

Sticking to Our Plan

Backing Hard-working Australians

A progress report on the Coalition's Plan
to build a strong, prosperous economy
and a safe, secure Australia

September 2015

Delivering on our Plan



Jobs growth over the past year has been stronger than every G7 nation.



Reducing Labor's Budget deficit from \$48 billion in 2013-14 to \$7 billion in five years. This represents a reduction in the Budget deficit by 0.5% of GDP every year.



335,000 additional jobs have been created since the last election.



163,000 new jobs created so far in 2015 – more than 23,000 new jobs on average per month.



Female workforce participation at record levels – over 171,000 more women are in jobs than at the time of the 2013 election.



Bankruptcies at the lowest level in 20 years.



Environmental approval given to 176 projects valued at more than \$1 trillion.



A record 223,013 new companies registered in 2014.



A \$50 billion infrastructure programme to improve road and rail links, reduce travel times and support economic growth.



Tax cuts for small business – taking the rate to the lowest since 1967.



Funding for local hospitals up 25% over the next four years.



Funding for schools up 28% over the next four years.



Labor's Carbon Tax abolished – delivering savings for average households of around \$550 a year.



Labor's Mining Tax abolished – improving the competitiveness and certainty for this key job creating and export industry.



New Child Care subsidies – working families with incomes between \$65,000 and \$170,000 will be around \$30 per week better off.



The NBN on track to deliver high-speed broadband to all Australian homes and businesses by 2020.



Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption underway.



The Medical Research Future Fund created.



Labor's Bank Deposit Tax dumped, to protect the savings of hard-working Australians.



White Paper on Northern Australia released – a comprehensive plan to unleash the economic potential of the region.



Livestock export markets opened with Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Cambodia, Thailand, Lebanon and China.



Illegal boat arrivals stopped, 13 detention centres closed, deaths at sea stopped and integrity of our borders restored.



Established the Australian Border Force with 5,500 officers, including 1,400 at our airports.



An \$89 billion boost to Australian naval capability over the next 20 years.



Free Trade Agreements signed with Korea, Japan and China.



Establishing five Growth Centres that bring together industry, research, trade and science to help grow businesses.



New counter-terrorism units at all international airports.



More resources for our security and law enforcement agencies to better track and disrupt terrorists and new counter-terrorism laws.



A National Ice Taskforce established to tackle the growing scourge of the drug 'Ice'.



Working with the States and Territories to implement a National Domestic Violence Order Scheme.



Home care places increased from the current 73,000 to 100,000 by 2017-18.



Half yearly pension rises at the highest available indexation rate.



Green Army launched for more than 350 local environmental projects.



A comprehensive Reef 2050 Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.



Mobile Black Spot Programme delivering almost 500 new or upgraded mobile base stations.



A \$333 million drought support package to help our farming communities.



Agreement reached with the States to implement the Murray Darling Basin Plan.



Introducing the New Colombo Plan. By the end of 2016, 10,000 Australians will represent our country under the Plan.



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Our Plan to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia is making significant progress following six years of failure under Labor.

Despite international uncertainty and volatility, our focus is jobs, growth and community safety.

Our Plan is about strengthening all parts of a diversified economy: helping our services, manufacturing, education, agriculture and mining sectors invest, compete, export and grow.

By sticking to our Plan, over 335,000 additional jobs have been created since the last election.

We are backing families – with lower power bills, more jobs, affordable child care and certainty in superannuation.

We are backing small business – with the lowest small business tax rate in half a century, new instant asset write-offs, new export agreements with key markets and by cutting over \$2 billion in red tape so far.

We are backing communities – with the Green Army repairing the local environment, record funding for local hospitals and schools, and by protecting local communities from the scourge of Ice.

We are backing a stronger Australia – by protecting our borders, new laws to combat foreign fighters and terrorists, more funding for law enforcement and by rebuilding our Defence capabilities.

We are delivering: the Carbon Tax is gone, as is the Mining Tax, the boats have stopped, the NBN is rolling out and a record \$50 billion infrastructure programme is underway.

We've achieved all this, while at the same time making \$50 billion in repairs to the Budget – in coming years the Budget deficit comes down by about half a percentage point of GDP each year.

Our Plan is about backing hard-working Australians with policies that help the economy grow and build prosperity for all, while keeping our country safe.

As you will see in this document, we have achieved much in the past two years – and it's just the start.

Over the next 12 months, we will lay out our Plan for a second term to the Australian people.

Australians can be confident that the Coalition will stick to the Plan that rewards hard work, creates jobs, backs families and small businesses, strengthens the economy and keeps our country safe and secure.

Tony Abbott

Our Plan Backs Hard-working Australians

Backing Australia's Future

Through careful Budget management to put the nation's finances on a credible pathway to surplus, in order to reduce Labor's debt legacy.

Backing Small Businesses to Create Jobs

Through tax cuts and instant asset write-offs, cutting red tape, removing the Carbon Tax and measures to help small businesses hire staff.

Backing Families

Through lower power prices by removing the Carbon Tax, more affordable child care, record funding to support local hospitals and schools, investment in better roads, fixing the NBN and a stronger economy with more jobs.

Backing Seniors

By providing certainty for superannuants, fighting Labor's plan to increase superannuation taxes, continuing to increase pensions at the highest available indexation rate, record health funding, better aged care and lower power prices.

Backing Homebuyers

With the lowest interest rates in four decades, by tackling debt and deficit to ensure interest rates stay low and by enforcing the rules for foreign investment in real estate.

Backing Farmers

With new tax write-offs for fencing, water infrastructure and fodder storage, small business tax cuts, trade deals to boost exports and drought relief for affected communities.

Backing Business to Grow

By expanding tax concessions for employee share schemes, providing financial support for entrepreneurs, supporting collaboration between researchers and industry, greater tax incentives to help businesses innovate and invest in R&D and capitalising on our strengths through Industry Growth Centres.

Backing Consumers

Through lower power prices and opposing Labor's plan for a new Carbon Tax, lower prices for some imported goods through new trade agreements and new country of origin food labelling.

Backing Australians Having a Go

By removing red tape, cutting the time for environmental approval for major projects and taking a stand against sabotage of major projects (and jobs) through "lawfare".



Backing Exporters

With new trade deals with Korea, Japan and China, which independent analysis shows will deliver an additional \$24 billion in income – and many thousands of jobs for Australians as the economy transitions over the next 20 years.

Backing Job Seekers

With a new jobactive network to help jobseekers and targeted initiatives to reward businesses that give eligible young and mature job seekers a go.

Backing Our Troops

By rebuilding Australia's Defence capability after it was gutted by Labor, providing a more flexible ADF Super Scheme and providing free health care for ADF families.

Backing our Security and Law Enforcement Agencies

Through a \$1.3 billion funding boost and by passing tough new counter terrorism laws.

Backing Australia's Way of Life

By making it clear that citizenship is a privilege and a responsibility – terrorists with dual nationality will be stripped of their Australian citizenship.

Backing the Environment

Through the Green Army, where some 3,000 young Australians are working on more than 350 local environmental projects, and by the Government putting in place the Great Barrier Reef Sustainability Plan.

Backing Law Abiding Citizens

By redirecting confiscated crime proceeds to fighting crime, tackling the scourge of Ice and introducing legislation for minimum 5 year sentences for illegal gun trafficking.

Backing Local Communities

By supporting local projects and infrastructure through the National Stronger Regions Fund, the Community Development Grants Programme, the Stronger Communities Programme and establishing the National Ice Taskforce to tackle the scourge of Ice.

Backing Northern Australia

Through the Northern Australia White Paper with an action plan for sustainable development, better roads and new water infrastructure for Northern Australia.

OUR PLAN

A Stronger Economy with More Jobs

Responsible Budget Management

We are building a strong and prosperous economy for a safe and secure Australia. Our long-term economic plan to reduce the overall tax burden, cut business red tape and deliver sensible savings will grow the economy and create more jobs.

Despite global headwinds – including a halving of the price for our iron-ore exports – the Abbott Government is reducing Labor's Budget deficit from \$48 billion in 2013-14 to \$7 billion in five years.

This represents a reduction in the Budget deficit by 0.5% of GDP every year.

Gross debt is on track in a decade to be \$110 billion lower than it would have been under Labor.

Tax Cuts for Small Business

The 2015 Budget included tax cuts for all small businesses with less than \$2 million annual turnover:

- 1.5 percentage point tax cut for incorporated small businesses;
- A 5% tax discount (up to \$1,000 a year) for unincorporated small businesses;
- Immediate tax deductions for every asset purchased up to \$20,000 (each); and
- Immediate deduction of professional fees for start-ups.

Carbon Tax Abolished

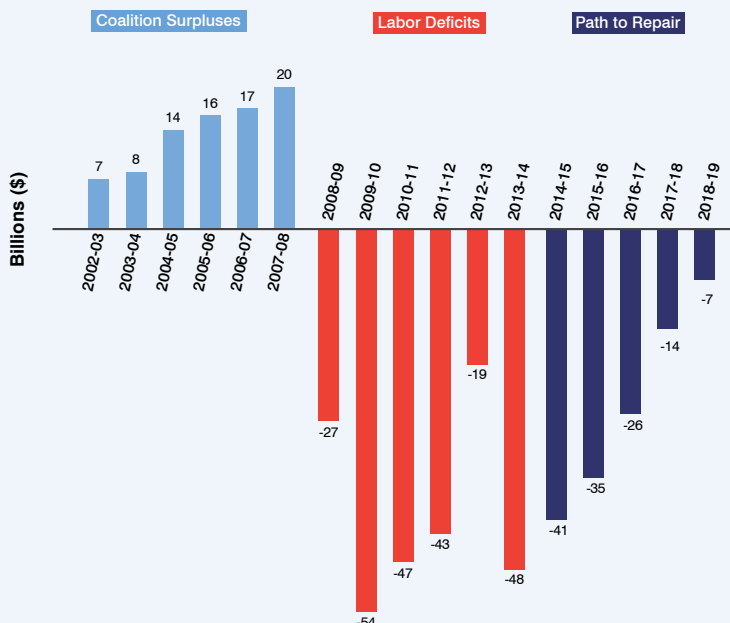
The world's biggest Carbon Tax has been abolished. This has been important in reducing cost of living pressures on families and protecting jobs. It removed a \$9 billion a year hit to our economy and led to the largest cut in retail electricity prices on record.

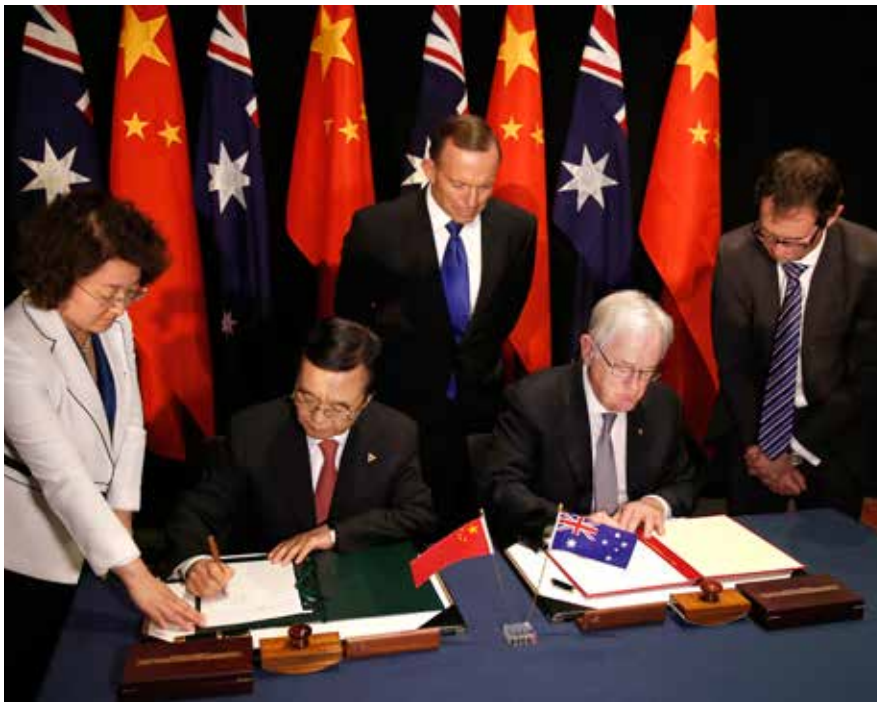
The ACCC recently confirmed a saving for average households of around \$550 per year – including direct savings (ranging from \$153 to \$269 per year) on electricity and gas bills, plus other savings due to the flow on cost savings in areas such as council rates and charges, food manufacturing, water charges and transport.

Removing the Carbon Tax is making Australia's major industries more competitive and reduces costs for Australian businesses, particularly manufacturers and exporters.

Repairing Labor's Budget Mess

Source: Budget Papers





Boosting Export Opportunities

With the specific aim of boosting future exports and jobs, new trade agreements have been signed with three of Australia's largest trading partners – Korea, Japan and China.

Independent economic analysis shows the new agreements with China, Japan and Korea will deliver \$24 billion in extra income to Australians over 20 years and create thousands of new Australian jobs.

The new trade agreements will also lower prices of some goods such as vehicles, electronics, clothes and household appliances.

“ChAFTA [the China Australia Free Trade Agreement] will take investment into Australia to another level, making our economy stronger and creating more jobs for Australians long into the future.”

Jennifer Westacott, Chief Executive, Business Council of Australia



Courier Mail, 27/4/2015

Australia – Open for Business

The Abbott Government worked to clear the backlog of stalled projects under Labor, giving environmental approvals for 176 projects worth over \$1 trillion.

Agreements have been signed with all States and Territories for a one stop shop for environmental assessments and approvals.

The Government is removing uncertainty for investors by preventing activists from waging “lawfare” to sabotage major projects by repealing section 487 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This will help projects like Adani's Carmichael coal mine, which offers up to 10,000 new jobs, \$16.5 billion of investment in Australia and an expected \$22 billion in royalties and taxes, avoid being derailed in the courts, even after it has gone through a rigorous process of environmental approval.

Mining Tax Abolished

Labor's Mining Tax has been abolished, improving the competitiveness and certainty for this key job creating and export industry. It also saves the Budget around \$50 billion over the next decade, by removing expenditure attached to a tax that wasn't raising revenue.



Reducing Red Tape

The Coalition has already cut around 11,000 pieces of regulation and legislation that will reduce paperwork costs by around \$2.4 billion.

For the first time, two days of Parliament each year are being dedicated to removing government red tape.



Tackling Union Corruption

The Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption is underway. It is already casting a light on corruption and dodgy deals, with 9 unions involved in alleged illegal activities or corruption and around 30 individuals already referred to 11 separate agencies for further investigation (with four arrests to date).

To ensure the rule of law is restored in the building industry, we will continue to seek Parliament's approval of our legislation to reintroduce the Australian Building and Construction Commission.

More Choice for Working Parents

Our Plan is about offering more choice for families.

That's why our 2015 Budget measures will help more families – especially low and middle income families – get into work and stay in work, by making child care more affordable.

The new Child Care Subsidy will mean working families with incomes between \$65,000 and \$170,000 will be around \$30 per week better off.

It is estimated the new child care measures will encourage more than 240,000 families to increase their involvement in the workforce, including almost 38,000 jobless families.



Australia's Largest Infrastructure Investment

As part of our Plan to grow the economy, create more jobs and ease the pressure on families the Government is making the largest infrastructure investment in Australia's history – \$50 billion to improve road and rail links, reduce travel times and support economic growth.

Through an asset recycling initiative, States are also offered substantial financial incentives to sell assets and reinvest the proceeds into new productive infrastructure, including urban rail.

Together with State Government and private investment, the Government's Infrastructure Growth Package will drive over \$125 billion of new infrastructure.

After five decades of talk, the Government has approved a second airport for Sydney to be located at Badgerys Creek.

The Roads to Recovery funding for local roads has been increased by 83%, to \$3.2 billion over the next four years and \$500 million has been allocated to fix road black spots, along with \$300 million for the Bridges Renewal Programme.

The Coalition's commitment to the Inland Rail project will transform freight movements through Victoria, NSW and South East Queensland and stimulate growth and prosperity in these regions.





Summary of Major Infrastructure Investments

NEW SOUTH WALES

WestConnex

- Linking Western Sydney to the city, airport and ports, with up to 52 traffic lights gone and 40 minutes saved. Stage 2 construction has commenced (18 months ahead of schedule).
- 10,000 construction jobs.

Western Sydney Airport and Road Infrastructure

- Supporting Sydney's second airport, by building vital road infrastructure first.
- 39,000 jobs created by 2035 increasing to 60,000 over time.

NorthConnex

- Connecting the Central Coast to Sydney, avoiding up to 40 traffic lights on the Pacific Highway and 21 on Pennant Hills Road.
- 8,700 jobs.

Pacific Highway

- Four lane divided road from near Newcastle to Queensland, with crashes reduced and travel times cut by up to 2.5 hours.
- 16,500 direct and indirect jobs.

QUEENSLAND

Bruce Highway

- Upgrades to improve safety, congestion and flood immunity, reducing travel times for motorists and freight – including a range of safety packages and overtaking lane projects, the duplication of the Boundary Road interchange and the upgrade at Yellow Gin Creek south of Ayr.

Gateway Motorway North

- Widening from 4 to 6 lanes, improving access and better connecting the Bruce Highway, Northern Brisbane and the Port of Brisbane.
- 1,000 jobs.

Toowoomba Range Crossing

- Cutting travel times and removing traffic from Toowoomba Town Centre.

VICTORIA

East West Link

- While the State Labor Government has wasted \$640 million by cancelling the contract for the East West Link, \$3 billion of Commonwealth Government money remains on the table for the next state government which is willing to build an East West Link.

Regional Rail Link

- Removing major bottlenecks in Victoria's rail network.

Princes Highway West

- Duplication to help bring regional communities together and link key industries to markets.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Gateway

- Reducing congestion around the Perth Airport and surrounding areas.
- 1,000 jobs.

Northlink WA

- A new 40km highway to improve freight and save travel times through the Swan Valley.

Perth Freight Link

- Providing a direct, free flowing connection to the Port of Fremantle.
- 2,400 jobs.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

North South Corridor

- Better connect Adelaide's port, airport and freight terminals.
- 850 jobs.

TASMANIA

Midland Highway Upgrade

- Upgrade between Hobart and Launceston, to improve safety and freight delivery.
- Approximately 200 jobs in initial works – more over the course of the project.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Tiger Brennan Drive

- Duplication to improve safety and congestion.
- 120 direct jobs, 30 for Indigenous people.

Investing in Skills and Research

We are investing up to \$200 million a year to recruit, train and retain more than 300,000 apprentices and trainees a year in more than 420 locations.

The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network is the biggest reform to apprenticeship support in more than two decades, designed to lift apprenticeship completion rates, which were less than 50% under Labor.

The P-TECH pilot schools initiative offers secondary students an industry supported pathway in science, technology and maths (STEM).

Trade Support Loans of up to \$20,000 are helping apprentices with the costs of living and tools while undertaking an apprenticeship. Financial incentives are being paid to around 80,000 employers of apprentices each year.

For the first time also, the Government is seeking to provide support for all sub-bachelor qualifications, which would mean 80,000 more Australians would get government support by 2018.

The Coalition Government is maximising our \$9.7 billion investment in science and research, including through our Boosting Commercial Returns from Research Strategy.

The \$225 million Industry Growth Centre Initiative will concentrate research and investment in areas where Australia has a competitive advantage.



A Sustainable Higher Education System

The Coalition will provide around \$37 billion to higher education institutions over the next four years.

Our approach is to expand opportunities for students – especially disadvantaged students – and ensure the financial sustainability of the higher education system so that universities can continue to provide world class quality teaching, research and learning in the decades to come.

Encouraging Job Seekers

To help more job seekers move from welfare to work, a new **jobactive** network has been established. A network of 66 private and community organisations in 1,700 locations is matching the right job seekers to the right jobs, co-ordinating work for the dole, supporting job seekers who want to start their own business and helping horticultural growers find seasonal workers.

In addition, we are helping small businesses and job seekers through:

- **Restart** – payments of up to \$10,000 for businesses to hire mature long term job seekers;
- **Job Commitment Bonus** – to encourage young, long-term unemployed to find and keep jobs;
- **Relocation Assistance** (to help job seekers move to take up jobs); and
- **National Work Experience** for small businesses – four weeks work experience for eligible job seekers, followed by a wage subsidy if the small business takes them on.



Fixing the National Broadband Network

The Coalition has put the NBN back on track to deliver high-speed broadband to all Australian homes and businesses by 2020.

In September 2013, fewer than two per cent of premises could obtain a service on the NBN. About one in ten Australians can currently get the NBN and by June 2018 about 75 per cent of Australians will have access to high-speed broadband over the network.

The improvement in NBN rollout is so significant that the NBN recently announced it would employ another 4,500 people – doubling its workforce.

Earlier this year **nbn**, the company rolling out the network, launched commercial fibre-to-the-basement (FTTB) products, following a pilot programme showing superfast speeds can be delivered. This technology allows **nbn** to deploy superfast broadband sooner and at less cost to homes and businesses in apartments or office blocks.

Jobs in our Regions

The \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund is promoting economic development in many communities through investment in small-scale infrastructure projects.

To assist the Victorian and South Australian economies that are undergoing transition, the \$155 million Growth Fund is helping generate new jobs of the future in those states.

Developing Australia's North

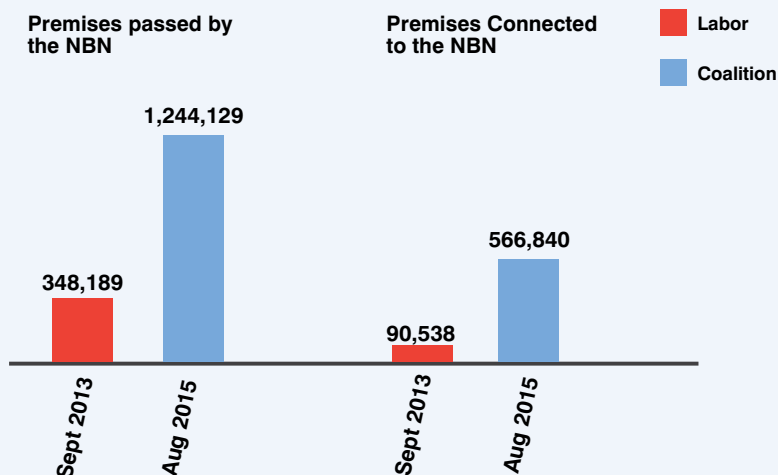
The Coalition Government's White Paper on Northern Australia provides a comprehensive plan to unleash the economic potential of the region.

The plan provides \$200 million from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund for the north including feasibility studies of Nullinga Dam and the Ord Stage 3 development as well as water resource assessments across the north.

The White Paper also delivers \$600 million in additional funds to improve infrastructure, on top of new initiatives such as the \$100 million Beef Roads Fund to help producers get their livestock to market.

The \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility will provide for concessional loans to build the infrastructure needed to further open Australia's northern frontier.

Fixing the NBN



Developing the north will pay a global dividend

Weekend Australian, 4/10/2014



Boosting Australian Agriculture

The new trade agreements will particularly benefit Australian agriculture. According to the National Farmers' Federation, the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement is a "game changer" that would, once passed by Parliament, make a \$300 million difference to Australian farmers next year alone.

The 2015 Budget included measures to help farmers, including immediate tax write-offs for new fencing and water infrastructure and a write-off over three years for fodder storage.

The recently launched \$4 billion Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper will be an investment in Australia's farmers and competitiveness. It includes significant investments in: water infrastructure, biosecurity, research and development, drought relief and helping Australian farmers capitalise on trade opportunities.

The Coalition Government has opened the livestock export trade to seven vital markets in Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Cambodia, Thailand, Lebanon and China. The Government has also helped to restore trade with Indonesia after Labor's knee-jerk ban.

A \$203 million boost to the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme will help Tasmanian producers and boost jobs. The Coalition has also committed \$60 million to Tasmanian Irrigation's Tranche Two schemes, which will boost Tasmanian agriculture and create 150 jobs.

Fairer Rules with Greater Enforcement

The Coalition is ensuring greater transparency – and therefore confidence – in the system of foreign investment, with a reduced screening threshold for agricultural land of \$15 million (down from \$252 million) and a new foreign ownership land register.

We're enforcing the rules on foreign investment in real estate, with a new enforcement team in the ATO, tougher penalties for illegal purchases and a new fee to help pay for better enforcement. This helps ensure any foreign investment in real estate is directed to building new homes, not competing with Australian buyers for existing ones.

Australia's first Food and Grocery Code of Conduct is supporting small business suppliers, with an obligation for retailers to act in good faith with suppliers and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Better Country of Origin labelling is being introduced, so Australians know more about where their food is grown, made or packaged.

We are protecting people's savings, by restoring from 3 years to 7 years the period of time bank accounts can be inactive before money is transferred to the Government. In 2012-13, \$550 million was raided from 156,000 accounts after Bill Shorten reduced this inactive period to just 3 years.

Through our leadership of the G20, Australia has been taking the lead on global action to crack down on tax avoidance by multinationals. A new Multinational Anti-Avoidance Law will, from 1 January 2016, ensure that when Australian customers deal with an Australian subsidiary, those Australian sales will be taxed in Australia. Multinationals will also be subject to a double penalty regime for tax avoidance.

To ensure foreign companies are subject to the same GST as Australian businesses, from 1 July 2017 GST will be charged on digital goods and services (like Netflix) provided to Australians by companies headquartered outside the country.



Investing in Medical Research

Australia's standing as a global leader in medical research will be strengthened through the Medical Research Future Fund. Starting with an initial contribution of \$1 billion, it will grow until it eventually provides around \$1 billion per annum in additional research funds.



More Confidence and Jobs – Our Plan Is Working.

(As at August 2015)

Australia is facing economic challenges:

- The global economic recovery has been slower than expected and financial markets have been volatile.
- Uncertainty around China's growth particularly affects Australia, especially our mining sector (the iron-ore price has halved since last year).
- Large parts of Queensland and New South Wales remain in drought.

Notwithstanding, steps taken by the Abbott Government have helped boost resilience, confidence and jobs.

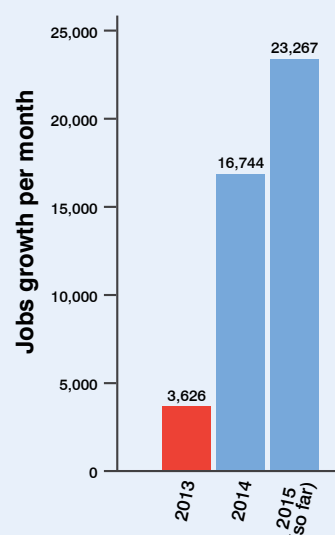
More Jobs

- Since the Abbott Government came to office, over 335,000 new jobs have been created.
- This year alone, over 163,000 new jobs created so far.
- The number of jobs created per month has increased markedly – from an average of just 3,600 per month in Labor's last year (2013), to 16,700 per month in 2014 to 23,200 per month so far this year.
- Annual jobs growth is running at the fastest rate in over four years. Australia's jobs growth over the past year has been stronger than the US, UK, Canada – or any G7 country.
- The job participation rate is up, which means more people are entering the job market.
- Over 171,000 more Australian women are in jobs since the 2013 election and female workforce participation is now at record levels.

More Confidence

- In 2014, there were 223,000 new companies registered in Australia – an increase of 10.2% from 2013 and the highest number since records started.
- According to the Australian Financial Security Authority, bankruptcies have fallen to their lowest level in 20 years.

Jobs Growth (Monthly)



OUR PLAN

A Safer Nation and Safer Communities

Stopping the Boats

The Coalition has stopped illegal boat arrivals as we promised to do.

Since boat turn-backs began under Operation Sovereign Borders in December 2013 only one illegal entry vessel has arrived in Australia – in July last year – with the 157 illegal maritime arrivals on board transferred to Nauru.

Importantly, since December 2013 there have been no lives lost at sea, in stark contrast to the Labor years when 1,200 people died on perilous journeys in unsafe boats.

The Abbott Government will never allow a return to the days under Labor when more than 800 boats carrying a human wave of 50,000 illegal maritime arrivals flooded into Australia.

The same cannot be said for Labor. After years of failure under Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard, Labor remains deeply divided on border protection despite its attempt to conceal this division by adopting an “option” to turn-back boats.

Mr Shorten will never be able to act because his Deputy Tanya Plibersek, Senate Leader Penny Wong and other senior frontbenchers remain fundamentally opposed to tough action against people smugglers.

A New Border Force

On July 1 2015, the new Australian Border Force commenced, with 5,500 officers (including approximately 1,400 at our airports), 11 vessels, 12 aircraft and a budget of over \$900 million a year.

This new single agency is dedicated to strengthening our borders and dealing with the threats from terrorism and transnational crime.

Tackling Terrorism

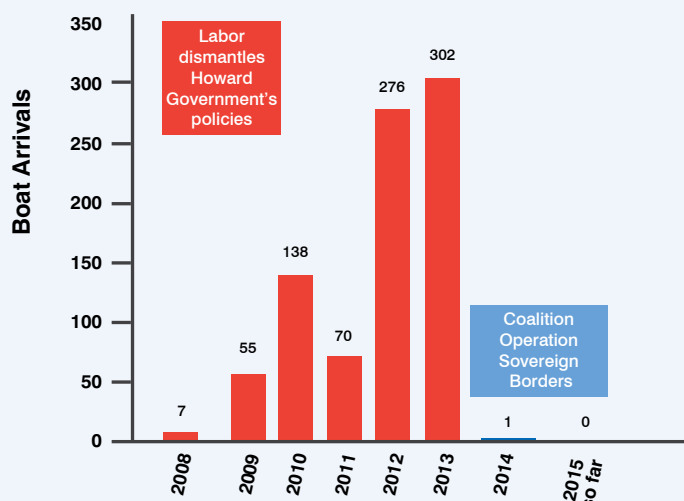
We have provided our intelligence and security agencies with more resources (\$1.3 billion extra funding) and new, modernised powers to act, so they can better track and disrupt those who would seek to harm the Australian community.

The number of high-risk terrorist threats being monitored in Australia has doubled (to around 400) in the last year.

New Counter-Terrorism Units now operate at all eight major international airports and 92 additional biometric screening gates are being fast tracked.

The Citizenship Act is being updated, so terrorists who hold dual nationality will lose their Australian citizenship.

Illegal Boat Arrivals



Metadata is the basic building block in nearly every counter-terrorism, counter-espionage and organised crime investigation. The Coalition's data retention legislation will ensure our security and law enforcement agencies will continue to have access to the information they need to do their jobs. At the same time, the legislation provides safeguards to protect our rights and liberties, including additional oversight mechanisms covering the security and law enforcement agencies.

New legislation is helping agencies to monitor, investigate, arrest and prosecute returning foreign fighters. Additional legislation allows for the cancellation of welfare payments on security grounds.

Australia has contributed combat and other aircraft, plus 300 ADF personnel to a combined Task Group to train Iraqi forces, as part of an international effort to degrade and defeat ISIL.

The Government is working with our communities to counter extremist lies and propaganda and we are cracking down on preachers of hate.



A Stronger Defence Force

We are committed to restoring Defence funding to 2% of GDP within a decade.

This path for growth reverses the damage from Labor, which cut the Defence Budget by \$16 billion to 1.56% of GDP - the lowest level since 1938.

A new Defence White Paper will be released later this year. Already, over the past two years, the Government has committed to:

- Another 58 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft;
 - A redevelopment of the RAAF fighter base at Williamtown (where the JSF will be based) and HMAS Stirling in Western Australia;
 - Two additional C-17A Globemaster heavy lift aircraft;
 - New generation body armour and other protective equipment for our soldiers;
 - State of the art Special Forces vehicles, assembled in Australia;
 - P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft; and
 - Triton Unmanned surveillance aircraft.
- More generous indexation for Defence Forces Retirement Benefits scheme (DFRB) and Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits scheme (DFRDB);
 - From July next year, a new fully funded and more flexible *ADF Super Scheme* will financially benefit the 80 per cent of ADF members who serve less than 15 years;
 - Providing free basic health care for all ADF family members; and
 - Re-starting the ADF Gap Year Programme.

We have brought forward by three years the build of the Future Frigates in South Australia and brought forward the build of Offshore Patrol Vessels by two years. In total, the Coalition Government has committed to an \$89 billion boost to Australian naval capability over the next 20 years.

By putting Australian shipbuilding on a "continuous build" basis for the first time, the Government has moved decisively to give certainty to Australia's naval shipbuilding industry, the Navy and shipbuilding workers.

This follows six years of inaction by Labor which failed to commission one single naval vessel from an Australian shipyard and created the current shipbuilding 'valley of death'.

The Government is also delivering for Defence personnel – past, present and future, through:



Representing Australia's Interests

This year 3,200 scholarships and grants are being awarded to students to study in our region as part of the New Colombo Plan. By the end of 2016, 10,000 Australians will represent our country under the Plan.

Our diplomatic efforts overseas have helped secure outcomes such as:

- Free Trade Agreements with Korea, Japan and China; and
- A prompt, unequivocal UN Security Council Resolution in response to the downing of Flight MH-17.

Australia's overseas aid is now sustainable and oriented to economic development and poverty reduction in our region. As an example of Australia's focus on assisting our neighbours, around 500 ADF personnel were immediately dispatched to Vanuatu in March to help the recovery effort following Cyclone Pam.

Fighting Crime

The Government is ensuring the confiscated **proceeds of crime are used to fight crime**.

Previously, Labor locked this money in the Confiscated Assets Account in order to boost its Budget bottom line.

We have introduced legislation for **minimum 5 year sentences for illegal gun trafficking**. Regrettably, Labor is blocking it.



Combatting the Ice Scourge

The Government has established a National Ice Taskforce to help tackle the growing scourge of the drug Ice. The taskforce will develop a National Ice Action Strategy to tackle this scourge head on through law enforcement, education and rehabilitation.

The Prime Minister also recently announced the establishment of a national Ice hotline for people to do in drug dealers and the locations of drug labs across the country.

We have strengthened the crime-fighting capabilities of the Australian Crime Commission with additional resources – funded from confiscated proceeds of crime. These additional resources will contribute to:

- Establishing a new National Criminal Intelligence System;
- Deploying transactional crime analysts to organised crime and drug importation hotspots; and
- Undermining the business models of transnational criminal syndicates that are profiting from the illegal Ice trade.

We have passed legislation to crackdown on middle-men and drug couriers bringing precursors into the country to make Ice. We have also changed legislation to manage the proliferation of dangerous synthetic drugs at our borders.

As well, we are working with the States and Territories to strengthen our capacity to take action against criminals with unexplained wealth.



The Australian, 8/4/2015

Tackling Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a national priority and the Government has allocated \$100 million over four years to support actions that will reduce violence against women and children.



West Australian, 29/1/2015

OUR PLAN

Stronger Communities

Supporting Families

In addition to the household savings from abolishing the Carbon Tax, the Abbott Government is making a \$3.5 billion investment to provide greater choices to 1.2 million families with young children to help reduce cost of living pressures.

- A new Child Care Subsidy will mean working families with incomes between \$65,000 and \$170,000 will be around \$30 per week better off. And we're removing the \$7,500 cap for families earning less than \$185,000.
- Working families earning less than \$65,000 will get an 85% subsidy on child care fees (up to an hourly cap). A Child Care Safety Net will help those earning less than \$65,000 that don't meet the activity test.
- A home based Nannies Pilot Programme will help people like shift workers access child care.

To protect children from diseases, the new "no jab, no pay" rule will remove access to child care payments and the FTB A end of year supplement for parents who don't vaccinate their children.

The Coalition will continue to fight Labor's plan to reintroduce a Carbon Tax, which would put more pressure on family budgets. The removal of their last Carbon Tax is saving average households around \$550 per year.



Funding for local hospitals and schools has been increased to record levels.

To help ease congestion, so families can spend less time in traffic, the Abbott Government is undertaking the biggest investment in road infrastructure in Australia's history.

Most important, we are helping Australian families through our Plan for a stronger economy, with more jobs.

Security for Seniors

Providing security and certainty to Australians in retirement is at the heart of the Coalition's Plan.

Since the Government was elected in 2013, there have been four pension increases, which have increased full pensions by \$51.80 per fortnight for singles and \$78 per fortnight for couples.

Pensions will continue to increase – at the highest available indexation rate.

From January 2017, 170,000 pensioners with modest assets will have their pensions increased by an average of \$30 per fortnight. For 90% of pensioners, there will be no change in pension arrangements, or higher pensions.

Older Australians now have lower bills following the abolition of the Carbon Tax, but still keep their Energy Supplement.

We are reforming aged care to ensure more funding is allocated to customers based on their needs. Recognising that most people want to live in their own home for as long as they can, the number of home care places is being increased from 73,000 to 100,000 in 2017-18.

The Coalition will continue to fight Labor's plans to increase taxes on superannuation.

**A \$30
pension
boost**

Herald Sun, 17/6/2015



Action on the Environment

Through its Emissions Reduction Fund, the Coalition Government is reducing greenhouse gas emissions far more effectively and at a fraction of the cost of Labor's Carbon Tax.

From the Fund's first auction, it has already secured the reduction of 47 million tonnes for \$660 million – four times the 12 million tonnes reduced under Labor's Carbon Tax, which slugged Australians \$15.4 billion.

Australia is meeting its emissions reduction targets and has set a responsible target of 26-28% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030.

The Government is delivering \$140 million to a new Reef Trust as part of a comprehensive Reef 2050 Plan. Recognising Australia's strong action to protect the Great Barrier Reef, the UN World Heritage Committee rejected the proposed "in danger" listing and praised Australia's efforts.

The Green Army has been launched, with over 350 practical local environmental projects being tackled by more than 3,000 young people already involved.

\$1 billion is being invested through the National Landcare Programme. This includes a programme to plant 20 million trees by 2020.

Sustainable, World Class Healthcare

The Government is increasing funding to local hospitals by \$3.8 billion (25% increase) over the next four years.

Australia's standing as a global leader in medical research will be strengthened through the Medical Research Future Fund which starts with an initial contribution of \$1 billion, and will grow until it eventually provides around \$1 billion per annum in additional research funds.

We have restored the independence of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and listed more than 740 new and amended drugs on the PBS since September 2013. This compares to 331 in Labor's last term in office.

To take one example, the PBS listing of the melanoma drug Keytruda will now make this \$150,000 drug affordable to the 1,100 Australians who desperately need it.

To help promote a lifelong interest in sport and fitness, the \$100 million Sporting Schools Initiative will help the Australian Sports Commission – in conjunction with 30 national sporting organisations – make free sport available to children before, during and after

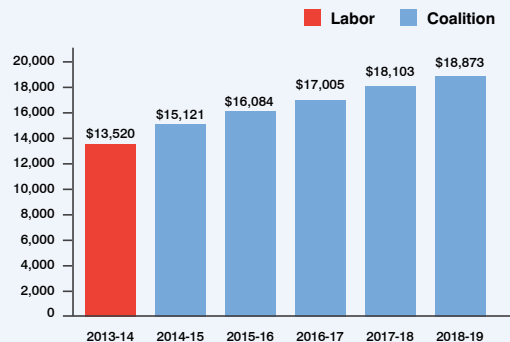
school hours.

To help tackle bowel cancer, the Government has committed an additional \$95.9 million to ensure Australians aged 50 to 74 receive a free, at home bowel cancer screening kit every two years by 2020. This has the potential to save up to 500 lives each year.

We are also developing a **National Diabetes Strategy** that will guide national action to prevent diabetes and support Australians living with diabetes. This is on top of \$35 million provided to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Clinical Research Network to help find a cure for juvenile diabetes.

The NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research is being established as the cornerstone of our \$200 million commitment to boosting research into dementia.

Funding for Hospitals



Students First in School Education

Funding to schools will increase by \$4.1 billion (28% increase) over the next four years.

A Students First approach has been established to ensure this increased funding translates to better results – focusing on teacher quality, school autonomy, engaging parents and strengthening the curriculum.

The Government is also restoring the focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at schools with \$12 million to encourage school students to study STEM subjects. This includes providing innovative mathematics curriculum resources, supporting the introduction of computer coding in schools, investing in the P-TECH model and engaging more female and disadvantaged students in STEM through summer schools.

Nearly \$17 million has been allocated to improve initial teacher education and ensure teacher graduates are ‘classroom ready’. Every State and Territory has signed up to the Government’s Independent Public Schools initiative, which will give principals, teachers and the community greater responsibility and autonomy in their schools.



The National Disability Insurance Scheme

The Government is ensuring the National Disability Insurance Scheme is built on a sustainable platform, that it delivers for those who need it most and for future generations.

The NDIS has so far allocated more than 17,000 tailored support packages to Australians with a disability through 7 trial sites with some 95% of participants rating their experience as “good” or “very good”.

Better Community Infrastructure

We are supporting economic growth, improving facilities and supporting community spirit in local communities across Australia through programmes like the \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund, the \$306 million Community Development Grants Programme and the \$45 million new Stronger Communities Programme.

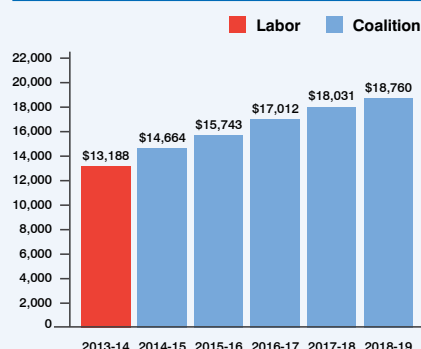
Improving the Lives of Indigenous Australians

The Government’s \$4.9 billion Indigenous Advancement Strategy consolidates over 150 separate programmes into five key programme areas, focusing on getting children into school, adults into work and delivering safer communities.

The Employment Parity Initiative is seeking to get 20,000 more Indigenous job seekers into work by 2020, by supporting Australia’s largest companies to increase their Indigenous workforce to reflect the size of the Indigenous population (around 3%). Clear and accountable targets are also being set to increase Indigenous employment through government procurement.

On July 6 2015, the Prime Minister convened a meeting with many of our most significant Indigenous leaders and the Leader of the Opposition to chart a way forward on Indigenous recognition in the Constitution.

Funding for Schools



OUR PLAN

Supporting Regional Australia

Scrapping the Carbon Tax

Farmers and regional small businesses benefit strongly from the abolition of the Carbon Tax, which resulted in electricity prices being around 9% lower than they would otherwise have been.

More Export Opportunities

The new trade agreements will particularly benefit Australian agriculture. According to the National Farmers' Federation, the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement is a "game changer" that will, once passed by Parliament, make a \$300 million difference to Australian farmers next year alone.

The Government has opened the livestock export trade to seven vital markets (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Cambodia, Thailand, Lebanon and China).



Backing Farmers

The 2015 Budget included measures to help farmers, including immediate tax write-offs for new fencing and water infrastructure and a write-off over three years for fodder storage.

The recently launched \$4 billion Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper will be a landmark investment in Australia's farmers and competitiveness. It includes significant investments in: water infrastructure, biosecurity, research and development, drought relief and helping Australian farmers capitalise on trade opportunities.

Better Regional Roads

The Coalition's record \$50 billion investment in infrastructure includes major upgrades to the Pacific, Bruce and Princes Highways and other roads that link regional communities.

The \$3.2 billion Roads to Recovery Programme will help fix regional black spots, renew regional bridges and repair regional highways.



Regional Health Services

The GP Rural Incentives Programme has been overhauled, to ensure 450 small rural towns receive increased subsidies to attract and retain doctors. The Royal Flying Doctor Service has been given a \$20 million boost over the next two years.

Stronger Communities

The Coalition is supporting economic growth, improving facilities and supporting community spirit in local communities across Australia, through the \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund and the \$306 million Community Development Grants Programme.

\$33.7 million is being provided to improve access to remote communities through the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme.



Fixing Mobile Black Spots

The Government's Mobile Black Spot Programme will deliver almost 500 new or upgraded mobile base stations around Australia – 429 Telstra base stations and 70 Vodafone base stations.

The new and upgraded base stations will provide new handheld coverage to 60,600 square kilometres and new external antenna coverage to over 150,000 square kilometres, and over 5,700 kilometres of major transport routes.

There will be handheld or external antenna coverage to all or part of around 3,000 of the black spot locations nominated by Australians as not having mobile coverage.

This is the most significant one time increase in mobile network coverage to outer metropolitan, regional and remote Australia delivered by a single public funding programme in the history of mobile communication in Australia.

Drought Relief

For drought affected areas, the Coalition is providing a comprehensive \$333 million drought support package to help our farming communities.



Water Security

The Government has completed an agreement to bring states together to implement the Murray Darling Basin Plan for water and is investing \$3.9 billion in water infrastructure to improve farm efficiency and productive capacity.

In addition, \$200 million from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund will go to developing water infrastructure in Northern Australia.

Protecting Regional Environments

The Green Army – along with the 20 million tree programme – is improving the local environment in regional communities.

Australia can't afford Labor



Real progress is being made in building a stronger economy with more jobs, a safer country and stronger communities.

This progress will be at risk under a weak Shorten Labor Government.

Labor: Hasn't Learned...Can't Change... Too Much Baggage

Under Bill Shorten, Labor has wasted its first two years in Opposition. Instead of developing a clear and detailed set of policies that will deliver economic growth, new job opportunities and greater security, Labor just continues to play short-term political games.

What is clear is that:

- Labor has no plan to deal with the debt and deficit left by the last Labor Government.
- Labor has already put forward over \$50 billion in unfunded commitments (so far).
- Labor has committed to a new tax on electricity which would add to cost-of-living pressures and threaten jobs and small business.
- Labor is hopelessly divided on border security.
- Labor is marching to the tune of increasingly militant unions.
- Labor has confirmed it will increase taxes on superannuation.
- Labor has not removed the baggage of the Rudd and Gillard eras.
- Labor has no leadership, is divided on key policy issues and is a threat to the living standards of families and small businesses.
- Labor is jeopardising the historic export agreement with China putting jobs at risk.

The last Labor Government left

Australia with a mess

Record deficits

Labor produced the six largest Budget deficits in our history.

Massive debt

Labor's government debt blew out to \$320 billion and was projected to reach \$667 billion in 10 years (approximately \$25,000 per Australian).

While our Plan for economic growth is bringing down Labor's mountain of debt over time, Australian taxpayers still face a debt interest bill of \$1 billion a month – more than is spent on aged care or universities.

World's biggest Carbon Tax

Labor imposed the world's biggest Carbon Tax – a \$9 billion a year hit to the economy costing average households around \$550 per year.

More people unemployed

Under Labor, the number of unemployed increased by 200,000, productivity declined by 0.7% per year, working days lost to strikes doubled and business red tape increased.

NBN project delays and cost blow out

Labor's NBN would have cost at least \$29 billion more than we were told and would have taken years longer to build.

Cost of living was on the rise

Over 6 years, household costs for health increased 35%, education increased 39%, gas increased 71%, childcare increased 53% and electricity increased 101%.

Taxpayers' money wasted

Labor's track record is appalling – \$900 stimulus cheques sent to dead people and overseas residents, the 'pink batts' insulation programme, the Grocery Watch and Fuel Choice debacles, massive cost blowouts for school halls and computers in schools programmes...the list goes on and on.

Illegal boat arrivals were out of control

Over 50,000 illegal arrivals came in more than 800 boats, causing cost blow outs of over \$11 billion.

Education standards slipped

Student results declined, along with the international rating of Australia's schools.

Health services got more expensive

Hospital waiting times increased and \$4 billion was cut from private health insurance, while health bureaucracies thrived.

Defence spending was slashed

The Defence Budget was slashed to the lowest level as a percentage of GDP since 1938.

Australians will pay the price – again

NAILING LABOR LIES

THE FACTS

Because they are bereft of policies, leadership and direction Labor and their union masters at the ACTU, the CFMEU and the ETU peddle lies and false assertions and run disgraceful scare campaigns about Coalition policies.

Here are just a few of Labor's lies, with the facts that rebut them.

LABOR LIE

Pension Cuts

"We still see more cuts to pensions ... we also see more unfairness hurting those most in need."

(Bill Shorten, Speech to ALP Caucus, 11/8/2015)

THE FACTS

Since the election, the single pension is up by \$51.80 a fortnight and the married pension for couples is up by \$78 a fortnight.

New measures starting on 1 January 2017 will make the age pension fairer and more sustainable, as well as providing more help to pensioners on modest means.

Under these changes more than 170,000 pensioners with modest

assets will have their pensions increased by an average of \$780 per year (\$30 per fortnight).

No one currently on a full pension will lose a dollar from these changes, and there will be 50,000 more people on a full pension as a result of these changes.

Nine out of ten pensioners will be better off or have no change to their payments under this measure.

LABOR LIE

\$80 billion cuts to schools and hospitals

"Tony Abbott launched a surprise attack on all the States, where he cut \$80 billion out of hospitals and schools in last year's Budget with no pre-election warning, it was a broken promise."

(Bill Shorten, Doorstop, 16/4/2015)

THE FACTS

The Government is not cutting schools and hospital funding. Hospitals and schools funding continues to increase each and every year under the Coalition.

Funding for hospitals will increase by 25 per cent, or \$3.8 billion over the next four years.

Schools funding will increase by 28 per cent, or \$4.1 billion over the next four years.

We have also kept the commitments we made at the last election, including putting back the \$1.2 billion in school funding that Bill Shorten personally ripped out on the eve of the last election.

If Mr Shorten truly believes there has been \$80 billion in Budget cuts to health and education, he should immediately commit Labor to restore those funds and explain exactly how he will pay for it.

He won't, because he knows there has been no \$80 billion "cut". This is just a baseless assertion from a weak Leader of the Opposition with no positive plans for Australia's future.

LABOR LIE

\$100,000 university degrees

"We really oppose Christopher Pyne and Tony Abbott's plans to create \$100,000 degrees. We want you to go to university. ... not only are we saying that we oppose what Christopher Pyne's doing about make it harder for kids to go to university by \$100,000 degrees, we're actually going forward and further and better."

(Bill Shorten, Doorstop, 3/6/2015)

THE FACTS

Universities, not the Government, set fees. Universities themselves have rejected Labor's false claims about \$100,000 degrees.

Spending on higher education will continue to increase every year. The Government will provide around \$37 billion to higher education institutions over the next four years.

Our higher education reforms are about expanding opportunity for students and ensuring the financial sustainability of the higher education system that will enable

universities to continue to provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities to more students.

Our reforms provide a sustainable basis for funding a demand-driven Australian higher education system in which there would be available a funded bachelor degree place at university for every student who earned it.

No student would have to pay a dollar upfront to begin studying and they will only start to pay back their loan when they are earning more than \$50,000.

LABOR LIE

The China Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA)

Under the Agreement:

- Chinese companies that invest \$150 million or more in a project will be able to bring in temporary workers;
- There will be no requirement that jobs be offered to local workers first; and
- Chinese companies will be able to sue Australian Governments if they believe that an Australian law adversely impacts on their business.

(ACTU e-mail, 19/6/2015)

THE FACTS

Labor is allowing their union masters to run a baseless scare campaign about the China Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Under ChAFTA, a Chinese company investing more than \$150 million in specific types of Australian infrastructure projects must use Australian workers, unless it can prove that there are no qualified Australian workers to do the job.

Even then, an investor may only be approved to bring in a limited number of qualified workers with the specific skills required for a limited period of time.

There are multiple requirements and safeguards to ensure Australians are given first opportunity in the recruitment process.

ChAFTA does not change the skills and experience requirements that need to be met by a skilled worker applying for a temporary skilled 457 visa to work in Australia.

Applicants will still be required to demonstrate to the Immigration

Department that they possess the requisite skills and experience to work in this country. This includes evidence of identity, work history, qualifications, memberships of relevant bodies or associations, references and documents showing English language skills etc.

An additional skills assessment from a registered training organisation approved by Trades Recognition Australia will be conducted if further verification is required by the Immigration Department.

This brings China into line with most of our other major trading partners including the United States, Korea, Japan, Poland, Chile, Germany, Singapore, New Zealand and the U.K.

The fact that Bill Shorten and Labor refuse to distance themselves from the lies being pedalled by the likes of the ACTU, the CFMEU and the ETU about the China Australia Free Trade Agreement shows he is not fit to be Prime Minister and Labor is not fit to govern.



For more information,
go to: www.liberal.org.au or www.nationals.org.au