

GetUp! Federal Election 2019 Survey

Federal Labor Response

1. Will you stop the Adani coal mine and the exploitation of the Galilee coal basin, as a first step in a moratorium on new coal mines and expansions?

Should Labor be elected and if there are decisions to be made on this, Labor will make them in the national interest, based on relevant laws, and the best and most recent information before us. We don't rip up contracts or create sovereign risk.

Coal and gas clearly have a role to play in the future – but Labor is committed to a significant expansion of renewables because we know that means cleaner, cheaper power and more jobs. We will deliver 50 per cent of our electricity generation from renewables by 2030, end the privatisation mess and lower power prices.

2. Will you review Adani's environmental approvals and take action if new evidence is available?

Any potential new project needs to stack up environmentally and commercially. It needs to pass the same tests and meet the same environmental laws as any other project.

3. Will you rule out any direct or indirect public subsidies to Adani?

Yes. Unlike the Liberal and National parties, Labor does not support spending taxpayers' money on new coal mines.

4. Will you implement policies in line with the Paris Agreement to limit dangerous global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees, including a process to regularly strengthen these policies when needed in line with independent scientific advice?

Labor is committed to keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius and our 45% emissions reduction target was formed based on independent advice from the Climate Change Authority on Australia's fair contribution to keeping global warming to below 2 degrees. In addition, and also based on Climate Change Authority advice, Labor has a 2050 net zero pollution target. We are strongly supportive of the Paris Agreement and its processes and goals.

Labor has a clear plan to achieve our pollution reduction targets and take real action on climate change, which can be found here:

https://www.alp.org.au/media/1665/labors_climate_change_action_plan.pdf

5. Will you rule out counting Kyoto carryover credits towards your emissions reduction target?

Yes. Labor has taken the decision not to allow the use of Kyoto credits to meet its Paris targets. Using Kyoto credits is fake action on climate change, and Ukraine is the only other country in the world to confirm they will do this. By allowing the carryover of Kyoto credits, the Liberals' already weak target effectively falls from 26 per cent to 16 per cent.

7. Do you accept that carbon pollution can and must be reduced faster in the electricity sector than in other sectors of the economy?

Labor has taken a sector based approach to tackling climate change, acknowledging that the electricity sector has affordable, readily available alternative technologies not present in some other sectors.

The electricity sector is undergoing a transition to clean energy and this must continue. The electricity sector can also support emission reductions in other sectors such as manufacturing and transport. That's why Labor is exploring the use of electricity sector offsets as part of Labor's extended safeguard mechanism.

8. Will you implement a national plan for a just and orderly transition away from coal power to clean energy, phasing out all coal-burning power stations by 2030, and establishing a statutory authority to make sure that affected workers and communities are supported in the transition?

Labor has announced a detailed Just Transition policy, including an independent Just Transition Authority to assist affected workers as we transition towards clean energy.

A number of ageing coal-fired power stations will reach the end of their technical life in the coming years – 75 per cent of coal-fired power stations are already operating beyond their original design life. That's why Labor will implement a long-term plan to ensure workers are supported and are first in line for new job opportunities.

Labor will train workers in the skills they need through a \$10 million Clean Energy Training Fund and establish an independent Just Transition Authority to help plan for and manage the response to closures to minimum community impacts, including through redundancy and redeployment schemes.

Further details can be found here:

<https://www.alp.org.au/media/1665/labors-climate-change-action-plan.pdf>

9. Will you establish a new national Environmental Protection Agency and pass a new generation of environment laws that includes binding National Standards on Air Pollution (including from vehicles and coal-burning power plants) to protect the health of all Australians, with sufficient penalties to ensure that requirements are met?

Labor has committed to putting in place a new independent Environmental Protection Agency and modernising national environmental laws.

We will consult on all aspects of environmental law reform and have committed to establishing a Working Group to ensure reform happens in a timely manner. National Standards for Air Quality will be part of that consultation. Air quality standards are currently a State responsibility coordinated by the Commonwealth through the National Environment Protection Council.

10. Will you work with the states and territories to ensure Australia's renewable boom continues in your first term of government (i.e. that the roll-out of renewables across the country continues at the rate of at least 6GWs a year)?

Labor is committed to delivering 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and has a comprehensive set of policies to boost investment and growth in renewable energy, including doubling the CEFC's capital by \$10 billion, \$100 million Neighbourhood Renewables Program and encouraging the uptake of household solar and battery systems through a national target and \$2000 rebate for 100,000 households. Further details can be found here:

https://www.alp.org.au/media/1665/labors_climate_change_action_plan.pdf

11. Will you unleash investment and jobs in renewable energy by protecting and extending ARENA's mandate beyond 2022, supporting new transmission for renewable energy zones, supporting the development of a clean energy exports industry, and helping businesses seize the benefits of low-cost renewables and energy savings by underwriting clean energy contracts for at least 250 energy-intensive businesses?

Labor established ARENA and ARENA has a continuing important role to play in helping the transition to a clean energy economy. That is why ARENA will play an important part in delivering our energy efficiency policy and our Hydrogen Plan.

Labor has announced \$5 billion to an independent Energy Security and Modernisation Fund that will unlock transmission investment to support Renewable Energy Zones, improve our transmission infrastructure, and renew our electricity grid. We have announced new funding of \$10 billion to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation for clean energy & energy efficiency projects – doubling the original investment, which will support businesses and consumers seize the benefits of low cost renewables. Labor will also implement a new Energy Productivity Agenda – to lift productivity and efficiency so businesses can get more out of each unit of energy.

Further details can be found here:

https://www.alp.org.au/media/1665/labors_climate_change_action_plan.pdf

12. Will you ensure that all households, especially low-income households, renters and indigenous communities, can access the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency, including the establishment of community clean energy hubs and solar rebates for renters?

Labor has announced a \$100 million Neighbourhood Renewables Program to ensure that renters, low income households and communities can benefit from renewable energy. Our doubling of support for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) will allow the CEFC to do more to support community housing, like their current partnership with St George Community Housing, and the St Vincent de Paul Society's Amélie Housing to deliver 1,000 energy efficiency community homes.

Labor will also help Australians slash their power bills by setting a new national target of one million household battery installations by 2025.

Labor's Household Battery Program will provide a \$2,000 rebate for 100,000 households with incomes below \$180,000 per year to purchase and install battery storage systems.

13. Will you support a Commonwealth Integrity Commission with sufficient funding, public hearings, strong investigative powers, a broad scope, and the ability to make public findings of corruption?

Labor has a long standing commitment to a National Integrity Commission. Labor wants to see a broad-based corruption commission with the powers and resources necessary to investigate serious and systemic corruption.

We will consult with legal experts, anti-corruption bodies and the wider Australian public on the final design of the National Integrity Commission, but we are committed to the Commission having the power to hold public hearings.

While the National Integrity Commission will be able to make public findings of fact, as an executive body (comparable to a standing Royal Commission into corruption) it will not be able to make determinations of judicial character as this would be unconstitutional.

Labor will introduce legislation to establish a NIC within our first twelve months in government.

14. Do you support protections from prosecution for whistleblowers who expose government wrongdoing?

Yes. When Labor was last in government in 2013 we introduced the first public sector whistleblowing regime. Labor has now committed to harmonise whistleblowing laws across all sectors through the establishment of a single Australian Whistleblowing Act, which would contain a public sector and a private sector whistleblowing regime.

As part of this new harmonised structure, Labor will establish for the first time a Whistleblower Protection Authority, dedicated to protecting whistleblowers from adverse actions and assisting whistleblowers through the disclosure process. Labor will also set up a Whistleblower Rewards Scheme for people who come forward.

15. Do you support caps on electoral campaign expenditure?

Labor is proud to have continually fought for reform of political donations and improved transparency throughout our political system.

In Labor's 2018 National Platform, we sought to limit the level of federal campaign expenditure, through the consideration of expenditure caps.

Labor believes that any consideration of campaign expenditure caps should be part of an effective and practical public funding system of elections; primarily as a tool to minimise the influence of vested interests in the democratic process.

16. Will you cap an individual or corporation's donations to political parties, candidates and associated entities to \$2,000 per year (aggregate) and require donations to be disclosed in real time?

Labor took a clear donations policy to the last election and have managed to secure significant reform, even from Opposition.

In 2016, Labor committed to:

- Reduce the donation disclosure limit from the current level of \$13,800 (indexed to inflation) to a fixed \$1000.
- Prohibit the receipt of foreign donations.
- Ban 'donation splitting' where donations are spread between different branches of political parties and associated entities to avoid disclosure obligations.
- Ban anonymous donations above \$50.
- Link public funding to campaign expenditure.
- Introduce new offences and increased penalties for abuses of the political donation disclosure regime.

Labor has successfully secured reform on many of these commitments. A ban on foreign political donations is now in place, and public funding has been successfully linked to campaign expenditure; preventing candidates from profiting off the electoral system.

Labor is committed to reform on those priorities remaining. Labor will reduce the donation disclosure threshold from \$13,800 indexed to inflation to a fixed \$1,000 as a priority.

There is also a pressing need to improve transparency in the political system so we will continue to consult on the establishment of a real time disclosure regime for political donations.

17. Will you support and commit to implement the 'Medi-vac Bill' which instituted a process to allow detainees offshore to be transferred to the Australian mainland for medical treatment and assessment at the behest of a panel of Australian doctors?

Labor supported the Medi-vac Bill to ensure sick and vulnerable people currently on Manus and Nauru can get the medical help they need when doctors recommend it.

Labor worked with the crossbench to secure important amendments to strengthen this bill.

This bill was needed because Scott Morrison, Peter Dutton and the Liberals have left people to languish on Nauru and Manus Island for close to six years.

The next important step is to resettle those refugees and asylum seekers, who are still on Nauru and Manus Island, safely in third countries.

Labor, if elected, will accept New Zealand's generous offer to resettle refugees with appropriate conditions – and negotiate other third country resettlement options as a priority.

18. Will you support the full evacuation of all those refugees and people seeking asylum held on Nauru and Manus Island for over 5 years to safety in Australia or an equivalent third country?

Labor believes Australians understand our nation can be strong on borders and still treat people humanely.

Nauru and Manus Island were set up as temporary regional processing centres but have become places of indefinite detention because of the failure of successive Liberal Governments to negotiate other third country resettlement options.

Scott Morrison must do everything possible to end genuine refugees languishing in indefinite detention – he should begin by accepting New Zealand's generous offer to resettle eligible refugees, including children, from Nauru and Manus Island as quickly as possible.

If Malcolm Turnbull was able to negotiate conditions for the US deal to prevent people smugglers preying on vulnerable people, Scott Morrison should be able to negotiate similar conditions for any deal with NZ.

Labor has made clear that, in government, we would accept New Zealand's offer with appropriate conditions, and negotiate other third country resettlement options as a priority.

Labor will never let the people smugglers back into business. We support offshore processing, turnbacks when safe to do so, and regional resettlement.

19. Are you committed to multiculturalism and a diverse community?

Yes. Australia is a nation built on migration. We have welcomed 7.5 million migrants since World War II who have helped to build Australia into the strong, vibrant and multicultural society it is today.

Labor is committed to supporting all new migrants to feel welcome and to receive appropriate resettlement support. We will work in partnership with migrant and CALD communities to ensure their voices are heard on the issues that matter to them and we will invest in the promotion of our successful multiculturalism.

We have a strong record on condemning discrimination in all its forms. That's why we led the parliamentary fight against hate speech when the Liberals wanted to remove section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act. It's why we fought against Peter Dutton's unfair citizenship laws and won.

Labor will have more to say during the campaign about our policies for strengthening multiculturalism and building on our success as a diverse and cohesive society.

20. Will you oppose attempts to introduce English-language tests and extend the waiting times for Australian citizenship, and ensure that the Home Affairs Department processes all current and future citizenship applications in a timely and transparent manner?

Yes. Labor has led the parliamentary fight against Peter Dutton's unfair citizenship law changes to put a University style English test in place and extend waiting periods.

Labor will review the capacity of the citizenship application processing section of the department to identify what needs to be done to address the backlog of applications.

21. Will you reverse changes made by the Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that adversely affect migrant communities and oppose any further exclusion of migrants from the social safety net?

Labor will review the adequacy of Newstart and related payments, including the new migrant waiting times.

23. Will you ensure that protections against racial discrimination, including Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, remain intact and that you will consider extending existing protections and policies?

Labor introduced section 18C over twenty years ago, and over recent years we have successfully defended section 18C from two separate attempts by the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government to destroy our nation's longstanding protections against racial hate speech. The Liberals wanted to allow more hate speech - Labor campaigned against this and won.

Labor is always willing to consider sensible law reform, but at present Labor has no plans to extend section 18C, as the provision was consulted on extensively at the time it was drafted, and has been working well for over two decades.

24. Will you rule out any preference or political deals with One Nation and similarly racist far right parties or candidates, and will you place them at the bottom of your how to vote cards?

Yes. Labor has committed to put One Nation and other racist right wing parties last on how-to-votes and we will continue to fight against hate speech and the normalisation of bigotry.

25. Do you support putting First Nations Affairs in First Nations hands?

Yes. Labor is proud to have three First Nations caucus members who will be driving policy in First Nations Affairs. We are also committed to the establishment of a Voice for First Nations people, which will give First Nations people a meaningful say in the issues that affect their lives.

26. Will you take action on deaths in custody, starting with a comprehensive audit of the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations?

Labor has a longstanding commitment to the inclusion of a justice target into the Close the Gap Framework and we will seek its inclusion as part of the Close the Gap Refresh. We have also committed to a national Summit on first Nations Children to develop strategies for addressing the alarmingly high rates of incarceration of Indigenous young people.

27. Will you end the racist and punitive Community Development Program?

Yes. Labor will abolish and replace the CDP with a program that delivers real jobs with proper wages and conditions.

29. Will you restore critical funding partnerships between state and federal governments for remote Aboriginal community housing?

Labor understands that housing is a significant issue for people living in remote communities, and that access to proper housing is critical if we are to close the gap. That is why the previous Labor

Government invested record amounts in a ten year national partnership agreement on remote housing. Unfortunately, the Coalition has taken a shambolic approach to the issue of remote housing, first abandoning the program entirely and then negotiating bilateral agreements with certain states and not others. A Shorten Labor Government will work with the states and territories on a coordinated approach to tackling the issue of remote housing, as part of the Close the Gap Refresh.

31. Will you reverse all of the budget cuts to health, education and aged care from the 2014 budget onwards?

A Shorten Labor Government is committed to restore all the funding cut from Australian schools in the horror 2014 Budget – including \$14 billion slashed from our public schools. It's just not fair that the Government has reversed their cuts for independent and Catholic schools, but not public schools.

From Opposition, Labor stood with students and university staff to oppose the Liberals repeated attempts to bring in \$100,000 degrees. Unfortunately, in late 2017, the Liberals by-passed the Parliament to cut \$2.2 billion from universities and froze undergraduate places. A Shorten Labor Government will uncap university places, meaning there'll be 200,000 more spots for Australians over the next decade or so.

We will also invest \$174 million into a University Pathway Fund that will go towards mentoring, support, and other specialised programs designed to boost opportunities for uni study in communities where participation and graduate rates are low.

A Shorten Labor government will guarantee funding and return investment to TAFE. Labor will waive upfront fees for 100,000 students to attend TAFE and invest \$200 million to modernise facilities around the country.

Labor will also increase apprentice incentives for 150,000 apprentices.

From Opposition, Labor has opposed and defeated many of the Liberals' planned cuts – including their GP Tax, their increase to PBS co-payments, their cuts to vital tests and scans, and their plans to abolish the Child Dental Benefits Scheme.

The Liberals' cuts to health have been relentless, so a Shorten Labor Government will:

- Invest \$213 million to end the Liberals' Medicare freeze in our first 50 days in office; and
- Establish a \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund to reverse the Liberals' cuts to hospitals from the next election to 2025.

Labor is the party of aged care reform and older Australians can be assured we will always do better for older Australians in residential care and those waiting for and receiving care at home.

33. Will you reverse all ABC and SBS budget cuts from the 2014 budget onwards?

A Shorten Labor government will work with the national broadcasters on their triennial funding bids to ensure the ABC and SBS are resourced appropriately to fulfil their Charters into the 2020s.

Labor has already committed to reversing Scott Morrison's unfair cut of \$83.7 million to the ABC, providing \$2 million in funding to help restore ABC shortwave radio in the Northern Territory, and another \$13 million for regional and emergency broadcasting and news literacy.

Importantly, Labor has committed to guaranteeing stable funding for the ABC over the next budget cycle so the ABC can focus on serving the Australian public with trusted, quality ABC content and services.

35. Will you protect the independence of the ABC and SBS, reform the board appointment process and commit to not interfering in board or senior executive decision making?

Yes. The ABC and SBS are valued public institutions and the most highly trusted sources of news in Australia.

Labor will protect the ABC and SBS as comprehensive and independent public broadcasters, free from political interference.

Labor introduced the merit-based process for ABC and SBS Board appointments, to end political interference and improve governance in our national broadcasters, and we will examine ways to strengthen it.

Scott Morrison has demonstrated that even the Prime Minister of Australia can't be trusted to follow the spirit and letter of the ABC Act when it comes to the requirement to "consult" on the appointment of the ABC Chairperson.

37. Do you agree that Newstart is too low and that it must be raised by at least \$75 per week?

The rate of Newstart is too low, it's so low it is pushing some people into poverty and preventing them from getting back into work. Labor will review the adequacy of Newstart, with the goal of keeping people out of poverty and ensuring they have the resources they need to find and keep work.

39. Will you take steps to reduce the cost of out-of-pocket medical expenses?

Under the Liberals, 1.3 million Australians delay or avoid basic health care because they can't afford it. In contrast, Labor believes that your Medicare card – not your credit card – should guarantee access to care.

Labor has already announced substantial investments to reduce out-of-pocket costs, including:

- \$213 million to end the Liberals' Medicare freeze and reduce out-of-pocket costs for 100 essential GP services.
- \$80 million for more Medicare MRI licences around Australia, improving access to and affordability of life-saving scans.

- A \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund to provide more services in public hospitals, where care is free for patients.
- A 2% cap on private health insurance premium increases for two years, saving families an average \$340.
- \$600 million to eliminate all out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic imaging, with up to six million free cancer scans funded through Medicare.
- \$433 million to fund three million free consultations with oncologists and surgeons for cancer patients.
- Guaranteeing that every drug recommended by independent experts will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, cutting out-of-pocket costs for cancer medications.

41. Will you reverse cuts to weekend and public holiday penalty rates announced in 2017?

Yes. Cuts to Sunday and public holiday penalty rates for hospitality, retail and fast food workers, which started in July 2017 and some of which continue to July 2020, are a devastating blow for hundreds of thousands of Australian workers.

If elected, Labor will restore penalty rates in the first 100 days of government.

43. Will you make housing more affordable, including by reforming negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount?

Yes. Labor will reform negative gearing by limiting it to new homes only, and we'll also halve the CGT discount from 50% to 25%. Labor's reforms are fully grandfathered – if you own the house now and negatively gear it, you'll still be able to do so once our policy commences on 1 January 2020. The 50% CGT discount will also still apply to assets owned prior to 1 January 2020.

This reform will help level the playing field for first home buyers versus investors, and assist in increasing construction in new homes.

45. Will you adopt a full employment target of 2-3% unemployed?

Labor wants to see as many Australians as possible in secure, well-paid work with good conditions.

Full employment for Labor means delivering a mix of economic, industrial, social and educational policies that will seek to maximise employment opportunities for all people of working age.

47. Will you trial a Job Guarantee program?

Across Australia, Labor will continue to invest in a mix of both wage subsidies and skills development to reduce unemployment, particularly to support people who have been unemployed for a year or more.

Labor is exploring options to improve employment options in the areas of highest need, including remote Aboriginal communities.

49. Will you abolish Stage 2 and 3 of the income tax cuts in the 2018 Federal Budget?

We are not in favour of Stages 2 or 3, either as first introduced in the 2018 Budget or as modified in the 2019 Budget. They are off in the never-never, unaffordable – when we don't know what the economy will be like in a few years' time, and they are highly regressive.

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver better tax cuts for 3.6 million working Australians who have been ripped off by the Liberals.

We will support the increase to the Low- and Middle-Income Tax Offset proposed in the Budget and will deliver tax relief from July 1 this year.

51. Will you stop unfair tax giveaways to high income earners through avenues like superannuation tax concessions and dividend imputation?

Labor will reform dividend imputation and return it to the original settings introduced by Paul Keating, stopping cash refunds from being paid to those who don't pay any income tax, unless you're a pensioner. The Government spent more on cash refunds than public schools in 2014-15 – this is unfair and can't go on.

Labor will also act on superannuation tax concessions – while the Government's 2016 package went some way to addressing the issue, Labor will go further.