

**A QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF
CORANGAMITE
VOTER ATTITUDES**

**ATTITUDES TO
CLEARFELL LOGGING IN THE OTWAYS**

CONDUCTED FOR

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Lindsay Hesketh
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of

**ALP Otway Ranges Interest Group
(a non-constituent unit of the ALP)**

Et al

BY

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SEPTEMBER 2001

INTRODUCTION

This study was conducted for Trevor Poulton, Lindsay Hesketh, Nick Adams - members of ALP Otway Ranges Interest Group (a non-constituent unit of the ALP), et al by Irving Saulwick and Associates.

It was designed to study the attitudes of Corangamite voters to the clearfelling of native forests in the Otways.

To meet this objective a random sample of 800 Corangamite voters were interviewed between 20th and 22nd September, 2001.

The questionnaire used is included in Appendix 1.

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

1. A substantial majority of electors in Corangamite oppose the clearfelling of native forests in the Otways.
69% of all voters oppose it, of whom half (35%) oppose it strongly.
19% of all voters support it, of whom only 3% support it strongly.
2. Opposition to clearfell logging is drawn from all the main parties:
60% of Coalition voters oppose it,
76% of Labor voters oppose it,
89% of Democrat voters oppose it, and
100% of Greens voters oppose it.
72% of voters yet to determine who they will vote for (21% of all voters) are opposed to it
3. Majority opposition is also drawn from people of both sexes, all age groups, all occupation groups, and all education groups. 84% of 18-24 year olds oppose it, while only 9% support it.
4. Opposition is most widespread among people who live in the coastal towns (79%) and on the peninsular (76%), followed by Geelong residents (70%), and then by rural residents (54%). Only in Colac is there less than 50% of voters who oppose clearfelling, but even here more oppose it (45%) than support it (38%).
5. A substantial minority of voters say that if either the Labor party or the Liberal National parties were to announce a move to end clearfell logging of native forest in the Otways this would make them more likely to vote for them.
34% of all voters and 41% of swinging voters assert this,
21% of Liberal voters and 31% of swinging Liberal voters assert this,
39% of Labor voters and 40% of swinging Labor voters assert this,
64% of Democrat voters and 74% of swinging Democrat voters assert this,
67% of Greens voters and 64% of swinging Greens voters assert this,
and
50% of other parties voters assert this.
43% of voters who don't know for whom they will vote and 47% of swinging voters who don't know for whom they will vote also assert this.

Only 5% of all voters would be less likely to vote for a party who advocated the ending of clearfell logging.

6. 49% of Corangamite voters may be defined as swinging voters – that is, voters who have voted for more than one party in a State or Federal election.

The groups most likely to be swinging voters include voters aged 18-24 (59%) and University educated voters (60%).

Groups least likely to be swinging voters include people who are recorded as 'home duties' (39%) and those who are 'retired/pensioners' (38%).

7. Voting intention of those interviewed in the poll are as follows:

	%
Liberal/National Party	36
ALP	28
Democrats	5
Greens	3
Independent	2
Other	1
Refused	4
Will not vote	1
Don't know	21

8. On a two-party preferred basis, the Liberal/National Party leads Labor 54% to 46%.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Question:

Do you support or oppose clearfell logging of native forests in the Otways?

Support or oppose	Total	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	800	329	471	56	178	246	312
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly support	3	5	2	-	3	2	5
Support	16	16	15	9	13	17	17
Oppose	34	33	35	43	40	32	31
Strongly oppose	35	34	35	41	34	37	32
Don't know	13	12	13	7	10	13	15

Support or oppose	Occupation			Voting Intention			
	Blue Collar	White Collar	Not in workforce	Coalition	Labor	Democrat	Greens
Base	236	395	162	284	225	36	21
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly support	6	3	2	6	1	-	-
Support	17	17	12	18	17	6	-
Oppose	36	33	33	37	32	17	29
Strongly oppose	31	35	38	24	42	72	71
Don't know	11	13	15	16	7	6	1

Support or oppose	Two party preferred	
	Coalition	Labor
Base	295	248
	%	%
Strongly support	5	1
Support	17	16
Oppose	37	31
Strongly oppose	24	45
Don't know	16	7

Question:

If either the Labor party or the Liberal National parties were to announce a move to end clearfell logging of native forest in the Otways would this make you

More likely to vote for them

Less likely to vote for them

Or

Would it make no difference

Voting behaviour	Total	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	800	329	471	56	178	246	312
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More likely	34	35	34	45	42	37	25
Less likely	5	7	4	5	4	4	6
Make no difference	55	54	56	46	51	53	62
Don't know	6	4	6	4	3	6	7

Voting behaviour	Occupation			Voting Intention			
	Blue Collar	White Collar	Not in workforce	Coalition	Labor	Democrat	Greens
Base	236	395	162	284	225	36	21
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More likely	32	35	36	21	39	64	67
Less likely	6	5	3	7	5	-	5
Make no difference	58	54	54	65	55	31	24
Don't know	4	6	6	7	2	6	5

When swinging voters are considered, the results are as follows:

Voting behaviour of swinging voters	Total	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	800	329	471	56	178	246	312
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More likely	41	40	41	52	47	42	33
Less likely	5	8	3	6	3	5	7
Make no difference	48	48	49	39	46	47	54
Don't know	5	3	7	3	3	6	6

Voting behaviour of swinging voters	Occupation			Voting Intention			
	Blue Collar	White Collar	Not in workforce	Coalition	Labor	Democrat	Greens
Base	236	395	162	284	225	36	21
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More likely	41	41	42	31	40	74	64
Less likely	4	6	3	9	5	-	-
Make no difference	50	49	46	56	53	17	27
Don't know	5	5	8	4	2	9	9

Question:

If a federal election for the House of Representatives were held tomorrow, for which political party would you probably vote? (Read out and rotate.)

Party Vote	Total	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	800	329	471	56	178	246	312
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Liberal	35	35	35	18	30	35	42
National	*	-	*	-	-	-	*
Labor	28	31	26	23	30	32	26
Democrat	5	4	5	4	7	6	2
Greens	3	2	3	7	3	2	2
One Nation	*	*	*	-	-	-	*
Independent	2	2	2	5	3	2	*
Some other party	1	1	*	-	1	*	*
Will not vote	1	2	1	-	1	1	1
Informal	*	1	*	-	-	*	*
Don't know	21	20	23	41	22	17	21
Refused	4	3	5	2	1	4	5

* less than one percent

Party Vote	Occupation			Location				
	Blue Collar	White Collar	Not in Workforce	Geelong	Peninsula	Colac	Coastal Towns	Rural
Base	236	395	162	310	168	89	145	84
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Liberal	33	37	35	39	30	34	33	38
National	*	-	-	-	-	*	-	-
Labor	28	31	23	26	29	34	25	36
Democrat	3	6	4	5	4	1	7	1
Greens	3	2	4	2	2	1	5	2
One Nation	*	*	-	*	-	-	1	-
Independent	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	1
Some other party	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	2
Will not vote	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	2
Informal	*	*	-	-	1	-	-	-
Don't know	24	17	27	21	24	19	25	13
Refused	4	4	6	4	6	6	2	4

Question:

In state and federal elections do you always voted for the same party?

Yes

No

Voting behaviour	Total	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	800	329	471	56	178	246	312
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	49	43	52	30	48	43	57
No	49	54	46	59	51	55	42
Don't know	3	3	1	11	1	2	1

Voting behaviour	Occupation			Voting Intention			
	Blue Collar	White Collar	Not in workforce	Coalition	Labor	Democrat	Greens
Base	236	395	162	284	225	36	21
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	49	44	61	59	53	36	43
No	48	55	36	40	47	64	52
Don't know	3	1	3	*	*	-	5

* less than one percent

Appendix 1

QUESTIONS

Good evening. My name is and I am from Saulwick Research. We are conducting a very brief survey among voters in Corangamite. It will only take about one or two minutes. Select respondent – establish voter in Corangamite.

1. There has been a lot of discussion recently about clearfell logging of native forests in the Otways. Do you

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

(Don't read out)

Don't know

clearfell logging of native forests in the Otways?

[If respondent asks:

“What do you mean by clearfell logging”

record that you have been asked and respond before recording their answer:

“Clearfell logging is the highly visible clear cutting of native forests for sawlogs, and residual logs which are available for wood chipping.”]

2. If a federal election for the House of Representatives were held tomorrow, for which political party would you probably vote? Read out and rotate

Liberal

National

Labor

Democrat

Greens

One Nation

Independent

Some other party

(Don't read out)

Will not vote

Informal

Don't know

3. If NOT Liberal, National or Labor

To which party would you give your second preference?

Read out

4. In state and federal elections do you always voted for the same party?

Yes

No

Don't know

5. If either the Labor party or the Liberal National parties were to announce a move to end clearfell logging of native forest in the Otways would this make you

More likely to vote for them

Less likely to vote for them

Or

Would it make no difference

(Don't read out)

Don't know

Age

Sex

Occupation (plus)

Full time on going

Part time

Casual

Short term contract

Education

Location

Geelong

Bellarine Peninsula

Colac

Coastal towns

Rural

