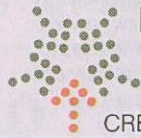


'Act now' on global warming



FUTURE SUMMIT
2006

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE

Sean Parnell

MORE than 70 per cent of Australians believe it is time to start addressing the consequences of global warming.

But while women and teenagers are the most concerned by global warming, conservative voters are the biggest skeptics.

A poll conducted for the upcoming Future Summit in Brisbane found 71 per cent of Australians felt that if authorities did not take action on global warming soon, it would be too late.

Concern among the public appeared to be increasing: Five months ago, 67 per cent of those polled believed it was time to take action on global warming.

But the Roy Morgan Poll also found 12 per cent felt global warming had been exaggerated, with Coalition and independent voters the least concerned by claims of rising temperatures and seas.

A similar proportion — 14 per cent — felt it was already too late.

While the views of city and country voters were not significantly different, the state-by-state breakdown revealed some disparities.

People in the resource-rich state of Queensland were the least likely to believe it was time for action (61 per cent), but also among the most likely to believe it was already too late (19 per cent).

Victorians were the most likely to believe global warming had been exaggerated (17 per cent) and Tasmanians the least likely, with 23 per cent believing the authorities had missed their chance to address the consequences.

Men were more skeptical of the theory of global warming than women, while teenagers were the most convinced (87 per cent) that it was time to take action.

Sustaining prosperity in a warming world will be a key discussion point at the Future Summit on May 11 and 12. The summit, sponsored by *The Australian*, will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.