



Senator Claire Moore

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Representatives from Armenian National Congress to hear issues of concern to their local community

THIS WEEK:

Who would have thought that I would ever be hoping for a Scott Morrison success?

After months of insecurity and a terrible week in Canberra, there is now a new Prime Minister and it is not Peter Dutton.

For me, there has been some delayed remembered trauma from our Labor internal disruptions prior to July 2013 and it has been reflected in the behaviour of the LNP senators across the chamber.

Leadership challenges are painful, personal and exhausting.

Linda Reynolds from Western Australia bravely expressed her frustration with the bullying and pressure of the process, and her frustration that the current LNP was not the party she knows and has served for many years.

The 'flexibility' of people who had been deeply involved in the overturn of Abbott by Turnbull less than three years ago and who were now instrumental in getting votes for Peter Dutton exemplified the desperation of a party deeply divided on policy, in loyalties driven by the fear of imminent election loss.

The latter is a particularly difficult concept for the LNP to grasp with their overwhelming belief in their right to rule and that any Labor victory is an aberration.

Throughout this week's long assassination of Malcolm Turnbull, the greatest threat from the protagonists was a possible Bill Shorten government.

It is difficult to see how the newly warm and cuddly Scott Morrison can unite a deeply riven government.

Again, the strongly conservative elements of the party, enraged by energy policies, despite the emasculation of a series of plans by Turnbull in an effort to appease them, upset by social policies such as same sex marriage and their feelings of being ignored since the defeat of Tony Abbott, have ALMOST taken the leadership.

I cannot believe that Scott Morrison is now seen as moderate.

The Bulletin will include statements from Bill Shorten and Tanya Plibersek ... and the campaign for an election of a Labor government continues.

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore

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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

If there is material you would like included or expanded upon, please let us know. If you think that others would like to receive copies please let us know and we will include them on the mailing lists.

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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...

GOVERNMENT CRISIS - SHORTEN – CANBERRA CITY

"I want to reassure Australians who are entirely cheesed off; Labor is preoccupied with developing policies. We're not sitting there just rubbing our hands about the Government's problems. We understand that we want a contest on policies. We can win the next election because we've got better policies and that's the debate we want to have."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS – PLIBERSEK- CANBERRA

"It's chaos and while chaos reigns, the country is ungoverned. We now don't have an energy policy, we don't have a climate policy, we don't have a tax policy. We have got a Government at war with itself and that is bad for the country and it's bad for Australian families"

GOVERNMENT CRISIS - SHORTEN – CANBERRA CITY

"I understand that there's drought affecting a lot of Australia. I understand that there's over 100,000 older Australians waiting on aged care lists. I understand that for 10 million Australians, their wage growth is at record lows. These are the issues that keep me up at night, not who's going to run the Liberal Party."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS -PLIBERSEK-PH- ADJOURNMENT MOTION

"Australians are working hard today. They're working in their mines and on the farms and in the factories and in the shops, they're working in their offices, they're teaching our children and nursing our sick – they're at work doing their job. The least they can expect from their government is that the Government would turn up to do its job, to focus on what matters."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS -ALBANESE- SKY NEWS

"This is a Government that really should, whoever is the Prime Minister, should visit the Governor General and just call an election and put them out of their misery."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS -CHALMERS –RN DRIVE

"It was really just the theatre of the absurd. The fact that the Government entirely shut down the House of Representatives because they weren't quite sure who the Prime Minister was, or whether there were any ministers left or anything like that really was horribly embarrassing, not just for the Government, but for the country too."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS -SHORTEN – PH - ADJOURNMENT MOTION

"To adjourn the Parliament would be an admission that Parliament has failed. It is not the Parliament that has failed. It is the Turnbull Liberal government in this country which has failed. The country doesn't need a different Liberal leader. It needs a different government in the country. The government may adjourn the Parliament, but they cannot outrun the weight of failure of this government. This is the ultimate admission of surrender, of a bankrupt government, of a failed government."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS - PLIBERSEK – CANBERRA

"Another day and another day of chaos from this Government - a Government that has effectively stopped governing because it's too busy fighting itself."

TURNBULL - ALBANESE- SKY NEWS

"The tragedy is that Malcolm Turnbull does believe in action on climate change to combat it, but he has done nothing about it. He actually does understand communications policy and the need for a high-speed broadband, and yet he has trashed it and purchased some 21 million metres of copper wire which is like going and putting horse-and-buggies on your motorways. It's just a tragedy I think that is unfolding before us. And the sad thing is that it is bad for the nation."

GOVERNMENT CRISIS - - BURKE- SKY NEWS

"I remember as a kid on a Saturday morning you'd watch Looney Tunes.

Now that's the show on the evening news. This building is collapsing into itself and the ones who are doing it don't seem to care. It's all about the soul of the Liberal Party, for heaven's sake, what happened to the Government of the nation?"



owns in Townsville. So I don't think he will be some big vote winner or vote magnet in regional Queensland. And I think a lot of suburban areas around Brisbane will be absolutely appalled by his extreme and divisive politics."



LIBERAL PARTY - ALBANESE -7.30 REPORT

"What we're seeing here is a collapse in the dynamics of the Liberal Party so that the hard right of the Liberal Party are just saying if we can't run it will destroy it."

DUTTON - BURKE- SKY NEWS

"Peter Dutton is effectively Tony Abbott's puppet. He's Tony Abbott Mark II."

DUTTON - BURKE- SKY NEWS

"He has the record of being the worst health minister that we've had. Voted by doctors as being Australia's worst ever health minister. The man who gave us GP tax, the man who ripped \$50 million out of hospitals. That's who he is."

DUTTON-CHALMERS –RN DRIVE

"He only spends, on average, about two days a year in regional Queensland and that's largely to visit the shopping centre he

LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES-PLIBERSEK-PH- ADJOURNMENT MOTION

"Not one of the three people that we've heard touted as Prime Minister deserves the job.

We have one with no authority - that's the member for Wentworth, no authority.

We've got one with no legitimacy. That's the member for Dickson. We're not even sure that he's eligible to sit in this Parliament.

And we've got one with no decency. The member for Cook has never had the courage to nail his colours to the mast.

Is he a conservative? Is he a moderate? Where does he stand on all this division?

He is like a hyena circling around the corpse of the modern Liberal Party waiting for his chance, waiting for his chance to come up the middle."

AN ELECTION -ALBANESE- SKY NEWS

"This is a Government that really should, whoever is the Prime Minister, should visit the Governor General and just call an election and put them out of their misery."

READY FOR GOVERNMENT - CHALMERS – TRIPLE M – CAIRNS

"The other thing is, we really want to win the next federal election because people like our ideas and they like our policies, not just because the other mob's in chaos. So we've got to resist that temptation to sort of sit back and cheer it on. We've got a lot of work to do, a lot of policy work, and we've been doing that."

READY FOR GOVERNMENT - SWAN-ABC 612 RADIO- BRISBANE

"We've got candidates in the field. We've got our policies we've been announcing essentially for five years. We've done the detailed work in Opposition to prepare for Government."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"What began as a minority has, by a process of intimidation, persuaded people that the only way to stop the insurgency was to give in to it." - Malcolm Turnbull

"Abandoning the tax cuts, even more than his supine capitulation on emissions and energy targets revealed Turnbull as a hollow, opportunistic impostor. For what, other than his own career, was he prepared to fight?" - Catherine McGregor (Columnist SMH)

"Malcolm Turnbull is dead. He's like Bruce Willis from The Sixth Sense - he's dead he just doesn't know it yet." - Jason Clare

"Turnbull is just a speedbump on the road to the Trumpification of the modern Liberal Party that a Dutton leadership would finalise." - Wayne Swan

"To be rewarded for an act of treachery would be a terrible thing," - Sarah Henderson (Victorian Liberal MP) on being offered a Ministry if she left the Turnbull camp and support Dutton

"I think it is Tony Abbott and his mates that are doing this, it is a disgrace." - Michelle Landry, National Party Whip and Queensland MP

"I do move that the House adjourn." - Christopher Pyne

"No government in living memory has said it's all too hard, we're just going home," Leader of Opposition Business Tony Burke

"This is the ultimate admission of surrender, of a bankrupt government, of a failed government." - Labor leader Bill Shorten

"Look it doesn't really matter who leads the Liberal Party, they'll be leading a party full of people that hate each other's guts and that's the problem." - Jason Clare

"It is the only thing that unites them: their complete inability to govern - Penny Wong.

"I mean they make the black knight in Monty Python look sensible!" - Doug Cameron

"Having declared its CEO unfit to lead, Australia's self-proclaimed "business" party is now trading while politically insolvent, its legitimacy squandered and its stock price slashed to junk status. A pernicious culture of careerism and entitlement has consumed its agenda elevating personal ambition, revenge and mendacity over orderly process and respect for the national interest. To borrow from Scott Morrison's warning about high tax levels, "like a snake eating itself from the tail . . . an ugly and grotesque image" - Mark Kenny (SMH)

"Today is the funeral of the modern Liberal Party". - Tanya Plibersek

"The brazenness of the anti-Turnbull plotters' contempt for the voters is eye-watering." - Mark Kenny (SMH)

"The rampant hostility and unbridled bitterness now on public display is the sort of recrimination that traditionally breaks out after a party loses office and finds itself in opposition. The Liberal Party today has gone direct to the recrimination phase, heedless of the consequences." - Peter Hartcher -Political Editor (SMH)

"A government that has to shut down the people's house because it cannot present a ministry and is not sure who should sit in the prime minister's chair is a government in name only. Yesterday's proceedings in the federal Parliament were farcical. Far from humorous in any way, though, is the insulting disregard for policy and for the public, the community that funds our democracy." - Editorial (The Age)

"Dog-whistling on race and gender can trump economic self-interest when living standards are rising. Despite their shrill squealing about "identity" politics, that is all that is left to conservatives like Dutton and their base. Their economic model is discredited. They no longer even believe in themselves. The game is up. Maybe even the party is over. - Catherine McGregor (Columnist SMH)

"What a wasted week this has been in Canberra. Virtually all significant policy and high-level administrative work was put on hold while the crew of the ship of fools staged yet another performance in the theatre of the absurd. Time, public resources and administrative talent have been allowed to sit idle or go to waste while the politicians wage an almost comically bitter war over the spoils of defeat. Whoever wins the ballot, expected to be conducted at high noon today, will not be the Prime Minister for long. " - Editorial Canberra Times

"This will be a recurring crisis. Voters know that the unity claimed after this bloodletting will be as fleeting as the unity promised in the past." - David Crowe Chief Political Correspondent (SMH)

"Australians are so over this." - A caller to talk back radio

GLIMPSES ACTUALITIES

DUTTON'S SOFTER SIDE

MR SMILEY



A government source has told *The Guardian* the situation on Nauru has grown "dangerously chaotic". The paper reports a 17-year-old girl is being treated inside the Nauru facility after refusing to eat, drink or receive medical care. Medical sources say the young girl's condition has rapidly deteriorated and is now "one of the most critical cases on the island." This comes after a 12-year-old girl was taken to Nauru hospital yesterday "after reportedly attempting to set herself on fire".

AU PAIR

Almost simultaneously, the upper house, which kept sitting after the house adjourned, voted 34-28 in favour of referring leadership contender Peter Dutton to a Senate inquiry for his decision to use ministerial powers to save two foreign au pairs from deportation.

The issue has been in the spotlight since March, when it was revealed the former home affairs minister granted the pair visas on public interest grounds in 2015.

PETER WHO?

Secret Labor Party research of focus groups, conducted nationally including with Victorians, reveals Mr Dutton has a low profile among most Australians. Voters who did know him described him as “soulless”, morning’s leadership ballot.

- Dutton said Turnbull had his full support on Saturday, by Tuesday he’d pulled the sharpened knife from his toga.
- Dutton is also the man who boycotted Kevin Rudd’s national apology to the Stolen Generation in 2008.
- Dutton is the bloke who voted to stop a Royal Commission into the banks.
- He’s the person who also voted to cut the supplement for pensioners to make electricity bills more expensive for pensioners.
- When he was Health Minister he presided over the \$50 billion of cuts to hospitals in the 2014 budget.
- He is the Health Minister who launched the Medicare privatisation task force.
- He is the Health Minister that tried to get the GP co-payment in.
- He tried to increase the cost of all medicines.
- He cut hundreds of millions from dental care, from mental health, from preventative care, including the anti-smoking campaigns

A DISASTER - From the Age

Senior business figures spanning some of the country’s biggest manufacturing, retail and resources companies have warned ongoing policy and leadership turmoil in Canberra is making it hard to plan for the future and damaging the nation’s ability to attract investment.

Vik Bansal, chief executive of recycling and waste business Cleanaway, which employs about 5500 people, said the saga was disappointing.

“We deserve better, we should be doing better, with the kind of economic opportunities we have right in front of us,” he said. “From a business perspective, what we need is assurance of policy. What stops us, what makes us fearful, is a lack of clarity and ambiguity that is sadly hurting in this kind of situation. We just don’t need this.”

A DISASTER - Dr John Hewson



“Look at the damage [Mr Abbott’s campaign] has already done, it has got Dutton himself believing that he is leadership material. Mate, he is unelectable outside Queensland,” Dr Hewson said. “Yesterday he had no policies, today he wants a royal commission into power prices and he wants to rework the GST. That stuff is political poison. You don’t think Labor and the unions and GetUp! can’t exploit the s--t out of that? By the time they have finished they will have destroyed the Liberal Party.”

Mr Abbott has made his determined lack of conviction a potent political weapon, says former Liberal leader John Hewson. “He will take any position that suits him on any given matter on any given day.”

OVERNIGHT

The Dutton campaign has been accused of using fake news and deceit to create a sense of crisis Old-fashioned bully tactics were also alleged. Four female MPs complained to the

Whip’s office, saying they felt intimidated when asked to sign the petition, Phil Coorey of the Australian Financial Review reported.

“A distinct lack of class” and “the most shambolic leadership coup I’ve ever seen” was how political analyst Peter van Onselen put it.

QUEENSLAND CONSPIRATOR

Qld Senator, James McGrath, a former Turnbull supporter has been revealed as one of the key strategists behind Peter Dutton’s palace coup against Malcolm Turnbull. McGrath who was instrumental to Campbell Newman’s election victory in 2012 was also the same man who used his first speech in the Federal Parliament to bash the ABC for its “inner-city leftist views”, and called for the immediate privatisation of Triple J. “



THE CONSPIRATORS BEHIND DUTTON



Sarina Russo Qld Businesswoman – Senator James McGrath – Geoff Greene Former SA Liberal Party Director now Dutton Campaign Manager – Gary Spence Qld LNP President



NO PHONE

“The long-awaited Residential households and business survey from the [Australian Communications and Media Authority \(ACMA\)](#), which commenced a year ago, was today released in full after residential survey data [was released in April](#). Today’s release contains survey data on the experience of 1153 small and medium businesses with the NBN over 2017 and early 2018, and reveals a stunning level of dissatisfaction among business owners.”

According to the survey, 42% of small and medium businesses had complained to their retail service provider (RSP) or NBN about poor service after being connected, usually multiple times — the median number of complaints for business was four. This was significantly higher than the level of complaints from households (31% and a median of three).

During their switchover to the NBN, 40% of businesses were left without either their phone or internet service, or both, during connection, with potentially major impacts on their businesses; 31% of businesses with both internet and phone services from the NBN (some had phone-only services) lost both services, cutting their businesses off entirely. Worse, restoration times were painfully slow for cut-off businesses where every minute out of touch costs money: 11% were left without a phone for a month; 15% had no internet for that period. Another 23% had no phone for between one and four weeks.

AN ALLY?

Saudi Arabian prosecutors are seeking the death sentence for five human rights activists, including a woman who is thought to be the first female campaigner in the country facing execution, rights groups have said.

Israa al-Ghomgham, a Shia activist arrested with her husband in 2015, will be tried in the country's terrorism tribunal even though charges she faces relate to peaceful activism, [Human Rights Watch said](#).

"Any execution is appalling, but seeking the death penalty for activists like Israa al-Ghomgham, who are not even accused of violent behaviour, is monstrous," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at HRW.

Together with her husband, Moussa al-Hashem, and three other defendants, Ghomgham faces charges that "do not resemble recognisable crimes", HRW said.

They include participating in protests, chanting slogans hostile to the regime, attempting to inflame public opinion and filming protests and publishing on social media.

Saudi Shia citizens face [systematic discrimination](#) in the majority-Sunni nation, including obstacles to seeking work and education, and restrictions on religious practice. Ghomgham had joined and documented mass protests for Shia rights that began in 2011 as the Arab spring swept across the region.

RISK

"Australians would be surprised to hear that it is not illegal to supply unsafe products in Australia, as it is in a range of places like the United Kingdom, European Union, Canada, Malaysia and Brazil. We think consumers should be able to expect the products they purchase aren't going to cause them an injury." - [ACCC 20 August 2018](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia's holds the world record of \$25 billion a year in gambling losses. \$15 billion of that was lost on Australia's 200,000 poker machines?

GOOD NEWS

The Queensland government has introduced laws to decriminalise abortion to state parliament. Queensland and New South Wales are the only two Australian states that still outlaw abortion.

Introducing the bill to state parliament on Wednesday, Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath said the laws would move abortion from a criminal matter to a health issue.

"No one ever makes this decision lightly, but all women across Queensland should have the right to make this decision for themselves," Ms D'Ath told the house.

"I do this for our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends. I do this for women who have fought long and hard for the right to autonomy over their own bodies."

THREATS

Following the decision by the Federal Government to ban Chinese telco giant Huawei from participation in the roll out of the 5G network here's what the Chinese say;

"Chinese tabloid, The Global Times also called the Australian government "back stabbers" and accused Australia of discriminating against Huawei in the name of national security. The editorial warned, "those who wilfully hurt Chinese companies with an excuse of national security will meet their nemesis".

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mile after mile of the Great Barrier Reef is dying amid rising ocean temperatures. Hundreds of bush fires are blazing across Australia's centre, in winter, partly because of a [record-breaking drought](#).

The global scientific consensus is clear: Australia is especially vulnerable to climate change.

And yet on Monday, Australia's prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, [abandoned](#) a modest effort to reduce energy emissions under pressure from conservatives in his party. And on Tuesday, those same conservatives [just missed toppling](#) his government.

What on earth is going on?

Despite the country's reputation for progressiveness on gun control, health care and wages, its energy politics seem forever doomed to devolve into a [circus](#).

Total campaign contributions are extremely hard to track in Australia — a lack of transparency that serves big business well — but in the narrow band of reported spending, coal industry lobbyists poured roughly \$3.6 million (\$5 million Australian) into campaigns last year as the energy debate intensified.

Four of the country's main environmental groups — Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, Environment Victoria and the Sunrise Project — spent just \$135,000 combined (\$183,000 Australian).

"If you look at lobby lane, who is always around, it's the Minerals Council by a country mile," said Susan Harris Rimmer, a law professor at Griffith University. "I don't think people understand how dominant it's been here."

"The Europeans think we're crazy," she added. "Who's got more solar, who's got more tidal power than us? It just goes to show the strength of that particular group."



The New York Times

Amos Washington Needs Your Help!!

This year, as the 2018 Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations, I have been asking young Australians the question 'what would Australia look like if young people had a greater say?'

With your help, we have engaged with thousands of young Australians across 111 consultations, with more still to come.

I have collected photos, artworks, anecdotes and surveys across the country, from young people in schools, Universities, TAFEs, community groups, not-for-profits, clubs, associations, workplaces, and juvenile detention centres.

In September, I will deliver a speech on behalf of Australian young people to the UN General Assembly.

Upon return to Australia, I will produce a final report summarising my findings and experiences, and deliver this report to Australia's decision-makers. This report will include details from my visits to every state and territory and include recommendations on how we can continue to amplify the youth voice in Australia.



However - we cannot report on these findings without your help.

The Youth Representative Program relies solely on community support. The Youth Representative role is full time and unpaid.

Small contributions from passionate community members will help cover living expenses for me in my role, travel throughout the report-back period, and all costs associated with the writing and delivery of the report.

Want to Help? Go to;

<https://www.gofundme.com/help-us-report-on-australian-youth>

ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT DELAYS MEAN ANGST FOR SMALL BUSINESS – Bowen/King/Owens

Small businesses around the country are nervously awaiting key tax relief measures while more policy paralysis plagues the Turnbull Government.

The Accelerated Depreciation for Small Business Entities Bill, which will extend the \$20,000 instant asset write-off for SMEs to June 2019, is again missing from debate this week.

This initiative, largely uncontroversial and extended with bipartisan support has fallen to the wayside, as Turnbull staves off friendly fire from within the Liberal National Party.

Nothing epitomises the futility of this Turnbull Government like failing to legislate that which has clear bipartisan support.

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

Labor is united behind our policy agenda for tax relief and support for Small Business.

SOCIAL SERVICES

NO MATTER WHO LEADS THE LIBERALS, PENSION CUTS ARE IN THEIR DNA - Burney

Pensioners won't be fooled.

For 834 days, the Turnbull Government has [tried](#) to cut the pension for over 1.5 million Australians, by scrapping the energy supplement for new pensioners. [[Budget Paper No. 2, 2016, p.143](#)]

Malcolm Turnbull's back-down today is only about saving his job. And pensioners are still facing one of the highest pension ages in the developed world.

Scott Morrison tried to gloss-over the pain these cuts would have inflicted on pensioners.

"No pensioner was ever having a payment they were currently receiving being taken away. [Morrison, Press Conference, 22 August 2018]

This is wrong.

The Turnbull Government's [legislation](#) makes it clear that anyone who has come onto a pension or allowance since September 2016 would have seen their payment cut.

The Government's own [figures](#) show this would have left over 563,000 Australians who are currently receiving a pension or allowance worse-off. Over 10 years, in excess of 1.5 million pensioners would be worse off.

Cutting the pension is in the Liberals' DNA.

They have tried to cut the pension in every budget:

- In the 2014 Budget they tried to **cut pension indexation** – a cut that would have meant pensioners would be forced to live on \$80 a week less within ten years. This unfair cut would have ripped \$23 billion from the pockets of every single pensioner in Australia.
- In the 2014 Budget they cut \$1 billion from **pensioner concessions** – support designed to help pensioners with the cost of living.
- In the 2014 Budget they **axed the \$900 seniors supplement** to self-funded retirees receiving the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.
- In the 2014 Budget the Liberals tried to **reset deeming rates thresholds** – a cut that would have seen 500,000 part-pensioners made worse off.
- In 2015, the Liberals did a deal with the Greens to **cut the pension to around 370,000 pensioners** by as much as \$12,000 a year by changing the pension assets test.
- In the 2016 Budget they tried to cut the pension to around 190,000 pensioners as part of a plan to **limit overseas travel** for pensioners to six weeks.
- They still wants to make pensioners born overseas wait longer to before qualifying for the Age Pension by **increasing the residency requirements** from 10 to 15 years.
- The Liberals want to completely **take away the pension supplement** from pensioners who go overseas for more than six weeks, this will see around \$120 million ripped from the pockets of pensioners.
- And they still **refuse to adjust deeming rates** for pensioners.
- On top of this, the Prime Minister still wants to **increase the pension age to 70**.

Labor has fought these cuts tooth and nail. This is the only reason the Turnbull Government has flip-flopped today. But one simple fact remains. No matter who the leader is, cutting the pension is in the Liberals' DNA.

INFRASTRUCTURE

FEDERAL LABOR WILL DUPLICATE LINKFIELD ROAD OVERPASS

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$60 million to duplicate the Linkfield Road overpass on the Gympie Arterial Road.

Currently two lanes merge into one just before drivers turn north on to the Gympie Arterial Road, making it a notorious stretch for accidents and traffic congestion.

The bottleneck has been identified by the state's peak roads body, the RACQ, as a key priority for government action.

Federal Coalition MPs including Peter Dutton and Luke Howarth have done nothing to secure Federal investment for this important project. While they sit on their hands and finger point, Federal Labor will commit \$60 million to the upgrade, and work with the Palaszczuk Government to get it done.

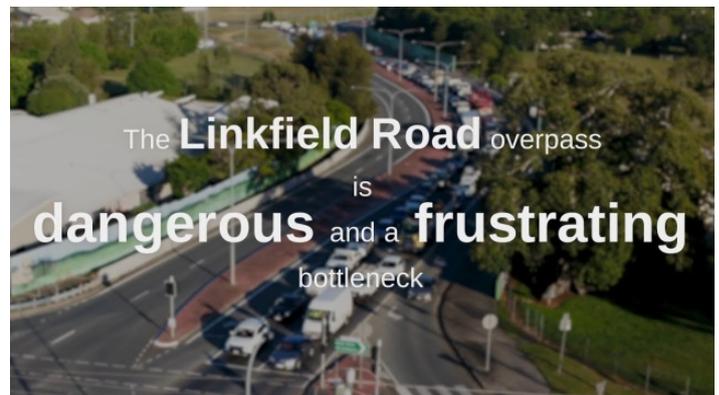
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said that while the Coalition MPs were focused on their internal leadership brawls, Labor was focused on real action to address the real issues affecting Australians in their daily lives.

"This announcement builds on the record investment in transport infrastructure by the former Labor Government across Brisbane's northern suburbs. This included the Redcliffe Peninsula Line as well as significant upgrades to both the Bruce Highway and the Gateway Motorway."

Labor candidate for Dickson Ali France said the project was essential because Linkfield Road was a congestion choke point for people in Warner, Albany Creek and Strathpine, as well as businesses in Brendale. "This upgrade will mean less time sitting in traffic and a quicker commute. Upgrading Linkfield Road will be a game-changer for our community." Ms France said.

Labor Candidate for Petrie Corinne Mulholland said that while Liberal MPs were fighting each other, Labor was fighting for better, safer and less congested roads on Brisbane's Northside. "Mr Howarth has had five long years to deliver transport infrastructure for this community and has failed. Labor will deliver. Federal Labor has a strong transport plan for the Northside, including expanding the capacity of the passenger rail network by investing in the Cross River Rail, which will clear the way for more frequent train services, particularly across peak hour." Ms Mulholland said.

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HEALTH

BREAK THRU SCIENCE ON DEBILITATING NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE

In parliament house in Canberra yesterday, members of federal parliament took the time to listen to world renowned scientists and their ground-breaking findings that explain the debilitating disease myalgic encephalomyelitis, a type of chronic fatigue syndrome. The event focused on a presentation by Griffith University Professors Don Staines and Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik.

The turnout was particularly impressive given the leadership turmoil's occupying the headlines and the minds of so many people working in the building. Jokes were made at the beginning and end of the event, confirming that Malcom Turnbull was still the Prime Minister.

The event was hosted by the new Parliamentary Friends of ME/CFS, founded by Greens Senator for Western Australia, Jordon Steele-John and co-chaired by Labor Senator for Queensland, Claire Moore and Liberal Senator for Tasmania Jonathon Duniam.

A range of parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, in both the House of Representatives and the Senate attended, as did policy advisors, members of the academic community, patients and advocates.

Senators Andrew Bartlett, Greens for Queensland; Slade Brockman, Liberal for Western Australia; Jonathon Duniam, Liberal for Tasmania; Jordon Steele-John, Greens for Western Australia; and Claire Moore, Labor for Queensland all attended.

From the House of Representatives, Liberal Member for Dunkley, Chris Crewther; and Labor Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann attended. Up to a dozen policy advisors attended from a range of parliamentary offices.

Jordon Steele-John welcomed everyone to the event. Jonathon Duniam introduced the speakers. Don Staines began Griffith's presentation with some poignant insights into why their research mattered. "It is an honour to present to the representatives of the people, our novel scientific findings" he said. ME/CFS is "a very silent illness, because people are often unable to represent their needs".

In unpacking the approach of the National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases, he explained that "the existing science is not yet up to it." "Patients have experienced extreme stigma and discrimination associated with the lack of known biology". The aim of the centre's work was to reduce this stigma by demonstrating the biology of the disease, developing a diagnostic test and identifying therapeutic drugs to manage the disease. He spoke plainly and eloquently for all to understand the gravity of what he was saying.

Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik went through a summary of all the research they have done in three years, explaining what and how they have come to understand the pathology of the disease.

First, they identified a family of genes significantly associated with the disease. Then, they tested these genes, the family of TRPM3 markers, for changes in expression between healthy controls and patients with ME. This gene is found in cells in the central nervous, cardiovascular, digestive, endocrine, immune and excretory and other systems in the body. In this way, they came to understand how so many systems in the body are affected by the disease.

What they found was that the cells containing TRPM3 showed a reduced capacity for the transfer of calcium ions between and within the cells. Calcium ions are vital to cellular energy transfer and proper cell function.

By using gold standard technological processes, they measured the amount of calcium that is stored by and circulated in particular cells. Again, in ME patients, these rates were significantly lower than in healthy controls. This science would explain why many patients describe their experiences as like running on a faulty cell phone battery that doesn't charge properly and never fully recharges.

TRPM3 are threat receptors. They are triggered by infections (bacterial or viral), perfumes or other chemicals, cell stretching or stress, temperature variation and a range of other factors. This not only explains some of the onset factors for ME, but also some of the triggers patients experience after contracting the disease.

Don Staines explained that, given these findings, we could see that "recommendations to exercise patients are wrong" because it only places greater demand for calcium ions in the cells. This also explains why patients who meet the diagnostic criteria defined in the Canadian Consensus Criteria or the International Consensus Primer would in fact be worsened by a regime of Graduated Exercise Therapy. While patients who experienced the symptom of chronic fatigue without meeting these criteria may experience some improvement.

As for recommendations to treat patients with Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik said she was "not aware of any psychological treatment that can effect calcium ion transmitters".

Attendees were keen to know what policy makers could do to help researchers and patients. The sample sizes of the studies undertaken so far were about 200 people. To allow all Australian patients to contribute to the study (and vastly increase the value of the science by increasing the sample size), the centre will need \$13 million. So far, they have raised half of this money through philanthropic donations. They asked the parliamentarians to support federal government funding for the remaining \$6.5 million.

Recommendations also came to ensure government policies and guidelines are updated to account for this research, helping reduce the personal, financial and social burden of the disease on patients. While no specific mention was made of the National Disability Insurance Scheme or Disability Support Pension, ongoing discussions will address some of these issues. There was, however, an explicit call to remove GET and CBT recommendations from policies including guidelines of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

While Don and Sonya were loathe to provide timelines on their advances for diagnostic testing and therapeutic drugs, they explained they were working with a leading Australian pathology service provider with a timeline of three years for both projects.

At the end of proceedings Claire Moore closed the event with a call to action for policy makers while paying tribute to the good work that Scott Ludlum had done in this space. Significant networking between parliamentarians, policy advisors, other researchers and patients occurred before everyone dispersed. Overall, it was an incredibly worthwhile event and impressively successful, especially given the amount of attention being diverted for leadership contentions within the government.





GOVT VOTES DOWN BETTER SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED FARMERS- Fitzgibbon

Labor is disappointed the Turnbull Government rejected the opportunity to support proposed amendments to the *Farm Household Support Amendment (Temporary Measures) Bill* which would have given struggling farmers the opportunity to receive the Farm Household Allowance (FHA) supplement payment as a \$12,000 lump sum payment.

The reality is, many farmers won't have access to cash payments for up to 10 weeks. During this time daily living expenses and debt will continue to accumulate and farmers should be given the option of receiving the supplement payment as a lump sum payment.

The current drought has been severe in many parts of the country and there are farming families who desperately need assistance with putting food on the table, paying school fees and other daily living expenses.

There is no logic or rationale behind the split payments on 1 September 2018 and 1 March 2019 for the supplement and contrary to Malcolm Turnbull's comments to David Koch on Sunrise that "March isn't that far away", Labor is fully aware that farmers need cash assistance as soon as possible.

Labor has supported all the Government's drought measures put forward and is not seeking to politicise assistance to our farmers.

However, the fact is the Turnbull Government has been asleep at the wheel, Labor has announced it will restore the CoAG process for drought reform, which was abolished by the former Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce.

Labor has also announced it will dispatch Australia's agriculture-based Research and Development Corporations to help farmers prepare, build defences against and recover faster from the impacts of an increasingly variable climate such as protracted drought, severe storms, frost, pests and diseases.

A future Shorten Labor Government will focus on long-term drought policy based on adaptation and resilience-building in response to a hotter and drier environment.

GOVERNMENT DYSFUNCTION CONTINUES IN LIVE SHEEP TRADE - Fitzgibbon

It has been more than four months since we witnessed the shocking cruelty of 60,000 sheep suffering on board the Awassi Express in the height of the searing Middle East summer.

Overnight, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources [has confirmed](#) Australia's largest live sheep exporter, Emanuel Exports, has lost its exporting licence following a license suspension and review.

Agriculture Minister David Littleproud must stand up today to explain what the Turnbull Government's plan is for the live sheep export industry. The Turnbull Government's messy handling of the live sheep controversy is hurting our sheep farmers.

Labor has been upfront about our phase out plan and has also committed to developing a Strategic Red Meat Industry Plan to help sheep meat producer's transition to new business and market models.

Instead of articulating a clear course of action like Labor did, this dysfunctional and divided Turnbull Government has failed to provide clear guidance causing suffering for sheep farmers and others working in the supply chain.

The fact is, the Australian community feels betrayed because Turnbull Government Ministers feigned anger in response to the 60 Minutes footage but have not acted transparently and have not reached out to sheep farmers.

Labor is trying to achieve the phase out plan quicker with its amendments to the Government's penalties for breaches bill currently before the Parliament. But the Turnbull Government's refusal to bring the matter to a vote is yet another sign that Malcolm Turnbull does not have the support of coalition members.

It's clear this Government has stopped governing and have been overtaken by division and chaos. It's not good enough.



APPOINTMENT OF NEW NBNCO CEO – Rowland/Chalmers

Labor does not consider the appointment of a permanent NBNCo CEO this close to the election to be appropriate, particularly given the dysfunctional state of the Turnbull Government.

This appointment is exactly why Bill Shorten today wrote to Malcolm Turnbull asking him to cease taking any actions that may bind the decisions of an incoming government, in line with caretaker conventions. The chaos overwhelming the Government means it would be inappropriate to make appointments such as this one.

[We have made our view clear](#) that the appointment of the CEO should have been an interim one.

Labor also made clear we expected to be consulted on any ongoing appointment for this reason. This has not occurred. Between now and the next federal election, whenever that may be, NBNCo should focus on the following:

1. Minimise the amount of Fibre to the Node deployment wherever feasible, and at a minimum take fibre to the kerb.
2. Implement Labor's NBN Service Guarantee to establish effective wholesale service standards for consumers.
3. Bring an end to the spin which has undermined internal decision-making.
4. Improve transparency over the risks in the business case caused by the multi-technology mix.

There must be no repeat of the political co-ordination between the Coalition and NBNCo that occurred during the 2016 election. The appointed CEO will be directly accountable for this.

Equitable access to quality broadband is transformative in its potential to extend social and economic opportunity. This has always Labor's driving purpose, no matter where you live or work in Australia.

REGIONAL CUSTOMERS MUST NOT BE IGNORED BY NEW NBN CEO- Rowland/Jones

Labor will be looking to NBNCo to address the backlog of issues in regional communications.

In particular, Labor wants NBN to stop deploying second-rate copper in regional areas where feasible, and instead prioritise the better Fibre to the Curb technology.

That's because copper lines in regional Australia are old, degraded and will cost more to maintain than fibre.

Addressing the growing problem of congestion in the fixed wireless network should also be a high priority for the new CEO.

NBNCo's program to upgrade fixed wireless towers is making slow progress and isn't adequately addressing the issue of congestion.

The lack of transparency around the allocation of customers onto Sky Muster satellite NBN is also a concern.

Too many people in outer metropolitan areas and small towns are being rushed onto satellite NBN when a more rational approach that weighed up costs and benefits to the community would see them allocated to fixed wireless or even fixed line.

Given the dysfunctional state of the Turnbull Government, and an impending election, NBNCo need to ensure these needs aren't ignored.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

PLAN TO ADDRESS RISE IN HOMELESSNESS AMONG OLDER WOMEN - Cameron

The National Older Women's Housing and Homelessness Working Group today released an important paper on the growing homelessness crisis affecting older women.

Retiring into Poverty - A National Plan For Change: Increasing Housing Security For Older Women was presented by the Parliamentary Friends of Homelessness and Housing Affordability.

Recent ABS figures show a 31 per cent rise in homelessness among older women between the 2011 and 2016 Census'.

The paper looks at the issues underpinning this alarming rise including a lack of affordable housing, low levels of superannuation and deficiencies in the social security system.

Shadow Housing and Homelessness Minister Doug Cameron said governments cannot continue to ignore the gendered determinants of housing insecurity and homelessness for women, which he said stem from gender inequality.

"These factors include the gender pay gap, the unequal division of caring responsibilities and its impact on things such as workforce participation and outcomes in superannuation."

"This report does a very good job of drawing attention to some of these key issues and how they are manifesting in greater housing insecurity and homelessness for older women."

This includes the insightful observation that:

"The root cause of all homelessness is poverty. Older women are more likely to be living in poverty than older men due to a lifetime of discrimination that included unpaid or under paid work."

Mr Cameron said a Shorten Labor Government will address the gendered components of homelessness, including long-term and structural economic disadvantage experienced by women.

Labor will also:

- Pursue a comprehensive suite of housing affordability and supply reforms – including our commitments to restrict negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions.
- Develop and implement a national plan to reduce homelessness through the Council of Australian Governments.
- Reinstatement of a Minister for Housing and Homelessness, and re-establish the National Housing Supply Council, and
- Provide \$88 million over two years for a new Safe Housing Fund to increase transitional housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, young people exiting out-of-home care and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

DEADLY PRODUCTS SELL WHILE TURNBULL FIDDLES - King

The Turnbull Government is putting the safety of Australians at risk by failing to prohibit what the ACCC says is the “alarming” supply of unsafe products.

At least 10 people a day are injured and require medical attention as a result of unsafe products. And there has been at least one recorded death with the deadly Takata airbags.



The Government is ignoring a golden opportunity to put this matter on the agenda of the next meeting of Ministers for Consumer Affairs on 31 August.

It is beyond belief that the Government is still developing a consultation paper on the proposal to introduce a general safety provision into the Australian Consumer Law - and as a result it is not on the meeting agenda.

The proposal was supported 12 months ago by the same Consumer Affairs Ministers.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has lobbied for change and said on August 20:

“Ten injuries a day due to defective products is alarming, but we suspect this is just the tip of the iceberg as many more consumers don’t report injuries to the product suppliers at all.”

Earlier this month I called for urgent action on the recall of deadly Takata airbags, which have caused 24 deaths, and more than 300 injuries - including one death and one injury in Australia.

The Turnbull Government has dithered again on an important reform which the ACCC sees as urgent because faulty products continue to flood Australia and cause serious injury and harm to thousands of Australians, with more than 4.5 million items recalled by suppliers in the 2017-18 financial year.

The recalls include the deadly Takata airbags (22 dead, including one in Australia); infinity electrical cables (fire or electrocution risk); Samsung washing machines with faulty wiring (resulting in house fires); and Safetech hardware pool gate latches (which may lock in open position allowing access to pool areas resulting in drowning).

On August 2, I criticised the Turnbull Government’s glacial response to warnings about Takata airbags, dithering for more than six months before announcing a compulsory recall.

Now there are 1.8 million deadly Takata airbags that still need replacing as part of the compulsory recall that will run until 2020.

SENIORS

LIBERALS CONDEMNED FOR AGED CARE CRISIS WAITLIST BLOW OUTS – Collins/Polley

The Senate has today passed a Labor motion again condemning the Liberal Government for the growing waitlist for access to home care packages.

The release of the [latest data](#) on the home care package waitlist last week revealed close to 108,000 older Australians are waiting for care. This includes more than 88,000 older Australians waiting with high needs, many with dementia.

As the list grows longer and longer, fresh stories emerge daily of older Australians waiting years for home care.

This Liberal Government is failing at the critical task of caring for older Australians. It must listen to the Senate’s condemnation.

With the waiting list growing by almost 4,000 older Australians in just three months, the 3,500 new home care packages a year committed in the Budget won’t come close to keeping pace with demand.

Since the first release of data, the waiting list for home care has grown from 88,000 older Australians to 108,000.

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.

With wait times blowing out and more older Australians joining the queue every day, it is clear the Liberal Government need to act now.

Labor has repeatedly called on this Liberal Government to fix this crisis as a matter of urgency. The Liberal Government needs to apologise for over promising and under delivering for older Australians.

WORKERS

LIBERALS MUST ACT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE – Plibersek/Burney

The Liberals are consumed with their leadership crisis instead of acting on important issues like domestic violence leave.

Despite a number of opportunities to introduce legislation providing for family and domestic violence leave, Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberals have done nothing.

Junior Minister Craig Laundy has failed to introduce a bill into the Parliament during this two week sitting period. It shows the Liberals don’t take family and domestic violence leave seriously.

Mr Laundry needs to focus on this extremely important issue which has fallen to the wayside, and stop being distracted by the chaos in the Liberal Party.

**YOU CAN'T LEAVE
WITHOUT PAID LEAVE**



More than four months ago, Craig Laundry put out a late night press release saying the government would look at legislating five days unpaid domestic and family violence leave.

Two weeks ago, media outlets reported Mr Laundry would introduce legislation to provide for five days **unpaid** domestic and family violence leave “as soon as possible”.

But the Liberals have done nothing.

Labor has committed to introducing 10 days **paid** domestic violence leave into the National Employment Standards. We have called on the Liberals to join us to provide this crucial workplace right to all Australian workers. They have consistently failed to answer our call.

The truth is the Liberals see domestic violence leave as nothing more than a cost to business. They have even made the ridiculous argument that it will make women less attractive to employers.

State governments and many private sector employers already provide paid family violence leave, including Carlton & United Breweries, Telstra, NAB, Virgin Australia, IKEA and Qantas. These employers have paved the way and helped reduce the stigma that often accompanies domestic violence. So too have Australia’s unions, campaigning for paid domestic and family violence leave over many years which has led to subsequent coverage in Australian workplaces.

The complexity of family violence requires a strategic approach by all levels of government, business, and the community.

Labor calls on Malcolm Turnbull and his Liberals to adopt Labor’s commitment to 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave, and to bring legislation forward during the next sitting week. Nothing less will do.

***** If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au. In an emergency, call 000” *****

ENVIRONMENT

LABOR WILL BRING BACK THE COMMONWEALTH MARINE PARKS - Burke

Labor has committed to reverse the largest removal of area from conservation in history.

A process which commenced under the Abbott Government in 2013 concluded last week with the Senate refusing to disallow marine park management plans put in place by Josh Frydenberg.

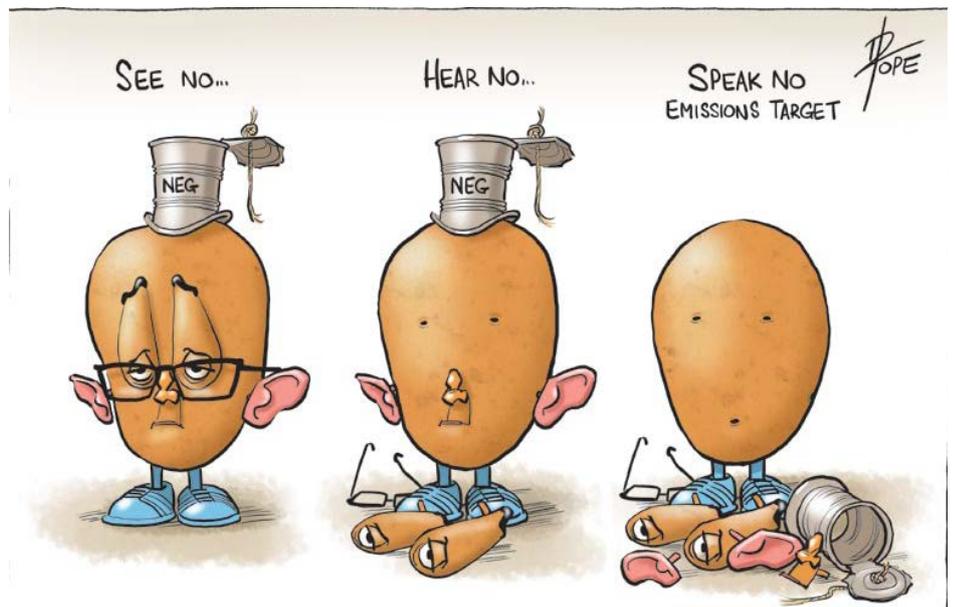
This process has effectively cut the highly protected areas of Commonwealth Marine Parks in half.

The largest area in the world limited to recreational fishing is now being re-accessed by commercial operators, and perhaps most disturbing of all, the Government has now established a massive trawling area immediately adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. Longlining will now also be permitted north to south through the Coral Sea.

The Government’s decision is bad for the Reef and bad for recreational fishers around Australia and particularly in regional Queensland.

Labor’s commitment is to restore the original 2012 Marine Park Network in full. This includes an adjustment package for commercial fishers, and will still allow recreational fishing in 96 percent of Commonwealth waters within 100km of the shore. It does not affect the coastline or state waters.

The original plans were subject to over three years and six rounds of consultation, over 245 public and stakeholder meetings, attended by over 2000 people, enabled 210 public comment days and considered almost three-quarters of a million public submissions, all of which massively exceeded any consultation undertaken by the Government as part of the process to cut marine protection.



Labor's commitment to return the Marine Parks will also involve retaining some very minor improvements in the zoning in the current plans. This includes small oil and gas exclusion zones off the South Australian coast and the Kimberley marine park.

The commitment to bring back the Marine Parks builds on a series of Labor policies on the ocean, including the Super Trawler Ban announced last month.

IMMIGRATION

GOVT MUST ENSURE CARE OF CHILDREN ON NAURU & TAKE NZ OFFER -Neumann

Labor is seriously concerned by reports regarding the health and welfare of children in the Australian-funded regional processing centre on Nauru.

Peter Dutton has been the Minister responsible for Australian-funded regional processing centres for over three-and-a-half years and must immediately address his ongoing failures.



Labor has [written](#) to Peter Dutton again, urging him to accept New Zealand's offer to resettle eligible refugees from Manus and Nauru - so that they – including children – are resettled as quickly as possible.

Nauru and Manus Island were set up as temporary regional processing centres but have become places of indefinite detention because of the out-of-touch Turnbull Government's failure to negotiate other third country resettlement options.

Labor strongly believes that medical transfers for refugees and children in Australian-funded offshore regional processing centres should be made available when a treatment is not available on island and where treatment is recommended by appropriate medical practitioners.

If the Turnbull Government was able to negotiate appropriate conditions for the US refugee resettlement agreement to prevent people smugglers exploiting vulnerable people, they should be able to negotiate similar appropriate conditions for any deal with New Zealand.

It has been sixteen months [since the report](#) of the Labor-initiated Senate Inquiry following the leaked Nauru files and Peter Dutton has failed to act on these reasonable recommendations to address concerns held by the wider Australian community.

Peter Dutton's unwillingness to implement, or even respond to, the recommendations set out in the report is unreasonable and irresponsible – especially when it comes to the health and welfare of refugees and children.

If Peter Dutton is too distracted by his leadership ambitions to address his failure to manage Australian-funded regional processing centres or negotiate other third country resettlement options, it's time for Malcolm Turnbull to step in and clean up his Minister's mess.

DEFENCE

PYNE'S SHIPBUILDING PLAN SEES EVEN MORE ASC JOBS GO – Marles/Carr

After months of insisting that there is job security at the Osborne shipyards Christopher Pyne has let down South Australia once again as 93 more jobs are set to go from ASC.

The Government's actions on naval shipbuilding continue to belie its words. On 16 October last year the Minister for Defence Industry announced:

"The valley of death is over and we are now seeing an upturn in employment in naval shipbuilding in our state that will only continue to increase as these new projects gain momentum"

The minister's hollow promises kept on coming. On 11 December 2017, Mr Pyne issued another media release in which he declared:

"We are stabilising the shipbuilding workforce ... things are truly on the up at Osborne."

But in the past eight months we have seen nothing but job shedding at ASC's Osborne shipyard in SA. In April 2018, ASC announced that 223 jobs would go, and it has followed that bad news with today's announcement.

Evasions and deceptions are par for the course for this Government when it comes to shipbuilding jobs. The shipyard workers at Osborne should not be made pawns in this tawdry political game to save marginal seats.

When it comes to shipbuilding jobs, this government simply cannot be trusted.

HOME

CHANGES TO THE SHADOW MINISTRY - Shorten

The Labor Caucus has confirmed and welcomed some changes to our Shadow Ministry.

Linda Burney MP will become the new Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services. This portfolio is vital to our policy agenda and central to our party's values. I know Linda will prove a worthy successor to Jenny Macklin.

Ed Husic MP will retain his role as Shadow Minister for the Digital Economy while also taking on the new challenge of Shadow Minister for Human Services. I'm confident that Ed's eye for detail and his thorough calm will serve job-seekers and vulnerable Australians well.

In addition to her current responsibilities as Shadow Minister for Young Australians and Youth Affairs, **Terri Butler MP** will take on the role of Shadow Minister for Employment Services, Workforce Participation and Future of Work. Young Australians have got a raw deal from this government for far too long, and I think it's important that their dedicated representative in the Shadow Ministry also has a say in shaping the workplaces of the future.

Senator Jenny McAllister will serve as the Shadow Assistant Minister for Families and Communities – a promotion that reflects her outstanding work in the Senate.

Senator Louise Pratt, who is passionate about fair, affordable and accessible higher education, will take on the job of Shadow Assistant Minister for Universities.

I thank all my team for their hard work and their unity of purpose. I can promise all Australians that we will continue to focus on developing the best plans and policies for the future of our country and a fair go all round.

VETERANS

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

This week we celebrated Vietnam Veterans Day we remember and paid tribute to all of the brave men and women who fought in the Vietnam War.



Australia began its involvement in the Vietnam War in 1962 and would withdraw from Vietnam eleven years later in 1973.

Originally known as Long Tan Day, Vietnam Veterans Day is a day to remember the service and sacrifice of Australians during the Vietnam War.

It has been 52 years since the Battle of Long Tan took place in which 18 Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded, the largest number of casualties in one operation since the Australian task force arrived only months earlier.

This year we also remember the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral which took place 50 years ago.

There were more than 60,000 Australia ground troops, air force and navy personnel who served in Vietnam; of these 521 Australian soldiers died and more than 3,000 were injured. Australians come together to honour and pay tribute to all the Australians who served our country.

RIP

Laurie Carmichael – Visionary Trade Union Leader

One of the giants of the Australian trade union movement, Laurie Carmichael, passed away on Queensland's Sunshine Coast on 18 August at the age of 93.

Laurie served in the Royal Australian Air Force in WWII before becoming a highly respected trade unionist with the metalworkers union and the ACTU.

The influence of the Depression, worker exploitation and the power and privilege held by the elite caused Laurie to gravitate to joining the Communist Party of Australia. Laurie was a past president of the Communist Party.

He believed the essence of Marxism was the promotion of revolutionary change from a capitalist, exploiting society to socialism in the most democratic way.

He viewed Marx's concept of socialism as being one that would create the most democratic type of society known to mankind. Laurie was very disappointed and, like many Australian communists, disavowed what happened in the Soviet Union some years ago but Laurie never wavered from his view that capitalism needed to change.



He was a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War and spoke at the Melbourne moratorium rallies in front of hundreds of thousands of concerned Australians.

Laurie's son, Laurie Jr, was a conscientious objector and became the focus of the anti-conscription movement in Australia. Both Laurie and his wife, Val, were arrested when they were actively supporting their son at a demonstration outside Williamstown court

His leadership and campaigning skills were the basis for many reforms Australians enjoy today.

He fought for compulsory superannuation, universal health care, vocational training and accessibility of higher education to the working class.



During Laurie's lifetime he made an unparalleled contribution to the working class of Australia. He made an unparalleled contribution to the trade union movement, the peace movement, the education system and, particularly, the vocational education system. Laurie was the single most influential union official in the establishment of the Accord process that delivered the concept of the social wage, as he understood that reliance on industrial action and wage increases alone was insufficient to allow workers to participate in a fair and equitable way in society.

Laurie worked with the Hawke and Keating governments and Bill Kelty at the ACTU to deliver universal health care and to increase access to education opportunities for all Australians. His influence in the AMWU made it the most influential union in the country, resulting in former Prime Minister Billy McMahon describing Laurie as "one of the most evil men in the trade union movement".

As Senator Doug Cameron has noted;

"It hasn't changed much, has it, Senator Cash? The Liberal Party haven't really changed since the sixties. Their twisted assessment of trade union officials who dedicate their careers to looking after working people in this country is just crazy."

Laurie was a working-class intellectual who started his working life as an apprentice fitter at a can-making factory in Victoria, where he was appalled at the conditions suffered by the production workers, who were mainly female workers.

He became an activist in the Amalgamated Engineering Union and, ultimately, assistant secretary of the AMWU before being elected as assistant secretary of the ACTU.

When Doug Cameron first asked Laurie, 'What should I do to be a good union delegate?' he gave me a list of about 10 books to read, and that was the position he took—that you had to be educated and you had to understand the issues.

He is believed to have had a collection of 10,000 classical music CD's . He was truly a remarkable man with a presence and a voice you'd never forget.

Former ACTU Secretary Bill Kelty described Laurie Carmichael as an exceptional human being whose actions had a massive impact on Australia's industrial relations landscape. He went on to say:

"There is hardly a condition of employment that was not affected by the campaigns that he led. He is to Australian trade unionism what Mozart was to music, Phar Lap to horse racing, Wally Lewis to Rugby League, John Coleman to Essendon supporters and now Barack Obama to people throughout the world - simply an inspiration".

VOLUNTEERS!

I am pleased to advise that the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, has announced that the Volunteer Grants 2018 program (round) is now open.

The Australian Government is investing \$20 million in this Volunteer Grants round to support, encourage and increase participation in volunteering in local communities. These grants help community organisations support their volunteers by making their volunteering work easier, safer and more enjoyable. Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help not-for-profit community organisations support their volunteers through practical measures such as the purchase of equipment, reimbursement for volunteers' fuel costs, and contributions towards the cost of training and background screening checks.

The grants provide a valuable opportunity for your organisation to support your volunteers.

The Volunteer Grants 2018 Application Documents are available on the GrantConnect website at www.grants.gov.au and the Community Grants Hub website www.communitygrants.gov.au. I encourage you to read the Application Documents thoroughly before submitting your application.

Applications for Volunteer Grants 2018 close at 2 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, 18 September 2018.



UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA
QLD DIVISION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE LECTURE

PRESENTED BY JULIAN BURNSIDE AO
HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEE ADVOCATE AND BARRISTER

THE ROTARY PEACE CENTRE IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE TWO BRISBANITES
AS AGENTS OF PEACE, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS
LOCAL PEACE.

21ST SEPTEMBER 2018

6:30 PM - 9PM • ST. JOHN CATHEDRAL, BRISBANE

LIVE MUSIC • TEA • NETWORKING

RSVP TO QLD@UNAA.ORG.AU

FREE EVENT

Ready to shine brighter?

Learning changes lives

1

Host or attend an event

Hundreds of events promoting the benefits of lifelong learning are run across Australia during Adult Learners Week, such as open days, short courses, taster classes, professional development or adult learning programs. Organise your own ALW2018 event and invite everyone in your community.

2

Post on social media

Share examples of the learning going on in your community or organisation. Promote your event or share a selfie on social media that shows you enjoying a new experience, gaining a new skill or learning something new. Remember, to use the hashtag #ALW2018.

3

Inform your communities

Include news and contact information about ALW2018 in your regular communications with your community – whether it's on your website, in a newsletter, via social media or as part of your email updates.

4

Spread the word

Talk about ALW2018 in the media. Issue a press release highlighting the events and activities that are taking place in your community, municipality or electorate. Encourage everyone to get involved. Use the resources and downloadables available on the ALW website.

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LEARNERS
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Draw Date—Tuesday 6th November, 2018

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Terms and Conditions**

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [My Health Record system](#)
- [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 practiced](#)

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

- **New** [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)
- [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** [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](#)
- **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](#)