



Senator Claire Moore

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THIS WEEK:

Happy International Women's Day....and week! It has been wonderful to see the many, many events that are now held each year around International Women's Day. I do remember when there was just one main event and now.....I am just sorry I can't get to them all.

This has been a big policy week for women with important announcements made by Linda Burney and Tanya Plibersek which have been summarised so succinctly here:

The family violence funding announced by Linda Burney, Tanya Plibersek, Clare O'Neil, Jenny McAllister and Bill Shorten includes a \$60 million commitment over four years to provide packages to around 20,000 family violence survivors to rebuild their lives. These packages will go towards the costs of leaving violent circumstances such as establishing new housing, relocation, transport, utilities, medical care, security, new school uniforms, paying off debts accrued by abusive former partners, and so on. The program is based on a Victorian Government initiative introduced in 2016 which provides similar flexible support packages. The funding for the new federal program will come from the "banking fairness fund", a levy that the next Labor Government plans to collect from banks to fund community programs.

Tanya Plibersek also announced this week a suite of policies to improve women's reproductive health services across the country including the cornerstone policy that under Labor public hospitals will be expected to provide termination services under Commonwealth-State hospital funding agreements. Additionally, the next Labor Government will investigate options to improve access to the contraceptive pill including three-year prescriptions, improve access to medical terminations using the drug RU486 by supporting doctors to prescribe it and reviewing the Medicare rebate associated with it, and fund a national referral service to connect women to trusted termination services. Labor will restore funding to the Australian Women's Health Network. This builds on previous announcements to establish a new Tasmanian Reproductive Health Hub and work with the States of NSW and SA to progress the decriminalisation of abortion across Australia.

And there has been further great news with the media today announcing that the States and Territories have agreed on the terms of reference for the upcoming Disability Royal Commission.

Finally in acknowledgement of this year's theme for IWD - More Powerful Together. We celebrate the important role we all play because it will take everyone working in collaboration to create a world where women and girls everywhere have equal rights and opportunities.

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...

WAGE JUSTICE - SHORTEN- MELBOURNE

"So some people in Australia are doing very well, thank you very much. It just doesn't happen to be the bulk of the Australian people, the millions of Australians who go to work every day as subcontractors, as small business people, as workers in this country. Labor believes that the next election within the next two and a half months will be a referendum on wages."

THE ECONOMY - BOWEN - ABC RN BREAKFAST

"We do have a slowing economy and as you said on a per head basis we now are in recession on Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg's watch. I mean they have spent a lot of time playing politics and not much time managing the economy and we're seeing now the economic costs of dysfunction at the heart of the Liberal Government."

THE ECONOMY- PLIBERSEK - SYDNEY

"We have said all along that our policies and negative gearing and capital gains tax have a negligible effect. The government tried to use Treasury advice falsely to say something different. It's good that the truth's come out but it doesn't mean the Government won't try the next lie and the next scare campaign. That's all they've got left."

THE ECONOMY - BOWEN - BRISBANE

"Today (WED March 6) was the first full quarter of economic management under Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg. The last full quarter before the federal election is called. It's a quarter of failure. Per head of population, the Australian economy has gone backwards. This is the first time this has happened since 2006. It's only the third time it has happened since 1991."

This is a damning indictment of the economic stewardship of Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg. - Chris Bowen

THE ECONOMY - BOWEN - SYDNEY

"Three Prime Ministers, three Treasurers, in five-and-a-half years. No coherent economic policy. No coherent agenda to deal with wages growth, to deal with policies to get investment going, or to improve productivity with eight out of ten of the last quarters showing labour productivity experiencing negative growth."

THE ECONOMY - BOWEN - SYDNEY

"We will inherit an economy in which people's living standards are going backwards, we've seeing the biggest fall in living standards in 30 years, with wages growth at record lows, with increased cost of living and an economy where economic growth is decelerating with lacklustre economic growth."

MORRISON GOVERNMENT - O'NEIL- ABC NEWS WEEKEND BREAKFAST

"Mr Morrison has lost people who have seen he has failed in the role he is undertaking, that he and his party are completely out of touch as to what's going on with the Australian people who see everything, the cost of living going up day after day, their wages not growing. They see incredible interference going on in the education sector; we see lies being told about health right across the nation, fear campaigns being run day after day. This is a government that has stopped governing,"

MORRISON GOVERNMENT- PLIBERSEK - SYDNEY

"This is the Government that's doubled the debt, doubled the deficit, seen historic low wages growth, historic high underemployment, living standards going backwards, consumer confidence bottoming out, cuts to health, cuts to education. They can't run on their record. They can't run on a promise of unity and discipline. There's a scramble for the door when it comes to this Government."

MORRISON GOVERNMENT - CAMERON - SPEECH- POWERHOUSING AUSTRALIA ROUNDTABLE - MELBOURNE

"We currently have a federal government that's divided between a hard right faction, that favours regressive actions in every conceivable area of public policy, and another faction that is seemingly incapable of acting in the public interest. Their only goal is to desperately clinging to office."

MORRISON GOVERNMENT - SHORTEN - AFR BUSINESS SUMMIT

"There is a hunger for stability that is as intense as any time as I've seen."

MORRISON GOVERNMENT- BOWEN - SPEECH - MCKELL INSTITUTE, BRISBANE



"I mean all he's got is fear. He has no agenda, no policy, no plan, no idea."

MATES RATES - DREYFUS - MELBOURNE

"The scandalous appointment of 57 Liberal mates, former Liberal MPs, former Liberal staffers, former or actual donors, to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal since 2013. And it's now reached outrage level because on 21st February Mr Porter announced 34 new appointments of whom 16 were Liberal mates."

MATES RATES - PLIBERSEK - SYDNEY

"When it comes to appointments to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, you're talking about jobs with pay packets of a couple of hundred thousand dollars. They're appointing ex-Liberal MPs, Liberal staffers and Liberal donors to these jobs. When it comes to overseas appointments, anyone that they wanted to move on from the Parliament because they were starting to cause problems in the Parliament, they offered an overseas posting to. It's just not the way a government

should operate. It ends up with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal stacked with people who don't have the experience to do the job. Their only qualification is they're a mate."

"There's a rush for the exit from members of this government, and they're trying to just shove the silverware in their bag as they leave."

- Tanya Plibersek (On the rash of Government appointed mates)

A LIVING WAGE - SHORTEN –AFR BUSINESS SUMMIT

"In terms of the minimum wage, it's about \$18.93 for an adult. I don't know how many of you are living on \$18.93 an hour. If you don't want to live on it, why do we expect everyone else to live on it?"

NEGATIVE GEARING LIES - SHORTEN –AFR BUSINESS SUMMIT

"The government went to Treasury and said so we want to fact check that Labor's policy will, you know wreck housing prices. Treasury came back and said you can't say that, that's not right. But they said it anyway."

HONEST GOVERNMENT - SHORTEN –AFR BUSINESS SUMMIT

"I promise you a better level of political discourse in this country than the toxic, turgid, fear mongering and desperation which we're currently seeing in the nation."

DUTTON'S HEALTH CARE QUES SCARE - O'NEIL- ABC NEWS WEEKEND BREAKFAST

"We've got to remember that Peter Dutton was given the title of being the worst Health Minister in living memory."

GOVERNMENT CLIMATE CHANGES -- KENEALLY – SKY NEWS

"When we look at what the Prime Minister did this week, what did he do? He adopted Tony Abbott's climate change policy. Tony Abbott, who said that climate change is not real and is probably doing good – that's what the Prime Minister announced."

ENERGY POLICY - BOWEN – SPEECH - MCKELL INSTITUTE, BRISBANE

"We have seen twelve attempts at an energy policy over the life of this Government."

ABORTION ACCESS - PLIBERSEK – SYDNEY

"What we are proposing today is to make medical termination of pregnancy more easily available with more doctors, more primary health care providers being able to prescribe RU 486. We also need to make surgical termination of pregnancy easier to obtain particularly in the public health system."

ABORTION ACCESS – PLIBERSEK ABC RN BREAKFAST

"What we are saying that is as a Federal government we are a significant funder of hospital services and we would like to see women not have to travel six hours drive, or interstate if they need a termination but to be able to have that service in their local community, in their local hospital, where their supports, their family, their home and so on, are."

What is already a phenomenally difficult decision for many women, why do we make it so much harder, so much harder for them? It's an important thing for us to change.

"What is already a phenomenally difficult decision for many women, why do we make it so much harder, so much harder for them? It's an important thing for us to change." - Tanya Plibersek



– Jane Prentice and Anne Somalis – going out against their own wishes and being replaced by men. Kelly O'Dwyer going out with the parting shot that the Party is anti-women. Julie Bishop leaving because, after 10 years serving loyally and diligently as a Deputy, her colleagues have failed to support her and, indeed by her own words, seemed to have undermined her in her bid for leadership."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUNDING - BURNEY – ABC RN DRIVE



ABORTION ACCESS – PLIBERSEK ABC RN BREAKFAST

"Look I'm actually deeply respectful of people's religious beliefs. I don't think any doctor should be forced to perform an abortion if it is against their religious beliefs. But 80 per cent of Australians support a woman's right to choose and when we're running public services like our health system overall, we have to respect the majority and make laws that respect the views of the majority."

GOVERNMENT DISCOVERS WOMEN –BOWEN– SYDNEY

"We'll welcome any improvement in domestic violence funding but we'd be again, not just today yesterday but we've been making commitments to domestic violence funding for a long time and the Government has been catching up with those."

LIBERAL WOMEN - KENEALLY – SKY NEWS

"You know, 58 members of the Lower House for the Liberal Party – 11 are women, four of them leaving at this election. Two of them

"The money will come from the Banking Fairness Fund which is something like \$640 million. We're talking about \$60 million and that will fund 20,000 packages across the country over the next four years, so that means 20,000 women and their children will be able to leave violent situations with support."

"Women often leave with \$12 in the bank and the shirt on their back so this fund will be administered through the services that already exist to look after domestic violence and it will be available to all people who are finding themselves in these situations."

shows how arrogant and out of touch the Liberals have become."

TOUR DE FARCE - WONG - ABC RADIO ADELAIDE

"This is an interesting stunt isn't it? He is going to Christmas Island. There is not a single person that has been recommended for a medical transfer yet, so the Prime Minister of Australia is taking time out, not to talk about schools, education, the fact that wages aren't growing, to go to an empty detention centre so he can engage in a political stunt."

TOUR DE FARCE – ALBANESE – TODAY SHOW

"Scott Morrison could have stood in front of a palm tree in Cronulla. He didn't have to go anywhere outside of his electorate to do this press conference. What it showed is that the Government is all about politics with this issue. There's been no weakening of any of our borders."

TOUR DE FARCE - BOWEN – SPEECH - MCKELL INSTITUTE, BRISBANE

"This was a stunt from beginning to end. This was a very expensive press conference at tax payer expense."

PYNE QUILTS-- WONG - ABC RADIO ADELAIDE

"I think this is now the sixth cabinet or ex-cabinet minister to leave in a short time frame - it is a massive vote of no confidence in Scott Morrison and his Government."

PYNE – ALBANESE- 5AA RADIO ADELAIDE

"Christopher and I have a friendship, and if people don't like that, well frankly, bad luck. I genuinely wish him well, both privately and publicly, and I stand by that. I am disappointed at some of the polarisation that has happened in politics. It seems to be exacerbated by Twitter and by people saying things behind fake names or in private that they'd never say to your face. Christopher has been an honourable opponent."

MORRISON SUPPORTS DODGY BOSSES - LEIGH- CANBERRA

"Last year, the Liberals introduced a bill into Parliament that would give a 12 month amnesty to employers who hadn't paid their employees superannuation. Let's be clear what this means. If you're a boss who failed to pay your required superannuation obligations to your workers, you wouldn't face any penalties. [That Bill still languishes in the Senate but the Government demanded that the ATO enforce just such an amnesty - Ed]

"The Liberals wanted an amnesty on dodgy bosses that didn't pay their workers' superannuation. Parliament said no and they went ahead and did it anyway. This shows how arrogant and out of touch the Liberals have become."

DODGY COMPANIES - LEIGH ABC RADIO MELBOURNE

"One expert said they thought the laws were so lax you could almost register your dog as a company director."

DODGY COMPANIES - LEIGH ABC RADIO MELBOURNE

"The cost has been estimated at \$5 billion a year, most of that falling on subbies." "Around half of the construction invoices don't get paid on time. We want to start with big federal contracts, and then work with states and territories to roll out the system of cascading trusts for state and territory projects and then onto private projects ultimately."

"We've announced today that in the building sector we'll work with states and territories to make sure that if you've been caught phoenixing, your building licence is cancelled as well."

TAX CHEATS- LEIGH ABC RADIO MELBOURNE

"We've got a huge amount of profits now being routed through tax havens like the Caymans and the Bahamas and yet a Government that is unwilling to properly crack down on tax havens. You know right now, Jon, you can claim a tax deduction for flying to a tax haven to check on your investments?"

HOUSING - CAMERON – SPEECH- POWERHOUSING AUSTRALIA ROUNDTABLE - MELBOURNE

"Under the Liberals, home ownership is at record lows, rental stress is impacting Australians right across the income spectrum and homelessness continues to rise."

INDONESIAN TRADE DEAL - WONG - ABC RADIO

ADELAIDE

"This is a positive development. Trade with Indonesia is underdone. Labor started these negotiations in government. It is very important that we expand our relationship with Indonesia. Unfortunately trade has gone backwards over the last year with Indonesia. We need to rebuild that and this agreement is a part of it."

HIGH SPEED RAIL - ALBANESE – WRITING IN THE AUSTRALIAN

"Hundreds of thousands of Australians have experienced the convenience of high-speed rail and returned asking themselves: Why don't we build it here? The reason is too many governments are incapable of thinking beyond the next election."

OVERSEAS REMITTANCES - LEIGH - OPINION PIECE PUBLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM TIMES

"Remittances present special problems because it's often hard to figure out the true fee. All too often, banks will tell their customers the flat dollar amount, but won't fess up to how much they're making from the exchange rate."

"It's hard to have a competitive market when customers don't know what prices they're actually paying. That's why Labor is promising to require full fee transparency, where customers are told the total cost of transferring money: both the flat fee and the exchange rate margin."

"Just to give you some sense of the size of what the fees look like, an Australian who wants to send \$1000 overseas will pay according to the World Bank \$77 in exchange rate mark ups and flat fees."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - KENEALLY – SKY NEWS

"I would argue that the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church is the most significant crisis it has faced since the Reformation, and it has failed consistently now for many years to confront this crisis." "The ordinary Catholics in the pews, the lay people – they are disempowered. They feel a sense of frustration and anger that their Church is in this situation, and they feel powerless to do anything about it. The power structures of the Church all lie with the clergy. The clergy, clericalism, the ordained class within the Catholic Church has failed. It has failed children, it has failed its believers, it has failed the society at large, and I would say it is now time for the Catholic Church to open up who exercises power, how decisions are taken, and it needs the full participation of all its members."



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I reckon he'll say, 'I've recognised after all these years that my party is hopeless, the Government is hopeless, all is lost and that's why I'm going.'" - Anthony Albanese on 5AA Radio Adelaide in the Two Tribes Segment asked to fill in for Christopher Pyne who didn't turn up for the broadcast

"We've had consultants, consulting on how much consulting we'd had" - Christmas Island resident on Federal Government ignoring their needs as Prime Minister Morrison flew in on an election stunt

"We need to have a country where our minimum wage is a wage that you can live on." - Bill Shorten

"Labor's decision to make wages a central issue in the election campaign is the right one, not so much in political terms as in democratic terms. At a time when many Australians believe the political and economic system is only delivering for corporations and the wealthy and not them, it is crucial that a major section of the governing class signals its commitment to shifting the balance back." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"Supporting a convicted paedophile will further alienate a section of their core, who were attracted to their message precisely by the notion that society was threatened by people such as predatory paedophiles. It's a one-way trip to even greater irrelevance, for the commentariat right." - Guy Rundle (Crikey)

"Basically you could argue that their concern was not that I would lose the election but rather that I would win it." - Malcolm Turnbull

LIE OF THE WEEK

"Total emissions are coming down." - Energy Minister Angus Taylor

QUEENSLAND

A QUEENSLAND TREASURER - BOWEN – SPEECH - MCKELL INSTITUTE, BRISBANE

"I'm determined not to be a Sydney-Melbourne-Canberra centric treasurer, but to keep the focus and regular contact with regional Australia and regional Queensland in particular in government."

"Wages growth in private sector in Queensland has been at or below 2% for the last three financial years, a far cry from the 3.2% 20-year state average."

THE NATION'S LACK OF TRUST - SHORTEN –SPEECH TO AFR BUSINESS SUMMIT

"It's a lack of trust in politics, in businesses, in institutions which is hurting our economy and our people.

It's frustration with political instability, frustration with policy chaos, fed by shameless self-interest.

And right across our country, it's leading to a widespread, dispiriting, exhausting sense that individuals can't make a difference, that fix is in, the deal is done.

That individuals no longer have the say in their community which they once had.

This sense of powerlessness in our broader community is toxic, it's corrosive. It's corrosive and toxic for all of us: for businesses, employers, community organisations, for political representatives.

And when some leaders dismiss the aspirations of ordinary people as "envy" or resentment or trying to drag others down, it actually makes things worse.

Because I genuinely believe that when people lose faith in the system, in the institutions we grew up with, in the rules which we say people should play by, when people feel like there's no fair reward for their hard work and sacrifice, then you cannot achieve change.

It puts a handbrake on reform; it puts a handbrake on change and progress

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HEALTH SERVICES - KING – EMERALD - QUEENSLAND

"We've already announced millions of dollars here for this hospital to upgrade the Emergency Department, and we've said we will be reversing the \$6.1 million of cuts, and today I'm making a further two announcements.

We've been in the Emergency Department here at Emerald Hospital and one of the things that the medical staff were at pains to talk to me about are the number of young people they are seeing from Emerald and district, who are presenting with severe mental health problems.

Today I'm announcing that if Labor is elected at the next general election, only some months away, that we will establish a Headspace here in Emerald, for the region, to actually start to deal with some of the really significant issues that we're seeing with young people's mental health.

The other thing that we're announcing today is a \$17.9 million investment to completely rebuild the medical service in Blackwater. We've heard again that that service in Blackwater is an ageing facility. It provides important aged care and other important health services for people and it's time that service be rebuilt. This is all part of Labor's investment in Central Queensland – an investment that will improve health services."

LABOR WILL ESTABLISH A HEADSPACE IN EMERALD - King

A Shorten Labor Government will create a new *headspace* centre in Emerald to deliver early intervention mental health services for those aged 12 to 25 years.

Labor knows that the level of mental ill health amongst young people across the Central Highlands region is of persistent and increasing concern.

The establishment of a new Emerald *headspace* has broad support across the community with over a thousand people signing a petition in support of this vital service.

The campaign has been driven by the Central Highlands Suicide Prevention Group and has received strong support from the local council, local schools, Queensland Health, and other community groups.

Labor's establishment of a *headspace* forms an important part of our Central Highlands health announcement, which will see significant investments in the nearby Emerald and Blackwater hospitals.

Labor acknowledges, values and respects the amazing and tireless work undertaken by youth mental health professionals. However, we know that more early intervention services are needed.

When a young person is experiencing mental ill health and they are attempting to seek help, there is a small window to intervene and help them and their loved ones. For many young people, these services are not easily accessible.

By creating a dedicated *headspace* centre in Emerald, Labor will help ensure that when young people put their hand up, say they are not well and they need help, services are available and accessible.

headspace Emerald will also promote young peoples' wellbeing across mental health, physical health, work and study support, and alcohol and other drug services.

Our announcement builds on Labor's strong history of supporting and expanding *headspace*, including our recent announcements to open 3 new *headspaces* in Burnie, Monash and Ocean Grove.

When Labor was in Government, we increased the number of *headspace* sites by investing almost \$200 million to bring the total number of *headspace* centres to 90. Labor also expanded the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre services that are delivered by *headspace*.

Labor continues to take action on youth mental health because it is the right thing to do – for our young people, their families and the broader community.

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

LNP CHAOS LEADS TO RENEWED PRIVATISATION PUSH IN QLD – Butler/Clare

In today's Courier Mail it was revealed that six Queensland LNP Members support plans to privatise Queensland's electricity generators.

In a move that would make former Queensland Premier Newman blush, the six MPs bizarrely wrote to their own Nationals Party Leader and the Energy Minister outing themselves as supporters of privatisation.

Labor will now target these six MPs over their privatisation plans. The MPs include:

- Member for Dawson, George Christensen
- Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry
- Member for Flynn, Ken O'Dowd
- Member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt
- Member for Wide Bay, Llew O'Brien
- Senator Barry O'Sullivan.

Queenslanders know that privatisation leads to higher energy prices. It will hurt the people of Queensland by putting pressure on their already high electricity costs.

The fact is selling off these assets for profit will risk increasing energy costs for Queenslanders. Queenslanders voted at two consecutive State elections to keep their power assets in public hands.

Now these LNP MPs are attempting to throw their weight around, pressuring their own colleagues to force the sale of Queenslanders' power assets against the will of the people.

This intervention from these Queensland LNP MPs is the latest salvo in the ongoing civil war taking place within the Morrison LNP Government. The chaos and disunity of the Morrison LNP Government has now led to this renewed push for the privatisation of electricity generators in Queensland.

Federal Labor calls on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to rule out forcing the sell-off of Queensland's assets.

This bizarre letter from these QLD MPs shows what little power and influence they have within their own Government. As has always been the case, the Nationals allow themselves to be steamrolled over by their Liberal colleagues down south.

WHAT 5 YEARS OF COALITION ECONOMIC GOVERNMENT HAS DONE TO QLD - Bowen

We welcome the forthcoming election being fought on the economy. We relish a debate about our economic plans. But also, a focus on the economic failures of the conservative government.

The political chaos, the revolving door in the Treasurer's office and the abuse of the Treasury as a partisan battering ram, has all had an economic cost. We're reaping the cost of six years of stop-start policy making, of no coherent reform agenda.

*** The Australia in the Asian Century White Paper junked.**

*** The Tax reform white paper aborted.**

*** The Federation White Paper never written.**

*** The Productivity Commission's important report on lifting productivity growth "Shifting the Dial" lies unimplemented and apparently unlamented.**

Six years of LNP Government has given us:

- Record low wages growth by Australian standards and wages growth below the OECD average;

As my colleague Jim Chalmers pointed out yesterday, for no quarter under this Government has wages growth been higher than the lowest quarter under the previous one;

- million under-employed Australians, which added to the unemployed means there are nearly 2 million people who want a job or want more work in Australia; and
- Stalling productivity, with no overall increase in measured labour productivity for more than two years, with 8 of the last 10 quarters negative.
- And following today's national accounts we got confirmation that Australia has entered a recession on a per capita basis.
- There are more than 30,000 fewer apprentices in Queensland today than when the Coalition came to power. Townsville and Wide Bay for instance have unemployment rates with an 8 in front of it.
- Outback Queensland has a youth unemployment rate at 25%, Townsville at over 17% and Wide Bay at around 20%.

And we have a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Queensland.

- We'll invest \$2.2 billion to help deliver Cross River Rail, supporting 7700 jobs in the construction phase and 550 ongoing operational jobs
 - We'll invest \$1 billion to widen the M1 from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill to eight lanes as well as widening the M1 to six lanes from Varsity Lakes to Tugun
 - We'll unlock productivity and jobs in central Queensland by investing \$800m in Rockhampton Ring Road in partnership with the state government;
 - We'll deliver better Rural and Regional Roads in Queensland by investing \$500m to deliver a staged upgrade of Queensland's inland road network - up to 3000 kilometres of better, safer roads and up to 300 wider, stronger bridges
- These are nation building projects that will deliver jobs and add to productivity across the state at a time when jobs and productivity are needed.

These projects will create plenty of economic activity in Queensland, including through spill overs for small and medium enterprises in regional Queensland, as well as significantly improving Queensland's productive capacity.

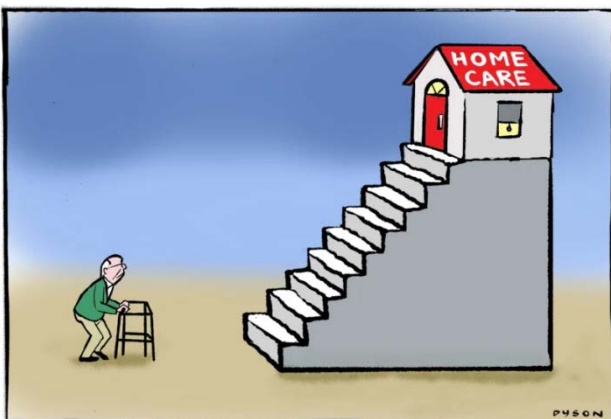
Another boost for the Queensland economy under a Shorten Labor Government would be our superior tax plans.

Our Tax Refund for Working Australians means 10 million workers across Australia will get a bigger and better tax cut under Labor. Not in 4 years. Not in 6 years. Not in the never never. But next year.

Labor will almost double the Government's tax relief for middle income and working families which means everyone earning less than \$125,000 will be up to \$928 better off a year, over the next four years.

2 million Queenslanders will access this benefit if Labor is elected to Government.

- 70,000 workers in Herbert will receive a better tax cut under us;
- 66,000 workers in Petrie will get a better tax cut under us;
- 60,000 workers in Capricornia will get a better tax cut under us; and
- 58,000 working Australians in Flynn will get a bigger and better tax cut under us.
- No one can doubt the contribution of resources to this state.
- One in every 5 dollars of state output
- One in every 8 jobs rely on mining in Queensland
- 14,200 businesses around Queensland that rely directly on the success of this industry
- supporting an average workforce of 358,000 annually.



Resources extraction is capital intensive, and Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee is an important policy offering for the sector.

All companies small, medium and large making new investments will be able to immediately deduct 20% of their new investments, with the balance depreciated in line with normal depreciation schedules from the first year.

A study from Victoria University showed that investment subsidies like our Investment guarantee have three times the impact on investment for the economy than a company tax cut.

Our AIG will is particularly supportive for companies that have large and long-lived assets, such as those in the mining industry where assets can depreciate over 20 to 30 years.

With annual business investment as a proportion of the economy at a quarter century low, this will help deliver a boost to those companies wanting to expand their operations in regions across the entire state.

It's a pro-jobs, pro-regions and pro-Queensland tax policy.

LABOR TO FIX PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES AT REDCLIFFE HOSPITAL – King/Mulholland Petrie A

Shorten Labor Government will provide better emergency facilities for children in Brisbane's Northside by investing in major improvements to the Redcliffe Hospital Emergency Department.

This \$10 million emergency department redesign will ensure that paediatric patients are treated in their own dedicated area, separate to adult patients.

The Australian College of Emergency Medicine guidelines says “children and young persons should be kept separate from the other patients in the department: ideally by the creation of paediatric areas. Where this is not possible the use of various visual and auditory screening devices should be employed to provide separation.”

Children who are not treated separately can be in the same space as adults who are extremely unwell or at the end of their lives, under the influence of drugs and alcohol, suffering mental health conditions or acting violently.

But Redcliffe Hospital does not currently have separate spaces for children waiting for emergency care or for children being cared for within the emergency department.

The redesign – which will involve a minor extension of the building – is expected to provide five assessment spaces, four short stay spaces and a small internal waiting space for children. This redesign will ensure local families can get the contemporary, safe and equitable care for their kids without needing to travel to other areas of Brisbane.

There is a growing need for these changes: emergency department visits for children at Redcliffe Hospital are projected to increase from 13,307 presentations in 2016-17 to 15,811 presentations in 2026-27.

This investment builds on Labor’s promise of a new Medicare-funded MRI licence for Redcliffe Hospital – which will make life-saving scans more affordable for the people of this region.

Both these commitments come after months of advocacy by Labor’s candidate for Petrie, Corinne Mulholland. She believes the people of her community deserve the best possible health care whenever they need it.

The Liberals on the other hand just cut and cut and cut from health. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he authored. His government cut \$4.2 million from Redcliffe Hospital under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement.

That’s equivalent to 6,300 emergency department visits or 10,300 outpatient appointments. And it’s part of a \$160m cut to Queensland hospitals and a \$715m cut nationwide.

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

Labor will reverse the Liberal cuts with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which we will use to fund this new upgrade at Redcliffe Hospital. Only Labor can be trusted to fix Queensland’s hospitals.

GLIMPSES



International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world on the 8th of March and is a day to reflect on how far we have come and how far we still have to go to truly achieve gender equality.

UN Women’s global theme for IWD 2019 is ‘Think equal, build smart, innovate for change’, linking with the UN Commission on the Status of Women’s focus on social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.

In Australia, for IWD 2019, UN Women NC Australia is joining forces with Chief Executive Women and Male Champions of Change – the two preeminent organisations focused on women in leadership and gender equality in business – to showcase our best event series yet, from 5-8 March, focused on our national theme, ‘More Powerful Together’.

Australia’s IWD 2019 theme, More Powerful Together, recognises the important role we all play – as women, men, non-binary and gender diverse people. It takes all of us, working in collaboration and across that which sometimes divides us, breaking down stereotypes and gendered roles to create a world where women and girls everywhere have equal rights and opportunities.

More Powerful Together is a clarion call to stand in unison for gender equality.

From the Parliamentary Library

Around the world, political representation continues to be a key area of gender imbalance. Globally, women comprised 24.3 per cent of members of national parliaments as at 1 January 2019. Only the parliaments of three countries—Rwanda, Cuba and Bolivia—have a majority of women in their lower house. Australia is currently ranked equal 48th in the world out of 193 countries for representation of women in the lower house, behind New Zealand (15th) and the United Kingdom (39th) but ahead of Canada (62nd) and the United States of America (equal 78th).

INEQUALITY – (Crikey)

New data released as part of International Women’s Day puts Australia at least 12 years away from financial equality and indicates a major gender disparity regarding senior jobs and working arrangements.

According to The New Daily, PwC’s 2019 Women in Work Index has Australia 15th in the world for female economic empowerment for the second year running. Women are majorly underrepresented across both political and business leadership roles, making up just 7% of CEO roles in major companies, but overly represented across unpaid care work and part-time and casual roles.

While bridging that gap would require structural reform, a McCrindle Research survey indicates only 33% of working men agree that would-be female leaders are held back by flexibility requirements compared to 55% of women listing it as a barrier.

PINOCHET

The Australian Building and Construction Commission has threatened workers with \$5000 fines for “unlawfully” joining the ACTU’s national day of action on April 10. The union urged 250,000 workers to strike as part of an industrial relations election campaign.

According to The Australian (\$), ABCC commissioner Stephen McBurney has threatened individual fines for construction workers who stop work for the rally without written permission from their employer. The Federal Court has previously issued fines of more than a thousand dollars for workers who “unlawfully” attended a rally in Perth.

The ACTU has slammed the threat as “a disgraceful attempt to intimidate working people out of exercising their democratic rights”.



GOING ANYWHERE

A leaked Defence briefing has revealed that Australian Border Force falls short of sea patrol targets by 20%, with navy and air force personnel reportedly forced to pick up the slack. Defence was forced to reduce counter-terrorism ocean patrols with the Philippines, cancel a maritime operation with key Pacific neighbours and cancel an air surveillance exercise with Indonesia because it was picking up slack left by deficiencies in the Australian Border Force, according to leaked documents.

SELF CHECKOUT CHEATS

In a recent survey by Canstar Blue, 9 per cent of shoppers admitted to deliberately not paying for an item at self-service checkouts, either by scanning it as a cheaper item, or taking it without paying.

Shoppers aged 18 to 29 were found to be most likely to deliberately steal from self-service checkouts (12 per cent) and to cheat the system by scanning an item as something cheaper (14 per cent).

NATIONALS FISH KILL - (SMH)



Crucial supporters of the Nationals have abandoned the party for the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers in the NSW marginal seat of Murray in fury over claims of water theft.

Chris Brooks, the chairman of the Southern Riverina Irrigators group which represents 1800 irrigators in the region, has pulled his lifelong support for the Nationals to back the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers candidate, local farmer Helen Dalton.

Mr Brooks says many of his members have followed suit ahead of the March 23 state election.

The Nationals' Austin Evans holds the seat by 3.2 per cent, having beaten Mrs Dalton at a by-election in October 2012.

"I have voted Nationals all my life," Mr Brooks said. "But even lifetime supporters need water to stay rusted on, and they took all our f***ing water."

Other prominent Nationals backers who have told the Herald they are supporting Mrs Dalton include Griffith winemaker Darren De Bortoli and Kel Baxter, who owns a large trucking business and extensive farming interests and is a former director of Murray Irrigation.

"I'm not just voting for her I am actively helping her campaign," Mr De Bortoli said. He said the Nationals had failed the region.

MEANWHILE ... JOYCE BACK?

According to [today's reports in the News Corp tabloids](#), the pitch of concern is such that it is hoped McCormack will make way before the federal election rather than after, notwithstanding the implications of a Joyce comeback for the government's widely noted "women problem".

WATER THEFT

Hundreds of billions of litres of water is missing from the Murray-Darling Basin, according to a new report.

An Australian National University study claimed the federal government had grossly exaggerated the amount of water being returned to the system via water savings.

The recovered water was meant to boost environmental flows.

Co-author Professor John Williams said the lack of water may be a contributing factor in ecological issues affecting the river.

"The government thinks we've returned more water to the Murray-Darling than in fact we have," Professor Williams said.

But the government is standing by its figures and irrigators have rejected the new findings.

The article, published in the *Australasian Journal of Water Resources* on Wednesday, said \$3.5 billion of taxpayer money had been spent on infrastructure subsidies to increase irrigation efficiency across the basin.

The government estimated that some 700 gigalitres (700 billion litres) of water had been recovered as a result.

The study produced dramatic new calculations suggesting that stream flows had increased by as little as 70 gigalitres, just one-tenth of the official estimate.

"It means that we've spent a lot of money on water use efficiency and have not got the flows back in the river that we need," Professor Williams said.

Co-author Professor Quentin Grafton said no one was measuring how much water was being recovered by the multimillion-dollar irrigation efficiency program.

"You've got a Murray-Darling Basin Authority making claims that there's all this increase in stream flows. Yet they actually haven't done the work that's necessary to work to find that out," Professor Grafton said.

Professor Grafton said the cost of the water recovered via efficiency measures was potentially 25 times more than simply buying it back from willing sellers.

"That's like throwing money out the window basically," he said.

"Not only in terms of the outcomes of the basin, but in terms of tax dollars that had basically been wasted."

He said the research suggested the problems facing the Murray-Darling river system were greater than previously thought.

"That's what our paper says. It's much worse than we thought – not a little bit worse, much worse than we thought."

The study authors are calling on the government to stop water infrastructure efficiency subsidies until a proper water accounting system was in place in the basin.

In a separate report prepared by the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, it was found that research commissioned by both the Federal Government and the Opposition into the recent fish kills agreed that there was: "The strong need for much more measurement, monitoring, research and forecasting on several aspects of how the Darling system functions. The underlying purpose of those recommendations is that such a complex system can't be managed without knowledge and measurement."



TAX CHEATS – The New Daily

Most multinational companies on our Top 40, indeed 269 large companies on the Tax Office transparency list, have paid zero tax for four years straight.

Qantas is perhaps the best known, racking up almost \$62 billion in total income and paying not one red cent in tax.

Others, more notorious, such as the oil majors, gas companies and Glencore, have used “debt-loading” to siphon hundreds of millions of dollars a year in interest payments to their associates offshore.

America’s biggest coal company, Peabody, reported a \$1 billion jump in coal sales to \$3.3 billion for its Australian subsidiary, plus a \$1 billion profit in its latest accounts, but no tax payable.

This is in line with the rich and long tradition of foreign resources giants skimming on tax, that is skimming profits to their associates overseas to escape paying tax in this country.

Swiss juggernaut Glencore romped in at No.1 on the Top 40 Tax Dodgers chart last year but, thanks to some nifty jiggling, [managed to excuse itself](#) from the list completely this year, despite only showing tax of \$1000 on \$28 billion of income over four years.

Citic Resources at #22, Sumitomo at #30 and Yancoal Australia at #33 ensured foreign traders and producers of coal were extremely well represented in this year’s Top 40. Whitehaven Coal narrowly missed the list, coming in at #41 with a \$6 billion total income and zero tax over four years.

LIVING IS TOUGH

Australian living standards are in decline for the first time since the 91-92 recession despite strong corporate profits, obscene CEO salaries and

an increase in the number of billionaires, research released by the peak body for working people has found.

The report includes work from the Australian National University’s Associate Professor Ben Phillips which uses data from Australian Bureau of Statistics measuring wages, welfare payments and investment incomes, allowing for taxes and interest payments and accounting for rising costs and the effects of population growth.

The research shows that living standards peaked in Australia in 2011 before a dramatic slide between 2015 and 2018 to plummet to their current levels. They are now lower than during the 1991-92 recession.

Yet in 2016-17 alone, the number of billionaires in Australia increased by 26 percent to 43. The report comes on the back of a leaked Credit Suisse investment note that revealed that labour productivity was rising four times as fast as real wages.

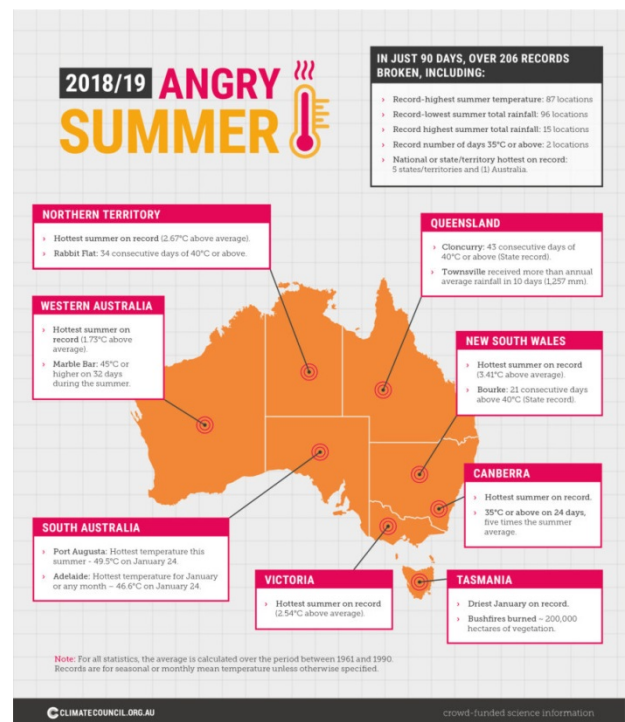
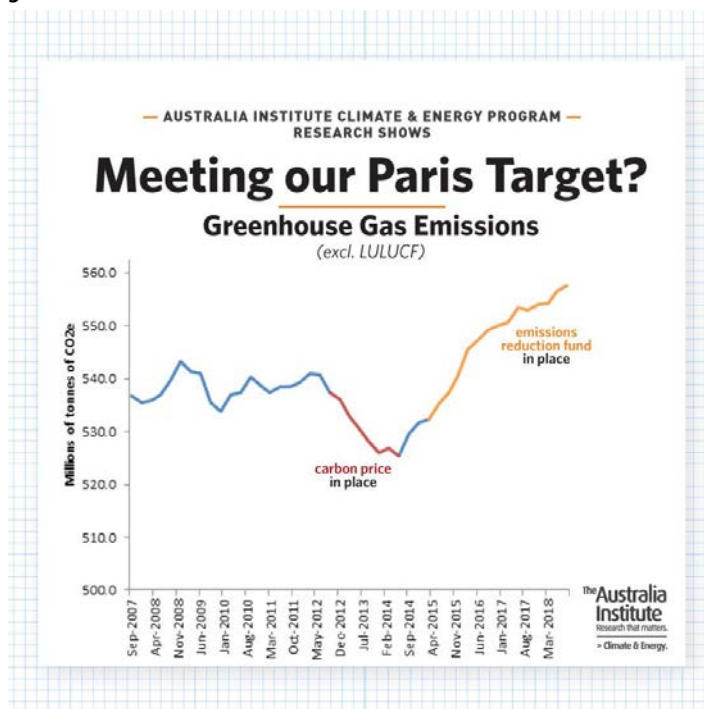
THE TRUTH ABOUT EMISSIONS

A group of 28 climate scientists, academics and former heads of energy companies on Monday released a joint statement to correct the record, and remove any ambiguity on the subject:

– Australia is NOT on track to meet its 2030 emissions reduction target;

– Even if it was (it’s not), the target itself is woefully inadequate for what science says must be done to avert dangerous climate change.

“It is unbelievably misleading,” said signatory and Climate Councillor Greg Bourne on ABC Radio on Monday morning. “Anyone who goes into the data sets, and they’re really quite easy to look at, with some very nice graphs, show emissions rising ever since, basically, the Abbott government came in.”



TOUR DE FARCE – David Crowe (The Age)



Australians just paid about \$2000 a minute for a press conference on Christmas Island that told them nothing new. Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his entourage spoke at the event for less than 30 minutes after landing on the island in a Royal Australian Air Force jet. This breezy outlay of taxpayer cash is cynical and wasteful just weeks before the government releases a federal budget that will confirm deficits of \$360 billion over several thousand dollars more for the hop to Christmas Island. The flight from Christmas Island to Perth costs about \$15,000 and the return to Canberra another \$14,000. These are approximate figures based on flights taken in previous years and costed by the RAAF. That means yesterday’s press conference cost roughly \$60,000 the past decade. A government that once crusaded on a budget emergency is now soaking taxpayers to save itself at the May election

RETROGRADE

The Bishop of Armidale, Michael Kennedy, has written to the director of a Catholic Schools Office that oversees 24 schools asking that principals be directed to stop asking priests for their working-with-children checks.

The Bishop of Armidale, Michael Kennedy,

HYPOCRITES (Crikey)

At the recent Australian Financial Business Summit Sally Loane of the Financial Services Council complained about politicians competing to beat up her big bank masters — the same Loane whose evidence to the Royal Commission was a train wreck that had to be corrected. Jennifer Westacott, head of the business community's least effective lobby group the Business Council of Australia (BCA), had a crack at industry superannuation funds for political activism. Unmentioned was the support the BCA gave to the Liberal Party's campaign against industry super.

The response of the gathered business luminaries to the tarnished ethical reputation of Australian business — think the banks — other major financial institutions — the underpayment of workers — etc., etc. was illuminating. Largely their greed, dishonesty and manifold breaches of trust were simply ignored — this is what they think they really need to regain the communities trust and respect

There is a tall poppy syndrome in Australia. I do think we underplay ourselves a bit," said another anti-union campaigner, Alan Joyce.

"We should be creating a narrative," said Tania Constable of the Minerals Council.

Business needed a more positive narrative, Business Council chair Grant King claimed.

[Yeah write a book on how great though art! That'll help! —Ed]

Voters are jack of neoliberalism and want an economy that works for them, not for the Mike Kanes and Grant Kings and Alan Joyces of the world. But business figures remain in deep denial.

The Canberra bubble has nothing on the bubble of delusion Australia's business

HAPPY DAYS



Formerly conjoined twins Nima and Dawa are still so close they are sharing a plane seat on their flight home to Bhutan four months after they were separated at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital.

The 20-month-old Bhutanese girls, who shared a liver and were connected from chest to pelvis, were successfully separated in November by a team of about 18 medical staff in a six-hour operation.

Their journey home on Wednesday with their mother Bhumchu Zangmo, and accompanied by two helpers, will take up to 22 hours.

The twins, who intertwined their legs to maintain contact after their surgery, are now learning to walk, but still sleeping in one bed.

"Nima's walking and Dawa's not far from walking, so they're doing everything they

should be doing and more," the Children's First Foundation's Deb Pickering said.

NO WIFI

Chinese tourists are worth \$11.5 billion a year to the economy but they have two complaints about us. No1.was the lack of free Wi-Fi across regional Australia. According to a new report by m Tourism Research Australia this had become a tourism marketing problem for Australia because half of this segment of Chinese Millennial travellers used social media, and more than a third used travel review sites, to plan their holidays. "Lack of free Wi-Fi in regional Australia is a significant barrier and limits opportunities to post real time experiences," the report concluded. This group grew 18.8 per cent last year, as the overall number of Chinese visitors grew 5.5 per cent to reach a record 1.42 million. Ten airlines fly between Australia and China, with a potential 2.2 million inbound seats

QLD NATS THROW MORE COAL ON THE FIRE OF GOVERNMENT DIVISION.

Not content with having encouraged the coup de tat against Prime Minister Turnbull six Queensland national party MP's are trying to destroy what's left of their government.

Six Queensland Nationals MPs have reignited the Coalition's civil war on energy policy, demanding that Scott Morrison put his shelved "big stick" laws to a vote in budget week and fast-track a decision on the underwriting of a new cleaner coal plant. The six Nationals who signed the letter include frontbencher Michelle Landry — an outspoken advocate for a new cleaner coal plant — as well as Keith Pitt, Llew O'Brien, George Christensen, Ken O'Dowd and outgoing senator Barry O'Sullivan.

BYE, BYE JAMES

The tiny Pacific nation of the Cook Islands is considering a name change to drop the homage to explorer James Cook in favour of a title that better reflects its "Polynesian nature". Earlier attempts to change the name of the islands — a self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand — have been unsuccessful. In 1994, a referendum to change it to Avaiki Nui was resoundingly defeated.

According to historians, the Cook Islands were inhabited by Polynesians from Tahiti in the 6th century.

In 1595, Spanish sailor Alvaro de Menda a de Neira sighted the islands and named

them San Bernardo (Saint Bernard). In 1606, Portuguese navigator Pedro Fernandes de Queiros, a subject of the King of Spain, became the first European to set foot on the islands, renaming them Gente Hermosa (Beautiful People).

Captain Cook visited the islands in 1773 and 1777 and named them Hervey Islands.

It was not until the 1820s that the first documents appeared referring to the archipelago as Cook Islands.

ITS NOT BOATS ITS PLANES - David Margan

An estimated 86,940 people who entered Australia in 2017–18 breached their visa conditions. Many of them quickly left the country, but as of 30 June 2017, there were 62,900 unlawful non-citizens residing in Australia—a number that has remained roughly constant over the past few years. The Immigration Department reported that the majority of these unlawful non-Australians arrived on visitor visas, nearly 15% of which were student visas.



These are people who arrived at an airport in a plane. It's clear that the more pressing issue is the challenge that air arrivals present to maintaining the integrity of Australia's borders.

Peter Dutton should get very, very upset about the effect these people are having on hospital queues!

Over 50% of unlawful non-citizens had been in Australia for five years or longer.

Why isn't Dutton arresting, locking-up or deporting those people?

Perhaps Peter has a secret ailment, Thalassophobia – a fear of boats.

SOCIAL HOUSING – KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

CAMERON – SPEECH - POWERHOUSING AUSTRALIA ROUNDTABLE - MELBOURNE

It revealed that a staggering 599,049 low-income households are in rental stress. In excess of 47 percent of low-income households in Australia now have to commit a third or more of their income to housing costs. That's compared to 36 percent 10 years ago.

Australia's pre-eminent housing research body, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), estimates there is an existing shortage of more than 525,000 affordable rental properties across Australia.



AHURI has also projected that a further 727,000 social housing dwellings alone will be needed over the next 20 years to meet rapidly rising need.

The current construction rate of social housing – little more than 3,000 dwellings a year – is failing to even keep pace with rising need, let alone address the existing shortage.

The case for action is self-evident. Despite this the Government has refused to accept that a crisis of this scale requires federal government intervention.

The UNSW Sydney and Community Housing Industry Association NSW's Strengthening Economic Cases for Housing mirrors Labor's position that housing be considered essential infrastructure akin to roads and public transport.

The report modelled the economic impact of a housing program half the size of Labor's proposed policy of building 250,000 new affordable homes and found significant social and economic benefits.

The report found a range of benefits including that:

A worker could save \$2,500 per year in travel time through shorter commute times, leading to an extra \$1.13 billion of labour supply in the NSW economy

By moving workers closer to a wider range of jobs that better suit their skillset, incomes increased by between \$12,000 to \$41,000 a year. These increased earnings would provide \$17.57 billion boost to the economy over 40 years.

This is part of the reason why it's my preference that housing is no longer considered solely a social policy or welfare issue, but is considered a vital infrastructure issue and placed under the appropriate federal portfolio.

All this fits with Labor's mission. Increasing the supply of affordable housing is critical to addressing pressures on cost of living, and in turn, addressing inequality.

Meanwhile, the Coalition's sole priority is to maintain the world's most generous tax concessions for wealthy investors and property speculators at the expense of helping renters, first-home buyers and vulnerable Australians in need.

WOMEN

LABOR'S PLAN TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS – Plibersek/Catherine King

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver Australia's first ever National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy to make sure all Australian women can access legal, safe, affordable reproductive health services.

Reproductive choice and access to basic health care are fundamental rights.

Every Australian woman should have access to the health services they need, where and when they need them.

Labor's plan will improve access to contraception –

We will review the Medicare rebate for long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), to make sure that cost isn't a barrier to their use.

LARCs are over 99 per cent effective, but Australia's uptake of LARCs is far lower than other OECD countries.

For example in the US and the UK, around a third of women use them but in Australia only about 10 per cent of women do.

We will ask the Therapeutic Goods Administration to advise government on options to reduce barriers to improve access to the contraceptive pill.

That advice will include an investigation of arrangements in New Zealand where you can now get a three year prescription for the pill from your doctor.

In addition, Labor recognises that for many women, the decision to end a pregnancy is one of the most difficult she will make.

Labor's plan will improve access to safe, legal ways to end a pregnancy –

We will review the Medicare rebate associated with medical terminations (RU486) to address access and affordability issues.

Labor added RU486 to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in 2013, so a prescription only costs \$6.40 if you have a health care card. But out of pocket costs for appointments and tests average close to \$600.

We will support doctors in the provision of medical terminations.

Only around 1,500 of Australia's 35,000 GPs are registered prescribers of medical terminations.

Labor will fund an online community of practice to support the provision of medical terminations and LARCs so practitioners can access peer support and advice, as well as connect with pharmacists and other service providers.

This will particularly help women in country Australia, where it can be hard to find a doctor who provides medical terminations.

We will support all women to access termination services in public hospitals.

For the first time, Commonwealth-State hospital funding agreements will expect that termination services will be provided consistently in public hospitals.

This is critical to end the patchwork of service provision in Australia.

Women have been turned away from public hospitals for termination services, and have not been able to access or afford to go to a private clinic.

In some cases women have been forced to travel hundreds of kilometres or go interstate to get the care they need.

Choosing to terminate a pregnancy is difficult enough.

Forcing a woman to travel long distances or interstate to access surgical services can dramatically increase the emotional and financial burden.

We wouldn't accept someone having to travel that far for a hip replacement or a broken bone. Women deserve better.

We will establish a new Tasmanian Reproductive Health Hub.

Currently, many Tasmania women seeking to end a pregnancy are forced to travel interstate to have a termination, due to a lack of local services.

Labor will put an end to that by building the Tasmanian Reproductive Health Hub, which will be part of the public hospital system.

We will fund a national telephone referral service linking women to safe, credentialed providers of termination services.

When a woman makes the difficult decision to end a pregnancy, she should have access to reliable information about the safe services available.

We will progress the decriminalisation of abortion across Australia.

Abortion remains a crime in New South Wales, impacting around a third of Australian women.

Women can also still be charged for "unlawful" abortions in South Australia.

That causes uncertainty and hampers the provision of essential health care.

Labor will work closely with the states to address these issues.

Labor will also **restore funding to the Australian Women's Health Network (AHWN)** – Australia's only peak body for women's health. The AHWN is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of women in Australia, and has worked for better outcomes in women's health issues such as informed choice around sexual health and contraception, and domestic violence prevention.

Despite AHWN's terrific work, the Liberals cut all their funding.

Labor's plan will provide national leadership so Australian women can access legal, safe, affordable reproductive health services when and where they need them.

A Shorten Labor Government will provide \$9.3 million in initial funding for the plan.

SUPPORT PACKAGES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS– Shorten/Plibersek/Burney/Clare O'Neil

A Shorten Labor Government will provide practical support to help those who have experienced domestic and family violence leave violent relationships and rebuild their lives.

Labor will deliver around 20,000 Flexible Support Packages over four years, to be funded from Labor's Banking Fairness Fund at a cost of \$60 million.

Financial insecurity is one of the biggest barriers to a woman leaving a violent relationship - something that can persist for years as people try to rebuild their lives.

Each Flexible Support Package will be individually designed to address the barriers women and their children face in getting safe and keeping safe.

It is practical assistance at a time survivors of family violence and their children need it most.

Domestic and family violence services will be able to work with women to tailor Flexible Support Packages in the way that helps victims most - such as rent, furniture, transport, medication, home security and transport costs.

For many women it will mean they can keep seeing the family doctor they know, continue to get to work and keep children in the school they are familiar with.

It will also mean survivors can furnish rental accommodation and meet the short-terms costs of continuing study.

Flexible Support Packages are a tried and tested initiative, and they work. Flexible Support Packages have been provided in Victoria for several years, with an [evaluation](#) finding they have had a transformational benefit for women and children leaving domestic or family violence.

All people experiencing family or domestic violence will be eligible to apply for a Flexible Support Package.

This includes children in out-of-home care, young people fleeing violence, temporary visa holders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and LGBTIQ people.

A Shorten Labor Government will ensure family violence survivors across Australia get this kind of support to re-build their lives.

LABOR TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH – Catherine King

A Shorten Labor Government will raise public awareness of women's heart health by rolling out a potentially life-saving new education campaign in communities across Australia.



Heart disease is the biggest killer of Australian women - but prevention, diagnosis and treatment efforts are being undermined by the perception that heart disease is a male problem.

In fact, women are three times more likely to die from heart disease than from breast cancer. Women often ignore heart attack symptoms because they can be different from those experienced by men.

For several years The Heart Foundation has been educating NSW women about these issues through its Women and Heart Disease Community Grants program.

The program provides community organisations with \$10,000 each to raise local awareness of heart disease and the ways women can reduce their risks.

Labor will invest \$300,000 to begin rolling out this important program nationally. Thirty communities will benefit from this pre-election down payment to tackling this important issue.

We will use the Heart Foundation's Australian Heart Maps to help identify communities where Labor's investment is most needed.

This commitment comes on top of Labor's recent decision to invest \$170 million in Medicare to cover heart health checks.

Labor is committed to improving the health of all Australians.

That's why we're committed to fixing our hospitals with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund. It's why we're committed to ending the Liberals' disastrous six-year Medicare freeze. It's why we're committed to bringing down the cost of private health insurance.

And it's why we will fund life-saving programs like this one: so Australian women have all the information they need to avoid this deadly disease.

ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT JUST MAKING IT UP ON THE RUN ON JOBS – Bowen

Yet again we have Treasury running a million miles from the Government's jobs pledge that was trumpeted by the Prime Minister in late January.

A FOI response from Treasury shows that the Government's 1.25 million jobs pledge had absolutely no Treasury modelling to support it.

It just shows the hypocrisy of this Government which is quick to get Treasury to model and cost Labor's policies, but they could not be bothered getting their own policies modelled. It's lazy and reckless.

This comes as Treasury distancing itself from the jobs pledge at Senate Estimates recently, with officials confirming that the job target is completely at odds with the Government's own budget figures.

When asked about the Government's jobs target, the Deputy Secretary of Macroeconomic Group confirmed that the Government's target would require annual jobs growth of 1.9%, which is higher than the 1½% or 1¼% assumed in current budget figures.

The Government should stop with its hollow and empty slogans and commitments and get on with governing the country.

KEEPING WAGES LOW IS A DELIBERATE DESIGN OF THIS LIBERAL GOVT – O'Connor

Mathias Cormann on Sky News this morning revealed the Liberals are the party for keeping your wages low.

In response to a question on the fact that wages growth is low under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, Minister Cormann responded it was "deliberate".

"That is a deliberate design feature of our economic architecture." - SKY NEWS, AM AGENDA, FRIDAY, 8 MARCH 2019

Under this Government, everything is going up except for wages.

As Treasurer and now Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has presided over the lowest wages growth since records began, and yet he wants to further cut the wages of hard working Australians by getting rid of their penalty rates.

They have no plan in place to deal with increasing insecure work and the more than 1 million underemployed Australians.

National Accounts figures released this week show real wages continue to go backwards under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government. With average compensation per employee growing at 1.7 per cent over the year and profits growing at 11 per cent, it is clear the gap between wages and profits is widening.

This Government doesn't have a single policy to grow wages and reduce inequality, they simply have a plan to keep wages low. Australians deserve a pay rise – and they aren't getting one under Scott Morrison and his Liberals.

REPORT BACKS PLANS ON CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND IMPUTATION REFORM - Bowen

One of Australia's most eminent independent economic think tanks has today backed Labor's calls to reform unfair and unsustainable tax concessions to help improve the social compact and to build fiscal buffers to help withstand future downturns.



In its report release today – *Sustainable Budgets: Underwriting Australia's social compact* – CEDA specifically recommends reforming the capital tax discount and removing imputation refundability.

"To the extent that there is a need to increase taxes to address a revenue shortfall or fund tax relief, proposals should align with broader principles of good tax design, including simplicity,

equity, revenue adequacy and efficiency. Limiting work-related deductions, full volumetric taxation of alcohol, reducing the capital gains tax discount and removing dividend imputation refundability would move Australia's tax system in this direction" [Recommendation 4.1]

CEDA has also belled the cat on why the Scott Morrison led Coalition is so opposed to reforming imputation refundability – not only do the current arrangements benefit the well-off, they also effectively erode the tax paid on company profits.

"the practical effect is that no tax is paid on part of a company's profit" [page 71]

"people with low taxable incomes (based on concessional superannuation tax arrangements), but higher actual income streams and wealth enjoy the greatest benefit from refundable credits" [page 72]

This is a stinging rebuke to the shrill scare campaigns that have been run by Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg in recent weeks.

It says a lot about a government that at a time when everything is going up except people's wages, the Government spends all its time protecting concessions for the wealthy.

In further backing to Labor's broader reform program, CEDA also backs in Labor's calls for intergenerational report to be undertaken by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office, while also giving a nod to concessions like Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee, advocating for "more generous allowances for new investment in the corporate tax system".

CEDA rightly argues that to protect and deliver Australia's social compact through the provision of adequate social security and welfare, health, education and other services that are fundamental to people's wellbeing, difficult decisions are necessary.

Labor is the only party willing to make the difficult decisions to fund important public investments, to provide tax relief to those who need it and to build bigger fiscal buffers at a time when economic circumstances allow.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: ECONOMY NOT WORKING FOR WORKING PEOPLE – Bowen

On Wednesday we saw the economic cost of the dysfunction of the Liberal Government. Wednesday's National Accounts confirmed that after six years of Liberal Government, we are now in a per capita recession, for the first time in thirteen years.

This will be the last National Accounts before the next federal election and you would expect Josh Frydenberg would be spending all of his time taking responsibility for the state of the economy now – but on Wednesday we saw barely any of that.

For the December National Accounts, the Australian economy grew at 0.2 per cent, with the annual growth below trend at 2.3 per cent – well below the RBA's revised forecast [2.75 per cent] of only a few weeks ago – and we've now had two negative quarters of GDP per capita growth.

Living standards have grown at about half the rate they did under the previous Labor Government.

This is the second weakest quarterly number under the Liberals and GDP growth has slowed further from the already weak result last quarter.

Despite contributing to overall growth, household consumption had another weak quarter – growing by only 0.4 per cent in the quarter and 2.0 per cent over the year.

If it wasn't for public consumption we would have had a negative quarter of growth and that's some claim to fame for the Liberal Party.

Josh Frydenberg had no care and no responsibility for the poor management of the Australian economy.

These numbers are yet another reminder that Australians are badly in need of a wage rise and all the Treasurer can talk about is the Labor Party – there were many more references to '**Labor**' and '**Bill**' and '**Chris**' then there were taking responsibility for a slowing Australian economy.

In the face of this poor result, Coalition want to cut penalty rates and reduce the wages of working Australians further.

This is a Government which has been in office for two terms, seeking a third, which has no vision or economic plan other than talking about its opponents, has basically vacated this space.

Weak wages growth continues and the gap between profits and wages widens further, with average compensation per employee growing at 1.7 per cent over the year and profits growing at 11 per cent.

Labour productivity (measured by GDP per hour worked) continues to stagnate. It fell by 0.2 per cent in the quarter, which means it has fallen in the last 8 out of 10 quarters.

What we need is a positive Labor plan for the economy and inclusive economic growth – starting with bigger, better and fairer income tax cuts for 10 million Australians and an Australian Investment Guarantee to help boost much-needed investment in the economy.

The Liberals have lost all moral authority when it comes to the economy. Labor welcomes an election on the Liberals record and our alternative vision for the economy.

JOSH CALLED OUT BY TREASURY, TIME TO DROP THE LIES – Bowen

Josh Frydenberg should quit while he's behind on his dishonest and shrill scare campaign on Labor's negative gearing reforms after his Treasury department shot the Liberal's lies down, yet again.

Documents under the *Freedom of Information Act* show that on 8 January 2018 last year, the Government asked Treasury to fact check a statement that included a reference that Labor's housing affordability reforms '**will reduce house prices**'.

In response the Treasury advised:

"The ... statement is not consistent with our advice. We did not say that the proposed policies 'will' reduce house prices.

"We said that they 'could' put downward pressure on house prices in the short-term depending on what else was going on in the market at the time, but in the long-term they were unlikely to have much impact."

This proves beyond doubt that Scott Morrison and his desperate Liberals have been lying to Australians about Labor's policy.

Not content with being humiliated by his own department, the hapless Josh Frydenberg had nothing left but then to revert to type and quote vested property interests to support his opposition to Labor's reforms to negative gearing.

At the next election there's a choice: The Liberals' plan to stand up for banks and top end of town, or Labor's plan to fix our schools and hospitals.

Our plan is good for the budget, good for construction jobs and fair for first home buyers.

If you already use negative gearing, nothing changes. It's not retrospective. And you can still use it for new houses.

Federal Labor is reforming negative gearing to put young first home buyers on more of a level playing field with property investors seeking their 6th or 7th property.

MEDIA

GOVT MISSES NBN SPEED MANDATE IN 5 OUT OF 8 - Rowland/Wilson

Evidence submitted [to the NBN Joint Standing Committee](#) has revealed the multi-technology mix will fail to meet the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's own national NBN speed quality mandate in 5 out of 8 States and Territories.

According to NBNCo, the rollouts in **Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT** will not meet the national quality benchmark of 90 per cent of premises being able to achieve 50 Mbps speeds in the fixed line footprint.

Furthermore, these sub-par levels are based on network performance in the year 2022 – not 2020 when the rollout is forecast to be complete. This comes after Labor repeatedly warned Communications Minister Mitch Fifield that Fibre to the Curb levels were inadequate, particularly in [Western Australia](#), which is now the State with the slowest fixed-line speeds.

Rather than taking action, the Minister irresponsibly increased the Fibre to the Node footprint by 100,000 premises in the 2019 NBN Corporate Plan as cost and time blowouts on his bungled HFC network began to bite.

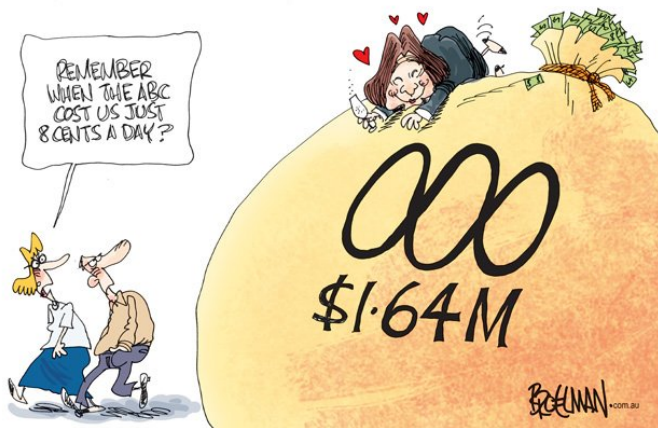
It is astonishing that despite a \$21.4 billion cost blowout, and rollout delay of four years, the Liberals' can't even meet their own low-ball speed mandate in 5 out of 8 States and Territories.

Under the original fibre plan, the entire fixed line footprint in every State and Territory could achieve speeds of 1000 Mbps.

Under the Liberals, not even 90 per cent of the fixed-footprint can achieve 50 Mbps.

FIFIELD MUST ANSWER QUESTIONS OVER HUGE GUTHRIE PAYOUT – Rowland

The pay out to Michelle Guthrie is an extraordinary amount of taxpayers' money and people have the right to feel outraged.



The Liberals have cut the ABC, interfered with the ABC, complained about the ABC, and now their hand-picked board has been throwing money at Michelle Guthrie to try and make it all go away. It stinks.

Where is the Minister? He needs to front up and explain to the taxpayers why they are footing this huge bill.

END UNCERTAINTY AROUND ABC ENHANCED NEWSGATHERING FUNDING - Rowland

A question mark continues to hang over the Enhanced Newsgathering Program funding for the ABC which was introduced by Labor in 2013, then [cut back by the Liberals](#).

Funding for this newsgathering initiative, which strengthens local and regional news, runs out in only a few months yet still the Minister has not confirmed whether it will be continued.

At the Senate Inquiry into allegations of political interference in the ABC this week, the Acting ABC Managing Director warned that without extension of that funding and combined with the Liberal Government's \$83.7 million budget cut, the ABC faces a \$127 million budget hole over the next three years.

The ABC confirmed that without funding for the newsgathering initiative, news and emergency broadcasting could be affected in a number of areas. To guard against political interference, Australia's public broadcaster needs stability.

That is why Labor has committed to [reversing the Liberals' \\$83.7 million cut](#), as well as guaranteeing stable funding over the next budget cycle. It is also why Communications Minister Mitch Fifield must confirm extension of the funding for enhanced newsgathering as a matter of urgency. Minister Fifield has a concerning track record when it comes to leaving key decisions to the eleventh hour.

Everyone from the [Community TV sector](#), the [Screen Production sector](#), the [Interactive Game Development sector](#) and the [blind community](#) has suffered uncertainty waiting for the Minister to make a decision.

The instability and chaos of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government is not good enough for the ABC, one of Australia's most trusted institutions.

The Liberals have not only failed to commit to stable funding, but now they won't even come clean on enhanced newsgathering funds which will soon expire.

GOVERNANCE

REFERRAL OF CHRISTIAN PORTER TO THE AFP - Dreyfus

I have written to the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Andrew Colvin, asking him to investigate whether the Attorney-General Christian Porter may have committed bribery offences under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

On 21 February 2019, Mr Porter appointed Ms Jane Bell to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. At that time, Ms Bell was publicly known to be seeking preselection for the seat of Higgins, vacated by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer.

There is clear and recent High Court precedent, established in the case of Hollie Hughes, that membership of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal renders a person incapable of sitting as member of Parliament, due to the constitutional prohibition on members of Parliament also holding an office of profit under the Crown. As Attorney-General and first law officer of this country, this is a fact Mr Porter would have been well aware of.

Therefore by appointing Ms Bell to the AAT before the Higgins preselection contest was finalised, Mr Porter has effectively rendered any votes for Ms Bell entirely pointless – potentially interfering with the preselection process.

The timing of the appointment – immediately before the preselection ballot was held – raises other questions.

Under the Act, it is an offence carrying a penalty of up to two years in jail to give or promise to give a person a benefit of any kind with the intention of influencing or affecting that person's candidacy for an election.

Mr Porter's stacking of the AAT with Liberal mates – just like his predecessor George Brandis – is proving to be a terrible error of judgment. Mr Porter must explain today all of the circumstances of this appointment and release all relevant documents.

WORKERS

LIBERALS PROTECTING DODGY BOSSES WHO DON'T PAY SUPER – Leigh/Clare O'Neil

The Liberals are letting dodgy employers off the hook for failing to pay workers' superannuation.

Last May, the Liberals introduced a bill to Parliament to give a 12-month "amnesty" to employers who pay superannuation guarantee payments that they have failed to pay since 1 July 1992. Labor opposed this amnesty, because dodgy employers shouldn't get away with failing to pay their employees' super.

Employers must obey the law. There are penalties in law which remain for ripping off workers and not paying superannuation – which is a fine equal to up to 200 percent of the amount of superannuation owed. These have remain in force and have not changed.

Yet today, it has been revealed that the Liberals asked the tax office to administer their amnesty anyway. Reports suggest that many business owners applied under the amnesty. They have apparently been treated by the tax office as though the amnesty had passed the Parliament.

The Liberals – without any tick from the Parliament – are letting employers who have failed pay superannuation entitlements from an employee for up to 25 years off the hook. This is completely unacceptable, and Labor has today written to the tax commissioner to find out the full circumstances surrounding this debacle.

Worse, if they got their way, the Liberals would even give dodgy employers a tax break for doing the wrong thing.

Superannuation is part of a worker's pay and conditions. Bosses who deliberately avoid paying their workers superannuation are breaking the law – and they should be punished to the full extent of the law.

Only this arrogant, out-of-touch Liberal Government would fail to enforce the law and let dodgy bosses off the hook.

Only Labor can be trusted to stand up for workers. Labor opposes this amnesty and will actually do something about unpaid superannuation – unlike the Liberals. Last year, Labor announced a ground-breaking policy to tackle unpaid superannuation, including a commitment to include a right to superannuation within the National Employment Standards, which will give all employees the power to pursue their unpaid superannuation.

The Liberals should stop letting dodgy bosses off the hook and match Labor's commitment to crack down on unpaid super.

GOVT'S RESPONSE TO WORKER TASKFORCE TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE – O'Connor/Neumann

For more than five years, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has done nothing to help put workers first.

This week's release of the Migrant Workers' Taskforce report, in the shadow of an election, is nothing more than a fig leaf to hide the complete lack of action or plan to address the exploitation of vulnerable workers for over five years.

This short-sighted Liberal Government fails to recognise that exploitation affects both migrant and Australian workers. They have made no effort to focus on the rip offs by dodgy employers impacting on local Australian workers, which further erodes wages and disadvantages employers that do the right thing.

While the Morrison Government sits idly by, wage rip offs have flourished and the reality is that, because the Liberals are running a part-time parliament, there is no genuine opportunity for these recommendations to be legislated before the next election.

It's an abysmal response from a divided and chaotic Government that is far more focussed on securing their own jobs than the security of all vulnerable workers – both migrant and Australian workers alike.

Only Labor is serious about protecting vulnerable workers in Australia from exploitation. We took a number of reforms to the last election and will continue to outline policies in the lead up to the coming election.

Labor will introduce very significant civil penalties, particularly against big companies, for intentional systemic underpayment, along with a comprehensive labour hire regulation scheme to ensure those workers are paid the same as directly employed staff doing the same job.

Scott Morrison doesn't have a single policy to grow wages or to reduce exploitation and inequality. Australians deserve more.

DODGY BUILDERS UNDER A SPOTLIGHT – O'Connor/Leigh

Dodgy building firms who deliberately avoid paying workers will be forced to face the consequences of their actions under a Shorten Labor Government.

If elected to government, Labor will work with states and territories to cancel the building licenses of companies which have been caught phoenixing, a practise where dodgy directors deliberately burn companies in an attempt to avoid their obligations to employees, government, home owners and honest businesses.

Not only does phoenix activity hurt hard working Australians, their families and their communities, but it costs the economy billions of dollars. On one estimate, phoenixing costs the Australian economy in excess of \$5 billion per year, which is more than \$200 for every person in Australia. This announcement builds on anti-phoenixing measures already announced by Labor:

- [Tradie Pay Guarantee](#): Labor will establish a new requirement for large Commonwealth construction projects that would see project bank accounts established that use cascading statutory trusts. This will ensure that if tradies do the work on time, they will get paid on time.
- [\\$7 million Tradie Litigation Fund](#): Labor will create a fund to give the Australian Securities and Investments Commission the ability to run more difficult court cases without draining the corporate watchdog's resources.
- [Director Identification Number](#): Labor would require all company directors to obtain a unique Director Identification Number with a 100-point identification check, as well as increase penalties associated with phoenix activity.
- [Name and Shame](#): Labor would allow the Commissioner of Taxation to name individuals and entities as a penalty for the most serious tax offences. They could also apply to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to have them formally seek disqualification orders for directors who engaged in or oversaw serious non-compliance.

Just about every tradie in Australia will have experienced the frustration of not being paid on time, or not being paid at all. Late payment and non-payment harm the financial and mental health of thousands who work in the construction sector. It's a drag on productivity, and yet another form of unfairness on the job.

Labor will stop dodgy bosses ripping off subbies, workers and taxpayers.

If you've deliberately ripped off subcontractors, employees and taxpayers, you should lose your building licence. It's as simple as that. This will also support Labor's broad agenda for reform of the building and construction industry which includes stronger and more effectively enforced regulation, national licensing of key building occupations and a ban on the importation of flammable cladding.

SUBBIES WILL GET BEST DEAL WITH LABOR GOVERNMENT – Andrew Leigh

Queensland One Homes collapsed in 2017, owing more than \$5 million. Fencers, roofers, electricians and painters were left out of pocket. The liquidator's report detailed debts of \$380,000 to the federal government, \$90,000 to the Queensland government, and millions of dollars of debts to Gold Coast small businesses.

Allegations of "phoenixing" have also been referred to the corporate regulator, ASIC. Phoenixing is defined by the Australian Taxation Office as when a new company is created to continue the business of a company that has been deliberately liquidated to avoid paying its debts. The practice is not illegal.

Over recent months, The Courier-Mail's "Back Our Subbies" campaign has highlighted dozens of cases in which subcontractors have been ripped off, paid late, or not at all. Australia is notoriously bad for late payments to small businesses. One global comparison report found Australian payments were overdue on an average of 26 days.

When John Murray reviewed the industry in 2017, three-quarters of construction firms told him that they regularly got paid late.

If there's a change of federal government this year, subbies will get a better deal. Labor's Tradie Pay Guarantee will establish a new requirement for large Commonwealth construction projects that would see project bank accounts established that use cascading statutory trusts, ensuring that all businesses down the supply chain involved get paid on time. We will then work with the states and territories to harmonise schemes across the country, with the aim of ultimately covering all large construction projects – public and private.

As well, a \$7 million Tradie Litigation Fund will be created for subbies to access justice and see regulators take dodgy bosses to court and win. The Tradie Pay Guarantee and the Tradie Litigation Fund sit alongside our existing initiatives. Two years ago, Shadow Employment Minister Brendan O'Connor and I announced a Labor Government would require all directors to have a Director Identification Number. Unlike when you open a bank account, director registration doesn't currently require a 100-point identification check. As one expert put it, the laws are so lax "you could almost register your dog as a company director".

A DIN is backed by the peak director groups, building groups, insolvency groups and trade unions.

At a state level, the Queensland Government has moved decisively, establishing a Special Joint Taskforce, headed by retired Supreme Court Judge John Byrne to investigate building company collapses.

Queensland's security of payment laws places it ahead of many other states in tackling phoenixing. We're keen to work with the Palaszczuk Government to ensure that all jurisdictions are closing the loopholes currently being exploited by a dodgy few.



On one estimate, phoenixing costs the Australian economy in excess of \$5 billion per year, which is more than \$200 for every person in Australia. We reckon it's probably more than that, since misbehaviour in the building industry saps trust and confidence. Talk to subbies who've been ripped off, and they'll tell you that it doesn't just affect their finances, sleep and relationships – it also makes it harder to trust people on the next job.

It's vital to protect the livelihoods of small businesses, workers and subcontractors who fall victim to dodgy building bosses and ensure perpetrators face their day in court. A Shorten government will Back Our Subbies.

This opinion piece was first published by the Courier Mail on Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS SHOW WAGES GROWTH WEAK UNDER MORRISON – O'Connor

Wednesday's National Accounts figures show real wages continue to go backwards under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government.

Everything is going up except for wages. With average compensation per employee growing at 1.7 per cent over the year and profits growing at 11 per cent, it is clear the gap between wages and profits is widening.

With insecure work increasing and more than a million Australians underemployed, it is no wonder wages are weak.

As Treasurer and now Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has presided over the lowest wages growth since records began, and yet he wants to further cut the wages of hard working Australians by getting rid of their penalty rates.

This Government doesn't have a single policy to grow wages and reduce inequality.

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

COMPANY PROFITS FIVE TIMES WAGES GROWTH UNDER MORRISON – O'Connor

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government company profits continue to grow, and yet wages are stagnating as Australians struggle to keep up with living costs.

According to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) business indicators data, over the past year, company profits grew nearly five times faster than wages.

Company profits rose 0.8 per cent in the December quarter, to be up 10.5 per cent over the year. This compares with the Wage Price Index which shows wages growth at around record lows of 2.3 per cent for the year.

As Treasurer and now Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has presided over the lowest wages growth since records began, and yet he wants to further cut the wages of hard working Australians by getting rid of their penalty rates.

This Government doesn't have a single policy to grow wages and reduce inequality.

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



ABARES PREDICTS FURTHER FALLS IN FARM GATE MILK PRICE – Fitzgibbon

The annual Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) Outlook Conference [has heard](#) farm gate milk prices will continue to fall until at least 2024. Many of our struggling dairy farmers cannot survive that long.

ABARES also told the Conference dairy cow numbers will further shrink in 2018–19 and will continue to fall until 2021–22. The dairy industry is in crisis.

Government intervention is needed to save our dairy farmers, to guarantee a source of fresh milk for Australian consumers and to save our dairy exports.

A Shorten Labor Government will give urgency to its plan to pursue a Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price. We will have the ACCC test, assess and make design recommendations for a minimum milk price as quickly as is possible.

Along with Labor's Mandatory Code of Conduct, a guaranteed price will bring investment certainty for dairy farming businesses.

Dairy farmers have been caught in a cost-price squeeze for too long and in the absence of Government intervention, too many will have no future. Time is of the essence.

THE MORRISON GOVT IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR BIOSECURITY – Fitzgibbon

The Morrison Government is in chaos and its dysfunction now poses a threat to Australia's biosecurity, the most important issue for the agriculture sector.

It's now almost 2 years since the release of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity review.

Led by Wendy Craik, the [IGAB review](#) made 42 recommendations aimed at strengthening our biosecurity systems including one to improve funding certainty and the adequacy of its financial resources.

Specifically, the Panel recommended the introduction of a new biosecurity levy: \$10 on all shipping containers. The recommended implementation date was [July 1, 2019](#).

But in what appears to be an ill-conceived money grab, the Morrison Government is attempting to place a more general and volumetric [import levy](#) on all shipping movements. It proposes to raise \$325 million over three years.

Understandably, the proposal has industry in a flap. Overnight a group of 14 industry leadership groups released a statement demanding the Government remove the proposed levy's revenue from the 2019 Budget.

The Government has booked the revenue but has failed to consult industry, has not undertaken a Regulatory Impact Statement and hasn't even produced draft legislation.

Industry is also rightly concerned that there are no guarantees that the money collected will be spent on biosecurity.

The Morrison Government is now scrambling to establish a steering committee to find a possible solution, however, this gesture must be more than lip service.

Australia is relatively pest and disease free and our key competitive advantage in global food markets is our reputation as a provider of clean, green and safe food. That reputation and brand must be protected.

The additional measure recommended by the Craik Review needs an additional funding source but the Morrison Government has failed in what should have been an uncomplicated task.

Labor supports the rationale for the biosecurity levy. Labor is committed to a properly funded biosecurity system. But the Government's failure to properly consult industry, and fix the problems within its proposal, now poses a threat to Australian agriculture, the environment and the broader community.

LABOR WILL PROTECT FARMERS FROM BANKING MISCONDUCT – Shorten/Fitzgibbon/Clare O'Neill

A Shorten Labor Government will stand up to the big banks and fight for overdue compensation and justice for farmers.

If elected, Labor will put the clamp on farm foreclosures, make banks come clean on their treatment of farmers if they fell behind in their loan payments, and significantly increase the compensation caps for farmers affected by misconduct.

Labor has spent the past six months travelling Australia speaking to victims of banking misconduct, including farmers who had their lives destroyed by big banks when they fell behind due to drought or other natural disasters.

The stories we have heard from bank victims – particularly farmers – have been harrowing. They are the stories the Liberal Government never wanted Australians to hear – Scott Morrison voted against the Banking Royal Commission 26 times.

The Royal Commission recommended that banks agree not to charge default interest on farm loans in times of natural disaster. Default interest is a penalty rate of interest charged on loans where payments are not made on time. Labor agrees and will go further to protect Australian farmers.

Labor will:

- **Review treatment of distressed loans, by looking at cases where default interest was charged by banks to farms for the last five years –** Labor will force banks to come clean on cases where they have charged distressed farms default interest – penalty interest when a payment is not made on time. Labor's Retrospective Compensation Scheme will consider the fairness of each case – including why default interest was charged and why the loan fell into arrears. If a bank hasn't acted in line with their obligations, further steps will be taken to determine whether any compensation should be awarded. This process won't re-open matters resolved via court processes without the consent of both parties.
- **Put a clamp on farm foreclosures –** by introducing a tough new regulatory process for banks to seek a pre-approval for farm foreclosures. The new process will mean that banks cannot kick farmers off their land until they have received clearance from the regulator which will ensure banks are acting in line with community expectations.
- **Double the compensation cap for farmers –** Labor will double the Australian Financial Complaints Authority's current compensation caps for farmers from \$2 million to \$4 million. Under Labor's compensation scheme, for the first time farmers will also be able to access up to \$4 million for non-financial loss in recognition of the strain that the misconduct has put on lives – up from the current cap of \$5,000.

The Banking Royal Commission heard cases of unimaginable misconduct against our farmers -graziers who were told they would be left with nothing but the clothes on their backs after being crippled by default interest, drastic devaluations of properties forcing farmers leaving farmers in debt.

While nothing will erase the damage done by the banks' misconduct, these measures will help farmers rebuild their lives with proper compensation, and help ensure that we never see this type of behaviour again.

This announcement builds on Labor's \$640 million Banking Fairness Fund to fund 500 new financial counsellors and 200 new financial rights lawyers, Labor's ground-breaking victim compensation package and Labor's tough new accountability mechanisms on the banks and regulators.

The Liberals fought against the Royal Commission for 600 days. Scott Morrison voted against the Royal Commission 26 times, called it a 'populist whinge', a 'protection racket', and spent years of his life fighting to give the big banks a \$17 billion tax handout while Australian farmers suffered. They cannot be trusted to implement the Royal Commission's recommendations or crack down on banking misconduct.

Labor called for the Royal Commission, Labor fought for the Royal Commission, and Labor will work day and night to protect Australian families, farmers and small businesses from financial misconduct.

HOME AFFAIRS

LEAK REVEALS MORRISON'S CUTS PUT OUR BORDERS AT RISK – Neumann

Reports [on Wednesday](#) reveal Scott Morrison's cuts and chaos have put Australia's border security at risk with leaked documents showing Australian Border Force (ABF) shortfalls have "posed an increased risk" to maritime security.

Here's the truth in black and white – the Morrison Government has cut funding to Home Affairs, cut boat patrols, and put our borders at risk.

ABF staffing levels for sea patrols that protect Australia's borders are 20 per cent below requirements with the Australian Navy and Airforce being forced to step in and attempt to pick up the slack to bolster surveillance and patrolling, and address risks created by Morrison's cuts.

The security briefing note [reportedly](#) places the blame squarely on Morrison's cuts with it stating, "*a large part of the problems is due to internal funding pressures within the Department of Home Affairs, including funding cuts for financial year 18/19.*"

At the same time Scott Morrison has been claiming there is a risk to the border, he has been cutting the staff and patrols that protect Australia.

Peter Dutton – the Minister responsible for Australia's national security – **lied** in December when he tried to deny these ABF cuts ever took place.

"There has been no budget cut, there will be no reduced presence on the water, we have been very clear about that." [Peter Dutton, press conference, 12 December 2018]

The Liberals tried to sweep their savage cuts and chaos under the rug. If the Morrison Government hadn't been caught out, how far would have Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton been willing to go?

Scott Morrison has been goading the people smugglers – encouraging them to restart their vile trade – while slashing funding from the agency charged with patrolling our borders.

Australia's Defence Forces shouldn't spread themselves thin because Dutton is too incompetent to properly resource and run his Department. Under Labor, Operation Sovereign Borders will be fully resourced – we will maintain Australia's strong border protection measures and strengthen them even further with new measures to stop people smugglers in their tracks.

Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton would be better placed funding our frontline agencies rather than wasting hundreds of millions of dollars on dodgy contracts in Papua New Guinea and publicity stunts on Christmas Island.

ANOTHER MULTI MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT PETER DUTTON DIDN'T SEE? - Neumann

Another day and Peter Dutton has even more questions to answer over the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent delivering services in Australian-funded regional processing centres.

New [reports](#) have revealed Dutton's Department handed over an \$82 million contract for just 282 days of services on Manus Island in September 2018.

This latest \$82 million contract was issued without a competitive tender with reports suggesting the company handed the contract – NKW Holdings Ltd – is making close to \$1400 per resident per day.

This money follows the \$423 million Paladin contract saga which Peter Dutton has tried to claim he had *"no sight"* of and labelled a *"distraction"*.

Only the out-of-touch Liberals could call half a billion dollars of taxpayers' money a *"distraction"* and try to sweep their chaos under the rug. It's time Peter Dutton came clean.

Last week, Labor wrote to the Auditor-General requesting an urgent investigation into the Department of Home Affairs' procurement of garrison support and welfare services in Papua New Guinea and the request is currently under consideration.

Peter Dutton cannot hide from questions about his abysmal management of Australian-funded regional processing centres and what he knows about each and every one of these contracts.

Are we simply expected to believe that Peter Dutton doesn't pay any attention to the contracts his Department signs? Or is he simply too busy doing interviews to look at the fine print?

How can Dutton be trusted with Australia's national security agencies if he's failing to keep track of the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on his watch?

As the evidence stacks up against Peter Dutton, Scott Morrison must force his Home Affairs Minister to come clean over and explain why these contracts have spiralled out of control.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER FOCUSED ON POSITIVES OF RISING POLLUTION – Mark Butler

[Once again](#), the unseen Environment Minister Melissa Price has denied her own Government's data which shows under the divided and chaotic Liberals pollution is rising and will continue to rise all the way to 2030.

When asked the simple question, *"have emission gone up or down?"* the Minister dismissed any responsibility saying she is *"focused on the positives."*

Total annual greenhouse gas emissions (excl LULUCF)

LULUCF = Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry

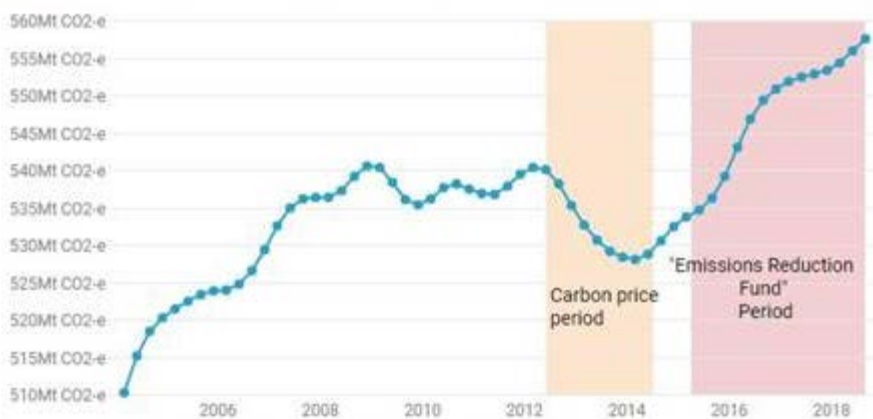


Chart: Greg Jericho - Source: Dept of Environment, Table 1C, derived - Get the data - Created with Datawrapper

Just last Thursday the Minister's own Department showed pollution has risen by 0.9 per cent year to September 2018.

On Monday climate scientist put out a statement lamenting the Liberals inaction saying,

"Official government projections, international authorities (such as the OECD and the United Nations Environment Programme) and leading experts agree, Australia is not currently on track to achieve its emissions reduction target."

The Minister is taking Australians for fools if she thinks rising pollution can be seen as a positive.

The Liberals have washed their hands of responsibility to future generations; instead they have adopted Tony Abbott's inadequate climate policy and plan to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on up to 10 coal-fired power projects.

DELUDED LIBERALS CONTINUE TO DENY EMISSIONS REALITY – Mark Butler

Five years of the divided and chaotic Liberal Government has seen pollution go up, and up and up.

Angus Taylor's dishonest and disastrous interview on *Insiders* yesterday proved that he is the Comical Ali of Australian politics.

Saying "emissions are coming down" is a complete lie. They are going in the opposite direction.

The Government's [own data projections](#) show emissions will keep rising to 2030 - regardless of [how many times](#) Minister Taylor denies reality.

The quarterly emissions data, released just last Thursday, shows emissions are up 0.9 per cent year to September 2018.

Under Morrison and the Liberals, pollution is higher and power prices are higher.

Scott Morrison is for power privatisation, more coal and higher power bills.

New [polling](#) shows 61.6 per cent of voters agree the Liberals Emissions Reduction Fund is not doing enough to lower emissions and combat climate change. Yet last week Scott Morrison doubled down on Tony Abbott's policy, which makes taxpayers foot the bill for big polluters, exactly what you would expect from a Government that is only committed to looking after the top end of town.

The polling also showed 55.8 per cent of voters would be less likely to vote for a party that uses taxpayer money to subsidise coal projects.

Yet the chaotic Liberals want to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on new, polluting coal-fired power stations – and indemnifying operators at a cost to taxpayers of \$17 billion per station.

Only Labor has a plan to invest in renewables and tackle climate change with our 50 per cent renewables target by 2030 and emissions reduction target of 45 per cent by 2030.

SCIENTISTS & EXPERTS SLAM GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE CHANGE RECORD – Mark Butler

On the back of Energy Minister Taylor's latest claims over the weekend that Australian carbon pollution is falling, the Morrison Government's continuous lies about being on track to meet emission reduction targets have been slammed by climate scientists and experts.

The Government is unwilling to admit what their own emission projections make plain as day, under ineffectual Abbott designed policies, Australia's carbon emissions are growing and are not on track to meet the government's inadequate 26 per cent emission reduction targets. The [Joint Statement](#) by climate scientists states;

"Official government projections, international authorities (such as the OECD and the United Nations Environment Programme) and leading experts agree, Australia is not currently on track to achieve its emissions reduction target."

In addition, the scientist's statement says the Government's 26 per cent emissions reduction target falls short of meeting the Paris Agreements objectives:

"This target is inadequate in terms of the science and Australia doing its fair share to tackle climate change."

Continued investment in renewable energy needs sensible policies to support investment once Labor's 2020 target is met:

"Claims that renewable energy rollout alone is likely to continue at current rates and be sufficient to meet Australia's 2030 economy-wide emissions reduction target are over-optimistic and do not take into account the extra support that business needs to change, transmission limitations and investment considerations. The momentum is there to be able to tap into Australia's extensive renewable energy resources but needs continued policy support to encourage the investment needed."

This statement by climate scientist confirms what Labor has been saying for years; Liberal emissions reduction targets are inadequate, Liberal policies to meet their targets are not working, pollution is rising and is projected to rise to 2030, and continued investment in renewable energy needs policy support from a national government that is serious about clean energy and tackling climate change.

Only Labor is serious about tackling climate change and supporting the transition to a clean, affordable energy sector, driven by our commitment to 50 per cent renewable energy, and 45 per cent emissions reduction by 2030.



TACKLING CHILDHOOD OBESITY WITH HEALTHY EATING IN SCHOOLS – Plibersek/King

Hundreds of thousands of Australian schoolchildren will learn healthy food habits under a Shorten Labor Government plan to tackle childhood obesity.

Labor will restore federal funding for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, a successful initiative that teaches kids about food in a fun, hands-on way - setting them up for a healthier life.

One in four Australian children is overweight or obese. Without intervention, many of them will become overweight or obese adults.

This is a national health crisis, and poor nutrition is a leading contributor.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, initiated by the respected food writer and chef, addresses the crisis by helping children form positive food habits.

Schoolchildren learn about fruit, vegetables, and herbs - how to grow them and how to use them to make healthy food.

The program attracts the overwhelming support of students, parents, and teachers.

The last federal Labor government rolled this program out nationally.

But under Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull and now Scott Morrison, the program has received no federal support.

Labor's new \$6 million commitment will restore federal support for around 800 schools that have already implemented the program thanks to funding from federal and state Labor governments.

It will also support at least 1,200 additional schools and early learning centres to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program – meaning more than 2,000 communities around Australia will benefit from Labor's investment.

Of these, around 180 schools in three disadvantaged regions will receive intense services and supports. Labor will announce these regions after further consultations with the Stephanie Alexander Foundation and local communities.

Labor believes obesity in both children and adults is a critical public health issue – so it's critical we invest in preventative health.

We have been calling on the Liberals to act on the issue of obesity for years but all they've done is cut programs.

The Liberals cut \$368 million from Labor's National Partnership agreement on Preventative Health, and a range of other preventative health measures.

By contrast, Labor takes the health of our kids seriously. We want them to grow up healthy and happy. We don't want them consigned to life of obesity-related chronic disease.

Only Labor can be trusted to look after the health of all Australians, including giving our schoolkids the best start in life.

WORLD HEARING DAY - Zappia

Around 3.6 million Australians are affected by hearing loss, yet hearing services account for less than 1% of the health budget. It has been estimated that in 2017 hearing loss cost the Australian economy \$15.9 billion, mostly through lost productivity.

According to *The Lancet* Commission, hearing loss is the largest of the potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia.

By 2060 the number of Australians with hearing loss could more than double to 7.8 million.

Hearing health matters, yet the Coalition Government has a poor track record on hearing:

- First the Coalition's National Commission of Audit recommended the privatisation of Australian Hearing.
- Subsequently the 2014 Budget included a scoping study for privatisation of Australian Hearing.
- In in the lead up to the 2016 election they were forced to back away from privatisation.
- In 2018 they were caught out considering a harsh restriction in the eligibility criteria to access government support for hearing services.
- Then they delayed providing a response to the 'Still waiting to be heard...' report from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia.
- When the Liberal Government finally did respond, the response was underwhelming and the Government failed to rule out privatising Australian hearing.

In spite of this Government's lack of interest, hearing services in Australia are among the best in the world, delivered by the world class Australian Hearing since 1947.

Labor will keep Australian Hearing in Government hands.

The 2019 World Hearing Day theme is "Check your hearing!". The World Health Organisation is launching a free app that allows people to check their hearing. More information is available at www.who.int/deafness/hearWHO/en/



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SIGNING OF AUSTRALIA INDONESIA FTA – Shorten/Wong/Bowen/Clare

The signing of the Australia-Indonesia Free Trade Agreement is a positive step forward.

This is an agreement that was started under Labor and its finalisation is the product of many years of hard work on both sides of politics.

Labor started these negotiations because trade with Indonesia is massively underdone.

In fact, in the last five years total trade has gone backwards by almost a billion dollars – down to \$11.2 billion in the last financial year.

We trade more with nations like New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia than we do with Indonesia.

18,000 Australian companies currently export to New Zealand, but only 2000 export to Indonesia.

Indonesia is set to become a global economic powerhouse in the decades ahead.

As Paul Keating said, no country is more important to Australia than Indonesia.

Labor looks forward to closely examining the details of this agreement once they are released. This process will occur through the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, which will need to consider the agreement in the next Parliament as the committee requires 20 sitting days to consider its report.

Labor supports trade agreements that deliver more opportunities for businesses, more jobs for Australians, and protect Australian workers.

Agricultural exports are critically important for Australia's economy – and Indonesia is an important market. Labor recognises the importance of agricultural exports such as beef, wheat and sugar.

We urge the Government to make detailed economic modelling available to help build community support for trade.

A Shorten Labor Government will require all future trade agreements to be subject to independent analysis, to ensure that agreements deliver the benefits to Australians that are promised.

A future Labor Government would examine labour market testing waivers to ensure that free trade agreements cannot be used to undercut the wages and conditions of Australian workers.

More generally, Australia needs to do more to deepen our engagement with Indonesia.

That's why as part of our *FutureAsia* initiative, Labor will:

- **Formalise annual meetings between our finance and trade ministers in an economics and investment 2+2;**
- **Commission an independent Indonesia Economic Strategy similar to the process used for Peter Varghese's India Economic Strategy report;**
- **Conduct annual trade missions to Indonesia, and**
- **Establish reciprocal internship arrangements for recent Australian and Indonesian graduates**



VETERANS

VETERANS STILL WAITING FOR GOVT RESPONSE TO ANTI-MALARIALS - Rishworth

It has now been three months since the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade handed down its report into the [‘Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force’](#) and the government is still yet to respond.

Labor established this Inquiry after members of the serving and ex-service community continued to raise their concerns around the side effects from some anti-malarial drugs which were taken during their service.

This inquiry provided a transparent and thorough investigation into the concerns of the use of Quinoline anti-malarial drugs in the ADF.

The government, along with the Greens and the crossbench all supported Labor’s call to establish this inquiry.

However, three months later and the government have been on the go-slow to respond to this critical report and its 14 recommendations.

Many of those in the serving and ex-service community have been eagerly anticipating the government’s response to this critical report and making them wait three months is not good enough from this government. This is a government quick to act when it thinks it can get a headline – so the inaction has to be deliberate.

Labor calls on the government to immediately release their response to this report.

DEFENCE

COALITION’S DEFENCE CREDIBILITY HAS LEFT THE BUILDING - Marles

The Coalition will go to the next election offering their fifth defence minister in six years.

There is no doubt any credibility the Government has on national security leaves with Christopher Pyne.

There is also no doubt that people who take our national security seriously know Defence is a portfolio where long-term thinking and relationship-building are at a premium. Offering five Defence ministers in six years shows the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has utterly failed.

There is no doubt this Government has made bad defence industry choices. That’s why the first Liberal Defence Minister said he didn’t trust the Australian Government shipbuilder to build a canoe, and the Second Liberal Defence Minister sent our supply ships to be built overseas. That decision has led to at least 420 direct job losses in the shipbuilding industry, and Defence says there are as many as 300 more to come.

There is no doubt this is a Government that, even when they have made reasonable choices, has done so only after putting its internal politics first. That’s why even though the Third Liberal Defence Minister chose a world-class partner to build Australia’s submarines, they only did so after the decision was tossed around the Liberal party room as part of a leadership challenge.

There is no doubt this is a Government that has found ways to dud Australian industry even after they’ve managed to make a reasonable choice. That’s why the Fourth Liberal Defence Minister, after promising before the 2016 election that more than 90 of the submarine work would be done in Australia, said after the election that only 60 per cent would be done here, eventually signed an agreement that provided no guarantee of Australian work at all.

There is no doubt this is a Government that sacrifices Australia’s international relationships to bolster their own political interests. That’s why their Foreign Minister said she wouldn’t be able to work with New Zealand’s government if Labour won an election; why their second Prime Minister damaged our relationship with China when he was desperate to win the Bennelong by-election; and why their third Prime Minister did the same thing by raising the prospect of moving an embassy during the Wentworth by-election.

There is no doubt this is a government which has never taken Australia’s national security seriously; has never put the country’s interest ahead of their own political interest; and whose sorry time in government can’t come to an end soon enough, even for their own ministers.

WELCOME

SENATOR RAFF CICCONE

A senior Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) official and Vice President of the Victorian Labor Party

“I am incredibly honoured to be appointed as the 100th Senator for Victoria.

I believe there is no greater privilege than to represent the people of Australia.

This is a proud day for my family. My parents emigrated from Italy in the late 1960s, with my father working as a machinist and my mother as a seamstress. They came to Australia for a better life, and the opportunity for their son to become an Australian Senator is a testament to the rich opportunities that our country affords.”



PELLED – David Margan

As Crikey reported; “one side cried “Monster!” “Rot in Hell!” “Freak!” “Burn!” “Criminal!” “Filth!” as Pell left the court. While, as Crikey notes, the conservative pundits put on the robes of crusaders and thundered forth.

Andrew Bolt was first out of the gate, declaring that Pell had been “[falsely convicted](#)”; this was his “opinion, based on the overwhelming evidence”. He doubled down on Sky: “I just can’t accept it”.

Miranda Devine was close behind, writing that the verdict has made “[a martyr of an innocent man](#)”, who she personally doesn’t “believe” could be guilty.

Out on the conservative fringes, the news broke that Pell had been blessed with a personal character reference from John Howard. Then there was Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor of Australian Catholic University, who wrote [a piece in The Australian](#) savaging the verdict but forgot to disclose that he had also provided Pell with a character reference.

And, never one to miss an opportunity to be on the wrong side of history, Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly tweeted that there had been a “miscarriage of justice”, based solely on what Andrew Bolt said.”

Not one of these people sat through the trial, not one of them heard the victim’s evidence, who spent almost three days giving evidence and being cross-examined over his allegations and not one of them heard Pell as he chose not to speak.

So their views are not based on the facts but are merely ideologically framed opinion.

Michael Bradley, Managing partner at Marque Lawyers, described them this way;

“Their refusal to accept Pell’s conviction is not merely a reactionary whinge; it is dangerous. These people are pointing to a world in which the law has no entitlement to decide rights and wrongs. That’s the definition of anarchy.

Pretty ironic if the people who end up burning down the temple are the high priests themselves.”

Others describe him as warm towards the homeless, and Sue Buckingham recalled Pell eating a sausage while sitting on a milk crate talking to marginal women and showing his more “comfortable” side.

“I find it difficult to understand how a man who has achieved so much publicly and privately has drawn so much ill-feeling.”

He has repeatedly had to deny claims he was complicit in the church’s cover-up of clerical abuse.

He was accused of failing to take reports of abuse seriously while a young priest, of helping to shuffle paedophile priests between parishes while a bishop’s adviser, and of trying to buy the silence of one of Gerald Ridsdale’s victims.

His support for Ridsdale, one of the Australian church’s worst ever child sex offenders, during a court appearance in the 1990s has plagued Pell’s career and public perceptions of him ever since. When asked about his reaction when Ridsdale’s crimes were revealed he infamously said; “It was sad, but of little interest to me.

Information showed that in the early 1970s Pell shared a house in Ballarat with a number of priests and Christian Brothers who years later were convicted of offences of child sexual abuse. Pell confirmed he had indeed shared a house with the priests and Christian Brothers. But, he said, it was no big deal; he had been unaware of their activities. In his view it wasn’t much of a story.

Perhaps he’s always thought clerical sexual abuse of children ‘wasn’t much of a story.”

He went on to become the architect of the Melbourne Response to the child sexual abuse scandal swamping the Church.

But again this response wasn’t about the victim’s it was about reducing damage to the church.

It took a very legalistic view in its response to claims and was later estimated to have saved the Catholic Church from paying up to \$62 million in compensation to victims of sexual abuse.

In 2001 Pell was appointed archbishop of Sydney, where the archdiocese adopted an aggressive legal stance against its victims. Central to it was the “Ellis defence”, simply put the Church had arranged its affairs to be an invisible organisation that legally no-one could sue.

Despite the church’s vast wealth in Australia – estimated in 2017 to extend to \$76.5 billion of properties and other assets, and an annual income of \$11.5 billion a year from businesses in the areas of education, health and welfare services –Pell drove it out of reach to victims pursuing compensation.

One victim of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest said; “Pell was central to what happened to me.”

This was because Pell told Catholic Church officials to go after the claimant to make others think twice about accusing Catholic clergy of sexual assault despite the fact that the allegations made by the claimant were not disputed.

This is the man Tony Abbott described not only as a “very fine man’ but as “one of the greatest churchmen that Australia has seen.”

Whatever Pell did to children himself, his overwhelming crime was to protect the Church and not its parishioners, to deny and vilify accusers, to defend the wicked and the evil, to do his best at managerial juggling to bury the truth and minimise the damage to the Roman Catholic Church and its precious coffers.

Pell didn’t fall from grace - he never had any.

One sexual assault victim said: “I’m a victim, so like everyone else I just want to see him go down. Whether he did it or not, he’s as bad as the rest of them.”

But Pell is just one man it’s the Roman Catholic Church and its hierarchy that was the real problem and it’s the Church that is still very much the problem.

They are still putting the Church before its people and way before its victims.

Just look at its response to the Royal Commission recommendations and the national redress scheme.

This from Nick O’Malley writing in the Age newspaper;



"Just 51 survivors have received compensation since the national redress scheme opened in July out of a total of 2728 people to sign up.

Almost 900 victims have applied for redress so far are "on hold", waiting for compensation because the institutions where they suffered have yet to sign on to the scheme.

Of the applications made so far, 869 had been set aside because the institutions whose members abused had not yet joined the scheme. Complicating matters even further, the Catholic Church had decided not to join the scheme as a single national entity, but institution by institution, and not all of its institutions have joined. One member of the victim's organisation Care Leavers Australia Network was sexually abused throughout his childhood in four orphanages, one run by the Victorian government, the other three by different Catholic orders, says the CLAN chief executive Leonie Sheedy. He will not be able to access his compensation until all four institutions join the scheme, and so far only the Victorian government has done so. "It is disgusting," she said. "They are just waiting for us all to cark it."

She said members of the Senate committee had been unable to get clear answers as to how many Catholic institutions had joined the scheme, or why it had not joined as a single national entity. "Every time we deviate from the culture of the royal commission it is another betrayal of the victims and it will not be tolerated," Ms Claydon said. She said it should not be up to the victims of clergy abuse to "chase down every rabbit hole" which institutions should be held responsible."

The survivor and victims' advocate Peter Gogarty said he believed that in joining the redress scheme in such a piecemeal fashion the Catholic Church was replicating what became known as the "Ellis defence", under which the church claimed that there was no legal entity responsible for sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, and therefore nobody for its victims to sue.

Of the 49 bodies that currently have no plan to sign up to the National Redress Scheme 21 are Roman Catholic groups.

Of the 61 groups who plan to sign but haven't yet, 30 are Catholic organisations.

This category sadly also includes the Uniting and Anglican Churches.

Michelle James is a principal lawyer and the national head of abuse law at Maurice Blackburn lawyers.

"The Church has too often shown it is incapable of taking responsibility for the actions of its members or showing any genuine compassion or remorse to survivors."

Just last weekend, Pope Francis headed a "landmark" summit of global Church leaders on preventing clerical sexual abuse, yet the response could not have been more appalling. But there was no clear plan as to how the Catholic Church will deal with those found guilty of committing or covering up sexual crimes against children; and in the lead-up to the summit, the Pope referred to those who criticise the Catholic Church as "friends of the devil". Despite everything that is known about historical abuse within the Catholic Church, the astonishing lack of compassion among its leadership prevails.

The Church has shown the same recalcitrant approach to many of the other much-needed reforms recommended by the royal commission to prevent future abuses. Common sense recommendations such as lifting the seal of the confessional to report incidents of child sexual abuse continue to be fiercely fought by the Church in any state that attempts to implement this important legal reform; constantly it has to be dragged to the realisation that all children deserve to be protected from child sexual abuse. The only argument the church has in its defence of the confessional seal is its medieval insistence on tradition. The idea that canon law trumps the law of the land is nonsense. In real terms, all this secrecy within the Church about known wrongdoing has created an environment where evil has prospered.

As David Penberthy of News Ltd argued; "The most withering attack on the church this week came from within via Francis Sullivan, who until recently was CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth, Justice and Healing Council. Sullivan stated angrily there are meaningful proposals for improved child safety and clerical oversight within the Church that are gathering dust, effectively ignored by Australia's senior clergy. "It took little to see the Church out of the blocks when school funding was at risk, but there has been precious little done to launch new rigorous standards in child protection," Sullivan said. The entire focus of the Catholic Church has seemed a highly legalistic wagon-circling exercise aimed at repudiating damaging testimony. Indeed it's an approach that was perfected by Pell, with the so-called "Melbourne response" to abuse allegations.

The same also can be said of the Church's approach to those who choose to exercise their rights in bringing legal claims to hold the Church to account. For years survivors, including many of my clients, have had to fight constant challenges and road blocks to seek justice.

It beggars belief that given all that has been revealed and all the horrible suffering uncovered the Church is still punishing it's victims with bureaucratic and legal games and obstacles.

That of course doesn't acknowledge the legions of good people who do manifestly good works in the name of the very same institution.

Pell's old school St Patrick's College in Ballarat will remove the Cardinal's name from a building that had been named in his honour. It will also revoke his status as a Legend of the school and a line will be struck through his name on a College honour board listing ordained former students.

School headmaster, John Crowley said; "The jury's verdict demonstrates that Cardinal Pell's behaviours have not met the standards we expect of those we honour as role models for the young men we educate."

If you or anyone you know needs support, you can contact the National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service on [1800RESPECT](tel:1800RESPECT) (1800 737 732), [Lifeline 131 114](tel:131114), or [beyondblue 1300 224 636](tel:1300224636).



National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

LATEST NEWS

This newsletter includes an update on institutions and the National Redress Scheme.

For more information or to find support services, go to the [National Redress Scheme website](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au) or call 1800 737 377 Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (local time), excluding public holidays.

Institution update

More institutions have undertaken the steps to join the National Redress Scheme the (Scheme), they are listed below.

• Christian Brothers	• Marist Brothers Australia
• Baptist Churches Western Australia	• Baptist Churches Tasmania

Three more Anglican organisations have joined represented by Anglican Representative Limited, they are:

- Anglican Diocese of Adelaide
- Moore Theological College Council
- ☐ St Andrew's House Corporation

For more information about which sites are covered by these institutions go to the Scheme's website. There is also an interactive map of institutions that have joined the Scheme at: www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/joined-scheme.

Institutions who have not yet joined the National Redress Scheme

The Scheme recently released a list of institutions which have not yet joined the Scheme. These institutions were identified as part of the

To find out which institutions have not yet joined the Scheme, go to www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/institutions-have-not-yet-joined.

Applications relating to institutions not yet joined the Scheme

You can make an application for redress at any time, but applications identifying institutions that have not yet joined the Scheme will not be assessed until the relevant institution/s has joined. An institution that has joined is referred to as a participating institution. The Department of Social Services has a dedicated team who contacts institutions that may have responsibility for abuse, strongly encourages them to join, and provides information about how to do so.

Once you have made an application, the National Redress Scheme will contact you to acknowledge receipt of the application and provide initial guidance on the assessment process. This guidance will include information about whether the institution, or institutions, identified in the application have joined the Scheme.

If you cannot find the name of the institution you are looking for, it may mean the institution is still working through steps to join, or it may not yet have agreed to join the Scheme.

Update to Redress Support Services

The government announced an additional five additional grants being offered to establish Redress Support Services. The five additional services are expected to be providing support from April 2019. The Redress Support Service providers receiving an additional grant are:

Cape York Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association
Survivors and Mates Support Network (SAMSN)
Blue Knot Foundation.

Where do I get support?

Redress Support Services are available to help people understand the Scheme, provide emotional support and guide people through the application process. A list of support services is available on the [website](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au).

Those who need immediate emotional support can contact:

- [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 224 636
- [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
- [1800 Respect](#) 1800 737 732
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) 1300 659 467
- [Mensline](#) 1300 78 99 78
- In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

Find out more

To find out more, you can call the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377 Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (local time), excluding public holidays. You can also visit the website at www.nationalredress.gov.au.



RIP

Les Carlyon was a gentleman and a scholar.

One of Australia's best journalists writers and historians

Carlyon, who was a former editor of The Age, editor-in-chief of The Herald and Weekly Times group, a frequent contributor to The Bulletin and a visiting lecturer in journalism at RMIT University, died on Monday.

In addition to his career in journalism, Carlyon also wrote six books on sport and Australian history in his lifetime, including the critically acclaimed Gallipoli and The Great War.

He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in June 2014 for "eminent service to

literature through the promotion of the national identity as an author, editor and journalist, to the understanding and appreciation of Australia's war history, and to the horseracing industry".

As one of Australia's most respected journalists, he received both the Walkley Award in 1971 and 2004, and the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award in 1993.

He also won the Carlton & United Best Australian Sports Writing Award three times.

Australian War Memorial director Brendan Nelson praised Carlyon's work in the wake of his death.

"Les Carlyon was a giant of a man who gave our nation many gifts," he said.



Sign up to join the Stop TAFE Cuts campaign.

Our TAFE manifesto is a blueprint which outlines a path to fixing Australia's TAFE system.

[READ THE TAFE MANIFESTO](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY ...

Tell the Government why YOUNG people shouldn't be pushed into aged care

#EveryStoryMatters

We can help tell your story to the Royal Commission into Aged Care

Are you younger than 65 years old and... live in a nursing home?

Are currently living in hospital or rehab?

Have lived in a nursing home at some stage in the past 5 years?

At some time in the past 3 years, have been told that you might have to live in a nursing home, but didn't end up having to?

Or do you have a family member or someone you care about in one of these situations?

If so, you have an important story that the Royal Commission into Aged Care needs to hear.

We can help you tell your story

We are holding half-day workshops in many places around Australia. At the workshops, we will help you work out what you want to say, and help you write it for the Royal Commission.

Workshops will be conducted in a one-to-one discussion format with places limited to 6 per workshop. At the end of the workshop, you will have finished a submission for the Royal Commission. Refreshments will be provided.

If required, we will pay your travel and support costs.

QUEENSLAND ROYAL COMMISSION HEARINGS

Toowoomba: 2 April

Brisbane: 3 April

Cairns: 5 April

MAKES SENSE.

Cent Auction Fundraiser.



Sunday 31 March 2019
Doors open 12 noon for
a 1 p.m. start.

\$5 ENTRY
FREE TEA & COFFEE
\$1 TICKET SHEETS
BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Burnie Brae Hall
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It's on again! Be Uplifted Inc is
hosting our fun and very
successful Cent Auction
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ORGANISER Kim 0422 072 068

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Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Social Security \(Administration\) Amendment \(Income Management and Cashless Welfare\) Bill 2019](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

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

Economics Legislation Committee

- **New** [Australian Business Securitisation Fund Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Banking System Reform \(Separation of Banks\) Bill 2019](#)
- **New** [Commonwealth Registers Bill 2019 and 4 related bills \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2019 Measures No. 1\) Bill 2019 and the Excise Tariff Amendment \(Supporting Craft Brewers\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2019 Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Reforms No. 1\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Combating Illegal Phoenixing\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Consumer Data Right\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australia Fund Bill 2018](#)
- [Lower Tax Bill 2018](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

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

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

- **New** [Fair Work Amendment \(Right to Request Casual Conversion\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- **New** [Environment Legislation Amendment \(Protecting Dugongs and Turtles\) Bill 2019](#)
- **New** [Water Amendment \(Purchase Limit Repeal\) Bill 2019](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

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

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- **New** [Australian Veterans' Recognition \(Putting Veterans and their Families First\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment \(Support for Infrastructure Financing\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#)
- [Migration Amendment \(Streamlining Visa Processing\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], National Integrity \(Parliamentary Standards\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], and National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \(No. 2\)](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

- **New** [Resolution of disputes with financial service providers within the justice system](#)
- [The effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- **New** [Performance of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#)
- **New** [Export Control Amendment \(Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security\) Bill 2019](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- **New** [The feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses](#)
- [The provision of rescue, firefighting and emergency response at Australian airports](#)
- [The policy, regulatory, taxation, administrative and funding priorities for Australian shipping](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)

Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power

- [Fair Dinkum Power](#)

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

Standing Committee of Privileges

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

Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances

- [Parliamentary Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation](#)