



Senator Claire Moore

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THIS WEEK:

Prime Minister, Scott Morrison emerged from his government's civil war declaring a 'new generation' of leadership. Unfortunately some of its new leaders don't even know why they were chosen and many that were; reflect a government that is even more out of touch with reality and the primary concerns of the majority of Australians.

This is especially so in the area of my Shadow portfolio, International development & the Pacific.

In his first acts Scott Morrison has returned to his front bench Peter Dutton, who [joked about the impact climate change is having on Pacific Island states](#), snubbed the region's pre-eminent forum, dropped the portfolio from the ministry, and handpicked for the job a Senator who has declared her own lack of association, knowledge of or interest in the region.

It is a lamentable start and sends a clear message to our Pacific neighbours that they are not an important priority for the Australian Government.

This is despite the former Foreign Minister's 2017 [DFAT White Paper](#) declaring "Australia's overseas aid program aims to help developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in line with Australia's national interest."

Julie Bishop also acknowledged her government needed to demonstrate greater leadership in the Pacific and play our part in ensuring a stable and prosperous region.

What is the hope for a commitment to such an agenda now?

Australian development assistance spending is now at its lowest level in history - just 22 cents in every \$100 of our national income will be spent on foreign aid in 2018-19 and Scott Morrison's own Budget Papers forecast it will fall even further to just 0.19 per cent of GNI over the forward estimates.

At the same time the Scott Morrison Government is now walking away from any serious action on climate change and is under strong internal pressure to abandon the Paris agreement, at the very time that climate change is the number one priority for our Pacific Island neighbours, some of whom may face geographic obliteration.

Bring on the election.

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore

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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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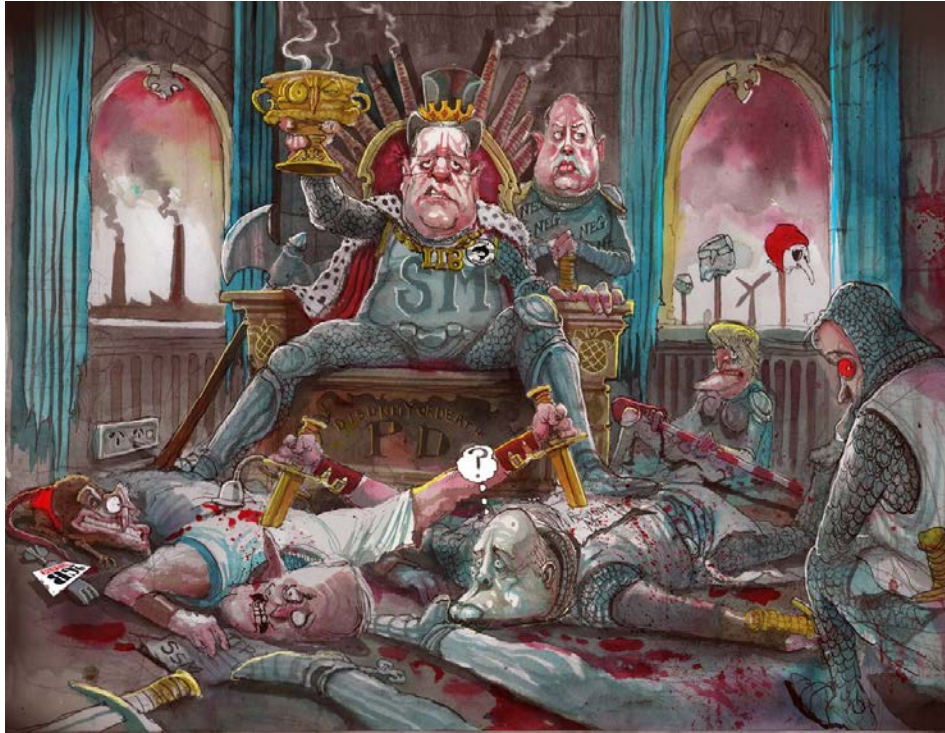
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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS - O'NEILL –RN- DRIVE

"I think it definitely highlights the fact that the Royal Commission into banking has never been a priority for this Government. In fact, Scott Morrison as Treasurer led the charge against a Royal Commission. He denied the need for it for 600 days, he voted against it 26 times, and he spent the last two years of his political life fighting to give the big banks a \$17 billion tax cut. The fact he's not bothered to put anyone in place to look after this crucial sector that is need of some serious reform, I think reflects the fact they're never going to take this problem seriously and they can't be trusted to implement the Royal Commission's recommendations."



STUART ROBERTS – O'NEILL –RN- DRIVE

"This a person who was dumped from Malcolm Turnbull's front bench because of misconduct, and the idea that someone dumped from misconduct is going to be in charge of fixing bank misconduct, it is just an absolute joke."

BULLYING- O'NEILL –RN- DRIVE

"Julia Banks is one of a number of women who are not returning into the Liberal Party room and there is a very significant problem on the conservative side of politics with having good representation of women and there are real policy outcomes that result from this issue."

ENERGY POLICY- MARK BUTLER – SKY NEWS

"What we need is a certain, clear, investment framework for new energy investment that has bipartisan agreement. The terrible thing about the speech yesterday by Angus Taylor, is it confirms the Government has walked away from taking any interest in delivering investor certainty."

ENERGY POLICY - CHALMERS SKY NEWS

"These characters are always playing internal politics over energy, they are always putting ideology before lower prices and less pollution and, for as long as that continues, there'll be a debacle in energy policy and Australians will pay more than they need to."

ENERGY POLICY- MARK BUTLER – SKY NEWS

"Unfortunately what we've seen over the past 48 hours is the appointment of the most ideological anti-renewables Energy Minister this country has ever seen. Scott Morrison has essentially surrendered to the hard-right agenda on energy policy."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"That the Liberals aren't within cooee of achieving the level of female representation in their ranks that John Howard managed 20 years ago is a damning indictment of the kind of culture and values of the party's divisions. – Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"I think that you've got to roll with the punches in this game," - Backbench MP Craig Kelly criticising Julia Banks' decision to resign. Perhaps this is also Kelly's view on dealing with domestic violence!

"While Malcolm Turnbull and others have lauded Julie Bishop as a great foreign minister, she was not. Her hectic schedule, regional summits aside, was much more New York and London than Asia — the region with which Australia does the bulk of its trade, and which remains central to growth, not to mention the multiple security concerns amid a hefty two-way tourist trade." - Michael Sainsbury

GLIMPSES

OVERSUPPLY AND DEMAND

A new study by the Centre for Independent Studies has found the supply of child care across Australia is "uneven and fragmented". The study found that urban areas benefit from an "oversupply of child cares", and parents of children under two years old can face waiting periods of up to two years. In addition, child cares dealing with the cost of red tape in the sector are being passed on to parents, with out-of-pocket costs for parents having increased 48% between 2011 and 2017.

On September 5, thousands of childcare workers and educators will hold political rallies across the country to push for pay increases by the federal government.

GOVT GOBBLEDEGOOK

While the Morrison government has identified lowering power prices as a key early priority, a new analysis says wholesale prices will almost halve over the next four years because of the technology many Coalition conservatives oppose – renewables.

The latest renewable energy index compiled by Green Energy Markets confirms analysis by the Energy Security Board that wholesale electricity prices are on the way down because of an addition of 7,200 megawatts of extra large-scale supply from renewable energy.

South Australia rides renewables boom to become electricity exporter
Tristan Edis from Green Energy Markets says the political debate in Canberra is lagging behind practical developments in the national electricity market. The national energy guarantee was scuppered in part because government conservatives were concerned the mechanism didn't do enough to reduce power prices, and because of claims that renewables were inflating power bills
"What I think is extraordinary given recent political events is that we've actually turned the corner on wholesale electricity prices and they're now headed downward and will continue to decline substantially over the next few years,"

a solar farm in Port Augusta.

Edis told Guardian Australia. "This doesn't seem to have sunken in at all in our political debate."

LOVE SUNSHINE

The 2016 Census data shows Noosa on the Sunshine Coast has the nation's highest percentage of people working from home, with many new businesses believed to be in the tech or internet-based sphere.

Sunshine Beach – an upmarket surfside enclave of multi-million dollar mansions – and the Caloundra Hinterland, which includes the popular retirement village of Maleny, complete Queensland's showing in the top 10.

The creative lifestyle communities around Byron Bay and Mullumbimby, just over the border from Queensland in northern NSW, form another cluster of home-based workers located by the sea.

NOT A DROP TO DRINK

Pollution from an old northern Queensland mine has turned a creek that feeds a major river into a toxic contamination zone.

Residents around the Walsh River and Jamie Creek, south-west of Cairns and near the township of Watsonville, have been told not to drink, swim or use the water by the Queensland government.



The government has tested the site and found the Baal Gammon copper mine, which sits next to the creek, has contaminated the waterway.

This is where waste rock from the Baal Gammon mine is stored. Photo: ABC News
Leading environmental engineer, RMIT professor Gavin Mudd, says the level of contamination going into the creek and river is among the worst he has ever seen, with aluminium, copper, zinc, and cadmium levels "thousands of times higher than the concentrations we'd like to see".

Locals are angry that their water source has been deemed too risky to use. "It is sort of unbelievable that you've got NSW, half of Queensland in drought," said David Dyer, a Walsh River resident for more than 30 years. Here we are, we've got a running river that you can't use." The mine is owned by controversial Brisbane businessman Denis Rheinhardt



LOWERING WAGES



Remembering that for many in the Liberal Party the process of deregulating the workplace is an article of faith that is nowhere near finished the IMF has just completed international research that counters their ideological demands for further de-regulation of the labor market.

Workers are missing out on wage rises because the deregulation of job protections has gone too far, new International Monetary Fund research has found. IMF researchers found "a statistically significant, economically large and robust negative effect of deregulation on the labour share" of national income. The IMF Working Paper: Employment Protection Deregulation Continued and Labor Shares in the Advanced Economies estimated that job protection deregulation may have contributed about 15 per cent to the average labour share decline in advanced economies. The IMF researchers looked at 26 advanced economies including Australia and called for more research on the role of labour market deregulation along with technology and globalisation in labour's declining share of the national economy. Australian economist Saul Eslake said a number of influential mainstream economists around the world were now finding that job protection deregulation had gone too far and the evidence presented by the IMF researchers was "difficult to ignore".

Research released last month by the Australia Institute found the decline of the labour share of GDP since 1975 was costing working Australians \$16,750 per year each, on average.

NO NEG, NO POLICY – The Australian

Generators and big energy users say Scott Morrison's move to decouple carbon emissions cuts from energy policy has dealt a blow to investor certainty, threatening his overriding goal of bringing down power prices

The Prime Minister yesterday confirmed responsibility for the role of ensuring Australia met its Paris emissions reduction targets had been taken out of the hands of Energy Minister Angus Taylor and handed to Environment Minister Melissa Price.

The Australian Energy Council, representing 21 major energy companies, said dropping the Paris commitment from energy policy "means a continuation of the price instability and investment uncertainty we have been dealing with in this market for more than a decade". "A lack of robust or bipartisan energy policy means there is a lack of investment confidence, which means there is more risk to be managed, and this in turn leads to higher prices," AEC chief executive Sarah McNamara said. "We have been a broken record on this; it underscores why we have been seeking a bipartisan policy, so we can see durability in the policy to enable confidence for investors to build long-life assets."

"It's certainly not government's role to increase risk ... separating energy and climate change doesn't make sense for those who are managing climate change risk in their business."

BACKWARDS TO THE FUTURE

Chief executive of the Australian Energy Council Sarah McNamara has criticised the [recent speech](#) given by Energy Minister Angus Taylor, telling [Guardian Australia](#) the reason behind high electricity prices in Australia wasn't due to misconduct in the market, but the uncertainty surrounding the National Energy Guarantee (NEG) and the "10 year" policy vacuum, which only served to "exacerbate the very problems" Taylor wants to solve.

AUAU-PAIREDMcNamara also told the Guardian that a recent inquiry by the ACCC didn't find evidence of misconduct in the energy market and that a "bipartisan agreement on policy" would give investors the confidence needed "to be able to commit to these long term assets".



DEPORT DUTTON

Peter Dutton's interventions to secure slave labor for a Liberal Party donor and an ex copper mate has raised a storm but his worse crime surely is the interventions he hasn't made. For example he has so far failed to save a Sri Lankan family from deportation despite them having lived for 6 years in the township of Biloela and having secured 120,000 signatures on a petition in support. There is too his multiple failures to expedite the movement of seriously ill refugees on Manus Island to Australia for treatment.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MORRISON MUST SUPPORT PACIFIC DECLARATION - Wong/Butler/Moore

Scott Morrison must ignore Liberal hardliners and commit Australia to signing the Pacific Island Forum's "Biketawa Plus" regional security declaration, which includes endorsement of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

[According to Fairfax](#), the draft agreement covers a range of issues including crime and humanitarian assistance as well as the environment. The consultations were strongly supported by the former Turnbull Government.

However, it 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."

After downgrading the position of Minister for the Pacific from his new ministry, appointing to the post someone who claims she has "no idea" why she was given the job, and then snubbing the Pacific Islands Forum leader's meeting, Mr Morrison cannot afford to further slight our Pacific neighbours by walking away from the "Biketawa Plus" declaration.

For Pacific Island nation's climate change is a threat to their very existence.

While the Morrison Government is now walking away from any serious action on climate change, and is under strong internal pressure to abandon the Paris agreement, this agreement is too important for Australia, and the region, to be wrecked by the Liberal Party's internal divisions.

MORRISON'S FIRST CALL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS -DOWNGRADES PACIFIC – Wong/Moore

Scott Morrison has made clear how little the Pacific, and foreign aid, matters to his government by dropping the portfolio from his ministry.

The Liberals have cut more than \$11 billion from our Overseas Development Assistance budget in five years. Now, Mr Morrison's first foreign policy decision as Prime Minister is to cut the ministry from the front bench.

This is despite the former Foreign Minister's 2017 [DFAT White Paper](#) declaring "Australia's overseas aid program aims to help developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in line with Australia's national interest."



Australian development assistance spending is now at its lowest level in history - just 22 cents in every \$100 of our national income will be spent on foreign aid in 2018-19 and Scott Morrison's own Budget Papers forecast it will fall even further to just 0.19 per cent of GNI over the forward estimates.

Earlier this year former Foreign Minister Julie Bishop acknowledged her government needed to demonstrate greater leadership in the Pacific and play our part in ensuring a stable and prosperous region.

Instead, Mr Morrison has returned to his front bench Peter Dutton, who [jokes about the impact climate change is having on Pacific Island states.](#)

Pacific Island states are now openly expressing concerns Mr Morrison may cause further

offence by not attending next week's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in Nauru.

Mr Morrison's decision to axe International Development Assistance and the Pacific from his front bench can only further worsen Australia's already diminishing influence in our region and sends a terrible signal to our Pacific neighbours about just how little this Government cares for the region.

"NO IDEA AT ALL" RUSTON'S INDICTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DOWNGRADE - Wong
Scott Morrison's new Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific has added insult to the dumping of her portfolio from the ministry by declaring she has "no idea at all" why she got the job.

BEVAN: ...Anne Ruston on the phone line, Assistant Minister for- now International Development and the Pacific- how did you get a gig like that Anne Ruston?

RUSTON: I am not quite sure... very exciting new challenge- but no idea at all. - **ABC ADELAIDE SUPER WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST 2018**

In five years in office, the Liberals have cut more than \$11 billion from our Overseas Development Assistance budget before Mr Morrison added insult to injury on Sunday by cutting the ministry from his front bench.

Mr Morrison then confirmed how little he cares for the region by snubbing the Pacific Islands Forum starting this weekend in Nauru.

Now his handpicked choice for the downgraded aid and the Pacific portfolio has made clear her own lack of interest in the region by declaring she has "no idea" why she was chosen for the portfolio.

Earlier this year former Foreign Minister Julie Bishop acknowledged her government needed to demonstrate greater leadership in the Pacific and play our part in ensuring a stable and prosperous region.

Instead, in his first acts as Prime Minister, Mr Morrison has returned to his front bench Peter Dutton, who [joked about the impact climate change is having on Pacific Island states](#), snubbed the region's pre-eminent forum, dropped the portfolio from the ministry, and handpicked for the job a



Senator who has declared her own lack of interest in the region.
MYANMAR MUST ACT ON DAMNING UN FINDINGS - Wong

Myanmar must act on a [damning UN report](#) which has found there is sufficient information to warrant the investigation and prosecution of senior officials in Myanmar's military for genocide.

The report has determined there is conclusive evidence the Myanmar military is responsible for "the gravest crimes under international law" against the minority Rohingya people in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states.

The report finds the military responsible for indiscriminate killings, mass

rape, the destruction of entire villages, torture and numerous other offences which amount to a systematic program of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Labor has previously expressed our deep concern at the human rights abuses in Myanmar which the UN had described as "textbook ethnic cleansing", with numerous, reputable reports of killings, rape and arson targeting the minority Rohingya people in Myanmar.

The UN findings make it essential the international community continue to bring pressure to bear on the whole of Myanmar's government as well as the military.

Labor welcomes the humanitarian assistance already provided by Australia and urges the government to consider what further action Australia can take to assist Bangladesh to cope with the humanitarian crisis on its border.

IMMIGRATION

WHAT'S THE GO WITH THE AU PAIRS? - Neumann

New [explosive leaked emails](#) show that Peter Dutton's ministerial intervention to stop an au pair from being deported was anything but routine. On radio this morning, Peter Dutton proudly stood by his decision to intervene and grant a visa.

"Now I've got lots of enemies in the media running around at the moment trying to get square for recent events... I make decisions on the merits of these cases, that's exactly what I've done, and I stand by the decision." - Peter Dutton 2GB, 20 August 2018

[Leaked emails](#) which have emerged since that interview leave many questions about Peter Dutton's ministerial intervention unanswered.

"SBC (Strategic Border Command) will be providing detail which does not support the Minister intervening." - *Emails from the Assistant Commissioner, Strategic Border Command.*

The Australian Border Force advised **against** the Minister granting the visa... but he granted a visa anyway. Why did the Peter Dutton act against Border Force's advice?

Dutton was warned the individual was "previously counselled" in May 2015 about breaching visa conditions... but he granted a visa anyway. Why did Dutton undermine the integrity of Australia's visa system?

Peter Dutton was warned that there was "financial liability" associated with his intervention... but he granted a visa anyway. Why did Dutton expose the Australian taxpayer to this financial risk?

As each day goes by, there are more serious questions Peter Dutton needs to answer about the use of his ministerial powers

The Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs will investigate these matters in the [Senate Inquiry](#) into *Allegations concerning the inappropriate exercise of ministerial powers, with respect to the visa status of au pairs, and related matters.*

It's time Scott Morrison stepped in to ensure Peter Dutton immediately and fully explains his actions to the Australian people.

WHISTLEBLOWERS RAISE CONCERNS OVER CHILDREN IN NAURU- Neumann

After being reappointed the Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton cannot and must not continue to choose wilful neglect over taking appropriate action to address concerns about the provision of healthcare to asylum seeker and refugee children in the Australian-funded regional processing centre on Nauru.

Labor is deeply concerned by reports on the ABC's 7.30 in which whistle-blowers who have worked as medical professionals in the regional processing centre on Nauru as recently as this year shared their experiences.

Labor strongly believes that medical transfers for refugees and children in Australian-funded offshore regional processing centres should be made available when a treatment is not available on island and where treatment is recommended by appropriate medical practitioners.

Labor remains very concerned that all is done to protect the rights of children in the immigration processing network which is why we took a commitment to the last Federal Election to establish an Independent Children's Advocate – an option Peter Dutton and the Liberals have not taken up.

Many of the concerns raised by whistle-blowers were previously canvassed in the Labor-initiated Senate Inquiry following the leaked Nauru files, with Peter Dutton failing to act on the reasonable recommendations made in the Senate Inquiry's report for over sixteen months.

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 to negotiate other third country resettlement options.

In the past week, Labor has written to both Peter Dutton and Scott Morrison urging the Government to accept New Zealand's offer to resettle eligible refugees – including children – from Manus and Nauru as quickly as possible.

If the Government was able to negotiate conditions for the US refugee resettlement agreement to prevent people smugglers exploiting vulnerable people, they should be able to negotiate appropriate conditions and protections for any agreement with New Zealand.

Ensuring Australia maintains strong borders does not absolve the Australian Government of its obligation to provide appropriate health, security, and welfare services to asylum seekers and refugees while the Government continues to fumble and fail to negotiate third country resettlement agreements for eligible refugees.

In addition to accepting New Zealand's offer, Peter Dutton and Scott Morrison must immediately explain what they are doing to ensure the health and welfare of asylum seekers and refugees, especially children, in the Australian-funded regional processing centre on Nauru.

ECONOMY

LABOR ENSURES SMALL BUSINESS GETS A SEAT AT TAX TABLE - Bowen/Leigh/Madelaine King

Labor is committed to giving all taxpayers – particularly small businesses – a fair appeals process when dealing with the Tax office.

Genuine concerns have been raised about engagement with small businesses about tax disputes, including the lack of a perceived and real structural separation within the Tax Office of officials who make tax assessments from those who handle disputes and appeals.



That is why a Shorten Labor Government will legislate to establish a new position of Second Commissioner – Appeals within the Tax Office, reporting to the Commissioner of Taxation, to head up a new Appeals area within the Australian Taxation Office.

Every small business is unique, and there is no 'one-size fits all' approach to tax disputes. One small business' matters will differ from another's.

A separate appeals area in the Tax Office ensures small business disputes are given the care and attention they deserve.

In April 2018, the Opposition Leader Bill Shorten called for an investigation into the Australian Tax Office, following matters raised by a joint Fairfax Media-Four Corners investigation.

The then-Turnbull Government heeded our call, announcing an urgent

investigation by Treasury. This report is not public, nor has the Government issued a formal response.

After weeks of government chaos, we aren't even sure which Minister is responsible for responding to the report.

We do, however know that the Government has rejected the measure in the past.

The new Appeals Group was recommended by the Inspector-General of Taxation's *The Management of Tax Disputes* [report](#) and the bipartisan Joint Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue's *Tax Disputes* [report](#).

Labor will ensure the Appeals Group will be headed by a new and dedicated Second Commissioner, responsible for managing tax disputes for all taxpayers, through pre-assessment reviews, objections, litigation including identifying test cases and providing oversight on settlements, and facilitating the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution throughout the compliance and dispute resolution process.

Further, the Tax Office will establish a framework for the development of communication protocols between the Appeals Group and other areas of the ATO to ensure that the Appeals Group is, and is seen to be, independent in its dispute resolution function.

There is widespread support within the taxpaying community for this proposal, and it will bring Australia into line with current international practice across a number of comparable jurisdictions.

Funding of \$1.5 million will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office over the forward estimates.

Important reforms are either ignored by the Coalition, or left to gather dust. Small businesses are left out in the cold as a result.

Only a Shorten Labor Government can deliver practical measures to help small businesses.

FRIENDS OF PAYDAY LENDING TAKE OVER LENDING REFORMS - Bowen/Madelaine King

In a crushing blow to thousands of victims of payday loans, Scott Morrison has appointed good mate and disgraced MP, Stuart Robert, to the Assistant Treasury ministry with responsibility for payday lending reforms.

[Stuart Robert earlier this year campaigned inside the Liberal Party against attempts to introduce payday lending legislation](#) to Parliament which would protect consumers from soaring interest rates and skyrocketing fees - leaving cash-strapped families at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders.



This campaign saw the now Prime Minister and Kelly O'Dwyer back down and drop the payday lending reform legislation and it hasn't been heard of since.

Labor has introduced into the Parliament these very legislative reforms and the Liberal Party has refused to engage or support it.

The only ray of light on this issue is that the now Treasurer first kicked off the review that ended recommending these payday reforms in August 2015.

Josh Frydenberg should take these critical reforms off Stuart Robert and personally take responsibility for its urgent passage through the Parliament.

It has been three years since the Turnbull Government heralded a review into payday lending yet vulnerable consumers are still being thrown to the loan sharks.

The Liberal Party has refused to introduce its own payday lending legislation to Parliament which would protect consumers from soaring interest rates and skyrocketing fees, instead leaving cash-strapped families at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders.

Scott Morrison has protected these dodgy payday lenders and rent-to-buy scheme operators from answering to the Financial Services Royal Commission and continues to protect them from by refusing to introduce the legislation.

In the meantime, households are forced into payday loans and face skyrocketing fees and interest rates as high as around 200 per cent.

Labor calls on the Government to introduce this important piece of legislation so that 1.8 million financially distressed Australian households, who may be forced into a payday loan, are not ripped off.

BIG BANKS' PROTECTION RACKET ROLLS ON – O'Neill

Scott Morrison's choice pick for Assistant Treasurer, his former flatmate Stuart Robert, has revealed that the Morrison Government has no desire to crack down on corruption and misconduct in the banks.

In [The Australian today](#), Stuart Robert argued that banking scandals are "inevitable". These comments are absolutely appalling – but not surprising – from someone with such a terrible track record.



Stuart Robert vowed to resist "left-wing" pressure to crack down on banking conduct, instead backing "self-regulation" – which has comprehensively failed to protect the thousands of Australians who have come forward to the Royal Commission so far.

The Royal Commission has exposed appalling rorts and rip offs across the entire financial services sector.

We have heard evidence about the systematic cheating of customers, banks charging fees for no service – even to dead people – and lenders duping people into shockingly inappropriate loans. First Nations communities have suffered from

appalling, predatory conduct. And lawyers for the Royal Commission have even recommended the National Australia Bank and Commonwealth Bank face criminal charges over their treatment of superannuation customers.

This kind of conduct must be stamped out immediately, not condoned by an Assistant Treasurer who has an appalling record of misconduct himself.

What a complete joke.

Stuart Robert doesn't want the big banks to be lumbered with "the dead weight of government".

Labor doesn't want Australians being lumbered with scams and crooked conduct on the part of the big banks, pushing them into financial ruin.

Stuart Robert apparently thinks he has responsibility for banking misconduct. This would be an absolute disaster given his track record, scandal prone nature and comments in today's papers.

Nobody can trust the Morrison Government to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Only Labor will stand up for Aussie customers and businesses and crack down on misconduct in the financial services sector.

DID ATO WASTE TAXPAYER DOUGH DIGGING DIRT FOR SLOMO? - Bowen/Leigh

The full extent of Scott Morrison's politicisation of independent institutions remains unknown with the Australian Tax Office refusing to provide details of work done for the now Prime Minister, months after being asked.

In May, *The Australian* newspaper reported on costings of Labor tax policies as part of a heavily biased drop seemingly from the former Treasurer.

The Tax Office was asked later that month whether it had done the costings at the behest of Mr Morrison's office, but remains unwilling to answer even three months on, saying it would be a "an unreasonable diversion of resources" to provide a response. That could suggest that Scott Morrison has laboured the ATO with a lot of costings requests of Labor policies.

The former Treasurer has a track record of politicising such institutions - not only commissioning Treasury work, releasing it selectively to some journalists and not releasing the full work for proper scrutiny, but also [appointing former Liberal staffers](#) to supposedly independent positions of power. They have even asked the Australian Tax Office to fact-check partisan claims for political media releases.

It is clear that Government has, at some stage, entertained reforms to negative gearing and dividend imputation. What's not clear is to what extent were Australian Tax Office resources diverted to help potential policy development, and to what extent were the used for Mr Morrison's cheap political attacks.

Surely the Liberals' use of Treasury and the Tax Office to do partisan attacks on Labor is the real diversion of resources.

GOVERNMENT BACKS DOWN ON SUPER CHANGES – O'Neill

Labor welcomes reports today that the Government will scrap its planned changes to superannuation boards.

This was always an ideological attack on industry super funds, without any compelling evidence for change.

These changes were designed to make the boards of not-for-profit industry funds more like the banks.

Former Minister Kelly O'Dwyer, let the cat out of the bag when she once said that the government needed to lift superannuation funds to at least the same standard as other financial services organisations like banks and life insurance companies.

Labor never believed that the super funds should be required to have the same governance model as the banks.

We opposed this legislation, and with scandal after scandal, it was clear that what was needed was a Royal Commission.

For over 600 days the Government ran a protection racket for the banks, stubbornly refusing to call a Royal Commission. Then it even wanted to give the banks a \$17 billion tax cut.

Time and time again, this Government has shown that it is on the side of the banks and the big end of town. It has consistently failed to stand up for consumers and cannot be trusted to implement the recommendations of a Royal Commission.

This is a major failure for outgoing Minister Kelly O'Dwyer, who together with Scott Morrison, also caused widespread concern in the community about retrospective changes to superannuation with the Government's disastrous 2016 Budget proposals.

Adding further to the chaos and dysfunction of this Government, Scott Morrison has failed to appoint a new Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation. Stuart Robert thinks he has responsibility for these areas, which could be a recipe for disaster given his track record and poor judgement.

A report today suggests that it may be another two weeks before this dysfunctional Government gets around to deciding who is responsible for this critical area of the economy.

REPORT SHOWS FIFIELD'S NBN A NIGHTMARE FOR SMALL BUSINESS – Bowen/Rowland
[A new report from the Australian Communications & Media Authority](#) reveals 42 per cent of small and medium businesses have complained to the NBN or their retail provider about poor service during connection.

Other key findings include:

- 40 per cent of small and medium businesses had NBN downtime, with nearly one in seven being left without internet or phone for over a month.
- 72 per cent of businesses have also reported having further NBN faults with dropouts and slow speeds following initial connection.
- These latest results are a clear indictment of a second-rate NBN that has been botched by this divided government.

The competitiveness of small business will continue to suffer under non-existent leadership which has been seen under Mitch Fifield and the Liberals.

While the Liberals have been fighting amongst themselves, Labor has been focused on consumers.

If elected, a Shorten Labor Government has announced it [will establish an NBN Service Guarantee](#) to safeguard small businesses from excessive downtime that result from faults and delays. Labor's policy will establish the right structural incentives to ensure NBNCo and retail providers are focused on delivering a better experience.

What is clear is that this dysfunctional government must get its house in order and start putting policies in place which are focused on consumers and not themselves.

MORRISON ABANDONS FINANCIAL SERVICES – O'Neill

Less than 48 hours into the Scott Morrison Government, and already Australia has lost a dedicated Financial Services Minister.

It is a critical time in the financial services sector. The Banking Royal Commission provides a once in a generation opportunity to create more fairness in an industry that affects every single Australian. It is beyond belief that Scott Morrison would leave Australians without a dedicated financial services minister in the middle of the Royal Commission.

Scott Morrison and the Liberals always have been – and always will be – on the side of the big banks.

Nobody fought harder than Scott Morrison to keep banking misconduct secret. For 600 days, Scott Morrison and the Liberals fought tooth and nail to prevent a Royal Commission. Scott Morrison voted 26 times against setting up a Royal Commission. And as Treasurer, he was the loudest voice against the Royal Commission, describing it as a "populist whinge", a "QC's complaints desk" and a "reckless distraction".

Now, as Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has signalled that he and his Government have no intention of implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations. Only Labor can be trusted to stand up for Aussie customers and businesses by cracking down on misconduct in the financial services sector.

YET ANOTHER MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE - Carr

Labor congratulates Karen Andrews MP on her appointment today as Minister for Industry, Science and Technology.

Karen Andrews is the 6th Coalition Minister for Industry and Science in only five years.

But the return of the Industry and Science portfolios to the Cabinet – which were previously dumped by Turnbull – seems to have come at the expense of the Innovation portfolio, which now sees its turn outside the cabinet room.

Under Tony Abbott, the word “innovation” was all but banned. Then, under Malcolm Turnbull it briefly became almost compulsory. Karen Andrews’ appointment today will provide little confidence to industry or the scientists and researchers who support industry.

The Liberals chaos and division has produced nothing but a revolving door of Ministers for this portfolio.

Every Minister has stood by the horror cuts of the 2014 Budget which saw \$3 billion cut from science, research and innovation.

Nothing can patch up the division and chaos inside the Liberal Party – the only way to end this is with an election.

ENERGY POLICY

NEW MINISTER CONFIRMS WAR ON RENEWABLES AND UP GO PRICES - Butler

The New Energy Minister, Angus Taylor, has confirmed that his approach to ‘solving’ the Liberal’s energy crisis remains based on anti-renewables ideology and is bound to drive prices and pollution up.

Speaking for the first time as Energy Minister, Mr Taylor has confirmed he has already given up on addressing the national energy policy vacuum that lies at the heart of the Liberal’s energy crisis, saying **“I think there is some naivety in the idea that governments can largely eliminate uncertainty, or should even try,”**.



The Liberal government’s inability to implement a national energy investment framework that supports renewable investment post 2020 is creating the uncertainty the minister refuses to address. This is a recipe for more chaos, higher prices, higher pollution and more confirmation that the Liberals simply aren’t up to the job.

The new Minister’s approach flies in the face of all the experts, business leaders, and energy agencies, who have for years made the case that policy uncertainty is stifling investment and driving prices and pollution up. This advice couldn’t be any clearer than when AEMC said **“The result of this uncertainty has been delays in investment and consequent increasing electricity prices”**.

We have a “Minister for lowering power prices” who refuses to acknowledge or address why power prices are as high as they are in the first place.

He won’t accept the simple fact that increased renewable energy investment, backed by firming technologies like batteries and pumped hydro, is not only crucial to drive down pollution, and deliver the lowest cost replacement for aging coal fired power plants, but is key to driving down power prices for households and industry.

Just today we have seen another report pointing out that the rush of renewable energy investment to meet Labor’s 2020 Renewable Energy Target is forecast to halve wholesale electricity prices in the next few years.

But all this progress is now under threat as a new Morrison government double down on their ideological war on renewables.

QUESTIONS THE NEW ENERGY MINISTER NEEDS TO ANSWER - Butler

The Liberals have presided over an unprecedented energy crisis which has seen power prices skyrocket, pollution rise and investor confidence smashed.

Energy market analysts have described new Energy Minister Angus Taylor’s appointment as **“a roadblock, not even a speed-hump, but a straight out roadblock”** to energy and climate policy certainty and progress.

Given his history and the ongoing energy crisis, there are serious urgent questions Minister Taylor must answer when he decides to actually talk about his new portfolio.

1. Does he still think climate change is a ‘religion’ and not based on science?
2. **The new climate religion, recruiting disciples every day, has little basis on fact and everything to do with blind faith.” – Speech to Parliament 16/6/14**
3. *Does he still think renewable energy is not economic?*
4. **Large-scale wind it’s very clear that it’s not economic on any grounds.” - speaking with Alan Jones, June 2013**
5. Will he resurrect the abandoned National Energy Guarantee by introducing an emissions reduction target to encourage investment in renewable energy?
6. Does he plan to use billions of taxpayers’ dollars to build ‘uninvestable’ and expensive new coal-fired power stations that Snowy Hydro have testified would make Snowy 2.0 unviable?
7. Most basically, as the Liberal Government approaches its sixth year in office, what is the Government’s energy policy?

8. Australians shouldn't hold their breath for serious and credible answers to these questions. One thing they know is the Liberals are too divided to have a plan to drive down power prices or pollution.

It's time they got out of the way.

ANGUS TAYLOR THE MOST ANTI-RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER - Butler

New Energy Minister Angus Taylor has lifted the bar for the most anti-renewable, climate change denying minister Australia has ever had.



Angus Taylor led the campaign to force Malcolm Turnbull and Josh Frydenberg to abandon their National Energy Guarantee, which has only made the Government's energy crisis worse.

He has a long history as an anti-renewable energy ideologue, including by fighting to kill Labor's Renewable Energy Target (RET) - which is the only thing currently bringing down prices and pollution.

Minister Taylor was the poster boy for the flop event 'National wind power fraud rally' and absurdly called the RET a "**bad program**" because it was used to "**reduce carbon emissions.**"

His appointment signals the complete triumph of hard-right ideology on energy policy, which is sure to guarantee higher power prices, continued investment uncertainty and rising pollution.

Australia now has an energy minister who's views on the economics and engineering of renewable energy fly directly in the face of all expert and industry views, including the Government's own Energy Security Board, who have said "**The cost of running a clean-coal plant is much more expensive than running a combination of wind, solar and gas, or, better yet, wind, solar and pumped hydro.**"

Here is a small snapshot of Energy Minister Taylor's anti-renewable and climate action statements:

On climate change science: "**The new climate religion, recruiting disciples every day, has little basis on fact and everything to do with blind faith.**" - **Speech to Parliament 16/6/14**

On the economics of renewable energy: "**Large-scale wind it's very clear that it's not economic on any grounds.**" - **speaking with Alan Jones, June 2013**

On (disproven) health impacts of wind farms: "**significant communities are being very, very negatively affected by what's going on.**" - **2GB October, 2015**

The choice has never been clearer a Shorten Labor Government is for lower power bills, investment in renewable energy and cuts to pollution. The Liberals are anti-renewable, anti-climate science, and anti any real policies to bring down power prices or pollution.



ANOTHER COALITION THOUGHT BUBBLE ON DAMS - Burke/Clare/Fitzgibbon

The Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government are not serious when it comes to building new dams. They treat dams as thought bubbles and change their minds on these so called schemes more quickly than they change leaders. People in northern Australia will be sceptical. And rightly so.

In 2011 they announced a taskforce on dams in response to flooding - it was a plan to establish a committee - it went nowhere.

In 2013 Tony Abbott planned to build "100 dams and harvest nation's riches" but on the same day Greg Hunt said "We have no proposal for 100 dams as such". 5 years on and they still haven't built a single dam, let alone 100.

The NAIF has also been an absolute failure - it's only invested in four projects in three years.

We have seen a number of Green and White Papers announced with fanfare but still no dams built.

As Water Minister Barnaby Joyce talked about dams a lot but did not build a single dam.

Today the Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government returns to re-announce its 2013 proposal only it has now reduced the amount of dams from 100 to 9.

Today's report also includes a quote from the NT Farmers chief executive Greg Owens questioning the Coalition's scheme "big dams on iconic rivers like the Daly, Roper, Mary or the Fitzroy in WA are not needed and will cause major environmental impacts that no one in the north wants".

Construction of dams is a serious matter. Any proposal has to stack up environmentally and commercially. A site needs to be selected carefully - with the correct topography, rainfall and soil type. Environmental impacts and impact on neighbouring groundwater also need to be looked at to make sure it stacks up.

A dam not only needs to be tested for its environmental impact but particularly its impact on other agricultural activities.

The Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government has had over 5 years in government and all they will do is blame Labor for their lack of action. They have been too busy fighting over each other's jobs rather than focussing on creating jobs in northern Australia.

Labor not only supports the building of dams where they stack up, unlike the government, Labor has actually built some. It was Labor that approved the development of Ord Stage 2; commenced process of upgrading Chaffey dam; funded and opened the Headquarters and Milford Dams in Tasmania; commenced construction on the Midlands Water Scheme and continued the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme.

More recently it was Labor that led the way in supporting work on the Burdekin Dam and Rookwood Weir. Labor will build the Rockwood Weir and we're the only party that will fix water security in Townsville.

As Treasurer, Scott Morrison presided over cuts to the GST in the Northern Territory and cuts to schools, hospitals and universities. His last budget did not deliver one new project for the north. All we see from the Coalition is thought bubbles and hollow promises. Labor will wait to see further detail from the Government.

FARMING LEADER LASHES GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE DENIALS – Fitzgibbon/Mark Butler

A former President of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has launched a stinging criticism of both the Government's refusal to acknowledge the link between climate change and drought and its failure to produce meaningful drought and climate policy.

Brent Finlay, who was President of the NFF for three years from 2013 to 2016, told [The Guardian Australia](#) -

"Climate change and connectivity are the two biggest issues facing the bush. Climate change is real and we have to have a national drought policy framed on what we know about climate change – the two are interlinked."

"The climate is changing, you can see it in the eyes of farmers who dismissed it as rubbish eight years ago. By recognising climate change, it is empowering resources to support agriculture."

Mr Finlay also accused Ministers of being too quick to:

"jump in front of the cameras".

The current Prime Minister refused to acknowledge the link between climate change and the severe drought impacting so dramatically on our farming families.

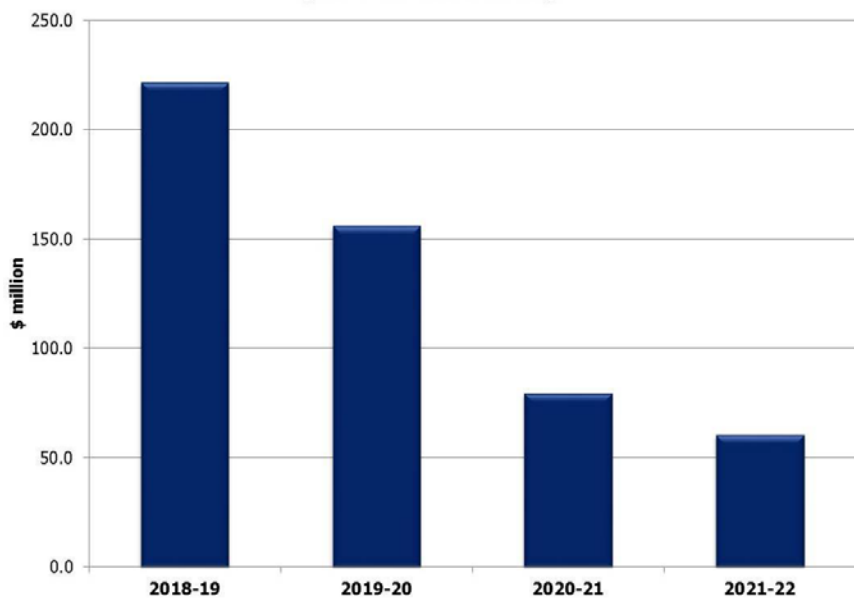
The Government's response to the drought has been inadequate and has let farmers down. That won't change until the Prime Minister lays down the foundations for meaningful policy by acknowledging the climate change challenge.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SQUABBLING GOVT CUTS ROAD FUNDING AND IGNORES DARWIN CITY DEAL-Albanese

It's been over 498 days since the Federal Coalition Government promised a special City Deal for Darwin to lift federal infrastructure investment and underpin the city's economic development.

**Federal Infrastructure Investment in the NT
(2018-19 to 2021-22)**



said.

"But that figure will fall over each of the following four years to \$61 million in 2021-22.

"This 75 per cent reduction over four years means promised investment in upgrades to the Central Arnhem Road and Buntine Highway has been pushed off into the Never Never."

Labor Member for Solomon Luke Gosling said Territorians were tired of lip service from Canberra.

"The Government has fast-tracked city deals for Townsville and Western Sydney, but done nothing for Darwin almost 500 days after promising a City Deal for Darwin," Mr Gosling said.

"When new Prime Minister Scott Morrison makes his first trip to Darwin in his new job, he should come prepared to explain why he is cutting

But nothing has happened – except news that Commonwealth infrastructure grants to the Northern Territory will collapse by 75 per cent over the next four years.

These facts underscore how the Coalition has taken its eye off the ball when it comes to infrastructure in the Northern Territory as it has become paralysed by the internal divisions that ended Malcolm Turnbull's prime ministership last week.

Mr Turnbull offered the City Deal to placate growing concern in the NT about his Government's cuts to road investment.

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese said that far from delivering increased investment through a City Deal, the Government has made further cuts.

"The Budget forward estimates show that the Federal Government will invest \$222 million in Northern Territory infrastructure in 2018-19," Mr Albanese

investment and what has happened to our City Deal.”

It is looking increasingly as though the Government’s City Deals are simply a device to delay actual investment in the infrastructure and services needed in Australian cities.

Labor will abolish City Deals and replace them with our new City Partnerships that will act as blueprints for genuine, bottom-up collaboration between governments on improving the productivity, sustainability and liveability of cities like Darwin.

COMMUNICATIONS

DIGITAL DIVIDE CONTINUES TO WIDEN UNDER LIBERALS - Rowland/Husic

Labor remains deeply concerned about evidence of growing inequality as reported in the [Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2018](#), released this week.

The Index shows the gap between included and excluded Australians is substantial and continues to widen for some groups, particularly those with low levels of income and employment.

Australians are spending more time online and spending more of their total household budget on internet services than ever before. This exerts pressure on the households that can least afford it and exacerbates the ‘digital divide’ between richer and poorer Australians.

While digital inclusion is improving for many, the sad fact is that there are still more than 2.5 million Australians who are not online and missing out on the education, health, social and financial benefits that come with connection.

“Once again, the Index demonstrates that action must be taken to overcome barriers to participation in the digital age yet in five long years the Liberal-National Government has failed to produce a digital inclusion strategy to arrest the widening digital divide”, Michelle Rowland said.

“The only consistent feature of digital transformation under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has been stuff up after stuff up, wasting huge amounts of taxpayer funds - and leaving the general public in the lurch when they need online access to government,” Mr Husic said.

“To make matters worse, during the course of the last year the Coalition has failed to outline a plan to lift digital skills within our economy and broader community, despite skill shortage issues being highlighted repeatedly.” Mr Husic said.

It is the interests of all Australians, including government and industry, to tackle the digital divide as a matter of urgency.

Addressing inequality is Labor’s defining mission. There is an urgent need for action on digital inclusion and a Labor Government would make it a priority.

FIFIELD: FRESH OUT OF IDEAS FOR COMMUNICATIONS - Rowland

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has doubled down on its damaging record on the NBN and ABC by reinstating Senator Mitch Fifield as Minister for Communications.

Mitch Fifield backed three different Liberal leaders in as many days, last week, and was today aptly described as a “weathervane”. Whether it’s a move to turf a PM, a deal to attack public broadcasting or a knee-jerk reaction to soaring telco complaints, Minister Fifield has shown he stands for nothing, has no vision and scant regard for evidence.

Fresh from knifing a PM, Senator Fifield offers nothing to this government’s so-called “fresh new team”, but rather a face for their broken promises on the NBN and ABC.

Here are a few fresh things Senator Fifield could do:

- Adopt and implement [Labor’s NBN Service Guarantee](#);
- [Reverse](#) the Liberals’ unfair cut of \$83.7 million to the ABC;
- Drop the three One Nation Bills designed to meddle with the ABC;
- End the years of delay on spectrum reform; and
- Resign his membership of the IPA, an organisation that advocates privatising the ABC and halting construction of the NBN.

Having deposed the bloke who supposedly invented the internet and having resigned his post only to be sworn in again today, this Minister does not bode well for Australian citizens and consumers.

REGIONAL

COALITION ALL TALK AND NO WALK ON DECENTRALISATION - Jones

This week’s Cabinet reshuffle saw the Coalition name its first Decentralisation Minister.

While the position is a new one, there is nothing new about the Morrison Government’s plans for decentralisation.



When former Minister Fiona Nash first announced this policy more than a year ago, she created high expectations in regional Australia. Since then there has been little to show for all the big talk.

So far, not even 100 jobs have been earmarked for relocation under this policy.

All up, that's just 0.0005% of APS jobs – barely a ripple and a long way from the tidal wave signalled by successive government ministers.

Even worse, only 16 of the 98 jobs earmarked for decentralisation will go to a non-capital city and over 80 per cent of jobs will move from one capital city to another including:

- 40 jobs to relocate from Canberra to Adelaide
- 25 jobs to relocate the 20 kms from Sydney to Parramatta
- 10 jobs to relocate from Canberra to Darwin

Labor has always been sceptical about the Coalition's decentralisation policy which has not been matched with a commitment to maintain existing public sector jobs in the regions.

That scepticism remains this week despite the announcement of a decentralisation minister, that came on the same day the Regional Health and Regional Communications portfolios were scrapped.

MORRISON DROPS REGIONAL ROLES FROM HIS FIRST MINISTRY - Jones

In his first address after Friday's leadership ballot, Scott Morrison told Australians he was on their side, but it is now clear that he didn't mean it.

The Liberal – National Coalition has snubbed regional and rural Australians by abolishing two critical positions servicing their communities:

- The Minister for Regional and Rural Health – previously held by Dr David Gillespie has been axed along with its occupant.
- The position of Minister for Regional Communications - nominally held by Deputy Nationals Leader Bridget McKenzie - has also been axed.
- The poor performance of these two National MPs does justify their sacking. It does not justify axing the Ministry.



While policy challenges in these critical areas grow the Nationals and Regional Liberals are asleep at the wheel.

Not one National Party MP or Minister appears to have been aware of an NBN plan to increase regional fixed wireless broadband charges by \$20 more than the equivalent fixed line service for people in the city. Labor exposed the plan and forced the Government into an embarrassing backflip.

The digital divide is actually growing right under the noses of the National Party Leadership Team with the latest [Measuring Australia's Digital Divide: Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2017](#) showing that the digital divide was actually growing in Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania.

The same report found "substantial differences between rural and urban areas. In 2017 digital inclusion is 7.9 points higher in capital cities (58.6) than in country areas (50.7).

There is a need for a dedicated focus on Regional Health where:

- Mortality rates are 1.3 times higher

- Levels of chronic disease are 6% higher

The [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has observed:](#)

"Australians living in rural and remote areas generally experience poorer health and welfare outcomes than people living in metropolitan areas. They have higher rates of chronic disease and mortality, have poorer access to health services."

The National and regional Liberals allowed Medicare rebate freezes which breached the Nationals election platform and threatens the viability of regional and rural medical practices. Health outcomes are poorer, NBN complaints are greater, but the Nationals and Regional Liberals seem oblivious to this.

HEALTH

MORRISON'S CUTS TO MORETON HOSPITALS – King/Perrett

Last week the shambolic Liberals changed their Leader – but they've done nothing to change their savage cuts to hospitals.

Scott Morrison is cutting \$28.9 million from south Brisbane hospitals – including \$3.1 million from Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital, which Shadow Health Minister Catherine King and Member for Moreton Graham Perrett visited today.

Morrison is cutting \$715 million out of Australia's public hospitals between 2017- 2020, with Metro South's cut equivalent to over 70,000 outpatient appointments or over 43,000 emergency department visits.

Morrison's \$28.9 million cut is also the equivalent of 40 doctors or 80 nurses a year.

Now Morrison is seeking to lock in even more savage cuts out to 2025 – in a deal the Queensland Government has rejected as unfair.

Morrison led the charge to give big business a \$80 billion tax handout - but he won't provide a fraction of that to properly fund public hospitals in Brisbane's south and give locals the health care they need.

Every dollar cut from Metro South public hospitals is a dollar cut from sick and vulnerable patients. These are people waiting for hip surgery, knee replacements, and dealing with life-threatening health issues.

Access to health care should be determined by your Medicare card – not your credit card.

A Shorten Labor Government will invest millions of dollars in additional funding in Metro South hospitals, more than reversing Morrison's cuts and funding more beds, more staff and more services.

We have pledged to reverse Morrison's 2019-2025 hospital cuts by establishing a national \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund – meaning we will deliver a record investment in the health of all Australians.

This will restore the difference between the Liberals' promise to fund 50 per cent of hospital cost growth and their actual policy of funding 45 per cent. Only Labor will fix our hospitals.

NASTY RED TAPE CHANGES TRIP AGED PENSIONERS - Husic

The Morrison Government has been caught using a sneaky bit of red tape to deny vulnerable Australians access to the Age Pension.

It's been [revealed](#) that Newstart recipients eligible for the Age Pension are waiting for months to be transferred to the Age Pension due to new government rules.

When Australians currently on Newstart turn pension age they become ineligible for the Newstart - but may be eligible for the Age Pension.

Previously, Newstart recipients eligible for the Age Pension were automatically transferred to the new payment.

However, the Coalition Government has introduced new changes which force eligible pensioners to be reassessed for the Age Pension, which can take many months.

In the meantime, people affected by these delays may be without income support for months.

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, Age Pension processing times have steadily increased.

AGE PENSION MEDIAN PROCESSING TIMES

(Source: Senate Estimates 31.05.18)

2016-17 (full FY)	2017-18 as at 31 March
36 days	49 days (p.171)

While median times have increased to seven weeks, we know that in reality, pensioners are waiting [many more months](#) for their pensions to be approved.

Internal system problems at Centrelink have made matters worse, with call centre staff stopped from switching clients in just minutes from Newstart to the Age Pension.

The Government was slow to respond to today's reports about the impact of this change.

They also failed to explain if vulnerable Australians were forced to bear the brunt of this change as a part of overall government cost cutting measures designed to help fund its costly corporate tax cut for big business.

This is a kick in the guts for people who were made redundant late in their career and haven't been able to secure another full time job.

Ordinary Australians should not be made to pay the cost for the mismanagement and harsh cuts of the Coalition Government.

THE LAW

GOVERNMENT SNUBS SENATE ON FAMILY COURT CONSULTATION - Dreyfus

Late on Thursday night, under the cover of leadership chaos, government members of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee did an astonishing thing - they voted to overrule the democratic will of the Senate.



Earlier that day, Labor Senators joined with the Centre Alliance, Senator Derryn Hinch, Senator Tim Storer and Greens Senators in a majority vote to force the government to conduct adequate consultation for its family court reforms and extend the reporting date for a legislative inquiry until next year. This would not just allow for a thorough committee process, but also for the Australian Law Reform Commission's landmark report into the family law system to be considered alongside the government's proposals.

This vote was a strong message from the Senate that the government had utterly failed to do its job in talking to the people who will be most affected by the sweeping changes that are proposed to the structure of the courts. The lack of



consultation has led to anger from many stakeholders, compounded by the government's high-handed dismissal of their concerns.

But government members of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee overturned that vote in a meeting on Thursday night. In doing so, they have given interested parties just three weeks to make submissions on a bill nearly 200 pages long, which represents the biggest change to the Family Court since the Whitlam government created it in 1975.

The government's timetable will give no time for the Committee to travel to regional communities to hear how they may be affected by the changes that are proposed, and it will likely limit the hearing process to just the eastern states. This is unacceptable.

With this astonishing act, the government have not just repudiated the views of Labor, but also important crossbenchers.

A change like this is too important to rush through. Vulnerable families and children in the court system need change - but they need change that is done properly and done right. Rushing a process like this is beyond comprehension.

Labor calls on the government to reverse this decision and extend the reporting date once more.

GOVERNMENT TRIPS UP ON FAMILY COURT INQUIRY - Dreyfus

The government's attempt to ram its family court bills through the Parliament with inadequate consultation has been stymied – not by Labor, but by the rules of the Senate.

Last week's attempt by the government to defy the will of the Senate, and shorten the reporting date of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee into the bills, has provoked anger amongst many stakeholders.

The Senate voted for an 15 April 2019 reporting date for important reasons – to allow time for thorough consultation which has not happened to date, and so that the Australian Law Reform Commission's review of the family law system can be taken into account.

The government appears to have assumed its committee resolution to shorten the reporting date to November 2018 would allow the bills to be passed shortly thereafter.

Advice from the Deputy Clerk of the Senate indicates that is not the case, stating "the bills would continue to be unavailable for the Senate's consideration until the reporting date set by the Senate."

The government must now acknowledge and respect the will of the Senate, and restore the original reporting date set by the upper house. As the bill cannot be put to the Senate for debate until April next year, enforcing a reporting date in November this year would be utterly nonsensical.

It's time for the government to face reality, admit it got this wrong, and listen to those with everyday experience of the family law system who want to have their say.



SCOTT MORRISON NO FRIEND TO FAMILIES - Rishworth

Scott Morrison has worn a number of hats prior to his appointment as Prime Minister. We all know he was head of the praetorian guard for Australia's banks. But prior to this, he was also the chief architect of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Governments new child care system – the unfair new system which has now left 1 in 4 families in Australia worse off.

The original *Jobs for Families* child care changes were **announced in the 2015 Budget** by then Prime Minister, Tony Abbott and Social Services Minister, Scott Morrison.

This is where the unfair new activity test and slashing early education hours for low income families was first introduced as Liberal Party policy.

Despite Labor consistently opposing these changes, they eventually passed the parliament with minimal changes – but all of the nasty hallmarks of Scott Morrison remained.

From its inception, Scott Morrison oversaw the reduction of access to subsidised education and care to some of our most vulnerable families with and designed the unfair activity test.

This is where the Government, and Scott Morrison, showed their true colours. They like to talk about families doing it tough, but they acted to bring in a new system that reduces access to early education for low income and vulnerable families.

Whilst Simon Birmingham was left to implement this unfair new system, and botched it – it was cooked up under Scott Morrison's watch.

Scott Morrison can't hide from his role in leaving 1 in 4 families in the child care system worse off, and cutting early education to the children who need it most.

BYE BYE BIRMO - PLEASE DON'T COME BACK - Rishworth

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has appointed a new Minister for Education.

Sadly they have continued to neglect the early childhood education and development portfolio and have not appointed a dedicated, standalone Minister.

One of the policy areas which is key to determining the future of the next generation and the country is without its own voice.

It is time for the early childhood education and development sector to farewell Simon Birmingham.

But it isn't a fond farewell. As the Liberal Government have assembled an appalling record in the early education and development portfolio.

This hall of shame includes:

- \$20 million cut from the National Quality Agenda program in the May budget;
- The introduction of a new child care subsidy system which leaves 1 in 4 families worse off;
- Completely bungling the implementation of his new system, leaving thousands of families and providers out of pocket; and

- No money in the budget for the national preschools program after next year and no plans to sign a new agreement.

This is an abysmal record from this Liberal Government who despite changing their Ministers on several occasions still neglect to see the value of early childhood education.

This is the same Liberal Government who is responsible for leaving 1 in 4 families worse off under the child care changes and who has confirmed they will not continue funding for four year old preschool after 2019.

Sadly, even with a new Minister, with a record like the Liberals' we can only expect to see more of the same when it comes to valuing early childhood education.

CITIZENSHIP

NEW MINISTER, SAME CITIZENSHIP DELAYS BLACK HOLE– Burke/Hill

The new Minister for Citizenship, David Coleman, must urgently explain what steps he will take to clear the massive back log of citizenship applications.

Unpublished information obtained from the Department of Home Affairs shows that the backlog of Australian permanent residents stuck, their lives in limbo, has ballooned to a record high of 242,606 people.

Fairfax Media recently reported mysterious changes in approval rates for certain groups that the Minister must explain – everyone living in Australia has a right to be treated fairly under the law.

For example, for Australian permanent residents who were born in China:

- in the last five years there was a 72% average approval rate, as compared to applications lodged, yet
 - the available data for 2017/18 shows approvals have suddenly plummeted with less than 20% approved as compared to applications lodged.
- Despite the mounting evidence that something is seriously wrong, no adequate explanation has been given as to the growing queue and delays.

While the Turnbull government was falling to pieces, the previous Minister Alan Tudge gave a unnoticed train wreck interview on ABC radio tried to claim there was a *"massive spike in applications over the last few years"*.

Yet that's just not true: the official data shows a steady, normal increase on average over five years of 7.3% each year.

The only spike is in the queue of people in the black hole of the department.

Since the 2016 Federal Election alone this is a 428% increase in the queue despite only a 21% increase in the number of applications lodged.

Over the last four years, the number of applications for citizenship lodged by humanitarian arrivals has *dropped* 21%, and in 2017/18 only 3.9% of conferrals approved were for humanitarian arrivals.

The scandal continues to grow, communities are hurting and the new Minister's first priority must be to explain what he will do to fix this mess.

WORKERS

MICHAELIA CASH ONLY ADDS TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CRISIS - Cameron

The appointment of Senator Michaelia Cash as Skills and Vocational Education Minister is a disaster for a vocational education sector already in crisis.

Every week, dodgy private training providers are going bust, thousands of students are being charged for courses they have not done and \$24 million of taxpayer's money has been wasted on the abandoned Australian Apprenticeship Management System.



Senator Cash's office is currently under investigation for its role in leaking details of an impending Australian Federal Police raid to the media.

Also of concern are recent reports of unusually high staff turnover within her office which raise doubts about their capacity to handle this complex portfolio.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Doug Cameron, said the appointment of Senator Cash is a political fix Australians cannot afford.

"Senator Cash has been rewarded for ratting on Malcolm Turnbull, the person who backed her in throughout this AFP raids scandal," Senator Cameron said.

"She is a minister with a proven track record of incompetence and failure; scandal follows her wherever she goes.

"The AFP recently has referred its investigation of Senator Cash's office to the DPP and yet she is being rewarded with a new ministry."

Senator Cameron said the vocational education system has been damaged by privatisation, poor regulation and unhealthy competition.

"The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has stripped \$3 billion from TAFE and vocational education since coming to power, creating a crisis in the sector," Senator Cameron said.

"The number of students enrolled in TAFE has plummeted by 24.5 per cent, TAFE campuses have closed, courses have been cut and students are being locked out due to increased fees.

"Every week another private training provider goes belly up, leaving struggling students out of pocket and without the qualifications they need.

“The Liberals have failed to improve the quality of courses, reduce costs and increase access to education and training.”

If elected, Labor will provide \$100 million to the Building TAFE for the Future Fund to commence a program of revitalising campuses across Australia.

Labor will also waive upfront fees for 100,000 students to attend TAFE and conduct a once in a generation inquiry into the post-secondary education system within the first 100 days of being elected.

“We are committed to ensuring at least two thirds of all government funding for vocational education will go to TAFE. The balance will go to not-for-profit community and adult educators and only the very best of the private providers with demonstrable links to specific industry requirements.”

SENIORS

AGED CARE LOCKED OUT OF CABINET AGAIN - Collins

Despite saying aged care would be a focus of his Prime Ministership; Scott Morrison has failed his first test by not including aged care in his new Cabinet.

Scott Morrison has turned his back on older Australians and undermined his minister by continuing to keep the portfolio out of Cabinet. Sadly this is nothing new for Scott Morrison - under his watch the aged care budget has been used as an ATM to try and prop up the Budget. In just his first year as Treasurer he tried to rip almost \$2 billion from the care of older Australians.

One of his first acts as Treasurer was to slash almost \$500 million from aged care funding in the 2015 MYEFO. He followed this with an even bigger cut of \$1.2 billion from aged care funding in the 2016 Budget.

Even as the waiting list for home care packages blew out to more than 108,000, his latest Budget did not deliver one new dollar of funding to aged care.

The Government must make the 108,000 older Australians waiting for home care its number one priority in aged care.

The Government must also finally commit to the reform work required to ensure older Australians have access to the aged care services they need.

With growing concerns about the sustainability of funding for residential aged care and the future of Australia’s aged care workforce, there is significant work to be done.

To date there are more than a dozen reviews and hundreds of recommendations on these issue that have been ignored by the Government.

This isn’t good enough.

Labor will keep fighting for older Australians. Labor is committed to a sustainable aged care system that delivers choice, easier access and better care for older Australians, their families and carers.

FIRST PEOPLE

TONY ABBOTT NOT THE ‘ENVOY’ FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE NEED - Dodson

In the next chapter of divisive chaos in the Liberal party, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has attempted to buy off wrecker Tony Abbot with a special but undefined role as an ‘Indigenous affairs envoy’.



Labor is seriously concerned about appointing the ex-self-appointed ‘Prime Minister for Indigenous affairs’ to the role of ‘envoy,’ given his ignorant, hopeless and frankly offensive track record on Indigenous issues.

As Prime Minister, he cut over \$500 million from Indigenous programs in the 2014 federal budget.

And who can forget his profoundly offensive comments in 2015, claiming that people living in remote communities without adequate services were making a “lifestyle choice” while defending his government’s decision to close up to 150 remote communities.

Then, there was last year when ex-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull rejected the Uluru Statement, and Tony Abbott backed him saying: “In my judgment, the government has made the correct decision not to proceed with the establishment of a separate, constitutionally entrenched body to represent indigenous people.”

The suggestion that Tony Abbott could act as some kind of messenger or representative for First Nations people is condescending to the overwhelming number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who support the calls for a Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission to oversee truth-telling and agreement-making – both of which Mr Abbott has not supported.

This is yet another example of the Liberal National party playing a game with themselves, placating each other's egos and trivialising First Nations people's concerns and long ignored calls for justice and recognition.
First Nations people deserve better. Labor will deliver better.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CONSUMERS PLACED LAST IN GOVERNMENT CHAOS – Madeleine King

Scott Morrison's Government has again put consumers last by cancelling Friday's long-scheduled meeting of Australian and New Zealand consumer affairs and fair trading ministers – the Consumer Affairs Forum.

It follows the departure from Cabinet of Michael Sukkar, who while a Turnbull minister was also one of Peter Dutton's chief numbers men plotting against his own Prime Minister.

Mr Sukkar had responsibility for consumer affairs. He was the champion of payday lenders; protecting unscrupulous operators and resisting the government's own advice.

Ministers from across the country were scheduled to discuss and vote upon imperative reforms to the Australian Consumer Law, including implementing important safety provisions and cracking down on ticket scalping and exorbitant reselling.

Mr Sukkar was too busy trying to roll the prime minister and promote his buddy Peter Dutton than to do his job and protect Australian consumers.

And now Stuart Roberts, also running a protection racket around shonky payday lenders and rent-to-buy merchants has cancelled the forum altogether.

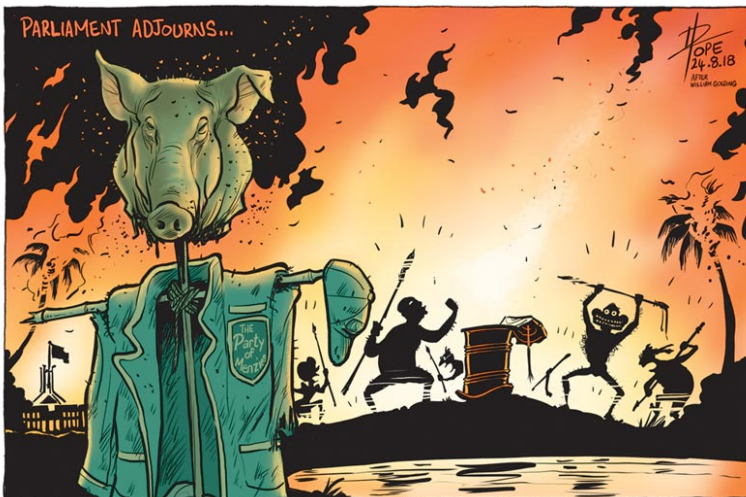
The way the ACL operates is that to create change in the legislation, agreement has to be made between the government and the states – hence the forum.

It's not just a talk fest – this forum is the machine room for the significant legislative agenda for consumer affairs and protection matters.

This government is failing Australian consumers.

THE FARM

PM THINKS DROUGHT IS HIS PLAY THING - Fitzgibbon



The Prime Minister has failed our farmers on day two.

The appointment of climate change denier Barnaby Joyce as his "Drought Envoy" is a joke and a slap in the face for all in the sector who want meaningful drought policy reform. For four years Joyce failed our farmers by destroying drought policy reform and dropping the ball on income support for our farming families.

So far the Prime Minister has told us Joyce's job is to "put his arms around our farmers". Any further roles remain a mystery. As minister Joyce almost unravelled the Murray Darling Basin Plan settlement, he abolished the key COAG Committee for drought policy reform and declared all we needed to do was build dams. He never built one.

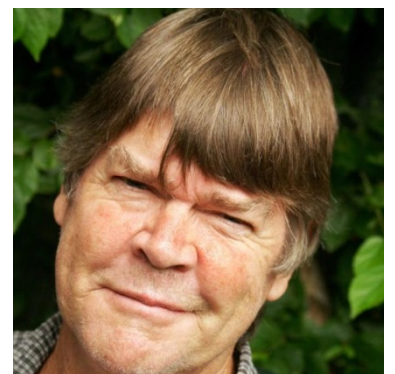
To add insult to injury media reports suggest the Prime Minister's drought tour tomorrow is all about him rather than our drought affected farming families.

The "Envoy" position is no doubt designed to allow Joyce to campaign around the country at public expense. Drought is not the Prime Minister's play thing to be used to keep his enemies at bay or to improve his image. It's a very bad start

RIP One of Australia's most prolific writers, Peter Corris, has died in his sleep at the age of 76. A published writer for almost 40 years, Corris was an academic, journalist and former literary editor of *The National Times*, in addition to being a popular novelist.

His first book was published in 1980; the first of 102 books in total, most of them novels. That figure includes foreign editions.

Corris is best known for the series that book-ended his career, that of private detective Cliff Hardy. Peter Corris wrote 52 Cliff Hardy books. American publisher McGraw published the debut Cliff Hardy novel, *The Dying Trade*, in 1980. Corris's final book published last year was also a Cliff Hardy novel: *Win, Lose or Draw*. "He was a really positive person, cheerful, unlike most authors. He was humble, not at all full of ego," his friend Kathy Gollan said. In addition to 52 Cliff Hardy books, the longest Australian publishing series of its kind, Corris wrote collaborative biographies with Philip Nitschke, Fred Hollows, John Sinclair and Ray Barrett. Peter spent much of his later years living on an island in Moreton Bay and battling the diabetes he'd been diagnosed with when he was 16.





UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA
QLD DIVISION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE LECTURE

PRESENTED BY JULIAN BURNSIDE AO
HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEE ADVOCATE AND BARRISTER

THE ROTARY PEACE CENTRE IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE TWO BRISBANITES
AS AGENTS OF PEACE, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS
LOCAL PEACE.

21ST SEPTEMBER 2018

6:30 PM - 9PM • ST. JOHN CATHEDRAL, BRISBANE

LIVE MUSIC • TEA • NETWORKING

RSVP TO QLD@UNAA.ORG.AU

FREE EVENT

Ready to shine brighter?

Learning changes lives

1

Host or attend an event

Hundreds of events promoting the benefits of lifelong learning are run across Australia during Adult Learners Week, such as open days, short courses, taster classes, professional development or adult learning programs. Organise your own ALW2018 event and invite everyone in your community.

2

Post on social media

Share examples of the learning going on in your community or organisation. Promote your event or share a selfie on social media that shows you enjoying a new experience, gaining a new skill or learning something new. Remember, to use the hashtag #ALW2018.

3

Inform your communities

Include news and contact information about ALW2018 in your regular communications with your community – whether it's on your website, in a newsletter, via social media or as part of your email updates.

4


Spread the word


Talk about ALW2018 in the media. Issue a press release highlighting the events and activities that are taking place in your community, municipality or electorate. Encourage everyone to get involved. Use the resources and downloadables available on the ALW website.

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Draw Date—Tuesday 6th November, 2018

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Terms and Conditions**

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Community Affairs References Committee

- [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](#)
- [Selection process for a national radioactive waste management facility in South Australia](#)
- [Governance and operation of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility \(NAIF\)](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- **New** [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](#)
- [Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

- **New** [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- **New** [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](#)
- [Current and future impacts of climate change on housing, buildings and infrastructure](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- **New** [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

- **New** [Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Defence Amendment \(Call Out of the Australian Defence Force\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Modern Slavery 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

- **New** [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](#)
- **New** [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

Procedure Committee

- **New** [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

- [Air Services Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [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](#)
- [Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.](#)

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

- **New** [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](#)

