



Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 7th September, 2018

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THIS WEEK:

While we all know that Queensland is a great place, certainly the political importance of our state in the next federal election has been highlighted by the recent visits from the new Prime Minister, as well as the ongoing trips from bill Shorten and members of our front bench.

This will continue as the expected rumours about election dates and comments from 'informed' sources flood the media.

There are key marginal seats across the state which will determine the election, and the policy wars will be fought out at the local levels.

So be prepared for the meetings and the local photo opportunities and take the chances to question our leaders about the future for our communities.

We have been relatively spared from Scott Morrison being in Queensland over the last few years, although the impact of his budgets have been felt across the state. He was in the Abbott cabinet, he was in the Turnbull cabinet and he has been part of the policies which have attacked workers' conditions and penalty rates, have stripped marine parks, demonised people on welfare, destabilised renewable energy, gutted remote housing funding, reduced our international development budget and obsessed with 'stopping the boats' ... these are some of his achievements!

Parliament returns next week ... some new faces in the government, but the policies are the same.

We are in an election campaign.

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

If there is material you would like included or expanded upon, please let us know. If you think that others would like to receive copies please let us know and we will include them on the mailing lists.

Please contact us by [return email](mailto:senator.moore@aph.gov.au) or call on 07 3252 710.

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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



QLD INFRASTRUCTURE - SHORTEN-TOWNSVILLE

"I've also announced today that we want to increase the naval maintenance capacity of the Port of Townsville, specifically we want to see one of our two LHDs, our very big warships, on permanent rotation to the Port of Townsville. Townsville Port is a remarkable port, 200 days ago we said we should widen the channel and today we are saying let's move some of our naval maintenance contracting to the Port of Townsville, that'll generate jobs."

"Labor is the party of North Queensland, we don't take it for granted. I think this is my 18th visit here in the last three years. That doesn't make me a local but I certainly know my way around here" - Bill Shorten

tourist visa to the au pair. Misleading the House of Representatives is a serious and sackable offence.

GBR FOUNDATION - BURKE ABC NEWS 24 BREAKFAST

"Instead, we would get advice from the Department like they never did, we'd weigh up the advice, consider it properly. CSIRO, Institute of Marine Science, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Department of the Environment, the proper government agencies will be responsible for spending every cent of it."

GBR FOUNDATION - SHORTEN - TOWNSVILLE

"When was the last time you went to a meeting with a Liberal Prime Minister and half an hour later, you got \$444 million. That's just grotesque. It turns politics into a joke."

"I don't want to see care of the Reef privatised. Isn't it an absurd situation where Australia's leading scientists at the CSIRO now have to go to a charity run by ex-mining executives to be able to get money from the Government? It is just double-handling and triple-handling of money"

AU-PAIR POLO - NEUMANN - BRISBANE



"It looks like if you're a mate of Peter Dutton, or a mate of a mate, you get a certain kind of treatment but if you're anyone else in Australia, you some other kind of treatment and that's what it shows.

Explosive revelations today reveal that Peter Dutton clearly misled the House of Representatives and misled the Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Prime Minister Scott Morrison must explain why Peter Dutton remains a Minister in his Government. The new reports clearly show that Peter Dutton knew the employer of the Brisbane au pair – it was his mate – and Peter Dutton used his ministerial intervention powers to grant a tourist visa to the au pair. Misleading the House of Representatives is a serious and sackable offence.

AU-PAIR POLO - WATT - CANBERRA

"The real question here though is whether people in high places are getting special favours from this government that the average person on the street can't get."

AU-PAIR POLO- BURKE ABC NEWS 24 BREAKFAST

"Peter Dutton is their chief mud thrower but the problem that he's got is that he keeps throwing mud into a gale-force wind and at the moment it is all over him."

DUTTON'S SECTION 44 - DREYFUS - MELBOURNE

"It's now clear, from other documents which have been written about in the media, that Peter Dutton must be referred to the High Court of Australia. His eligibility to sit in Parliament is completely in doubt, and it's not simply me saying it. A whole range of constitutional experts have said that only the High Court can resolve the doubt that remains over Mr Dutton's eligibility to sit in the Federal Parliament."

RETIREMENT AGE - SHORTEN-TOWNSVILLE

"In every one of those last three Budgets he wanted to increase the retirement age to the age of 70. Labor opposed increasing the retirement age to 70 from the very first time it was suggested a number of years ago by the LNP. It's just a dumb idea.

So Scott Morrison wrote it, backed it in for the last three years; Labor opposed it for the last three years. Now Mr Morrison's temporarily borrowing Labor policy, that is good."

RETIREMENT AGE - LEIGH-ABC CANBERRA DRIVE

"This is a bloke who was Treasurer for a thousand days and every day he wanted to increase the pension age to 70. He supported five Liberal budgets that increased the pension age to 70. He is really willing to say absolutely anything right now in a desperate attempt to hang on to the job that he slid into."

"There's been a whole succession of cuts to older Australians' entitlements and they've been supported – and sometimes championed – by Scott Morrison. For him to suddenly turn around and pretend he's a friend to older Australians, belies his track record over recent years."

PACIFIC FORUM - WONG-ABC RADIO-PACIFIC REPORT

"The problem the Coalition has is that they have signed up to a Paris Agreement that half of their party room doesn't support and the way that Scott Morrison is dealing with that division, after what we've seen over these last weeks and months, is to say 'we've got a target, but we're not necessarily going to do anything to ensure we achieve it'."

PACIFIC FORUM - MARLES- ABC RN DRIVE

"I think the failure of Scott Morrison to go to the Pacific Islands Forum says anything about the lack of commitment that he's showing to the region."

PACIFIC FORUM -WONG-ABC RADIO-PACIFIC REPORT

"We would regard the Pacific as core business and we would ensure that it was a serious aspect of Australia's foreign policy. What we have seen to date from this government is a lot of rhetoric in recent times but very little delivery, and division and paralysis on the issue that is of most importance to the Pacific island nations."

ENERGY POLICY- LEIGH – RADIO 2GB SYDNEY

"The big challenge at the moment is the government doesn't have an energy policy. They've ripped themselves apart over this issue of climate and energy, just as they did in 2009. It's sad to see the second-largest political party in Australia unable to deal with the biggest environmental challenge of our age and the biggest cost pressure facing households."

THE ECONOMY - CHALMERS –SKY AM AGENDA

"People are increasingly dipping in to their savings to fund consumption because they're not getting the income growth that they need and deserve, and living standards actually went backwards in those National Accounts. So the point we're making is it's not sustainable to have a growth model which relies on profits galloping ahead of wages so substantially at the same time as people have to dip into their savings. If we want growth to be sustainable and enduring in this country, it needs to be inclusive, and people who are working so hard in our economy - or would like to work more - need to have more of a stake in our national economic success."

WAGE STAGNATION - CHALMERS –RN DRIVE

"I think the main one that worries us in the Labor Party is that company profits are growing more than five times faster than wages. We've got another very, very weak wages number in this new data today, which shows that people's incomes aren't keeping up with the cost of living."

CHILD CARE WAGES - O'CONNOR- MELBOURNE

"They are professionals undertaking a very serious role, and yet we have childhood educators in this country that are paid less than half the average wage. That is not good enough. You think about that. How can it be said that we value the education of preschool and we value the childhood educators if we are paying them less than half the average wage in this country?"

UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITY - PLIBERSEK- SKY – NEWS DAY

"In the north shore of Sydney 63 per cent of young people have a uni degree but in Moreton Bay, where I'm visiting today, it's about 13 per cent of people. Now that's not because people are smarter on the north shore of Sydney, it's because the opportunity is not evenly spread. We want to use this \$174 million to invest in outreach, mentoring and support programs with universities but also with TAFE and non-profit organisations that are experienced in this area to increase underrepresented groups going to university and we've had some success with this in the past."

CFMMEU - SHORTEN -TOWNSVILLE

"I'll stand up to illegality whether it's unions or banks. Mr Morrison conveniently forgets that on 26 occasions, 26 times, Scott Morrison voted against the Royal Commission into banks. So yes, I'll stand up to illegality in unions, I'll stand up to it in business and I'll stand up to wherever it is. Mr Morrison's just desperate. He knows that if he can have a debate about unions, he can get away from the fact that on eight occasions he voted in favour of cutting penalty rates. He's done nothing to look after everyday workers and he just wants to have a distraction."

CFMMEU- O'CONNOR - MELBOURNE

"The idea that you would consider de-registering a union because one union official sent out an unacceptable tweet is absurd."

A MILITARY COVENANT - RISHWORTH- ABC RADIO- BRISBANE

"What that sends is a really strong message to our serving defence personnel and our veterans that we value your service and we will continue to value your service. We also want to legislate a reporting and accountability mechanism to the Parliament to make sure that any Government of the day that has signed this Military Covenant lives up to that promise."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If you're not a mate, though, look out. As generous as it is toward its friends, this government is relentless to its enemies. And 'enemies' includes anyone who has embarrassed the government by exposing its misconduct, wrongdoing, or how its claims don't stack up." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"Police states are distinguished by, inter alia, a highly selective approach to the rule of law. Those deemed opponents of the government faced the full legal apparatus of the state, intend to punish those who embarrass or expose it, and deter any others who might similarly be tempted. But friends of the government can skirt the apparatus entirely, securing favour with a phone call, an email, an appeal to old mateship, business ties, mutual interests, donations. One rule for the former, no rules for the latter." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"Still it is a bugger when the au pair is in the clink and you are due at polo." - Conservative commentator Chris Kenny

"At a grassroots level our party – in fact, all parties – recognise that they have a problem in attracting and maintaining women and diversity in general." - Julie Bishop

"The Liberal Party's become a dumpster fire of personal animosity, division and dysfunction and chaos and instability. As far as the eye can see, the Liberal Party is a smoking ruin." - Jim Chalmers

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Wear this little pin to remind you whose side you're on.



Like, when you destabilise your own party to fulfill your insatiable desire for revenge.



Or when you spend people's humanity in exchange for votes.



Or when you make policies and decisions to benefit your friends or yourself.



Or when you bully your colleagues until they resign, then criticise them for being weak.



Or when you collect a generous pension for the rest of your life, no matter how abysmal your performance.

... Or we might think you're not on our side.

Wilcox

GLIMPSES

THE BUSINESS OF BANKING

While Westpac has been fined \$35 million for breaching lending rules the National Australia Bank has now been accused of misleading customers and breaching financial services laws, in a new lawsuit from the corporate watchdog that alleges it charged hundreds of thousands of superannuation members about \$100 million for services that were not provided. In a fresh blow to the bank after its gruelling appearance at the royal commission last month, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) yesterday launched the action against two NAB-owned trustees, which are meant to look after super fund members' interests. NAB earlier this week hit back at those suggestions, claiming it did not owe its customers an **"overarching obligation"** to act in their interests.

DON'T DEAL WITH DOMINO'S

The workplace watchdog believes Domino's Pizza remains riddled with employment law breaches throughout its network, after an almost two-year investigation found most of the stores it audited were breaking the rules.

The Fair Work Ombudsman said it could not determine if Domino's was **"knowingly involved (as an accessory)"** to the breaches carried out by its franchisees, but put it **"on notice"** that the introduction of the **Protecting Vulnerable Workers** act last year meant it could be held liable for future breaches by franchisees.

After launching an investigation into Domino's in late 2016, the ombudsman released its long-awaited findings on Thursday, which revealed workplace breaches at 19 of the 23 stores it fully audited for the month of February 2017.

The breaches - including underpaying or not paying staff for the hours they worked and not keeping proper records - suggested there were widespread issues throughout Domino's 662 Australian stores, the ombudsman said.

"The results of the FWO audit... strongly suggest broader, ongoing systemic issues within the Domino's network of stores that are likely to be contributing to promoting or enabling non-compliance throughout the network," report said.

The ombudsman said it found 20 employees had been underpaid about \$100 each on average for the one month audited across the 23 stores, with each store owing staff between \$118 to \$792.

Extrapolated over the Domino's entire network and over a longer period, it was likely that **"underpayment of Domino's employees are both significant and widespread"**, the ombudsman found.

A [Fairfax Media investigation published early last year](#) found evidence that some franchisees owed workers more than \$200,000 in unpaid wages and other entitlements.

MATES RATES

Home Affairs Minister, Peter Dutton said he received hundreds of requests for intervention every month and always treated each case on its merits. But on Tuesday the [Labor opposition used records of Mr Dutton's ministerial interventions](#) to argue it was **"anything but routine"** for him to step in and grant tourist visas to immigration detainees.

Records to June tabled in Parliament showed Mr Dutton used section 195A of the Migration Act just 14 times in three-and-a-half years to grant tourist visas to people held in immigration detention.

DISABILITY HACK

The agency in charge of the National Disability Insurance Scheme has closed a security gap in the system's user interface. According to [The Australian \(\\$\)](#), a flaw in the NDIS' service portal allowed providers or participants to guess nine-digit plan numbers and bring up random support packages, which some companies then exploited to raise their own invoices and be paid immediately.

The National Disability Insurance Agency issued an update yesterday requiring three pieces of sensitive information in the payments portal (the NDIS number, the participant's last name and their date of birth), and is now investigating fraudulent operators and systems to recover tens of thousands of dollars in stolen or misappropriated funds.

UNION BASHING - Bernard Keane/Glen Dyer (Crikey)

[While in no way excusing the occasional boofhead behaviour of some unionists Scott Morrison's attempted path to re-election will be littered with some traditional union bashing. It's reminder of how nothing has changed in the Coalition and how they are still very much the 'old generation' of irrelevant has-beens sowing fear, discord and hypocrisy.-Ed] Here's what Crikey has to say:

"Seeing a pattern here? Every time this government goes after unions, it blows up spectacularly in its face. It dreams big — of destroying the CFMMEU, of convincing voters that Bill Shorten is a crooked union boss in the thrall of crooked union bosses, of delegitimising the "union run" industry super sector (O'Dwyer's former role) — but the reality is courtroom humiliation and ministerial bungling.

And all for what? To rein in wild inflation in construction costs caused by a rogue union? Wages in construction in the last three years, despite the residential building boom, grew 10% slower than private sector wages. To lift disastrous productivity growth? Construction was above average in productivity growth in the last decade.

And while John Setka was publishing and deleting an idiot tweet, the CBA and NAB were being forced to admit to multiple examples of misconduct even as they participated in a financial industry reflex of denialism of criminality to the banking royal commission.

Morrison can deflect to the CFMMEU all he likes. But the bullying and intimidation is right there in his own party. And criminal conduct is on display every day of the royal commission hearings. He's strangely unexercised about those. Maybe he should get off Twitter."

EUREKA



Professor Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop FAA AO was part of the Optical Physics in Neuroscience team from **the University of Queensland** that won the [UNSW Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research](#). The Optical Physics in Neuroscience team 'has devised cutting-edge methods for studying how our brains work to detect gravity and motion. Using optical trapping and novel microscopes, they successfully imaged the functioning brain circuits that process gravity and motion and combine this information with other senses.'

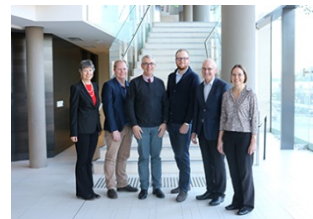
While the 2018 University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize – Secondary Schools went to **Ella Woods and Emily Woods, St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, QLD**



It's estimated that two out of three people in the world are not able to consume dairy products without experiencing gut discomfort and gas. In Gas Busters, Emily and Ella explain the science behind lactose intolerance, explore its evolution and present a simple solution that allows everyone to enjoy cow's milk.

[LEARN MORE](#)

And the 2018 Australian Infectious Diseases Research Centre Eureka Prize for Infectious Diseases Research went to **CF Air, Metro North Hospital and Health Service; The Prince Charles Hospital; QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute; Children's Health Queensland; University of Queensland; Griffith University; Gold Coast Health; and Queensland University of Technology**. The CF Air team has uncovered the process by which the deadly pathogens causing airway infections are transmitted between cystic fibrosis (CF) patients. Their research has attracted considerable attention from the CF community, impacting clinical practice and policy and ultimately reducing infection rates amongst patient groups. [LEARN MORE](#)



TRUMPED

US media, [The New York Times has prompted](#) even more White House buzz by publishing an anonymous opinion piece written by a **"senior official"** in the Trump administration.

It describes a chaotic White House while describing some of the efforts by staff to **"resist"** the president. The anonymous piece is extraordinarily unusual for *The Times*, and was published with a statement explaining the decision and inviting questions about the vetting process:

In defending the use of anonymity the New York Times said;

"We believe publishing this essay is the only way and important perspective to our readers."

NASTY, NASTY - Steven Scott (Courier-Mail)

The Liberal National Party asked former Special Minister of State Scott Ryan last year to investigate claims Andrew Laming engineered fake redundancy payments for his staff and pocketed some of the pay outs. But LNP President Gary Spence, who was told of the claims by the people who ran Mr Laming's local branch, said they were investigated and could not be stacked up. A report detailing the claims has been leaked to The Courier-Mail as the member for Bowman faces a bitter preselection battle tomorrow night where some of his former supporters have deserted him. It can also be revealed the LNP sought detailed information about Dr Laming's citizenship, with senior party figures concerned he may be entitled to Russian citizenship through his wife, who was born



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in Latvia. "We have no concerns about Andrew meeting Section 44 obligations in terms of citizenship," he said. LNP state director Michael O'Dwyer told The Courier-Mail the theft claims were not proven. Government sources said the claims were investigated by the Special Minister of State last year but there was not enough detail to substantiate them. The leaks suggest ongoing tensions within Dr Laming's local members after the former executive team of his federal divisional council abandoned support for him and endorsed rival Paul Branagan. The local chair Shaun Edwards, secretary Suzi Foster and treasurer Paul Field were recently suspended from the party for a year after they wrote to other members complaining about Dr Laming's behaviour and calling for him to be dumped. One LNP source said the leaks showed the preselection battle had turned "nasty" and suggested it could help boost support for Dr Laming. Dr Laming declined to comment.

NEW MONEY – to be released next month



The signature side of the new \$50 banknote.



The serial number side of the new \$50 banknote.



SO SAD



The carcasses of nearly 90 elephants have been discovered near a wildlife sanctuary in Botswana, conservationists say.

'Elephants Without Border's reports it found a total of 87 dead elephants in recent weeks during an aerial survey of the elephant population.

It says the slaughter is the largest scale of poaching deaths seen in Africa, coinciding with Botswana's anti-poaching unit being disarmed. All 87 had their tusks removed.

Five white rhinos had been also poached in the past three months.

"I'm shocked, I'm completely astounded. The scale of elephant poaching is by far the largest I've seen or read about anywhere

in Africa to date," Elephants Without Borders founder Dr Mike Chase told BBC.

"When I compare this to figures and data from the [Great Elephant Census](#), which I conducted in 2015, we are recording double the number of fresh poached elephants than anywhere else in Africa."

The survey estimated a third of the continent's elephants had been killed in the past decade, while 60 per cent of Tanzania's elephants have been slaughtered in the past five years.

Botswana previously had a unforgiving reputation for dealing with poachers and had largely protected the animals unseen in other areas.

Some 130,000 elephants were known to retreat from Angola, Namibia and Zambia and stay within the boundaries of Botswana, where armed anti-poaching units were established. Mr Chase blamed the disarmament of the country's anti-poaching unit for the latest killings found deep in Botswana – close to protected wildlife sanctuary Okavango Delta.

SERIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED BY ONE NATION FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT – Jones/Keogh

Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government Stephen Jones MP and Labor's Waste Watch Spokesperson, Matt Keogh MP have written to the Deputy Prime Minister demanding answers on [the surprise announcement of \\$3 million in Federal Government grants funding made by One Nation Senator Peter Georgiou last week.](#)

After weeks of Government instability there are more serious questions about governance and decision making:

- Has the Government entered into an agreement with One Nation where grants are being exchanged for votes on Government legislation?
- Has the government outsourced the announcement of any further projects to Senator Hanson, Senator Georgiou or any other cross bench Senator in exchange for votes?

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"What dodgy deal has been done by the Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann to allow One Nation to make large funding announcements on behalf of the Morrison Government?," Mr Jones said.

"This is a highly unusual situation for a government to outsource such a large announcement to a non-government senator.

"Unfortunately, it is not the first time we have seen this irregular situation. Last year, Senator Cormann gave One Nation Senator Pauline Hanson a boost in Queensland with \$15m in grant announcements."

"Giving that free kick to One Nation caused ructions between the Liberal and National Parties – for good reason," Mr Jones said.

Member for Burt, Matt Keogh MP said it was extraordinary that the owners of the land for the proposed project, the City of Vincent, weren't even consulted. Neither was the State's peak soccer body, Football West.

The Council made a decision not to enter into a long-term lease with Floreat Athena Football club in 2017 due to financial concerns about meeting their fiscal responsibilities.

"As Labor's Waste Watch Spokesperson I'm concerned that such a significant amount of money has been allocated frivolously without appropriate viability testing, due diligence or community consultation."

"Outsourcing announcements to One Nation, no doubt while negotiating for votes in the Senate, and handing over millions of dollars without due diligence is becoming a habit for this Government."

"We may have a new PM but the Government is still lacking in probity."

"The WA Liberals need to explain how they came to make this decision, and how they came to hand it off to One Nation."

INFRASTRUCTURE

LABOR TO EXPAND TOWNSVILLE'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY - Shorten/Marles/Clare/O'Toole



A Federal Shorten Labor Government would look to increase the presence of the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) [Amphibious Assault Ships](#) (otherwise known as LHD vessels) at the Port of Townsville, creating new jobs and further diversifying North Queensland's economy.

Enabling an increase in the activity of LHD vessels at the Port of Townsville would support real local economic development for Townsville by helping to grow the local defence maintenance industry. The regular docking of LHD vessels at the Port of Townsville would allow for a continuous program of maintenance work and would be expected to support between 200 and 400 new ongoing local jobs.

It would also facilitate important exercise activities, including most critically those related to the joint amphibious capability of the ADF.

Federal Labor commends the detailed work undertaken by the Townsville City Council, Port of Townsville and Townsville Enterprise to secure a greater presence

of LHD vessels and support future Defence needs while also generating development for the local region. A Shorten Labor Government will continue to engage with these organisations into the future.

With a number of major new naval platforms coming on line over the next decade, existing porting arrangements are coming under pressure and will be increasingly unsustainable in meeting all of our force posture requirements - as recognised in the Government's own 2016 Defence White Paper.

Labor recognises the future need to balance porting arrangements through providing supplementary options in logical locations to take pressure off permanent bases such as those in Sydney.

Townsville could be a major beneficiary in meeting these requirements, and is a logical location as a supplementary port for the LHDs, given it is home to the Army's multi-role and rapid response 3 Brigade and the amphibious light infantry battalion, 2RAR. Townsville is also uniquely placed to support forward ADF operations in the region, including humanitarian assistance and bilateral and multilateral activities with our regional partners.

This announcement comes off the back of Labor's \$75 million commitment to the Port of Townsville expansion – a project that will create at least 120 jobs during construction and 245 ongoing jobs. Widening the channel will set up the Port of Townsville to attract more shipping traffic – increasing import and export opportunities and delivering a \$580 million economic dividend.

This new initiative for Townsville is part of Labor's plan for real jobs in regional Queensland.

LABOR WILL HELP DELIVER THE ROCKHAMPTON RING ROAD – Shorten/Albanese/Watt

A Shorten Labor Government will help deliver the new Rockhampton Ring Road project.

This project will mean a new 22 kilometre ring road running from the Yeppoon Roundabout along the western side of the airport to a third bridge crossing before reconnecting with the existing Highway at Parkhurst.

This is a transformative project for Central Queensland, helping ease congestion on the Bruce Highway and boosting liveability for local residents.

The new Rocky Ring Road will provide a big boost to the economic capacity of Central Queensland, supporting the growth of new local industries and new local jobs.

The Ring Road will take thousands of trucks off local streets, cut travel times, improve road safety and allow the airport to grow into a freight hub

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The Bruce Highway presently runs through the heart of Rockhampton meaning increased congestion with vehicles forced to navigate 18 signalled intersections and a further 47 without.

Not only does this impact liveability for residents but the delay in the movement of freight has a significant economic cost for industry.

Specifically, long delays are currently being experienced at Denison Street where slow moving North Coast Line trains close the Highway for long periods, and the road network often takes a long time to dissipate the resulting congestion after each train passes.

A business case is currently being undertaken by the Queensland Government which will determine the final cost of the project. Community consultation is a key element of this work. This initial planning phase is expected to be completed in the next 18 months' time.

This commitment to the Rockhampton Ring Road builds on Labor's strong track record of delivering for Central Queensland's road network, including the major Yeppoon Roundabout and Bridge upgrade.

500 MILLION FOR BETTER RURAL AND REGIONAL ROADS IN QLD – Shorten/Albanese/Clare

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$500 million to deliver a staged upgrade of Queensland's inland road network, meaning up to 3000 kilometres of better, safer roads and up to 300 wider, stronger bridges.

Labor's plan will get the arteries of regional and rural Queensland pumping again, it will make it easier for farmers to move cattle and sheep and feed, and it will put the regions at the heart of our infrastructure plan. It will also mean tourists can better and more easily explore the towns of Western Queensland.

This massive project has been estimated to create over 13,000 direct and indirect jobs in Queensland over the next decade, along with an additional \$2.5 billion economic boost to the regional Queensland economy.

Half of Queensland's economy activity takes place outside of Brisbane - Queensland is Australia's most decentralised state – but for too long crucial regional roads have not received the attention they deserve:

- **the Barkly Highway between Mt Isa and Cloncurry**
- **the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Rocky**
- **the Mitchell Highway from Cunnamulla to Charleville**
- **the Kennedy Highway between Cairns and Mareeba**

Queensland transports the greatest volume of cattle by road compared to any other state and makes up for half of Australia's cattle herd. The industry employs around 20,000 Queenslanders. This investment not only improves safety on key freight routes but will also help reduce the cost of transporting cattle to market. This investment is a big boost for the Queensland economy; particularly regions feeling the impact of the drought.

When regional roads get neglected, drivers' safety gets put at risk, truckies are forced to go the long way round, flood damage is a bigger problem than it ought to be and the same few reliable roads suffer wear and tear.

Just like every infrastructure project a Shorten Labor Government invests in, we will insist on Australian materials, Australian jobs and we'll make sure one out of every ten people working on site is an Australian apprentice.

Saturday's \$500 million announcement is just one part of Labor's Plan for Real Jobs in Regional Queensland. We will:

- **Widen the Townsville Port Channel (\$75 million)**
- **Extend the Bruce Highway to Cairns Airport (\$40million)**
- **Deliver the Rookwood Weir (\$176 million)**
- **Invest \$100 million in Townsville Water Security and \$200 million in the Burdekin Dam**
- **Help build Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road (\$100million)**
- **Construct the Rockhampton Levee (\$25 million)**
- **Upgrade the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road (\$47.5million)**
- **Help build the Gladstone Port Access Road (\$100million)**

Federal Labor's commitment to making this substantial investment in Queensland's vital inland roads and highways follows the strong advocacy and work of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project, which brings together 28 local governments, five Regional Development Australia committees, and the RACQ.

LEAK EXPOSES GOVERNMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE - Albanese

The deep divisions within the Morrison-Turnbull-Abbott Government are now derailing its attempts to play catch-up on rail and road investment following years of cuts and neglect. The leak to the Herald Sun of a list of the Government's infrastructure project Budget decisions taken but not announced is a major embarrassment for Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his rabble of a Government, which has an abysmal record when it comes to nation building.

Federal infrastructure grants to the states will fall off a cliff over the next four years, from \$8 billion in 2017-18 to \$4.5 billion in 2021-22. And research by the Independent Parliamentary Budget Office shows that under the Coalition, Federal grants will halve over the next decade from 0.4 per cent of the national GDP, to 0.2 per cent.

In this year's Budget, the Government tried to hide its cuts behind promises of new projects in major cities. But none of the money was new and 85 per cent of it won't be spent for at least four years.

Given this record, Australians should be skeptical about the Government's new list of promised projects, which represent a case of too little, too late. Indeed, Labor has already committed to most of the projects on the Coalition's list, including the Western Sydney Rail, Mackay Ring Road Stage II, Rockhampton Ring Road, Brisbane's Linkfield Road Overpass, Adelaide's South Road upgrades and the AdelLINK Light Rail project.

Labor has also committed to advancing High Speed Rail, including by moving Private Member's Bills which are currently before the Parliament.

In recent weeks I have visited both Geelong and Darwin and called for the finalisation of the City Deals for these cities. While years of division have paralysed the Government on infrastructure, Labor has been leading from Opposition. Only a Shorten Labor Government will deliver the rail and roads our nation needs to underpin economic growth and tackle the traffic congestion that is eroding our quality of life.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

GOVERNMENT CUTS MORE THAN IT INVESTS AND WANTS THANKS - Albanese

The Federal Government has announced \$132.5 million for its Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program - \$1.5 million less than it had previously cut from the scheme.

In a media release Infrastructure Minister Michael McCormack pledged to deliver 93 new road projects under the HVSP, which was created by the former Labor Government to build new and upgrade existing rest areas and other facilities used by truck drivers.

However, since taking office the Coalition has cut the program by \$134 million - announcing \$231 million in HVSP grants but actually delivering \$97.4 million.

Heavy vehicles on our roads require additional rest stops – not media releases.

As the Coalition's fourth Infrastructure Minister in two years, Mr McCormack has an opportunity to make a real difference by ensuring that this time the announced grants are actually delivered.

NBN CANNOT SURVIVE ANOTHER THREE YEARS UNDER THE LIBS – Rowland/Chalmers

The Liberals' second-rate NBN is on life support, with today's \$2 billion NBN cost blowout nothing short of a The Liberals' \$51 billion multi-technology mess is now **\$22 billion over budget and four years behind schedule** compared to what they promised to deliver.



Among the key failures revealed in the [2019 NBN Corporate Plan](#):

- **\$2.1 billion cost blowout for the NBN;**
- **Rollout delays to 1.3 million homes over the next twelve months;**
- **\$700 million in lost revenue as a result of the HFC rollout halt;**
- **\$500 million increase in the cost to deploy HFC; and**
- **The copper footprint will expand by a further 100,000 premises.**

The scale of these failures raises serious questions over Mathias Cormann's judgement and whether Mitch Fifield should continue in the Communications portfolio at all.

Since taking over the portfolio, Minister Fifield has not taken his responsibilities seriously, which at key junctures has bordered on wilful ignorance. Fifield's HFC debacle must be subject to forensic examination given the shareholder governance failures at play.

The Liberals' NBN failures have significant consequences, including:

1. **Consumers are paying more for less;**
2. **Taxpayers and the federal budget are more exposed;**
3. **NBN has less revenue to fund future upgrades; and**
4. **The broken long-term economics are placing pressure on NBNC to increase prices in unfair ways.**

The unfair price hikes were on full display when NBNC attempted to charge regional fixed-wireless users \$20 more per month than city users on the same speed. This is nothing short of a shambles and it is clear the NBN cannot afford another three years of this incompetent and divided Government.

ECONOMY

PBO REPORT REVEALS MIDDLE AUSTRALIA HIT HARDEST UNDER LIBERALS - Chalmers



Parliament of Australia
Parliamentary Budget Office

Fresh analysis today from the independent Parliamentary Budget Office has revealed low and middle-income earners will suffer the fastest-growing tax burden under the Liberals and their unfair policies.

The PBO's review of medium-term Budget projections points out:

"Our distributional analysis highlights that the largest increases in average tax rates occur in the low- to middle-income groups." ([2018-19 Budget: Medium term projections](#), 6/9/18)

According to the PBO, those towards the lower to middle end of the income scale were projected to carry a heavier burden.

The PBO has warned the Government's projected return to surpluses over the medium term was predicated on **"a return to close to trend wages growth by the end of the forward estimates period"**.

The warning comes after National Accounts revealed profits were growing more than five times faster than wages, with average compensation per employee only growing 1.6 per cent for the year – well below inflation. On company tax cuts, the PBO report highlights the fiscal recklessness of the Government's plan, which would leave the country less equipped for a downturn.

As the PBO points out, by abandoning their company tax plan, the Liberals are likely to breach their arbitrary tax cap – an incentive to resurrect their big business tax handouts after the election.

The PBO's report is another damning indictment on the divided and dysfunctional Liberals' inability to manage the economy in the interests of middle Australia.

Under the Liberals, low- and middle-income earners are slugged with the fastest-growing tax burdens, wages growth is stagnant, and the biggest tax concessions are gifted to those who need them the least. At a time when wages are growing at record lows and households are struggling to keep pace with the cost of living, now is not the time to be prioritising tax relief at the top end.

Labor's plan for the economy is focused on boosting wages by restoring penalty rates and ending unfair labour hire practices, and providing a bigger, fairer tax cut for workers.

Only Labor can be relied upon to manage the economy in a fair and responsible manner and to deliver a fairer tax system for all Australians.

BANKS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DISTRACTED, DIVIDED GOVERNMENT – Chalmers/O’Neill

Australians have yet another reason to be angry and frustrated with the big banks after more have announced out-of-cycle rate hikes today. The banks are taking advantage of the chaos, division and dysfunction within the Liberal Party, and of a Prime Minister who will always side with them over people who work and struggle.

Scott Morrison was the chief architect of the Liberals’ push to give the banks a \$17 billion tax handout, and voted 26 times against the banking royal commission, which is doing a great job uncovering rorts and rip-offs in the system. CBA and ANZ this week and Westpac last week announced interest rate rises, meaning three of the big four have now increased their rates by between 14 and 16 basis points.

Given the RBA earlier this week kept the official cash rate on hold, it’s disappointing to see these out-of-cycle rises.

Middle Australia is already struggling to make ends meet, and customers of the big banks will be considering other options.

LIBERALS AREN’T MANAGING ECONOMY IN AUSTRALIA’S INTERESTS - Chalmers

The defining feature of today’s National Accounts is that company profits are growing more than five times faster than Australians’ wages. Labor welcomes the relatively strong headline GDP number, but for most Australians their experience of the economy involves stagnant wages, insecure work and struggling with cost of living pressures.

The figures show:

- **Company profits are growing more than five times faster than wages (8.8 per cent versus 1.6 per cent);**
- **Average compensation per employee has only grown 1.6 per cent for the year – meaning incomes aren’t keeping up with the cost of living;**
- **Household savings are at a decade low, falling to only one per cent of disposable incomes in the last quarter;**
- **Real net national disposable income per capita – a proxy for living standards – has barely grown under the Liberals and actually went backwards last quarter; and**
- **Business investment is disappointing, with private investment growth flat.**

The Liberals’ new Treasurer is every bit as out-of-touch as his two predecessors if he wants a pat on the back for an economy that isn’t delivering for middle Australia.

On the back of favourable global conditions, the economy is growing in spite of this divided and chaotic Liberal Government, not because of it. Our economy would be even stronger if we didn’t have a divided Government giving the biggest tax breaks to those who need them least, ripping money out of education and training, and destroying the NBN.

A Labor Government will make sure economic growth is inclusive and from the bottom up; by investing in people’s capacity and productivity, targeting tax cuts for those most likely to spend in the economy, and prioritising tax breaks for businesses that invest onshore.

Australians need and deserve a Government focused on growing the economy in an inclusive way, boosting wages and addressing cost of living pressures. Instead, Australians are stuck with a divided, dysfunctional rabble led by an illegitimate Prime Minister that nobody voted for

WORKERS

INDUSTRIAL LAWS NOT PROTECTING VULNERABLE WORKERS – O’Connor/Cameron

Labor is warning that current industrial relations laws are not protecting the most vulnerable Australian workers, and the Government must take action, ahead of today’s Senate inquiry hearings into contract cleaners in Melbourne.

The [Senate inquiry](#) into some of Australia’s lowest paid and most exploited workers follows a damning Fair Work Ombudsman’s report into employment practices at large retail chains. The FWO’s investigation focussed on Tasmanian retailers and found that 90 per cent of Woolworths’ stores were in breach of industrial awards.

The inquiry is examining instances of contractors working for large retailers setting up multiple sham subcontracting companies to hide their non-compliance with workplace laws and awards.

Shadow Minister for Employment, Brendan O’Connor said Scott Morrison and his Liberals should put workers first for once and they could start by tightening the test for sham contracting.

“Time and time again, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has been exposed for its failure to address exploitation and insecure work. The Government should adopt Labor’s policy to amend the law to clamp down on sham contracting arrangements,” Mr O’Connor said.

Senator Cameron said underpayments and sham contracting arrangements identified by the inquiry were also contributing to stagnating wage growth throughout Australia.

“This is an example of profitable companies outsourcing fundamental aspects of their operations and then denying any responsibility for the workers being exploited,” Senator Cameron said.

“On the evidence to the inquiry so far, it is clear that the industrial laws are not strong enough to protect these vulnerable workers.”

Senator Cameron said a disproportionate number of retail cleaners were migrants (more than 50 per cent) and often had their visa status threatened if they complained about wages and conditions.

“The fact that these workers are being ripped off for the little they earn is disgraceful,” Senator Cameron said.

There is a very simple solution to all this – big retailers should employ their cleaners directly.

The Government’s inaction is disgraceful. They should join with and take a stand against sham independent contracting, where underpayment is rampant and employment rights and conditions are being ripped away



COMPANY PROFITS SOAR AS WAGES STAGNATE UNDER MORRISON - O'Connor

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government company profits are soaring, and yet wages are stagnating as Australians struggle to keep up with living costs.

According to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) business indicators data, company profits are growing at a rate of more than five times that of wages. Company profits rose 2.0 per cent in the June quarter to be up 11.4 per cent over the year. This compares with the Wage Price Index which shows wages growth at around record lows of 2.1 per cent.

With overall wages growth on par with inflation, real wages continue to stagnate – and Australian workers are struggling to keep up with the cost of living. As Treasurer and now Prime Minister Scott Morrison has presided over the lowest wages growth since records began, and yet he wants to further cut the wages of hard working Australians by getting rid of their penalty rates.

This Government doesn't have a single policy to grow wages and reduce inequality. Instead, they support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, argue against increasing the minimum wage, and focus all their energy on advocating for a \$17 billion tax handout for the big banks. Australians deserve a pay rise – and they aren't getting one under Scott Morrison and his Liberals.

LATEST REVELATIONS IN MICHAELIA CASH SCANDAL - Plibersek

Liberal minister Michaelia Cash is avoiding scrutiny by refusing to cooperate with an Australian Federal Police investigation into the unlawful leak to the media of the Registered Organisations Commission raid on Australian Workers' Union offices, according to reports.

It has been [reported](#) that Senator Cash refused to cooperate with police by declining to provide a witness statement.

This is yet another example of the minister going out of her way to avoid scrutiny. What has she got to hide?

Senator Cash told Senate Estimates last year that her former senior media advisor admitted to her that he was a source of the leak. Since then, she has repeatedly refused to answer questions about the scandal, saying an AFP investigation was underway. But now it has been revealed that Senator Cash has refused to answer AFP questions.

It is absolutely unacceptable that Senator Cash continues to be a minister yet reportedly refuses to cooperate with an AFP investigation. Why won't she just tell the truth? Her conduct and refusal to cooperate with the AFP investigation is treating the Parliament and the Australian people with contempt. It is extraordinary that Scott Morrison appointed Senator Cash to his Cabinet when she has such serious questions hanging over her head.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



7:30 EXPOSES GOVERNMENT'S HALF DECADE OF HOUSING FAILURE -Cameron

Thursday night's 7:30 program on the ABC has delivered a withering assessment of the Coalition Government's failure to tackle Australia's crisis in housing affordability and supply.

The program exposed that a perfect storm of rapidly rising rents, stagnant wages, sky-high house prices and a total absence of leadership from the Federal Government is having a profound impact on the record number of Australians now renting – particularly vulnerable low-income earners.

ABS data presented on the program highlighted the intense financial pressure renters are under, with rental costs rising by more than 70% in the past decade while wages have not kept pace, growing just 43% over the same period.

This is confirmed by Anglicare's *2018 Rental Affordability Snapshot* and National Shelter's *Rental Affordability Index* that have shown Australians on income-support, those earning the minimum wage, and even key workers such as nurses are increasingly experiencing "extreme rental stress". The proportion of low-income households in rental stress now stands at more than 40 per cent.

Putting lie to claims there is no rental affordability crisis, the Anglicare *Snapshot* revealed that for a single person on the minimum wage there were just 41 dwellings available to them without experiencing rental stress in Greater Sydney, with 39 of those more than 20km from the city centre. Comments made by the President of the Real Estate Institute Australia, Malcolm Gunning, that renters can remedy this crisis by "God forbid, getting two jobs" are not only deeply offensive but extraordinarily ignorant of the challenge many Australians face in finding secure, affordable and appropriate housing.

Regrettably, these comments merely echo the out-of-touch comments made by former Liberal Treasurer Joe Hockey when he said aspiring first home buyers should "get a better job" and former Prime Minister Turnbull's shameful advice that Australians ought to get rich parents to "shell out" if they wish to ever own a home.

Despite the Coalition's rhetoric on housing affordability, the past 5 years of Liberal Government have delivered absolutely no relief to renters and first-home buyers – instead they have maintained a perverse suite of policies that provide wealthy property investors with the world's most generous tax concessions at the expense of meaningfully improving affordability.

The Coalition has also cut funding for affordable housing under National Partnership Agreements, defunded homelessness and community housing advocates, and prematurely closed Labor's highly effectively National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) that is delivering rental relief to more than 61,000 Australians right across the country.

Astonishingly, it has taken 5 years, 3 Prime Ministers, and 3 Treasurers just for the Coalition Government to concede the need to appoint a Minister for Housing – albeit it at the junior level of Assistant Minister.

Only a Shorten Labor Government will to tackle unfair tax distortions and address the housing affordability crisis. Labor has announced a comprehensive set of housing and homelessness policies, and will have more to say in the lead up to the next election.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

IMMIGRATION

MORRISON MUST ACT ON DUTTON AU PAIR AFFAIR - Neumann

Explosive revelations in the Dutton Au Pair affair make it clear that Peter Dutton has misled the Parliament and misled his Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

The Prime Minister needs to explain why Peter Dutton should remain a Minister. New evidence received by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee au pair Senate Inquiry indicates that Peter Dutton both knew the employer of the Brisbane au pair and used his powers of ministerial intervention to grant a tourist visa to that au pair.

In **Question Time on 27 March 2018**, Mr Dutton categorically ruled out any connection to the employer of the au pair, answering definitively.

BANDT: My question is to the Minister for Home Affairs. Minister, I note your recent statements in relation to your personal intervention to prevent the deportation of two foreign intended au pairs. Can you categorically rule out any personal connection or any other relationship between you and the intended employer of either of the au pairs?



DUTTON: The answer is yes.

It is clear Peter Dutton has misled the House. Misleading the Parliament is a sackable offence for a Minister. Peter Dutton also appears to have misled his Prime Minister. Just a few days ago, Scott Morrison said:

“If someone makes an application not even in the name of the person you worked with twenty years ago, and actually does it through basically the switchboard, that’s what doesn’t pass the pub test. The allegation that is being made, that somehow there was some relationship or knowledge, does not pass the pub test at all.” Scott Morrison, Press Conference, Sydney, 2 September 2018

It’s now clear that this intervention was not through **“the switchboard”** – it has Peter Dutton’s fingerprints all over it. Peter Dutton has undermined the integrity of Australia’s immigration system.

Australia’s security agencies, border security, and immigration functions should be beyond political interference. Our national security is too important. If Scott Morrison has any authority over his illegitimate Government, he will demand a full explanation from Peter Dutton. If Dutton doesn’t talk, his position is untenable.

DUTTON NO EXCUSES TO REFUSE NEW ZEALAND’S RESETTLEMENT OFFER - Neumann

Peter Dutton and the out-of-touch Morrison Government have no excuses when it comes to refusing the generous offer from New Zealand to resettle eligible refugees and children from Manus and Nauru. At the Pacific Islands Forum on Nauru, New Zealand has confirmed that they would be willing to negotiate conditions to negate any concerns Peter Dutton and the Liberals may have.

“If the issue was that was their (Australia’s) concern by letting them come to NZ they will gain right to Australia, we can fix that up so that’s not really a concern in my view.”

New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters 4 September 2018. Labor has written to both Peter Dutton and Scott Morrison urging them to accept New Zealand’s offer so that eligible refugees, including children, from Manus and Nauru can be resettled as quickly as possible. If the Turnbull Government was able to negotiate appropriate conditions for the US refugee resettlement agreement to prevent people smugglers exploiting vulnerable people, the Morrison Government should be able to negotiate similar conditions for any deal with New Zealand.

The New Zealand offer was first negotiated in 2013 between former Prime Minister Gillard and former New Zealand Prime Minister John Key – before being shelved by Tony Abbott who said it would only be called upon **“if and when it becomes necessary”**.

Nauru and Manus Island were set up as temporary regional processing centres but have become places of indefinite detention because of the failure of successive Liberal Government’s to negotiate other third country resettlement options. The embattled Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton needs to immediately do his job and accept New Zealand’s offer.

If Peter Dutton is incapable of negotiating conditions on a deal with New Zealand – or he’s too distracted by his ministerial intervention drama – Scott Morrison needs to step in and take action to end the indefinite detention of refugees

SENIORS

LEAKS CONFIRM WHAT SCOMO REALLY THINKS ABOUT THE PENSION AGE-Burney

The latest Liberal leak proves Scott Morrison wasn’t just a passenger; he was driving the policy to increase the pension age to 70. [Reports](#) today reveal that in the lead-up to the 2016 budget, Scott Morrison argued against any suggestion the Liberals should dump their cruel plan to force farmers, bricklayers and nurses to work until they are 70.

It’s more evidence that this week’s back-down is nothing but a cynical pre-election charade. It has nothing to do with concern for pensioners. Scott Morrison says one thing when he thinks older Australians won’t find out – and the opposite when he wants to keep his job.

Scott Morrison has spent five years – including three as Treasurer – arguing every day that the pension age should be increased to 70. No-one really believes he has changed his mind.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

In every budget, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has tried to cut the pension and increase the pension age. And at every turn, Labor has fought the Liberals' cuts to the pension.

No matter who leads the Liberals, cutting the pension is in their DNA. If they get the chance, the Liberals will cut the pension again. The only way to protect older Australians is to vote Labor at the next election.

HISTORY SHOWS THE LIBERALS CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH THE PENSION-Burney

Who does Scott Morrison think he is kidding? For five budgets he has supported increasing the pension age to 70. Scott Morrison was Treasurer for more than 1,000 days – and every day he wanted to increase the pension age to 70.

"I'm proposing it should be 70, the Labor Party doesn't agree with me but that's what we're proposing." [Scott Morrison, [Address to the National Press Club, 25 February 2015](#)]

Now he expects Australians to believe him when he says he has changed his mind. It's a transparent and desperate attempt to save a divided and dysfunctional government – and one rushed out by a Prime Minister in a clumsy attempt to beat the leaks. Make no mistake – if he gets the chance, Scott Morrison will cut the pension and increase the pension age – it's in the Liberal DNA.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government has tried to cut the pension in every budget. This includes cutting pensioner concessions; a plan to cut pension indexation, leaving pensioners \$80 per week worse off; trying to axe the energy supplement for new pensioners; and a deal with the Greens political party to change the assets test and cut the pension for 370,000 Australians.

Labor has fought the Liberals' cuts to the pension. Panic is at the heart of this Government – not concern for pensioners. The Liberals will always put tax cuts for the top end of town ahead of ordinary Australians.

No matter who leads the Liberals, they can't be trusted with the pension. The only way to protect older Australians is to vote Labor at the next election.

FOR PROFIT AGED CARE HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS TO ANSWER - McAllister

Tax officials informed a hearing of the Senate Economics References Committee inquiry into the Tax Practices of For Profit Aged Care Providers that they had concerns about arrangements used by some in the sector. Such arrangements – including the use of profit shifting via related party transactions, and stapled structures – had been highlighted by a report by the Tax Justice Network in collaboration with the Australian Nurses and Midwives Association.

Senators heard that one of the sectors largest operators – Opal – paid their owners more than \$15m in dividends in a year that their operating company paid no tax. Another large operator – Allity – were paying close to 15% interest on a loan to a related party, an arrangement tax officials said could rarely if ever be described as arm's length. Acting Chair, Senator Jenny McAllister said:

"For profit aged care providers depend on government subsidies. Australians rightly expect that this money will be used to provide care for vulnerable and older members of our community, not hidden using tricky accounting practices. "As the financial sector has learned, the community has very little patience for companies that push the boundaries in putting profits before people."

A number of the big, for profit aged care providers did not appear at the hearing. Acting Chair, Senator Jenny McAllister said:

"It is disappointing that Bupa and Regis aren't appearing – it raises questions about what they have to hide. Labor senators are keen to hear from two of Australia's largest for profit aged care providers. We'll be looking at what procedural options we have to make sure that happens. "

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM DECLARATION - Wong

Labor welcomes Australia's decision to sign the Pacific Islands Forum's Communique and Boe Declaration committing member states to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Labor strongly supports the declaration and its expanded concept of security, which includes an emphasis on people's rights, health and prosperity, resource security, transnational crime, and cyber.

The Declaration makes clear that Pacific island nations regard climate change as their greatest area of concern.

"We reaffirm that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and our commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement"

It is now essential Mr Morrison shows Pacific island states that Australia's support for the declaration is more than just words, by committing to genuine action on climate change to meet Australia's Paris targets.



After snubbing the region's pre-eminent forum in one of his first acts as Prime Minister, Mr Morrison must now show he is listening to what Pacific island leaders are telling him is their most pressing security issue.

Unfortunately, for the past five years all they have seen from Australia is a succession of Liberal governments so bitterly divided they have been unable to agree on any climate change policy.

These divisions and the turmoil within the Government are badly damaging Australia's standing in the region and Mr Morrison must now make clear this agreement is too important for Australia, and the region, to be wrecked by the Liberal Party's ongoing internal divisions.

Labor believes the Pacific is core business for Australian foreign policy. To show true leadership in the region, we need to demonstrate that we understand and support the region's challenges.

In Government Labor will work in partnership with Pacific island states to contribute to the security and prosperity of the entire region.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

RUSSIAN NERVE AGENT ATTACK IN THE UK - Shorten/Wong

Labor stands with the Government and people of the UK in expressing our outrage at Russia's reckless and deliberate use of chemical weapons on British soil.

Prime Minister Theresa May announced overnight that British Police have confirmed two Russian military intelligence officers were responsible for the Novichok nerve agent on Sergei and Yulia Skripel in Salisbury, UK on 4 March. That investigation also concludes the Salisbury attack was authorised by the Russian leadership.

Labor strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. In March this year we supported the expulsion of two Russian diplomats from Australia to make clear our revulsion at this illegal, outrageous and dangerous use of banned chemical weapons.

Labor and the Government are united in support of our UK allies in holding Russia to account for its actions, and we again call on Russia to fully disclose the extent of its chemical weapons program and involvement in the Salisbury attack.

JAMES RICKETSON - Wong

Labor is deeply concerned by the conviction and severity of the sentence handed down to James Ricketson.

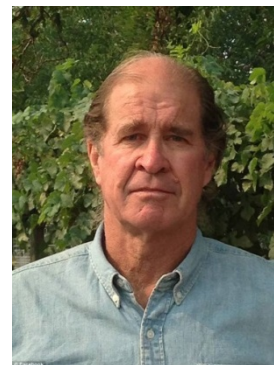
The 69-year-old Australian filmmaker was found guilty by a Cambodian court on Friday of espionage and sentenced to six years in prison.

Mr Ricketson has already spent 14 months in prison after he was arrested for flying a drone above an opposition party rally in June last year. Mr Ricketson's family are understandably deeply concerned about his conviction, and the impact this will have on his health.

Throughout Mr Ricketson's detention Labor has raised his case with the Government. We sought and received an updated briefing from Foreign Minister Payne and DFAT, and understand Mr Ricketson's family are now seeking his release on humanitarian grounds.

The Government has indicated its willingness to support any plea for clemency. Labor supports this and ongoing Australian Government engagement with Cambodian counterparts to raise concerns over the case and secure his release.

Labor has been clear in its criticism of the recent actions of the Cambodian regime, condemning its continuing anti-democratic crackdown on political and press freedoms.



INDONESIA TRADE AGREEMENT - Clare

Labor looks forward to examining the details of the free trade agreement concluded with Indonesia and urges the Liberals to conduct independent modelling on the agreement.

The previous Labor Government launched negotiations with Indonesia in 2012 because we recognised that our trading relationship with Indonesia is massively underdone.

Indonesia is the world's fourth largest country by population. By 2050, it is projected to be the world's fourth largest economy.

Yet, it is currently our 13th largest trading partner.

Two way trade between Indonesia and Australia has actually gone backwards over the past five years.

Indonesia is our next door neighbour but we barely look over the fence. We don't talk to each other or work with each other as much as we should.

More than 18,000 Australian companies export to New Zealand at the moment. Only about 2,000 export to Indonesia.

If this is a good trade agreement it could not only increase trade, it could potentially bring our two countries closer together.

A future Shorten Labor Government will build on this agreement by formalising annual meetings between our Treasurers and Trade Ministers in an Economic and Investment 2+2.

Labor will also improve the way trade agreements are negotiated by:

- **Commissioning independent economic modelling of every new agreement.**
- **Disclosing the Government's goals on the commencement of negotiations.**
- **Providing public updates on each round of negotiations.**
- **Engaging in more intensive consultation with a wider range of stakeholders.**
- **Engaging in more intensive consultation and briefings of Parliamentarians.**
- **Releasing draft texts during negotiations where this is feasible.**
- **Tabling the text of proposed agreements in Parliament before signing the agreements.**
- **Commissioning the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties to conduct an inquiry into the treaty making process.**

VETERANS

LABOR'S VOW TO ADF PERSONNEL SET IN STONE – Shorten/Marles/Rishworth

A Shorten Labor Government will put in place a formal agreement to ensure the nation's armed forces are fully supported during and after their service, and will legislate regular reporting to Parliament on how Australia is supporting military personnel. Labor will sign Australia's first Military Covenant, recognising the immense commitment our armed forces make to serve their country, and formalising our nation's commitment to look after those who have sacrificed for our nation.

The Covenant will be similar to the United Kingdom's Armed Forces Covenant, a principles document which promises that those who serve or have served in the armed forces and their families will be treated fairly.

Labor will work with the Australian Defence Force, Department of Veterans' Affairs and ex-service organisations to draft the relevant wording of a military covenant and associated legislation. In addition, a Labor Government would also introduce legislation which will require future governments to report annually to parliament on how they are meeting their responsibilities to supporting our serving and ex-service personnel.

Australians who serve in our armed forces can require specialised health and social services assistance. The Covenant will make sure those needs don't slip through the cracks. While we acknowledge a bipartisan commitment to giving the best possible support to our serving and ex-service personnel, this Covenant will formalise that commitment.

Those who put their lives on hold to serve their country deserve to know, in no uncertain terms, that we acknowledge the sacrifice they and their families have made in service to our nation, and that we are committed to being there for them now and into the future.

Labor's commitment to those who serve, and have served, is rock solid, and we will state this commitment as a core value and principle. Signing the Covenant builds on Labor's previous commitments to the current and ex-serving defence community, including our \$121 million veterans' employment policy and our family engagement and support strategy.

Australia has a proud military history, and as such we have an obligation to all of those who have served in the name of our nation and our freedoms.

Labor's announcement of a military covenant is a testament of our commitment to those who are serving or have served our country.



HEALTH

LABOR TO DELIVER BETTER HEART CARE IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND – Shorten/ King

A Shorten Labor Government will improve heart care for people in Central Queensland by building a state-of-the-art cardiac theatre at Rockhampton Hospital.

Central Queensland's population is booming - but Rockhampton Hospital currently does not have the best possible facilities to diagnose and treat heart conditions.

As a result, 1,400 Central Queenslanders are forced to travel to Brisbane for these services every year – costing taxpayers an estimated \$3 million for patient transfers.

The people of Central Queensland deserve better.

Labor will give Rockhampton Hospital patients the facilities they need by investing \$11.1 million to deliver a Hybrid Cardiac Catheterisation Theatre. The investment will also deliver six cardiac ward beds and six recovery beds.

This commitment also includes a \$380,000 investment to increase cardiac capacity at the Gladstone Hospital.

An independent report prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers earlier this year confirmed the need for improvement.

This investment will also reduce pressure on other parts of the hospital, which is suffering as a result of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's cuts.

When he was Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut more than \$700 million from Australia's hospitals. That included a \$3.6 million cut from Rockhampton hospital between 2017-2020 – equivalent to five doctors or 10 nurses.

Over the same period, the Liberals have cut \$6.1m from Central Queensland hospitals and \$160m from across the state.

Now Scott Morrison is trying to lock in those cuts for another five years to 2025 – a deal the Queensland Government has rejected as unfair.

Only someone who is staggeringly out of touch would cut money from hospitals while trying to give a tax handout to the banks.

Unlike Morrison and the Liberals, who are only for the top end of town, Labor will deliver a fair go for Australia. A fair go means investing more in our hospitals.

Labor has a proud record delivering healthcare for the people of Rockhampton. When last in office we invested \$76 million to expand Rockhampton Hospital.

Labor believes it should be your Medicare card, not your credit card, which determines your access to great healthcare in Australia.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

LABOR WELCOMES NBNCO REVERSAL ON MEDICAL ALARMS – Rowland/King



Labor welcomes the decision by NBNCo to reverse its stance and make assistance available to NBN consumers using unmonitored medical alarms.

Since 2016, Labor has [called on NBNCo](#) to reconsider a decision it made in 2015 to exclude unmonitored alarms from the medical alarm subsidy scheme.

Medical alarms are crucial for supporting the safety and independence of older Australians living at home.

The source of concern was that the copper and HFC technology currently being deployed cannot support landline phone services during a power outage. In comparison, [the NBN websites notes](#) with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) a battery backup unit could support phone services for up to five hours during a power outage.

This meant the multi-technology mix presented a higher risk profile for vulnerable, usually elderly, Australians who rely on medical alarms connected to a phone line for their personal wellbeing and safety.

The ongoing exclusion of non-monitored alarms from assistance would have had a disproportionate impact on Australians on low incomes, particularly elderly Australians, who desire peace of mind with a personal alarm, but cannot afford the more expensive monitored option – which can cost an additional \$360 to \$480 per year.

It remains unclear why Mitch Fifield sat on this known issue for two years. The decision to reverse that stance will provide additional comfort and assurance to Australians migrating to the NBN who rely on this equipment.

DISABILITY

MINISTER HAS QUESTIONS TO ANSWER OVER PRIVACY BREACH - Burney/Husic

[Media reports](#) reveal that the online portal for the National Disability Insurance Scheme has been the subject of a major privacy breach.

A design flaw in the NDIS online portal has exposed personal information and presented a serious fraud risk.

The privacy breach has led to the online portal being shutdown indefinitely.

The Minister needs to immediately explain:

- How many people were affected by this privacy breach?
- Have affected people been notified?
- Has fraud occurred and to what extent?
- When will the NDIA online system be functional again?

The Digital Transformation Agency must also explain how it is working with departments and agencies to help avoid these incidents when undertaking digital transformation projects within those organisations.

The NDIS exists to improve the lives of people with a disability. And taxpayers should not have to worry about fraud risk. The Government should really have sorted these kinds of issues at this stage of the rollout.

People with disability are paying the price because this Government has treated the NDIS like a political football, instead of focusing on getting the rollout right.

This is the latest in a long series of privacy breaches under the Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government.

[Last month](#), users of the Centrelink mobile phone application *Centrelink Express Plus Mobile* reported that they could see the current details of ex-partners, sparking fear among individuals fleeing family violence.

In [June](#), it was revealed that a client's Centrelink forms containing personal information had been given to the wrong person.

[Last year](#), it was revealed that Medicare card details had been sold on the dark web.

ICKKIE SQUISHIES (The New Daily)

Overseas testing of squishies found that the popular toys emit "dangerous" chemicals that have been linked to cancer, organ damage, eye irritation and impaired fertility.

The New Daily reported on Tuesday that squishies are widely sold in Australia at major retailers including Smiggle, Kmart, Target and Big W.

Squishies are small, foam-like toys similar in texture to stress balls. They come in the shape of animals and food such as hamburgers, cupcakes, strawberries and ice-cream cones.

An investigation by the Danish government revealed that all toys tested emitted "high levels" of harmful chemicals.

The report claimed that children who sleep with their squishies or have several of the toys in their bedroom are at "high risk".

Despite these findings and Australian parents expressing safety concerns, Smiggle, Kmart, Target and Big W have shown no indication they will be pulling the products from shelves.

The identified chemicals include dimethylformamide, styrene and toluene.

Where are these chemicals commonly found?



Toluene is used to make paint thinners, nail polish remover, glues and liquid paper correction fluid. It is also essential in making the explosive compound known as TNT.

Styrene is used to make latex, synthetic rubber and polystyrene beads found in plastic packaging and disposable cups.

Dimethylformamide (DMF) has been found to cause liver damage in animal studies.

DMF is used to produce acrylic fibres, plastics, pesticides, adhesives, synthetic leathers and surface coatings.

Health impacts – according to the research

Styrene exposure has been found to be associated with lung disease, eye irritation and respiratory issues. Some research has also claimed it poses carcinogenic risks.

Toluene has been linked to impaired fertility and can affect the nervous system (dizziness, headaches).

A Danish test found that squishies emit high levels of ‘dangerous’ chemicals. Photo: Smiggle

Dimethylformamide has been shown to increase the risk of liver disease in animal studies as well as dermatitis.

Toxicologist Dr Ian Musgrave of the University of Adelaide said the severity of these effects would depend on a child’s level of exposure to these chemicals.

“The squishies are supposed to be manufactured with polyurethane foam. Toluene is used as the starting point in one of the components of the foam (to make toluene diisocyanate), and dimethylformamide can possibly be used as a solvent in the process,” he told The New Daily.

“It is possible that some unreacted toluene could be left over, as well as some of the solvents.

“Studies on polyurethane foams show that emissions of hazardous materials are well below safety thresholds. [But] it is entirely possible that improper manufacture could result in higher levels of leftover solvents and reactants in the squishies.”

Dr Musgrave said the Danish report makes no reference to a particular manufacturer, which makes it unclear whether the toys sold in Australian stores contain these same chemicals.

Rachael Wakefield-Rann said often products are allowed on the Australian market before testing is conducted on all of their chemical ingredients to determine whether there are any long-term health risks.

“Australia rarely actually bans chemicals. They just restrict usage and dosage for certain products – this is where all the controversy lies,” she said.

“The testing to determine safe doses of chemicals in products is not adequate to account for all the ways that products are used and how they are combined in real life.”



LABOR TO HELP ALL AUSTRALIANS GET THE CHANCE TO STUDY AT UNI - Plibersek

A Shorten Labor Government will invest an extra \$174 million to help ensure all Australians get the chance to study at uni.

Our \$174 million commitment will go towards mentoring, support, and other specialised programs designed to boost opportunities for uni study in communities where graduation rates are low.

Labor believes it should be your ability, not your bank balance that determines whether you get the chance to study at uni.

There are many bright, talented students in every part of Australia, but the opportunities for uni study are uneven.

Currently, a young person from Moreton Bay in Queensland is about five times less likely to get a uni degree than someone on Sydney’s North Shore*. Labor wants to change that.

We want to support students who are first generation in their family to go to uni. We want our unis to attract more students from our outer suburbs and the country, more Indigenous students, and more students with a disability.

Unis must be actively recruiting and supporting these students.

There is already some terrific work happening. For example:

- **James Cook University in Queensland** started a peer study program where third and fourth year students tutored first year students. Sixty-two per cent of those first year students were the first in their families to go to uni, and 23 per cent were from poorer families. A statistical analysis showed the students who did the peer study program tended to achieve higher results and were more likely to continue uni study.
- **La Trobe University in Victoria** partnered with disadvantaged high schools to encourage students to apply for uni. As a result, enrolments from the partner schools jumped by 38 per cent.

A Shorten Labor Government wants to see more programs like these.

Our funding will also encourage unis to collaborate with TAFEs and not-for-profit and community organisations, in areas including mentoring and outreach.

This \$174 million investment comes on top of Labor’s commitment to abolish Scott Morrison’s unfair cap on uni places. Abolishing the cap will see the number of Australians getting a uni education soar by around 200,000 over 12 years.

Nine in ten jobs created in the coming years will need a uni or TAFE qualification.

Labor wants Australia to be a country with a strong economy, and secure, decently paid jobs. That’s why, unlike the Liberals, we will make investment in education a top priority.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

Scott Morrison says he can't find the money to properly fund uni, but he can find billions to give away to the top end of town. His priorities are all wrong.

You can't trust Scott Morrison with education, or your future.

*** Proportion of persons aged 25 to 34 years with a bachelor degree in Moreton Bay is 13%, while on Sydney's North Shore it's 63.1%.**

BACKGROUND

Labor uncapped student places back in 2009, which by 2016 had seen an extra 220,000 students get the opportunity of a uni education. Many of these students were the first in their family to attend uni.

When last in government, Labor also invested hundreds of millions of dollars to boost opportunity for uni study in communities where graduation rates were low. And it was starting to work.

Because of Labor's policies by 2016:

- **the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds was up by 55 per cent;**
- **Indigenous student numbers had jumped by 89 per cent;**
- **enrolments by students with a disability had more than doubled; and**
- **enrolments by students from country areas had grown by 48 per cent.**

Scott Morrison and the Liberals put all this progress at risk when late last year they cut \$2.2 billion from unis by introducing an unfair cap on student places. These terrible policies will see hundreds of thousands Australians miss out on a uni place.

ENVIRONMENT

LABOR DEMANDS THE RETURN OF THE REEF MONEY - Burke

A Shorten Labor Government will terminate the Grant Agreement between the Environment Department and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and demand the Foundation return unspent funds to Australian taxpayers. Tony Burke has advised Dr John Schubert, Great Barrier Reef Foundation Chair, that an incoming Labor Government will use Clause 25.1.1 to terminate the [Grant Agreement](#).

Under the agreement between the Department of the Environment and Energy and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, a material change in Government policy allows the Department to terminate the Agreement and seek the recovery of uncommitted funding.

Earlier this year, the Government recklessly gave a \$444 million grant to the small, private Great Barrier Reef Foundation against Department of Finance advice, and with serious probity questions hanging over the decision.

Labor is committed to protection of the Great Barrier Reef and all recovered funds will be invested in the Reef via government agencies.

The Foundation is now on notice.

REEF FUNDING EXPOSED AS LIBERALS' DODGY ACCOUNTING TRICK – Bowen/Chalmers

The Liberals' new Prime Minister, their new Treasurer and their much-diminished Finance Minister have more very serious questions to answer after damaging revelations today that they went against departmental advice when they handed a \$443.4 million taxpayer-funded grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The Australian [reports](#) the Department of Finance recommended the budget allocation to protect the Reef be set at \$200 million over six years, but the Government instead decided to shovel almost half-a-billion out the door immediately to make the Budget bottom-line look better in the future. They were in such a rush to shovel money to their mates that they gave more than twice as much, six times faster.

Scott Morrison, Josh Frydenberg and Mathias Cormann are all implicated in this. As the former Treasurer, the former Environment Minister and the Finance Minister, they all had a hand in using this dodgy accounting trick to artificially inflate future projected surpluses by handing out taxpayer money without any sort of proper process.

The Liberals don't care about the reef; they were only interested in fudging numbers in the Budget. These latest revelations support Labor's repeated calls for Treasury and Finance officials to attend and fully participate in the Senate inquiry.

Treasury and Finance need to publicly explain their full involvement, including when they first learned of the proposal, what advice they gave, whether costings were approved, why there was no defensible process, and why they were ignored.

With a record like this, no wonder net debt has doubled and gross debt has crashed through half-a-trillion dollars for the first time in the nation's history under this rabble.

This dodgy accounting trick shows yet again the Liberals have no idea when it comes to managing the Budget in a fair and responsible way in the interests of Australians.

THE REALITY OF NO CLIMATE POLICY UNDER THE LIBERALS – Mark Butler

Over the last weekend, a number of Morrison Government Ministers have repeated the lie that Australia is "on track" to meet its international climate commitments. The truth is that the Liberals have no climate policy and no way to contain, let alone reduce, Australia's rising carbon pollution levels. They have a target of a 5 per cent cut in emissions by 2020.

But the Morrison Government's own data, snuck out in the days before Christmas, showed there would be a **0 per cent** cut in pollution by 2020.

They have committed to the Paris Agreement with a 26-28 per cent reduction by 2030 on 2005 levels. But the same government data showed there would only be a slim **4 per cent** cut in pollution by 2030 - missing our international commitments by a whopping **24 per cent**.

And this was all before the Liberals junked the emissions reduction component of the National Energy Guarantee - walking away from any plan to cut pollution in the electricity sector, which is responsible for one third of all of Australia's emissions and has the lowest cost of cutting pollution.

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

The international community is becoming increasingly alarmed at Australia's complete lack of responsibility and credibility, with the European Union and our neighbours in the Pacific demanding the Government take action to reduce pollution, not just repeat empty promises.

The fact is Prime Minister Morrison has the same position as Peter Dutton when it comes to action on climate change, but by flagging dropping out of Paris, at least Peter Dutton was honest about his opposition to climate action. Prime Minister Morrison's lip service of saying Australia is committed to our Paris Targets is worthless given he has no policy to actually back that up.

Combating climate change is a Labor priority. It's time the Liberals got out of the way.



PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO BAN LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS ABANDONED - Fitzgibbon

Members of the Australian community concerned about the immense cruelty suffered by sheep exported on voyages to the Middle East will be disappointed by the decision of Liberal MPs Sussan Ley and Sarah Henderson to abandon their Private Member's Bill to phase out the live sheep trade.

Both members accepted a political promotion in the Morrison Government and now will now argue their new positions deny them the opportunity to "**cross the floor**". Prior to her promotion, Sussan Ley had been firm and vocal about the failings in the live sheep export trade saying the trade was "**built on the suffering of animals**".

In a speech in Parliament on 21 May, she asserted "The case for continuing long-haul live sheep exports fails on both economic and animal welfare grounds" and was crystal clear in her determination to act on high levels of community outrage over the cruel and unnecessary suffering of exported sheep.

Liberal Member for Corangamite Sarah Henderson strongly supported Sussan Ley's campaign to end the cruelty by [seconding the Private Member's Bill](#). But she too is now silent and has abandoned what she, not so long ago, believed was '**intolerable**'.

Walking away from convictions is a common theme of the divided, dysfunctional and unstable Morrison Government. But Labor won't give up the fight.

ACCC GIVES GOVERNMENT A NUDGE ON DAIRY - Fitzgibbon

It's now four months since the ACCC delivered its [report on the dairy industry](#).

The Government is yet to respond and has ignored its recommendations.

The key recommendation was the establishment of a Mandatory Code of Conduct to address market power balance between dairy farmers and processors. But while the Morrison Government refuses to act, the ACCC is not letting the issue go.

This week the Commission released a '[Guide to the ACCC's mandatory code recommendation](#)'.

It's more than a gentle nudge.

The guide again points out the reasons for the ACCC's recommendation and outlines the process for developing the code and its likely effects.

Minister Littleproud tried to blame the dairy industry for not proceeding with the mandatory code claiming that they had not come to him with a united voice and then he used the excuse that he has only been in the job for 8 months as a reason for not acting.

I remind the Minister that the previous Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce did nothing for the dairy industry either and excuses won't wash with them.

Our dairy farmers are also suffering from the drought and whether it's the banks or the retailers, the Morrison Government is very quick to push others to act on the impact of the drought. But it won't act itself. Speaking about the drought this morning, Minister Littleproud told ABC radio:-

"We need to be big enough to say that if we haven't got it right, we are going to go and change it."

Well Minister, you haven't got it right. In the electorally sensitive State of Queensland, the Government cobbled together a Mandatory Code for the Sugar industry overnight. It obviously views our dairy farmers as less important.



DRIVING A BETTER DEAL FOR AUTO DEALERS - Leigh

A Shorten Labor Government will drive a better deal for auto dealers by levelling the playing field between the overseas multinationals that manufacture cars and the small businesses that operate car dealerships. Labor will implement an industry-specific code through regulations under the Competition and Consumer Act to deliver clear rules for manufacturers and dealerships.

The current power imbalance means manufacturers can impose contract terms and set dealership expectations which are to their own advantage, making it difficult for local dealers to properly look after their customers. The pressure this creates on dealers impacts on small business and can affect how cars are serviced and repaired, and how warranty claims are handled.

The independent code will create a set of rules that both the manufacturers and dealers must observe when establishing expectations around dealer conduct. Labor has a clear plan to clear the road for auto dealers and drive a better deal for every Australian.

"We believe an industry specific code regulating behaviour between new car Dealers and offshore vehicle manufacturers is necessary to protect consumers, dealerships and their employees. Currently new car Dealers are locked into one-sided agreements with vehicle manufacturers which restrict our ability to run a profitable business and protect our consumers" - The [Australian Automotive Dealer Association CEO David Blackhall](#)

Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

"The power imbalance between vehicle manufacturers and car dealerships is a major issue that is consistently raised with us, in both our dispute support area and our policy work. Manufacturers continue to use their market power to constrain car retailers, which in turn disadvantages customers" - [Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Kate Carnell](#)

'The Franchise Council of Australia has welcomed the announcement by the Federal Opposition that if elected it would introduce a separate automotive industry code of conduct... Automotive dealers are facing some significant challenges specific to the automotive retail sector' - The [Franchise Council of Australia CEO Mary Aldred](#)



RIGHTS

SCOTT MORRISON MUST SHOW LEADERSHIP ON GAY CONVERSION – King/Collins/Pratt

Scott Morrison must show some leadership, stand up to the Liberal Party reactionaries and unequivocally condemn gay conversion "therapy".

Real leaders don't just wash their hands of serious problems and say 'that's got nothing to do with me'. They take a stand.

Gay conversion has been thoroughly discredited by the experts. But it's not just harmless quackery - it's dangerous and sometimes deadly.

Labor is taking a stand against this practice, which the World Medical Association has called a serious threat to the health and human rights of those subjected to it. Homosexuality is not some kind of disorder that requires a cure.

Malcolm Turnbull, Greg Hunt and Michael McCormack have all failed to condemn this abhorrent practice in recent months.

Now Scott Morrison too has deferred to the right wing of his party instead of backing the experts and the LGBTIQ community.

This practice should be banned. Morrison and Hunt should show some leadership and work with the states to outlaw it.

If they're too weak to do that, Labor will work with the states to implement a ban in Government.



CHARITIES

CHARITIES SUFFER AGAIN UNDER CHAOTIC COALITION – Leigh

Australian charities are once again collateral damage of the crisis and division within the Coalition.

For the past five years, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government has waged a war on charities, prompting two open letters to the Prime Minister of the day, and wasting endless hours of time as charities push back against the Coalition's retrograde agenda.

Zed Seselja is the government's sixth minister with responsibility for the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, following Kevin Andrews, Scott Morrison, Christian Porter, Michael McCormack and Michael Sukkar.

Regardless of what you think about each of those individuals, it's hard to see how a minister can properly serve the sector when they're only in the job for an average of ten months.

With one of Peter Dutton's henchmen taking responsibility for the charities commission, charities will now be steeling themselves for the next attack. Rewarding Senator Seselja's appetite for destruction by placing him in charge of our best community builders just confirms the perverse energies that now guide this government.

In Labor's case, we are the first major party to have a dedicated frontbench position for charities and not-for-profits. Throughout the past five years, I have had responsibility for the charities commission. This has allowed me to build relationships and develop policies with the sector.

Working with the non-government sector, we've seen off attempts to axe the charities commission, to nobble the advocacy work of charities, and to smother them in unnecessary paperwork. We've also been able to work on a positive reform agenda, campaigning to fix fundraising laws and reduce duplicate reporting requirements. My colleagues and I have held 15 'Reconnected' forums across Australia, hearing from more than 1500 charity leaders about their ideas on rebuilding community.

Labor is stable, consistent and ready to govern. We've listened to charities and share their purpose to make Australia fairer for all

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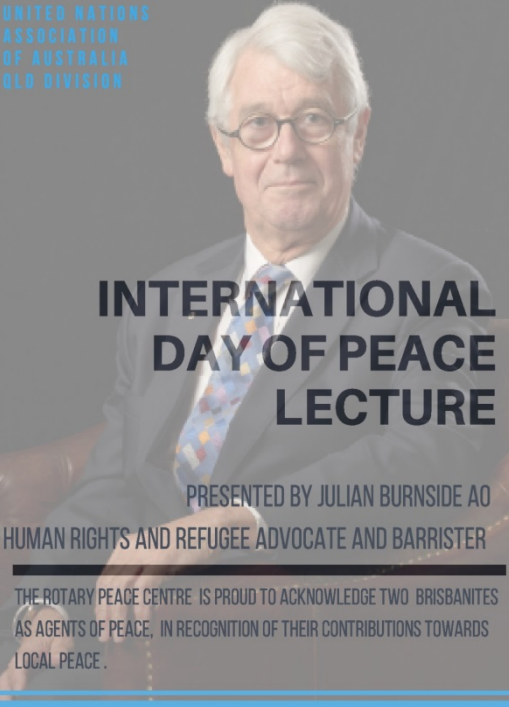
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Current Senate Inquiries – to Friday 7 September 2018

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [My Health Record system](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [My Health Record system](#)
- [Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practiced](#)

Economics Legislation Committee

- **New** [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]; and Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Regulatory Levies\) Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Protecting Your Superannuation Package\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Space Activities Amendment \(Launches and Returns\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Improving the Energy Efficiency of Rental Properties\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Telecommunications Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

- [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Finance and public Administration Legislation Committee

- [Intelligence Services Amendment \(Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight of Intelligence Agencies\) Bill 2018](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- [Defence Amendment \(Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding\) Bill 2018](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

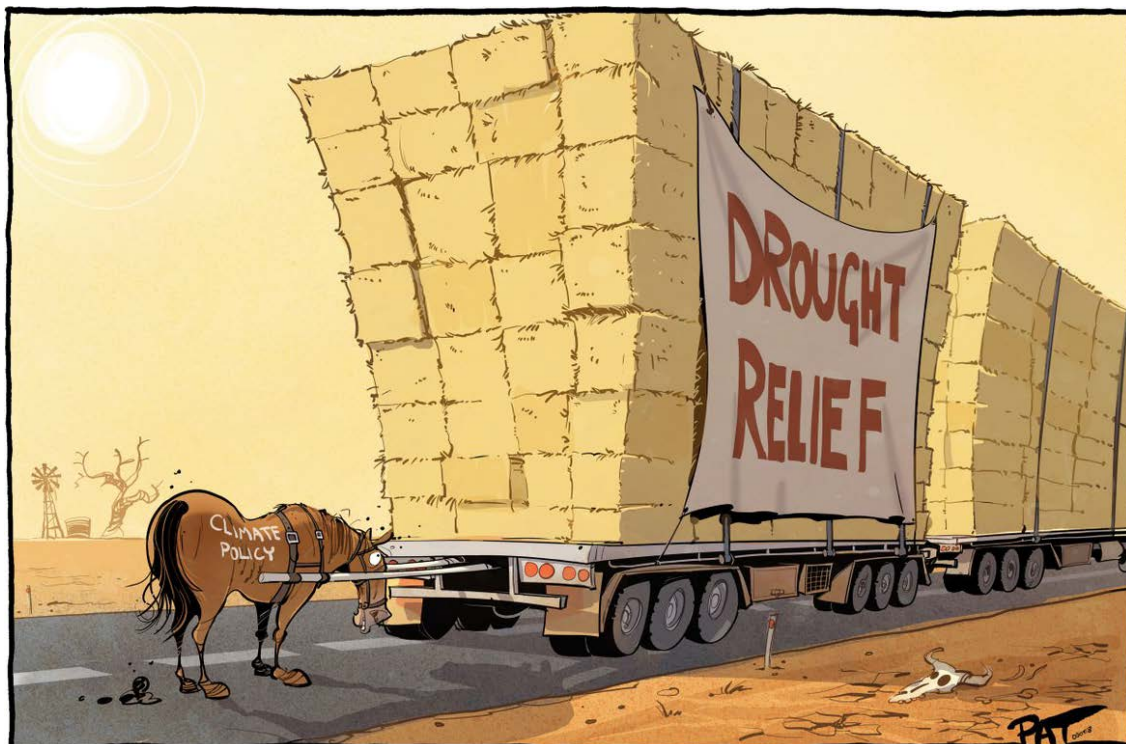
- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [Proposed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018](#)
- [Customs Amendment \(Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], Customs Tariff Amendment \(Comprehensive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

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- [Migration \(Validation of Port Appointment\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018](#), [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018](#), [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment \(Removing Commonwealth Restrictions on Cannabis\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)
- **Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee**
- [Allegations concerning the inappropriate exercise of ministerial powers, with respect to the visa status of au pairs, and related matters](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)
- **Procedure Committee**
- [Proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to prayer or reflection](#)
- **Red Tape Committee**
- [The effect of red tape on child care](#)
- [The effect of red tape on occupational licensing](#)
- **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)
- **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**
- [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- **Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia**
- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)
- **Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century**
- [Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century](#)
- **Select Committee on Electric Vehicles**
- [Electric Vehicles](#)
- **Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education**
- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)
- **Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers**
- [Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#)



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