



Alan Eggleston
Senator for Western Australia



The Eggleston Report

26 Charles Street South Perth 6151 Tel: 08 9368 6633

Fax: 08 9368 6699 Email: senator.eggleston@aph.gov.au Website: www.senatoralaneggleston.com

Regional Australia lies at southern end of Rudd's priorities

The heavy hand of Kevin Rudd's 2009 Federal budget has once again taken aim at Australia's regional communities, cutting vital funding from programs that support the lifeblood of Western Australia. Labor's reckless spending over the past 18 months will leave one million unemployed by 2010-2011, a record \$58 billion deficit and a record net debt of at least \$188 billion by 2012-2013. Kevin Rudd has heaved this burden on to every Australian, particularly those in regional Australia, while failing to deliver a credible plan for recovery.

Attack on regional communities

There was a notable absence of support for regional communities, and no sign of the supposed replacement to the regional partnerships program to support local projects, a commitment in last year's budget. Last year Labor took the axe to the Coalition's Regional Partnerships, with a promise to replace it with a new program to continue support for infrastructure in regional Australia. Instead they've responded by announcing they will axe Area Consultative Committees across the nation and are offering little compensation to the people of regional Australia.

Oakajee Port a hollow promise

Be wary of the Oakajee Port announcement, and Labor's commitment of a "possible contribution" pending further recommendations. This is a vital project for WA that I have long been a supporter of, and which already has the backing of Premier Colin Barnett, however knowing Labor's history of broken promises, we will want to see more detail and a stronger commitment before we welcome this announcement.

Agriculture targeted for more cuts

A massive \$908.234 million will be slashed from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry budget next year. This means 312 staff will face the axe, Land and Water Australia will be abolished and another \$12 million will be taken from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. The treatment of the Agricultural industry in this

budget fails to recognize the contribution of an industry with a gross value of production (GVP) in 2008-09 of \$50 billion. The Agricultural industry deserves greater recognition and a greater investment in research and sustainability measures to protect its future in Australia.

Mining regions ignored

This budget has given nothing back to the North West communities that have driven the resources industry and indeed the Australian economy in recent years. The Labor Parliamentary Secretary for Northern Australia, Gary Gray, attended the "Riding the Boom" conference in Karratha last year and heard first hand the need for improvements in community infrastructure in Pilbara towns. It seems Gray's description of those pleas for assistance as mere "whinging" was obviously carried through to the Rudd Government, as NOTHING has been offered to overcome the problems faced by those living in unacceptable conditions.

The 2009-10 Budget delivers a dismal trifecta: record spending (29 per cent of GDP), a record deficit (5 per cent of GDP) and a further severe increase in the jobless rate to 8.5 per cent. It has also reaffirmed Labor's stance on regional and rural communities: as long as Labor is in government, their needs will be neglected.



Alan with Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull

Inside:

- Budget 2009-2010

Budget Edition

June 2009

AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES ARE NOW PAYING THE PRICE FOR LABOR'S RECKLESS SPENDING.

Labor's Budget is the first in a decade to increase the burden on Australian families.



LABOR'S RECORD DEBT

By 2012-13, net public debt will surge to **\$188 billion** – double its previous record peak under Paul Keating. Two thirds of this debt will be due to spending decisions taken by the Rudd Government over the past 18 months.

Since the November 2007 election, Labor has announced new spending of **\$124 billion** – an average of \$225 million of new spending per day.

The annual interest bill paid by the Australian people in 2012-13 will be **\$8 billion** – more than the Government spends each year on infrastructure and housing combined.



SMALL BUSINESS IGNORED.

Labor's Budget ignored small business – the engine room of growth and jobs.

Small business growth, not Government spending, is the key to Australia's economic recovery. That's why the Coalition has already announced a six-point small business plan that will reduce business costs and encourage employment.



LABOR'S 1 MILLION UNEMPLOYED.

Unemployment will surge to **8.5%** under Labor, with 1 million Australians unemployed by 2010-11.



TAXING TIMES.

Labor's out-of-control and undisciplined fiscal management doesn't end at spending. Since the last election, Labor has introduced tax hikes worth **\$26 billion**.



LONGER WAITING LISTS AND HIGHER HEALTH COSTS.

The **11.1 million** Australians with private health insurance will now pay more, with many forced to join already-crowded public hospital waiting rooms. Labor has broken its promise to leave the private health rebate untouched.

Changes to the Medicare Safety Net will hurt Australians trying to access essential services such as obstetrics, reproductive technology and cataract surgery.



SUPER, PENSIONS AND SAVING FOR THE FUTURE.

Kevin Rudd promised Labor would not change the superannuation laws. But now, Labor's reckless spending means cuts to the superannuation. Australians have worked hard to save for their future.

- Government super contributions for low and middle income earners have been slashed by **a third**
- Tax relief on voluntary super contributions has been cut in **half**

Australians will need to work longer to pay off Labor's debt, with the pension age being pushed out to 67. Australian's deserve security and certainty in retirement.

Having inherited the strongest economy in the world, Mr Rudd and Labor are spending money and racking up debt at a record rate.

It took the Coalition and the Australian people more than a decade to pay off the previous debt left behind by Labor; how long will it take to pay off Kevin Rudd's debt?

LABOR'S DEBT BOMBSHELL



Seniors face new poverty gap at 65

The Australian 14/05/09

Patricia Karvelas
Political Correspondent

In debt until 2015

Treasurer defends huge deficit as 'responsible'

Steve Lewis
National Political Correspondent

Australian Financial Review 13/05/09

Crunch deeper, longer than '90s

Outlook

Adrian Phillips
Economic correspondent

Diminishing expectations

How the growth outlook for 2008-09 shrunk

Byline, 2009

Capital cities are stuffed: official

Herald Sun 13/05/09

Herald Sun

Rich lose but poor don't win

Budget puts us all at risk

...and pray is the underlying message from the Rudd Government's

...might prof...

LEISURE

Co-payments slashed for 1.4 million low-income workers

Super pain before gain

...1.4 million low...

Herald Sun 13/05/09

Swan takes gamble by putting the future on credit

Australians have grown used to Budget day being giveaway day, as the

The West Australian 13/05/09

THEY SAID IT:

"There will now be longer waiting lists and waiting times for elective surgery, greater demand for beds, and greater stress on public hospital staff."

Dr Ian Dickinson,

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, 12 May 2009

"... more should have been done to take pressure off the cost of doing business at a time when the private sector is doing it very tough."

Peter Anderson,

ACCI, 12 May 2009

"This budget does not address the challenges facing the small business sector which contributes around 30 percent of Australia's economic activity."

Andrew Conway,

National Institute of Accountants, 12 May 2009

AUSTRALIANS PAYING THE PRICE OF LABOR



Seniors saving for the future

The superannuation co-contribution scheme, which bolstered the retirement savings of low and middle income earners, has been cut by a third.

Australians will need to work longer to pay off Labor's debt, with the pension age being pushed out to 67.



Small Businesses

Labor's Budget ignored small business – the engine room of growth and jobs.

Small business growth, not Government spending, is the key to Australia's economic recovery. That's why the Coalition has already announced a six-point small business plan that will reduce business costs and encourage employment.



Australian Families

It took the Coalition and the Australian people more than a decade to pay off the previous debt left behind by Labor. How long will it take our children and grandchildren to pay off Kevin Rudd's \$188 billion debt?

Mr Rudd and Labor's reckless economic mismanagement is hurting Australian families.

The Eggleston Report

LABOR IGNORES SMALL BUSINESS

Australian small businesses are the engine room of the economy, the biggest employer in the nation, and are the key to driving our economic recovery. However Labor has missed the opportunity to assist Australia's 2.4 million businesses in this difficult economic period, leaving out important measures in the Budget to assist employers to keep staff on the payroll.

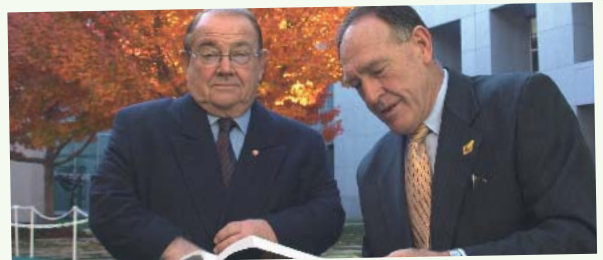
Labor's failure to understand the important contribution of small businesses to the Australian economy and employment may cost thousands of Australian jobs. After inheriting the strongest economy in the world, Kevin Rudd and Labor are recklessly spending money and failing to properly assist small business, which employs 3.8 million Australians.

Labor has lost control of this nation's finances, racking up record debt of at least \$188 billion by 2012/13 – double its previous record peak under Paul Keating. Two thirds of this debt will be due to spending decisions taken by the Rudd Labor Government over the past 18 months.

The Coalition understands that if jobs are going to be generated in Australia, they are going to be generated by small business. The Coalition has provided a Plan for Recovery for Australian small businesses that are job-focused and practical in this difficult economic period.

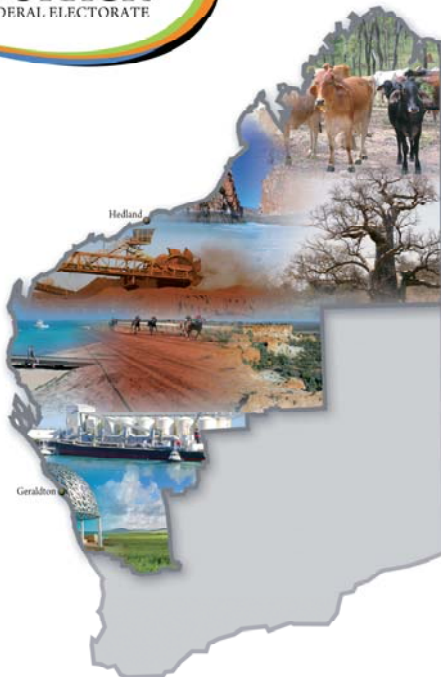
The Coalition would cut small business red tape, provide additional cash flow support, put money back into the pockets of small businesses with operating losses by enabling them to reclaim up to \$100,000 of tax from the ATO that they had paid in the previous three years, and help employers keep apprentices on so Australia is well prepared to meet skills shortages.

To stimulate economic growth, Kevin Rudd and Labor must invest in small business so they can employ more people and become more profitable. The Coalition has made the tough decisions to protect small business and create jobs for all Australians. Labor has failed to do this and Australians will suffer as a result.



Alan and Federal Member Barry Haase discuss the effects the Budget will have on small businesses

DURACK
FEDERAL ELECTORATE



A note from Barry Haase

Are you aware that at the next Federal Election you will be voting as a resident of the newly created Federal Electorate of Durack?

Due to recent Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) boundary changes you will no longer be voting as a resident of Kalgoorlie or, in some instances O'Connor, but in the Federal Electorate of Durack.

Durack will occupy the northern section of the current seats of O'Connor and Kalgoorlie and will include Geraldton and the central wheatbelt.

For over ten years I have fought for the vast Kalgoorlie electorate on the issues that are of primary importance to country people and, with the redistribution, I hope to continue to serve as your Federal Member for Durack.

In the meantime it's business as usual, with an eye to the future. There is an enormous need to address investment in regional infrastructure, health services, telecommunications and border protection.

Ultimately it's about job creation for Durack, now and in the future. Jobs are critical for the sustainable growth of our economy.

I will continue to visit your region regularly and I'm keen to know more about your priorities and concerns so we can build an even stronger community for future generations.

If I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Barry

barry.haase.mp@aph.gov.au