



Methodology Statement

Lock the Gate – Hunter Region Poll, August 2026

This research complies with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards (see www.australianpollingcouncil.org/standards)

Item	Response
Research company	89 Degrees East
Client commissioned research	Lock The Gate
End client	Lock The Gate
Fieldwork dates	Friday 14th August 2026 to Sunday 30th August 2026
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from a research panel (100%)
Target population	Residents 18+ years living in the Hunter region through postcode targeting
Sample size	n=503
Is voting intention published?	No

Item	Response
Effective sample size after weighting applied	N=445
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	4.37% at 95% confidence level
Variables used in weighting	Age and gender sourced from the 2021 ABS Census.

Weighting method used RIM weighting

Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below.
Proportion of landline/mobile completed interviews	N/A
Source of online sample	From a commercial permission-based panel
Positioning of voting intention questions in the questionnaire?	N/A – not asked
How were undecided voters handled?	N/A
2PP calculation method	N/A

Full Text of Published Questions

1. In the past five years, have you personally experienced any of the following extreme weather events in the Hunter region? Select all that apply. (Randomise order, except f,g,h to anchor to end)

- a) Extreme heat or heatwaves
- b) Bushfires or bushfire smoke
- c) Flooding
- d) Severe storms
- e) Drought
- f) Other extreme weather
- g) None of these
- h) Not sure

2. Do you think extreme weather events in the Hunter region have become more or less frequent?

- a) Much more frequent
- b) Somewhat more frequent
- c) About the same
- d) Somewhat less frequent
- e) Much less frequent
- f) Not sure

3. To what extent, if at all, do you think extreme weather events have contributed to increases in your cost of living?

- a) A great deal
- b) A fair amount
- c) A little



- d) Not at all
- e) Not sure

4. To what extent, if at all, do you think climate change is contributing to extreme weather events such as heatwaves, bushfires, storms and floods?

- a) A great deal
- b) A fair amount
- c) A little
- d) Not at all
- e) Not sure

5. Do you believe pollution from coal mining and burning contributes to climate change and extreme weather impacts?

- a) Yes, definitely
- b) Yes, probably
- c) No, probably not
- d) No, definitely not
- e) Not sure

6) How concerned, if at all, are you about the financial impacts of extreme weather events on you, your family or the Hunter community?

- a) Very concerned
- b) Somewhat concerned
- c) Not very concerned
- d) Not at all concerned
- e) Not sure

Section 2: Responsibility

7) How much financial responsibility, if any, do you think each of the following should have for helping to fund the costs and impacts of extreme weather on communities?

A lot of responsibility	Some responsibility	A little responsibility	No responsibility at all	Not sure
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- a) The Australian Government
- b) The NSW Government
- c) Coal mining companies
- d) Large companies producing greenhouse gas emissions

8) Would you support or oppose the creation of a climate compensation fund, contributed to by coal mining companies, to help councils and communities meet the costs associated with extreme weather?

- a) Strongly oppose
- b) Somewhat oppose
- c) Neither support nor oppose
- d) Somewhat support
- e) Strongly support



9) Do you believe coal mining companies should be responsible for funding plans to help their workers find new jobs, retrain or retire when mines close?

- a) Yes, definitely
- b) Yes, probably
- c) No, probably not
- d) No, definitely not
- e) Not sure

10) The NSW parliament is considering legislation that would give the NSW State Government powers to require coal mining companies to develop closure plans that support their workers affected by mine closures.

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal?

- a) Strongly oppose
- b) Somewhat oppose
- c) Neither support nor oppose
- d) Somewhat support
- e) Strongly support