



27/08/2025

Media release

Australians split along political lines on nuclear vs. renewable energy

[Melbourne, 27th August 2025] – Research by the Social Research Centre reveals that **about half of Australians (49%) consider reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 to be very or extremely important. A further 24% said it was ‘somewhat important’.**

However, there is a substantial degree of political polarisation around this subject. 89% of Greens voters and 61% of Labor voters think that it is very or extremely important to reach net zero by 2050, while only 25% of Coalition supporters think this.

Reaching net zero

- Just under half of Australians (45%) think that nuclear is somewhat / very likely to help us to reach our decarbonisation goals by 2050, whereas two thirds of Australians (68%) think that renewables are somewhat or very likely to help us get to net zero in time.
- Greens and Labor supporters were more likely to think that nuclear is not very or not at all likely to help us meet our decarbonisation goals (68% and 69% respectively), compared to Coalition voters (31%). That’s a difference of nearly 40 percentage points.
- Conversely, 90% of Greens voters and 83% of Labor supporters thought that renewables are somewhat or very likely to help us reach our targets, compared to only 50% of Coalition voters. Again, that’s a difference of 33 – 40 percentage points across partisan lines.

Energy bills

- Overall, Australians’ perception of how much their energy bills will be affected by a transition toward nuclear or renewables is very similar across the two energy sources. 36% of Australians thought that energy bills would increase somewhat or a lot under nuclear, while 38% thought this for renewables.
- However, 41% of Greens and 50% of Labor voters thought that nuclear would increase their energy bills somewhat or a lot, while only 24% of Coalition voters thought the same.
- Similarly, 55% of Coalition voters thought that renewables would increase their energy bills somewhat or a lot, whereas only 20% of Greens and 27% of Labor voters thought this.

Kipling Zubevich, CEO of the Social Research Centre, said:

“Australian’s views on nuclear and renewables reveal deep political divides, but progress depends on shared understanding. By tracking these attitudes over time, we can provide decision makers, industry and communities with insights to have informed, constructive conversations about our energy future.”

About the research:

This research was conducted just prior to the recent Federal election during a time when energy was a topical issue. It was fielded using the Social Research Centre’s Life in Australia™ online panel, with a total of 2000 Australians participating in this research



Social
Research
Centre



Life in
Australia™

About Life in Australia™:

Established in 2016, Life in Australia™ is the highest-quality online panel in the country, and one of the few probability-based online panels globally. This means every Australian has a chance of being invited to the panel. Unlike traditional online opt-in panels, Life in Australia™ uses rigorous recruitment and maintenance procedures to ensure that results are truly representative and generalisable to the Australian population.

As response rates to traditional telephone surveys decline, probability-based online panels like Life in Australia™ strike the perfect balance between cost-effectiveness, speed, and data reliability. This makes the panel a trusted source of high-quality, methodologically rigorous survey data for academia, government, not-for-profits, and business.

About the Social Research Centre:

The Social Research Centre, owned by the Australian National University (ANU), delivers high-quality social research that informs policy and drives positive social impact. We partner with government, academia, not-for-profits, and mission-aligned commercial clients to provide robust, methodologically rigorous insights across key social issues, including education, health, employment, and social cohesion. Our expertise spans survey design, data management, and advanced qualitative and quantitative methodologies, ensuring that decision-makers have access to insights they can trust.

Media contact

For further information, interviews, or media enquiries, please contact:

Anne Gerritsen

Communications Manager

Social Research Centre

Email: anne.gerritsen@srcentre.com.au

Phone: 0403 017 762

END