

Excelltium/DigiPoll

Quantitative Study of Public Attitudes Towards the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Legislation

Full Results

Dates Conducted: 20 – 27 June 2008

Sample Size: 514 Respondents

Margin of Error: $\pm 4.2\%$

(tables may not sum to 100% because of rounding)

Q1	Immediate Responses	n=514
In the next few weeks, the New Zealand Government plans to pass legislation for a scheme to fight climate change. Agriculture and some other sectors won't be part of the scheme for some years. Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly oppose and 5 means strongly support, how strongly do you oppose or support this legislation?		
1. Strongly oppose		13.3%
2. Oppose		11.0%
Total oppose		24.3%
3. Neutral		41.4%
4. Support		16.5%
5. Strongly support		17.7%
Total support		34.2%

Q2	High-level view of climate change	n=514
Which ONE of the following statements best describes your opinion about climate change as a global issue?		
2.1 It is caused by humans and is the most important challenge facing the world today, and must be addressed even if it means we all have to accept a fundamental shift in the way we live our lives		20.2%
2.2 It is caused by humans and is an important issue, and it must be addressed alongside other major global issues such as hunger		45.1%
2.3 It is caused by humans, but we will be able to adapt to it without massive disruption to our way of life		14.8%
2.4 It is mainly a natural change and there is no need to take any action to change it		15.7%
Depends		0.8%
None		1.2%
Unsure		2.0%
Refused		0.2%

Q3 High-level view of best policy response n=514	
Which ONE of the following statements best describes your opinion about how New Zealand should respond to climate change?	
3.1 New Zealand should be the world's leader on climate change even if it means we face costs that other countries do not	9.6%
3.2 New Zealand should be one of the world's leaders on climate change and work at the same pace as other countries that are determined to make a difference	49.2%
3.3 New Zealand should be a fast-follower on climate change, and be able to move quickly when other countries do	28.5%
3.4 New Zealand should do nothing on climate change	8.2%
Depends	0.2%
None	2.1%
Unsure	1.8%
Refused	0.5%

Q4 Willingness to act personally n=514	
Are you personally prepared to take steps or accept costs to reduce the effects of climate change?	
Yes	87.4%
No	9.1%
Don't know/refused	3.6%

Q5 Willingness to take specific actions n=450	
Which of the following measures are you prepared to take in an effort to tackle climate change?	
5.1 Recycle rubbish each week	83.1%
5.2 Turn off televisions, computers and other household appliances when they are not in use	74.6%
5.3 Use public transport more than you are at present, if it's available in your area	49.8%
5.4 Holiday close to home rather than travel overseas	48.1%
5.5 Join a carpool and share a ride to work	40.6%
5.6 Install solar water heating, which costs an average of \$3,000 to \$6,000 per household	40.7%
None of the above	0.7%
Refused	0.5%

Q6 Willingness to pay \$10 a week		n=514
Would you be prepared to pay \$10 a week more on household essentials such as electricity or petrol in an effort to tackle climate change? <i>These questions are cascaded – only those who answered the previous question positively, would be asked the next questions. These percentages are percentages of the total sample.</i>		
Yes		42.8%
No		35.6%
Depends		8.9%
Previously indicated would not be willing to pay this cost		12.7%
Would you be prepared to pay \$20 a week more on household essentials such as electricity or petrol in an effort to tackle climate change?		
Yes		16.3%
No		28.0%
Depends		7.4%
Previously indicated would not be willing to pay this cost		48.3%
Would you be prepared to pay \$40 a week more on household essentials such as electricity or petrol in an effort to tackle climate change?		
Yes		4.8%
No		15.3%
Depends		3.5%
Previously indicated would not be willing to pay this cost		76.4%
Would you be prepared to pay \$100 a week more on household essentials such as electricity or petrol in an effort to tackle climate change?		
Yes		1.0%
No		5.1%
Depends		2.3%
Previously indicated would not be willing to pay this cost		91.6%

Nb. The order of questions 7.1 to 7.7 was randomised

Q7.1 New Zealand Leadership		n=514
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “If New Zealand leads the world in fighting climate change, other countries will follow”?		
1. Strongly disagree		32.5%
2. Disagree		23.2%
Total disagree		55.7%
3. Neutral		21.0%
4. Agree		12.8%
5. Strongly agree		10.4%
Total agree		23.2%

Q7.2 Risk of Trade Reprisals n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand will face trade reprisals from other countries unless we are well ahead of other countries in the fight against climate change”?	
1. Strongly disagree	30.2%
2. Disagree	20.0%
Total disagree	50.2%
3. Neutral	33.4%
4. Agree	8.3%
5. Strongly agree	8.2%
Total agree	16.5%

Q7.3 Is New Zealand Too Slow? n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s actions on climate change are too slow compared with other countries”?	
1. Strongly disagree	26.4%
2. Disagree	25.6%
Total disagree	52.0%
3. Neutral	27.4%
4. Agree	11.0%
5. Strongly agree	9.6%
Total agree	20.6%

Q7.4 Nonsense proposition n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “If New Zealand imposes tough climate change measures here at home, the effects of climate change will be much less in New Zealand”?	
1. Strongly disagree	29.0%
2. Disagree	20.1%
Total disagree	49.1%
3. Neutral	30.9%
4. Agree	10.7%
5. Strongly agree	9.3%
Total agree	20.0%

Q7.5 Ability of New Zealand to make a difference n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s carbon emissions are so small that any action we take will not make any difference to the effects of climate change”?	
1. Strongly disagree	22.4%
2. Disagree	21.8%
Total disagree	44.2%
3. Neutral	22.2%
4. Agree	12.9%
5. Strongly agree	20.7%
Total agree	33.6%

Q7.6 Are politicians grandstanding on world stage? n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s climate change policies are mainly about our politicians wanting to grandstand on the world stage”?	
1. Strongly disagree	14.3%
2. Disagree	13.7%
Total disagree	28.0%
3. Neutral	24.1%
4. Agree	19.2%
5. Strongly agree	28.7%
Total agree	47.9%

Q7.7 Financial impact on my family n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s climate change policies will hurt me and my family financially”?	
1. Strongly disagree	16.3%
2. Disagree	12.7%
Total disagree	29.0%
3. Neutral	33.9%
4. Agree	15.0%
5. Strongly agree	22.1%
Total agree	37.1%

Q8 Integration with Australian scheme n=514	
The New Zealand Government plans to pass its climate change legislation this month. In July, the Australian Government will announce its own climate change scheme. Some people, including the New Zealand Government, think that the New Zealand and Australian schemes should be linked. Do you think the New Zealand Government should continue to proceed with its own legislation or wait one month to see what the Australian scheme looks like before proceeding?	
Continue to proceed with its own legislation	33.9%
Wait one month to see what the Australian scheme looks like	62.2%
Unsure	2.3%
Refused	1.0%
Depends	0.5%

Nb. The order of questions 9.1 to 9.4 was randomised

Q9.1 Importance of passing the legislation		n=514
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “It is important to pass the legislation so that New Zealand begins cutting our carbon emissions, to lead the world in saving the planet from the disastrous consequences of climate change ”?		
1. Strongly disagree		19.0%
2. Disagree		15.3%
Total disagree		34.3%
3. Neutral		25.9%
4. Agree		23.4%
5. Strongly agree		16.5%
Total agree		39.9%

Q9.2 Should we slow down?		n=514
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “The legislation should be passed only as other countries pass similar legislation because it will be costly, lead to job losses and some businesses may need to move offshore. Slower action is needed than the Government is proposing”?		
1. Strongly disagree		13.3%
2. Disagree		18.1%
Total disagree		31.4%
3. Neutral		28.5%
4. Agree		15.2%
5. Strongly agree		24.9%
Total agree		40.1%

Q9.3 Should we toughen up?		n=514
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “The legislation should be passed only if the Government is prepared to go further than it is proposing. The scheme as it is written won’t cut carbon emissions enough to make a difference”?		
1. Strongly disagree		14.7%
2. Disagree		12.0%
Total disagree		26.7%
3. Neutral		39.0%
4. Agree		16.4%
5. Strongly agree		18.0%
Total agree		34.4%

Q9.4 Should we abandon the legislation? n=514	
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement "The legislation should not be passed at all because climate change is occurring naturally and actions taken won't make any difference"?	
1. Strongly disagree	35.2%
2. Disagree	21.5%
Total disagree	56.7%
3. Neutral	19.1%
4. Agree	8.7%
5. Strongly agree	15.4%
Total agree	24.1%

Q10 Party vote n=514	
Under MMP, you have two votes: one for the candidate in the electorate you live in and the second for a party. Thinking about this party vote only, if the general election were held today, which party would you vote for?	
National	54.2%
Labour	30.2%
Greens	6.3%
New Zealand First	3.7%
Act	1.4%
Maori	0.6%
Progressives	0.4%
Christian Heritage	0.2%
Other	0.2%
Won't vote	2.8%

VNZF Previously voted New Zealand First? n=495	
[Of those who are not planning to vote New Zealand First in 2008] Have you ever voted for New Zealand First?	
Yes	18%
No	78.9%
Refused	0.7%
Unsure	2.4%

CVNZF Would consider voting New Zealand First? n=406	
[Of those who are not planning to vote New Zealand First in 2008] Would you, or have you ever considered voting for New Zealand First in the future?	
Yes	15.1%
No	73.6%
Depends	3.2%
Refused	0.2%
Unsure	8%

VGRN Previously voted Green? n=482	
[Of those who are not planning to vote Green in 2008] Have you ever voted for the Green Party?	
Yes	17.5%
No	81.5%
Refused	0.2%
Unsure	0.8%

CVGRN Would consider voting Green? n=398	
[Of those who are not planning to vote Green in 2008] Would you, or have you ever considered voting for the Green Party in the future?	
Yes	23.6%
No	67.7%
Depends	3.4%
Refused	0.2%
Unsure	5.1%

Q11 Impact of Speed or Delay on Non-Labour Voters' Attitudes to Labour n=359	
[Asked of those who are not planning to vote Labour in 2008] If the Government were to pass the legislation ahead of the Australians, would it make you more likely to vote Labour, less likely to vote Labour, or would it make no difference?	
More likely	6.9%
Less likely	12.4%
Make no difference	76.6%
Unsure	4.1%
[Asked of those who are not planning to vote Labour in 2008] If the Government were to wait one month to talk to the Australians before proceeding, would it make you more likely to vote Labour, less likely to vote Labour, or would it make no difference?	
More likely	13.2%
Less likely	6.0%
Make no difference	76.9%
Unsure	3.9%

NZF1 Impact of NZ First Decisions on New Zealand First Vote n=174	
[Asked of those who are planning to vote New Zealand First in 2008, or who have previously considered voting New Zealand First or who may consider voting New Zealand First in the future] New Zealand's scheme for climate change can only be passed this month if New Zealand First supports it. If New Zealand First supports the legislation, would that make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or would it make no difference?	
More likely	18.9%
Less likely	14.3%
Make no difference	65.2%
Unsure	1.6%

NZF2 Best Option for New Zealand First Vote n=174	
[Asked of those who are planning to vote New Zealand First in 2008, or who have previously considered voting New Zealand First or who may consider voting New Zealand First in the future] Which of the following do you think is the best option for New Zealand First?	
Help get the legislation passed in June before the Australians	18.5%
Encourage Helen Clark to begin multi-party talks after she talks to the Australian Prime Minister in July and August	62.1%
Refuse to support the legislation under any circumstances	12.7%
Unsure	5.6%
Depends	1.1%

GRN Impact of Green Decisions on Green Vote n=210	
GRN1 [Asked of those who are planning to vote Green in 2008, or who have previously considered voting Green or who may consider voting Green in the future] New Zealand's scheme for climate change can only be passed this month if the Green Party supports it. The Greens says they will only support it if it is made tougher. Specifically, they want agriculture brought in quicker. But others think the Greens should support the legislation anyway, because if there is a change of Government the new Government may make the scheme even weaker. If the Greens press the Government hard to make changes, but in the end support the Government scheme even if there are no major changes such as bringing in agriculture earlier, would that make you more likely to vote Green, less likely to vote Green or make no difference?	
More likely	22.5%
Less likely	8.0%
Make no difference	66.7%
Unsure	2.9%
GRN2 [Asked of those who are planning to vote Green in 2008, or who have previously considered voting Green or who may consider voting Green in the future] If the Greens hold out for a tougher scheme, and even if that means that the Bill ultimately does not pass, would that make you more likely to vote Green, less likely to vote Green or make no difference?	
More likely	15.5%
Less likely	14.3%
Make no difference	70.0%
Unsure	0.3%

Q15 Efficacy of Sustainability Council Campaign n=224	
According to the Sustainability Council, the climate change legislation will subsidise Big Business by \$1.2 billion. Given this, do you support the legislation?	
Yes	47.0%
No	53.0%

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Additional Cross-Tabulations by Major Party Support

(further cross-tabulations can be produced on request)

Q1 Immediate Responses			
In the next few weeks, the New Zealand Government plans to pass legislation for a scheme to fight climate change. Agriculture and some other sectors won't be part of the scheme for some years. Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly oppose and 5 means strongly support, how strongly do you oppose or support this legislation?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly oppose	19.6%	2.3%	13.3%
2. Oppose	17.1%	4.0%	11.0%
Total oppose	36.7%	6.3%	24.3%
3. Neutral	39.6%	46.8%	41.4%
4. Support	15.6%	22.8%	16.5%
5. Strongly support	8.2%	24.2%	17.7%
Total support	23.8%	47.0%	34.2%

Q3 High-level view of best policy response			
Which ONE of the following statements best describes your opinion about how New Zealand should respond to climate change?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
3.1 New Zealand should be <u>the</u> world's leader on climate change even if it means we face costs that other countries do not	4.3%	10.4%	9.6%
3.2 New Zealand should be <u>one of</u> the world's leaders on climate change and work at the same pace as other countries that are determined to make a difference	44.8%	55.6%	49.2%
3.3 New Zealand should be a fast-follower on climate change, and be able to move quickly when other countries do	35.9%	29.3%	28.5%
3.4 New Zealand should do nothing on climate change	10.3%	3.9%	8.2%

Q7.1 New Zealand Leadership			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “If New Zealand leads the world in fighting climate change, other countries will follow”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	42.6%	18.5%	32.5%
2. Disagree	24.8%	25.0%	23.2%
Total disagree	67.4%	43.5%	55.7%
3. Neutral	15.9%	31.1%	21.0%
4. Agree	8.9%	16.0%	12.8%
5. Strongly agree	7.8%	9.3%	10.4%
Total agree	16.7%	25.3%	23.2%

Q7.2 Risk of Trade Reprisals			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand will face trade reprisals from other countries unless we are well ahead of other countries in the fight against climate change”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	35.5%	17.7%	30.2%
2. Disagree	21.0%	20.4%	20.0%
Total disagree	56.5%	38.1%	50.2%
3. Neutral	28.6%	41.2%	33.4%
4. Agree	8.0%	10.2%	8.3%
5. Strongly agree	6.8%	10.5%	8.2%
Total agree	14.8%	20.7%	16.5%

Q7.3 Is New Zealand Too Slow?			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s actions on climate change are too slow compared with other countries”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	27.5%	21.0%	26.4%
2. Disagree	25.7%	31.7%	25.6%
Total disagree	53.2%	52.7%	52.0%
3. Neutral	27.6%	25.4%	27.4%
4. Agree	13.2%	11.4%	11.0%
5. Strongly agree	6.0%	10.5%	9.6%
Total agree	19.2%	21.9%	20.6%

Q7.4 Nonsense proposition			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “If New Zealand imposes tough climate change measures here at home, the effects of climate change will be much less in New Zealand”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	33.3%	19.1%	29.0%
2. Disagree	18.3%	25.3%	20.1%
Total disagree	51.6%	44.4%	49.1%
3. Neutral	28.5%	34.9%	30.9%
4. Agree	11.2%	13.4%	10.7%
5. Strongly agree	8.7%	7.3%	9.3%
Total agree	19.9%	20.7%	20.0%

Q7.5 Ability of New Zealand to make a difference			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s carbon emissions are so small that any action we take will not make any difference to the effects of climate change”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	16.4%	27.8%	22.4%
2. Disagree	22.6%	22.4%	21.8%
Total disagree	39.0%	50.2%	44.2%
3. Neutral	21.9%	24.1%	22.2%
4. Agree	11.1%	15.4%	12.9%
5. Strongly agree	28.0%	10.4%	20.7%
Total agree	39.1%	25.8%	33.6%

Q7.6 Are politicians grandstanding on world stage?			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s climate change policies are mainly about our politicians wanting to grandstand on the world stage”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	8.5%	25.7%	14.3%
2. Disagree	11.8%	18.6%	13.7%
Total disagree	20.3%	44.3%	28.0%
3. Neutral	24.1%	21.4%	24.1%
4. Agree	20.9%	19.6%	19.2%
5. Strongly agree	34.8%	14.6%	28.7%
Total agree	55.7%	34.2%	47.9%

Q7.7 Financial impact on my family			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “New Zealand’s climate change policies will hurt me and my family financially”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	14.5%	15.7%	16.3%
2. Disagree	11.5%	15.1%	12.7%
Total disagree	26.0%	30.8%	29.0%
3. Neutral	34.7%	31.4%	33.9%
4. Agree	15.1%	19.4%	15.0%
5. Strongly agree	24.1%	18.4%	22.1%
Total agree	39.2%	37.8%	37.1%

Q8 Integration with Australian scheme			
The New Zealand Government plans to pass its climate change legislation this month. In July, the Australian Government will announce its own climate change scheme. Some people, including the New Zealand Government, think that the New Zealand and Australian schemes should be linked. Do you think the New Zealand Government should continue to proceed with its own legislation or wait one month to see what the Australian scheme looks like before proceeding?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
Continue to proceed with its own legislation	26.0%	46.2%	33.9%
Wait one month to see what the Australian scheme looks like	70.1%	52.5%	62.2%

Q9.1 Importance of passing the legislation			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “It is important to pass the legislation so that New Zealand begins cutting our carbon emissions, to lead the world in saving the planet from the disastrous consequences of climate change”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	25.1%	5.6%	19.0%
2. Disagree	19.6%	12.0%	15.3%
Total disagree	44.7%	17.6%	34.3%
3. Neutral	26.2%	27.2%	25.9%
4. Agree	19.2%	35.7%	23.4%
5. Strongly agree	9.8%	19.4%	16.5%
Total agree	29.0%	55.1%	39.9%

Q9.2 Should we slow down?			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “The legislation should be passed only as other countries pass similar legislation because it will be costly, lead to job losses and some businesses may need to move offshore. Slower action is needed than the Government is proposing”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	6.1%	15.9%	13.3%
2. Disagree	17.3%	23.2%	18.1%
Total disagree	23.4%	39.1%	31.4%
3. Neutral	27.6%	31.0%	28.5%
4. Agree	14.4%	14.4%	15.2%
5. Strongly agree	34.6%	15.5%	24.9%
Total agree	49.0%	29.9%	40.1%

Q9.3 Should we toughen up?			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “The legislation should be passed only if the Government is prepared to go further than it is proposing. The scheme as it is written won’t cut carbon emissions enough to make a difference”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	15.9%	9.6%	14.7%
2. Disagree	11.0%	16.3%	12.0%
Total disagree	26.9%	25.9%	26.7%
3. Neutral	37.9%	43.0%	39.0%
4. Agree	16.6%	18.3%	16.4%
5. Strongly agree	18.5%	12.8%	18.0%
Total agree	35.1%	31.1%	34.4%

Q9.4 Should we abandon the legislation?			
Using a 1-5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree, can you tell me how strongly you disagree or agree with the statement “The legislation should not be passed at all because climate change is occurring naturally and actions taken won’t make any difference”?			
	National Voters (n=279)	Labour Voters (n=155)	Whole Population (n=514)
1. Strongly disagree	27.9%	37.0%	35.4%
2. Disagree	21.7%	26.2%	21.5%
Total disagree	49.6%	63.2%	56.9%
3. Neutral	21.4%	18.0%	19.1%
4. Agree	9.9%	8.0%	8.7%
5. Strongly agree	19.2%	10.9%	15.4%
Total agree	29.1%	18.9%	24.1%