



Asset Sales back on the Agenda

In a speech on 26 January the Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key, announced that National, if it were to win the 2011 election, would consider the partial sale of a number of state assets, notably the government-owned electricity and coal companies. By partial sales was meant that the government would retain at least 51 percent of the shares.

This gave rise to a vigorous debate and Research New Zealand decided to ask New Zealanders what they thought of this idea.

Some 47 percent are not in favour of partial asset sales with 45 percent in favour. Maori/Pacific People are least in favour at 57 percent. Of those on incomes under \$40,000 per year 53 percent were not in favour. However, the idea did resonate to some extent with those earning \$80,000 or more per year with 50 percent in favour and 41 percent not in favour.

“The only conclusion one can draw”, said Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis, “is that the National Party does not have overwhelming support for this idea”.

The Research New Zealand poll of 501 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone on 3—8 February 2011. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole 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 organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

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Table 1:

Q10b. The Prime Minister has suggested that a number of government owned companies might be partially privatised in the government's next term... Are you in favour or not in favour of this proposal?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	501	250	251
	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	45	50	40
No, not in favour	47	46	49
Don't know/No opinion	8	5	11
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2:

Q10b. The Prime Minister has suggested that a number of government owned companies might be partially privatised in the government's next term... Are you in favour or not in favour of this proposal?

	Total	15-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	501	116	174	211
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	45	43	44	48
No, not in favour	47	50	50	41
Don't know/No opinion	8	7	6	11
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3:

Q10b. The Prime Minister has suggested that a number of government owned companies might be partially privatised in the government's next term... Are you in favour or not in favour of this proposal?

	Total	NZ		
		European/Pakeha	Maori/Pacific	Other
Base =	501	378	61	62
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	45	46	34	49
No, not in favour	47	46	57	42
Don't know/No opinion	8	8	9	9
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 4:

Q10b. The Prime Minister has suggested that a number of government owned companies might be partially privatised in the government's next term... Are you in favour or not in favour of this proposal?

	Total	Upper North Lower/Central		
		Island	North Island	South Island
Base =	501	217	105	179
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	45	43	44	46
No, not in favour	47	47	49	47
Don't know/No opinion	8	9	7	7
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5:

Q10b. The Prime Minister has suggested that a number of government owned companies might be partially privatised in the government's next term... Are you in favour or not in favour of this proposal?

	Total	Under \$40,000	At least \$40,000 but less than \$80,000		Don't know/refused
			\$80,000 or more		
Base =	501	186	133	151	31
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	45	40	45	50	40
No, not in favour	47	53	49	41	40
Don't know/No opinion	8	7	6	9	20
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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