

Environment Most Important Issue for Australia

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Presented by

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The environment (including climate change/global warming, water resources, drought, famine) is the most important problem facing the **World** and **Australia**.

China is the most important region to Australia for **economic purposes**; Indonesia is most important for **security purposes**; and Japan is the country Australia can most **effectively work with** on both.

The Number One for Government Policy over the next ten years should be monitoring a balanced Budget and no increase in Public Debt, according to a special Roy Morgan survey for the Future Summit 2008.

As a **World** problem, 35% (up from 14% in 2006) of Australians consider the environment the biggest problem, ahead of economic issues (24% up 5%) and terrorism, wars, safety and security (14% down from 32% in 2006). 30% (up from 8% in 2006) of Australians consider the environment the biggest problem facing **Australia**, ahead of economic issues (23% up 3%) and social issues such as education, drugs, and other societal problems (11% unchanged). Concerns about terrorism are now only seen as a major issue of **Australia** by 3% (down 9%).

When asked what Australians consider the most important environmental issues facing the **World** today – global warming and climate change top the list at 55% (down 1%), ahead of pollution 23% (down 4%) and water management and including drought (21% up 9%).

However, water emerged this year as the most important environmental issue facing **Australia** 46% (up 3%) of Australians mentioned water management issues and drought as the most important environmental issue facing **Australia**, ahead of global warming 28% (up 2%) and pollution 19% (down 3%).

Despite increased awareness of the environmental issues as problems for the **World** and **Australia** the research shows a slight softening in urgency. Now 19% (up 6%) believe environmental concerns are exaggerated. The majority 64% (down 3%) believe if we don't act now it will be too late, and 14% (down 1%) that it is already too late (3% can't say).

These are the main findings of a nationwide survey of Australians conducted by Roy Morgan Research in early May. [Results were presented at the Future Summit in Sydney on May 12, 2008, and compared with the views of Future Summit Participants.](#) For detailed results please see Appendices 1 & 2 at the end of this document.

Issues Facing The World and Australia

Respondents were asked: “*Firstly, what do you think is the most important problem facing the World today?*” and “*What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?*”

Australians view problems facing the **World** and **Australia** today similarly. Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents believe that issues related to the Environment and 24% believe issues related to the Economy are the most important problems facing the **World** today.

Likewise, 30% of respondents believe Environmental Issues are the most important problem facing **Australia**, followed by Economic issues (23%), Social issues (11%) and Government and Human issues (11%).

| Most important problem facing | World 2006 (%) | World 2008 (%) | Australia 2006 (%) | Australia 2008 (%) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Terrorism | 20 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| Wars and conflicts | 11 | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| Security, Safety | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Relations with other countries | - | - | 3 | - |
| Total Terrorism/Wars/Security/Safety | 32 | 14 | 12 | 3 |
| Economic problems/ interest rates/ inflation | 1 | 8 | 2 | 18 |
| Industrial relations reforms | - | - | 6 | - |
| Poverty, The gap between rich and poor | 16 | 11 | 4 | 3 |
| Unemployment | * | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Over-population | 1 | 3 | * | 1 |
| Insufficient population growth/Ageing population | - | - | - | - |
| Globalisation/Fairer world trade | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Infrastructure | - | - | 1 | - |
| Total Economic Issues | 19 | 24 | 20 | 23 |
| Water conservation | 1 | 3 | 3 | - |
| Climate Change / Global warming | 5 | 18 | 1 | 7 |
| Famine | 2 | 4 | - | - |
| Drought | - | - | - | 4 |
| Management / Mismanagement of Natural Resources (water) | - | - | - | 13 |
| Other environmental issues | 6 | 10 | 4 | 6 |
| Total Environmental Issues | 14 | 35 | 8 | 30 |
| Petrol prices | * | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Energy crisis | 1 | 2 | * | 1 |
| Depletion of fossil fuels | * | 1 | * | 1 |
| Total Energy Crisis/Depletion of Fossil Fuels/Petrol Prices | 1 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Bird flu | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other health issues | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| Total Health Issues | 4 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| Corruption | * | 1 | * | - |
| Greed, Materialism | 3 | 1 | * | 1 |
| Drugs and drug abuse | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Educational issues | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Crime | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Youth issues | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Anger/Violence/Aggression | 1 | - | * | - |
| Social apathy/Family breakdowns/ Selfishness/Moral decline | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Lack of social cohesion / social disconnection | - | - | - | - |
| Indigenous disadvantage | - | - | - | - |
| Cultural development | - | - | - | - |
| Total Social Issues | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Government, Politics, Political system | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| Religion, Religious fundamentalism | 5 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Human rights | * | 1 | 1 | - |
| Refugees, Refugee and asylum problems | - | - | 2 | - |
| Immigration, Immigration policy | 1 | - | 5 | 3 |
| Intolerance | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Racism/Racial tensions | 2 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Multiculturalism | * | - | 2 | 2 |
| John Howard/Howard Government | - | - | 1 | - |
| Total Government, Human Issues | 13 | 4 | 25 | 11 |
| Other | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Can't say | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

* Less than 1%

Environmental Issues Facing The World and Australia

Respondents were then asked: “Next about Global Environmental issues. What do you believe are the important Environmental issues facing the World today? Which others? Any others?” and “Next about Australian Environmental issues. What do you believe are the important Environmental issues facing Australia today? Which others? Any others?”

Fifty-five percent (55%) of Australians believe Global Warming issues are one of the most important Environmental issues facing the **World** today, with 23% believing Pollution and 21% Water Management issues (including Drought) are also prominent issues.

In contrast, 46% of respondents believe Water Conservation, Water Management or Drought is the most important Environmental issue facing **Australia**, 28% think Global Warming, 19% think Pollution and 19% Natural Disasters.

| Important Environmental issues facing | The World | The World | Australia | Australia |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2006 (%) | 2008 (%) | 2006 (%) | 2008 (%) |
| Global warming | 35 | 27 | 13 | 10 |
| Greenhouse effect, Greenhouse gases | 15 | 11 | 7 | 6 |
| Climate change | 5 | 18 | 3 | 11 |
| Ozone layer | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Melting of polar ice caps | 3 | 2 | * | 1 |
| Extinction, Loss of species | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Reduction in habitable land | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Introduction of non-native species | - | * | 1 | 1 |
| El Nino | * | * | * | * |
| Total Global Warming Issues | 56 | 55 | 26 | 28 |
| Pollution (unspecified) | 14 | 9 | 10 | 6 |
| Air pollution | 8 | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| Water pollution | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Cars, Exhaust from cars | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Smog | * | - | * | * |
| Total Pollution | 27 | 23 | 22 | 19 |
| Recycling | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Nuclear waste | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Toxic waste | * | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Landfill | 1 | * | 1 | * |
| Plastic bags | 1 | 1 | 1 | * |
| Total Waste Management | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Water conservation, Water management | 8 | 15 | 27 | 29 |
| Erosion | * | * | * | 1 |
| Salinity | 1 | 1 | 11 | 3 |
| Total Water Management Issues | 9 | 16 | 35 | 32 |
| Total Water Management Issues (Inc. Drought) | 12 | 21 | 43 | 46 |
| Drought | 4 | 7 | 12 | 18 |
| Hurricanes, Cyclones | 1 | - | * | * |
| Famine | 1 | 3 | - | * |
| Bushfires | - | * | * | 1 |
| Earthquakes | * | - | - | * |
| Flooding | * | 1 | - | 1 |
| Tsunami, Tidal waves | - | - | - | - |
| Total Natural Disasters | 7 | 10 | 13 | 19 |
| Energy crisis, Depletion of fossil fuels | 10 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| Depletion of natural resources | 9 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Energy sources | - | 2 | - | 3 |
| Total Depletion of Resources | 18 | 14 | 12 | 15 |
| Over population | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Urbanisation | * | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Over Population / Urbanisation | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Logging forests or deforestation | 11 | 7 | 15 | 7 |
| Mining | - | * | 2 | 1 |
| Bird flu | * | * | - | - |
| Other | 9 | 17 | 10 | 20 |
| Can't say | 8 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| None | - | - | 2 | 3 |

(Respondents could give more than one issue)

* Less than 1%

Problems Associated with Global Warming

Respondents were then asked: “Next about Global warming. From what you know or have heard, what problems are associated with Global warming?”

Australians think Climate Change (60%) is the most important problem associated with Global Warming, with 18% Pollution and 15% Natural Disasters as additional Global Warming problems.

| Problems Associated with Global Warming | Australia 2006 (%) | Australia 2008 (%) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Climate change, Atmospheric change | 46 | 30 |
| Melting of polar ice caps | 31 | 19 |
| Rising sea levels | 23 | 20 |
| Reduction in habitable land | 6 | 6 |
| Greenhouse effect, Heating up of planet, Thermal blanket | 2 | 8 |
| El Nino | 1 | 2 |
| Rising sea temperatures | 1 | 8 |
| Total Climate Change | 69 | 60 |
| Hurricanes, Cyclones | 6 | 3 |
| Flooding | 5 | 5 |
| Drought | 3 | 9 |
| Tsunami, Tidal waves | 2 | 2 |
| Earthquakes | 1 | 1 |
| Bushfires | 1 | 2 |
| Total Natural Disasters | 13 | 15 |
| Pollution | 13 | 18 |
| Depletion of ozone layer | 7 | 5 |
| Loss of species | 2 | 5 |
| Skin cancer | 2 | 1 |
| Fossil fuels | 2 | 9 |
| Deforestation, Cutting down trees | 2 | 5 |
| Natural phenomenon, Cyclic event, Always happens | 2 | 2 |
| UV radiation | 1 | 2 |
| Over Population | * | 3 |
| Water conservation | 1 | 6 |
| Other | 7 | 11 |
| Can't say | 11 | 8 |

(Respondents could say more than one problem associated with Global Warming.)

* Less than 1%

View about Global Warming

Respondents were then asked: “Which of the following is closest to your view about Global Warming?”

Men were more likely than Women (24% cf 14%) to believe concerns about the Environment are exaggerated.

| | Total all people aged 14+ | | Analysis by Sex and Age | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | May 3/4 | | Men | Women | 14-17 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-49 | 50+ |
| | 2006 | 2008 | | | | | | | |
| Concerns are exaggerated | 13 | 19 | 24 | 14 | 13 | 23 | 15 | 15 | 22 |
| If we don't act now it will be too late | 67 | 64 | 57 | 71 | 78 | 61 | 68 | 69 | 58 |
| It is already too late | 15 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 16 |
| Can't say | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

People from New South Wales (24%) were more likely than any other State to believe that concerns about the environment are exaggerated.

| | Total all people aged 14+ | | Analysis by Region and State | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| | May 3/4 | | Capital Cities | Country Areas | NSW | Vic | Old | SA/NT | WA | Tas |
| | 2006 | 2008 | | | | | | | | |
| Concerns are exaggerated | 13 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 24 | 17 | 20 | 15 | 9 | 7 |
| If we don't act now it will be too late | 67 | 64 | 66 | 62 | 59 | 66 | 60 | 78 | 72 | 72 |
| It is already too late | 15 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 18 | 7 | 18 | 11 |
| Can't say | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 10 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Which Region is most important for Economic and Security reasons?

Respondents were asked:

Which one region do you think is the most important to Australia for Business?

Which one region do you think is the most important to Australia for Security purposes?

Which one region do you think is the most important to Australia for both Economic and Security reasons?

The majority of Australians (66%) considered **China** the most important region for **Economic** purposes.

Indonesia topped the list (mentioned by 46%) as being the most important region for **Security** purposes.

Japan at 34% was most often mentioned as the country Australia is most able to **work with effectively** on both **Economic and Security** matters.

| | <u>Economic Purposes</u> | <u>Security Purposes</u> | <u>Both Economic and Security Purposes</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Indonesia | 5 | 46 | 14 |
| China | 66 | 25 | 28 |
| India | 6 | 3 | 10 |
| Japan | 13 | 12 | 34 |
| Can't Say | 10 | 14 | 14 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |

What is the Number One priority for Government Policy?

Respondents were asked: *Which ONE of the following should be the Number One priority for Government Policy over the next 10 years?*

| | Total All people aged 14+ | | Analysis by Sex and Age | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <u>Total</u> (%) | <u>Men</u> (%) | <u>Women</u> (%) | <u>14-17</u> (%) | <u>18-24</u> (%) | <u>25-34</u> (%) | <u>35-49</u> (%) | <u>50+</u> (%) |
| Driving productivity growth | 8 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| Promoting infrastructure development | 29 | 36 | 23 | 16 | 27 | 31 | 35 | 28 |
| Overcoming the skills shortage | 28 | 27 | 29 | 29 | 14 | 24 | 25 | 36 |
| Budget and no increase in public debt | 30 | 25 | 34 | 35 | 39 | 32 | 28 | 26 |
| Can't Say | 5 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

The special Australia-wide telephone Roy Morgan Survey was conducted during the evenings of May 3-4, 2008, with 650 respondents aged 14 years and over.

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Appendix 1 "What do you think is the most important problem facing the world /Australia today?"

| <u>Most Important Problem Facing Australia / The World</u> | <u>THE WORLD</u> | | | | | <u>AUSTRALIA</u> | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | <u>Future Summit Participants</u> | | | <u>Australians</u> | | <u>Future Summit Participants</u> | | | <u>Australians</u> | |
| | 2006 % | 2007 % | 2008 % | 2006 % | 2008 % | 2006 % | 2007 % | 2008 % | 2006 % | 2008 % |
| Terrorism | 4 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 4 | - | - | - | 6 | 1 |
| Wars and conflicts | 2 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 10 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Security, Safety | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Relations with other countries | 6 | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 3 | - |
| Total Terrorism/Wars/Security/Safety | 14 | 10 | 3 | 32 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 3 |
| Economic problems/ interest rates/ inflation | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 18 |
| Industrial relations reforms | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - |
| Poverty, The gap between rich and poor | 21 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Unemployment | - | - | - | * | 1 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 1 |
| Over-population | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 2 | * | 1 |
| Insufficient population growth/Ageing population | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| Globalisation/Fairer world trade | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Total Economic Issues | 27 | 21 | 29 | 19 | 24 | 24 | 7 | 18 | 20 | 23 |
| Water conservation | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 11 | 3 | - |
| Climate Change / Global Warming | 18 | 34 | 24 | 5 | 18 | 9 | 26 | 22 | 1 | 7 |
| Famine | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Drought | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | 4 |
| Management / Mismanagement of Natural Resources (water) | - | 2 | 6 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 13 |
| Other environmental issues | 7 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Total Environmental Issues | 26 | 47 | 44 | 14 | 35 | 18 | 56 | 41 | 8 | 30 |
| Petrol prices | - | - | - | * | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Energy crisis | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | * | 1 |
| Depletion of fossil fuels | 2 | 1 | 2 | * | 1 | 2 | - | - | * | 1 |
| Total Energy Crisis/Depletion of Fossil Fuels/Petrol Prices | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 4 |
| Bird flu | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other health issues | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 9 | 4 |
| Total Health Issues | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 9 | 4 |
| Corruption | 2 | - | - | * | 1 | - | - | - | * | - |
| Greed, Materialism | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |
| Drugs and drug abuse | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Educational issues | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Crime | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 1 |
| Youth issues | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Anger/Violence/Aggression | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | * | - |
| Social apathy/Family breakdowns/Selfishness/Moral decline | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 12 | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Lack of social cohesion / social disconnection | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | 4 | - | - |
| Indigenous disadvantage | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| Cultural development | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Total Social Issues | 4 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Government, Politics, Political system | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Religion, Religious fundamentalism | 5 | 3 | - | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Human rights | - | 1 | - | * | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Refugees, Refugee and asylum problems | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Immigration, Immigration policy | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 5 | 3 |
| Intolerance | 2 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 1 |
| Racism/Racial tensions | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Multiculturalism | 1 | - | - | * | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| John Howard/Howard Government | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Total Government, Human Issues | 17 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 4 | 22 | 5 | 5 | 25 | 11 |
| Other | 6 | 11 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 25 | 8 | 9 |
| Can't say | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 6 | 5 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Appendix 2 “What do you think are the most important environmental issues facing the world / Australia today?”

| <u>Important Environmental Issues</u> <u>Facing the world / Australia</u> | <u>THE WORLD</u> | | | | | <u>AUSTRALIA</u> | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | <u>Future Summit</u> <u>Participants</u> | | | <u>Australians</u> | | <u>Future Summit</u> <u>Participants</u> | | | <u>Australians</u> | |
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2006 | 2008 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2006 | 2008 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Global Warming | 44 | 29 | 18 | 35 | 27 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 13 | 10 |
| Greenhouse effect, Greenhouse gases | 11 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Climate change | 15 | 34 | 35 | 5 | 18 | 12 | 26 | 29 | 3 | 11 |
| Ozone layer | 1 | - | - | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Melting of polar ice caps | 2 | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | * | 1 |
| Extinction, Loss of species | 15 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| Reduction in habitable land | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Introduction of non-native species | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| El Nino | - | - | - | * | * | - | - | - | * | * |
| Total Global Warming Issues | 71 | 71 | 68 | 56 | 55 | 37 | 44 | 49 | 26 | 28 |
| Pollution (unspecified) | 6 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 6 |
| Air pollution | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 12 | 2 | - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Water pollution | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Cars, Exhaust from cars | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Smog | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | * | * |
| Total Pollution | 8 | 5 | 13 | 27 | 23 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 22 | 19 |
| Recycling | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Nuclear waste | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Toxic waste | 1 | - | 2 | * | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Landfill | 1 | - | - | 1 | * | - | - | - | 1 | * |
| Plastic bags | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | * |
| Total Waste Management | 3 | - | 4 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| Water conservation, Water management | 14 | 10 | 26 | 8 | 15 | 43 | 40 | 57 | 27 | 29 |
| Erosion | 1 | 1 | - | * | * | 2 | 2 | - | * | 1 |
| Salinity | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 3 |
| Total Water Management Issues | 16 | 11 | 26 | 9 | 16 | 53 | 41 | 58 | 35 | 32 |
| Total Water Management Issues (Inc. Drought) | 16 | 11 | 26 | 12 | 21 | 55 | 49 | 64 | 43 | 46 |
| Drought | - | - | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 18 |
| Hurricanes, Cyclones | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | * | * |
| Famine | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | * |
| Bushfires | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | * | 1 |
| Earthquakes | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * |
| Flooding | - | - | - | * | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Tsunami, Tidal waves | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Natural Disasters | - | - | 1 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 19 |
| Energy crisis, Depletion of fossil fuels | 12 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 7 |
| Depletion of natural resources | 7 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| Energy sources | 4 | 1 | 7 | - | 2 | 6 | 3 | 10 | - | 3 |
| Total Depletion of Resources | 21 | 9 | 25 | 18 | 14 | 18 | 9 | 18 | 12 | 15 |
| Over population | 4 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Urbanisation | 2 | - | - | * | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total Over Population / Urbanisation | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Logging forests or deforestation | 11 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 7 |
| Mining | - | 1 | - | - | * | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Bird flu | - | - | - | * | * | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other | 30 | 15 | 22 | 9 | 17 | 10 | 15 | 21 | 10 | 20 |
| Can't say | 1 | - | - | 8 | 5 | 7 | - | - | 9 | 8 |
| None | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 |

(Respondents could give more than one issue)

* Less than 1%

Notes: I. Includes: Land care, unsustainable farming practices, too many chemicals – 3%; Household waste – 1%; Wars and its environmental effects – 1%; Nuclear proliferation/selling uranium overseas – 1%.

II. Includes Murray River – 5%; Land care, unsustainable farming practices, too many chemicals 5%; Household waste – 2%; Destruction of Great Barrier Reef – 1%.