

Since February this year Climate Action Moreland has been surveying the people of Moreland on their views on government support for renewable energy as part of the national 100% Renewables Campaign. Our 189 survey results formed part of the national report of 14 000 surveys which was presented to the Multi Party Climate Change Committee in June.

The national results reflected ours in Moreland. There were high levels of concern that the government was not doing enough to support the development of clean renewable energy, calls for urgent action and more investment, and enthusiasm for moving towards 100% renewable energy.

There was criticism from survey respondents for what was perceived as the government's prevaricating on climate policy, whether that was the solar rebates or the emissions trading scheme. Concern for continuing investment in fossil fuels was a consistent theme.

Support for the government's proposed carbon price amongst respondents in Moreland was high with some urging the government to stand firm in the face of a difficult debate. However some residents who supported renewable energy and climate action were also concerned about the impact of the carbon price on electricity costs.

Where did we survey?

The purpose of the survey was to sample community attitudes amongst people who wanted to give their views on renewable energy. Eleven Climate Action Moreland volunteers surveyed respondents at the Sydney Road Street Festival, at stalls in the Coburg Mall and at CERES and we also doorknocked in

Fawkner, near the Fawkner Neighbourhood House one Saturday in late May.

At Coburg Mall



Doorknocking in Fawkner



At CERES



At Fawkner Neighbourhood House

Where were people from?

The majority of the respondents were from the northern suburbs, however a wide variety of other regions were represented.

Region	Number of respondents
Inner city	13
North	122
East	1
South	3
West	5
Greater Victoria	4
South Australia	2
Western Australia	1
No postcode recorded	38

The main postcodes represented were West Brunswick, Brunswick, East Brunswick, Coburg and Fawkner. There were a large number of other postcodes represented, however there was only a low number of respondents from each.

Quantitative responses

The majority of respondents (80%) did not think the government was doing enough to support the development of renewable energy.

Of the people who did not think the government was doing enough, the majority of respondents said that they thought there needed to be more investment in renewable energy, with a shift away from fossil fuels.

There was strong support from respondents for the government to support jobs and investment in renewable energy, introduce and plan for incorporating renewable energy and to put a price on pollution.

Question	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Do you think the government should be implementing strong policy to support new jobs and investment in renewable energy?	95%	3%	2%
Do you think we should be introducing more renewable energy to help manage rising energy prices?	90%	2%	7%
Do you think Australia should develop a plan to move to 100% renewable energy?	86%	7%	7%
Should Australia put a price tag on pollution?	85%	8%	7%

The vast majority of the respondents (92%) thought the government should stand up to the polluting companies trying to scare our governments by saying that renewable energy is too expensive and too hard.

Qualitative responses

Two of these eight questions allowed for the respondent to give their opinion or a personal message. The first asked “why do you feel the government is / isn't doing enough to support the development of renewable energy?” The second asked “if you could send a message to your Federal and State MP on this issue, what would you say?”

Themes in qualitative answers in response to the question – is the government doing enough on renewable energy? If you answered no, why do you say that?:

Too much talk – not enough action!

Because we're in big trouble and there isn't much care for our environment.

Because I think currently we're doing a lot of chatting and while we are chatting it is a blocker.

All we hear is rhetoric and not real action.

Because if they spend enough money we would know about their programs.

Dominance of the fossil fuel lobby and continuing reliance on coal

The coal industry still dominates, not enough money is spent upgrading solar and researching alternatives.

They are subsidizing coal and high carbon industries ahead of renewable energy.

We have the dirtiest coal station in southern hemisphere and the government hasn't changed it.

They are subsidising fossil fuels by about five times as much.

Because we still have Hazelwood.

Because too focussed on coal as a source of energy and too apologetic to high polluting companies.

Because we still have horrible energy happening.

Lack of consistent policies to support renewable energy

They're not really doing anything. They're commissioning a new coal fired power station and rebates for renewables are going down.

Because they took away the solar subsidy.

Because they keep cutting back on programs.

Because they change their mind all the time, for example on subsidies, and they have no long term plan.

If you answered yes, why do you say that?

Makes power expensive.

In the popular domain it's a different political environment.

They're doing best they can.

The carbon pricing policy is way ahead of the USA.

I'm against climate change.

Themes in qualitative answers in response to the question – If you could send a message to your local member on this issue, what would it be?

Act sooner rather than later to support renewables

Hurry up!

Do it! Don't keep puffing wind all over the place, lets do it.

Be more visionary.

Action needs to happen.

Get some backbone. Stop chasing the dollar. Invest in the future.

More action sooner.

Put his (Kelvin Thompson) energy where his mouth is.

Australia needs to be a world leader on renewables

Compare us to Germany - why aren't we the leaders in solar?

It's amazing what's going on in Germany, we should do it too.

There is a small country in Europe doing 100% renewable energy and we should follow them.

There were a variety of responses to this question that discussed the carbon price, including some people thinking that the proposal was too complex, with others urging the government to stick to the carbon price plan:

Persist with the carbon tax and just because something is difficult and more expensive doesn't mean its not worth investing in.

I support the carbon price but people need to be helped to find ways to minimise their energy eg solar run appliances gets people more closely bonded to the concept.

You know better, you know renewables is good. The only way to get big business to change their ways to get then to pay for it.

You're worried about it hitting us in the pocket, but the costs are going to hit everyone eventually.

Comments from those people who didn't support a carbon price:

It is the way of the future. Not a carbon tax because the devil is in the detail.

Instead of putting a tax on everyone there should be regulation of big companies. They should listen to everyone. Each policy has positives and negatives.

For more information about the activities of Climate Action Moreland, visit climateactionmoreland.org.

For more on the 100% Renewables Campaign, including to download 'Just Get On With It', the analysis of 14 000 conversations from across Australia, visit 100percent.org.au.



Community survey on clean energy

Survey Script

Hi, I'm << name >>, and I'm a volunteer with a local community group called Climate Action Moreland.

We're out today running a short community survey about renewable energy. Could you spare a few minutes to answer a few quick questions?

1. Firstly, do you think the government is doing enough to support the development of clean renewable energy – like wind and solar? *Yes / No / Don't know/other*
2. Why do you say that? *Record answer*
3. Over 280,000 jobs have been created in Germany through government support for renewable energy. Do you think the government should be implementing strong policy to support new jobs and investment in renewable energy? *Yes/No/ Don't know/other*
4. Right now the cost of fossil fuel power is going up while renewable energy is quickly getting cheaper. Do you think we should be introducing more renewable energy to help manage rising energy prices? *Yes / No / Don't know/other*
5. Research now shows that Australia could generate all of its power from renewable energy like wind and solar, 24 hours a day. Do you think Australia should develop a plan to move to 100% renewable energy? *Yes / No / Don't know/other*
6. Our economy is quite dependent on energy sources that cause pollution. Should Australia put a price tag on pollution so that businesses that continue to pollute are made responsible and those that don't pollute have an incentive to use clean energy? *Yes / No / Don't know/other*
7. Polluting companies are trying to scare our governments by saying that renewable energy is too expensive and too hard. Should the government respond to this scare campaign, or stand up to these big companies and invest in clean energy anyway? *Invest/Not invest/Unsure*
8. Finally, once we've completed this community survey we're going to share results with our local state and Federal members. If you could send them a message about this issue, what would you say?
Free answer - record what resident says

Thanks, that's the last survey question. As I said, we're going to take the results of this survey to our local members – [insert names here] - and we'd like to let you know what they've said. Would you like us to do this? *Yes / No - If yes, ask for their name, email and phone and gather on survey tally sheet.*

Thank you for your time.

All answers to question 8: what message would you like to send to Kelvin Thomson on this issue?

Leaders need to take leadership and make decisions

Leaders have access to all the information and need to act accordingly.

Put as much of your energies as possible into developing renewable energy.

A shift to solar is good. More initiatives would be good that are affordable for individuals.

Take it seriously.

More education about converting to renewable energy. Encourage bulk buying schemes.

Focus on positive action.

Work together to get something through.

Politicians should follow through with action.

Politicians should be more serious about renewable energy.

Please do what's best for the country not what's best for industry.

The focus should be on the people of Australia not the business of Australia.

It's time to invest in more research and making Australia a world leader.

Get on with it and stop bickering.

Prepare for a future where carbon is recognised as a pollutant.

There should be user pays for carbon pollution.

Parties need to do more and take issue seriously.

Government needs to increase subsidies for renewables eg, solar.

Do the right thing – do 100% renewables

Stand up for carbon price and renewables

New tax system. Legislation to protect the working person.

Keep with the carbon tax.

Moving towards renewables is inevitable so we should be at the front of it.

There should be incentives to invest in clean energy. I'm surprised that anyone not supporting renewables ever gets any votes.

Start as soon as possible and stay away from nuclear energy.

Just make some decisions and stop fluffing – the time is now.

If you look at how urgent the problem is and how to decarbonise into the future. Support carbon trading – history will prove you are right.

We need a deeper renewable energy target to 30% by 2025, alongside a carbon tax. We need complementary measures.

It really starts with local government and mustering politics from the base.

We're running out of time.

It's a no-brainer really – we are running out of the non-renewables so it doesn't make sense to keep going down the same path.

This should be the most important issue that he addresses.

Just get going.

Hurry up!

To have a definite plan for the future.

If we don't do something to fix the problem we should all be ashamed, and the greatest responsibility to do something rests with those that have the greatest power, especially politicians

People who want to start a new initiative can't make financial personal or business plans – follow the German feed-in-tariff. And I fully support Kelvin Thomson's views on population.

Be courageous! Australia as a world leader in renewables.

Say Australia will not profit from its coal.

You're worried about it hitting us in the pocket, but the costs are going to hit everyone eventually.

Start spending more money on renewable energy.

Communicate the facts so that people know it is needed.

Introduction of tanks for water/garden.

If everyone else can do it so should we.

Definitely look at it particularly solar energy save our pollution.

Get out and do it.

Make it cheaper. No rip-offs like insulation.

I'm in favour of clean energy, less pollution.

Should be cheaper for everyone to access.

More clean energy.

Should be free to consumers.

More research on geothermal and wave. More action on energy efficiency.

Everything is determined by the hip pocket. Money decides everything.

Need to ask people who speak better English.

Make more of an effort at every level of government., e.g., solar panels on houses.

Do something that works e.g. MRET, and very much of a focus on energy reduction. So much to be gained from living more efficiently.

Victoria has the worst polluting power stations in the country and we need to get rid of them.

Do as much as you possibly can, as soon as you possibly can, bring the community along the journey.

Get some backbone. Stop chasing the dollar. Invest in the future.

Investigate alternatives.

Get your act together people!

A stand should be made now- the more we can do now the easier it will be.

Support alternate energy with a view to reducing fossil fuels.

Be more visionary.

Action needs to happen.

Should be doing more.

Fossil fuels are not sustainable. 100% renewables is possible.

Very important for the welfare of our nation.

Go for it!

It is the way of the future. Not a carbon tax because the devil is in the detail.

Instead of putting a tax on everyone there should be regulation of big companies. They should listen to everyone. Each policy has positives and negatives.

The initial outlay and trust in installers is an obstacle. There should be a rates discount for people who have solar - hot water and electricity.

Hurry up!

Take a stand and support renewables as a realistic option and make it realistic for business.

People in Australia are supportive of recycling and ecological concerns so if they can do something in their home they will.

Need to bite the bullet and move away from pollution.

Need an education campaign.

100% Renewables!!

Make it mandatory that all new homes have solar.

Fund R and D into renewables. Not funding for the rich.

Take care of Australia to look after ourselves.

Its going to be too late, you have to think about the future.

Resign and get people who know how to handle the issue.

Think long term - food and running out of fossil food.

Subsidies to fossil fuel industries should be moved to renewable energy

Vote yes for a high price on carbon.

Put his (Kelvin Thompson) energy where his mouth is.

Australians want renewable energy; it is that simple!

If they believe we are having an impact in the climate, then it is negligent not to have 100% renewable energy.

They're not doing the most useful thing.

The Moreland Council is the most progressive and keep going.

Support 100% renewable.

Get on with it.

You know better, you know renewables is good. The only way to get big business to change their ways to get them to pay for it.

Switch off Hazelwood!

I support the carbon price but people need to be helped to find ways to minimize their energy e.g. solar run appliances, gets people, more closely bonded to the concept.

We can't afford not to invest.

Consider the fate of the planet and the people still to come.

More action sooner.

Should have a plan to shift everything over to renewables.

At the the State level get pragmatic liberals, We need to bring heavy emitters everyone to the table.

It's amazing what's going on in Germany, we should do it too.

Interest in wind and solar. Press ahead with the carbon tax.

It needs to be given more priority.

Listen to the public.

Waste is not really smart economics.

Stop being pansies, stand up.

Take notice of people who know what they're talking about.

Tackle it properly.

Keep electricity prices low.

Getting very hard to live so expensive.

Get your act together.

Do the best you can. Not necessarily the cheapest, but the best for environment and everybody.

Do it! Don't keep puffing wind all over the place, let's do it.

If rate payers have to adjust to fact that landfill is scarce, then big business should bite the bullet and pay the price. Big business has a vested interest.

Government should give incentives to renewable energy. To new entrepreneurs who are willing to Invest in renewable energy.

Invest in renewable as its the way of the future.

Look to the future and just invest in what we should be doing.

Try and do a good job for local people.

Seriously needs to be considered, my house has pv and water recycling we need to invest in these technologies.

Hope that takes it seriously.

Support you in moving towards stronger renewable energy framework.

There is an opportunity at this time to make a statement. Australia is lagging behind the rest of the world.

It should be a priority.

Need to be strong not afraid to upset people.

Not acting soon enough is utter folly.

Support clean and renewable energy in order to save our planet.

Provide opportunities at local level to make it more accessible more clear and protect from foreign ownership.

Needs to do it. Its not rocket science benefits outweigh costs.

Just do it.

Support increase in energy efficiency.

There is a small country in Europe doing 100% renewable energy and we should follow them.

Climate change is bad and we need to find a solution because this is a man made problem.

Persist with the carbon tax and just because something is difficult and more expensive doesn't mean it's not worth it.

It's not worth investing in coal.

Wake up and look around.

Stick to the principles that you advocated. 2007 instead of capitulating to scaremongering by the Fossil fuel industry. People are sick and tired of the way they manage politics.

All responses to question 2: is the government doing enough to support the development of clean renewable energy like wind and solar? Why do you say that?

No	Energy system not helping anyone and is dangerous
No	Climate change is dangerous and we urgently need to get off fossil fuels.
No	I can't understand why not.
No	Back peddling on carbon trading. Debate about cost.
Yes	Makes power expensive.
No	Not a priority.
No	Initial rush and then other priorities take over.
No	There should be more money. Recognise that it's necessary.
No	Need investment. Government approach terrible. Investment – public.
No	Not enough investment.
No	Doing small scale grants which is token. Not doing enough.
No	Solar panel incentives is not enough.
No	They're doing nothing, they're doing very little.
No	The abundance resource is a tragic waste. We have to spend a fortune on digging stuff out of the ground.
No	The coal industry still dominates, not enough money is spent upgrading solar and researching alternatives.
No	They are doing a lot but not enough.
No	They are subsidising coal and high carbon industries ahead of renewable energy.
No	They want to make a carbon tax but not actually do anything.
No	Not supporting renewable energy enough.
No	Don't seem to be enforcing targets.
Not sure	Just beginning to develop renewables.
No	Because they are subsidising coal fired power stations.

No	State government.
No	Private sector not investing so who will lead the way? The Government could use mining tax?
No	So much potential money that they just aren't using it.
Yes	In popular domain in different political environment.
No	Not much action on alternative energy.
No	No ETS through Government.
No	Political climate is limiting options.
No	Not much action on renewable energy.
No	We have the dirtiest coal station in southern hemisphere and the government hasn't changed it.
No	because they've gotten rid of cheap solar panels and conditional subsidies.
No	Not doing anything – they let solar company go broke.
Yes	Less carbon emissions.
No	They are subsidising fossil fuels by about five times as much.
No	There's little investment in renewables.
No	Because especially with solar panel debacle and hasn't come up with solution to the wind power debate.
No	It is necessary to reduce pollution and we need to support renewables.
No	Problem is urgent and if we don't act now our economy will be hurt.
No	All we hear is rhetoric and not real action.
No	Because they've just taken back the solar rebates – so they are de-emphasising take up solar.
No	I don't think that there is enough investment in alternatives.
No	There's too much invested in mining in our country.

No	Because they keep funding other forms of energy.
No	Because we still have Hazelwood.
Don't know	No answer recorded.
No	Every area: transport, cost of solar panel, lack of concern for the future, for working on how we are going to work it out.
No	Because too focussed on coal as a source of energy and too apologetic to high polluting companies.
No	Because they are not consistent in their support for new industries so how can people plan.
No	Because they're worried about the opinions of people who are ill-informed, staying in power and not make hard decisions.
No	Very little financial support, continued support of coal gas even nuclear.
No	No real leadership shown or earnestness to tackle the matter from the either side.
No	They don't understand climate science.
No	Because they're still funding non-renewables.
No	Because they're is still more energy from coal.
No	Policies are half arsed lack of direction.
No	More subsidies for solar panels.
No	Still have horrible energy happening.
No	Could do a lot more, lots of areas.
No	No answer recorded.
Don't know	Not interested.
Yes	Don't know.
Yes	Easy to fulfil.
No	Other things like clean coal.
Not sure	Don't understand the problem, too big an issue.

No	More wind.
Don't know	Not enough info.
No	Should be free.
No	You don't see so much.
Not sure	Some good policies, e.g.g. Energy Target, SHW rebate, Sustainability Fund, 66c tariff, Sustainable Melbourne Fund is good, Greener Govt Buildings is good, More on Co- and Tri- Generation, esp Melb CBD - it's difficult to feed back into the grid in the CBD.
Don't know	No answer recorded.
Don't know	No answer recorded.
No	Not making a big effort.
No	Because our pollution is increasing. We need to get it back under 350 ppm. We need to get emissions down.
No	Because they could do a lot more to fund alternate energy sources.
No	Not investing to a great extent-20% target is not good enough, we should move to carbon neutral asap.
No	Not really doing anything. Commissioning new coal fired power station. Rebates for renewables going down.
No	Haven't seen much. Some schemes not enough and not enough info.
No	They are still actively obstructing renewables sector.
Don't know	They can always do more.
No	Because there doesn't seem to be too many options.
No	Not proactive-support wind and solar research.
No	More could be done to educate and encourage.
No	Not funding only renewables. Carbon tax is good.
No	We have the best solar resource in the world and it is a no brainer not to use it.
No	Its extremely important to research these.
No	We are locked into it.

No	Still a very small proportion of energy from renewable compared to Spain for example.
Yes	They don't what they're doing and they're wasting money.
Yes	They have govt rebates for solar and there are more wind farms planned.
No	More investment in development of technologies for large scale renewables.
No	Govt has posed option of nuclear rather than renewables.
Yes	Almost impossible to answer.
Yes	Restrained by other factors e.g. public support and the economy.
Yes	No answer recorded.
No	Not enough funding, no targets and talking about nuclear.
No	Not enough subsidies for solar panels.
No	Compare us to Germany - why aren't we the leaders in solar?
No	Took away solar subsidy.
No	Not enough policy or money.
No	Because they keep cutting back on programs.
No	No focus by this government on research and development.
No	Australia is lagging behind. Need to make more use of wind and solar.
No	Because we're in big trouble and there isn't much care for our environment.
No	No answer recorded.
No	Other issues, lacking public awareness.
No	They're doing nothing.
No	Not much action.
No	Cutting the solar program. Stalling on carbon price.
No	No action.
No	Too much profit in taking no action.

No	Reducing spending on renewables.
No	Feel like targets are not enough and I think clean coal options despicable.
No	Because not everyone is 100% renewable yet.
No	No answer recorded.
Yes	The carbon pricing policy is way ahead of the USA.
No	Not good enough - need a feed in tariff and more wind farms.
No	Because I think currently we're doing a lot of chatting and while we are chatting it is a blocker.
No	Not enough wind farms or solar plants, technology not utilised.
No	Because we're not closing down Hazelwood.
No	It's cheaper to keep going the way we are.
Yes	Does government do enough of the things people want?
No	Because they really pushing other forms of energy still.
No	Not enough funding and support.
Don't know	Don't know the full extent of what they're doing.
No	They've just cancelled some policies.
No	They should dig in deep and spend some money because they spent money on the GFC.
No	Dragged feet. Other countries are leading. We could innovate!
No	Taking money away and legislating against wind farms.
No	Letting ego get in the way of what should be done.
No	No answer recorded.
No	Because I work for the Government.
No	Lot more can be done.
No	No answer recorded.

No	Because they're not.
No	Because they change their mind all the time – subsidies, no long term plan.
Don't know	Could do more - relying on coal.
No	Don't know.
No	Nothing too helpful.
Not sure	No answer recorded.
Yes	Doing their best.
No	Lots of hot air from Abbot so nothing being done.
Yes	Doing best they can.
Yes	Quality is good. Cost factor is main concern.
Not sure	No answer recorded.
No	No answer recorded.
Don't know	No answer recorded.
Yes	Keep trying to push climate change problems.
No	No answer recorded.
No	Lots of politics.
No	Not doing anything.
No	No investment in alternatives or research.
No	No incentives we can use.
No	Too afraid of upsetting corporations and the economy.
No	Should be prioritising that over coal.
No	I know how much they are doing.
No	The debate sets it back. Carbon tax is a good step.
Don't know	Don't take any notice.

No	Need to subsidise renewables rather than coal.
No	They don't have a sense of the need for it.
No	They support new coal etc.
Yes	Against climate change.
No	Action on oceans and other sources of energy.
No	Support coal. Install solar panels, water tanks it's up to government.
No	Don't hear much about it.
No	Government affected by taking away subsidies.
Yes	Solar panels on roofs.
No	Build another coal power station.
No	Evidence overseas shows can be done, but such a small % here, the government is supporting coal.
No	They have their blinkers on too dependent on traditional energy.
No	In the pockets of the big polluters.
Not sure	No answer recorded.
No	Because if they spend enough money we would know about their programs.
Yes	Just what I've heard and news about initiatives.
No	Thinking locally - cutting solar rebate. Regulatory difficulty in doing sustainability initiatives.
No	Because they stuffed up the issue of the insulation and solar energy rebates now its politically incorrect.