

# CLEAN ENERGY TARGET: POLL OF AUSTRALIANS SEPTEMBER 2017

# Climate Council

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# Preface

**Australia's electricity sector must undergo a massive transition in the coming decades due to the closure of ageing coal fired power stations; escalating extreme weather events (like heatwaves, bushfires and storms) driven by climate change; increasing energy prices and rapidly declining costs of wind, solar and battery storage.**

Government charged its Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, to go through an extensive considered policy process to address national challenges of security, affordability and emissions reduction in electricity.

The Finkel Review was released in June 2017; providing a "blueprint" for a clear, long-term energy policy to deliver on Australia's emissions reduction commitments, provide affordable electricity, and ensure a high level of security and reliability. The key recommendation of the Finkel Review is for the Government to introduce a Clean Energy Target; to incentivise new types of energy, at lower cost.

ReachTEL conducted a survey of 2,176 residents across Australia on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, on behalf of the Climate Council, in order to understand people's views of how the Government has responded to the recommendations of the Finkel Review.

# Key Findings

## 1

**Three quarters of Australians (77%) recognise the importance of a Clean Energy Target (CET) - to incentivise new types of energy, at lower cost.**

A minority of only 4% are unsure if the Government should implement a CET.

## 2

**Support for a CET cuts across the political spectrum - and is felt most strongly by young people.**

When asked if it's important for the Government to implement a CET.

- › 61% of Liberal voters say it's important
- › 83% of 18-24 year olds say it's important

## 3

**More than half of Australians (56%) do not believe the Federal Government has a long-term plan in place for energy.**

Concern that such a plan still does not exist spans political preferences and ages. Nearly half of Liberal voters (41%) and three quarters of Labour voters (75%) said the Government does not have a clear long-term energy policy in place.

## 4

**25-34 year olds are the most frustrated by the lack of a clear energy policy.**

Two thirds (66%) of that age group do not believe the Turnbull Government has a clear long-term energy policy.

## QUESTION 1:

If a federal election were held today which of the following would receive your first preference vote?

|                       | Total | Female | Male  | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+   |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Liberal               | 28.2% | 25.7%  | 30.7% | 22.2% | 25.2% | 24.7% | 30.2% | 38.8% |
| Labor                 | 32.6% | 34.0%  | 31.2% | 44.4% | 35.6% | 30.9% | 31.6% | 44.4% |
| The Greens            | 9.5%  | 11.5%  | 7.5%  | 12.7% | 9.8%  | 8.7%  | 4.9%  | 12.7% |
| One Nation            | 9.0%  | 6.7%   | 11.3% | 13.1% | 9.1%  | 7.0%  | 7.5%  | 13.1% |
| Other/<br>independent | 5.9%  | 5.8%   | 5.9%  | 2.9%  | 7.5%  | 7.4%  | 6.2%  | 2.9%  |
| Undecided             | 11.7% | 14.1%  | 9.3%  | 1.3%  | 9.1%  | 13.2% | 8.0%  | 1.3%  |

Two party preferred result based on respondent allocated preferences from Question 1b and undecided allocation from Question 1a.

|         | Total |
|---------|-------|
| Liberal | 47%   |
| Labor   | 53%   |

Rooftop solar panel.



### QUESTION 1A:

Being undecided to which do you have even a slight leaning?

| Total               |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Liberal             | 29.0% |
| Labor               | 39.1% |
| The Greens          | 14.9% |
| One Nation          | 3.2%  |
| Other / Independent | 12.9% |

Note: Only respondents who answered 'Undecided' to Question 1 were asked Question 1a

### QUESTION 1B:

Which of the following parties would you preference higher?

| Total   |       |
|---------|-------|
| Liberal | 42.9% |
| Labor   | 57.1% |

Note: Respondents who answered 'Liberal' or 'Labor' to Question 1 were excluded from Question 1b.

**QUESTION 2:**

The Federal Government has been advised by its Chief Scientist to introduce a Clean Energy Target, which will incentivise new types of energy, at lower cost.

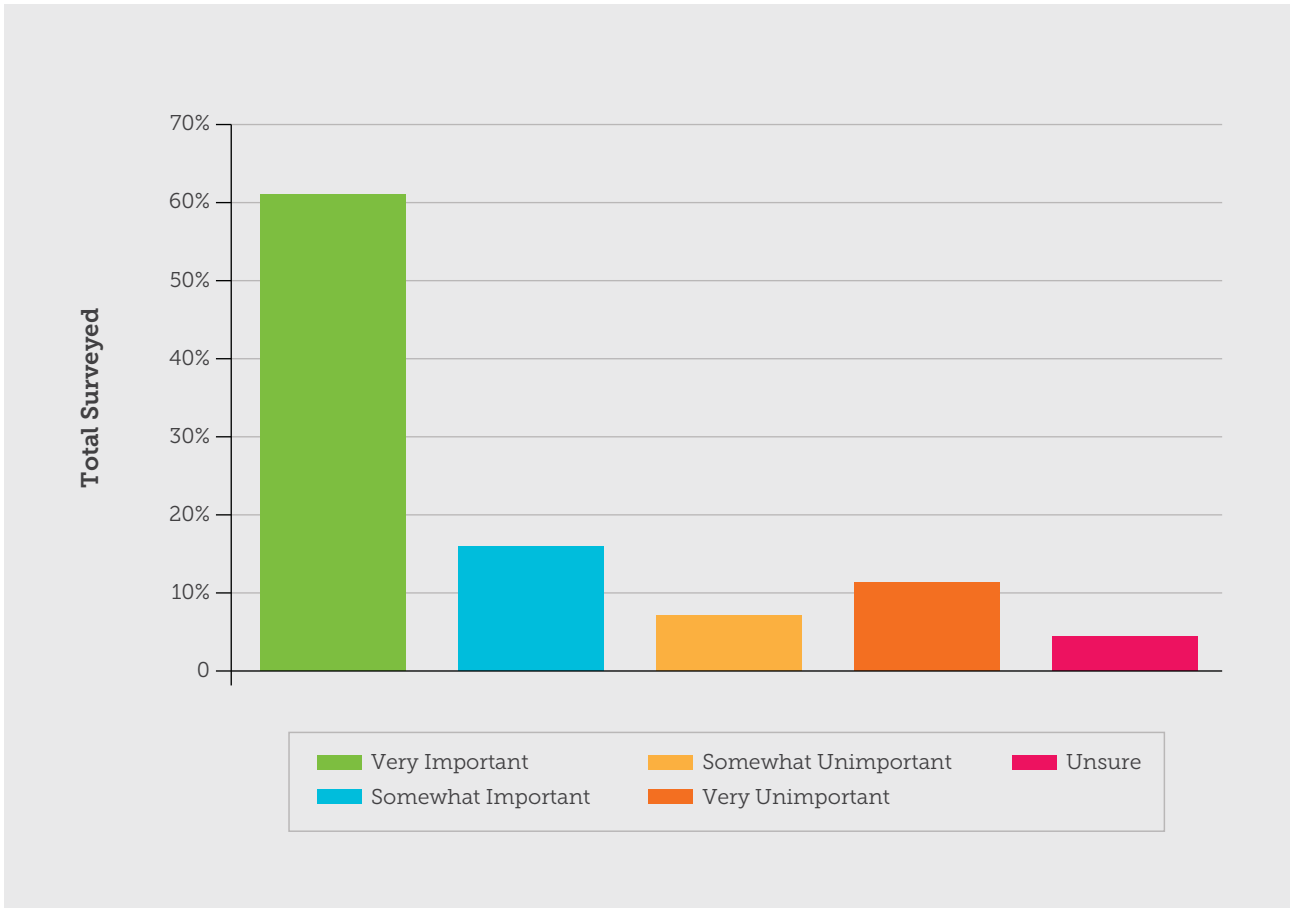
How important do you think it is that the government implements a Clean Energy Target?

|                      | Total | Female | Male  | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+   |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Very important       | 61.0% | 66.5%  | 55.6% | 68.8% | 65.6% | 58.4% | 59.4% | 56.8% |
| Somewhat important   | 16.0% | 13.9%  | 18.1% | 14.2% | 10.8% | 20.0% | 14.9% | 16.7% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 7.1%  | 5.3%   | 8.9%  | 7.4%  | 6.9%  | 4.4%  | 10.0% | 7.7%  |
| Very unimportant     | 11.4% | 7.7%   | 15.2% | 9.5%  | 13.4% | 13.7% | 7.9%  | 12.3% |
| Unsure               | 4.4%  | 6.6%   | 2.3%  | 0.0%  | 3.3%  | 3.6%  | 7.9%  | 6.4%  |

|                      | Total | Liberal | Labor | Greens | One Nation | Other/Independent | Undecided |
|----------------------|-------|---------|-------|--------|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Very important       | 61.0% | 37.9%   | 75.2% | 93.6%  | 31.4%      | 51.2%             | 84.3%     |
| Somewhat important   | 16.0% | 23.2%   | 14.1% | 5.9%   | 15.2%      | 17.6%             | 5.2%      |
| Somewhat unimportant | 7.1%  | 14.3%   | 3.5%  | 0.0%   | 13.1%      | 5.6%              | 2.4%      |
| Very unimportant     | 11.4% | 20.1%   | 1.7%  | 0.0%   | 35.6%      | 22.4%             | 2.8%      |
| Unsure               | 4.4%  | 4.5%    | 5.5%  | 0.5%   | 4.7%       | 3.2%              | 5.2%      |

|                      | ACT   | NSW   | NT    | QLD   | SA    | TAS   | VIC   | WA    |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Very important       | 53.8% | 62.8% | 59.1% | 58.7% | 64.7% | 68.4% | 62.1% | 53.7% |
| Somewhat important   | 15.4% | 13.3% | 13.6% | 16.5% | 21.0% | 21.1% | 16.4% | 16.7% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 7.7%  | 8.4%  | 13.6% | 6.2%  | 4.2%  | 3.5%  | 6.6%  | 9.4%  |
| Very unimportant     | 17.9% | 10.8% | 13.6% | 12.6% | 7.2%  | 1.8%  | 10.9% | 16.7% |
| Unsure               | 5.1%  | 4.6%  | 0.0%  | 6.0%  | 3.0%  | 5.3%  | 4.0%  | 3.4%  |

Figure: How important do you think it is that the government implements a Clean Energy Target?





**QUESTION 3:**

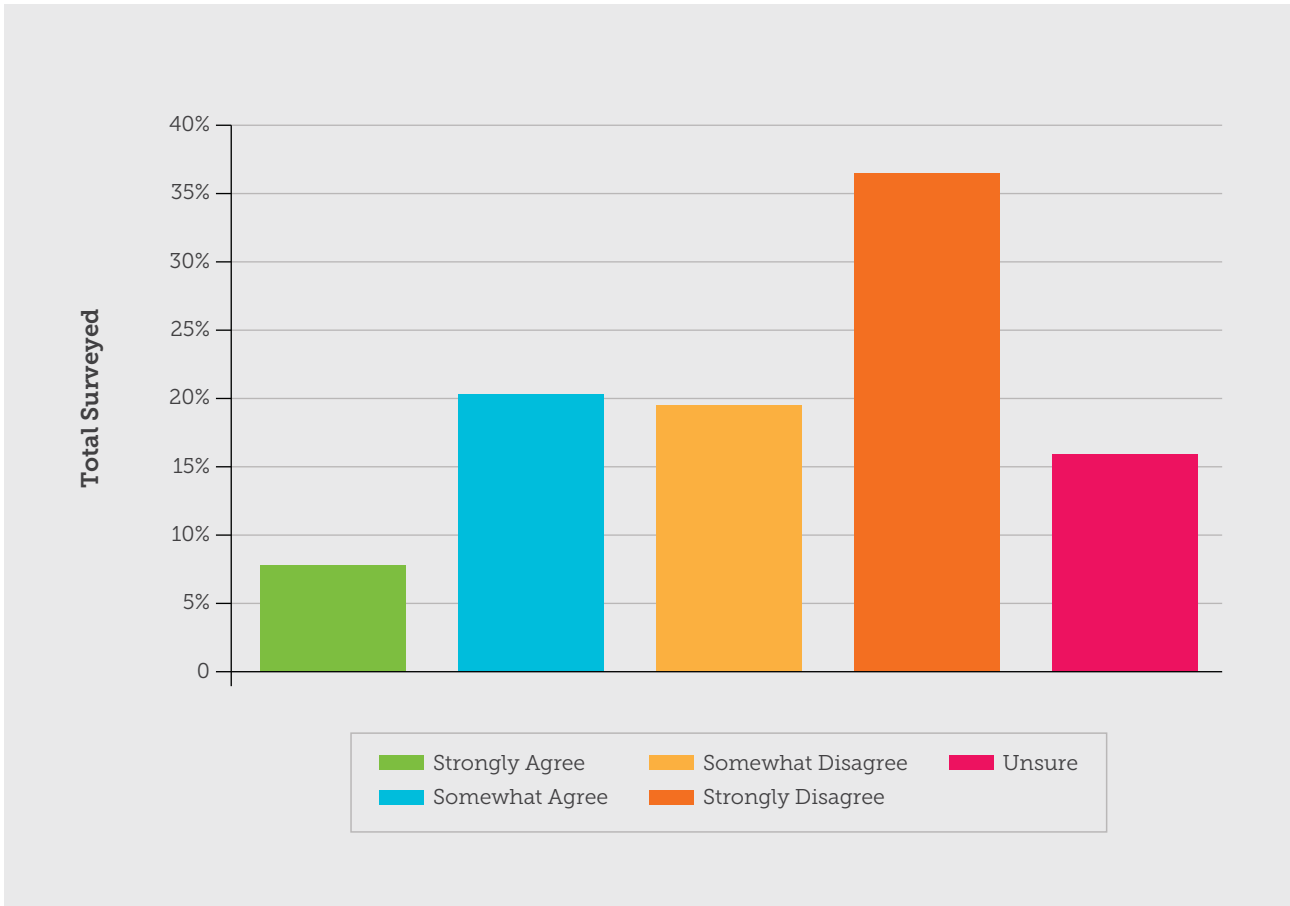
Australia's Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel has argued that the most important thing governments can do to reduce energy prices is provide a clear, long-term energy policy. To what extent do you agree that the Turnbull Government has done this?

|                   | Total | Female | Male  | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+   |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Strongly Agree    | 7.8%  | 8.2%   | 7.4%  | 9.2%  | 7.5%  | 9.4%  | 5.1%  | 7.7%  |
| Somewhat Agree    | 20.3% | 18.1%  | 22.4% | 32.2% | 16.3% | 12.3% | 20.0% | 25.7% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 19.5% | 18.0%  | 21.0% | 19.8% | 19.6% | 21.6% | 17.4% | 18.3% |
| Strongly Disagree | 36.5% | 33.4%  | 39.7% | 17.2% | 46.1% | 41.6% | 39.9% | 33.9% |
| Unsure            | 15.9% | 22.3%  | 9.4%  | 21.6% | 10.5% | 15.1% | 17.6% | 14.4% |

|                   | Total | Liberal | Labor | Greens | One Nation | Other/<br>Independent | Undecided |
|-------------------|-------|---------|-------|--------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Strongly Agree    | 7.8%  | 19.4%   | 3.0%  | .5%    | 3.2%       | 3.2%                  | 1.2%      |
| Somewhat Agree    | 20.3% | 39.9%   | 10.7% | 6.5%   | 20.0%      | 16.9%                 | 14.9%     |
| Somewhat Disagree | 19.5% | 18.6%   | 15.4% | 22.9%  | 26.3%      | 17.7%                 | 25.4%     |
| Strongly Disagree | 36.5% | 9.4%    | 59.6% | 62.2%  | 40.5%      | 33.1%                 | 19.0%     |
| Unsure            | 15.9% | 12.7%   | 11.3% | 8.0%   | 10.0%      | 29.0%                 | 39.5%     |

|                   | ACT   | NSW   | NT    | QLD   | SA    | TAS   | VIC   | WA    |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Strongly Agree    | 5.0%  | 8.0%  | 8.7%  | 6.4%  | 9.0%  | 5.4%  | 9.1%  | 6.9%  |
| Somewhat Agree    | 17.5% | 15.3% | 30.4% | 20.0% | 27.7% | 19.6% | 19.6% | 32.0% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 17.5% | 24.5% | 13.0% | 17.2% | 18.1% | 26.8% | 16.2% | 17.7% |
| Strongly Disagree | 50.0% | 34.7% | 39.1% | 40.0% | 32.5% | 37.5% | 38.2% | 31.0% |
| Unsure            | 10.0% | 17.5% | 8.7%  | 16.3% | 12.7% | 10.7% | 16.9% | 12.3% |

**Figure:** Australia’s Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel has argued that the most important thing governments can do to reduce energy prices is provide a clear, long-term energy policy. To what extent do you agree that the Turnbull Government has done this?




# Thank you for supporting the Climate Council.

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