

### **Coalition message:**

*The Coalition is building a strong and prosperous economy and a safe and secure Australia. Only the Abbott Coalition Government has an Economic Action Strategy that will grow the economy and fix Labor's debt and deficit disaster. Labor's legacy to Australians is 200,000 more unemployed, gross debt projected to rise to \$667 billion, \$123 billion in cumulative deficits, more than 50,000 illegal arrivals by boat and the world's biggest carbon tax*

### **Government achievements**

- We've scrapped the carbon tax, saving the average household \$550 a year
  - We've stopped the boats – preventing deaths at sea and saving the budget billions
  - We've scrapped the mining tax so this vital sector can create more jobs
  - We've handed down a \$50 billion infrastructure package, the single largest infrastructure package in Australia's history
  - Major projects worth \$1 trillion have been given environmental approval
  - We've cut around \$2 billion in red tape
  - We've delivered Free Trade Agreements with Japan, Korea and China which means more jobs for Australians
  - We're implementing Direct Action and have put Green Army teams on the ground
  - We're putting in place the long-term structural reforms necessary to fix the budget
  - The Government has provided an additional \$630 million to our police and security services and updated our national security laws to address the most pressing gaps in their ability to combat the growing threat of home-grown extremism

### **Matters of interest in the media:**

#### **Temporary Protection Visas restored under the Abbott Coalition Government:**

- Temporary Protection Visas are being restored, an essential piece to complete the matrix of Coalition policies that are stopping the boats
- We're breaking the people smugglers' business model
- And we're cleaning up the mess from Labor
- We said we would address the legacy caseload from Labor of some 30,000 people who had arrived illegally into Australia. We're doing what we said we would do. And we're taking pressure off the budget from Labor's waste by being weak on our borders
- We will reduce the number of children in detention – already down 50% since the Abbott Coalition Government came to office
- The Government will also introduce a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV), which will enable those who are found to be refugees or study in a designated regional areas to be able to apply for an onshore visa, subject to terms and conditions under this SHEV
- Our success in reintroducing TPVs will provide stability for genuine refugees, while denying people smugglers a permanent visa product to sell to unwitting passengers
- The Coalition has been absolutely consistent – we said we would stop the boats through effective offshore processing, reintroducing TPVs and turning back the boats where safe to do so. We're doing as we said

### **Our plan for budget repair:**

- All along we have made clear what we're doing - clear and unequivocal: We're building a strong prosperous economy, fixing Labor's budget mess and helping deliver jobs and more jobs
- It's all about our policies – policies that clean up the mess from Labor, irresponsible in government and now reckless in opposition
- The Abbott Coalition Government has shown deep courage and strength of character from the time we were elected
- The budget strategy led by Treasurer Hockey gives Australia hope for the future; the Treasurer, Finance Minister, the Government have the courage that Australia needs at this time
- You have to have policies that work. That's what this Coalition Government has; that's what this government has been absolutely resolute on
- We're putting in place the long-term structural reforms needed to make the budget sustainable and return it to surplus
- Changes in market conditions including commodity prices only reinforce the importance of our fiscal reforms and getting the fundamentals right
- We have a plan for budget repair – the only plan. Labor has only a plan for budget sabotage – they were incompetent in government and are wreckers in opposition

### **Our plan is the only plan:**

- In 2015, the Government will continue to put in place policies that create jobs, jobs and more jobs; policies that drive growth and support families
- We will continue to deliver on our Economic Action Strategy mandate, if not one day then the next day
- Much of the budget is already in place; some 75% of 400 budget measures have already been implemented; and we will continue to pursue budget initiatives including those scheduled to begin in coming months or years
  - Chris Richardson, Deloitte Access Economics, says the Coalition's May budget "...is the only road map to structural fiscal repair Australia has" and adds: "The Opposition and minor parties have washed their hands of setting out detailed alternatives, preferring populist posturing"
- Labor is sabotaging the budget, voting against \$28 billion of savings, including \$5b they themselves handed down
- With the difficult but necessary decisions we've taken, the foundations for a stronger budget and a stronger economy are now in place
- But in building a stronger economy, there's more to do. We will not be complacent
- We will continue to cut red tape, build new infrastructure and make it easier for small businesses to employ more people. It is because of our policies that all Australians can feel confident about the coming year. We have a plan, and it's the only plan

### **Jobs market is strengthening:**

- The jobs market is strengthening: 123,000 new jobs have been created this year. Jobs growth has been more than twice as fast this year than last year
- Dun And Bradstreet has found 74% of businesses – three in every four – are more optimistic about growth in the next 12 months than they were in the last 12 months
- NAB's monthly business survey is showing the largest monthly gain since 1998, putting business conditions at their highest level since 2008
- And consumer sentiment remains above its long-run average in the latest ANZ consumer confidence survey. Retail sales are strong and housing starts are near record levels

**If asked – reports speculating on Ministerial reshuffle:**

- This is speculation on speculation. As the Prime Minister told ABC last night, the Government is focussed on building a strong prosperous economy and a safe secure Australia, and that's exactly what we are doing – despite Labor's weak, wrecker approach in opposition to the mess it created in government
- We're getting on with the job. What people want in their governments and leaders is a clarity of purpose, strength of character, a clear message and a definite plan to improve our country. That's what we have; it's what we're doing
- We are the only ones with a plan, and our year of achievements in 2014 shows we're getting on with delivering in spades to the Australian people

**If asked – speculation on part or full privatisation of ASC:**

- The Government has no plan to privatisise ASC
- Our focus is on fixing Labor's mess. Typically of Labor, the Air Warfare Destroyer project was a mess when Labor held office and it's been up to the Coalition Government to fix the mess

**If asked – why won't there be an open tender for submarines:**

- This is a Government which makes the right decisions for the right reasons. Defence acquisitions have to be made on the basis of defence logic; not industry policy, not regional policy, but on the basis of sound defence policy
- The Government has not yet made a final decision on the design and build of the next generation of Australian submarines. Our approach follows exactly the same process for all major defence projects since the 2003 Kinnaird reforms
- The bulk of the Australian work will be done in Adelaide – that means more jobs for SA
- We are in this situation because Labor failed to make any decisions on submarines during their six years in office, leaving a looming security and capability gap. Under Labor, defence spending as a share of GDP dropped to 1.56% in the 2012-13 Budget – the lowest level since 1938. The former government's decisions led to 119 defence projects being delayed, 43 projects being reduced in and eight projects cancelled, risking critical capability gaps

**If asked – climate talks in Peru:**

- We understand the need for strong and effective action on climate change and that is what this Coalition Government is doing
- Australia will be represented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Peru by the Foreign Minister as well as the Minister for Trade and Investment given the significant economic and investment issues that will be discussed; and it means there will always be a minister at the table during the conference
- We have been praised for having two Ministers at this conference; once again we are showing our commitment to dealing with climate change
- As the Prime Minister said in Brisbane at the G20, actions that provide strong and effective action to address climate change will support sustainable development, economic growth and certainty for business and investment
- Australia is a high performer when it comes to actually delivering on real action to tackle climate change. We will achieve a five per cent on 2000 by 2020 target which is a 19 per cent reduction on business as usual

**If asked – higher education reforms:**

- Great reform takes time. We're working to deliver great reform that gives our unis the freedom they must have

- University of WA Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson says: “The reality is it is very easy to speak about free higher education, but nothing is free, someone always pays”
- Labor has no plan for higher education, no alternative and stands condemned for putting in danger the nation’s biggest services export that supports tens of thousands of employers across the country
- The baseless and insulting scare campaign Labor and their supporters have been engaged in has been repudiated by the universities themselves
- Our reforms are absolutely vital to the long-term health of the sector. They have the strong support of the sector
- It is disappointing that Labor and the Greens voted to shut down Senate debate on the Government’s higher education package before amendments could be considered; but the Coalition Government will not be deterred, and our new higher education reform package will be sent to the Senate early in the new year
- Like its predecessor, it will expand opportunities to more than 80,000 students a year by 2018 through diplomas and pathway courses. Importantly, it will introduce a more generous HECS system than currently exists, with new mums and dads receiving a five year HECS pause
  - It will keep HECS indexation at CPI. It will empower the ACCC to monitor and act on any price gouging or unfair fee increases in a deregulated market. It will include a university transition fund and create Australia’s biggest scholarship scheme targeted towards disadvantaged and rural and regional students. And it will continue the funding of crucial research and infrastructure that were left as Budget funding cliffs by the previous Government
- Our job is to widen opportunity, give everyone a chance at university. That we will do. This is despite Labor and the Greens who are sticking with an old, out-dated model that everybody in higher education knows is no longer working

**If asked – East West Link, Melbourne:**

- The East West Link is a vital piece of infrastructure for Melbourne that will ease congestion on Melbourne’s freeways and create 7,000 jobs
- When built, travel time from the Eastern Freeway to Citylink would be cut by up to several hours a week and 23 sets of traffic lights will be bypassed
- Imagine a Melbourne without the Bolte Bridge and CityLink tunnels built by a Victorian State Liberal Government. State Labor opposed those infrastructure projects, too
- Daniel Andrews himself said in August 2013 ‘sovereign risk is sovereign risk, a contract is a contract’. Shadow Treasurer Chris Bowen said Labor honours contracts
- Labor says “we don’t tear up contracts”. If Daniel Andrews proceeds with tearing up the East West Link contract, he will cost Victorians \$1.1 billion in compensation and \$3 billion in federal funding allocated to the project- he will be single-handedly destroying 7,000 Victorian jobs

**Jobs growth and mutual obligation:**

- All of our policies are about getting more Australians into work – because the best form of welfare is a job
- From July 1 the Government’s Restart, Job Commitment Bonus and Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job programmes commenced and the reinvigorated Work for the Dole programme has begun in 18 areas
- The Restart programme will encourage businesses to employ mature age job seekers; businesses are eligible for up to \$10,000 incentives, and mature age job seekers aged 50 or over who have been receiving income support for a minimum of six months will be eligible

- The Government's new Job Commitment Bonus programme will encourage young, long term unemployed job seekers aged 18-30 to find and keep a job
- The Government's Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job programme will offer eligible job seekers financial assistance of up to \$6,000 if they move to a regional area to take up a job, or, \$3,000 if they move to a metropolitan area

## **Labor**

### **Bill Shorten:**

- Labor is divided and Bill Shorten is a weak leader; Bill Shorten has no plan, no solutions and no idea
- He leads a Labor Party that hasn't changed and which hasn't reformed itself
- Bill Shorten and Labor continue to stand for higher taxes including a carbon tax, bigger debt and deficits and open borders

### **Labor's record:**

- The Rudd-Gillard governments' six years of chaos, waste and mismanagement delivered higher taxes, record boat arrivals and debt and deficit as far as the eye can see
- Labor turned nearly \$50 billion in the bank into projected net debt well over \$200 billion – the fastest deterioration in debt, in dollar terms and as a share of GDP, in modern Australian history
- Labor's debt is already costing about \$1 billion a month in net interest payments and that's borrowed money. No country can go on paying the mortgage from the credit card
- Under Labor the jobless queues grew by over 200,000, a stark contrast to the decline in unemployment of more than 250,000 under the Howard government
- More than 50,000 illegal boat people arrived on Labor's watch creating a \$11.6 billion blow-out in border protection costs

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