

## Senator Claire Moore

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019**

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### THIS WEEK: CLAIRE SAYS GOODBYE in CANBERRA –



#### Excerpts from Claire's Valedictory Speech – Australian Senate April 3, 2019.

"I was not particularly keen to make this speech this evening but I decided, after some thought, that what I wanted to do was put on record my thanks to so many people who have meant so much to me and who have made this experience great."

"To Hansard, all of you, everyone in Hansard: I apologise for my appalling notes. I know they're quite well known in the Hansard area and they won't be any better this evening either. I also thank you for exposing my overuse of the meaningless adverb 'actually'. Just scrub it out every time I say 'actually'—that's worked so far so good."

"To Broadcasting: I apologise for my noisy jewellery. I know it has caused trouble in the past and people know when I'm speaking. It's a bit like having a cat with a bell on it—they know when I'm about to speak. I do

apologise because I realise over the years that I tend to talk to you. When I'm talking in this place, I know you're supposed to speak to the President but I find when I'm speaking that I'm inevitably talking to Broadcasting. I apologise and I hope you haven't found it too threatening."

"I particularly want to thank all the people who have made submissions and provided evidence to Senate and other parliamentary committees. For me, our committee system is the heart of our Senate. We have extraordinary opportunities to hear from people who care deeply about issues which affect them. I've been shocked, angered, inspired, challenged and brought to tears sometimes by the contributions to our committees."

"I love my state, and I've had the great opportunity, basically through this job, of meeting many people from all parts of Queensland. In fact, that extends to all parts of the nation. I would like to acknowledge the school hall program, which meant many of us got a chance to go to a lot of places that we may not have known existed before. I went to a school that had five pupils, who had not had a library and who had not had a hall. I went to very large schools. It was a wonderful experience to be there..."

"My goal is that our parliament reflects our community. Everybody who is an Australian citizen should feel as though they can serve in parliament—really whether they want to or not. They can feel as though that option is here. We are getting better on that, but I think, as a parliament, we are seeing that we need to do that."

For an end, I just want to thank everyone with whom I've worked. It has been a deep joy, a pleasure and an honour. There's unfinished business, and I won't be going away. I wish to put that clearly on record." **For the Full Speech go to:**

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\\_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/e252d273-2978-453f-86f5-ef9a8b66800f/&sid=0199](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/e252d273-2978-453f-86f5-ef9a8b66800f/&sid=0199)

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

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



### CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S BEING SAID ...

### PENNY WONG ...On Claire

"Claire has always shown great empathy for and solidarity with the vulnerable and the marginalised. In her first speech, Senator Moore said: "Any choice to be involved in a political system must be based on a personal commitment as well as a real sense of support and purpose."

Some people do not always succeed in keeping their principles and personal integrity intact in politics, but that is a challenge that Claire Moore has well and truly met. Her personal commitment has never wavered, especially in areas including the advancement of women and the protection of human rights as well as the importance of community services.

Senator Moore's list of committee appointments and inquiries is quite a rap sheet—actually it's not, because she would never do anything wrong, so it's probably more a very lengthy CV! It demonstrates the depth of her care and commitment to those Australians and others beyond our shores who would otherwise be pushed to the margins and have not had a voice at the table of national decision-making."

"Senator Claire Moore has always remained true to her social justice conscience and has put her beliefs into practice. In her first speech, she told the story of suffragette Emma Miller and her sisters, and finished with this quote:

"The world will be what we make it, and a fuller, happier and more abundant world is possible for all of us if we are united in efforts."

Senator Moore, Labor feminist and internationalist, has brought her principles to this Senate. I honour her contribution, and I thank her."

### THE BUDGET - SHORTEN – SKY NEWS

"This budget is concocted after six years of chaos, cuts and division to basically try and make people forget the last six years and get through the next six weeks."

### THE BUDGET - BOWEN – CHANNEL 9 BUDGET COVERAGE

"This is a Budget which is projecting lower wages growth, lower economic growth, lower consumption growth, and no plan for fixing any of it. Nothing about climate change, no plan or vision of the future."

### THE BUDGET - ALBANESE – RADIO 5AA ADELAIDE

"This Budget is not a plan for a better or a fairer Australia. It fails to reverse the cuts to schools and hospitals. It fails to reverse the cuts to TAFE apprenticeships. We've seen some 150,000 apprenticeship places lost on this Government's watch. It promises a surplus but that's subsidised by short changing people through the National Disability Insurance Scheme."

### THE BUDGET - PLIBERSEK – CANBERRA

"We've seen years of cuts and chaos from the Liberals. We've seen cuts to health, cuts to education, cuts to aged care, cuts to TAFE, cuts to disability services. We've seen cuts and chaos from the Liberals. And we've seen a chaotic Budget where, just a little more than twelve hours after the Budget was released, they were already changing major measures in that Budget, because they had forgotten people. On widows' pensions, orphans' pensions, veterans, Newstart, and so on, with their energy payments."

### THE BUDGET - SHORTEN – SKY NEWS

"Look at the end of the day you know this whole electricity payment shows you what's wrong with the Government. \$75 to a single pensioner one off. That's \$1.45 a week for the next 12 months that's the equivalent of it. That's not an energy policy. What this Budget lacked, is it's a con, it didn't have reform, it's not reforming our tax system, it's not challenging or tackling climate change. If we want to get lower energy prices, have a climate change policy."

### THE BUDGET - RISHWORTH – CANBERRA

"The government's Budget has a cruel hoax in it for Australian families. That is the fact that it refuses to put in long term funding for four year old kindergarten and has no funding for three year old kindergarten."

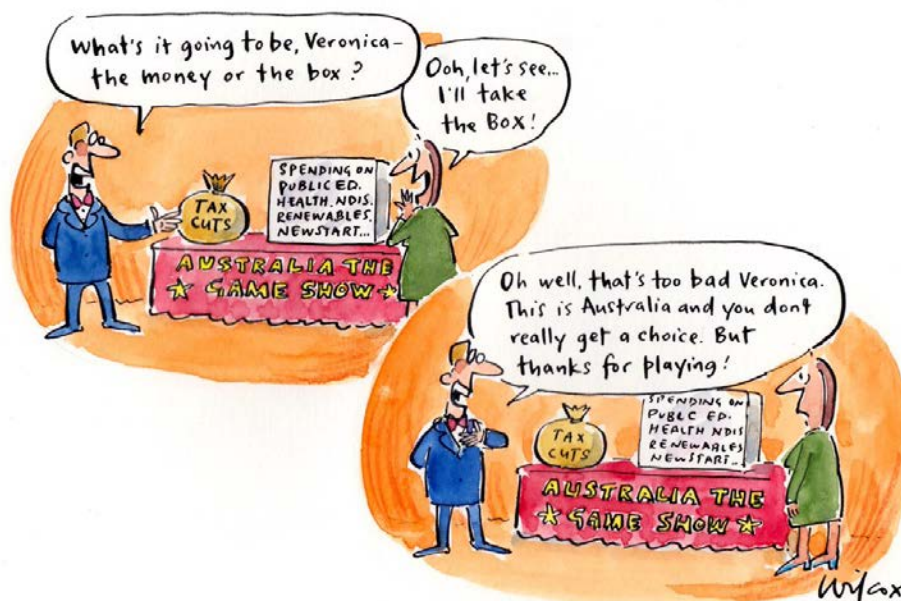
### THE BUDGET - CHALMERS – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

"What we're saying is that for 2.9 million working Australians, they were largely left out of the Budget on Tuesday night."

"If you look at the Budget on Tuesday night, which downgraded growth, downgraded wages, and downgraded consumption - consumption's the majority of our economy - if we want to get this floundering economy moving again, we need to give people disposable income growth. And that means making sure people who are more likely to spend it in the economy are the first port of call when it comes to tax relief."

### THE BUDGET - LEIGH – ABC RADIO CANBERRA

"This is a projected surplus, not a delivered surplus, from a government which



promised that the budget would be in surplus in their first year and every year after that."

### THE BUDGET - LEIGH – ABC RADIO CANBERRA

"The fact is that net debt per person in Australia is now almost \$15,000. That is twice as much as when the Coalition came to office." They've never seen a tax loophole for the rich that they won't defend.



### **THE BUDGET - PLIBERSEK – CANBERRA**

"These tax cuts follow what Labor suggested a year ago. In fact, we proposed bigger, fairer tax cuts last year. The government voted against them. This year, they've copied those bigger, fairer tax cuts. Fine. We'll support those. But this government has forgotten people earning less than \$40,000 a year."

### **GOVT TAX PLANS - BOWEN – ABC RADIO 'AM'**

"They are highly regressive, in flattening the tax rates so much that a nurse pays the same marginal rate of tax as a surgeon. So no, as we weren't last year, in favour of stages two and three, guess what? This year we're not in favour of stages two and three."

### **GOVT TAX PLANS- PLIBERSEK – CANBERRA**

"It is really only the Liberals and the Nationals that would think it's fair that someone earning \$35,000 a year should get a tax cut of 250 bucks a year. And someone who's earning \$200,000 a year gets an \$11,000 tax cut."

### **GOVT TAX PLANS- BOWEN – CANBERRA**

"We will counter it with the facts. I mean here we have a Government which is providing tax cuts on 1 July. So are we but our tax cuts are bigger for those Australians who earn less than \$48,000 and we have different tax policies. Our low and middle income tax offset for example is permanent. Theirs is temporary."

### **ENERGY COST PAYMENT - MCALLISTER – ABC NEWS 24**

"Why the backflip? Did they make a mistake in the first case? It was just an oversight? They're incompetent? Or were they just so cruel and so nasty that they deliberately thought to excise people on Newstart and now they've realised that the Australian public won't cop it because it's just mean."

### **CANCER AID - BOWEN – ABC RADIO 'AM'**

"Most people would just assume that this is covered by Medicare, which many are not. 300,000 Australians a year avoid radiology because they can't afford it."

### **NEWSTART - PLIBERSEK – CANBERRA**

"We've already committed to reviewing Newstart. It's not just Labor and social welfare groups that are concerned about the rate of Newstart. You see many business organisations, including the Business Council of Australia, saying that Newstart is too low. It's so low that people can find it hard to afford the public transport to get to the job interview or to buy a clean shirt for a job interview. It's something that we have to look at methodically in Government."

### **NDIS SCANDAL - BURNEY – CANBERRA**

"People with disability and their families have been short changed by this Government. \$1.6 billion of the surplus – a quarter of the surplus is actually based on people with disability. It is taking funds. It is taking resources. It's taking hope from people with disability."

### **NDIS SCANDAL - MCALLISTER – ABC NEWS 24**

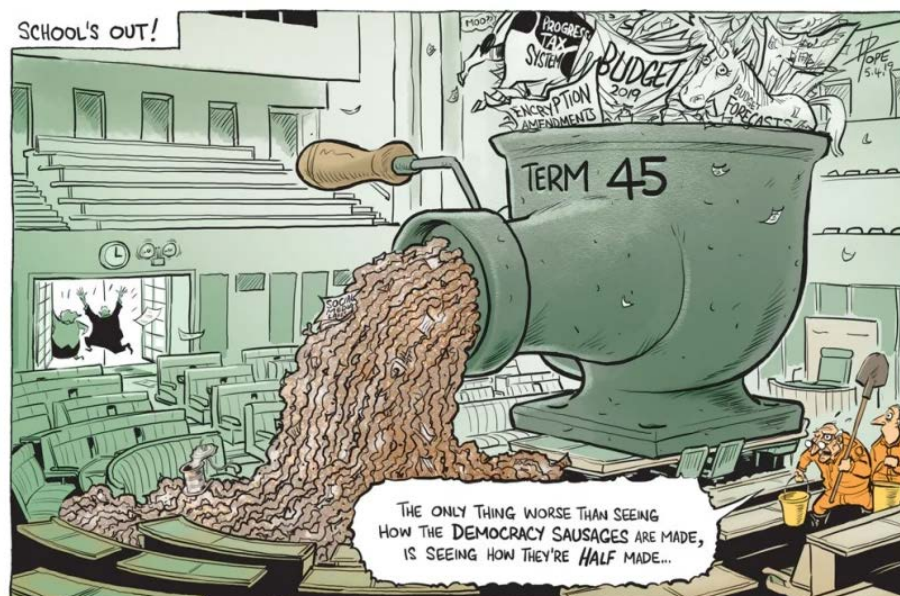
"They're now in their sixth year of governing. They've been being told for years, literally for years by providers, by potential clients of the NDIS that the system isn't working. That the authority that was overseeing it was understaffed, that the plans weren't being issued in a timely way and of course, the end result of that, is that many, many people who ought to have been receiving assistance are not receiving it right now and that's 77,000 people lower than what the Government projected."

### **NDIS SCANDAL - BURNEY – CANBERRA**

"I can assure you there are massive problems with this program. The ghost of the 2014 budget is still hanging over the NDIS. You have an arbitrary staffing cap on the NDIA, which is the organisation which runs the NDIS that cannot possibly do their jobs. Planning for people with disability is taking months and months."

### **NDIS SCANDAL- PLIBERSEK – CHANNEL 'TODAY SHOW'**

"77,000 more people should've got an NDIS package this year than did. That's what the underspend represents."



were promised."

### **NDIS SCANDAL - PLIBERSEK – ABC NEWS 24 BREAKFAST**

"Having people with lived experience of disability involved with the planning and running of the organisation is absolutely vital."

### **INEQUALITY - LEIGH – ABC RADIO CANBERRA**

"Inequality is a big issue and not just for Labor, but for the Australian people. Inequality has risen markedly over the course the last generation and we do need to have a look at income supports for low income Australians."

### **NDIS SCANDAL - MCALLISTER – ABC NEWS 24**

"This is a portfolio that has been totally ignored over the six years, treated with contempt by successive Ministers and this is just one terrible consequence that they are building a surplus off the back of people with a disability. It's revolting!"

### **NDIS SCANDAL - BURNEY – CANBERRA**

"I met a family in Melbourne with a little boy who was three years old. He could not sit up. He could not swallow. And he could not qualify for the NDIS. That is not acceptable."

### **NDIS SCANDAL- CHALMERS – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA**

"The Government spent all of these years saying that the costs had blown out. We now know that's a lie. The costs were actually coming in under what were forecast. We don't want to make people wait longer than they

## **GOVERNMENT DECISIONS - LEIGH – ABC RADIO CANBERRA**

*“The idea of moving the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to Barnaby Joyce's electorate was dumb decentralisation. It didn't pass a benefit-cost test, it was opposed by all of the relevant groups. Not only was it bad for the public servants involved, and indeed the head of the agency ultimately stepped down, but it meant that we will get delays in the approvals of key medicines there. The cuts to the public service have been considerable. It's been literally decimated under the Liberals. You've got consultant spending going through the roof.”*

## **LABOR BUDGET - BOWEN – CANBERRA**

*“I don't think the government even bothered to read the plan or listen to Bill Shorten before they just came out with their typical cynical political approach to say no to any good idea from the Labor Party.”*

## **WOMEN & THE BUDGET - SHORTEN – WOMEN'S BUDGET SPEECH-CANBERRA**

*“Gender equality, the equal treatment of women, the fair go for women, that's at the heart of the Labor mission. It's what animates the members of the Parliamentary Party, our union movement, the broader community, our rank and file.*

*We genuinely believe that if we could achieve the equal treatment of women in this country, then this would be the finest country in the world. “*

*“You can't turn back the clock on history. But you can change the future.*

*You can change the future for everyone else.*

*I want my daughters, I want your daughters, I want all of you, I want the women of Australia just to get an equal go.”*

*“Childcare - why on earth are we still arguing about childcare? How on earth did we get to a set of events, where this government has managed to take childcare off one in four families.*

*“You know when we look at our policies and all the recent tax changes this government has made - they've even found a way to short change people who earn less than \$40,000 a year. Now 57 per cent of Australians who earn less than \$40,000 a year are guess what - women.”*

## **QUOTES OF THE WEEK**

*“I believe in better schools not bigger billionaires. I believe in better hospitals not better tax loopholes.” – Bill Shorten*

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*“Australians will judge this Government not on what they say six weeks out from an election; they'll judge this Government on six years of cuts and chaos.” - Jim Chalmers*

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*“We'll be in election in five or six weeks' time, whenever the current government's fingernail marks are stretched across the concrete from being forced to get in the car to go and visit the Governor General. But whenever that is, we're ready.” - Bill Shorten – Women's Budget Speech*

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*“We're promising things in the term after the term after the term, I think the public has figured that out.” - Peter Costello (Former Liberal Treasurer)*

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*“It engages in numerous acts of naked profligacy, throwing \$285 million at one-off handouts for electricity bills and \$500 million for commuter carparks (no doubt in marginal electorates) . Steven Wardill –New Ltd*

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*The more you look into this budget, the more it looks like a political document thrown together by a chaotic government that doesn't expect to be around to have to implement it.” – Michael Pascoe – The New Daily*

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*The 2019 federal budget contains no program of economic reform. Promising tax cuts that are five years and two elections away isn't reform – its sorcery!” - John Roskam (Executive Director of the conservative think tank ,the Institute of Public Affairs*

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*“After the initial cheer-squad reaction from most of the media, there's a growing realisation that Treasurer Frydenberg's first budget is a flop. “ – Michael Pascoe – The New Daily*

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*“What is \$75 a year? That's a joke. It makes no difference at all; there was nothing at all for us in the budget. Nothing at all.” Gino Iannazzo (82 year-old pensioner from Coburg in Victoria expressing the disappointment of he, and his mates with the 2019 Budget)*

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*“Youth suicide was labelled a 'national priority', \$461 million was earmarked for young people's mental health, and the government also promised to open 30 new Headspace centres and extend funding for psychosis treatment. Meanwhile just \$5 million will be devoted to Indigenous suicide prevention programs, despite Aboriginal communities being in the midst of what medical bodies and advocates refer to as a 'crisis'.” - Kishor Napier-Raman*

*"The government has torched more than \$180m dollars ramping up security and services at the site, in anticipation of a deluge of people who only ever existed as a talking point to hurl at Labor and the crossbench." - Scott Ludlam (the Guardian)*

*"The government's plan to repeal the 'medevac bill' was a cruel political stunt which threatens further harm to refugees who need urgent medical attention". And that the Morrison government was; "wasting money on political posturing while critical needs in the community go unmet". - Paul Power (CEO Refugee Council of Australia)*

*"The whole exercise was a hugely expensive publicity stunt. It cost them nearly as much as they are promising to spend on climate change over the next four years," - Julian Burnside (Human rights lawyer)*

*"The stability, the unity that we have provided is in stark contrast to the rabble opposite." - Chris Bowen*

## GLIMPSES OF THE 2022

### IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY

Now we hear there's a revolt among the faithful, with two Senate candidates on the One Nation ticket abandoning ship for iron ore magnate Clive Palmer's United Australia Party last month.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation and Clive Palmer's United Australia Party appear to be vying for candidates ahead of the federal election.

Lawyer James Unkles is in the box seat to run for Palmer against Liberal MP Tony Smith, while Peter Cozyn is running in Ballarat — after being told by One Nation on February 12 that he was "successful" in his bid to be one of their candidates.

That leaves just one man on One Nation's Victorian Senate ticket.

In Queensland, One Nation's former state candidate Sue Bertuch is running for Palmer against Bob Katter, while two other state election candidates have also switched teams within the year.

Part of the problem appears to be One Nation's long-standing rule of charging candidates up to \$10,000 to run in state elections, with the money used to buy marketing packages including material from Hanson's chief-of-staff James Ashby.

Cozyn, who was second on the ticket, says he was asked to stump up \$12,000 for One Nation to run his marketing, while the candidate at the top was asked to pay around \$25,000.

### PALMED

Clive Palmer whose nauseating billboards are everywhere still owes taxpayers for overspending on his entitlements when he was last in Parliament. Worth an estimated \$4.5 billion, Mr Palmer has been forced to repay millions of dollars in recent years to workers at his liquidated Queensland Nickel refinery. The government is seeking \$70 million from him personally in a trial scheduled for July.

His newly revealed debt – almost \$7000 – can be traced back to an overspend on his staff travel budget four years ago, and is revealed in documents obtained by the ABC under freedom of information.

He has had multiple opportunities to repay taxpayers. Even after his media adviser was contacted by the ABC for this story, Mr Palmer did not indicate the debt would be repaid.

Palmer has spent \$27.5 million in advertising since last September, according to Nielsen.

This has included [unsolicited text messages](#) to thousands of Australians – one of them, ironically, promising to ban unwelcome messages from political parties.

### WE WILL BUILD IT

Construction on Queensland's biggest infrastructure project, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail, will finally begin later this year after a consortium led by Spanish-owned company CIMIC was selected to deliver the main contract to fix traffic congestion in Brisbane. After almost a decade stuck on the drawing board across successive state governments, the Palaszczuk Labor government announced preferred tenders for the three contracts in Brisbane on Thursday. The Cross River Rail is the biggest piece of the jigsaw in Brisbane's \$15 billion infrastructure boom. The Pulse consortium led by CIMIC Group – which also includes Pacific Partnerships, CPB Contractors, UGL, BAM, Ghella and DIF – has been selected for the \$2.7 billion tunnels, stations and development.

### COOKING CABBAGE IN HOME AFFAIRS

The Home Affairs Department has been accused of misleading a Senate committee over its failure to disclose that Craig Thrupp, the managing director of security firm Paladin, was removed from a \$423 million refugee service contract on Manus Island. During an often heated morning of estimates hearings in Canberra on Thursday, Home Affairs Secretary Mike Pezzullo and his staff came under repeated attack from Labor and crossbenchers over their handling of the lucrative refugee contracts. Labor's Kim Carr asked why the department didn't think it relevant to disclose the removal of Mr Thrupp, when being questioned about Paladin's performance during estimates hearings in February. At the time, when questioned if the department had any concerns about Paladin's performance, the committee was told "none whatsoever". Just a day later The Australian Financial Review revealed Mr Thrupp's removal from the Manus contract. "Why did you not advise the committee of this ... have you misled this committee?" asked Senator Carr. "Is it





not relevant that you had the managing director removed from the contract?" Rex Patrick from the Centre Alliance asked if Mr Thrupp's removal "did not ring alarm bells". Mr Pezzullo said the accusation of misleading the committee was a very serious one. He strenuously denied it

In addition to the Paladin contract, the Auditor-General will investigate why a building project on Manus Island was abruptly cancelled, costing taxpayers up to \$9 million. He will also look at an \$82 million contract awarded to the politically connected PNG company NKW Holdings. Asked about a report in The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald that NKW may have been inflating invoices, Home Affairs officials said they had no evidence this was the case. The newspaper report cited emails from a Bank South Pacific manager in November 2017 which said the department was "paying every invoice" and that they suspected there are "some inflated quotations and invoices". Home Affairs also denied a separate report that it was told about a senior PNG official asking an unnamed Australian contractor for a multimillion dollar donation to the ruling party of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

### TALK ABOUT WASTING YOUR MONEY

Apparently the Morrison government is currently paying 140 security guards to guard no one at the Christmas Island facility. Since the Medivac legislation was passed only one person has been transferred from Manus and they are receiving medical treatment on the mainland. So much for Mr Christian, Scott Morrison's, fear mongering about thousands of rapists descending on Australia!

### ADANI

A Coalition split has emerged ahead of next month's election, with Queensland MPs holding urgent talks with Scott Morrison, asking him to sign off on a key federal approval for the Adani coalmine or risk losing marginal seats in the battleground state. Environment Minister



Melissa Price received a recommendation from her department on Monday to approve a groundwater management plan for the project. The Australian revealed yesterday that a delegation of Queensland MPs and the Prime Minister met over concerns that Ms Price was refusing to sign off on the plan in the face of intense lobbying by federal Liberal MPs in Victoria.

GetUp climate director Sam Regester said that, if Mr Morrison approved the plan, he would "face electoral carnage". "GetUp will throw everything it has behind costing the government every single vote it can,"

### ADANI LOVES PAULINE

Mining firm Adani and the Pharmacy Guild have emerged as major contributors to One Nation, but insist their donations do not represent an endorsement of the group's fringe views. Adani and the Pharmacy Guild gave them a \$15,000 donation while Adani also gave \$30,000 to the LNP. Although federal laws let parties shroud their donations in secrecy until next year, Queensland parties are forced to disclose the bulk of election contributions within seven business days.

### MORE LIES

Environment Minister Melissa Price has been forced to deny nearly \$40,000 of environment grants were awarded in a key marginal electorate before applications for the program were opened. Ms Price told parliament yesterday that three projects in Liberal MP Chris Crewther's Victorian electorate of Dunkley did not receive Communities Environment Program funds, despite Mr Crewther writing in three Facebook posts that local groups had won grants. When asked in parliament about Mr Crewther's claims, Ms Price said there were no grants awarded because the program did not open until mid-year, and the Dunkley MP was simply being a "good member". "The government has not awarded any funding under this program because the program is not open," she told parliament.

### SAVE THE KOALA

Key crossbenchers have backed a controversial Labor push to rewrite Australia's environment laws after a Senate report found the system incapable of stemming the nation's animal extinction crisis.

Alarming evidence in the inquiry's interim report includes estimates that Australia's wild koala population has declined from about 10 million at the time of European settlement to as few as 48,000 today.

In a further sign of voter concern over the environment ahead of the May election, crossbenchers Kerryn Phelps, Andrew Wilkie and Julia Banks have signalled they would support an overhaul of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act in the next Parliament.

Labor's pledge to recast the Howard-era laws – the central federal government tool to safeguard the natural world – has stoked internal party debate and prompted warnings from the mining industry that jobs will be lost.

A Shorten government would create a new environment act and a national, independent Environment Protection Agency to enforce the rules.



**The Sunshine State** has been crowned Australia's renewable energy construction capital, home to almost half the renewable projects completed in 2018.

The Clean Energy Council has released a [new report](#) which shows that of the 38 large-scale renewable projects completed in Australia in 2018, 45 percent were located in Queensland.

"The sunshine state is living up to its name. The incredible surge in large-scale renewables investment created more than 2,000 new jobs across the state," said the Climate Council's CEO Amanda McKenzie.

"It wasn't just large-scale projects surging ahead in 2018, the state is also home to some of the nation's top rooftop solar postcodes, with nearly 150 systems installed each day across the state," said Ms McKenzie.

"This year looks even brighter. Eighty-seven large-scale renewable energy projects are under construction or have been financially committed across Australia. More than a quarter of these will be in Queensland," she said.

"Jumping on board the global renewables boom is a win-win for the nation. It will ensure we cut our pollution, which has been rising year on year, as well as drive investment and jobs," said Ms McKenzie.

"Australia lacks credible climate and energy policy at a federal level, but with strong State government policies and innovative businesses we are seeing strong growth across the country in clean energy," she said.

The cost of new wind and solar, backed by storage, is now lower than the cost of new coal generation.

"As one of the sunniest and windiest countries in the world, imagine what we could achieve with credible policies in place," said Ms McKenzie.

## MULTICULTURAL

There were over 7 million migrants living in Australia in 2018, with people born in England continuing to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, according to new data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

ABS Assistant Director of Migration Statistics Neil Scott said new figures showed that in 2018 just over 29 per cent of Australia's resident population were born overseas.

"Australia's multicultural society is made up of migrants born in every country around the world. Although almost 18 million Australians were born here, our society is continuing to become more culturally diverse over time. People born in England continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 992,000 people. However, this has dropped from a peak of just over a million (1,013,000 people) in 2014." They were followed by China, India and New Zealand.

### REMEMBER

On April 6, 1994, a plane carrying the Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana and the Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down over the Rwandan capital, Kigali. The crash triggered the start of three months of ethnic killings across Rwanda on an unprecedented scale.

Hutu political and military extremists orchestrated the killing of approximately three quarters of Rwanda's Tutsi population, leaving more than half a million people dead. Many Hutu who attempted to hide or defend Tutsi and those who opposed the genocide were also killed.

In mid-July 1994, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a predominantly Tutsi rebel group based in Uganda that had been fighting to overthrow the Rwandan government since 1990, took over the country and ended the genocide. Its troops killed thousands of predominantly Hutu civilians, though the scale and nature of these killings were not comparable to the genocide.

Human Rights Watch documented the genocide and the RPF's 1994 crimes in detail. [Alison Des Forges](#), senior adviser to the Human Rights Watch Africa division for almost two decades, published the authoritative account of the Rwandan genocide, "[Leave None to Tell the Story](#)," and documented the international community's indifference and failure to act.



## BUDGET GLIMPSES

### BUDGET 'BS'

So, not only will the government produce budget surpluses totalling \$45 billion over the next four years, it will also manage to pay down an eye-watering national debt of \$370 billion in a little more than 10 years.

- How it will do this at forecast economic growth rates of 2.75 and 3 per cent, without massive windfalls or without slashing spending is a mystery to Industry Super Australia chief economist Stephen Anthony, who calls the lofty goal "the height of fantasy".

"If it's hard enough to accept projections and forecasts four years out, it's implausible to accept where things are at by the end of the decade," Mr Anthony told The New Daily.

Mr Anthony says the government's projection relies heavily on the idea that "spending control is achieved and maintained over time".

"But this is simply assumed in the budget document and simply projected, but not really explained in the budget document how the full extent of spending control is achieved."

- UNSW economist Richard Holden agreed, writing on Wednesday that "the budget documents, voluminous though they are, don't have the answers" on repayment of the national debt.

Professor Holden intimated that it seemed somewhat of a stretch to go from \$370 billion – which represents 19 per cent of GDP – to zero in 10 years, given current growth rates.

"You might ask, then, how do we get from 19 per cent to 0 per cent debt/GDP in 10 years if we're generating a surplus of 1 per cent per annum?" he wrote in The Conversation.

"The more likely scenario is that the historical spending continues and, if it does, then surpluses remain wafer-thin," Mr Anthony notes.

"And if the government is returned and implements its phase-two and three tax reforms, they won't be surpluses, in fact they'll be deficits."

"The budget will be providing some relief to households, but in net terms it is providing a slight headwind for the economy,"

- National Australia Bank market economist Kieran Davies said. "The focus is on the tax cuts, but they're also doing things like tightening social security and the tax crackdown on corporates." Cuts to government payments, including GST distributions to the states as well as reduced pensions and benefits, save the budget \$5.7bn in 2019-20, largely offsetting the tax refunds

### MORE BUDGET BUNKUM ...

Despite wages flat lining and the Government saying they were happy to keep them low Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has claimed in the Budget papers that wages will rise – from the current rate of 2.3 per cent to 3.25 per cent by 2020-21. These claims have been instantly dismissed as "optimistic" by up to a dozen economists as new figures show the first three months of 2019 could be the weakest the economy has faced since the global financial crisis. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg again downgraded wages growth for the coming financial year on Tuesday, with pay packets expected to grow by 2.75 per cent. In last year's budget, wages were tipped to swell by 3.25 per cent before accelerating into next decade. It was the seventh consecutive year that wage growth has been downgraded despite total employment lifting and unemployment falling to 5 per cent.

### GOVT AGAIN IGNORES ITS OWN ADVICE TO DO SOMETHING STUPID!

The Coalition has walked away from a 50-year policy of providing separate funding for Aboriginal legal services, sparking fury from the indigenous legal sector. The move comes less than a week after an independent review commissioned by the government recommended retaining "standalone, specific-purpose funding" for indigenous legal services, with minimum five-year terms. Attorney-General Christian Porter announced as part of the budget that the government would roll together funding for legal aid, community legal centres and Aboriginal legal services. The budget increased total legal assistance funding from \$350 million in 2019-20 to \$370m from July 2020 – to "provide vital support to many of our community's most vulnerable people", Mr Porter said. The Law Council slammed the "abysmal" \$20m increase. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services co-chair Cheryl Axleby said it was "appalling" that the government



planned to scrap the stand-alone Indigenous Legal Assistance Program. The government has provided separate funding for Aboriginal legal services since they were first created in the early 1970s. A review of ILAP released by Mr Porter last Thursday found the program delivered "cost-effective, high-quality, culturally appropriate and accessible" legal services for Aboriginal people. It recommended keeping the separate funding program, noting Aboriginal young people were 25 times more likely to be incarcerated and the community's rates of child removal and contact with police far outweighed other Australians'.

### VILLAGE IDIOTS

The budget was a "stunning lost opportunity" to drive innovation, said Bill Ferris, the veteran venture capitalist charged by former leader Malcolm Turnbull with running the Coalition government's now abandoned National Innovation Agenda in 2015. The Morrison government's pre-election budget omitted any mention of innovation and squeezed another \$1.35 billion from the R&D tax incentive program over the four-year budget window via administrative tightening. That makes more than \$4 billion in savings wrung from the scheme, the largest



funding source for business R&D, from the past two budgets. But the government hasn't reallocated more than a fraction of those savings back to the start-up sector via direct grants or any other form of support, as recommended by a 2016 review, review of the R&D tax break led by Mr Ferris

"The budget does not mention the word 'innovation' and presents as a stunning lost opportunity to reverse the nation's downward trend in both business and government investments in innovation," Mr Ferris told The Australian Financial Review. "Innovation drives productivity which drives GDP growth and living standards. This is a fact whatever your politics may be,"

The sector has had four Ministers in just three and half years.

Technology leaders said the federal government's \$4 billion cut to the research and development tax break, over the last two budgets, was short sighted and would force start-ups offshore.

### BRICKLAYERS & CARPENTERS

When Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's made his Budget commentary around what skilled workers the country needed to develop "[He] called out bricklayers, carpenters and plumbers as the areas with skills shortages to be supported with the new apprenticeship program," Amazing really!

Was he ignorant of existing government policy?

Misled?

Or just lying? The facts are these;

Business has questioned the federal government's commitment to training, pointing out that 75 per cent of the \$525 million pledged for new apprenticeships in the budget was not new money.

TAFE Directors Australia chief executive Craig Robertson said the budget was "robbing Peter to pay Paul" by funding the new apprenticeships with money originally intended for the states. At least \$400 million for 80,000 apprenticeships, announced in Tuesday's budget, comes from money earmarked for the Skilling Australians Fund for Victoria and Queensland. But these states never signed up and the funds are being redirected to new apprenticeships.

Mr Robertson said since the government created the \$1.2 billion Skilling Australians Fund in 2017 it had taken \$893 million from it. The budget was encouraging employers to hire apprentices which were a good thing. But it was doing this by taking money intended for the states, which compromised their ability to work with employers.

A senior source in the TAFE system, who declined to be named, said the proposed National Skills Commission and the careers institute were a new bureaucracy without any urgent need for having one.

He said the Skilling Australians Fund had been intended to create 300,000 apprenticeships and it was effectively being replaced by a plan to create 80,000. He said the TAFE system in some states was on its knees but the budget initiatives did very little to help.

[These government guys are clowns; they are so bad you begin to wonder whether they're actually working with the Russians in order to ruin us. Ed]

### WAIT, THERE'S MORE IDIOCY ...

Universities have slammed a budget decision to repurpose a \$3.9 billion research infrastructure fund into a new Emergency Response Fund. The Education Investment Fund was originally intended for new facilities in the Higher Education Sector. But payments were frozen in 2013 and have been accumulating funds since then. Universities Australia chief executive Catriona Jackson said there was no need for the raid on the fund which she described as Australia's last remaining source of money for building education and research infrastructure.

"Without modern labs and equipment we cannot take part in modern research – they are the baseline tools our students and researchers need to fuel our economy and improve society. The budget clearly shows that the government has the funds to both support Australians affected by natural disasters and to back essential research capability. "There is no reason to make Australians choose between these two important priorities. of money for building education and research infrastructure.

The G8 said cuts in research block grants to 2022 had been widened from \$328.5 million in the mid-year economic and fiscal outlook to \$345.2 million, there had been a \$6.7million cut in Australian Research Council funding and \$6.6 million shaved from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.

Chair of the G8, Professor Dawn Freshwater, said the European Union is planning for a €100 billion research strategy to be rolled out in 2021. But in Australia there was a lack of recognition of strong research and strong universities.

### AND DON'T ASK ABOUT THE CLIMATE!



Australia's general insurers have slammed the Morrison government's failure to fund climate change resilience programs, labelling the focus on disaster recovery rather than prevention as "short-sighted and disappointing". In Tuesday's federal budget, the government allocated \$3.1 billion over five years to a North Queensland Flood Recovery Package, most of which would help farmers affected by the February floods in Queensland. It also set aside \$3.9 billion for a new Emergency Response Fund to help recovery from future natural disasters. But the Insurance Council of Australia, which represents big insurers including IAG, Suncorp and QBE, complained there was "no money" directed at "preventing natural disasters or making homes and businesses more capable of withstanding the impact of floods or cyclones". "Just six weeks after Townsville and parts of central Queensland were hit by catastrophic floods that caused billions of dollars in insured and uninsured losses, the



Coalition has again failed to provide a vision or a sustainable solution for millions of Australians who live in disaster-prone regions,” an Insurance Council spokesman said. He said the Coalition had “ignored” a Productivity Commission recommendation that the federal government invest “at least” \$200 million a year in mitigation and resilience projects, a figure that should be matched by state and territory governments. “The failure of governments to treat flood mitigation and resilience projects as critical investments in the economic future of natural disaster-prone communities is short-sighted and disappointing,” the spokesman said. Actuaries Institute chief executive Elayne Grace also criticised the lack of resilience and prevention measures. “The institute was disappointed that there were no additional measures announced in the budget tonight to mitigate climate change or to improve the nation’s general resilience against natural disasters,” Ms Grace said. The Insurance Council estimates around 97 per cent of disaster funding currently goes to “clean-up and recovery”, with just 3 per cent going on prevention.

#### FOREIGN AID - THE LOWY INSTITUTE

There were few surprises for the Australian aid program in this week’s federal budget, which has disappointingly continued the downward trend of Australian aid spending. At \$4.044 billion in 2019, when adjusting for inflation, aid will have now been cut by 27% since its peak in 2013–14. Considering deficits were the justification for cutting our “charity” abroad, the continuing decline of Australian aid in a surplus year adds extra salt to the wound.

As these cuts continue, so too does Australia’s decline in international standings. When measured as a proportion of Gross National Income (similar to GDP), the international measure of showing a country’s generosity, next year’s budget will see Australia at 0.21%, well below the average for the countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and not to mention the UN commitment of 0.7%. On current trends, by 2020-21 Australia will be in the bottom third of the 32 OECD donors.

The Australian Labor Party has commendably committed to increasing the aid program by some amount above its Gross National Income ratio (in other words increasing the aid program by GNI growth and adding, at a minimum, a dollar to that amount)

#### THE BUDGET & INNOVATION



Go8 Chief Executive, Vicki Thomson said the budget detail reveals cuts to the Australian Research Council (ARC), the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), the Research Block Grants program and the abolition of the \$3.9 billion-dollar Education Investment Fund to fund the Emergency Response Fund.

“The Go8 is not saying something as important as an Emergency Response Fund should not be funded, only that when Government is trumpeting a surplus it is a mockery to then have to redirect funds rather than use available funds,” Ms Thomson said. “Worryingly, ARC funding has been cut in each of the next three years and by the end of the forward estimates the level of funding to the ARC will be less than it was a decade earlier.”

“The Government has very clearly drawn a line in the sand with this Budget, forgoing investment in a sector which underpins a \$35 billion international education industry. Despite Go8 research returning almost \$10 for every \$1 of taxpayer investment, university research is being consistently starved of Government funds. Of the \$6.4 billion of research the Go8 conducted in 2016 the Government contributed just \$2.0 billion in direct research funding.

By his own admission just last week, Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan acknowledged that a “strong university research sector makes Australia stronger.”

“What the Government has failed to address in this year’s budget is that Science, Research and Innovation (SRI) funding from Government has dropped from 0.67 per cent of GDP to 0.51 per cent of GDP over the last seven years according to the most recent SRI budget tables. This is a reduction in funding of \$1.1 billion in real terms – a cut of 10%. With approximately 63% of Australia’s researchers in the Higher Education sector it is in universities that this funding decline has the greatest impact.

“Universities have proven they can be relied upon. Our 27 years of economic growth in Australia has been underpinned by one of the world’s best higher education and research systems. Yet despite this the Government has failed to back the sector in a year of budget surplus,” Ms Thomson said.

“Given recent experience, it seems that in budget terms the Higher Education research sector is the first to get cut and the last to see long term, sustainable investment. This reflects an attitude of dangerous complacency towards a sector that is a key driver of Australia’s economy.”

## STOP THE VIOLENCE

APPROXIMATELY  
**1 IN 3**  
WOMEN WORLDWIDE  
WILL EXPERIENCE  
**VIOLENCE**  
IN THEIR LIFETIME.



## SIGN THE PETITION

[https://unwomen.actonit.com.au/endtheviolence/?src=fdfb1&fbclid=IwAR0\\_Tk\\_YGaMImZQKGVBI0zw\\_QLCtNW-ZfQmsf7wjJo6a\\_SrAmDcglXlycw](https://unwomen.actonit.com.au/endtheviolence/?src=fdfb1&fbclid=IwAR0_Tk_YGaMImZQKGVBI0zw_QLCtNW-ZfQmsf7wjJo6a_SrAmDcglXlycw)

## QUEENSLAND

### **LABOR TO ACT EARLY ON LINKFIELD ROAD OVERPASS – Albanese/ Mulholland/France**

**A Shorten Labor Government would bring forward funding to allow work to begin in our first term on the much-needed upgrade of the Linkfield Road overpass of the Gympie Arterial Road.**

By contrast, according to the LNP Government's own Budget documents, voters would have to re-elect Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton twice before the LNP would even start this critical project, which will significantly enhance road safety on Brisbane's Northside.

Currently two lanes on Linkfield Road merge into one before drivers turn north onto the Gympie Arterial Road. It is a serious choke point and a notorious traffic accident blackspot.

The strategic cost estimate of this project is \$125 million. A Federal Labor Government would contribute \$100 million.

On the existing Budget timetable, no money would flow for at least four years.

That's too long. With the local population growing strongly, Labor, if elected, would bring forward sufficient funding to allow work to begin in our first term.

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese said the Linkfield Road overpass would be a game-changer for Brisbane's Northside.

"It will reduce traffic congestion for residents and boost productivity for businesses in the area," Mr Albanese said.

"Scott Morrison says he wants to act, but not for years down the track. He has pushed the project off into the Never Never with most of his infrastructure program."

Labor Candidate for Petrie Corinne Mulholland said while the Liberals continued to fight amongst themselves, local motorists were stuck fighting their way through traffic every day at Linkfield Road overpass. "The Federal Liberals have had six long years to do something about Linkfield Road overpass and it took Federal Labor to step up and commit funding to this project to get real action," Ms Mulholland said.

"Only a Shorten Labor Government will get this done - cutting congestion and delivering a faster daily commute for motorists in my electorate."

Labor candidate for Dickson Ali France said the overpass would reduce congestion for residents of Bridgeman Downs, Warner, Eatons Hill, and Strathpine, as well as businesses in Brendale. "The big message I'm getting as I talk to people in Dickson is that they are sick of talk about traffic congestion and want action," Ms France said.

"Labor will act."

### **GLADSTONE PORT ACCESS ROAD FUNDING IS FIVE YEARS TOO LATE – Albanese/Beers**

**The Federal LNP Government's plan to invest in Stage II of the Gladstone Port Access Road comes five years after it scrapped funding allocated for the project by the former Labor Government.**

The Gladstone Port Access Road should have already been built.

In the 2011-12 Budget the Federal Labor Government provided funding for the project. But in 2014, at the behest of the Member for Flynn, Ken O'Dowd, the LNP withdrew that investment.

Now, having wasted the intervening years, Prime Minister Scott Morrison plans to restore the funding and pretend it is new.

This is classic LNP political strategy: cut investment, restore it before an election and hope no-one will notice the deception.

The record of Ken O'Dowd and the LNP on Central Queensland roads is clear: years of inaction, excuses and funding cuts.

It will take a Shorten Labor Government to invest in the rail and road projects regional communities need to drive economic growth and job creation.

For more than five years the Coalition has cut infrastructure investment around the nation, particularly for regional Australia.

If Scott Morrison is re-elected, the situation will worsen, with the Government's own Budget documents showing he will cut Federal grants to the states each and every year from \$7 billion in 2017/18 to \$4.5 billion in 2021-22.

### **A BOOST FOR FEMALE FOOTBALL AT MOOROOKA – Farrell/Perrett**

**A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$500,000 to provide new change rooms to support female football at Alexander Park, Moorooka.**

Alexander Park is home to Moorooka District AFL Club and is AFL Queensland's Brisbane training hub, providing a base for community football umpires.

The existing amenities at the ground were built in the 1960s and are not suitable for women's and girl's teams or female umpires. Member for Moreton Graham Perrett said Labor's commitment was about supporting female participation in sport.

"AFL is growing as a code in Queensland and a lot of that growth is being driven by women and girls taking up the code. New change rooms at Alexander Park will support the Moorooka Roosters growing female football program and also help AFL Queensland to fast-track the training of more female umpires."

Alexander Park also hosts little athletics, school sport programs, touch football and multicultural outreach programs.

Shadow Minister for Sport Senator Don Farrell said Labor is committed to supporting clubs and communities to improve local sporting facilities to give all Australians a fair go at sport.

"Whether they dream of being the next Tayla Harris or Eleni Glouftsis or just want to enjoy the benefits of being physically active, we want women and girls across Australia to have the opportunity to chase their goals and enjoy the benefits of sport. Our investments in local community sporting clubs and facilities like these help them build capacity to meet the welcome growth in female participation in club sport and support more Australians to live active, healthy lifestyles."

### **LABOR COMMITS TO MAJOR ROAD UPGRADE ON BRISBANE'S NORTHSIDE Shorten/Albanese/Lamb/Wells/France/Mulholland**

**A Shorten Labor Government would reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety on Brisbane's Northside with a major \$1.5 billion package of upgrades along the Gateway Motorway and surrounding sections of the Bruce Highway.**

This important work would upgrade the Gateway Motorway from Bracken Ridge to the Pine River and continue the upgrade of the Bruce through Brisbane's growing northern suburbs towards Caboolture.







The projects will create thousands of jobs for Queenslanders and dramatically improve road safety for motorists. The Gateway work would widen the road from four to six lanes, complementing the recently completed Gateway North project, which was first identified and funded by the former Federal Labor Government. The project will also incorporate Intelligent Transport Systems including variable speed limit signage, variable messaging signs, traffic monitoring cameras and ramp metering. The application of this technology will improve traffic flow along the

motorway.

On the Bruce Highway, we would prioritise the critical section between the intersection with the Gateway Motorway and Dohles Rocks Road. The work would include a new bridge over the Pine River and up to four new collector roads to take local traffic off the highway, making more room for motorists and truck drivers heading north toward Caboolture and south into the City.

The road investments will make a real impact on the traffic congestion that the Federal LNP Government has ignored during their six years of cuts and chaos.

Critically, this investment in South East Queensland's road infrastructure is in addition to Federal Labor's commitment to invest \$2.24 billion in the Cross River Rail project, which will expand the capacity and improve the reliability of the region's rail network.

Labor understands that the only way we keep our big cities like Brisbane moving is for governments to invest in both their rail and road infrastructure. We would build better roads, but also make public transport a convenient alternative, creating an integrated transport system capable of handling our nation's ongoing population growth.

While the LNP Budget has pushed much of its infrastructure investment off into the Never-Never, a Labor Government would allocate funding for these important rail and road projects in our very first Budget.

## **NEWS FLASH!!**

### **MORRISON STEAMROLLS AHEAD WITH PRIVATISATION OF AUSTRALIA'S BORDER**

#### **CONTROL – Neumann**

**On the eve of the election the Liberals are steamrolling ahead with their plan to privatise Australia's visa processing system – putting at risk 3000 Australian Public Service jobs and our border security.**

Today – a Friday afternoon after Parliament had risen – the Department of Home Affairs quietly released the [next stage](#) of tender documents of the Liberals' privatisation plans. The first round of documents were released on 7 December 2018 – the day after the Parliament had risen for the year.

Labor has announced it **strongly opposes** the Liberals' privatisation of Australia's visa processing system.

Visa processing times have blown out of control under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government with partner visas now at record-high processing times of up to 28 months. The number of people on bridging visas in Australia – waiting for the Department to process their applications – has blown out to over 191,000 people.

The Liberals' "solution" is to privatise Australia's visa processing system with service fees and profits being handed over to the top end of town as part of a ten year contract that would even eventually extend to Australia's citizenship processing.

Peter Dutton has been put in charge of the contracts after Scott Morrison and Immigration Minister David Coleman recused themselves from the process due to their close personal and professional friendship with one of the front running bidders for the contract.

Why has the man [named the worst Immigration Minister](#) due to his ever-growing list of failures been put in charge of the biggest decision and changes to Australia's immigration system in decades?

Labor is deeply concerned the privatisation of visa processing will mean the loss of thousands of Australian jobs, puts at risk the privacy of applicants given the transfer of personal data to a private provider, and ultimately weaken the integrity of Australia's borders.

These risks are proof that Australia's visa processing system should remain in public hands to support Australia's national interest; not the interests of private profit.

The only way to stop the Liberals' plan to privatise our border control is to elect a Shorten Labor Government.

## **HEALTH**

### **BUILDING BETTER CANCER CENTRES ACROSS AUSTRALIA – Shorten/King**

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver vital upgrades to cancer centres across the country with a \$300 million investment designed to bring cancer treatment closer to patients' homes.

**This is another part of Labor's \$2.3 billion Medicare Cancer Plan – the most important investment in Medicare since it was created by Bob Hawke.**

Improving cancer treatment across the country means investing in our hospitals – so that everyone who faces a battle with cancer can access world-class facilities – no matter their postcode.

As part of this capital investment, Labor will deliver 13 radiation therapy facilities in regional and rural areas, a \$60 million commitment.

Radiation therapy is underutilised in Australia, with one in three patients offered the treatment compared to one in two in North America and Europe, and particular barriers to access in regional/rural areas.

Cancer patients should not miss out on the treatment they need because of their location – Labor’s plan will bring radiation treatment closer to home when it is most needed.

One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer – and being forced to travel long distances to get treatment is a barrier that patients just don’t need at one of the most stressful times in their lives.

That’s why Labor will upgrade hospital and cancer treatment facilities across the country, improving accessibility of cancer treatment in regional and rural Australia.

This builds on Labor’s plans for cheaper cancer scans, cheaper cancer specialist consultations and cheaper cancer medicines.

Many cancer patients require multiple, regular scans over a number of years, as well as repeated specialist appointments, as part of their journey from diagnosis to remission - meaning their out-of-pocket costs can accumulate to many thousands of dollars.

Many people choose to forego these scans altogether because they simply cannot afford it, potentially putting their lives at risk. The ABS has found more than 300,000 Australians skip radiology each year because of cost.

If you need to see a specialist, the Medicare Cancer Plan will cover an additional 2,000 appointments a day – three million specialist consults with no out-of-pocket costs.

If you need a cancer scan – every MRI machine, in every postcode, will be eligible for Medicare.

If you need a CT scan, an X-Ray, a mammogram, a PET scan – this plan will cut the out-of-pocket costs and provide up to six million free scans and tests.

And today, we are announcing that we will upgrade public hospitals across the country to provide cancer treatment closer to home.

Labor is prioritising health, while the Liberals cut it. Scott Morrison has cut \$3 billion from the pockets of patients with his Medicare freeze and \$715 million from public hospitals – locking in further cuts until 2025.

Labor will reverse the Liberals’ cuts to health, address rising out-of-pocket costs, fund the best cancer care and provide the support Australians need during one of the toughest periods in their lives.

We will pay for it by making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

Labor introduced Medicare, and we will always protect it.

### **LABOR’S AFFORDABLE MEDICINES GUARANTEE – Shorten/King**

**A Shorten Labor Government will ensure Australians have access to affordable medicines by listing every drug recommended by the independent experts on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.**

It was 65 years ago that the Chifley Labor Government first introduced the PBS, which gives all Australians access to subsidised medicines that could otherwise be beyond their reach.

Alongside Medicare, the PBS is one of the great Labor reforms. It has saved and improved countless lives.

And like Medicare, a Shorten Labor Government will only ever protect and strengthen the PBS to ensure it can fund breakthroughs in medicines for all Australians who need them.

**That’s why we are making this Affordable Medicines Guarantee.**

Under Labor, every drug recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee will be listed.

That means that medicines will be available for \$40.30 for general patients and \$6.50 for concession patients – regardless of whether the drug would normally cost hundreds, or even hundreds of thousands, of dollars.

Labor’s reforms in partnership with the medicines industry have ensured the durability of the PBS over the last six and a half decades. We will work with the industry to ensure it is strong well into the future, even in this age of more expensive specialised and targeted medicines.

We will also ensure equitable access to medicines is not undermined by international treaties.

The last Labor Government spent more than \$6 billion adding new medicines to the PBS.

In contrast, the Liberals have admitted there are 18 drugs recommended by PBAC that they will never list. At last count, there were more than 40 drugs that had been recommended by PBAC the Liberals had not listed. Only Labor can be trusted to deliver the health care that Australians need. **More information on Labor’s Medicare Cancer Plan is available [here](#).**

### **LABOR’S PLAN TO DRIVE DOWN CANCER SPECIALIST COSTS - Shorten/King**

**Cancer patients will benefit from three million free consultations with their oncologists and surgeons under a \$433 million boost to Medicare under a Shorten Labor Government.**



The cost of consultations are the second-highest out-of-pocket cost for private system cancer patients, after surgery.

These costs can add significantly to the stress and financial burden of a cancer diagnosis, particularly given most cancer patients require a multiple follow-up consultations with specialists during their cancer journey.

For many cancer patients, this can add up to many thousands of dollars over a number of years.

That's why Labor will introduce a new bulk-billed Medicare item to deliver more free cancer consultations as part of the biggest cancer care package in Australian history.

Our investment of \$433 million over four years will boost bulk-billing rates, providing 3,000,000 free consultations from medical and radiation oncologists, as well as surgeons. These visits would otherwise attract high out-of-pocket costs.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government Medicare freeze has only increased the gap between what Medicare pays cancer specialists for consultations and what they typically charge patients.

Under the Liberals, the average out-of-pocket cost for each specialist appointment is now \$80 – a nearly 40 per cent increase since they came to power in 2013.

These soaring out-of-pocket costs are a key reason why 1.3 million Australians now skip the medical care they need, putting their health and even their lives at risk. But the Liberals' only response has been to announce a website.

Labor on the other hand will take real action. We will invest more in Medicare because we believe access to health care should depend on your Medicare card, not your credit card.

That's why Labor will invest in more beds, doctors and nurses with our Better Hospitals Fund, cap private health insurance premiums for two years, end Scott Morrison's Medicare freeze – and fund the biggest cancer care package in Australian history.

**More information on Labor's Medicare Cancer Plan is available [here](#).**

### **LABOR'S MEDICARE CANCER PLAN –Shorten/King**

**A Shorten Labor Government will deliver the biggest cancer care package in Australian history, with a \$2.3 billion investment to dramatically slash out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients.**

This is the most important reform to Medicare since it was introduced by Bob Hawke. This will mean millions of free scans, millions of free consultations and cheaper medicines for cancer patients.

One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. Cancer is the greatest disease burden in Australia, and it carries the greatest out-of-pocket costs in our healthcare system.

Nearly half of Australian cancer patients pay more than \$5,000 in out-of-pocket costs over the course of their diagnosis and treatment. More than a quarter of cancer patients pay more than \$10,000 out of their own pocket.

Labor believes it should be your Medicare card, not your credit card, which guarantees access to quality health care in Australia.

**Labor's Medicare Cancer Plan includes:**

1. **Investing \$600 million towards eliminating all out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic imaging, with up to six million free cancer scans funded through Medicare:** this will include the biggest ever expansion of Medicare MRI eligibility, making sure every MRI machine can provide Medicare rebates, as well as boosting Medicare rebates and creating new Medicare items to drive down out-of-pocket costs for x-rays, ultrasounds, mammograms, CT scans and PET scans.
2. **Investing \$433 million to fund three million free consultations with oncologists and surgeons for cancer patients:** Labor will introduce a new bulk-billed Medicare item to wipe out of pocket costs for three million consultations with medical and radiation oncologists, as well as surgeons. These visits would otherwise attract high out-of-pocket costs, with out-of-pocket costs for specialist visits up 40 per cent since the Liberals were elected in 2013.
3. **Guarantee that every drug recommended by independent experts will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, cutting out-of-pockets costs for cancer medications:** If the experts recommend a drug is publicly subsidised, it will be, ending any uncertainty about whether a drug is listed and making sure that these decisions are above politics. This should reassure all Australians battling cancer – or other life threatening or chronic conditions – that they will have affordable access to the medicines they need.

If you need to see a specialist, the Medicare Cancer Plan will cover an additional 2,000 appointments a day – three million specialist consults with no out-of-pocket costs.

If you need a cancer scan – every MRI machine, in every postcode, will be eligible for Medicare.

If you need a CT scan, an X-Ray, a mammogram, a PET scan – this plan will cut the out-of-pocket costs and provide up to six million free scans and tests.

Today's announcements are just the beginning. Labor will have more to say about how our Medicare Cancer Plan will improve the care of Australians battling cancer and cut their out-of-pocket costs.

Every Australian deserves quality health care when and where they need it – your bank balance or your postcode should not be barriers to whether you get access to the health care.

Unfortunately under the Liberals' savage cuts to Medicare, out-of-pocket costs have increased across the board for GP consultations, specialist consultations and critical cancer procedures.

Scott Morrison has cut \$3 billion from the pockets of patients with his Medicare freeze and \$715 million from public hospitals – locking in further cuts until 2025.

Labor will reverse the Liberals' cuts to health, address rising out-of-pocket costs, fund the best cancer care and provide the support Australians need during one of the toughest periods in their lives.

We will pay for it by making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

Labor introduced Medicare, and we will always protect it. **More information on Labor's Medicare Cancer Plan is available [here](#).**

**AUSTRALIANS SLUGGED WITH MORRISON'S NEW PRIVATE HEALTH HIKE –King**  
**Millions of Australians will be slugged with another above-inflation private health insurance hike today because Scott Morrison has failed to stand up to his insurer mates and get prices under control.**

The latest Liberal price increase will force up annual premiums by \$64 for singles, \$122 for couples with obstetrics and \$160 for older couples. This means premiums have risen more than \$1,100 a year under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government – up more than 30 per cent since 2014.

Health insurance has [just become the number one cost concern](#) for Australian families, overtaking energy bills for the first time.

When everything is going up except people's wages, soaring private health insurance premiums – coupled with rampant out-of-pocket costs for care – are putting too much pressure on family budgets.

The Liberals promised to make insurance more affordable but all they've done is make it more profitable for the big insurers.

Their so-called private health insurance "reforms" - designed hand-in-hand with the industry while Mr Morrison was Treasurer - have clearly failed to get prices under control.

That's why more and more Australians are ditching or downgrading their cover.

In February, regulators confirmed another 12,370 people had dropped their cover in the December quarter.

As a result, the proportion of the population with hospital cover has dropped to 44.6 per cent – the lowest level since September 2007. If enough people do the same, the whole industry will be at risk of collapse.

The Government's changes to the tier system is also creating confusion and concern among consumers, many of whom will be forced to pay higher premiums today if they want to keep the same level of coverage they had yesterday.

This is yet another major change to our health system that the Government has failed to explain to the Australian people.

Only Labor has a real plan to fix private health insurance.

Labor will cap premium price increases at 2 per cent for two years, delivering families an average saving of \$340. We will also task the Productivity Commission with a sweeping review to identify long-term sustainable ways to bring down costs and improve quality.

Labor has already released an [issues paper](#) and is now examining submissions to inform the terms of reference and structure of the Productivity Commission inquiry.

Only with these policies can we shift the balance back in favour of consumers and get this industry back on track.

**SCOTT MORRISON LOCKS IN HIS PUBLIC HOSPITAL CUTS – Catherine King**  
**Scott Morrison has locked in his cuts to public hospitals in a too-little-too-late health budget full of reheated "announcements" that don't make up for six years of Liberal chaos.**



As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut hospitals in every budget he wrote.

And as Prime Minister, he's locked them in.

This was Morrison's last chance to finally reverse his savage hospital cuts – and he failed.

Budgets are about priorities. For six years, the Liberals have prioritised an \$80 billion tax handout for the top end of town over Medicare, schools and hospitals.

He's completely out of touch and only cares about the top end of town.

Morrison has refused to restore the \$715m he cut from hospitals under the current funding period and he's persisting with his plans to rip billions more out of hospitals over the next six years.

Patients will suffer because of these cuts as they are confronted with longer emergency department and elective surgery waiting times, or are forced to travel far from home for treatment.

Bill Shorten and Labor will deliver a fair go for Australia by reversing these cuts and

making massive new investments with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund.

And while Labor will always welcome new investments in general practice, this Budget doesn't come close to making up for the five-year rebate freeze that has ripped \$3 billion out of Medicare.

This is a freeze the Liberals first imposed in 2014. Now they're promising to lift it – matching Labor's long-held commitment - just six weeks out from an election.

Australians will see this for what it is – a cynical con job.

The rest of the Budget measures are reheated announcements, many of which just match commitments Labor has already made.

The difference is you cannot actually trust the Liberals to deliver on them.

This is the same Government that promised "no cuts to health" – just before it tried to impose a GP tax, make medicines more expensive, cut child dental benefits, cut \$57 billion from hospitals and decimate prevention programs.

The Liberals will say anything over the next six weeks to cover up for six years of cuts and chaos in the health portfolio. Their record says it all – they don't care about health and will always put the top end of town first.



## DISABILITY

### **BUDGET SURPLUS BUILT ON NDIS UNDERSPEND – Burney**

**The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has shamefully built almost a quarter of their projected budget surplus on underspends in the NDIS.**

Next year, Scott Morrison has counted a \$1.6 billion underspend towards the budget bottom line.

This is a disgrace, not an achievement.

It's \$1.6 billion in services and support that people with disability will miss out on because the Government has botched the NDIS rollout at every turn.

It comes on top of a shocking \$3.4 billion underspend in the 2018-19 financial year, and over \$6 billion to date.

This is a direct result of delays in the NDIS rollout – with over 77,000 people missing out on the NDIS this year alone.

And it is a consequence of people being unable to use their plans because services and support are simply not available.

The NDIS has fallen into crisis under this Government.

People are getting poor quality plans; they are not being treated with respect; services are being pushed to the brink; and waiting times are completely unacceptable.

After six year of neglect, the Government's knee-jerk announcement on NDIS prices – six weeks out from an election – is too little, too late.

The bottom line is, Australians with disability are the ones paying so Scott Morrison can bolster his books

## REGIONAL

### **MORE INVESTMENT IN THE ABC AND MORE REGIONAL JOBS – Shorten/Rowland/Jones**

**A Shorten Labor Government will provide \$13 million to the ABC to support regional broadcasting services, more local and regional content, emergency broadcasting and the creation of a News Literacy Program. This investment will also create more jobs in regional Australia.**

The ABC provides vital local news services. In fact, 17 million Australians consume some form of ABC content every week – it is part of our national fabric. That's why Labor will always stand up for the ABC and fight against the conservatives' unrelenting attacks against our public broadcaster.

The Coalition came to government on the promise of no cuts to the ABC. That was a lie.

Since 2013, the Liberals have cut \$366 million from the ABC, which has seen 800 staff forced to walk out the door, the shutdown of shortwave radio and a reduction in Australian content.

On top of these devastating cuts, the Liberals repealed the two out of three cross-media control rule, waving through further consolidation of media in Australia's already highly concentrated media market, including in regional areas.

In this environment, the ABC has an even greater responsibility to support the delivery of local and regional news, information gathering and emergency broadcasting.

While the ABC has stretched itself to invest in regional journalism and emergency broadcasting, a number of regional and outer-suburban areas with substantial populations remain underserved.

That's why Labor will provide the ABC with an additional \$13 million over three years – that means more content for regional areas and more local jobs. The funding will include:

- **\$10 million over three years for Local and Regional Media and Emergency Broadcasting.** This will enable the ABC to address coverage gaps and improve emergency broadcasting services in areas identified by the ABC as high need. It will also bring more local and state news to local and national audiences, and create over 30 new jobs.
- **\$3 million over three years for a News Literacy Program** that builds on the ABC's trusted foundational work, including the success of its 2018 Media Literacy week initiative, with a range of programs and initiatives for use by teachers and students to develop skills to become smart media consumers, and to educate young Australians about news. News literacy is one way to combat the spread of misinformation and the ability for our kids to discern what is real and what is fake information is more important than ever. This funding comes on top of our commitment to restore the Morrison Government's unfair \$83.7 million cut to the ABC which was locked in in Tuesday's con Budget. It is also in addition to our \$2 million commitment to restore shortwave radio in the NT and guarantee of stable funding over the next ABC budget cycle.

Labor understands the ABC is one of Australia's most trusted institutions, and now, more than ever, Australians need the ABC – our strong, trusted and independent public broadcaster.

Only Labor will support and maintain the ABC as our comprehensive national broadcaster because we will make multinationals pay their fair share and close tax loopholes used by the top end of town. **A factsheet with more information can be found [here](#).**

## EDUCATION

### **LABOR'S PLAN FOR SKILLS, TAFE AND APPRENTICES - Shorten/Plibersek/Cameron**

**A Shorten Labor Government will super charge the skills economy by reversing the decline in apprentices and restoring TAFE as the centrepiece of Australian vocational education.**

Under the Liberals, more than \$3 billion has been cut from TAFE, skills and apprentices, and Australia now has 150,000 fewer apprentices and trainees than when Labor left government in 2013.

Labor has announced a \$1 billion investment in Australian TAFE and Apprentices. This investment will provide 150,000 Additional Apprentice Incentives in areas of skill shortages – reversing the decline that has occurred under the Liberals.

If elected later this year, Labor will enable 100,000 students to go to TAFE without upfront fees.

A Shorten Labor Government will also:

- Invest \$200 million to rebuild and upgrade TAFE campuses across the country.
- Support 10,000 young Australians to do a pre-apprentice program to prepare them for work.
- Provide support for 20,000 older workers to retrain through an Advanced Adult Apprenticeship.
- Guarantee at least two out of three dollars of public funding goes to public TAFE.
- Require at least one in 10 jobs on all major infrastructure and defence projects to be filled by an apprentice.
- Establish an Apprentice Advocate, to improve the quality of Australia's apprentice system and develop a long term plan for skills and training.

On Tuesday night we saw the Treasurer's cynical pea and thimble trick with vocational education funding locking in a \$3 billion cut to the sector.

The 300,000 projected apprentices and trainees the government promised in 2017 has proven to be an illusion. The target in this Budget has now been revised down to just 80,000.

Josh Frydenberg's claim that he is increasing vocational education funding is nothing more than a cynical and desperate exercise to cover his cuts.

The reality is the Government has done absolutely nothing to address the 150,000 decline in apprenticeships or the 24.5 per cent drop in TAFE enrolments on their watch.

Labor will pay for our promises by making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

**A factsheet with more information can be found [here](#).**

### **LIBS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PEA AND THIMBLE TRICK FOOLS NOBODY – Cameron**

**The Liberals cynical pea and thimble trick with vocational education funding locks in their \$3 billion cut to the sector.**

Tonight's Budget confirms the Government's ever diminishing Skilling Australians Fund has been cut by a further \$649 million.

According to the Budget papers, the 300,000 projected apprentices and trainees the Fund was originally slated to deliver has now been cut to just 80,000.

Josh Frydenberg's claim that he is increasing vocational education funding is nothing more than a cynical and desperate exercise to cover their cuts.

The reality is the Government has done absolutely nothing to address the 140,000 decline in apprenticeships or the 24.5 per cent drop in TAFE enrolments on their watch.

While Victoria and Queensland have been completely written out of the Skilling Australians Fund, the other jurisdictions who signed on have had their allocations dramatically cut.

From the previous Budget, New South Wales loses \$50.1 million, Western Australia loses \$16 million, South Australia loses \$10.6 million, the Australian Capital Territory loses \$2.6 million and the Northern Territory loses \$1.4 million.

This is a breach of good faith by a desperate, divided and dysfunctional Government.

This type of treachery will have long term implications for the productive performance of the Australian economy.

Tonight's Budget does not address TAFE courses and campuses closing or teachers losing their jobs.

This Government simply cannot be trusted to develop and support a modern, effective vocational education system.

Only Labor has the policies to increase the capacity of the vocational education system and the skills of the Australian workforce.

If elected, a Shorten Labor government will guarantee at least two out of three public vocational education dollars go to TAFE.

Labor will deliver a fair go for VET students by:

- **waiving upfront fees for 100,000 students to attend TAFE**
- **investing \$100 million in modernising TAFE facilities around the country**
- **ensuring one in every 10 jobs on Commonwealth priority projects are filled by Australian apprentices**
- **providing 10,000 pre-apprenticeships for young people wanting to learn a trade**
- **providing 20,000 advanced entry apprenticeships for older workers to retrain**
- **appointing an Apprenticeship Advocate to ensure quality and protect apprentices**

Labor will also conduct a once in a generation inquiry into the post-secondary education system to identify and fix the problems created by the Liberals.

### **SIX YEARS OF THE LIBERALS ON SCHOOLS: CUTS, CHAOS & LIES – Plibersek/Giles**

**When it comes to the Liberal Party and schools, all we've had is six years of cuts, chaos, and lies – and Tuesday's Budget was no different.**

Six weeks before an election, Scott Morrison has delivered an election con with the same school cuts.

Before the 2013 election, the Liberals promised no cuts to education.

But after the election, they cut \$14 billion from schools.

You can't believe a thing the Liberals say on education.

They lied then, and they are lying now.

Scott Morrison is trying to trick people into believing schools have never had it better.

Parents and teachers know the truth.

They know Scott Morrison and the Liberals have spent the last six years cutting the guts out of schools.

And yesterday's Budget locks in all those same cruel Liberal cuts.

At the same time as Scott Morrison is ripping funding from schools, he wants to give the top end of town an \$80 billion tax handout. He is completely out of touch.

There is a clear choice for voters at what's shaping up to be an education election.

The Liberals with their cuts, chaos, and lies. Or Bill Shorten and Labor delivering a fair go for schools by:

- **investing an extra \$14 billion in public schools, so every child can reach their full potential;**

- bursaries of up to \$40,000 to encourage Australia's top achievers into teaching;
- establishing a new National Principals' Academy to give thousands of Australian principals advanced leadership training and support; and investing an additional \$300 million to ensure students with disability get the support they need at school.

## **LIBERALS WON'T FIX VET CRISIS WITH ELECTION EVE SPIN – Cameron**

Reports in the Courier Mail today that Scott Morrison has seen the light on TAFE, skills and apprenticeships after six years of savage Coalition cuts are a joke.

Australia's vocational education and training (VET) system is underfunded, fragmented, devalued and has no effective governance.

Since being elected, the Liberals have cut \$3 billion from VET and there are now more than 140,000 fewer Australian apprentices.

Over the same period, TAFE enrolments have plummeted by 24.5 per cent, dodgy for-profit training providers have flourished and thousands of students have accrued bad debts for courses they never undertook.

The Government's own regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority, said parts of the Australian training market are in *"a race to the bottom"* and the Productivity Commission has described the Australian VET system as *"a mess"*.

The Liberals mismanagement of VET sees Australia to the bottom of OECD international leader charts when it comes to our capacity to engage in global value chains.

If Australia's skills crisis really "played on the mind of Morrison" as reported, he would not have cut a further \$270 million from apprenticeships in last year's Budget when he was Treasurer.

And the Coalition would not have funded former Family First Senator Bob Day's 'Student Builder' pilot which cost a staggering \$92,000 per student.

Or the \$60 million One Nation-inspired *"Bush Wage"* which was ideologically tailored to exclude any employer that engages its staff under an enterprise bargaining agreement.

This means thousands of the small businesses with a proven track record of investing in their employees are not eligible for the overly generous scheme.

Instead, about 1600 regional businesses that pay minimum wages, most having never invested in apprentices, are receiving the windfall.

Added to all this, the Government was forced to abandon the failed Australian Apprenticeship Management System, wasting \$24 million of public money.

Women continue to bear the brunt of the Coalition's ineptitude with a further 4.4 per cent drop in those commencing apprenticeships and traineeships in the 12 months to September 2018.

If elected, a Shorten Labor government will guarantee at least two out of three public vocational education dollars go to TAFE.

Labor will also:

- waive upfront fees for 100,000 students to attend TAFE
- invest \$100 million in modernising TAFE facilities around the country
- ensure one in every 10 jobs on Commonwealth priority projects are filled by Australian apprentices
- provide 10,000 pre-apprenticeships for young people wanting to learn a trade
- provide 20,000 advanced entry apprenticeships for older workers to retrain
- appoint an Apprenticeship Advocate to ensure quality and protect apprentices

Labor will also conduct a once in a generation inquiry into the post-secondary education system to identify and fix the problems created by the Liberals.

It's taken an impending election for the Coalition to finally admit that the VET system is failing under their government, and they are taking the electorate for fools if they think people will believe they have the will or capacity to fix it.

## **ECONOMY**

### **FAIRER TAX CUTS FOR WORKING AUSTRALIANS – Shorten/Bowen**

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver better tax cuts for 3.6 million working Australians who have been ripped off by the Liberals.

We will support the increase to the Low- and Middle-Income Tax Offset proposed in the Budget and will deliver tax relief from July 1 this year.

But the Liberals' unfair Budget leaves 3.6 million Australians earning less than \$48,000 a year short-changed.

#### **Size of tax cut for individuals:**

Taxable income	Liberals' Plan	Labor's Plan
25,000	255	350
30,000	255	350
35,000	255	350
40,000	480	549
45,000	855	881
48,000	1,080	1,080
80,000	1,080	1,080
100,000	915	915
120,000	315	315

To give these workers the tax cut they deserve, Labor will increase the offset for low-income and part-time workers.

With Labor, 10 million Australians will get the same or bigger tax cut.

Under Labor's changes, which will apply from the 2018-19 financial year, workers earning up to \$37,000 a year will receive a tax cut of up to \$350. For workers earning between \$37,000 and \$48,000 a year, the value of the offset will increase up to the maximum offset of \$1,080.

The Liberals' decision not to give a decent tax cut to low-income Australians leaves 3.6 million people worse off under the Liberals compared with Labor – and 57 per cent of these taxpayers are women.

By not providing a tax cut that is equal to Labor's commitment, the Liberals' are threatening over three million working class Australians – mostly women – with higher taxes.

Families are already dealing with cuts to child care and no funding certainty for kindergarten under the Liberals, the last thing they need is



higher taxes under the Liberals.

A retail worker on \$35,000 a year would get a tax cut of \$255 a year under the Liberals, compared to \$350 in Labor's plan.

A part-time nurse on \$40,000 a year would get a tax cut of \$480 a year under the Liberals, compared to \$549 in Labor's plan.

The Liberals' priorities are all wrong. With the Liberals, low-income workers get less than \$5 a week, but an investment banker gets more than \$11,000 a year in tax cuts. It is not fair or responsible to lock-in billions of dollars of tax giveaways that disproportionately benefit a relative few – and so far into the future.

Labor can pay for better tax cuts for 3.6 million Australians – without the Liberals' cuts to schools and hospitals – because of our reform decisions to make multinationals pay their fair share and close tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

This policy has been costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office and has a fiscal impact of \$1.05 billion over the forward estimates.

**NO PLAN TO LIFT WAGES GROWTH AS FORECASTS DOWN AGAIN – O'Connor/Terri Butler**  
**After six years of cuts and chaos, and six weeks before an election, the Budget confirms what Labor has been saying - that the economy is not working for everyday Australians.**

The Morrison Government's election con does nothing to address serious problems with stagnant wages and insecure work.

Wages growth forecasts have been downgraded again from 3 per cent to 2.75 per cent in 2019-20, and from 3.5 per cent to 3.25 per cent in 2020-21.

Everything is going up in Australia except for wages. Cost of living is up, power bills and health insurance bills are sky-rocketing, and families are suffering from Liberals' cuts to schools and hospitals, and the don't have a plan to address stagnant wages growth.

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, company profits are growing five times faster than wages and the Liberals response is to vote 8 times to cut penalty rates.

This is a government which believes that keeping wages low is a "deliberate design feature" of their economic plan.

The reheated Tony Abbott stunt of creating 1.25 million jobs over five years essentially amounts to jobs growth which is simply keeping pace with population growth. It is hollow without policies to address the underlying structural problems of insecure work, underemployment and stagnant wages.

The Australian labour market faces persistent problems of underemployment and growing insecure work. There around 1.1 million underemployed Australians looking for more work, but unable to find it.

Australians deserve a pay rise – and they aren't getting one under Scott Morrison and his Liberals.

Bill Shorten and Labor will deliver a fair go for Australia by standing up for workers. We will reverse cuts to penalty rates, crack down on the abuse of labour hire, make sure the minimum wage is a living wage, take steps to close the gender pay gap, and crack down on sham contracting, wage theft and worker exploitation.

### **ELECTION CON CAN'T COVER UP SIX YEARS OF CUTS AND CHAOS – Bowen/Chalmers**



**After six years of the Liberals' cuts and chaos, and just six weeks before an election, this budget was Scott Morrison's last chance to reverse his cuts to the services that everyday Australians rely on.**

Instead, Scott Morrison has delivered an election con, filled with the same Liberal cuts.

This is a Budget from a government that has given up governing.

There is no plan for wages, no plan to tackle power prices, no plan to address climate change, and no plan for the future.

This budget:

- Fails to reverse cuts to schools and hospitals.
- Fails to reverse cuts to TAFE and apprenticeships – in the past six years, the Liberals have cut \$3 billion from TAFE and skills, and cut 150,000 apprenticeship places.
- Promises a surplus that is subsidised by short-changing people with disability through a massive underspend in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

This budget also confirms that the economy is not working for everyday Australians:

- Everything is going up except wages – wages growth has again been cut.
- Economic growth is slowing – downgraded from MYEFO.
- Household consumption is down – downgraded from MYEFO.

The budget confirms net debt has more than doubled on the Liberals' watch (up from \$175 billion in 2013 to \$373.5 billion this year). Net debt under the Liberals amounts to nearly \$15,000 for every person in Australia. After doubling the debt, their promise to pay it down is laughable.

The Liberals will say anything over the next six weeks to cover up for six years of cuts and chaos.

Labor will support the tax cuts that begin on 1 July for working and middle class people – this is essentially a copy of what we proposed last year, and they are simply catching up to us.

But the Liberals are so out of touch that they've given a much smaller tax cut to two million Australians earning less than \$40,000. Labor will fix this and give these working people the tax relief they deserve.

The Liberals are presiding over an economy that doesn't work in the interests of everyday Australians. Scott Morrison is too out of touch to understand this.

He is too out of touch to understand that everything is going up except for wages. He is too out of touch to understand that his cuts to Medicare, hospitals, schools and penalty rates have hurt Australian families.

Budgets are about priorities. For six years, the Liberals have prioritised an \$80 billion tax handout for the top end of town over Medicare, schools and hospitals.

A Shorten Labor Government will have different priorities. For nearly six years, our united and stable team has been working hard on our plan for a fair go for all Australians.

Our Fair Go Action Plan will put people first. If elected we will.

- **Fix our schools and hospitals.** Restore funding cut by the Liberals and Nationals, to ensure every community has quality public schools and hospitals.
- **Ease pressure on family budgets.** Tax breaks for workers, not the top end of town.
- **Stand up for workers.** Reverse cuts to penalty rates and crack down on abuse of labour hire and 457 visas.
- **Invest in cheaper, cleaner energy.** More renewables to put downward pressure on power prices
- **Build a strong economy that works for us all.** Make the top end of town pay their fair share, so we can build new infrastructure and give workers a fair go.

We will pay for it by making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

**Bill Shorten and Labor will deliver a fair go for all Australians, not just the top end of town.** [www.FairGoActionPlan.com.au](http://www.FairGoActionPlan.com.au)

## **TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR COMPETITION RIP-OFFS – Bowen/Madeleine King/Leigh**

**Labor will make the Australian economy fairer and more competitive by raising the penalties for competition and consumer breaches to levels in line with other advanced nations.**

In recent years, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has brought cases against a veritable who's who of major firms. Telstra was fined for misleading consumers about its premium direct billing services. Ford was fined for engaging in unconscionable conduct in relation to a problem with its transmissions. Japanese shipping companies Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha and K-Line were convicted of criminal cartel conduct. Senior staff at three major banks currently face criminal cartel charges relating to a \$2.5 billion capital raising.

Yet as the OECD [noted](#) last year, 'the maximum penalties that are imposed in Australia are nonetheless lower than in comparable jurisdictions for competition law infringements'. The OECD pointed out that in a sample of major Australian cartel cases, the average pecuniary penalty in Australia was just one twelfth as large as in comparator jurisdictions.

To address this, Labor will raise the maximum dollar penalty for companies that break competition laws and rip off consumers from \$10 million to \$50 million.

We will also adopt a higher standard for competition law breaches, being 30 per cent of the annual sales of the product or service relating to the infringement, multiplied by the number of years the infringement took place. This follows the approach taken by the European Union.

Australian markets are heavily concentrated. In petroleum wholesaling, department stores, banking, health insurance, supermarkets, newspapers, domestic airlines, internet service providers and iron ore mining, the four largest firms control more than 80 per cent of the market. Increased concentration is often associated with reduced competition, resulting in higher prices and higher inequality, and lower productivity, innovation, investment, quality and consumer choice.

As ACCC head Rod Sims [said a year ago](#): "We do not want the penalties for breaches of our competition laws to be seen as an acceptable cost of doing business in Australia... to achieve effective deterrence we need penalties that are large enough to be noticed by senior management and company boards, and also shareholders. This is certainly not the case now."

Labor has led the policy debate on ensuring that the penalties fit the offence. We went to the 2016 election pledging to increase maximum penalties under the Australian Consumer Law from \$1.1 million to \$10 million. The Coalition adopted our policy in their 2017 budget.

Concentrated industries have had a range of competition and consumer scandals in recent years, including in banking, insurance, supermarkets and petrol.

Penalties must be high enough that no company can dismiss them as the mere cost of doing business.

Competition reform is a vital part of Labor's growth agenda. Labor's competition reforms of the early-1990s are widely regarded as one of the factors behind the productivity surge in that decade. Saturday's announcement builds on our extensive suite of pro-competition measures.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **ANGUS TAYLOR MODELLING LIES EXPOSED – Mark Butler**

**This week in Senate Estimates, officials of ARENA exposed the lies of Energy Minister Angus Taylor about Brian Fisher's BAEconomics modelling, which the government has been using to attack Labor's plan for real action on climate change.**

Labor utterly rejects this modelling as a biased exercise designed to grossly inflate the costs of real climate action.

Part of this bias results from absurd renewable energy storage cost assumptions, as high as \$200 MWh, when already Snowy Hydro are selling 24/7 renewable power contracts for \$70 MWh, which includes the cost of generation as well as storage.

When asked about these inflated costs by Fran Kelly on 19 March, Minister Taylor insisted:

***"The modelling uses ARENA's storage,... Well the modelling is based on ARENA's assumptions, .... But the point is, it's using ARENA modelling."***

Yesterday in Senate Estimates, Senator Anne Urquhart asked ARENA whether ARENA consulted or provided input into the Brian Fisher BAEconomics modelling, with officials responding **"No"** to both questions.

More shockingly, when repeatedly asked about whether the Fisher BAEconomics modelling storage cost assumptions corresponded to, were based on or were consistent with ARENA analysis of storage costs, officials stated:

***"we don't know the genesis of the storage costs that are apparent in the BAE report ... it is very difficult for us to comment on the BAE report, we had no input into it and while we sought to understand the figures in the BAE report, by even talking to the report's author, we are still unclear how those numbers came about... we had no input into it... it's still very unclear how or whether our numbers have been used."***

The Energy Minister Angus Taylor has been caught in a bald faced lie to the ABC's Fran Kelly and to the Australian people.

After 5 years of rising emissions, the Australian people know they cannot trust the Liberal's to act on climate. Now they know beyond a doubt

they cannot trust the Liberal's to be honest about the costs of climate action.

The Liberals will run their typical scare campaign against climate action in the coming election; claiming nigh-time sports will end, meat pies will become a thing of the past, whole industries will close down, and countless other claims, each more absurd than the last, in a desperate and hysterical attempt to avoid taking real action to protect our environment and prosperity.

The Australian people deserve so much better, they deserve real action on climate, and that's what a Shorten Labor government will deliver.

### **WORST SUMMER IN BASIN'S HISTORY AND THE BUDGET CHANGES NOTHING - Burke**

**Not an additional dollar in the budget to help the rivers in the Murray Darling Basin.**

The Federal Treasurer seems unaware of that the Murray Darling Basin has faced one of the worst summers in history. We've seen massive fish kills near Menindee and smaller events in many parts of the Basin but the budget has ignored the rivers in the Murray Darling Basin.

There has been report after report in to the Basin and fish kills:

- the Productivity Commission review of the implementation of the Basin Plan;
- the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission;
- the Academy of Sciences review in to the fish kills; and
- the review commissioned by the Minister in to the fish kills.

But the Government seems intent on doing nothing.

Labor is committed to helping our rivers and restoring the Basin Plan. We have already introduced a Bill to repeal Barnaby Joyce's 1500GL cap on buybacks. In addition, we have committed to:

- Requiring the Basin Authority to update the science
- An urgent review of climate change impacts on the Basin now and into the future to determine any change in inflows and evaporation rates
- Urgently renegotiating the Menindee agreement, which determines how the lakes are managed and is now decades out of date, and
- Restoring the current socio-economic test for delivery of the 450GL through on-farm infrastructure projects in the Basin Plan.

Labor will continue to stand up for the environment and protect the Murray-Darling Basin.

### **LIBERAL TRAIN WRECK ON CLIMATE POLICY CONTINUES- Mark Butler**

This week in Senate Estimates, under questioning by Senator Kristina Keneally, evidence presented once again demonstrated how hopeless the Liberal Government's climate change policy is.



#### **Lowlights included:**

**An Electric Vehicle (EV) con job confirmed:** When asked about how the government established it would cut transport emissions by 10MT of CO2 by 2030, the Department of Environment and Energy confirmed this abatement was based on an assumption that EVs "would make up between 25% and 50% of new car sales by 2030". But when asked about specific policies to drive this EV take-up, the Department confirmed the government's policy was an EV strategy that "hasn't been written yet".

**Counting non-Commonwealth projects:** The Department confirmed that the government's Climate Solutions package allocated 25MT CO2 of abatement to the Battery of the Nation project, even though that project has not received a final investment decision, is a Hydro Tasmania project (not a Commonwealth project), its size has yet to be determined and it relies on continued renewable investment to deliver

any abatement, while the Liberals refuse to provide any policy support for new renewable investment post 2020.

**Climate Modelling Hypocrisy:** The Department also confirmed the hypocrisy of the Liberal government which criticises Labor for not providing modelling of our Climate Change Action plan, saying they "haven't attempted to put these measures (Climate Solutions package) through a whole of economy modelling exercise".

The Government even refused to stand by the Brian Fisher BAEconomics modelling the government regularly uses to criticise Labor's policy, modelling which Labor utterly rejects.

After pointing out this modelling concludes that by 2030, the Liberal's policy will:

- Include a \$92 carbon price,
- Cost 75,000 jobs, and
- Cost \$90 billion in lost GDP,

the government refused to stand by this modelling, with Minister Birmingham saying "it's not for me to stand by it".

While the government is happy to use this modelling to attack Labor, they run away from what the same modelling concludes about their own policy. The Liberal Government simply isn't up to addressing the real and pressing challenges of climate change. As former Prime Minister Turnbull has stated, "the Liberal Party and the Coalition is not capable of dealing with climate change".

### **LIBERAL CLIMATE POLICY LASTS FIVE WEEKS BEFORE CUTS – Mark Butler**

After six years of rising pollution and inaction on climate change, and six weeks before an election, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has already cut his government's main policy to deliver his weak 2030 pollution reduction targets.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February this year, feeling the pressure to be seen to act on climate after the hottest summer on record, the Prime Minister doubled down on Tony Abbott's failed Emission Reduction Fund policy [announcing](#) the rebadged Climate Solutions Fund "with an additional \$2 billion investment over the next ten years."



This was the policy that was meant to do the heavy lifting to deliver the government's 2030 emission reduction targets, even though government data projects Australia will fail to meet even this government's weak emission reduction targets. Yet just five weeks after announcing the Climate Solutions Fund, the first Morrison budget has cut the funding by spreading the \$2 billion allocation over 15 years instead of 10 years. This is a Budget from a government that has given up governing, and never tried to deliver real climate action, because they don't really believe it.

There is no plan to tackle power prices, no plan to address climate change, and no plan for the future.

Bill Shorten and Labor will deliver a fair go for Australia through a comprehensive climate change action plan to deliver on our 45 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030, net zero emissions by 2050 as well as bringing down power prices with our target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

Only Labor will deliver real action on climate change to deliver lower pollution, lower power prices and a stronger economy.

### **PARTNERING WITH BIG BUSINESS TO BRING DOWN POLLUTION – Shorten/Mark Butler**

**A Shorten Labor Government will work with Australia's biggest industrial polluters to help them cut their pollution, grow their business and create a cleaner future for the next generation. Ignoring climate change isn't the answer.**

Real action on climate change isn't just about protecting our environment – it's about future-proofing our economy and protecting jobs. Under the Liberals and Nationals industrial pollution has risen by 17 percent, and their own projections show it will rise all the way to 2030. That's why Labor will work in partnership with business to help bring down pollution – providing overdue policy certainty and helping the industrial sector plan for the future.

There will be no carbon tax, carbon pricing mechanism, or government revenue.

Rather, Labor will reduce pollution from the biggest industrial polluters by extending the existing pollution cap implemented by Malcolm Turnbull – the safeguard mechanism.

The safeguard mechanism was established under the Liberals and Nationals to cap industrial pollution for the biggest polluters, by setting pollution limits or 'baselines' for covered facilities.

However, the Liberals and Nationals have failed to make this mechanism effective in bringing down pollution, or incentivising reduction of pollution below a facility's baseline.

Labor has listened to industry and stakeholders who desperately want stability after this chaotic government – they don't want to start from scratch with another mechanism. Industry feedback has been unanimous, businesses want Labor to expand the safeguard mechanism, and we've listened. Labor will expand the safeguard mechanism to make it effective and relevant:

- **Coverage will be extended to apply to the biggest industrial polluters.** Labor will work with industry to extend coverage to a threshold of 25,000 tonnes of direct CO2 pollution annually, and we will consult with industry on this coverage threshold and how it is phased in. It's estimated around 250 of Australia's biggest industrial polluters would be captured by this threshold - just 0.01 per cent of all businesses. The agricultural sector will not be covered by the expanded safeguard mechanism, and Labor will work with the red meat industry-owned Research and Development Corporation, Meat and Livestock Australia, to help it meet its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. Likewise, electricity sector facilities will not be included – they will be covered separately by Labor's Energy Plan.
- **Pollution levels will be reduced:** Labor's safeguard mechanism will reduce industrial pollution in line with Labor's targets – fixing one of the biggest issues with the current safeguards mechanism, its failure to bring down pollution. Labor will consult with industry on the baselines and trajectories that apply to each covered entity.
- **Businesses will be able to earn credits for overachievement:** Labor will allow for businesses to earn credits and be rewarded for reducing pollution below their baselines, which they can sell or carry over to meet their future pollution cap. This means businesses can make money out of cutting pollution.
- **Emissions intensive trade exposed industries (EITEs) will be supported to keep Australian businesses competitive** - In recognition that emission intensive trade exposed industries face particular challenges in reducing pollution while maintaining their international competitiveness, Labor will provide tailored treatment for EITEs such as steel, aluminium and cement. This will ensure they face comparable impacts from climate change policies as their competitors do in relevant international markets. Labor will also establish a Strategic Industries Taskforce and \$300m Strategic Industries Reserve Fund to support these industries in finding solutions to cut pollution and remain competitive. Labor will consult with industry and experts on baselines that should apply to individual entities and how they will decrease over time. In addition, Labor will put in place a well-functioning offset market and reinvigorate the land offset market. Currently, a facility that emits more than its baseline must offset excess emissions by purchasing offsets, primarily from the land sector. But currently businesses cannot access international offsets, or offsets from the electricity sector. Labor will make it easier for covered businesses to meet any offset obligations, not only by allowing for the creation and sale of offsets if emissions fall below baselines, but also through the purchase of international offsets and potentially offsets from the electricity sector. We will also boost offset supply through revitalising the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) - including reforms to strengthen the integrity of the CFI, and increasing land and other sector abatement opportunities. This will include exploring the establishment of 'premium' land sector credits to provide substantial environmental, biodiversity and other co-benefits, establishing a Carbon Assessment Standard to boost the bankability of offset projects, and re-vitalising offset methodology research and development with an additional \$40 million in funding over four years. Labor's plan will help industry reduce pollution at least cost, and give traditional owners, farmers, the forestry industry and traditional owners new opportunities to earn income. Labor will also abolish the Liberal's ineffective and expensive Emission Reduction Fund (ERF). The ERF has failed to drive down Australia's emissions, while costing Australian taxpayers \$2.25 billion, with the Liberals pledging a further \$2 billion for this ineffective policy. Labor's approach isn't about punishing polluters, it's about partnering with industry to find real, practical solutions to cut pollution, in a way that protects and grows industry and jobs. The Liberal Party is full of climate sceptics and hopelessly divided on climate change – Scott Morrison even brought a lump of coal into Parliament instead of a climate policy.



The Liberals and Nationals have pushed up power prices and pollution by undermining investment in renewable energy and backing power privatisations – and their chaos and division means industry can't adequately plan and invest in the future.

There is only one major political party serious about real action on climate change – Labor. That's because we are determined to pass on a better deal to the next generation – and we will partner with business and industry to achieve it.

Only Labor will deliver real action on climate change and lower pollution, lower power prices and a stronger economy.

More information is available at [https://www.alp.org.au/climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan](https://www.alp.org.au/climate_change_action_plan).

### **FOR OUR KIDS SAKE WE WILL ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE Shorten/Mark Butler**

**A Shorten Labor Government will reduce pollution, invest in renewable energy and take real action on climate change – to ensure we hand on a better deal to the next generation.**

After six years of chaos, uncertainty and rising pollution under the Liberals, Australians need stability and certainty on climate change policy – that's what our plan delivers.

**Ignoring climate change is simply not an answer.**

Australia needs leadership - to protect jobs, grow the economy, cut pollution and deal with more extreme weather like droughts and floods, with natural disasters already costing the economy \$18 billion a year.

At the same time, Australian households are seeing their power bills soar - families and businesses are taking this into their own hands and backing renewable energy because they know more renewables means lower power prices.

Labor is committed to reducing Australia's pollution by 45 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero pollution by 2050.

We are also committed to 50 per cent renewable energy in our electricity mix by 2030.

Labor's plan will tackle climate change to keep the economy growing by:

- **Investing in renewable energy and batteries to grow jobs and cut power bills** – With almost two million Australian households having solar panels, Australians are enthusiastic adopters of renewables. Labor will empower Australians to take advantage of cheaper, clean renewable energy and storage, by offering \$2000 rebates for solar batteries for 100,000 households, with a target of 1,000,000 batteries by 2025. We will also double the original investment in the Clean Energy Finance Corporation by \$10 billion, supporting new generation and storage across the country. Labor's investment will support our target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 for the nation's electricity generation, which will see cleaner and cheaper power and more than 70,000 new jobs.
- **Boosting clean transport and infrastructure** – A key part of tackling pollution will be tackling transport emissions - which make up almost 20 per cent of Australia's emissions and one of the fastest growing sources of pollution. Labor will implement Australia's first national electric vehicle policy, setting a national electric vehicle target of 50 per cent new car sales by 2030 and introducing vehicle emissions standards to reduce pollution and make the cost of driving a car cheaper for consumers.
- **Working in partnership with business to help bring down pollution** – Labor will reduce pollution by big polluters over the decade by extending the existing pollution cap implemented by Malcolm Turnbull – the safeguard mechanism. Australia's biggest industrial polluters (about 250 – or just 0.01 per cent of all businesses) will be covered by Labor's scheme, which will not include the agricultural sector. Pollution caps will be reduced over time and Labor will make it easier for businesses to meet these caps by allowing for industrial and international offsets. Facilities can also earn credits and make money from reducing pollution below their baselines. Labor will not introduce a carbon tax or new a carbon pricing mechanism and our reforms will not raise any government revenue.
- **Supporting trade exposed industries to keep Australian businesses competitive** – Emission intensive trade exposed industries (EITEs), such as steel, aluminium and cement, face additional barriers to cutting pollution while staying competitive in global markets. In recognition of this, Labor will provide tailored treatment for EITEs under the extended safeguard mechanism. This will ensure they face comparable impacts from climate change policies as their competitors do in relevant international markets. Labor will also establish a Strategic Industries Taskforce and \$300m Strategic Industries Reserve Fund to support these industries in finding solutions to cut pollution and remain competitive.
- **Helping the land sector to cut pollution while giving farmers and the forestry industry new opportunities to earn income** – No one knows our land better than our farmers - they've been leading the way in responding to climate change. The agricultural sector will be exempt from the expanded safeguard mechanism - we won't have targets for farmers. Labor wants to see Australia's land sector supply more affordable offsets for pollution, which will reduce the cost of abatement for business and give farmers and regional communities greater economic opportunities. We will review and reinvigorate the carbon farming initiative, and develop a high-quality, well-functioning offset market. Labor will also put in place new federal legislation to bring broad-scale land clearing under control. Where states properly regulate land clearing, such as in Queensland, Labor will take no action.

In addition, Labor has taken the decision not to allow the use of Kyoto credits to meet its Paris targets. By allowing the carryover of Kyoto credits, the Liberals' already weak target effectively falls from 26 per cent to 16 per cent. Using Kyoto credits is fake action on climate change, and Ukraine is the only other country in the world to confirm they will do this.

Labor will restore and reform important institutions like the Climate Change Authority, and to make sure we can adapt to a changing climate, we will conduct the first ever comprehensive Climate Change Assessment on the likely and potential impacts of climate change on all aspects of Australian life.

Our policy has been developed in consultation with industry and experts, and it builds on already announced policies like our Energy Plan and Hydrogen Plan.

**It's a good plan for families, for industry – and for the planet.**

The Liberal Party is full of climate sceptics and hopelessly divided on climate change – Scott Morrison even brought a lump of coal into Parliament instead of a climate policy.

The Liberals have helped push up power prices by having 13 different energy policies, undermining investment in renewable energy, supporting taxpayer money for new coal plants and backing power privatisations.

There is only one major political party serious about real action on climate change – Labor. That's because we are determined to pass on a better deal to the next generation.

Only Labor will deliver real action on climate change to deliver lower pollution, lower power prices and a stronger economy.

More information is available at [https://www.alp.org.au/climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan](https://www.alp.org.au/climate_change_action_plan)

### **LABOR'S PLAN TO CREATE A CLEANER AUSTRALIA – Shorten/Wong/Burke/Carr**

**A Shorten Labor Government will make Australia a world leader in tackling plastic use and boosting recycling – investing \$290 million to cut waste and handing on a cleaner Australia for the next generation.**

Labor will protect our vulnerable wildlife and reduce the amount of waste generated by putting in place a national ban on plastic products like microbeads and single-use plastic bags.

Plastic has a devastating impact on our natural environment – more than a thirds of the world's sea turtles were found to have plastic waste in their stomachs, and it is estimated around 90 per cent of seabirds eat plastic waste. Plastic breaks up into smaller pieces over time, becoming harder to manage and clean up and filtering through to waterways, lakes and oceans.

That's why Labor will introduce a national ban on lightweight, single use plastic bags and microbeads from 2021. We will consult with states, territories and industry on how best to do this. This will create a consistent approach across the country – following moves of many state and territories to phase out single-use plastic bags, as well as manufacturers phasing out microbeads.

In addition, Labor will also implement a broader Recycling and Waste Strategy, including:

- The creation of a **National Container Deposit Scheme** – Labor will work with COAG to ensure states with existing schemes are consistent. These schemes incentivise recycling, and increase the quality of recyclables by separating out materials – making it far cheaper to be able to recycle in Australia. One of the reasons Australia exports so much waste to be recycled overseas is the cost of sorting materials so they can be recycled. States without a scheme will not be forced to participate in the national scheme, but will be invited to join.
- Establishing a **National Waste Commissioner** – To work with states and local government and help educate the community on solutions to waste. The Commissioner will also be charged with working with industry on the expansion of schemes for the recycling of products when they are at the end of their use – the Product Stewardship Schemes. There are existing schemes for TVs, computers and mobile phones – the Commissioner will look at the expansion of these schemes to other products which are currently ending up in landfills at alarming rates – including e-waste, batteries, and whitegoods such as microwaves. The Commissioner will cost \$15 million over six years.
- Investing in the domestic recycling industry – Labor will invest **\$60 million National Recycling Fund**. This will fund projects to encourage recycling, including funding for innovative waste solutions, local government recycling facilities and material processing facilities, and new approaches to tackling food waste. A Labor Government will engage with industry, the research sector and the wider community to integrate waste processing and recycling into a 21<sup>st</sup> century industrial system, based on Industry 4.0 principles. Already used materials and products will be reprocessed and integrated back into the economy for greater productivity. This shift must take place across the full range of manufacturing industries – steel and aluminium, chemicals, plastics, automotive and electronics. It will require a focus on innovation and development of capabilities, at the industry and the enterprise levels, and the acquisition of new capabilities will in turn create new job opportunities.
- Tackling marine plastics through **\$15 million to assist our neighbours clean up the Pacific Ocean** - Recent media notes that there is an estimated 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic, weighing 80,000 tonnes in the Pacific Ocean. The Australian Marine Conservation Society estimates there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans by 2050. As an island continent and developed country Australia has a responsibility within our region to clean up our oceans. This will see Australia play its part in our region by funding international efforts to reduce marine litter through the United Nations Environment Programme, regional and bilateral assistance to Pacific nations, and funding of efforts to clean rivers and waterways in Southeast Asian neighbours, including through ASEAN-led initiatives.
- **Setting targets for government to purchase recycled products** – As one of Australia's largest procurers, there is an opportunity to make the Australian Government a national leader in waste and recycling by prioritising the purchase of recycled products. Labor will also ask the Infrastructure Department to investigate whether recycled products can feasibly be used as road base for infrastructure projects. Sunday's announcement builds on Labor's plan to clean up Australia's urban waterways and stop plastics from reaching our oceans through our **\$200 million Urban Rivers and Corridors program** – partnering with community organisations and environmental groups to revitalise the nation's waterways and make them safe and clean places.

Last year COAG agreed to a set of 2025 targets to reduce plastics – including that 100 per cent of all Australia's packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 or earlier. Labor endorses these targets. The Federal Government has been missing in action – Labor's plan will provide the national leadership needed to get the country on track to meet our 2025 targets.

Australians want action from government to help reduce waste and build a circular economy. So while many Australians do their duty – they recycle, compost, use keep cups for their morning coffee – we need the government to take a leading role to tackle some of the big, structural problems.

For too long, the federal government has left issues of recycling, plastics and waste to state governments and local governments. And, while local and state governments have generally moved in a positive direction, plastics and waste are now becoming both a national and international problem.

We will pay for this plan by making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

Only Labor is committed to delivering a better deal to the generation.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

### THE TRUTH ABOUT SCOTT MORRISON'S INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET – Albanese

Australians would have to re-elect the Morrison Government at least twice before they see the bulk of the extra infrastructure investment promised in Tuesday night's Budget.

Less than 48 hours after it was delivered, Scott Morrison's Budget has emerged as a pre-election con job, with the bulk of the promised infrastructure funding not due to flow for at least four years.

Mr Morrison has reluctantly acknowledged the need to invest in infrastructure to boost productivity and tackle traffic congestion, but is deferring any action to reverse his previous cuts and neglect.

Overwhelmingly the Budget announcements won't commence in the next term or maybe even the term after that.

These are grand promises on the Never Never.

Australia needs a Labor Government with a genuine, properly thought-out plan to invest in our cities and regions in the national interest in its first term in office – not years later.



The Government's own Budget Papers lay bare the reality of a Budget based on smoke and mirrors, rather than a genuine plan to invest in our nation. They reveal the following:

#### **QUEENSLAND**

- Promised extra funding: \$2.6 billion.
- Reality: Nothing next year; \$313 million, or 12 per cent, to flow over the next four years.

#### **GREEN ROAD & CAR INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURE – Shorten/Mark Butler/Albanese/Chalmers/Carr**

**A Shorten Labor Government will future-proof Australia's road networks so they can support the uptake of electric vehicles – creating a \$200 million fund to rollout charging infrastructure across the country.**

Cleaner cars and transport aren't just good for the environment – they are cheaper to run. But Australia lags behind our competitor countries, whether it's in electric vehicle take-up, or vehicle fuel efficiency. We have ten times lower electric vehicle take-up than the global average, and we're at risk of being left behind.

That's why a Shorten Labor Government will provide overdue leadership and policy to catch Australia up and save motorists at the bowser – with a national electric vehicle target of 50 per cent new car sales by 2030.

**To support this target, Labor will invest \$100 million in the rollout of charging stations across the country.**

**This will be in the form of a grant program to match industry as well as state and local government proposals – building up to \$200 million fund in total – to deliver around 200 fast charging stations.**

Labor's \$200 million fund will target rural and regional Australia and Australia's most critical road corridors to encourage the take up of electric vehicles.



Locations for regional fast chargers will be carefully chosen to complement - not duplicate- current and proposed charger locations, and target key regional routes and destinations where providing charging points may not be merited solely on commercial grounds.

This would not only give regional communities and businesses, including freight operators, greater access to affordable charging facilities, it would also be good for regional tourism.

A properly constructed national charging network would unlock millions of tonnes of carbon emission reductions. Long-distance highway travel accounts for 15 per cent of vehicle kilometres travelled in Australia, or about 2.8 billion litres of fuel consumption and 6.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually, or

65 million tonnes over the decade to 2030.

This announcement builds on Labor's electric vehicle policy – a comprehensive plan to work with Australia's transport sector to cut vehicle emissions, boost adoption of electric vehicles and help Australians save on their petrol bills.

Labor's strategy will include:

- **A national electric vehicle target of 50 per cent new car sales by 2030** - The global transition to electric vehicles is well underway, but the Liberals' failure to deliver credible climate change and electric vehicle policies means Australia is now last among western countries for electric vehicle uptake. Incredibly, New Zealand has more electric vehicles than Australia. Setting a national target will deliver more affordable electric vehicles into the Australian market and drive the switch to electric vehicles, reducing their cost, create thousands of jobs and cutting pollution.
- **Set a government electric vehicle target of 50 per cent of new purchases and leases of passenger vehicles by 2025** - This government fleet target will send a strong signal to the global industry that we expect cost competitive vehicles to be available for the Australian market. Government electric vehicle fleets will also be important in developing a second hand market. Labor will work towards requiring all Commonwealth-owned-and-leased office buildings to include the provision of charging infrastructure where appropriate.
- **Growing private electric vehicle fleets:** Labor will allow businesses an upfront tax deduction to purchase electric vehicles for business purposes, as part of Labor's announced Australian Investment Guarantee. We will allow business to immediately deduct 20 per cent depreciation for EV vehicles valued at more than \$20,000 as part of private fleets
- **Regulatory reforms and COAG agenda:** Labor will establish an electric vehicle COAG agenda to improve coordination of electric vehicle take-up and related infrastructure planning. Labor will also require all federally-funded road upgrades to incorporate electric vehicle charging infrastructure, work with states to ensure new and refurbished commercial and residential developments include electric vehicle charging capacity, promote national standards for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and ensure investment in public charging stations meet these standards.

Labor also has an electric vehicle innovation and manufacturing strategy and will work with industry to create new job opportunities with the transition.

As part of our focus on cleaner and cheaper transportation, Labor will also work with industry to introduce vehicle emissions standards, to save Australian motorists hundreds of dollars each year at the bowser while driving down pollution on our roads.

After six years of chaos, uncertainty and rising pollution under the Liberals, Australians need stability and certainty on climate change policy – that's what our plan delivers.

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver cleaner transport, build the road infrastructure needed for the future and help motorists save on soaring petrol bills.

#### **LABOR LEADS FROM OPPOSITION ON INFRASTRUCTURE - Albanese**

**After almost six years of cuts the Morrison Government has finally been forced to allocate new funding for rail and road investment to paper over its previous neglect.**

Much of the funding in last night's Budget is not due to occur until many unspecified years into the future.

As well, much of the infrastructure plan simply copies existing Opposition infrastructure commitments and ideas, proving yet again that Labor has been leading from Opposition.

Projects including Adelaide's South Road, the Perth METRONET, the Rockhampton and Mackay Ring Roads, Melbourne's South-East Suburban Road Package and the Western Sydney Rail are all existing Labor commitments.

Projects like Tasmania's Freight Rail Revitalisation Program and the Gladstone Port Access Road were funded by the former Labor Government, cut by the Coalition and have now been reinstated on the pretence that they are new.

The Coalition's mimicry even went so far as to include a carbon copy of Labor's National Park and Ride Fund, which we announced last year to improve commuter access to parking at train stations.

The irony here is that the Coalition's previous cuts to infrastructure investment, particularly public transport, have exacerbated the traffic congestion crisis that Scott Morrison now claims he wants to fix.

Australians who have been stuck in worsening traffic jams for the past five years will recognise this infrastructure package for what it is – a last-minute re-election con job, rather than a seriously considered vision for nation-building.

The Budget documents also underline Mr Morrison's addiction to overpromising and under-delivering on infrastructure.

Over the Government's first five Budgets, the Government has delivered \$5.1 billion less for infrastructure than it has announced – a shortfall of 14 per cent.

If Mr Morrison's record is anything to go by, he will fail to deliver last night's promises.

Mr Morrison has also resorted to double counting to pad his Budget investment figures by claiming "contingency reserve" funding for projects including the East-West Link in Melbourne and the Perth Freight Link.

Both of these dud projects have been abandoned, yet the Government pretends funding will one day be allocated to them.

The Budget came on the same day the Government completed its disgraceful politicisation of the once-independent Infrastructure Australia by appointing a new board member who made political comments on his first day in the job.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA BOARD MUST BE ABOVE POLITICS - Albanese**

**The decision by Infrastructure Minister Michael McCormack to stack the Infrastructure Australia board with political appointments just days before the calling of an election is regrettable.**

Today, on his first full day as an Infrastructure Australia board member, Rod Hook made political statements critical of Labor.

Making such statements renders Mr Hook unsuitable for this position. In the interests of the organisation, Mr Hook should reconsider his acceptance.

Mr Hook's appointment on Monday followed two appointments just weeks ago that came in spite of my request as Shadow Minister that they not proceed so close to an election.

Those appointments followed a decision by the Government to have no CEO of Infrastructure Australia for a majority of the period since the change of Government in 2013.

Labor has indicated that in Government, we would consult the Opposition on appointments to the Infrastructure Australia board in order to depoliticise the appointment process.

Infrastructure is too important to be a plaything for the Government of the day.

Indeed, the creation of Infrastructure Australia by the former Labor Government in 2008 was a structural reform to break the nexus between the short-term political cycle and the investment cycle.

The first Infrastructure Australia board that was appointed under Sir Rod Eddington had the respect of the entire infrastructure sector because it was truly independent.

Renewal of the Board in consultation with the Opposition would be a key priority should Labor be successful at the forthcoming Federal election.

## **THE YOUNG**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE LOSE UNDER THIS LIBERAL GOVERNMENT – Terri Butler**

**Younger Australians aren't getting a fair go under Scott Morrison and the Liberals. They are failing young people, who are finding it harder to get ahead in life.**

The things that are important to young people have been neglected or cut under the Liberals, and this Budget is no different.

Since Abbott's reckless cuts to the youth sector in 2014, young Australians and youth organisations have been calling for a representation in and to government.

They have been calling for a Federal Minister for Youth. But Scott Morrison hasn't appointed one.

They have been calling for a national youth peak representative organisation. But Scott Morrison hasn't funded one.

Young Australians have had to put up with six years of neglect under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison governments.

Under the Liberals, young Australians are losing faith in politics, and want better representation in our democracy.

Our planet is being robbed of its future because of the conservative ideological denial of climate change and global warming.

Young Australians are being robbed of quality, accessible education and training through endless funding cuts to their schools, universities and TAFEs.

They are leaving uni saddled with debt that they have to repay sooner.

Some younger Australians are finding it harder to get a job, or enough work.

Those that do have a job are getting their penalty rates cut.

Under the Liberals, the great Australian dream of home ownership has turned into a nightmare and many are stuck paying high rents.

All Australians deserve a fair go. Only Labor can deliver a government that will work for and with young people, and make sure their voices are heard.

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **AID CUTS DIMINISH AUSTRALIAN INFLUENCE – Wong/Senator Moore**

**The 2019-20 Budget confirms six years of cuts and chaos will continue to drive Australia's overseas development assistance to yet another record low.**

Aid spending will fall by a further \$115 million next financial year, adding to the more than \$11 billion cut from the aid budget under the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison Government.

These cuts will take aid spending to just 0.19 per cent of GNI or 19 cents in every \$100 – the lowest level on record – and on the current budget trajectory, it is forecast to drop to as low as just 0.16 per cent.

What's more, the Government's 'step up' in the Pacific is funded through a step down in Asia – with further cuts across key countries such as Indonesia.

These cuts have lessened Australia's influence precisely at the same time our national interest compels us to engage more deeply.

It is irresponsible, and counter to our national interest, to raid programs in one group of partner nations to fund others.

Supporting and building the Pacific region to the detriment of other nations will not serve our relationships, our influence, and our long-term prosperity and security.

The government must commit to not make further cuts to aid as part of the further savings hidden in the Budget Papers in "decisions taken but not yet announced".

The Coalition's unprecedented cuts to development assistance of the last five years have caused great harm to some of the poorest people in our region.

They hurt our reputation internationally, and undermine our national interest.

They have harmed our efforts to alleviate poverty, and make our region safer and more secure. They have diminished our standing in the region.

They are also at odds with the generous spirit of the Australian people.

That is why a Shorten Labor Government will increase Official Development Assistance as a percentage of Gross National Income every year that we are in office, starting with our first Budget.

In government, Labor will rebuild and grow Australia's international development program and increase Official Development Assistance.

Rebuilding Australia's international development assistance program is a core element of Labor's foreign policy.

Labor believes Australia can show humanity, decency and compassion to ensure a fair go for all – at home, on our doorstep, and abroad.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRUNEI – Shorten/Wong**

**Labor is deeply concerned by the Brunei government's plans**

**to implement new laws that would see adultery and homosexual acts between consenting adults punishable by death.**

We note the new penal code would be in breach of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Australia has always stood strongly for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Doing so is vital to a peaceful world where all have the right to live with dignity, freedom, safety, security and prosperity.

Consistent with Australia's long-standing and bipartisan support for universal, indivisible and inalienable human rights, Labor is fundamentally opposed to the oppression of anyone on the grounds of their gender, sexual orientation or their religious beliefs.

Labor as a matter of principle opposes the death penalty in all circumstances for all people. This is a long-held bipartisan position.

Labor calls on the Brunei government to abandon plans to introduce this new law.

We have raised our concerns with the Australian Government and would support a clear and unambiguous statement by the Government expressing Australia's firm position on these matters.



## **CITIZENSHIP**

### **PM FAILS OUR MIGRANT AND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES – Burke/Neumann**

**After six years of cuts and chaos, Scott Morrison and the Liberals continue to neglect Australia's migrant and multicultural communities.**

Scott Morrison has delivered an election con job which means nothing to people hoping to contribute to our society and call Australia home.

**There is nothing in the Budget to improve visa processing times and the Liberals still want to privatise Australia's visa processing system.**

Longer visa processing times mean people are waiting longer to be reunited with family members. People are putting their lives on hold until they can finally settle in Australia.

Partner visas are now at record-high processing times of up to 28 months.

As of 31 January 2018, there were over 191,000 people on bridging visas in Australia waiting to have their visa applications processed.

At the same time, an incredible 81,000 asylum seekers have arrived by plane since 1 July 2014 under the Liberals – this includes when Scott Morrison was the Immigration Minister.

**There is nothing to clear the citizenship backlog created by the Liberals'. They're making it harder for migrant and multicultural Australians to become citizens.**

We know from the latest Auditor General's report that over 244,000 people are trapped in the citizenship backlog – over the past four years, the number of citizenship applications stuck in the pipeline has blown out by 771 per cent.

When Peter Dutton proposed the unfair citizenship rules and university level English test it put a freeze on citizenship applications. The legislation was thrown out of the Parliament last year – it's outrageous that the Liberals have not included one cent in the budget to help clear the backlog.

Why does this Government want to stop people making a pledge of allegiance to Australia?

**Finally, the Budget locks in the Liberals' unfair Temporary Sponsored Parent visa – breaking their promise made before the 2016 election.**

The Liberal's ridiculously high fees mean families would have to pay \$40,000 in fees if they access the visa for one set of parents over ten years. Worse still, the Liberals are limiting their visa to one set of parents per household – forcing Australians to choose between which parents or in-laws they reunite with.

Can you imagine the choice a family has to make choosing which grandparents get to see their grandkids?

The cruel cuts and chaos of Scott Morrison and the Liberals mean migrant and multicultural communities have to wait longer to migrate to Australia, have to wait longer to become Australian citizens, and have to wait longer to reunite with their family in Australia.

The Liberals have failed Australia's migrant and multicultural communities.



## THE FARM

### AGRICULTURE AND THE BUDGET: SAME OLD TRICKS – Fitzgibbon

The Morrison Government has used the 2019-20 Budget to pretend it has changed its view of the world. After six years of the Liberals and Nationals' cuts and chaos, and just six weeks before an election, this budget was Scott Morrison's last chance to reverse his cuts to the services that everyday Australians rely on.

The con extends into the agriculture portfolio, it has stuck with the same old tricks: money stolen from other areas of regional investment, more concessional loans and big headlines about the capital value of those loans, most of which will never be allocated.

Farmers will know that these are hollow promises.

Drought affected farmers on the Farm Household Allowance (FHA) will also be shaking their heads as the Government makes yet another attempt to get the FHA right. The Government says it will spend \$3 million in 2018-19 to exempt net income from the forced sale of livestock from the FHA payment assessment as long as the farmer puts the funds into a Farm Management Deposit. This will do nothing to put cash on the table when farmers need it most.

This measure hasn't been legislated and we are only four months away from the end of the financial year and heading into an election. According to the Budget papers the measure extends into 2019-20 but the Morrison Government has put only \$100,000 on the table. The allocation of funding makes no sense at this point of the election cycle, unless the Morrison Government is seeking not to actually spend the majority of the funding.

#### Concessional Treatment for the Forced Sale of Livestock under the Farm Household Allowance Program

Expense (\$m)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Department of Human Services	3.0	0.1	-	-	-

Each and every time the Government tinkers with the FHA farmers have been left disappointed and this budget measure is just another example of an ill-thought-out policy.

After six years the Government has finally acknowledged workforce shortages are the agriculture industry's biggest challenge but its response is vague at best. It appears its [on-again, off-again](#) promise of an "agriculture visa" is back off the table.

New programs to overcome non-tariff barriers to export markets are a belated admission that while Free Trade Agreements have been completed, market access to many countries remains elusive for many commodities.

The much anticipated Biosecurity Import Levy which was to provide needed additional funding for our critical biosecurity systems has been deferred until 1 September 2019 and this will hit the budget bottom line by \$20 million.

The budget papers have also revealed the Morrison Government is cutting staffing by 217 positions and this will add further pressure to an already stretched department.

The fisheries and forestry industries will be left disappointed having being ignored again with no new funding for their sectors.

The fact is the Morrison Government is still without an overarching strategic plan for Australia's agriculture sector. We saw no fundamental or structural reform for agriculture in the 2019-20 Budget.

## CHILDCARE

### MORRISON HAS FAILED AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN – Rishworth

**Scott Morrison's failure to properly fund preschool is a cruel insult to Australian children.**

This was an opportunity to properly invest in the future of our nation's children – and Scott Morrison failed.

The 2019-20 Budget once again provides only one year of rollover funding for universal access for four year olds access to preschool, meaning Scott Morrison would rather leave 350,000 pre-schoolers in limbo than provide permanent funding for early education for four year olds.

It also completely ignores three year old funding – despite the overwhelming evidence that two years of quality early education is the best way to prepare our kids for school.

This budget is a con for our pre-schoolers, and the Liberals are trying to pretend they care only to get through the next election.

After six year years of cuts and chaos, and six weeks before an election, Morrison has delivered an election con with the same Liberal cuts.

Whilst sticking up for the top end of town, this is a government who has stopped caring about the future of the early education for our children.

In stark contrast, Bill Shorten and Labor will deliver the biggest single investment in early education with our National Preschool and Kindy Program- a \$1.75 billion investment to provide permanent, ongoing funding for four year olds and extending this to include three year olds.

Under Labor's program around 700,000 three and four year olds better off. Under Morrison's plan around 350,000 four year olds will be left in limbo and no plan for three year olds.

Under Labor's program we are investing \$1.75 billion for three and four year olds over four years. Under Morrison funding for preschool is cut after 2020.

Labor believes investing in the early years is one of the best investments we can make for the future for our country.

The difference couldn't be clearer: Scott Morrison is for the big end of town whilst Labor is for the best start to life.

## MEDIA

### ABC CUTS LOCKED IN BY MORRISON'S BUDGET – Rowland/Jones

After six years of Liberal lies, cuts and chaos, Morrison has locked in his future ABC cuts, depriving the national broadcaster of \$83.7 million over the next three years.

While the ABC's Enhanced Newsgathering funding will continue, [as called for by Labor](#), the ABC still faces Morrison's unfair cut announced in last year's budget.

Six weeks out from an election, Scott Morrison has delivered an election con with the same cuts to the ABC.

The ABC has confirmed these cuts threaten its Charter delivery and cannot be absorbed by efficiency measures alone.

The Government commissioned a meddlesome Efficiency Review into the ABC, its second since 2014, to "assist the public broadcasters as they approach the next funding triennium", but has not released the report.

The question remains: What ABC jobs and services stand to be cut?

Past casualties of Liberal budget cuts include the ABC's Shortwave Radio service.

Matching Labor's \$2 million commitment to restore Shortwave should have been a no-brainer – however the needs of those in regional Australia have again been ignored by this out of touch Government.

The Liberals and Nationals came to government on the promise of no cuts to the ABC. That was a lie.

Now they go into the next election with yet more ABC cuts to fall.

In contrast, Bill Shorten and Labor have committed to restoring Morrison's unfair cut of \$83.7 million, have guaranteed stable funding over the next budget cycle and have committed to switching Shortwave back on, to ensure towns, communities and travellers are connected to the rest of the nation.

The difference is clear. Australians can have a strong and independent ABC, or a Liberal Government. They cannot have both.

### **THE ABC OF LIBERAL INTERFERENCE – Rowland/Keneally**

**The Report of the Senate Inquiry into allegations of political interference in the ABC, tabled today, demonstrates that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has used practically every lever at its disposal to try and interfere with the ABC: Attacks, Board appointments, and Cuts.**

The Inquiry found this Coalition Government was complicit in the events of 2018, and the report is a document of the insidious ways in which it has worked to undermine our national broadcaster:

- It is an indictment on Scott Morrison that the Senate Committee has recommended the ABC Act be amended to spell out the meaning of the term 'consult', given he demonstrated that even the current Prime Minister of Australia can't be trusted to follow the letter and spirit of the law when it comes to appointing the ABC Chair.
- It is a sad reflection on this Liberal Government's politicisation of Australia's democratic institutions that the Inquiry finds that even the work of the independent Nomination Panel, set up precisely to avoid political interference, needs greater transparency and accountability, given the use of Liberal chum recruitment firms to meddle in the merit-based process for Board appointments.
- It is a condemnation of this Liberal Government's unfair cuts and efficiency reviews, and its pointless competitive neutrality inquiry, that the Senate Committee recommends funding stability for the ABC as a guard against political interference.

The ABC Board faced a 'perfect storm' for political interference, with a hostile Government, an IPA card-carrying Minister who used the ABC as a bargaining chip with Pauline Hanson, an activist Chair, and a Managing Director who did little to alert the Board of the Chair's conduct until her own job was on the line. The Committee found deficiencies in the Board's response to the allegations of political interference and has indicated that the Board should review these events, including the findings of this inquiry, to understand the lessons learned and take steps to guard against a similar occurrence in future.

The Australian public expects the highest standards of governance at its most respected public institution, and they deserve a Government, Prime Minister and Minister for Communications and the Arts who respect the ABC.

The Liberals came to government on the promise of no cuts to the ABC. That was a lie.

They've ripped hundreds of millions of dollars out of the ABC, meddled in its affairs and launched relentless ideological attacks on public broadcasting,

Labor has already committed to restoring Scott Morrison's unfair cut of \$83.7 million to the ABC and guaranteed funding stability for the ABC over the next budget cycle.

Whatever the Government may announce for the ABC in the last six weeks before the election, they can't erase what they've done to the ABC over the last six years.

The evidence is clear: you can have a strong and independent ABC, or a Liberal Government. You can't have both.



## **INNOVATION**

### **BUSINESS R&D SPENDING FALLS BY NEARLY 30 % IN THREE YEARS – Carr**

**This Budget offers nothing for the industries and jobs of Australia's future.**

Budget figures show that the Government's own targets for business expenditure on research and development has fallen by \$5.3 billion in the past three financial years. That is a drop of nearly 30 per cent.

This is a measure of the Government's lack of vision, and lack of commitment to Australian industry and Australian jobs.

But all they have done is cut support to Australian industry even further in this Budget, with a new cut of close to \$50 million.

The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology is meant to be the champion for this sector and new jobs.

But Karen Andrews couldn't even get the word innovation into the Treasurer's speech.

As the sixth Industry and Science Minister in six years, it is hardly surprising that this government has no plan for the jobs of the future.

All this Government has to stand by is the \$1.1 billion cut in spending on science, research and innovation — a cut of 10 per cent over the past five years.

The latest ABS Quarterly Labour Force data shows that employment in manufacturing is falling. This budget does nothing to stem that tide.

There are great challenges and opportunities for Australian industry and workers but this Government is just not interested.

All Australia has now is a night-watchman government.

Unlike the Liberals, Labor understands that to create good jobs and keep pace with technological change, Australia must remain globally competitive and build the industrial structure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### MORRISON STILL CUTTING THE PENSION – Burney

**For the sixth year in a row, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Budget is cutting the pension.**

Plans to cut the Pension Supplement after six weeks overseas, and extending the residency period for migrant pensioners from 10 to 15 years are still in the Budget.

Scott Morrison has spent the last five years – including three as Treasurer – trying to cut the pension and increase the pension age to 70. This includes cutting \$1 billion from pensioner concessions, which were designed to help with the cost of living.

The Liberals and Nationals also tried to cut pension indexation, which would have left pensioners \$80 per week worse off.

The Government also did a deal with the Greens political party to change the assets test, cutting the pension by up to \$12,000 for 370,000 Australians.

As Treasurer, Scott Morrison tried for years to cut the energy supplement for 1.5 million new pensioners.

This would have cost a single pensioner \$14.10 per fortnight or around \$365 a year, and cut \$21.20 a fortnight or around \$550 a year from couple pensioners.

This wasn't a plan for a one-off cut. It was a cut every fortnight, every year.

Labor opposed this cut and committed to reversing it.

**Six weeks out from an election, a one-off payment of \$75 can't undo six years of cuts.**

Pensioners won't forget, and they won't be fooled.

They will see through Scott Morrison's desperate and cynical pre-election politics.

No matter who their leader is – pension cuts are in the Liberal-National DNA.

Labor has fought cuts to pensions at every turn. Pensioners will always be better off with a Labor government.

## VETERANS

### MORRISON MUST EXPLAIN CUT TO VETERANS – Rishworth

**Scott Morrison and the Liberals must explain their \$171.6 million cut to DVA and how this will impact our veterans' and ex-service personnel.**

This is a cut in plain sight by Scott Morrison and the Liberals need to come clean about what this means for veterans and which of their services will be cut.

A \$171.6 million cut will impact veterans and Scott Morrison and the Liberals must explain how.

Morrison is locking in the same Liberal cuts he delivered our veterans last year when he cut \$40 million from allied health services in last year's Budget, which we know will result in less services for our veterans.

After six years of cuts and chaos, and six weeks before an election, Morrison has delivered an election con with the more Liberals cuts.

Whilst Labor supports the other measures in the Budget for veterans, the Liberals need to explain their \$171.6 million cut to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

To date, Labor has announced a number of policies which focus on increased support for our service personnel as they transition into civilian life. This includes Labor's \$121 million comprehensive Veterans' Employment Policy, our commitment to signing a Military Covenant and developing a Family Engagement and Support Strategy.

Bill Shorten and Labor will deliver a fair go for veterans, ex-service personnel and their families through tangible outcomes.

## SENIORS

### NO NEW MONEY NO NEW IDEAS: BUDGET ANOTHER CRUEL HOAX ON SENIORS -Collins

**Older Australians have been left behind under the Liberals and this Budget does nothing to make up for six years of cuts and chaos in aged care.** The Budget is just another cruel hoax for older Australians who are now waiting years for care they have been approved for.

There is nothing new in the Budget for older Australians - the Liberals are all out of ideas.

128,000 older Australians are now waiting for a home care package but the Budget does not deliver one new package the Government hasn't already announced.

But this is exactly what we've come to expect from Scott Morrison.

He was the Treasurer who cut \$1.2 billion from aged care in his first Budget - backing in a \$500 million cut in his first MYEFO.

This Budget does not make up for these cuts and it won't solve the aged care crisis that has grown under the Liberals' watch.

Even as reports and evidence piled up about the disastrous impact of this crisis - with older Australians entering residential care, emergency departments or sadly passing away while waiting for care - the Liberals have done nothing of substance.

Older Australians won't forget the Liberals' failure to act.

After three Ministers and over five years of cuts this Government failed to reform aged care it had to call a Royal Commission.

Older Australians deserve better. Scott Morrison and the Liberals cannot be trusted with aged care.