

Monday, 27 February 2017

## A majority of Australians don't see the wider economic benefits of lowering company tax rates while more Australians want social welfare payments increased rather than reduced

A special snap SMS Morgan Poll last weekend shows a majority of Australians (61%) do not believe lowering company tax rates would bring wider economic benefits to the community compared to 39% of Australians who believe it would.

Respondents were then asked for their view on social welfare payments: 35% of Australians believe they should be increased, 28% reduced while 37% said they should remain about the same. This special SMS Morgan Poll was conducted over last weekend (February 17-19, 2017) with a cross-section of 1,266 Australians aged 18+.

**Respondents were asked:** "Do you believe lower company tax rates would bring wider economic benefits to the community or not?" and those who responded were then asked: "Do you believe Federal Government spending on social welfare payments should be reduced, increased, or stay about the same?"

### Question 1: Company Tax Rates

#### Analysis by Voting Preference (Electors)

- L-NP voters: Yes (62%) cf. no (38%);
- ALP voters: Yes (22%) cf. no (78%);
- Greens voters: Yes (5%) cf. no (95%);
- Independent/ Others voters: Yes (35%) cf. no (65%);
- Can't say: Yes (51%) cf. no (49%).

#### Analysis by Gender

- Women: Yes (37%) cf. no (63%);
- Men: Yes (42%) cf. no (58%).

#### Analysis by Age

- 18-24yr olds: Yes (27%) cf. no (73%);
- 25-34yr olds: Yes (30%) cf. no (70%);
- 35-49yr olds: Yes (39%) cf. no (61%);
- 50-64yr olds: Yes (44%) cf. no (56%);
- 65+yr olds: Yes (50%) cf. no (50%).

#### Analysis by State

- New South Wales: Yes (39%) cf. no (61%);
- Victoria: Yes (32%) cf. no (68%);
- Queensland: Yes (44%) cf. no (56%);
- Western Australia: Yes (48%) cf. no (52%);
- South Australia: Yes (42%) cf. no (58%);
- Tasmania: Yes (42%) cf. no (58%).

## Question 2: Social Welfare Payments

### Analysis by Voting Preference (Electors)

- L-NP voters: Reduced (43%); Increased (19%); Stay same (38%);
- ALP voters: Reduced (15%); Increased (43%); Stay same (42%);
- Greens voters: Reduced (3%); Increased (70%); Stay same (27%);
- Independent/ Others voters: Reduced (27%); Increased (45%) Stay same (28%);
- Can't say: Reduced (18%); Increased (52%); Stay same (30%);

### Analysis by Gender

- Women: Reduced (24%); Increased (42%); Stay same (34%);
- Men: Reduced (32%); Increased (29%); Stay same (39%);

### Analysis by Age

- 18-24yr olds: Reduced (25%); Increased (42%); Stay same (33%);
- 25-34yr olds: Reduced (13%); Increased (35%); Stay same (52%);
- 35-49yr olds: Reduced (27%); Increased (40%); Stay same (33%);
- 50-64yr olds: Reduced (36%); Increased (33%); Stay same (31%);
- 65+yr olds: Reduced (35%); Increased (27%); Stay same (38%);

### Analysis by State

- New South Wales: Reduced (27%); Increased (33%); Stay same (40%);
- Victoria: Reduced (23%); Increased (46%); Stay same (31%);
- Queensland: Reduced (36%); Increased (29%); Stay same (35%);
- Western Australia: Reduced (36%); Increased (24%); Stay same (40%);
- South Australia: Reduced (16%); Increased (40%); Stay same (44%);
- Tasmania: Reduced (31%); Increased (34%); Stay same (35%);

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### 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

**Michele Levine, Chief Executive Officer, Roy Morgan Research, says:**

*“A special SMS Morgan Poll shows a clear majority of Australians (61%) don’t believe lowering company tax rates will bring wider economic benefits to Australia while only 39% believe it will, suggesting the Turnbull Government’s key policy of cutting company tax rates is failing to ‘cut through’ and win widespread community support.*

*“However, the policy does appeal to the Government’s core supporters – 62% of L-NP supporters believe cutting company tax rates will bring wider economic benefits while large majorities of ALP supporters (78%) and almost all Greens supporters (95%) don’t see any wider economic benefits from cutting company taxation.*

*“Rather than focusing on a policy that doesn’t have cross-over appeal to voters, the Government would be well advised to keep an eye on several key economic indicators provided by Roy Morgan that assess the confidence of Australian businesses and consumers on an ongoing basis.*

*“The good news for the Turnbull Government is that the key indicators of ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence (113.7 on February 18/19, 2017) and Roy Morgan Business Confidence (116.8 in January 2017) are both tracking along well, slightly above long-term averages.*

*“Above average business confidence means businesses will spend money investing in new equipment and innovating new ideas and improvements to the way they do business and hiring additional employees, and above average consumer confidence means consumers will continue spending to drive economic growth from the demand side.*

*“However, a concern for policymakers should be the continuing high level of real unemployment and under-employment in the Australian economy. The latest Roy Morgan January employment estimates show 1.295 million Australians (9.7%) are out of work and looking for a job while a further 1.107 million (8.2%) are under-employed – employed for a few hours a week or part-time and looking for more hours or a full-time job.*

*“A high level of unemployment and under-employment throughout the society is a double-edged sword for the economy with lower productivity because of reduced activity and demand on the one side lowering tax receipts for Government, and on the other side, increased welfare payouts to the unemployed increases Government spending. High and rising unemployment is a recipe for larger and larger Government deficits and debt.*

*“Social welfare payments are another policy area that has clear differences between the major parties and these differences are borne out by the results of today’s survey. A huge majority of ALP supporters (85%) believe social welfare payments should either be increased (43%) or stay about the same (42%) and only 15% think they should be reduced while nearly half of L-NP supporters (43%) believe social welfare payments should be reduced and only 19% say they should be increased and a further 38% say about the same.”*

*Finding No. 7161 – This special snap SMS Morgan Poll was conducted with a representative cross-section of 1,518 Australians over the weekend, Friday February 17 – Sunday February 19, 2017. \*This research was not paid for by the ABC. Respondents were asked: “Do you believe lower company tax rates would bring wider economic benefits to the community or not?” and those who responded were then asked: “Do you believe Federal Government spending on social welfare payments should be reduced, increased, or stay about the same?”*

**Results analysed by Roy Morgan Helix Personas are available on a subscription basis.**

**[www.HelixPersonas.com.au](http://www.HelixPersonas.com.au)**

**Question:****Australians were asked (February 17-19, 2017):**

**Q1:** "Do you believe lower company tax rates would bring wider economic benefits to the community or not?"

	Total	Electors	L-NP	ALP	Greens	Other	Can't say	Non Electors
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	38	62	22	5	35	51	43
No, Not	61	62	38	78	95	65	49	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Men	Women	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	42	37	27	30	39	44	50
No, Not	61	58	63	73	70	61	56	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	Total	State						Region	
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	City	Country
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	39	32	44	48	42	42	41	36
No, Not	61	61	68	56	52	58	58	59	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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**Question:****Australians were asked (February 17-19, 2017):****Q2:** "Do you believe Federal Government spending on social welfare payments should be reduced, increased, or stay about the same?"

	Total	Electors	L-NP	ALP	Greens	Other	Can't say	Non Electors
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Reduced	28	27	43	15	3	27	18	29
Increased	35	36	19	43	70	45	52	34
About the Same	37	37	38	42	27	28	30	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Men	Women	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Reduced	28	32	24	25	13	27	36	35
Increased	35	29	42	42	35	40	33	27
About the Same	37	39	34	33	52	33	31	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	Total	State						Region	
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	City	Country
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Reduced	28	27	23	36	36	16	31	27	29
Increased	35	33	46	29	24	40	34	35	36
About the Same	37	40	31	35	40	44	35	38	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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## Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2016)

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](#)