

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Hunter poll shows continued support for gas exploration

As Advent Energy continues its campaign to extend its Petroleum Exploration Permit (PEP-11) offshore the Hunter Region of New South Wales, new opinion polling shows that public support for gas exploration in the area remains stronger than opposition.

The polling, commissioned by Advent Energy, is based on results from 1,010 respondents aged 18 and over in the Hunter Region.

The polling found a much higher level of concern over the impacts of likely gas shortages in the region than concern about plans to extract gas offshore. Specifically, it found:

- 63% of Hunter Region voters supported exploring, developing and using more of Australia's gas reserves, while only 9% opposed that activity.
- 43% of respondents said they supported gas exploration offshore the Hunter region. 35% neither supported or opposed the activity, and only 22% opposed this local gas exploration.
- 54% of respondents said cost of living was the biggest issue in this year's Federal election, while 13% listed "managing the economy" and 8% said environment and climate change was the major issue. Less than 1% listed offshore gas exploration as the most significant issue.

The poll was conducted by data and insights firm Pureprofile in the last week of July and first week of August 2025. The survey size means it is accurate within a 3% margin.

The poll found similar community attitudes to an identical poll conducted after the 2023 NSW state election, but with a significant increase in support for local gas exploration. The 2023 poll found 37% supported gas exploration offshore the Hunter region with 22% opposed¹.

Advent Energy's plans to explore for gas 30km off the coast of Newcastle were being considered in an independent assessment process up until December 2021 when former Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced he would not allow PEP-11 to be extended.

That decision was voided in February 2023 after Advent Energy challenged its validity in the Federal Court. A subsequent decision by former Minister Ed Husic is now facing a similar legal challenge.

The materials released by the government to Advent Energy have confirmed that the independent regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA), recommended the permit be extended on multiple occasions.

Advent Energy executive director David Breeze called on the NSW and Federal governments to urgently reconsider their position on gas exploration offshore Newcastle as part of the solution to the east coast energy crisis.

The Australian Energy Market Operator has highlighted the urgent need for new gas supply projects to address potential shortfalls in Australia's east coast gas market expected from 2028 onwards².

The ACCC's latest report on the east coast gas market released in June 2025³ underscores the urgent need to remove barriers to new gas supply to avoid forecast gas shortfalls. It found "the east coast has sufficient gas reserves and resources to meet projected domestic demand for at least the next decade", but "a combination of policy, technical and commercial factors over the past 15 years has impeded their development."

Mr Breeze said Advent Energy's project could be a major part of any solution to NSW's gas shortages and high energy prices.

"Provided that the gas prospects across PEP11 are proven to be of commercial value, our project has the potential to supply 20 years' worth of gas for NSW⁴. We have committed to inject all of our produced gas into the domestic market – and more supply will mean lower prices."

"Natural gas plays a critical role in supporting the energy transition, while also underpinning the state's manufacturing industries and other commercial activity. Business NSW⁵ HAS estimated 250,000 jobs in NSW rely upon gas as a feedstock and energy source."

The questions and responses in the poll were:

What was the most significant issue that determined our vote in this year's Federal election?

- Cost of living and/or interest rates – 54.1%
- Managing the economy - 13.3%
- Health and aged care – 9.3%
- The environment and climate change - 7.5%
- Energy reliability and affordability – 3.8%
- Crime and social order - 2.8%
- Defence and national security - 2.7%
- Roads and transport - 1.4%
- Offshore gas exploration - 0.3%
- Other issues – 5.0%

How concerned are you about the impact of likely gas shortages on your household budget and the broader NSW economy?

- Extremely concerned - 13.5%
- Highly concerned - 21.6%
- Slightly concerned – 31.9%
- Unaware – 19.2%
- Not at all concerned - 13.9%

Do you support Australia exploring, developing and using more of its own gas reserves?

- Strongly support – 26.2%
- Support - 37.2%
- Neither support nor oppose - 27.7%
- Oppose - 6.5%
- Strongly oppose – 2.3%

Do you support or oppose gas exploration offshore the Hunter region?

- Strongly support - 12.1%
- Support – 31.1%
- Neither support nor oppose – 35.2%
- Oppose - 13.7%
- Strongly oppose - 7.9%

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References:

¹ <https://adventenergy.com.au/news/hunter-poll-shows-strong-support-for-gas-development/>

² [AEMO | Gas Statement of Opportunities](#)

³ [June 2025 interim report | ACCC](#), accessible here

⁴ *This is not a production forecast or a forecast of future performance of the Company. This statement is an aspirational statement and is not referring to the Company's advanced exploration targets based on existing exploration results.*

⁵ [Running on Empty Business NSW report](#), page 6