

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kiwis ready to consider nuclear power as option

Over a third of New Zealanders think nuclear power should be considered as a viable energy source, the latest Research New Zealand polling shows.

The poll found that while 58% were opposed to the idea of nuclear power, 36% felt that New Zealand should consider it. Another 6% were undecided.

Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said the poll demonstrated that many Kiwis were open to new ideas about power generation.

“We’re hearing about potential power shortages and people are wondering how we’re going to provide sustainable power for the future. At the same time people are paying higher power bills. Kiwis are looking for solutions and new ideas to make sure we have affordable power that’s not going to harm the environment.”

Mr Kalafatelis said the poll found males (43%) were more likely than females (30%) to consider nuclear power. Those polled in the over-60 age group were most likely to think New Zealand should consider nuclear energy, with 48% supporting the idea of nuclear power.

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 14 May and 23 May.

The Research New Zealand poll of 501 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 14 and 23 May. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.6 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.



Participants were asked: *Given concerns about the environment, and the prospect of ongoing power crises and price rises, should New Zealand consider nuclear power as a viable energy source?*

Table 1: Should New Zealand consider nuclear power (by gender)

Given concerns about the environment, and the prospect of ongoing power crises and price rises, should New Zealand consider nuclear power as a viable energy source?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	233	267
	%	%	%
Yes	36	43	30
No	58	55	60
Don't know	6	2	10
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Should New Zealand consider nuclear power (by age)

Given concerns about the environment, and the prospect of ongoing power crises and price rises, should New Zealand consider nuclear power as a viable energy source?

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	94	87	97	101	121
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	36	31	32	37	33	48
No	58	62	63	56	62	46
Don't know	6	6	5	6	5	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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