



WEEKLY UPDATE: 12th, October, 2018

Phone: (07) 3252 7101; email: senator.moore@aph.gov.au;

Web: www.clairemoore.net; Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenClaireMoore;

www.facebook.com/SenatorClaireMoore;

<https://www.alp.org.au/labors-fair-go-action-plan/>

THIS WEEK:

While the Morrison government tumbles out a series of announcements designed to make it look as if they are doing something, the reality on the ground in terms of education, infrastructure, innovation, climate change and energy policy is radically different.

The release this week of the work of 194 international scientists in IPCC Report on the looming dire consequences of climate change was met with denial and obfuscation by the Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment, Melissa Price. Their responses reminded us of former Prime Minister Turnbull's view that; "The Coalition is simply constitutionally incapable of taking action on climate change."

Meanwhile, as the Government wastes time, Labor has continued the serious work of quality public policy development that it has undertaken over the last five years with the release of major announcements on a 'Fair Go Action Plan' and Education.

If elected Labor will put \$14.1 billion over the next ten years into the nation's public school system reversing the funding cuts of the Coalition. In Queensland alone this will mean an extra \$647 million for the education of our most precious resource; our kids. The launch of the 'Fair Go Action Plan' last Sunday was a statement of the values of a Labor government, leader Shorten said this;

"I think the challenge we face - all of us in the labour movement - is to restore the faith of Australians in Australian democracy itself. The challenge we face is to demonstrate that politics can still deliver meaningful improvement in people's lives, that individuals can influence the direction of communities and of nations - that politicians can put the national interest ahead of their own. We want to hand on a better deal to the next generation than the one we received. The time of the Australian people is too precious to be wasted by delay, inertia or worse."

http://www.billshorten.com.au/launch_of_labor_s_fair_go_action_plan_sydney_sunday_7_october_2018

Wednesday this past week was World Mental Health Day. This year's theme – 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World' is hugely important.

In the past 12 months, one in four young people have experienced mental ill health with 50 per cent of mental ill health emerging by the age of 14 and 75 per cent before the age of 25. In 2017, suicide was the leading cause of death among people aged between 15-44 years. Such figures put the spotlight on a heart-breaking problem our community needs to urgently address

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](#) 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 4006

WHAT'S BEING SAID ...

EDUCATION - SHORTEN – BRISBANE

"We're able to make a promise that in the next three years alone, Queensland would see an additional \$647 million being given to public schools in Queensland. This is the equivalent in the next three years of funding an extra 1,600 teachers."

"No policy is any more important than education of our kids." – Bill Shorten

QLD EDUCATION - PLIBERSEK - TOWNSVILLE

"Over the next decade Labor will invest \$14.1 billion into our public schools if we're elected at the next election. Now that's very significant for a school like this, Kirwan State High School, here in Townsville, that would mean almost \$2 million extra funding over the first three years alone. Just recently the Morrison Government said that they'd restore the billions of dollars of funding cut from Catholic and independent schools but not a dollar extra for public schools and it's public schools that teach two out of three kids, it's public schools that teach the majority of kids who've got additional learning needs and it's public schools that's seen the biggest cuts.

EDUCATION - SHORTEN-MELBOURNE

"If Labor forms a government at the next election we will reverse the cuts to public education of the Liberal Party. We'll put back in \$14.1 billion over the next ten years spread right around all of the fantastic, great government schools of Australia. No policy is any more important than education of our kids."

EDUCATION & TEACHERS - PLIBERSEK ABC RADIO - MELBOURNE

"Look, everyone remembers the teacher that changed their lives; a lot of teachers, today, don't feel like their profession as a whole is respected. So we need to make sure that we are giving teachers the respect from parents, from bureaucracies, from governments that they need." "No policy is any more important than education of our kids."



IPCC CLIMATE REPORT - BUTLER- SKY NEWS

"This report that we've received though earlier this week; the world's nations have received from the world's most qualified scientists in the field is a deeply confronting report."

"Unfortunately, the response we've seen so far from the Morrison Government is pretty typical of the response we've seen over the last few years, which is to block their ears and ignore the science."

"Yet, in spite of the clearest possible advice from the world's most qualified scientists this Government has again decided to block their ears and ignore the science, even if it means placing our children and our grandchildren in the face of serious danger." – Mark Butler

CLIMATE CHANGE - BUTLER – ABC RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST

"Ours is one of the very few economies on the face of the earth where pollution is rising. Scott Morrison says that we will meet his targets, his very inadequate targets, in a "canter." But the truth is,

according to the government's own data, pollution has been rising since Tony Abbott took the reins of government in this country and are projected, according to the government's own data, to continue rising all the way to 2030."

IPCC CLIMATE REPORT - BUTLER- SKY NEWS

"I think the real challenge for the Australian government is to make sure that the communities who have relied on coal for their economic prosperity – regional Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and over in the West as well – are supported as we transition across the globe to much cleaner forms of electricity."

"Malcolm Turnbull was right when he said, after losing the Liberal leadership yet again, that the Coalition is simply constitutionally incapable of taking action on climate change." – Mark Butler

MORRISON'S EARLY TAX CUTS- BOWEN – MELBOURNE

"It was interesting that the press release issued by Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg doesn't tell the Australian people how much this tax cut bring brought forward costs the Budget. Scott Morrison has previously said tax cuts don't cost anything. Well I'm sorry, they do. They cost the budget."

MORRISON'S EARLY TAX CUTS - CHALMERS – SKY NEWS

"We want to be comfortable that it won't come at the cost of more cuts to hospitals and schools, which has been Scott Morrison's form to date. We've done a good job of leading the economic debate. We will take our time to come to a position on what's being proposed today but to do that we need to know where the money is coming from, especially when debt has doubled under the life of this Government."

MORRISON'S EARLY TAX CUTS - PLIBERSEK- ABC RADIO 612 BRISBANE

"Actually we have supported the early stages of the small business tax cut but don't forget this is the Prime Minister who as Treasurer prioritised giving the banks a \$17 billion tax cut, when he was ripping \$17 billion of funding out of our schools, so you know what his priorities are."

SEXUAL PREFERENCE & EDUCATION -PLIBERSEK- ABC RADIO 612 BRISBANE

"I think it's particularly wrong when it's aimed at kids. And the idea that a kid would start school at age 12 and get half-way through high school or towards the end of high school and then come out to their friends and then be told "You can't complete your schooling here". I think that's abhorrent and I think it's abhorrent to most parents, including parents who send their kids to a Catholic or religious school."



SEXUAL PREFERENCE & EDUCATION -WONG-BONDI

"Somebody, a young person, discovers who they are, comes out, and is expelled from school. Is that really a priority of the Morrison Government? Well, apparently according to Alex Hawke, who is Mr Morrison's right-hand man, it is".



RUDDOCK REPORT- BOWEN – MELBOURNE

"The Government has completely lost control of this debate. They've lost control of this report. They deserve to. It's a scandal that they have still not released this report. Scott Morrison is going around saying he cares about religious freedom. But he refuses to release a government report, a report to government, for public consultation, discussion and scrutiny. Now we don't know what is in it. Now I fully accept that they needed some time to work it through. It is October. They've had it since May".

"Scott Morrison should be ashamed with himself that he's played politics on this issue and refusing to release the report."

- Chris Bowen

SEXUAL PREFERENCE & EDUCATION- PLIBERSEK- ABC RADIO 612 BRISBANE

"I'm raised Catholic, I've got an 86 year old mum who voted yes in the marriage equality referendum because most people who have religious beliefs don't want to discriminate against their fellow

Australians and they particularly don't want to discriminate against little kids.

What we shouldn't be looking to do is say that people who have a religious belief are allowed to discriminate against others because of that religious belief, so it's freedom from discrimination not freedom to discriminate."

AFP RAIDS – WONG-BONDI

"Isn't it interesting how quickly the Morrison Government moves against those who expose wrongdoing but are so slow to give answers when wrongdoing is there to be seen. Whether it's the Senate inquiry, whether it's questions in Parliament, whether it's Senate Estimates, whether it's the media or Freedom of Information requests, what we know is that Peter Dutton, and his department and this Government have fought the disclosures and answers around this au pair issue every step of the way. And that stands in stark contrast to the way in which alleged leaks by public servants are investigated."

BANKING INDUSTRY – O'NEIL – PH CANBERRA

"We know that more than 10,000 people have made submissions to the Banking Royal Commission. Just 27 have had the opportunity to have their say. Now these people are entitled to tell their stories. I have probably met with more Commonwealth Bank victims than the CEO of the Commonwealth Bank, and that is not good enough."

BANKING INDUSTRY – O'NEIL – PH CANBERRA

"It is fine to admit that there has been bank misconduct, it is fine to hear that the banks are sorry about that, but actions speak louder than words, and there are thousands of people around this country who are at the end of what we accept now is misconduct in the banking sector. They need to be properly compensated and properly restituted, and we are waiting from the banks to see action on those matters."

AGED CARE CRISIS - COLLINS- HOBART

"This Government cannot walk away from the fact it has been in government for five years. In five years, there have been three ministers and billions of dollars ripped out of the aged care system. The Government needs to take responsibility for what it has and has not done to date."

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND –ALBANESE- CAIRNS

"I find it somewhat ironic that a Government when it came into office, cut funding for the Brisbane Cross River Rail Project which it still refuses to fund; for Melbourne Metro, which it still refuses to fund; and hasn't funded any public transport projects in Sydney of any significance."

457 VISA & JOBS - O'CONNOR-MELBOURNE

"At the same time, we have over 700,000 unemployed Australians, and we have 1.1 million Australians looking for more work. That is over 1.8 million Australians looking for any work, or looking for more work - and yet we watch the Government continue to allow the explosion of temporary visa holders to 1.6 million."

457 VISA & JOBS - O'CONNOR-MELBOURNE

"Scott Morrison's history is clear. He voted against labour market testing when it was introduced in the last year of the last Labor Government. He's on the record opposing any restrictions on temporary visas and skilled visas. Indeed, as Shadow Minister for Immigration he wanted to open up the 457 visa arrangements to make them easier - not harder - to access. So, he looks overseas first and denies local workers their opportunity."

WORKER EXPLOITATION - O'CONNOR-MELBOURNE

"The Government has not an interest in dealing with exploitation in the labour market. It can talk about unions - it likes to attack unions each and every day. It doesn't have one thought when it comes to the exploitation of vulnerable workers or, indeed, looking after Australian workers who need more work, but can't find it."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"He's characteristically incoherent." - Julian Burnside QC talking about Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

"Australia is the only country in the world to establish an effective, low-cost and highly efficient emissions abatement scheme and then dump it." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"The gender pay gap is one of the most persistent forms of inequality in the Australian economy. As Justice Mary Gaudron famously said in 1979: "Equal pay was 'won' in 1969 and again in 1972 and 1974. Yet we still do not have it." Justice Gaudron could just as easily say that today – forty years later." – Tanya Plibersek

"This sort of thing is corrosive to our democracy. It feeds a dangerous perception that what matters in this nation is not your talent or your efforts – it's your connections. It's not what you know, it's who you know." – Bill Shorten (Contrasting seniors having to wait 6 months for their pension entitlements while a foundation gets half a billion dollars they didn't ask for)

"I absolutely believe that in a civilised society we should not have the death penalty." - Sir Richard Branson

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

LIARS - Eryk Bagshaw / David Crowe (SMH)

The number of people waiting for skilled regional visas has blown out by more than 50 per cent under the Coalition and the number of people being approved has halved, as the federal government faces calls to explain how it will force new migrants to settle in the regions.

Department of Home Affairs figures cast doubt on the government's claims that Australia's immigration distribution, which has clogged transport and roads in Sydney and Melbourne, is the fault of the former Labor government. The figures show non-regional skilled migration visas have risen every year under the Coalition, while those dedicated to the regions dropped from 20,510 in 2012-13 to 10,198 under the Turnbull government in 2016-17. The five consecutive years of cuts to permanent regional migrant visas coincided with a rise in the total immigration level to record highs of 180,000 a year, meaning proportionally more migrants were arriving on non-regional skilled visas under the Coalition.

Lawyers in Western Australia and South Australia said the states were crying out for workers. "If there is a push for people to live in regional areas why has there been such a high refusal rate?" said Daniel Estrin, a partner at WA's largest immigration law firm Estrin Saul. "It seems to be diametrically opposed to the purpose they are trying to espouse.

WHEN GOVERNMENT FAILS

The nation's energy companies and biggest electricity users have given up on politics and begun backroom talks about a self-regulated package of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, restore energy reliability and improve investor stability.

In a move that leaves the Morrison government isolated, the go-it-alone initiative is being led by the Business Council of Australia and involves more than 20 companies that comprise the [BCA's Energy and Climate Change Committee](#). They include energy generators and retailers, manufacturers, mining giants and gas and oil multinationals.

The companies supported the National Energy Guarantee, which would have mandated emissions reduction targets and reliability targets for energy retailers. Speaking of, the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) reports that Australia's lack of planning on grid infrastructure in the face of new renewables generation has caused congestion and caught up with investors, such as Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, who warn their recent boom is likely to slow.

[So the Energy Chook House is to be managed by the foxes!! The very people accused of constantly gouging consumers! – Ed]

ANARCHY

The architect of the failed National Energy Guarantee has claimed Australia has sunk into policy "anarchy" as part of a fierce critique of the government's shift to focus on power prices instead of other issues such as reducing carbon emissions. Energy Security Board chair Kerry Schott said she remained bitter over the dumping of the signature energy plan when Malcolm Turnbull was deposed as prime minister in late August. "I'm still going through the stages of grief, and I haven't left anger yet," Dr Schott told The Australian Financial Review's energy summit in Sydney yesterday. "I characterise the general state of affairs right now as anarchy."

On dealing with the demands of climate change she said: "We've got to manage [the industry transition] carefully otherwise we will find this is a very costly exercise."



Labor's shadow climate and energy minister Mark Butler said the government's response to the UN report proved it was "incapable of taking the action we need to protect the interests of our children and grandchildren". He added: "These are the world's most qualified scientists who are briefed by the 194 nations of the world to provide advice on this question."

Innes Willox is chief executive of the Australian Industry Group had this to say; "Australia is again in deep trouble on energy and climate policy. Despite the recent efforts that brought us to the brink of policy consensus, we're still not there, and industry is once more watching key energy costs drift up to back-breaking levels. That drift threatens to drag Australia on to the economic rocks in the months and years ahead. Innes Willox is chief executive of the Australian Industry Group

PROFIT (The Courier Mail)

Electricity fat cats have pocketed lavish bonuses despite a surge in complaints by Queensland consumers about power costs and supply. The state's five state-owned power utilities paid their executives \$1.1 million in bonuses during 2017-18 – some worth more than the average annual wage. The salary splurge comes as complaints to the Energy ombudsman soared 33 per cent.

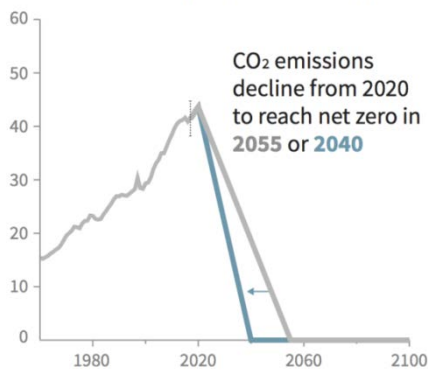
DUCKING TRUTH – David Margan

On Thursday morning on the ABC's 'AM' program presenter Sabra Lane asked the Prime Minister Scott Morrison a very good question in regard to Morrison emphasising his confidence on the basis of advice that Australia would meet its climate obligations - this despite all the dire warnings from experts, the latest being the IPCC Report . Lane asked him simply what experts were giving him that advice?

He ducked the question and unfortunately Sabra didn't follow up. But it's probably Tony Abbott.

The size of the problem facing our climate is illustrated by the graph on the left which according to the IPCC Report shows the amount of CO2 we have to try and get rid of to prevent potential climate catastrophe.

b) Stylized net global CO₂ emission pathways
Billion tonnes CO₂ per year (GtCO₂/yr)



JUDGE SLAMS DUTTON

A federal court judge has criticised Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton for repeatedly ignoring medical transfer requests for a refugee family on Nauru who, following a family member's death by suicide earlier in the year, were suffering severe mental health problems.

[Buzzfeed reports](#) that Justice Tom Thawley published the remarks yesterday in reasons for a September 21 court order to transfer the family. The group were forced to take legal action after Dutton, in a move Thawley says "fell short of what is expected of a model litigant", had ignored urgent requests for medical transfers from their lawyer.

The remarks follow recent attempts by the Australian and Nauruan governments to, respectively, [fight](#) and [block](#) medical transfers of refugees, and comes as Médecins Sans Frontières mental health workers were ordered to [stop work and leave](#) by the Nauruan government on Saturday.

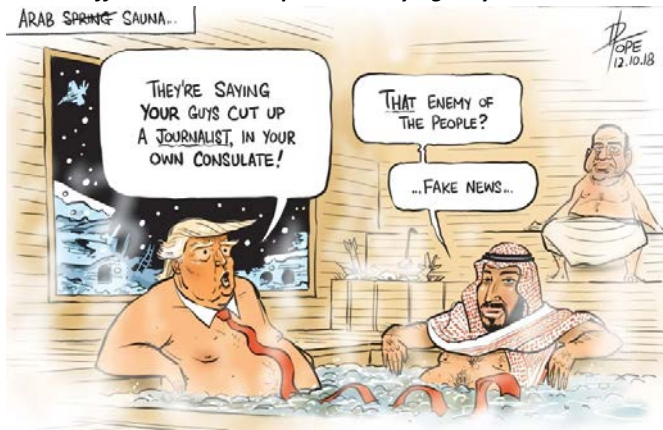
DUTTON HUNTS TRUTH TELLER- David Margan

Federal police have raided the Department of Home Affairs office in Canberra, as officers investigate a leak related to the au pair saga. A parliamentary inquiry in September heard that the leaking of emails showing Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton overruled the advice of border authorities to allow a French au pair into the country had been referred the AFP to investigate. While Dutton's Home Affairs does everything it can to hide the truth on a range of issues, Dutton uses his own bully boys to find the sources of his recent au-pair embarrassment. There's principle for you!!

MORE DEAD JOURNALISTS

Mr Khashoggi, a US-based Saudi national, was last seen a week ago entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to get documents related to his forthcoming marriage. His Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, was waiting outside the building and said he never re-emerged.

Turkish officials have been quoted as saying they believe Mr Khashoggi, a prominent critic of Saudi policies, was killed inside the mission.



On Thursday morning (AEST), [The New York Times](#) quoted highly placed Turkish security sources as saying that Mr Khashoggi was killed within hours of entering the consulate by a special hit squad on the orders of the Saudi royal court, and that his body had been dismembered with a bone saw.

"It is like Pulp Fiction," an official told the Times.

From Crikey (Bernard Keane)

The [likely murder and dismemberment](#) of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi Arabian killers inside the country's Istanbul embassy adds to the list of outrages perpetrated by a brutal regime that have drawn no rebuke from Australia. Instead, we continue to treat it as a normal country and valued partner. Apart from Saudi Arabia's long history of brutal oppression, slave labour, medieval execution for non-violent or invented offences and systematic misogyny, it has been committing [war crimes](#) in Yemen since 2015. This has included the routine and indiscriminate

slaughter of civilians in a conflict that has [an official death toll](#) of over 5000, including 1100 children, but which is likely far higher. In August, the regime also recently launched an hysterical attack on Australia's Five Eyes partner and long-time friend Canada in response to Canadian diplomats expressing concern about jailed human rights activists, including an [unsubtle threat](#) to repeat 9/11 in Canada. And our government, keen to flog more weapons to a monstrous theocracy, says nothing.

And Bulgarian journalist Viktoria Marinova was recently found dead in a park, having been raped and bashed, just a week after interviewing two journalists who were arrested last month while investigating the misuse of EU funds. Marinova is the third high-profile journalist killed in a European Union member state in a year. The Committee to Protect Journalists has called on Bulgarian authorities to conduct a rigorous investigation into Marinova's death. Bulgaria is the lowest-ranked EU member on the World Press Freedom Index, with increasing numbers of threats and attacks against journalists recently.

THE SIZE OF THE CRIME

THE overall bill to pay back customers who have been ripped off by Aussie banks is closing in on \$5 billion, a new analysis says. Investment bank Morgan Stanley says customer refunds and remediation costs, as well as associated penalties and fines, will cost the big four \$4.83 billion for the three years ranging from the 2017-18 financial year to the close of the 2019-20 financial year. The hit includes \$2 billion this financial year and \$875 million in 2019-20. The new analysis is four times higher for 2018-19 than Morgan Stanley had previously forecast.



BANKS BOOED

Commonwealth Bank chief executive Matt Comyn has drawn howls of laughter as he tried to answer questions during an interrogation at the hands of House of Representative MPs.

In a gruelling and at times hostile hearing on Thursday morning, Mr Comyn was grilled by the standing committee on economics on a range of issues, including those unearthed by the financial services royal commission.

But, despite the seriousness of the issues, Mr Comyn's answers to many of the committee's questions were met with laughter and heckling from a bemused audience in the public gallery.

PYNE INVENT FRIGHT - (The Australian)

Defence Minister Christopher Pyne's claims that insurgents had attacked an Australian base and a protected area in the Afghanistan capital of Kabul days before his official visit to the city last month have been rejected by military officials in both countries. In a radio interview last week, Mr Pyne described his trip to the "very dangerous war zone" of Kabul and detailed attacks on the Camp Qargha base and in the protected zone in the capital in the lead-up to his arrival. "It's a war zone and it's a very dangerous one. There were eight terrorist attacks in the area around the protected part of Kabul in the 72 hours before I got there," Mr Pyne told Fiveaa radio in Adelaide on October 3. "Missiles fired at our camp at Camp Qargha on the 19th of September, which thankfully didn't cause any casualties but did a bit of damage." Military officials contradicted Mr Pyne's claims. Both the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and the Australian Defence Force said yesterday there were no attacks on the date cited by Mr Pyne. Mr Pyne declined to reveal his source for the information. In 2008, Hillary Clinton claimed she had landed under sniper fire in Bosnia in 1996. She said there was supposed "to have been some kind of greeting ceremony at the airport but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into our vehicles to get to our base". It later emerged the then first lady and her party had been greeted on the tarmac by beaming US and Bosnian officials and an eight-year-old girl who read her a poem in English — a scenario backed up by CBS news footage. She later clarified the situation saying she "misspoke". Pyne in his defence has no claimed he got a date wrong.



GUESS WHO – David Margan

Australia's new Environment Minister Melissa Price who in her short time in the post has overwhelmed us with her expertise, intelligence, knowledge, perspicacity and transparency. Strangely her Wikipedia entry is well, very slim. Basically she was a lawyer who worked with the mining company Mitsubishi Developments. As Donald Trump has shown there is nothing like knowledge and experience.

TRUTH AT HOME (Eryk Bagshaw – The Age)

Former treasurer Peter Costello has launched an excoriating attack on the Liberal Party leadership, warning the government is "operating in a parallel universe" by promising voters it would deliver reforms in 10 years. The government's inability to produce a coherent economic story meant the Liberal Party had splintered along the social lines that ultimately contributed to the demise of Malcolm Turnbull as prime minister, he said.

Mr Costello described the 10-year plan to implement the Coalition's signature income and company tax cut policies as "very, very weird". "We can't deliver in this term, so we will make you promises on what we will do three terms from now," he told the Melbourne Institute's Outlook Conference. "It's a parallel universe and if anybody believes it you are silly. The only chance of holding a government accountable is something that they Peter Costello (right) with economist Ross Garnaut at the Melbourne Institute's Outlook Conference.



PATERSON'S CURSE



"The Alt-Right Gang" celebrating their successful stack of the NSW Young Nationals Conference. On 27th May this year The Australian reported:

A former Alt-Right Australia member was elected to the Young Nationals State Executive on the weekend amid fears from party members of a right wing push in the party.

Clifford Jennings was elected at the Young Nationals conference in Lismore yesterday as Metropolitan Regional Coordinator where he also moved — unsuccessfully — for the party to resolve to only accept immigration from "culturally compatible nations".*

Mr Jennings' attendance at the conference and that of some of his friends — all new members of the party — almost led to the postponement of the AGM of the party.

Outgoing Young Nationals chair Jessica Price-Purnell yesterday expressed concern at a potential takeover of the Young Nationals.

"It's completely repugnant that people with [those] beliefs that has been quite public about it feel it appropriate they can come in and try and take over what's normally a very reasonable [group] of young people," Ms Price-Purnell said.

WHAT THE?

Leading "No" campaigner against same-sex marriage Lyle Shelton says schools should not have the right to expel students simply for being gay — but should be able to do so if a student acts on that impulse by having sex.

FINALLY, THEY LET HIM IN (The Guardian)

Last Friday relatives of Fariborz Karami finally said goodbye to the 26-year-old, an athletic and intelligent dentistry student who had married just a short time before taking his life inside a tent on Nauru.



It had been more than three months since he died, and many years since doctors first raised concerns about his mental health with immigration detention authorities.



Fariborz Karami, 26, on Nauru

At Mount Gravatt cemetery in Brisbane, friends and relatives of Karami gathered under a small marquee, taking turns to kiss and embrace a white coffin adorned with silver handles, red roses resting on its lid.

"I never thought the rubble of cold soil would separate us from each other," one relative who could not be named told Guardian Australia. "He was the only man who supported me in my life. But how could he leave me alone with my deep wounds?"

Before Karami died, his mother begged for help for both her sons, and continued to advocate for her youngest son after Karami was gone.

"Often, I told you and I wrote to you that my sons are depressed and exhausted 'please help a sick and feeble mother'," she wrote to Australian Border Force. "But, instead of

support, you replied that if I couldn't tolerate it, I should return to my country."

Border Force long insisted that Karami could only be buried in Nauru or Iran, at the family's cost. The home affairs department referred media queries to Nauru's government. More than a month after he died Karami's body was flown to Queensland.

The cost of that flight as well as Friday's funeral were covered by unnamed philanthropists.

Karami was the 12th person to die in Australia's offshore detention regime. Many more have come close, either through illness or suicide. But the war on the ill continues.

There are increasing reports from island sources that authorities are threatening to arrest anyone who attempts suicide, and on Saturday the Nauruan government [ordered one of the only organisations providing mental health care, Médecins Sans Frontières, to leave the island.](#)

Dozens of people are being brought to Australia under court-ordered medical transfers, [resisted by both the Australian and Nauruan governments.](#) But Nauruan government officials – who are not under the jurisdiction of Australia's federal court – have begun dismissing the orders and the medical advice that prompted them, [refusing to allow air ambulances to land.](#)

Crisis support service Lifeline is on 13 11 14.

THOSE WHO REMAIN

Returning Médecins Sans Frontières health workers have called for the immediate evacuation of all remaining refugees from Nauru, reporting 78 cases of attempted suicide, suicidal ideation, or self-harm amongst refugees as young as nine years old. According to [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), MSF watched the mental health among people seeking asylum housed on Nauru deteriorate at an "absolutely devastating" state over their 11 months of psychological and psychiatric work on the island, particularly after the US rejected about 70 people under "extreme vetting" in May. MSF's eviction follows [multiple allegations](#) that Nauru has begun criminalising suicide and mental illnesses.

PREGNANT? YOU CAN CLIMB EVEREST

So for one of the [new studies, which was published in September in the British Journal of Sports Medicine](#), researchers from the University of Iceland and other Nordic institutions decided to look at birth outcomes among a group of national team and other elite athletes, who, by definition, train intensively. They asked 130 elite female athletes and mothers about their training in the three years before they gave birth and during their pregnancies.

Some of the athletes competed in sports that involved pounding and impact, such as running and soccer. Others engaged in lower-impact sports like swimming and equestrian events.

The researchers also asked about the exercise habits before and during pregnancy of 118 Icelandic mothers who were not athletes. Then (with permission), they examined records in the Icelandic Medical Birth Registry about each woman's labour and delivery.

The resulting data showed that the athletes, many of whom had trained into their second trimesters or beyond, had experienced healthy pregnancies and few delivery complications.

Their labour was not more prolonged than in the control group, and they were no more likely to need an emergency Caesarean.

Statistically, they also were less likely overall to experience a serious perineal tear during delivery than the control group, especially those athletes who competed in high-impact sports.

"The lesson of these results is that elite athletes should not expect more difficulties in childbirth than other women," says Thorgerdur Sigurdardottir, a doctoral student at the University of Iceland who led the study. In fact, she says the data suggest that athletes, particularly those in high-impact sports like running, "come out quite favourably" in terms of their pregnancy and delivery outcomes.



ORGANISING CRIME

A new report from the Australian Institute of Criminology estimates the cost of serious and organised crime in Australia in 2016–17 to be between \$23.8b and \$47.4b.

Direct serious and organised crimes were estimated to cost up to \$25.0b in 2016–17. These are crimes that have a clear and direct link with serious and organised crime (e.g. illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, organised financial crime). Consequential serious and organised crimes were estimated to cost up to \$6.5b in 2016–17. They are crimes that generate funds used to support involvement in serious and organised criminal activities (in particular the crimes illicit drug users commit to finance drug purchases), crimes that result from involvement in serious and organised crime-related activities (e.g. violence, sexual assaults and burglaries committed by those using illicit drugs), or conventional crimes committed by organised crime groups (e.g. organised shop theft) or committed in order to facilitate serious and organised criminal activities (e.g. using violence to intimidate businesses, or using identity crime to enable financial fraud). Prevention and response costs were estimated to cost up to \$15.9b in 2016–17. These include those costs incurred by law enforcement, the criminal justice system, other government agencies, the private sector and individuals in the community. For the full report click on and go to: <https://aic.gov.au/publications/sr/sr09>

WIND NOISE

Wind farm noise monitoring must be tightened to ensure new guidelines set by the World Health Organisation are met, Australia's wind farm commissioner said. The WHO yesterday confirmed excessive wind turbine noise could be linked to health problems and for the first time included wind farms in regulations covering road noise, aeroplanes and loud music. A WHO investigation highlighted a lack of quality research into wind farm noise and health.

TRICK A JAIL – David Margan

As I loathe most aspects of imported American culture especially the sugar powered Halloween maybe this is a solution – “The scariest monster for kids trick or treating in Chesapeake, Virginia is the local government! As reported by Reason on Monday, anyone over the age of 12 caught trick or treating faces a \$25 fine...or 6 months in jail! “



EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE RECORD INVESTMENT – Shorten/Plibersek/Giles

Labor’s will transform public schools in every state and territory with record investment to give every Australian child the education they deserve.

Labor will deliver an **extra \$14 billion for public schools** over the next decade, with **\$3.3 billion extra** flowing in the first three school years alone.

For public schools in each state and territory, over the first three school years alone, that means:

In Queensland, for example, Labor’s extra investment is the equivalent of around 1,600 teachers or 2,800 teacher aides.

Labor can pay for better public schools because unlike the Liberals, we’re closing tax loopholes for the top end of town and making multinationals pay their fair share.

As a condition of this funding, a Shorten Labor Government will require states and territories to invest strongly in their schools too.

States and territories will also have to sign up to a national plan to improve schools with clear and ambitious goals and targets.

Australian schools should be the best in the world, and every Australian child deserves the best start in life.

Labor believes that for parents to have real choice about where they send their kids, governments have a responsibility to make sure our public schools are second to none.

Our extra investment will transform public schools across Australia and give all children the opportunity to reach their full potential – no matter where they live, or how much their parents earn.

It will ensure public schools have the funding they need to give students more individual attention, and more help with the basics such as reading, writing, maths, and science.

It will allow public schools to offer a broader range of subjects including languages, coding, the arts, and vocational education.

Labor wants every public school to reach 100 per cent of its fair funding level, and we will work with the states and territories to achieve this.

At the moment, because of Scott Morrison’s cuts, almost nine in ten public schools will never get to their fair funding level.

Over the last five years all the Liberals have done is attack public schools and slash their funding.

Scott Morrison doesn’t think the 2.5 million students in the public school system deserve fair funding – he thinks he can get away with his cuts.

Australians didn’t vote for Scott Morrison, and they didn’t vote for his \$14 billion cuts to public schools.

It’s time Australians had a government that cares about the same issues they care about.

The additional Commonwealth funding for public schools has been costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office.

ECONOMY

JOSH’S HERO DUMPS ON LIBERAL’S TEN YEAR TAX CUT PLANS – Bowen

Former Liberal Treasurer Peter Costello has savaged the Morrison-Frydenberg ten year tax cut plans calling them “very, very weird”.

The Liberals’ income tax cuts had different phases that kicked in over a ten year period with a steep increase in cost to the Budget over time.

Speaking at the 2018 Economic and Social Outlook Conference, Mr Costello did not miss:

“We can’t deliver in this term so we will make you promises on what we will do three terms from now.

“It’s a parallel universe and if anybody believes it you are silly. The only chance of holding a government accountable is something that they will do during their term.

“I can promise you anything for 2026. The one thing they know is that they are not going to be in government in 2026.”

Federal Labor has been making this critique of the Liberal Party’s ten year income tax cut plans since the last Budget.

A key reason why Labor opposed the second and third phases of the \$144 billion income tax cut plan – aside from the unfairness – is their delivery relies on knowing what the economic circumstances for 2024 and 2026 would be.

Just a few days ago, the IMF downgraded Australia’s economic growth forecast.

What is clear is that the Liberal Party has completely given up on fiscal rules and Budget strategy and economic reform.

Peter Costello is the latest person to support these concerns.

LABOR WILL DOUBLE PENALTIES FOR PEOPLE PROMOTING TAX DODGING – Leigh

A Shorten Labor Government will protect the fairness of Australia’s tax system by putting a higher price on the heads of promoters who package the tricky schemes that cheat the tax system.

Tax avoidance has severe consequences for growth and equity in Australia. When individuals or companies don’t pay their fair share, they are increasing the tax burden on honest individuals and undermining the vital services that support us all.

Some of the most egregious forms of tax avoidance are available to those who can enlist a ‘brain behind the operation’ – a promoter. Promoting tax avoidance drains away revenue and erodes public confidence in the tax system.

Our current civil and criminal penalties related to tax matters do not match up to the penalties available in other areas of the law.

At the moment, the maximum penalties for promoting tax avoidance schemes are just over \$1 million for an individual, and \$5.25 million for a corporation.

A Shorten Labor Government would increase the promoter penalty regime to allow courts to impose fines of up to \$2.1 million for an individual or \$10.5 million for a body corporate, or three times the consideration received or receivable, directly or indirectly, by the entity or its associates in respect of the scheme.

THE GREEDY FREE MARKET - LISA SINGH (Extract from article in the Hobart Mercury)

“With all the scandal of predatory and unethical behaviour that has been disclosed through the Banking Royal Commission on everyday Australians, it’s worth asking, how did this happen? How did we get to a point where putting ordinary people first, their economic interests and their shared values have been forgotten?

But that is exactly what has happened as a result of decades of neoliberal economics.

The distribution of wealth out of this free-market fundamentalism has seen the rise of the super-rich at the expense of average Australians. Under free market economics, the gap between rich and poor has deepened. An Oxfam study highlighted the fact that globally just 8 people own the same amount of wealth as the 3.6 billion least wealthy people. Critics of neoliberalism now include former leaders who once embraced the virtues of the free market including Paul Keating and Kevin Rudd, both of whom have been scathing of the neoliberal project.”

AN INDEPENDENT COAG ECONOMIC REFORM COUNCIL – Shorten/Bowen

A Shorten Labor Government will establish a new and independent COAG Economic Reform Council that will be given the autonomy to examine, track and report to COAG on long-term reform priorities.

The operation of Australia’s Federation and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is fundamental to driving productivity and economic growth across the nation and an independent COAG Economic Reform Council will improve this process. The independent COAG Economic Reform Council will:

- **Collate and collect consistent and comparable data from the states, territories and the Commonwealth to inform policy co-design and analysis, helping to track progress and performance; and**
- **Support the development of agendas for two formal COAG meetings a year and the regular Council on Federal Financial Relations meetings.**

The COAG Economic Reform Council will operate at arm’s length from the Commonwealth Government and be overseen by a Board of up to six well qualified directors with a Chair appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with the states.

The Liberal Party has completely given up on economic reform and on improving Commonwealth-State relations.

This began in 2015 with the abolition of the former COAG Reform Council– the only independent COAG body tasked with assessing COAG-level performance through independent and evidenced-based monitoring and reporting of the performance of all governments.

This former Council’s work triggered systematic data collection across jurisdictions, but just as importantly, the Reform Council’s work also catalysed investment in and attention to, new reforms.

Scott Morrison’s current level of interest in the Federation is such that he thinks that COAG meetings are about eating Tim Tams instead of discussing critically important policy issues for the nation.

Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg have been members of a Liberal Government that has seen the following waste and mismanagement of Commonwealth-State relations:

- **A bungled Federation White Paper process – instead of generating a national conversation it remains on the shelf gathering dust;**
- **A Tax White Paper process that got shelved at great taxpayer expense and stakeholder effort;**
- **States and Territories got so frustrated with then Treasurer Scott Morrison that they formed a Board of Treasurers to exclude him; and finally**
- **States and Territories united against Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg in pushing for a ‘no state will be worse off’ amendment to the GST distribution package.**

The fact is that the lack of transparency and accountability in our COAG architecture has seen less cooperation and more of the Commonwealth-State blame game.

At the same time, economic reforms that will deliver the larger productivity benefits in Australia involve lifting policy levers at the state level, whether it be in housing affordability and supply, in skills and vocational training, and in health and education.

Having an independent COAG Economic Reform Council and secretariat will help get more buy-in from the states and territories and create a greater shared sense of responsibility than the current arrangements.

The council will cost \$2 million over the forward estimates.

IMF DOWNGRADES AUSTRALIA’S GROWTH FORECAST - Chalmers

The IMF has today downgraded economic growth expectations for Australia on Scott Morrison’s watch and raised several risks to our future outlook.

With heightened global challenges on the horizon the IMF is urging countries to build up ‘fiscal buffers’ and urgently adopt policies for strong and inclusive growth.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has made growth less inclusive and abandoned their own rules for Budget repair.

Instead, on the back of very favourable global conditions and billions of dollars of extra revenue rolling into the budget the Liberals have managed to substantially worsen the Budget position with:

- **The deficit for 2017-18 blowing out to almost four times worse than forecast in the Liberal’s first Budget;**
- **Gross debt crashing through half-a-trillion dollars for the first time in the nation’s history and now sitting at a record \$540.1 billion;**
- **Net debt has doubled since they came to office; and**
- **Both kinds of debt are growing faster under the Liberals than under the previous Labor Government, which had a Global Financial Crisis to contend with.**

The global economy has strengthened, risks have heightened, and yet the Liberal’s Budget discipline has weakened at the worst time.

Labor will deliver bigger cumulative surpluses over the forward estimates and will have a better plan to pay down debt putting the budget on a more structurally sound footing with reforms to negative gearing, capital gains tax, dividend imputation and trusts.

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

Australians need and deserve a Government focused on growing the economy in an inclusive way, boosting wages and addressing cost of living pressures.

Instead, Australians are stuck with a divided, dysfunctional rabble led by an illegitimate Prime Minister that nobody voted for.

ENVIRONMENT

REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE TOO HARD FOR THE LIBERALS - Wong

Monday's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report is a reality check for the Morrison Government about the real consequences of its continuing divisions over need for real action to tackle climate change.

The report starkly and graphically outlines the world we face: the prospect of exceeding a 1.5 degree temperature rise by 2040.

At 1.5C we lose 70-90% of the world's warm coral reefs (on top of loss to date). There will be more extreme hot days, and more extreme droughts.

At 1.5C we will see the consequences of climate-related risks to our health, our livelihoods, our food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth.

This is a risk from which we cannot hide.

And yet, Scott Morrison and his divided Liberals have absolved themselves from any responsibility in tackling climate change.

The government's own data shows they will fail to meet their already inadequate Paris targets with pollution rising all the way to 2030.

The Liberal Party has capitulated to the hard-right and will continue to wage their anti-science, anti-renewables, anti-climate change agenda.

While the Liberals have given up, Labor will not shirk our responsibility to future generations – we're committed to 50 per cent renewables by 2030, a 45 per cent cut in emissions by 2030 (on 2005 levels), and net zero emissions by 2050.

Labor's targets will cut pollution; bring down power prices and transition Australia to a clean economy with good new jobs, innovative new industries and lower energy costs.

It's time Australians had a government that cares about the same issues they care about as well as our international climate obligations.

THE WORLD HERITAGE VALUES OF THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE – Burke

As the Minister responsible for Australia's World Heritage sites, Minister Price needs to clarify if the values of the Sydney Opera House have been compromised by the proposal to make it a billboard.

The Opera House was nominated for World Heritage status and added to the World Heritage list in 2007, during the time of the Howard Government. It was also added to Australia's National Heritage list in 2005 by the Howard Government.

It is a global symbol of Sydney and Australia.

World Heritage sites have to be administered according to management plans prepared and implemented by the Minister.

Under section 321 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act), the Commonwealth has an obligation to put in place a plan a management plan for World Heritage sites.

Under section 322 of the EPBC Act, the Commonwealth and each Commonwealth agency has a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure they exercise their powers and perform their functions in relation to a World Heritage property in a way that is consistent with the management plan. In other words, the Environment Minister has an obligation to protect the heritage values of World Heritage sites.

The Conservation Management Plan for the Sydney Opera House, which is "part of the accredited Management Plan for the Sydney Opera House... to protect and conserve the World Heritage and National Heritage values of the place" (page 6, Respecting the Vision: Sydney Opera House – a Conservation Management Plan), and endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council, says: "The Sydney Opera House exterior, particularly the shells (and even the Tarpeian Wall face), should not be regarded as a giant billboard or commercial / advertising opportunity" (page 185, Respecting the Vision: Sydney Opera House – a Conservation Management Plan).

The Prime Minister's description of the Sydney Opera House as "the biggest billboard Sydney has" is the exact opposite of the principles the Government is obliged to enforce under law.

- At what point did the Minister ask for advice on the values of the Opera House and whether they have been breached / impacted?
- What was the advice provided to the Minister?
- What decisions has the Minister taken as a result of this advice?
- Has the Minister considered the management plan for the Opera House? And give the comments of the Prime Minister will the Minister be seeking to change the management plan?



ENERGY POLICY

MORRISON GOVERNMENT LOSING THE PLOT ON RENEWABLES – Mark Butler

We learned this week that business leaders are working toward a voluntary carbon pollution reduction framework because the Coalition government refuses to act to cut pollution and provide industry with policy certainty.

By this afternoon, the Resources Minister Matt Canavan had launched an extraordinary attack on business leaders, because he doesn't want emissions cuts driven by policy or by voluntary business action.

It is hard to imagine a government being more against action on climate than one which attacks business leaders for wanting to take action when government fails to.

This comes the same week that the UN IPCC 1.5 Degree report confirmed urgent action is needed by all countries including Australia to avoid dramatic climate change impacts in coming decades, including the loss of the Great Barrier Reef.

But Minister Canavan didn't stop there.

He went on to attack his own Government's bipartisan commitment to the 2020 Renewable Energy Target (RET), saying

"We had a consensus on the Renewable Energy Target and it has proved to be one of the worst policies adopted in this country, maybe the world".

This is the same RET that is the only policy:

- supporting new electricity generation investment,
- bringing wholesale prices down by bringing on new generation,
- cutting carbon pollution.

The Coalition's hostility to renewable energy and climate action has risen to a new unhinged pitch. Only Labor can deliver sensible, rational and credible climate and energy policy.

THE ENERGY CRISIS - Mark Butler – (Extracts of Speech –AFR - Energy Summit)

This crisis is largely self-inflicted and it reflects a very deep, profound public policy failure over a couple of decades.

There is, though, still a wide-spread view amongst many politicians in Canberra, and many media commentators (who often stray into being players in this debate), that there are two paths open to Australia for our energy future; there's the path that involves new coal-fired power and a path that involves new clean energy, particularly renewable energy that's firmed up. I have a very clear view: there are not two paths like that facing Australia. Instead the two paths facing us are whether we resist or whether we manage the clear transition to a clean energy system. Canberra, particularly under this government, has chosen the path of resistance.



Every other developed economy is also undergoing this transition, but what's really notable is that almost all of those other developed economies, in Europe and parts of North America, have a clear plan to deliver confidence to consumers and investors that

the transition is going to be managed well.

Bizarrely, I think, Angus Taylor the new Energy Minister said in his first speech as Minister that governments 'shouldn't even try', to use his words, to deliver investment certainty in this market. Frankly I think the proposition that the national government does not have a role to underpin investor confidence in an essential service in a mixed economy is utterly ridiculous. Investor confidence particularly matters in a system that is undergoing a profound transition amidst rapid technological change. And the lack of certainty that is flowing from the political fight that continues in Canberra is going to have real consequences for households and for businesses.

I'm sure that you all remember the former Prime Minister, Josh Frydenberg when he was Energy Minister and Scott Morrison when he was Treasurer, all trumpeting the modelling that demonstrated that households would benefit from a \$550 saving if the National Energy Guarantee was implemented. Most of that, frankly, through investment in renewables that is happening right now through the RET, but about \$150 of it through removing the risk premium that currently attaches to the financing cost of electricity generation investment. You remember that very well I'm sure – we had it shoved down our throats for months.

But, the very same modelling also pointed out that a failure to put in place the National Energy Guarantee would see prices rise. Failure would see wholesale power prices rise by about 27% and the average household bill rise by about \$300. We're already seeing, it's been reported in the Fin Review, the futures markets starting to price in those increases for 2019 contracts.

I think it's also important to say that consumers have, obviously, been poorly served by this energy crisis. More broadly, it's now clearer that consumers have been poorly served by the privatisation and deregulation of a retail market that has not delivered the price benefits that were promised to them by those state governments that undertook those privatisations and deregulations over the course of the last couple of decades. That's why we announced very shortly after the release of the ACCC retail report that we would support a default price replacing the hodgepodge of standing offers that currently operate in the electricity market. Obviously, as Rod Sims said, this needs to be a price that has sufficient headroom in it to allow good robust competition between retailers around genuine discounting that is clear and transparent for consumers to understand.

I'd also like to see this energy debate shift from the focus that has overwhelmingly been on the supply-side of the energy system, to a greater focus on the demand-side of energy. Historically, as I think you all understand, Australia has been a relatively energy-inefficient economy. Our low historical energy prices have simply meant that big investments to become more energy efficient - in the way that European or Japanese economies have – simply didn't make economic sense.

Businesses and households now, though, are caught in a trap where we confront relatively high energy prices – gas and electricity prices – but still have relatively low energy productivity and efficiency. Indeed, we have levels of energy productivity or efficiency that are slipping even further behind OECD averages and the rates that we see in some of our competitor nations like China. The government's National Energy Productivity Plan, which was developed back when Tony Abbott was Prime Minister, is hopelessly inadequate. Its target of a 40% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, even if it were achieved, would see Australia slip even further behind OECD averages and the average efficiency and productivity rates of other competitor nations.

We will be arguing for stronger and more ambitious energy efficiency and productivity policy. Not just a demand-focussed mechanism that focuses on the reliability and security of the system, which I think has been a welcome focus from AEMO over the last 12 or 18 months, but one that focusses on energy efficiency and productivity as the key way of driving down energy bills for businesses and households. There will be difficulty in getting really sharp reductions in the unit price of electricity in the foreseeable future – I think people understand that; we want to see wholesale prices come down, we want to see some of those retail margins come down. But, the pathway to really substantial reductions in power bills for business and households lies in a really aggressive approach to energy efficiency and productivity of the type that exists in developed and developing economies around the world.

MORRISON WOULD RATHER GIVE GREEN LIGHT TO NUCLEAR OVER SOLAR - Wong

The Prime Minister has become so desperate to find any energy policy he today refused to rule out building nuclear power stations across Australia – including in areas bordering his own electorate.

Mr Morrison today told Alan Jones there is *“absolutely no reason why, when it’s economic, we shouldn’t have nuclear power generation in Australia.”*

[According to a report from the Australian Institute](#) about where nuclear power would be located, Botany Bay, neighbouring Morrison’s own electorate, could be a likely candidate for a nuclear reactor. Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Sunshine Coast and Bribie Island were also named as possible locations.

Scott Morrison would rather put nuclear reactors up and down the east coast of Australia, instead of investing in solar and admitting that renewables are cheaper and cleaner.

This in spite of all the evidence nuclear power is actually much more expensive than renewable energy and would lead to higher prices.

Mr Morrison also seems blind to the well documented safety risks of nuclear power, highlighted by events like the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Mr Morrison’s bizarre thought bubble confirms the Liberals will support any form of power generation as long as it is not the proven and sensible forms of renewable energy like wind and solar power.

Rather than floating nuclear power balloons, the Prime Minister should end his government’s war on renewable energy — the cheapest and cleanest power available



LABOR’S PLAN TO FIX THE MY HEALTH RECORD – King

Labor will seek changes to the My Health Record to better protect the privacy of employees and women fleeing domestic violence.

We will also seek iron-clad legislative guarantees that the My Health Record will never be privatised or commercialised, and that Australians’ health data will never be made available to private health insurers.

Labor supports electronic health records. But the Senate inquiry we initiated into the My Health Record has exposed a range of deficiencies that must be addressed before this scheme rolls out to every Australian.

Greg Hunt dismissed this inquiry as a “stunt”. But the fact is it has revealed a range of serious flaws in the current legislation that are not addressed by the Government’s woefully inadequate amendments.

These flaws were created by the Government’s rushed implementation of an opt-out model.

The legislation that made sense for Labor’s opt-in model – when informed consent was assured – is not appropriate under the Government’s opt-out model.

While Labor supports the Government’s moves to tighten law enforcement access provisions and enable permanent record deletion, it’s clear these measures alone are simply not enough.

Labor intends to move amendments to the Government’s bill to ensure:

- **The My Health Record can never be privatised or commercialised;**
- **Private health insurers can never access My Health Records, including de-identified data;**
- **Employees’ right to privacy is protected in the context of employer-directed health care, by including a clause similar to s14(2) of the Healthcare Identifiers Act in the My Health Record Act;**
- **Vulnerable children and parents such as those fleeing domestic violence are protected, by narrowing the definition of parental responsibility; and**
- **The System Operator (the Australian Digital Health Agency) cannot delegate access to My Health Records to other entities.**

These amendments seek to address concerns raised by medical professionals, law experts, domestic violence advocates and unions throughout the course of the inquiry.

Labor may also move additional amendments in light of ongoing consultations with concerned stakeholders.

In the meantime, the Government must heed Labor’s call to suspend the opt-out rollout until all remaining concerns are addressed and public confidence in this important reform is restored.

HUNT DELAYS PRIVATE INSURANCE CHANGES AS HE KNOWS THEY WILL HURT – King

Greg Hunt has delayed a key element of his private health insurance changes, in a clear admission that his policies could hurt millions of Australians.

Under new rules announced today, private health insurers will have until April 2020 to implement the new Gold / Silver / Bronze / Basic product categories.

These categories were meant to be in place by April 2019.

The Liberals said these changes would make private health insurance simpler and more affordable, and give consumers more clarity and certainty.

But so far all they’ve done is create chaos and anxiety.

Over recent weeks it has become clear that these changes will leave many people disadvantaged, either through higher premiums or poorer coverage.

As a result, these changes are likely to accelerate the private health insurance exodus that is putting the entire industry at risk.

A one year delay won’t change that – it will simply push these changes beyond the next election.

The Liberals designed these changes hand-in-glove with the industry, giving insurers everything they wanted and protecting their profits. Once again Scott Morrison is putting the profits of big business ahead of the health care needs of ordinary Australians.

Only Labor has a real plan to rein in soaring costs, by capping premiums at 2 per cent for two years – saving families \$340.

HOWARTH FAILS ON MRI LICENCE FOR REDCLIFFE HOSPITAL – King

Luke Howarth has spectacularly failed to secure a Medicare MRI licence for Redcliffe Hospital from his own LNP Government – but Labor will deliver a new licence at the hospital, making life-saving scans more accessible for the people of Petrie.

Federal Shadow Health Minister Catherine King and Labor Candidate for Petrie Corinne Mulholland visited Redcliffe Hospital today to hear about the hospital’s desperate need for a MRI licence.

MRI scans are used to detect and diagnose conditions that affect soft tissue – including tumours and cancer – but can only be billed to Medicare with a licence from the federal government.



Under the federal LNP Government, Redcliffe Hospital does not have a licence, making MRI services unviable and forcing more than 2,600 patients a year to travel offsite for MRI services – including some ICU patients.

Despite this, Luke Howarth and Redcliffe Hospital were snubbed in the LNP's recent [announcement](#) of MRI licences – which followed Labor's commitment to grant more licences almost six months ago.

Instead of securing a MRI licence from his own Government, Howarth has released a bizarre video begging the hospital to apply for one.

In contrast, Corinne Mulholland and Labor will deliver a Medicare MRI licence for Redcliffe Hospital. The Queensland Government has said that the licence will make it more affordable to purchase and operate a MRI machine at the hospital.

When Labor was last in Government we awarded 238 MRI licences – delivering more affordable scans to hundreds of communities across the country.

By stark contrast to Labor's record, the Liberals awarded just five licences in their first five years in power – including two in marginal Liberal electorates during the 2016 campaign and one in WA as a result of a dodgy deal with One Nation. There was no opportunity for other communities to apply for a licence.

In May this year, Labor promised that a Shorten Government would invest an extra \$80 million to grant even more MRI licences around Australia.

While we are glad that the LNP has now followed our lead, Luke Howarth's failure to secure a licence for Redcliffe Hospital is further evidence that only Corinne Mulholland can be trusted on health care in Petrie.

APOLOGY TO PELVIC MESH VICTIMS – King/Zappia

Labor welcomes the Federal Government's apology to sufferers of pelvic mesh implants. Labor congratulates the many women who gave evidence to the Senate inquiry into pelvic mesh implants for their bravery in sharing their stories of often harrowing pain and distress.

The important thing now is that this does not happen again.

Whilst welcome, today's response is long overdue, with the inquiry report having been tabled on March 28.

The inquiry attracted considerable interest with five public hearings held around Australia. Over 500 submissions were received, no doubt due to the many women who have suffered awful consequences since receiving a mesh implant.

Improvements to the adverse event reporting system for medical devices is welcome and the inclusion of new Medicare item numbers for the repair of pelvic organ prolapse and removal of mesh implants are an important start.

Many women will however continue to deal with the health consequences of their mesh implant for the remainder of their lives and need to be supported.

We note that patient groups were hoping for tighter regulation of mesh devices and for reporting to be compulsory.

LEAKED MODELLING EXPOSES MORRISON'S PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE SHAM – King Scott Morrison's private health insurance "reforms" will force up prices or rip away coverage for millions of Australians – all while protecting the profits of the big insurers.

According to [reports](#) today, leaked modelling shows premiums will rise by up to 12 per cent for some people next year under the Government's favoured plans.

And under the Government's Gold/Silver/Bronze/Basic categorisation, many common procedures that are currently covered under some low-cost policies – including knee and hip replacements and cataract surgery – will only be covered under the most expensive policies.

That means millions of Australians will either be forced to pay more to maintain their current levels of coverage, or miss out because they cannot afford it.

The Liberals have repeatedly claimed no one will be worse off under these changes. This modelling demolishes those claims.

It's clear now why they refused to come clean with the Australian people and publicly release this modelling.

They must now explain the impact their policies will have on ordinary Australians already struggling with the cost of health care.

The Liberals designed these changes in hand-in-glove with the industry, giving insurers everything they wanted and protecting their profits.

Once again Scott Morrison is putting the profits of big business ahead of the health care needs of ordinary Australians.

Many stakeholders – including some insurers themselves – are now calling for a delay to these categorisation changes. The Government must explain why it is instead insisting on rushing them through.

Under the Liberals, premiums have increased by 27 per cent since 2014 – costing families an average \$1,000 more.

The Government's changes this year resulted in a double-inflation 4 per cent premium price rise – double what Labor's policies will deliver.

Labor will cap premium price increases at 2 per cent for two years, delivering families an average saving of \$340 and shifting the balance back in the favour of consumers rather than private health insurance company executives.

We will also task the Productivity Commission with a sweeping review to identify long-term ways to bring down costs and improve quality.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY AND THE YOUNG – Julie Collins/Terri Butler/Deborah O'Neill

Wednesday was World Mental Health Day. This year's theme – 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World' – is aimed at bringing attention to the issues our young people are facing in the world.

Labor acknowledges values and respects the tireless work undertaken by youth mental health professionals across the country.

This is a timely reminder to us all that the level of mental ill health amongst young people is of persistent and increasing concern.

We know that despite the best efforts of governments and sector alike, mental ill health continues to affect far too many young Australians.

In the past 12 months, one in four young people have experienced mental ill health.

Within this group, like all Australians, there is diversity across race, ethnicity, class, gender and sexual orientation.

Our young First Nations' people, LGBTIQ Australians and those living in rural, remote or in low socio-economic status areas have higher incidences of mental ill health.

Young people are the most likely group to have long-term and enduring experiences of mental ill health, with 50 per cent of mental ill health emerging by the age of 14 and 75 per cent before the age of 25.

More broadly recent ABS figures revealed 3,128 Australians died by suicide in 2017 – an increase of 262 deaths from the previous year.

In 2017, suicide was the leading cause of death among people aged between 15-44 years.

These statistics are deeply concerning and heartbreaking.

Labor calls on the Government to adopt the National Mental Health Commission's target of reducing suicide rates by 50 percent over 10 years as a matter of urgency.

A robust target, backed by real resources from all levels of government and an effective plan that supports long-term reform, is needed to drive change.

Labor knows mental ill health and suicide affects far too many Australians. World Mental Health Day reminds us all that although a lot of great work has been done we can and must do better.

* For 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services call [Lifeline](#) on 13 11 14. Other services include [Suicide Call Back Service](#): 1300 659 467, [Beyondblue](#): 1300 22 4636, [Kids Helpline](#): 1800 551 800, [MensLine Australia](#): 1300 789 978 *

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM NEEDED NOW – Julie Collins/Deb O’Neill

While Labor welcomes a Productivity Commission Inquiry into mental health, it cannot be used by Prime Minister Scott Morrison to delay action in progressing reform that is needed now.

Last month’s ABS data revealed 3,128 Australians died by suicide in 2017 – sadly an increase of 262 deaths from the previous year.

These statistics are a stark reminder of the work that needs to be done to address this serious national issue.

The Productivity Commission inquiry will be an important element to understanding the social and economic costs in relation to mental health. But the Morrison Government’s Productivity Commission Inquiry cannot and should not delay mental health reform that is urgently needed now.

The Government, for example, could immediately adopt the National Mental Health Commission’s target to reduce suicide by 50 per cent over 10 years.

A robust target, backed by real resources from all levels of government and an effective plan that supports long-term reform, must be implemented to drive change.

Too often the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has played catch-up in this vital area of policy.

It took almost a year of Labor publicly calling on the Liberal Government to extend the suicide prevention trial sites before it finally announced it would do so.

The Minister for Health is yet to deliver on his promise to deliver a comprehensive plan for specific treatment for Australians who are living with eating disorders.

Questions also remain about why this Inquiry is being initiated now, when former National Mental Health Commission chairman Professor Allan Fels called for it almost 18 months ago.

Labor knows there is more work to be done to improve the mental health of Australians and to further reduce the thousands of lives lost to suicide each year.

Australians living with mental ill health cannot afford delays.

The Morrison Government should be leading the states and territories to ensure that the 4 million Australians living with mental ill health get the vital support and services they need.

* For 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services call [Lifeline](#) on 13 11 14. Other services include [Suicide Call Back Service](#): 1300 659 467, [Beyondblue](#): 1300 22 4636, [Kids Helpline](#): 1800 551 800, [MensLine Australia](#): 1300 789 978 *

RIGHTS

GOVERNMENT DESPERATE FOR DISTRACTION – Dreyfus/Pratt

Scott Morrison must release the Ruddock Review immediately - before the Wentworth by-election.

Instead of releasing the Ruddock review in full, Scott Morrison is making a pathetic attempt to distract from his own government’s mess.

In 2013, Labor [strengthened protections](#) for LGBTIQ+ Australians under the Sex Discrimination Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, a move that was widely welcomed at the time.

Exemptions for religious schools under the Act already existed.

Mr Morrison has created hurtful uncertainty for families by not releasing the report in full and allowing a proper debate on these issues to be had.

He is also taking the voters of Wentworth for mugs. They are being asked to cast their vote for a Liberal candidate whose party is not being honest about what they are planning to do. If Scott Morrison isn’t planning any nasty surprises for Australian voters after October 20, then why won’t he come clean on what he has planned?



Wednesday’s embarrassing leak of key details of the secret Ruddock review into religious freedom means Scott Morrison has no choice – he must release the report in full.

The government has sat on this report since May and refused to release it, despite Labor requests – apparently too afraid to unleash internal divisions within the coalition. **They can’t wait any longer.**

According to Fairfax, the secret report makes a number of significant recommendations including the creation of a Religious Discrimination Act, and an amendment to the Sex Discrimination Act concerning religious schools discriminating against kids on the basis of sexual orientation. Labor has been clear – we will not support any weakening of existing anti-discrimination law. We will not support any new laws which make it easier to turn kids away from a school because of who they are.

With the by-election in Wentworth only eight days away, voters deserve to see the full report, and to know what the government’s plans are.

IMMIGRATION

PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR REFUGEES ON NAURU – Neumann

Scott Morrison must immediately take action to ensure asylum seekers and refugees, including children, in the Australian-funded regional processing centre on Nauru are receiving adequate healthcare and mental healthcare services.

Labor is concerned Médecins Sans Frontières are no longer able to provide psychological and psychiatric services to asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru as they have done so since late-2017.

The Australian Government must work with their Nauruan counterparts to ensure vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees have access to the services they require – including providing appropriate health, security, and welfare services – and that there will be no diminution of these services as a result of MSF's departure.

Labor strongly believes that medical transfers to alternative treatment locations 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.

If a medical practitioner recommends the medical transfer of a vulnerable individual requiring treatment, it should not require a legal challenge to take place to compel the Government to meet its obligations – an occurrence that has taken place far too many times under the current Abbott-Morrison-Turnbull Government.



Australia has a moral responsibility to people currently in Australian-funded offshore regional processing centres; Scott Morrison, Peter Dutton, and the new Immigration Minister David Coleman cannot absolve themselves of this responsibility.

Ongoing concerns about the provision of healthcare is one of the many reasons why Scott Morrison must accept New Zealand's generous offer to resettle eligible refugees – including children – from Nauru and Manus Island as quickly as possible.

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 Governments to negotiate other third country resettlement options.

If elected, a Shorten Labor Government will accept New Zealand's offer and negotiate other third country resettlement options as a matter of utmost priority to end genuine refugees languishing in indefinite detention.

The Morrison Government cannot bury its head in the sand when it comes to its ongoing failures to manage Australian-funded regional processing centres or negotiate other third country resettlement options.

THE FARM

LABOR TO MOVE SENATE INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S PESTICIDES AND ANIMAL MEDICINES REGULATOR – Fitzgibbon/Sterle

In light of concerns over the use of Glyphosate, it is critical that Australians have confidence in the regulation of agricultural chemicals and animal medicines and in the independence of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Maintaining consumer confidence is critical to ensuring our farmers have timely access to productivity enhancing products.

It is equally as important that Australians are confident in the capacity of the APVMA to effectively review these chemicals in a timely way.

There is no doubt the Government's decision to relocate the APVMA has impacted on its operations.

Reporting today questioning the regulation of glyphosate use in Australia by the APVMA highlights the need for Australia to have a strong and independent regulator.

For that reason we will be moving a Senate inquiry into the independence of regulatory decisions made by the APVMA.

Our inquiry will consider the effectiveness and responsiveness of the APVMA's processes for reviewing agricultural chemicals – including glyphosate.

It will also consider the funding arrangements for the APVMA and any impact they have on its independent, evidence-based decision making.

Finally, the inquiry will consider the impact of the APVMA's relocation on its capacity to undertake reviews of agricultural chemicals in a timely matter.

This issue is too important to the agricultural community, to Australia's farmers, and to consumers to be left unresolved.

CRISIS ON THE FARM – Joel Fitzgibbon (Extracts from Speech at Outlook Conference)

For five years now the agriculture sector has been most marked by policy inertia. The objectives have been unclear and the focus disproportionately allocated.

According to the ABS, 60 per cent of Australia's farmers have turnovers of less than \$200k. Indeed 31 per cent have a turnover of less than \$50k. 71 per cent have no employees.

For the past five years, these are the business entities the Coalition Government has almost entirely been focused on.

Think about that hopeless 2015 Agriculture White Paper:

- \$30 million for insurance advice;
- \$22 million for Farm Household Allowance advice;
- \$11 million for an agriculture ACCC commissioner;

- \$13 million to teach farmers how to form a cooperative; and
- \$250 million worth of concessional loans.

All of those - largely failed - initiatives were designed to win the hearts and minds of the 60 per cent. Month in, month out, Liberal and National MPs rise in the House to declare they are farmers; it's an attempt to claim only they understand farmers and farming. Of course, they are themselves, part of the 60 per cent, or more likely, the 31 per cent.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LABOR TAKES THE WHEEL FOR MECHANICS - Leigh

Labor is driving a better deal for car owners and independent mechanics with a plan to make timely access to technical information a reality. No matter what kind of vehicle you own, everyone should be able to choose where they get their car serviced. But independent repairers are struggling to get fair access to the standard service information they need.

Under Labor, car manufacturers will have to share the same technical information with independent mechanics that they currently provide to authorised dealers.

This would mean more choice and easier access to repairs for drivers, as well as a level playing field for independent mechanics, who would be able to stay in business as a result.

Labor called for this change more than a year ago but the former minister in charge of the issue, Michael Sukkar, sat on his hands for months before being exiled to the backbench.

Unlike Labor, Scott Morrison and his divided team won't back independent mechanics in Melbourne over large foreign multinationals.

Labor understands it's your car and it should be your choice where it gets repaired. It's time Scott Morrison and his chaotic team stopped being a roadblock and get in the car.



INNOVATION

GOVT HIDING EVIDENCE ON ITS SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CUTS - Carr

Why is key information about the nature of the Australian government investment into science, research and innovation apparently being withheld? What is the current Minister for Industry, Science and Technology (the sixth in five years) Karen Andrews, hiding?

The 2018 Science, Research and Innovation Budget Tables should have been released at the end of the financial year but we are now into the second quarter of this financial year and still seen nothing.

Last year's version of the tables showed that in real terms science, research and innovation funding has declined by \$358 million since 2013.

Funding for Australian ideas through the Australian Research Council was down by \$178 million – almost 20 percent in real terms since 2013.

The CSIRO and ANSTO are also still operating with reduced appropriations in real terms compared to 2013.

It would come as no surprise that these withheld figures will confirm a further reduction in the government's spending on science, research and innovation. Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison Government talks a big book on science and research, but the facts are very different.

Only a Shorten Labor Government can rebuild Australia's innovation system to meet the needs of a 21st century advanced industrial economy. A Shorten Labor Government will work with business, industry, universities and research institutes to boost Australia's investment in research and development to 3 per cent of GDP by 2030.

MANUFACTURING

30,000 COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE MANUFACTURING JOBS AT RISK – Carr

The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews must act to stop an industry worth \$5 billion to the Australian economy forced off shore and putting close to 30,000 jobs at risk.

The [Daily Telegraph](#) reports today that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government's changes to "Made in Australia" labelling and interpretations of the legislation by the ACCC will now see local complementary medicine manufacturers stripped of their ability to use the labels.

This is an industry that currently has 82 manufacturing firms based in Australia with 75 per cent located in NSW.

Complementary medicine manufacturers have a trading advantage from being Australian made, which is a sign of quality production in overseas markets.

Depriving local firms from being able to use the Australian Made kangaroo is a commercial disaster.

These are the unintended consequences of Barnaby Joyce's country of origin reforms.

This has been a bureaucratic stuff up and the ACCC have highlighted that this needs to be fixed by the Minister.

If the Minister Karen Andrews doesn't fix this issue Australia could lose this industry and forfeit a reputation for quality health management that has been built up over many years.

Minister Karen Andrews can and must fix this before any Australian jobs are forced sent off shore.

The Australian Industry Minister should be the champion for Australian industry and jobs, not the facilitator of its demise and exporting of local jobs offshore.

Almost one year on since the Liberals sent Australia's automotive industry offshore; they cannot be allowed to do it again.

REGIONAL

COALITION FAILING REGIONAL AUSTRALIA – Jones

Before looking at incentives to encourage people to move to regional Australia to relieve congestion in Sydney and Melbourne, the Morrison Government must first look to deliver on existing policy promises and fix the problems caused by five years of cuts to funding and services. The track record of the Morrison Government is that of failing to deliver on its promises to regional Australians. At the same time, it has made regional lives tougher through its cuts to the social safety. The flawed Liberal-National Party agenda is causing more harm than good and is failing to understand or address the needs of people living outside our major capitals.

The worst regional policy failures of the Morrison Government include:

- Stripping nearly \$1 billion in funding from local councils through the 3-year [indexation freeze on Financial Assistance Grants](#) that impacted on regional councils' capacity to provide community infrastructure and services.
 - Delivering a [second-rate copper NBN to regional cities](#) when fast and reliable broadband is the number one priority for regional development.
 - Failing to deliver on the [big talk around decentralisation](#) when 18 months after the policy was announced, less than 100 jobs have been relocated and most of those just from one capital to another.
 - Failing to deliver their signature Regional Development program, the \$272.2m [Regional Growth Fund](#) with stage one of applications having closed on 27 April – nearly six months ago.
 - Abandoning the [Regional City Deals](#) policy – despite huge interest.

At the same time, years of cuts to health and education services have impacted harder on regional Australians who have fewer options when it comes to accessing important basic services in regional locations.

- The Coalition's track record of cuts includes:
 - Cutting more than \$2.5 billion from TAFE, skills and training – essential to help address youth unemployment in regional areas.
 - A Medicare freeze that has cut more than \$3 billion out of Australian health care at a time when remote Australians see a doctor at half the rate as city dwellers and a specialist at one third the rate.
 - Cutting around 2,500 permanent jobs from Centrelink – the most decentralised Commonwealth agency - with call wait times and payment processing times blowing out substantially.
 - An Aged Care waitlist of more than 121,000 older Australians waiting for home care packages.

These cuts hit hardest in regional Australia. Without a strong social safety net of basic regional services, Australians in rural areas face challenges every day to access what urban Australians take for granted.

Making locations outside of Sydney and Melbourne attractive as alternate destinations to live and work depends on getting the basics right and delivering a coherent suite of policies.

Our regional cities are keen to grow and meet the challenges of the future through sustainable economic development. However, they cannot do this on empty promises, failed policy and ongoing cuts to regional services.



A MAJOR WIN FOR THE UNION MOVEMENT

1500 Alcoa workers have ended their 53 day strike after locking in job security.

By standing together to demand fair treatment, these Australian Workers' Union members have approved a revised offer from the company that prevents the creep of contracting, labour-hire and casualisation.

This is a major win for these workers and for the entire union movement.

AWU members stayed strong and refused to be intimidated by the possibility of being pushed back onto the award. We have to [change the rules](#) so that no working person can be threatened in this way again.

Employers need to understand that if they try and threaten workers, we will stand up, we will be supported and we will fight for as long as it takes.

Congratulations to all the workers who stood up and demanded secure jobs, this is a great example of the power of working people.

In unity, Sally McManus ACTU Secretary <http://www.australianunions.org.au/>

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Bill 2018 and related Bill](#)
- [My Health Records Amendment \(Strengthening Privacy\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Security Legislation Amendment \(Community Development Program\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [My Health Record system](#)
- [Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia](#)

- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practised](#)
- **Economics Legislation Committee**
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Design and Distribution Obligations and Product Intervention Powers\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [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](#)
- **Economics References Committee**
- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)
- **Education and Employment Legislation Committee**
- [Fair Work Amendment \(Family and Domestic Violence Leave\) 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](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)
- **Environment and Communications Legislation Committee**
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Improving the Energy Efficiency of Rental Properties\) Bill 2018](#)
- **Environment and Communications References Committee**
- **New** [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](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)
- **Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**
- [Intelligence Services Amendment \(Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight of Intelligence Agencies\) Bill 2018](#)
- **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**
- [Defence Amendment \(Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding\) Bill 2018](#)
- **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**
- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)
- **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee**
- **New** [Aviation Transport Security Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Customs Amendment \(Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#), [Customs Tariff Amendment \(Comprehensive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [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 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**
- [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- **Select Committee into the obesity epidemic in Australia**
- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)
- **Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century**
- [Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century](#)
- **Select Committee on Electric Vehicles**
- [Electric Vehicles](#)
- **Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education**
- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)