

## How do the major parties compare on the Australian Chamber's Top 10 and other issues important to business?

### Apprenticeships

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Apprenticeships</a>: The Coalition Government is supporting apprentices through Trade Support Loans – helping apprentices with the costs of living, tools and training through loans of up to \$20,000 each. So far, over 40,000 loans have been taken up. To help match the right apprentice to the right apprenticeship and lift completion rates, the Government has established the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network, supported by \$200 million of annual funding. This year the Government is supporting an estimated 68,000 employers with incentive payments to help businesses create opportunities for apprentices.</p>	<p><a href="#">Apprenticeships</a>: We will help more unemployed young people into apprenticeships by creating 10,000 new Apprentice Ready places and see retrenched workers gain formal recognition of their skills through 5,000 accelerated apprenticeships so they can find their next job.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Infrastructure Apprenticeships</a>: We will start with a target of seeing one in 10 jobs on Labor's priority infrastructure projects filled by Australian apprentices. This will create 2,600 new apprenticeship places for young workers seeking a job and real skills.</p>

## Government spending

Coalition	Labor
<p><u>Budget</u>: Our plan commits to a sustainable Budget with the toughest crackdowns on multinational tax avoidance - companies found to shift profits offshore to avoid tax will pay that tax plus a large penalty rate of tax. Every element of our plan is fully costed and paid for - it's all there in the Budget and it guarantees record investments in health, Medicare and schools. And not only does it drive higher growth and more jobs, it reduces our deficits every year until we come back into balance in 2020/21.</p>	<p><u>Budget transparency</u>: Labor will give the independent Parliamentary Budget Office an enhanced role in Australia's macroeconomic reporting to promote stronger fiscal discipline and enhance transparency around Commonwealth Budgets.</p>
	<p><u>Savings</u>: If elected, Labor will scrap the Emissions Reduction Fund. Labor has also been clear that we will not proceed with \$160 million plebiscite on marriage equality. Labor will also oppose \$1,000 Baby Bonus payment for families with a child under one, saving the Budget \$380 million. These savings, in concert with Labor's fair plans on multinational taxation, high end superannuation, negative gearing and tobacco excise will help set the budget on a more sustainable trajectory.</p>
<p><u>Costings</u>: The Coalition's election commitments will deliver a \$1.1 billion improvement in the budget bottom line over the forward estimates period. Most of the Coalition's election campaign</p>	<p><u>Costings</u>: According to Labor, its election platform will worsen the budget position over the forward estimates by \$16.5 billion, but improve the budget position by \$10.5 billion over a decade. Labor's</p>

announcements are small increases in spending, which are offset by a large crackdown on overpayment of welfare. Spending as a share of GDP is likely to be unchanged from the Budget at 25.8 per cent, assuming the results of the welfare crackdown can be realised. Tax as a share of GDP is capped at 23.9 per cent.

platform will significantly increase net spending. The Budget bottom line improves mainly through higher taxes. At the end of the ten year projections, taxes will be around \$25 billion a year higher under Labor. Tax as a share of GDP is said to rise to 24.8 per cent.

## Red tape

Coalition	Labor
<p><u>Small business</u>: Simplifying Business Activity Statements (BAS), reducing reporting labels from seven to three. We are also supporting small business by cutting red tape by \$4.5 billion, including simplifying the process for establishing an employee share scheme and removing almost 450,000 small businesses from the PAYG system.</p>	<p><u>Trade</u>: Complex and inconsistent rules of origin in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) represent significant red tape barriers for would-be exporters. Labor will tackle red tape by working with Australia's trading partners to achieve readily-understood and consistent rules of origin for determining whether Australian goods qualify for preferential access to key export markets.</p>
<p><u>Environment</u>: We have maintained environmental standards whilst reducing the red tape. We have established a one stop shop for environmental assessments with every state and territory – cutting the double handling of assessments for projects.</p>	

## Workplace flexibility

Coalition	Labor
<p><u>Vulnerable workers</u>: The Coalition will increase the penalties that apply to employers who underpay workers and who fail to keep proper employment records; A new higher penalty category of ‘serious contraventions’ will be introduced; introducing new offence provisions that capture franchisors and parent companies who fail to deal with exploitation by their franchisees; delivering a \$20 million funding increase for the capabilities and workforce of the Fair Work Ombudsman; strengthening the powers of the Fair Work Ombudsman; establishing a Migrant Workers Taskforce in the Fair Work Ombudsman.</p>	<p><u>Workplace rights</u>: Labor will crack down on the underpayment of workers, with increased penalties for employers who deliberately and systemically avoid paying their employees properly; Ramp up protections for workers from sham contracting; Give the Fair Work Ombudsman the powers and resources to pursue employers who liquidate their companies in order to avoid paying the money they owe their workers; Introduce reforms to ensure that temporary overseas workers are not being exploited and underpaid and that there is a level playing field for all workers in Australia.</p>
<p><u>Transparency</u>: A re-elected Turnbull Coalition Government will: Legislate to allow the courts to ban officials of registered organisations from holding office where they repeatedly break the law; Codify the obligation for officials of registered organisations to act in the best interests of members by putting members’ interests before their own; Outlaw ‘corrupting benefits’ – payments between an employer and union that are not covered by legitimate exemptions;</p>	<p><u>Labour hire</u>: From 1 July 2017, an elected Labor government will make it unlawful for labour hire companies to operate without a licence and for other firms to knowingly or recklessly use an unlicensed labour hire company. Breaches of these licensing laws will carry a penalty of \$216,000 for individuals (1,200 penalty units) and \$1.1million (6,000 penalty units) for a body corporate. To help oversee the new licensing rules, Labor will establish a Labour Hire Licensing and Compliance</p>

Require disclosure to employees of any legitimate financial payments between employers and unions.	Inspectorate within the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman which will have the power to monitor compliance with the licensing regime, and will also keep a public register of all licensed labour hire companies.
	<a href="#">Casuals</a> : A Shorten Labor Government will examine the definition of “casual” work and will set an objective test for determining when a worker is “casual”. Labor will work with all affected stakeholders including employers, employer groups and unions in developing the objective test, which will ensure certainty for all parties.

## Company Tax

Coalition	Labor
<a href="#">Enterprise tax plan</a> : We will cut the small business company tax rate to 27.5 per cent for small businesses with a turnover less than \$10 million. The company tax rate will be progressively lowered to 25 per cent by 2026-27 for all companies.	<a href="#">Multinational tax</a> : Changes to the arrangements for how multinational companies claim tax deductions; Greater compliance work by the ATO to track down and tackle corporate tax avoidance; Cracking down on multinational companies using hybrid structures to reduce tax; Improved transparency and data matching.
	<a href="#">Small business company tax</a> : Labor supported the cut in the company tax rate for small businesses to 28.5% and will

	support the further cut to 27.5% proposed in the 2016 Budget. Labor will not support changing the definition of small business to include businesses with a turnover of up to \$1 billion: these are not small-businesses.
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## Infrastructure

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Infrastructure</a>: The Turnbull Government is investing a record \$50 billion in Australia's land infrastructure – to improve road and rail links, reduce travel times and support economic growth. Roads to Recovery funding for local roads has been increased by 83 per cent, 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.</p>	<p><a href="#">Infrastructure Australia</a>: Labor will take the politics out of infrastructure and put the nation's interest at the heart of nation building again. We will empower Infrastructure Australia to become an active participant in the infrastructure market, working with State Governments and brokering deals to bring nation building projects to fruition.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Infrastructure finance</a>: Under a Shorten Labor Government, Infrastructure Australia will be given a new Financing Mandate that will mobilise private sector finance through a range of instruments including loans, loan guarantees and equity investments.</p>

## Australian Building and Construction Commission

Coalition	Labor
<p><u>Construction industry</u>: A re-elected Turnbull Coalition Government will: Re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission; Legislate to allow the courts to ban officials of registered organisations from holding office where they repeatedly break the law; Codify the obligation for officials of registered organisations to act in the best interests of members by putting members' interests before their own; declaring any financial benefits they receive; and dealing properly with any conflicts of interest; Outlaw 'corrupting benefits' – payments between an employer and union that are not covered by legitimate exemptions; Require disclosure to employees of any legitimate financial payments between employers and unions; Enable courts to place registered organisations (or individual divisions or branches) in administration or deregister them if they become dysfunctional or are no longer serving the interests of their members, as is the case with companies under the corporations law; Introduce new sanctions for the deliberate falsification of membership records; and Introduce a new public interest test for mergers of</p>	<p><u>Union governance</u>: Labor will provide the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission with an additional \$4.5 million over four years to monitor the 109 employer and employee organisations presently registered; Labor will introduce tougher penalties for union officials who break the law; Labor will require registered organisations to rotate their auditors every 5 years, consistent with the requirements under the Corporations Act; Labor will extend current electoral funding laws to donations and expenditure relating to all elections managed by the Australian Electoral Commission – whether they are union elections or the Federal election; Labor has long advocated for lower disclosure thresholds, and if elected will reduce the current disclosure threshold in the Commonwealth Electoral Act for election funding from \$13,000 to \$1,000.</p>



registered organisations, which will allow relevant matters to be taken into account, such as the organisations' history of compliance with workplace laws.

## Contestability of Government Services

Coalition	Labor
<p>The Coalition supported the Harper Review recommendation to adopt choice and competition principles in the domain of human services, and has asked the Productivity Commission to consider how this can best be done.</p> <p>The Coalition has also ruled out outsourcing the Medicare payment system and any 'privatisation' of Medicare.</p>	<p>Labor has criticised the government for allegedly planning to privatise Medicare, on the basis of the Productivity Commission inquiry and the taskforce that was established to investigate outsourcing the payment system.</p>

## Visas

Coalition	Labor
<p><u>Parent visas</u>: A re-elected Turnbull Government will enhance existing visitor visas to enable sponsored parents to visit their family in Australia for a continuous period of up to five years.</p>	<p><u>Tourism</u>: Labor will appoint a Minister for Tourism, aligning the portfolio within a newly configured Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. Labor will resume its record investment in</p>



	<p>tourism infrastructure including airports, ports, roads and public transport to lift our international competitiveness; Labor will allocate \$1 billion from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility to a Northern Australia Tourism Infrastructure Fund; Labor has announced it will undertake an audit of Australia's tourist visa offering for each of our main target markets, and undertake an assessment of how that offering compares to our major competitors; Labor will ensure that industry and stakeholders are adequately consulted on proposed changes to taxation arrangements.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Entrepreneur visas</a>: Labor will introduce two new visa categories that will help attract the best global entrepreneurial talent to help build Australia's growing startup ecosystem. The Startup Entrepreneurial Visa will be provided annually to 2,000 global entrepreneurs looking to establish themselves in Australia. Graduate Startup Entrepreneurial Visa: This new visa will be provided annually to 2,000 university graduates who have a credible and genuine startup business idea.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Tourism visas</a>: A Shorten Labor Government will undertake an audit of Australia's tourist visa offering for each of our main target markets, and undertake an assessment of how that offering compares</p>

	<p>to our major competitors. In addition, with a view to the growing Chinese market, Labor will review: The cost of the 10-year multiple entry visa so that it is competitive with that for Chinese citizens visiting the US and the EU; Introducing an online visa application, in both English and Mandarin, which can be submitted online at any time; Reducing the processing time for visas submitted online to within 48 hours; The feasibility of reforming the Tourist Refund Scheme by introducing an online, streamlined claiming process based on the Singapore model; The factors which have an impact on passenger facilitation at International Airports, with Perth International Airport to be looked at as a priority.</p>
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## Other matters: Startups

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Startups</a>: The Coalition will continue to support Australia's startup businesses by investing \$23 million to: increase the number of startup incubators and accelerators in Australia; support the expansion of existing high-performing incubators and accelerators; attract 'experts in residence' to provide specialist advice to startup businesses.</p>	<p><a href="#">Startups</a>: Labor will boost Australia's young aspiring entrepreneurial talent by providing income contingent loans to students to support their participation in university accelerators or similar incubators run by successful entrepreneurs.</p>

## VET

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">VET FEE-HELP</a>: Following consultation with the sector and the community, the Coalition will redesign the VET FEE-HELP scheme for 2017. The Coalition Government invests around \$7 billion in the VET sector each year through funding and student loans. This includes \$1.8 billion to the states and territories to support their training systems, including TAFE.</p>	<p><a href="#">VET Review</a>: A Shorten Labor Government will undertake a comprehensive National Vocational Education and Training Sector Review to build a stronger VET sector and weed out dodgy providers and student rip-offs.</p>

## Trade and investment

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Trade and investment</a>: We will continue to drive job growth through trade and investment by: delivering a company tax cut for Australia's small businesses; establishing a single window for all export documentation; implementing the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; negotiating free trade agreements with India, Indonesia, the European Union, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and Pacific Island countries under PACER Plus, as well as pursuing new trade opportunities, including in the Indo-Pacific region; connecting businesses with export markets; establishing a Professional Services Mutual Recognition Unit; actioning the recently</p>	<p><a href="#">Trade and investment</a>: A Shorten Labor Government will negotiate high-quality international trade agreements that open up new export markets by reducing tariffs, quotas and "behind the border" barriers to trade. Labor will liberalise FIRB screening thresholds for the farm and food sectors. Labor would: Increase the screening threshold for investment in agricultural land to \$50 million (non-cumulative); Remove the agribusiness screening category; Review the current regime's discriminatory treatment of investments in non-sensitive sectors by investors from Singapore, Thailand and non-FTA trading partners and the</p>

released 'National Strategy for International Education 2025' and the marketing plan 'Australian International Education 2025'; securing access for local exporters to the multi-billion dollar government procurement markets of 45 economies by joining the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.

treatment of agricultural land under the FIRB framework.

## Small business

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Small business</a>: We will cut the small business company tax rate to 27.5 per cent for small businesses with a turnover less than \$10 million; Increase the unincorporated tax discount from 5 per cent to 8 per cent, capped at \$1,000 for small businesses with a turnover less than \$5 million; Extend access to the instant asset write off so that small businesses with a turnover less than \$10 million can instantly deduct each and every asset under \$20,000; Make life easier by simplifying Business Activity Statements (BAS), reducing reporting labels from seven to three.</p>	<p><a href="#">Small business finance</a>: Labor will work with the banks and finance industry to develop StartUp Finance, a partial guarantee scheme which will improve access to finance for Australian micro-businesses.</p>

## Youth employment

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Youth employment</a>: The Government will invest \$840.3 million over four years in a Youth Employment Package to assist up to 120,000 vulnerable young people take advantage of job opportunities as the economy diversifies and transitions to broader-based growth. JobsPATH combines job readiness training with up to 3 months work experience and is an alternative to work for the dole.</p>	<p><a href="#">Youth unemployment</a>: Under Labor's New Jobs Tax Cut, small businesses will be able to claim a tax deduction of up to \$20,000 per worker to offset the wages of up to five new employees.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Youth Jobs Connect</a>: 3000 young people who are at risk of life-long employment disadvantage will complete an intensive six month pilot program to help them get and keep a job. Youth Jobs Connect will be piloted in 15 locations where youth unemployment is significantly above the national average. Training wage and vocational training provided to long term out of work young people.</p>
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## Environment

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Renewable energy</a>: The Turnbull Government will double renewable energy in Australia over the next four years. Under the Renewable Energy Target, more than 23% of Australia's electricity will come from renewable energy by 2020. We are supporting large scale projects, while at the same time making solar more affordable for households. We are encouraging new technology to assist in the transition to clean energy, through the \$1 billion Clean Energy Innovation Fund. This Fund will target projects such as large-scale solar.</p>	<p><a href="#">Renewable energy</a>: a Shorten Labor Government will: Ensure that at least 50% of the nation's electricity is sourced from renewable energy by 2030; Expand the investment mandate of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation; Provide \$206.6m to ARENA to support a specific Concentrated Solar Thermal funding round; Establish a Community Power Network and Regional Hubs at a cost of \$98.7m over four years; and Ensure the Commonwealth Government leads by example as a direct purchaser of renewable energy.</p>
<p><a href="#">Climate change</a>: Australia has signed the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We are on track to beat our 2020 target by 78 million tonnes, and have set an ambitious</p>	<p><a href="#">Emissions trading</a>: a Shorten Labor Government will: Introduce a domestic emissions trading scheme that will have two distinct phases. The first phase is</p>

target of reductions of up to 28% by 2030 based on 2005 levels. We are investing \$2.55 billion to incentivise business to reduce their emissions through our Emissions Reduction Fund. We are also implementing a National Energy Productivity Plan, reducing emissions from ozone-depleting gases and supporting investments in new technology such as solar storage.

designed to get Australia's pollution levels back under control and to establish the architecture for an enduring ETS. The second phase will then drive the long-term transition in our economy; The broader ETS does not apply to the electricity sector (see separate fact sheet on Cleaner Power Generation); and The scheme will allow business to work out the cheapest and most effective way to operate and will not involve taxpayers handing over billions of dollars to Australia's large polluters.

## Other policies

Coalition	Labor
<p><a href="#">Innovation</a>: The Coalition is investing \$1.1 billion to incentivise innovation and entrepreneurship and help bring more great Australian ideas to market, by: Providing tax incentives to encourage investment in innovative start-ups so they can survive and thrive; Attracting more venture capital investment into high potential start-ups; Making it easier for aspiring entrepreneurs to access crowd-sourced equity funding; Helping small businesses attract world-class staff by improving employee share schemes; and Providing long-term funding certainty for cutting-edge, national research infrastructure.</p>	<p><a href="#">TAFE</a>: Labor has a plan to back TAFE into the future by developing a comprehensive National Priority Plan that defines the unique role of TAFE as our public provider and delivers on this by working with the states and territories to provide ongoing guaranteed TAFE funding.</p>
<p><a href="#">Competition policy</a>: Adopting the recommendations of the Harper Review,</p>	<p><a href="#">Made in Australia</a>: A Shorten Labor Government will provide \$5 million over</p>



<p>the Coalition will repeal the current Section 46 of the Competition and Consumer Act and replace it with a new provision that prevents firms with substantial market power from engaging in conduct that has the purpose, effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition.</p>	<p>four years to expand the promotion of made in Australia brands overseas by increasing awareness, supporting the registration of trademarks, and boosting export promotion to drive demand for our goods and services, and support more local jobs.</p>
<p><u>Dairy farmers</u>: The Coalition will be making immediately available \$55 million in Dairy Recovery Concessional Loans for Murray-Goulburn and Fonterra suppliers this year, as well as access to \$500 million in concessional loans over 2016-17 and 2017-18 years. The recovery loans will be for terms of 10 years.</p>	<p><u>Temporary work visas</u>: Our fairer approach includes: Requiring employers nominating 457 visa workers under labour agreements, and as standard business sponsors, to meet labour market testing requirements under the Migration Act, consistent with Australia's international trade obligations; Introducing a requirement that sponsors in specified sectors that have more than a designated proportion of their total workforce made up of 457 visa holders, must employ 457 visa holders under a Labour Agreement as opposed to being a standard business sponsor; Increasing the level of the 457 visa fee paid by the sponsor; Strengthening enforcement of the skills assessment and occupational licensing requirements; Reviewing the Student Visa and Working Holiday Maker Visa Program.</p>
<p><u>Backpacker tax</u>: The Turnbull Government today announced it will undertake a review of the broad range of issues affecting the supply and taxation of working holiday maker 417 and 462 visas.</p>	

STEM careers: A re-elected Turnbull Coalition Government will invest \$31.2 million in internships and post-school career advice to increase support for women and girls to choose to study and work in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). To support more women to be able to take advantage of those opportunities the Coalition has committed \$28.2 million to provide 1,400 internships for PhD researchers and \$3 million to develop a new and contemporary National Career Education Strategy.