

The Carbon Laws: Public polling on repeal

23 June 2013

Recent national polling shows that there is no support for the claim that the Federal election is a ‘referendum on the carbon laws’. It also shows that more Australians oppose a double dissolution on the laws than support one.

The findings come from a nationally representative JWS Research online poll of 1,009 Australians, conducted 1-7 June 2013, and commissioned by The Climate Institute.

Key findings include:

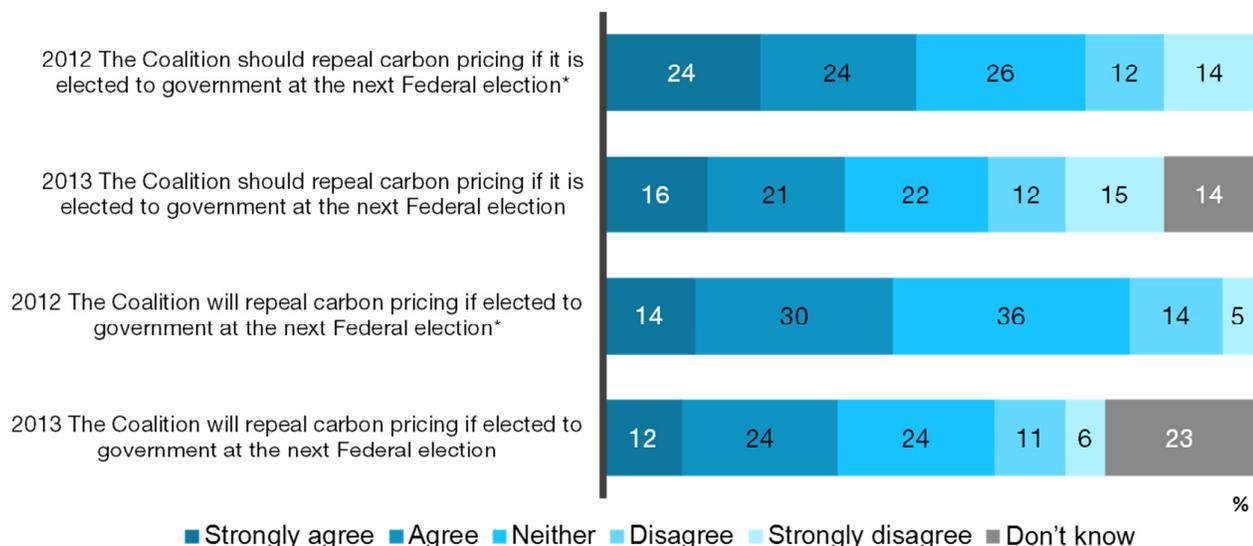
Only a third (37 per cent) of Australians believe that the Coalition should repeal carbon pricing if it is elected to government at the next Federal election. That is down from 48 per cent in an Ipsos poll in late May 2012, as reported last July in the *Climate of the Nation 2012* report.

- No demographic, state or region had a majority backing repeal. Men are more likely to support repeal than women. 41 per cent of those backing repeal are men, compared to 33 per cent of women.

- Asked if they think that the Coalition *will* repeal carbon pricing if elected to government at the next Federal election, again more men agree than women, at 42 vs 30 per cent. But again neither category has this in the majority.
- People living in rural and regional areas are slightly more likely to want to see repeal than people living in cities, with 40 per cent of rural residents answering “yes” compared to 35 per cent in cities. Similar numbers disagreed.
- Victoria is the least likely to support repeal (34 per cent) with NSW the most likely (39 per cent), neither statistically significantly different from the national average.

There is no mandate for a double dissolution if the Coalition fails to get the carbon laws abolished, with considerably more people against a double dissolution election (43 per cent) than for one (34 per cent).

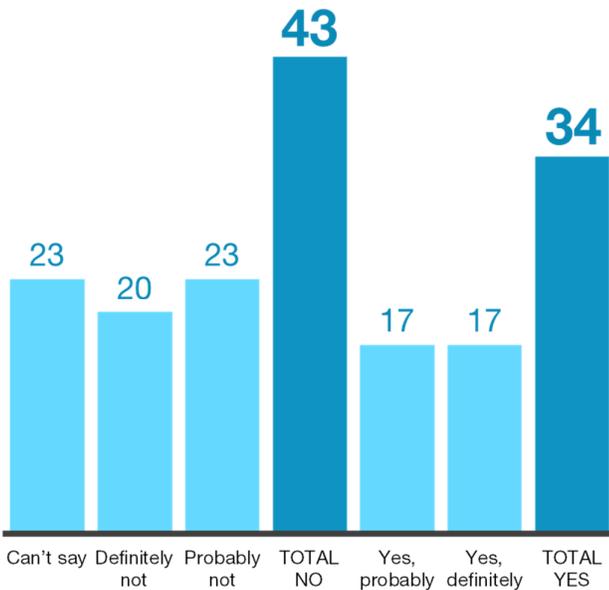
- Less women than men are willing to go to double dissolution to achieve repeal. Some 39 per cent of men said yes, compared to only 29 per cent of women. In both cases more, 43 per cent for each, opposed repeal.



*Don't Know was not a category code given in 2012

- Queensland is the state most strongly opposed to a double dissolution (45 per cent no to 30 per cent for), with NSW closer (40 per cent opposing and 38 per cent supporting).
- While slightly the strongest age demographic in support of repeal (38 per cent), those over 55 are the strongest in opposition to a double dissolution (50 per cent oppose, 34 per cent support)
- People in households earning \$60,000 or more are slightly more likely to oppose going double dissolution than those in lower income households. Nearly half – 46 per cent – of higher earners oppose double dissolution compared to 39 per cent of lower income earners.

If the Coalition wins the next election, but cannot get the carbon pricing laws abolished, do you think they should force another election for both houses of Parliament to abolish the carbon pricing laws?



For Coalition voters, the top concerns about Labor are economic mismanagement, its perceived broken lies and promises generally and Julia Gillard's 'carbon tax lie'. The carbon tax itself was further down a list of issues including waste of taxpayers' money and dislike of policies generally.

- Among those worried about the mismanagement of the economy, Queenslanders are most concerned, with 48 per cent, compared to 41 per cent between the territories, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australian, 39 per cent in Victoria, and 27 per cent in NSW.
- Among those who said they generally don't like Labor's policies and approach, the strongest sense is among people between 35 and 54 years old (20 per cent). Some 15 per cent of older people, over 55, dislike general policies, compared to only 9 per cent of people between 18 and 34 years old.
- Among those who don't agree with what Labor did to Kevin Rudd or prefer Kevin Rudd as leader, the sentiment was highest among younger people, with 14 per cent of those aged 18-34 identifying this as an issue. This was less of an issue as people got older, with 7 per cent of those between 34-54 bothered and only 4 per cent among those over 55 concerned about it.
- Strongest mention of 'the carbon tax' was among those over 55 (15 per cent) and those from regional or rural areas (16 per cent).

Which of the following are the main reasons you are likely not voting for Labor at the next election?

