

Polling - Stage 3 tax cuts and election promises

January 2024

Key results

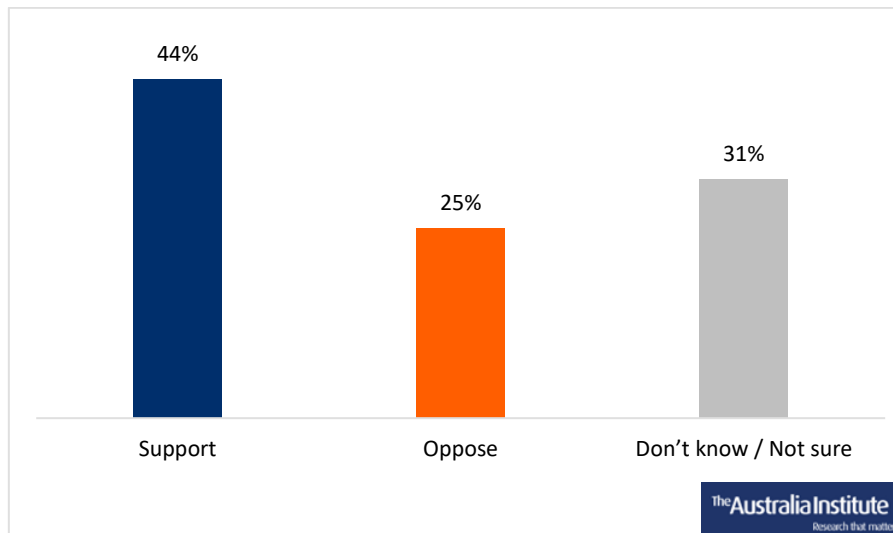
The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,017 Australians about their attitudes on the Stage 3 tax cuts, restructuring or scrapping the cuts, and views on the importance of keeping election promises.

The survey took place from Tuesday 23 January 2024 to Monday 29 January 2024, on Thursday 25 January the Prime Minister officially announced changes to the stage 3 tax cuts.

The results show that:

- Two in three Australians (65%) think it is more important to adapt economic policy to suit the changing circumstances even if that means breaking an election promise, than keep an election promise regardless of how economic circumstances have changed. Majority support is observed across all age groups, genders, voting intentions, and large states.
- Nearly six in 10 Australians (58%) prefer for the Stage 3 tax cuts to be restructured so middle and low-income earners receive more.
- Restructuring the stage 3 tax cuts is the most preferred option across all age groups, genders, voting intentions, and large states.
- One in six (16%) Australians would prefer to keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form than scrap or restructure them, this includes only one in four (25%) Coalition voters and one in three (32%) people earning over \$200,000.

Figure 1. Support for repealing the stage 3 tax cuts



Respondents were asked whether they would support or oppose the Labor Government repealing the Stage 3 income tax cuts. Further information was not provided for this question. Over four in ten (44%) Australians supported repealing the Stage 3 tax cuts whilst only one in four (25%) opposed repeal. A significant proportion of voters (31%) did not know or were unsure, particularly among certain groups such as Independent/Other voters (52%).

Across all genders, ages, large states, incomes and voting intentions voters were more supportive of repealing the Stage 3 tax cuts than they were opposed, except for among One Nation voters. However nearly four in ten (39%) of One Nation voters did not know or were unsure.

Figure 2. Support for repealing the stage 3 tax cuts, by voting intention

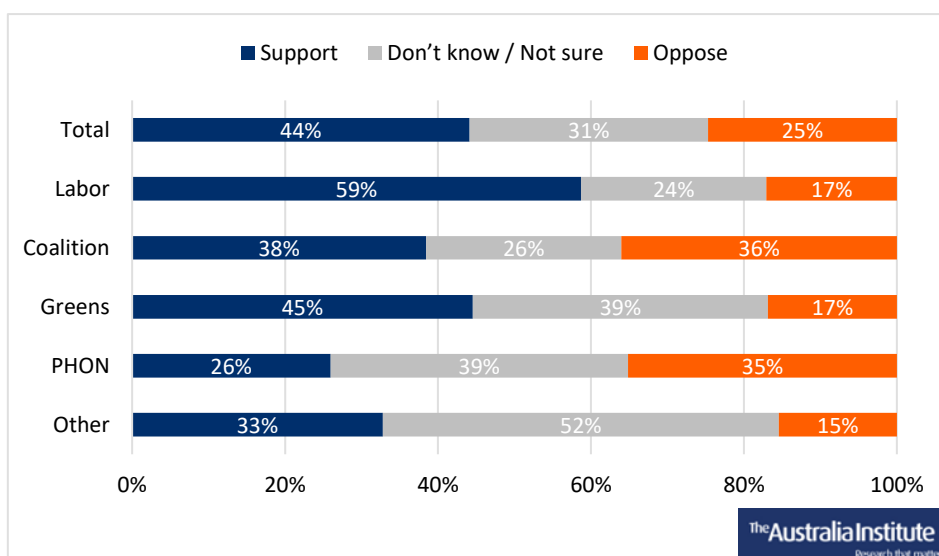
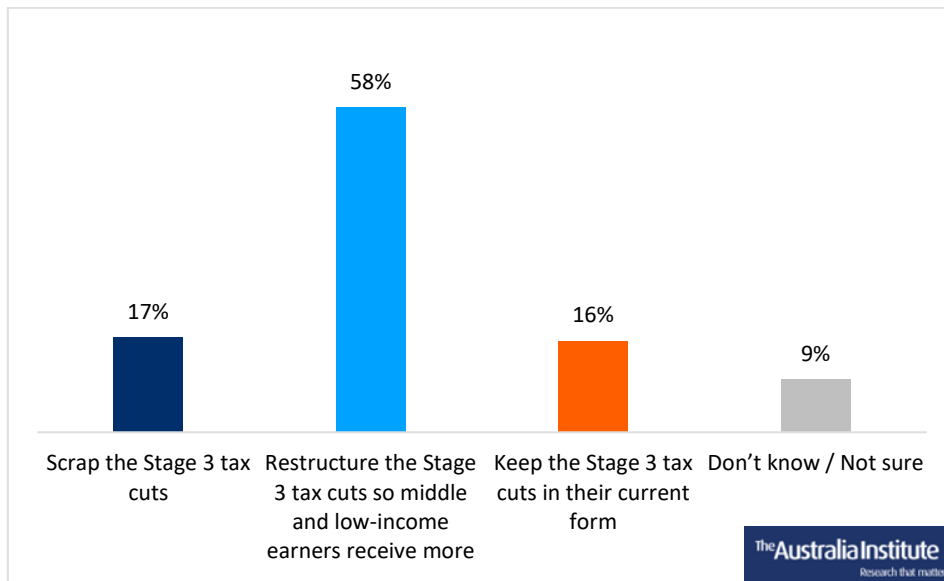


Figure 3. Preferred approach to stage 3 tax cuts

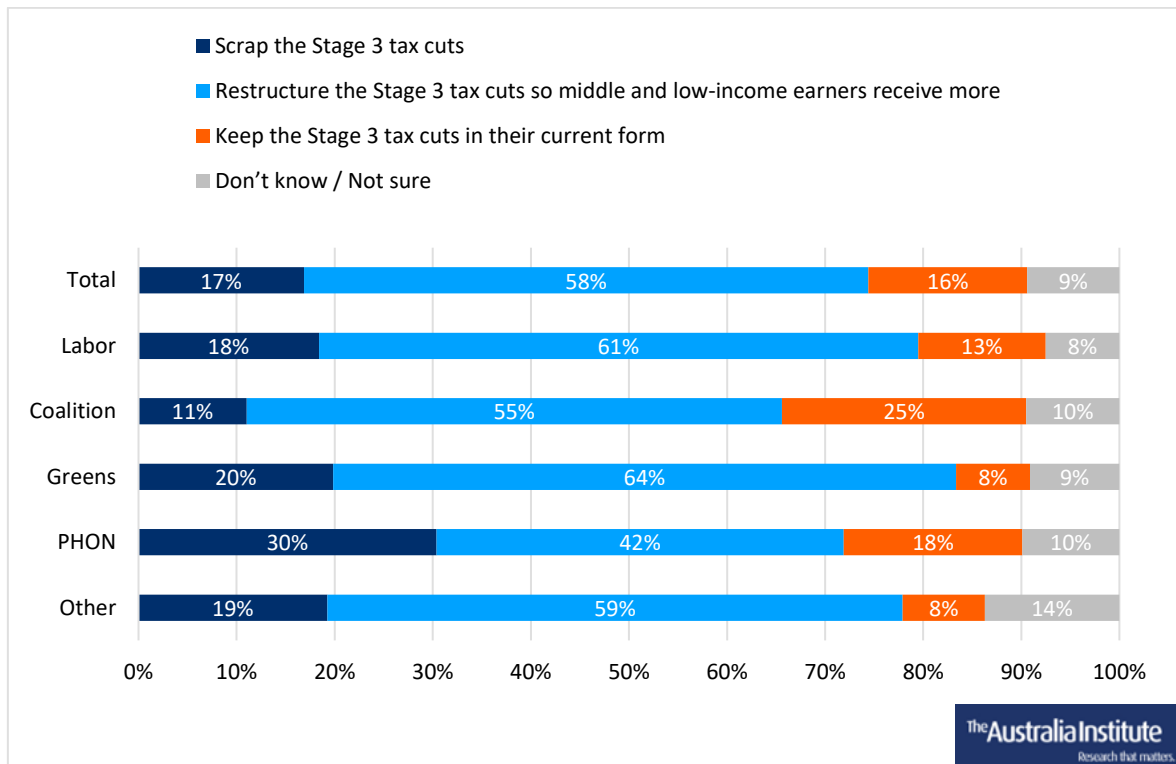


Respondents received the following standalone prompt:

The Stage 3 income tax cuts will cost the budget \$319 billion over the next 10 years and will mostly benefit high income earners.

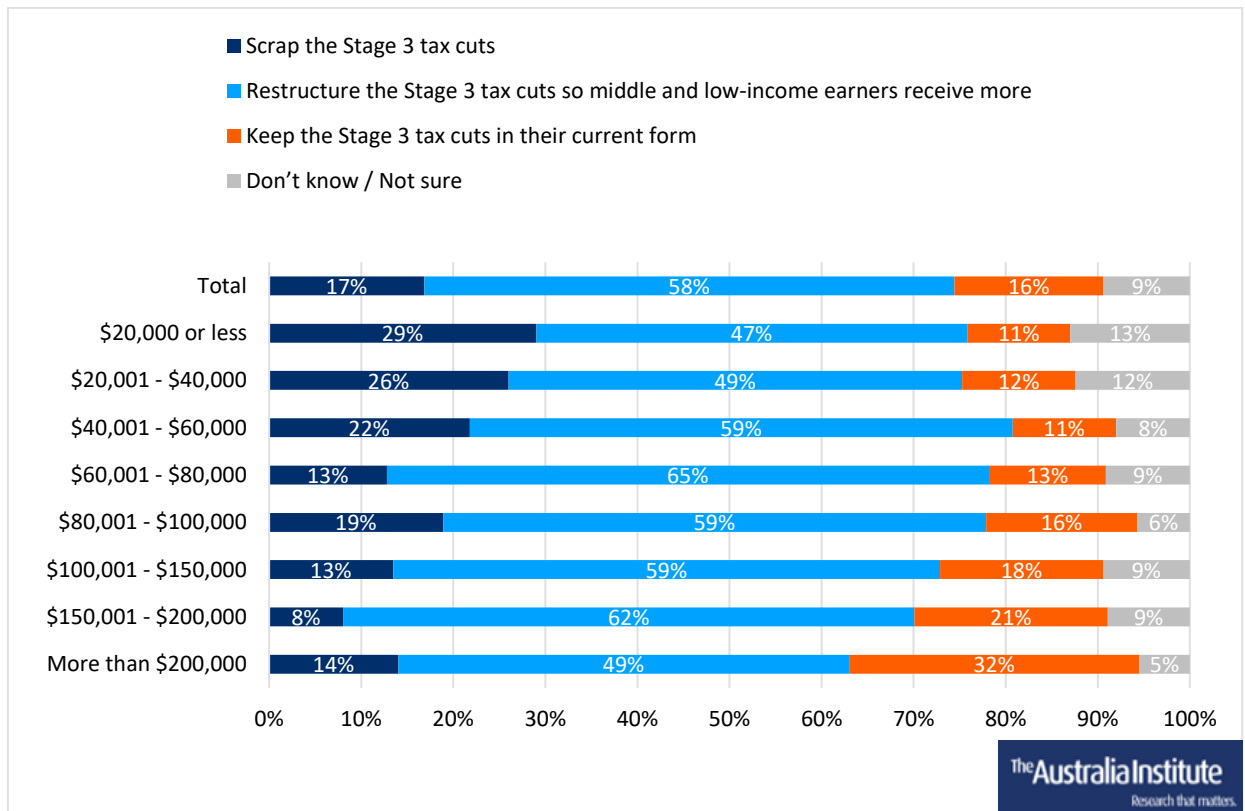
Respondents were then asked “of the following options, which would you prefer” and then provided with the options of keeping the tax cuts in their current form, restructuring the tax cuts so middle and low-income receive more or scrapping the tax cuts. Almost six in ten Australians (58%) prefer restructuring the cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more. This is consistent across all age groups, genders, voting intentions, and large states.

Figure 4. Preferred approach to stage 3 tax cuts, by voting intention



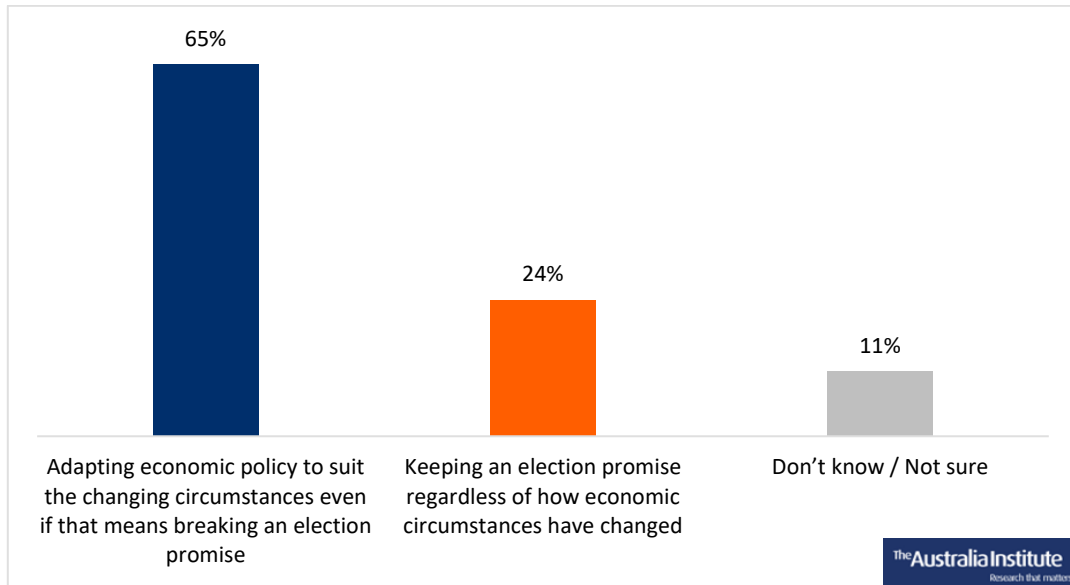
A majority of voters across all voting intentions prefer restructuring the Stage 3 tax cuts, except for One Nation voters for which 42% supported restructure while 30% supported scrapping the tax cuts. About one in six (16%) Australians would prefer keeping the tax cuts in their current form than scrap or restructure them, this includes only one in four (25%) Coalition voters.

Figure 5. Preferred approach to stage 3 tax cuts, by income bracket



There was some trend for people on higher incomes to be more likely to support keeping the stage 3 tax cuts in their current form, however nearly half (49%) of those earning more than \$200,000 per year support restructuring the tax cuts, while one in three (32%) of this income bracket supported keeping the tax cuts in their current form.

Figure 6. Relative importance of election promises and adapting economic policy



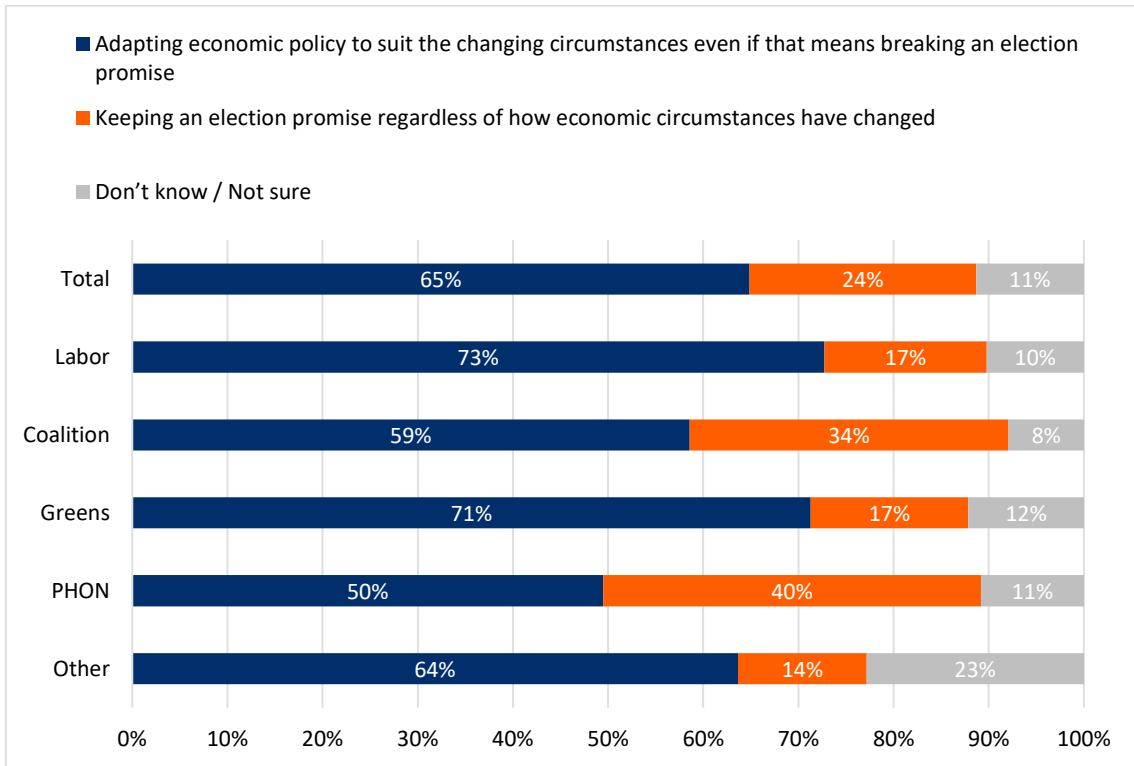
Respondents were shown:

Some have called for the Labor Government to repeal or restructure the Stage 3 income tax cuts because economic circumstances have changed since they were legislated. During the election Labor committed to keep the tax cuts.

They were then asked what they thought was more important.

Nearly two in three (65%) of Australians believe that adapting economic policy to suit changing circumstances is more important even if that means breaking an election promise. This was consistent across all age groups, genders, voting intentions, and large states.

Figure 7. Relative importance of election promises and adapting economic policy, by voting intention



Only one in three (34%) Coalition voters and one in four (26%) of those earning over \$200,000 per year believe that it is more important to keep an election promise regardless of how economic circumstances have changed.

Method

Short disclosure statement

Research company	The Australia Institute
Client commissioning the research	NA
End client	NA
Fieldwork dates	23 January 2024 to 29 January 2024
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from research panel
Target population	Australian adults aged 18+
Sample size	1,017
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
Voting intention published	Yes
Long disclosure statement	See below

Long disclosure statement

Effective sample size after weighting applied	1004
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	±3%
Variables used in weighting	Age, gender, state or territory based on Australian Bureau of Statistics “National, state and territory population” data
Gender identity categorisation	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
Weighting method used	Raking method
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below
Source of online sample	Dynata’s online panel
Positioning of voting intention questions in questionnaire	Immediately after demographics, before policy questions
How were undecided voters handled?	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
Method of calculating 2PP	NA
Voting intention categorisation	Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives. “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
Location results	Results are shown only for larger states



**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>18–29</i>	<i>30–39</i>	<i>40–49</i>	<i>50–59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Strongly support	17%	22%	12%	15%	17%	15%	19%	19%
Support	27%	28%	25%	28%	32%	26%	23%	26%
Oppose	14%	15%	13%	15%	16%	8%	14%	16%
Strongly oppose	11%	14%	8%	4%	5%	11%	19%	14%
Don't know / Not sure	31%	20%	42%	38%	30%	40%	25%	26%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	17%	18%	21%	14%	14%
Support	27%	27%	30%	23%	21%
Oppose	14%	15%	13%	16%	13%
Strongly oppose	11%	12%	8%	12%	12%
Don't know / Not sure	31%	28%	28%	34%	41%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	17%	25%	11%	20%	17%	11%
Support	27%	33%	27%	24%	9%	22%
Oppose	14%	12%	20%	15%	9%	5%
Strongly oppose	11%	5%	16%	2%	26%	10%
Don't know / Not sure	31%	24%	26%	39%	39%	52%

	<i>Total</i>	\$0-20k	\$20-40k	\$40-60k	\$60-80k	\$80-100k	\$100-150k	\$150-200k	Over 200k
Strongly support	17%	20%	11%	18%	16%	19%	18%	21%	20%
Support	27%	30%	27%	26%	28%	27%	31%	27%	27%
Oppose	14%	5%	15%	10%	15%	16%	15%	15%	15%
Strongly oppose	11%	10%	10%	6%	7%	11%	14%	9%	18%
Don't know / Not sure	31%	34%	38%	39%	34%	26%	22%	28%	20%

There was a standalone prompt preceding this question which read:

The Stage 3 income tax cuts will cost the budget \$319 billion over the next 10 years and will mostly benefit high income earners.

Of the following options, 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>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	16%	21%	12%	13%	17%	13%	20%	18%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	58%	53%	62%	62%	62%	57%	52%	56%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	17%	19%	15%	16%	12%	19%	16%	20%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	8%	11%	10%	9%	11%	12%	7%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form	16%	21%	13%	16%	12%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	58%	55%	59%	60%	60%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	17%	16%	16%	15%	18%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	8%	11%	9%	10%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Other</i>
Keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form	16%	13%	25%	8%	18%	8%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	58%	61%	55%	64%	42%	59%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	17%	18%	11%	20%	30%	19%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	8%	10%	9%	10%	14%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>\$0-20k</i>	<i>\$20-40k</i>	<i>\$40-60k</i>	<i>\$60-80k</i>	<i>\$80-100k</i>	<i>\$100-150k</i>	<i>\$150-200k</i>	<i>Over 200k</i>
Keep the Stage 3 tax cuts in their current form	16%	11%	12%	11%	13%	16%	18%	21%	32%
Restructure the Stage 3 tax cuts so middle and low-income earners receive more	58%	47%	49%	59%	65%	59%	59%	62%	49%
Scrap the Stage 3 tax cuts	17%	29%	26%	22%	13%	19%	13%	8%	14%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	13%	12%	8%	9%	6%	9%	9%	5%

Some have called for the Labor Government to repeal or restructure the Stage 3 income tax cuts because economic circumstances have changed since they were legislated. During the election Labor committed to keep the tax cuts. Which do you think is more important?

Response options were presented in random order.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Man or male</i>	<i>Woman or female</i>	<i>18–29</i>	<i>30–39</i>	<i>40–49</i>	<i>50–59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Keeping an election promise regardless of how economic circumstances have changed	24%	28%	20%	24%	23%	21%	28%	24%
Adapting economic policy to suit the changing circumstances even if that means breaking an election promise	65%	63%	67%	64%	68%	65%	57%	68%
Don't know / Not sure	11%	9%	14%	12%	10%	14%	15%	8%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Keeping an election promise regardless of how economic circumstances have changed	24%	25%	26%	21%	22%
Adapting economic policy to suit the changing circumstances even if that means breaking an election promise	65%	63%	65%	67%	68%
Don't know / Not sure	11%	12%	9%	12%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
Keeping an election promise regardless of how economic circumstances have changed	24%	17%	34%	17%	40%	14%
Adapting economic policy to suit the changing circumstances even if that means breaking an election promise	65%	73%	59%	71%	50%	64%
Don't know / Not sure	11%	10%	8%	12%	11%	23%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>\$0-20k</i>	<i>\$20-40k</i>	<i>\$40-60k</i>	<i>\$60-80k</i>	<i>\$80-100k</i>	<i>\$100-150k</i>	<i>\$150-200k</i>	<i>Over 200k</i>
Keeping an election promise regardless of how economic circumstances have changed	24%	18%	30%	17%	24%	25%	24%	24%	26%
Adapting economic policy to suit the changing circumstances even if that means breaking an election promise	65%	64%	57%	69%	65%	70%	65%	68%	65%
Don't know / Not sure	11%	18%	13%	15%	11%	5%	11%	7%	8%