



29 October 2025

Polling - sentiment towards the shift to renewables

Renew Australia for All commissioned research firm 89 Degrees East on public support for Australia’s shift to renewable energy across select Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

The 1952-person poll (conducted September 2025) included residents living in Renewable Energy Zones in:

- **New South Wales:** Illawarra, Hunter, New England, Central West Orana
- **Queensland:** Gladstone, Central Queensland (excl. Gladstone)
- **Victoria:** Gippsland, Western Victoria

The poll measured sentiment towards the shift to renewable energy as well as perception of that support in key REZs. Key results include:

- **A strong majority - 62% of REZ residents across NSW, QLD and VIC support Australia’s shift to renewable energy, with support reaching as high as 69% in some regions.**
- **Central West Orana and Illawarra show the strongest support** for the shift to renewables at 69% each.
- **Hunter and Western Victoria follow closely** with 65% and 66% support respectively.
- **Opposition to the shift to renewable energy is significantly lower than rates of support both across all REZ regions (17%) and across all regions:** only 12% of Illawarra respondents, 16% of Hunter respondents, and 16% of Central West Orana respondents opposed the shift to renewable energy.
- **Respondents tend to underestimate levels of support in their own communities:** while 62% of REZ residents personally support the shift to renewable energy, only 37% believe the majority of residents in their community do.

Table 1: Overall support for shifting to renewable energy

Q: To what extent do you support or oppose Australia shifting to renewable energy (REZs)									
	REZ regions (TOTAL)	New England (NSW)	Central West Orana (NSW)	Hunter (NSW)	Illawarra (NSW)	Gippsland (VIC)	Western VIC (VIC)	Gladstone (QLD)	Central QLD (QLD)
TOTAL SUPPORT	62%	56%	69%	65%	69%	55%	66%	58%	55%
Strongly support	27%	22%	25%	29%	31%	26%	27%	23%	21%
Somewhat support	36%	34%	45%	36%	38%	29%	39%	35%	34%
Neither support nor oppose	20%	22%	15%	19%	19%	25%	17%	23%	23%
Somewhat oppose	9%	12%	9%	10%	6%	11%	8%	11%	9%
Strongly oppose	8%	11%	7%	5%	7%	9%	8%	8%	12%
TOTAL OPPOSE	17%	23%	16%	16%	12%	20%	16%	19%	21%
n=	1952	200	150	300	450	301	201	200	150

Table 2: Agreement that renewable energy will be good for regional Australia

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following: "Investing in renewable energy will be good for regional Australia"	
Region	Total agree
REZ TOTAL	60%
Illawarra (NSW)	67%
Hunter (NSW)	65%
Western VIC	62%
Gladstone (QLD)	62%
Central West Orana (NSW)	61%
New England (NSW)	55%
Gippsland (VIC)	53%
Central Queensland	51%

Table 3: Perceived community support for renewable energy

Q: Which of these is closest to your opinion of how the majority of residents in your community feel about Australia shifting to renewable energy? (REZs)									
	REZ TOTAL	New England (NSW)	Central West Orana (NSW)	Hunter (NSW)	Illawarra (NSW)	Gippsland (VIC)	Western VIC (VIC)	Gladstone (QLD)	Central QLD (QLD)
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE	37%	36%	36%	46%	43%	33%	45%	36%	29%
The majority are very supportive	5%	5%	5%	7%	7%	4%	6%	5%	3%
The majority are mostly supportive	32%	32%	31%	39%	36%	29%	39%	31%	26%
The majority neither support nor oppose	26%	35%	34%	29%	40%	38%	33%	31%	30%
The majority are mostly unsupportive	24%	23%	17%	17%	12%	21%	13%	23%	28%
The majority are very unsupportive	11%	7%	13%	8%	5%	9%	9%	11%	13%
Other	2%	4%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%
TOTAL	35%	30%	30%	25%	17%	30%	22%	34%	41%

UNSUPPORTIVE									
n=	1952	200	150	300	450	301	201	200	150

Key insight: This table reveals the 'perception gap' - while 62% of individuals actually support the shift to renewables overall (Table 1 average), they perceive a lower level of support amongst the majority of residents in their community - 37% (Table 3 average).



Methodology

The survey was administered online with recruitment sourced from a consumer opt-in panel provided by Pure Profile.

This study was conducted by the research firm 89 Degrees East as part of a larger poll with a total sample size of 4,711 Australians. The sample included a nationally representative poll of 2,254 Australians, with an additional boost sample of 1,952 Australians residing in Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) across New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. To ensure robust representation within each REZ, quotas and targeted postcode sampling boosts were applied.

The confidence level of the general population sample is +/- 2.11% at the 95% confidence level. Fieldwork was conducted by 89 Degrees East between Thursday 11 September and Tuesday 28 September 2025. 89 Degrees East is a member of The Research Society of Australia.