

# **IPA MEDIA RELEASE**

**Institute of Public Affairs | Australia's leading free market think tank**

Friday, 7 May 2010

## **TWO-THIRDS OF AUSTRALIANS DOUBTFUL ON GLOBAL WARMING**

Two-thirds of Australians now doubt the scientific consensus on global warming according to a new poll conducted by Galaxy Research for the Institute of Public Affairs.

"These figures reveal that Australians are no longer confident they're hearing all the facts about climate change," said John Roskam, Executive Director of free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

The poll surveyed 1000 respondents across Australia from 30 April - 2 May 2010 about their attitude to global warming:

- 35% of Australians believe that "The world is warming and man's emissions are to blame."
- 26% of Australians believe that "The variation in global temperature is just part of the natural cycle of nature."
- The largest group, 38% of Australians agreed with the statement that "There is conflicting evidence and I'm not sure what the truth is."

The poll also asked respondents how much they would be willing to pay per year to tackle climate change:

- Only 6% of people are willing to pay more than \$1,000 per year
- 61% of people are unwilling to pay more than \$300 per year
- Of the respondents who believe that humans are to blame for global warming, only 12% of them are willing to pay more than \$1,000 per year.

"Since the Climategate scandals, fewer people have been willing to accept the 'consensus' on climate change.

"With public opinion like this, it is little wonder that Mr Rudd has shelved the ETS until 2013", Mr Roskam said.

Full poll results are available at [www.ipa.org.au](http://www.ipa.org.au).

### **For more information and comment:**

John Roskam

Executive Director

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## QUESTIONS

- Q1.** To generate cleaner energy and fight global warming, it might cost Australians more money each year in taxes and utility costs. How much are you willing to pay each year in higher taxes and utility costs? **READ OUT 1-6**
- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Over \$1,000..... | 1 |
| \$1,000 .....     | 2 |
| \$500 .....       | 3 |
| \$300 .....       | 4 |
| \$100 .....       | 5 |
| Or, nothing.....  | 6 |
| Don't know.....   | 7 |
- Q2.** Thinking now about global warming. Which one of these statements best matches your view? **READ OUT 1-3**
- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
|   | <u>SR</u> |
| The world is warming and man's emissions are to blame.....                            | 1         |
| The variation in global temperature is just part of the natural cycle of nature ..... | 2         |
| There is conflicting evidence and I'm not sure what the truth is.....                 | 3         |
| None/ Don't know .....  | 4         |

GALAXY RESEARCH - APR/ MAY 2010

GALAXY RESEARCH

Standard Banner 1 \*BY\* A4 Amount willing to pay in higher taxes/ utility costs

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

|   | Sex   |      | Age    |       |       |       | Marital Status |              | Grocery Buyer       |                | Children |      | Work Status |              |              | S.E.S.         |       |      |
|---|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|------|
|   | Total | Male | Female | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-49 | 50+            | Marr<br>-ied | Not<br>Marr<br>-ied | Yes<br>/Shared | No       | Yes  | No          | Full<br>Time | Part<br>Time | Not<br>Working | White | Blue |
| RESPONDENTS   | 1052  | 525  | 527    | 110   | 117   | 376   | 449            | 705          | 347                 | 692            | 360      | 382  | 670         | 457          | 252          | 343            | 607   | 445  |
| WGHT SAMPLE (000s)                                      | 16644 | 8105 | 8539   | 2067  | 2942  | 4829  | 6806           | 10710        | 5934                | 10996          | 5648     | 5846 | 10798       | 7186         | 3995         | 5463           | 9436  | 7208 |
|   | 100%  | 100% | 100%   | 100%  | 100%  | 100%  | 100%           | 100%         | 100%                | 100%           | 100%     | 100% | 100%        | 100%         | 100%         | 100%           | 100%  | 100% |
| A4 Amount willing to pay in higher taxes/ utility costs |       |      |        |       |       |       |                |              |                     |                |          |      |             |              |              |                |       |      |
| Over \$1,000  | 925   | 649  | 276    | 175   | 56    | 292   | 402            | 641          | 283                 | 463            | 462      | 258  | 667         | 408          | 292          | 225            | 688   | 236  |
|   | 6%    | 8%   | 3%     | 8%    | 2%    | 6%    | 6%             | 6%           | 5%                  | 4%             | 8%       | 4%   | 6%          | 6%           | 7%           | 4%             | 7%    | 3%   |
| \$1,000   | 1470  | 903  | 567    | 60    | 350   | 456   | 603            | 1093         | 377                 | 941            | 529      | 546  | 924         | 776          | 278          | 416            | 968   | 502  |
|   | 9%    | 11%  | 7%     | 3%    | 12%   | 9%    | 9%             | 10%          | 6%                  | 9%             | 9%       | 9%   | 9%          | 11%          | 7%           | 8%             | 10%   | 7%   |
| \$500   | 3597  | 1925 | 1672   | 590   | 855   | 930   | 1222           | 2159         | 1438                | 2259           | 1338     | 1148 | 2449        | 1861         | 936          | 800            | 2294  | 1303 |
|   | 22%   | 24%  | 20%    | 29%   | 29%   | 19%   | 18%            | 20%          | 24%                 | 21%            | 24%      | 20%  | 23%         | 26%          | 23%          | 15%            | 24%   | 18%  |
| \$300   | 2303  | 900  | 1403   | 389   | 605   | 791   | 519            | 1384         | 920                 | 1603           | 700      | 1071 | 1232        | 969          | 739          | 595            | 1403  | 900  |
|   | 14%   | 11%  | 16%    | 19%   | 21%   | 16%   | 8%             | 13%          | 15%                 | 15%            | 12%      | 18%  | 11%         | 13%          | 19%          | 11%            | 15%   | 12%  |
| \$100   | 2058  | 887  | 1171   | 385   | 403   | 618   | 652            | 1253         | 805                 | 1365           | 692      | 831  | 1226        | 908          | 581          | 568            | 1149  | 909  |
|   | 12%   | 11%  | 14%    | 19%   | 14%   | 13%   | 10%            | 12%          | 10%                 | 12%            | 12%      | 14%  | 11%         | 13%          | 15%          | 10%            | 12%   | 13%  |
| Nothing   | 5744  | 2665 | 3079   | 368   | 665   | 1623  | 3088           | 3911         | 1833                | 4020           | 1724     | 1858 | 3886        | 2191         | 1019         | 2535           | 2615  | 3129 |
|   | 35%   | 33%  | 36%    | 18%   | 23%   | 34%   | 45%            | 37%          | 31%                 | 37%            | 31%      | 32%  | 36%         | 30%          | 26%          | 46%            | 28%   | 43%  |
| Don't know  | 548   | 177  | 371    | 100   | 9     | 120   | 319            | 270          | 278                 | 344            | 203      | 133  | 415         | 72           | 151          | 325            | 319   | 229  |
|   | 3%    | 2%   | 4%     | 5%    | 0%    | 2%    | 5%             | 3%           | 5%                  | 3%             | 4%       | 2%   | 4%          | 1%           | 4%           | 6%             | 3%    | 3%   |
| TOTALS  | 16644 | 8105 | 8539   | 2067  | 2942  | 4829  | 6806           | 10710        | 5934                | 10996          | 5648     | 5846 | 10798       | 7186         | 3995         | 5463           | 9436  | 7208 |
|   | 100%  | 100% | 100%   | 100%  | 100%  | 100%  | 100%           | 100%         | 100%                | 100%           | 100%     | 100% | 100%        | 100%         | 100%         | 100%           | 100%  | 100% |

GALAXY RESEARCH

Standard Banner 2 \*BY\* A4 Amount willing to pay in higher taxes/ utility costs

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

|   | Total | State       |      |      |      |      | Capital City |         | Household Income |        |               | Schooling |       |
|---|-------|-------------|------|------|------|------|--------------|---------|------------------|--------|---------------|-----------|-------|
|   |       | NSW Vic/Tas | Qld  | SA   | WA   | Yes  | No           | < \$40K | \$40K-\$69K      | \$70K+ | Below Year 12 | Year 12   |       |
| RESPONDENTS   | 1052  | 316         | 296  | 192  | 124  | 124  | 672          | 380     | 282              | 217    | 438           | 328       | 724   |
| WGHT SAMPLE (000s)                                      | 16644 | 5821        | 4611 | 3263 | 1304 | 1645 | 10263        | 6381    | 4557             | 3401   | 6802          | 4968      | 11676 |
|   | 100%  | 100%        | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100%         | 100%    | 100%             | 100%   | 100%          | 100%      | 100%  |
| A4 Amount willing to pay in higher taxes/ utility costs |       |             |      |      |      |      |              |         |                  |        |               |           |       |
| Over \$1,000  | 925   | 454         | 244  | 106  | 49   | 71   | 632          | 293     | 182              | 153    | 484           | 35        | 890   |
|   | 6%    | 8%          | 5%   | 3%   | 4%   | 4%   | 6%           | 5%      | 4%               | 5%     | 7%            | 1%        | 8%    |
| \$1,000   | 1470  | 704         | 371  | 214  | 93   | 88   | 884          | 586     | 287              | 242    | 877           | 376       | 1094  |
|   | 9%    | 12%         | 8%   | 7%   | 7%   | 5%   | 9%           | 9%      | 6%               | 7%     | 13%           | 8%        | 9%    |
| \$500   | 3597  | 1281        | 977  | 661  | 243  | 435  | 2399         | 1197    | 847              | 858    | 1703          | 836       | 2761  |
|   | 22%   | 22%         | 21%  | 20%  | 19%  | 26%  | 23%          | 19%     | 19%              | 25%    | 25%           | 17%       | 24%   |
| \$300   | 2303  | 668         | 703  | 484  | 175  | 273  | 1541         | 762     | 579              | 502    | 985           | 602       | 1701  |
|   | 14%   | 11%         | 15%  | 15%  | 13%  | 17%  | 15%          | 12%     | 13%              | 15%    | 14%           | 12%       | 15%   |
| \$100   | 2058  | 668         | 547  | 526  | 195  | 122  | 1346         | 712     | 588              | 372    | 901           | 660       | 1397  |
|   | 12%   | 11%         | 12%  | 16%  | 15%  | 7%   | 13%          | 11%     | 13%              | 11%    | 13%           | 13%       | 12%   |
| Nothing   | 5744  | 1936        | 1586 | 1134 | 474  | 614  | 3115         | 2629    | 1874             | 1158   | 1725          | 2270      | 3475  |
|   | 35%   | 33%         | 34%  | 35%  | 36%  | 37%  | 30%          | 41%     | 41%              | 34%    | 25%           | 46%       | 30%   |
| Don't know  | 548   | 110         | 183  | 138  | 75   | 42   | 346          | 202     | 200              | 115    | 128           | 190       | 358   |
|   | 3%    | 2%          | 4%   | 4%   | 6%   | 3%   | 3%           | 3%      | 4%               | 3%     | 2%            | 4%        | 3%    |
| TOTALS  | 16644 | 5821        | 4611 | 3263 | 1304 | 1645 | 10263        | 6381    | 4557             | 3401   | 6802          | 4968      | 11676 |
|   | 100%  | 100%        | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100%         | 100%    | 100%             | 100%   | 100%          | 100%      | 100%  |

GALAXY RESEARCH

A5 Attitude to global warming \*BY\* A4 Amount willing to pay in higher taxes/ utility costs

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

| TOTALS  | A5 Attitude to global warming                         |   |  |              |             |
|---|---|---|--|--------------|-------------|
|   | The world is warming and man's emissions are to blame | The variation in global temperature is just part of the natural cycle of nature | There is conflicting evidence and I'm not sure what the truth is | None         | Don't know  |
| RESPONDENTS   | 1052  | 362   | 276  | 400          | 14          |
| WGHT SAMPLE (000s)                                      | 16644   | 5801  | 4335   | 6298         | 211         |
|   | 100%  | 100%  | 100%   | 100%         | 100%        |
| A4 Amount willing to pay in higher taxes/ utility costs |   |   |  |              |             |
| Over \$1,000  | 925<br>6%   | 706<br>12%  | 53<br>1%   | 149<br>2%    | 17<br>8%    |
| \$1,000   | 1470<br>9%  | 809<br>14%  | 151<br>3%  | 463<br>7%    | 47<br>22%   |
| \$500   | 3597<br>22%   | 1512<br>26%   | 628<br>14%   | 1396<br>22%  | 60<br>28%   |
| \$300   | 2303<br>14%   | 991<br>17%  | 408<br>9%  | 894<br>14%   | 11<br>5%    |
| \$100   | 2058<br>12%   | 672<br>12%  | 533<br>12%   | 843<br>13%   | 10<br>5%    |
| Nothing   | 5744<br>35%   | 875<br>15%  | 2487<br>57%  | 2315<br>37%  | 66<br>32%   |
| Don't know  | 548<br>3%   | 236<br>4%   | 74<br>2%   | 238<br>4%    |             |
| TOTALS  | 16644<br>100%   | 5801<br>100%  | 4335<br>100%   | 6298<br>100% | 211<br>100% |

GALAXY RESEARCH

Standard Banner 1 \*BY\* A5 Attitude to global warming

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

|   | Sex           |              | Age          |              |              |              | Marital Status |               | Grocery Buyer       |                | Children     |              | Work Status   |              |              | S.E.S.         |              |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Total         | Male         | Female       | 18-24        | 25-34        | 35-49        | 50+            | Marr<br>-ied  | Not<br>Marr<br>-ied | Yes<br>/Shared | No           | Yes          | No            | Full<br>Time | Part<br>Time | Not<br>Working | White        | Blue         |
| RESPONDENTS   | 1052          | 525          | 527          | 110          | 117          | 376          | 449            | 705           | 347                 | 692            | 360          | 382          | 670           | 457          | 252          | 343            | 607          | 445          |
| WGHT SAMPLE (000s)  | 16644         | 8105         | 8539         | 2067         | 2942         | 4829         | 6806           | 10710         | 5934                | 10996          | 5648         | 5846         | 10798         | 7186         | 3995         | 5463           | 9436         | 7208         |
|   | 100%          | 100%         | 100%         | 100%         | 100%         | 100%         | 100%           | 100%          | 100%                | 100%           | 100%         | 100%         | 100%          | 100%         | 100%         | 100%           | 100%         | 100%         |
| A5 Attitude to global warming   |               |              |              |              |              |              |                |               |                     |                |              |              |               |              |              |                |              |              |
| The world is warming and man's emissions are to blame                           | 5801<br>35%   | 3021<br>37%  | 2780<br>33%  | 1043<br>50%  | 1176<br>40%  | 1715<br>36%  | 1867<br>27%    | 3482<br>33%   | 2319<br>39%         | 3554<br>32%    | 2247<br>40%  | 2089<br>36%  | 3712<br>34%   | 2766<br>38%  | 1528<br>38%  | 1506<br>28%    | 3692<br>39%  | 2109<br>29%  |
| The variation in global temperature is just part of the natural cycle of nature | 4335<br>26%   | 2187<br>27%  | 2148<br>25%  | 398<br>19%   | 576<br>20%   | 1052<br>22%  | 2309<br>34%    | 2729<br>25%   | 1606<br>27%         | 3044<br>28%    | 1290<br>23%  | 1147<br>20%  | 3188<br>30%   | 1741<br>24%  | 728<br>18%   | 1865<br>34%    | 2009<br>21%  | 2326<br>32%  |
| There is conflicting evidence and I'm not sure what the truth is                | 6298<br>38%   | 2772<br>34%  | 3526<br>41%  | 608<br>29%   | 1151<br>39%  | 2000<br>41%  | 2539<br>37%    | 4387<br>41%   | 1911<br>32%         | 4300<br>39%    | 1998<br>35%  | 2541<br>43%  | 3757<br>35%   | 2562<br>36%  | 1682<br>42%  | 2053<br>38%    | 3586<br>38%  | 2711<br>38%  |
| None/ Don't know  | 211<br>1%     | 126<br>2%    | 85<br>1%     | 17<br>1%     | 39<br>1%     | 63<br>1%     | 91<br>1%       | 112<br>1%     | 99<br>2%            | 97<br>1%       | 114<br>2%    | 70<br>1%     | 141<br>1%     | 116<br>2%    | 56<br>1%     | 39<br>1%       | 149<br>2%    | 62<br>1%     |
| TOTALS  | 16644<br>100% | 8105<br>100% | 8539<br>100% | 2067<br>100% | 2942<br>100% | 4829<br>100% | 6806<br>100%   | 10710<br>100% | 5934<br>100%        | 10996<br>100%  | 5648<br>100% | 5846<br>100% | 10798<br>100% | 7186<br>100% | 3995<br>100% | 5463<br>100%   | 9436<br>100% | 7208<br>100% |

GALAXY RESEARCH

Standard Banner 2 \*BY\* A5 Attitude to global warming

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

|   | Total         | State        |              |              |              |              | Capital City  |              | Household Income |              |               | Schooling    |               |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|   |               | NSW Vic/Tas  | Qld          | SA           | WA           | Yes          | No            | < \$40K      | \$40K-\$69K      | \$70K+       | Below Year 12 | Year 12      |               |
| RESPONDENTS   | 1052          | 316          | 296          | 192          | 124          | 124          | 672           | 380          | 282              | 217          | 438           | 328          | 724           |
| WGHT SAMPLE (000s)  | 16644         | 5821         | 4611         | 3263         | 1304         | 1645         | 10263         | 6381         | 4557             | 3401         | 6802          | 4968         | 11676         |
|   | 100%          | 100%         | 100%         | 100%         | 100%         | 100%         | 100%          | 100%         | 100%             | 100%         | 100%          | 100%         | 100%          |
| A5 Attitude to global warming   |               |              |              |              |              |              |               |              |                  |              |               |              |               |
| The world is warming and man's emissions are to blame                           | 5801<br>35%   | 2125<br>37%  | 1719<br>37%  | 893<br>27%   | 496<br>38%   | 568<br>35%   | 3938<br>38%   | 1863<br>29%  | 1378<br>30%      | 1243<br>37%  | 2593<br>38%   | 1206<br>24%  | 4595<br>39%   |
| The variation in global temperature is just part of the natural cycle of nature | 4335<br>26%   | 1600<br>27%  | 1168<br>25%  | 773<br>24%   | 290<br>22%   | 505<br>31%   | 2476<br>24%   | 1859<br>29%  | 1505<br>33%      | 717<br>21%   | 1446<br>21%   | 1923<br>39%  | 2412<br>21%   |
| There is conflicting evidence and I'm not sure what the truth is                | 6298<br>38%   | 2007<br>34%  | 1683<br>36%  | 1555<br>48%  | 497<br>38%   | 555<br>34%   | 3710<br>36%   | 2588<br>41%  | 1657<br>36%      | 1419<br>42%  | 2621<br>39%   | 1827<br>37%  | 4471<br>38%   |
| None/ Don't know  | 211<br>1%     | 88<br>2%     | 42<br>1%     | 42<br>1%     | 21<br>2%     | 17<br>1%     | 139<br>1%     | 72<br>1%     | 18<br>0%         | 23<br>1%     | 143<br>2%     | 12<br>0%     | 199<br>2%     |
| TOTALS  | 16644<br>100% | 5821<br>100% | 4611<br>100% | 3263<br>100% | 1304<br>100% | 1645<br>100% | 10263<br>100% | 6381<br>100% | 4557<br>100%     | 3401<br>100% | 6802<br>100%  | 4968<br>100% | 11676<br>100% |