

Polling - Presents, waste and repairs

December 2017

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,417 Australians about presents, waste and repairs.

Gifts

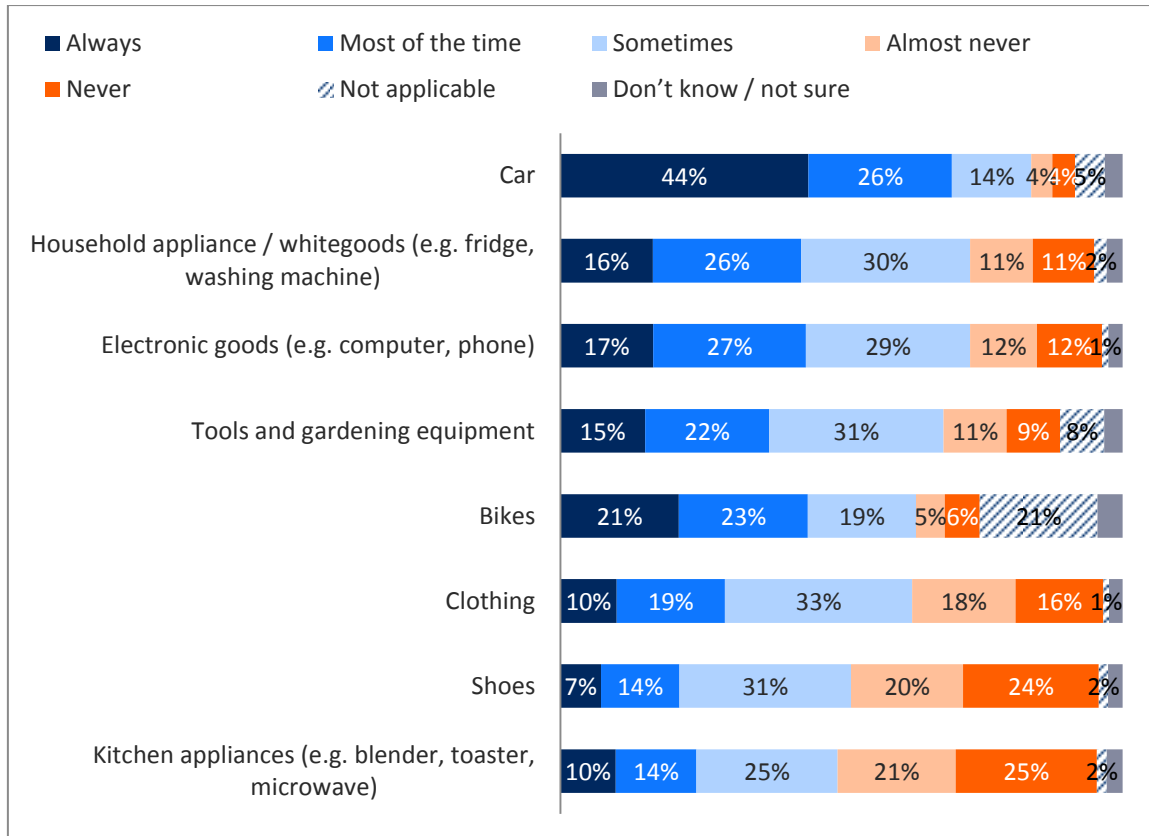
- Three quarters of respondents (75%) like to buy Christmas gifts
- However, 42% would prefer others not to buy them gifts, compared with 47% who disagreed with this idea.
- Around a third (31%) said they expect to get gifts they won't use or wear, compared with 41% who said they didn't.

Wasteful purchases and the economy

- Most (62%) disagree that buying stuff that doesn't get used is good way to create jobs and improve the lives of Australians.
- Around half (48%) agree it is better for the economy when people buy fewer things that don't get used, compared with a third (31%) who disagree.

Repairing instead of buying again

- Respondents were asked which items they repair (paid, or self-repair).
- For all items, half or more repair them at least "sometimes", but only a minority of people repair most items "most of the time" or "always".
 - Least often repaired are (always or most of the time):
 - kitchen appliances (24%);
 - shoes (21%);
 - and clothing (29%).
 - The exception is cars, which most people (70%) get repaired always or most of the time. (8% said they never or rarely fix their car.)

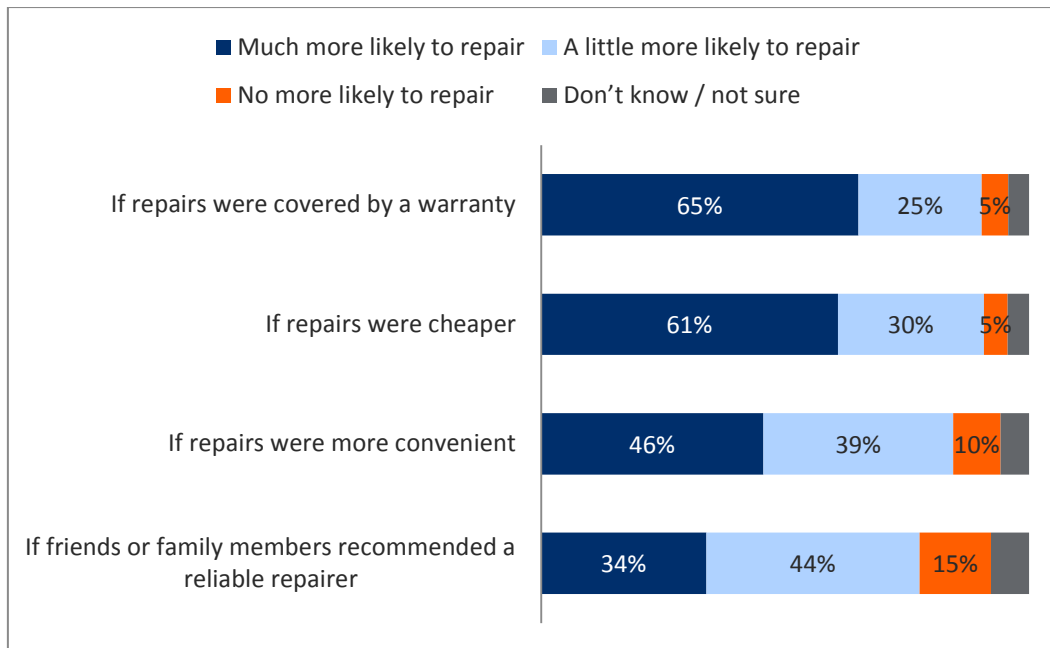


Self-repairs

- People on average chose close to three items they repair themselves *at least sometimes*.
- Most people don't fix most items themselves even "sometimes", but in each case some people do.
 - The most often self-mended items were clothing (49%), tools / gardening equipment (43%) and bikes (37%).
 - The least often were shoes (25%) and kitchen appliances (19%).
 - Men were more likely to fix a car, tools or bikes. Women were much more to fix clothes (61% female, 36% male).
- 12% never fixed items themselves but paid for repairs.

Why not repair more?

- Cost is the main reason discouraging people from repairing things (68%). Being unsure it will work was next (37%) and time and inconvenience (30%).
- People said they were much more likely to repair items if they were covered by a warranty (65%) or if repairs were cheaper (61%). Nearly everyone said they were at least a little more likely to repair for all options, including convenience and family or friend recommendations.



Support for measures to reduce waste

- Most people support measures to reduce waste and encourage repairs, with support in each case unusually strong. This included:
 - Taking GST off repairs (67% support, 33% strongly)
 - Increased mandatory warranties, even with higher upfront cost (75% support, 30% strongly)
 - A plastic bottle levy to fund a nationwide cleanup (70% support, 35% support)

Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1417 people between 5th and 7th of December 2017 online through Research Now with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory.

Results are shown only for larger states. Income crosstabs show household income. Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. "LNP" includes separate responses for Liberal and National. "Other" includes Nick Xenophon Team and Independent/Other.

Detailed Results

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

I like buying gifts for people at Christmas

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Total agree	75%	72%	79%	75%	77%	77%
Total disagree	20%	23%	17%	21%	18%	19%
Strongly agree	28%	23%	33%	29%	25%	30%
Agree	47%	49%	46%	46%	51%	47%
Disagree	14%	16%	11%	16%	11%	12%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%	6%	5%	7%	6%
Don't Know / not sure	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	5%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Total agree	83%	76%	71%	74%	63%	68%
Total disagree	15%	19%	24%	20%	28%	22%
Strongly agree	32%	27%	28%	27%	23%	21%
Agree	51%	49%	44%	46%	41%	47%
Disagree	11%	15%	18%	9%	16%	14%
Strongly Disagree	4%	5%	6%	11%	12%	7%
Don't Know / not sure	3%	5%	5%	6%	9%	10%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Total agree	72%	76%	80%	70%	74%
Total disagree	22%	19%	17%	25%	18%
Strongly agree	23%	29%	33%	26%	22%
Agree	48%	47%	46%	43%	52%
Disagree	14%	12%	14%	20%	12%
Strongly Disagree	9%	7%	4%	4%	7%
Don't Know / not sure	6%	5%	3%	6%	8%

I would prefer it if people did not buy me gifts at Christmas

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Total agree	42%	48%	37%	45%	42%	43%
Total disagree	47%	42%	52%	45%	48%	45%
Strongly agree	14%	16%	11%	16%	12%	13%
Agree	29%	32%	26%	29%	30%	30%
Disagree	35%	32%	39%	35%	35%	36%
Strongly Disagree	12%	10%	13%	10%	14%	9%
Don't Know / not sure	11%	10%	11%	10%	10%	12%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Total agree	38%	45%	46%	41%	43%	36%
Total disagree	53%	45%	42%	47%	43%	44%
Strongly agree	11%	12%	20%	16%	16%	9%
Agree	27%	32%	26%	25%	27%	27%
Disagree	41%	32%	34%	36%	34%	35%
Strongly Disagree	13%	13%	8%	11%	9%	9%
Don't Know / not sure	9%	10%	13%	11%	14%	20%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Total agree	43%	45%	41%	46%	36%
Total disagree	45%	47%	50%	43%	46%
Strongly agree	16%	12%	15%	14%	9%
Agree	27%	33%	27%	33%	27%
Disagree	32%	34%	39%	33%	38%
Strongly Disagree	13%	13%	11%	11%	8%
Don't Know / not sure	12%	9%	9%	10%	18%

This year do you expect to get Christmas presents that you will never use or wear?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Yes	31%	30%	32%	30%	35%	29%
No	41%	40%	42%	43%	38%	44%
I don't receive Christmas presents	12%	13%	11%	11%	13%	11%
Don't know / not sure	16%	17%	15%	15%	15%	16%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Yes	35%	32%	29%	26%	27%	27%
No	43%	39%	43%	40%	39%	31%
I don't receive Christmas presents	7%	13%	12%	11%	19%	17%
Don't know / not sure	15%	16%	15%	23%	14%	24%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Yes	24%	30%	34%	45%	29%
No	39%	43%	44%	41%	32%
I don't receive Christmas presents	21%	11%	9%	4%	11%
Don't know / not sure	16%	16%	13%	10%	28%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

Buying things that don't get used is a good way to create jobs and improve the lives of Australians.

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Total agree	23%	26%	21%	21%	25%	24%
Total disagree	62%	60%	63%	66%	58%	60%
Strongly agree	5%	6%	4%	5%	5%	3%
Agree	18%	20%	17%	16%	20%	21%
Disagree	38%	36%	41%	44%	34%	36%
Strongly Disagree	24%	24%	23%	22%	24%	24%
Don't Know / not sure	15%	14%	16%	13%	16%	16%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Total agree	27%	25%	22%	16%	15%	18%
Total disagree	62%	57%	65%	64%	69%	57%
Strongly agree	6%	4%	7%	4%	3%	2%
Agree	21%	21%	15%	12%	12%	16%
Disagree	41%	36%	37%	41%	36%	38%
Strongly Disagree	22%	20%	28%	23%	33%	19%
Don't Know / not sure	10%	18%	12%	20%	15%	24%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Total agree	24%	26%	24%	20%	17%
Total disagree	62%	59%	64%	67%	57%
Strongly agree	6%	5%	5%	5%	2%
Agree	18%	21%	18%	15%	16%
Disagree	37%	39%	40%	36%	36%
Strongly Disagree	25%	20%	24%	32%	22%
Don't Know / not sure	14%	15%	12%	12%	26%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

It is better for the economy when people buy fewer things that don't get used.

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Total agree	48%	50%	46%	51%	49%	45%
Total disagree	31%	31%	31%	30%	30%	34%
Strongly agree	12%	13%	11%	13%	14%	12%
Agree	36%	37%	35%	39%	36%	33%
Disagree	24%	23%	24%	25%	22%	26%
Strongly Disagree	7%	8%	7%	5%	9%	8%
Don't Know / not sure	21%	19%	23%	19%	20%	21%

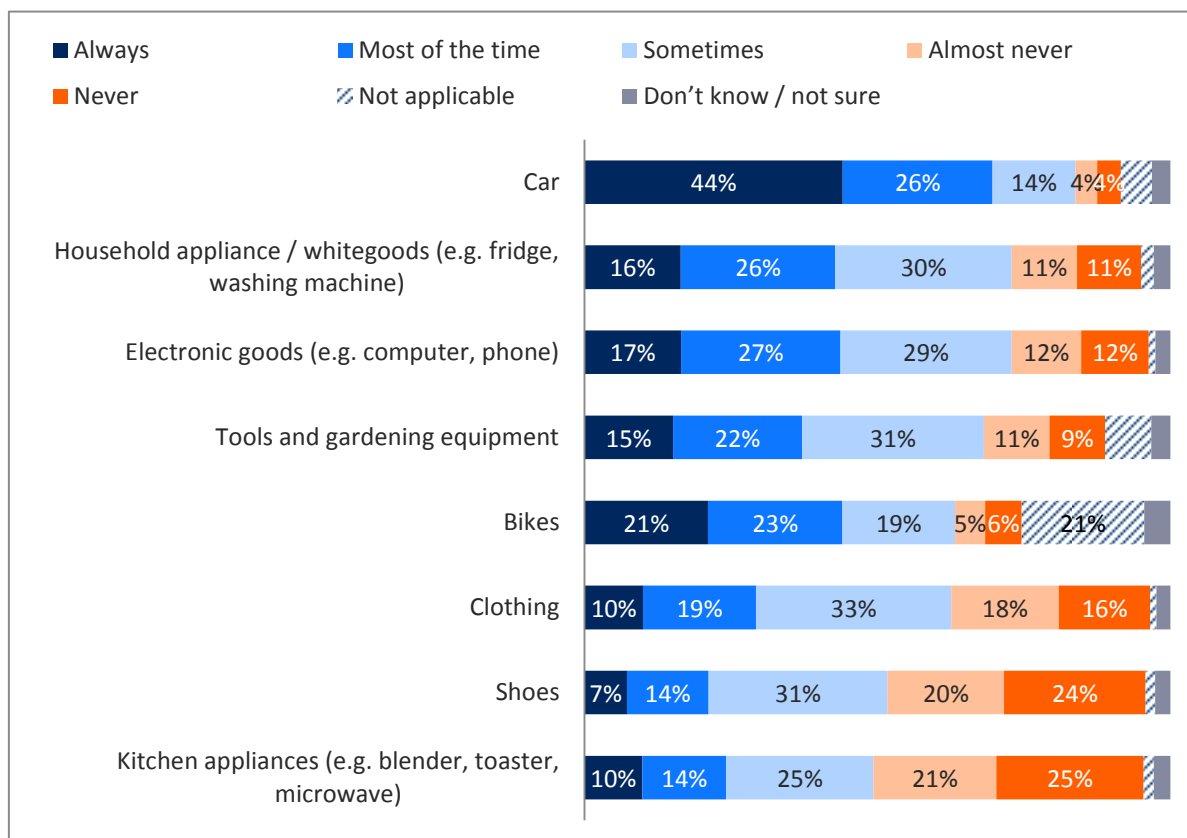
	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Total agree	50%	46%	53%	41%	50%	42%
Total disagree	33%	31%	24%	40%	27%	27%
Strongly agree	10%	11%	17%	9%	17%	7%
Agree	40%	35%	36%	32%	32%	35%
Disagree	25%	25%	18%	26%	21%	21%
Strongly Disagree	8%	7%	6%	14%	6%	6%
Don't Know / not sure	18%	22%	24%	19%	24%	31%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Total agree	50%	47%	47%	41%	52%
Total disagree	29%	32%	33%	38%	23%
Strongly agree	14%	10%	12%	14%	10%
Agree	37%	37%	35%	28%	42%
Disagree	20%	25%	25%	28%	20%
Strongly Disagree	9%	7%	8%	9%	3%
Don't Know / not sure	20%	21%	20%	21%	25%

How often would you try to repair the following, when they break or became worn out –repairing them yourself or paying someone to repair them – instead of throwing out and replacing with new goods? I try to repair rather than replace.....

(Options presented in randomised order)

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Almost never	Never	N/A	Don't know / not sure
Kitchen appliances (e.g. blender, toaster, microwave)	10%	14%	25%	21%	25%	2%	3%
Bikes	21%	23%	19%	5%	6%	21%	4%
Shoes	7%	14%	31%	20%	24%	2%	3%
Clothing	10%	19%	33%	18%	16%	1%	2%
Electronic goods (e.g. computer, phone)	17%	27%	29%	12%	12%	1%	3%
Car	44%	26%	14%	4%	4%	5%	3%
Household appliance / whitegoods (e.g. fridge, washing machine)	16%	26%	30%	11%	11%	2%	3%
Tools and gardening equipment	15%	22%	31%	11%	9%	8%	3%



Which of the following do you try to repair yourself (not pay for repairs) at least sometimes? Select all that apply

(Options presented in randomised order)

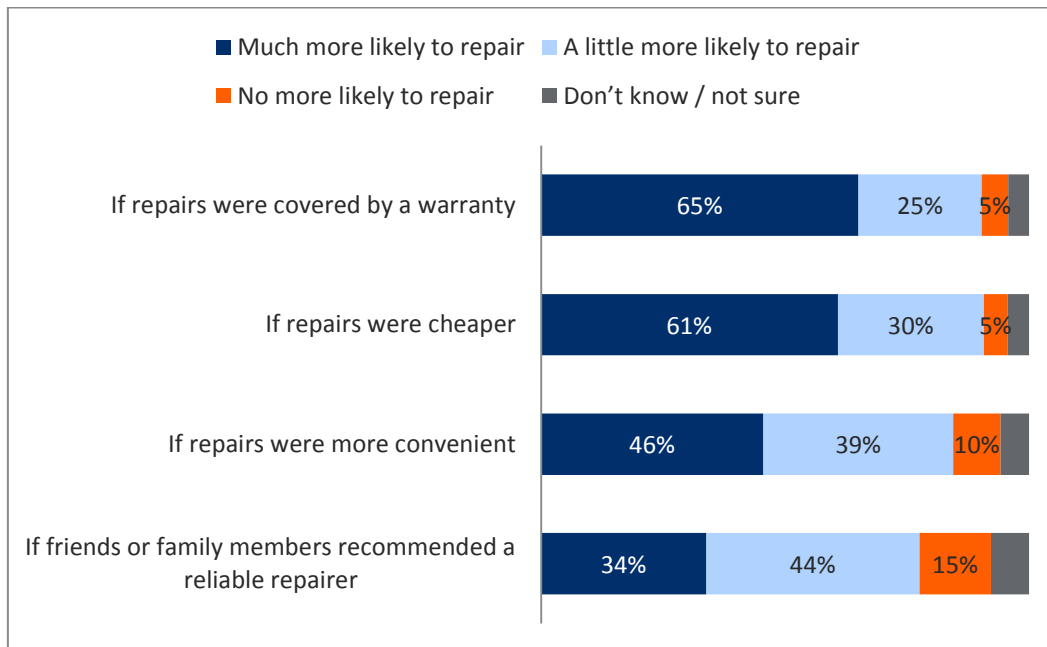
	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Clothing	49%	36%	61%	48%	46%	50%
Tools and gardening equipment	43%	50%	35%	41%	40%	44%
Bikes	37%	47%	27%	30%	31%	47%
Car	31%	41%	22%	29%	26%	35%
Electronic goods (e.g. computer, phone)	30%	36%	24%	25%	28%	31%
Shoes	25%	25%	24%	19%	20%	33%
Household appliance / whitegoods (e.g. fridge, washing machine)	21%	26%	17%	18%	18%	24%
Kitchen appliances (e.g. blender, toaster, microwave)	19%	25%	14%	18%	17%	19%
None of the above	12%	11%	14%	15%	12%	11%
Don't know / not sure	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%
<i>Average selected</i>	2.69	2.99	2.39	2.46	2.41	2.96

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Clothing	51%	50%	42%	53%	53%
Tools and gardening equipment	45%	45%	42%	46%	33%
Bikes	37%	33%	43%	42%	28%
Car	38%	31%	32%	28%	21%
Electronic goods (e.g. computer, phone)	31%	32%	27%	28%	31%
Shoes	27%	23%	22%	28%	28%
Household appliance / whitegoods (e.g. fridge, washing machine)	20%	21%	22%	27%	17%
Kitchen appliances (e.g. blender, toaster, microwave)	19%	20%	19%	23%	16%
None of the above	13%	11%	12%	17%	11%
Don't know / not sure	2%	1%	3%	0%	5%
<i>Average selected</i>	2.82	2.67	2.63	2.91	2.43

Which of the following would make you more likely to get things repaired? If so, how much more likely?

(Options randomised)

	Much more likely to repair	A little more likely to repair	No more likely to repair	Don't know / not sure
If repairs were cheaper	61%	30%	5%	4%
If repairs were more convenient	46%	39%	10%	6%
If repairs were covered by a warranty	65%	25%	5%	4%
If friends or family members recommended a reliable repairer	34%	44%	15%	8%



At present the goods and services tax (GST) of 10 per cent is levied on most goods and services including the repair of household goods and appliances. Would you support or oppose the removal of the GST on such repairs?

		Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
	Total support	67%	63%	71%	68%	65%	69%
	Total oppose	19%	25%	12%	17%	21%	18%
	Strongly support	33%	33%	34%	36%	34%	31%
	Support	33%	30%	37%	32%	31%	37%
	Oppose	13%	17%	10%	11%	16%	12%
	Strongly oppose	5%	8%	3%	6%	5%	6%
	Don't know / not sure	15%	12%	17%	14%	14%	14%

		LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
	Total support	62%	72%	68%	67%	62%	59%
	Total oppose	27%	15%	15%	18%	17%	15%
	Strongly support	29%	35%	35%	43%	29%	26%
	Support	32%	37%	33%	24%	33%	33%
	Oppose	19%	10%	14%	16%	10%	12%
	Strongly oppose	8%	5%	1%	2%	7%	3%
	Don't know / not sure	12%	14%	17%	15%	21%	27%

		<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
	Total support	70%	70%	66%	61%	57%
	Total oppose	16%	18%	22%	28%	12%
	Strongly support	36%	36%	32%	30%	27%
	Support	34%	34%	34%	30%	31%
	Oppose	11%	14%	17%	13%	10%
	Strongly oppose	5%	4%	5%	14%	2%
	Don't know / not sure	14%	11%	12%	12%	31%

Would you support or oppose requiring companies that manufacture or import household goods or appliances to offer longer warranties and be responsible for repairing items they sell, even if this makes goods a bit more expensive upfront?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Total support	75%	76%	75%	77%	76%	74%
Total oppose	11%	12%	10%	10%	11%	12%
Strongly support	30%	31%	28%	31%	30%	27%
Support	46%	45%	46%	46%	46%	47%
Oppose	9%	9%	8%	9%	8%	10%
Strongly oppose	2%	2%	2%	0%	4%	2%
Don't know / not sure	14%	13%	16%	13%	12%	14%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Total support	80%	76%	72%	72%	70%	63%
Total oppose	10%	11%	12%	9%	11%	8%
Strongly support	28%	30%	28%	33%	32%	20%
Support	52%	46%	45%	39%	38%	43%
Oppose	8%	9%	10%	9%	7%	5%
Strongly oppose	2%	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%
Don't know / not sure	10%	13%	16%	19%	19%	29%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Total support	72%	77%	80%	75%	69%
Total oppose	10%	13%	9%	12%	8%
Strongly support	29%	30%	32%	30%	24%
Support	43%	46%	48%	45%	44%
Oppose	8%	11%	8%	8%	8%
Strongly oppose	2%	2%	2%	4%	0%
Don't know / not sure	18%	10%	11%	12%	23%

Would you support or oppose a new levy on plastic bottles to fund a nationwide clean up of our cities, rivers and oceans?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld
Total support	70%	67%	74%	67%	70%	71%
Total oppose	21%	25%	17%	26%	21%	20%
Strongly support	35%	33%	36%	32%	37%	35%
Support	36%	34%	37%	35%	34%	37%
Oppose	14%	15%	12%	16%	12%	12%
Strongly oppose	8%	10%	5%	10%	9%	8%
Don't know / not sure	8%	8%	9%	7%	9%	9%

	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other	Undec
Total support	71%	72%	79%	54%	69%	62%
Total oppose	22%	20%	12%	40%	17%	16%
Strongly support	30%	37%	51%	21%	35%	24%
Support	41%	35%	28%	33%	34%	38%
Oppose	16%	14%	9%	19%	9%	12%
Strongly oppose	7%	7%	3%	21%	8%	4%
Don't know / not sure	7%	7%	10%	6%	14%	22%

	<\$40k	\$40-80k	\$80-150k	\$150+	Not sure /say
Total support	72%	70%	73%	65%	66%
Total oppose	18%	24%	21%	31%	17%
Strongly support	37%	30%	40%	39%	25%
Support	36%	40%	33%	26%	41%
Oppose	12%	15%	14%	17%	10%
Strongly oppose	6%	9%	7%	14%	7%
Don't know / not sure	10%	7%	6%	4%	18%