

LIDDELL CLOSURE: POLL OF AUSTRALIANS SEPTEMBER 2017

Climate Council.

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Preface

Australia's coal-fired power stations are among the oldest, most polluting and inefficient in the world. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has named our ageing coal fleet as one of the biggest risks to the nation's electricity grid. AEMO's September report highlights that Australia's reliance on ageing coal and gas generators, along with any delay in rolling out renewables, poses a significant risk to electricity supply during extended heat waves.

The Liddell Power Station is Australia's oldest coal-fired power station. In 2015, the owners, AGL, announced its plans to retire the station in 2022 - and to replace the shortfall in power with renewable and gas, combined with energy storage, which is cheaper to produce.

The Federal Government has intervened in AGL's decision, saying it should patch-up the Liddell Power Station, using nearly \$1 billion of taxpayer's money over 10 years, so that it can continue providing energy for another five years after 2022.

Climate Council commissioned ReachTEL to conduct a national survey of Australians in order to better understand their views on the Liddell power station. ReachTEL conducted the survey of 2,176 residents across Australia on during the 20th September 2017.



Key Findings

1

7 out of 10 people disagree with the Government's stance to keep the Liddell coal-fired power station open costing nearly \$1 billion. When asked what should happen to the power station after its planned closure in 2022, across Australia 77% said public money should not be used to keep it open.

2

The most popular solution to the Liddell situation, chosen by 59% of people was to introduce a Clean Energy Target policy to encourage new renewable energy to replace the power station.

3

Australians want to replace coal power stations with renewables. Based on the fact that new coal-fired power stations are twice as costly as wind - and more expensive than solar, two thirds of Australians (66%) said coal-fired power stations should be replaced with renewables.

4

Investment in costly fossil fuel powered energy is creating anxiety. Most people polled (54%) say they will have to cut their household budget back - (across groceries, holidays and entertainment) if energy prices continue to rise due to investment in higher cost energy, such as coal and gas.

Question 1: If a federal election were held today which of the following would receive your first preference vote?

	Total	Female	Male	18-34	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/ 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%

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 Liddell Power station is Australia’s oldest coal-fired power station. The Federal Government says the Liddell Power Station can be kept open using around \$500 million* of public funding.

How do you expect the Government’s plans to keep coal power stations open will affect electricity bills?

	Total	Female	Male	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Increase prices	50.5%	53.2%	47.8%	52.5%	53.3%	50.4%	50.6%	46.4%
Decrease prices	21.8%	18.8%	24.8%	20.5%	21.6%	18.5%	24.7%	24.9%
No impact on prices	27.7%	28.0%	27.4%	27.0%	25.2%	31.1%	24.7%	28.7%

	Total	Liberal	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other/ Independent	Undecided
Increase prices	50.5%	32.4%	64.6%	63.2%	38.2%	43.7%	58.1%
Decrease prices	21.8%	31.7%	11.8%	12.9%	37.7%	23.0%	18.1%
No impact on prices	27.7%	35.9%	23.7%	23.9%	24.1%	33.3%	23.8%

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Increase prices	47.5%	55.0%	47.8%	48.3%	58.9%	45.2%	49.0%	47.3%
Decrease prices	25.0%	16.2%	13.0%	24.8%	21.7%	10.7%	21.7%	37.4%
No impact on prices	27.5%	28.7%	39.1%	26.9%	33.1%	30.4%	29.3%	15.3%

*This was the figure quoted on 21st September 2017. New research has shown that the cost is now nearly \$1 billion.

Question 3: New coal-fired power stations are twice as costly as wind, and more expensive than large scale solar.

What type of energy should replace old coal-fired power stations when they're retired?

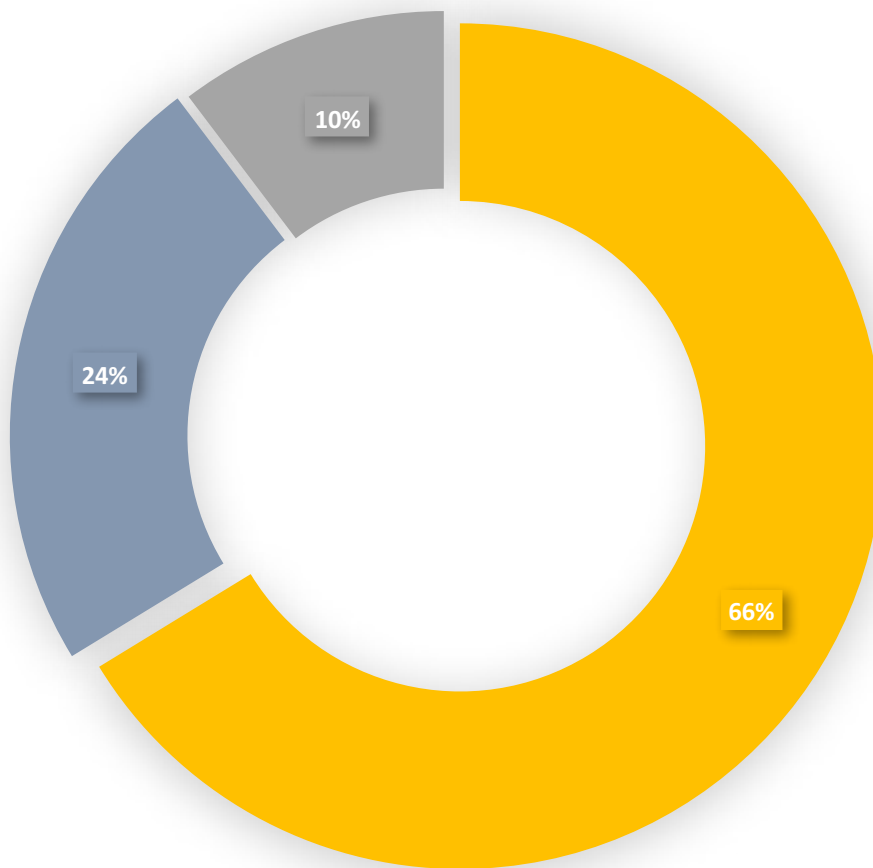
	Total	Female	Male	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
New renewable energy (such as solar & wind farms)	66.2%	71.4%	61.1%	82.2%	72.5%	64.7%	61.5%	55.1%
New coal power stations	23.4%	17.1%	29.7%	13.1%	19.0%	28.0%	21.7%	31.0%
Don't know/unsure	10.3%	11.5%	9.2%	4.7%	8.5%	7.3%	16.8%	13.8%

	Total	Liberal	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other/Independent	Undecided
New renewable energy (such as solar & wind farms)	66.2%	47.3%	81.7%	90.0%	40.8%	62.1%	72.2%
New coal power stations	23.4%	39.4%	11.3%	7.0%	48.7%	25.8%	8.5%
Don't know/unsure	10.3%	13.3%	7.0%	3.0%	10.5%	12.1%	19.4%

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
New renewable energy (such as solar & wind farms)	55.0%	65.4%	63.6%	66.1%	64.8%	89.3%	69.6%	57.1%
New coal power stations	35.0%	22.9%	27.3%	27.6%	22.4%	7.1%	19.8%	28.6%
Don't know/unsure	10.0%	11.7%	9.1%	6.2%	12.7%	3.6%	10.5%	14.3%

Question 3: New coal-fired power stations are twice as costly as wind, and more expensive than large scale solar.

What type of energy should replace old coal-fired power stations when they're retired?



■ New renewable energy (such as solar and wind farms) ■ New coal power stations ■ Don't Know / Unsure

Total percentage of people survey

Question 4: What adjustments, if any, would you have make to your household budget if energy prices continue to rise - due to investment in higher cost sources, such as coal and gas?

	Total	Female	Male	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Reduce spending on entertainment & going out	9.7%	8.6%	10.8%	16.9%	10.7%	8.5%	6.2%	9.0%
Reduce our spending on holidays	7.7%	8.9%	6.5%	11.6%	5.9%	9.0%	4.3%	8.0%
Reduce our spending on groceries	7.5%	8.6%	6.4%	8.6%	9.1%	6.5%	6.8%	7.7%
All of the above	54.3%	56.8%	51.9%	33.2%	58.0%	59.0%	64.7%	49.9%
No impact	20.7%	17.1%	24.3%	29.7%	16.3%	17.1%	18.1%	25.4%

	Total	Liberal	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other/ Independent	Undecided
Reduce spending on entertainment & going out	9.7%	13.4%	6.8%	25.0%	3.1%	1.6%	1.6%
Reduce our spending on holidays	7.7%	6.4%	7.4%	12.5%	1.6%	7.3%	14.9%
Reduce our spending on groceries	7.5%	8.2%	8.0%	2.0%	8.9%	5.7%	7.2%
All of the above	54.3%	40.7%	62.8%	42.5%	68.1%	66.7%	60.6%
No impact	20.7%	31.3%	14.9%	18.0%	18.3%	18.7%	15.7%

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Reduce spending on entertainment & going out	5.0%	12.4%	9.1%	8.8%	7.2%	9.1%	9.1%	7.9%
Reduce our spending on holidays	7.5%	7.1%	9.1%	8.8%	6.6%	9.1%	6.7%	10.8%
Reduce our spending on groceries	2.5%	6.8%	4.5%	4.6%	6.6%	9.1%	12.2%	4.9%
All of the above	65.0%	53.7%	50.0%	56.5%	66.5%	52.7%	51.6%	47.8%
No impact	20.0%	20.0%	27.3%	21.4%	13.2%	20.0%	20.4%	28.6%

Question 5: The owners and investors of the Liddell coal-fired power station want to close it in 2022, since it is inefficient and unprofitable to run.

What do you think is the best course of action for the Federal Government on this matter?

	Total	Female	Male	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Force the owners to keep it running	11.3%	7.2%	15.5%	5.0%	10.5%	12.5%	11.3%	15.6%
Introduce a policy (like a Clean Energy Target) to encourage new clean energy	58.9%	62.3%	55.5%	67.7%	63.9%	59.3%	54.7%	52.1%
Use public funds to keep it open	9.8%	7.6%	12.1%	9.5%	4.3%	9.4%	11.3%	13.3%
Nothing	6.3%	5.5%	7.1%	5.0%	12.5%	5.5%	6.4%	3.6%
Don't know/unsure	13.7%	17.4%	9.9%	12.8%	8.9%	13.3%	16.4%	15.4%

	Total	Liberal	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other/ Independent	Undecided
Force the owners to keep it running	11.3%	20.9%	3.3%	0.0%	29.3%	11.2%	5.3%
Introduce a policy (like a Clean Energy Target) to encourage new clean energy	58.9%	39.9%	72.1%	94.5%	25.1%	48.8%	71.7%
Use public funds to keep it open	9.8%	17.9%	4.9%	1.0%	16.8%	10.4%	4.5%
Nothing	6.3%	9.2%	4.9%	2.0%	6.8%	8.8%	3.6%
Don't know/unsure	13.7%	12.1%	14.7%	2.5%	22.0%	20.8%	15.0%

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Force the owners to keep it running	22.5%	11.9%	18.2%	14.9%	12.0%	5.4%	9.3%	5.9%
Introduce a policy (like a Clean Energy Target) to encourage new clean energy	52.5%	56.0%	54.5%	62.8%	58.1%	71.4%	59.8%	55.7%
Use public funds to keep it open	7.5%	7.3%	13.6%	9.4%	6.6%	3.6%	10.7%	21.2%
Nothing	7.5%	5.6%	4.5%	4.4%	10.2%	5.4%	7.6%	5.9%
Don't know/unsure	10.0%	19.2%	9.1%	8.5%	13.2%	14.3%	12.5%	11.3%

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Question 5: The owners and investors of the Liddell coal-fired power station want to close it in 2022, since it is inefficient and unprofitable to run.

- Force the owners to keep it running
- Introduce a policy (like a Clean Energy Target) to encourage new clean energy
- Use public funds to keep it open
- Nothing
- Don't know / Unsure

Response	Percentage
Force the owners to keep it running	11.30%
Introduce a policy (like a Clean Energy Target) to encourage new clean energy	58.90%
Use public funds to keep it open	9.80%
Nothing	6.30%
Don't know / Unsure	13.70%

Total percentage of people survey

Response	Percentage
Force the owners to keep it running	20.00%
Introduce a policy (like a Clean Energy Target) to encourage new clean energy	40.00%
Use public funds to keep it open	18.00%
Nothing	9.00%
Don't know / Unsure	12.00%

People who answered as Liberal