

COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TO ENERGY TRANSITION

RESULTS BRIEF

Polling commissioned by



**Nature
Conservation
Council** The voice for
nature in NSW



**environment
victoria**

Fieldwork undertaken by YouGov

December 2021

METHODOLOGY

Sample: n=600 across two polls

Method: Telephone survey

Location: Latrobe Valley, Victoria and Hunter region, New South Wales

Cohort: NSW - Australian citizens, 18+ in LGAs of Maitland, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter & Lake Macquarie
VIC - Australian citizens, 18+ in shires of Baw Baw, Latrobe City & South Gippsland

Timing: 7 – 10 December 2021

Provider: YouGov

Hunter Region Results

Q1. So long as there is a plan to look after power station workers and the community, switching to renewable power over the next decade is the best option for NSW.

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	46%	22%	68%	9%	6%	16%	22%	1%

Overall, more than two thirds (68%) of respondents agreed that *switching to renewable power over the next decade is the best option for NSW*, so long as there was a plan to look after workers and the community.

Q2. The state government needs a plan to retire the old coal burning power stations in NSW over the next decade with support for workers to retrain to ensure a solid economic future for the local region

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
TOTAL	58%	21%	80%	8%	5%	7%	13%

Overall, 80% of respondents agree that *the state government needs a plan to retire the old coal burning power stations in NSW over the next decade with support for workers to retrain to ensure a solid economic future for the local region*

Q3: Governments should do more to transition from burning coal to renewable sources of power to meet our future energy needs

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
TOTAL	53%	24%	77%	5%	6%	11%	17%

Overall, more than three quarters (77%) of respondents agree that governments should do more to transition from burning coal to renewable sources of power to meet our future energy needs.

Q4. As coal burning power stations in NSW are closed down the state govt must ensure that the power station sites including coal ash dams are cleaned up and rehabilitated

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
TOTAL	71%	20%	91%	4%	4%	1%	4%

More than nine out ten (91%) of respondents agreed that as coal burning power stations in New South Wales are closed down, the state government must ensure that power station sites including coal ash dams are cleaned up and rehabilitated.

Q5. Governments should support heavy industry to switch to affordable, renewable energy to support our local manufacturing sector

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	53%	31%	84%	4%	6%	6%	12%	

More than eight out of ten (84%) of respondents agreed - and more than half (54% strongly agreed) that Governments should support heavy industry to switch to affordable, renewable energy to support our local manufacturing sector.

Q6. Which energy infrastructure should be the top priority to build once our existing coal burning power stations are retired?

	LARGE SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY: WIND, SOLAR, HYDROGEN	COAL BURNING POWER STATION	GAS FIRED POWER STATION	LARGE SCALE BATTERY STORAGE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	60%	20%	3%	8%	8%

Asked which infrastructure type amongst large scale renewables like solar, wind and hydrogen, a coal-fired power station, a gas fired power station, or large scale batteries should be the priority to replace existing coal fired power stations when they retire, **over two-thirds (68%) overall agreed that renewable energy sources and batteries should be the top priority** for energy infrastructure once our existing coal fired power stations close.

Latrobe Valley Results

Q`. So long as there is a plan to look after power station workers and the community, switching to renewable power over the next decade is the best option for Victoria

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
TOTAL	41%	24%	65%	7%	10%	17%	28%

Overall, around two thirds (65%) of respondents agreed that switching to renewable power over the next decade is the best option for Victoria, so long as there was a plan to look after workers and the community.

Q2. The state government should plan to retire old coal burning power stations over the next decade with support for workers to retrain to be part of a solid economic future for the Valley

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	51%	19%	70%	7%	7%	16%	22%	1%

Overall, seven out of ten (70%) agreed with this statement the government should plan to retire old coal burning power stations over the next decade with support for workers to retrain to be part of a solid economic future for the Valley

Q3. Governments should do more to transition from burning coal to renewable sources of power to meet our future energy needs

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	54%	22%	76%	7%	5%	11%	16%	1%

Overall, more than three quarters (76%) of respondents agree that governments should do more to transition from burning coal to renewable sources of power to meet our future energy needs.

Q4. As Victoria's coal burning power stations and coal mines are closed down the state govt should ensure that power station owners are responsible for complete cleanup of sites so that they are safe and can be used for other purposes

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	69%	21%	90%	4%	4%	2%	5%	

Nine out of ten (90%) respondents overall agreed with this statement, and just 5% disagreed.

Q5. Governments should support heavy industry to switch to affordable, renewable energy to support our local manufacturing sector

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	TOTAL AGREE	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	48%	31%	80%	6%	6%	7%	13%	1%

Overall, eight out of ten (80%) of respondents agreed with this proposition, and nearly half (48%) strongly agreed.

Q6. Would you support or oppose an earlier closure date for Loy Yang if there was a solid plan to look after the workers?

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	TOTAL SUPPORT	NEITHER	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	TOTAL OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW
TOTAL	37%	20%	57%	5%	10%	28%	38%	

A clear majority (57%) of respondents supported an early closure of Loy Yang if there is a solid plan to look after workers.