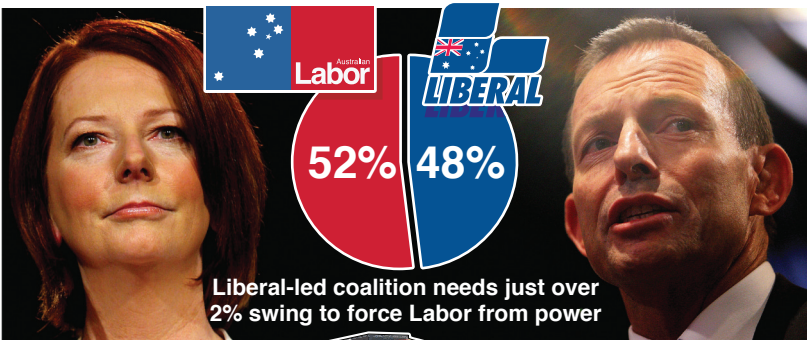


# Australia's divisive election issues

Australia's Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard and centre-right rival Tony Abbott are locked in a battle to win marginal seats where voters are focused on the divisive issues of mining tax, climate and immigration



**JULIA GILLARD**

**TONY ABBOTT**

■ **Taxes:** New 30% *Mineral Resources Rent Tax* on coal and iron ore mining profits. Tax will fund reduction in company tax from 30% to 29% for small businesses by 2012-13, and for big companies by 2014

■ **Deficit:** Return \$40.4 billion budget deficit to surplus by 2013

■ **Internet:** Build \$43bn fibre-optic high-speed *National Broadband Network*. NBN will give speeds up to 100 megabits per second (Mbps) to 93% of households

■ **Climate:** Cut carbon dioxide emissions by at least 5% by 2020. "Citizens' assembly" to vet proposed *Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)*. Boost solar power, "hot rocks" geothermal energy, and carbon capture and storage

■ **People:** All women to have right to take 18 weeks parental leave on minimum wage from January 2011. Cut immigration by about half by 2012



■ **Taxes:** No new mining tax. Cut company tax to 28.5% from 2013. Tax reform agenda to be unveiled within 12 months

■ **Deficit:** Plans for \$24 billion in cuts to restore budget to surplus within three years

■ **Internet:** Scrap NBN. Invest \$6bn in existing copper, cable and wireless technology to deliver broadband of at least 12 Mbps to 97% of homes

■ **Climate:** Match 5% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cut by 2020, but no ETS. \$1bn fund to help individuals and industry cut emissions. Plant 20 million trees to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from atmosphere. \$1,000 solar panel rebates to 1 million homes

■ **People:** Fund 26-week parental leave scheme on mother's full pay from new 1.5% tax on business. Cut immigration by about 40%