

2 June 2008

AUSTRALIANS SHOW LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY OF PARTIES TO KEEP PETROL PRICES LOWER

Almost half of Australians aged 18 and over believe that neither the Federal Labor party nor the Federal Coalition is more capable of keeping petrol prices lower. Further, half believe that Mr Kevin Rudd did make an election promise to keep petrol prices lower.

These are the findings of a NEWSPOLL conducted exclusively for THE AUSTRALIAN last weekend.

Twenty per cent of Australians aged 18 years and over believe the Federal Labor Party is most capable of keeping petrol prices lower, while the same proportion, 20 per cent, believe the Coalition to be most capable of doing so. Almost half, 44 per cent, say neither is capable and a further 16 per cent are uncommitted.

Further, while 45 per cent of Coalition supporters believe the Coalition to be most capable of keeping petrol prices lower, only 37 per cent of Labor supporters believe Labor to be most capable of doing so. Those on the lowest household incomes (less than \$30,000) are more likely to believe Labor to be most capable of keeping petrol prices lower, while those on the highest household incomes (\$100,000 and over) believe the Coalition to be most capable.

A total of 51 per cent of Australians aged 18 years and over believe Mr Rudd made an election promise in the lead up to the 2007 federal election to keep petrol prices lower. Twenty-three per cent believe he did not, while 26 per cent are uncommitted. Sixty-eight per cent of Coalition supporters believe he did make such a promise, as compared to only 43 per cent of Labor supporters. Further, those aged 35-49 (45 per



cent) were significantly less likely to believe so as compared to those aged 18-34 (55 per cent) and those aged 50+ (54 per cent).

THINKING NOW ABOUT PETROL PRICES. RECENTLY, BOTH THE (FEDERAL LABOR PARTY) AND (FEDERAL COALITION) HAVE ANNOUNCED POLICIES AIMED AT LOWERING PETROL PRICES. WHICH OF THE (FEDERAL LABOR PARTY) OR (FEDERAL COALITION) DO YOU THINK IS MOST CAPABLE OF KEEPING PETROL PRICES LOWER?

	-POLITICAL SUPPORT-			-----SEX-----		-----AGE-----			-----HOUSEHOLD INCOME-----			
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>COALITION</u>	<u>LABOR</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50+</u>	<u>LESS THAN \$30,000</u>	<u>\$30,000-\$69,999</u>	<u>\$70,000-\$99,999</u>	<u>\$100,000 AND OVER</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FEDERAL LABOR PARTY	20	4	37	19	20	18	19	21	28	18	20	15
FEDERAL COALITION	20	45	5	22	18	21	21	19	15	18	23	24
NEITHER	44	39	43	50	39	33	47	51	42	46	42	51
UNCOMMITTED	16	12	15	9	23	28	13	9	15	18	15	10

THINKING NOW ABOUT THE FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN HELD LAST YEAR. DO YOU BELIEVE KEVIN RUDD DID OR DID NOT MAKE AN ELECTION PROMISE TO KEEP PETROL PRICES LOWER?

	-POLITICAL SUPPORT-			-----SEX-----		-----AGE-----			-----HOUSEHOLD INCOME-----			
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>COALITION</u>	<u>LABOR</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50+</u>	<u>LESS THAN \$30,000</u>	<u>\$30,000-\$69,999</u>	<u>\$70,000-\$99,999</u>	<u>\$100,000 AND OVER</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
YES / DID	51	68	43	50	53	55	45	54	53	50	52	48
NO / DID NOT	23	13	29	29	16	17	24	25	25	21	21	28
UNCOMMITTED	26	19	28	21	31	28	31	21	22	29	27	24

These surveys were conducted on the telephone by trained interviewers in all states of Australia and in both city and country areas. Telephone numbers and the person within the household were selected at random. Questions are based on 1,202 interviews among adults aged 18 years and over. The maximum margin of

sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points on the total sample. Copyright at all times remains with NEWSPOLL. More poll information is available at www.newspoll.com.au