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POLL: ANGER IN KEY REGIONS THAT BELIEVE LEADERS ONLY FOCUSED ON SYDNEY

"There is real anger west of the Great Dividing Range, where residents believe that leaders are focused only on Sydney and not on their communities, which will be affected most by reckless emissions reduction policies," said Daniel Wild, Deputy Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

Today, the Institute of Public Affairs has released poll results ahead of the upcoming New South Wales state election, showing that **over 50% of voters in key net zero impact zones have indicated they will vote for an independent or minor party.**

"These results suggest there is a shadow election occurring in the regions, and reinforces the fundamental disconnect between regional New South Wales, the engine room of the state's economy, and the political class who are only focused on Sydney," said Mr Wild.

The poll of 1,095 voters across regional NSW took four key regional seats: Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, and Upper Hunter: (results over page)

- **52% of voters surveyed indicated** they would vote for an independent or minor party (32% said they would vote Nationals, 13% Labor, and 2% were undecided).
- **72% agreed** with the proposition that "*city-based members of parliament take regional New South Wales for granted.*"
- **Barely one in four** agreed that the major political parties in New South Wales represent and understand the interests and concerns of their local community.
- **Just one in three** believe politicians when they say green jobs will replace mining and agriculture jobs that will be lost to the major parties emission reductions policies.

The poll follows the release of research by the IPA that estimates up to 138,000 jobs could be put at risk by the reckless emissions reduction policies of both major parties.

The poll also shows that voters in the Upper Hunter electorate, where close to 25% of local jobs are at risk, were the least likely to trust politicians' promises on new green jobs, with **just three in ten voters backing the energy transition job promise.**

"Locals in seats such as Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst, and Upper Hunter put food on our tables, keep the lights on, and generate our nation's wealth, yet they are ignored by politicians who look down on the regions," said Mr Wild.

"Locals on the ground know that their jobs in mining, power generation, agriculture, and transport are on the chopping block, but they also know deep-down that they are not going to be replaced by the much hyped 'green jobs', which simply do not exist."

"New South Wales is facing a regional jobs crisis, courtesy of the emission reduction policies both major parties are taking to the March state election, leaving voters with little choice," said Mr Wild.

"We need our political leaders to back our regions, which have so much promise and potential, but are being held back by short-sighted policies which risk closing critical industries, and ending well-paid, full-time jobs."

To download the IPA's *An Analysis of the employment consequences of a net zero emissions target in New South Wales* research report [click here](#).

For media and comment: Andrew Hudgson, Director of Communications, on 0404 020 896, or at ahudgson@ipa.org.au

Survey Methodology

The survey was undertaken by research and communications firm *Insightfully* over 7-8 March 2023. Responses were gathered by Interactive Voice Response in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly Divisions of Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, and Upper Hunter. *Note: The data is weighted using ABS and NSW Electoral Commission statistics – they are therefore representative of the voting population in each seat*

Key Findings

Who will receive your first preference vote at the upcoming state election?

Over one in two regional NSW voters have indicated they will cast their ballot for an independent or a minor party at the upcoming state election. With close to three in four in the seat of Orange indicating they would not support either the Coalition or Labor.

| | Total | Bathurst | Dubbo | Orange | Upper Hunter |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------|--------|--------------|
| National | 32% | 39% | 29% | 22% | 39% |
| Labor | 13% | 17% | 15% | 6% | 16% |
| Other | 52% | 44% | 55% | 72% | 38% |
| Undecided | 2% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 7% |
| Number | 1095 | 293 | 298 | 314 | 190 |

City-based members of parliament take regional New South Wales for granted.

Over 70% of voters in regional NSW have indicated that city-based members of parliament take regional NSW for granted, with some three in four voters in Bathurst agreeing.

| | Total | Bathurst | Dubbo | Orange | Upper Hunter |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|--------|--------------|
| Agree | 72% | 75% | 70% | 74% | 66% |
| Disagree | 17% | 14% | 18% | 16% | 22% |
| Unsure | 11% | 10% | 12% | 9% | 12% |
| Number | 1095 | 293 | 298 | 314 | 190 |

I am not convinced when politicians tell me that jobs in renewables will replace jobs being lost in mining and agriculture.

Barely one in three voters trust politicians to deliver enough renewables jobs to replace jobs which are being lost in mining and agriculture, with voters in the Upper Hunter the least trusting of politicians.

| | Total | Bathurst | Dubbo | Orange | Upper Hunter |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|--------|--------------|
| Agree | 44% | 45% | 40% | 43% | 49% |
| Disagree | 35% | 38% | 33% | 38% | 30% |
| Unsure | 21% | 17% | 27% | 19% | 22% |
| Number | 1095 | 293 | 298 | 314 | 190 |

The major political parties in New South Wales represent and understand the interests and concerns of my local community.

Fewer than one in four voters believe the Coalition or Labor represent the interest of those in regional NSW, with voters in Orange the least likely to believe the major parties represent local interests.

| | Total | Bathurst | Dubbo | Orange | Upper Hunter |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|--------|--------------|
| Agree | 23% | 23% | 27% | 19% | 22% |
| Disagree | 57% | 58% | 55% | 64% | 51% |
| Unsure | 21% | 20% | 18% | 17% | 27% |
| Number | 1095 | 293 | 298 | 314 | 190 |