AiP

Australian Institute for Progress

Federal Politics Poll

January 2026

COVID-19 follow-up

Contents

Methodology

The following tables and graphs are based on a sample of 365 respondents drawn from our original sample of 637 respondents which was weighted for voting intentions and normalised against the most recent NewsPoll published in *The Australian* newspaper in January. These respondents answered a subsequent survey where we asked them about their attitudes to the Federal government's handling of COVID-19.

Results should be taken as indicative in that the sample is not properly randomised, but it is unlikely the group is completely unrepresentative. Even normalising the first preference data for the whole sample there is a slight lean to the right with the two-party preferred vote being 54% ALP to 46% Coalition. Newspoll gives this as 55% to 45%. This makes only a marginal difference to the value of the qualitative, as well as the quantitative stats we take from the data. We also asked respondents how they voted last federal election, and this was extremely close to the actual result.

In these tables we have amalgamated the Family First, Libertarian Party, People First, and Katter Australia as one and labelled them "Nationalist". This is so that we have a statistically significant sample for this group, and because these parties in our sample attract similar voters, with a core belief being that Australia is not just a country but has a particular ethos which needs to be valued and protected. We have amalgamated Independents, Teals, and Sustainable Australia as "Cosmopolitan" because they take more an internationalist than a nationalist perspective.

The follow-up poll was conducted from March 2 until March 8 2026, using the email addresses from the previous survey to contact them.

Quantitative analysis was undertaken using Microsoft Excel. Qualitative analysis was undertaken using Leximancer and artificial intelligence.

For further information contact Graham Young 0411 104 801.

Executive Summary

After our last poll we realised we lacked a mechanism that could explain the remarkable rise of One Nation on the one hand and the decline of the Coalition on the other.

One Nation is now the most intriguing phenomenon in Australian politics. Thirty years after Pauline Hanson first entered federal parliament, her political creation is reaching heights few foresaw. Nothing in its history - not even the 1998 Queensland breakthrough - foreshadowed a national vote now in the mid-twenties, extending deep into Victoria and South Australia.

At the same time, the Liberal Party has imploded, not just federally but in every mainland state bar Queensland. As our polling shows, the Liberal Party's loss has been One Nation's gain, with around half of traditional Coalition voters now saying they would vote for One Nation if an election were held next weekend.

While Labor's vote federally is fragile, its state brands are mostly strong, so whatever is going on is something only on the right of politics, and it is more fundamental than anything that has happened for at least the last 80 years.

Immigration can explain part of this rise, based on precedents in the USA, UK and Europe, but it does not explain the collapse of the state Liberal parties. Something else was missing.

Our hypothesis in conducting this follow-up poll was that COVID-19 was that missing element. Whether one agreed with the measures or not, they represented the greatest curtailment of Australians' liberties outside wartime. Many respondents now also believe governments misled them.

What the research reveals is that COVID was indeed an emotional break that led a clear majority of defecting Coalition voters to feel betrayed by their party. The pattern suggests many gave Peter Dutton the benefit of the doubt, but after a campaign in which Liberal promises often appeared to mirror Labor's, they decided it was time to find a party that reflected their values more closely. That party was One Nation – the one party that had consistently opposed most of the COVID measures.

It is now four years since COVID, and it barely appeared in the verbatims of the original poll because respondents were looking forward. Yet its fingerprints are all over voter motivation when respondents are asked about it directly.

When we matched attitudes to current vote intention, One Nation voters disapproved most heavily of the federal government's COVID policies, by **71% to 15%**. Coalition voters were almost evenly split, with **40% approving and 39% disapproving**. Remarkably, both Labor and Greens voters approved on balance, despite their normal tribal instincts against the Coalition.

When we looked at traditional voting patterns, **69% of traditional Coalition voters who have now switched to One Nation disagreed with the federal government's COVID policies**, while **92% of traditional One Nation voters also disagreed**. By contrast, among traditional Coalition voters still voting Coalition, **41% were likely to approve** of the federal government's performance.

An even more extreme pattern emerged on immigration. **93% of traditional Coalition voters who have shifted to One Nation think immigration is too high**, with **86% saying it is "much too high"**. By contrast, among those still voting Coalition, **75% think it is too high, but only 18% say it is "much too high"**. The key difference is intensity.

The anti-Semitism legislation revealed a similar convergence between defecting traditional Coalition voters and traditional One Nation voters. **81% of defectors disapproved of the legislation (58% strongly), while 82% of traditional One Nation voters disapproved (63% strongly).**

Traditional Coalition voters remaining with the Coalition were still **50% disapproving**, with only **23% approving**, suggesting the Coalition has a significant problem with its base on this issue and could yet lose further support.

The polling trend since the last election dramatises the movement. There is a steady erosion of both Labor and Liberal votes and a rise in One Nation's.

The Bondi Hanukkah massacre appears to have temporarily arrested the Coalition's decline, likely because the event placed questions of authority and public order at the centre of the national conversation in an otherwise politically dormant period. The subsequent anti-Semitism legislation then appears to have reversed that stabilisation, coinciding with a renewed and steeper shift to One Nation.

What we are seeing, then, is the pro-individual, pro-free-enterprise wing of the Coalition being shaken loose during COVID, when collectivist and paternalist solutions were imposed by the party they still regarded as home.

They initially placed their faith in Peter Dutton to restore the party's instincts. Instead, the subsequent election defeat against a government they deeply disliked, followed by the Coalition's failure to differentiate itself on immigration and civil-liberties questions, deepened their institutional disillusionment.

The final phase - where One Nation begins to eclipse the Coalition - reflects the growing belief that an establishment duopoly has emerged, of which these voters no longer feel part.

COVID broke trust. Immigration organised the break. The anti-Semitism legislation completed it.
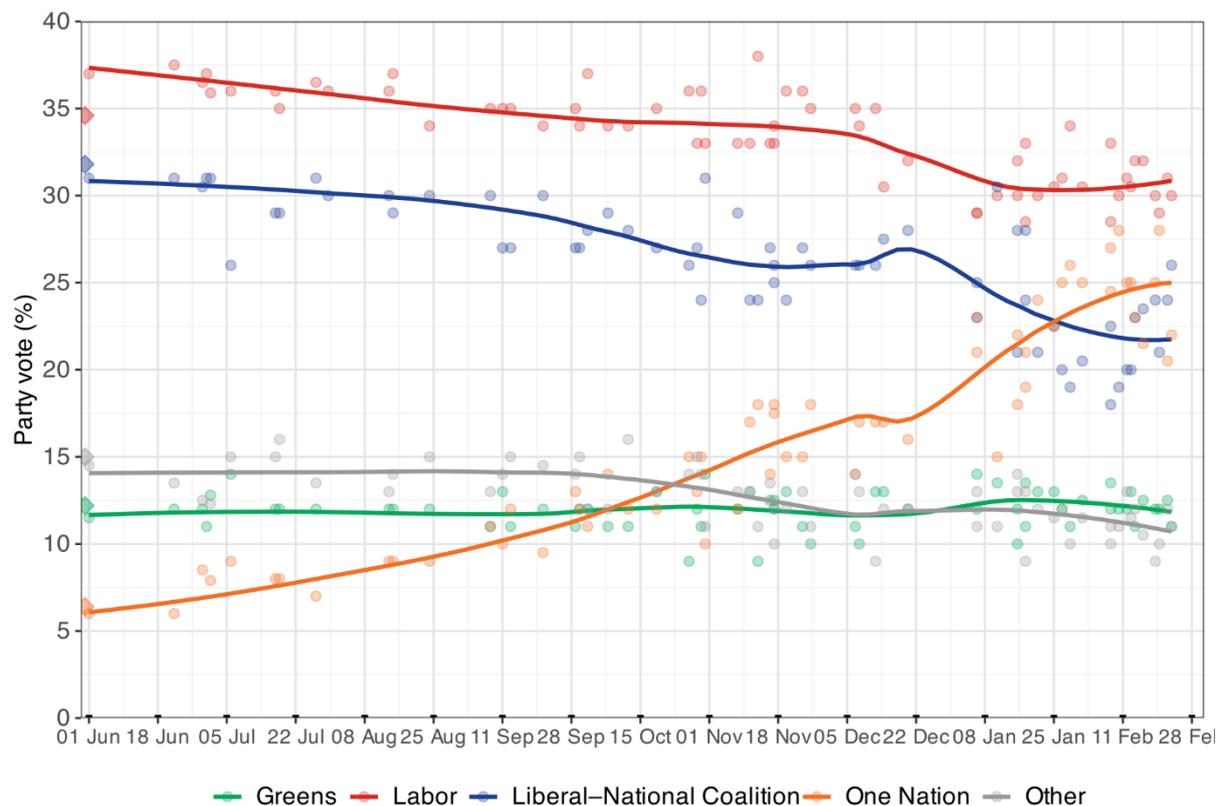
Figure 1: Opinion polling since June 2025. Source: By Bartholomew The 2nd - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=169075606

Details

1. Surprising degree of bipartisan support for the Morrison government's performance on COVID with 47% of Greens agreeing with it, compared to 37% disagreeing, while 61% of Greens agreed compared to 24% disagreeing. Fewer Coalition voters agreed with only 40% in favour versus 39% against. Nationalists -25% in favour, 69% against - and One Nation voters – 71% in favour and 15% against - were heavily opposed.

2. The thesis that COVID was a major contributor to One Nation's current vote as measured by public opinion polls is supported by the fact that of those voters who rate themselves traditional Coalition voters, 42% would vote for One Nation if there were an election today. Of those voters 69% disagree with the federal government's handling of COVID versus only 17% who do.

3. COVID policy is a sorting event with immigration the language that is used to consolidate it and the anti-Semitism bill cemented it. Control over one's own life and one's own country and a violation of individual sovereignty lie behind it. It appears to be the breach event that has split the "broad church" of the Coalition.

4. One Nation and Nationalist voters cluster around words like "vaccine, vaccination, forced, medical and caused. This is embodied and personal language which is then linked to state action – "lockdowns, measures, control". COVID gives rise to visceral feelings.

5. Labor and Greens voters cluster around words such as "difficult, situation, lives, better and decisions". This is a managerial mindset which accepts context, trade-offs and decision difficulty.

6. Coalition voters are closest to "handled, best, government, measures, and response". Again, this is managerial language. This is completely different from the language used by defectors.

7. Not just that people disliked lockdowns, but they fused them with control, jobs and government.

8. The underlying structure is a stacked narrative. 1. The threat was overstated; 2. The response was excessive; 3. The consequences were severe (economic and social); 4. Authorities cannot be trusted; 5 Therefore reject establishment parties.

9. Traditional Coalition voters who have moved to One Nation are high conviction, retrospective and trust-fractured, which means that standard cost of living messaging won't win them back, and neither will arguments that "we can govern". It's a legitimacy gap, not just a policy gap.

10. Immigration is a position problem. Defectors see the Coalition as not being where they want them to be, but to win them back the Coalition would have to change position which risks losing moderates and invites internal division. COVID is a trust and closure problem – "You did something wrong to me (or people like me)". They need acknowledgment, reassurance it won't recur and some restoration of trust.

11. A large proportion of One Nation voters still see themselves as normally Coalition voters.

12. Immigration is about "Are you on the same side as the establishment?" Suspicion of laws that appear to privilege one group, concern about free speech constraints and discomfort with both parties agreeing. Bipartisanship is not reassuring, it is incriminating. Both sides are seen as part of the same problem.

13. Even though there is disapproval of COVID policies from Greens and Labor voters they are not affected in the same way. There is concern about government overreach and poor implementation, but not necessarily about the premise of intervention. Some cite economic and social damage and distrust of government, but these are not central comments.

14. Labor/Greens critics do not show strong emotion, frame employment and coercion as central, talk about distrust of the system or use the language of betrayal.

15. Labor and Greens voters are not particularly concerned about immigration but there is a divergence with ALP voters being in favour of the anti-Semitism legislation while Greens were opposed to it.

GRAHAM YOUNG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Quantitative Analysis

Thinking about federal government's handling of the COVID pandemic how strongly would you agree or disagree that it handled the pandemic well?

Cross tab against first preference voting intention by tribe

	ALP	Coalition	Cosmopolitan	Grns	Nationalist	ON	Total
Strongly Agree	6%	6%	14%	17%	6%	8%	8%
Agree	41%	34%	21%	44%	19%	8%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	17%	21%	25%	12%	6%	14%	17%
Disagree	23%	23%	18%	15%	13%	18%	20%
Strongly disagree	14%	16%	18%	10%	56%	53%	25%
Unsure	0%	0%	4%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Total agree	47%	40%	36%	61%	25%	15%	38%
Total disagree	37%	39%	36%	24%	69%	71%	45%
Net agree	**10%**	**1%**	**0%**	**37%**	**-44%**	**-56%**	**-6%**

n=365

This table shows approval of the federal government's handling of COVID against first preference voting intentions. There are some interesting results. Overall the sample disapproved, but this was driven by strong disapproval from Nationalists and One Nation, primarily. Coalition voters were almost evenly split, while ALP and Greens voters approved. It should be noted that the federal government at the time was the Morrison Coalition government, so these figures show a very high degree of support from ALP and Greens voters for actions of a government they most probably didn't vote for.

Cross tab against first preference voting last election by tribe

	ALP	Coalition	Cosmopolitan	Grns	Nationalist	ON	Total
Strongly Agree	8%	8%	19%	16%	0%	0%	9%
Agree	40%	27%	26%	37%	0%	0%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	16%	22%	18%	0%	21%	17%
Disagree	22%	23%	7%	18%	0%	24%	21%
Strongly disagree	14%	27%	26%	5%	100%	55%	24%
Unsure	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	1%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Total agree	48%	34%	44%	53%	0%	0%	38%
Total disagree	36%	50%	33%	24%	100%	79%	44%
Net agree	**12%**	**-16%**	**11%**	**29%**	**-100%**	**-79%**	**-6%**

n=365

This table shows approval of the federal government's handling of COVID against how respondents reported voting last election. The most interesting thing to note is that last-time Coalition voters disagreed by a bare majority with the federal government's handling at 50%, with only 34% agreeing. One Nation voters last time were 79% likely to disapprove with 0% approving.

Cross tab against first preference voting traditional identification by tribe

Row Labels	ALP	Coalition	Cosmopolitan	Grns	Nationalist	ON	Sw	Total
Strongly Agree	9%	6%	16%	14%	0%	0%	8%	8%
Agree	36%	23%	16%	51%	0%	0%	38%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	20%	17%	16%	12%	0%	8%	13%	16%
Disagree	18%	22%	21%	16%	33%	17%	21%	20%
Strongly disagree	17%	32%	32%	2%	67%	75%	21%	25%
Unsure	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Grand Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Total agree	45%	30%	32%	65%	0%	0%	46%	38%
Total disagree	35%	54%	53%	19%	100%	92%	42%	45%
Net agree	10%	-24%	-21%	47%	-100%	-92%	4%	-6%

<center>n=365</center>

This time traditional Coalition voters were even less approving of the government's handling of COVID as were One Nation. Voters who say they traditionally are unaligned, Swingers (Sw) were fairly evenly balanced, ALP voters in line with previous tables, and traditional Greens were even more approving than previous cross-tabs.

Cross tab traditional Coalition, remaining Coalition, Coalition moved to One Nation voters, and traditional One Nation voters

	Traditional Coalition	Coalition stayers	Coalition switchers	ON Traditional
Strongly Agree	6%	6%	8%	0%
Agree	23%	36%	8%	0%
Neither agree nor disagree	17%	21%	14%	8%
Disagree	22%	21%	20%	17%
Strongly disagree	32%	16%	49%	75%
Unsure	0%	0%	0%	0%
Grand Total	100%	**100%**	100%	100%
Total agree	30%	41%	17%	0%
Total disagree	54%	37%	69%	92%
Net agree	-24%	4%	-53%	-92%

This table demonstrates what is happening within the Coalition voting bloc. As per our other analysis 43% of voters in our sample say they are traditional Coalition voters. That is now roughly halved, with the other half moving to One Nation.

Those Coalition voters who have now moved to One Nation were much more likely to disapprove of the Federal Government's handling of COVID than those who are still Coalition voters. However Traditional Coalition voters were also negative on the Federal government's handling of COVID.

ON traditional voters are much more likely to disagree with the Federal government's handling than any other sort of voter. The fact that this percentage has diminished amongst current One Nation voters is because some voters who have moved to One Nation do agree that the Federal

government did a good job. However, ON voters still 70% disagree with the federal government's handling of COVID.

Qualitative Analysis

Our qualitative analysis looks at the reasons given by respondents for their various judgements. The following maps are generated from the data by Leximancer and overlay the key words over the variables from the question – generally the answer to the question plus voting intentions. Words that are most closely associated will cluster together. The most frequently used words are brighter than those used less frequently.

We do not edit the verbatims and all spelling and grammatical errors are reproduced. Editing the transcripts would take away from some of the unique tone of each response. The verbatims are selected so as to give a better insight into how the individual words are being used.

Thinking about federal government's handling of the COVID pandemic how strongly would you agree or disagree that it handled the pandemic well?

Verbatims

Cosmopolitan: Neither_agree_nor_disagree

I think that on the one hand, the government was right to enforce distancing and mask laws and establish widespread testing stations, responding fairly well to whatever the current information was at the time. On the other hand, I think Morrison mishandled the vaccines, stupidly and unnecessarily provoked China by unilaterally demanding an investigation into the virus's origins instead of waiting to join with other nations, and the Liberals have disadvantaged us over the long

term by decreasing financial support for public health systems, the ABC (which is vital for providing reliable information, especially at a time when conspiracy theories were beginning to.

Coalition: Neither_agree_nor_disagree

Whilst hindsight is a wonderful thing, the response to the pandemic was an overreaction: in lockdowns (for which the federal government was instrumental in shuttering large chunks of the economy); in debt incurred (to underwrite the wages of people affected by these shutdowns); in executive management (whilst Scott Morrison swearing himself into multiple ministries was not illegal - and was perhaps even a useful insurance mechanism for continuity .of government - it should have been done publicly, with full disclosure and explanation); and politically (the maladroit Liberal Party fell into every trap Labor laid using "the pandemic" as its bait).

ON: Agree

The Federal government's primary purposes are to protect our borders and our people from harm, so strong restrictions were completely justified and whilst no government response is going to be perfect, they did a very reasonable job given the unknowns and lack of previous experience in dealing with pandemics. Any party that campaigned on opening borders (mostly to satisfy their business backers) deserved to be thrashed for their lack of sense and responsible decision making capabilities.

Coalition: Strongly_disagree

The Federal Leader Scott Morrison went along with the states instead of affirming we are a nation of one people who should travel freely between states and not be mandated or manipulated into taking an experimental vaccine that has harmed and killed people. We should have focused on protecting the vulnerable not everyone. the approach destroyed businesses and our wider economy and the mental health of children and adults. we now have massive state and federal debts and the cash incentives to businesses should have been qualified so if a business did financially well the funds were returned to the public purse.

ALP: Neither_agree_nor_disagree

*My concerns about the way in which the then federal government handled the COVID 19 pandemic relate to: * the exclusion of key population groups from federal income support, including international students and people on temporary visas, temporary protection and other forms of insecure visas. This created extreme hardship for many and exposed individuals, families and communities to risk during a public health crisis. To some extent, this shortfall was met by state government funding support (in Victoria), including ensuring access for all people to vaccinations and public health care and monitoring, food and other material relief, limited financial support for international students, public funding of quarantine, sick pay for casuals and contract workers irrespective of visa status, funding of mental health support programs (again, not limited by visa status) and support for multicultural communities to improve*

*access to health care and effective communication and engagement. The extent to which the Victorian Government stepped up to meet this known federal shortfall is never acknowledged yet was vital for those who experienced extreme precarity during this time. * the slow rollout of vaccinations and failure to ensure supplies in a timely way which contributed to the length of public lockdowns which had to be enforced by state governments. Again, this is almost never mentioned in relation to the lockdowns in Victoria. * the politicisation of the pandemic by the federal government, including key federal ministers targeting Victoria and the Victorian Government even as we dealt with the intensity of this health crisis. This also included criticisms of compulsory vaccine mandates aimed at protecting vulnerable people at risk of contracting and even dying from Covid 19. I know of people who died during this time.   * the slow recognition by key federal government health advisory groups that the virus was airborne also undermined mask mandates. These mandates helped slow the spread of Covid and saved lives. In Victoria, Professor Brett Sutton was central to decision making in this regard, acting on the evidence, not the politics. But he was being undermined by federal government critics. * the failure to put in place federally funded quarantine facilities in a timely way. Hotel quarantine was funded by the states, yet early construction of facilities like the one eventually completed in Melbourne's northern suburbs would have provided a better experience for those who had to go through this, and would have enabled safe return from overseas. * threatening citizens and permanent residents from India with imprisonment if they sought to return was appalling   Finally, while I have criticisms as above with the federal response, at least the Australian government was forced to act early (by Victoria and NSW) in enacting the first lockdowns, saving lives, unlike in the UK where the Conservative government dithered and failed to recognise the risks to people's health of exposure to the virus, even adopting a policy of 'herd immunity' which exposed vulnerable populations to serious health impacts and early death. NHS advice did not even require people experiencing symptoms to get treatment from medical practitioners well into March 2020.   There is a lot of rewriting the history of the pandemic which plays down the seriousness of the situation we faced in being exposed to a virus for which at the time there was no vaccine. And the chronic pressures placed on the hospital system and health workers as the pandemic spread, causing high numbers of people to be hospitalised, including in intensive care.*

ON: Strongly_disagree

The crazy payments to business to shut 30% of their capacity. Including large company's that didn't need It even if these businesses were not forced to close Control of borders was reasonable but flooding the country with masses of cheap cash has caused a damaging asset boom especially in real estate and they were too slow to turn off the taps The toxic work from home culture has savaged Australian productivity

Coalition: Strongly_disagree

The State Gov'ts could NOT agree on a set of standard rules The Federal Gov't did NOT take control of the situation The "Pandemic" procedures were NEVER invoked - Why spend money developing something that they ignored? The "Health experts" could NOT agree - They quoted "science" that NEVER existed The

actions of Gov'ts did NOT change even after more information became available The Lockdowns should only be applied to the aged care homes The Covid injections should NOT have been mandatory People should NOT have lost their job if they refused to have the Covid shot.

ON: Strongly_disagree

COVID was handled appalling by all levels of government - federal, state, and local. It was a massive over-reaction which harmed countless people, wasted vast amounts of taxpayer money, empowered unelected bureaucrats to wield extraordinary harmful power from which they were personally immune from rebuke, terrified already timid people, and caused neighbours, friends, and families to turn against each other over a virus we hardly give a second thought to today.

Cosmopolitan: Disagree

The federal government (as distinguished from the States - I have opinions on their actions, too) acted too slowly to acquire vaccines, administered quarantine facilities very poorly, left universities to hang out to dry and cut out income support too soon. After initially acting in alignment with scientific advice, because they were too scared to do otherwise due to an information vacuum, they started to act in the interests of Big Business and to indulge their ideological prejudices.

ON Strongly_disagree

Everything about the so called "pandemic" was a panicked reaction to a novel flue virus that, while definitely had cause for concern, had no effective, scientific studies to support the measures taken. Unfortunately, Governments responded to guidelines, from now proven to be corrupt, official information and the giant pharmaceutical companies were given free range and authority to inject untested, dangerous medications into the masses..... all while making hundreds of billions of dollars out of the virus, all tax payer funded.

ON: Strongly_disagree

The Federal govt should have opposed the leftist Labor States lock downs and their selective oppression of protests, where BLM and Aboriginals could protest and violated Covid regulations against gathering, on the other end when consercatives opposed the lockdowns, they were shot at by Victorian Police with rubber bullets. In addittion the use by the Labor states Police heavy handness was authortarian, especially when they went to a pregnant womens house and manhandled her and took her to the Police station.

Grns: Agree

This was a unique situation for the government to deal with. No relevant precedences that were helpful for decision making. It's always easy to realize that certain issues could have been dealt with better, IN HINDSIGHT.   However, the question that has remained in my mind is whether relevant information was available to the government, but was not passed on to the population, eg about

alternative natural measures to protect us from the virus, as opposed to the vaccinations which were practically compulsory (eg if you were working anywhere were contact with other people was necessary, of if you wanted access to places you needed access to}. Therefore, there is a small question mark attached to my assessment.

ON: Strongly disagree

The government imposed restrictions and/or allowed state governments to do so that ruined the economy, caused many business failures or brought them to the brink. By printing money for all manner of handouts caused the excessive inflation that we have had for the past number of years. The imposed vaccine mandates that forced and coerced people to be vaccinated without informed consent due to threat of loss of job, not being able to participate in sports or other activities, caused an us and them society and fear in the fearful all for a disease that had in excess of 99.9% survival rate with the exception of the above 90 year old group, where it was around 95% who likely died of natural causes and just happened to test positive to Covid via an inaccurate PCR test run well above the cycle threshold to ensure higher positivity rate (should have run at around 20 cycles not the 30 to 45 cycles that they did). Most people who died typically had significant co-morbidities that were the main driver of death, however, because they tested positive it was construed that Covid was the cause and not something like the terminal cancer that they had or that they were morbidly obese, etc. The vaccine turned out to be a total dud that provided limited or no protection, resulted in heart conditions, autoimmune disease and other increased the rapidity of cancer progression in some, an unacceptable amount of people died from it, it was given to children who had zero risk. The government response caused so much harm, far worse than the disease could have, mental health issues, suicide, family breakups that are still not repaired, effected generations of education and still impacting to this today.   Politicians lied.   The government response was a total and utter failure.   It was why I as a long term Liberal voter I could not vote liberal for either the Federal or NSW State election since Covid, the only way I can if they acknowledge the harms they caused, the fact that they forced vaccination on people and that they will never do so again, ensuring legislation is adjusted to prevent this.

ALP: Disagree

Morrison was caught on the hop and shown up by the State Premiers. For example, when various states were closing things down, Morrison's aim was to see his football team play on the weekend. His government was also lax when organising vaccines and rolling them out, along with selective handouts to people - for example those 'stuck in Australia' without citizenship and a large section of the arts and education industries were not given the same financial assistance as others is what Morrison thoguht were more 'worthwhile' fields of endeavour.

ON: Strongly disagree

The government imposed restrictions and/or allowed state governments to do so that ruined the economy, caused many business failures or brought them to the brink. By printing money for all manner of handouts caused the excessive inflation

that we have had for the past number of years. The imposed vaccine mandates that forced and coerced people to be vaccinated without informed consent due to threat of loss of job, not being able to participate in sports or other activities, caused an us and them society and fear in the fearful all for a disease that had in excess of 99.9% survival rate with the exception of the above 90 year old group, where it was around 95% who likely died of natural causes and just happened to test positive to Covid via an inaccurate PCR test run well above the cycle threshold to ensure higher positivity rate (should have run at around 20 cycles not the 30 to 45 cycles that they did). Most people who died typically had significant co-morbidities that were the main driver of death, however, because they tested positive it was construed that Covid was the cause and not something like the terminal cancer that they had or that they were morbidly obese, etc. The vaccine turned out to be a total dud that provided limited or no protection, resulted in heart conditions, autoimmune disease and other increased the rapidity of cancer progression in some, an unacceptable amount of people died from it, it was given to children who had zero risk. The government response caused so much harm, far worse than the disease could have, mental health issues, suicide, family breakups that are still not repaired, effected generations of education and still impacting to this today.   Politicians lied.   The government response was a total and utter failure.   It was why I as a long term Liberal voter I could not vote liberal for either the Federal or NSW State election since Covid, the only way I can if they acknowledge the harms they caused, the fact that they forced vaccination on people and that they will never do so again, ensuring legislation is adjusted to prevent this.

ON: Strongly disagree

It was disgraceful that we had a federal government that refused entry of Australians back into their own country. It was disgraceful that we had a federal government that had soldiers on the street policing Australians and enforcing state border movement restrictions. And what about the debt that we've now burdened ourselves with? What do we have to show for that? And then we have the morality of vaccine mandates, covid passports, lockdowns, masks, adverse reactions, AHPRA, TGA etc etc...Sure, some of those were state issues, but they were clearly getting their cues from the federal government.   Its odd that you're asking about covid in 2025, but as someone who's business and financial position was destroyed by those government decisions and have close relatives that had severe adverse reactions to the vaccine that they felt forced to take, I'm still very passionate and angry about that time period.   Angus Taylor was in all those cabinet decisions. Did he agree with them, or did he choose to put his career first? Will anyone ever get an apology?

Grns: Neither agree nor disagree

I think it was mixed. There was a lot of confusion about vaccine availability, RAT availability, and masks. And people turned against each other over arguments about being vaccinated or not, the origins of the virus, etc. The vaccine also turned out not to be as efficient in preventing transmission as was thought. Given that the government mandated the vaccine and some people had to choose between being vaccinated and keeping their job, subsequently learning that it was not working in that capacity as well as was thought was disappointing to say

the least.   It was a difficult path to weave, given that the government needed to prevent as many deaths as possible from COVID but also not restrict people's freedoms and choices unnecessarily plus get accurate information out to the public as quickly as possible. Lots of balls in the air, as the saying goes.