

Monday, 21 March 2016

ALP & L-NP now too close to call as electors react to Government forcing Senate voting changes last week as Turnbull today recalls Parliament in April for Double Dissolution Election showdown

In mid-March ALP support is 50.5% (up 3.5%) cf. L-NP 49.5% (down 3.5%) on a two-party preferred basis. If a Federal Election were held now the election would be too close to call.

Primary support for the L-NP is 40% (down 3%) with ALP at 33% (up 3.5%). Support for the Greens is up 1% to 14%, Nick Xenophon Team (NXT) 4% (down 1%), 18% in South Australia), Katter's Australian Party is 1% (unchanged), Palmer United Party is 0% (down 0.5%) and Independents/ Others are at 8% (unchanged).

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating

The Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating is up slightly this week - up 1.5pts to 103.5 with 43% (up 1.5%) of Australians saying Australia is 'heading in the right direction' and 39.5% (unchanged) saying Australia is 'heading in the wrong direction'.

This week's Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted over the last two weekends, March 12/13 & 19/20, 2016, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 2,948 Australian electors.

Analysis by Gender

Analysis by Gender shows men favouring the L-NP while women are favouring the ALP. Men: L-NP 52% (down 3%) cf. ALP 48% (up 3%); Women: ALP 52.5% (up 3.5%) cf. L-NP 47.5% (down 3.5%).

Analysis by Age group

Analysis by Age group shows that Turnbull's biggest problem remains convincing younger voters to support the L-NP. The ALP leads with electors under 35: 18-24yr olds (ALP 61.5% cf. L-NP 38.5%) and also leads amongst 25-34yr olds (ALP 65.5% cf. L-NP 34.5%). However, the L-NP leads with all older age groups: 35-49yr olds (L-NP 51% cf. ALP 49%); 50-64yr olds (L-NP 53.5% cf. ALP 46.5%) and easily amongst those aged 65+ (L-NP 58.5% cf. ALP 41.5%).

Analysis by States

The L-NP now holds a two-party preferred lead in three Australian States with three favouring the ALP. The LNP leads in Western Australia: L-NP 54.5% cf. ALP 45.5%, Queensland: LNP 52% cf. ALP 48% and New South Wales: L-NP 51.5% cf. ALP 48.5% and the ALP leads in South Australia: ALP 55.5% cf. L-NP 44.5%, Victoria: ALP 53.5% cf. L-NP 46.5% and Tasmania: ALP 51.5% cf. L-NP 48.5%.

The Morgan Poll surveys a larger sample (including people who only use a mobile phone) than any other public opinion poll. **The Morgan Poll asks Minor Party supporters which way they will vote their preferences. *News Corp's Newspoll does not measure or reference the PUP or NXT vote!**

The Morgan Poll allocated preferences based on how people say they will vote – allocating preferences by how electors voted at the last Federal Election, (as used by News Corp's Newspoll) shows the ALP (50.5%) cf. L-NP (49.5%) for trends see the [Morgan Poll historic data table](#).

Gary Morgan, Executive Chairman Roy Morgan Research says:

"Today's Morgan Poll shows the ALP 50.5% (up 3.5%) now just in front of the L-NP 49.5% (down 3.5%) on a two-party preferred basis after a chaotic week in which the Coalition Government with the help of the Greens forced contentious electoral changes through the Senate against the wishes of the ALP and the cross-benchers who face losing their seats under the new system.

“Following on from last week’s Senate voting reform, Turnbull today turned up the heat on the Senate cross-benchers by deciding to recall Parliament in four weeks’ time to debate the reintroduction of the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC).

“Turnbull has explicitly told the Senate cross-benchers to either pass the Bill restoring the ABCC or face a Double Dissolution Election on Saturday July 2. To facilitate the potential calling of a Double Dissolution Election – which would have to be done by Wednesday May 11, Turnbull has also brought forward this year’s Federal Budget to the first Tuesday in May – a week earlier.

“Although the restoration of the ABCC is being used as a potential trigger to call an early election, the election will be fought on economic issues and taxation.

“In terms of creating jobs and reducing unemployment Opposition Leader Bill Shorten is on the record saying Labor will reduce Australian unemployment to 5%. However, ABS unemployment (5.8% in February) is not a real reflection of the Australian labour market. The latest [Roy Morgan Unemployment estimate](#) shows Australia’s real level of unemployment (10.0% - 1.319 million) and under-employment (8.8% - 1.161 million) are far higher than the estimates published by the ABS.

“By relying on the ‘wrong’ ABS unemployment figures Shorten is making the same mistake made by previous Governments which has led to the same policy errors that haven’t addressed Australia’s major problem – tackling the 18.8% (2.48 million) of Australians looking for work or looking for more work.

*“To reduce Australia’s ‘real’ level of unemployment and under-employment the Government must introduce comprehensive industrial relations reform that cuts ‘red tape’ such as lowering or eliminating excessive penalty rates for working on weekends and public holidays and **which would lead to higher productivity and wages across the whole workforce**. The Government must also make an effort to deal with Australia’s large ‘cash economy’ that undercuts legitimate Australian businesses and facilitates massive tax avoidance.*

*“The first step is to ‘recognise’ the problem of Australia’s true unemployment and under-employment. Only by using accurate statistics can the Australian Government, and institutions including the Reserve Bank of Australia, implement the correct economic policies. For instance, the **Reserve Bank should reduce Australia’s ridiculously high interest rates today!**”*

Electors were asked: *“If an election for the House of Representatives were held today – which party will receive your first preference?”*

Visit the [Roy Morgan Online Store](#) to browse our range of [Voter Profiles](#) by electorate, detailed [Voting Intention Demographics Reports](#) and [Most important Political Issue Reports](#) (all 150 electorates ranked by an issue).

Finding No. 6723 – This multi-mode Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted via face-to-face and SMS interviewing over the last two weekends February March 12/13 & 19/20, 2016 with an Australia-wide cross-section of 2,948 Australian electors aged 18+, of all electors surveyed 3% (up 0.5%) did not name a party.

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Federal Voting Intention Summary – House of Reps (%)

	L-NP	ALP	The Greens	Palmer United	Katter	Nick Xenophon Team (NXT)	Ind./ Others
RECENT FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Election March 2, 1996	47.3 (8.6)	38.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2
Election October 3 [^] , 1998	39.5 (5.3)	40.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.3
Election November 10, 2001	43 (5.6)	37.8	4.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	13.5
Election October 9, 2004	46.4 (5.9)	37.6	7.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	8.5
Election November 24, 2007	42.1 (5.9)	43.4	7.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	6.4
Election, August 21, 2010	43.6 (3.7)	38.0	11.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	6.3
Election, September 7, 2013	45.5 (4.3)	33.4	8.7	5.5	1.0	0.0	5.9
MORGAN POLL							
November 8/9 & 15/16, 2014	38 (2)	38.5	12	2.5	2	0.0	7
November 22/23 & 29/30, 2014	39 (2.5)	37.5	12	2	1	0.0	8.5
December 6/7 & 13/14, 2014	35 (3)	41	11.5	2	1.5	0.0	9
January 3/4 & 10/11, 2015	38.5 (2.5)	38.5	9.5	2	2	0.0	9.5
January 23-27, 2015	37.5 (2.5)	39.5	12	3	1	0.0	7
January 31/ February 1 & 7/8, 2015	35.5 (2)	41.5	12	2	1	0.0	8
February 14/15 & 21/22, 2015	37.5 (2.5)	40.5	10	2	1.5	0.0	8.5
February 28/ March 1 & 7/8, 2015	39 (2.5)	38	11.5	2	1.5	0.0	8
March 14/15 & 21/22, 2015	38 (3)	40	11	1.5	1.5	0.0	8
March 28/29 & April 3-6, 2015	40.5 (3)	36	12.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	8
April 11/12 & 18/19, 2015	38.5 (2.5)	38	12	1	1.5	0.0	9
April 25/26 & May 2/3, 2015	40 (2.5)	37.5	11.5	1.5	1	0.0	8.5
May 16/17, 2015	41.5 (3)	35.5	12.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	7.5
May 23/24 & 30/31, 2015	41 (3)	37	13	1	1.5	0.0	6.5
June 6/7 & 13/14, 2015	37.5 (2.5)	37.5	13.5	1.5	1	0.0	9
June 20/21 & 27/28, 2015	39 (2)	36	14	1.5	1	0.0	8.5
July 4/5 & 11/12, 2015	41.5 (2.5)	34.5	13.5	1	1.5	0.0	8
July 18/19 & 25/26, 2015	39 (2.5)	35.5	15	1	1.5	0.0	8
August 1/2 & 8/9, 2015	36.5 (3)	37	15.5	1	1.5	0.0	8.5
August 15/16 & 22/23, 2015	38.5 (2.5)	36	14	1.5	1.5	0.0	8.5
August 29/30 & September 5/6, 2015	36.5 (2)	35.5	16.5	1	1.5	0.0	9
September 12/13, 2015	35 (2.5)	36.5	16	1.5	0.5	0.0	10.5
September 14-15, 2015 – Malcolm Turnbull challenges and deposes Tony Abbott as Prime Minister							
September 19/20, 2015	46 (2.5)	29.5	13	1.5	1.5	0.0	8.5
September 26/27 & October 1-5, 2015	47 (3)	27.5	14	1.5	1.5	0.0	8.5
October 10/11 & 17/18, 2015	46.5 (3)	27.5	15.5	0.5	1.5	0.0	8.5
October 24/25, 31 & November 1, 2015	47 (3)	28.5	14.5	1	1	0.0	8
November 7/8 & 14/15, 2015	46 (2.5)	28	14.5	1	2	0.0	8.5
November 21/22 & 28/29, 2015	46.5 (2.5)	28.5	14	1	1	0.0	9
December 5/6 & 12/13, 2015	48 (3)	27	14.5	1	1.5	0.0	8
January 2/3 & 9/10, 2016	47 (3)	29	13	1	1.5	0.0	8.5
January 16/17 & 23/24, 2016	43.5 (3)	28	15	0.5	2	2	9
January 30/31 & February 6/7, 2016	43.5 (2.5)	29	16	0.5	0.5	1	9.5
February 13/14 & 20/21, 2016	43.5 (3.5)	29.5	15	1	1	1.5	8.5
February 27/28 & March 5/6, 2016	43 (3.5)	29.5	13	0.5	1	5	8
March 12/13 & 19/20, 2016	40 (3.5)	33	14	0.0	1	4	8

Note: [^] 1998 Federal election results have been updated to include results from the electorate of Newcastle supplementary election. The L-NP did not have a candidate contesting the electorate of Newcastle.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Voting Intention Summary – House of Reps (%)

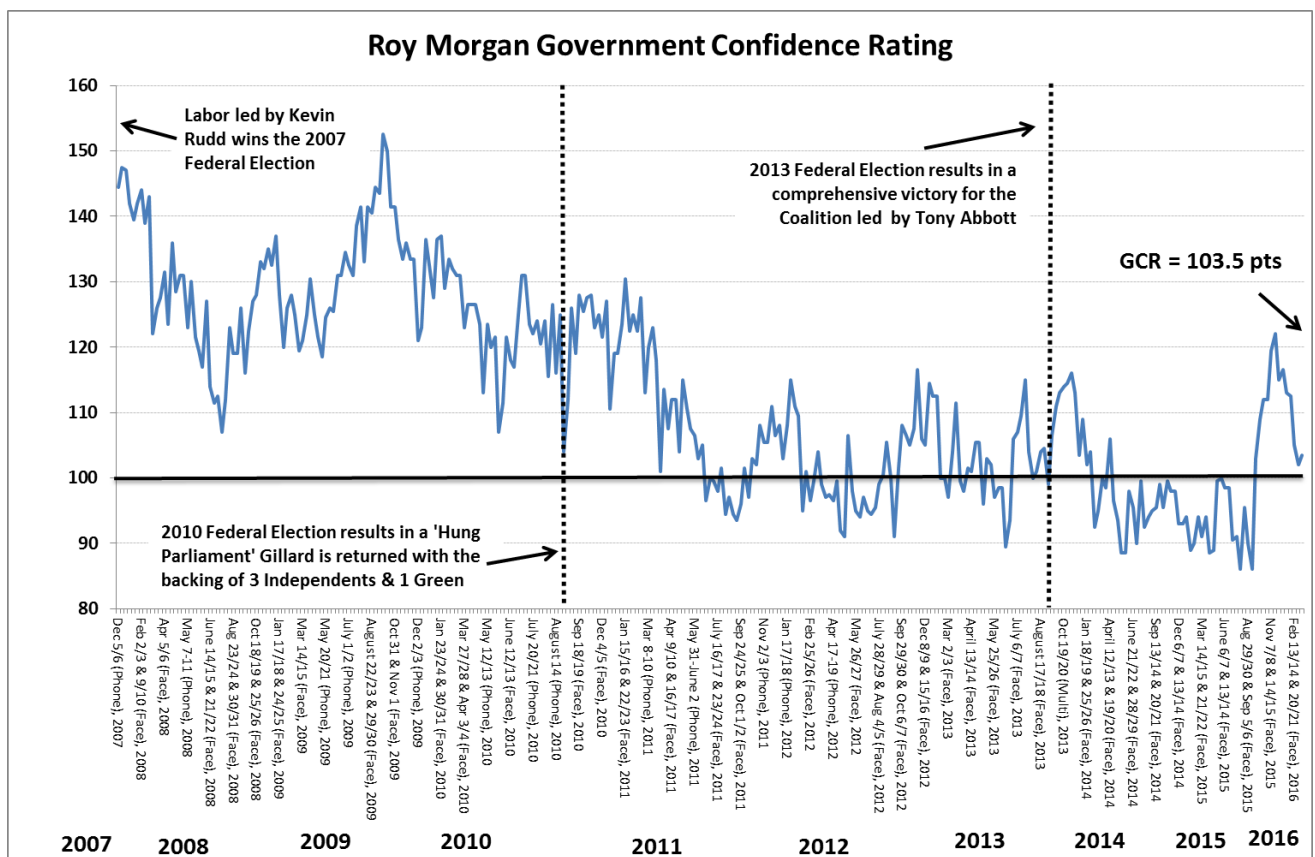
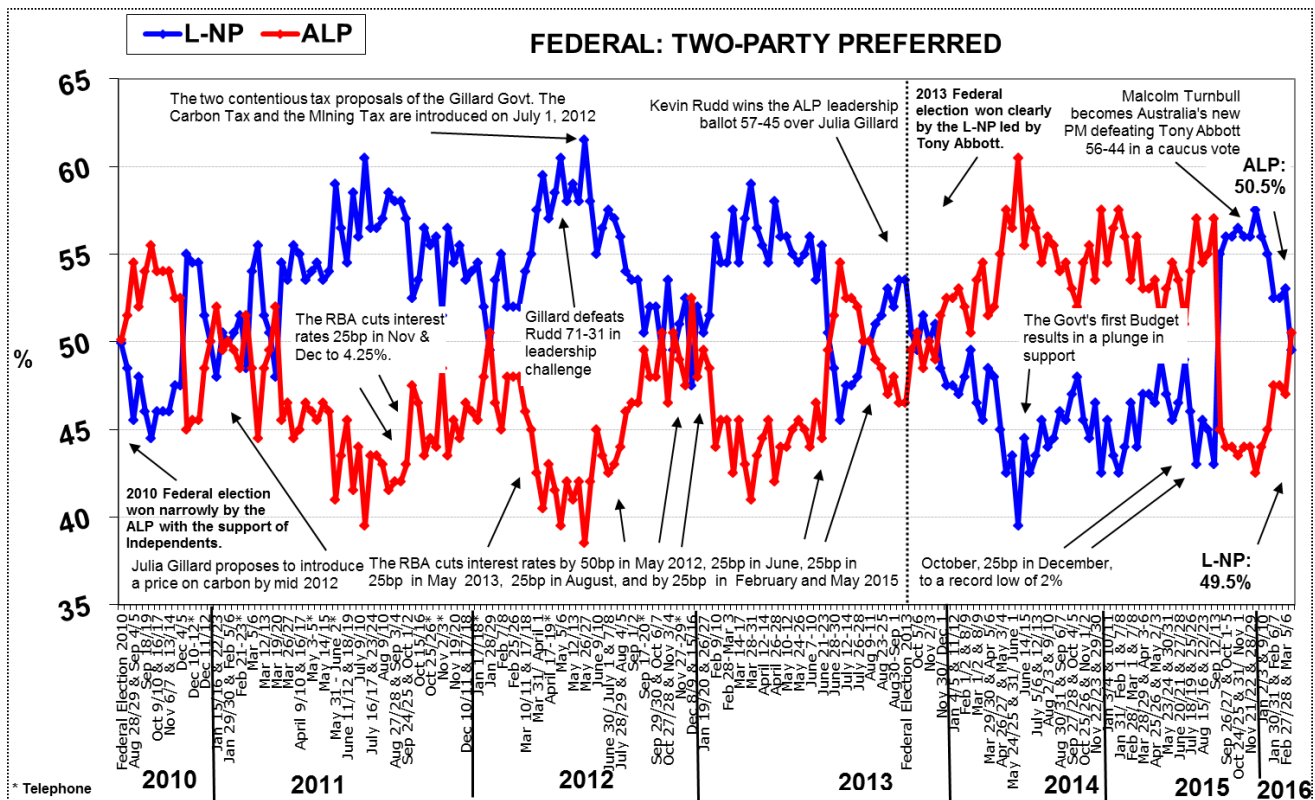
Two-Party Preferred Vote (%)

RECENT FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS	L-NP	ALP
	%	%
Election, March 2, 1996	53.6	46.4
Election, October 3 [^] , 1998	49	51
Election, November 10, 2001	51	49
Election, October 9, 2004	52.7	47.3
Election, November 24, 2007	47.3	52.7
Election, August 21, 2010	49.9	50.1
Election, September 7, 2013	53.5	46.5
Final Pre-Election Morgan Poll – September 4-6, 2013	53.5	46.5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

	Preferences distributed by how electors say they will vote		Preferences distributed by how electors voted at the 2013 election	
	%	%	%	%
MORGAN POLL	L-NP	ALP	L-NP	ALP
November 8/9 & 15/16, 2014	44.5	55.5	46	54
November 22/23 & 29/30, 2014	46.5	53.5	47	53
December 6/7 & 13/14, 2014	42.5	57.5	43.5	56.5
January 3/4 & 10/11, 2014	45.5	54.5	47	53
January 23-27, 2015	43.5	56.5	44.5	55.5
January 31/ February 1 & 7/8, 2015	42.5	57.5	43	57
February 14/15 & 21/22, 2015	44	56	45	55
February 28/ March 1 & 7/8, 2015	46.5	53.5	46.5	53.5
March 14/15 & 21/22, 2015	44	56	46	54
March 28/29 & April 3-6, 2015	47	53	47	53
April 11/12 & 18/19, 2015	47	53	46	54
April 25/26 & May 2/3, 2015	46.5	53.5	47	53
May 16/17, 2015	49	51	48.5	51.5
May 23/24 & 30/31, 2015	47	53	48	52
June 6/7 & 13/14, 2015	45.5	54.5	45.5	54.5
June 20/21 & 27/28, 2015	46.5	53.5	47	53
July 4/5 & 11/12, 2015	49	51	49	51
July 18/19 & 25/26, 2015	46	54	46.5	53.5
August 1/2 & 8/9, 2015	43	57	45.5	54.5
August 15/16 & 22/23, 2015	45.5	54.5	46.5	53.5
August 29/30 & September 5/6, 2015	45	55	44.5	55.5
September 12/13, 2015	43	57	43.5	56.5
September 14-15, 2015 – Malcolm Turnbull challenges and deposes Tony Abbott as Prime Minister				
September 19/20, 2015	55	45	53.5	46.5
September 26/27 & October 1-5, 2015	56	44	55	45
October 10/11 & 17/18, 2015	56	44	55	45
October 24/25, 31 & November 1, 2015	56.5	43.5	55	45
November 7/8 & 14/15, 2015	56	44	55	45
November 21/22 & 28/29, 2015	56	44	55	45
December 5/6 & 12/13, 2015	57.5	42.5	56	44
January 2/3 & 9/10, 2016	56	44	55.5	44.5
January 9/10 & 16/17, 2016	55	45	54	46
January 30/31 & February 6/7, 2016	52.5	47.5	52.5	47.5
February 13/14 & 20/21, 2016	52.5	47.5	52.5	47.5
February 27/28 & March 5/6, 2016	53	47	53	47
March 12/13 & 19/20, 2016	49.5	50.5	49.5	50.5

[^] 1998 Federal Election results have been updated to include results from the electorate of Newcastle supplementary election. The L-NP did not have a candidate contesting the electorate of Newcastle. ****Multi = Multi-mode interviewing conducted via combined methodology.**



Australia Heading In “Right” Or “Wrong” Direction

Electors were asked: “Generally speaking, do you feel that things in Australia are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?”

	Interviewing Dates — L-NP Government (Tony Abbott v Bill Shorten)							
	June 6/7 & 13/14	June 20/21 & 27/28	July 4/5 & 11/12	July 18/19 & 25/26	Aug 1/2 & 8/9	Aug 15/16 & 22/23	Aug 29/30 & Sep 5/6	Sep 12/13
	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	40	40	36	37.5	34.5	40	36.5	35
Wrong direction	41.5	41.5	45.5	46.5	48.5	44.5	46.5	49
Roy Morgan GCR*	98.5	98.5	90.5	91	86	95.5	90	86
Can't say	18.5	18.5	18.5	16	17	15.5	17	16
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

	Interviewing Dates — L-NP Government (Malcolm Turnbull v Bill Shorten)							
	Sep 19/20	Sep 26/27 & Oct 3/4	Oct 10/11 & 17/18	Oct 24/25, 31 & Nov 1	Nov 7/8 & 14/15	Nov 21/22 & 28/29	Dec 5/6 & 12/13	
	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	42.5	45.5	47	48	50.5	51.5	48.5	
Wrong direction	39.5	36.5	35	36	31	29.5	33.5	
Roy Morgan GCR*	103	109	112	112	119.5	122	115	
Can't say	18	18	18	16	18.5	19	18	
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

	Interviewing Dates — L-NP Government (Malcolm Turnbull v Bill Shorten)							
	Jan 2/3 & 9/10	Jan 16/17 & 23/24	Jan 30/31 & Feb 6/7	Feb 13/14 & 20/21	Feb 27/28 & Mar 5/6	Mar 12/13 & 19/20		
	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face		
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Right direction	48.5	48	47.5	43	41.5	43		
Wrong direction	32	35	35	38	39.5	39.5		
Roy Morgan GCR*	116.5	113	112.5	105	102	103.5		
Can't say	19.5	17	17.5	19	19	17.5		
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100		

Phone: Telephone survey method; Face: Face-to-face survey method. *Roy Morgan GCR = Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating (100 plus the difference between the percentage of people who say the country is “going in the right direction” and the percentage who say the country is “going in seriously the wrong direction”).

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2015)

The Morgan Poll has proven to be consistently the most accurate regular poll in recent Australian Elections — including the 2013 Federal Election, 2010 Federal Election, 2007 Federal Election, 2010 Victorian State Election & 2012 Queensland State Election.

The **Morgan Poll** was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2013 Federal Election](#) for the two-party preferred vote (L-NP: 53.5% cf. ALP 46.5%) (sample 4,937 electors).

The **Morgan Poll** was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2007 Federal Election](#) for both primary vote and two-party preferred predictions (sample 2,115 electors).

The **Morgan Poll** accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Queensland Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 604 electors).

The **Morgan Poll** accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Victorian Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 956 electors). The **Morgan Poll** was also the most accurate on the primary vote of the major parties for the Victorian election.

Note: The [discussion on Possum Pollytics](#) regarding Morgan and Newspoll is well worth reading.

The following included comment says it all: “I find it interesting that for the only poll in the last five years for which there is any ‘real’ figure with which to compare, i.e. the polls immediately before the 2004 election, Morgan (45.5%) was closer to the actual Coalition Primary (46.7%) than Newspoll (45%) or Nielsen (49%), and Morgan (38.5%) was also closer to the ALP actual primary (37.6%) than Newspoll (39%), and only marginally further away than Nielsen (37%). Since we have no idea of how far away the ongoing polls are from ‘reality’ (whatever that means), surely we should just go with what we know, that in the most recent testable case, Morgan was better at forecasting the actual primary vote than Newspoll. On what possible basis should we decide that the Newspoll or Nielsen primary vote estimate is ‘better’ than Morgan’s.”

[View Federal Voting Intention Trend](#)