

IPA MEDIA RELEASE

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Poll: Australians thank mining industry, not Gillard, for strong economy

A new poll conducted by Galaxy Research for the Institute of Public Affairs reveals the overwhelming majority of Australians believe the mining industry deserves the credit for Australia's strong economy, not the Gillard government.

Galaxy asked 1,053 respondents across Australia from 15-17 June 2012:

"In your opinion, who do you think is more responsible for Australia's strong economy? The Gillard government, or the mining industry?"

- 23% of Australians thought the Gillard government was more responsible
- 69% of Australians thought the mining industry was more responsible
- 8% did not know

"Australians understand it is the entrepreneurs and job-creators in the mining industry that we have to thank for our record low unemployment and the fact that we avoided the worst effects of the global financial crisis," said James Paterson, director of communications at the IPA.

"Australians are right. IPA research shows that the mining industry has been a massive boost to the Australian economy since the global financial crisis hit in September 2008, growing 17.8% in that time, compared to just 8.3% for the rest of the economy," said Mr Paterson.

The poll also showed that the Gillard government cannot even convince its own supporters that it deserves credit for Australia's prosperity. 46% of Labor voters said the mining industry deserved the credit for Australia's strong economy, compared to 43% of Labor voters who thought the Gillard government was responsible.

And Green voters were even more likely to give credit to the mining industry, with 52% saying it was more important and just 37% saying the Gillard government was responsible. Unsurprisingly, West Australians were most likely to believe the mining industry was responsible for our economic fortune, with 79% support compared to just 16% for the Gillard government.

"Wayne Swan's class-warfare attacks on rich miners have completely backfired. Australians know that without the mining industry we could be experiencing economic devastation like the rest of the world. It's time politicians treated wealth-creators with the respect they deserve," said Mr Paterson.

Full survey results attached. For further information and comment:

James Paterson

Director, Communications, Institute of Public Affairs

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TABLE 5 Standard Banner 1 *BY* C3. More responsible for Australia's strong economy

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)
WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

	Sex		Age				Marital Status		Grocery Buyer		Children		Work Status			S.E.S.		
	Total	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	1053	521	532	106	107	380	460	704	349	747	306	419	634	456	242	355	600	453
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	17173	8362	8811	2067	3021	5064	7021	11277	5896	12051	5122	6874	10299	7569	4103	5501	9766	7407
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
C3. More responsible for Australia's strong economy																		
The Gillard Government	3872	1520	2352	437	611	948	1876	2575	1297	2958	914	1504	2368	1484	1129	1259	2265	1607
	23%	18%	27%	21%	20%	19%	27%	23%	22%	25%	18%	22%	23%	20%	28%	23%	23%	22%
The mining industry	11924	6134	5790	1517	2204	3684	4519	7799	4125	8081	3843	4886	7038	5483	2641	3800	6739	5185
	69%	73%	66%	73%	73%	73%	64%	69%	70%	67%	75%	71%	68%	72%	64%	69%	69%	70%
Neither/ Don't know	1377	708	669	114	206	431	627	903	474	1012	365	484	893	601	334	442	762	615
	8%	8%	8%	5%	7%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
TOTALS	17173	8362	8811	2067	3021	5064	7021	11277	5896	12051	5122	6874	10299	7569	4103	5501	9766	7407
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 6 Standard Banner 2 *BY* C3. More responsible for Australia's strong economy

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

	Total	State					Capital City		Household Income			Schooling		Voting Intention			
		NSW	Vic/Tas	Qld	SA	WA	Yes	No	< \$40K	\$40K-\$69K	\$70K+	Below Year 12	Year 12	Labor	Coal -ition	Green	Other
RESPONDENTS	1053	316	296	193	124	124	673	380	256	222	499	298	755	282	459	123	64
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	17173	6004	4757	3367	1347	1698	10587	6586	4004	3911	8014	4766	12407	4544	7449	1992	1097
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
C3. More responsible for Australia's strong economy																	
The Gillard Government	3872	1559	1027	654	366	266	2544	1328	920	1104	1568	890	2982	1971	668	741	186
	23%	26%	22%	19%	27%	16%	24%	20%	23%	28%	20%	19%	24%	43%	9%	37%	17%
The mining industry	11924	4017	3322	2396	850	1340	7118	4806	2788	2491	5801	3550	8375	2085	6475	1043	871
	69%	67%	70%	71%	63%	79%	67%	73%	70%	64%	72%	74%	67%	46%	87%	52%	79%
Neither/ Don't know	1377	428	408	318	131	92	925	452	296	317	645	327	1050	488	306	209	40
	8%	7%	9%	9%	10%	5%	9%	7%	7%	8%	8%	7%	8%	11%	4%	10%	4%
TOTALS	17173	6004	4757	3367	1347	1698	10587	6586	4004	3911	8014	4766	12407	4544	7449	1992	1097
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%