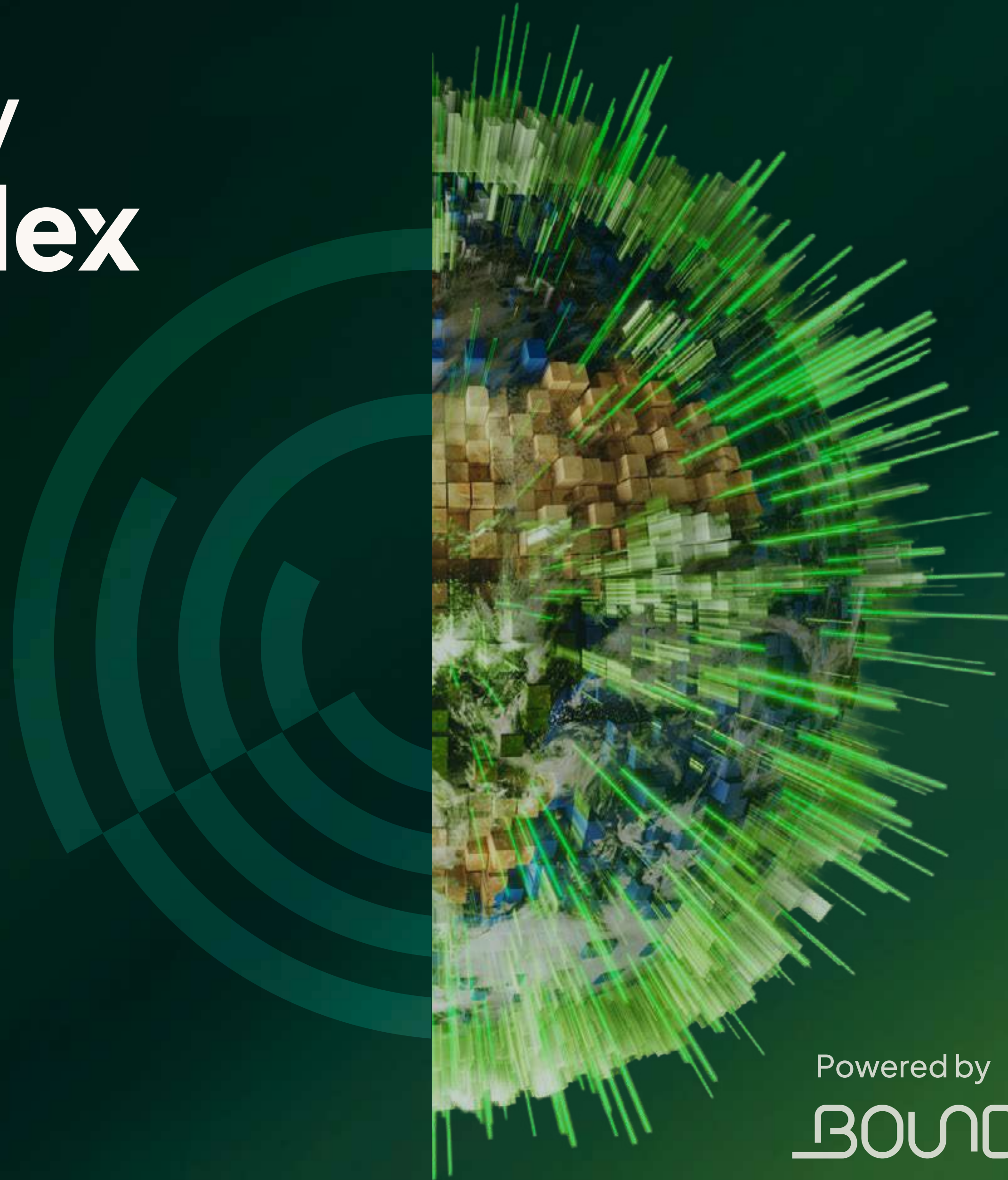


Clean Energy Solutions Index

2026



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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continue to be important to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living today.

Introduction

Dr. Rebecca Huntley

The fieldwork for the 2026 Clean Energy Solutions Index was conducted as the conflict between the United States and Iran was dramatically increasing fuel costs for Australians.

At the same time, government policy and investment, alongside the cost-of-living pressures facing households, were accelerating the take-up of clean energy solutions at home and across the grid. In the period between the first wave of the Index and this second wave, approximately 400,000 home batteries⁴ were installed in Australian homes, 5.9 GW of capacity⁵ entered the grid via new renewable projects and local sales of EVs more than doubled.⁶

The Senate Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy highlighted the challenges clean energy advocates face in communicating the benefits of clean energy solutions to the public, particularly transmission infrastructure and wind energy.

In other words, the last year has been an eventful one for anyone interested in the energy transition.

The 2026 Clean Energy Solutions Index reveals that against this backdrop of rapid change, Australians are taking a pragmatic approach to the clean energy transition.

On the whole, people can cut through the political and media friction and form their own judgments about Australia's trajectory towards a clean energy future.

The transition starts with households. If people can see a financial benefit in new technology, they adopt it.

Where the personal financial case is absent or unclear, support plateaus or retreats. Reflecting this, gas-free solutions attract less support than solar, which remains popular across all the solutions categories; household, infrastructure and industry.

There is clear understanding that renewable energy from utility-scale wind and solar still needs to be transmitted from its point of generation to households and businesses. Australians want a grid that is dependable and reliable, and they increasingly understand new transmission lines are essential to the task.

Finally, as the federal government's Future Made in Australia initiative continues, we see deep support for the role of renewables in industry either remain steady or slightly decrease.

The reasons for this result point to a larger theme — opposition is often linked to a lack of knowledge and doubts about its economic viability for Australia.

This reflects a common finding; familiarity builds support while unfamiliarity erodes it.

The lessons to be gleaned from this research for policy makers, industry and clean energy advocates are clear.

Australians expect policy decisions to be shaped by a concern for costs and the capacity for lower bills, especially in times of sustained inflation.

Industry needs to invest in best-practice community engagement and communications to strengthen community support for major projects.

And activists need to marry their environmental arguments in favour of action with economic and social benefits.

By zeroing in on what motivates Australians, we can broaden deep support for the next generation of clean energy solutions that help propel the nation towards a safer, more prosperous future.

⁴ <https://reneweconomy.com.au/remarkable-milestone-bowen-says-home-battery-installations-continue-to-surge-pass-400000/>

⁵ <https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/news-resources/2025-a-record-breaking-year-for-australian-clean-energy>

⁶ <https://www.drive.com.au/news/australian-new-car-sales-in-april-2026-ev-sales-share-breaks-another-vfacts-record/>

Partner Foreword

Larissa Brown CEO | Boundless Earth

Boundless Earth exists to make Australia a renewable energy superpower, sovereign and prosperous.

That depends on more than breakthrough technology and public and private investment. It depends on support from Australians. The Clean Energy Solutions Index measures how deep that support runs, scoring each solution out of 100 across four measures. This is the first year we can track how those scores move, and they have moved fast.

When Australians described what drives their support for clean energy in 2026, the strongest reasons were all about self-reliance: making the most of our own resources, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and producing more of our own energy. Each was named by 72 per cent of Australians, ahead of the environment, jobs, and cost on its own.

Take electric vehicles. A year ago, cost was one of the main reasons Australians gave for not wanting one. Then the Strait of Hormuz closed, and petrol prices climbed.

While EVs had not become cheaper, in this year’s index fuel saving became the leading reason to support an EV, named by 67 per cent of Australians, up fourteen points in a year. It was a reminder of something permanent: petrol is priced on a world market, and a single chokepoint on the other side of the planet can move what Australians pay at the bowser. Deep support for EVs rose six points, from 44 to 50 per cent, the largest gain of any solution we measure. No campaign delivered that. A closed strait did.

The story with gas is similar. Its east-coast price is set by an international market, so its cost rises and falls with the world, not with our own needs. The belief that gas is cheaper has long prevented the switch away, but that certainty is gone. Saving money on bills is now one of the top three reasons Australians give for going gas-free, and electrifying a home shifts that cost onto power priced at home.

Transmission is a harder version of the same story of self-reliance. New powerlines are among the most contested parts of the build-out, yet deep support for them rose five points, from 56 to 61 per cent, as more Australians came to see a reliable, home-built grid as part of the same security.

In late 2025, renewables supplied more than half of the National Electricity Market for the first time, and wholesale electricity prices fell sharply as they did. The case is now concrete: while the fuels we import swing with the world, the energy we make at home moves the other way. The secure option is no longer the aspirational one; it is already powering the grid and bringing prices down.

The lesson for policymakers and communicators is direct. Australians are reaching for energy they can rely on and control: made at home, steady in price, set by our own needs rather than distant markets. A renewable, sovereign and prosperous Australia depends on that support running deep, and our goal is a national score of 70 per cent. We get there by making the case Australians are already making for themselves: not only is clean energy cheaper, but that its price is ours to set, and secure.

My thanks to Dr Rebecca Huntley and the team at 89 Degrees East, and to the more than three thousand Australians who told us what they think.

Larissa Brown



Background

The Clean Energy Solutions Index was created to answer a question that surface-level polling cannot: *how deeply do Australians actually support the clean energy solutions that matter most to the transition?*

Commissioned by Boundless Earth and designed by 89 Degrees East, the Index measures deep support for the energy transition. Not just whether Australians agree with the energy transition in principle, but whether that support is stable, and strong enough to underpin the policy decisions, investment commitments, and community acceptance the transition requires.

The Index measures this deep support across four dimensions of 11 clean energy solutions: whether Australians believe it is good for Australia, whether they personally support it, whether they believe their local community supports it, and whether they would talk about it positively.

Together, these four metrics produce a one-number Index score out of 100. The goal is a national score of at least 70, the threshold at which deep support is broad and stable enough to represent genuine social licence for the transition.

This is the second annual report of the Index, and it represents a significant milestone. For the first time, the Index can do what it was always designed to do: track change. Year-on-year comparison reveals not just where Australians stand, but which way they are moving. The Index measures which clean energy solutions are gaining momentum, which solutions are stalling, and what is driving those shifts.

In 2026, the Index also introduced new contextual questions, including on Australians’ support for the transition away from fossil fuels and the factors that most influence that support, providing a richer picture of the values and motivations that underpin the data.

The findings that follow offer the clearest evidence yet of where Australia’s energy transition stands and what it will take to build the deep support needed to see it through.



Climate KIC are systems change practitioners and independent conveners, working to bridge the gap between reality and ambition. Climate KIC works with 89 Degrees East to help policy makers, funders, and businesses engage with the insights from the Index and respond in practical ways.

The clean energy transition is accelerating, but not yet at the pace or scale required. It is firmly in an implementation phase where decisions made now are urgent, complex, and consequential. This is not only a technological shift. The transition to clean energy is a systemic change. Policy makers, businesses, investors, and communities are already shaping outcomes that influence markets, places and people’s lives. In this context, a critical gap has emerged between technical and economic assessments of the viability of the transition and a deeper understanding of social support. Traditional consultation and project-based approaches remain important, but they do not consistently reveal community understanding of or support for solutions.

This matters because communities are participants in the transition, not passive recipients of technologies and infrastructure. The Index bridges this gap, providing nuanced insight into where deep community support for clean energy solutions exists, where it’s weak or what’s underpinning it. In doing so, it creates a practical connection between ambition and social acceptance, helping decision makers see not only what is technically possible, but what is socially enabled. For investors and funders, this extends understanding beyond technical readiness and commercial viability to include social risk and opportunity. For policy makers, it provides grounded evidence of what matters to communities, enabling more targeted and effective program design. For both, it supports more joined-up decision making

across policy, industry, and investment to strengthen deployment pathways at scale. At Climate KIC Australia, based at the University of Technology’s Institute for Sustainable Futures, we support the Index as an important tool for closing the gap between ambition and acceptance in practice. It turns fragmented insights into shared understanding, enabling more informed decisions in a complex system. The transition will span decades, and decisions will be as much social as they are technical or economic. Aligning policy, investment, and innovation with what matters to communities will shape both the speed and fairness of the transition. The Index strengthens the social foundations of the transition so that outcomes are not only technically viable, but socially durable.

Methodology

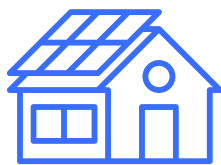


What is the Clean Energy Solutions Index?

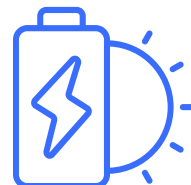
The Clean Energy Solutions Index is an annual measurement of deep support for 11 clean energy solutions, across three categories (home, infrastructure and industry).

The Index metrics were developed through extensive consultations including interviews, and expert analysis of previous studies.

Home Solutions



Installing solar panels at home



Installing a solar battery at home

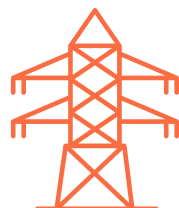


Electric vehicle purchase

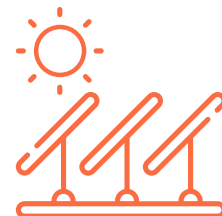


Converting your home to be free from gas

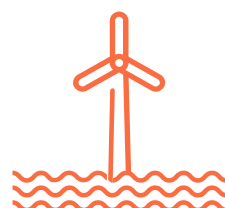
Infrastructure Solutions



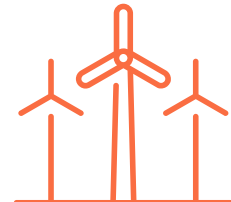
Building renewable energy transmission lines



Building solar farms



Building offshore wind farms



Building onshore wind farms

Industry Solutions



Converting factories and industries to be free of gas



Establishing a green metal industry in Australia



Manufacturing renewable energy components in Australia

Calculating Deep Support and the One-Number Score

In the Index, **deep support** measures four dimensions of how Australians engage with each solution:

 **Good for Australia:** whether they believe the solution is in the national interest

 **Personally Support:** whether they personally support the solution

 **Supported by Local Community:** whether they perceive support among people around them

 **Willingness to Talk Positively:** whether they would speak positively about the solution to family and friends

These four metrics combine into a single composite (one-number) Index score out of 100 for each solution, with an overall national score calculated as the average across all 11 solutions.

Tracking this one-number score over time allows for consistent, comparable measurement of how deep support is shifting.

4 KEY METRICS



ONE NUMBER SCORE



The Goal: 70

The goal of the Clean Energy Solutions Index is to reach a national Index score of at least 70 out of 100.

A perfect score of 100 is neither realistic nor the aim. On any issue, some level of ambivalence or opposition will always remain. A score of 70 represents the strong majority needed to achieve genuine social licence for Australia’s energy transition — the point at which deep support is broad and stable enough to underpin confident policy, investment and community decisions.

Weighting

In the Clean Energy Solutions Index, each metric is weighted equally except the metric about speaking positively about a solution.

This metric is down-weighted, at 85% of the others, to reflect the general reticence among Australians when it comes to talking about topics that seem to require expert knowledge and appear to be politically divisive (like energy and climate change).

Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

Data Collection

2026 National Survey

Fieldwork was conducted from 8 April to 22 April, 2026 via a 10-minute online survey that was administered to n=3,151 Australian citizens.

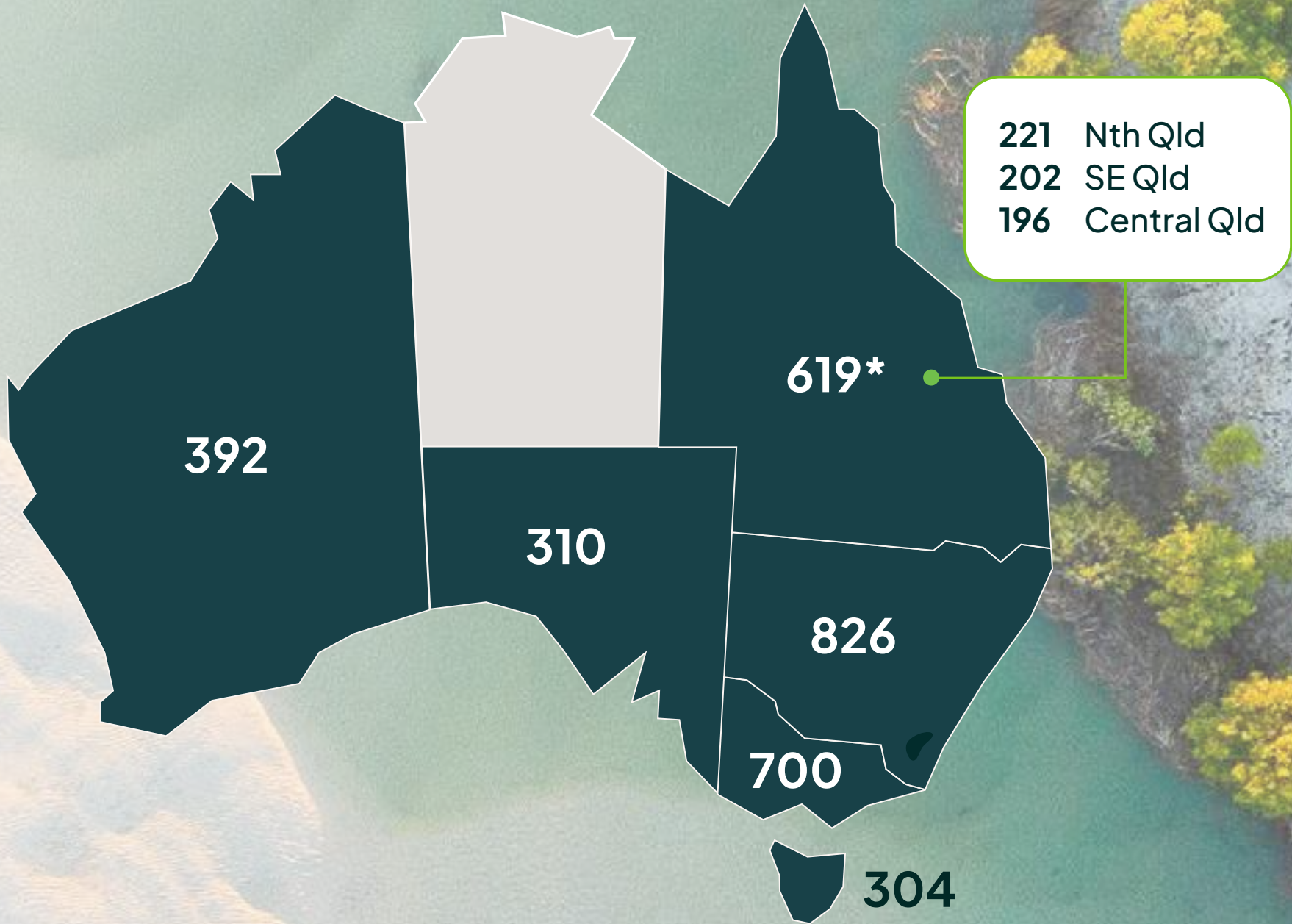
The total sample comprises the following number of Australians from each state.

The total sample was weighted to be representative of the adult population by age, gender and state. The sample is boosted in Tasmania and Queensland to achieve robust state-level samples for analysis.

All states were included (the ACT and NT were excluded).

Notes on the 2025 Data

This report includes comparisons to Wave 1 (2025) of the Index. The fieldwork for 2025 was conducted between 3 March and 18 March 2025, and included a sample of n=3,162 respondents. A consistent methodology has been applied across years. A full methodology can be found in the [2025 Report](#).



Note: Rounding has been applied to the data, with figures presented as whole numbers. As a result, totals may not sum precisely due to rounding, leading to a possible variation of +/- 1%. Significance testing has been conducted at the 95% confidence level, with statistically significant differences indicated in the report.

Additional Questions

In addition to the questions needed to calculate the composite one-number score measuring deep support, the survey also included a number of contextual questions to aid deeper analysis of the findings. These included:

- Reasons for and barriers to support
- Personal importance of climate change
- Perceptions of Australia’s current clean energy mix
- Views on how much of Australia’s energy supply should come from clean sources by 2030
- Support for Australia’s transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy
- Reasons underpinning support for Australia’s transition away from fossil fuels

Demographic questions were also included, covering age, gender, location, financial comfort, education level, housing status and voting intention.

National Results



NATIONAL PROFILES

National One-Number Score

In 2026, the overall one-number Index score measuring deep support for the 11 clean energy solutions is 61 out of 100.

The national Index score has risen +1 point (up from 60) since Wave 1 (2025). This reflects a modest uplift in deep support, setting a positive trajectory towards the goal of 70.

2026	2025	Change
61/100	60/100	+1



Individual Solution Index Score

Each of the 11 clean energy solutions has its own support score, as indicated.

While the overall national Index score has increased, movement across solutions is uneven. Some solutions have recorded significant uplift and others, modest declines.

Installing solar panels (82/100) and home solar batteries (75/100) at home remain the solutions with the highest Index score. Buying an electric vehicle (+6 points to 50) and building new transmission lines to deliver renewable energy (+5 points to 61) have seen the largest uplift in their Index scores.

By comparison, gas solutions; either electrifying homes (48/100) or converting factories and industries to be gas-free (49/100) have the lowest Index scores, with the conversion of factories and industries experiencing a moderate fall in its Index score (–3 points*).



The four key metrics

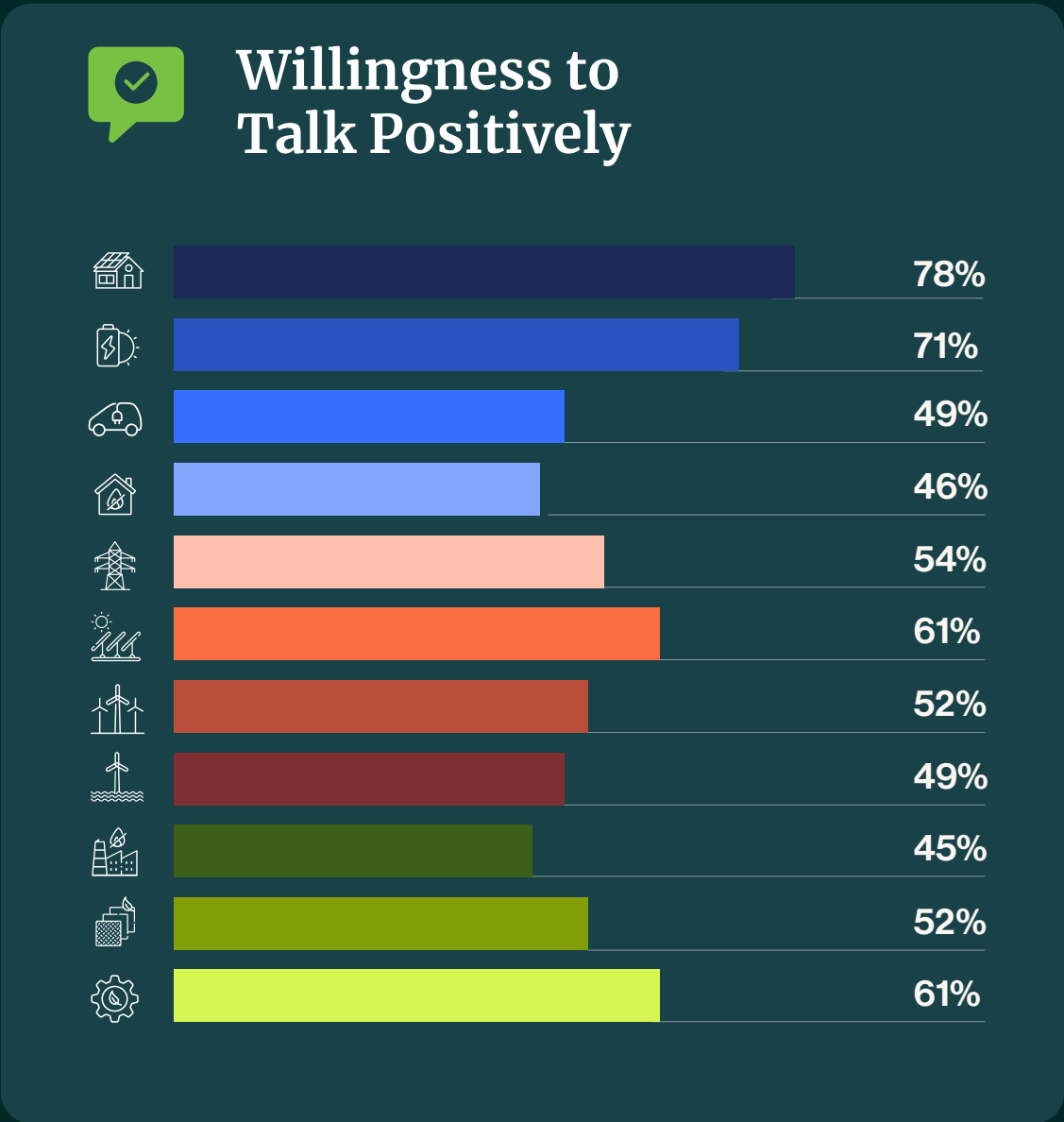
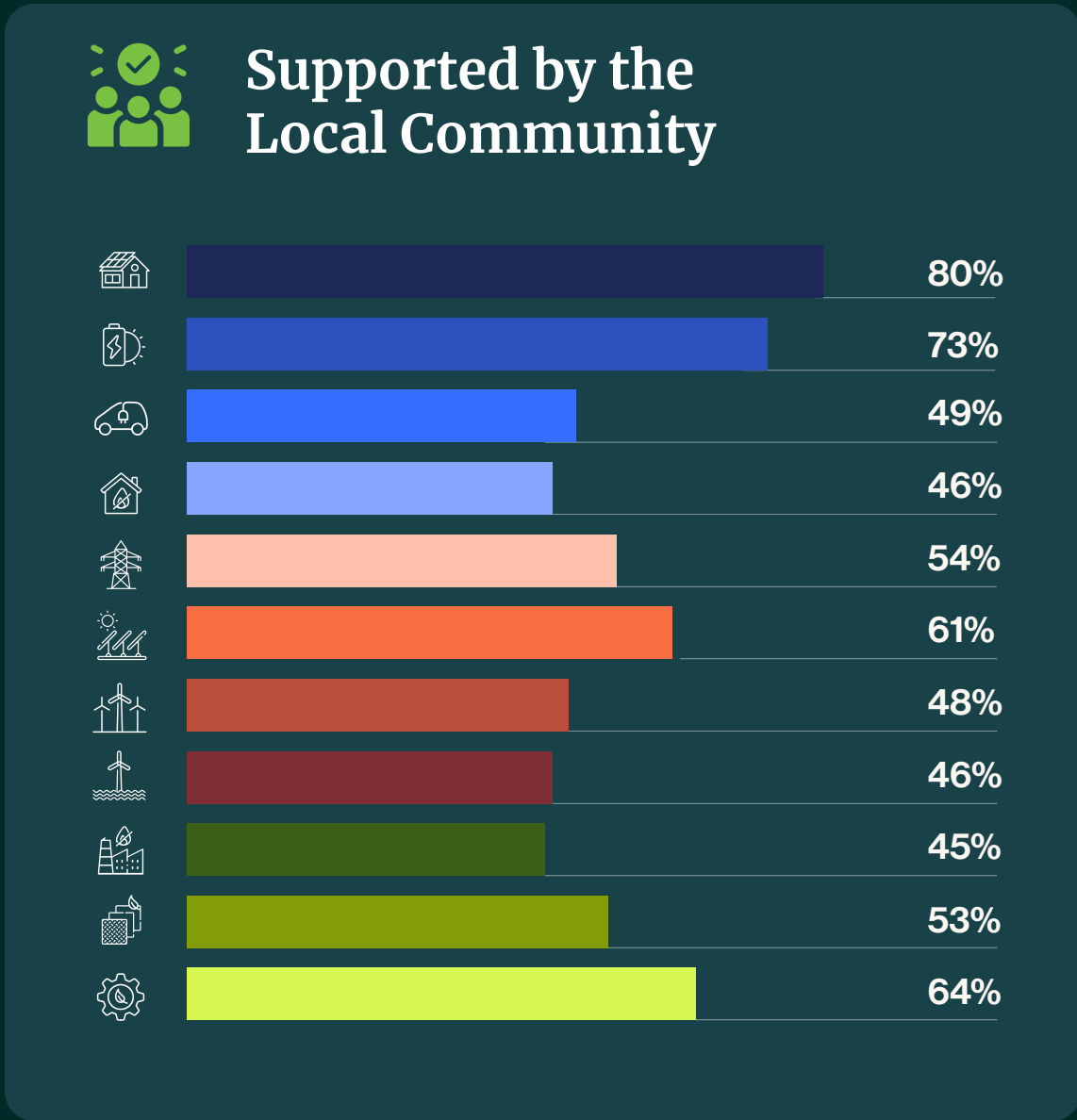
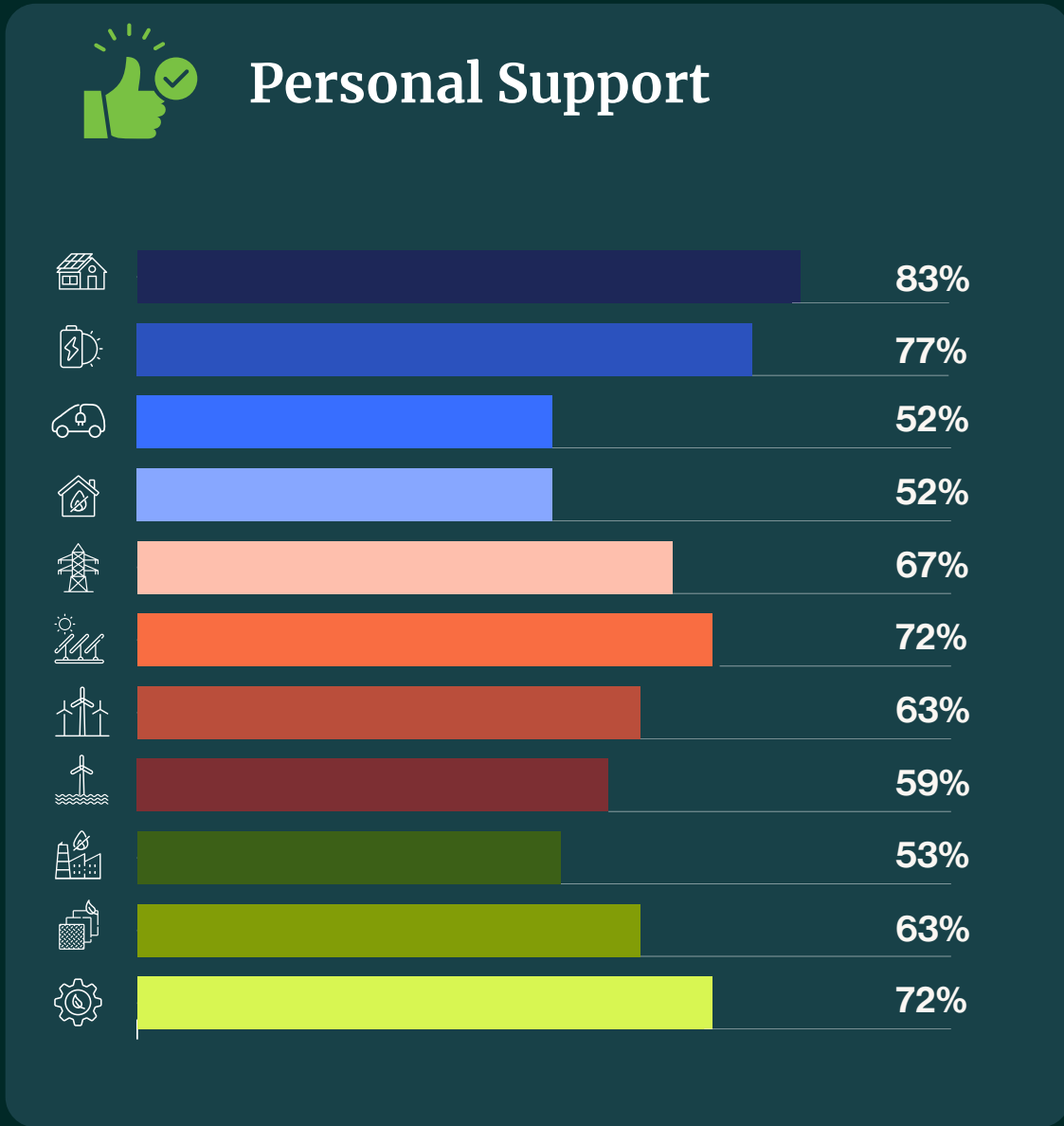
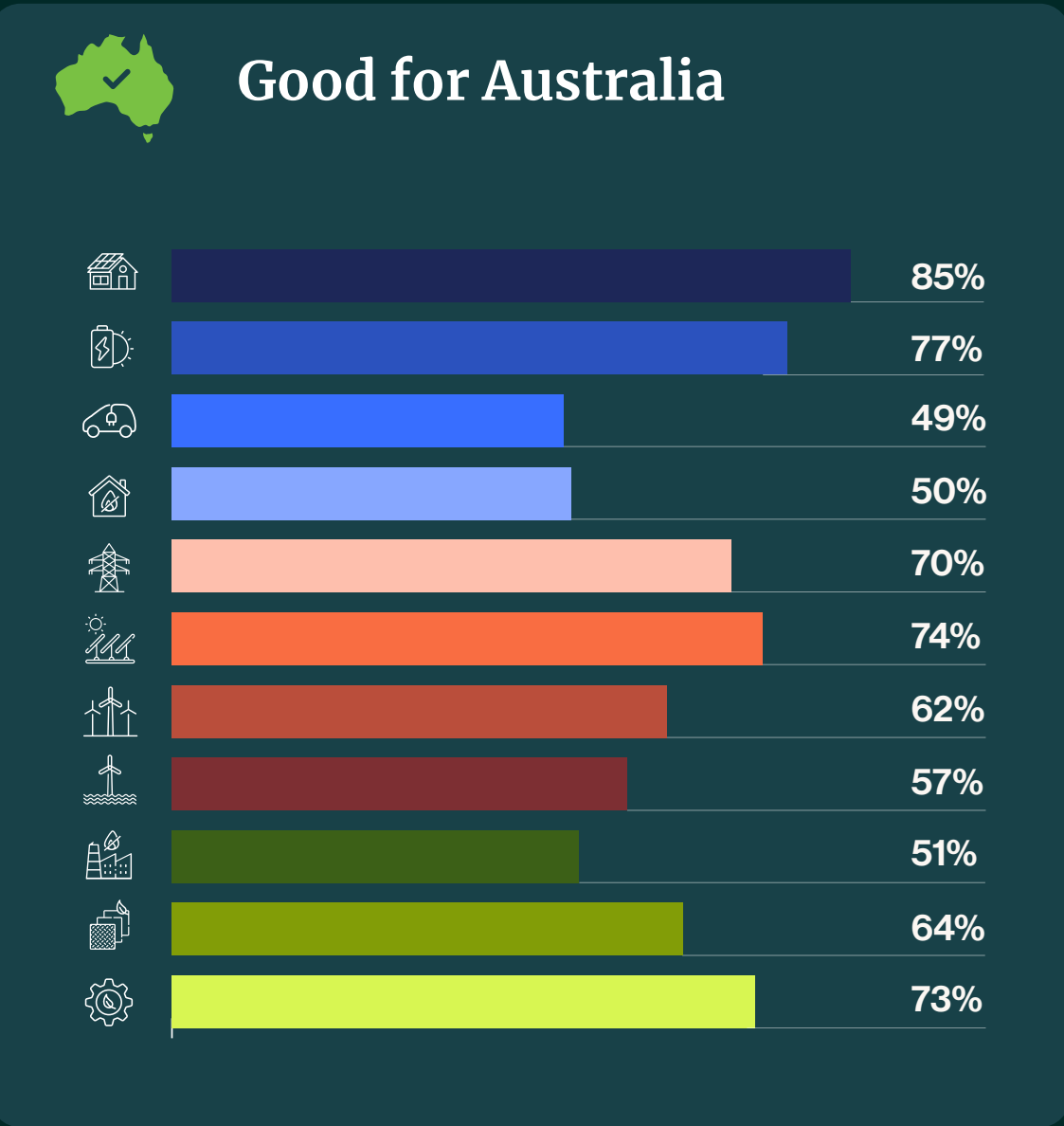
The one-number score is made up of four separate metrics:

1. Good for Australia
2. Personal Support
3. Supported by the Local Community
4. Willingness to Talk Positively

The charts below demonstrate how each clean energy solution performed across the four individual metrics that make up the one-number score.



Solar panel installation	Renewable energy transmission	Gas-free industry conversion
Solar battery installation	Solar farms	Green metals industry
Electric vehicle purchase	Onshore wind farms	Renewable energy component manufacturing
Gas-free home conversion	Offshore wind farms	



2026 Key Insights





Deep support for clean energy solutions continues to grow, led by solutions with both clear economic and environmental benefits.

| The national Index score has risen to 61, up from 60 in 2025.

Support is strongest where economic and environmental benefits converge. Home solar panels lead the Index at 82 (+1 points on 2025), followed by solar batteries at 75 (+2 points*).

Although starting from a lower base in 2025, deep support for electric vehicles has seen the largest single-year uplift, rising +6 points to 50, driven by growing recognition of fuel cost savings.

Where a clean energy solution saves Australians money and benefits the environment, deep support follows. Saving money on energy bills is the top reason Australians support home solar panels (77%), with environmental benefits reinforcing that decision.

Where the personal financial case is less clear to Australians, as with gas-free home conversion (an Index score of 48), deep support is harder to build.

Notably, the overall national Index score has risen even as the proportion of Australians who consider climate change personally important has dipped from 80% to 78%.

Deep support is growing independently of environmental concern, pointing to cost of living pressures, energy security and national economic interest as increasingly significant drivers.



**Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.*



Electric vehicles deep support has grown significantly, showing what is possible when there are changes in the economic context.

Electric vehicle (EV) deep support has recorded the largest single-year gain of any solution, rising +6 points to 50.

What makes this result significant is not just the size of the uplift, but its breadth.

Gains were recorded across all four metrics: *Good for Australia* sits at 49% (+5%), *Personally Support* at 52% (+7%), *Supported by Local Community* at 49% (+4%) and *Talk Positively* at 49% (+7%*). This uplift coincided with fuel supply and cost pressures exaggerated by the war in Iran,

highlighting how external economic context can act as an accelerant of deep support.

In 2026, the proportion of Australians citing cost savings (“cheaper to run” and “savings on petrol”) as their reason for supporting electric vehicles increased 14%, making it the leading driver of support.

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.



Home solar panels remain the most deeply supported clean energy solution in Australia, with batteries close behind.



Home solar panels lead the Index at 82 (+1 point on 2025), the highest score of any solution.

Solar batteries sit at 75, second overall (+2 points* on 2025). Together they represent the strongest deep support in the clean energy landscape, and the gap between them and most other solutions remains significant.

This result is driven not only by *Personal Support* but by the other dimensions of deep support. For installing solar panels at home, *Supported by Local Community* sits at 80%, and *Talk Positively* sits at 78%. For solar batteries, *Supported by Local Community* sits at 73%, and *Talk Positively* sits at 71%.

A primary driver of this strength is familiarity.

Home solar is highly visible and widely adopted, making its practical benefits easy for Australians to see.

Solar batteries appear to be following a similar trajectory; as community visibility increases and policy makes the technology more accessible, deep support continues to grow.

Home solar panels are the only clean energy solution where all four metrics of deep support sit at or above 78%.

It is also one of the only solutions where *Community Support* and *Willingness to Talk Positively* closely match *Personal Support*, meaning people not only back it but feel comfortable saying so.



Support for transmission infrastructure has strengthened significantly, yet Australians are still unwilling to talk about this solution positively.

Deep support for building new transmission lines has risen +5 points to 61, with the two largest gains being in the metrics that speak to both national interest and personal support; *Good for Australia* has jumped +8% to 70%, and *Personal Support* is up +7% to 67%.

The stated reasons for support highlight the origins of this sentiment shift. Energy reliability (53%) and supporting the shift to renewable energy (50%) are the top drivers, arguably reflecting concerns about energy security in 2026.

Conversely, the reasons for opposition have not shifted; Cost (58%), impact on farming land (65%) and a perception of wasteful government spending (59%) are the persistent barriers.

Furthermore, the 13% gap between *Personally Support* and *Talk Positively* suggests that a subset of Australians who support the solution are not yet comfortable advocating for it publicly.





Gas-free solutions appear to be losing ground



The solutions linked to moving away from gas are among the clearest examples of where deep support has stalled or softened.

Gas-free home conversion sat flat at 48, recording no change since 2025; making it one of the two lowest scoring solutions.

Gas-free industry conversion sits at 49, having fallen -3 points* since 2025. In particular, the metric *Good for Australia* has fallen -4% to 51%.

For gas-free homes, 62% of those who oppose cite a preference for gas appliances, particularly for cooking.

For industry, 67% say gas remains important for business, and 55% believe the transition will drive up costs for consumers.

Unlike solar or EVs, environmental motivations continue to dominate support for gas-free solutions, including beliefs that they are better for the environment (55% home, 64% industry), reduce emissions (46% home, 61% industry), and create less pollution (58% industry).

Though the financial case for gas-free home conversion is strengthening, this has yet to translate into movement in the Index score, despite the proportion citing savings on energy bills rising from 43% to 51% in 2026.



Solar farms attract more positive noise, helping drive higher deep support than wind.

Solar farms lead all infrastructure solutions at 67, an 11–point gap on onshore wind (56) and 14 points on offshore wind (53). Despite this gap, Australians make almost identical arguments for supporting both; they are good sources of renewable energy, Australia has the space and they make the most of Australia’s natural resources.

The gap may be explained by external noise. For solar farms, positive noise outweighs negative (28% vs 16%). For wind, this flips: 22% negative against (for both) and just 17% (offshore) and 16% (onshore) positive. More Australians are hearing bad things about wind (both offshore and onshore) than good, and deep support reflects it.





Concerns about farming land and wildlife are the dominant barrier to infrastructure support.

Concerns about farming land, marine areas and wildlife are the single most consistent barrier to infrastructure support, appearing at the top of the opposition list for every solution tested.

Loss of farming land is the leading concern for those who oppose solar farms (77%) and transmission lines (65%), while impact on wildlife and nature leads opposition to onshore wind (70%).

Offshore wind swaps land for ocean, but the same theme applies: 76% of opponents cite concerns about impacts on marine wildlife.





Household adoption of clean energy solutions is increasing, with EVs and heat pumps leading the gains.

The proportion of Australians who have, or would consider each home solution included in this question has increased across the board. Along with EVs, which have seen the sharpest uplift in adoption of any solutions (rising +8% to 51%), heat pump uptake or consideration has grown +4% to 40%, and solar battery uptake or consideration is up +2% to 62%. Solar panels remain the most established solution at 78% (and increase of +1% on 2025).



Solar battery deep support has risen, demonstrating the impact of effective government policies.

The government’s battery subsidy programme has had a visible effect, not just on deep support, which sits at 75 (+2 points on 2025), but on community perception and consideration. Perceived community support has risen +3% to 73%, and the proportion of Australians who have or would consider a battery is up to 62% (+2%). Although the policy has unlocked existing demand, the key barriers of upfront cost (50%) and disposal (48%) and risks (47%) remain.





Across infrastructure solutions, Australians consistently underestimate how much their communities support clean energy.

For every infrastructure clean energy solution, *Personal Support* exceeds *Supported by Local Community*.

The largest gaps sit with onshore wind (15%), offshore wind and transmission lines (13% each), and solar farms (11%).

For wind farms specifically, the gap has widened since 2025; *Personally Support* has grown (+1% for onshore and +2% for offshore), while *Supported by Local Community* has declined (–1% for both offshore and onshore).



Australians continue to significantly underestimate how much of their energy already comes from renewable sources.

A clear majority of Australians (62%) believe that 30% or less of Australia’s energy currently comes from renewable sources (with the actual figures sitting at around 46%⁴). That gap, between public perception and reality, is large and has not considerably moved since 2025. The data shows a direct link between underestimating current renewable production and lower support for the energy transition overall; among Australians who believe 10% or less of energy comes from renewable energy, only 40% support the shift away from fossil fuels, compared to 69% of those who believe the figure is already 31–40%. Closing this knowledge gap represents one of the clearest opportunities to build broader and deeper support for clean energy solutions.

<https://www.aemo.com.au/newsroom/media-release/renewables-lift-supply-share-as-batteries-re-shape-energy-markets>



Results to watch



Positive noise tracks personal support — but the ratio of positive to negative matters more than volume alone.

Renewable energy component manufacturing has 23% positive noise but only 9% negative, and has a high Index score of 68. Where negative noise is high, support suffers regardless of how much positive noise exists alongside it. Converting homes to be gas-free has 22% positive noise but 16% negative noise cancels much of it out, and the Index score sits at 48, 20 points lower.



The financial case for gas-free home conversion is slowly building, even if the overall score has not moved.

51% of those who support gas-free home conversion now cite saving money on running costs as a reason — up +8% on 2025. Although the Index score sits flat at 48, this growing recognition of financial benefit may convert to higher deep support in the future.



The gap between concern and conviction is significant.

78% of Australians say climate change is personally important to them. However, far fewer (61%) support moving away from fossil fuels.



Deep support for green metals has decreased, demonstrating that Australians gravitate toward solutions they can see and understand.

Deep support for establishing a green metals industry has fallen from 59 to 58. While not the largest decrease, the reasons for opposition point to a larger theme — a lack of knowledge and doubts about whether it is economically viable for Australia feature prominently among those who oppose it. This reflects a common theme; familiarity builds support while unfamiliarity erodes it.



Demographic Differences



AGE



Australians aged 25–34 show the highest deep support across almost all solutions, and have the highest Index score (67/100).

GENDER



There is little variance in deep support by **gender** overall.

INCOME



Australians **living comfortably** show higher support across all solutions.

Those **under financial pressure** show lower support, particularly for solar panels, EVs and solar farms.

EDUCATION



Support increases consistently with level of **education**.

University-educated Australians are the most likely to support a wide range of solutions.

LOCATION



Metro Australians show higher support for some solutions, such as EVs, gas conversion and infrastructure solutions.

Regional Australians show higher support for home solar panels.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION



ALP and **Greens** voters show the deepest support across all 11 solutions.

Liberal and **One Nation** voters are significantly less supportive, with One Nation recording the lowest support of any voting group.



These patterns hold broadly across the data, but support levels and responses can vary considerably within each group depending on the question and the solution being referenced. A full breakdown by demographic is available in the Clean Energy Solutions Index dashboard.

Solution Summaries



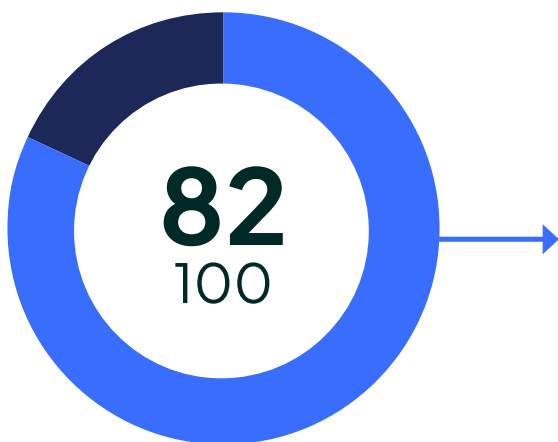
HOME SOLUTIONS

Installing solar panels at home



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



2026	2025	Change
82/100	81/100	+1%

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	85%	83%	+2%
Personally support	83%	82%	+1%
Supported by local community	80%	79%	+1%
Talk positively to family and friends	78%	78%	-



Support – 2026

77% ^{-1%}	Saves money on bills
52% ^{+2%}	Generates affordable energy
42% ^{+4%}	Makes the most of our natural resources



Oppose – 2026

45% ^{-14%}	Upfront expense
37% ^{-4%}	Ongoing costs
37% ^{-6%}	Concern about disposal

Adoption

78% of Australians have (41%) or would consider (37%) solar panels at home.^{+1%}



Noise

2026



Change

53%	Have heard positive things	+5%
24%	Have heard both positive and negative things	
8%	Haven't heard anything	
9%	Have heard neutral things	
7%	Have heard negative things	



Summary

Solar panels at home remain the clean energy solution with the strongest deep support, with its Index score lifting from 81 in 2025 to 82 in 2026 (+1).

This uplift reflects small but consistent gains across three of the four deep support metrics; *Good for Australia* (+2% to 85%), *Personally Support* (+1% to 83%), and *Supported by Local Community* (+1% to 80%). *Talk Positively* holds steady at 78%.

Saving money on bills remains the primary driver of support (77%). Cost-related opposition has eased: 45% of Australians who oppose the solution cite upfront costs as a barrier (-14%), while 37% point to concerns about ongoing costs (-4%).

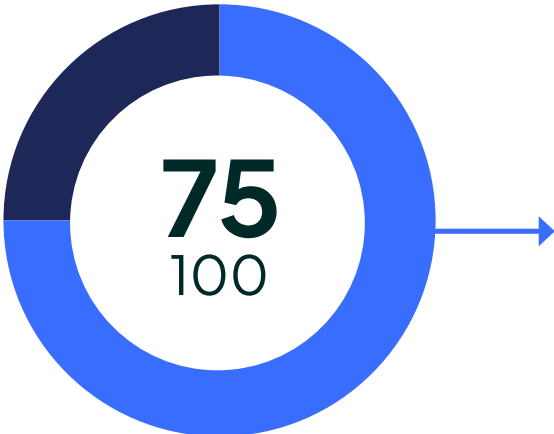
HOME SOLUTIONS

Installing a solar battery at home



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



75
100

	2026	2025	Change
	75/100	72/100	+2%*

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	77%	75%	+2%
Personally support	77%	74%	+2%*
Supported by local community	73%	70%	+3%
Talk positively to family and friends	71%	69%	+2%

Support – 2026

78%^{+4%}

Saves money on bills

57%^{-2%}

Stores power/self-sufficiency

38%⁽⁻⁾

Better for the environment

Oppose – 2026

50%^{-10%}

Up front expense

48%^{-3%}

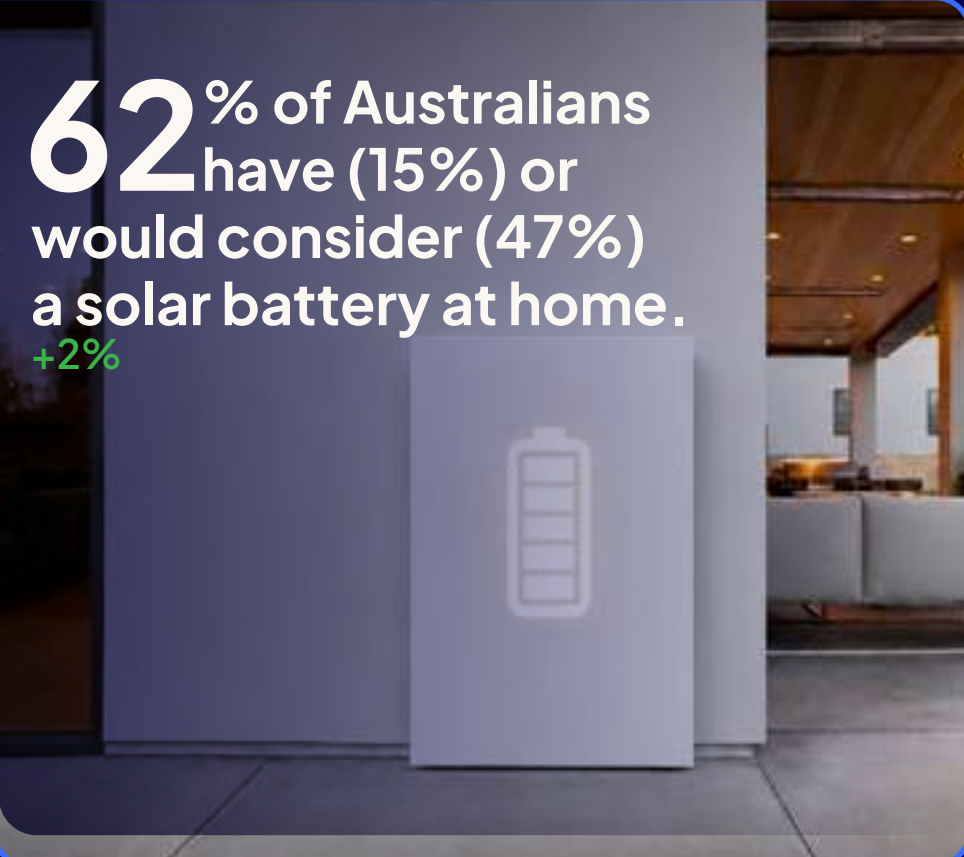
Concern about disposal

47%^{-5%}

Concern about risks

Penetration

62% of Australians have (15%) or would consider (47%) a solar battery at home.
^{+2%}



Noise

2026

Change

45%

Have heard positive things

+8%

23%

Have heard both positive and negative things

13%

Haven't heard anything

11%

Have heard neutral things

8%

Have heard negative things

Summary

Solar batteries hold the second-highest Index score of all clean energy solutions at 75, with deep support increasing by +2 points from 72 in 2025.

This uplift is consistent across all four deep support metrics: *Good for Australia* (+2% to 77%), *Personally Support* (+2% to 77%), *Supported by Local Community* (+3% to 73%), and *Talk Positively* (+2% to 71%).

Saving money on bills remains the primary driver of support (+4% to 78%). Upfront costs (-10% to 50%) and concerns about battery disposal (-3% to 48%) are the leading barriers, but less common than in 2025. Positive noise has grown strongly, with 45% of Australians having heard positive things about home batteries (+8%), the largest uplift in positive noise of any home solution in 2026.

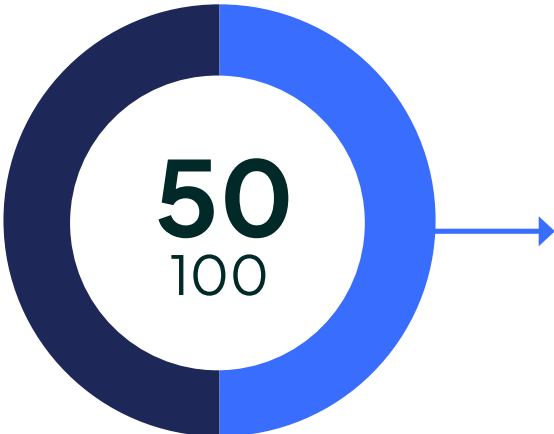
HOME SOLUTIONS

Electric vehicle purchase



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



2026

2025

Change

50/100

44/100

+6%

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	49%	44%	+5%
Personally support	52%	45%	+7%
Supported by local community	49%	45%	+4%
Talk positively to family and friends	49%	43%	+7%*

Support – 2026

67%^{+14%}

Saves money on petrol/cheaper

55%^{-1%}

Better for the environment

53%^{+1%}

Reduces emissions/fossil fuels

Oppose – 2026

68%^{+9%}

Range limitation

60%^{+8%}

Lack of charging stations

56%^{-5%}

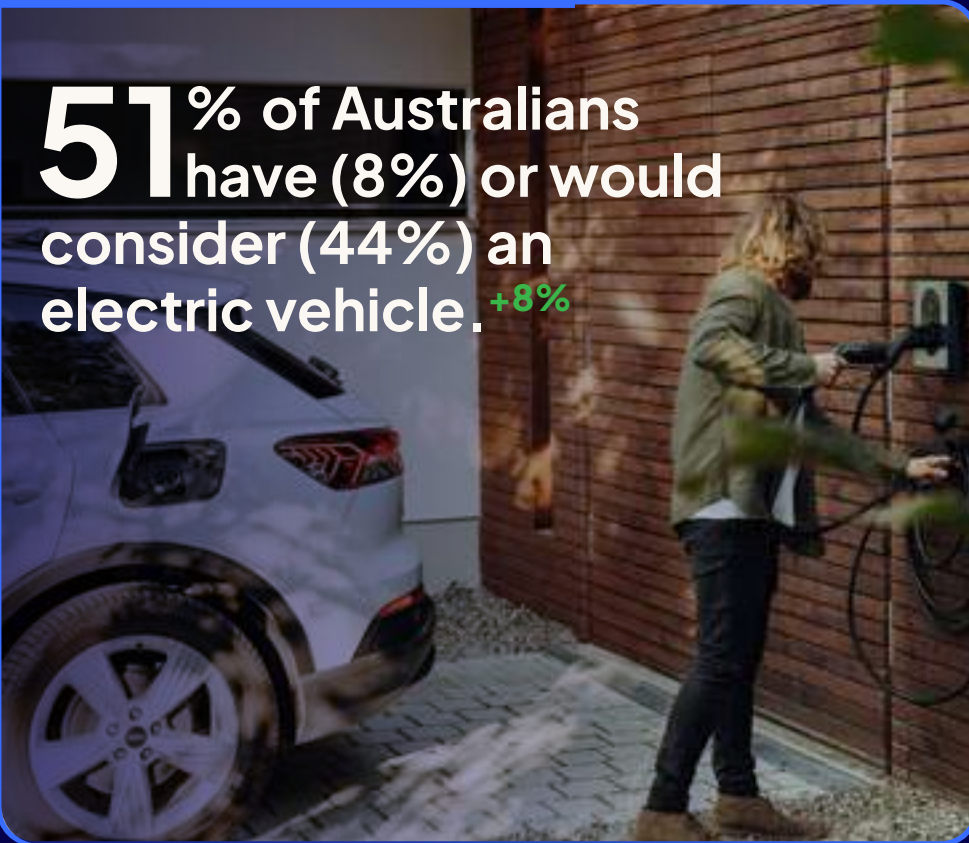
Battery reliability/replacement concerns

Penetration

51%

of Australians have (8%) or would consider (44%) an electric vehicle.

+8%



Noise

2026

Change

28%

Have heard positive things

+5%

39%

Have heard both positive and negative things

8%

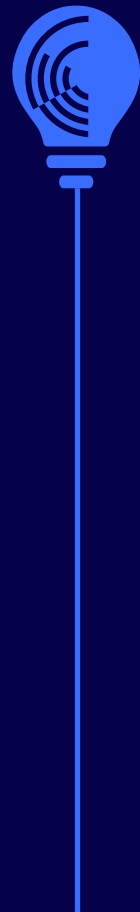
Haven't heard anything

11%

Have heard neutral things

15%

Have heard negative things



Summary

Deep support for EVs recorded the largest uplift of any home solution in 2026, with the Index score rising +6 points to 50/100.

The primary driver of support is economic: the proportion of Australians citing savings on petrol and cheaper running costs has grown from 53% to 67% (+14%), coinciding with fuel supply pressures due to the war in Iran. Upfront cost concerns (a top three most common barrier in 2025) fell from 53% to 39% (-14%). Opposition is now centred on practical considerations: range and distance (68%), lack of charging infrastructure (60%), and battery reliability (56%). Data on adoption reflects this; 51% of Australians now have or would consider an EV (+8%), the largest increase of any home solution in 2026.

HOME SOLUTIONS

Converting your home to be free from gas

Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE

48

100

2026

2025

Change

48/100

48/100

-

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	50%	49%	-*
Personally support	52%	52%	-
Supported by local community	46%	44%	+1%*
Talk positively to family and friends	46%	47%	-1%

Support – 2026

55%

+2%

Better for the environment

51%

+8%

Saves money on energy bills

50%

+2%

To be more energy efficient

Oppose – 2026

62%

-1%

Prefer gas appliances/cooking

58%

-2%

Gas is efficient

38%

-6%

Worry about blackouts relying on electricity

Penetration

55%

of Australians have (23%) or would consider (32%) an induction stove.

+2%

40%

of Australians have (14%) or would consider (25%) a heat pump.

+4%

Noise

2026

Change

22%

Have heard positive things

+1%

22%

Have heard both positive and negative things

26%

Haven't heard anything

14%

Have heard neutral things

16%

Have heard negative things

Summary

Converting your home to be free from gas remains the home solution with the lowest deep support, with the Index score unchanged at 48.

Opposition continues to be driven by a preference for gas with 62% of Australians who oppose the solution, preferring gas appliances for cooking.

Notably, saving money on energy bills has entered the top three reasons for support (51%).

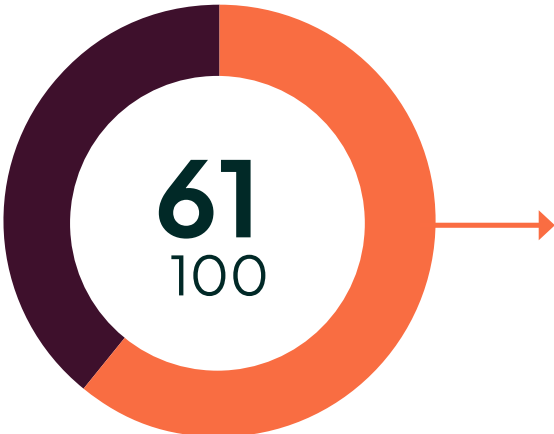
INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Building renewable energy transmission lines



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



2026	2025	Change
61/100	56/100	+5%

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	70%	62%	+8%
Personally support	67%	60%	+7%
Supported by local community	54%	51%	+3%
Talk positively to family and friends	54%	51%	+3%

Support – 2026

53% ^{+1%}	Energy reliability/needs updating
50% ^{-2%}	Supports shift to renewable energy
39% ^{-1%}	Better for the environment

Oppose – 2026

65% ^{+10%}	Impact on farming land
59% ^{+8%}	Wasteful spending by the government
58% ^{+1%}	Too expensive

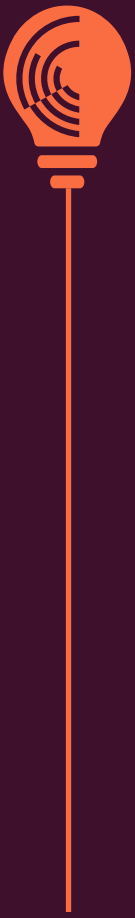


Noise

2026

Change

17%	Have heard positive things	-
17%	Have heard both positive and negative things	
40%	Haven't heard anything	
13%	Have heard neutral things	
13%	Have heard negative things	



Summary

Deep support for transmission lines recorded the second-largest uplift of any solution in 2026, rising by +5 points to 61, with strong and consistent gains across all four metrics.

Support is primarily driven by the belief that transmission infrastructure is essential to energy reliability (53%) and enabling the shift to renewable energy (50%).

Despite this shift in sentiment, concerns around the impact on farming land (+10% to 65%) and wasteful government spending (+8% to 59%) have grown amongst those that oppose this solution.

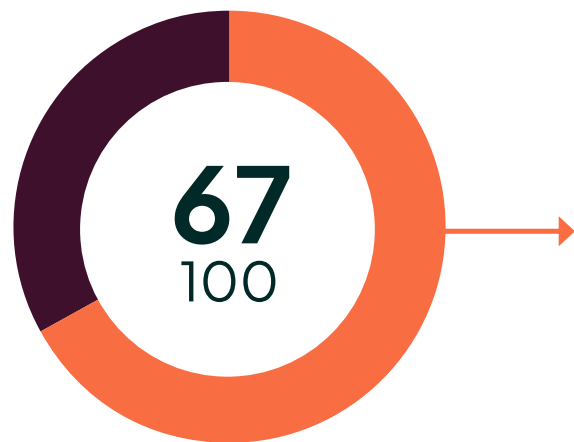
INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Building solar farms



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



2026	2025	Change
67/100	68/100	-1%

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	74%	73%	+1%
Personally support	72%	72%	-
Supported by local community	61%	62%	-1%
Talk positively to family and friends	61%	66%	-5%



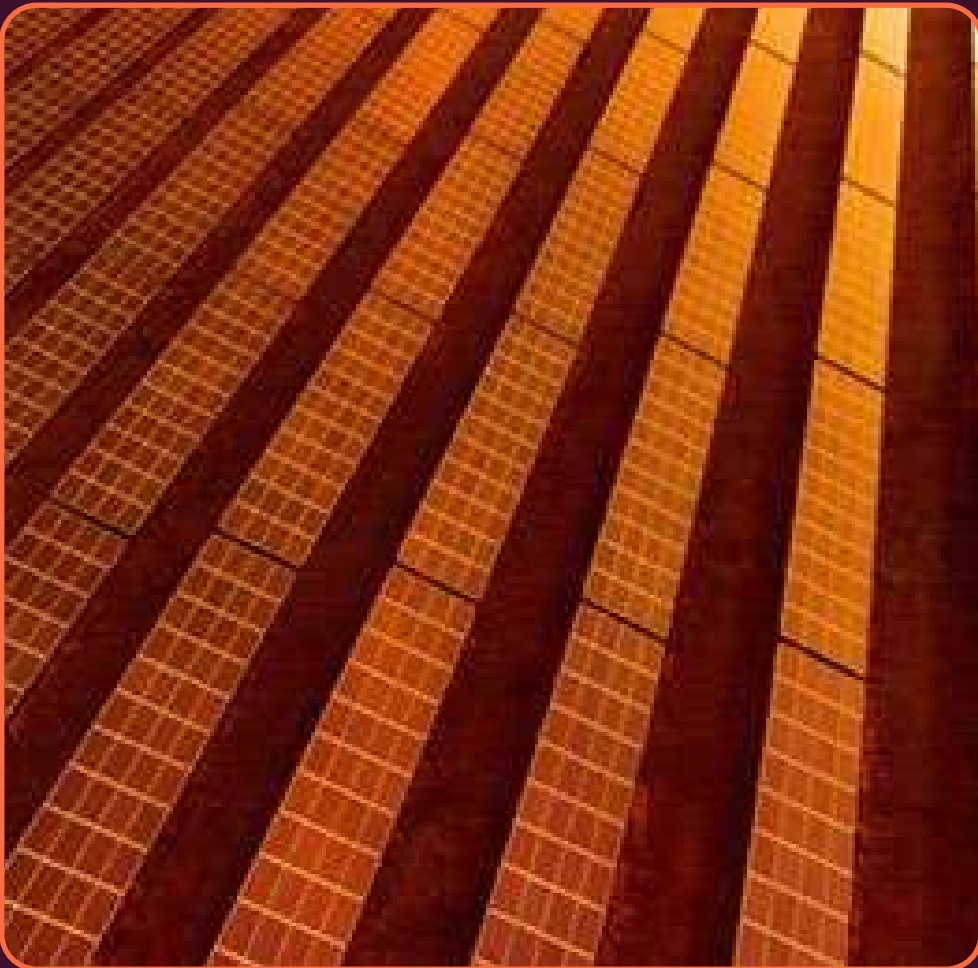
Support – 2026

62% ^{-2%}	Good source of renewable energy
49% ^{-8%}	Australia has the land available
48% ^{-5%}	Makes the most of our natural resources



Oppose – 2026

77% ^{+2%}	Loss of farm land
64% ^{+2%}	Impact on wildlife and nature
54% ^{+4%}	Visually unappealing



Noise

2026



Change

28%	Have heard positive things	-2%
25%	Have heard both positive and negative things	
19%	Haven't heard anything	
11%	Have heard neutral things	
16%	Have heard negative things	



Summary

Solar farms remain the highest-supported infrastructure solution at 67, though this Index score eased marginally in 2026 (-1pt).

Personal Support holds steady at 72% and agreement that solar farms are *Good for Australia* has grown slightly (+1% to 74%). *Willingness to Talk Positively* has fallen notably (-5% to 61%), with negative noise increasing (+2% to 16%) suggesting a more contested public conversation is suppressing advocacy.

Opposition is driven by land use concerns, with loss of farming land (77%, +2%) and impacts on wildlife and nature (64%, +2%) both growing since 2025.

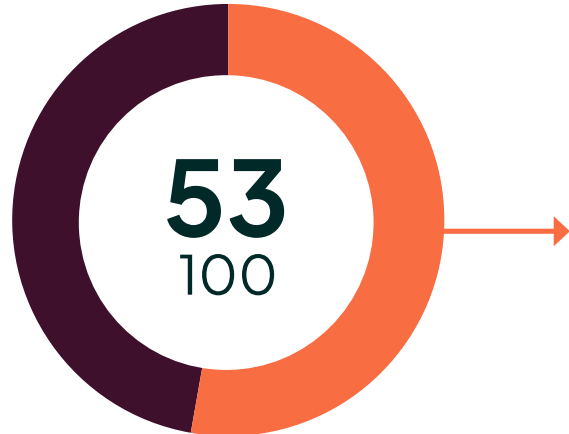
INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Building offshore wind farms



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



53
100

2026 2025 Change

53/100 53/100 -

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	57%	57%	-
Personally support	59%	58%	+2%*
Supported by local community	46%	47%	-1%
Talk positively to family and friends	49%	51%	-2%

Support – 2026

58%^{-2%}

Good source of renewable energy

46%^{-5%}

Makes the most of our natural resources

44%^{+2%}

Better for the environment

Oppose – 2026

76%^{+1%}

Impact on marine wildlife

69%^{-4%}

Environmental impact on oceans

47%^{-2%}

Too expensive/costly



Noise

2026

Change

17%

Have heard positive things

-1%

25%

Have heard both positive and negative things

26%

Haven't heard anything

9%

Have heard neutral things

22%

Have heard negative things



Summary

Deep support for offshore wind is unchanged in 2026 at 53, with the Index score holding steady despite mixed movement across the four metrics.

Personal Support edging up (+2%* to 59%) while willingness to Talk Positively has declined (-2% to 49%). Support is driven by the view that Australia’s resources make offshore wind a strong renewable energy source, though both leading support drivers (a good source of energy and making the most of our natural resources) have declined modestly since 2025.

Opposition remains firmly centred on environmental concerns, particularly marine wildlife impact (76%) and impact on oceans (69%).

Offshore wind continues to carry one of the highest levels of negative noise of any solution (22%).

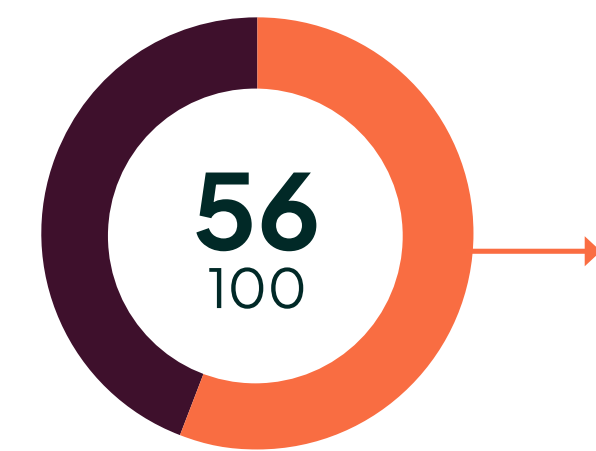
INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Building onshore wind farms



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



2026	2025	Change
56/100	57/100	-1

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	62%	62%	-
Personally support	63%	62%	+1%
Supported by local community	48%	49%	-1%
Talk positively to family and friends	52%	54%	-3%*



Support – 2026

60% ^{-1%}	Good source of renewable energy
50% ^{+2%}	Makes the most of our natural resources
47% ^{-7%}	Australia has the land available



Oppose – 2026

70% ^{-4%}	Impact on wildlife and nature
65% ^{+6%}	Loss of farm land
55% ^{+3%}	Visually unappealing



Noise

2026



Change

16%	Have heard positive things	-1%
27%	Have heard both positive and negative things	
22%	Haven't heard anything	
12%	Have heard neutral things	
22%	Have heard negative things	



Summary

Deep support for onshore wind has eased marginally in 2026, with the Index score falling –1 point to 56.

Support is primarily driven by the view that onshore wind is a good source of renewable energy (60%) and makes the most of Australia's natural resources (50%). *Personal Support* holds steady at 63% (+1%), but *Willingness to Talk Positively* has declined (–3%* to 52%), consistent with a high negative noise environment – at 22% onshore wind carries some of the highest negative noise of any solution.

Since 2025 concerns around farming land loss have grown (+6% to 65%) and perceptions that onshore wind is visually unappealing have increased (+3% to 55%), while concern about wildlife and nature remain the most common concern, despite easing slightly (–4% to 70%).

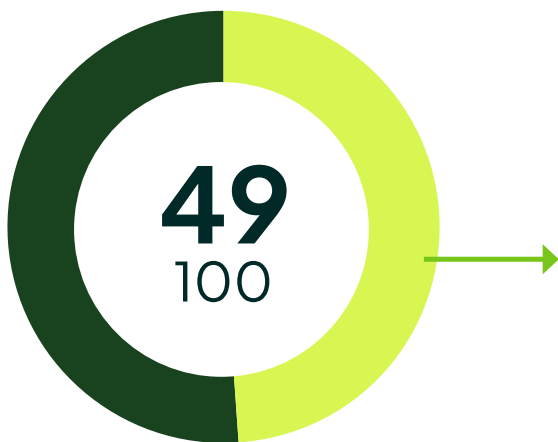
INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS

Converting factories and industry to be free from gas



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE



2026	2025	Change
49/100	51/100	-3*

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	51%	55%	-4%
Personally support	53%	55%	-1%*
Supported by local community	45%	48%	-3%
Talk positively to family and friends	45%	47%	-2%

Support – 2026

64% ⁽⁻⁾	Better for the environment
61% ^{+2%}	Reduces emissions
58% ⁽⁻⁾	Less pollution

Oppose – 2026

67% ^{+1%}	Gas is important for industry & business
55% ^{-5%}	Will increase costs for consumers
47% ^{-3%}	Gas is clean/a natural resource



Noise

2026



Change

15%	Have heard positive things	-2%
17%	Have heard both positive and negative things	
42%	Haven't heard anything	
11%	Have heard neutral things	
14%	Have heard negative things	

Summary

Converting factories and industry to be free from gas has seen the most consistent decline in deep support of any solution in 2026.

The Index score fell -3* points to 49 and all four deep support metrics decreased. The view that this solution is *Good for Australia* has fallen particularly sharply (-4% to 51%).

Positive noise has also declined (-2% to 15%). Support remains environmentally driven; 64% cite better for the environment and 61% cite reduced emissions. Opposition is centred on the belief that gas remains essential for industry and business (67%).

INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS

Establishing a green metals industry in Australia



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE

58

100

20262025Change

58/10059/100-1

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
 Good for Australia	64%	64%	-
 Personally support	63%	64%	-*
 Supported by local community	53%	55%	-2%
 Talk positively to family and friends	52%	53%	-1%

 Support – 2026

61%^{NEW}

Supports Australian-made and reduces reliance on imports

57%^{-3%}

A long-term solution for Australia’s future

57%^{+3%}

Benefits the economy and creates jobs

 Oppose – 2026

49%^{-2%}

Will increase costs for customers

48%^{+2%}

Too expensive

36%^{+5%}

Not reliable/efficient energy source

Noise

2026



Change

17%

Have heard positive things

-3%

16%

Have heard both positive and negative things

46%

Haven’t heard anything

12%

Have heard neutral things

10%

Have heard negative things

Summary

Deep support for establishing a green metals industry has decreased slightly in 2026, with the Index score falling –1pt to 58.

There have also been small declines across two of the four deep support metrics. Support is driven by national economic sentiment; 61% of supporters cite the opportunity to support Australian-made manufacturing and reduce reliance on imports (a new inclusion in 2026) alongside the long-term economic case for Australia (57%). Cost concerns remain the primary barrier, with 49% of those who oppose citing the risk of increased costs for consumers and 48% pointing to the solution being too expensive.

Clean Energy
Solutions Index

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

37

INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS

Manufacturing renewable energy components in Australia



Index Score and Metrics

ONE-NUMBER SCORE

68

100

20262025Change

68/10067/100+1

4 KEY METRICS

	2026	2025	Change
Good for Australia	73%	72%	+1%
Personally support	72%	71%	+1%
Supported by local community	64%	64%	-
Talk positively to family and friends	61%	60%	+1%

Support – 2026

67%^{-2%}

Supports Australian-made and reduces reliance on imports

66%^{-1%}

Benefits the economy and jobs

31%⁻

Better for the environment

Oppose – 2026

42%^{-7%}

Too expensive

41%^{+2%}

Components are not recyclable

40%^{-3%}

Will increase costs for consumers

Noise

2026

Change

23%

Have heard positive things

-2%

16%

Have heard both positive and negative things

42%

Haven't heard anything

10%

Have heard neutral things

9%

Have heard negative things

Summary

Manufacturing renewable energy components is the strongest-performing industry solution and the only one to record an uplift in 2026, with the Index score rising +1pt to 68.

There were also gains across three of the four deep support metrics. Support is driven by economic nationalism; 67% point to reducing reliance on imports and supporting Australian industry, and 66% cite benefits to the economy and jobs. Opposition has eased notably, with “too expensive” falling from 49% to 42% (-7%), though concerns about the recyclability of components have entered the top three barriers for the first time in 2026 (41%).

State Results



SUMMARY

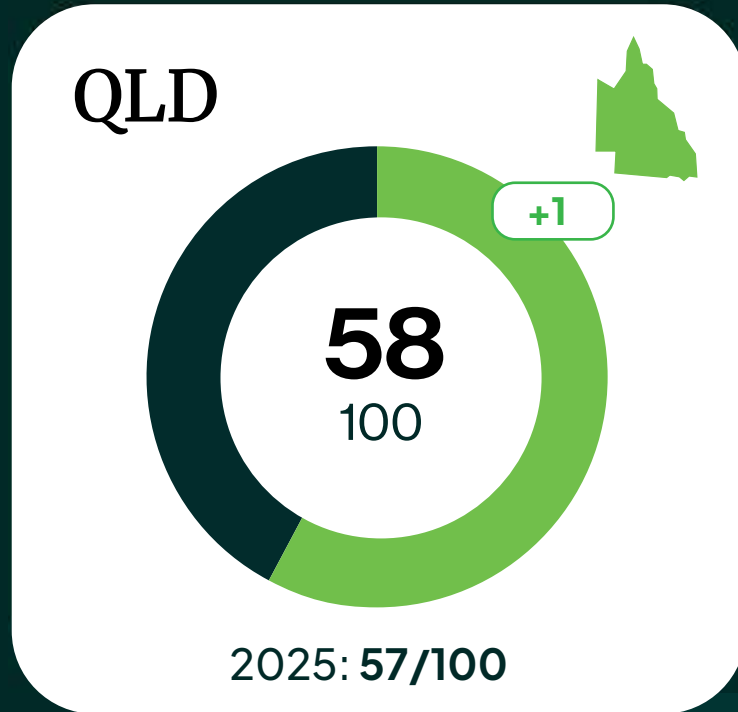
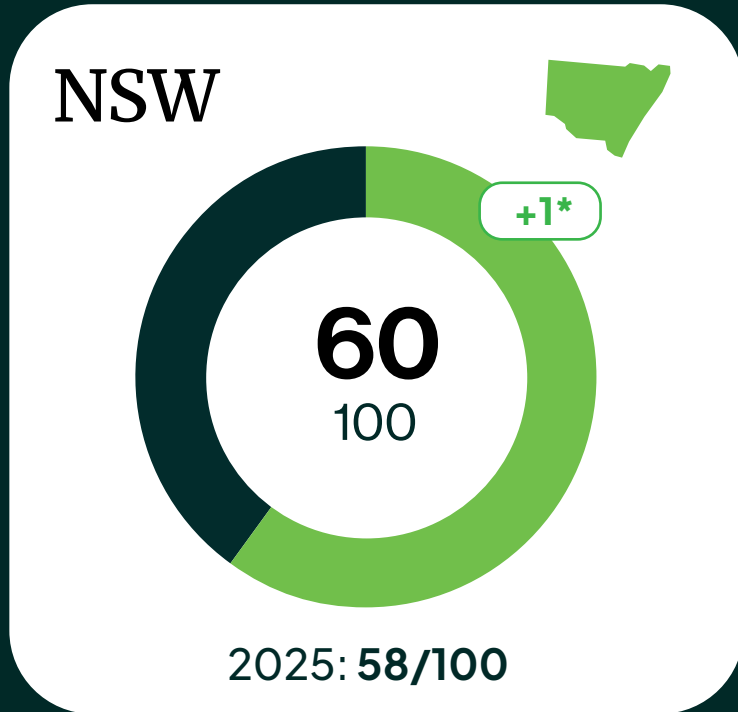
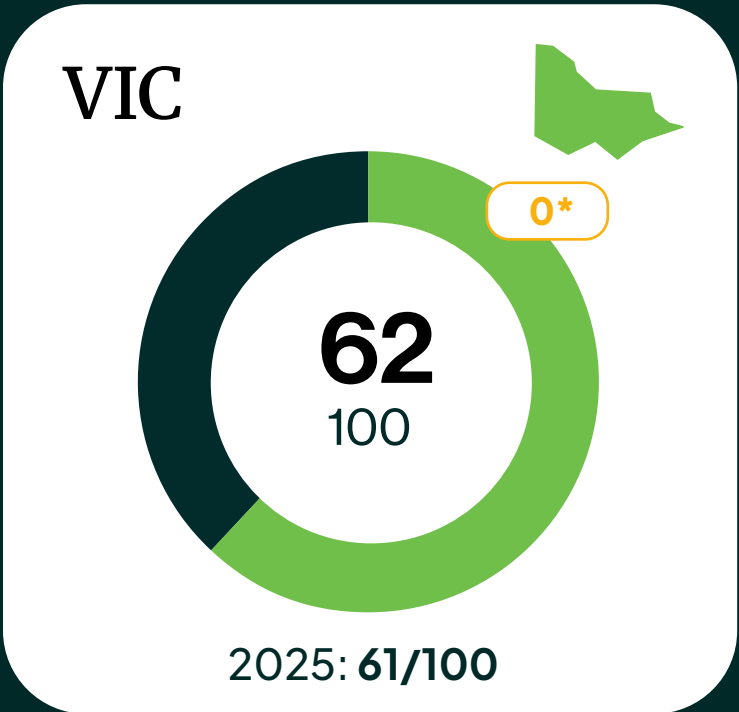
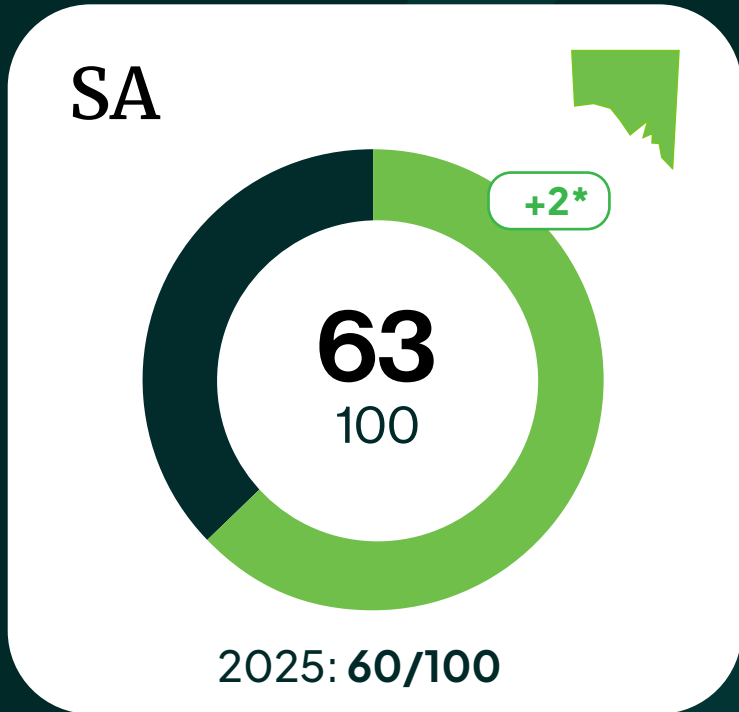
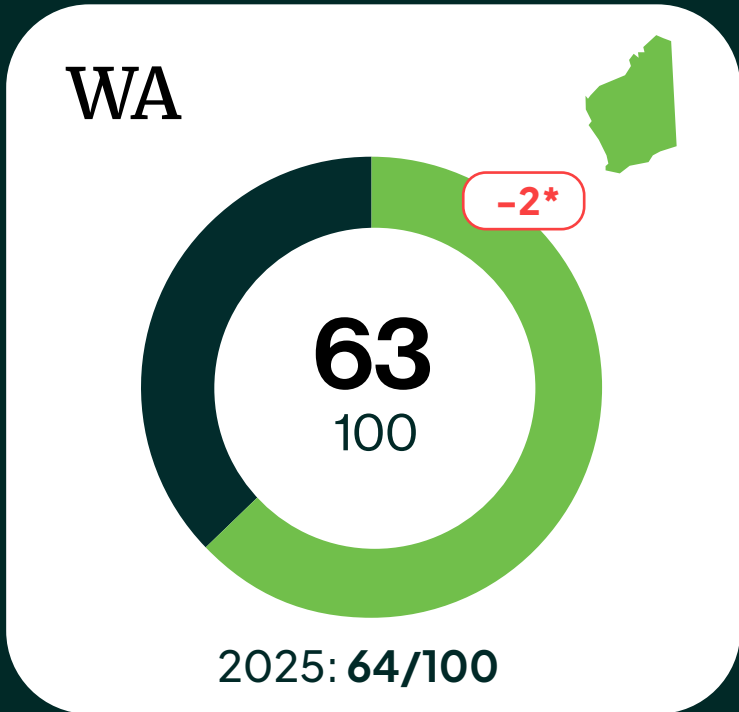
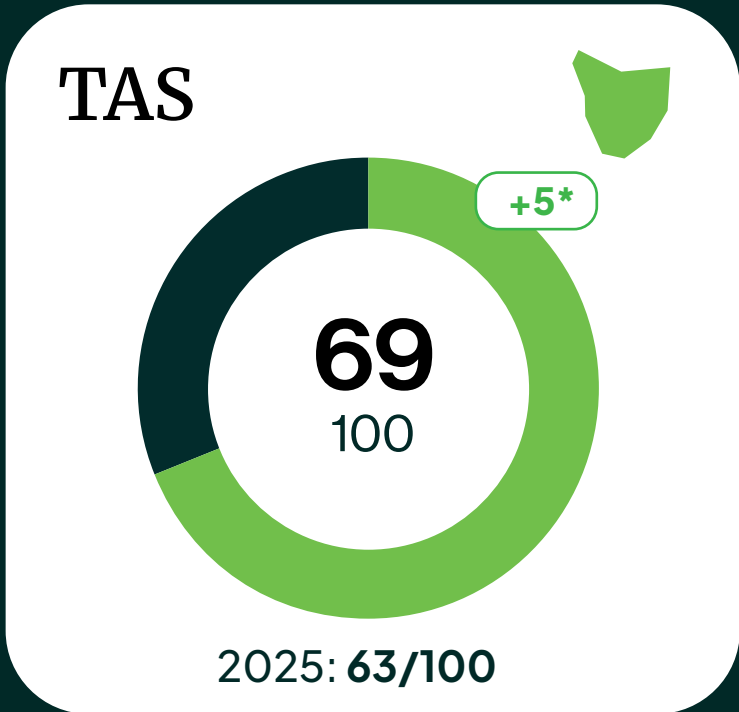
2026 State Results

Deep support for clean energy solutions is strong in each of the six states, with all recording a one-number score of 58 or higher.

Tasmania recorded the highest state score in 2026 at 69, up +5 points* on 2025, while Western Australia (-2*) and South Australia (+2*) both sit at 63. As in 2025, Queensland has the lowest Index score at 58, followed by New South Wales at 60.

The range of 11 points across states is wider than in 2025, driven primarily by Tasmania’s strong gains, and indicates that while deep support is present nationally, there are meaningful differences at the state level.

A selection of state-level insights are outlined on the following pages.



*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

NATIONAL PROFILES

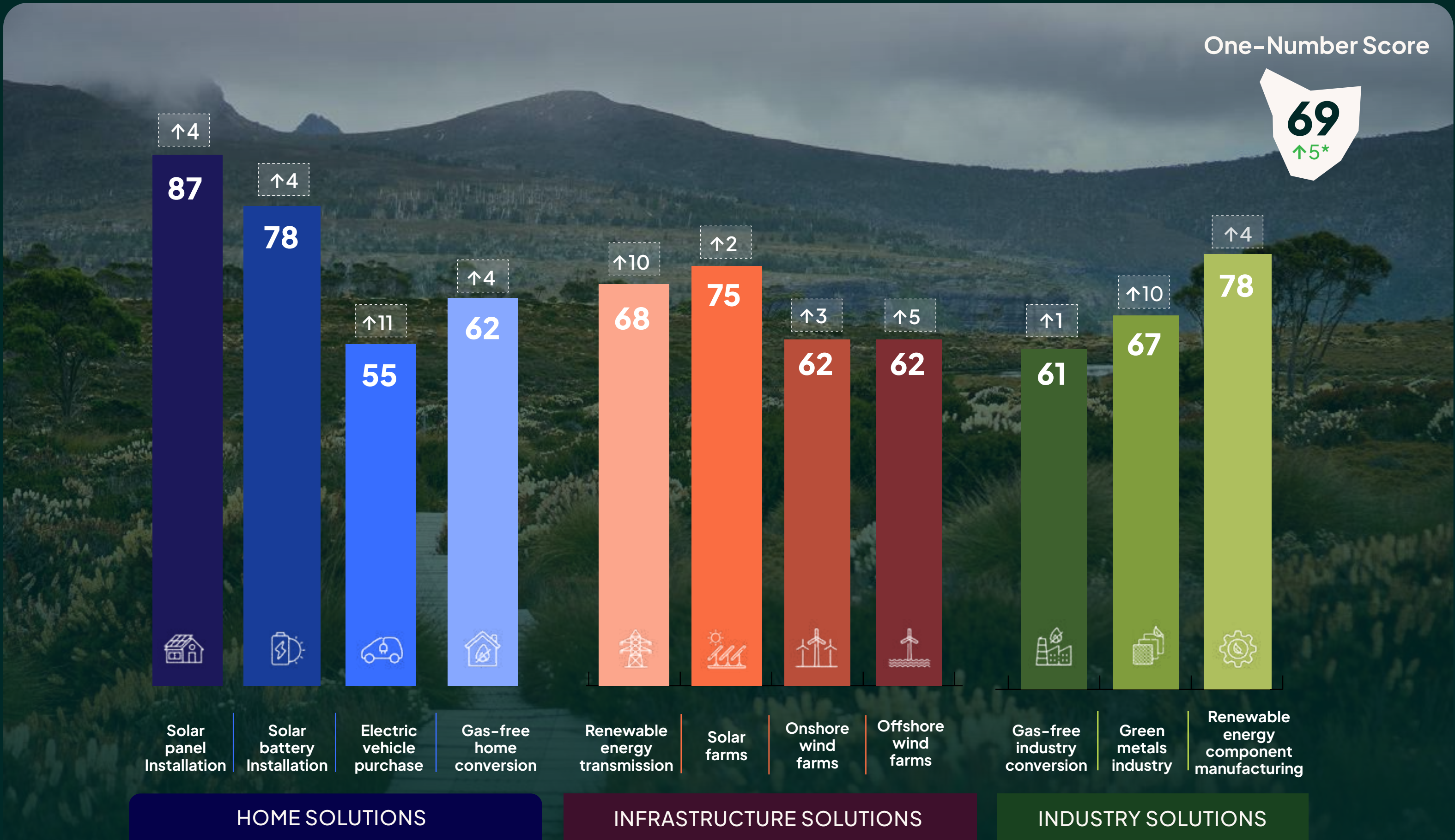
Tasmania

Tasmania recorded an Index score of 69 in 2026, up +5 points* from 63 in 2025, the strongest growth of any state and the highest overall score nationally by a considerable margin.

Additionally, every individual solution recorded an uplift in deep support, with EVs and transmission lines leading with increases of +11 (55) and +10 (68) respectively.

Across every solution, Tasmania’s 2026 scores are the highest or equal highest of any state, which is reflected in the strong sentiment foundations; 83% of Australians in Tasmania consider climate change an important issue and 72% support the energy transition.

2026	2025	Change
69/100	63/100	+5%*



Climate Change is Important

83%

Support Energy Transition

72%

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

NATIONAL PROFILES

Western Australia

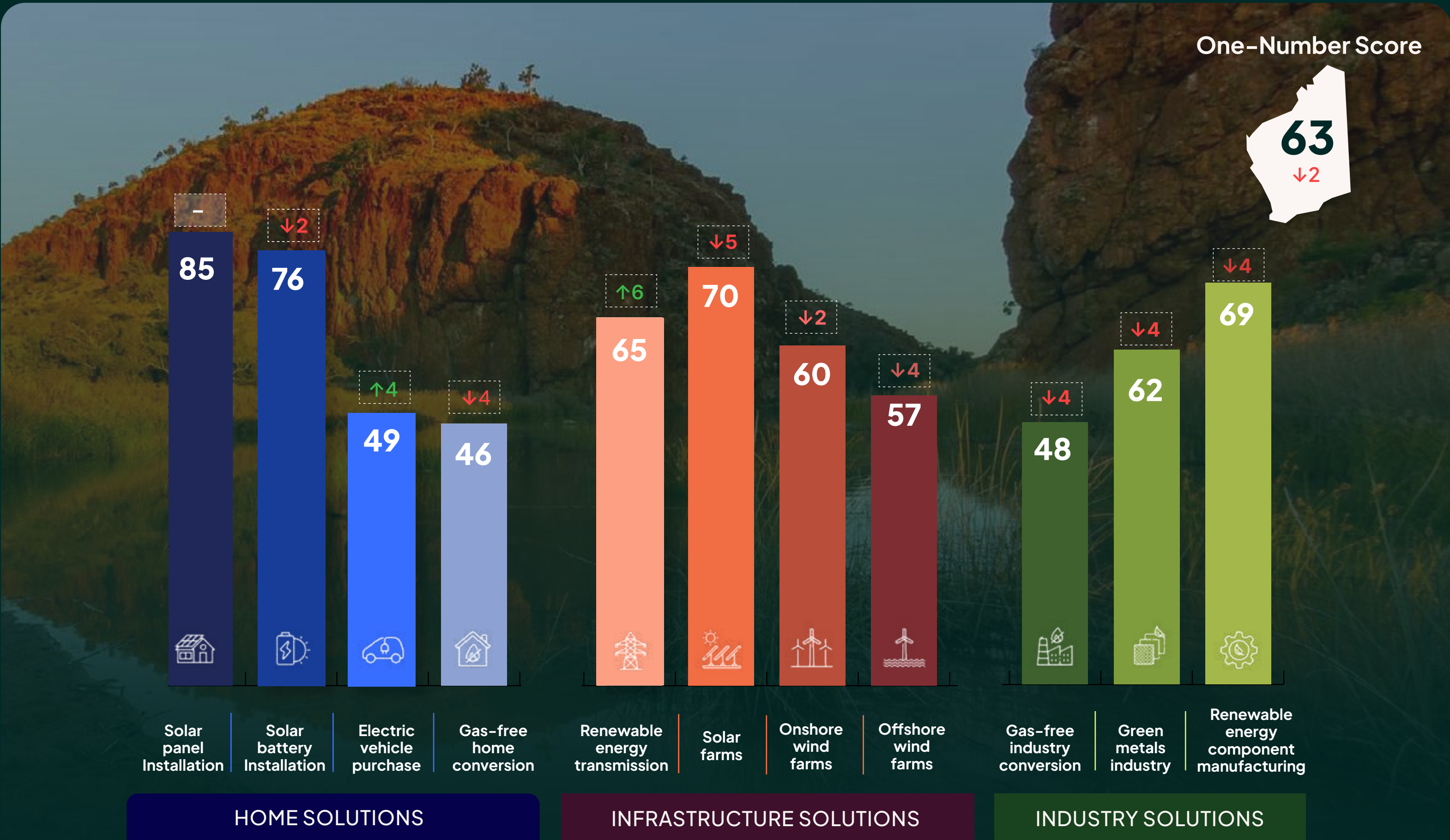
Western Australia recorded an Index score of 63 in 2026, down -2pt* from 64 in 2025, the only state to record a decline in deep support.

The biggest declines in deep support were for building solar farms (-5) and all the industry solutions; including manufacturing renewable energy components (-4), converting factories to be gas-free (-4) and establishing a green metals industry (-4).

Despite this, WA remains above the national average and continues to record strong deep support scores across most solutions.

This reflects strong foundations support; 79% of Australians in WA consider climate change an important issue, and 63% support the energy transition, both above the national average.

2026	2025	Change
63/100	64/100	-2*



Climate Change is Important 79%

Support Energy Transition 63%

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

NATIONAL PROFILES

Victoria

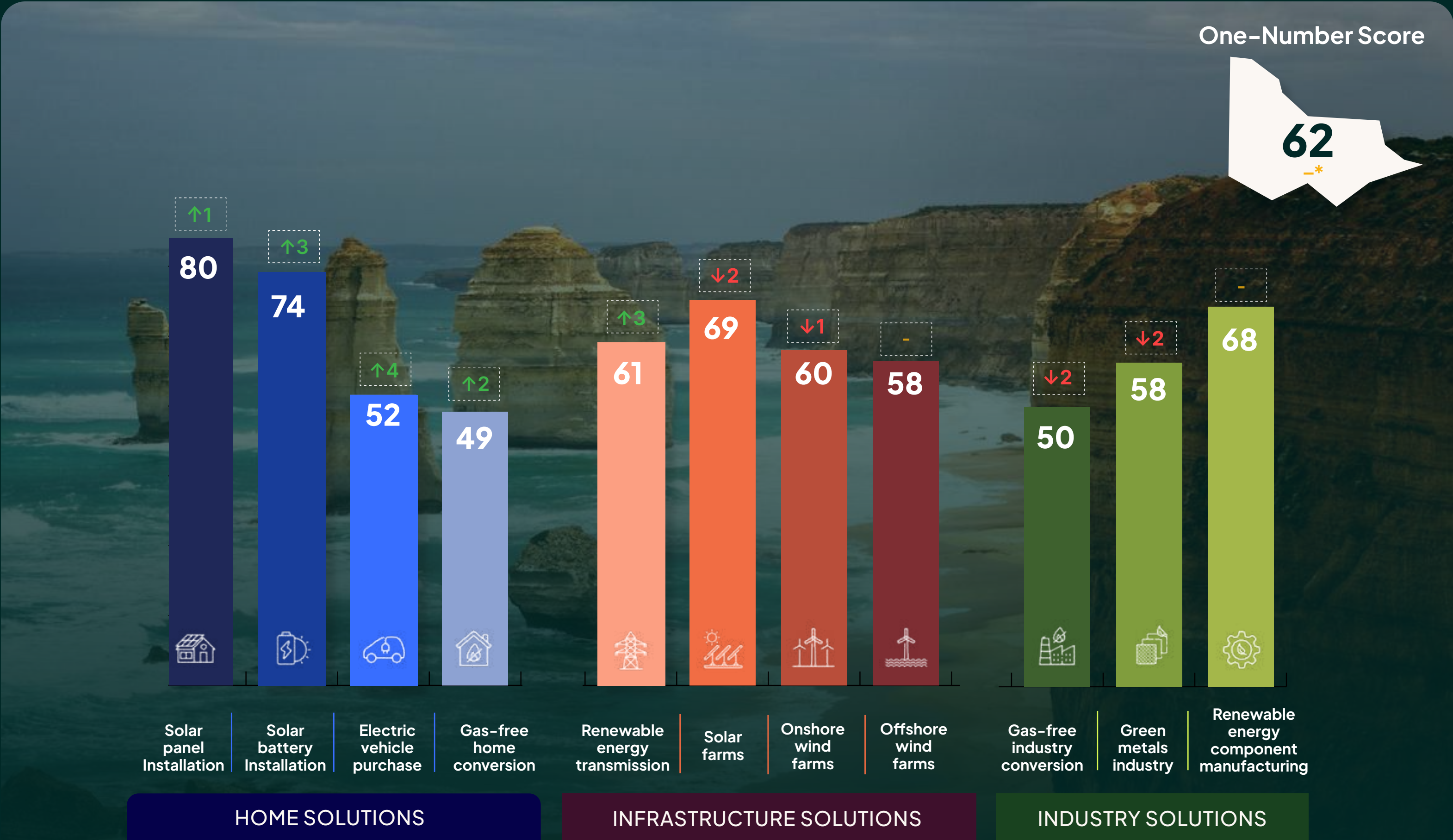
Victoria recorded an Index score of 62 in 2026, which resulted in no change* from 2025.

This placed Victoria just above the national average (61) and ahead of NSW (60) and Queensland (58). Home and transmission solutions are driving the uplift, with EVs gaining +4 points to 52, solar batteries +3 points to 74, and transmission lines +3 points to 61. Somewhat offsetting this, establishing a green metals industry has slipped -2 points to 58, gas-free industry conversion -2 points to 50, and solar farms -2 points to 69.

Victoria has comparatively strong support for wind energy; offshore wind’s deep support is 58, well above NSW (49) and the national average (53).

81% of Australians in Victoria consider climate change an important issue, above the national average of 78%. 62% support the energy transition which is in line with the national average.

2026	2025	Change
62/100	61/100	—*



Climate Change is Important	81%	Support Energy Transition	62%
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*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

NATIONAL PROFILES

South Australia

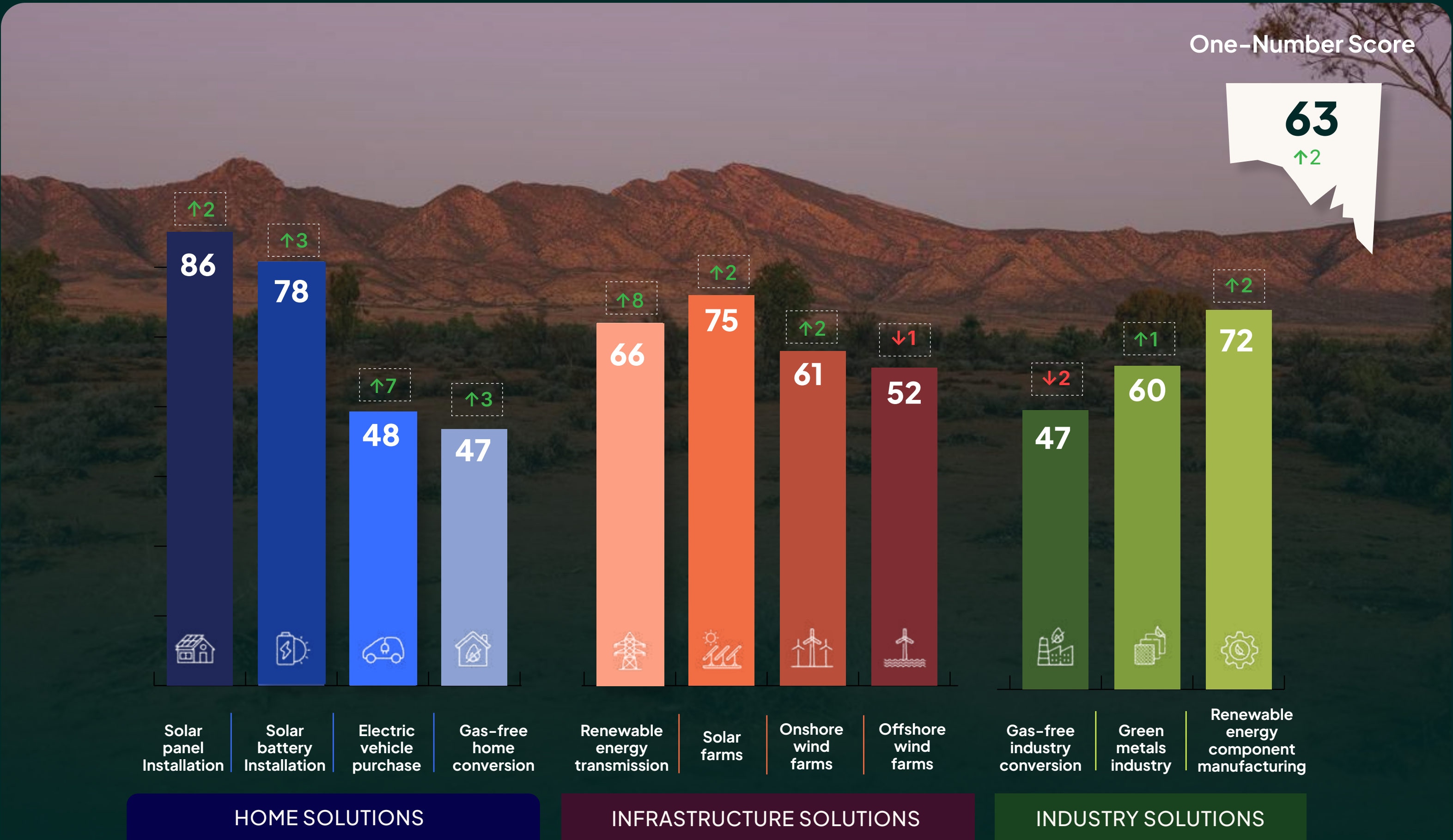
South Australia recorded an Index score of 63 in 2026, up +2 points* from 60 in 2025, one of the strongest state-level gains nationally.

SA is now one of the leading states in terms of deep support, behind only Tasmania (69) and equal with Western Australia (63).

This uplift was broad-based, with gains recorded across most solutions. Transmission lines led the way with a +8 points jump to 66, followed by EVs (+7 points to 48) and gas-free home conversion (+3 points to 47).

Underlying sentiment is strong, with 81% of people in South Australia considering climate change an important issue, above the national average of 78%. 65% support the energy transition, the second highest of any state and well above the national average of 61%.

2026	2025	Change
63/100	60/100	+2*



Climate Change is Important 81%

Support Energy Transition 65%

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

NATIONAL PROFILES

New South Wales

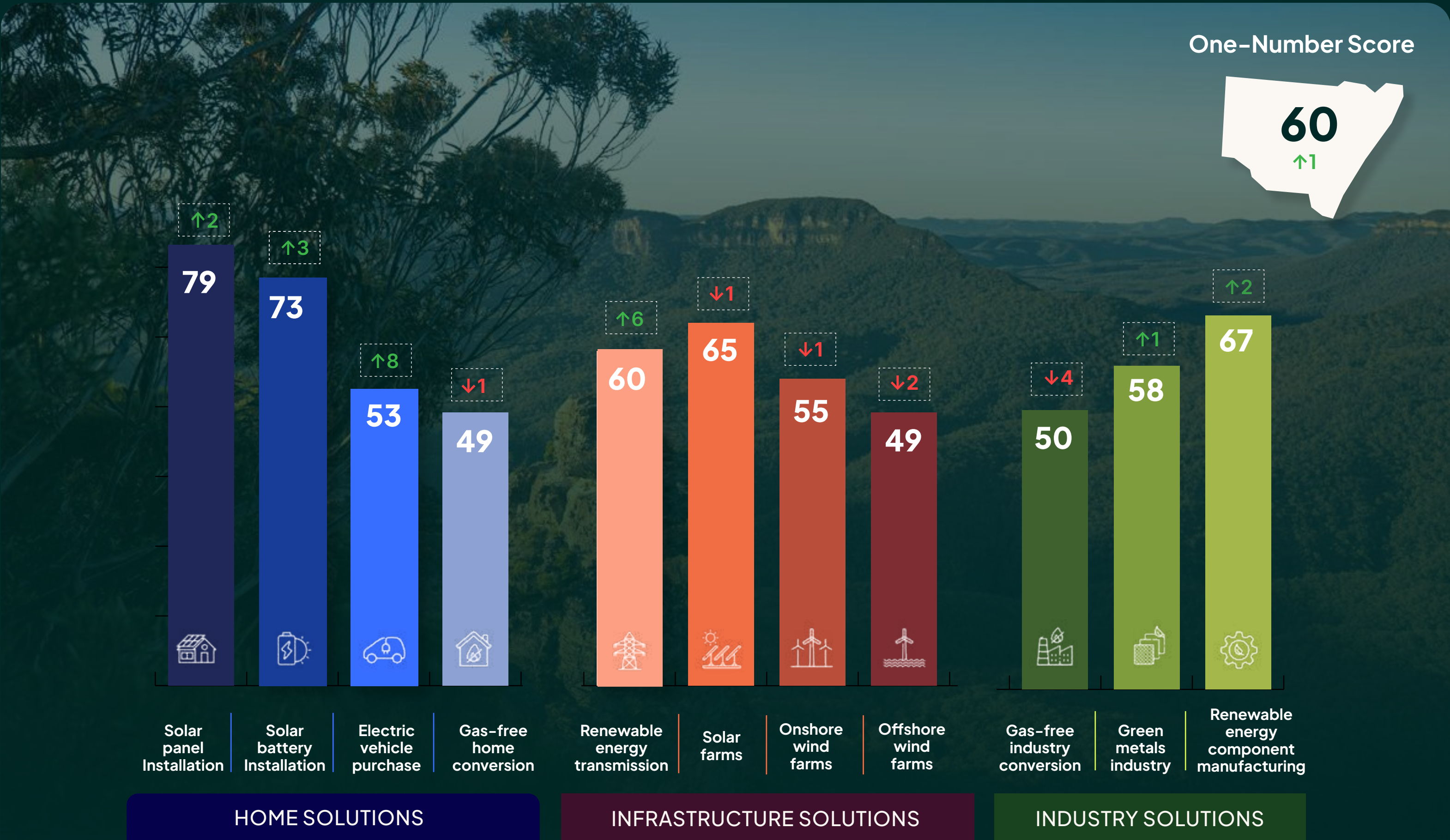
In 2026, New South Wales recorded an Index score of 60, sitting just below the national average and among the lower-performing states, above only Queensland (58) and behind Victoria (62).

The state’s score has seen a modest uplift of +1pt*, rising from 58 in 2025. Deep support across the state is broadly consistent with national trends, with NSW tracking close to the national average on most individual solutions.

As with other states, the standout movement is EVs, where the Index score has jumped +8 points to 53, the strongest uplift of any solution in the state.

Transmission lines have seen meaningful uplift too, rising +6 points to 60. 76% of Australians in NSW consider climate change an important issue, below the national average of 78% and second-lowest of all states, while 62% support the energy transition — just above the national average and comparable to Victoria, but well behind Tasmania (72%) and South Australia (65%).

2026	2025	Change
60/100	58/100	+1*



Climate Change is Important

76%

Support Energy Transition

62%

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

NATIONAL PROFILES

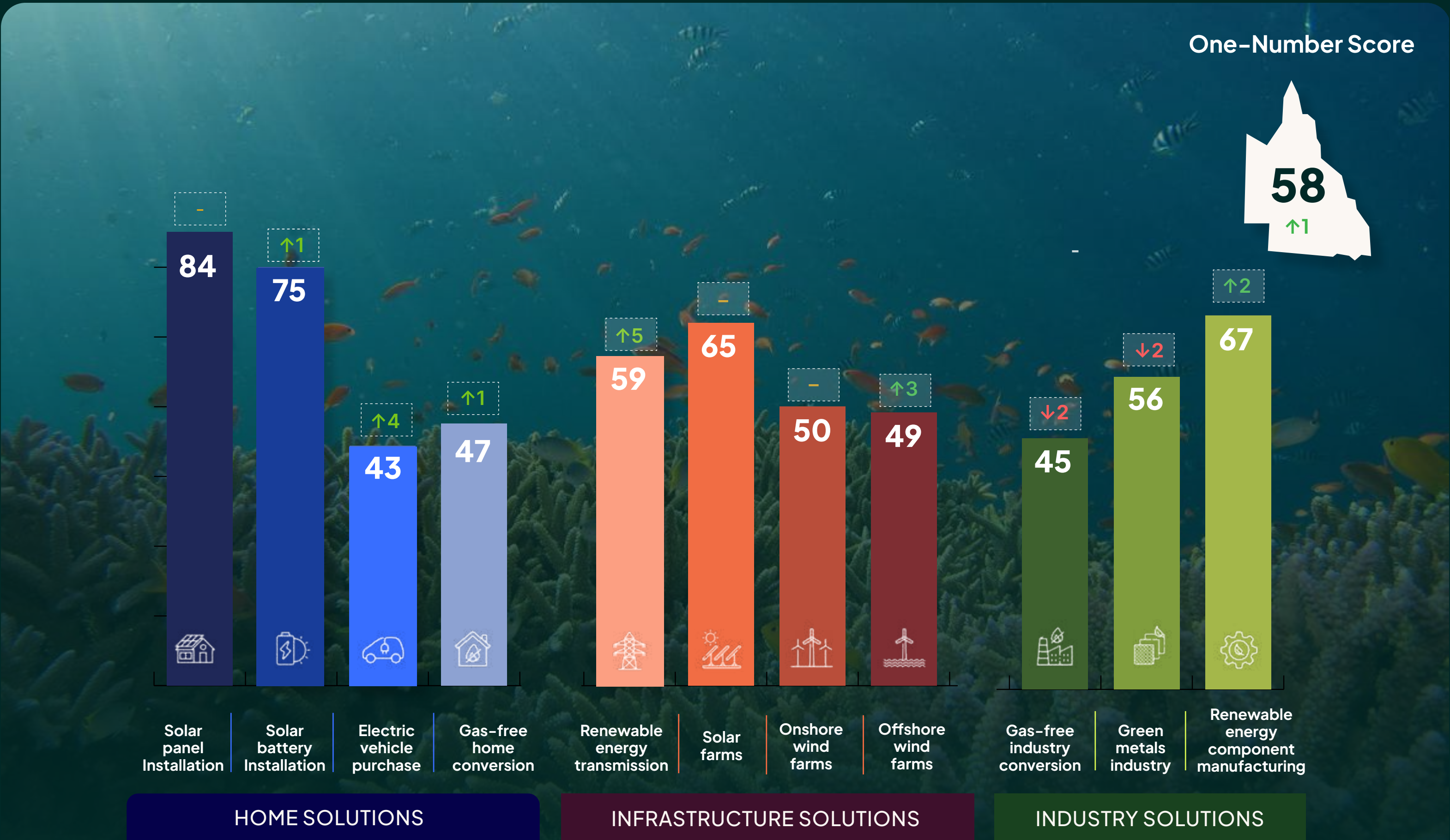
Queensland

Queensland recorded an Index score of 58 in 2026, up +1pt from 57 in 2025.

Despite this increase Queensland remains the lowest-scoring state nationally.

The underlying sentiment context reflects this position; 73% of Australians in Queensland consider climate change an important issue, the lowest of any state and well below the national average of 78%, while 56% support the energy transition, also the lowest nationally against a national figure of 61%.

2026	2025	Change
58/100	57/100	+1*



Climate Change is Important 73%

Support Energy Transition 56%

*Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers; year-on-year changes may vary by ±1% due to rounding.

Additional Contextual Data

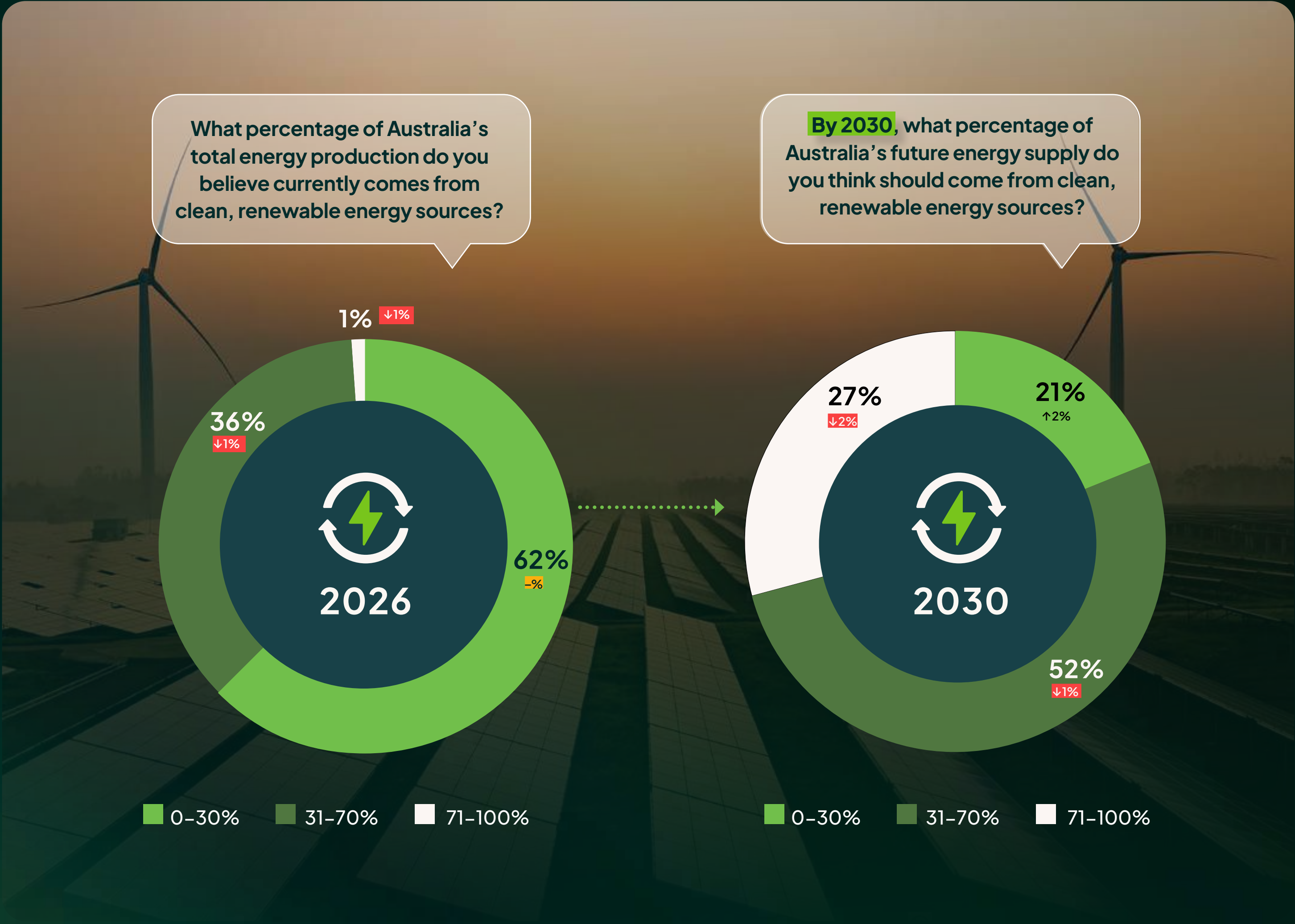


PERCEPTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AUSTRALIA

Six in ten Australians (62%) believe 30% or less of our energy currently comes from renewable sources.

This figure has not shifted significantly since 2025.

Views on what should come from renewables by 2030 have barely shifted either, with a majority (52%) landing in the 31–70% range.

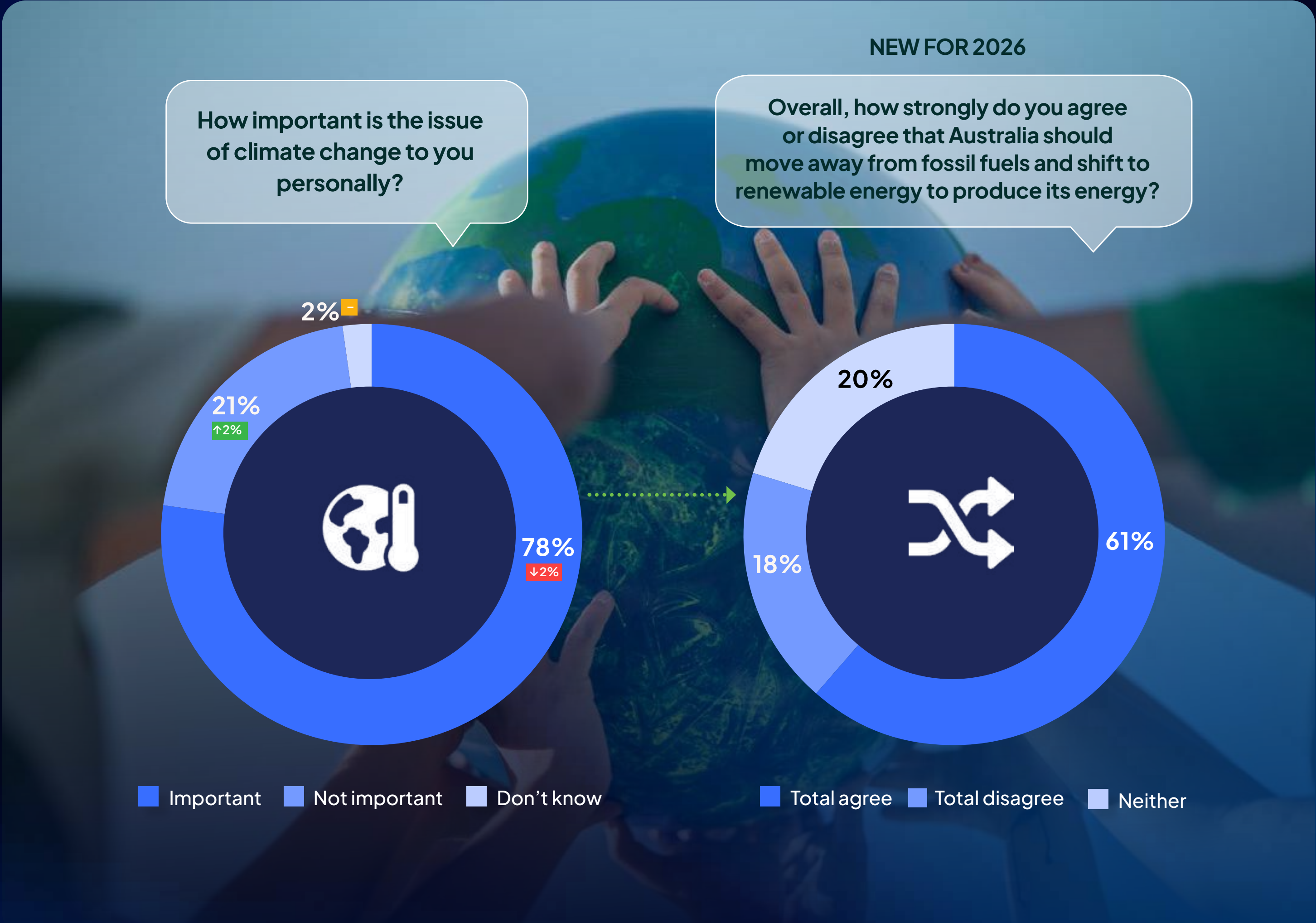


² AEMO | National Electricity Market hits new demand and renewable energy records in December quarter

CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

78% of Australians say climate change is personally important to them

However, only 61% agree Australia should move away from fossil fuels and shift to renewable energy. Concern has also dipped -2 points on 2025.



² AEMO | National Electricity Market hits new demand and renewable energy records in December quarter

In 2026 the Clean Energy Solutions Index included a new question to ascertain which factors most influence Australians’ support for moving away from fossil fuels and shifting to renewable energy.

Eleven potential drivers were tested, spanning national sovereignty, environmental values, economic outcomes, and system-level benefits. Making the most of Australia’s natural resources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and producing more of our own energy are the factors that resonate most. Environmental motivations sit just behind, while cost, jobs, and reliability matter less than many might expect.

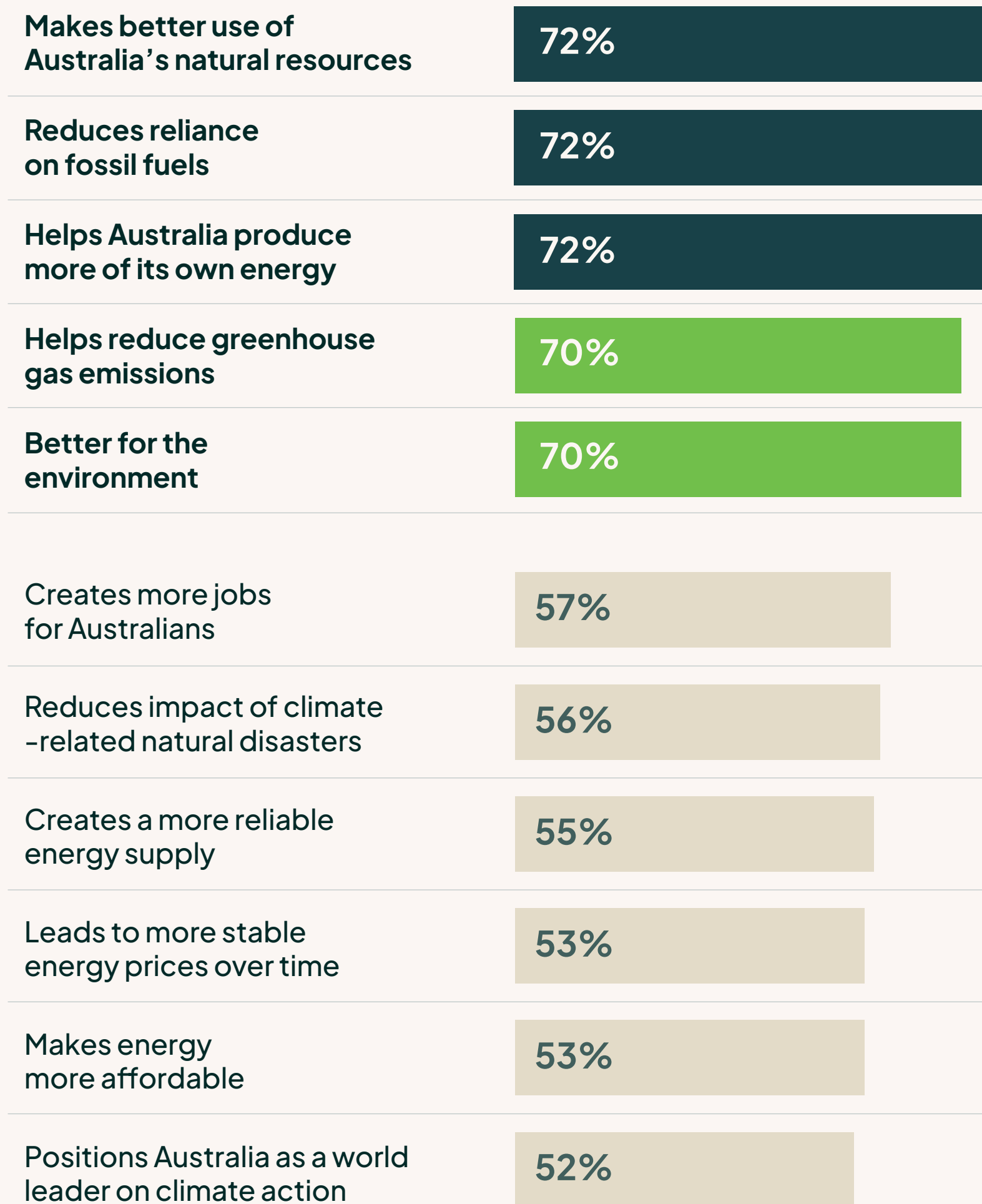
The three strongest drivers of support are all framed around national self-interest: making use of Australia’s natural resources (72%), reducing reliance on fossil fuels (72%), and producing more of our own energy (also 72%).

Environmental values follow closely, with reducing greenhouse gas emissions (70%) and being better for the environment (70%) completing the top five most influential factors.

Economic and system-level factors attract notably lower agreement. Creating jobs for Australians is the strongest of this group at 57%, followed by reducing the impact of climate-related natural disasters (56%) and creating a more reliable energy supply (55%).

Cost-related factors trail the field, perhaps surprisingly given the prominence of cost of living in public debate. Stable energy prices over time and making energy more affordable both sit at 53%. This suggests that while affordability remains an important consideration, support for the energy transition is currently driven more strongly by other factors. However, the growing support observed when economic benefits are linked to specific solutions indicates there may be an opportunity to build broader support through a stronger economic narrative.

Positioning Australia as a world leader on climate action was agreed with by just 52% of Australians, resulting in a 20 point gap between it and the top three factors.



Conclusion and next steps

The Clean Energy Solutions Index has now tracked Australian attitudes for two consecutive years, and the picture that emerges is one of clear but uneven progress.

Deep support is growing where the case for clean energy is clearest and most personal, and where it links both economic and environmental returns. Home solar panels and batteries lead the Index, driven by Australians who can see a direct financial benefit. Electric vehicles have recorded the largest single-year gain of any solution, rising +6 points to 50, as fuel cost pressures made the economic argument for EVs impossible to ignore.

Where progress has stalled or reversed, the data points to consistent causes. Gas-free solutions remain the hardest sell, held back by persistent preferences and the absence of a compelling financial argument for change.

Some industry solutions have slipped, reflecting the challenge of building support for solutions that feel distant or abstract.

And across almost every solution, perceived community support continues to trail personal support, with Australians backing clean energy more strongly than they believe their neighbours do.

Substantial effort is required to bridge the persistent divide between public perception and the reality of renewable energy’s share of the grid. Closing this knowledge gap remains a critical priority; the data demonstrates a direct correlation between underestimating Australia’s progress and lower levels of support for the energy transition overall.

Throughout the Index, familiarity emerges as a recurring prerequisite for deep support. Solutions that are highly visible and personally relevant, such as home solar and batteries, consistently command stronger backing.

Conversely, solutions perceived as distant or technical, including green metals and gas-free industry conversion demand more proactive engagement, clearer evidence of community benefit, and a more robust information environment to build genuine social licence.

The 2026 Index confirms that progress is possible, that attitudes are moveable, and that the right conditions, economic relevance, community visibility and a favourable information environment, can shift deep support meaningfully.

Next steps

The Index will continue to be published annually, building the longitudinal dataset needed to track the transition with confidence. For policymakers, industry and advocates, the data offers a practical guide: lead with economic value alongside environmental benefit, invest in building perceived community support, address the barriers specific to each solution, and counter negative noise with credible, locally relevant stories.

The goal of 70 is achievable. The data shows what it will take to get there.

Acknowledgements

The Clean Energy Solutions Index 2026 has been years in the making. From initial conception, through a pilot study and into this second wave of published research, it represents the sustained effort of many individuals and organisations who believed in its potential before the data existed to prove it.

First and foremost, we acknowledge the ongoing support of Boundless Earth. Their commitment in 2026 made the publication of this report possible and marks an important milestone: the beginning of genuine year-on-year tracking.

We acknowledge the ongoing work of many within 89 Degrees East in bringing this project to life. Led by Director Dr Rebecca Huntley, the research team — including Kate Whelan, Lainie McMinn and Glenn Byres — has brought exceptional expertise to every dimension of this work, while Lisa Gercovich and the design team have given the Index its distinctive visual identity. We also acknowledge Kimberley Gardiner, whose work has been instrumental in the development and ongoing publication of this research.

Special thanks are also due to Leigh Mander and John Cucka, whose deep knowledge of index design and methodology shaped the foundation of this work. We are grateful to John for once again lending his expertise to the 2026 report.

Finally, we thank the more than 9,000 Australians who have participated in the Index across both the published waves in 2025 and 2026, and in the initial (unpublished) pilot.

This Index is a shared achievement. It is offered to policymakers, industry, advocates and communities across Australia as a practical tool for understanding where public attitudes to the energy transition stand — and where the opportunities lie to build deeper, more durable support.

Appendices



Survey

One-Number Score Questions

- **[Good for Australia]** Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree that (insert solution) is good for Australia?
- **[Personally Support]** Please indicate to what extent you personally support or oppose (insert solution).
- **[Supported by Local Community]** Please indicate to what extent you think that people in your local community would support or oppose (insert solution).
- **[Willingness to Talk Positively]** If (insert solution) was discussed amongst family and friends, how positively or negatively would you talk about it?

Repeated Contextual Questions

- Which of these reasons describe why you strongly/somewhat support (insert solution)?
- Which of these reasons describe why you strongly/somewhat oppose (insert solution)?
- What have you heard about (insert solution)?
- How would you best describe your current position on each of these options?
- How important is the issue of climate change to you personally?
- What percentage of Australia’s total energy production do you believe currently comes from clean, renewable energy sources?
- By 2030, what percentage of Australia’s future energy supply do you think should come from clean, renewable energy sources?

New Contextual Questions in 2026

- Overall, how strongly do you agree or disagree that Australia should move away from fossil fuels and shift to renewable energy to produce its energy?
- To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following factors influence your support for Australia moving away from fossil fuels and shifting to renewable energy?
 - *It makes better use of Australia’s natural abundant resources*
 - *It reduces reliance on fossil fuels*
 - *It helps Australia produce more of its own energy and rely less on other countries*
 - *It helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions*
 - *It is better for the environment*
 - *Creates more jobs for Australians*
 - *It helps reduce the impact of climate-related natural disasters*
 - *It creates a more reliable energy supply*
 - *It leads to more stable energy prices over time*
 - *It makes energy more affordable*
 - *Positions Australia as a world leader on climate action*
- Please tell us what most influences your support or opposition to Australia moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

Question wording updated

The transmission lines solution description was revised for clarity:
 Previous: “Building new transmission lines to carry renewable energy”
 Updated: “Building new transmission lines to deliver renewable energy from where it is generated to where it is used”

Glossary

General

Clean Energy

Energy generated from renewable, low, or zero-emissions sources such as solar, wind and hydro. Clean energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps Australia transition to a net zero economy.

Solutions

The 11 clean energy technologies, projects or approaches measured by the Index. The solutions measured in the Index are all renewable, representing practical pathways for Australia to transition away from high-emissions sources. They were selected following extensive consultation with government, industry and experts.

One-Number Support Score

A measure of overall support for a specific clean energy solution. The one-number Support Score is calculated using the Index’s four metrics, which have been carefully selected to capture “deep support”.

National Score

The overall level of public support for clean energy solutions across the whole of Australia. It is the average of all 11 clean energy solution support scores nationally.

State Score

The level of public support for a clean energy solution within a specific state. It is the average of all 11 clean energy solution support scores within that state. State Scores help identify regional differences in attitudes towards clean energy.

Survey & Data

Metrics

The four key index data points used to calculate the depth of public support for each clean energy solution. These metrics have been developed to look beyond whether people simply ‘support’ a solution to understand how strongly they feel, and what barriers exist.

Non-Index Metrics

Additional survey questions and data points collected alongside the core Index metrics. These may include awareness levels, positive or negative noise or willingness to adopt a solution. While not used in calculating support scores, non-Index metrics provide valuable context to help interpret results and identify engagement opportunities.

Weighting

The relative importance given to each metric when calculating the Support Score. Some metrics may be given greater influence in the calculation to reflect their significance in building strong social licence.

Positive Noise / Negative Noise

The media and word-of-mouth environment surrounding a clean energy solution, that is whether what Australians are hearing and reading is broadly favourable or unfavourable.

Significance Testing

Statistical testing conducted at the 95% confidence level to determine whether changes in scores between years are meaningful rather than due to chance.

Insights

Deep Support

The strength and stability of public backing for a specific clean energy solution, measured through four key metrics: personal support, belief it benefits Australia, perception of local community support and willingness to advocate for it. Measuring deep support provides a more stable and nuanced view of public sentiment than surface-level polling.

Barriers

Factors identified in the Index data that may prevent or slow the adoption of a clean energy solution. These may include cost concerns, lack of information, perceived risks, uncertainty or local opposition. Barriers help decision-makers understand what must be addressed to build stronger social licence.

Opportunities

Insights from the Index data that reveal where and how support for a clean energy solution can be strengthened. Opportunities might include high existing support in certain regions, strong alignment with community values or potential for targeted engagement to shift neutral or undecided attitudes.

Social Licence

The ongoing acceptance and approval of a project, policy, clean energy solution or industry by the community and stakeholders it affects. It is built on trust, transparency and mutual benefit, and is essential for maintaining public support over time.

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