



ELECTION 2025:

Unpacking the impact of climate
and energy on Australian voters

Key findings

- 1 This election, Australians made a resounding choice: keep powering on with renewables and storage.**
 - Already, 40% of our national electricity grid is powered by renewables and storage. At the 2025 election, Australians endorsed the progress that's already been made by the first term Labor (ALP) government, and backed a renewable-powered future.
 - Nuclear bombed at the ballot. It was politically toxic, especially with women and undecided voters.
 - The ALP's two-party preferred support increased in most seats with offshore wind debates, despite significant campaigns against the projects.
 - By the next election, Australia's main grid is expected to be more than two-thirds powered with renewables and storage - making this switch unstoppable.
- 2 There is a fundamental shift in Australian politics. Climate change is now a fixture of Australian elections, and a large voting bloc prioritises climate champions at the ballot box.**
 - Climate concern has remained persistently high across swathes of the Australian community, in spite of the cost-of-living crunch.
 - Three-quarters of Millennials and Generation Z voters named climate change as a top tier voting issue for the 2025 election. This climate voting bloc is now the largest - and still growing - group of Australian voters.
 - For ALP voters, climate change was a top 2 issue in this election.
 - Pro-climate independents have won more votes than ever before, with a 3.8% increase in their primary vote across contested seats.
 - The Australian Greens is likely to hold the balance of power in the Senate, providing a path to pass stronger climate laws through the upper house.
- 3 The Federal Coalition's sweeping defeat points to the party being unelectable until it advances credible climate and energy policies.**
 - The ALP held a 17 percentage point lead over the Coalition as the party most trusted to "address climate change".
 - The Coalition's inner-city heartland has been decimated as pro-climate independent incumbents retaining their seats from the 2022 Federal Election, signaling a lasting shift in voter priorities.
 - New community independent challengers performed strongly in 10 traditionally safe Liberal and National seats. These are the next wave of seats at risk for the Coalition in 2028.
- 4 Australians have given the ALP its strongest mandate since World War II to roll out more renewable power and storage, better regulate polluters and set new, stronger climate targets.**

The big renewable mandate

AUSTRALIANS BACKED A RENEWABLE-POWERED FUTURE

Australians from our cities and regions want to keep building more wind, solar and storage – and made this clear at the ballot box. A steep swing towards Labor, delivering what is expected to be their largest majority since World War II, represents a resounding endorsement of Australia's current plan for renewable power.

Since 2022, the Albanese Government has backed renewable power and storage, begun regulating major polluters, implemented fuel efficiency standards, and supported electrification and clean industries.

The electorate has endorsed these policies and the Government now has a clear mandate to keep building on its promises by setting a strong 2035 climate target, rolling out a larger renewable powered grid (including providing cheaper home batteries), and better regulating major polluters.

Australians have voted with their wallets too, with more than 4 million households installing solar on their roof – especially in the outer suburbs of major cities where the 2025 Federal Election was fought and won.

Australia's clean energy progress will soon be unstoppable. By the 2028 Federal Election, renewables are expected to be providing two-thirds of the electricity in our main grid every year, 28% more than today.¹

During the campaign, both major political parties acknowledged that coal has no future in powering our grid. And with the electorate rebuking nuclear, the centre of Australia's energy future is wind, solar and storage.

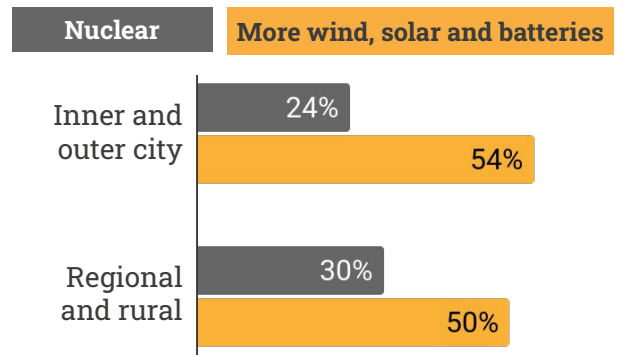
“Renewable energy is an opportunity that we must work on together, to seize for the future of our economy.”

Anthony Albanese, victory speech, 3 May 2025.

[1] AEMO Integrated System Plan, 2024, central (Step Change) scenario

City and country voters back renewables

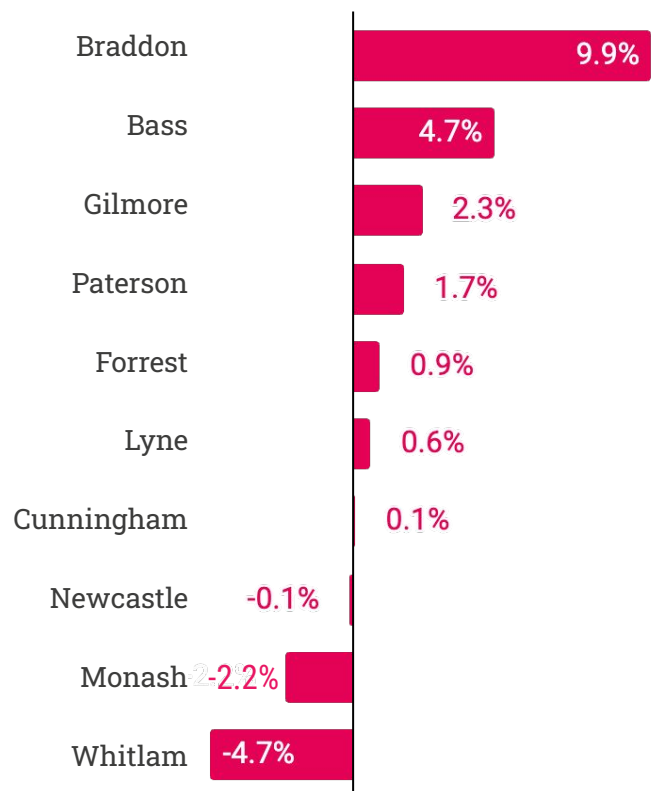
Do you prefer a plan for the energy transition which includes...



n=1,622. Source: YouGov, April 2025

In seats with offshore wind zone debates, ALP support typically increased.

Two-party preferred swing to ALP in offshore wind regions, net of state ALP two-party preferred swing.



Source: Pollbludger (State TPP), ABC (Seat TPP). Excludes Wannon Independent vs Liberal contest.

Nuclear? No way

AUSTRALIANS DELIVERED A CLEAR MESSAGE: MORE WIND, SOLAR AND BATTERIES BUT NO NUCLEAR

The Coalition began 2025 with just one major policy: nuclear energy. A few months later, during the election campaign, nuclear was nowhere to be seen.

In 2024, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton [told journalists](#) he was “very happy for the election to be a referendum on energy, on nuclear”. But as the election battlelines firmed, [media observed](#) that the Federal Coalition candidates were distancing themselves from nuclear energy.

Peter Dutton sought to reframe their energy policy in his [budget in reply](#) speech, promising more support for gas. Gas was referenced 23 times during the address, while nuclear was mentioned only twice.

Despite representing one of the Coalition’s most significant and expensive policies, Peter Dutton did not visit any proposed nuclear site during the campaign.

Countless national and local polls reveal the reason for this tactical choice: **Nuclear was toxic amongst undecided voters, and a key reason for the Federal Coalition’s electoral defeat.** In contrast, voters backed Australia’s existing plan for more wind and solar, backed by storage.

There is no electorate in Australia where a majority of voters believed nuclear power would be good for Australia.

[DemosAU](#), March 2025. MRP based on n=3,725

[1] Unpublished, commissioned by Solutions for Climate Australia.

Nuclear was a key voter concern

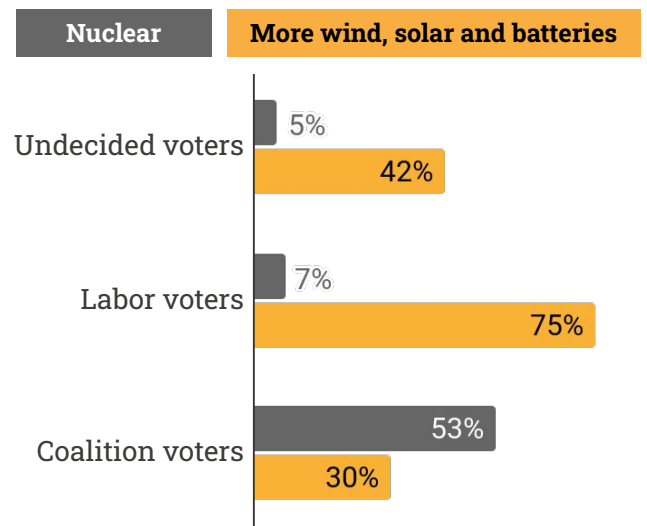
Peter Dutton’s plan to use nuclear power was one of the biggest hesitations or concerns for:



n=1,506; 1,642. Source: [SHM/Resolve, April 2025](#).

Undecideds prefer renewables, not nuclear

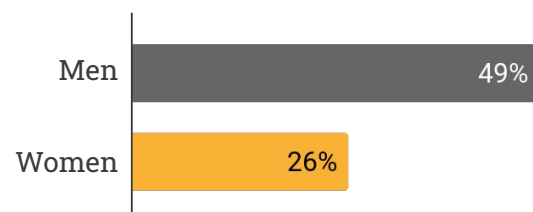
Do you prefer a plan for the energy transition which includes...



n=1,622. Source: YouGov, April 2025.¹

Nuclear was a turn off for women

Share of voters that agree with the statement “Nuclear would be good for Australia”...



n=3,725. Source: [DemosAU, March 2025](#)

Climate concern remains strong

CLIMATE IS NOW A PERMANENT FIXTURE OF VOTING BEHAVIOUR

Despite cost-of-living pressure and housing stress, voters remain highly concerned about climate change. For ALP voters, climate change was a top 2 issue.¹

Climate change was a breakout issue in the 2022 Federal Election, and remains a major voting issue today. Climate change and the environment is consistently ranked higher than other prominent issues, including defence, immigration, education and childcare.² This is especially acute amongst young voters.

Climate change and the environment is the second most important issue for Gen Z voters.² Millennials and Gen Z Australians now represent the largest cohort of voters, and are a significant climate voting bloc.

Labor was viewed as significantly better on climate change.

Leading into the election, the ALP held a 17 percentage point lead over the Coalition as the party most trusted to “address climate change”.³ The Coalition’s lack of climate policy again acted as a significant electoral barrier.

“We’ve seen that they’ve been climate deniers for way too long, and they didn’t learn the message at the last election.”

*Jerome Laxale, Bennelong MP.
Channel 9 election coverage,
May 3, 2025.*

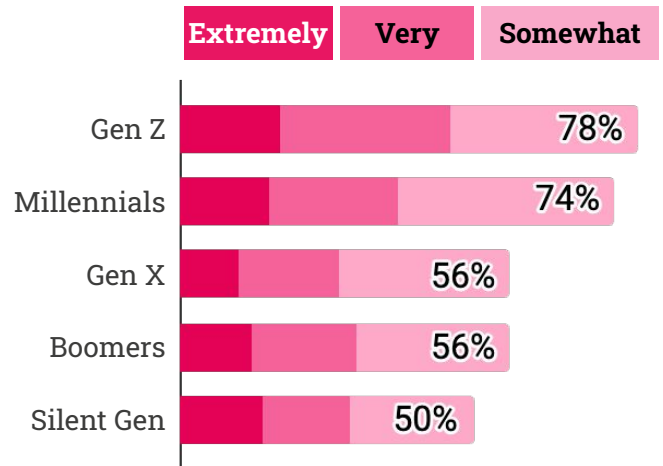
[1] [ABC Vote Compass](#), April 2025.

[2] YouGov, April 2025. Commissioned by Solutions for Climate Australia. n=1,622.

[3] [Essential Research](#), March 2025. n=1,150

Climate change informs every generation's vote, especially young people

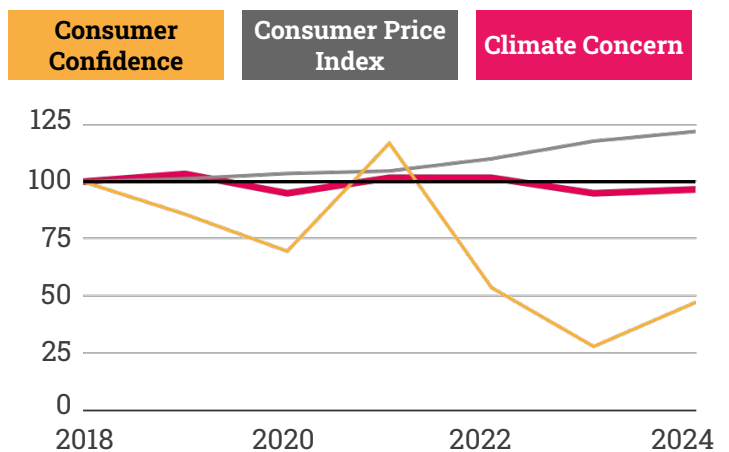
How important is climate change action in determining your vote in the next election?



n=1,622. Source: YouGov,² April 2025

Climate concern has remained high, despite the cost-of-living crunch

Trend in climate concern relative to economic indicators over time (index, 2018=100)



Source: [Melbourne Institute](#) (2025), [ABS](#) (2025), [Lowy institute](#) (2024; n=2,028)

A growing climate bloc

MAJOR SWINGS DELIVER A STRONG PARLIAMENTARY CLIMATE MANDATE

Australians have elected a broadly progressive government on climate action. The ALP, pro-climate independents and Greens all promised greater climate action (to varying degrees) and will now make up over 64% of the 48th Parliament.

It is likely that the Greens will hold the 'balance of power' in the Senate, so the ALP will not have to negotiate with others who oppose climate action to pass legislation.

The Coalition faces a significant challenge in gaining re-election in 2028 due to its poor record on climate change.

The 2022 Federal Election marked a seismic shift in the Australian parliament, with the Federal Coalition losing seven once safe seats to pro-climate community independent or Greens candidates.¹

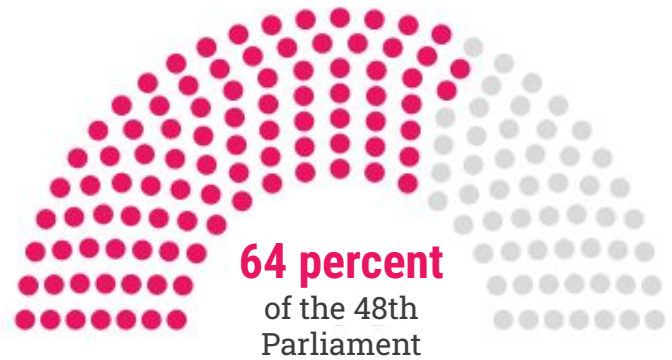
In 2025, it has become clear that this is a lasting structural shift in Australian politics. Pro-climate independents have won more votes than ever before, with a 3.8% increase in their primary vote in contested seats.

Of nine independent MPs who championed climate action in the past term of parliament, eight have been re-elected, while Zoe Daniel leads a tight contest in Goldstein. In the ACT, David Pocock retained his senate seat with a +20.9% swing, while Jessie Price made Bean a tight contest, attracting 26.7% of the primary vote.

New independent challengers with strong climate platforms also performed strongly across other Coalition "heartland" seats.² Nicolette Boele is ahead in the traditionally Liberal seat of Bradfield. If these climate challengers keep building their support, 2028 will be even more difficult for the Coalition.

Australians have elected a pro-climate Parliament

Pro-climate independents, Greens and Labor MPs elected to the House of Representatives:



Source: ABC, 4 May 2025. Includes seats with undecided Greens/Labor or Labor/pro-climate independent contests

Another wave of Coalition challengers?

Primary vote swings greater than 10% to independents in Coalition held seats:

Seat	Independent swing
McPherson (Qld)	+14.6%
Fisher (Qld)	+16.8%
Fairfax (Qld)	+12.2%
Wannon (Vic)	+13.3%
Flinders (Vic)	+22%
Forrest (WA)	+18.4%
Berowra (NSW)	+11.9%

Source: ABC, 4 May 2025.

Climate change is now “a threshold question, it's like can you balance the books: can you actually deal with climate change?”

Paul Smith, YouGov, 28 April, 2025.

[1] The Coalition lost Brisbane and Ryan to the Greens; and Curtin, Goldstein, Kooyong, Mackellar, and North Sydney to independents, alongside the Marginal seat of Wentworth.

[2] Flinders (Vic), Wannon (Vic), Monash (Vic), Fairfax (Qld), Fisher (Qld), McPherson (Qld), Forrest (WA), Bradfield (NSW), Cowper (NSW), Berowra (NSW).