



Labor stalwarts celebrate the life of Paul Hilton Labor member for the stat seat of Carnarvon, which centred on Stanthorpe for 28 years 1935 to 1965.

WEEKLY UPDATE: 9th November, 2018

Phone: (07) 3252 7101; email: senator.moore@aph.gov.au;
Web: www.clairemoore.net; Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenClaireMoore;
www.facebook.com/SenatorClaireMoore;

THIS WEEK:

There must a Federal election looming for suddenly the Murdoch press is attacking Labor's two and half year old policy to reform negative gearing tax exemptions. They're giving the government and vested interests column space to run a dishonest scare campaign. In the absence of any policy of their own to deal with the crisis in housing affordability, Treasurer Josh Frydenburg decided to make up stories about Labor policy.

***Mr Frydenberg claimed** Labor's proposed changes to current concessions for property investors "will hurt every Australian" and "smash property values". Experts have rubbished these claims, they are not just misleading they are utterly false.*

Let's be clear about the facts.

Our policy clearly states; Labor's reforms are fully grandfathered which means that everyone that has a negatively geared investment property today will be completely unaffected by our changes.

Labor's reforms ensure negative gearing is focused on new properties: increasing house supply and generating the jobs and construction that goes along with that.

The Government's own Treasury officials have said that Labor's policy would have only a 'modest' effect on house prices.

As young Australians struggle to get into the housing market the fastest growing cohorts of negative gearers are those with 3, 4, 5 and 6 properties while the group of investors with 6 or more properties has grown more than eight times that of investors with just one property.

Labor's reforms are good for home ownership, good for the budget and will make the tax system fairer.

This Sunday is Remembrance Day when we commemorate the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany 100 years ago on—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. The guns of the "war to end all wars" fell silent' leaving 63,000 Australians dead and many thousands more injured, disabled and disfigured.

This week I had the opportunity to take an early morning stroll along the forecourt of our Federal Parliament building there spread out was a carpet of thousands of hand sown red poppies. It was simply exquisite and a fitting reminder of the sacrifice of our forebears and our failure as a species to not repeat the follies of war.



SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
www.clairemoore.net



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.

If you no longer wish to receive the weekly update and want to be removed from the mailing list just let us know.

Postal: **PO Box 907 Fortitude Valley Post Shop Fortitude Valley QLD 400**

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



MORRISON'S BUS - FITZGIBBON – EMERALD

"I met with some producers who were very keen to talk with Scott Morrison but they were told if they wanted to do so, they had to go to a luncheon and pay anything up to \$5,000 and I think in our democracy that is somewhat of a disappointment."

MORRISON'S BUS - BUTLER – CAIRNS

"You can't just get on a bus, put a couple of baseball caps on, and make up for the series of cuts that he has inflicted on this community and think that the people of regional Queensland will swallow that because they won't."

MORRISON'S BUS - FITZGIBBON – ROCKHAMPTON

"We know now what this bus tour is all about; it's about putting money into the coffers of the LNP in a desperate attempt to play catch up in Queensland. Scott Morrison is rarely seen in Queensland."

"Scott Morrison dons a baseball cap and comes up here on he's bus pretending to be Queensland's best friend. Well, really, give me a break." - Mark Butler



MORRISON'S BUS - ALBANESE – 2CC CANBERRA

"And if all he is going to do is make re-announcements like he did today – about Gold Coast Light Rail, something that was in the Budget earlier this year, was leaked months ago and a project which from the beginning, the Liberal and National parties opposed, just like the they opposed light rail in Canberra - then I think it is a pretty ordinary performance. I think it is rather odd frankly."

MORRISON'S BUS - CHALMERS – BRISBANE

"Bill Shorten has been here on 47 separate occasions since the last election. Half of those visits have been to regional Queensland. He's had 18 town hall meetings in Queensland, and 14 of those have been in the regions. And that's

because the difference is that Labor genuinely listens to Queenslanders, and will genuinely deliver for Queenslanders. Scott Morrison just drives past every once in a while when there's an election around the corner."

NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM - BOWEN – SYDNEY

"Every single investment, every single investor, regardless of where they live, regardless of their circumstances, has under Labor's policy their investment protected and grandfathered. Every single last one."

NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM - SHORTEN-PERTH

"The truth of the matter is that all of the experts, Saul Eslake respected economist, the Grattan Institute, all the experts know that when you've got scarce taxpayer dollars, far better to put it into health and education and aged care than it is to give a tax subsidy to someone buying their sixth or seventh investment property."

NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM - BOWEN – SUNRISE- CHANNEL 7

"We want to have more first home buyers in the market. There is nothing wrong with investing but we want a level playing field for first home buyers and also importantly we want to fund schools and hospitals as well."

NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM - SHORTEN-PERTH

"You won't hear Mr Frydenberg talking about this - but the data doesn't lie: the fastest growing group of negative gearers are those with three, four, five and six properties. The group of investors with six or more properties has grown at a rate eight times more than investors with just one property. And there are now 120,000 investors with three or more properties up from just a year ago. Now, the Liberal Party thinks it's more important to provide investors with five, six or seven houses with a more generous tax concession, the most generous tax concession in the world, than it is to invest in schools and hospitals."

MORRISON'S PACIFIC SOLUTION - SHORTEN-PERTH

Not only will we adopt it, we announced it Monday week ago. We announced Monday week ago we'd set up a Pacific Infrastructure Bank. So I know people get sick of politics and you know, he said she said and the backbiting, I'll just say to the Prime Minister, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

MORRISON'S PACIFIC SOLUTION - MARLES – ABC RN BREAKFAST

"The Government are hopeless when it comes to climate change. They don't have anything like a credible domestic policy, let alone a willingness to stand up and help support the Pacific in telling their story in respect of climate change. So this is a huge flaw in terms of where the Government is at."

NQ INFRASTRUCTURE - ELIDA FAITH, LABOR CANDIDATE FOR LEICHHARDT – CAIRNS

“Labor knows that the Bruce Highway doesn’t end in Townsville, and that’s also why Labor has committed \$40 million to extending the Bruce Highway to the Cairns airport.”

TOWNSVILLE INFRASTRUCTURE -BUTLER – TOWNSVILLE

“After 550 days the Federal Government finally caught up with Labor’s position and put money into the long awaited pipelines from the Burdekin from here to Townsville. That will reduce the chance of water restrictions in Townsville from 40 per cent, as I understand it, down to less than 1 per cent.”

MEDIA INDEPENDENCE – JONES – SPEECH - COMMUNITY BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

“The Liberals cut the ABC and SBS after promising no cuts and have launched an ideological attack on public broadcasting with three bills before Parliament to meddle with the ABC and SBS Acts, a competitive neutrality inquiry and a further efficiency review - to say nothing of the barrage of complaints by the Minister and the controversial sacking of the ABC Managing Director.”

ENERGY PRICES - BUTLER – CAIRNS

“Now we’re a country without a national energy policy. Prices will keep rising for so long as there is a government in Canberra that is incapable, ideologically incapable of embracing renewable energy.”

ENERGY PRICES - BUTLER – ABC RADIO TOWNSVILLE

“Federal Labor’s position certainly is, that retailers across the country, whether they’re state-owned retailers like they are here in Queensland or the private retailers that operate in the southern states, have to start giving customers a better deal. We just had a very important report delivered by the consumer watchdog, the ACCC, that I think belled the cat very clearly that the electricity system is no longer working in the interests of consumers.”

A FRENCH SUBMARINE - MARLES- ADDRESS TO THE SUBMARINE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

“The decision by this Coalition Government back on 26 April 2016 to down-select to one designer for the Future Submarine was an epic mistake.”

“In the context of a 50,000 million dollar spend it makes no competitive sense at all that the Government did not contest a 340 million dollar design. One only needs to think of the competitive pressure this would have placed on the other 49,000 million dollars of expenditure to realize that this mistake will ultimately cost the Australian taxpayer billions.”

“It is a tale of ineptitude in respect of the biggest and most important procurement in our history. And it has created a significant negative legacy that Australian governments will be wrestling with for decades to come”

“Commenting on the new design of the Future Submarine, Australian National Audit Office released its report into the Naval Shipbuilding program stated: “The Future Submarine Program is highly developmental and does not conform to the Government’s guiding principles on design maturity.”

Defence has advised the Government of its assessment that the naval construction programs carry high to extreme risk. Key risks relate to the delivery of expected capability, program cost, ability to meet program schedules, and management of the industrial base.”

The ANAO’s phrase “extreme risk” is not lightly used. The giving of advice by the Department of Defence in these terms is frankly stunning. That the advice appears to have been shrugged off is astonishing.

MARK LATHAM - BOWEN – SYDNEY

“Mark Latham’s a bit of a joke. Isn’t he? Now? Really? Sadly? For him? Pauline Hanson and Mark Latham deserve each other. They’ve both fallen out with everybody they’ve ever worked with. How long do you give this marriage? Not very long, I suggest. Mark Latham has degenerated into a pretty sad and pathetic joke. Pauline Hanson and Mark Latham deserve each other.”

MARK LATHAM - ALBANESE- 5AA RADIO ADELAIDE

“The only time I have ever pleaded with people in a leadership ballot, as opposed to just lobbied, was to plead with them to not elect Mark Latham as Leader of the Labor Party, which I did. He won by one vote tragically and the country probably dodged a bullet frankly in not electing him Prime Minister given the erratic nature of his political engagement ever since.”

RURAL WORKERS VISAS -LEIGH – SKY NEWS AGENDA

“We saw a report last week saying that there was a billion dollars of unpaid wages to backpackers in Australia, suggesting that a third were being paid less than \$12 an hour. So I’m surprised the government hasn’t been willing to talk about how it’s going to deal with those abuses in the system.”

LABOR POLICY - BOWEN - ABC TV NEWS BREAKFAST

“We are more than happy to lead the policy debate. The Australian people deserve an alternative, not an echo. They deserve an alternative vision for the country and we’re giving them one. It’s a vision that invests in human capital.”

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

One of the reasons why the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government is arguably the worst Government in Australian history is their dedication and addiction to spin over substance. They spend more time lying about the Labor Party policies than they do coming up with their own policies and it shows a complete lack of economic policy. - Chris Bowen

“It’s the gift that keeps on giving isn’t it? Barnaby Joyce. I mean, Barnaby Joyce is the most overrated politician in modern Australia.” - Chris Bowen

“Four days in a big blue bus won’t make up for five years of Liberal cuts.” - Jim Chalmers

Queenslanders can spot a phony try-hard from a mile away. - Jim Chalmers

“Mr Morrison’s visits to Queensland were rarer than sightings of Migaloo the white whale” – Wayne Swan

FAKE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I am on it, I just got off it."

- PM Scott Morrison trying to defend not actually being on his magic campaign bus as it tours Queensland

"You know, think of the big social reforms, legalising same-sex marriage. I mean, what a gigantic reform that was, I was able to do that ... I legislated it, right? So I delivered it." - Malcolm Turnbull (Short of things to claim credit for doing, Malcolm claims credit for something he didn't do.)

GLIMPSES

POOR PERFORMANCE REWARDED

The Commonwealth Public Sector Union has highlighted the disparity between executive and staff bonuses at the ABC, saying 50 per cent of executives received a bonus, compared with 2 per cent of staff. In the previous financial year, 157 ABC executives received bonuses totalling \$2.1m, an average of \$13,082, but only 47 nonexecutive employees received bonuses totalling \$150,445, an average of \$3201. "The latest data from the ABC's annual report tells a disturbing story about how the ABC truly recognises and rewards their work," the CPSU said. "More than 50 per cent of ABC senior executives got a performance bonus last year, compared to less than 2 per cent of staff. These figures support what many ABC staff have been feeling for some time — which is that the ABC executive do not genuinely value staff. "Not only have they placed a higher value on themselves and their pay, but their conduct in this matter mirrors the excess of corporate Australia." The ABC annual report released last week revealed that the corporation paid one executive a \$232,500 bonus during the previous financial year.



LATHAM LUNACY

He tried to break John Howard's hand, he broke a cab drivers arm, he attacked domestic violence campaigner Rosie Batty, he's been sacked for making offensive comments, never invited back to the Melbourne Writer's Festival, his TV Show 'The Verdict' was axed



He's a highly aggressive and unpleasant human being who loves the lime light who changes his beliefs more times than socks. Labor, Liberal Democrat and now he's joined One Nation. What a perfect place for him, the home for crazy fools. This will be amusing and yet so sad when a nobody thinks they're somebody when fact is overcome by delusion.

"Mark Latham and Pauline Hanson deserve each other. They've both fallen out with everybody they've ever worked with," Labor Treasury spokesman Chris Bowen said.

Pauline's choices in men have been frankly appalling, Fraser Anning, Brian Burston, Rod Culleton and Latham

Latham is planning to run for One Nation for a seat in the waste of space that is the NSW Parliament's Upper House. All he will need is 4.55 per cent of the vote to win a seat, meaning that a primary vote well

below even that low number is all it takes to secure an eight-year term on a six-figure salary with staff, office space and generous entitlements.

MORRISON'S MAGIC BUS

Prime Minister Scott Morrison when launching his fake charm offensive across Queensland the distinct impression was given that he would be catching a bus. Here's what was claimed when the 'bus tour' was launched; Mr Morrison will use a four-day bus tour starting on the Gold Coast to highlight infrastructure spending, cost-of-living issues and national security. Dubbed "the ScoMo express", the tour will include stops in Brisbane, Logan, the Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Mackay and Gladstone, and visits to key older demographic voters, community groups, small businesses and surf clubs.

But as [Fairfax revealed on Tuesday](#) that bus magically morphed into a tax payer funded RAAF VIP jet!! Which sort of begs the question... why have the great big stupid bus in the first place?

That's what ABC reporter Owen Jacques tried to find out, during a doorstep press conference with the PM. But despite the fact that he's constantly bleating about being "fair dinkum", Morrison didn't seem all that keen on shooting straight.

JOURNALIST: Will you be taking the bus to Rockhampton from here?

PRIME MINISTER: Yes. The bus will be going to Rockhampton from here. That's right.

JOURNALIST: With you on it?

PRIME MINISTER: I've got to get there earlier than the bus tonight.



JOURNALIST: So you will be flying to Rockhampton?

PRIME MINISTER: I'll get into Rockhampton tonight and I've got a programme tonight in Rockhampton and the bus can't get me there quick enough so I've got to fly.

JOURNALIST: So you'll be flying to Rockhampton and the bus will catch up with you and then you'll fly onto Townsville?

PRIME MINISTER: I'll be flying onto Townsville. And your point is what?

JOURNALIST: I'm just interested in the point of the bus if you're not on it.

PRIME MINISTER: I am on it, I just got off it.

This bus should be called the "Cuts Express", because every time a Queenslander sees this bus, they will be reminded of all of the cuts that Scott Morrison inflicted on Queensland in his time as Treasurer: \$160 million cut out of hospitals, including \$6 million from Logan Hospital across the road here; \$458 million out of Queensland public schools; 367,000 Queenslanders losing their penalty rates because of Scott Morrison and the Liberal Government; and 31,000 apprentices cut under the Liberal Party. This is a big, blue shiny reminder of all of the damage that Scott Morrison and the Liberal Party have inflicted on Queensland. FOOTNOTE: The ScoMo Express bus that accompanied Scott Morrison this week on his blitz of Queensland was yesterday on its way back to the depot, where it will be stripped of advertising decals and returned to regular service

THAT SINKING FEELING



Labor has branded the Coalition's decision to select France's Naval Group to build Australia's next generation submarines without a competitive design process as an "epic mistake" that will cost taxpayers billions. With Defence and Naval deadlocked over a key agreement to get the \$50 billion project under way, opposition defence spokesman Richard Marles accused the government of placing itself in a "weak" bargaining position that Australian governments would wrestle with for decades. "It is a tale of ineptitude in respect of the biggest and most important procurement in our history," he told the Submarine Institute of Australia yesterday

THEIR MAN IN CANBERRA



After two years of the US administration not bothering to deign us with an Ambassador. Trump supporter Republican Arthur Culvahouse has apparently been chosen to come down under. For a man born in the rural town of Ten Mile in Tennessee, Mr Culvahouse rose to find himself in the middle of some remarkable moments in US political history. After graduating from law school he became counsel for a congressman and was present during a key moment in the Watergate scandal involving Richard Nixon. He later became White House counsel to Reagan and headed law firm O'Melveny & Myers.

THE ME GENERATION

Legendary American singer Dione Warwick made an appearance at one of those pash marques at the Melbourne Cup – in glittery leggings, fur ankle boots and a denim patchwork jacket – looked stunned by her reception, and at least one guest was underwhelmed by the famous singer: "Who is it? I look better than her. Take my photo instead." Warwick is 77, is a legend and five time Grammy Award winner



POSITIVES OF NEGATIVE (The New Daily)



Experts have rubbished Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's claims that a proposed rollback of negative gearing will decimate the property market and send rents soaring.

In an op-ed published by The Daily Telegraph on Thursday, [Mr Frydenberg claimed](#) Labor's proposed changes to current concessions for property investors "will hurt every Australian" and "smash property values".

"If you own your own home, it will be worth less. If you rent your home, it will cost you more," Mr Frydenberg wrote on Twitter.

"[Bill Shorten] must listen to the experts and ditch his big property tax!"

Independent economist and long-time negative gearing scholar Saul Eslake told The New Daily that the Treasurer's description of the reforms as a "property tax" was "somewhere between misleading and

disingenuous".

"Proposing to scale back tax breaks for investors in property and other assets is not imposing a new tax," he said.

"Rather, it's limiting the capacity for people to borrow – in order to acquire assets – and offset the cost of that borrowing against other tax liabilities."

Mr Eslake described the Treasurer's claim that "Labor's property tax will hit 1.3 million Australians who negative gear and every Australian with equity in their home" as "hyperbole".

"The question that needs to be asked is 'For whom should we feel more sympathy?'

"People with three to six investment properties, who will see the value of investments decline a bit?

"Or the large number of predominantly younger and growing proportion of middle-aged people unable to get into the housing market because they're faced with ever-increasing competition from investors?"

LONELY? YOU'RE NOT ALONE

The first comprehensive study of loneliness in Australia has found that one in four Australian adults are lonely and suffer significantly worse mental and physical health as a consequence.

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

According to [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), researchers for the Australian Psychological Society and Swinburne University interviewed 1600 Australians, were careful to work around stigma attached to the word "lonely", and have spoken about loneliness triggering similar neural pathways to physical pain.

For anyone seeking help, Lifeline can be reached on 13 11 14, and Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.

YOUR INVITED



We are happy to invite you and your family and friend to "End of the year welcome dinner and Xmas party", both will be hosted in our atmospheric restaurant at West End. Join us for a night full of delicious food, music, speeches, and poetry in support of the amazing work Mu'ooz and Refugees Welcome Australia (RWA) do in Brisbane and beyond. **Secure your spot** at <https://www.facebook.com/events/279385682693017/>

MORE GOOD NEWS

Christmas party bookings and functions filling up at Mu'ooz - Book your African Christmas Banquet **now \$45pp!!** Call 3844 8378 to secure your booking! Thank you so much for your continuous support!!! - Saba Abraham - Founder & Director - Mu'ooz Restaurant & Catering 07 3844 8378 www.muooz.com.au

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A SECURE AND PROSPEROUS PACIFIC – Shorten/Dreyfus/Moore

Labor welcomes the government's long overdue recognition of the importance of the Pacific.

This announcement echoes many of the priorities outlined by Labor Leader Bill Shorten, in particular the need for a dedicated fund for infrastructure in the Pacific.

The Pacific has felt the impact of the record \$11 billion in aid cuts under this government. While we welcome these new commitments, it is important the government clarifies what else is being cut to fund them.



As Labor has long argued, Australia does need to demonstrate greater leadership in the Pacific and play our part in ensuring a stable and prosperous region. But Prime Minister Morrison's actions since becoming Prime Minister have undermined Australia's engagement in the Pacific.

No issue has done more damage to Australia's standing in the region than the Coalition's refusal to take seriously the issue of climate change. September's Pacific Islands Forum declared climate change to be **"the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific."**

You can't have a Pacific policy if you don't have a climate change policy and yet the Prime Minister did not mention this issue once in today's speech.

Mr Morrison has also undermined the existing highly successful Pacific labour mobility schemes in a desperate attempt to prop up the ailing Nationals Leader despite today hailing them as "life-changing" and promising to prioritise them,

Labour mobility schemes are highly valued by our Pacific neighbours and contribute substantially to economic development. Australia's economy also benefits from the availability of Pacific workers. And our society benefits from the connections with Pacific communities. For the past five years all Pacific leaders have seen from Australia is a succession of Liberal governments so bitterly divided they have been unable to work with them on the issues that matters to their future.

In his first weeks as Prime Minister Scott Morrison has also:

- Downgraded the position of Minister for the Pacific from his new ministry
- Appointed to the post someone who claimed she has "no idea" why she was given the job
- Snubbed the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' meeting
- Refused to act after his Environment Minister insulted a former President of a Pacific nation.

The Pacific will be core business for Labor. We believe in a deep and comprehensive partnership with Pacific nations. We believe Australia should be a responsible and constructive partner. And unlike the Coalition, we understand the need to reflect our commitments to our Pacific neighbours in our actions.

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

WORKERS

MORRISON AND HIS LIBERALS FAIL TO STOP EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS – O'Connor **The Fair Work Ombudsman's National Compliance Monitoring [report](#) released today exposes the extent of the failure of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government to deal with systemic issues of underpayment of workers and other breaches of workplaces laws.**

According to the report, from January 2016-January 2017, Fair Work Inspectors revisited 479 employers who had previously been found to be in breach of their workplace relations obligations. More than one third of those businesses continued to breach workplace laws – either failing to pay their workers properly, or to keep employment and pay records as required by the law. The report also reveals the extent of employer non-compliance with workplace laws across industries. FWO compliance and education audits carried out in 2016-2017 revealed that only 53 per cent of all workplaces were compliant with workplace laws. Of particular concern is the food and accommodation services industry non-compliance rate of 58 per cent, raising questions as to whether the resources of the Fair Work Ombudsman and the penalties on employers found to be breaching the law, are tough enough.



The exploitation has to stop and Scott Morrison and his Liberals must put workers first for once instead of focusing all their energy on attacking workers and their representatives. Time and time again, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has been exposed for its failure to adequately address exploitation and insecure work.

The out-of-touch Morrison Government has no genuine concern or care when it comes to proper treatment of workers; they are only focussed on their own jobs.

In the absence of leadership from Morrison's Muppet Show, Labor will continue to lead the way to stamp out underpayment and exploitation of vulnerable workers in Australia.

LIBERALS DORMANT ON SHAM INDEPENDENT CONTRACTING-O'Connor

Reports today that Foodora used sham independent contracting, exposes Morrison and his Liberals' failure to deal with the employment issues associated with the changing nature of the labour market.

It is reported that Foodora owes nearly \$8 million in wages, superannuation and tax, and there are concerns tax payers may be left to pay a hefty part of the bill.

It is disgraceful that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has stood idly by when workers have been ripped off and undermined. When it comes to the future of work and its implications on Australian businesses, workers and the economy, the Liberals have vacated the field. They have no plan to deal with the rapid growth and impact of the gig economy on increasingly casualised and precarious work. Despite multiple examples of underpayment and exploitation of workers employed as contractors, when they clearly are employees, the Government has completely failed to act.

A Shorten Labor Government will amend the law to prevent employers forcing their workers into sham contracting arrangements to avoid direct employment.

Sham independent contracting denies workers employer contributions to superannuation, sick leave, holiday pay, and all of the other entitlements while making them pay for their own workers compensation insurance.

Morrison and his Liberals should put workers first for once and take action. They can start by tightening the test of sham contracting. Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, we are headed towards a low paid, easy to hire, easy to fire society, which is undermining job security putting downward pressure on wages.

This Liberal Government has no interest in improving Australia's workplace relations system. It hasn't even responded to the Productivity Commission [report](#) from 2015 which recommended changes to the test of an independent contractor to discourage sham contracting.

The report states:

"It is too easy under the current test for an employer to escape prosecution for sham contracting. Recalibrating the test from one of 'recklessness' to 'reasonableness' is justified."

While there are undoubtedly benefits to the gig economy and new forms of work organisation, if a business model can only succeed on the basis of undermining workers' rights and avoiding workers entitlements, that is not a model Labor supports.

COALITION'S 'BUSH WAGE' HAS GROUP TRAINING INDUSTRY ON EDGE - Cameron **Skills Minister Michaelia Cash needs to reassure the group training industry and its employer partners that her 'bush wage' scheme will not cripple the group training sector.**

The so called "**bush wage**", based on One Nation's costly apprenticeship policy, has set off alarm bells throughout the group training industry which has been told it is ineligible for the scheme.

There are about 100 group training organisations operating throughout regional, remote and metropolitan Australia, who over four decades have engaged with more than 100,000 employers.

Group training organisations fear existing employers could hand back existing apprentices so they can access the ill-considered and overly generous new scheme.

This would severely undermine the good work being done by quality community-based apprenticeship employers already operating in regional and rural Australia.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Senator Doug Cameron said this latest policy disaster from Senator Cash will not add a single apprenticeship to the Australian workforce if existing employers decide to cash in on the scheme.

"This has all the hallmarks of Minister Cash's other ill-conceived and politically opportunistic policies and has been done without any consultation with the experts in the group training industry," Senator Cameron said.

"This desperate grab for One Nation votes is reminiscent of former Senator Bob Day's 'Student Builder' pilot which the Coalition funded at a staggering cost of \$92,000 per apprentice."

"If Senator Hanson has her way, the pilot will be expanded nation-wide and based on the Government's own targets, will cost taxpayers in excess of \$11 billion in just four years."

Labor is also calling on Minister Cash to outline details of protections within the policy against apprentice exploitation and steps taken to deal with rampant exploitation of apprentices exposed by FWO reports.

"Minister Cash's track record on apprenticeships is abysmal. Under her draconian Building Code, agreements can't be made between employers and employees that guarantee the employment of apprentices," Senator Cameron said.

On top of its \$3 billion cuts to vocational education, the Coalition's last budget cut a further \$270 million from apprenticeships as part of its deeply flawed Skilling Australians Fund.

"While Senator Cash is announcing expensive, damaging and incoherent side-deals with the National Party and cross-benchers she has failed to negotiate an agreement on apprenticeship funding with the Victorian and Queensland governments," Senator Cameron said.

"Senator Cash needs to come clean on any deals that have been done with the Nationals and One Nation for handing them the \$60 million scheme," he said



MORRISON UNDERMINES ABC IN THE PACIFIC - Rowland

Scott Morrison has flagged yet another ill-considered move on international broadcasting by the Liberal Government that yet again demonstrates the contempt the Liberals have for the ABC.

More than a week after Bill Shorten's speech on [The Foreign Policy of the Labor Government](#), Scott Morrison is scrambling to play catch up in the Pacific and trampling over the national broadcaster as he does.

Liberal attacks and budget cuts to the ABC since 2013 have seen the Australia Network shut down and the cessation of ABC shortwave radio transmission in the Pacific.

The short-termism of the Liberal Government has seriously undermined Australia's presence in the region and removed important avenues of soft diplomacy.

Having woken up to the fact that the Pacific should be core business, the Liberal Government recently commenced a [Review of Australian Broadcasting services in the Asia-Pacific](#) and a [Soft Power Review](#), both of which are still in train.

Yet even before those reviews have been completed, Scott Morrison is flagging moves to replace lost ABC capacity in the region with commercial services.

The Government must explain:

- Why has Scott Morrison announced soft power measures with the media ahead of the outcomes of the Departmental reviews?
- Why has Scott Morrison been negotiating with commercial networks about broadcasting Australian content into the region, when the ABC Charter sets out international broadcasting as a function of the ABC?
- How will the Government support the provision of commercial services in the region when section 31AA of the ABC Act prescribes the providers of Commonwealth-funded international broadcasting services?
- What taxpayer funds will the Government put towards commercial services in the Pacific?
- Why is Scott Morrison so committed to commercial children's programming being broadcast to the Pacific, but his Government is yet to confirm whether Australian kids will continue to enjoy such programs?

Now into the sixth year of neglecting the Pacific and attacking the ABC, Australia can't afford another term of this Liberal Government.

ACCC ANNOUNCEMENT ON NINE-FAIRFAX MERGER - Rowland

Labor is not surprised by today's announcement that the ACCC will not oppose the Nine-Fairfax merger, and condemns the Liberal Government for junking the rule that prevented Australia's already highly concentrated media market from getting even more concentrated.

All along, Labor has said that the ACCC, as an economic regulator, will not safeguard media diversity in Australia because it is not explicitly required to consider pluralism or diversity in considering media mergers.

For years, Labor has warned that the repeal of the 2 out of 3 cross media control rule would lead to further media consolidation and job losses in the media, including in regional areas, but the Liberals abolished it anyway with the help of One Nation.

Today's decision puts to bed the notion that the ACCC acts as a safeguard for media diversity in Australia. It doesn't.

The Nine-Fairfax merger will proceed as planned and Australia's highly concentrated media market will get even more concentrated, care of the Liberal Government.

Notably, the ACCC's statement today is silent on the issue of media diversity.

While initially the ACCC Chair [clearly stated](#) that the regulator would consider what the Nine-Fairfax merger means for diversity, the ACCC does not even acknowledge diversity or concentration in its statement today.

The Minister for Communications parrots that there are other diversity protections in Australia, such as the 5/4 rule, but his own [Department found](#) years ago that the level of diversity is at or below the minimum number of 'voices' required by that rule in 70 per cent of all licence areas. What's more, the Minister says the ABC and SBS are important underpinnings of media diversity, but the Liberals have cut around half a billion dollars from public broadcasting over the last five years.

Policymakers and regulators around the world, in media markets far less concentrated than Australia, have media pluralism high on the agenda and are working to monitor and intervene in media mergers to protect diversity.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Government has failed to deliver a coherent media policy framework for 21st century conditions and undermined media diversity at every turn.

Australians have every reason to feel outrage that the Liberal Government has sold out the public interest and concern for the health of our polity.

ENVIRONMENT

THE BIG LIBERAL CLIMATE LIE – Mark Butler

Once again Energy Minister Angus Taylor has repeated the furphy that the Liberals will reach their inadequate emissions reduction targets.



Like the Environment Minister, Mr Taylor likes to flatly ignore his own Government's latest emissions data which show that greenhouse gas emissions climbed 1.3 per cent - to their highest quarterly levels in eight years.

Mr Taylor needs to read his own government's data which shows that, under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution will continue to rise all the way to 2030 (as far as the projections go).

He should also read the Finkel Review, maybe find the Treasurer's old slideshow and listen to the industry - which all argue that the main reason for the Liberals energy crisis is because of their policy paralysis.

But all we have heard from the out of touch Liberals is their plan to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on "uninvestable" "fair dinkum" new coal-fired power stations.

Australians deserve a Shorten Labor Government that will take action on climate change, and invest in a renewable energy future which will lower power prices and secure clean jobs.

GOVT ENSURES AUSTRALIA IS LEFT BEHIND ON OCEAN PROTECTION - Burke

The announcement made by New Caledonia to designate 200,000-400,000 square kilometres of water in the Coral Sea Natural Park as highly protected should be congratulated.

The Coral Sea is a pristine area, a turtle superhighway and home to species seen nowhere else in the world.

New Caledonia has recognised the importance of the Coral Sea by protecting more areas in highly protected zones in the Coral Sea Natural Park.

While the rest of the world has increased ocean protection, Australia has made the biggest cuts in history.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has cut over 50 per cent of the high protection zones in the Coral Sea. The more pristine the area, the more savage the cut. The Coral Sea has gone from being the Jewel in the Crown of the Commonwealth Marine Parks, protecting the eastern side of the Great Barrier Reef to now being a haven for longlining and trawling.

This decision by the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government removes more area from conservation than any decision from any government in any country ever.

Australia is being left behind while the rest of the world is taking action. Just last year Mexico announced the creation of a marine national park in the Revillagigedo Archipelago – at 150,000 square kilometres it is the largest ocean reserve in North America.

Mexico's ocean reserve added to global efforts such as the Ross Sea reserve in Antarctica, the Chilean Government's ocean reserve near the Easter Islands and reserves of Niue and the Cook Islands.

It's time for Australia to reverse its embarrassing and devastating decision to cut marine national parks.

Labor has committed to putting marine protections back in place. We won't stand by and watch the Government remove ocean protection.

THE PURPOSE OF WATER TRIGGER IS TO FIND THE FACTS NOT CONCEAL THEM - Burke

The Department of Environment must explain reports that it ignored advice from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources that the impacts of the Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme could have significant impacts on a water resource.

It is extraordinary that the Department of Environment - which is not responsible for water policy - has disregarded the advice of the agency in charge of water policy.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government moved the water department from the environment portfolio to the agriculture portfolio to please the Nationals and their mates.

Wednesday's revelations are another example of the recklessness of this Government in dealing with water and why water should never have been removed from the environment portfolio. Bill Shorten and Labor have returned water to the environment portfolio where it belongs.

The purpose of the '**water trigger**' is to protect our crucial water resources by finding the facts, not conceal them.

Australians know the value of our water for agriculture, the environment and communities; it is clear the Liberals do not.

The '**water trigger**' was put in place by Labor to protect water resources. It doesn't automatically rule out a proposal. It is designed so the Independent Expert Scientific Committee has an opportunity to review the impacts.

In this case the test is clear in regard to when the water trigger is required - the test is whether or not the action involves a coal mine.

The argument that the proposed water scheme is not related to the development doesn't stack up - if the coal mine were not going ahead, the pipeline and dam would not be going ahead.

The Minister has questions to answer. If the department in charge of water resources has provided advice that impacts may be significant then the proposals should be assessed by the Independent Expert Scientific Committee. It may well be that they determine that these particular water actions are not in themselves a problem.

The analysis and advice should come from experts. The Environment Minister needs to act urgently and follow due process.

ECONOMY

LET'S GET THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX OUT OF THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS - Leigh

Dodgy phoenix directors will be named and shamed under a Shorten Labor Government as part of a range of policies designed to boost productivity, protect vulnerable workers and secure the tax base.

Phoenix activity – where dodgy directors deliberately burn companies in an attempt to avoid their obligations to employees, government and honest businesses – is estimated to cost the Australian economy as much as \$5.1 billion. In addition to our existing anti-phoenixing policies, a Shorten Labor Government would allow the Commissioner of Taxation to name individuals and entities as a penalty for the most serious tax offences.

The Commissioner of Taxation would also have the power to apply to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to have them formally seek disqualification orders for directors who engaged in or oversaw serious non-compliance.

These new measures – along with previous commitments such as requiring all company directors to obtain a unique Director Identification Number with a 100-point identification check and increasing penalties associated with phoenix activity – will help protect Australian jobs and the economy.

While the Coalition and its turnstile of Treasury ministers have dragged their feet on illegal phoenix activity, Labor has been taking the lead, committing to a Director Identification Number 18 months ago.

It's time that Scott Morrison adopted Labor's plans to protect our economy from the harm caused by the crooked few. Fact sheet available [here](#).

LIBERAL SCARE CAMPAIGN ON NEGATIVE GEARING: NEW DATA, OLD LIES - Bowen

2015-16 Tax data and electorate breakdown data in today's Daily Telegraph and the Australian highlight one point alone – those currently negative gearing properties across Australia will still be able to under Labor's housing affordability reforms.

Using this electorate data is nothing more than a hollow attempt to suggest these people will lose access to current tax concessions for those properties under Labor. This is a just a bald faced lie.

What Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg need to take ownership of is that the weaker housing market experienced in Sydney and Melbourne over the last year or so has occurred at their urging with all of the economic impacts that flow from this.

What the same 2015-16 tax data shows but the Liberal Party has conveniently hidden are:

- the fastest growing cohorts of negative gearers are those with 3, 4, 5 and 6 properties;
- the group of investors with 6 or more properties has grown more than eight times that of investors with just one property (between 2014-15 and 2015-16);
- there are more than 120,000 investors with three or more properties, up from 116,700 just a year prior.

This data is a reminder of the need for housing affordability reforms that level the playing field between first home buyers trying to enter the market and investors with multiple properties.

Contrary to vested interests with questionable 'modelling' of Labor's policies, many economists and independent commentators are arguing that now is the best time to introduce Labor's reforms to negative gearing.

HSBC chief economist [Paul Bloxham said](#) "investor interest is already cooling" and "If there was a time to make things change, it would be when this activity is already cooling".

Labor's reforms ensure negative gearing is focused on new properties: increasing house supply and generating the jobs and construction that goes along with that.

Labor's housing affordability reforms will deliver a trifecta – they deliver substantial savings to the budget, will reduce excess leverage in the economy reducing macroeconomic risk and will drive home ownership

FIX NEGATIVE GEARING TO GET FAIRER HOUSING - Andrew Leigh

The more desperate a government becomes the shriller scare campaigns tend to get, which is exactly what we are seeing with the Liberal Party's renewed attacks on Labor's responsible negative gearing reforms.

The housing market has been a source of great frustration for younger families in places like Sydney. Home ownership is at its lowest point across Australia in 60 years. The Labor Party recognises this. The Liberal Party doesn't. They are simply out of touch.

Labor's policy to restrict negative gearing to new homes will level the playing field so first home buyers and young Australians can realise the great Australian dream of owning their own home.

Labor wants to level the playing field so first homeowners don't have to compete with investors that in Australia have some of the most generous housing tax concessions in the developed world. Labor's reforms are fully grandfathered which means that everyone that has a negatively geared investment property today will be completely unaffected by our changes.

The government wants you to believe they're standing up for battlers and working-class Australians. But the fastest growing cohorts of people with negatively geared investment properties are those with three, four, five and six properties. The most generous tax concessions in the developed world mean wealthier investors get a subsidy from the government while first home buyers get locked out. How is that fair? We prefer to invest in better hospitals, schools and TAFE than spend taxpayers' money helping a property speculator with their sixth or seventh investment property.

The government argues with a straight face that Labor's changes will take a "sledgehammer" to house prices at the same time that house prices in Sydney have just notched up the largest yearly fall in decades. So price falls under the Liberal Party we're seeing now are good but any possible falls under Labor are bad? You simply can't make this stuff up. When attacking Labor's responsible reforms, the government relies on its mates from the property sector and vested interests.

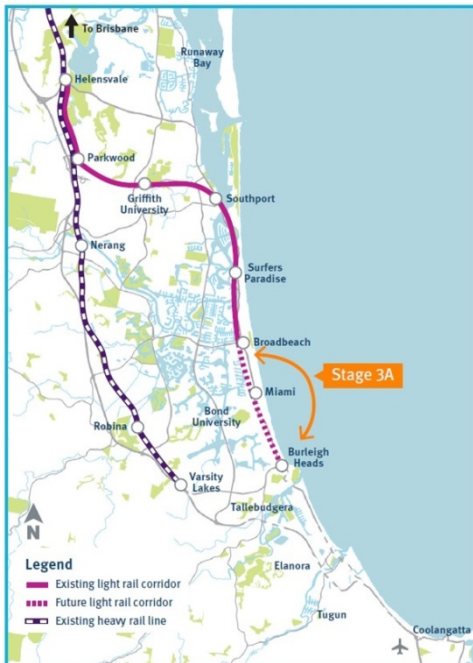
Meanwhile, Labor relies on independent experts. Well respected independent economists such as Saul Eslake have rightly said that reforming negative gearing would remove a source of upward pressure while analysis done by the Grattan Institute shows Labor's policies will have only a modest impact on prices. This follows Treasury analysis that the government tried to conceal, which advised the government that Labor's changes would have only modest impacts.

Labor's reforms are good for home ownership, good for the budget and will make the tax system fairer. Our reforms will put first home buyers back on a level playing field. It will be left to a Labor government to improve housing affordability for all Australians.

This opinion piece was first published in the Daily Telegraph on Thursday, 8 November 2018.

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOLD COAST LIGHT RAIL INVESTMENT NEEDLESSLY DELAYED - Albanese



Scott Morrison's re-announcement of his plan to invest in Stage III of the Gold Coast Light Rail project is a monument to time-wasting and needless politics.

This stage of the project, which the Prime Minister "announced" on the Gold Coast today, was actually funded in the 2018 Budget in May when Malcolm Turnbull was Prime Minister. The news was leaked to the Herald Sun newspaper.

But the Coalition deliberately chose to delay releasing the funding as they waited for a political campaigning opportunity like Mr Morrison's current bus tour of Queensland.

In the same way, as Mr Morrison heads north through Queensland this week, he is likely to "announce" other already funded projects like the Rockhampton Ring Road and the Mackay Ring Road (Stage II), which Labor has already committed to funding.

If the Coalition had released the funding for these important projects at Budget time, work could already be under way, creating jobs and economic activity across Queensland.

Infrastructure investment should be treated as a key plank of economic policy, but for Mr Morrison it's all about campaign opportunities.

Despite its attempts to claim credit for Gold Coast Light Rail, the Coalition is no friend of the project.

In 2009, when the former Labor Government provided \$365 million for Stage I of the project as part of our economic stimulus package, the Coalition opposed the investment at the state and federal level.

Five years later, when Stage I opened, shameless Gold Coast Coalition MPs including Defence Industry Minister Steven Ciobo fell over each other to pose for media photographs seeking to

claim credit for the project they had campaigned against.

If it had been left to them, Gold Coast Light Rail would never have been ready for this year's successful Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

After five years of infrastructure cuts the Coalition is now trying to play catch-up to Labor, which has led from Opposition by developing sensible plans for rail and road investment around the nation.

Whatever Mr Morrison claims he is doing on infrastructure, the independent Parliamentary Budget Office exposed the truth earlier this year in a report warning that over the next four years, Federal infrastructure grants to the states as a percentage of GDP will halve to 0.2 per cent.

ROCKHAMPTON RING ROAD INVESTMENT NEEDLESSLY DELAYED - Albanese

Scott Morrison's re-announcement of planned investment for the Rockhampton Ring Road is further evidence the Prime Minister is prepared to delay actual investment in infrastructure to suit his political needs. The project, which the Prime Minister "announced" on today, was actually funded in the 2018 Budget in May when Malcolm Turnbull was Prime Minister. The news was leaked to the Herald Sun newspaper.

But Mr Morrison deliberately chose to delay releasing the funding as he awaited a political campaigning opportunity like his farcical "bus tour" of Queensland, in which he is actually shadowing the journey of a bus aboard a taxpayer-funded jet.

Instead of delaying projects to suit his political campaigning plans, Mr Morrison should just get on with the job.

Federal Labor has already committed funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road. While the Coalition has been consumed by its internal brawling, we've been leading from Opposition by developing a plan to tackle traffic congestion right across the country.

By contrast, Mr Morrison has been cutting infrastructure investment. The independent Parliamentary Budget Office has warned that over the next four years, Federal infrastructure grants to the states as a percentage of GDP will halve to 0.2 per cent.

On Monday, Mr Morrison re-announced funding for Gold Coast Light Rail Stage III, which was also included in the May Budget but needlessly delayed. If he stays true to form, Australians should expect he will soon re-announce funding for the Mackay Ring Road (Stage II), which was also funded in May and is already the subject of a Labor funding commitment.

WATER SECURITY FOR TOWNSVILLE 'ONCE AND FOR ALL' – Shorten/Clare/O'Toole

A Shorten Labor Government will fix Townsville's water security once and for all by fully funding Stage two of the Water Security Taskforce's report, building it concurrently with Stage one – and with no strings attached.

Labor will also invest \$200 million to build a hydro-electric power station on the Burdekin Dam. This will put downward pressure on power bills, create 150 local jobs and generate enough electricity for 30,000 homes.

Last week, the final Townsville Water Security Taskforce report called for "a once and for all fix" for Townsville's water supply.

Fixing Townsville's water crisis is critical. That's why a year and a half ago Labor committed \$100 million in funding.



Now that we've got the final report from the Water Security Taskforce we will implement its recommendations. Delivering water security for Townsville once and for all.

The Water Security Taskforce said that building Stage 1 and Stage 2 concurrently would save taxpayers \$55 million.

This would deliver long term water security for Townsville cheaper, faster and it would mean more jobs now for a town that needs it.

These are critical projects for the region's future - the people who live and work in Townsville need affordable water solutions that provide for a reliable supply into the longer term.

Federal Labor's investment would be in partnership with Queensland Labor, who are currently building stage one.

These investments are a result of the advocacy of Cathy O'Toole, who has been fighting for Townsville to get the water security it needs. It is also a testament to the local community's determination to get a resolution, in particular Water Security Taskforce Chairman Brad Webb.

We led the way in funding the Townsville Stadium redevelopment and in recognising the need for port channel widening. Today, we're continuing to lead on water security and hydro power for the Burdekin.

Labor's commitment to securing Townsville's water supply has no strings attached – it's rock solid.

We won't leave this project half-done or waste time on unnecessary business cases that push construction out into the never never.

Labor first committed \$100 million to implement the findings of the Townsville Water Security Taskforce more than a year and a half ago. Today we're increasing that funding to deliver the water security Townsville needs.



REAL RESOURCES ARE NEEDED - Rishworth

Veterans unemployment is a serious issue which requires concentrated effort and investment.

While Labor welcomes the re-announcement by the Prime Minister today of a website to facilitate a commitment from businesses this re-announcement fails to provide real resources to address this issue.

Addressing the unacceptably high unemployment rate for those who have left the ADF requires more effort than a website and a pledge.

Veterans are highly skilled individuals who would make a valuable addition to any workplace.

But with unemployment rates of up to 30% five years after discharge, it is clear that there is not enough support during transition and beyond to ensure that veterans are best placed to move into meaningful careers.

It is for this reason that Labor has committed to a comprehensive \$121 million veterans employment program.

Labor's veterans' employment policy has four main elements which are designed to assist veterans into meaningful employment post their time in the ADF.

- Helping businesses to train veterans - By providing grants of up to \$5,000 per veteran for job specific training and conducting a national education campaign on benefits of hiring a veteran
- A new veterans' employment service - The service will provide comprehensive, wrap around support for up to five years
- Expanded access to additional education and civilian training - By altering the eligibility requirements and funding amounts available through the Career Training Assistance Scheme funding
- Translating the experience of veterans

Will work with States and Territories, Universities and industry bodies for greater automatic recognition of skills .

Our comprehensive employment policy will best prepare those leaving the ADF to move into meaningful employment and enable businesses to take advantage of the many skills of an ex-ADF member.

Whilst business has an important role to play in meeting the community's collective obligation to ensure a successful transition out of the ADF, government can and should be doing more.

Veterans deserve a genuine commitment with real financial investment from the Government to addressing this issue.

Having served our country, our ex-service personnel and their families deserve our support now and into the future.

REPORT CALLS FOR BETTER TRANSITION SERVICES FOR OUR VETERANS - Rishworth

Wednesday's report by Orygen into Young veterans at increased risk of mental illness and suicide once again highlights the need for better transition services for our ADF personnel as they move into civilian life.

Of the recommendations, Orygen points to targeted support hubs for transitioning and young ex-service personnel.

When our men and women undertake to serve their country, we make a commitment to them and their family to support them during and after their time in the ADF.

That is why Labor believes, a key first step to ensure those working in the defence force can successfully transition into civilian life is by assisting individuals to move into meaningful employment.

It is for this reason, Labor announced earlier this year its \$121 million Veterans' Employment Policy which is designed to do exactly this.

Labor's comprehensive veterans' employment policy has four main elements which are designed to assist veterans into meaningful employment post their time in the ADF;

- Helping businesses to train veterans by providing grants of up to \$5,000 per veteran for job specific training and conducting a national education campaign on benefits of hiring a veteran.
- A new veterans' employment service which will provide comprehensive, wrap around support for up to five years.

- Expanded access to additional education and civilian training by altering the eligibility requirements and funding amounts available through the Career Training Assistance Scheme funding.
- Work with States and Territories, Universities and industry bodies for greater automatic recognition of skills to translate the experience and knowledge of our servicemen and women's skills.

Labor's plan will help our veterans move into employment by doing more to boost recognition of their significant skills and experiences.

When it comes to our current and ex-service defence personnel, Labor is committed to providing them with the best possible support and care before during and after their transition to civilian life.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LABOR TO END DECEPTIVE PRICING FOR OVERSEAS MONEY TRANSFERS – Burke/Leigh

A Shorten Labor Government will make it cheaper for Australians to send money overseas to loved ones by helping drive down international remittance and transfer fees.

Right now, many banks and money transfer companies are confusing customers with a mix of fees and exchange rate mark-ups. The result is that it is almost impossible to compare the true cost of transferring money overseas. By befuddling these customers, these organisations are making it harder for customers to shop around. Australians are being overcharged by millions of dollars for sending money overseas.

For example, one major bank's website misled customers by saying 'when transferring money overseas by the internet, we charge a fee of \$20' – neglecting to mention their exchange rate mark-up.

Labor wants to ensure that Australians who send money overseas get a competitive deal. That's why a Shorten Labor Government will require remittance providers to disclose the full cost of international remittances prior to remittance, bringing it into line with comparison rates Australians already enjoy when shopping for car loans, mortgages and credit cards.

A Shorten Labor Government will task the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to determine if misleading 'no fees or charges' advertising by remittance providers can be controlled using the Australian Competition Law, or if further enforcement mechanisms are necessary.

One study found that a person who tries to send \$1000 from Australia to a developing country will see \$77 eaten up by transaction fees and exchange rate spreads. A full-time worker who wanted to send half her salary home would be toiling away for more than a week every year just to pay financial middlemen.

The problem has become so bad that we have been told about migrant workers who want to send money abroad to support their families, and find that the cheapest way to do it is to pack the cash into a suitcase and take it with them on the plane. Even aid agencies have been affected.

According to the World Bank, Australia is the fourth most expensive G20 country to send remittances from. For every \$1000 money transfer, Australians pay \$23 more than the Americans, \$9 more than the British, and \$4 more than the Canadians.

Labor's policy is the result of roundtables in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and consistent engagement with money transfer experts and the nation's multicultural community, including Pacific Islander, Filipino and African community leaders.

International money transfers need to be carefully monitored and Labor will not support any change that would in any way jeopardise national security. Instead, Labor's policy will help developing nations. In recent years, Australia's annual aid budget has been cut by about one-third, to \$4 billion. By contrast, our remittances now amount to \$16 billion. Not all of this money goes to developing nations, but Australian remittance flows include \$2 billion to India and \$1 billion to the Philippines.



HEALTH

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS MAKE MILLIONS OFF MEDICARE REVIEW - King

Management consultants are making millions off Scott Morrison's Medicare review - but the benefits to ordinary Australians struggling with out-of-control health care costs are yet to materialise. Mr Morrison must explain why he thinks showering McKinsey with \$20 million to help him find new Medicare savings is a good use of taxpayers' money.

He must also come clean about what he's done with the \$600 million of savings he's already made from his Medicare Benefits Schedule Review.

Until he does, Australians will rightly suspect that this is just another cut to health from the Government that gave us the GP tax, the Medicare freeze, and \$715 million in cuts from public hospitals from 2017-20 alone.

This is classic Morrison. Ensuring that his rich mates get even richer while cutting public health funding at every opportunity.

Labor is all for making sure Medicare is modern and sustainable. We support the stated goals of the MBS Review - to make sure that every MBS item is evidence-based and represents value for money. But every single dollar saved through the review should be reinvested back into Medicare. This review was meant to conclude this year but will now stretch into 2019 - and possibly beyond the next election.

Before Australians are asked to vote Mr Morrison must clarify whether he intends to implement all the recommendations of the review.

If he intends to cherry-pick the recommendations, he must come clean on what sort of services and patients he intends to target.

The Liberals have always hated Medicare and simply cannot be trusted with it. Labor is the only party committed to making Medicare stronger.

GOVT ADOPTS LABOR'S MY HEALTH RECORD RESCUE PLAN - King

The Liberals are finally moving to clean up their My Health Record mess - by adopting Labor's proposed changes - but they still need to act and extend the opt-out period.

This has been an absolute debacle and Australians need more time to understand the changes. These changes have been made with only days left until the opt-out deadline closes.

The Liberals created this mess by shifting from an opt-in system to an opt-out system without making the necessary legislative fixes - and without explaining this fundamental change to the Australian people. When controversy first erupted in July, the Government insisted there was nothing wrong with the system. Under intense political and public pressure they eventually put forward a bill that was woefully inadequate.

When Labor called for a comprehensive Senate inquiry into the e-health record scheme - to identify all the potential privacy and security concerns - Minister Hunt dismissed it as a "*stunt*". And when Labor proposed six sensible amendments to restore public trust and confidence in this important health reform, Minister Hunt refused to engage with us.

Labor's blueprint - announced in October - included tougher penalties for breaches of the act; changes to address concerns around domestic violence and employer access; and better safeguards to prevent the privatisation and commercialisation of the system, including through private health insurer access.

Now - with just a week to go until the end of the opt-out period - Minister Hunt has realised we were right all along and is scrambling to implement our fixes.

We will study the detail of the Government's amendments in the coming days to make sure they haven't botched this too.

But Labor also remains concerned about the Government's timetable.

Because the Government's exiting legislation will need to be amended, it will need to be sent back to the lower house for approval - and the lower house doesn't sit again until 10 days after the opt-out period ends.

We once again call on Minister Hunt to heed Labor's call for a further extension to the opt-out period.

We also call on the Government to commission a Privacy Commissioner review to address outstanding privacy concerns about system settings.

DISABILITY

GOVT MUST ANSWER FOR SCRAPPING NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARDS - Brown

The Government's decision to abandon the National Disability Awards is a real snub to people with disability and the disability sector.

[Reports today on AM Agenda](#) reveal that the Government not only abandoned annual awards honouring the tireless work of disability advocates, but it failed to notify the sector.

"This is downright disrespectful" said Senator Carol Brown, Shadow Minister for Disability and Carers.

"This shows that the Government doesn't feel the need to consult with people with disabilities or advocates in the community".

Assistant Minister, Sarah Henderson says that she has heard "*some disappointment*" from the sector, but has failed to respond to these concerns to date.

"The International Day for People with Disability is just around the corner".

"The Government needs to tell Australians what it has planned to celebrate people with disabilities on December 3rd, and it needs to explain why it abandoned these awards without consultation".

In answers to Questions on Notice given on April 20 of this year, the Government said that it was finalising its plans for the 2018 program for the National Disability Awards.

How much longer will people with disabilities need to wait to hear from this Government? The Government needs to answer why these awards were cancelled. It needs to answer who was consulted about this decision and it needs to answer when the Minister signed off on this decision.

People with disabilities have not been consulted on these decisions. Six months on, it's time for answers.

GOVERNANCE

GOVERNMENT CHAOS SEEPS INTO EMERGENCY RELIEF – McAllister

Grants processes are chaotic under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government.

Delay in grant announcements for emergency relief services are leaving community organisations with unanswered questions over funding leading into the critical Christmas - New Year period.

The announcement yesterday by Minister Fletcher on funding for emergency relief services comes just two months before the expiry of current grant funding. This is unacceptable.

The Minister's media release was big on rhetoric and light on detail and when it comes to supporting community services the detail is critical.

Any changes to grant funding for community services will have an impact on the delivery of services.

Given the short notice on funding announcement, there are real concerns as to how recipients will be able to deliver services over demanding periods if their funding has changed.

This Government does not take the portfolio seriously. The Social Services portfolio has had four different Ministers in five years. The chaos of this Government is seeping into the delivery of emergency relief services to those most vulnerable in our society.

The community sector deserves clarity on funding arrangements so they can continue to deliver vital services to those experiencing hardship throughout the Australian community.

This is no way to run a funding program for essential services. The Coalition Government has provided no compelling explanation as to why these grants have not been determined sooner.

Labor calls on the Government to be transparent about who wins and who loses in new grant arrangements.

THE FARM

MORRISON ALL TALK ON WORKFORCE SHORTAGE "FIX" - Fitzgibbon/Neumann/O'Connor

Having made the agricultural workforce shortage worse by imposing a new revenue-grabbing backpacker tax, it seems the Morrison Government is now scrambling to fix a problem which in part is of its own making.

Reports Scott Morrison is looking to change conditions for backpacker visas is the latest in an ever-growing list of thought bubbles from an out of touch Prime Minister.

The agricultural workforce challenge is a complex one and won't be addressed by on-the-run announcements designed only to give Scott Morrison something to say on his Queensland bus tour.

We already know forcing unemployment recipients to work on farms is lazy policy which has been rejected by growers and this Government has shown no interest in doing more to encourage Australians to take up agricultural workforce opportunities.

Can the Prime Minister guarantee his latest thought bubble will work and why does his Government believe that more people from overseas on temporary work visas is the solution to every problem?

Given that migrant workers in Australia have already suffered over \$1 billion in wage theft whilst working on temporary visas – what measures will be put in place to guarantee the Government's new announcements won't undercut the pay and conditions for all workers?

These proposed changes also suggest the Agricultural Visa – promised by both the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister – is dead in the water.

Prior to the Wentworth by-election the Prime Minister was re-stating his commitment to an Agricultural Visa, before taking it off the table following the by-election, and then promising the new visa at the National Farmers' Federation Congress.

Scott Morrison and Michael McCormack must immediately clarify the Government's position.

It's clear the internal divisions in the Coalition are why Morrison's Muppet Show has failed to develop a policy to address agricultural labour market shortages – their chaos and confusion continues to hurt our farmers and cause anxiety for the sector.

FIRST PEOPLE

GOVT NEEDS TO COME CLEAN ON PLAN FOR OLD HOUSES - Snowdon/McCarthy

Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion and the newly announced Indigenous Affairs Special Envoy, Tony Abbott need to come clean on their plans to foist 30 year old houses no one else wanted on the remote Territory town of Borroloola.



Rumours are rife that Senator Scullion and Envoy Abbott will be moving 30-year-old RAAF Darwin houses to Borroloola to make up for years of inaction on the town's housing crisis.

The secret plan is raising concerns and serious questions within Federal Labor and the community that the Minister and his Special Envoy need to answer.

- What discussions have taken place with the Borroloola community?
- How old are these houses and what is their projected life on community?
- Will Senator Scullion commit to funding ongoing maintenance for these houses?
- Are there any asbestos-related issues with the houses?
- Will this plan set a new precedent to have the army assist the Federal Government

with a new remote housing model?

- How does sending in the army address Minister Scullion's commitment to local jobs?
- And how much is this plan going to cost? Is Minister Scullion yet again dipping into the Indigenous Advancement Strategy fund?

Let's be clear – Borroloola could have new housing right now if the Minister listened to the community. It's been 10 years since \$15 million in Federal funding was earmarked for Borroloola camps and it is still unspent because the Minister can't come to an agreement with residents.

Minister Scullion still has not signed off on the \$550 million for Northern Territory remote Indigenous housing agreement that he first agreed to nine months ago.

The Scullion-Abbott show continues to cause chaos and neglect in First Nations communities.

CHARITIES

DOES ANYONE STILL SUPPORT GARY JOHNS? - Leigh

Senior Liberals are now distancing themselves from the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits commissioner Gary Johns after he publicly defended his decision to suppress acknowledgement of country within the commission and confirmed he still holds troubling views about charities, welfare recipients and indigenous mothers.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has written to Dr Johns, more than 11 months after his appointment to the role by the Coalition,

questioning his views on restricting the use of [acknowledgement of country](#).

After Dr Johns' [disastrous appearance](#) before a Senate committee last month, Senator Scullion told him:

"Acknowledgments of country are well-known payments of respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in recognition of their traditional ownership of the land. In my view, [there is little risk of the confusion](#) that I understand you identified in these hearings and I would encourage as many ACNC officials as are interested, to include acknowledgements of country in their signature blocks."

The question remains as to why Dr Johns was appointed by the Coalition Government – and signed on under former Treasurer Scott Morrison – in the first place.

Labor has been calling for Dr Johns to step down as Commissioner before he damages the culture of our trusted charity sector. The Prime Minister signed off on Dr Johns taking the helm of the charities commission and he needs to confirm now whether he supports Dr Johns' judgement and his decision to erase indigenous acknowledgments from the Commission's communications.



**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND:
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS**

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign spanning from 25 November through 10 December, is taking place this year against the backdrop of an unprecedented global outcry. Millions have rallied behind the hashtag #MeToo and other campaigns, exposing the sheer magnitude of sexual harassment and other forms of violence that women everywhere suffer, every day. Breaking the silence is the first step to transforming the culture of gender-based violence.

At the heart of this year's theme, "Leave No One Behind – End Violence against Women", for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and UNiTE Campaign's observance of the [16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women](#) (25 November – 10 December), is the imperative to support those who are particularly vulnerable. The UNiTE Campaign is calling on everyone to join the movement to end violence against women, using the colour orange to make your action visible.

- [Find out how you can take action](#) [Read the UN Secretary-General's message for the day](#)

FOR MORE CONTROL CLICK: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women>



With our friends at the [Human Rights Act for Queensland](#) campaign, we believe that the Bill:

Is a welcomed reform that will lead to the development of a human rights culture in Queensland. It responds to many years of lobbying by over 40 community organisations and thousands of Queenslanders

Is an improvement on the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, which the Bill is modelled on, including by protecting the rights to health and education and through the introduction of a complaints mechanism – allowing people to complain about human rights issues to Queensland's Human Rights Commission

Gives the Human Rights Commissioner broad powers to examine and report on human rights issues – penalising public entities if they fail to comply with the Commissioner's request for information and giving the Commission a central role in holding the government to account for human rights issues.

The Bill should include the ability to take action in a court or tribunal when a human rights complaint cannot be resolved by the Human Rights Commission; the ability of a court or tribunal to order that a person is compensated for a breach of their human rights where this is the appropriate remedy - and must be accompanied by an allocation of adequate resources to ensure that the Human Rights Act can be properly implemented.



Have your say on Queensland's Human Rights Bill



CURRENT SENATE INQUIRIES (As of November 9, 2018)

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [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](#)
- [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 References Committee

- [Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship](#)
- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Economics Legislation Committee

- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Every State and Territory Gets Their Fair Share of GST\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Design and Distribution Obligations and Product Intervention Powers\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Foreign Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018; Income Tax \(Managed Investment Trust Withholding Tax\) Amendment Bill 2018; Income Tax Rates Amendment \(Sovereign Entities\) Bill 2018](#)

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

- [Higher Education Support Amendment \(Cost Recovery\) Bill 2018, and the Higher Education Support \(Charges\) Bill 2018](#)

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](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

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

Environment and Communications References Committee

- [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [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](#)
- [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](#)
- [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](#)
- [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](#)
- [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

- [The effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

Red Tape Committee

- [The effect of red tape on private education policy and process to limit and reduce red tape](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- [The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#)
- [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](#)

Standing Committee of Privileges

- [Development of a foreign influence transparency scheme to apply to parliamentarians](#)
- [Possible improper interference with a Senator in the free performance of his duties](#)
- [Disposition of material obtained in the execution of a search warrant](#)

