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Thank you very much.

Let me start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we stand. I want to pay my respects to their elders past and present. Let me acknowledge their enduring relationship with their country and reiterate the calls we Greens asked to the Prime Minister asking him to increase funding for the successful Indigenous Rangers program. That's a program that delivers environmental benefits, cultural benefits, provides meaningful employment. It ensures we get positive health outcomes. There is a lot of rhetoric around closing the gap. Let's fund those things that work. The Indigenous Rangers program works and we should reach our target of 5,000 rangers across the country.

Let me also acknowledge our wonderful and talented team of elected representatives. The Greens have 11 members of the Australian Parliament. We punch above our weight in a very peaceful and non-violent way, of course. We are really the innovators of Australian politics. I also want to acknowledge Alex Bhatal, our candidate for Batman in the audience. She is going to make a terrific contribution to the Australian Parliament, not if but when she joins Adam Bandt in the lower house of the Australian Parliament. We have Christina Hobbs, our ACT Senate candidate, we are hoping to give that contest a shake as well.

When I took on the leadership of the Australian Greens almost a year ago now, I said at that first press conference unless we tackle dangerous global warming, then everything else is background noise. Today I want to reiterate that call. Reiterate that call after some alarming scenes have played out across our national landscapes and, indeed, across the world. I want to repeat that call a year after the meteorological Association didn't just report that records. 2015 broke records, it shattered records. I want to repeat that call when, here we are, in an election year, where January, February, March have now set new records when it comes to increases in temperature. I want to reiterate that call knowing that our economic prosperity, that the livelihood of future generations depends on us making the transition towards a pollution-free and jobs-rich economy.

We have those unprecedented and devastating Great reports coming to us now from the Great Barrier Reef where we are seeing coral bleaching on a scale never seen before. In some of those northern reefs, we risk losing permanently 90% of that incredible world that lives beneath the surface. What an irony when David Attenborough is bringing those incredible images into our living rooms, this magical underwater world, that at the same time it is happening, some of our most respected scientists and their students are weeping at the devastation that is occurring to that great jewel. We as Australians are custodians of the Great Barrier Reef. It is an incredible gift that we have been given. It's the only thing that's visible from space - imagine that, the only living thing visible from space. Nothing else like it anywhere in the world.

It's a gift to the economy as well. It contributes \$6 billion a year and 69,000 jobs reliant on a healthy reef. We may be the generation that takes that gift away from our children. It's not just the Great Barrier Reef that we risk losing. We risk losing some of the most incredible wilderness anywhere in the world. Earlier this year I joined with Nick McKim, our Tasmanian Senator, to fly over the Tarkine in Tasmania and we were both in despair at the devastation wrought on that incredible wilderness by those Tasmanian wildfires in January this year. They changed that landscape forever.

Let me again just point out this isn't wilderness that has evolved to respond to fire. What we are talking about is wilderness that evolved part of that great super continent in the Southern Hemisphere where some of the plants date back to a million years. We have got pencil pines and cushion plants, some of them 1,500 years old. Here they are gone forever.

What we're experiencing now are political leaders in this country who are standing by while our natural heritage is being destroyed, standing by while our children are being robbed of their future prosperity and standing by while a national emergency is unfolding. We need desperately, now more than ever, political leaders with courage and vision to chart a different course for our Great Barrier Reef, for those precious forests and for our economy.

We've had decades to get this right. I remember Bob Brown being ridiculed several decades ago when he came into the Parliament talking about sea level rises of close a metre. Yet there we are two weeks ago in the nation's Parliament, a question directed at the chief lawmaker of the land, Senator Brandis, being asked to justify those 200 jobs being lost from the CSIRO and his response? "Well, it doesn't seem to me that the science is settled at all".

That we could still be having this debate at this time in the nation's history is remarkable. One of the key problems is that we have the influence of huge corporate donations from the fossil fuel industry given, gifted, to the Liberal Party, the National Party and, indeed, the Labor Party who, as a consequence, refused to admit that coal is a significant part of our global climate change challenge and refusing to admit that what they are doing is signing the death warrant of the Great Barrier Reef and those incredible forests.

As Bill McKibon said, you simply can't have both the Paris climate agreement and Adani's Carmichael mine. You can't have both. If you are going to have any hope of keeping to an increase of 2 degrees, much less 1.5 degrees, you can't have new mines in Australia. He goes on to say "Coal at best can continue its decline tailing away to a minor industry over the next decades. But that's it. Anyone who looks at the numbers knows it. The same goes for offshore drilling, new coal seam gas fields. Keep doing this stuff and the math doesn't work".

He is absolutely right. If this election is to be about one thing, it has to be about who has the courage, who has the vision to stand up to the big polluters, to take the necessary action to prevent catastrophic global warming and to transition our economy away from those industries that brought us prosperity over the last century but won't deliver us future prosperity going into this century. Yet for all of the Prime Minister's bold talk, for all of his rhetoric, he talks about providing the economic leadership that was sadly lacking under the Abbott Administration, he is silent on the greatest economic challenge of this era.

Instead he wants to have an election campaign about a building commission that most people have never heard of and a scare campaign about property prices. That is the Prime Minister's bold vision for the nation. He does it because he presides over a party that promised calm and methodical leadership.

But what have they delivered? More turmoil, more chaos and more division. If there is one thing that brings those conservative reactionaries together, it's the promise of a bit of good old-fashioned union bashing and a dishonest scare campaign about property prices. You see, the deeper problem for the Prime Minister is that the one thing that really unifies that team is an agenda that produces lower taxes which means less spending for health and education.

That is, really, what gets the conservatives motivated but it's deeply unpopular with the electorate. It's why Tony Abbott was so roundly punished after the 2014 Budget where he had a huge breach of faith with the electorate and took an axe to spending on healthcare, on education and on social supports. It's anger that continues right now under this Prime Minister as we see a Government presiding over tax avoidance on a grand scale and then having the temerity to tell the Australian people that we don't have enough to invest in our schools and hospitals. When you have politicians and some commentators pointing the finger at ordinary Australians and saying "You shouldn't expect these things, yes, we are a wealthy country but you have no right to expect these things much less deserve them", well something is terribly wrong. You know when you see these huge political donations from large special interests, dictating the terms of the public debate whether it be on climate policy, industrial relations policy, indeed on tax reform, you know that people are getting very, very angry.

It isn't something that's unique to Australia. This is something that is being experienced around the world. We are seeing the emergence of so-called anti-establishment candidates around the world. You are seeing the US President primaries both on the Left and Right you are seeing a groundswell of support for the two anti-establishment candidates. People are fed up with business as usual politics. They have every right to be.

Because we're fed up with it too. We are fed up with business-as-usual politics. When I took on the leadership, I also said at that press conference that we are the home of progressive, mainstream voters. We are the natural home for those voters. I know people thought "What does that mean? Are the Greens going in a different direction? Are they going to drift towards the political centre? Does this mean a realignment in terms of who they are and what they stand for?". No. That analysis is dead wrong. It is the old parties, it is the establishment, that has deserted those progressive mainstream voters. That's why people are looking at the Greens and Independents in greater numbers than ever before. It's the old parties who take those huge corporate donations, who resist the establishment of a national anti-corruption watchdog, whose policy agenda is being set by vested interests, not being set by what the community want. I believe that we do have an obligation here community. to represent the interests of the community. I think that's what we are elected to do. Not to represent or do the bidding of big business. Simply to help those companies continue to pollute our airways, pollute our farmland and destroy the Great Barrier Reef. I do believe we've got a duty to stand up to big business and the super rich to say "You've got to pay your fair share of tax so that we can invest in the foundations of a decent society. Healthcare, education and so on".

I think that, and really believe, that in an election campaign around property prices and abolition of the union commission, people deserve more and we are going to lay out our vision for a more prosperous, more sustainable and more caring society and we owe that to the Australian community after so many years of empty politics. The great tragedy of recent decades is that we have previous administrations, the Howard-Costello Administration, that wasted the proceeds of those rivers of gold that came from the mining boom.

They delivered tax cut after tax cut and when they couldn't deliver any more tax cuts, they invented the baby bonus to get more money more much out the door to give - - more money out the door to give to people. They failed to invest in infrastructure, productivity-building infrastructure, clean energy, fast and efficient public transport, those things we know are going to be the pathway to future prosperity. But worse than that, they made income equality a - - inequality a greater problem, something we are still grappling with today.

ACOSS tells us over the last 20 years the share of income going to those at the top has risen significantly while the share of income going to those in the middle and at the bottom has fallen

away sharply. We have a Prime Minister who enjoys taking selfies on public Minister transport. He wants to be the Prime Minister for cities. Yet, there he is flying around the country spruiking those polluting, congestion-invoking road projects at the expense of decent public transport. He spruiks innovation while he is cutting investment in those industries that will drive innovation, the CSIRO, research and development. He talks about the knowledge economy but there he is presiding over a second-rate National Broadband Network and dismantling what was a good system. He watches on as negative gearing and capital gains tax, super heat property markets against the wishes and aspirations of affordable home ownership for the young. He is failing to manage the transition towards a clean energy economy.

Let me give you an example. He recently spruiked his changes to ARENA and the Corp Clean Energy Finance Corporation. We were approached by solar reserve who want to build a plant in Port Augusta. It is 110 megawatts, it will replace the last polluting coal assets, would have 24 hour storage capacity. This is amazing technology, concentrate the sun's rays, heat up molten salt, use that to drive the turbine, clean energy, storage issue solved. Yet here was Malcolm Turnbull making changes to the Australian renewable energy Agency that would prevent that company from receiving the support it needs to get that project off the ground.

Under the changes proposed by Malcolm Turnbull, the Carnegie wave project would not have got off the ground. This is technology we are now exporting to the world. We talk a lot about the new economy but at the heart of the new economy is clean energy, is rapid telecommunications, is fast and efficient public transport, is a greater investment in research and development. That's what the new economy is and on each of those measures, the Prime Minister is failing. But it's not just the Prime Minister.

Today Labor announced their climate policy and it is silent on the issue of coal exports. If there was everybody a sign of the ex - - ever a sign of Party, the extent to which the Labor Party, the National Party and indeed the Liberal Party are beholden to the coal industry, it is the continuing approval of these new coal mines, coal port expansions, coal infrastructure while at the same time ex posing strong action on global warming. They won't touch the sacred cow of industry assistance to the fossil fuel interests. Remarkable that both Bill Shorten and Malcolm Turnbull have been silent on the \$13.5 billion gifted to Clive Palmer and Gina Rinehart in the form of fossil fuel tax credits. All this at a time when they are telling us that we have a spending problem.

Well, the good news is that the Greens have been the disruptors, the innovators, in Australian politics. We announced our policies on negative gearing before anyone dared to go there. We paved the way for Labor to announce their policy. We announced our policy on superannuation tax concession, again, long before that issue was discussed in mainstream economic circles. Well, it won't be long before the issue of fossil fuel subsidies becomes a mainstream issue and I call now on Bill Shorten and Malcolm Turnbull to show some courage and to spend that money on schools and hospitals, on infrastructure rather than gifting it to the big polluters.

We got a great plan to tackle global warming and help create the new economy, a new economy driven by clean energy. We have got a proven track record. We delivered in the last Parliament in spades when we negotiated, in the words of the International Energy Agency, model climate legislation that delivered the Australian Renewable energy Corporation Agency, the Clean Energy Finance on Corporation and, of course, a price on pollution. Our plan directs investment away from those lazy areas into productive areas of the economy that will set us up for the future. It's fully costed and thank goodness for the Parliamentary Budget Office, another outcome of that power-sharing government that has allowed parties that don't have access to Treasury to provide an alternative to the Australian people and don't we desperately need it?

Through their work in costing our policies, we have got a proposal to invest in education, the building block of the new economy, lifetime learning from childcare through to higher education and beyond. To invest in people's health, to support people with a disability, to raise basic support payments so that no Australian has to live below the poverty line. We have already said when it comes to higher education that we should make the deficit levy permanent, recognise that higher education is a public good and make it more affordable for students rather than less affordable.

The latest in science, in research and development will drive innovations in healthcare. We've got a good story to tell on that front. In agriculture, tourism and advanced manufacturing. Look at Geelong and what it's doing with its carbon fibre technology to create those sustainable jobs over the long-term.

Together with this smart investment we can bring regional communities and cities closer together by investing in a world-class National Broadband Network, by investing in public transport. Our plan also provides a better way for dealing with those innocent people who are coming to us seeking our protection by investing in regional cooperation rather than wasting billions of dollars and destroying the lives of innocent people in those horror-inducing prison camps offshore. Now we know declared by the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea as unconstitutional and illegal. Again, how ironic that we have our political leaders telling us that to seek asylum is illegal when, in fact, it's their actions that have been shown by the court in PNG to be illegal.

We also believe in increasing our humanitarian intake to 50,000 people. Not simply to be able to offer innocent people protection but because we know they will make a contribution to the nation. Who is to say that the next Syrian or Iraqi or Sri Lankan refugee won't be the next Governor-General of the country? Indeed, that's what's happened in SA.

We recognise that restoring our foreign aid commitment is an investment in regional security, in reducing conflict, in helping with technology transfer when it comes to climate change.

You see, the key difference with all of these things is we see health, education, foreign aid, humanitarian assistance to people seeking asylum, we see all those things as an opportunity to build the nation. They aren't a cost. They aren't a burden. That's why we are elected to the Parliament. It is these principles that will guide us when we address Scott Morrison's first Budget in this, an election campaign year.

Adam Bandt our Treasury spokesperson and Peter Whish-Wilson our finance spokesperson are going to announce our budget principles later in the week. They'll give you more details about some of this but stay tuned. This will be the only sensible debate you hear on the economy through the election campaign.

Let me summarise what some of those aspects are. Let's get money moving out of unproductive areas of the economy, let's end unfair tax breaks, direct it into productive areas and grow the clean economy. Let's lift government revenue, can let's make sure we raise it so we can get the world class health care, education and public transport system we need. Let's transition our economy towards clean energy, recognising it will increase GDP but also recognising that GDP is not the only measure of whether a society is moving in the right direction. Let's start working on some of those indicators for national wellbeing.

Let's remember that an economy needs to work for us and not the other way around. In keeping with these principles, the Greens have already launched the most ambitious tax avoidance package that the country has seen.

It would bring in \$1.7 billion over the forward estimates. We are proud to have already delivered on that in part and we'll continue to be the voice in the Parliament that ensures those people who can afford it most start to contribute to the society that has given them so much opportunity.

Today I can also announce that the Greens would introduce the Buffett rule. It is a high-income tax guarantee, it puts a floor on tax deductions to stop some of the wealthiest Australians paying less tax than a teacher or a nurse or a policeman. It's called the Buffett rule because the billionaire Warren Buffett thought it was immoral that he should be paying less tax than his secretary. We agree. We agree. It is not a new tax.

This is just a guarantee on existing tax rates to say that the top 1% of the Australian community start paying their fair share. We saw this year's tax data with millionaires in Australia paying no tax, no tax at all. 56 people who earned a collective \$129 million paid no tax. They did pay \$47 million in advice on how to reduce their taxable income. At the same time we have got Australians being told "You've got to tighten our belt while the Government rips out \$80 billion from schools and hospitals". A simple flaw on the amount of tax that people should pay would generate a collective tax return of \$7 billion over the forward estimates coming from the top 1% of the Australian community who pay very little tax - floor.

With over 80% of wealth in investment in housing and shares, accrued by the top 20% of households, we have also been leading the charge on negative gearing and capital gains tax reform. Again, I come back to this point: the Prime Minister's proposition is he believes the intergenerational inequity that has been driven by the fact that those of us who are able to afford our own home, who benefitted from free education, from universal healthcare should rob that opportunity for the generations that follow. That is the basic proposition that Malcolm Turnbull is putting to the Australian community. A fortnight ago, 50 prominent Australians run an open letter calling on the Government to consider how much tax should be raised and to frame its next Budget around a fairness agenda. We agree. Which is why we are not going to engage in a tax cut arms race at that election. It is somewhat ludicrous that we have got some consideration given to a cut to big business when the ATO tells us that 100 of Australia's richest companies are paying no tax at all. So a tax cut on zero still is zero.

I have to say also we are in a period of slow wages growth, low inflation - we have got some revenue issues, serious ones, this is precisely the wrong time to even be thinking about cutting taxes. At the core of our plan is that our tax system is there to provide the services that the Australian people deserve, to end those unfair tax breaks and to tackle inequality. We are proud of that. We have a progressive taxation system to tackle the huge and growing inequality that exists in Australian society. That's why we have proposed a plan of a new system, progressive personal tax rates that will make the very wealthy pay more and raise \$24 billion over the next decade simply by adding those two marginal tax rates, one of which is making the budget deficit levy permanent. But our plan is not just about new revenue measures.

We also acknowledge there is waste and inefficient spending in the system. It is why the Greens proposed redirecting that inefficient, inequitable and inflationary private health insurance rebate directly into the provision of health services. That is one of the worst pieces of government policy to be introduced in the healthcare space. Don't take my word for it, listen to what Jenny Macklin had to say when it was introduced into the Parliament.

It's also why I said to Minister Ley when she took on her job as Health Minister don't introduce Medicare co-payments, let's look at those low-value, inefficient items that are listed on the Medicare schedule and let's ensure that we review it to provide better care for patients and better value for money for the taxpayer. As I said earlier, closing offshore detention brings in \$160 million and frees us up to invest in a regional solution providing safer pathways. Not just the morally just position but the fiscally responsible position as well.

We don't believe that spending on defence is a sacred cow. If we are talking about government spending, why is it we can't examine defence spending? How is it we can spend billions of dollars on those joint strike fighters when we know that the rest of the world is asking some serious questions about them? That's why we have initiated an inquiry - - initiated an inquiry into that issue. Let me return to where I started, at the heart of our plan is a blueprint for tackling dangerous global warming.

It's time to make the big polluters stop getting a free ride. As a close election looms and possibly a hung Parliament - I understand that some of our esteemed colleagues are speculating on that possibility - our top priority going into the next Parliament will be to renew Australia's energy system and to put in place strong climate laws to protect the Great Barrier Reef, to protect those forests, to create jobs and to attract international investment. We have to get back on track. Too many years have been wasted. I have to say, being in Paris was an eye-opener because what we saw in Paris was the business community recognising the science, not playing base political politics, understanding that there is a buck to be made and wanting a piece of the action.

This century belongs to those nations that embrace this challenge and that take action and take it quickly. We saw the Abbott Government remove the carbon price joining with the Labor Party to slash the Renewable Energy Target, the cost of that was millions of dollars in revenue lost from Hydro Tasmania and 98 people losing their job. In Portland, my home State of Victoria, a place with high youth unemployment, we saw Keppel Prince engineering, one of the country's largest manufacturers of wind turbine towers, sack 100 people as a result of us going backwards on renewable energy. It doesn't have to be this way. We have a plan to renew Australia, a scheme to assist the transition of workers out of the old jobs and into the new ones. We have got targets for 90% renewable energy and we know that we can get there and get there quickly but the transition won't be easy as Mac valley said "It must be remembered there is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, no more dangerous to manage than a system for the initiative has the enmity of all those who profit by the old resolution and merely lukewarm defenders in those who gain by the new ones".

During this election campaign, I will be visiting communities, people young and old from all walks of life who might not know it but they are part of a growing movement of climate activists. They are people like I met on the Liverpool Plains who are fighting a proposal for a dirty big coal mine in the middle of their food bowl and people of the La Trobe Valley who understand this change is inevitable. They know that they need their governments to listen and to act, to commit to a transition plan.

The PM says time there's never been a more exciting time to be an Australian. I wonder whether Professor Terry Hughes agrees. A world renowned marine biologist who wept with his students when he reported the extent of damage on the Great Barrier Reef. Or whether those 69,000 Australians who rely on a healthy reef, whether they agree.

In a few hours' time, I'm going to fly to Cairns, I will witness the devastation on the Great Barrier Reef, I'm going to lay out a plan that will phase out our reliance on those industries of the past because we know we have no more time to waste. Now more than ever is the time for some courage and vision in Australian politics. Thanks everybody.