

# Australian Labor



**Senator Claire Moore**

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

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Students at Milpera State High

## THIS WEEK:

*The Festival of International Women's Day continued this week with wonderful feelings of celebration and solidarity.*

*Just today I was fortunate enough to attend an IWD function at the Milpera High School at Chelmer in Brisbane. It's a unique and vibrant educational institution totally dedicated to the settlement and English language development of recently arrived migrants from backgrounds where a language other than English is spoken. Wonderful day!*

*Meanwhile the election campaign continues with a series of visits and policy announcements in Queensland by our team – the details are all in this edition of the Update. Labor is getting on with the job while the Morrison Government lurches from one crisis after another. Just today another prominent Liberal has announced his departure from the sinking ship.*

*Also this week the report a Joint Parliamentary Committee into conduct in the franchising sector released its report. It makes sober reading with stories of unconscionable contracts, lost businesses and homes even suicide. A full report is in this Update.*

*Given the number of franchises in Queensland let's hope that something is finally done to clean up this industry after 17 previous inquiries and a Government who has done nothing about the issues.*

*As well, the government this week released a draft of the terms of reference for the Royal Commission into Disability Abuse. There is concern that there is no commitment to investigations, criminal charge referrals or reduce Under the **Disability** heading in this Update – there is a link to a survey – seeking the community's views on those terms of reference. Have your say and fill it out, it doesn't take long.*

*On a brighter note may I wish you all a very happy, **St Patrick's Day**, this Sunday, "sona st. lá Pádraig!"*

**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 ...

## CONSERVATIVE CLIMATE - SWAN- ABC AFTERNOON LIVE

"The fact that the National Party are in denial on climate change and in just about every other aspect of the 21st century is one that is going to see them massacred, I think if they keep going the way they're going."



## CONSERVATIVE CLIMATE – BUTLER - ADELAIDE

"The Energy Minister confirmed over the last couple of days that there are ten coal projects on his table that he's considering underwriting. Matt Canavan, the Resources Minister said as much. It's not just Barnaby Joyce running these lines.

Snowy Hydro has made it utterly clear that any new coal project destroys the business case for Snowy 2.0, Tasmanian Hydro has said exactly the same thing about the battery of the nation project."

## CONSERVATIVE CLIMATE - CONROY – BARRON GORGE HYDRO POWER STATION CAIRNS

"So, the fossils in the LNP party room that are standing in the way of that transition, these people live in an alternate reality where they think that new coal-fired power will deliver lower power prices. That is absolutely wrong."

## CONSERVATIVE CLIMATE - SWAN- ABC AFTERNOON LIVE

"The truth is that people don't want government money invested in a coal mine or a power station and I think that is a view that is shared widely across our state."

## SCHOOL CLIMATE PROTEST - CONROY – BARRON GORGE HYDRO POWER STATION CAIRNS

"People are really passionate about combatting climate change. We've got kids walking out of school as an example of that. So they want action on climate change, and they want lower power prices. And our 50% renewable energy commitment will drive both of those things."

## SCHOOL CLIMATE PROTEST - SHORTEN – MELBOURNE

"It's a bit rich of the Government to lecture school kids for going on strike about climate. This Government's been on strike about climate policy for the last five and a half years. They really are not the best role models for the kids on climate policy, are they?"

## CLIMATE CHANGE - BOWEN – SYDNEY

"The Reserve Bank being the grown-ups in the room pointing out that climate change is real and has very important economic consequences and its best if governments, business and households actually take action on climate change to mitigate the negative impacts.

That's a clear warning from the Reserve Bank to governments to get on with the job of dealing with climate change and energy policy."

## CONSERVATIVE CLIMATE - CONROY – BARRON GORGE HYDRO POWER STATION CAIRNS

"Our focus is on supporting decarbonising our economy, combatting climate change and massively increasing investment in renewable energy which will drive good well-paying jobs for Australians in Far North Queensland."

## LOW WAGES - SWAN- ABC

### AFTERNOON LIVE

"The wage suppression we are experiencing at the moment is also a product of deliberate government policy starting with the Audit Commission report going back to 2014, where they said they wanted to slash the minimum wage and since then they've set about doing that by cutting penalty rates, encouraging casualisation, giving labour hire a leg up, suppressing wages and in the public service."



## LOW WAGES - SHORTEN –

### MELBOURNE

"When millions of Australians literally have to get a second job just to make ends meet then the economy is not working in the interests of everyday Australians. And when millions of Australians are experiencing low wages growth then everybody suffers."

**"Mr Morrison, not only has done nothing about wages, but he's proud that he's done nothing about wages." - Bill Shorten**

## LOW WAGES - CHALMERS – SKY

"One of the most important things which people are realising now, which is very heartening from my point of view, is that low wages aren't just a problem for workers, as important as that is - probably the most important thing - but also a problem for the economy. One of the reasons the economy's so soft is because people don't have the money to spend in the shops, or to look after the kids. Even the Reserve Bank has identified that."

## LOW WAGES - SHORTEN – MELBOURNE

"Now I notice Mr Morrison saying that somehow if you lift the wages of people that's an economic disaster. When is it ever a good time for a Liberal to support a wage rise? For the last four years we've seen corporate profits go up 45 per cent, wages only move by eight per cent over the last four years. Why is that Mr Morrison isn't outraged by that."

## LOW WAGES - WONG – CARINA – BRISBANE

"I know there's a lot of talk out there from the Coalition, saying that this would be a dreadful thing, to actually ensure people get a wage increase. Company profits are going up around five times people's wages, so when people feel like everything is going up except their wages."

### **LOW WAGES - SHORTEN – CANBERRA**

"We've got caught up in this conservative trickle-down economics which says that you can pay the bosses global wages but you've got to pay the workers the lowest possible. I don't accept that a living wage causes unemployment. I don't accept that paying people more than poverty wages actually cripples the economy."

**"They're the Don Bradman of governments keeping wages low." - Mark Butler (Adelaide)**

### **LOW WAGES - CHALMERS –ABC RN DRIVE**

"The Reserve Bank has been absolutely spot on in identifying wages was one of the big challenges in the economy because we don't have the demand we need to power our businesses."

### **LOW WAGES - SHORTEN – CANBERRA**

"Something's not working in our wages system. It simply isn't fair nor sustainable for economic confidence in this country that an adult could work full time and be earning \$18.93 per hour, the minimum wage before tax."

### **LOW WAGES- LEIGH – ABC RADIO REN DRIVE**

"Since 2016, corporate profits are up 43 per cent. Wages are up just eight per cent. You look over the current course of last year - you've got corporate profits up 10 per cent, wages up 2 per cent. The fact is, Australia needs a pay rise."

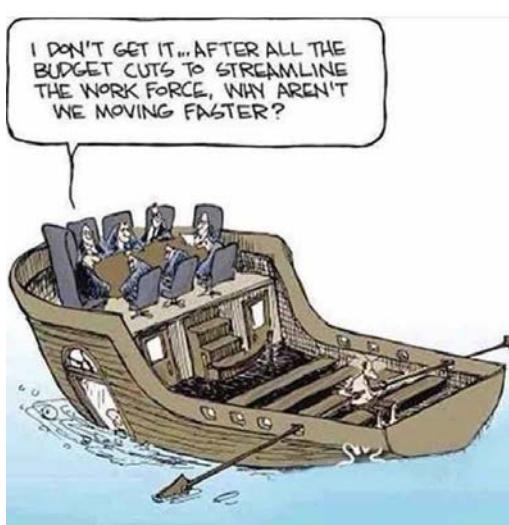
### **LABOUR HIRE- O'CONNOR – ABC RADIO ILLAWARRA**

"It's not to be used to undermine employment conditions of a workplace. And for that reason we announced a same work-same pay policy which in effect would mean if you were to employ a labour hire employee they must get the same or better employment conditions and wages as direct employees."

### **SUBBIES PAY GUARANTEE - O'CONNOR – ABC RADIO ILLAWARRA**

"There have been too many examples of people in good faith providing and supplying labour and undertaking and fulfilling work and not being paid. We think this approach of allocating funds in a way that will prevent people missing out for work undertaken is the way to go and it's arising out of the Murray review."

### **COST OF LIVING - SHORTEN – MELBOURNE**



"Do you know in the last five and a half years since the current bunch have been in power the average out of pocket cost to go and see a GP has gone up 25 per cent."

"The average out of pocket cost to see a specialist has gone up 40 per cent, opening your energy bills is almost like a feat of lion taming, you don't know what's going to spring out of it in the way of an increased price."

### **SOCIAL SECURITY - CAMERON – SKY**

"Those that receive Newstart have to rely on charity to get through their weekly lives. That is unacceptable in a rich country like ours and what Labor has said is that we will have a look at all of the social security payments, reflect on all of them and make decisions about that in our first term of government. These reviews cannot be done overnight and in the meantime we need to make sure we do everything we possibly can to assist the most vulnerable Australians. We shouldn't be setting about to demonise them as the Coalition has done. We shouldn't be dealing with robo-debt and the catastrophe that was under this Coalition. We want to show heart to all Australians."

### **BANKING ROYAL COMMISSION - BOWEN – SYDNEY**

"36 days. That's how long it took for the Morrison Government to backflip on an important Royal Commission recommendation. 36 days ago Josh Frydenberg told us tick:

the Morrison Government would abolish trail commissions for mortgage brokers. Yesterday in a humiliating change of position the Government simply kicked it into the long grass as being all too hard for them."

### **BANKING ROYAL COMMISSION - BOWEN – SYDNEY**

"We would deal with the Royal Commission recommendation by legislating an upfront commission rate to deal with the concern that the size of commissions was infecting or changing the advice given by mortgage brokers. And we would also abolish trail commissions. Let's just think about what the Royal Commission said about trail commissions. This is a direct quote from Commissioner Hayne. "As the Productivity Commission found, trail commissions have the effect of aligning broker's interests with those of the lender rather than those of the borrower."

**"Scott Morrison, really? Seriously? His economic credibility hovers around zero." – Chris Bowen**

### **BANKING ROYAL COMMISSION - LEIGH – ABC RADIO REN DRIVE**

"You just have to look at Kenneth Haynes' report, which said on the issue of trail commissions 'to put it bluntly they are money for nothing'. Now that's a pretty damning indictment on their system."

### **BANKING ROYAL COMMISSION - CHALMERS – SKY**

"We're implementing, if we win Government in May, we're going to implement 75 of those recommendations, and we found a better way to do the 76th one."

### **FRANCHISING HORROR - O'NEIL – ABC – 'THE BUSINESS'**

"When you break every rule of decent and fair business, when you exploit people and you churn through business for your personal profit, while you exploit others, there need to be consequences. What do you think was at the heart of this Retail Food Group business model? A culture of greed and exploitation that has been celebrated."

### **FRANCHISING HORROR - O'NEIL – ABC – 'THE BUSINESS'**

"There is an awful lot to be concerned about the state of franchising in this nation. There are many people who have been incredibly exploited. We had to actually summons witnesses from Retail Food Group to come to the Senate, and they were so unhappy with that not only did they resist through the lawyers, but also took the parliament of Australia to the High Court to resist coming to give evidence."

## **FRANCHISING HORROR & THE BANKS - O'NEIL – ABC – 'THE BUSINESS'**

"The question you have to ask is what has led to this kind of lending (*To uneconomic franchise proposals*), what incentives were in place because we know that has been a very significant driver of corrupt behaviour and certainly unethical behaviour in the banking system."

## **ELECTION 19 - CHALMERS – SKY**

"We know that the other mob will be increasingly desperate. We see all of these scare campaigns around borders and tax and all of these sorts of things, and so we're taking nothing for granted. We were ahead in '01 we were ahead in '04, and it didn't go our way in the end, and I think that does mean that we're not complacent".

## **ELECTION 19 - CHALMERS – SKY**

"We are absolutely itching for a fight on the economy. That's what we think the election should be all about. Wages principally, but the economy more broadly. And we are confident that we can win that argument."

## **ELECTION 19 - SHORTEN – CANBERRA**

"Does anyone think this Budget is anything other than a propaganda document prepared at one minute to midnight by a government who is so busy killing each other that it's amazing they'll even turn up to the Budget?"

## **ISIS WOMEN WANTING TO RETURN- SHORTEN – MELBOURNE**

*I feel for the kids. I don't have the same sympathy for the parents who've taken them into a war-zone to fight in a war zone, especially to fight on the ISIS side. They've gone over there for whatever crazy reason. Now it hasn't worked out the way they thought. And then they want to come back? You don't just get that, you don't - you make your own bed, you've got to lie in it. But I do get that because they've got kids, those kids might have grandparents or aunts and uncles. It is complicated. We will work with the Government. I don't think it's an issue of political point scoring between me and the Government."*

*[Noted Constitutional lawyer, George Williams has noted that such women could face a gaol term of ten years should they return and he argues better for that to happen than them roaming the world, as they are our citizens and we should have the responsibility of dealing with them. Ed]*

## **INNOVATION - CARR – ABC RADIO CAPRICORNIA - ROCKHAMPTON**

"We have had six ministers in five years. There is hardly any time for a minister to get their feet under the desk before they move on. So we want policy consistency and real commitment. That's why we are having a \$1 billion Advanced Manufacturing Future Fund to support businesses, because we know the biggest problem that many of our smaller businesses face is access to finance."

## **INNOVATION - CARR – ABC RADIO CAPRICORNIA - ROCKHAMPTON**

*"The secret here is not to try to compete on the basis of cost, on wages, because we have to ensure that Australians have decent wages and conditions. We have to compete on the basis of going towards a high-value products. And we know that around the world the countries that are most successful are the ones who have actually invested in new technologies, invested in their smarts, so that they can compete on the basis of getting products to market quickly – high-quality products – not on the basis of trying to go to the bottom of the pack."*

*[Like the Australian designed and made drill bit used in the manufacture of very Apple product sold world-wide. Ed]*

## **TOURISM - PLIBERSEK – RADIO CAIRNS BREAKFAST SHOW**

"I think it's worth remembering Labor's promise that out of that Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund, a billion dollars would be set aside for tourism infrastructure as well. Because look, this is just the most beautiful place in the world and we should be welcoming tourists here and the money that they bring with them for the local economy."

## **MILK - FITZGIBBON- TUNCESTER – NORTHERN NSW**

"The reality is our dairy farmers are in crisis. They are facing a cost price squeeze which has been compounded by drought and we are at real risk now of finding ourselves in a situation where we will be importing our drinking milk either in long life or powder form."

## **CANDIDATE DUTTON - ALI FRANCE – PINE RIVERS**

"Peter Dutton was voted the worst Health Minister in history by doctors and I think a lot of people in this region feel let down by his record on health. The Liberals have cut over \$32 million to our local hospitals in this region and that's just in the last couple of years. At a time when our hospitals are their busiest."

## **ISIS WOMEN WANTING TO RETURN- SHORTEN – MELBOURNE**

*I feel for the kids. I don't have the same sympathy for the parents who've taken them into a war-zone to fight in a war zone, especially to fight on the ISIS side. They've gone over there for whatever crazy reason. Now it hasn't worked out the way they thought. And then they want to come back? You don't just get that, you don't - you make your own bed, you've got to lie in it. But I do get that because they've got kids, those kids might have grandparents or aunts and uncles. It is complicated. We will work with the Government. I don't think it's an issue of political point scoring between me and the Government."*

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## **MYSTERIES - SHORTEN – CANBERRA**

"I don't know why the Liberals hate public transport around Australia. I think that's one of the great mysteries. It's up there with what does Stuart Robert upload and download on the Internet for \$40,000? And it's probably up there - it's not quite up there with why did they get rid of Malcolm Turnbull? But it's one of those mysteries, isn't it?"

## **QUOTES OF THE WEEK**

*"My message to my federal colleagues is simple: Just shut up. It's simple: Stop navel-gazing. "*  
*NSW Deputy Premier Nationals MP John Barilaro*

*"Stop talking about yourselves." –*

*Deputy Nationals Leader Bridget McKenzie Referring to Coalition colleagues – Barnaby in particular*

*"He's not a prime minister — just a desperate politician."*

*Craig Buchanan Western Australian Liberal describing Scott Morrison.*

*I think the Government and I think the Liberal party is turning into a national joke. – Wayne Swan*

*I think not understanding Queensland, is dangerous in Queensland. – Wayne Swan*

*"Imperfect as it was, the NEG was the party's last best hope of ending the climate wars.*

*The government would not be in the strife it is now with its irreconcilable differences publicly paraded. "*

*Nikki Savva - The Australian*

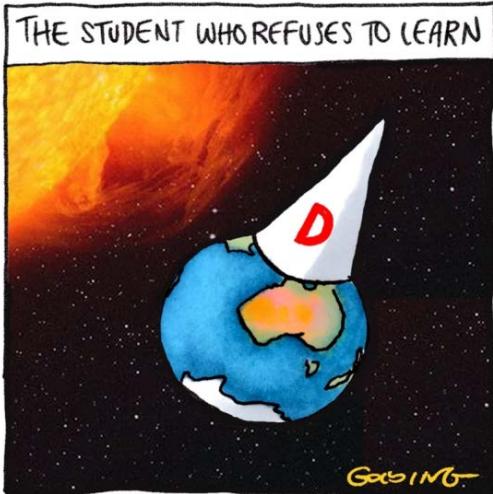
*"Morrison leads a denialist government. Whether he's personally a denialist isn't clear. More likely, he doesn't believe in anything much." – Bernard Keane (Crikey)*

*"More than one Liberal MP said last week it would have been better if Morrison had called the election in February because the longer it goes, the worse it can get. It's hard to argue with that." – Nikki Savva - The Australian*

## GLIMPSES PARTNERS?

### CLIMATE STRIKE

*While the Neanderthals of the right rant through the cobwebs of age that our young people should be seen and not heard School Strike for Climate founder Greta Thunberg has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize,*



*The Guardian reports that Thunberg, who began solo protests in August last year, has been nominated by Norwegian Socialist MPs for launching a movement aimed at halting "wars, conflict and refugees" born from climate change. Her nomination comes as hundreds of thousands of young people will march across 1659 towns and cities in 105 countries today. For Australia, this will mean at least 56 separate strikes calling to stop the Adani-Carmichael mine, phase out existing mines, and transition to 100% renewables by 2030.*

*The strike has been denounced by conservative politicians and News Corp publications BE SEEN BUT NOT HEARD*

*The best opportunities anyone can have is to be at school and learn and it really concerns me that the alternate premier to the state would think missing school is acceptable – Gladys Berejiklian - The NSW Premier is "appalled" at the Opposition Leader supporting children's right to strike for a liveable planet*

### IN REPLY

*"I dreamt I painted a smile on the face of the earth for all to see." – Brian Moses – school student protestor.*

### DIRTY SKY

*Australia's annual carbon emissions have reached a new high and drops in emissions from the electricity sector have been wiped out by increases from other industries, according to new data.*

*Ndevr Environmental, an emissions-tracking organisation that releases quarterly greenhouse gas emissions data, said on Thursday that annual emissions for the year up to December 2018 increased to 558.4m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. It was the highest level on record when excluding unreliable land use data.*

*Ndevr's data showed Australia was still not on track to meet its Paris target of a 26-28% reduction in emissions on 2005 levels and that carbon pollution was increasing across most sectors of the economy.*

*The Morrison government has repeatedly claimed Australia will meet its targets "in a canter" and was criticised earlier this month for falsely claiming emissions were decreasing. Matt Drum, Ndevr's managing director, said;*

*"It's something we've been screaming from the rooftops for a long time now," Drum said. "The electricity sector is not the problem. The problem is all other sectors that aren't subject to any real binding carbon emissions reduction target or policy."*

### CAN'T BREATHE!

*Coal-fired power plants can pose a bigger threat to human health and the environment than cars, a ground breaking long-term global study has revealed.*

**Modern coal-fired power stations emit higher levels of dangerous pollutants known as “ultrafine dust particles” than urban road traffic, and can even redistribute rainfall patterns, researchers from Australia and Germany have found.**

**While road traffic has long been considered the main source of ultrafine particles (UFP) in urban areas, the 15-year study showed that coal-fired power stations clearly emit larger amounts of UFPs through filtering technology of exhaust gas.**

**UFP concentrations in the atmosphere have increased continuously since modern coal-fired power stations were commissioned in many locations around the world, the study published in *the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* showed.**

### **INFINITE GROWTH ON FINITE RESOURCES**

**Extractive industries are responsible for half of the world’s carbon emissions and more than 80% of biodiversity loss, according to the most comprehensive environmental tally undertaken of mining and farming.**

**While this is crucial for food, fuel and minerals, the study by UN Environment warns the increasing material weight of the world’s economies is putting a more dangerous level of stress on the climate and natural life-support systems than previously thought.**

**Resources are being extracted from the planet three times faster than in 1970, even though the population has only doubled in that time, according to the Global Resources Outlook, which was released in Nairobi on Tuesday.**

**Each year, the world consumes more than 92b tonnes of materials – biomass (mostly food), metals, fossil fuels and minerals – and this figure is growing at the rate of 3.2% per year.**

**Since 1970, extraction of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) has increased from 6bn tonnes to 15bn tonnes, metals have risen by 2.7% a year, other minerals (particularly sand and gravel for concrete) have surged nearly fivefold from 9bn to 44bn tonnes, and biomass harvests have gone up from 9bn to 24bn tonnes.**

### **PUNCHED**

**New Zealand’s government minister for climate change has been admitted to hospital after being attacked while walking to parliament, stunning the country’s usually safe and accessible political establishment.**

**Police arrested a 47-year-old man after minister James Shaw, who is also the co-leader of the Green Party, was grabbed and punched in the face on his way to work in Wellington on Thursday morning.**

**“When you go into politics in New Zealand you just don’t expect these things to happen,” Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.**

**Shaw’s assailant was alleged to have been shouting climate denying sentiments at the time.**

### **BAD SCRIPT – *The New Daily***

**Australia’s largest pharmacy chain has been accused of short changing staff while creating a “toxic culture” of sexual harassment, bullying and job insecurity.**

**Workers at discount pharmacy juggernaut Chemist Warehouse – which bills itself as “Australia’s cheapest chemist” – began an “indefinite strike” on Tuesday, accusing the multibillion-dollar family-owned company of underpaying permanent and casual staff by about 25 per cent compared to the industry standard.**

**As many as 800 workers at three of the firm’s major distribution centres in Victoria and Queensland are refusing to return to work until demands for better wages and conditions, secure jobs and “respect: an end to the toxic culture of bullying and harassment” are met.**

**Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) secretary Sally McManus condemned the company’s practice of using casual labour hire workers with few rights and low pay over permanent staff in an address to protesters outside the firm’s Preston warehouse on Tuesday.**

**“This is part of the reason why we’ve got such low wages in our country, because employers can use casual work and labour hire as a means of keeping wages low,” Ms McManus said.**

**Ms McManus criticised the families behind the dollar discount pharmacy empire for amassing vast sums of money while workers struggled with insecure jobs and low pay. “One of the reasons why they are billionaires is because of all of the workers here at the warehouse,” she said.**

### **DODGING TAX – *(The New Daily)***

**Imagine getting more than \$30 million in government grants in a year after paying no tax over five years – and taking in \$15 billion cash.**

**That’s what Vodafone has achieved; joining Rupert Murdoch’s Foxtel and the financial engineers from Brookfield on our list of companies that get government grants and pay no tax.**

**Vodafone Hutchison Australia Pty Ltd is owned by companies registered in the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong and, albeit with gargantuan tax losses to offset against its profits, is another example of a large Australian business being run for the benefit of its foreign parents rather than its body corporate in this country.**

**Various Hutchison entities feature prolifically in *the Panama Papers offshore leaks database*, particularly in the infamous British Virgin Islands – a tax haven of worse repute than the Caymans.**

**Vodafone’s most recent financial statements, which can be acquired from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) show rising sales, yet continuing losses.**

**Multinationals mostly strive to make losses in Australia, as the tax rate – at 30 per cent – is higher than in other jurisdictions, particularly tax havens where it is often zero. That’s as long as they can get the pre-tax profits offshore to related parties. The Cayman Islands has a corporate tax rate of zero. Vodafone gets its pre-tax profits out of the country via “service agreements”, loan guarantees, swaps and “debt-loading”, that is, the reliable practice of a foreign entity lending money to the Australian subsidiary. The interest on these loans heads offshore before tax.**

**The latest Vodafone accounts, for the year to December 2017, show revenue of \$3.45 billion, up from \$3.33 billion the year before. Costs, unsurprisingly, rose too, almost all cost items – despite the maturing business – which left a loss of \$178 million before tax.**



**vodafone**



## THOSE BLOODY BANKS

Just as the Morrison Government begins to water down its response to the recommendations of the Banking Royal Commission former ACCC head, Alan Fels, The Hayne banking royal commission let the banks off the hook, delivering a weak final report, according to former competition tsar Allan Fels.

Speaking on Wednesday at the conference of major superannuation funds on the Gold Coast, Professor Fels said he "was surprised" at the final report which "let the banks off a bit lightly", he said. The recommendations of the commission would have "less impact on organisations than I thought should have occurred".

"I was a bit disappointed with the recommendations," he said.

Professor Fels said earlier this month many of the recommendations were aimed at "smaller fry", such as mortgage brokers and commission agents. The commission recommended "no deep structural change" and relied on "regulators and changed culture to put things to right", Professor Fels said.

The Commission was essentially a "lawyers report" that steered clear of important issues like "should the banks at all be in the fields of wealth management or providing superannuation?" Professor Fels said.

"Kenneth Hayne stayed away from vertical integration [banks owning businesses feeding into each other]," he said.

Adele Ferguson, award-winning investigative journalist with Fairfax Media, said the commission "really squibbed" on taking tough action and that she was surprised at the level of greed and corruption revealed at its hearings. It wasn't just a few bad apples, it was systemic, she said.

Responding to queries about the Commission giving the responsibility for laying charges back to the very authorities who'd failed to police the sector in the past, Ian Silk, CEO of AustralianSuper, the country's largest fund with \$140 billion under management, said "Heaven help us if they don't step up to the plate now," and despite the commission's exposure of bank misconduct, "we haven't seen many changes in personnel," Mr Silk said.

## PARSIMONIOUS

The corporate regulator has slammed Australia's major banks for failing to complete further investigations into fees charged to customers who did not receive the services they paid for. The fees-for-no-service scandal was like "taking money for nothing", banking royal commissioner Kenneth Hayne said. The scandal included customers being charged ongoing fees by financial advisers – despite not even receiving a yearly review – as well as charges to accounts after customers had died.

ASIC on Monday said the big four banks and AMP are expected to pay more than \$1.15 billion in compensation, including about \$350 million already paid or offered to customers.

The total compensation bill could rise as the institutions have not yet completed their reviews into the full scope of fees for no service beyond the instances already reported to ASIC since 2013. The corporate regulator said the delay was unreasonable.

"ASIC acknowledges that they are large-scale reviews. They relate to systemic failures over long periods, with reviews going back six to 10 years and cover 36 licensees from the six institutions that currently authorise more than 7000 advisers. However, we believe the institutions have failed to sufficiently prioritise and resource their reviews." ASIC commissioner Danielle Press said.

## DISABLED ROYAL COMMISSION?

The Federal Government has just released the terms of reference for the Royal Commission into Disability Abuse for discussion : <https://engage.dss.gov.au/royal-commission-into-violence-abuse-neglect-and-exploitation-of-people-with-disability/>

Immediately a key advocate for the Inquiry Greens Senator Jordan Steele-John described them as having: "The scope of an Olympic pool and the depth of a roadside puddle"

What the Morrison government is proposing has some serious shortcomings in regard to investigations, prosecutions and redress. If you had victims telling their stories of abuse how could you not have the delivery of justice to them at the very centre of the Commission process? For example Greens Senator Jordan Steele-John mentioned the case of Amanda Gilbert who died in horrendous circumstances having been raped 100 times in 2014. Many people with disabilities have been abused over many decades – this Commission must follow the format of our most recent and the most successful Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to the Child Sexual Abuse.



## NDIS MISMANAGEMENT – The Australian

It has been revealed that the agency in charge of the \$22 billion NDIS is withholding critical information about the financial performance of the scheme. As states and territories find new grounds to question management of the flagship scheme, Queensland's Minister for Disability Services, Coralee O'Rourke, said she would write to federal Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher to "raise the issue of the NDIS annual financial sustainability report". "I expect all information that is required to be released has been provided to the Queensland government in good faith and in accordance with the act," she said. Management of the scheme has been beset by challenges including more children gaining access than first estimated, support package costs coming in higher than expected and a medley of problems relating to cost shifting between jurisdictions.

## HOME AFFAIRS TO REVIEW HOME AFFAIRS

Home Affairs has called on internal auditors Ernst & Young to investigate how controversial security group Paladin was awarded \$423 million of closed-tender service contracts for the Manus Island detention centre. The Australian Financial Review (\$) reports that, while Home Affairs allegedly maintains "good corporate governance practices", a review of the closed procurement process has been added to the internal audit program. The news comes after Labor called on the auditor-general to conduct an urgent review, and amounts to the first official acknowledgement of potential problems after defending the contract at Senate estimates last month.

## DUTTON'S DIRTY DEALS

Home Affairs is once again under fire for giving a closed tender contract to a high-risk company, this time awarding an \$82 million services contract to a politically-connected Papua New Guinea company suspected of inflating invoices. A day after Home Affairs admitted an internal audit would be necessary following the Paladin scandal (\$), The Age reports that NKW Holdings won a closed tender for Manus Island detention despite being on its own bank's "watchlist" for unpaid debts. The news follows The Guardian's November investigation into the company's connections to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill's political party, People's National Congress.

## YELLOW PALMER



A former *Home and Away* actor has quit Clive Palmer's United Australia Party because its campaign paraphernalia was made in China.

Bryan Wiseman told Brisbane's *Courier Mail* he quit the party after spotting the "made in China" tags on bright yellow party merchandise and deciding it was a "circus".

Mr Palmer has attacked China ahead of the federal campaign and promised to create local jobs as part of his election pitch.

Mr Wiseman, who was endorsed as the UAP candidate for Prime Minister Scott Morrison's seat of Cook, said outsourcing work to cheap overseas labour seemed hypocritical.



Just as it was revealed that Pauline Hanson sold T-shirts made in Bangladesh, made by child labor in sweat shops in the 2016 Federal election campaign. The bright orange "I Trust Pauline Hanson" shirts were a prominent feature of One Nation's campaigns in the 2016 federal election and the 2017 Western Australian state poll and were often worn by Senator Hanson herself.

## CORRUPT MONEY

The Australian newspaper has reported that "The Queensland government's ban on political donations from property developers has affected the Liberal National Party more than Labor and is unnecessary because there is no risk of corruption at a state level, the High Court has been told. Appearing before the full bench in a landmark case, lawyers representing former LNP president Gary Spence acknowledged yesterday that the party had received "a materially greater amount" of donations from property developers than the ALP and said their client had been discriminated against by the ban. Mr Spence is a director and shareholder in a town planning and consulting civil engineering company and a separate small development company with his son-in-law. He resigned from his senior LNP position last year upon receiving advice that he could be compromised. The High Court upheld NSW's laws prohibiting property developers from making political donations, ruling it had the legitimate objective of reducing the risk of corruption and undue influence in the state's political system."

[Well isn't that a surprise! All evidence indicates that the single biggest source of corruption at the Local and State government level revolves around property, town planning and development applications. It's absolutely right to ban them from donating to their mates for favours.

And who are their special mates - the LNP. They couldn't give two hoots about proper, transparent process and the evils of corruption – their concern is losing donations! Says it all really – David Margan, Editor]



the eight months of negotiations, violence has escalated in the Indonesian province of West Papua, with allegations surfacing that the Indonesian National Armed Forces (aka Tentara Nasional Indonesia or TNI) deployed a chemical weapon, white phosphorous, on civilians." - Adele Perovic Brisbane based Actor & Journalist

## BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS



On the eve of World Consumer Rights Day – March 15 the Australian Consumer & Competition Commission has said:

"There should be a law in Australia prohibiting the sale of unsafe goods, ACCC Chair Rod Sims told the National Consumer Congress in Melbourne.

Using new data the ACCC estimates the annual cost of injury and death caused by unsafe consumer products is at least \$5 billion and could be much more.

Excluding motor vehicle accidents, there are around 780 deaths and around 52,000 injuries per year from consumer products that many Australians have in their homes.

"Many people are surprised to learn that it is not illegal to sell unsafe goods in Australia," Mr Sims said.

"There is no law that says goods have to be safe, but there should be."

Examples of harm include electrocution from faulty appliances, burns from ignited flammable clothing, choking on children's toys and suffocation in cots and beds.

The ACCC says there is a need for the Government to adopt a General Safety Provision obliging companies to take reasonable steps to avoid supplying unsafe goods. The full list of the ACCC's 2019 Product Safety Priorities is available at: Product safety priorities

## DID YOU KNOW? – (AFR)

People living in major regional centres including Darwin, Townsville, Cairns and Mackay could lose tax breaks paid to compensate for living in remote areas with “uncongenial climates” after a Productivity Commission review was launched this week. Left all but untouched since the 1940s, the zone tax offset and remote area tax concessions are paid to individuals and businesses in defined zones covering about three-quarters of the country, including large parts of Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. The government ordered a review to see if the tax breaks remain fair and contemporary, raising the prospect some of the largest groups of claimants could be removed from the scheme. Labor’s Ben Chifley justified the measures as necessary support to taxpayers living in places exposed to “uncongenial” climate, geographic isolation and higher cost of living after World War II. But two-thirds of claimants live in the four largest regional cities in the north of the country, raising questions about whether the tax breaks are required. The 2010 Henry Tax Review called for change and even government ministers have questioned their effectiveness in the modern era. In 2016-17, about 500,000 Australians or 3 per cent of all taxpayers claimed the zone tax offset – including 75 per cent of taxpayers in the NT. About 105,000 taxpayers nationally received the remote area allowance the following financial year. A discussion paper released by the commission on Monday says the offset now costs the federal budget about \$156 million each year, while the total cost of concessions for employers is not known. A broad estimate by Treasury puts the cost at somewhere between \$120 million and \$1.2 billion a year. Resources and Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan has previously argued for updating the measures, noting taxpayers in Cairns and Townsville get \$57 a year for living in the heat. “The zones are out of date, no one will move to Cairns for a carton of beer a year,” he said in 2014.



## BLACK LIVES MATTER – The Guardian

More than half of the 147 Indigenous people who died in custody since 2008 had not been convicted of a crime. Guardian Australia investigation finds that 56% were on remand, died while fleeing police or during arrest, or were in protective custody. Most of the Indigenous people who had not yet been charged were suspected of non-indictable offences, ranging from public intoxication to evading police. Those crimes typically carry sentences of less than five years.

Five people, including the Wiradjuri woman Rebecca Maher, had been remanded in custody for their own protection because police believed them to be intoxicated.

Maher died in the Cessnock watch house in 2016. She is the only Indigenous person to have died in New South Wales police custody since the introduction of the mandatory custody notification service in 2000. Police failed to notify the service.



Her family said an autopsy report showed there were no drugs or alcohol in her system. An inquest is scheduled for March.

In February 31-year-old Patrick Fisher died after falling from a 13th-floor balcony in a Sydney housing block while trying to avoid police attempting to arrest him for outstanding warrants. His family said he would have been concerned about being “bashed” by the officers.

## FRATRICIDE

Morrison Government Assistant Minister, Michelle Landry, has rebuked her inner-city colleagues for undermining the Nationals’ push for a new coal fired power station in regional Queensland to be backed by the federal government. The Assistant Minister for Children and Families, who holds the central Queensland seat of Capricornia with just a 0.6 per cent margin, is one of the most senior government members to publicly criticise her Liberal colleagues in the wake of the argument over a future of energy fuelled by fossil fuels and renewables. In a broadside that highlights the growing divide between Liberals and Nationals in the Coalition,

## DID DONALD TRUMP FINALLY SOMETHING SENSIBLE?

“Airplanes are becoming far too complex to fly. Pilots are no longer needed, but rather computer scientists from MIT. I see it all the time in many products. Always seeking to go one unnecessary step further, when often old and simpler is far better. Split second decisions are needed, and the complexity creates danger. All of this for great cost yet very little gain. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want Albert Einstein to be my pilot. I want great flying professionals that are allowed to easily and quickly take control of a plane!”

## BIG BUSINESS BULLIES – The Age

[In yet another indication that our business principles are in the gutter a joint parliamentary committee has just completed an exhaustive inquiry into the nation’s franchising sector. Just like the Royal Commission into the Banking & Financial Industry it reveals appalling behaviour by big business – many of them US based multinationals and too, a complete failure of regulators to do anything about it over a long period of time. As Adele Ferguson of the Age notes;

“It goes some way to explaining why there have been 17 parliamentary inquiries into the franchise sector in the past four decades. Each one of them failed.”

**It's also another shameful failure of action by the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison governments. – David Margan, Editor]**

Read on:

Thursday will go down as a day of shame for the \$170 billion franchise sector and the regulators.

After a year-long inquiry into franchising, the jig is finally up. A bipartisan parliamentary report has called for a massive overhaul of the sector to fix “entrenched cultural problems”, an imbalance of power and systemic conflicts that have caused misery to thousands of gouged franchisees and tens of thousands of ripped off workers.

The 354-page report doesn’t hold back on the regulators, saying they “manifestly failed to deter systemic poor conduct and exploitative behaviour and has entrenched the power imbalance”.

Brutal business models, suicides, marriage breakdowns and financial ruin were some of the stories told.

A federal government inquiry has called for whistleblower protections for franchisees and their staff amid “deeply concerning” evidence of bullying and intimidation by franchisors.



The parliamentary committee investigating the \$170 billion sector said it had received allegations of franchisors interfering with people who made submissions to or appeared as witnesses at the year-long inquiry.

"The Senate has long regarded interference with witnesses as the most serious of all possible contempts," the report said.

The inquiry highlighted potential attempts to interfere with witnesses, including a letter sent last year by franchisor Foodco warning its Muffin Break and Jamaica Blue franchisees it would take legal action against anyone who made "unsubstantiated defamatory claims" against it. Foodco said at the time it supported the inquiry and "strongly refuted" that the letter was intended to discourage franchisees from taking part.

The committee's report said more than half the submissions provided by franchisees to the inquiry were confidential.

"In many cases, franchisees stated that they feared retaliation from franchisors in spite of the protections available under parliamentary privilege," the report said.

A franchisees association representing Red Rooster, Oporto and Chicken Treat says franchisees are struggling in a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Franchising Code of Conduct.

The report recommended that breaches of the Franchising Code of Conduct by franchisors be included in the definition of disclosable conduct for whistleblower protection.

Interference or molestation of witnesses is a criminal offence under the Parliamentary Privileges Act and penalties include fines or imprisonment.

A spokesperson for Foodco says the franchisor supports the parliamentary inquiry.

"At no time was the letter intended to discourage franchisees from participating in the inquiry," the spokesperson says. "We strongly refute any suggestion this was the case, and absolutely respect the rights of anyone to lodge a submission."

[But when you read the threat below that contained in Foodco's letter to all its franchise holders what do you think? Me thinks they are lying bullies. Ed]

"I assure you we will be taking the appropriate legal action against any person who has made unsubstantiated defamatory claims against us," Foodco says in the letter. We will protect our reputation at all costs and in doing so, protect our brands and the businesses."



Former Foodco franchisee Faheem Mirza has made a submission to the inquiry detailing how he lost everything operating two Muffin Break stores in Rhodes and Burwood in New South Wales.

Mr Mirza says Foodco's business model is fake, its labour costs "a mathematical impossibility" and that Foodco expects all franchisees work for free.

"I have been sent multiple rosters officially where myself and my wife have been rostered to work anywhere from 50 to 83 hours per week each, for zero pay, if I ever want to see any profit," he says.

Mr Mirza also says Foodco told him to consider under-paying staff.

"The key message was that as migrants, I must be aware of other migrants or students, who would gladly accept under-payments in lure of their 'first' job and hence not report or complain. So, if I were able to exploit my employees, I could generate a 'profit', otherwise there is no other cost that can be managed enough to reverse this loss-making scenario."

The spokesperson for Foodco says the franchisor strongly rejects Mr Mirza's allegations.

The Inquiry also singled out Retail Food Group as its case study, castigating its model, lack of transparency and the detrimental impact on franchisees. It comes as no surprise. Over the past few years, hundreds of franchisees have gone to the wall after signing up to an agreement that was opaque and, in some cases, misleading.



Indeed the committee said it was "surprised" none of the relevant regulators had "undertaken any investigation that has led to court action, or, at the very least, public acknowledgement of misconduct". With that in mind, it recommended ASIC, ACCC and the Australian Taxation Office investigate the past and present senior executives and directors of RFG for the possibility of insider trading, tax avoidance and market disclosure.

It described former RFG chief executive, Tony Alford, as "evasive, inconsistent and generally uncooperative" in his testimony to the committee. Alford frustrated the committee by applying to the High Court to stay an order to attend the hearing, arguing it was unconstitutional for a parliamentary committee to force individuals to attend the hearings.

[Sometimes in this tidal wave of business malfeasance we can feel powerless – but we'd be wrong. We have enormous power – just don't do business with them don't buy their products don't give them your money. –Ed]

Those so far accused - 7-Eleven, Caltex, Domino's, Pizza Hut and Retail Food Group 9 RFG is a global food and beverage company headquartered in Queensland, Australia. It is Australia's largest multi-brand retail food franchise – that includes brands such as; Gloria Jean's, Donut King, Brumby's, Crust, Pizza Capers.

FOR THE FULL REPORT GO TO:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Corporations\\_and\\_Financial\\_Services/Franchising/Report](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Corporations_and_Financial_Services/Franchising/Report)

## QUEENSLAND

### BETTER SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR NORTHSIDE UNDER LABOR - King/Ali France (Dickson)

The people of Brisbane's Northside will benefit from better specialist outpatient services under a Federal Labor plan to build a new Specialist Care Centre in the Moreton Bay region.

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$30 million to give residents better access to community-based specialist health services so they don't need to travel to hospitals.

This new integrated facility will provide access to a range of specialist outpatient services delivered by Queensland Health's world-class doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, so patients can access these services closer to home and in a more convenient setting.

The new facility will also help free up capacity at nearby hospitals, including The Prince Charles Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

This investment is part of Labor's Fair Go Action Plan to fix our hospitals and strengthen Medicare. It will help ensure this region's booming and ageing population has the services it needs for the decades to come.

#### This \$30 million will go towards:

- Determining the best location and buying the land in the Strathpine or Warner area;
- Planning, design and construction of the building;
- Ensuring access to contemporary communications technology, including telehealth

While the services to be provided in the new facility will be determined in consultation with local hospitals and the local community, it is proposed that the key services will include community-based rehabilitation, diabetes clinics and healthy ageing clinics.

Queensland's Metro North Hospital and Health Service had an estimated population in 2015 of nearly a million people – about 20 per cent of Queensland's total. It's projected to reach more than 1.2 million people by 2031.

So this community needs more and better health services to service its rapidly growing population – and Labor is committed to delivering them.

The Liberals on the other hand just cut and cut and cut from health. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he delivered.

He cut \$160 million from Queensland's hospitals under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement. And now he's trying to lock in those cuts for another five years – a dud deal that the Queensland Labor Government is resisting.

Labor will reverse the Liberal cuts with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which we will use to fund this new Specialist Care Centre.

Only Labor can be trusted to fix Queensland's health and hospital services.

### MORE ACTION FOR FLOOD AFFECTED NORTH WEST QUEENSLAND – Fitzgibbon/Chisholm

On Tuesday we met with North West Queensland mayors, councillors and producers affected by the recent devastating floods.

We again expressed a determination to work with the Morrison Government in the hope of delivering effective recovery assistance in a timely manner.

Producers expressed frustration that five weeks after the disastrous flood event, meaningful Federal Government support has not been forthcoming.

For the measures that have already been taken, both the councils and producers are appreciative.

But the councils need more help and producers need support to re-stock.

Producers told us the best thing a government can do is to help them re-build their herds.

It's been two weeks since the Prime Minister announced that a [\\$2 billion package](#) was on its way but producers have been given no detail and they are still waiting.

The uncertainty, they said, is demoralising. The clock is ticking, re-stocking assistance is needed and it's needed now.

Cattle producers affected by flood are still in drought, it's a cruel irony. Talk must turn to action.

### LABOR WILL BACK OUR SUBBIES IN PETRIE – O'Connor/Leigh/Corinne Mulholland-Petrie Candidate

On Wednesday, we met with sub-contractors in Petrie to discuss the benefits of Labor's Tradie Pay Guarantee.

Subbies working on federal government projects will be protected from being left unpaid when dodgy businesses go bust through the implementation of Labor's Tradie Pay Guarantee.

A Shorten Labor Government will require large Commonwealth construction projects to establish a specially structured account – using a cascading statutory trust - that ensures all businesses down the supply chain get paid on time.

Labor will also:

- set up an efficient process for handling disputes
- establish a federal security of payments legislative regime based on the recommendations of the Murray Review
- work with the states and territories to harmonise schemes across the country where possible

Further, we will create a \$7 million *Tradie Litigation Fund* for subbies to access justice and see regulators take dodgy bosses to court and win.

Only a Shorten Labor Government will protect the livelihoods of small businesses, workers and subcontractors who fall victim to dodgy building bosses and ensure perpetrators face their day in court.

The practice of so-called "Phoenix activity" – where dodgy directors deliberately burn companies in an attempt to avoid their obligations to employees, government and honest businesses – is estimated to cost the Australian economy more than \$5 billion per year.



Not only will this give tradies their day in court, it will also act both as a punishment and deterrent for dodgy directors. People who deliberately burn their companies should be subject to the full consequences of failing directors' duties, including being liable for compensation, fines of up to \$200,000 or five years behind bars.

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

These measures - along with previous commitments such as [naming and shaming phoenix directors](#), a Director Identification Number, and increasing penalties associated with phoenix activity – will help protect Australian jobs and the economy.

It's time the Morrison Government stopped going soft on corporate crooks, and adopted Labor's plans to crack down on dodgy phoenix activity. Only Labor will stand up for tradies in Petrie and stop dodgy firms ripping off their subbies.

## FEDERAL LABOR COMMITS TO GOLD COAST LIGHT RAIL STAGE 3A -

**Shorten/Albanese/Watt/Des Hardman [Forde]/Aaron Santelises [McPherson] Tracey bell [Moncrieff] Luz Stanton [Fadden]**

**A Shorten Labor Government would invest \$112 million to support the delivery of Stage 3A of the Gold Coast Light Rail project - extending the network from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads.**

We would work with the Gold Coast City Council and the Palaszczuk Labor Government to deliver the 6.4 kilometre extension, with construction to create 2,400 jobs and underpin ongoing growth and job creation in Gold Coast tourism.



In 2009 the former Federal Labor Government provided \$365 million to deliver the first stage of Gold Coast Light Rail, which was a critical component of the success of last year's Commonwealth Games.

At the time, the Federal LNP opposed the project, although its MPs have since elbowed each other out of the way to claim credit for this important piece of infrastructure.

Stage 3A will include eight new light rail stations – with people able to travel from Broadbeach South Station to North Burleigh Heads in as little as 16 minutes.

The work will include an upgraded bus interchange at Burleigh Heads and improved infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

This project will be critical to supporting future growth and revitalisation of the Burleigh Heads and Nobby Beach precincts.

A future Stage 3B of the Light Rail would connect the Light Rail to the Coolangatta Airport.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said Labor was committed to backing public transport projects that would make a real difference to the daily lives of Australians.

**"The Coalition has been more focused on its internal battles than on delivering the services that make life easier for people,"** Mr Shorten said.

**"We will invest in the rail and road projects that will help people get out of traffic jams and home sooner to their families."**

Shadow Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said traffic congestion is not only eroding our quality of life, it is also damaging our economy.

**"It's acting as a hand brake on productivity and economic growth,"** Mr Albanese said.

**"To build a stronger economy we need to reduce traffic congestion right around the nation and supporting better public transport to get cars off the road is a critical part of that."**

The inaction and neglect of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has allowed traffic congestion to worsen over the past five years.

If it is re-elected, the situation will worsen, with analysis by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office warning that Federal infrastructure grants to the states as a percentage of GDP will on current projections halve to 0.2 per cent over the next four years.

## FRUITFUL DISCUSSION AT LONGMAN FARMING ROUNDTABLE – Fitzgibbon/Lamb

**Primary producers and farmers in the Federal electorate of Longman were provided a platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing their respective sectors at an Agriculture and Farming Roundtable this week.**

The roundtable was hosted by Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Rural and Regional Australia Joel Fitzgibbon and Federal Member for Longman Susan Lamb in Wamuran and was attended by a diverse mix of local primary producers including: chicken, banana, strawberry and dairy farmers, a local beekeeper as well as a retired agricultural scientist.

The importance of soil health, bees, concerns about the impact of the levy payer research and development funding, the importance of a strong biosecurity system, labour shortages and the need for improved access to overseas markets were some of the issues raised by the participants at the roundtable.

"Today's Agriculture and Farming Roundtable has provided a valuable chance for local primary producers to speak to Joel and I about the issues facing their businesses as well as the equally important opportunity for us to listen to their needs and understand how Federal Government can support their aspirations," Federal Member for Longman Susan Lamb said.

"There is a global demand for clean, green, safe, high quality and ethically produced food and I want farmers and agricultural businesses in Longman to be best placed to take advantage of the region's strengths to cater for growing markets both at home and overseas."

The Longman Agriculture and Farming Roundtable was just one of many consultation sessions Shadow Agriculture Minister Joel Fitzgibbon has been conducting around the country.

"If Labor is fortunate to win Government at the next election, my guiding objectives as Minister will be productivity and sustainable profitability, I would love the opportunity to take the conversation about our food and fibre sectors to a higher and more sophisticated plane. I want the food and fibre sector to be modern, efficient and high tech using the latest and best innovation off the back of the best research." Mr Fitzgibbon said. Labor's Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price proposal received a positive response at the roundtable from local dairy farmers in light of the worsening dairy crisis which has pushed many dairy farming families to breaking point.

Drought and the challenges of a changing climate were also shared concerns for the participants. "Our natural resource base is in decline and our ecosystems are under enormous stress. Natural resource management and a science based approach to building resilience to drought must be a priority," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"The primary producers we have met today share our vision and many have already demonstrated a commitment to achieving sustainable profitability. We want to make sure the barriers to greater success are overcome," Susan Lamb added.

## **NEW SHADE SAIL FOR CAIRNS WEST STATE SCHOOL – Plibersek/Elida Faith Leichhardt Candidate**

### **A Shorten Labor Government will deliver a new \$35,000 shade sail for Cairns West State School.**

The Deputy Labor Leader, Tanya Plibersek, said the school was forced to take down their shade sail after its support tree was badly damaged by a cyclone.

"Since then, the school has been unable to afford a replacement – leaving kids without much needed sun protection," Ms Plibersek said.

"Today's announcement comes on top of the extra \$1.28 million we will deliver for teaching and learning at Cairns West State School in the first three years of a Labor Government.

"Labor can afford to invest in local schools because unlike Warren Entsch and the Liberals we are not giving handouts to the top end of town," Ms Plibersek said.

Labor's Candidate for Leichhardt, Elida Faith, said that Far North Queensland has some of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world.

"We need to do everything we can to make sure our kids are sun safe at home and at school," Ms Faith said.

"As a local mum, I know that our kids need both good teaching and good facilities to make sure they are learning well.

"I want the kids at Cairns West to be able to play safely and enjoy their school experience.

"Labor believes that all kids, no matter their postcode or what school they go to, deserve a quality education.

"That's why Leichhardt schools will get an extra \$33.8 million funding in the first three years of a Labor Government alone.

"The additional funding will mean more one on one attention, more help with the basics, and more subject choice.

"It will mean a better chance for kids who are struggling to get the help they need to catch up, and more opportunities for gifted kids to extend themselves.

"All our local schools have had from Scott Morrison and Warren Entsch are cuts," Ms Faith said.

## **MORE AUSTRALIAN STORIES - FUNDS FOR QUEENSLAND ARTS – Burke/Terri Butler**

### **Terri Butler MP, along with the Hon Tony Burke MP, will today announce a commitment of \$332,900 for the Billie Brown Studio at Queensland Theatre.**

Queensland Theatre has a proud tradition of telling uniquely Queensland stories, written, produced, and performed by Queenslanders.

Labor knows the value of the arts in our community and if elected a Labor Government will commit \$332,900 to Queensland Theatre for the refurbishment and expansion of their Billie Brown Studio into a performance space.

Nearly 100,000 patrons see shows at Queensland Theatre every year, and the redevelopment of the Billie Brown Studio will allow that number to grow substantially.

With this money, Queensland Theatre will be able to refurbish what was once a rehearsal studio into a fully operational, 350 seat theatre, so they can continue to share Queensland and Australian stories.

"I'd like to thank Queensland Theatre for their advocacy for this project, especially the CEO, Amanda Jolly," Ms Butler said.

"I also thank the many Southsiders who have signed petitions and campaigned for this funding," she said.

Labor wants our stories to be told and the great storytellers of our nation are our artists; our musicians, our writers, our authors, our playwrights, our actors, our poets, our painters, our sculptors.

The Government has shown it doesn't value art, artists and culture. Labor will turn that around.

## **CAIRNS TO BE WORLD CLASS PILOT TRAINING HUB – Plibersek/Albanese/Elida Faith- Leichhardt Candidate**

### **A Shorten Labor Government will invest nearly \$10 million to make Cairns one of the world's best destinations for training pilots.**

The Deputy Labor Leader, Tanya Plibersek, said this commitment will allow CQ University to deliver the final stage of its Asia-Pacific Aviation Hub in Cairns.

"Labor's funding will go towards a state-of-the-art flight simulator, aviation sensors, tracking equipment, as well as new aircraft hangers and training facilities at Cairns airport," Ms Plibersek said.

"An aerospace lab will also be established to lead research into pilot fatigue, and air traffic control.

"Our investment will mean Cairns can train up to 150 aviation students a year.

"Who wouldn't want to learn to fly in paradise?," Ms Plibersek said.

Labor's candidate for Leichhardt, Elida Faith, said the investment is a big boost for Cairns.

"Over the next 20 years, the world will need more than 600,000 new commercial airline pilots.

"I want Cairns to take advantage of this enormous demand.

"We have direct air connections to much of Asia and the Pacific.

"This new aviation facility will give our kids the chance to study to become pilots.

"We know regional airlines, including in Far North Queensland, are struggling to find pilots.

"Labor's commitment will be good for the local economy too.

"The project will support up to 70 jobs during the construction phase, and around 15 ongoing jobs," Ms Faith said.



This commitment to the CQ University Asia-Pacific Aviation Hub is part of Labor's \$300 million University Future Fund.

#### **BACKGROUND ON STAGE 1 OF THE PROJECT**

<https://www.cqu.edu.au/cqunews/stories/general-category/2018/cquniversity-announces-stage-one-of-asia-pacific-aviation-education-and-research-hub>

## **DUAL LANE BRUCE BETWEEN GLADSTONE AND ROCKHAMPTON**

**Albanese/Chalmers/Russell Robertson -Capricornia Candidate**

A Shorten Labor Government would invest \$2.1 million to commence planning to dual lane the Bruce Highway between Gladstone and Rockhampton to boost productivity and improve road safety.

This ambitious project would identify future priorities for capacity upgrades including increasing the road from two to four lanes and creating additional overtaking opportunities.

The commitment comes in addition to Federal Labor's existing plan to invest in projects such as Rockhampton and Mackay ring roads to boost productivity, improve safety and reduce congestion, building on our strong record of investment on the Bruce Highway.

Indeed, the former Labor Government invested \$5.7 billion over six years on Bruce Highway projects – four times as much as the previous Howard Government in half the time.



We provided real money for real projects which made a real difference – and we will do it again.

By contrast, the Morrison Government will cut \$725 million in Federal investment in the Bruce Highway if it wins the upcoming Federal election.

In the 2017-18 Budget, it promised to invest \$3.5 billion upgrading key sections of the Highway between 2018-19 and 2020-21. However, according to their own Infrastructure Department, the allocation was cut to \$2.8 billion in the 2018-19 Budget.

The LNP has proven time and again that they only care about the Bruce Highway when they're in opposition and then quickly ignore it once they get elected.

Federal Labor has long recognised the Bruce Highway's importance to the communities living up and down the Queensland coast, and will invest in it so that it supports rather than hinders Queensland's rapid growth

## **LABOR'S FAIR GO FOR SPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS Wong/Farrell/Jo Briskey Bonner/Des Harman Forde**

A Shorten Labor Government will support Brisbane and Logan sports clubs to increase female participation and give women and girls a fair go in sport.

If elected to Government, Labor will provide \$800,000 to the AC Carina Football Club to construct an additional soccer pitch and proper facilities for their growing number of female players.

Labor will also provide \$1.2 million to build a new clubhouse for the Waterford Rugby League Football Club, including vastly improved facilities for female players.

AC Carina celebrates its 40th anniversary this season and since 2014 has fielded a growing number of women's teams.

The facilities have not been able to keep pace with the surge in popularity for women's soccer driven by the W-League and the Matildas.

"I'm delighted a Shorten Labor Government will support this great local club," Labor candidate for Bonner Jo Briskey said.

"This funding will ensure all players have access to the facilities they need, from kids who just want to play sport right through to players looking to take the step up into high performance pathways."



The Waterford Demons are one of Logan's largest rugby league clubs, with over 600 junior and 120 senior members, catering for players from age five to Masters. "Labor's commitment will ensure the mighty Demons can build on the success of their ALL GIRLZ program, which last year saw the club field teams in Under 14s, Under 16s and Under 18s," Labor candidate for Forde, Des Hardman said.

"Labor's funding will enable construction of a proper clubhouse, creating a kitchen, office space, toilets, storage and vastly improved facilities for female players."

Labor is committed to supporting communities to improve local sporting facilities to give all Australians a fair go at sport, whether they dream of being the next Sam Kerr and one day representing Australia, or just want to play for their local club and be active.

Our investments in local sporting clubs like AC Carina and Waterford RLFC will help communities build capacity for the growing number of women and girls playing team sports.

These two commitments deliver on Labor's goals of making women welcome in sporting clubs and supporting a fair go for women and girls who want to play sport.

## **ECONOMY**

## **MORRISON AND LIBERALS ENCOURAGE WAGES FREEZE – O'Connor**

At a time when wages growth has hit record lows, Scott Morrison is encouraging employers to give workers a wage freeze and keep their pay packets at record lows.

Restaurant and Catering Australia's call for the Fair Work Commission to freeze the minimum wage and impose a real wage cut on workers, comes as Scott Morrison and the Liberals spread fear of job losses rather than responsibly encouraging decent pay for the lowest paid Australians.

As was confirmed by Matthias Cormann, keeping wages low is a “deliberate design feature” of this government, and they are sending a clear message that they are on board with calls that support this belief.

This economic irresponsibility, at a time when wages growth has hit record lows and everything is going up except for wages, is appalling.

Federal Labor believes the minimum wage should be a living wage, particularly at a time when company profits are growing five times faster than wages. Increased wages, particularly for the low paid will flow through the economy, increasing consumer demand. When low paid workers get a pay rise, they spend that in the local shops. That’s good for business and good for the economy.

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

Instead, they support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, argue against increasing the minimum wage, and deny there is an issue with insecure work.

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

## **RECORD NUMBERS TAKING ON A SECOND JOB UNDER MORRISON – O’Connor**

**More Australians than ever are taking on second jobs, highlighting the pressure households are facing under this chaotic and divided Morrison Government.**

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Account figures show that the number of secondary jobs in Australia rose to a record of more than 1 million in Australia in the December 2018 quarter.

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government Australians aren’t earning enough money so they are resorting to taking up a second job to get by, with the ABS statistics showing the proportion of people working two jobs increasing by 3.3 per cent in the December quarter.

It’s clear that for too many people everything is going up except for their wages. Under the Morrison government, company profits continue to grow, and yet wages are stagnating as Australians struggle to keep up with living costs.

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

This Government doesn’t have a single policy to grow wages and reduce inequality. That’s why so many Australian’s are now resorting to taking on a second job.

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

## **IT’S TIME TO REFORM THE FRANCHISING INDUSTRY – Chisholm/ Deborah O’Neill/Keogh/Kearney/Ketter**

**The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services has completed its comprehensive inquiry into franchising in Australia and what was discovered in many cases was nothing short of astonishing, with workers being mistreated, franchisors not being up front with business information and numerous stories of franchisees sold “lemon” businesses.**



Franchising is big business in Australia, contributing approximately 9 per cent of gross domestic product in 2016 and employing thousands of Australians, however this inquiry has highlighted the sheer power imbalance between franchisors and franchisees, an imbalance characteristic of the franchisor - franchisee business structure.

As a result the committee is proposing substantial changes to the Franchising Code of Conduct and the responsibilities and powers of the ACCC in relation to this.

Labor’s focus of the inquiry was to ensure that workers in these franchises are not ripped off, franchisees are aware of their obligations as an employer and overall that franchisees have a legal “leg to stand on” to protect themselves against large, often multinational franchisors.

Also of importance is the franchisees right to terminate an agreement.

We heard many instances of franchisees not being provided the full business picture before signing on the dotted line, then when businesses were not as fruitful as expected, they were left significantly out of pocket with no opt out avenue to pursue.

The Committee recommended a raft of exit arrangements be added to the Franchising code of conduct to ensure that in extenuating circumstances the franchisees can terminate their agreements with the franchisor.

To support this the committee also recommends an amendment to the code of conduct to require, as part of mandatory disclosure a reasonable estimate of the personal workload to be undertaken by the franchisee so they and their staff are not subject to any nasty surprises.

**The changes recommended in this report are designed to lift standards and conduct across the industry and to rebuild confidence in franchising, and the security of small business in Australia.**

## **LABOR TO PUT AUSSIE HOTELS BACK IN CONTROL – Leigh/Albanese/Husic/Briskey Bonner Candidate**

**Local accommodation providers will have greater control of their own businesses under a Shorten Labor Government, making small businesses more competitive and reducing the price of a weekend away.**

If elected, Labor would ensure that Australia’s accommodation providers would have the ability to set their own prices so they can compete with the multinationals behind the world’s largest online booking sites.

Currently, the two big businesses that control up to 85 per cent of online accommodation bookings in Australia – Expedia and [Booking.com](#) – can put clauses in contracts with Australian hotels, motels and other accommodation that restrict their ability to promote lower prices on their personal websites. These contract terms, known as “price parity” clauses”, mean a small business cannot offer discounts or deals on their own sites if they also advertise on larger platforms. At the same time, commissions taken by booking platforms have increased and can now be up to 30 per cent of the fee charged to travellers.

The power imbalance has already been addressed overseas with countries like Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, Belgium, and Austria taking action to ban these clauses.

A Shorten Labor Government would also investigate, via the competition watchdog, the use of such clauses across other platforms and industries.

This measure will build on Labor's strong suite of plans to tackle Australia's competition problem. Labor has pledged to:

- Give consumer and small business advocacy groups the power to make '[supercomplaints](#)' about consumer rip-offs;
- Protect small business through making [unfair contract terms](#) illegal;
- Make it easier and cheaper to send money to family and friends overseas by requiring [full fee disclosure](#) on remittances;
- Make it [more affordable to fix your car](#) by requiring car manufacturers to share technical information with independent mechanics on commercially fair and reasonable terms;
- Introduce an industry-specific code under the Competition and Consumer Act to deliver clear rules to better regulate negotiations between [manufacturers and dealerships](#);
- Double the competition regulator's litigation budget and amending the Competition and Consumer Act to give a truly independent market studies function to the regulator;
- Allow the Courts to apply higher penalties for conduct that targets or disproportionately impacts disadvantaged Australians;
- Require the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission prioritise investigations of conduct that targets or disproportionately impacts disadvantaged Australians;
- Investigate the impacts of increased market concentration on income inequality in Australia and produce policy recommendations on how the negative effects of market concentration can be mitigated;
- And encourage States and Territories to include competition principles in planning and zoning legislation, as recommended by the Harper Review, with a specific focus on shortfalls of appropriately zoned land for key services in disadvantaged communities.

Last month, Labor policy became law when the Coalition was [forced to vote for our plans](#) to help small business to bring cases of anti-competitive behaviour to court.

Increasing competition helps drive costs down for consumers by correcting the power imbalance between small business and the big end of town. It's good for Australian workers, it's good for Australian consumers and it's good for Australia's economy.

Labor will always put the health of small businesses ahead of profits of big multinationals. It's time Scott Morrison and his chaotic Coalition did the same.

## PUTTING AUSSIE HOTELS BACK IN CONTROL: 3RD PARTY SUPPORT

*"The Accommodation Association of Australia welcomes this historic announcement from the Labor Party. Effectively this means that our industry, should the Labor Party win office, be able to finally offer the best rate directly to our customers without fear of being darkened or threatened by these big multinational online travel agents. This announcement is very welcome for our members and the industry across Australia, the winners will be the operators of small business and the public who can finally get a better deal by going direct online once this legislation is passed." - Richard Munro, Accommodation Association of Australia CEO.*

*"We were pleased to see Labor's announcement today to ban online travel agent price parity clauses if elected to Government. Long overdue as accommodation providers and their customers are paying increasing and unsustainable commissions nearly all of which leave Australia."*  
- Julian Ledger, YHA Australia CEO.

*"In Australia, online booking platforms [Booking.com](#) and Expedia control up to 85 per cent of our bookings, and they are taking commissions of up to 30 per cent; a big hit to the bottom line of a small business. Addressing anti-competitive practices would level the playing field between small businesses and their multinational rivals and give consumers more choice. We are pleased Labor proposes to investigate the use of similar clauses across other platforms and industries." - Kate Carnell, Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman.*

*"The Labor Party's announcement that they will ban narrow and wide rate parity is enthusiastically welcomed. This will ensure hotels and accommodation providers can set their own prices to be competitive with online travel agents." - Anthony Brierley, Australian Hotels Association - ACT Branch General Manager.*

## DISABILITY

## GOOD LUCK TO TEAM AUSTRALIA FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES – Farrell/Brown

Labor congratulates the athletes and volunteers representing Team Australia in the Special Olympics World Games and wishes them all the best for the event, which begins today.

Australia will be represented by 105 athletes and 35 officials across 11 sports at the Games, which are being held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from today until March 21.

Team Australia will compete in athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics, sailing, swimming and tennis, supported by 35 volunteer officials.

The Games will feature a total of 7000 athletes with an intellectual disability from 170 nations competing across 24 sports in front of half a million spectators.

The Special Olympics is a global movement that focuses on the importance of social inclusion and the need for more support for people living with disability.

Special Olympics Australia has been operating for more than 40 years, promoting positive community attitudes towards disability, sport for all Australians and providing people with intellectual disability with opportunities to take part in a range of sports at various levels of competition all year round.

Labor wishes Team Australia's athletes, coaches and volunteers the best of luck for the Special Olympics World Games 2019.



## DO THE SURVEY

[The Federal Government appears intent in creating Royal Commission into Disability Abuse with terms of reference that don't appear to give the Commission the power to investigate and recommend criminal charges nor to recommend a redress program. This is a serious omission.

An Inquiry that gets people to tell their stories of abuse and then not be able to do anything about them is simply ridiculous. So please fill out the survey below – control/click the hyperlink and say so. Ed]

"As you are probably well aware, the consultation process for the Royal Commission Draft [Terms of Reference](#) opened yesterday.

The Government wants to hear from people with disability, their families and carers, and the disability sector about what the Royal Commission should cover and the supports that might be required. A Royal Commission will focus on what governments, institutions and the community should do to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. It is likely to cover all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. This consultation does not seek specific information on cases of abuse or violence.

Interested parties can have a say on the Terms of Reference via a [public survey](#).

The survey will be open from Wednesday, 13 March to Thursday, 28 March 2019.

We would like to encourage you to participate in this process, to distribute information about the consultation and to assist, where necessary, people with disability to access this information and provide a submission. Fact Sheets are attached for your information and for sharing more broadly. Suggested words for use in newsletters/emails/social media posts are also attached should you wish to use them.

The Department appreciates the prompt feedback to date on the release of the survey and is continuing to develop its resources to support the completion of the survey by as many stakeholders as possible.

If you have questions about the survey please contact the Survey Hotline on 1800 880 052.

## MORRISON SPLASHES MORE NDIS MONEY ON CONSULTANTS - Burney/Chalmers

National Disability Insurance Agency spending on consultants and contractors has blown out under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government. Figures reported today show it has multiplied by over 600% over two years – from \$70 million in 2016 to \$430 million in 2018. The focus for the National Disability Insurance Scheme should go towards improving support and services for people with disability – not lining the pockets of consultants and multinationals.

This multimillion dollar blow out on contractors and consultants is the direct result of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's arbitrary cap on NDIA staff, forcing the agency to outsource its core functions.

Local Area Coordination and Early Childhood Early Intervention services are critically important parts of the NDIS. However, outsourcing in other core areas is now out-of-control.

Labor will abolish the Liberals' arbitrary staffing cap so that more permanent, well-trained and dedicated staff can deliver on the promise of the NDIS - saving millions on corporate consultancies and outsourcing and improving services.

The Liberals have hollowed out the Australian Public Service, and imposed arbitrary staff caps, which have seen a blowout in spending on consultants and labour-hire, and poor morale among public servants. The Liberals' attacks on the public service have forced Government agencies to spend more taxpayer money on less.

There's a time and place for expert external advice, but wasting taxpayer money is not acceptable, especially with record and growing debt on the Liberals' watch.

Scott Morrison and Mathias Cormann need to realise Australians need good services and genuine value for money, not out-of-touch and out-of-whack priorities that waste more taxpayer money and deliver less in return.

Australians deserve to know how much of their money is going to contractors, consultants and labour hire.

## ENVIRONMENT

### LABOR TACKLES MARINE PLASTICS ON OUR BEACHES – Burke

A Shorten Labor Government is committed to tackling the issue of plastic pollution on our beaches and in our oceans.

Single use plastics, including PET water bottles, are some of the most wasteful and environmentally damaging products, with thousands of them ending up in our oceans every day, polluting our pristine beaches and choking our marine wildlife.

Labor's *Clean Our Oceans Program* is a proposal to partner with Surf Clubs and the Clean Oceans Initiative to reduce and eventually eliminate, single use plastic water bottles from our beaches.

Labor's *Clean Our Oceans Program* will provide the nippers program with up to 600,000 reusable water bottles, and help Surf Life Saving clubs around Australia put in place up to 600 water refill stations on our beaches and the systems and procedures to move toward zero waste.

Labor will allocate up to \$3 million over four years to the *Clean Our Oceans Program* and work with other government jurisdictions and stakeholders with the ultimate goal of zero waste on our beaches.

The Clean Oceans Initiative has been rolling out its education and infrastructure programs with nippers at 10 Surf Lifesaving clubs and a number of Primary Schools. This is a great start that Labor's *Clean Our Oceans Program* can build on.

Labor's Clean Our Oceans Program is part of a broader suite of Labor policies that will reduce marine plastics. Labor's \$200 million Urban Rivers and Corridors program will



help clean up our local rivers and intercept storm water and plastic waste before it makes it to the ocean. Labor is also developing a comprehensive federal waste policy to ensure federal leadership is restored in reducing and repurposing our plastic waste.

Labor knows that the time to act to protect our oceans is critical now more than ever. The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has put our oceans and marine life under threat by cutting the Marine Park network in half and giving super trawlers access to the Coral Sea.

It is clear that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government is willing to damage our land, our rivers, our atmosphere and our oceans in a way that leaves all the hardship, all the clean-up and all the devastation to the next generation.

Labor will have further announcements on how we will tackle the issue of ocean plastics in the lead up to the election.

## RBA CALLS FOR ORDERLY TRANSITION AND REAL CLIMATE POLICIES – Mark Butler

In an important speech last night, the Deputy Governor of the RBA Guy Debelle rang alarm bells about the impacts of climate change on the economy, and the dangers of not acting to address this increasingly urgent challenge.

In his speech, Dr Debelle flagged many of the themes Labor has been talking about and seeking to address through our policies.

A key themes of the speech included:

- The need for an **orderly transition to clean energy**, with Dr Debelle noting renewable energy is “now cost-effective sources of generation”. This supports the view of other experts that renewable energy is not only cleaner, but is and will increasingly be cheaper than other new generation alternatives.
- The need to support more renewable energy with new **transmission and storage investment**, something identified by Labor as a priority in our Energy Plan, which is why we’ve committed to a \$5 billion Energy Security and Modernisation Fund,
- The need to **ensure a just transition for communities and workers**, noting “Particular industries and particular communities that are especially exposed to the costs of changes in the climate will face lower costs if there is an early and orderly transition”. That is why Labor has announced a detailed Just transition policy, including a new Just Transition Authority,
- The need for **steady and orderly policy** to transition the economy, saying “Financial stability will be better served by an orderly transition rather than an abrupt disorderly one.” That is why Labor has emphasised the need to move beyond the Tony Abbott inspired ‘Climate Wars’ that have sabotaged a sensible and bi-partisan approach to climate change.

Yet today, after almost 6 years of Liberal government, Australia is as far away from an orderly transition and real climate policies as ever.

The Liberal Government has renounced its own NEG, removing a PM in the process, because it sought to tackle emissions, even though Labor and the rest of the country want to see it implemented.

The Government still plans to underwrite new coal plants through their Underwriting New Generation Investment program, while at the same time arguing with itself over the need to underwrite new coal plants, in a display of disunity and chaos that has now reached the Cabinet.

And the Government has doubled down on ineffective and expensive Abbott climate change policies, while doing nothing to actually deliver emissions reductions.

Labor’s plan for 50 per cent of electricity from renewables by 2030 is good for jobs, good for the economy and good for the environment.

Renewable energy is the cheapest form of new energy, but the Governments attacks is one reason why power prices will keep going up and up under Scott Morrison.

Bill Shorten and Labor are committed to cheaper, cleaner power through renewable energy.

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

Climate Change is a growing risk not only to future generations, but to the economy today. Only one party will take climate change seriously and deliver the policies needed to ensure a prosperous future for all Australians.

## CANAVAN SPLIT A TEST FOR PM – Mark Butler/Clare

Matt Canavan’s split from Scott Morrison in calling for new coal fired power stations is a breach of Cabinet solidarity and is further evidence of the Government’s irreconcilable divisions.

This is a test of Scott Morrison’s authority - who is setting policy, the Prime Minister or a rogue minister?

Wednesday’s [Courier Mail reports](#) Matt Canavan calling for a new coal fired power station in North Queensland – saying there is a ‘**clear need**’ for new coal.

This is a clear contradiction of Scott Morrison’s comments shutting down the possibility of new coal fired power stations:

*“So I tend to work in the area of the practical, the things that actually can happen. Governments have to focus on what they will actually do and can actually deliver and that’s what I’m focused on, not in hypothetical debates.”* [\[SCOTT MORRISON, 11 MARCH 2019\]](#)

For more than five years the Government have been torn by division on energy – while Australians see their energy bills go up and up.

For a Cabinet Minister to break ranks shows just how divided this Government is.

**The Prime Minister must pull Matt Canavan into line – he’s broken Cabinet solidarity.**

Even Scott Morrison’s own [Cabinet handbook says](#):

### Cabinet Solidarity

20. Members of the Cabinet must publicly support all Government decisions made in the Cabinet, even if they do not agree with them. Cabinet ministers cannot dissociate themselves from, or repudiate the decisions of their Cabinet colleagues unless they resign from the Cabinet. **It is the Prime Minister’s role as Chair of the Cabinet, where necessary, to enforce Cabinet solidarity.**

Senator Canavan’s comments also contradict those of his colleagues.

The Deputy leader of the National Party Bridget McKenzie has said it will not happen and slammed Joyce’s advocacy for coal yesterday:



*'What Barnaby Joyce is saying publicly is very different to what the party room is saying. What we are agreed on is that we do need to back a neutral approach, a technology neutral approach to getting reliable, baseload power into our energy system.'* [\[BRIDGET MCKENZIE, 12 MARCH 2019\]](#)

The Leader of the National Party and the Deputy Prime Minister has said it will only consider new coal fire power stations 'if the business case stacks up.' [\[MICHAEL MCCORMACK, 11 MARCH 2019\]](#)

Liberal MP Trent Zimmerman has said that it won't happen:

*"It is bad policy. I don't think we should be in the business of building or funding or operating coal-fired power stations at a federal level."* [\[TRENT ZIMMERMAN, 12 MARCH 2019\]](#)

Liberal MP Tim Wilson has said it won't happen:

*"I don't believe that's Coalition policy or ever has been."* [\[TIM WILSON, 12 MARCH 2019\]](#)

Even NSW Nationals leader and Deputy Premier John Barilaro doesn't think any government would 'subsidise coal going forward.' [\[JOHN BARILARO, 12 MARCH 2019\]](#)

This government is hopelessly divided and the only way to fix this mess is to vote them out.

## WOMEN

### UN INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY STATEMENT – Plibersek/Wong/Catherine King/Moore

Labor is concerned by the Morrison Government's refusal to sign the UN International Women's Day Statement.

57 countries including the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Japan backed the call to help "remedy the accountability deficit in human rights violations of women and girls", including barriers to reproductive rights.

However, Australia withheld support for the statement that called on member states to respect women's and girls' "right to bodily autonomy", including guaranteed universal protection of sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexual education and access to safe abortion.

Labor is [concerned by reports](#) that the Morrison Government withheld Australia's support because the statement explicitly calls for universal protection of women's sexual and reproductive health, including access to safe abortion. Scott Morrison should explain why his Government refused to support this.

Labor believes reproductive choice and access to basic health care are fundamental rights. This is why Labor last week announced a comprehensive national policy to enable Australian women to access legal, safe, affordable reproductive health services when and where they need them.

## IMMIGRATION

### NATS FORCE MORRISON FOR MORE 457-STYLE VISAS – Neumann/Fitzgibbon

With Nationals leadership tensions hitting fever pitch, Scott Morrison has capitulated under pressure from his Coalition counterparts to loosen the rules of Australia's 457-style visa program.

Rather than investing in skills and training for local workers, Immigration Minister David Coleman announced today eighteen more occupations in regional areas will now be available to overseas workers.

It is clear the Liberals are obsessed with importing overseas workers on 457-style visas rather than training Australian workers first. Is this part of their "economic plan" just like driving down the wages of Australian workers?

More and more occupations have crept their way onto the skilled occupation lists under the Liberals – with [no guarantees](#) from the Morrison Government that local workers won't be overlooked for overseas workers on 457-style visas.

The Liberals have failed to address workforce shortages facing Australia's agriculture sector for close to six years and now, on the eve of the election and facing a comeback from the "[elected Deputy Prime Minister of Australia](#)", we see Scott Morrison open the door for more 457-style visas.

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 make sure 457-style visas will only be available when a genuine skills gap cannot be met with local workers.

It will also project Australia's future skills shortages and train Australian workers for those jobs because no skills shortage should last one day longer than it takes to train an Australian to do that job.

Unlike the Morrison Government, Labor is committed to getting the balance right – we will work with all stakeholders to ensure the visa system addresses genuine shortages in the agribusiness sector and does not undermine local jobs, wages or conditions.

Only Labor will fight for local workers to have the first shot at local jobs, invest in skills and training and crack down on skilled visa rorts.

## GOVT BACKFLIPS ON MILO VISA BAN TO SATISFY ONE NATION – Neumann

Scott Morrison is outsourcing border security decisions to One Nation - ignoring expert Home Affairs advice to ban speaker Milo Yiannopoulos from Australia.



New [reports](#) suggest Immigration Minister David Coleman has capitulated to the right wing of the Liberal Party – as well as the demands of One Nation – to allow the inflammatory speaker into the country.

One Liberal MP has even reportedly described the backflip as a "dog's breakfast and embarrassing shambles".

It is clear Milo Yiannopoulos has [no place](#) in Australia – just like David Icke and Gavin McInnes who have recently had their visa applications refused.

Milo's record shows the reasons he should not be allowed into Australia including:

- Owing \$50,000 bill to Victoria Police for riots outside his 2017 Australian shows during which five police officers were injured;
- Being banned from Paypal after sending \$14.88 – a number used by white supremacists and Neo-Nazis – to a Jewish journalist;
- Suggesting that sex between “younger boys” and older men could be a “coming-of-age relationship... in which those older men help those younger boys discover who they are”;
- Vilifying segments of varying communities and minorities with statements such as “Islam is AIDS”; and
- Proudly declaring “I love it when protestors turn up to my shows... when people are yelling in the streets, it gets me off”.

All of these concerns were raised in a [letter](#) from the Department of Home Affairs about a person that the Morrison Government now wants to grant a visa to.

Labor strongly supports the refusal or cancellation of visas of non-citizens on character or criminal grounds and the removal of criminals from Australia under Section 501 of the Migration Act.

Under these powers, the Immigration Minister has the power to refuse visas for individuals if there is a significant risk the individual would incite discord in the Australian community or represent a danger to the Australian community or to a segment of that community.

Given the significant risk Yiannopoulos poses to the Australian community, Labor believes he [should not](#) be allowed into the country.

Why on earth do the Liberals want to allow someone into Australia who has a proven track record of promoting protests, inciting hate speech, and vilifying parts of the community?

If Scott Morrison had any authority as Prime Minister, he would make sure Immigration Minister David Coleman did not capitulate to the likes of One Nation and uphold the visa ban.

## FIRST PEOPLE

### PALYKU NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION - Dodson

Senator Patrick Dodson has welcomed the confirmation of native title rights by the Federal Court of Australia to the Palyku people of the Pilbara region on 12 March 2019.

“Congratulations to the Palyku people in getting the Court to recognise their prior native title rights and interest. This reward is the result of the dedication of your leaders, both men and women.”

The on-country hearing was a historic occasion, held at Wild Dog Creek – 155 kilometres north of Newman WA. It was witnessed by Traditional Owners along with representatives from the Federal Court and State and Federal Governments.

Justice John Reeves congratulated the Palyku people and noted that this determination marks the recognition by the Australian legal system of the Palyku people’s long held pre-existing native title in this land, according to the traditions and customs of the Palyku people, and long before the determination by the court.

This result has been the culmination of a 20 year journey, with the first initial claim lodged by the Palyku people with the National Native Title Tribunal on 15 June 1998. Since then, the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation has fought hard to ensure that 9,308 square kilometres of land and waters are returned back to the rightful owners.

“The reward of this long struggle is that you now have a strong base to nurture your culture and to use your culture and beliefs to make strong future leaders. I congratulate everyone involved for their commitment and hard work”.

## GOVT CUTS LEAVE INDIGENOUS ENROLMENT LAGGING – Dodson/Snowden/McCarthy/Gosling

Australian Electoral Commission figures released this week show the Liberals and Nationals are failing to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people [can exercise their right to vote](#).

According to the AEC [figures](#), 23.6 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people nationally are not enrolled, with alarmingly low rates of enrolment in the Northern Territory (32.5 per cent not enrolled) and Western Australia (36.2 per cent not enrolled).

The Abbott / Turnbull / Morrison Government cut 80 per cent of AEC staff from NT in 2017, leaving just three staff, and failed to put in place any replacement for the programs that were in place to drive Aboriginal enrolment.

The AEC has made progress on Indigenous enrolment nationally, but its efforts towards closing the gap in areas with greater proportions of Indigenous Australians unenrolled have been stalled by the Government's savage cuts.

As of 30 June 2018, there were 16,433 Aboriginal people in the NT, and 23,363 Aboriginal people in WA, who were not on the roll and had little or no prospect of being enrolled before the next Federal election.

The situations in the NT and WA figures show why Labor stood up against the Government's cuts to the AEC and successfully fought to stop complete closure of the AEC's NT office.

It is a disgrace and the government could do something about it now, if they wanted to.

In his final days as Minister, Senator Nigel Scullion should be working to ensure that all Territorians are represented, and that these vital programs to enrol First Nations people are reinstated.

## **GOVT MUST KEEP HOUSING PROMISE TO REMOTE TERRITORIANS – Snowdon/McCarthy/Gosling**

**Scott Morrison must honour his promise to remote Territorians and immediately deliver on his commitment to fund remote housing.**

It has been nearly a year since the Commonwealth agreed to provide \$550 million to remote housing in the NT, yet not a dollar of that funding has been delivered.

This is just not good enough.

Instead of providing this much needed funding to tackle overcrowding, Nigel Scullion has been playing politics. This issue is too important for that. The Prime Minister must intervene and sit down with the NT Government - and relevant Indigenous organisations - to secure immediate agreement to resolve this standoff.

Indigenous people living in remote communities suffer from terrible overcrowding. Every cent of this money is needed to tackle this issue. It should not be used as a political football.

Labor is committed to working with the NT Government and Indigenous organisations to tackle overcrowding in remote communities. That's why the previous Labor Government delivered record funding over ten years to the NPARIH.

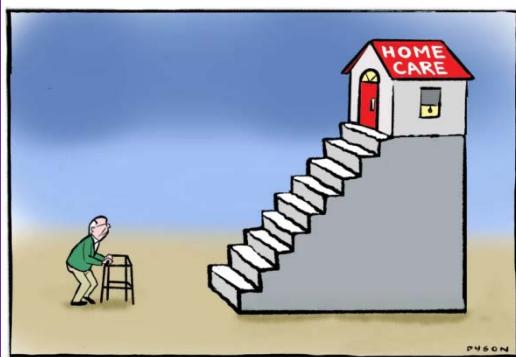
Scott Morrison and Nigel Scullion should deliver on the government's promise and ensure housing construction and repairs can commence immediately.

If he can't deliver, Federal Labor will work quickly after the election to get this resolved. First Nations people in remote Australia don't deserve to live in overcrowded houses simply because this government cares more about politics than delivering for remote Territorians.

## **SENIORS**

### **HOME CARE CRISIS CONTINUES UNDER SCOTT MORRISON – Julie Collins**

The release of [the latest data](#) on the Morrison Government's home care packages waitlist has revealed almost 128,000 older Australians are now languishing waiting for care.



The further blow out in the number of older Australians waiting for care underscores the failure of Scott Morrison's response to this unfolding crisis. Under the Liberal Government the waitlist for home care has grown from 88,000 to almost 128,000 older Australians in just over a year.

In January the Productivity Commission revealed the median wait time for a home care package has blown out in the last year by more than two months. As the list grows longer and longer, fresh stories emerge daily of older Australians waiting for care.

Older Australians are entering residential aged care or even emergency departments instead of receiving their approved home care package.

Many older Australians are waiting more than 12 months for the package they have been approved for and some are waiting more than two years.

It is also concerning that so many older Australians aren't receiving the level of care they have been approved for.

Labor has been calling for action on reducing the waitlist since the first release of data revealed too many older Australians were waiting for care.

As the home care waitlist has grown, Scott Morrison and the Liberals have not done enough to fix this crisis. They have been too distracted by dysfunction and division. Scott Morrison cut \$1.2 billion from aged care in his first Budget as Treasurer - backing in a \$500 million cut in his first MYEFO.

After five years, three Ministers and years of cuts this Government called a Royal Commission into Aged Care. Older Australians deserve better. Scott Morrison cannot be trusted with aged care.

## VETERANS

### STUDY CONFIRMS NEED FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT - Rishworth

The release of the [Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study](#) has once again highlighted the need for Labor's [Family Engagement and Support Strategy](#).

The Scoping Study was a recommendation from last year's Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Ex-Service Personnel which Labor was integral in establishing. The Study looked at the current advocacy and welfare services, the challenges they face and the veterans and ex-service personnel which they assist.

Labor recognises advocacy groups play a critical role in assisting our veterans to facilitate claims, provide essential representation and above most, support.

Of the 12 recommendations made from the Study, it is clearly recognised that the current structures are limited in providing support to ex-service personnel and their families.

The report highlights the stark contrast between what support is available for a military personnel's family throughout their service and after their transition out of the ADF.

The Study stated, "*...after separation from the Defence Force, nearly all support from Defence is provided to the veteran in the expectation that the family will benefit indirectly.*"

Labor recognises that when a member serves, in many ways their family serves with them. That is why we announced our commitment to develop a Family Engagement and Support Strategy for Defence Personnel and Veterans which will enable us to identify where we can provide greater support to families of current and ex-serving personnel.

Greater support for families is greater support for our serving and ex-service personnel.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### SAFETY LAWS ARE COMMON SENSE - Madeleine King

Labor welcomes Rod Sims of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's assertion at today's National Consumer Congress that Australia needs robust safety laws.

Currently regulators can only make safety interventions by banning products after they are already in the market, putting consumers at risk.

The Australian Consumer Law Review Final Report recommended creating a general safety provision in March 2017, [two years ago](#).

While Labor supports the principle of a proactive product safety regime, the Government has failed to act on the recommendations of the 2017 report.

This is typical of the Liberal government, more focussed on themselves than protecting Australian consumers.

Labor calls on the Government to release its regulatory impact statement on a general safety provision as a matter of urgency.

### STUART ROBERT ALL TALK NO ACTION FOR DEBT SAVAGED AUSSIES - Madeleine King

This week Assistant Treasurer Stuart Robert MP addressed the National Consumer Congress in Melbourne, and purported to set out the Government's "vision" for consumer affairs.

But why is the Assistant Treasurer now focussed on setting the agenda, when he's got three parliamentary sitting days left to implement it?

Labor has been calling on Stuart Robert, and the swathe of other Coalition ministers responsible for consumer affairs before him, to pass vital reforms on pay day lending and consumer leases since 2015.

This Turnbull-Morrison Government have overseen the entire review process of these small amount credit reforms, and despite continually stating that legislation will pass under this government, we are [still](#) yet to see it.



It's been 1059 days since the Small Amount Credit Contracts review's final report.

It's been 717 days since the government accepted all of the recommendations of report.

It's been 507 days since the government released draft legislation enacting the reforms.

It's been 42 days since release of the Hayne Royal Commission report.

It's been 20 days since the release of the Senate Inquiry into credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship report.

Since the initial review more than 800,000 vulnerable Australian consumers have accessed these flawed loans, plunging them into spirals of debt.

The only vision Stuart Robert has is tunnel vision in protecting his pay day loan shark chums at the expense of Australian consumers.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### LABOR'S PACIFIC AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS AND VISION LOSS FUND - Wong

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$32 million in a Pacific Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss Fund.

Loss of sight condemns people in developing countries to a life of poverty and decreased life expectancy. It is estimated that in the developing world 80 per cent of all blindness and vision impairment is avoidable or treatable.

Australia is well placed to help eliminate avoidable blindness and vision impairment in our region, which is why the Rudd Labor Government partnered with leading aid agencies and medical organisations to deliver the Avoidable Blindness Initiative.

Over 35,000 people received cataract surgeries to restore sight delivered through this initiative by the Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium.

However, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has reduced annual aid expenditure on eye health by approximately 41 per cent over the last four years.

A Shorten Labor Government will partner with organisations such as The Fred Hollows Foundation, Vision 2020 Australia and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists to clear a backlog of cataract treatments and aid those with moderate to severe visual impairments in the Pacific.

It will also train up to 600 health workers across the region and support program implementation in-country, including delivering screening and examination for eye health conditions.

Labor will also increase the annual base grant funding for fully accredited NGOs in the Australian NGO Cooperation Program at a cost of \$32 million over the forward estimates.

This increase reflects Labor's commitment to working with non-government organisations to strengthen Australia's aid delivery and also reflects our recognition that non-government organisations play a vital role in engaging with civil society.

A strong civil society is vital to democracy, inclusion, transparency and openness, accountability, and the protection of minorities and marginalised groups.

A Shorten Labor Government will engage with civil society, not just as partners in the delivery of projects, but to support and strengthen the work they do and the role they play in their own countries.

### AID

**Penny Wong – “Rebuilding Australia’s international development program for a time of disruption - 2019 annual lecture in political science and international studies - University of queensland - Tuesday 12 march 2019**

*Together with Labor's Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Moore, I have also been working to develop and articulate Labor's agenda for Australia's international development program.*

*In 2017, Labor's International Development Caucus Working Group undertook consultations with key aid and development stakeholders.*

*That work has been invaluable in contributing to Labor's understanding of the sector's concerns with the current aid program, and in shaping the objectives, strategies and actions for a Shorten Labor Government.*

*At a time when our national interest compels us to strengthen our engagement, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has not only neglected Australia's international development program, but savagely attacked it.*

*Since its election in 2013, the aid budget has been on an ever-diminishing trajectory. Over \$11 billion has been slashed from Australia's aid budget to date, including more than \$140 million in the most recent budget.*

*Currently, Overseas Development Assistance sits at 0.22 per cent of Gross National Income.*

*This is set to fall to 0.19 per cent in 2021-22. And forecasts indicate that by 2026-27 this figure will fall to just 0.16 per cent – the lowest on record. That's 16 cents in every \$100 of national income.*

*The Minister for Finance recently confirmed his government's cuts to Australia's international development program amount to \$80 billion over the medium term to 2028-29.*

*These cuts have not only had a very real impact on the people who benefit from investments in areas like health and education, they have damaged Australia's reputation as a reliable partner in the region, and lessened Australia's influence precisely at the same time our national interest compels us to engage more deeply.*

*This government's willingness to cut aid to this extent means that repairing Australia's international development program is beyond our collective reach in the short term.*

*Labor has consistently called for a return to a bipartisan approach to Australia's international development program - an approach that has broken down as a result of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's actions.*

*Half a century of bipartisanship has been cast aside.*

*Labor's approach to international development assistance*

*Labor's agenda of a Fair Go for All Australians reflects our values, as a party and a nation. Labor believes Australia can show humanity, decency and compassion to ensure a fair go for all – at home, on our doorstep, and abroad.*

*Australians are generous – in 2018, Australia ranked second in the World Giving Index, behind only Indonesia – a reflection of the willingness of Australians to help a stranger, donate to charity and volunteer.*

*Our international development program should once again reflect the generous spirit of the Australian people.*

*It is something we should be proud of.*

## LITTLEPROUD DOUBLES DOWN ON MINIMUM MILK FARM GATE PRICE - Fitzgibbon

In a media statement today Agriculture Minister David Littleproud doubled-down on his opposition to Labor's proposals to help to save Australia's dairy farmers.

Minister Littleproud has been too quick to desert farmers in support of vested interests who believe Labor's Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price will hit their bottom line. While David Littleproud continues to avoid dairy farmers on the ground, today I continued my consultations with dairy industry stakeholders.

In Lismore this week I met with the local cooperative Norco and in Kyogle I held another roundtable with local dairy farmers.

All stakeholders welcomed Labor's acknowledgement of the seriousness of the dairy crisis and our willingness to take meaningful action. Dairy farmers expressed broad support for the Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price together with an enthusiasm to remain involved in the consultation process.

Indeed Kyogle dairy farmer Paul Weir today said, "We have had market failure certainly for the last eight years and Government policy has put the dairy industry in the position it is in. I welcome Joel's comments today and look forward to the Government actually addressing it...these are very much welcome policies."

Further Minister Littleproud is wrong to claim that there is no industry leadership support for Labor's Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price.

Everywhere I travel farmers express their disappointment with the lack of support they are receiving from Liberal and National Members of Parliament.

Dairy farmers need help now and the ACCC would be well on its way to assessing Labor's Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price if Liberal and National MPs with dairy farmers in their electorates had supported my proposal in the Parliament three weeks ago. The fact is the Morrison Government has deserted our dairy farmers.

Caught in a cost-price squeeze compounded by drought, dairy farmers told me today that the clock is ticking for them and the rest of Australia's dairy industry but Minister Littleproud and his colleagues have abandoned them.

## ANOTHER WEEK PASSES STILL NO ANSWERS FOR FORESTRY INDUSTRY - Fitzgibbon

Another week has passed and the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Senator Colbeck is still sitting on his hands and has provided no further details to the forestry industry about the outcome of the internal review into the Carbon Farming Initiative Water Rule.



The continued refusal of the Morrison Government to provide details about the internal review will be disappointing to the forestry industry, however, sadly it will not surprise them.

The fact is the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison Government have only paid lip service to the forestry industry and is fooling no-one with their show and tell announcements with no substance.

**2013, September – Election of Abbott Government.**

**2014, October - Forestry Industry Advisory Council (FIAC) established.**

**2015, March - With great [fanfare, the launch](#) of the Government's forest industry issues paper: "Meeting future market demand: Australia's forest products and forest industry". The Parliamentary Secretary unveiled an issues paper at a dinner event.**

**2015, June – Submissions closed for the forest industry discussion paper.**

**2016, June – The discussion paper was released.**

**2017, September - Turnbull Government announces it will develop a "plan" for the Forestry Industry.**

**2018, September – Morrison Government releases its forestry plan; it's less than 20 pages with no real detail.**

**2019, February – Morrison Government announces; "Today in Tasmania's north-west forestry belt, we are sowing the seeds for the first of our Regional Forestry Hubs under the \$20 million National Forest Industries Plan."**

As of today not one cent has actually been spent and the industry continues to be kept in the dark as to where and how the money will actually be allocated.

A Shorten Labor Government is committed to holding a summit for the forestry sector to inform the development of a comprehensive forestry strategic plan and in a bipartisan manner, will consider the work undertaken so far. This commitment has been [supported](#) by the Australian Forest Products Association.

Labor's forestry plan will seek to adequately promote sustainable profitability, local downstream processing and good local jobs. It will be developed by government, industry, employers and trade unions.

# National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced  
institutional child sexual abuse

## LATEST NEWS

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

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

### Institution update

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

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

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

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

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

### Institutions who have not yet joined the National Redress Scheme

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

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

### Applications relating to institutions not yet joined the Scheme

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

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

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

### Update to Redress Support Services

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

Cape York Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association

Survivors and Mates Support Network (SAMSN)

Blue Knot Foundation.

### Where do I get support?

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

Those who need immediate emotional support can contact:

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

### Find out more

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



## Sign up to join the Stop TAFE Cuts campaign.

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

[READ THE TAFE MANIFESTO](#)

## HAVE YOUR SAY ...

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

**#EveryStoryMatters**

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

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

Are currently living in hospital or rehab?

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

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

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

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

We can help you tell your story

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

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

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

### QUEENSLAND ROYAL COMMISSION HEARINGS

Toowoomba: 2 April

Brisbane: 3 April

Cairns: 5 April

A large banner with the text "DONATE NOW TO HELP" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the text are five organization logos with their names and donation links. The background of the banner shows a blurred image of a flooded area with houses and trees.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
[REDCROSS.ORG.AU/DISASTER](http://REDCROSS.ORG.AU/DISASTER)

THE SALVATION ARMY  
13 SALVOS (13 72 58)  
[SALVOS.ORG.AU](http://SALVOS.ORG.AU) (SELECT 'DISASTER RELIEF')

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND  
(07) 3010 1002  
[VINNIES.ORG.AU/DONATE](http://VINNIES.ORG.AU/DONATE)

UNITINGCARE COMMUNITY  
1800 001 953  
[UCCOMMUNITY.ORG.AU/DISASTER-RELIEF](http://UCCOMMUNITY.ORG.AU/DISASTER-RELIEF)

**GIVIT** [WWW.GIVIT.ORG.AU](http://WWW.GIVIT.ORG.AU)

MAKES SENSE.

# Cent Auction Fundraiser.



Be Uplifted Inc

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

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

Burnie Brae Hall  
60 Kuran Street, Chermside  
4032

It's on again! Be Uplifted Inc is  
hosting our fun and very  
successful Cent Auction  
fundraiser.

**ORGANISER** Kim 0422 072 068

**TICKETS** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cent-auction-fundraiser-tickets-559510521032> 068



ABN 49 270 645 534

# Current Senate Inquiries

## Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Social Security \(Administration\) Amendment \(Income Management and Cashless Welfare\) Bill 2019](#)
- **Community Affairs References Committee**
- [ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout](#)
- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practised](#)

## Economics Legislation Committee

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

## Economics References Committee

- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)

## Education and Employment Legislation Committee

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

## Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- [Environment Legislation Amendment \(Protecting Dugongs and Turtles\) Bill 2019](#)
- [Water Amendment \(Purchase Limit Repeal\) Bill 2019](#)
- **Environment and Communications References Committee**
- [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

## Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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

## Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

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

## Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

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

## Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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

## Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

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

## Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power

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

## Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances

- [Parliamentary Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation](#)