

Polling - Better economic managers?

May 2019

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of Australians about whether they think that the Coalition or the Labor Party are the better economic manager when in government in general, and for 21 particular economic issues.

Results show that the Coalition is considered the better economic manager in general by 44% of Australians, compared to 30% for the Labor Party.

However, when asked about specific issues, the Labor Party are considered better managers for nine economic issues, compared to seven for the Coalition.

Respondents were asked which political party is the better economic manager when in government.

- There was a significant difference in responses by age.
 - People aged 18–24 years and people aged 25–34 years said that the Labor Party is the better economic manager
 - The other age groups (35–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–65 years and 65 years and over) said that the Coalition is the better economic manager.
- Over two in five (44%) Australians said that the Coalition is the better economic manager when in government, compared to almost a third (30%) who said that the Labor Party is the better economic manager.
- Voters for the Coalition, One Nation and Other were more likely to choose the Coalition as the better economic manager.
- Voters for Labor and the Greens were more likely to choose the Labor Party as the better economic manager.
- There was a significant gender difference in responses.
 - One in two men (51%) said that the Coalition is the better economic manager, compared to one in three (36%) women.
 - Women were split relatively evenly between the Coalition (36%), Labor (30%) and don't know/not sure (34%).

Figure 1: Better economic manager when in government (total and by gender)

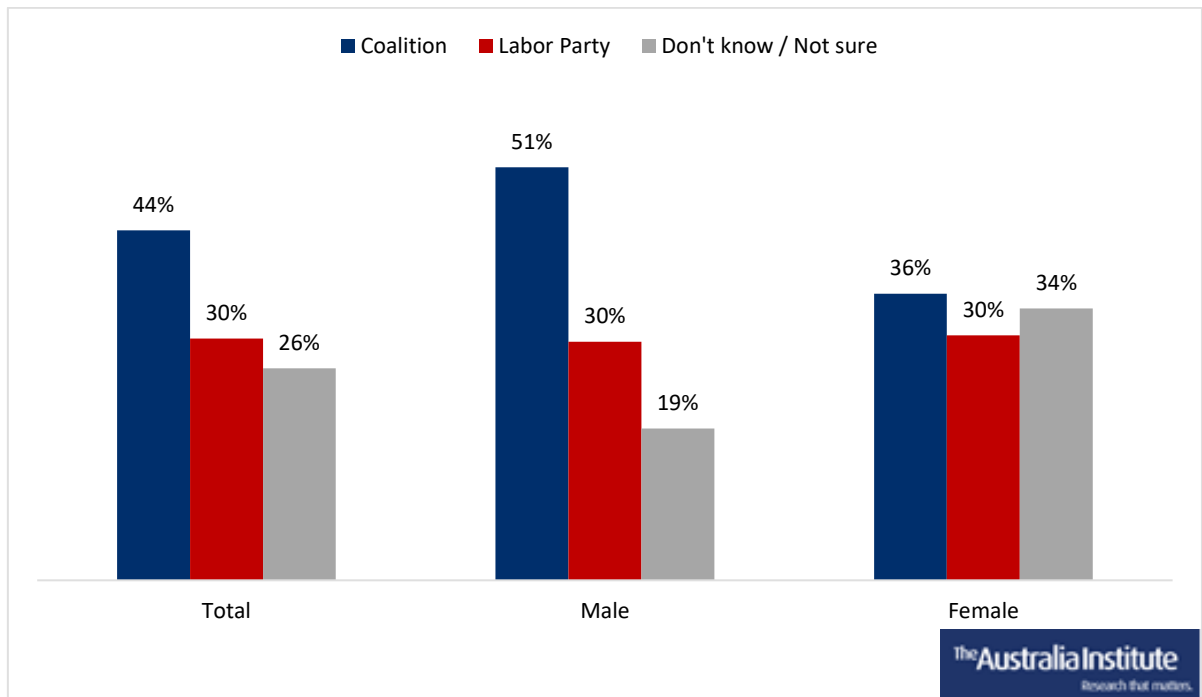
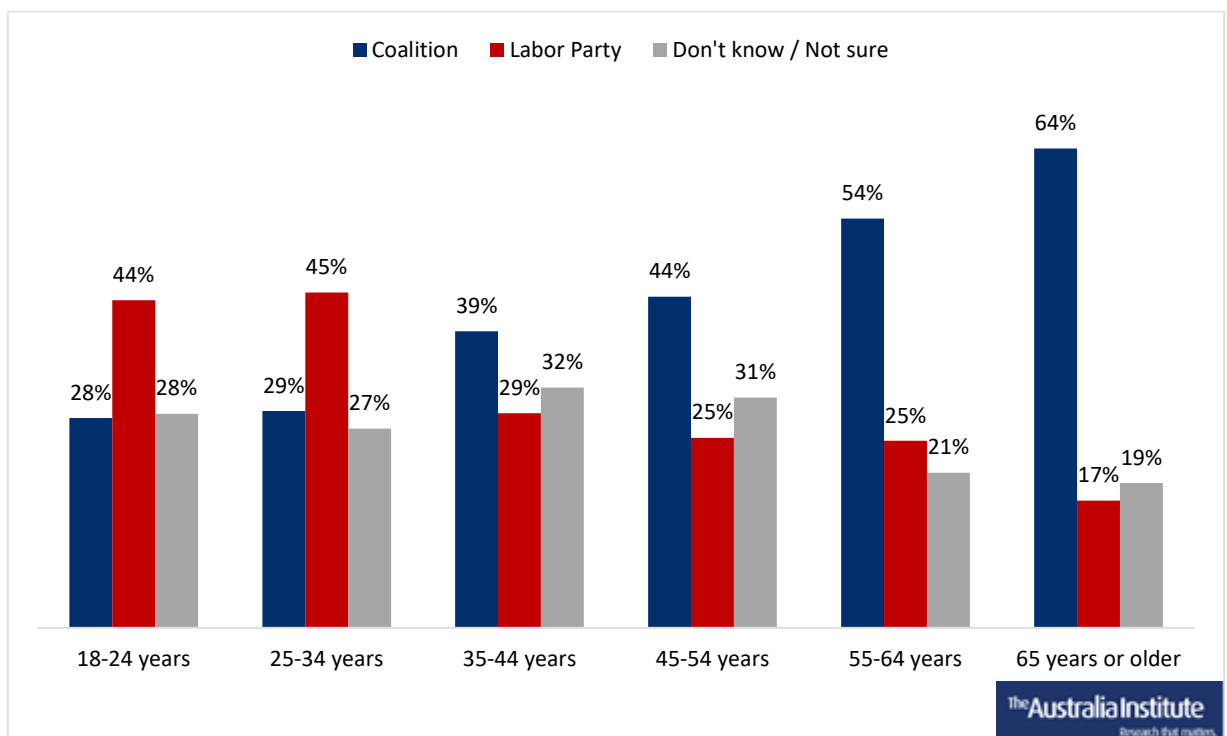


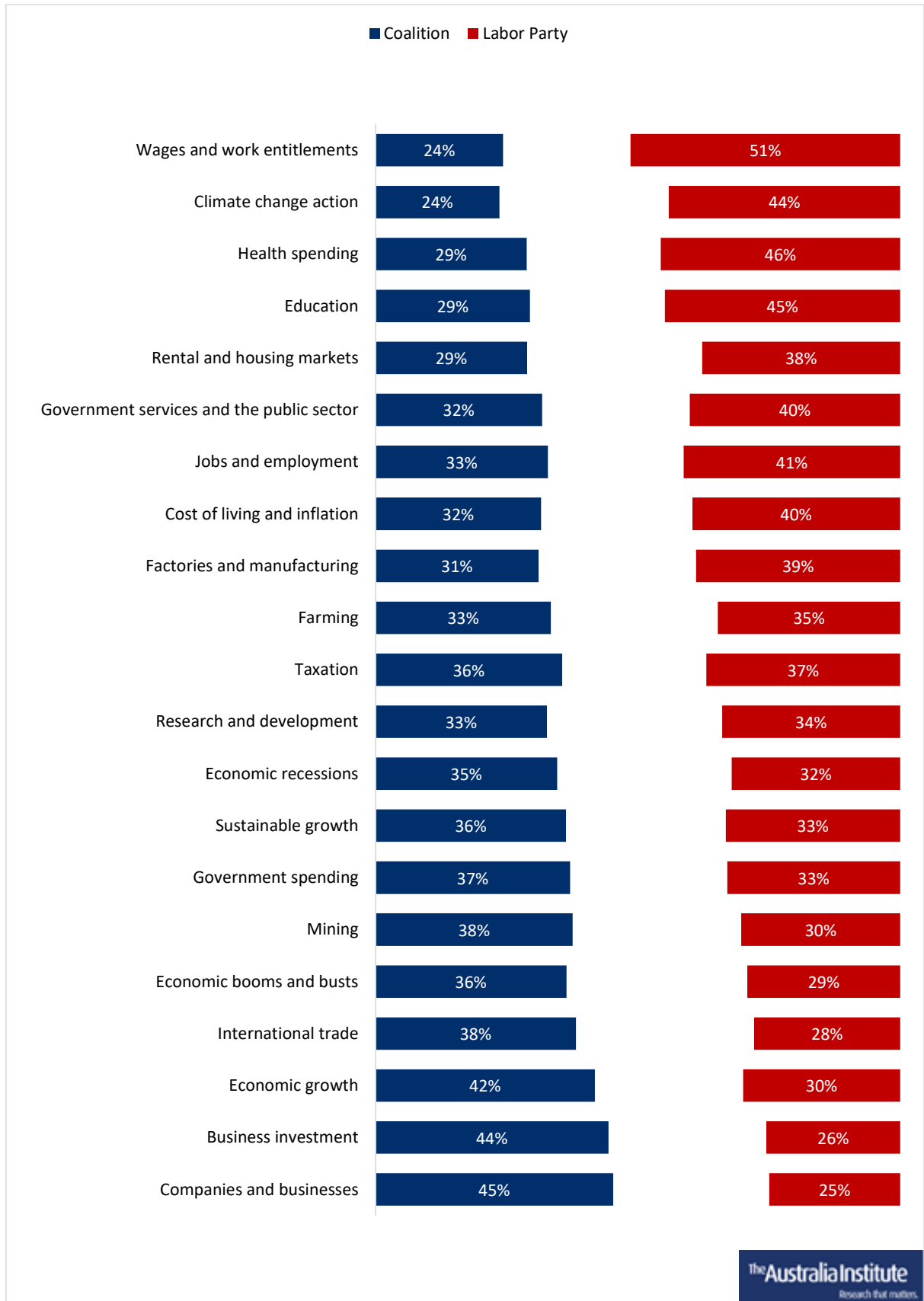
Figure 2: Better economic manager when in government (total and by age group)



Respondents were then asked whether the Coalition or Labor would be a better economic manager for each of 21 issues. There were sharp differences in responses depending on the issue.

- There was only one issue where the majority identified one party as the better economic manager: wages and work entitlements.
 - One in two Australians (51%) said that Labor was the better manager of wages and work entitlements, compared to one in four (24%) that said that the Coalition is the better manager.
- For nine issues, more Australians thought that Labor is the better manager. For seven issues, more Australians thought that the Coalition is the better manager.
 - This excludes the five issues where the difference between the two parties was equal to or less than the poll's margin of error (3%).
 - Labor was preferred for two of these issues, and the Coalition for three.
 - The Coalition was chosen over Labor as the better manager of companies and businesses (45% vs 25%), business investment (44% vs 26%), economic growth (42% vs 30%) and international trade (38% vs 28%).
 - Labor was chosen over the Coalition as the better manager of wages and work entitlements (51% vs 24%), climate change action (44% vs 24%), health spending (46% vs 29%) and education (45% vs 29%).
 - The Coalition was chosen over Labor as the better manager of economic booms and busts (36% vs 29%).
 - This suggests that Australians do not credit Labor with its management of the Global Financial Crisis.
 - Respondents also chose the Coalition over Labor as the better manager of economic recessions (35% vs 32%), although this is within the margin of error.
- The rate of those choosing "Don't know/Not sure" is high, ranging between 24% and 34%, suggesting that many respondents have not made up their minds on economic management.

Figure 3: Better economic manager by issue



Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,426 people between 11 April 2019 and 18 April 2019, online through Dynata (formerly Research Now) with nationally representative samples by gender, age, state and territory, and household income.

Results are shown only for larger states.

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 Centre Alliance, United Australia Party and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

Which political party would you say is the better economic manager when in government?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	44%	51%	36%	44%	39%	47%	45%
Labor Party	30%	30%	30%	30%	36%	27%	28%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	19%	34%	26%	25%	26%	27%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	44%	78%	16%	23%	53%	41%
Labor Party	30%	10%	59%	39%	11%	11%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	12%	26%	38%	36%	48%

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Coalition	44%	28%	29%	39%	44%	54%	64%
Labor Party	30%	44%	45%	29%	25%	25%	17%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	28%	27%	32%	31%	21%	19%

Which of the following political parties would be a better economic manager of the following:

Jobs and employment

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	33%	38%	28%	32%	30%	37%	40%
Labor Party	41%	42%	40%	43%	47%	36%	34%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	19%	32%	25%	23%	27%	26%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	33%	67%	9%	10%	38%	23%
Labor Party	41%	15%	72%	57%	19%	29%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	18%	19%	33%	43%	48%

Wages and work entitlements

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	24%	27%	22%	24%	21%	25%	32%
Labor Party	51%	54%	49%	51%	59%	48%	45%
Don't know / Not sure	24%	19%	29%	25%	21%	27%	23%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	24%	49%	6%	10%	31%	17%
Labor Party	51%	30%	77%	61%	31%	41%
Don't know / Not sure	24%	21%	16%	29%	38%	41%

Companies and businesses

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	45%	51%	40%	45%	41%	48%	49%
Labor Party	25%	25%	25%	26%	29%	23%	20%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	25%	35%	29%	30%	29%	31%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	45%	71%	28%	30%	48%	37%
Labor Party	25%	10%	45%	32%	7%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	19%	27%	38%	45%	48%

International trade

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	38%	45%	32%	38%	37%	38%	43%
Labor Party	28%	29%	27%	29%	31%	28%	23%
Don't know / Not sure	34%	26%	42%	33%	32%	34%	34%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	38%	73%	15%	14%	43%	28%
Labor Party	28%	7%	54%	38%	8%	17%
Don't know / Not sure	34%	20%	32%	48%	49%	55%

Cost of living and inflation

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	32%	36%	27%	32%	27%	32%	39%
Labor Party	40%	40%	40%	40%	47%	36%	34%
Don't know / Not sure	29%	25%	33%	28%	26%	32%	27%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	32%	64%	8%	13%	34%	23%
Labor Party	40%	15%	70%	50%	15%	28%
Don't know / Not sure	29%	20%	22%	37%	51%	48%

Economic booms and busts

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	36%	41%	32%	38%	32%	36%	44%
Labor Party	29%	33%	26%	29%	35%	28%	22%
Don't know / Not sure	34%	26%	43%	33%	33%	36%	35%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	36%	69%	14%	16%	38%	28%
Labor Party	29%	10%	55%	32%	12%	16%
Don't know / Not sure	34%	21%	30%	52%	50%	56%

Rental and housing markets

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	29%	35%	23%	30%	23%	32%	35%
Labor Party	38%	39%	37%	37%	46%	34%	33%
Don't know / Not sure	33%	26%	40%	32%	30%	34%	33%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	29%	60%	8%	12%	34%	14%
Labor Party	38%	15%	66%	45%	16%	28%
Don't know / Not sure	33%	25%	26%	43%	50%	58%

Economic recessions

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	35%	39%	31%	35%	30%	38%	40%
Labor Party	32%	36%	29%	32%	37%	30%	24%
Don't know / Not sure	33%	26%	41%	33%	32%	32%	36%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	35%	66%	15%	12%	42%	21%
Labor Party	32%	13%	56%	43%	12%	21%
Don't know / Not sure	33%	20%	30%	46%	46%	57%

Government spending

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	37%	42%	32%	37%	32%	41%	42%
Labor Party	33%	36%	30%	33%	38%	30%	29%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	22%	38%	30%	30%	29%	29%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	37%	69%	13%	13%	44%	34%
Labor Party	33%	12%	60%	48%	13%	17%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	20%	27%	39%	43%	49%

Mining

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	38%	43%	32%	37%	35%	40%	41%
Labor Party	30%	33%	28%	30%	36%	27%	29%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	24%	40%	33%	29%	33%	30%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	38%	64%	19%	23%	39%	30%
Labor Party	30%	14%	53%	36%	18%	16%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	22%	28%	41%	43%	54%

Farming

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	33%	39%	28%	33%	31%	32%	39%
Labor Party	35%	36%	33%	35%	41%	34%	26%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	25%	39%	32%	29%	33%	35%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	33%	65%	12%	11%	45%	22%
Labor Party	35%	12%	62%	47%	13%	25%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	23%	27%	42%	42%	53%

Factories and manufacturing

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	31%	37%	25%	30%	31%	34%	33%
Labor Party	39%	41%	37%	40%	44%	35%	32%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	22%	38%	30%	25%	31%	35%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	31%	60%	12%	14%	39%	17%
Labor Party	39%	18%	64%	46%	16%	33%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	22%	23%	40%	45%	50%

Economic growth

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	42%	47%	36%	43%	37%	44%	45%
Labor Party	30%	32%	28%	29%	35%	27%	25%
Don't know / Not sure	28%	20%	36%	28%	28%	29%	30%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	42%	77%	15%	20%	52%	35%
Labor Party	30%	9%	60%	32%	7%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	28%	15%	24%	48%	41%	50%

Sustainable growth

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	36%	42%	31%	38%	31%	41%	37%
Labor Party	33%	35%	31%	32%	40%	30%	27%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	23%	38%	30%	29%	29%	37%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	36%	70%	12%	14%	44%	30%
Labor Party	33%	11%	63%	45%	7%	18%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	19%	25%	41%	49%	52%

Taxation

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	36%	40%	31%	35%	34%	39%	40%
Labor Party	37%	39%	35%	38%	42%	32%	35%
Don't know / Not sure	27%	21%	34%	27%	25%	30%	24%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	36%	69%	12%	14%	41%	25%
Labor Party	37%	12%	68%	49%	12%	24%
Don't know / Not sure	27%	19%	20%	37%	47%	51%

Health spending

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	29%	33%	25%	27%	27%	30%	38%
Labor Party	46%	48%	44%	48%	51%	42%	37%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	19%	32%	25%	22%	29%	25%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	29%	60%	8%	13%	31%	15%
Labor Party	46%	20%	75%	57%	25%	37%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	20%	17%	30%	44%	48%

Research and development

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	33%	37%	28%	35%	28%	33%	34%
Labor Party	34%	38%	30%	33%	42%	30%	29%
Don't know / Not sure	33%	25%	42%	32%	30%	37%	37%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	33%	64%	11%	15%	36%	23%
Labor Party	34%	11%	64%	43%	12%	19%
Don't know / Not sure	33%	25%	26%	42%	52%	58%

Business investment

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	44%	50%	38%	45%	43%	45%	46%
Labor Party	26%	26%	25%	26%	30%	22%	20%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	23%	37%	29%	28%	33%	35%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	44%	71%	26%	27%	47%	36%
Labor Party	26%	11%	45%	32%	9%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	30%	18%	28%	41%	44%	49%

Government services and the public sector

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	32%	35%	28%	32%	29%	34%	37%
Labor Party	40%	44%	36%	41%	47%	34%	34%
Don't know / Not sure	28%	21%	35%	27%	24%	32%	29%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	32%	63%	10%	12%	42%	20%
Labor Party	40%	16%	69%	54%	11%	29%
Don't know / Not sure	28%	21%	21%	34%	47%	50%

Climate change action

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
Coalition	24%	26%	21%	24%	22%	23%	28%
Labor Party	44%	47%	41%	43%	50%	43%	39%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	27%	38%	32%	28%	34%	33%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	Other
Coalition	24%	48%	8%	13%	22%	12%
Labor Party	44%	22%	71%	55%	22%	32%
Don't know / Not sure	32%	30%	21%	32%	56%	55%