



South Australian attitudes on Uranium & Nuclear Power

URANIUM and NUCLEAR ATTITUDES SURVEY

7th April 2014

Overview

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy commissioned a quantitative and qualitative survey into the attitudes of Uranium Mining and Nuclear Power. In April 2013 SACOME commissioned ReachTel to poll South Australians with proportional allocations to metropolitan, rural, gender, and age to ensure the statistical significance of the result. 1,214 South Australians were polled with an error margin of +/- 2.8%.

The following questions were asked, with respondents replying with strongly support, support, neutral, oppose and strongly oppose to each question.

- 1) Please rate your level of support for the Uranium mining industry in South Australia?
- 2) Would you support the further development of Uranium Mining in South Australia?
- 3) Generally speaking, what do you believe the communities feelings are towards Uranium Mining?
- 4) Would you be more or less likely to support Uranium Mining in South Australia if it created local employment opportunities?

- 5) Please rate your level of support for Nuclear Power?
- 6) When considering the current debate about climate change, what role do you see Nuclear Power playing in Australia?
- 7) Do you agree with the following statement: Nuclear Power will eventually be introduced into Australia?
- 8) Do you agree with the following statement: Nuclear Power is a sustainable and environmentally sound power alternative?

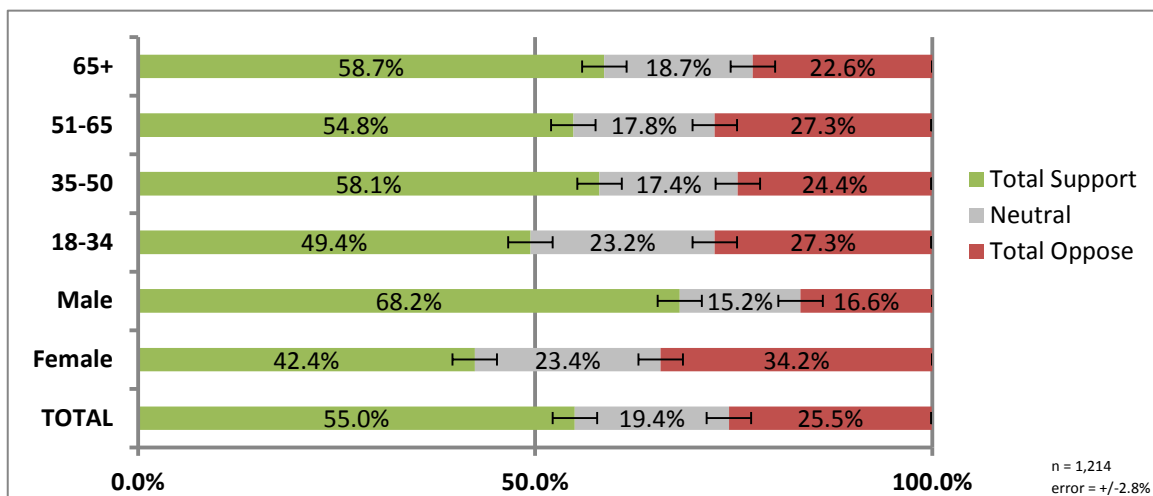
The summary of each question below has amalgamated the 'strongly' response with that of the respective 'support' or 'oppose' response to create the 'total support/oppose' category.

Quantitative Results

QUESTION 1

Please rate your level of support for the Uranium mining industry in South Australia?

	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
Total Support	55.0%	42.4%	68.2%	49.4%	58.1%	54.8%	58.7%
Neutral	19.4%	23.4%	15.2%	23.2%	17.4%	17.8%	18.7%
Total Oppose	25.5%	34.2%	16.6%	27.3%	24.4%	27.3%	22.6%



QUESTION 2

Would you support the further development of Uranium Mining in South Australia?

	TOTAL	Support (Q1)	Neutral (Q1)	Oppose (Q1)
Yes	54.0%	87.6%	20.4%	1.2%
No	27.7%	4.5%	17.0%	86.8%
Undecided	18.4%	7.9%	62.6%	11.9%

The results above are organised by the total result and the proportion that indicated whether they supported, opposed or neutral from question one. For example of those that supported Uranium Mining in South Australia from question one, 87.6% indicated that they support further development.

	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
Yes	39.1%	69.9%	53.8%	57.7%	51.4%	51.9%
No	35.4%	19.6%	24.7%	28.3%	33.1%	24.3%
Undecided	25.6%	10.8%	21.5%	14.0%	15.5%	23.8%

QUESTION 3

Generally speaking, what do you believe the communities feelings are towards Uranium Mining?

	TOTAL	Support (Q1)	Neutral (Q1)	Oppose (Q1)
Positive	14.8%	22.4%	3.4%	2.4%
Negative	29.8%	19.0%	29.7%	52.1%
Undecided	37.9%	43.8%	41.9%	26.3%
Unsure	17.5%	14.8%	25.0%	19.3%

The results above are organised by the total result and the proportion that indicated whether they supported, opposed or neutral to question one. The responses are broken down by gender and age below.

	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
Positive	11.6%	18.2%	13.0%	17.5%	15.5%	12.8%
Negative	31.8%	27.7%	33.3%	32.9%	29.7%	20.1%
Undecided	37.1%	38.7%	36.3%	32.9%	39.9%	45.3%
Unsure	19.5%	15.4%	17.4%	16.6%	14.9%	21.8%

This question highlights an important point on assumed public attitudes towards uranium mining. The assumed negative perception persists due to the low perceived positive views shown above, however as shown from question one the overall individual opinion is supportive (55.0%). We can conclude from the results that the assumed negative perception is incorrect.

QUESTION 4

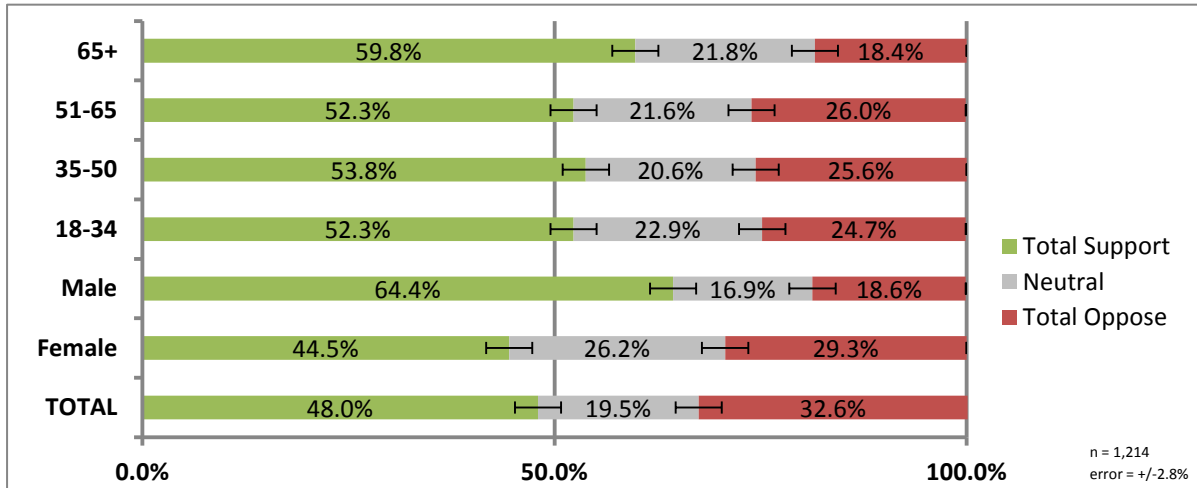
Would you be more or less likely to support Uranium Mining in South Australia if it created local employment opportunities?

	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
More likely	61.9%	54.3%	69.9%	63.6%	67.3%	57.4%	56.8%
Less likely	10.6%	13.3%	7.6%	7.3%	10.5%	11.5%	14.1%
Unchanged	27.6%	32.3%	22.5%	29.0%	22.2%	31.1%	29.1%

QUESTION 5

Please rate your level of support for Nuclear Power?

	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
Total Support	48.0%	44.5%	64.4%	52.3%	53.8%	52.3%	59.8%
Neutral	19.5%	26.2%	16.9%	22.9%	20.6%	21.6%	21.8%
Total Oppose	32.6%	29.3%	18.6%	24.7%	25.6%	26.0%	18.4%



QUESTION 6

When considering the current debate about climate change, what role do you see Nuclear Power playing in Australia?

	Total	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
An important contributor	22.4%	12.4%	32.9%	17.6%	26.8%	21.9%	23.5%
An alternative to be considered	40.5%	40.0%	40.9%	37.6%	42.0%	40.7%	41.9%
No role	23.0%	29.1%	16.7%	25.9%	23.6%	24.9%	15.4%
Undecided	14.1%	18.5%	9.5%	18.8%	7.6%	12.5%	19.2%

QUESTION 7

Do you agree with the following statement: Nuclear Power will eventually be introduced into Australia?

	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
Total Agree	54.2%	44.5%	64.4%	52.3%	53.8%	52.3%	59.8%
Neutral	21.7%	26.2%	16.9%	22.9%	20.6%	21.6%	21.8%
Total Disagree	24.1%	29.3%	18.6%	24.7%	25.6%	26.0%	18.4%

QUESTION 8

Do you agree with the following statement: Nuclear Power is a sustainable and environmentally sound power alternative?

	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-34	35-50	51-65	65+
Total Agree	44.9%	29.3%	61.4%	42.4%	46.3%	43.9%	48.1%
Neutral	19.6%	25.7%	13.0%	20.0%	16.3%	16.9%	26.4%
Total Disagree	35.5%	45.0%	25.5%	37.6%	37.4%	39.2%	25.5%

Qualitative Results

The survey asked respondents to leave a comment with their general feelings towards the benefits of and concerns about Uranium Mining in South Australia. Of the 1,214 that responded over 750 left a qualitative answer to this question.

The top ten general responses can be categorised into the following categories, which are ranked by popularity:

- Supportive of both Uranium mining and Nuclear power.
- Oppose due to the risk and danger.
- Uranium mining and/or nuclear power are environmentally friendly.
- Both industries are good for employment.
- It will be of economic benefit to the State.
- Supportive if it can be shown to be managed safely.
- Concerned about waste management and storage.
- Concerned about environmental management.
- Would prefer the option of renewables before nuclear.
- Need to know more about these industries to make an opinion.

Overall these results reflected the surveyed quantitative data in terms of support, opposition, and neutrality. Those who responded with a neutral answer indicated that they would like to know more before making a definitive decision, or noted that if an issue of concern was resolved satisfactorily it would garner their support.