

**Senator Claire Moore**

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**

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Claire with Burmese participants in the Myanmar Women's Parliamentary Mentoring program in Yangon

**THIS WEEK:**

*We will be acknowledging Australia Day ...*

*I love the citizenship ceremonies which I share with the joy of our new citizens from around the world.*

*I celebrate the achievements of the people who will be acknowledged with awards representing service to our communities.*

*I also acknowledge that for many people from our First Peoples, this is also a time of sorrow and remembrance.*

*I hope that your Christmas season was restful, as the New Year has certainly begun in full campaign.*

*Last week, Bill Shorten travelled across Queensland , meeting and talking with people about what is important to them ... announcements on health, infrastructure, education with local and national impact were made, and local candidates had the chance to make the personal links with shadow cabinet members .*

*It does not matter when the election is announced, Labor is ready.*

*I know that the campaign teams are out there, making sure that people are enrolled to vote , making the phone calls, and being seen across the community ... the 'high vis' impact .*

*We know it will be a tough campaign, and it is important to look after each other.*

*Today's information about the importance of sun safety is a good reminder about the need to be careful in this heat and to always have sunscreen and water and hats , naturally in **campaign colours!***



SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore  
[www.clairemoore.net](http://www.clairemoore.net)



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  GOALS

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## WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



### MORRISON & QUEENSLANDERS - CHALMERS-ABC RN BREAKFAST

"They can spot a phony from a mile away. I think when Morrison, who has treated Queensland really as an afterthought for much of his time in Parliament, when he showed up here not that long ago, I think people saw in him someone who's out of touch with Queensland."

### SHORTEN & QUEENSLANDERS - CHALMERS-ABC RN BREAKFAST

"He's got family here. He's been here over and over again. I think something like 48 or 49 trips to Queensland in the last few years, 22 trips to regional Queensland. He's done 41 town hall meetings since the election and almost half of those have been in Queensland."

### QLD TOURISM - ALBANESE - GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND

"We must remember that the Coalition Government forgot to appoint a tourism minister when they were first elected and couldn't tell us what Department tourism would be located in. As it is, it's somewhere on the fourth floor of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We'll put it back in the centre of infrastructure and transport and regional economic development because we understand that tourism is absolutely critical."

### HOSPITAL BEDS - KING - TOWNSVILLE

"I am really delighted to be here today to announce that a future Labor Government under the leadership of Bill Shorten will commit \$13 million dollars to ensure that there is an extra 33 acute inpatient beds here at Townsville Hospital. "

### QLD INFRASTRUCTURE - ALBANESE- ROCKHAMPTON

"What we know from the last fortnight is that we've had answers from Senate Estimates showing that even though the Government committed \$3.5 billion for the Bruce Highway in Budget announcements, in their budget nights, the actual figures have been reduced to \$2.8 billion over the next three financial years. A \$700 million cut. Not in difference from what Labor would have done, but on their own commitments that they've made on budget nights. It's a part of the \$5 billion of cuts that they've made for major projects, the Black Spots Program, heavy vehicle safety program, rail projects right around the country. This is a government that is simply incompetent and can't even deliver what itself says it would do on budget night."

### ROCKHAMPTON RING ROAD - SHORTEN - ROCKHAMPTON

"I'm happy to close that circle and say that a Shorten Labor Government will invest \$800 million into the Rockhampton Ring Road. Because we want jobs, jobs, jobs for Queenslanders. And we want to secure, good jobs for local businesses, small businesses in Rockhampton and the surrounding district."

### QLD PENALTY RATES - O'CONNOR - ABC CAPRICORNIA - CENTRAL QLD

"We have 10,000 people in this electorate (Capricornia) that have had their penalty rates cut. They're low paid, hardworking Queenslanders and they don't deserve their wages to be cut at a time of the lowest wage growth in 25 years. So we will be restoring penalty rates as they were on the 30th of June 2017. So we want to make sure that we fix that as well."

### CASUALIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE - O'CONNOR - ABC CAPRICORNIA - CENTRAL QLD

"We want to see a tightening to the definition of casual. Too many people are employed unnecessarily as casual. We do accept that casualisation is a legitimate form of employment, but we're going to introduce a statutory definition of casual so it is used for the purpose it was originally intended to provide relief to deal with fluctuating hours, but not to become the mainstay of employment, which has happened in too many workplaces."

"I think one of the problems is Queensland has the highest casualisation rate in Australia. The ABS figures were that it's about 29 per cent. So we have a problem in the country but we have actually a particular problem in Queensland about precarious works." - Brendan O'Connor

### MORRISON'S CULTURE WARS -

#### PLIBERSEK - ABC RN BREAKFAST

"I think everybody sees what this is for what it is. It's an effort to stoke a political correctness debate on the eve of Australia Day. It's just tacky."

### CIRCUMNAVIGATION - RISHWORTH -

#### ABC - 891 RADIOS ADELAIDE

"What I can tell you is when I'm out at my street corner meetings or door knocking, no one says "I want as a priority of the Government to build a replica ship and re-enact something that actually didn't happen".

### WARREN MUNDINE - PLIBERSEK - ABC RN BREAKFAST

"Warren Mundine was talking to the Labor Party for a long time about a seat in Parliament. We didn't think he was suitable for it. He then talked to the Liberal Democrats and now the Liberal Party has accepted him. "

"Scott Morrison is not prepared to intervene to save Ann Sudmalis, or Jane Prentice, but he

Your Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony  
Dress Code for Blokes  
("smart-casual-racist")



is prepared to intervene to save Craig Kelly and parachute in celebrity candidate into the seat of Gilmore, Warren Mundine. Why? What's the logic of all of this?"

**WARREN MUNDINE - BOWEN-FAIRFIELD WEST**

"The Prime Minister has put in a candidate for Gilmore who thinks it is a good idea to have nuclear reactors on the coast including in his own electorate. Well I think the people of Gilmore might have something to say about that, on election day."

**WARREN MUNDINE - PLIBERSEK – ABC RN BREAKFAST**

"There was a reason no-one supported him to go into Parliament, despite the fact that he was knocking on a lot of doors for many decades. KELLY: What was that reason?"

**PLIBERSEK:** "I'll let the voters of Gilmore work that out for themselves."

**WARREN MUNDINE - RISHWORTH – ABC - 891 RADIOS ADELAIDE**

"I think it just shows the absolute division, dysfunction that we have under Scott Morrison that's happening in the Liberal party."

**WARREN MUNDINE - BOWEN-FAIRFIELD WEST**

"The Prime Minister has put in a candidate for Gilmore who thinks it is a good idea to have nuclear reactors on the coast including in his own electorate. Well I think the people of Gilmore might have something to say about that, on election day."

**SO WHO IS THE LABOR CANDIDATE IN GILMORE? - PLIBERSEK - KIAMA**



"Fiona, in contrast, she's fifth generation in this area. A dairy farming background, former TAFE teacher, small businessperson, raised her four children in the area. She came into politics by fighting to protect the local swimming pool in Nowra so she's got runs on the board locally. She knows the local schools. She knows the local hospitals. She knows the local roads. She knows that people in Gilmore are struggling to make ends meet because the cost of everything is going up but their wages have flat lined under the Liberal Government. Why would you pick a blow-in compared with someone who has been here, working, on the ground to deliver a better quality of life to the people of Gilmore?"

**HONOURS EQUITY - PLIBERSEK – ABC RN BREAKFAST**

"What we're saying is that we need to make sure our Australian honours system really captures those unsung heroes that are being missed by our current awards system." "The areas where women traditionally work or volunteer are often subsumed in other categories. Like nursing, for example, has no stand-alone category - it falls under the general category of medicine. So, we need to look at the categories that people are nominated in."

**HYDROGEN POWER - BUTLER – ABC – RN BREAKFAST**

"It has been long talked about actually by scientists and industry as a potential clean energy source but there have been some real barriers. Firstly, how do you make it affordably and cleanly? Secondly, how do you transport it? Really over the last few years there have been some great innovations in dealing with both of those long standing barriers."

"The International Energy Agency says that this industry will be worth, within three years, more than \$200 billion globally and around the world Australia is recognised as a potential leader in capturing those opportunities. "

**"I just can't believe how every day this current government get up and muck it up. They are so focused on themselves; I don't know how they find time to do anything else." - Bill Shorten**

**GOVERNMENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT - SHORTEN- GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND**

"There is no doubt there is instability on the global stage. But what worries me is that this government has squandered the last six years and not prepared Australia for any instability which could happen."

"I predict in this budget coming up, they won't worry about the rest of the world, they're just going to try and spend money, to try and buy



some votes to desperately get you to ignore the fact that this is a divided government who has mismanaged the economy over the last five years."

**GOVERNMENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT - BOWEN- FAIRFIELD WEST**

"Last year I pointed out that there was considerable downside risk in the world economy and that we need to be preparing Australia for the potential slowing of growth around the world. Josh Frydenberg at that time said I was wrong, and that it talking down the economy to make such an observation. Today the IMF has made a similar observation. The Prime Minister has also said there are global headwinds as Bill Shorten and I and the Labor Party have been saying now for months that this was the case."

**LATEST EMPLOYMENT FIGURES - O'CONNOR – MELBOURNE**

"We're still in a situation where we have 1.1 million Australians looking for more

work and over 700,000 people looking for any work at all."

## **YANG HENGJUN - SHORTEN-ABC NEWS 24 BREAKFAST**

*"You can't sugar-coat this. This is an Australian citizen who has been detained in China; the Embassy has just been notified. I'm very supportive of all efforts to reach out to him, to get to the bottom of what happened - what is happening. But it is very concerning, I can't pretend otherwise."*

## **LOAN SHARKS - MILTON DICK STATE MP - BRISBANE**

*"Queensland is Ground Zero when it comes to the loan sharks and the buy now pay later schemes. Queensland is the Ground Zero when it comes to consumers and customers getting ripped off. 1.8 million Australians are under financial household distress. 800,000 Australians have taken pay day loans. This is a crisis in this country. It's been over 1,260 days since the Morrison Government was handed a report to deal with this issue. I am sick and tired of residents in my community and electorates right across Australia being ripped off by the loan sharks. My message to Scott Morrison and Stuart Robert is: Listen to what the community is saying - start taking action and protecting consumers."*

## **QUOTES OF THE WEEK**

*"Lefty, oxygen-thieving rabble-rousers" - James McGrath (LNP Senator describing anyone even wanting to discuss changing the date)*

*"Cook's voyages ended when he dropped in on a group of First Peoples, utterly misreading their mood, and was fatally gored. Yesterday ended with ScoMo dropping Warren Mundine into the seat of Gilmore and, well, here we are all at sea again." - Guy Rundle (Crikey)*

*"A PR stunt that capsized right off the slipway — a recreation of an event that never happened, a PM who doesn't know the history he's spruiking." - Guy Rundle (Crikey)*

*"I'm not going to get caught in some sort of bizarre Captain Cook fetish which Mr Morrison wants me to engage in." - Bill Shorten*

*"The action of a Prime Minister making such false, baseless and unprovable lies is extraordinary. I demand the Prime Minister provide evidence of his allegations. I can tell you now, he has none." - Grant Schultz (Disendorsed endorsed Liberal candidate in the NSW south coast seat of Gilmore responding to claims by the Prime Minister that Schultz had undermined and bullied incumbent Liberal member, Ann Sudmalis.)*

*"I think the state executive got it dead right. You don't get to bully your way into a seat in the Liberal Party. That's not how it works." - Scott Morrison (The man who was once parachuted into the seat of Cook over preselected and besmirched candidate Michael Towke defends parachuting Warren Mundine into Gilmore over preselected and now besmirched candidate Grant Schultz.)*

*"What we know of course about Mr Mundine is he's willing to join any political party that might advance his career." - Brendan O'Connor*

*"I made a promise to myself in the New Year, a New Year's resolution about Clive Palmer. Until he pays the workers what he owes them, until he pays the creditors what he owes them, until he repays the taxpayers what he owes them, I don't talk about Clive Palmer." - Bill Shorten*

*"If you want a credible parliament, if you want serious government, it is better to vote for the Labor Party than for an independent." - Tony Abbott*

*"I have been alarmed by your Prime Minister's record on LGBTQ rights, which seems backward in all senses ... That no-one can be expelled from school for their orientation should not require clarification. A government should protect its people, not make it unclear whether they will be accepted."*

*— Anna Wintour (Dame Anna Wintour DBE is a British-American journalist and editor. She has been editor-in-chief of Vogue since 1988, and has been artistic director for Condé Nast.)*

## **GLIMPSES**

### **INEQUITY**

*Australia's billionaires grew their combined wealth by \$100 million a day last year, Oxfam has revealed, as it calls for tax changes to close the gap between rich and poor. The nation has 43 billionaires valued at \$160 billion between them, while the top 1 per cent of Australians have more wealth than the bottom 70 per cent combined. "Oxfam Australia is concerned there is no end in sight to this harmful trend that is concentrating more wealth in the hands of the already rich and powerful," chief executive Helen Szoke said. "Australia is among the wealthiest nations in the world, yet the pervasive gap between the haves and have-nots persists. This inequality simply cannot, and does not*

need to, continue.” Mining magnate Gina Rinehart remains the nation’s richest person, despite her cash pile being cut by \$2.5 billion, but most Australian billionaires are men. The Oxfam figures were published yesterday, ahead of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss city of Davos, where political leaders and corporate chiefs meet every January. Oxfam also highlighted the gender pay gap across industries and infant mortality rates among indigenous women

As for the world of inequity the 26 richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of the planet’s population.

- [The world’s richest man, Jeff Bezos](#), the owner of Amazon, saw his fortune increase to \$112bn. Just 1% of his fortune is equivalent to the whole health budget for Ethiopia, a country of 105 million people.
- The World [Inequality](#) Report 2018 – co-authored by Piketty – showed that between 1980 and 2016 the poorest 50% of humanity only captured 12 cents in every dollar of global income growth. By contrast, the top 1% captured 27 cents of every dollar.

### DONATED

Half of the federal Coalition appointed board of the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) are linked to LNP donations, including the latest member whose company made a four-figure donation to the LNP two months before he was appointed. An expert in political ethics warned the situation raised “genuine suspicions”, but made no claim of wrongdoing.

### ANOTHER DATA DISASTER

Electoral data designed to be used under Australia’s Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act has been accessed for consumer identification purposes by buy now, pay later company Afterpay, as well as debt collectors, betting agencies and marketing firms. [The Age reports](#) that Afterpay has harnessed confidential electoral roll data through debt-collectors and data marketing firm Illion in order to match identities to addresses while processing customer information from shops such as David Jones, Officeworks and Nike. While the original act gave access to the electoral information of over 16 million Australians to AFP, ASIC and the Director of Public Prosecutions in order to track criminals and suspects, legislative changes in November aimed at anti money-laundering and counter-terrorism financing widened this access to Illion, betting agency Betfair, marketing giant ACXIOM, and two other companies.

### WE’RE BUFFERED

A survey found 36 per cent of respondents have reported experiencing some connection or streaming issues, but 12 per cent have experienced serious issues with watching content uninterrupted.

Comparison site Finder found 4 per cent experienced unreliable connections, while 3 per cent of respondents said they constantly have problems streaming and another 5 per cent reported issues in the evening.

RMIT University associate professor of engineering Mark Gregory said these figures were only going to get worse as internet use in Australia continued to soar, and the technical failings of the NBN come to light.

“NBN Co is still running first-generation fibre to the home technology whereas many countries have moved to third-generation technology,” Associate Professor Gregory said.

### MEANWHILE ... (THE AGE)

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### INTEGRITY (THE AGE)

The heads of key Commonwealth departments are withholding from public view the details of gifts and hospitality public servants receive from businesses and other organisations, against the advice of the Auditor-General. The Age has quizzed major departments about their handling of gifts and hospitality. Despite mounting pressure for greater accountability, federal public servants remain secretive about the perks of their positions. Key departments including Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury, Defence and Foreign Affairs and Trade have confirmed they do not publish details of gifts and hospitality, likely to include alcohol, dinners and tickets to major sporting and cultural events from companies and other groups seeking government favour. In all cases gift registers are subject to freedom-of-information laws, but with no guarantee they will be released. Governance experts have slammed the secrecy, among them Richard Mulgan an emeritus professor at the Australian National University’s school of public policy. He said his main concern was the “lack of central policy a

### PALMERED

Billionaire Clive Palmer has lost a Supreme Court bid to have criminal charges brought against him and his company Palmer Leisure Coolum thrown out. Mr Palmer was charged by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in February last year for allegedly aiding, abetting or counselling the commission of an offence by another person, namely his business Palmer Leisure Coolum (PLC). ASIC alleges in June 2012, PLC breached the Corporations Act by publicly professing to make a takeover bid for villa timeshare scheme The Presidents Club, but failed to make an offer for securities in the company within the prescribed two-month period. ASIC alleges Mr Palmer aided, abetted, counselled or procured the company to do so.

Meanwhile Palmer’s illusory hopes for success in the Townsville seat of Herbert on the forthcoming Federal election have completely evaporated after One Nation decided to end its preference deal with Palmer. In a spiteful exchange, the wealthy businessman then went after Senator Hanson, saying his rebadged United Australia Party would preference One Nation last. Referencing the 2016 collapse of Mr Palmer’s Queensland Nickel refinery north of Townsville with the loss of 800 jobs, Senator Hanson said the UAP would be bottom of the One Nation ticket. “One Nation could not in all good conscience consider preferencing Clive Palmer until he pays all of his former workers’ entitlements,” she said, in a dig at the \$300 million his company is said to owe. Mr Palmer hit back, saying he had already turned down an approach by One Nation for UAP preferences — an assertion rejected by the Hanson party. “We’ll be putting Pauline Hanson last,” Mr Palmer told The Australian.

### HANSONED

Queensland Senator Pauline Hanson charged taxpayers for flights to Hobart, where her daughter lives, for a trip that coincided with her birthday. Senator Hanson turned 64 on May 27 last year and taxpayers shouted her \$742 in flights to Tasmania on that weekend. The visit to Tasmania, from May 27 to 28, took place over a weekend in between two parliamentary sitting weeks in Canberra

## CHINAED – David Margan



Chinese-Australian writer Yang Hengjun was detained by a squad of 10 security agents shortly after arriving at an airport in China, according to a source who witnessed the incident, confirming the worst fears of those close to him. The confirmation Mr Yang, a dissident and former Chinese diplomat, was taken by secret police on Saturday comes after days of silence, with friends and family concerned for his safety.

Mr Yang, an Australian citizen since 2002, has emerged as a popular fiction writer and backer of democratisation and reform in China. And what does Australian Foreign Affairs had to say?

"Owing to our privacy obligations we will not provide further comment," a spokeswoman said.

[Privacy indeed!! Do really think Yang is worried about his privacy at this point? Government use

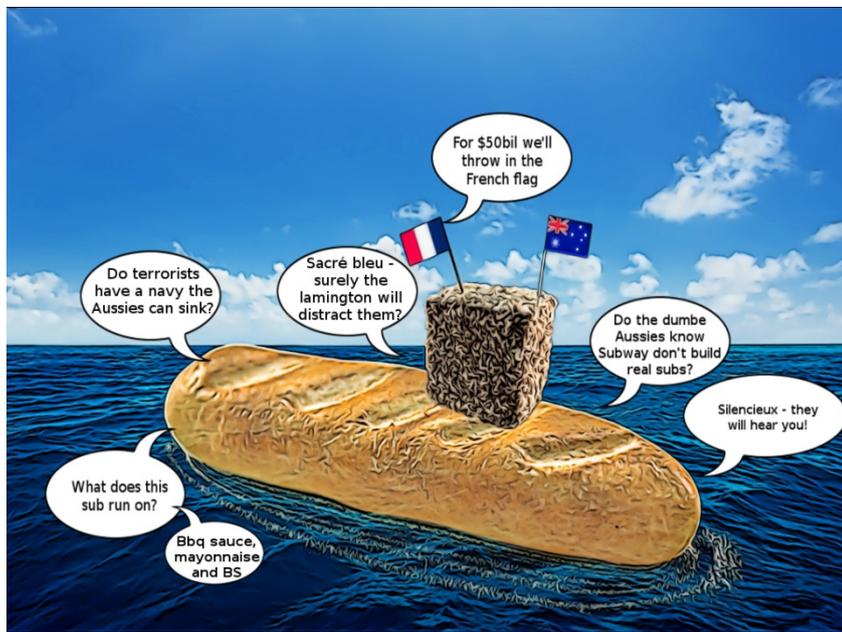
of the notion of 'privacy' is nothing more than a convenient way to not have to front up to the hard questions, like what are you doing about this?

If Yang or detained Australian permanent resident Hakeem Al-Araibi currently being held in Bangkok were French they'd be free by now! The Australian government has a poor record looking after its citizens overseas and where is that tough cop on the beat, yeah, you know him PETER DUTTON!?

## DUDDER

The pay gap between men and women has not changed in the past 10 years, with women still earning on average 11 per cent less an hour than men. An Australian Bureau of Statistics report on gender difference shows the pay gap is biggest in the health industry, where women make up almost 80 per cent of the workforce but receive on average only 75 per cent of the male wage. Other industries where the margin is greater than 20 percentage points are finance and real estate, where women represent about half the workforce, and construction, where women are just a fifth of the workforce. By contrast, the pay gap is less than 5 per cent in manufacturing, hospitality and the public service. The ABS report, which looks at the hourly earnings of adult non-managerial employees, shows the gap is narrower than the comparison between fulltime average weekly earnings, which shows men earning 15 per cent more than women, down from 16 per cent a decade ago.

## SUBBED



The Australian National Audit Office is considering a wide-ranging inquiry into the government's acquisition of 12 new submarines in a move that could raise questions about the ability of Defence to deliver the subs on time and under budget. The ANAO has flagged a possible review into the \$50 billion contract as one of several defence audits it is considering this year. The decision to buy 12 new subs from French contractor Naval Group was made in April 2016 but 2½ years later there has been little visible progress.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute senior analyst Marcus Hellyer said his organisation had been arguing for some time that the audit office needed to look at the Future Submarine program. He said, given the scale of the project, it should become ANAO's top priority: "One thing we really need to establish is what is the baseline schedule? When there are no schedules, there are no delays occurring." [Clever!! Ed] Mr Hellyer said the Defence Department had provided no clear timetable for delivering the project, including when the subs were due to hit so-called "IOC" or initial operating capability. The IOC is the point at which a

new capability can be used in the battlefield and is considered the most significant milestone in the life cycle of a new capability. Mr Hellyer also encouraged the ANAO to investigate the particulars of the strategic partnering agreement to ensure the terms struck were favourable to the commonwealth. The decision to go with Naval Group, or DCNS as it was known in 2016, surprised many analysts.

## TRUCKED

The Chief Executive of Australia's largest rail freight operator has accused the Morrison government of giving preferential treatment to the truck industry, saying the nation's trading competitiveness was being hampered by onerous regulations on the rail sector. Pacific National chief executive Dean Dalla Valle said the government had eased regulations on truck drivers — including allowing bigger vehicles on the road — at the behest of the truck lobby but had not modernised the regulations for rail. Mr Dalla Valle, a former BHP Billiton executive, said this was causing a market failure where trucks were transporting goods that would be more efficiently carried by locomotives. "Australia is a very large continent with a small population density, except for capital cities, so the movement of goods and products efficiently is going to directly impact our global competitiveness," he told The Australian.

## FLOATED – David Margan

Scott Morrison announced \$6.7 million in funding for a replica of Captain Cook's famous ship the Endeavour to circumnavigate Australia over 14 months, stopping at 39 locations along the coast. Speaking on ABC Radio on Tuesday morning, Morrison described the circumnavigation as a "re-enactment of the voyage" of Captain Cook.

Problem is, as any even superficial student of Australian history would know, Captain Cook never circumnavigated Australia he simply charted the East Coast.

Cook did circumnavigate New Zealand. Perhaps Scoot should join Clive and move there.

Given Morrison is also the member for Cook you would think he would know all this.



All that without remembering Cook's attempt to kidnap the King of Hawaii Kalani'ōpu'u and being the spearhead of an imperialist invasion of Australia.

But for ScoMo spending millions of our money deifying Captain James Cook it is just one of an unfolding cavalcade of 'bread & circuses' stunts he will, employ in coming months to try and avoid electoral annihilation.

"Mr Morrison has come to Queensland to get his historical facts wrong," Mr Shorten said.

The opposition leader said the prime minister had prioritised a boat trip around Australia over health funding.

"I'm not obsessed about our history. I'm obsessed about our future," Mr Shorten said.

Morrison then went onto accuse Mr Shorten of being un-Australian and by so doing Morrison was also seeking to re-enact the 'cultural & history wars' so beloved of The Australian newspaper. It's just such complete nonsense that beggars belief and which only be explained by his state of desperation.

### DELETED

Australians can choose to have or cancel a My Health Record at any point in their life. New laws to strengthen the privacy and security protections within My Health Record mean that from Friday January 25<sup>th</sup> a function has been activated in the My Health Record system that allows a person to permanently delete their record at any time, including any backups.

All records that have previously been cancelled will also be permanently deleted from the system.

### FAKED



Left-wing activist group GetUp is calling for greater independence in the appointment of ABC board members, describing the current process as a "complete sham". In a report to be published today, "The Coalition's inside job on our ABC", GetUp says despite a merit-based process being introduced in 2013 involving an independent nominations panel and an external recruitment agency, the appointment process has become "deeply politicised and often abused by the (communications) minister". The report cites the "handpicked" appointments of current directors Donny Walford, Vanessa Guthrie and Joseph Gersh and acting chair Kirstin Ferguson as examples of the nominations panel's advice being ignored. GetUp wants the communications minister's ability to unilaterally hand-pick board members to go, and the panel that

shortlists candidates to be replaced with a cross-party committee. Other recommendations include publicly publishing all positions, selection criteria and the names of nominated candidates, while also replacing the two government-appointed board directors with a second staff elected director and an audience supported director. The group is calling on its members to heap pressure on their local MP ahead of the federal election. More than 40,000 people have already signed a GetUp petition calling on the Coalition to appoint a "truly independent ABC chair" following last year's resignation of Justin Milne. GetUp democracy campaigner Jairaj Manoharachandran says the current process is "open to abuse" by the government of the day. "The (Coalition) government has repeatedly ignored independent advice in favour of handpicking its mates to the ABC board and has even hired a recruiting firm (Korn Ferry) with strong ties to the Liberal Party to help appoint the two most senior positions in the organisation," Mr Manoharachandran said. "We can safeguard the ABC from toxic political game-playing by giving ABC staff and everyday people more of a say in how our public broadcaster is run." Communications Minister Mitch Fifield labelled GetUp as "nothing but a front" for Labor and the Greens, and said it was in no position to advise anyone on how to make organisations more independent. "Time and again, GetUp's scare tactics have been hollow and without justification," he said. "The panel's role is to recommend to government a number of nominees suitable for appointment. The government will consider the panel's work before making a recommendation to the Governor-General." Opposition communications spokeswoman Michelle Rowland said Mr Fifield has "subverted the spirit of the legislation" by appointing board members who had not been recommended or considered. "The Morrison government simply can't be trusted when it comes to the ABC's independence," she said.

[ABC doyen, Leigh Sales, failed to ask the most obvious question to new Liberal candidate for the Federal NSW seat of Gilmore, Warren Mundine, this week when she didn't ask ABOUT THE Morrison Government's complete dismissal of the Uluru statement on indigenous representation.]

### WARRENED



Scott Morrison's star recruit Warren Mundine has slammed Australia Day as "invasion day" and urged the government to change the date.

"It irritates me that every time it comes up. Every year, you get the same old people coming out and arguing the same old cases, trying to divide the country when we should be actually trying to work together."

Mr Morrison has repeatedly attacked Bill Shorten on the Australia Day issue, prompting the Opposition Leader to confirm the date would not change under a Labor government.

Mundine has a history of flip flopping on issues like a dying Murray cod.

When he failed to achieve a seat in Parliament under the Labor banner he joined the Liberal Democrats to try and achieve his objective then last Friday he reigned

from that party and joined the Liberals and four days later was announced as their candidate for Gilmore.

Liberal Democrat Leader, David Leyonhjelm said; "What we also found is that he's a bit of a political chameleon — he will adjust his views to suit the circumstances. "Policy flexibility ... is the other term I might use."

His first ex-wife, Jennifer, has claimed the aspiring Liberal MP was physically violent after the couple's marriage broke down in the 1980s, accusing him of hitting her on one occasion. Mr Mundine strenuously denied the "totally bizarre" allegations, and suggested the claims had come to light as a first strike in the political campaign against him after he was announced as the Liberal candidate for Gilmore on Wednesday.

Mundine's second wife, Sydney University academic Lynette Riley, accused him of telling her she was "too Aboriginal", a claim Mr Mundine also ejected as "bizarre".

Riley, who was married to Mr Mundine for 25 years and raised seven children with him, told The Sydney Morning Herald: "He absolutely said it. It is seared into my brain. I was really shattered. I always thought of Warren as my soulmate.

"I think he has sold out his family and his culture. I think he gave up his good Aboriginal wife



and kids so he could do that.”

Mr Mundine married his third wife, Elizabeth Henderson, in 2013. She is the daughter of Gerard and Anne Henderson, directors of the conservative Sydney Institute. He has described their marriage as “a new life”.

### RESIGNED

LNP candidate for Lilley Jim Liu has quit just months before the May election. A snap LNP meeting was called last night with an announcement expected that Brad Carswell, a Senate candidate, would replace him. Lilley is held by Labor’s Wayne Swan, who is retiring. Anika Wells has been preselected for Labor

### ADVERTISED

Look out for a rash of Federal government “information” ads in the run up to an election, promoting or “explaining” one government initiative or another. Especially those dealing with ‘infrastructure spending’. Remembering these are ads YOU pay for.

Perhaps bowing to the dictum of “When telling a lie, tell a big one and keep telling it”, Prime Minister Morrison, the former marketing guy, is using your money to try to give you the impression his government is spending more on infrastructure. It’s not.

Oh, the radio ads sound impressive, suitably voiced with all the conviction of faked sincerity. The reality is that when he was treasurer, Mr Morrison’s two budgets have cut federal infrastructure investment.

In Treasurer Hockey’s case, the fine print showed the \$50 billion was to be spread over six years – an average of \$8.3 billion a year.

Whatever Joe could do, Scott could do 50 per cent better in his first budget: A “record” \$75 billion!

But this time the fine print was over 10 years – an average of \$7.5 billion each year, a nominal cut of 11 per cent a year and more than that in real terms.

The trick worked well in his first budget, so Mr Morrison trotted out the same number last year – \$75 billion over 10 years – and most of the media again swallowed it.

Even a moment’s thought delivers the realisation that no increase in the annual spend means the real value has been reduced.

There actually has been inflation in construction costs.

So with the subterfuge working well and plenty of obvious construction under way in the key cities, the Coalition’s spinners are now making YOU pay for radio advertising that says the federal government is spending big on infrastructure.

The average punter might not know state governments are paying for the vast majority of that construction.

**[I would argue that not only are such ads and their claims dishonest and lies but that they are also corrupt. They are a blatant use of tax payer money for party political advertising and not for public benefit. I effect they are fraud.Ed]**

### CLARKED



The man who was once Australia’s most senior Aboriginal leader could face a lengthy jail sentence after he was charged with hundreds of fraud, deception and theft offences.

A five-year police investigation into Geoff Clark and his family has resulted in more than 1000 charges being laid this week over the alleged misuse of money from indigenous organisations in Victoria’s southwest. Auditors have previously identified “anomalies” with \$670,000 in the books of the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust, but the new charges could reportedly total more than \$2 million. Fraud squad detectives laid another 514 charges against Mr Clark this week

### AGED

One-third of elderly Australians who need help to live at home say they don’t get the assistance they need, with average wait times into aged care climbing 44 per cent in two years.

The Productivity Commission released its government services reviews into the aged care and disability sectors on Tuesday, as the royal commission into nursing homes begins.

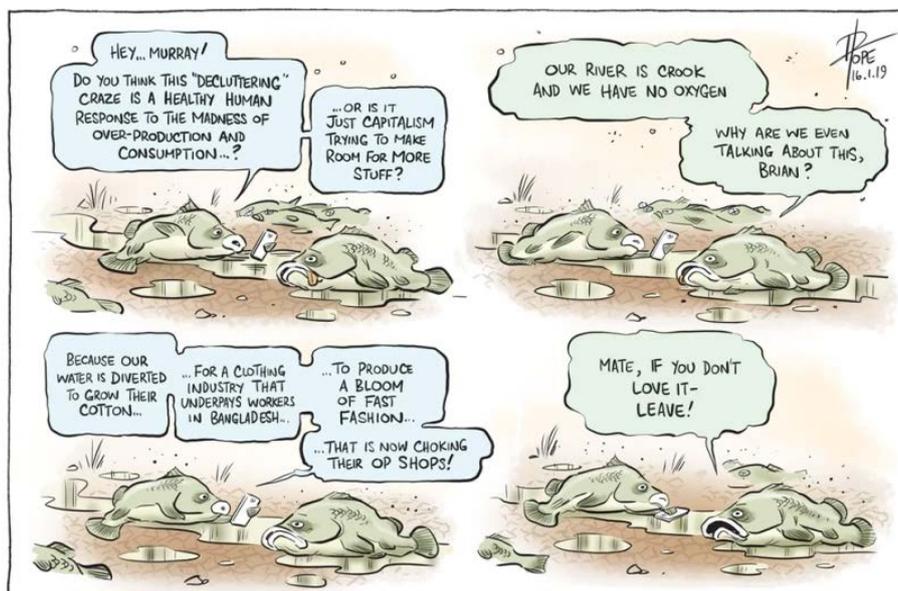
Meanwhile, advocates have called for a dedicated investigation into institutionalised abuses of people with disability.

The aged care report revealed that 30.8 per cent of older people living at home and needing assistance said their needs were not fully met in 2015. That was true for 37.4 per cent of older people with disability, compared to 20.8 per cent of those with no disability.

The median wait time into residential care in 2017-18 was up to 121 days, increasing from 105 days in 2016-17 and 84 days the year prior.

### GENDERED

46.5 per cent of Labor MPs are women, while the Liberals have 22.6 per cent and the Nationals are at 9.5 per cent.



# QUEENSLAND

## THE MAGIC BUS

### LNP'S PLAN TO CUT BRUCE HIGHWAY FUNDING REVEALED - Albanese

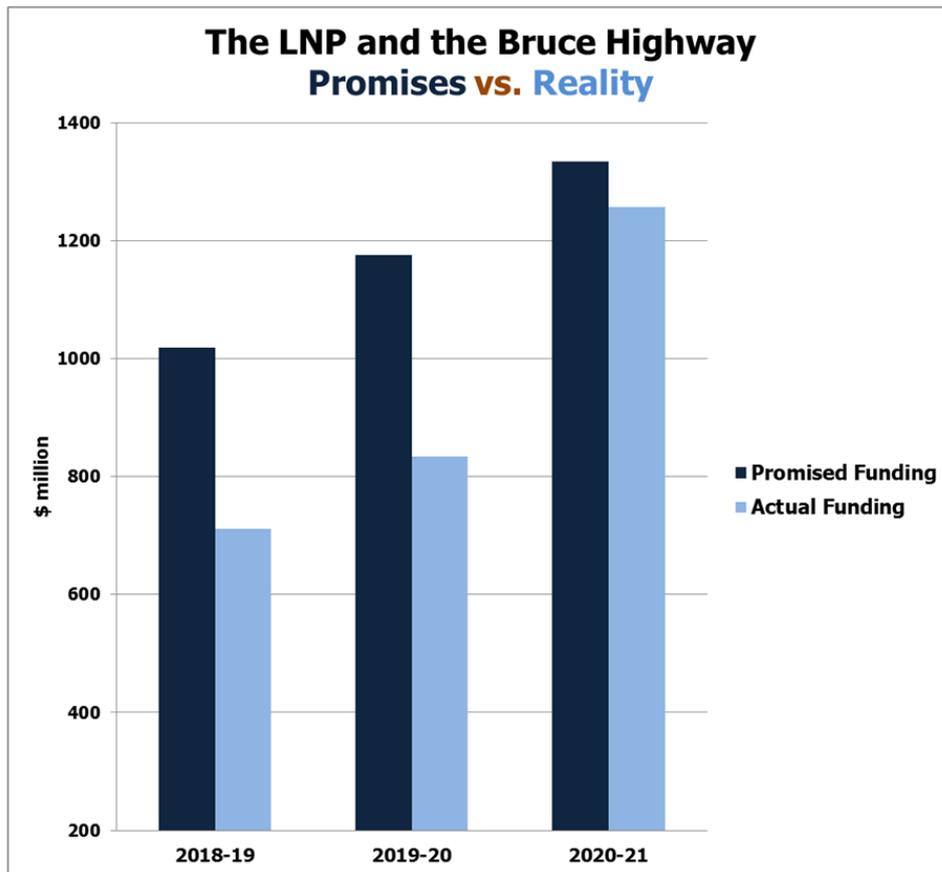
The Morrison LNP Government will slash Federal investment in the Bruce Highway by \$700 million if it wins the coming election, according to new figures released by its own Infrastructure Department.

In its 2017 Budget the current Government promised to invest \$3.5 billion upgrading key sections of the Highway over the three years between 2018-19 and 2020-21.

However, figures recently obtained by the Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee reveal the Government will actually invest \$2.8 billion over that period of time.



That's \$700 million – or 20 per cent – less than originally promised.



It will reduce the pace of progress on the Bruce Highway upgrade, delaying the productivity gains that would trigger faster economic growth and greater regional job creation.

This is an indictment on Liberal-National Party MPs like George Christensen, Ken O'Dowd and Michelle Landry, who should publicly explain why they were missing in action when the Government decided upon the cut.

The money being cut from the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program is more than what would be required to build the Rockhampton Ring Road, or the second stage of the Mackay Ring Road, or the fifth stage of the Townsville Ring Road.

The Coalition has spent five years trying to mislead Queenslanders about its commitment to infrastructure investment.

But its record is one of cuts and broken promises.

Indeed, the Government's own Budget documents show that in its first five Budgets, it promised \$7.2 billion in infrastructure grants to Queensland, but delivered \$6.1 billion.

In the light of these broken promises, Queenslanders should be wary about infrastructure promises the Coalition makes in the upcoming Federal election campaign. Based on the record, whatever is promised will not be delivered in full.

## **ROCKHAMPTON RING ROAD A CERTAINTY UNDER LABOR**

**Albanese/Robertson Candidate Capricornia /Beers – Candidate Flynn**

**A Shorten Labor Government will unlock productivity and jobs growth in Central Queensland by investing \$800 million to build the Rockhampton Ring Road in partnership with the State Labor Government.**

This is a transformative project which will support around 780 direct jobs during its delivery, ease congestion on the Bruce Highway, and make Rockhampton as even better place to live, work and raise a family.

The Ring Road will run from the Yeppen Roundabout, along the western side of the airport to a third bridge crossing before reconnecting with the existing highway at Parkhurst – see attached map.

It will take thousands of trucks a day out of the CBD and off suburban streets, both speeding up the movement of freight along the east coast as well as improving safety for local residents.

Importantly, investments such as this are a critical component of a serious decentralisation policy because they provide regional centres with the infrastructure and services they need to grow and prosper.

This commitment follows yesterday's announcement that a Shorten Labor Government will boost local jobs by ensuring more government contracts and major projects such as the Ring Road are delivered by local businesses employing local workers.

It was the former Federal Labor Government that first began investigating the planning for the Rockhampton Ring Road when we commissioned the Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study in June 2009.

The study, completed in 2011, backed the project.

But after nearly two full terms as the LNP MP for Capricornia Michelle Landry has been unable to advance the Ring Road.

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver the project, not just talk about it.

When it comes to the Bruce Highway, the LNP's record is one of cuts and broken promises.

Indeed, according to figures released by its own Infrastructure Department, the Morrison LNP Government will slash Federal investment in the highway over the next three years by \$700 million if it wins the coming election.

Federal Labor's commitment to the Rockhampton Ring Road builds on our strong track record of delivering for Central Queensland the last time we were in office. This including the major Yeppen Floodplain project which upgraded the Bruce Highway to prevent Rockhampton being cut off from the south, even during a one in 100-year flooding event.

## **LABOR WILL INVEST TO PROTECT THE REEF FROM WASTEWATER HARM**

**Shorten/Burke/Jones/Hassan-Candidate Dawson**

**A Shorten Labor Government will partner with the Burdekin region in the fight to protect the Great Barrier Reef, with a \$5 million investment to remove harmful nutrients from wastewater before it can reach the Reef.**



The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's most precious marine ecosystems – worth \$6 billion a year to the economy while supporting around 69,000 jobs. A significant threat to the ongoing health of the reef is the impact of wastewater. There is strong scientific evidence that increased quantities of nutrients and pesticides are reaching the Great Barrier Reef – impacting micro-organisms, species and increasing coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) outbreaks across the reef.

The Burdekin Shire Council wants to tackle this problem head on – and Labor will give them the resources to do so.

Labor's \$5 million investment to the Burdekin Shire Council will go towards establishing a pilot site to remediate wastewater – removing harmful nutrients and phosphorus before it enters the waterways.

The project, located at the BSC Ayr/Branden Wastewater Treatment Plant, involves the cultivation of the freshwater macro-algae to remove harmful nutrients.

Research conducted by the James Cook University found this approach virtually eliminated, or significantly reduced, harmful nutrients from wastewater.

The current treatment plant infrastructure does not meet international standards and does not meet the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Sewage Discharge Policy - upgrading the plant will be critical to ensure it meets best practice and minimises impacts on the Reef.

Labor is serious about protecting the Reef because we know that as well as being a precious natural resource, it is critical to the region's jobs, tourism and economy.

Only Labor and Belinda Hassan are committed to investing in the jobs and infrastructure the Burdekin needs – and to ensuring the benefits of the Great Barrier Reef are enjoyed for generations to come.

## LABOR TO DELIVER NEW CAIRNS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL Shorten/King/Faith-Candidate-Leichhardt

**A Shorten Labor Government will help attract and retain health workers in Far North Queensland - and create local jobs - by investing in a new dedicated training facility at Cairns Hospital.**

This \$60 million investment is part of Labor's Fair Go Action Plan to protect Medicare and fix our hospitals. Far North Queensland is facing a critical health workforce shortage that risks compromising the care Cairns residents are entitled to.

This shortage is exacerbated by the lack of a dedicated facility to train and develop doctors, nurses and allied health providers in Cairns. This makes it harder to attract health workers for their training, or retain them as they seek to develop over their careers.

Labor's commitment to invest in a new Cairns University Hospital follows the 'Cairns Convoy to Canberra' last year, when we were briefed on the vision to transform Cairns Hospital into a new tertiary facility.

Our funding will include \$10 million towards the purchase of the required land as well as \$50 million to fully fund the James Cook University's Tropical Enterprise Centre within a new Cairns University Hospital precinct.



This is a project that will further diversify the Cairns local economy to support more good, local, secure jobs.

It also has the potential to open up a new world of international education, leveraging off strong growth in the local tourism sector to attract more medical students from the Asia-Pacific region. When finished, the state-of-the-art facility will host:

- Innovation – such as a proposed project to deliver services closer to home through telehealth
- Clinical training and development – helping to attract and retain health workers in both primary and acute care to Far North Queensland
- Research – into regional priorities such as ATSI health, tropical medicine and equity of access

The Centre will create hundreds of jobs during both the construction and operational phases and free up space at Cairns Hospital by moving all education and research functions to the new Centre. This will allow Cairns Hospital to expand its clinical space within the existing footprint.

Labor's Candidate for Leichhardt, Elida Faith, has been relentless in advocating for this project and this major commitment would not have happened without her work. Labor believes Australian should get the best quality health care whenever they need it – no matter if you live in downtown Brisbane or Far North Queensland.

That's why the last federal Labor Government invested \$12m in Cairns Hospital through our Health and Hospitals Fund.

The Liberals on the other hand just cut and cut and cut from health. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he authored. His government has cut \$7.2 million from Cairns Hospital under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement.

That's equivalent to 20 nurses, or 11,000 emergency department visits, or 17,500 outpatient appointments. And it's part of a \$160m cut to Queensland hospitals and a \$715m cut nationwide.

Now Morrison is trying to lock in those cuts for another five years – a dud deal that the Queensland Labor Government is resisting.

Labor will reverse the Liberal cuts with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which we will use to kick-start the construction of this exciting new project. Only Labor can be trusted to fix Queensland's hospitals.

### LABOR WILL INVEST IN 100 EXTRA JOBS FOR CAIRNS – Shorten/Husic/Faith

**A Shorten Labor Government will create 100 permanent full time Department of Human Services jobs in Cairns.** These 100 new and secure jobs will inject up to \$7.2 million into the local economy each and every year.

This announcement will further cement Cairns as a national hub for Commonwealth Government service delivery and administration.

It is a further example of Federal Labor's commitment to the decentralisation of Commonwealth Government service delivery.

The 100 jobs will include local service delivery and call centre roles that will provide support for people across Australia.

Regional centres like Cairns have been ignored when it comes to decentralising Government service delivery.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has turned its back on North Queensland, with a campaign of cuts to DHS and Centrelink that are leaving Cairns residents waiting longer to receive support.

Medicare and Centrelink services help the Cairns community when they need it the most – when people are sick, processing aged care pensions, child care support, disability support pensions and carers allowance payments.

These jobs will improve access to Medicare and Centrelink and reduce waiting and processing time for older Australians - important services that have been left to deteriorate under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government.

Income support is complex and that's why it is important there are properly trained and permanent staff who are familiar with the personal circumstances facing income support recipients.

There are 13,000 age pensioners in Cairns, who have endured lengthy phone wait times to Centrelink as well as lengthy wait times for their pensions to be approved. There are 1,700 young people on youth allowance, who are studying or undertaking an apprenticeship – all who will benefit from the increased support as a result of these jobs.

The truth is Centrelink is in crisis under the Turnbull Government. It's under staffed and under resourced.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has cut and outsourced over 1,700 staff from DHS and Centrelink and cut thousands of public sector jobs in regional Australia. These cuts have coincided with increased Centrelink phone wait times, and income support recipients being pushed to the edge of poverty waiting months for their payments.

These roles will be permanent and full time and staff will be properly trained to assist Australians on income support.

Labor can afford this because we have made the tough decisions to make multinationals pay their fair share of tax, close tax loopholes used by the top end of town. We will also clamp down on blowouts in spending on contractors and consultants, and unnecessary and unreasonable travel.

Labor's focused on Cairns jobs and Cairns services – we're listening to the local community and making the investments needed to build a stronger local economy and create genuine job opportunities.

### **LABOR WILL INVEST IN A NEW ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE FOR PROSERPINE Shorten/Jones/Hassan**

**A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$5 million to rebuild the Proserpine Entertainment Centre – generating 43 local jobs in construction and giving the local community a vote of confidence in the future of their region.**

The entertainment centre is a central part of the town's identity, but it was badly damaged through Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and has been closed since, forcing events to relocate and limiting the region's capacity to attract new events.



Rebuilding it is an integral step in helping the community's ongoing recovery efforts, and to boost tourism and economic opportunities in the region – one of the most unique and beautiful parts of Australia.

Labor's investment will go towards reconstruction of a new complex, including:

- The capacity for a 300 seat auditorium for live shows and movies.
- A conference and function space with a capacity for 256.
- Full access for people with disability.
- Enhanced facilities including green room, change rooms, loading dock and prop storage.

It's estimated that some weeks more than 1,000 people will use the centre – providing an economic and social boost to Proserpine and the broader Whitsunday community.

A new entertainment centre would also provide a large air conditioned facility for local community groups to use, particularly local senior citizen groups.

During construction the project is forecast to have an economic output of \$16.7 million and create 43 jobs during construction, and once fully operational it will generate an annual \$3.3 million output and 16 fulltime equivalent jobs.

This investment is the result of the hard work and advocacy of Labor candidate Belinda Hassan – who has been listening to the local community about what they want for their region.

Residents in Proserpine and the Whitsundays have done the hard work to rebuild their community after Cyclone Debbie, and Labor's investment will give them extra support in continuing these efforts. This is a beautiful part of Queensland – it deserves a government in Canberra that listens and acts on the things that matter. That's what Labor will do.

### **LABOR TO BUILD NEW WARD AT TOWNSVILLE HOSPITAL – King/O'Toole**

**A Shorten Labor Government will improve health care for people in north Queensland by building a new 33 bed ward at The Townsville Hospital.**

Labor will invest \$13 million to build the ward, which will provide state-of-the-art care to cancer and cardiovascular disease patients, general medicine patients and general surgery patients.

The new ward will also reduce pressure on other parts of the hospital, including the overstretched emergency department, and contribute to the expansion of the hospital required over the decade.

It will mean more Queenslanders can get the care they need closer to home.

The Townsville region is growing rapidly – with population set to increase by approximately 30,000 in the ten years to 2026 – and the hospital is already experiencing bed shortages.

The Townsville HHS Health Service Plan 2018-28 calls for an additional 174 beds at the hospital by 2027. This is Federal Labor's contribution to that goal.

Labor believes Australians should get the best quality health care whenever they need it – no matter if you live in downtown Brisbane or regional north Queensland. That's why the last federal Labor Government invested \$250 million to expand Townsville Hospital as part of a \$437m redevelopment.

The Liberals on the other hand just cut and cut and cut from health. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he authored. His government cut \$9 million from Townsville Hospital under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement.

That's equivalent to 25 nurses, or 13,500 emergency department visits, or 22,000 outpatient appointments. And it's part of a \$160m cut to Queensland hospitals and a \$715m cut nationwide

Now Morrison is trying to lock in those cuts for another five years – a dud deal that the Queensland Labor Government is resisting.

Labor will reverse the Liberal cuts with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which we will use to fund this new ward at The Townsville Hospital. The ward will be established in an existing 'shell space' on the hospital grounds, with the fit-out expected to take about 18 months.

## **LABOR WILL INVEST IN 200 EXTRA JOBS FOR TOWNSVILLE – Shorten/Husic/O’Toole**

**A Shorten Labor Government will create 200 permanent full time Department of Human Services jobs in Townsville.**

These 200 new and secure jobs will inject up to \$14.4 million into the local economy each and every year. This announcement will further cement Townsville as a national hub for Commonwealth Government service delivery and administration.

It is a further example of Federal Labor’s commitment to the decentralisation of Commonwealth Government service delivery.

The 200 jobs will include local service delivery and call centre roles that will provide support for people across Australia. Regional centres like Townsville have been ignored when it comes to decentralising Government service delivery.



The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has turned its back on North Queensland, with a campaign of cuts to DHS and Centrelink that are leaving Townsville residents waiting longer to receive support.

Medicare and Centrelink services help the Townsville community when they need it the most – when people are sick, processing aged care pensions, child care support, disability support pensions and carers allowance payments.

These jobs will improve access to Medicare and Centrelink and reduce waiting and processing time for older Australians - important services that have been left to deteriorate under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government.

Income support is complex and that’s why it is important there are

properly trained and permanent staff who are familiar with the personal circumstances facing income support recipients.

There are 15,000 age pensioners in Townsville, who have endured lengthy phone wait times to Centrelink as well as lengthy wait times for their pensions to be approved. There are 2,700 young people on youth allowance, who are studying or undertaking an apprenticeship – all who will benefit from the increased support as a result of these jobs.

The truth is Centrelink is in crisis under the Turnbull Government. It's under staffed and under resourced.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has cut and outsourced over 2,700 staff from DHS and Centrelink and cut thousands of public sector jobs in regional Australia. These cuts have coincided with increased Centrelink phone wait times, and income support recipients being pushed to the edge of poverty waiting months for their payments.

These roles will be permanent and full time and staff will be properly trained to assist Australians on income support.

Labor can afford this because we have made the tough decisions to make multinationals pay their fair share of tax, close tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

We will also clamp down on blowouts in spending on contractors and consultants, and unnecessary and unreasonable travel.

Labor’s focused on Townsville jobs and Townsville services – we’re listening to the local community and making the investments needed to build a stronger local economy and create genuine job opportunities.

### **LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS: LABOR’S NATIONAL PROCUREMENT PLAN**

**Shorten/Chalmers/Carr/Clare**

**A Shorten Labor Government will boost local jobs by ensuring more government contracts and major projects are delivered by local businesses, bringing significant economic benefit to communities in Queensland and around Australia.**

Under a Labor Government’s *Local Projects, Local Jobs* plan, more government investment will be spent on local businesses and local jobs – not multinationals that don’t care about locals and don’t pay tax in Australia.

The Federal Government spends \$50 billion every year on goods and services – how the government spends that money, how it contracts and who it contracts matters.

Billions more are spent on infrastructure, energy and resource projects around Australia. Locals are locked out of work as multinationals bring in their own suppliers.

Labor believes that if local small and medium businesses can do the job competitively, then the job should be done locally.

If bidders on large government contracts can’t show how they’ll support competitive local business and local jobs, then they shouldn’t be getting contracts. It’s simple - no local jobs, no contract.

Local companies – those based in the town, city and region where the government is spending funds, should get better access to contracts so they can employ local people.

While value for money for the taxpayer will continue to be paramount, a Shorten Labor Government will put greater emphasis on buying local, employing locals and supporting economic activity in our regions. This is consistent with our international agreements.

#### **Labor’s three-point plan for *Local Projects, Local Jobs* includes:**

##### **Better access to government contracts for local businesses**

- Labor will require government departments work with local firms to ensure they can benefit from government contracts, and properly consider the economic benefit that local businesses provide. Value for money will be the key criteria.
- For projects over \$10 million Labor will require bidders to develop a *Plan for Local Jobs* to support jobs in the regions that projects are undertaken.

- Successful bidders will be required to nominate an on-the-ground contact to engage with local small and medium businesses to raise awareness of upcoming tender and subcontracting opportunities.
- Companies will also have to undertake local labour-market testing for any new employees required for the project, to ensure temporary work visa holders are not undercutting local wages.
- Officials will be required to consider relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of the procurement, including commitment to local or regional markets and a more competitive supplier base.

#### Supporting local business at home and abroad

- Labor will ensure that more public and large private projects will be required to put plans in place to give Australian firms a chance to win work on major projects.
- On public projects these plans will be required to be considered as part of the project development and tender – not after a contract has been granted.
- Projects over \$250 million will have to ensure that local firms are provided with a fair opportunity to win work and not be excluded. These projects will be required to put an Australian Industry Participation plan in place, opening up access to new opportunities including in mining, rail, road and energy.
- Labor will back local businesses by working with industry groups to make our businesses stronger, and able to win contracts at home and abroad. We will appoint supplier advocates in key sectors like rail and steel to open up new opportunities for jobs. Labor will work with a revamped enterprise connect, industry capability network and have strong anti-dumping measures to keep Australian firms strong.
- Just like our international athletes compete with the support of the Australian government, our local businesses should be able to rely on the same support.

#### More local apprentices and boosting local TAFEs

- The Liberals have cut TAFE and apprenticeships – we have 130,000 fewer apprentices and trainees since the Liberals came to office.
- Labor will require one in 10 workers on major projects to be apprentices from the local area to ensure we are giving young locals the chance to learn the skills they need for a job, and help older workers retrain for new jobs.
- This commitment is in addition to Labor’s existing commitments on TAFE – including scrapping upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students, and establishing the \$100 million *Building TAFE for the Future Fund* for necessary upgrades and improvements to Australia’s TAFEs.

This announcement is all about supporting local businesses and local jobs. Labor understands the power of government procurement and major projects to deliver economic benefits for communities outside the major capital cities.

As part of our plan for Local Jobs, Local Projects a Shorten Labor government will deliver for our regions, and deliver jobs for Australians.

### **MACKAY RING ROAD A CERTAINTY UNDER LABOR** **Shorten/Albanese/Hassan – Candidate-Dawson**

**A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$280 million to deliver the second stage of the Mackay Ring Road, a vital piece of infrastructure that will support the region’s on-going economic development.**

Also known as the Mackay Port Access Road, this next stage of the Ring Road will connect the Bruce Highway north of Mackay at Glenella to Harbour Road via an 8.2 kilometre corridor south of the rail line. It will provide direct access to the Port as well as the Paget Industrial Area and the resource developments occurring in the Bowen Basin.



Given the volume of trucks travelling to and from the Port is expected to double by 2031, it is vital that the full Ring Road be completed as soon as possible, otherwise congestion on Mackay’s local streets will significantly worsen. The case for this project is made even stronger by predictions that the City’s population will growth by almost a third to 155,000 by 2031. This is a transformative project will support 418 direct local jobs during its delivery.

Importantly, we are able to make this commitment today because of the planning work undertaken by the former Federal Labor Government. Indeed, when we were last in office we invested \$10 million to identified the preferred route and develop a detailed business case.

And upon the completion of that work in 2013, it was the former Federal Labor Government that first provided the funding for delivery of Stage 1 as part of its 10

year Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.

Unfortunately, following the change of government later that year progress slowed significantly and construction work did not begin until 2017, which is an indictment on the performance of the current LNP MP for Dawson, George Christensen.

This commitment to the Mackay Ring Road (Stage 2) follows yesterday’s announcement that a Shorten Labor Government will invest \$800 million to deliver the Rockhampton Ring Road. Only Federal Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure that will make North and Central Queensland an even better place to live, raise a family and start a business. We will deliver real money for real projects that will make a real difference.

By contrast, figures released by its own Infrastructure Department confirm that the Morrison LNP Government will slash Federal investment in the Bruce Highway over the next three years by \$700 million if it wins the coming election.

#### **When it comes to the Bruce, the LNP’s record is one of cuts and broken promises.**

Federal Labor’s commitment to the Mackay Ring Road (Stage 2) builds on our strong track record of delivering for the region. In particular, it was the former Federal Labor Government that upgraded the Bruce Highway through Mackay’s southern suburbs, a \$50 million project which has eased localised congestion and delivered smoother, safer driving conditions.

## **LABOR'S PLAN TO REJUVENATE GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND**

**Shorten/Jones/Albanese/Robertson – Candidate-Capricornia**

**A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$25 million to rejuvenate Great Keppel Island, helping to grow tourism, create jobs and deliver an \$80-million-a-year boost to the region's economy.**

Great Keppel has amazing, untapped tourism potential but it is held back by a lack of basic infrastructure, including drinking water and a reliable power supply.

Federal Labor's investment – which matches the Queensland Government's investment – will deliver new infrastructure for permanent and reliable electricity and water supply on the Island.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten will visit Great Keppel Island on Wednesday morning to make the announcement.

"I'm taking a hands-on approach to job creation in Central Queensland. This is a beautiful part of Queensland with massive potential. You just need a government in Canberra that listens and acts.

Russell Robertson has been on the phone to me about how important this investment is. He's done a fantastic job advocating for Great Keppel Island and the entire region."

Shadow Minister for Regional Services Stephen Jones said water quality and reliable power supply presents significant challenges for island businesses and residents. "The island relies on diesel-powered generators as the main source of power, and access to drinking water is through rainwater harvesting or bottled water from the mainland. This is costly and time consuming, and is holding Great Keppel back," Mr Jones said.



"This funding will see key infrastructure built on the island, including a permanent and reliable supply of power and drinking water. Our investment will aim to grow tourism on Great Keppel and the surrounding region, supporting existing tourism operators, residents, and future tourism development projects."

Shadow Minister for Tourism Anthony Albanese said with improved infrastructure, it is expected that the island will accommodate about 860,000 visitors, workers and residents a year, and contribute more \$83 million per annum to the local economy. "We know tourism operators need reliable water and power, and the lack of these basic services is a barrier to investment. Labor's commitment will allow for sustainable development, meaning more visitors, more jobs and more money going to local businesses," Mr Albanese said.

Labor Candidate for Capricornia Russell Robertson welcomed Labor's investment to rejuvenate Great Keppel Island. "This is a great day for the Capricorn Coast. I've been working for months to secure this investment for our region, and now we know a Shorten Labor Government will deliver it," Mr Robertson said.

"I've been calling on both Bill Shorten and Scott Morrison to make this commitment, but Bill is the only one who has listened. Michelle Landry has been too caught up in the chaos in Canberra to secure this funding. She's forgotten Great Keppel Island exists at all. Great Keppel is the most beautiful on the Great Barrier Reef. Everyone knows that infrastructure funding for Great Keppel Island will mean more visitors, more jobs and more money going into our local economy. As your local member, I'll make sure Great Keppel gets the investment, infrastructure and jobs it deserves."

Mr Shorten said only Labor is committed to rejuvenating Great Keppel Island. "I believe in a fair go for all Australians, and that means a fair go for Central Queenslanders. I'm determined to deliver job-creating infrastructure for Central Queenslanders, and I can pay for it because I will make multinational companies pay their fair share of tax."

## **LABOR WILL BUILD NEW COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE IN BUNDABERG**

**Shorten/King/Collins/Pascoe (Candidate-Hinkler) Beers (Candidate- Flynn)**

**A Shorten Labor Government will improve mental health services in Queensland's Wide Bay region by building a dedicated community mental health centre in Bundaberg.**

Labor will invest \$15.7 million to construct the new building to accommodate rapidly expanding community mental health services in Bundaberg. This is part of Labor's Fair Go Action Plan to protect Medicare and fix our hospitals.

While funding for mental health services for this region has been growing, additional clinical and office space is needed for that growth to continue.

This new community mental health centre will enable the expansion of services and deliver a more consumer-friendly environment than hospital-based services. The centre will have clinical areas suitable for children, the elderly and people who need alcohol and drug services. Labor's investment will also include the refurbishment of the area within the Bundaberg Hospital Acute Mental Health unit vacated by child mental health services, to provide four additional acute beds.

Bundaberg and the Wide Bay region are growing, placing increasing demand on local health services. Demographically it is considered a "high needs" area given its population is ageing and has more complex health requirements than most. That's why we're making this investment.

Labor believes every Australian should get the best quality health care whenever they need it – no matter if you live in Brisbane or regional Queensland.

The Liberals on the other hand just cut and cut and cut from health. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he authored. His government has cut \$3 million from Bundaberg Hospital under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement. That's equivalent to 4,500 emergency department visits or 7,300 outpatient appointments. And it's part of a \$160m cut to Queensland hospitals, and a \$715m cut nationwide.

Now Morrison is trying to lock in those cuts for another five years – a dud deal that the Queensland Labor Government is resisting. Labor will reverse the Liberal cuts with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which we will use to build this new community mental health centre for the people of Bundaberg. Labor can afford to build a new mental health centre in Bundaberg, because we are tackling unfair tax loopholes and making multinationals pay their fair share.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### DETENTION OF MR YANG HENGJUN IN CHINA - Shorten/Wong

**Labor is deeply concerned by the detention of Australian citizen Mr Yang Hengjun by the Chinese authorities.**

We note that the Government has said at this stage there is no evidence of a connection to the detention of Canadian citizens. Like the Government we would be deeply concerned if any such link existed.

Labor has been briefed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is fully supportive of the Australian Government's efforts obtain clarification on the nature of the detention and any possible charges. We call on the Chinese Government to ensure Mr Yang is treated in a fair, unbiased and transparent manner.

Australia is a country governed by the rule of law, which cannot be compromised or politicised. We will always assert and protect our interests and safeguard our sovereignty. This includes defending democracy, free speech, the rule of law, and the protection of rights, including freedom from intimidation.

Labor has consistently said that a constructive relationship is in both Australia and China's interests. Engagement and cooperation are vital even within a context of difference or disagreement.

We note the increased concern from the business and academic community in Australia and elsewhere regarding travel to China. We encourage Australians to consult [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) and follow DFAT's travel advice.

## ENERGY POLICY

### LABOR'S NATIONAL HYDROGEN PLAN – Shorten/Butler/Clare/Conroy



**A Shorten Labor Government will deliver a \$1 billion National Hydrogen Plan to create new blue-collar jobs, support new businesses and supercharge Australia's renewable energy industry.**

Hydrogen is an emerging industry that has huge potential to deliver significant economic, employment, energy and environmental benefits for Australia. Hydrogen gas is an energy source that can be produced through the process of electrolysis using renewable energy, meaning it can leverage Australia's world-class renewable energy to make much cleaner hydrogen competitively. Developing a hydrogen industry will deliver new opportunities for manufacturing, transport and electricity generation. As the global demand for hydrogen surges to an expected \$215 billion market by 2022, Australia is uniquely placed to benefit from the development

of this new, job-generating industry.

Analysis by ACIL Allen projects that hydrogen exports alone could be worth \$10 billion in 20 years, and create 16,000 new blue-collar jobs – mainly in regional areas.

Most of the benefits of hydrogen development will be in regional Australia. For example, the deep sea water ports of Gladstone and Newcastle are well placed to support a hydrogen export industry. **While benefiting the nation as a whole, regional Queensland will be the big winner from Labor's plan.**

Labor is taking a hands-on approach to supporting the new jobs and industries Queensland needs for the future. We want regional Queenslanders to have good, secure blue-collar jobs for the future in existing and new industries.

Hydrogen can be the next great energy industry for Australia – and Labor has a plan to make it happen.

**Labor's six-point plan for hydrogen will:**

1. Allocate \$1 billion of funding from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to support clean hydrogen development, from Labor's commitment to double CEFC's capital by \$10 billion.
2. Invest up to \$90 million of unallocated funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to support research, demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of hydrogen technologies.
3. Establish a \$10 million ARENA funding round for hydrogen refuelling infrastructure around the nation, from within ARENA's unallocated funding.

4. Invest \$40 million of unallocated funding from the CEFC Clean Energy Innovation Fund to target hydrogen technologies and businesses that have passed the research and development stage.

5. Implement regulatory reforms that will help the industry develop and prosper, including reforms to support the use of existing gas pipelines for hydrogen, reforms to support the shipping of hydrogen, reforms to better support the storage of CO2 from blue and brown hydrogen production, as well as other reforms to support hydrogen use and production.

6. Establish the National Hydrogen Innovation Hub in Gladstone with an initial investment of \$3 million. This will kick-start early commercialisation of hydrogen technologies, provide a hub for investment and research agencies, and provide opportunities to leverage LNG infrastructure to support hydrogen exports.

A Shorten Labor Government will make Gladstone the hydrogen capital of Australia.

Hydrogen means more investment in Australia, more exports from Australia, and more blue-collar jobs for Australia. Australia has everything to gain from the global transition to more renewable energy. But to secure the new industries and jobs it will deliver, we need a government that has a plan to foster and grow the industries of the future.

That is exactly what Labor's National Hydrogen Plan will deliver. **Further information on Labor's National Hydrogen Plan can be found [here](#).**

### **LABOR'S NATIONAL HYDROGEN PLAN WELCOMED BY (ALMOST) ALL**

**This week, Bill Shorten announced Labor's \$1 billion National Hydrogen Plan to create new good jobs, support new businesses and supercharge Australia's renewable energy industry.**

Labor's Hydrogen Plan has been welcomed by industry, clean energy groups and environmental organisations alike.

In response to Labor's announcement:

The Australian Industry Group said ***"The opportunities for an Australian hydrogen supply chain and associated industries could be colossal"*** adding Labor's hydrogen plan ***"is a welcome addition to the suite of initiatives to seize what could be a vast energy opportunity."***

The Clean Energy Council called Labor's plan a ***"strong vision and clear strategy."***

The Smart Energy Council said ***"This is leadership."***

The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association welcomed Labor's plan, saying it would ***"spur investment into this emerging technology."***

The Australian Gas Infrastructure Group noted Labor's Hydrogen plan ***"was most timely considering the fast-moving development of the global hydrogen industry and emerging benefits."***

Hydrogen Mobility Australia welcomed the plan, saying it ***"will assist hydrogen industry development including support for infrastructure projects and R&D to grow the hydrogen economy"***, also noting ***"With our natural advantages in renewable energy, Australia can be a hydrogen powerhouse producing hydrogen for our own and international economies to power zero emission vehicles and other applications."***

The Australian Conservation Foundation said ***"Bill Shorten's hydrogen investment can be a significant win for the environment, jobs and regional communities like Gladstone."***

Energy Networks Australia welcomed the Plan, noting ***"Australia (is) uniquely placed to develop a hydrogen industry with our abundant solar and wind resources."***

And Greenpeace said ***"Renewable hydrogen is going to play an important role in lowering the climate pollution of some of our key trading partners such as Japan. It's good to see the ALP's looking to the future while the Coalition's energy policies remain stuck in the past."***

In typical fashion, the Morrison Government Resources Minister attacked Labor's Hydrogen Plan, saying ***"commercial use of hydrogen is probably decades away."***

The fact is the hydrogen industry is not only a growth opportunity for coming decades, it is already a vital part of Australia's fertiliser and explosives manufacturing sectors, and it is a global export opportunity we need to seize now to secure our place as leaders of this exciting new industry. The International Energy Agency projects the global hydrogen market will be worth over \$200 billion in just three years' time.

The choice is clear. Labor is for the new industries and jobs that will power Australia and world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Liberals can only deliver more chaos, division and ideological obsession. Further information on Labor's National Hydrogen Plan can be found [here](#).

### **COALITION'S COAL CRUSADE CONTINUES - Butler**

**Resources Minister Matt Canavan has [once again](#) flagged his Government's plan to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on new, expensive, polluting coal-fired power stations.**

The Liberals are so out of touch and obsessed with their new coal fantasy they are willing to drive power prices further up, deny our international climate obligations and freeze new renewable energy investment.

Industry, investors and the experts have all been clear; there is no appetite for investing in new coal-fired power stations.

The Clean Energy Council has rubbished Morrison's coal plan as "*clearly no longer technology-neutral and sharply contrasts with the rationale behind the ACCC's recommendation of supporting sustainable generation projects in order to improve competition*", while Meridian Energy have stated the Morrison coal plan is putting "*a hiatus on any form of investment.*"

While Snowy Hydro told Senate Estimates the construction of new coal-fired power stations would put the viability of Snowy 2.0 in doubt, "*if we have a reversion to the past, then Snowy 2 is not viable.*"

Yet Scott Morrison and the Liberals are willing to bastardise the ACCC recommendations and create backdoor loopholes to ensure they can spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on expensive new coal.

Even though the Prime Minister has previously said, "*new cheap coal is a bit of a myth*" and "*[HELE] takes seven years to turn up, so if we think that is all of a sudden going to make your power bills cheaper next month, it won't.*"

All credible experts agree the pathway to affordable and reliable power is investing in more renewable energy, backed up by storage. That's why a Shorten Labor Government is committed to investing in renewables to reach our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.



## LABOR WILL MODERNISE HONOURS - Plibersek

A Shorten Labor Government will modernise the nation's honours system to better recognise the contribution of Australian women and other underrepresented groups.



First Women's Walking Footballers

The honours system is an important way of celebrating the outstanding contributions of Australians, but it does not currently represent the diversity of our society.

Since 1975, women have only received about 30 per cent of all awards in the Order of Australia's General Division.

Labor will set a target to increase that to 40 per cent by 2020, with the ultimate aim of having half of all awards going to women.

Women contribute as much as men, and our honours and awards should properly reflect that.

The award categories recognise traditionally male dominated professions while overlooking female dominated industries.

That has seen the contributions of many Australian women go unacknowledged.

For example, there are stand-alone categories for building and construction, engineering, mining, and primary industry. Meanwhile, the

female dominated profession of nursing belongs to a broader category of medicine.

In last June's Queen's Birthday Honours, male recipients outnumbered female recipients in almost 90 per cent of categories. No women received awards in the categories of dentistry, IT, architecture, industrial relations, surveying and mapping, transport, or veterinary science. Labor will make the award categories more representative to broaden the types of contributions that are recognised, including in traditionally female dominated industries.

The lower proportion of women receiving awards is also linked to the lower proportion of women nominees. Women are consistently underrepresented, making up only around 30 per cent of all nominees.

So Labor will work with states and territories, the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, and women's and community organisations such as Honour a Woman, to increase the number of women nominated for awards.

We will also ensure the committee that decides who gets honours (the Council for the Order of Australia) has a strong female membership. The Council recently reached over 50 per cent women members for the first time. Labor will extend our government board target of 50 per cent female representation to the Council for the Order of Australia to prevent it from slipping backwards.

The existing nomination process does not capture data on whether award recipients are First Nations people, culturally diverse, or Australians living with a disability. It seems they are underrepresented too. Labor will update the honours system to better recognise the contribution of these groups.

To better monitor progress, we will change the award nomination form to meet government accessibility and inclusivity guidelines, including by asking whether the nominee is:

- From a First Nations background;
- From a culturally and linguistically diverse background; or
- Has a disability.



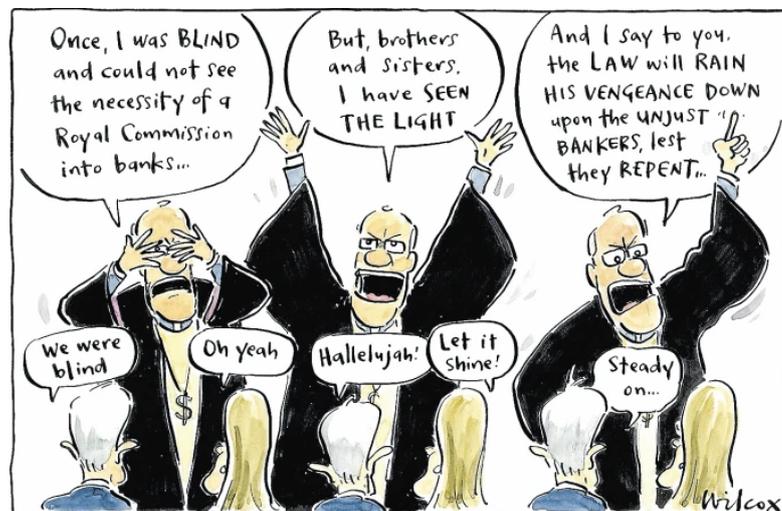
## AUSTRALIANS KNOW MORRISON CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO DEAL WITH BANKS - Bowen

Scott Morrison likes to tell Australians that he's on their side and he's backing them, well today's [report](#) that he was the last man standing against the Banking Royal Commission and had to be overruled by Malcolm Turnbull puts pay to that.

Wherever you look, you get a daily reminder that good judgement is not Scott Morrison's strong point. What is most concerning about today's report is that Scott Morrison, the last to back a Royal Commission into the banks, only did so after receiving a letter from the major banks calling for one.

Mr Morrison was more concerned about his own 'reputational damage' for back flipping after years of publicly and vociferously opposing an inquiry, than he was in the need to rebuild Australian's trust and confidence in the banking and financial services sector.

Scott Morrison and the Liberal Party has mismanaged banking policy from the very beginning, voting 26 times against establishing a Royal Commission, refusing to extend it to hear from more victims of scandals, and now it appears the Treasurer wants to deny Australians the right to see the final report when it is received on 1 February.



You know you are seriously out of touch when Malcolm Turnbull managed to form the view of the need for a Banking Royal Commission well before Scott Morrison did.

We know that Scott Morrison never really wanted to call this "regrettable but necessary" Royal Commission and the New Daily reports many Liberal MPs still opposed it being constituted in the first place.

Meanwhile, Josh Frydenberg cannot even confirm whether or not he will release the Banking Royal Commission's final report when he receives it on Friday 1 February. Refusing to release the Royal Commission's final report immediately would unnecessarily politicise the handling of the report and give rise to potential material market risks around leaks of all or part of the report.

Labor called for this Royal Commission, Labor fought for this

Royal Commission, Labor will establish a Financial Services Royal Commission Implementation Taskforce, and Labor will work day and night to protect Australian consumers from this appalling misconduct.

### **LABOR HAS BETTER SMALL BUSINESS TAX PLAN AS TREASURER LIES, AGAIN - Bowen**

The Treasurer's lack of policy agenda today has continued, preferring to talk about 'Labor' and patently lying about Labor's small business tax policies.

Labor will continue to call out this dishonest Government and their lack of a real policy agenda every time.

**CLAIM:** Further, Labor has previously said it would change the legislated definition of small business, denying businesses with turnover between \$2 million and \$10 million access to important tax measures, denying around 100,000 small businesses access to the instant asset write-off and denying around 30,000 small businesses access to the unincorporated tax discount.

**FACT:** Labor has committed to keeping the definition of small business, with all of the relation small business tax concessions, at the \$10 million turnover. Furthermore, Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee will allow small, medium and large businesses to immediately deduct upfront 20 per cent of all new investments, with the remaining depreciated in line with normal depreciation schedules.

Unlike the Government's proposed big business company tax cuts, the Australian Investment Guarantee will guarantee that every dollar spent underpins new investment.

The Australian Investment Guarantee is well targeted, fully funded and affordable. It is cost-effective and fiscally responsible, funded by Labor's reforms to the tax system.

With Labor, just like under the Liberal Party, small and medium-sized businesses with a turnover of up to \$50 million a year will have their tax rate reduced to 25 per cent by 2021-22.

With a Shorten Labor Government – 99 per cent of businesses will receive a tax cut, no business will have their tax rate increased, and all businesses will be able to plan and invest with confidence and certainty.

### **ATTACKS ON LABOR POLICY ARE TAXING CREDIBILITY**

**Robert Gottliebsen has again used his column on these pages to opine about Labor's dividend imputation reforms. Now, lest I be misunderstood, let me be clear at the outset.**

**I respect Mr Gottliebsen as a longstanding journalist and my disagreement with his arguments shouldn't be seen by him or anyone else as personal attack on him. He is entitled to his views, but I am entitled to rebut them. And I say, respectfully, his arguments are confused and somewhat shrill.**

**This time he has focused less on the economics of the issue and more on the politics. He argues that, if the election was delayed until November, the Liberals would be able to successfully campaign on this issue. Well, I appreciate his concern but let's be clear: if Labor had only just announced this policy he may have a point.**

**The policy was announced almost a year ago: last March. Just before the Batman by-election. Labor won the by-election with a swing to us. We then won the Longman, Perth and Braddon by-elections with swings to us.**

**The Liberals ran hard on the imputation issue on the retiree-heavy Bribe Island. They were rewarded with a 10 per cent swing against them. They campaigned on the issue in the Wentworth and Mayo by-elections. They lost.**

*Now let me be clear, the Labor Party has not one inch of complacency about the upcoming election. But nor do we fear a Liberal scare campaign.*

*Because across Australia people, including many who will not be able to access refundable credits under Labor's policy, both respect a political party that has the courage to put its policies out long before an election and also know that some of the tax concessions that favour higher wealth individuals simply can't go on.*

*In 2014-15, \$5.9 billion was spent on refunding dividend imputation credits. The commonwealth government in the same year spent less than this on public schools (\$5.2 billion).*

*This can't go on.*

*Every time Mr Gottliebse, Josh Frydenberg or anyone else draws attention to Labor's plans, they increase the moral authority of our mandate, if we receive one, to pass this reform through the parliament. Now, Mr Gottliebse then praises the original Paul Keating dividend imputation reforms which operated between 1987 and 2000. He calls it "brilliant policy". I agree.*

*That's why I want to return dividend imputation to the original Keating model. Every criticism that is made of our policy would have to apply to the operation of the original Keating model.*

*Mr Gottliebse reckons our plan discriminates in favour of industry funds and has previously used emotive language about "union mates". Well, put aside the fact industry funds are jointly managed by unions and employers. The fact is industry funds are treated the same way as retail and bank funds. And all these funds pay tax. Allowing them to use franking to offset that tax is a fundamental principle of avoiding double taxation.*

*In fact, it is tax refunds to non-tax-paying SMSFs and individuals which is the anomaly in our tax system: no other element of our personal income tax system involves refundable credits. None.*

*Finally Mr Gottliebse has accused me of "telling Australians to invest overseas".*

*Mr Gottliebse is entitled to his argument but he is not allowed to assert I have said things that I have not. I have not encouraged or recommended investors to do anything.*

*What I have done is point out that if people are making investment decisions solely on the basis of franking credits, the tax system is then distorting investment when we are meant to ideally have a non-distortionary tax system.*

*And, just yesterday, The Australian published comments from the University of Melbourne's Professor Kevin Davis, formerly the chief economist of the government's Financial Systems Inquiry, who commented on dividend imputation:*

*"It wasn't meant to lead to zero taxation of corporate income which occurs when dividends are paid to investors on zero marginal tax rates and rebates paid. That has created a significant economic distortion and, while removing the rebate may be painful for those who have structured their investments to maximise gains from this tax arbitrage, such a change is warranted."*

*And just remember, 92 per cent of individual taxpayers are unaffected by Labor's reforms to refundability and dividend imputation.*

*Let me finish by inviting your readers to imagine a world, for the sake of the argument, in which every shareholder is a retired non-taxpayer. In this world, the tax office would collect tax at the prevailing corporate rate from business and then we would refund every single dollar to the company owners: the shareholders. The corporate tax rate would effectively be zero.*

*Some people might think that's a good thing. I don't. And we'll be asking the Australian people at the election to agree with us.*

*This opinion piece was first published in The Australian on Friday, 25 January 2019.*

## **LABOR BACKS SMALL BUSINESS BY MAKING UNFAIR CONTRACT TERMS ILLEGAL Bowen/King/Leigh**

**A Shorten Government will protect small business by making unfair contract terms illegal and punishable with significant fines of up to \$10 million.**

Australia's current laws aren't tough enough. While contracts terms that unfairly exploit a power imbalance between the two parties can be voided by a court, there's no punishment for the entity exploiting its market power. This means there's nothing discouraging the big end of town from pushing smaller dependent firms to sign onto unfair arrangements.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has previously stated that making unfair contract terms illegal:

**'... would act as a better deterrent. In the ACCC's view, currently there is minimal incentive for businesses to comply with [unfair contract term] laws.'**

A Shorten Government will ensure that the top end of town can't get away with putting dodgy clauses into their contracts by:

- making unfair contract terms illegal;
- introducing penalties for contracts that contain unfair contract terms; and
- expanding the definition of small businesses eligible for protection from such contract terms.

These measures will complement Labor's Access to Justice Reforms, which help small businesses take court cases to address anti-competitive conduct. Australia's small businesses need smart reforms to ensure that they aren't pushed around by the big guys.

While the Coalition twiddles their thumbs with a lengthy review, Labor is creating policy to tackle the problem head on.

### **THE LIBERALS' NEVER-ENDING PROTECTION RACKET CONTINUES - Bowen**

Labor is deeply concerned that Assistant Treasurer Stuart Robert is pre-empting the Hayne Royal Commission's final report and is signalling to the key mortgage broking sector that the government is not contemplating changing their regulation, despite mortgage broking being a key focus of the Royal Commission.

This [report](#) outlines what Mr Robert told mortgage brokers at a Liberal Party fundraiser is another reminder (as if we needed one) of Scott Morrison's misjudgement in appointing Stuart Robert to a key economic portfolio with responsibility for financial services.

The Royal Commission represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the financial services sector. The Royal Commission has exposed harrowing examples of misconduct – from inappropriate commissions to fees charged to dead people, inappropriate lending practices and even potentially criminal activity.

Reports that Stuart Robert has told mortgage brokers they have nothing to fear from the Banking Royal Commission are shocking, but hardly surprising.

The Liberals have no backbone when it comes to standing up to the poor business practices and supporting the victims of financial scandals. The Liberals caved in to payday lenders who jumped up and down about important new consumer protections, and the Government has now delayed them for over 1000 days. Now they're at it again – signalling that they'll protect the mortgage broking industry from reform.

The Liberals cannot be trusted to protect consumers from misconduct. Scott Morrison voted against the Banking Royal Commission 26 times. For over 600 days, the Liberals fought to protect their mates in the financial services sector from scrutiny. And only last month they were caught exploiting banking victims by using the Royal Commission as an opportunity to raise funds for their own election.

Labor wants the financial services industry to play by the rules and act in their clients' best interests – from the big banks to superannuation funds and mortgage brokers. Labor called for the Royal Commission, Labor fought for the Royal Commission, Labor will establish a Financial Services Royal Commission Implementation Taskforce, and Labor will work day and night to protect Australian businesses and consumers from appalling misconduct in the financial services sector.

## SENIORS

### **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION LAYS BARE MORRISON'S AGED CARE CRISIS - Collins**

**Dire new figures have exposed the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's complete mismanagement of Australia's aged care system after years of cuts and inaction.**

The Productivity Commission's [Report on Government Services](#) confirms the disastrous impact of Scott Morrison's \$1.2 billion cut to aged care:

- Wait times for home care packages have blown out by more than two months.
- There is a black and white funding cut per person for older Australians living in residential aged care.

While Morrison has desperately tried to run away from his cuts to aged care after announcing a Royal Commission, this report underscores exactly why a Commission was needed in the first place.

It clearly spells out the real cut in funding for older Australians living in residential aged care which has led to a system in crisis. This confirms what Labor has been saying for some time.

When Bill Shorten said the aged care system was in crisis in the Parliament in May 2018, the Government irresponsibly likened it to committing elder abuse.

Scott Morrison must take responsibility after years of cuts.

The waiting list for home care has grown to 127,000 older Australians, with many waiting more than a year to receive the care they have been approved for.

As the home care waitlist kept growing, Scott Morrison and the Liberals did nothing. They have been too distracted by dysfunction and division.

This is not good enough. Older Australians and their loved ones deserve better.

## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

### **RENTAL STRESS SOARS AS LIBS DIG IN FOR WEALTHY INVESTORS - Cameron**

**Despite rental stress now impacting almost 600,000 low-income Australian households, the Liberals continue to go into bat for their wealthy property investor mates.**

Rental stress occurs when a household is spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent.

The new Productivity Commission Report on Government Services into Housing and Homelessness shows the number of low-income households in rental stress has now reached a staggering 599,049. This further highlights the Coalition's abject failure to address the key economic and social issue of rental affordability.

Overall, 47.1 per cent of low-income households are in rental stress, compared to 36 per cent 10 years ago. This includes 12.9 per cent of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients who spend more than 50 per cent of their income on rent.

Meanwhile, home ownership continues to freefall, private rental is increasing and social housing continues to evaporate.

This is why Labor is reforming unfair negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions that benefit investors buying their sixth or seventh property over first home buyers. Labor's policy won't impact people who are currently negative gearing and accessing capital gains tax concessions. And by retaining negative gearing for new dwellings, Labor's policy will encourage new rental supply and put downward pressure on rents.

The nation's pre-eminent housing research body, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, estimates there is a shortfall of more

than 525,000 affordable rental properties across Australia.

To help address this shortfall, Labor will partner with the community housing sector and institutional investors to build 250,000 new, affordable and low energy consumption homes over the next decade.

This will enable people on low and moderate incomes to escape rental stress and save to buy their own homes.

Safe and secure housing is not a privilege reserved for the wealthy - it's a human right. Without a home, educational and employment opportunities are severely reduced and health outcomes diminish.

It is outrageous that the Morrison government continues to defend overly generous, unfair and unsustainable tax breaks for wealthy investors and retirees while so many Australians live in poverty and insecurity as a result of rental and mortgage stress.

The Coalition's obsession with privatisation, competition policy and their faith in the invisible hand of the market has resulted in an incoherent, incompetent and failed approach to housing policy in Australia.

Only Labor has the policies and commitment to assist hundreds of thousands of our fellow Australians to put a roof over their head, live in increased security with better health, education and productivity outcomes for the nation.

## HOME AFFAIRS

### DUTTON'S INCOMPETENCE COSTS TAXPAYERS \$34 MILLION – Dreyfus/Husic

The Australian National Audit Office's Report into the [Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's Administration of the Biometric Identification Services Project](#) is a damning indictment on the dysfunctional and incompetent Morrison Government and Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton.

The ACIC's Biometric Identification Services Project was meant to assist law enforcement keep Australians safe by providing law enforcement with national fingerprint and palm print capability, a facial biometric capability and the ability to match identity using both capabilities.



When it was announced, then-Minister for Justice Michael Keenan reportedly [said](#) it was “essential to have effective and efficient information-sharing systems to support law-enforcement agencies”.

Instead of delivering those information-systems, \$34 million was wasted on a project which the ANAO ultimately found to be “deficient in almost every significant respect”. Despite millions being poured into the BIS project, not a single one of the project's milestones or deliverables were met and the project was abandoned.

The ANAO's report found that the government overlooked the need to protect assumed

identities and witness security – costing \$10 million to fix. The report also reveals that the government was warned they had insufficient people working on the project and staffing cuts were posing a threat to the delivery of the project.

Peter Dutton, as the Minister responsible for ACIC, must be held responsible for this botched project. He must explain how he let this project collapse after he took on the Home Affairs portfolio, why he failed to adequately resource and staff the project and whether the Morrison Government is still committed to providing law enforcement with this capability.

Peter Dutton is completely out of his depth in the Home Affairs portfolio and his never-ending list of failures are not only an embarrassment, but have the potential to undermine the vital work of our law enforcement and security agencies.

Time and time again, we see Dutton's incompetence impacting our agencies' capacity to keep Australians safe.

Only last month the ANAO released another report which revealed the Australian Border Force (ABF) Cape Class fleet has consistently fallen short of its patrol days target since 2014.

Before that, it was revealed that Peter Dutton and Scott Morrison chose to risk Australia's border security by inflicting cuts and chaos on the ABF to stop maritime patrols to save money on fuel and slashed frontline ABF officers at airports over the busy holiday period.

Last week it was revealed Dutton's Department has spent \$2.76 million in external legal services to fight their own departmental staff whilst spending over \$550,000 on corporate hospitality and executive office upgrades in a single year.

If Mr Dutton spent as much time on his portfolio as he did his shrivelled political ambitions, perhaps these things would not happen.

Why does Scott Morrison continue to trust Peter Dutton with unprecedented powers over Australia's national security agencies given his abysmal track record?

The ANAO report demonstrates that despite its claims, the Morrison Government has failed to improve its dismal record of managing digital and IT projects.

Government invests billions in digital and IT projects, and this botched project has wasted 34 million taxpayer dollars and has hampered better security and law enforcement outcomes. On the Opposition's count there have been more than a dozen digital project failures under the Coalition's watch.

## GOVERNANCE

### NEW FIGURES ON BLOWOUT ON CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS - Chalmers

**New information from several key Government departments has revealed the extent of the Liberals' blowouts on contractors and consultants within the public service.**

In response to Questions on Notice in Senate Estimates, four agencies – Social Services; Finance; Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; and Agriculture and Water Resources – [have revealed](#) that, between them, more than 1,200 long-term contractors have been engaged continuously for more than a year.

The Liberals' arbitrary Average Staffing Level (ASL) cap has become counterproductive, leading to a hollowing out of the public service and sparking a blowout in spending on contractors and consultants.

Other departments probed through Senate Estimates were unable to even provide the size of their contractor workforce, highlighting a concerning lack of transparency around the use of taxpayers' money within the public service.

The systemic long-term use of contractors in the public service completely exposes the Finance Minister's [claim](#) that contractors are used when the government needs "to access relevant skills and expertise is temporary..."

These latest figures further strengthen the need for Labor's policy to abolish the Liberals' arbitrary ASL cap to allow agencies to set their staffing levels based on operational requirements, but within an overall Budget.

Abolishing the cap will help ensure more expertise, experience and corporate memory is retained in the public service by encouraging agencies to employ permanent bureaucrats over contractors and consultants.

Labor will rein in the Liberals' wasteful spending on contractors and consultants and ensure that, where appropriate, the work of the public service is done by permanent and full-time public servants.

Labor has already committed to greater transparency concerning the use of contractors, consultants and labour-hire firms in the public service, and it's time the Liberals got on board too.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### CHAIRMAN FAILS TO PROVE CLAIMS ABOUT SALE VALUE OF NBN – Rowland/Chalmers

**Following 92 days of attempting to circumnavigate its Chairman's train of thought, NBNCo has [failed to produce any evidence](#) to support the Chairman's claim that the NBN could achieve a market sale value of \$50 billion.**

Furthermore, NBNCo has confirmed the company has not received advice from any advisory firm, investment bank, market analyst, or suitably qualified professional, to support the Chairman's claims.

This scrutiny [follows an exchange before the Senate](#) where the Chairman, in response to questions about the market sale value of the NBN, made the following assertion:

**Mr Switkowski: "I could certainly generate - and do generate - figures around \$50 billion for the value of this company in the early 2020s."**

Questions on Notice from Labor Senators afforded NBNCo the opportunity to produce analysis or advice to support the claim, but the Senate tellingly received a [heavily delayed response with no attempt to substantiate the claim](#).

Given the significant [difference of opinion](#) with reputable analysts, the Chairman either needs to support his statement with evidence or correct the public record.

No amount of misleading spin can hide from the fact the flawed decision to use copper and HFC has severely damaged the long-term economics of the NBN and destroyed taxpayer value.

## THE FARM

### BOOSTING JOBS IN THE RED MEAT SECTOR – Fitzgibbon/Carr

**Federal Labor launched a Red Meat Strategy Discussion Paper this week.**

Federal Labor's Country Caucus Spokesman and Shadow Minister for Agriculture Joel Fitzgibbon joined Country Caucus members and Labor Candidate for Flynn Zac Beers in Gladstone today for the release of the document.

Mr Fitzgibbon said one of Australia's largest manufacturing sectors is being held back by a range of challenges including workforce shortages, non-tariff barriers to export markets, supply disruption and high costs.

“We live in a world in which the high quality product we produce is in growing demand but farmers and processors are being held back by unnecessary challenges,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

“Senator Kim Carr and I agreed more than a year ago that to overcome these barriers we need a whole-of-government approach. So in addition to consulting industry stakeholders and trade union representatives we’ve been working with other shadow ministerial colleagues with responsibility for issues like vocational training, visas, energy, workplace relations and trade.”

“The Discussion Paper is our path to a Strategic Red Meat Industry Plan which a Shorten Labor Government will use to lift productivity and to promote sustainable profitability for both producers and processors. That also means more regional jobs.”

Mr Fitzgibbon said Labor has already held three round tables and consulted most of the key stakeholders in the development of the Discussion Paper.

“We still have a lot of work to do but we are determined to create more meaningful jobs for young people in regional Australia, to ensure producers earn good returns and our largest manufacturing sector is as strong as it possibly can be.”

## INNOVATION

### LABOR WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF DEFENCE SCIENTIST - Carr/Marles



**Labor welcomes the announcement today that Professor Tanya Munro will be Australia’s next Chief Defence Scientist, the first woman appointed to that role.**

Professor Munro is a highly distinguished physicist, is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation at the University of South Australia and is an ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellow.

As a member of the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC), board Member of the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the South Australian Defence Advisory Board, and the South Australian Economic Development Board, she has shown herself to be a strong advocate for Australian science and industry.

Labor looks forward to working with Professor Munro as she commences the next chapter in her service to Australian science and innovation.

Labor would also like to acknowledge the work of outgoing Chief Defence Scientist, Dr Alex Zelinsky. Dr Zelinsky, who has led Defence Science and Technology group since March 2012, has proven himself as a highly valued member of the scientific community earning bipartisan respect.

Labor wishes Dr Zelinsky all the best in his new position as Vice Chancellor at the University of Newcastle.

### THE LIBERALS’ VALLEY OF DEATH CLAIMS MORE JOBS – Carr/Marles/Kelly

**The Liberals’ shipbuilding valley of death claimed 31 more jobs today. This brings the total number of jobs lost to 420 since October 2017, when Minister Pyne claimed the valley was closed.**

These jobs have been lost because the Liberals chose to let them go. If the Liberals had chosen to build our supply ships here instead of in Spain we would have those shipbuilding jobs here, instead of job cuts. The people of Adelaide now know exactly what Liberal promises are worth. Only a Labor Government will deliver the strong, exporting defence industry that Australia needs, and only Labor will make sure Australia retains the skilled workforce the industry needs.

## WORKERS

### UNDEREMPLOYMENT, LOW WAGES, KEY PROBLEMS FOR WORKERS - O’Connor

**While Labor welcomes the slight decrease in the December unemployment rate to 5 per cent, we remain concerned that this chaotic and divided Liberal government has no plan to address the ongoing structural issues of underemployment and low wages growth.**

With more than 660,000 Australians unemployed and more than 1.1 million underemployed, there are now more than 1.7 million Australians looking for work or more work, but unable to find it.

Youth unemployment remains more than double the national average at 11.2 per cent.

Of particular concern to Labor is that Australians across the country continue to struggle because of insecure work and record low wages growth.

Under the Liberals, wages growth hit record lows, and the underemployment rate is stubbornly high at 8.4 per cent. Coupled with increasing insecurity at work, this is leaving too many Australians struggling to keep up with the cost of living.

It’s clear that Scott Morrison and Kelly O’Dwyer just don’t get the struggles facing every day Australians. They are so out of touch that they either have no idea or just can’t admit that too many Australian workers are experiencing insecure work, stagnant wages and skyrocketing costs of living pressures.

When it comes to secure jobs with decent wages, Australians know that they only party they can trust is Labor.

## **WE MUST BOOST REGIONAL AUSTRALIA, BUT IT STARTS WITH JOBS - O'Connor**

**As our population tops 25 million, our nation must promote growth in our regions so they can absorb some of the pressure causing congestion and crowding in our cities.**

Decentralisation of population growth is a matter of bipartisan political agreement. The Morrison government says it wants to force migrants to settle in regional areas, rather than Sydney, Melbourne or southeast Queensland.

But there is something missing in the Coalition's approach: jobs.

The problem is that many regional areas suffer from high unemployment. Forcing migrants to settle in communities where there are no jobs solves nothing. What is required is a genuine decentralisation program, with regional jobs at its core.

That's where infrastructure investment comes in.

New rail and road projects not only create jobs in the short term, they also boost productivity, which is the key to unlocking long-term, sustainable jobs growth.

For the past five years the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government has cut infrastructure investment and routinely broken its promises about how much it will spend. The government's own budget documents show it has failed to deliver almost \$5 billion in infrastructure investment that it announced in its first five budgets.

Critically, the smaller states — those with the greatest potential to absorb population growth — have been worst affected. South Australia has been short-changed by \$337 million, Western Australia by \$556m, Tasmania by \$132m and the Northern Territory by \$256m.

Even programs specifically designed to boost economic growth in the regions have been drastically underspent. For example, the Coalition has announced \$520m for the Northern Australia Roads Program since 2015 but delivered just \$290m.

**Unbelievably, the underfunding of regional infrastructure is about to get worse.**

**Budget forward estimates show overall federal infrastructure grants to states will plummet over each of the next four years from \$7bn in 2017-18 to \$4.5bn in 2021-22.**

But the biggest cuts will affect the smaller states.

South Australia's federal grants will fall from \$800m last year to \$136m by 2020-21. Across the same period, grants to the Northern Territory will fall from \$222m to \$80m. Grants to Western Australia will fall from \$1.2bn to just \$411m in 2021-22.

None of this helps if our aim is to create jobs in regional Australia. Indeed, the Morrison government's policy settings work against regional development.

Labor would take a different approach. We understand there is no point asking people to live in areas where they can't find work. We'll lift infrastructure investment in the regions, boosting productivity and also improving quality of life for their existing residents.

One project that will make a difference on the east coast is a high-speed rail link between Brisbane and Melbourne via Sydney and Canberra. Such a link will revolutionise interstate travel, allowing people to move between capitals in less than three hours.

What is less understood is the project's potential impact on regional development. It would supercharge development of communities along its route such as the Gold Coast, Casino, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Taree, Newcastle, the NSW central coast, the southern highlands, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Albury-Wodonga and Shepparton.

Bringing these communities to within short travelling distance of their nearest capital cities would make them more attractive locations for investment. Business owners could establish operations in such communities, taking advantage of their lower overheads, safe in the knowledge that their staff could quickly access the cities for business and recreation.

Labor also would establish a \$1bn northern Australia tourism infrastructure fund to provide financing and concessional loans for tourism projects. Tourism provides jobs for a million Australians. We can build on that.

Communications infrastructure also is critical for regional development. One of the Coalition government's worst errors has been scaling back the former Labor government's National Broadband Network.

Providing 21st-century broadband to businesses in rural and regional areas would be a game-changer. It would banish the tyranny of distance as an impediment to jobs growth by giving businesses access to the full potential of the global market. While much of the damage is done on the NBN, a Labor government would strive to ensure all Australians, regardless of where they live, have a chance to be full participants in the global economy.

Our intention is to work with state governments and regional communities to transform regional Australia. Most important, that program would be backed by the infrastructure investment required to make it work.



**DEFENCE**

### **EQUIPPING OUR ADF PERSONNEL WITH GREATER CHOICE – Shorten/Marles/Rishworth**

**A Shorten Labor Government will give our ADF members choice to select their issued boots for service - our ADF members aren't one size fits all, and their boots shouldn't be, either.**

Our military personnel are our most critical ADF capability. It is vital they are well equipped to perform at their best and deliver on their mission. ADF members work day in, day out, in their kit and, like us, our ADF personnel are not one-size fits all. That's why Labor will recognise the importance of our ADF personnel being fitted with a more individual approach.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL31 232.005

Labor's approach will see Defence provide a greater range of pre-approved boots to fit the needs of the ADF personnel and Defence's requirements. Labor will establish a panel of providers to let ADF members choose from a range of pre-approved boots that best meet their individual needs while also meeting the requirements of their service.

This will give members more choice and flexibility to suit their individual needs while maintaining ADF requirements. The success of the ADF depends, in part, on the quality and appropriateness of personnel clothing and equipment.

Labor is committed to supporting the principle of greater choice for packs. We will work with experts in Government to determine the feasibility of expanding greater access to packs which suit both our ADF personnel and their operational requirements.

Our ADF personnel's safety and wellbeing is a priority to Labor. That is why we are committed to ensuring our ADF members have the best possible equipment that meets their individual needs, ensures their physical health, and in turn produces better outcomes for the ADF.

## END CAMPUS HARRASSMENT

For thousands of students around the country, the moment they receive a university offer is the moment where the pathway into their adult life suddenly opens out in front of them. Right now many will be feeling excited, nervous, and proud – **but one thing they shouldn't have to feel is afraid for their safety.**

**That's why an independent and expert-led Taskforce on campus sexual violence is desperately needed. [Will you join the call for the Education Minister to urgently establish an independent Taskforce to hold universities and residences to account on issues of student safety?](#)**

[Sign the petition](#)

Sexual violence is the most significant student safety issue on university campuses right now. That's why Fair Agenda, in partnership with End Rape on Campus Australia, the National Union of Students, and the Hunting Ground Australia Project have been calling for an independent and expert-led Taskforce on sexual violence to improve student safety at universities

.Right now there's no mechanism to effectively hold universities accountable if they compromise student wellbeing. **Even the national higher education regulator doesn't have the powers to effectively deal with this issue.** And we're still hearing about universities taking months to respond to urgent safety concerns from students, and some residences where students who speak up about their assault are targeted.

Former Education Minister Birmingham was set to announce a government backed Taskforce last year. Terms of reference had been drafted. A prospective Chair had been approached. And announcement dates were being discussed for early September. Then the Liberal leadership was spilled, and a new Education Minister was appointed. Shockingly, new Education Minister Dan Tehan has since shelved the plan.

To secure this urgently needed change, we'll need to make it a priority for the new Minister. **That means making the call for change so loud he can't ignore it.**

**.Students shouldn't have to wait for action for their safety on campus.**

**[Will you help continue to build public pressure for Minister Tehan to urgently establish an expert-led, independent Taskforce?](#)**  
**[Sign and then share the petition to help build the pressure](#)**

## CURRENT SENATE INQUIRIES (As of 25/1/19)

### Community Affairs References Committee

- [ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout](#)
- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practiced](#)

### Economics Legislation Committee

- [Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australia Fund Bill 2018](#)
- [Lower Tax Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment \(Supporting Retirement Incomes\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty Consequential Amendments Bill 2018 \[Provisions\] and the Passenger Movement Charge Amendment \(Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

### **Economics References Committee**

- [Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)

### **Education and Employment References Committee**

- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)

### **Environment and Communications Legislation Committee**

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

### **Environment and Communications References Committee**

- [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

### **Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

- [Future Drought Fund Bill 2018 and Future Drought Fund \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Amendment \(Strengthening Governance and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)

### **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**

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

### **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**

- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

### **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee**

- [Sex Discrimination Amendment \(Removing Discrimination Against Students\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Migration Amendment \(Streamlining Visa Processing\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], National Integrity \(Parliamentary Standards\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], and National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \(No. 2\)](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)

### **Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee**

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

### **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

- [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment \(Streamlining Regulation\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

### **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

- [The provision of rescue, firefighting and emergency response at Australian airports](#)
- [The policy, regulatory, taxation, administrative and funding priorities for Australian shipping](#)
- [The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)

### **Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power**

- [Fair Dinkum Power](#)

### **Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century**

- [Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century](#)

### **Select Committee on Electric Vehicles**

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

### **Standing Committee of Privileges**

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

### **Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances**

- [Parliamentary Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation](#)