

# Shame Australia! We top the list of climate skeptics

By *Graham Readfearn*

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**A new study finds Australia topping the pile of climate skeptics. Consistent predictor factors showed deniers were conservative voters, male and anti-environment, not to mention vested political interests in the form of huge coal reserves. [Graham Readfearn](#) from [DeSmogBlog](#) reports.**

IT'S NOT necessarily a competition you should be particularly keen to win, but which country in the world has the most climate change “sceptics”?

Most people would probably hazard a guess at the United States, what with its preponderance of climate science denialist think tanks, conservative television and radio hosts and politicians who think it's all a hoax.

*Like Australia, in the U.S. Big Mining (world's major polluters) control the levers of power*

But a new study that analysed identical surveys carried out across 14 industrialised nations has found that when it comes to climate science denial, Australia tops the pile.

Published in the journal [Global Environmental Change](#), the study found that 17 per cent of Australians were “climate skeptics”.

Norwegians come in second at 15 per cent, followed by New Zealanders at 13 per cent and then Americans at 12 per cent. The UK was ranked joint fifth, together with Sweden and Finland, where 10 per cent of people were sceptics. The lowest ranked country for climate scepticism was Spain, where only two per cent of people were classified as climate skeptics. The authors wrote:

*'Climate scepticism persists despite overwhelming scientific evidence that anthropogenic climate change is occurring.'*

Let's have a Royal Commission into the climate change denial lobby. More interesting than people who accept evidence. <http://t.co/fPe5yTRWBB>

— Matthew Cawood (@matt\_cawood)  
[July 8, 2015](#)

The study was challenged by the scientists at the University of Queensland, who said the data from a source [http://bit.ly/1t8t8t8](#)

countries in 2010 and 2011.

While the survey did not directly ask people if they accepted the scientific linking climate change to human activities, the report lists how dangerous it would be for the world if climate change occurred.

People who thought the temperature rise was dangerous and who had a high environmental concern were more likely to be sceptical. The paper said that, in general, the limited, but growing, scepticism enables the more limited comparison of attitudes across countries.



Generally, the study found that climate scepticism is related to a lack of trust in government and "positive attitudes" towards private enterprise. Sceptics also tended to be male and older. Rejecting government intervention in the economy was also linked to the idea that climate sceptics are generally more big about environmental issues, but found those two measures were only modestly linked with each other.

Top sceptics offer to educate New York City climate skeptics. Representatives struggle with basic principles of global warming.

<http://t.co/RvfQznJdOc>  
[#THANKYOU!](#)

— GetUp! (@GetUp) [July 7, 2015](#)  
But the finding that Australians, Norwegians and New Zealanders are more sceptical than the Americans is surprising.

Last year, a survey from the [Yale Project on Climate Change Communication](#) found that only 66 per cent of U.S. voters thought that climate change was happening.

Only 51 per cent of registered voters thought that global warming was mostly caused by climate change. But like the Global Environmental Change study, the Yale survey also found that conservatives tended to reject the evidence of human caused climate change. Among the most conservative Republicans, only 22 per cent were willing to accept that climate change was mostly caused by human activities.

**You can follow Graham on Twitter [@Readfearn](#).**

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Australia: World media revealing 'Aussies have most climate sceptics'. Check their fossil fuel share holdings & you'll find why.

— Vine Psychic Reading (@VinePsychic) [July 7, 2015](#)