Responsibility, performance & credibility in addressing climate change

*Climate of the Nation 2013* • July 2013

**Who should lead?**

Nearly two-thirds (60%) of Australians think that the Federal Government should be taking a leading role in acting on climate change.

Half (51%) think that global alliances and groups such as the United Nations should be responsible for leadership on climate action.

Only 6% of Australians thought that the Federal government should not take action, and only 7% thought that there is no leadership role for international alliances.

**Who should contribute?**

Two-thirds (65%) of Australians think that the lead contributors to addressing climate change should be individuals, households and local communities.

Environmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are ranked next, followed by governments and industry.

+ Australians over 55 are more likely to think that environmental groups and NGOs should take no action on climate change. 11% hold this view compared to 9% of Australians between 35 and 54 years of age, and 7% of youth.

+ Men are also more likely to see no role for those groups: 12% say this compared to 6% of women.

**The special role of the media**

Australians believe that media has the least responsibility for leading on climate action. However, more than half (55%) see a contributing role for the media.

**Performance**

Federal Government and international alliances, who were considered to have most responsibility, each scored a net performance rating of -1. The Federal Government saw the biggest improvement since last year, when its score was -6.

The net difference between positive and negative performance ratings reveals that environmental groups and NGOs were considered to be performing best on addressing climate change with a +29 score, individuals are next with a +9 score, and local communities are third best with a +6 score.

The media and business and industry were the worst performers on addressing climate change receiving performance scores of -20 and -17, respectively.

*This year’s results are based on a nationally representative online survey conducted by JWS Research between June 1-7, 2013 among 1,009 Australians aged 18+. The maximum margin of error on a sample of 1,009 interviews is +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level. Margins of error will be larger for sub-samples. Where possible we have compared results to the 2012 quantitative research conducted by Ipsos, involving a nationally representative online survey of 1,131 Australians aged 18+ conducted between May 23-30, 2012.*