



## Polling - attitudes towards clean energy solutions

**Renew Australia for All** commissioned research firm 89 Degrees East to conduct a nationally representative poll of 2,004 Australians.<sup>1</sup> The key results show that:

- 73% think Australia will benefit from shifting to renewable energy, and **71% support the Australian** government investing more in renewable energy.
- 73% support renewables and batteries as the fastest way to lower people's power bills, compared to just 16% for nuclear reactors and 8% for new coal power stations.

Table 1: Australians back more government investment in renewables & think Australia will benefit

| Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following?                              |                      |          |         |       |                   |                |               |
|--|----------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
|  | Strongly<br>Disagree | Disagree | Neither | Agree | Strongly<br>agree | TOTAL<br>AGREE | Don't<br>know |
| Australia overall will<br>benefit if we shift to more<br>renewable energy    | 4%                   | 5%       | 15%     | 34%   | 40%               | 73%            | 3%            |
| I support the Australian<br>government investing<br>more in renewable energy | 7%                   | 4%       | 16%     | 35%   | 36%               | 71%            | 2%            |

#### Table 2: Australians think clean energy will lower their bills fastest

| Q: Which energy system changes do you think would lower people's power bills fastest?  |                                    |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|  | General<br>population<br>(n=2,004) |  |  |  |  |
| Building more large-scale renewable energy, like wind and solar, with battery storage  | 31%                                |  |  |  |  |
| More subsidies for household rooftop solar and batteries                               | 27%                                |  |  |  |  |
| Building nuclear energy reactors   | 16%                                |  |  |  |  |
| Big battery storage, to reduce demand on the grid at peak times<br>e.g. In the evening | 15%                                |  |  |  |  |
| Building new coal power stations   | 8%                                 |  |  |  |  |
| Other  | 3%                                 |  |  |  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National sample of Australians 18+ conducted in August 2024, including n=2,004 nationally representative general population sample. For more information, see <u>methodology</u>.

### Table 3: What energy system changes will lower bills fastest - by age and gender

| Q: Which energy system changes do you think<br>would lower people's power bills fastest?<br>Column % |     | AGE            |                |                |                |              | GENDER |       |            |
|--|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|-------|------------|
|  |     | 25-34<br>years | 35-44<br>years | 45-54<br>years | 55-64<br>years | 65+<br>years | Man    | Woman | GEN<br>POP |
| Building new coal power stations   | 9%  | 8%             | 5%             | 9%             | 8%             | 11%          | 10%    | 7%    | 8%         |
| Building more large-scale renewable energy, like wind and solar, with battery storage                | 36% | 34%            | 38%            | 22%            | 27%            | 30%          | 29%    | 33%   | 31%        |
| Big battery storage, to reduce demand on the grid at peak times e.g. In the evening                  | 14% | 13%            | 16%            | 19%            | 14%            | 14%          | 13%    | 17%   | 15%        |
| More subsidies for household rooftop solar and batteries   | 27% | 30%            | 25%            | 30%            | 22%            | 25%          | 24%    | 29%   | 27%        |
| Building nuclear energy reactors   | 13% | 14%            | 15%            | 17%            | 24%            | 17%          | 22%    | 11%   | 16%        |
| Other  | 1%  | 1%             | 1%             | 4%             | 5%             | 3%           | 3%     | 2%    | 3%         |
| Column n=  | 220 | 362            | 351            | 326            | 304            | 441          | 972    | 1,032 | 2,004      |

The polling also found that public support for clean energy solutions holds up when faced with 'forced choice' questions contrasting their potential costs and benefits. For example:

#### Table 4: Attitudes on renewable savings vs costs

| Q: For each pair of statements below, choose the one that is closest to your view           |                                    |  |  |  |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Statement   | General<br>population<br>(n=2,004) |  |  |  |  |
| Building more renewables is the fastest way to bring down our energy bills.                 | 64%                                |  |  |  |  |
| Renewables are expensive and expanding them will only drive up the cost of our power bills. | 36%                                |  |  |  |  |

### Table 5: Attitudes on government household clean energy subsidies vs debt & inflation

| Q: For each pair of statements below, choose the one that is closest to your view  |                                    |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Statement  | General<br>population<br>(n=2,004) |  |  |  |  |
| The government should subsidise rooftop solar and batteries for Australian households because it's the best and fastest way to bring down our energy bills.        | 78%                                |  |  |  |  |
| The government should not subsidise rooftop solar and batteries because it won't bring down energy bills and will only push up debt, inflation and interest rates. | 22%                                |  |  |  |  |



# Methodology

The survey was administered online with recruitment sourced through a quality consumer opt-in panel, Pure Profile, providing access to over 1 million Australians. All Australian populations aged 18+ representing the general community were sampled. Sampling involved survey quotas based on age, gender and location, and the n=2,004 sample was weighted to reflect ABS proportions to be nationally representative.

The confidence level of the general population sample is +/- 2.08% at the 95% confidence level. Fieldwork was conducted by 89 Degrees East between Thursday, 8 August, and Wednesday, 21 August 2024. 89 Degrees East is a member of the Australian Polling Council.

## Media inquiries

For further information on the Renew Australia for All coalition see <u>renewaustraliaforall.org</u> or contact Catalina on 0421 547 759