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NEW POLL: HOUSEHOLDS CONCERNED ABOUT ENERGY & FOOD PRICES

'Australians are most concerned about electricity costs of all the major household expenses', a new poll commissioned by the Institute of Public Affairs found, said Policy Director, Tim Wilson, today.

Mr Wilson's comments follow a Galaxy poll taken last weekend (9-11 March), that asked Australians to identify which costs concerned them most from a list of major household costs including electricity, petrol, food, mortgage repayments and public transport.

'The poll clearly shows energy (electricity and petrol) prices continue to make Australian families nervous with 58% raising it as their biggest concern', Mr Wilson said.

The poll also shows:

- Food prices are of most concern to those working part time (26%), not working (25%) and those who identify as 'blue collar' (26%).
- Men are most concerned about petrol prices (31%) and women are most concerned about electricity prices (33%).
- Electricity prices are of most concern to those earning less than forty thousand dollars (33%), those not working (35%) and those over fifty years of age (37%).

'It's time politicians stopped attacking cheaper groceries, such as cheap milk, because Australians are feeling the pinch despite the general direction of prices going down'.

'Rising prices concern those least well off in our community, they hit the poorest hardest'.

'Those on low or fixed incomes are most concerned about electricity price rises that are being driven up by the mandatory renewable energy target and soon the carbon tax'.

'Australians are clearly concerned about rising electricity prices, but there's no relief in sight with electricity prices set to increase further as a result of the July 1 start of the carbon tax'.

'Rising mortgage repayments were a high concern among Australians between 22 and 49 years old, likely as a result of ongoing housing affordability concerns.'

'Sadly, too often household prices are rising because of bad government policy. It's time governments got a reality check and stopped forcing up prices', Mr Wilson said.

Attachment: Galaxy poll results

For media and comment:

Tim Wilson

Policy Director

0417 356 165

**Institute of Public Affairs, Level 2, 410 Collins St. Melbourne
ph: 03 9600 4744 fax: 03 9602 4989 www.ipa.org.au**

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 1 Standard Banner 1 *BY* H1. Most concerned about price rise on item

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

	Total	Sex		Age				Marital Status		Grocery Buyer		Children		Work Status			S.E.S.	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Marr-ied	Not Marr-ied	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full Time	Part Time	Not Working	White	Blue
RESPONDENTS	1051	523	528	108	124	367	452	654	397	713	338	382	669	426	241	384	601	450
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	17173	8362	8811	2072	2893	5187	7021	10508	6665	11426	5747	6363	10810	7012	4035	6126	9907	7266
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
H1. Most concerned about price rise on item																		
Food	3845	1813	2032	502	741	981	1622	2215	1631	2611	1235	1397	2449	1282	1049	1514	1992	1853
	22%	22%	23%	24%	26%	19%	23%	21%	24%	23%	21%	22%	23%	18%	26%	25%	20%	26%
Electricity	5183	2267	2916	344	647	1591	2601	3446	1737	3750	1434	1799	3384	2088	950	2146	2726	2457
	30%	27%	33%	17%	22%	31%	37%	33%	26%	33%	25%	28%	31%	30%	24%	35%	28%	34%
Mortgage repayments	2394	1136	1258	300	721	1033	340	1798	596	1460	933	1508	886	1546	602	246	1713	681
	14%	14%	14%	14%	25%	20%	5%	17%	9%	13%	16%	24%	8%	22%	15%	4%	17%	9%
Petrol	4803	2607	2196	795	643	1291	2073	2584	2218	2963	1839	1421	3382	1734	1244	1824	2878	1924
	28%	31%	25%	38%	22%	25%	30%	25%	33%	26%	32%	22%	31%	25%	31%	30%	29%	26%
Public transport	462	230	232	132	92	140	98	229	233	268	194	124	338	221	128	114	301	161
	3%	3%	3%	6%	3%	3%	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
None/ Don't know	486	309	176		48	151	287	236	250	373	113	113	373	142	63	282	295	190
	3%	4%	2%		2%	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	5%	3%	3%
TOTALS	17173	8362	8811	2072	2893	5187	7021	10508	6665	11426	5747	6363	10810	7012	4035	6126	9907	7266
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 2 Standard Banner 2 *BY* H1. Most concerned about price rise on item

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

	Total	State					Capital City		Household Income			Schooling	
		NSW	Vic/Tas	Qld	SA	WA	Yes	No	< \$40K	\$40K-\$69K	\$70K+	Below Year 12	Year 12
RESPONDENTS	1051	318	297	190	123	123	670	381	274	224	453	317	734
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	17173	6004	4757	3367	1347	1698	10587	6586	4367	3677	7506	4993	12180
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
H1. Most concerned about price rise on item													
Food	3845	1215	1287	549	233	561	2385	1460	1318	816	1383	1315	2530
	22%	20%	27%	16%	17%	33%	23%	22%	30%	22%	18%	26%	21%
Electricity	5183	2013	1265	1004	548	354	3043	2141	1426	928	2279	1642	3541
	30%	34%	27%	30%	41%	21%	29%	33%	33%	25%	30%	33%	29%
Mortgage repayments	2394	930	626	341	119	378	1617	777	209	361	1608	548	1846
	14%	15%	13%	10%	9%	22%	15%	12%	5%	10%	21%	11%	15%
Petrol	4803	1586	1255	1240	376	345	2866	1936	1243	1344	1839	1278	3524
	28%	26%	26%	37%	28%	20%	27%	29%	28%	37%	25%	26%	29%
Public transport	462	123	193	126	9	12	365	97	69	136	210	102	360
	3%	2%	4%	4%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	4%	3%	2%	3%
None/ Don't know	486	137	130	108	62	49	310	175	103	92	187	107	379
	3%	2%	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
TOTALS	17173	6004	4757	3367	1347	1698	10587	6586	4367	3677	7506	4993	12180
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%