

Monday, 18 September 2017

## Australians divided on North Korea and nuclear weapons

A special snap SMS Morgan Poll taken last night before today's North Korean ballistic missile test shows Australians are evenly split on whether North Korea will use a nuclear weapon with 51% saying it is either 'Fairly unlikely' (33%) or 'Very unlikely' (18%) cf. 49% that say it is 'Fairly likely' (33%) or 'Very likely' (16%).

As expected, a follow-up question shows a majority of Australians (81%) want the opposing sides in the North Korean stand-off to reach a peaceful diplomatic solution and only 19% believe a peaceful diplomatic solution isn't working and a military one is needed.

This special SMS Morgan Poll was conducted last night (Thursday) with a cross-section of 1,797 Australians before North Korea's latest ballistic missile test this morning.

### Analysis by Voting Preference

Analysing the results by voting preference shows supporters of the major parties are also split down the middle on whether North Korea will use a nuclear weapon and as expected large majorities of supporters of all parties are in favour of a peaceful diplomatic solution rather than a Military solution:

- Liberal voters: Very/ Fairly likely (50%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (50%);
- National voters: Very/ Fairly likely (42%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (58%);
- ALP voters: Very/ Fairly likely (52%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (48%);
- Greens voters: Very/ Fairly likely (34%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (66%);
- One Nation voters: Very/ Fairly likely (50%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (50%);
- Ind. /Others voters: Very/ Fairly likely (52%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (48%).

### North Korea – Peaceful diplomatic solution or Military solution

- Liberal voters: Peaceful diplomatic solution (80%) cf. Military solution (20%);
- National voters: Peaceful diplomatic solution (76%) cf. Military solution (24%);
- ALP voters: Peaceful diplomatic solution (83%) cf. Military solution (17%);
- Greens voters: Peaceful diplomatic solution (93%) cf. Military solution (7%);
- One Nation voters: Peaceful diplomatic solution (64%) cf. Military solution (36%);
- Ind. /Others voters: Peaceful diplomatic solution (70%) cf. Military solution (30%).

### Analysis by Gender

Analysis by gender shows women and men are largely in agreement on the tense situation although women are slightly more worried than men when considering the likelihood that North Korea might use nuclear weapons than not:

- Women: Very/ Fairly likely (51%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (49%);
- Men: Very/ Fairly likely (47%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (53%).

### North Korea – Peaceful diplomatic solution or Military solution

- Women: Peaceful diplomatic solution (82%) cf. Military solution (18%);
- Men: Peaceful diplomatic solution (79%) cf. Military solution (21%).

### Analysis by Age

Analysing by age shows a split opinion on whether North Korea would use a nuclear weapon with a majority of those aged 18-24 and 35-49 believing North Korea would be Very likely or Fairly likely to use a nuclear weapon

- 18-24yr olds: Very/ Fairly likely (53%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (47%);
- 25-34yr olds: Very/ Fairly likely (46%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (54%);
- 35-49yr olds: Very/ Fairly likely (53%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (47%);
- 50-64yr olds: Very/ Fairly likely (45%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (55%);
- 65+yr olds: Very/ Fairly likely (48%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (52%).

### North Korea – Peaceful diplomatic solution or Military solution

A majority of all age groups are resolutely opposed to military action as a solution to the North Korean problem, however younger age groups (Under 50), are slightly more amenable to a military solution than those aged over 50:

- 18-24yr olds: Peaceful diplomatic solution (79%) cf. Military solution (21%);
- 25-34yr olds: Peaceful diplomatic solution (79%) cf. Military solution (21%);
- 35-49yr olds: Peaceful diplomatic solution (78%) cf. Military solution (22%);
- 50-64yr olds: Peaceful diplomatic solution (83%) cf. Military solution (17%);
- 65+yr olds: Peaceful diplomatic solution (82%) cf. Military solution (18%).

### Analysis by State

Analysis by State shows Australians are fairly evenly split on whether North Korea would use a nuclear weapon in most States however Tasmanians are the least worried about the likelihood of North Korea using a nuclear weapon perhaps reflecting their greater distance from the Korean Peninsula and also the unlikeliness of Tasmania as a North Korean target:

- New South Wales: Very/ Fairly likely (52%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (48%);
- Victoria: Very/ Fairly likely (47%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (53%);
- Queensland: Very/ Fairly likely (50%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (50%);
- Western Australia: Very/ Fairly likely (51%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (49%);
- South Australia: Very/ Fairly likely (48%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (52%);
- Tasmania: Very/ Fairly likely (36%) cf. Very/Fairly unlikely (64%).

### North Korea – Peaceful diplomatic solution or Military solution

Analysing by State shows clear majorities in all Australian States against a military solution to the North Korean problem however the home of a significant portion of Australia's military, Queensland, is the most sympathetic to a military solution:

- New South Wales: Peaceful diplomatic solution (82%) cf. Military solution (18%);
- Victoria: Peaceful diplomatic solution (82%) cf. Military solution (18%);
- Queensland: Peaceful diplomatic solution (74%) cf. Military solution (26%);
- Western Australia: Peaceful diplomatic solution (82%) cf. Military solution (18%);
- South Australia: Peaceful diplomatic solution (82%) cf. Military solution (18%);
- Tasmania: Peaceful diplomatic solution (78%) cf. Military solution (22%).

**Gary Morgan, Executive Chairman, Roy Morgan Research, says:**

*“Australians are split down the middle on whether North Korea – a country that Australia is still technically at war with given there was no formal peace treaty to end the Korean War of 1950-53 – will use nuclear weapons with 51% saying it is either ‘Fairly or Very unlikely’ and almost as many, 49%, saying it is either ‘Fairly or Very likely’ the rogue regime will use nuclear weapons.*

*“However, despite the threat, a huge majority of Australians are as expected in favour of a peaceful solution to the stand-off that threatens the security of North-East Asia and the wider region with 81% of Australians wanting a diplomatic solution – including 80% of Liberal voters and 83% of ALP voters compared to only 20% of Australians that believe a peaceful diplomatic solution isn’t possible and a military one is needed.*

*“The consensus on these questions across political lines also extends across both genders, all age groups and around all of Australia’s States. However, this snap SMS Morgan Poll was taken before North Korea’s latest provocation this morning when the regime of Kim Jong-Un fired a ballistic missile nearly 4,000km eastward across the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. This is the second time North Korea has engaged in such a provocative action against its neighbour across the East Sea.”*

*Finding No. 7333 – This special snap SMS Morgan Poll was conducted with a representative cross-section of 1,797 Australians on Thursday September 14, 2017. They were asked “In your opinion how likely is it that North Korea will use a nuclear weapon?” and respondents were then asked “Which of these two options would you support with regards to North Korea and their ongoing nuclear and missile tests. Continue to try to reach a peaceful diplomatic solution or a peaceful diplomatic solution is not working; a military one is needed?”*

***Roy Morgan SMS Polling was extremely accurate at both the last two Federal Elections. Results analysed by Roy Morgan Helix Personas are available on a subscription basis. [www.HelixPersonas.com.au](http://www.HelixPersonas.com.au)***

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**Question 1:***"In your opinion how likely is it that North Korea will use a nuclear weapon?"***Analysis by Voting Preference – North Korea using nuclear weapon**

	Total	Electors	Liberal	National	ALP	Greens	Other	Can't say	Non Electors
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	16	17	16	9	20	7	16	25	11
Fairly likely	33	32	34	33	32	27	36	34	32
<b>Total likely</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43</b>
Fairly unlikely	33	34	33	43	33	45	27	23	28
Very unlikely	18	17	17	15	15	21	21	18	29
<b>Total unlikely</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Analysis by Age & Gender – North Korea using nuclear weapon**

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Men	Women	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	16	18	15	17	15	19	15	14
Fairly likely	33	29	36	36	31	34	30	34
<b>Total likely</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>
Fairly unlikely	33	35	32	30	36	31	37	32
Very unlikely	18	18	17	17	18	16	48	20
<b>Total unlikely</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Analysis by State – North Korea using nuclear weapon**

	Total	State						Region	
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	City	Country
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	16	15	18	18	14	19	15	15	20
Fairly likely	33	37	29	32	37	29	21	33	33
<b>Total likely</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>
Fairly unlikely	33	33	33	34	31	31	41	33	33
Very unlikely	18	15	20	16	18	21	23	19	14
<b>Total unlikely</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Question 2:**

Respondents were then asked: *“Which of these two options would you support with regards to North Korea and their ongoing nuclear and missile tests. Continue to try to reach a peaceful diplomatic solution or a peaceful diplomatic solution is not working; a military one is needed?”*

**Analysis by Voting Preference – Peaceful solution or Military solution**

	Total	Electors	Liberal	National	ALP	Greens	Other	Can't say	Non Electors
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Peaceful	81	80	80	76	83	93	70	83	83
Military	19	20	20	24	17	7	30	17	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Analysis by Age & Gender – Peaceful solution or Military solution**

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Men	Women	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Peaceful	81	79	82	79	79	78	83	82
Military	19	21	18	21	21	22	17	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Analysis by State – Peaceful solution or Military solution**

	Total	State						Region	
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	City	Country
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Peaceful	81	82	82	74	82	82	78	82	77
Military	19	18	18	26	18	18	22	18	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2013)

The Morgan Poll has proven to be consistently the most accurate regular poll in recent Australian Elections — including the 2013 Federal Election, 2010 Federal Election, 2007 Federal Election, 2010 Victorian State Election & 2012 Queensland State Election.

The Morgan Poll was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2013 Federal Election](#) for the two-party preferred vote (L-NP: 53.5% cf. ALP 46.5%) (sample 4,937 electors).

The Morgan Poll was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2007 Federal Election](#) for both primary vote and two-party preferred predictions (sample 2,115 electors).

The Morgan Poll accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Queensland Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 604 electors).

The Morgan Poll accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Victorian Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 956 electors). The Morgan Poll was also the most accurate on the primary vote of the major parties for the Victorian election.

**Note:** The [discussion on Possum Pollytics](#) regarding Morgan and Newspoll is well worth reading.

The following included comment says it all: “I find it interesting that for the only poll in the last five years for which there is any ‘real’ figure with which to compare, i.e. the polls immediately before the 2004 election, Morgan (45.5%) was closer to the actual Coalition Primary (46.7%) than Newspoll (45%) or Nielsen (49%), and Morgan (38.5%) was also closer to the ALP actual primary (37.6%) than Newspoll (39%), and only marginally further away than Nielsen (37%). Since we have no idea of how far away the ongoing polls are from ‘reality’ (whatever that means), surely we should just go with what we know, that in the most recent testable case, Morgan was better at forecasting the actual primary vote than Newspoll. On what possible basis should we decide that the Newspoll or Nielsen primary vote estimate is ‘better’ than Morgan’s.”

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### Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4