

METHODOLOGY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Project name	Mood of the Nation (Wave 14)
Project reference	NGR 2203003

Research dates:	1st - 5 th February 2024
Target population:	The target population for the research was Australian residents (all states and territories) aged 18+.
Research methodology:	The research comprised of a 20-minute self-complete online survey with n=1,588 participants sourced from an ISO accredited market research panel.
Weighting approach:	The data was weighted using ABS Census population statistics on age, gender, location and occupation to match the estimated population of all Australian residents aged 18+. The total effective sample size after weighting was approximately 62%, equating to a margin of error of approximately +-3.1% (at the 95% confidence interval).
Research questions:	A combination of single choice, multiple choice and open-ended (text response) questions were used in the research. All questions and response options were displayed in full during interviews.

This research was conducted in accordance with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards which can be viewed here: <https://www.australianpollingcouncil.com/>

PUBLISHED QUESTIONS

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

What are the main issues facing Australians that are most important to you right now – the specific cares, concerns, or priorities that you typically talk about with friends or family?

(Please list these issues in the box below and be as specific as possible about them)

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS

Overall, do you think Australia, <insert state>, and your local area are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE 1-2

	1	2
	Heading in the right direction	Heading in the wrong direction
A	Australia	
B	(PROG NOTE: INSERT STATE/TERRITORY FROM A4)	
C	Your local area	

In this question we will show you a series of 36 things that some people believe are important for Australia's future.

We know it's a long list, but the results will provide important information to Australia's leaders.

How important are these things to you personally? (*Select one answer per item*)

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE 1-36

	1 Extremely important	2 Quite important	3 Slightly important	4 Not important at all
1	Reducing personal taxes			
2	Strengthening pensions, welfare payments and support for vulnerable people			
3	Improving representation and conditions for women in the workplace			
4	Promoting diversity, inclusion, and respect for minority groups			
5	Strengthening our economy			
6	Boosting jobs and addressing unemployment			
7	Supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship			
8	Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage and promoting reconciliation			
9	Acting decisively on climate change and transitioning to renewables			
10	Increasing our local manufacturing capacity			
11	Strengthening our defence capabilities			
12	Strengthening our borders against illegal immigration			
13	Increasing migration to fill workplace shortages			
14	Addressing the deliberate spread of misinformation and "fake news"			
15	Investing more to ensure quality affordable healthcare for all Australians			
16	Investing more to ensure access to affordable University and TAFE education			
17	Investing more to improve the quality of primary and high schools in all local communities			
18	Investing more in public transport infrastructure			
19	Investing more to improve the aged care sector			
20	Improving the preparedness and support for fires, floods and other disasters			
21	Reducing government debt			
22	Improving pay and conditions for workers			
23	Investing more in road infrastructure			
24	Improving the treatment of asylum seekers			
25	Preserving freedom of speech and rejecting excessive political correctness			
26	Keeping interest rates low			
27	Reducing cost increases for household bills and other essential expenses			
28	Providing opportunities for more people to own their own home			
29	Increasing the availability of affordable rental housing			
30	Protecting the natural environment, habitats and wildlife			
31	Managing risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI)			
32	Strengthening international alliances to counteract aggression from other countries			
33	Strengthening our response to violence against women			
34	Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour			
35	Investing more to increase the availability of affordable childcare services			
36	Improving and securing international trade and supply chains			

How do you think the **Australian economy** will change over the following time frames?

(Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1-5 AND 5-1

		It will get a lot worse	It will get a little worse	It will stay the same	It will get a little better	It will get a lot better
A	In 3 months	1	2	3	4	5
B	In 12 months	1	2	3	4	5
C	In 3 years	1	2	3	4	5

Please select all the emotions that best describe how you have been **feeling** over the last few weeks?

(Select all that apply)

PROG NOTE: MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-32

1	Happy	17	Anxious
2	Grateful	18	Envious
3	Calm	19	Bored
4	Content	20	Confused
5	Inspired	21	Pessimistic
6	Confident	22	Sad
7	Optimistic	23	Scared
8	Loved	24	Stressed
9	Excited	25	Lonely
10	Ambitious	26	Depressed
11	Proud	27	Exhausted
12	Brave	28	Disappointed
13	Energised	29	Rushed
14	Joyful	30	Overwhelmed
15	Angry	31	Included
16	Annoyed	32	Valued

Overall, how would you rate the performance of the following governments?

(Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-B

	1	2	3	4	5	6	99
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
A	The (PROG NOTE: INSERT STATE/TERRITORY FROM A3a) Government						
B	The Federal Government						

Thinking now about cost of living. How concerned, if at all, are you about the following cost of living issues?

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-I. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 4,3,2,1,5

	1	2	3	4	5
	Extremely concerned	Quite concerned	Slightly concerned	Not concerned	This cost isn't relevant to me
A	Petrol prices				
B	Gas bills				
C	Grocery prices				
D	Electricity bills				
E	Rent				
F	Mortgage repayments				
G	Insurance premiums				
H	Motorway tolls				
I	Water bills				

Have you experienced any of the following things in the **last two months** as a response to the rising cost of living? *(Select all that apply)*

PROG NOTE: MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-16 THEN 99 LAST. IF CODE 1-16 SELECTED THEN CANNOT SELECT CODE 99

1	Experienced more arguments or tension at home than usual
2	Felt more anxious or worried than usual
3	Been unable to buy your usual groceries
4	Been unable to pay for education-related expenses
5	Been unable to pay a bill on time
6	Been unable to make a mortgage payment in part or full
7	Been unable to pay rent on time
8	Been unable to pay for needed medical expenses
9	Been unable to meet the minimum payments on your credit card
10	Used less heating or cooling in your home than usual
11	Reduced your usual spending on entertainment (restaurants, cinemas, events etc.)
12	Contacted your bank or a financial counsellor because you were having financial difficulties
13	Bought necessities using buy now pay later service
14	Relied on family or friends to help you financially
15	Received assistance from a charity
16	Cut back or stopped spending on holidays
99	None of the above

How would you describe your current financial situation? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

1	Doing well and feeling comfortable
2	Doing okay and making ends meet
3	Having some difficulty but just making ends meet
4	Having a lot of difficulty paying bills and covering basic living expenses

Overall, do you agree or disagree with the following statement about the current behaviour of large companies operating in Australia (i.e. Australia's "corporate sector")? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 4,3,2,1,5.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
A	The are behaving ethically and doing the right thing				

The Reserve Bank of Australia will announce its next interest rate decision on the 6th of February. The decision will affect interest rates for home mortgages and other financial products. What do you think is their most likely decision from this meeting? Your best guess is fine. *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 3,2,1,4

1	They will raise interest rates
2	They will keep interest rates unchanged
3	They will reduce interest rates
4	Don't know

How confident are you that overall rate of inflation in Australia will continue to decrease over the next 12 months?

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 3,2,1,4

1	Very confident
2	Somewhat confident
3	Not very confident
4	Not at all confident

Overall, do you feel positive or negative about Australia transitioning its electricity generation to renewables like solar, wind and hydro and moving away from coal and other fossil fuels?

(Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. -ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5, AND 5,4,3,2,1

Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neither positive nor negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative
1	2	3	4	5

In Australia, do you think the transition to renewable energy like solar, wind and hydro is currently moving... *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

Far too quickly	A bit too quickly	At an appropriate pace	A bit too slowly	Far too slowly
1	2	3	4	5

Do you support or oppose the following actions related to energy in Australia? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 6,5,4,3,2,1. RANDOMISE A-Z

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
	1	2	3	4	5
B	The Federal Government committing to “Net zero carbon emissions” by 2050 (meaning that carbon pollution released will be balanced by carbon storage or other offsets)				
C	The Federal Government’s target to reduce carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels)				
J	Fast-tracking the government decision making and community consultation processes for renewables and electricity transmission projects, in order to have more renewable energy available more quickly				
Z	(PROG NOTE: QLD ONLY) The Queensland Government’s “Energy & Jobs Plan” for the transition to renewable energy				

In principle, do you support or oppose Australia developing new electricity generation projects using the following types of energy? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 & 5,4,3,2,1. RANDOMISE A-J

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
	1	2	3	4	5
A	Coal fired power plants				
B	Gas fired power plants				
D	Offshore wind farms (typically 10-40 kilometers from the coastline)				
E	Onshore wind farms (typically in regional areas)				
F	Nuclear power plants				
G	Solar farms				
H	Hydro-electric power				
I	Waste-to-energy projects (which use household and other waste as a fuel source)				
J	Renewable gas (e.g. biomethane generated from farming and agricultural waste)				

Some solar farms and wind farms require new transmission infrastructure, such as towers and powerlines, to connect them to the existing electricity network. To what extent, if at all, would the following things make you more supportive of building this type of new electricity infrastructure in your local area?

(Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1. RANDOMISE A-F

	1 This would make me a lot more supportive	2 This would make me a little more supportive	3 This would make no difference to me
A	Understanding the importance of renewable energy to Australia's future and economy		
B	Understanding why these towers and powerlines need to run through my local area		
C	If I can't see the infrastructure from my property		
D	If it brings broader benefits to my local community such as investment in community infrastructure		
E	Understanding that people directly impacted are being fairly treated and compensated		
F	If local people are consulted and involved in discussions about the trade-offs associated with different route options		

During recent years, the Federal Government consistently committed to deliver the “Stage 3 Tax Cuts” which were part of a broader plan to reduce income tax rates in Australia. In recent weeks, it has proposed to change these planned tax cuts in a way that includes the following measures...

1. Keeping the current 37% tax rate for income earned between \$135,000 to \$190,000 (instead of the original commitment to cut this rate to 30%).
2. Keeping the top tax rate at 45% but having this rate apply to income over \$190,000 instead of the original commitment to have it apply to incomes over \$200,000.
3. Reducing the tax rate for income earned between \$18,201-\$45,001 to 16% (down from 19%)

The changes will affect different people differently but, in broad terms it will mean...

- Increasing the planned tax cuts for people currently earning less than \$150,000
- Reducing the planned tax cuts for people currently earning more than \$150,000

Overall, do you support or oppose the Government’s proposed changes to the Stage 3 Tax Cuts?

(Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5, AND 5,4,3,2,1

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
1	2	3	4	5

In principle, do you support or oppose the following potential actions related to tax in Australia?

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE A-B

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
	1	2	3	4	5
A	Reducing the reliance on income tax as a funding source and having more funding come from indirect taxes such as the GST instead				
B	The Federal Government agreeing with the calls from business and industry groups to hold a “national tax summit” where government, employer groups and community representatives can explore ways to restructure the tax system				

Now turning to the cost of living. Which of the following do you think would be the best party to manage the cost of living? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-2 THEN 3-99 LAST.

1	The Liberal and Nationals Coalition
2	The Labor Party
3	Neither / someone else
99	Can't say