



ABC RALLY BRISBANE

Senator Claire Moore

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THIS WEEK:

With many lower to middle class families struggling with stagnant wage growth and the ever rising cost of living the dramatic rises in the cost of electricity and gas over the last three years has been the last straw. While the Turnbull government may seek to blame Neolithic man for their plethora of policy failures this weeks' release by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) of their report, 'Retail Electricity Pricing Inquiry', clearly shows that when it comes to energy policy, the Turnbull Government has been asleep at the wheel.

Now having finally woken up they are ridden with ideological division.

As Mark Butler said, "In just 24 hours this important report on Australia's energy crisis has been hijacked by the coal zealots in the Coalition party room".

And to do so they had to make up stories about the reports content.

ACCC chief Rod Sims dismissed suggestions the landmark report backed government support for coal, as Coalition figures used the claim to push for public subsidies for a new coal-fired power plant.

"It is technology neutral, and if you are interested in affordability, best to stay that way," Mr Sims said. "It's not targeted at baseload power and it's not targeted at coal."

But that hasn't stopped Queensland LNP Senator, Canavan from claiming otherwise.

For too long, recommendations for sensible change have been lost in the fog of the civil war being waged in the Coalition Party Room over energy policy and it's costing those struggling families every day. As my colleague Jim Chalmers has noted, "The government promised us that if they got rid of the carbon tax, power prices would come down by \$550 a year. What they have done is put them up by \$630 in just this last year."

In the past five years while the Turnbull government has dithered Labor has been working on detailed and well considered policy across a number of major issues with energy policy one of the most fundamental as Mark Butler noted this week, "We've been saying for some years and this report confirms that the national electricity market is fundamentally broken. It's simply not working in the interests of Australian consumers." Liberal engineered privatisations have led to gouging, profiteering, shortages and consumer pain as the Super Saturday by-elections draw closer voters should remember who created this mess and who left it to fester.

To read the full ACCC report and so you don't have to rely on the Courier-Mail version, just go to:

<https://www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/energy/electricity-supply-prices-inquiry/final-report>

On Friday we had the Brisbane ABC rally – it was wonderful to see so many turn out to save our ABC – it is essential this message gets to government and those who support them in their agenda to sell off our national broadcaster.

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 ...



ACCC ENERGY REPORT - BUTLER – DOORSTOP- PERTH

"Matt Canavan, Barnaby Joyce, Tony Abbott and others are trying to pretend that this report contains an endorsement of their ideological obsession of throwing billions of taxpayer dollars at building new coal-fired power stations. It's quite clear that the report does no such thing."

ACCC ENERGY REPORT -CHALMERS – DOORSTOP – BRISBANE

"If only Malcolm Turnbull spent as much time resolving that energy crisis in his own party room as he does pointing the finger at others and blaming others for his own lack of leadership, his own lack of action, and his party's lack of unity on energy prices, the whole country would be better off."

ACCC ENERGY REPORT - BUTLER – DOORSTOP- PERTH

"We've been saying for some years and this report confirms that the national electricity market is fundamentally broken. It's simply not working in the interests of Australian consumers and instead delivering mega-profits to a small number of energy companies; companies that were handed control over our electricity system through a series of disastrous privatisation decisions made by different State Liberal Governments over the past couple of decades."

"In just 24 hours this important report on Australia's energy crisis has been hijacked by the coal zealots in the Coalition party room" - Mark Butler

ACCC ENERGY REPORT - BUTLER – DOORSTOP- PERTH

"I think the industry recognises now that the cheapest form of power into the future, and in many cases right now, is going to be, as I said, that mix of primary generation coming through renewables, firmed up by batteries, gas-peaking plants and pumped hydro which will be much cleaner."

ENERGY POLICY - CHAMPION-SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

"This is a Government that is in its fifth year. It promised us that if they got rid of the carbon tax, power prices would come down by \$550 a year. What they have done is put them up by \$630 in just this last year. So we know that their rhetoric previously against the carbon tax, now it is pro-coal, they grasp after simplistic solutions when this is a very complex market."

"Energy, of course, is an essential service for both households and for industry. Our recommendations provide them with affordable energy and the savings are considerable for households, at least \$300-\$400 a year, for small businesses at least \$1,000 a year." - Rod Sims (ACCC)

LONGMAN – CHALMERS- BRISBANE

"There's a candidate running in the Longman by-election, a bloke by the name of Jim Saleam, who is a disgraced former neo-Nazi, a white supremacist who has been convicted of a number of offences over his time, and One Nation is preferencing this character ahead of other candidates including us in the Longman by-election."

"Malcolm Turnbull had the opportunity to condemn that today at the Queensland Media Club and he didn't, because he knows that Pauline Hanson votes with him in the Senate 90 per cent of the time on all of the unfair policies which are smashing battlers in Longman and around Australia."

LONGMAN -LAMB – BRIBIE ISLAND

"I'm more than pleased, actually ecstatic to have Bill Shorten here with me with the Health Minister Steven Miles to make a wonderful announcement of a \$17 million acute care facility right here on Bribie Island. Now this will mean not just a boost to jobs - which are so needed in the area of course, but a service that people on Bribie need. A service that Bribie aged care providers, residents, visitors all need and of course a significant saving."

LONGMAN -SHORTEN – BRIBIE ISLAND

"We estimate that this will cost about \$17 million to buy the land and to build the clinic. What this clinic means is that about 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the emergency department admissions at Caboolture which come from here, thousands of people will be able to get their important, but not life threatening matters dealt with urgently right here on Bribie Island."

MARK LATHAM & ONE NATION – BOWEN-BRISBANE

"Mark Latham has fallen out with everyone he's ever worked with and Pauline Hanson has fallen out with everyone she's ever worked with."

TAX POLICY - BOWEN – ABC RADIO HOBART

"The problem with the Governments \$80 billion worth of tax cuts is that it's not conditional on anything and 60per cent of it will flow offshore to foreign investors with no requirement, no reciprocity to invest, to grow the economy. Ours is conditional on that investment occurring."

CITY PARTNERSHIPS - ALBANESE- 2GB - THE CHRIS SMITH SHOW

"So what we're proposing with City Partnerships is essentially that the three levels of government would work together to ensure that we not only avoid the mistakes of the past, but we get quality buildings. We get quality planning. We make sure that we don't either do what has happened for a long time, which is outer suburban growth without proper community infrastructure, without thinking about where the jobs are going to come from."



Jim Saleam in 1975 & 2005

CITY PARTNERSHIPS - ALBANESE-2GB - THE CHRIS SMITH SHOW

"But the problem is that the City Deals (Turnbull policy) so far have essentially been in marginal electorates with commitments that have been about electoral politics. There's no framework, there's no guidelines for them, there's no involvement from the bottom up of the communities that are represented."

NAIDOC WEEK - BURNEY - THE POINT NITV

"I'm a member of the Labor Party. But you always walk very – very comfortably and closely with your Aboriginality and many of the issues that I deal with and advocate for are our issues."

"I've had a lot of really significant women in my life and I don't like to single out one person as being – there's been and there are women in the political spectrum that really inspire me. But like I said it's those local women in local communities that have been doing it for 30, 40, 50 60 70 years."

MARK LATHAM SAT-NAU



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It's very hard to tell where the Liberal Party ends and One Nation begins."
- Jim Chalmers

"He has long been a political sideshow. He once had much promise but he has achieved nothing of lasting value in public life. He offers nothing other than bile, bitterness and bastardry."
-

Troy Bramston (The Australian) on Mark Latham

"When two of your most important economic sectors (Financial & Energy) turn out to have major regulatory issues that have inflicted serious damage on consumers and customer businesses, it's a good idea to consider if governments have failed in their entire approach to them — and how to remedy it."
- Bernard Keane

GLIMPSES

ENERGYOPOLY - Alan Austin (Crikey)

Competition has decreased across the globe in recent decades, as waves of mergers and acquisitions in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s produced ever-bigger companies, before the FAANGS emerged in the last decade. But Australia, as a medium-sized economy on a large landmass, is particularly susceptible to oligopolies and duopolies. Whatever the problems of decreasing competition, we've had them with interest. Rather than address this, however, successive governments have taken a relatively hands-off approach, with only the most egregious mergers deemed to fall foul of the long-term core competitive test, "substantial lessening of competition".

The result, as Labor's Andrew Leigh has spelt out repeatedly, is a high level of concentration across the economy. Petrol is another key sector where oligopolies gouge consumers and businesses — and, as the Caltex example has shown, rip off workers as well. Health insurance, while not as central to the functioning of the economy, is another area where concentration has accompanied huge price increases, poorer service and massive profits for market participants. Supermarkets are only a partial example — there, the anti-competitive pressure is applied to suppliers, while consumers benefit from intense competition. Leigh cites a range of other industries, including beer and beverage manufacturing, alcohol retailing, aviation, telecommunications and ISPs.

One of the reactions to the ACCC's electricity report yesterday was industry relief that it didn't recommend forced divestiture as a remedy for the dearth of competition. Divestiture is the nuclear option of competition policy, never used except voluntarily by corporations hoping to win approval of their merger. But how, otherwise, are we to remedy decades of flawed policy? Many within the government are delighted the ACCC wants the government to underwrite new entrants into the generation market, seeing that as the fig leaf needed for wasting money on new coal-fired power. But the ACCC's recommendations are too little, too late for a market that has already yielded billions in profits from ongoing gouging. And many of the regulatory measures already in place to prevent the big three gentailers from harming consumers actually place additional cost burdens on smaller firms, making it even harder for them to compete with AGL, Origin and Energy Australia.

RENEWABLES IGNORE DENIERS

Last week, over the three southern states of Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia, the share of renewable energy was above 50 per cent for most of the time.

CANAVAN'S COAL MYTHS

Competition chief Rod Sims has dismissed suggestions a landmark energy report he issued on Wednesday backed government support for coal, as Coalition figures used the claim to push for public subsidies for a new coal-fired power plant. "It is technology neutral, and if you are interested in affordability, best to stay that way," Mr Sims said. "It's not targeted at baseload power and it's not targeted at coal."

He pointed to the report's focus on "firm" delivery through gas and a renewable mix, with the government effectively acting as a guarantor on a bank loan rather than a permanent public subsidy. "The market still has to decide if the project is viable, but it will just help with the financial backing," he said.

The scheme would probably require companies to bid for the government support. With a coal project, the obvious risk would be a future government putting a price on carbon. With a gas project, the bigger risk might be higher gas prices. A renewable project could be put forward with neither risk.

DUTTON TO SOLVE ENERGY CRISIS

The Age reports that new sabotage laws taking place this week give Dutton defence powers over more than 165 power plants, gas works, water facilities and ports. This follows recent increases to Dutton's **discretionary powers** and a controversial, internal push to expand **domestic cyber spy powers**

DUTTON JUDGED

An Iranian refugee and her 17-year-old son, both acutely physically and mentally ill on **Nauru**, will be brought to Australia after winning a federal court order to be moved to high-level medical care. It is at least the ninth legal challenge won for medical intervention from Australia's offshore processing regime.

At least nine cases have been brought before the federal court over the past seven months, including at least four in the past fortnight. Every one has been won by the asylum seeker or refugee – resulting in an order from a judge – or conceded by the government before the hearing has begun. At least 14 people, including family members, have been moved to Australia as a result.

The woman – whom the court has ordered be referred to as BAF18 – and her son (BAG18) are set to be flown to Australia on Friday, after a court heard from doctors that BAF18's heart condition and mental health issues could not be treated on Nauru, and that her son was at acute risk of suicide if left on the island.

Justice Mordecai Bromberg, sitting in the federal court in Melbourne on Wednesday, **ordered that both be removed from Nauru "within 48 hours"** and provided the specialist physical and mental healthcare their treating doctors have been recommending. He further ordered BAF18 and her son must not be separated, nor returned to Nauru.

MALCOLM'S NOT LISTENING - Eryk Bagshaw (The Age)



"Economically marginalised communities must be taken seriously or Australia will face a political backlash that threatens the established economic order, one of the Prime Minister's top advisers has warned. The comments by David Gruen, the deputy secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, were backed by Treasury secretary John Fraser yesterday, who added that the market was failing to come up with solutions to inequality and that government must be prepared to deliver policy solutions. "We have a duty in government to support the poorest and weakest in the community – we need to be very mindful as economists and policy makers that we don't blithely say the market will fix it," said Mr Fraser.

SLOWEST WAGES IN THE WORLD

Alan Kohler, business commentator with Aunty, drew our attention this week to the fact that - between 1980 and 2017 Australian wages as a share of GDP shrunk the most and are now the lowest when compared to Japan, France, Canada US and UK!! Well done Malcolm!!

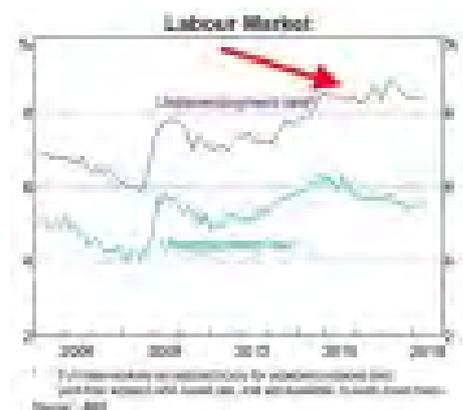
As well our growth in underemployment is one of the fastest growing when compared to comparable economies.

CAVAIR DINERS RIP-OFF WORKERS

An investigation by The Age has revealed that the largest high-end restaurant business in Australia, the Rockpool Dining Group, is saving millions of dollars a year by underpaying kitchen staff, while making a profit of \$40 million in 2016-2017. The investigation found some staff were working up to 20 hours a week of unpaid overtime, meaning their overall pay was, in effect, as little as \$15 an hour. That meant some weeks there were chefs – the men and women who labour to produce the group's signature dishes – who would be up to \$800 out of pocket compared with the award. The group operates some of Australia's most recognisable eateries, including Rockpool Bar & Grill, Fratelli Fresh, Sake and Munich Brauhaus, and is now owned by Quadrant Private Equity: it's easy to see the fingerprints of late-stage capitalism on what looks like systematic exploitation of workers.

WHY DEVELOPER ELECTION DONATIONS SHOULD STAYED BANNED

The state Liberal MP for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, held multiple meetings with a Sydney property developer while facilitating the interests of potential Chinese investors, the developer told a corruption hearing on Thursday. Contact between the developer, Charbel Demian, who is also known as Charlie, and Mr Maguire was organised by former Canterbury Liberal councillor Michael Hawatt, who is being investigated for dishonestly or partially exercising his public functions.



MORE REASONS ... David Lewis (The Age)

Having no limits on the money that can be donated to political parties diminishes our democracy. This is why the reforms being considered by the Victorian Parliament are so important. The absence of effective donation limits is a key reason why the United States' political institutions are in trouble. Its Supreme Court upheld a challenge to donation limits, deciding limits were a restriction on free speech – the same argument used by the Institute of Public Affairs' Gideon Rozner in these pages recently to rail against Victoria's reforms.

Strong action on climate change was promised by the Republican presidential candidate in 2008. But then oil refinery billionaires the Koch Brothers led a concerted move to withhold campaign finance from Republican candidates unless they pledged to oppose pricing of carbon emissions. The prevailing view of Republicans was turned around.

DOING THE SPLITS

Following the axing of two rural based LNP Senators, Ian Macdonald and Barry O'Sullivan the never dead tensions in the Qld LNP are growing. While Ian, well past his use by date was expected to get the chop O'Sullivan's defeat by businesswoman Susan McDonald, 48, the daughter of wealthy grazier and former Queensland and federal Nationals president Don McDonald was a surprise. The recriminations have been envenomed by the tightness of the result: McDonald won by 121 votes to 120 for O'Sullivan at state council.

The reaction in the room was one of stunned disbelief, with LNP president Gary Spence looking "aghast", according to an onlooker. O'Sullivan still won't talk in detail about what happened.

This week's breakdown of Newspoll results for April-June show a recovery in the Coalition's primary vote has stalled on 36 per cent, well below the 43.2 per cent it pulled in Queensland at the July 2, 2016, election, second only to Western Australia as Turnbull's best state. If Longman is tight for Labor on a margin of 0.8 per cent, Capricornia in central Queensland and Forde south of Brisbane are danger-close for the LNP at 0.6 per cent. Gladstone-based Flynn, outer metropolitan Petrie and Peter Dutton's seat of Dickson in suburban Brisbane would fall to Labor on swings of 2 per cent or less.

SHOWS US THE PAPER

South Australian Labor Senator Farrell said the Liberal National Party's candidate for Longman, Trevor Ruthenberg, was born in Papua New Guinea but "failed to produce any evidence that he is not a PNG citizen. The whole purpose of this process is to increase transparency and give the public confidence in these processes - the Liberals' non-compliance is at complete odds to this," he said. Mr Ruthenberg is reported to have a letter from PNG's Office of Immigration and Citizenship stating neither he nor his parents were a citizen of the country and there were no records indicating he had ever applied to become one.

[Given how easy it may be to obtain a 'letter' from the PNG bureaucracy – how do we know its validity if no one gets to see it? – David Margan, Ed.]

SHOOTING AT SWINGERS PARTY



A few weeks ago we made reference to a Melbourne case where police investigating their own had failed to do anything ... well here is a little more about that intriguing story.

A man recently cleared of wrongdoing over an incident in a swinger's party, in which he was shot by Victoria Police officers, is now suing for defamation. [The Age reports](#) that Dale Ewins, who was engaged in a sex act at the Inflation nightclub when shot by police on July 8 last year, has filed a defamation lawsuit over comments made soon after the shooting to media allegedly presenting him as "aggressive, threatening, dangerous and uncooperative".

While parties have offered conflicting claims over the incident, Victoria Police announced last week they would not press criminal charges against Ewins, who was dressed as supervillain The Joker at the time and has denied pointing a toy gun at officers. Ewins' partner in the incident was shot in the leg by police attending.

R&D

Ahead of a Parliamentary inquiry into research funding, Universities Australia has urged Government and business to boost their R&D across the economy in partnership with universities.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the higher education sector is the "backbone" of Australia's world-class research system. Government and business must re-invest in research and development or we risk future prosperity and falling further behind our international competitors.

"But backbone isn't enough. Like any healthy body, we also need the supporting muscle. Government and business investment can build up our national research effort, making it strong and agile," she said.

"Research expands Australia's economy. Research saves lives. Research creates new products and industries that generate jobs."

"But, over the past three decades, we've seen a worrying trend with Governments conducting less and less R&D - and universities have had to step into the breach to maintain national capacity."

Australia now spends 1.88 per cent of GDP on research and development, well below the OECD average of 2.38 per cent. And for the first time since records have been kept, OECD figures show that Australia's business R&D declined in 2015-16.

Meanwhile, the UK Government has set a target to spend 2.4 per cent of GDP on R&D.

"The world's leading economies know just how important R&D is and are investing accordingly," Ms Jackson said. "Australia's R&D spend as a percentage of GDP is less than Iceland's. That's a country with a population smaller than Canberra."

JUST PLAIN RUDE!

The Queensland government has lashed an "unprecedented" decision by the Commonwealth to award \$444 million in Great Barrier Reef funding to a private organisation, saying it was blindsided by the announcement and the money will not save the reef unless climate change



is also curbed. The Age has also confirmed the Great Barrier Reef Foundation will pocket a slice of the record funding, triggering claims the Turnbull government is wasting money that should be spent saving the ailing natural wonder.

At a federal parliamentary inquiry into the partnership, the Queensland government revealed it “was only advised on the day of the announcement” of the funding deal, despite that state being an integral player in efforts to save the reef.

The submission said Queensland was “concerned at the unprecedented approach of providing such a level of funding to a single private organisation without going to the open market to ensure a transparent and accountable procurement process”.

Labor environment spokesman Tony Burke said the government was wasting public funds by duplicating the functions of its own departments and agencies “already set up to administer this sort of money”.

RETAIL TRADE SLUMP

“Only two of the 34 OECD nations are experiencing a retail trade slump, They are Ireland and Australia and while Gerry Harvey ‘Norman’ would have us believe it’s all to do with wicked online sales there may be a more ‘local’ explanation, this from Crikey’s Alan Austin

“In fact, this is precisely what has been predicted by critics of the Coalition’s policies which shift wealth and income from low and middle income earners to the large corporations and high-income individuals.

As Crikey has regularly reported, wages have been depressed over the last four years, the tax burden has shifted from corporations and high-income professionals to wage and salary earners, and underemployment remains entrenched.

When household incomes decline, retailers suffer. People simply do not have money to spend. This then flows through to wholesale, transport, primary production, manufacturing and imports. These are all key areas for jobs and growth — which everyone agrees are the priorities — but which in Australia are now seriously lagging behind the rest of the world.

Bizarrely, the Australian Retailers Association routinely opposes even the minimal cost-of-living increases in wages, has actually backed the government’s moves to cut penalty rates for employees and openly barracks for the Coalition’s economic policies that have caused the economic decline over the last four years. No wonder their customers cannot afford to shop as they used to.”

SORRY NAIDOC

Western Australia Police Commissioner Chris Dawson has formally apologized for mistreatment of the state’s Aboriginal people at the hands of police. Mr Dawson used a NAIDOC Week speech to acknowledge the “significant role” of police in contributing to a traumatic history of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, which he said continued to reverberate today.

“Today on behalf of the Western Australian police force, I would like to say sorry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait people for our participation in past wrongful actions that have caused immeasurable pain and suffering,” the commissioner said.



Thai Cave Rescue

ENERGY POLICY

TURNBULL’S ENERGY CRISIS “UNACCEPTABLE AND UNSUSTAINABLE” - Mark Butler

Australian households and businesses have endured Malcolm Turnbull’s energy crisis, which has resulted in skyrocketing electricity and gas prices.

Now the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) has called Malcolm Turnbull’s electricity sector mess “unacceptable and unsustainable.”

Under Malcolm Turnbull, households have seen their energy bills rise by up to \$630 just in the past year.

The ACCC report is the culmination of Malcolm Turnbull’s failures to produce an energy policy that his party room will allow him to tick off on. Malcolm Turnbull doesn’t have the strength to tackle reforming the national electricity market, like the ACCC recommends, he can’t even get his own policy through his Party Room.

The Coalition is too divided to put in place the policy certainty needed for investment – which has been a key driver of higher power prices. Labor will study the ACCC's recommendations but what is clear is that Malcolm Turnbull has had two years to bring an end to his energy crisis and, in the meantime, Australian households and businesses have been left to pay up for his mess. Only Labor has a vision to end the energy crisis and transition to a clean energy future, it's time Malcolm Turnbull got out of the way.

COALITION ALREADY AT WAR OVER ACCC ENERGY REPORT – Mark Butler

The ACCC report is the latest in a series of damning reports that show power prices have skyrocketed under Malcolm Turnbull's Government. For too long, recommendations for sensible change have been lost in the fog of the civil war being waged in the Coalition Party Room over energy policy.

This morning, Cabinet Minister, Senator Matt Canavan, has tried to use the ACCC recommendations as an endorsement of the Nationals Party policy to throw \$5 billion of taxpayer funds at building new coal-fired power stations:



The ACCC has labelled Malcolm Turnbull's energy crisis as "unacceptable and unsustainable," but - as long as the civil war in the Coalition Party Room over energy policy continues - policy paralysis will continue, resulting in continued higher power prices for households and businesses.

ECONOMY

LIBERAL POLITICISATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN TREASURY CONTINUES - Bowen

Federal Labor notes the appointment of Mr Philip Gaetjens as Secretary of the Australian Treasury.



The appointment is unlikely to restore faith in the Australian Treasury after years of politicisation by the Liberal Party and by Scott Morrison in particular.

The fact of the matter is over the last two decades; Mr Gaetjens has spent a lot more time in Coalition Treasurers' offices (13 years) – as Chief of Staff to Costello and Morrison - than in the Australian Treasury (four years).

Scott Morrison has regularly used Treasury to cost all of Labor's economic and tax policies and then release those costings to select media outlets in an attempt to damage Labor.

Despite this appointment coming on the eve of a general election – when Treasury (with Finance) produces the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook - the Treasurer did not bother to consult with the Opposition.

The Treasury is a fine institution that deserves the best people and processes and not the constant politicisation that Scott Morrison has subjected it to.

I wish outgoing Treasury Secretary John Fraser all the best in his future endeavours.

ENVIRONMENT

GOVT MUST RELEASE FUNDING DEAL FOR GBR FOUNDATION - Burke/Chisholm

Federal Labor is calling on the Turnbull Government to provide more information on the largest donation the Australian Government has ever provided to an organisation in regards to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Earlier this year in Senate Budget Estimates the Department of Environment and Energy confirmed that if the negotiations between the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) and the Government were successful the \$443.8 million would be transferred by June 30 2018.

When asked in Senate Budget Estimates how much of the huge cash dump from the Government would be spent before the end of the financial year, the Environment department secretary Mr Finn Pratt responded "That is subject to negotiations which are underway at this time. On the assumption that those negotiations are successful, all \$443.8 million will be spent this financial year [2017-18]."

If an agreement has been reached under Commonwealth Grant Guidelines the agreement must be released within 21 days. This means the Government must release the terms of funding agreement by **next Friday, 20 July 2018**. However all that has been provided is a notice about the grant citing that it is confidential due to "Aspects of the Co-Financing Plan and the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan".

If the Government has nothing to hide the funding agreement should be released as soon as possible so as to allow proper scrutiny at upcoming Senate committee meetings. If there are confidential aspects of the agreement then these can be removed.

The question arises – is the Government using the Foundation to fund a publicity campaign in the form of a Communications Plan and keeping it confidential? Denying the reef funds but advertising outside government guidelines?

Labor revealed last month that the Government's response to Labor's freedom of information (FOI) request showed absolutely no consultation between the Minister for the Environment or his office and the Government's key advisor on the Great Barrier Reef prior to the Government providing a half billion dollar donation to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation from 1 April 2018 to 30 April 2018 inclusive.

It is astonishing that a record breaking donation to a private foundation would take place without the minister seeking any advice from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority which is charged under Australian law as being the principle advisor on matters about the Great Barrier Reef.

Labor supports extra funding for the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef but this out of touch Government's decision to grant half a billion dollars to a private organisation over its own body, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the ongoing questions about the terms of the funding arrangement are deeply concerning.



LABOR TO BUILD URGENT CARE CLINIC ON BRIBIE ISLAND - SHORTEN/KING/LAMB

A Shorten Labor Government will build a new urgent care clinic on Bribie Island, providing the local community with much-needed medical care and taking pressure off Caboolture Hospital's overstretched emergency department.

Labor will commit \$17 million in funding to establish the clinic, which will treat people with urgent but not life-threatening illnesses and injuries – so they're not forced to travel up to an hour to be treated in Caboolture.

About 5000 of the 52,000 people who presented to Caboolture Hospital's emergency department in 2017 came from Bribie Island, and up to 75 per cent of them had conditions that could have been treated in an urgent care clinic, including minor injuries such as fractures, dislocations, sprains and strains, gastrointestinal conditions and respiratory illness.

The new walk-in clinic will be open seven days a week, meaning it will also give residents improved access to after-hours care for those unable to schedule a regular primary care appointment.



More than half of the Bribie residents presenting to Caboolture Hospital emergency department arrive by ambulance – meaning the new clinic would also significantly reduce demand on the Queensland Ambulance Service, increasing availability and bringing down response times for the whole region.

Urgent health care is the number one concern for Bribie Island residents, especially the elderly – and Susan Lamb has been fighting for them to get the care they need. Labor has listened and is taking action with this announcement.

Caboolture Hospital is already under strain as a result of Malcolm Turnbull's \$2.9 million funding cut.

That cut comes at a time when the hospital is experiencing an increase in demand that's 10 per cent above the state wide average. Doctors, nurses and hospital staff are doing their absolute best – but the Liberals are denying them the resources necessary to deliver the best possible care.

The Bribie Island urgent care clinic will free up staff and resources at the hospital so all patients can experience better care. Coupled with Labor's pledge to invest more in Caboolture Hospital, the clinic will deliver tangible benefits to everyone in Longman.

Labor is putting investments in health and hospitals first – and we can afford to do this because unlike Turnbull, we aren't giving a \$17 billion handout to the banks.

\$1.5 M HOSPITAL TRAINING WARD AT CABOOLTURE - Plibersek/Fentiman/Cameron/Lamb

Labor will invest \$1.5 million to build a brand new hospital training ward at Caboolture TAFE to skill up the nurses and health workers of tomorrow.

The new hospital training ward will include state-of-the-art mannequins that simulate actual patients so students get experience as close to reality as possible.

Labor's candidate for Longman, Susan Lamb, said the investment was great news for Moreton Bay because demand was soaring across the region for courses in nursing and healthcare. "As the National Disability Insurance Scheme gets up and running in our community, we'll need hundreds of extra nurses and other health workers, I want locals to get those jobs, and I want them to get the best training right here at Caboolture TAFE."

The Deputy Labor Leader, Tanya Plibersek, said the Liberals had cut a massive \$3 billion from TAFE and training "Labor can afford to invest in Caboolture TAFE, because unlike the Liberals we aren't giving a \$17 billion of tax handout to the big banks. Remember Susan's opponent was part of the Campbell Newman regime that gutted Queensland TAFE – 2,300 staff were sacked and TAFE campuses were sold off. Just like Malcolm Turnbull, Susan's opponent thinks giving billions of dollars away to the big banks is more important than funding TAFE – the Liberals' priorities are all wrong. If you want funding for TAFE instead of banks, then you have to vote for Susan and Labor."

Queensland Minister for Training and Skills Development Shannon Fentiman said state Labor had been working hard to rebuild TAFE Queensland after Campbell Newman's horror cuts. "The Palaszczuk Government's \$500,000 commitment to Caboolture TAFE is a commitment to the people of this region and the skills workers will need for the jobs of the future. We will continue to support TAFE Queensland as the premier public provider of vocational education training in this state.

The recent state budget provided up to \$85 million for three years in the Advancing our Training Infrastructure election commitment, which will include upgrades at Pimlico, Toowoomba, Cairns, and Mt Gravatt, and within the regions of the Gold Coast and Redlands, including the Caboolture project."

The Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Doug Cameron, said only Labor believed that every Australian should have the opportunity to get a great education. "That's why we're proud to support the health workers of the future to get the skills and training they need in Moreton Bay. Labor will make TAFE the centrepiece of our training system – by ensuring at least two thirds of training funding goes to TAFE, scrapping upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students, and investing \$100 million in a fund for new TAFE buildings."

Federal Labor will invest \$1 million in the project. Queensland Labor will invest \$500,000.

INFRASTRUCTURE

LABOR WILL DELIVER CITY PARTNERSHIPS

A Federal Labor Government will overhaul and replace the Coalition's City Deals with a City Partnerships program that will foster more genuine collaboration between the three levels of government.



This will transform the existing top-down system into one in which councils are seen not as casual stakeholders, but genuine partners in urban policy.

Cities around the nation face a number of complex challenges including urban sprawl, traffic congestion and a shift towards greater population density.

To overcome these challenges and ensure quality of life for all people, regardless of whether they live in inner cities, outer suburbs, growth corridors or regional cities, genuine collaboration between the three levels of government is required.

As it stands, the City Deals program does not achieve this. More than 18 months after the first deal was signed in Townsville, it is clear City Deals have fallen well short of their stated objectives, which are intended to align federal, state and local governments with a shared vision for the future.

A key problem with Mr Turnbull's City Deals is that there are no clear guidelines about how they work.

City Deals have either been in marginal electorates framed around single election commitments or are simply missing depth and detail.

This is the case for the Western Sydney City Deal, which excluded Blacktown Council for no good reason. And the Deal's centrepiece – a north-south rail link through Western Sydney - is still unfunded.

The Coalition's model also limits meaningful engagement with the private sector. But most worryingly, there is no independent oversight of Mr Turnbull's City Deals, which are subject entirely to political whim.

Labor will address this deficiency by re-establishing the Major Cities Unit within the independent Infrastructure Australia and requiring it to use transparent measures to both recommend and assess the progress of City Partnerships.

The Major Cities Unit will also refresh the National Urban Policy that Labor released when last in government to ensure City Partnerships align with its objectives, for example, in areas like sustainability and smart technology.

Labor will establish an expert panel to update strategic planning guidelines for cities as well as the development of guidelines for City Partnerships, in consultation with the Minister, which include benefits to the economy.

Labor accepts that City Partnerships must be tailored and flexible. But we expect them to set out a strategic vision that aligns with the National Urban Policy and delivers on pre-determined performance indicators.

This announcement builds on Labor's proud legacy of urban policy development.

Federal Labor has been involved in urban policy development since the 1970s. We seek to work with local communities, particularly through their local councils, to develop responses to the challenges of growth.

We understand that to ensure the ongoing productivity, sustainability and liveability of our cities, investing in people and their communities is critical.

WORKERS

NEW REPORTS INDICATE A GROWTH IN PEOPLE WORKING TWO JOBS – O'Connor

A report released today by economist Conrad Liveris, [Growth and change Australian jobs in 2018](#), highlights casualisation and insecure work as persistent issues in the labour market.

According to the report, which captures Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, growth in part time work has outstripped the growth in full

time work.

Full time work grew by 4.62 per cent between 2015 and 2018, whereas part time work over the same period grew by 9.30 per cent.

The report also highlights that casualisation is a significant issue for younger workers, with more than seven in every 10 jobs going to people aged under 35 over the past year being part time. For those under 25, more than nine in every 10 people are working part time.

This report comes at the same time as the ABS released new figures as part of the first quarterly Australian Labour Account, which shows that there has been a growing incidence of workers having to work more than one job.

The number of people with two jobs increased from 779,000 in 2010 to 891,000 in September 2017.

The main industries with the highest number of secondary jobs are administrative and support services, health care, social assistance and accommodation and food services – which are some of the lowest paid industries in Australia.

While Malcolm Turnbull may try to boast about jobs figures, the truth is the facts are more complicated.

Under Malcolm Turnbull and his Liberals, Australians are suffering with insecure work, stagnant wages growth and skyrocketing cost of living pressures.

Turnbull and his Liberals are too arrogant and out of touch to acknowledge these challenges, let alone come up with any policy initiatives to deal with them.

Instead they support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, argue against increasing the minimum wage and advocate for a \$17 billion tax handout to the banks.



TELCO INDUSTRY PROPOSAL TO EXPAND COMPLAINTS REPORTS - Rowland

Labor welcomes a [proposal from the telecommunications industry](#) to expand the scope of Complaints in Context reporting, which reports on the number of new complaints for a retailer as a proportion of their services in operation.

This is a sensible and pragmatic measure to expand the participation of telecommunications providers in the reporting scheme, and can in turn improve public access to comparable baseline measures on the service performance.

In contrast to these pragmatic steps, the Turnbull Government is all over the shop. Its consumer agenda is [two years behind schedule](#), lacks cohesion, and is characterised by proposals that fail to address the key incentive structures that too often work against consumer interests. Labor's [NBN Service Guarantee](#) will establish the right incentives to encourage the telecommunications supply chain to deliver more responsive service and better safeguard individual consumers and small businesses against excessive NBN downtime.

Strengthening wholesale service standards on the NBN also has the strong support of stakeholders including:

- The NBN Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee
- Small business groups
- Consumer groups such as ACCAN
- Retail service providers
- Internet Australia

It's time this out of touch Minister focused on consumer outcomes, rather than how to sweep complaints under the rug. Labor remains the only party committed to placing consumers at the core of its policy agenda, and willing to back that up with effective action.

SKILLS AUTHORITY WILL PUT ROCKY WORKERS FIRST - Neumann/Robertson (Capricornia Candidate)

Local workers, unions, and advocacy organisations have had an opportunity to discuss the impact of the Turnbull Government's failure to address the problem of skills shortages and temporary work visas with Labor Candidate for Capricornia Russell Robertson and Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Shayne Neumann MP in Rockhampton.

Is there a skills shortage?



A recent Manpower Group ANZ survey has revealed more than a third of Australian businesses are struggling to fill skills shortages – such as engineering jobs which are essential to build infrastructure like the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road or work in our mines.

In Government, Labor will establish the Australian Skills Authority – an independent, labour market testing body to determine genuine skills needs and restrict temporary work visas to those areas.

The Australian Skills Authority will work in consultation with industry, unions, higher education and TAFE sectors, and State and Local Governments to project

Australia's future skills shortages and train Australian workers for those jobs.

Under Labor, Australian employers will have a local, skilled workforce ready to go, instead of businesses having to look overseas and rely on temporary work visas to fill skills shortages.

Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Shayne Neumann says only Labor has a plan to give local Rockhampton workers the first shot at local jobs.

"There is no excuse for a skills shortage to last one day longer than it takes to train an Australian to do that job," said Mr Neumann.

"Labor is committed to cracking down on rorts in the skilled migration program, investing in skills and training, and reducing the number of businesses relying on temporary work visas."

This year, Labor successfully amended the *Migration Amendment (Skillling Australians Fund) Bill 2017* to ensure local workers are given the first shot at local jobs before an employer can bring in an overseas worker.

The out-of-touch Turnbull Government – including Michelle Landry – originally voted against putting important labour market testing conditions in legislation.

Labour market testing is crucial in proving there are no experienced local workers available to do the job before a skilled visa is made available.

"Michelle Landry says one thing in Rockhampton about local jobs but then votes another way in Canberra. This is proof you can't trust the conservatives – or Michelle Landry – with local jobs in Capricornia," said Mr Robertson.

"Labor wants to make sure workers in Rocky have the skills they need, so businesses aren't using overseas workers on temporary visas."

The Turnbull Government has dropped the ball on skills, cutting more than \$3 billion from TAFE and vocational education since being elected. In the 2018-19 Budget alone, there were \$270 million in new cuts to apprenticeship funding. To ensure Australian employers have a local, skilled workforce ready to go, a Shorten Labor Government will scrap upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students and spend \$100 million on revitalising TAFE campuses across Australia.

"Only Russell Robertson and Labor will truly stand up for the workers of Capricornia and I want to thank Russell for inviting me to Rocky to discuss these important issues," Mr Neumann said.

TURNBULL HIDING CARE PACKAGE WAITLISTS TILL BY-ELECTIONS OVER? - Collins
Last week the Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, announced on Twitter the latest round of data that determines the waitlist for home care packages would be delayed another month.

This further delay means the home care package waitlist will be made public only after the by-elections. The Minister must come clean and explain why he or his Department are delaying the latest round of data on the home care package waitlist.

More importantly, he must also explain why there will be a further delay as stated in his tweet on July 5, 2018.

Any delay is intolerable, unacceptable and treats older Australians, their families and carers with absolute disrespect.

The last quarter of data released publicly by the Minister for Aged Care, states the number of older Australians waiting for a home care package as of December 2017 was around 105,000.

In Queensland and Tasmania the number of older Australians waiting for care as of December 2017 was 19,585 and 2,474 respectively.

Of significant concern, Ken Wyatt's tweet contradicts advice given by the Department of Health in Budget Estimates with officials stating on May 30, 2018 it was in the process of finalising the March 2018 quarter of data and would be providing this information to the Minister.

This advice aligns with the Department's further statements in Budget Estimates that the home care package data, on average, took around six to eight weeks to 'pull that data together'.

State/territory	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	Share by state/territory
NSW	133	7,198	9,311	18,531	35,173	33.6%
VIC	104	7,083	5,231	10,275	22,693	21.7%
QLD	97	3,815	4,941	10,732	19,585	18.7%
WA	14	1,364	1,827	6,451	9,656	9.2%
SA	16	1,594	2,938	7,355	11,903	11.4%
TAS	≤10	545	708	1,217	2,474	2.4%
ACT	≤10	266	306	1,013	1,593	1.5%
NT	≤10	100	66	202	370	0.4%
Unknown	≤10	22	53	1,080	1,155	1.1%
National	378	21,987	25,381	56,856	104,602	100.0%
Share by level	0.4%	21.0%	24.3%	54.4%	100.0%	

It is also consistent with the Department of Health previously committing to release the data two months after the end of the period that the data covers.

Sadly the Minister for Aged Care has already admitted the Government will need to consider other interventions to reduce the list, but with older Australians waiting years for care this action needs to be happening now.

Instead of using Twitter to relay this information the Minister should be working with his Department to immediately release the latest quarter of data and fix the home care crisis that has occurred under his watch.

The demand for home care packages grew by 20,000 older Australians in the last six months of 2017 alone. The Government needs to apologise for overpromising and under delivering for older Australians.

THE LAW

PORTER SHOWS HE'S AS BAD AS BRANDIS WITH CRUEL DIVORCE TAX – Dreyfus/Perrett



In the last sitting week of Parliament before the long winter break, the Attorney-General tabled a [regulation](#) that will see the Government pocketing buckets of extra money from vulnerable families that use the Family Court. The regulation will see fees for families that use the Family Court increased annually instead of every two years.

This is a sneaky deception by the Attorney-General. This year's [Budget papers](#) indicated that there would be no increase to family law fees. Attorney-General Porter has shown himself to be just as heartless as his predecessor, George Brandis.

In 2015 Labor fought George Brandis in the Federal Court to stop him increasing family law fees by sneakily introducing regulations after they had already been disallowed by the Senate. Those regulations were also introduced as Parliament went into the long winter break. We stopped the fees being increased then, but a change of Attorney-General has not changed the playbook.

This Government has no problem giving the banks \$17 billion dollars but it will scrape and claw every last cent from vulnerable families who are desperately trying to resolve their parenting disputes in the Family Court.

It's not enough for this government to penny-pinch its inept administration of these important courts by not replacing judges in a timely manner and proposing to abolish the Family Court to save money, now they hit families at their lowest ebb, including women and children fleeing family violence, with an extra tax on access to justice.

THE FARM

COMMUNITY FEELING BETRAYED ON SHEEP EXPORTS - Fitzgibbon

Millions of Australians are understandably feeling betrayed having learned 60,000 sheep were about to be shipped into the height of the searing Middle East summer.

The exporter responsible for the Awassi Express appears to have legally sidestepped the Government's export licence suspension.

Having had sand kicked in its face, the Turnbull Government should now join Labor in giving effect to a total and immediate ban on the Northern Summer live sheep trade.

The Turnbull Government should also allow for a debate and a vote in Parliament on Labor's amendment to the Government's increased penalties Bill which will phase out the balance of the live sheep trade within 5 years.

The Parliament is not currently sitting but Labor stands ready to provide bi-partisan support to any executive action to halt the imminent voyage.

The Opposition will welcome any opportunity to work with the Government on an orderly transition for sheep meat producers.



FARMERS PAYING THE PRICE FOR 5 YEARS OF DROUGHT POLICY INACTION - Fitzgibbon

Farming families affected by drought are paying the price for 5 years of Abbott/Turnbull Government policy inaction.

Now the Turnbull Government is holding a round-table on drought policy. It's too little, too late for struggling farming families.

Like the Prime Minister's drought tour, there is nothing the round-table can tell Malcolm Turnbull we don't already know.

Today he will try to blame the banks, the same banks he tried to protect by voting against a Royal Commission on twenty three occasions.

An effective round table would be one which involved the State and Territories.

The States and Territories have a key role to play in developing effective drought policy. But the Turnbull Government abolished the CoAG process almost five years ago and as a result, state-commonwealth cooperation and coordination has evaporated.

The Turnbull Government now says it wants to simplify the application process for Farm Household Allowance. Yet for five years it been saying there isn't a problem.

Remember when under questioning from Labor Barnaby Joyce told Parliament "But it is not the case that you apply for the money and then you have to wait for your application to be approved. You actually get the money straightaway."? That answer led to the infamous [Hansardgate](#) debacle.

The Turnbull Government is wasting \$28 million on its Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) pork barrelling exercise in Orange. The RIC is without a home, a CEO or staff. We have seen no indication that its loans will be any easier for farmers to access than are existing loans administered by state governments.

That's \$28 million that could be helping farmers now.

Another waste of taxpayers' money is the tens of million being spent on the relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to Armidale. A forced relocation which is impacting on farm productivity and another bucket of money which could be used to help struggling drought-affected farming families.

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Drought Reform expired 9 days ago. In the absence of a proper CoAG process, the Turnbull Government has done nothing to replace it.

We must re-start the drought reform process and the first step is to formerly engage the state again.

The second step is to formerly recognise that the climate is changing and the challenge will grow larger. Mitigation, adaptation and the building of resilience must be the foundations for any new approach to drought policy.

FIRST PEOPLE

NAIDOC WEEK 2018 – BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN! - Shorten/Dodson/Burney/McCarthy

This NAIDOC week, Labor acknowledges and celebrates the essential role that First Nation's women have played - and continue to play in our Nation.

First Nations Women play a critical and active role at a local, regional, national and international level. Labor is committed to listening to their voices. We know that where their voices are heard, solutions lie.

Labor is particularly proud to have the Hon. Linda Burney MP, Wiradjuri woman from Whitton NSW and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, a Yanyuwa Garawa woman from Borroloola in the Northern Territory in our Labor team.

Across the country, many First Nations women stand as elected Labor representatives:

- Selena Uibo, Member for Arnhem NT
- Ngaree Ah Kit, Member for Karama NT
- Leeanne Enoch, Member for Algeester QLD
- Cynthia Lui QLD, Member for Cook QLD
- Josie Farrer, Member for the Kimberley WA

We thank them for their leadership.

NAIDOC Week runs from 8 to 15 July. You can out more about events in your community by visiting: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

INFERIOR NBN THREATENS AUSTRALIA'S INDUSTRY 4.0

KIM CARR

Making good public policy always involves getting the details right. But it is equally important that we never lose sight of the big picture.

When we talk about industry policy, we should not forget that at the deepest level it is an answer to this question: what sort of country do we want to be?

Having a clear answer to that question is especially important at the present time, when the so-called fourth industrial revolution, or Industry 4.0, is transforming the way the world works.

The catch phrases associated with Industry 4.0 – big data, the Internet of things, artificial intelligence and automation – are too often associated in media reporting with drastic disruption that threatens people's livelihoods.

These gloomy reports usually rely on predictions for which the evidence is dubious and which are constantly being revised.

For example, the much-cited estimate in the 2013 paper by Michael Osborne and Carl Frey that 47 per cent of existing jobs are at risk from computerisation has been abandoned by Osborne himself.

It is a given that modern advanced manufacturing will increasingly use robotic systems, especially in routine and repetitive tasks. We are not Luddites, and the choice we face is not whether to accept or reject robotics. The real choices will be about how to introduce new technologies in ways that enhance human potential, including the creation of new forms of skilled labour.

But in order to be able to make those choices we must first invest in the communications infrastructure that makes Industry 4.0 technologies possible. That is why the previous Labor government announced the creation of the National Broadband Network, using optical fibre connected direct to the premises. The factories, businesses and households of the future would be able to access information relayed at the speed of light.



When the Coalition came to office, the then Communications Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, dismissed Labor's NBN as a utopian project that would be too expensive. He promised a cheaper network that would be delivered earlier, using a mix of second-rate technologies. We know what happened to those promises.

Instead of costing less, the mixed-technology NBN is delivering an inferior broadband service at greater cost to the taxpayer. The rollout is nearly four years behind the promised schedule, and there has been a cost blowout of \$20 billion. Further, Australia has slipped from 30th to 51st in international broadband rankings and there has been a 204 per cent increase in complaints to the Telecommunications Ombudsman about NBN faults in 2017.

Disillusion with this multi-technology mess keeps growing. Just last month, a survey on finder.com.au found that one in three NBN users would switch back to their old network if they could. Worst of all, from an industry point of view, is that 42 per cent of businesses reported their NBN connection was unreliable.

The provision of reliable connectivity at high speed was the whole point of building the NBN, and the lack of that high-speed connectivity means that Australia's Industry 4.0 future is receding.

The Internet of things – the connections between computers embedded in machines – is what makes smart factories possible, and the Internet of things requires access to big data, the extremely large data sets that can be analysed by computers to reveal patterns and associations.

That kind of analysis depends on fast Internet speeds if the computers interacting with each other in the smart factory are to combine efficiently with humans to do all the things smart factories are set up to do.

In other words, the original vision of the NBN, which was derided by some as an unnecessary extravagance, was a sensible and prudent long-term investment in Australia's future. By abandoning that investment, we have made the task of unleashing the potential in Industry 4.0 much harder to achieve.

To address some of these service issues Labor has announced that a Shorten Labor Government would establish an NBN service guarantee to establish wholesale service standards for fault repair, connection delays and missed appointments.

That is just a beginning, and Labor will have more to say on the NBN as the election draws near.

The sorry state of the NBN is a reminder of why we need to keep the big picture in mind. If we lose sight of it, we're highly likely to get the detailed decisions wrong, too.

This opinion piece was first published in [Industry Update](#) on Thursday, 12 June 2018

CITIES NEED TRUE PARTNERSHIP, NOT SIMPLE "DEALS"

Anthony Albanese

One of the great challenges of life in 21st century Australia is the way in which strong population growth is transforming our cities. Urban sprawl, traffic congestion and the shift toward greater population density are all challenges that will not be overcome without genuine collaboration between all levels of government.

Otherwise, uncontrolled growth will damage our economy and our quality of life.

Labor has engaged on urban policy since the 1970s. We seek to work with local communities, particularly through their local councils, to develop responses to the challenges of growth.

By contrast, the Coalition is a newcomer to the urban policy space. In 2013, it dismantled the former Labor Government's urban policy framework, including our Major Cities Unit.

This changed in 2015 when Malcolm Turnbull established his City Deals Program as a vehicle for greater inter-governmental collaboration.

Under City Deals, federal, state and local governments agree to a shared vision for the future and ways to achieve make their vision real.

However, more than 18 months after the first deal was signed in Townsville, it is clear City Deals have fallen well short of their stated objectives.

The program is a poor imitation of the United Kingdom model it seeks to replicate. Rather than providing a framework for collaboration, it seems to be based on a top-down approach in which Canberra determines priorities and requires other levels of government to march to its tune.



A Labor Government will overhaul and replace City Deals.

Our City Partnerships model will foster more genuine collaboration, transforming the existing top-down system into one in which councils are seen not as casual stakeholders, but genuine partners in urban policy.

A key problem with Mr Turnbull's City Deals is that there are no clear guidelines about how they work. City Deals have either been in marginal electorates framed around single election commitments or are simply missing depth and detail.

This is the case for the Western Sydney City Deal, which excluded Blacktown Council for no good reason. And the deal's centrepiece – a north-south rail link through Western Sydney - is still unfunded.

The Coalition's model also limits engagement with the private sector.

But most worryingly, there is no review process for Mr Turnbull's City Deals - no independent mechanism to determine whether they are working.

Labor will address this deficiency by re-establishing the Major Cities Unit within the independent Infrastructure Australia and requiring it to use transparent measures to assess the progress of City Partnerships.

The Major Cities Unit will also refresh the National Urban Policy that Labor released when in government to ensure City Partnerships align with its objectives, for example, in areas like sustainability and smart technology.

Labor accepts that City Partnerships must be tailored and flexible.

But we expect them to set out a strategic vision that aligns with the National Urban Policy and delivers on pre-determined performance indicators.

The importance of a bottom-up approach was rammed home for me last month, when I met many mayors from around the nation who were in Canberra for the Australian Local Government Association annual congress.

Mayor after mayor told me of their desire to co-operate with other levels of government, other councils in their regions as well as the private sector to achieve positive change in their communities.

Yet the Government seems to have little interest in using its City Deals regime as a vehicle for this collaboration.

For example, in the Hunter Valley – Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Cessnock councils are seeking \$13 million from the Commonwealth to deliver the next stage of the Glendale Interchange.

The project will create 6000 jobs and unlock \$700 million of private sector investment, including an expansion of Stockland Glendale.

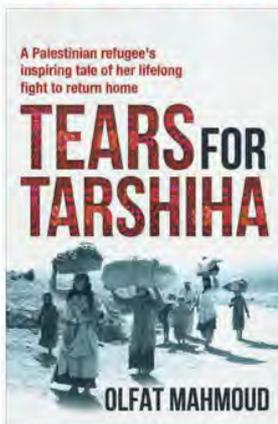
This sounds like a perfect opportunity for collaboration with the Commonwealth.

In the same way, the Council of Mayors for South-East Queensland, which encompasses ten local government areas, has been working together for years on issues of common interest.

The Federal Government is not involved. But it should be.

This piece was first published in The Daily Telegraph today: <https://bit.ly/2JfKyKB>

Tears for Tarshiha Book Launch with Senator Claire Moore



Join Dr Olfat Mahmoud for the Brisbane launch of her autobiography Tears for Tarshiha - a Palestinian refugee's inspiring tale of her lifelong fight to return home. Tears for Tarshiha will be launched by Senator Claire Moore who will be joined on stage by Dr Mahmoud and Dr Helen McCue, co-founder of Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA.

THU 9 AUGUST 6-8PM; FREE
AVID READER BOOKSHOP
193 BOUNDARY STREET, WEST END

Dr Mahmoud will speak about her experiences of decades of war and conflict in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and the Palestinian Right of Return.



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2 attendees per ticket.

Includes selected basic beer, wine and soft drink as well as a meal (Spirits Available for Purchase).

Tickets will be drawn out 1 at a time. Every 10th ticket drawn will have the option of either a refund of their \$100 or to go back into the draw. The last ticket drawn will win \$2,500 cash.

The winner does not need to be present to claim the prize money. Prize may be split 4 ways if ALL remaining ticket holders agree.



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Our Shared History Seminar

Exploring Archaeology- Adding to Australia's First Nations' stories

There are many ways to view the past. Archaeology is the study of material culture – what people left behind. This seminar will explore how archaeologists, working with First Nations' people, use many techniques to complement traditional knowledge.



Thursday 2nd August 2018,
9.00am to 2.00pm

Registration from 8.30am

Secondary Lecture Theatre,

Matthew Flinders Anglican College,

1-47 Stringybark Rd, Buderim

Welcome to Country - Aunty Bridgette Chilli Davis

Chairperson: **Dave Johnston, Director, Aboriginal Archaeologists Australia**

Session 1: **The evolution of Australian archaeology:**

Helen Cooke & Dave Johnston, archaeologists

Session 2: **Working together on First Nations' archaeology:**

Aunty Bridgette Chilli Davis, Traditional Owner, Mooloolah Kabi Kabi Lands Council Aboriginal Corporation

Kerry Jones, Traditional Owner, Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation

Eleanor Crosby, archaeologist: *Danggan Balun Jugun: Five Rivers Country*

Tickets

Waged \$35 / Un-waged \$25

Includes morning tea & lunch

Bookings encouraged for catering purposes.

Book online

<https://exploringarchaeology.eventbrite.com.au>

Enquiries about bookings:

scrg.sharedhistory@gmail.com

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The ABC is under attack as never before

The May Budget has inflicted a further cut of \$84 million on the ABC

Also a \$43m cut for news-gathering is planned

These come on top of \$254m in funding cuts since 2014 and nearly 1,000 ABC jobs lost

The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) is pressing for the sale of the ABC to the Private Sector

The Hanson-Turnbull pact has led to five inquiries into the ABC, designed to curb its independence

The Murdoch camp continue with their relentless assault on the ABC

Call to Arms

The future of strong and independent public broadcasting in Australia is at stake.

Well-funded and independent public broadcasting is essential to keep citizens informed and to hold government and powerful organisations to account.

Think of the work that *Four Corners* does. Think *Background Briefing*, *Science Show*, *Late Night Live*, the music – we all have our favourites.

Together we can prevail over politicians and others who are hostile to an independent, well-funded national broadcaster and prevent a weakened or, even worse, an ABC sold-off to the highest bidder.



Crowd Funding Campaign

We are urgently seeking your contributions to our very visible National Campaign. To donate to our cause, please CLICK:

<https://www.ozcrowd.com/campaign/4337>

All Rallies will feature prominent supporters of National Broadcasting. Details soon.

Join the Fight

Write to newspapers - Ring or Visit your Federal Member – We can help with this - Attend our Rallies - Volunteer to help our cause

Margaret Reynolds,
National President, ABC Friends

2018 Fairfax FEC Stimulus Raffle

The Fairfax FEC are continuing their campaign to help Labor **win** the seat of Fairfax

But we can only do it with your support!

So take this opportunity to help the Labor cause and go into the draw to win

\$500 cash

Tickets: \$10.00 EACH (only 250 tickets available)

Drawn on the 21st July 2018 at the Dr Denis Murphy Memorial Dinner

2018 Fairfax FEC Stimulus Raffle	2018 Fairfax FEC Stimulus Raffle	
Name: _____	\$500 Cash Prize Only 250 tickets available <small>Proceeds raised from this raffle go towards the Fairfax Federal Election Campaign to help Labor win the seat of Fairfax.</small>	\$10.00 per ticket
Address: _____ _____		
Phone: _____	Contact Details: Treasurer Coleen Giles 0407 767 182 PO Box 4990 SMC, Q 4560	Ticket No. _____
Email: _____	Drawn: 21st July 2018	
Ticket No. _____		

Application to purchase

Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
No. of tickets:	

(Please consider purchasing a book of 5 tickets)

Please send you application to the Treasurer, Coleen Giles at ripplemaker@bigpond.com.au
or call 0407 767 182

Please make your deposit to
Account Name: ALP Fairfax FEC
BSB: 064-424
Account no.: 00909099
Reference: Surname & stimulus eg. 'Smith Stimulus'



The Australian Labor Party Fairfax Federal Electoral Council invites
all ALP members, friends and supporters to

Dr Denis Murphy Memorial Dinner

and is pleased to announce our keynote speaker

Hon. Kevin Rudd

Former Prime Minister of Australia
President, Asia Society Political Institute

Saturday 21st July 2018

at

Maroochy Waterfront Conference Centre

42 David Low Way, Diddillibah QLD 4559
(behind Waterfront Hotel)

www.maroochywaterfront.com.au/directions for map directions and information

**Welcome to Country & Canapés 6.30pm
Dinner 7.00pm**

\$65 per person for Canapé's, Mains & Dessert, tea & coffee (cash bar available)

RSVP by 12th July to Coleen at ripplemaker@bigpond.com.au or 0407 767 182

Please mention any dietary requirements when booking

Payment required at time of booking by direct
debit. For alternate payment methods please
contact Coleen.

Direct deposit: BSB 064 424 A/c 00909099

Account name: ALP of Qld Fairfax FEC

Please use your last name and DDMMD as reference
and email bank receipt to Coleen.

Table bookings of **eight (8)** will be accepted by
booking in the table name i.e. John Brown - and
by attaching the list of names with contact phone
numbers & emailing to Coleen.



Proceeds from this dinner will be used for campaign purposes

“The Light On The Hill”

“I try to think of the Labor movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody’s pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective – *the light on the hill* – which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labor movement would not be worth fighting for.” – Prime Minister Ben Chifley, 1949

The ALP Ninderry Branch invites you to its inaugural

“Light On The Hill” Dinner

Friday, 17th August, 2018

At the Coolum Beach Hotel

David Low Way, Coolum Beach

With Special Guest Speakers

Hon Di Farmer

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women
and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic
and Family Violence



Senator Anthony Chisholm

Former ALP State Secretary



Julie-Ann Campbell

ALP Qld State Secretary



\$55 per person

Time - 6.30 pm for 7 pm start

Hors D'Oeuvres on arrival

Followed by a two course dinner

Table drinks service

Lucky door prize and raffles

RSVP by 10 August to Lex at

lmcc0604@aol.com or 0409 499 905

Please mention any dietary requirements when
booking.

Payment is required at time of booking by
Direct Deposit. For alternate payment methods
please contact Lex.

Direct Deposit: BSB 064 000 A/C 14896592

Account Name: ALP of QLD Ninderry Branch

Please use your last name as reference
and email receipt to Lex.

Booking essential - No tickets at the door.

Please note funds raised will be used for campaigning purposes.

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and related bills](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practised](#)

Economics Legislation Committee

- **New** [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]; and Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Regulatory Levies\) Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Protecting Your Superannuation Package\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Space Activities Amendment \(Launches and Returns\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Selection process for a national radioactive waste management facility in South Australia](#)
- [Governance and operation of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility \(NAIF\)](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)
- [Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

- **New** [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- **New** [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Current and future impacts of climate change on housing, buildings and infrastructure](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [Proposed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Defence Amendment \(Call Out of the Australian Defence Force\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Modern Slavery Bill 2018](#)
- [The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment \(Removing Commonwealth Restrictions on Cannabis\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

- **New** [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

Procedure Committee

- **New** [Proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to prayer or reflection](#)

Red Tape Committee

- [The effect of red tape on child care](#)
- [The effect of red tape on occupational licensing](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Air Services Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- [Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.](#)

Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

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

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- **New** [Electric Vehicles](#)

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers

- [Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#)