

Polling - Stage 3 tax cuts and revenue

October 2023

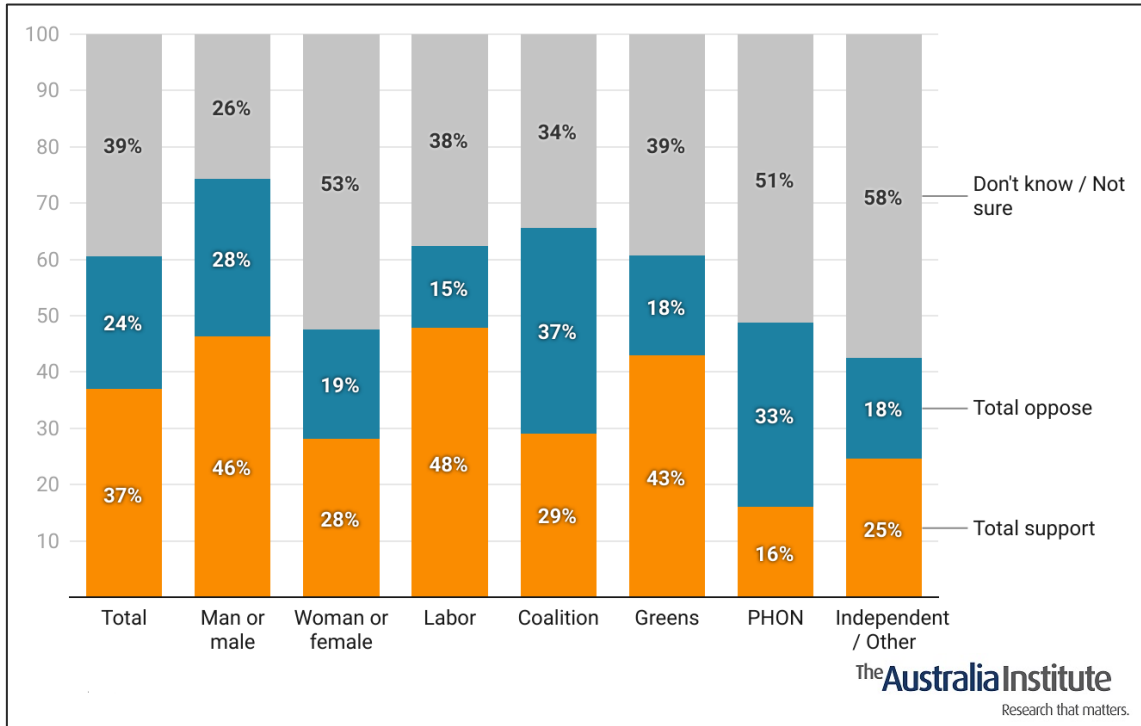
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a sample of 1,600 Australians about their attitudes on the Stage 3 income tax cuts and whether Australian government tax and spending policies should be more like those of other countries.

The results show that:

- Two out of 5 Australian voters (39%) have no fixed views on the Stage 3 tax cuts despite it being less than 9 months until they commence.
- When given information on the costs and who benefits from the Stage 3 tax cuts, more than two-thirds would either prefer to see them restructured cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more or scrapped entirely.
- The most popular response of voters (44%) was for the Stage 3 cuts to be restructured while, while a quarter (25%) would still prefer them scrapped.
- After being informed of the costs and who benefits from the Stage 3 cuts, less than a fifth (17%) of Australian voters preferred keeping them unchanged.
- Australian voters across all genders, age groups, states and voting intentions including among Coalition and One Nation voters preferred restructuring the tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more rather than keeping the Stage 3 cuts in their current form.
- Only about one in eight Australians (13%) would prefer for Australian government policies to be more like the United States (lower tax revenues and less spending on public services).
- Australian voters across all political party supports would prefer government policies to be more like Nordic countries (higher tax revenues and higher public service spending) than the United States (lower tax, less public services).

Figure 1. Would you support or oppose the Labor Government repealing the Stage 3 income tax cuts?

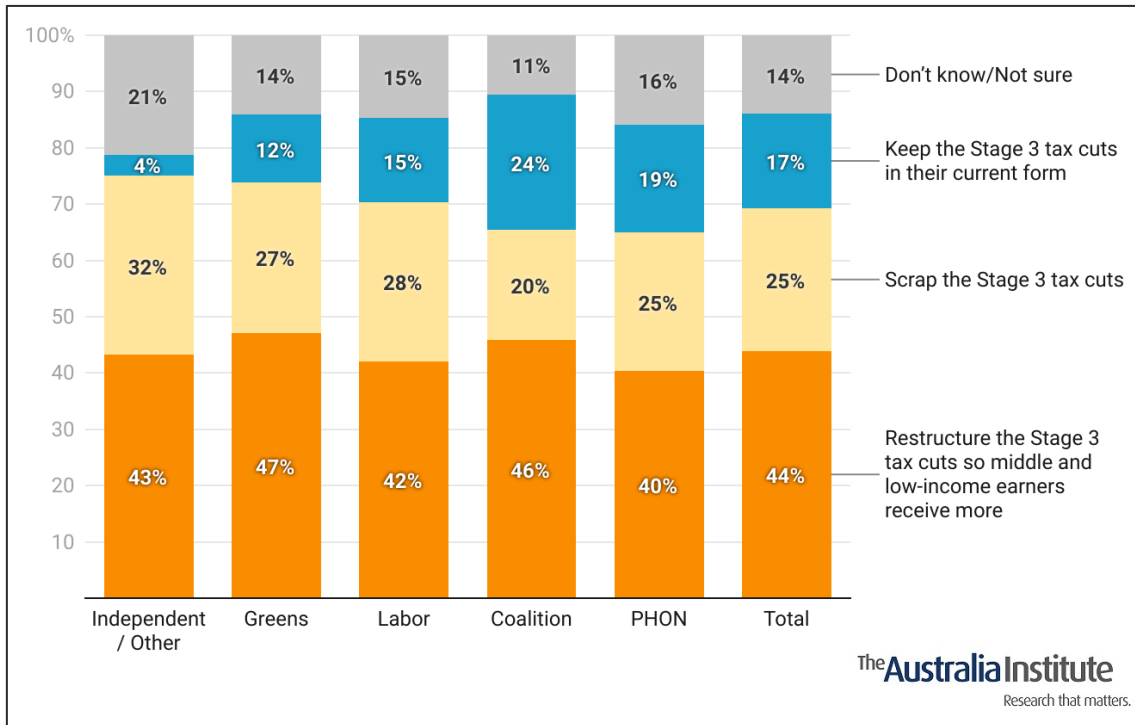


Respondents were asked whether they supported the repeal of the Stage 3 tax cuts, further information was not provided for this question. Nearly four in 10 Australians either “don’t know” or are “unsure” whether they support this repeal, indicating a plurality of Australian voters have yet to form a fixed opinion on the Stage 3 tax cuts with less than 9 months until they commence.

Across all genders, ages, states, and voting intentions voters were more supportive of replacing the Stage 3 tax cuts than they were opposed, except for Coalition and One Nation voters. However more than half of One Nation voters did not know or were unsure.

Just over three quarters of voters (76%) either supported the Stage 3 tax cuts being repealed or had no opinion.

Figure 2. The stage 3 income tax cuts will cost the budget \$313 billion over the next 10 years and will mostly benefit high income earners. Which would you prefer?

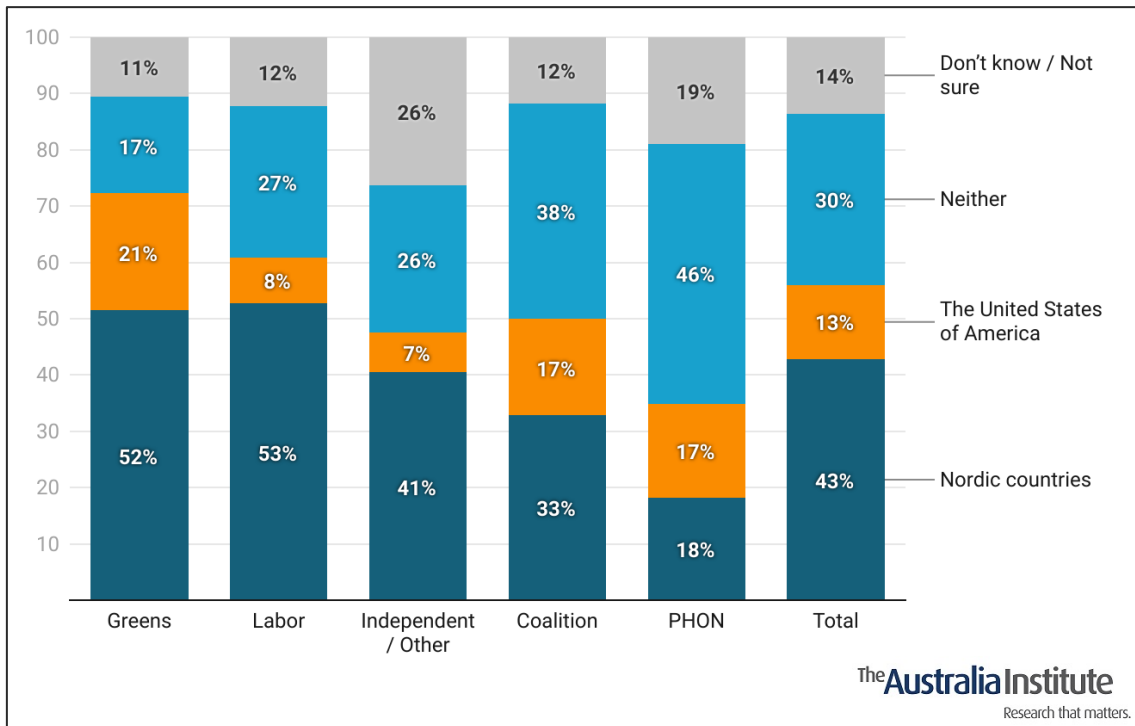


On being informed of the costs and who benefits from the Stage 3 tax cuts more Australians (44%) prefer restructuring the cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more than any other option. This is consistent across genders, age groups, and voting intentions. Only one in six (17%) Australians would prefer keeping the tax cuts in their current form.

Australian voters prefer scrapping the tax cuts over keeping them (25% against 17%) and across voting intentions except among Coalition voters. However, of Coalition voters only about a quarter (24%) prefer keeping the stage 3 tax cuts in their current form, compared to nearly half (46%) who would prefer to see them restructured.

Women were much more in favour of restructuring Stage 3 than men (48% compared to 40%), while men were more slightly in favour of scrapping Stage 3 (27% to 24%), although the difference is within the margin of error. Restructuring the Stage 3 cuts was also the most favoured response across voters in all states, ranging from 43% in NSW to 46% in Victoria.

Figure 3. Compared with the Australian government, Nordic governments (like Norway, Sweden and Denmark) collect higher levels of tax revenue and spend more on public services, while the government of the United States of America collects less tax revenue and spends less on public services. Would you prefer the Australian government policies to be more like those in:



When provided with details on the tax and spending policies used in other countries, more than two in five (43%) of Australians would prefer Australian government policies to be more like those in Nordic countries, which have higher levels of tax revenues and more spending on public services. Only one in eight (13%) Australians would prefer Australian government policies to be more like the United States, which collects less tax revenue and spends less on public services. More Australians would prefer Australian government policies to be more like Nordic countries than the United States regardless of gender, age, state, or voting intentions. About one in three (33%) of Coalition voters would prefer the Australian government policies to be more like those in the Nordic countries.

The results were not correlated with age, with 18-29 year olds being the most in favour (49%) of Nordic style policies, while those aged over 60 were the age group next most in favour of such policies (45%).

Method

Between 3 and 9 October 2023, The Australia Institute surveyed 1,002 adults living in Australia, online through Dynata’s panel, with nationally representative samples by gender, age group and state/territory. A further 472 South Australians and 126 Queenslanders were sampled to produce more precise results, but weighting was used to ensure that people from these states were not over-represented in national results.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs.

The research is compliant with the [Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards](#). The long methodology disclosure statement follows.

Long disclosure statement

The results were weighted by three variables (gender and age group and state or territory) based on Australian Bureau of Statistics [“National, state and territory population”](#) data, using the raking method. Those who answered the gender identity question as “Non-binary”, “I use a different term”, or “Prefer not to answer” had their responses included with females for the purpose of reporting, due to constraints from weighting data availability. This resulted in an effective sample size of 1179.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the national results is $\pm 3\%$.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting intention questions appeared just after the initial demographic questions, before policy questions. Respondents who answered “Don’t know / Not sure” for voting intention were then asked a leaning question; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. “Coalition” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” refers to Independent/Other, and minor parties in cases where they were included in the voting intention but represent too small a sample to be reported separately in the crosstabs.



**Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark**

Detailed results

No preceding questions in the poll are expected to have influenced the results of the questions published here.

Would you support or oppose the Labor Government repealing the Stage 3 income tax cuts?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Man or male</i>	<i>Woman or female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	18%	25%	11%	15%	18%	15%	21%
Support	19%	21%	17%	22%	19%	17%	16%
Oppose	15%	17%	13%	15%	19%	16%	12%
Strongly oppose	9%	11%	6%	10%	9%	9%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	39%	26%	53%	37%	35%	44%	48%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Strongly support	18%	23%	18%	14%	19%	17%
Support	19%	21%	22%	19%	12%	19%
Oppose	15%	13%	14%	16%	14%	17%
Strongly oppose	9%	5%	8%	8%	11%	10%
Don't know / Not sure	39%	38%	37%	43%	44%	37%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
Strongly support	18%	25%	12%	21%	8%	11%
Support	19%	23%	17%	22%	8%	13%
Oppose	15%	11%	23%	11%	15%	12%
Strongly oppose	9%	4%	14%	7%	18%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	39%	38%	34%	39%	51%	58%

The stage 3 income tax cuts will cost the budget \$313 billion over the next 10 years and will mostly benefit high income earners. Which would you prefer?

Response options were presented in random order.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Man or male</i>	<i>Woman or female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form	17%	24%	10%	18%	15%	15%	16%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	44%	40%	48%	43%	46%	45%	44%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	25%	27%	24%	22%	25%	32%	24%
Don't know/Not sure	14%	9%	19%	17%	13%	9%	16%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form	17%	26%	20%	19%	14%	9%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	44%	50%	46%	40%	38%	44%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	25%	12%	19%	26%	32%	35%
Don't know/Not sure	14%	13%	15%	15%	16%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
Keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form	17%	15%	24%	12%	19%	4%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	44%	42%	46%	47%	40%	43%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	25%	28%	20%	27%	25%	32%
Don't know/Not sure	14%	15%	11%	14%	16%	21%

Compared with the Australian government, Nordic governments (like Norway, Sweden and Denmark) collect higher levels of tax revenue and spend more on public services, while the government of the United States of America collects less tax

revenue and spends less on public services. Would you prefer the Australian government policies to be more like those in:

Response options were presented in random order.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Man or male</i>	<i>Woman or female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Nordic countries	43%	42%	44%	42%	43%	40%	45%
The United States of America	13%	16%	10%	15%	13%	11%	12%
Neither	30%	31%	30%	31%	30%	34%	30%
Don't know / Not sure	14%	11%	17%	13%	14%	15%	13%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Nordic countries	43%	49%	37%	38%	42%	45%
The United States of America	13%	25%	18%	14%	4%	6%
Neither	30%	16%	29%	31%	40%	36%
Don't know / Not sure	14%	10%	16%	17%	14%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
Nordic countries	43%	53%	33%	52%	18%	41%
The United States of America	13%	8%	17%	21%	17%	7%
Neither	30%	27%	38%	17%	46%	26%
Don't know / Not sure	14%	12%	12%	11%	19%	26%