas and nuclear. Support for renewable energy is slightly stronger among women (85%).

Solar is the most preferred energy source for 57% of Australians and 82% ranked it in their top three choices.

- Support for solar strengthens among women with 65% ranking it their top energy choice and 89% in their top three.

Energy derived from wind was the second most preferred option, with 64% ranking it in their top three preferred energy sources.

- Again, that support increases among women with 71% ranking wind in their top three preferred energy sources.



Coal is the least preferred energy source. Only 15% of Australians ranked coal as one of their three most preferred energy sources, even lower than nuclear (20%).

A significant majority agree state governments should do more to incentivise renewable energy.

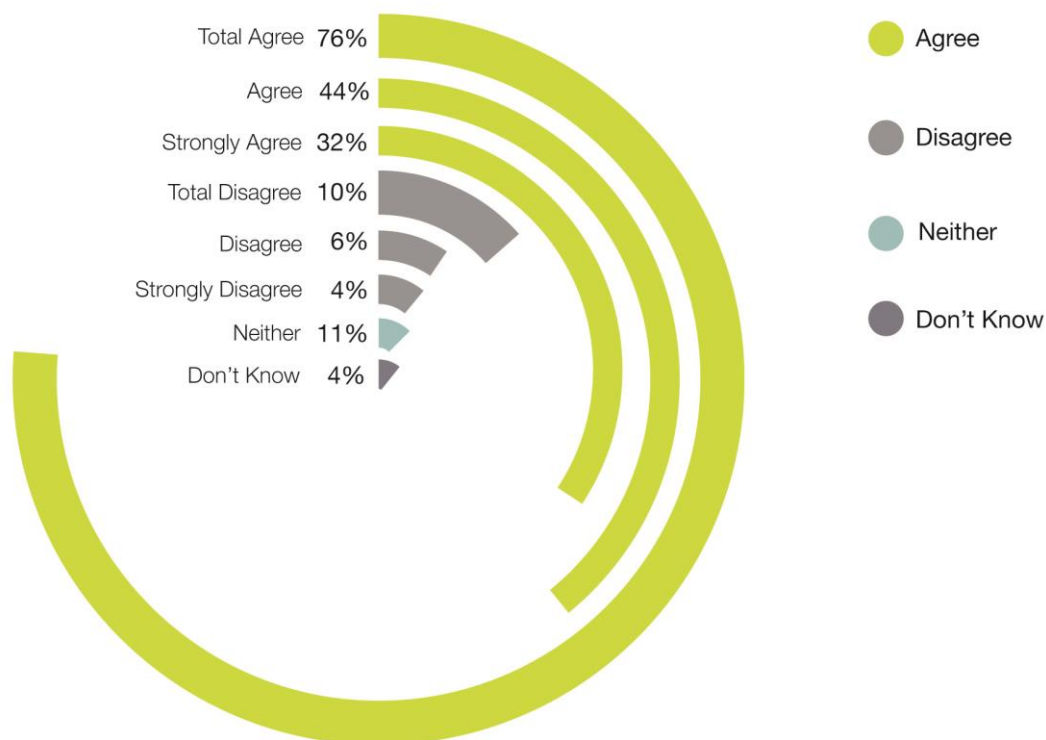
76% agree that states should be doing more; only 10% disagree, 11% say neither and 4% are unsure.

- o A slightly higher proportion of regional Australians (79%) hold this view compared to their city counterparts (74%).

Women are particularly keen to see their state governments act.

- o Women (82%) are more likely than men (69%) to agree with incentives for more renewable energy.

“To what extent do you agree that State Governments should be putting in place incentives for more renewable energy, like wind farms?”



New South Wales

- + 70% think the NSW government should be doing more to incentivise renewable energy solutions.
- + 76% rate solar in their top three preferred energy sources and 60% rate wind in their top three.

Queensland

- + 78% believe the Queensland government should be doing more to incentivise renewable energy solutions.
- + 87% of Queenslanders chose solar as one of their top three preferred energy sources.
- + 63% of Queenslanders rate wind in their top three preferred energy sources.

Victoria

- + 71% believe the Victorian government should be doing more to incentivise renewable energy solutions.
- + 81% rate solar in their top three preferred energy sources and 63% rate wind in their top three.

Other states

- + 87% of Australians in other states agree that their state governments should be doing more to incentivise renewable energy solutions.
- + 89% rate solar in their top three preferred energy sources compared with 70% wind and only 11% coal.

This year's results are based on a nationally representative online survey conducted by JWS Research 16-20 May 2014 among 1,145 Australians aged 18+. The maximum margin of error on a sample of 1,145 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