2011 Community Polling Results

Attitudes to wind energy in Victoria, NSW and South Australia

PacificHydro

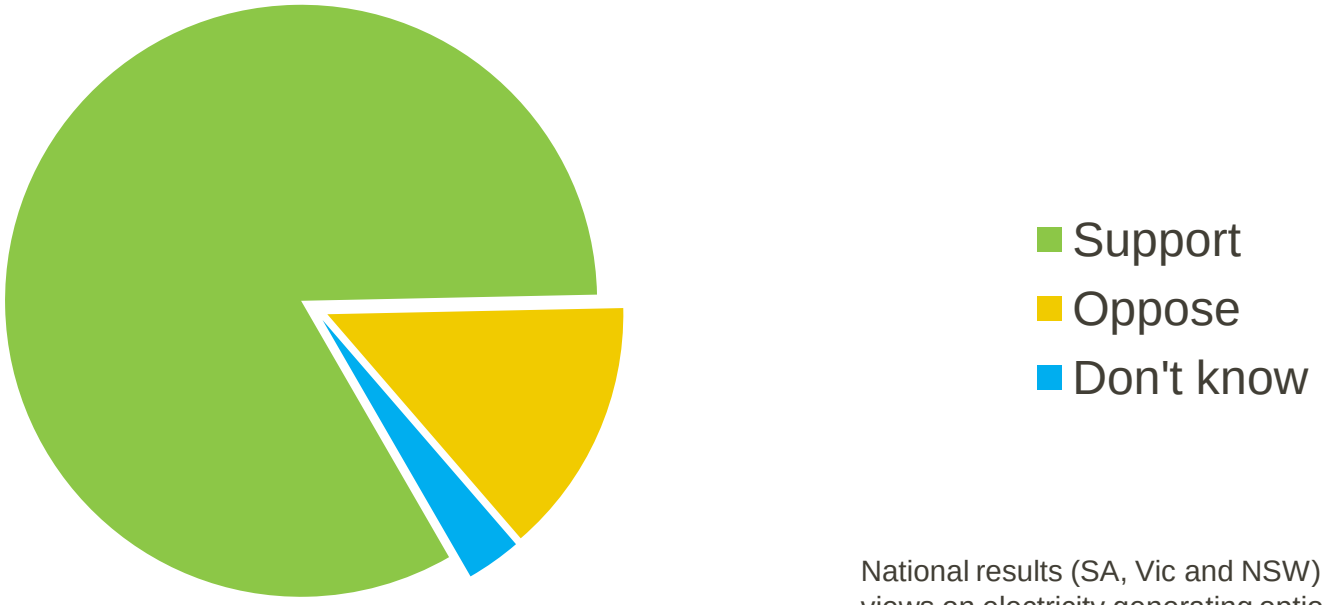
Methodology and demographics

- To get a true picture of the support for wind farms in regional Australia this poll sought out those living in proximity to wind farms and did not survey city dwellers.
- The survey polled ten wind farm communities in across Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia who live in areas where wind farms are operating or proposed.
- The survey (conducted by phone) was commissioned by Pacific Hydro and conducted by Qdos*, an independent social research company.
- Interviewing was undertaken in early November 2011 of n=1000 people

* Qdos is an independent social research company that investigates public opinion about political, social, industrial, environmental and development issues. Qdos researchers have conducted many projects in metropolitan and regional communities about environmental and developmental issues including the generation and transmission of electricity. Qdos uses an Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accredited call centre to conduct telephone surveys.

Community support remains high

83% support wind farms, 14% oppose, 3% don't know

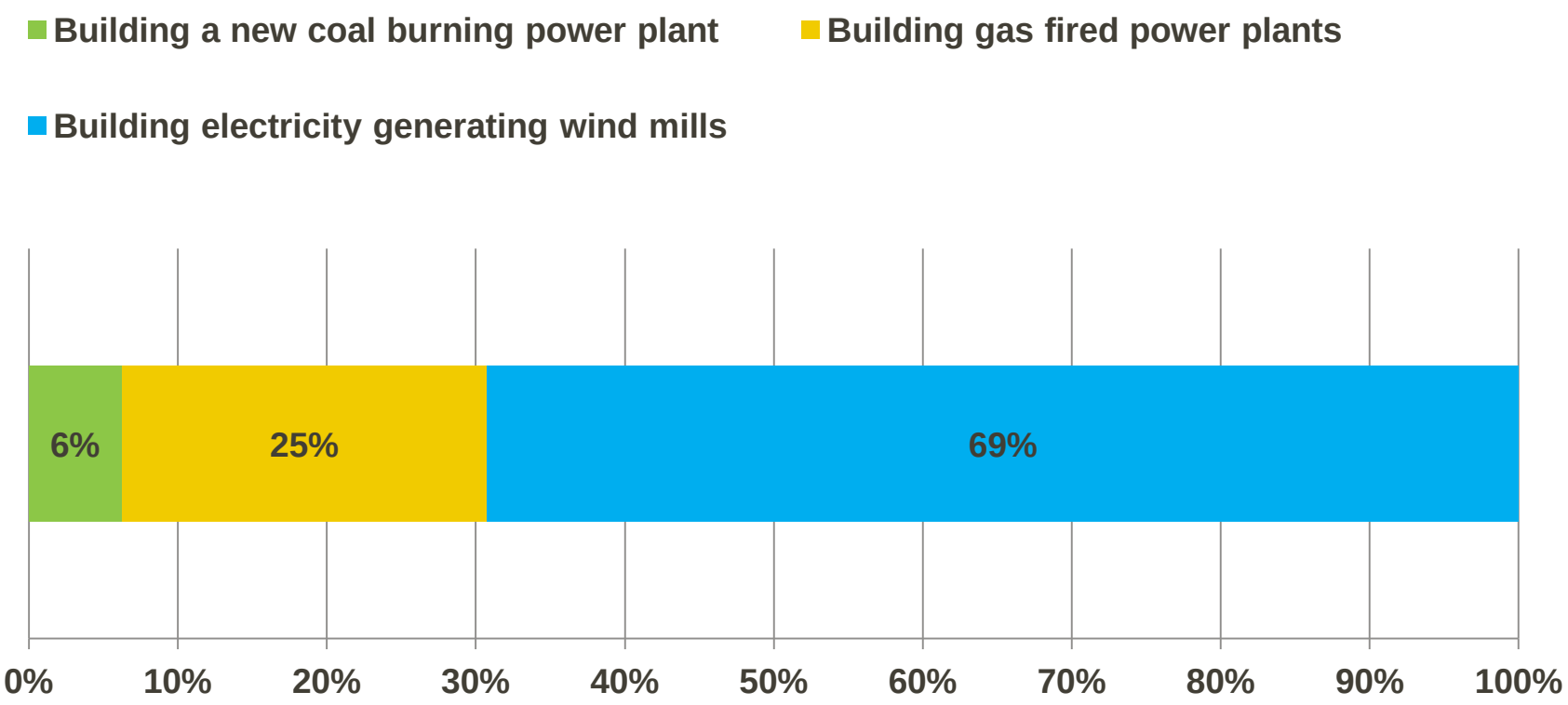


National results (SA, Vic and NSW) to views on electricity generating options (wind farm results only)

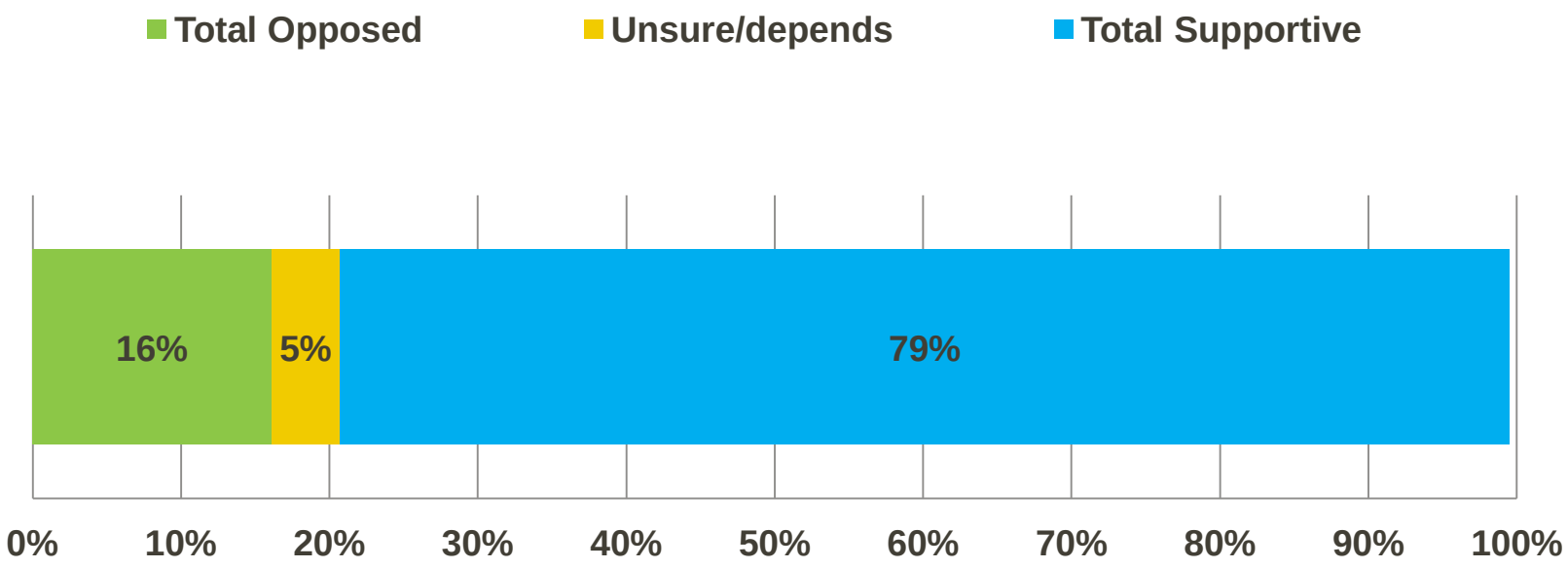
Views on electricity generating options

ELECTRICITY OPTION	LEVEL OF SUPPORT			
	Total Oppose	Total Support	Don't know	Mean
Building electricity generating wind mills	14%	83%	3%	3.2
Building gas fired power plants	29%	58%	13%	2.7
Building a new coal burning power plant	65%	27%	8%	2.1

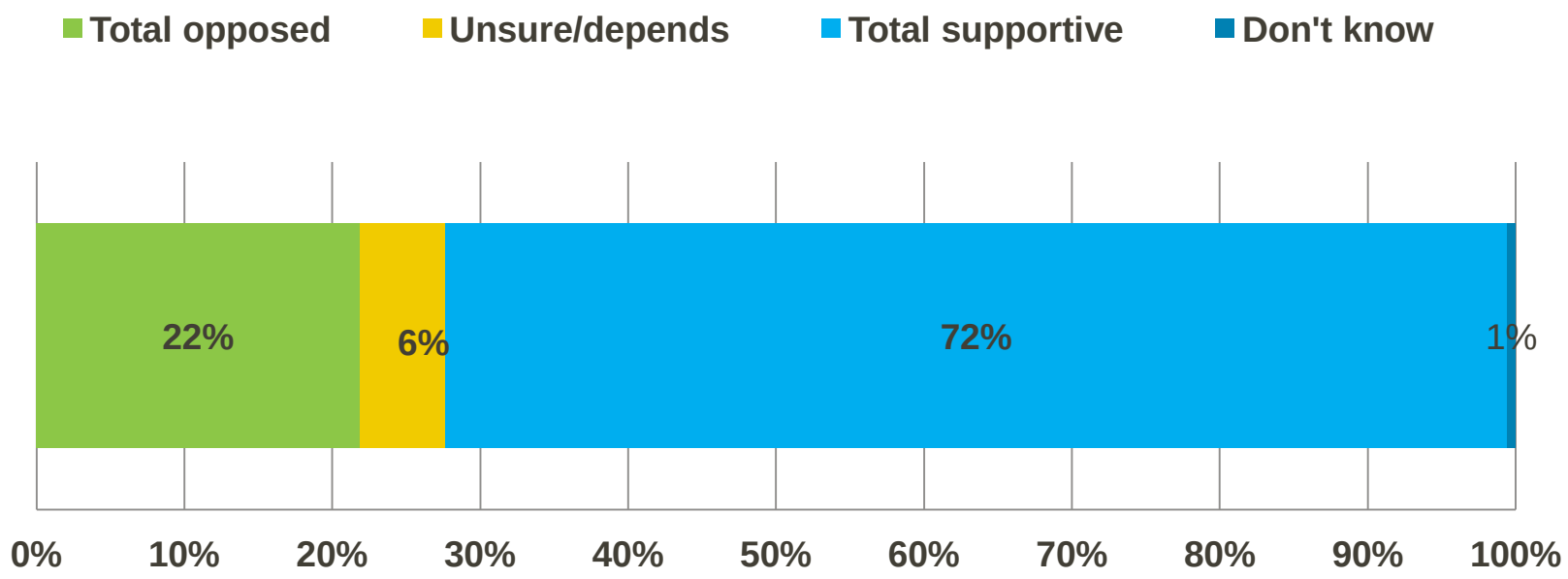
Preferred option (one only)?



Support (or not) for more wind farms in your state?



Support (or not) if a wind farm was proposed near you?



Positive/negative statements…

ARGUMENT	AGREEMENT LEVEL				
	Total Disagree	Unsure/Depends/ Neither	Total Agree	Don't know	Mean
We have an obligation to our children's future to create less pollution and wind farms can play an important role in that.	11%	2%	87%	1%	4.0
Wind farms are an important part of our clean energy future.	11%	3%	86%	0%	4.0
$20 billion is going to be invested in renewable energy in Australia in the years ahead. VIC/NSW/SA should support the wind energy industry to get a share of that investment.	13%	3%	82%	2%	3.9
Wind energy is a great way to shift from polluting energy sources to clean, green, renewable energy.	12%	3%	83%	2%	3.9
Wind farms are a way to create additional investment and jobs in country VIC/NSW/SA.	18%	5%	75%	3%	3.7
Wind farms can reduce land values of nearby properties.	30%	11%	53%	6%	3.3
Wind farms mean country people having to cop the problems so city people can benefit.	43%	6%	49%	1%	3.1
Wind farms can cause noise problems for people who live nearby.	33%	18%	41%	9%	3.1
Wind farms can be a visual blight on the landscape.	57%	4%	39%	1%	2.8
Wind farms can cause health problems.	55%	20%	15%	11%	2.5

Comparison of VIC results 2010 & 2011

Support for types of energy generation	2010			2011		
	Oppose	Don't know	Support	Oppose	Don't know	Support
Building a new coal burning plant	64%	12%	24%	67%	6%	27%
Building a gas fired power plants	24%	15%	61%	27%	14%	59%
Building electricity generating wind mills	10%	7%	83%	12%	4%	84%

Comparison of VIC results 2010 & 2011

	2010			2011		
	Oppose	Don't know	Support	Oppose	Don't know	Support
Generally speaking would you say that you are in support or more electricity generating wind mills in Victoria or opposed to them?	11%	7%	82%	14%	5%	81%

Preferred option (one only)?	2010	2011
Building a new coal burning power plant	6%	5%
Building gas fired power plants	26%	25%
Building electricity generating wind mills	68%	70%

Summary of key points

- **Community support for wind energy remains strong nationally and in each state with 83% nationally, 84% in Victoria, 90% in South Australia and 77% in NSW.**
- **Support in Victoria for wind farms remains almost unchanged with 2010 results at 83% and 2011 results at 84%.**
- **Nationally, over 7 in 10 people support for wind farms being built nearby and over 8 in 10 agree that "wind farms are an important part of our clean energy future".**

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