



REPORT

2015 Lowy Institute polling:  
Indonesia and the death penalty

May 2015

**LOWY INSTITUTE**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY

The Lowy Institute for International Policy is an independent policy think tank. Its mandate ranges across all the dimensions of international policy debate in Australia – economic, political and strategic – and it is not limited to a particular geographic region. Its two core tasks are to:

- produce distinctive research and fresh policy options for Australia's international policy and to contribute to the wider international debate.
- promote discussion of Australia's role in the world by providing an accessible and high-quality forum for discussion of Australian international relations through debates, seminars, lectures, dialogues and conferences.

## POLL QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

*The following results are drawn from The Lowy Institute Poll 2015, a nationally representative telephone survey of 1,200 Australian adults conducted between 20 February and 8 March 2015, with supplementary polling conducted by Newspoll on behalf of the Lowy Institute on 13-15 February (1,211 adults), and 1-3 May 2015 (1,213 adults). The error margin on each poll is approximately +/- 2.8%.*

*Lowy Institute Poll (LI Poll 2015): 20 Feb-8 Mar 2015 (sample: 1,200)*

*Lowy Institute/Newspoll (Newspoll): 13-15 Feb 2015 (sample: 1,211)*

*1-3 May 2015 (sample: 1,213)*

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO THE EXECUTION OF AUSTRALIANS OVERSEAS

**Table 1.** Two Australians, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, were executed this week in Indonesia following convictions for drug trafficking. The following is a list of possible ways for the Australian Government to respond when an Australian citizen is executed in another country as a result of a death penalty. Do you personally agree or disagree that the Australian Government should now...?

*[LI Poll 2015; Newspoll 1-3 May 2015; wording Newspoll as above; wording LI Poll 2015: “The following is a list of possible ways for the Australian Government to respond if an Australian citizen is executed in another country as a result of a death penalty. Do you personally agree or disagree that the Australian Government should ...?”]*

	Make private diplomatic protests		Recall Australia’s ambassador		Suspend Australian aid projects		Suspend military and law enforcement cooperation		Apply trade sanctions	
	LI Poll 2015	News-poll 1-3 May 2015	LI Poll 2015	News-poll 1-3 May 2015	LI Poll 2015	News-poll 1-3 May 2015	LI Poll 2015	News-poll 1-3 May 2015	LI Poll 2015	News-poll 1-3 May 2015
Agree	73%	59%	33%	42%	28%	28%	29%	27%	37%	24%
Disagree	24%	35%	60%	52%	68%	69%	65%	69%	57%	70%
Don’t know/no view	3%	5%	6%	7%	4%	4%	6%	5%	7%	7%

## DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA

**Table 2.** Following these executions, the Australian Government has said it will recall Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia. In your personal view, for how long should Australia suspend normal diplomatic relations with Indonesia?

	Newspoll 1-3 May 2015
For about one to four months only	51%
For about five to eight months	10%
For about nine to twelve months	12%
For more than a year	12%
None of these/other/don't know/no view	14%

## PUBLIC RESPONSE TO EXECUTIONS

**Table 3.** Following the executions in Indonesia this week of the two Australians, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, are you personally now more likely to do each of the following, less likely or will it make no difference?

	Travel to Bali or anywhere else in Indonesia	Buy Indonesian products
	Newspoll 1-3 May 2015	Newspoll 1-3 May 2015
Less likely	34%	25%
More likely	2%	1%
It will make no difference	63%	71%
Don't know/no view	2%	2%

## BUSINESS RESPONSE TO EXECUTIONS

**Table 4.** And following these executions in Indonesia do you personally think that Australian companies should be...?

	Newspoll 1-3 May 2015
Less willing to do business in Indonesia	20%
More willing to do business in Indonesia	2%
It should make no difference	76%
None/Don't know	3%

## THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

**Table 5.** Around the world, some countries do have a death penalty for drug trafficking, while other countries do not. In general, do you think the death penalty should or should not be used as a penalty for drug trafficking?

	Newspoll 13-15 Feb 2015	Newspoll 1-3 May 2015
Should not be used as a penalty for drug trafficking	69%	71%
Should be used as a penalty for drug trafficking	26%	25%
Don't know	6%	4%

## OPPOSITION TO THE EXECUTIONS OF ANDREW CHAN AND MYURAN SUKUMARAN

**Table 6.** In Indonesia, there is a death penalty for drug trafficking. Two Australian citizens, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, are currently facing execution in Indonesia following convictions for drug trafficking. Do you personally think that the executions of these two Australian citizens should or should not proceed?

	Newspoll 13-15 Feb 2015
Should not proceed	62%
Should proceed	31%
Don't know	8%

## ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY INTERNATIONALLY

**Table 7.** While many countries, including Australia, have abolished the death penalty, many others still apply the death penalty for certain offences. Do you personally think the Australian Government should or should not play an active role in pushing for the abolition of the death penalty internationally?

	LI Poll 2015	Newspoll 1-3 May 2015
Should play an active role	51%	51%
Should not play an active role	47%	45%
Don't know/no view	3%	3%

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